

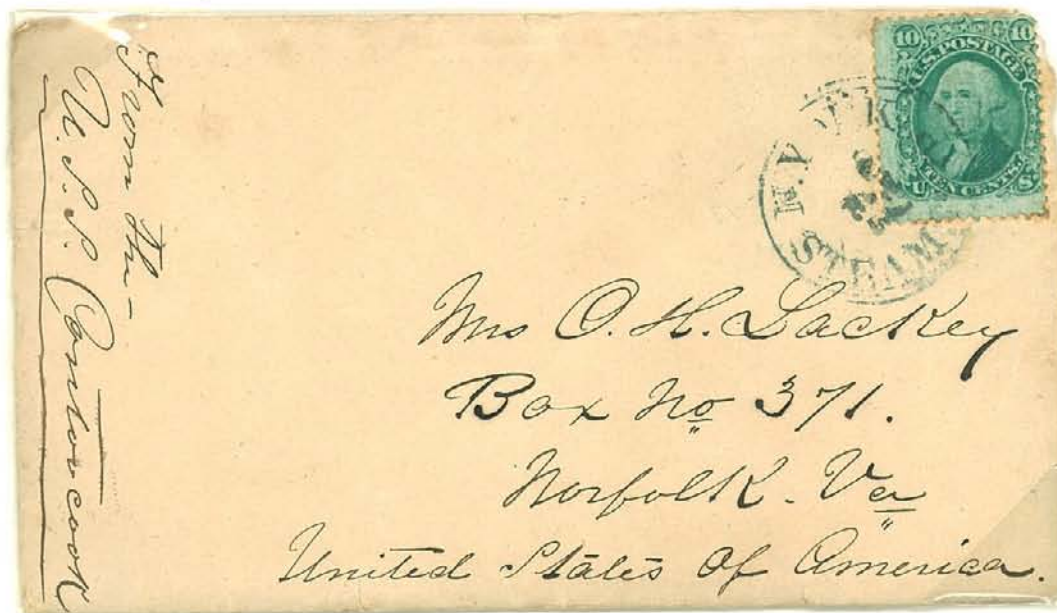
1869

THE OSCAR H. LACKEY NAVAL CORRESPONDENCE  
Aboard the U.S.S. Contoocook at Havana.

S.S. Santiago de Cuba, Havana to N.Y. Livingston Fox & Co.

The Contoocook was a screw sloop-of-war launched Dec. 3, 1864 at the Portsmouth Navy Yard, but was not commissioned until March 14, 1868. Her first cruise, as flagship of the North Atlantic Squadron, took her to the West Indies where she patrolled extensively for the protection of American interests during 1868 and 1869, her mission when this letter was written. Her name was changed to Albany on May 15, 1869.

Feb. 24, 1869. Letter datelined at Havana aboard the USS Contoocook. 10¢ steamship rate to U.S. paid by grilled Issue of 1867.



March 3. N.Y. Times, Arrived N.Y. March 2 Steamship Santiago de Cuba, Macdiarmid, New Orleans via Havana Feb. 24 with mdse. and passengers to Livingston, Fox & Co. Has had strong northerly winds, with heavy sea, the entire passage. Feb. 25, 32 mi. N.E. from Sombress, exchanged signals with steamship George Cromwell, hence for New Orleans, and steamship Missouri, hence for Havana.

Docket notes: Received March 4th.

Interesting content: Mr. Lackey explains to his wife that she cannot prepay his letters as they pass through the post office at Havana where he must pay 12½¢. His letters can be prepaid 10¢ as they go directly from the Contoocook to the mail steamers.

1869

THE OSCAR H. LACKEY NAVAL CORRESPONDENCE  
Aboard the U.S.S. Contoocook at the Pensacola Navy Yard

April 18 (1869). Engineer Lackey writes to his wife Carrie, "... we will leave here in two days & I think we will go to Havana..."

This is one of the last letters Lackey wrote aboard the U.S.S. Contoocook while she was so named. This collection contains letters dated April 25 and May 17, 1869, aboard her at Havana. Apparently word had not reached Havana that the Contoocook had been re-named U.S.S. Albany on May 15, 1869. The next letter in this collection, dated June 17, 1869, at Key West, is headed "aboard the U.S.S. Albany."



April 21, 1869. Three cents grilled Issue of 1867 pays the Act of 1863 rate, any distance internally, 3¢ per  $\frac{1}{2}$ -oz., prepayment compulsory.

This letter was posted at Warrington, Florida, across the Pensacola Bay from the Navy Yard at Pensacola.

1869

THE OSCAR H. LACKEY NAVAL CORRESPONDENCE  
U. S. S. Contoocook at Havana  
S. S. Weybossett, Havana to New York

April 28, 1869. Letter headed "U.S.S. Contoocook/  
Havana April 28th." At this time Oscar Lackey was the  
1st Assistant Engineer aboard the Contoocook.

Letter paid by a pair of the 10¢ green, double the 10¢  
steamship rate.



