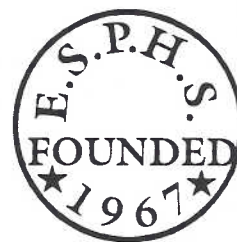


The Journal

of
New York State Postal History



Volume 31

Spring 1999

Stephen K. Matte
President

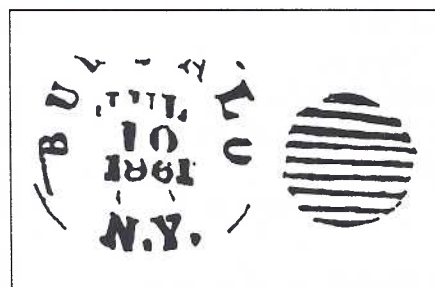
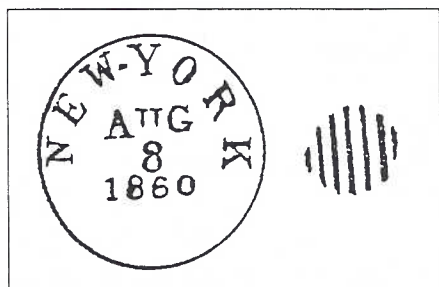
Martin Margulis
Editor

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CORNING, NEW YORK POSTAL HISTORY

by Alan Parsons

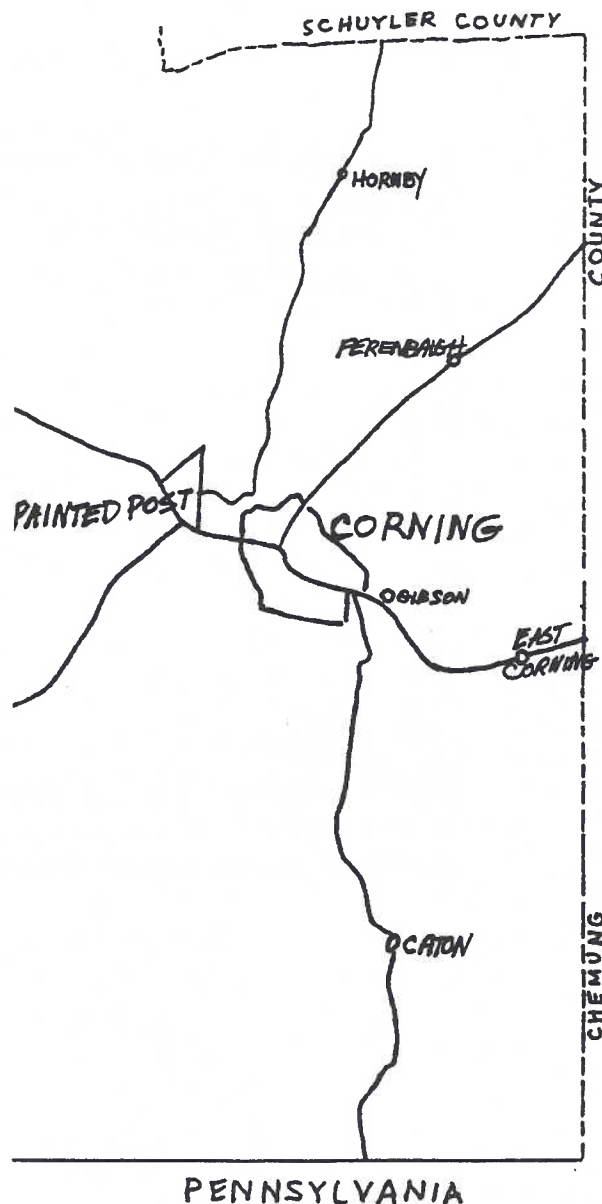
Located in the southeastern corner of Steuben County, Corning was settled in the late 1830s when a railroad was built to haul coal from Blossburg, Pennsylvania to the feeder canal running west from the Chemung Canal (connecting Elmira with Lake Seneca and the Erie Canal). The community of Knoxville was already on the north side of the Chemung River, but the railroad terminus on the south side stimulated growth of a new settlement. Corning incorporated as a village in 1848 and became a city (combining with Knoxville) in 1890.

The first post office in the area now served by the Corning post office was established in 1826 at Hornby. This was followed in 1832 by Wormleys (now Caton) and in 1833 by East Painted Post (now East Corning).

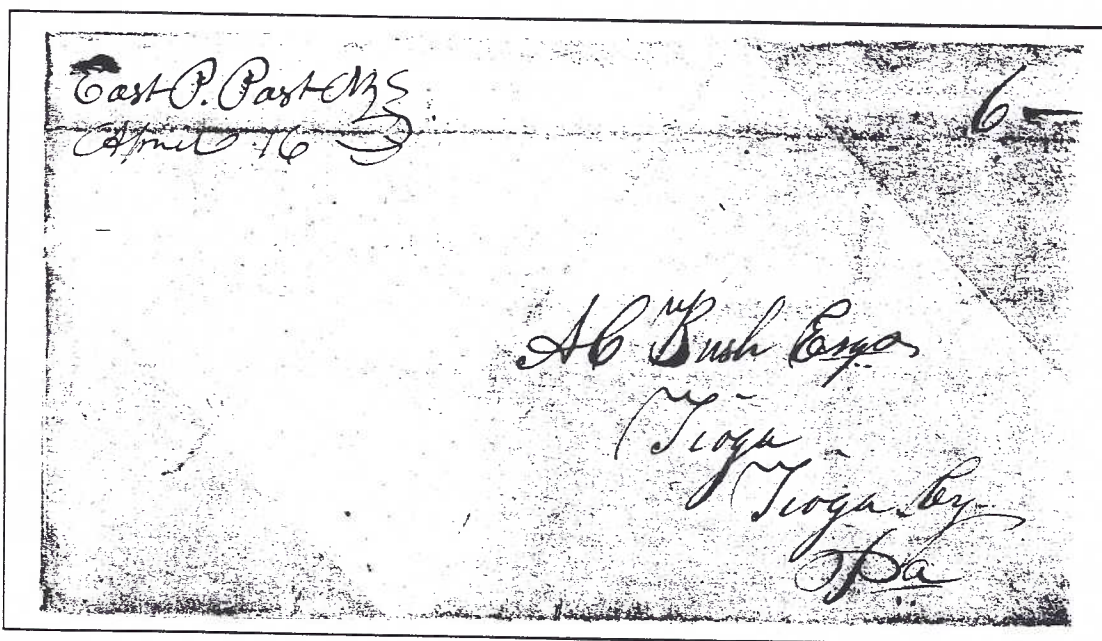
Corning's post office was established July 22, 1840. Up until this time the residents of the new settlement used the post office at Painted Post, three miles to the west (this exhibit includes two examples of this use). Painted Post shares with Bath the distinction of having the first post office in Steuben County, both established September 30, 1800.

Corning's post office today serves a wide area to the north, south and east of the city. This exhibit will show examples of rates, markings and services used for mail handled not only by the Corning post office but also by five of the discontinued post offices in the area now covered by Corning. These D.P.O.s and their dates of existence are:

Hornby	May 6, 1826 - May 31, 1911
Wormleys/Caton	Nov. 19, 1832 - Feb. 15, 1908
East Painted Post	Aug. 10, 1833 - Feb. 4, 1861
Gibson	May 14, 1847 - Oct. 14, 1905
Ferenbaugh	Mar. 25, 1879 - Dec. 31, 1912



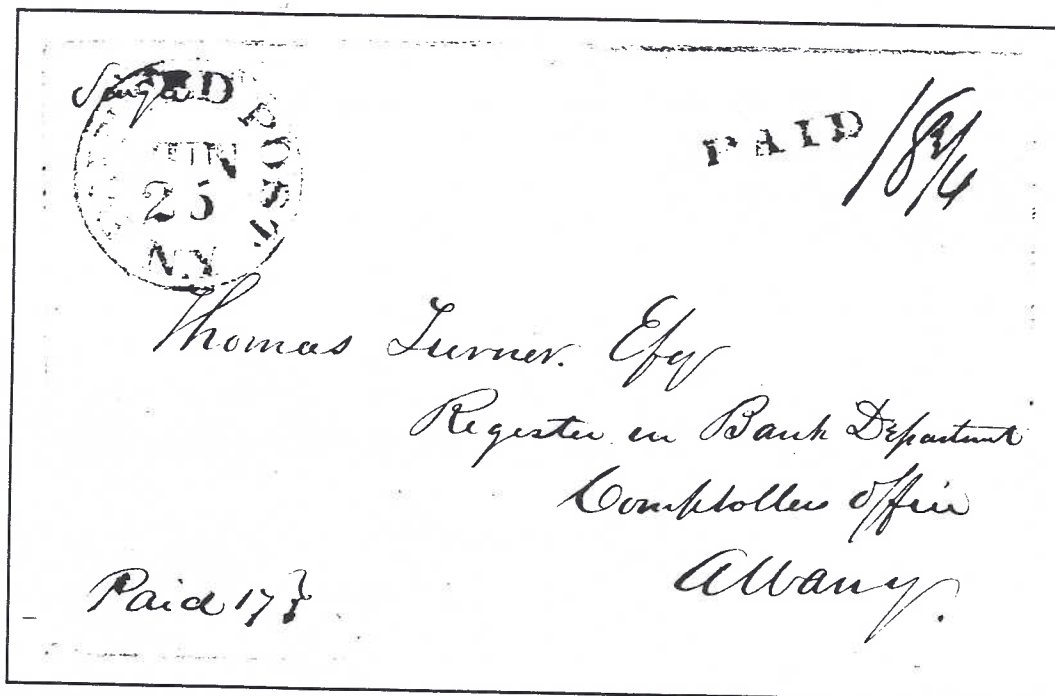
POSTAL RATES, 1825-1845



East Painted Post manuscript townmark on unpaid folded letter rated 6¢ for distance not over 30 miles. Business correspondence datelined big Flats, NY, April 15, 1834. Big Flats (Chemung County) did not have a post office until 1836.

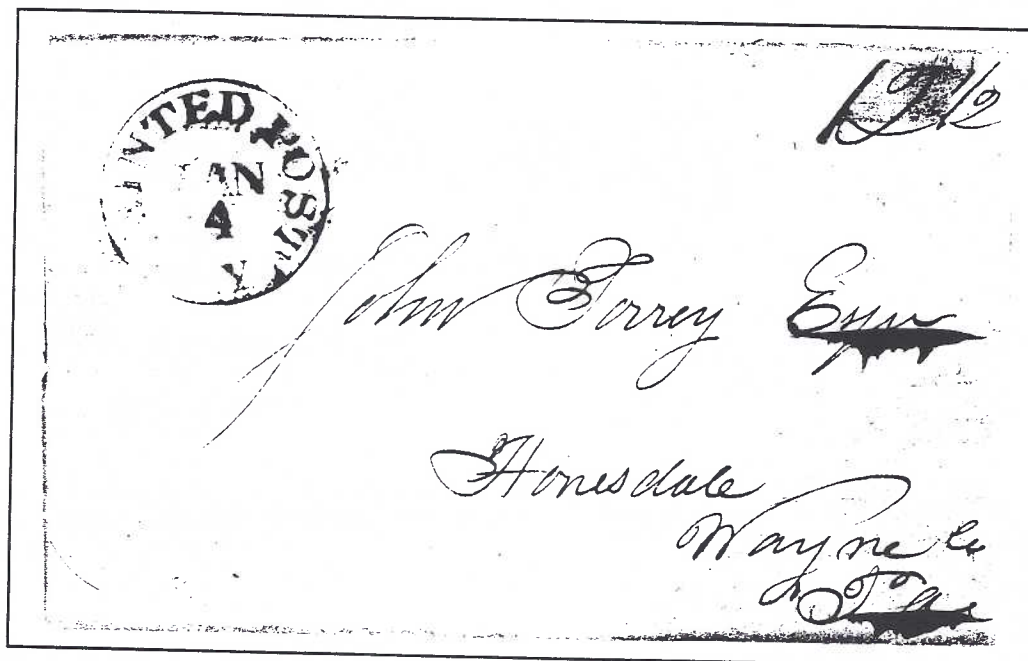
Effective March 3, 1825 the rates for letters were:

Not over 30 miles	6 cents per sheet
30 to 80 miles	10 cents per sheet
80 to 150 miles	12½ cents per sheet
150 to 400 miles	18¾ cents per sheet
Over 400 miles	25 cents per sheet



Use of Painted Post Office for Corning mail prior to establishment of Corning post office:

Above: prepaid folded letter datelined Bank of Corning, June 25, 1839 rated for distance of 150 to 400 miles. Below: unpaid folded letter datelined Corning, Jan. 4, 1840 rated for distance of 80 to 150 miles; unlisted orange townmark; business correspondence.



East Painted Post N.Y.
August 18th 34

D. E. Brown

Rev. Jackson Kemper D.D.
Storwalk
Connecticut

Free frank of Daniel E. Brown, first postmaster at East Painted Post. Folded letter datelined East Painted Post, August 18, 1834. Church correspondence.

Hornby N.Y.
Mar 15

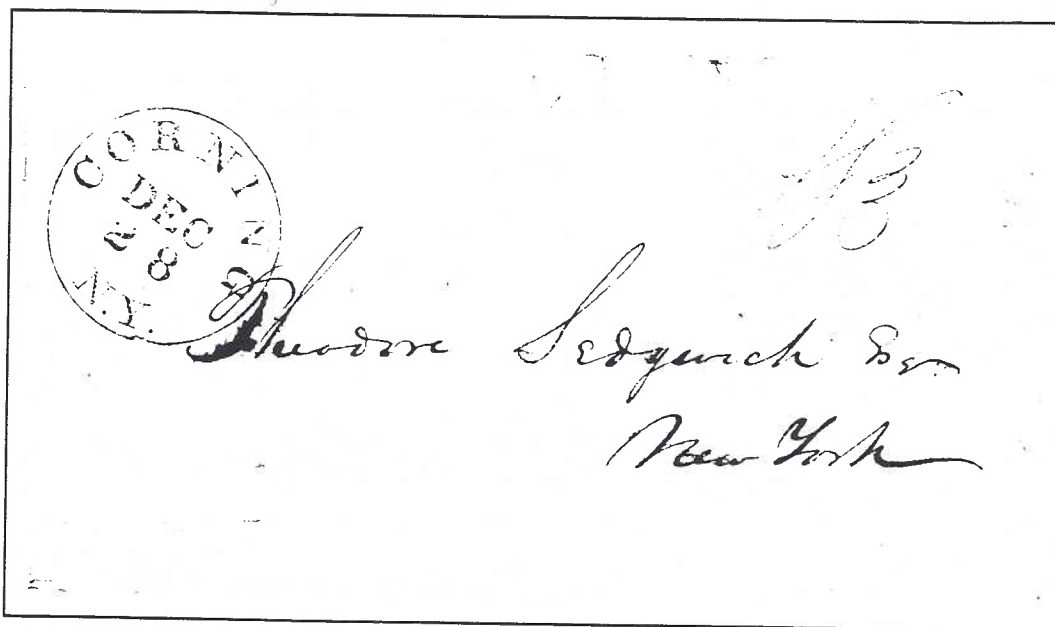
free Isaac Goodsell m

E. H. Thomas

Havanna

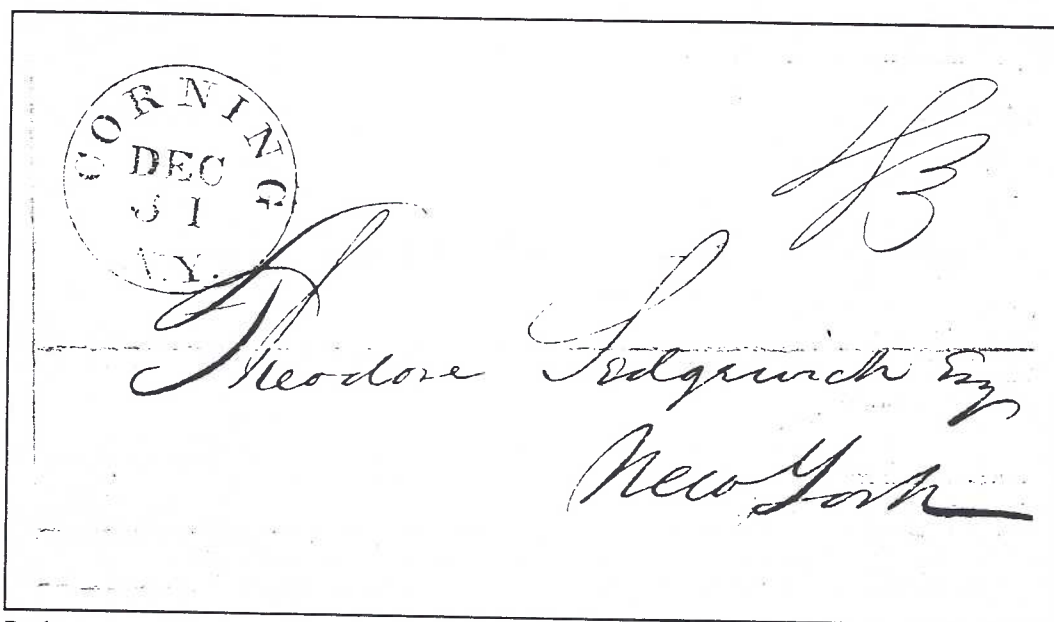
Chemung co
N.Y.

Free frank of Isaac Goodsell, postmaster at Hornby, New York, on folded letter datelined Hornby, March 15, 1841. Business correspondence.

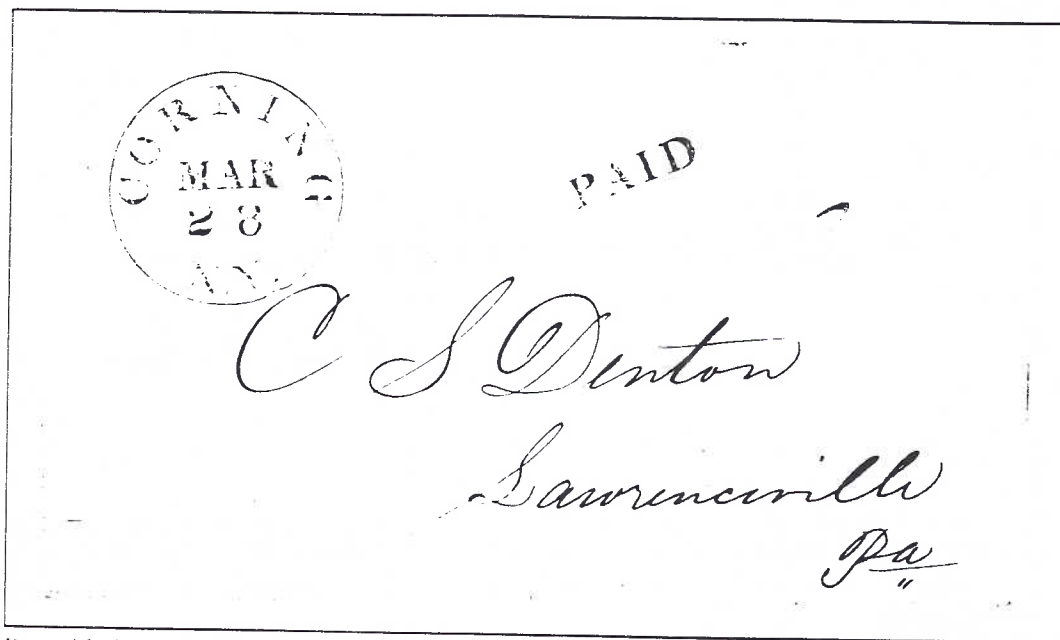


Red townmarking on folded letter (printed form note protest) dated Corning, December 27, 1841 rated at 18¾ cents for distance of 150 to 400 miles. Docketing on reverse shows receipt January 2, 1841 (sic!).

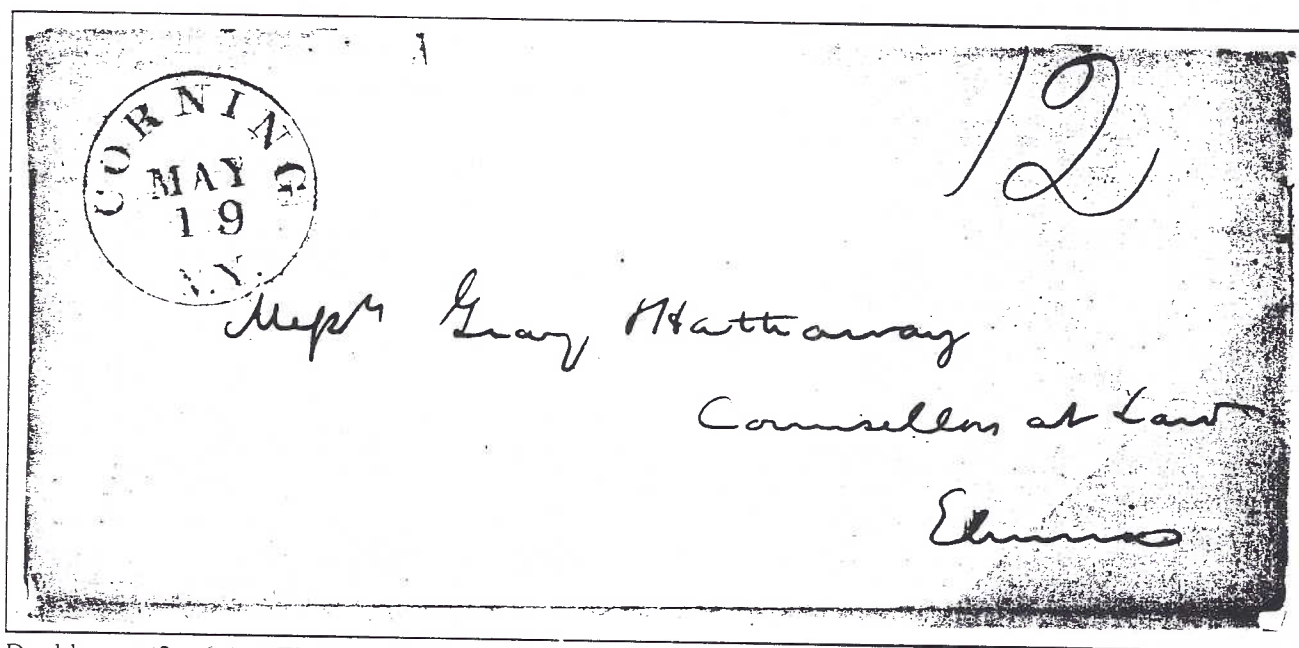
"... draft of B. Gerhard on the treasurer of the Tioga Coal Iron Mining and Manufacturing Co. for Seventy Dollars. Endorsed by (the addressee)..." protested December 27, 1841 for non-acceptance (above) and December 30, 1841 for non-payment (below).



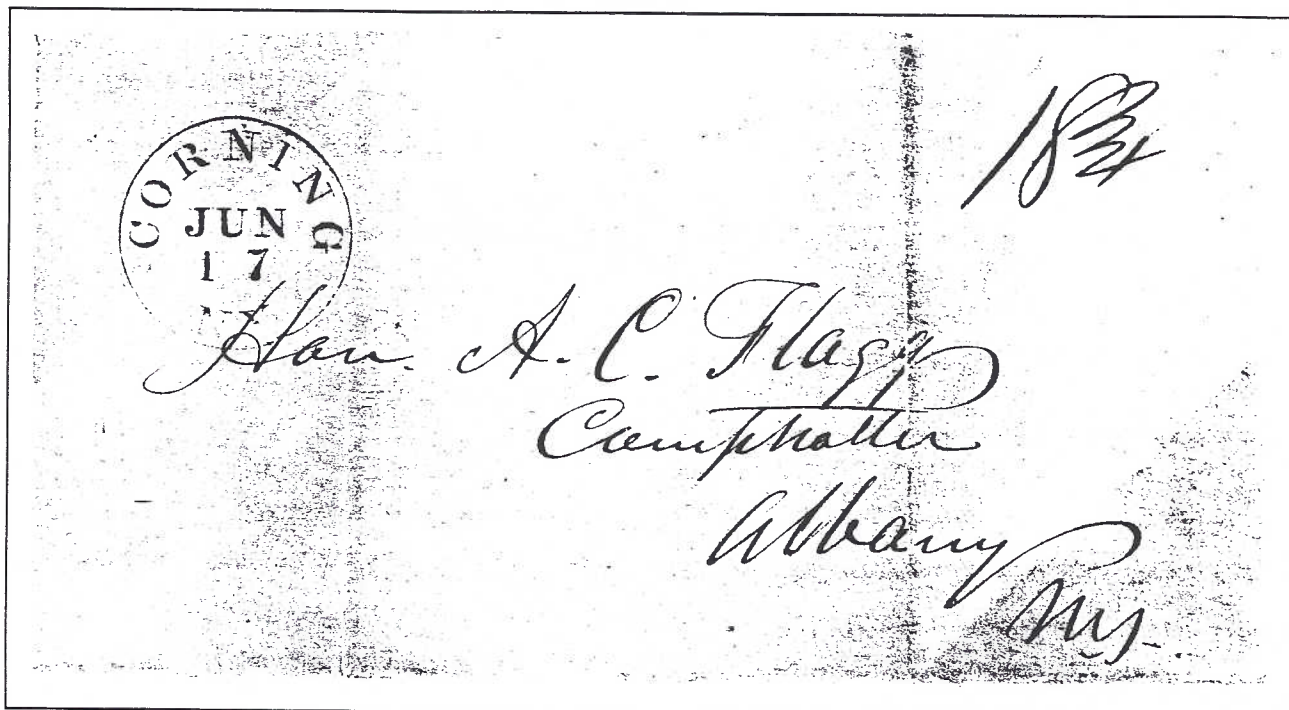
Red townmarking turned brown. Docketing on reverse shows receipt January 5, 1842. Mr. Sedgwick not only became liable for \$70 he had guaranteed, but had to pay the Post Office 37½ cents for delivering the news to him!



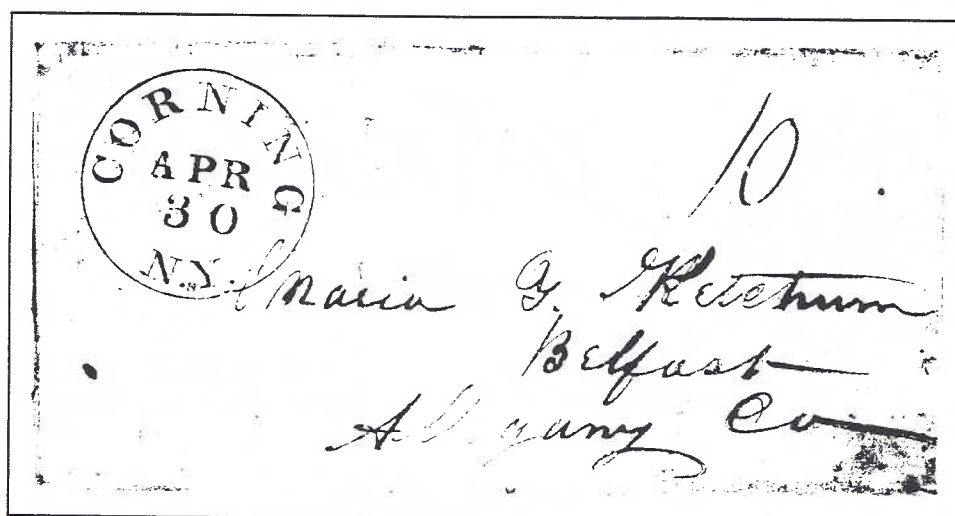
Prepaid single rate to Lawrenceville, Pennsylvania, a distance not over 30 miles. Family correspondence dated Corning, March 28, 1844 describes "considerable temperance excitement" and forming of an opposition society with "the help of the Presbyterians (who have always been our enemies)."



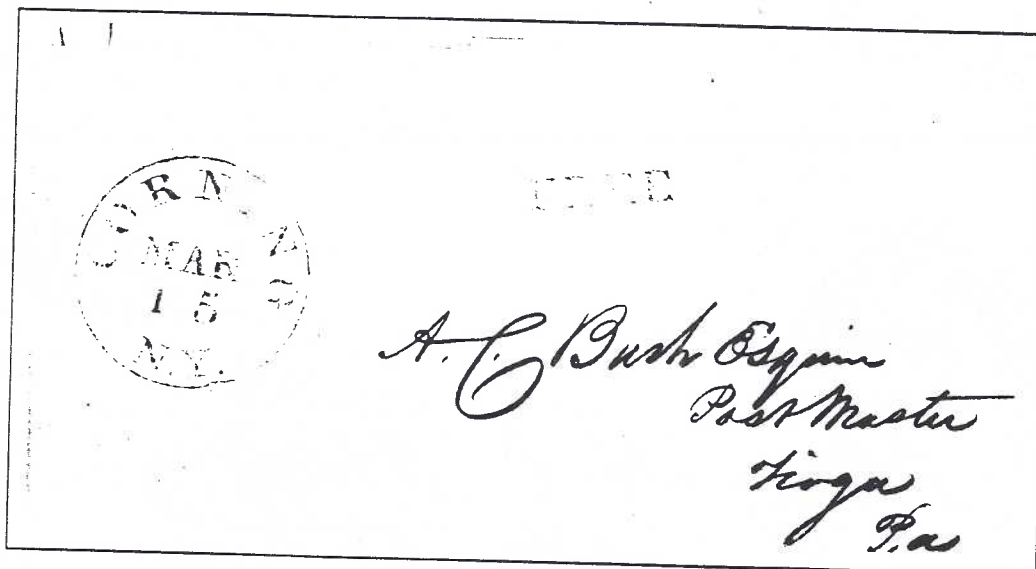
Double rate (2 x 6c) to Elmira, a distance not over 30 miles. Business correspondence dated Corning, May 19, 1843.



Single rate to Albany, a distance between 150 and 400 miles. Letter datelined Painted Post, June 16, 1843 tells of damage to Chemung Canal feeder from rainstorm.



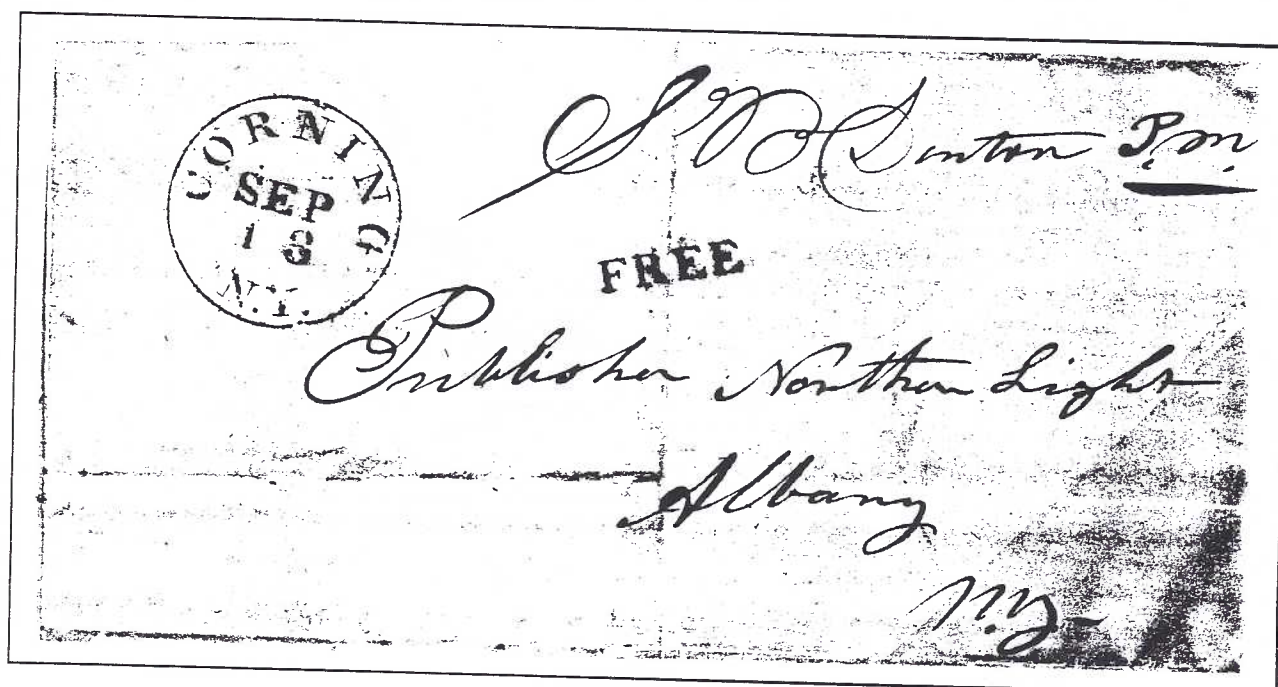
Single rate for distance of 30 to 80 miles. Business letter datelined Addison April 28, 1844.



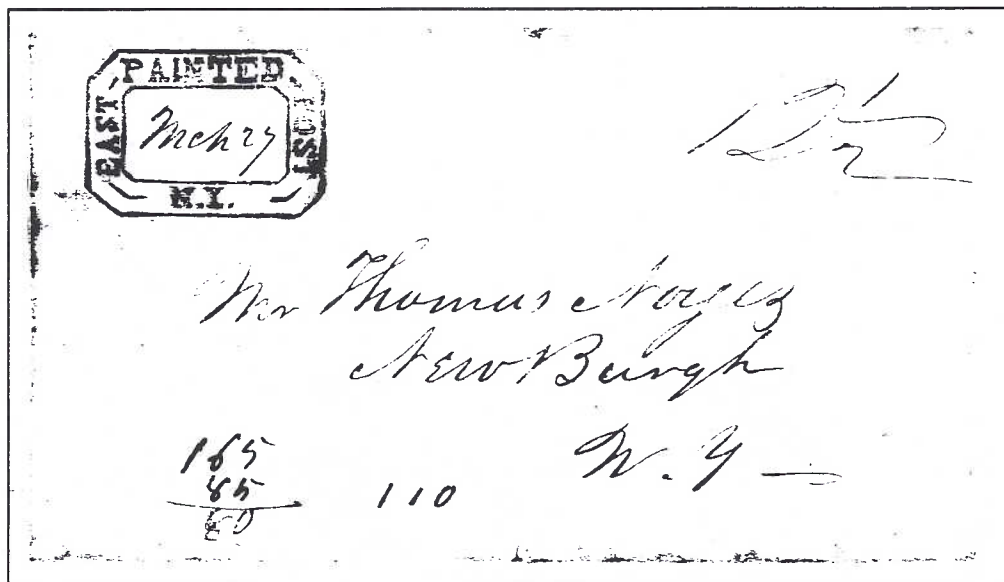
Use of franking privilege at Corning Post Office prior to 1845

Above: letter from a Corning merchant March 14, 1842, to the Postmaster at Tioga, Pennsylvania. The franking privilege for postmasters extended to both receiving and sending mail.

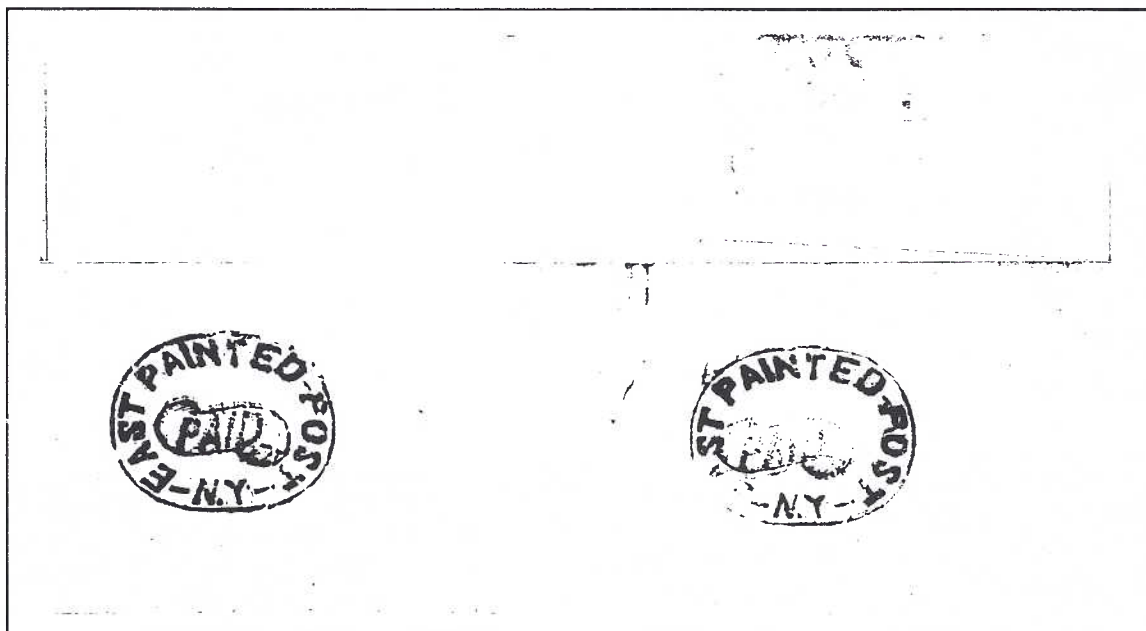
Below: magazine subscription order sent by Corning Postmaster Denton September 13, 1844.



