

The Journal of the Empire State Postal History Society

March 2005

Whole No. 4/ New Series

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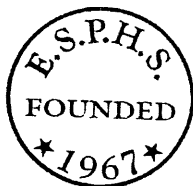
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EXCELSIOR!

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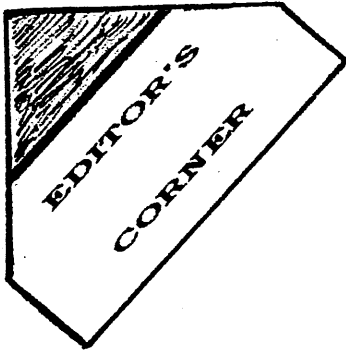
Future Publication Schedule

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Article Due Date</u>
September 2005.....	July 1st
March 2006.....	February 1st
September 2006.....	August 1st
March 2007.....	February 1st

Please inform the Editors if you are interested in writing for
Excelsior! We can help!

"Bits and Pieces"

Drew A. Nicholson



- **Changes** continue in these pages. We have added some appropriate *graphics* to the department headers, as evidenced by the cover "mounting corner" that appears to the left. We have also added *county names* to each of the articles and features where necessary with the hope that when you fail to see your county featured you will rectify that by producing an article!

Now that the sweeping changes have been pretty much completed, the future should see only the minor corrections and additions, the *tweeks*, as one might say.

- An **author's guide** is necessary because no publication is any better than its content. It is especially important when authors forward their articles and features via the internet. (which is *encouraged!*). If an author follows the guide provided below, the job of preparation is easier for all concerned!

AUTHOR'S PRIMER

1. **Text** should be sent using MS Word. The Editors use "Word 98"; "Word 2003" apparently has some additional features with which we are not familiar, so please follow as closely as possible what we have listed in this "primer."
 - a. Use Times Roman font only.
 - b. Font sizes: Titles in 14-pt., sub-title in 12-pt., general text is 11-pt., and illustration descriptions in 10-pt.
 - c. Spacing: The editors will adjust white space as needed. We will attempt to comply with your wishes, however.
 - d. Margins: Leave 1 inch at the top and 1¼ inch on the sides and bottom. The Editors will attach the footer.
 - e. Single column text is pretty much standard in the *Excelsior*! However, on occasion the placing of a chart or table as well as a small illustration may call for more than one column. If you have any questions about this, please inquire.
2. **Illustrations** Scan using 300 dpi and at present send them as JPG. DO NOT imbed them in the text, rather please send them separately.
 - a. Leave a single line marker on the page at the left to indicate where the illustration is to be placed. There is no need to leave a space for the illustration; the Editor's will adjust each one's size and location on the page during the editing process.
 - b. If at all possible, please back each item to be scanned with a piece of dark gray cardboard; following scanning adjust the size of the gray background to create a between 1/8 and ¼ inch contrasting border around the item.

We don't want to bore you with too many details, but it is important that you make an attempt to adhere as closely as possible to the above "primer." After all, editing of this journal is a voluntary job...and as volunteers, we poor Editors do want to have some time for fun (like Cover Mania!) during the production month! Thank you.

-
- **The Stamp Insider**, as many of you know, is the Journal of the Federation of Central New York Philatelic Societies, Inc. It contains not only information about the activities of its member societies, but also some *excellent* articles on various.....(continued on page 22)

Orange County

SURVEYING THE POSTAL HISTORY OF THE CITY OF NEWBURGH

By Martin Margulis and Drew A. Nicholson

[Editor's note: This article is based on Martin's award-winning exhibit Newburgh—Postal History—A Survey, which was last shown at STEPEX in October 2004. It is Martin's and the Editor's intention to present through its postal history a glimpse of the City of Newburgh, Orange County's most populous and, most would agree, famous city.]

For many of us Newburgh is perhaps historically best known through its intimate connection with the Revolutionary War. It was here that George Washington stationed the Continental Army in the waning days of the War as well as making it the site of his headquarters (which became the first registered National Historic Landmark in 1850). And it was in this headquarters that he founded the Order of the Purple Heart and gave his famous "Farewell Address." The Newburgh Cantonment is one of the premier historical sites in New York State.]

Introduction

The City of Newburgh (literally "new borough [town]") was settled by the Dutch in the 1630s. It is located on the west bank of the Hudson River at about the mid-point (approximately 60 miles north of Manhattan) between New York City and Albany. Today, the City of Beacon, in Dutchess County, lies directly across the river and is connected to Newburgh by the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge, which carries I-84 on its east-west journey.

Russel Headley's *History of Orange County, New York* (1908) describes Newburgh as the largest commercial city between New York City and Albany. At that time its population was approximately 27,000; unlike many cities its population increased during the last century (2000 census—28,259).

Originally Newburgh grew because it was a transportation hub—the city fathers spent their money on building roads that lead to it. It later became a manufacturing center because of the availability of water power provided by the two creeks that flowed within its boundaries.

New York State constructed an improved post road along the east bank of the Hudson from New York City to Albany in 1785. Mail destined for Orange County was transferred by ferry and conveyance from Poughkeepsie (in Dutchess County) to Kingston (Ulster County), and from there it was carried south by post riders. This route lead through Ward's Bridge and Goshen thus bypassing Newburgh. The City sent messengers to meet the mail riders from Kingston to collect inwardly addressed and to deliver out-going mail.

In 1804 a ferry connecting Newburgh with Fishkill *Landing* (a precursor community to today's Beacon) was established. This action lead Newburgh to become a mail distribution center for Orange County. The ferry grew in importance as the 19th century progressed, transporting not only horse-drawn conveyances across the Hudson River but also railroad traffic that carried commerce between Pennsylvania and New England.

A Look at Some Basic Rates

The exhibit commences with a series of 10 stampless folded letter sheets (FLS). This was the established method of letter writing during the time when the mail system did not use weight as a factor in assessing postage. In place instead was a rate structure based on the number of sheets of paper used for the letter and the distance it travelled. The outer sheet was folded in such a way as to leave a blank portion on which to pen the address. Any additional sheets or other enclosures were counted as a separate letter and the postage assessed was a multiple of the

established distance (zone) rate. Letters other than those relating to legal activities and commerce were not common because most people could not afford to send them.

The first FLS (**Figure 1**) bears a manuscript endorsement of *Newburgh, June 5, 1801*. It represents the **earliest documented mail originating at Newburgh** (or Orange County!). (According to Kay & Smith, the Newburgh post office was established on October 27, 1795.) The Postal Act of March 2, 1799 was in effect at the time of mailing.

Under normal circumstances, the FLS would have been rated at only 12½ cents for carriage by **land** between Newburgh and Albany, certainly at least 91 miles using the postal routes in existence at the time. However, the sender writes that “...*enclosed is my bill for Services as one of the Commissioners of taxes for the County of Orange*,” which informs us the letter contained a second sheet of paper thus requiring application of **double rate** (12½ x 2 = 25 cents).

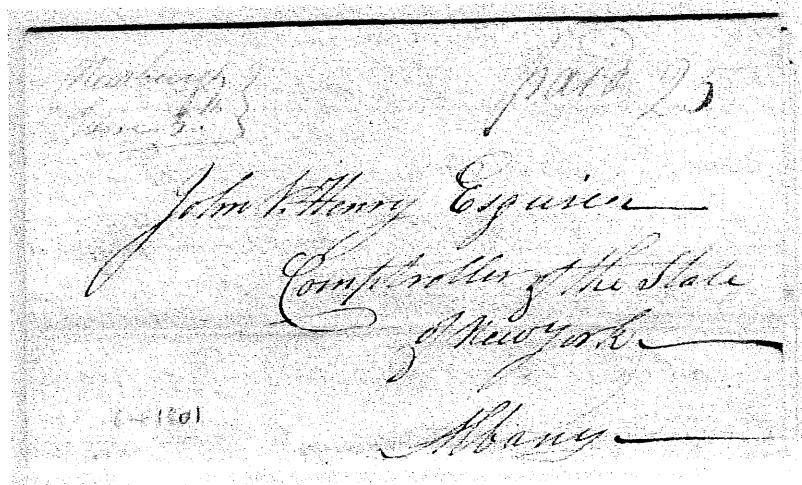


Figure 1. This FLS is addressed to the State Comptroller in Albany, datelined *New Windsor, June 4, 1801*, and was posted in *Newburgh / June 5.th.* It is **double rated** at 25 ¢. The New Windsor post office wasn't established until January 2, 1811, thus the FLS was posted at Newburgh. (New Windsor was and still is a small village immediately adjacent south of Newburgh.)

Illustrated in **Figure 2** (*on the next page*) is an additional example of a FLS posted under the 1799 rates. Addressed to a law firm in New Haven, Connecticut, it too bears a *Newburgh* manuscript marking. The FLS is rated at 17 cents, which would indicate that at the time of posting the *linear distance* of the postal routes the FLS would have travelled from central Orange County to central coastal Connecticut exceeded 200 miles!

The letter inside is datelined *Thompson*, November 22, 1810, and it bears the signature of Wm. A. Thompson. Kay and Smith show no indication of a Thompson in Orange County ever possessing a post office. (The “Thompson” of 1810 is presumed by the authors to be the present-day “Thompson Ridge” located approximately 6 miles south of Pine Bush and some 30 miles west of Newburgh.) Thompson appears to have been sufficiently isolated as to bring a delay of some two weeks before being posted Newburgh on December 7th. The contents of the letter discuss a claim by the State of Connecticut to a parcel of land that previously appears to have been owned by one Samuel Verplanck of Fishkill and about which Mr. Thompson is quite knowledgeable.

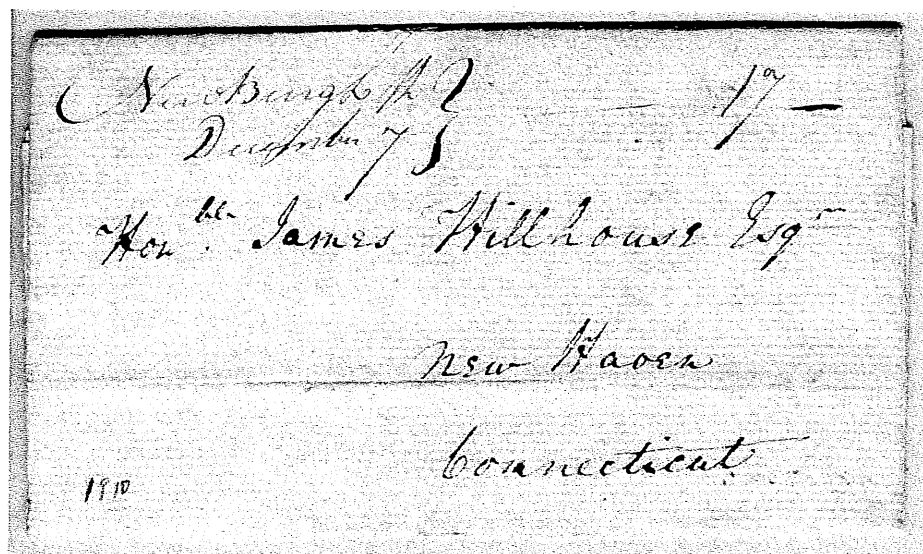


Figure 2. FLS posted December 7, 1810 from *Newburgh* to New Haven, CT. Written in *Thompson* (Orange County). Rated at 17 cents for **single letter rate** carriage of more than 200 miles.

In **Figure 3** below appears a further *Newburgh* manuscript marking on an FLS from 1816, which is addressed to New York City and is rated at 45 cents. (At this time the **War Rates of February 1, 1815** were in effect; they represented a **50% increase** over the rates of 1799.) A reading of the contents finds, "*Inclosed [sic] a copy of the advertisement for publication in the Evening Post.*" This enclosure raised the letter to **triple-rate** (15 cents x 3= 45 cents).

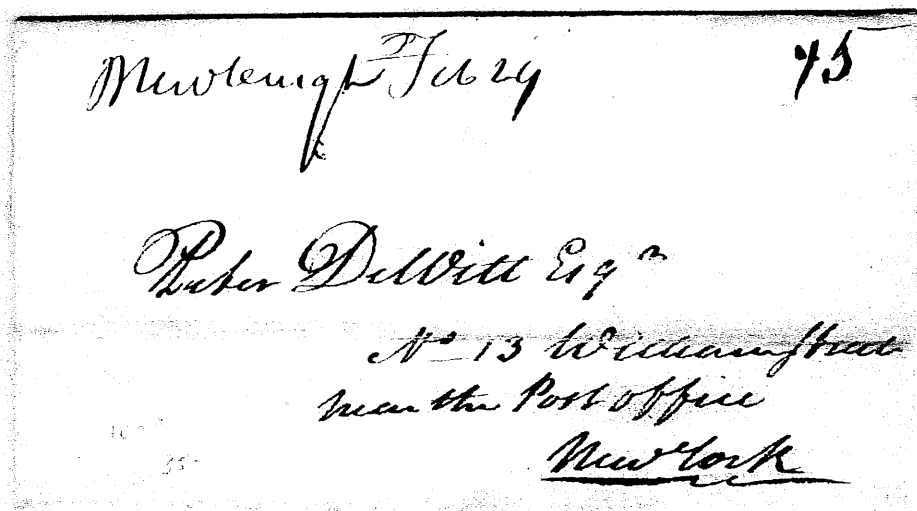


Figure 3. FLS posted from *Newburgh*, February 29, 1816. (1816 was a Leap Year!). It is addressed to New York (City) and rated at 45 cents (triple letter rate).

The tables on the *following page* illustrate the **basic rate changes for single letters** that occurred between 1792 and 1816, when the War Rates were repealed. (*From Adams*)

March 2, 1799—January 30, 1815
Zone Rates for Single Letters

Not over 40 mi. ..8¢	150-300 mi. ...17¢
40-90 mi.10¢	300-500 mi.20¢
90-150 mi.12½¢	Over 500 mi.25¢

War Rates 50% Increase
February 1, 1815—March 30, 1816

Not over 40 mi. .12¢	150-300 mi. .25½¢
40-90 mi.15¢	300-500 mi30¢
90-150 m18¾¢	Over 500 mi. 37½¢

The War Tax Increase was repealed on March 31, 1816, and on May 1 new zone rates were established. (See below—*From Adams*) **Figure 4** shows an FLS written by a young man recounting to his parents his trip from Easton, MA to Newburgh, and sent under those new rates. This letter is the historian's (postal and otherwise) dream as it names the towns through which he passed, thus allowing the route to be traced.

May 1, 1816
Zone Rates for Single Letters

Not over 30 miles6 ¢	150-400 miles18½¢
30-80 miles10¢	Over 400 miles25¢
80-150 miles12½¢	

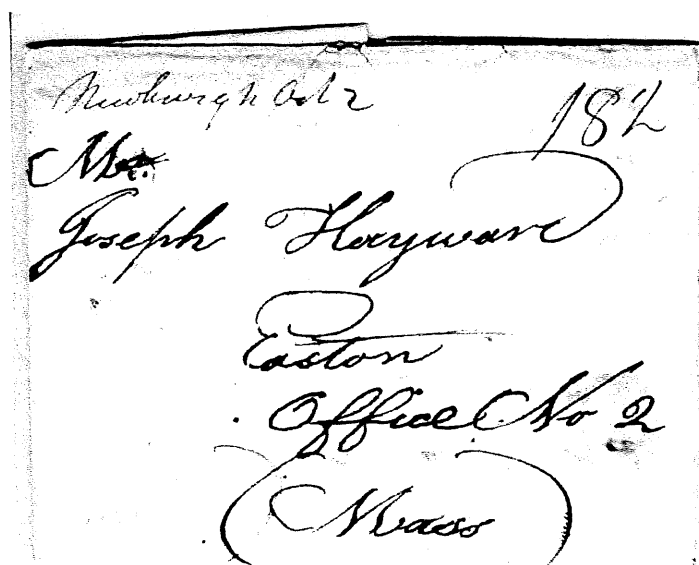


Figure 4. FLS posted from *Newburgh* on October 2, 1821.
 Addressed to Easton, MA and rated at 18½ cents single letter rate.

By 1813 Newburgh was using a hand-stamped circular date stamp (CDS). **Figure 5** illustrates an example—a *Bernadt Type 8* (25-mm.) variant with a dot after both *Newburgh*, and the month date *MAR*; two **ornamental asterisks** fill in between the town name and the N.Y. It is struck in **red**. This postmark was in use from 1812 to 1815.

The FLS is endorsed at top right "*Public Service /J.L. Dubois Lieut./6 Infy*" and is addressed to the District Commander at New York (City), one Col. Jonas Simmons, also 6th Infantry. It is **double rated** at 20¢ because it contained an enclosure (a report?); the FLS shown here is unfortunately merely a "hull," a blank sheet serving in a similar manner as an envelope.

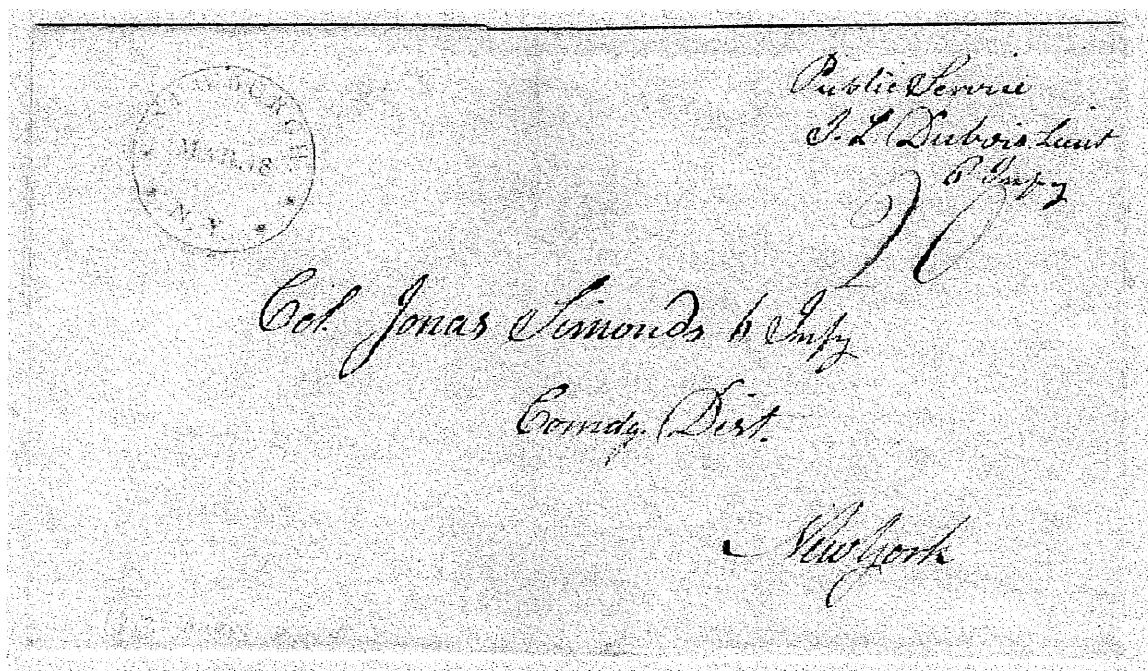


Figure 5. FLS “hull” bearing “Newburgh.” struck in red and posted on March 18, 1812. “Public Service” (military) endorsement and addressed to New York City. Double rated at 20¢ to account for enclosure.

Figure 6 is an interesting example illustrating one of the roles played by postmasters during the period in which they were granted the free franking privilege. This FLS bears a manuscript “Newburgh” with the endorsement at right “Free /Arron Belknap, Postmaster.” (Apparently, Newburgh did not use its CDS with any great frequency in the early years.) A reading of the contents describes one such role: “Mr. B. M. Williams requests you to stop his paper when the year expires as he does not wish to take it for a longer period.” Apparently, P. M. Belknap had no difficulty with evoking his free franking privilege to provide this “notification” service for members of his community; certainly it appears an abuse. It is interesting to note that the letter was written by a “P. Knapp, Asst.” to the Postmaster.”

