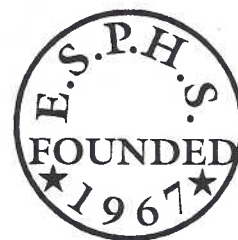


The **Journal** of New York State Postal History



Volume 30

Autumn 1998

Stephen K. Matte
President

Martin Margulis
Editor

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SPECIAL CANCELLATION HONORS BICENTENNIAL, VETERANS

(Article from the *Troy Record*, September 7, 1991)

by Doreen Ercolano

The blending of Operation Desert Storm and the Uncle Sam Day Parade will be apparent Sunday, as the procession marches through the streets of Lansingburgh (North Troy).

The partnership will also be commemorated in a special post office cancellation, according to the Uncle Sam Stamp Club of Troy.

The cancellation is to be used on the parade date only—September 8—and will include a souvenir cover. It will be available at the reviewing stand area near the Junior Museum.

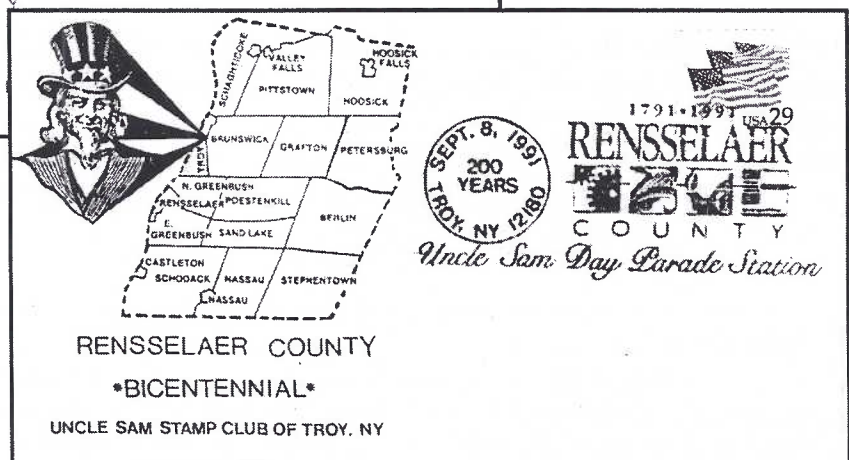
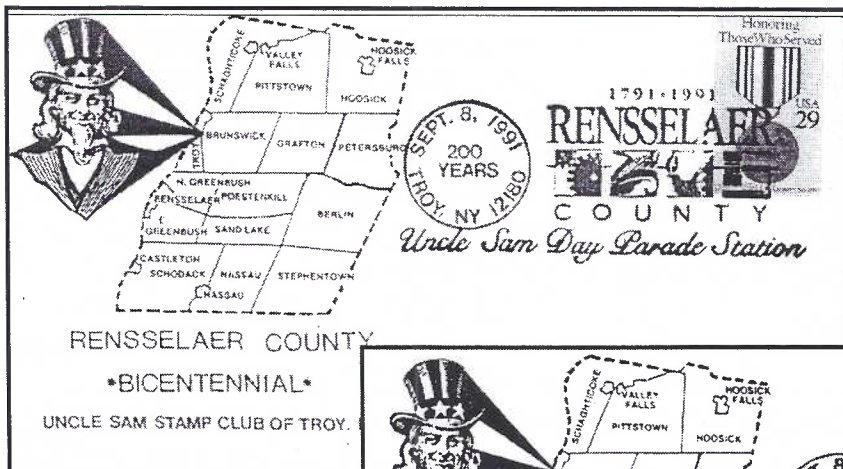
Designed by artist Kristina Almquist for the bicentennial of Rensselaer County, the cancellation shows a map of the county with each town marked and a portrait of Uncle

Sam near Troy. The overall design honors Rensselaer County's advances in industry, agriculture, education and government since 1791.

"The stamp club chose the 'Flags on Parade' stamp issued on Memorial Day in Waterloo, Seneca County, and has decided to put Desert Storm-Desert Shield stamps on half of covers," said club member Tom Hanley. "For those interested in obtaining a cover, first class postage must be affixed to the envelope in order for the temporary post office to apply the special cancellation," said Hanley.

The cover and cancellation are also available from the stamp club by sending a self-addressed, stamped number 10 envelope and \$1.00 to the Uncle Sam Stamp Club, Box

335, Troy, New York 12181.



TROY PROUD OF ITS ROLE AS UNCLE SAM'S HOMETOWN

(Article from the *Troy Record*, September 7, 1991)

by Doreen Ercolano

He may have been born in what is now Arlington, Massachusetts, but Samuel Wilson is almost synonymous with the city of Troy.

He was one of the builders of the city, lobbying for the incorporation of Troy as a village in 1794 and later as a city in 1816. He was the first to dam the Poestenkill and the Wynantskill to secure water power which spurred the growth of Troy's industrial development.

And 225 years after his birth, Sam Wilson the meat packer is still putting Troy on the map as the home of Uncle Sam.

He may seem more like a cartoon character than a historical figure, since he's most often pictured in a red, white, and blue suit and top hat. The real Sam Wilson earned his nickname not from any theatrical patriotism, but from the love of his neighbors who called him Uncle Sam out of affection.

Born September 13, 1766, he was the son of a Massachusetts Minuteman. By the age of 9, he was helping to make rifle balls, weave cloth, prepare supplies and serve as messenger for the embattled Colonials. At 13, he shouldered a musket as a "service boy" in the effort for independence.

When Sam was 23, he and a brother traveled on foot from their father's farm in New Hampshire to Troy where they arrived penniless. For two years they worked odd jobs and saved enough to open a brick-making kiln. The flourishing business soon earn-

ed Sam his nickname for the concern he showed for his workers.

He included in his precepts for living "decency, honesty, fair play, respect for the rights of others, building a better life for generations to come, and devotion to God," according to writer David S. MacNaughton, a Wilson authority.

By the outbreak of the War of 1812 he had added a successful meat packing house, processing hundreds of cattle each week and employing several hundred men.

Soon after the war's outbreak, he was asked to supply the army with 300 barrels of prime beef. During an inspection trip to the packaging plant, Governor Daniel Tompkins asked one of Wilson's workmen the meaning of the initials "EA-US" on the barrels of meat.

The worker answered "Elbert Anderson" (a contractor) and "Uncle Sam Wilson" for the "US," explaining that "Uncle Sam feeds the army."

The phrase quickly spread throughout the army camps and "Uncle Sam" became the symbol of American patriotism.

Throughout the decades since, Sam Wilson has been used on posters and papers appealing for disaster relief, military aid and progress for American industry. By an act of Congress on Aug. 14, 1961, Samuel Wilson of Troy was declared the progenitor of America's national "Uncle Sam" symbol.

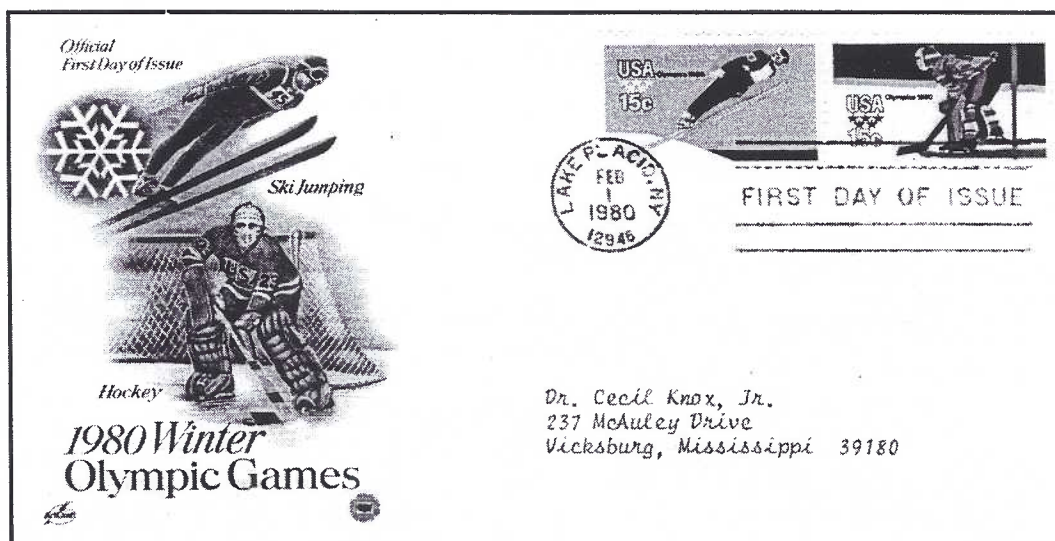
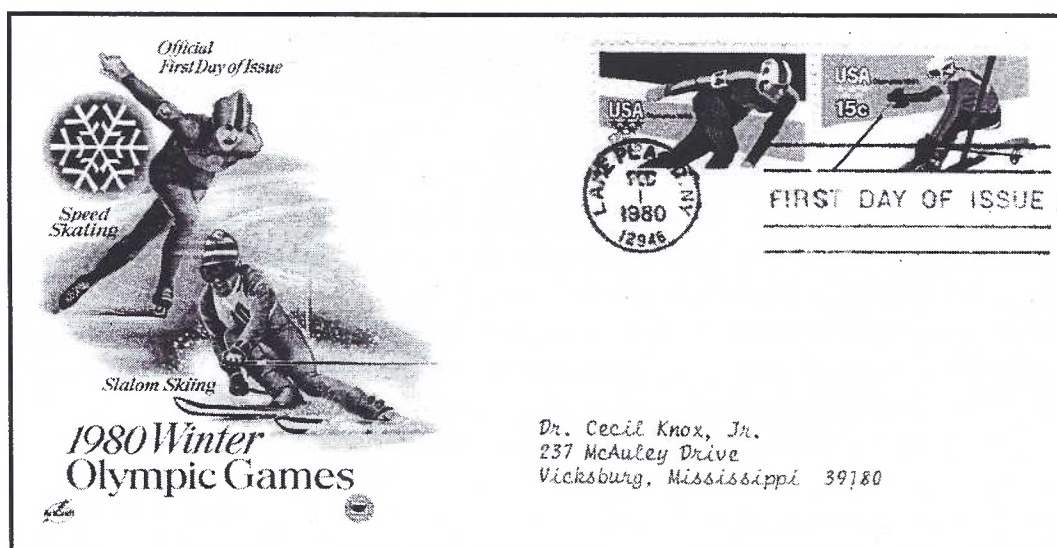
From the Editor . . .

I need more material for the *Journal*. I thought I had more material than I can locate. Please send material, articles long and short and/or copies of your exhibits. As long as it concerns or is from or to New York State, I can use it. This plea is also extended to our society officers and directors, but does not include Maris and John Lange who have been more than helpful.

THE 1980 WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES

by Martin Margulis

The Winter Olympic Games of 1980 were held in or near the village of Lake Placid. Scott 1795-98 were issued to honor and publicize the Games. Obviously, Lake Placid was chosen as the site of the First Day ceremonies and FDCs were canceled at the Lake Placid post office.



A MAIL ROUTE SERVICING THE ST. LAWRENCE AREA, 1806

by John B. Ludin, M.D.

An act of Congress, April 21, 1806 established a mail route from Utica via Redfield and Adams to Sacket's Harbor. The mail contract called for Simeon Parkhurst, the government carrier, to carry the mail (on horseback) every two weeks from Whitesborough to Utica, Rome, Annsville, Florence and Adams to Sacket's, a distance of ninety plus miles. At the time Oneida County extended to the St. Lawrence River, formed the northern boundary with hostile Canada. The fortnightly mail to the North country was apparently inadequate for the business needs of Oneida County.

A contract was drawn between Utica, Rome and Whitesborough business men and political leaders to underwrite, with the same carrier, a second mail to Sacket's Harbor, on alternate weeks. The below-copied agreement was signed by each participant with the dollar amount they contributed. A total of \$22.50 to be paid for the year, due \$11.25 in six months, remainder in December 1807. Signed December 4, 1806.

The signers were George Huntington, court judge and Rome town supervisor; J(ames) Lynch, eldest son of Dominick, Rome developer; J(oshua) Hathaway, lawyer and Rome's second postmaster; Benjamin Wright, Rome business man and legislator; A(rthur) Bresse, lawyer and surrogate judge; Johnathan Platt, Whitesborough lawyer and unsuccessful candidate for governor in 1810 and business partner of Thomas R. Gold, state legislator 1809-1817; Wm. G. Tracey, Whitesborough postmaster and business man. The other three, Stephen White and Robert and Samuel Dill do not appear in the Oneida county reference books, although the White family has been prominent since the settlement of Oneida County.

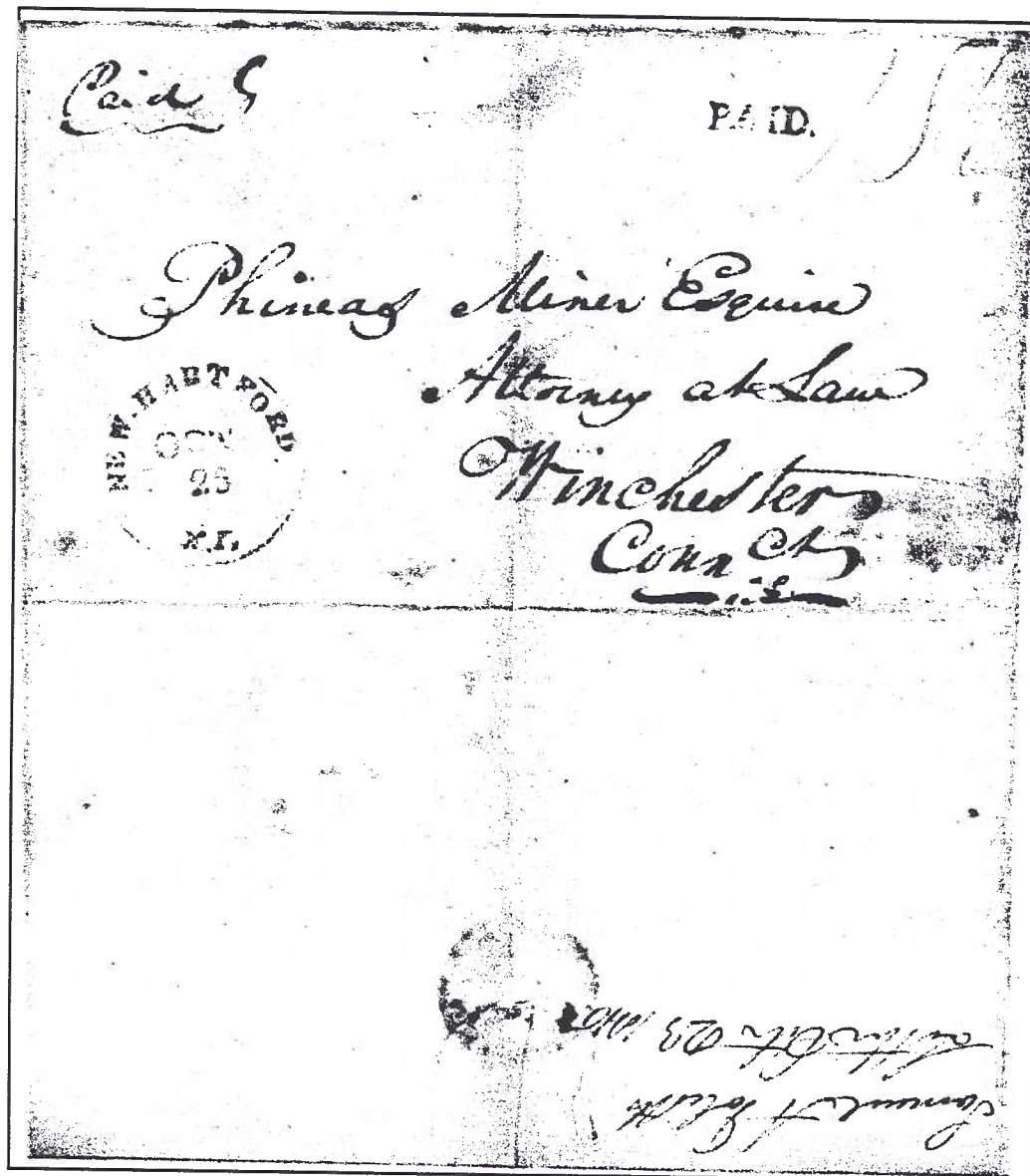
We agree to pay unto Simeon Parkhurst, for the
purpose of carrying the mail once a week from
Utica, thro White Town, Rome & Redfield, for one
year (he not being bound to convey it, but once
in two weeks) The sum of opposite our names.
To be paid one half in six months, the other half
in one year. Upon the express condition that
he carries the mail once a week during the year
December 4: 1806.

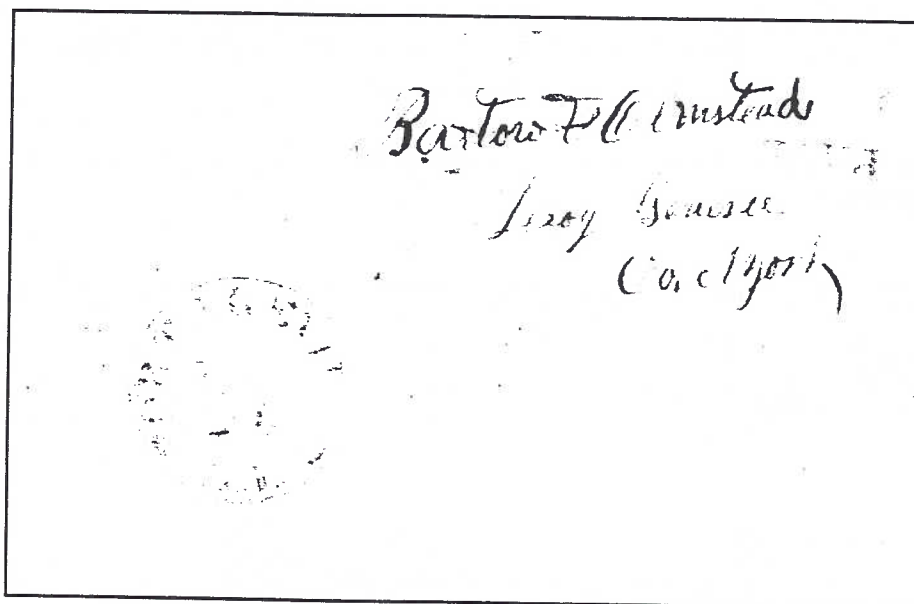
Geo. Huntington, Ben Dilling, Art Bresse 2 — p. s. do. — Hathaway \$1.
Ben Wright one dollar
Stephen White one dollar Wm. G. Tracey — 3 —
Samuel Dill one dollar John B. Dill — 1 —
Robert Dill one dollar Jonas Platt — \$3 —
J. Lynch two dollars Thos. R. Gold — \$3 —

TWO STAMPLESS LETTERS FROM NEW YORK

by Ken Hall

This is a stampless letter from New Hartford, N.Y., October 22, 1816. The CDS is an irregular 26 mm in black.





This stampless letter is from Portageville, N.Y., March 23, 1850, with an orange postmark. I have sent this one to George Bernadt, and he also agreed that it was an orange postmark. He says it is the first one he has seen.

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Ads may be placed in the ESPHS Bulletin and the Journal of NYS Postal History. Rates are shown below.

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AN INTERESTING PHILATELIC LETTER

by Martin Margulis

In going through my material for use in future Journals, I came across this letter and cover letter from the First Assistant Postmaster General in Washington, D.C. to the Postmaster of New York City, a Mr. Pearson. At this time this area of what is now the Bronx, was a part of New York City. I hope it is of interest.

(copy)
Post Office Department

Washington, D.C. Decr 3rd 1881

Ordered:—

Discontinue the Stations of the New York, (N. Y.) post office known as Riverdale, Tremont, Fordham and West Farms, and change the name of Morrisania to Station R, and Kingsbridge to Station S, and establish a new station to be known as Station T, to be located at or near the present site of the Tremont station, to be under the control of the Postmaster of New York.

Consolidate the deliveries and collections from the Riverdale station with those from station S, and those from Fordham and West Farms with those from station T. to be located as stated above.

Allow the Postmaster of New York \$500

RECEIVED
DEC 5 1887
POST OFFICE NEW YORK

Very respectfully &c
James H. Mann
Acty. First Asst. P. M. Genl.

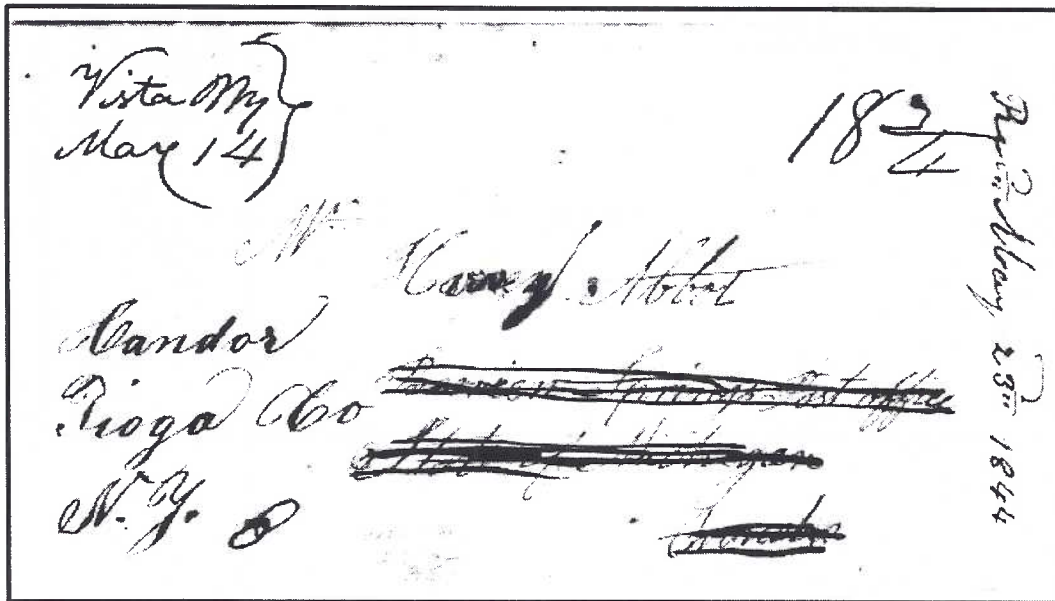
H. A. Pearson, Esq.
Postmaster,
New York,
N.Y.

WESTCHESTER COUNTY MANUSCRIPT CANCELLATIONS

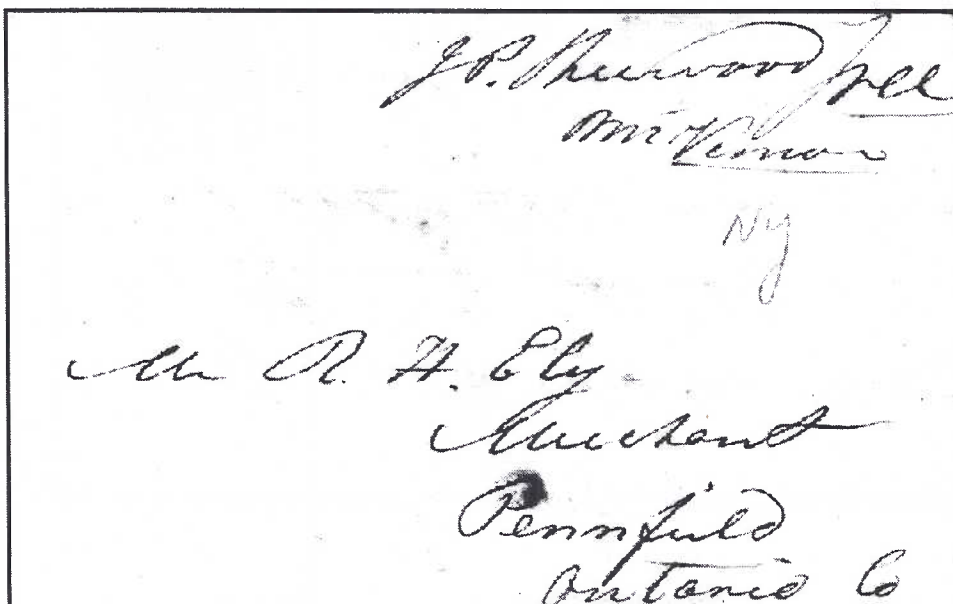
At one time I decided to send in an exhibit of Westchester County manuscript cancellations to ROPEX. The judges were very unimpressed. ESPHS club members who saw the exhibit were kind but unimpressed. What follows are some covers from the exhibit.

VISTA

This cover is dated May 14, 1844. Vista became part of the State of Connecticut in 1902.



