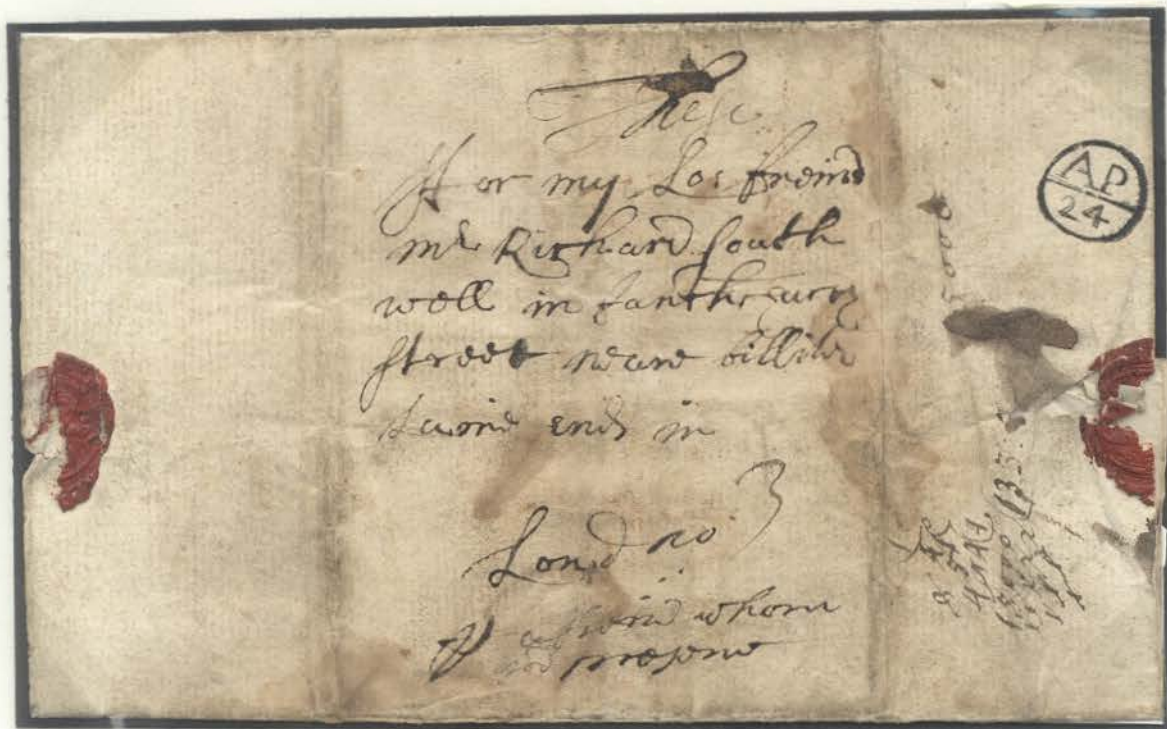




MAP of the ISLAND
 of
ST. CHRISTOPHER'S,
 for the
HISTORY of the WEST INDIES
 by
 Bryan Edwards Esq^r.

Scale of Statute Miles.

Letter from Nevis dated 3rd February, 1661
addressed 'For My Lo(ving)e Friend Mr.
Richard Southwell in Fanchurch Street
neare billite lane end in Lond no by a
friend whom God preserve'. Carried
privately and handed into the post on
aarival in England where it was charged
3d. Shows the London Bishop mark of
'AP/24' 1661. The earliest recorded date
being 19th April, 1661 in the British
Record Office.



St. Christopher was first colonized by Captain Thomas Warner who landed there on 21st January, 1624 with a small party of settlers. This early letter addressed to St. Christopher from Amsterdam dated 2nd October, 1669 endorsed on front 'Pr Pieter Bartholomeus'. The Dutch, Swedes and English signed the Triple Alliance against France in 1668 but in 1670 Charles II deserted the Dutch. The French overrunning the country in 1671

~~_____~~
Eersaemen Vorsimigen *Jr*
Pieter van Loo Loopman

1 *10/11*
S^r Christoffel

Pr Schipper Pieter Bartholomeus
Haas die Godt bewaer Post

Letter dated 15th April, 1716 from John Mackuire at St. Kitts concerning shipments of sugar addressed to John Brown Merchant in Liverpool, carried privately.

To
m^r
John Brown merchant
in Liverpoole
These

Letter dated 14th September, 1753 from Harry Smith at St. Kitts addressed to William Sharpe one of the Clerks of His Majesties Council, Whitehall. Arrived London on 7th November, 1753. Charged 7d made up of 1d. Captains Gratuity plus double inland letter rate of 6d. (1711-1765). George II was on the throne 1714-1760. Writer mentions that all the Gentlemen of the island eat off China or white stone ware made in Staffordshire and entirely disuse pewter.

To

William Sharpe Esq^r

One of the Clerks of His Maj^{ty} Council

Whitehall.

My Lord

Pensance at St. Kitts
27th March 1762

Tho' I cannot date my Letter from the Sterling Castle being at present a passenger with Captain Boyed, yet I may venture to assure you I am Captain of her & shall be on board of her in a few days; for the Command of this Ship I am indebted to Adm^l. Rodney & with me I hope your Lordship will join in thanking him for it.

Our Attentions here at present (the French being no longer able to give us any trouble) seem to be entirely engross'd by the Motions of the Spaniards, we are told

Admiral Rodney's fleet with 14,000 soldiers under General Monkton took Martinique on 14th February, 1762, St. Lucia on 25th February, 1762 and Grenada on 4th March, 1762. The troops under Lord Albermarle took Cuba on 14th August, 1762, 560 being killed in action but over 4,700 died of fever. Lord Albermarles share of the booty was £122,697 troops received less than £5 each.

Pensance at St. Kitts

27th March, 1762

My Lord

Tho' I cannot date my letter from the Sterling Castle being at present a passenger with Captain Boyed, yet I may venture to assure you I am Captain of her and shall be on board of her in a few days; for the command of this ship I am indebted to Admiral Rodney and with me I hope your lordship will join in thanking him for it.

Our attentions here at present (the French being no longer able to give us any trouble) seem to be entirely engrossed by the motions of the Spaniards, we are told Jamaica is in danger and that Sir Geo. Pocock with a large fleet of Men of War and Transports, the Land Forces to be commanded by the Earl of Albermarle are daily expected in these seas and will doubtless give some quick and severe blow to the Spaniards; Admiral Rodney with his Fleet is moving towards Jamaica, but whether he really intends to go to that Island is at present not known. It is said Sir Jeffery Amherst and General Monkton are to Join Lord Albermarle.

Your Lordship will by this time be satisfied by the several expresses from Rodney and Monkton of the compleat conquest of Martinique and the rest of the French Leeward Islands and I doubt not, but a very short time will make a considerable addition thereto either by the conquest of Hispaniola or Cuba. I am so hurried to save the first opportunity of writing to your Lordship that I am obliged to conclude lest the Express should sail so suddenly as to be prevented writing by her.

May God bless your Lordship, my best respects wait on Colonel Mun. Campbell.

