

The Journal of the Empire State Postal History Society

March 2006

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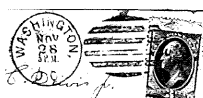
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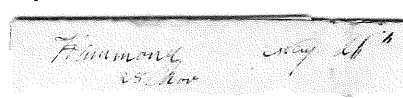
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EXCELSIOR!

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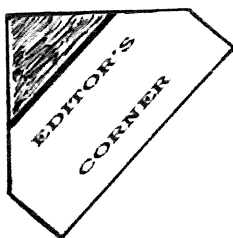
Future Publication

**The September 2006 issue will be my last as editor. It will be sent to you in
the same envelope as the Spring *Bulletin* in order to keep postage costs under
control. I am confident that you will enjoy it!**

Among the upcoming items are:

1. My final editorial which will deal with the subject of "What is Postal History?" (Some definitions are more inclusive than others.)
2. A look at some of the pages that were prepared for Washington 2006
3. "Index to Mail Service of NYS 1837-1841," by Robert Dalton Harris, presenting the postal routes of that period.
4. The return of George DeKornfeld's *Columbia County Corner* with an outstanding look at the postal history of the City of Hudson.

Plus a number of shorter pieces, including another neat *Cover of the Issue*.



ORGANIZING A POSTAL HISTORY COLLECTION FOR EXHIBITION

By Drew A. Nicholson

I like to visit small society-run stamp shows whenever possible. Surprises abound in these small shows, both at the bourse and in the exhibit area.

When I worked the MANPEX Show in Manchester, CT a while back, I had the opportunity to view the exhibits. From my perspective, standing out from all the rest was an exhibit titled: "*Weston, Massachusetts Postal History, 1812-1900.*" It was beautifully laid out and detailed, focusing on a single community and its suburbs—a true example of a "home town" postal history exhibit. I was able to acquire a copy of the title page and permission to use it in the article. It is illustrated below.

WESTON MASSACHUSETTS POSTAL HISTORY, 1812-1900		
A chronological listing of the cancellations used by Weston and its sub-offices, Kendal Green and Stonybrook, from 1812 to 1900 arranged and catalogued by the following chart.		
WESTON		
Opened 1812; Office still operating.		
Type	Description	Period of Use
T1	manuscript (3 known)	1812-1851
T2	straight line	unknown
T3	oval datestamp	unknown
T4	cds 32mm blue, blue-green, green	1851-1878
	cds 32mm black	1879-1882
T5	cds 23.5mm black large type	1882-1884
	cds 23.5mm gray-blue large type	1883
T6	cds 31mm black full date	1884-1885, 1887-1892
	cds 31mm purple full date	1885-1887
	cds 31mm blue, gray-blue	1886-1887
T7	cds 27.5mm black date blocked out RCV'D	1894
	cds 27.5mm black date left in	1888-1900+
	cds 27.5mm black date left in RCV'D	1899
W1	manuscript large quill pen by G. W. Cutting, PM	1861-1885
W2	manuscript small pen 'W' (2 examples known)	1878-1879
W3	handstamp small flared 'W' black (one known)	1880
W4	handstamp large block 'W' slight flare black	1881
W5	handstamp large block 'W' wide flare black	1882-1884
W6	handstamp block 'W' with serifs black	1884
W7	manuscript 'W' black	1885-1886
W8	handstamp block 'W' 15mm high black	1885-1887
	handstamp block 'W' 15mm high purple	1885-1887
	handstamp block 'W' 15mm high blue, gray-blue	1885-1888
P1	'PAID 3' handstamp blue	circa 1854
D1	postage due handstamp black block 'DUE 3'	1880-1881
E1	American Express Company label	circa 1880
KENDAL GREEN		
Opened 1/18/1886; Closed 6/12/1943.		
K1	cds double circle with scarab outer 32mm inner 20.5mm purple	1886-1887
K2	cds 27mm large letters 3.5mm high black no time	1889
K3	cds 27mm letters 3-3.5mm high 2.5mm 'L-G' no time black	1889-1892
K4	cds 29mm letters 2-2.5mm high various types black	1892-1900
STONYBROOK		
Opened 11/16/1897; Closed 7/2/1934.		
SB1	manuscript (only one known)	1/5/1898
SB2	cds (only one known)	7/11/1898
Various cork killers were used with the circular date stamps from about 1890 on for Weston, Kendal Green and Stonybrook.		

(Continued on Page 16)

Rural Free Delivery in New York State: The Official Hand Cancel Period

By William J. Hart

[Editor's note: This is an outstanding, in-depth original research project on an area where such an intense focus on official records has long been needed. Because it presents so much information, it is by necessity extensive in size—too much to include in a single issue! Therefore, it will conclude in the September issue. We apologize to the author and the readers for this necessary action.]

The concept of rural mail service, both the delivery to a box on route and the pick-up of outgoing mail, has been described in the September 2003 issue of *Excelsior*. The earliest established routes were initiated by petition thru a member of Congress (Doane, p. 17)). The first route in New York State was out of Elba (Genesee Co.) in 1896.

The progress of the rural delivery system was well documented for the first few years. The Postmaster General's Annual Report showed that as of June 30, 1901 there were 134 New York offices providing 235 routes. It likewise showed the starting dates for these routes. Confirmation is found in the U. S. Official Register for 1901, which listed the salaries paid to the rural carriers amounting to \$500 annually.

We also find that as of June 30, 1900 there were 42 N.Y.S. offices providing 62 routes. This early service was carried out without any special postal markings applied to the mail. At least to date no such markings have been recognized and this suggests a field for research. The offices that qualify will be found in the list that follows.

Starting in the summer of 1900 the P.O.D. made known that carriers would receive canceling devices. Distribution is believed to have started in July 1900. The earliest reported NYS cancel was used by the carrier of Route 2 of Newark, Wayne Co., on September 11. The carrier's name was Orion M. Lincoln. It is illustrated below (**Figure below**).

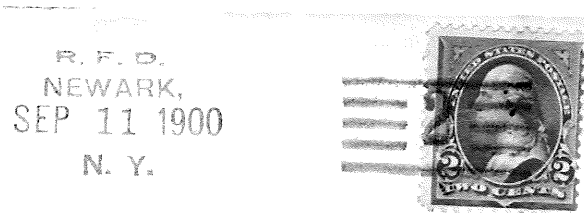


Figure: 4-line date stamp and a 5-bar killer hand cancel.

The latter identifies the route number. Subsequent government issue canceling devices had 4-bar killers and frequently showed time as AM or PM. Initially the carriers were instructed to cancel all mail.

In carrying out this study it was the author's purpose to define what offices had routes, how many routes and when they commenced. With this information it should be possible to identify what offices and routes received hand cancels. This includes recognition that the P.O.D. stopped issuing hand stamps as of July 1, 1903. In spite of the detail shown in the *1901 Postmaster General's Annual Report*, the report itself was relatively silent; so it was necessary to resort to other sources.

A useful source is the study made by Edith Doane (pg. 2, 199) She reported on ten counties in NYS that were organized as county systems. They ranged in time from Niagara on

November 15, 1901 to Genesee on May 1, 1903. While her study centered on the first system started in 1899 in Carroll Co., Maryland, she did cover detail for 22 states thru May 1903. The Doane study makes it clear that the author was dependent on the completeness of the special agents and inspectors reports and there were significant gaps. Also there was evidence of routes designated as of a given date not starting for some months. The Doane study recognizes many examples of the government hand stamps, but it is far from complete and the ten counties only represent about 20% of the total for the state.

Her study contains much useful peripheral RFD information that will not be repeated here. She explains how the suitability for a route was established and the steps leading up to approval thru the Office of the First Assistant Postmaster General. As of February 1902 the carriers were included under the civil service system. In most instances when a county system was established the routes were numbered in sequence, called the *cumulative* method" (pg. 25).

This necessitated some routes being renumbered, which has lead to confusion with some collectors assuming that the higher numbers represent new routes. By way of example Fredonia (Chautauqua Co.) had only 5 routes (1 through 5) that were renumbered (13—17) in September 1902. Where a number of routes in operation in a county preceded the county system, the numbering is considered *consecutive*. Doane notes (pg. 27) that the chronological record of the system was effectively terminated as a result of a scandal within the Department and by the elimination of the hand cancel distribution in mid-1903. It should be noted that there were at least three other NYS county systems started after July 1903, as manuscript cancels from Cayuga, Chemung and Dutchess are known with examples of the cumulative numbering system.

It would be improper not to mention Harold Richow's *Encyclopedia of RFD Cancels*; however, his approach does not address the question of when a given rural route was started. His classification system does aid in identifying which cancel types were government issue based on date of use.

To carry out the proposed study three primary sources were used: *U.S. Official Postal Guides*, *The Post Office Daily Bulletins*, and the *U.S. Official Register*.

The *Postal Guides* were used by the author as the primary source of data from December 1904 (the 1905 issue) to June 1931. The 1932 issue shows the rural data in terms of numbers of box holders, making the later *Postal Guides* an unusable source. In addition by the 1920s fewer cancels of any type are found. The *Guides* identify offices in the alphabetical section by state with the number of rural routes. From 1912 on the section is further classified alphabetically by county. The data thru 1931 is being compiled to show how the system grew. Whereas the system was initially for a horse and buggy operation, within ten years the use of the auto led to route alterations; improved roads lead to an expanded system. Some consolidation resulted from some suburban communities being absorbed within city delivery systems. These and other factors caused the system to evolve.

In order to obtain the needed data from July 1901 to December 1904 it was necessary to go to the *Post Office Daily Bulletins*. These were one to three page summaries published daily by the Third Assistant Postmaster General outlining the operational changes occurring within the postal system. New route starts were so recorded by county and office, generally several weeks ahead. The data was found to be reliable up to September 1902, when a lack of detail occurred. From this point through 1903 the start of a new route was duly reported for a specific date, but the report omitted the number of routes. This was somewhat crucial, since the July 1903 cut-off date for hand stamps falls in that period.

Fortunately the writer was able to fall back to the *U.S. Official Register of 1903*, a biennial publication, which contains a listing as of July 1903 of rural carrier salaries (now \$600 per annum). With this data and with the 1905 *Postal Guide* as a cross check, it was possible to compile a list of offices and the number of routes that were eligible to receive government hand cancels.

The list to follow is sorted by county. Of the five counties of New York City only Richmond had routes. Likewise none will be found from Essex, Hamilton, Nassau, Schoharie

and Sullivan. Multiple office listing will be found in order to show the recorded starting dates of the routes. Littlefalls in Herkimer Co. will be found with four initial dates for a total of five routes. Lockport of Niagara Co. with ten routes had the largest number. The spelling of the offices names is based on the record of the *Postal Guides*. There are 18 offices in the list being presented that will be found to have a two word name changed to one word in 1895 and back again to two words in 1905. This is confirmed in Kay and Smith's *New York Postal History* (APS, 1982).

The total number of offices being identified with hand stamps is 482. The list shows a possible 1067 routes. It is not the intent of the author to correlate the list with the sources of known cancels. A rough check with four sources shows that about 90% of the offices have been reported. No count was made for routes. In reviewing the details of my four sources the route number is too frequently unknown. A very large number of offices had one or more routes reported as starting on July 1, 1903. That these routes existed is confirmed by the *1905 Postal Guide*, but it is uncertain they all received cancel devices.

List of Offices by County having RFD routes by July 1, 1903

County	Office	Date	Rtes	Dates	County	Office	Date	Rtes	Dates
ALB	Berne	1903	1	1-Jul	CAT	Allegany	1903	2	2-Mar
ALB	Cohoes	1901	1	1-Apr	CAT	Cattaraugus	1903	3	2-Mar
ALB	Delmar	1902	1	1-Mar	CAT	Conewango Valley	1902	1	15-Sep
ALB	East Berne	1901	1	1-Aug	CAT	Conewango Valley	1903	1	1-Jul
ALB	Jerusalem	1903	1	1-Jul	CAT	Dayton	1900	1	1-Nov
ALB	Selkirk	1900	1	2-Apr	CAT	Delevan	1903	2	2-Mar
ALB	Slingerlands	1902	1	1-Feb	CAT	Franklinville	1903	4	2-Mar
ALB	Voorheesville	1903	1	1-Jul	CAT	Gowanda	1901	1	1-Jul
ALB	West Albany	1901	1	1-Apr	CAT	Gowanda	1902	2	1-Sep
ALB	West Troy	1901	1	1-Apr	CAT	Great Valley	1903	1	2-Mar
					CAT	Little Valley	1903	1	2-Mar
ALL	Almond	1902	2	1-Mar	CAT	Machias	1903	2	2-Mar
ALL	Angelica	1902	1	1-Mar	CAT	Olean	1903	1	2-Mar
ALL	Belmont	1902	4	1-Mar	CAT	Perrysburg	1898	1	10-Oct
ALL	Blackcreek	1902	3	1-Mar	CAT	Randolph	1903	2	2-Mar
ALL	Bolivar	1902	1	1-Apr	CAT	Salamanca	1900	1	1-Nov
ALL	Caneadea	1902	2	1-Mar	CAT	Salamanca	1903	1	2-Mar
ALL	Cuba	1902	5	1-Mar	CAT	South Dayton	1900	2	1-Sep
ALL	Fillmore	1900	3	15-Oct	CAT	South Dayton	1903	1	2-Mar
ALL	Houghton	1902	1	1-Mar					
ALL	Whitney Crossings	1902	1	1-May					
BRO	Binghamton	1902	5	1-Jul					
BRO	Harpursville	1900	1	1-Nov					

