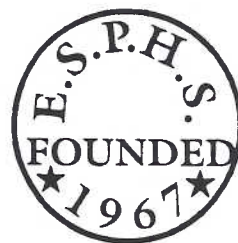


The **Journal** of *New York State Postal History*



Volume 32

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President

Summer 1999

Martin Margulis
Editor

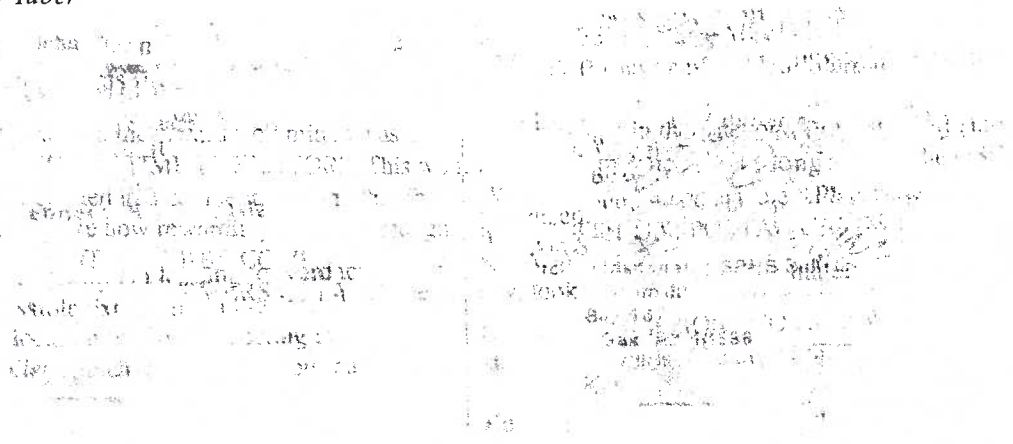
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The *Journal* of New York State Postal History

is published by the
EMPIRE STATE POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY
373 Root Road
Ballston Spa, New York 12020-3227
APS Affiliate #28

Articles for the Journal of New York Postal History are solicited and encouraged. Please send them to:

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ULSTER COUNTY CHRONICLES: MAIL ORDER DOGS

By: Maris Tirums

This is a dog story more than it is a postal history story. For sure, the mails played a role, and if a couple of otherwise ordinary envelopes had not been archived in the files of a by-gone business, I would not be able to share these lines with you, and the universe of New York State postal history would be that much poorer. But who can resist a dog story, and when it ties in with commercial covers, so much the better.

Did you know that in the mid 1930's, you could purchase a mail order hunting dog? Perhaps you still can, but personally, I had never heard of such a thing until I acquired the two covers, with enclosures, that are described in this article.

I have leafed through more than one mail order catalog from Sear's, Montgomery Wards, Penny's, and others, but never saw a live dog advertised, much less one that had been trained to hunt! It would be interesting to see one of the Dixie Hound Kennels' advertisements from 1935 that enticed people to order hunting dogs, sight unseen, through the mail.

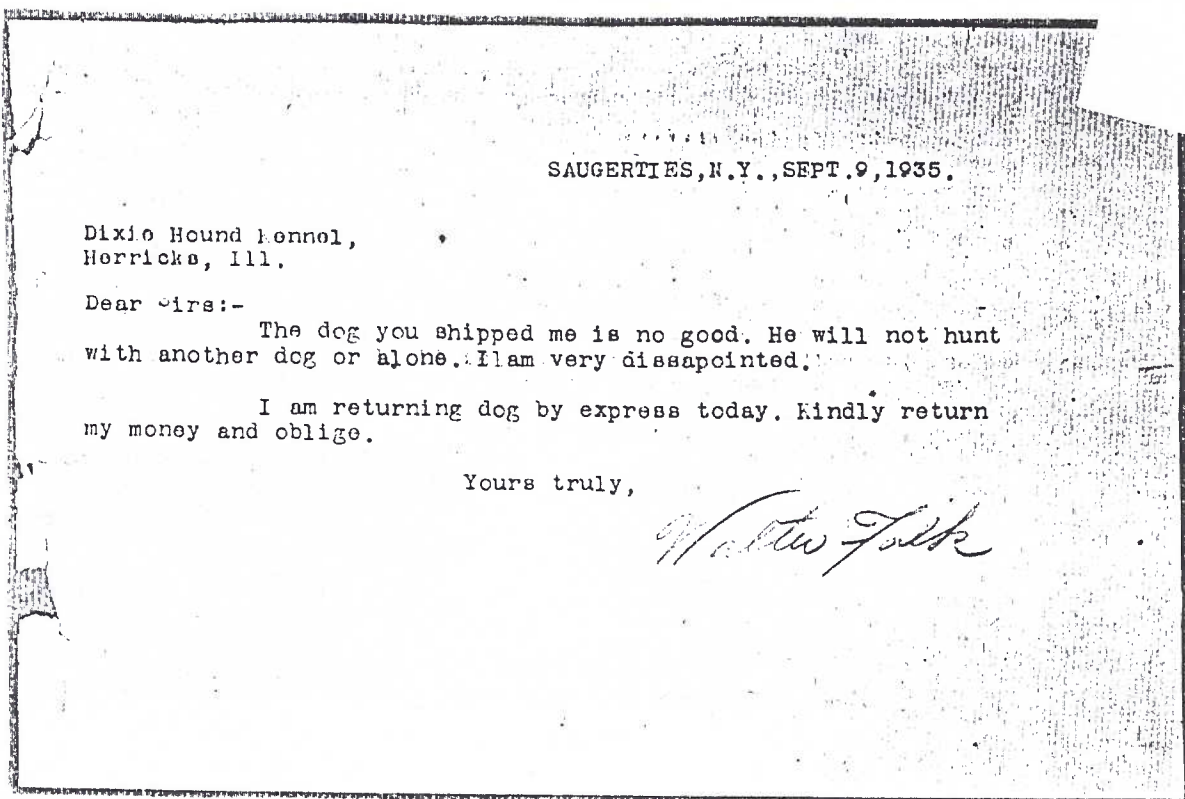


Figure 1

The story of these two covers leaves many questions unanswered, but we can deduce that the dogs were trained to hunt and were in fact guaranteed so that a dog that failed to live up to its billing could be returned for a refund.

Also, the actual shipping of the dogs was no doubt handled through a private sector transport company rather than by the Post Office Department. Postal regulations forbid the mailing of living animals, as well as human beings, except under certain limited conditions.

What happens when the dog does not live up to the new owner's expectations? In this case, the dogs were shipped back to Illinois, and refunds were requested. *Figure 1* is the enclosed letter from Walter Falk of Saugerties, New York to the Dixie Hound Kennels of Herrick, Illinois.

Mr. Falk's envelope is shown in *Figure 2*. The cover bears a New York Central Railroad Company corner card and is machine canceled **SAUGERTIES, N.Y. SEP 9 1935**. Mr. Falk not only used an envelope from the New York Central Railroad, but he also used one of the railroad's stamps as evidenced by the "NYC" perfin (not visible in the illustration) on the three cent purple Washington (Scott 720). I would assume that the dog transaction was strictly a personal matter which didn't involve the railroad at all.

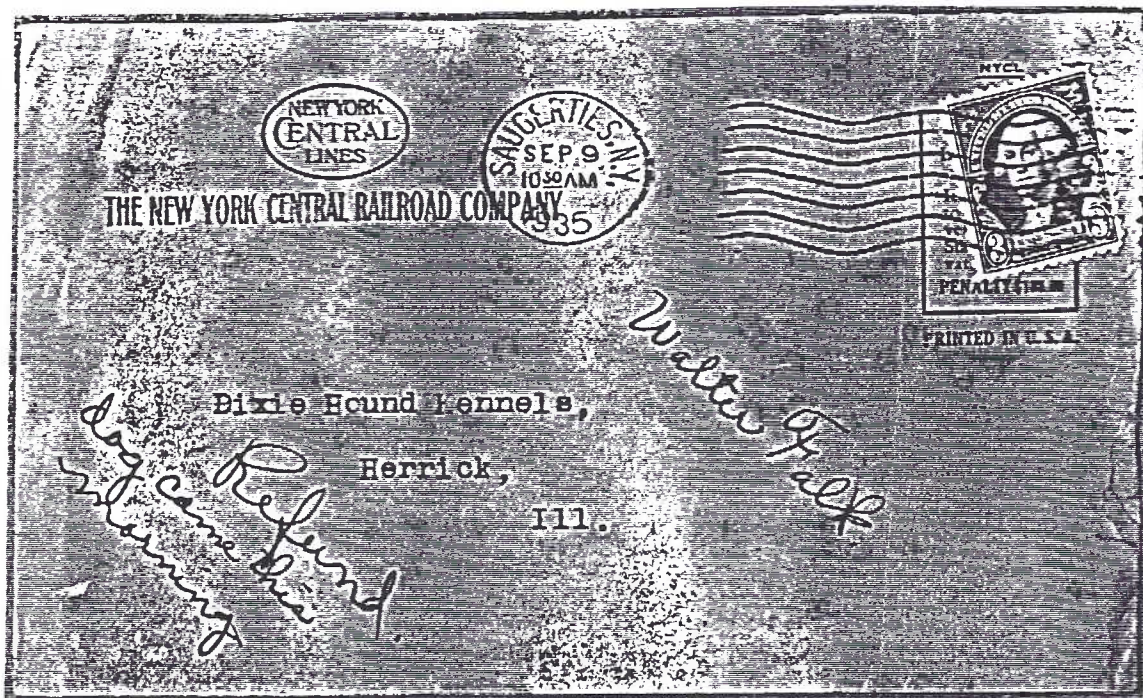


Figure 2

Written on the front of the envelope is Walter Falk's name and a brief note "Refund, dog came this morning."

Figure 3 is the transcript of the letter inside of the envelope shown as Figure 4.

*Kerhonkson, N.Y.
November 4, 1935*

*Dixie Hound Kennels Inc.
Herrick, Illinois*

Gentlemen:

On October 26, 1935, I received the jog, Jiggs, which I ordered from you on trial and am returning him this morning as he would only "run" deer. I have fed and cared for him well and he is in good health.

These are some of my experiences. Each morning after having him out the night before I had to go and look for him, one day it was 3 P.M. before I finally found him. Another day he run a deer and when found he was about to enter a private game preserve and had it not been for my name plate on his collar I wouldn't have him to return. One evening I took my old coon dog from her pups and with Jiggs went hunting. She started a coon, but Jiggs would not even follow the trail and when she treed the coon he would not even bark only lie down & sleep.

