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EXCELSIOR!

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Editor's Box

Once again fellow members came through! While it first looked bleak for content for this issue, I received several articles all within the span of a couple of weeks. The response was such that I actually ran out of space in this March publication and therefore already have one article ready to go into the September Excelsior! That does not mean, however, that between now and mid-August you should not be doing some great research and writing. I would hope that the 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.

RUBBER BOTTLE STOPPERS AS CANCELERS

By: Roger D. Curran

It was a pleasure to see the article in the September 2012 *Excelsior!* by Terrence Hines concerning a rubber stopper killer from Katonah, New York. Although not common, cancelers consisting of rubber bottle stoppers gained some popularity in the 1870s and their use continued into the 1880s with very occasional examples seen in the 1890s. During the fancy cancel era, handstamps that duplexed a post marker to a canceler were often fitted with a ring into which a cork – or rubber stopper – could easily be inserted. More often than not, these stoppers were used without any carving but carved examples are not especially scarce.

The telltale feature of a rubber bottle stopper is, of course, the small number in the center of the cancel which denotes the size of the stopper. Cancellers have been seen with numbers “1” through “6” and with half sizes “1 ½” – to “5 ½”. The smaller the number is, the larger the stopper. Strikes of these cancels always show the numbers in reverse. However, the “3,” when the stopper is upside down, produced what appears to be a regular “3,” not a reverse “3.” Cancellers struck from size “3” stoppers are the most common.

Several additional examples from New York post offices are shown in **Figure 1** through **Figure 4**.



Figure 1. This cover from Portville (Cat), NY bears a killer made from a #2 cork.



Figure 2. This cover from Cortland (COR), NY illustrates how a #3 cork killer appears struck upside down.



Figure 3. This New York (NEW), NY cover bears a killer made from a #2 cork.



Figure 4. This cork killer from New York (NEW), NY has its size designated in Roman numerals.

I believe the cover in **Figure 5** is from Catskill, NY but the postmark is ambiguous. The "3" in the cancel is difficult to see. It shows in reverse just above and to the left of the "3" at the bottom of the postage stamp. Perhaps a reader can confirm the "Catskill" postmark.



Figure 5. This cover, believed to be from Catskill (GRE), bears a killer made from a # 3 cork.

(It certainly looks like Catskill to me! D.A.N., Pub. Comm. Chair)

COLUMBIA COUNTY CORNER: A COVER'S CONCORDANCE

By: George DeKornfeld

Concordance: Noun 1. - a harmonious state of things in general and of their properties; congruity of parts with one another and with the whole.

As can be seen by the title to this issue's Columbia County Corner, we will be discussing an item that has several distinct parts, all of which fit together to provide for a pleasing 'whole.' Recently discovered as a 'Buy it Now' item on the Delcampe.com website offered by a seller in France, I just about dislocated my right index finger hitting the 'buy' button as soon as I saw the scan (**Figure 1**). The markings on this 1838 international outbound cover originating in Hudson and mailed to France made my heart rate noticeably increase in anticipation of it being added to my marcophily exhibit. The accompanying description was rather brief, but did mention an accident and death at sea. Little did I realize what a postal history treat I was in for once this folded letter was safely in my hands.



Figure 1. The cover was mailed from Hudson, New York to France in 1838.

So beginning with the markings, let's dissect this cover starting from the outside and working our way inward page by page. Right away we notice the Hudson circular date stamp (CDS) and the 'FREE' handstamp, both struck in red. This style of CDS, having a diameter of 30mm, is recorded used at Hudson in this color ink from 1837 through 1851 (and is also known in black, blue, brown, and green). Our free franking is explained by the upper right corner autograph of one Solomon Wescott, the fourth Hudson Postmaster serving from May 9, 1833 to March 13, 1842.

Since all mail could only be paid (or sent free) to the port of departure during this era, our cover was struck with a red New York City Exchange Office CDS the following day and was then handled as a Ship Letter arriving in France, with a total of nineteen-decimes (1 Franc, 30

centimes) due (manuscript '19'). Two-decimes covered the ship fee, and 17-decimes paid the inland postage for the distance travelled at the 10-gram weight class (the manuscript 'W' being a weight marking). Upon landing in France, our cover also received a boxed handstamp reading "Pays D'Outremer Par Le Havre" or "overseas mail received at Le Havre" in English. Le Havre is a western port city in the Seine-Maritime department of the Haute-Normandie region. Not shown, but on the back of this cover, is a blue, double-circle Paris transfer handstamp. Our folded letter was delivered to a Gustave Herrnschmidt, Sarre Union, Department du Bas Rhin, a territory in northeast France in the Alsace Region.

OK, so far so good, we have the rates and the routing figured out so next let's unfold our letter and check out the contents. I have to admit, when I first did so, I was rendered near-apoplectic with excitement by what I found. On the first page appears an official and notarized transcript from the logbook of the whaling vessel *Edward* mentioning a tragic circumstance involving the son of our addressee, Mr. Schmidt (Smith) residing in France:

Extract of the Log Book of Ship Edward of Hudson. Right & Sperm Whaling in the Atlantic Ocean John C. Daggett master ~

January 3. 1838 ~

Latitude by Observation 36.16' South

Longitude 21. 51 West

Continuous light winds & clear, at 3 P.M. lowered for Whales, Struck & killed at 4 ½ P.M. took him along side and commenced cutting, at Sun let lashed down, saw several gams, at day light commenced cutting, at 9 a.m. finished, (at 7 a.m. lowered for Whales the starboard boat, Struck, Charles Smith, the Boat Steerer was knocked out of the boat and drowned, cut from Whale and come on board.) and commenced boiling at 9 A.M. Made all Sail, at 11 A.M. lowered Struck and _____ed. So ends.

{in different pen}

*State of New York
Columbia County
City of Hudson*

I Daniel Peck

Re-Corder of the said City of Hudson and presiding Judge of the Mayor's Court thereof do certify that the above is a true extract from the Log Book of the Ship Edward of Hudson compared by me.

*Daniel Peck
Recorder of Hudson*

{in different pen}

In verification of the above certificate I have hereunto affixed the seal of the Mayors Court of said city this 20th day of September 1838.

*Gayce Gardner
Clerk of the City of Hudson*

Sure enough, there it was at the bottom of the first page, an embossed seal of the Mayor's Court of Hudson which has at its center a sea anchor (**Figure 2**). As a major port on the Hudson River, the sea anchor was commonly used by the City of Hudson as part of both its logo and as a seal (as were whales), but this was the first embossed version I had ever come across and this one is on a stampless folded letter to boot. How great is that?

