

NEXT IN LINE

This exhibit will look at those who were next in line to succeed to the office of President of the United States at times when the office of Vice President was vacant. Such vacancies occur whenever a President or Vice President dies or resigns.

The Constitution made no provision for the possibility that both national offices would become vacant at the same time. Congress first addressed the matter with the Succession Act of 1792, which provided that the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and then the Speaker of the House of Representatives, would be the Presidential backups. No further provision was made, and the positions named were generally unoccupied when Congress was not in session.

A rash of lengthy vacancies and partisan squabbling led to the Succession Act of 1886, which provided that the line of succession should pass through the Cabinet Secretaries in the order of the Departments' creation: State, Treasury, War, Attorney General, Postmaster General, etc.

A desire for a third nationally-elected leader to serve as the Presidential backup was the prime rationale for the Succession Act of 1947, which made the Speaker of the House the President's backup, followed by the President Pro Tem, and then the Cabinet Secretaries. Since 1967 the Twenty-Fifth Amendment has provided for the appointment of a new Vice President to fill a vacancy, but has had no effect on the line of succession.



FIRST DAY COVER

When the proposed stamp design used here as a cachet was first publicized, the Japanese government protested. The U.S.P.S. replaced the offending design with a picture of President Harry Truman announcing Japan's surrender. Seated at Truman's right is Secretary of State James F. Byrnes, who was next in line to succeed to the Presidency at the time, and was one of the strongest proponents of using the new weapon against Japan. Ironically, this is Byrnes' only appearance on a U.S. stamp. A privately-printed label at the lower right mimics the original design.

SYNOPSIS NEXT IN LINE

This exhibit is a thematic look at those who were next in line to succeed to the Presidency at times when there was no Vice President.

The Title Page gives some historical background on the various laws covering Vice Presidential vacancies, along with an unusual First Day Cover prepared by the exhibitor and featuring a show cancel designed by the exhibitor's brother.

All cancels and similar references which appear to have been named for a person were in fact named for the individual being shown.

A variety of philatelic elements includes free franks; revenues; town, event, manuscript, and railroad cancels; a doubled precancel (p6); an unofficial Confederate printing (p3); a cover addressed to a 'free' person (p4); a hotel cover and cinderella (p12); slogan meters; a coil leader (p13); perforation freaks (pp 12, 15); and ink varieties (p15).

Key items include the free franks of William Crawford (p2), Samuel Southard (p4), David R. Atchison (p6), and Benjamin Wade (p.9).

PLAN OF THE EXHIBIT

SUCCESSION ACT OF 1792

William Harris Crawford	p. 3
John Caldwell Calhoun	4
Hugh Lawson White	4
Samuel Lewis Southard	5
Willie Person Mangum	6
Howell Cobb	6
William Rufus deVane King	6
David Rice Atchison	7
Lewis Cass	8
Jesse David Bright	9
James Murray Mason	9
Lafayette Sabine Foster	10
Benjamin Franklin Wade	10
Thomas White Ferry	11
'nobody'	12
Thomas Francis Bayard	12
George Franklin Edmunds	12
'nobody'	13

SUCCESSION ACT OF 1886

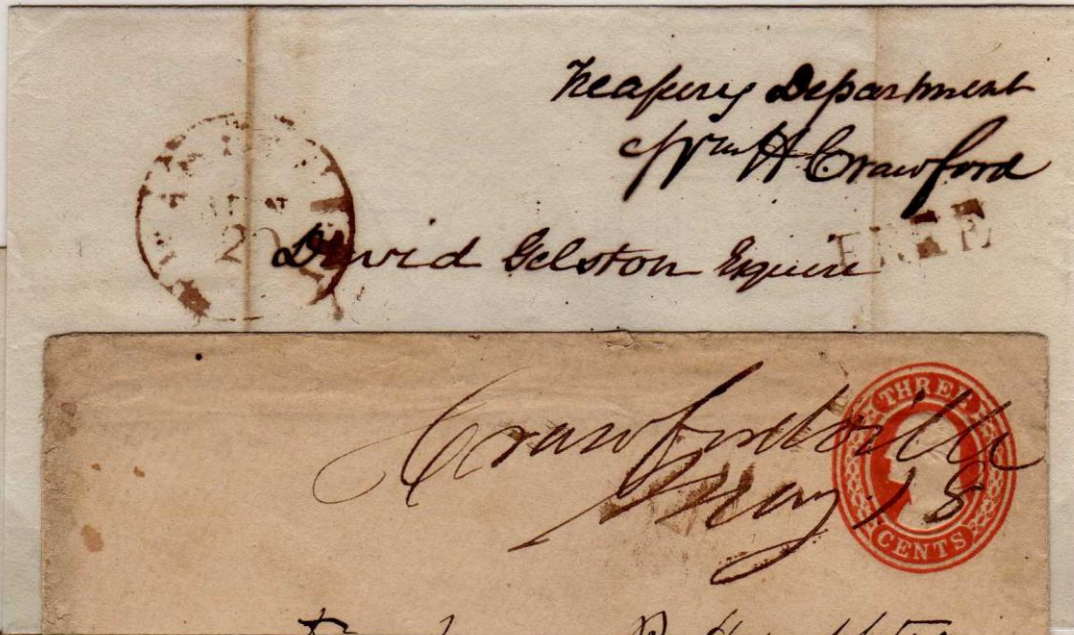
John Sherman	13
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SUCCESSION ACT OF 1947

