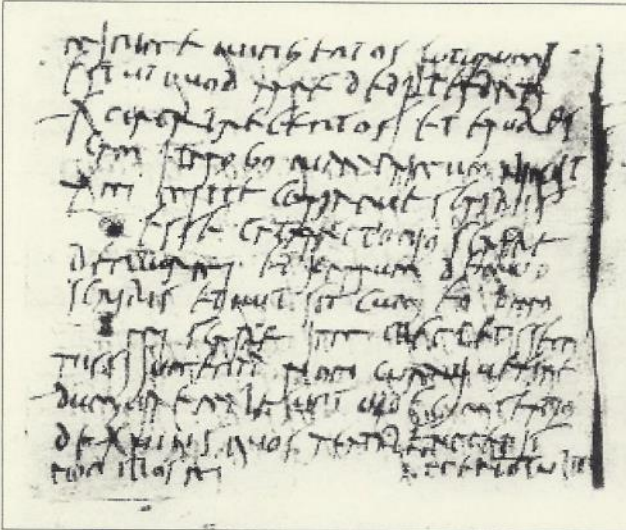


# RICHMOND, North Yorkshire.

## RICHMOND POSTAL MARKINGS 1765 - 1862

RICHMOND is the county town of Richmondshire, one of the historic shires of the North Riding which make up today's county of North Yorkshire. Sited on a hill-top commanding the entrance to Swaledale from the Vale of Mowbray, it has been a major defensive settlement since the first millennium AD.



It is some 4 miles upstream of Catterick (Roman: Cataractonium), where the Great North Road (Roman: Dere Street) crossed the river. The earliest known post from Richmondshire is a letter (image left) written on wood tablet in A.D.90 from Catterick to the Roman fort of Vindolanda, near Hadrian's Wall, explaining to a merchant that his goods and animals were held up by the state of the roads.

Early modern postal services operated radially from London and Catterick was the staging point where mail for Richmond would be taken off the coaches on the Carlisle Road for onward shipment.

Urgent or important outgoing mail from Richmond would be taken to Catterick for posting instead of being entrusted to the local postmaster.

All normal mail from Richmondshire is now postmarked at Darlington in County Durham, some 12 miles north east of Richmond.

**PLAN:** The present exhibit contains the following developments in Richmond postal markings:

- Town mark "RICHMOND" (1765-1781). (Sheet 2)
- Town mark "RICH / MOND" (1775-1782). (Sheet 3)
- Town mark "RICHMOND / YORKSH<sup>E</sup>" (1785-1790). (Sheet 4)
- Horseshoe "RICHMOND.Y" (1796-1798). (Sheet 5)
- Mileage mark "RICHMOND / 230" (1806-1815). (Sheet 6)
- Richmond Penny Post. (Sheet 7)
- Uniform Four-Penny Post. (Sheet 8)
- Red Maltese Cross (1840-1841) (Sheets 9-10)
- Black Maltese Cross (1841-1844) (Sheets 11)
- Ringless date stamp "RICHMOND / MMDD / 18YY" with two arcs (1830-1844) and Penny paid without stamp (1840-1844). (Sheet 12)
- 1844-type oval "641" (1844-1858) & ringless date stamp with code & two arcs (1850-1851). (Sheet 13)
- Traveller marks (1845-1849). (Sheet 14-15)
- 3HOS-type oval "641" (1856-1862). (Sheet 16)

Map from Paterson's Itinerary (Vol II) of 1785





## RICHMOND, North Yorkshire.

### Single-Line Town Mark.

The earliest known marks from Richmond were various sizes of single line town mark. Willcocks & Jay<sup>1</sup> recorded four such marks of different sizes in use between 1723 and 1785.

11<sup>th</sup> December 1765 Letter from Hudswell, Richmond to Mr. Chester at the Chancery Office, London.

4d manuscript charge marking for Richmond to London (over 80 miles single letter at 10<sup>th</sup> October 1765 rate).

