

## Francis T. Stribling correspondence

### Section 3, Pages 61 - 90

These handwritten letters were written to Dr. Francis T. Stribling in his capacity as director of the Western Lunatic Asylum in Staunton, Virginia. A few of the letters are from county sheriffs and other local officials who have confined lunatics in their jails and want to send them to the asylum; most of the letters are from family members of individuals who are, should be, or have been in the asylum. The family members typically write requesting information about the patient, providing payment for the patient's stay, asking advice, making arrangements for a patient who has died, or discussing a patient who has escaped the asylum. Some of the letters provide information about symptoms. This correspondence is part of the historic psychiatry material in the Menninger Archives. A searchable, full-text transcription is available by clicking "Text Version" below.

Creator: Stribling, Francis T. (Francis Taliaferro), 1810-1874

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## Francis T. Stribling correspondence

as confined to the nervous system & treated it with opiates. On the night of the 23<sup>rd</sup> she slept about 3 hours & on that of the 24<sup>th</sup> slept most of the night. Sleep did not alleviate the disease. There has been no mania in the family.

Mr. W. states that you thought her tongue black. We observed nothing of the kind. It was probably slightly furced, but always covered with frothy saliva, as to be scarcely observable. I think you will find her found that the blackness was from something eaten.

Let me hear from you soon. I would be gratified by any kindness you can show my unfortunate patient. I take it as a great favor if you would let her parents know, as soon as you can, any favorable change to comfort them in their affliction.

Yours Sincerely  
F. T. Stribling

Doct. H. Lambill?

1<sup>st</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> 1849

Ms. A. 10. 10. 10. 10.



## Francis T. Stribling correspondence



## Francis T. Stribling correspondence

Farmville Prmie Edward City Va  
6<sup>th</sup> Feb 1850.

Dear Sir

We have a female Patient de-  
signed to be conveyed to the Western Lunatic  
Asylum as soon as the necessary arrangements  
can be made, and the state of the roads &  
weather will permit - Judging from your  
notice in the papers there is no probability  
all the room will be immediately filled up,  
but in case it might become so, you will  
please reserve enough for her.