George Catlett Marshall	15
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The first vacancy occurred when the Vice President died in April, 1812. For the next ten months, Georgia Senator and President Pro Tem of the Senate, WILLIAM HARRIS CRAWFORD was the backup for President James Madison.

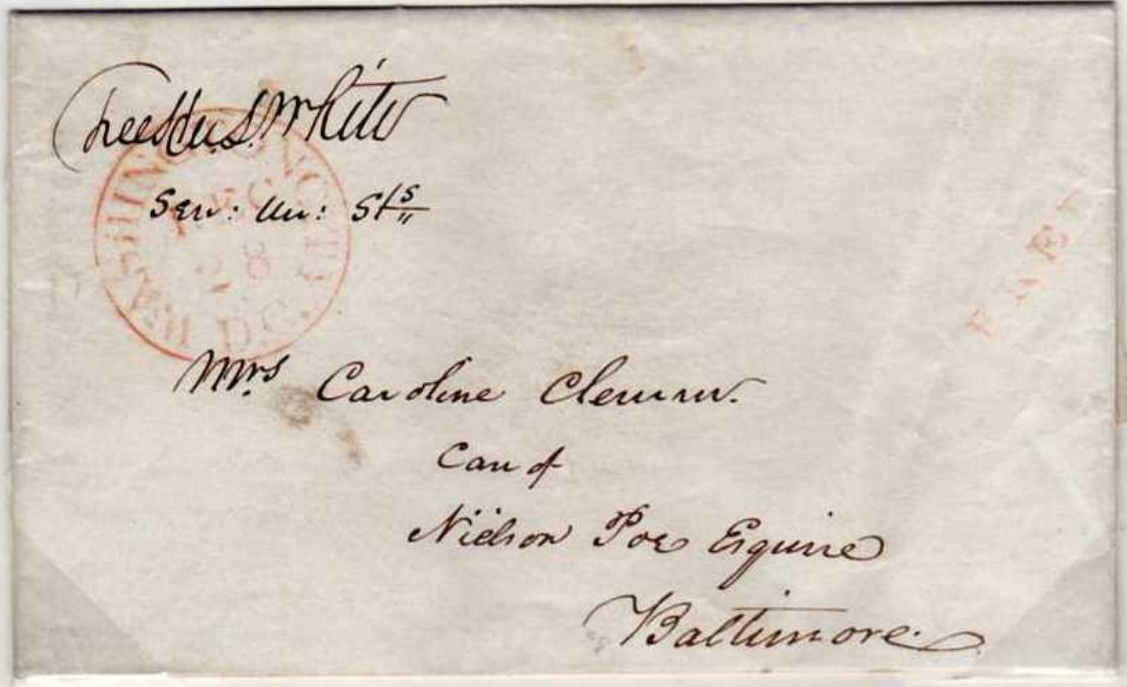
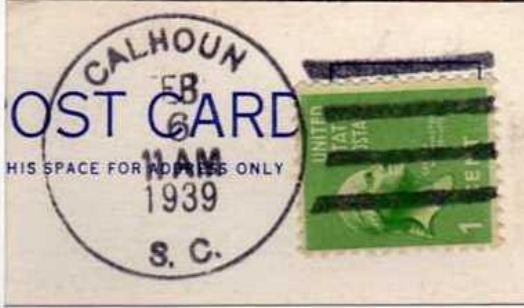


Above, Crawford's free frank. Towns in Georgia, Indiana, and Maine were named for him, as was Dr. Crawford W. Long. Crawford might have been elected President in 1816, but he demurred in favor of James Monroe. In 1824 he won the caucus nomination for President, but carried only two states.