I am in great truth my Lord

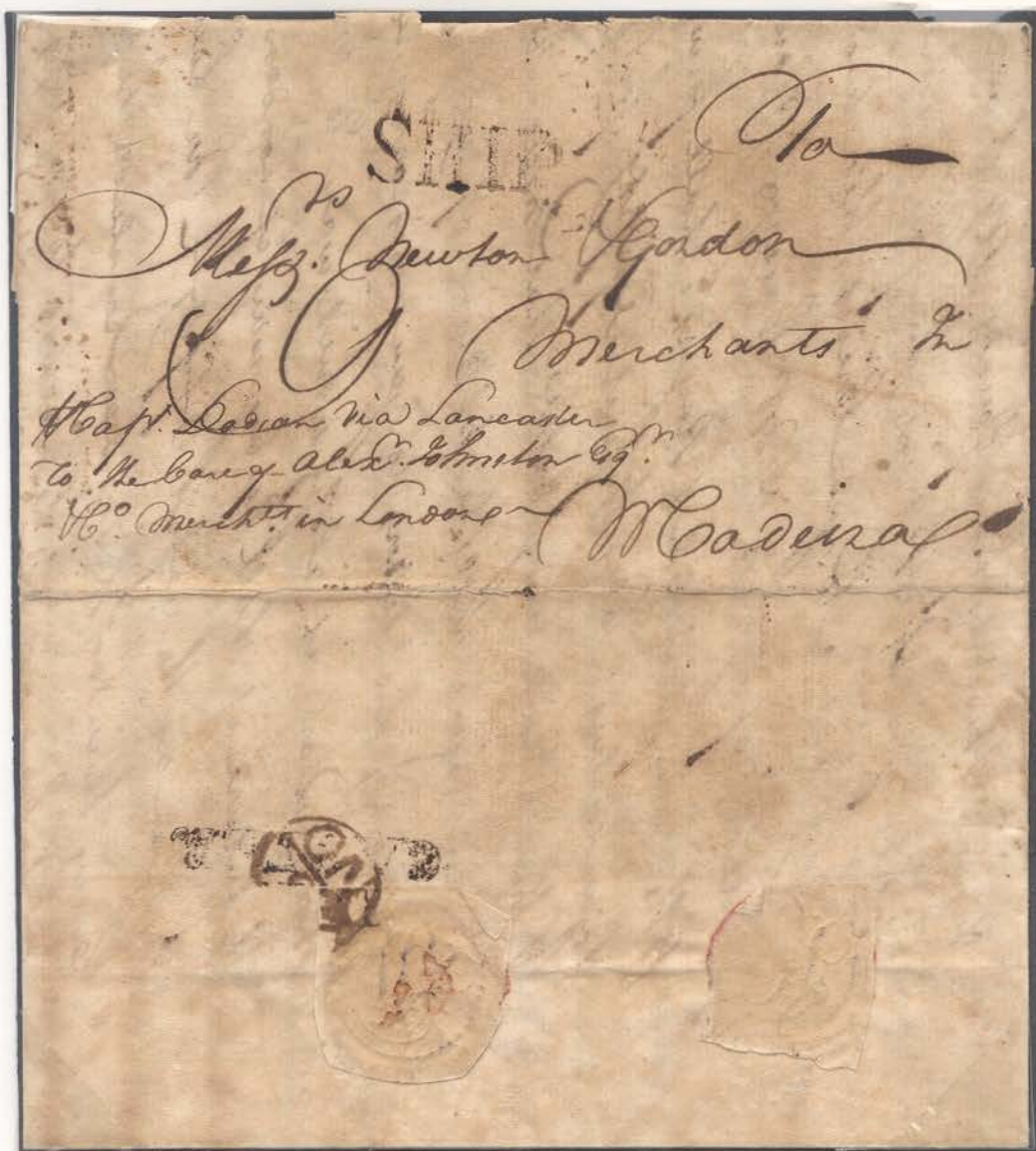
Your Lordships

most obedient

humb. Servant

James Campbell

St. Kitts to Madeira via Lancaster. Letter dated the 29th August, 1762 from St. Kitts endorsed on front 'P. Capt. Dorian via Lancaster to the care of Alex Johnston Esq., Co. Merchant in London' addressed to Madeira. On arrival it received the straight line 'LANCASTER' town handstamp and large 'SHIP' handstamp on front used from 1762 until 1791 this being its first year of use. This northern port being used most frequently for mail from the West Indies during the French Wars. Forwarded privately to Madeira where it arrived 20th February, 1763



Letter from St. Christopher dated 30th October, 1767 addressed to Bristol. Landed at Kinsale where the first type 'SHIP' was applied (this being the first Kinsale ship mark seen) used during 1767. The rate being made up 1d. Captains Gratuity, 4d. Kinsale to Dublin (over 40 miles), 2d. Packet to Holyhead, 4d. Holyhead to London (over 40 miles), 4d. London to Bristol (over 40 miles) making a final charge of '1N3'.



Writer the Master of a slave ship complains that he could only sell his slaves for £25 each, whereas if he had been allowed to sail to Georgia, he could have sold them for £40 each.

Letter dated 22nd February, 1775 from
St. Kitts to London via DEAL/SHIP LRE
first type 1767-1786. Arrived London
on the 19th April, 1775. Endorsed
'by the Douglas/Capt. Ashington'.

To
Mess^{rs} Oswald Grant & Co
Owners of Ship *Maly*
Merchants in
By the Douglas
Capt. Ashington's
London.

DEAL
SHIP LRE

The ship 'MALY' was a slaver. The writer mentions: 'The MALY sailed from St. Croix on the 5th instant after being 4 days wind bound, and as Captain Smith was much recovered and all well on board we hope he will have a good passage to the Coast' She was loaded with extra strong rum with which to barter for slaves. The coast being the West African coast.

Jamaica Coffee House London, No. 12 St. Michael's Alley, Cornhill, London, established about 1674 used mainly by people engaged in the West Indies trade. Wrapper from St. Kitts dated 31st July, 1775 arrived London on the 7th September, 1775 being carried by private ship 'The Douglas/Capt. Frank'. Shows the fourth type 'PORTSMOUTH/SHIP-LRE' used 1775 until 1790 Charged 7d. on arrival, made up of 1d. Captains Gratuity plus 6d. double letter charge 72 miles to London in operation from 1711 until 1784.



Letter dated 13th July, 1793 from Basseterre addressed to Newbury Port in the U.S.A. Endorsed 'Fd. by Capt. Gordon of the Brig of New York'. 'N. YORK AUG. 2' of the Statehood period being used (1788-1797) applied on arrival. Charged 24c. in red on front made up of 4c. private ship letter charge plus 20c. double letter rate 60-120 miles in operation from 1st June, 1792 for carrying letter from New York to Newbury Port. Writer mentions: 'Great numbers of Americans have arrived there lately some with cash and some with cargoes'.

Ms 24.
Mr Moses Brown
Merchant
Newbury Port
New York
Delivered by Capt
Gordon of the
Brig of
New York

'On His Majestys' Service' letter dated the 1st February, 1806 from Commander Nathaniel Day Cochrane on board the 16 gun sloop KINGFISHER off St. Kitts to Sir John Thos. Duckworth Bt. Vice Admiral of the White. Letter reads: Enclosed you receive a copy of the information I received at Tortola on Wednesday night concerning the French Fleet in consequence thereof I arrived off St. Johns Antigua yesterday afternoon but not finding you there I proceeded to this place with the intelligence.

On His Majesty's Service

To

Sir John Tho^s Duckworth Bt^e

Vice Admiral of the White

Yc Yc Yc

Wm. Kingfisher
1st February

Sir John Duckworth was watering and refitting his fleet for the passage home when he received the intelligence from Commander Cochrane. The fleet sailed catching the French Fleet under the command of Rear Admiral Leissegues off Santo Domingo on 6th February, 1806. After a battle commencing at 1010a.m. and lasting under two hours the French had lost two ships driven ashore and the other three had surrendered. Commander Cochrane of the Kingfisher carried home the despatches of the victory and was promoted to post captain.

Letter from Lt. C. Harrson of the marines on board H.M.S. Ethalion at St. Kitts dated 1st February, 1807 sent via Antigua on the 9th February, 1807 where it received the two line handstamp in use from 1799 until 1809 before being forwarded to London where it arrived on 14th April, 1807. Charged 2/- this being the Packet rate to London from 1805 until 1813. The frigate H.M.S.ETHALION was built in 1802, at the Battle of Martinique in 1809 and went out of service in 1872.



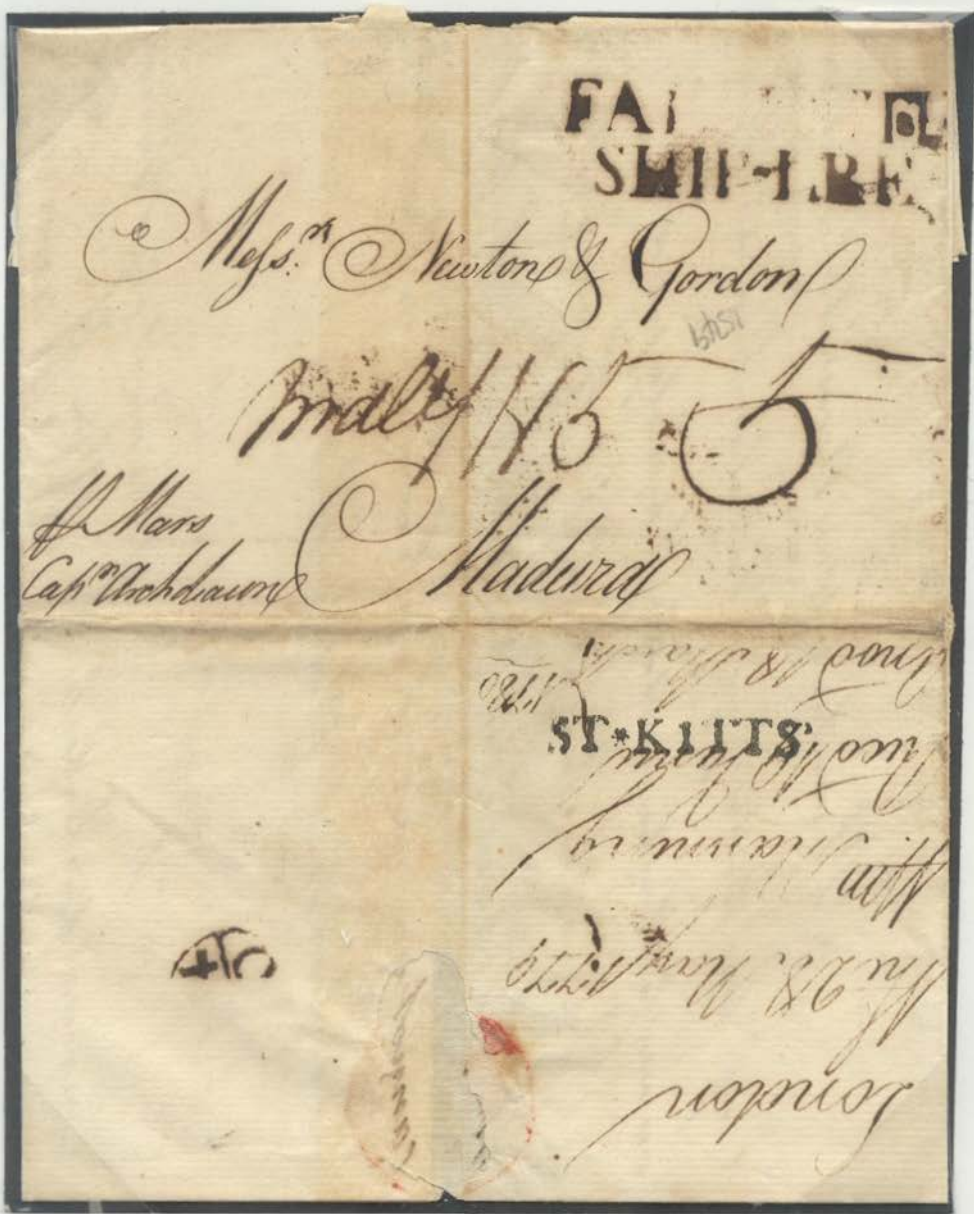
The British had taken possession of Curacao on 1st January, 1807. Writer mentions:- Have you heard anything about the American East Indiaman condemned to us last December twelvemonth, we do not expect the owners will prosecute the appeal as the fact that condemned her was so glaring that they can have no chance. If they do not I suppose the money must be payable it is lodged in the hands of Ely Cook & Brown agents for the ETHALION in London. The American ship condemned at Antigua in July last I suppose is appealed for but as she was laden with Naval Stores for the French Fleet I should suppose will not be prosecuted.