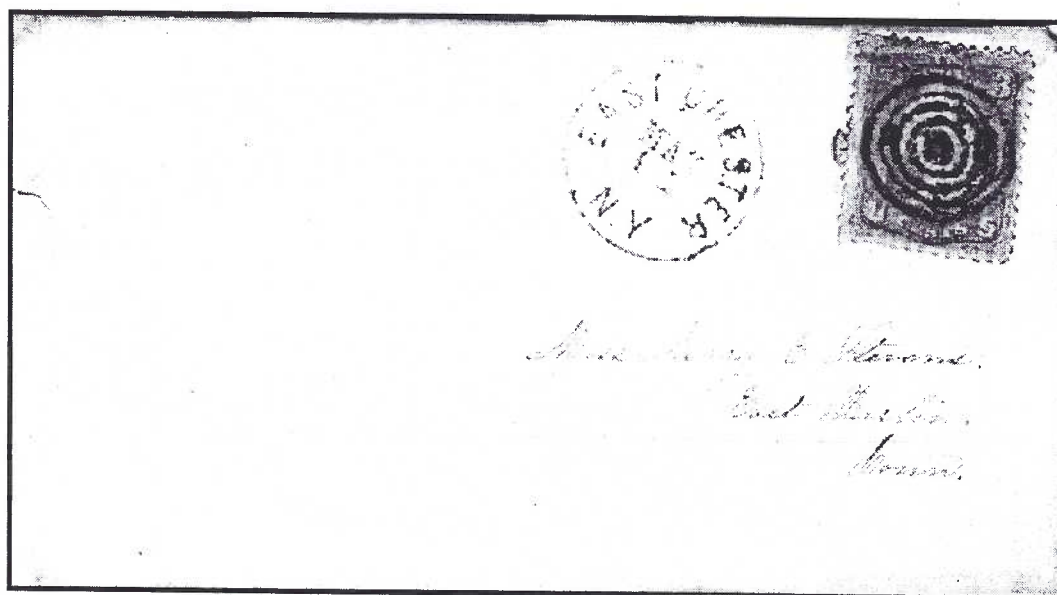
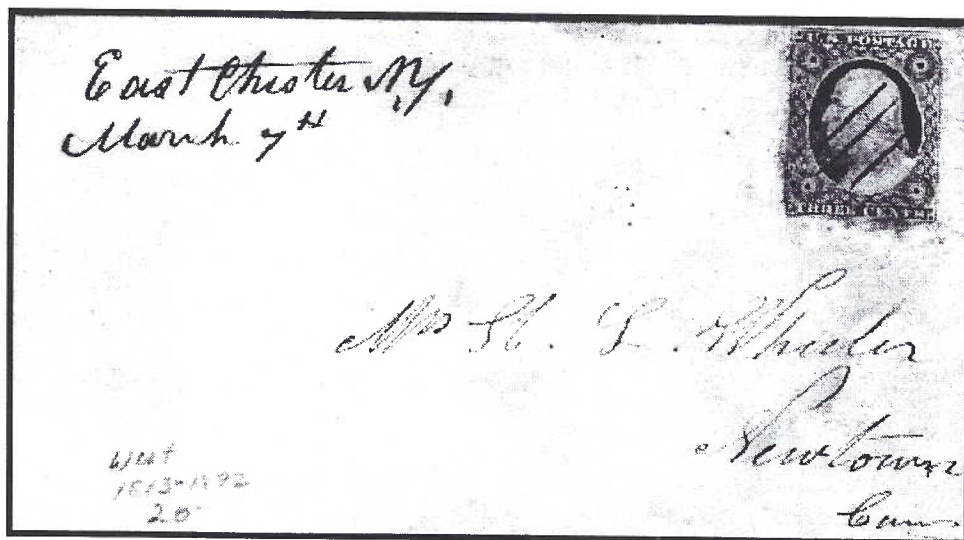
MOUNT VERNON



Postmaster Free, 1822. This village, the town seat of the Town of East Chester, is not listed in Chlanda and Wilcox.

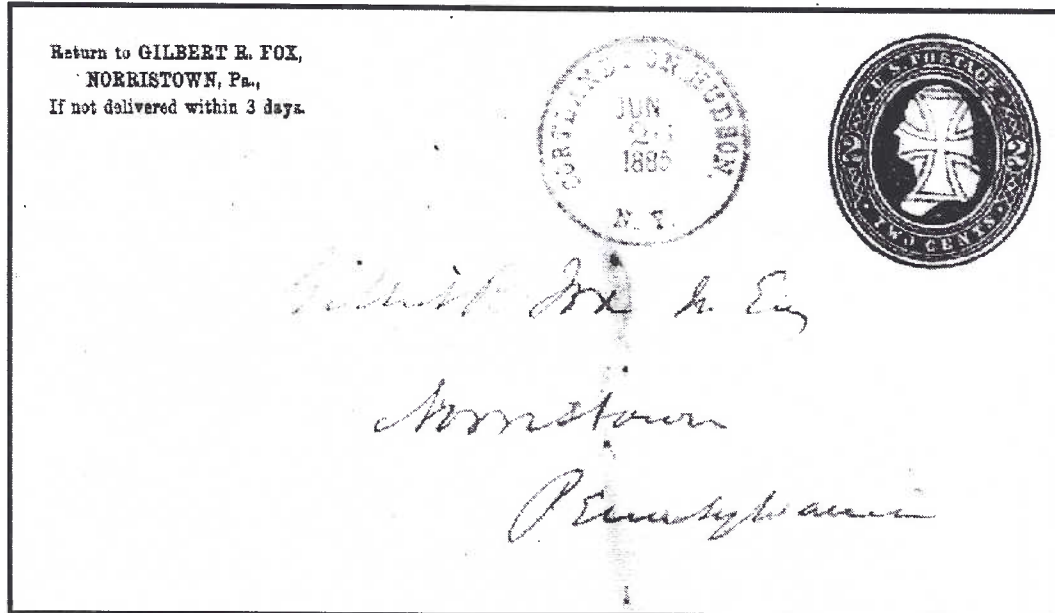
EAST CHESTER

East Chester (two words) 1798, 1809 -1812 and 1813 -1892.' Both covers are from the third period, an 1851-57 manuscript cover Scott +11 end and a hand stamped Civil War era cover.



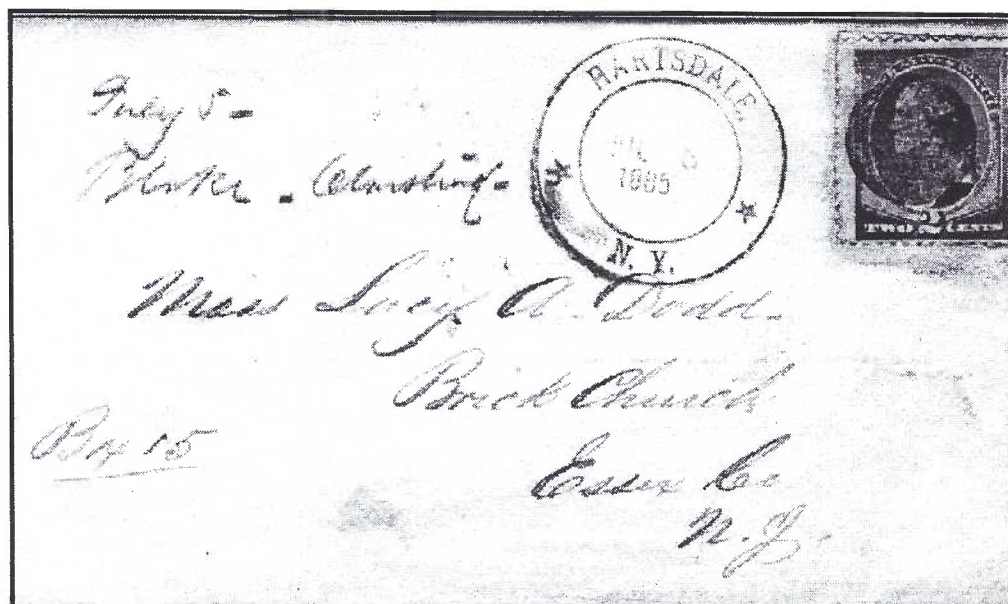
CORTLANDT ON HUDSON

A Cortlandt cover with a more standard postmark and a "German" Cross used as a canceller. No New York City transit mark.



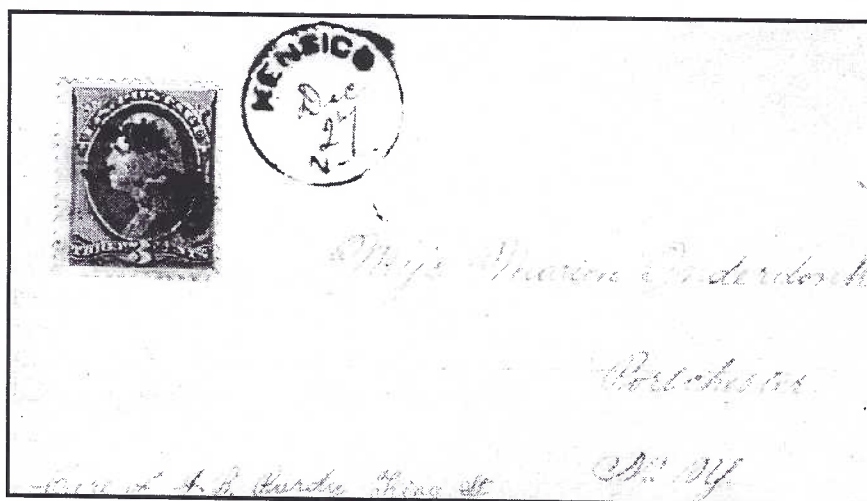
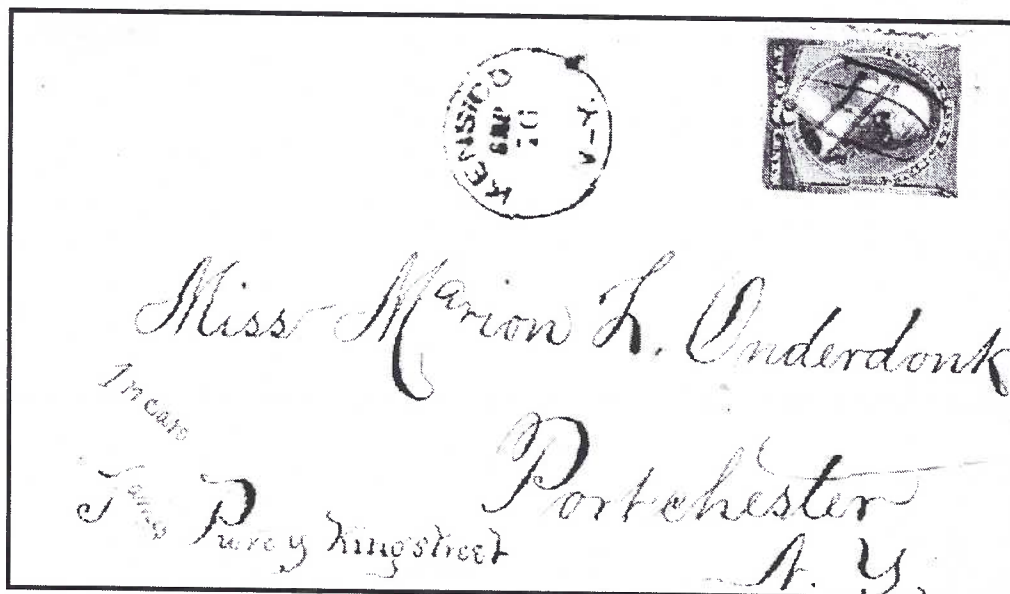
HARTSDALE

A Hartsdale balloon double ring postmark, which is unusual. The first class rate had dropped to 2¢. Back stamped New York City transit.



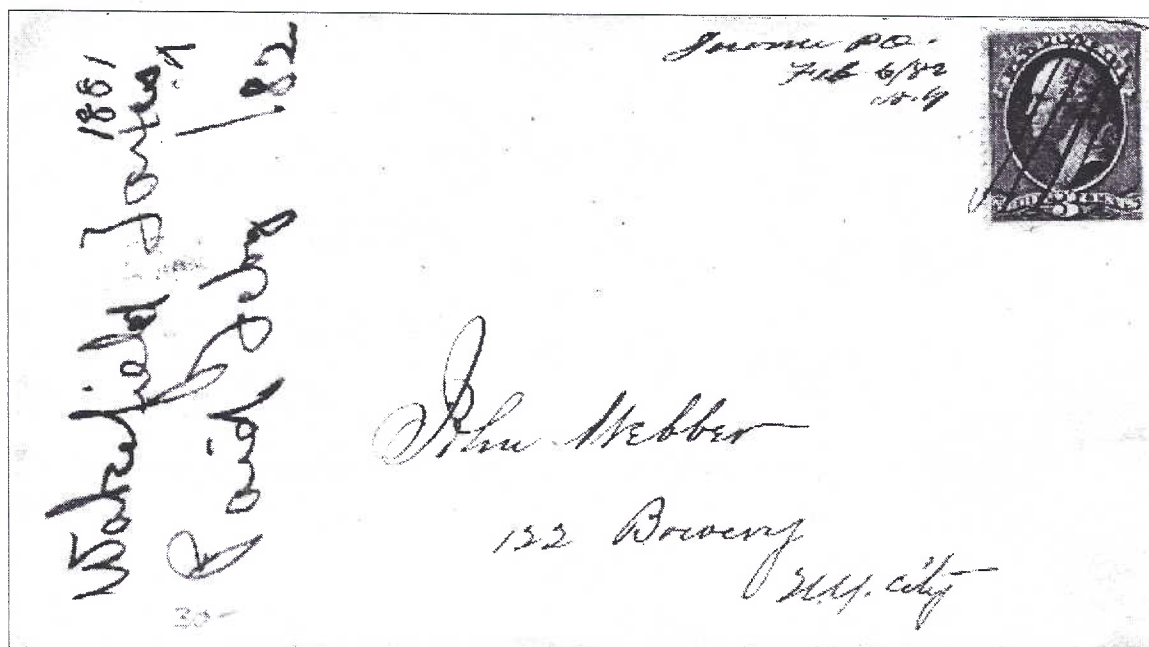
KENSICO

Two Kenisco covers. Kenisco favored small postmarks. The Purple postmarked cover is at the 2¢ rate. The black postmarked cover is at the 3¢ rate. This one, the earlier cover, has the date written in it.



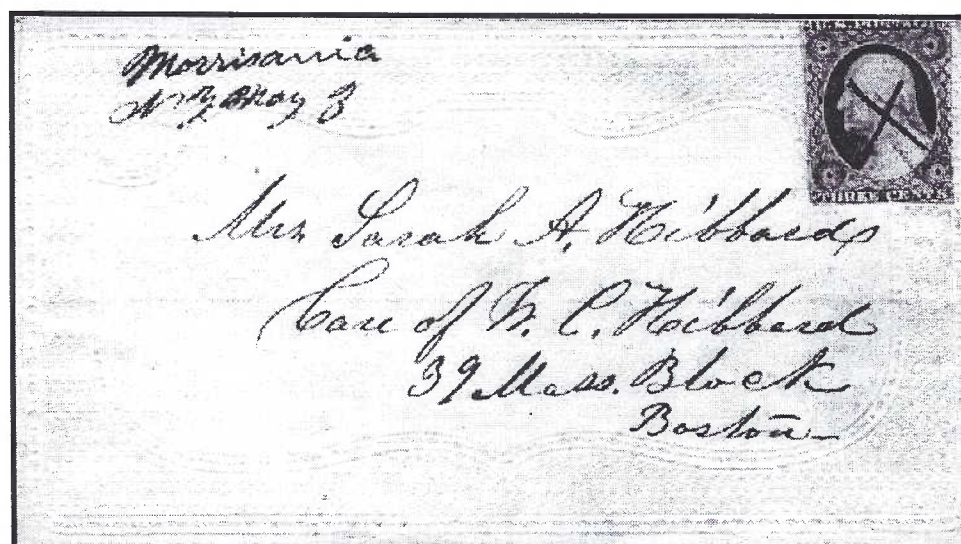
JEROME

Jerome is not listed in Chlanda and Wilcox but it is listed in Kay and Smith as 1869-1884. 2/6/1882 is very late for a manuscript postmark. The post office must have misplaced or broken their hand stamp.



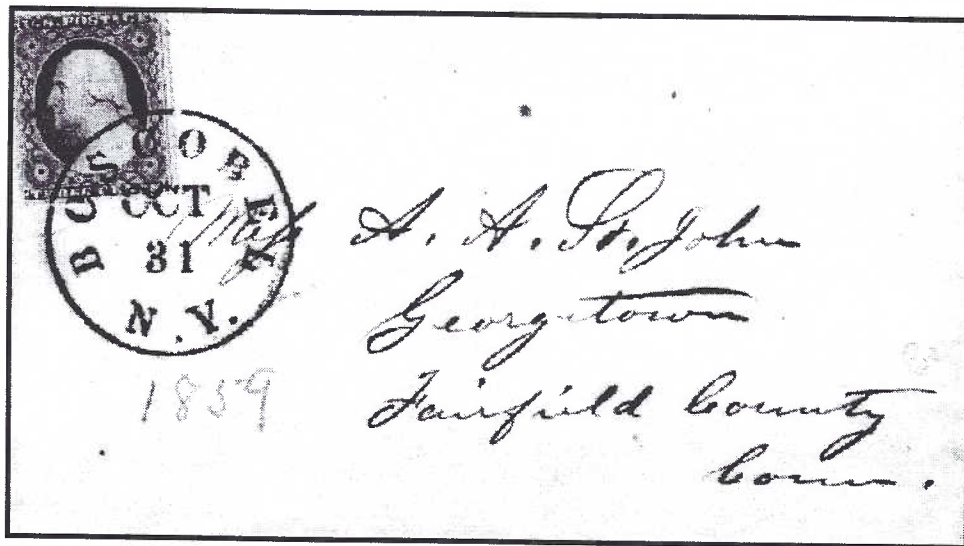
MORRISANIA

This village is not listed in Chlanda and Wilcox as it used manuscript postmarks for less than one year. A lady's cover franked with Scott #11.



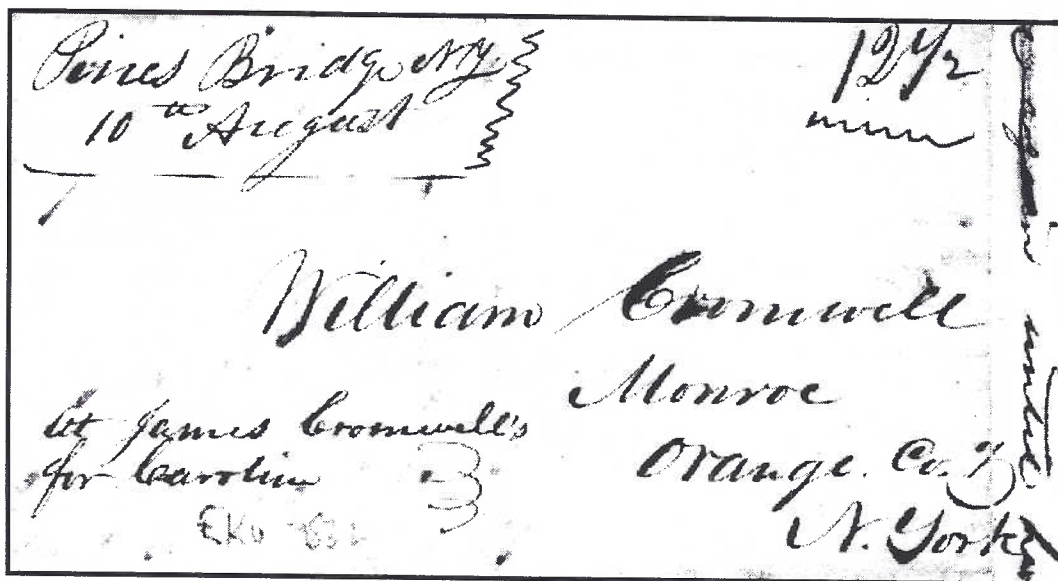
BOSCOBEL

An 1859 Boscobel cover with a Scott #26. Boscobell covers are uncommon.



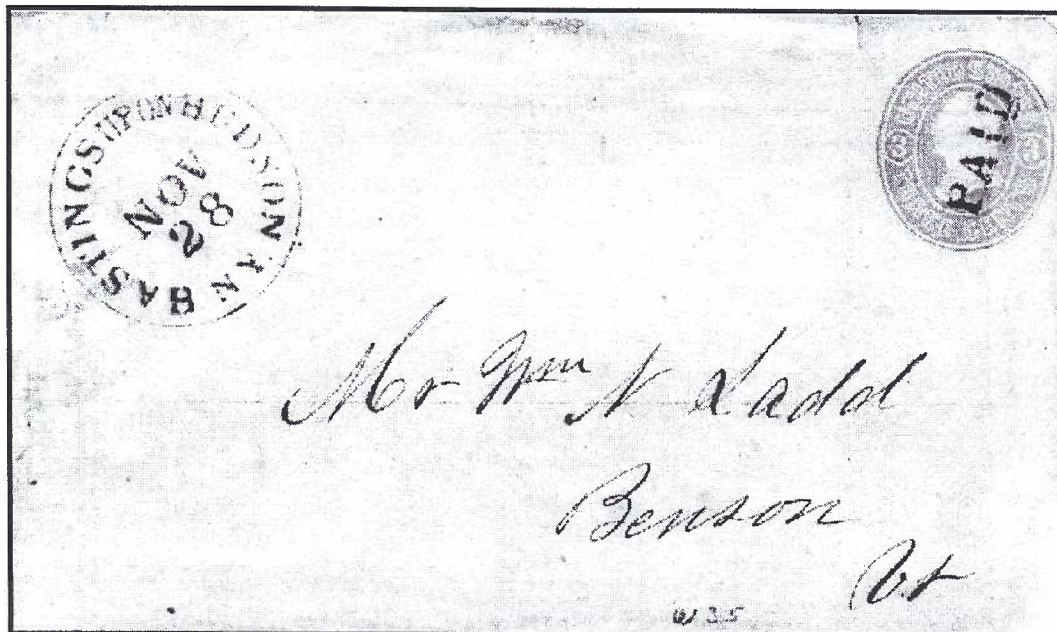
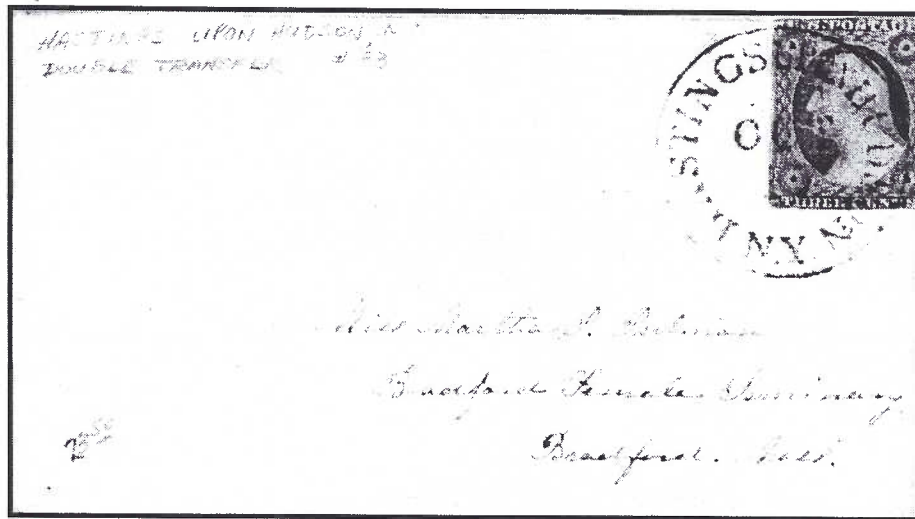
PINE'S BRIDGE

This EKU is dated 8/11/1832, more than four years earlier than the earliest known use listed in Chlanda & Wilcox.



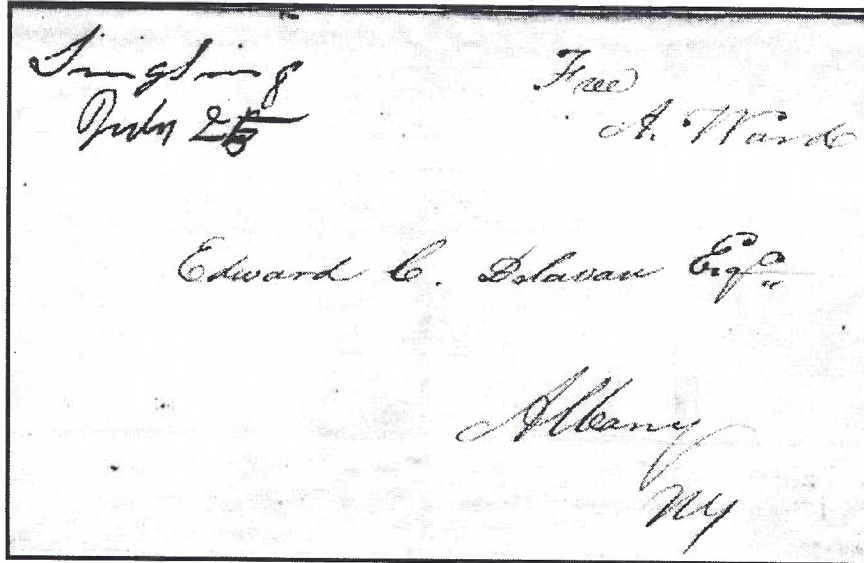
HASTINGS UPON HUDSON

Two similar (not the same) postmarks—one canceling the stamp, the other, on postal stationery (U-35) canceled with a paid cancel. By the time of the second letter, the Post Office Dept. was frowning on the use of the postmark as a canceller.