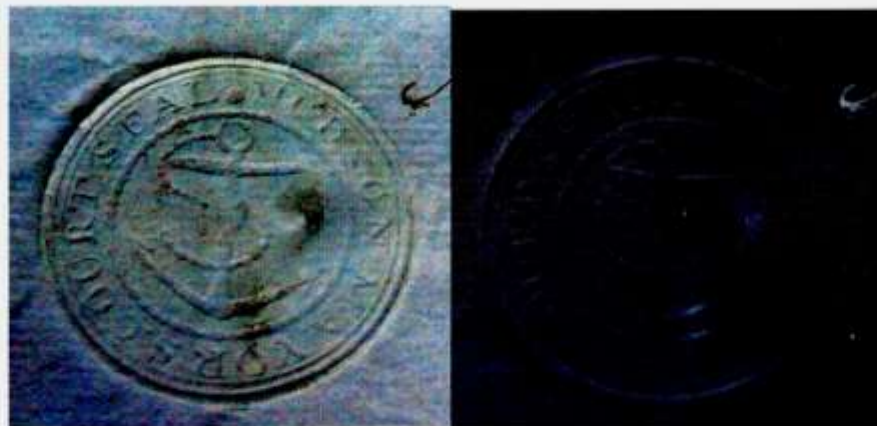


Figure 2. The embossed seal of the Mayor's Court of Hudson from the letter is at the left. At the right is a scan of the seal after incorporating a color inversion process to the original.

Moving along, we now come to page two of our letter. We've all seen stampless covers where the old style of handwriting can be difficult to read at best. That was the situation in this case, with an added twist: this part of the letter was in French! If I had been able to make heads or tails of the penmanship, I could have gone through the somewhat tedious process of running each sentence through the Google Translator until ultimately coming up with a full translation, but this just wasn't possible in this case. What to do? Step in the American Philatelic Society's Translation Committee. I made a scan of the page, e-mailed it to the committee and within one week I had my translation in hand (and these fine folks were nice enough to not even charge me for this service). Not that they are difficult to come up with, but here's yet another good reason for being an APS member!

In addition to a translation into French of the notarized contents found on the first page, there appears the following message:

*October 1, 1838
Mr. G. Hernsmith
Sarre-Union
Dear Sir,*

I received timely your letter of June 9, 1838 and have settled your son's account with the company. The net amount from his voyage is \$120.61, which the company will pay only to an authorized person, such as a court-appointed representative and natural heir of your son Charles. Hence, you need to send to Mr. Solomon Wescott a properly-executed proxy so that he can withdraw this

sum. Mr. Wescott has in his possession a note for \$100, increasing to \$114 with interest to September 1, so the total amount that he can pay you will be \$234.61. As I intend to leave Hudson soon, I will not be able to take care of your proxy. All the sailors and officers who formed the crew of the Edward (ship) having long since departed, I have not been able to obtain any other details of your son's death except the enclosed excerpt, which I copied myself from the captain's log and had certified by the presiding judge of the city court and by the clerk of the same court. You will notice that your son's name was translated into English and he was known under the name of Charles Smith. Mr. Wescott, upon receipt of your proxy, will do what is needed and will pay you in drafts on Paris or Le Havre. You would do well to have your letters written by a lawyer or someone who writes French correctly and legibly so that Mr. Wescott will have no difficulty having them translated. I would have gladly taken care of everything myself but since I will be leaving soon for the interior of the country, some 200-300 leagues from Hudson, I would not be of any use to you and Mr. Wescott will take responsibility for your interests and they could not be in better hands.

Yours sincerely,
*John M. Palisse*¹

Not much can be found out about who the author of this letter is and how he relates to the unfortunate situation discussed therein. I did discover that Mr. Palisse of Hudson is recorded as holding an 1835 patent for a rope and chain pulley assembly utilized for moving cars up inclined planes on canals and railroads, so perhaps he was somehow involved in the business end of the ship industry out of Hudson, possibly even directly with the owners of the whale ship Edward. More research will be needed to see if any more information can be unearthed on this particular gentleman. Note also that our Postmaster Solomon Wescott is mentioned in the letter. Most likely he is acting as the court-appointed representative for the now-deceased Charles Schmidt, explaining his name's appearance in manuscript on the front of this cover.

So, being well-satisfied by the huge amount of historical and postal perspective extracted from a single stampless letter, it became time to fold this piece back up in order to prepare it for mounting on its exhibit page. Ah, but not so fast. As I was doing so, I noticed a 'thinned' area in the paper when the light from my window happened to hit it just so. Unfolded once again and held up to an incandescent light, to my delight I found the Britannia and Crown watermark, seen at right, indicating this paper stock was likely left over from the not so far off days of British colonial rule.

Concordance indeed!



¹ APS Translation Service, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823 pstranslations@gmail.com
 APSTC Project# 2012-397 Page 1 11/30/2012.

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BUILDING A SMALL EXHIBIT IN THE INTERNET AGE.

By: Glenn Estus

Those readers who know me personally also know that I enjoy creating philatelic exhibits. At the current time I have two national level Olympic exhibits. Unfortunately, I have not had the time or material to create a New York State exhibit worthy of being shown on the national level. YET!

A word of explanation: exhibiting is more than just having the material. It is also knowing how to present the material in a logical and orderly manner. Completeness, while admirable, is not the only goal of a good exhibit. With enough funds, anyone can buy completeness, but not everyone can put together a good exhibit.

In the meantime, I have also been looking for a postal history topic that I might be able to use as a one-frame exhibit. A one-frame exhibit consists of a topic that is too narrow to be considered in a multi-framed exhibit, but, at the same time can be adequately shown in a frame of 16 pages.

I also collect philatelic literature. This has been very helpful in my current tenure as editor of *The Vermont Philatelist* as well as when I was the editor of *The Bulletin* of the ESPHS. In August 2009, Bill Lizotte wrote in *The Vermont Philatelist* about Vermont county and postmaster cancels. In his listing there was only one Vermont post office which used a cancel having both the county name and the postmaster's name. This cancel is from South Wardsboro in Windham County.

When I was editing Bill's article, I reached into my philatelic library to check some of the information against the standard reference, *Catalog of U.S. County and Postmaster Postmarks* (Kenneth L. Gilman, ed., North Miami, Florida, 1990). On page vi, I found a reproduction of a sales page from the F.P. Hammond and Co. of Aurora, Illinois with an illustration of a cancel from Parkersburgh, West Virginia almost identical to the South Wardsboro cancel except, of course, for the wording. That page is shown in **Figure 1**.

Checking through the catalog, I discovered a number of other similar cancels throughout the United States. It occurred to me that perhaps this would be a wonderful small collection/exhibit. The additional eye-appeal of the small wheel of fortune killer made the topic even more interesting to me.

In the pre-Internet days of collecting, it would have taken many letters to dealers and going to stamp shows and searching through dealer's stock to perhaps find an example or two every year. Even today, we all still do that, but now we can also sit in the comfort of our homes and surf the net looking for such material. As dealers begin to realize that they can reach thousands of potential customers through the internet, they are building on-line stores to reach those customers. Nevertheless, it does take a good deal of time to search. I have a long ways to go in completing my small collection, but I do so much enjoy the search.

POST OFFICE SUPPLIES

ESTABLISHED 1872.

WE ARE HEADQUARTERS

For the most complete line of articles used by P. M.'s and their Clerks.

Engraved Letter Headings,
 " Note Headings,
 Stamp Ribbons (all colors),
 Money Order Daters,
 Post-Office Daters,
 Registered Letter Daters,
 Receipt Daters,
 Patent Inking Pads,
 P. O. Canceling Ink (by Express),
 P. O. Rubber Canceling Corks,
 Twine Cutters,
 Steel and Rubber Stamp Racks,
 Coin Detectors,
 Paper Weights,
 Letter and Package Scales,
 Check Protectors,
 Gem Type Cases,

THE BEST OFFER YET.