Yr. Obt Serv<sup>t</sup>

A. L. Lomack Ds.

J. Vaughan Esq  
Q. Edw City

## Francis T. Stribling correspondence

A. Womack

1850



PAID 5  
PAID

Doctor Fran. T. Stribling  
Superintendent of  
Western Asylum  
Staunton Va

1850  
Circle 30 mm

Stribling  
25



## Francis T. Stribling correspondence

Am Ct Home July 7. 1850

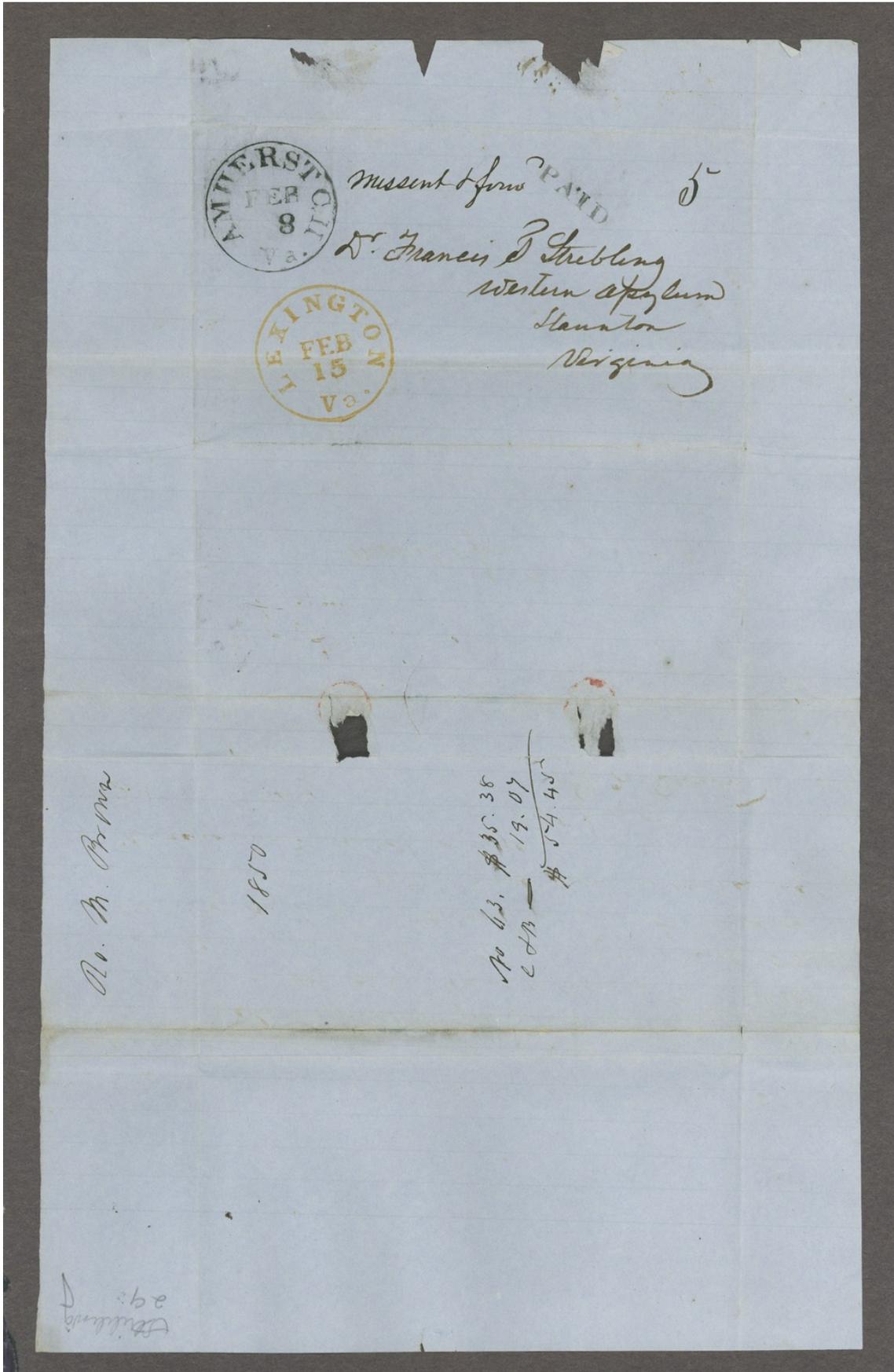
Dear Sir

Enclosed I send you a check on the Bank  
of Virginia for fifty four dollars 45<sup>cents</sup> AD 185<sup>0</sup>  
payable to your order - Please have it entered to the  
credit of my sister S Odell at your Institution  
and procure and send by mail to me a proper rec<sup>t</sup>  
therefor and much oblige

F. T. Stribling

Yr friend  
J. M. Brown

## Francis T. Stribling correspondence



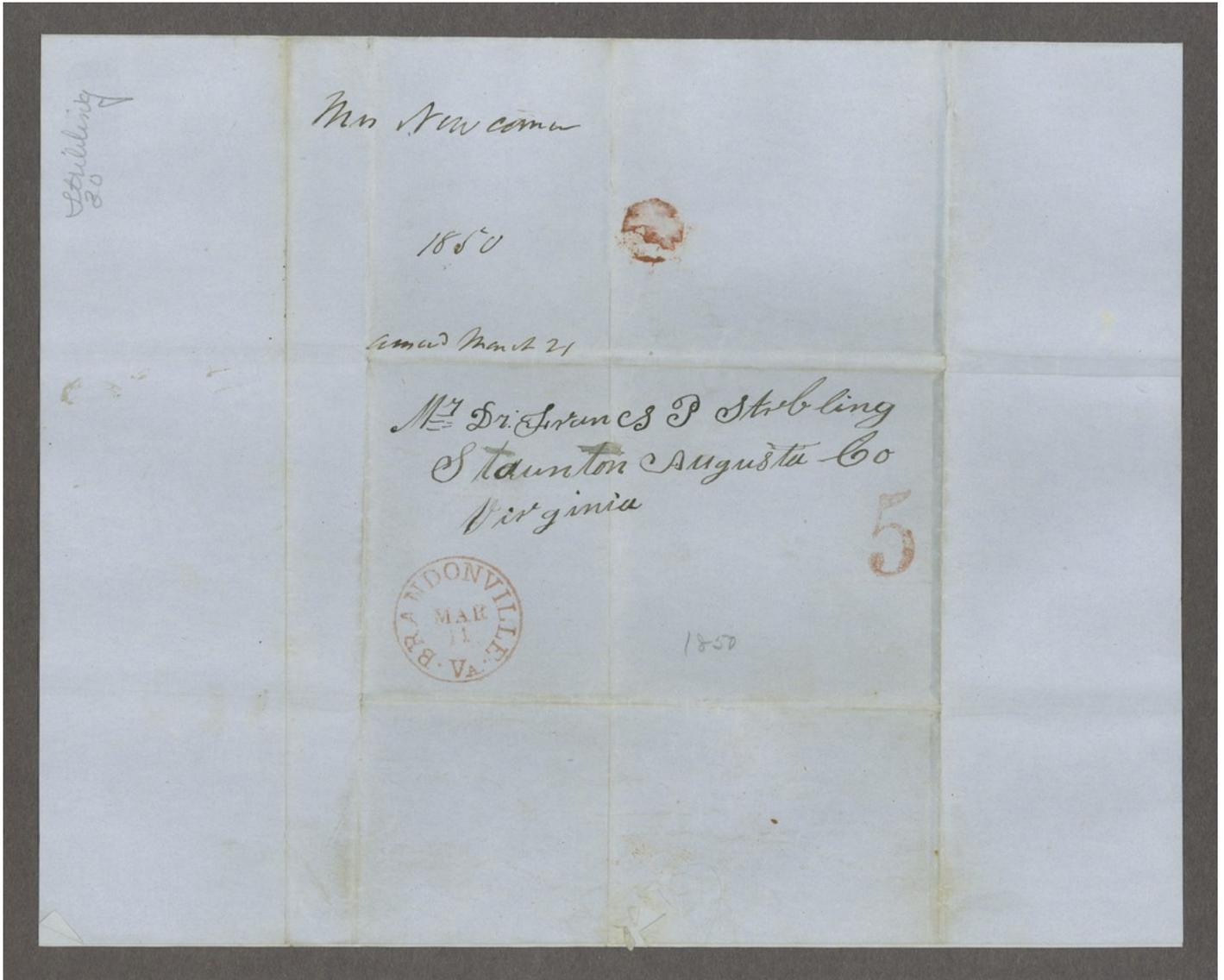
## Francis T. Stribling correspondence

Josephville Furnace March the 3 1860

Dr Francis T Stribling Dear Sir  
 I reced your letter and I was  
 glad to here that Margre<sup>t</sup> getting  
 well I woud like to now how margret  
 is getting along tell her that the  
 booy and yur all send there best  
 respects to her and <sup>woud</sup> like to see her  
 I want to now whether she is getting  
 well or not and when you think  
 she is able to come home you will send  
 her home I woud like you to send me  
 a letter as quick as possible and let me  
 know how she getting along now as I am  
 and esk to know how she is now getting along  
 I am a old worn man agoing on seventy  
 and if I dont see her soon I never will  
 I don expect to belong in this world any more  
 please write as soon as this to hand  
 I am more at present but remain  
 as pe let sub yours

Francis T. Stribling

## Francis T. Stribling correspondence



## Francis T. Stribling correspondence

Dropmore Near Salem, Roanoke Co.

