



The Journal of the Empire State Postal History Society

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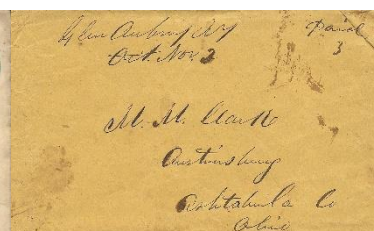
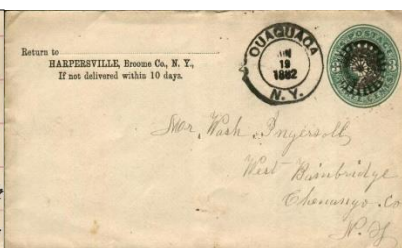
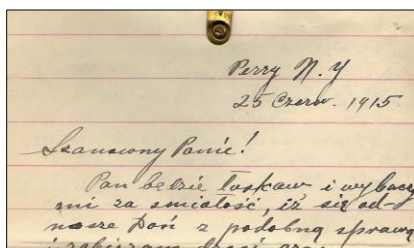
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NOTICE!

I apologize for the late delivery of the September 2017 issue of *Excelsior!* As of August 1, I only had one article submitted from the membership. However, my thanks to all the others that came through in a pinch to make this issue possible! Deadline for the March 2018 issue of *Excelsior!* is February 1st, but can be submitted anytime. Therefore, spend a few long, cold winter days or nights at your computer and share your knowledge with others. To entice you to participate here's an offer you can't refuse:

As an incentive, submitting a one to four-page article will get you a one year extension on your membership and a five-page article will get you a two year extension. Just think — if you write regularly for *Excelsior!* you'll have the potential of earning free membership for life!...And think about how you will enrich yourself and others.

POST OFFICE OF THE ISSUE: UNION CENTER

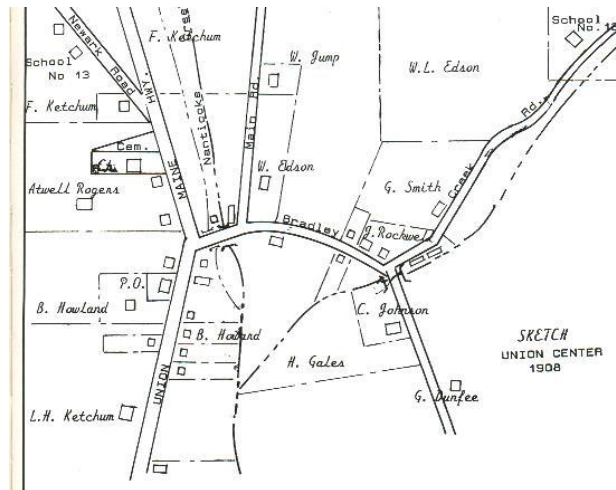
By: David Williams

The Broome County post office of Union Center, New York was formed from the Union Centre post office on May 23, 1893 and was in existence until December 31, 1953 when mail began being serviced from Endicott. Seen below are early pictures of the post office, a map showing the location of the post office, and some of the postmasters of Union Center.



Figure 1. The post office was in Irving Broughm's store in 1900 & in Rockwell and Mann's store in 1910.

Figure 2. Map of Union Center showing the location of the post office in 1908.



Some of the early postmasters of Union Center were:

Eugene M. Andrews, May 23, 1893 – May 15, 1899
Irving D. Brougham, May 16, 1899 – January 26, 1909
Clarence Stephens, January 27, 1909 – October 11, 1909
Fred M. Rockwell, October 12, 1909 – March 24, 1912
Willie A. Mann, March 25, 1912 – December 8, 1925
Guy H. Edson, December 9, 1925 - ?

FROM EDISON TO “ELECTRIC CHARLIE”: THE SCHENECTADY POST OFFICE ENTERS THE AGE OF INDUSTRIALIZATION

By: Bob Bramwell

My purpose in this article is to examine the postmarking tools of the Schenectady post office to demonstrate the technologies available to postmasters and postal clerks from the earliest days of our federal postal system to my arbitrary cutoff of 1950. In developing this subject I came to realize that Schenectady was a true frontier village when founded in 1661, but had a literate population with both agricultural and mercantile instincts, with family connections in distant places. When it opened, the Schenectady post office's delivery extended westward 35 miles or more in an arc of 180 degrees – a huge and diverse territory. Postmaster compensation of about \$250 shows the Schenectady office to be quite busy for a frontier town. As we will see, the post office grew considerably while examination of postal equipment shows that only a few major technological advances were required to accommodate the town's growing population and its development into a robust commercial and manufacturing center. I hope you enjoy the journey.

Background

Schenectady is part of New York State's Capitol District, 16 miles northwest of Albany astride the Mohawk River. It grew from its birth in 1661 as a farm community to an important conduit of trade with the Northwest Territories. The Erie Canal arrived from Buffalo in 1825 and for all practical purposes stopped right there since neither passengers nor freight-haulers much wanted to traverse the 27 locks that dropped 226 feet of elevation over 31 miles of canal between Schenectady and the Hudson River. That gave eccentric innovator George W. Featherstonhaugh (pronounced Fahn-shaw) the opening to convince the state legislature to charter a steam railroad to run between Schenectady and Albany. The Mohawk and Hudson Railroad opened for traffic in 1831. By 1851 the M&H was absorbed, along with 5 other roads, into Erastus Corning's New York Central Railroad.

Schenectady's eminence in manufacturing was presaged when the Norris brothers started building steam locomotives there in 1848. The business grew quickly as the Schenectady Locomotive Works (later American Locomotive Co.). Later, barely out of his teens, George Westinghouse, Jr. invented the railroad air brake in 1870 while living with his parents in Schenectady and jump-started a widely varied manufacturing career. Then, in 1886, inventor/entrepreneur Thomas A. Edison moved his Edison Machine Works (later to become the General Electric Company) from New York City to unused space at the Schenectady Locomotive Works and motored on from there.

Finally, two men recruited to General Electric by Edison must be introduced. Karl August Rudolf Steinmetz, a Prussian-born electrical engineering theorist and contemporary of Einstein, Tesla and Marconi (he adopted the moniker “Charles Proteus” in 1894 when he became an American citizen), served G.E. in the manner of a Benjamin Franklin until his untimely death in 1923. His work allowed electric motors to become a dominant power source.

Charles E. Wilson, a prodigy of production organization, worked his way up through G.E.'s manufacturing businesses to become president in 1937. President Roosevelt tapped him to serve as chief of the War Production Board from 1942 to 1944, after which he returned to G.E. until President Truman asked him in 1950 to run the Office of Defense Mobilization as the Cold War intensified. During WWII this Charles E. Wilson was given the “Electric Charlie” nickname to avoid confusion with the other Charles E. Wilson, president of General Motors, who became “Engine Charlie” as both men served important roles in the war effort.

U. S. Census records show the impact on population as Schenectady became the industrial center of New York State, growing as a metropolitan area from about 15,000 in 1870 to 100,000 by the end of World War II.

The Early Schenectady Post Office

Schenectady's federal post office opened soon after Christmas Day in 1792, moving mail service out of Thomas Clench's Tavern. The earliest Schenectady device known was printers' type locked into a tray to form this abbreviated straightline postmark: **SCHEN * JUN * 16**. It survives on folded letters only from 1797 to 1801. Why the SCHEN postmarking device was abandoned, and nothing used before 1797 has survived, is a mystery. But from 1800 to 1820 Schenectady's first two postmasters, alone or with a single clerk, used the writing tools of the day: a sculpted goose quill and inkpot.

Schenectady's 1820 census population was 3,939, which might have been about four hundred households. Ex-sheriff James Van Slyck Ryley had been appointed postmaster on May 1st 1820 and earned the impressive compensation of \$510 for his first full year. Based on the similar compensation paid to his predecessor Jacob Thurston, I estimate that the Schenectady post office in 1820 delivered out 26 letters and 8 newspapers per day (Sundays included). Ryley's office also accepted into the mails, on average, 3 paid and 20 unpaid letters per day.

So how did Ryley staff his office? Many post offices, from the largest to the smallest, employed bonded clerks. Except for the largest offices, clerks' pay was the responsibility of their postmaster. In Ryley's case I think it is clear he shared duties with one other person. Until 1828, except for a one-year technological adventure, every letter known to me was postmarked by either Ryley himself or his unidentified clerk. The penmanship of each man shown in **Figure 1** was distinct from the other and no third "hand" is seen with any regularity (occasional fill-ins must be expected).



Figure 1. While both postmarks are applied in the same style (town name without state, month and date without year beneath), Ryley's "Sch" and lack of a crossbar on the "t" distinctly differentiate his hand from that of his clerk. These differences appear consistently for the seven years these men mutually process outgoing mail.

PM Ryley decided to experiment with a locally crafted town mark device in April 1824. It survived in use only a year, after which his office went back to manuscript markings. During the 7 years that Ryley relied exclusively on manuscript markings, the postmaster himself marked 17% of letters and his single clerk the other 83%, so we know who spent the most time in the post office.

In 1827 Ryley tried another local source and brought in a sturdy cast-metal postmark that lasted in the post office almost as long as postmaster Ryley. It was replaced by the well-known 30mm government supplied CDS when Schenectady qualified as a Presidential post office. I consider this system-wide conversion to cast metal devices with a mortise for changeable date insets to be the first major technological advancement. It happened in the mid-1830s in conjunction with the adoption of Presidential approval of postmaster appointments at larger offices, including Schenectady. All three of the above aforementioned devices are shown in **Figure 2**.



