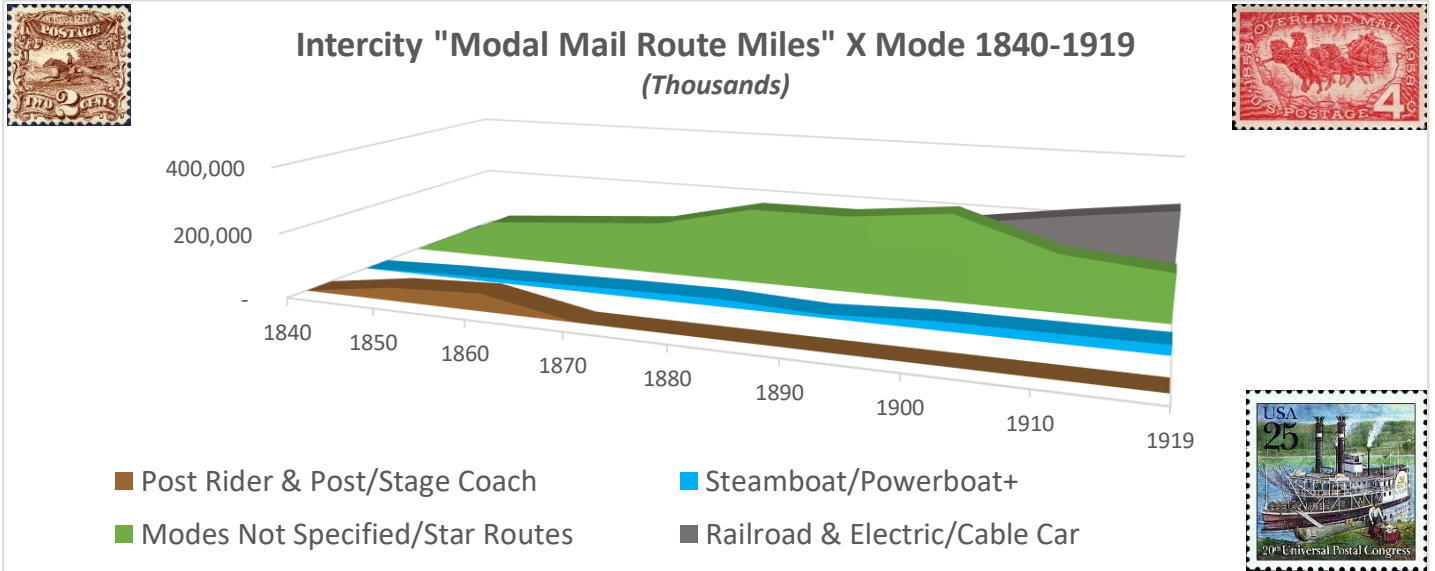


COLLECTING COVERS AND POSTAL HISTORY?

What **MODE** did **YOUR** Cover Use for Intercity Movement?

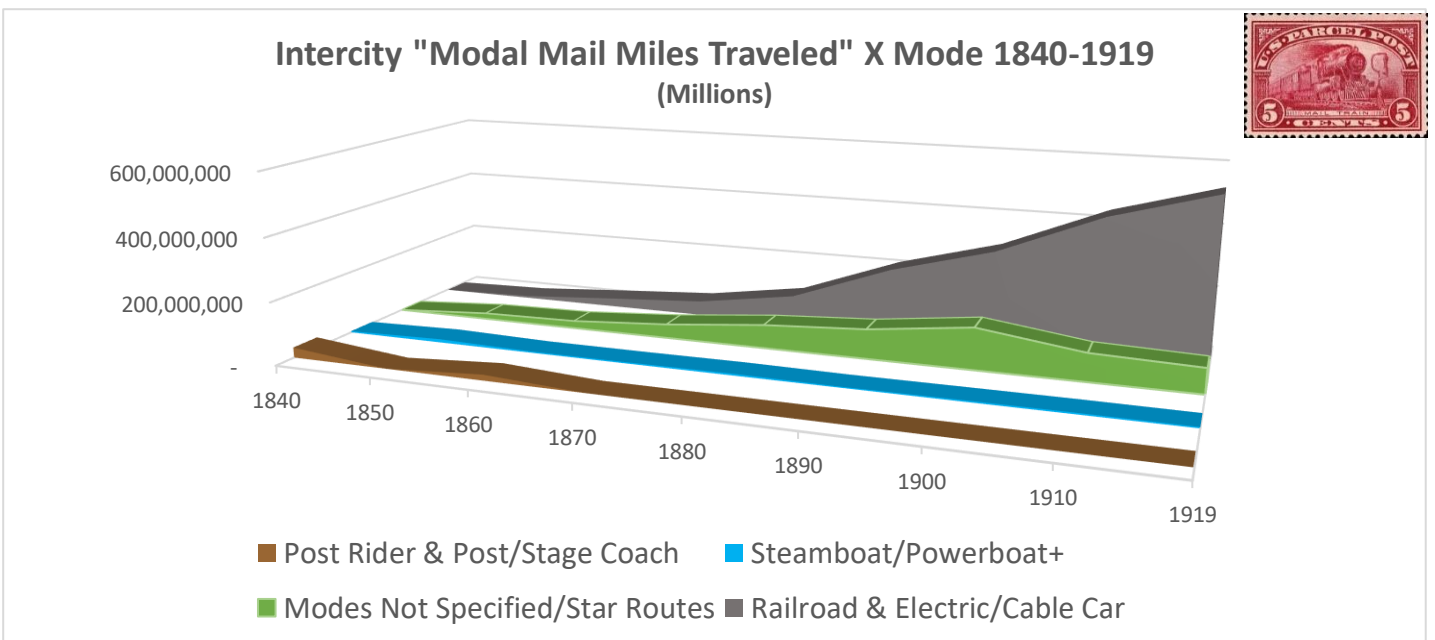
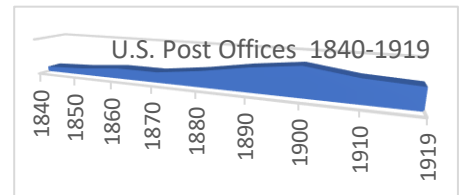
*"Mode" is the type of transportation; Data from Postmaster General Annual Reports*  
**Intercity "Modal Mail Route Miles" and "Modal Mail Miles Traveled"**  
 William (Bill) DeWitt      American Topical Association      [Bill@DeWitt.com](mailto:Bill@DeWitt.com)



**"Mail Route Miles"**- *The intercity distance between post offices for a mode.* Routes are represented on Covers & Postal History. In 1845, Star Routes were authorized to serve rural areas (basically non-railroad locations).



In 1902 Rural Free Delivery (RFD) was fully authorized, providing free delivery to rural areas as had been done earlier for urban or city areas. RFD reduced the number of post offices and "railroad route miles," although "rail mail miles traveled" increased with the growth of USA population.



**"Mail Miles Traveled"** calculated by number of trips a mode took over a "Mail Route."