County	Office	Date	Rtes	Dates	County	Office	Date	Rtes	Dates
CAY	Auburn	1900	4	1-Nov	CHA	Ripley	1900	2	15-Dec
CAY	Auburn	1901	3	2-Jan	CHA	Ripley	1902	2	15-Sep
CAY	Auburn	1903	1	2-Feb	CHA	Sherman	1902	6	15-Sep
CAY	Cato	1903	3	2-Feb	CHA	Silvercreek	1900	2	16-Jul
CAY	Cayuga	1902	2	1-Jan	CHA	Silvercreek	1902	1	15-Sep
CAY	Ensenore	1903	2	2-Feb	CHA	Sinclairville	1902	4	15-Sep
CAY	Genoa	1903	1	2-Feb	CHA	Westfield	1900	3	15-Oct
CAY	King Ferry	1903	2	2-Feb	CHA	Westfield	1902	2	15-Sep
CAY	Locke	1903	4	2-Feb					
CAY	Martville	1903	3	2-Feb	CHM	Elmira	1900	1	4-Jun
CAY	Moravia	1902	5	1-Feb	CHM	Elmira	1903	1	2-Mar
CAY	Moravia	1903	2	2-Feb	CHM	Horseheads	1902	3	1-Apr
CAY	Port Byron	1902	4	1-Jan	CHM	Wellsburg	1903	1	2-Mar
CAY	Union Springs	1902	1	1-Jan					
CAY	Union Springs	1902	1	1-Oct	CLI	Altona	1903	1	1-Jul
CAY	Weedsport	1902	4	1-Nov	CLI	Chazy	1900	1	15-Dec
					CLI	Chazy	1902	1	1-Oct
CHA	Ashville	1900	1	15-Nov	CLI	Harkness	1903	1	1-Jul
CHA	Ashville	1902	3	15-Sep	CLI	Mooers	1902	1	1-Mar
CHA	Bemuspoint	1900	2	15-Dec	CLI	Mooers Forks	1902	1	1-Mar
CHA	Bemuspoint	1902	1	15-Sep	CLI	Mooers Forks	1902	1	1-Oct
CHA	Brocton	1900	1	15-Nov	CLI	Morrisonville	1902	1	1-Nov
CHA	Broken Straw	1902	1	15-Sep	CLI	Plattsburg	1900	4	15-Oct
CHA	Cassadaga	1901	2	2-Jan	CLI	Plattsburg	1903	2	1-Jul
CHA	Cassadaga	1902	3	15-Sep	CLI	West Chazy	1901	1	1-Jul
CHA	Cherrycreek	1902	3	15-Sep	CLI	West Chazy	1902	2	1-Apr
CHA	Clymer	1902	5	15-Sep					
CHA	Dewittville	1902	2	15-Sep	COL	Canaan Four Corners	1902	1	1-Apr
CHA	Dunkirk	1902	3	15-Sep	COL	Chatham	1902	1	1-Mar
CHA	Falconer	1900	2	15-Aug	COL	East Chatham	1900	1	16-Apr
CHA	Forestville	1900	2	16-Jul	COL	East Chatham	1900	1	15-Dec
CHA	Forestville	1901	1	15-Feb	COL	Germantown	1899	1	1-Aug
CHA	Forestville	1902	2	15-Sep	COL	Germantown	1903	1	1-May
CHA	Fredonia	1900	4	1-Sep	COL	Ghent	1902	1	1-Apr
CHA	Fredonia	1901	1	1-Jun	COL	Hillsdale	1903	2	1-Jul
CHA	Frewsburg	1900	2	15-Dec	COL	Old Chatham	1902	1	1-Jul
CHA	Frewsburg	1902	1	15-Sep	COL	Valatie	1903	1	1-Jul
CHA	Hamlet	1898	1	10-Oct					
CHA	Hamlet	1901	1	2-Jan	COR	Cincinnatus	1903	2	2-Feb
		Discontinued		1902	COR	Cortland	1900	1	1-Dec
CHA	Irving	1901	2	2-Sep	COR	Cortland	1902	5	1-Sep
CHA	Jamestown	1900	4	15-Aug	COR	Cortland	1903	1	1-May
CHA	Jamestown	1901	1	2-Jan	COR	Marathon	1901	1	1-Feb
CHA	Jamestown	1902	4	15-Sep	COR	McGraw	1900	1	1-Nov
CHA	Kennedy	1900	1	15-Nov	COR	McGraw	1902	1	1-Oct
CHA	Kennedy	1902	2	15-Sep	COR	Truxton	1902	1	1-Oct
CHA	Mayville	1902	3	15-Sep					
CHA	North Clymer	1902	2	15-Sep	DEL	Delhi	1903	1	1-May
CHA	Portland	1901	1	15-Feb	DEL	Walton	1901	2	15-Apr

County	Office	Date	Rtes	Dates	County	Office	Date	Rtes	Dates
DUT	Arlington	1902	1	1-May	ERI	Orchard Park	1902	1	1-Apr
DUT	Bangall	1902	1	1-Oct	ERI	Porterville	1902	1	15-Jul
DUT	Hopewell Junction	1903	2	1-May	ERI	Sardinia	1901	2	1-Aug
DUT	Hydepark	1900	1	1-Oct	ERI	South Wales	1902	1	1-Mar
DUT	Hydepark	1902	1	1-Sep	ERI	Springville	1902	3	1-Jul
DUT	Lagrangeville	1901	1	1-Feb	ERI	Springville	1902	1	1-Dec
DUT	Lagrangeville	1901	1	15-May	ERI	Springville	1903	1	2-Mar
DUT	Pine Plains	1902	1	1-May	ERI	Swormville	1902	1	1-May
DUT	Pine Plains	1902	1	1-Oct	ERI	Tonawanda	1902	1	1-May
DUT	Rhinebeck	1898	3	3-Oct	ERI	Townline	1902	1	1-Jul
DUT	Saltpoint	1902	1	1-Jul	ERI	West Seneca	1898	1	1-Nov
DUT	Staatsburg	1902	1	1-Sep	ERI	Westfalls	1903	2	2-Feb
DUT	Wings Station	1902	1	1-May	ERI	Williamsville	1902	2	1-May
DUT	Poughkeepsie	1902	1	1-Jul					
ERI	Akron	1901	2	1-Aug	FRA	Burke	1903	1	1-Jul
ERI	Akron	1901	1	15-Nov	FRA	Chateaugay	1903	1	1-Jul
ERI	Akron	1902	1	1-May	FRA	North Bangor	1903	1	1-Jul
ERI	Alden	1902	1	1-May	FUL	Gloversville	1902	1	1-Mar
ERI	Alden	1903	1	2-Feb	FUL	Gloversville	1903	1	2-Mar
ERI	Angola	1901	2	2-Sep	FUL	Johnstown	1903	2	1-May
ERI	Blasdell	1903	1	2-Mar	FUL	Mayfield	1903	1	1-Jul
ERI	Chafee	1902	1	1-May					
ERI	Clarence	1902	1	1-May	GEN	Alexander	1901	2	2-Sep
ERI	Clarence Center	1902	2	1-May	GEN	Basom	1902	2	1-Jul
ERI	Colden	1902	1	1-Dec	GEN	Batavia	1900	2	15-Dec
ERI	Collins	1902	1	15-Jan	GEN	Batavia	1901	2	1-Nov
ERI	Collins Center	1902	1	15-Jan	GEN	Bergen	1901	1	15-Jan
ERI	Crittenden	1902	1	15-Jan	GEN	Bergen	1903	1	1-May
ERI	Depew	1900	2	14-May	GEN	Byron	1901	1	15-Feb
ERI	Derby	1901	1	2-Sep	GEN	Byron	1903	1	1-May
ERI	East Concord	1902	1	1-Dec	GEN	Corfu	1902	2	1-Mar
ERI	Eden	1902	2	1-Jul	GEN	Darien	1902	1	1-Feb
ERI	Forks	1902	1	15-Jan	GEN	Darien Center	1900	2	1-Nov
ERI	Forks	1902	1	1-May	GEN	Darien Center	1902	1	1-Feb
ERI	Gardenville	1902	1	15-Dec	GEN	East Bethany	1901	1	2-Sep
ERI	Getzville	1902	1	1-May	GEN	East Pembroke	1902	1	1-Feb
ERI	Glenwood	1902	1	1-May	GEN	Elba	1896	3	15-Oct
ERI	Grand Island	1902	2	1-Dec	GEN	Leroy	1901	2	1-May
ERI	Hamburg	1902	2	15-Jul	GEN	Leroy	1902	1	1-Feb
ERI	Holland	1902	2	1-May	GEN	Leroy	1903	1	1-May
ERI	Kenmore	1898	1	17-Oct	GEN	Linden	1901	1	1-Nov
ERI	Lakeview	1899	1	1-Jun	GEN	Morganville	1902	1	1-Jul
ERI	Lancaster	1902	1	15-Jan	GEN	Oakfield	1902	2	1-Jul
ERI	Lancaster	1903	1	1-Jan	GEN	Pavilion	1902	3	1-Mar
ERI	Lawton Station	1901	1	15-Jan	GEN	Pembroke	1902	1	1-Feb
ERI	Marilla	1901	1	2-Sep	GEN	South Byron	1901	1	15-Feb
ERI	North Collins	1902	2	15-Jan	GEN	Stafford	1901	1	15-Jan
ERI	Orchard Park	1901	1	1-Nov					

County	Office	Date	Rtes	Dates	County	Office	Date	Rtes	Dates
GRE	Catskill	1903	1	1-May	LIV	Dalton	1902	1	1-Mar
GRE	Greenville	1903	2	1-Jul	LIV	Dansville	1902	5	1-Feb
					LIV	Hunt	1900	1	1-Oct
HER	Frankfort	1901	2	1-Jun	LIV	Hunt	1902	1	1-Mar
HER	Frankfort	1902	1	1-Aug	LIV	Lima	1903	2	1-Jul
HER	Herkimer	1901	1	1-Dec	LIV	Linwood	1902	1	1-Dec
HER	Ilion	1901	1	15-Mar	LIV	Moscow	1902	2	1-Mar
HER	Ilion	1902	1	1-Mar	LIV	Mount Morris	1902	3	1-Mar
HER	Littlefalls	1901	1	1-Jul	LIV	Nunda	1902	3	1-Mar
HER	Littlefalls	1901	1	1-Aug	LIV	Springwater	1903	3	1-May
HER	Littlefalls	1902	1	1-Aug	LIV	Tuscarora	1902	2	1-Mar
HER	Littlefalls	1903	2	1-Jul					
HER	Mohawk	1900	1	1-Nov	MAD	Canastota	1900	2	1-Dec
HER	Mohawk	1902	1	1-Oct	MAD	Canastota	1903	3	1-Apr
HER	Mohawk	1903	1	1-Jul	MAD	Chittenango Station	1903	1	1-Apr
HER	Newport	1903	1	1-Jul	MAD	Earlville	1902	2	1-Aug
HER	West Winfield	1903	1	?1903	MAD	Hamilton	1902	3	1-Aug
					MAD	Madison	1902	1	1-Aug
JEF	Antwerp	1898	1	2-May	MAD	Solville	1902	1	1-Jul
JEF	Antwerp	1902	3	1-Feb					
JEF	Cape Vincent	1903	1	1-Jul					
JEF	Carthage	1900	3	15-Oct	MNR	Adams Basin	1901	1	1-Nov
JEF	Carthage	1902	3	1-Dec	MNR	Barnard	1902	2	17-Oct
JEF	Clayton	1903	3	1-Jul	MNR	Barnard Crossing	1900	1	15-Aug
JEF	Evans Mills	1901	3	1-Nov	MNR	Barnard Crossing	1902	1	1-Nov
JEF	Limerick	1900	1	1-Nov					to Barnard
JEF	Limerick	1902	1	1-May	MNR	Brighton	1902	2	1-Mar
JEF	Mannsville	1903	1	1-Jul	MNR	Brockport	1900	1	1-May
JEF	Natural Bridge	1902	1	1-Feb	MNR	Brockport	1901	1	1-Nov
JEF	Natural Bridge	1903	2	1-Jul	MNR	Charlotte	1902	1	1-Jan
JEF	Orleans Four Corners	1903	1	1-Jul	MNR	Chili	1901	1	1-Apr
JEF	Philadelphia	1898	2	2-May	MNR	Chili Station	1902	1	1-Jul
JEF	Pierrepont Manor	1903	1	1-Jul	MNR	Churchville	1900	1	15-Nov
JEF	Redwood	1902	1	1-Feb	MNR	Churchville	1901	1	1-Nov
JEF	Rosiere	1903	1	1-Jul	MNR	Churchville	1902	1	1-Nov
JEF	Sacket Harbor	1902	1	1-Jul	MNR	Clarkson	1902	2	1-Jan
JEF	Theresa	1900	2	1-Oct	MNR	East Hamlin	1902	1	1-Nov
JEF	Theresa	1902	2	1-Feb	MNR	Fairport	1902	1	1-Jul
JEF	Watertown	1898	4	2-May	MNR	Fairport	1902	1	1-Nov
JEF	Watertown	1900	1	1-Oct	MNR	Gates	1901	1	15-Feb
					MNR	Hamlin	1902	1	1-May
LEW	Castorland	1902	1	1-Dec	MNR	Henrietta	1900	1	15-Aug
LEW	Constableville	1899	1	5-Jul	MNR	Hilton	1902	2	1-Nov
LEW	Constableville	1900	1	15-Aug	MNR	Honeoye Falls	1902	1	1-Jan
LEW	Copenhagen	1903	1	1-Jul	MNR	Honeoye Falls	1902	1	1-Nov
LEW	Harrisville	1902	2	1-Feb	MNR	Irondequoit	1899	1	2-Oct
LEW	Lowville	1903	2	1-Jul	MNR	Irondequoit	1901	1	1-Apr
LEW	Port Leyden	1902	1	1-Aug	MNR	Penfield	1900	1	1-Nov

