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Alan Parsons, President
David E. Williams, Editor

Drew A. Nicholson, Chr. Publications Comm.
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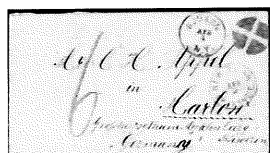
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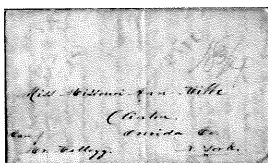
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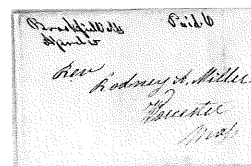
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EXCELSIOR!

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Please send articles and re-publication requests to the

Editor:

David E. Williams
2617 Byron Ave
Louisville, KY 40205-2609
812.968.4559/ Fax: 502.451.6156
E-mail: <davidewilliams@insightbb.com>

* * * * *

The **ESPHS** also publishes a **Bulletin**. Please
send articles and Society news/information to the

Editor:

Bob Bramwell
P O. Box 4150
Pinehurst, NC 28374
910.295.5808
E-mail: <rbramwell@nc.rr.com>

SOCIETY OFFICERS

President: Alan Parsons
809 Holley Rd., Elmira, NY 14905
607.732.0181
E-mail: <alatholleyrd@aol.com>

Vice President: Carl Blazejewski
114A Quail St
Albany, NY 12206-2405
518.465.3497
E-mail: <btcod114@localnet.com>

Secretary: George McGowan
Address in heading
518.479.4396
E-mail: <geolotus2003@nycap.rr.com>

Treasurer: Dr. George Dekornfeld
1109 Rt. 8A Stop 2
Millerton, NY 12546-5511
518.329.1295
E-mail: <gdekornfel@taconic.net>

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Editor's Box

This issue of *Excelsior!* came together very nicely thanks to our many authors who were kind enough to send along some excellent articles. Most of the authors are well known to ESPHS members and are frequent contributors to *Excelsior!* I thank them for allowing me to keep on schedule with their timely submittals. I would also like to extend a special appreciation to our "guest" author whose fine article entitled "*West Point Letters 1833-34*" appears in this issue. Jean R. Walton is the Secretary of the New Jersey Postal History Society and her article combines the elements of postal history, social history, and genealogical research to give us a glimpse of both military and civilian life in the 1830s. I extend a special thank you to Jean.

Excelsior! is only what you make it. Please consider submitting an article or at least an interesting cover or post office for an upcoming issue. Share your knowledge. Thank you. D.E.W.

COLUMBIA COUNTY CORNER: THE CITY OF HUDSON INTERNATIONAL OUTBOUND & INBOUND

By: George DeKornfeld

Covers related to Hudson with an international flavor are seldom seen in the market place, so it is with great pleasure that I present two here that have not only recently surfaced near-simultaneously, but are also noteworthy in respect to their outstanding individual ratings, markings, franking, and routings.

Outbound:

Figure 1 and **Figure 2**, respectively, show the front and verso of an unpaid letter mailed from Hudson to Marlow, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Germany in either 1869 or 1870. The cover began its journey on April 1st as noted by the black 25mm Hudson circular date stamp (CDS) with Crossroads killer in duplex at front top right. Just below appears a New York Exchange Office datestamp (in black, confirming this cover as having been unpaid; a red CDS would have been used had the postage been prepaid) dated April 2nd.

Figure 1. Front of an unpaid letter from Hudson, New York to Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Germany

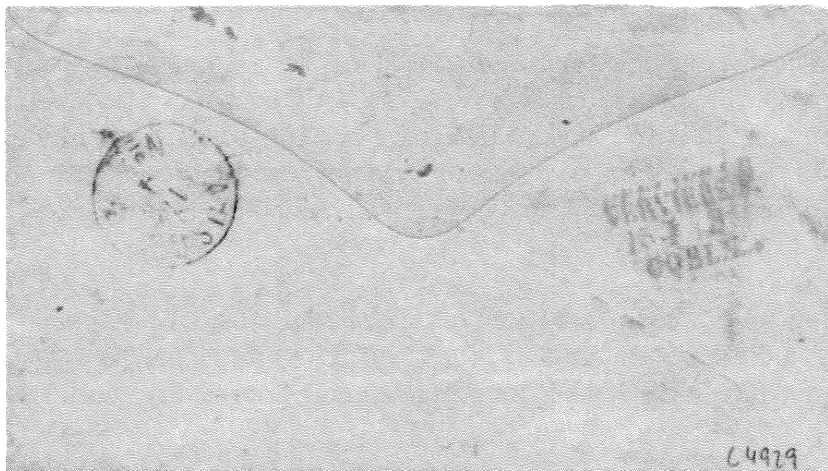
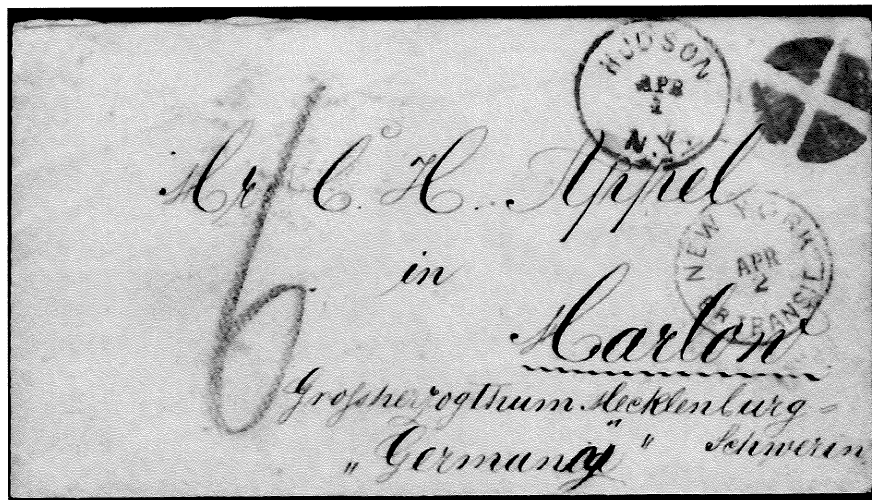


Figure 2. Reverse of the above cover showing the receiving marking of Verviers-Coeln.

The cover then traveled by closed mail (either Prussian or, more likely, North German Union) via England and then on to Belgium. Since there is no clear marking providing the year date other than narrowing it down to either 1869 or 1870, the possible trans-Atlantic carriers according to Hubbard & Winter, include:

- 1) Inman Lines *City of Brooklyn* departing April 2, 1870, bound Liverpool, arriving April 12.
- 2) Inman Lines *City of Brussels* departing April 4, 1870, bound Queenstown, arriving April 14.
- 3) Cunard's *Cuba* departing April 3, 1869, bound Queenstown, arriving April 12.

Consensus of those viewing this cover including members of Richard Frajola's message board, *PhilaMercury*, believe the first routing is the most likely; **Figure 3** shows Inman's *City of Brooklyn*, built in Glasgow in 1869 and weighing in at 2,971 tons.

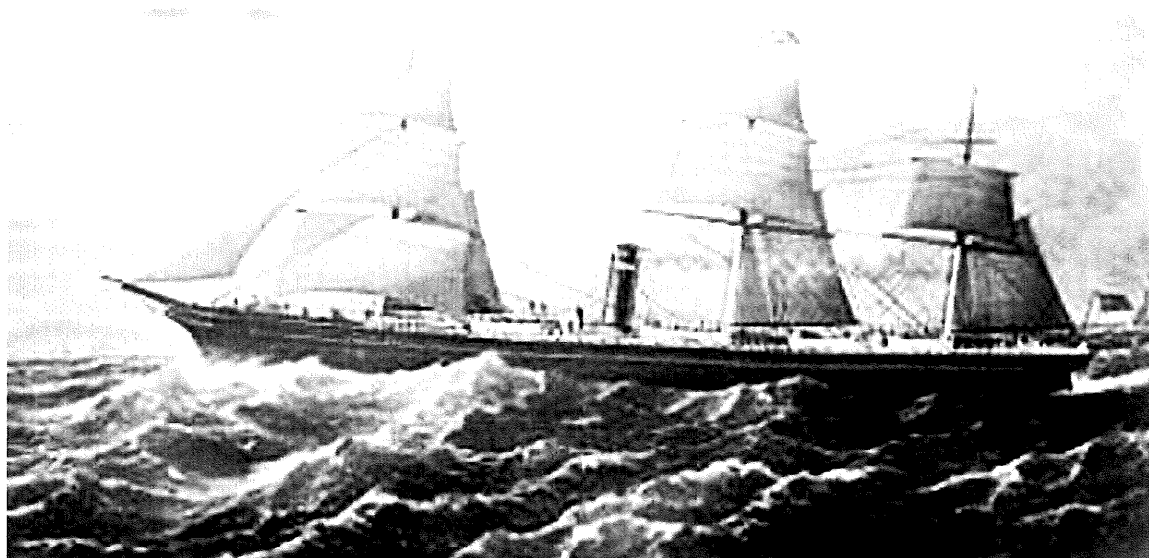


Figure 3. The *City of Brooklyn*, a steamship of the Inman Lines

Continuing to trace the cover's journey: closed mail via London to Ostend, Belgium, the 'port of arrival,' then via railroad to Verviers, arriving as per the three-line Coeln-Verviers handstamp on April 15th as seen in **Figure 2**. This particular marking is seen on mail addressed to Germany from overseas. It was quicker to off-load such mail in Belgium to send it into Germany via train than it was to have mail continue to travel by boat on to Hamburg.

The other marking on the back is a receiving datestamp most likely applied in Cologne (Coeln) (Koln) as there were a number of post offices in this large city. Dated April 17th, this handstamp reads 'AUSG No.4' for Ausgabe (delivered) at Post Office #4.

The letter then travelled from Koln to Dortmund, Dortmund to Hannover, Hannover to Lubeck, and Lubeck to Rostock. At Rostock, being the terminus of the rail net during this era, the cover was transferred onto mail stage, traveling on to its final destination of Marlow via Dettmannsdorf, a small village along the Rostock-to-Marlow postal route seen in **Figure 4**.

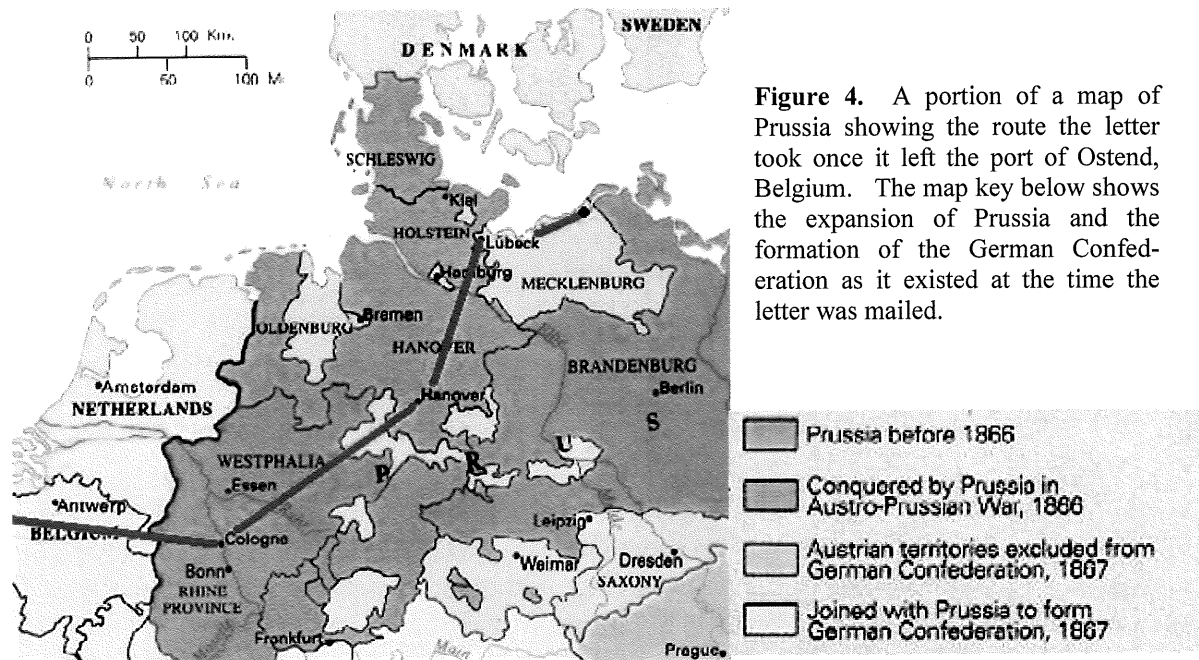


Figure 4. A portion of a map of Prussia showing the route the letter took once it left the port of Ostend, Belgium. The map key below shows the expansion of Prussia and the formation of the German Confederation as it existed at the time the letter was mailed.