Kindly refund the money and I wish you better luck next time.

*Yours truly
Arthur Crose*

Figure 3

Figure 4 is the envelope mailed by Arthur Crose which contained the letter shown above. The envelope is machine canceled **KERHONKSON NOV 7 1935 N.Y.**, and was sent via air mail.

The name of the dog returned to Dixie Hound Kennels by Walter Falk (the first of the two dogs alluded to in this article) is not mentioned, and I cannot help but wonder if he isn't the one and the same Jiggs who made an unsuccessful trip to Kerhonkson in October 1935.

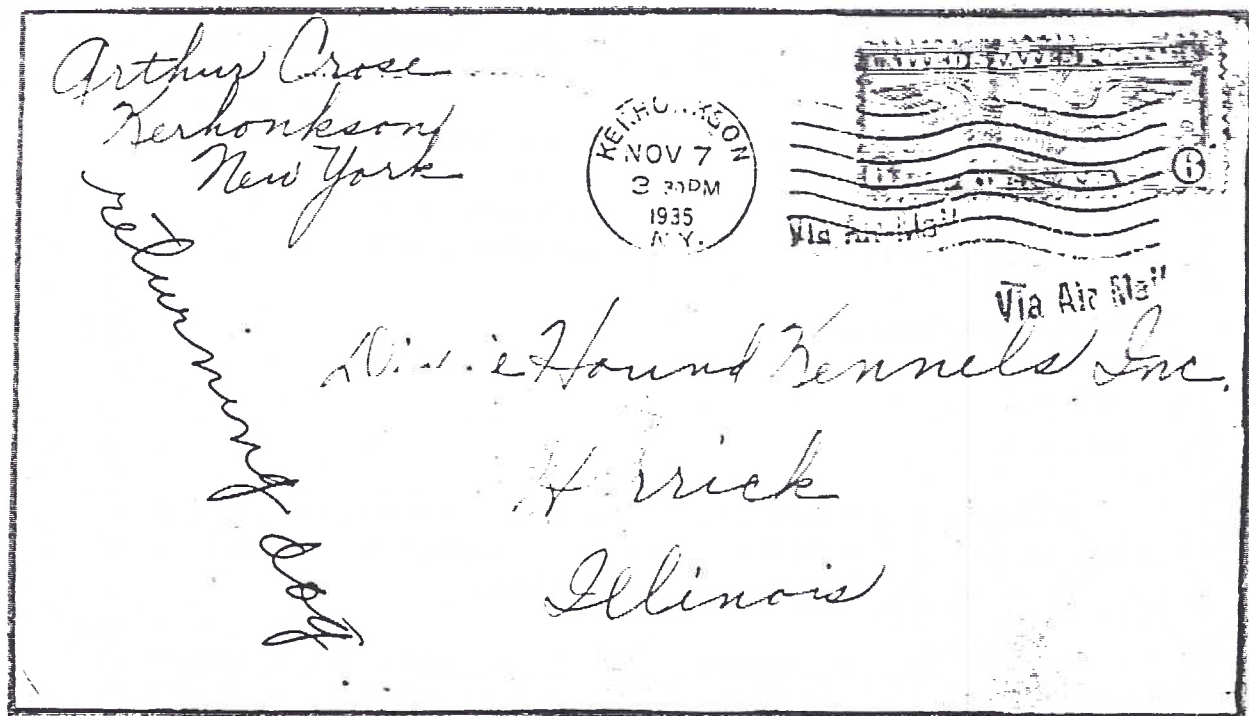


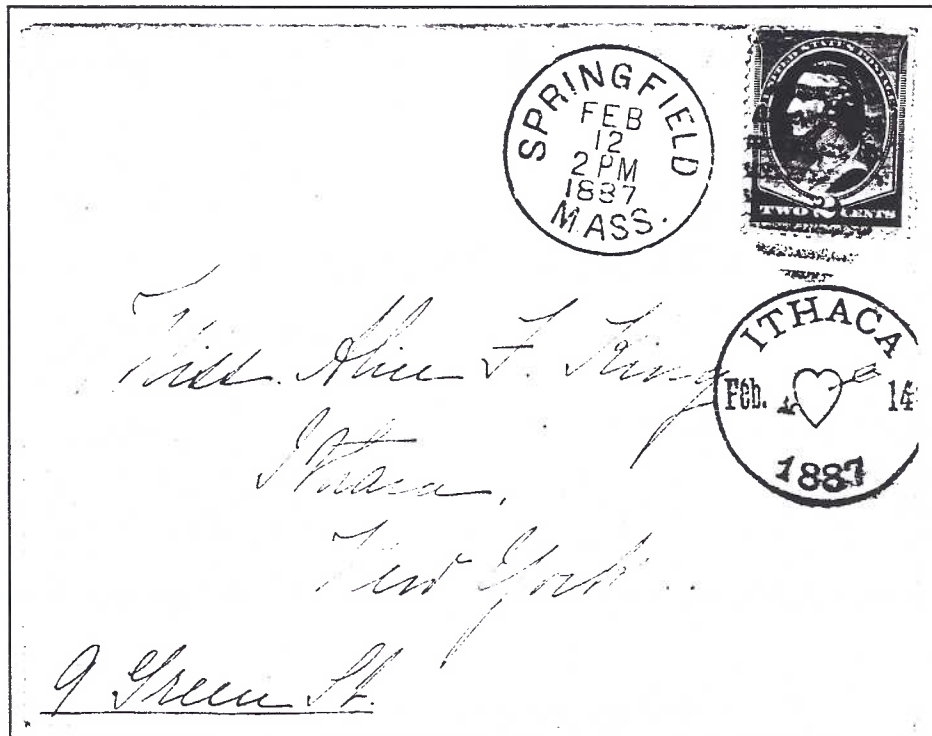
Figure 4

AN UNUSUAL POSTAL HISTORY ITEM

by Stefan T. Jaronski

Here is an unusual New York postal history item of a seasonal (Valentine's Day) nature. I know nothing of the story behind the marking or the cover, although I suspect the Ithaca marking was applied as a special receiving mark on Valentine's Day. The cover is addressed to Ithaca and the color of the marking's ink seems to match the typical magenta ink used on auxiliary markings at that office. There is a faint ITHACA REC'D, FEB 14 1887 marking on the reverse. I have not seen another like it in the 15-16 years I have been collecting Itaca postal history.

If the membership has any additional information concerning this unusual item, please contact: Stefan T. Jaronski, Itaca New York Postal History Research & Collecting, 3336 Harrison Ave., Suite 201, Butte MT 59701; telephone (406) 797-3562.

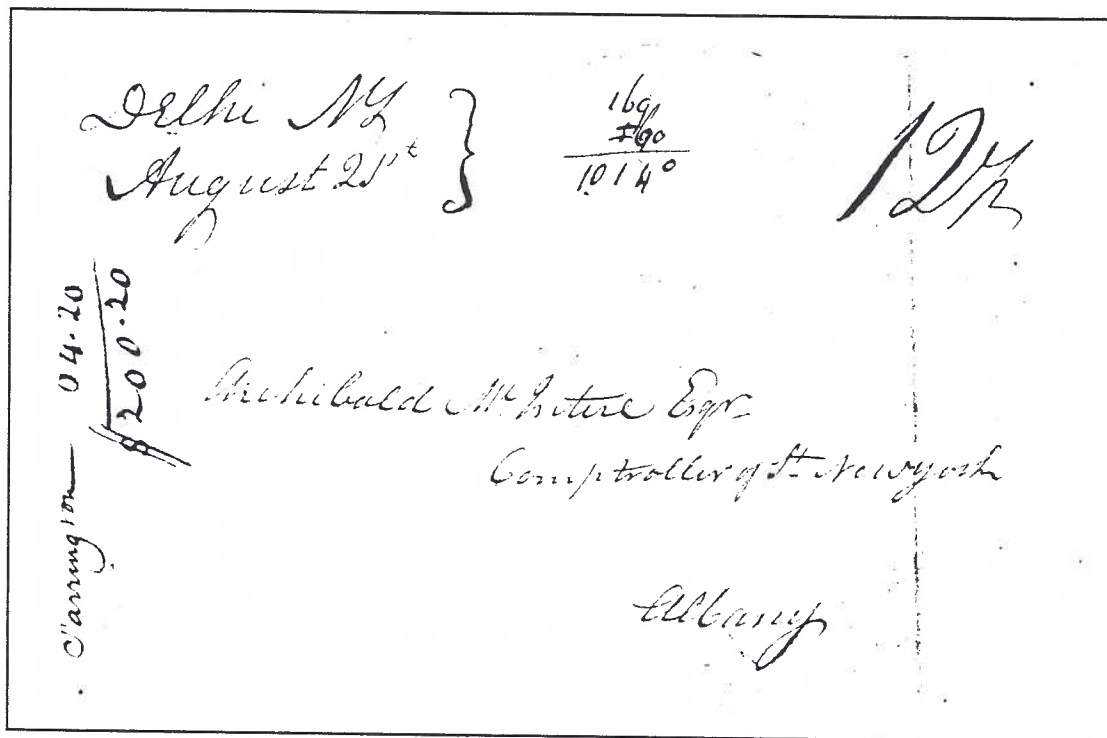


DELHI POSTAL HISTORY

by Harry Taber

The Delhi Post Office commenced operations on June 11, 1801. Erastus Root was the first postmaster. Below is a letter from Ebenezer Foote to the Comptroller of New York State in Albany. The letter discusses tax problems encountered in the town of Delhi. The letter is dated August 20, 1808. At that time the rate for a single sheet for a distance of 90 to 150 miles was 12½ cents.

Postage stamps were not issued until 1847 and most of the Delaware County post offices did not receive stamps until the middle 1850s. Early letters with the post office written on them were called manuscript cancels and are mostly scarce. If a post office did not do \$200.00 in business, the postmaster was not issued a handstamp for his mail. The post office receipts of Delhi in 1803 were \$9.19 for the year, which was the salary of the postmaster. This explains why many post offices in the 1800s were in the general store. The proprietor was also the postmaster. No one else could afford to take the job.