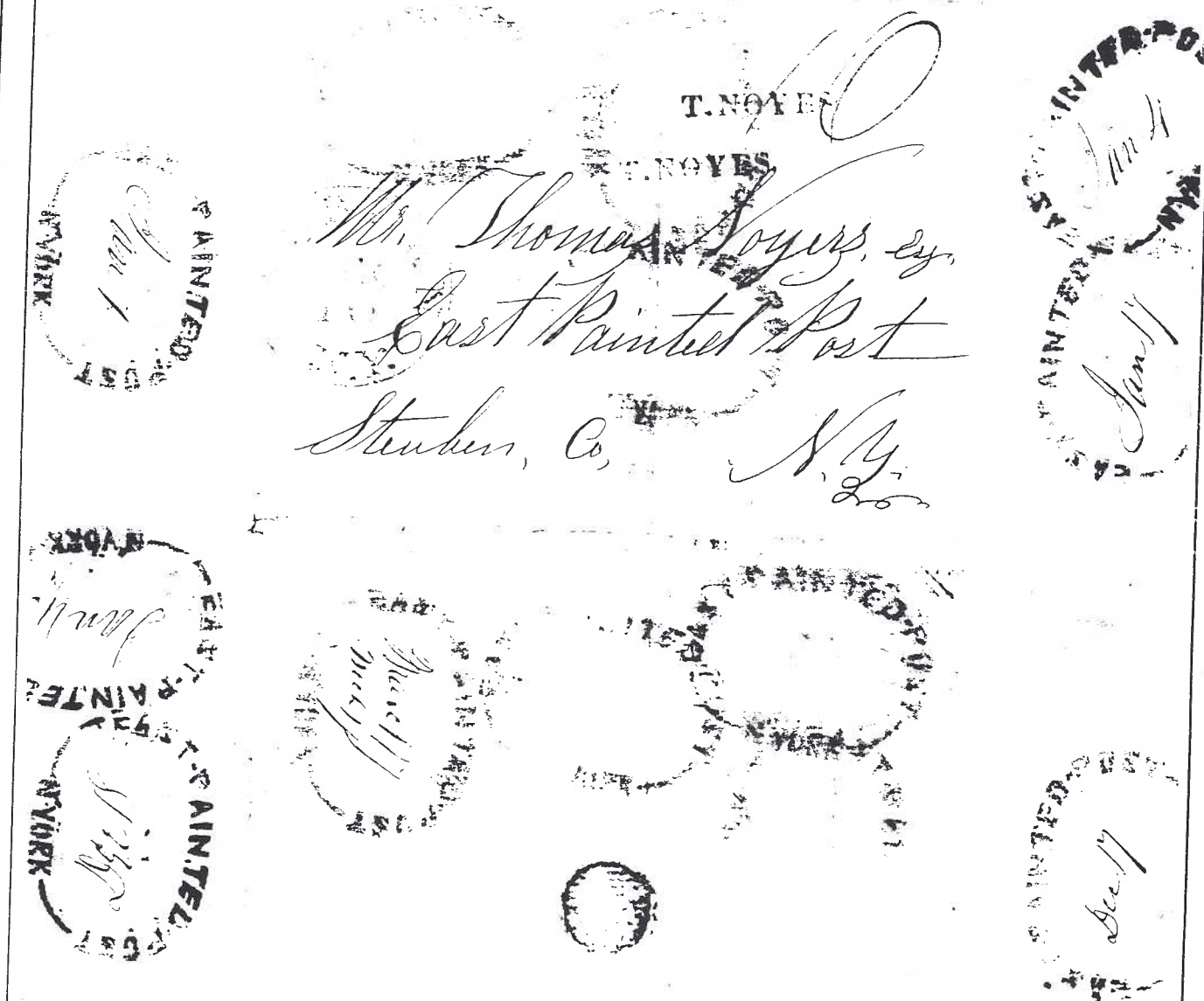
UNUSUAL HANDSTAMPS AT EAST PAINTED POST



Single rate for distance of 80 to 150 miles (did the sender do some calculations on the cover front to help the post master?). In use 1845-46, the East Painted Post octagon is one of only four octagon townmarks listed on New York stampless covers. Family business correspondence datelined East Painted Post, March 27, 1845.

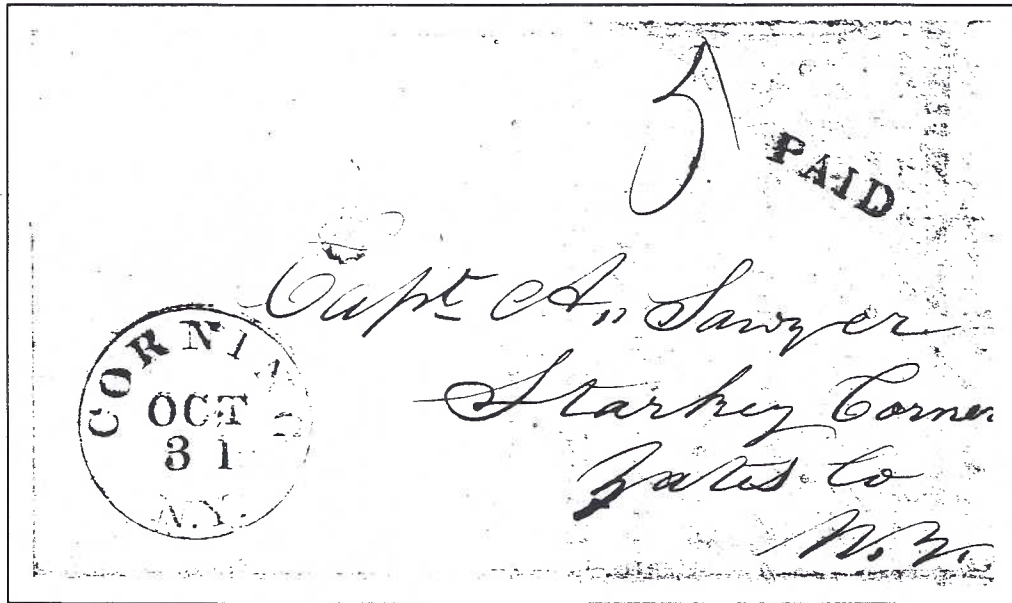


Unlisted Paid marking on reverse of unpaid business letter originating in Philadelphia July 12, 1845 and addressed to H.B. Noyes, East Painted Post, Steuben Co., N.Y.



Folded letter sheet datelined State Prison, Auburn. December 10, 1844, addressed to Thomas Noyes, Postmaster at East Painted Post and rated 10¢ for distance between 30 and 80 miles. Letter from prison chaplain seeking information for inmate. East Painted Post blue rimless oval struck 13 times and black "T. NOYES" twice. Manuscript dates in ovals suggest letter held from December 17, 1844 until March 17, 1845.

POSTAL RATES, 1845-1851

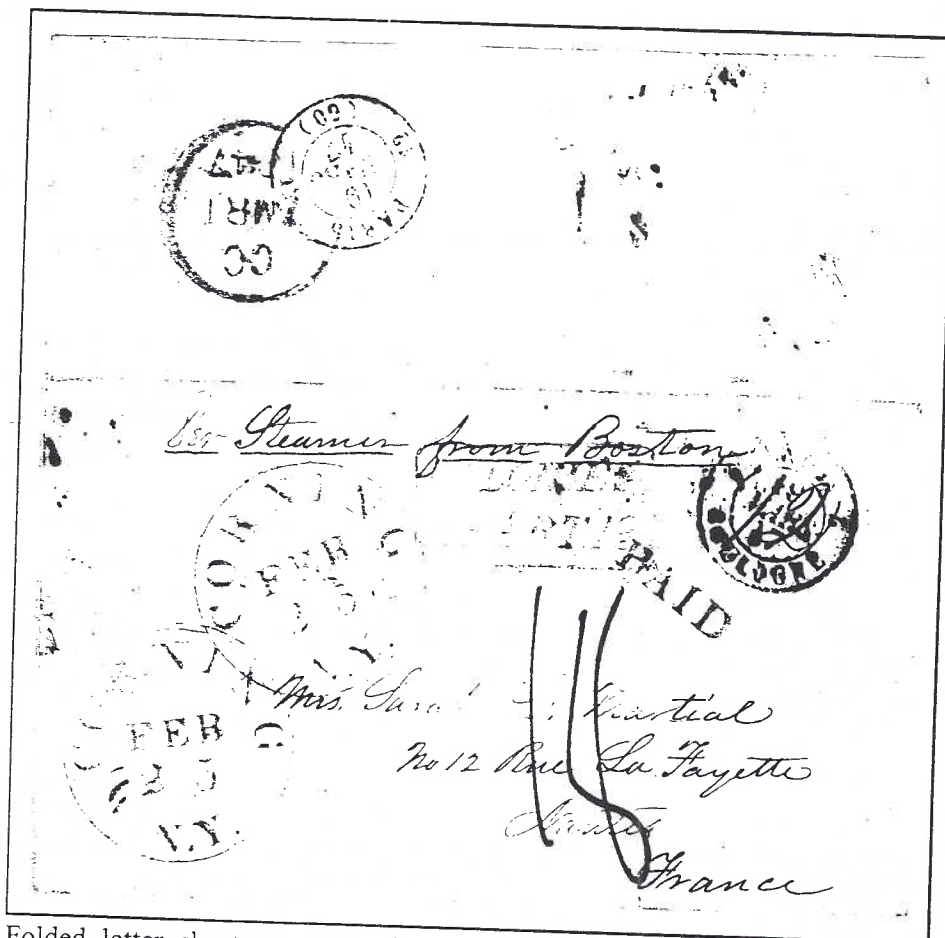


Paid folded letter of no more than one-half ounce for distance less than 300 miles. Business and family correspondence datelined Corning October 30, 1845.

Effective July 1, 1845 the number of mileage zones was reduced from five to two and letters were rated by weight rather than number of sheets:

Under 300 miles	5 cents per half ounce
Over 300 miles	10 cents per half ounce

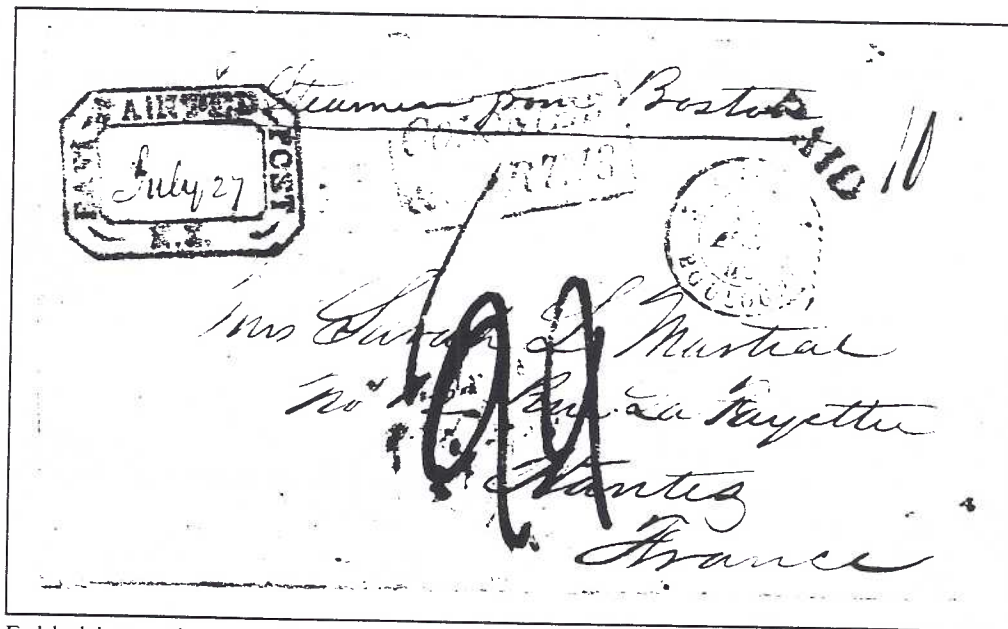
Although use of envelopes was no longer "penalized," they did not become common until the 1850s.



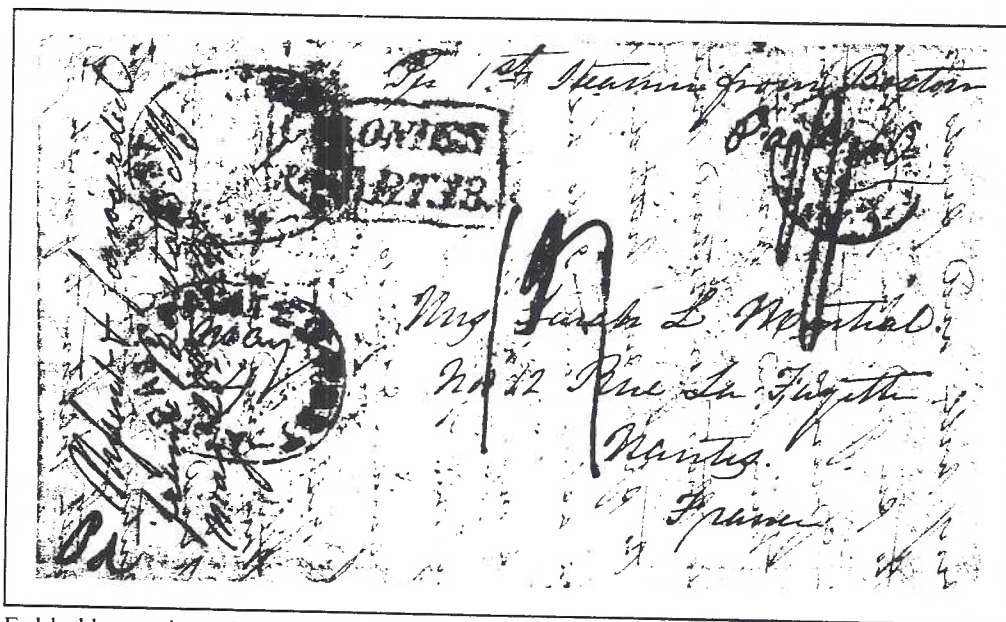
Folded letter sheet not more than one-half ounce datelined Painted Post February 24, 1847 posted at Corning February 25 to Nantes, France. Foreign mails at this time had to be prepaid; correct rate was 10¢ (over 300 miles) but Postmaster in Corning rated it 12c, probably misled by regulation requiring 2¢ additional postage on letters received by ship.

Left Boston on the *Cambria* March 1 and arrived Liverpool March 16. The British applied two markings: transit mark for Charing Cross March 17 (red backstamp) and boxed "Colonies &c. Art. 13" on front (per Anglo-French Treaty of 1843, to advise France of origin of letter and thus rate to apply).

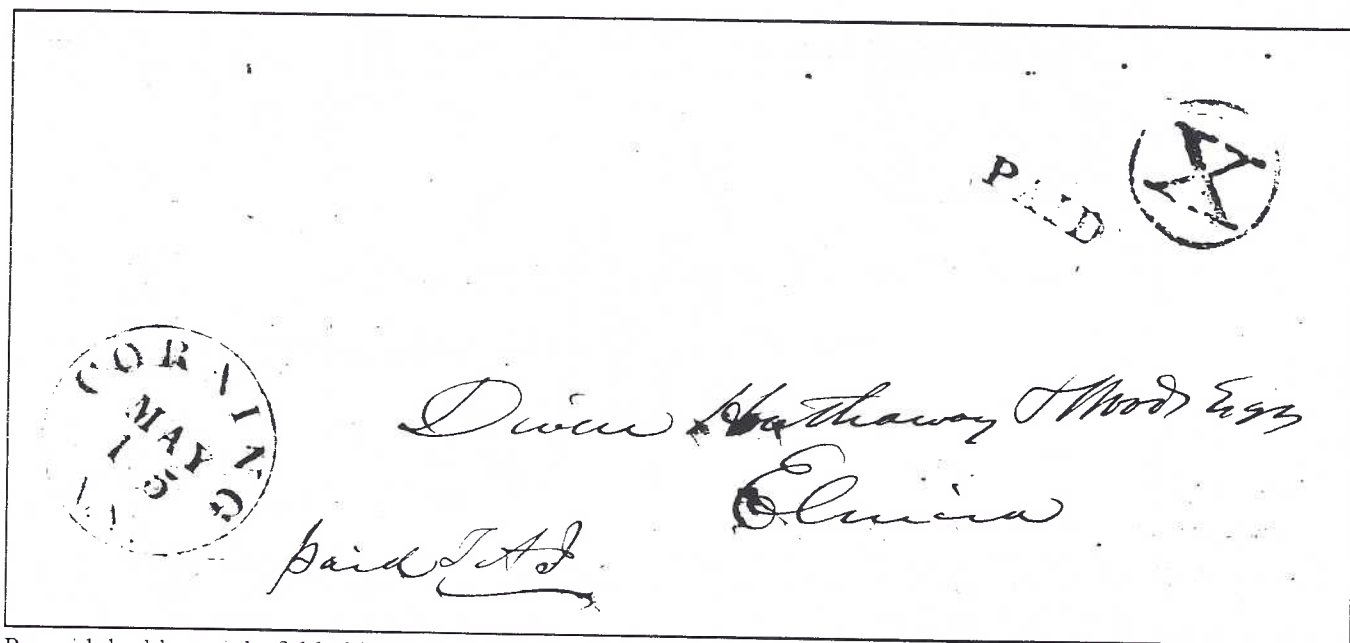
Entered France at Boulogne March 19 and transited Paris the same day. There is no indication of the date of delivery to the addressee (the letter writer's mother) but she had to pay the combined British and French postage charge of 18 decimes.



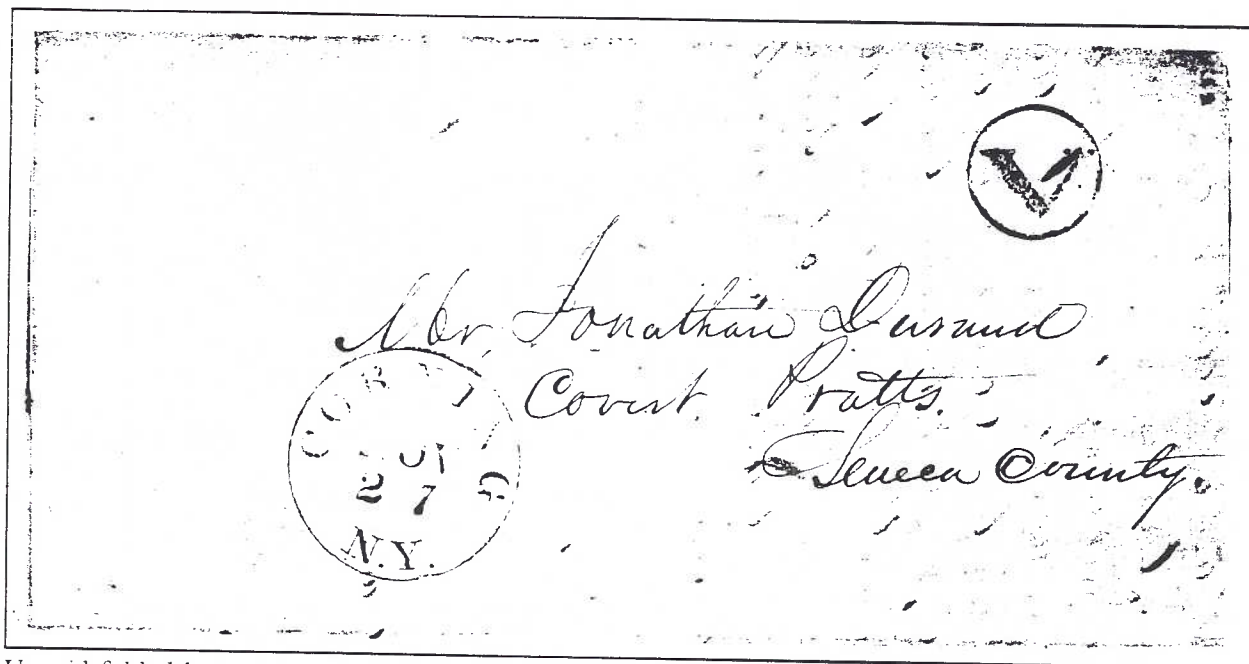
Folded letter sheet datelined East Painted Post, July 26, 1846, prepaid and correctly rated by the Postmaster at East Painted Post for the distance to Boston. Left Boston August 1 by steamer *Cambria* and arrived Liverpool August 12; then to France (arrived Boulogne August 15). It transited Paris August 15 (per backstamp) and arrived in Nantes, France August 16 (per backstamp) where the addressee paid 22 decimes for the trip from Boston to Nantes.



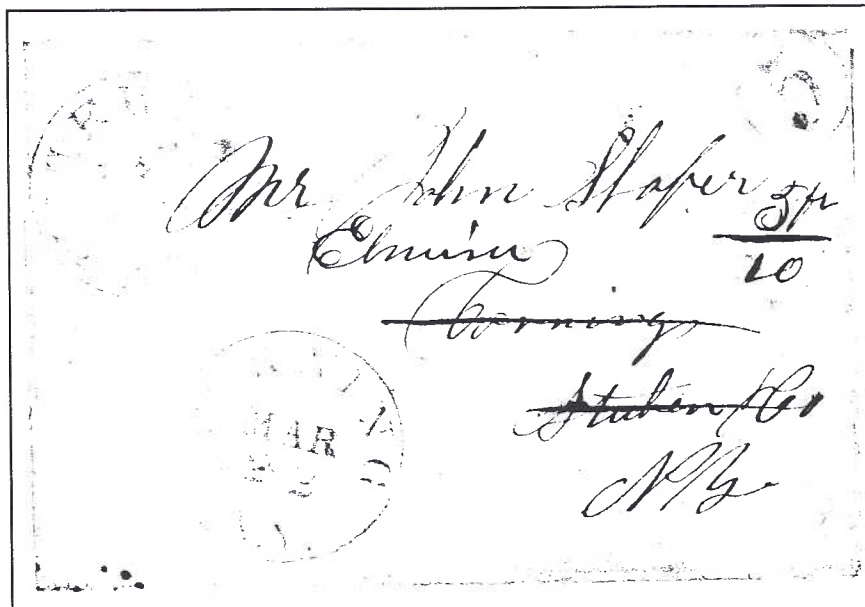
Folded letter sheet datelined East Painted Post May 24, 1847 and posted at East Painted Post on the same date: 10c prepaid for distance to Boston. Manuscript "Missent & forwarded from Boston NY May 28th 1847" at left. Departed Boston June 1 on the *Brittania*, arrived Liverpool June 13 and five days later Nantes, France with 19 decimes due. Even though missent, the letter still reached Boston in time for the first sailing after May 24, 1847.



Prepaid double weight folded letter sheet enclosing legal document; distance under 300 miles. Datelined Corning May 14, 1847.



Unpaid folded letter, no more than one-half ounce, distance under 300 miles. Legal business datelined Corning November 25, 1847.

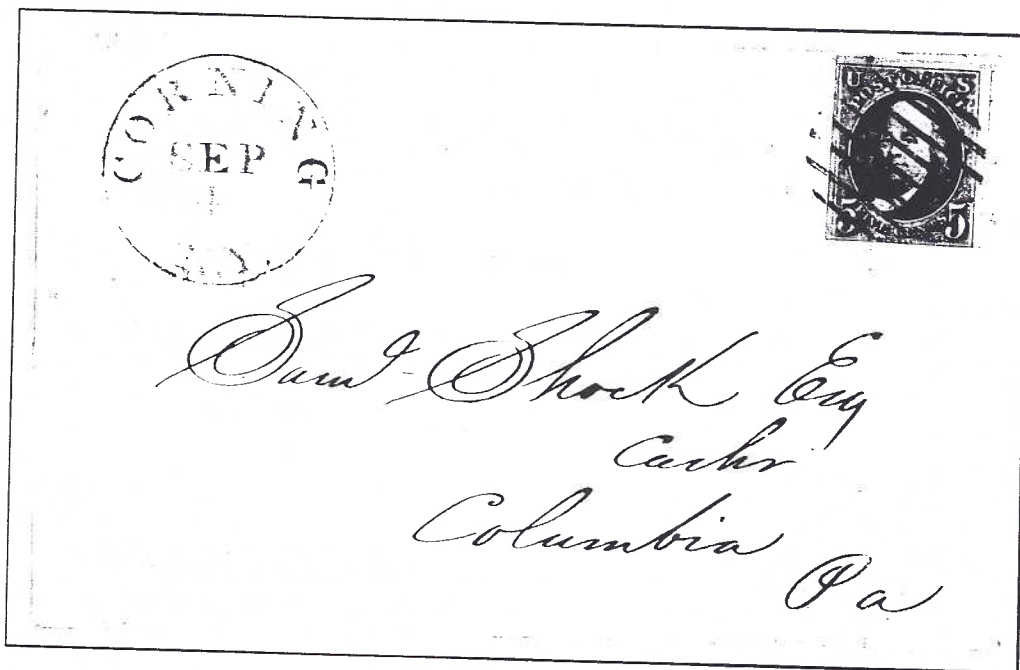


1848 folded letter Waterloo to Corning and forwarded to Elmira. Blue Waterloo 5 in circle handstamp; Corning manuscript "5 fr" totaled to 10¢ in all to be collected from the addressee at Elmira.



Turned cover (envelope reused by turning inside out). Letter enclosed dated October 31, 1850. Addressed on "inside" to Corning resident. Probably sent outside the mails - addressed to "agent American Express Company."

INTRODUCTION OF POSTAGE STAMPS



Folded letter sheet datelined Corning, September 3, 1849. Banking business. Stamp tied by wide-spaced 8-bar open grid.

Issue of 1847, first U.S. postage stamps (two denominations - 5¢ and 10¢). The Corning Post Office received a supply of the 5¢ 1847 issue beginning in 1849 (600 in 1849 and 1600 in 1850). It never received the 10¢ 1847 issue.

Use of the stamps for prepayment of postage was not popular when first introduced. As stated in the Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps (Scott), pg. 29A:

"Only 1.3 percent of all letters posted between 1847 and 1852 bore stamps. This proportion increased to 25 percent in 1852, 32 percent in 1853, 34 percent in 1854, 40 percent in 1855, and 64 percent in 1856. Stampless covers are commonplace, although there are some which are highly prized on the basis of their markings. Most are more common than stamped covers of the same period."



10

Mrs. Saml Hathaway Wood
Corning N.Y.

Unpaid double weight folded letter sheet enclosing legal document; distance under 300 miles. Datelined Corning March 28, 1850.



PAID

Paid 10

Emily R. Watrous
Chester Ct

Folded letter sheet datelined Corning June 18, 1850. Sender's "Paid 5" not accepted; 10¢ paid by sender for distance over 300 miles. Personal correspondence.

Early use of envelopes - left, prepaid "Ladies Envelope"; right, unpaid envelope; both one-half ounce or less and under 300 miles. Sealing wax used to close. No year date (contents missing); circa 1850-51.

"Will the Postmaster at

L. W. M. one hundred Exp

Manitowish
Wis.

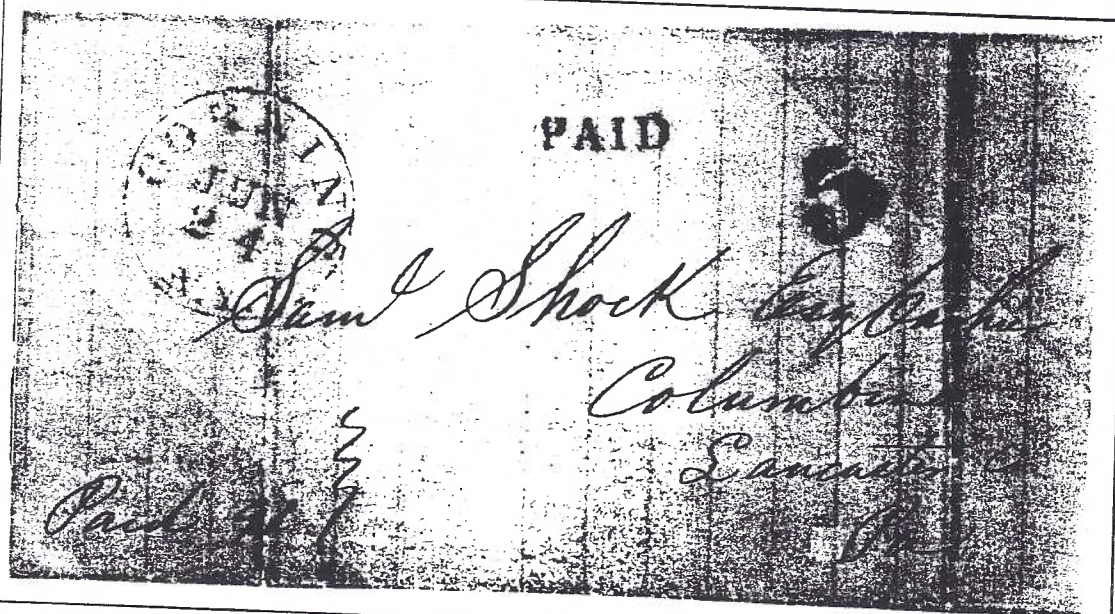
APR 7

7000. Lumb. A. Gigg.

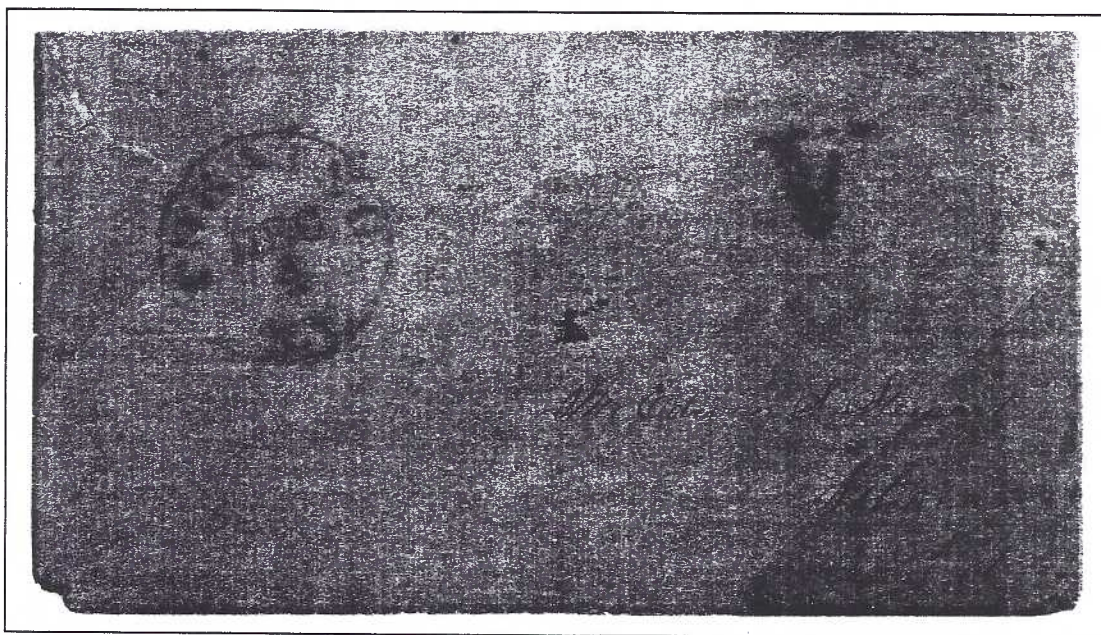
*Will the Postmaster Erieville
at Erieville please forward*

N. G.

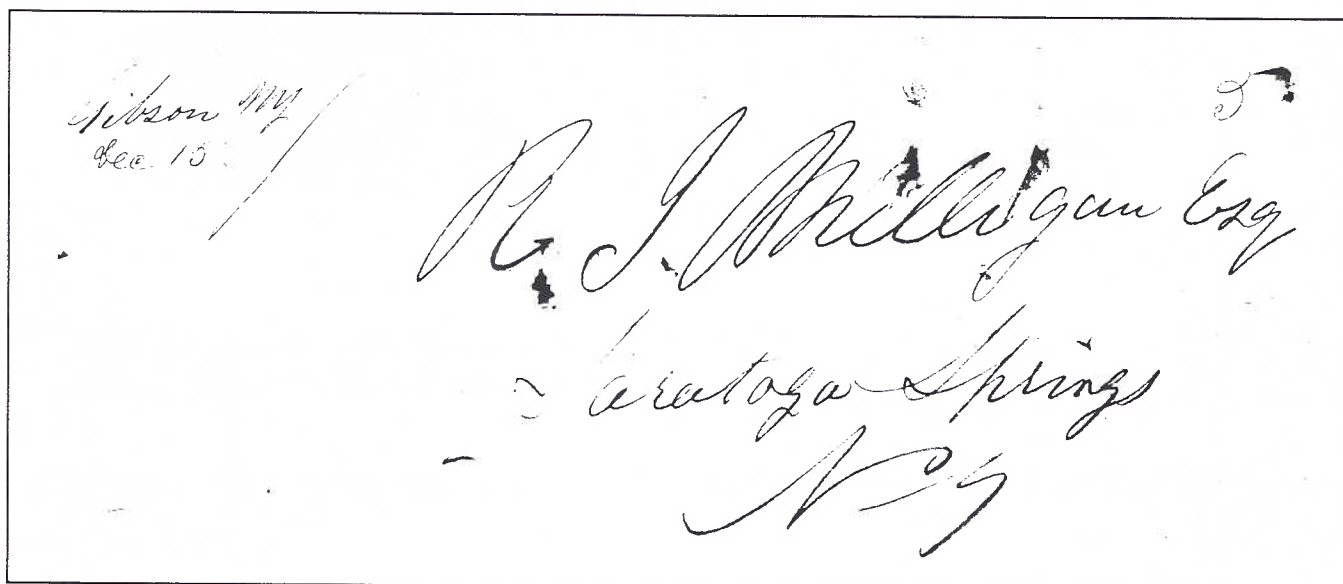
Erieville please forward?" (Note from a kinder and gentler time.)