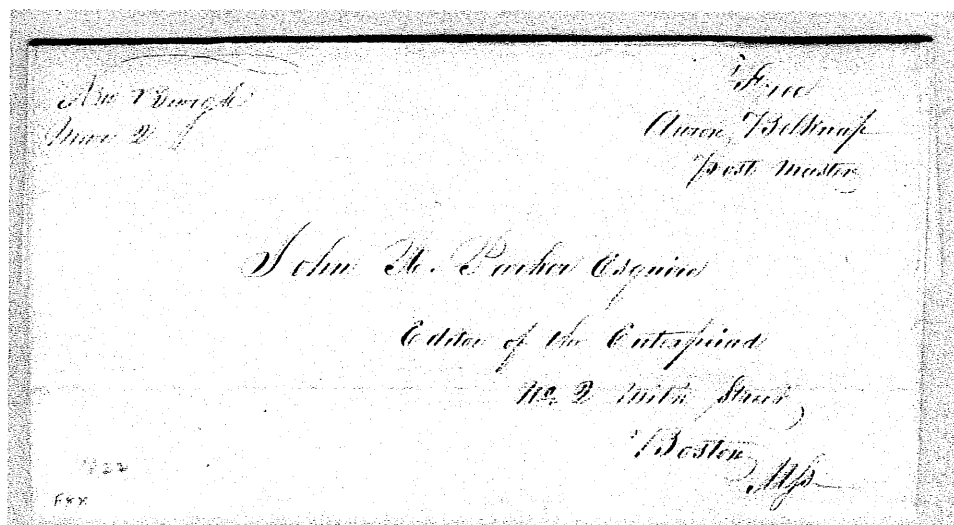


Figure 6. FLS with manuscript “Newburgh” posted March 2, 1822 and addressed to the “Editor of the Enterprise,” a newspaper in Boston, MA. Forwarded “Free /Aaron Belknap, Postmaster.”

In **Figure 7** is found an 1826 FLS bearing the faint, **brownish-red** strike of a *Bernadt Type 10* "Newburgh." Addressed to a lawyer in Albany, it is **single rated** at "Paid 12½¢." Since February was in the depths of the winter and the Hudson River was frozen, the letter was not sent by then extant Hudson River Mail, which normally would have been a savings of 2½¢ because the river provided a *direct* postal water rather than a meandering land route.

The contents of the letter are historically significant: "*I am anxious to procure the appointment of agent to the North River* (the then general name by which the Hudson River was known) *Steam Boat Company in New York in place of Mr. Rhind who as intended is about to retire.*" The writer, one John Anderson Jr., is seeking the assistance of the addressee in placing his name before any of the directors of the company.

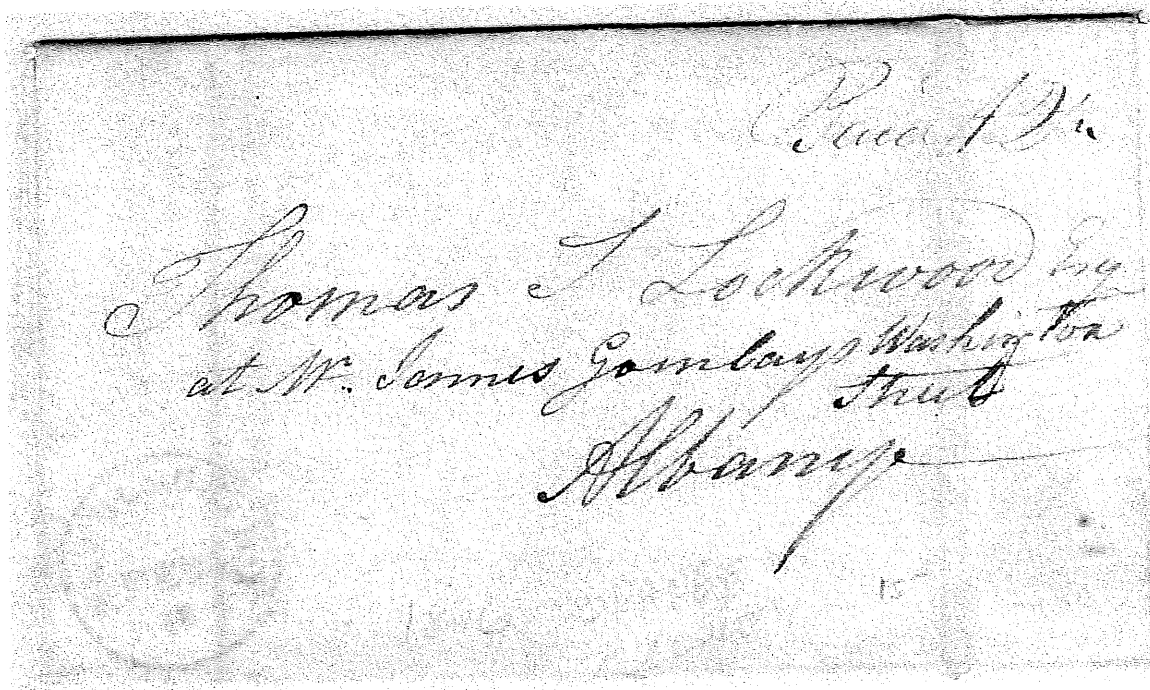


Figure 7. FLS struck with faint **brownish-red** "Newburgh" CDS and posted *February 18, 1826*. It is **single rated** with manuscript "Paid 12½¢" and forwarded over land postal routes to Albany.

The 1835 FLS (**Figure 8**) on the *following page* bears a **red** *Bernadt Type 9* (N.Y in fancy script) postmark along with "FREE" marking, also in **red**, as well as the postmaster's endorsement. The "Free" frank was applied because the letter was posted under the postmaster's free franking privilege (letter is designated at upper right with postmaster's endorsement). It is addressed to a lawyer in Goshen (southwestern Orange County) and refers to an "...enclosed order," giving one a further indication of probable postmaster's misuse of their privilege

The Act of March 3, 1845 repealed all free franks, mostly because of the abuse of the privilege.

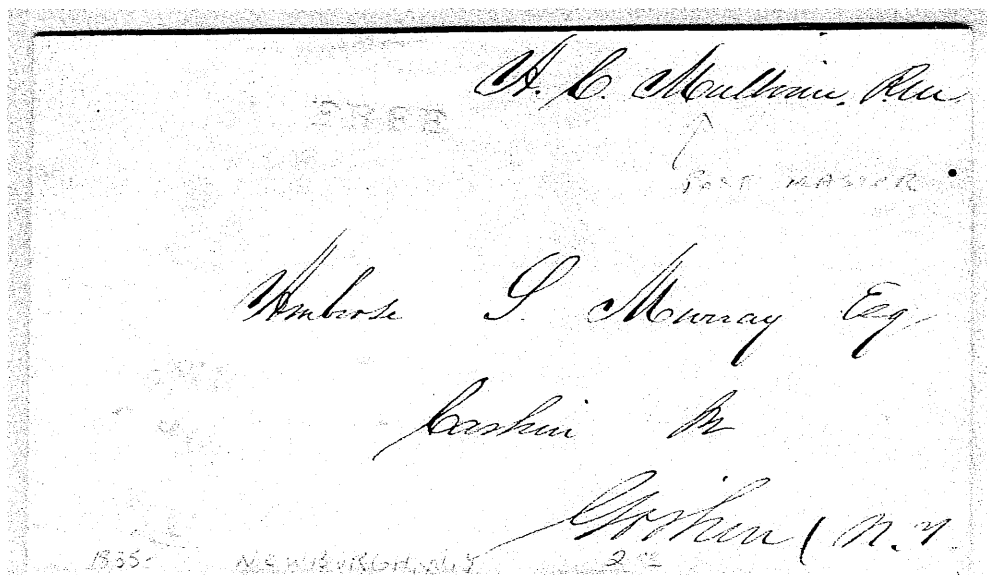


Figure 8. FLS struck with faint “Newburgh” CDS and “FREE,” both in red with postmaster’s endorsement at upper right. Posted on July 7, 1835 and addressed to Goshen, NY (Orange Co.)

Figure 9 presents an 1843 FLS addressed to Goshen, which is less than 30 miles distant from Newburgh. It is struck in red with a *Bernadt Type 9* CDS and rated at 6¢ (not over 30 miles). The letter is datelined “Highland Bank” /November 6th and discusses the need for valuation of a farm located in “Washington Ville,” (a village about halfway between Newburgh and Goshen), for the purposes of determining a mortgage—another interesting letter which grants us a glimpse into the life of 19th century New Yorkers..

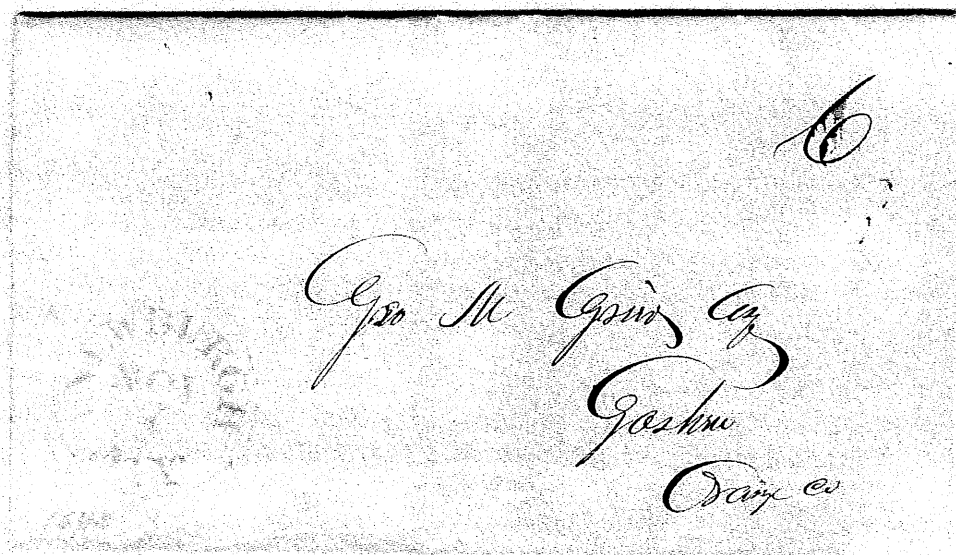


Figure 9. FLS struck with faint “Newburgh” CDS in red. It was posted November 7, 1843 and rated at 6¢; it is addressed to a lawyer in Goshen (Orange Co.)

Figure 10 provides further glimpse into the lives of New Yorkers of the 1800s. In this example the contents of the FLS contains a copy of a complaint filed in 1844 by two Newburgh couples with the Second Circuit Court, to be tried before the court when it meets at Poughkeepsie (Dutchess Co.) a month hence. The recipient, "Wm. R. Fitch," is a lawyer for one of the defendants. In this case the postmark is the typical *Bernadt Type 9* struck in blue and it is rated "PAID 18¾¢". The "PAID" marking indicated the amount was deducted from an account set up by the sender. On May 1, 1825, the Zone Rate for 150-400 miles was *increased from 18½ to 18¾ cents*. Lawyer Fitch resided in "North Landing" in Tompkins County, well within the Zone.

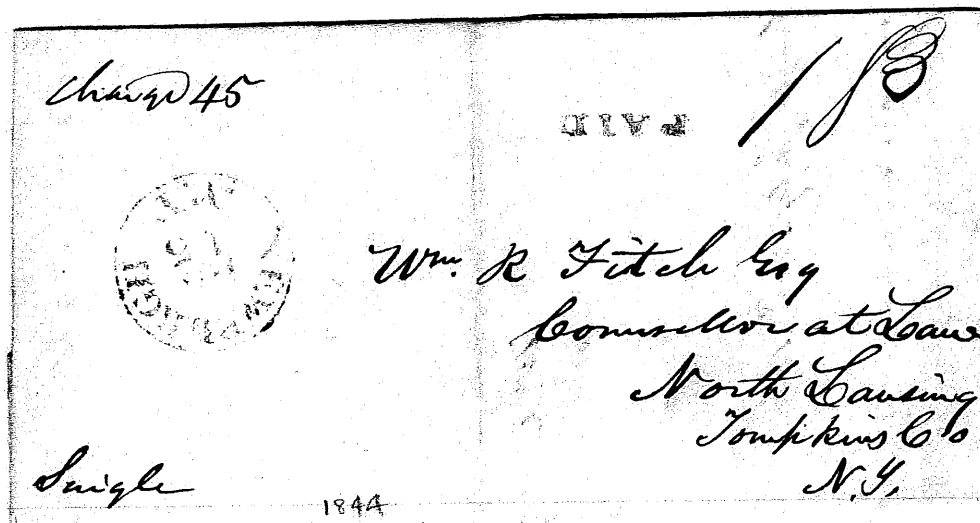


Figure 10. FLS struck with "Newburgh" CDS+ PAID, in blue. Endorsed "Single," posted on July 15, 1844 and rated 18¾¢, it is addressed to North Landing in Tompkins Co., a distance of in excess of 150 miles.

The Postal Laws of 1846 simplified rates to provide for only *two* distances—up to three hundred miles (5¢) and more than three hundred miles (10¢) *per ½ ounce of weight*. In 1847 postage stamps were issued to pay these rates. As the stamps were not widely distributed [*Refer to the Alexander census to determine where they were distributed. Editor*], post offices either marked the rate in manuscript as previously or used hand stamps to show postage had been paid. There was no penalty for not prepaying postage.

The Postal Act of 1851 imposed a **significant penalty** on non-prepaid letters. (*See below—From Adams*)

June 30, 1851—March 31, 1855
Single Letter Rate Per ½ Ounce

Not exceeding 3,000 miles prepaid	3 cents
If not prepaid	5 cents
Over 3,000 miles prepaid	6 cents
If not prepaid	10 cents

Prepaid (stamped) envelopes were first issued on July 1, 1853. George F. Nesbitt & Co. received the first contract for producing government envelopes, which it retained until 1870. The

envelopes were produced in values of 3, 6 and 10 cents, which fit some basic rates of the period. They came in many varieties and in two envelope papers—white and buff. **Figure 11** below is an example of the three cent Nesbitt envelope printed on buff paper, *Scott U2*, posted from Newburgh; it lacks the Nesbitt crest.

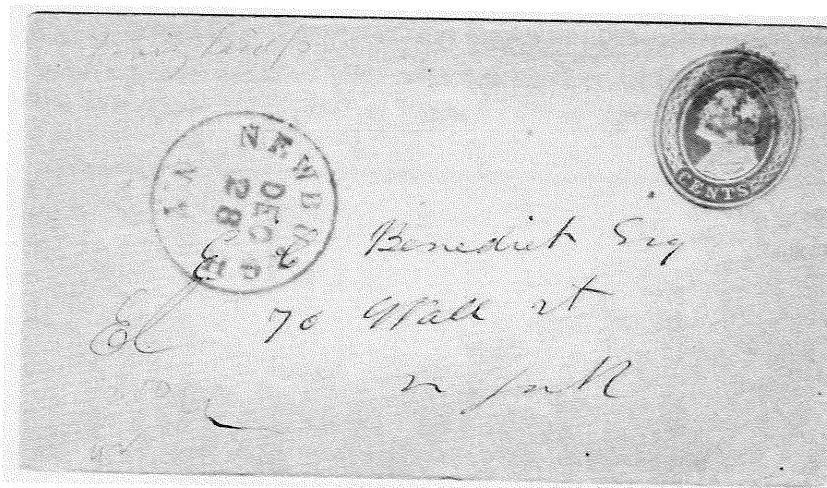


Figure 11. Scott U2 (buff paper) struck with typical *Bernadt Type 8* “Newburgh, DEC 28 (?)” CDS in red and addressed to New York City.

Figure 12 shows an envelope franked with an 1861 3¢ Washington tied by a small (19-mm.) circle of “V”s fancy cancel; the *Newburgh* CDS at left contains a year date. The cover is endorsed *official business* and is addressed to the “Commissioner General Land Office” in Washington, DC. While the year date is somewhat incomplete, one is still able to discern a “63,” which makes the envelope a Civil War-era item.

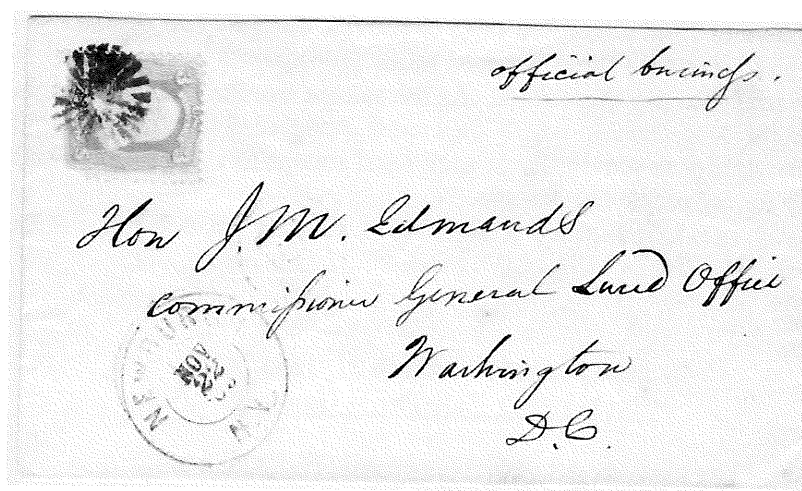


Figure 12. Scott 65 (3¢ rose Washington, 1861 issue) tied by 19-mm. circle of “V”s fancy cancel, *Newburgh* dbl. Circle CDS below, both in black, dated November 22, 1863. Addressed on “official business” to Washington, DC.

The Postal Act of July 1, 1861 provided for a 1¢ drop letter rate. On July 1, 1863 rate differentiation between a carrier and non-carrier post office was put into effect—1¢ for non-carrier and 2¢ for carrier. To pay this new rate (as well the third class rate under 4 oz.), the 2¢ Andrew Jackson “Black Jack” (Scott 73) was issued. Figure 13 below demonstrates such a use.

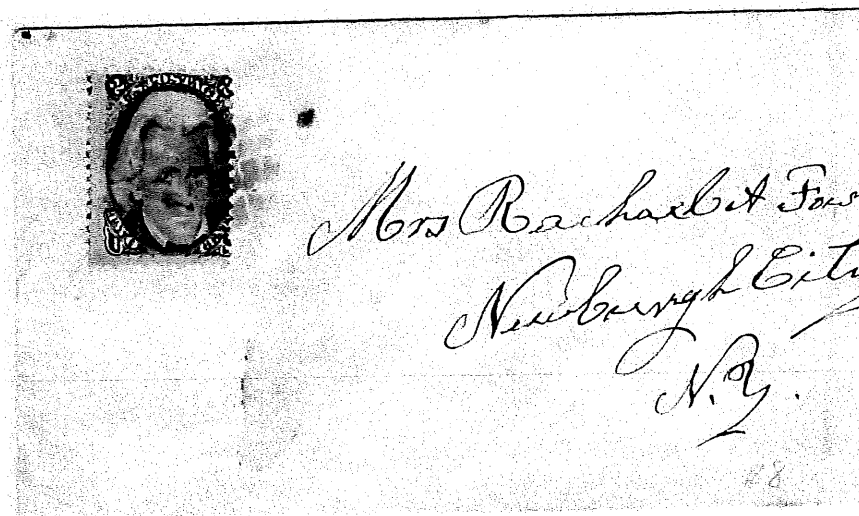


Figure 13. Small envelope addressed “Newburgh City” bearing an ungrilled “Black Jack” tied by circle of diamonds fancy cancel but without accompanying CDS. Not dateable.

In 1869 the first pictorial series was issued. They were grilled to prevent reuse. The 1¢ Franklin from this series was issued in part to pay the drop letter fee for non-carrier post offices. This covered the cost involved in the sender “dropping” his/her letter at the post office where the addressee could pick it up. Newburgh was a non-carrier post office at this time.

Figure 14 below illustrates this use. The cover is franked with a clearly grilled 1¢ Franklin (Scott 112) struck by cork obliterator; the Newburgh CDS appears to be a duplex. The cover lacks a city street address, which identifies its “drop” nature.