RICHMOND single-line town mark. (Known used 1765-1766. Willcocks & Jay YK2318)  
London GPO transit Bishop Mark for 11<sup>th</sup> December.



To Mr. Chester  
of the Chancery Office  
Chancery Lane  
London

<sup>1</sup> Reference: The British County Catalogue Of Postal History, Volume 4. R M Willcocks & B Jay.

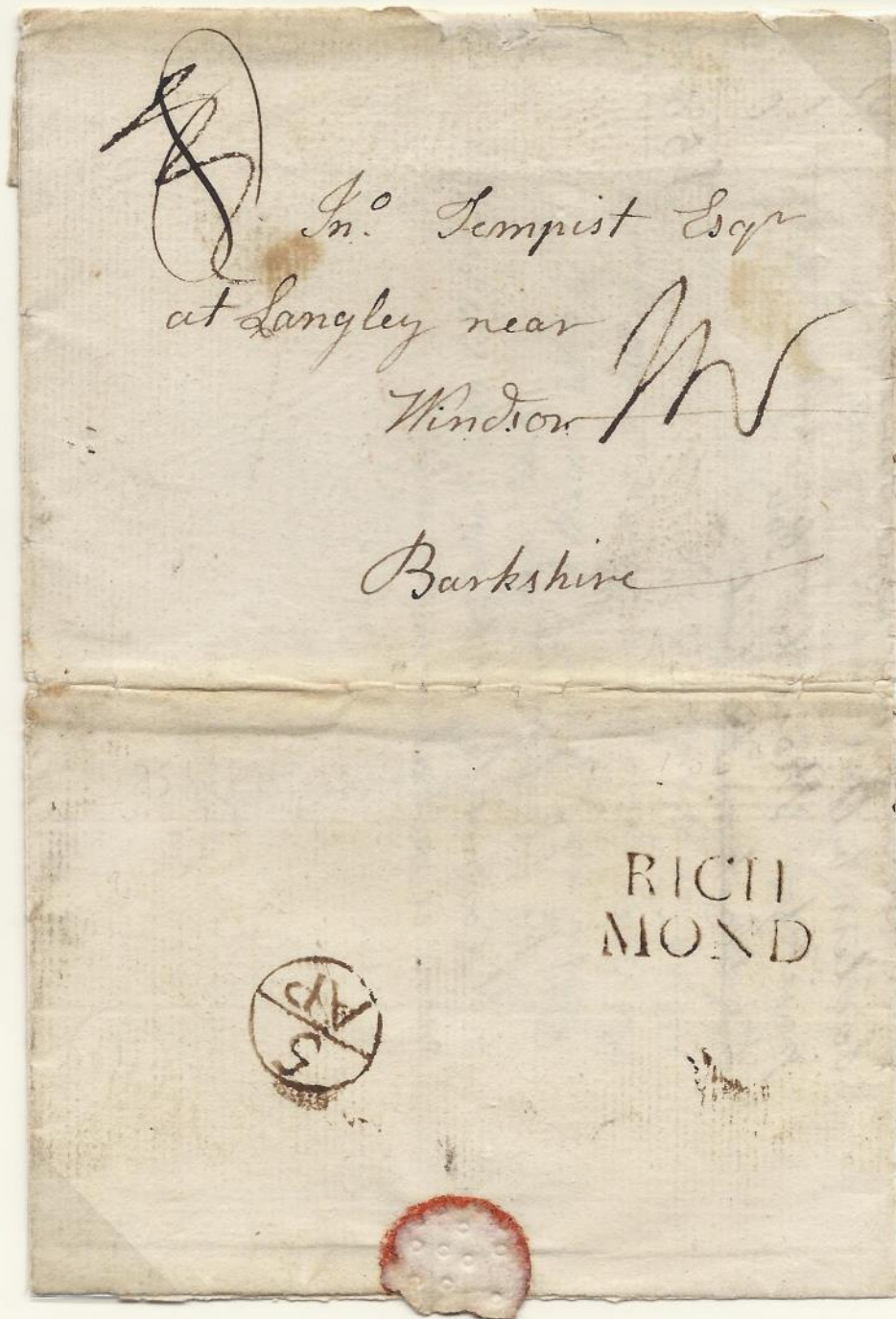
# RICHMOND, North Yorkshire.