One RUBBER P. O. Dater and Canceller, Ink Powder, and Pads, Dates for ten years in Walnut case with tweezers, and all the single line stamps needed in a Post Office, this style type: **UNCLAIMED**
 By mail, postage paid, on receipt of price, \$3.00.

PROOFS FROM POSTMASTERS.

Your Quarterly Record received, and I like it very much. — JAMES CARR, P. M., California, Mo.
 The \$5 Outfit ordered by me was duly received this evening. They are all A No. 1 articles, and give entire satisfaction. — JAS. E. HARRIS, P. M., Grimesburg, N. Y.
 The Rubber Stamp, Note and Bill Heads, came to hand all right and meet with favor with those who have examined them, for cheapness, neatness, and durability. — T. W. LITTLE, P. M., Fort Lawrence, Pa.
 I have been using one of your Stamps and Pads for the last year and it gives satisfaction. — W. E. BOWEN, P. M., Shelbyville, Iowa.
 I received my Note and Letter Heads, Dater, etc., all O. K. Am satisfied with your job. It far exceeds my expectations. — W. J. KIRK, P. M., Marville, Mo.
 The Dater received, and I am well pleased with it. — CHAS. COSS, P. M., Albion, Idaho.
 Your Box of Rubber cancelled, and is all O. K. — J. W. FARR, P. M., Fort Madison, Iowa.
 The Pads ordered came to-day. I am very much pleased with them. — ED. E. MARRAS, P. M., St. Genevieve, Mo.

Illustrated Catalogue of Post Office Supplies sent free to Postmasters only. For samples of Note and Letter Headings send 6 cts. Address
F. P. HAMMOND & CO., Aurora Illinois.

No. 529.




No. 530.




No. 531.




No. 532.




Figure 1. Reproduction of a sales page from the F.P. Hammond and Co.

Checking through the literature and my own postmaster/county collection I discovered that New York State had at least 5 post offices that used this particular type of cancel. This is listed as Type C2 in *County and Postmaster Cancels of New York State* (David Proulx, Fulton, N.Y. 1990). Proulx described it as double circle outer line fancy but with larger margins, and uses the Hollowville cancel as the example.

According to my records and the information in the Proulx work, as well as the Gilman book, Brookton used its cancel in 1885 through 1887, Hollowville in 1881 and 1882 while Hulellets Landing is from 1884 - 1889. Tallette is listed as 1886, with Thomson's Mills as being used in 1887.

BROOKTON:

The Brookton cancel reads BROOKTON, / TOMPKINS CO. / E.H. MILLS, P.M. / NEW YORK. Originally called Terryville (1832 - 1833) and Mott's Corners (1833 - 1883) the post office name was changed on January 19, 1883 and lasted until February 26, 1926 when the post office name was changed to Brooktondale



HOLLOWVILLE:



Previously known as Smoky Hollow (1833 - 1865) the Hollowville post office name was changed on December 15, 1865 and remains in use today.

The postmark reads: HOLLOWVILLE, / COLUMBIA CO., / D.C. NEEFUS, P.M. / NEW YORK.

According to *Columbia County at the End of the Century* (Volume II) published by the Hudson Gazette (1900):

NEEFUS, David Carshore, of Claverack, was born in Claverack, September 9, 1818, a son of Ruluf and Ann (Carshore) Neefus. He attended the district school from the time he was four years old until sixteen years of age, when he left and went to Hudson to work as a clerk in the drug store of W. & G. Storrs. Here he remained about a year and returned to Claverack, where he was apprenticed to the firm of Herrmance & Skinkle, carriage blacksmiths.

*From 1835 till 1838 he was with this firm, and then went to Hudson as clerk in the post-office under Postmaster Wescott. In 1841 he started a grocery business and in 1842 moved to what was then called Smokey Hollow, which, by Mr. Neefus' efforts, was later changed to **Hollowville** (emphasis added). Mr. Neefus followed blacksmithing until 1853, when he was elected county clerk, which office he held until 1859; he was succeeded in this position by Cornelius Bortle and remained with him as his deputy for three years.*

*In 1862 Mr. Neefus gave up active business and in 1865 was appointed postmaster, which position he has held continuously since that time, making **thirty-five years of service** (emphasis added). In 1866 he ran a general store in connection with the post-office, and in 1897 sold out to the present proprietor. Mr. Neefus was clerk of the board of supervisors for two terms and has been justice for several years, as well as notary for the past eight years. He is a member of Hudson Lodge, No. 7.*

November 10, 1840, he married Sarah, daughter of Philo and Abi (Johnson) Blakeman; they had a family of seven children: Jane C., Ruluf, Emma, Rachel, Ida, Antilla and David C., Jr.

HULETTS LANDING:

The Kay and Smith reference book on New York State Post Office says that Hullett's Landing (two l's in the name and an apostrophe) had a life from June 19, 1874 through November 20, 1888 and again from May 29, 1889 to December 1894 when the name was changed to Huletts Landing (one l and no apostrophe). The post office remains open today.

However, the examples that I have seen have the spelling of Huletts Landing as early as 1884 and reads HULETTS LANDING, / WASH. CO/ (DATE), D.W. PHILLIPS. P.M./ NEW YORK.

None of the Huletts Landing examples that I have seen show the attached Wheel of Fortune cancel as seen in the advertisement. Did the attached cancel fall off early in its use? The two examples in my collection show a set of grid lines used to cancel the stamp.



Moreover the late David Proulx used a Huletts Landing example as the illustration on the cover of his other work, *Star Cancels of New York State*. In this case the stamp from 1885 is canceled by a star in a star design.



Perhaps far more interesting is the example seen below that was used in 1888 which shows the postmaster name scratched off. Was there a change in postmasters?



Figure 2. This cover from 1888 has the postmaster's name scratched out in the CDS.

Finally, I have very little information on the last two post offices. As a matter of fact, I don't have examples in my collection. The one illustration comes from the Gilman book.

TALLETTE:

TALLETTE, CHENANGO CO. F.P. CRANDALL, P.M. NEW YORK

Tallette is a section of the Town of New Berlin abutting both Otsego and Madison Counties.

The *1885 Official Register of the United States, Volume 2* has a postmaster listing of T.P. Crandell whose compensation for the year was \$31.92. Could this just be a typo for F.P. Crandell?



THOMSON'S MILLS:

THOMSON'S MILLS WASH CO. M.P. BREENE, P.M. N.Y.

According to Kay and Smith, Thomson's Mills was established July 29, 1886 with Michael P. Breen as postmaster. The post office name was changed to Thomson in 1894 and finally discontinued in 1976.

In total there appears to be at least 36 different post offices throughout the US that used this Hammond type of cancel.

Post Offices with County/Postmaster Names (Hammond style No. 532):

California: Cassel
Florida: Sorrento, Yellow Bluff
Illinois: Aurora, Fletcher, Gridley, Mount Carmel
Indiana: Indiana, Sycamore
Iowa: Chelsea, Radcliff, Strahn
Kansas: Milford
Kentucky: Beech Grove, Gravel Switch
Michigan: Anderson
Missouri: Atlanta
Montana: Beeman
Nebraska: Concord
New York: Brookton, Hollowville, Huletts Landing, Tallette, Thomson's Mills
Ohio: Florida, Herring, Sinking Spring
Oregon: Echo
Pennsylvania: Bainsburg, New Prague, Rainsburg
Texas: Utopia
Vermont: South Wardsboro
West Virginia: Parkersburgh
Wisconsin: Bassett, Lyons, Star

References:

Catalog of U.S. County and Postmaster Postmarks, Kenneth L. Gilman, ed., North Miami, Florida, 1990.