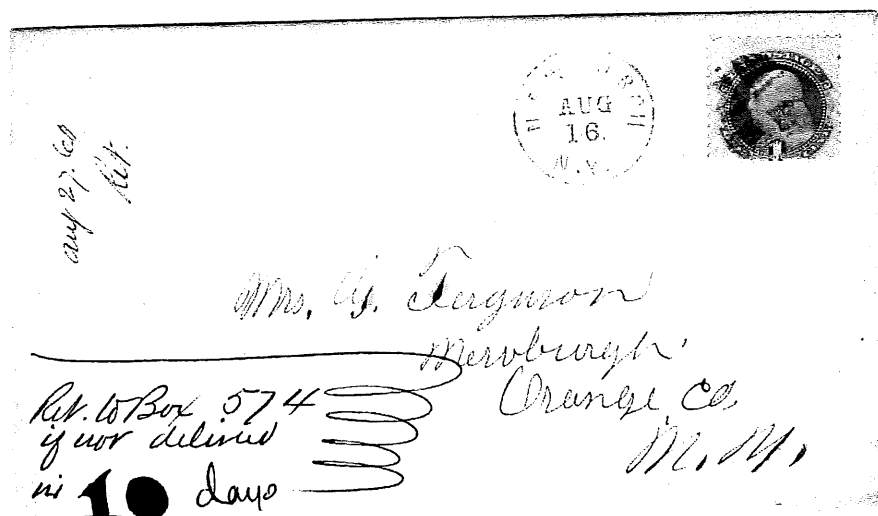


Figure 14. Drop mail franked with a grilled 1869 issue 1¢ Franklin (Scott 112) cancelled by a quartered cork obliterator. Newburgh CDS dated August 16, (1869)

Figure 15 shows two early government postal cards—*Scott UX 3* and *5*. Postal cards were first defined in the Postal Act of 1872. Both have “out of town” destinations.



Figure 15. Both cards are cancelled by *Newburgh* duplexes similar to the one shown in Figure 14—except for the addition of a third dateline for **time**.

The first class letter rate was **reduced to two cents** by the Postal Act of October 1, 1883. **Figure 16** illustrates the new rate. Originally purchased in quantity by “Ward & Logan” of Newburgh to disseminate advertising, here a one cent government stamped envelope has been “up-rated” to first class by the addition of a 1¢ large Banknote (*Scott 206*).

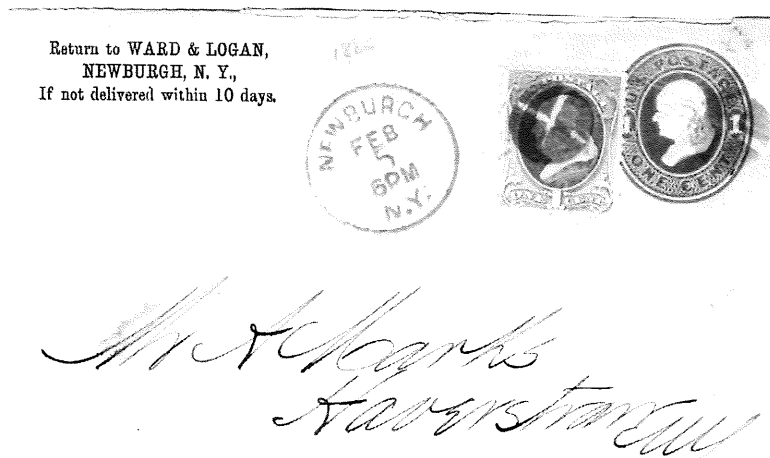


Figure 16. *Scott U101a* uprated to pay the 2¢ first class rate to Haverstraw (Rockland Co.). *Newburgh, February 5, (1885), 6PM*, duplex similar to that shown in Figure 15, but struck in **blue**, ties the stamp and cancels the stamped envelope.

Rural Free Delivery Service

As Bill Hart has previously related in *Excelsior!* (September 2003), Post Office Department Order No. 875, July 1900, eliminated drop letter rates on rural routes. As a result, “carriers were directed to deliver any mail collected on route that might be deliverable down the route” (p. 30)—later off the route as well. The postal authorities issued hand stamps that were

distributed to the rural carriers. At the time of the mailing of the *Scott UX18* postal card in **Figure 17** (1903), Newburgh had 4 RFD routes, all of which had been designated in 1902.

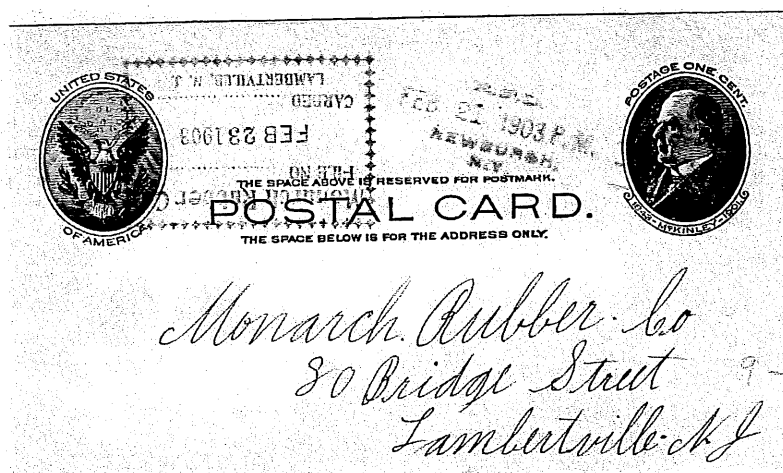


Figure 17. 1¢ McKinley postal card bearing strike of Richow Type 2 government issue *Newburgh* RFD canceller dated *February 21, 1903 P.M.* RFD # not distinguishable, but reverse return address notes “RFD# 1.” Company receiving mark on face.

Registry Service

In 1898 the then extant 8¢ registration fee was expanded to include indemnification of \$10.00. **Figure 18** below illustrates a cover sent to the *Christian Herald* in New York City under that 8¢ fee+2¢ first class = 10c. At this time the registration marking of the forwarding post office was acceptable on the front of the envelope, but the stamp was not to be cancelled by the normal post office CDS. The back stamp indicates a same day delivery date—such was the prowess of the rail postal clerks on the NYC West Shore Line!

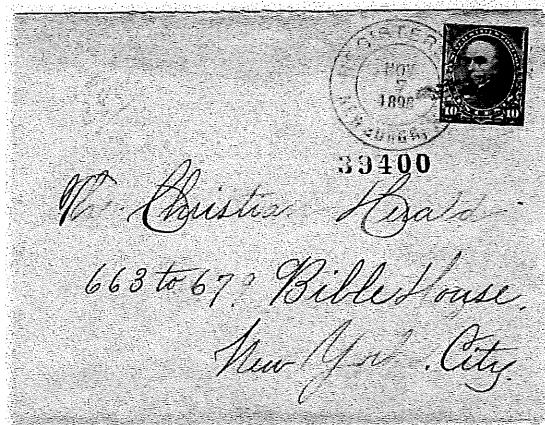


Figure 18. 10¢ Webster from the First Bureau issue (Scott 273) tied by both black crayon stripe and the *Newburgh* registration marking showing posting on November 7, 1898.

Advertising Via the Post

While it was not a major manufacturing city, Newburgh was well known for a few products. As printing techniques advanced and became less expensive in the 1870s, elaborate envelopes advertising these products began to be seen. The *Chadborn & Coldwell* “New

Excelsior Lawn Mower” is such an example—it clearly illustrates the product being sold and shows how easy it is to use! (Figure 19)



Figure 19. Newburgh, April 6 (?), 7PM, duplex similar to one in Figure 15, struck in black, tying 3¢ Washington (Scott 158) of the large Banknote series. First class rate to Maine.

Some of the most striking examples of advertising using the post were so-called “all over,” or “overall” ads in which the advertiser covered the entire front of the envelope (and often the back as well) with an ad. Figure 20 is just such an example. Here “*Woods Household Magazine*” of 83 Front Street, Newburgh, NY lets the recipient know in no uncertain terms what product they are selling and the building from which it is being sold! It is printed in sepia ink.

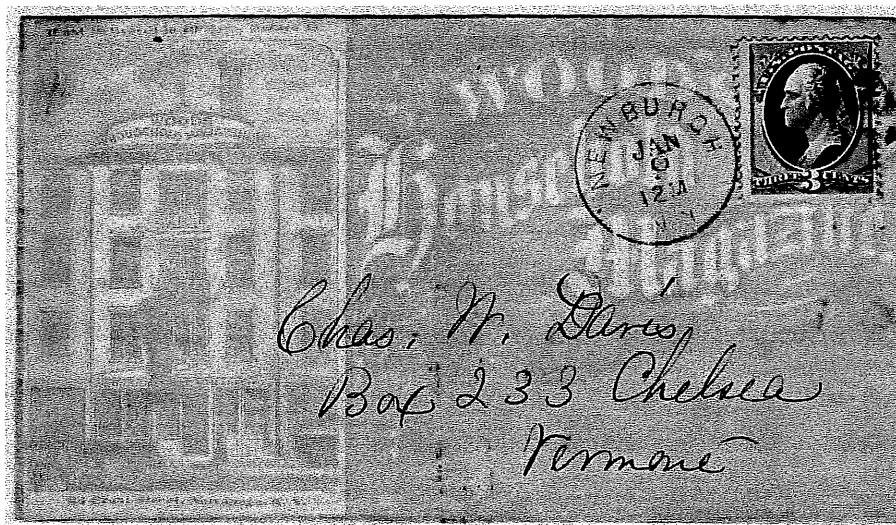


Figure 20. Typical Newburgh duplex, dated January 6 (?), 12M, tying 3¢ Washington large Banknote (Scott 158). First class rate to Vermont.

Four additional advertising envelopes (Figures 21-24) complete our short survey of some of Newburgh’s manufacturing and other businesses known to have extensively used the post for advertisement.



Figure 21. "Thomas Shaw's Sons Moulding & Planing Mill," Newburgh. NY. New-type Newburgh duplex with barred oval and additional year date line added, dated April 8, 1888, tying 3¢ Washington (Scott 158). First class rate to Kingston (Ulster Co.).

Sweet, Orr is a brand of work clothes known today—while, we seem to remember, continuing to use the brand logo showing two men pulling on overalls "Warranted Not to Rip." (Figure 22)

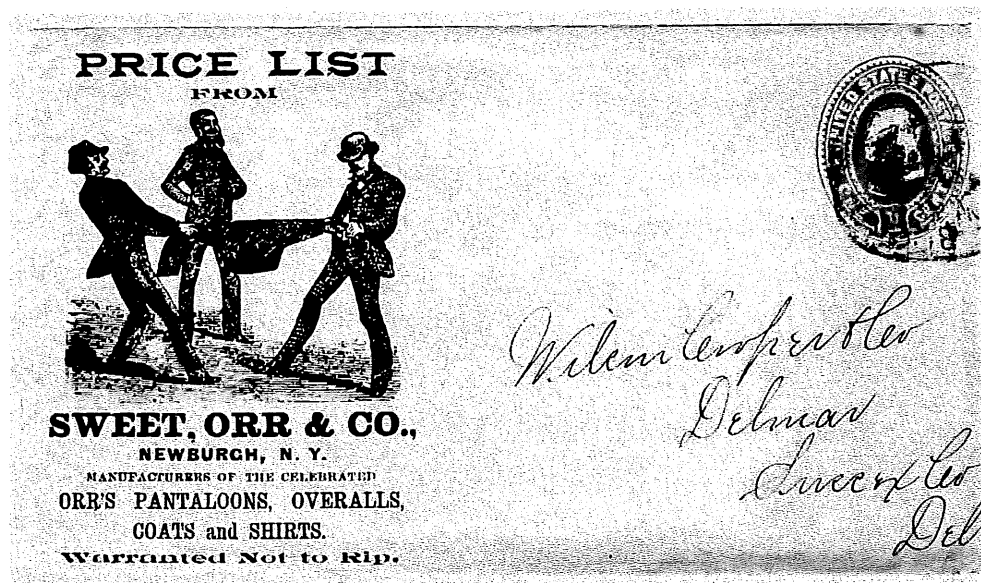
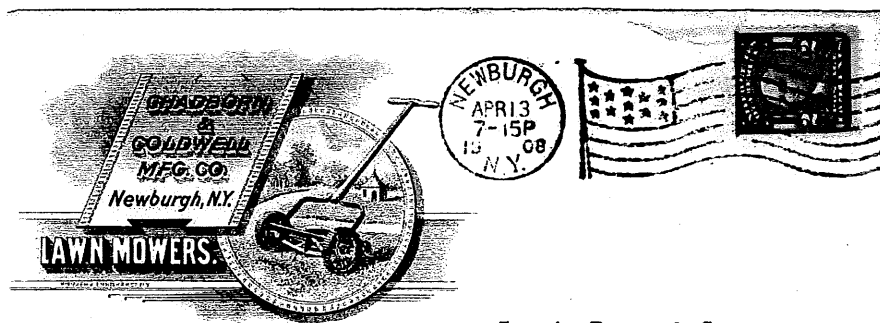


Figure 22. "Sweet, Orr & Co.," Newburgh, NY. Indistinct but most likely Newburgh oval third class canceller on 1¢ Franklin envelope (Scott U301). Third class (commercial) mailing rated at 1¢ per 2 oz. under the Postal Act of 1879; addressed to Delaware.

Entrance into the 20th century found at least one major business still going strong: the **Chadborn & Coldwell Manufacturing Company** was still manufacturing lawn mowers, but the "Excelsior" had been replaced by the "New Model Pat'd." (See **Figure 23** on the next page)



Jno A. Bruce & Co.

Hamilton,

Ont. Canada.

Figure 23. Newburgh American “flag” machine canceller dated *April 13, 1908, 7-15P*, tying 1903 issue 2¢ carmine Washington, Type I (Scott 319). Third class international (commercial) mailing to Canada.

The following two advertising covers (**Figures 24 & 25**) are both “drop letters”—they are addressed “City” (Newburgh) without a street address. Newburgh was a carrier office by the time these letters were posted, and according to the Postal Act of 1898 the fee was 2¢ per ounce.

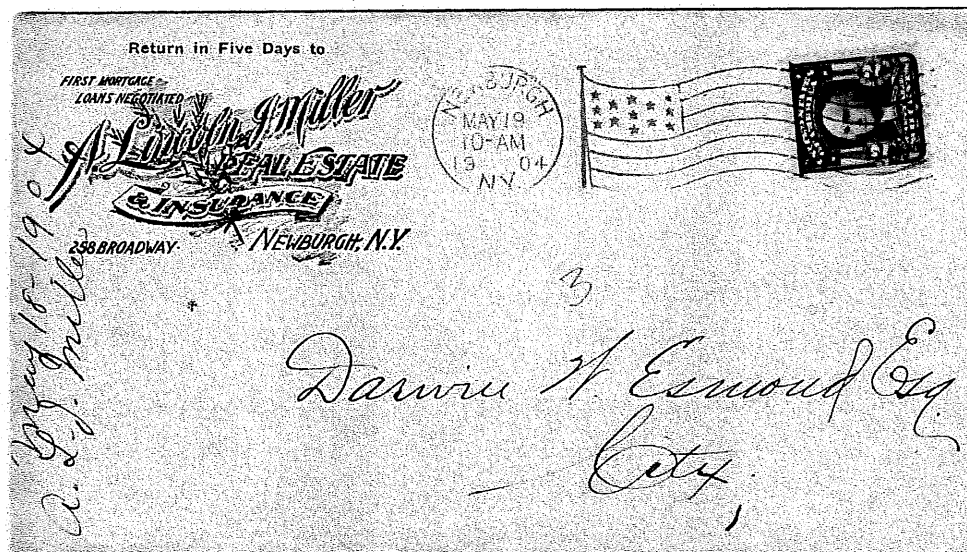


Figure 24. “A. Lincoln J. Miller Real Estate & Insurance,” 258 Broadway, Newburgh, N.Y. Newburgh American “flag” machine dated *May 19, 1904, 10-AM*, tying 2¢ carmine Washington, type I (Scott 319).

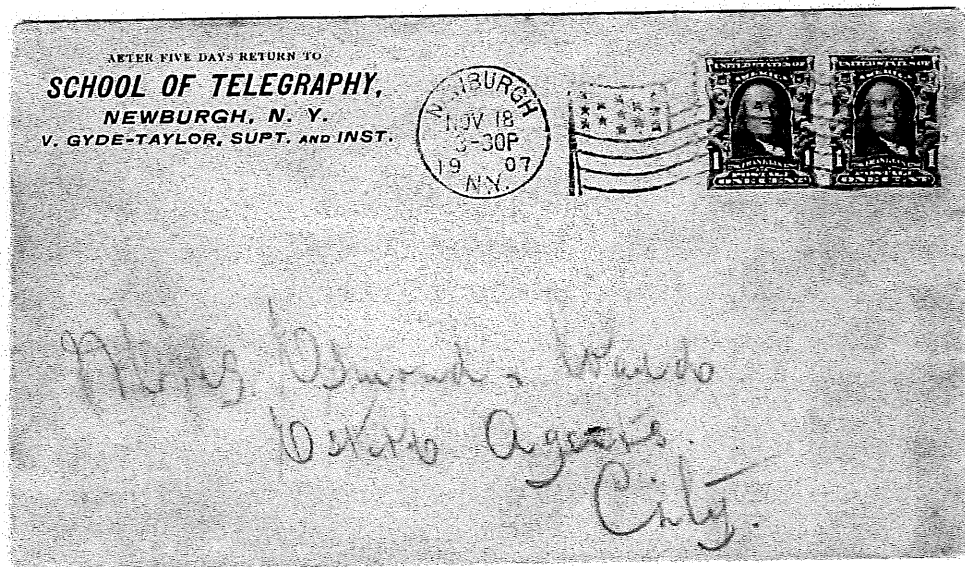


Figure 25. "School Of Telegraphy," Newburgh, N.Y. Newburgh American "flag" machine dated November 18, 1907, 3-30P, tying horizontal pair of 1902 regular series 1¢ Franklin (Scott 300).

Post Office Auxiliary Markngs

RETURNED TO WRITER

When a piece of mail was not deliverable and contained a viable return address such as shown on the stamped envelope below (**Figure 26**), every effort was made to return it to the sender. The Newburgh "Return To Writer" (the "Return to Sender" common today had not as yet made its way into the postal vernacular) was an 11-mm. circular hand stamped marking applied in black, usually adjacent to the return address. The original address was normally crossed out in a manner similar to the stamped envelope where the ubiquitous indelible blue pencil was used.

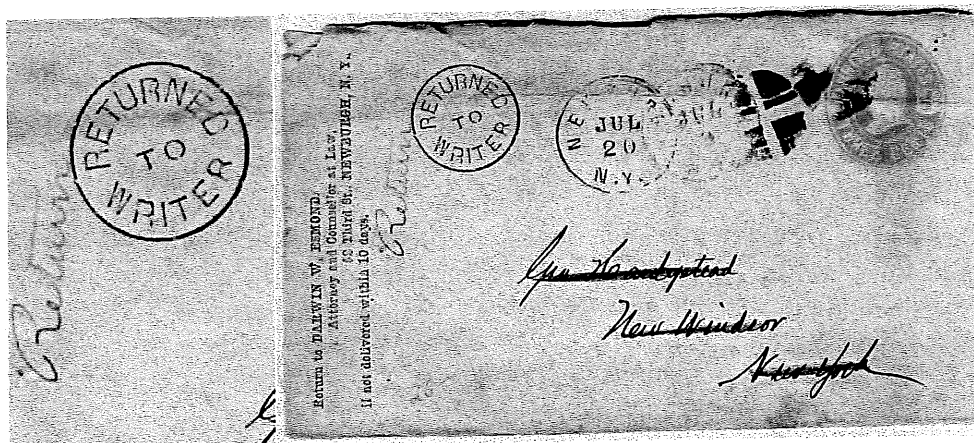


Figure 26. Scott U58 stamped envelope addressed to the neighboring New Windsor and posted in Newburgh on July 3, (1869) (first duplex). Pencil note "Return" with accompanying "Return to Writer" hand stamp applied in Newburgh on July 20th (second duplex).