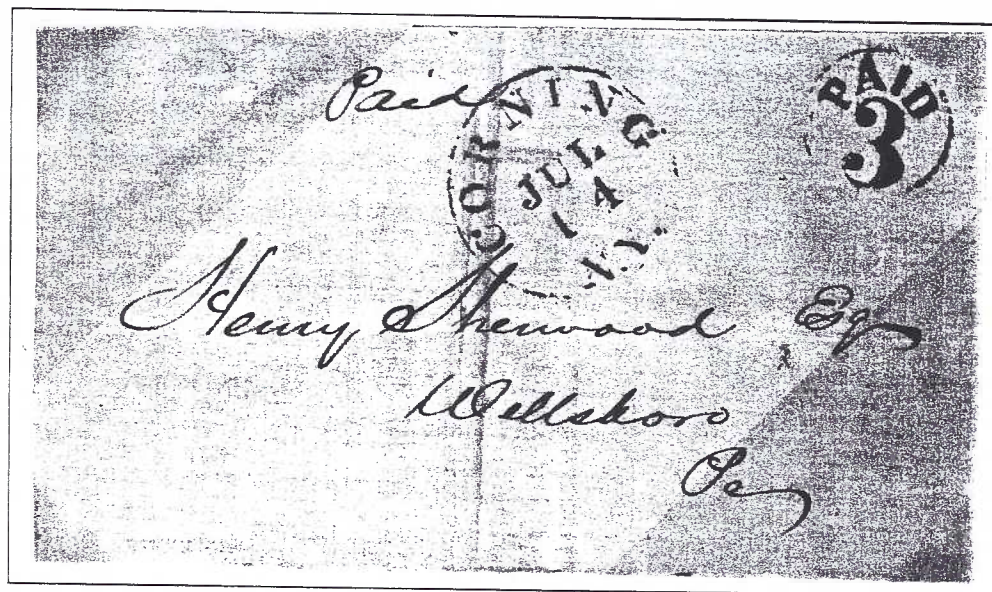
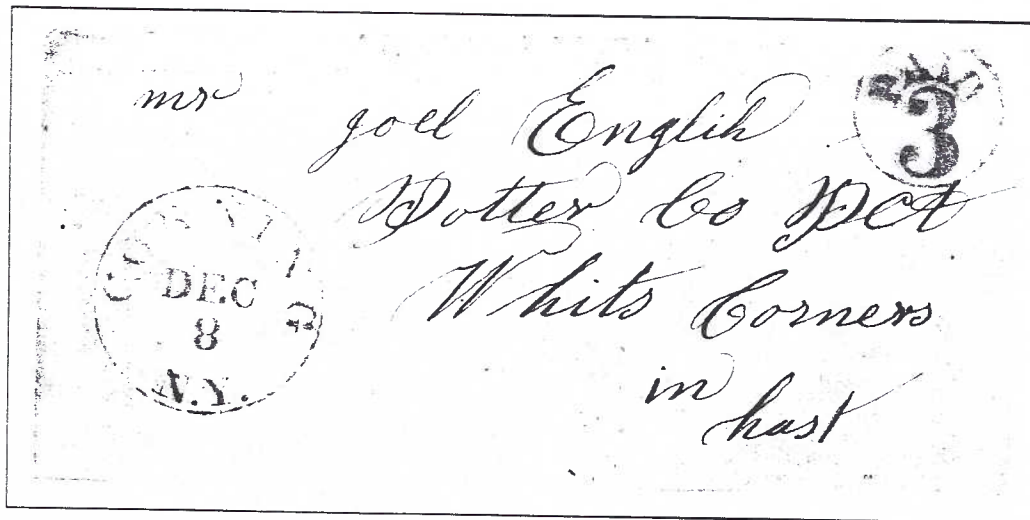
Prepaid folded letter from Bank of Corning June 23, 1851 rated for under 300 miles. "Paid 91" at lower left indicates the Bank had an account with the Postmaster for charging postage, a practice forbidden but nevertheless indulged. This letter was mailed in the final week before the rates changed.



Another form of Corning rate marking on an early envelope (remnants of sealing wax on both front and back). Sent unpaid, circa 1850-51.



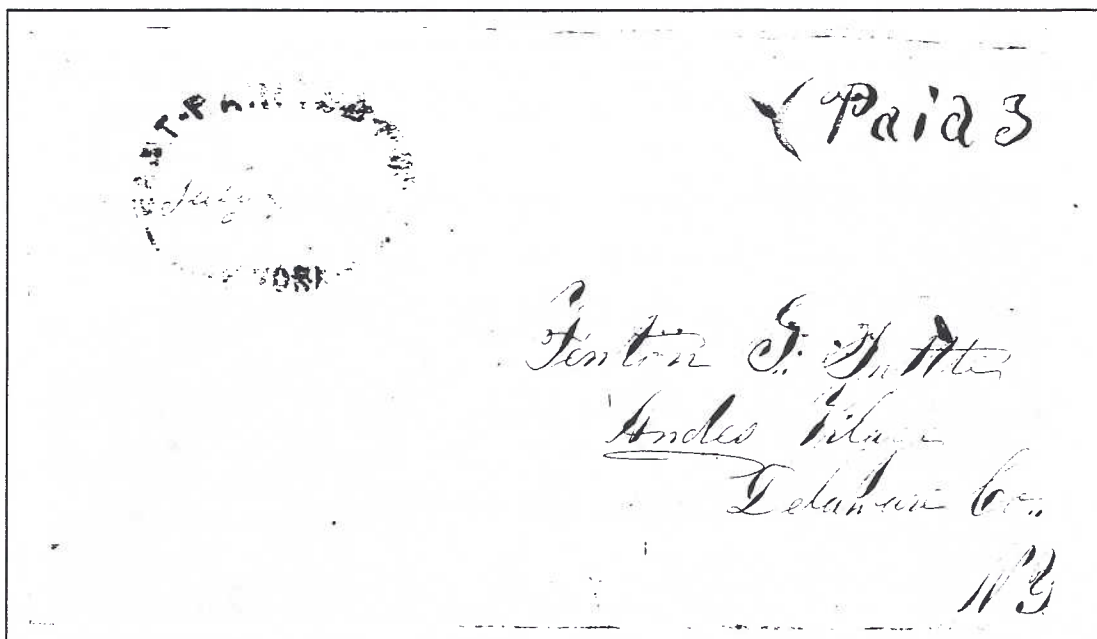
Manuscript townmark used in Gibson on unpaid folded letter dated Dec. 15, 1848; rated 5¢ for distance under 300 miles. Gibson Post Office opened in 1847.



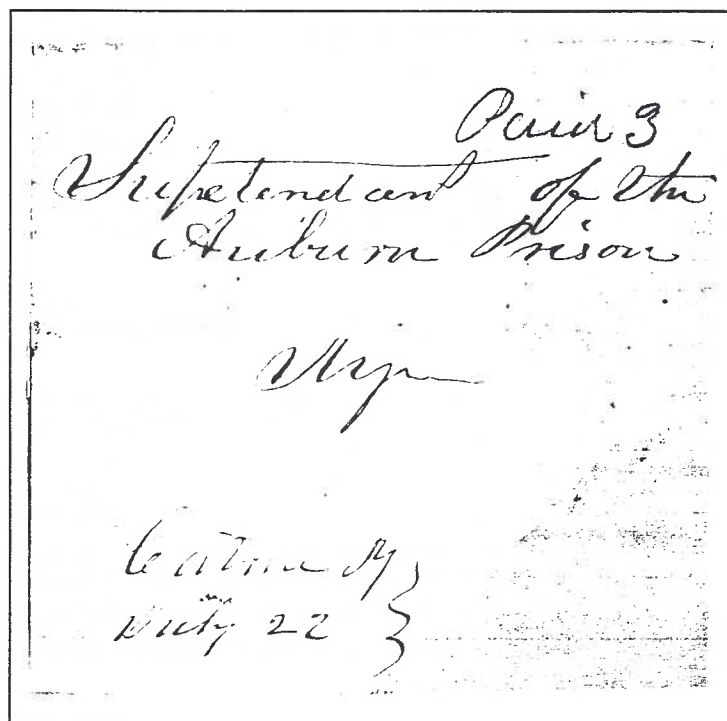
Docketing on back of envelope (top) shows receipt December 10, 1851; docketing on back of folded letter sheet (bottom) shows receipt July 14, 1853. The two covers illustrate use of Paid 3 in circle rate stamp and variety of ink colors for early postal markings.

Effective June 30, 1851 the postage rates were decreased and a lower rate provided for prepaid letters:

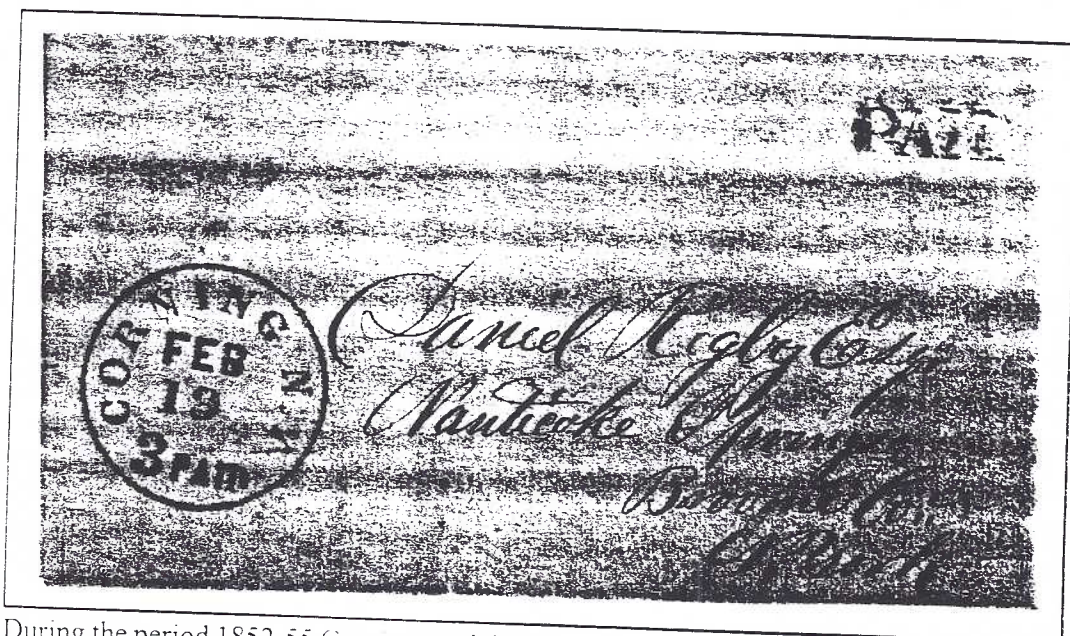
Prepaid, not exceeding 3,000 miles	3 cents per half ounce
Unpaid, not exceeding 3,000 miles	5 cents per half ounce
Prepaid, over 3,000 miles	6 cents per half ounce
Unpaid, over 3,000 miles	10 cents per half ounce



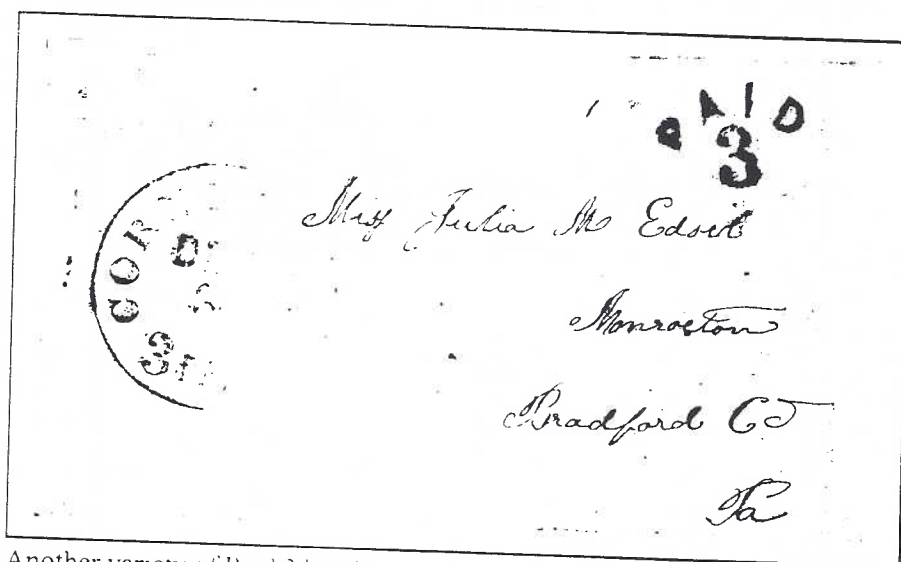
Late usage of East Painted Post rimless oval townmark (1837-1850s) on envelope c. 1851-52. Manuscript date entry and rate marking. This is the earliest listed handstamp townmark in the area now served by the Corning post office.



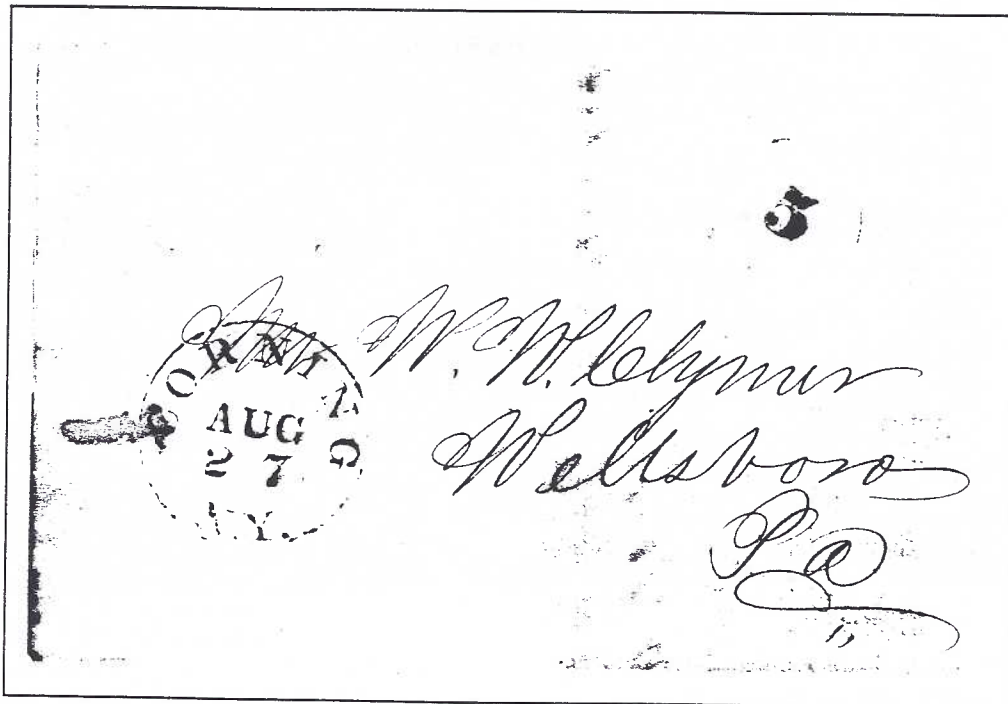
Prepaid 1853 folded letter with manuscript "Caton, NY, July 22" and "Paid 3." Letter about son in prison.



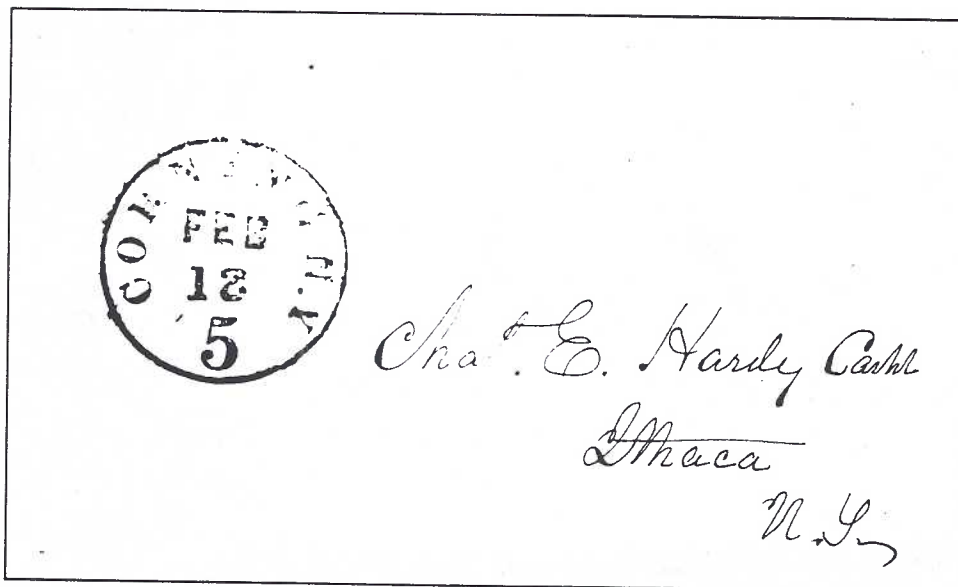
During the period 1852-55 Corning used this type of marking, incorporating the postal rate and "Paid" in the townmark.



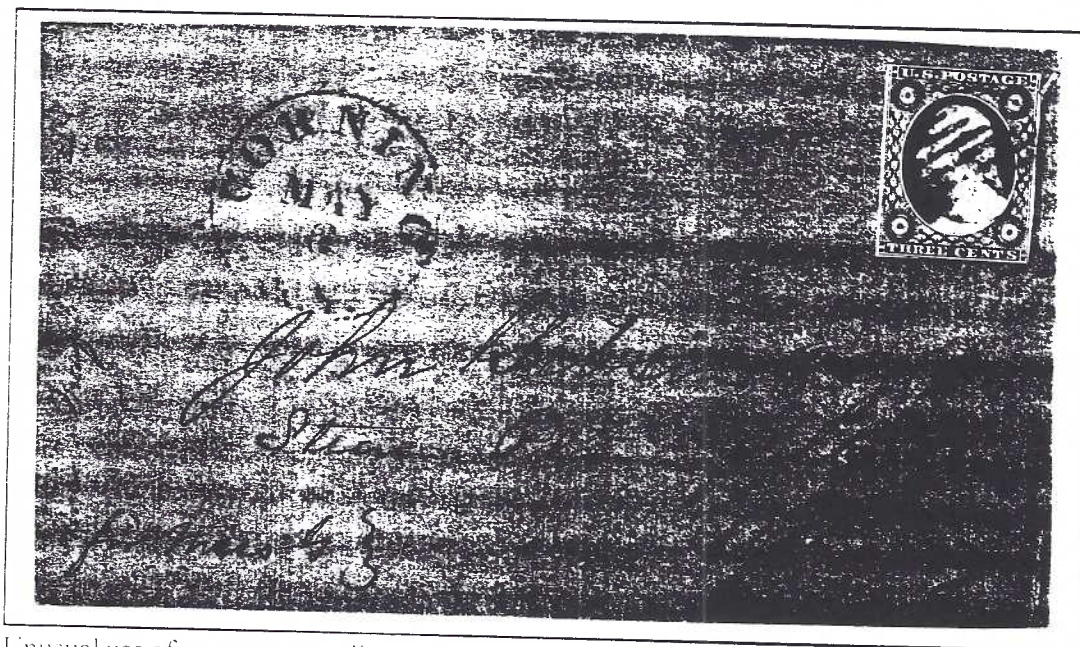
Another variety of Paid 3 handstamp during 1851-1855 period. No year date on this "Ladies Envelope." Having a townmark incorporating the rate and "Paid" didn't save labor if the postmaster also stamped "Paid" or "Paid 3" on the cover.



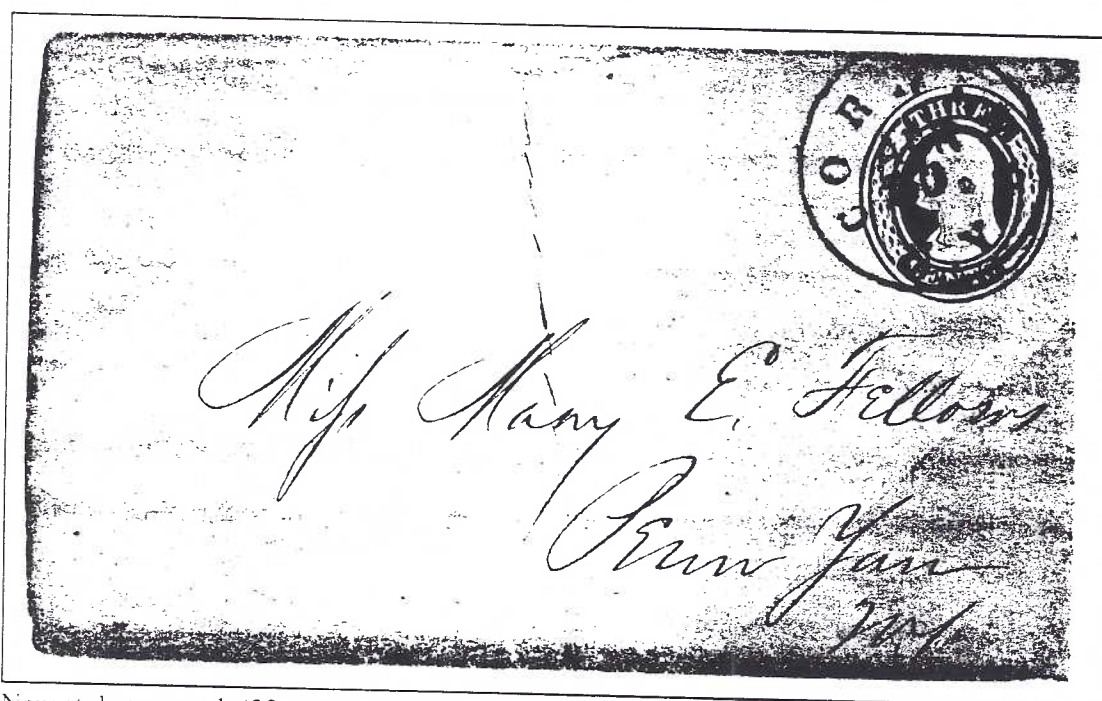
Unpaid folded letter dated August 26, 1852 with rate marking separate from townmark. Printed New York and Erie Railroad notification of merchandise in store for addressee at Corning Station.



Unpaid folded letter dated February 13, 1855 with rate incorporated in townmark. Printed law firm note protest form.

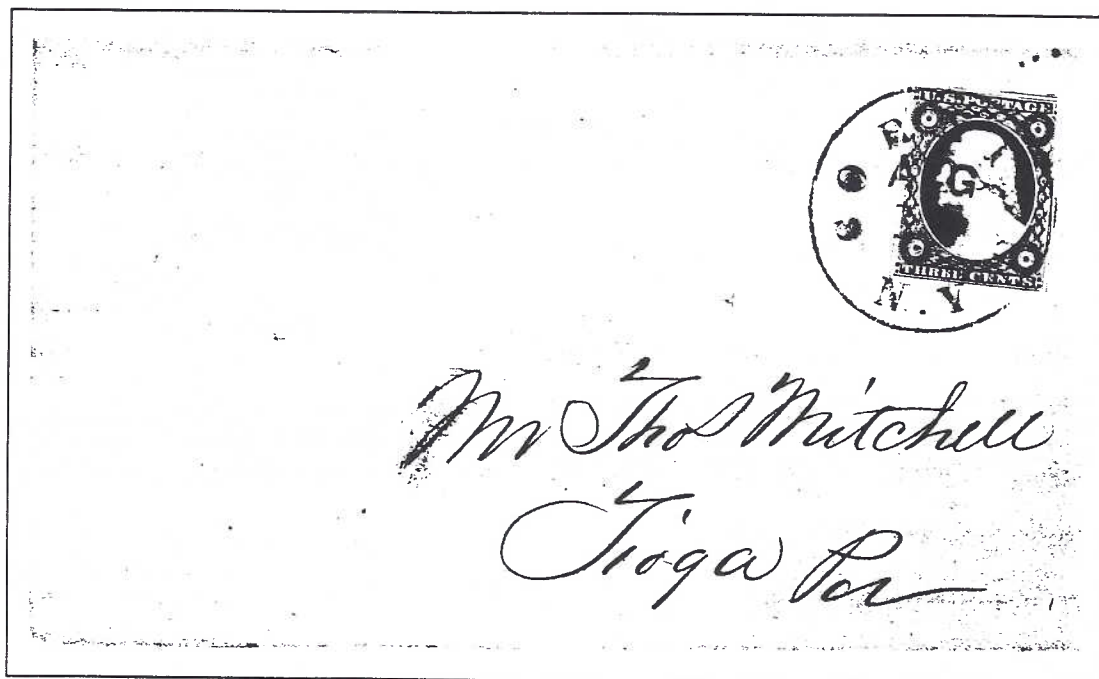


Unusual use of separate canceller (not required until 1860) on 1852 prepaid envelope (receipt docketing on left). 30mm townmark shown above appears to be only type of handstamp townmark used by the Corning Post Office from its inception until approximately 1853.



New style townmark (32mm, wider letter spacing) doubling as canceller on stamped envelope first issued in 1854. No year date.

POSTAL RATES, 1855-1863
POSTAGE STAMPS MADE COMPULSORY



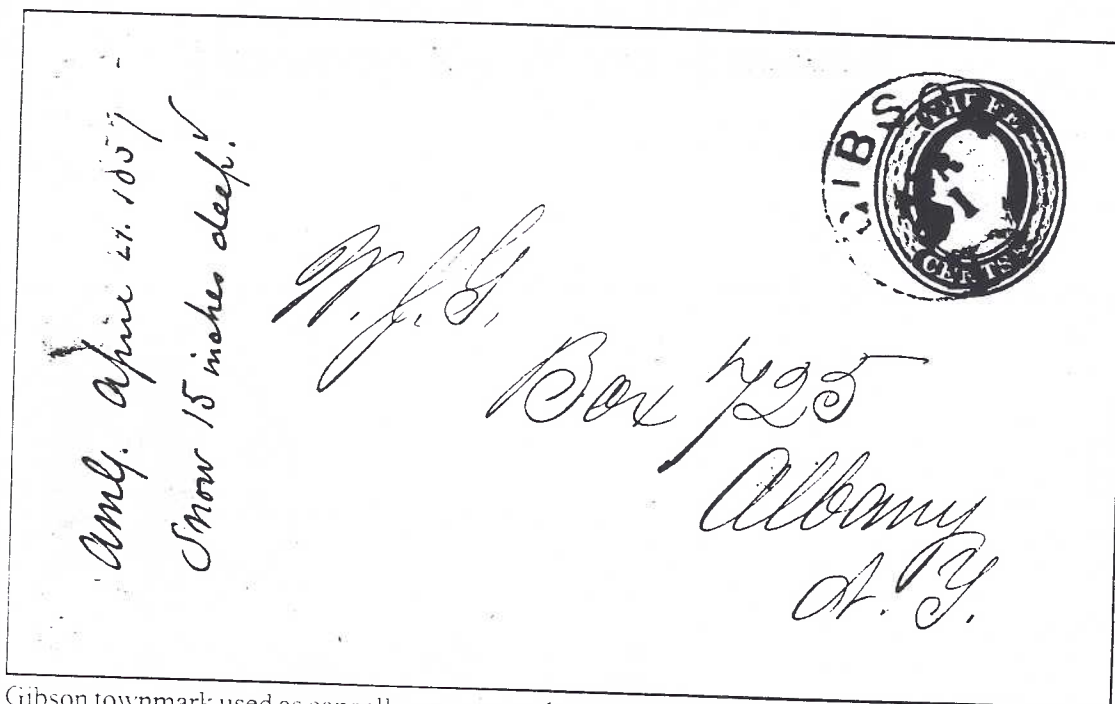
Issue of 1851-1857 (imperforate). Townmark used as canceller. No year date. Stamp on this envelope in use until February 28, 1857, when perforated variety appeared.

On April 1, 1855, prepayment of postage was made compulsory and new rates became effective for ordinary letters:

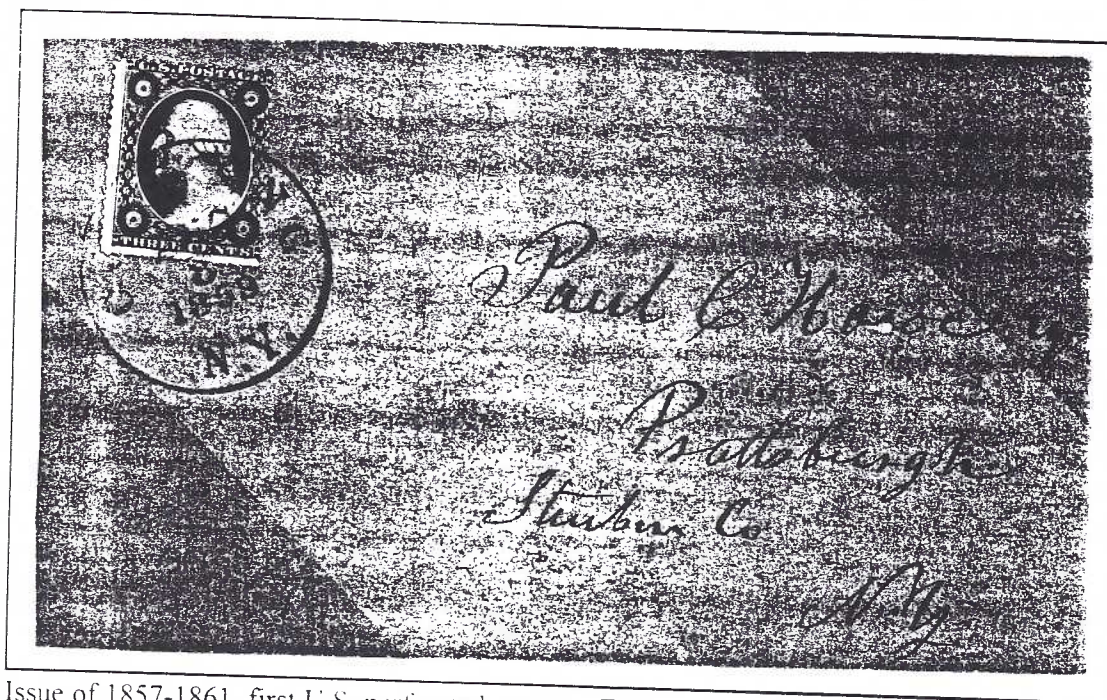
Not over 3,000 miles	3 cents per half ounce
Over 3,000 miles	10 cents per half ounce

On January 1, 1856, prepayment was made compulsory by use of postage stamps.

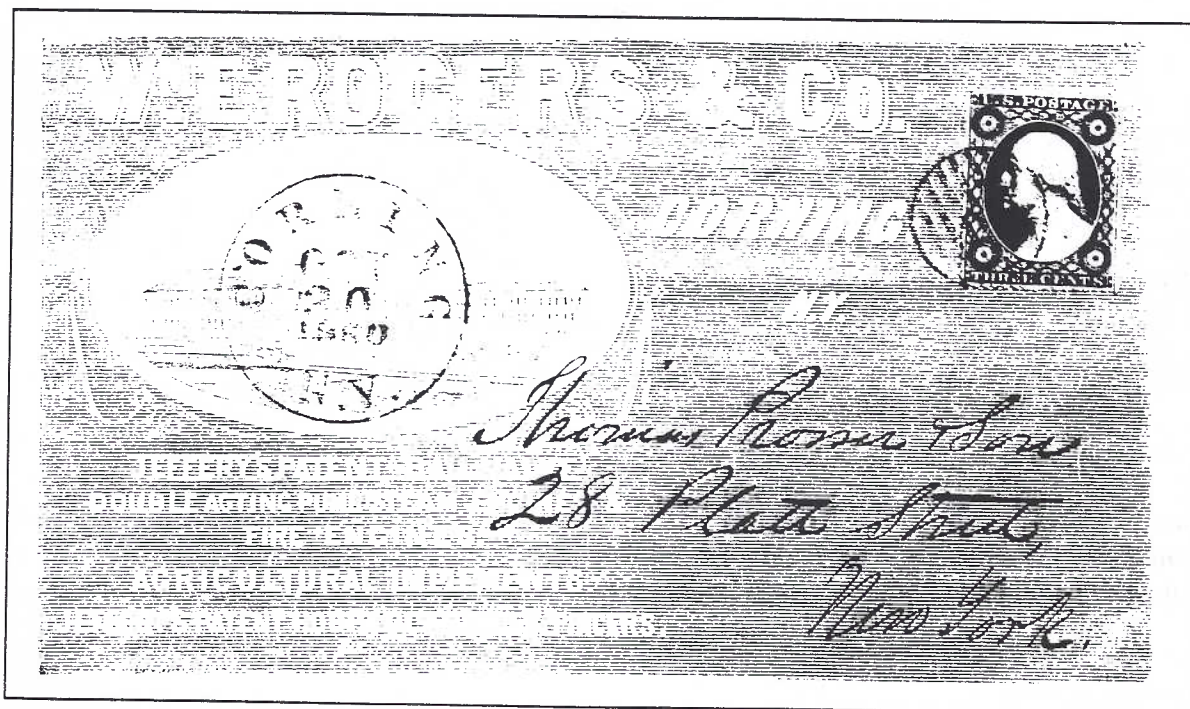
The issue of 1851-1857 was the second issue of U.S. stamps. The 1847 issue was demonetized beginning July 1, 1851.



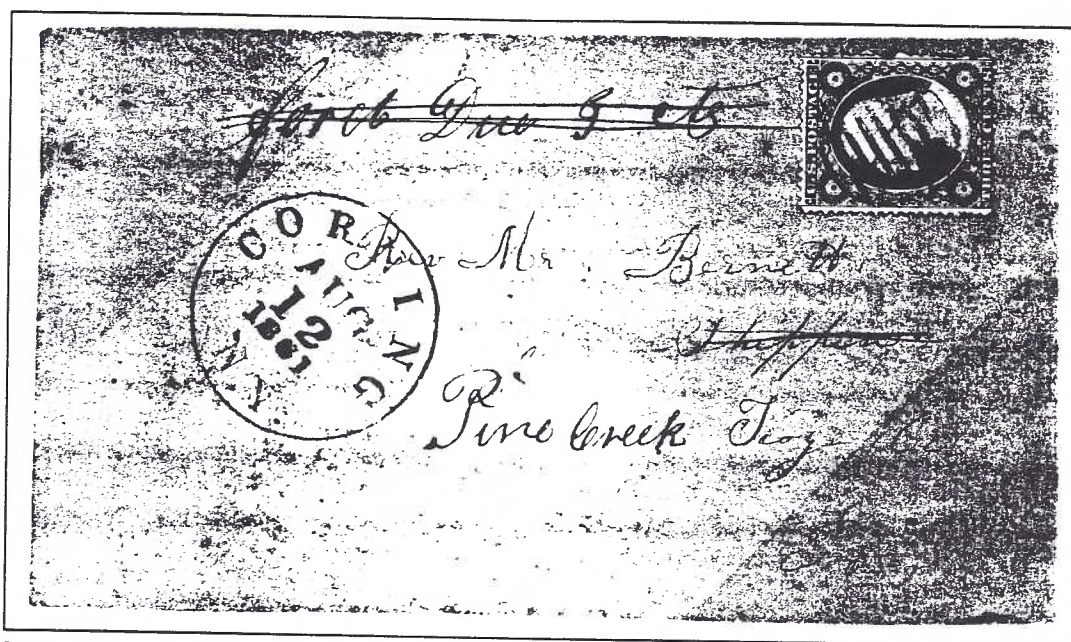
Gibson townmark used as canceller on stamped envelope issued in 1854 (part of first series U.S. stamped envelopes). No year date in townmark; docketing indicates 1857 usage.



Issue of 1857-1861, first U.S. perforated stamps. Townmark used as canceller. Early use of year date in townmark.



Issue of 1857-1861. Separate "grill" marking used to cancel the stamp. In 1860 the Post Office Department prohibited the use of the townmark for cancelling.



Late usage of 1857-1861 issue, demonetized after outbreak of Civil war; postmasters instructed in August 1861 to cease sale and redeem stamps sold and not used. Although prepayment was now required for all mail, additional postage was needed if the letter was forwarded. The notation "for'd Due 3 cts" meant the addressee had to pay for the forwarding.