County and Postmaster Cancels of New York State, David Proulx, Fulton, N.Y. 1990.

Texas Postmaster and County Handstamps on Cover, 1857 – 1911, Fred Ekenstam, privately published, 2012.

http://www.usgennet.org/usa/ny/county/columbia/1900bios/n_surnames_1900.htm, (accessed February 1, 2013).

Glenn Estus may be reached at gestus@westelcom.com

NYS MANUSCRIPT TOWN MARKINGS – AN UPDATE

By: Douglas Penwell

Many ESPHS members may have been wondering – where is the new edition of the manuscript publication? This was initially slated for 2004 publication, but then news of the passing of Calvet Hahn prompted a re-evaluation. Mr. Hahn had what could rightfully be considered the largest collection of New York State stampless material ever formed. It was decided that the data from that collection would be a beneficial and indeed, a critical addition to the manuscript town marking tabulation.

The obituary for Mr. Hahn in Linn's Stamp News speculated that his collection consisted of somewhere in the range of 50,000 NYS covers. That estimate is at least double the actual total once other stampless material is excluded. Based on the number of covers in the circle lot, the manuscript lot and the other items is totaled, a reasonable estimate would probably be in the 10,000-12,000 range.

If you will look at the 3rd edition dated 1984, you will note that numerous entries consist solely of the year date. Many of these dates come from the Hahn collection. With the sale of the manuscript portion of that collection by the Siegel firm in 2008, that data became available. Without going into the details of how the collection was handled, suffice it to say that the sorting by cancel type and usage left much to be desired. Material is still showing up on the market, and with the passage of time, it is more dispersed and more difficult to locate. Your editor's estimate is that the manuscript lot in Siegel Sale 966 contained no more than 70-80% of the manuscript covers from the Hahn collection. Some of them have gone into other collections by now and will be very difficult to tabulate.

An appeal: Before more is written here, please take the time to look at the covers in your collection and send new towns, earlier dates, later dates and missing postmark date, rate and stamp information to your editor at the e-mail address shown at the end of this article. If you don't use e-mail, please send the data by regular mail. If you haven't taken the time to read Dan Knowles listing of Suffolk County manuscripts in the September, 2012 *Excelsior!*, please do. He did a wonderful job and that is the ideal format you can use when submitting information for the 4th edition.

That is not to leave out the many individuals who have contributed data, too numerous to list by name. From time to time, a collector unknown to your manuscript publication editor sends data. These efforts are also appreciated, and are used to promote ESPHS membership when data is acknowledged.

If you know a collector who is not a member of ESPHS and has NY State manuscript covers, please try to document them or at least compare the dates to previous records (you could use any of the previous editions). Please be thankful that this data is available to you – even if the covers are not from towns or counties of interest to you, remember that covers seen and reported by others make this work possible and provide you with a glimpse into what is available from your own specialty area.

Too bad that couldn't be a flashing commercial on your computer or television screen. There is a great quantity of towns remaining in the manuscript listings without date, rate or stamp

information. Filling those data "holes" will make it easier to make a distinction between individual covers in the future. Then there are the plans to break out multi-county offices in the 4th edition. In some cases, that will transform entries for some post offices into "early date only" records.

The data for the 1999 Master Supplement was done on a computer, but the 1984 3rd edition was not. The 1984 data has been entered into a word processor and newer data is being added to another file for integration with the older information. That process is very time consuming, as it consists of data collected at stamp shows, in auction catalogs and from the Internet. To date, approximately 12 pages of data has been compiled, and the process is somewhere near 50% complete. The file folder with un-entered / unchecked data is almost a half-inch thick.

The editor of the manuscript work would like once again to thank those who have submitted data for publication. A similar work for Civil War Patriotic covers has been discussed as there are no state postal history societies that have published a listing by state of those items in a formal sense.

Doug Penwell may be contacted at dougpenwell@mail.com

Editor's Note: Doug Penwell's *Sixth Supplement to the 1984 ESPHS Manuscript Book* is being printed as a separate publication. It, along with the previous manuscript publications, *Manuscript Post Offices of New York State* (Chlanda & Wilcox) and *Master Supplement to the Third Edition, 1984* (Penwell) are available from Drew Nicholson, Chair of the Publications Committee. Contact information for Drew can be found on page 2 of the accompanying March *Bulletin*.

A PLEA FOR NEW YORK STATE STAR CANCEL DATA

By: David E. Williams

Once again, I am requesting assistance with the ongoing project to document all known star cancels originating from the post offices of New York State. Since the publication of Dave Proulx's book *Star Cancels of New York State* by ESPHS in 1987, I, through the generous sharing of information from fellow ESPHS members, have been able to document close to 500 new towns, star types, years of use, or star color combinations not listed in the original publication. If you have any in your collections, see any on auction sites such as eBay, or in auction catalogs, please send the information to me at the email or snail mail address on page 2. Color scans are preferred. If you cannot send a color scan, then a detailed description of the post office (and whether a county cancel or postmaster cancel), star color, year of use or era (banknote, #65, etc), and star type. This is where a scan is most useful, since there are close to 100 star types that have been documented, and a definitive written description is not easily accomplished.

19TH CENTURY ADVERTISING POSTER STAMPS OF NEW YORK STATE

By: Arthur H. Groten M.D.

Advertising covers are well known to collectors but the use of adhesive advertising stamps is much less often seen. I have been collecting them for years, looking for those used on cover prior to 1900. They are usually found on the reverse in accordance with postal regulations but many are found on the face.

These labels are self-explanatory so I will keep text to a minimum and, of course, limit myself to only those for New York companies or distributors. I have grouped them by topic. Unless otherwise noted, all labels are from New York City companies. In the listing of topics I have given the name of the product or company being promoted by Figure number.

I have shown a few covers with labels on them but most have been cropped to permit inclusion of more examples. Although some are embossed, they are definitely adhesives and not cameos.

Food:



Figure 1. Royal Baking Powder.
Cocoa.



