EXCELSIOR!

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EXCELSIOR!

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Editor's Box

In this issue we have a couple of articles that are reprinted with permission from other publications, as well as very enlightening articles from some of our regular contributors. Tony Wawrukiewicz brings us insight and access to a valuable online resource for postal history research.   Daniel Knowles offers a detailed analysis of Suffolk County manuscript post offices. Bob Bramwell and George DeKornfeld offer their latest Schenectady and Columbia County research. In addition, we have some one page articles that make interesting reading or stimulate discussion as one seeks answers to postal history questions. I would hope that other members of ESPHS would take the time to go back and take a fresh look at a favorite cover or set of covers, do research, take notes, and then share your findings with fellow members in the pages of *Excelsior!* We need your articles; even a single page can make a difference by encouraging someone else to contribute their knowledge. Thank you to all of our contributors. D.E.W.

REPORT FROM THE STOCKADE
By: Bob Bramwell

In a *Report From The Stockade* published in the March 2011 *Excelsior!,* I explored the manuscript postmarks of Schenectady[1]. Manuscripts filled the years between the use of a locally concocted straight line device known 1797 to 1802 and the appearance of the first double circle postmark of Schenectady in 1824. In this *Report* I will present my thoughts and findings on the Schenectady devices that represent the Circular Era.

But before I do that, I am pleased to present a recent discovery from Schenectady's manuscript era. Schenectady's first Postmaster was Revolutionary War veteran Major Joseph Shurtleff, whose service was in the Commissary, or Supply function. Shurtleff may have acted as postmaster prior to 1792 but is generally thought to have assumed the position officially in April 1793. Prior to 1800, no manuscript postmarks are known from Schenectady and my earliest is dated 1804. My latest is dated 1809 – about a year before Shurtleff left the post office:
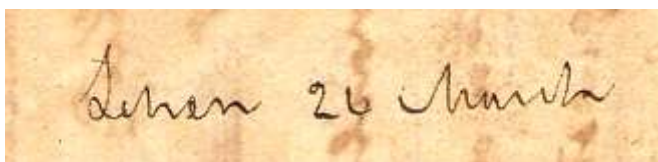

Figure 1: Manuscript postmark of March 26, 1809

In my report on manuscript postmarks of Shurtleff's tenure I ended with my "conclusion" that this was postmaster Shurtleff's handwriting, but I acknowledged that only a handwriting sample definitively attributable to a postmaster could possibly "prove" the case. Since that time, I have acquired an 1804 deed of transfer for property in Schenectady, the recordation of which was certified in 1813 by the Clerk of Schenectady County, who was none other than Joseph Shurtleff:
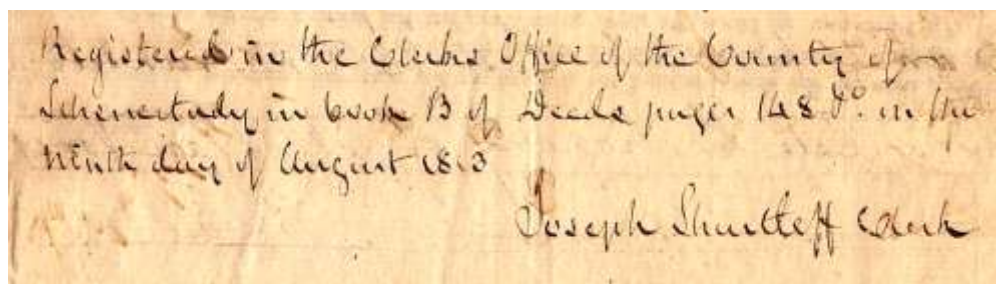
Figure 2: 1813 Certification that property transfer had been recorded, signed by Joseph Shurtleff, Clerk

Comparing the letters *"Schen"* from 1813 (line 2) with the *"Schen"* on the 26 March postmark I am convinced they are from Shurtleff's hand. It is a delight to be able to advance our knowledge of early Schenectady postal history in this manner.

[1] Volume I of the *American Stampless Cover Catalog* (*ASCC*) lists manuscripts from Schenectady in two distinct periods: 1800 to 1817 and 1826 to 1829. I have been able to provide Doug Penwell with evidence that narrows the gap. Schenectady manuscripts are now known from 1800 to 1820 and from 1825 to 1829. Neither ASCC nor the author has an explanation for this four year gap, although it is tempting to think the "large" double circle device described on page 5 was acquired before 1824.

Now we can turn attention to the Circular Postmark Era in Schenectady. I think each New York town that has been studied in depth deserves, in addition to the bare-bones statistics and images in an important book such as *American Stampless Cover Catalog*, commentary on the findings from that research. I will get to that shortly, but first I would like to present two "findings" that I believe have not been published.

First is the existence of Schenectady postmarks between at least April 15, 1857 and May 6, 1859 with a single exception dated November 15, 1861 from a circular date stamp (CDS) that has a

32mm diameter and is mortised to bear the date in MMM/DD/YYYY format. This time period is perhaps outside the intended scope of *ASCC* but is not listed. I have seven such covers.

Second is the existence of two different Schenectady postmarks in the Hoole or Zevely design both with 26mm rims but different inner diameters and different letter spacing. Examples of these postmarks exist between at least May 22, 1860 and September 2, 1875. This time period is clearly outside the stampless era but the basic 26mm double circle postmark is listed among the Volume I Addenda in ASCC Volume II without distinction of the two varieties. Between the two designs, I have forty five such covers.

To set the stage for a look at all the individual (not duplexed) circular office stamps of Schenectady, here is a quick summary:

Timeline of Schenectady Individual Circular Postmarks

Type	Description	Earliest	Gap	Latest
DC-1	33 x 22mm without dates	Apr 14 1824		Dec 27 1825
			1826	
DC-2	30 x 18mm without dates	Oct 6 1827		Aug 20 1835
CDS-1	30mm w. MMM DD	Nov 12 1835		Jul 4 1845
CDS-2	30mm w. MMM DD	May 19 1845	1854	Sep 3 1855
			1856	
Reappearance of CDS-1 (year uncertain)		Mar 11 *1856/7*		Apr 29 *1856/7*
CDS-3	32mm w. MMM DD YYYY	Apr 15 1857		Nov 15 1861
DCDS	26x13mm w. MMM DD YYYY	May 22 1860		Mar 13 1863
DCDS	26x14mm w. MMM DD YYYY	Jun 23 1863		Sep 2 1875
Reappearance of DCDS 26x13 (scattered)		Feb 14 1870		Jan 23 1875

These dates are based solely on my collection. When a year goes by that I have no covers, I call that a "gap year" because it is possible another device, as yet undiscovered, was used. Estimations appear in italics.

I end this introduction with a suggestion to everyone associated with New York State postal history. Having taken the time to collect, study and make a digital record of my Schenectady covers, I would like to archive my work in such a way that later students can see the covers that caused me to come to the conclusions I reached (right or wrong). Such digital archives do exist, at some cost and considerable effort in upkeep. I would like Empire State Postal History Society to give serious consideration to creating and committing to maintain a digital archive for New York State postal history. I think our treasury affords us that opportunity. What is uncertain is whether we have within the society the expertise to do the development and the teaching and outreach necessary to get the many town and county collections that undoubtedly exist digitized. If it could be done, I would recommend that it be done in the name of George Bernadt.