On 7th December, 1745 a Post Office Notice stated that packets would sail monthly from Falmouth to St.Kitts at a charge of 1/6d. a single letter. Four vessels were purchased with a further two being added to the fleet in 1765. Each being expected to do two round trips per year. The commanders being paid £78 per year.



The first handstamp to be used in St. Kitts was the 'ST.CHRIS/TOPHERS' two line in black used from 1745 on a cover dated 30th October 1746 from the Customs House, London to Sandy Point. Bishop mark of DE/27 on reverse. Charged 'P1 N 6' in red on front this being the rate from London to St.Kitts from the 1st June, 1711 until 1765.

On 5th May, 1779 the first Postmaster, Wadham Strode, was appointed by the G.P.O. London. At the same time the Post Office at Basseterre was placed under the G.P.O. and the first handstamp was applied to out going mail. The first type 'ST*KITTS' straight line (35mm.by 4mm.) used during 1779 on a letter dated 28th May, 1779 from Wm. Manning in London, concerning a shipment of wine to Wm. Byam at St.Kitts addressed to Madeira. Sent to St.Kitts in error and charged 'in all 1/5d.'. Arrived back at London via 'FALMOUTH/SHIP-LRE' on 24th November,1779 and reached Madeira on the 19th January, 1780.



FALMOUTH
SHIP-LRE

Messrs Newton & Gordon

No 5

Mr Mars
Cap Nicholson
Madeira

ST*KITTS

MAY 28 1779
Wm Manning
London

STC

'ST*KITTS' first type straight line (35 x 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm) used from 1779 until 1780 on a letter written at Antigua on 16th November, 1779 from Richard Oliver, manager of the Codrington estates from 1781 sent via St. Kitts where it received the straight line St. Kitts before being forwarded to Sir Wm. Codrington at Dodington Park. Arrived London on 21st January, 1780 the rate being altered from 1/- to an 'In all 1/4' rate made up of 1/0d. Packet letter plus 4d. London to Dodington over 80 miles (1711-1784).



Writer mentions: Monsieur D'Estaing is not in these seas but report says that he may be soon expected—at present there is a land force deemed sufficient for protecting here and our naval power is still very considerable under Admiral Parker who is now at Barbados and who has sent into that island and to this, seven transports bound to Count D'Estaing at Domingo England and France were at war from the 6th February, 1778 until Peace of Versailles on 20th January, 1783.

'ST*KITTS' first type straight line (35 x 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm) showing part of frame used from 1779 until 1780 on a letter written at Tobago on 31st March, 1780 from Thos. Parsons addressed to Charles Bell at Bristol. Sent via St. Kitts where it received the straight line handstamp before being forwarded by private ship. Landed at Dover where it received the two line 'DOVER/SHIP LRE' first type used 1765-1786. The charge of '7' being amended to an 'In all 8' rate made up of 1d. Captains Gratuity plus 3d. Dover to London under 80 miles 1711-1784 and 4d. London to Bristol over 80 miles 1711-1784.



England and France were at war from 1778 until 1783. Tobago being captured by the French under De Grasse in May, 1781, retaken by the English on 14th April, 1793.



[29]

The morning of January 25th 1782,
during the battle of St. Kitts
between the British and French fleets.

'ST-*KITTS*' second type straight line (38x5mm.)
used in red during 1784 on a letter dated the
12th March, 1784 from Antigua sent via St. Kitts
to England where it arrived on 22nd April, 1784.
The island had surrendered to the French on
13th February, 1782 but was restored to England
in 1783 at the Treaty of Versailles



'St'KITTS' third type straight line (28mm.by 5mm.)
used during 1785 on a letter dated 7th September,
1785 from St. Kitts to Glasgow via London on the
18th October, 1785 and Edinburgh on 22nd October,
1785. Endorsed 'P.Packet/Q.D.C.' (Quam Deus
Conservet) Which God Preserve.

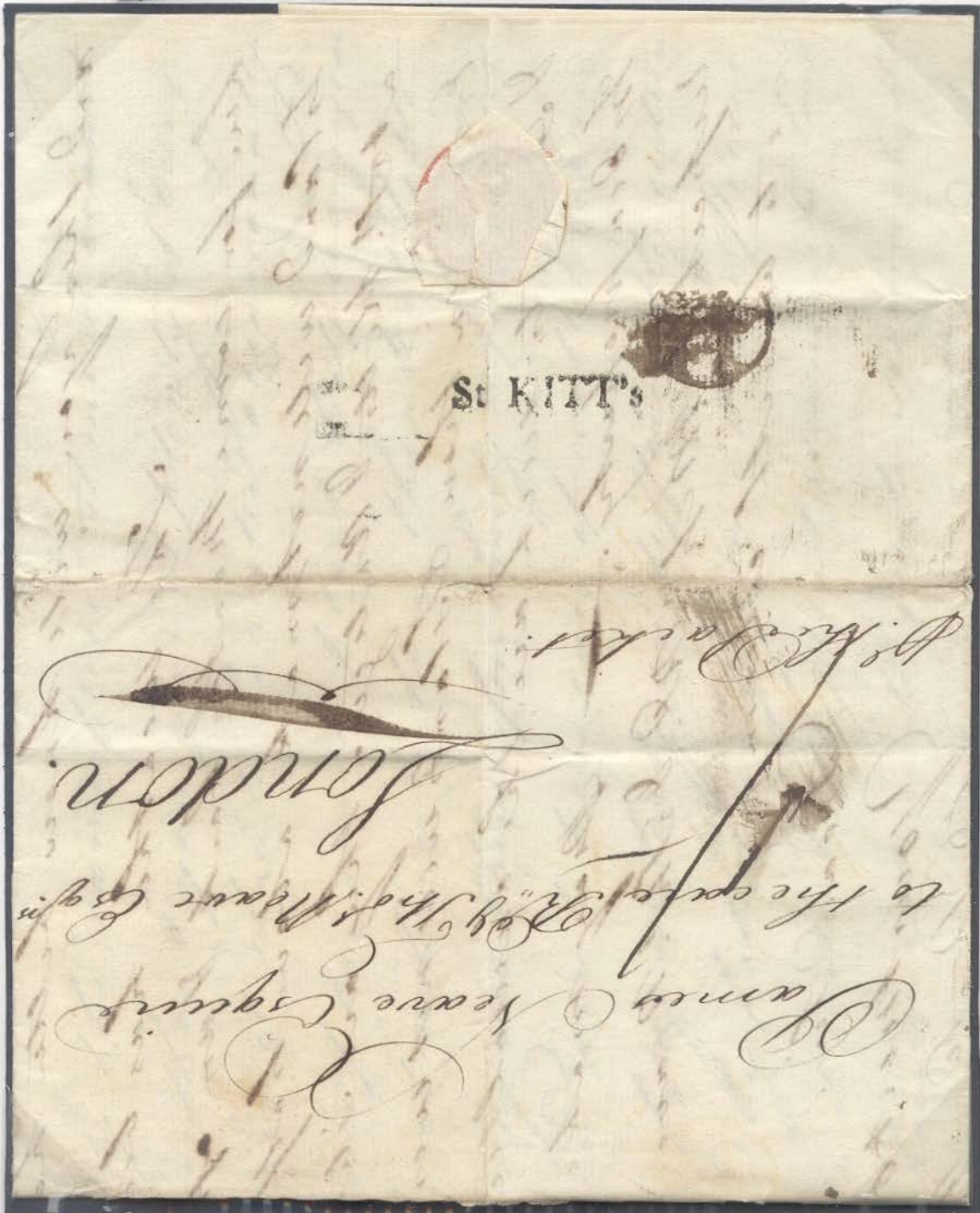


'St 'KITTS' fourth type straight line (31mm. by 5mm.) used from 1786 until 1789 on a letter dated the 11th August, 1789 from James Frazer at St. Kitts addressed to Inverness. Charged at first 1/- this being the packet rate to London in operation from 1st June, 1765 until 5th January, 1797. Received the London date-stamp of 11th September, 1789 in black. Received the red Edinburgh mark of 20th September, 1789 and the rate altered to 1/7d. to cover the inland rate from London to Edinburgh.