The manuscript **blue** crayon '6' on the front indicates six Silbergroschen (15-cents equivalent). Mail via North German Union or Prussian closed mail, not requiring pre-payment in 1870 was assessed a delivery fine, due from the recipient. In this case, it was Herr C. H. Appel of Marlow, a City Treasury Commerce Department official who, given the effort involved in delivering this cover, certainly got his money's worth!

Inbound:

Figure 5 shows a cover datelined Karlsdorf, Austria (taken from the manuscript return address verso) franked with two 5-Heller Franz Joseph issues of 1908 (Scott #113) and addressed to the M. A. Winter Company of Washington, D.C. Entering the mails in Hotzenplotz on October 25, 1911 (25.10.11) the cover began its trans-Atlantic journey to the United States.



Figure 5. Inbound cover from Austria to Washington, DC which was missent to Hudson, New York

Hotzenplotz (today named Osoblaha, District Krnov, Moravia), located right at the border of Poland and Czechoslovakia, although written about in as early as the twelfth century, became formally established in 1255 as both a town and Moravian Enclave in Upper Silesia. Typical of this picturesque region, a castle, palace, and fortification walls were erected, yet Hotzenplotz remained somewhat isolated for several centuries. In 1850, all Moravian enclaves were placed under the direct jurisdiction of Opava, the capital of Austrian Silesia, a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

The Hotzenplotz Post Office was established in 1860. Aside from the self-evident importance in moving the mails, the then new postal coach and road offered another method by which to enter and leave the town, the only prior method being via horse or ox team-powered carts and carriages. A narrow gauge railroad finally opened Hotzenplotz up to the rest of the region in 1872 (and is still operating today, as a scenic tour rail route). A photograph of Hotzenplotz can be seen to the right.



Stadt Hotzenplotz

Arriving in the United States on November 4th, the cover received a New York Terminal Station handstamp in duplex along with a circular 'Due 6 Cents' marking, each of which is 10mm in diameter.

Several theories have been placed for the assessment of postage due. Drew Nicholson was nice enough to grab this cover for me at StampShow in Pittsburgh. The selling dealer's write-up read: "*Short paid. Should be 25 Heller. 15-Heller = 3-cents x 2 = 6-cents. Confusion on treaty rate from Germany.*" There was indeed a treaty rate between Germany and the U.S. that ran from 1909 to around 1915 (10-pfenig instead of 20pf Germany outbound; 5-cents instead of 10-cents U.S. outbound), so this explanation is, I suppose, feasible (not to mention, romantic). The other end of the spectrum in theories involves the little knowledge of international rates in Austria during this era, with the cover simply being under-franked. From Austria, in 1911, the rate paid should have been 25 Heller. Short-paid by 15-Heller, equivalent to 15 gold centimes and doubled for penalty = 30 gold centimes, coming to 6-cents postage due (one US cent = 5 gold centimes) and so assessed. Given that the simplest explanations are usually the best, this writer opts for the second theory.

Somehow, the cover ended up in Hudson, New York (and I'll grant that this is the only connection to Columbia County). My best guess is that a harried clerk at the Hudson Terminal Station saw the word 'Hudson' in the receiving CDS and errantly fed the envelope into the wrong slot. It's also possible that the two 3-cent postage dues (issue of 1910, Scott J47) were already affixed to the cover where they partially obliterated the 'Washington, D.C.' in the address, further complicating the matter. The mistake was noticed in Hudson as shown by the 'Missent to Hudson, N. Y.' handstamp (center) and an 18mm Hudson CDS dated November 4th. The cover was finally forwarded to Washington, D.C. where it received a receiving machine backstamp (**Figure 7**) and the postage dues were cancelled with an oval handstamp upon delivery with fees paid to the recipient, the M. A. Winter Company. There is also a private, **purple** handstamp of the M. A. Winter Company lower left that reads 'Received Nov 6, 1911', which dates the end of this cover's circuitous journey.

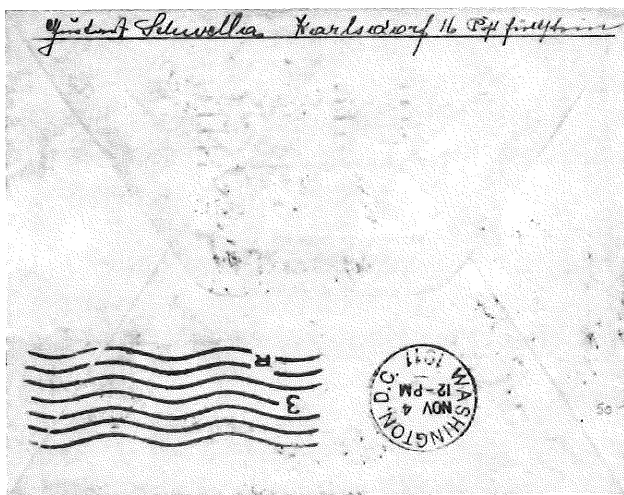


Figure 7. Here is the reverse of the cover which shows the Washington D.C. machine receiving cancel. The Washington post office also cancelled the postage due stamps that were on the front of the cover.

The M. A. Winter Company, as it turns out, was a patent medicine company established in Washington in 1909 (**Figure 8**) by “Colonel” Mahlon Adolphus Winter (**Figure 9**). Interestingly, the photograph of Winter reads ‘Honored by Germans’ which adds a little credence to the romantic treaty rate confusion theory related above.



Figure 8. The headquarters of the M.A. Winter Company



Figure 9. Col. M.A. Winter

The British, however, were not as enthralled by the Colonel or his proprietary medicines. An article in a 1906 issue of the British medical journal, *The Lancet*, stated:

The remedy in question, which is guaranteed by the vendors to mitigate or remove a great variety of ailments, is “composed of the choicest barks, roots, and herbs.” The absurdity of asking a medical man to sell a quack remedy of unknown composition, guaranteed to give relief in a multitude of diseases might serve a purpose in a jest- book but not elsewhere. The truth is that both the M.A. Winter Co. and its wonderful medicines are unworthy of serious consideration.

In 1912, the Winter Company built an addition to their building in tandem with the United States Post Office Department. This was the first sub-station built as a Post Office in Washington; operating as Station 9 until 1940 (the Colonel sold the building in 1936 with the new owner leasing the building to the U.S. Postal Commission as part of the U Street Station).

My only disappointment regarding the two covers described is the unfortunate lack of any enclosures. Contents would likely have delivered a deeper understanding of the rates and routes in both instances, resulting in that oh so elusive prize we all enjoy hunting for: postal history perfection!

[Readers may contact George at Gdekornfel@fairpoint.net D.E.W.]

REPORT FROM THE STOCKADE

By: Bob Bramwell

As a collector of New York postal history, I have maintained a tight focus on the Town of Schenectady, which is the 800 lb. gorilla of Schenectady County. This concentration on one Town has allowed me to acquire examples of every postmark device and most, if not all, killers and auxiliary markings ever used in Schenectady¹. It has also allowed me time to study the history of Schenectady and try to correlate the physical evidence of postal service in the town to changes in the population, business activity and economic climate of the area. I will file periodic reports based on this research, illustrated with covers and documents.

THE PURPLE INK PERIOD

The “Purple Ink Period” refers to an era in Post Office operations during which every collector of domestic marcophily, regardless of specialization, notices that a lot of postmarks are struck with cast rubber hand stamps in a lot of shades of **reddish blue**. In Schenectady, this period began about 1876 and ended somewhat abruptly in 1880².

This modest four year period in the long life of the Schenectady post office saw the introduction of two different postmarks, each with a distinct killer. All observed postmark and killer strikes appear in a **red/blue** shade that varies so little I think it probably comes from one commercial supplier using a carefully controlled manufacturing process. **Figure 1** and **Figure 2** introduce these postmarks in their purple ink shade; the killers have been colored black for better definition.

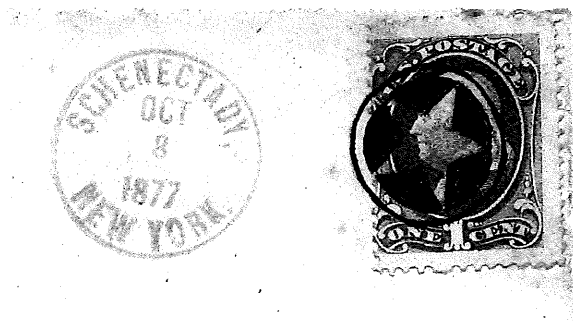


Figure 1. Schenectady, NY 24^{1/2}mm duplex CDS with 18mm negative star in circle killer. Distance between postmark and killer is 10mm.

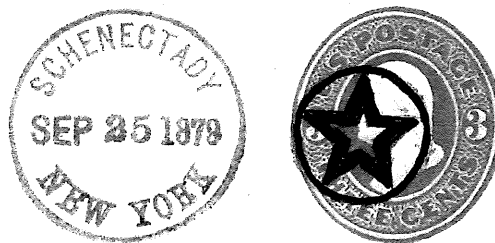


Figure 2. Schenectady, NY 28mm duplex CDS with 16mm hollow star in circle killer. Distance between postmark and killer is 5mm.

The **Figure 1** killer is represented in several studies of Banknote era cancels. There are in fact so many tracings of “negative star in circle” killers that you have your choice, and diameter is often the deciding factor. If you have James Cole’s book *Cancellations and Killers of the Bank Note Era*, tracing STN-33 attributed to Stapleton, NY dated June 25, 1879 looks very similar.

The **Figure 2** killer has a “star within a star within a circle” and the circle measures 16mm in diameter. Cole illustrates three tracings with this design that are just about the right size – allowing for all the variables of getting a tracing into a book in “actual size”.

It is clear that these killers are common, so it stands to reason that the two devices come from a manufacturer(s) doing business over a wide geographical area. As a Fourth Class post office, Schenectady had to supply its own postmarking equipment. To attract the cost-conscious small-town postmaster, some manufacturers mounted vulcanized rubber castings of a name-inscripted circle with duplexed canceller on wood backing, packaged this with a set of rubber “type” to compose month, date and year, added a supply of ink and an inking pad. These kits could be purchased for as little as three dollars by mail order. Readers of this journal will be delighted to know that one such manufacturer was the Excelsior Rubber Stamp Company of Elmhurst, Illinois. Unfortunately, as of this writing, I am unable to name the manufacturer of either of these devices, although there is a strong enough “family resemblance” to suggest it was the same supplier³.

Cole notes that rubber stamps appear at the beginning of the Banknote Era. It should be noted also that equipment on hand would continue to be used as long as it held up, so the fact that the first appearance of the **Figure 1** rubber stamp is October 1877 is, perhaps, understandable. The **Figure 1** device appears (in my collection) exclusively until May 28, 1879. The first appearance of the **Figure 2** 28mm CDS is August 18, 1879 and it appears exclusively until January 6, 1880. Then the 24^{1/2}mm device makes one farewell appearance on April 2, 1880 and the Purple Ink Period ends.