County	Office	Date	Rtes	Dates	County	Office	Date	Rtes	Dates
MNR	Penfield	1901	1	1-Nov	ONE	Clayville	1902	1	1-Aug
MNR	Pittsford	1900	2	15-Oct	ONE	Clinton	1900	3	2-Apr
MNR	Pittsford	1902	1	1-Jan	ONE	Clinton	1902	1	1-Mar
MNR	Rochester Junction	1902	1	1-Jan	ONE	Deansboro	1902	1	1-Feb
MNR	Rush	1902	1	1-Nov	ONE	Deerfield	1902	1	1-Apr
MNR	Scottsville	1902	2	1-Nov	ONE	Deerfield	1903	1	1-Jul
MNR	Spencerport	1901	1	2-Jan	ONE	Durhamville	1903	1	1-Jul
MNR	Spencerport	1902	2	1-Nov	ONE	Holland Patent	1902	2	1-Jul
MNR	Webster	1900	2	1-May	ONE	Holland Patent	1903	2	1-Jul
MNR	Webster	1900	1	15-Aug	ONE	Marcy	1902	1	1-Jan
MNR	West Henrietta	1900	1	15-Aug	ONE	New Hartford	1902	2	1-Jul
MNR	West Rush	1902	1	1-Nov	ONE	Oriskany	1902	1	1-Feb
MNR	West Webster	1902	1	1-Nov	ONE	Oriskany Falls	1901	1	1-Jul
					ONE	Oriskany Falls	1902	2	1-Jul
MNT	Amsterdam	1901	2	1-Nov	ONE	Remsen	1903	4	1-Jul
MNT	Amsterdam	1902	1	1-Dec	ONE	Rome	1900	2	15-Oct
MNT	Canajoharie	1901	1	1-Nov	ONE	Rome	1902	3	1-Jul
MNT	Fort Plain	1902	2	1-Mar	ONE	Sauquoit	1901	2	1-Jul
MNT	Fort Plain	1902	2	1-May	ONE	Stittville	1902	1	1-Jul
MNT	Fultonville	1902	1	1-Jul	ONE	Vernon	1900	1	15-Oct
MNT	Hagaman	1902	1	1-Jan	ONE	Vernon	1902	1	1-Mar
					ONE	Vernon Center	1901	1	1-Jun
NIA	Appleton	1901	1	15-Nov	ONE	Verona	1903	2	1-Jul
NIA	Barker	1898	1	3-Oct	ONE	Verona Station	1903	1	1-Jul
NIA	Barker	1901	3	15-Nov	ONE	Waterville	1900	1	2-Apr
NIA	Burt	1901	1	15-Nov	ONE	West Camden	1903	1	1-Jul
NIA	Gasport	1901	3	15-Nov	ONE	West Vienna	1903	1	1-Jul
NIA	Gasport	1903	1	1-Jul*	ONE	Whitesboro	1902	1	1-Mar
NIA	Lasalle	1901	1	15-Nov					
NIA	Lewiston	1901	2	15-Nov	ONO	Baldwinsville	1898	4	5-Jul
NIA	Lockport	1899	1	15-Aug	ONO	Brewerton	1903	1	1-Apr
NIA	Lockport	1901	9	15-Nov	ONO	Camillus	1900	1	1-Feb
NIA	Martinsville	1901	1	15-Nov	ONO	Camillus	1903	1	1-Apr
NIA	Middleport	1900	1	1-May	ONO	East Syracuse	1902	3	1-Aug
NIA	Middleport	1901	3	15-Nov	ONO	Elbridge	1901	1	2-Sep
NIA	Newfane	1901	2	15-Nov	ONO	Fayetteville	1903	1	1-Apr
NIA	North Tonawanda	1901	2	15-Nov	ONO	Jordan	1901	2	1-Aug
NIA	Ransomville	1901	3	15-Nov	ONO	Kirkville	1901	1	1-Oct
NIA	Sanborn	1901	3	15-Nov	ONO	Kirkville	1903	1	1-Apr
NIA	Wilson	1901	2	15-Dec	ONO	Liverpool	1903	1	1-Apr
NIA	Youngstown	1901	2	15-Nov	ONO	Manlius	1900	1	4-Jun
					ONO	Manlius	1902	2	1-Aug
ONE	Barneveld	1903	1	1-Jul	ONO	Marcellus	1900	1	15-Oct
ONE	Blossvale	1903	1	1-Apr	ONO	Marcellus	1901	1	15-May
ONE	Boonville	1902	2	1-Mar	ONO	Marcellus	1902	1	15-Feb
ONE	Camden	1900	2	1-Nov	ONO	Marcellus	1903	1	1-Apr
ONE	Camden	1903	3	1-Jul	ONO	Memphis	1901	2	15-Feb
ONE	Cassville	1901	1	1-Dec	ONO	Memphis	1902	1	1-Dec
ONE	Cassville	1902	1	1-Aug	ONO	Skaneateles	1901	1	1-Nov

County	Office	Date	Rtes	Dates	County	Office	Date	Rtes	Dates
ONO	Syracuse(Elm Sta.)	1901	1	1-Nov	OSW	Oswego	1902	1	1-Jul
ONO	Warner	1902	1	1-Dec	OSW	Oswego Falls	1902	1	1-Feb
							to Sta. of Fulton, 7/1/03		
ONT	Canandaiqua	1900	1	1-Dec	OSW	Parish	1902	1	1-Feb
ONT	Canandaiqua	1901	4	15-Dec	OSW	Parish	1903	1	1-Jul
ONT	Canandaiqua	1902	3	1-Jul	OSW	Phoenix	1903	1	1-Jul
ONT	Clifton Springs	1900	2	15-Nov	OSW	Pulaski	1900	1	1-Nov
ONT	Clifton Springs	1902	1	1-Feb	OSW	Pulaski	1902	2	1-Jul
ONT	East Bloomfield	1903	1	2-Feb	OSW	Sandycreek	1903	1	1-Jul
ONT	Geneva	1900	1	1-Dec	OSW	Union Square	1902	1	1-Dec
ONT	Geneva	1901	4	1-Oct	OSW	West Monroe	1902	1	1-Feb
ONT	Halls Corners	1901	1	1-Mar					
ONT	Naples	1900	1	15-Dec	OTS	Oneonta	1902	1	1-Aug
ONT	Naples	1902	5	1-Jul	OTS	Otego	1900	1	15-Sep
ONT	Phelps	1899	2	5-Sep	OTS	Richfield Springs	1903	2	1-Jul
ONT	Phelps	1902	2	1-May					
ONT	Shortsville	1903	2	2-Feb	PUT	Brewster	1899	1	5-Jul
ONT	Stanley	1900	2	16-Apr	PUT	Brewster	1902	2	1-May
ONT	Stanley	1900	3	15-Nov	PUT	Brewster	1902	1	1-Sep
ONT	Stanley	1902	1	1-May	PUT	Coldspring	1902	1	1-Sep
ONT	Victor	1900	1	1-Dec	PUT	Garrison	1902	1	1-Apr
ONT	Victor	1901	1	1-Jul	PUT	Patterson	1902	1	1-Aug
ONT	Victor	1902	2	1-Jul					
					REN	Castleton	1902	2	1-Aug
ORA	Newburgh	1902	1	1-Jul	REN	Eagle Bridge	1902	1	1-Dec
ORA	Newburgh	1902	2	1-Aug	REN	Hoosick Falls	1902	3	1-Jul
ORA	Newburgh	1902	1	15-Nov	REN	Hoosick Falls	1902	1	1-Aug
ORA	Port Jervis	1903	1	1903?	REN	Johnsonville	1902	2	1-Aug
ORA	Walden	1903	1	1-Apr	REN	Melrose	1902	2	1-Aug
					REN	Nassau	1902	1	1-Dec
ORL	Albion	1900	1	1-Dec	REN	Schaghticoke	1902	2	1-Mar
ORL	Albion	1902	4	1-Apr	REN	Schaghticoke	1902	1	1-Jul
ORL	Albion	1903	4	1-Jul	REN	Tiashoke	1902	1	1-Aug
ORL	Holley	1902	1	2-Jun	REN	Troy	1902	2	1-Aug
ORL	Holley	1903	4	1-Jul	REN	Troy	1902	1	1-Dec
ORL	Kent	1902	1	1-Jul	REN	Valley Falls	1902	1	1-Jul
ORL	Medina	1902	2	1-May	REN	Valley Falls	1902	1	1-Aug
					ROC	Pomona	1903	1	1-Jul
OSW	Altmar	1902	1	1-Oct					
OSW	Altmar	1903	2	1-Jul	SAI	Canton	1901	2	2-Sep
OSW	Bernhards Bay	1902	1	1-Jul	SAI	Canton	1903	3	1-Jul
OSW	Central Square	1903	1	1-Jul	SAI	Dekalb Junction	1901	3	1-Aug
OSW	Fernwood	1903	1	1-Jul	SAI	Hammond	1900	1	15-Nov
OSW	Fulton	1903	3	1-Jul	SAI	Hammond	1901	1	1901 ?
OSW	Hannibal	1903	1	1-Jul	SAI	Heuvelton	1900	1	1-Nov
OSW	Lacona	1903	3	1-Jul	SAI	Lisbon	1903	3	17-Mar
OSW	Mexico	1902	1	1-Jul	SAI	Lisbon Center	1901	3	1-Oct
OSW	Mexico	1903	1	1-Jul					to Lisbon

County	Office	Date	Rtes	Dates	County	Office	Date	Rtes	Dates
SAI	Massena	1901	1	1-Oct	STE	Kanona	1902	3	1-Apr
SAI	Massena	1903	1	1-Jul	STE	Painted Post	1902	1	1-May
SAI	Morristown	1898	1	1-Dec	STE	Prattsburg	1901	4	1-Jul
SAI	Norwood	1903	2	1-Jul	STE	Prattsburg	1903	1	2-Mar
SAI	Ogdensburg	1900	1	1-Nov	STE	Rathbone	1902	1	1-Oct
SAI	Ogdensburg	1901	3	1-Jul	STE	Savona	1902	2	1-Jul
SAI	Potsdam	1903	1	1-Jul	STE	Wayland	1902	3	1-Jul
SAI	Rensselaer Falls	1900	2	15-Oct	STE	Woodhull	1902	1	1-Mar
SAI	Spragueville	1902	1	1-Apr					
					SUF	Huntington	1902	1	1-Jul
SAR	Ballston Spa	1903	2	1-Jul	SUF	Riverhead	1899	1	3-Apr
SAR	Saratoga Springs	1902	2	1-Oct					
SAR	Stillwater	1903	1	1-Jul	TIO	Barton	1903	1	1-Jul
					TIO	Berkshire	1902	1	1-Dec
SCE	Pattersonville	1902	1	1-Mar	TIO	Berkshire	1903	2	1-Jul
SCE	Schenectady	1901	1	2-Sep	TIO	Candor	1903	3	1-Jul
SCE	Schenectady	1903	1	1-Jul	TIO	Spencer	1903	1	2-Feb
					TIO	Waverly	1903	2	1-Jul
SCU	Alpine	1902	3	1-Sep					
SCU	Montour Falls	1903	1	2-Mar	TOM	Brookton	1902	3	1-Jul
SCU	Odessa	1903	2	2-Mar	TOM	Brookton	1902	1	1-Sep
SCU	Watkins	1902	3	1-Jan	TOM	Dryden	1902	2	15-Dec
					TOM	Etna	1902	1	15-Dec
SEN	Farmer	1902	2	1-Mar	TOM	Freeville	1902	3	1-Jul
SEN	Lodi	1900	1	1-Nov	TOM	Groton	1902	4	1-Aug
SEN	Ovid	1903	2	2-Mar	TOM	Ithaca	1902	5	1-Jul
SEN	Romulus	1901	3	2-Dec	TOM	Ithaca	1902	2	15-Dec
SEN	Waterloo	1901	3	15-Mar	TOM	Ludlowville	1902	2	15-Dec
SEN	Waterloo	1903	2	2-Mar	TOM	Newfield	1900	1	15-Nov
					TOM	Newfield	1902	4	1-Sep
STE	Addison	1901	1	1-Dec	TOM	Trumansburg	1902	3	15-Dec
STE	Arkport	1902	2	1-Mar	TOM	West Danby	1902	1	1-Aug
STE	Avoca	1902	2	1-Oct					
STE	Bath	1900	1	15-Nov	ULS	Highland	1898	3	2-May
STE	Bath	1901	4	1-Jul	ULS	Marlboro	1903	1	1-Jul
STE	Cameron	1901	2	2-Dec	ULS	Milton	1902	1	1-Oct
STE	Cameron Mills	1902	2	1-Oct	ULS	Saugerties	1900	3	15-Aug
STE	Campbell	1902	2	1-Oct	ULS	Saugerties	1900	1	15-Dec
STE	Canisteo	1902	1	1-Mar					
STE	Canisteo	1903	1	2-Mar	WAR	Bolton Landing	1903	1	1-Jul
STE	Cohocton	1902	4	1-Oct	WAR	Glens Falls	1903	1	1-Apr
STE	Corning	1900	1	15-Dec	WAR	Hague	1900	1	1-Nov
STE	Corning	1902	4	1-Apr					
STE	Hammondsport	1900	1	15-Nov	WAS	Cambridge	1902	1	1-Mar
STE	Hammondsport	1903	3	2-Mar	WAS	Greenwich	1902	3	1-Mar
STE	Hornellsville	1900	1	1-Nov					
STE	Hornellsville	1901	4	1-Oct					
STE	Hornellsville	1903	2	2-Mar					

County	Office	Date	Rtes	Dates	County	Office	Date	Rtes	Dates
WAY	Clyde	1901	5	1-Nov	WYO	Arcade	1900	1	1-Nov
WAY	East Palmyra	1901	1	1-Oct	WYO	Arcade	1902	2	1-Jul
WAY	Lyons	1900	3	4-Jun	WYO	Attica	1903	3	1-Jul
WAY	Lyons	1902	3	1-Jul	WYO	Bliss	1900	1	15-Mar
WAY	Macedon	1902	1	1-Jul	WYO	Bliss	1900	2	15-Aug
WAY	Macedon	1902	2	1-Feb	WYO	Bliss	1902	1	1-Jul
WAY	Marion	1901	3	1-Oct	WYO	Castile	1900	1	15-Oct
WAY	Newark	1899	2	5-Sep	WYO	Cowlesville	1903	1	2-Mar
WAY	Newark	1900	1	1-Nov	WYO	Gainesville	1901	2	1-Feb
WAY	North Rose	1902	1	1-Jul	WYO	Perry	1900	1	15-Jan
WAY	Ontario	1900	1	4-Jun	WYO	Portageville	1900	1	15-Sep
WAY	Ontario	1901	2	1-Jan	WYO	Silversprings	1900	1	15-Sep
WAY	Ontario	1902	1	1-Jul	WYO	Warsaw	1900	3	15-Sep
WAY	Palmyra	1901	4	2-Sep					
WAY	Pultneyville	1902	1	1-Jul	YAT	Bluffpoint	1901	1	1-Oct
WAY	Redcreek	1902	4	1-Jul	YAT	Branchport	1901	1	15-Feb
WAY	Savannah	1902	3	1-Jul	YAT	Branchport	1901	1	1-Oct
WAY	Sodus	1900	1	15-Nov	YAT	Branchport	1902	1	1-Jul
WAY	Sodus	1902	4	1-Jul	YAT	Dundee	1901	4	1-Jul
WAY	South Butler	1902	1	1-Jul	YAT	Dundee	1901	1	1-Oct
WAY	Walworth	1900	2	1-Nov	YAT	Gage	1901	1	1-Oct
WAY	Williamson	1902	2	1-Jul	YAT	Himrod	1902	1	1-Jul
WAY	Wolcott	1902	6	1-Jul	YAT	Middlesex	1902	2	1-Jul
					YAT	Penn Yan	1900	2	15-Mar
WES	Mount Kisco	1902	1	1-Sep	YAT	Penn Yan	1900	2	16-Apr
WES	Peekskill	1903	2	1-Apr	YAT	Penn Yan	1902	5	1-Jul
WES	Port Chester	1899	1	15-Sep	YAT	Rock Stream	1903	1	2-Feb
WES	Whiteplains	1900	1	16-Apr	YAT	Rushville	1902	3	1-Jul
WES	Whiteplains	1902	1	1-Mar					

* * * * *

In addition to the government issue cancels there are two other varieties represented by private or non-issued cancels that are outside the scope of this study. To date about 25 hand cancels can be shown as routes approved after July 1903. *A list follows* that is based on the author's collection and a review of Harold Richow's compilation. It is not presented as all inclusive. Also some postmasters maintained the system after their cancels wore out. Purchased cancels were used on the Forestville (CHA Co.) routes for a number of years thru 1912.