Act of March 2, 1799 Zone Rates for Single Letters

Not over 40 miles	8 cents
40 to 90 miles	10 cents
90 to 150 miles	12½ cents
150 to 300 miles	17 cents
300 to 500 miles	20 cents
over 500 miles	25 cents

By 1809 Erastus Root had left his position as postmaster and gone into private law practice. Below is a letter to a client in New York City on legal matters. Observe that at that time New York City was so small that the only address needed was Merchant-New York. The 17-cent rate was for a distance of 150 to 300 miles. In the corner of the letter is a notation "Rec'd 29th March. Paid 20 cents postage." Twenty cents was the rate for 300 to 500 miles. The letter is dated March 1809.

Delhi NY
March 19th

Messrs. Sumner & Chamberlain

Rec'd 29th March -
Paid 20 cents
postage

New York

This letter to Connecticut was originally two sheets, hence the 34-cent rate. The 17-cent rate for 150 to 300 miles was applied here multiplied by two for the two sheets. One sheet is gone and this portion has been trimmed probably because of ragged edges.

Sam^l. M^r. Johnson Esq. 34

Stratford Conn^t

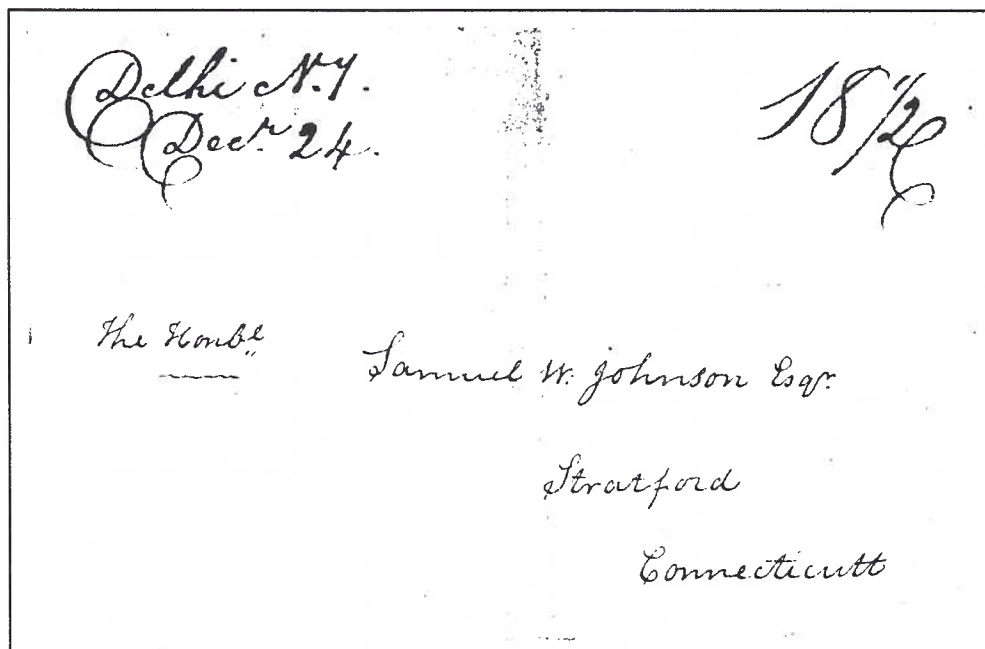
Delhi
Sept. 18 1812

This cover of 1818 came under the rate for 150 to 400 miles. The 18½-cent rate was unwieldy as it did not correspond to any foreign money, especially Spanish, which was still widely used.

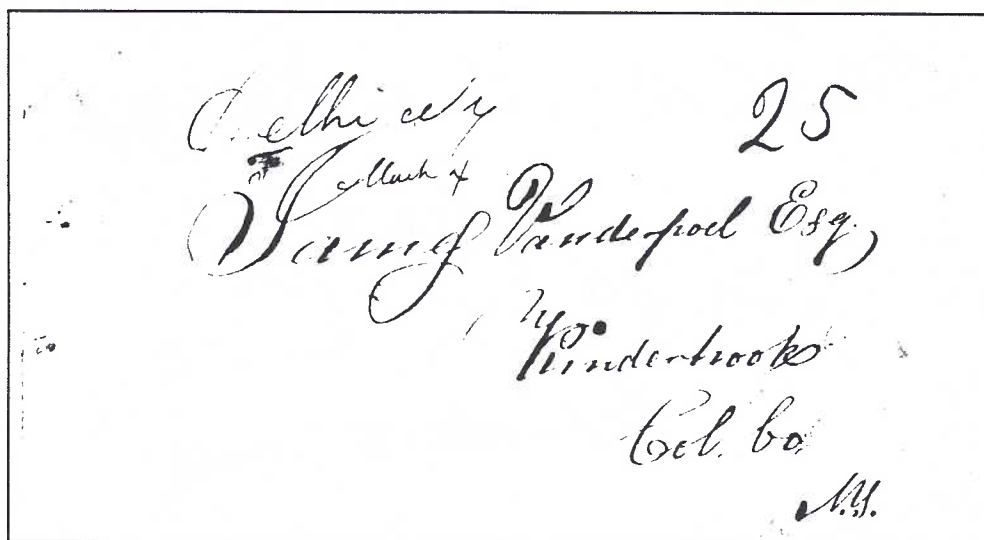
In 1825 this rate was changed to 18¾ cents, which corresponded to 1½ reales of Spanish currency.

Act of April 9, 1816

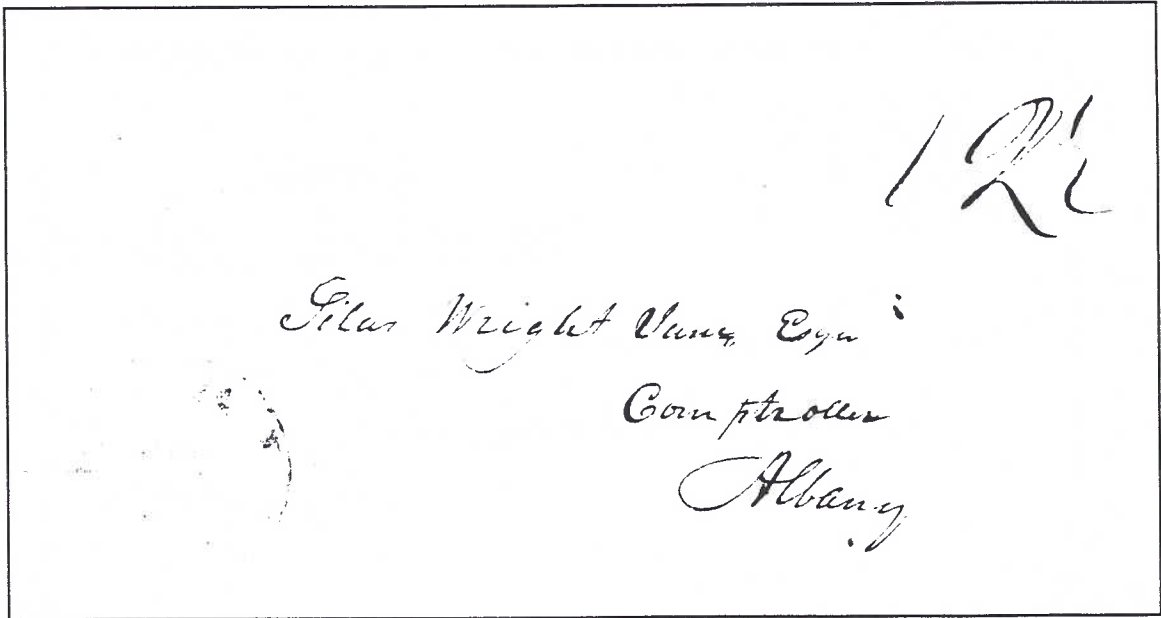
Not over 30 miles	6 cents
30 to 80 miles	10 cents
80 to 150 miles	12½ cents
150 to 400 miles	18½ cents
over 400 miles	25 cents



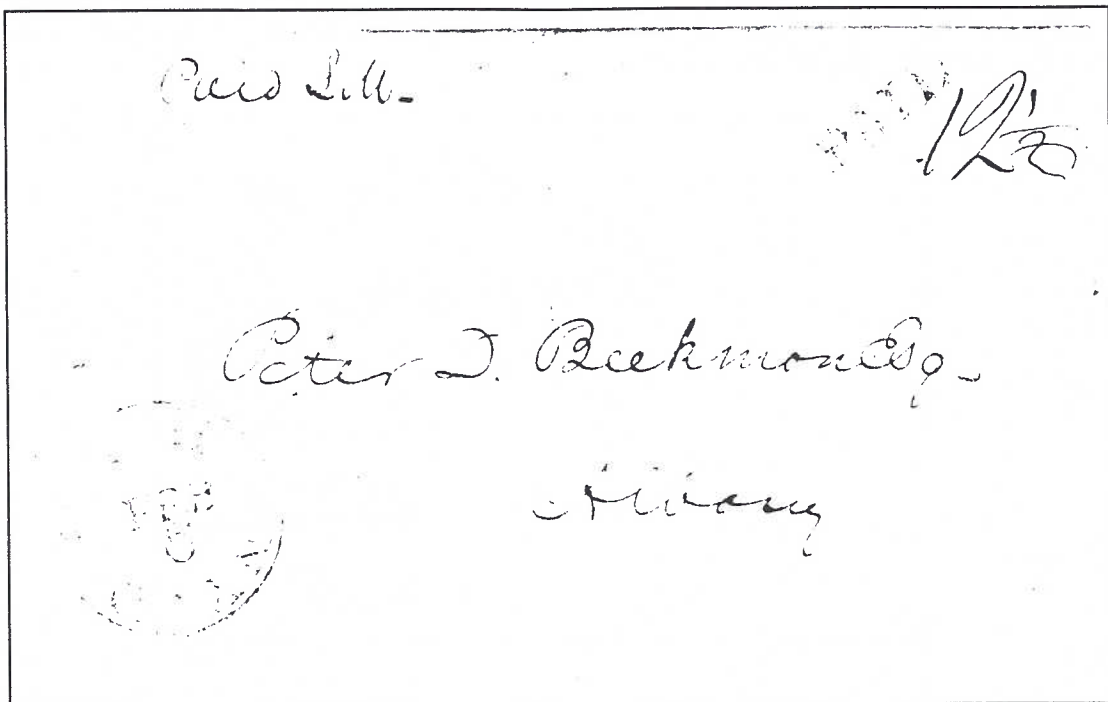
Until 1855 the sender had the option of prepaying his letter or mailing it unpaid so the recipient was forced to pay. Prepaid letters were marked Paid, either in manuscript or with a handstamp. This unpaid 1827 letter was double rated (12½ cents) for two sheets for a distance of 80 to 150 miles.