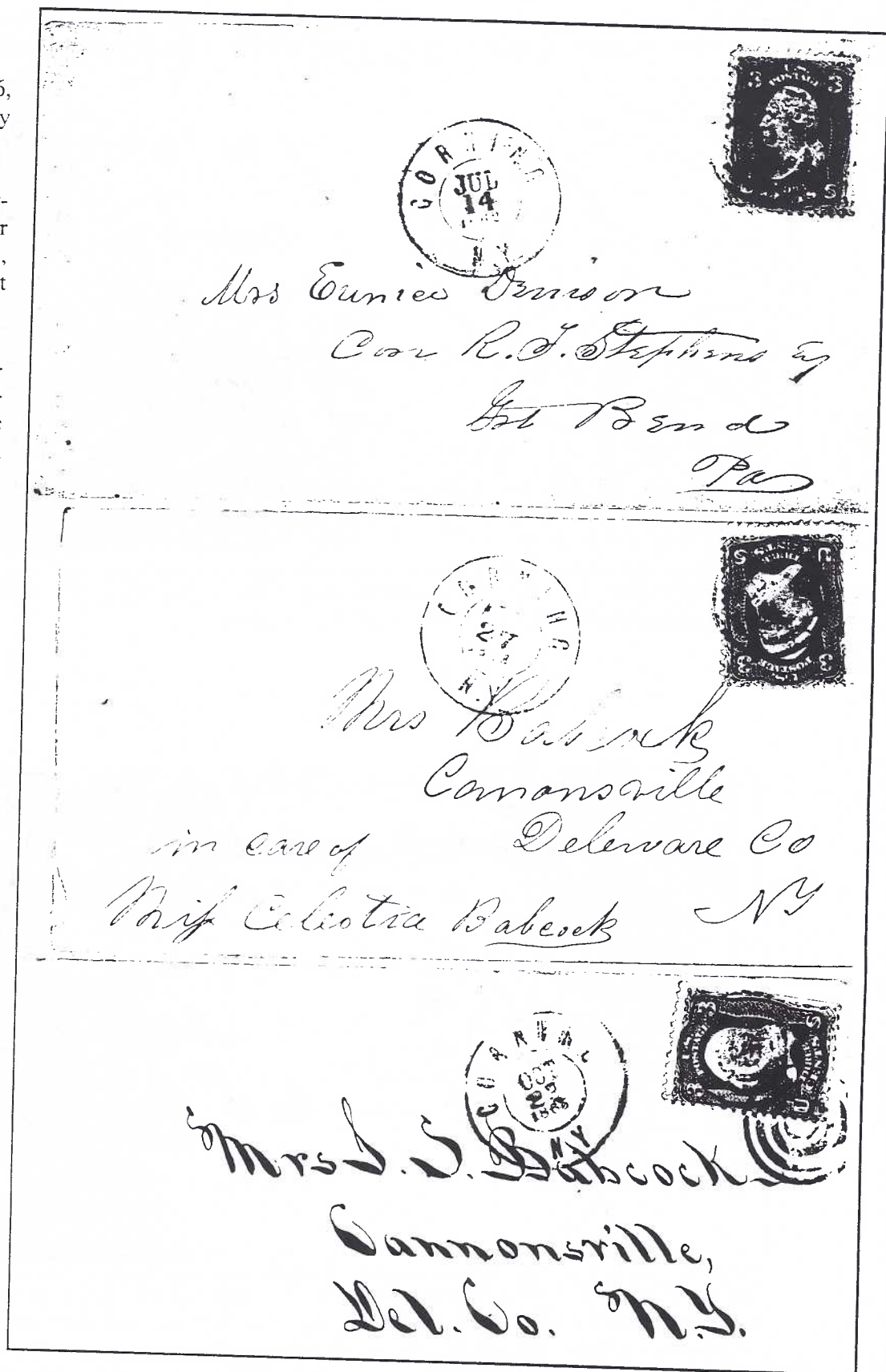
POSTAL RATES, 1863-1883

Issue of 1861-1866,
made necessary by
the Civil War.

Double circle year-
dated townmarks for
1862, 1863 and 1865,
with separate target
cancellers.

Year dates in town-
marks were dis-
continued in late
1860s and not revived
until after 1880.

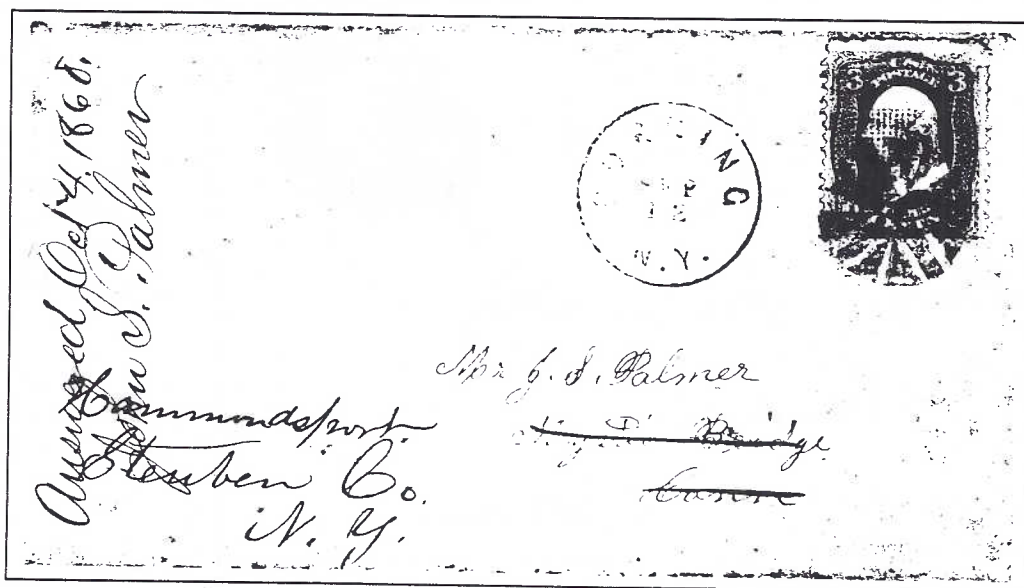
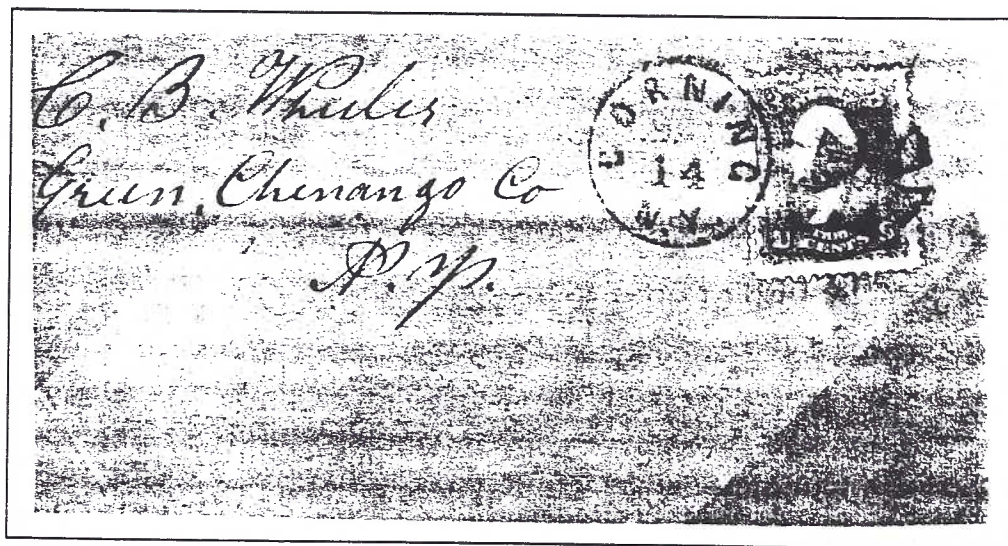
Effective July 1, 1863
the rate of 3 cents per
half ounce was
established for first
class domestic mail
regardless of distance.
This rate remained in
effect for 20 years.



1860s - FANCY KILLERS

Pinwheel

All townmarks on this page measure 22mm. This style of townmark, without year date, used in late 1860s and early 1870s.

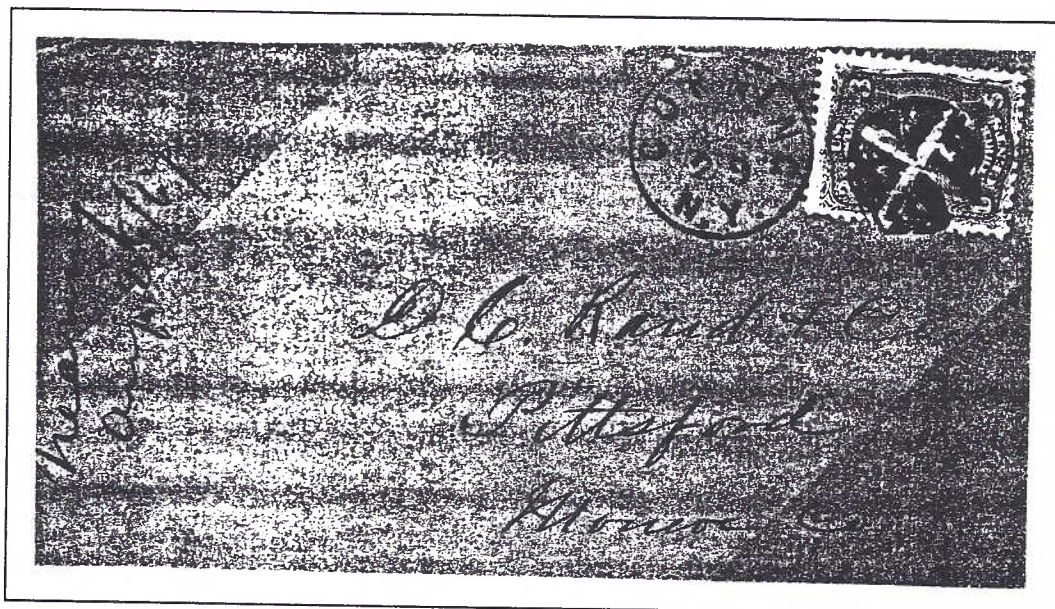


Circular geometric

22mm townmark

Negative X

1867 usage



Circular grid

22mm townmark.
Stamped envelope
issued 1864.

1869 usage.

Hardware Dealers,
CORNING, N. Y.,
; delivered within 10 days

Ref M K Palmer
Corrington
Pa



Return to SPENCER, THOMSON & MILLS,
Attorneys and Counsellors at Law,
CORNING, N. Y.,
not delivered within 10 days.



Answer from Esy
Dupkin
Corn

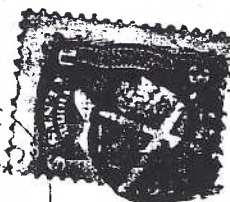
Circular
geometric

22mm townmark

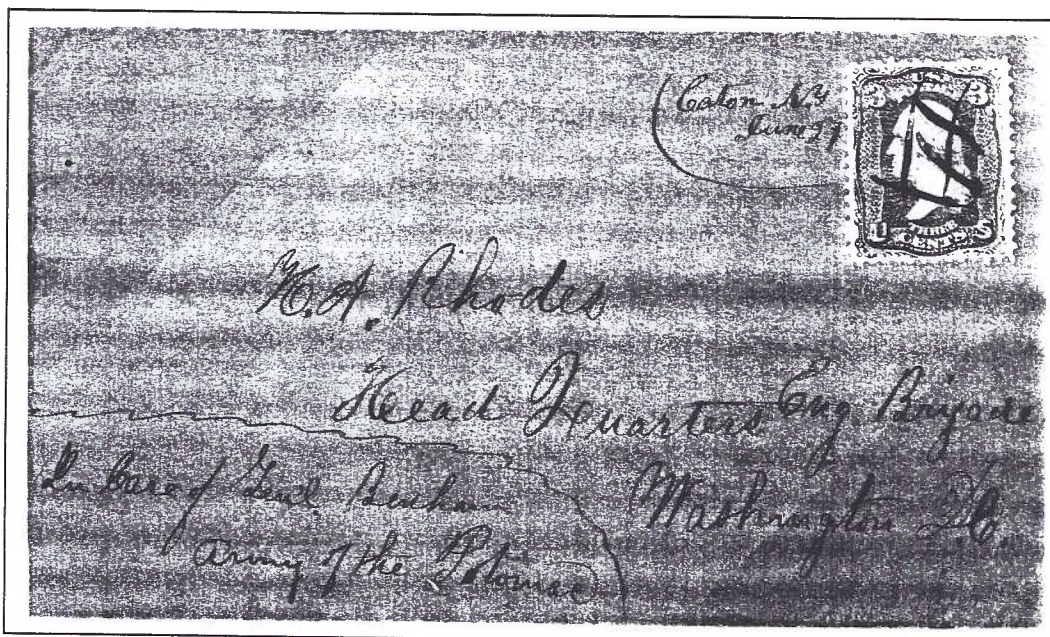
Negative X

grill on stamp

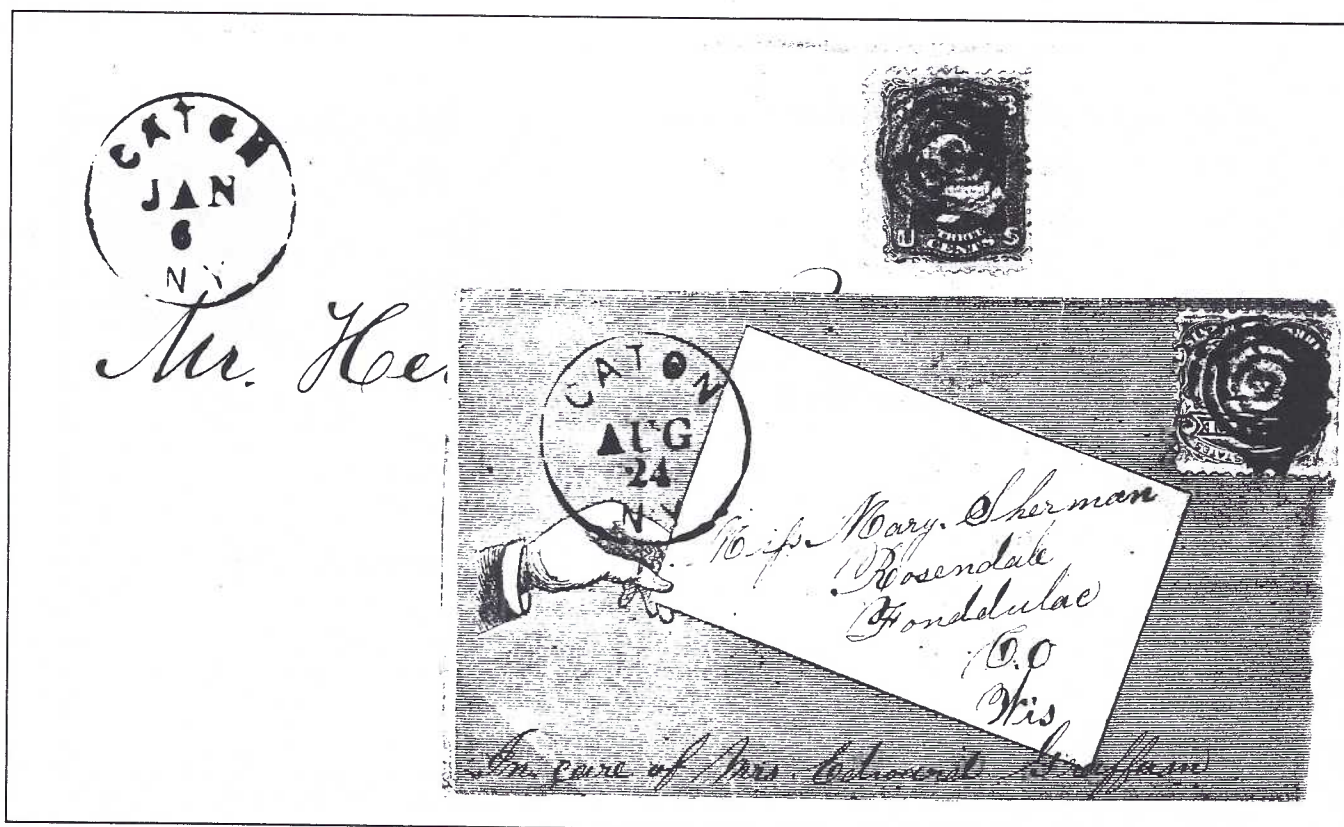
23mm townmark.
possible 1870 usage.



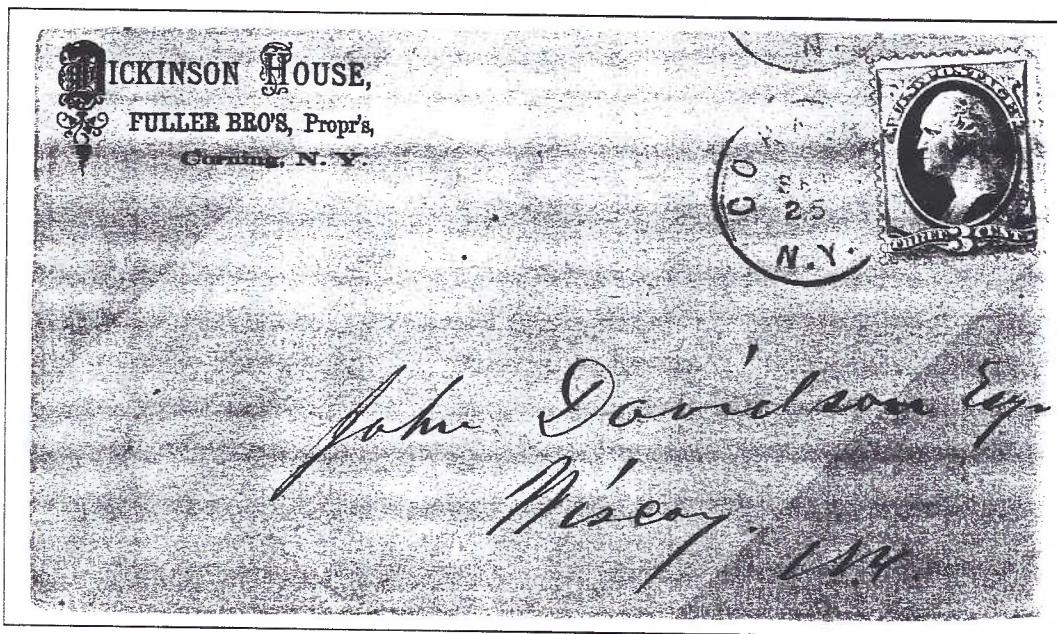
Ref Sarah C Palmer
Montezuma
Schuyler Co N.Y.



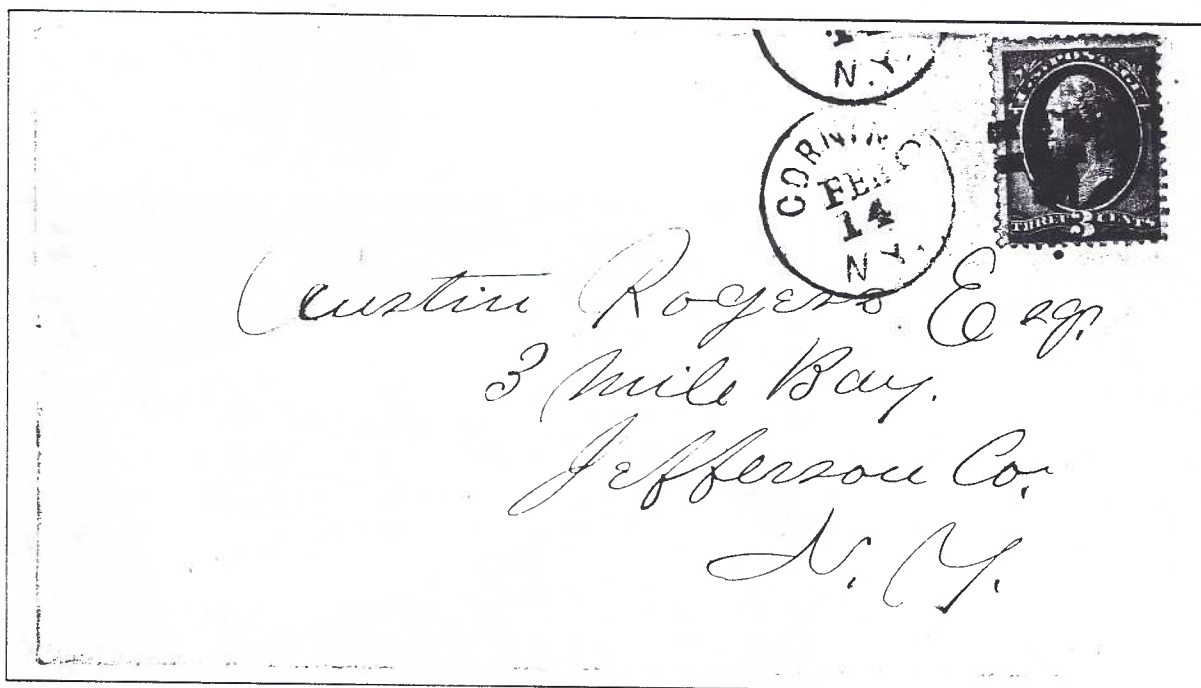
Caton continued manuscript townmarks and cancellers until the mid-1860s. Above: envelope addressed In care of General Benham, Army of the Potomac franked with 3c 1861 issue.



Caton's townmark and target canceller used in late 1860s and early 1870s had a "smeary" appearance: left, 3c issue of 1861 with F grill (earliest known use March 24, 1868); right, 3c issue of 1869 on colorful ladies envelope.

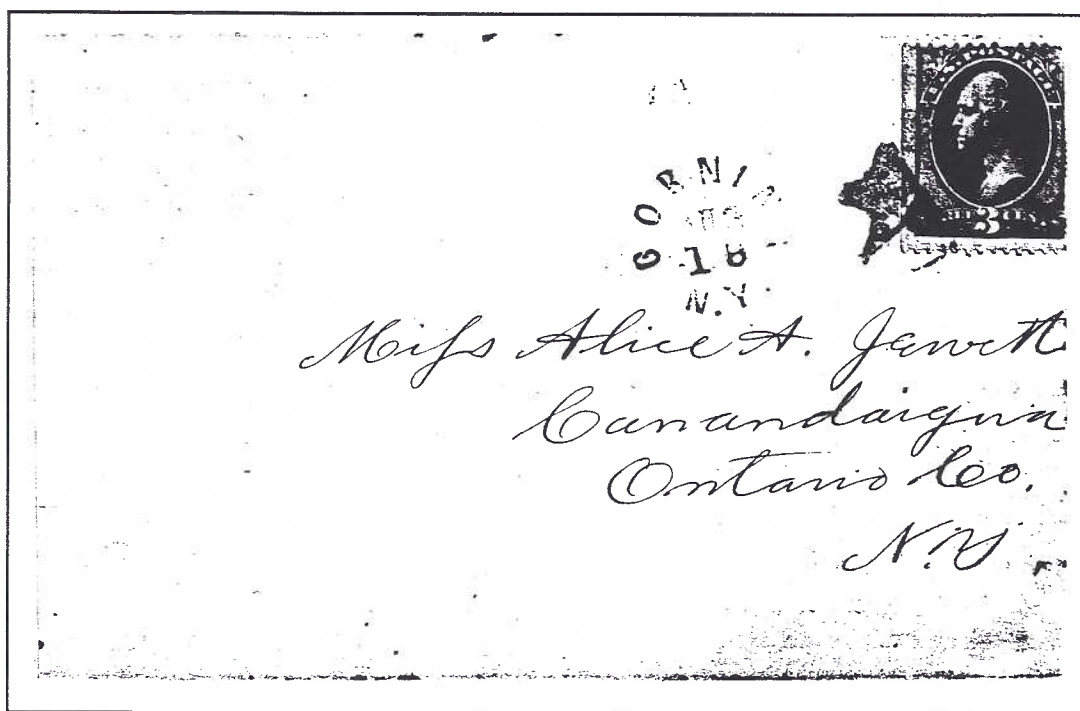


22mm townmark with month and day in small type, no year date, indistinct canceller on 3c stamp issued March 13, 1870 (printed by National Bank Note Company).

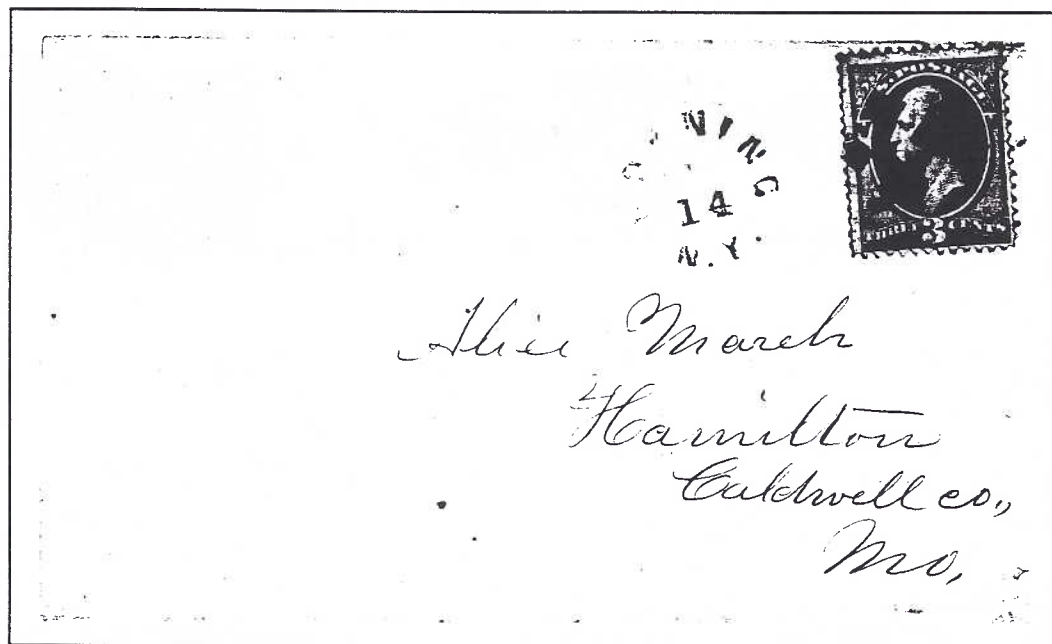


Larger townmark with closer spacing, month and day in large type, no year date, fancy geometric canceller on stamp issued 1873 (Continental Bank Note Company) or 1879 (American Bank Note Company)

1870s - Fancy Cancels

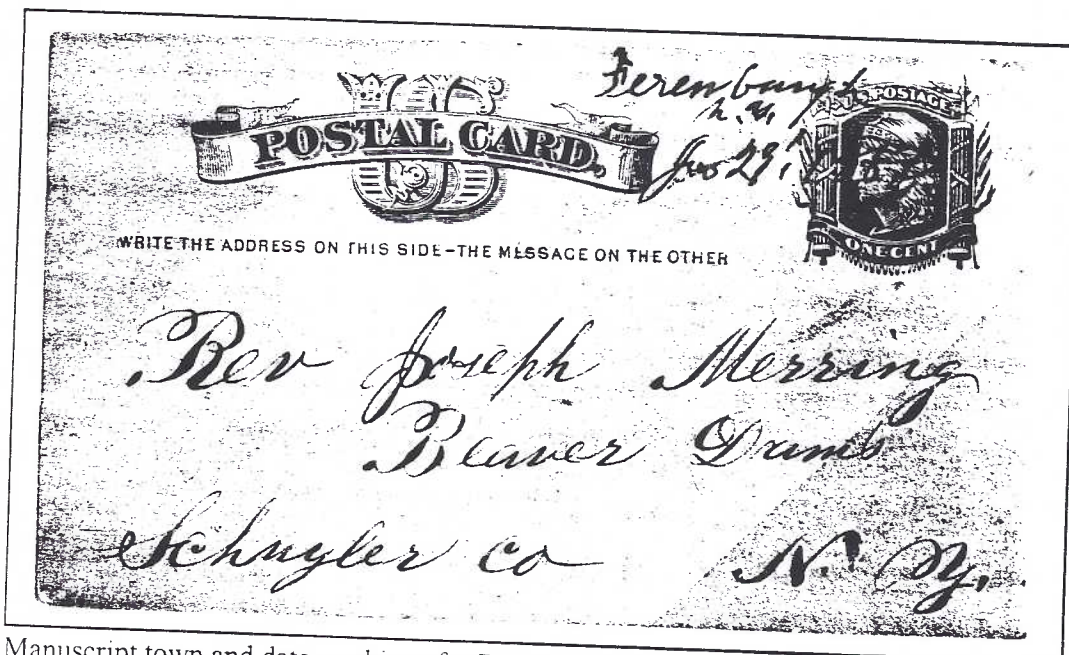


Two examples of rimless townmark used in Corning in early 1870s – one with star canceller and the

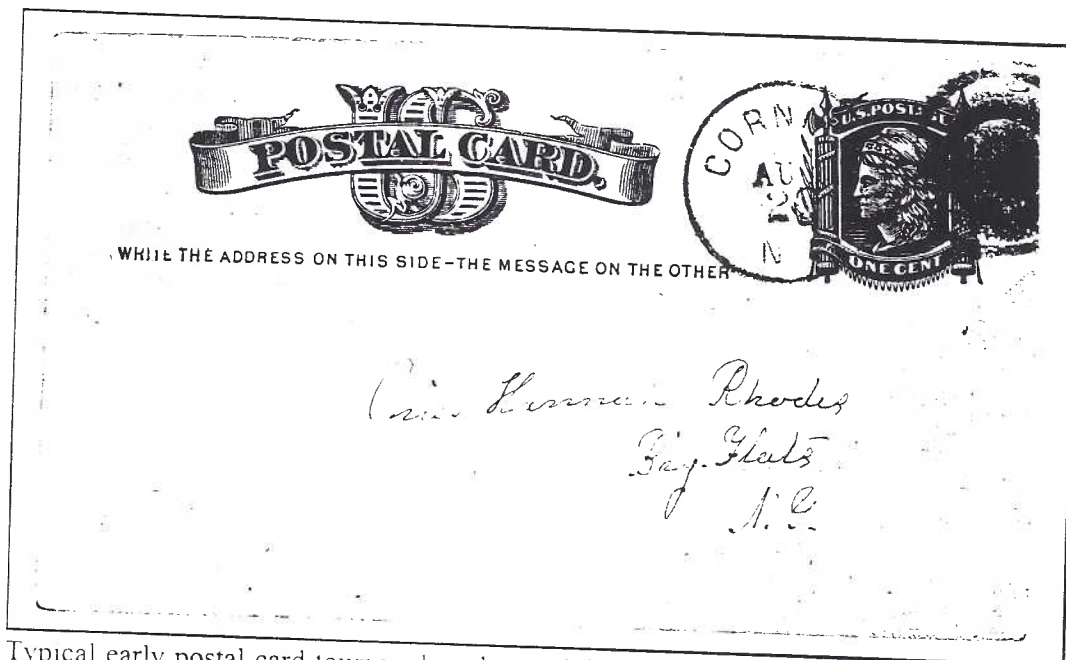


other with block geometric “killer.” Both covers franked with stamp issued March 13, 1870. The lower envelope had correspondence enclosed date March 1873.

1880s - POSTAL CARD MARKINGS

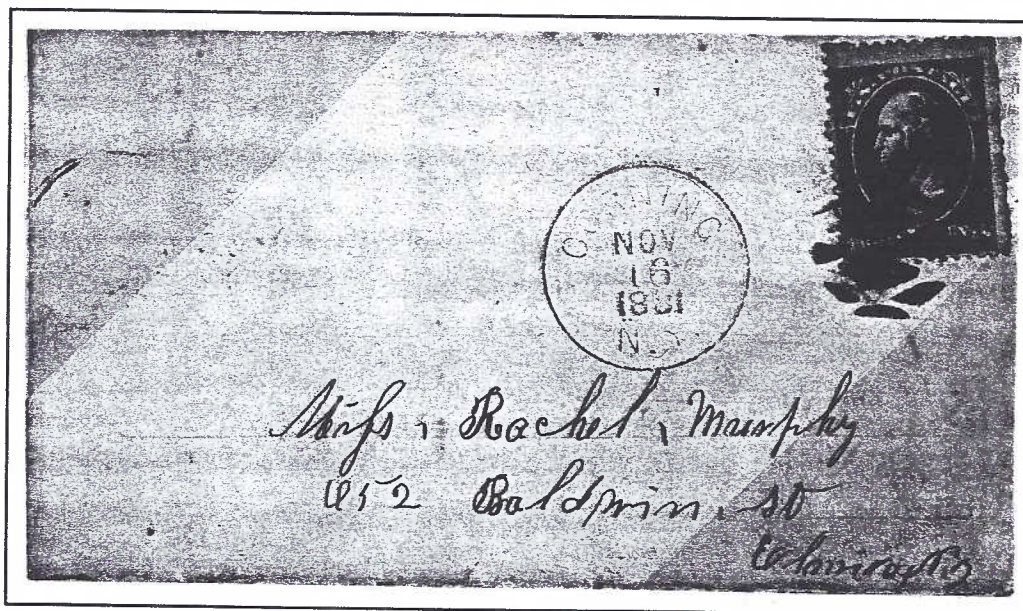


Manuscript town and date markings for Perenbaugh June 29, 1880, on government postal card issued 1875. Perenbaugh Post Office established March 25, 1879.

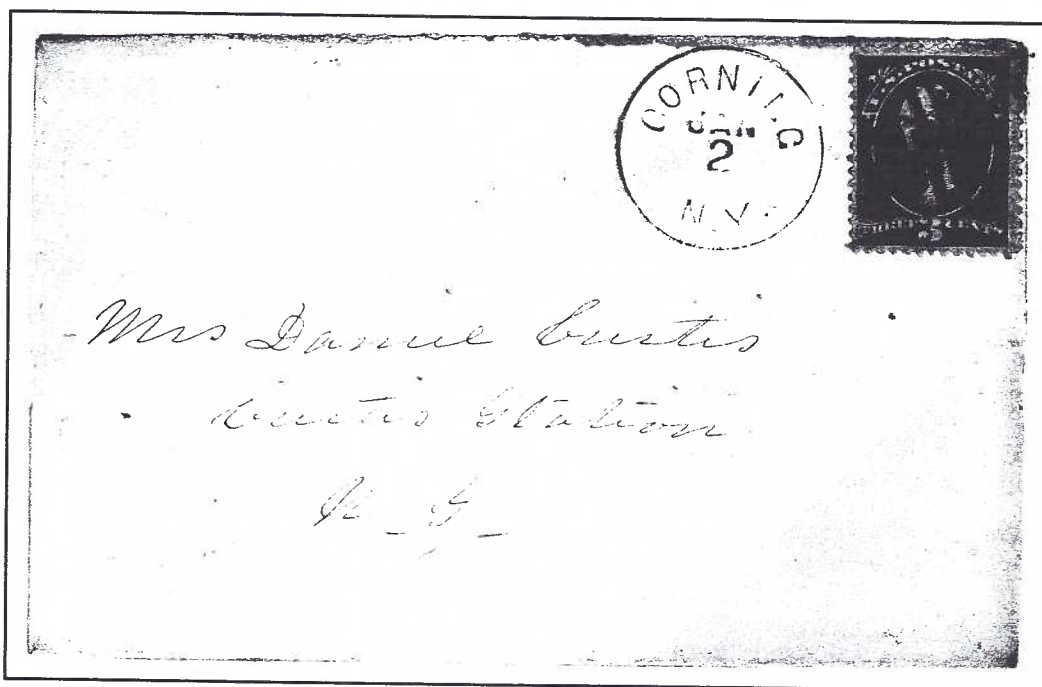


Typical early postal card townmark and cancel for the Corning Post Office, August 29, 1880. U.S. Government postal cards were first issued May 12, 1873, and except for a brief period during World War I, the rate remained 1¢ until January 1, 1952.