LATE CANCELS (Private or Unofficial)

County	Office	Starting Date	Reported Date	Route	By Whom	Richow Type
ALB	Altamont	5/16/1904	06	1	R	2F
SAR	Ballston Lake	11/2/1903	03	1	R	6A
MAD	Chittenango	10/1/1903	03	unknown	D	?
SAI	Colton	1906	09	1	H	1V
	Farmersville					
CAT	Station	10/1/1903	03	2	R	8O
WAS	Fly Summit	1905	15	1	R	2DA
ULS	Gardiner	4/1/1904	06	unknown	H	2H
SAI	Gouverneur	1/1/1904	06	5	R	1QB
STE	Greenwood	1907	06	unknown	R	1N
SCU	Hector	1/15/1904	07	1	R	9B

SCO	Hyndsville	3/19/1905	10	1	H	3F
SAI	Madrid Springs	10/15/1903	04	unknown	D	2F?
DUT	Millbrook	10/1/1903	04	27	R	3CI
CLI	Moore's Forks	spelling error, office before 7/1/03				
TIO	Nichols	1/1/1904	09	1	R	2B
ALL	Obi(no record of having a route)		02	2	R	2B
CHM	Pine City	9/1/1904	09	1	R	3EDA
WAS	Sandy Hill	4/15/1904	07	1	R	2K
DEL	Sidney Center	3/19/1905	32	unknown	H	8Q
ALB	South Bethlehem	11/15/1904	07	1	L	3JA
CHN	South New Berlin	8/1/1904	e'13	unknown	H	3XX
ULS	Ulster Park	3/22/1905	29	1	L	8BDA
OTS	West Edmeston	3/19/1905	09	unknown	R	2EL
CAT	West Valley	2/15/1904	06	1	R	2F
ALB	Westerlo	3/19/1905	06	1	R	2K

By whom code:

R - Richow

D - Doubleday

H - Hart

The starting dates shown are based on the data found in the *Post Office Daily Bulletins* before 1905 and the *Postal Guides* thereafter.

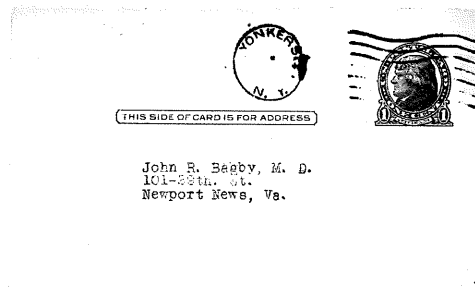
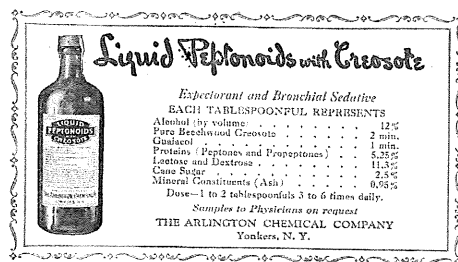
It is the writer's hope that the reader will recognize any omissions or errors in this study and will report them in order to make the information more complete. The author will be available to qualify any unknown cancel and to provide any date information as to the start of any route, as it will apply to an unknown hand cancel. [Bill Hart can be contacted by the regular post at: P.O. Box 167, Shrub Oak, NY 10588, or by e-mail at: williamhart6tudor@netzero.net.

Key References:

- Doane, Edith R. *COUNTY SYSTEMS of R.F.D.* Crete, Nebraska (1977).
- *The Post Office Daily Bulletin, U. S. Official Postal Guides and U. S. Official Register*

[Bill Hart can be contacted by the regular post at: P.O. Box 167, Shrub Oak, NY 10588, or by e-mail: <williamhart6tudor@netzero.net>] ✉

CREOSOTE?



Yummy, doesn't this sound soooo good! (And from my home town, too!) D.A.N.

IT DOESN'T ADD UP...

By Lawrence J. Laliberte



This little bit of modern postal history illustrates that there was at least clerk out there that needed a refresher course in math. When this cover was mailed on April 29, 1972, the rates in effect were: 11¢ for one ounce air mail and 60¢ for Special Delivery. Now, let's add up the postage on the cover—the 11¢ air mail stamp required air mail service at the time, 45¢ + 5¢ + 8¢ adds up to 58¢ which is two cents short of the special delivery fee. The second New York, N.Y. machine cancel applied the next day would indicate the “POSTAGE DUE 1¢” marking was applied there. If the recipients looked closely enough, they may have gotten a chuckle at their good fortune.

~ ~ ~

To facilitate delivery, please have box number put on mail matter addressed to you.

Yonkers, NY Post Office,
 No. 147 am 8/189
 S. L. Cooper
 To J. P. Holden, Jr., Dr.
 For 3 Months' Rent of Box, from Apr 1 to June 30, \$75
 Received Payment,
 J. P. Holden, Postmaster.

5-2766

Form 5-2766: Receipt for 3 months' rent of a post office box in Yonkers, NY. Micro-perforated along the bottom and left edge indicating it was printed in larger “sheet” format.

(Editor's Corner...continued from Page 3)

While the title page seems to emphasize cancellations, both the APS in their brochure "Postal History" (APS, 2003 and still available) and the ESPHS recognize that cancellations are an integral part of the definition of postal history. "The clues are there on the cover," writes Nancy Clark in the APS brochure: I particularly like that statement since from my observations most viewers of exhibits containing covers seem first to focus on the cancellations, be they postmarks or manuscript markings: Where did that cover come from? Of course postal history is much more inclusive: routes, rates, auxiliary markings are other essentials, which are important requirements when one is putting together a postal history exhibit.

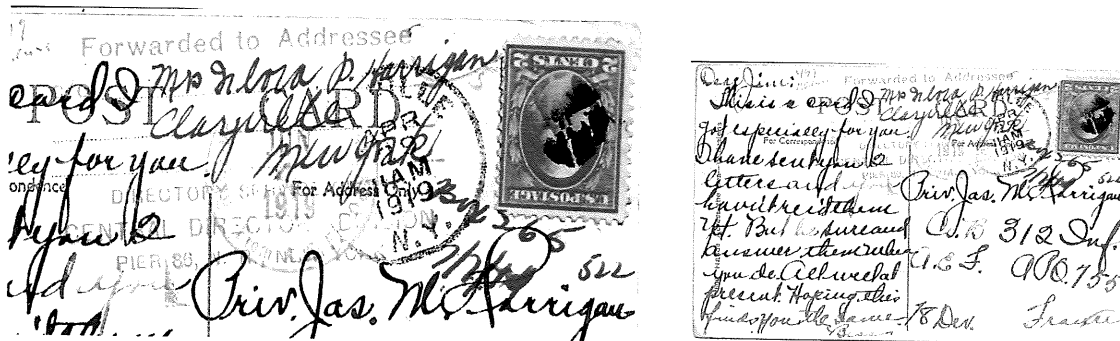
I must admit I was surprised when I discovered who the exhibiter was: Dr. Guy R. Dillaway, extremely well-known in philatelic circles and a person I have know and admired for many years! Guy is not only collector but a postal history dealer, among other philatelic endeavors. He is perhaps best known for his world-class exhibit of Cape Triangles from South Africa. He resides in Weston, MA and had put the exhibit together for the show. It was his contribution to "home town" collecting.

Guy's approach was to lay out a chronological listing of the cancellations that were used in Weston, carefully describing each and denoting their period of use. With this as a guide *anyone* (even a non-philatelist!) could wend their way through the exhibit easily understanding what they were viewing and how each item shown related to the whole. It was an excellent way of helping to "tell the story," which is essential in a postal history exhibit.

I believe this page would serve as a good resource when commencing the construction of a "home town" exhibit. Space limitations require that I reduce its size. If you wish a full size example please contact me by e-mail or snail mail at the addresses shown on page 2. ☒

~ ~ ~

"FORWARDED TO ADDRESSEE"



Apparently this card was addressed to a soldier stationed in France in 1919; however he had returned or was on his way home and the card was forwarded c/o the sender (his wife?). Among the three auxiliary markings is one that needs comment on from the membership: DIRECTORY SERVICE CIV.../CENTRAL DIRECTORY DIVISION/ Pier 86, N. R., New York. An attractive card discovered at a post card show! D.A.N. ☒



The NY Metro Counties:

Nassau, Suffolk, Queens, Kings, Richmond, New York, Bronx, Westchester, Rockland

Riverhead: The Courthouse Years

By Frank Braithwaite

A Miserable Hamlet

In 1804, the visiting president of Yale University, Timothy Dwight made this oft-quoted entry in his journal:

“Riverhead is the shire town of this country. The courthouse, a poor decayed building, a miserable hamlet, containing about ten or twelve houses, stand near the efflux of the river. From this account of the courthouse, it will naturally be expected that the business of lawyers and sheriffs is not here in very great demand, nor in very high reputation...”

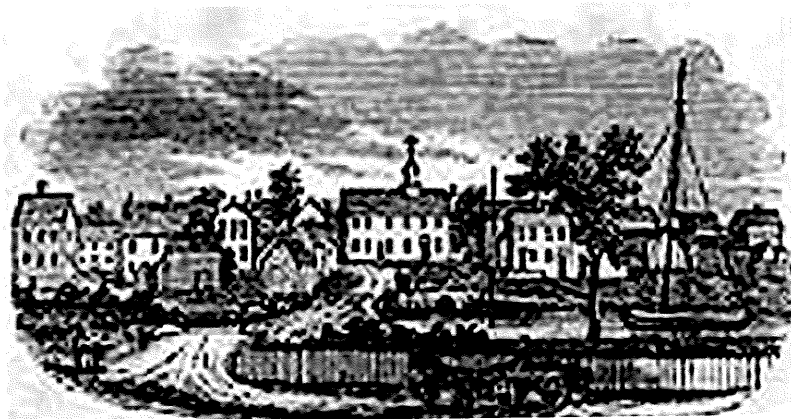


Figure 1. Early woodcut print of Downtown Riverhead, circa 1740.

One would never suspect after reading Dr. Dwight’s comments, that a few decades later Riverhead would contain six churches, two grist mills, two moulding and planing mills, a paper mill, three hotels, and a cigar factory, as well as the County Courthouse, County Jail, County Clerk’s Office and a population of 1600. By 1833 it had established its own fire department and a female seminary—one of the first of its kind in the northeast. In 1841, the Suffolk County Fair became an annual event in Riverhead, under the auspices of the Suffolk County Agricultural society. The fair attracted hundreds of out-of-town visitors and, combined with the Long Island Railroad (LIRR) extension to Oysterponds in 1844, increased the pace of day-to-day life.

The Village of Riverhead is located at the mouth of Long Island’s largest and longest river, the Peconic (**Figure 2, just below “Riverhead”**), and is the turnstile between the north and south forks of the island. Its location was among the deciding factors, in 1727,

when a decree of the Colonial Assembly established Riverhead as the County Seat of Suffolk, and mandated a courthouse and jail be built there.

Prior to this, the towns of Southold (north fork) and Southampton (south fork) could not agree on a location for either the jail or courthouse, so Riverhead, the link between the two, was the logical choice. Its location was also the reason that Benjamin Franklin would someday choose Riverhead to be the hub of eastern Long Island's mail system.

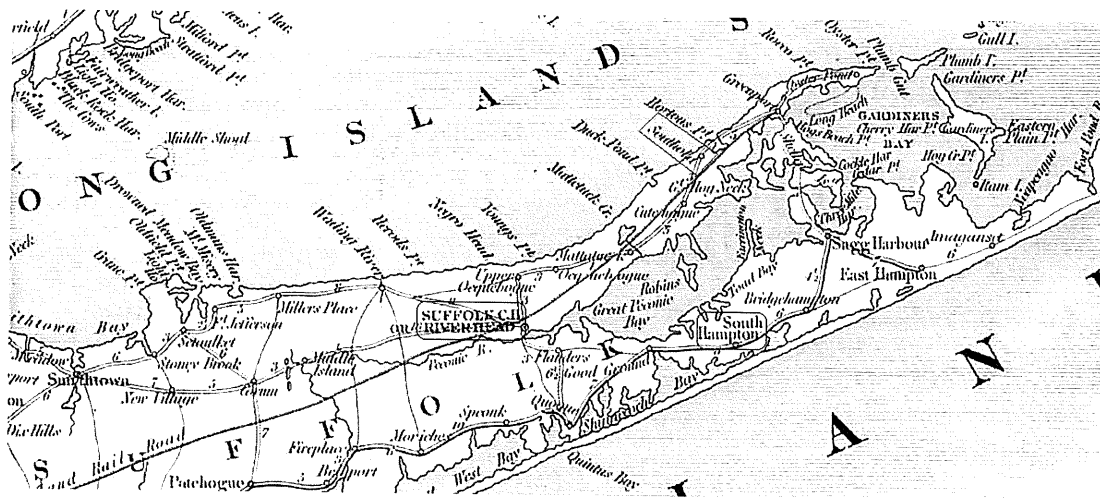


Figure2. Eastern end of Long Island with Southold, Southampton and Riverhead outlined for easy recognition. The dark line down the center of the map is the LIRR route from Brooklyn to Oysterponds.

Benjamin Franklin's Visit

Franklin believed the American colonies were becoming alienated from each other due to lack of, or extremely slow communication, so he devised a system of post roads, with post riders on swift horses to speed up the mail delivery. These actions caught the attention of the British King, who in 1753 named Franklin, and Col. William Hunter "Joint Deputy Postmasters and Managers of His Majesty's Provinces and Dominions on the Continent of North America".