An unpaid cover with a 12½-cent rate for 80 to 150 miles. This an early example of a postmarking device for Delhi.



Another 12½-cent rated cover, this one prepaid.



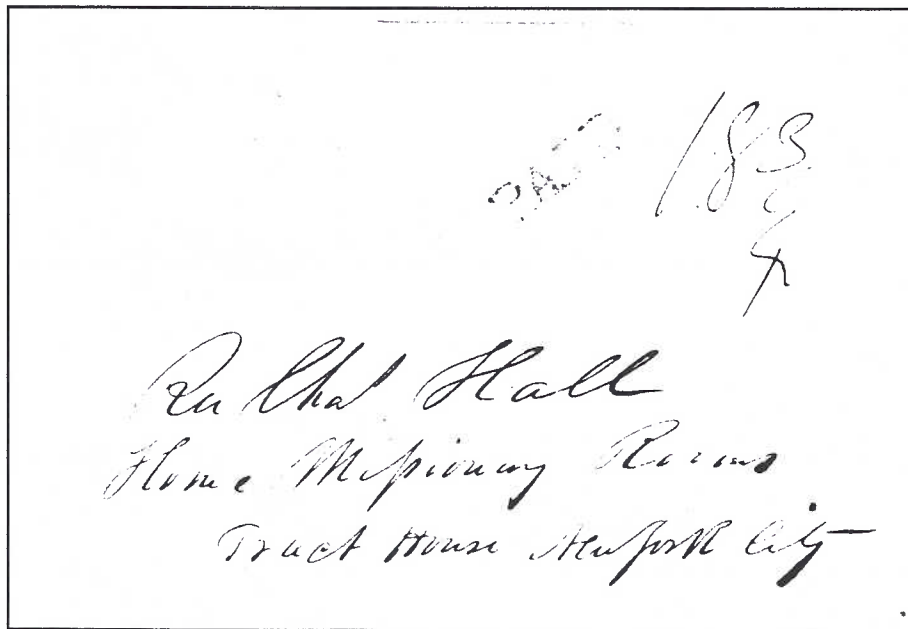
This manuscript of 1832 was written by a deputy sheriff of Delaware County. He apparently thought that as it was official business he was entitled to the free frank. The postmaster thought otherwise.

Dech M.
May 4
Hudonch 10
Mr. Reichen Hut
Postmaster
On on clage
Court house

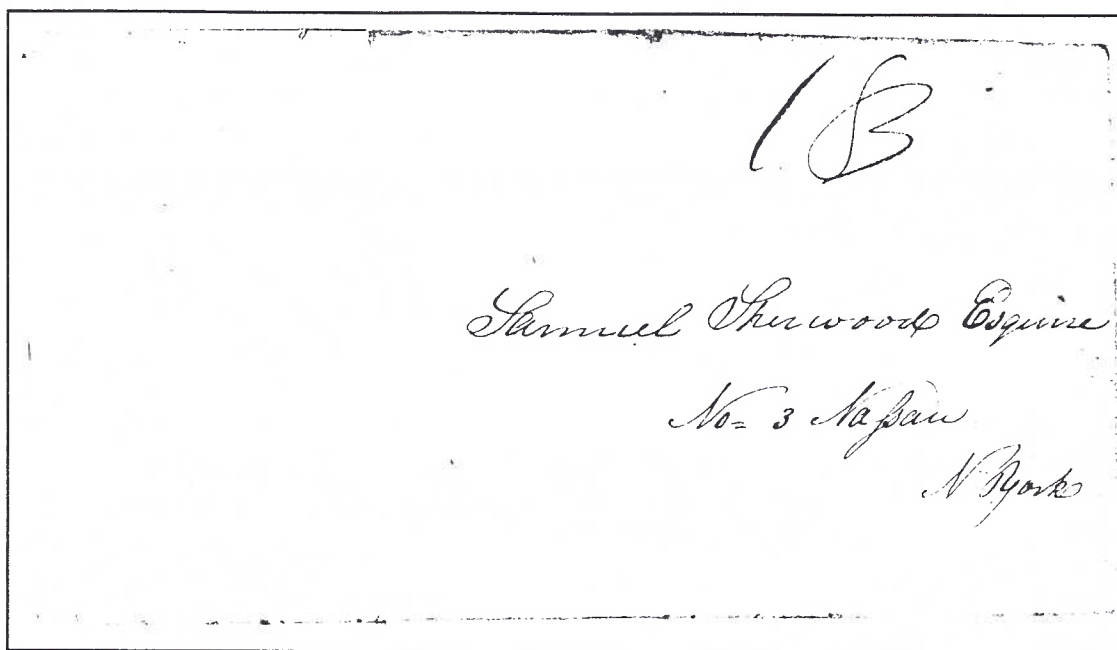
This is a manuscript Way cover, so called because it was picked up by the post rider and delivered to the next post office on his route. For this service he was paid 1 cent, which was added to the regular rate, in this case 10 cents, making 11 cents total.

Way 11
Isiah Gregory
Cannery & Co.
Court of Sessions
Delaware Co.
L. S. G.

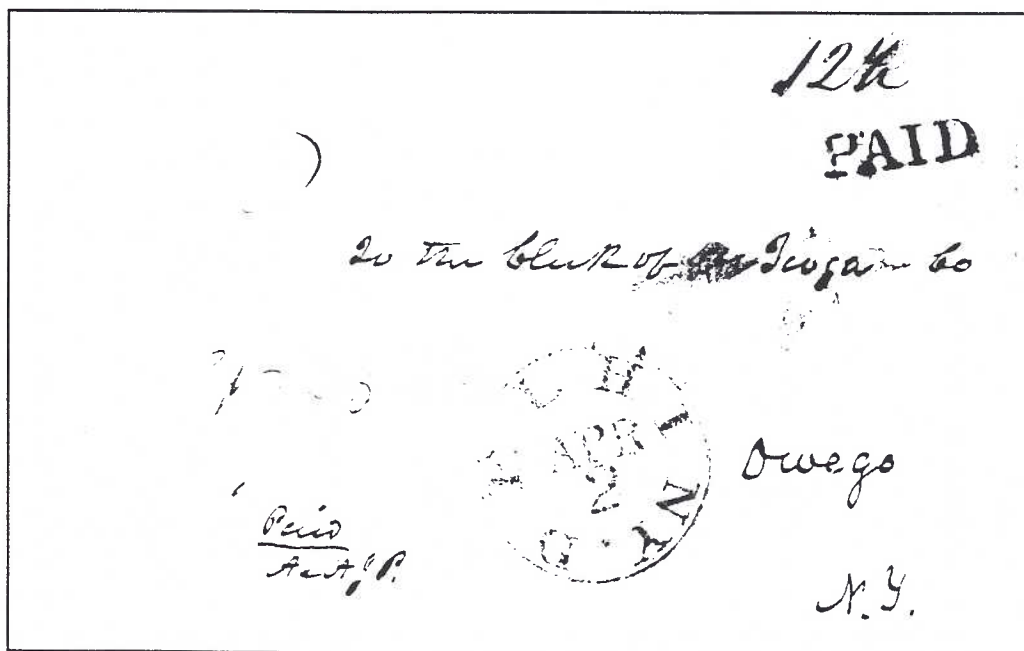
This is an 18¾-cent rated cover of 1842, changed from 18½ cents in 1825 for a distance of 150 to 400 miles.



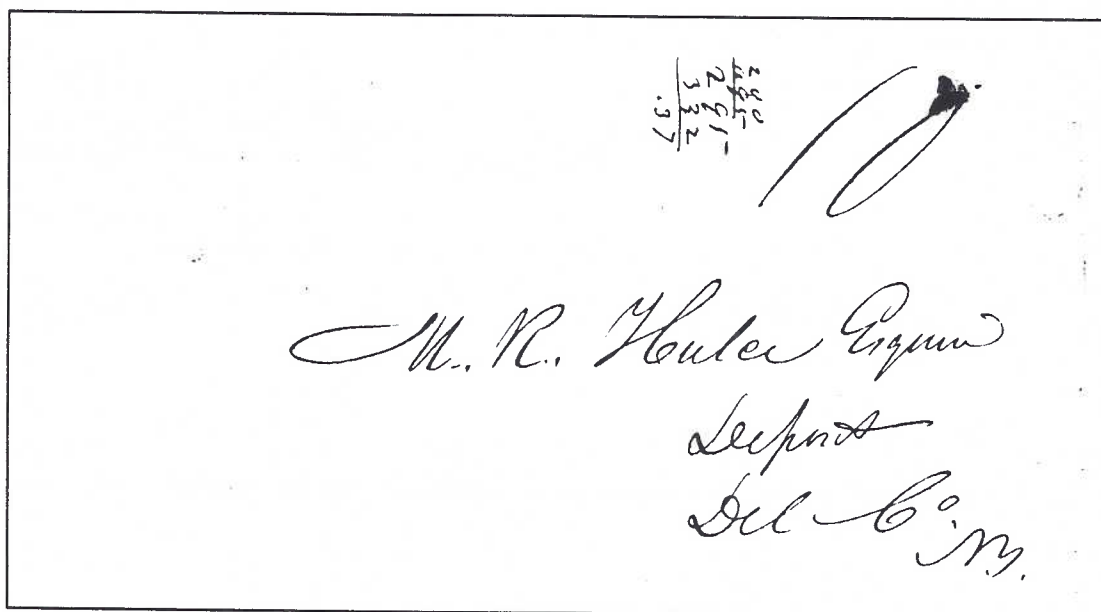
This unpaid letter of June 1843 to New York City had the 18¾-cent rate for the 150 to 400 mile zone.