Two-Line Town Mark without county name.

April 1782 Letter from a horse trainer, Richmond to Langley, Berkshire.

8d manuscript charge marking for Richmond to London (over 80 miles double letter at 10<sup>th</sup> October 1765 rate) struck out and replaced by 1/2 manuscript charge marking for Richmond to Langley via London (8d as before plus 6d up to 80 miles double letter rate).

RICH / MOND two line town mark. (Willcocks & Jay YK2316. Previously only recorded used 1755-1762 - This example extends known usage by twenty years.)  
London GPO transit Bishop Mark for 5<sup>th</sup> April.





# RICHMOND, North Yorkshire.

## Two-Line Town Mark with county name.

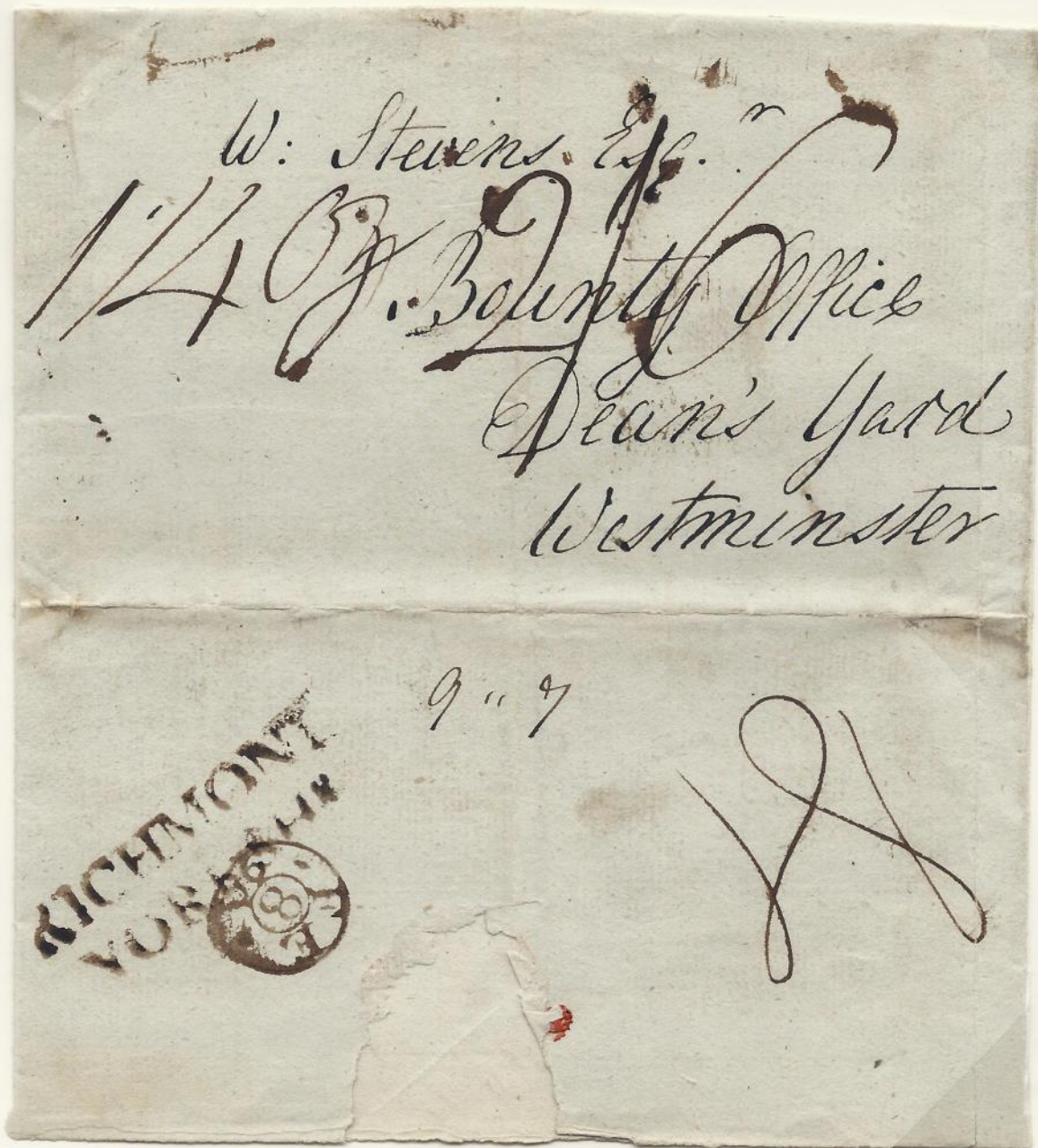
With the growth of correspondence over greater distances permitted by improvement in the roads following the General Turnpike Acts of 1766 and 1773, which made it easier to set up Turnpike Trusts to maintain roads, paid for by tolls, it became necessary to differentiate towns of the same name in different parts of the country. By 1785, the county name was consequently added to the Richmond handstamp.