DUE 1 (¢)

The drop letter rate was established in 1885 at 2¢ per oz. in a carrier office (Newburgh qualified as such). The envelope in **Figure 27** was posted to a "Lock Box" (P.O. Box) in the Newburgh post office. The 27x9-mm. marking "DUE 1" was applied because the franking was only 1¢ (*Scott 182*) and the shortage was made up with a copy of a 1¢ (*Scott J15*) postage due.

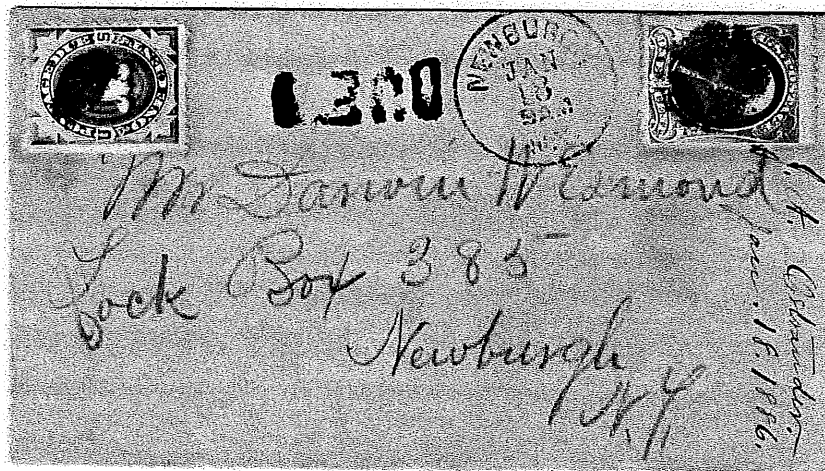


Figure 27. Short-paid drop letter marked "Due 1(¢)" posted in Newburgh, January 18, (1886), 9AM to a post office box. Manuscript docketing receipt marking on right.

Newburgh Branch Post Office

STEWART AIR FORCE BASE BRANCH

The final item presented in the exhibit is a UY7 postal card (*Reply* portion) used philatelically to mark the opening of Stewart Field in 1951. (**Figure 28**)

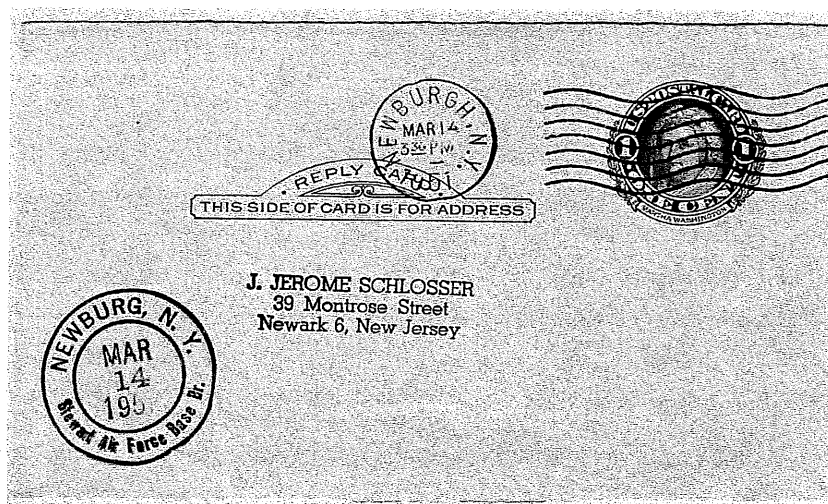


Figure 28. 1¢ Martha Washington postal card (*Reply* portion) cancelled by Newburgh Universal machine dated March 14, 1951, 3:30PM. It is also struck in magenta with a Newburgh, N. Y. Stewart Air Force Base Br. double-ring cds of the same date; the base post office superintendent's signature appears on the reverse.

Originally an U. S. Air Force base, Stewart Field became Stewart Airport, which now serves the mid-Hudson region as an international airport as well as being a satellite airport for the New York metropolitan area. A portion of Stewart still serves the military as the home of a squadron of Military Air Transport Command's huge C-5a "Galaxy" transport plane, which are piloted by members of the New York Air National Guard. On the infamous "9/11" Stewart Airport was actually shut down to civilians and civilian aircraft for a period of about a day-and-a-half, and guards were posted to protect these giant aircraft from potential terrorism.

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10. *New York State Hudson River Atlas, 2nd Edition*. JIMAPCO, undated..
11. *1995 Scott Specialized Catalog of U. S. Stamps*. Scott Publishing Co., 1994.
12. *United States Domestic Postage Rates, 1789-1956*. Postilion Publications, The Printer's Stone, undated. **ESPHS**

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WE GET LETTERS!

Well, not really a letter but an e-mail received from Al Starkweather in reference to Al Parson's Prisoners' Mail—Elmira Civil War Camp appearing in the last issue (September 2004, page 6). In the description of the bottom cover (in which one Edwin G. Booth was the addressee), Al Parsons wrote: "Research (is) needed to determine (a) connection, if any, between (the) addressee and (the) Lincoln assassination." Al Starkweather responded with considerable assistance: "There was no relationship. Edwin Booth's (real name) was Edwin Thomas. Your addressee was Edwin Gilliam Booth (1810-1886). His son—Dr. Edwin Gilliam Booth—was a Confederate surgeon, who was a Union prisoner in Florida when (the) letter was written. (The letter) may have been a plea for intercession for a parole, as Booth was a well-known Philadelphia lawyer, and former Virginian...with Southern leanings."

Many thanks, Al, for your research determining this person's identity. **ESPHS**

- **(EDITOR'S CORNER....continued from page 3).....**aspects of New York postal history. If you're not a member of one of the Federation's societies, you will not normally receive it. But if you're not reading it, you should be...and through the efforts of the Editor, Al Starkweather, each ESPHS member, by the time this issue reaches you, will have the opportunity to do so. The *Stamp Insider* has provided the following announcement:

ESPHS Members Eligible to Receive *Stamp Insider*

Members of the Empire State Postal History Society are eligible to receive the *Stamp Insider* by paying the annual rate that the Federation of Central New York Philatelic Societies charges its member organizations. The journal is published bi-monthly, six times per year.

ESPHS members currently not receiving the *Stamp Insider* are being sent a complimentary copy of the March-April issue. They will find inside an advertisement allowing them to order the *Stamp Insider* at the rate of \$3.30 a year for six issues, \$6.60 for two years (12 issues), and \$9.90 for three years (18 issues). (The rate for non-Federation subscribers is \$15.00 a year.) Payments and address information may be sent to John A. Cali, 613 W. 4th Street, Fulton, NY 13069-3104, phone 315.592.4441, e-mail: <rocket@dreamscape.com>.

Under the guidance of Editor Albert W. Starkweather, the *Stamp Insider* has grown from 28-48 pages, with greater emphasis on content of interest to all readers. The journal's previous content was almost entirely composed of pages submitted by Federation member organizations, including the ESPHS. The Federation content remains a priority, but the expanded size allows for a greater amount and variety of additional content.

Previous features in the journal have included an examination of a Roycroft cover acquired by ESPHS member Heather Sweeting; a railway post office history featuring covers from the collection of member Gerald Wiley; a closer look at the 1911 Garden City pioneer airmail flights; and John J. Nunes' study of the 1888 blizzard mail local.

These articles and other previous content may be viewed online at the Federation's Web site: <<http://www.geocities.com/fcnyps>>.

The *Stamp Insider* welcomes articles and illustrations. These may be submitted by mail or electronically to Albert W. Starkweather, 5520 Gunn Hwy. #1406, Tampa, FL 33624-2847, e-mail: <designondemand@verizon.net>.

- The approaching **change in e-mail address** I reported for myself in the last issue has finally come to fruition. My new address is: <dan.ddn@suscom.net>. This has been corrected on page 2. You will note that only the Internet Service Provider (ISP), part of the address has changed. Do not despair...if you forget and e-mail me at the old address, the mail will still reach me—but only for six months more!
- Finally, I wish to **acknowledge** the following members for their support for this issue: Frank Braithwaite (commencing a new continuing feature), George DeKornfeld, Bill Hart, Martin Marguilis and Heather Sweeting. I wrote too much—solve that problem by sending articles and features! **ESPHS**

~..~..~

COLUMBIA COUNTY CORNER

By George DeKornfeld

For no particular reason, this issue's visit to my favorite county will encompass some of the towns and villages that begin with the letter "S."

Spencertown

Spencertown is located about fifteen miles north-east of the Columbia County seat of Hudson; it comprises part of the general area of a land purchase made by a number of settlers who had moved west from Massachusetts and Connecticut (originally the old Massachusetts Bay Colony). In the years between 1757 and 1760 this entire zone was divided equally among these early colonists—twelve families, *all named Spencer*, were assigned lots. (The first official (town) meeting of the land owners took place on May 31, 1757.) Given this large group of relatives owning and residing in such an impressively-sized tract, it is of no surprise that this area eventually became known as "Spencer's Town." Over time, the colloquial use of the name most likely resulted in its change to "Spencertown."

On March 28, 1818, the Town of Austerlitz was formed from parts of the Towns of Canaan, Chatham and Hillsdale. Today the Town of Austerlitz includes the villages of Spencertown and Austerlitz. Prior to this incorporation, the Spencertown post office was "technically" located in the Town of Hillsdale, it having opened for business on September 12, 1811. Spencertown remains open (Zip 12165), but, according to Ahlquist, it has been reduced to only post office boxes.



Figure 1. Spencertown (Bernadt Type 8) cds dated NOV 14 on small cover franked with 3¢ 1857 issue. (See enlargement at right)

Figure 1 (above) illustrates a scarce Spencertown postmark used with a 7-bar closed grill killer. This circular date stamp (cds) type was first used during the stampless period. The stamp (Scott 26, Type IIa) exhibits a **double transfer** of the left frame line at *lower left*, a portion of which appears to have been *recut*.

[Editor's note: Due to the limit of 200 pixels per inch available to us for scanning, there may be insufficient resolution to clearly illustrate the transfer. It can be described thusly: A second line appears *outside* the normal frame line, stretching from the top of the value box to the top of the rosette.]

Figure 2 presents a piece of 1893 Spencertown commercial mail forwarded by printed matter rate. It bears the quite fancy corner card of the **Spaulding Printing Co., Commercial Printers, Spencertown, N.Y.**, obviously to show off the quality of company workmanship. The Spencertown cds is a 28-mm. single-ring with year date duplex (4 broken rings killer) tying a 1¢ Franklin (Scott 219). On the reverse are found indistinct Chatham (transit) and Milton, MA (receiving) markings. **Figure 3** illustrates an example of an 11-mm. single-ring Spencertown cds incorporating a non-standard 6-bar killer tying a 2¢ Pulaksi (Scott 690).

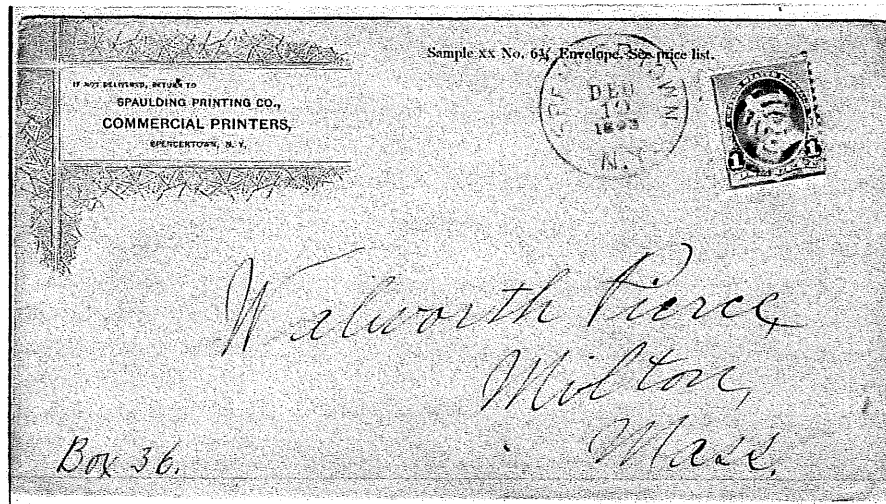


Figure 2. Spencertown DEC 19, 1893 struck on commercial cover with fancy advertising corner card.

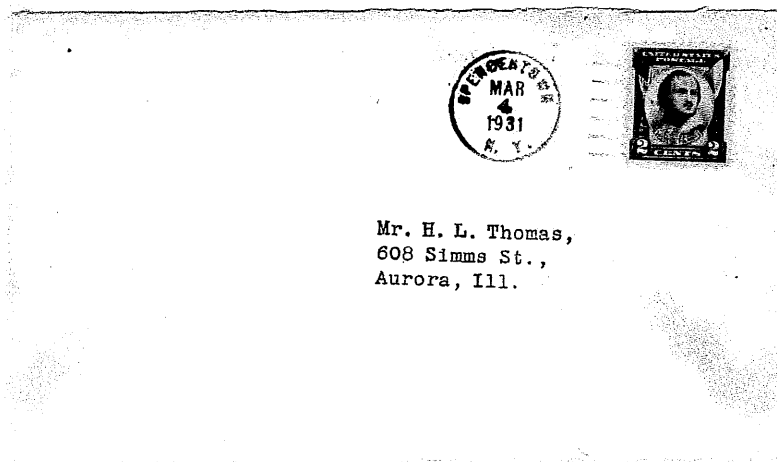


Figure 3. Spencertown MAR 4, 1931 cover sent at first-class rate.

Stuyvesant

The Town of Stuyvesant, in the northwest corner of the county, was formed on April 21, 1823 from land taken from the Town of Kinderhook. From its inception and because of its location along the east bank of the Hudson River, Stuyvesant village held considerable importance in manufacturing and transportation. It possessed both a station-stop on the New York and Hudson River Railroad and a landing at which steamboats docked to pick up freight for New York City.

The Stuyvesant post office came into existence on April 19, 1830 through re-designation of the Kinderhook Landing post office; it remains in operation today (Zip 12173). **Figure 4** (below) shows a single-sheet stampless folded letter (SFL) endorsed *Stuyvesant*, rated at 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢ and mailed to Penn Yan on March 14, 1827 as per the dates penned both on the face of the letter and on the dateline of the letter. [Editor's note: This letter was posted under the Act of May 1, 1825 (Zone Rate Increase), wherein the rate for 150-400 miles increased from 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ to 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢ to adjust for currency change. Editor] Apparently, even though the post office was "officially" Kinderhook Landing at this point in its history, letters were beginning to be received and rated under the Stuyvesant endorsement. Interestingly, a "March 12th 1827" docketing marking appears on the interior "sealing" flap.

The March 14th date qualifies this example as an EKU of the Stuyvesant manuscript marking, according to Chlanda and Wilcox. The Stuyvesant post office opened more than *three years subsequent* to the date on which this SFL was posted!

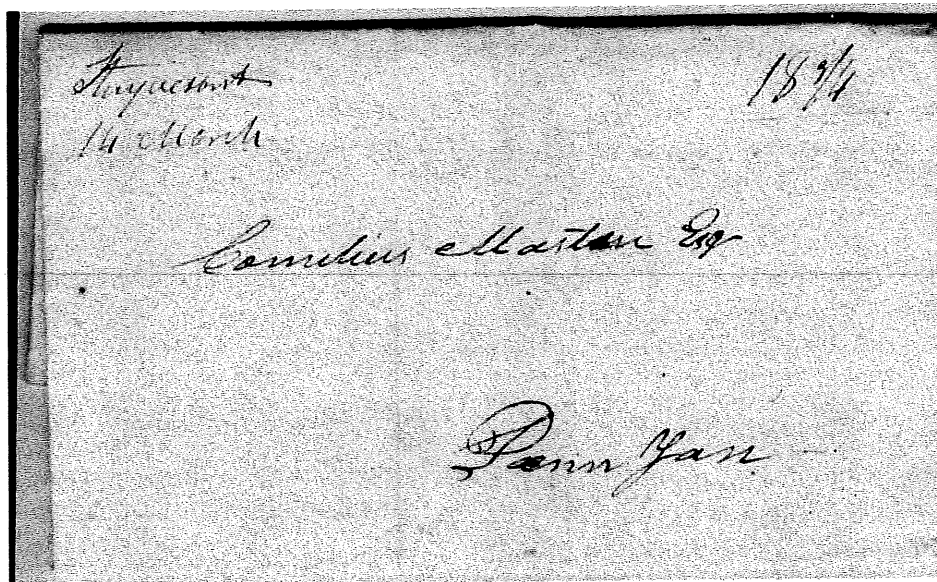


Figure 4. FLS endorsed *Stuyvesant 14 March*. Reported to be earliest known use of the post office manuscript marking.

Figure 5 (next page) illustrates an 1880 Stuyvesant cover mailed first class to Greene County. A rubber 30-mm. *Stuyvesant, New York* duplexed *star* fancy cancel struck in *purple* ties a 3¢ Washington large Banknote (Scott 158); there is a "Coxsackie Rec'd" backstamp.

Figure 6 (next page) is a picture post card with a view of "The New York Central Depot" in Albany. It was mailed from Stuyvesant to Rhinebeck on December 31, 1906 at 8PM; a receiving mark indicates its arrival exactly 12 hours later—January 1, 1907. The Stuyvesant cds, a 41-mm. single-ring with 4-bars tying 1¢ Franklin (Scott 300), is a scarce early use, according to Jim Mehrer, from whom it was purchased at auction.



Figure 5. *Stuyvesant* star in circle duplex dated AUG 24 18(?) struck in purple.

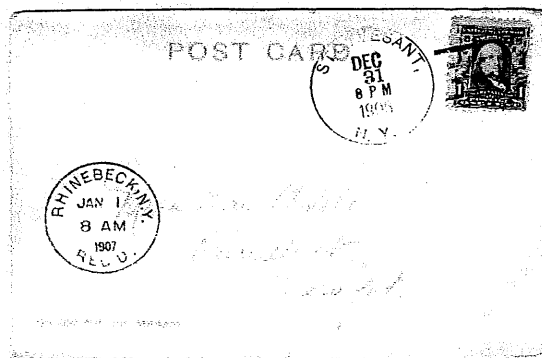


Figure 6. *Stuyvesant* 4-bar cds dated DEC 31, 1906 with Rhinebeck Rec'd.

Suydam

Suydam, located near Ancram, is both a DPO (discontinued, humorously called a “dead” post office) as well as a “DH” (dead hamlet!), because neither continue to exist. All that remains of this stage-stop on the Ancram-Salisbury (Connecticut) Turnpike is a lonely marker on NY Route 22.

This hamlet was named after (what a surprise!) the Suydams, who were owners of local businesses. Jacob Suydam was the innkeeper there and was fairly active in the life of the area. (For example, Jacob was appointed trustee of St. John’s Evangelist Lutheran Church in Ancram, which was incorporated on July 15, 1847.) And a Dr. Jacob Suydam was the country physician for the hamlet and surrounding area, who lived in Suydam until 1822. His headstone at the St. Thomas Lutheran Cemetery in Churchtown lists his day of passing as August 1, 1823. I could find no additional information about where he spent the last year of his life. Any further information from readers is requested.

The Suydam post office was established on November 17, 1885 and discontinued on January 31, 1912. **Figure 7 (below)** shows a commercial cover with a corner card of the Hotel Central in Hudson, NY and mailed to Philmont in 1895. The Suydam cancel is a 28-mm. duplex with negative cross in oval killer tying 2¢ Washington from the first Bureau issue (Scott 250, Type I); there are indistinct receiving marks on the reverse. The cover is addressed to a Mrs. Kelsey Lindsey—perhaps from her salesman husband.

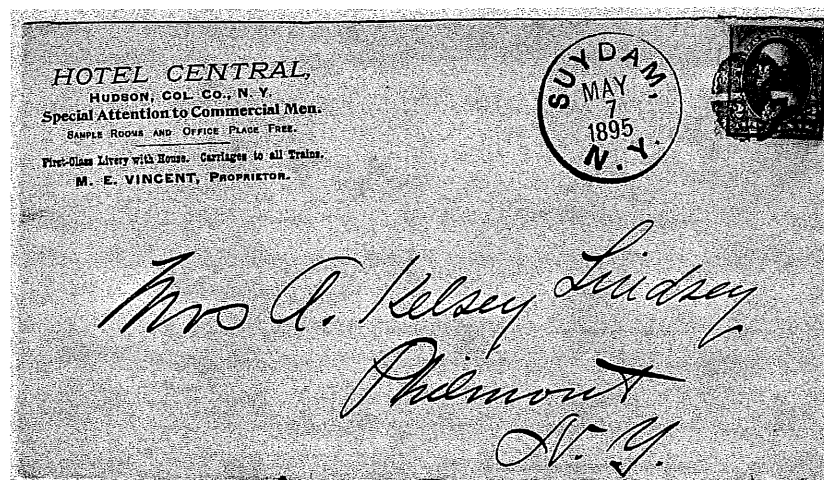


Figure 7. *Suydam* MAY 7, 1895 struck on an advertising cover from the Hotel Central in Hudson posted by first-class rate.