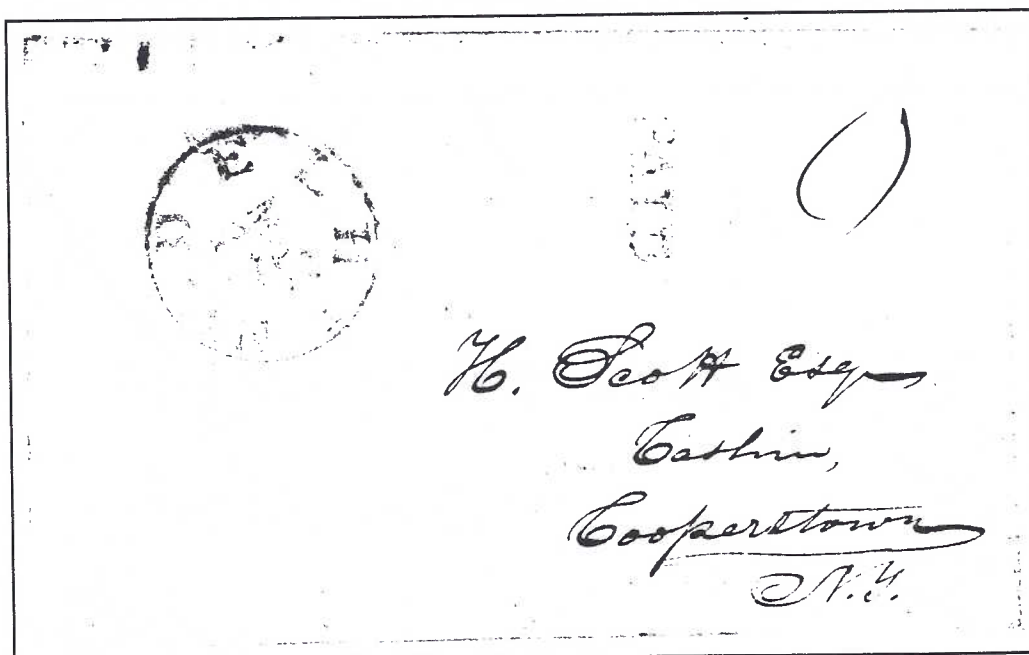
Somewhere between 1843 and 1844 a switch was made to green ink. This 12½-cent rate, prepaid, was for the 80 to 150 mile zone.



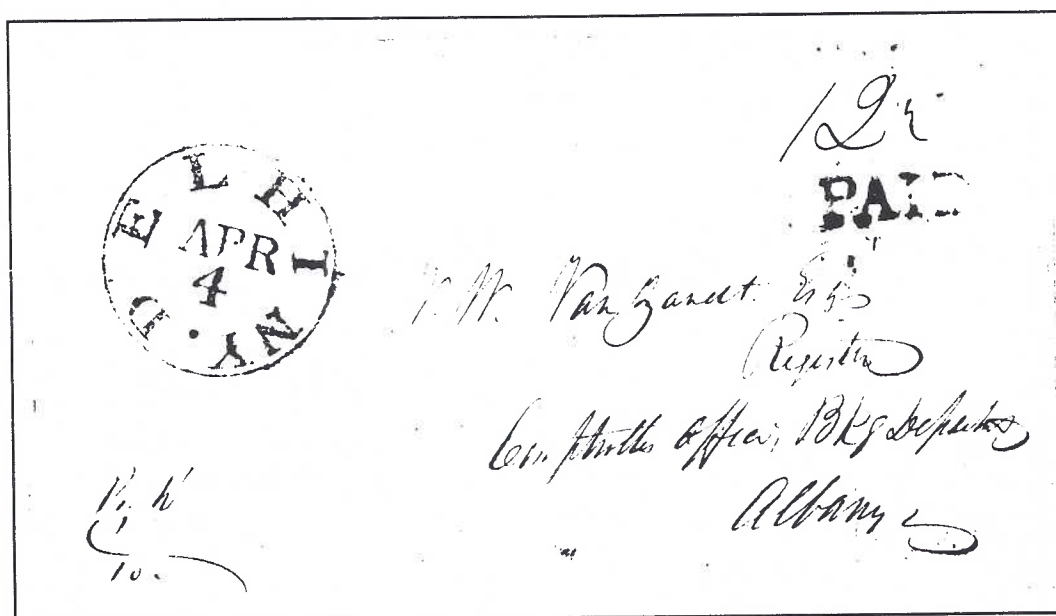
This unpaid letter of 1843 had a 10-cent rate to satisfy the 30 to 80 mile zone.



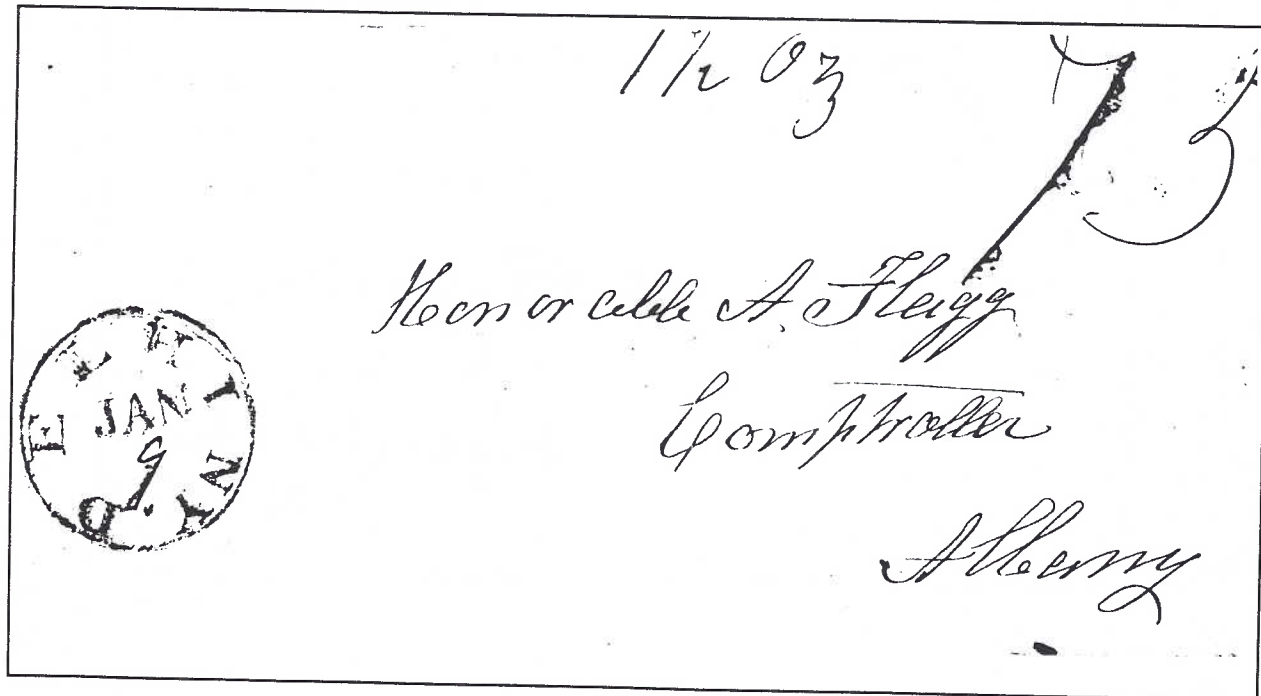
This 10-cent prepaid letter, from Delhi to Cooperstown, also came under the 30 to 80 mile zone.



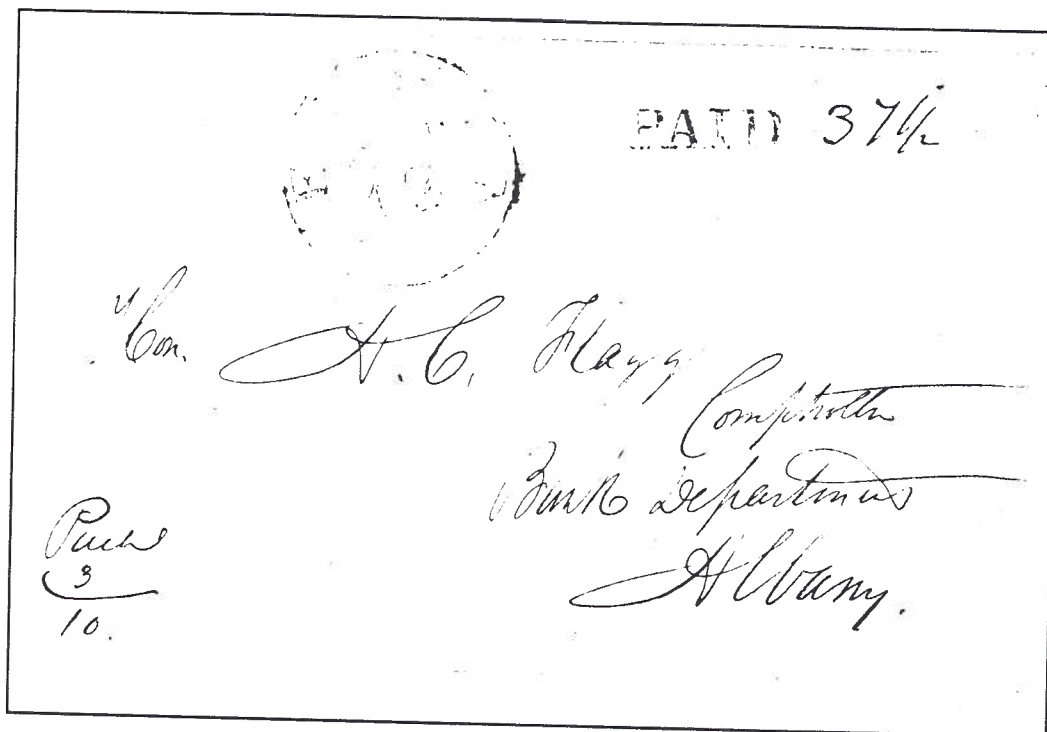
Another Delhi cancel in green of 1844.



The rate on this overweight ($1\frac{1}{2}$ ounces) unpaid letter goes back to the Act of 1792. It was rated at four times the regular rate ($12\frac{1}{2}$ cents) or 50 cents for the first ounce plus twice the rate for the remaining one-half ounce or 25 cents. This letter was probably mailed around 1844-45.



This apparently overweight letter was charged three times the regular rate of $12\frac{1}{2}$ cents for 80 to 150 miles.



Another example of the postmasters' free frank. This one is of Samuel Gordon.

Free S. Gordon
P.M. Letter
Hon. O. S. Haller
Surveyor General
Albany

This cover is an example of the free franking privilege extended to various branches of federal and state governments. This frank was used by Ferris Jacobs, a brigadier-general in the state militia. He is requesting the adjutant-general in Albany to send supplies and promotions for his command. After the Civil War this practice died out.

Written }
F. Jacobs
Brigade Genl
Adj. Genl A. C. Kiver
Albany N. Y.

This is a free frank extended to all postmasters since the formation of the Post Office Department after the Revolutionary War. This franking was in use until the advent of official envelopes. The signature is that of Nathaniel Hathaway, Postmaster in 1843.