The Individual Circular Postmarks of Schenectady

Clearly a device of local manufacture, this double circle town mark is known only in 1824 and 1825 and therefore overlaps the late manuscripts. The rim is 33mm in diameter; the inner circle is 22mm. From the rather random orientation of the lettering it appears the device was made on a wooden handle with brass sheet for the rim and inner circle with the town name and state abbreviation set from 3mm printers' Roman type in serif style:

Figure 3: **DC-1** Schenectady's first double circle device is known only from 1824 to 1825. Illustrated are postmarks from April 14, 1824 as well as December 27, 1825. I have six examples of this type.

This 33mm device was introduced four years after James V. S. Riley was appointed postmaster of Schenectady on May 1, 1820. When a device of this era – that is, paid for by the postmaster – is replaced after only two years of use you have to wonder why. The first possibility is that it became damaged. However, the rim and inner circle still seem to be in good condition in December 1825. But from the examples I have, I notice that after December 1824 I never see the second "E" in Schenectady. Perhaps it fell out and for some reason could not be replaced?

Another possibility is that the device wore out to the point that the postmaster was willing to purchase another. Riley's compensation as postmaster in 1825 was almost $625, indicating an above average business – which most likely answers the question of why Riley bought the device in the first place – and suggests that the dollar or two it cost to replace the worn out device was acceptable to him. But if that were the case, it is strange that Schenectady's second double circle device did not appear immediately. From early 1826 to August 1827 only manuscript postmarks are seen, creating a gap of sorts.

When introduced, the second double circle device appeared as an all-metal casting which "immortalized" the common local abbreviation SCH'DY:
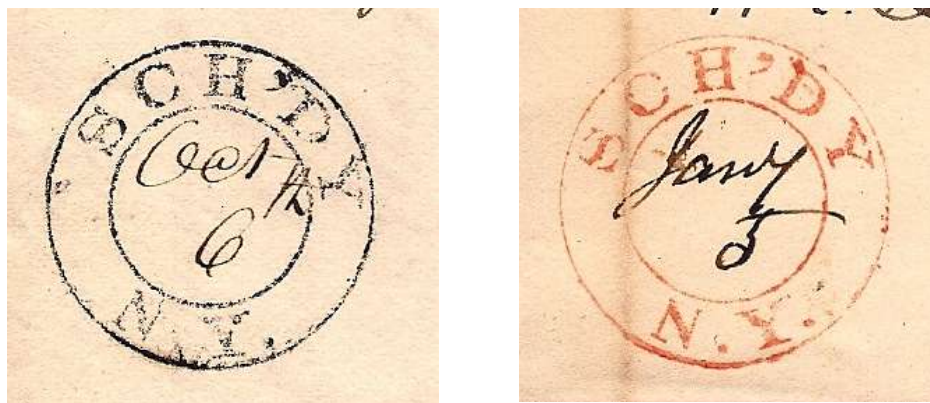
Figure 4: **DC-2** Postmarks of October 6, 1827 and January 5, 1829. Red ink was used continuously from January 1829 until the last day of 1849. I have sixty seven examples of this type.

The rim was 30mm in diameter; the inner circle 18mm. The lettering was 4mm, again Roman type in serif style. This device was introduced sometime after mid-year 1827 and is seen until 1835 demonstrating its sturdy construction. In 1829, Schenectady changed from black ink to the widely used red ink formulated for quick[er] drying. Also some time in 1829 Schenectady began to adhere to the Post Office Department requirement that year be included in the date of input to the mails.

James Riley was named Judge of the Court of Common Pleas during his tenure as postmaster of Schenectady (he was postmaster from 1820 to April 6, 1837). During that time his compensation grew from $510 to $1,372, reflecting the impact on Schenectady's economy of the opening of the Erie Canal. In 1837, Schenectady was declared a Presidential Post Office, which probably led to Riley's replacement by John Yates. Based on its revenues, Schenectady may have achieved Class 1 status a few years earlier and become eligible to receive a postmark device from the Post Office Department.

Late in 1835 a new postmarking device was put into use in Schenectady, the first to include mortises for month and date slugs. This 30mm hand stamp appears to be a design supplied by the Post Office Department to Class 1 offices:

Figure 5: **CDS-1** Examples of the two days, Schenectady fit a third to reinforce the July 1, 1845 rate 300 miles. I have twenty five five examples when this device was

30mm circular date stamp. For slug into the center of the device change to 5$^{¢}$ for distances up to examples of this type, including returned to use after a hiatus.

This device featured wide that resulted in a crowded and state abbreviation. Used introduction until July 4, 1845, it reappeared in either 1856 or 1857 (year uncertain).

4mm Roman type lettering appearance of the town name exclusively from its

In the spring of 1845, the type 1 CDS was replaced by a very similar 30mm device that featured narrower 3.25mm Roman type lettering that gave better spacing of the town name and state abbreviation. It is just a theory, but the powers that were at USPOD may have heard too many complaints about legibility of the first CDS.

Figure 6: **CDS-2** Examples of the 30mm circular date stamp lettered in 3 ¼ mm type for improved legibility. From 1850 to 1855 this CDS appears in black, once in red, then blue, then back to black. I have thirty five examples of this type.

In addition to the resized lettering, this device is also identifiable because the period after Y in New York is spaced wide to the right. In a way, postmarks in the Red Ink era could be doubly hard to make out because of the "bleeding" endemic to the ink's formulation.

In 1857 a new circular date stamp was put in use at Schenectady. At 32mm it was a bit larger than its predecessors but used the same narrow 3 ¼ mm Roman type lettering as its immediate predecessor. This larger diameter may have been intended to facilitate month, date and year – although year was not always set. In addition to size, this postmark is immediately identifiable because the period after Y in New York is always missing.

Figure 7: **CDS-3** Examples of the 32mm circular date stamp with and without the year slug, one from 1857 and the other from 1858. Not listed in ASCC. I have seven example of this type.

The final individual (not duplexed) hand stamp of the 19th century for Schenectady was the familiar Hoole double circle device, known from 1860 to 1875. Actually, two versions are known: the first has a 26mm rim and 13mm inner circle; the second has the same 26mm rim but a 14mm inner circle. In addition, careful examination shows that while the lettering type is identical the spacing is narrower on the postmark with 14mm inner circle. These are certainly two different devices.
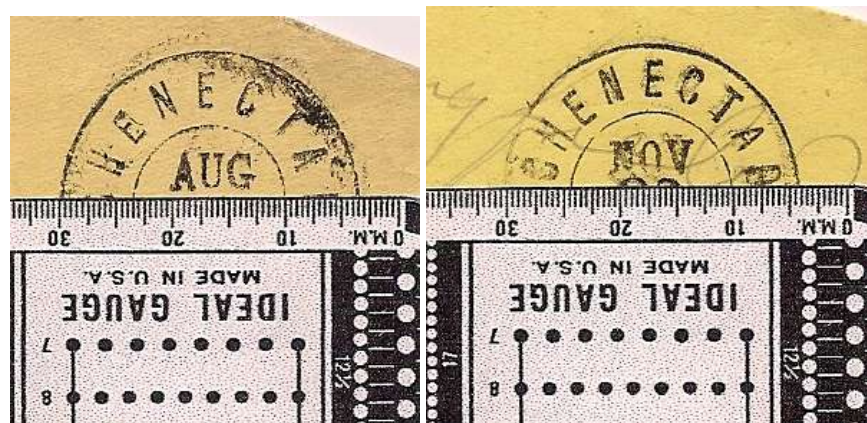
Figure 8: **DCDS-A & B** Here a millimeter gauge is placed to show the 1 mm difference in diameter of the inner circle on two very similar postmark devices. The postmark on the left was introduced first but followed three years later by the device on the right. I have nineteen examples of the first and twenty five examples of the second.

