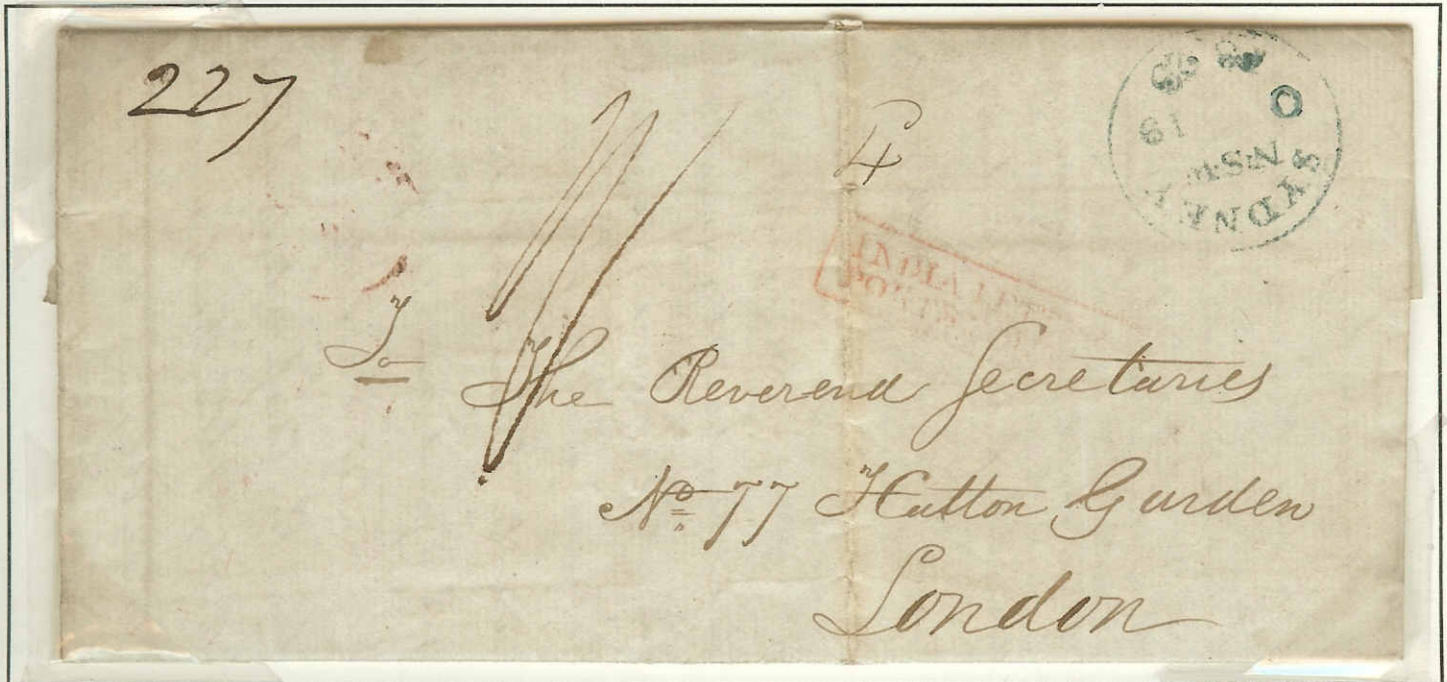


## THE POSTAL ACT OF 1825

The first Act to regulate the postage of letters in New South Wales was proclaimed on 19 December 1825, but did not come into effect until 1 March 1828. This Act provided for the establishment of the Post Office Department including country post offices as required, and fixed the rates of postage between them. The introduction of this Act coincided with the general issue of handstamps.

### The First Sydney Dated Handstamp



19 October 1829

Missionary letter detailing "Captain Stewards Narrative of Tongataboo" 1806-1829

**Rate:** Outwards Ship Letter 4d. Ms. "1/-" denotes inwards UK postage due (4d India Letter plus 8d mileage). **Route:** Per ship to England.

**Markings:** "SYDNEY / NSW" (19.11.1829, type S2) in blue, "INDIA LETTER / PORTSMOUTH". On reverse: London date-stamp (26.3.1830).



21 October 1829

**Rate:** Outwards Ship Letter 4d. Ms. "1/3" denotes inwards UK postage due (4d India Letter plus 11d mileage).

**Route:** Windsor to Sydney by coach, then per ship to England.

**Markings:** "SYDNEY / NSW" (19.12.1829, type S2) in green, "SYDNEY / POST PAID" (type P1), "INDIA LETTER / EXETER". On reverse: London date-stamp (3.7.1830).