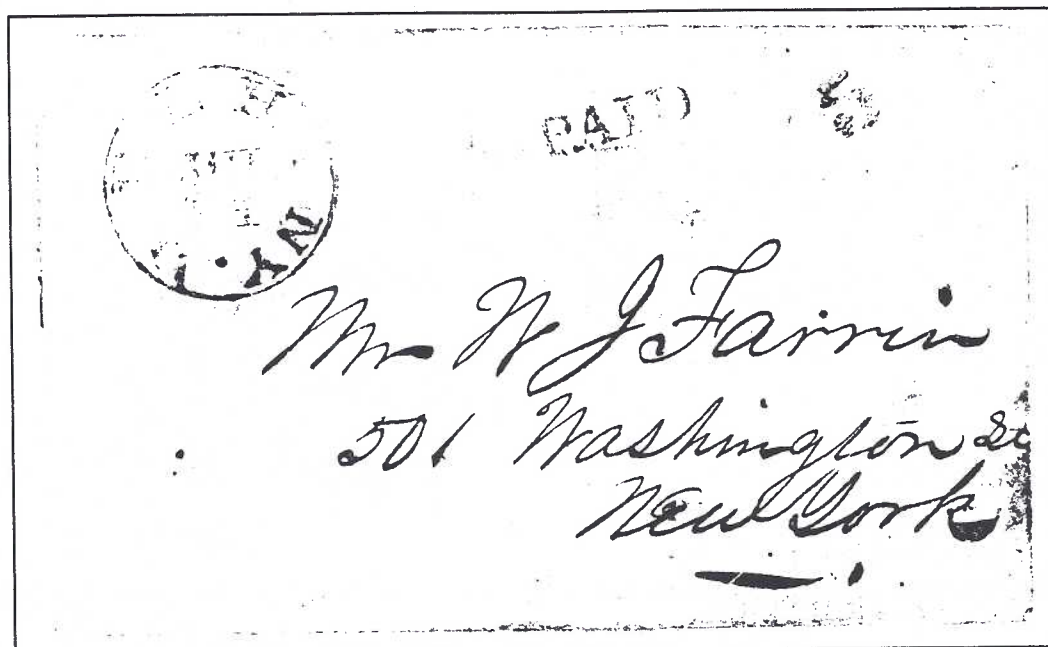
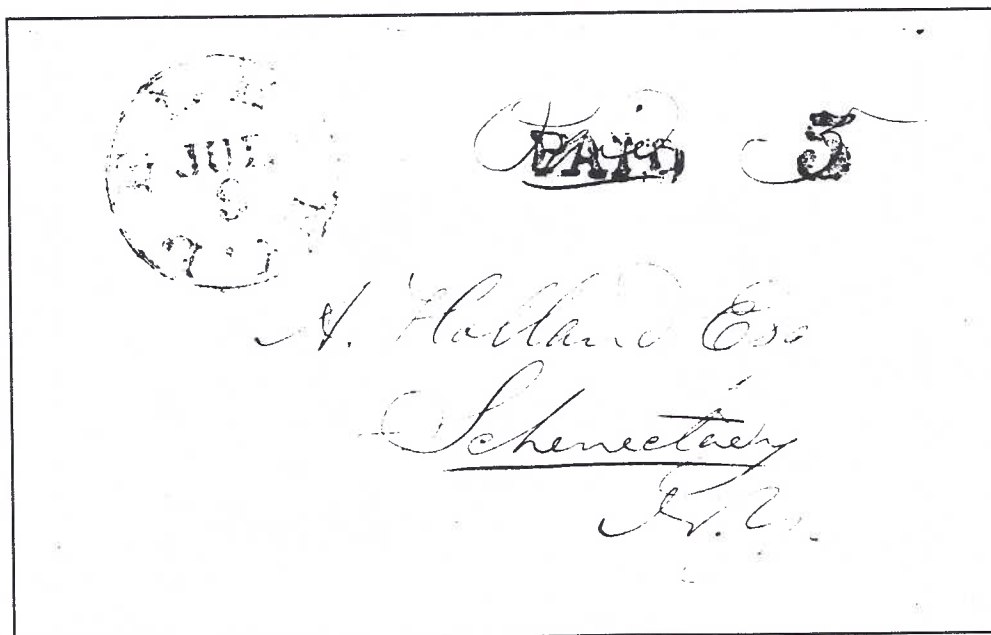
Free
Nathaniel Hathaway
Postmaster
Thos Scott Cash
Coopers town

The Postal Act of 1845 greatly simplified rates. The charge for 300 miles or less was 5 cents and over 300 miles was 10 cents. The sender still had the option of prepayment or not. The Delhi office purchased their first rate stamp, a large 5 in a circle. Here are two unpaid letters.

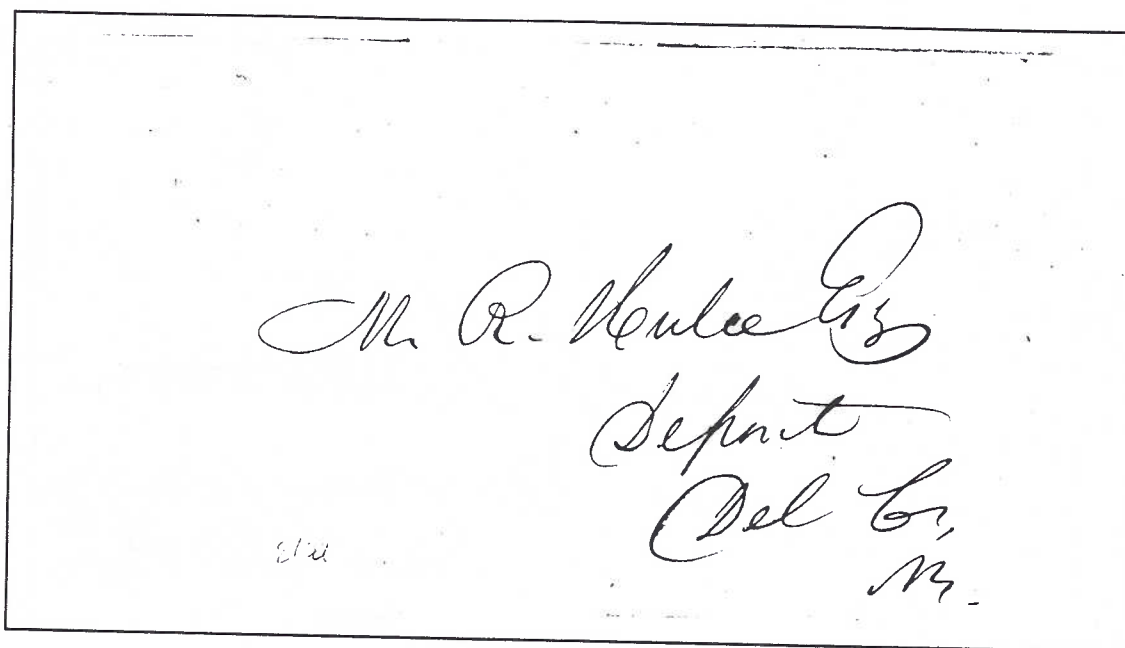
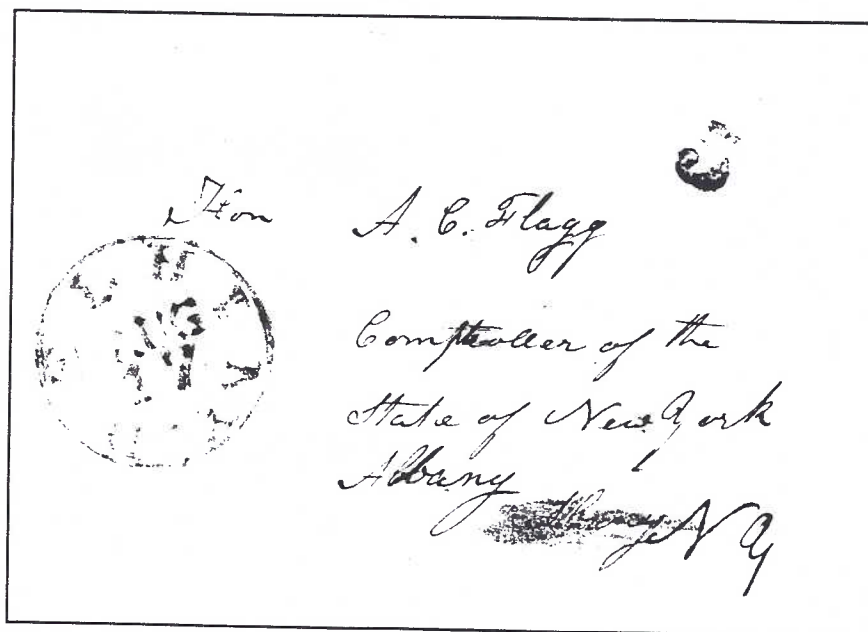
Mrs A. J. Parker.

Hon. John D. Willard

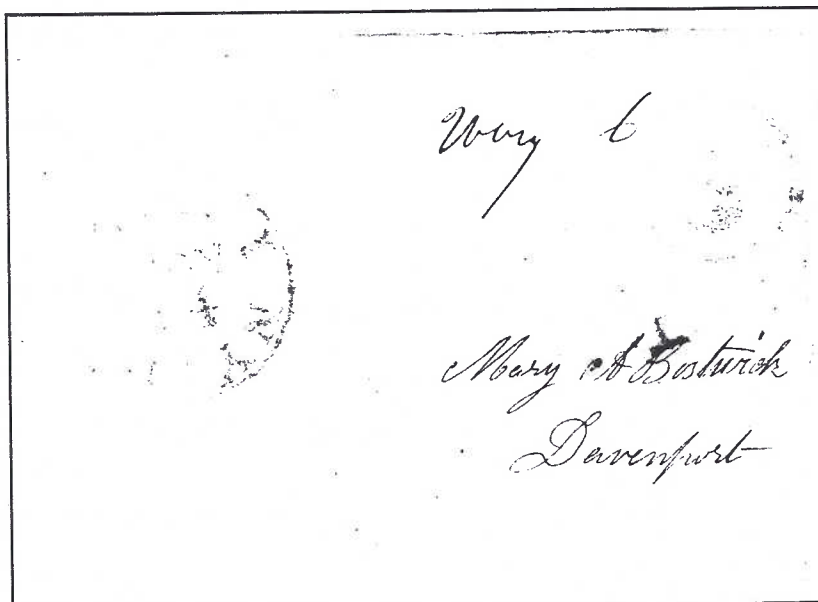
In 1846 another 5-cent rate stamp was acquired, without a circle. Here are two paid letters of 1846.