Figure 8 is an embossed Easter Greetings card mailed to Ancram in 1908. The Suydam cancel is a Type 2 Doane, Route #1 (tying a 1¢ Franklin, Scott 300). The Ancram is a Type 3 (with an indistinct “1”). Note the *inverted* 12AM in the Ancram receiving.



Figure 8. Suydam APR 18, 1908, Type 2, Route 1 Doane struck on Easter card.

Conclusion—A New *Chatham* Cover

Occasionally, as I acquire a new item that really strikes my fancy but from a post office I have already discussed in this column, I will deviate from the “theme of the month.”

This month’s “deviation” is a cover pointed out to me by our editor and my friend, Drew Nicholson, in a net price list published by ESPHS-member, John Amberman. I immediately added it to my collection; it is shown in **Figure 9A**. The cover is franked with a Type II 2¢ Washington Bureau (Scott 252) that is tied by a *Chatham* duplex featuring a *negative star* killer.

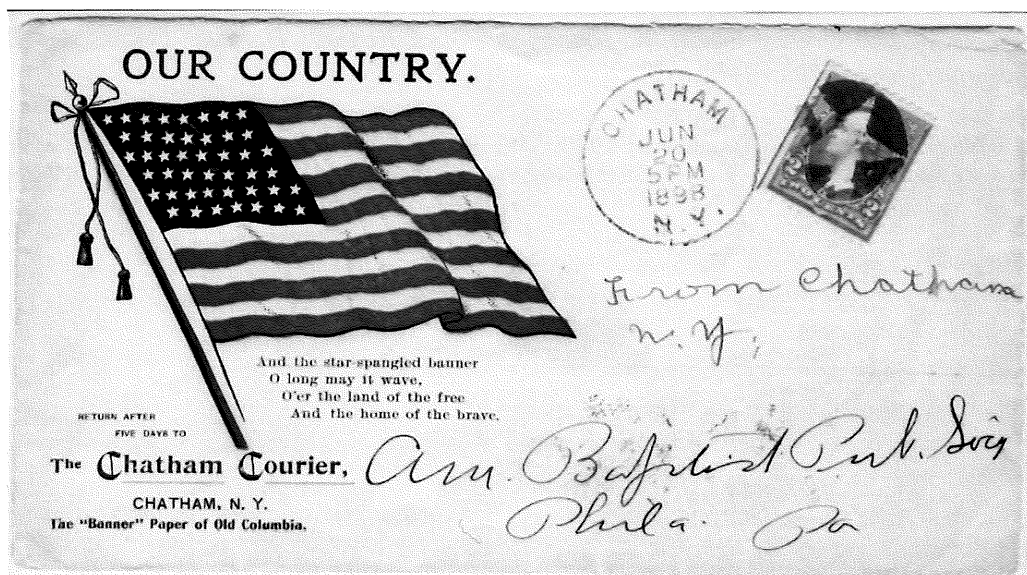


Figure 9A. *Chatham Courier* Spanish American War advertising patriotic forwarded by first-class rate.

The cover is an 1898 Spanish American War patriotic printed by the *Chatham Courier* (founded in 1862 at Chatham Four Corners and still in existence). On the reverse (**Figure 9B**) flap is found what is apparently the avowed purpose for producing the cover—a “*Trial Trip Subscription*”; in addition, there are two clear Philadelphia receiving marks that trace its trip to the recipient, the American Baptist Publishing Society. The American flag, which is embossed, gives it a texture that adds to its visual and tactile appeal. Yep... my tail is wagging! **ESPMS**

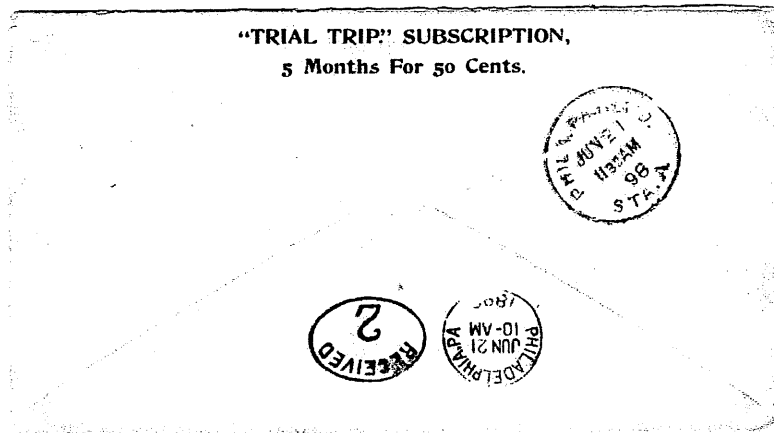


Figure 9B. “*Trial Trip Subscription, / 5 Months For 50 Cents*” flap inscription in conjunction with two Philadelphia receiving marks.

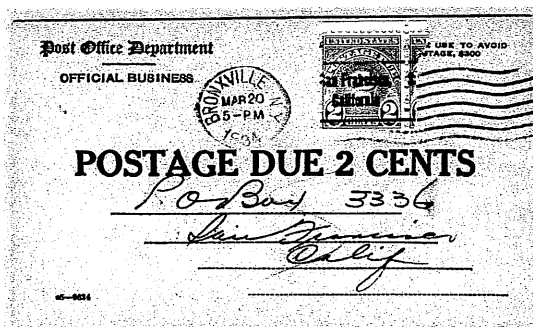
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3. Henry Chlanda and Chester E. Wilcox, Editors. *Manuscript Post Offices of New York State*. Empire State Postal History Society, 1984.
4. John L. Kay. and Chester Smith, Jr. *New York Postal History: The Post Offices and First Postmasters from 1775 to 1980*. American Philatelic Society, 1982.

[George lives in Ancramdale, NY and can be contacted via e-mail at <gdekornfel@taconic.net> As he has stated previously, “Any suggestions, corrections and/or additions are requested.” Editor]

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Bronxville, N. Y.—Use of Postage Due Form 3547



Bronxville post office is claiming a forwarding fee for a letter which was forward to Lakeville, CT. Cancelled Bronxville, NY / MAR 20, 1934.

A Tale of Two Covers, Two Generations, and Two Continents

By Heather Sweeting

I have often thought a trip to Las Vegas would be a nice vacation although I am not much of a gambler by nature. There are times however when I have to stop and think, "What are the odds of such and such happening...?" For example, in the last year I have bought two miscellaneous lots of covers on eBay and found covers mailed thirty years ago by my father to other collectors.

A more unusual philatelic coincidence occurred several years ago while Dad was still alive. Many years ago Dad bought and saved a cover mailed from Auburn to England in 1840. It had many auxiliary markings and was an interesting piece. A generation later, someone on the other side of the Atlantic, in London, posted a cover on eBay mailed from Auburn to England in 1839, also bearing many markings, etc. I saw it, bid on it, and was very surprised to find out that a very similar one was already in the Cayuga collection! Dad got the better deal—he paid \$3.50 for his and I paid \$25 by the time mine was insured and mailed from London. The letter that I purchased chronologically predates Dad's letter by a few months.

Catherine Ann Hamlin, originally of Syracuse, NY, wrote both stampless letters. At the time of the correspondence, Catherine was a student in the Auburn Seminary School. The letter states that, *"thirty summers have I passed without giving up my independence,"* so it is assumed that she would have been born ca. 1810. From the letters she appears to be an extremely bright and literate woman. In the first letter she states that she had gone to school to *"sort out her head and make sense of her feelings"* regarding a Mr. Reynolds proposal.

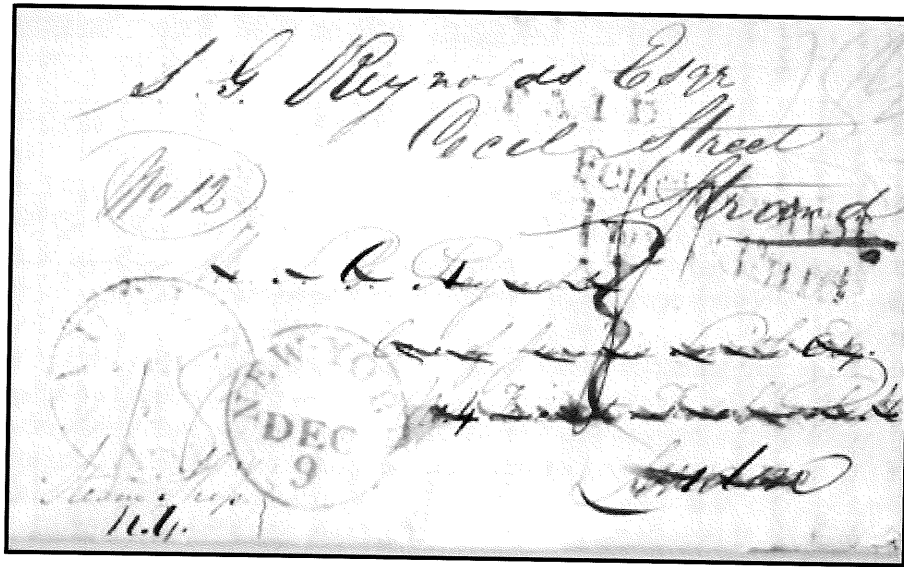
Both letters were sent by Catherine to Samuel G(odfrey) Reynolds in London. Samuel Reynolds was a native of Bristol, Rhode Island, and a descendant of one of the twelve children of Joseph Reynolds, an early settler with Mayflower ties. The Reynolds family-homestead, the second oldest house in Bristol, still stands. It is a historic landmark and is most noted for serving as the headquarters for Marquis de Lafayette during the American Revolution. Reynolds was an inventor who held patents on a machine used for the "heading and pointing" of pins. [Editor's note: In the 19th century England was the leading producer of textiles and finished clothing; one can easily imagine the importance of such an invention.]

Transatlantic mail from small upstate New York State towns during the stampless period is seldom found. The cost of postage was high and most mail was posted either by business or government entities.

Personal correspondence, such as these two letters, made up a very small percentage of the total mail. The first letter urges Samuel while in London to see the paintings of Joshua Reynolds and hear some of the new highly regarded oratorios—and also talks of the winter and her fondness for Samuel.

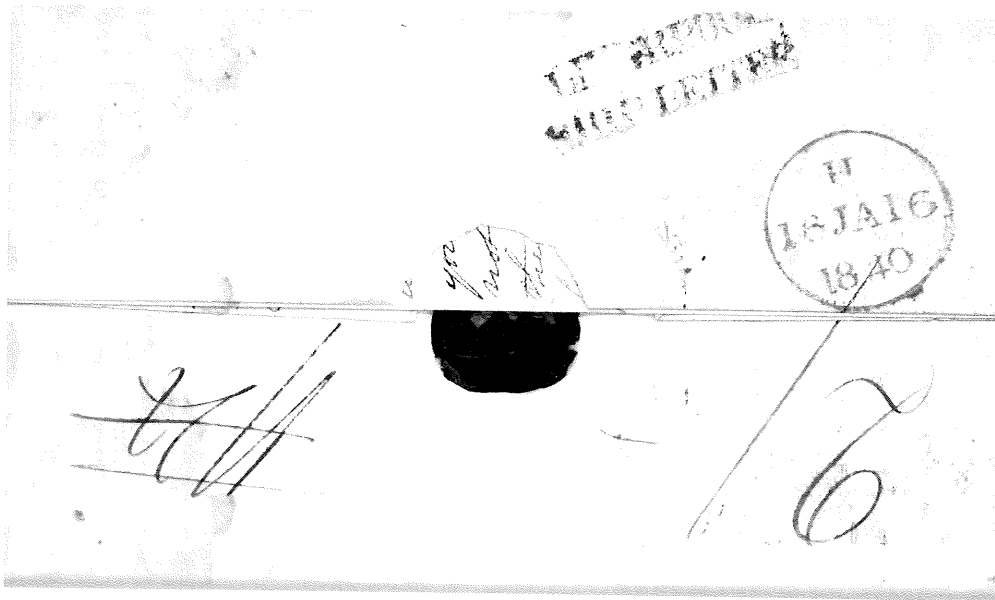
Letter one (the eBay letter), was written in December of 1839. It bears in red manuscript a payment of 18¾ cents, and a red "PAID" marking. It was mailed and arrived in New York Dec. 9, where it was stamped, and put aboard the steamship *Liverpool*. "SteamShip, N.Y." appears in ink on the lower left corner of the envelope, and the stamped marking "LIVERPOOL, SHIP LETTER" appears on the reverse side.

The steamship *Liverpool*, was the fourth pioneer steamship to travel between the U.S. and Great Britain. It was built by Messrs. John Jones and Sons, of Liverpool and made its first voyage to New York in October of 1838. The ship sailed from New York on December 15, 1839 with this letter aboard. Typically, travel between continents took about 20 days by boat. This letter did not arrive in Liverpool until mid-January because the ship ran out of coal and had to dock at the Azores until January 3.



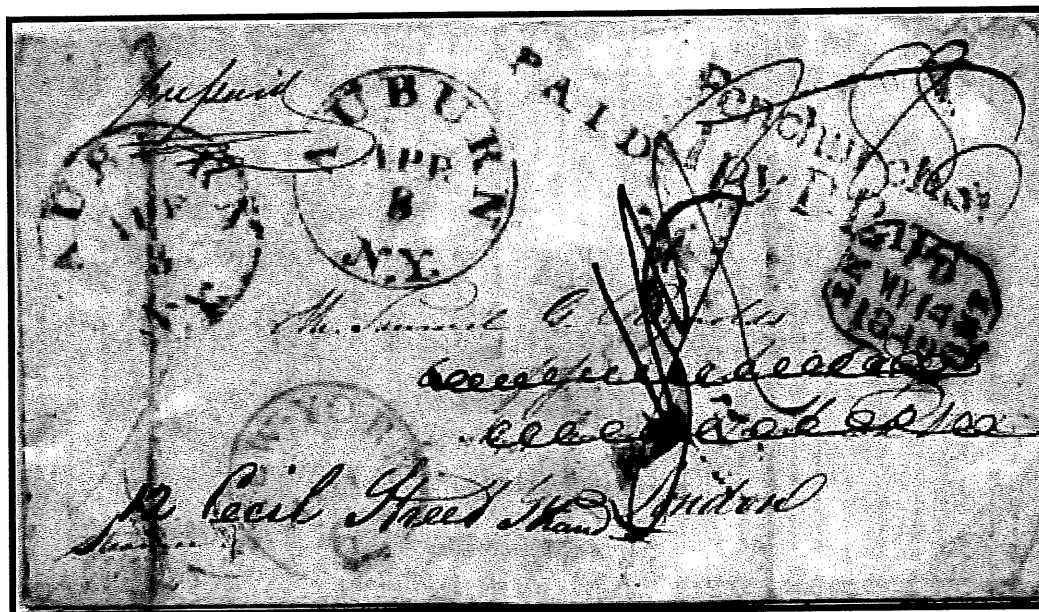
Front of Letter 1 (eBay letter)

Once in London, the letter was redirected to S. G. Reynolds, Esq., now at No. 12 Cecil Street. The "Fenchurch St/ 1D" paid in black originally was marked with an "8 D" ship letter charge. Manuscript markings on the reverse show " $\frac{1}{4}$ " "(2x8D)" crossed out and then a large "2/-", for two shillings, which was the rate (3x8D) for a triple ship letter charge.



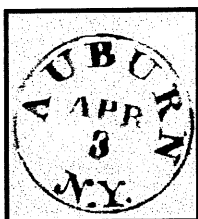
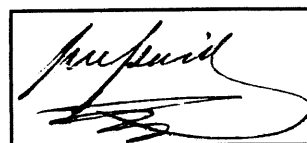
Reverse of Letter 1 (eBay letter)

The second letter (*next page*) finds Catherine looking forward to the arrival of the steamship mails from London. She speaks of Samuel's "thick" letters which arrive frequently, as well as their friends "...not knowing of their feelings for each other" and their "*betrothal*." It also mentions a trip to Herkimer and Syracuse to visit other family members.

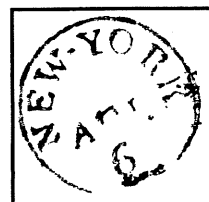


Front of Letter 2.

This folded letter sheet was mailed from Auburn on April 3, 1840 to England. The manuscript **"prepaid"** was probably applied by the mailer.



Upon mailing of the letter the Auburn Postmaster twice struck the **red circular date stamp** and the red **"paid"** marking.

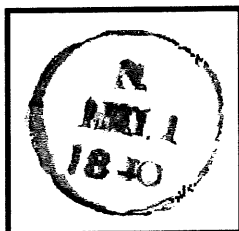
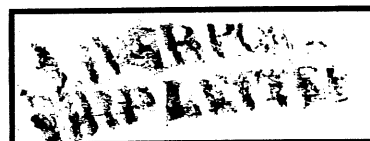


It took the letter three days to travel to New York City where it then received a **red circular April 6 date stamp**.



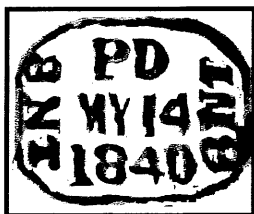
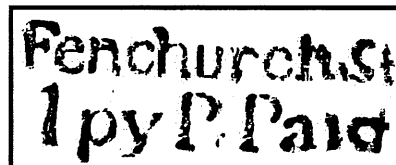
The cover was then transported overseas by ship. A manuscript **"steamer"** appears in the lower left corner.

A **back stamp** indicates that this letter was also carried aboard the steamship *Liverpool*.



The letter was then transported to North London as shown by the **red circular date stamp on the back dated May 1, 1840**.

The black Fenchurch St hand stamp is a hand struck penny provisional to conform to the "Uniform Penny Postage" act"



A red octagonal marking shows a "paid May 14, 1840." The red "8NT" refers to 8 Night Time (PM).

The letter was further forwarded to 12 Cecil Street in London. The black manuscript ship letter rate "8" has again been crossed out.

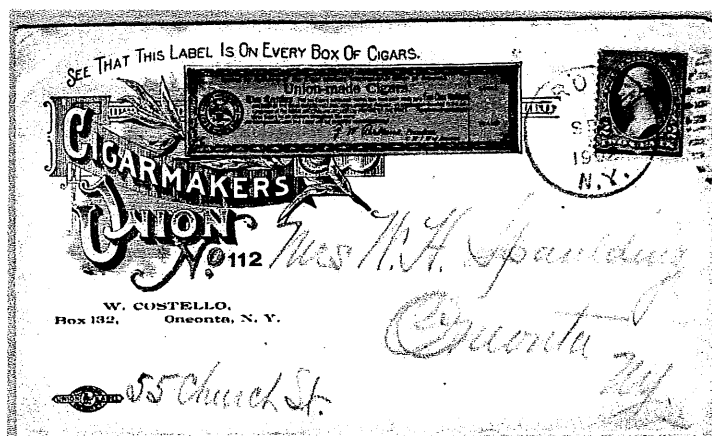


The story ends happily. It is not known when Samuel returned to America, but records show that Samuel Reynolds and Catherine Hamlin were married on 18 November 1845. **ESPHS**

[Heather lives in Sterling, NY and is an active postal historian. She can be contacted by e-mail at <hsweetin@twcny.rr.com>].

~..~..~

Anyone Ready for a Good Cigar?



Groton, NY/ SEP 8, 1902 duplex on fancy Cigarmakers Union No. 112 advertising cover. Possibly sent by a cigar union organizer to his wife.

