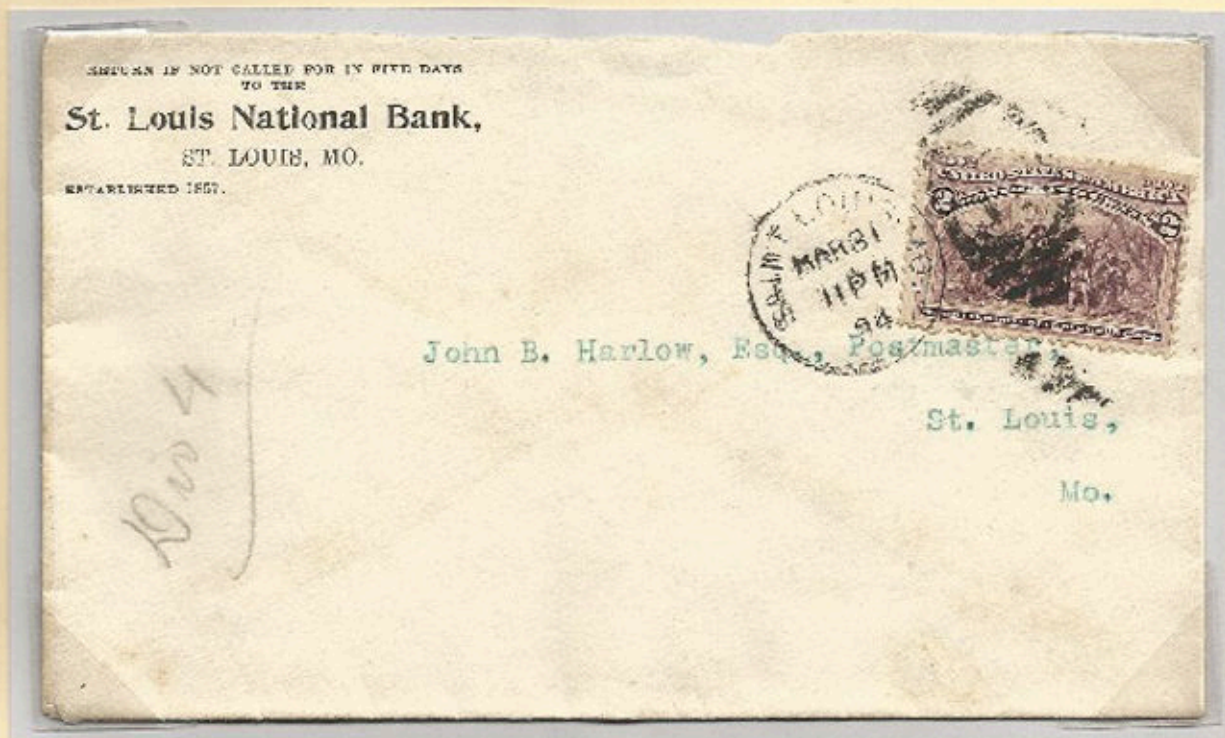


St. Louis Street Car Mail 1892 – 1915



John B. Harlow

John B. Harlow, a forward thinking postmaster, began working to move the mail faster in St. Louis after successful trials of electrified trolley cars in Richmond, VA in 1888. He received permission from the USPOD to begin some experiments in August and September, 1891. Further trials on the St. Louis & Suburban RR Co. bore fruit, and a car was outfitted with features similar to R.P.O. cars. By December 5, 1892 complete mail service was in place from the main post office northwest to Florissant, a distance of 18.1 miles, but with no individual postmark on hand. On February 3, the USPOD officially recognized this new service and a provisional cancel was used. This new service would eventually replace the 5 St. Louis substations. After St. Louis became the first city to install Street car mail service, Brooklyn commenced service in 1894, followed by Boston, Philadelphia, New York, Chicago, Cincinnati, Washington, DC, Baltimore, San Francisco, Rochester, Pittsburgh, Seattle, Cleveland, and finally Omaha in 1910.



Letter to Postmaster Harlow who forwarded it on to Division 4 (of the 6 at that time) for further direction.