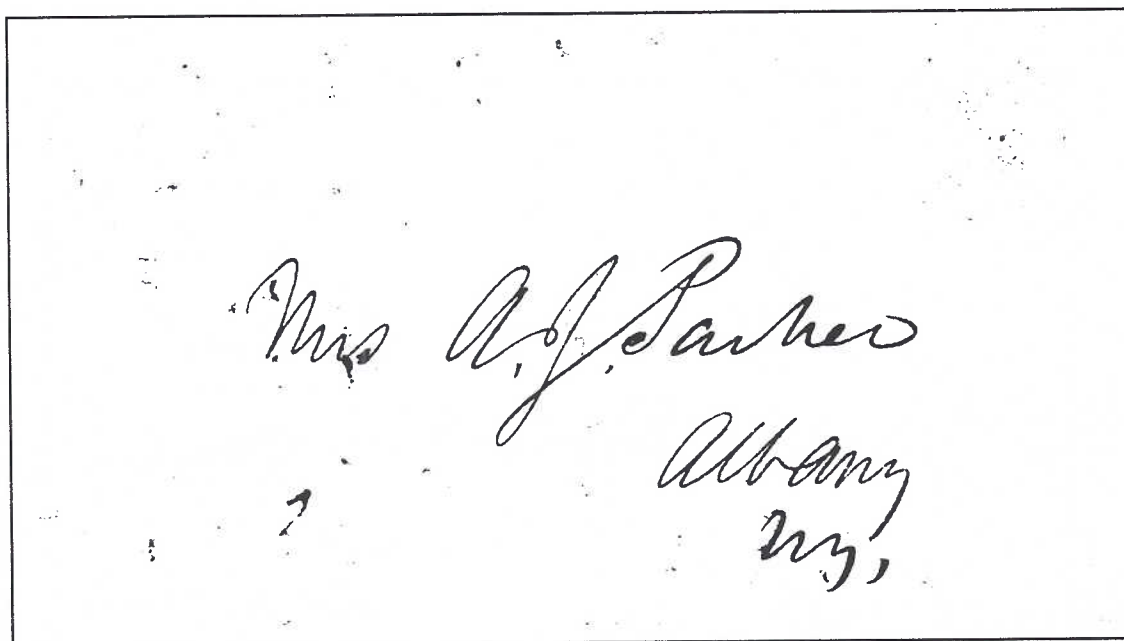
By December 1846 another, larger 5 in a circle was being used along with the one without a circle.



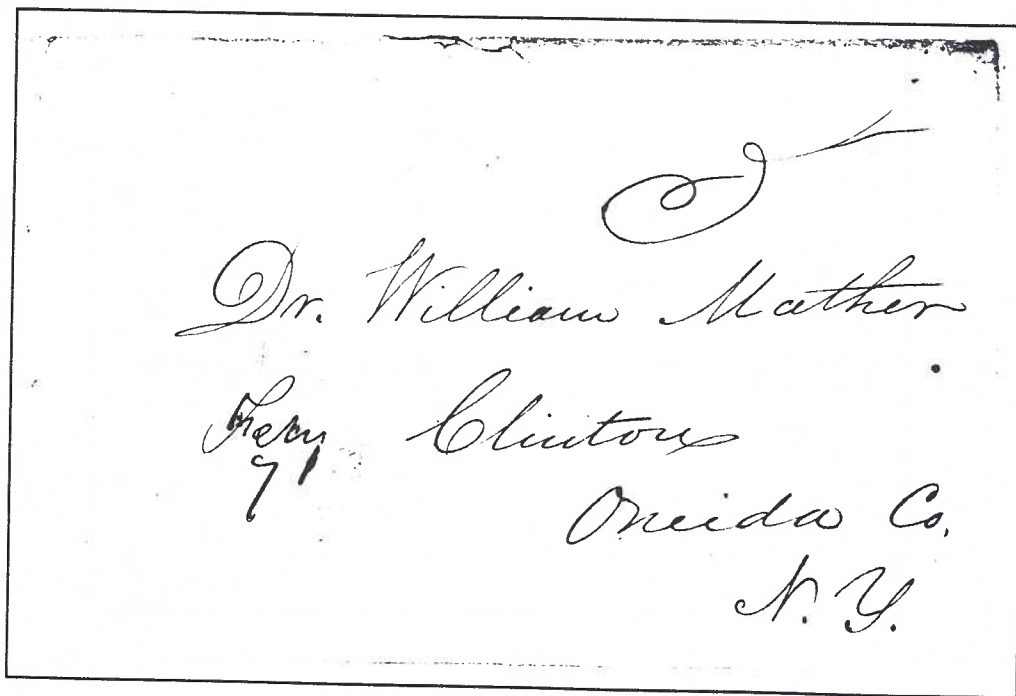
Another Way cover, this one of 1848. The post rider still collected a 1-cent fee for delivering a letter to the nearest post office.



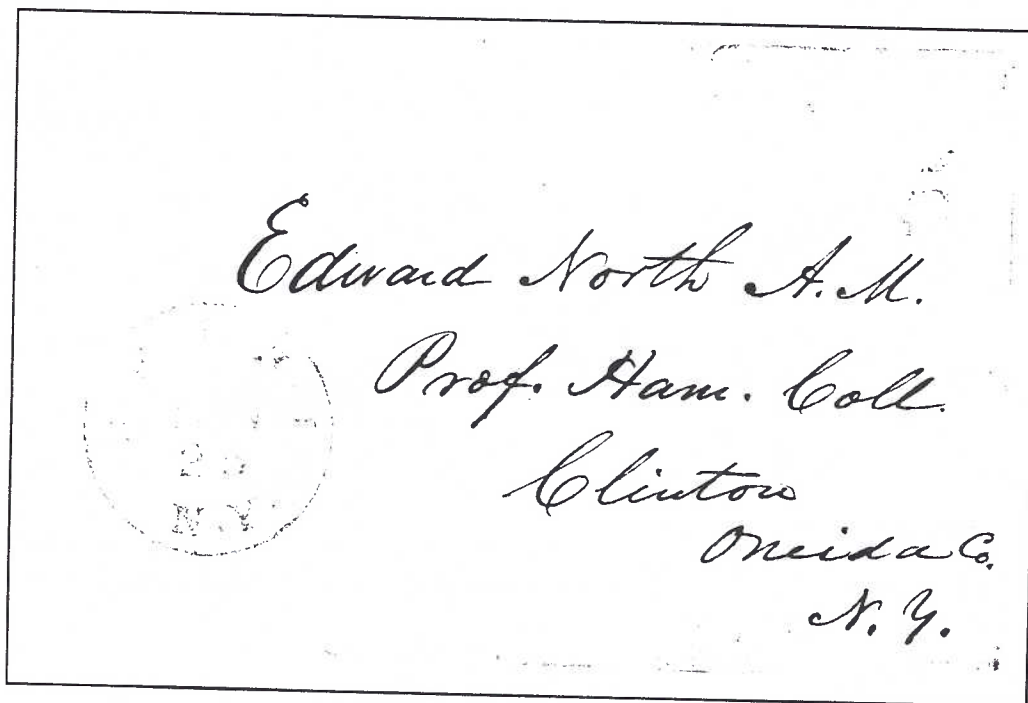
An undated letter with the large 5 in a circle, unpaid. This was probably mailed around 1848.



This 1849 letter has only a manuscript 5¢ unpaid rate. Notice that until now the Delhi postmarks all had the New York inverted.



By June of 1849 the post office had a new handstamp with the N.Y. in normal position. They also acquired a new 5 rate handstamp without a circle.



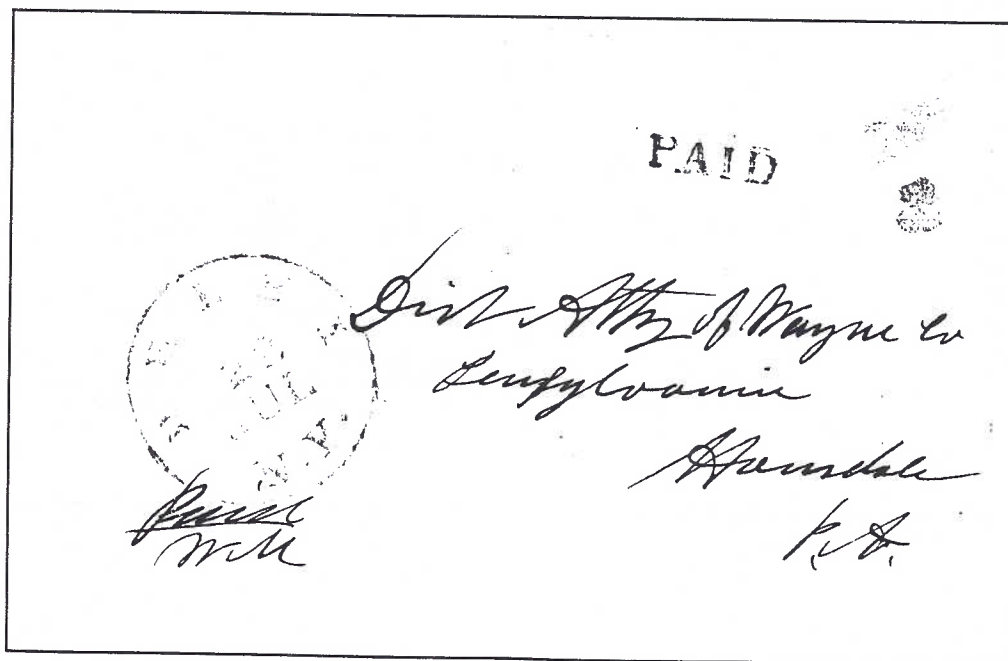
A June 1850 letter mailed from Delhi to Kensington and re-mailed to Deposit.