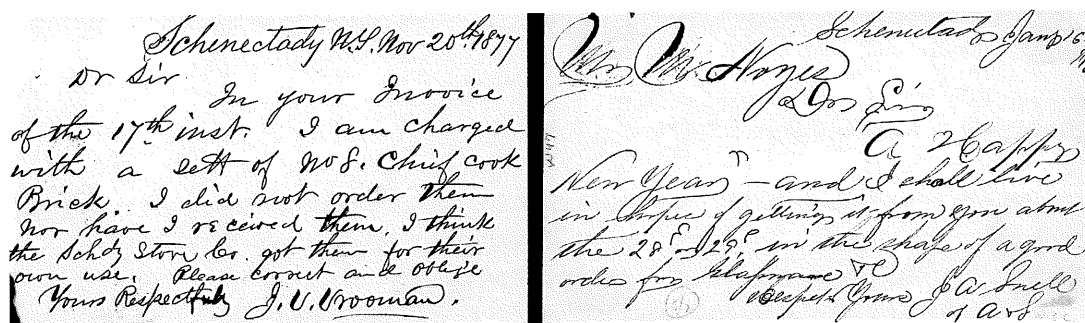
Alan Campbell, in an article published in the USPCS *Chronicle* in 1998, wrote about POD concerns about ink and was good enough to provide the following summary from that article:

...from 1851 on, the postal guidelines stipulated the use of black printer’s ink. This was widely ignored. The commercial vulcanized rubber cancellers introduced in the 1870s did not work well with black printer’s ink, so the manufacturers offered various other colors (some tinted with aniline dyes). The main Post Office in Washington, D.C. conducted a trial throughout 1878 of a distinctive violet ink. The use of rubber handstamps was expressly prohibited first in 1883, because an indelible black ink could not be formulated to work with them, but they continued to be advertised in the Postal Guide after 1883.

~~~~~

As startling as the appearance of purple ink might seem at this time, something much more far reaching happened worth looking at: the introduction of the penny postal card. Of the 13 “purple postmarks” in my current collection, 6 are on USPS postal cards. First sent to major market postmasters on April 30, 1873, Scott #UX1 and its descendants revolutionized postal users and as a result, post office operations.

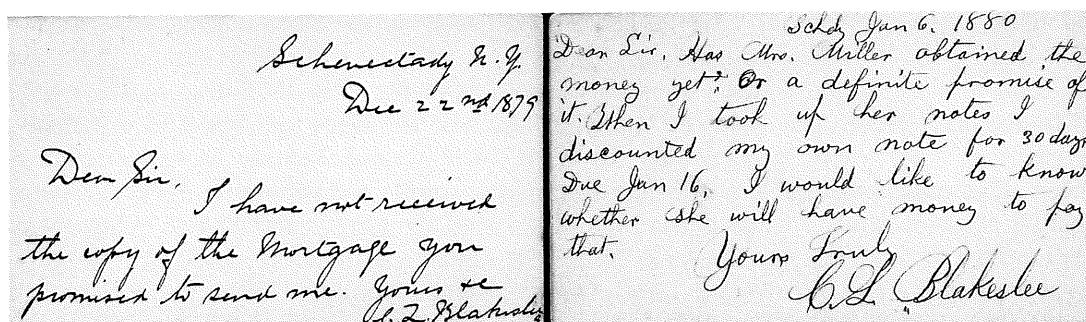
Strangely, when postal rates facilitated introduction of the sealed envelope in 1845, commentators lauded the privacy envelopes provided to letter writers. Now, just a short generation later, commentators are praising the ease and speed of communication offered by the postal card, showing slight regard for the loss of privacy.



**Figure 3.** Contents of two penny postal cards illustrate use by businesses.

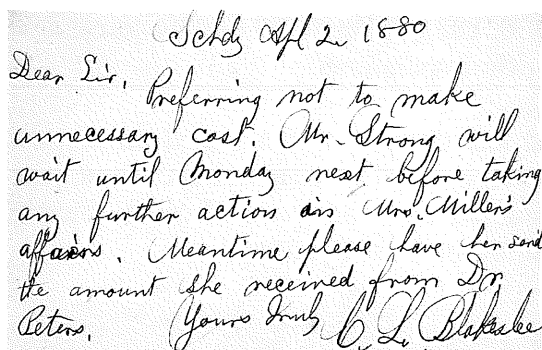
In the left hand postal card illustrated in **Figure 3**, Johannus Vrooman respectfully alerts a Mr. Filley of Troy, NY that he has been charged in error with a “sett of No. 8 Chief Cook Brick” that he has reason to feel were delivered to the Schenectady Stove Co. In the right hand card, Mr. Snell sends New Year greetings to Mr. Noyes of Burlington, Vt. with the added sentiment that he “shall live in hope of getting [his own happy new year] from you about the 28<sup>th</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup> in the shape of a good order...”.

Not every post card was a jovial “Wish You Were Here”. **Figure 4** illustrates the emergence of a legal dispute.



**Figure 4.** Contents of two postal cards sent by Mr. Blakeslee to John Peck at Troy, NY

On December 22<sup>nd</sup>, Mr. Blakeslee sends to Mr. Peck what appears to be a routine request for a banking document. On January 6<sup>th</sup>, 1880, Blakeslee defines his situation more fully, needing payment from a Mrs. Miller on her Promissory Note in order to meet his own note.



**Figure 5.** Contents of a third postal card from Mr. Blakeslee to John Peck at Troy, NY

In **Figure 5** we see that by April 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Blakeslee has apparently engaged an attorney in his dispute with Mrs. Miller and believes that she is about to come into some money, which he feels he is entitled to. Unfortunately I don't get to see how this drama plays out, but it is amazing to me that I am able to read of the drama at all after 130 years.

I always regret the loss of content when I collect an empty envelope – no matter how perfect the strike or how rare the rate or the route – so I am delighted that wide acceptance of the penny postal card restored that content.

## Endnotes:

<sup>1</sup> No collection is ever complete. I am always interested in seeing, or being offered, Schenectady County and Town covers/marcophily as well as historical documents.

<sup>2</sup> There is an annoying gap of 32 months between the last appearance of a metal postmark struck in black ink and requiring a separate strike of a killer (January 23, 1875) and the earliest appearance of the duplexed device struck in purple (October 8, 1877). There is a much narrower gap, April 2 to November 30, 1880 between the last appearance of a rubber stamp and the first appearance of the device that replaced it. Any offers to narrow these gaps with Schenectady covers will be warmly greeted.

<sup>3</sup> Cole was well aware of the need, or desire, of collectors to cross-reference postmarks, killers, and manufacturers. When his *"Cancellations and Killers of the Banknote Era 1870-1894"* was published by the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society in 1995, the publisher wrote: "Still another purpose [for publishing the book] was to point out that many of the intriguing cancels of the late 1870s and early 1880s were made by manufacturers who furnished identical killers to many post offices. ... Thus, these markings needed to be listed by manufacturer as well as by town of origin. It would appear that Jim Cole has developed a simple and yet very satisfactory method of handling such markings." A useful article by Richard Graham is given titled *"Postmarks and Postmarking Devices of the Banknote Era"*. It extracts information from Postal Laws and Regulations (PL&Rs), the United States Official Postal Guide and other publications for the period 1866 to 1893 related to what equipment would be supplied to the top three classes of post office. In addition, it reproduces advertising from the period of quite a number of manufacturers of rubber stamps sold to 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> class post offices. But none of them illustrate the designs used in Schenectady. [Bob may be reached at [rbramwell@nc.rr.com](mailto:rbramwell@nc.rr.com) D.E.W.]



## ***NEW YORK STATE EXCHANGE MARKINGS UNDER THE 1851 POSTAL CONVENTION WITH CANADA***

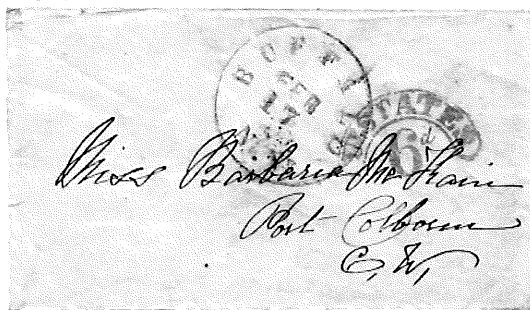
**A Four Page Exhibit by Glenn Estus**

The other four page exhibit entered in the Kenneth R. DeLisle competition held during StampExpo400 at Albany on September 25 – 27 2009 was submitted by Glenn Estus.

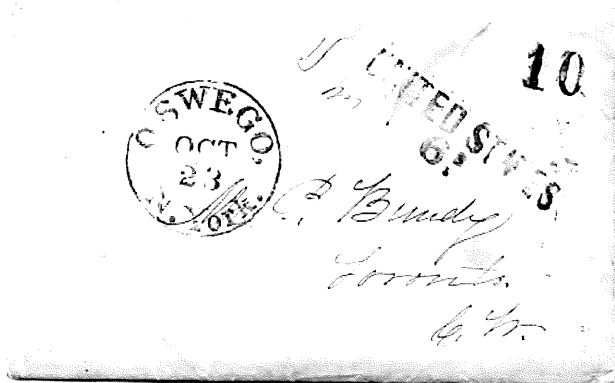
### **New York State Exchange Markings under the 1851 Postal Convention with Canada**

According to the 1851 U.S. - Canada postal agreement which took effect April 6, 1851. exchange post offices in both countries were required to mark the country name on letters exchanged.

In New York State, the exchange offices were: Buffalo, Black Rock, Lewiston, Youngstown, Rochester (summer only), Cape Vincent, Sackett's Harbor, Oswego (summer only), Morristown, Ogdensburgh, Fort Covington, Whitehall, Plattsburgh, and Rouses' Point.



Buffalo (February 17) to Port Colburn, Canada West. "Ud. States 6d" in scroll used at Buffalo exchange office from 1853-1859. Red St. Catherine's U(pper) C(anada) transit mark on reverse (Feb. 17, 1854)



Oswego (Oct. 23) to Toronto, Canada West (backstamped Oct. 24, 1854). Exchange marking "UNITED STATES 6d" used at Buffalo, Oswego and Rochester from 1854-1861.

## New York State Exchange Markings under the 1851 Postal Convention with Canada

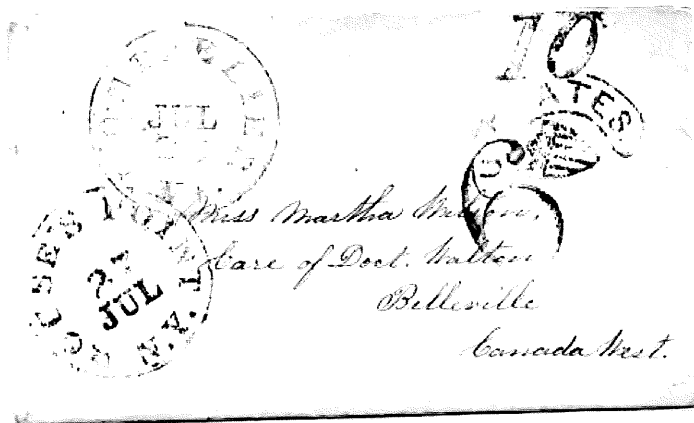
Rates to Canada were 10¢ per 1/2 ounce from New York State Post Offices. *Prepayment was optional.* 10¢ US was equal to 6d. sterling.



Fancy Embossed Ladies envelope posted unpaid at Little Falls on November 22. Unless specifically mark PAID, it is assumed the postage was unpaid and the recipient would pay the postal charges.

Fancy serpentine mark used at the exchange post office, probably Rouses Point, the closest US exchange office to Montreal. The black "6" is the 10c rate translated into sterling currency.

On the reverse is a red Montreal, L(ower) C(anada) receiving mark of November 25, 1852

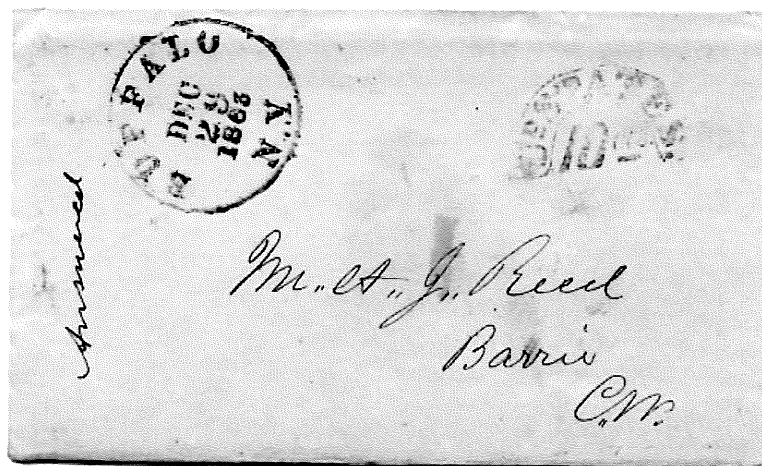


Unpaid envelope from Montpelier, Vermont (July 26) with a Rouse's Point circular date stamp (July 27) showing the US shield exchange mark used at the post office. The black "6" is the 10c rate translated into sterling currency.

On the reverse is a black Montreal, L(ower) C(anada) receiving mark of July 28, 1853 and a black Belleville, U(pper) C(anada) receiving mark of July 30, 1853.

## New York State Exchange Markings under the 1851 Postal Convention with Canada

Rates to Canada were 10¢ per 1/2 ounce from New York State Post Offices. *Prepayment was optional.* 10¢ US was equal to 6d. sterling.



Exchange marking from Buffalo (Dec. 29, 1863) on letter to Barrie, Canada West. Indistinct backstamp. The exchange marking was used at Buffalo from 1859 through 1973.

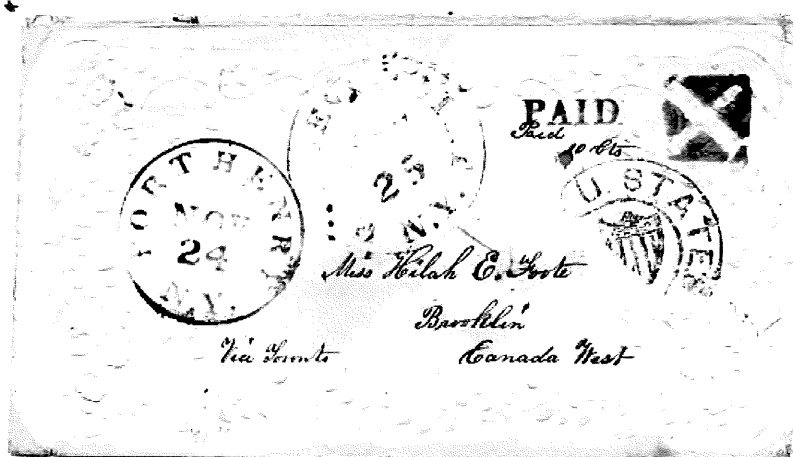


Rated cover (10 over 5) from Albany to Port Dover, Canada West. The straightline U.S. States 6d was used from Buffalo. It seems that the Albany post office originally rated the cover domestically and then realized it was a Canadian bound letter and rerated it accordingly.

## New York State Exchange Markings under the 1851 Postal Convention with Canada

Rates to Canada were 10¢ per 1/2 ounce from New York State Post Offices.  
*Prepayment was optional.* 10¢ US was equal to 6d. sterling.

### PAID LETTER



Ladies cover from Port Henry (Essex County) (November 24) to Brooklin, Canada West.