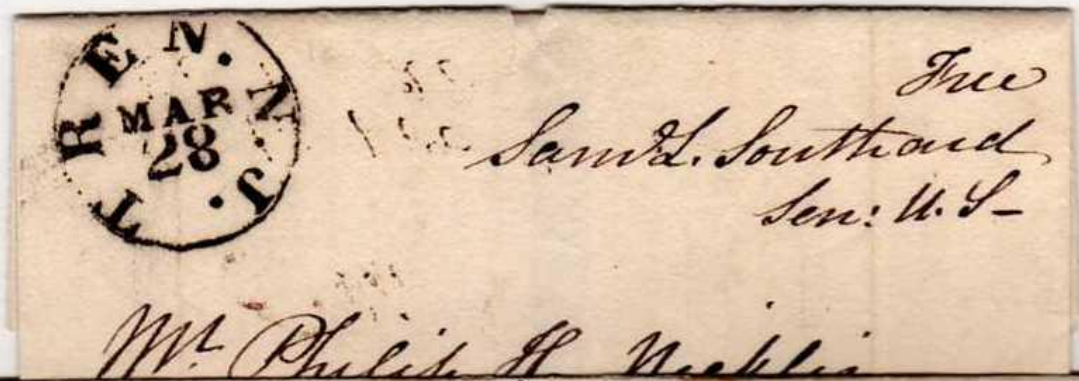
In December, 1832, Vice President John C. Calhoun resigned to return to the Senate, where he could more effectively oppose President Andrew Jackson. During the ensuing ten-week vacancy Senator HUGH LAWSON WHITE of Tennessee was the President's backup. Many towns, and a submarine were named for Calhoun. Officially reworked plates were used to make unofficial 2c Calhoun prints after the Civil War.



In 1836 White was the Southern Whig candidate for President, but he carried only two states and won 26 electoral votes.



When William Henry Harrison became the first President to die in office after just one month on the job in 1841, John Tyler succeeded him. For the next year, SAMUEL LEWIS SOUTHARD of New Jersey was the President's backup.



Above, Southard's free franks, plus a letter which went 'free' under the prevailing rules because it was addressed to a Senator. During his career, Southard was also Secretary of the Navy and Governor of New Jersey.

Senator WILLIE PERSON MANGUM of North Carolina was the President's backup for nearly three years, from 1842 to 1845.



Mangum was the Independent Democratic nominee for President in 1836 and carried one state. Had Mangum accepted the Whigs' offer to run for Vice President in 1840, he would have become President in 1841.

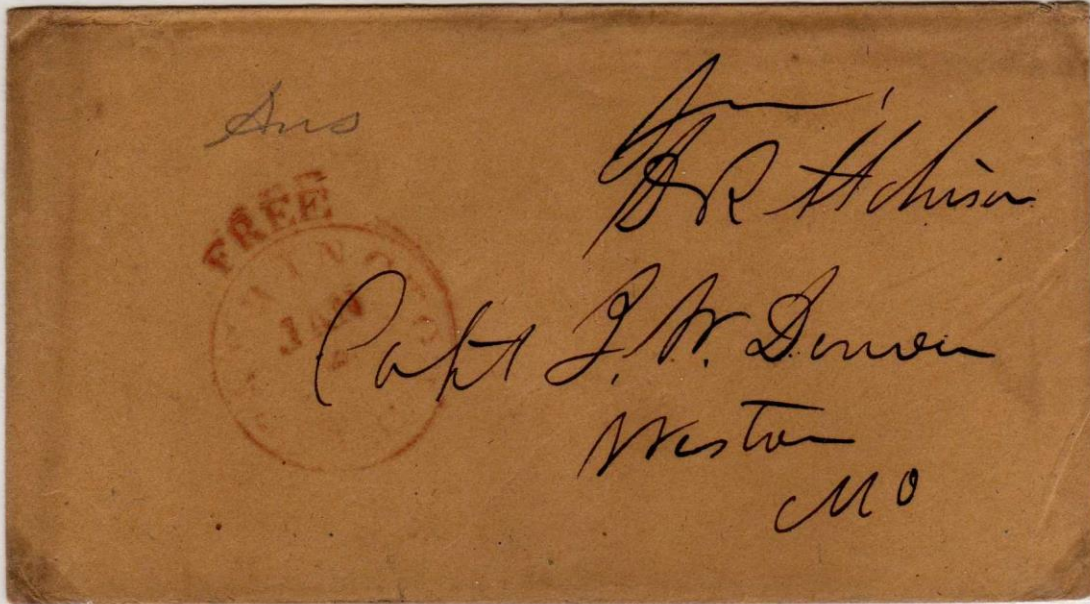
When President Zachary Taylor died on July 9, 1850 and Millard Fillmore became President, the only available backup for the next two days was Speaker of the House HOWELL COBB of Georgia, who was under the age of 35 and therefore ineligible to serve as President.



Senator WILLIAM RUFUS DeVANE KING of Alabama was elected President Pro Tem on July 11 and was the President's backup for the next 18 months. King was elected Vice President in 1852 and created another vacancy by dying six weeks after his inauguration.