Figure 2. The first three Schenectady postmarks made in circular form. At the left, a boxwood platform with recesses carved to hold printers' type surrounded by a bent brass strip lasted one year. Center, a cast metal design, lasted ten years only to be replaced by Schenectady's first government-supplied device.

From 1820 to 1877 the population of Schenectady grew from about 4,000 to 13,500, a growth rate of about 2% per year. Arrival of the Erie Canal in 1825, like a large creek suddenly cutting through the heart of town, was a technological and commercial revolution. Six years later the opening of the Mohawk and Hudson Rail Road, connecting Schenectady and Albany across a nearly level plateau between the towns, may well have been the technological exclamation point that attracted Thomas Edison. But in all that time, there was scarcely ever more than one postmarking device in use at the same time as seen in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Schenectady Simplex Postmarking Devices by Dates of Use

33mm DC with ms dates	Apr 1824 to May 1825
30mm DC with ms dates	Jul 1827 to Aug 1835
30mm CDS type 1	Sep 1835 to Jul 1845
30mm CDS type 2	Mar 1845 to Sep 1855
30mm CDS type 1 reinstated	Mar 1856 to Jul 1857
32mm CDS	Apr 1857 to Nov 1861
26x13mm DCDS	May 1860 to Mar 1863
26x14mm DCDS	Jun 1863 to Feb 1870
26x13mm DCDS reinstated	Feb 1870 to Jan 1877

Table 1. Seven postmark devices were used at the Schenectady post office during the 54 years between 1824 and 1877, with virtually no overlap among devices. These devices were handed over from postmaster to successor. Two devices were retired, then returned to use.

It was not until the 1855 fiscal year (July 1, 1854 to June 30, 1855) that the clerks employed at the Schenectady post office appear in the biennial Register of All Officers and Agents, Civil, Military, and Naval, in the Service of the United States (commonly called the Official Register series). Finally, we know that the postmaster at this time, Luke Dodge, had one full time clerk. But he also brought a relative, John Dodge, in occasionally.

Worth noting in **Table 2** is that once Schenectady postmaster John Veeder was placed on salary – probably 1862 but certainly 1863 – the number and compensation level of clerks in the office explodes. From 1829, the O.R. made it clear that postmasters earning less than \$2,000 in

commissions were responsible for paying their clerk(s) and office rent out of pocket. Postmasters drawing at least \$2,000 salary enjoyed having the POD pay their clerk salaries and office rents.

Table 2: Schenectady Postmaster and Clerk Compensation

1861: Postmaster Luke Dodge, compensation \$1,725.27

Clerk G. N. LaRue, compensation \$364.60 for a full year

Clerk J. Van Vranken, compensation \$260.00 for a full year

1863: Postmaster John Veeder, compensation \$2,000.00

Clerk J. Van Vranken, compensation \$433.00 (full year)

Clerk C. Tymerson, compensation \$312.00 (full year)

Clerk O. B. Hamlin, compensation \$59.51 (half year)

Clerk D. J. Tichnor, compensation \$53.15 (one quarter)

1865: Postmaster John Veeder, compensation \$2,600.00

Clerk J. Van Vranken, compensation \$540.00 (full year)

Clerk D. J. Tichnor, compensation \$540.00 (full year)

Clerk O. H. Oliver, compensation \$375.00 (full year)

Clerk Jacob Putnam, compensation \$150.00 (full year)

Clerk C. E. Kingsbury, compensation \$145.00 (full year)

Clerk Theo. Tymerson, compensation \$75.00 (full year)

Table 2. From early days the Post Office Department subsidized clerk hire only at offices whose postmasters earned compensation of \$2,000 or more. Schenectady shows how postmasters could react to this.

Despite the fact that Schenectady seemed to have grown into the big leagues, the first time two different Schenectady postmarking devices were used day to day at the same time was in 1879 and 1880. This corresponds to the spurt in population after the Civil War, much of it migrants from Eastern Europe who found work in locomotive manufacturing and related heavy industries of Schenectady. These hand stamps were made to be sold to 4th Class post offices for about \$3 per set. Both are seen in **Figure 3**.



Figure 3. Vulcanized rubber postmarks with duplexed “killers” were seen at small offices between 1875 and 1880 because they were sold for a few dollars with a supply of violet or purple ink. Use of that ink was prohibited in January 1880 by the POD because it could too easily be removed from stamps.

It made little sense for a post office that was allowed free postmarking tools on request to buy such devices as these. But they are Schenectady’s first duplexed devices (stamp obliterator

together with town and date marker), which is a clue that “production” on the mail table had become an imperative. One strike versus two strikes, you know. The 25mm “stacked-date” device is first seen July 1877. The 28mm “date-in-line” device is first seen August 1879. Both continue in use only to disappear by mid-1880 after the Post Office Department banished purple ink as too easily washed from stamps and, coincidentally, shipped a government-issued duplexed postmark device to Schenectady. I consider the duplexed device to be another major advance in postal technology.

It seems remarkable that just as the population of Schenectady was growing from 15,000 to perhaps 25,000 and commerce undoubtedly flooding the post office with circulars that it could process all outgoing mail with one postmarking device, but that seems to be the case. The 27mm duplexed CDS arrived in Schenectady in 1880 and was put to use with a carved cork “killer”. One clue to the amount of punishment this mortised metal casting took is how many carved corks it went through in the first five years before the office obtained its first metal “killer”. Of course, it didn’t help this “record” that the very first carving got the capital S of Schenectady backwards and was replaced after three days (making the two examples I have the most valuable covers that nobody cares about). One cover and other examples of the duplexed device are seen in **Figure 4**.



Figure 4. A sturdy 27mm duplexed device was the only postmark used from June 1880 to the end of 1895.

But are these two postmarks strikes of the same 27mm duplexed CDS device? I think you and I both agree they are not, given how much closer the town name letters are to the 27mm rim, allowing a 4th date line in the mortise. But my collection supports the idea that this was a one-for-one exchange of government devices in 1885 when including the year in postmarks became a requirement. Still only one postmarker in use at a time. Not exactly technology.

But how many postal clerks did Schenectady have in 1895? Listed in the 1895 Official Register are 8 clerks with annual salaries ranging from \$1,500 to \$600. Listed as Letter Carriers in 1895 are 11 names, although only 7 appear to have worked the full year for equal salaries of \$850 and 1 for the salary of \$600.

It’s too bad the 1895 O.R. didn’t include pictures so that we could match names to the photograph seen in **Figure 5**, borrowed from the archive of Schenectady’s patron historian Charles Efner by local author Larry Hart. At least we can tell the difference between the clerks and the carriers.



These “mail boys” pose at 132 Wall Street c. 1895. (Courtesy of Larry Hart.)

Figure 5. Employees of the Schenectady post office in front of its Wall Street location in 1895. Letter Carriers were employed in Schenectady beginning 1891.

Thomas Edison Arrives in Schenectady

At the same time that Thomas Edison and Charles Steinmetz were settling into Schenectady and machinery appeared in every labor-intensive job, the postal system was not immune to change. Letter processing machines were emerging, and Schenectady was one of the offices chosen to test candidates of both American Postal Supply Company (“American”) and Barry Postal Supply Co. (“Barry”). For a few months in the summer of 1897 Schenectady tested an American 22mm duplexed CDS – the well-known “Waving Flag” design as seen in **Figure 6**. Then in a somewhat longer period of time in 1899 it had one of Barry’s comparable machines shown in **Figure 7**.



Figure 6. American Postal Supply Co. 22mm CDS duplexed with “waving flag”. The year 1897 is distinctively split to each side of the dial. Schenectady use was discontinued in 1897 per Langford.



Figure 7. This Barry Postal Supply Co. machine was provided to the Schenectady post office to give it a real life test on the main letter processing line.

A brief period of side-by-side competition seems to have taken place between about 1907 to 1911 when an American “Flag” machine almost indistinguishable from the 1897 test machine and an International Postal Supply Co. machine were both processing letter mail. Both are shown in **Figure 8**. It seems the International product line won out, as International’s machines became the workhorse of Schenectady outbound mail processing from that point on.

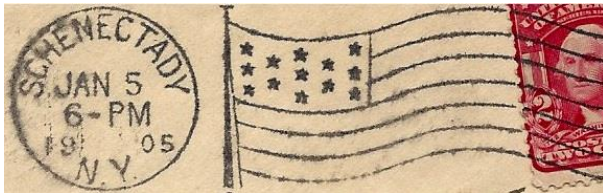
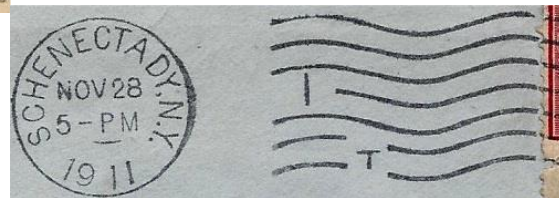


Figure 8. This 22mm American “waving flag” machine differs from the 1897 test machine only in being without a space for a station number.

22mm International machine has both station number 1 and space for a service code. Codes C, D, R, and T are recorded.



Rural Free Delivery service was introduced by the Schenectady post office, as in many other post offices, about 1902. The first proof of this I have is a letter dated August 3, 1903 from RFD zone 1 for carriage to Lancaster, Mass.