6<sup>th</sup> February 1790

Wrapper from the Church of St. Cuthbert, at Barton, near Richmond to the Bounty Office, London. The Church was replaced by St. Mary's in 1840 and subsequently demolished.

RICHMOND / YORKSH<sup>E</sup> two line town mark (Willcocks & Jay YK2325, known used 1785-1790). Addition of county name was needed to avoid confusion with Richmond, Surrey. London GPO receiving datestamp for FE 8 90.

| 1/4Oz and 2/6 manuscript charge marking for packet charge over 150 miles at 31<sup>st</sup> August 1784 rate.



# RICHMOND, North Yorkshire.

## Horseshoe Town Mark.

Circular marks are easier to apply consistently than straight-line marks.

25<sup>th</sup> September 1797 Letter from Richmond to Capt. Clarkson of the North Yorkshire Regiment at Colchester, Essex.

8d manuscript charge marking for Richmond to Colchester (over 150 miles single letter at 5<sup>th</sup> January 1797 rate, which, for the first time, treated a "via London" journey as a single journey instead of charging separately for each stage).

RICHMOND: Y. horseshoe town mark. (Willcocks & Jay YK2329, known used 1796-1798).  
London GPO C 1791-type double-circle transit mark for 25<sup>th</sup> September 1797.





## RICHMOND, North Yorkshire.

### Mileage Mark.

Mileage marks showing the distance from London were first introduced in 1784 and 1785, but there is no evidence that one was issued to Richmond. They were reintroduced in 1801 and this time Richmond received one in that year. The 1801-1802 issues had a complete box around the number. Later issues had bars above and below the number.