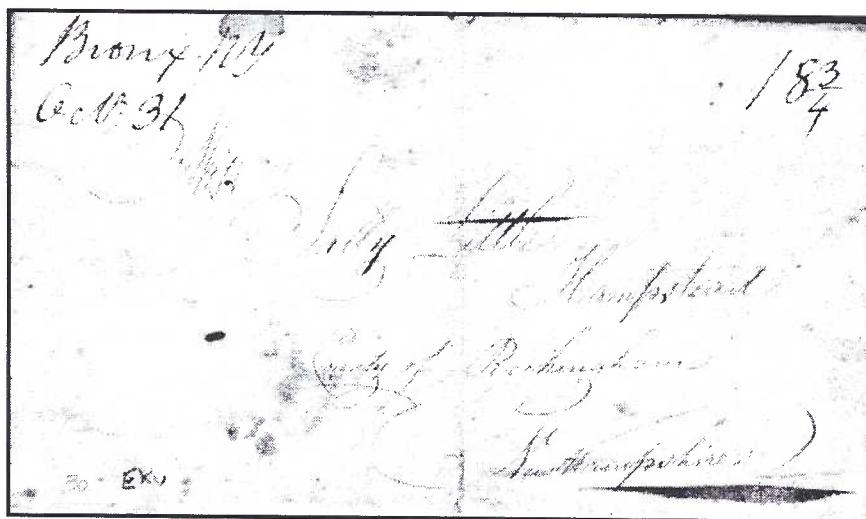
SING SING

This cover is marked "FREE" because it is signed by the district congressman even though the required "MC" after his name was omitted.



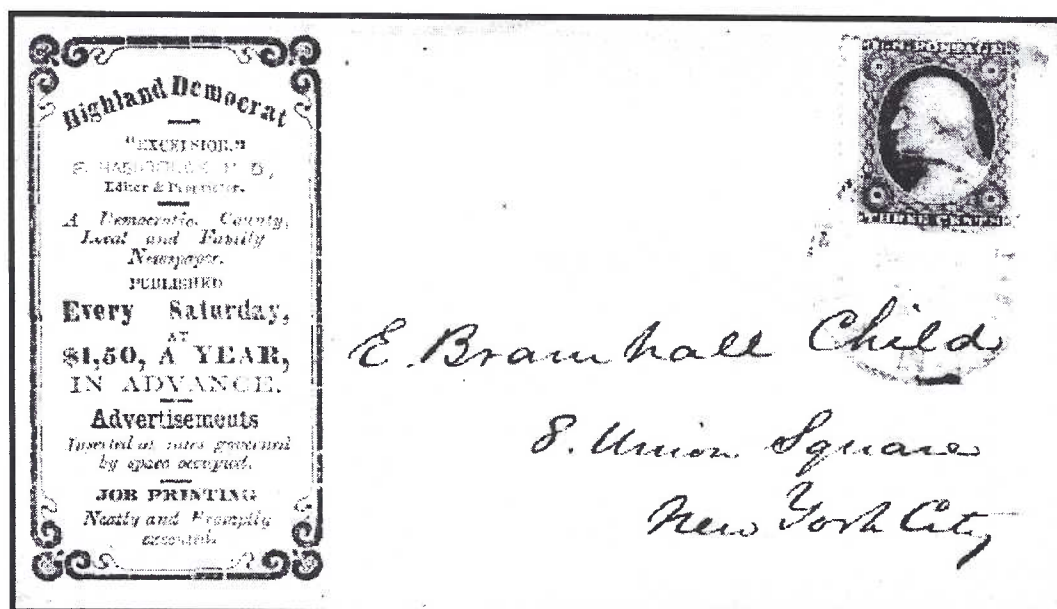
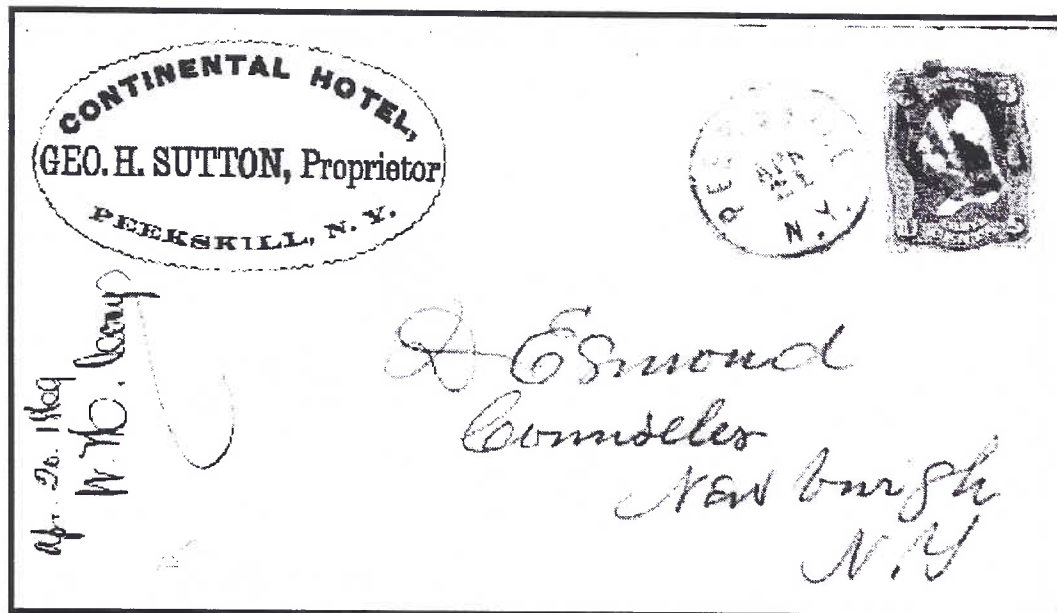
BRONX

The earliest known use from this village: 10/31/1820. The Broncks moved north to Westchester from their Bronx manor, then also within Westchester's boundaries, after the Indians burned down their home and some other property. The village name is an Americanization of Bronck's.



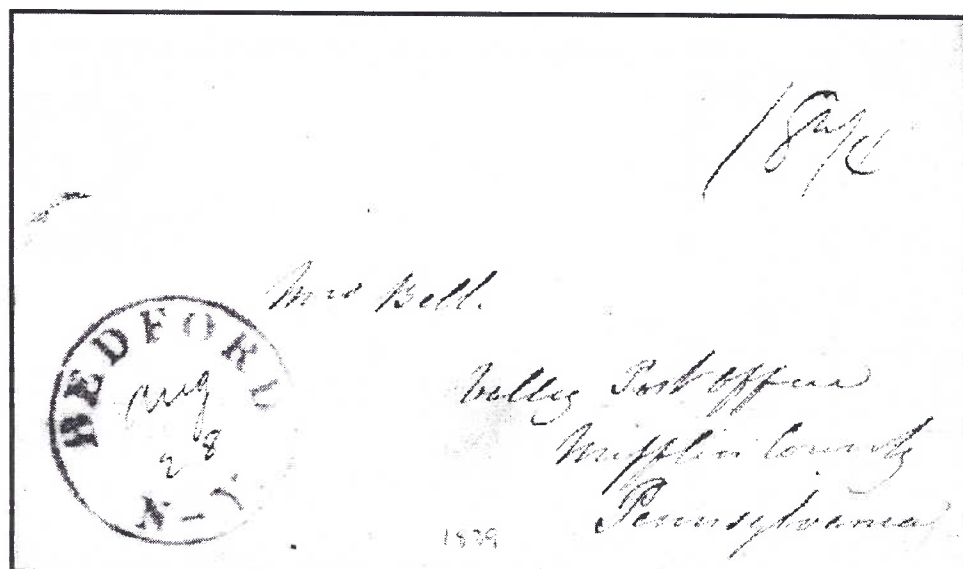
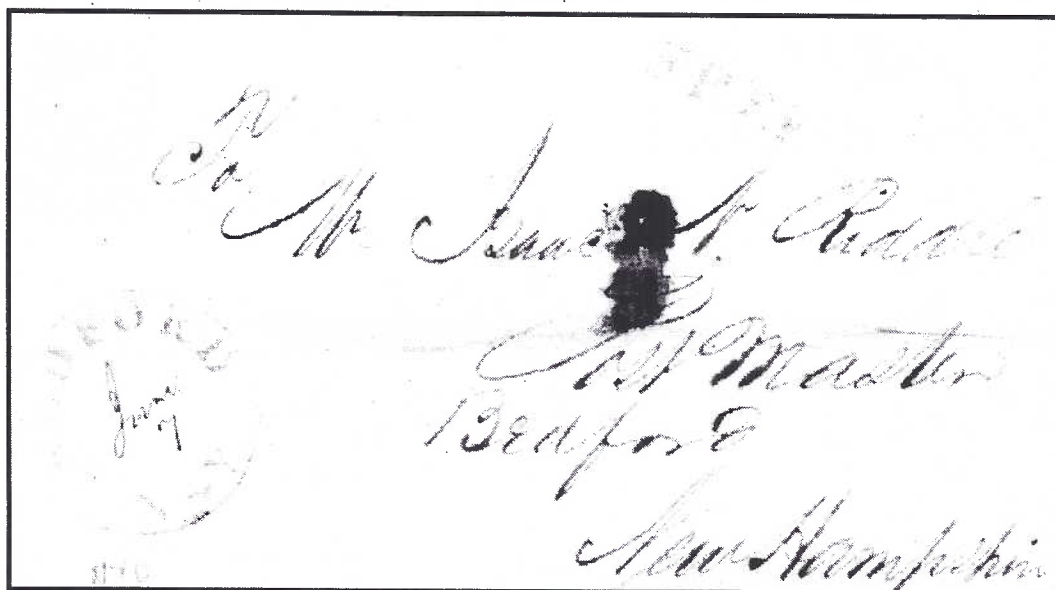
PEEKSKILL

Two Peekskill covers with corner cards which were not too plentiful at the time, especially the earlier cover. The Hasbroucks were a very prominent family in the Westchester/Orange County area.



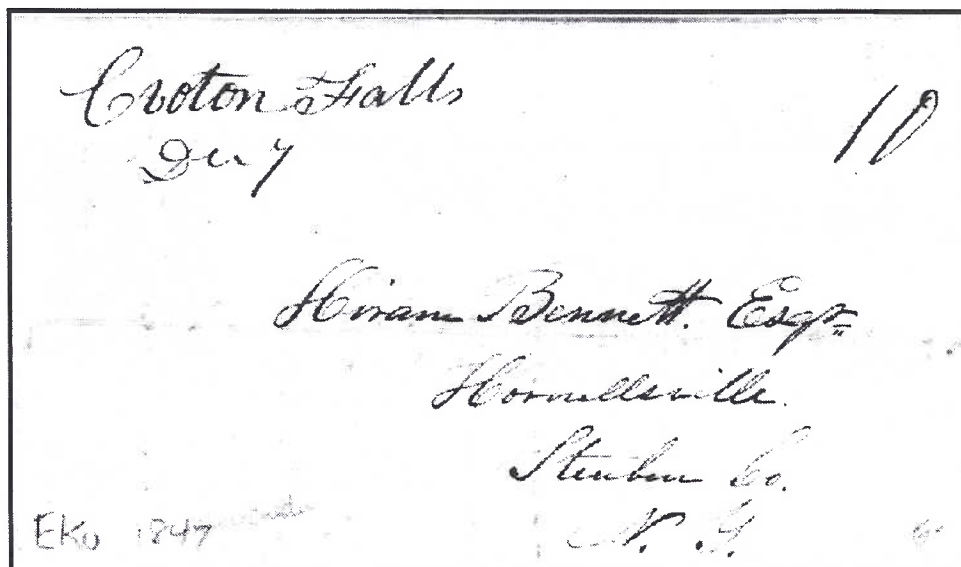
BEDFORD

Two Bedford hand stamped covers—one marked Free, because it was going to a post master and the second, a black hand-stamp unpaid. Both are FLS and have the dates written into the postmark.



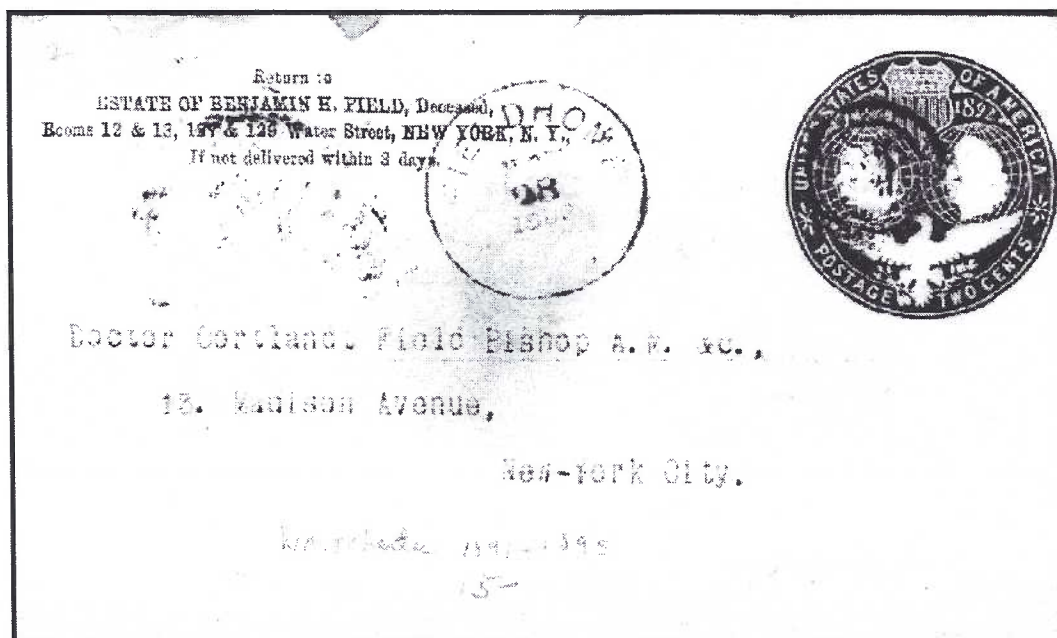
CROTON FALLS

This EKU is date 12/7/1847.



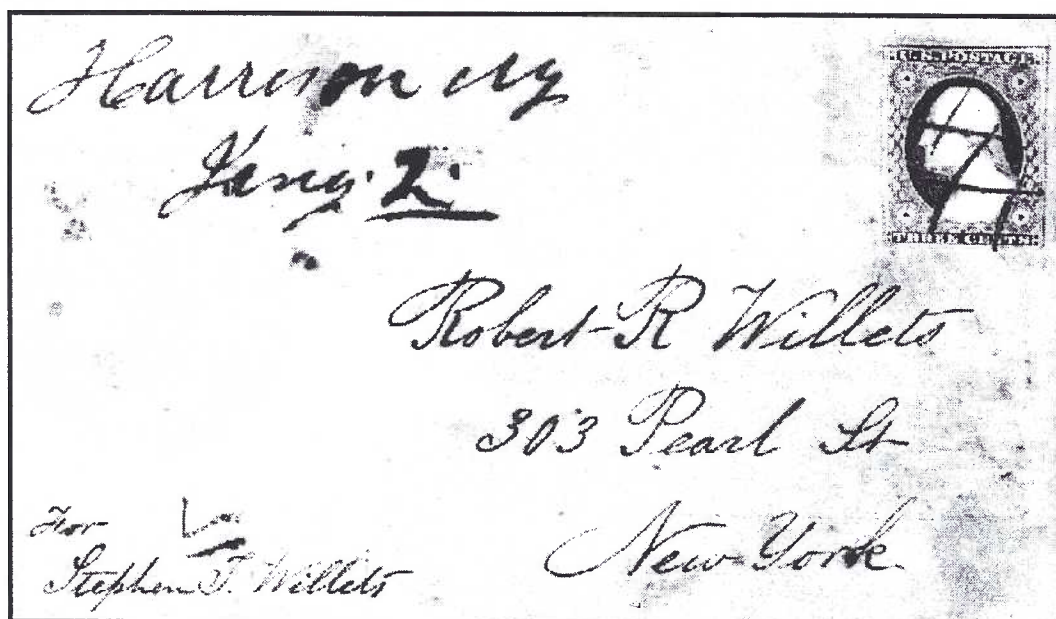
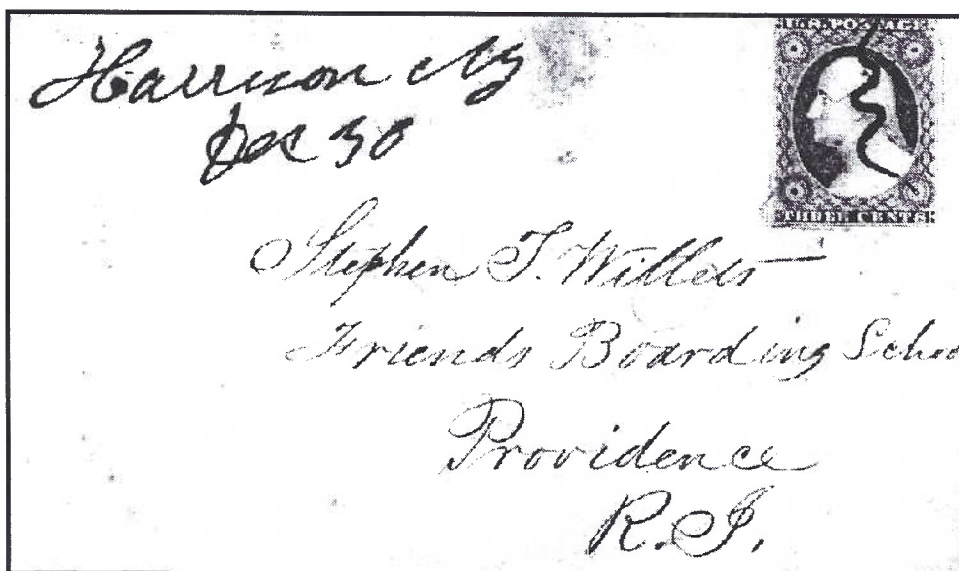
FIELD HOME

A short-lived Westchester village, primarily used to sell off the Field estates. Postmarks (that I've seen) are poor and worse. Back stamped with a Peekskill transit mark and a NYC branch post office F recovery mark.



HARRISON

Two civers circa 1851-57. Note the difference in the color of the stamps.



POSTAL DOG OWNEY A WORLD TRAVELER

by Kathleen Dooley

Nipper, the old RCA dog, isn't Albany's only famous canine. Another Albany dog is enshrined at the National Postal Museum in Washington, D.C.

Owney, the Postal Dog, originally from Albany, isn't around today, but his preserved remains, stuffed by an unnamed Toledo taxidermist back in the 1890s, are displayed in a prominent place at the postal museum, one of the 16 museums of the Smithsonian Institution. A bronze bust of Owney is also in the display. People visiting the museum rub its nose for luck.

James Bruns, museum executive director, formerly of New York, and at one time a stringer for the *Times Union*, said he always had a deep appreciation for Owney, a predominately Irish terrier mongrel.

Some 14 years ago, when Bruns first began work at the Smithsonian, he spent time in research and wrote the story of Owney. A few children's books have also been written about Owney, said Bruns.

"I've had dogs all my life, mostly golden retrievers, but Owney is a mutt that endeared himself to me and many people. He's so much like us. We're adventuresome and don't know our bounds. Owney had nobody to love him, only the postal employees at the Albany Post Office, who became his friends," said Bruns.

The dog that would become the mascot of the Railway Mail Service, Owney was found cuddled up on a pile of old mail bags, by an employee in the post office on a cold evening in 1888. Instead of chasing him away, mail clerks took pity on the homeless puppy, fed him and let him stay. He won their hearts.

In the research, Bruns said one account of Owney claimed he was not a puppy but was 10 years old when he wandered into Albany. The origin of his name is a mystery as well. "It may have come from a mail clerk who said, 'Who owns you?' Or maybe from an Albany letter carrier named Owen," said Bruns.

As the story goes, Owney felt so at home among the mail bags that he rode atop the soft pile of pouches on the wagons that moved the mail between the post office and the railroad depot. Gradually, the trips took him farther and farther away.

Albany postal employees bought him a collar to identify him if he got lost with an inscription, "Owney, Post Office, Albany, New York."

"The roving postal dog evidently sensed that guarding the mail was his responsibility," said Bruns. At one point mail clerks in Albany put a note on his collar asking employees of the mail service to record his journeys by attaching a tag to his collar. The dog not only journeyed around the United States and Canada but also toured Mexico and Alaska accumulating 1,017 tags, tokens, trinkets and medals.

He became a welcome celebrity and his most fascinating trip took him around the world starting in Tacoma, Washington aboard the steamship *Victoria*. He visited China and Japan and



a special mail classification was created just for him: "Registered Dog Package." He went on to Singapore, Suez, Algiers and the Azores before returning to New York City. Then clerks sent him back to Tacoma in 1895.

Owney became well-known to dog lovers across the country. He received awards and medals (for his accomplishments, not his pedigree) at many kennel club shows, and was believed to be a living good luck charm. No train on which he traveled ever met with an accident.

But he got older, lost his sight and was sent to retire at the Albany Post Office. While there, he hopped a train for Toledo. Being shown off in Toledo to a reporter, he bit a postal worker. The exact circumstances were never reported but he died in Toledo from a gunshot wound on June 11, 1897.

Albany Postal workers collected money for his preservation, and in 1911, he was given to the Smithsonian.

The Postal Museum sells a pamphlet about Owney, written especially for children. For a copy, send \$2.00 plus \$1.25 for postage to: National Postal Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560. Do not send cash.

(This article was reprinted with permission of the Times Union of Albany, New York. Our thanks to Mr. William Seifert, Jr. for sending the article for reprint in this journal.)

ROBERT WILSON, POSTMASTER AT MANLIUS, NEW YORK FROM 1803 TO 1811

by Stuart A. Goldman

I am not a postal historian, but I thought that because I am interested in a Robert Wilson who happened to be Postmaster at Manlius, New York between 1803 and 1811 when he died, I could find more information, and possibly a Free Franked cover as Postmaster. I do have a cover from Manlius dated in March of 1811 (figure 1). Also pictured (figure 2) is a letter written in 1786 from Ireland from Robert Wilson's grandmother to him directed to Johnstown - Mohawk River North of New York. (With several interesting postal markings.)

Robert Wilson, at 18 years old, a commissioned officer in the First New York Regiment 4th Company (I have his commission, signed by Abraham Lincoln). I also have a sword presented to him by Lt. Col. Alexander Hamilton on Christmas day in 1781 (inscribed).

Through contacting descendants of Robert Wilson, I was able to buy from one of them many letters and documents, but nothing actually signed or written by him. Possibly the markings on the cover are in his hand. I did find a muster roll (copy) signed by him in 1782 (figure 3).

Robert Wilson was a member of the Society of Cincinnati (I have his membership certificate signed by G. Washington and H. Knox). His grandson was a general in the Civil War.

Robert Wilson took a major part in the surrender proceedings that took place at Yorktown, Virginia in 1781. All this information is in *Lossings Fieldbook of the American Revolution* published in 1851 or 1852.

I had put an ad in the Bulletin and or Journal, but with no response. Any ideas would be greatly appreciated. Write to Stuart Goldman, 5 Chapelgate Road, Canton, MA 02021.

Learned Kellogg
1. March 1876

Atty
Thomson

12t

Matthew B. Kildred Esq
Attorney General
Hamp

(Figure 1)

Indians are now a very great number. While
of course the most of them are
from that part of the country and none of them
is so thick as the Indians. It is so good a
place for the Indians to grow and the better
of the Indians. It is so good a place for the
Indians to grow and the better of the Indians.