Generally, but particularly with respect to CDS-3 and these Civil War Era devices, I would like to hear from people who can identify the manufacturers of these Schenectady postmarks. Contact me at rbramwell@nc.rr.com.

MANUSCRIPT POST OFFICES OF SUFFOLK COUNTY, LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK
By: Daniel M. Knowles, MD

Like much of New York State, Suffolk County Long Island was largely a rural and primarily agricultural community comprised of small towns and villages prior to the Civil War. The United States government established seven post offices in Suffolk County on September 25, 1794 (1). These

were Bridgehampton, Coram, Huntington, Sag Harbor, Smithtown, Southampton, and Suffolk Court House (2). The government added one in 1795, one in 1796, two in 1799, one in 1801 and eight more on September 7, 1802 (1). Subsequently, post offices were established almost annually as the populace grew in number and the towns grew in size. Sixty six post offices existed in Suffolk County by the time the Civil War erupted in 1861 (1).

Since the populace was quite small and most commercial enterprises were family owned shops and small businesses, the volume of mail was small and largely personal in nature. The local postmasters usually handled their minimal mail volume by simply handwriting in ink the town name, the posting date and the amount paid by the sender or due from the recipient. True, the postmasters in a few towns, notably Huntington South and Sag Harbor, used a hand stamp device as early as 1808, and a few others, i.e., Huntington, Smithtown and Southold, followed suit in the early 1820s (Knowles collection). However, these were the exception during that period. The result are the numerous surviving examples of manuscript town markings in the pre-Civil War (and in some cases post-Civil War) mail of Suffolk County. "Numerous" here refers to the many different Suffolk County postmasters using a manuscript postmark, and not the number of manuscript postmarked covers surviving from each town. Indeed, less than five, and often only one or two examples, of each Suffolk County manuscript postmark exist today.

The late Lee DeGraff, a founder and the first life member of the Empire State Postal History Society (ESPHS), initiated the daunting task of identifying the earliest and the latest known uses of all the manuscript post offices of New York State (3,4). Henry Chlanda and Chester Wilcox continued the effort; their compilation of manuscript post offices of New York State was published by the ESPHS in 1984 (5). Additional "discoveries" were reported and made available to the ESPHS membership in a series of journal supplements, i.e., April 1987 (6), August 1987 (7), Winter 1990 (8) and Spring 1990 (9). Finally, Douglas Penwell prepared a "Master Supplement "which was published by the ESPHS in 1999 (10). This supplement included the manuscript post offices recorded in the four journal supplements and added still more newly reported manuscript post offices. However, this is a supplement to the 1984 monograph; it contains manuscript post offices identified since the 1984 publication. So, the collector of a particular county must own and cross check two references, the original 1984 monograph (5) and the 1999 supplement (10) to ascertain all the recorded manuscript post offices in his/her county of interest.

I began collecting Suffolk County Long Island postal history in 1972. Recently, while re-organizing my now quite large collection, I decided to tabulate several categories of data from this collection, one being the manuscript post offices. I then compared the covers in my collection with those recorded in all of the above cited publications (3-10). I immediately was struck by the large number of manuscript post offices that I had acquired during the past 40 years. However, I was even more surprised by the several previously unrecorded manuscript post offices and by the numerous usages that are earlier or later than those that had been previously recorded that I now possessed. Some of these much earlier listings are the result of two early nineteenth century correspondences that I had acquired directly from

the families during the past 25 years. These items are entirely new to the philatelic community; I am the first and only philatelic owner of these items.

Likely, the last individual aspiring to amass the postal history of the entire state of New York was the late Calvet Hahn. Most of us collect only one county or a finite region comprised of a few counties, in my case Suffolk County. So, frankly, it is only the manuscript post offices of Suffolk County that truly interest me. For that reason, I decided to compile a current tabulation of all the known manuscript post offices of Suffolk County, including the earliest and latest known dates (Table 1). This table lists all the Suffolk County post offices known to use a manuscript town marking, the date the post office was established (2), and the earliest and the latest known dates of usage based upon the original 1984 ESPHS monograph (5), the four ESPHS journal supplements (6-9), Penwell's 1999 " Master Supplement " (10) and my own personal collection (11).

This tabulation includes manuscript town markings from 10 towns that have not been previously recorded, bringing the total number of Suffolk County manuscript post offices to 80. The 10 additional towns are Amityville, Brookhaven, East Moriches, Huntington South, Millers Place, Riverhead, Satauket, Selden, Stony Brook, and Suffolk Station. This tabulation also revises the earliest date for 39, and the latest date for 29, of these 80 post offices. So, these post office additions and date revisions are truly significant in number. Particularly striking is the new documentation of several very early manuscript post offices. As I said above, these derive from the two original correspondences that I had purchased privately. The first was several letters; all posted in 1808, to Thomas Lester, an Albany Assemblyman. This yielded new earliest dates for Mattituck, Riverhead and Stony Brook. The second correspondence was that of General Abraham Rose, who served as a soldier and an officer during the American Revolutionary War. Abraham Rose was appointed a Brigadier General in 1812 and placed in command of all the troops of eastern Long Island. He successfully commanded the defense of Sag Harbor against the British during the War of 1812 (12). I purchased the Rose correspondence, which was comprised of several dozen letters sent to Abraham Rose between 1810 and the 1850s, in an auction held at his 1791 farmhouse in Bridgehampton about 25 years ago. The correspondence includes military mail related to the War of 1812 as well as personal letters sent from many Long Island towns and villages. This correspondence yielded manuscript town markings dated 1810 from Huntington South, Patchogue, Moriches, and Southampton, 1811 from Drown Meadow, and 1815 from Huntington. However, the two earliest manuscript post offices recorded from Suffolk County (and now reported here) derived from the Calvet Hahn collection. These are the 1794 cover from Coram and the 1798 cover from Sag Harbor. These covers were present in mixed lots in a Siegel sale of portions of the Hahn collection. The Coram cover, dated December 2, 1794, appears to be the earliest recorded cover from Suffolk County bearing postal markings. It originated less than three months after that post office was established on September 25, 1794. The 1798 Sag Harbor cover is likely the second earliest known postmarked cover from that town as I know of the existence of a cover originating from Sag Harbor in 1797.

I would hope that the approach I took here will be one that collectors of other New York State counties will find appealing to mimic. If each New York State county collector took this approach the ESPHS would have close to an updated and revised edition of *Manuscript Post Offices of New York State*. Regardless, I hope that postal historians will find this updated compilation of the manuscript post offices of Suffolk County informative and useful in their collecting and research endeavors.