In 1755, Franklin made his legendary trip (some claim it never happened) on the King's Highway to mark the mile-by-mile distance from Suffolk Court House, in Riverhead, to Oysterponds (Orient). To do this, he designed a carriage with wheel diameters measuring 63.03 inches, whereby one rotation of the wheel covered one rod (16 1/2 feet). Franklin employed a device that rang a bell every 20 rods, therefore every 16 rings of the bell equaled one mile. (Side note: The device that rang the bell was a wooden worm gear called a "weasel". Upon a set number of rotations, it produced a crack or signal of some sort, and is one of the origins of the children's song "Pop Goes the Weasel"). At each mile mark, Franklin's assistants would place a pre-engraved marker in the ground, such as the one in **Figure 3**.

For those "Doubting Thomases" out there that dispute the occurrence of Franklin's visit, I offer you an excerpt from Augustus Griffin's Journal, published in 1857:

"...About two years previous to this, [1755] Dr. Benjamin Franklin passed through this island, from Brooklyn to Southold Harbor, and in a carriage of his own construction. It was so contrived, with clock work or machinery of peculiar make,

that a bell would be struck at the termination of every twenty rods. By this means, the Doctor measured the distance accurately— his object, no doubt, being to ascertain the length of the island; and it seemed a little strange that he did not proceed to the end. He stopped at the Inn of my grandfather, Samuel Griffin, at the Harbor, and who took him, the following day, across the Sound to New London. The Doctor was on his way to Boston to visit his widowed mother."

According to this account, Franklin did not proceed to the end of the route; it was probably not necessary since his men would have been well trained up to this point and not need Franklin to hold their hands. The mile markers were an instant success and many tavern keepers considered themselves lucky to open an inn near one. Ads would read "Located directly across from mile marker 20."

Vandalism of the milestones was taken seriously too. An act of March 9, 1774, is entitled "An act to prevent the breaking or defacing of the milestones now or hereafter erected in this Colony." The penalty for doing so was three pounds sterling.

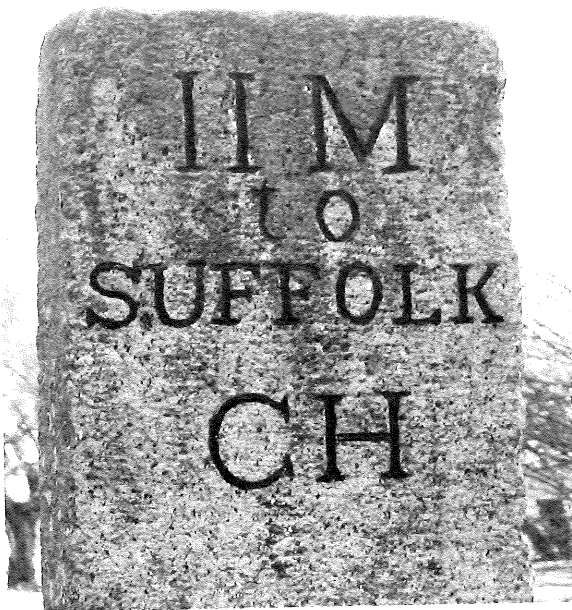


Figure 3. One of the 30 mile markers Franklin and his men erected. Most are readable up-close, but do not photograph well, as they were not painted and are quite weathered. Mile marker #11 was most likely filled in by the homeowner, on whose lawn this stone now resides.

The question arises, "Why the need for mile markers?" Well, the colonial postal system charged rates based on the number of miles from the central post office. Frequently, there was disparity between the postal authorities' and the postal patron's mileage, so Franklin decided to cover as many New England and Mid-Atlantic post roads as possible and ordered mile markers placed on many, including the Boston Post Road. Although the 30 mile stretch of the King's Highway pales in comparison to the Boston Post Road, it was the principal link between New England and Long Island. The Ferry from Rhode Island or New London would land at Oysterponds; from there, passengers and mail would travel by stage to the Fulton Ferry in Brooklyn, stopping at the Suffolk Court House to drop off the mail, since it had been designated a Central Post Office by Franklin.

Suffolk Court House

There seems to be a great deal of conflicting information about the establishment of the Post Office at Suffolk Court House and the name it was given. Although it was in the town of Riverhead, the Post office would not bear that name until 1855.

A letter from Postmaster General Timothy Pickering on August 19th, 1794, established the Post Office as Suffolk C.H. and a follow-up letter on September 25th, 1794, appointed Josiah Albertson as Postmaster. *Smith/Kay* lists the 1794 date, but has the name simply as Suffolk. Riverhead historian Edna Howell Yeager states that the Suffolk Court House name was shortened to Suffolk in 1798, with Hull Osborn as the Postmaster; other accounts omit the 1794 date altogether and start in 1798. We may never know the actual inception date of the P.O. because the earliest known cover dates from 1817, but all the evidence I have seen leads me to believe the name was never officially changed to Suffolk, or that the order was ignored. Of the twenty plus covers I have seen, from my collection, auction catalogs and from the collection of the late Calvet Hahn, all have expressed the P.O. as Suffolk C.H. Furthermore, I would be at a loss to explain how the government-issued handstamps in the 1840's said Suffolk C.H., if the USPOD had a different name listed— 'nuff said.

From the beginning until about 1835, manuscript cancels (**Figure 4**) were used exclusively, but are also recorded as late as the mid-1840's. Throughout this period, the residents of Riverhead were served by 6 different Postmasters at Suffolk C.H.; beside the two already mentioned, they were Benjamin Brewster (appointed 1803), William Griffing (1815), George Miller (1828) and George Halsey, who served from 1831 to 1854. In 1827, the first year records are available, the gross receipts of the P.O. was \$51.28— not bad considering the total receipts for all of Long Island was less than \$2500.

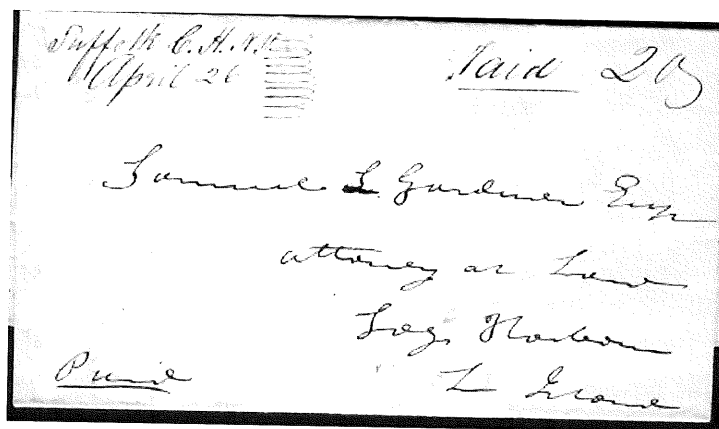


Figure 4. This letter sheet, mailed in 1841, was sent at the 2 x 10¢ rate for 30 to 80 miles. Depending on which stage was present that day, it would have traveled either the southern post road through the Hamptons, or Middle Country Road (Old Kings Highway) to Greenport, over to Shelter Island by ferry, and finally, by ferry to Sag Harbor.

In 1835, a brown 26mm-circle CDS was introduced, and was changed to black in the early 1840's. (See **Figure 5**.)

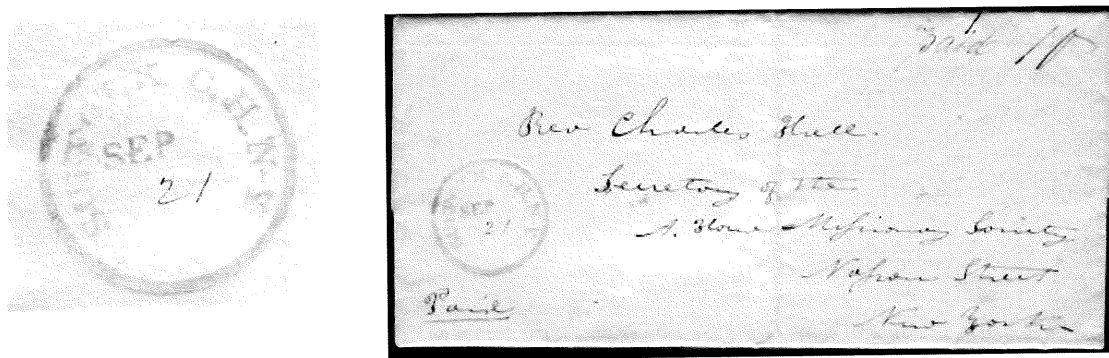


Figure 5. Posted in 1840, this letter was sent at the 10¢ rate for 30 to 80 miles (Nassau St was approximately 77 miles from the Courthouse). It would have traveled the post road by stage since the Long Island Railroad did not start carrying mail as far east as Riverhead for four more years. In all likelihood, it was carried by stagecoach driver Hull Conklin, who was profiled in a previous article (*"Smithtown"-Excelsior!* (October 2005).

A red 33mm CDS (**Figure 6**) replaced the smaller black one in the mid 1840's and continued to be used until it was replaced by black ink about 1853. Rate markings were mostly manuscript up to this point, but a circled black "5" is known in the 1850's.

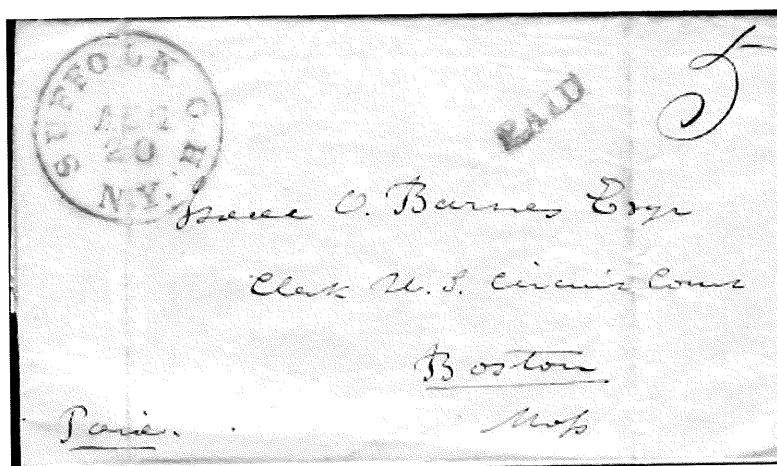
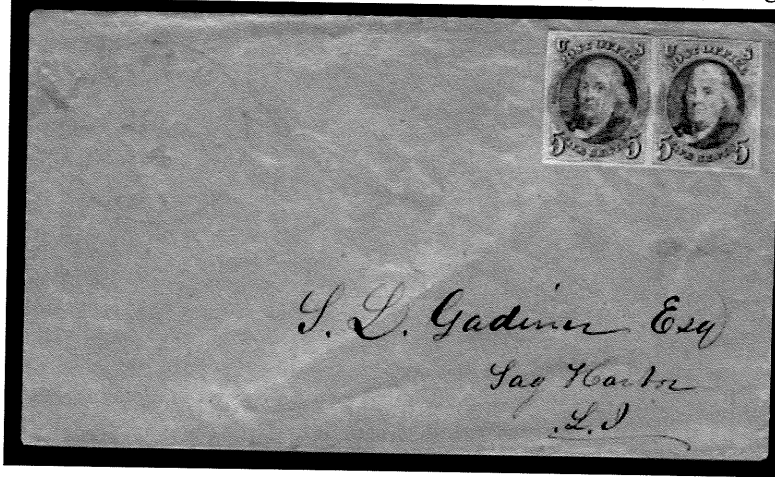


Figure 6. This letter, posted in 1849, went by stage to Oysterponds, where it caught the ferry to New London, Ct, and found its way to Boston via stagecoach. 5¢ paid the single letter rate for less than 300 miles, effective May 1, 1845 to July 1, 1851.

Stamped covers from the Suffolk C.H. are uncommon, but examples do exist. The cover in **Figure 7** was sent to Attorney Samuel Gardner, and likely contained legal papers, requiring extra postage. The pair of 5c Franklin stamps is the only known usage of that issue from Suffolk C.H. These stamps were never issued to the C.H., so the sender must have been carrying them. According to Alexander's *The United States 1847 Issue: A Cover Census*, the only other Suffolk County towns known to have used the 1847's are Greenport and Sag Harbor. Since Greenport was on the Long Island Railroad line with Suffolk C.H., it is the likely origin of the stamps.

Figure 7. 10¢ paid the 2 x 5¢ rate for an overweight letter traveling less than 300 miles. The sender probably came in by train from Greenport with stamps in hand, to sign some papers and mail them from



the C. H. The cover most likely would have traveled up the south post road through the Hamptons to Sag Harbor, since the train the sender took from Greenport was headed to Brooklyn after it dropped him at the C.H.

In 1855, the Courthouse was deemed inadequate for the business of the County, so a new building was erected on present-day Griffing Ave. The Post office was renamed Riverhead with Wells Griffing as Postmaster, and moved from the Courthouse to (presumably) PM Griffings Tavern, ending the courthouse's 61-year tour of duty—the same year postal historians consider to be the end of the “stampless era.” ☒

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- Meier, Evelyn Rowley “Riverhead, County Seat Since 1727,” Aug 1967, p. 145-7.
- Yeager, Edna Howell “History of the Postal System” Feb. 1972, p. 38-42 and Mar. 1972, p. 54-60.

[Brian can be contacted by e-mail at <fbraith@verizon.net>, or by snail mail at 56 Morewood Dr., Smithtown, NY 11787; he looks forward to any comments, additions or corrections.]

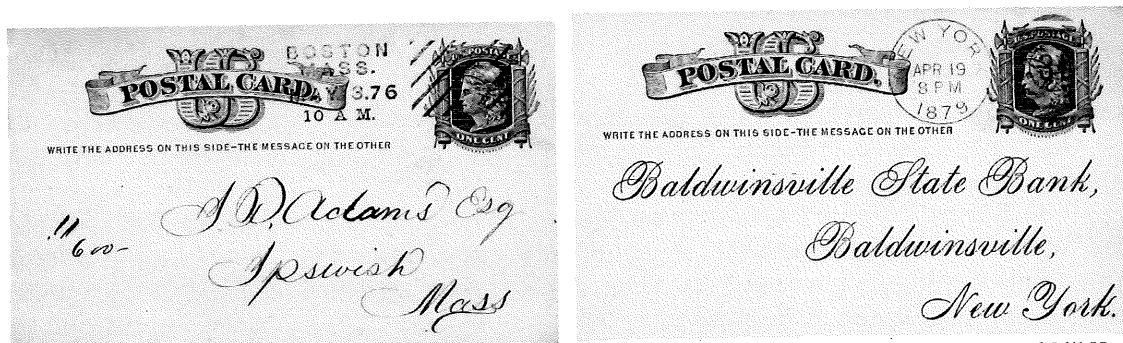
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THE EXPERIMENTAL PALMER & CLARK MACHINE CANCELLER

By Lawrence J. Laliberte

In 1877, when the cost of mailing a first class letter was 3¢ to anywhere in the United States, mail volume was increasing at a very rapid rate. Postal clerks in high volume cities were struggling to keep up. In this environment, a number of enterprising individuals saw an opportunity and attempted to develop a machine to more rapidly cancel letters and postal cards.