## THE POSTAL ACT OF 1825 - SHIP LETTER MAIL

### Early Mail handled by the Post Office Department, 1828

As the Post Office Department had not yet been established when this letter arrived, and as it was addressed to Sydney, the letter would have been held at the GPO and advertised.

John Fieldhouse is listed in the 1828 Census as being a blacksmith living at Campbell Town. The newly established Post Office Department had found out where he lived by March 1828, or he had applied for the letter, and it was forwarded to Liverpool, perhaps in error. It was then finally forwarded to Campbell Town.



#### Rate

"1/7" denotes prepaid UK outwards postage.

Ms "10" deleted denoted NSW single rate (6d Inland plus 4d Ship Letter rate).

Re-rated "1/1d" upon forwarding to Campbell Town, denoting the 10d already due and an additional 3d inland postage (Liverpool - Campbell Town).

#### Route

Per "Harvey" sailing from London on 1.2.1827 bound for Sydney, via the Cape of Good Hope and Hobart Town, arrived on 27.8.1827.

#### Markings

"LIVERPOOL / NSW" (type C3), "POST PAID SHIP LR / LONDON" (11.1.1827) and London (11.1.1827).

On reverse: BIRMINGHAM (10.1.1827).

31 December 1826

### Early Mail from Tonga, headed "Hihifo, Tongataboo"

#### Rate

4d outwards Ship Letter prepaid.

Ms. "1/7" denotes UK inwards postage due.

#### Route

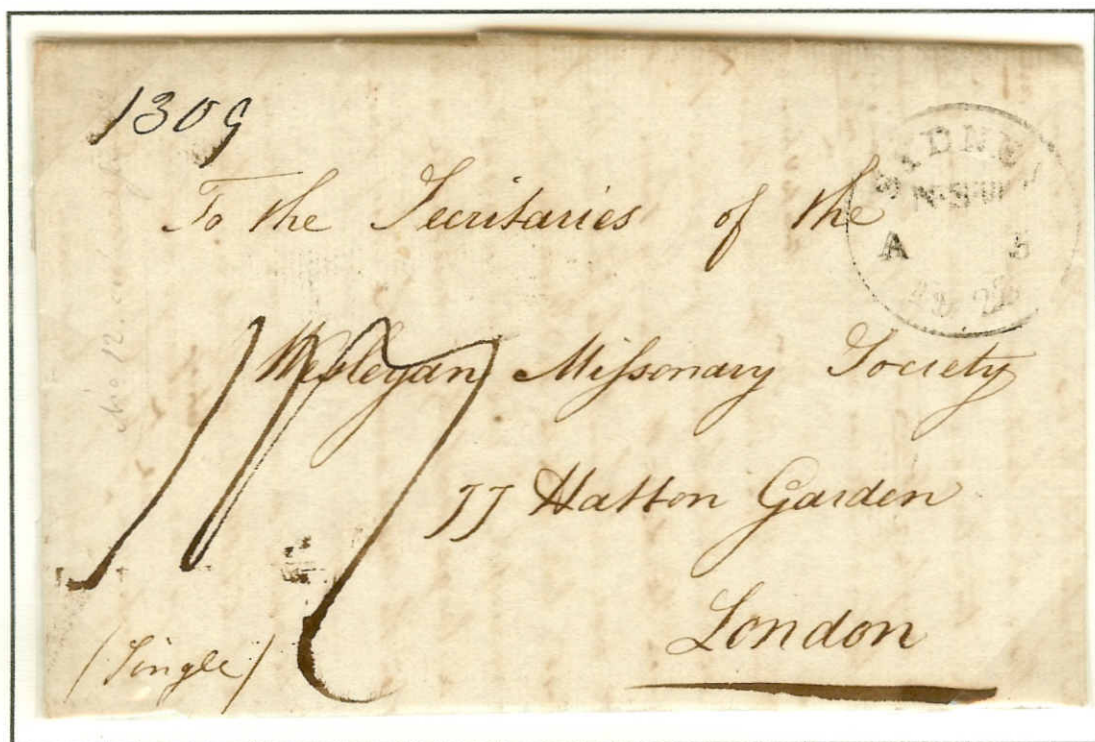
Per Missionary vessel from Tonga on 2.1.1828 bound for Sydney, arriving 5.4.1828. Thence per private ship to London.