April 7<sup>th</sup>, 1850

Dear Doct<sup>r</sup>,

I received a letter from Cousin Maria's  
Bubbly last week, in which she mentioned, that your  
dear little Frank, had met with an accident,  
having never received a line from Staunton since  
I left there the 5<sup>th</sup> of March; I know not what  
has happened; but I hope and trust it has not  
been of a very serious nature.

It is not often that I write letters on the sabbath,  
but I concluded to write to you since I came from  
Church. My father went to the Big Dick to hear  
Mr George Whitmer; but it was so late when he  
started, that I thought I would go to Salem  
and hear my friend Brother, Arias Powers;  
Till Mrs Kalkbrenner that last Sunday week  
we had the Rev Mr White from Lexington,  
who preached in Salem nearly two weeks, &  
I trust lasting good has been done for many;  
about 7 were added to the church the 24<sup>th</sup>  
of March: Mr Benjamin Smith was in  
Christiansburg & Blacksburg, but did not  
preach in Salem. Till Mr Castleman  
I wish he would come up this summer and  
opist Brother Whitmer in our little church  
at the Dick and also at Fincastle.

## Francis T. Stribling correspondence

I hardly think I will ever have such a preacher as Mr Castleman again. May God's blessing attend his Labours among the People of Stanton and of our Institution.

My Brother returned from Richmond this day two weeks: he is somewhat complaining, but I trust will soon rally. He will not have to take any more cattle down the Spring: as He and Father sold 30 on Friday to William Minor for \$5.00 per hundred; which Brother Charles says is equal to \$8.00 in Richmond: There are a good many Irish at work on the Rail Road which makes the market so near.

Mr Johnston my Brother in Law had to go to ~~Lawrence~~, Charleston Ka. last Monday, and got me to take charge of his family, and to write in the Clerk's Office, but not for as good wages as I made some days, collecting for my friend Doctor Fisher; but then you see I did not have to do as Mr Michie and Mr Point, which is unpleasant to do men we like: I will write to you soon, giving my prospects, and asking your views. I will not trouble you at present. Let me know if you heard anything of the bundle I unfortunately left in the Stage at Lexington. My kindest regards to your family Doctor Butcher and family Mr Castleman & family all at Mrs Shaffer's To Mr Phillip and

## Francis T. Stribling correspondence

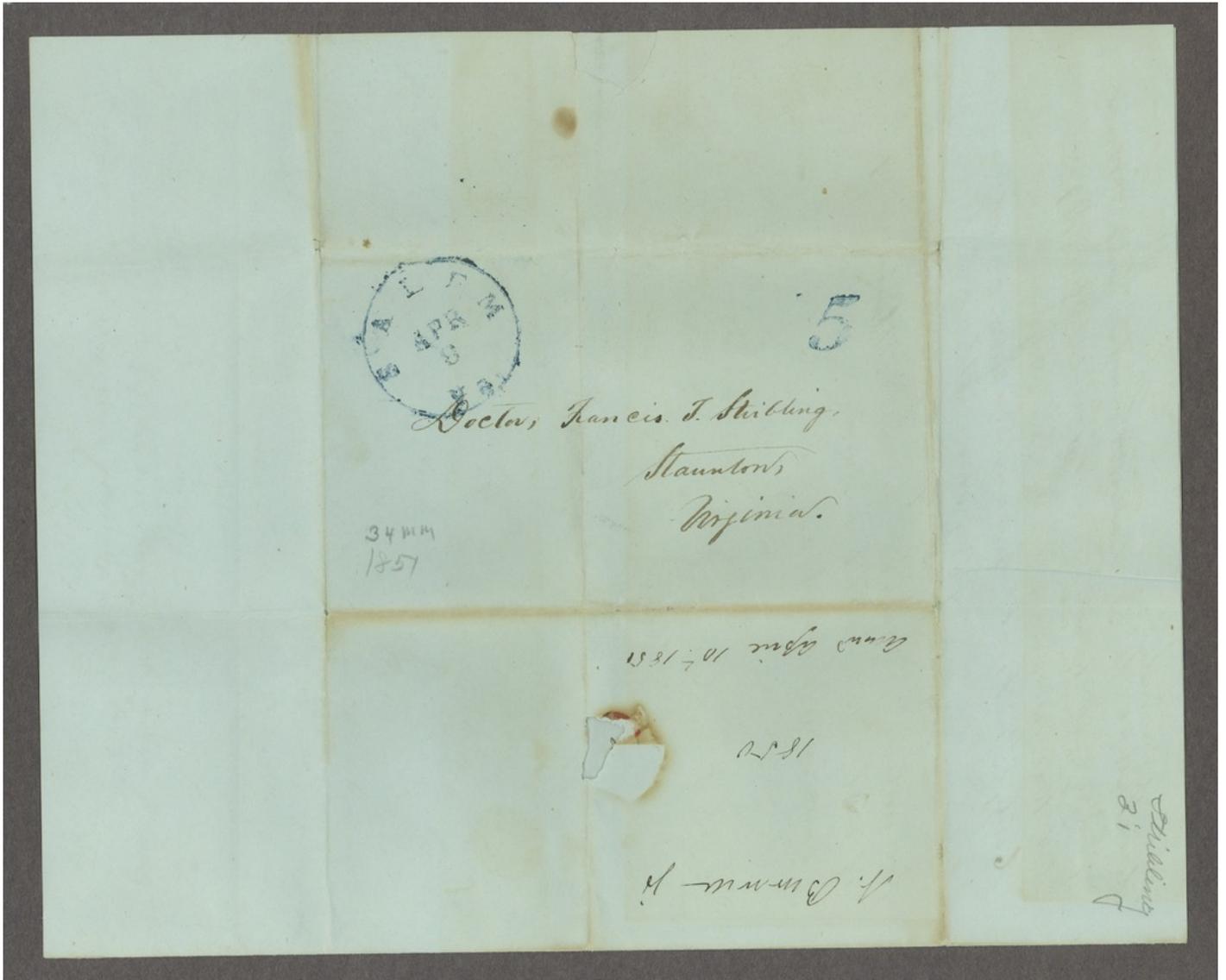
Mrs Phillips; & To Doctor Gamble and Fisher &  
family Mr Woodward and family Mrs Dyer  
Mrs Waddell and all at The Argonauts;  
Carty, Buckvale, Goodwin Berkeley and all.