1880s - FANCY AND OVERFRANKED

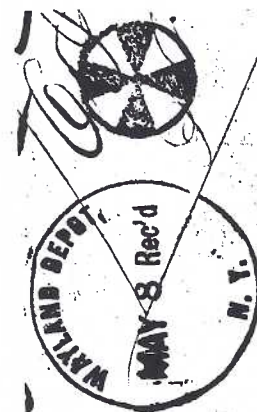
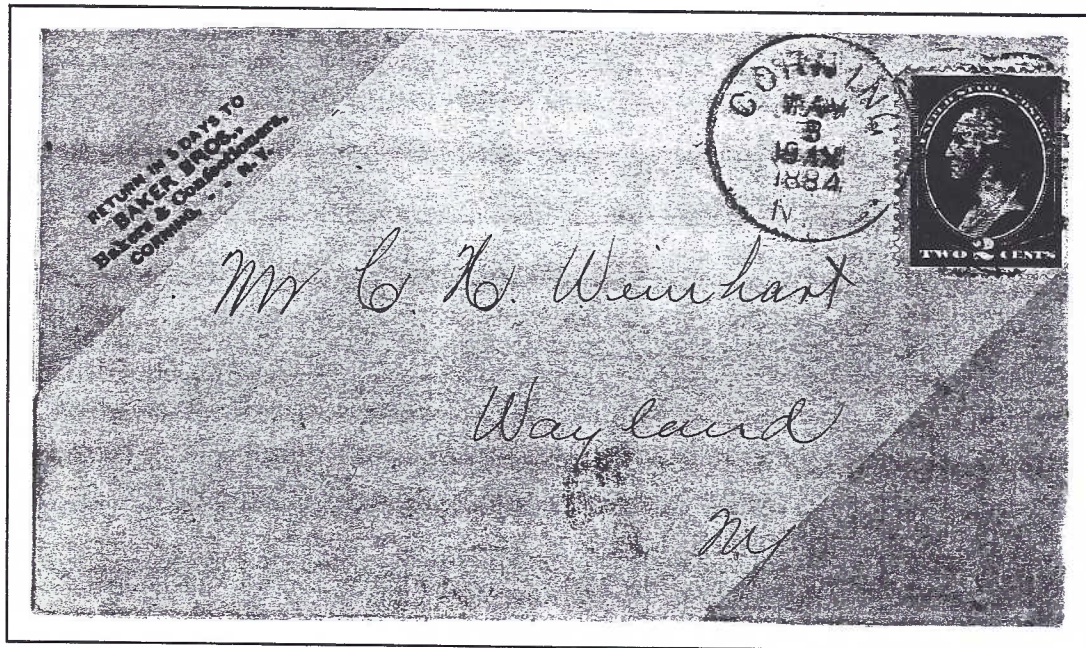


Colored townmark complete with year date (1881). Fancy killer in matching purple ties 3¢ stamp issued July 16, 1881 and printed by American Bank Note Company. Arrow marking from printing plate visible in upper right corner of stamp.

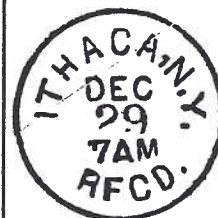
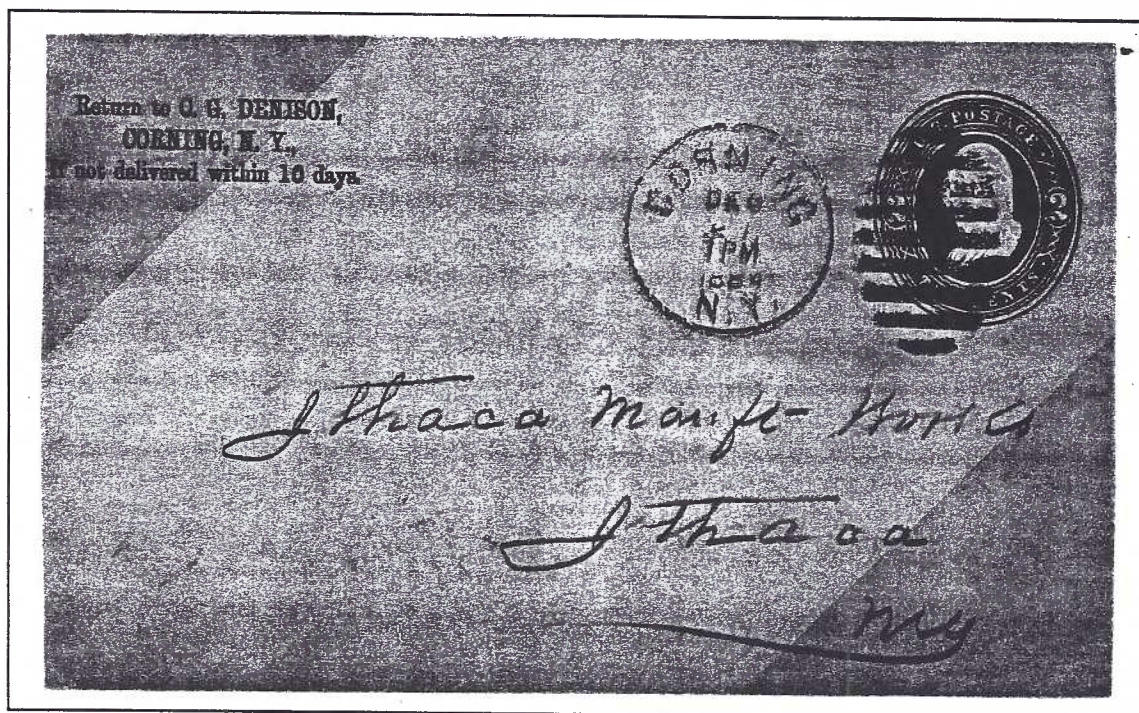


Curtis, New York receiving mark on the back indicates this envelope was canceled January 2, 1884 which means the sender overpaid the rate for domestic letters having dropped to 2¢ for first half ounce on October 1, 1883.

**2¢ LETTER RATE PER ONE-HALF OUNCE EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 1883
(WEIGHT INCREASED TO ONE OUNCE EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1885.)**

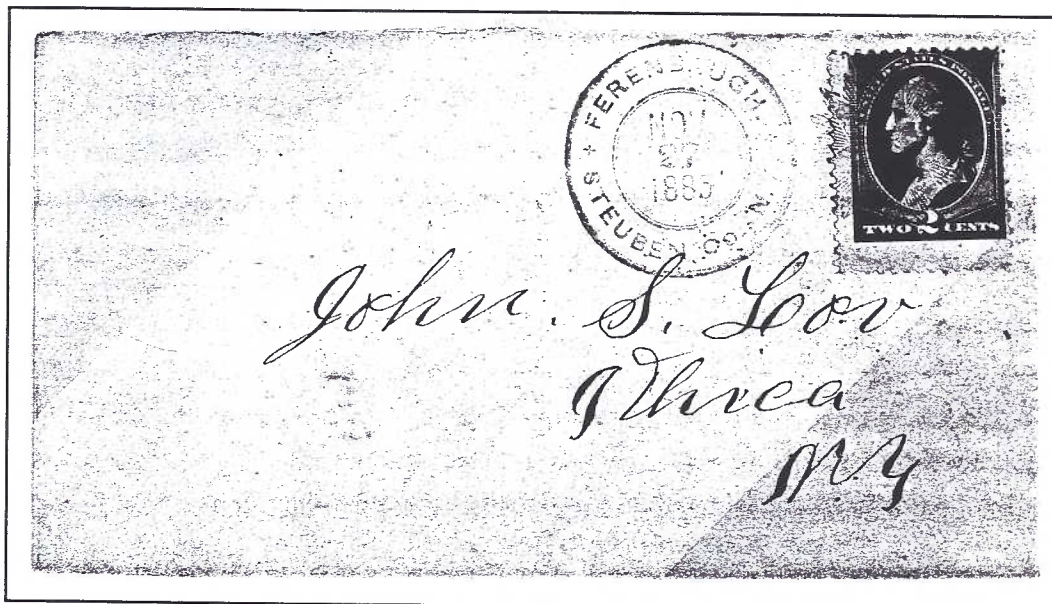


Stamp issued October 1, 1883 to meet reduced first class rate effective the same date. This cover probably canceled May 8, 1884 and received in Wayland the same day. Photocopy (right of fancy Wayland Depot receiving mark on back of cover.

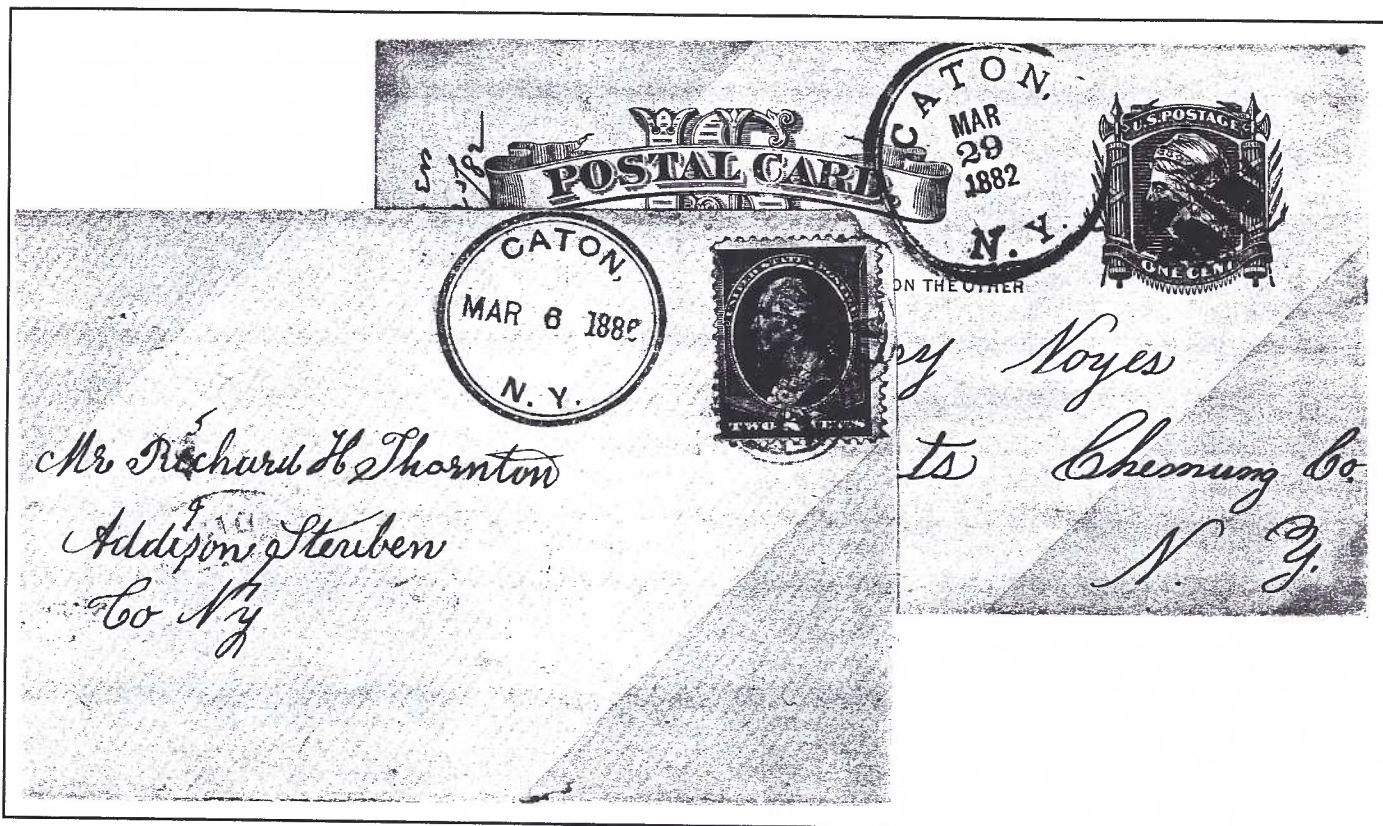


Use of duplex canceller combining townmark and nine-bar oval killer in one handstamp. 2¢ stamped envelope issued in 1884. Canceled at Corning December 27, 1884; Ithaca receiving cancel on back shown in photocopy at right.

1880s - FANCY CANCELS AT D.P.O.s

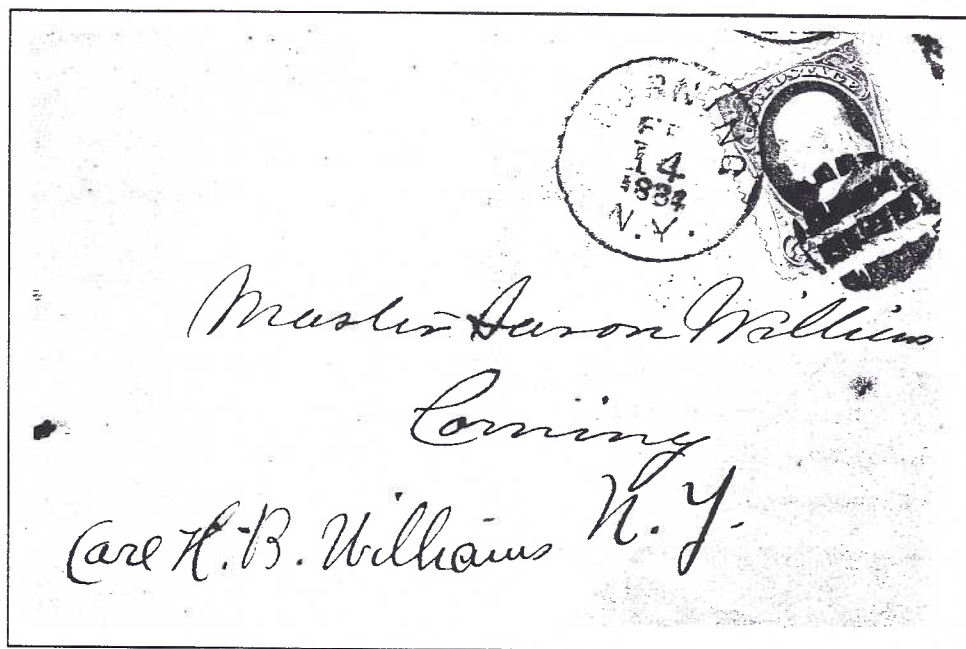


Ferenbaugh double circle county cancel November 27, 1885; faint starburst killer on 2¢ red-brown of 1883. Ithaca backstamp.

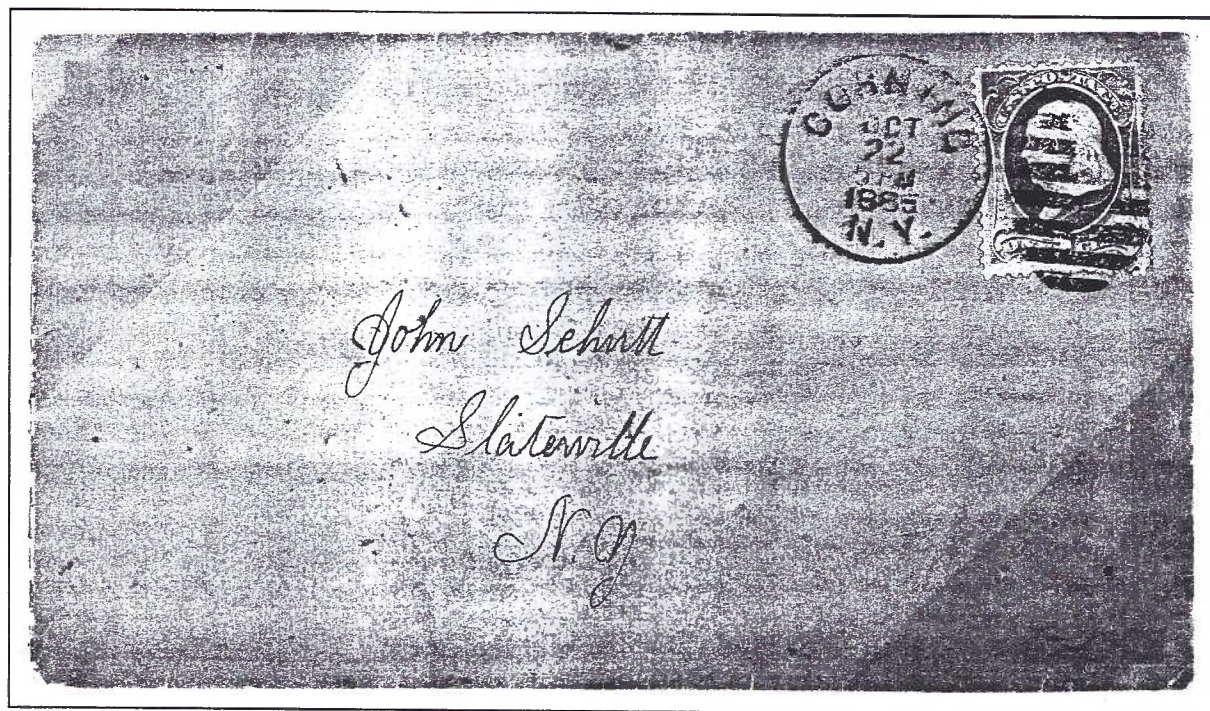


Caton used at least two different double circle townmarks in the 1880s. Government postal card on right issued September 30, 1875; cover on left has fancy "pinwheel" killer.

1880s

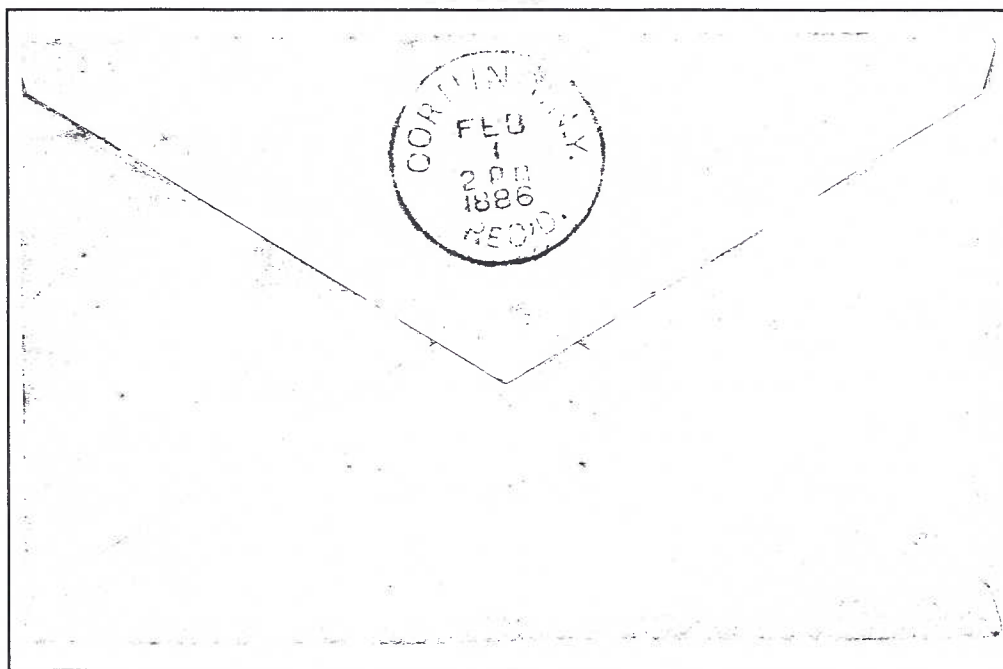


February 14, 1884 townmark and fancy killer (early duplex cancel?) On 1¢ stamp issued August 1881. Drop letter rate for each half ounce of fraction where free delivery by carrier not established. Free carrier delivery began in Corning in 1887.

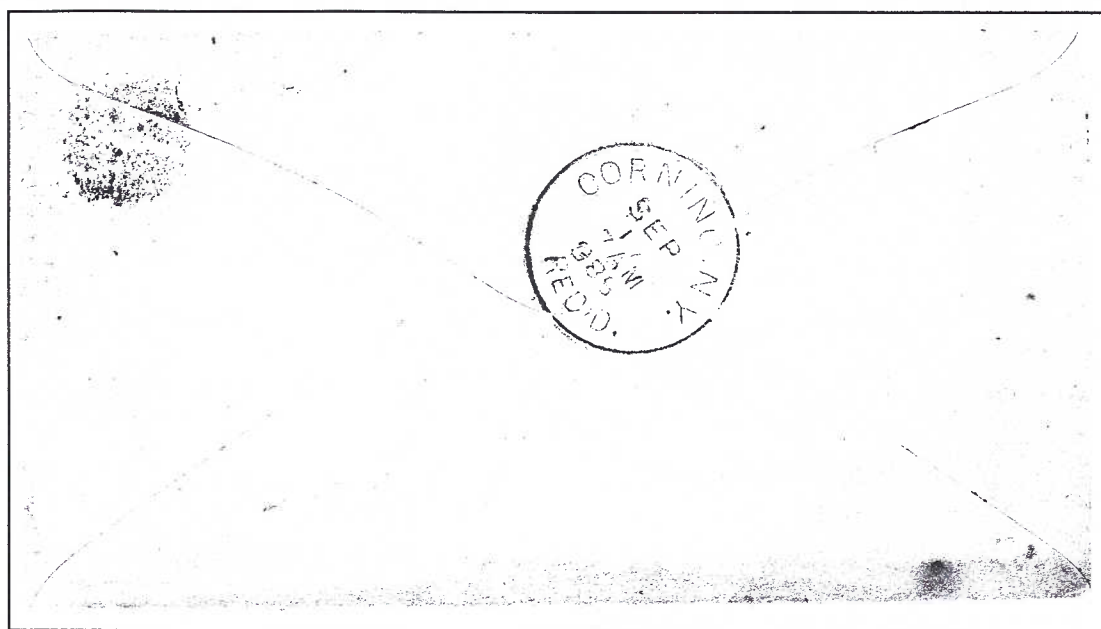


October 22, 1885 use of duplex canceller on 1881 1¢ stamp. Unsealed envelope. 1¢ rate for printed circular or for non-carrier delivery (picked up by addressee at post office).

1880s - RECEIVING CANCELS APPLIED TO INCOMING MAIL

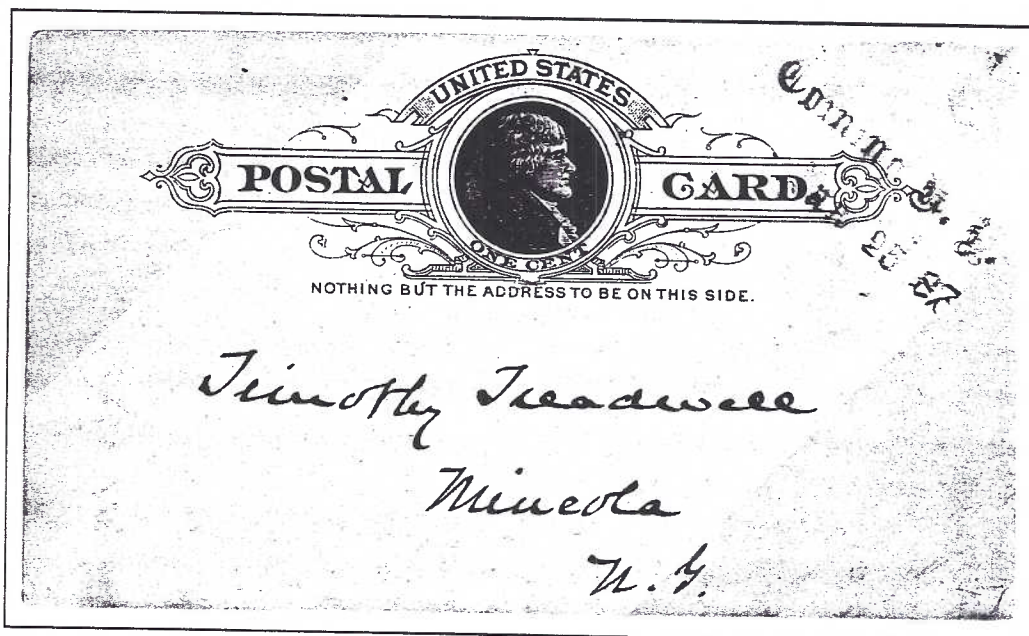


Envelope canceled Elmira February 1, 1886 at 9 a.m. Corning receiving cancel applied to back of envelope at 2 p.m. the same day.

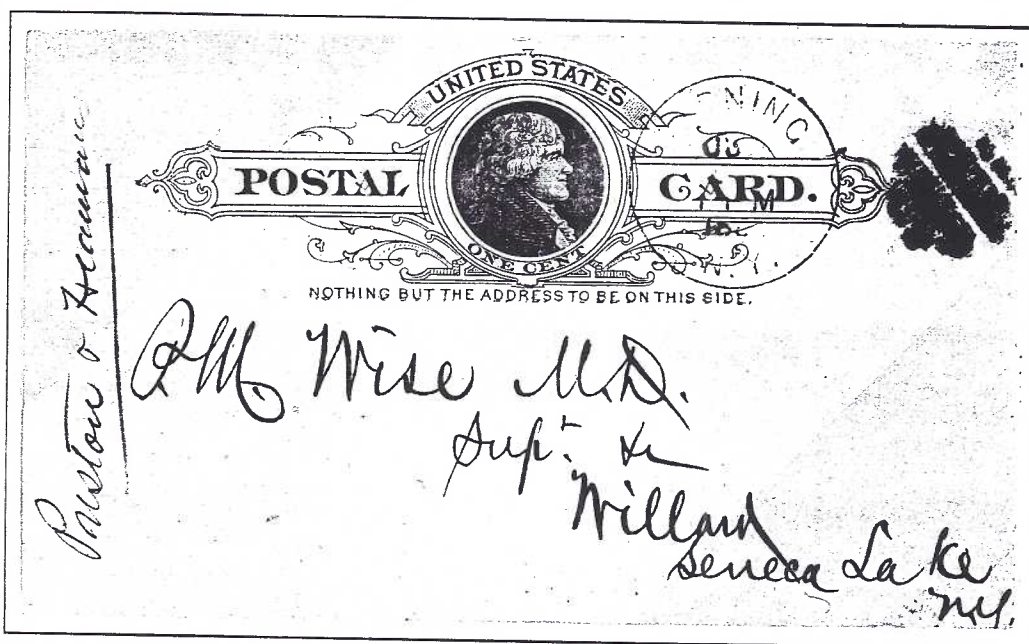


Year date inverted on September 17, 1886, 7 a.m. receiving cancel. Envelope canceled Dansville, New York September 16 at 3 p.m.

1880s - POSTAL CARD MARKINGS

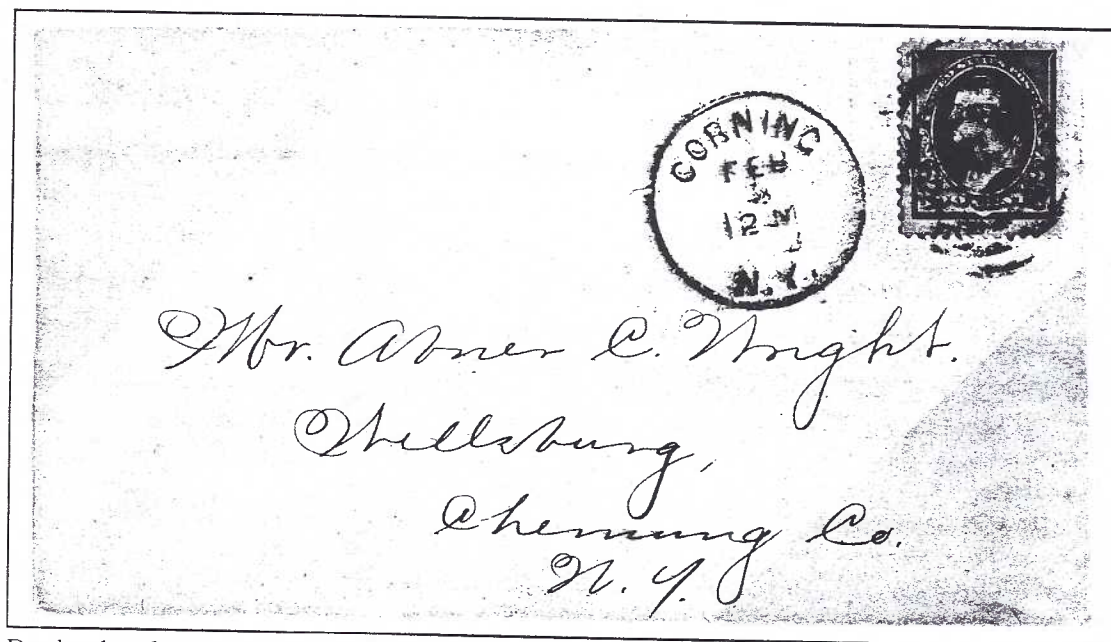


Unusual straight line townmark and date (January 25, 1887) for Corning Post Office on Government postal card issued Dec. 1, 1886. Since the card was part of a large mailing the postmaster may have requested the sender apply the town and date marks

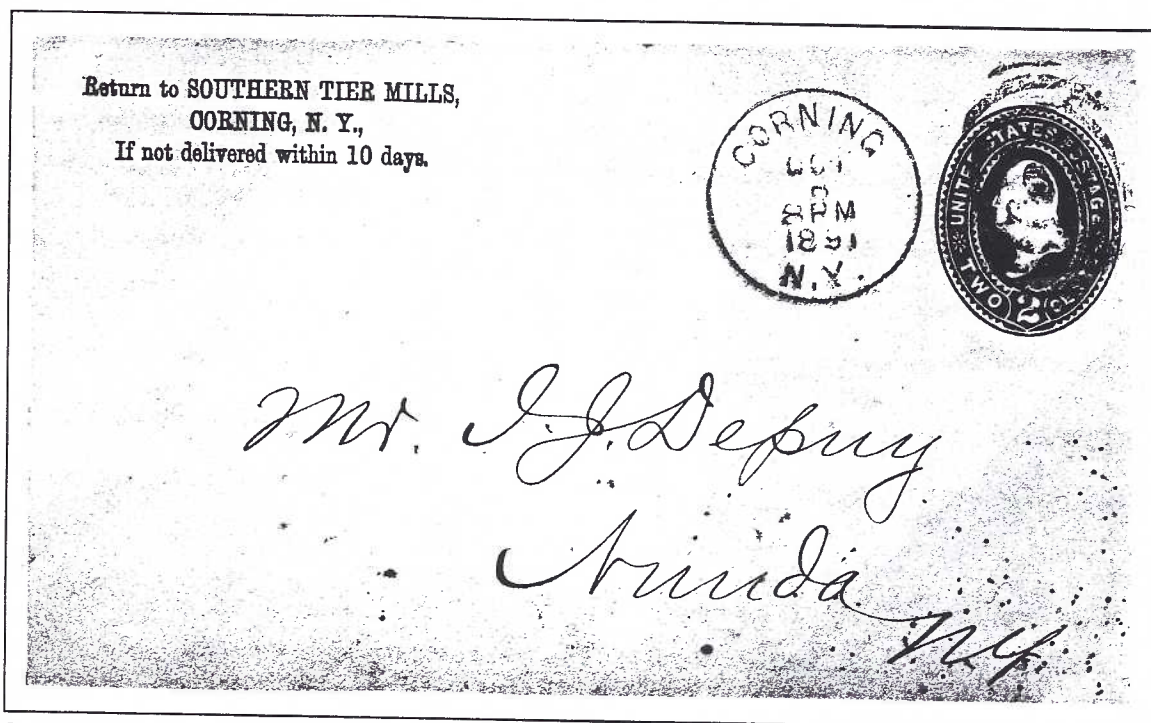


Typical Corning postal card markings for 1887, this one applied June 14, 1887 (date of message on the card).

1890s

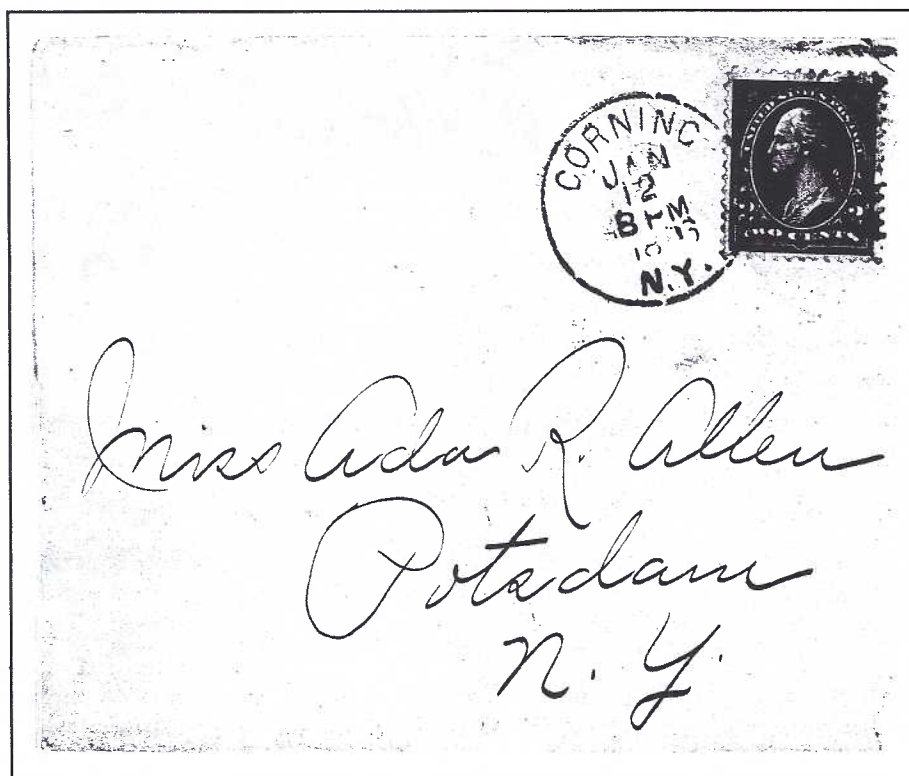


Duplex handstamp cancel applied to stamp issued February 22, 1890; part of series of 1890-1893, last definitive issue printed by American Bank Note Company.

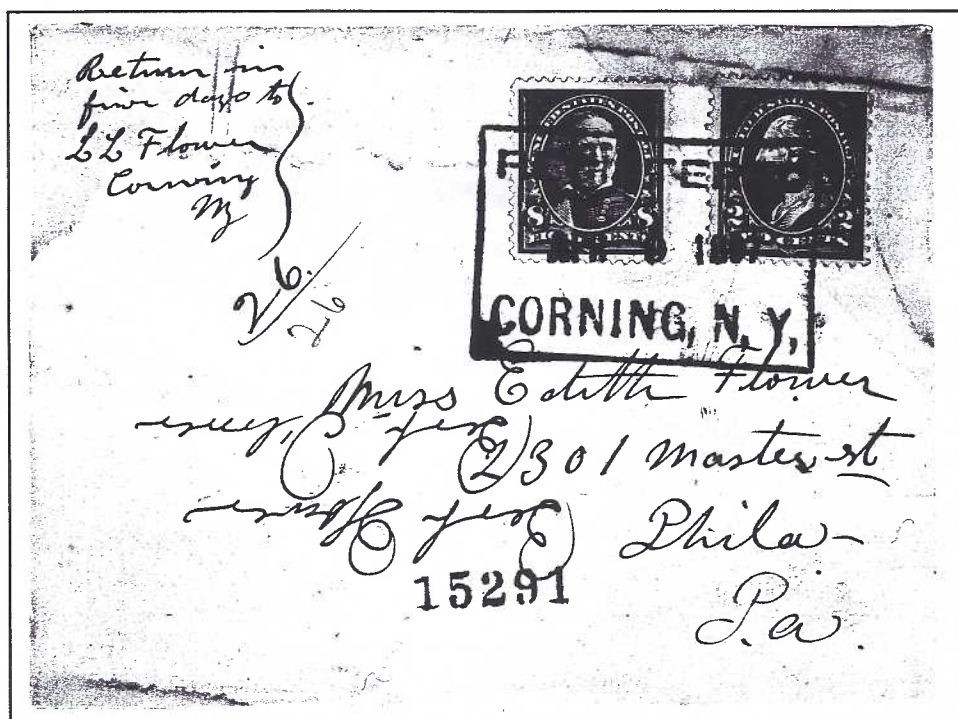


Stamped envelope series of 1887-1894. Nunda, New York receiving cancel on back.