Forwarded 8-24
M. Robert L. Thompson
Johnston, Massachusetts
about north of
New York

Atty
Thomson
12t

(Figure 2)

(Figure 3)

Number	13	James G. Smith	
	14	James G. Smith	
	15	James G. Smith	
	16	James G. Smith	
	17	James G. Smith	
	18	James G. Smith	
	19	James G. Smith	
	20	James G. Smith	
	21	James G. Smith	
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	29	James G. Smith	
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	31	James G. Smith	
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	33	James G. Smith	
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	49	James G. Smith	
	50	James G. Smith	

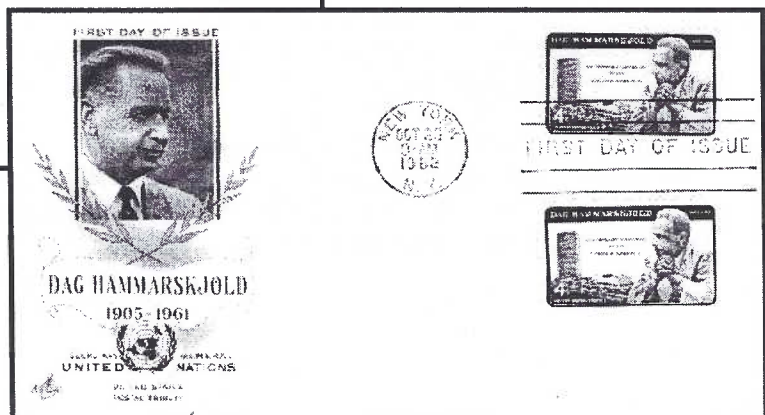
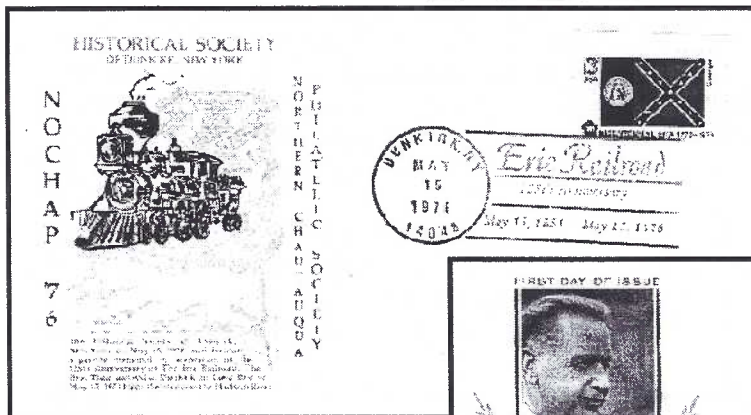
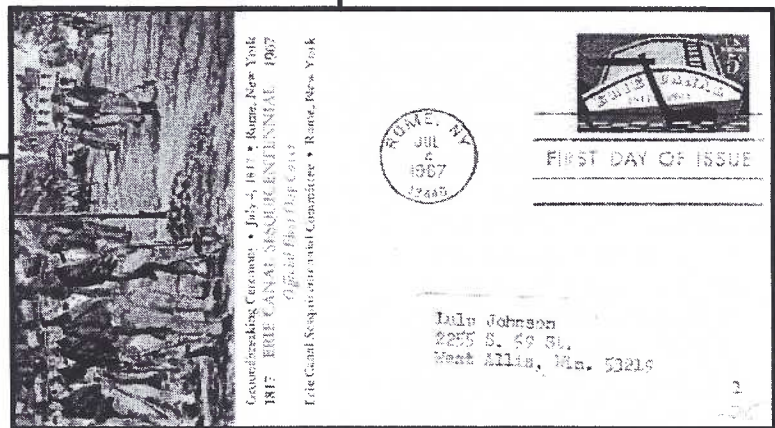
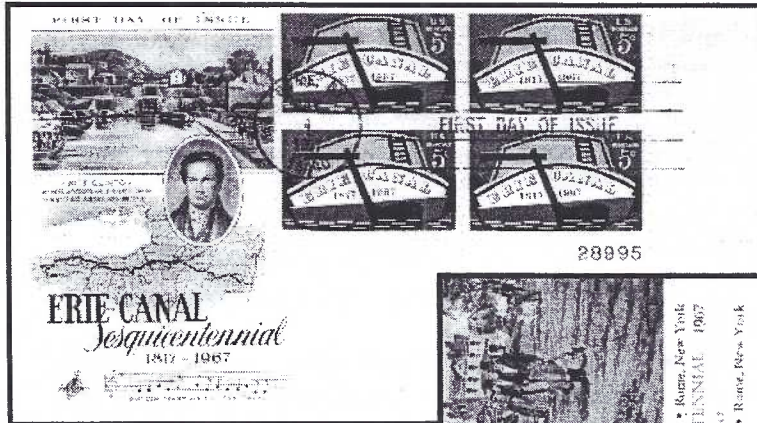
I Certify the above Roll to be the true State of said *Fourth*
Comd. This *10th* Day of *April* - 1782
Robertson

NEW YORK STATE FDCs

by Martin Margulis

Four miscellaneous FDCs from New York State. Two are connected to the Erie Canal, one to the Erie Railroad. The last cover has two copies of the Dag Hammarskjöld stamp. He was Secretary-General of the United Nations.

I bought these FDCs and other material over the years to use in the *Journal*. So now I am using them.



TWO INTERESTING LETTERS

by Ken Hall

In the letter from A.P. Grant to A. Skinner, Mr. Grant is discussing the problems he is having in trying to become the District Attorney for Oswego County. The letter mentions Judge Turrill, who is Joel Turrill, a prominent New York attorney, and member of the State Assembly. The letter also mentions a Mr. Brewster, who is probably David P. Brewster, who was the prosecuting attorney for Oswego County at that time.

The other letter is from R. Bunner to Joel Turrill, and is about the personal financial matters of Mr. Bunner. There are three prominent names mentioned, and I have included short biographies on them.

Since both letters mention Mr. Turrill, it would be interesting to try and find out if Mr. Grant knew Mr. Bunner. They probably did, since the time frame is the same, and they were both involved in politics and law.

Dear Sir.

Upon asking permission to trouble you once more in relation to my appointment of Dis. Atty, you will perceive it is a subject of good deal of interest to me.

After my last communication to you, I concluded that I would not again address you on this subject, but leave the application to its fate. But since the election and since the subject has been publicly agitated, not only by our political opponents, but also by some of our professed friends, and so I believe with a view of creating a prejudice against me, and too against Judge Turrill, I feel bound, out of respect to my own character, once more to press my own appointment.

It has now become a matter not only of unusual interest, but in my estimation of unusual importance to me and my defeat under the circumstances of the case cannot do otherwise than operate to my serious injury. The charge was preferred against me by Mrs. Bronson, Grant, Hunt, Stevens, and others that Judge Turrill had promised me this office, and that this was the consideration for my exertions during the election, and the same story was caught with avidity by our opponents, who were constantly ringing charges upon it during the whole election, referred to Bronson, Hunt, and others for their authority, and thus labored not only to destroy my influence, but to excite a prejudice against the Jackson Ticket.

The charge was both malicious and groundless, and I have never to this moment either directly or indirectly had a promise from Judge Turrill that he would sustain me in this application. But from yourself as well as Judge Turrill, I have received these assurances and as I am now situated to receive your and Judge Turrill's open support, is that I may be able to show myself and Judge Turrill have been absurd in these charges which have been so often repeated against me, that he will cheerfully aid me in the application.

My opponent is sustained by only one member of the Bar (to my knowledge) and that member is his law partner. Under these circumstances is there a reasonable doubt how the appointment should result. Again, Mr. Brewster is now amply provided for. He holds two offices from which he individually must receive, I think, at least \$1,200-\$1,500. This certainly should satisfy him. It would satisfy any reasonable being.

I do feel as though I had some strong claims to this office and as tho my defeat under all the circumstances of my application must be productive of injurious consequences to me, and it is under this conviction that I again address you, and I sincerely hope I may be under obligations to you, for those services which you have in this promised to under render me.

Hon A. Skinner

Respectfully yours
A.P. Grant

K. P. Grant
Letter Dec 3^d
1832

1832 AR 6 117



FREE

Hon A Skinner
Post Master
Union Square
Oswego -

5-

- L



Wm. Dec 3 1852

Dr Sir.

When asking permission to trouble you once more in relation to my appointment to the Office of Dist. Atty, you will perceive it is a subject of great and of interest to me. After my last communication to you, I concluded that I would not again address you on this subject, but leave the representation to its fate. But since the election and since the subject has been publicly agitated not only by our political opponents but also by some of our supposed friends and as I believe with a view of creating a prejudice against me & perhaps too against Lady Sumner, I feel bound, out of respect to my own character, once more to press my own appointment. It has now become a matter not only of unusual interest but in my estimation of unusual importance to me and my dearest under the circumstances of the case cannot do otherwise than operate to my serious injury. The charge was preferred against me by Messrs. Bronson, Grant, Kent, Stevens and others that Lady Sumner had promised me this Office and that this was the consideration for my exertions during the election - and the same slaver was caught with avidity by our opponents who were constantly bringing charges upon it during the whole election - applied to Bronson, Kent and others for their authority and thus labored not only to destroy my

My Dear Turrie

My friends and C.C. Moore, have willingly consented to be my security for the amount necessary to pay off my debt, but Bard thinks it proper, in addition to the personal security of men worth at least two million, that the land under mortgage should be again revalued. He has appointed Hubbel, the Post Master at Salmon River, to reappraise them. This has delayed my taking up some notes as soon as I expected and my return as soon as I liked, but the money will be forthcoming in a few days, and my return only postponed until the later end of next week when I will be with you.

My friends have been very kind and very confiding in my honesty, and I believe in my ability. I wanted to explain to C. Moore. As he is no man of business. I referred him to John Duerr, but he said, Bunner, I will do it, say no more about it. The prompt manner in which he met my request added an obligation to the sensibility which I can never forget. My old friends, through all which have been very kind. I only regret that others have obliged me to ask such a favor, though I thank God for it, as it has assured me of their goodness of heart which I never questioned but to others their prompt kindness will render it unquestionable.

I delivered my speech to a very large meeting of the learned professors and fashionables, and it was received with great pleasure and has given me something of a celebrity by which I have to profit. I have given M. the conclusion of my additional reference work for Old Hickory and Van Buren of which I hinted to you in one of my letters last winter, and they profit by this hint. It will give to the old man a reputation of a novel kind and to Van Buren a power that will aid him to amount, and to the country a benefit that will endure.

I will be home in 10 days.

Yours
R. Bunner

See to Hubbel and him not undervalue the laws. They lend only one half or one third of the security offered. Attend to this.

My dear Turrie

29 October

My friends C.C. Moore have willingly
consented to be my security for the amount
necessary to pay off my debts but Bard thinks
it proper in addition to the personal security of
men worth at least two million that the lands
under mortgage should be again ^{re}valued. He has
appointed Hubbel the Post Master at Salmon
River to reappraise them. This has delayed my taking
up some notes as soon as I expected ~~to do so~~

~~John~~
Sol el Turvill

An G
Clock for
issue for Com to

R. B. Munn

Rudolph Bunner was born in Savannah, New York, August 17, 1779; graduated Columbia, 1798; studied law, admitted to bar, practiced law, Newburgh, New York, 1819-1822; moved to Oswego, New York, 1822; became a manufacturer and extensive land owner; director Oswego Cloth and Carpet Mfg. Co.; member first Board of Directors Oswego Canal Co.; member U.S. House of Reps. (Adams Democrat) from New York; 20th Congress 1827-1829. Died Oswego, July 16, 1837.

Joel Turrill was a congressman and lawyer. He was born in Shoreham, Vermont, February 22, 1794. He was admitted to the bar at age 25 in 1819. He practiced law in Oswego, New York. He was a member of the New York State Assembly, 1831; House of Reps., 1833-1837; District Attorney for Oswego County, 1838-1840; U.S. Consulate to Sandwich Islands 1845-1850. Died in Oswego, December 28, 1858.

Clement C. Moore was born in New York City, July 15, 1779; graduated Columbia, 1798; married Catharine Taylor, Nov. 20, 1813. Gave 60 lots in New York city to make possible Gen. Theological Seminary, 1819; became professor Oriental and Greek literature, 1823; Author, *A Compendious Lexicon of the Hebrew Language*; wrote "The Night Before Christmas" in 1822. Died Newport, Rhode Island, July 10, 1863.

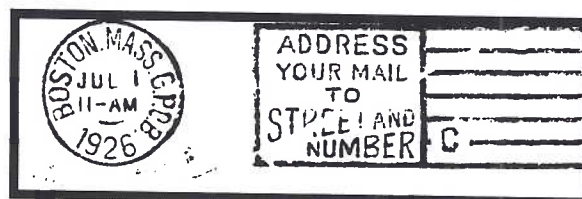
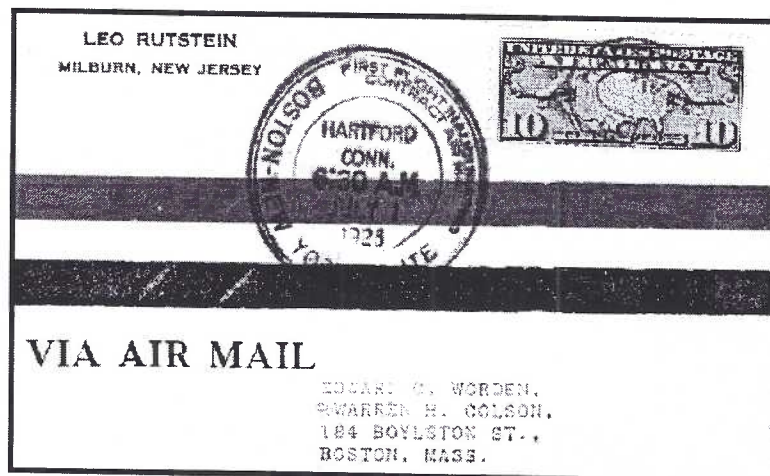
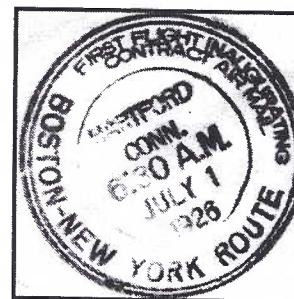
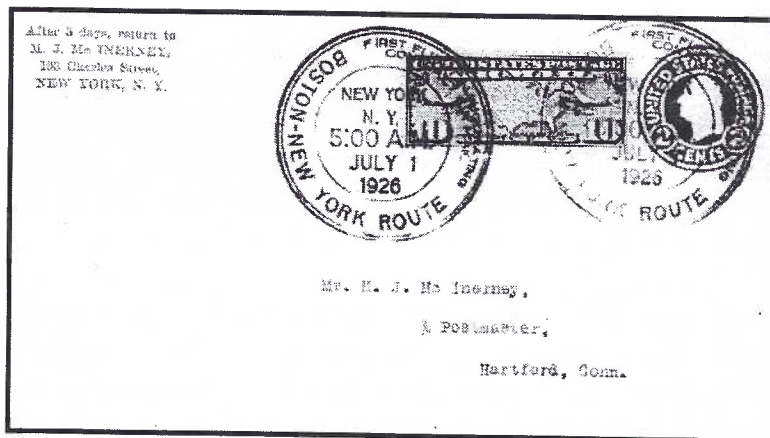
John Duer was born in Albany, New York on October 7, 1782; married Anna Bunner; admitted to the New York bar in 1806; delegate from Orange County to New York Constitutional Convention, 1821; appointed to commission to revise New York statutes, 1825; appointed U.S. District Atty. For Southern New York, 1827; judge New York City Superior court, 1849-1858; chief justice, 1857-1858; author of *Law of Representations in Marine Insurance*, 1845; law and practice of marine insurance, 1845-1846. Died in New York August 8, 1858.

FIRST COMMERCIAL AIR FLIGHT - BOSTON TO NEW YORK CITY

by Martin Margulis

Two letters from the first commercial flight of an air route from Boston to New York City. The date on the Hartford letter is unclear, it is 1926 as "proven" by the Boston receiving stamp on the reverse of the envelope.

The two covers represent the entire route, New York to Hartford, Connecticut, and Hartford to Boston Massachusetts.



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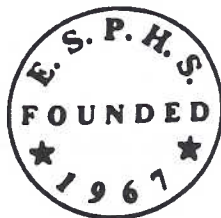
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**200 YEARS OF CAYUGA COUNTY, NY POSTAL HISTORY
by Charles H. Sweeting**

This book, just published, is a comprehensive compilation of 40 years of collecting and research regarding 200 years of postal communications throughout Cayuga County, New York.

The book includes a Table of Contents and a Forward, followed by a brief description of the origins of Cayuga County. Next are segments covering manuscript cancels, straight-line cancels, county and postmaster cancels, Cayuga County precancels, early Air Mail Service, local First Day Covers and philatelic notables.

The remaining text and graphics relate to individual post offices which are treated in alphabetical order for easy reference. For each post office, documentation is given for postmaster appointments, followed by pictures and comments about them. Site location maps are included, as well as illustrations of mail used at these post offices.

The book is profusely illustrated with large, easy-to-read bold type. It will be of interest to both historians and genealogists.

Charles Sweeting, the author, is the founder of the Empire State Postal History Society, Unit #28 of the APS, and a founding member of the American Philatelic Research Library. He is an accredited judge with the Federation of Central New York Philatelic Societies.

The 346 page book is hardbound in burgundy cloth with gold stamping, fan edge adhesive binding, 67 lb. white springhill cover end sheets and 67 lb Ivory lead and end sheets. The paper chosen for the text is a premium quality 28 lb. laser paper with a 94 brightness. This paper is quite opaque, the advantage being that images on one side are scarcely visible on the other side.

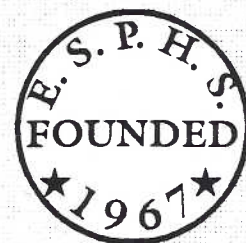
The book is available for \$40.00 postpaid from the publisher: EMPIRE STATE POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY, 373 Root Rd., Ballston Spa, New York 12020-3227.

**Additional Prices, incl. P&H: ESPHS members, \$32.00;
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The

Journal of

New York State Postal History



Volume 29

Autumn 1997

Stephen K. Matte
President

Martin Margulis
Editor

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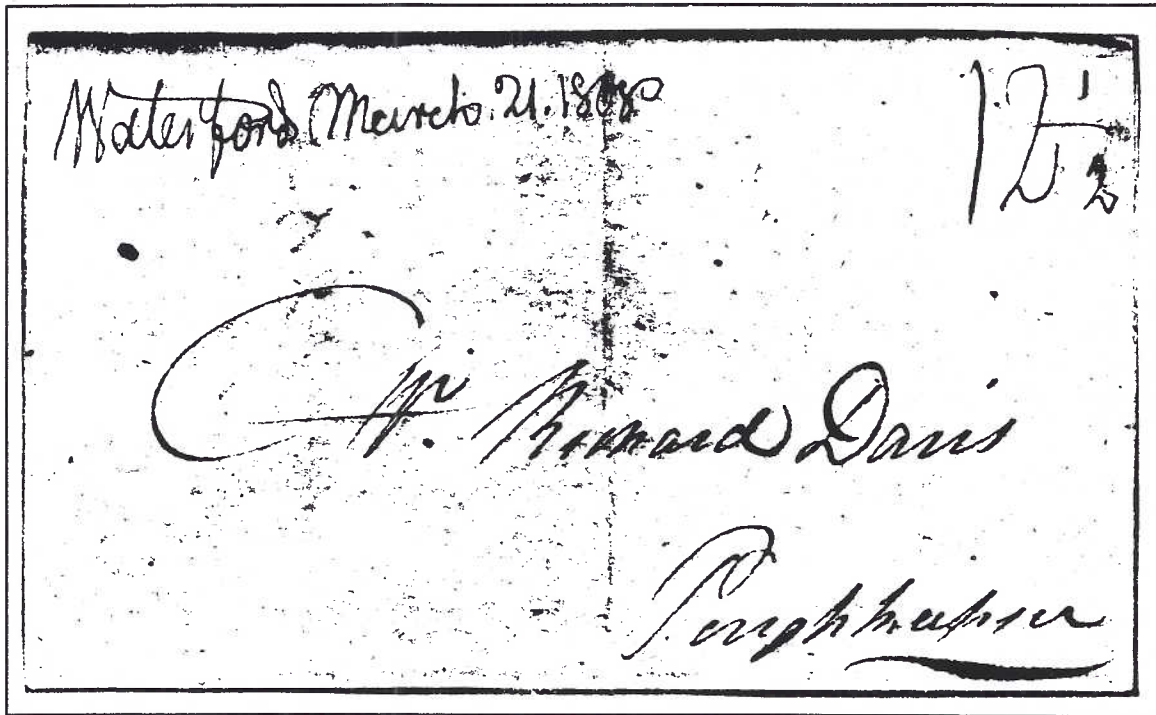
Dues are \$10.00 per year. There is a \$1.00 fee charged on joining, making the amount:

- \$11.00 for applications dated March through August.
- \$16 for applications dated September February (1½ year term).

SARATOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK

WATERFORD

by John A. Lange, Jr.



March 21, 1808

Manuscript 12½ denoting the zone rate for 90-150 miles. The Act of March 2, 1799 specified this charge.

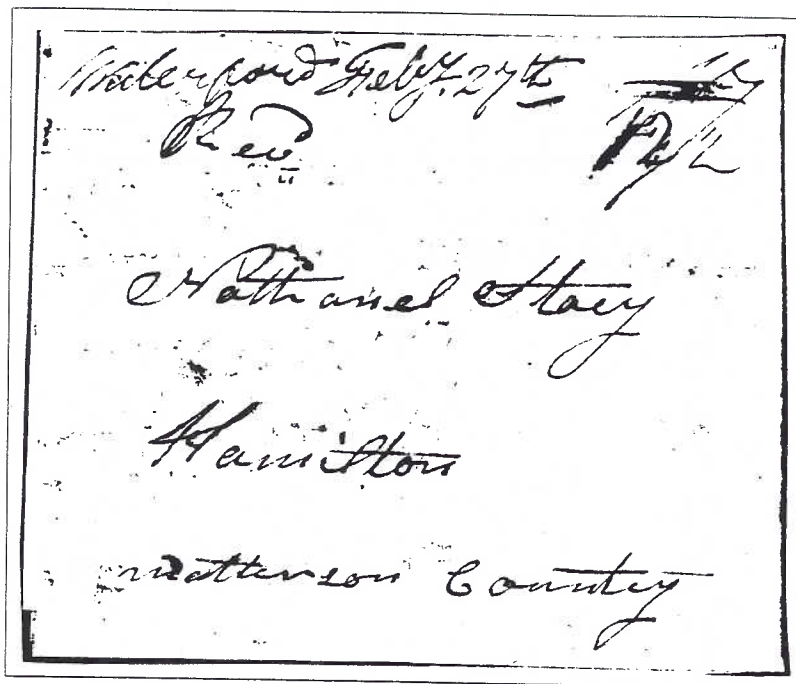
The Waterford post office was established in 1797. The earliest listed ms. from Waterford as listed in the publication Manuscript Post Offices of New York State, 1973* edition issued by the Empire State Postal History Society is 1818. This stampless folded letter is ten years younger.

*1984 edition now lists this as earliest reported cover.

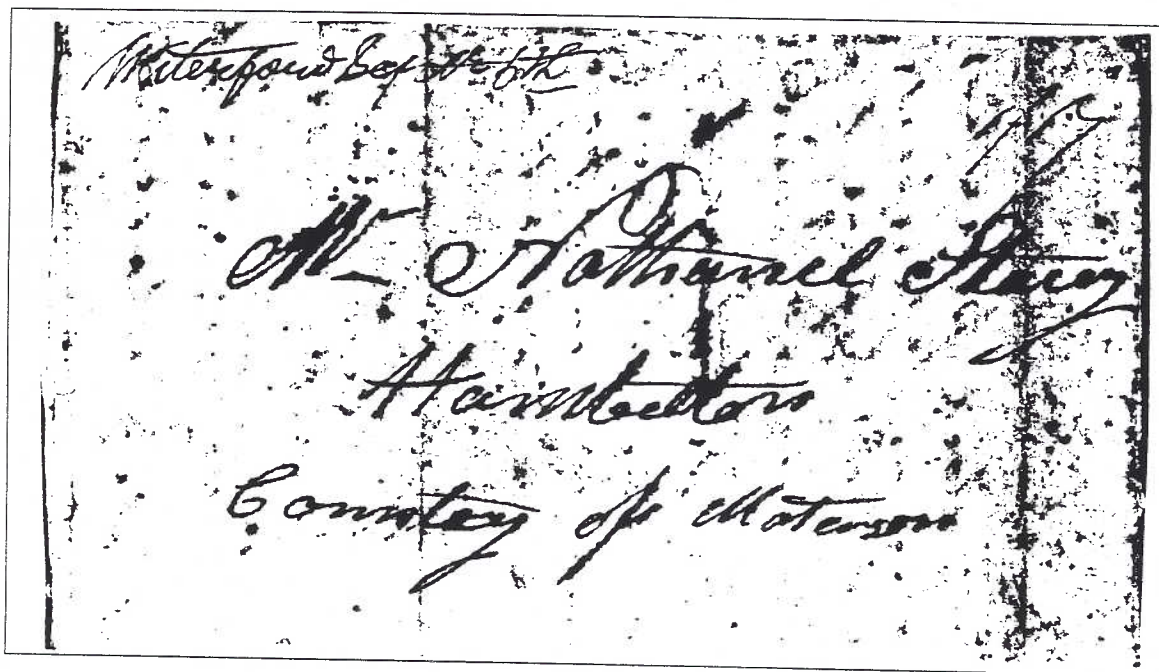
This cover is not internally dated. However, notice that "12½" has been superimposed over "17."

The obliterated "17" is the clue to the probable era of usage because the 17 cent rate (150 to 300 miles for a single letter) was in effect only between 1799 and 1816.