On the following two pages are seen examples of some of the covers discussed above.

Figure 1. This is a newly recorded manuscript from Amityville, NY dated August 19, 1852. As the only one recorded, it has become the earliest.

Figure 2. Manuscript "Brookhaven 23 Dec 1800" accompanied by manuscript "Free". The letter is addressed to General John Smith, Representative in Congress. Interesting political content includes "within a few days the hopes of the True Republicans is again Raised in Expectation of Jefferson Gaining the Election". The Brookhaven post office was established on

January 1, 1796 and changed to Middle Island on March 24, 1821 (2).

Figure 3. Manuscript "Crab Meadow NY October 23ʳᵈ" accompanied by manuscript "Way 19 ½". The Way 19 ½ represents 18 ½ cents postage due from the recipient for a single letter traveling from 151-400 miles plus one cent for the Way fee. The Crab Meadow post office was established on April 15, 1820 and changed to Northport on October 10, 1840 (2). This post office handled a very small volume of mail; only a few covers, all bearing manuscript postmarks, are known from this office.

Figure 4. Manuscript "Drown Meadow 25ᵗʰ Augt. 1811" accompanied by manuscript "Free" and "Z. Hawkins Postmaster". This post office was established in 1810, the precise date apparently unclear, and changed to Port Jefferson on May 28, 1836 (2). This post office handled a very small mail volume; only a very few covers, all bearing manuscript postmarks, are known from this office.

Figure 5. Manuscript "Mattituck 5ᵗʰ March" and a manuscript "Way 18", indicating postage due from the recipient of 17 cents for a single letter travelling from 151-300 miles plus the one cent Way fee. The Mattituck post office was established on September 7, 1802 and continues in operation today (2).

Figure 6. Manuscript "Freshpond N.Y. April 24" accompanied by Scott #65 cancelled by the manuscript date and pen strokes. The Fresh Pond post office was established on August 26, 1852 (2). I have only encountered two covers, both with adhesives and manuscript postmarks, from this very small post office during 40 years of collecting Suffolk County postal history. This is currently the latest recorded manuscript usage.

Figure 7. Manuscript "Suffolk Station Feb 8" accompanied by Scott #26 cancelled by pen strokes. Suffolk Station was established on June 15, 1857 and changed to Suffolk on April 22, 1859. Thus, this post office remained in operation under that name for only 22 months. This is the only cover from Suffolk Station that I have encountered in 40 years of collecting Suffolk County postal history. Suffolk was changed to Central Islip on January 7, 1874 and remains in operation today.

Table 1: Manuscript Post Offices of Suffolk County, New York

Post Office	Date Established [2]	Earliest Date	Latest Date
Amagansett	November 11, 1835	NYD #11 [5]	8/20/NYD #26 [5]
Amityville [11]	April 15, 1850	8/19/1852 [11]	
Babylon	May 6, 1830	8/5/1840 [5]	11/25/1842 [5]
Baiting Hollow	January 12, 1838	1/6/1848 5 [11]	3/28/1863 #65 [11]
Bay Shore	April 30, 1868	5/7/ NYD #94 [5]	
Bellport	March 8, 1834	12/22/1841 25 [11]	10/30/1846 Paid 5 [11]
Blue Point [10]	March 6, 1856	1/8/NYD #65 [10]	7/11/1877 3ct BN [10]
Bridgehampton	September 25, 1794	6/21/1802 PM Free [11]	3/1/1856 [6,10]
Brookhaven [11]	January 1, 1796	12/23/1800 Free [11]	
Centre Moriches	June 23, 1854	1/28/1855 [6,10]	
Centreport	October 30, 1835	8/18/NYD #26 [5,11]	5/14/1866 #65 [5]
Cold Spring Harbor	January 7, 1825	10/19/1830 10 [11]	11/15/1851 Paid 3 [11]
Commack	July 19, 1839	6/20/1845 20 [11]	2/15/1847 [5]
Coram	September 25, 1794	12/2/1794 10 + 1/11 P. Post [11]	10/18/1877 #U164 [11]
Crab Meadow	April 15, 1820	10/23/1821 Way 19 1/2 [11]	3/27/1832 PM Free [11]
Cutchogue	August 13,1814	8/23/1838 18 3/4 [11]	11/22/1872 3ct BN [6,10]
Deer Park	March 8, 1851	NYD #26 [5]	
Dix Hills	July 20, 1799	2/8/1818 Free [11]	10/24/1866 [11]
Drown Meadow	1810	8/25/1811 PM Free [11]	9/25/1829 PAID 10 [11]
East Hampton	October 28, 1816	10/11/1819 37 [11]	12/28/1860 #U10 [6,10]
East Marion	March 19, 1851	12/15/NYD Paid 5 [5]	4/20/1867 [5]
East Moriches [11]	July 14, 1849	2/10/NYD 5 [11]	
East Setauket	March 25, 1863	3/14/1863 #65 [5]	4/14/1863 #65 [6,10,11]
Elwood	June 7, 1870	8/25/1862 #65 [5]	
Farms	October 4, 1824	1/31/1830 25 [10]	
Fire Island	August 21, 1857	7/14/1858 #26 [5]	8/20/NYD #65 [11]
Fireplace	September 7, 1802	2/21/1841 Paid 12 1/2 [11]	4/26/1844 12 1/2 [11]
Flanders	May 8, 1834	1845 [5]	2/23/NYD #11 [11]
Fresh Pond	August 26, 1852	3/8/NYD #26 [11]	4/24/NYD #65 [11]
Good Ground	July 28, 1829	5/8/1843 6 [11]	7/10/NYD #26 [11]
Greenport	March 13, 1832	3/15/1835 [6,10]	1845 [5]
Holtsville	June 7, 1860	11/3/1884 2ct BN [5]	1/6/1885 2ct BN [5]
Huntington	September 25, 1794	12/12/1815 18 3/4 [11]	5/19/1848 Paid 5 [11]
Huntington South [11]	September 7, 1802	11/13/1817 10 [11]	9/30/1823 18 3/4 [11]
Islip	September 7,1802	9/12/1834 6 [11]	6/13/1845 PM Free [11]
Jamesport	July 16, 1842	1849 5 [8,10]	10/26/1854 #11 [6,10,11]
Lakeland	January 24, 1851	1853 #11 [10]	8/--/ 1868 #88 [11]
Manorville [10]	January 31, 1845	4/5/NYD Paid 5 [11]	3/26/ NYD Paid 3 [11]
Mattituck [6,10]	September 7, 1802	3/5/1808 Way 18 [11]	5/24/1835 10 [11]
Melville	August 26, 1852	2/27/1877 #156 [11]	
Middle Island	March 24, 1821	12/29/1836 Way 11 [10]	7/10/NYD #65 [5]
Millers Place [11]	April 2, 1825	5/18/1844 6 [11]	
Moriches	September 7, 1802	3/12/1810 Paid 17 [11]	7/25/1848 PM Free [11]
Mount Sinai	April 29, 1840	1850 [5]	7/24//NYD #26 [11]
New Village	December 22, 1831	12/25/1834 [6,10]	10/22/NYD #26 [5,10]
Northport	October 10, 1840	1847 [5]	1855 [5]
Orient	March 8, 1838	6/11/NYD 10 [10]	2/17/1853 [6,10]
Oyster Ponds [10]	March 20, 1821	4/19/1835 Way 11 [10]	
Patchogue	September 7, 1802	12/8/1810 10 [11]	6/14/1847 5 [11]
Penataquit	October 22, 1849	NYD-S [5]	
Port Jefferson	May 28, 1836	1835 [5]	2/4/1847 5 [11]
Prospect Grove [10]	July 21,1880	NYD 3ct BN [10]	
Quogue	April 8, 1828	9/14/1829 Paid 37 1/2 [11]	8/1/1862 #65 [11]
Riverhead [11]	November 6, 1855	2/26/1808 34 [11]	10/23/1825 Paid 12 1/2 [11]
Ronkonkoma	January 31, 1866	NYD #65 [5]	