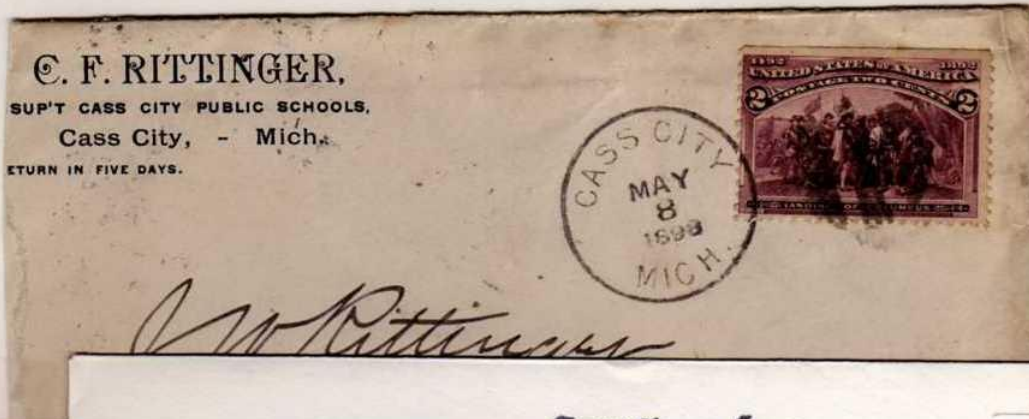


When Vice President King died in April, 1853, President Pierce's backup was Senator DAVID RICE ATCHISON of Missouri. Atchison served as the President's back-up for the next 20 months.



Atchison, Kansas was named for the pro-slavery Senator in 1854. The California town was named for the famous railroad, which in turn had been named for the town in Kansas. As President Pro Tem in 1849, Atchison claimed to be Acting President for one day between administrations.

Senator LEWIS CASS of Michigan was President Pro Tem of the Senate, and the President's backup, for one day, December 4, 1854.



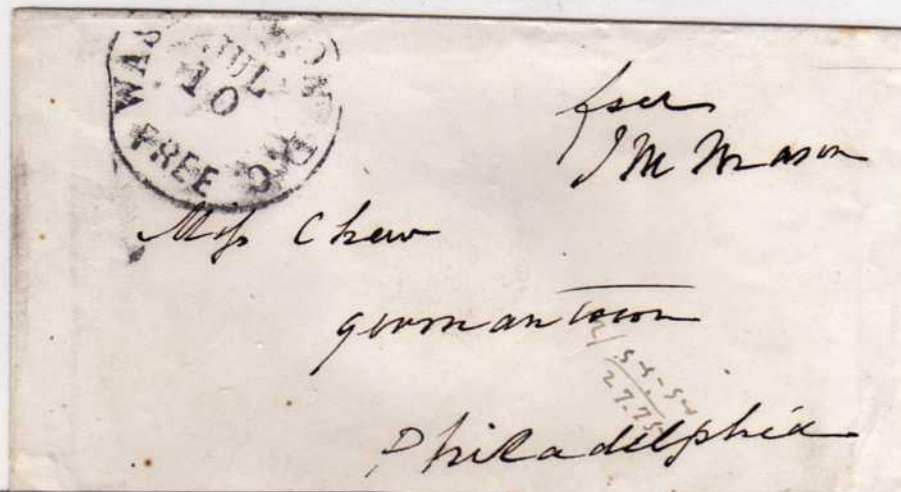
Towns in Michigan and a county in Minnesota were named for Cass. During his career, Cass served as Secretary of War and State, Governor of Michigan, and Minister to France. He was the Democratic nominee for President in 1848.

Indiana Senator JESSE DAVID BRIGHT was elected President Pro Tem on December 5, 1854 and was the President's backup for the next three months.



Bright was expelled from the Senate in 1862 and charged with treason for addressing a letter containing peace overtures to "His Excellency Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States."

Virginia Senator JAMES MURRAY MASON was the President's backup for two months in 1857.



Mason's grandfather was colonial patriot George Mason, whose home was honored with a stamp in 1958. Mason is best remembered as the Confederate emissary who was forcibly removed from a British mail packet by U.S. Navy Captain Charles Wilkes. The ensuing crisis was ended when President Lincoln ordered Mason's release.

