

Express Mail Route Boston to New York

From July 1st 1840 mails between Boston and New York, including the Cunard mails, were carried by three separate contracts. Rail road Boston to Providence, rail road Providence to Stonington and steamboat on Long Island Sound to New York. At the introduction of the first General Issue adhesive stamps the routes were as follows:

Route 410 Boston to Providence at \$7,006 a year for 18 times a week with the Boston & Providence R.R.
Route 602 Providence to Stonington at \$4,850 a year for 6 times a week with the New York & Providence R.R.
Route 801 Stonington to New York at \$7,272 a year for 6 times a week with the New Jersey Steam Navigation Co.

In 1843 the Route Agents who accompanied the mails on the full route were issued with date stamps indicating that either Boston or New York was the starting point of the letter. The stamps also used the wording "U.S. EXPRESS MAIL" in an attempt to regain lost revenue from mails being carried by private carriers.

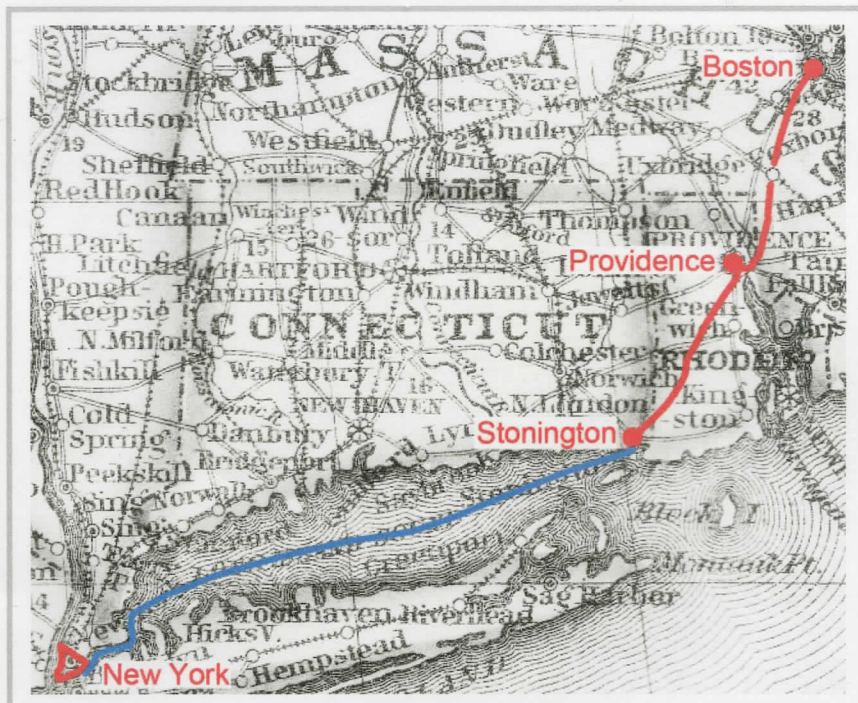


U.S. EXPRESS MAIL
BOSTON
AUG / 17
Mass.

Part wrapper sheet from Boston to Philadelphia carried on the Express Mail Route on August 17th circa 1848. This, like the majority of the Ludlow Beebe correspondence, was a double weight letter requiring a 20 cent franking for over 300 miles.

The Route Agent applied his date stamp (Towle 73-A-2) and cancelled the Scott 2 franking with his grid obliterator.

From the Alexander Census of the 1847 issue the extensive Ludlow Beebe find contained 71 covers bearing a horizontal pair of Scott 2 adhesives. A total of 132 covers all bearing the first General Issue stamps are recorded from this correspondence.



Phelps' map of 1851 showing the three segments of the Boston to New York route.