17<sup>th</sup> December 1806

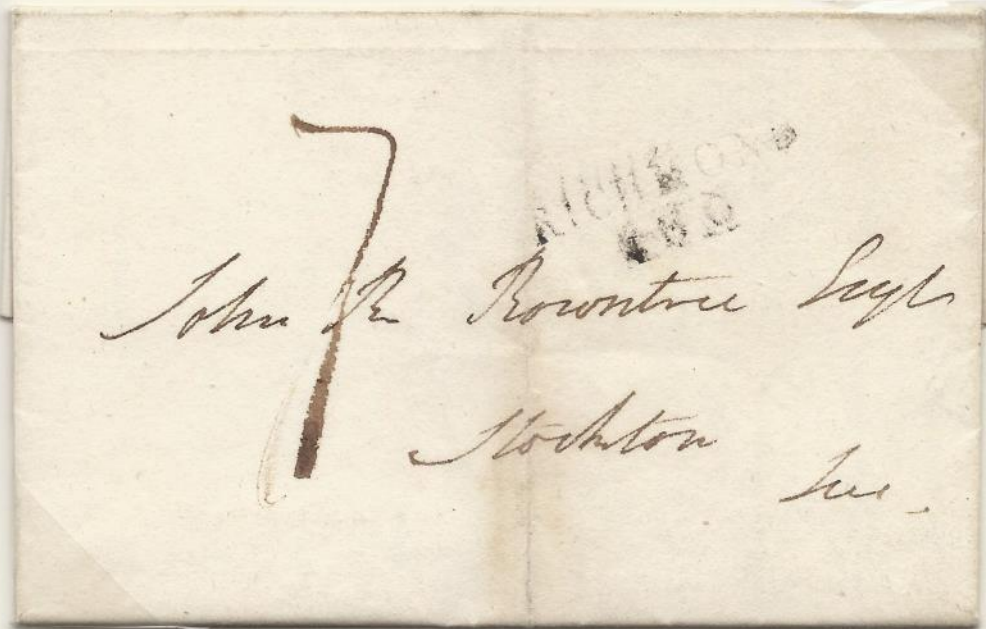
Letter from William Hale, Richmond to Stockton.

RICHMOND / 230 two line mileage mark with lines above and below number.

(Willcocks & Jay YK2333 recorded it used 1807-1811).

7d manuscript charge marking for the 50-80 mile rate introduced 12<sup>th</sup> March 1805.

No receiving mark.



Undated

Wrapper to Huddersfield.

RICHMOND / 230 two line mileage mark with lines. (Willcocks & Jay YK2333).

8d manuscript charge marking for the 80-120 mile rate introduced 12<sup>th</sup> March 1805.

No receiving mark.



## RICHMOND, North Yorkshire.

### Richmond Penny Post.

A Penny Post operated in Richmond from 1831 to 1840, with two receiving houses, No.1 at Reeth and No.2 at Marske.

9<sup>th</sup> February 1839 Letter from John Birkbeck, Low Row to O. Tomlin, Richmond, requesting payment of an outstanding settlement.

Reeth "No.1" boxed receiving house mark, struck in red.

"Richmond / Penny Post" handstamp (Willcocks & Jay Type 44 No. YK2344), struck in black, recorded used between 28<sup>th</sup> December 1838 and 9<sup>th</sup> February 1839.

"RICHMOND / FE 9 / 1839" dated town mark (Willcocks & Jay YK2338, known used 1830-1844) as receiving mark.

1d manuscript charge marking.





## RICHMOND, North Yorkshire.

### Uniform Four Pence Post

The Treasury Warrant of 1839 brought a radical change to postal charging mechanisms, as a trial preparatory to the more radical move to the uniform penny post, which came in the following month. Mail posted from the start of business on 5<sup>th</sup> December 1839, up to one half ounce and for any destination in the British Isles, was subject to a maximum charge of four pence and the Scottish and Welsh additional halfpenny fees were abolished. Lower local charges were retained for local mail, such as penny posts, but mail that had paid the uniform rate could not be charged extra for local service. Free franks remained, but had to pay for local delivery by a penny post.

	Up to ½ oz.	Up to 1 oz.	Up to 2 oz.	additional oz to 1 lb.
Prepaid	4d	8d	1/4	8d
Unpaid	4d	8d	2/8	1/4

From 10<sup>th</sup> January 1840, the basic letter rate up to one half ounce was lowered to one penny if paid in advance or two pence in unpaid.

21<sup>st</sup> December 1839

Double-rate letter from Richmond to Aylesbury via London.

"RICHMOND / DE21 / 1839" ring-less, dated town mark (serif letters) with two arcs (Willcocks & Jay YK2338, known used 1830-1844).

Transit mark "C / 23DE23 / 1839" of GPO London. No receiving mark.

4d manuscript charge marking crossed out and increased to 8d.





# RICHMOND, North Yorkshire.

"Maltese Cross" dumb canceller.