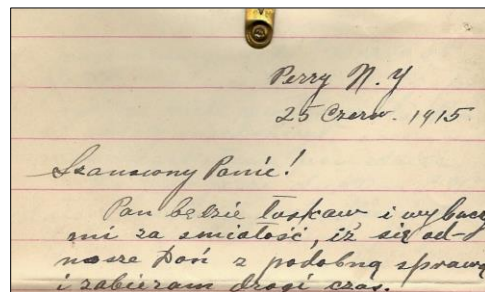


Admittedly, some RFD zones were served by carriers driving one or two-horse wagons – hardly a new technology – but I’m inclined to think Schenectady, influenced by Charles P. Steinmetz, would have equipped its RFD carriers with electric cars, such as the one seen in **Figure 9**. Schenectady was ultimately served 8 RFD zones.

Figure 9. Electric cars like this helped deliver mail to rural routes.

Special Delivery service was probably established in Schenectady at about this time, and of course we all know how its speed of delivery for a fee was promoted with images of carriers first running, then riding bicycles, then riding motorcycles. But can we really see proof of the speedy delivery?

Here’s the opening of a letter clearly needing immediate delivery. As seen in **Figure 10**, its envelope shows a postmark of Perry, N.Y. time-dated JUN 25 / 11-AM / 1915. The envelope’s reverse shows Schenectady’s receipt at JUN 26 / 5 AM / 1915. Then the carrier, initials SWP, noted in blue crayon “not open 825 am June 26, 15”. Properly, Special Delivery service did not include breaking into the addressee’s home at 8 o’clock in the morning on a Tuesday.



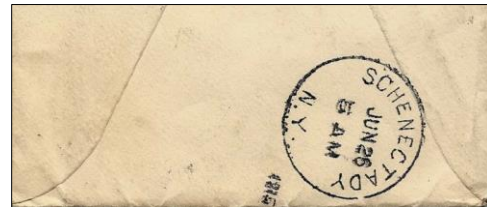
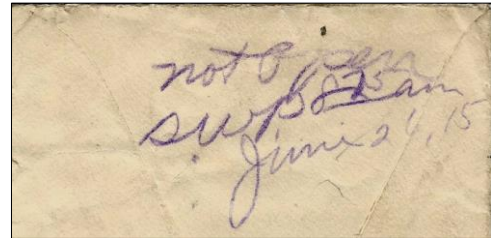


Figure 10. Special Delivery cover from Perry, New York to Schenectady, New York with portions of the envelopes reverse showing Scenectady receiving cancel and carriers notation.

Perhaps it was the arrival of the Machine Age , but the Post Office Department clearly saw big changes in Schenectady’s future. In 1911 a new location for the post office was chosen and in 1913 the impressive building shown in **Figure 11** was completed.



Figure 11. This grand building was completed in 1913 to house Schenectady’s Post office at a time when many federal buildings were designed with reference to classical Greek structures.

The markings of International machines used in Schenectady hardly changed in casual appearance between 1907 and the end of the 1940’s. But there was a period between August 1921 and September 1922 when two International machines probably sat side by side pumping out mail.

That said, most of the time in the 1920's there was only a single main processing line. That line would have looked like the one shown in **Figure 12**.



A postal employee operates a hand-fed canceling machine in this photograph of the interior of the post office in the 1920s. (Efner History Research Center.)

Figure 12. A 1920's era postmarking machine probably being demonstrated to the *Schenectady Cabinet* newspaper. The post office relocated in 1913 to a majestic federal-style building at Jay Street that put the County Court House to shame.

There is no doubt that various letter processing machines that achieved significant market share after the turn of the 20th century represented a crucial new postal technology. But here I want to pay attention to another postal technology that came into broad use after a gestation period of more than 25 years, the permit postage meter.

On November 16, 1920 the Pitney Bowes model M, seen in **Figure 13**, which combined the functions of franking and canceling mail without a trip to the post office, was recognized by the postal system. In addition to the machine, a postal customer only needed a permit or license, which was identified as part of the rate indicia. In addition to franking a letter, model M contained a sealed register counting the amount of postage dispensed. As seen on the next page, the model M in use was mounted on a letter processing stand similar to its competitors designed to cancel stamped letters. The model M would be removed from its stand and taken to the post office of record for postage to be paid and the register replenished as necessary.



Figure 13. 1920 Pitney Bowes Model M postage meter.

Now imagine a few large users of the postal system bringing a few of these machines into their mail rooms. From that moment, their contact with the Schenectady post office would be a truck going to the post office loading dock every day and receiving a reciprocal load of mail from the post office. The General Electric Company was understandably the first business in Schenectady granted a permit to frank its own mail. It had quite a few Pitney Bowes meters used under that Permit No. 1, Meter No. 2217 shown in **Figure 14** being just one. G.E. later added NCR meters in the 1940s under their permit.



Figure 14. The General Electric Co. obtained the first Schenectady NY Postage Permit, under which many Pitney Bowes meters were used.



With a little more study, I might conclude that outsourcing the labor-intensive job of outgoing mail processing was the most significant postal innovation in the 20th century. I think we will see the impact of this outsourcing on the Schenectady post office from this point – let’s say the mid- to late-1920s – in the markings we’ll see on the following pages. Maybe the way to understand what we see is that postal interaction with commercial business became a back-office, by-the-bagful, workload. That allowed the post office to focus on the retail and residential postal patron. We certainly know that by the mid-1930s Postmaster General Farley and President Franklin Roosevelt were turning the post office’s most visible product, the postage stamp, into a consumer discretionary choice and inevitably a revenue-producing collectible.

To further spread the workload around, in 1928 a few specialized services were set apart from the main letter processing line by equipping clerks with “mobile” devices. This decision may have been driven by the arrival of postal Air Mail service in the form of CAM 20 at the grass barnstormers’ field on the north side of the Mohawk river. Air Mail and its swashbuckling pilots were such a popular attraction that the Schenectady post office sent a clerk with the Station #3 device in the mail truck across the river to handle incoming mail at the airfield and to cancel and bag postcards and letters carried to the field by eager postal patrons. In a move that must have inspired PMG Farley a few years later, the POD allowed postmasters along every CAM route to favor incoming Air Mail addressed to Joe Blow c/o Postmaster by the bundle with the courtesy of free return service to Mr. Blow. And the POD turned every little variation in Air Mail service (First Flight, First Flight-Into-Night, First Night Flight, First Inverted Flight) into an accomplishment requiring commemoration.

The Station #2 device is seen primarily on Special Delivery service mail. The Station #1 device seems to have been used on postmaster hand-backs – mail presented to a window clerk to be canceled and immediately handed back without entering the outgoing mail stream. Examples

of all three station cancels and their typical use are shown below in **Figure 15**.



Figure 15. Identical 27mm CDS triplex hand stamps entered long term use at the Schenectady post office in 1928 with 3 different Station Numbers. Each device had a predominant use other than regular mail processing. #1 for postmaster hand-backs, #2 for Special Delivery, #3 for Air Mail canceled at the airport across the Mohawk River from the post office.

While a stalwart International machine appeared in 1927 and would remain in service until at least 1958, in 1929 the first clear evidence of a second letter processing line appears. The International machine shown in **Figure 16** bears an upright 2 at 8 o'clock in the dial, identifying station 2. It remained in service for only a few months.



Figure 16. This International machine postmarked Schenectady mail for a few months in 1929. It might have been a second letter processing line.

Table 3 Schenectady Population Growth 1880 – 1950

1880: 13,655	1890: 19,902
1900: 31,682	1910: 72,836
1920: 88,723	1930: 95,692
1940: 87,549	1950: 91,785

The geographic area counted as Schenectady changed several times as outer edge populations grew into separate communities. The population of Metropolitan Schenectady is understated as a result.

Looking at Schenectady's population growth from the time Thomas Edison brought his Machine Works to town and the beginning of the Great Depression, the impact of industrialization on this one place is hard to believe, yet true. We might naturally believe that the 1913 main post office taking up a square block by itself could serve 100,000 people with twice daily home delivery and a few branches serving residential concentrations. But that was not the case. In about 1935 work began to almost triple the size of the post office building. As seen in **Figure 17**, it exists to this day in well-maintained condition.



Figure 17. The main Schenectady post office, completed in 1938, as it looks today.

Then in 1938, with the expanded post office building completed, a pair of International machines were put into service, shown in **Figure 18**, while the 1927 stalwart continued to pump out cancelled letters. Also in 1938, another duplexed hand stamp, shown in **Figure 19**, was brought into service, last seen in 1955. From the covers it appears on it was obviously kept near the regular mail processing lines to cancel any stamps missed by the machines.



Figure 18. These two postmarking machines were used together at Schenectady from 1938 to the early 1950s as the primary letter processing stations.

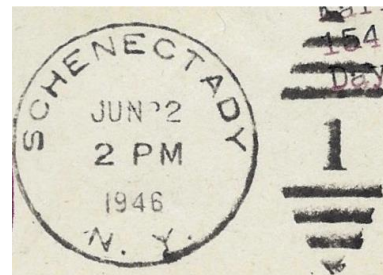


Figure 19. Yet another handstamp. It was used to cancel any stamps missed by the machine.

It appears to me that the Schenectady post office worked from this point, 1938, through the end of World War II and up to 1950 with the following pieces of letter processing equipment: three International Postal Supply Company letter processing machines and four station numbered duplex circular date stamps in the main office and one American Postal Supply Company machine in each branch office. That's the most postal equipment we've seen in Schenectady at any previous time, by a long shot. But for a population of almost 100,000 it doesn't seem like much, does it?