Table 1: Manuscript Post Offices of Suffolk County, New York (Continued)

Post Office	Date Established [2]	Earliest Date	Latest Date
Sag Harbor	September 25, 1794	2/19/1798 Free [11]	1846 [5]
Saint James [6,10]	June 9, 1856	7/16/1857 #9 [6,10]	
Satucket [11]	May 25, 1801	4/1/1816 12 1/2 [11]	
Seatuck	May 15, 1849	11/7/NYD Paid 3 [11]	
Selden [11]	February 27, 1852	1/4/ NYD #U58 [11]	
Setauket	August 20, 1821	1821 [5]	8/21/1848 5 [11]
Shelter Island	March 26, 1846	8/22/1846 [11]	8/18/1856 #U10 [5]
Smithtown	September 25, 1794	1820 [5]	11/5/1847 [5]
Smithtown Branch	October 16, 1849	11/20/NYD #1 [5]	11/1/1853 Paid 3 [10]
Southhampton [9,10]	September 25, 1794	1/29/1810 Paid 17 [11]	12/25/1849 Paid 10 [9,10]
South Haven [7,10]	February 19, 1853	8/22/1854 PAID 3 [11]	1868 #69 [7,10]
Southold [7,10]	September 7, 1802	3/1/1806 [7,10]	10/23/1857 5 [11]
Speonk	April 8, 1828	8/5/1847 [5]	2/3/1876 3ct BN [10]
Springs	May 15, 1849	NYD #26 [5]	8/9/1869 #114 [11]
Stony Brook [11]	July 1, 1807	4/4/1808 PM Free [11]	
Success [7,10]	January 24, 1838	6/22/1862 #65 [10]	7/22/NYD #65 [7,10]
Suffolk C.H. [7,10]	September 25, 1794	8/30/1814 [7,10]	10/23/1849 5 [11]
Suffolk Station [11]	June 15, 1857	2/8/ NYD #26 [11]	
Thompson's Station	August 16, 1849	1853 [5]	4/4/ NYD #65 [5]
Upper Aquebogue	January 24, 1831	10/31/1841 [5,11]	7/22/NYD #65 [7,10]
Wading River	February 26, 1825	3/7/NYD #U10 [11]	
Water Mill [10]	July 25, 1866	10/28/1867 #65 [11]	7/13/1868 #65 [10]
West Deer Park [7,10]	August 23, 1875	3/29/1878 [7,10,11]	
West Southold [7,10]	June 7, 1851	6/23/1851 [10]	5/9/1855 #11 [7,10]
Yaphank [7]	January 31, 1845	11/25/1847 5 [11]	3/17/NYD #11 [11]

Manuscript RFD Cancellations

Post Office	Date Established [2]	Earliest Date	Latest Date
Orient [7]	March 8, 1838	3/15/ 1915 RFD 2 [7]	

This tabulation represents the compilation of all the Suffolk County manuscript post offices and their earliest and latest dates of usage previously recorded in all the prior ESPHS publications (3-10), updated to include the information derived from the covers residing in my collection (11). The source of the documentation for each manuscript post office that has been added since the Chlanda and Wilcox 1984 monograph (5) is referenced in this table. My contribution consists of the addition of 10 previously unreported post offices and revisions for the earliest recorded dates for 39, and the latest recorded dates for 29, post offices (11). Each earliest and latest date of usage is attributed to the source of the most complete and accurate documentation; the reference for that documentation is provided. All rate markings, i.e., 10, 12 1/2, Paid, Paid 3, PM Free, etc. on the covers recorded here are in manuscript.

References:
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LYON'S POSTAL GUIDE FOR THE STATE OF NEW YORK: 1878

By: David E. Williams

While browsing the Internet searching for any information on the Nineveh & Carbondale R.P.O., I happened across this free Google eBook. It is written by Charles H. Lyon, Chief Clerk, 2nd Division, Office of the Railway Mail Service. ..Listings are as of April 1, 1878 and include several categories.

The first table, part of which is seen at right, is entitled *List of Routes in New York State*. This shows all routes by name and whether served by an agent or a R.P.O.

Albany and Binghamton, (N. Y.).... *[handwritten]* ....Agent.
*Albany and Buffalo, (N. Y.) ....R. P. O.
Albany and New York, (N. Y.) .... "

The second table is the *List of Junctions and the Railway Lines Supplying Same*. This table lists Office, County, and How Supplied. The listing for Albany is seen to the right.

ALBANY............	ALBANY......	Albany & Binghamton, Agent.....
		Albany & Buffalo, R. P. O........
		Albany & New York, R. P. O.....
		Boston & Albany, R. P. O........
		Rouse's Point & Albany, Agent....

The third table is *Post Offices in the State of New York Corrected April 1, 1878*. I found this table most useful as it lists for each post office the Office, the County, the Route (if served by a R.P.O.), and a

Adams' Centre	Jefferson ...	Watertown & Rome...	Station.
Adams' Station	Albany.....	Albany & Binghamton.	Station.
Adamsville	Washington	Rouse's Pt. & Albany..	Smith's Basin.
Addison..............	Steuben	N. Y. & Hornellsville.	Station.
Addison Hill........	Steuben	N. Y. & Hornellsville.	Addison.

column entitled Served From. This last column tells whether the post office serves as a junction or a station on the R.P.O., or whether that post office is served by another post office.

The book also has two other tables; *Discontinued Offices* and *Names Changed* which postal historians will find very useful. To view this Google eBook, you may go to the following link: http://books.google.com/books?id=3G9MAAAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover#v=twopage&q&f=false

A RUBBER STOPPER KILLER FROM KATONAH, NY

By: Terence Hines

In a previous article (Hines, 2012) I listed the known postmarks from Katonah. In this article I report a new discovery of a rubber stopper killer from Katonah. The first question that will occur to readers is "What the hell is a 'rubber stopper' killer?" During the Banknote period, local postmasters used anything and everything that was handy to cancel stamps on envelopes mailed at their post offices. Sheaff (2010) describes the use of commercial rubber bottle stoppers as cancellation devices. The use of such stoppers was not common. None seem to be known from New York.

Figure 1: The stamps on this cover mailed from Katonah are cancelled with a rubber stopper killer.

