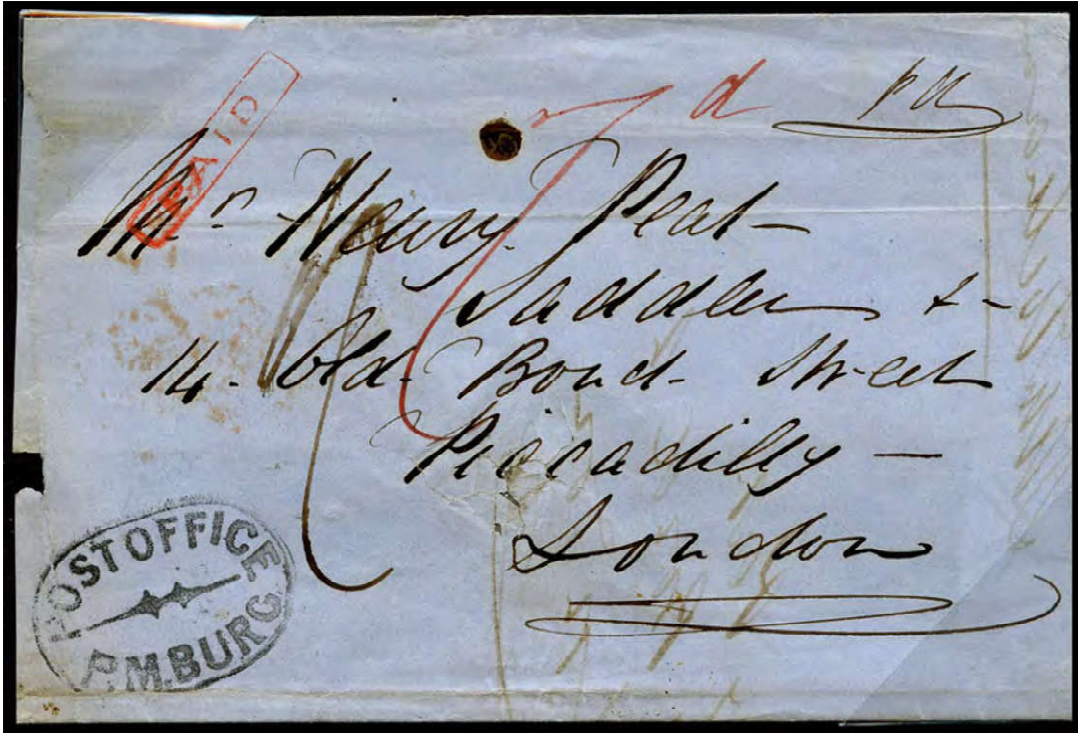


# RARITIES OF NATAL PRE-STAMP POSTAL HISTORY

Keith Klugman



*1852. P.M.Burg PAID mark to GB. P.M.Burg Post Office oval 7d in red at P.M.Burg. 3d to Durban & 4d Cape port charge. Charged 1/- (black mss) packet rate in UK. General Screw Steam Shipping Co. packet 'Propontis' to Plymouth Nov 15th, London 16th 1852.*

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# Rarities of Natal Pre-Stamp Postal History



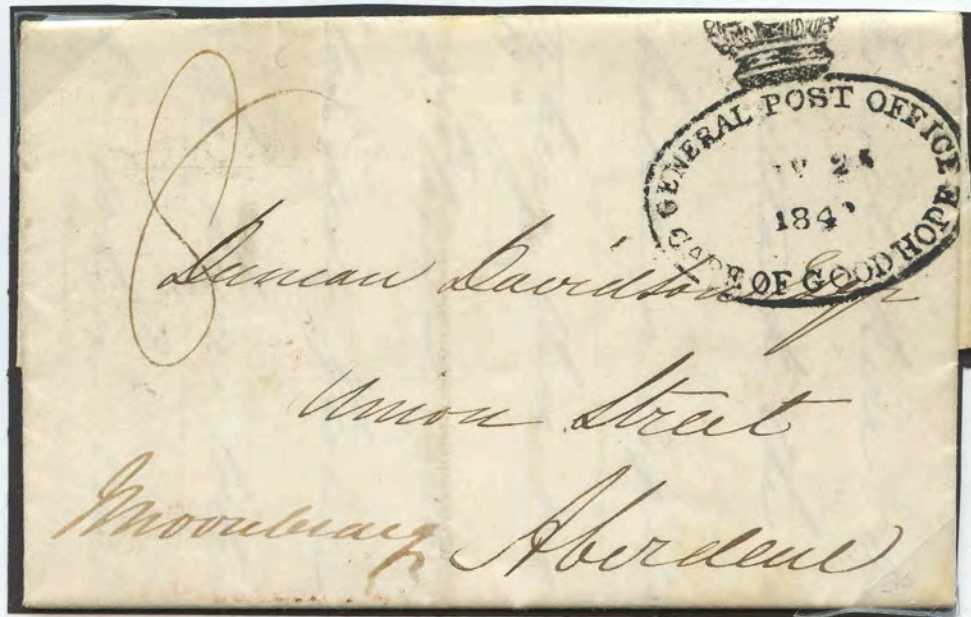
*Sarah C. Adams, wife of Dr. Newton Adams.*

2 Oct 1834 letter from East Bloomfield, NY with Canandaigua, Oct 3, transit to Painesville, OH Oct 7, forwarded to Cleveland (6<sup>d</sup> due) from Dr. Newton Adams – one of the three pre – 1840 American missionaries in Natal, in which he proposes marriage to Sarah Adams (pictured, née van Tyne), after having met her only once, and invites her to join him as a missionary in Natal.

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PRE – STAMP (1836 – 1856)  
1836 – 1850 letters  
Pre – Colonial letter

Pre - Colonial Letter  
Only Recorded British Invasion of Natal Letter



***Only recorded British Invasion of Boer Republic "Natalia" letter in private hands***

8 Jul 1842. Entire from Port Natal, written by Capt. Andrew Armstrong Barnes of the 25<sup>th</sup> King's Own Borderers Regiment of Foot to Duncan Davidson in Aberdeen.

Ship Letter with Cape Town "General Post Office Cape of Good Hope" Dated Letter Stamp of Jul 1842 (DLS 4 Goldblatt, Jurgens type 16); Black MS 8<sup>d</sup> due in UK; India Letter Falmouth in red (Robertson In.1,) recorded in red from 1826-47; two arrival postmarks of 30<sup>th</sup> Sep 1842. Carried by "Southampton" or "Conch" to Cape Town.

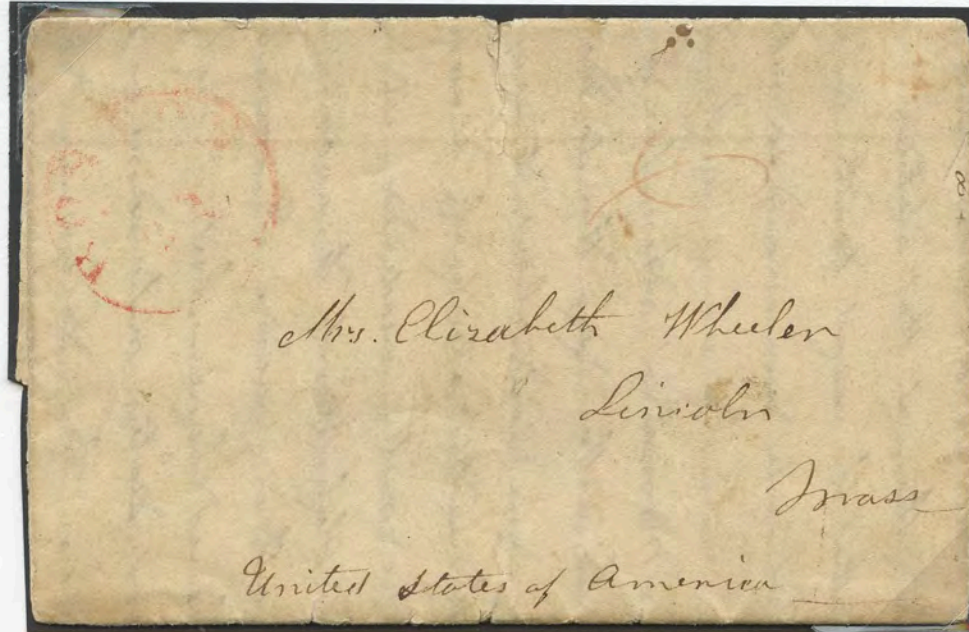
Barnes went to Natal on the "Southampton" which relieved the Boer siege of Durban on 26<sup>th</sup> Jun; Natalia surrendered 14<sup>th</sup> Jul which finally led to the annexation of Natal.