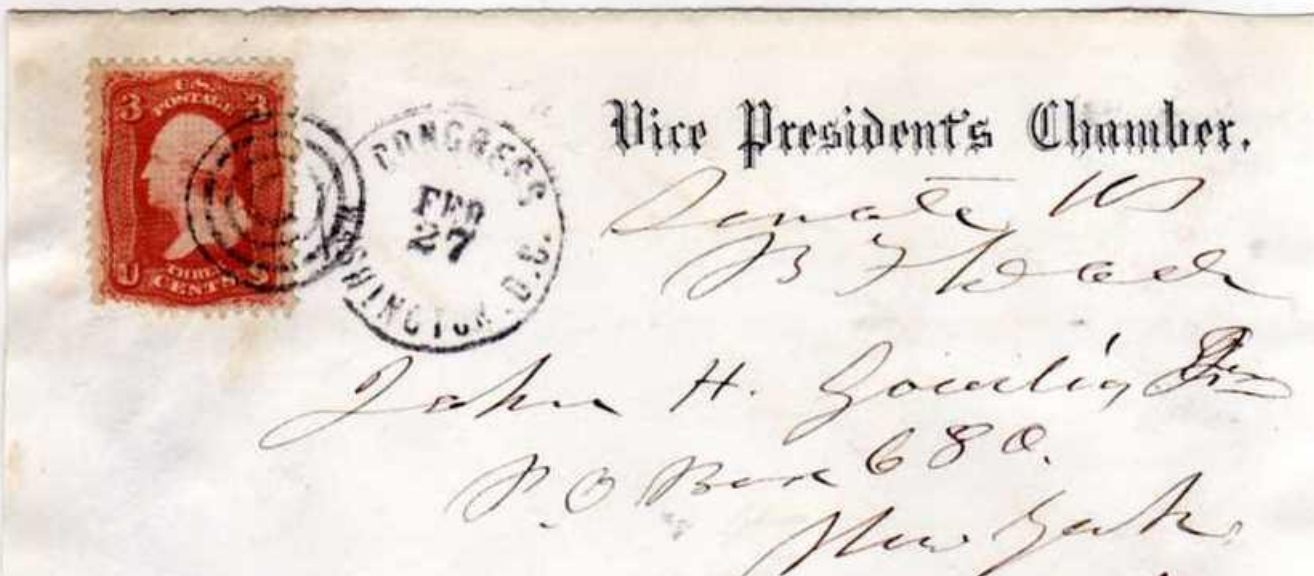




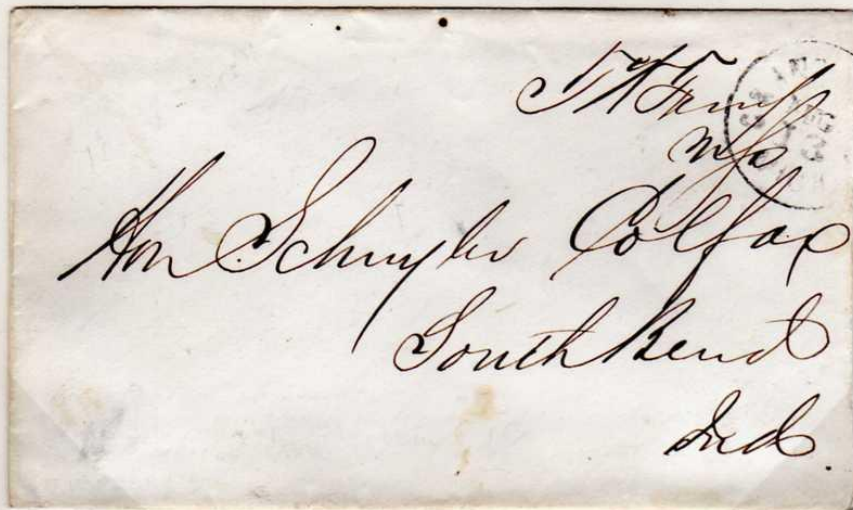
When President Abraham Lincoln was killed and Andrew Johnson became President, the distinction of being next in line fell to Connecticut Senator LAFAYETTE SABINE FOSTER for nearly two years.



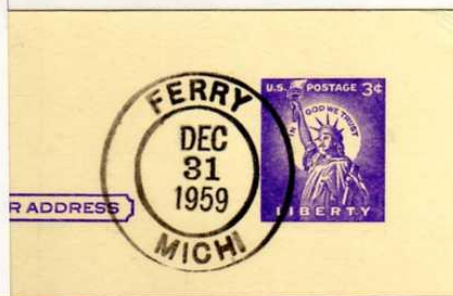
Senator BENJAMIN FRANKLIN WADE of Ohio was the President's backup for two years, from 1867 to 1869. He used Vice Presidential stationery, even though he was not Vice President. When the President was impeached Wade refused to disqualify himself from the proceedings, and openly discussed Cabinet appointments he would make as President.



Following the death of the Vice President in November, 1875 Michigan's THOMAS WHITE FERRY was the President's backup for the remaining 15½ months of the administration.



Above, Ferrysburg(h) was platted by Thomas Ferry and his brother in 1857 and named for their father. Reed, Michigan changed its name to Ferry in 1871 in honor of T. W. Ferry. Right, a last day cancel from the post office.



