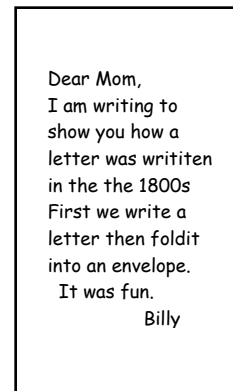


Teacher Guide Chillicothe's First Post Office

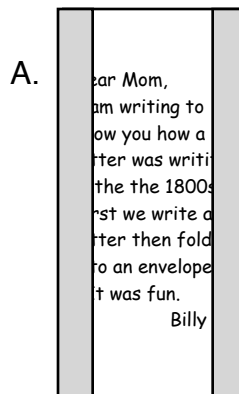
- Pg. 1 Chillicothe's First Post Office
- Pg. 2 Copy of the front of an actual letter sent to Nathaniel Massie.
- Pg. 3 -4 Write a letter the way the early settlers did.

Directions for writing an 1800's letter with envelope.

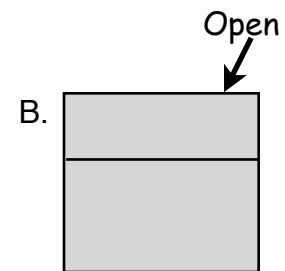
1. Use pages 3 & 4 to make a two side copy for each child.
2. Choose topic and have students write a letter, then address on the other side. Writing only the name and the city. (The postmaster would write the name of the town and write the cost)
3. To fold into envelope place address side down, letter side up:



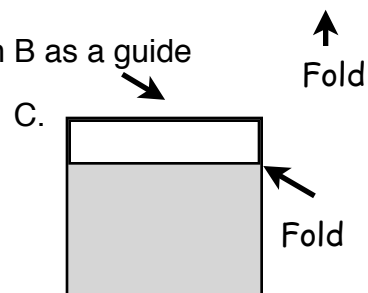
- A. Fold sides inward using solid line on address side as a guide.



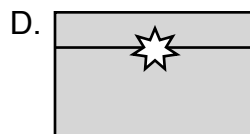
- B. Fold letter using the - - - - line on the address side as a guide.



- C. Fold the address side inward using the solid line in B as a guide



- D. Fold remaining flap using ····· line and seal.



Chillicothe's First Post Office

Chillicothe's first post office opened in the spring of 1799. This surely must have caused much excitement. Local citizens no longer had to rely on travelers passing through town to bring word from back home or a copy of a newspaper which was often several months old.

Edward Tiffin, was appointed the first postmaster of Chillicothe. He then appointed his brother, Joseph, the assistant postmaster and put him in charge of the post office. At that time it was the responsibility of the postmaster to house the postal office. Joseph made room for the first post office in his tavern, the "General Anthony Wayne," which was located on the SE corner of N. Walnut and W. Water St.

The mail was brought to Chillicothe by way of the post-rider. He would travel by horseback or foot between settlements, picking up and dropping off mail at stops along the way. The job of post-rider was not an easy one. The Ohio frontier was mostly trails that crossed through its thick forests. A bridge to cross streams and rivers was unheard of. By 1804, there were post-riders bringing mail into Chillicothe on seven different routes.

The post office was run differently in these early frontier days. Postage was not paid by the sender, as it is today, it was paid by the person receiving the letter. Mail was not delivered to your house, you were expected to pick it up at the post office. The postmaster would post a list of people for who he had letters .

List of letters remaining in the Post Office at Chillicothe on the first day of July 1800, which, if not taken up by the first day of October next, will be sent to the General Post Office as dead letters.

A

William Austen, Esq. Chillicothe,
Samuel Armstrong, Columbia
Northwestern Territory.

B

Thomas Barr, near Picuway Plain,
Scioto, Catharine Britton, near
Chillicothe, John Blare, Esq. Chillicothe
Scioto, Joseph Buck, Pee Pee, Scioto.