PRE – STAMP (1836 – 1856)

1836 – 1850 letters

Pre – Colonial letters

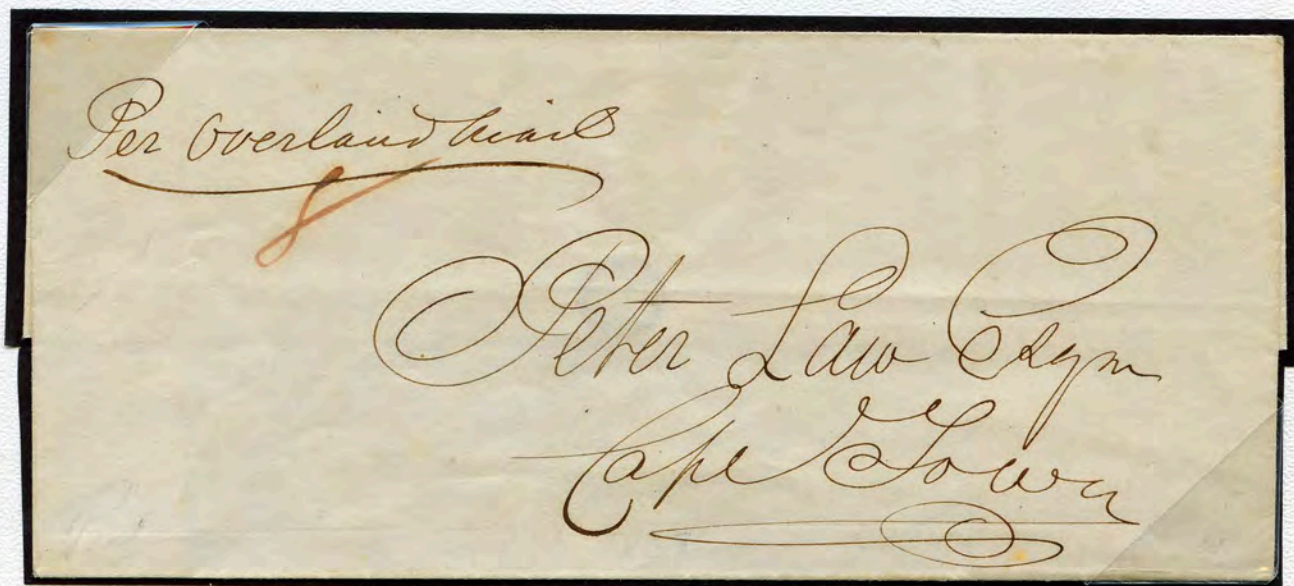
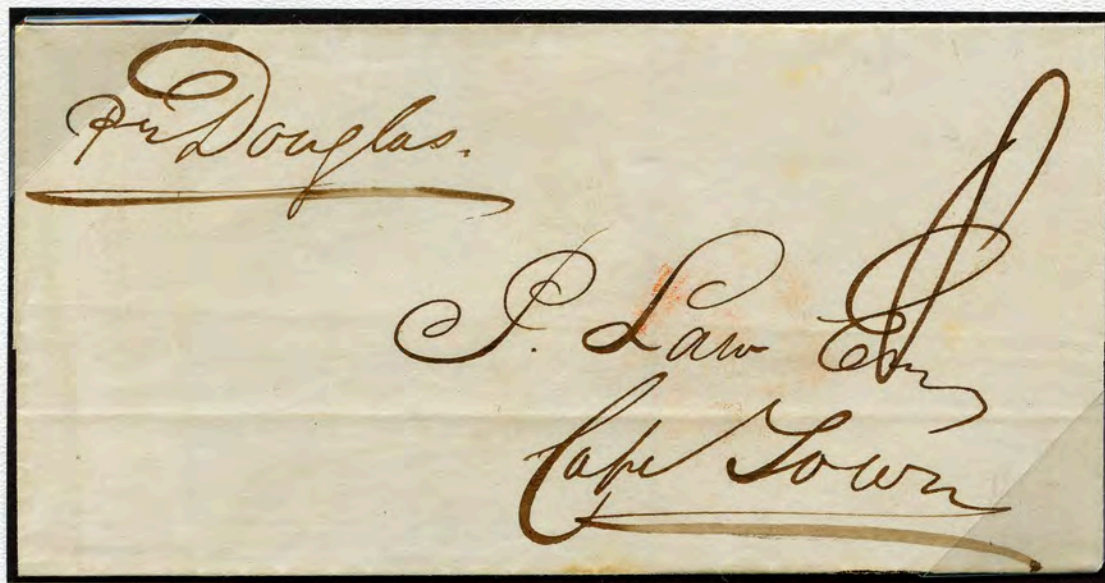
Earliest Letter From Natal in Private Hands



17 August 1836. Letter from Susan Champion, wife of American missionary George Champion, written at Umlazi, close to the future town of Durban to Lincoln, MA, USA. Carried by private ship; mailed in Boston; Boston Mas mail circle postmark (Blake & Davis number 211); 6c manuscript due for postage < 30 miles. George Champion, Dr. Newton Adams, and Aldin Grout were the first American missionaries to reside in the land later to become the Natal colony. They had to flee Natal two years later after the murder of Piet Retief by Zulu Chief Dingaan in 1838.

**This is the earliest pre – colonial letter from Natal in private hands.**

Booth A (Ed.) (1967) Journal of the Rev. George Champion American Missionary in Zululand 1835 – 1839, Struik, Cape.  
Klugman KP (2010) Pre – 1850 letters from the first American missionaries in Natal. Collectors Club Philatelist 89: 35 – 7.



1847. Two letters in the same hand. Top per "Douglas" ornate 4d Cape port charge;  
Bottom "Per Overland Mail" rated extra 4d = 8d

Less than 10 letters are recorded from Natal pre – 1850 in private hands.