Warren County

THE EARLIEST POSTAL HISTORY OF GLENS FALLS

By William J. Hart

[Editor's Note: This article is based on a four-page exhibit that won the coveted Ken DeLisle trophy at the semi-annual meeting of the ESPHS at SYRAPEX in 2003. As one could say, because of the quality of the material, the "content speaks for itself"

*One of the most interesting aspects of this "earliest" period are the number of differences in the spelling of the community's name. While it is more apparent as one goes into the later periods of Glens Falls postal history, Bill reports there are multiple spellings of Glens Falls—5 in all! The article illustrates only two of the multiplicity of spellings—GLENS FALLS (the manuscript period) and GLENNS FALLS (the first hand stamp period). It should be noted that "Glenns Falls" (a spelling officially recognized by the U. S. Post Office for its canceller) was **not** the way it was spelled by its inhabitants—who have always used the spelling shown in the title of this article.]*

The Glens Falls post office opened in 1807, and at that time it was located in Washington County. In 1813 Warren County was formed and it has remained in that county since then. The post office went through a number of name changes, starting and ending with the current spelling: **GLENS FALLS**.

The stampless folded letter sheet (FLS) shown below is the **earliest one recorded**. (Figure 1) The letter is headed *Queensbury, Glens Falls, May 29, 1814*. The 17¢ rate endorsement was for 150-300 miles, and the letter was sent during the period of the first postmaster, John Ferriss.

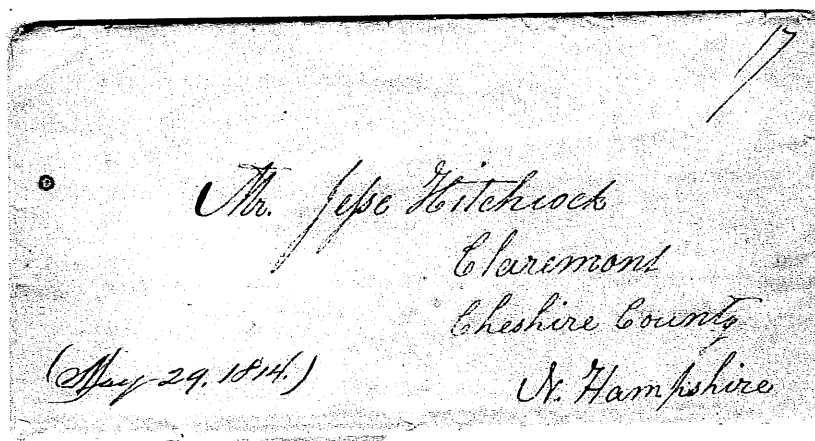


Figure 1. Earliest reported letter posted from Glens Falls (May 29, 1814).

On the following page is found a copy (Figure 2) of the beginning of the letter within written by John Hitchcock (of New Hampshire), who was visiting two brothers working locally. (Later, he and one brother established a business there.) At this time the community of Glens Falls consisted of but 30 structures.

Queensbury, Glens Falls May 29th 1814.
Brother Jesse, I write to inform you of my good health
I had a good journey but bad riding. I came directly to
this place arrived on Tuesday on Friday went to
Brothers. David and Genas found them well
and left David on Sunday last at that

Figure 2. Beginning of letter datelined *Queensbury, Glens Falls, May 29, 1814*, which establishes it as the earliest recorded letter posted from Glens Falls.

Figure 3 represents a typical early Glens Falls manuscript marking, this one dating from 1826, with the *Glens Falls* spelling.

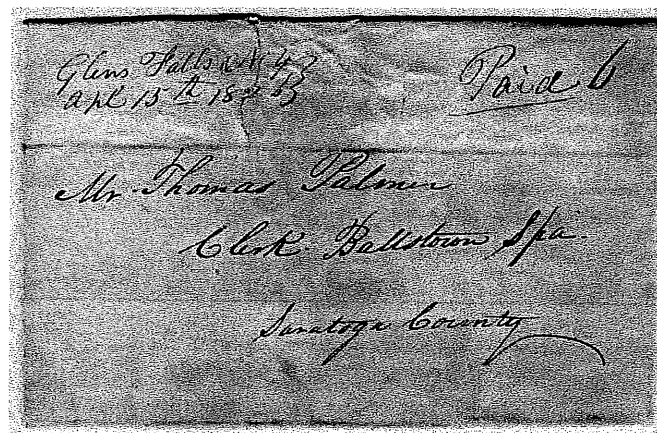


Figure 3. SFL posted from *Glens Falls, April 15, 1826* to Ballstown (sic) Spa, pre-paid at the 6¢ rate.

The earliest recorded usage of a hand stamped cancel (a typical for the period Bernadt Type 8) in Glens Falls is August 23, 1832, shown on the SFL below. (**Figure 4**) Note the modified spelling—GLENNS-FALLS—in use for just over 20-years. Of some 50 folded letters surveyed, 90% were datelined GLENNS FALLS in the letter.

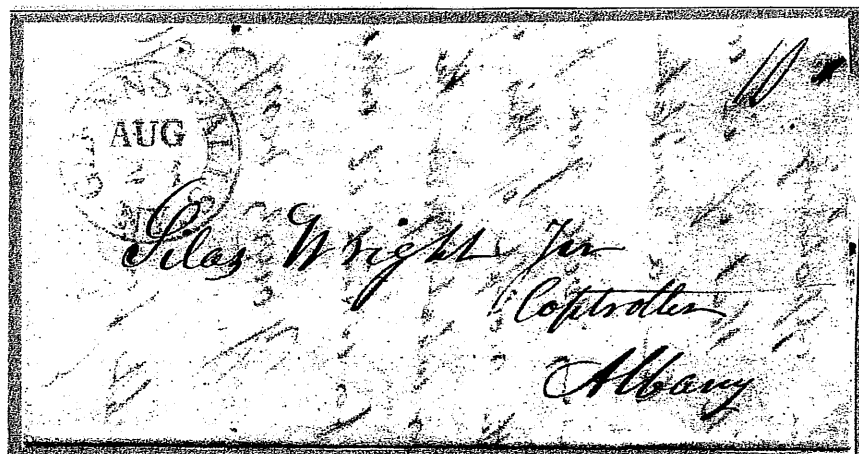


Figure 4. *Glenns-Falls, AUG 23, (1832)*, in black, the earliest recorded hand stamped cancel.

The first Glens Falls hand stamped cancel was used from 1832 to 1853. The *first and last* recorded examples are struck in *black*, but within the time period the canceller is also found applied in shades of *blue*, *red* (3x), *brown*, *orange* (2x), and a *grayish-green* as well—a total of 6 colors! These latter colored examples are shown below (**Figure 5A-5E**):



Figure 5A. Glens-Falls, JUL 15 (1840) in BLUE.



Figure 5B. Glens-Falls, JUN 5 (1842) in RED.

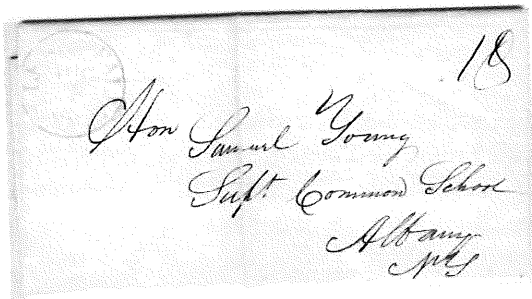


Figure 5C. Glens-Falls, AUG 3 (1844) in BROWN.

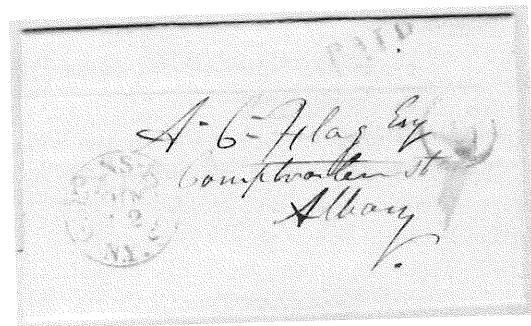


Figure 5D. Glens-Falls, JUN 12 (1846) in ORANGE.



Figure 5E. Glens-Falls, OCT 5 (1848) in GRAYISH-GREEN. Paid Box 108 endorsement at the top left indicates presence of p.o. boxes.

Our look at the “earliest” postal history of Glens Falls concludes with the **only recorded** use of the first stamp, the 5¢ Franklin (*Scott 1*), which is tied to a folded letter by the typical Glens-Falls hand canceller of the period, struck in *black*. (**Figure 9**) The cancellation is too indistinct to determine a date, but the dateline of the interior letter clearly reads January 9, 1848.

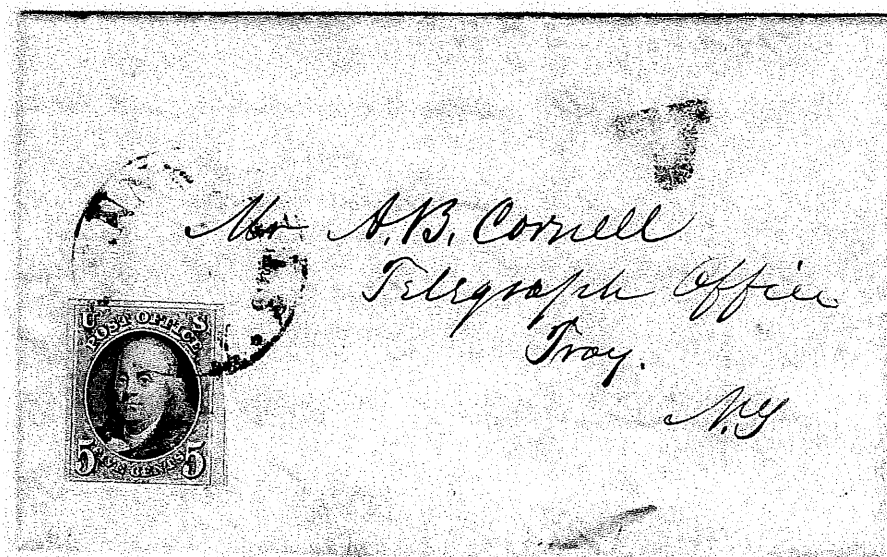


Figure 9. *Glens-Falls, (January 9, 1848) struck in black on folded letter posted to Troy.*

The letter within was written by E. Cornell, a businessman and resident of Whitehall, NY, who was passing through on his journey home from Troy to Whitehall. He had walked the day before from Saratoga (18-miles distant) but became “snow-bound” in Glens Falls by a foot of snow. The stamp was probably acquired in Troy, as Glens Falls received none of the issue. *[Editor’s note: This is confirmed by the Alexander Census of Scott 1847 issue used on cover.]*
ESPHS

[Bill lives in Shrub Oak, NY and is currently further researching the fascinating subject of New York State R.F.D, a portion of which has appeared previously in the EXCELSIOR!. He can be contacted at <williamhart6tudor@netzero.net>]

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PUZZLE BOX (#3)--Answer

The “New York () Harlem R.R.” puzzle apparently has been solved by the proposers—Larry and I. Additional measurement has now made it obvious that it is *not* the railroad cancel (Towel 108-A-1) variant but a normal (however under inked and thus incomplete) cancel of **HARLEM NEW YORK** (Bernadt Type 8 variant). (Refer to September 2004 issue of *Excelsior!*, pages 19-20. Editor)

Interestingly, the cancel seems to have been used by the Station L (New York) post office which came into existence in 1866. This followed the discontinuance of the Harlem post office on July 1, 1863, which then became the Sta. L (Harlem) post office during the years 1863-1866.

The franking on the cover is the 3¢ 1869 issue “Railroad Engine” (*Scott 114*), thus placing the cancel usage from the Station L (New York) post office after at least March 27, 1869, the first day of issue for the stamp. This appears to be a very late use of the cancel. **ESPHS**

POUGHKEEPSIE, N.Y., CITY OF SCHOOLS:

PART 2 - THE MILITARY SCHOOLS

By Lawrence J. Laliberte

Charles Bartlett was conducting a school at Fishkill Landing when he was invited to Poughkeepsie by a group of merchants and politicians that became known as the "Improvement Party." Mr. Bartlett had received many offers to head up schools, but he declined all of them. On this occasion in 1835, however, *The Family Magazine* of 1837 describes his arrival in this way:

... "Alighting at the base of the hill on which the school now stands, they ascended it, and while so doing, Mr. Bartlett was, (as he had been before,) solicited to take charge of our academy for boys, but, he declined. When they reached the summit of the hill, and were gazing with admiration upon the scene around them, Mr. B remarked, 'What a beautiful place this would be for a literary institution:' to which Mr. Tallmadge immediately replied, 'Will you take charge of one, if established?' I will,' was the prompt answer."

Figure 1 shows a wood cut of the school that was built on the hill.

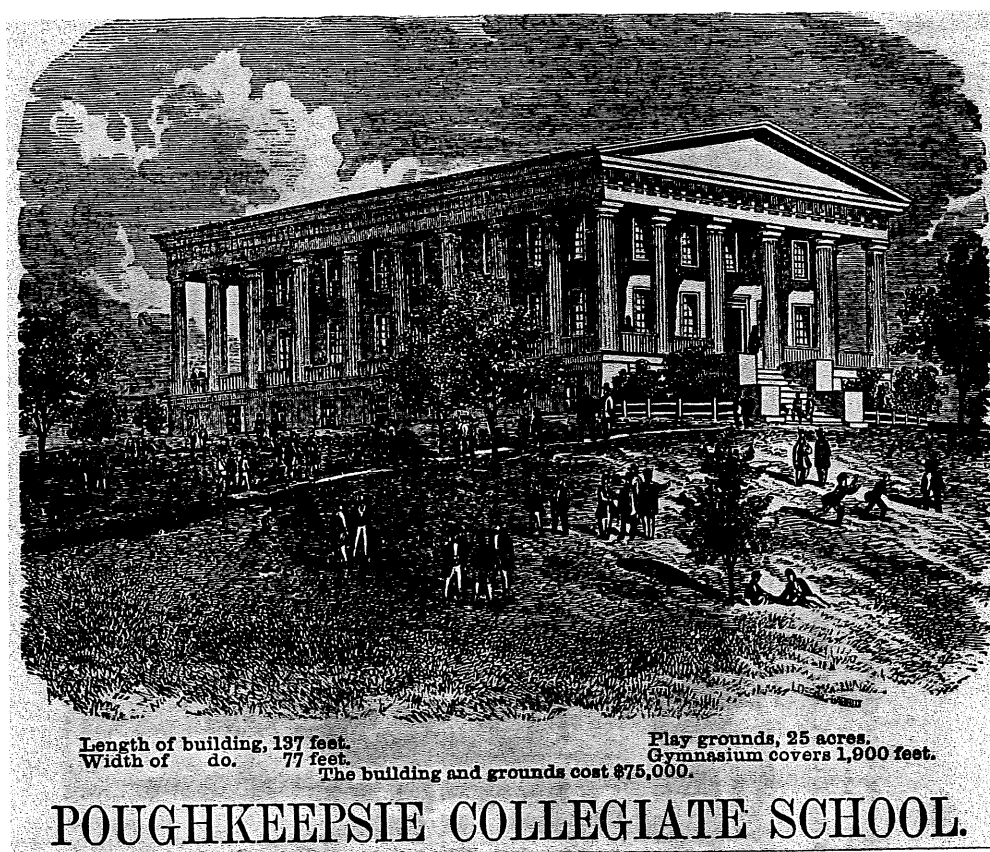


Figure 1. Woodcut from a period publication showing the school.

The hill they climbed that day was then called Adriance's Hill, but it would soon be known as College Hill after the establishment of the Poughkeepsie Collegiate School. It is the

highest elevation in the city and provides views of up to 50 miles on a clear day, even today. The building measured 35 by 114 feet exclusive of the colonnade, and was intended to house 100 students. By the end of the fourth term, more than 100 students were in attendance. The Collegiate School was the common ancestor for Poughkeepsie's two military schools.

Charles Bartlett continued as principal until his death in 1857; Otis Bisbee and Charles B. Warring then partnered to continue the school. This partnership lasted until 1862 when Warring left to establish the Poughkeepsie Military Institute (a.k.a. Dr. Warring's Military School) at the corner of Smith and Mansion Streets, in full view of the Collegiate School. This was Poughkeepsie's first military school.

The earliest correspondence from P.M.I. found by the author is shown in **Figure 2**. It is a short note from a cadet to his brother in Washington Hollow, N.Y. (in Dutchess County). In his words: *"I will send you this in a nu (sic) style of envelope & note card I think you will like as I can not think of much of anything to write I will close for now."* The notepaper has the only representation of the school that the author has been able to locate. It is printed on a blue-gray paper with an overall square and diamond pattern which, combined with the faded ink, made reading it very difficult. The "running chicken"-type envelope, shown cropped and reduced, is missing its stamp. The cancel type places its use between 1873 and 1878. It was found in a junk cover box and acquired for a nominal amount.

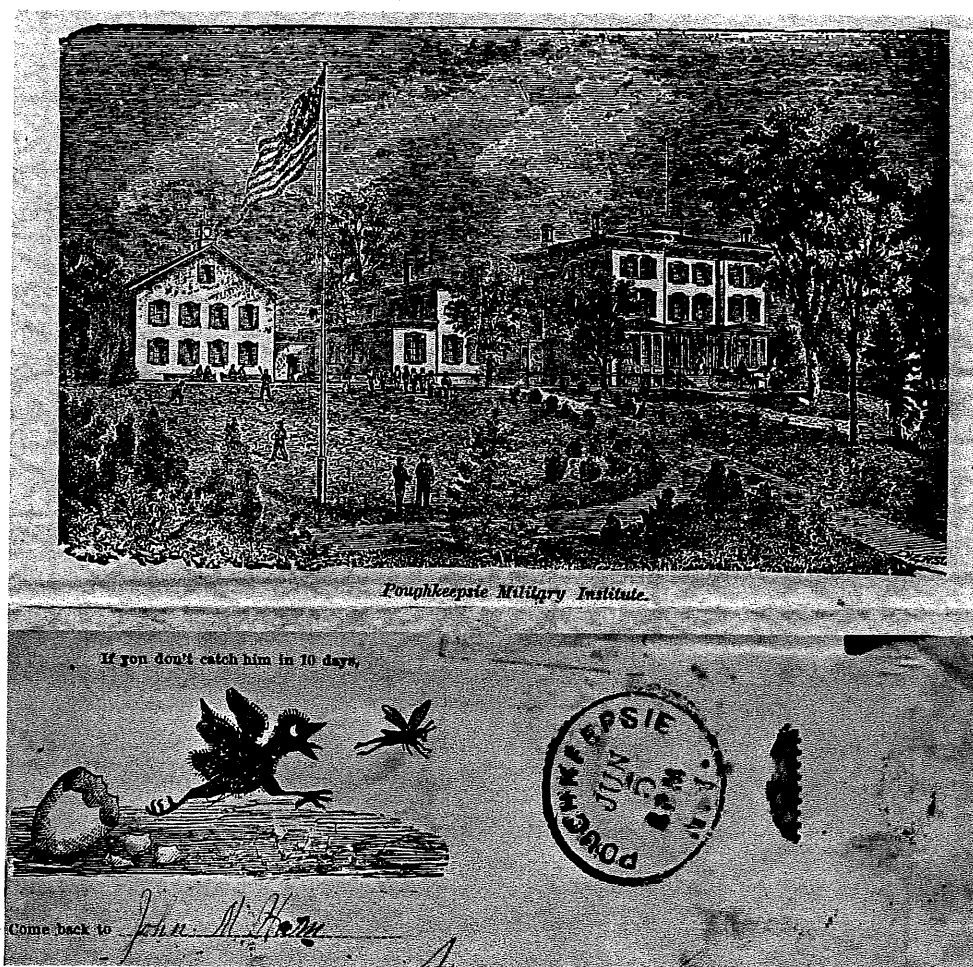


Figure 2. Top—Upper portion of notepaper showing Poughkeepsie Military Institution.
Bottom—Top of cover that carried the note (reduced.)