May Heaven bless and protect you  
all. Your friend ever,

Do write next mail,  
if better times to let me know  
how Frank is. F.T.S.

A. Purman jr

## Francis T. Stribling correspondence



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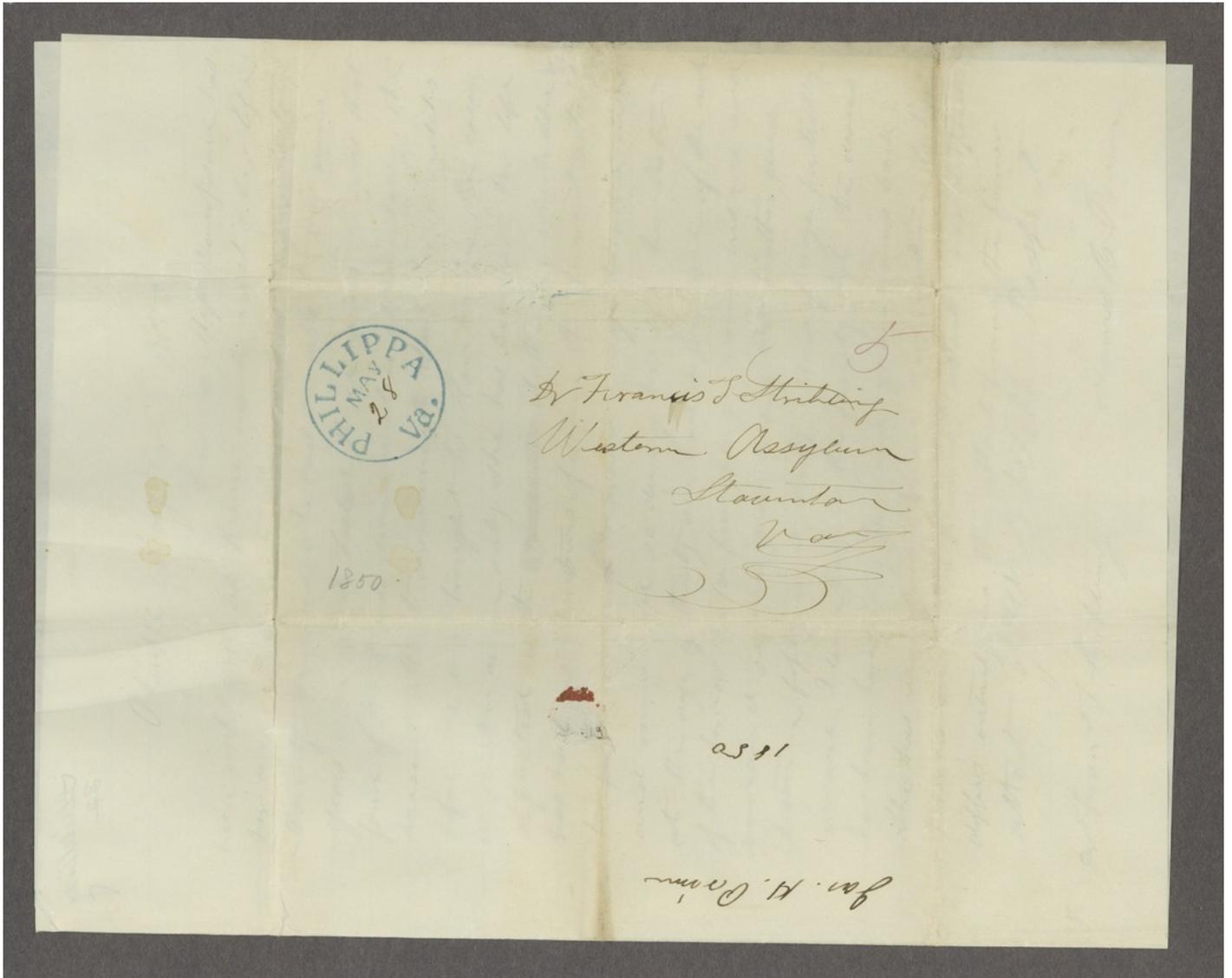
Phillipi May 25<sup>th</sup> 1850

Dear Sir Miss Thompson has been employed as House maid most of her life her age is fifty two she was born in pendleton County Virginia she had an attack 8 or nine years ago which lasted three years it was that form of the disease denominated Melancholly; the present attack commenced about three weeks before she was brought to Starbuck, the cause is unknown only she has been all her life afflicted with ~~asthma~~ Asthma, which she has had no symptoms of since the present attack her father at an advanced age become insane and remained so during his life, her Sister at the age of thirty six had a fracture of the neck of the femur in a few days become insane and remained so one year one of her brothers died between fifty and sixty years of age partially insane I learn from the family that the disease has been hereditary for some generations back, she has manifested some disposition to hurt persons since the present attack, her disposition differs entirely in this attack from the former attack  
Yours With Respect

Dr Fran T Stribling

James H. Primer

## Francis T. Stribling correspondence



## Francis T. Stribling correspondence

1850  
Richmond 8th July 1850.

Messrs. P. & Co. Wright & Co.  
Baltimore

Gent.

