

1847

## TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

GUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Britannia

The Irish Potato Famine

Quaker Relief

May 22, 1847. The Irish Relief Association of Nashville, Tennessee had collected \$1,000 for the relief of the starving Irish peasants as a result of the potato famine. This was sent to Brown Brothers at New York who converted it into a draft on Brown, Shipley & Co. for £ 204.15.9. Brown Brothers & Co. is sending this to the Central Relief Committee of the Society of Friends (Quakers) at Dublin to be evenly divided among six Irish towns. This is a duplicate letter.



PAID



May 28. Letter, endorsed Britannia Str., was posted at New York, paid 5¢ under 300 miles rate of 1845, New York to Boston.

June 1. R.M.S. Britannia of the Cunard Line sailed from Boston for Liverpool.

June 13. Britannia arrived at Liverpool, transit backstamp.

June 17. Dublin arrival backstamp. Letter rated at one shilling due, the transatlantic Packet Letter rate, shown by the handstamp 1/-.

N.B.: The original of this letter had gone by the Washington steamer of the Ocean Line, which had departed from New York for Bremen via Southampton on the first voyage of the Ocean Line.



1847

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Caledonia

The Irish Potato Famine

Quaker relief

The devastating Irish potato famine started in 1845 and by 1848 was complete, a blight that destroyed the potato crops on which the Irish peasants were totally dependent.

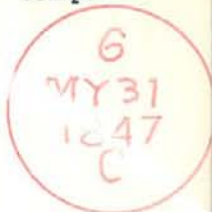
The Quakers (or "Friends") were early active in providing relief to the starving of Ireland. This letter, dated at New York May 15, 1847, to the Central Committee of the Society of Friends, Dublin, is from a Quaker detailing the food stuffs (bread stuffs and corn meal) being shipped to Ireland by various vessels. Letter is endorsed: p steamer Caledonia/ Via Boston. This is a copy for the Dublin Quakers' reference, the original of which was sent to Brown, Shipley & Co., shipping agents and brokers at London.

May 16. Letter went ex-post office to Boston where it was handed directly to the purser of the R.M.S. Caledonia, which departed from Boston this date for Liverpool.