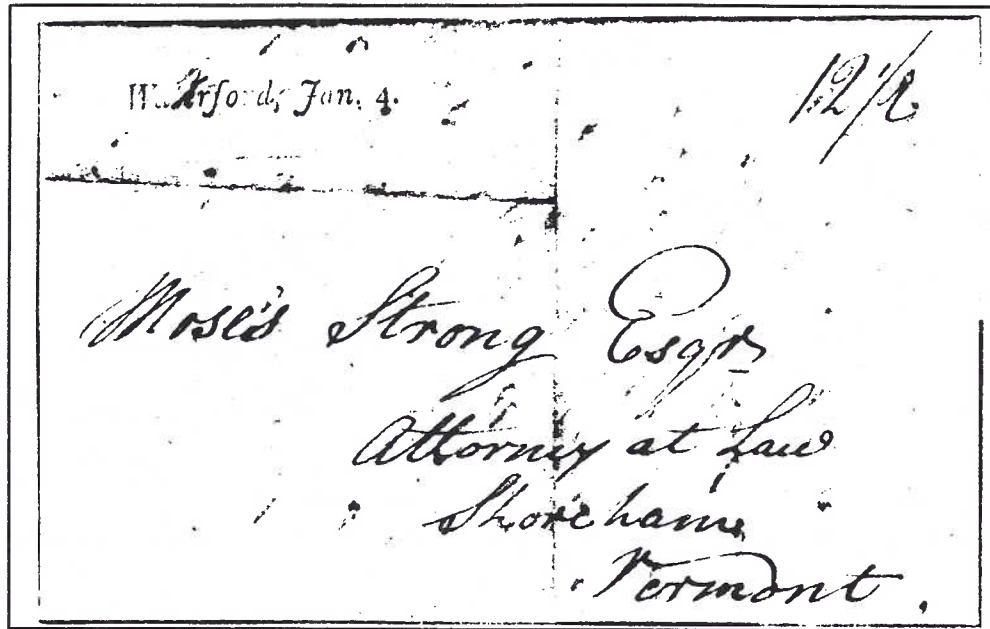
If only the 12½ cent rate were present, the time of usage could not have been determined closer than 1799-1845.



1799-1816 Usage



1811



Straight-line handstamp $13\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$ mm in black italics, a rare marking, unlisted in the 1985 edition of the ASCC.

Internal dating of this folded letter sheet clearly shows the 1810 year date in two places.

The postal charge was $12\frac{1}{2}\text{¢}$, this being the zone rate at that time for a single letter (sheet) traveling a distance of 90-150 miles.

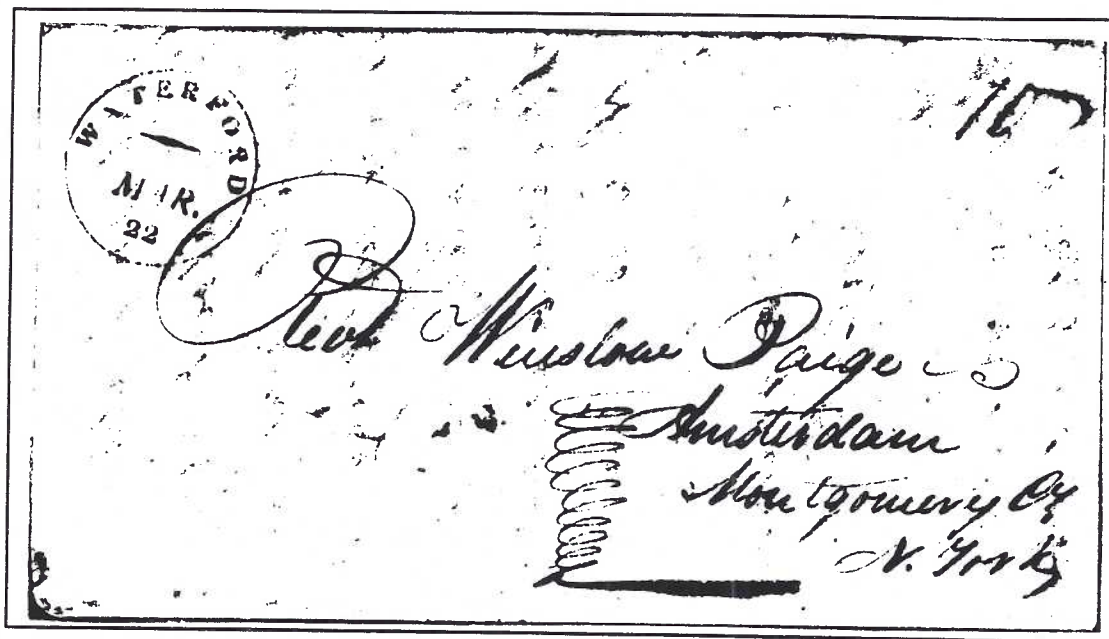
The recipient paid the postage charge. One possible way was to use two Spanish or Mexican $\frac{1}{2}$ reales pieces, worth $6\frac{1}{4}\text{¢}$ each.

1810

Known only in 1810

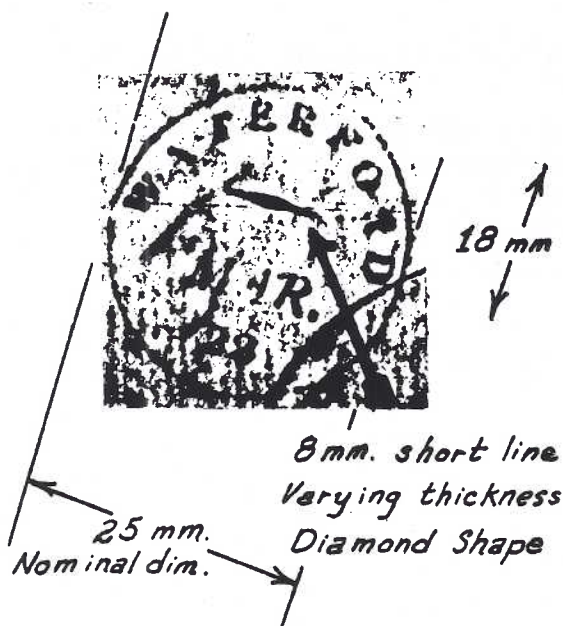
TYPE I HANDSTAMP

10¢ Rate - 40 to 90 miles



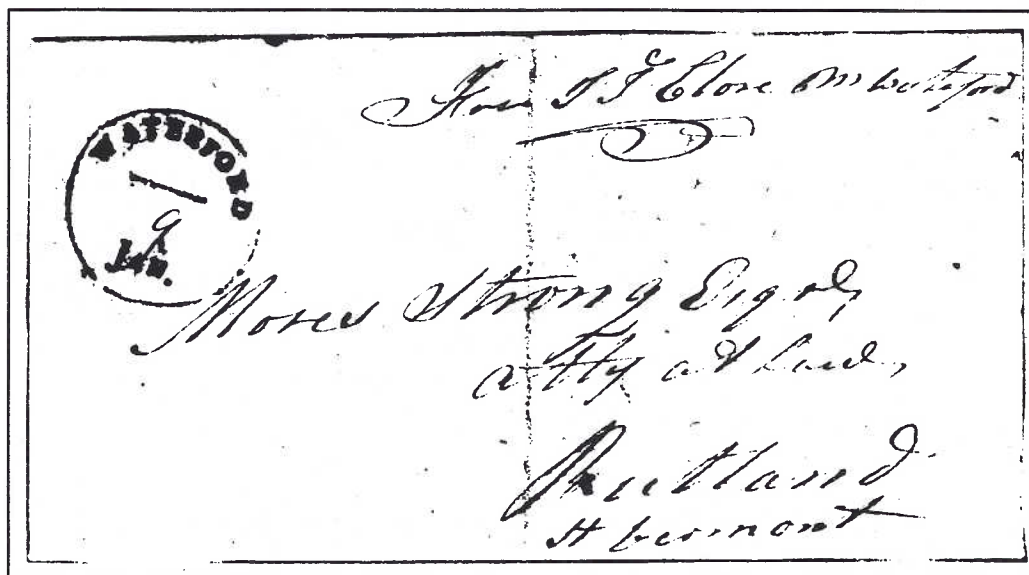
The characteristics of this handstamp which differentiate it from the Type II variety are:

- The "circle" is a nominal 25 mm in diameter with a slight oval shape. The diameter at approximately right angles is 26½ mm. (Type II is 26 mm.)
- The letters "WATERFORD" are spaced far apart, occupying about half of the circle circumference. This occurs in a vertical space of 18 mm. (Type II uses 10½ mm.)
- The "ornament" near the center is 8 mm long and is diamond shaped. (The Type II "line" near the center is 11 mm long with uniform thickness."



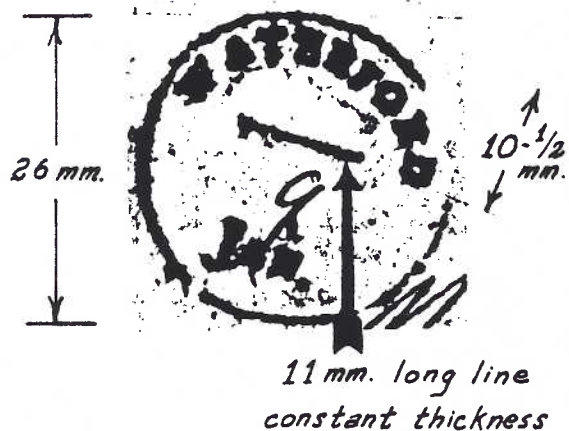
1811

TYPE II HANDSTAMP



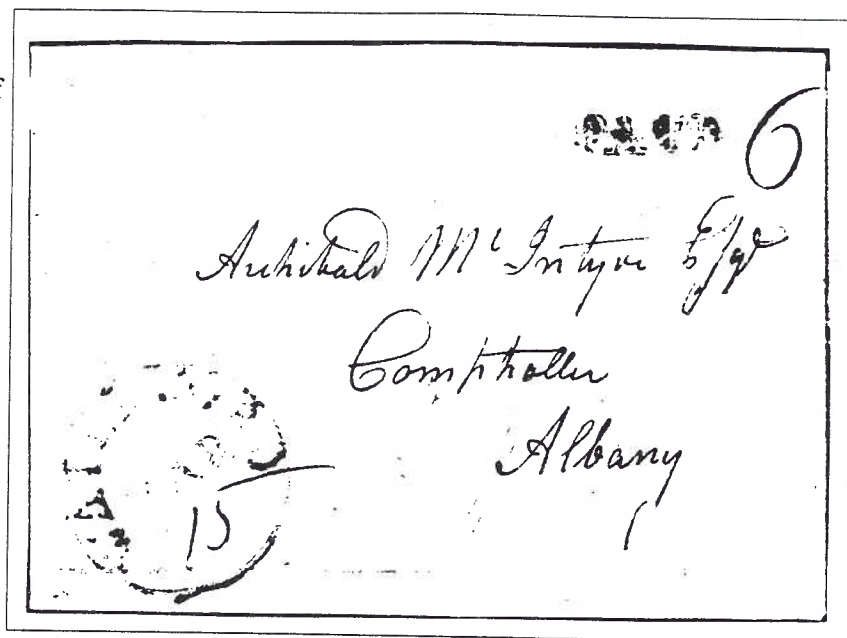
This handstamp differs in several respects from the Type I variety, proving that two completely different handstamps existed in 1810-1811:

- The circle diameter is 26 mm. (Type I is 25 mm.)
- The letters "WATERFORD" are crowded together, forming a short arc. The letters occupy less circumferential distance in a vertical space of $10\frac{1}{2}$ mm. (Type I uses 18 mm.)
- The "line" or "ornament" near the center is 11 mm long and has uniform thickness; the "line" is directed towards the bottoms of the letters "W" & "D." (The Type I "line" is an 8 mm long diamond-shaped ornament.)

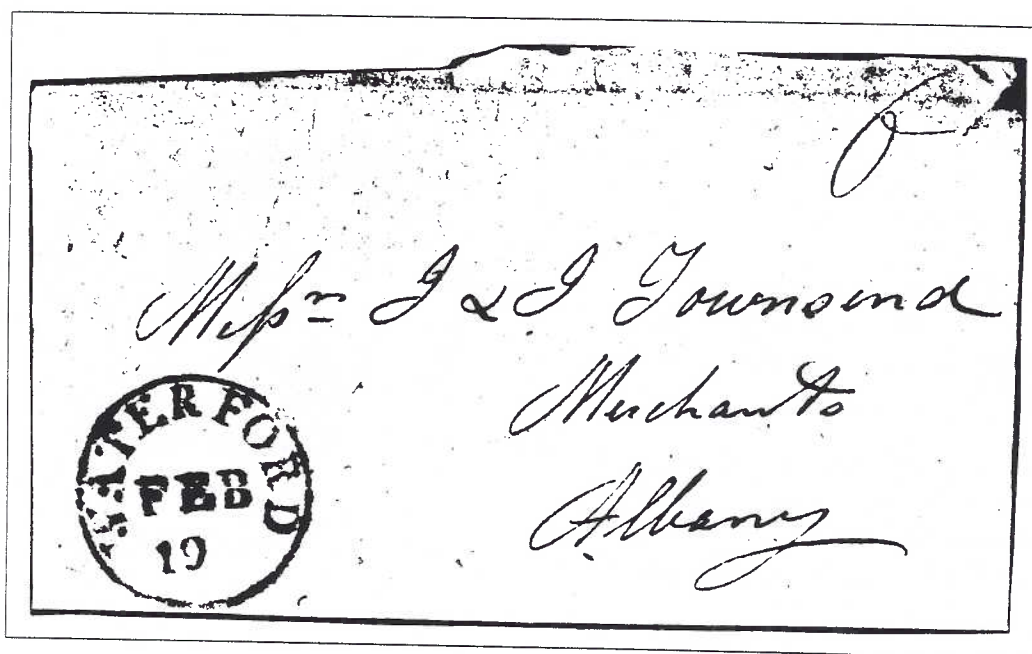


1820

Red PAID indicating prepayment of the 6¢ rate for a distance under 30 miles.



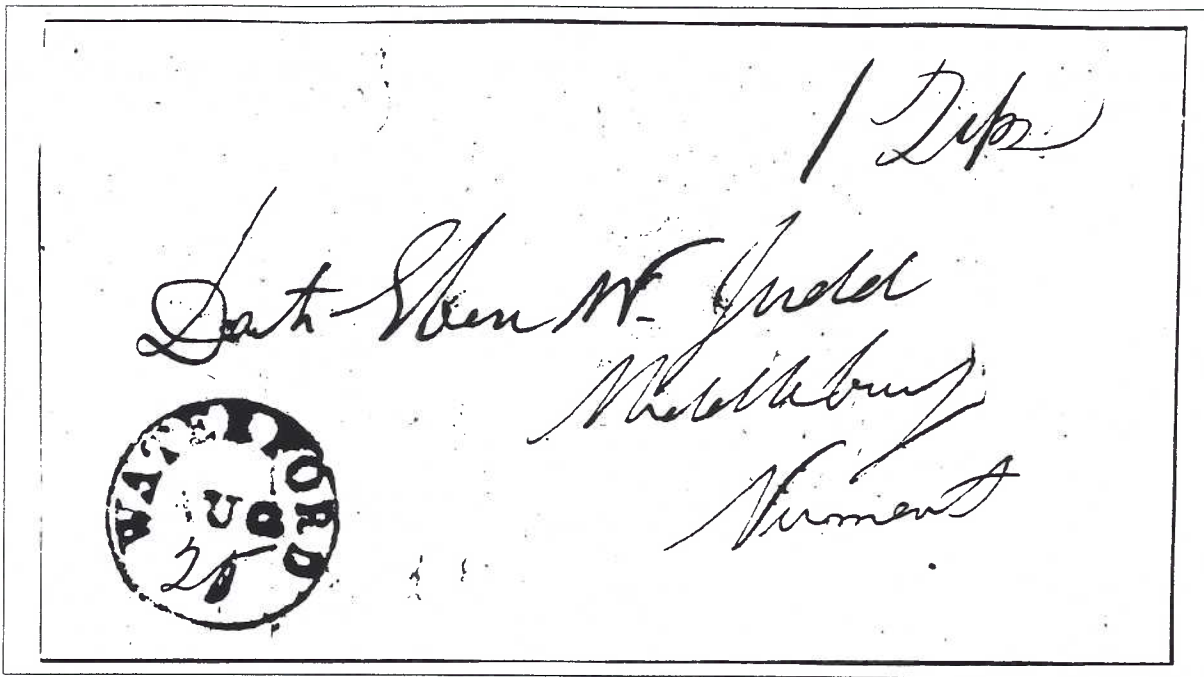
Red 30 mm circular cancel - with no N.Y. within circle.



1822

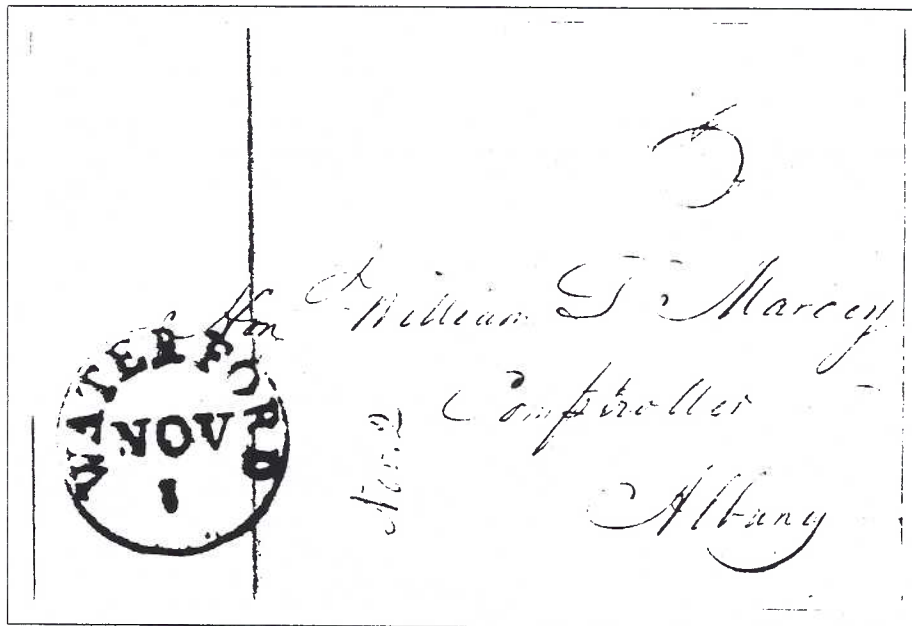
6¢ rate not prepaid.

Date of month included in handstamp.



1820

Bright Red 30 mm diameter circular cancel with remnants of blotting sand. 12½¢ rate, 80 to 150 miles. Act of April 9, 1816.



Nov. 1, 1826

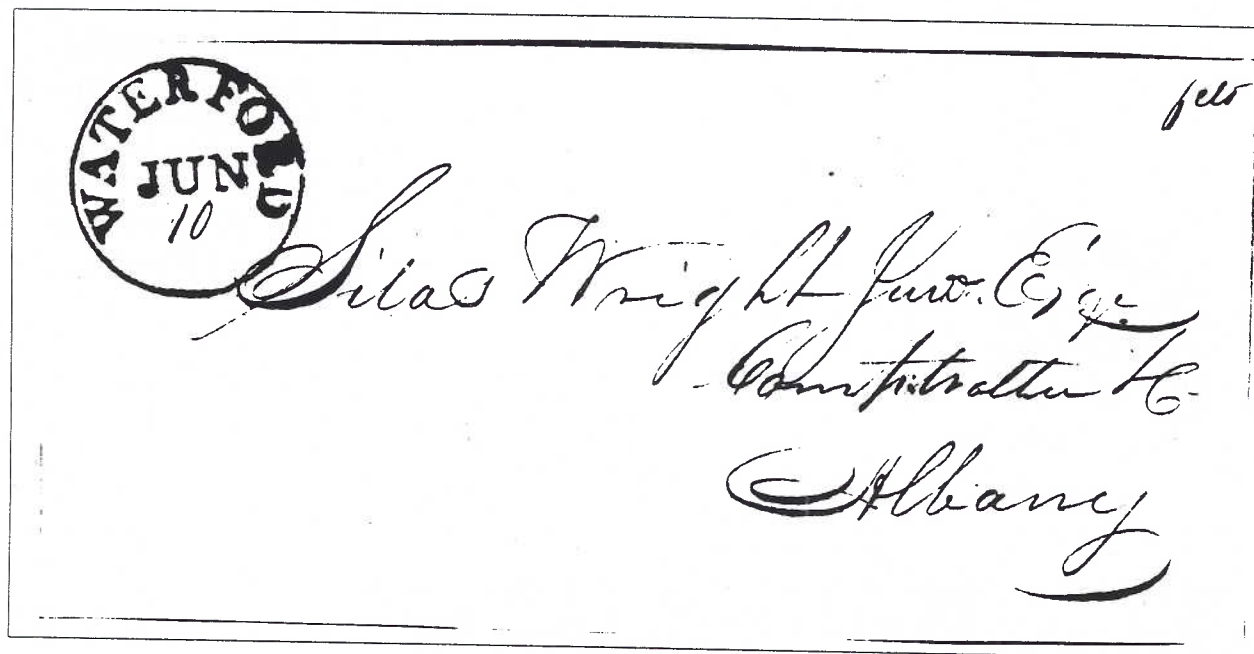
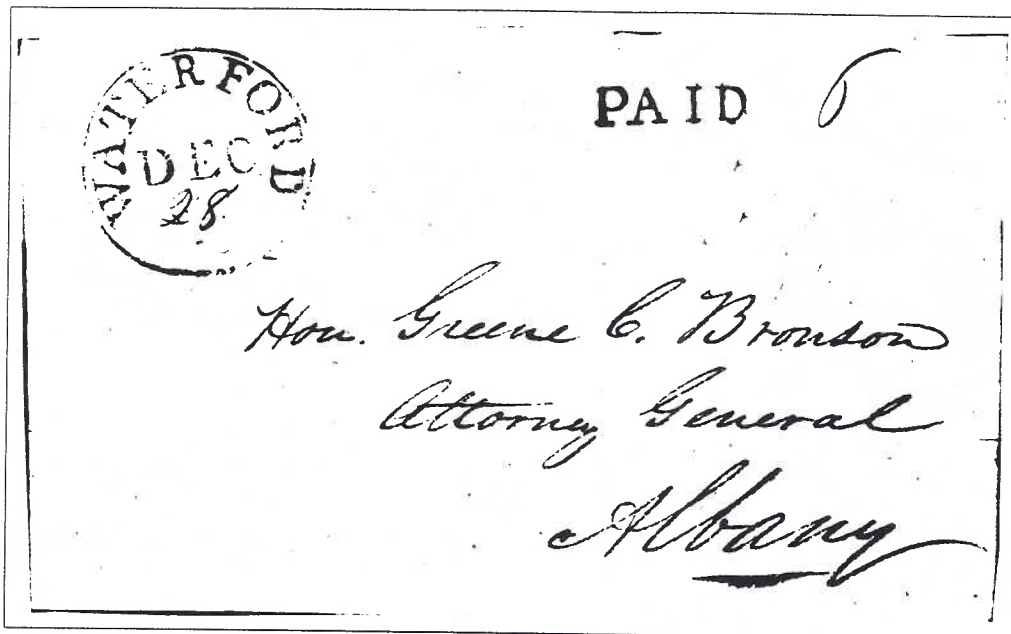
6¢ rate - single weight letter - not over 30 miles. Act of April 9, 1816, effective May 1, 1816. This rate stayed in effect until July 1, 1845. Red, 30 mm town strike. No "N.Y."

Erie Canal Letter

The Erie Canal was finished in 1825 with the first Buffalo - New York City trip occurring October 26-November 4, 1825. This stampless folded letter reports receipts at Troy, N.Y. for the month of October 1826, a sum of \$5,675.21.

1829

30 mm orange-red circular strikes. 6¢ rate for under 30 miles. Covers illustrate a prepaid letter (top) and not prepaid (bottom).