1890s

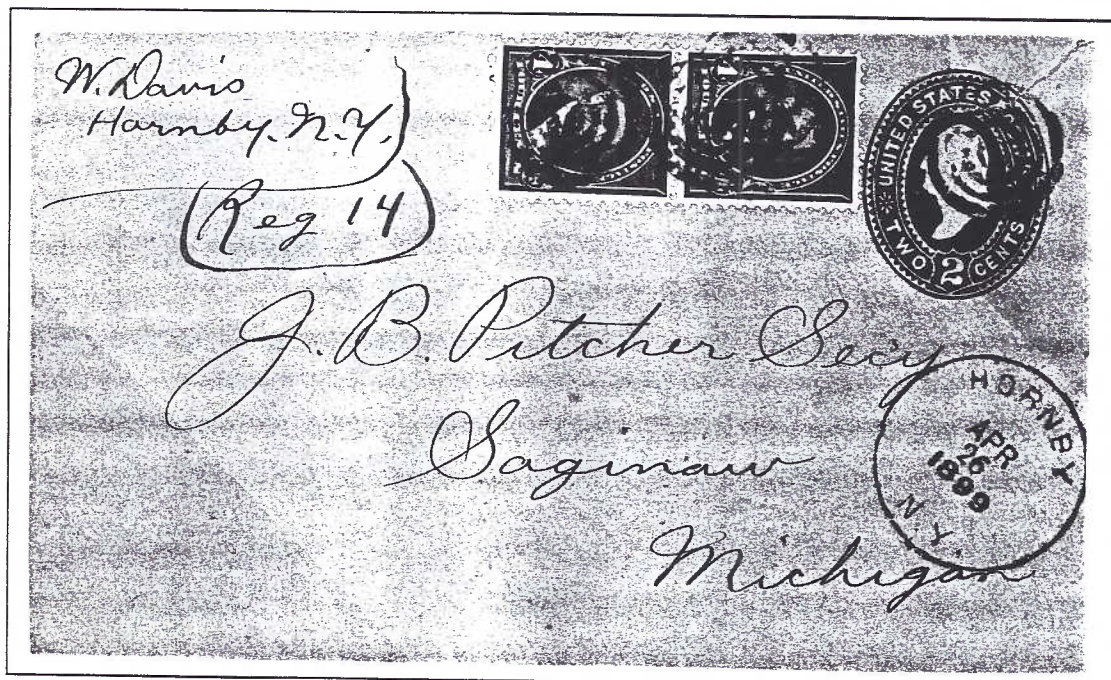


27mm townmark duplex hand cancel still in use in early 1896. Utica transit and Potsdam receiving cancels on reverse. 2¢ stamp from first series printed by Bureau of Engraving and Printing, beginning October 1894.

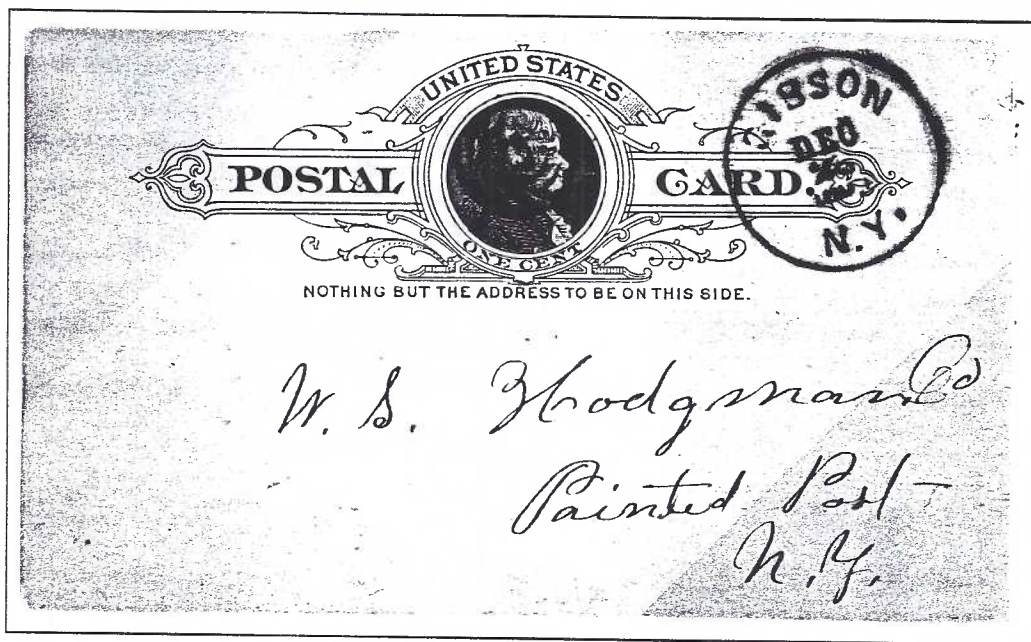


Magenta registered mail cancel April 9, 1897, 10¢ rate. Philadelphia April 10 registry cancel on back.

1890s



No fancy registry cancel at Hornby, just a manuscript notation. No duplex canceling device either. Saginaw April 29 registry cancel on back.



Gibson still used separate townmark and killer in December 1891. Government postal card issued December 1, 1886.

1890s

After 10 days, return to
CORNING GLASS WORKS,
CORNING, N. Y.



Messrs. W. L. Blake & Co.,

Portland,

Maine.

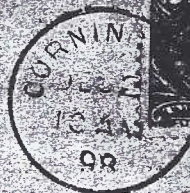
25mm townmark with number in barrel-type oval canceller; year date abbreviated and other changes made in townmark. Canceled in Corning 8 p.m. October 30, 1897 and back canceled in Portland, Main 11:30 p.m. October 31, 1897.

Prize Ribbon, La Rosa,
Hand Made, Our Pet.

MANUFACTURED BY

JAMES MCBURNEY,

Corning, N. Y.



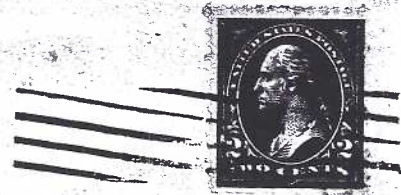
G. B. Armstrong
Tray
J. B.

Clear strike of barrel-type oval canceller (with numeral) on duplex handstamp postmarker/canceller. Stamp is from second U.S. commemorative series, issued for Trans-Mississippi Exposition held in Omaha, Nebraska in 1898.

1899 - FIRST MACHINE CANCELLER IN CORNING

Return to J. C. HENKEL.
WHOLESALE RUBBER BOOTS & SHOES,
CORNING, N. Y.
If not delivered within 5 days.

CORNING, N. Y.
DEC -3. 7 30 AM 1899


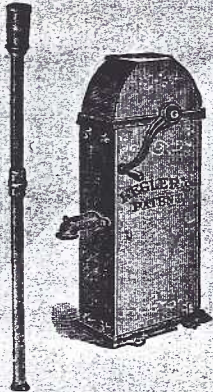


Mr. L. Drake
Ingleside

mf

E. K. Smith

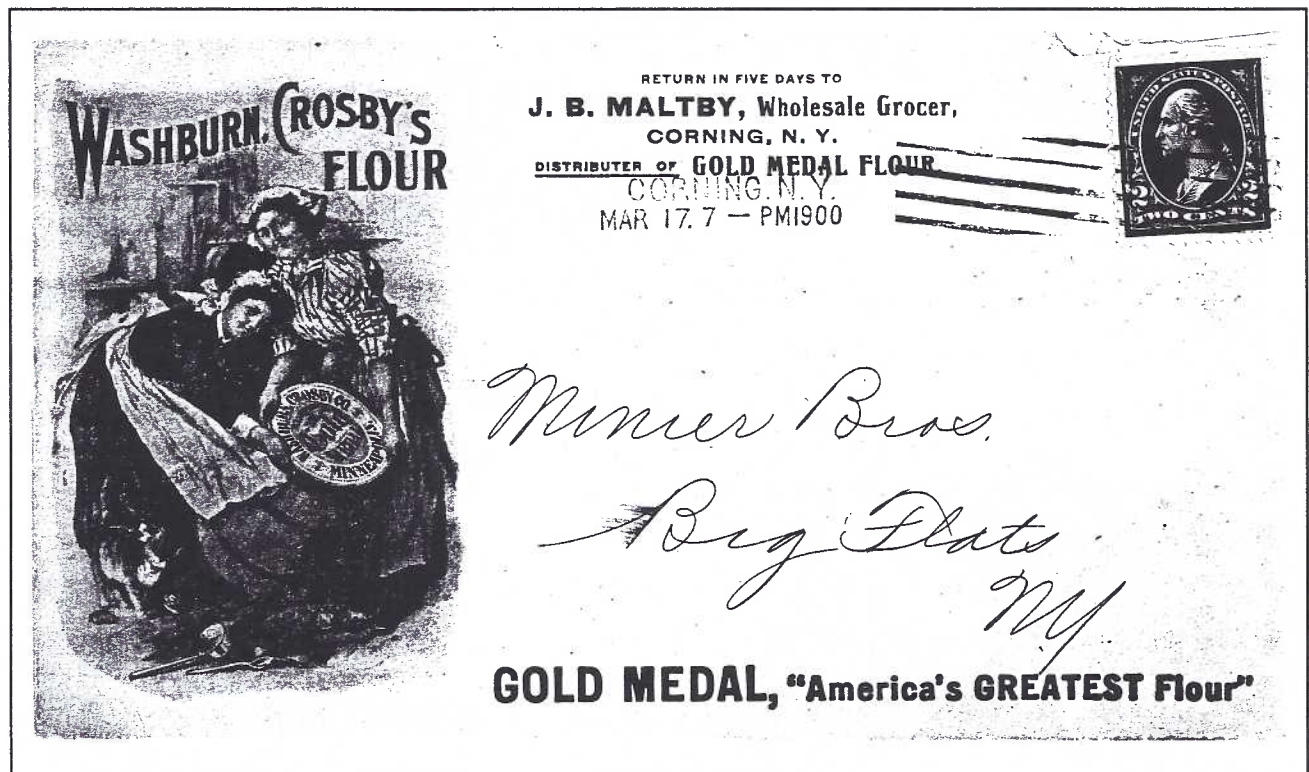
CORNING, N. Y.
DEC 16. 3 30 PM 1899



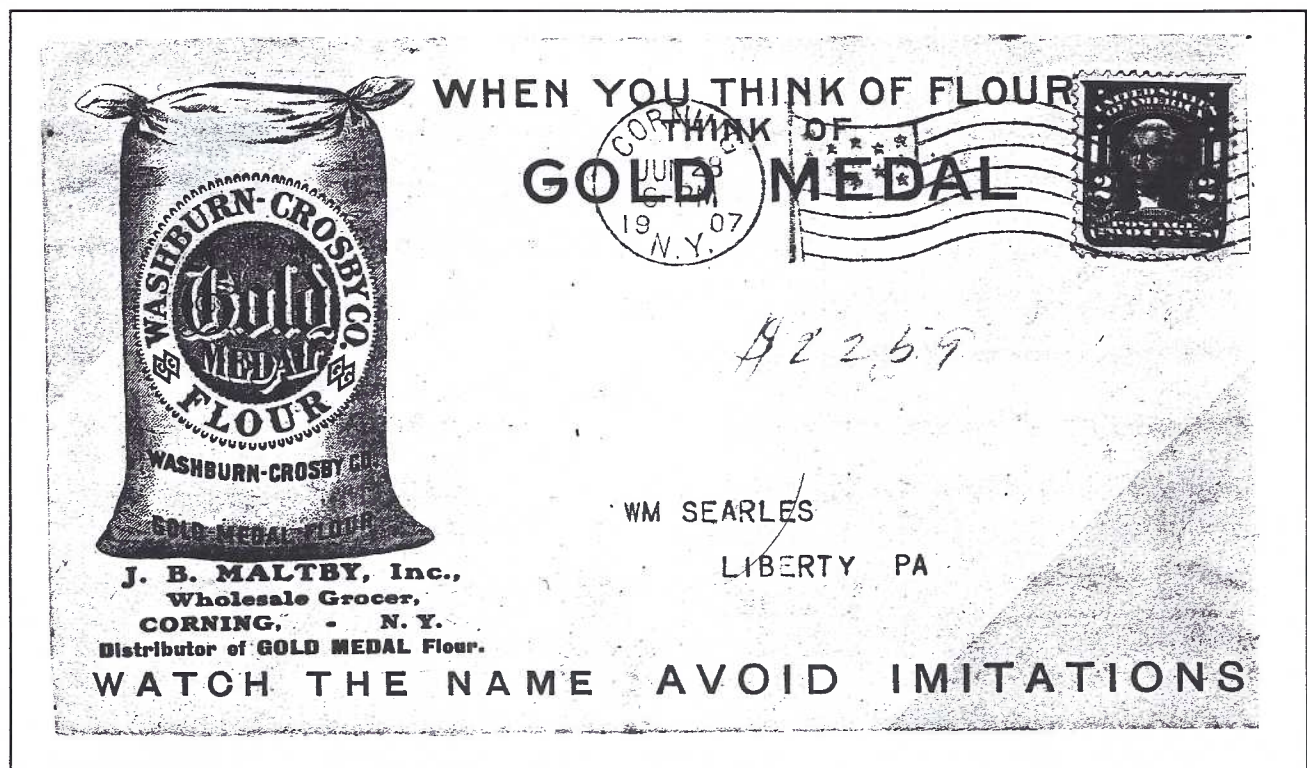
BELLEVUE PUMP COMPANY,
Manufacturers of Kegler's Patent Chain Pumps.
BELLEVUE, IOWA.

Hampden Machine cancels on first class letter mail December 3 and 16, 1899. December 3, 1899 is three days prior to earliest Corning Hampden previously reported. The Hampden Cancelling Machine Company placed machines in about 130 post offices between 1898 and 1905. Use of this machine was short-lived in Corning and elsewhere.

1900s MACHINE CANCELS

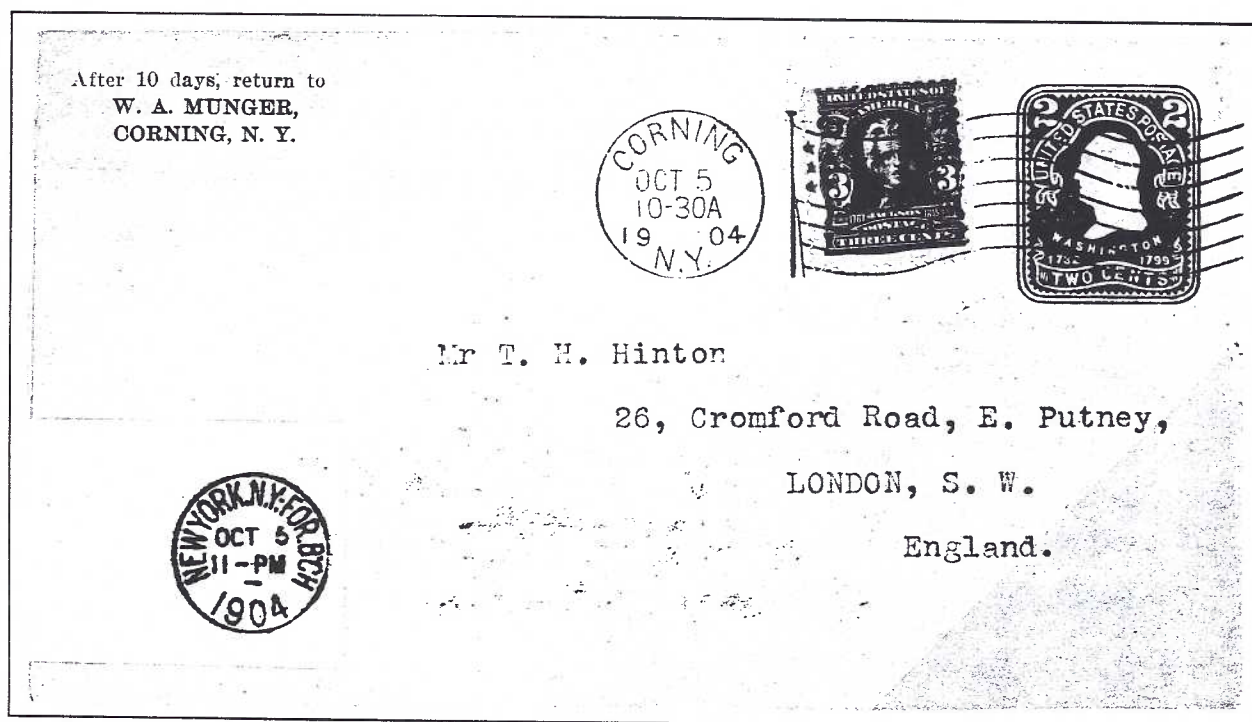


Hampden machine cancel on the common 2¢ red definitive in use at the turn of the century. The earliest known Hampden cancel from Corning is December 6, 1899 and the last September 10, 1900.

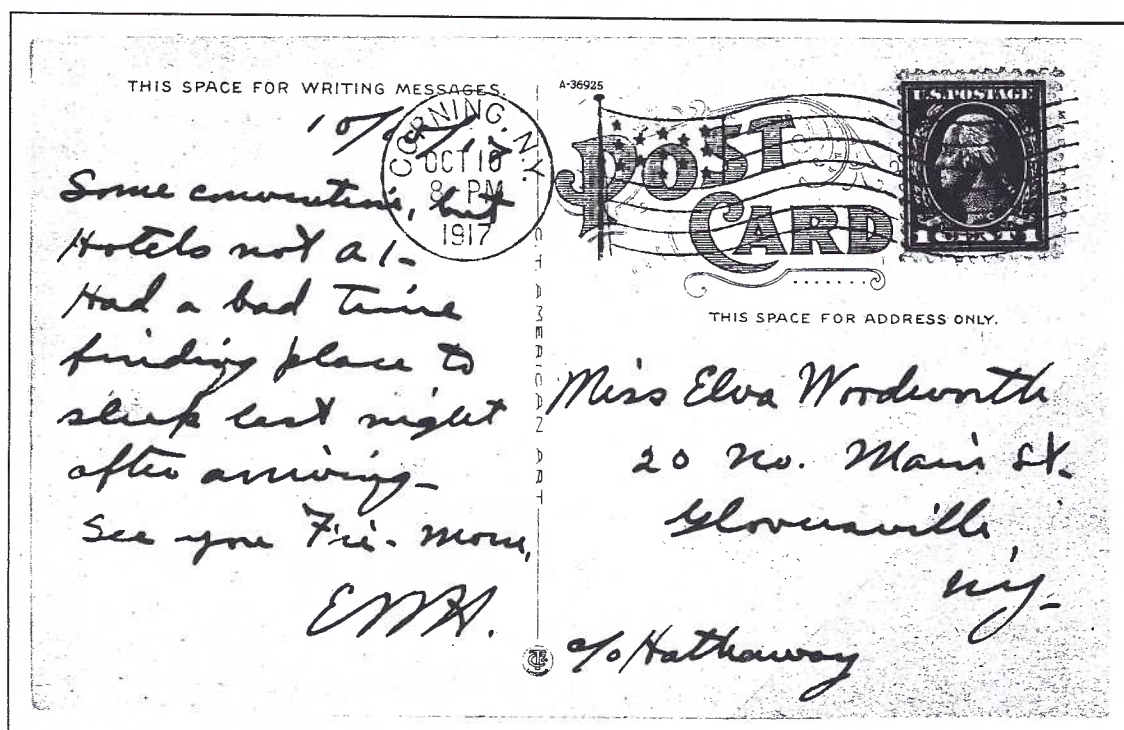


American Postal Machine Company flag cancel on 2¢ "shield" definitives issued November 12, 1903 as part of 2nd Bureau Issue (Series 1902-03).

1900s - MACHINE CANCELS



Corning flag cancel (Langford type B14 used in Corning 1900-1913) on cover to England; 5¢ rate made up by 2¢ stamped envelope issued 1904 and 3¢ definitive from 2nd Bureau Issue. Received New York City transit cancel the same day it was mailed in Corning.

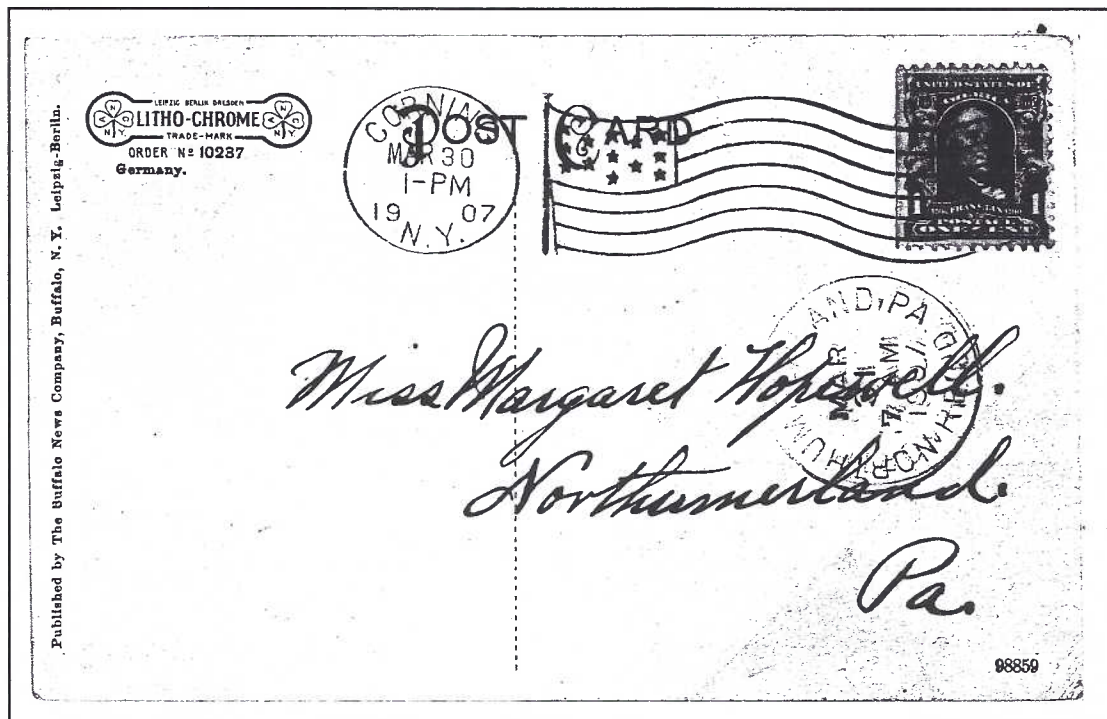


After an absence of four years the flag cancel was used again in Corning from 1917 to 1920, but with a different dial (Langford type A14). The stamp on the postcard above is from the 3rd Bureau Issue, the "Washington-Franklin series."

1990s - MACHINE CANCELS

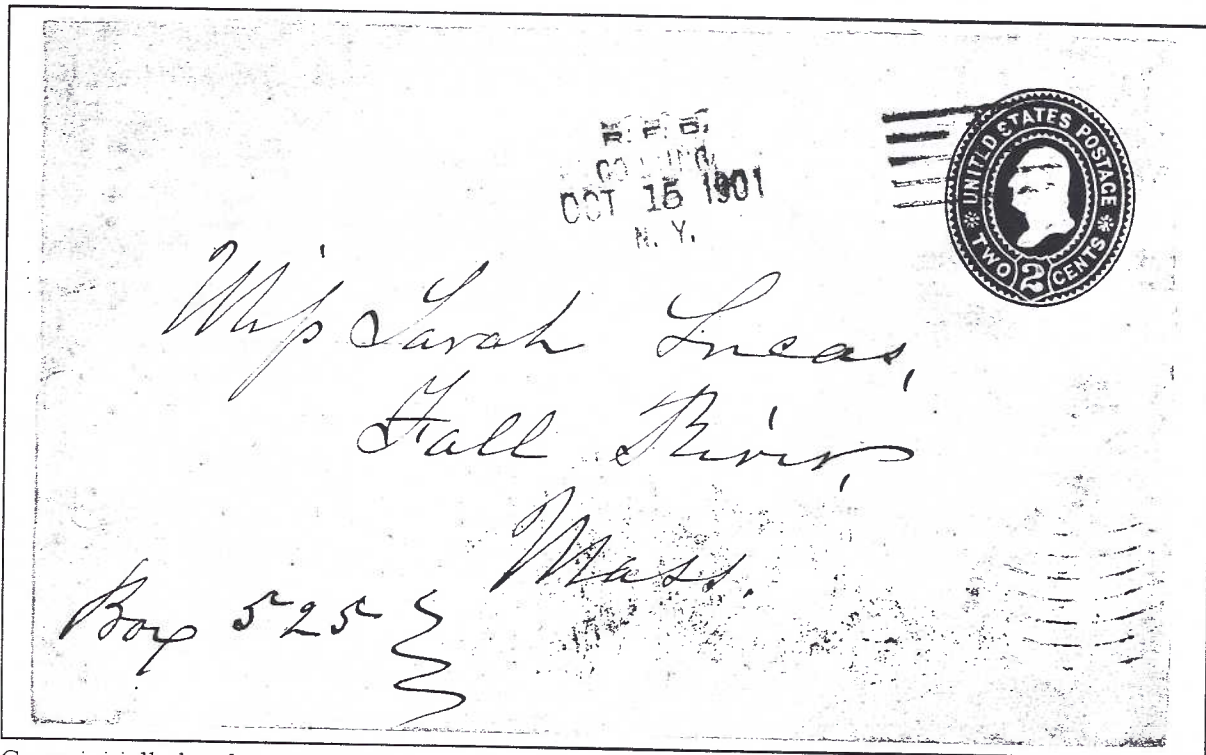


Corning flag machine cancel used as receiving cancel on post card mailed from Hornell August 17, 1905. The 1¢ domestic post card rate was in effect from 1873 to 1917 and from 1919 to 1952.

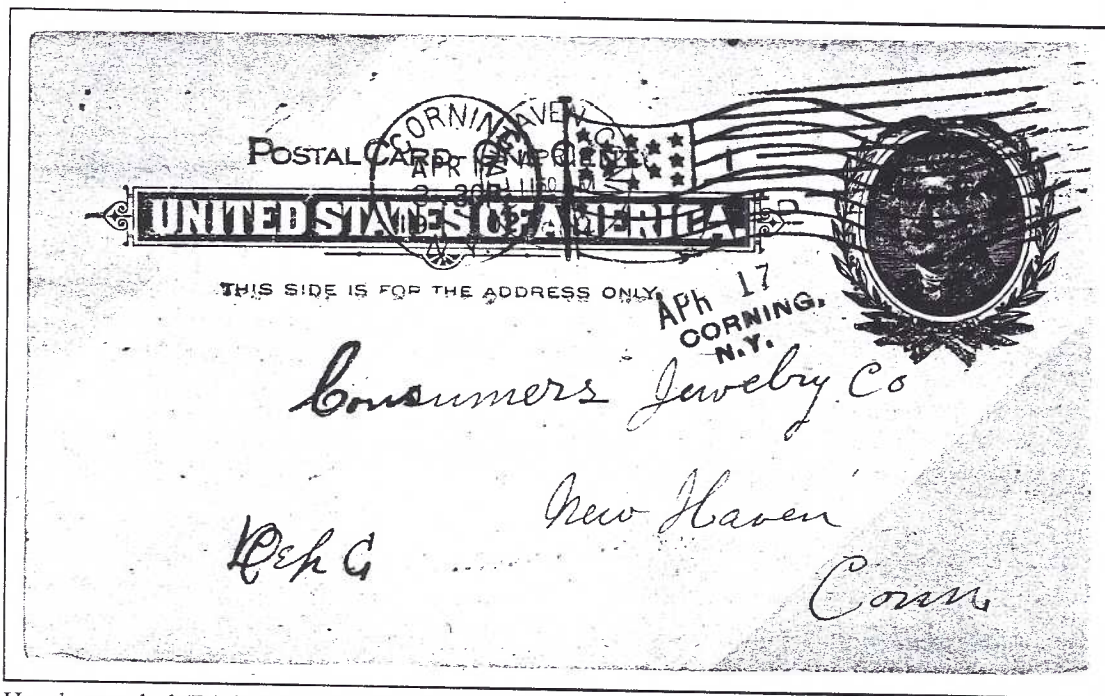


Corning flag machine cancel ties 1¢ stamp of 2nd bureau Issue (Series 1902-03) to post card at 1 p.m. March 30, 1907; Northumberland, PA handstamp receiving cancel applied at 7 a.m. March 31.

RURAL MAIL SERVICE

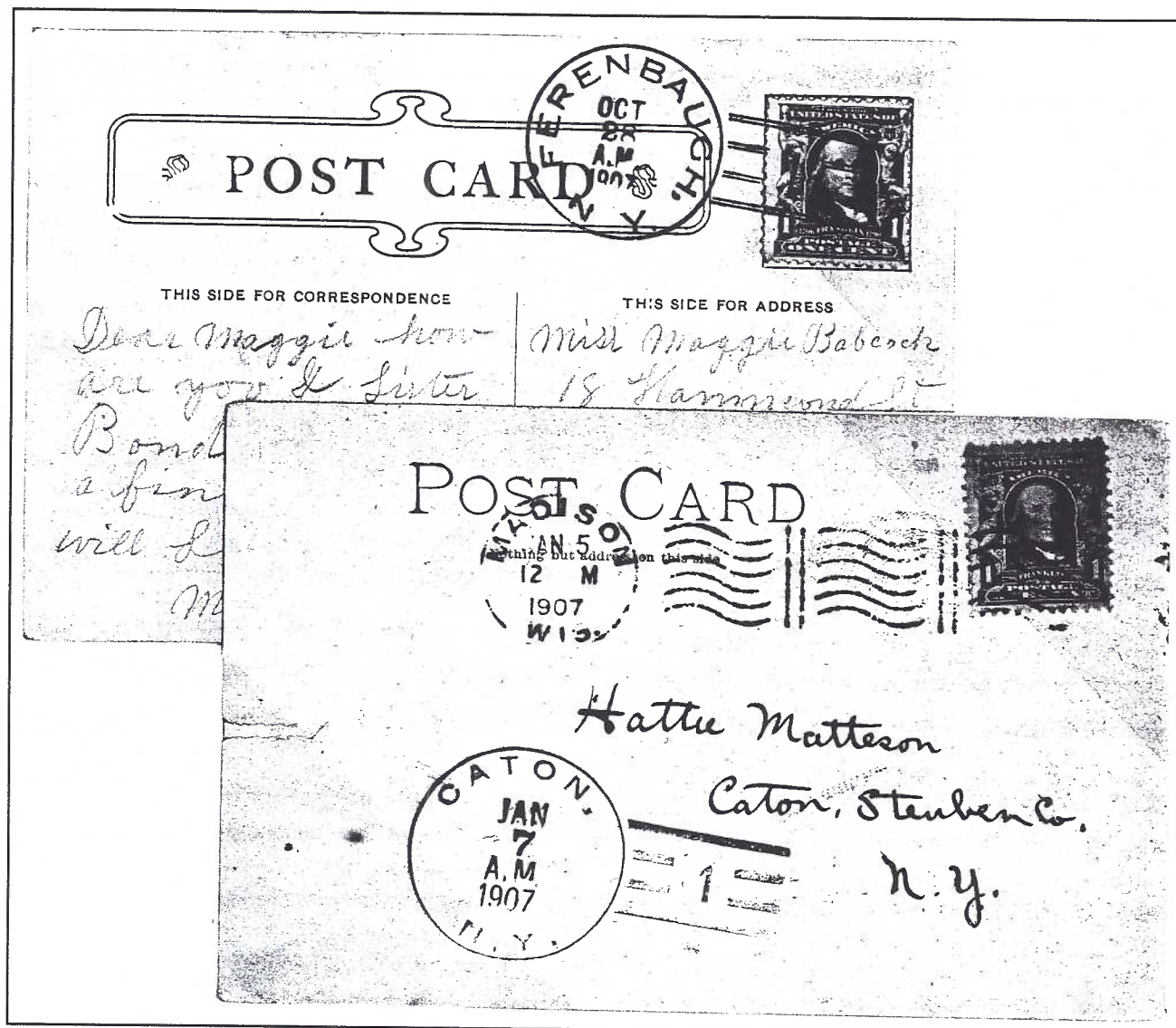


Cover initially hand canceled (Richow Type 1) by route 1 rural mail carrier while enroute October 15, 1901. Upon arriving at the Corning Post Office it received a 1 p.m. machine back cancel the same day.



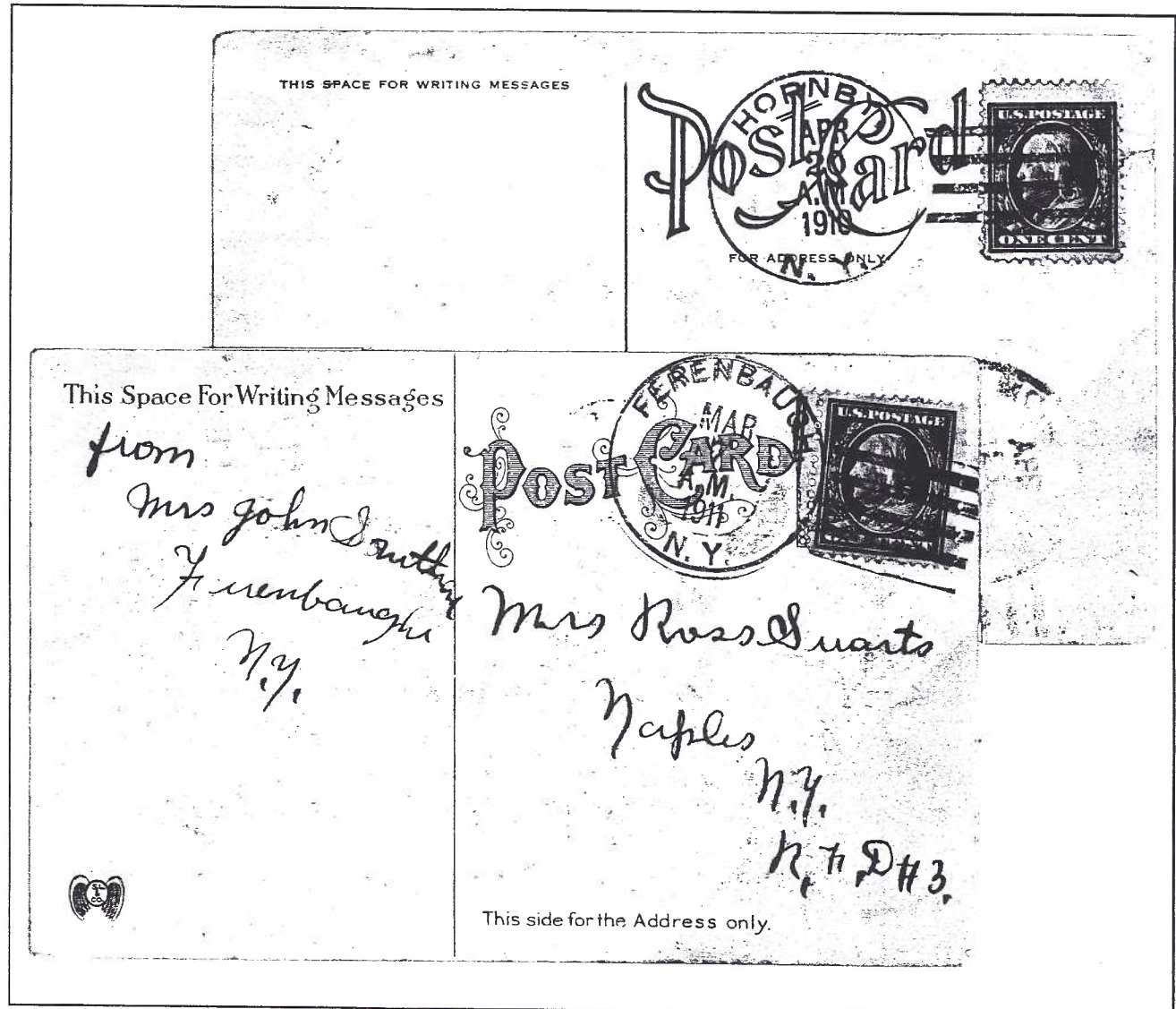
Hand canceled (Richow Type 2) by Corning Route 2 rural carrier April 17, 1902, then machine canceled at 3:30 p.m. the same day at the Corning Post Office.