PRE – STAMP (1836 – 1856)  
1836 – 1850 letters

Earliest Recorded Soldier's Letter



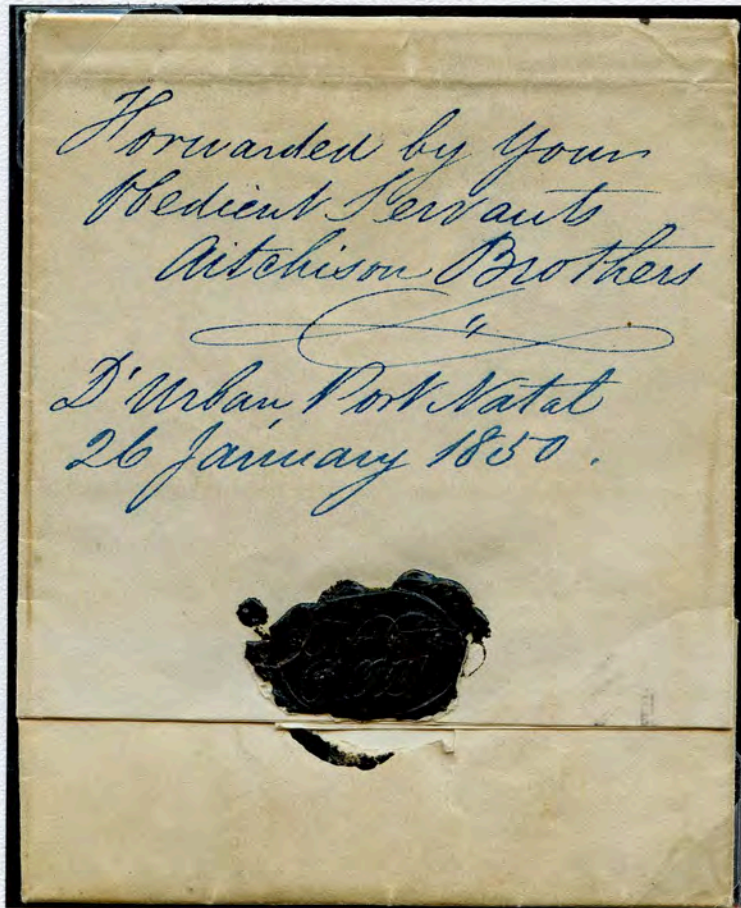
**Only recorded pre – stamp soldier's letter from Natal**

1 August 1849. Soldier's letter from Gunner and Driver Henry Smith, Royal Artillery at Fort Napier, Pietermaritzburg, endorsed "Captain of the District of Natal". 1<sup>d</sup> soldiers' concession plus 1<sup>d</sup> private ship letter = 2<sup>d</sup> due in UK. GPO Cape Town (Jurgens type 17) recorded 1847 – 9.

The only recorded Soldier's Letter from Natal prior to the proclamation of the Natal Colony in 1856.

PRE – STAMP (1836 – 1856)  
1850 – 1856 letters

Only Recorded Pre – Stamp  
Forwarding Agent Marking



**Only recorded pre – stamp forwarding agent marking from Natal**

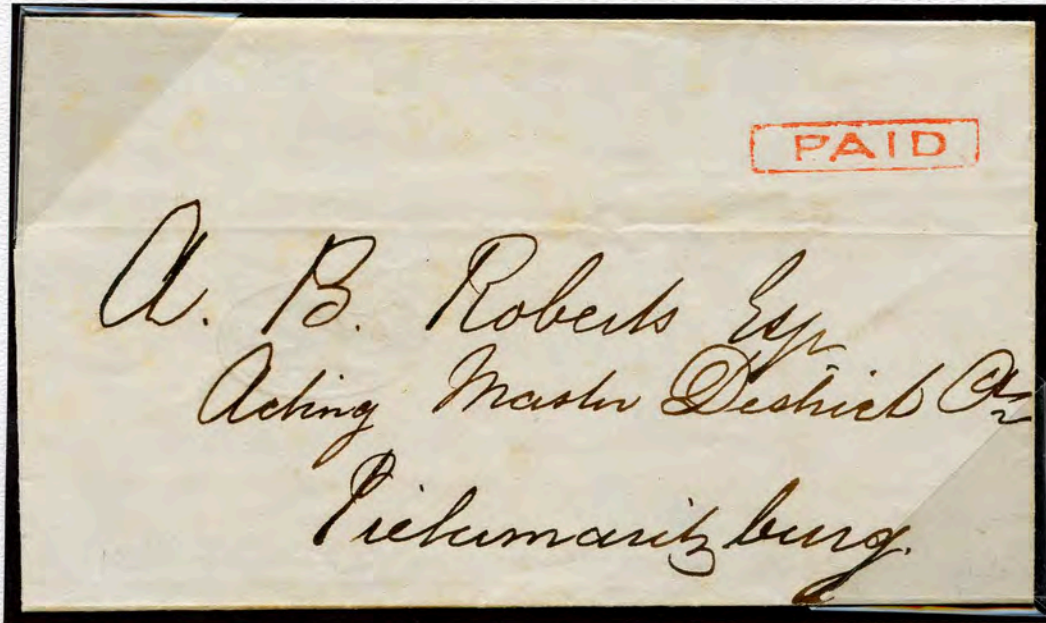
21 Jan 1850 entire from Carl Eneroth on the Swedish Brig "Duo" to its owner in London. Privately carried.

Only recorded example of Aitchison Brothers Mss forwarding agent marking (Rowe, 1996 Ed., p93) at D'Urban, Port Natal.

Aitchison brothers acted as commission agents from 1848 – 52. John Murray Aitchison went on to become Postmaster of Pietermaritzburg (PMBurg) in 1852.

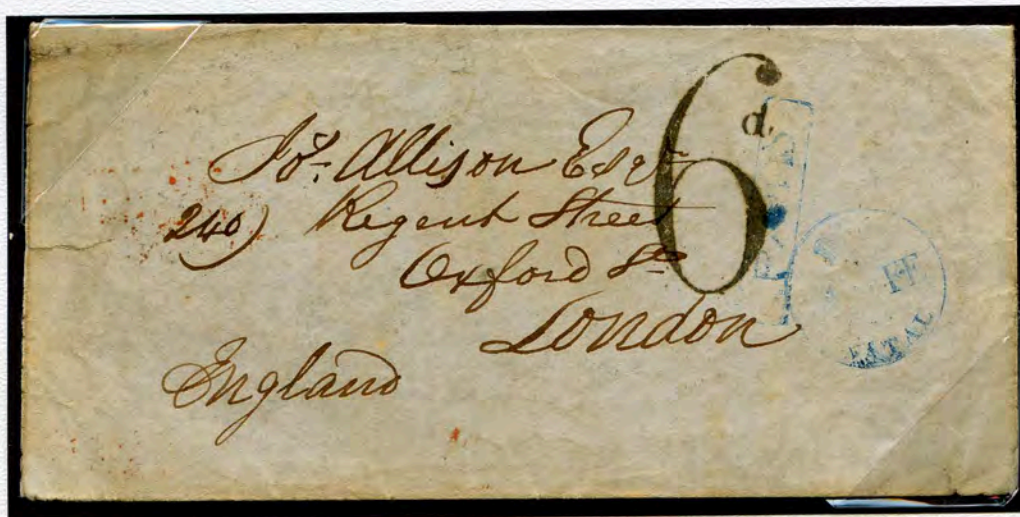
PRE – STAMP (1836 – 1856)  
1850 – 1859 letters  
PAID Handstamp

Durban PAID Handstamp



1851. Hull & Son, D'Urban, Port Natal per embossed wafer on flap, to Alfred Brooksbank Roberts, Master of the Supreme Court only in 1851. He became Attorney General of the Orange Free and married President Boshoff's daughter.

8 Durban PAID markings are recorded. 7 are struck in red, of which 6 are in private hands. All 7 in red are used to PMBurg.