Writer mentions: 'your son as been so much hurried with business to Windward, I mean at Grenada and St. Vincent, and nearer on his last trip from Demeraray, but returned immediately again with another cargo of Negroes'.

'St KITT's' fifth type straight line (30mm. by 5mm.) showing small final 's' known used during 1791 on a letter dated 30th December, 1790 from Richard MacNamara at Montserrat sent via St. Kitts where it received the straight line St. Kitts before being forwarded to London where it arrived on 25th April, 1791. Charged 1/- this being the packet rate to London from 1st June, 1765 until 5th January, 1797.



'St.Kitts' sixth type straight line (21mm. by 5mm.) used during 1792 on a letter dated 31st October, 1792 from James Frazer at St. Kitts addressed to his uncle Major Frazer of Ballacrum, Inverness, arrived London on 13th December, 1792. The 1/- packet rate to London being cancelled and a 2/- double packet rate inserted, on arrival at Edinburgh it was charged 3/2 to include the 1/2d to Edinburgh, on the reverse it is endorsed 'Paid by H.C. 4/2d' this includes the 1/- postage Edinburgh to Inverness.



Writer mentions: 'Geo. Baillie at St. Vincents tells me he expects Captain James Frazer from the coast of Africa before Christmas'.

Duplicate letter dated 18th May, 1795 from
Jedidiah Kerie at St. Kitts addressed to
Mrs. Parnel Seaton in London where it arrived
on 17th July, 1795. Endorsed on front
'P. Capt. Sargant' and landed at Weymouth where
it received the first type 'WEYMOUTH/SHIP LRE'
used 1770-1797. Charged 11d. on arrival made
up of 1d. Captains Gratuity plus 10d. double
letter rate in operation from 1784-1796 for a
letter carried over 80 miles.



Writer mentions: 'the short space of time the ships
of this convoy have had to take in their load will
occasion one half of the sugars made in the parishes
of Deep Bay and Sandy Point to be left behind'.

'ST.KITTS' seventh type straight line (29mm.by 5½mm.) used from 1796 on a letter dated 7th July,1796 from Jedidiah Kerie at St.Kitts enclosing a copy of a letter sent on the 25th June,1796 which went by the Fleet which sailed on the 3rd July, 1796, this letter arrived London on the 13th December, 1796 where it was re-addressed to Cheltenham. Charged 2/- this being a double packet rate to London in operation from 1st June, 1765 until the 5th January,1797. Carried on the 'PRINCESS ELIZABETH' Packet which had left St. Kitts on 9th July, 1796 and arrived Falmouth on the 10th August,1796.

ST.KITTS 2f
Mr Parnel Seaton
to be left at the Post Office
No 23 ~~Market Street~~ ~~London~~
Cheltenham
Packet of Gloucestershire ~~London~~



The PRINCESS ELIZABETH packet entered service on the 25th July, 1795 under the command of William Roberts, she was captured by the French Privateer 'ACTIF' on 28th February,1797 having left Jamaica on the 13th January, 1797. Ransomed and put back into service. She remained in service until sold out in 1818. Then in 1823 was used as a temporary packet under Commander Sleeman.

'St.KITTS.' eighth type straight line (33mm. by 7mm.)
used from 1794 until 1797 on a letter dated the
28th October, 1796 from St. Kitts addressed to London
where it arrived on 16th January, 1797. Carried on
the December packet CHESTERFIELD no packet being
available during November for the return voyage.
Original charge of 1/- being amended to 1/8d. which
had come into operation from the 5th January, 1797.



'St.KITTS.' eighth type straight line (33mm. by 7mm.) used from 1794 until 1797 on a letter dated 4th May, 1797 from St. Vincent sent via St. Kitts to Ireland via London on 13th August, 1797. Charged a final rate of 5/-. Writer mentions: 'The SWALLOW packet that was captured by the enemy and afterwards retaken is to sail from St. Kitts the 7th inst. and the Fleet are expecting to be there before that - first and second of each goes by the Fleet in different vessels, with directions to the Captain permitting the Packet is sailed for he arrives to leave this letter with a Gentleman there to be forwarded by the next Packet.'



It missed the SWALLOW and was carried on the PORTLAND packet which left Tortola on the 4th July, 1797 and arrived Falmouth on the 12th August, 1797. The PORTLAND was commissioned in 1783. On 17th October, 1796 while becalmed off Guadeloupe she was attacked by a French privateer. The PORTLAND crew of 31 forced the French to haul down their colours after 41 of their crew of 61 had been killed. The PORTLAND carried on the West Indies route until captured by the French in January, 1798.

'St. KITTS.' eighth type straight line (33mm. by 7mm.) used from 1794 until 1797 on a letter dated the 19th July, 1797 from St. Kitts addressed to Edinburgh via London on 1st September, 1797 after a voyage of forty days. Endorsed 'P. Packet' and carried by the CHESTERFIELD Packet which left Tortola on 27th July, 1797 and arrived Falmouth on the 29th August, 1797. The CHESTERFIELD was one of the new packets commissioned in the 1790's and was still in use in 1815. She had been taken by the French in 1799 but was re-purchased.



The writer mentions: 'it is most probable that you may have written frequently since that but we have been so uncommonly unfortunate in having many of the Packets taken.' 'This defection of our Fleet is certainly one of the most serious evils that has happened during the War, if the Navy fail us, the game is up.'

The Navy mutinied at Portsmouth for the advance of wages in April, 1797 it subsided on 10th May 1797 when an Act was passed to raise wages and the King pardoned the mutineers.

'St.KITTS.' eighth type straight line (33mm. by 7mm.) used from 1794 until 1797 on a letter from St. Kitts dated 16th August, 1797 addressed to London where it arrived on 25th September, 1797. Endorsed on front 'P.Packet 16 Aug.1797'. This was carried on the COUNTESS OF LEICESTER which left Tortola on the 20th August, 1797 and arrived at Falmouth on the 19th September, 1797 arriving London on the 25th September, 1797. The COUNTESS OF LEICESTER entered service in 1745 on the Falmouth West Indies route under Captain R. Lundin. On 16th June, 1795 Captain Richard Dodd took over command and operated the West Indies route until relieved on the 15th June, 1816.



'St. KITTS' eighth type straight line (33mm. by 7mm.) used from 1794 until 1797 on a letter dated 16th August, 1797 from St. Kitts addressed to London where it arrived on 22nd September, 1797. Charged 3/4d. on arrival this being a double packet letter rate in operation from 5th January, 1797 until the 5th April, 1801. Writer mentions: 'The GRANTHAM packet was taken windward of Barbados, we have just received an express from Tortola to the Commander in Chief, saying that they are in hourly expectation of an attack from the united French and Spanish at Porto Rico'.



Carried on the 'COUNTESS OF LEICESTER', which left Tortola on the 20th August, 1797 and arrived at Falmouth on 19th September, 1797 arriving London on 25th September, 1797. The 'COUNTESS OF LEICESTER' entered service in 1745 on the Falmouth to West Indies route under Captain R. Lundin. On 16th June, 1795 Captain Richard Dodd took over command and continued on the West Indies route until he retired on 15th June, 1816.

'St.KITTS' ninth type straight line (24mm. by 4½mm.) used during 1794-95 on a wrapper dated 27th October, 1794 from St. Eustatius addressed to Amsterdam care of Messrs Harriman Hoare & Co. of London where it arrived on 10th December, 1794. Charged 2/- this being a double packet rate to London in operation from 1st June, 1765 until 5th January, 1797, it was then forwarded privately to Amsterdam.