Shown above in **Figure 1** is a cover mailed from Katonah, New York franked with single copies of the 1 cent Franklin and 2 cent Jackson banknote issue. The date of the postmark is August 20 and the postmark and killer are in **purple**. The cover is addressed to Washington DC and bears a faint "CARRIER" postmark on the reverse dated Aug. 21, 7pm, presumably a receipt marking from Washington.

The postmark is a type not listed in my original article – the lettering is larger than type 1 and the town name covers a greater extent (about 9 to 2 o'clock) than type 1. It is also different from type 2, on which the lettering extends from 10 to 2 o'clock. The killer consists of a round blob about 22 mm in diameter with a mirror image of "2 ½". This number would have indicated the size of the stopper.

References:

Hines, T. (2012). *Postmarks of Katonah, NY: A Preliminary Listing*, *Excelsior!,* Whole Number 18, 10-13.

Sheaff, R. D. (2010). *Cancellations Showing Reversed Stopper Size Numbers*, Chronicle of the U.S. Classic Postal Issues, 62 (2), 124-127.

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LOOK WHO'S POINTING FINGERS

By: George DeKornfeld

Those familiar with my collecting habits are well aware that near the top of my list of philatelic addictions lies an expansive field aptly termed marcophily, the study of anything and everything added to an envelope that provides some explanation as to how a cover was handled while swimming along in the mail stream. In this particular case, we will be taking a brief look at a type of marking that moved a letter, for a variety of reasons that rendered the letter undeliverable, back upstream and back to its sender.

Our title should, by now, have easily given away our topic: the Pointing Hand, a marking the use of which was occasioned by a cover requiring to be returned to its sender. Realize that there are many, many variations of these in terms of size, style and wording used, so we will only be touching upon a few varieties that will, hopefully, whet the collecting appetite of the reader to seek out some of these entertaining items.

In 1860, Congress' *Act in Relation to the Return of Undeliverable Letters in the Post Office*, which stimulated the creation of these particular auxiliary markings, stated in part:

That when any person shall endorse on any letter, his or her name and place of residence, as writer thereof, the same after remaining uncalled for at the post office to which it is directed thirty days, or the time that the writer shall direct, shall be returned by mail to said writer, and no such letters shall be advertised, nor shall the same be treated as dead letters, until returned to the post office of the writer and there remain uncalled for, for one quarter.

Shortly after this act went into effect, advertisements for handstamps useful for returning letters to their senders began appearing on the pages of *The United States Post Office Bulletin*. As can be seen in **Figure 1**, these included our pointing hand marking.

In **Figure 2** we see a 3-cent government stamped envelope issue of 1874 mailed that same year at Syracuse, New York and sent to Hudson, New York. The sender, John McCarthy, was a member of a family that during this era owned a large wholesale concern and a department store located at various addresses on Salina Street in Syracuse. The manuscript admonition on the left, *P.M. Pleas (sic) Forward* went unheeded (likely because no forwarding address was available) and the cover returned to Syracuse. An in-period depiction of the McCarthy Department Store can be enjoyed at **Figure 3**.

Figure 1.

Figure 2. This letter, mailed to Hudson, NY, could not be forwarded and was returned to the sender.

Markings on this cover include: a 28mm Syracuse circular date stamp (CDS) in duplex, a 22mm circular **Returned to Writer** handstamp applied at Syracuse, a 25mm Hudson CDS in duplex as a return received marking, and, best of all, a pointing hand drawn in **blue** wax pencil with index finger aimed at the corner card on the envelope (with the same pencil crossing out the original Hudson address). These manuscript versions of the pointing hand acted as precursors for the handstamps to come, and also were likely used by some Post Offices that didn't want to bear the expense of purchasing a handstamp for their use.

Figure 3. The McCarthy Department Store located on Salina Street in Syracuse, NY.

In **Figure 4** and **Figure 5** we see the front and back of a cover that went from New York City to Breslau, Prussia (via Hamburg) and all the way back again in 1876. Franked with a 5-cent Zachary Taylor issue of 1875 paying the UPU rate as of July 1, 1875, this cover is a marking-palooza. The stamp is tied to the cover both by a red **New York Exchange Office** CDS, indicating prepaid mail, and a fancy killer. All other markings were applied in the German Empire except for our pointing hand. The Breslau Post Office tried really hard to find the addressee; the crossed out manuscript numbers on the front indicate carriers and their routes in Breslau as do all the circular **Ausg.** (Ausgabe) handstamps on the back.

Figure 4. This cover, mailed to Breslau, Prussia was returned to the sender in New York, NY.

Figure 5. The rear of the cover shows **AUSG** handstamps, which indicate attempts to locate the addressee.

It strikes me a bit odd that the addressee, Herr Becker, couldn't be located given his title of *Stadt Gerichts Rath* (Municipal Government Council) which would place him as an attorney involved in the local government. One would think the municipal government folks would at least have some forwarding information available for one of their own, but their loss is our gain in terms of the markings adorning this cover. The small-sized pointing finger handstamp that reads *New York Returned to Writer* and sporting a fancy frilly shirt cuff was obviously applied in New York City.

Moving on into the next century, **Figure 6** illustrates a registered letter mailed from Binghamton to Syracuse, New York in 1924. Delivery was attempted but the mail carrier found the addressee to have moved on with no forwarding instructions left as explained in his pencil notation: *left no address*. After being held for five days as requested in the corner card of the sender, the envelope was struck by a purple *Unclaimed. Returned to Writer* handstamp and returned to the John B. Southee Moving Company. Various ads in newspapers such as *The Binghamton Press* show Southee to have been in business at least through 1949, at that time being the exclusive agent for the Aero Mayflower Nation Wide Furniture Movers Company.

Figure 6. A registered letter sent to Syracuse, NY and returned to the sender in Binghamton, NY.

Our final cover in **Figure 7** was mailed in 1934 by Customs Brokers in New York to Jersey City, New Jersey and is franked with a 3-cent deep violet George Washington issue of 1932 cancelled by a Hudson Terminal Annex machine cancel. Accidentally opened by someone other than the addressee (as explained in manuscript verso), the envelope received some official seals, a handstamp reading ***Directory Searcher No. 4*** over-written by ***Not Found*** in pencil, and a nice large pointing hand that reads ***Returned to Writer, No. 2, from Jersey City, N.J.***. The Jersey City Post Office held the letter for ten days attempting to research and locate the addressee all to no avail. Note that these large-style handstamps do a great job at showing the anatomy of the human hand which adds to the attractiveness of these markings.

Figure 7. A cover returned to New York, NY after the addressee could not be located in Jersey City, NJ.

Finally, **Figure 8** and **Figure 9** show one of these devices in the author's collection. Although the date of manufacture/use is unknown, it still makes for a nice adjunctive collectable for our topic. As can be seen, the handle (missing) would have gone all the way through the device and likely had an identification mark for whatever clerk was using the device, completing the sentence permanently on the body of the device that reads ***CANNOT BE FOUND BY…***

Figure 8.

Figure 9.

So there it is. We've had a brief taste of these nifty auxiliary markings and have seen how they tend to come with a plethora of additional descriptive and instructional markings of both the handstamp and manuscript variety. Any of these should be of interest to those collecting postal history and marcophilly. Hopefully I've made my 'point,' and I'll see you at the dealers' cover boxes!