If that isn't Yankee frugality I don't know what to call it.

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

NEW YORK WHEEL OF FORTUNE CANCELLATIONS

By: Larry Rausch

This article details those towns in the state of New York that I have identified that used the Wheel of Fortune cancel.

In the November 2005 U.S. Cancellation Club News issue, Arthur Beane announced a project to produce a monograph on the Wheel of Fortune cancels. I've taken up the task to complete this monograph.

You can help by providing any additional covers that I have not identified and forward photo scans of these covers to me at stonywoods840@gmail.com. Duplicates would also be appreciated.

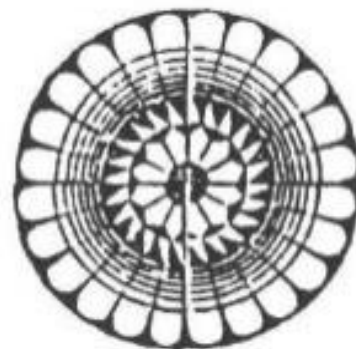


Figure 1. Wheel of Fortune cancel.

In 1880 the F.P. Hammond Co. of Aurora, Illinois, introduced the canceller seen in **Figure 1**. Today this fancy rubber canceller is called **Wheel of Fortune (WOF)**. The highly detailed stamper was made possible with the invention of vulcanized rubber. The Peerless Vulcanizer shown on the 1898 cover below in **Figure 2** may have been the type of machine to make the Wheel of Fortune device.

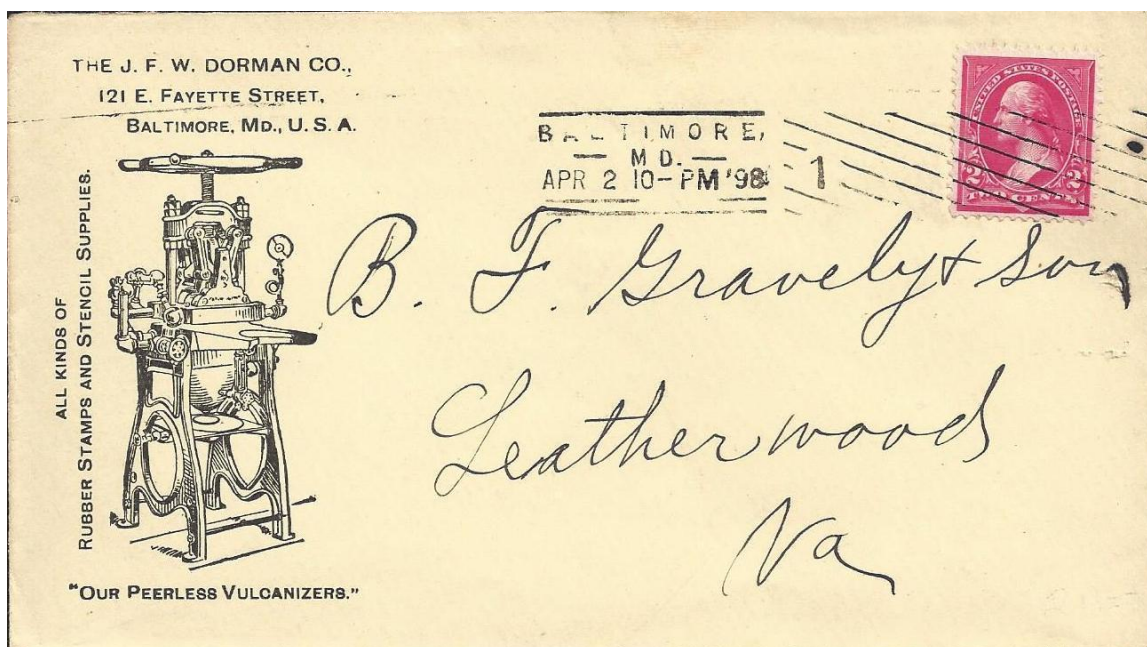


Figure 2. Cover bearing the corner card of The J. F. Dorman Co. and their Peerless Vulcaniers.

The first advertisement for the Wheel of Fortune appeared in the January 1881 issue of the *U.S. Official Postal Guide*. This advertisement is seen in **Figure 3**.

Although this ad depicts postmarks dating in the 1870's, the earliest WOF postmark found to date is February 26, 1880 from New Lisbon, Wisconsin.

Note the advertisement illustrates a "Best Offer Yet", where the canceller and kit cost only \$3.00.

New York has no covers dated in 1880-- the earliest is dated June 19, 1882 from Ouaquaoga (Broome), NY. A scan of this cover is shown in **Figure 4**.

" WHEEL OF FORTUNE "

No. 529.

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,
 Received 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 Case,

THE BEST OFFER YET.

One RUBBER P. O. Dater and Cancellor, Ink Powder, and Pads, Dates for ten years in Walnut case with tweezers, and all the single line stamps needed in a **UNCLAIMED** 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. JOHN CECIL, P. M., California, Md.
 The \$5 Outfit ordered by me was duly received this evening. They are all A No. 1 articles, and give entire satisfaction. — JAS. S. HANCOCK, P. M., Grangeburg, N. Y.
 The Rubber Stamps, 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., Picture Rocks, Pa.
 I have been using one of your Stamps and Pads for the last year and it gives satisfaction. — W. S. BOWEN, P. M., Sheffield, Iowa.
 I received my Note and Letter Heads, Dater, etc., all O. K. Am satisfied with your job. It far exceeds my expectations. WM. J. KING, P. M., Maxville, Mo.
 The Dater received, and I am well pleased with it. — CHAS. COON, P. M., Albion, Idaho.
 Your Box Record received, and is all O. K. — J. W. FROW, P. M., Fort Madison, Iowa.
 The Pads ordered came to-day. I am very much pleased with them. — ED. S. MENARD, 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. 530.




No. 531.




No. 532.




No. 533.




Figure 3. 1881 advertisement for the Wheel of Fortune cancellers.

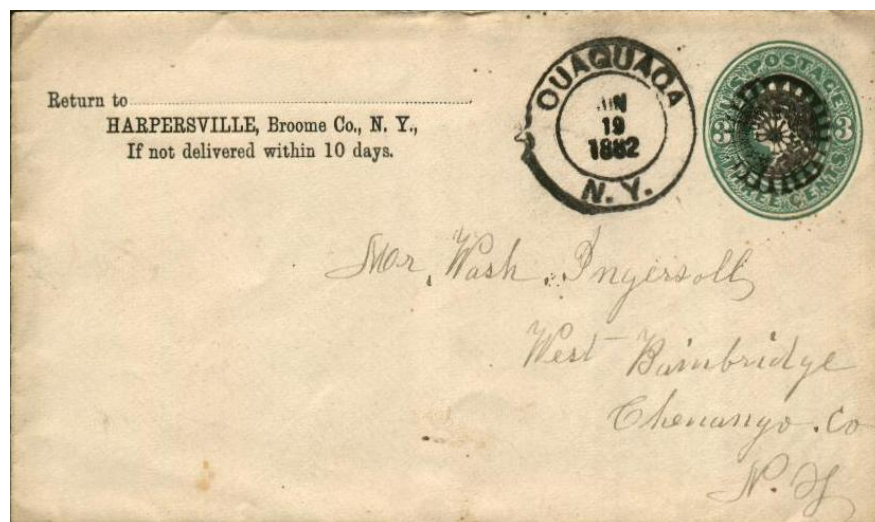


Figure 4. Earliest reported New York Wheel of Fortune cancel is 1882 from Ouaquaoga (Broome), NY.

Figure 5 shows the seven different cancellations found on WOF covers. There are six duplex and one with only the WOF die, coupled with many different circular date stamps as shown on the West Hampton (Suffolk), New York cover seen in **Figure 6**. On this cover each stamp is cancelled with the use of a simplex, Type 0, WOF.

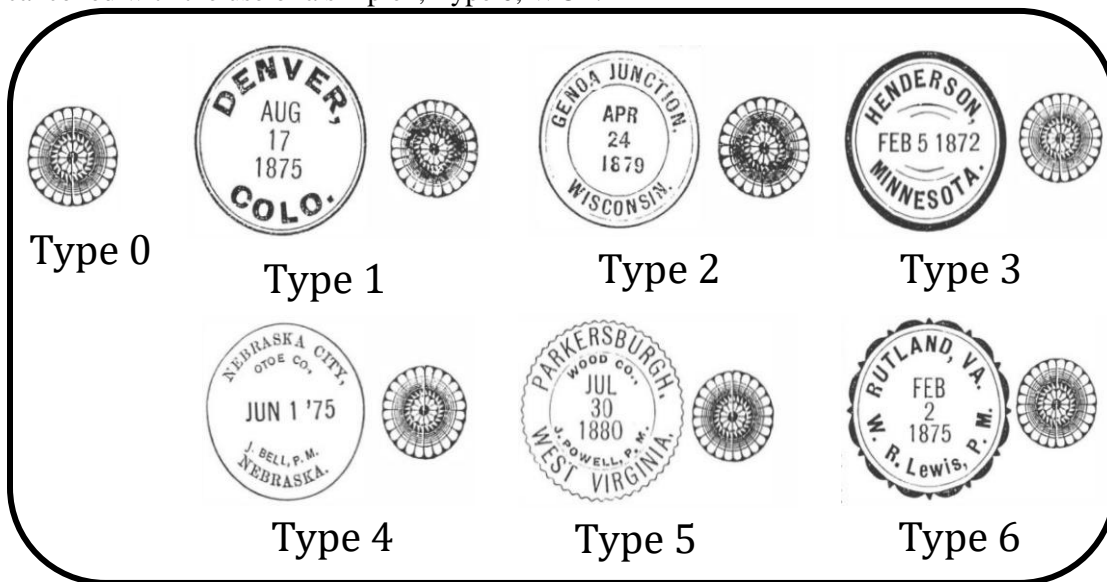


Figure 5. The various types of Wheel of Fortune cancels; one single and six duplexed.