From 6<sup>th</sup> May 1840, the first adhesive postage stamps were brought into use. A new dumb canceller, the so-called "Maltese Cross", was distributed to each office in readiness for use on the new stamps. It was struck in red until it was found that the red ink could be removed and the stamp reused. Black ink was used from February 1841. The ring-less town mark continued in use to date mail.

6<sup>th</sup> July 1840

Letter from Richmond to Knaresborough concerning a transaction between banks, using Mulready letter sheet (stereo number obscured by red sealing wax).

RICHMOND / JY 6 / 1840 24mm circular serif ring-less town date stamp with two line date and two arcs on reverse. (Willcocks & Jay Type 16 No. YK2338. Known struck in black between 1830 and 1844).



## RICHMOND, North Yorkshire.

### "Maltese Cross" dumb canceller.

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17<sup>th</sup> October 1840 Letter from Richmond to York concerning a disputed memorial tablet in Kirk Hammerton Church.

James Hunton, the writer, was the Proctor of the Court Baron for the Liberty and Franchise of Richmond and Richmondshire, and his practice, Hunton & Gargett, Solicitors, is still in business.

RICHMOND / OC17 / 1840 24mm circular serif ring-less town date stamp with two line date and two arcs on reverse. (Willcocks & Jay Type 16 No.YK2338. Known struck in black between 1830 and 1844).





## RICHMOND, North Yorkshire.

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From 6<sup>th</sup> May 1840, the first adhesive postage stamps were brought into use. A new dumb canceller, the so-called "Maltese Cross", was distributed to each office in readiness for use on the new stamps. It was struck in red until it was found that the red ink could be removed and the stamp reused. Black ink was used from February 1841. The ring-less town mark continued in use to date mail.

12<sup>th</sup> August 1841      Solicitor's letter from Richmond to London concerning a lease on the Black Lion Inn.

"RICHMOND / AU 12 / 1841" 24mm circular serif ring-less town date stamp with two line date and two arcs on reverse. (Willcocks & Jay Type 16 No.YK2338. Known struck in black between 1830 and 1844).

London "B / 13AU13 / 1841" single ring circular date stamp struck in red as arrival mark.



## RICHMOND, North Yorkshire.

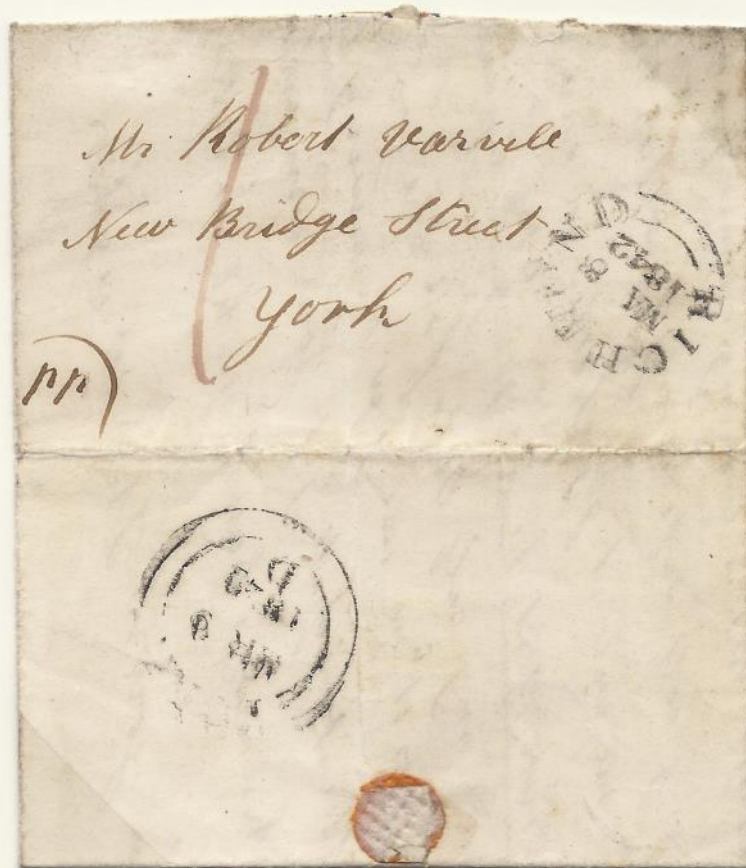
Ring-less, dated town mark (serif letters) with two arcs, used on cash-paid letter.