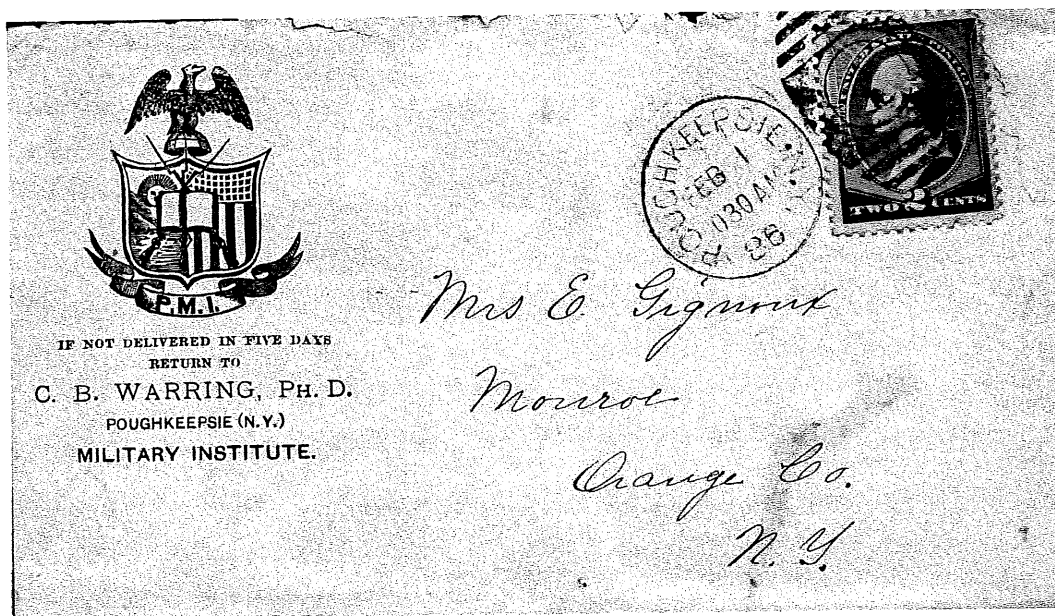


Figure 3. Cover mailed Feb 1, 1888 from Poughkeepsie Military Institute with decorative corner card.

Please Read Remarks on ROLL OF HONOR.

Dr. Warring's Military School,
POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y.

Special Report of Scholarship and Conduct of Cadet Gignoux
for four weeks ending Jan. 22 1886

200 is the maximum mark, except in Church Attendance, Bible Lesson, Composition and Declamation, in each of which it is 100.

Deportment... 200	Writing.....	Latin.....	Civil Governm't.....
Punctuality... 200	Arithmetic.....	Greek.....	Commercial Law.....
Application... 200	Geography.....	French.....	Rhetoric.....
Church attend'ce.....	Grammar.....	German.....	Mythology.....
Bible Lesson.....	Algebra.....	Philosophy.....	Music.....
Military Drill.....	Geometry.....	Chemistry.....	
Declamation.....	Trigonometry.....	Geology.....	
Composition..... 70	Surveying.....	Astronomy.....	
Spelling and Reading.....	Book-Keeping.....	Phys. Geography.....	
	History.....	Popular Science.....	

A grade added (see Note 3)..... His place on the School Roll is.....

Standing for the four weeks..... **C. B. WARRING, Principal,**

NOTE 1.—A daily Record is kept of Recitations. Every Absence, although necessary and excused, causes a loss of TEN credits, on the principle of "No work, no pay."

2. The "Standing" is made up by adding ALL the credits in the first column together with the THREE NUMERICALLY LOWEST STUDIES. The maximum number for the four weeks is 2000. Pupils getting 1500 and upwards will be placed on the Roll of Honor. The "School Roll" embraces all the school, arranged according to their credits.

3. As the Day Pupils are not here on the Sabbath, and cannot receive credits for Church Attendance and Bible Lessons, AN AVERAGE of 150 is added to their report in order that they may be placed on the same roll.

4. No pupil whose conduct falls to 150 for the month, will be placed on the Roll of Honor, no matter how high he may stand in his studies.

REMARKS.

As he has been here only three weeks out of the four. I make no regular report. I will only say, I am very much pleased with his conduct, application and desire to learn. I have underscored his studies, and next week will put in the Geography.

Figure 4. The report card that was enclosed in the cover shown in Fig. 3.

According to James Smith, "From the outset the school was very popular. It filled so rapidly with pupils that within a few months an additional building became necessary."

Charles Warring remained Head Master of the school until 1871 when he closed it during his trip to Europe. Upon his return, he sold the school to Prof. H.S. Jewett, who operated it until 1878 when Warring repurchased it. He ran it until his own retirement in an unknown year. The property was purchased by the Poughkeepsie School System in 1902. The Warring Elementary School currently occupies the site. Figure 3 shows a cover sent by the school enclosing a report card that is shown in Figure 4.

The student body numbered about 50. The objective of the school, as with all military schools, was to prepare the pupils for college, West Point or Annapolis.

Bisbee continued operation of the Collegiate School, introducing military drill in response to the competition from Warring's school. The Collegiate School's property was sold in 1865 to settle Bartlett's estate forcing a move. In 1867 the entire student body marched two miles to their new home and "new" school, the River View Military Academy (RMA) on Pine Street. **Figure 5** shows a post card of the school around 1910.

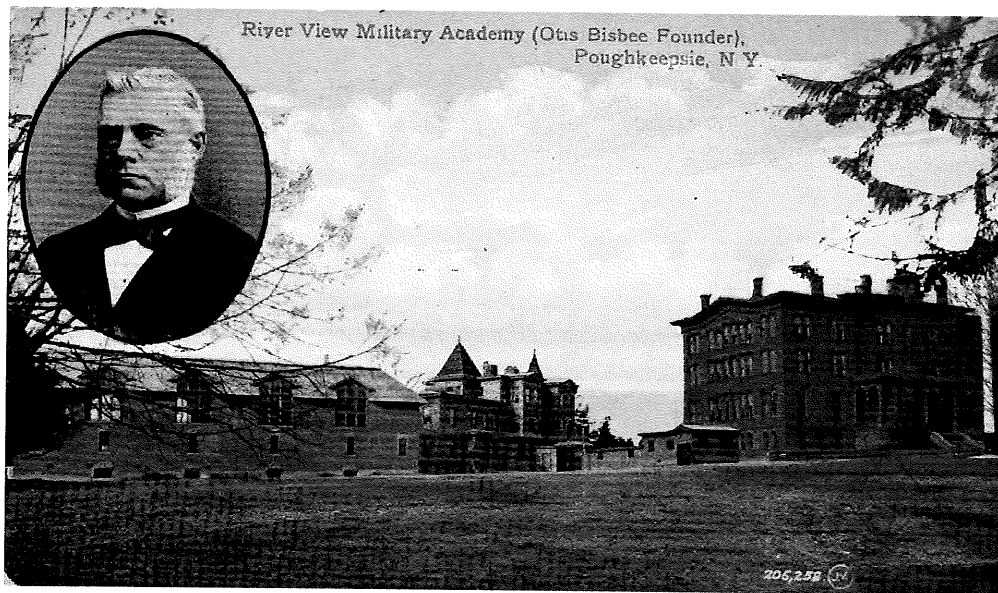


Figure 5. A post card showing the campus of Riverview Military Academy

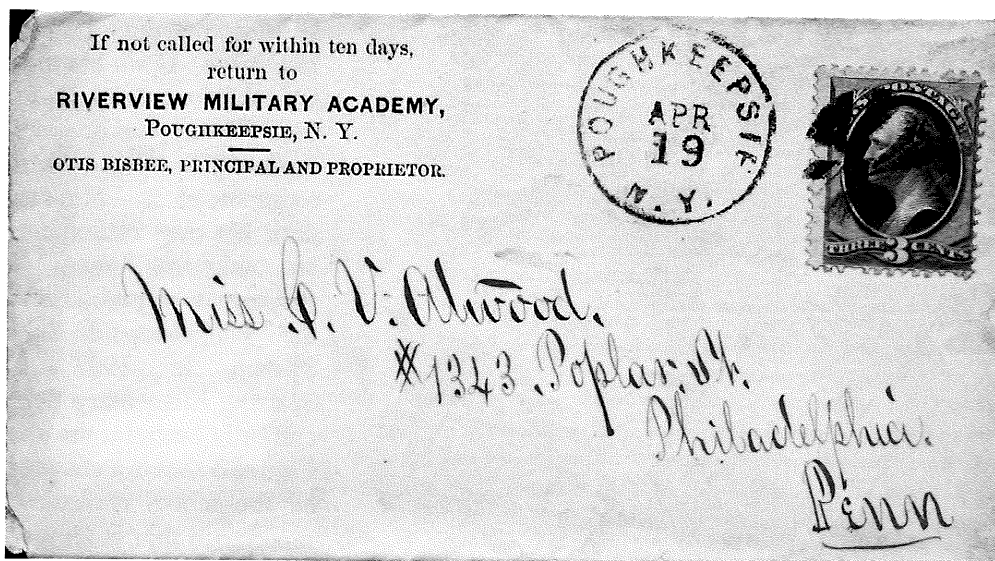


Figure 6. Plain corner card cover from R.M.A. These are more difficult to find than overall advertising covers. The stamp is Scott #147, which places the use around 1870.

Figure 6 shows a cover used by the school in the early 1870s.

Otis Bisbee died in 1885. Otis' son, Major Joseph Bartlett Bisbee, succeeded him as head of the school. Yes, Otis had married Charles Bartlett's daughter. Figure 7 shows an overall advertising cover used by the school in the 1880s.



Figure 7. An overall ad cover used by the school for more than 20 year.

A little insight into life at the academy can be had from a portion of one of two letters in the author's possession, which were sent by instructor Geo. B. Rogers to Miss Elizabeth Laker, at that time in Velo, Greece. She was on an extended visit to Europe and was the object of George's affection. The letter is dated May 24, 1889:

"The school has been much disturbed during the last few days by the attempts of one school photographer to take the battalion picture. Twice he has brought down to the grounds, his wagon, his camera, his tripods, and all the appendages and appurtenances of his art; and twice has he been disappointed, leaving the school still more disappointed, and the little Major in little rage. This battalion picture is (a) matter of no small importance, and it demands a great deal of preparation on the part of the cadets. No one can appear but in his dress uniform, and for several days the dress-coats of the day scholars have been hanging in the drill hall in readiness for the day. Once last week, when the sky was cloudy enough to allow a photograph to be taken, the boys were marched out, some with great difficulty and after a long time drawn up in proper order, and stood for nearly a half hour in a pouring rain before the camera, some little shaver grew restless, lifted his hand at the wrong time and the plate was spoiled. Today the attempt was made again, and just as everything was ready some one fainted from the heat; the affliction began to spread, and the Major promptly marched the companies off the ground."

He also goes on to describe a fellow instructor with a case of laryngitis. This letter, which was 260 lines in length, coupled with the earlier one would delight any historian.

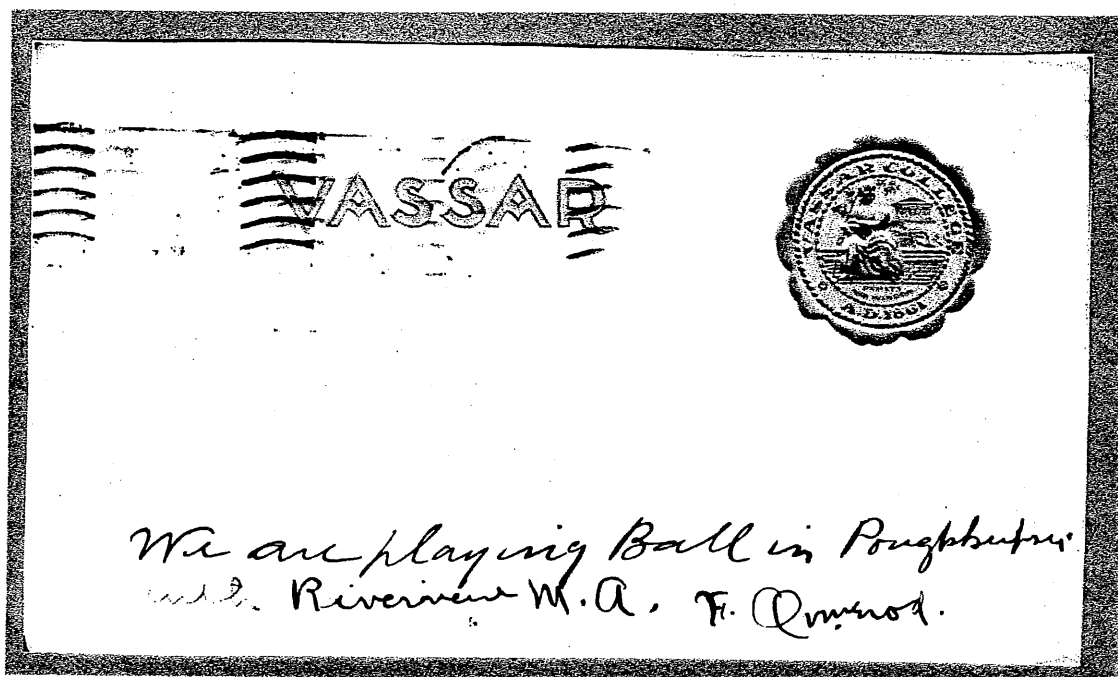


Figure 8. A post card from a Vassar College student stating that they are playing baseball with students at R.M.I. dated April 24, 1909.

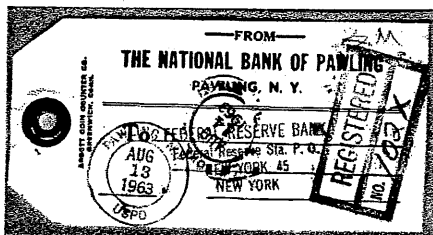
The many student activities included baseball. A schedule appears in the *Riverview Student* of April 1901. Between April 20th and June 8th, fifteen games were scheduled against such noted schools as Yale, West Point, Princeton and Amherst. **Figure 8** shows a card sent by a Vassar student to a friend at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy reporting that the ladies of Vassar were playing against the cadets. It must have been a fun game. Among other activities were the Glee Club, Orchestra, Cadet Band and publication of the student paper.

RMA was a "family" school in that it was owned by the Bisbee Family, and not controlled by a board of directors. This arrangement placed all decision making in Bisbee hands. They were capable hands because the school survived until about 1915. **ESPHS**

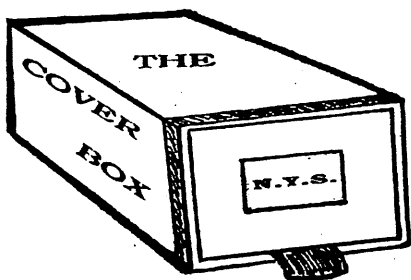
Reference: James H. Smith. *History of Dutchess County, New York with illustrations 1683-1882*. Dutchess County Genealogical Society, 1982 (Facsimile reprint of the original 1882 printing.)

[Larry lives in Carmel, NY and can be contacted by e-mail at <largin@worldnet.att.net>]

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Pawling, NY, AUG 13, 1963. A tag from a shipment of worn-out currency returned to the Federal Reserve Bank in NYC.



Interesting Covers Found in Dealers' Boxes

This issue's Cover Box begins with an answer received from Al Starkweather. I had asked for assistance in identifying the cancel appearing on the bottom cover on page 17 in the September 2004 issue. Al quickly identified the town as "*Waukeegan, IL*. Guree (the town from which the letter was written) is about five miles west of Waukeegan." Thank you, Al.

~ ~ ~

Fancy cancels abound on covers franked with the 3¢ 1861 issue Washington (*Scott 65*). This month's featured covers both bear striking FANCAN's from Yonkers.

The first is the **YONKERS "Y"** appearing on a cover (**Figure 1**) addressed to Turners in Orange County. The "Y" is listed in James M. Cole's *Cancellations and Killers of the Banknote Era 1870-1894* (U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, Inc., 1995, pg. 290) without the post office of use being identified; it is given the listing *LY-1*. A pencilled docketing marking on the reverse dates the cover to 1866. It is possible that more than this killer was repaired (note the fracture at the base) at a later time. However, there is little doubt that this is the "Y" illustrated—just examine the extension and position of the right bar! Kenneth A. Whitfield's *Cancellations Found on 19th Century Stamps* (The U.S. Cancellation Club, 2002, pg. 214) gives it listing #6346, also without post office identification, but *showing* the fracture line.

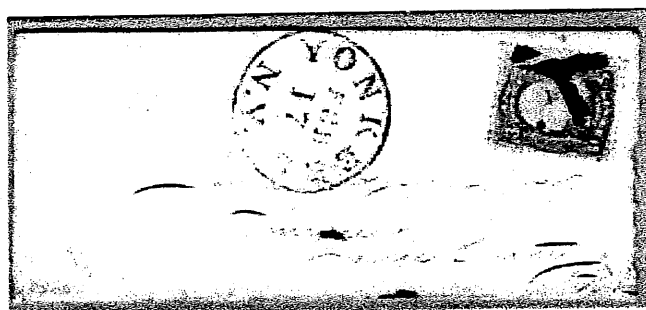


Figure 1. Yonkers (Bernadt Type 8) CDS with "Y" killer, dated FEB 17 (1866).

The second cover is the well-known **YONKERS "STAR."** (**Figure 2**) For many years the belief was that this killer had been used as a *precancel* because it usually was found *not tying the stamp to the cover*. Obviously this is not the fact in this case as the strike clearly ties the stamp. The Cole listing is *STL-19* and Whitfield is #3131. It is docketed "1866." **ESPHS**

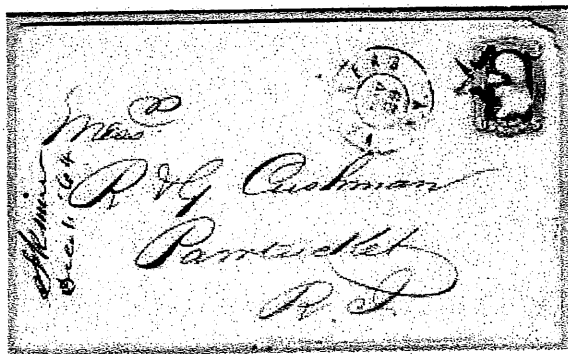
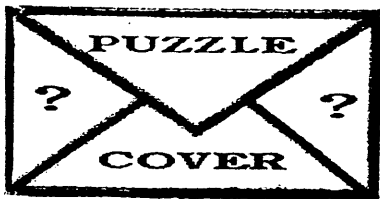


Figure 2. Yonkers (Bernadt Type 11) CDS with "Star, dated NOV 29 (1866).



PUZZLE BOX—Short Presentations About Puzzling Covers (#s 4 & 5)

In this issue we present two covers that fit into the “puzzling” category.

#4—Figure 1 shows a U. S. stamped envelope (*Scott UO54*) cancelled in *Verbank, NY* on June 3 (1884); a clear strike of a Washington, DC receiver on the reverse provides the year date. The address is *preprinted* and includes in much smaller print at the bottom the following: *This envelope will only be used by Postmasters for the transmission of Monthly Reports on Form 125A*. Also, note the unusual STAR insert in the killer of the *Verbank* cancellation. (A similar enveloped cancelled *Carthage Landing* appeared on eBay recently.)

The puzzle surrounding this cover is twofold—Why are postmasters sending official mail to the U. S. Army Signal Corps? and What is Form 125A and what is the purpose of the monthly reports being forwarded on Form 125A?

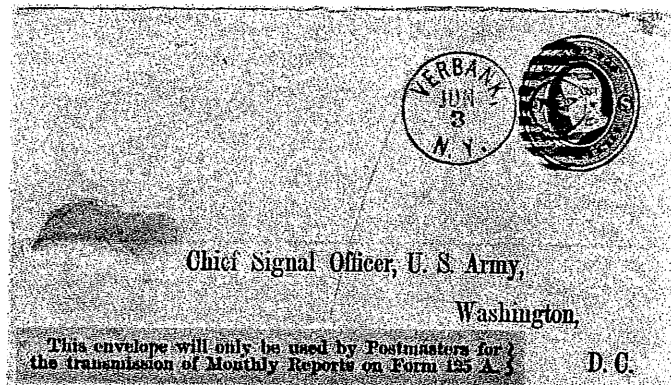


Figure 1. Official 3¢ War Dept. entire cancelled *Verbank, JUN 3(1884)*, with “STAR” in killer. Instruction to Postmasters enlarged for clarity.