Figure 2. Hawley and Hoop's

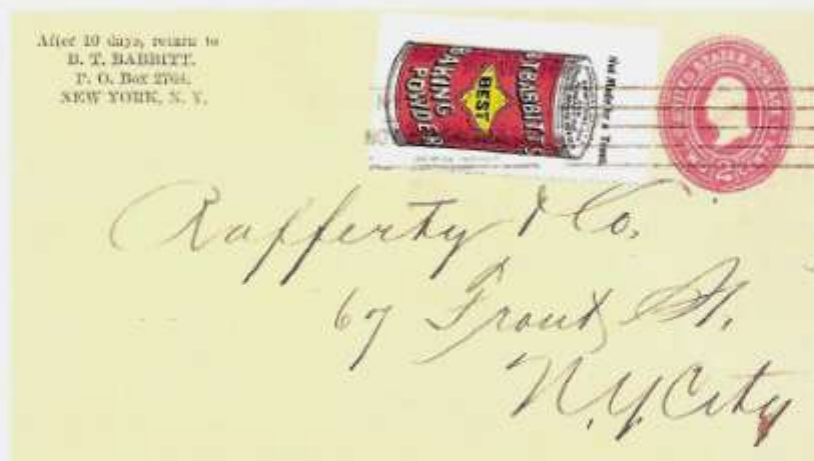


Figure 3. Babbitt's Baking Powder

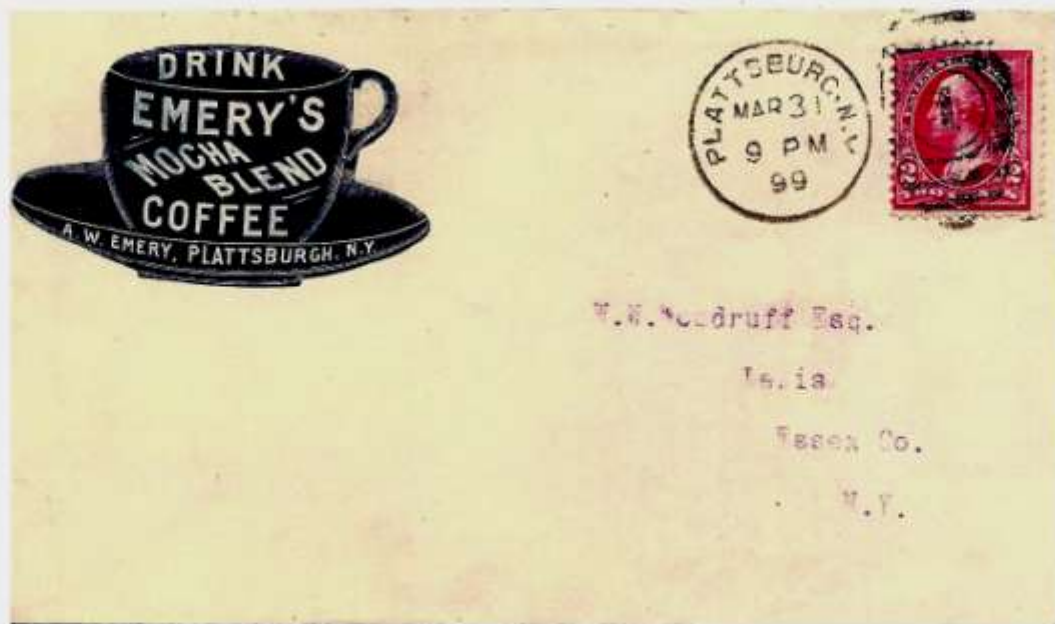


Figure 4. Emery's Mocha Blend Coffee, Plattsburgh.



Figure 5. Chase & Sanborn's Coffee distributed by Mather Bros. in Albany.

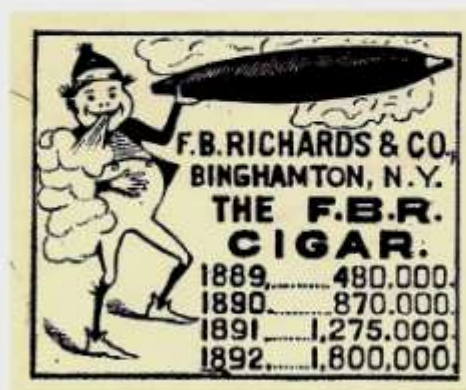
Cigars:

Figure 6.
Mephisto
Segars,
Hirsch & Co.
D.



Figure 7.
J. Fish & Bro.
Cigars,
Albany.

Figure 8. F.B. Richards & Co., Binghamton,
The F.B.R. cigar.



Medical:



Figure 9. Bright's Kidney Bean, Little Falls.



Figure 10. Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound sold by T.F. Satterlee, Newton's Corners.



Figure 11. Herman Hug, importer of Druggists Supplies.

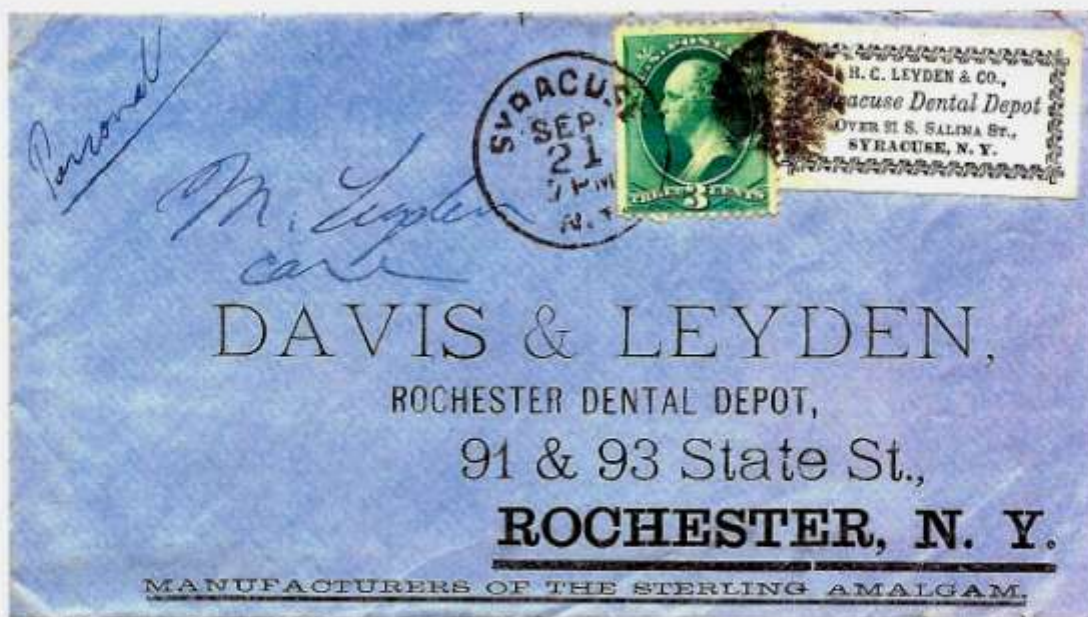


Figure 12. H.C. Leyden & Co., Syracuse Dental Depot.

Books & Stationery:

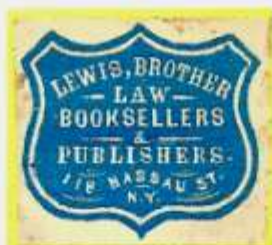


Figure 13. Lewis, Brother Law Booksellers

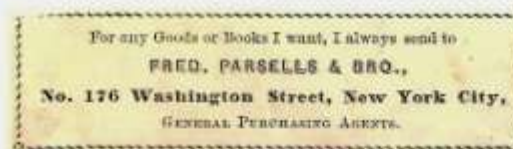


Figure 14. Fred. Parsell's & Bro. Books

Figure 15.
F. Nagel
Advertising
Labels





Figure 16. Corlies, Macy & Co., Stationers



Figure 17. The "Sun" forwarding agents.

Merchandise:



Figure 18. C.G. Barnes Watches, Canajoharie.