Thomas Leavitt developed a canceller that was tested on envelopes and cards early in 1876. Apparently, the machine could not handle envelopes well and except for the initial tests, almost all Leavitt cancels are found on postal cards. Boston and New York City were the two cities that used this early machine (**Figure 1**). See *A collector's Guide To U.S. Machine Postmarks 1871-1925* by Russell F. Hanmer for more details.



Courtesy of Bill Hart

Fig. 1. Early Leavitt post marks (left) Boston, May 3, 1876 and New York, April 19, 1879.

A pair of Dutchess County residents joined forces in an effort to develop and market a canceling machine.



Henry Frost Clark was born at Hyde Park, N.Y. in 1839. At the age of 17, he left school to find adventure in New York City and traveled to Cincinnati, and Philadelphia. In 1860, he returned to Poughkeepsie to study dentistry and after four year opened his own practice. Without going into specifics, James H. Smith in his *History of Dutchess County, New York*, stated that Dr. Clark received many medals from international exhibitions for his work in artificial dentures. Dr Clark is said to have had all manner of inventions at his home, and Smith goes on to state;

We can only and briefly refer to one which would have made a millionaire of a more pretentious and less modest inventor.

That most valuable invention is a post-marking and stamp canceling machine, which ought to as completely revolutionize the present slow and tedious method as the sewing machine has the needle and thread.

Among his other achievements, he was an expert with the long range rifle having also won numerous medals in international competitions. Little is known about Timothy G. Palmer other than he resided at Schultzs ville, N.Y. at this time. Schultzs ville today is just a crossroads of two county highways and consists mainly of the country store, the Grange Hall, the old one room school house and a number of homes.

The first appearance of their machine is in patent application No. 160,947 dated March 10, 1875 and approved a week latter on March 16. This amazing turnaround can be attributed to the fact that the Post Office Department sent a letter to the Patent Office on March 9th requesting the speedy approval of the patent application so as to allow the applicants the opportunity to bid on contracts for mail marking machines

to be conducted on March 16, 1875. No known examples exist on postally used entires of this test. The example shown in **Figure 2** resides in the Postal Archives on a blank cover. It resembles the killer shown on the patent drawings.

In Robert J. Payne's article in the March 1966 U.S. Cancellation Club News, it stated that: "In the Post Office Department Library in Washington, D.C. a letter from the Librarian reads substantially as follows: On March 30, 1876, Marshall Jewell, Postmaster General, wrote to Mr. T.G. Palmer, Schultzs ville, N.Y. authorizing him to furnish the Post Office Department with 'ten postmarking, stamping and cancel printing machines, of the same kind as the one exhibited in the Department on the 29th inst., but of perfect mechanical construction and with such improvements as may suggest themselves', for which Mr. Palmer was to be paid \$100.00 each on their delivery and acceptance. Each machine was to be furnished with a full outfit of dates, including year, month, day and hour blocks. He was directed to construct machines for use in the following cites: New York 2, Albany 1, Washington 1, Philadelphia 2, Hartford 1, Boston 2, Cleveland 1."

A second patent was applied for on March 18, 1876 and assigned No. 182,698. On March 23, 1876 all eight patentable claims were rejected. The following day, Mr. Clark submitted his amended application. On March 25, 1876 his claims were allowed. Upon payment of the \$20 "fee of application" the patent was formally issued on September 21, 1876. A second patent was applied for on March 18, 1876 and assigned No. 182,698. On March 23, 1876 all eight patentable claims were rejected. The following day, Mr. Clark submitted his amended application. On March 25, 1876 his claims were allowed. Upon payment of the \$20 "fee of application" the patent was formally issued on September 21, 1876. The *POUGHKEEPSIE DAILY EAGLE*, of April 3, 1876 ran the following:

POUGHKEEPSIE GENIUS

A NEW INVENTION FOR STAMPING LETTERS-

The Washington Chronicle says that an invention calculated to reduce the labor of post office clerks and at the same time prove a benefit to the department, was exhibited Friday in the presence of the Postmaster General, the First and Third Assistant Postmaster Generals and the city Postmaster.

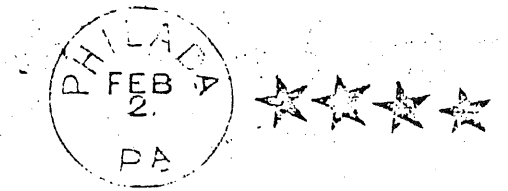


Fig. 2 Proof cancel believed produced from the first test, attached to the Palmer & Clark patent #160947

The invention referred to is a machine which postmarks and cancels the stamps on letters. It is about the size of a sewing machine, and is operated in a similar manner, the machinery being made to run by a treadle. The letters are placed under the die which simultaneously stamps the name of the post-office and cancels the stamp. Its great advantage over the present system of stamping by hand consists in the fact that it never fails to make its mark legibly, and works with much more rapidity than a man possibly could without the assistance of machinery. Those who have any quantity of correspondence are aware that a large percentage of letters come with their post-marks almost illegible. This in many instances is owing to the fact that the most careful clerk cannot always strike steadily with a die or fails to distribute ink properly. The invention is the fruit of the genius of Dr. H.F. Clark and T.G. Palmer, of Poughkeepsie, New York, and will, in all probability, be adopted for the larger offices throughout the country.

The above article, coming as it does from a Washington paper, at which place the machine has been tested by those permanently connected with the Post Office Department, can be relied on, and shows that the invention is a most important one. Dr. Clark also exhibited it to Postmaster James in New York and that official also praised it highly. A number of orders from the government for it have already been received, and in a short time, no doubt, it will come into general use all over the country. The Dr. has been engaged on it for a long time, and we are glad to note his genius will be so richly rewarded.

Of the seven offices that Mr. Palmer was directed to provide machines, two have been identified as having received them. They are Albany, N.Y. and Washington, D.C. In addition, a lone example is known from Baltimore, Maryland. Examples from Poughkeepsie, New York might have been a surprise until one considers that it was Mr. Clark's home town and provided a ready place to test his machine.

The earliest documented use of the "improved" machine is from Poughkeepsie and has a Circular Date Stamp (CDS) of "Sep 30, 18--". The year portion of the CDS is to light to read but docketing on the cover confirms the year as 1876. This is also the only Poughkeepsie cancelled item to bear a year date. All others only contain Month/ Day/ Time. **Figure 3** is a cover showing the Palmer & Clark cancel. All know covers originating in Albany contain the year date but not a time indicator.

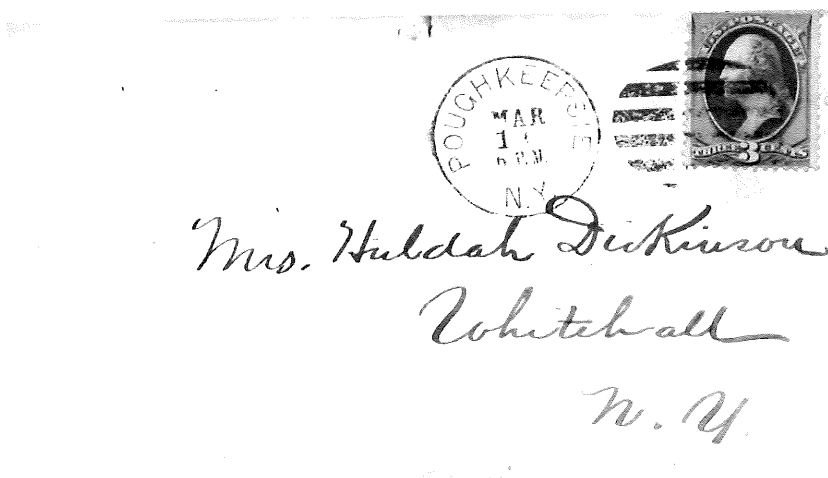


FIG. 3: This cover was acquired in a EPSPHS auction as part of a lot of three covers. It was unrecognized then and remained in my collection for over a year before it was "discovered".

In 1993, after I became aware of these unique pieces of postal history I endeavored to create a census of the known covers. With the assistance of the philatelic press, articles were published that resulted in the following table. Additions were made as other items came to light. **Figure 4** shows examples from Albany, New York, and Baltimore, Maryland while **Fig. 5** shows one from Washington, D.C.



Fig 4: (Left) This example resides in the William L. Petz collection of the McKinney Library, at the Albany Institute of History and Art. **(Right)** The only example from Baltimore.

CDS/(Source)

Description

Albany

Jan. 10, 1877	ad: G.W. Littlefield Esq.
Jan. 1?, 1877 (Petz)	cc: A. Gallup, ad: Gaul & Esselstyne
Jan. 12, 1877 *	ad: Ellen A. Davis
Jan. 17, 1877 **	

Baltimore

Dec. 8, 4 PM (1876d)	ad: Hagerstown Bank
----------------------	---------------------

Poughkeepsie

Sep. 30, 1876	ad: J.J. McCroskery, Cashier
Jan. 30, 6 PM	ad: The Nat. Bank, Fishkill
Feb. 5, 6 PM	ad: Miller & Van Wycks
Feb. 7, 10 AM	cc: Eastman College, ad:
Feb. 21, 6 PM *	
Feb. 24, 6 PM **	
Feb. 26, 6 PM	ad: Frank Woods
Mar __, 10 AM (Global)	ad: Mrs. Emma J. Fanner (dbl strike)
Mar. 5, **	
Mar. 5, (Ebay)	ad: Rev. Orrec Parking at Chicago
Mar. 6, 6 PM *	ad: Rev F.H. Ayers (MC 1826)
Mar. 10, 6 PM	ad: Mrs. Hulda Dickenson
Mar. 12, 10 AM	ad: Miss S. M. Jeshaus
Mar. 27, 10 AM (1877d) (Patkin)	ad: ...Elting
Apr. 23, 6 PM (Mahrer)	ad: Miss Minnie Hathaway

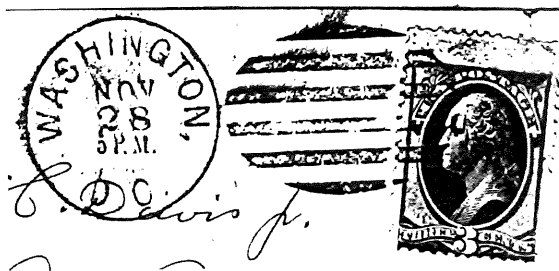


Fig: 5. An example from Washington, D.C.

Washington

Nov. 22, 5PM *	cc: Smithsonian Inst. (3c Interior Dept. stamp)
Nov. 24, 8AM	cc: Post Office Dept., ad: Husan (Off. stamp)
Nov. 28, 5PM	ad: Davis
Nov. 30, 8PM *	ad: William L. Hartung (MC 1825)
Dec. 12, 1PM *	cc: Lowe & Archer, Attorneys (MC 1825)
Dec. 15, 1PM **	
Dec. 15, 4PM (1876d)	ad: William Fonse Scott
Dec. 16, 5PM	ad: Illegible on copy
Jan. 2, 1PM	

Abbreviations used:

ad: address

cc: corner card

(187*d) year determined via docketing

* Either Machine Cancel Forum (MC) or Hanmer's book.

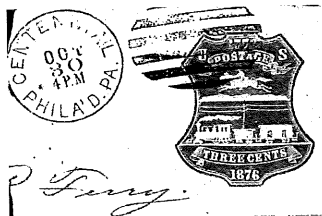
** Reported but not observed.

It is not clear whether machines were provided to the other listed cities or not. Only time will tell. If any member of the society has an additional example or has a copy of one of the ones listed as "Reported but not observed," the author would like to receive a copy (front and back if there are any marking) of the cover. Please send them to P.O. Box 1311, Carmel, NY 10512, or E-mail to <largin1@verizon.net>. ☐

Sources Used:

- *Machine Cancel Forum*. The Journal of The Machine Cancel Society
- Russell F. Hanmer. *A Collector's Guide to U.S. Machine Postmarks 1871-1925*.

[Subsequent to the submission of this article, a new discovery was made: a corner cut from a 3¢ Centennial imprinted envelope bearing the machine cancel of the long predicted but until now not recorded Palmer & Clark from the U. S. Post Office at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. It is illustrated below. Ed.]



“THE MAIL FOR WHICH YOU SENT POSTAGE...”

By Peter Peloquin

On May 6, 1840, the British issued the first postage stamp. With that event, the onus of paying for the delivery of mail was formally shifted from the addressee (recipient) to the sender of the missive. The United States followed suit, issuing the first stamp in 1847, although there were various post offices that used their own stamps to show receipt of the postage fee. There also was an additional ten year period during which mail could still be sent with the recipient paying the fee.

After that time, some envelopes and post cards were still mailed without postage or sufficient postage, however. I had wondered whether the procedure in the early 1900's would be to return the item to the sender, or to send the letter to the “dead letter office.” (I did not even know if there was a “dead letter office” at that period in time.) Both of these procedures have been used at various periods in more recent times. I was wrong on both counts.

I acquired an accumulation of postal cards. Two cards were included in this group that described the procedure for handling this situation. The Post Office would revert to the old method of collecting the postage fee from the recipient!

The first card (**Figure 1**) is a penalty postal card from the “Post Office at New York, N.Y.” and cancelled “New York, N.Y., December 4, 1908.” It also has a purple 1-line hand stamp with the same date. It incorporates a boxed notice at the bottom left: It was mailed to a resident of Thompson PA.

“Held for Postage Notice-Prompt Attention Required.”