The postage was prepaid as evidenced by the "PAID" "X" markings. Therefore there was no need for the Canadian post office to mark the "6" seen in all the other examples in this deLisle competition exhibit. *According to the American Stamp Cover Catalog (1997) the red "X" handstamp was only used in 1852.*

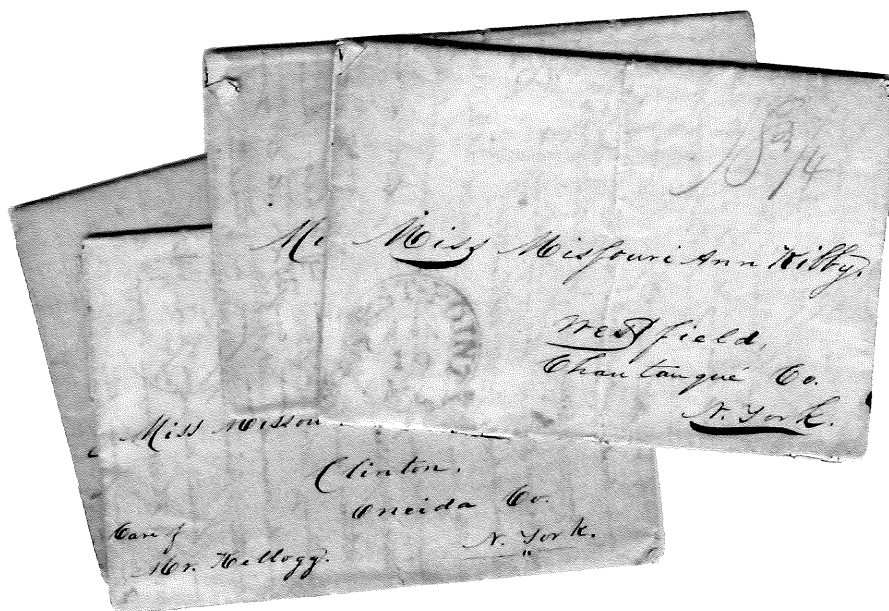
Rouse's Point circular date stamp (November 25) and exchange marking. On reverse are red Montreal receiving (November 25), Whitby, Canada West transit (November 28) and Brooklin, Canada West (November 29, 1852)

[Glenn may be reached at <[gestus@westelcom.com](mailto:gestus@westelcom.com)> D.E.W.]

## WEST POINT LETTERS ~ 1833-34

By: Jean R. Walton

Four stampless folded letters came my way many years ago when I thought I might expand my collecting interests beyond its parameters of New Jersey postal history. I have always been drawn to letters that tell stories. Some such letters with no New Jersey interest I have passed on to other collectors to explore and research, but these I kept holding back – unable to quite grasp the whole picture, but intrigued by the possibilities. So these crumbling letters remain in my possession.



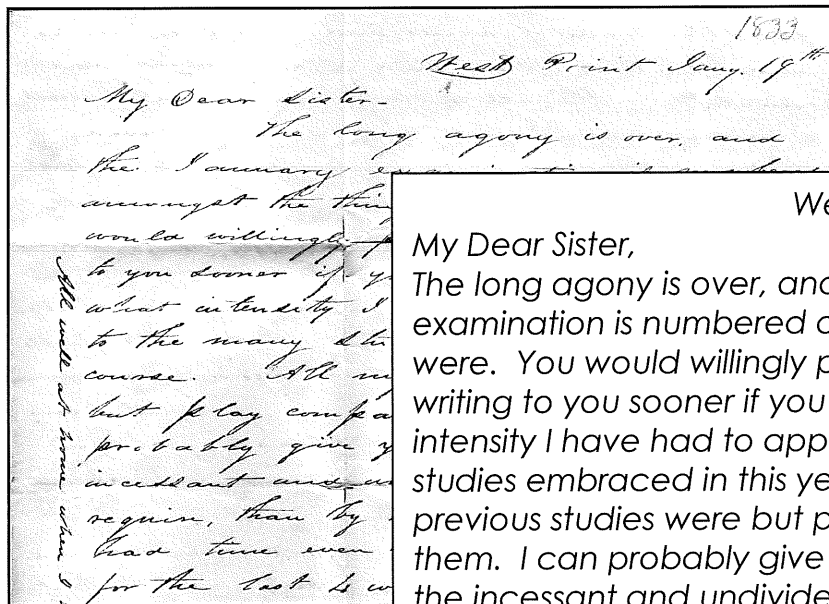
The note accompanying them said only “the Kibby correspondence, 4 letters from a cadet to his sister, West Point, NY 1833-34.” This seriously understates the contents.



The postmarks are all light red West Point CDS cancels, only one dark enough to see easily. And all are paid at 18¾ cents – the rate for 150 to 400 miles in 1833 and 1834. The letters are addressed to Westfield, NY, Chautauqua County, and Clinton, NY, Oneida County. Philatelically not overwhelming finds, but historically, these letters open windows on the world at West Point in the 1830s.

For a long time I had difficulty even identifying the writer, as he signed himself only E. Kibby or Cadet Kibby. With some help from Jim Miller at <[www.philgen.org](http://www.philgen.org)> (the Philatelic Genealogy website), who helped me access old military records, I now knew that this Kibby's first name was Epaphras, and although born in Missouri, he had been appointed from Ohio to the Military Academy. His Cullum number – a number given to all West Point graduates by which some biographical information on them is kept – was 756<sup>1</sup>. He entered West Point in 1830, which meant my first letter was written mid-year of his third year at West Point, soon after the January examination period.

The beginning of that first letter follows:

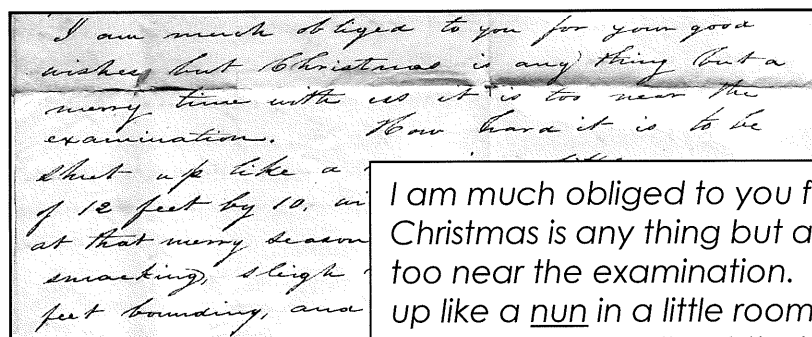


West Point, Jan'y 19, 1833

My Dear Sister,

The long agony is over, and the January examination is numbered amongst the things that were. You would willingly pardon me for not writing to you sooner if you only knew with what intensity I have had to apply myself to the many studies embraced in this year's course. All my previous studies were but play compared to them. I can probably give you no better idea of the incessant and undivided attention they require, than by telling you I have not had time to even think of the Ladies for the last 4 weeks!!!!!! I have scarcely stirred from my room during that time, and after poring over the midnight lamp, until the stars grew dim, and the broad red sun was mounting up from the golden east to gild

This was followed a bit later with the following:



I am much obliged to you for your good wishes but Christmas is any thing but a merry time with us. It is too near the examination. How hard it is to be shut up like a nun in a little room 12 feet by 10, with a book and a candle at that merry season, when

And finally, "I am quite a connoisseur of lips. I do not chew, drink, or smoke on purpose to induce the girls to let me kiss them! ... Give my love to your family and tell your father I will write to him...." At this point I had begun to seriously doubt that Epaphras was writing to his sister. Otherwise, why not "our father" and "our family?" The language is more flirtatious than familial. Who was this mysterious Missouri Ann

Kibby [which, in one case, he spells Kibbe]. Wouldn't her father be his father? This required some serious genealogical research.

That resulted in the discovery that Epaphras was the son of Rachel Stites (whose father had been one of the original settlers in the settlement that is now Cincinnati), and Timothy Kibby. This was a second marriage for Timothy, his first wife having died in 1796. After his marriage in 1798 to Rachel, they had moved to St. Charles, Missouri where Timothy was a Major and then Colonel in command of the St. Charles militia and Colonel Kibby's Rangers, in the wars against the Indians, and where all but their first child was born. Timothy Kibby died in 1813, and the family returned to Ohio. Epaphras was the fourth of five children, born in October of 1810, and did in fact have an older sister named Missouri A., born in St. Charles in 1808, and married to Southwell Royes. She was the mother, by 1833, of one son. Other language in these effusive letters would have led me to believe this "brother-sister" relationship was verging on incestuous, and this still did not sit quite right, considering the ages and situations of the people involved.

A little more attention to the letters found this note, in the third: *"Have you ever wished, when weeping, that I was there to relieve you, not as knights of old even went to relieve distressed damsels with closed visor and winched lance, but by pure warm kisses – kisses of brotherly, or what is a little warmer and no less pure, of cousinly love? Come write to me, and make me your father confessor, no not father, (I am not old enough for that yet) but brother confessor."* Ah ha! – so perhaps a cousin! And then another comment, *"Brother Norman has not yet arrived here ...."* But Epaphras did not have a brother Norman. Was he using the title casually?

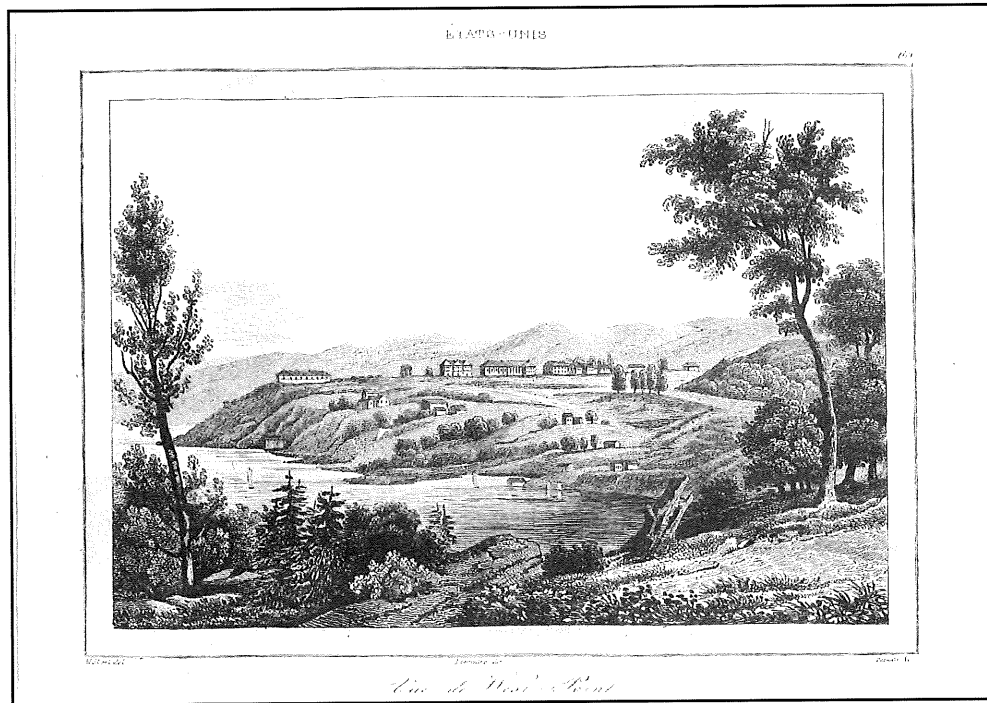
So back to genealogy sites and additional searches, to find that Epaphras *did indeed* have a half-brother Norman, by his father's first wife, born in 1790. Norman married in 1811, and lived in Westfield, NY (where, coincidentally, he was the first postmaster at Magnolia, NY, on the west shore of Chautauqua Lake in 1826). And hence the discovery of his daughter, Missouri Ann Kibbe, born at Westmoreland, NY on April 23, 1815, daughter of Norman and Electa Kibbe. So now our two original players are more or less complete; Brother Norman is a half-brother, making this Missouri Ann, his daughter, a "half-niece," about 17 years old at the writing of these letters.

West Point, at this time, was a somewhat different institution than it is today. Founded under the Jefferson administration in 1802, it offered a government-funded education to boys from all walks of life and from all sections of the country, with the purpose of preparing them to serve as officers in the Military, just as it is today. It was, however, until 1866<sup>2</sup>, under the purview of the Corps of Engineers.

Military Service also must be viewed through the window of history. It comprised much more than military encounters with foreign enemies. The Military was responsible for building our still new nation and the creation and maintenance of our frontier defenses – in the East and South, this involved harbor installations and coastal fortifications. In the West it meant the protection of settlers as the country expanded. It

encompassed surveying and mapping of uncharted lands, and the establishment of routes for roads, canals, and railroads as they developed.

While originally West Point focused on the art of war, as it matured, the direction was much more on the science of war – at least at this time – and on developing the officers who were prepared in the necessary fields of science and mathematics.



1837 Steel engraving of West Point, by Arnout, Traversier.

A cadet at West Point would see service upon graduation in either the Corps of Engineers, the general or administrative services, or on the line – cavalry, artillery, etc. The Corps of Engineers was reserved for the best and brightest, as it encompassed a greater grasp of sciences and mathematics, as well as an understanding of armaments. It was also regarded with some envy by those students slated for field duty, as members of the Corps enjoyed postings for the most part in more urban settings and less dangerous missions than those headed to remote postings across the west, or military encounters such as the Seminole Wars or the Mexican War. In addition, a Corps member's education and background gave him a significant leg up if leaving military service, for engineers were both in demand and well paid in our developing country.

West Point offered a regimented education, with little room for frivolity, but occasional glimpses are seen in this correspondence. The second letter describes a visit to the Point by a young English actress and writer, celebrated at the time, Miss Fannie Kemble. Epaphras describes this to Missouri Ann:



acquaintances, and some sweet friends, among the many who have visited the Point this summer. There has been no want of them this season, the whole place has been thronged with them since June last from all parts of the United States, and even from Europe. I had the honor of ~~participating~~ <sup>dancing</sup> with the celebrated Miss Fanny Kemble, the inimitable actress and divine poetess as the editor of ~~Blackwell's~~ Blackwood's Magazine calls her. And what renders it more distinguishing <sup>among the cadets</sup> I was the ~~only~~ <sup>one</sup> who

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What with my short leave to my relations in Schoharie County and our cotillion parties and grand ball, I have spent a delightful encampment. I have made many charming acquaintances, and some sweet friends, among the many who have visited the Point this summer. There has been no want of them this season; the whole place has been thronged with them since June last from all parts of the United States, and even from Europe. I had the honor of dancing with the celebrated Miss Fanny Kemble, the inimitable actress and divine poetess as the editor of Blackwell's Magazine calls her. And what renders it more distinguishing, I was the only one among the cadets who dared to aspire so high. Our acquaintance commenced rather singularly. I was firing the 24 pounder at a target across the river, when I heard a lady standing near express a desire to touch it off. I blocked the wheel so the recoil could not hurt her, and showed her the manner of doing it without danger, lighted the port fire for her, and allowed her to gratify her curiosity, although somewhat at the expense of her nerves, strong as they were. I found afterward that the lady was Miss Kemble. Passing through the gay crowd at our ball, the same lady bowed to me very graciously, which I of course returned and approached her.

yet unwell here but I am anxious to look for

One can hardly blame Cadet Kibby for basking in his success. Miss Fannie Kemble herself describes her visit to West Point in that year (1833, when she was about 24 years old):



Frances A. Kemble in 1835  
(b.1809, d.1893)

*Monday, 1st July*

*Major \_\_\_\_\_, and Mr. \_\_\_\_\_, came over from West Point; they were going to prove some cannon, that had not yet been fired, and some time passed in the various preparations for so doing. At length we were summoned down to the water side, to see the success of the experiment. The cannon lay obliquely, one behind the other, at intervals of about six yards, along the curve line of the little bay; their muzzles pointed to the high gravelly bank, into which they fired. The guns were double loaded with very heavy charges, and as soon as we were safely placed so as to see and hear, they were fired. The sound was glorious: the first heavy peal, and then echo after echo, as they rimbombavano<sup>3</sup> among the answering hills, who growled aloud at the stern voice waking their still, and noon-day's deep repose. I pushed out in the boat from shore to see the thick curtain of smoke, as it rolled its silver, and brassy, and black volumes over the woody mountain sides; parting in jagged rents as it rose, through which the vivid green and blessed sky smiled in their peaceful loneliness. They ended in discharging all the cannon at once, which made a most glorious row, and kept the mountains grumbling with its echoes for some minutes after the discharge. All the pieces were sound, which was highly satisfactory; as upon each one that flaws in the firing, Mr. \_\_\_\_\_loses the cost of the piece.<sup>4</sup>*

No mention of her actually firing a cannon, or a ball, but the girl Epaphras describes closely resembles the picture she draws of herself in her Journals. Her description of arriving by boat on a visit the previous year to West Point is evocative:

*At every moment the scene varied; at every moment new beauty and grandeur was revealed to us; at every moment the delicious lights and shadows fell with richer depth and brightness upon higher openings into the mountains, and fairer bends of the glorious river. At about a quarter to eleven the buildings of West Point were seen, perched upon the rock side, overhanging the ...Hudson and its shores; and towering high beyond them all, the giant hills, ... We left the boat, or rather she left us, and presently we saw her holding her course far up the bright water, and between the hills; where, framed by the dark mountains with the sapphire stream below and the sapphire sky above, lay the bright little town of Newburgh, with its white buildings glittering in the sunshine.*

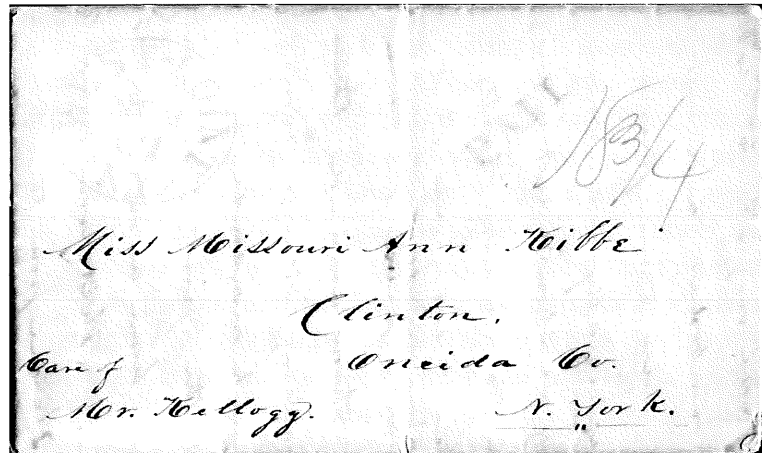
*We toiled up the ascent, which... was a sufficiently fatiguing undertaking under the unclouded weather and over the unshaded downs that form the parade ground for the cadets. West Point is a military establishment containing some two hundred and fifty pupils; who are here educated for the army under the superintendence of experienced officers. The buildings, in which they reside and pursue their various studies, stand upon a grassy knoll holding the top of the rocky bank of the river, and commanding a most enchanting view of its course. They are not particularly extensive; but commodious and well-ordered. ... I presently outstripped our party, guide and all, and began pursuing my upward path. ... Looking down the opposite angle of the wall to that which I was previously coasting, I beheld the path I was then following break suddenly off, on the edge of a precipice several hundred feet down into the valley: it made me gulp to look at it.*

And of the students at West Point, she writes:

*If the results answer to the means employed, the pupils of West Point ought to turn out accomplished scholars in every branch of human learning, as well as ripe soldiers and skilful engineers. Their course of education consists of almost every study within the range of man's capacity, and as the school discipline is unusually strict, their hours of labour many, and of recreation very few, they should be able to boast of many "wise men" among their number. However it is here, I imagine, as elsewhere; where studies are pursued laboriously for a length of time, variety becomes a necessary relief to the mental powers, and so far the multiplicity of objects of acquirement may be excused; but surely, to combine in the education of one youth, the elements of half a dozen sciences, each one of which would wear out a man's life in the full understanding of it, is not the best system of instruction. However, 'tis the one now universally adopted, and tends to give more smatterers in science, than scientific men to the world. The military part of their education is, however, what the pupils of West Point are most exercised in.*

Returning to our letters, by the third letter, they are addressed to Missouri Ann at Clinton, NY, care of Mr. Kellogg, and Kibby commiserates with her feelings of homesickness.

Clinton, New York is home to Hamilton College, and in the days before public education, was also home to a large number of private seminaries, both male and female. One of those was the Young Ladies Domestic Seminary, opened by Hiram Kellogg in 1833, and it is apparently where Missouri Ann was continuing her education.



The 3<sup>rd</sup> letter to Missouri Ann addressed to her as Kibbe. The Kibby name seems to have had many transformations, with Kibbe, Kibby, Kibbee, and Kibbey being used frequently interchangeably. But Epaphras's records are all as Kibby, while Missouri Ann's family seems to have adopted the Kibbe form.

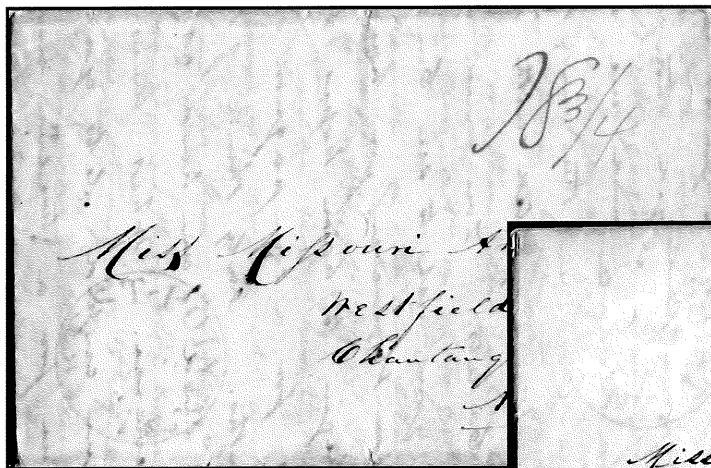
By Christmas of his senior year at West Point, Cadet Kibby seems somewhat more relaxed come Christmas, and writes the following:

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
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| <p><i>I had quite a pleasant time on Christmas. I and some of the others went round serenading, and got lots of wine and cake etc. on Christmas eve, We had a good dinner next day, and I spent New Years &amp; got a leave of absence and took a ride into the country, did have the good luck to find a kind of gathering among the mountains, and turned in for a regular country ball, which I enjoyed more perhaps than if it had been more refined, and ceremonious, I have got though my examination</i></p> | <p>I had quite a pleasant time on Christmas. I and some of the others went round serenading, and got lots of wine and cake etc. on Christmas eve, We had a good dinner next day, and I spent New Years &amp; got a leave of absence and took a ride into the country, did have the good luck to find a kind of gathering among the mountains, and turned in for a regular country ball, which I enjoyed more perhaps than if it had been more refined, and ceremonious, I have got though my examination</p> |