#### Markings

"SYDNEY / NSW" (5.4.1828, type S2) in black.

On reverse:

"SHIP-LETTER / PLYMOUTH" and London date-stamp (10.9.1828).



2 January 1828

## THE POSTAL ACT OF 1825 - SHIP LETTER MAIL

### General Ship Letter Rate

The 1825 Act introduced an official ship letter rate with inland charges additional. All Colonial charges were compulsorily prepayable on exported mail. This rate was 4d for a single letter and 6d for all other letters, whether



### Fourpence Single Rate

27 July 1831

Earliest recorded example of SL1

**Rate:** General Ship Letter single rate of 4d. Ms. "1/-" denoting inwards UK postage due (4d India Letter plus 8d mileage).

**Route:** Per ship "Eamont" sailing from Sydney on 29.7.1831 for London direct.

**Markings:** "POST PAID SHIP Lt / SYDNEY" (27.7.1831, type SL1), and UK Inspector's mark cancelling NSW 4d rate.

On reverse: London date-stamp (9.12.1831) and "INDIA LETTER / DEAL".



### Sixpence Double Rate

24 July 1835

**Rate:** General Ship Letter double rate of 6d. Ms. "1/3" denotes inwards UK postage due (4d India Letter plus 11d mileage).

**Route:** Per ship "Bachelor" to England.

**Markings:** "POST PAID SHIP Lt / SYDNEY" (25.7.1835, type SL1).

On reverse: "DOVER / INDIA LETTER", London date-stamp (31.12.1835).

# THE POSTAL ACT OF 1825 - SHIP LETTER MAIL

Eightpence Rate: 4d Inland Letter plus 4d General Ship Letter

Earliest Recorded usage of a Country Office 'Post Paid' Marking



30 March 1830

**Rate:** 8d prepaid single rate. "1/1" denotes inwards UK postage due (4d India Letter plus 9d mileage).

**Route:** Per private ship to London. **Markings:** "SYDNEY / NSW" (3.4.1830, type S2), "PARRAMATTA / POST PAID" (type P11).  
On reverse: "INDIA LETTER / COWES" and London date-stamp (28.8.1830).



29 June 1833

**Rate:** 8d prepaid single rate. "1/6" denotes inwards UK postage due (4d India Letter plus 1s/2d mileage).

**Route:** Per private ship to London.

**Markings:** "GPO SYDNEY" (3.7.1833, type S3), "PARRAMATTA / POST PAID" (type P11), "PARRAMATTA / NSW" (type C1).  
On reverse: London date-stamp (9.11.1833) and "INDIA LETTER".

## THE POSTAL ACT OF 1825 - SHIP LETTER MAIL

**Tenpence Rate: 6d Inland Letter plus 4d General Ship Letter**



15 February 1832

### Rate

10d prepaid single rate. "1/1" denotes inwards UK postage due (4d India Letter plus 9d mileage) with additional ½d Scottish turnpike charge.

### Route

Per private ship to London.

### Markings

"GPO SYDNEY" (17.2.1832, type S3), "LIVERPOOL / POST PAID" (type P11), and UK boxed "½".

On reverse:

"INDIA LETTER / ISLE OF WIGHT" and date-stamps for London and Edinburgh (6.8.1832).

**Liverpool:** Post Office opened 1 March 1828

**One Shilling Rate: 8d Inland Letter plus 4d General Ship Letter**



12 July 1834

**Rate:** 1/- prepaid single rate. "1/7" denotes inwards UK postage due (4d India Letter plus 1s/3d mileage) with additional ½d Scottish turnpike charge. **Route:** Per private ship to London.