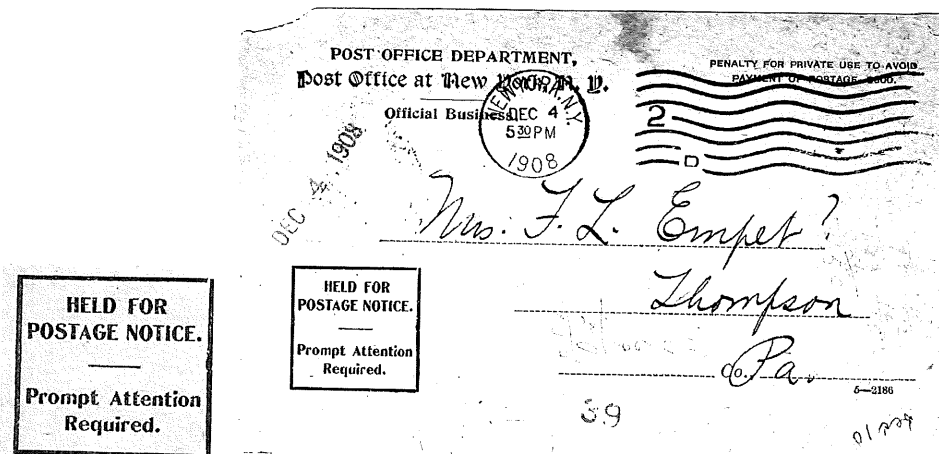


Figure 1. Penalty card used in the collection of Postage Due

The back of the card (**Figure 2**, next page) reads: “A private mailing or post card, addressed to you, is held for the reason that the necessary postage was not affixed by the sender.” It directs the addressee of the card to return “this card” with an unused stamp “loose” in a “prepaid, addressed envelope” (that is a stamped addressed envelope) to “Inquiry Department, Post Office, New York, N.Y.” (Note the spelling “Inclosed” on the card.).

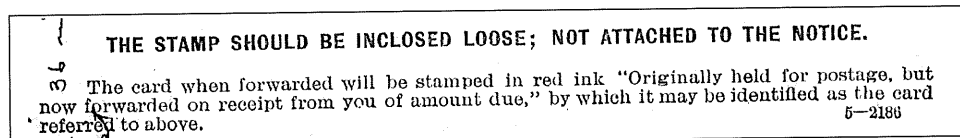
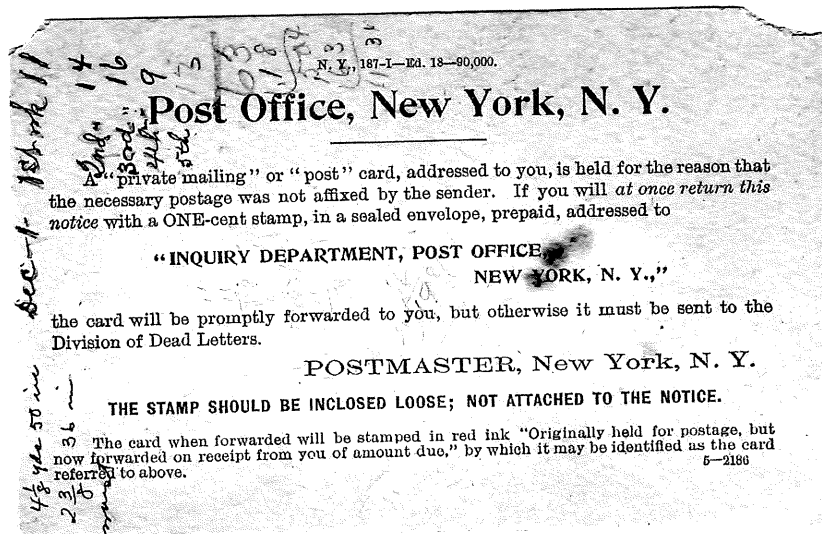


Figure 2. Reverse of Penalty Card with enlargement of instructions.

When the postal worker receives the envelope and contents as described, the original card would be sent to the recipient. If no stamp were sent, the letter would be sent to the "Division of Dead Letters"

Apparently the post office foresaw the problem that would arise from this arrangement, namely, how would the addressee know which mail was involved when he (she) received it. The card continues, "...the card when forwarded will be stamped in red *Originally held for postage, but now forwarded on receipt from you of amount due.*"

Another interesting card is **Figure 3** which is postmarked Newark, New Jersey on Feb. 26, 1906. The card was held up and hand stamped in purple "hold (?) for postage" and "Feb. 26, 1906." The card contains a pasted-on picture (**Figure 4**). That likely explains why additional postage was required to mail the card. There was much confusion among postmasters as to what to charge for cards with add-on items at that time.



Figure 3. Face of postal card from Newark, NJ to Goldens Bridge, NY with photo pasted on reverse.

Presumably the Newark Post Office sent a card (similar to the "hold for postage" card described previously) to the recipient (Miss Helen L. Burt) in Goldens Bridge, New York. The recipient then sent the postage to the post office. The postal representative in turn forwarded the original card to the addressee on March 1, 1906.

The wording on the notice was different from the prescribed wording described in the New York Post Office postal card. The memo listed on the card reads, “*This is the Mail for which you sent postage.*” The method of collecting the postage seems very cumbersome. However, despite the fact that two additional mailings were involved only a few days were lost.

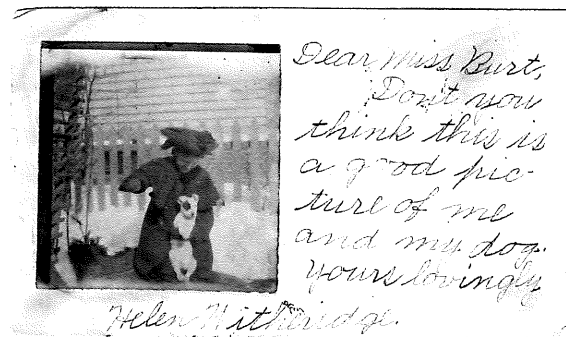


Figure 4.

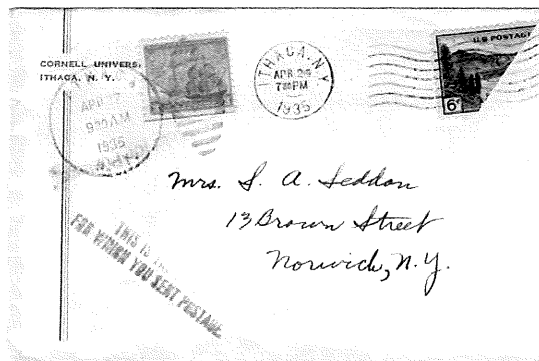
Next, I would like to find out how long it took the post office to realize that it would be easier to deliver the letter directly to the addressee while collecting the postage due before handing over the mail, similar to the system in use during the pre-stamp era. Possibly they were afraid of people writing code words on the envelope so the addressee could look at the code words and then refuse delivery and decline to pay for the letter. That was one of the problems that, according to tradition, led Rowland Hill to come up with the idea of the prepaid-stamped letter in the first place. ☒

[If any reader has any additions, comment or corrections, Peter can be contacted by e-mail at: <petepelo@aol.com>, or by snail mail at 130 Dahlia Drive, Mahopac, NY 10541.]

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“HELD FOR POSTAGE”

After viewing “A Glimpse of the Future” in the September 2005 issue, John Donnes of Gretna, LA, e-mailed a scan of the below cover, which he felt was an appropriate companion for the Peloquin article above. I certainly agree! D.A.N



An example of an item “Held For Postage” because the sender illegally used a bisected a 6¢ stamp. The cover was mailed by Leon E. Seddon, “most likely a student at Cornell University,” according to John. A replacement stamp was affixed and the “THIS IS THE MAIL FOR WHICH YOU SENT POSTAGE” auxiliary marking was applied. This one little letter home to mom cost poor Leon a total of 9¢!

CHAMPLAIN VALLEY COVERAGE

A PRELIMINARY LOOK AT THE STAMPLESS PERIOD IN CLINTON COUNTY, NY

By Glenn A. Estus

A few years ago, I compiled a similar study of the Stampless period in Essex County, NY which was published in *The Journal of New York State Postal History*, the former name for the Journal of the Empire State Postal History Society (now *Excelsior!*). I use the *American Stampless Cover Catalog* (5th ed.) (ASCC, 1997) definition of the stampless period, i.e.: through 1855, although in a few specialized rates, stampless mail was possible through 1863.

My goal with this type of article is to summarize information available from several difference sources into one concise source. I would challenge other ESPHS members to create similar studies of their countries of interest. Actually, this is not as difficult as it would seem, especially if you have access to the references listed in the Work Cites at the end of this article. It is just a matter of compiling the information and then cross-referencing the data.

Earliest manuscript information comes from Chlanda and Wilcox (ESPHS, 1984) and Penwell (ESPHS, 1999).

Other Notations Used:

= information from the Bernadt book

^ = information from personal collection

SIO = Still in operation (2005)

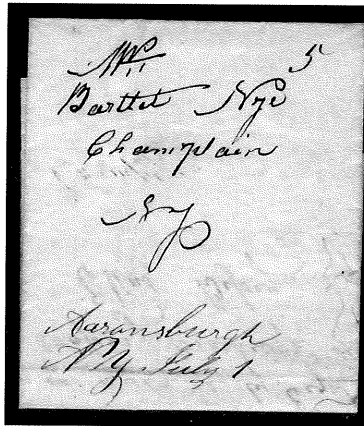
The first post offices established in Clinton County were Champlaintown and Plattsburgh, both on September 14, 1787. Willsborough was established the same date but in 1799, it became part of Essex County when that county was erected. Also on this date a number of other post offices north of Albany were established creating a postal route on the western shore of Lake Champlain north to Quebec. Before this date there was only a Federal postal route on the eastern shore of Lake Champlain through the state of Vermont.

In the listing below, post office names that are in **bold** CAPITAL letters are those from which no examples have been listed in any of the above mentioned references.

The Stampless Era in Clinton County, NY (1797 - 1855)

Post Office Name	Date Est.	Earliest Manuscript	Earliest Hand Stamp	Date Discontinued
Aaronsburgh	1852	1852	1853	
Beekmantown	1822	1838	1902	
Black Brook	1833	1833	1850s	1923
Cadyville	1840	1849		SIO
Champlain	1797	1806	1838	SIO
Chazy	1806	1818	1839	SIO
Clintonville	1832	1832	1831(?)*	1966

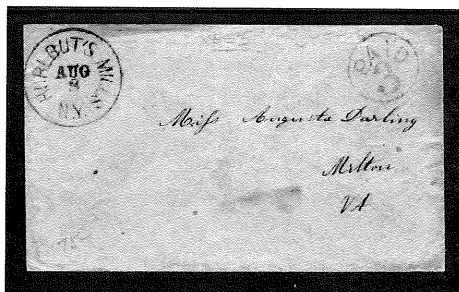
Note: * Listing could be for Clintonville in Onondaga County since Clintonville in Clinton County was not established until February 1, 1832.



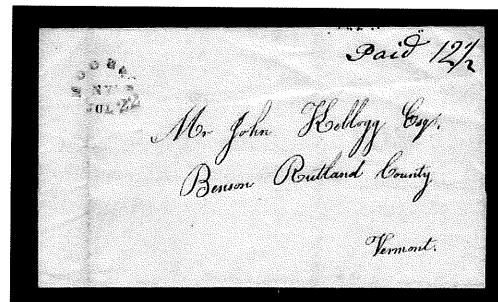
COOPERSVILLE (1st)	1841		1852	
CORBEAN	1830			1831
Dannemora	1850	1867	1853	SIO
EAST PERU	1848			1853
Ellenburgh	1830	1840s	1850	SIO
Ellenburgh Centre	1856		1852(?)**	SIO

Note: **According to Smith and Kay, Ellenburg Center was established April 19, 1856

Farrell Place	1840	1841		1853
FRENCH MILLS	1811			1817
Frontier	1849	1850s		1915
Hoyleton	1852		1852	1852
Hurlbut's Mills	1853	1850s	1852(***)	1856



Hurlbut's Mills

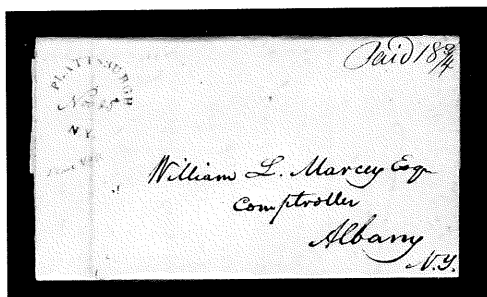


Moors

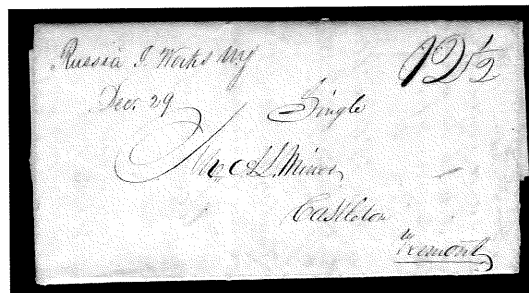
Note: ***According to Smith and Kay, Hurlburt's Mills was established January 18, 1853

Ingraham (1st)	1854			1877
LAWRENCE'S MILLS	1823			1833
Moorer's	1822	1844	1837	SIO
Moorer's Forks	1850	1850s		SIO
Morrisonville	1851	1850s#	1850	SIO
New Sweden	1830	1837	1854	1859
North Plattsburgh	1833	1838 (1828#)		1840

PEASLEE VILE (1st)	1846			1851
Perry's Mills	1831			1934
Peru	1798	1799	1839	SIO
Plattsburgh	1797	1798	1821	SIO
Redford	1832	1834		SIO
Rouses Point	1823	1824	1826	SIO



Plattsburgh



Russia Iron Works

Rouse's Point Village	1852	1853 (1852#)	1852	1854
Russia Iron Works	1823	1828		1832
SAMPSON'S POND	1854			1856
Saranac	1831	1835		SIO
Schuyler's Falls	1833	1837	1852	SIO
Sciota	1848			1936
Union Falls	1833	1833	1850s	1917
WEST AUSABLE	1852		1853	
West Chazy	1833	1851 (1819#***)	1850s	SIO

Note: ***West Chazy was established in 1833

West Plattsburgh	1840	1865	1906
WOOD'S FALLS (1st)	1855		1856
WRIGHTSVILLE	1848		1855

Post Offices with No Recorded Markings

Coopersville (1 st) (ca. 11 years in existence)	Peasleeville (1 st) (5 ½ years)
Corbean (2 months, 9 days)	Sampson's Pond (1 year, 10 months)
East Peru (5 years)	West Ausable (14 months)
French Mills (6 years)	Wood's Falls (1 st) (6 months)
Lawrence's Mills (10 years, 1 month)	Wrightsville (7 years, 3 months)

Post Offices Known Only in Manuscript

Aaronsburgh
Russia Iron Works

Works Cited:

- Alexander, Thomas J., ed. *Simpson's US Postal Markings 1851-1861*, 2 Edition. U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, Inc. 1999.
- Bernadt, George J. *Postal Markings of New York State 1792-1856*. ESPHS, 1993.
- Chlanda, Henry and Chester Wilcox, ed. *Manuscript Post Offices of New York State, Third Edition*. ESPHS, 1984.***
- Kay, John L. and Chester M. Smith Jr. *New York Postal History: The Post Offices and First Postmasters from 1775 to 1980*. APS, 1982.
- Penwell, Douglas, ed. *Master Supplement to the Third Edition, 1984, Manuscript Post Offices of New York State*. ESPHS, 1999.
- Stets, Robert J. *Postmasters and Post Offices of the United States 1782-1811*. LaPosta Publications, 1994.