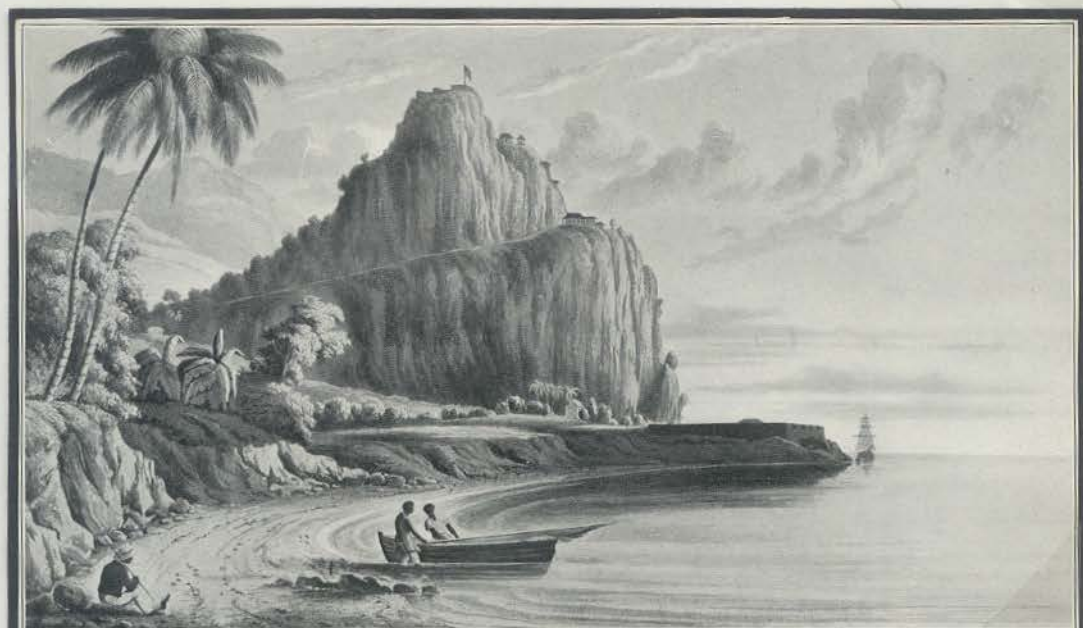
1793 France declared war on Britain and Holland
1794 Britain captured Martinique, St. Lucia and
Guadeloupe. The French taking four British
Post Office Packets during the year.

'St KITT'S' tenth type straight line (44mm. by 5mm.) used during 1796 on a letter dated 7th December, 1796 from St. Kitts addressed to Thomas Neave in London where it arrived on 16th January, 1797. The 1/- rate being cancelled and the new 1/8d. Packet rate inserted, this being the rate in operation from 5th January, 1797 until 5th April, 1801.



Writer mentions: 'I think it right to inform you how extremely indebted this island has been to Admirals Christie and Harvey for their protection of us during their respective commands'.

'ST.KITTS' eleventh type straight line (39mm. by 5mm.)
used during 1789-99 on a letter from P. Keogh of the
3rd Regiment of Foot or Buffs, at Brimstone Hill
dated 23th February, 1798 addressed to Ireland where
it arrived on 13th April, 1798. The 1/8d. Packet
rate in operation from 5th January, 1797 until the
5th April, 1801 cancelled and a final rate of 2/1d.
inserted.



BRIMSTONE HILL, THE GIBRALTAR OF THE WEST INDIES

From a coloured print published in 1836.

'ST. KITTS' eleventh type straight line (39mm. by 5½mm.) used during 1798-99 on a letter dated 18th December, 1798 from John McPherson at Martinique to Glasgow via St. Kitts. Arrived London on 14th February, 1799. Charged 4/8d, this amended to 4/10d which was cancelled and a final rate of 7/3d. inserted.



Writer mentions: 'As to news I hear of none to entertain you with, excepting the evacuation of Dominica, and that the troops from thence when they arrive at Barbados are to embark for and conquer Surinam a circumstance if it takes place will prove very interesting to us and much to the British and Guinea factors.'

'ST. KITTS' eleventh type straight line (39mm. by 5½mm.) used during 1798-99 on a letter from St. Kitts dated the 24th January, 1799 addressed to London where it arrived on 27th March, 1799 after a journey of sixty two days. Charged a double letter rate of 3/4d. in operation from 5th January, 1797 until 5th April, 1801.



Writer mentions: 'Stores by Capt. Skelton who arrived here a few days ago, the Fleet having been dispersed a few days after they left land he arrived a single ship at Barbados, the other ships for this island are fortunately arrived here also.

Captain Skelton of the ship 'SUSANNAH' which was built at Gravesend in 1785 sailed to St. Kitts from 1786 until 1805. He himself owned the ship for most of the time until selling her in 1805 to James & Co.'

'ST. KITTS' eleventh type straight line (39mm. by $5\frac{1}{2}$ mm.) used during 1798-99 on a letter from St. Kitts dated the 13th February, 1799 addressed to Madeira care of Thomas Gordon in London. Arrived London on 4th March, 1799 then forwarded privately to Madeira. Charged 1/8d. on front this being the packet letter rate in operation from 5th January, 1797 until the 5th April, 1801.



The straight line on this cover was the last use of the undated marks applied at St. Kitts. The next packet which arrived in May 1799 shows the first of the two line dated marks. Carried on the 'PRINCESS ROYAL' packet which arrived at Falmouth on 2nd March 1799. Entered service on the 6th May, 1793, John Skinner becoming captain in April, 1794, captured in March, 1795 by the French, ransomed and put back into service. Fought off the French privateer 'L'ADVENTURE' in June, 1798, captured by the French privateer 'COURIER' on 27th February, 1800.

That the Prisoner has been remarkably
careful of the Cargo's entrusted to his
Charge, They do therefore, only adjudge
the said Lieutenant William Sympson
to be severely Reprimanded by the
President, and Mulcted six months
Personal Pay, as Commander of His
Majesty's Storeship the Whitty, and, he
is hereby adjudged to be severely Reprimanded, and Mulcted accordingly.

By Command of the Court.
Leonard Honner.

Horatio Nelson
Cuthbert Collingwood
Charles Stirling
Chas. Sanders

W^m J. Feltham

Captain in command of H.M.S. Boreas a twenty eight gun frigate from March, 1784 until November, 1787 stationed in the Leeward Islands to enforce the Navigation Acts which stated that all trade with British Colonies was to be carried out by British ships. This Document recorded dated 17th June, 1785 on board H.M.S. Boreas, Nevis Road being signed 'Horatio Nelson' with his right hand. The signature below being 'Cuthbert Collingwood' who commanded H.M.S. Royal Sovereign and led the second line of ships through the French and Spanish ships at Trafalgar.

Merton Oct: 5th 1802

My Dear Sir, I shall be most happy to see you at Merton and in case you should come when I am from home I will say Friday, and if you will do in the additional favour of dining with us I shall be very glad, and of the opportunity presenting you to my godson to Sir William Lady Hamilton, and Believe me
Your most faithful Servant
Nelson & Bronte

Geo. G. Mills Esq:

Letter dated 5th October, 1802 from Lord Nelson at Merton Place Surrey where he lived whilst on half pay during the Peace of Amiens (October 1801 until April 1803) addressed to George Galway Mills in London inviting him and his son to visit Merton Place and stay for dinner, the son being Nelson's godson. Signed 'Nelson & Bronte' the form of signature he used after being created Duke of Bronte on 15th August, 1799. At that time George Galway Mills M.P. for Wallingford and Winchelsea owned the 286 acre Belmont Estate in the Parish of St. Paul Capesterre in St. Kitts.

Lloyds Coffee House,
5th October, 1798

Sir,

A considerable Insurance having been made upon a Vessel by a very respectable House upon a Letter of Order per packet dated at Martinique the 9th of February last, the Ship was lost the same evening, and a Cutter on the 10th of February, went from Martinique, with letters to meet the same Packet at St. Kitts; by which the House at Martinique did not think proper to advise the Loss; and on 1st of March forward a copy of their Letter of the 9th of February, ordering the Insurance, and say nothing more about the Ship.

The Underwriters being called upon for the Loss, refuse to pay; under the idea that a Person forwarding a Copy of an Order for an Insurance, twenty days after he knew of the loss of the Ship would be equally capable of antedating the original.

It has therefore been suggested to the Committee of this House, that an application to you to give Orders to the Post Masters in His Majesty's West India Islands and America to put a Stamp with the date of the precise time in which any letters may be put into their respective Offices, may prevent many frauds.

Being of the same opinion, we shall be greatly obliged by your giving the necessary directions, and are

Very Respectfully

Sir,

Francis
Freeling Esq.

Your most obdt. Servants
Edward Vaux William Bell
Wm. Whitmore Robt. Christie
Alex. Champion

General Post Office
6th October, 1798

My Lords,

I have the honour to enclose a Representation from the Committee of Underwriters at Lloyd's Coffee House, stating circumstances where it is conjectured an attempt has been made to defraud the Insurers of a Vessel coming from Martinique to London, and praying, that with a view to lessen the practicability of such attempts hereafter, directions may be given to the Deputy Postmasters in the West Indian Islands to put a Stamp with the date of the day on which any Letters may be put into their respective Offices.