Yr. esteem'd favor of 2nd inst. enclosing letters for Rio de Janeiro, came to hand in due course. The Bark C. Wright had sailed from Hampton Roads evening of 3<sup>d</sup> and there was no way of getting them to her in time. —

We will hold them for Brig Helen, which we hope to clear the latter end of this week for Rio. via Pernambuco, if not otherwise directed. —

We beg leave to call your attention to the change in our late firm, and remain

Very respectfully,  
Yrs. friends & obt. Servts  
Harall & Brothers

## Francis T. Stribling correspondence

Richmond, 1st July, 1850.

The Co-partnership of HAXALL, BROTHERS & CO., having expired by limitation, the MILLING BUSINESS will hereafter be conducted at the same Mills, under the style and firm of HAXALL & BROTHER.

Your attention is called to this change, and the new firm will be pleased to have transactions with you.

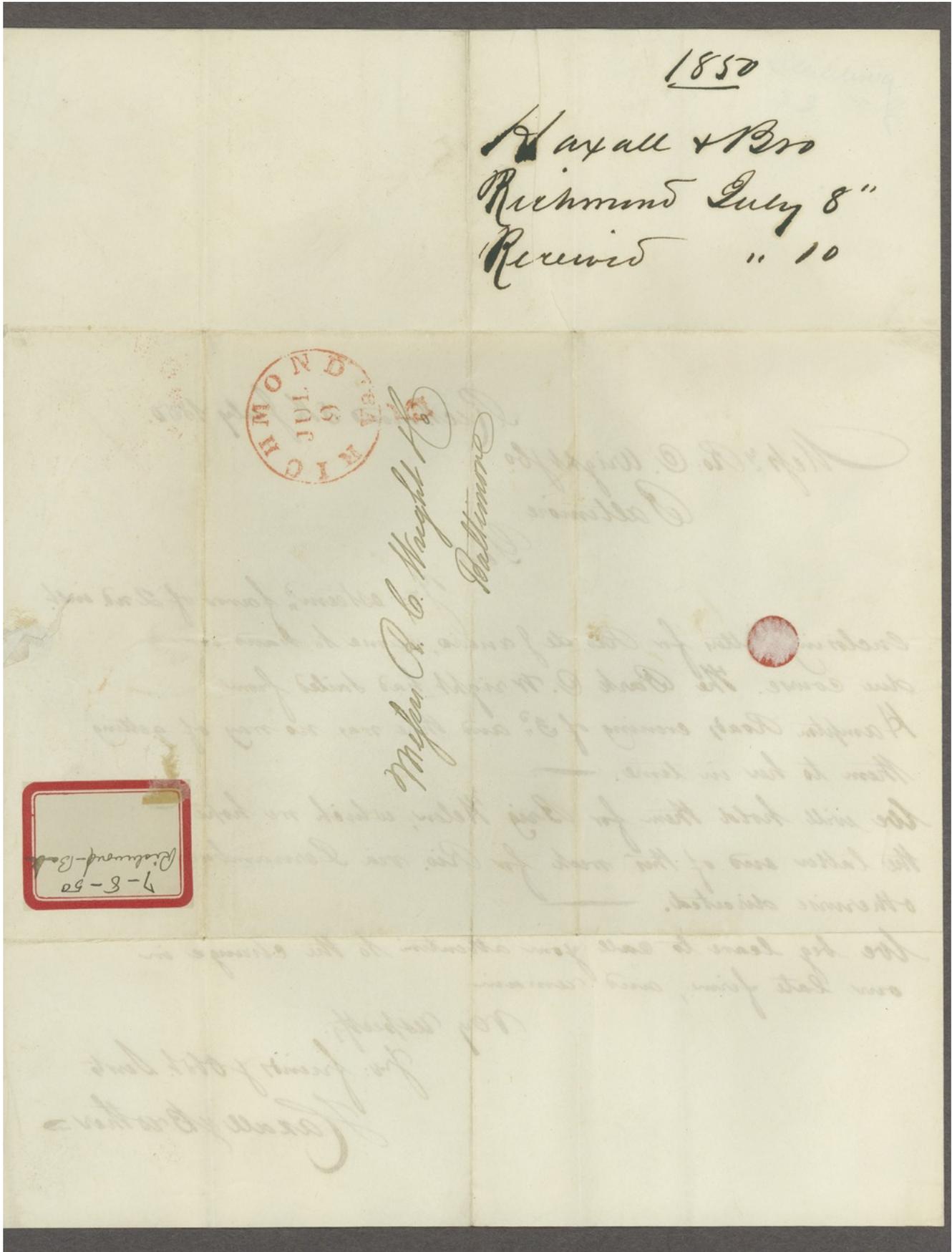
RD. B. HAXALL.