**Markings:** "GPO SYDNEY" (21.7.1834, type S3), "CAMPBELL TOWN / NSW" (type C2), and UK boxed "½".

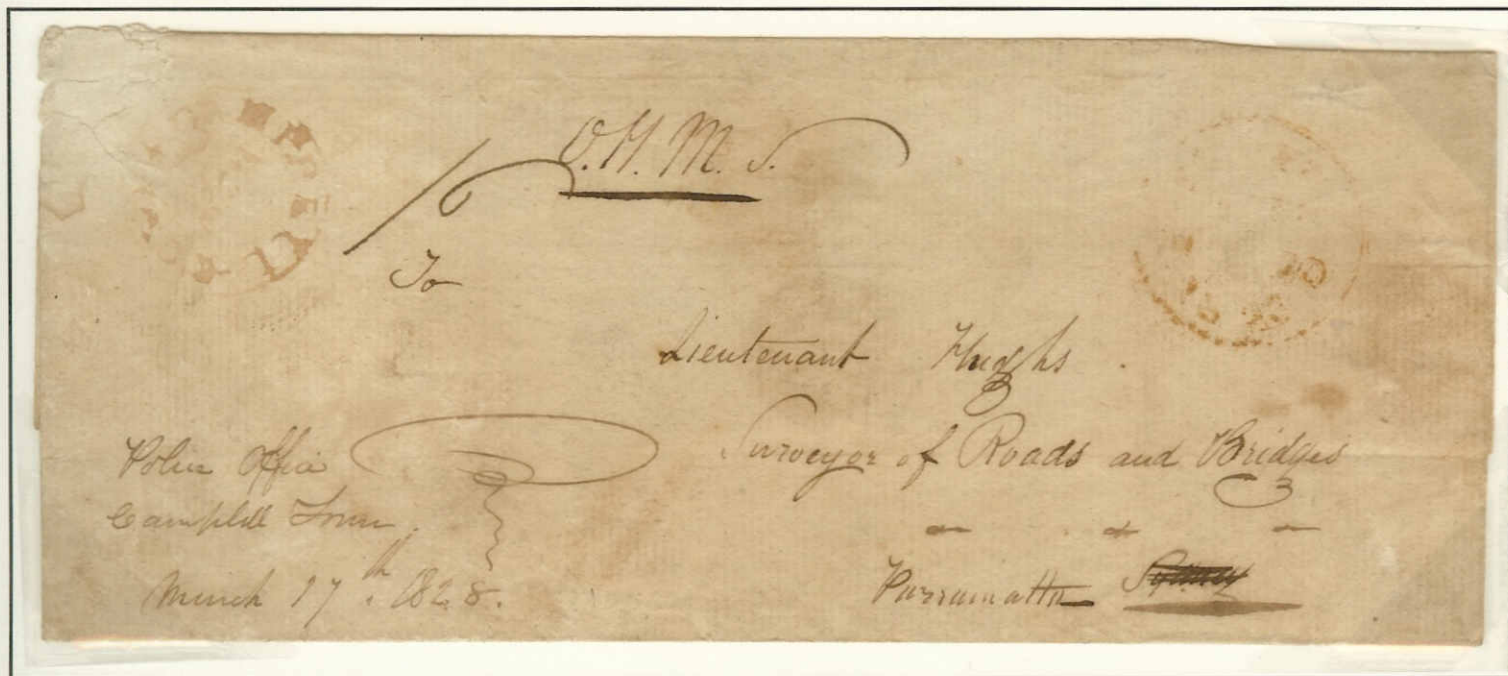
On reverse: Date-stamps for London (5.1.1835), Glasgow (7.1.1835) and "INDIA LETTER / FALMOUTH".

**Campbell Town:** Post Office opened 1 March 1828

## THE POSTAL ACT OF 1825 - INLAND RATES

The first Act to regulate the postage on letters in New South Wales came into effect on 1 March 1828. Under Schedule 1 of the Act of 1825 a matrix of charges was set up based on distance from each post town to each other post town, and difficulty of transmission.

The earliest recorded cover from Campbell Town and the second earliest from any town showing these markings.