The reasonableness of the application, its good object, and the respectability of the Applicants will I presume induce your Lordships to consent to their wishes.

The reasons which I might be urged against the granting permission to use these Stamps indiscriminately cannot I presume apply to the West Indies, where the Deputies are well informed Men, and capable of performing the Duties with accuracy.

All of which is humbly submitted by

F. Freeling

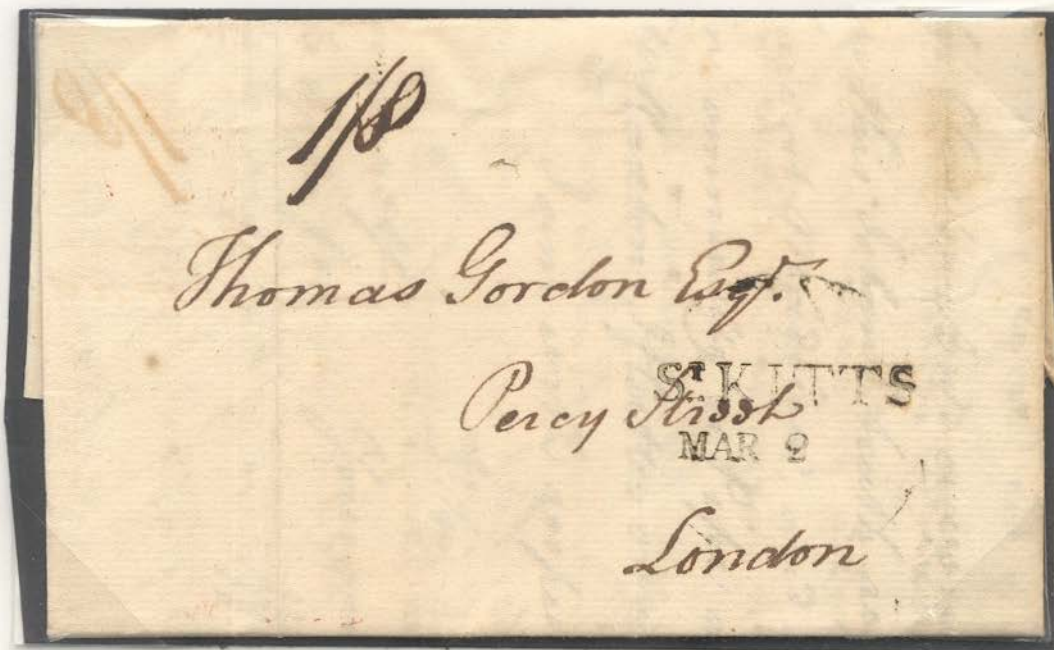
The Right Honourable
The Postmasters General

'ST.KITTS/MAY7 1803' Two line dated handstamp second type (30mm. by 4mm.) used from 1802 until 1805. Letter from Wm. Bryan at St.Kitts enclosing a Bill of Exchange for the sum of £100 dated 7th May, 1803 addressed to Mrs. Seaton at London where it arrived on 20th June 1803 after a journey of forty four days. Single rate of 1/10d. being cancelled by the Inspectors Crown and a double letter rate of 3/8d. charged. Made up of Packet rate of 1/- plus inland rate to London of 10d. in operation from 5th April, 1801 until 12th March, 1805.



The writer mentions:- The Packet sails almost immediately - Capt. Hayes sails in four or five days time, by him I will write you again'. Captain S. Hayes was commander of the merchantman 'STANLEY' of 400 tons built at Yarmouth in 1782. The 'STANLEY' never missed a season and on each occasion up to 1803 she left St. Kitts and arrived London with the cargo.

'ST.KITTS/MAR 2' first type two line dated handstamp (35mm.by 5mm.) used from 1799 to 1801 missing the year date during 1801 on a letter dated 2nd March, 1801 from Nevis via St. Kitts on the same day written by Wm. Higgins concerning the loss of the ship 'GEORGE' and the arrival of a shipment of wine on board the 'BELLONA'. Received London on 5th April, 1801. Charged 1/8d. made up of 1/- Packet rate to Falmouth plus 8d. Falmouth to London inland rate over 150 miles in operation from 5th January, 1797 until 5th April, 1801



'ST.KITTS/MAY22.99' Two line dated handstamp first type (35mm. by 5mm.) used from 1799 until 1801. This being the first known use of this mark on a letter dated 22nd May, 1799 from Jedediah Kerie at St. Kitts addressed to London where it arrived on 4th July, 1799. Charged 1/8d. made up of 1/- Packet rate to Falmouth plus inland rate to London of 8d. in operation from 1797 until 1801.



A letter from the Committee of Underwriters at Lloyd's Coffee House dated 5th October, 1798 requested that postmasters be instructed to put a stamp with the date of the precise day in which any letter had been put into their respective offices which might prevent many insurance frauds. Francis Freeling agreed with this and proposed it to the Postmasters General.

'ST.KITTS/OCT6 1804' second type two line handstamp (32mm.by 4mm.) used from 1802 until 1805. A letter dated 4th October 1804 from Wm. Byam at St.Kitts addressed to London where it arrived forty two days later on 17th November,1804. The single letter rate of 1/10d. being cancelled with the Inspectors Crown and charged a double letter rate of 3/8d. this being the rate in operation from 5th April,1801 until 12th March, 1805 made up of 1/- Packet rate to Falmouth plus 10d. inland rate to London.

M^{rs} Seaton
at M^{rs} Hammonds

SEKITTS

OCT6 1804

near the Bridge

Twickenham
near London

On the 12th December, 1804 Britain declared war on Spain. St. Kitts was attacked by a French Fleet but beaten off and shortly after the British Fleet under Lord Cochrane arrived in the area.

'ST.KITTS' Large Fleuron used from 1805 until 1809 on a letter dated 22nd October, 1805 from Wm. Bryan at St. Kitts addressed to Mrs. Seaton who owned plantations on the island. Arrived London on the 5th December, 1805. Endorsed on front 'P.Packet' and charged the 2/- packet rate to London in operation from 1805 until 1813. Writer mentions:- From the precarious situation in which all the islands were every person was apprehensive of drawing being doubtful whether their Bills would be honoured. The Wm. Manning and a few ships partly loaded sailed from here in May in consequence of the arrival of the combined Fleet at Martinico, but no regular convoy sailed from here until the last day of July.



February 1805. The French Fleet under Rear Admiral Missiessy arrived at Martinique on 21st February, 1805 landed a strong force near Roseau in Dominica, the town surrendered and paid a ransome of £7,500. He then proceeded to St. Kitts where he arrived on 5th March, 1805. The garrison retired to Brimstone Hill leaving the inhabitants of Basseterre to pay £18,000 to save their town from destruction. He then sailed to Santo Domingo and landed troops on 27th March, 1805 after failing to meet up with the Fleet under Admiral Villeneuve he returned to France. Admiral Villeneuve arrived at Martinique on 14th May, 1805 with Nelson only a few days behind. Villeneuve was only in the West Indies three weeks before heading home with Nelson behind him. He was finally caught by Nelson at Trafalgar on 21st October, 1805. This letter being written the day after the battle.

'ST.KITT'S' Large Fleuron used from 1805 until 1809 on a letter dated 8th June, 1809 from Wm. Bryan at St. Kitts enclosing two Bills of Exchange for £100 addressed to Mrs. Seaton who owned estates on the island. Endorsed on front 'P.Packet' and arrived London on 10th July, 1809. The original 2/- single packet rate was cancelled with the red Inspectors Crown and the new 4/- double packet rate charged. This rate being in operation from 1805 until 1813.



Writer mentions: 'I hope to remit your Bills by the fleet which will leave this the 23rd inst.'

ST.KITTS medium fleuron used 1810-1822
on letter dated 25th July, 1815 from
St. Kitts to London. Endorsed:
'P.LADY LOUISA PACKET' The Lady
Louisa was built at Dartmouth in 1811
of 190 tons for a Captain Tippet but
was commanded by Henry Drewitt Gibbon
until 1822. Charged double letter rate
of 4/4d (Packet rate 2/2 plus Falmouth
to London 2/- in operation from 1813)
Disinfected at St. Just Pool at the
mouth of Falmouth harbour by slitting



4/4

Mess^{rs} Forster Cooke & Freere
Lincoln's Inn
London
{ Lady Louisa }
{ Packet }

ST.KITTS Medium fleuron used 1810-1822
on letter dated 27th June, 1822 from
St. Bartholomews sent via St. Kitts on
6th August, 1822. Charged 2/2d packet
rate to London from 1813.