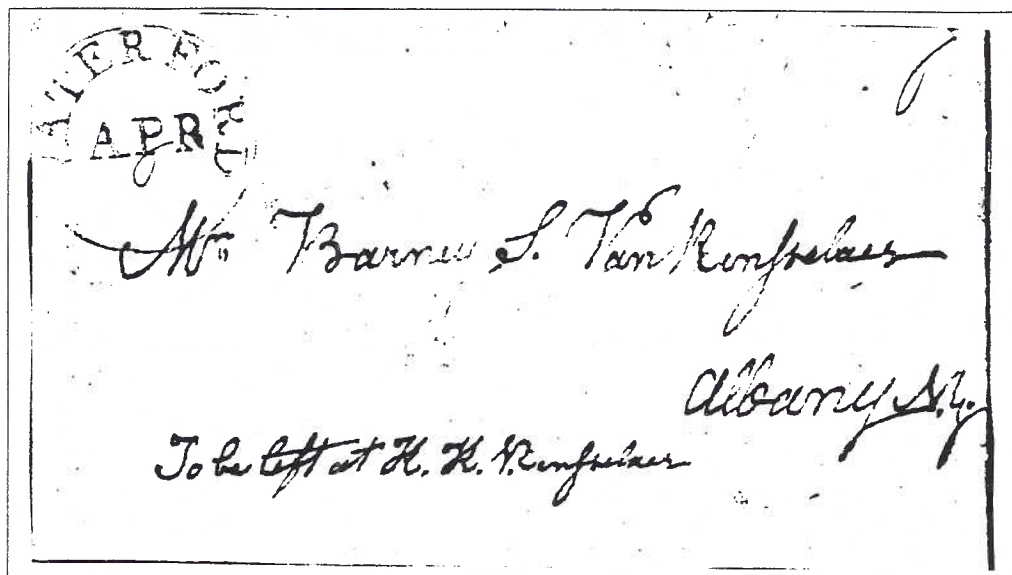


April 6, 1830

30 mm. dark red circular town strike. There are two unusual features of this Waterford town marking.

First: The color. Brighter reds are known before and after, in fact they are almost orange. This color is close to a faded carmine rose red, a very scarce Waterford shade.

Second: The size of the strike. There is no straight line "N.Y.," so it cannot be early usage of the 30 mm 1831-48 marking. The thinness of the circle makes accurate measurement possible, i.e. it is not the 29 mm strike reported for 1827 nor obviously is it the 25 mm strike used between 1830 and 1832. It does appear to be the same strike listed as occurring (in the American Stampless Cover Catalogue) between 1815-26 and thus represents very late usage of that marking. 6¢ rate for under 30 miles. Not prepaid.

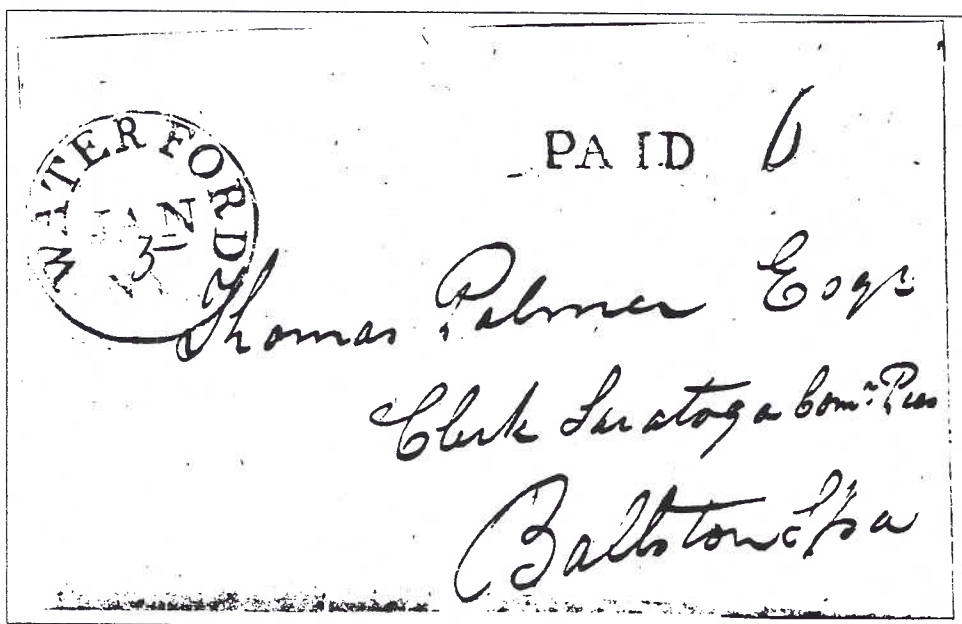


1830

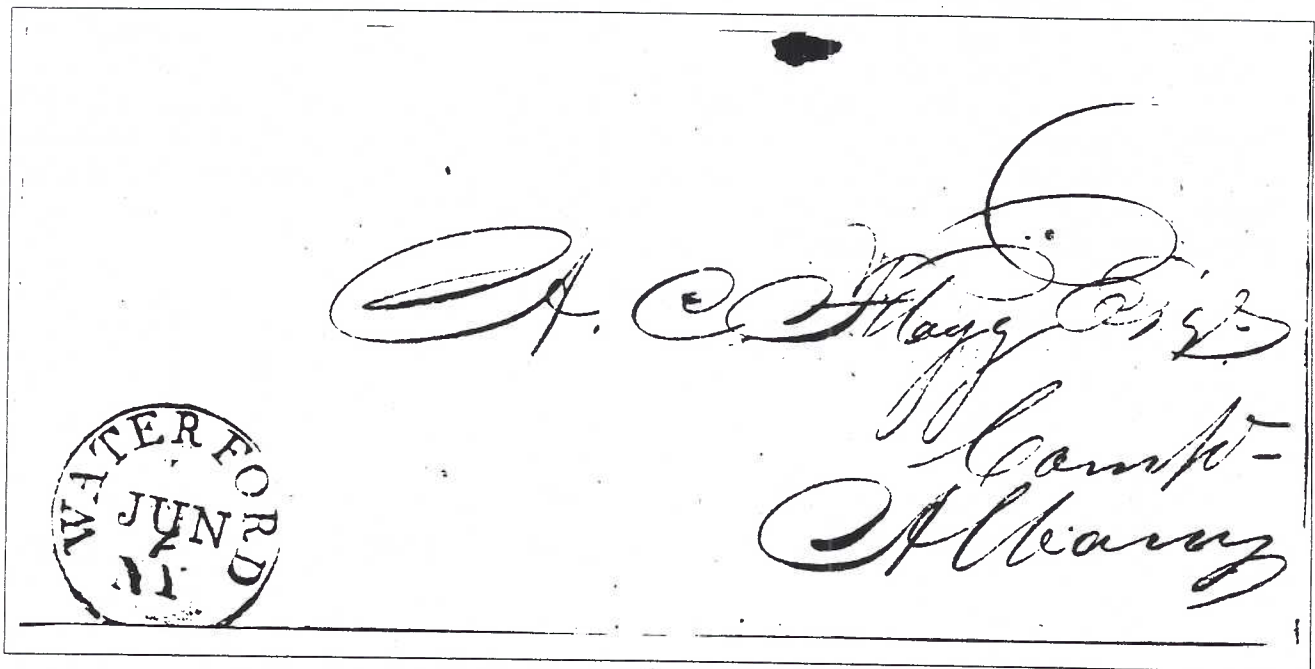
6¢ rate for under 30 miles. 20 x 4½ mm "PAID"

This cover has a 30 mm reddish orange circular town strike with a "straight line" N.Y. This marking is noted in the 1985 edition of the American Stampless Cover Catalogue as occurring between 1831-1848.

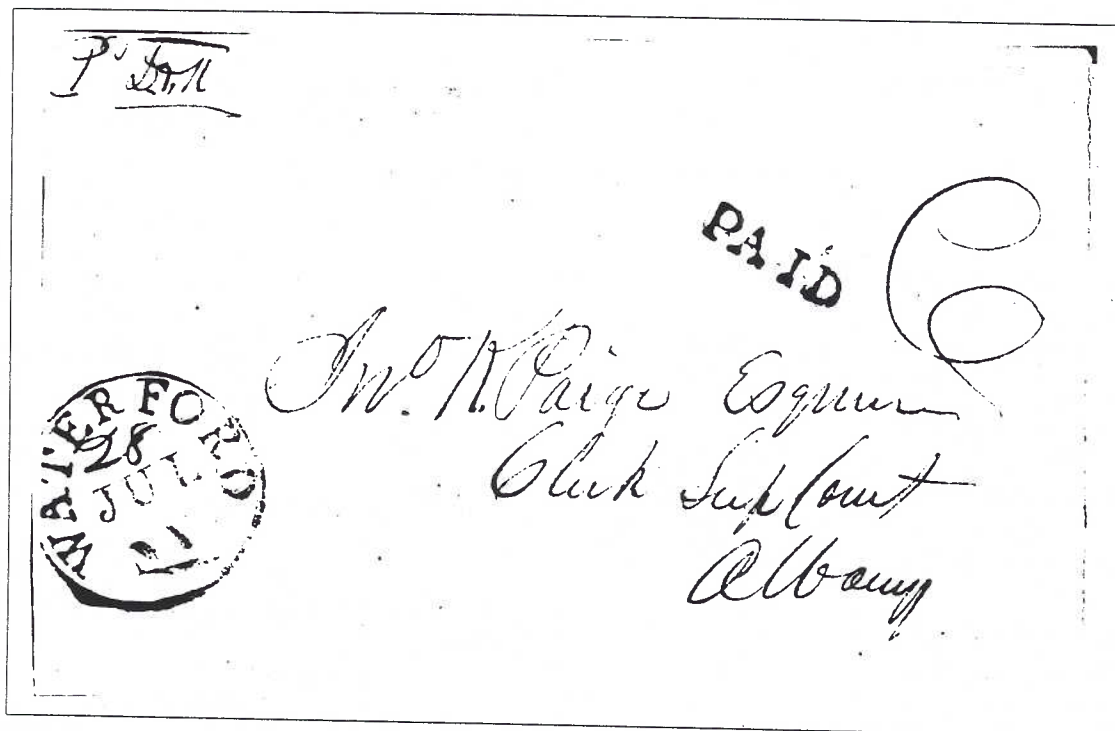
The dated contents, and strike, proves that the marking was in existence a year earlier.



1833-34
ms. 6¢ rate for less than 30 miles



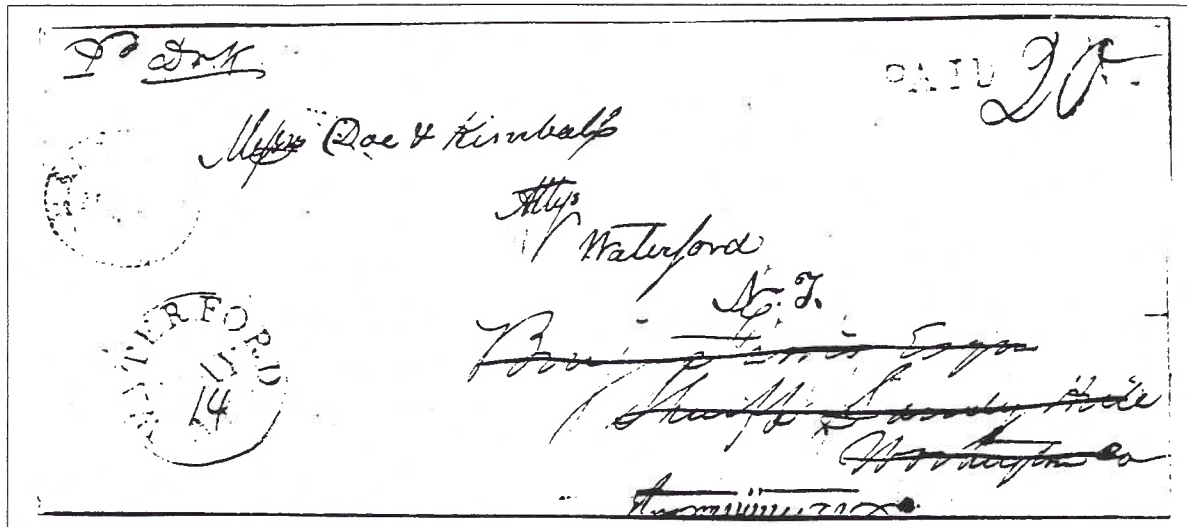
1833



1834

Red "PAID" & 1834 red 30 mm circular town strike. ms. 6¢ rate

May 14-23, 1835

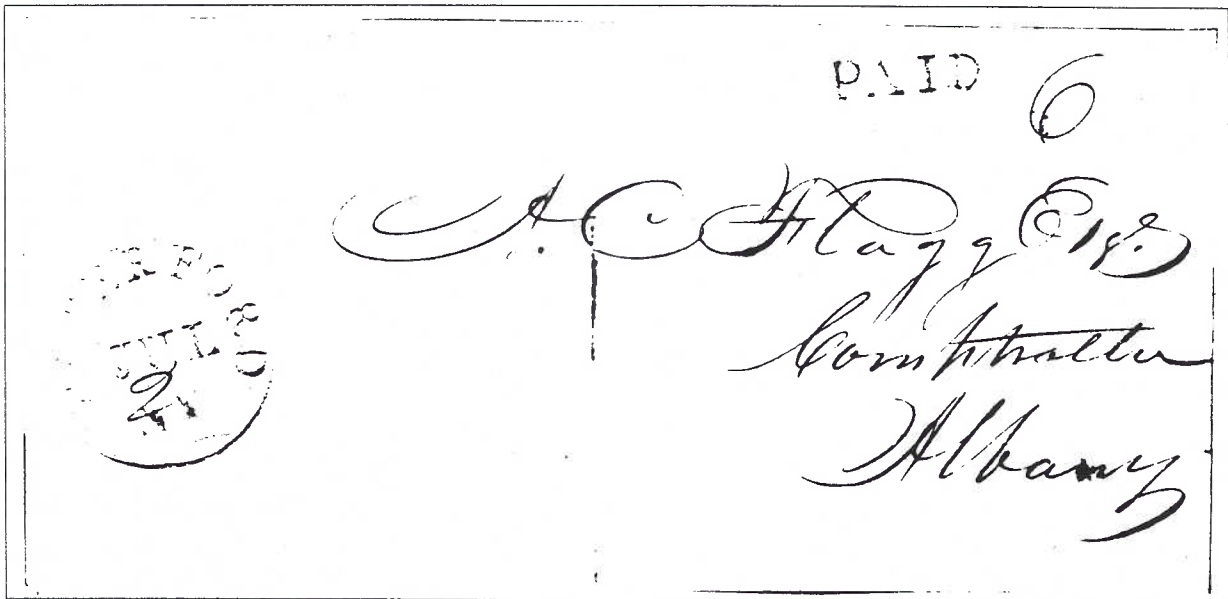


This "round trip" cover went through the mail twice:

First usage: From Waterford, May 14. Red 30 mm circular pink. (1831-1848) and red "PAID"

Second usage: From Sandy Hill in Washington County, May 23. Red dotted oval pink (1832-35) and ms. "20" which was twice the zone rate for single letters, 30-80 miles.

The multiple rate was used on letters of more than one sheet and of one ounce or over in weight.



1835

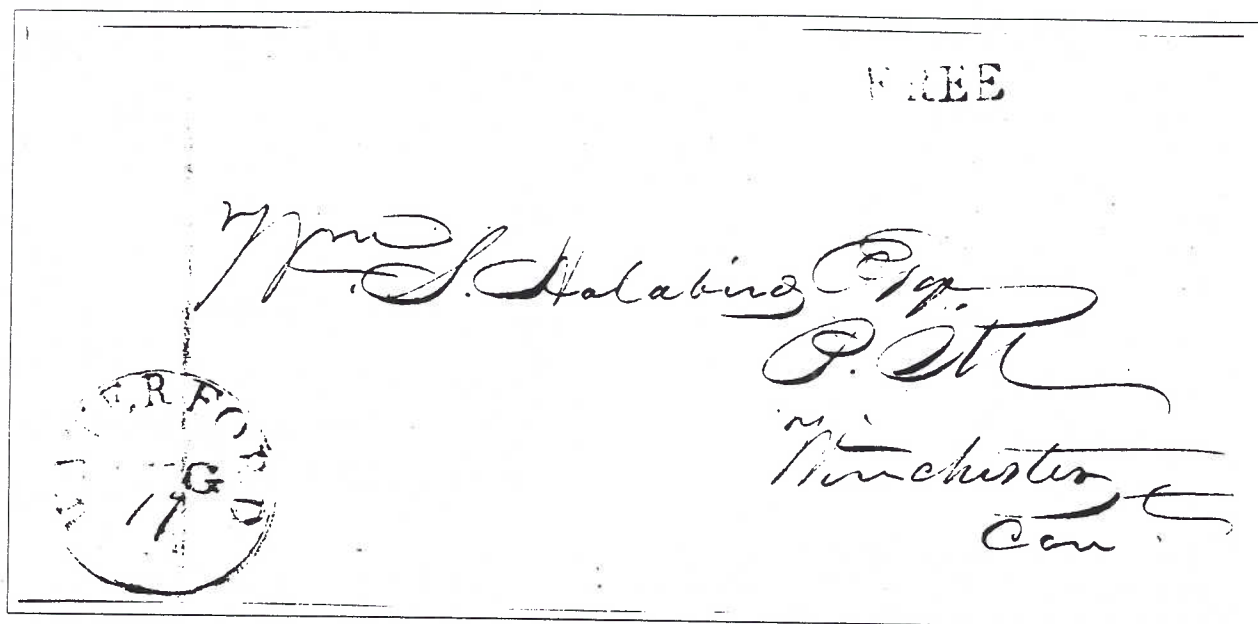
Dull claret 30 mm circular strike and "PAID" with ms. "6."

The Waterford red strikes varied in color from a bright orange-red to a nearly violet shade (dull claret). This shade is the darkest of the "reds."

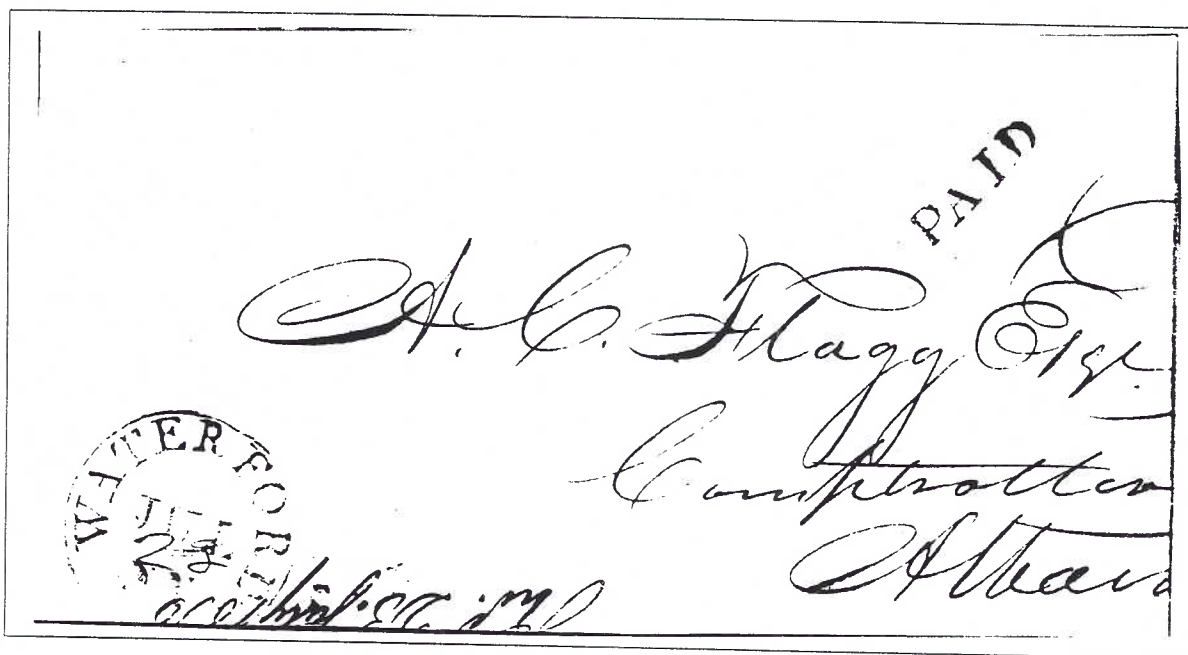
1836

30 mm red circular strike and auxiliary markings

18 x 4½ mm FREE



Free letter because recipient was a postmaster



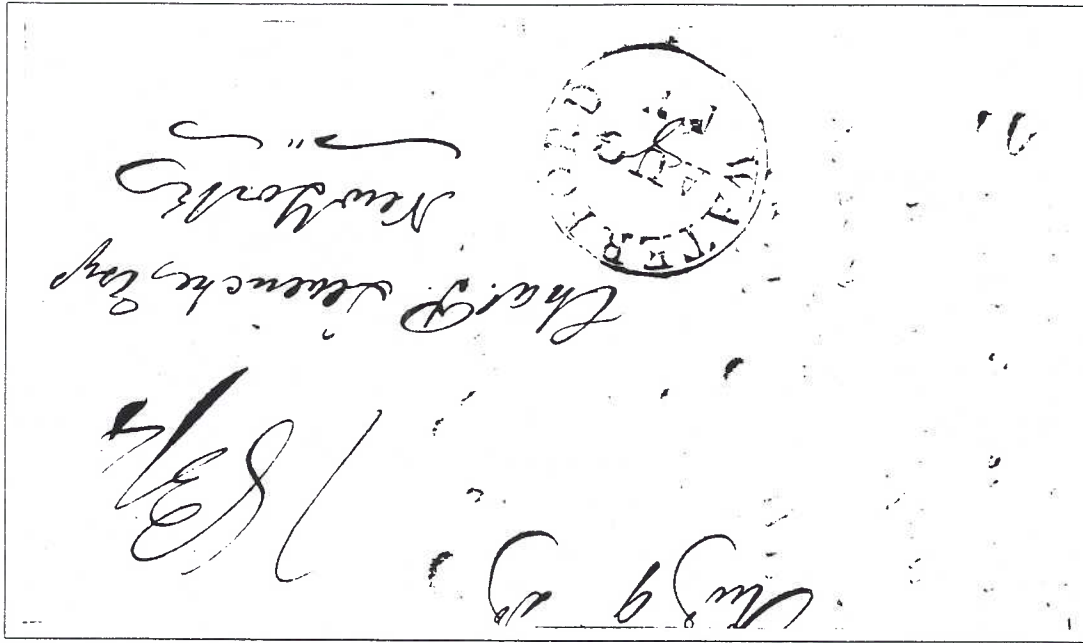
19½ x 5 mm PAID

Prepaid 6¢ rate (not over 30 miles)

Ms. 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢ rate, 150-400 miles

Red circular town strike

August 8, 1836

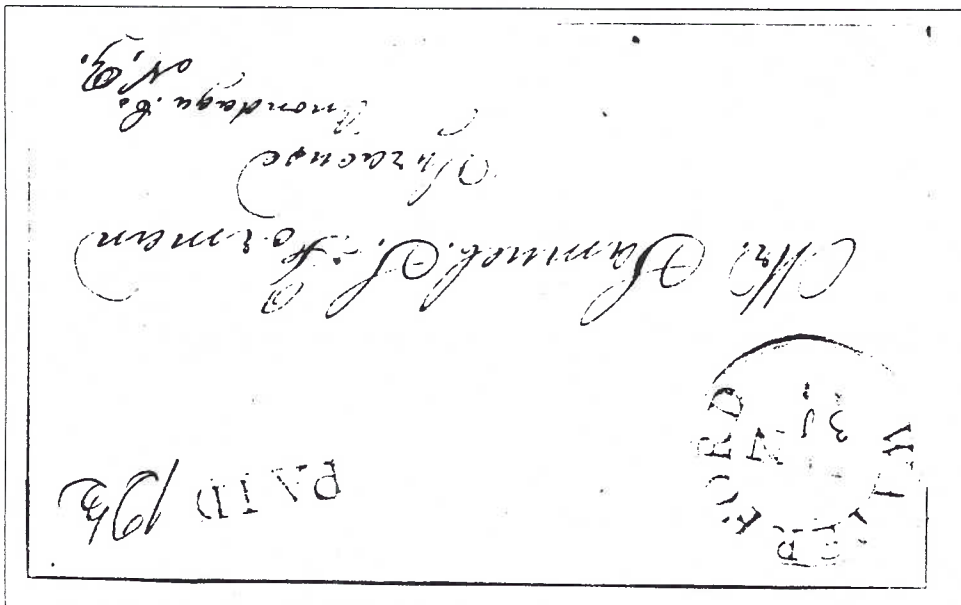


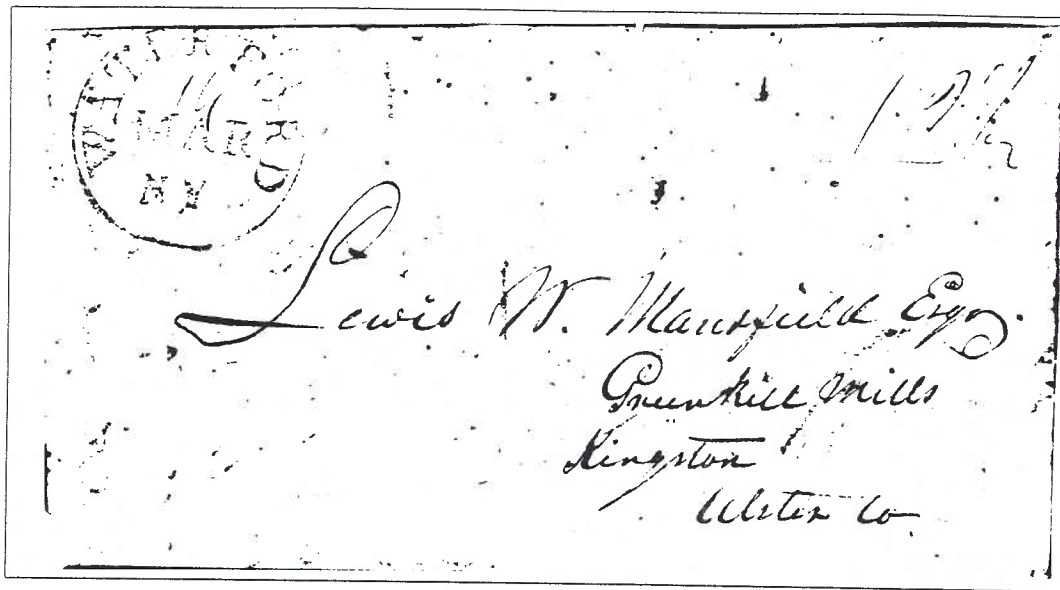
enclosing check.