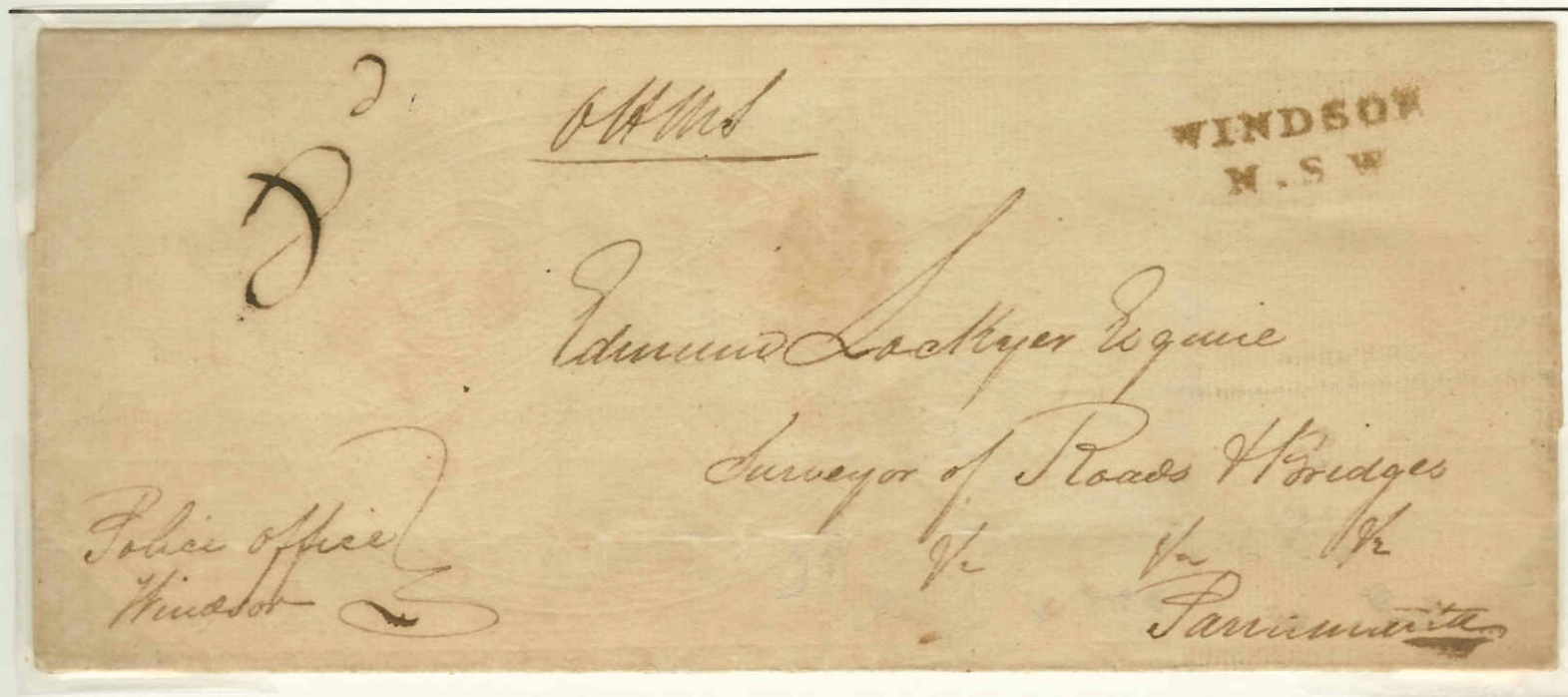


17 March 1828

**Rate:** Sixpence fixed rate Campbell Town - Parramatta.

**Route:** Campbell Town to Parramatta via Sydney by mail coach on the Southern Road.

**Markings:** "CAMPBELL TOWN / NSW" (type C2), and "SYDNEY / NSW" (20.3.1828, type S2).



c. 1828

**Rate:** Eightpence denoting double fixed rate (4d for Windsor – Parramatta).

**Route:** Windsor to Sydney by road.

**Markings:** "WINDSOR / NSW" (type C7).

## THE POSTAL ACT OF 1825 - INLAND RATES

### Fourpence Inland Rate.

**Parramatta:** Post Office opened 1 March 1828.



8 October 1832

**Rate:** Fourpence fixed rate Parramatta - Sydney.

**Route:** Parramatta to Sydney by mail coach.

**Markings:** "PARRAMATTA / NSW" (type C1), and "GENERAL POST OFFICE / SYDNEY" (8.10.1832, type S3) in green.



2 July 1833

**Rate:** Fourpence fixed rate Parramatta - Sydney.

**Route:** Parramatta to Sydney by mail coach.

**Markings:** "PARRAMATTA / NSW" (type C1), and "GENERAL POST OFFICE / SYDNEY" (2.7.1833, type S3).

## THE POSTAL ACT OF 1825 - INLAND RATES

### Eightpence Inland Rate

Letter written by a Convict from Campbell Town Gaol

Letter written by Richard Cahill whilst in custody awaiting trial at quarter sessions. He is pleading with a magistrate to have his trial moved to Sydney. Cahill had been transported in 1825.