St. Bartholomews was ceded by the
French to Sweden in 1784 in return
for commercial concessions to
French vessels in Swedish ports.
It was bought back by France in 1877

Brimstone Hill, St. Christopher published
31st August, 1812 by Joyce Gold, Naval
Chronicle Office, 103, Shoe Lane, London.
Brimstone Hill called the Gibraltar of
the West Indies was first fortified by
the British in 1690. Besieged by the
French under Marquis de Bouille in 1782.
Last troops left in 1853 to go the Crimea



S. T. del.

Published 31 Aug. 1812, by Joyce Gold, Naval Chronicle Office, 103 Shoe Lane, London.

B. G. sc.

Brimstone Hill, Island of St. Christopher

*N.B. In these papers the estate of
the late Lucas Gaway dec'd
is advertised for sale.*

P. Amory

ST. CHRISTOPHER
Charribbean



THE
GAZETTE ; AND
Courier.

[VOL. XVI.]

[NO. 769.]

FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 1815.

{ Treasurer's Office,
BASSETTERE, 1st April, 1815.

Notice is hereby given,

THAT the FIRST PAYMENT
of the TAX of **EIGHT SHIL-
LINGS** upon **SUGAR**, and **SIXTEEN
SHILLINGS** upon **INCOMES**, be-
comes due on the 18th Instant, and Attend-
ance will be given to receive the same on
the following days ;—Viz. At my Office in
the Town of *Basseterre*, on the 18th, 19th,
and 20th ;—at the Custom-House, in the
Town of *Sandy-Point*, on the 21st and 22d ;
—and at the Dwelling-House of Mr. **SAM-
UEL SIMMONDS**, in *Old-Road*, on the 24th
Instant.

ALL Persons concerned are requested to
take Notice of the following Extracts from
the Act :—

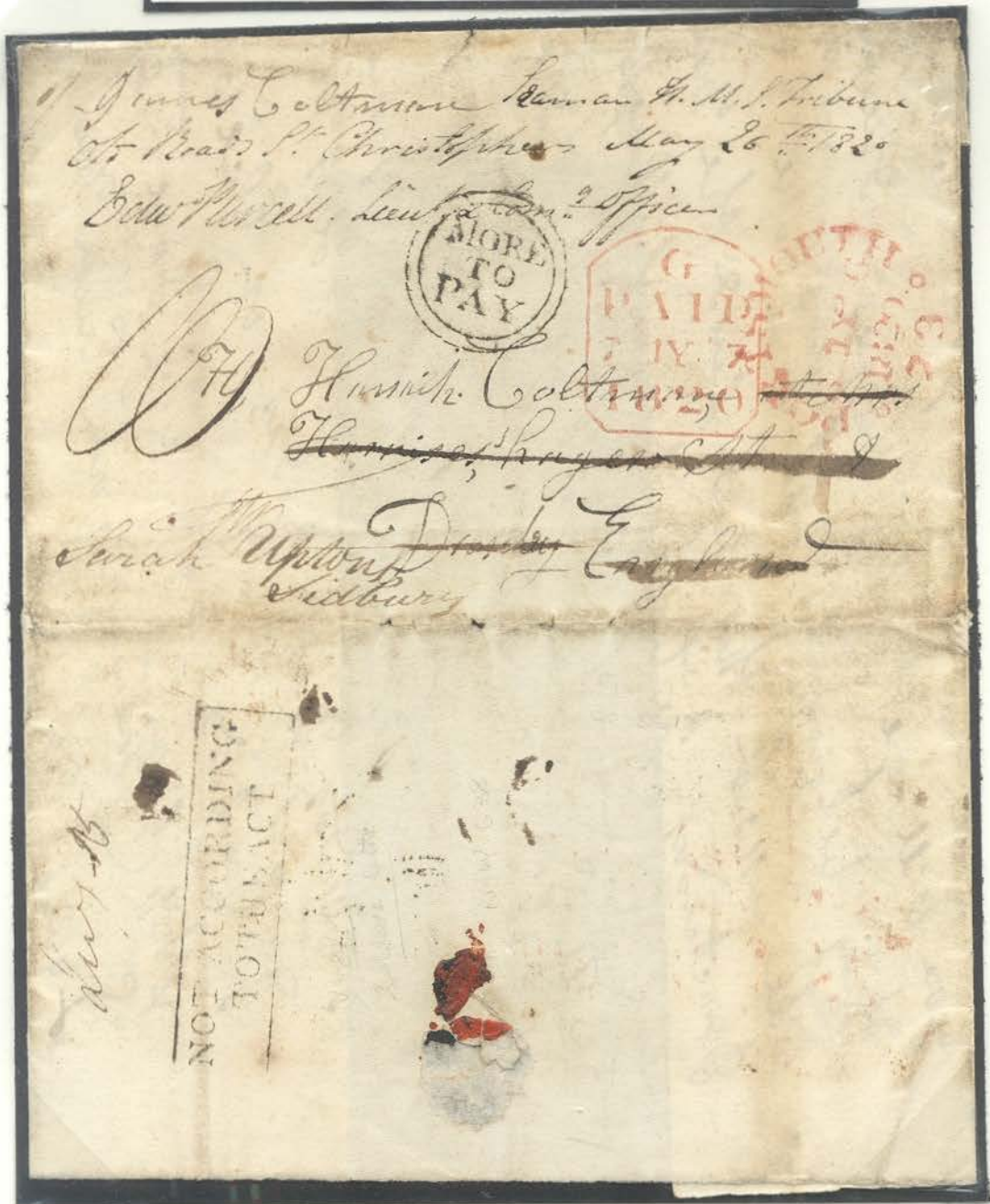
Clause 9th.—"That if any Person shall
" find himself or herself aggrieved by the
" Sum which he or she is rated or taxed un-
" der this Law, he or she, by applying to
" the Council and Assembly within *Thirty*
" Days after the Meeting of the next As-
" sembly, and representing the excess of
" and their joint Vows with the said

Allercott, William	£. 500
Archer, Benjamin	700
Akers, Robert	300
Abbott, Stafford William	200
BASDEN, Ephraim	500
Brazier, Edward	300
Bryan, William	500
Bryan, John, dec'd.	1200
Bryan, Charles	200
Barnes, Rev. Joseph	1200
Barnes, William	1000
Bayley, Francis	300
Beard, Daniel	1200
Burt, Edward	1000
Burt, George	300
Boon, Henry	800
Brownbill, Thos. F.	500
Bradley, John	1500
Brown, John	200
Berridge, James	2000
Berkeley, Susannah	200
Bigger, Edward	300
Blake, Peter	500
Blake, John	200
Blyden, Lucy	200
Berkeley, George	500
Bjam, Edward	500
Beard, William D.	200
Brazier, Edward Rev.	1200
Buchanan, James	200
Blair, James	200
CUMMINGE, Charles	300

JACK, Robert	£. 400
Julius, John	2000
Julius, John James	200
Jackson, Betsey	200
Julius, Julius Caesar	600
KING, Joseph	200
Kerie, Jedediah	700
Keris, Rev. John J.	800
LEACH, Robert	200
Lister, John	800
Long, Samuel	3000
Lyne, Philip	500
Langley, Richard	500

The St. Christopher Gazette dated the
31st March, 1815 lists all persons due
to pay Tax on Sugar and Incomes within
thirty days. Inside advert reads:—
A Negro Woman Slave named Dolly,
African born, about 28 years old of a
black complexion, having small scar on
each Temple, and about 7 months in her
Pregnancy. A Reward of Fifty Dollars
will be given to any Person that will
bring home, or cause, by intelligence
the said Negro Woman to be apprehended
Louis Clart, St. Bartholomew 14.3.1815

Seamans letter from St. Christopher to England
'NOT ACCORDING/TO THE ACT' used 1814-1835
dated 26th May, 1820 from James Coltman on
board H.M.S. TRIBUNE at Old Road St. Kitts
addressed to Derby. Arrived Portsmouth on
6th July, 1820.



The Act of September, 1813 gave seamen the
One Penny Postage rate. 'MORE TO PAY' in
double circle in black used at London from
1813. This letter was disallowed under the
Act due to the fact that the seaman had not
filled in the name of the ship himself

'BY THE NOCTON PACKET' Letter dated
13th May, 1824 from St. Kitts addressed
to Glasgow. Arrived 19th June, 1824.
Charged 4/10d. The 'NOCTON' packet
was built at Flushing in 1807 of
192 tons, used as a Post Office Packet
from 1807 until 1850. Captain Joseph
Morphew in command from 23rd June, 1813

4/10

Messrs. Mathew Carnegie & Co.



ST. KITTS
13 MAY 1824

By the
Nocton packet

Merchants in
Glasgow

Letter dated 7th March, 1826 from St. Kitts addressed to London where it arrived on the 12th April, 1826 and received the boxed red 'PACKET LETTER' second type used from 1818 until 1847 on letters identified as a loose letter travelling outside the sealed Packet Bag. Charged the packet rate of 2/2d. in operation from 1813 until 1839.



'LEEWARD ISLAND/F' with date 29th January, 1827 in green used at Falmouth from 1810 until 1830 on a letter from St. Kitts dated 26th December 1826 addressed to Hackney. Arrived Falmouth on 29th January, 1827 and London on the 31st. January, 1827. Charged Packet rate of 2/2d to London in operation from 1813 until 1840.