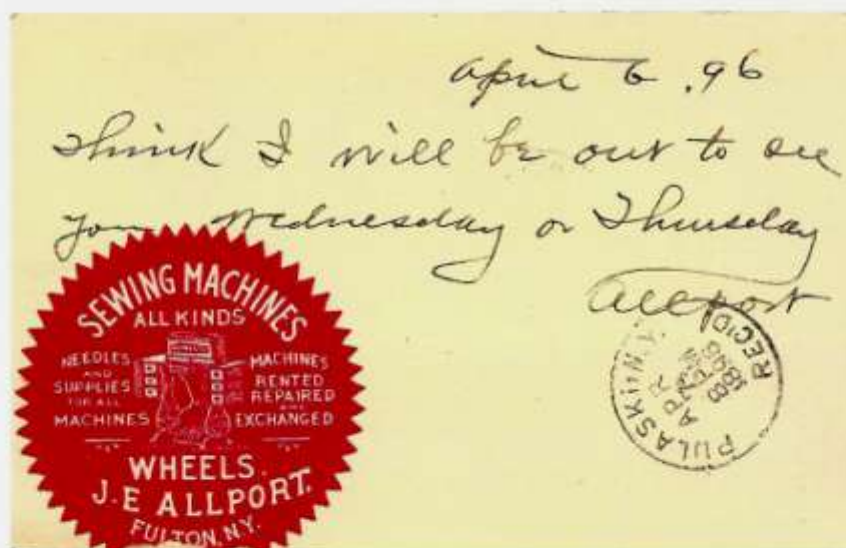


Figure 19. J.E. Allport Typewriters, Fulton.



Figure 20. Remington Typewriters, Syracuse, distributed by E. Henry Lawrence, Binghamton.



Figure 21. Smith Typewriter,



Figure 22. Laundry Queen Washer, Syracuse.



Figure 23. Warner Bros. & Co. clothing, Buffalo.



Figure 24. New York, Ontario & Western Railway Co. Coal, distributed by Kelly & Leonard, Ogdensburg.

Entertainment:



Figure 25. Charles Bruno Musical Instruments.



Figure 26. Above and left: Two examples of Gus Hill's Novelty and Feature Show.

Miscellaneous:



Figure 27. North River Bank, this dated from 1829, is the earliest such label I have seen. I have two copies on cover and believe they were used by the bank in a manner not seen often until the 1880's.



Figure 28, Cornell University, 1892 sports promotion.

In conclusion, I can make a few general comments. The most common labels are for food, medicine and commercial products. For reasons I don't understand, tobacco related labels are often quite large in a way that other subjects are not.

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AN INTERESTING POST OFFICE DOCUMENT

By: David E. Williams

Covers are not the only items of interest to postal history collectors. Some very interesting peripheral items turn up every once in a while on internet auction sites. Such an example is seen below, which was purchased by the author on eBay.

This document, dated January 21, 1888, is duplicate receipt for a deposit made by the Oxford New York postmaster, Frederick P. Newkirk, to the postmaster at Binghamton New York. The deposit, in the amount of \$90.00, was deposited on the Oxford post office's money order account.

The image shows a duplicate certificate of deposit on a money-order account. The document is yellowed and has a decorative border. On the left side, there is a vertical stamp that reads "DUPLICATE" and "(No. 6903-4)". The main text of the certificate is as follows:

Certificate of Deposit on Money-Order Account.

No. 372

Post Office at Binghamton, N.Y., the 21 day of JAN, 1888

I certify that Frederick P. Newkirk, Postmaster

at Oxford, N.Y., has this day deposited

at this Office the sum of 90.00 Dollars,

on MONEY-ORDER ACCOUNT, the same having been remitted JAN 21 100, 1888

\$90.

To be transmitted to the Depositing Postmaster.

E. H. FREEMAN, Postmaster.

W A H

From the appearance of the certificate, it looks as if Binghamton postmaster E. H. Freeman pre-prepared a few of these documents ahead of time. This is illustrated by the use of violet hand stamps for the post office name, postmaster's name and the month of January. The other fields were filled out in manuscript, giving the details of the specific transaction at the time it was made. The form itself had preprinted instructions printed across it in red which noted that the duplicate copy of the form was "To be transmitted to the Depositing / Postmaster."

The Binghamton postmaster, Edward H. Freeman, was appointed on July 26, 1886 and served until November 29, 1888, when he was succeeded by James C. Truman. Prior to his appointment as postmaster, he was associated with the editorial department of the *Democratic Leader*, a Binghamton newspaper which he cofounded with Abram W. Carl. This newspaper was eventually acquired by the Kilmers of Binghamton and became what is still known to this day as *The Binghamton Press*.

Frederick P. Newkirk, the Oxford postmaster, was appointed to his post on April 16, 1886 and served as postmaster until he was succeeded by Bradford G. Greene on May 27, 1890. Prior to his appointment he had operated a dry goods business with Ward Vanderlyn, and was one of the original incorporators of the First National Bank of Oxford in 1864. He had also served as town auditor from 1880-81.

CIVIL WAR SOLDIER'S MAIL FROM THE "1ST L.I. VOLUNTEERS"

By: Daniel M. Knowles, M.D.

Initially, when hostilities erupted in April 1861, Union soldier's mail was handled in the same manner as was all civilian mail. Specifically, Union soldier's mail was sent in envelopes stamped with the 1857 adhesives or in stationery envelopes of the 1853 or the 1860 Star Die series which were in use at the time. Such mail was not marked "Soldier's Letter" as there was no postal necessity to distinguish between letters from soldiers or civilians, the exception being military mail. Clearly, however, stamps were not always available to soldiers. So, a few months into the war, on July 22, 1861, Congress passed a law permitting soldiers (but not officers) to send their letters without prepayment of postage, i.e., postage due. This law was announced to the soldiers through General Order No. 49 August 3, 1861 War Department: "*And it be further enacted, that all letters written by soldiers in the service of the United States may be transmitted through the mails without prepayment of postage, under such regulations as the Post Office Department may prescribe, the postage thereon to be paid by the recipients*"¹. Non prepayment of postage was permitted provided the envelopes were endorsed "Soldier's Letter" and bore the signature of the Major or the acting Major with his regiment indicated by number and state. As this task became burdensome for the Majors, lesser (and sometimes higher) commissioned officers, the chaplain, and the adjutant of a regiment were allowed to certify soldier's letters. Within a year or so, the chaplains and the surgeons in hospitals (where there were no Majors) were permitted to certify soldier's letters as well. Postmaster General Montgomery Blair suggested in his annual report of 1861 "*that the privilege conferred upon soldiers to send letters without the pre-payment of postage should be extended to sailors and marines in the actual service of the United States*"². Subsequently, Congress passed additional legislation on January 21, 1862 to allow sailors and marines to also send letters without prepayment of postage. The Executive Officer of the vessel could certify naval letters for the sailors and marines on that vessel on the ocean and on rivers.

Given the high volume of soldier's letters it must have been quite burdensome for officers to certify each letter by hand as to the regiment's identification and state of origin. This no doubt was the impetus for many regiments to devise handstamps or less commonly to obtain pre-printed envelopes for the purpose of certifying soldier's letters more efficiently. Such handstamp devices and envelopes could be conveniently kept by the regimental postmaster.