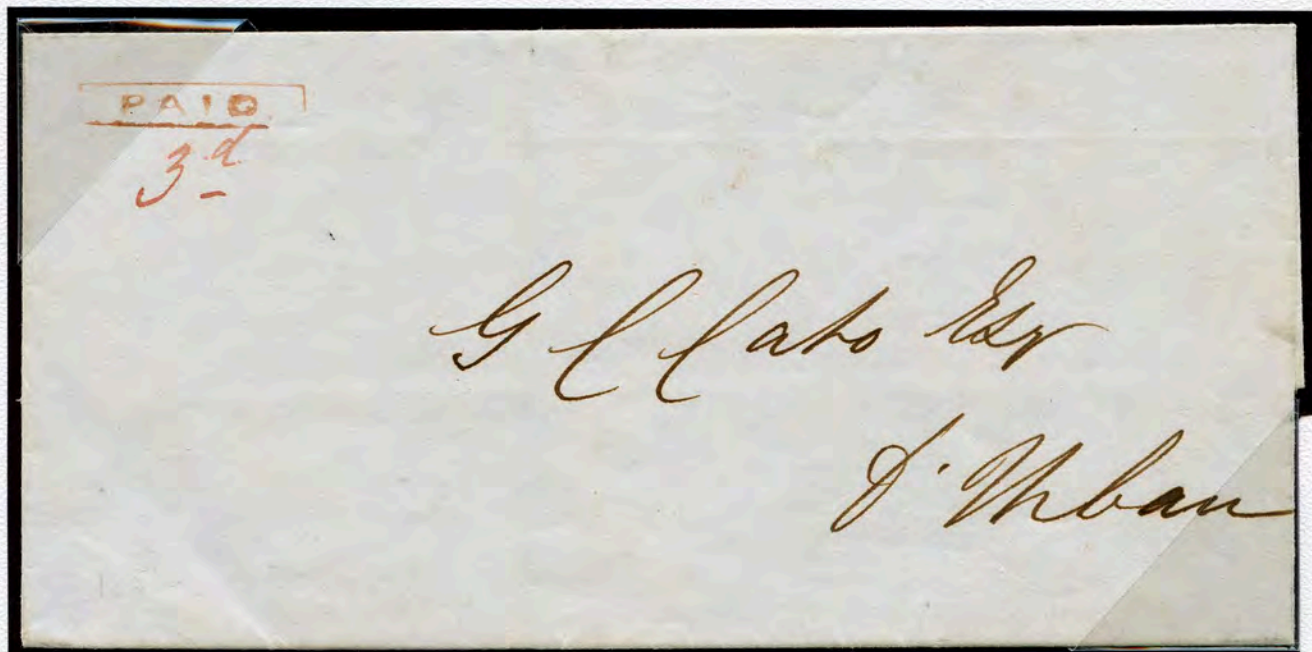


Unique Durban PAID mark in blue; only use to destination outside Natal. Late use denoting 3<sup>d</sup> in cash, during shortage of 3<sup>d</sup> stamps (Natal & Zululand Post v3 p12) pays Durban port fee. Rennie "L'Imperatrice Eugenie"; Cape Town Feb 9<sup>th</sup>; Union "Dane", Devonport, London 29<sup>th</sup> Mar. Durban Crown Natal 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 1859. Charged 6<sup>d</sup>.

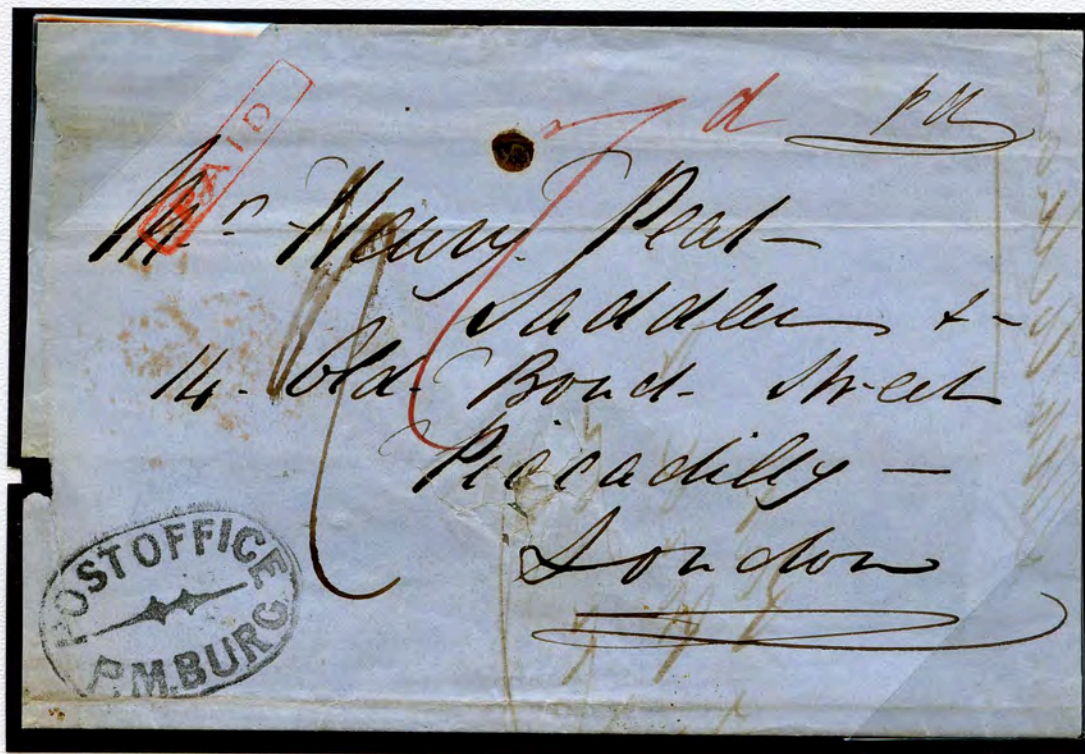


PRE – STAMP (1836 – 1856)  
1850 – 1856 letters  
PAID Handstamp

PMBurg PAID Handstamp



6 smaller PAID marks of PMBurg are recorded. 5 are struck in red and 1 late usage is in black. Undated. Postmaster manuscript 3<sup>d</sup> denoting 3<sup>d</sup> postage paid to D'Urban. Addressed to George Christopher Cato, previously the first Mayor of Durban.



1852. Only known PMBurg PAID mark to the UK. PMBurg Post Office oval 7<sup>d</sup> in red at PMBurg; 3<sup>d</sup> to Durban and 4<sup>d</sup> Cape port charge. Charged shilling (black mss) packet rate in UK. GSSSCo packet "Propontis" to Plymouth Nov 15<sup>th</sup> London 16<sup>th</sup> 1852.

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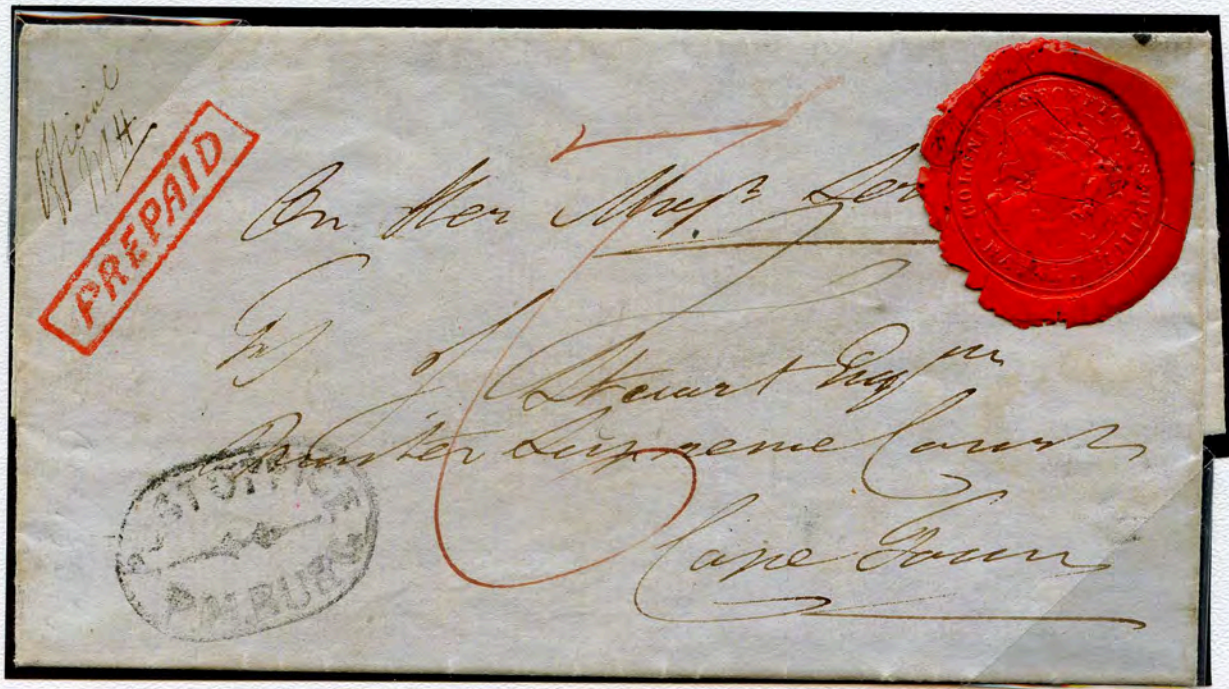
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PRE – STAMP (1836 – 1856)  
1850 – 1856 letters  
PREPAID Handstamp