1900s - DOANE CANCELS



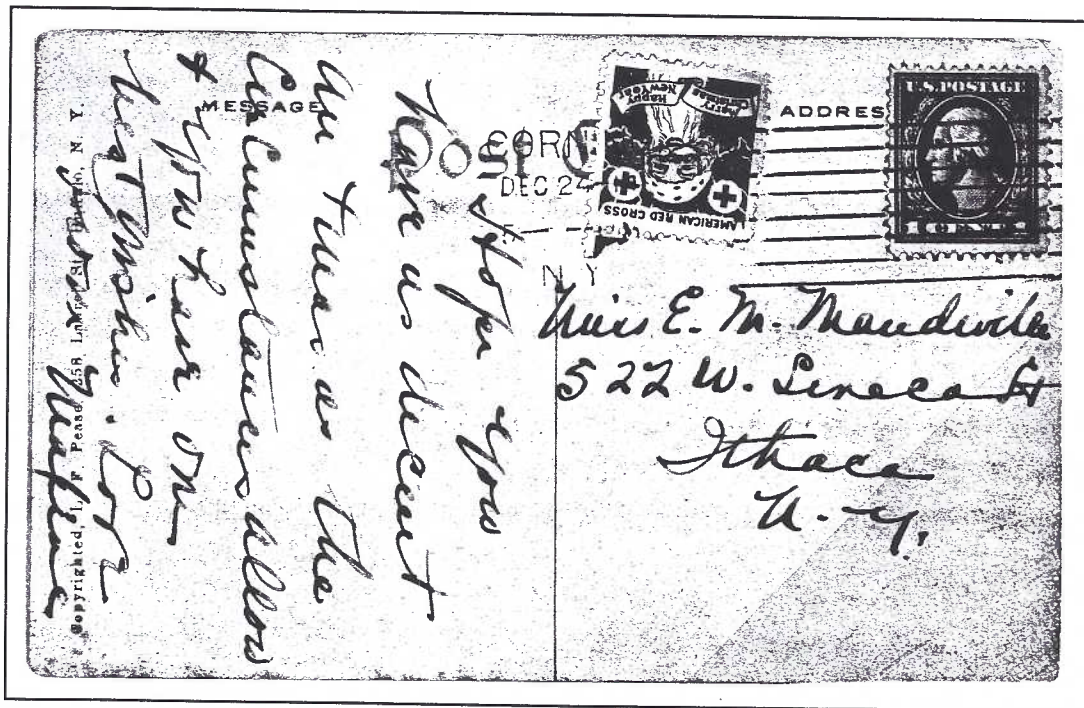
The term "Doane Cancells" refers to a type of postmarking handstamp distributed to rural (4th class) post offices beginning in 1903. They are classified in three major types according to number and style of canceling bars; with the common element being a numeral in open space in the bars. The numeral correlates with the annual compensation of the postmaster for the year previous to distribution of the device. Both the Ferenbaugh Type 2 and Caton Type 3 Doanes above indicate the compensation was less than \$100. The Ferenbaugh Doane is a sending postmark; the Caton Doane, a receiving postmark.

1900s - RURAL HAND CANCELS

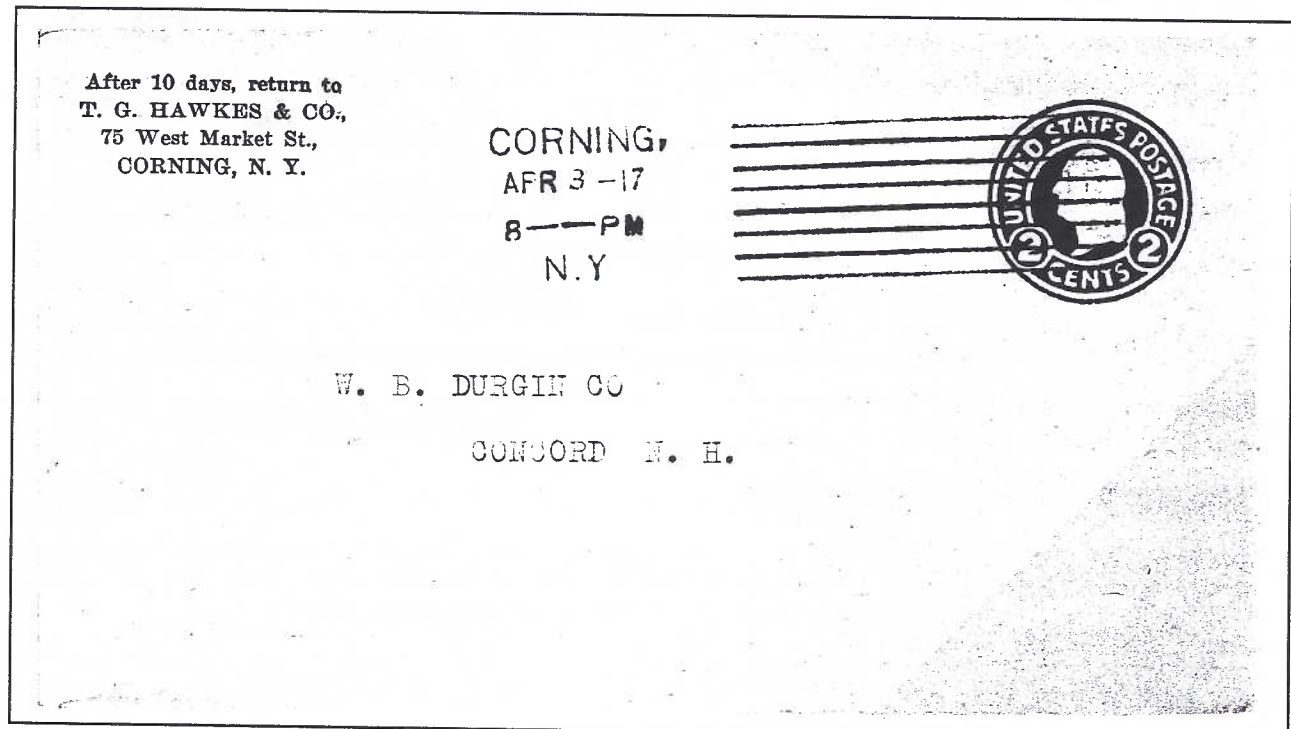


The small post offices continued cancelling mail by hand and were supplied with "four-bars," shown above for Hornby, April 20, 1910. and Ferenbaugh, March 7, 1911. Friendship cards franked with the first design 1¢ stamp of the 3rd Bureau Issue.

1900s - MACHINE CANCELS



Columbia Postal Machine Company cancels have been recorded from Corning as early as 8/11/13 and as late as 6/12/17. Above, 12/24/14 with Christmas seal tied to postcard franked with 1¢ definitive from 3rd Bureau Issue. Below, 4/3/17 on stamped envelope issued 1916. Corning used only one style of Columbia machine cancel, the rectilinear four line postmark with eight bar canceller.



1900s - NEW STYLE DUPLEX

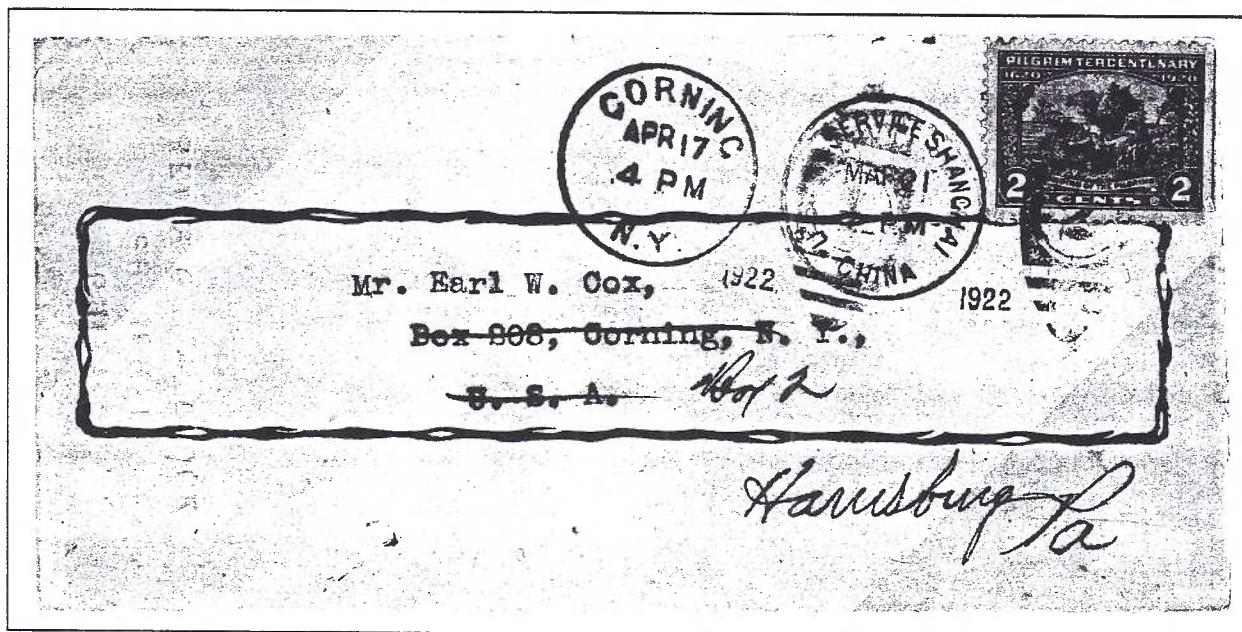
After 5 days, return to
H. P. SINCLAIRE & CO.,
Corner Market & Conhocton Sts.,
CORNING, N. Y.



MESSRS. WILLIAM B. DURGIN CO.,

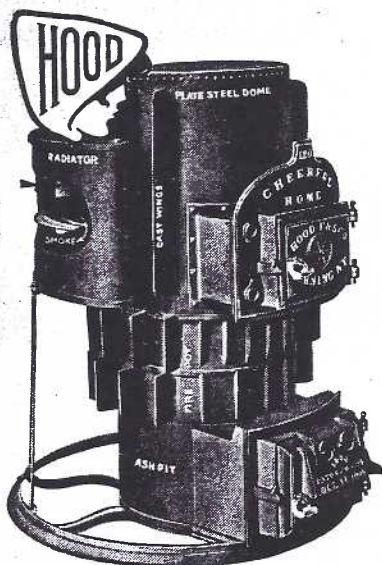
CONCORD, N. H.

New style duplex hand cancel with year date outside of circle. Cover above shows use of this cancel on mail originating in Corning February 23, 1917; cover below shows its use for forwarding purposes April 17, 1922.



Cover originating in Shanghai, China: hand canceled "U.S. Pos. Service Shanghai, China" March 21, 1922. The Corning post office remailed it April 17, 1922. Total paid for entire trip: 2¢

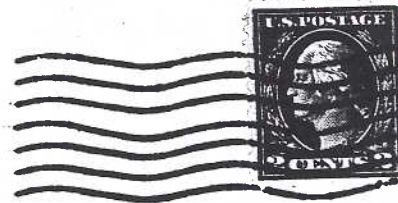
1900s - MACHINE CANCELS



POSTAGE FOR THE RETURN WILL BE SENT

ON NOTICE AFTER FIVE DAYS TO

HOOD FURNACE & SUPPLY CO.
CORNING, N. Y.

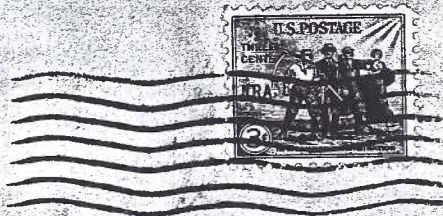


Messrs. Small & Son,

Moravia, N. Y.

Machine cancel from International Postal Supply Company with wavy line killer and 20mm "dial." Flat press 2¢ stamp of 3rd Bureau Issue (Washington-Franklin Series), issued March 1917.

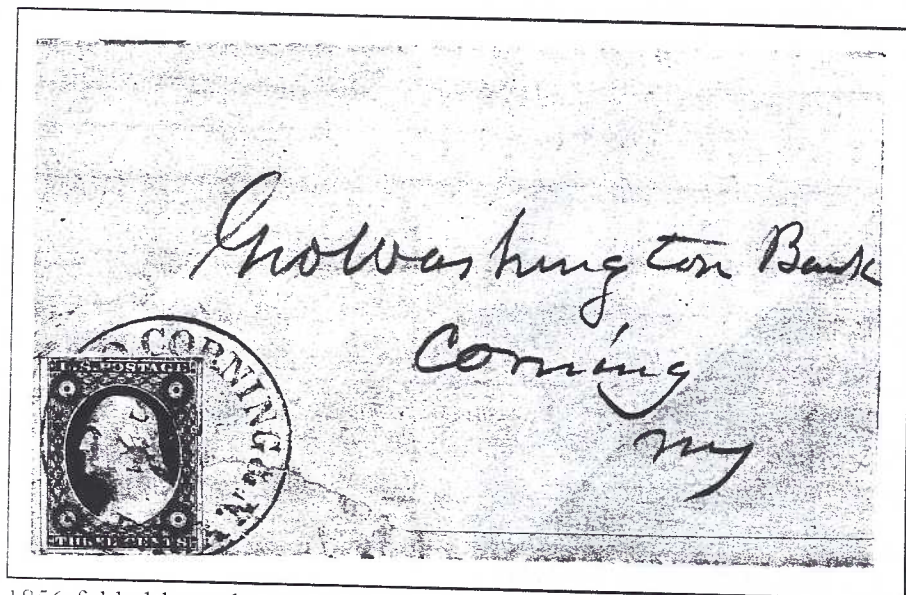
DEMAREST PRINTING SERVICE
CORNING NEW YORK



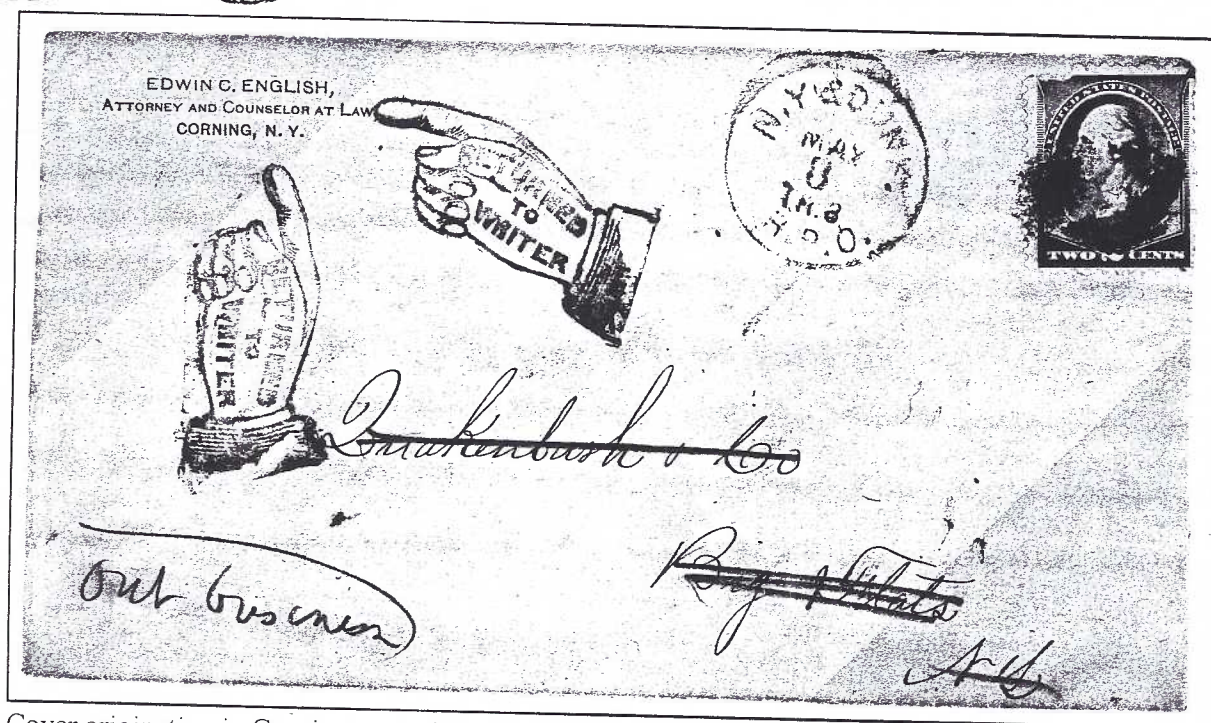
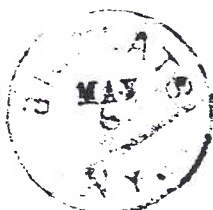
Harvey Bras
R. R. Ave & Church
Elmira

Another wavy line machine cancel from International Postal Supply Company, with different dial (larger letters, closer spacing). 3¢ rate for first class mail up to one ounce became effective July 6, 1932 and lasted until August 1, 1958. Stamp issued August 13, 1933 to gain support for National Recovery Act.

RAILWAY POST OFFICE SERVICE

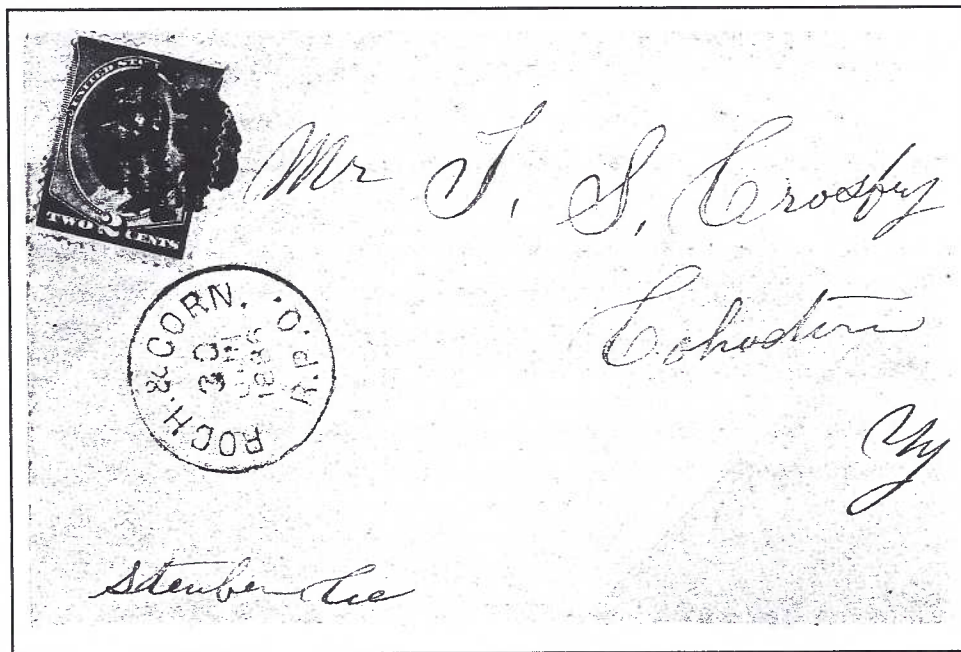


1856 folded letter brought into Corning on the Buffalo, Corning and N.Y. Railroad and canceled aboard the train. This railroad operated between Batavia and Corning during the period 1853-1860, making six trips per week. It eventually became part of the Erie System.

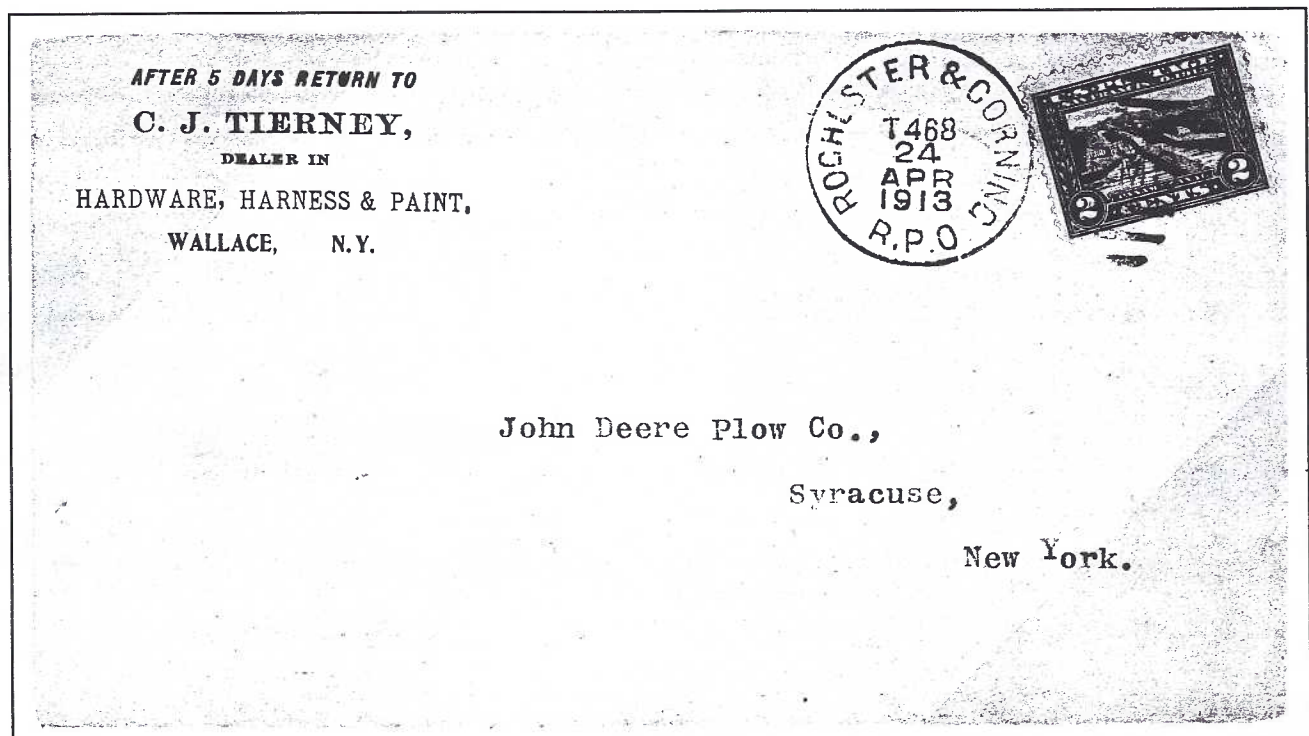


Cover originating in Corning, canceled by Railway Post Office (RPO) on N.Y. & Dunkirk train 8 (part of Erie) May 8, 1888. Received in Big Flats same day. Big Flats post office found addressee "out business" and pointed the finger at sender. Corning took it back May 11.

RAILWAY POST OFFICE SERVICE



Mail carried on the Rochester & Corning division of the New York, Lake Erie & Western Railroad (Erie), canceled on board June 30, 1886 (above) and April 24, 1913 (below). Starting with route agent service in 1876, the Rochester & Corning serviced mail (with some interruptions) under this name until September 26, 1941, when it became the Avon & Corning RPO.



Railway Post Office Service

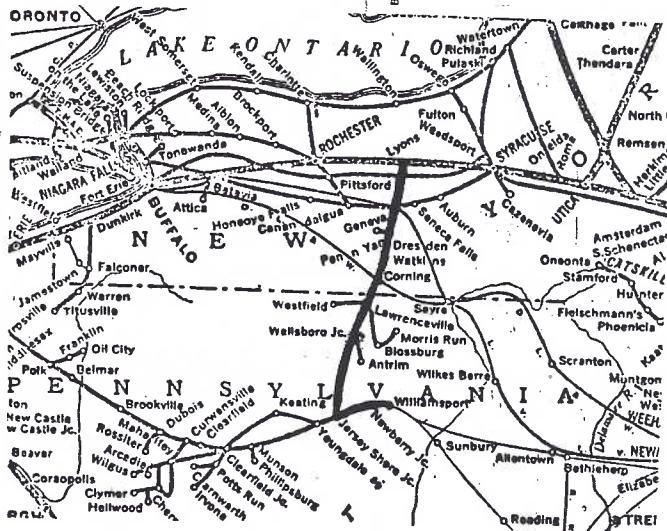
PRINTED IN GERMANY



THIS SPACE MAY BE USED FOR CORRESPONDENCE.

THIS SPACE IS FOR ADDRESS ONLY.

Miss B Chambers
307 E. Toga Ave
Corning
N.Y.



Postcard originating in Watkins, N.Y., canceled by Railway Mail Service on Lyons and Williamsport train 1 (part of New York Central) enroute to Corning; Corning flag receiving cancel applied on same date as RMS cancel.

*Lyons and Williamsport R. P. O.

(Penna. Div. N. Y. C. & H. R. R. R. 185.40 miles: Lyons to Corning, 73.00 miles; Corning to Williamsport, 112.44 miles. Route 107, 103.)—B.

June 24, 1912.					
63	41			62	44
1 50	8 00	Lve. Lyons, N. Y.	Arr.	9 30	7 35
2 20	8 25	Arr. Geneva, N. Y.	Lve.	9 02	6 58
3 35	8 35	Lve. Dresden, N. Y.	Arr.	8 57	6 48
4 57	9 05	Arr. Himrod, N. Y.		8 30	6 25
5 12	9 20		Lve.	8 14	6 09
6 30	10 46	Arr. Corning, N. Y.		7 00	4 55
	61				46
4 45	10 53	Lve. Lawrenceville, Pa.	Arr.	11 00	4 50
5 15	11 28	Arr. Stokendale Jc. (n.o.), Pa.	Lve.	10 34	4 21
6 20	11 38	Lve. Wellsboro, Pa.	Arr.	10 34	4 21
6 00	0 16	Arr. Stokendale Jc. (n.o.), Pa.	Lve.	9 50	3 36
6 30	0 36	Arr. Wellsboro, Pa.	Lve.	9 30	3 16
6 20	0 25	Lve. Stokendale Jc. (n.o.), Pa.	Arr.	9 40	3 26
6 35	0 41	Arr. Ansonia, Pa.	Lve.	9 27	3 13
6 45	2 35	Arr. Jersey Shore, Pa.	Lve.	7 50	3 35
9 15	3 00	Arr. Newberry Junc., Pa.	Lve.	7 20	1 16
9 25	3 10	Arr. Williamsport, Pa.	Lve.	7 10	0 05

Trains 2 and 3, 25' apartment cars (fw) (15' needed).
Other trains 25' apartment cars (fw). (20' needed.)

THE SPACE BELOW MAY BE USED FOR CORRESPONDENCE.

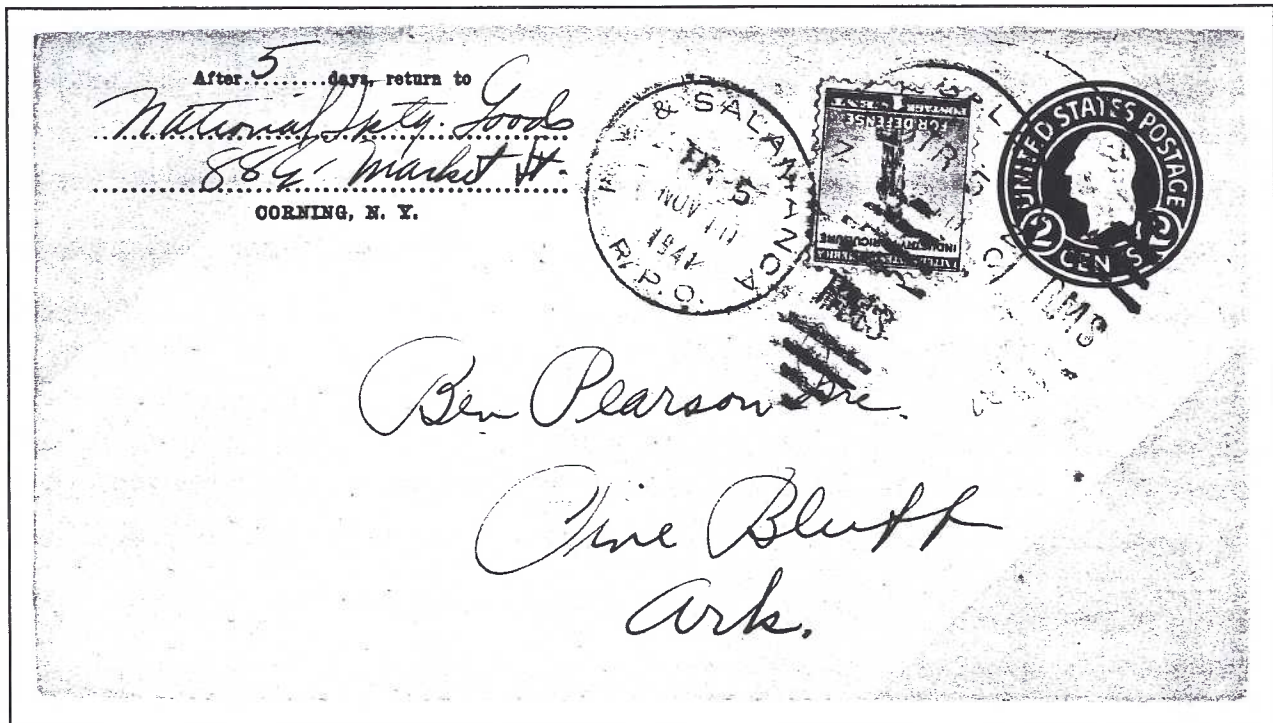


POSTAL CARD

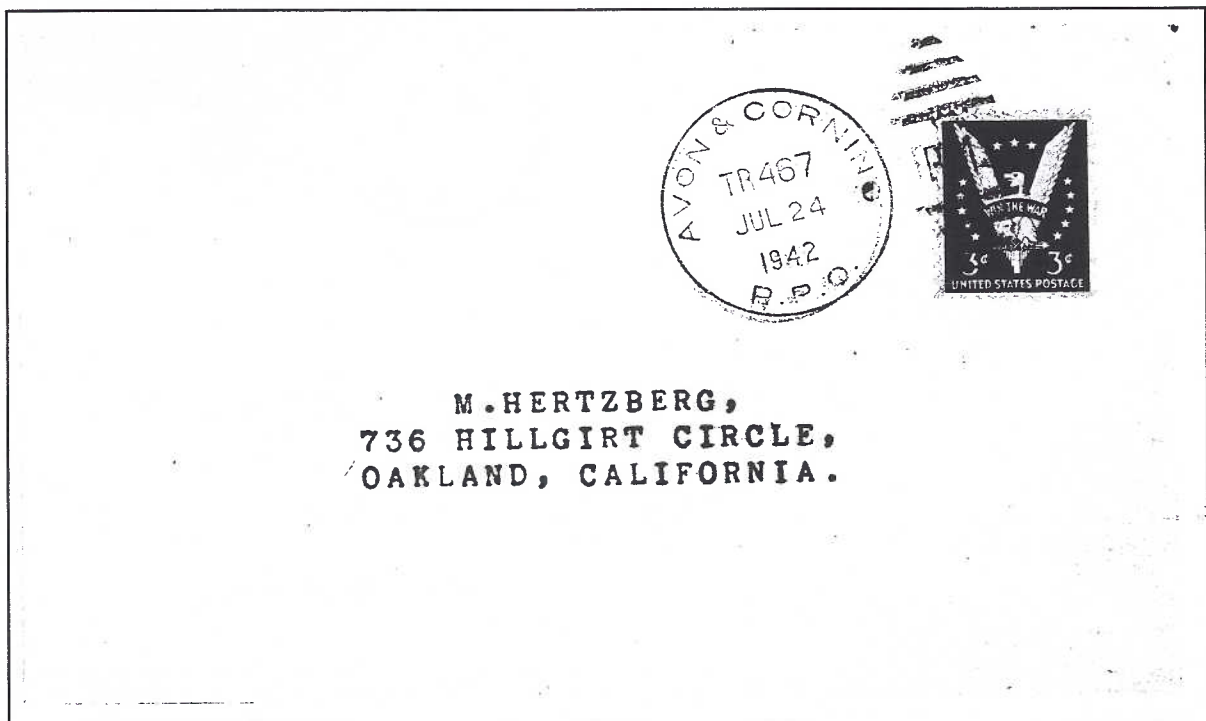
THE SPACE BELOW IS FOR THE ADDRESS ONLY.

Sherwood & Onelott
Wellsboro
Pa
at Law

RAILWAY POST OFFICE SERVICE

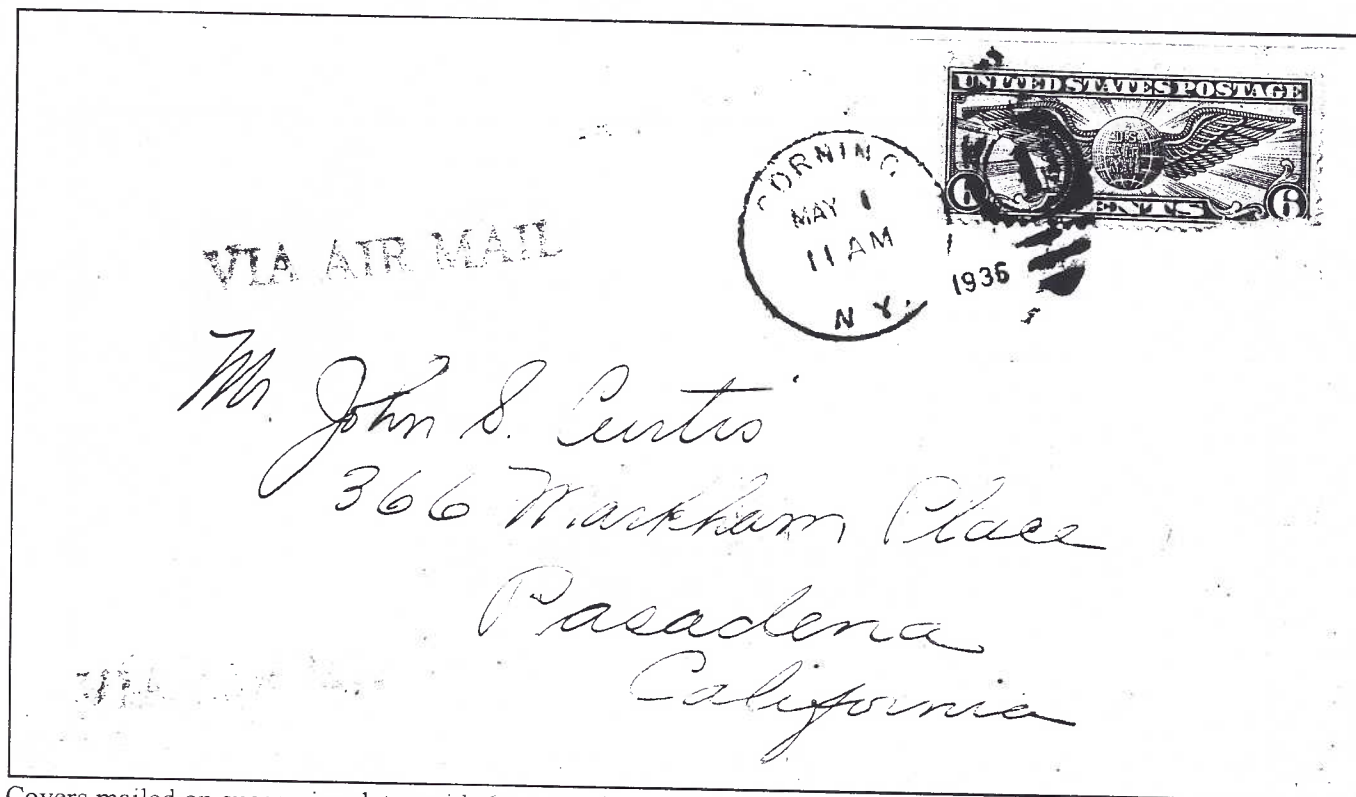
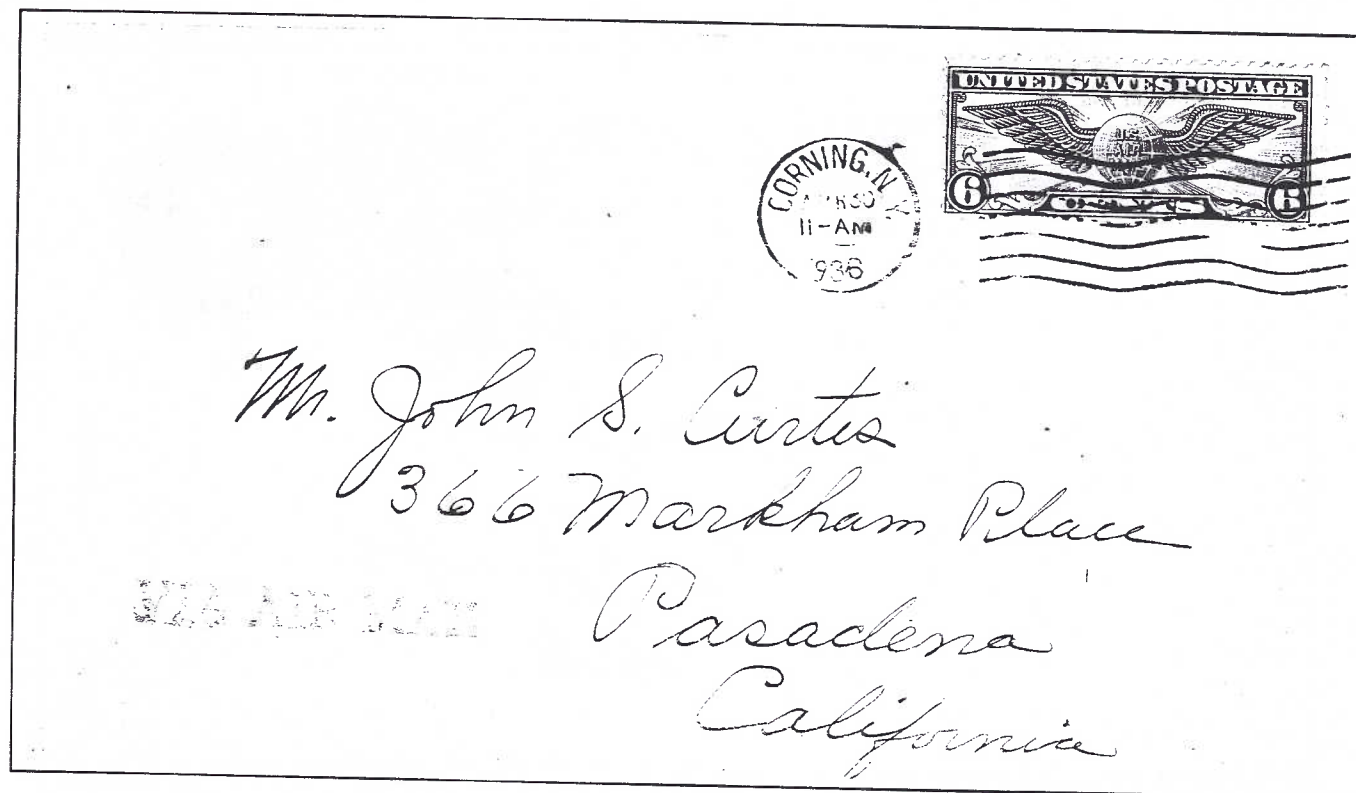


Corning mail canceled by Railway Mail Service (RMS) on N.Y. & Salamanca train 5 (part of Erie) November 10, 1941. 3¢ domestic letter rate in effect from July 6, 1932 to August 1, 1958.