The introduction of penny postage, postage stamps and postal stationery in 1840 did not bring an instantaneous change to the new technology! It was still possible to pre-pay mail in cash until 1851. Arrival marking became the norm in 1841 in order to allow monitoring of the performance of the postal service.

5<sup>th</sup> March 1842    Prepaid penny letter from Thomas Wright, Skeeby to York.

RICHMOND / MA 8 / 1842 dated town mark (Willcocks & Jay No. YK2338, known used 1830-1844).  
YORK / MR 9 / 1842 / D arrival mark.

"pp" and 1d manuscript charge marking in red indicating pre-payment to 1840 Penny Post single-weight basic letter rate.





## RICHMOND, North Yorkshire.

1844-type Numeral canceller.

Dated, sans-serif, two-arc town mark, with code above arcs.

Under the 1844 scheme, number 641 was allocated to Richmond, Yorkshire. The canceller was supplied by the GPO in April 1844 and used until 1858.

- 27<sup>th</sup> August 1851 Letter Richmond to Northallerton containing census return for Parish of Downholme.  
"RICHMOND YORKS / AU27 / 1851 / A" dated, sans-serif, two-arc 24mm town mark, with code above arcs, applied to reverse. Recut and sent to Richmond on 16 May 1850 (not listed by Willcocks and Jay).  
"NORTHALLERTON / AU27 / 1851 / C" dated town mark applied as receiving mark.