23 March 1834

**Rate**  
Ms. "Postpaid 8d"  
denoting eightpence  
prepaid fixed rate  
Campbell Town - Sydney.

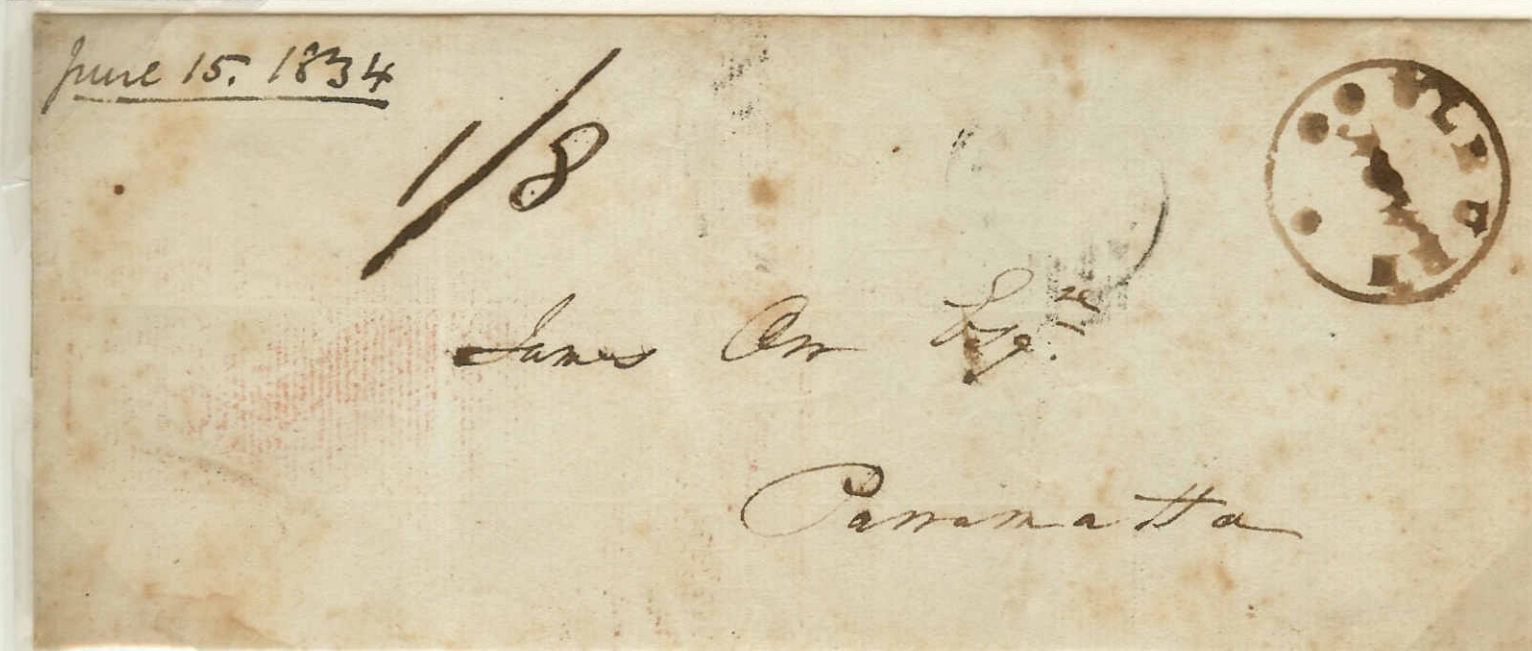
**Route**  
Campbell Town to Sydney  
by mail coach.

**Markings**  
"CAMPBELL TOWN /  
NSW"

(type C2),  
"GENERAL POST  
OFFICE / SYDNEY"  
(24.3.1834, type S3).

Rare example of prepaid  
Inland Mail under the  
1825 Act.

### Double Tenpence Inland Rate



15 June 1834

**Rate:** Ms. "1/8" denotes the double fixed rate Goulburn - Parramatta (double 10d) due on delivery.

**Route:** Goulburn to Parramatta by mail coach.

**Markings:** "GOULBURN / NSW" (type C16), and "PARRAMATTA / NSW" (type C1).

## THE POSTAL ACT OF 1825 - INLAND RATES

### Overcharged Mail

If mail was deemed to have been overcharged a refund was given and a receipt taken for the amount refunded. In this case the cover was the receipt, the inside being endorsed:

*"Recd. 16<sup>th</sup> June, 1829, of Mr. Fitz, Deputy Post Master at Windsor the within Postage of eightpence, the same being an overcharge.  
John Dight, Coroner."*



21 April 1829

#### Rate

Charged eightpence fixed rate Sydney - Windsor, but should have been delivered free as franked by "Wm. Dumaesq" for the Treasury Office.

#### Route

Sydney to Windsor by mail coach.

#### Markings

"SYDNEY / NSW"  
(21.4.1829, type S2).