B. W. HAXALL.

Rd. B. Haxall will sign *Haxall Brothers*

B. W. Haxall will sign *Haxall & Brothers*

## Francis T. Stribling correspondence



## Francis T. Stribling correspondence

Western Sanative Asylum  
Tuesday Evening 20<sup>th</sup> August 1857

Dear Doctor

I have thought a line or two from me might not be amiss, as I know you always like to hear from the institution - we are all getting along as well as could be expected, in the absence of the principle or head of an establishment, of the size of ours, all seem to be trying to do their duty, though I am sorry to say Dr Fisher is not well, he has a bad cold, & looks rather badly for the last day or two, but is still at his post attending to his duty, Dr Gamble is well and is usual diligent in attending to his charge -

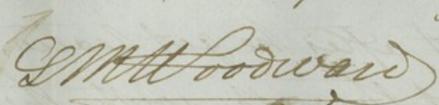
The Patients in general are about as you left them, except Miss Brown, she from all I can learn is in a bad way, unless a change, cannot stand it a great while, she eats nothing, nor has she done so, as I learned from Dr Gamble for at least a week -

as to myself I think I am improving indeed I ought to be well, considering my poor appetite but can't get over that nervous feeling, it sticks to me yet, though not so bad as when you left, your father was here this evening, looking like a boy, I had but little conversation with him, as some company come in just after he got seated, which had to be attended to, before I got through with them, he left -

## Francis T. Stribling correspondence

The candidates for convention are going from place to place managing the people, Michie & Stearns pretty sanguine, Feltz & Sheffy more so, though the friends of reform, have fallen considerably in their majesty for their candidates, - Imboden & John Harman made a bet yesterday for 25 \$ dollars worth of clothes, that Michie would be 500 votes behind the Government candidate in the reform party, in this augusta county - however Thursday will decide, I hope it may suit your convenience to be at Duffield on Thursday next

your Potatoes have fallen far, very far short of our calculation, it is true we have stopped digging, as that portion left, which is about the fourth of the whole, is a different kind of Potatoes & are growing - we concluded it was improper to proceed with them, what we have dug are pretty good, but not more than 65 or 70 Bushels - we have all come to the conclusion they will not keep. I Mr Craig has solicited me to eat as many as I can & he will sell all he can, & thereby try to save them I have promised him I would do so, and keep an account of the quantity, - I have no doubt it is the best thing that can be done with them, as the weather is very warm, & it is too soon, to save as many as you have, small as the quantity are -

In conclusion, please present me kindly to Mrs Stribling, who I am pleased to hear, is improving, & believe me, your friend  






## Francis T. Stribling correspondence

Wintchester July 26. 1850

Dear Doctor

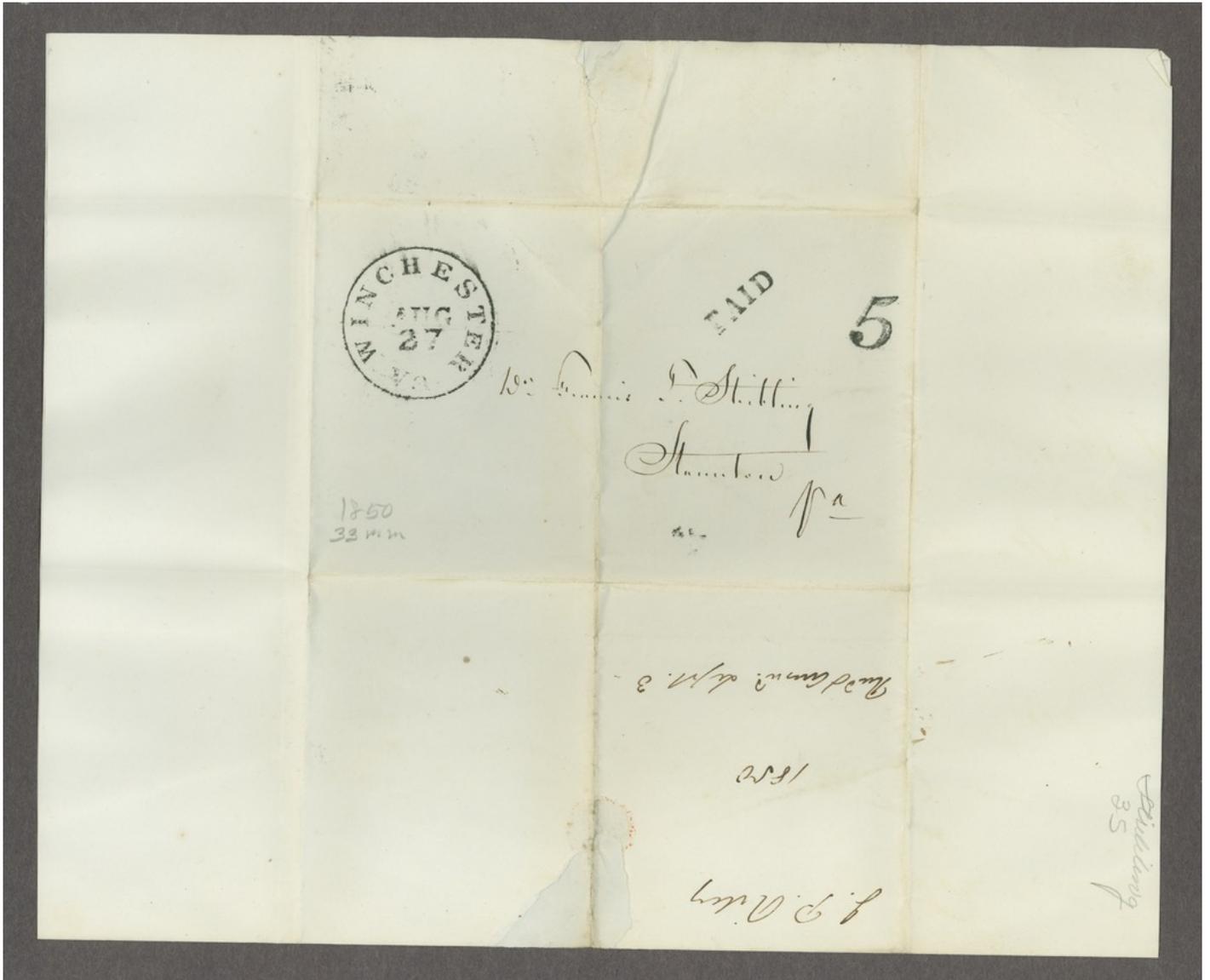
I have this moment committed to the  
care of our country, a young lad of some 18 or 20 years  
of age, whom I consider damaged, and a fit subject for  
the Asylum - he has been considered of un sound mind  
by many of our citizens for some time past - Can  
you receive him - he is poor & has no means - his parents  
are in the same condition - Please let me hear from  
you at your earliest convenience