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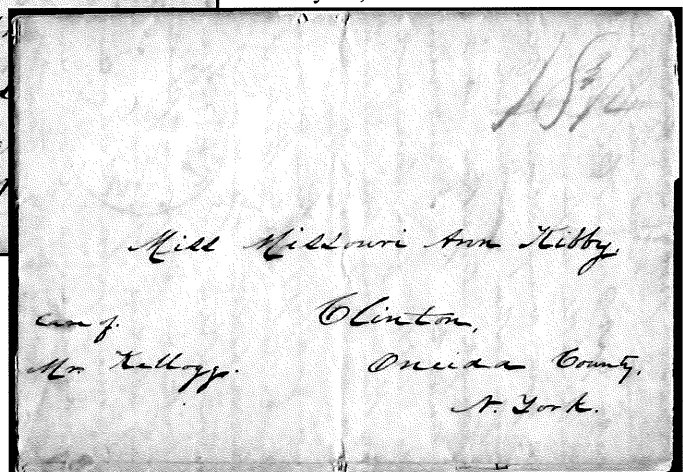
By this time, he had risen to 7<sup>th</sup> in his class, and by the end of the semester, was graduated as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant.

Nothing untoward seems to have come of his relationship with Missouri Ann. After his graduation in July of 1834, he was stationed at Fort Trumbull, in New London, Connecticut, where he met and married, in 1835, Susan H. Burbeck of New London, the eldest daughter of General Henry Burbeck. Missouri Ann married William Hawkins in January 1836, a merchant in Mayville, NY, where they lived until 1855, then moved to New York City.

Soon after the completion of Fort Morgan, near Mobile, Alabama, Kibby was transferred there, where he served on Commissary and Quartermaster duty from 1835-37. In December of 1837 he resigned from the military. What motivated the resignation is unknown – staying in the military would probably have meant being sent to Florida for the Second Seminole War, and this might have held little appeal, as it did for many officers. He was also about to become a father – his daughter Gertrude was born in January of 1838. Kibby's Cullum history indicates that he was still an agent of the U.S. Quartermaster Department, 1837-39, and served as an Asst. Adjutant General in the Alabama Militia from 1838-1839; he was also Editor of the "Mobile Register," and City Engineer of Mobile, 1838-39. Unfortunately, on September 15, 1839, shortly before his 29<sup>th</sup> birthday, Kibby died, and was buried with military honors. It appears his death was a result of the yellow fever epidemic that was raging in Mobile in the fall of 1839, a sad end to such an ebullient spirit. Susan travelled back North with her 2-year old daughter, giving birth to a son, Henry B., in New York City on January 29, 1840. Unfortunately she died a few days later, and her children were raised by her family in New London.



The other two letters of the Kibby correspondence are seen here. The second letter, seen at left was sent on September 7, 1833, and the fourth letter, below, was sent on January 21, 1834.



#### Endnotes:

1. Cullum, G.W. –*Biographical Register of the officers and graduates of the U.S. Military Academy, Vol. 1, 1802-1840*, Published by D. van Nostrand, NY, 1868. Each graduate is assigned a number, by which is kept information on graduates of West Point. Kibby's number in 756.
2. Morrison, James L, Jr., "*The Best School.*" *West Point, 1833-1866*, The Kent State University Press, Kent, Ohio, 1998.
3. Roar, thunder – *Ital. verb.*
4. Butler, Frances Anne, *Journal 1832-34, in 2 Vols.*, Carey, Lea, and Blanchard, Philadelphia, 1835.

[Jean is Secretary of the New Jersey Postal History Society and may be reached at <[Njpostalhistory@aol.com](mailto:Njpostalhistory@aol.com)>. D.E.W.]

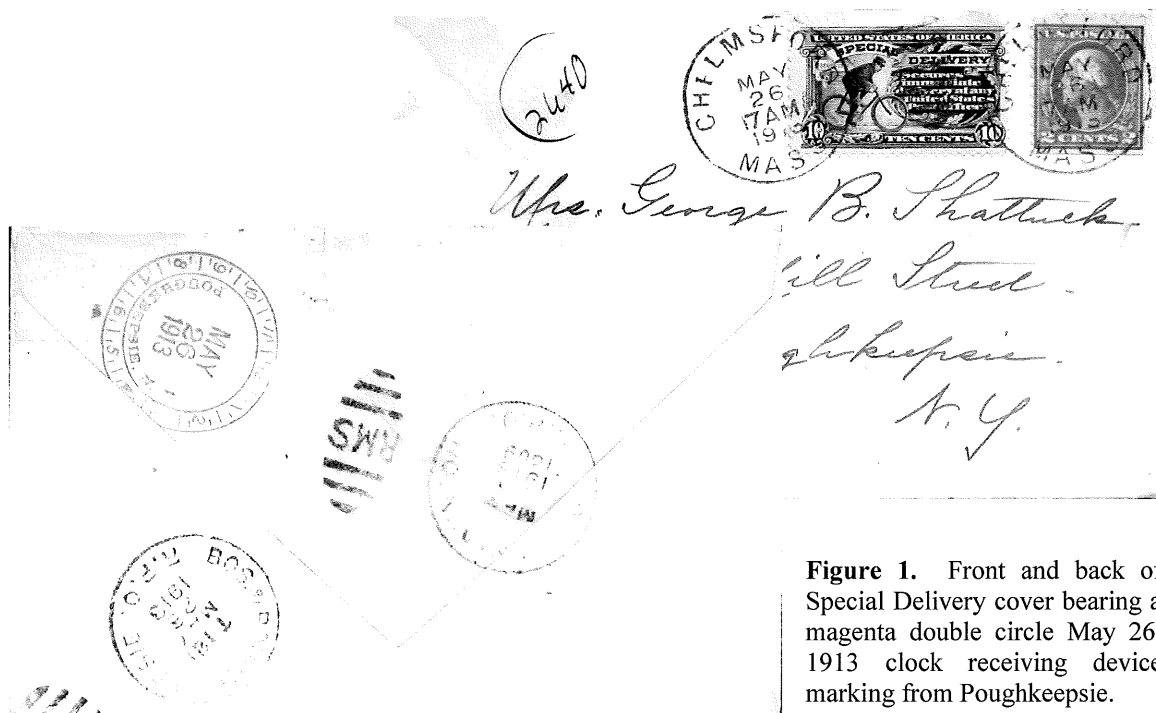
## ***BUFFALO AND UTICA SPECIAL DELIVERY RECEIVING MARKINGS***

**By: Robert L. Markovits**

Buffalo, N.Y. utilized a clock receiving mark on incoming special delivery mail at least as early and as late as according to my records. I have neither measured the size of the clocks nor examined their type to see if there was just one device used or several different ones.

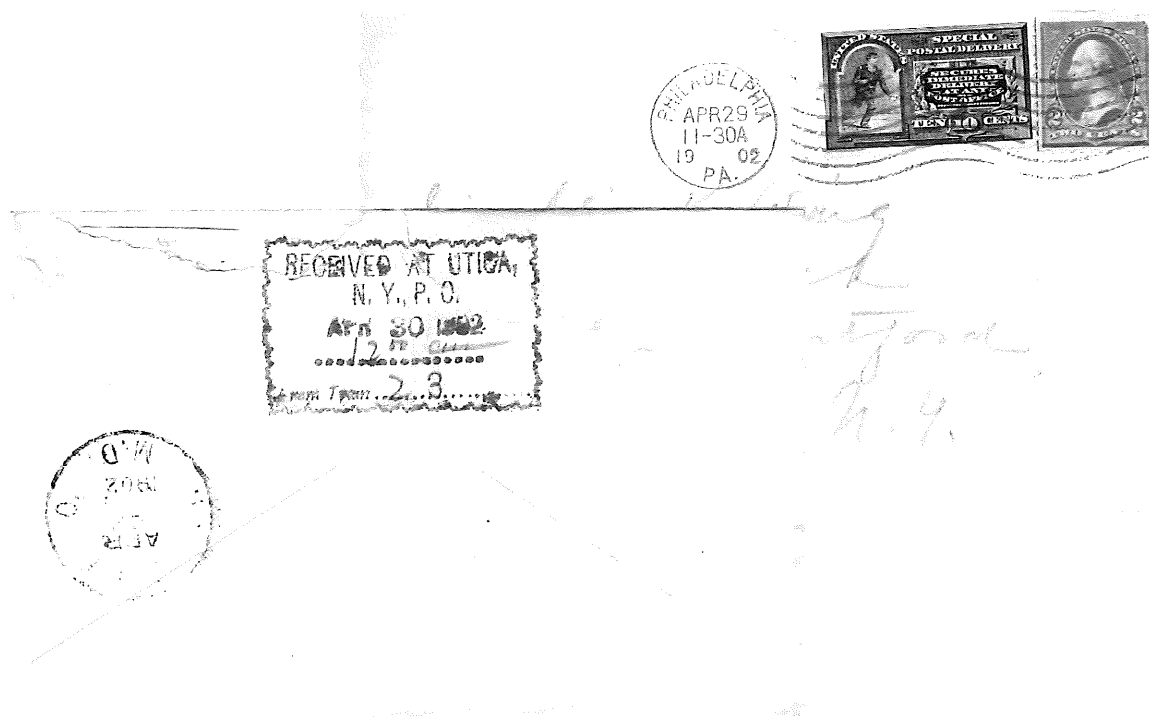
Boston, Ma, had such a clock device beginning in 1893 and six different clocks were utilized and their dates of use recorded by Dr. Knapp and Hal Billian, so that in one instance, the last day of one clock and the first day of the next clock, have been located. See Billian's 1955 articles in the BIA (now the USSS), journal in the spring of 1955.

I was advised at the recent Dr. John Nunes Cover Mania show in Albany that Poughkeepsie, NY had a back marking clock, which I did not list in my previous article on the subject of New York State clock receiving devices for special delivery mail. It is illustrated in **Figure 1** courtesy of Lawrence Laliberete, as sent via Drew Nicholson. What other discoveries lurk in dealer's boxes?



**Figure 1.** Front and back of Special Delivery cover bearing a magenta double circle May 26, 1913 clock receiving device marking from Poughkeepsie.

Recently, I uncovered another neat New York State special delivery receiving mark, which I illustrate in **Figure 2** below. My new marking device comes from Utica and is found only one time so far on the reverse of a cover received in that city on April 30, 1902.



**Figure 2.** A newly discovered special delivery receiving mark from Utica, NY is dated April 30, 1902

There must be a Society member who has done work on these clocks, especially since they were virtually always struck on the back of incoming special delivery letters in bold red ink. If not, isn't there a Niagara tier person who would like to get this neat research started?

The hunt continues for me after 55 years of collecting special delivery mail. See <http://www.usspecialdelivery.com> for more neat markings.

*[Bob Markovits may be reached at <[RLMarkovits@aol.com](mailto:RLMarkovits@aol.com)> D.E.W.]*

## ***VERIFICATION OF NY STATE MANUSCRIPT TOWNMARKS***

**By: Douglas Penwell**

In preparation for the sale of the Calvet Hahn manuscript holdings and the fourth edition of the ESPHS manuscript book, it has become obvious that many people can use help or instruction with proper state identification. Just because a cover appears to be from New York State (a collector's personal preference or desire notwithstanding) does **not** mean that it is NYS. For town markings without a clear, unambiguous "NY" state designation, great care must be taken when determining the state or place of origin.

Many states have abbreviations that are similar in appearance to NY. Many postmasters omitted the state entirely. The sender, postmaster, and recipient of the letter knew where it was from. They also obviously knew the year the letter was written and placed into the mails. This brings us to a list of ways to determine where the letter came from:

1. Year date - the most obvious and useful information.
2. The rate of postage - to be used with distance traveled.
3. The apparent state of origin.
4. The destination - town, county and state.
5. The heading of the letter - same area as postmark?
6. Comparison with similar postmarks from the same time, if available.
7. Events, places or people mentioned in the letter.
8. The names of the sender and addressee.

Examples shown here will illustrate usages from Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Virginia. Two other stampless folded letters (SFL) from Pennsylvania will be mentioned. Only the outside of the letters are shown here.

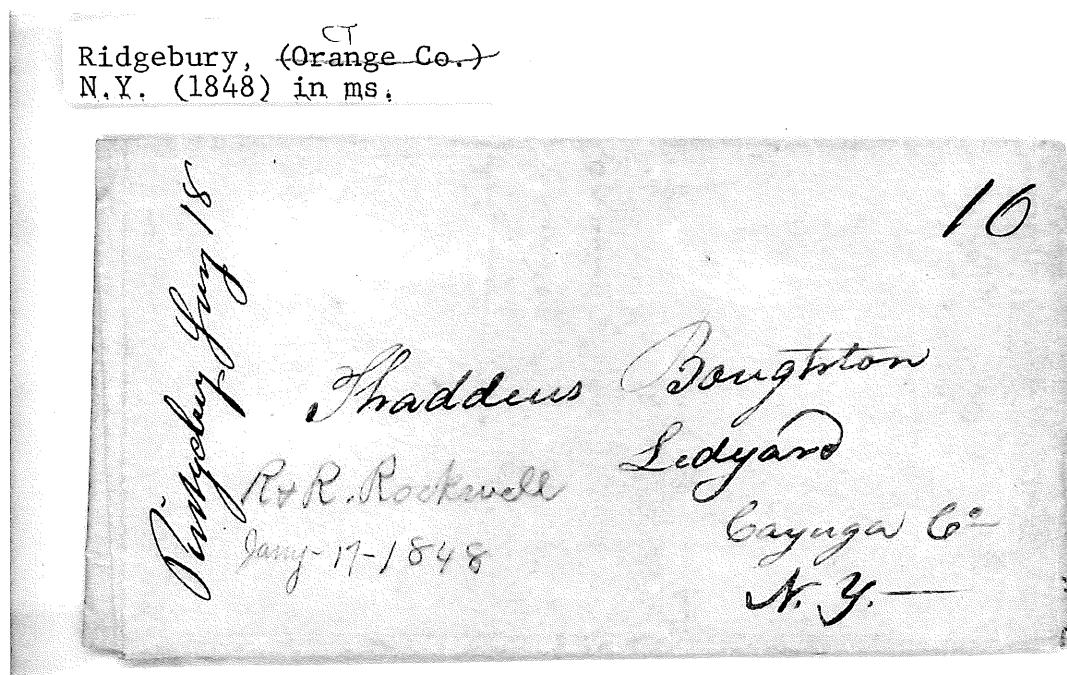
Let's start with the first piece of information - year date. Did the post office in question operate in this period? While some offices do have recorded examples well before and after the official dates of operation, this is where critical analysis begins. The fact that many states had post offices with similar names demands close scrutiny. People left one state to migrate (mostly east to west) and took their naming preferences with them. Names were copied from New England into New York, then from New York into Michigan, Wisconsin and other places.

Then one should examine the rate. Before July, 1845, this provides a very accurate way of determining the place of origin. This is slightly less useful later. Please look at the example in **Figure 1**. The postmark is Ridgbury, sold as New York and accepted by the buyer as New York. The year is 1848, with a 10 cent rate.

The 10 cent rate in this period was for over 300 miles. It is obvious that the distance from Orange County to Cayuga County is well under 300 miles. Immediately



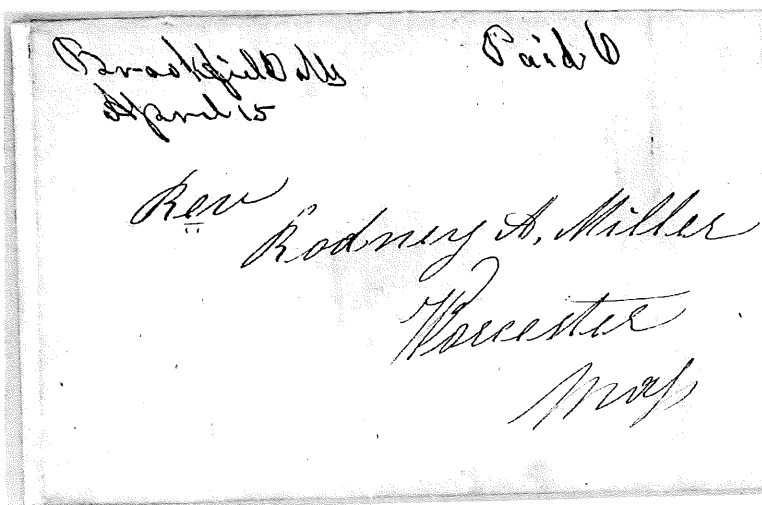
the presumption must be that this is **not** a New York State letter. Some collectors might point out that this could have had an enclosure. That factor is mostly useful prior to 1845, and usually requires closer inspection. The letter mentions people that are traceable to the state of Connecticut. This town was in Fairfield County, which accords with the rate of postage to Ledyard in Cayuga County, New York.



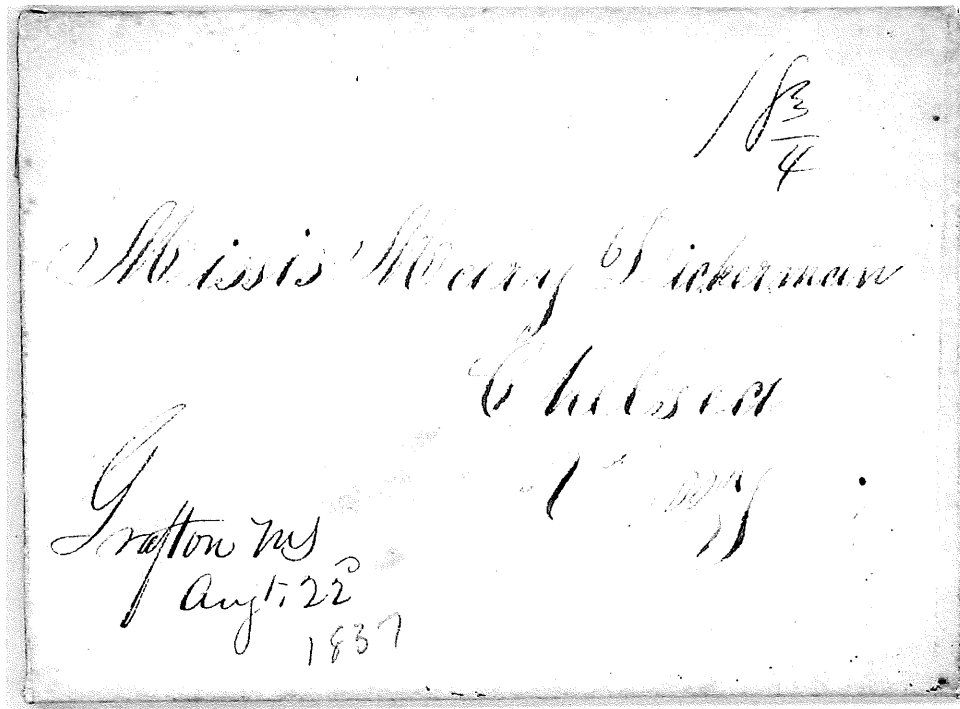
**Figure 1:** A Ridgebury CT manuscript marking from 1848 which was misidentified as being from NY.

The next example, in **Figure 2**, is Brookfield, with a state marking that resembles New York State. The year is 1842 and the postage rate is 6 cents. That rate was for letters under 30 miles. The destination is Worcester, Mass. In looking up the list of Massachusetts post offices, we see there is a Brookfield that is in Worcester County.