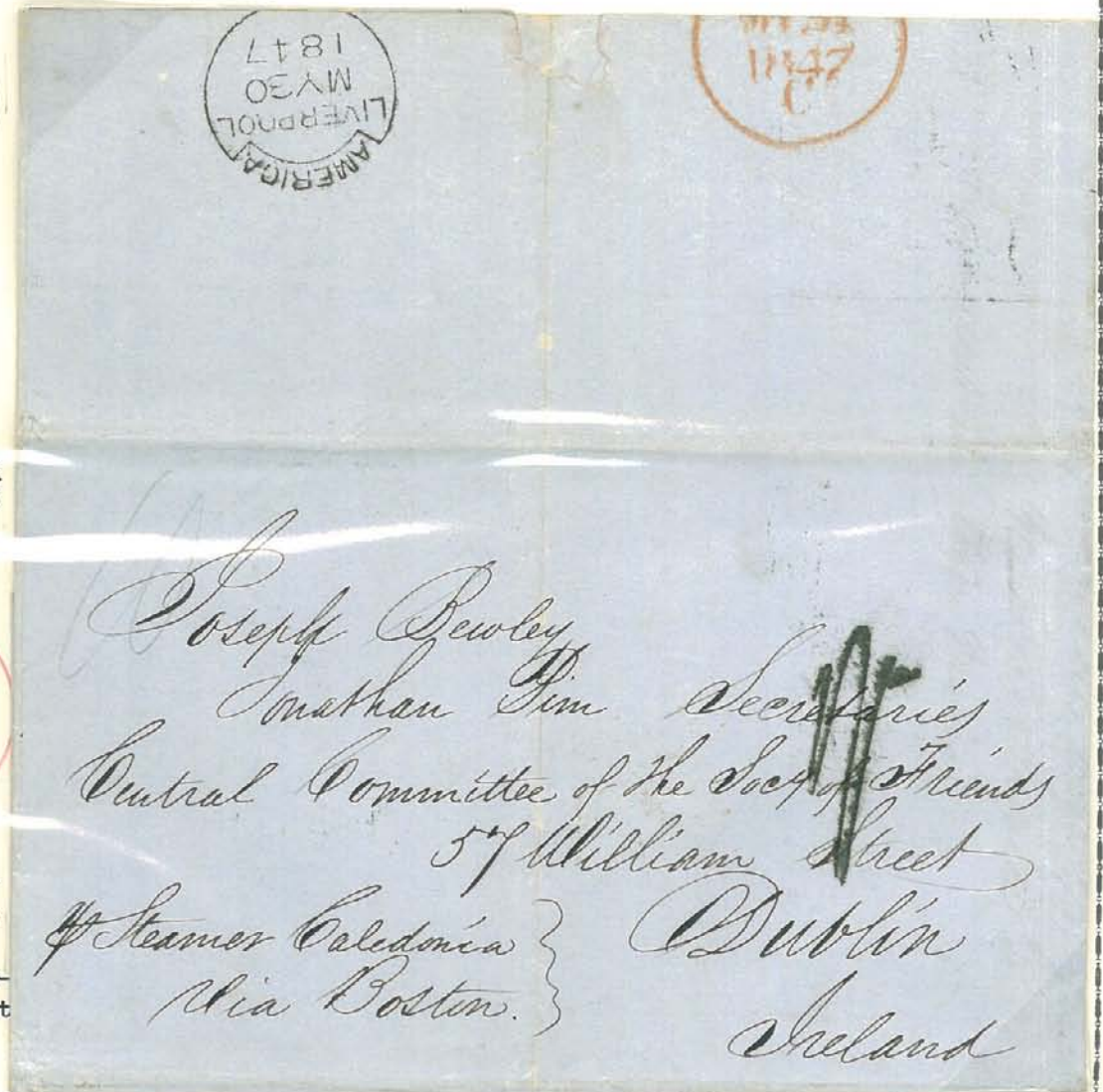


*Handwritten signature/initials*

May 29. Caledonia arrived at Liverpool, transit backstamp.



May 31. Dublin arrival backstamp. One shilling due, the transatlantic Packet Letter rate.



1847

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Caledonia

The Irish Potato Famine

Quaker relief

The well-known disastrous potato crop failure in Ireland, caused by a virulent blight, began in the spring of 1845 in sporadic areas then became progressively worse in 1846 and 1847 and by 1848 was total. The Irish people of the land were entirely dependent on the potato for sustenance, and from 1848 to 1850 the population of Ireland was decimated by starvation, an epidemic of cholera, and emigration.

The Quakers, or "Friends", early responded to the needs of the starving Irish, and this letter dated 7 mo. 15th 1847 (July 15) at Lynn, Mass. shows their efforts in the U.S. by sending £35.10.5 to be used for the relief of the starving.

July 16, 1847.

Letter handed directly to the purser of the Caledonia, as endorsed, thus bears no U.S. markings. Caledonia sailed from Boston this date.



*Mr*

July 28.

Caledonia arrived at Liverpool, backstamp. One shilling due, the transatlantic Packet Letter rate.



July 29. Dublin arrival backstamp.





1850-51

THE NEW YORK & HAVRE STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY  
The Havre Line U. S. M. S. Franklin, 2nd Return Voyage  
The Irish Potato Famine

December 24, 1850. An unpaid letter written at DrumRedutt near Ballymoney in County Antrim, Ireland. The writer is asking his cousin in Ohio for funds for his passage to America. He has been put out of his house because of a dispute over rent, which he said was paid, viz. 7 pounds. Judgement was against him was for 24 pounds and as a result he lost all belongings; 2 cows, a pony and even his loom, which hurt as he was a weaver.

The Irish Potato Famine, which began in 1845, was in full swing in 1850, and he notes the lack of money due to the crop failures. Whole families are skipping out at night to avoid the rents.

The writer, James McCagham, has not heard from his cousin in America for 6 or 7 years. One wonders what kind of a reply he got after so long a silence, particularly when asking for money.



December 26, 1850. Letter carried by "Mr. Johnson" to Ballymoney and posted there unpaid.