[Editor's note: Those references with a *** are available from the publications office of the ESPHS. Use the Editor's address found on page 2.]

[Glenn is the editor of the ESPHS Bulletin and president of The Vermont Postal History Society. He can be contacted at the postal and e-mail addresses on page 2 in this issue.]

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CHARGE IT!

We tend today to buy stamps or rent a post office box using the ubiquitous credit card. Those who did a large amount of business with the local post office (lawyers and banks, for the most part) established accounts. Most "ordinary" people did not possess sufficient cash to establish accounts, whether pre-paid or not. Even the wealthy often did not have any real "cash": their money was in their land.

Below are two different ways to state an account was being charged for the mailing of a letter. D.A.N. ☒

Charge
Box 96

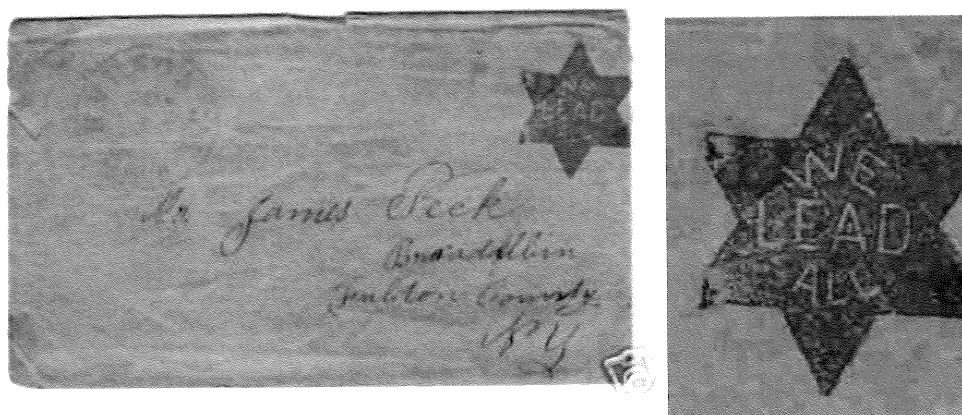
Third 372
Washington Hunt Co
Comptrols
State
Albany

WHAT IS IT? (This is a Real Puzzler!)

Our treasurer, George DeKornfeld, acquired the below cover off eBay for his “” collection. It is difficult to see the pale red 32-mm *integral rate circular handstamp* (left) but it's there! Also present is a “PAID” handstamp in the same color. The curiosity (thus the question) is the origin and purpose of the *turquoise six-pointed star* incorporating the negative “WE/LEAD/ALL.”

George reports that someone on Richard Frajola's message board “thought it was a bank advertising handstamp.”

What do you think????



[If a member has a potential answer please contact the Editor, and also George at 1109 Rt. 8A Stop 2, Millerton, NY 12546-5511, or <Gdekornfel@fairpoint.net>.]

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“REQUEST TO CALL” (Form 154, Sept. 1936)

Form 154
(Revised)

REQUEST TO CALL
United States Post Office

(Office and State) (Station) (Date)

Please call at the office or window marked (X) in connection with the matter mentioned below at your very earliest convenience. Kindly bring this card with you.

Respectfully,
POSTMASTER.

By *[Signature]*

Remarks: *Claim for damaged clock.*

6-290

SEP 15 1936

☐ Postmaster
☒ Assistant Postmaster
☐ Superintendent of Mails
☐ Money Order
☐ Registry
☐ C. O. D. Delivery
☐ General Delivery
☐ Parcel Post
☐ Stamps
☐ Inquiry
☐ Box Rent
☐ Supt. of Station

William Hildreth is requested to call at the Herkimer post office to sign a “...claim for a damaged clock.” Anyone know post offices stopped sending out these forms? D.A.N.

HAMMOND, NY MANUSCRIPT: A New Earliest Known Use

By Nicholas Zevos

The dateline of the illustrated SFL (**Figures 1 and 2**) indicates it was written in Ogdensburg, NY on November 23, 1822, and was posted to Chatham, CT from Hammond on April 28, 1822. According to Kay and Smith the earliest date recorded for Hammond was April 29; Penwell updates Chlanda and Wilcox but recording only a vague "1822." Thus, this letter establishes a new *earliest known date of use*. Is it possible that the letter arrived on the day the p.o. opened?

The SFL entered the mail stream as a *way* letter. (This type of postal marking means that the letter originated *between* post offices.) The letter received a manuscript *Hammond*, 28 Nov and a *Way* 26 (**Figure 3**). Hammond was the second post office stop south on the route. There was an operating post office at Morristown (1816) to the southwest, so the letter must either have been handed to the post rider *enroute* between Morristown and Hammond or was overlooked when it reached Morristown, perhaps stuffed into the post rider's coat pocket.

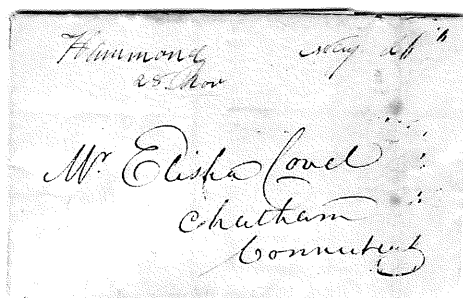


Figure 1. Hammond to Chatham, CT

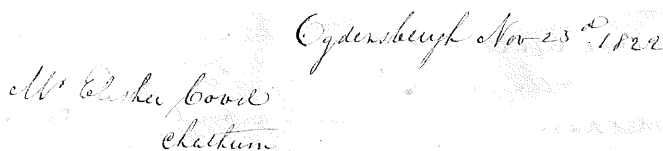


Figure 2. Ogdensburg Nov. 23 1822 dateline

It was rated at Hammond according to the Postal Act of May 1, 1816: 25¢ for a letter posted to a location at a distance of greater than 400 miles, plus an additional fee of 1¢ for the post rider (total 26¢). The cover was carried on Postal Route 734 (**Figure 4** next page).

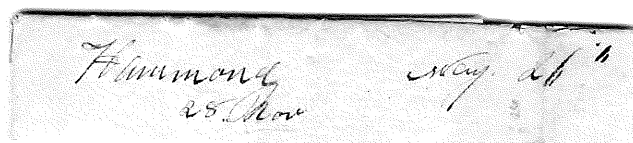


Figure 3. Hammond 28 Nov and Way 26

The letter was penned by one John Bush, an Ogdensburg businessman, who was requesting pension support for his father who was a revolutionary War veteran. John was a native of New Haven, CT and had been born there in 1779; he served in the War of 1812.

Bush's place of business was in the first ward, next to the Customs House in Ogdensburg. He invested in a number of land purchases in the Morristown—Ogdensburg area of the North

Country. *The History of St. Lawrence County* lists him as one of the directors of the Rossie Galena Company. He died in 1859 at the age of eighty.

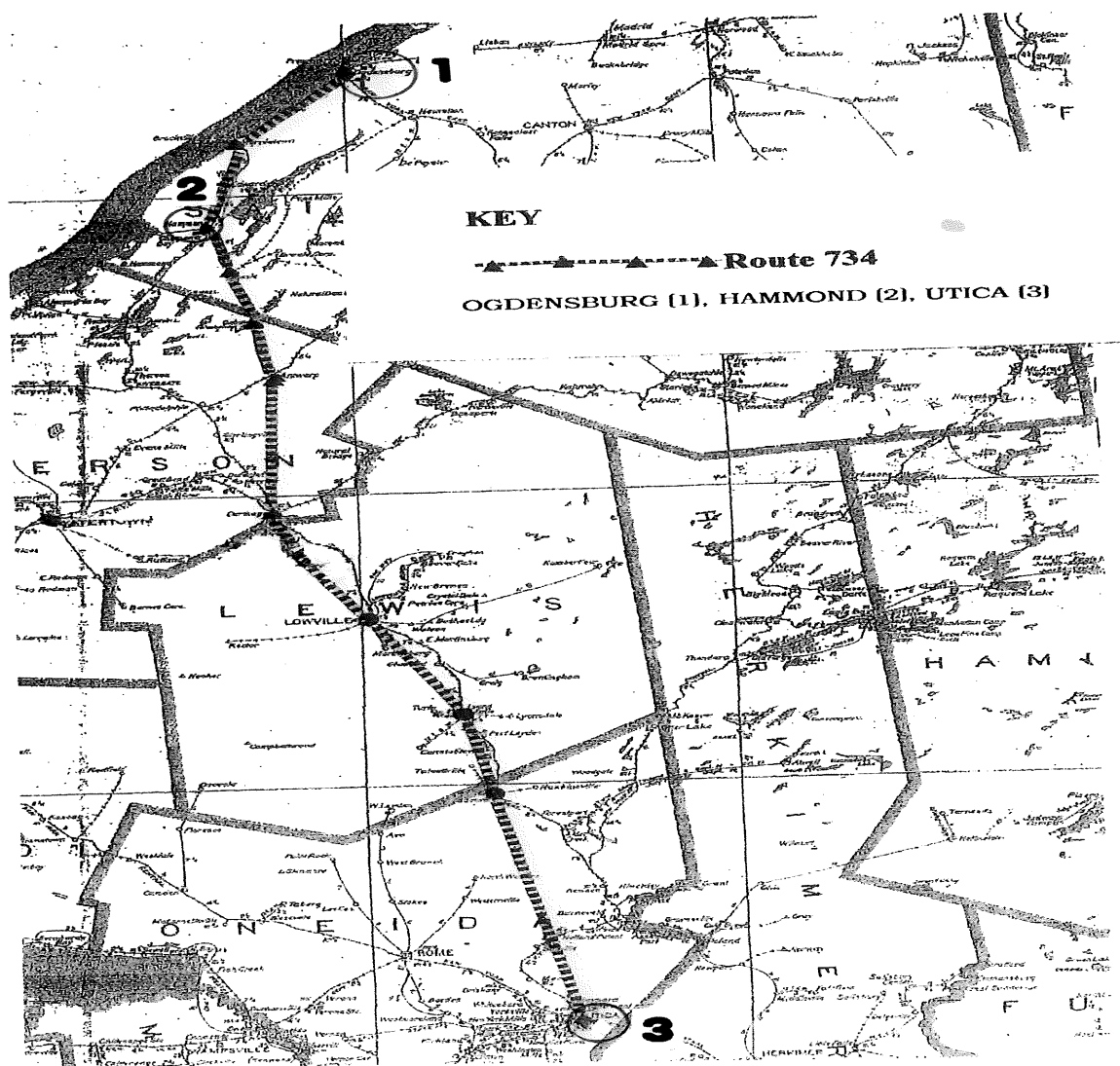


Figure 4. Postal Route 734 (Ogdensburg to Utica) The first stop southbound is Hammond.

Philatelic References used:

- Chlanda, Henry and Chester E. Wilcox *Manuscript Post Offices of New York State (Third Edition)* (ESPHS, 1984)
- Kay, John L. and Chester M. Smith Jr. *New York Postal History: The Post Offices and First Postmasters from 1775 to 1980.* (APS, 1982)
- Penwell, Douglas, ed. *Manuscript Post Offices of New York State, Master Supplement to Third Edition, 1984.* (ESPHS, 1999)

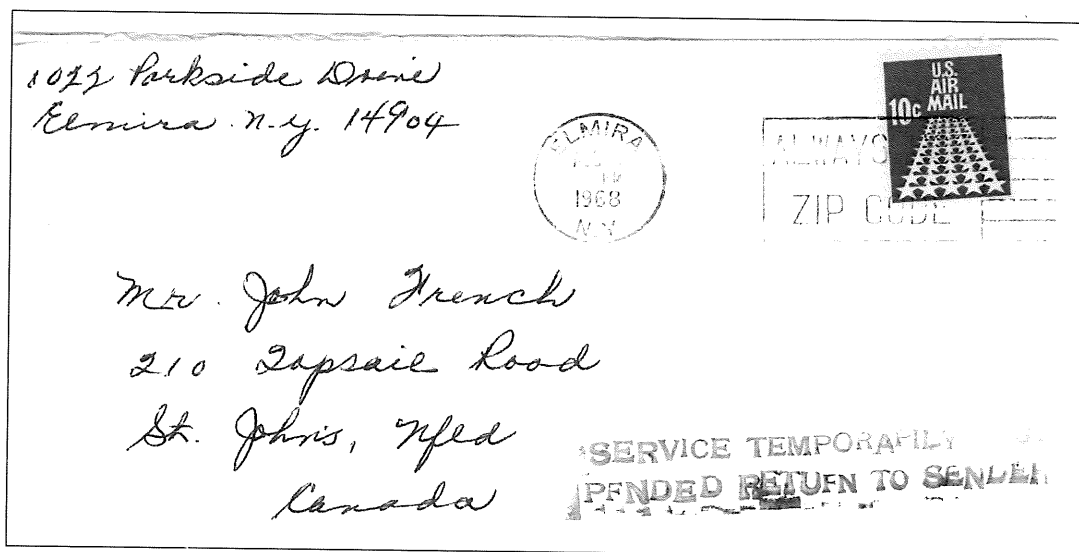
[NickZevos can be contacted at 245 Pettit Lane, Athens, GA 30605-4045 (between Dec. & Aug.) and 183 Blanchard Rd., Potsdam, NY 13676-3531, or e-mail: <ndzevos@aol.com>. ☐]

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COVER OF THE ISSUE

EMBARGOED U.S. MAIL TO CANADA
Period 1: July 25-August 9, 1968

SERVICE TEMPORARILY
 SUSPENDED RETURN TO SENDER



The embargo resulted from a strike by Canadian postal workers. The auxiliary marking appears to have been created by the Elmira post office. There were five such embargos between 1968—1981.

(From the collection of the Editor)