Co. requesting dividend - also reply at bottom, dated Feb. 9, 1836
Letter to the Treasurer of the Third Great Western Turnpike Road

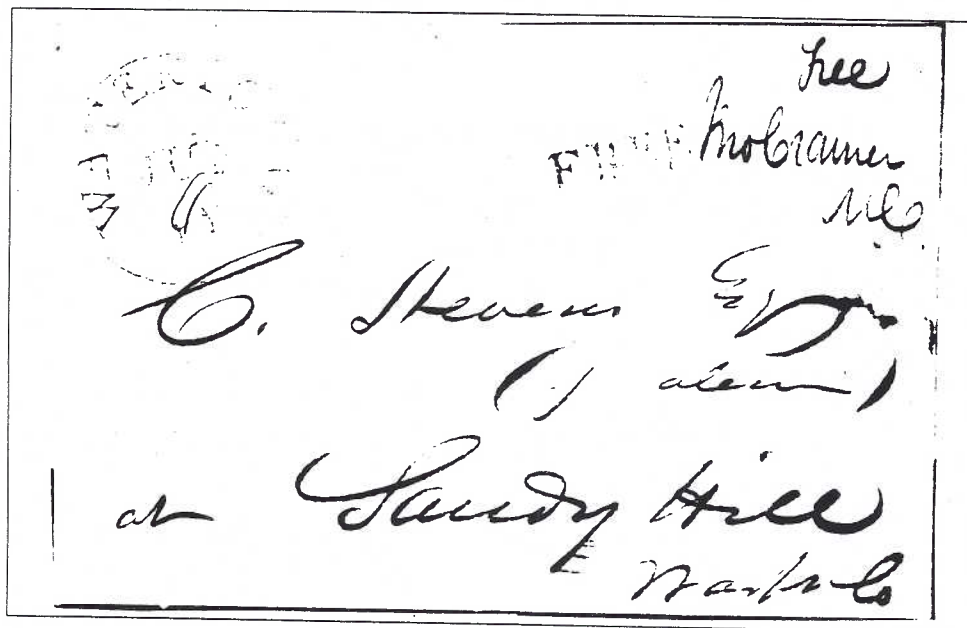
Red circular town strike Red "PAID" Ms. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ rate, 80-150 miles

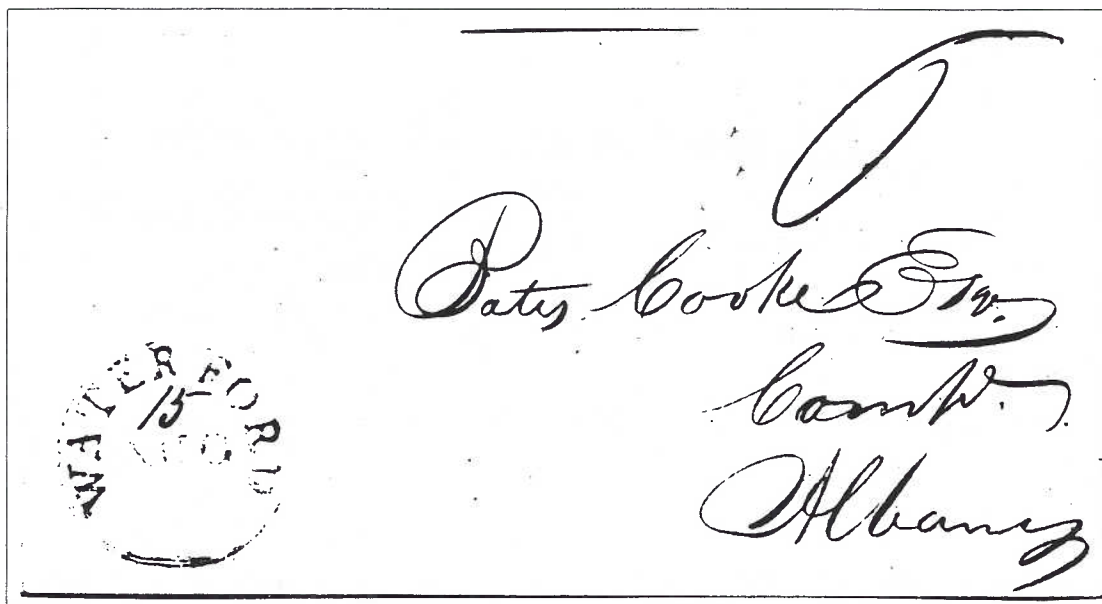
Jan. 30, 1836





March 14, 1838



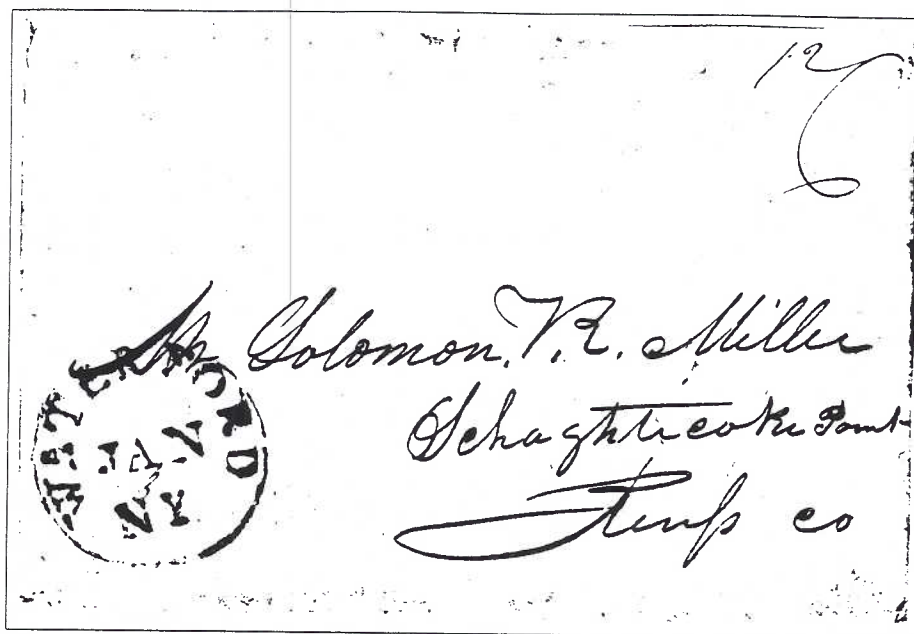


1839 or 1840

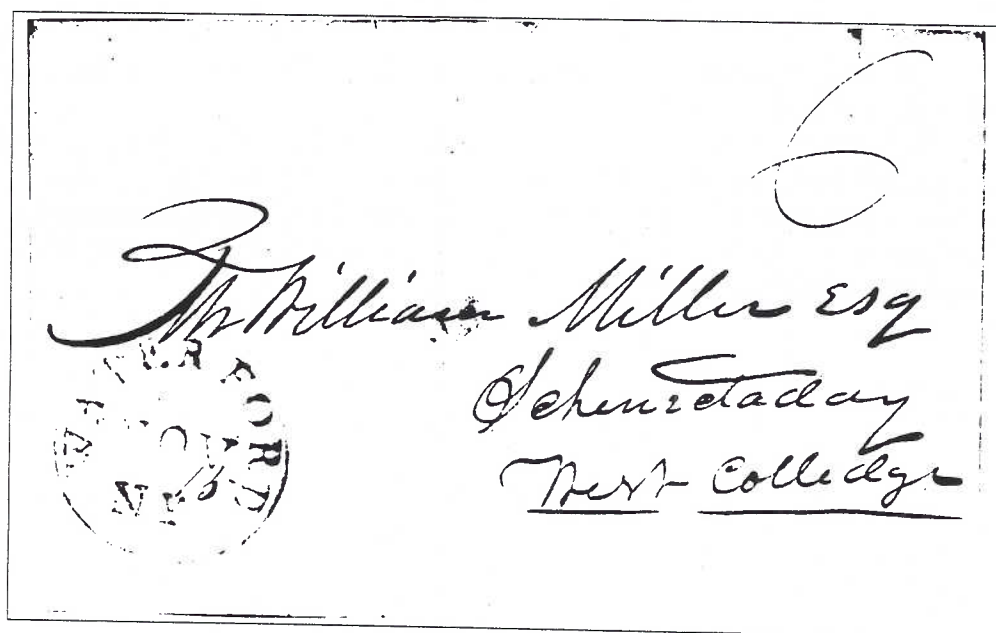
Brown 30 mm. Diameter circular town strike without "N.Y."

This cover is undated and without enclosure. Nevertheless, the period of use can be identified as 1839-1840.

The addressee, Bates Cooke, was Comptroller of the State of New York during 1839-1840 as attested by a group of 14 stampless folded letters covering the period of March 4, 1839 through December 30, 1840. Numerous A.E. Flagg Comptroller letters exist which are dated in both 1838 and 1841 (as well as other years), but none in 1839 or 1840, thus covering the Comptroller periods on each side of Bates' incumbency.



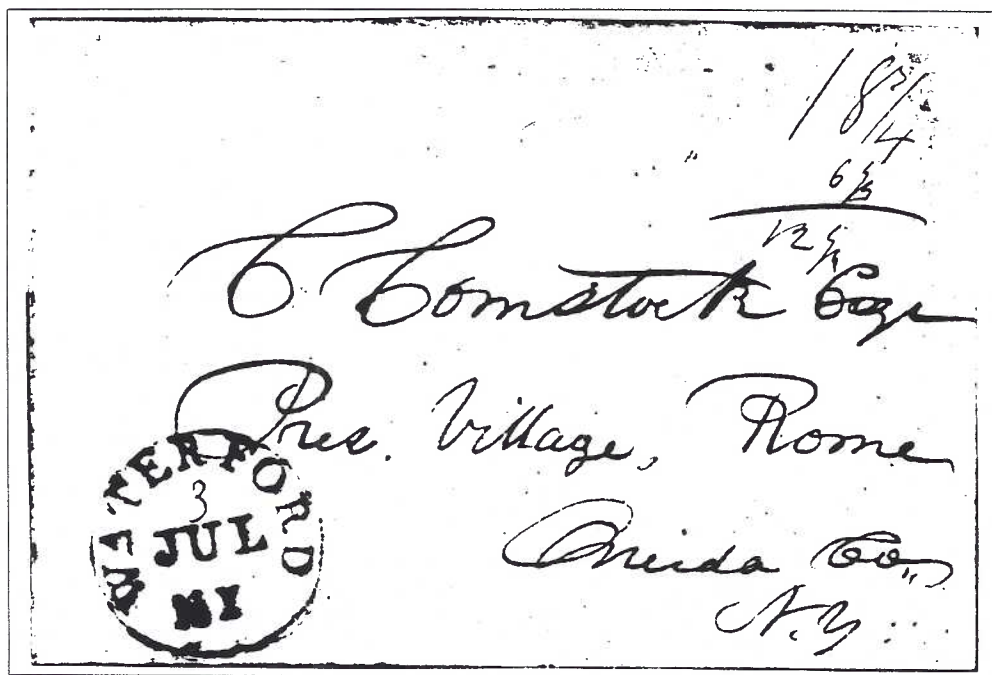
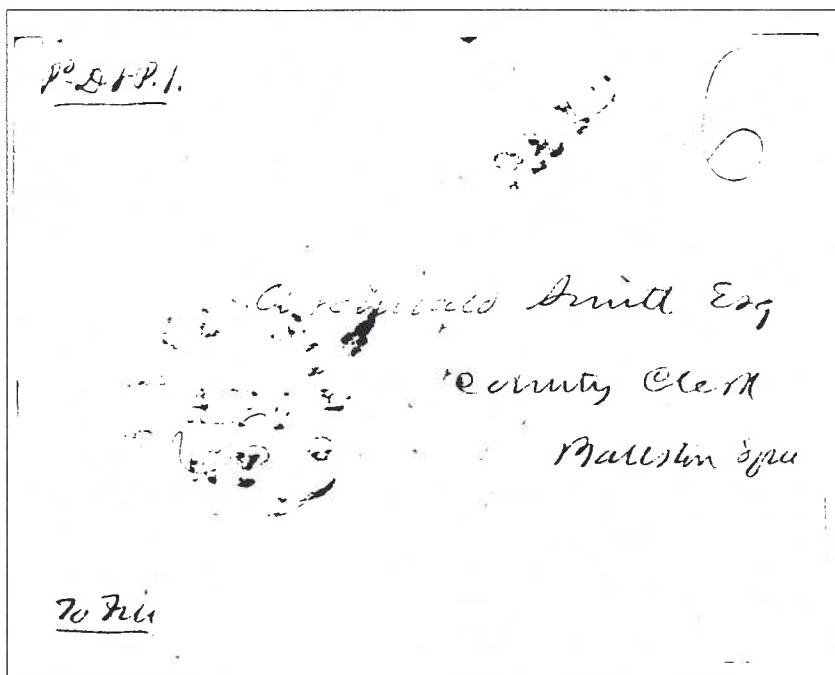
These green Waterford postmarks are not listed in the Stampless Cover Catalogue. The lower cover has an internal dating of 1842, the upper cover is undated.



1842

31 mm Orange Circular Stamp

6¢ rate for not over 30 miles



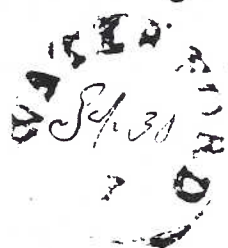
Corrected Rate - 1843

12½¢ was the correct rate for 80 to 150 miles. Probably changed upon receipt in Rome (different color of ink).
31 mm Orange Red circular strike.

1843

pp no. 1

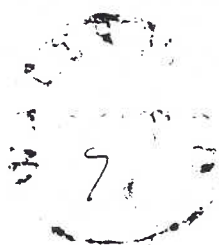
PAID

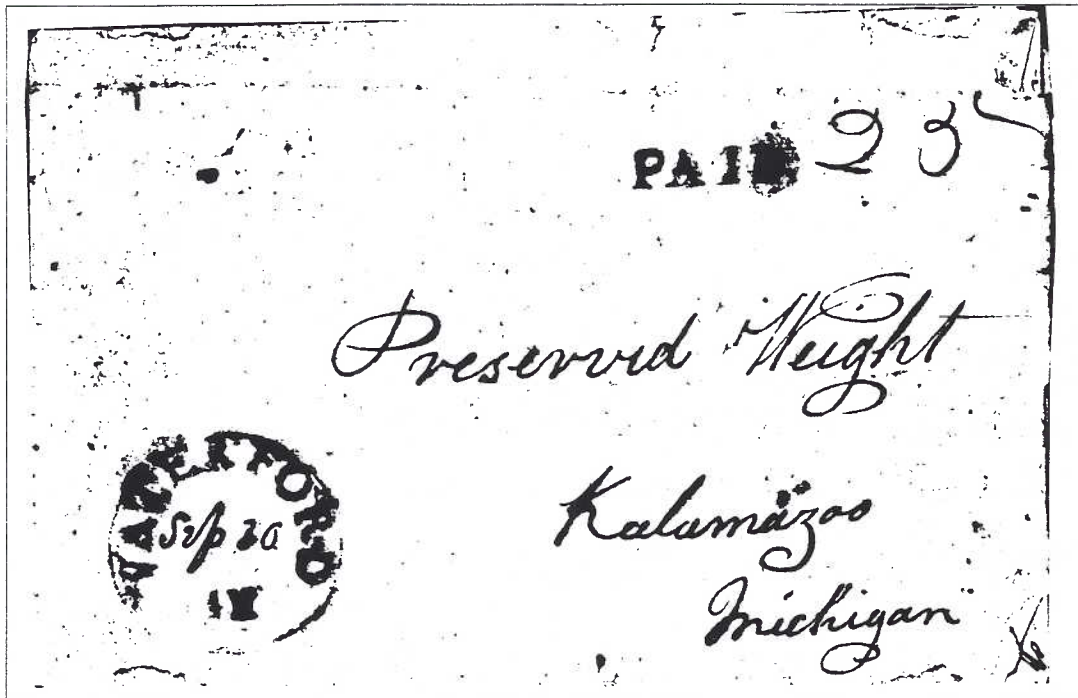


A. Goodrich Esq
Clerks office
Boston Ma.

C

Mr. A. L. Holland
Union College
Schenectady



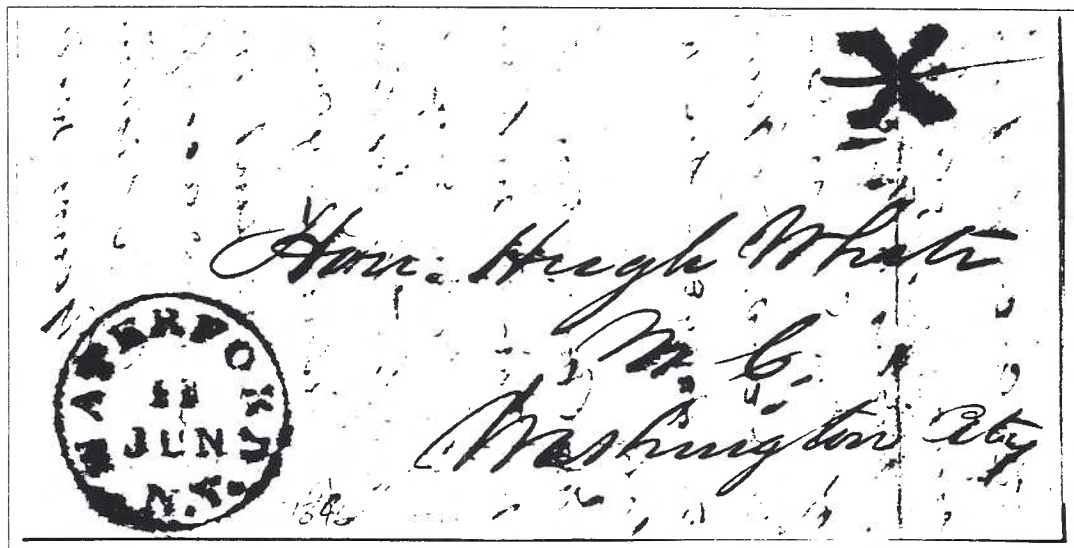


September 30, 1844

"Preserved Weight" is the name of a person, not an entity. This stampless folded letter, written by Benj Weight to Preserved, advises him a barrel will be sent to him and Benj advises in part:

"You must allow me once more to warn you about getting into debt for it is the misfortune of the majority of the first settlers of every new country to loose ther farms and improvements to pay a debt which was made principally to keep up appearances. Pride, fashion, popularity and extravagance, are the principle causes of bankruptcy..."

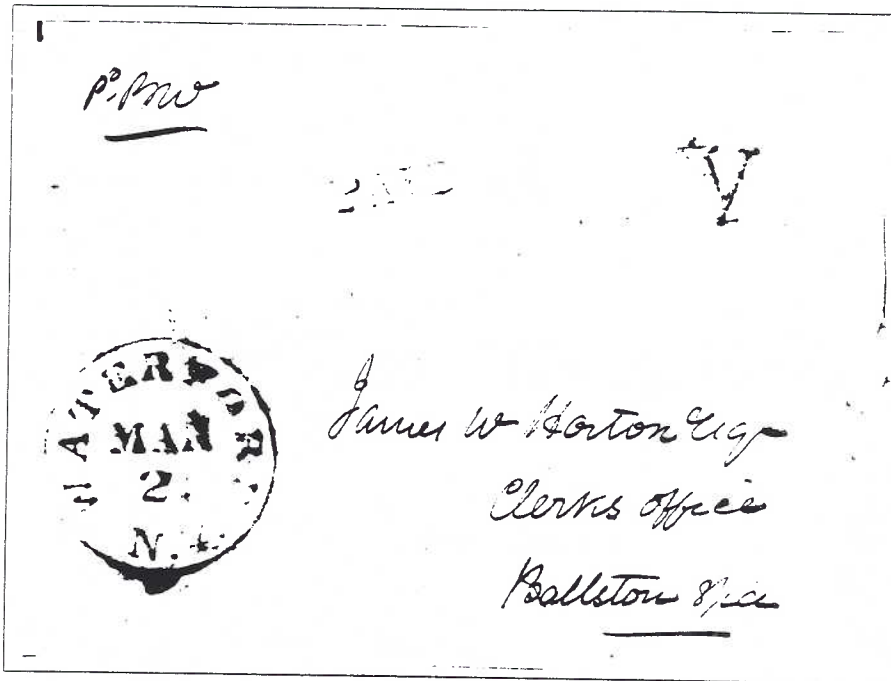
A prepaid letter, the 25¢ rate applying for distances over 400 miles. Red 30 mm circular strike.



15 x 13 mm

Day above
Month

1846 - Roman numeral "X" signifying the 10¢ rate for distances over 300 miles.