#5—Figure 2 shows an illustrated cover from the Getty House, the premier hotel in Yonkers which was located in Getty Square, the center of the city at that time. It bears a hand-stamped *PAID*, which should indicate that a fee of some sort has been paid. However, it is addressed solely with the supposed recipient’s name—one S. Coates.

The puzzle connected with this cover concerns whether it actually went through the mail. Or, did the hotel have a messenger service for which the *PAID* marking indicated advance payment for this service? **ESPHS**

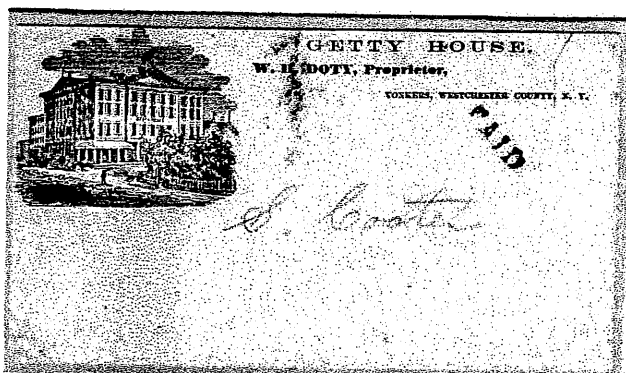


Figure 2. Illustrated advertising cover of the Getty House, Yonkers, Westchester County, NY struck with *PAID* hand-stamp. Addressed solely with the name of the supposed recipient.



The NY Metro Counties:
Nassau, Suffolk, Queens, Kings, Richmond, New York, Bronx, Westchester,
Rockland

JOHN LEWIS CHILDS—SEEDSMAN AND FLORIST

By Frank Braithwaite

The arrival of 17-year-old John Lewis Childs in Hinsdale, N.Y. in 1874 would change the course of history for that Queens County town forever. Childs began his career working for C.L. Allen, who was an importer and grower of plants and flowers and a wholesaler of seeds. He stayed in the employ of Allen for about a year, before striking out on his own to start what would be a very prosperous seed and bulb business. In 1885 Childs used his influence to change the East Hinsdale Post Office (Hinsdale was already a P.O. in Cattaraugus County) to **Floral**. The registry receipt below (**Figure 1**) shows this scarce *Floral* postmark, before it changed its name to **Floral Park** in 1886.

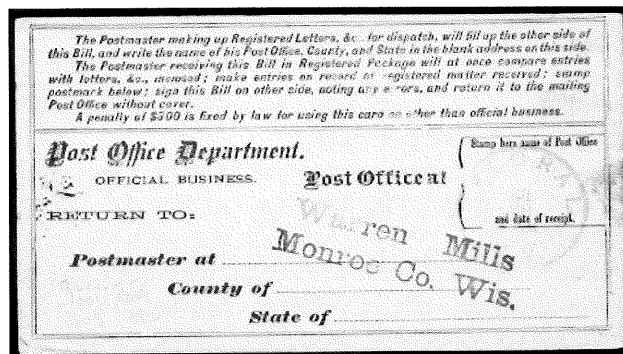


Figure 1. Floral, NY registry receipt.

With business flourishing, Childs bought all the land surrounding the post office and named all the streets for flowers and trees. Riders on the railroad were treated to miles and miles of blooming flowers; so, in 1888, the station name was also changed to Floral Park. (**Figure 2.**)

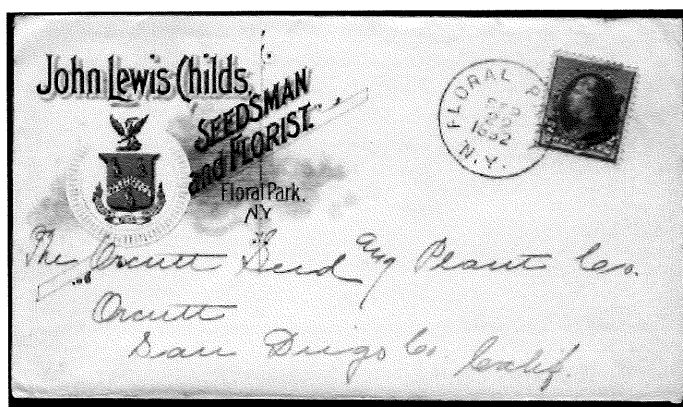


Figure 2. John Lewis Childs, Seedsman and Florist advertising cover sent via first-class mail.

Childs was quite an entrepreneur and also had a printing business. He was able to combine these two endeavors to create the first mail order seed catalog in America. For his seed catalog in spring of 1893, he printed 500,000 copies of 156 pages. In the busy season, he received 7 to 10 thousand letters per day and shipped out an average of 3 tons of mail matter per day. The two horticultural magazines he published added to that total in the years to come. His monthly, "The Mayflower", at its peak, had 300,000 subscribers. His annual was called "The Warbler." The cover below (Figure 3) probably contained advertising or a subscription application.

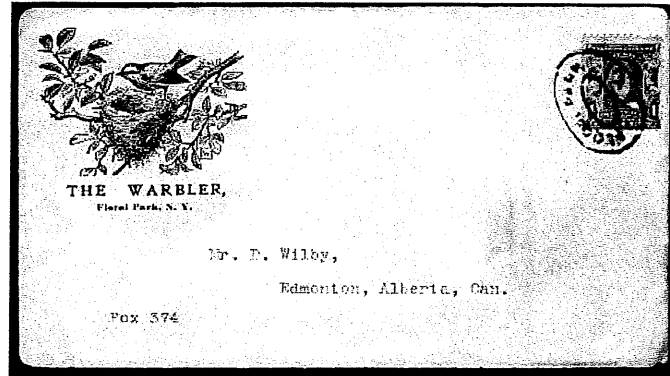


Figure 3. *The Warbler* advertising cover sent third-class.

The seed and printing business, at one point accounted for 90% of Post Office business, and established Floral Park as a first-class post office.

In 1899, Nassau County was formed and Floral Park became part of it. Childs used his influence again in 1908 to urge the town to incorporate. On October 15th, they did and two days later, elected him as their President.

Childs was not finished. The price of surrounding real estate was soaring and he needed more space to grow plants and seeds. So, in 1909, he purchased one thousand acres of land between Stony Brook and St. James, in Suffolk County, which he named "Flowerfield." Business was so good, that a post office was established in 1910 (Figure 4); and the Long Island Railroad was influenced to make a station stop. It came to be known as "The World's Biggest Flower Bed."

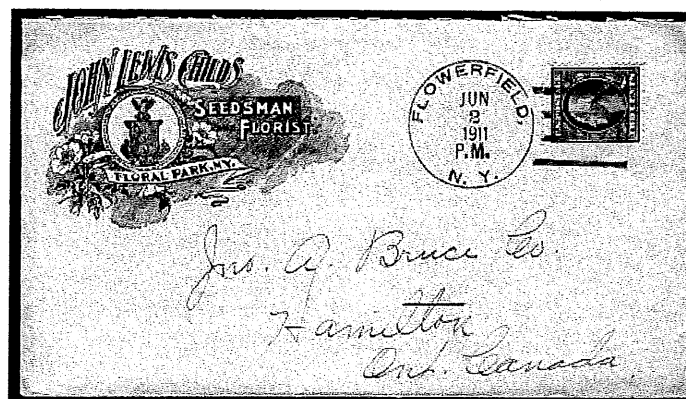
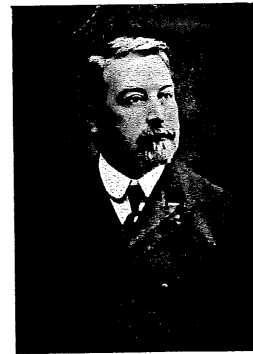


Figure 4. New type *John Lewis Childs* advertising cover sent by first-class mail.

Childs business reached around the globe, to places as far away as New Zealand, and is long forgotten in such places. But his affect on Floral Park will be remembered forever. Today, it is a wonderful place to live; fully in the 21st century, while still retaining that "small town feel." After his death in 1921, the Floral Park School was renamed John Lewis Childs School. Flowerfield is no longer used as a nursery, and its post office was closed in 1938. **ESPHS**



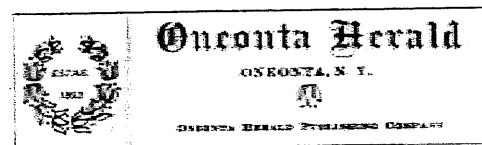
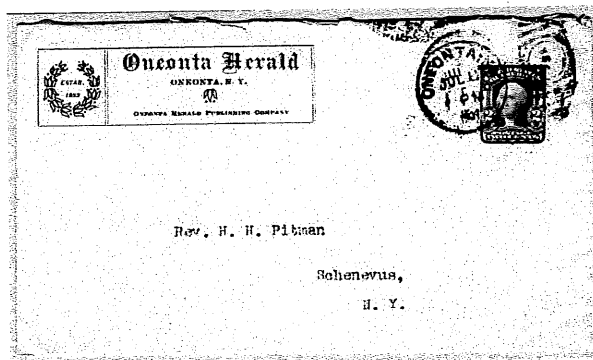
References:

1. Carl Baker. "Early Garden Centers," Long Island Postal Historian, Vol. 13, No. 3 (Fall 1990), pp. 60-62.
2. John L. Childs. *Views of Floral Park*. Self-published, 1893.
3. <myschoolonline.com>: J. L. Childs School PTA, "History of Floral Park."
4. Edith M. Purcel. *Across the Years—The Story of Floral Park*. Village of Floral Park, 1958.

[Frank is our newly appointed regional representative for the New York Metropolitan area. This is his first appearance in these pages and a very welcome one. He has promised a feature under the title "Metro Area" for each issue. Frank is looking forward to hearing from any members who live in the Metro Area. He resides in Smithtown (on the Island) can be contacted by e-mail at <fbraith@optonline.net>]

~..~..~

Oneonta's Newspapers—Different Names, 21-years Apart



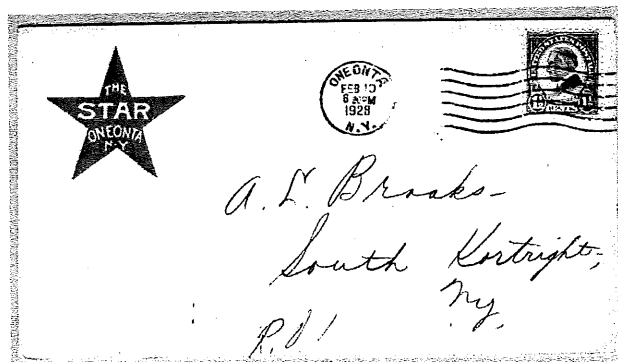
Oneonta Herald

Oneonta, NY JUL 6, 1907 duplex cancel with #1 insert.

Oneonta, NY FEB 10, 1928 Universal machine cancel



The Oneonta Star



Dutchess County

POUGHKEEPSIE 5 (CENT) MARKING USED AS A CANCELLER

By Drew A. Nicholson

“5” cent hand-stamped markings are routinely found on covers in the period 1845-1851. The Postal Act of July 1, 1845 established a zone rate charged per each ½ ounce of weight—5¢ for under 300 miles and 10¢ for 300 miles and over; pre-paid or not. This Law remained in effect until June 29, 1851—effectively bridging the period between the stampless-era and that of the stamped. Thus, this rather ubiquitous marking—known variously stuck in black, red, orange and blue—can appear as a rate marking during the stampless era and, on rare occasions, as a canceller/killer on postage stamps. This article illustrates such usage in Poughkeepsie, NY during that short 6-year transitional period.

Most know that I am a collector of Dutchess County postal history. When I acquired an example of the 5¢ Franklin (*Scott 1*) used in Poughkeepsie from the Bennett auction of the Craveri Collection, I assumed that would be the last 1847 cover from Poughkeepsie I would seek. However, the receipt of the catalog for Public Auction #284 of Harbour Actions (a subsidiary of Matthew Bennett) proved that to be erroneous thinking—for within was lot #1265, described as:

"5¢ red brown (1), clear to oversized margins, cancelled two strike(s) blue '5' on 1849 folded letter to (H)udson, N.Y., light blue strike blue 'Poughkeepsie, N.Y., Mar 6' c.d.s., letter datelined Pine Plains, March 5, ...11 5¢ 1847 covers recorded from Poughkeepsie, this is the only on with '5' cancel."

(The statistical information underlined in the quote is drawn from the *Alexander Census*.)

After some bidding, the cover was knocked down to me. While it is accompanied by a PF certificate, it additionally bears on the reverse a pencilled note written years before by Dr. Carroll Chase following his examination, that the stamps are "...cancelled twice with a blue "5."

The Poughkeepsie portion of my collection contains a several stampless envelopes/folded letters bearing the "5" cents rate marking, in blue. An example is shown in **Figure 1A**, along with an enlargement of the "5" marking (**Figure 1B**), which measures 8-mm. high by 7-mm. wide.

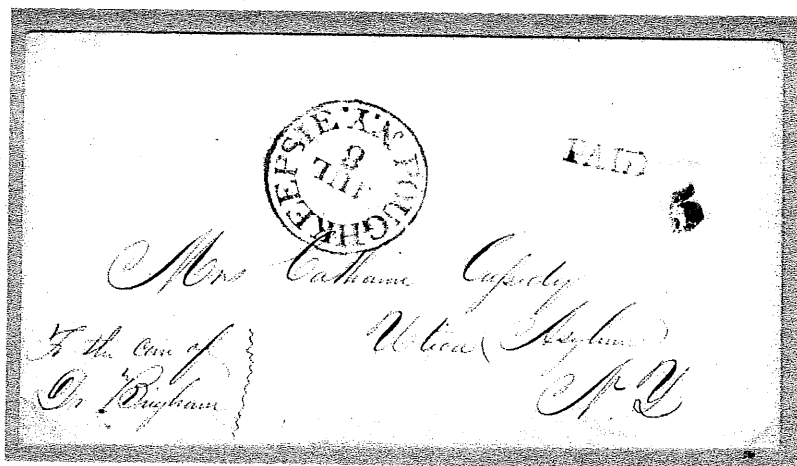


Figure 1A. Bernadt Type 9 *Poughkeepsie*, JUL 8 (1846), "PAID" and "5," (¢) all struck in blue, on a stampless envelope.

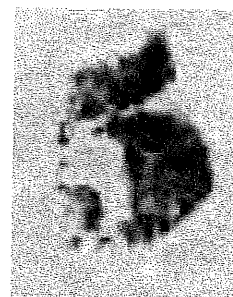


Figure 1B.
Enlargement of blue
hand stamped "5"
from cover at left.

The cover shown in **Figure 2A** is the one acquired from Harbour Auctions. The enlargement of the relevant portion of the 5¢ 1847 (**Figure 2B**) shows one reasonably clear numeral “5” strike; the second is smeared and fragmented. It also measures 8- x 7-mm.

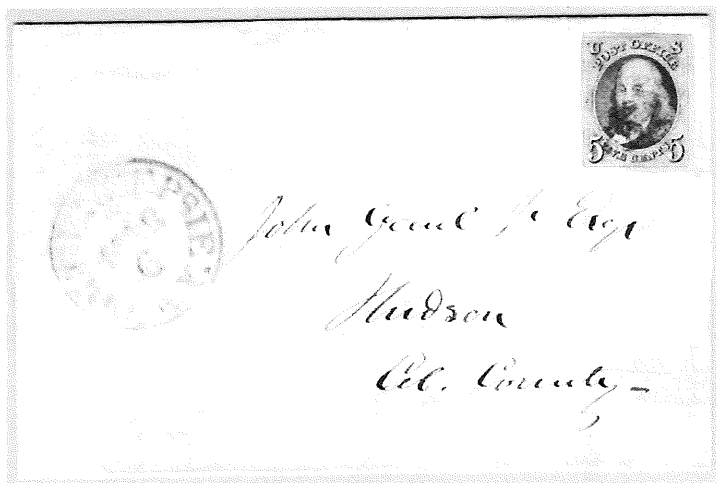


Figure 2A. Poughkeepsie, MAR 6 (1849) CDS, and 5¢ 1847 struck twice by numeral “5” killer, both CDS and killer in blue.



Figure 2B. Enlargement showing the two blue “5”s

A comparison of the two enlarged “5”s (Figure 1B & 2B) leads one to reasonably conclude that they are *not* the same marking, even though they have similar measurements (8- x 7-mm.). An examination of three examples struck during the period 1846 through 1848 shows a steady deterioration of the marking—the beginning of which can be seen in Figure 1B. (The right side exhibits wear to both the “flag” and the “belly” on what appears to be a vertical plane.) This “verticality” of damage (or wear) appears increasingly on (later) 1848 examples, as time and use enhanced the deterioration process. Therefore, further device must have been available in 1849.

Why the marking was used as a “killer” (obliterator) in the first place is readily explained through a simple reasoning process. Alexander reports that “Poughkeepsie received *no* 1847 stamps of either denomination.” (pg. 509; author’s emphasis) This makes the stamps appearance to be cancelled during 1847-51 a very uncommon occurrence. It is likely that a postal clerk was rating a batch of 5 cent letters using the 5 cent hand-stamp—but in the batch was a single letter with a postage stamp! Rather than put down the hand-stamp and cancel the stamp with the town CDS or with a manuscript marking, he elected to continue with what was in hand! This appears to be an individual choice rather than a practice at the Poughkeepsie post office; because, according to Alexander, red grid, manuscript, and blue and red “PAID” are known used as a killer besides the town CDS.

A speculative observation regarding routing the letter serves as a conclusion. It was posted on March 6, 1849, and at that time of the year the Hudson River was most likely “ice-bound” with the river boats “in dock.” The Hudson River Railroad had just reached Peekskill (some 30-miles *south*) and would not be completed through to Poughkeepsie until later in that same year. Therefore, it would seem that the only way left for this letter to travel to its Hudson destination (some 30-miles *north*) would be by stage along the famous Albany Post Road. Unfortunately, there is no receiving hand-stamp, which was not a practice in those times—thus we are left with wondering how long it took to deliver this piece of mail! ESPHS

Reference: Thomas J. Alexander. *The United States 1847 Issue: A Cover Census*. The U. S. Philatelic Classics Society, 2001.

Full Page Dimensions: 7" x 9" (178 x 230 mm)
\$15.00 / one ad, \$60.00 / five ads

One-Eighth Page

Dimensions: 3½" x 2¼"
(90 x 57 mm)

\$ 3.00 / one ad
\$12.00 / five ads

One-Quarter Page

Dimensions: 3½" x 4½"
(90 x 115 mm)

\$ 5.00 / one ad
\$20.00 / five ads

Your ad could appear here! It will appear
in the Bulletin or Journal as space permits
Send ad & payment to the Secretary/Treasurer

One-Half Page

Dimensions: 7" x 4½"
(178 x 115 mm)

\$ 8.00 / one ad
\$32.00 / five ads

Alan Parsons • Ada Prill • George Fekete



American Philatelic Society 2005 - 2007 Board of Vice Presidents Candidates



All of us are members of the Empire State Postal History Society. Two of us (Ada and George) are currently members of the APS Board of Vice Presidents; Ada previously served one term as APS Director-at-Large. Collectively, we belong to and are active in several other philatelic organizations and activities including - but not limited to - the Elmira Stamp Club, Rochester Philatelic Association, STEPEX and ROPEX. At various times, we have all served as officers of our local clubs, and Al has been an officer of ESPHS since 1992.

We are proud to have supported the acquisition of the new American Philatelic Center. There were risks involved in this project, but doing nothing while the APRL and APS staffs struggled with severe overcrowding was far riskier. The APC was dedicated in June 2004 and its functionality and popularity have exceeded expectations.

The APS Code of Ethics is important to the health of philately and we pledge to vigorously uphold it. Our experience is very similar to that of the vast majority of APS members, like many of you, who have enjoyed our hobby on the local level. We believe the APS should serve the needs of all members.

Please read our campaign statements in the May 2005 issue of the *American Philatelist*.

We welcome your questions / feedback:

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