December 27. Dublin transit backstamp and December 28 Liverpool Packet Letter Office lozenge, backstamp. This letter just missed the December 28 sailing of Collins Line S.S. Atlantic. This was fortunate as Atlantic sustained a broken shaft 900 miles from Halifax and returned to Queenstown under sail, arriving January 22, 1851. R.M.S. Africa carried the Atlantic's mails to New York, arriving on February 15.

January 2, 1851. This letter was sent down to Southampton to meet the Havre Line's U.S.M.S. Franklin, which departed Havre January 1, touched at Southampton January 2.



3 CENTS

January 16. Franklin arrived at New York. U.S. was debited for 3¢ British Inland. U.S. retained 16¢ Sea (American Packet) + 5¢ U.S. Inland = 21¢ out of the 24¢ due, the U.S.-British Treaty of 1848 rate per ½-oz.

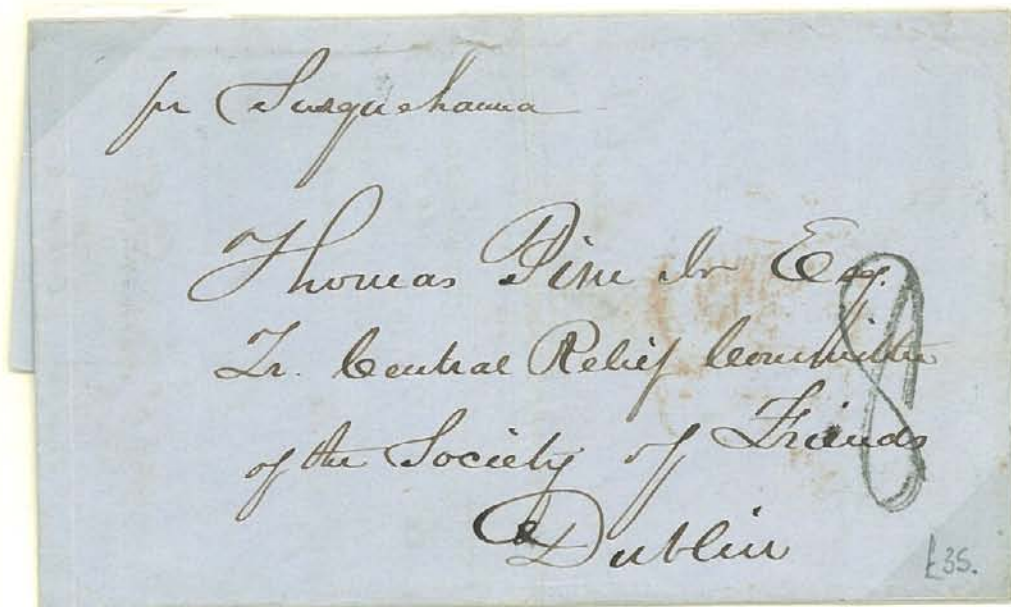
1849

COPE'S PHILADELPHIA LINE TO LIVERPOOL

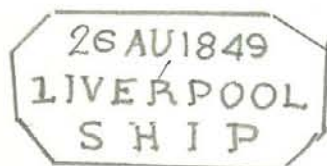
Packet Ship Susquehanna  
Irish Potato Famine

July 9, 1849. A letter headed at Philadelphia addressed to the Treasurer of the Central Relief Committee of the Society of Friends at Dublin. It is endorsed: pr Susquehanna.

This letter is remitting a sight draft on Brown Shipley & Co. for 10.7.11 stg., the proceeds of \$51.98 collected for the relief of the starving Irish affected by Irish potato blight and resulting famine.



Shipping & Commercial List, N.Y. Philadelphia, cleared July 24, Ship Susquehanna, Dunlevy....Liverpool. Letter had been handed directly to the purser of the Susquehanna at Philadelphia.



8

August 25. Susquehanna arrived at Liverpool, octagonal SHIP back-stamp. Letter went over to Ireland for an August 27 arrival at Dublin, red backstamp.

Letter subject to the standard 8d. Ship Letter rate within the U.K., effective since JANuary 10, 1840.