Indeed, a great variety of such handstamps and envelopes were developed and used by many regiments. They included all the styles of the postmarking devices of the period, i.e., circular, oval, or straight line most commonly and arc or stencil rarely. Pre-printed certification markings were most commonly rectangular frames. Many markings included the name of the certifying officer or chaplain for that regiment, while others left space for that individual to handwrite his name and title. Dr. James Milgram has compiled the most complete listing of these markings to date in his book, "*Federal Civil War Postal History*". He records a total of 58 distinct handstamped and printed certification markings, including 47 by officers, chaplains, and hospital surgeons by state and regiment, 2 by naval executive officers, 6 without regiment certification, and 3 soldier's letter markings without certification.

1. The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, in four series, in 128 volumes, War Department Publication, 1881-1901.
2. Report of the Postmaster General, p. 28, 1861.

Dr. Milgram records two examples of the stencil certification marking "SOLDIER'S LETTER 1st L.I. VOLs". To the best of my knowledge these are the only two recorded covers bearing the "SOLDIER'S LETTER 1st L.I. VOLs" certifying handstamp. He illustrates one example in his book (Figure 7-15), which is reproduced here as **Figure 1**. This cover bears the "SOLDIER'S LETTER/1st L.I. VOLs" stencil handstamp certification endorsed by Major Mark De Zeng who is seen in **Figure 2**. This letter was placed in the mail without postage in Washington DC, where it was stamped **DUE 3** and mailed on to Mrs. Patrick Connolly in Greenpoint L.I., a Brooklyn neighborhood.



Figure 1. Soldier Patrick Connolly inscribed "soldger letter" on this patriotic envelope which was subsequently handstamped **SOLDIER'S LETTER/1st LI VOLs** and certified as such by the signature of Major P. Mark de Zeng. The letter was placed in the mail in Washington DC where it was marked **DUE 3** and sent on to his wife in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, who was responsible for paying the postage due.

This letter must have originated from the addressee's husband, Patrick Connolly. He enlisted at 28 years of age on June 22, 1861 to serve three years. He was mustered in as a private in Co. E on August 31, 1861 and promoted to corporal on September 1, 1861. He re-enlisted as a veteran on December 25, 1863 but deserted on February 8, 1864. Major Mark de Zeng, seen in **Figure 2**, who certified Patrick Connolly's letter, enlisted at 40 years of age with the 67th Regiment at Brooklyn on May 24, 1861. He was mustered in as a Major on June 24, 1861 and discharged on August 30, 1862.



Figure 2. Major P. Mark De Zeng.

Dr. Milgram states that a second example of this marking on a patriotic cover exists with a chaplain's signature. He is no doubt referring to the cover discussed and shown here as **Figure 3**. This is a multi-colored Magnus patriotic envelope showing a view of the United States General Post Office. This cover was appropriately certified as a soldier's letter as it bears the "SOLDIER'S LETTER/1st L.I. VOLs" stencil handstamp and was endorsed by "Ja C Beecher, Chaplain." He is seen in **Figure 4**. The cover was placed in the mail without postage, handstamped **Due 3** and mailed on to the addressee, Mrs. Margaret Maseker, in Newark, N.J. A postmark indicating the town of origin is lacking. However, Washington DC is the likely origin based on the fact that the sender of this letter spent almost his entire military service in and around Washington DC (see below).

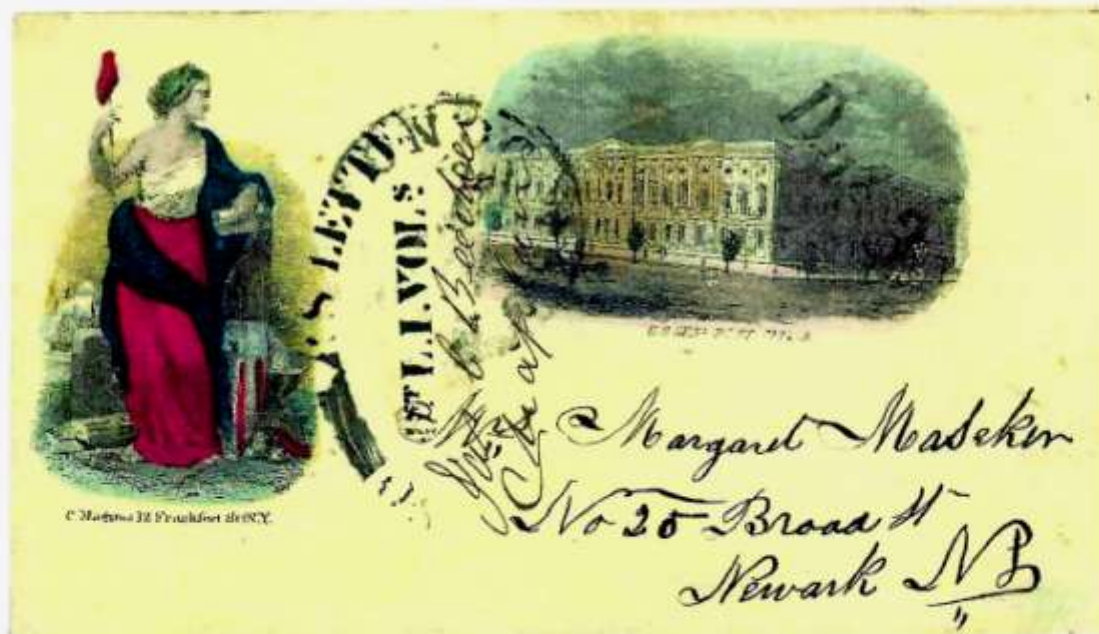


Figure 3. This beautiful Magnus patriotic envelope carrying soldier Alexander Maseker's letter to his wife in Newark NJ was handstamped **SOLDIER'S LETTER / 1st LI VOLs**, certified by the signature of Chaplain James C. Beecher and dropped in the mail unpaid. It was stamped **Due 3**, most likely in Washington DC, and mailed on to his wife, who was responsible for paying the postage due.



Figure 4. Chaplain James C. Beecher.

The federal army was a volunteer army organized by the individual states. The 67th Regiment, New York Volunteers (their official State designation), was organized in Brooklyn, New York by Nelson Cross, under special authority of the War Department at the beginning of the Civil War. Cross opened the official recruiting office on Fulton Street in lower Manhattan. Brooklyn was a separate city and not part of New York City at that time. Fittingly, the soldiers of the 67th Regiment referred to themselves as the 1st LI Volunteers. They were also known as the Brooklyn Phalanx. Julius Adams, a West Point graduate, took command of the regiment as Colonel and Nelson Cross served as Lt. Colonel. 1567 men and boys enlisted in the 67th Regiment (1st LI Volunteers) between May 1861 and June 1864. The regiment was assigned to Graham's Brigade on August 21, 1861, as part of the Division of the Potomac which was renamed the Army of the Potomac. They departed for Washington DC, their first assignment being the defense of the Capitol, on August 22, 1861. They arrived in Washington two days later, and remained there, moving from camp to camp, until March 1862. Subsequently, they were active at the siege of Yorktown and in General McClellan's Peninsular campaign, becoming involved in the Battle of Williamsburg, Seven Pines or Fair Oaks, and Malvern Hills. The regiment later participated in the Gettysburg campaign, fighting on Culp's Hill and Cemetery Ridge. A monument dedicated to the 67th Regiment was later erected on Culp's Hill; it remains standing today as seen in **Figure 5**.