Figure 6. Multiple use of the Type 0 cancellation a cover from West Hampton (Suffolk), NY.

The 1995 book *Cancellations and Killers of the Banknote Era 1870-1894* by James M. Cole listed a total of 353 US towns using the WOF cancel; for New York he listed 26 towns. Also, the Kelleher Auction of the 2011 Arthur Beane sale had 66 New York WOF covers listed. To date, 79 different New York towns have been identified as shown in **Figures 7-9**. **Figures 10-16** show some examples of Wheel of Fortune postmarked covers.

References:

Cancellations and Killers of the Banknote Era 1870-1894 James M Cole
US Cancellation Club News
 Kelleher Auctions Sale #623, January 14, 2011 Arthur Beane

* Cole list ** 2011 Beane sale			Usage		Postmark Includes	--	Cover
count	Town	Photo	Range	type	County		Date
1	NY Admire **						
	NY Alexandria Bay	p	1886-9	3	Jefferson County		86-9-8
2	NY Alexandria Bay	p	1886-9	3	Jefferson County		87-11-19
	NY Alexandria Bay	p	1886-9	3	Jefferson County		88-8-29
	NY Alexandria Bay * **	p	1886-9	3	Jefferson County		89-7-26
	NY Alexandria Bay	p	1886-9	3	Jefferson County		89-8-1
	NY Alexandria Bay	p	1886-9	3	Jefferson County		89-9-30
3	NY Allegany **				Chautauqua County		
	NY Almond	p	1883-6	3	Allegany County		83-9-25
	NY Almond	p	1883-6	3	Allegany County		83-10-9
	NY Almond	p	1883-6	3	Allegany County		84-1-19
4	NY Almond * **	p	1883-6	3	Allegany County		86-4-3
	NY Almond	p	1883-6	3	Allegany County		86-5-27
	NY Almond	p	1883-6	3	Allegany County		XX-6-24
	NY Almond	p	1883-6	3	Allegany County		XX-10-25
5	NY Amawalk **		1883		Westchester County		
6	NY Ames	p	1883-7	0	Montgomery County		83-1-6
	NY Ames	p	1883-7	0	Montgomery County		83-xx-19
	NY Ames * **	p	1883-7	0	Montgomery County		86-7-2
	NY Ames	p	1883-7	0	Montgomery County		87-8-17
7	NY Ashford	p	1883	1	Cattaraugus County		83-11-12
8	NY Athens	p	xx	0	Greene County		xx-10-20
9	NY Atwater **	p	1888	1	Cayuga County		88-10-24
10	NY Bangall * **	p	1884	1	Dutchess County		84-5-6
	NY Bangall	p	1884	1	Dutchess County		84-7-10
	NY Bangall	p	1884	1	Dutchess County		84-8-13
	NY Bangall	p	1884	1	Dutchess County		xx
11	NY Baychester **	p	1888	2	Bronx borough		88-9-21
	Bay Shore	p	1884-5	1	Suffolk County		84-9-18
12	NY Bay Shore * **	p	1884-5	1	Suffolk County		85-1-26
13	NY Bemus Point **	p	1887	0	Chautauqua County		87-10-31
14	NY Brookfield * **	p	1886-7	1	Madison County		86-3-9
	NY Brookfield * **	p	1886-7	1	Madison County		86-12-14
	NY Brookfield	p	1886-7	1	Madison County		87-4-15
	NY Brookfield	p	1886-7	1	Madison County		87-4-29
	NY Brookfield	p	1886-7	1	Madison County		87-7-25
15	NY Camroden **	p	1887	0	Oneida County		87-4-27
16	NY Castleton Corners * **	p	1886	2	Richmond County	Co	86-10-1
	NY Central Bridge	p	1884-6	2	Schoharie County		84-9-23
17	NY Central Bridge **	p	1884-6	2	Schoharie County		85-1-13
	NY Central Bridge	p	1884-6	2	Schoharie County		85-1-24
	NY Central Bridge	p	1884-6	2	Schoharie County		XX-12-4
18	NY Chateaugay **	p	1883	1	Franklin County	Co	83-3-17
19	NY Clinton * **	p	1886	1	Oneida County		86-10-20
20	NY Clinton Hollow **				Dutchess County		
21	NY Cock Burn	p	1886	3	Ulster County		86-8-3
	NY Coeymans	p	1886-7	1	Albany County		86-7-23
	NY Coeymans	p	1886-7	1	Albany County		86-9-21
	NY Coeymans	p	1886-7	1	Albany County		87-2-14
22	NY Coeymans * **	p	1886-7	1	Albany County		87-4-2
23	NY Cold Spring * **				Putnam County		

Figure 7.

count		Town	Photo	Usage Range	type	Postmark Includes County	--	Cover Date
24	NY	Constableville	p	1888	0	Lewis County		88-12-28
25	NY	Crystal Springs **				Yates County		
26	NY	Fairfield **				Herkimer County		
27	NY	Flint Creek	p	xx	1	Ontario County		xx-12-10
28	NY	Florida **	p	1889	3	Orange County		89-12-2
	NY	Florida	p	1889	3	Orange County		xx-4-24
29	NY	Fonda **	p	1889	3	Montgomery County		89-11-12
	NY	Ghent	p	1885-8	3	Columbia County		85-8-22
30	NY	Ghent **	p	1885-8	3	Columbia County		88-3-26
31	NY	Groveland * **	p	1886-8	2	Livingston County		86-6-22
	NY	Groveland	p	1886-8	2	Livingston County		87-10-8
	NY	Groveland	p	1886-8	2	Livingston County		87-10-10
	NY	Groveland		1886-8	2	Livingston County		88-3-3
32	NY	Guiderland Station	p	1887	2	Albany County		87-2-1
33	NY	Hallsport **	p	xx	0	Allegany County		xx
34	NY	Hamlin **	p	1885	0	Monroe County	PM	85-1-9
35	NY	Hartford *		1882		Washington County		
36	NY	Hartsdale **	p	1892	3	Westchester County		92-3-24
37	NY	Highland Falls *				Orange County		
38	NY	Highland Mills **	p	1883	1	Orange County		83-6-11
	NY	Holland Patent	p	1884-7	2	Oneida County		83-5-23
39	NY	Holland Patent * **	p	1884-7	2	Oneida County		84-4-14
	NY	Holland Patent	p	1884-7	2	Oneida County		85-3-9
	NY	Holland Patent	p	1884-7	2	Oneida County		86-12-24
	NY	Holland Patent	p	1884-7	2	Oneida County		87-2-4
	NY	Holland Patent	p	1884-7	2	Oneida County		87-5-5
	NY	Holland Patent	p	1884-7	2	Oneida County		87-7-25
	NY	Holland Patent	p	1884-7	2	Oneida County		87-11-24
40	NY	Howard **	p	1885	3	Stueben County		85-1-29
41	NY	Howe's Cave * **	p	1885	2	Schoharie County		85-9-8
42	NY	Idlewild * **	p	1883-7	0	Orange County		83-5-23
	NY	Idlewild		1883-7	0	Orange County		87-3-9
43	NY	Larchmont Manor **	p	1885	2	Westchester County		85-3-29
44	NY	Lebanon **	p	1884	1	Madison County,	PM	84-6-26
	NY	Lebanon	p	1884	1	Madison County,	PM	84-7-18
45	NY	Locke **	p	1887	3	Cayuga County	Co	87-3-15
46	NY	Manhasset **				Queens County		
47	NY	Maplevalley **				Otsego County		
48	NY	Margaretville * **	p	1889	3	Delaware County		89-12-18
49	NY	Moore's Forks **				Clinton County		
	NY	Morrisonville	p	1884-7	2	Clinton County		84-9-22
50	NY	Morrisonville	p	1884-7	2	Clinton County		87-4-18
51	NY	Morrisville **				Madison County		
52	NY	New City **	p	1887	2	Rockland County		87-2-5
	NY	New City	p	1887	2	Rockland County		87-2-5
	NY	New City	p	1887	2	Rockland County		87-3-3
	NY	New City	p	1887	2	Rockland County		xx-3-11
	NY	New City	p	1887	2	Rockland County		xx-3-14
	NY	New City	p	1887	2	Rockland County		xx-11-22

Figure 8.