'ST.KITTS' Small Fleuron used from 1824 until 1843 showing the year in full '1831' on a letter dated 8th May, 1831 from Robert Claxton at St. Kitts addressed to London where it arrived on the 11th June, 1831. Charged 2/2 this being the packet rate in operation from 1813 until 1840.



'PACKET LETTER' in frame in red applied at London used 1818-1847. On a letter from St. Kitts dated 30th March, 1832, received London on 5th May, 1832. Endorsed on the front '1 $\frac{3}{4}$ oz' and charged 15/2d. This being seven times the single packet letter rate in operation from 1813 until 1839. At this time it would have taken a farm labourer a month to earn this amount.

Mr. John Peyton Forbes Esq
1 $\frac{3}{4}$ oz By Place of
Hullborn

2101

'ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE.' wrapper from the Quarter Master General's Office endorsed 'Frank' and showing the double circle red Free Frank of 19th September, 1832 addressed to Captain Maclean, 86th Regiment, St. Christophers. Writer mentions:- Arrived Portsmouth after a remarkably quiet passage of only five weeks from St. Kitts and expect to embark about the 1st of next month for the Mauritius.



King William IV by Sir Martin Archer Shee
born 21st August, 1765, reigned six years
died 20th June, 1837. He was the third
son of George III, married Adelaide of
Saxe-Coburg and Meiningen in 1818, they
had two daughters.



St. Kitts to the U.S.A. letter dated 10th August, 1833 from John Richards at St. Kitts addressed to Philadelphia where it arrived on 7th September, 1833. Charged 20c. in red on front. The writer mentions:- The question at issue respecting immediate emancipation is of such a tender nature that West India, Proprietors will be very glad to part with their Estates on almost any terms.



The Abolition of Slavery Act received the Royal Assent on 29th August, 1833 and became law on the 1st August, 1834. On this date there were 668,000 slaves in the B.W.I. St. Kitts having 19,780 for which the British Government paid St. Kitts £329,393 in compensation.

All inclusive 8d. Ship Letter rate per half ounce British West Indies to United Kingdom. Entire dated 3rd May, 1844 from Aston Davoren at St. Kitts mentions Bill of lading of Catherine Greene Endorsed on front 'Consignees Bill of Lading' addressed to John Rankin in Finsbury Circus. The 8d. Ship letter rate was in operation from the 7th January, 1840. Landed at Brighton where the black 'SHIP-LETTER/BRIGHTON' used from 8th May, 1844 until 1847 was applied. So far this is the only 8d. cover from St. Kitts.

Or
Landing
Consignees Bill of Lading

John Rankin Esq.
Finsbury Circus

Letter dated 2nd September, 1839 from
John Ulrich in Stockholm to his brother
in St. Bartholomews, sent care of
Geo. Watley Esc. St. Kitts. Received
St. Bartholomews on the 19th October,
1839. Charged 2/2 on the front this
being the packet rate from London in
operation from 1813 until 1840.

London d. 19. October 1839. 1819
To J. Charles Ulrich, Esq^r,
2/2
St. Bartholomews.
Geo. Watley Esq^r St. Kitts
J. 209.

O.H.M.S. cover dated the 23rd June, 1847 from Barbados to 'The Field Officer Commanding the Troops at St. Kitts.' Charged 1/4d on front this being a two ounce letter rate, the single inter-island rate being 4d. in operation from 1790 until 1891.

O. H. M. S.

1/4

The Field Officer
Commanding the Troops
St. Kitts

MS

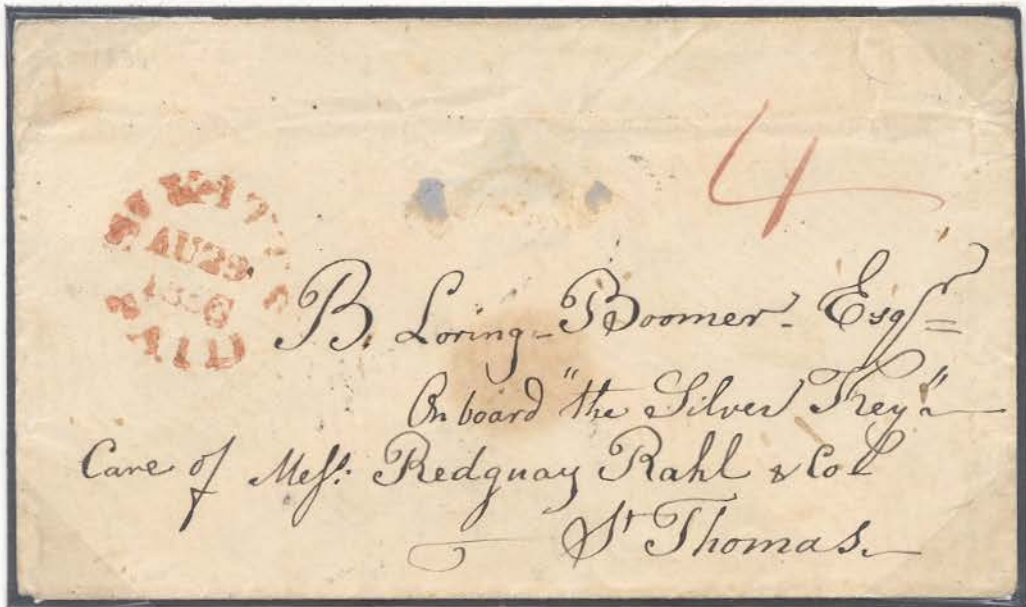
ST.KITTS double arc used 1844-1861
on entire dated 17th August, 1846 from
St. Kitts to Nassau in the Bahamas
Charged 4d. this being the inter
colonial rate from 1790 until 1891.
'BUCKINGHAM HOUSE' seal in yellow and
white. The original house built in
1703 by John Sheffield for the Duke
of Buckingham. Pulled down in 1825.
Buckingham Palace built and completed
in 1837 on same site.



ST.KITTS PAID dated in red used from 1838 until 1858 on a letter dated the 12th September, 1838 from St. Kitts addressed to London. On arrival at Falmouth it received the undated green 'LEEWARD ISLANDS F' mark used from 1830 until 1842 at the Falmouth Packet Station probably applied to the top letter of a bundle before being forwarded to London. Also shows a feint boxed 'DUNSLEY/PY POST'. Charged 2/2d. this being the packet rate to London from 1813 until 1840.



ST.KITTS PAID dated in red used
1840-1858 on cover dated 29th
August, 1856 from St. Kitts to
B.Loring Boomer Esq. on board
'The Sliver Sprey' care of
Messrs Ridgway Rahl & Co. at
St. Thomas. Charged '4' in red
this being the inter colonial
rate from 1790 until 1891



ST.KITTS PAID undated circle in red used 1860-1866 on letter dated 11th February, 1862 from H.Spencer Wrigley the Attorney General at St. Christopher, sent via St.Thomas on 12th February, 1862 addressed to Bermuda. Charged 4d. on front this being the inter island rate in operation from 1711.



Left St. Thomas on the 19th February, 1862 on the Cunard Royal Mail Steamer 'MERLIN' of 268 tons which arrived in Bermuda on 25th February, 1862, sailing the same day to Halifax. The Attorney General at this period was S. Brownlow Gray who held this office from 1861 until 1880.

'ST.KITTS/PAID' small dated single circle with code letter 'C' in red used from 1866 until 1870 This being the period between the use of British stamps in the colony and the issue of the first definitives in 1870. Cover dated 11th September 1866 from St. Kitts addressed to New York, sent via St. Thomas on 12th September, 1866 and arrived New York on the 3rd October, 1866. Charged '4' in red this being the rate in operation from 1790 until 1891.



ST.KITTS PAID small dated single circle in red used from 1866 until 1870. Cover dated the 27th March, 1868 from St. Kitts sent via steamer to London where it arrived on 18th April, 1868 before being forwarded to France where it arrived on 20th April, 1868. The '7½' in red ink being an accountancy mark showing the amount of postage due to the British Post Office out of the packet rate to England and the rate to France. At this time the packet rate to England was 6d. per half ounce. The rate England to France was 4d. from 1857 until 1870.



Carried on the Royal Mail Steam Packet Companies 'LA PLATA' which landed mails at Plymouth on the 17th April, 1868 at 7.15p.m. the mails arriving in London at 9.20a.m. on the 18th April, 1868.

'ST.KITTS PAID' single circle in red
19mm. diameter used from 1866 until
1870 on a printed receipt for a
registered letter addressed to France
dated 28th December, 1866 signed by
the postmaster.

No. 90

REGISTERED LETTER.

Received this 28th day of December, 1866

a Letter addressed *Mrs. Maidenbrough*

*48 Rue Neuve
Sunkergui*

France

Office Stamp.



Postmaster, or Letter Receiver's Signature.

[Handwritten signature]