With sentiments of respect

Yours Truly

F. Stribling

## Francis T. Stribling correspondence



Francis T. Stribling correspondence

Fairmont Marion Co Sept 27<sup>th</sup> 1890

Dr Stribling of West's Asylum Stanton Va

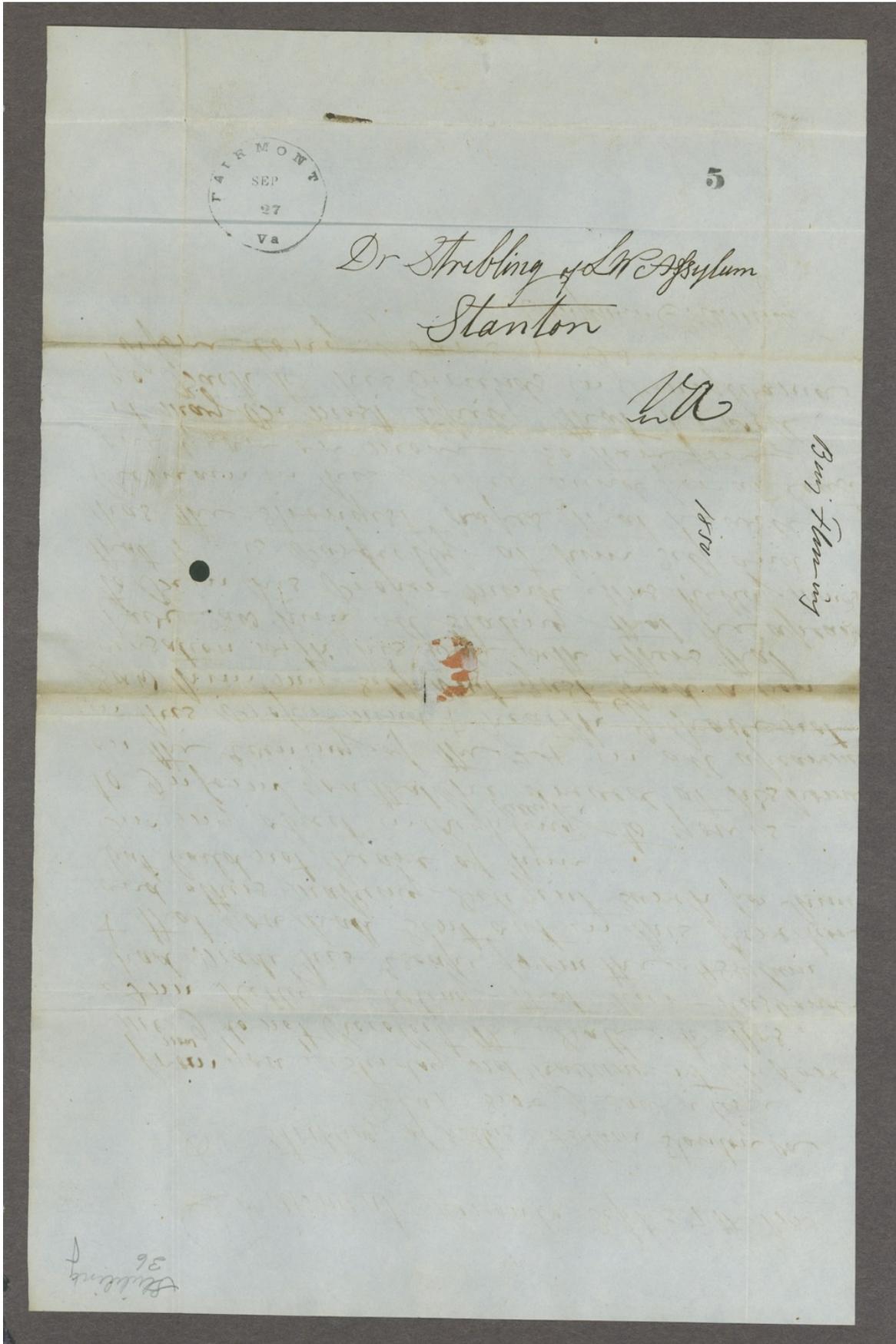
Dear Sir I saw a line from you yesterday not having it before me I do not Recollect the Date to Mrs Ann Kelley stating that her husband had made his escape from the Asylum & that you had sent out in this direction and others making diligent search for him but could not hear of him