PMBurg PREPAID Handstamp  
Use to Cape Town

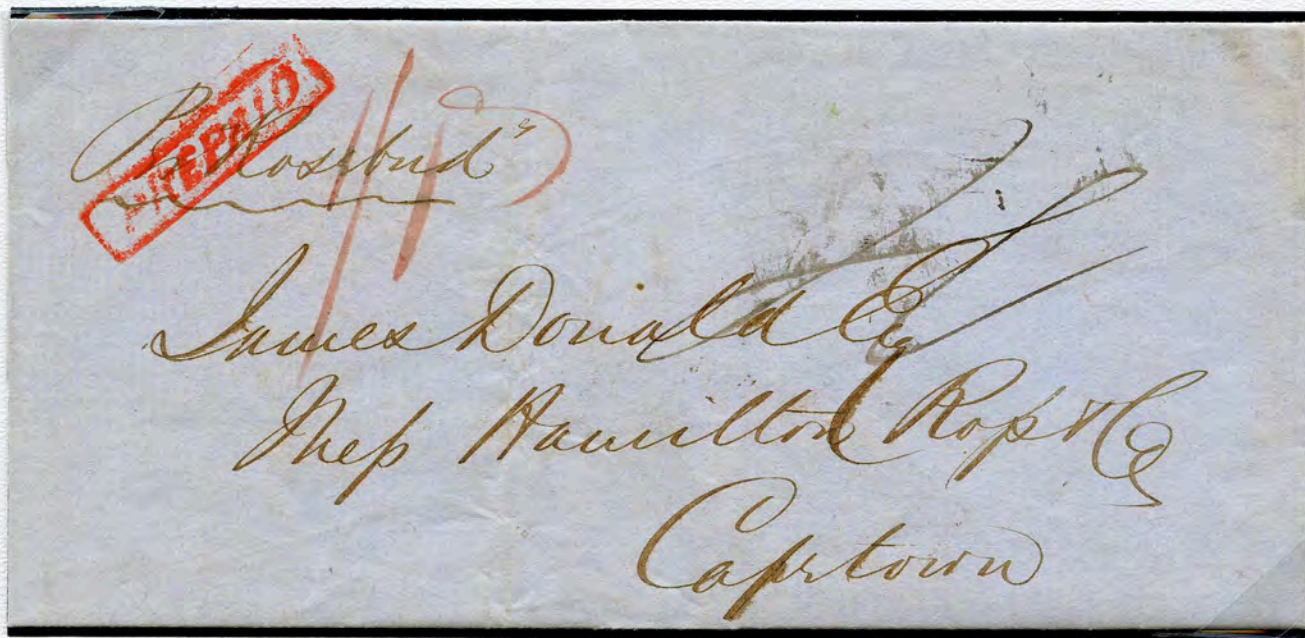


1852 – 7. Unique example of “Official MH” Free Frank of M Chete Hine, with Seal of “Colonial Secretary Office Natal”.

PREPAID denoting 7<sup>d</sup> paid in PMBurg (3<sup>d</sup> to Durban and 4<sup>d</sup> sea postage to Cape Town); also PMBurg Post Office oval.

PRE – STAMP (1836 – 1856)  
1850 – 1856 letters  
PREPAID Handstamp

PMBurg PREPAID Handstamp  
Use to Cape Town and England



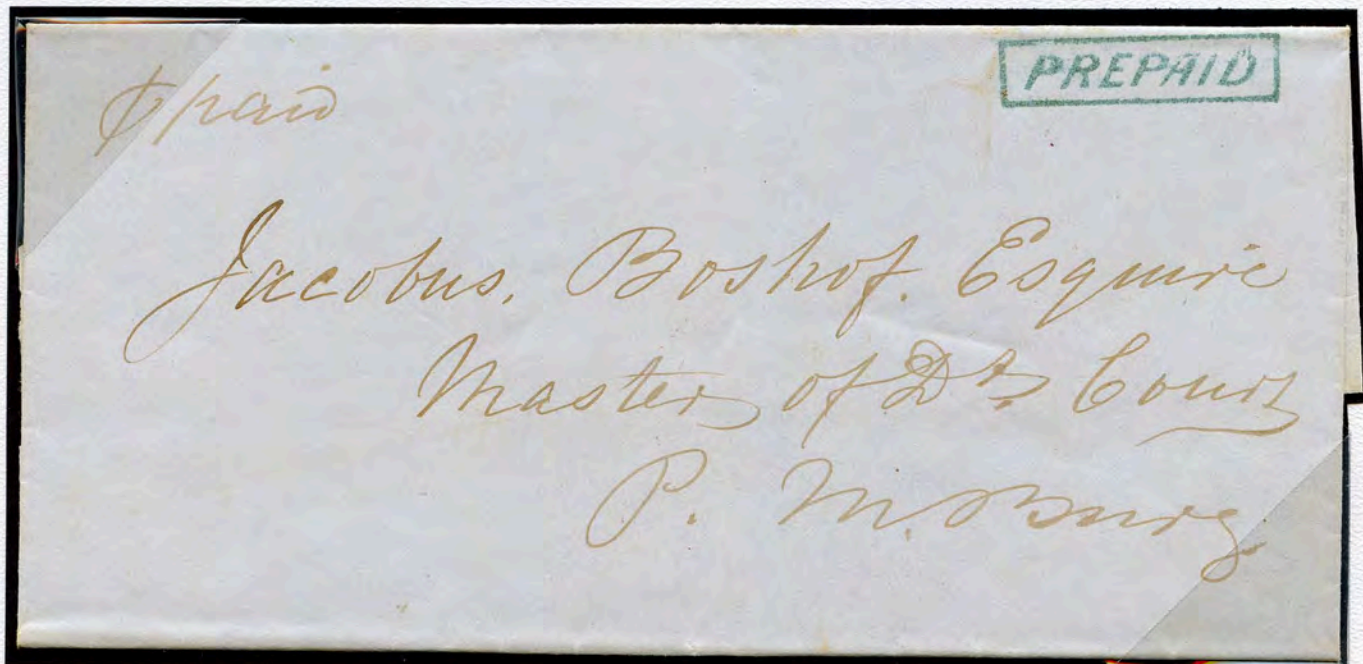
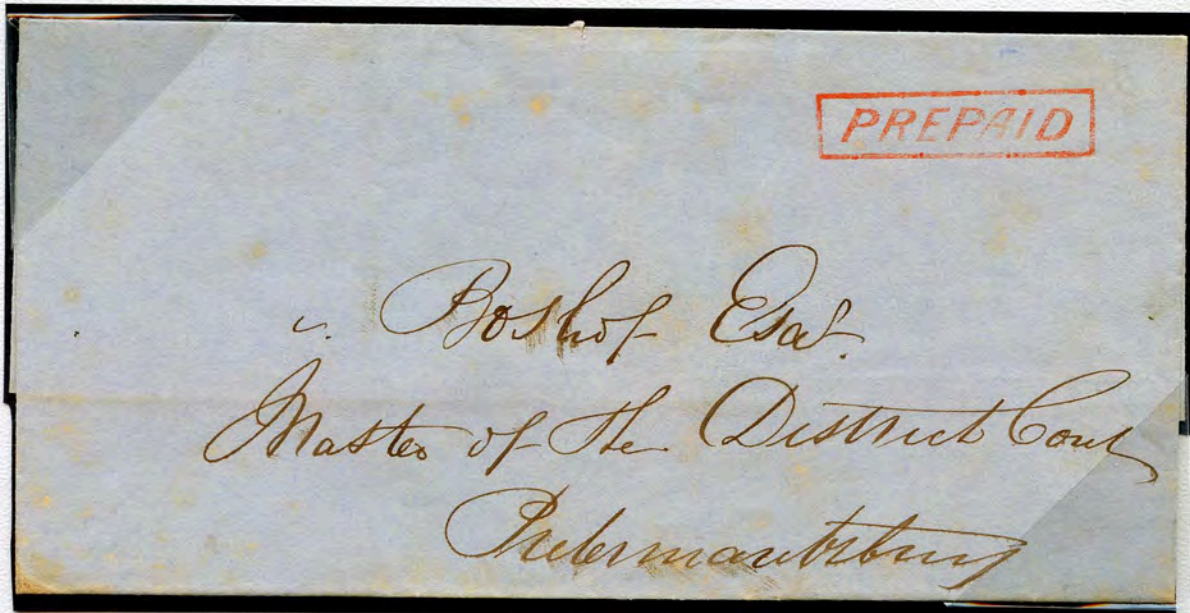
10 Aug 1853 PMBurg to Cape Town with PMBurg prepaid 1/1<sup>d</sup> endorsed via "Rosebud" with 4<sup>d</sup> due to Cape