### Double Sixpence Inland Rate

#### Rate

Ms."1/-" denotes the double fixed rate Liverpool - Sydney (double 6d) due on delivery.

#### Route

Liverpool to Sydney by mail coach.

#### Markings

"LIVERPOOL / NSW" (type C3),  
"GENERAL POST OFFICE / SYDNEY"  
(20.12.1834, type S3).

The addressee, George Nichols, was the son of the Colony's first Postmaster, Isaac Nichols.



18 December 1834

## Franking Privileges

**Alcorns Inn:** Post Office opened 1 January 1832 - closed 31 December 1834.

## One cover recorded

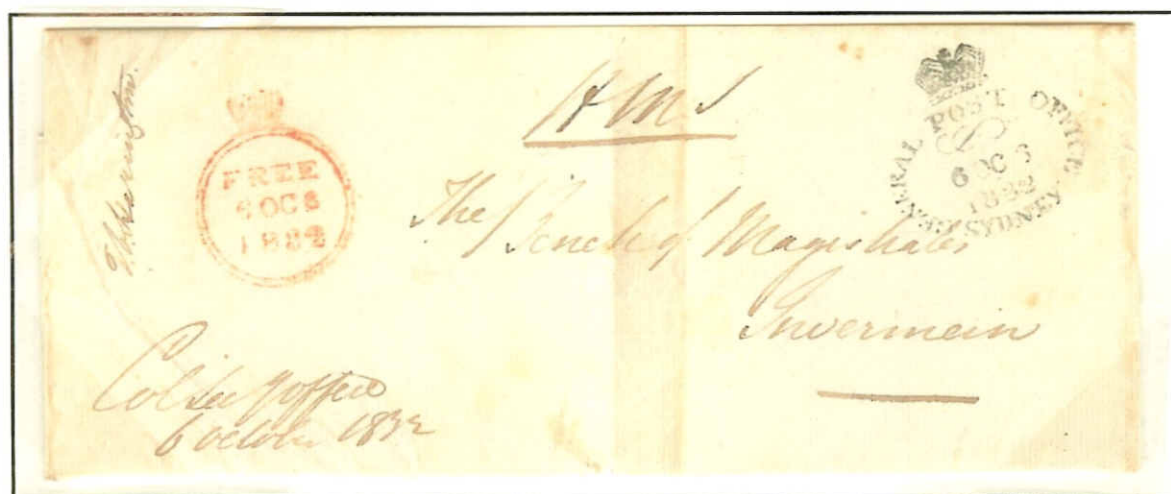


6 October 1832

Outer sent free from the Colonial Secretary, franked by T. S. Harington, and addressed to the Bench of Magistrates, Invermeir. The letter was turned and reused by William Dumaresq, being endorsed in ms. "Free" and addressed to the Colonial Secretary at Sydney.

Sydney to Maitland by local vessel and then by road to Invermein, and returned via the same route. As a post office was not opened at Invermein until 1 January 1833, the letter was sent via Alcorns Inn.

Inside: "FREE" (6.10.1832, type F1) of Sydney, and "GPO SYDNEY" (6.10.1832, type S3) in green.



**Reduced photocopy of inside of letter.**

# THE POSTAL ACT OF 1825

## Franking Privileges



18 March 1831

**Rate:** Free, addressed to the Governor at Sydney.

**Route:** Secretary of State's Office, London to Sydney by ship, carried as official mail. Turned and re-used to Van Diemen's Land, franked by Henry Dumaesq.

**Markings:** "SYDNEY / NSW" (5.9.1831, type S2), and British "FREE" (18.3.1831) (rare - only used on high level Colonial correspondence).