Due 10

N.Y. Times. Arrived N.Y. May 8. Steamship Weybossett,  
Parrish, New Orleans Apr. 28, Key West 30th and Havana May  
2 with merchandise & passengers to C.H. Mallory & Co. lat  
32 21, lon 74 40 passed steamship General Barnes, hence  
for Savannah.

Letter was underpaid, so Carrie Lackey had to pay an  
additional 10¢. Docket notes received at Norfolk, Va.  
on May 9.

1869

THE OSCAR H. LACKEY NAVAL CORRESPONDENCE

U.S.S. Contoocook at Havana

S.S. Morro Castle, New York to Havana

May 17, 1869. Letter datelined at Portsmouth, Va. and addressed to 1st Assistant Engineer Oscar H. Lackey, U.S.N. who was aboard the Contoocook, Flag Ship of the North Atlantic Squadron. Oscar's wife Carrie sends a sample swatch of a blue cloth, hoping Oscar can get some materiel like it "a little lighter, if possible."



Letter paid at double the steamer rate by ungrilled and grilled 10¢ Issues of 1867 and 1861. It was routed via New York, from which port the S.S. Morro Castle sailed on May 20 for Havana.

May 27th. Docket on head of letter notes receipt at Havana.

1872

THE OSCAR H. LACKEY NAVAL CORRESPONDENCE

Aboard the U.S.S. Juanita at Villefranche, France

French Line, Havre to New York S.S. St. Laurent

The French Line provided direct service from Havre to New York. Rate, as per the Versailles Agreement of 1 July 1871, was 50 centimes per 10 grams, paid to the port of debarkation. Letters were then subject to a U.S. Steamship charge of 10¢ per ½-oz. regardless of what amount had been paid in France.



March 23, 1872. Oscar Lackey writes to his wife that the U.S.S. Juanita is at Villefranche, France, the Mediterranean anchorage of the U.S. fleet, and that he hopes to be able to come home either on her or on the U.S.S. Congress (a sailing ship.)

March 24. Letter posted at Nice and the 50 centimes rate paid by a pair of the 25 centimes Ceres Issue of 1871. Cancellation is by the gros chiffres "2656" post office number of Nice. Cover was marked P.P. = Port Payee.

March 25. Transit backstamp, T.P.O. Marseilles to Paris, day train (octagonal center.)

March 25. Paris to Le Havre T.P.O. transit backstamp, night train (circular center).

March 26. Le Havre arrival backstamp.

March 29. The French Line steamship St. Laurent departed from Havre.

N.Y. Times. Arrived April 11, steam-ship St. Laurent, (Fr.,) Lemarie, Havre March 29 and Brest 30th with mdse. and passengers to Geo. Mackenzie. The St.L. brings 111 passengers.

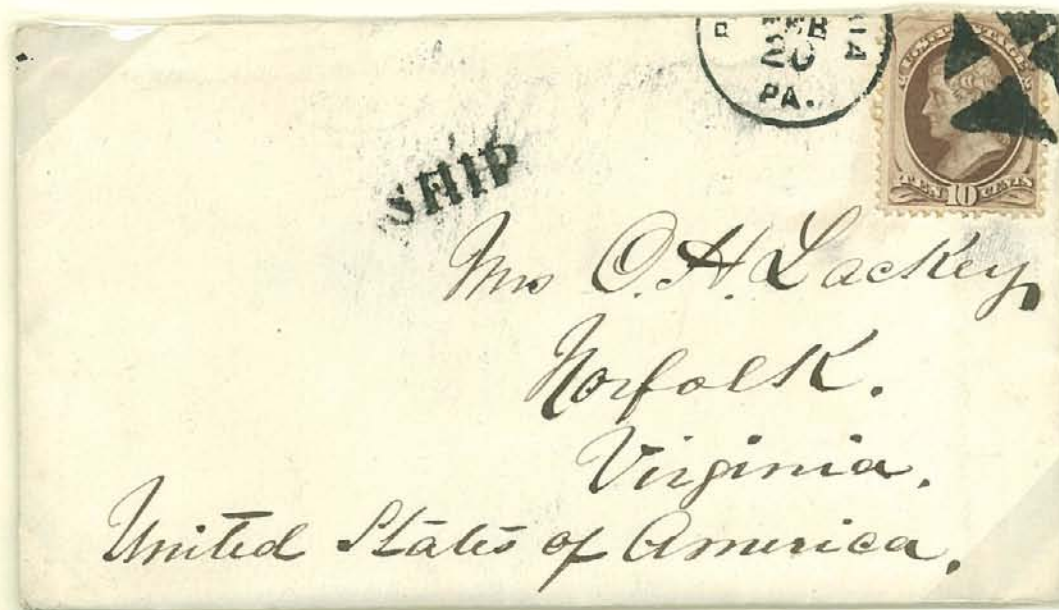
April 12. N.Y. mark shows 10¢ Steamship Letter chge. due.