Sir my object in Righting to you is to Inform you that he <sup>Kelley</sup> arrived at his home on the evening of the 24 in all appearance in his proper mind & health I have not saw him my self But just had a conversation with his wife with others that have saw him all stating that he appears to be in his proper mind Mrs Kelley thinks that he is perfectly at him self and has the strongest hopes that he will Remain in his proper mind for at least one year or more so therefore it may be most likely that he will go back to his friends in Pennsylvania

before long Yours &c

Benjamin Fleming

## Francis T. Stribling correspondence



## Francis T. Stribling correspondence

Oct 29/50

Dear Sir

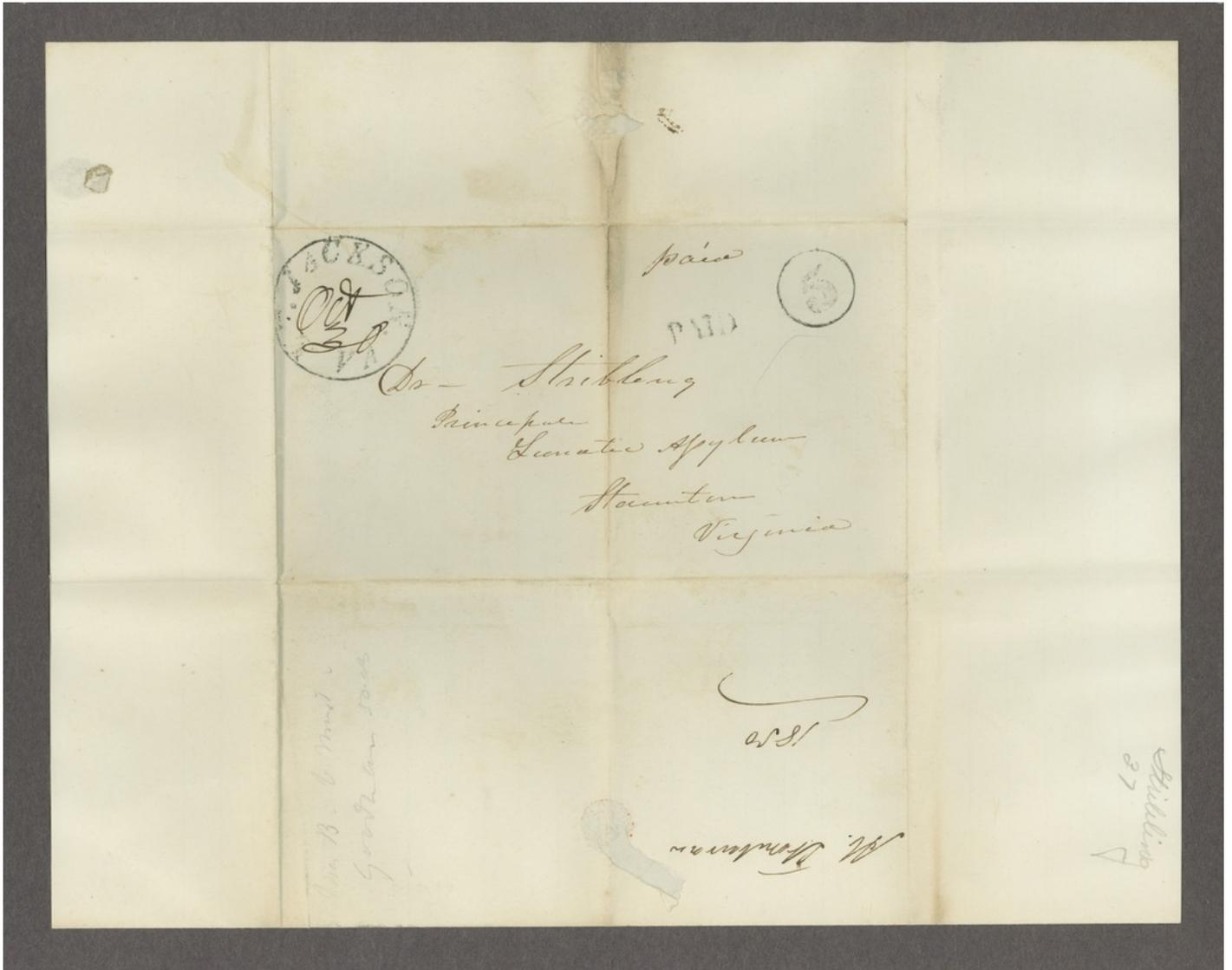
My wife has been, unfortunately, very much disordered in mind, for some 5 or 6 months, I had hoped; as it appeared to be rather a religious melancholy; that by proper attention & care, she would get better, but I find she is growing rather worse & I am advised to place her under your care - And if you can receive her I shall be compelled to do so - It seems hard to be under the necessity of doing so, but I am persuaded it will be better for her, for me, & my children - She is not a maniac. She is not troublesome nor hard to control, indeed she seems rational upon all subjects, but the subject of her features stalks, & I hope if she is under your care, your skill & experience will enable you to restore her - please let me hear from you as early as possible - I would have taken her up & provided for her myself, but I am not able, having to depend upon my own labor, entirely for a support for her & my children - please inform me what is necessary, to be done to get her admitted into your institution - I shall accompany her myself -

Yours

Abraham Stouffer

If you wish any references I would refer to Est. P. de Com. & Ind. A. Coffin and Mrs. Charles Stevens Esq.

## Francis T. Stribling correspondence



## Francis T. Stribling correspondence

Charlottesville Dec 17 1850

Dr Sir

Below please find our check on Farmers  
Bank of Va at Charle for \$60.66 amt  
Due on the Sta Manufg Board please  
send us a rept by mail to Charlottesville

Yours Resply

Wm T A Stribling

## Francis T. Stribling correspondence