5 Feb 1856. Only recorded PMBurg PREPAID with PMburg Oval to UK. PREPAID denotes 3<sup>d</sup> paid to Durban (faint arc in blue of Crown Natal datestamp). Endorsed "Per Wanderer via Cape Paid". "Wanderer" left Durban 17<sup>th</sup> Feb; arrived Cape Town 25<sup>th</sup>. 8<sup>d</sup> due as a ship letter in UK.

PRE – STAMP (1836 – 1856)  
1850 – 1856 letters  
PREPAID Handstamp

Use of PREPAID Handstamp in Durban

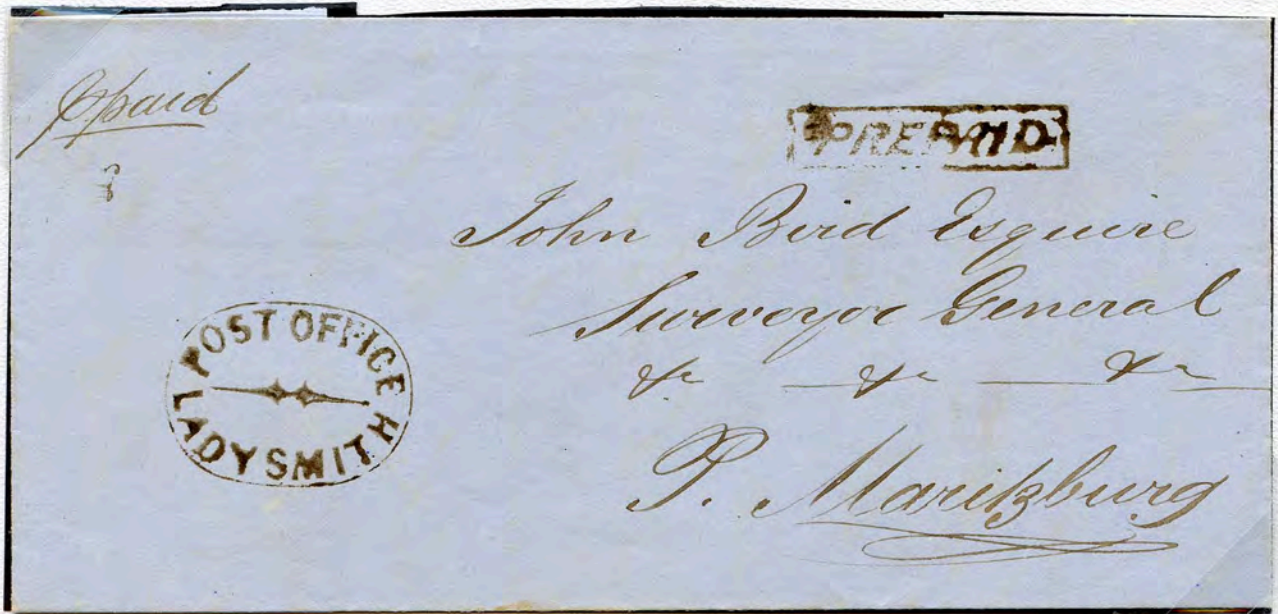


The PREPAID handstamp is recorded used in PMBurg and Ladysmith. These two covers (of 3 recorded), show probable use in Durban. Top example (1852 - 5) denotes prepayment of 3<sup>d</sup> internal postage; addressed to JC Boshoff who was elected as the 2<sup>nd</sup> President of the Orange Free State in 1855.

Bottom cover is 1852 -5. One of 2 recorded Natal PREPAID handstamps in blue – green. Similar usage to the cover above. Endorsed p(re) paid in Mss.

PRE – STAMP (1836 – 1856)  
1850 – 1856 letters  
Ladysmith Oval & *PREPAID*

Unique example in Private Hands



**Only recorded Ladysmith Oval use with *PREPAID* mark in private hands**

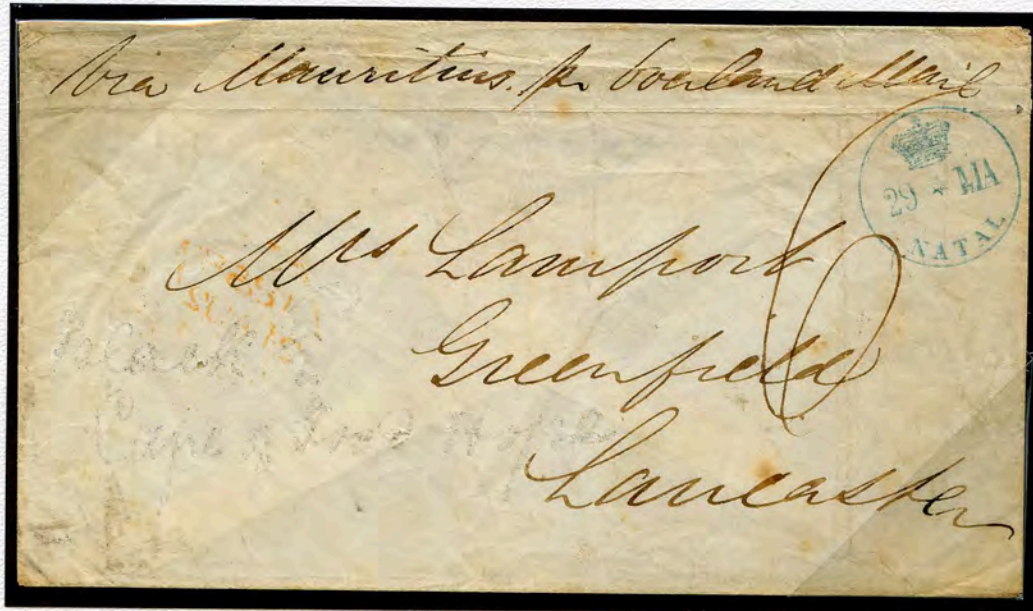
1852 - 6. Ladysmith Oval and *PREPAID* struck in Ladysmith in black. Endorsed "PrePaid", paying the 3<sup>d</sup> rate to PMBurg.