Excelsior! September 2017, Whole No. 26/New Series

				Usage		Postmark Includes	--	Cover
count		Town	Photo	Range	type	County		Date
53	NY	New Dorp * **				Richmond County		
54	NY	Newfane **	p	1886	0	Niagara County		86-3-2
55	NY	Newfane Station * **	p	1884	0	Niagara County	PM	84-12-17
56	NY	New Harford * **	p	1882	2	Oneida County		82-12-16
57	NY	Odessa * **	p	1884	1	Schuyler County		84-3-18
	NY	Odessa	p	1884	1	Schuyler County		84-10-27
58	NY	Olcott **	p	1886	0	Niagara County	PM	86-11-17
59	NY	Oramel * **	p	1884-5	1	Allegany County		84-6-30
	NY	Oramel	p	1884-5	1	Allegany County		85-12-1
60	NY	Ouaquao(g)a **	p	1882	2	Broome County		82-6-19
	NY	Ouaquao(g)a	p	1882	2	Broome County		xx-9-18
61	NY	Remsen	p	1885	2	Oneida County		85-12-30
	NY	Roxbury	p	1886	0	Delaware County		85-7-29
62	NY	Roxbury * **	p	1886	0	Delaware County		86-9-25
63	NY	Sandy Hill **				Washington County		
64	NY	Stamford **	p	1883	2	Delaware County		83-2-18
	NY	Stittville	p	1886-8	2	Oneida County		86-6-9
	NY	Stittville	p	1886-8	2	Oneida County		86-7-1
	NY	Stittville	p	1886-8	2	Oneida County		87-12-19
65	NY	Stittville * **	p	1886-8	2	Oneida County		88-3-16
	NY	Stittville	p	1886-8	2	Oneida County		xx-8-29
	NY	Stittville	p	1886-8	2	Oneida County		xx-8-8
66	NY	Stottville **				Columbia County		
67	NY	Tallete	p	1885	5	Chenango County	PM Co	85-6-18
68	NY	Tomkin's Cove *	p	1884	2	Rockland County		84-9-23
	NY	Tomkin's Cove	p	1884	2	Rockland County		84-10-6
69	NY	Town Line **				Erie County		
70	NY	Vernon Centre **	p	1893-8	3	Oneida County		93-4-17
	NY	Vernon Centre	p	1893-8	3	Oneida County		93-8-30
	NY	Vernon Centre	p	1893-8	3	Oneida County		93-10-9
	NY	Waddington	p	1883	2	St Lawrence County		88-11-20
71	NY	Waddington **	p	xx	2	St Lawrence County		xx-11-26
72	NY	Wallace **				Steuben County		
73	NY	Walton **	p	1886-7	1	Delaware County		86-5-10
	NY	Walton	p	1886-7	1	Delaware County		86-6-1
	NY	Walton	p	1886-7	1	Delaware County		86-11-18
	NY	Walton	p	1886-7	1	Delaware County		87-1-3
	NY	Walton	p	1886-7	1	Delaware County		87-1-5
	NY	Walton	p	1886-7	1	Delaware County		87-2-11
74	NY	West Almond **				Allegany County		
	NY	West Hampton	p	1884-8	2	Suffolk County		84-11-19
	NY	West Hampton	p	1884-8	2	Suffolk County		84-11-10
	NY	West Hampton	p	1884-8	2	Suffolk County		85-8-31
75	NY	West Hampton * **	p	1884-8	2	Suffolk County		88-7-6
	NY	West Junius	p	1884-5	2	Seneca County		84-4-9
76	NY	West Junius **	p	1884-5	2	Seneca County		85-2-27
77	NY	W Richmondville	p	1886	1	Schoharie County		86-2-1
78	NY	Wilbur **				Ulster County		
79	NY	Yorkshire Centre				Cattaraugus County		

Figure 9.



Figure 10. Bangall (Dutchess) August 13, 1884.



Figure 11. Bay Shore (Suffolk) January 26, 1885.



Figure 12. Groveland (Livingston) October 10, 1887.



Figure 13. Morrisonville (Clinton) April 18, 1887.

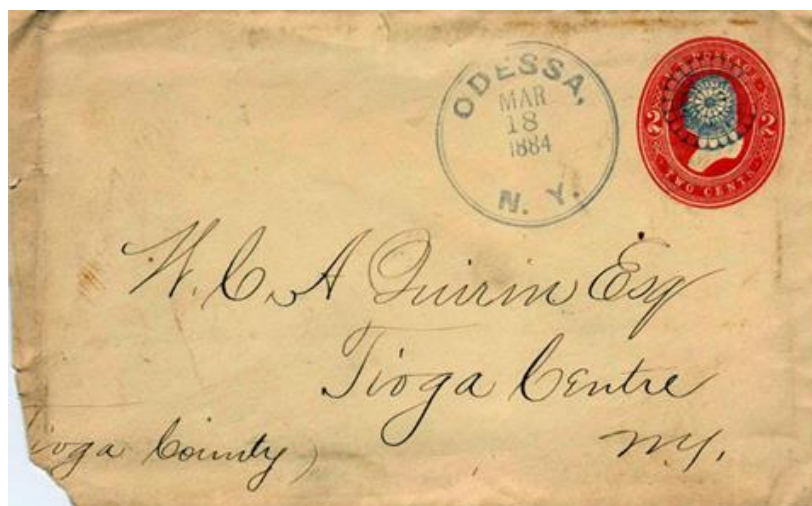


Figure 14. Odessa (Schuyler) March 18, 1884.



Figure 15. Oramel (Allegany) June 30, 1884.



Figure 16. Vernon Centre (Oneida) August 30, 1893.

Larry Rausch may be reached at stonywoods840@gmail.com.

PROMOTING SCHENECTADY

By: Bob Bramwell

Since I was born there, I'm susceptible to ratty old Schenectady covers that relate to its history (in case you didn't guess that from the Edison article). Here are a few that I couldn't pass up.

Figures 1a and 1b probably tell the town's story better than I did. Look carefully at the corner card; I lived on Brandywine Avenue, which had a Branch Office from 1929 to 1976 and letter carriers that fanned out from there **twice** daily. What service!

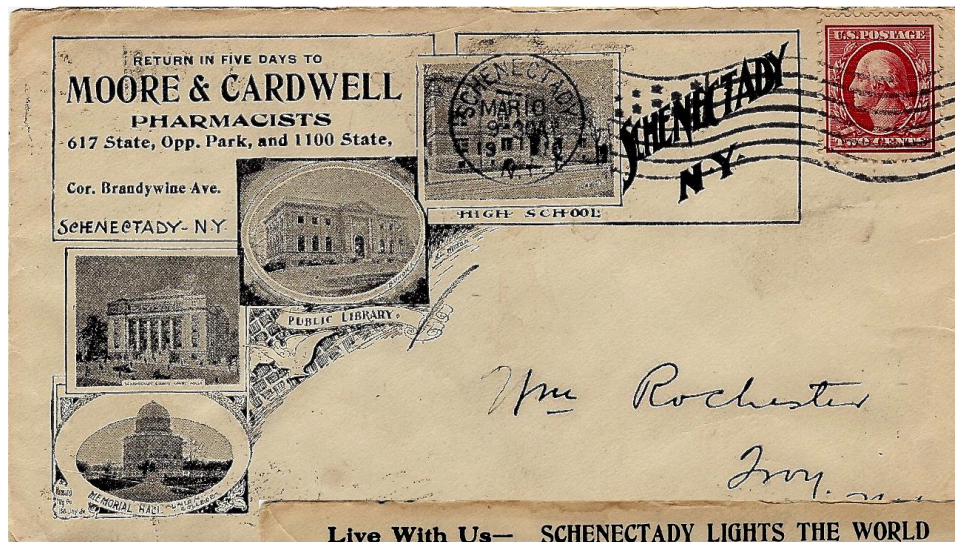


Figure 1a.

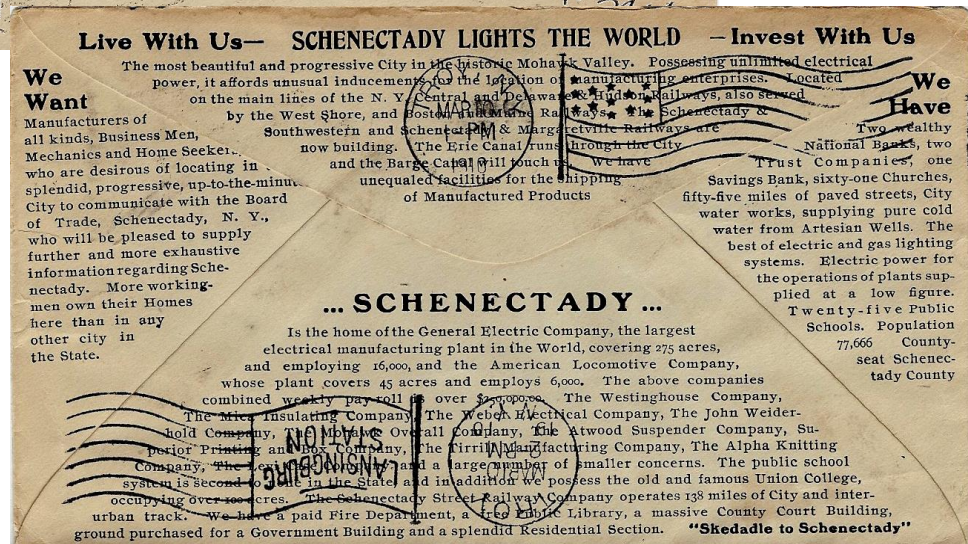


Figure 1b.

Notice the last three words on the bottom of **Figure 1b**; "**Skedaddle to Schenectady**". The online *Word Detective* resource concludes that "skedaddle" entered the American vocabulary from an Irish source during the Civil War to refer to a quick exit, probably from a battlefield. But the usage here urges folks to move quickly **to** Schenectady. Why would the town fathers choose this word?