George DeKornfeld may be reached at gdekornfel@fairpoint.net

HANDLING A NIXIE IN 1901

By: Bob Bramwell

Those of you who read *Excelsior!* carefully will recall several articles in which The Dr. Williams Medicine Company of Schenectady has been featured. Each of those articles dealt with mail returned from countries in Latin America. I was fortunate over the winter to find the cover shown in **Figure 1**, addressed directly to Sr. Dr. Williams Medicine Co, NY, E u de A. from Tucson, Arizona. It was mailed November 30, 1901 while Arizona was a territory of the United States.

Figure 1. This letter, originating at Tucson, Arizona Territory, November 30, 1901 and received at the New York City Post Office needed a better address to reach it intended destination.

When the letter arrived at the New York City Post Office December 5th 1901 without a town address it was processed by the Inquiry Division, which existed to resolve just the sort of address deficiencies this letter presented: the need to look through directories for cities throughout the state to find an addressee.

The red manuscript Schenectady / NY marking was added along with the bright purple stamp DEFICIENCY/IN/ADDRESS/SUPPLIED/BY/N.Y.P.O. – I D   The letter was back-stamped in Schenectady probably the next day and undoubtedly was delivered to the Dr. Williams Medicine Company promptly.

Bob Bramwell may be reached at rbramwell@nc.rr.com

INTRODUCTION TO THE DIGITIZED U.S. POSTAL BULLETINS

By: Tony Wawrukiewicz

After many years of effort on my part, and after a significant expenditure of personal funds, and after a number of false starts, the digitization of the U.S. Postal Bulletins from 1880 to 1971 has been accomplished. As some of you are aware, this effort has been supported by a number of other individuals and a number of philatelic societies including the UCSC. The full list of significant individual and societal supporters is given on the digitized *U.S. Postal Bulletin* web site.

After much discussion of all parties involved in the support of this effort, it has been decided that access to the site will be universal. Members of this society can use the site by going directly to the site. This article next (1) explains the content of the site and (2) gives an introduction of how to use the site. Enjoy what I hope is a valuable addition to the research capabilities of the U.S. philatelic community.

The Digitized *U.S. Postal Bulletin (Postal Bulletin), The Daily Bulletin of Orders Affecting the Postal Service*, later *The Postal Bulletin*, and still later just *Postal Bulletin (PB)* and for the proposes of this web site, *U.S. Postal Bulletin*, was and is a publication of the Post Office Department (POD) and later the U.S. Postal Service (USPS). The purpose of this publication, that first appeared in March of 1880 and continues until the present, was/is to itemize and explain in great deal the services the Postal Service provides, to communicate the location of these services throughout the country, and to communicate the internal business of the Postal Service.

For decades the *U.S. Postal Bulletin* was published daily except Sundays and holidays, now every two weeks. Over the years this publication has produced well over 60,000 pages of content, most of which this web site now makes readily available to the philatelic public (1880 through 1971). It is an incredible resource for a person who wishes to understand POD operations and policies, locations for its services, types and rates for services, processes by which it functions, etc. In other words it is a voluminous source of research information.

Users of this web site will find a fully searchable digitization of the *U.S. Postal Bulletin* from 1880 to 1971. They will be able to submit simple or complex inquiries, including "full text" searches, as every word in each issue has been OCRed.

For example, one will be able to search all these lists by any individual city and state: Post Offices Established, Post Offices Discontinued, Postmasters Commissioned, Post Office Names and Site Changes, Post Office Names Changed, Post Office Sites Changed, PO Supplied by RFD, Superseded by RFD, Were RFD, now Discontinued, RPO Service Changes, RPO Services Established, RPO Through Registered Pouches, Railroad Services Changed, Railroad Service Established, Railroad Service Established-Discontinued-Changed, Electric Car Services Established, Changes in Star Schedules, Electric Car Service Changes, Mail Messenger Services Established, Mail Messenger Services Changed, Mail Messenger Services Discontinued, Fraud Order, Special Service Changes, Special Services Discontinued, Steamboat Services, Through Registered Pouches, Inner Registered Sacks, Stations and Branches, etc., etc.

But these numerous tabulations only represent a part of the invaluable information hidden in this resource. For instance all the rate changes tabulated in the Domestic and International rate books of Wawrukiewicz and Henry Beecher are located there, as are the rules and regulations for all special services. Beginning circa 1925, first-day information and stamp descriptions became available. Information concerning the Universal Postal Union, CAM and FAM routes, first-flights, the Permit process, free franking, the international parcel post, official mail services, interrupted mail, stolen postal money orders, nondenominated stamps, and so on are found there in detail.

Michael Eastick, an Australian stamp dealer and software developer for the philatelic industry, has developed the software necessary to make the numerous pages with their valuable information readily searchable. By breaking the thousands of pages into tiny units of one issue, Michael has made the initial search of the database extremely fast. After this larger, initial search is done, the individual PDFs representing the *Postal Bulletins* located by this search can be viewed, printed or downloaded. As I previously mentioned, the site is only developed to search the bulletins up to and including 1971. This is because there are no copyright issues for these years. Eventually I hope, with further funding and necessary permission obtained from the US Postal Service, to extend the project through the present day.

That is, for this reason and others, funding efforts for this undertaking have not been completed. For instance, since the software developed for it is new and still in the early days of testing, there are bound to be issues that develop that require ongoing efforts by Michael et all to repair and enhance it, and for these we require added funding.

How to Access The *US Postal Bulletins* Site and Search The *US Postal Bulletins*

Each page of the site **wwwuspostalbulletins.com** has a masthead at the top that allows navigation throughout the site as seen in **Figure 1**.

Figure 1. This is the banner of the *US Postal Bulletins* that appears on every site page.

We have developed a series of FAQs that we believe will help users of the site come up to speed faster. They are accessible on the web site (**Figure 2** shows a screen shot from the home page), but I'm going to discuss and list some below. Some of them are self-explanatory while others are explained with appropriate screen shots from the web site's PDF Search page.
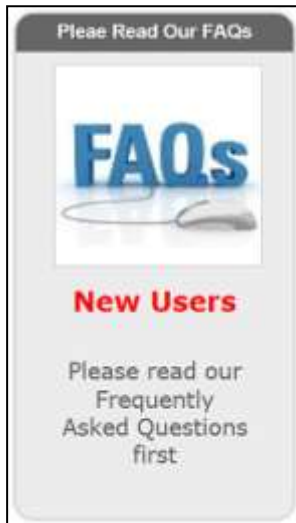
Figure 2. The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) button on the home page of the *US Postal Bulletins* web site.

(1)   **Why am I unable to access the web site or am unable to see it fully?**
Be certain that your Browser is up-to-date and that you have JAVA and cookies turned on. For PCs the most up-to-date Internet Explorer is best while for Apple computers Safari is necessary.

(2) **Do I need to register?** No. **Is there any requirement needed if I am to use the site?**
No. The web site is freely accessible to all. To access the site, just start a search.