The finest of the 4 recorded examples of the Ladysmith Post Office Oval on cover.

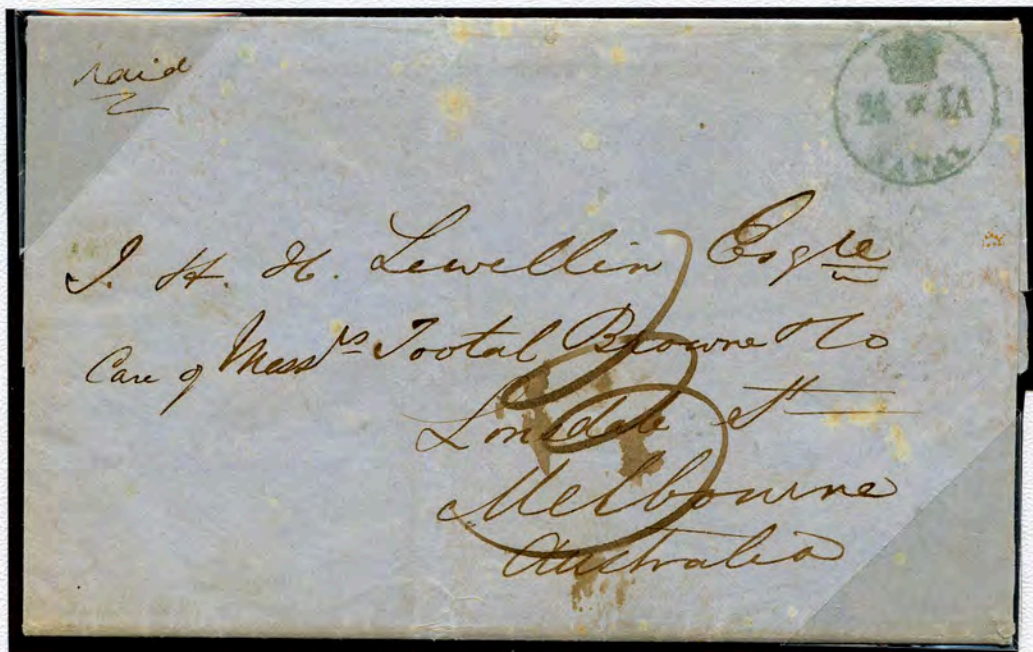
The only example of the Ladysmith *PREPAID* in private hands.  
(The other is in the Hurst Collection, Durban Museum).

PRE – STAMP (1836 – 1856)  
1850 – 1856 letters  
Durban Crown

Use via Mauritius to UK and to Australia



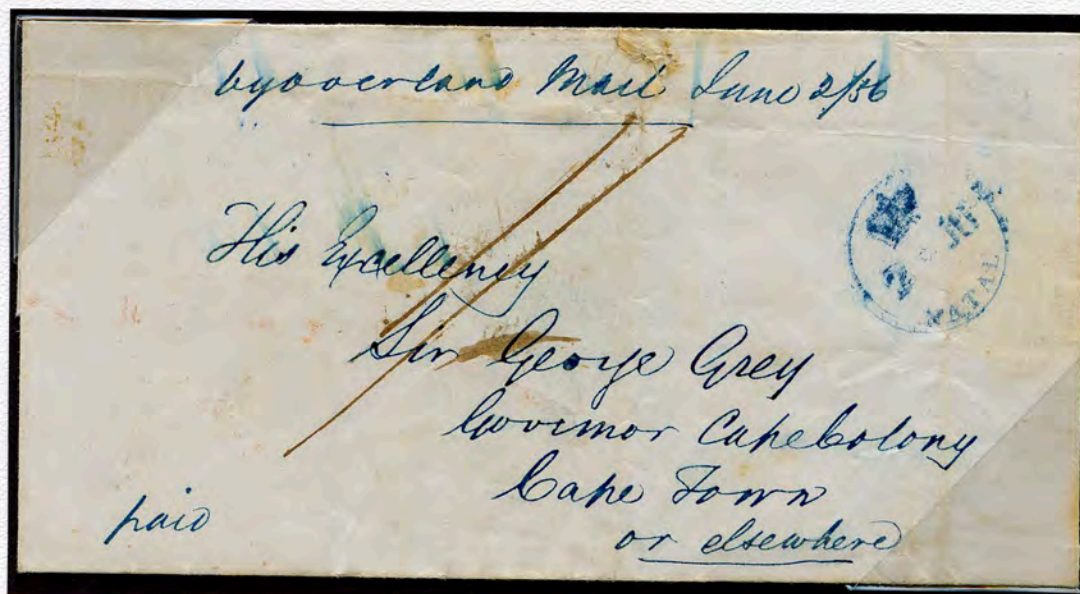
29 May 1855. Endorsed "Via Mauritius per Overland Mail"; to Mauritius on the "Bessie Searight" on 30<sup>th</sup> May; Mauritius to Galle Schooner "Annie" 21<sup>st</sup> June; P&O "Bentick" 15<sup>th</sup> July to Suez; overland to Alexandria; "Euxine" 7<sup>th</sup> Aug to Southampton (21<sup>st</sup> Aug). Charged 6<sup>d</sup> as Mauritius packet letter.



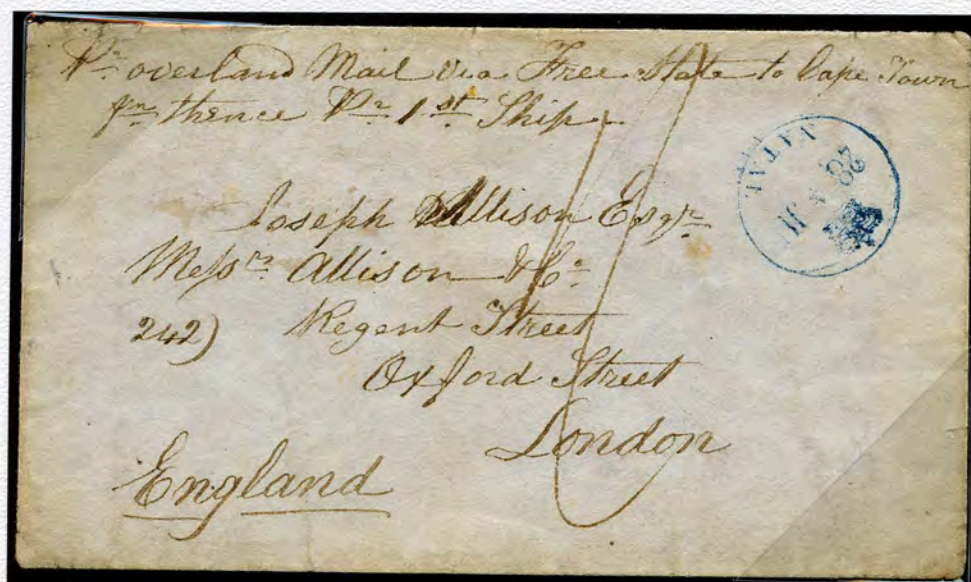
24 Jan 1854. Only recorded Durban Crown on cover to Australia. Endorsed "Paid" via Cape Town Feb 1<sup>st</sup>. 3<sup>d</sup> ship letter charge; Ship Letter Melbourne April 13<sup>th</sup> on reverse.