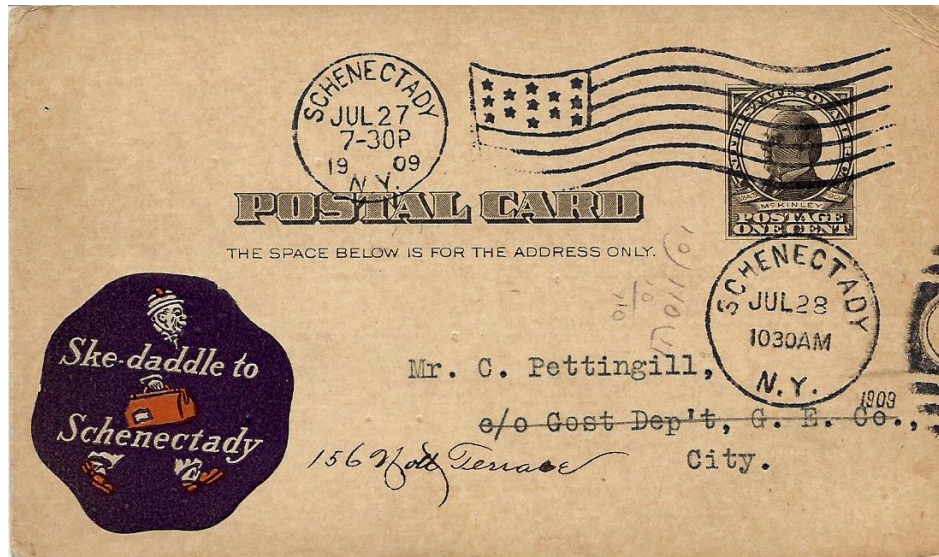


Figure 2.

First, knowing that the town name is pronounced ske-NEK-ta-di because its Dutch settlers absorbed a Mohawk descriptive term for the area that meant something like “on the other side of the pines”, Ske-daddle and Ske-nectady have a nice rhythm and alliteration. But notice what we see in **Figure 2**. The decorative label looks like a distorted phonograph record. Who patented an early and successful sound recording machine? Right! Thomas Edison. True, his first phonograph patented in February 1878 used a tin-foil covered cylinder as the recording medium, but when he relocated to Schenectady in 1886 this invention came with him. Shortly thereafter, flat round records had evolved to inspire the Skedaddle image first seen a few years after 1905.

But Schenectady was not done celebrating Edison’s impact on the city. Here’s how the 50th anniversary of Edison’s arrival in Schenectady was commemorated. First, his legacy The General Electric Company gently twisted Postmaster General James A. Farley’s arm to issue the Golden Anniversary of Electric Light stamp (Sc.# 654-656) thoughtfully used to frank the cover shown as **Figure 3**.

Then G.E. produced a four-page insert extolling its many accomplishments and its role in creating the Schenectady of 1936, which is about when my family arrived.

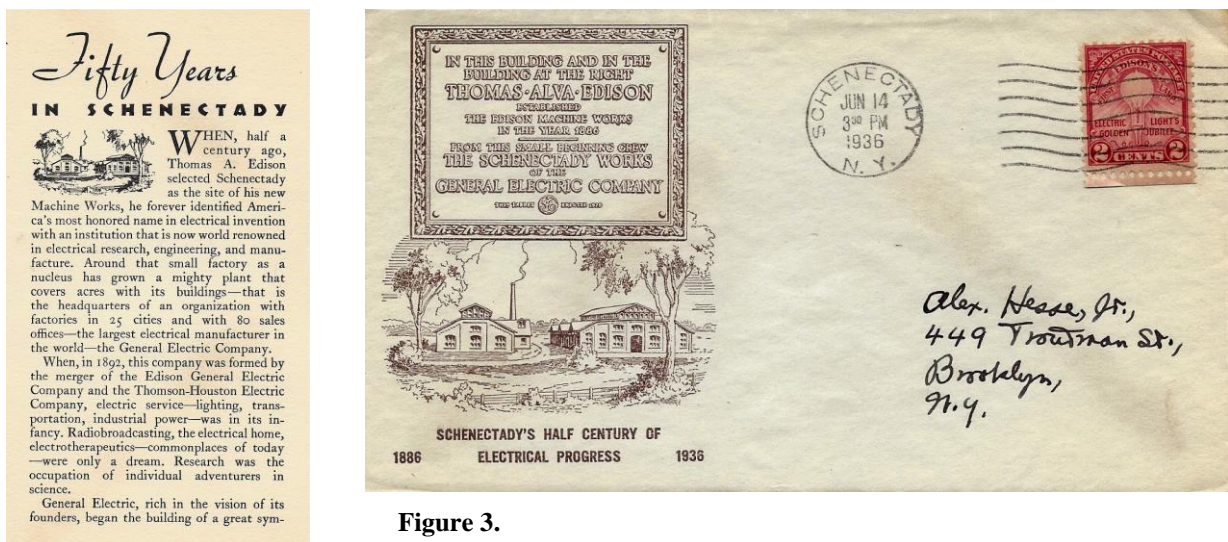


Figure 3.

For many years, picture post cards – and their penny rate – had revolutionized promotional images. A few of Schenectady’s printers jumped on the bandwagon with full color enhancements of black-and-white photographs. These picture postcards focused on public buildings, street scenes, churches and notable neighborhoods. The three examples shown in **Figures 4a, 4b and 4c** are particularly relevant to me. **Figure 4a** shows Ellis Hospital, where I was born.



Figure 4a.

Figure 4b shows the Howe School, where I first walked to school alone. I was 7 years old.

Figure 4c shows the store where most kids got all their clothes for school and church.



Figure 4b.

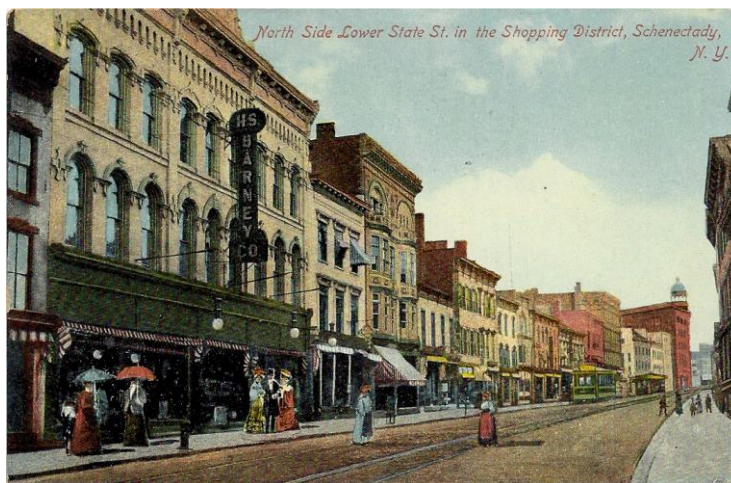


Figure 4c.

It may not be very visible, but H. S. Barney is the name on the green vertical sign. Howland S. Barney owned and ran the store for decades from the 1860’s into the early 20th century.

The H. S. Barney Company remained open in the same location until 1975. He was better known than most G.E. bigwigs.

Before I was even born in Schenectady, the local stamp club, municipal moguls and others started promoting events that will be familiar to all postal historians. The opening of Contract Air Mail route 20 (CAM 20) on June 1, 1928 from Buffalo to Albany (Cleveland to Buffalo has opened two weeks previously) was promoted with the usual flourish of town to town favors that without doubt made money for the Post Office Department since all the returns were bagged as Third Class mail and sent back on the New York Central milk runs. **Figure 5** shows a typical example.

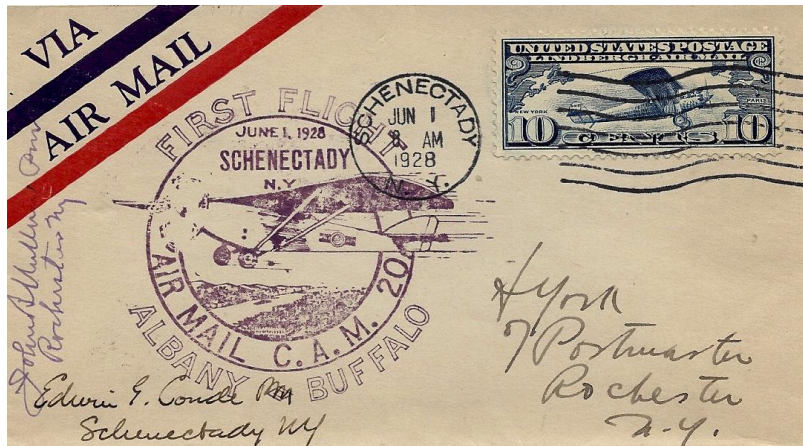


Figure 5.

In this case the sender's name is a Mr. Lynn and the favor aspect is clear, as the addressee is Rochester's postmaster. In ceremonial flourish, both Edwin Conde, Schenectady's PM, and John Mullins, PM of Rochester, signed the cover.

Another obvious target was the centennial of the first trip made between Albany and Schenectady by locomotive DeWitt Clinton (named for the governor of New York, of course) pulling four carriages of notables on the Mohawk and Hudson Rail Road, which occurred August 9, 1831.