# RICHMOND, North Yorkshire.

## Single-ring, dated traveller (skeleton) town mark.

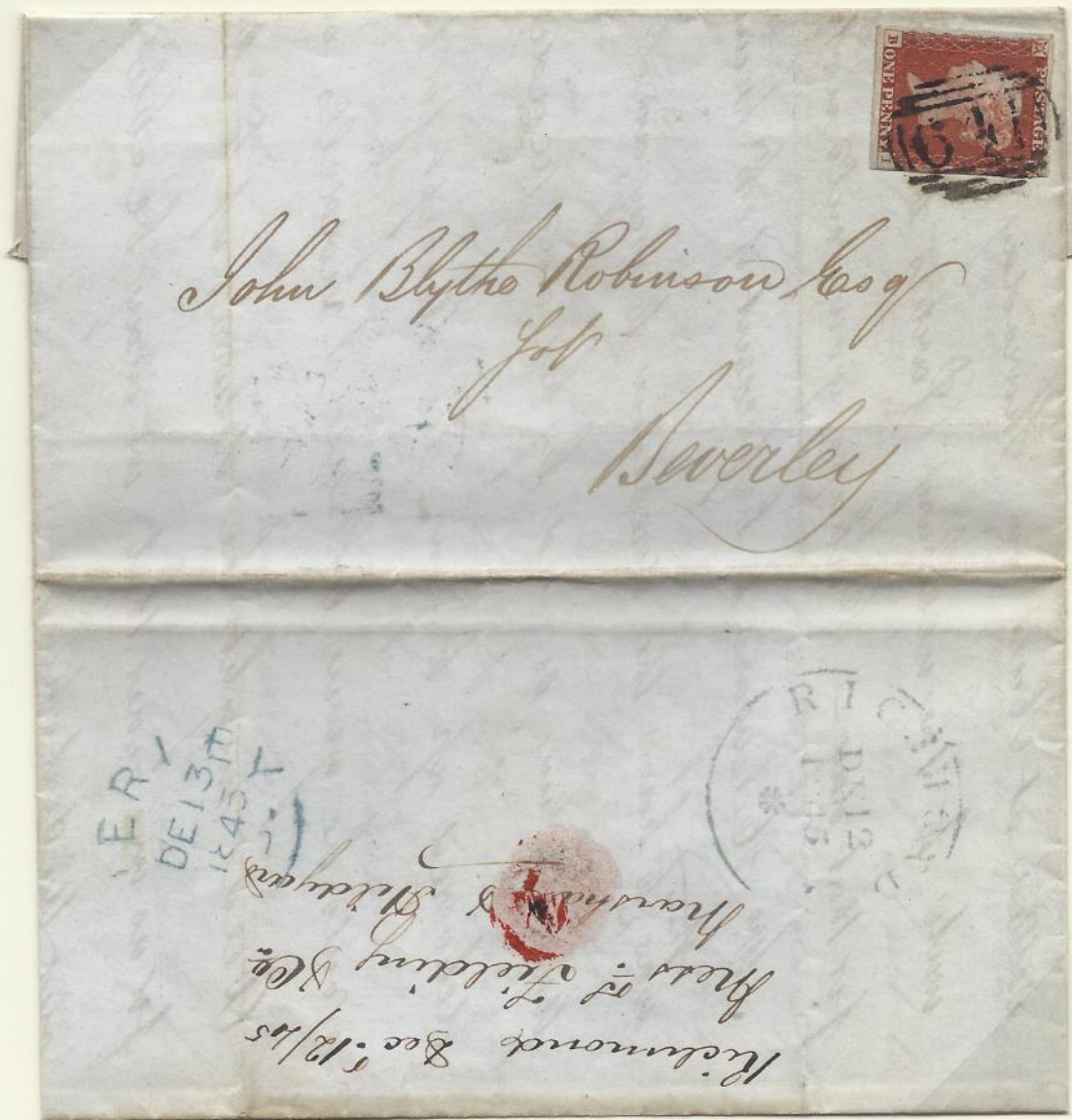
If an office lost or damaged its date stamp, a temporary handstamp could be provided by a "traveller" or "skeleton" handstamp. This comprised a matrix into which letter slugs could be inserted to form the town's name for use until a permanent (cast metal) handstamp was available, at which point it could be dismantled and reused at a different office.

12<sup>th</sup> December 1845 Prepaid penny letter from Fielding & Wright (solicitors) to Beverley.

1844-type "641" dumb canceller (issued 1844, used to 1858).

"RICHMOND Y / DE 12 / 1845 / \*" traveller town mark (unknown to Willcocks & Jay).

"BEVERLEY / DE 13 / 1845 / B" ringless cds as arrival mark.





## RICHMOND, North Yorkshire.

### Ringless, dated traveller (skeleton) town mark.

If an office lost or damaged its date stamp, a temporary handstamp could be provided by a "traveller" or "skeleton" handstamp. This comprised a matrix into which letter slugs could be inserted to form the town's name for use until a permanent (cast metal) handstamp was available, at which point it could be dismantled and reused at a different office.

21<sup>st</sup> June 1849

Stamped penny letter from Church Pastoral Aid Society to London.

1844-type "641"? dumb canceller (issued 1844, used to 1858).

"RICHMOND YORK / JU21 / 1849 / 4 / 0" traveller town mark (Willcocks & Jay YK2340). Latest use recorded to date (W&J recorded 12-16 June).

London arrival mark for 22<sup>nd</sup> June.



## RICHMOND, North Yorkshire.

### Three-line Horizontal Simplex (3HOS)-type Numeral canceller.

Under the 1844 scheme, number 641 was allocated to Richmond, Yorkshire. A Parmenter Type 3-HOS mark was issued to Richmond on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1856.

- 18<sup>th</sup> February 1862    One Penny dated (12 12 61) postal stationery envelope (Huggins Type EP11) used Richmond to London.  
"RICHMOND / C / FE 18 / 62 / YORKSHIRE" 22mm single ring circular date stamp applied to reverse in black.  
"LONDON EC / S / FE 19 / 62" 20mm single ring circular date stamp applied in red as receiving mark.