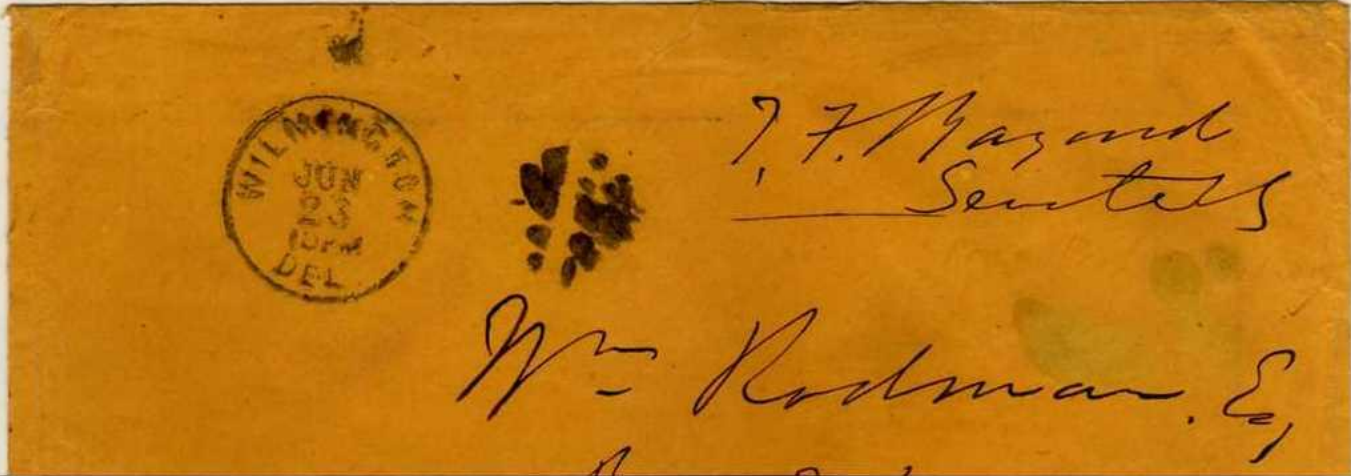
Ferry was still President Pro Tem in 1877, when he presided over 16 joint sessions of Congress during negotiations on the disputed election of 1876.



When Chester Arthur became President on September 19, 1881 upon the death of James Garfield, NOBODY was available as the new President's backup for 22 days, despite the fact that Garfield had been shot ten weeks before he died.

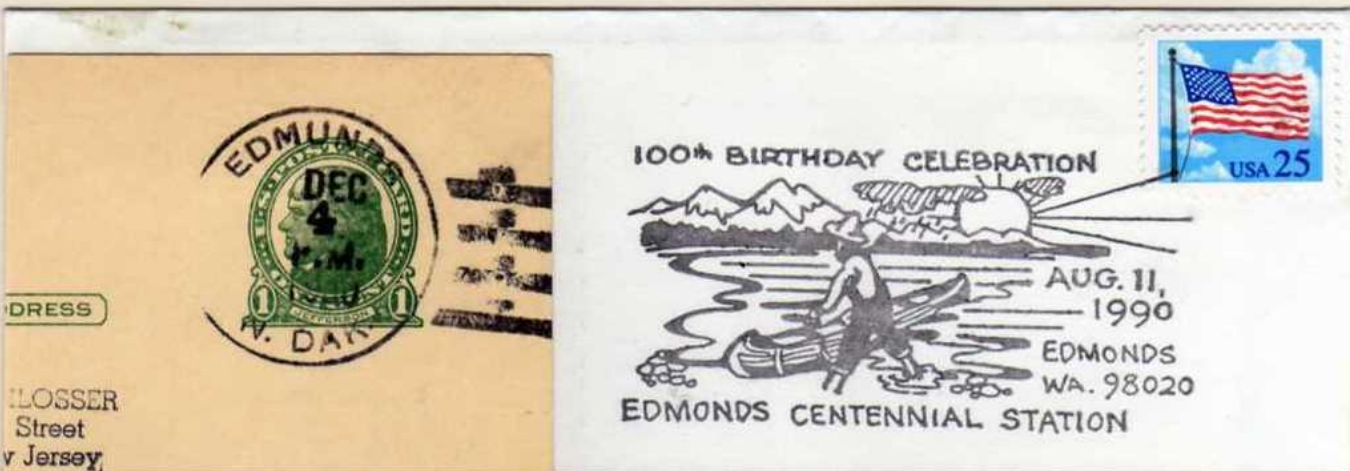


Senator THOMAS FRANCIS BAYARD of Delaware was elected President Pro Tem on October 10, and held the distinction of being next in line for three days.



Bayard was Secretary of State when the Succession Act of 1886 took effect and was the only person to hold the distinction of being next in line under the terms of two different laws.