Figure 5. This monument to the 1st LI Volunteers stands on Culp's Hill on the Gettysburg Battlefield.

The 67th Regiment fought in many more battles before being formally mustered out on July 4, 1864. Of the approximately 1200 men comprising the regiment who left Brooklyn in June 1861, less than 200 remained by the war's end. Many men whose terms expired re-enlisted as Veteran Volunteers and were consolidated with the 65th Regiment. These soldiers went on to witness the final surrender of General Robert E. Lee at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865.

Companies A, B and E were known as "Beecher's Pets", after Henry Ward Beecher, the celebrated Congregationalist clergyman, orator and fiery abolitionist. Reverend Beecher was a prominent member of one of the most influential families of that period. His sister, Harriet Beecher Stowe, wrote "Uncle Tom's Cabin" (11). His Plymouth Church of the Pilgrim became one of the most influential pulpits in the United States. It also was a stop on the Underground Railroad, which helped escaped slaves reach Canada and freedom.

Review of all the soldiers known to have served in the 1st L.I. Regiment reveals an Alexander D. Maseker, whose wife's first name was Margaret and resided in Newark NJ, thus identifying him as the likely sender of this letter. He is documented as being 31 years old when enlisting for three years on June 11, 1861 in Brooklyn. He was mustered in as a Private in Company E on June 20, 1861 and was promoted to Corporal on October 22, 1861. His unit arrived in Washington on August 24, 1861 and remained there through March 1862. He later participated in the siege at Yorktown and at the Battle of Fair Oaks during General McClellan's Peninsular Campaign. A disability resulted in his discharge on December 8, 1862 in New York City. Thus, nearly his entire military service was spent in and around Washington DC. He died of a boiler explosion in 1880 in Dover NJ.

James Chaplain Beecher was the youngest of the eleven Beecher children; an older brother being Reverend Henry Ward Beecher and his half-sister being Harriet Beecher Stowe. After serving as a missionary in China, he returned to the United States at the outbreak of the Civil War. He enlisted on June 20, 1861 in Brooklyn as Chaplain for the 67th New York Regiment, 1st LI Volunteers. He was discharged on September 8, 1862 at Yorktown, Virginia but was subsequently commissioned as Lt. Colonel of the 141st NY Infantry on October 14, 1862. He was discharged on March 7, 1863 at Hunter's Chapel, Virginia. Following his wife's death in 1863 he was commissioned once again, this time as Lt. Colonel for the 35th CT Infantry. He was promoted to Colonel on June 9, 1863, to Brigadier General on March 13, 1865 and mustered out on June 1, 1866. After the war, he primarily served as a pastor in various churches. He took his own life on August 25, 1886 in Elmira NY.

For me, identification of the soldiers, the certifying agents and the associated battles lying behind these handstamp and printed soldier's letter certification markings brings the Civil War to life. I hope others will explore the identification of the individuals associated with these soldier's letters. I also hope that collectors will report those covers bearing Soldier's letter certification markings not listed by Dr. James Milgram, so as to further expand his listings.

References

1. J. W. Milgram, *Soldier's Letters In Federal Civil War Postal History*, Northbrook Publishing Co., Inc., Lake Forest, IL, p. 125-168, 2007.

2. *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, in four series, in 128 volumes, War Department Publication, 1881-1901.
3. R. McP. Cabeen, "The Demonetization of Stamps and Stamped Envelopes at the Chicago Post Office During the Early Months of the Civil War", *Stamps*, November 8, 1952.
4. *United States Mail and Post Office Assistant*, May 1862.
5. *Report of the Postmaster General*, p. 28, 1861.
6. J. W. Milgram, *Maritime Postal Usages from Coastal and Ocean Locations. In Federal Civil War History*, Northbrook Publishing Co., Inc., Lake Forest, IL, p. 191-226, 2007.
7. J. W. Milgram, *Handstamped or Printed Certifying Markings on Soldier's Mail. In Federal Civil War Postal History*, Northbrook Publishing Co., Inc., Lake Forest, IL, p.169-190, 2007.
8. 1st Long Island Living Historians. <http://www.newyorkcivilwar.com>, Original Soldiers.
9. 1st Long Island Living Historians. <http://www.newyorkcivilwar.com>, Regimental History.
10. 1st Long Island Volunteers, Wikipedia, Wikipedia Foundation, Inc.
11. Beecher Stowe Center, Beecher Family. www.harrietbeecherstowecenter.org.
12. Syracuse University Library, library.syr.edu/digital/guides/m/maseker_ad.htm, Alexander D. Maseker Letters.
13. R. T. Irwin, R. G. Irwin (Editors), "Walking Tour of the Friend's Cemetery", *Historiographers of New Jersey*, Madison, NJ, p.7, 2008.

USPS POSTMASTER FINDER

In case you have tried to get to the USPS Postmaster Finder as I have from a saved "Favorite" on your computer and have come up with a "File or Page Requested Not Found" error, the USPS has made some changes to their web site. Instead of placing a link to the new location for Postmaster Finder on the old web page, one has to search their web site in order to locate this very useful tool.

In hopes of saving readers the frustration of this "dead end", you will see below a direct link to the new home page for Postmaster Finder. Be sure to replace your old link with this new one in your Favorites or bookmarks so you have quick access to a great resource for postal historians.

<http://about.usps.com/who-we-are/postmasterfinder/welcome.htm>

COVER OF THE ISSUE

By: Bob Bramwell

Penny postal cards, introduced by the Post Office Department in 1873, were a game-changer for individuals, businesses and government offices almost from their first day of issue. Accepting the loss of privacy inherent in having your message open to view in exchange for 66% off – and free cardboard to write on – was a bargain too good to pass up. So there were cases where the government postal card was the perfect means for the job at hand.



WAGON STOLEN \$10.00 REWARD.

Stolen from the wagon house of the undersigned in the town of Rotterdam, a Platform Spring Market Wagon, for single horse; one seat, black cushion (two-seat wagon, but only one seat taken), plain black body, about 10 inches deep; nickel guard rail on wooden dash board, dash about 20 inches or two feet high; small silver knocked off left side of cross bar of thills about two inches long adjoining left thill; new black rawhide whip; double steps on each side, lower left side step slightly bent down.

The above reward will be paid for the recovery of the wagon in good condition by

GUSTAV WEBER.

Address all communications as above, or to

WM. L. CAMPBELL,

Schenectady, Dec. 16, 1899.

Chief of Police, Schenectady, N. Y.

Mailed December 18, 1899
Custom printed message on
UX14 sent to Ballston, NY

When the Schenectady Police Department was charged with the task of recovering a stolen wagon, the Penny Postal was the chosen means to spread the word, together with a very complete description and a copious reward. Quantities of postal cards could be obtained as needed from the Schenectady post office and quickly printed by one of the printing shops in town.

A few years later, the popularity of point-and-shoot cameras added another feature to these Wanted postal cards: the picture of the missing child, as shown on page 3 of the March 2012 *Excelsior*!