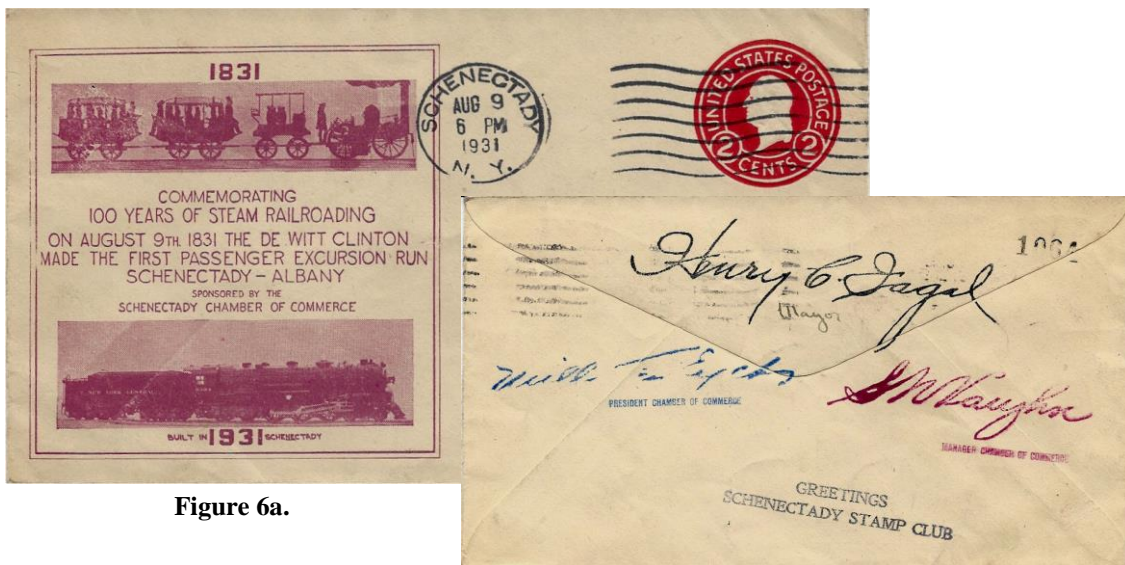


Figure 6a.

Figure 6b.

Figures 6a and 6b show a cover imprinted with the 100th anniversary cachet celebrating Schenectady's (proper) claim of anchoring one end of the first American passenger railroad. The backs of the thousands of copies made were stamped with the names of Mayor Henry Jagel, two officers of the Chamber of Commerce, and Greetings of the Schenectady Stamp Club.

As Schenectady, its citizens and manufacturers anticipated entering into war after 1939, self-promotion quieted. But in 1946 the War Department and General Electric Co. under returned president "Electric" Charlie Wilson concocted an event using a new G.E. jet-powered P-80 Shooting Star. As recorded by web source *aerodacious.com/JET 1940* "The first transport of air mail in a jet plane occurred at General Electric's Air Research Laboratories in Schenectady NY on June 22, 1946, as an Army Air Force demonstration. Major Ken Chilstrom piloted a Shooting Star jet carrying small amounts of mail to Washington DC and Chicago Il and then returning to Schenectady. Special cachets were provided for this first jet mail carrying flight." One of those covers is shown as **Figure 7** below.



Figure 7.

While properly franked for air mail service, and cancelled by the Schenectady post office at 2 p.m. on June 22, 1946, I have no doubt that this envelope never left the ground in Major Chilstrom's plane. Rather, it was a philatelic favor that made its way to Higganum, Conn., primarily by train – the same way most Schenectady "air mail" travelled distances less than the 186 miles to Mitchell Field on Long Island.

This story ends with the beginning of the Cold War. That's when the General Electric Company moved the Bramwell family out of Schenectady. Despite maintaining its humongous physical footprint, G.E.'s economic footprint gradually diminished. Interstate highways and shopping malls pretty much finished off the downtown business district by the 1970's. But my research trips "back home" prove that the Stockade District, site of the 1690 Massacre that almost wiped out Schenectady, is alive and well on Friday nights.

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

MEMBERSHIP

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Remittance for Applications Dated:

- January-June \$20.00
(\$25.00 for non-US residents)
- July-December \$30.00
(1.5 year term)
(\$35.00 for non-US residents)

Make checks payable to the: *Empire State Postal History Society*
and mail the completed application form with remittance to:

ESPHS
c/o George McGowen
PO Box 482
East Schodack, NY 12063-0482

MEMBER BENEFITS

Society members receive the *BULLETIN* published quarterly with society news and information. The *BULLETIN* also contains members auctions as consignments allow and free members ads to buy, sell or trade stamp historical materials.

We publish the *Excelsior!*, a journal of New York State postal history semi-annually. *Excelsior!* has published hundreds of postal history articles by our members over the years. We encourage members to participate in submitting articles on their collecting interests.

Meetings are held at least twice each year in May and October in conjunction with stamp shows in the state. We also encourage our regional representatives to hold local meetings where possible.

The Society has an excellent awards program. Shows with competitive exhibits open to the public are encouraged to make use of our awards. Attractive, significant awards are made available to show committees on request. They must be won by exhibits of NYS postal history.

The Society also offer various publications at members pricing. We encourage members to publish New York State postal history manuscripts in hard or soft cover format. We do not reimburse authors, but carry all costs and recoup our investment through sales of the book. Wouldn't you like to see your work in print and nationally distributed?

EMPIRE STATE POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

I hereby apply for membership in the Empire State Postal History Society. Knowing the purpose of the organization, I will, to the best of my ability, work to further the aims of the Society, cooperate in its research projects by volunteering data that I have gathered, and in general, support the officers and members in postal history efforts.

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Mailing Address: _____

(Please use 9 digit zip code) _____

Collecting interests or specialties _____

Membership in other Philatelic Societies: _____

References (None required of A.P.S. members, otherwise list 2): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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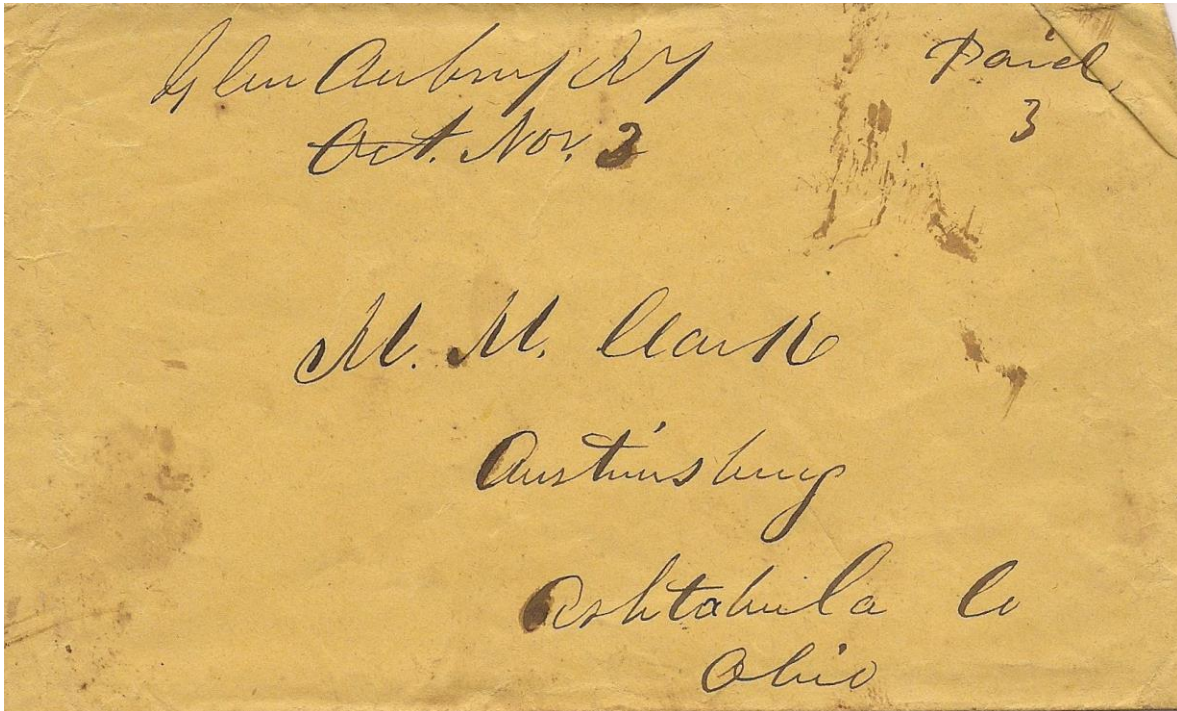
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Make checks payable to the Empire State Postal History Society. Mail completed application form and remittance to: ESPHS, % George McGowen, PO Box 482, East Schodack, NY 12063-0482

COVER OF THE ISSUE

By: David Williams

Glen Aubrey Stampless Manuscript



The village of Glen Aubrey is located in the Town of Nanticoke, Broome County, New York. The Glen Aubrey post office was established on July 10, 1855 and is still in operation today with a zipcode of 13777.

I have numerous covers from Glen Aubrey in my possession. I have stamped covers from there bearing manuscript town markings dating from the late 1850's to 1878. However, this particular cover is the first stampless cover from Glen Aubrey that I have found. At first, the fact that it bears a manuscript town marking might not seem that unusual, since a lot of early stampless covers are found with manuscript town markings.

What makes this cover exciting is that when consulting the *American Stampless Cover Catalog* (ASCC), there turned out to be no stampless manuscript town mark recorded from Glen Aubrey. In other words, this cover will provide evidence warranting **a new listing** in the upcoming edition of the ASCC!

Dating this particular cover is narrowed down somewhat by the date of establishment of the post office. Also, the Act of March 3, 1855, effective April 1, 1855, made prepayment of Domestic Mail compulsory. Since the cover was postmarked on Nov(ember) 3, it could very well be from 1855, but likewise, it could have originated several years after this. How it will be listed in the future *American Stampless Cover Catalog* will have to be seen.

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