Senator GEORGE FRANKLIN EDMUNDS of Vermont was the President's backup for two years, 1883-1885. He used "Office of the Vice President" stationery and fancied himself Acting Vice President.



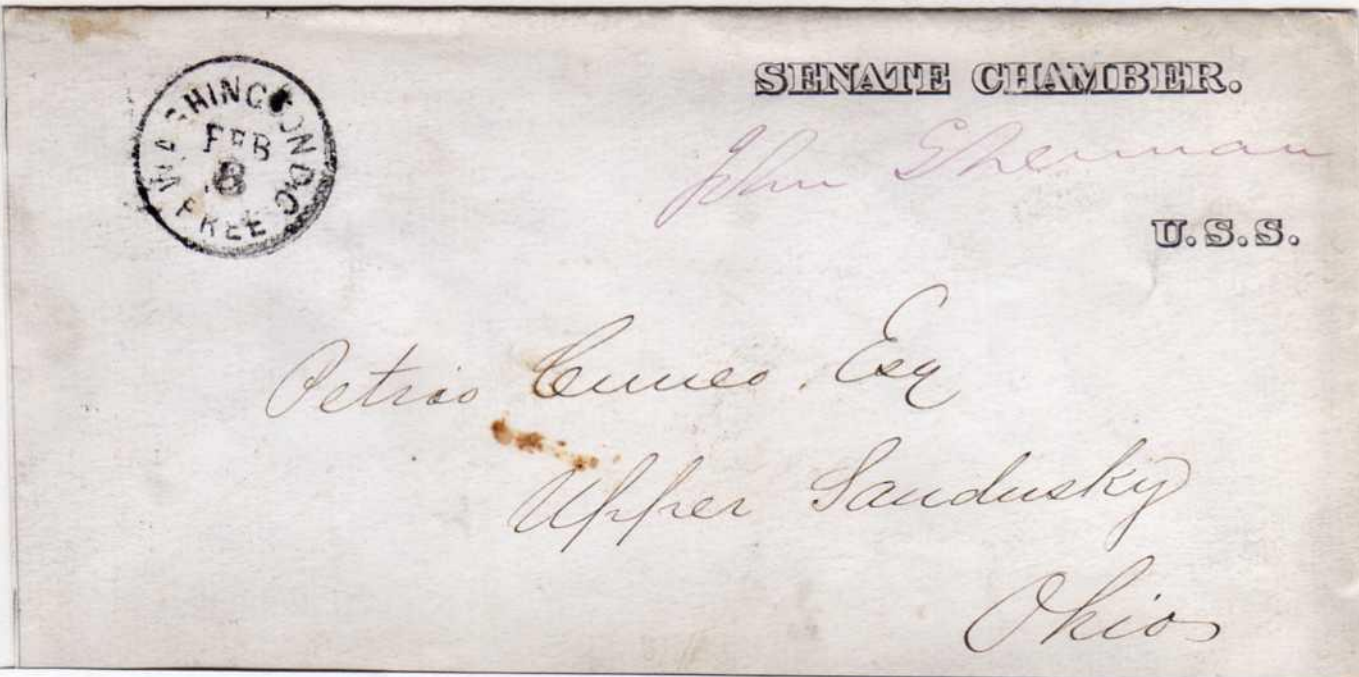
Towns in North Dakota and Washington were named for Edmunds, spelling discrepancies notwithstanding.



When the Vice President died in November, 1885, NOBODY was designated Presidential backup for 12 days, and President Cleveland decided not to risk a train ride to Indiana to attend the funeral.



Ohio Senator JOHN SHERMAN was chosen as President Pro Tem on December 7, 1885 and served six weeks until the Succession Act of 1886 took effect.



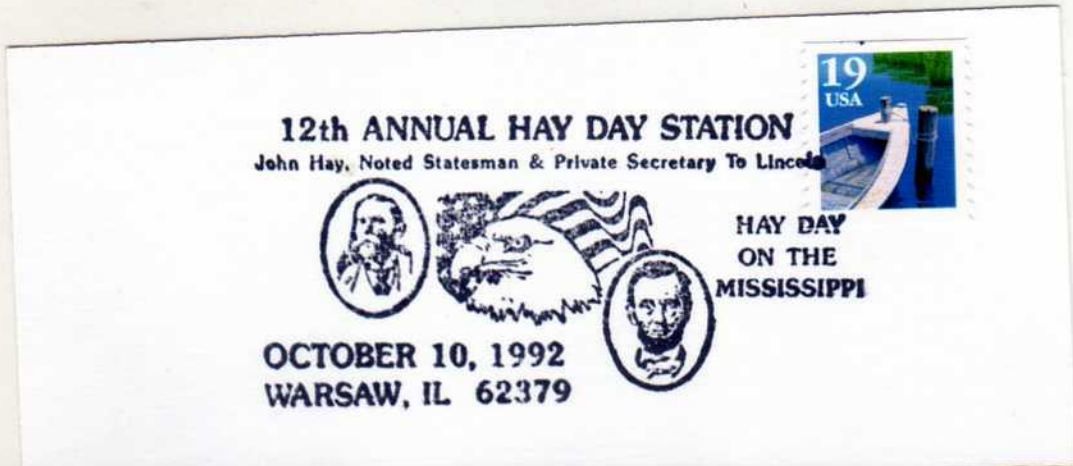
Sherman is best remembered as the eponym for the Sherman Anti-Trust Act of 1890. Chicago's Hotel Sherman was founded by his father; General William T. Sherman was his brother.