**Figure 2.** A letter mailed from Brookfield, Massachusetts that was mistakenly thought to be from Brookfield, New York. In this case the rate, which was for less than 30 miles, eliminated the Brookfield in Madison County, New York as the post office of origin.

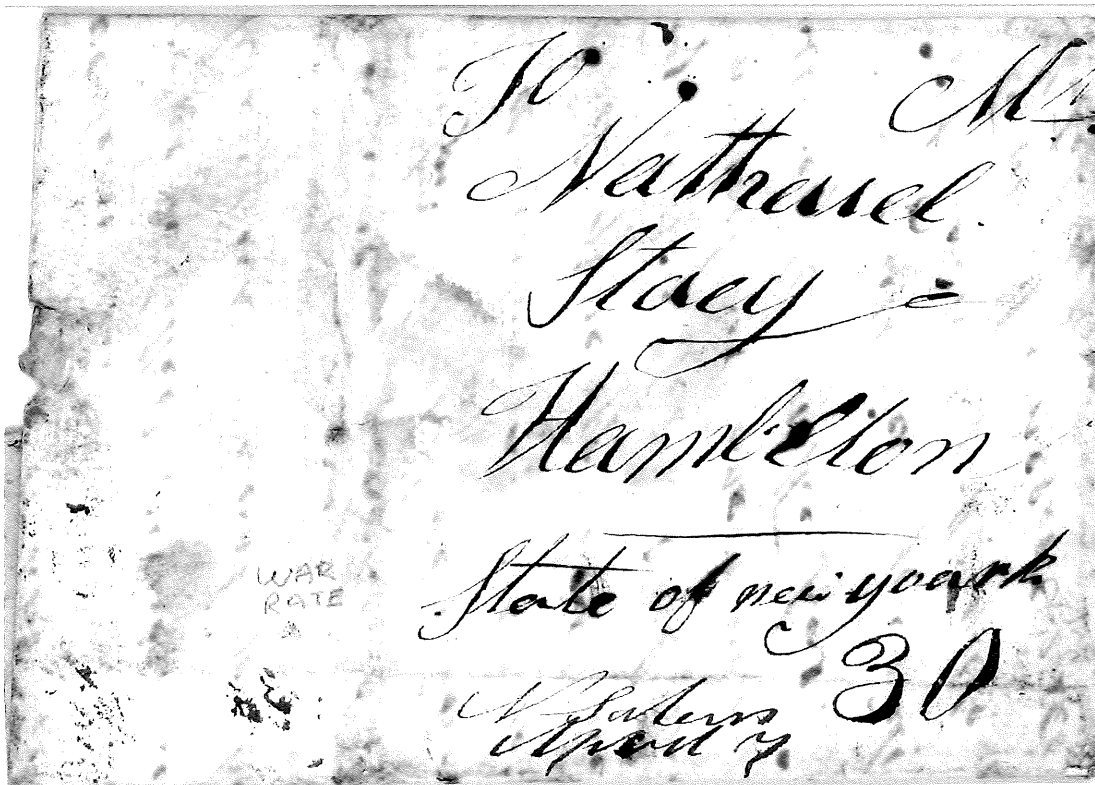


The same can be said for the next letter from **Figure 3**. Posted in Grafton, the state looks even more like New York than the Brookfield SFL. The year is 1837 and the rate is 18-3/4 cents. The 18-3/4 rate was for 150 to 400 miles. Both Grafton in Rensselaer County New York and Worcester County Massachusetts fall into this range. The town of Chelsea is in Orange County, Vermont. In looking at the heading, it clearly says "Grafton, Mass." The person who sold this letter marked the glassine envelope as Rensselaer County. It is obvious that they didn't take the time to read the heading, and the purchaser neglected to read it also. The more expensive the piece of mail, the greater incentive we have as students of New York State postal history to examine them!



**Figure 3.** It sure looks like Grafton, NY, but the letter dateline says Grafton, Mass.

A fourth example is seen in **Figure 4**. It is postmarked N. Salem, dated 1815 with a postal rate of 30 cents. This is a War of 1812 rate, and the only other possible way to get this rate during this time period would be a double 10 cent rate for 40-90 miles. The 20 cent rate was for 300-500 miles. The wartime rate added a 50% surcharge; this explains the reason for the 30 cent marking. This cover was interpreted as North Salem, a post office in Westchester County. That post office was established in 1819. While covers could exist this early, examination of other factors is in order. The letter is addressed to Hamilton, NY. Now it is obvious that this is not New York State; the distance for this rate is too far. The heading is New Salem. Once again, the buyer did not take the time to think about and inspect his (prospective) purchase.

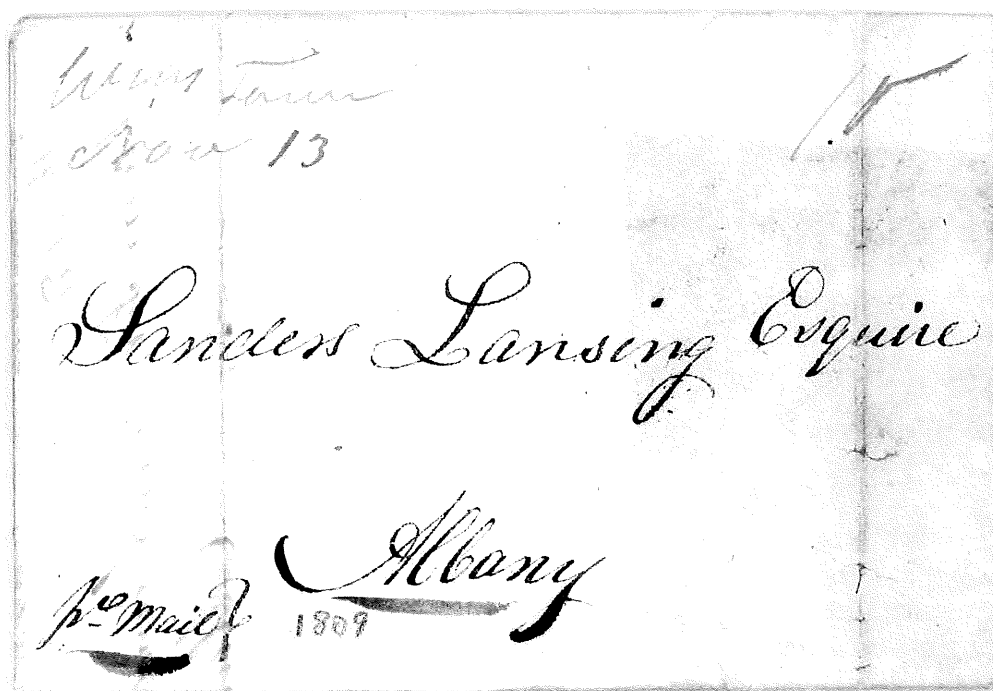


**Figure 4.** This letter most likely originated in New Salem, Virginia (now West Virginia) not in New York.

Robert Stets compiled a wonderful book on post offices in the United States up to 1811. While that is a bit early, it is a good starting point and also contains a complete list of postmasters at all offices from 1792 (the beginning of the Federal Post Office Department) until the 1811 cutoff date. This book shows 3 post offices named New Salem, one in NH, one in MA and another in VA. The rate is wrong for the first two. This letter is most likely from Virginia, with dates of operation of 1811 to 1884. This shows that examples can exist outside of the official dates of operation, but the conclusion of NY State is way off. The actual place of origin is well south of Westchester County, NY.

Other examples from Tioga and Pleasant Mount can be mentioned briefly (neither are illustrated). The Tioga cover has no state in the postmark but is from 1847, a year after the NY office named Tioga was closed. The letter mentions a flood at Crooked Creek, which places this in PA. The Pleasant Mount cover has a postmaster free frank (signature) and no state. The owner identified it as being from Westchester County, which is an obvious error. The date is from the 1840's. The Westchester office of this name was discontinued in 1830. In looking up the postmaster name, this cover is also clearly from Pennsylvania.

There is one last significant cover. **Figure 5** illustrates a cover marked Wms Town and posted in 1809. This was listed on page 39, 1973 edition of the manuscript work. It turns out to be from Massachusetts, datelined Newfane, Vt., and signed by Martin Field. Mr. Field was later postmaster of Newfane. That post office was established in 1811. This letter was taken over the Massachusetts state line and posted at the Williamstown post office in Berkshire County. The rate is also correct to Albany. Calvet Hahn and others concluded that this cover was early use from Williamstown, New York prior to the establishment of Oswego County. While such early letters do exist from various offices, the similarity of names in Massachusetts and other states make skepticism essential.



**Figure 5.** This 1809 cover was sent from Williamstown, MA, not Williamstown, NY

Even so-called experts can be completely wrong, and that includes this writer. When the names of people in letters and from local history are examined closely, the facts can point out the true origin of a cover.

The Internet makes research into the origin of a cover much easier. Postal historians in the past did not have access to this resource, and it takes work to verify a SFL or cover. The Internet can be used to find information pertaining to methods 7 and 8 listed in this article. Then there are local historical groups and societies that are usually happy to provide assistance. Out of over 20 examples from the Hahn manuscript lot, only two were not clearly verified.

It is odd that dealers make more errors; they are supposed to be the professionals. One reason is the desire for a piece of postal history to be from a rare town or from a readily saleable town or state. Manuscript markings in the early part of a date range tend to have more value than later examples. Some collectors like to have both the earliest and latest recorded postal markings. This writer has some experience with selling covers, but will always recognize the superior knowledge of a particular county specialist. Don't make the mistakes written about here! Examine your covers closely, preferably before you hand over money from your limited collecting budget...

**CLOSING NOTES:** Any criticism or notation of deficiencies in stampless mail and other covers must be put in perspective. These letters were not written, posted, or otherwise intended for our hands. They were the only means of long distance communication until the advent of the telegraph.

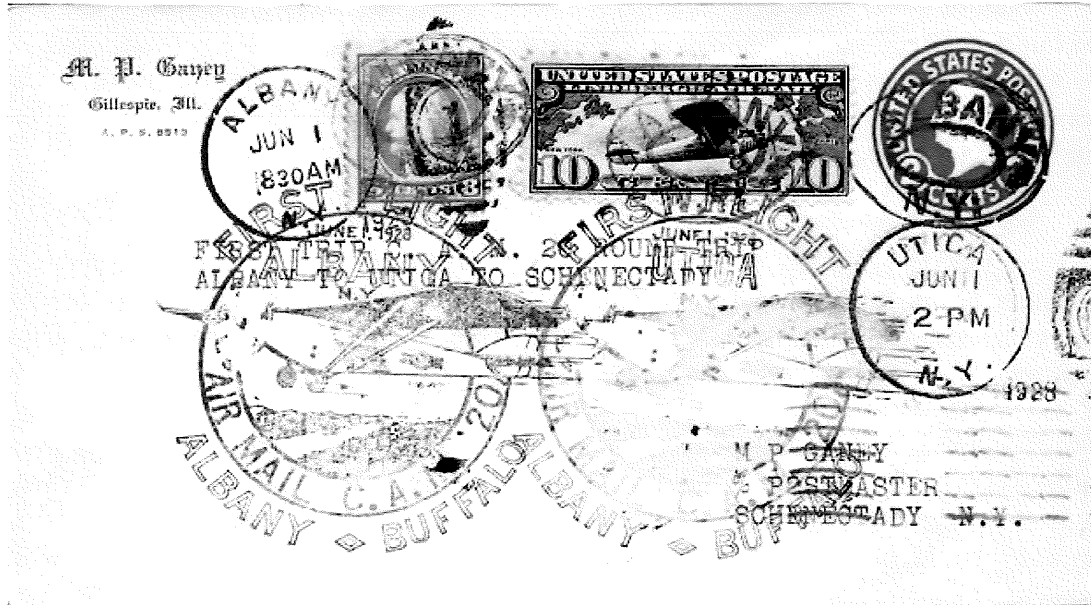
Many collectors of stampless material have seen notations in contents that the writer did not want anyone to see the letter. "Burn this" is a common phrase. Many of those Americans would be greatly surprised and even alarmed to think that their personal business would be subject to close examination over a century later. We should be respectful of them; they were people, just like us!

**STORAGE AND REMOVAL OF LETTERS:** There are many examples where the recipient of a letter removed the contents. This happened frequently for business letters. The interior section could be removed and be used to reply to the sender without using a new sheet of paper. The postmasters were frugal enough not to buy postmarks, and there is no reason to think that businessmen acted differently. Tearing away the contents and answering the letter that way was equivalent to using a postal card. Postal cards were very popular with businessmen - you got the paper and the postage for only a penny!

If you have a question about a cover, especially with a wish to verify the town or state, please send e-mail to <[dougpenwell@mail.com](mailto:dougpenwell@mail.com)>.

## COVER OF THE ISSUE

### **First Flight: Contract Airmail (CAM) 20 Submitted by Bob Bramwell**



If you collect air mail you are familiar with the obsessive nature of some early collectors. They prepared one or more covers for each departure city on a new route to every destination city on that route and delivered these stamped, self-addressed envelopes in bulk to the various departure cities where either the postmaster, or the local stamp club or Chamber of Commerce, would place them on the ceremonial first flight.

This is an extreme example. Postmarked Albany where the westbound first flight was scheduled to depart at 10:10 a.m. (and as far as I can determine did so depart) and was delivered to Utica (back-stamped there 2 p.m.) where it was placed on the eastbound first flight to Schenectady and back-stamped 8 p.m. there. The relevant Colonial Western/CAM 20 schedule was: depart westbound from Albany 10:10 a.m.; arrive Utica shortly before 11:20 a.m. a distance of 84 miles. Depart eastbound from Utica 5:15 p.m.; arrive Schenectady shortly before 6:05 p.m. a distance of 69 miles.

I find it interesting that Albany cancelled not only the 10c postage that paid the Albany to Utica air mail rate but also the 10c postage that paid the Utica to Schenectady air mail rate. Of course, the postmasters on these routes were fully engaged in the game behind these favor covers so a small lapse in protocol would bother only the most curmudgeonly among them.

The above is an extreme example of the extent to which fans of Air Mail service would go to create memorabilia. It is so obviously contrived, however, that I could not pass it up when it showed up on eBay - plus it involves Schenectady. Notice that M. P. Ganey of Gillespie, Ill. was APS #8513!