C

Isaac Cook, Chillicothe, Abraham
Claypoole near Chillicothe.

D

George Disebauck, near Chillicothe
town.

F

Edmd. Freeman, Editor Chillicothe,
John Fenemore, Chillicothe Scioto.

H

Richard Haughton, Dancing Master,
Chillicothe, Adam Hosuck, on Scioto
above Chillicothe

J

E. Johnston, on Hockhocking to the care
of Mr. Laremer.

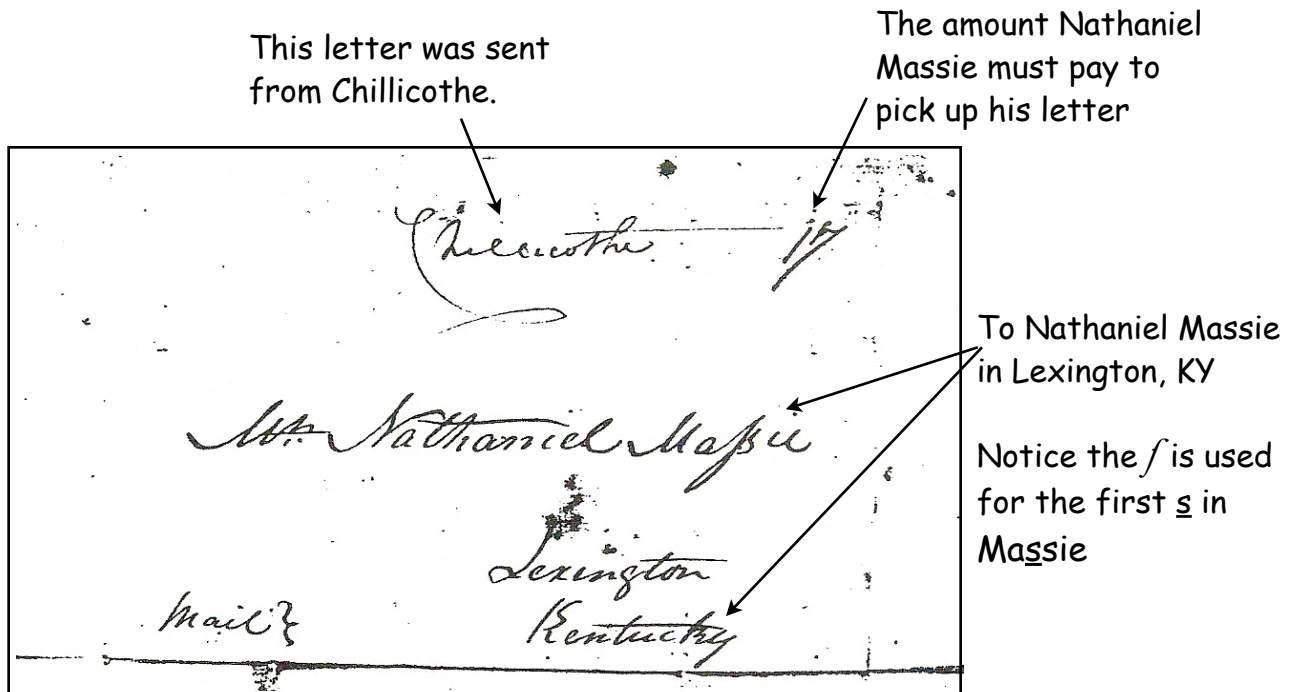
K

James Kilgore, Chillicothe, Elizha Kelly,
Chillicothe on Scioto River.

Freeman's Journal & Chillicothe Advertiser

July 11, 1800

An 1800 Letter to Nathaniel Massie



This letter was sent from Chillicothe to Nathaniel Massie in Lexington, KY. There was no need to put a street address on the letter because mail was picked up at the post office and not delivered.

Paper was very valuable then, and there was not a lot of it. Paper was not wasted on an envelope. The letter was written on one side, folded, and addressed on the other side. Then sealed with sealing wax to keep it closed.