(3) **There appear to be three sections defined on the PDF Search page. What do the three sections basically do?**

Figure 3 is a screen shot from the PDF Search page of the web site. Each section is a filter that defines and narrows your search for you. Filter (1) "Select Word Search Type" defines the actual text (word or phrase or name or even number) for which you are going to search. Filter (2) "Select By Date/Range" can limit the search to all dates, a range of dates or a specific date. Filter (3) Select By Volume/Issue" limits the search in a different manner. If you use it, it can narrow the search to specific volumes (ie, years) or issues.

Search PDF Document Database

(Please do not use punctuation marks in the search text)

(1) Select Word Search Type ⑦   ☑ Include Filter in Full Search

◉ Exact Word or Phrase Search ⑦   ○ Any Word ⑦   ○ All Words in any order ⑦   ○ Wildcard Search ⑦
○ Word within x words of Word ⑦   ○ Inclusive / Exclusive Search ⑦

Enter search keywords [_____] [Stem] ⑦

[Clear this Filter] [Search within this Filter only]

(2) Select by Date/Range ⑦   ☑ Include Filter in Full Search

◉ All Dates   ○ Specific Date   ○ Date Range

[Clear this Filter] [Search within this Filter only]

(3) Select by Volume/Issue ⑦   ☑ Include Filter in Full Search

◉ All Volumes   ○ Specific Volume   ○ Volume Range   ◉ All Issues   ○ Specific Issue   ○ Issue Range

[Clear this Filter] [Search within this Filter only]

[Clear All Filters]   [Full Search Using All Ticked Filters]

Figure 3. The PDF search page

(4) How do I do a search of all the issues in the database (ie, from 1880 to 1971)?

(a) First, in the first filter click on the "**?**" marks and read the associated explanation about how each of the six search functions works. Each of them allows a search for some text, using one of the six techniques. **Figure 4** shows the one for "Exact Word or Phrase Search Help." I'm showing this search for the exact phrase "Portland Oregon." I omit the comma because programming issues will not allow a search with punctuation.

Exact Word or Phrase Search Help

Select this option and enter keywords in the *Enter search keywords* textbox separated by a space to find pdf documents containing the exact occurrence of the text entered.

Note, multiple spaces between words are ignored. Words occurring next to other words will be found regardless of the number of spaces separating them.

Figure 4. The "Exact Word or Phrase Search Help" screen.

(b)   The default radio button for the second filter is "All Dates." For the third filter it is "All volumes/Issues." This full search (actually accomplished by now clicking the "Full Search Using all Ticked Filters") will usually give you too many individual issues (as PDFs) that contain your desired text. **Figure 5** illustrates part of the results of the search (eg, + 1883 Issues (5 documents found etc.)).

Search PDF Document Database

(Please do not use punctuation marks in the search text)

(1) **Select Word Search Type** ⑦   ☑ Include Filter in Full Search

 ◉ Exact Word or Phrase Search ⑦   ○ Any Word ⑦   ○ All Words in any order ⑦   ○ Wildcard Search ⑦
 ○ Word within x words of Word ⑦   ○ Inclusive / Exclusive Search ⑦

 Enter search keywords Portland Oregon   Stem ⑦

             Clear this Filter Search within this Filter only

(2) **Select by Date/Range** ⑦   ☑ Include Filter in Full Search

 ◉ All Dates   ○ Specific Date   ○ Date Range

             Clear this Filter Search within this Filter only

(3) **Select by Volume/Issue** ⑦   ☑ Include Filter in Full Search

 ◉ All Volumes ○ Specific Volume ○ Volume Range   ⊙ All Issues ○ Specific Issue ○ Issue Range

             Clear this Filter Search within this Filter only

 (Clear All Filters)   (Full Search Using All Ticked Filters)

Search results...

 + 1883 Issues (5 documents found)   + 1906 Issues (3 documents found)

 + 1884 Issues (3 documents found)   + 1907 Issues (7 documents found)

 + 1886 Issues (1 document found)   + 1908 Issues (19 documents found)

Figure 5. A partial list of "Search Results" for a search for "Portland Oregon"

(c)   Next click on the + sign. This results in **Figure 6** where all 5 documents (issues) found are shown.

Figure 6. Here is a list of *Postal Bulletin* issues obtained by clicking on the "+" next to 1883.

(d)   Finally click on, say, the first issue. A new window will open in your browser and the PDF corresponding to that issue will be displayed with the search word or phrase highlighted (**Figure 7** shows part of the resulting new window). You may then read, print or download the PDF. Again, this search gave you a lot of information, perhaps way too much.

Figure 7. A cropped image of the Oct. 11, 1883 *Postal Bulletin* with "Portland Oregon" highlighted.

(5) So how do you limit your search so that your results are a manageable number?

First, again, in the first filter choose the text and search function you desire. Then use the second and third filters to delimit your search by either using the second filter to limit the date range or third filter to limit the number of volumes or years or issues that are searched.

Now, as you did in the unlimited search, actually perform the limited search by clicking the "Full Search Using all Ticked Filters" button. Note that the results, shown in **Figure 8**, where the date range was limited, are much more manageable.

Figure 8. The results obtained by limiting the dates searched in filter 2 to "04 Mar 1880 - 30 Dec 1885"

(6) What happens if I choose a search function in the first section/filter and click on that filter's "Search Within This Filter Only"?

Such searches will include all dates, no matter which radio buttons are ticked in the second and third filters.

I hope that this introduction to the digitized *Postal Bulletin* web site has both whet your appetites to visit the site, and at least introduced you to techniques for making the site as useful as possible for all of you.

Tony Wawrukiewicz may be reached at tonywaw@spiritone.com

BATAVIA, NY COVER RAISES SEVERAL QUESTIONS
Reprinted with permission of the China Stamp Society,
from the September, 2012 *China Clipper*

This rather bizarre cover was airmailed to Shanghai from Batavia, New York on April 25, 1931. The days date is visible under the corner of the 20¢ Second Peking Reaper.

It was "forwarded" back to Batavia May 25 by affixing 32¢ of Second Peking stamps paying the surface rate for over 1 ounce. The airmail rate, assuming it did weigh over 1 ounce, would have been 32¢ for surface and 60¢ for the airmail surcharge. It transited Chicago June 14 in the airmail facility at the airport (see reverse). Of course, the other interesting question is, "what were the Nebraska Overprints of May 1, 1929, doing being used by a non-philatelic newspaper in Batavia, New York in 1931?" Your thoughts would be appreciated. H. James Maxwell hjmesq@kc.rr.com

COVER OF THE ISSUE

Submitted by: David E. Williams

Sometimes New York State postal history and my other interest in the postal history of the 2nd Bureau issue unite through a discovery in a dealer's box. The post card illustrated below is a great example. Mailed from Angelica, N.Y. to Tonga, The Friendly Islands, it exhibits a nice history of its travels along the way.

After leaving Angelica on July 14, 1905, it reached San Francisco where it received the July 18th circular date stamp (CDS) of Station D. Station D was located at the wharf at the foot of Market. It handled foreign bound mail into the 20th Century.

Leaving San Francisco, it next arrived in Apia, Samoa on August 3rd, noted by the fancy double circular date stamp (DCDS) with date in banner. From Apia, the post card then made its way to its final destination of Nukualofa, Tonga where it arrived on the 12th of August as seen by the Nukualofa CDS stamped on the front of the post card.

This is a nice example of the 2 cent international post card rate to a relatively scarce destination.