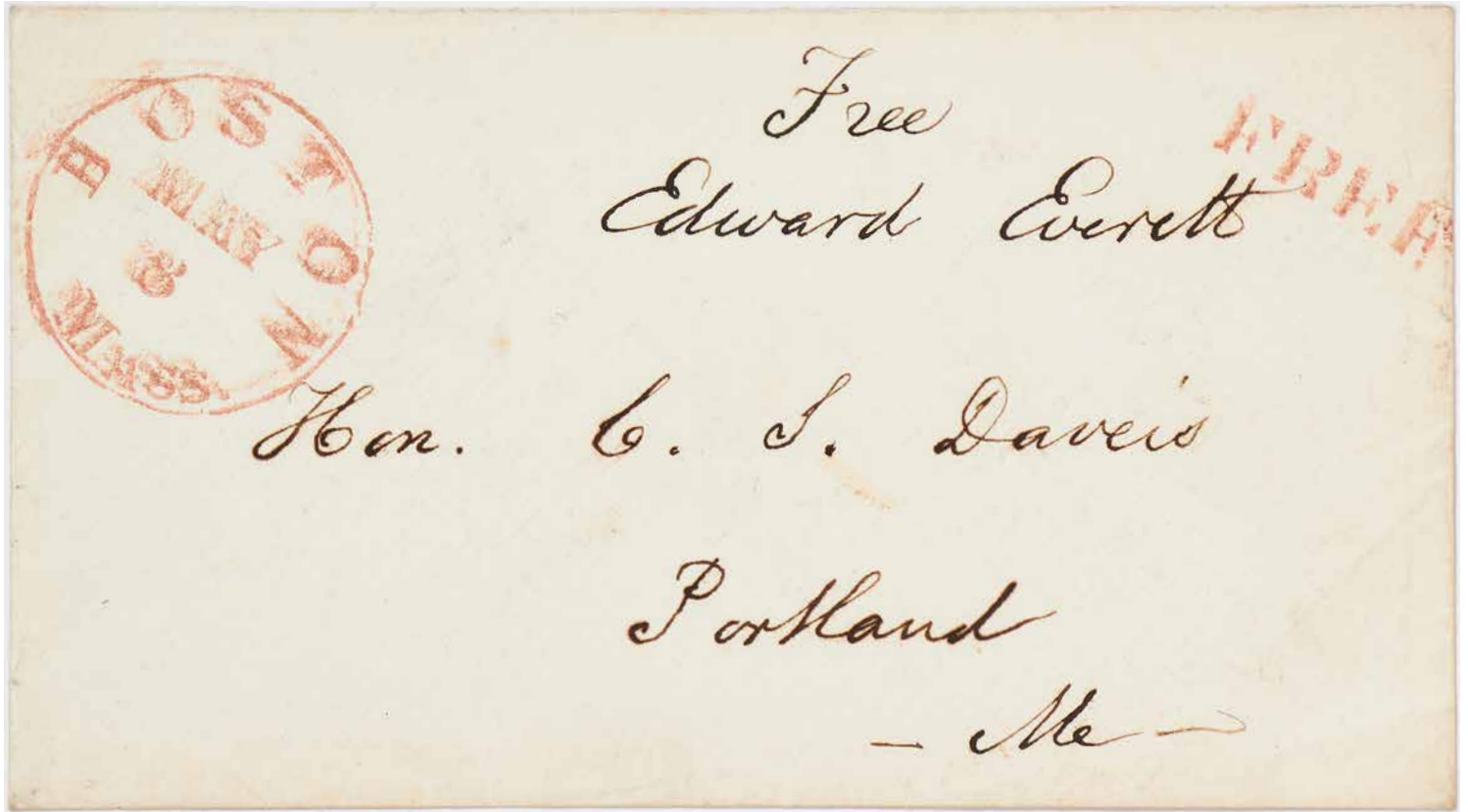


Edward Everett

(Ephemera): Signed Free Frank Envelope

Boston, Massachusetts / Portland, Michigan: [circa 1830]

\$350



A Free Frank envelope signed by Edward Everett to the Honorary L. J. Daveis from Boston, Massachusetts to Portland, Michigan, May 8th circa 1830. About fine with very little age-toning. A Free Frank was a hand-stamped mark that did not require postage. The privilege was granted to members of Parliament, office-holders, and to archbishops and bishops sitting in the House of Lords. It was meant for official business, though often abused for constituents and relatives. In some cases the letters were sold to businesses and even with past restrictions on weight, the service continued to be abused until the 1840s with the uniform of the penny post.

Edward Everett was a politician, pastor, educator, diplomat, and orator from Massachusetts. He served as U.S. Representative, U.S. Senator, the 15th Governor of Massachusetts (introducing the state Board of Education), Minister to Great Britain, President of Harvard University, and United States Secretary of State. Before the Civil War, Everett was running for Vice President on the Constitutional Union Party ticket in 1860.

The back of the letter has an embossed stamp of a framed diamond pattern; the frame is in the design of a belt with a full belt buckle, making for an aesthetically pleasing and interesting stamp.

One Free Frank envelope signed and sent by Edward Everett circa 1830. [\[BTC#424470\]](#)