20 August 1832

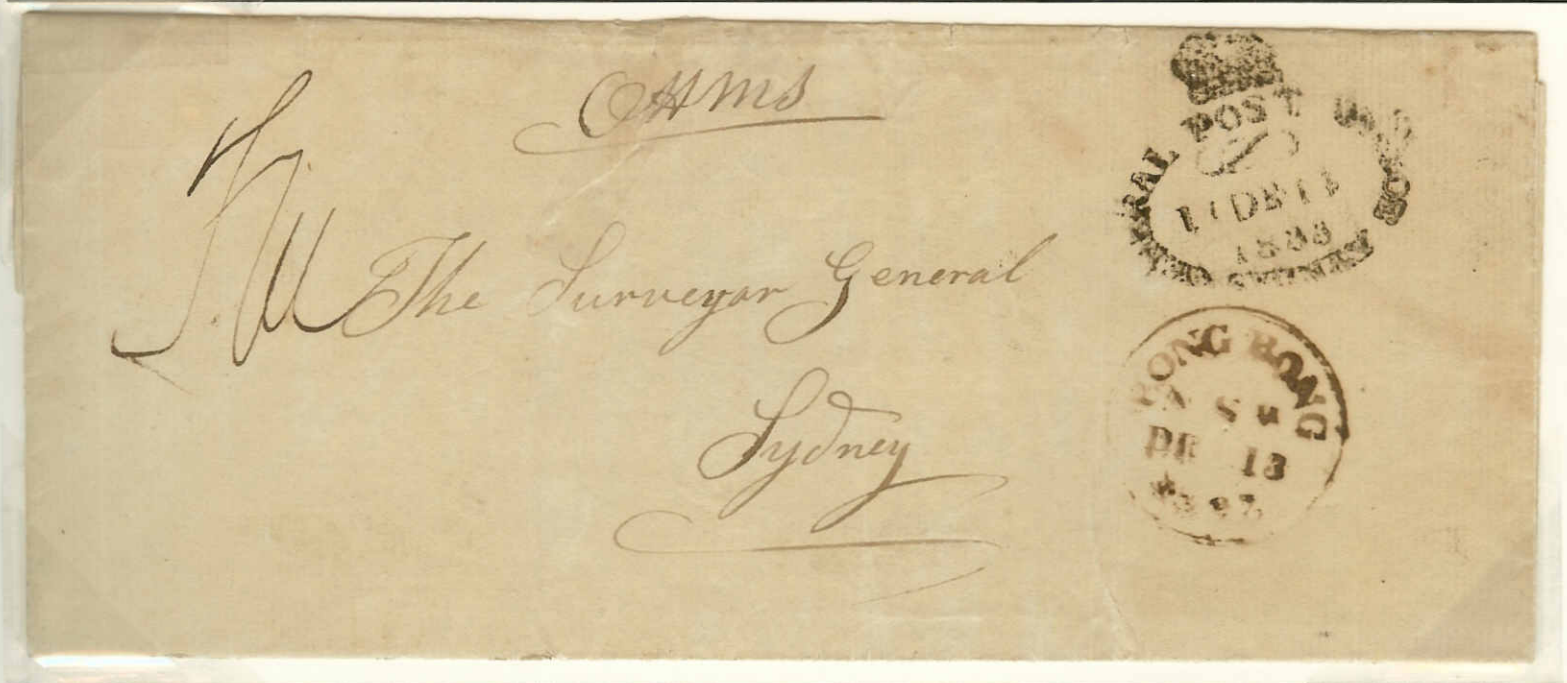
**Rate:** Free under privilege franked by Alexander McLeay, Colonial Secretary. Rated "3" (deleted) and "6" for 6d inwards postage due on delivery (3d Ship Letter plus 3d mileage) in VDL. **Route:** Sydney to New Norfolk, Van Diemen's Land by ship.

**Markings:** "FREE" (14.9.1832, type F1), and "GPO SYDNEY" (11.9.1832, type S3).

## THE POSTAL ACT OF 1825

### Franking Privileges (6 GEO IV No. 23) Schedule 5

All letters actually and bona fide on the Public Service, addressed to, or from inter alia, the Surveyor General to be delivered and to pass free of any postage.



13 December 1833

**Rate:** Free, endorsed in ms. "Free" and addressed to the Surveyor General.

**Route:** Mail coach to Sydney from Bong Bong on the Southern Road.

**Markings:** "BONG BONG / N.S.W" (13.12.1833, type C8), and "GPO SYDNEY" (14.12.1833, type S3).

### Letter written by the explorer Sir Thomas Livingstone Mitchell re his Second Expedition



Entire headed "Craigend" written by Sir Thomas L. Mitchell to fellow explorer Hamilton Hume. Mitchell had begun his second expedition to trace the Darling River and writes that "My party is now crossing the Blue Mountains and I must soon join it ..."

**Rate:**

Free, franked by the Surveyor-General in ms. "Free / T.L. Mitchell".

**Route:**

Sydney to Campbell Town by mail coach.

**Markings:**

"FREE" (16.3.1835, type F1),  
"GENERAL POST OFFICE / SYDNEY"  
(16.3.1835, type S3).

16 March 1835