PRE – STAMP (1836 – 1856)  
1850 – 1856 letters  
Durban Crown

Use on Overland Mail via Free State



2 June 1856. Mail from Natal could be sent overland to Cape Town traversing the Drakensberg mountains. Endorsed "By Overland Mail" 1 shilling due (8d postage plus 4d Cape Town arriving letter fee). Addressed to the Governor, Sir George Grey. ex Maria de la Queillerie.



28 June 1856. Endorsed "Per overland mail via Free State to Cape Town and thence Per 1st Ship". Shilling packet fee charged in London but probably carried by a naval vessel at the packet rate, as no packets were sailing to the Cape at that time.



PRE – STAMP (1836 – 1856)  
1850 – 1856 letters

Postmaster Town Manuscript Markings  
Unique Ladysmith Prepaid MS Mark

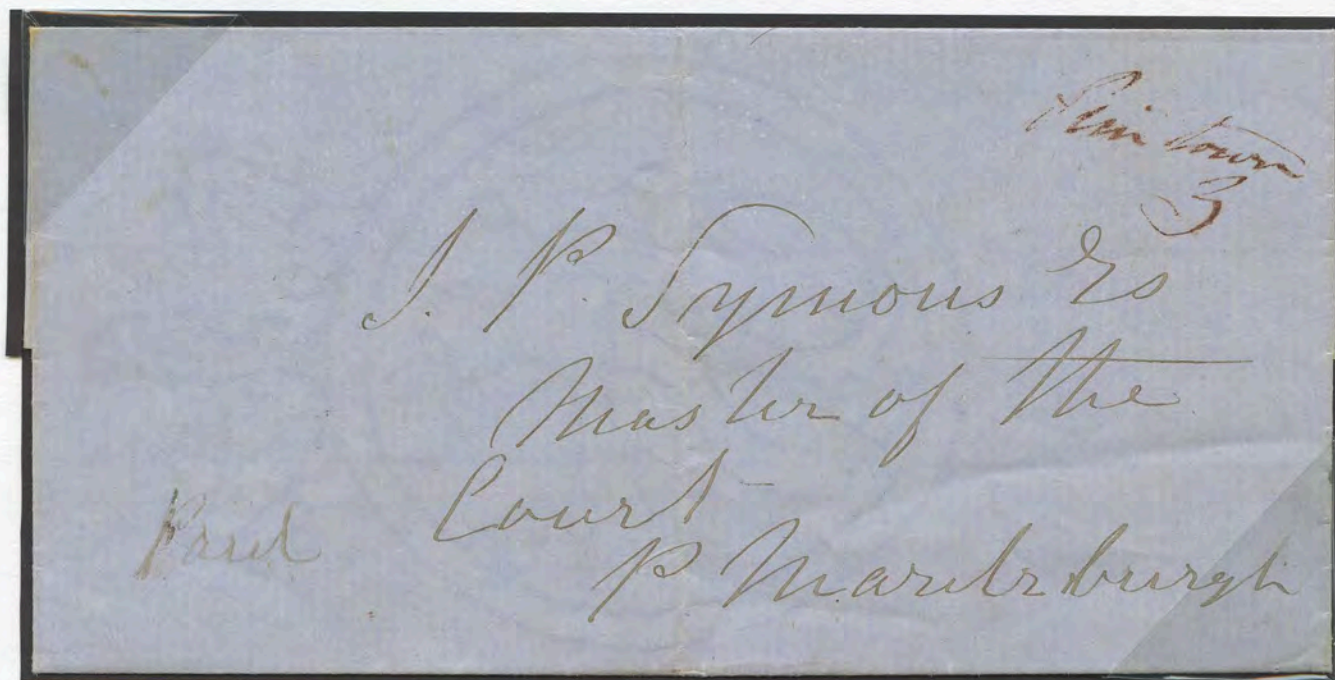


**Only recorded Ladysmith Prepaid manuscript marking**

25 April 1854. Ladysmith to Germany. Unique recorded Postmaster manuscript "Prepaid 6<sup>d</sup> Ladysmith April 25<sup>th</sup>" to Berlin. 6<sup>d</sup> double rate to Durban, charged double ship postage 1/4<sup>d</sup> in UK and treated as unpaid with 17 silvergroschen due in Berlin.

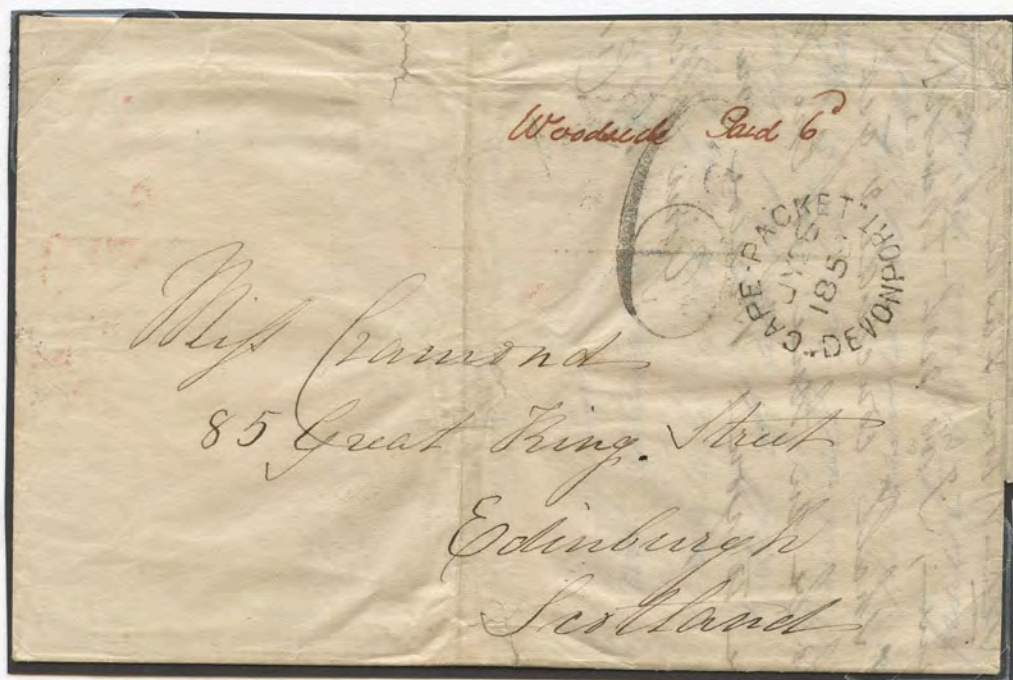
PRE – STAMP (1836 – 1856)  
1850 – 1856 letters

Postmaster Town Manuscript Markings  
Pinetown and Unique Woodside Paid MS Marks



1850's. Pinetown. Undated cover with Postmaster manuscript "Pinetown 3" and "Paid" denoting 3<sup>d</sup> paid to PMBurg.

One of 2 examples in private hands of this Pinetown Postmaster paid franking.



June 1859 from Woodside, Natal to Edinburgh, Scotland. "Woodside Paid 6<sup>d</sup>" denoting 6<sup>d</sup> paid to Cape Town. 6<sup>d</sup> packet rate due in UK. Carried on Rennie "Waldensian" leaving Durban 11<sup>th</sup> June to Cape Town; Union steamer "Athens" from Cape Town 21<sup>st</sup> June arriving Devonport on Jul 28<sup>th</sup>. Edinburgh Jul 30<sup>th</sup> arrival postmark on reverse.

Unique example of the Woodside Postmaster Manuscript Mark



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