Sherman was chairman of the Washington Monument Committee.





As Secretary of State, JOHN HAY was President McKinley's backup for 15½ months after the Vice President died in 1899, and Teddy Roosevelt's backup for 3½ years when McKinley was killed in 1901. Hay's two stints as backup spanned a record 57 months.



Hay is best remembered as Abraham Lincoln's private secretary, 1861-1865, but also served seven years as Secretary of State, wrote a biography of Lincoln, and wrote poetry. Below, a coil leader.



GEORGE CATLETT MARSHALL became Secretary of State, and the President's backup, in January, 1947. Six months later the new law displaced him in the line of succession.



GEORGE C. MARSHALL SPACE FLIGHT CENTER
N.A.S.A. MARSHALL FLIGHT CENTER
ALABAMA 35812



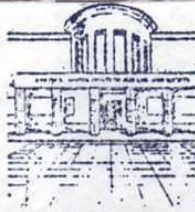
Marshall devised the Marshall Plan, won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1953, served as Secretary of Defense 1950-1951, and was namesake for the Space Flight Center in Alabama. The original Marshall stamp, block at left, was printed with a yellowish-olive ink which contained lead. The re-formulated lead-free ink, right, mandated by OSHA, yielded a distinct dark olive shade.

JOSEPH WILLIAM MARTIN, JR. of Massachusetts was Speaker of the House when the Succession Act of 1947 placed him next in line to succeed to the Presidency.



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NORTH EASTON, MA 02357

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A regional center for education,
research, and public service.

Stonehill College
Dedicates

The Joseph W. Martin, Jr.
Institute for Law and Society

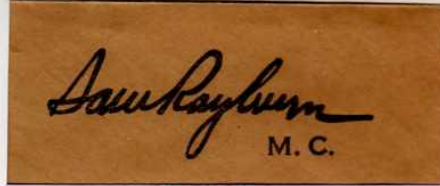
North Easton, Massachusetts
April 27, 1990



Stonehill College built a library to house Martin's papers and named its new Institute For Law and Society for him.

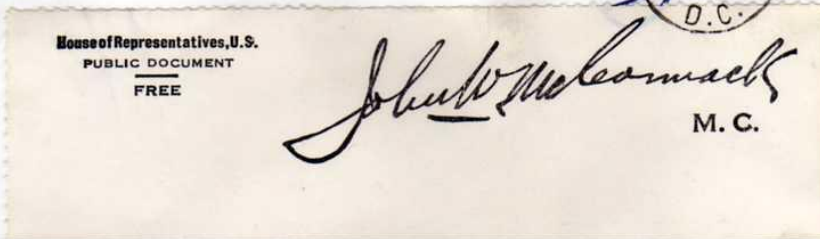


SAMUEL TALIAFERRO RAYBURN was elected Speaker on January 3, 1949, and was the Presidential backup for 17 days.

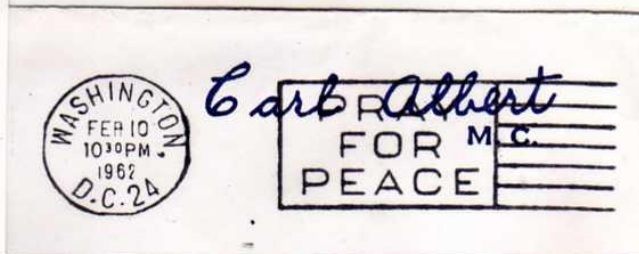


When the President was murdered in November, 1963, Speaker JOHN WILLIAM McCORMACK of Massachusetts served 14 months as backup to the new President, who decided that it would be unwise to travel overseas during the remainder of his term.

The Speaker's Rooms
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.



When the Vice President resigned in 1973, and again when the President resigned in 1974, Speaker CARL BERT ALBERT of Oklahoma was next in line. Albert resisted political pressure to speed up impeachment hearings which might have made him President.



Following Albert's two stints as backup, the United States enjoyed the longest period in its history during which the two top offices were both continuously occupied, over 32 years.