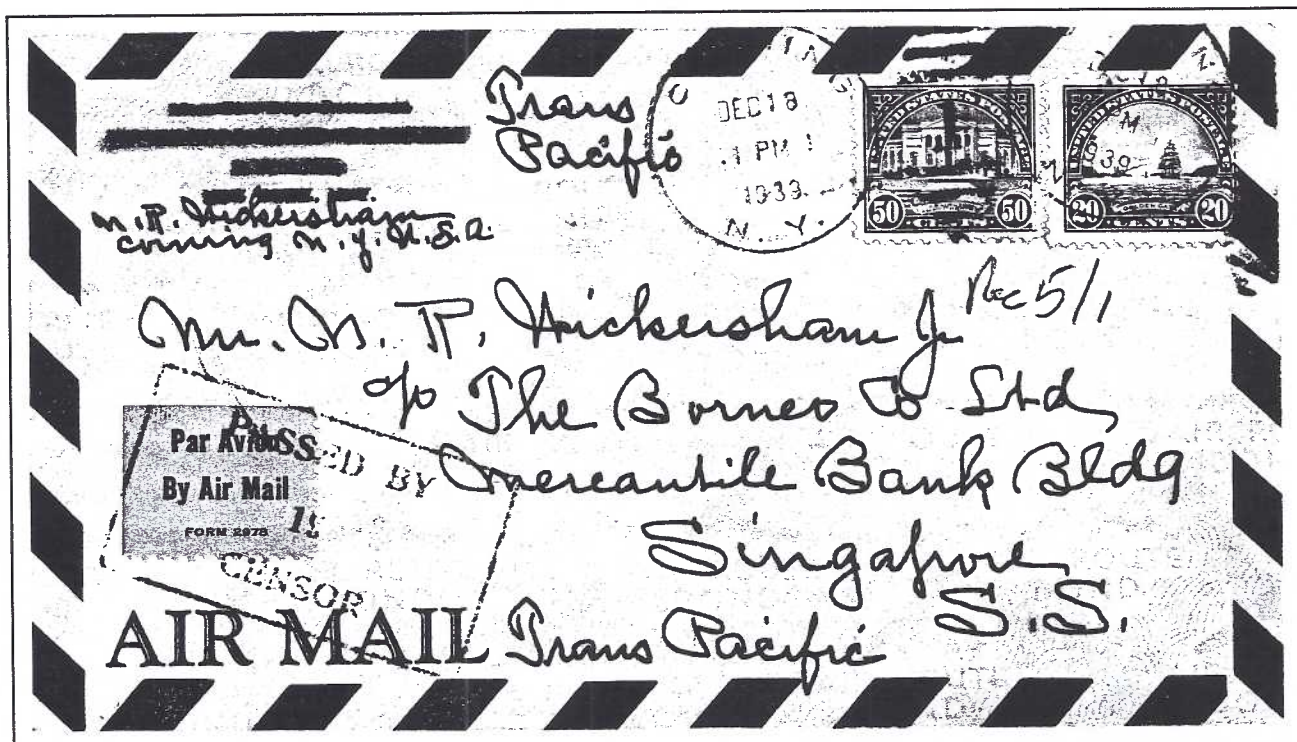
Canceled by Railway Mail Service on Avon & Corning train 467 (part of Erie) July 24, 1942.

Airmail Service



Covers mailed on successive dates with 6¢ stamp issued June 30, 1934 to meet 6¢ domestic airmail rate effective July 1, 1934. Top cover canceled by machine manufactured by International Postal Supply Company; bottom cover by duplex handstamp with barrel-type oval killer. U.S. airmail service began in 1928 at Elmira's Caton Avenue Airport.

AIRMAIL SERVICE



Trans Pacific 70¢ airmail rate paid with two definitives from 4th Bureau Issue receiving duplex hand cancels in Corning Dec. 18, 1939. Backstamp indicates arrival in Hong Kong Dec. 29, 1939. Arrival in Singapore probably delayed by Censor.



Envelope carried on first flight of U.S. Air Mail Route 94 out of Elmira-Corning Airport Nov. 8, 1948.

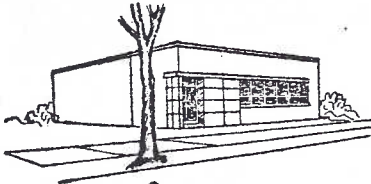
1900s Parcel Post Insured Mail

FROM Wilber Visual Service New Berlin New York Christ Church Parish Corning New York Attention: Alice K. Potter		FROM Christ Church Parish Corning New York To Wilber Visual Service New Berlin New York No. 2	
USE OTHER SIDE TO RETURN STAMPS 20 CENTS 20 7 CENTS 7 FIBERGLASS SHIPPING CASE		USE OTHER SIDE TO RETURN STAMPS 20 CENTS 20 7 CENTS 7 FIBERGLASS SHIPPING CASE	

Parcel post mailing tag showing Corning roller cancel for packages and parcel post insured handstamps to evidence service provided. This is the reverse side of the tag, the contents having been mailed to Corning from New Berlin for 20¢ (insured minimum fee). The return trip cost 7¢ more. The stamps applied by the Corning post office were part of a series of definitives (Fifth Bureau Issue) in 1938.

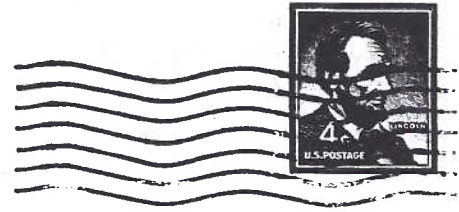
Northside Station

DEDICATION
Northside Branch Post Office
Corning, New York
JUNE 1959

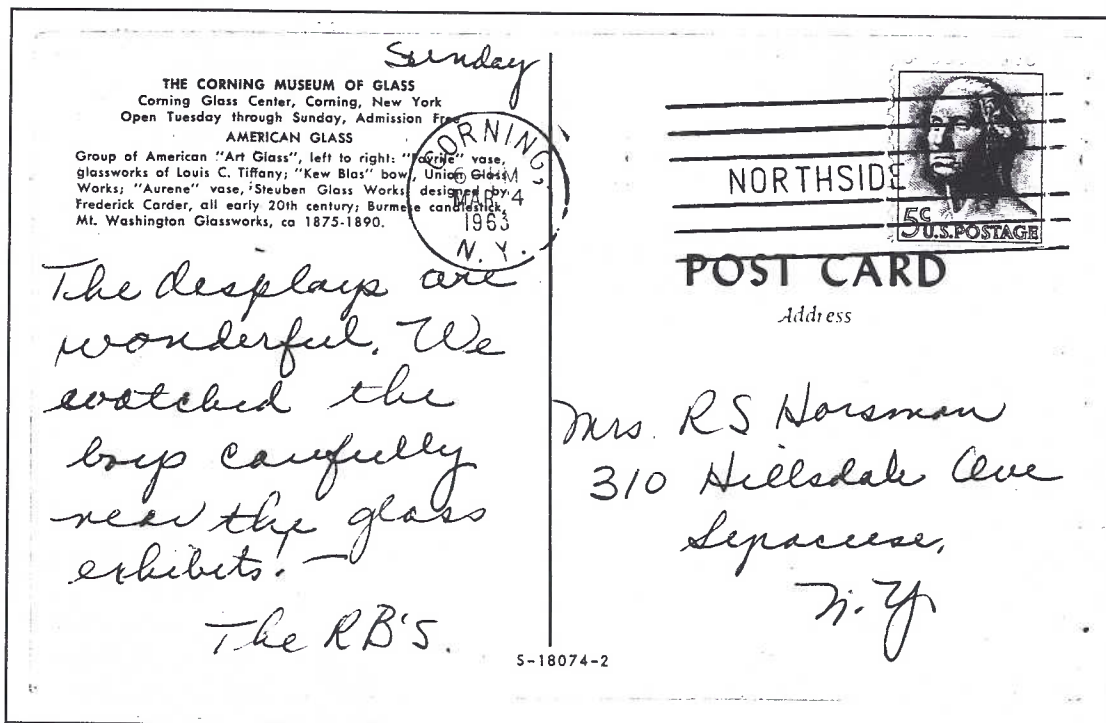


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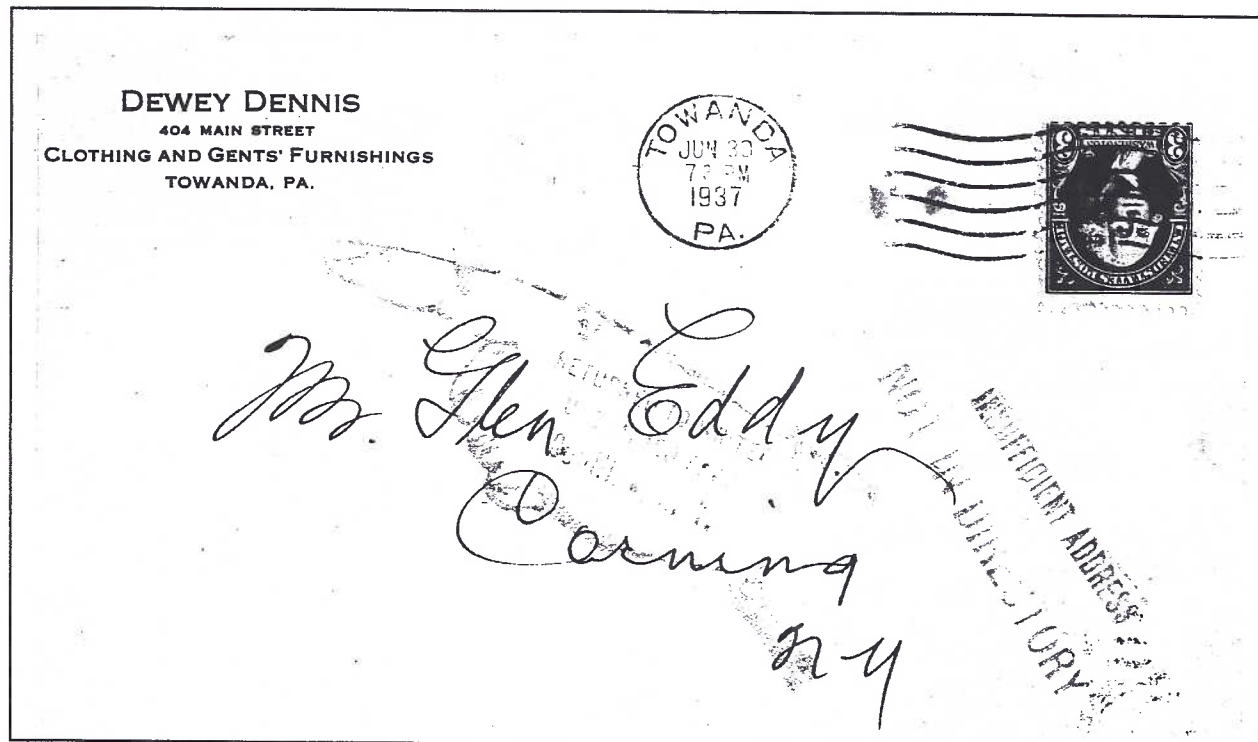


Rubber stamp cachet prepared by Corning Philatelists for dedication of Northside post office building June 30, 1959. According to the Postal Bulletin, this station began service July 13, 1959. Cover shows 4¢ coil stamp of 1954-1958 Liberty Series (6th Bureau Issue) with machine cancel. 4¢ domestic letter rate became effective August 1, 1958.

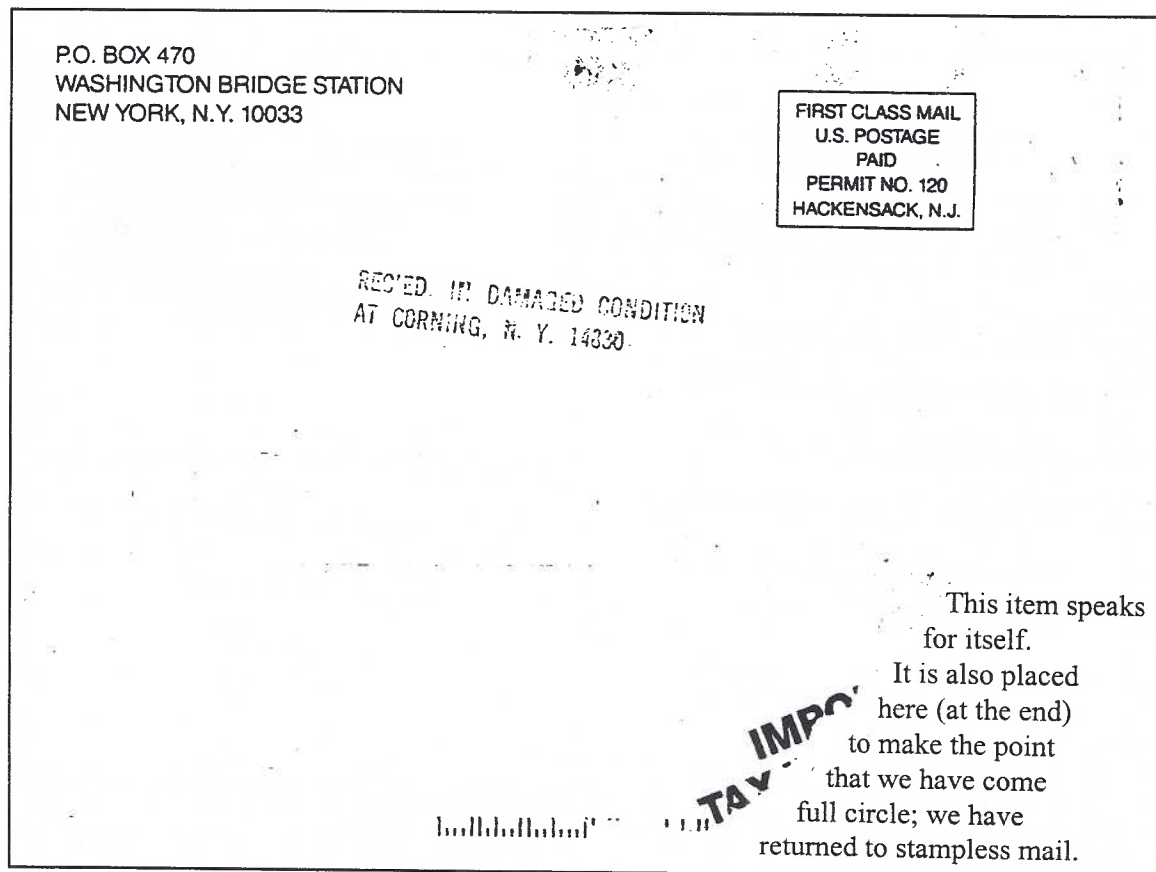


Use of machine cancel killer to denote station. Stamp issued November 23, 1962 to meet new first class letter rate effective January 7, 1963; on this post card the stamp overpays the required postage by 1¢.

AUXILIARY MARKINGS



"Insufficient Address"; "Not in Directory"; "Return to Writer Unclaimed from Corning, N.Y."



EARLY DUPLEXES FROM NEW YORK STATE

by Roger D. Curran
Lewisburg, Pennsylvania

One of the most important steps in the evolution of postmarking practices in the U.S. was the adoption of handstamps that duplexed a CDS to a killer. The precipitating factor for this development was a Post Office Department regulation of July 23, 1860 prohibiting use of the CDS as an obliterator of stamps and requiring, instead, the use of a "distinct canceller" for that purpose. This was to have tremendous impact because if affected such a widespread practice. Indeed, Carroll Chase, the great student of the 3 cent 1851 and 1857 issue stamps, estimated that, apart from stamps with manuscript cancellations, two-thirds of used three cent 1851-57 stamps are found with the CDS as the canceller.¹ Since employing two handstamps to accomplish what one did before essentially doubled the workload, it is not surprising that some of the larger (and hence busier) post offices were the first to seize on the virtues of the duplex handstamp. New York began using duplex handstamps at least as early as August 8, 1860², Cleveland³ and Cincinnati⁴ by at least August 17, 1860 and Chicago by at least September 27, 1860.⁵ Bond's tracing of a New York August 8, 1860 duplex postmark is shown in Figure 1.⁶

Richard B. Graham has written several excellent articles on the adoption of duplex handstamps by the New York Post Office and other U.S. post offices. In the November 1991 *Chronicle*, published by the U.S. Philatelic Classics society, he illustrates two sets of markings from New York state post offices shown herewith as Figure 2. About the Buffalo marking he said:

"The Buffalo marking, although it appears to be rimless, actually is known with a faint but full rim in January 1861, but not duplexed. The July duplex is the earliest such I have seen used at Buffalo, but neither have I seen that many examples, even though I have seen a confirming duplex marking."

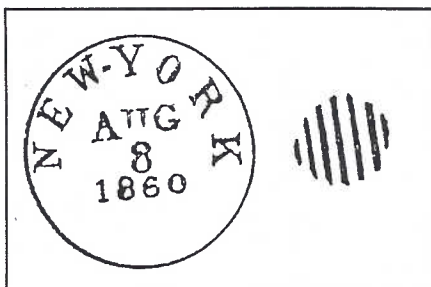


Figure 1.

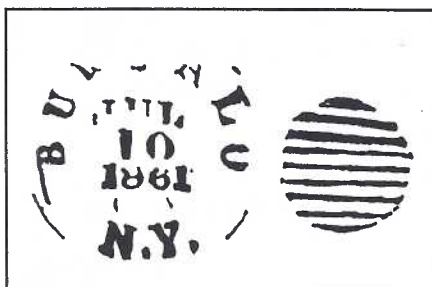


Figure 2.

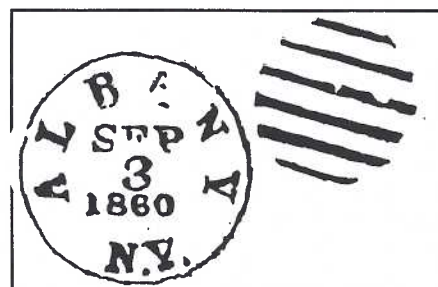


Figure 2.

¹Carroll Chase *The 3 Cent Stamp of the United States 1851-1857 Issue*, revised, Quarterman Publications, Inc. (1975), p. 334.

²Arthur Bond, "Time-Saving Duplex Handstamp; Its Invention, Use and Manufacture," *Postal History Journal*, Vol. VII, No. 1, June 1963, pp. 59-63.

³Thomas F. Allen (editor), *19th Century Cleveland, Ohio Postal Markings*, The Garfield-Perry Stamp Club, Inc. (1991), p. 31.

⁴Roger Curran, "New Early Date - Cincinnati Duplex," *U.S. Cancellation Club News*, Spring 1998, p. 31.

⁵Roger Curran (editor), "Early Duplexes - Chicago" reporting findings of Leonard Piskiewicz, *U.S. Cancellation Club News*, Summer 1998, p. 456.

⁶Bond, op.cit.

About the Albany marking he stated that it may or may not be a duplex. He went on to say:

"It is possible the Albany marking is not, as the killer isn't aligned the way that would be expected in a duplex handstamp with the townmark."

He also mentioned that other upstate New York post offices were probably early issues of duplex postmarks.

Linn's Stamp News of October 5, 1998 carried an article by Mr. Graham wherein he illustrated two Auburn, N.Y. covers bearing duplex postmarks dated January 3 (1862) and April 2 (probably 1862).

Presently below is such limited information as I have on the subject.

The cover illustrated in Figure 3 confirms Mr. Graham's doubt that the Figure 2. Albany markings are duplexed to the same handstamp. The grid and the CDS clearly overlap and were thus applied separately. Figure 4, however, illustrates what is to me clearly a duplex marking from Albany dated January 16. Due to the presence of the 1857 issue stamp, it is likely that the year date of the cover is 1861. However, confirming covers that can be definitely dated are needed. Figure 5 illustrates an Albany duplex handstamp with a larger grid killer on an 1862 or later cover.

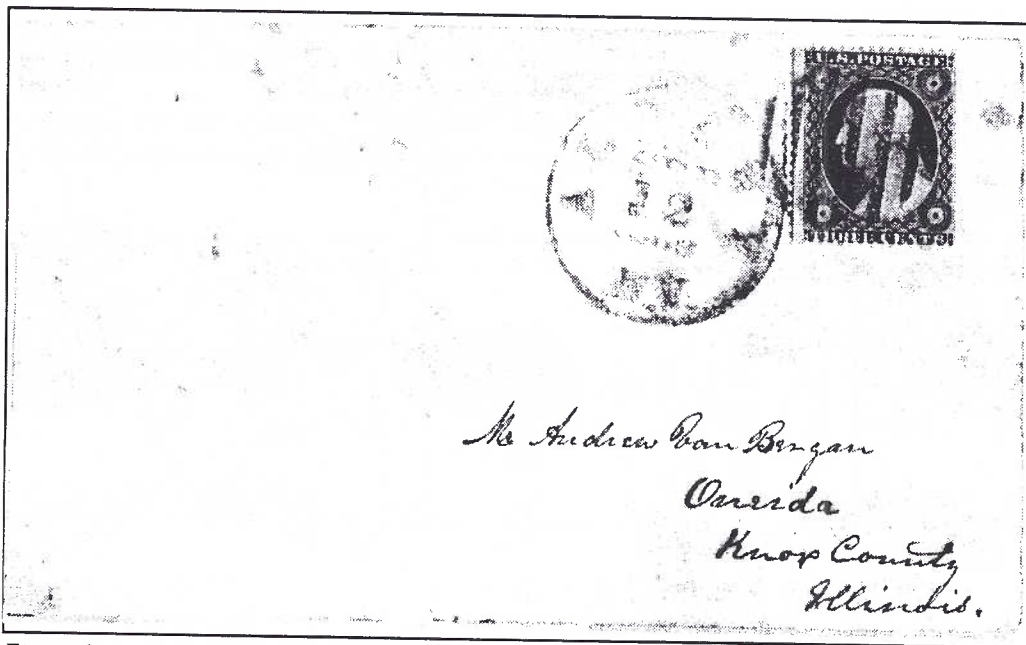


Figure 3.



Figure 4.



Figure 5.



Figure 6.

Figure 6 and 7 show Auburn markings, both of which, I believe, are duplexes. Certainly this is true of the January 18 (1864) markings (in blue ink) and it is likely to be true of the October 19 markings (in black ink). The year date of the October 19 cover is probably 1860, and again due to the presence of the 1857 issue stamp. If 1860, it would be another example of a decidedly early usage. Confirming covers are, of course, needed.

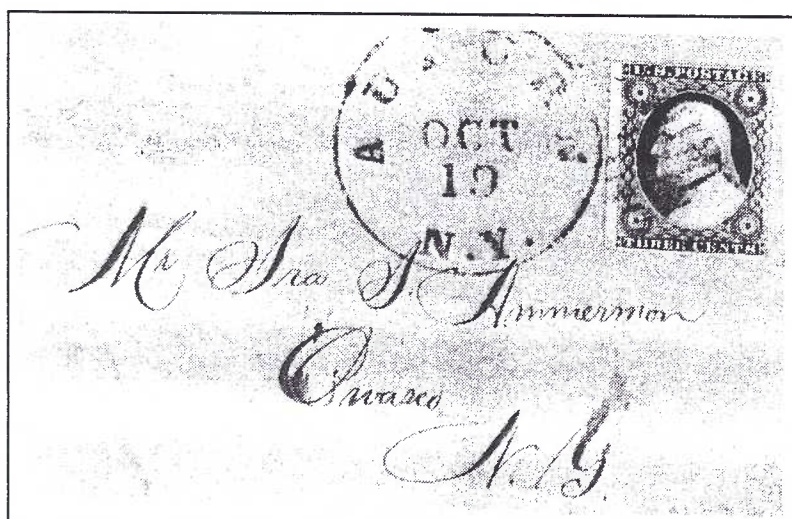


Figure 7.

A Geneva, N.Y. cover is illustrated as Figure 8. I suspect that this is a duplex because of the position of the two markings relative to one another. More covers are needed to confirm or deny this supposition and to provide dates if it is, in fact, a duplex marking. Figure 9 from Whitestown is, in my opinion, somewhat less likely to be a duplex marking but certainly quite possible while the Figure 10 markings are really quite unlikely to be the product of a duplex handstamp. I say Figure 10 is unlikely because of the combination of the following observations:

- (1) The considerable amount of space between the two markings
- (2) The orientation of the CDS which is rotated slightly to the left
- (3) The enclosed grid killer looks very much like unduplexed grids seen on 1851-1857 and 1847 era stamps.

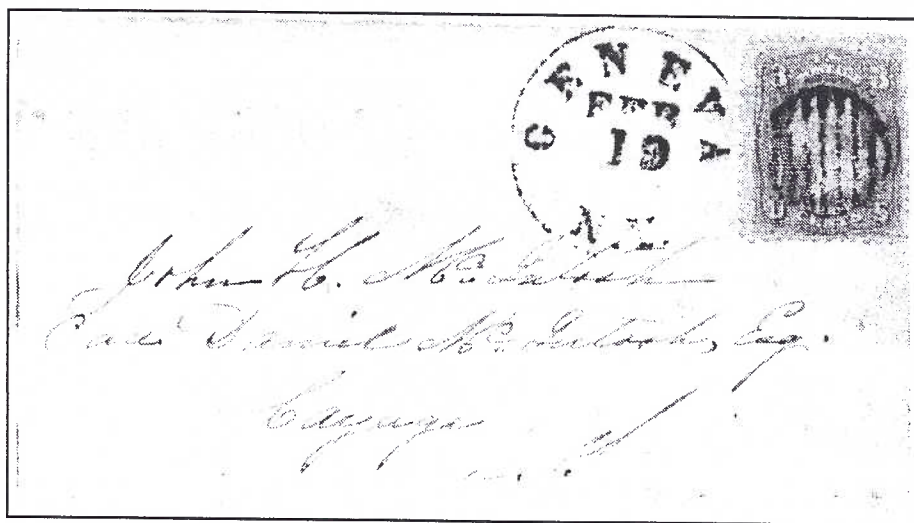


Figure 8.

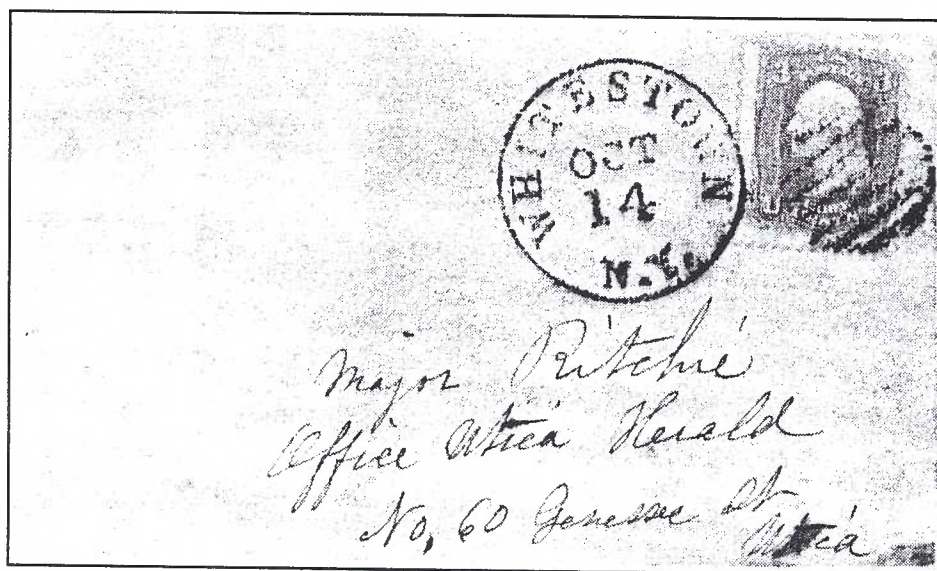


Figure 9.

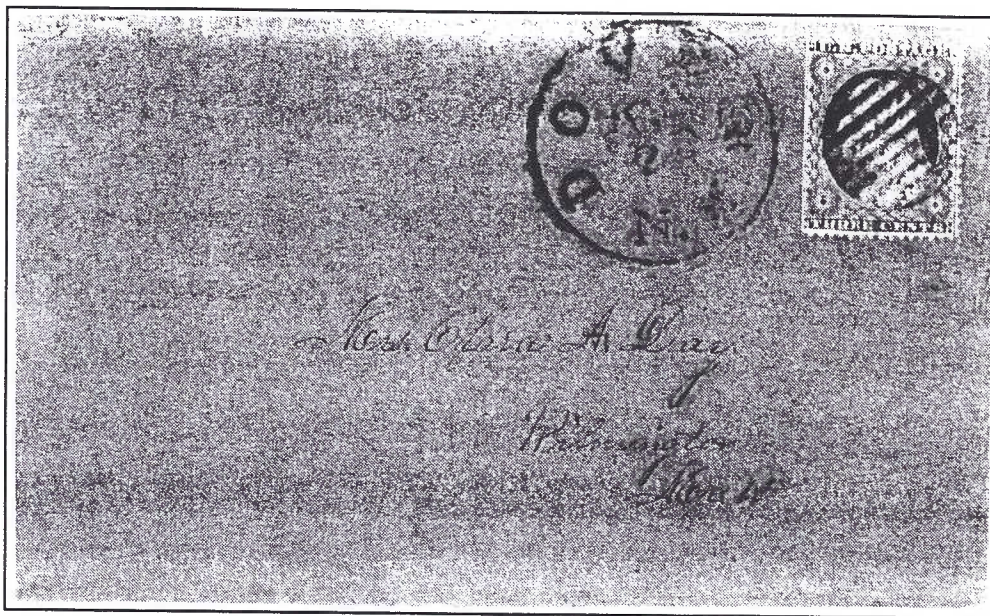


Figure 10.

The purpose of the present article is to seek additional information on the transition of New York state post offices to using duplex handstamps and, in that connection, several questions are raised for the consideration of ESPHS *Journal* readers. I assume, but do not know, that early (1860-1861) users of duplex handstamps were using the CDS as a canceller at the time of the July 23, 1860 regulation. I further assume that it would take several days (at least) after July 23 for the regulation to be sent out, received and read by postmasters. Thus for Albany, Auburn, Buffalo and any other New York state post offices that were early users of duplex postmarks, my questions are as follows:

- (1) How late after July 23, 1860 are covers known where the CDS was used as the obliterator?
- (2) Was there an intermediate period where a separate instrument was used by the particular post office to cancel stamps? If so, what dates can be reported? (The Figure 11 cover, I believe, illustrates this intermediate step.)
- (3) How early can duplex postmarks be shown from the above post offices and from other New York post offices that were early duplex users?

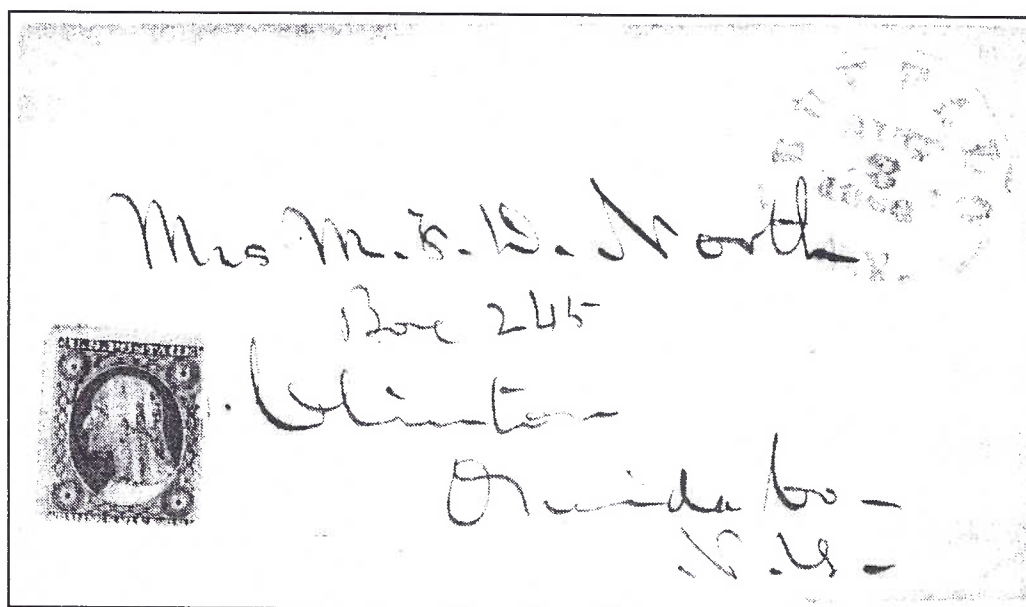


Figure 11.

If readers have information pertinent to any of the above questions, this writer would be very grateful to learn it. Photocopies of covers reported would be especially helpful. I edit the *U.S. Cancellation Club News* and hope to run an article on the subject at some point in the future. Contributions would be fully acknowledged and all information also reported to the ESPHS *Journal*.

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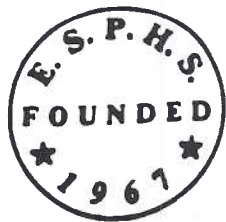
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200 YEARS OF CAYUGA COUNTY, NY POSTAL HISTORY
by Charles H. Sweeting

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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