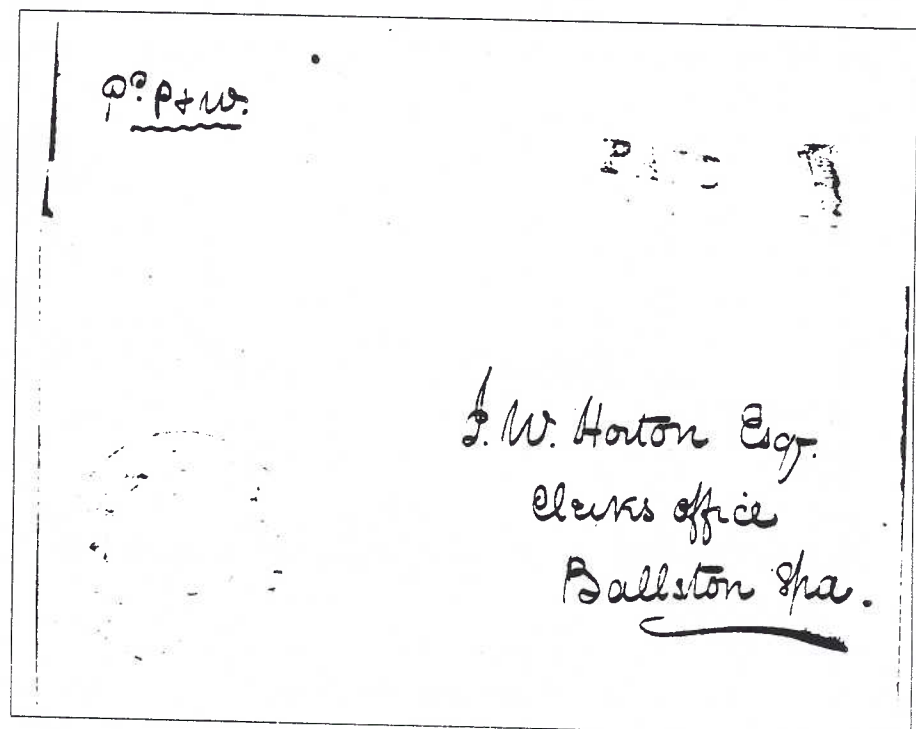


March 2, 1846

Month above Day

Orange-Red Strikes

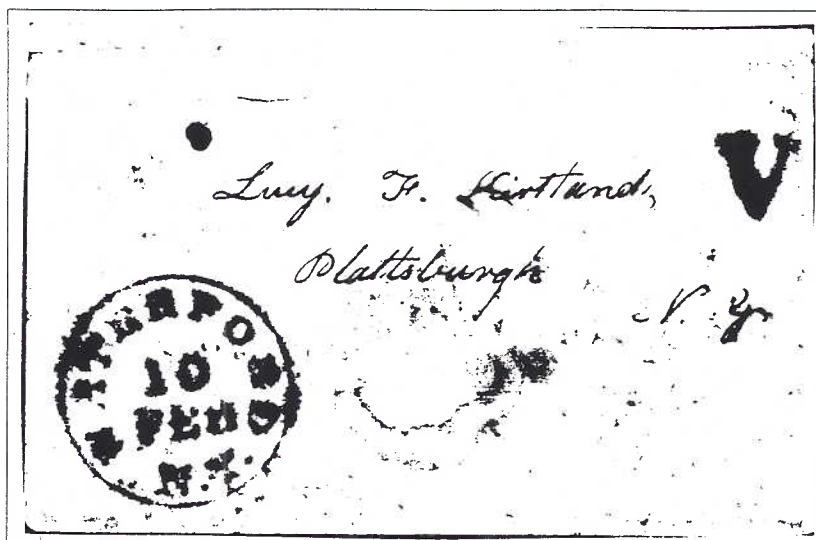
30 mm circular town strikes, "PAID" and Roman numeral "V" Prepaid letters



November 3, 1846

Day above Month

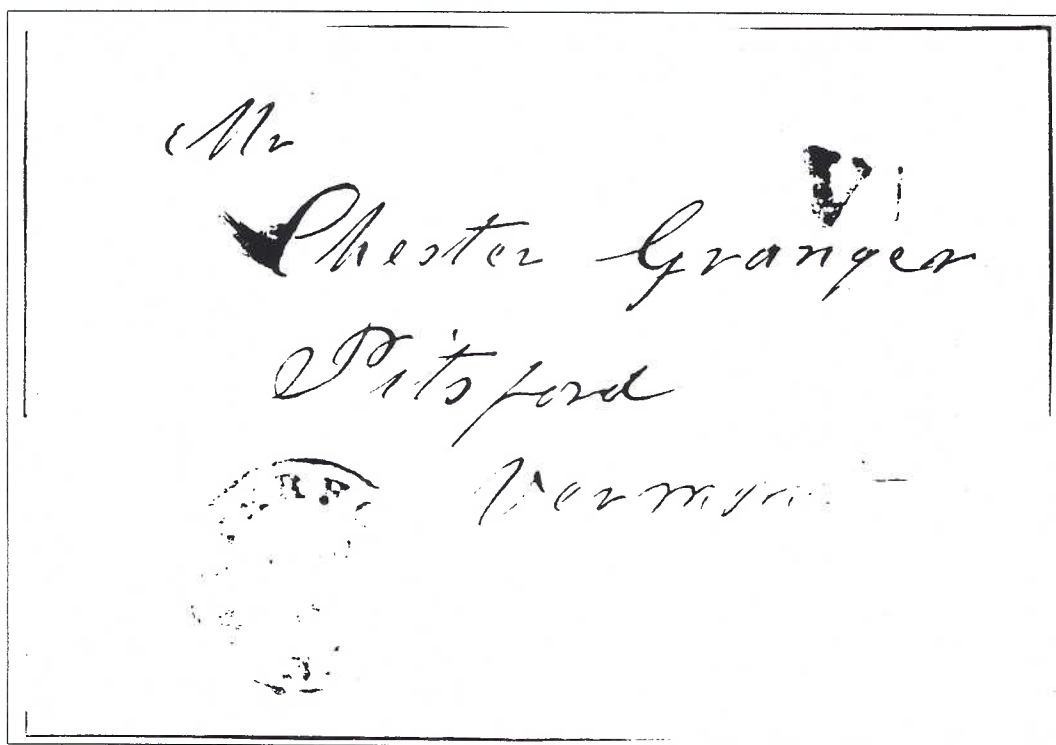
Orange strikes



Circa 1846

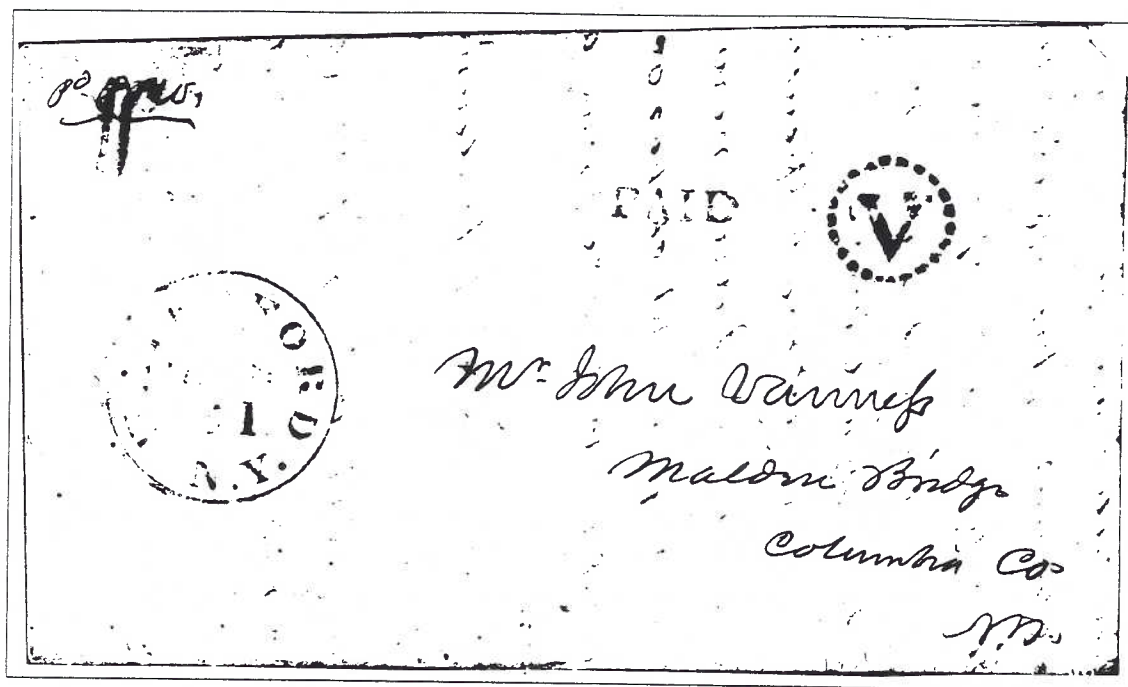
11-12 mm high "V"

This "V" is similar to but larger than the "V" on the bottom cover.



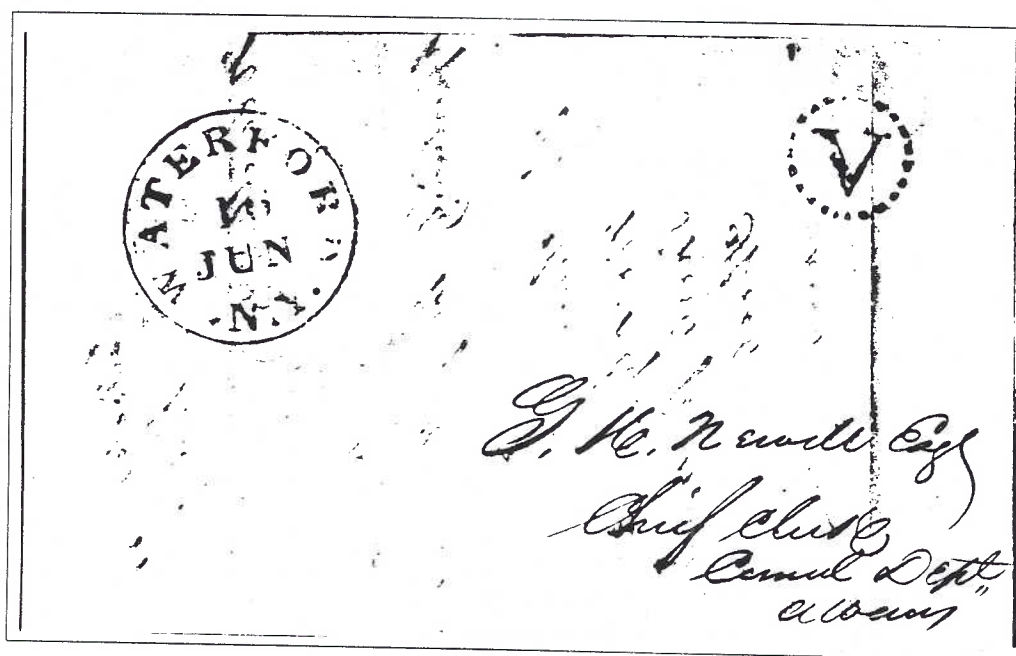
November 8, 1847

10 mm high "V"



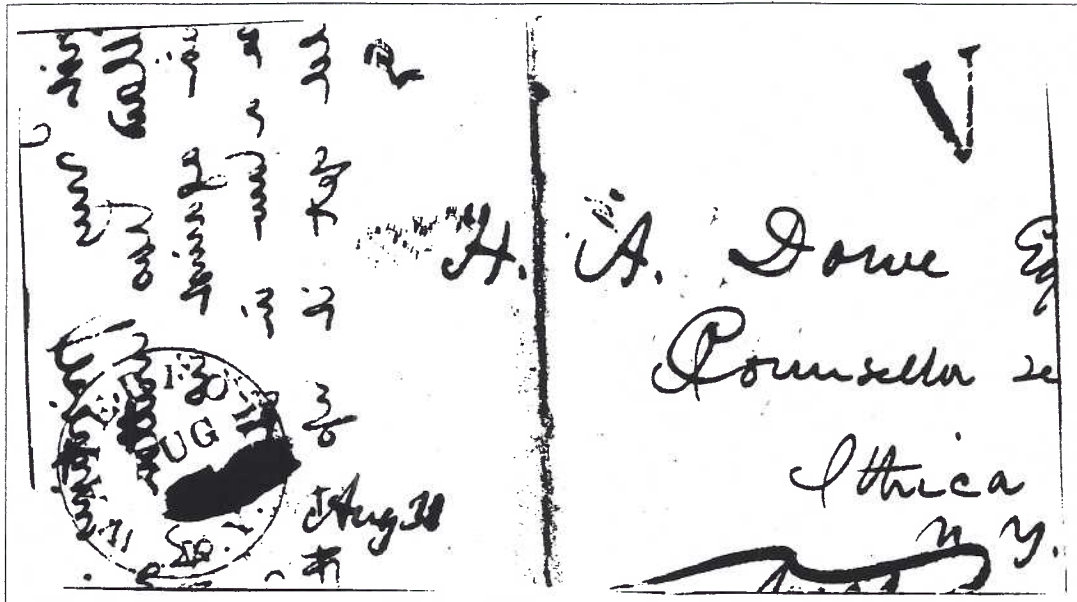
August 31, 1847

"V" in 16 mm diameter circle of dots, in one case accompanied by a "PAID."
An unlisted strike, probably used for a short time.
"V" is 9 mm high.



June 16, 1847

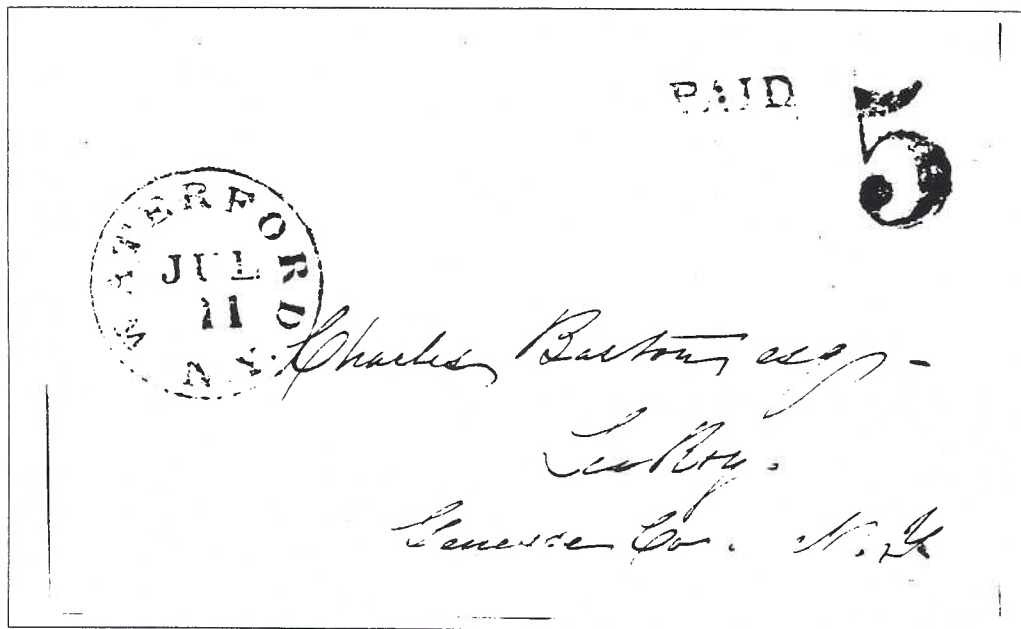
1848



This is the largest of the Waterford "V's," 10 x 15 mm

1849

Large curved 5, 8 x 19 mm



Single letter rate for under 300 miles. This rate was effective from July 1, 1845 through June 30, 1851. The "PAID" marking indicates the sender paid the postage.

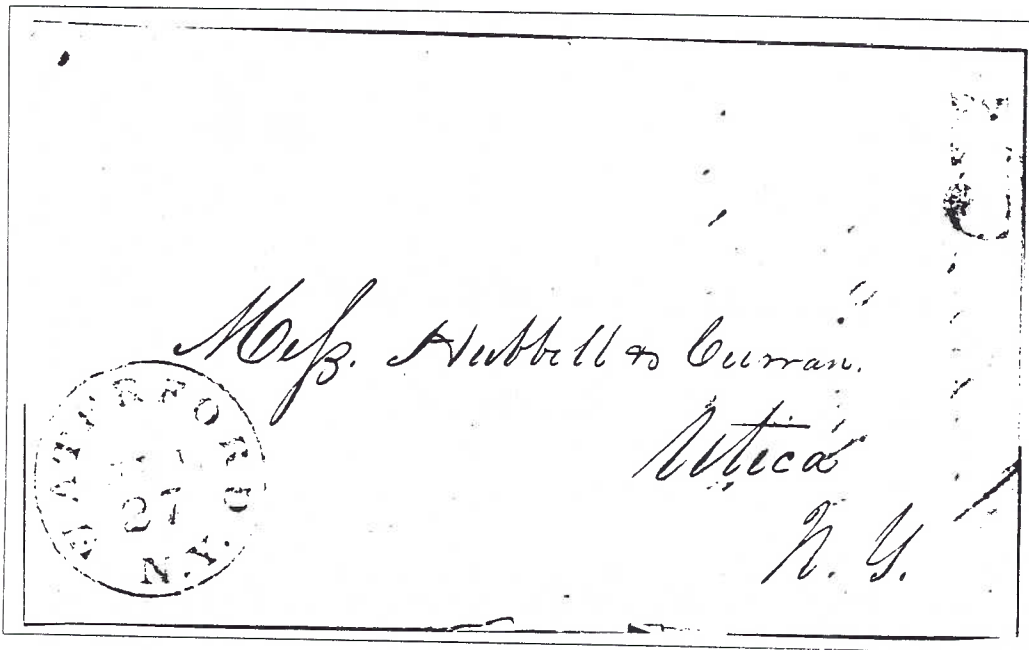
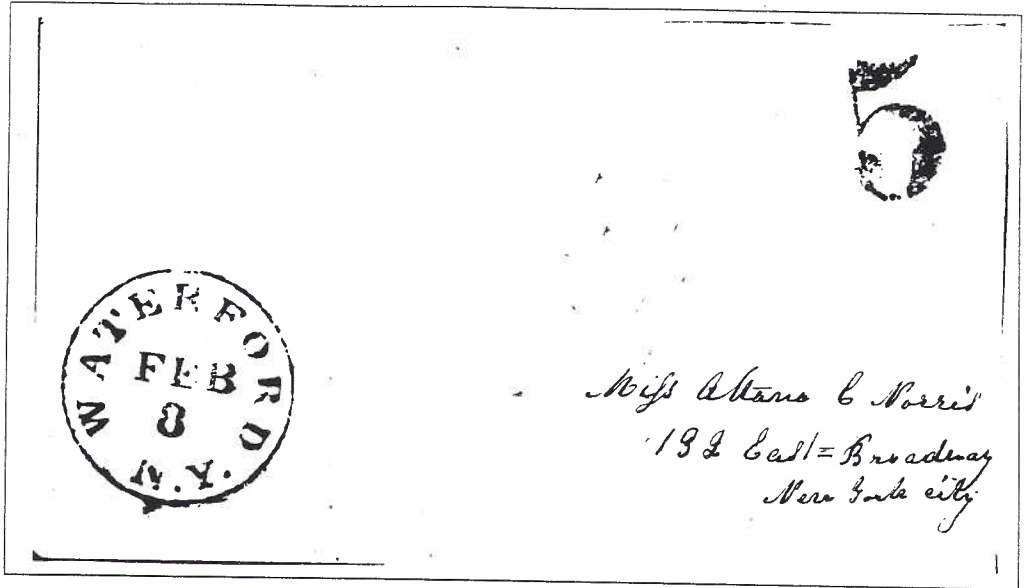
Handstamp "5"

1845-1855 period, Single Letter Rate, not Prepaid

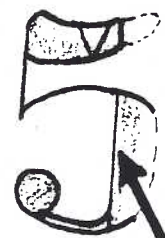
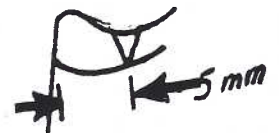
Two very similar, yet different handstamps



Curved

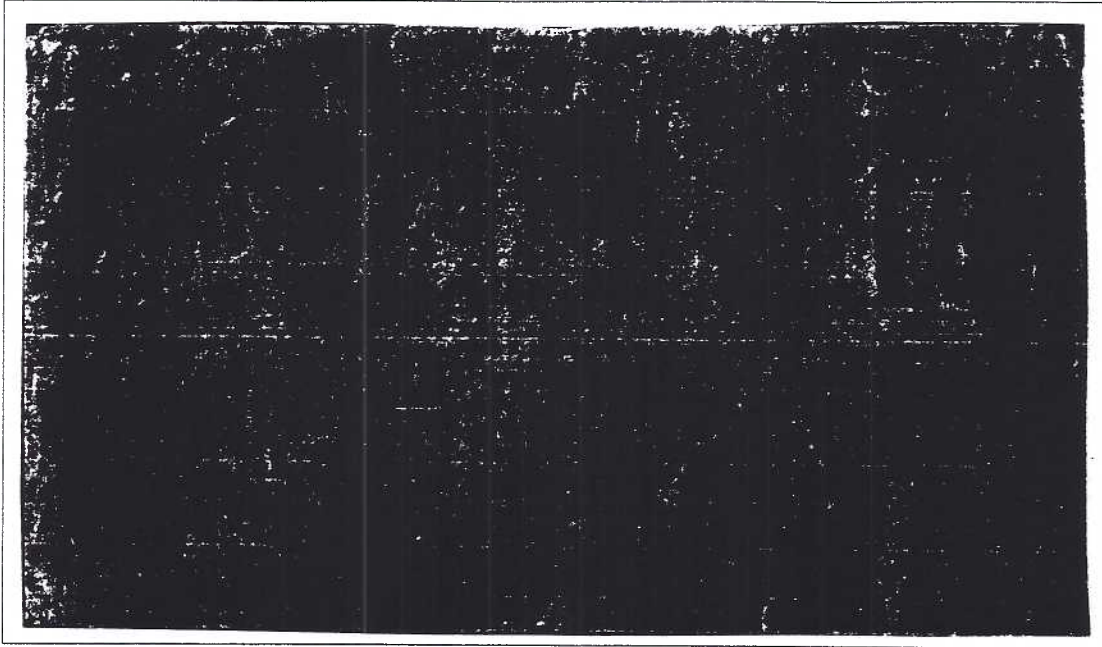


1850



Straight

1845-1855 Period
Double Letter Rate, Not Prepaid
Handstamp "10" over "5"



This cover is without enclosure, so a definite year date cannot be established. The probability is, however, somewhere between 1852 and 1855 because buff colored envelopes did not come into general use prior to this.

The cover was addressed to Mechanics Falls, a straight line distance of 150 miles.

The "10" represents a double letter rate, un-prepaid. The reasoning for this conclusion is the following:

7. The 10¢ rate for single rate letters prior to 1845 only applied to 30-80 mile distances; this is a 150 mile + distance.
8. The Act of March 3, 1845 specified a 5¢ rate for under 300 miles; therefore this had to be a double weight letter if mailed prior to June 30, 1851. No "PAID" marking is present, indicating un-prepaid status.
9. The Act of March 3, 1851, effective June 30, 1851, noted that the single letter rate for distances 3000 miles or less, if not prepaid, was 5¢ or for double weight (rate) letters, the charge was 10¢.

ULSTER COUNTY CHRONICLES: FROM HUNGARY WITH ASSIST

by Maris Tirums

The first two decades of the 20th century were the hey-day of the picture postcard. Postcards portraying everything imaginable were produced in very large quantities, and used throughout the world. The nature of picture postcards compelled many people to save them rather than toss them away, and today the market for picture postcards is comprised of vast stocks of material.

Collectors for picture postcards sprang up right from the beginning. International exchanges of cards, whether privately initiated or started through clubs established to promote such exchanges, were not uncommon. Miss Mary Crosby of Kingston, New York was a postcard devotee, and the illustrated card was saved by her to survive to this day.

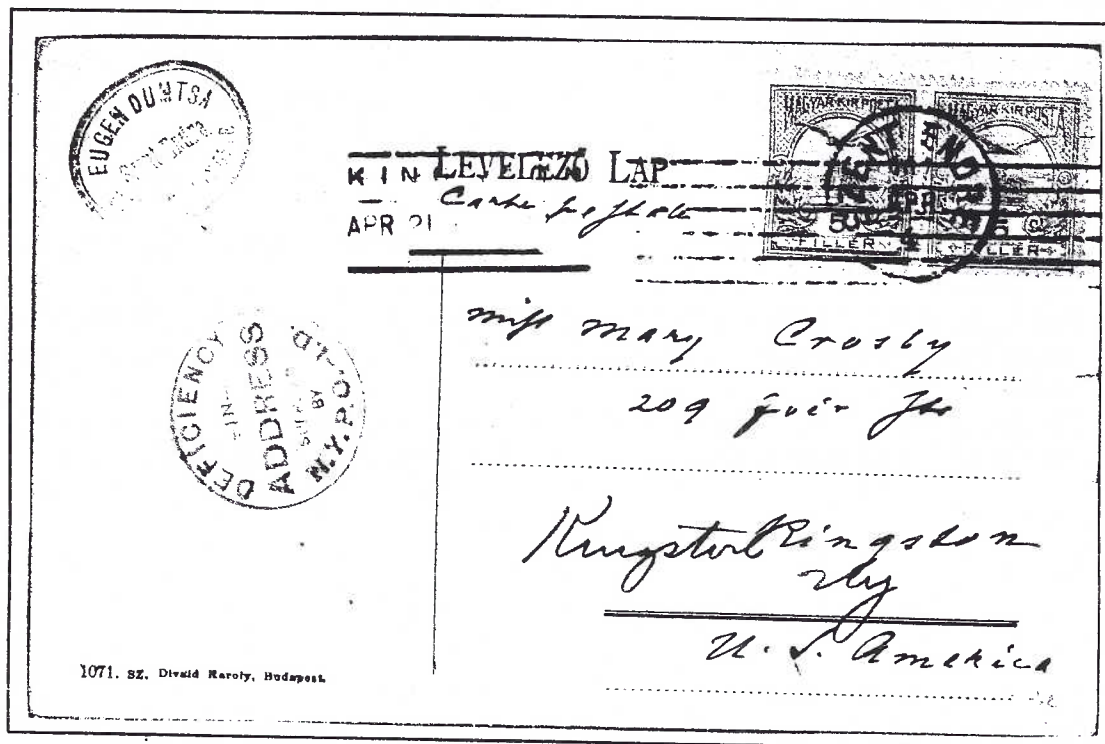
The postcard was mailed by Eugen Dumtsa of Hungary. The cancellation reads **SZENT ENDRE 1907 APR 4**. The picture side of the card is a black and white photo view of a town square and church in Szent-Endre; there are no postal markings on the picture side of the card.

While Mr. Dumtsa's handwriting is fairly good, he made the blunder of not designating the addressee's state in the address, so the card was routed to staff at the New York City post office whose apparent duties included deciphering illegible or incomplete addresses.

The city in the address was recognized as "Kingston, New York," and this was written on the card in red ink. Also, an interesting circular handstamp, found in the left center of the address side, was applied: **DEFICIENCY-IN-ADDRESS SUPPLIED BY N.Y.P.O.-I.D.**

In Kingston, the card was postmarked with a poorly inked receiving machine cancellation, **KINGSTON / N.Y. / APR 21 '07**. While the year is totally illegible in the machine cancel, it can be assumed to be 1907. This type of machine cancellation was used in Kingston from 1904 through about 1908.

One final feature of this postcard deserves mention. The Hungarian name for postcard was printed in the top middle of the address side as "**LEVELEZO LAP**." Since the card was mailed between nations, U.P.U. convention called for it to be identified in the French language, so Mr. Dumtsa wrote by hand "**Carte postale**" under the printed inscription.



NEW YORK STATE POSTAL HISTORY

- * by Want List (or by County)
- * Annual Price Lists

Last Price List: Number 11, November 1996

Copy for SASE
or send your FAX number

WANTED: Monroe, Livingston, Ontario Counties

EXCELSIOR POSTAL HISTORY

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Glendale, AZ 85311-3525
(602) 931-5741

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