1873

THE OSCAR H. LACKEY NAVAL CORRESPONDENCE  
Aboard the U.S.S. Canandaigua at La Guayara, Venezuela  
British Brig Hermes, Porto Cabello to Philadelphia

Jan. 20th, 1873. Letter datelined aboard U.S.S. Canandaigua at La Guayra, Venezuela. A short note expressing his love, and that the ship leaves on a cruise at 4 o'clock. At this time Lackey was Chief Engineer aboard the Canandaigua, which was operating out of Havana.

Jan. 25. The brig Hermes left from the nearby port of Porto Cabello for the U.S. with this letter aboard.



SHIP

Feb. 20. Letter received at Philadelphia as a paid Ship Letter, payment by Chief Engineer Lackey with a 10¢ National Bank Note Co., Issue of 1870.

Philadelphia Evening Bulletin, Feb. 20, 1873. LEWES, Del., Feb. 19 - 9 AM. City Ice Boat and tug Cynthia left this A.M. for Philadelphia, the former with a brig and schr. in tow. 3 P.M. - Brigs Hermes from Porto Cabello and Peru from Cienfuegos, went up early this morning.

Bulletin Feb. 20. Arrived Brig Hermes (Br.,) Wick, 25 days from Porto Cabello with coffee, sugar, etc. to John Dallett.

1873

THE OSCAR H. LACKEY NAVAL CORRESPONDENCE  
Aboard the U.S.S. Canandaigua at Matanzas, Cuba  
Steamship Santiago de Cuba, Matanzas to New York

April 6 and 6, 1873. Letter headed: U.S.S. Canandaigua, Matanzas. It says inter alia, "I wrote you from Havana by the steamer which left there yesterday & inclosed \$100.00 in greenbacks. I sent it in two letters with \$50.00 in each. I certainly hope you received it... We arrived here yesterday (April 5) & will remain here about a week & then go to Key West..."

April 12. The steamer was delayed, and actually cleared Matanzas on this date. The letter was prepaid at Matanzas by Engineer Lackey at the Steamship Letter rate of 10¢ by a copy of the National Bank Note Co. Issue of 1870.



N.Y. Times, April 19. Arrived New York Friday, April 18, Steamship Santiago de Cuba, Limeburner, Havana April 6 and Matanzas 12th with mdse and passengers to E.L. Guillaume & Co.

1875

THE OSCAR H. LACKEY NAVAL CORRESPONDENCE  
Aboard the U.S.S. Canandaigua at Aspinwall  
Pacific Mail Steamship Co., S.S. Henry Chauncey, Aspinwall to New York

March 9, 13 and 14, 1875. A long letter which tells in part of the movements of the U.S.S. Canandaigua, "I do not think it possible for us to get home before the 1st of June even if the Ossipee does come down in April to relieve us for we received orders by today's mail to be at the Atrato river on the 20th of April instead of the 15th as previously ordered to take on board the surveying party and bring them to this place..." The letter is headed: U.S.S Canandaigua, Aspinwall, U.S.C. (United States of Columbia.)



N.Y. Times, Arrived N.Y. March 15,  
steamship Henry Chauncey, Rathburn,  
Aspinwall March 16 to Pacific Mail  
Steamship Company.

March 29. A docket on the reverse  
notes receipt at New Orleans.

N.B.: Double the Steamship letter postage of 10¢ was paid at  
Aspinwall by a pair of the 10¢ Continental Bank Note Co. Issue  
of 1873.

March 16. S.S. Henry Chauncey departed from Aspinwall.



1875

THE OSCAR H. LACKEY NAVAL CORRESPONDENCE  
Aboard the U.S.S. Canandaigua at Carthage  
Pacific Mail Steamship Co., Aspinwall to New York, S.S. Colon

April 17, 1875. Letter headed: U.S.S. Canandaigua, Carthage, U.S.C. Engineer Lackey writes, "...I do not know if I will be able to send this - short as it must be - for I am writing it on a venture as there is a Steamer in sight, passing here on her way to Aspinwall and sometimes she stops long enough to take the Mail on board and we are making up a mail on board and the Boat is ready to send it to her if she stops ... The Mail bag is being Closed, it is quite unexpected being able to send this to day, as I did not think I could send another Letter to my darling until we got to Aspinwall..."

This letter is addressed to Milford F. Lackey at the Treasury Department, Washington, D.C. for forwarding to Mrs. Oscar Lackey. It was prepaid at the 10¢ Steamship Letter rate by a copy of the 10¢ Continental Bank Note Co. Issue of 1873.



N.Y. Times, May 12, 1875. Arrived at New York: Steamship Colon, Tanner, Aspinwall May 3, with merchandise and 87 passengers to Pacific Mail Steamship Co.

M.F. Lackey made a note across the face of the envelope, "Dear Carrie, Oscar must think you are here (Washington). If he is not coming to N.O. soon, you had better not remain there too long a/c of the warm weather. Let me hear from you. Love to Oscar, all well. Milford."

The letter was forwarded to Carrie at New Orleans under separate cover.