re mailed
Mr. M. P. Wulfe
opposite Kensington
New York Philadelphia

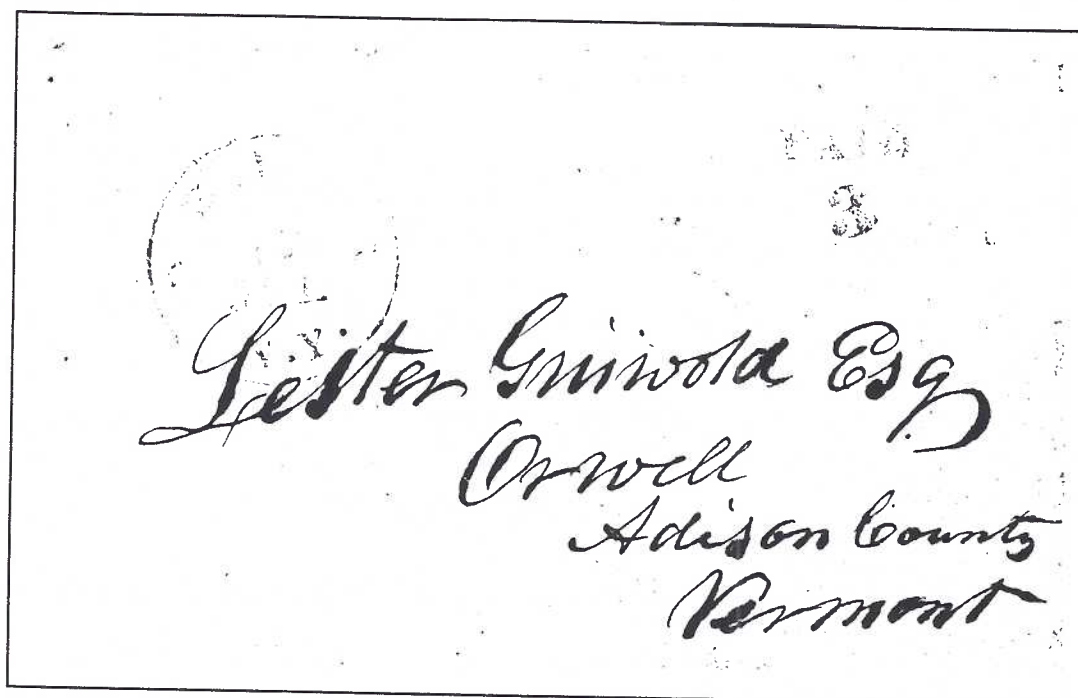
An unpaid 5-cent rate to Albany.

Hon Sam Stearns
Capt. Ensign
Albany
New York

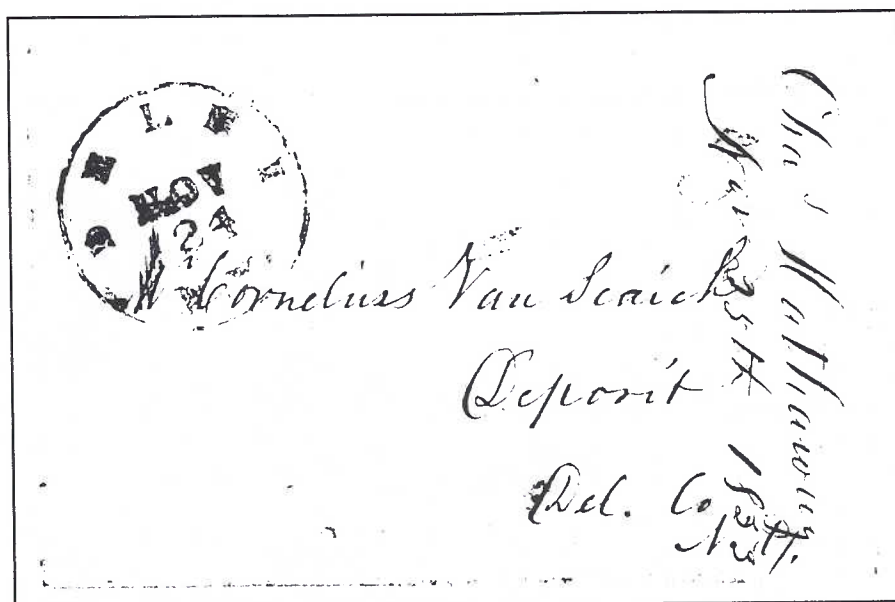
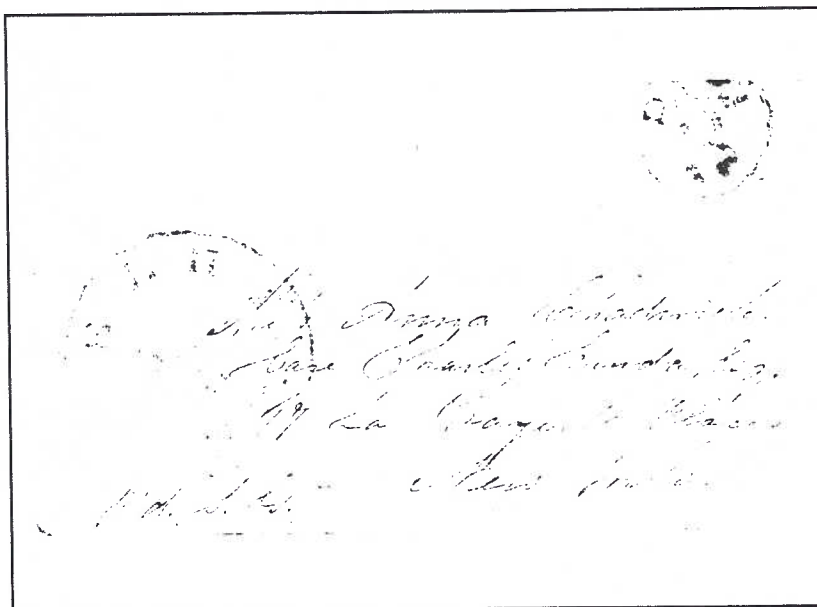
On June 1, 1851 the postal rates further reduced. The new rate was 3 cents for up to 3000 miles. To encourage prepayment the unpaid rate remained at 5 cents. This July 1851 letter had the new rate as well as a straight line PAID.



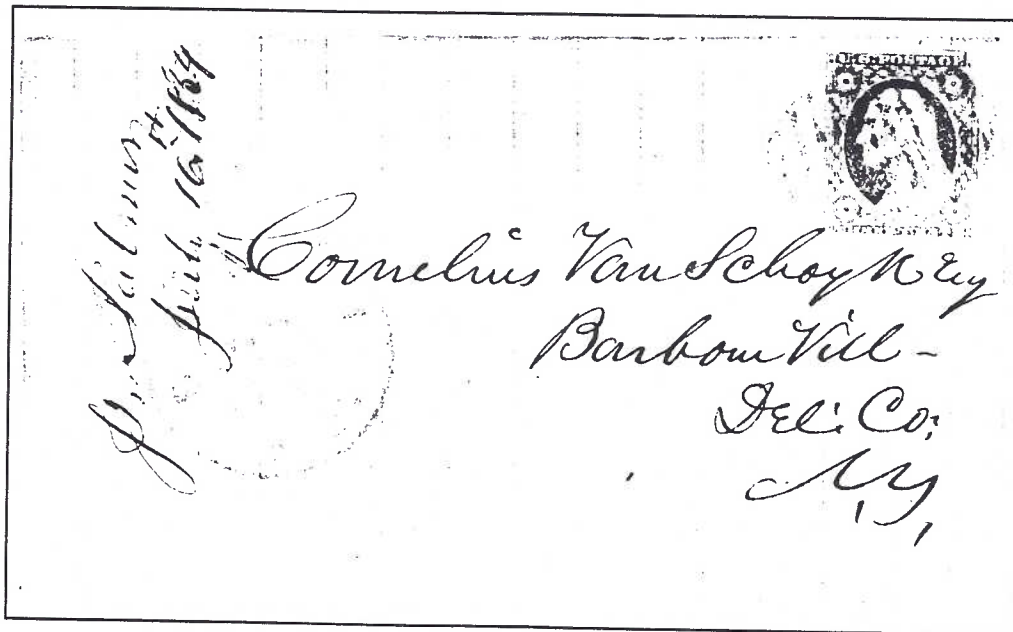
Another July letter but no year date.



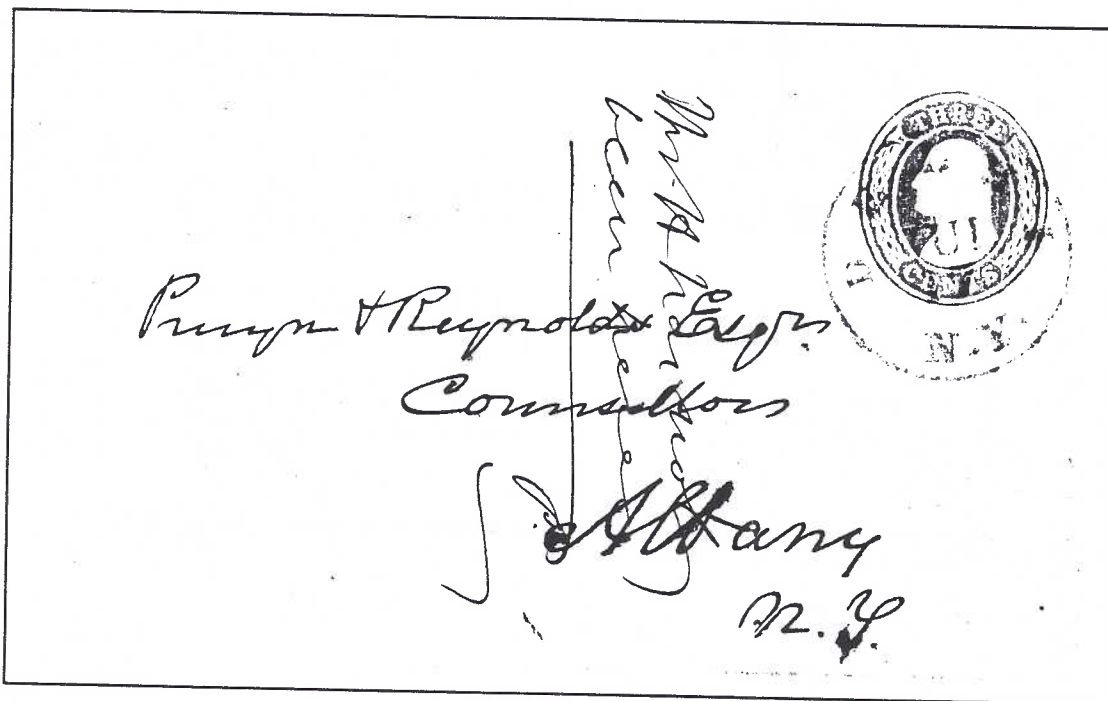
By November 1853 the Delhi office was again using green ink. Here are two letter showing the paid and unpaid rates.



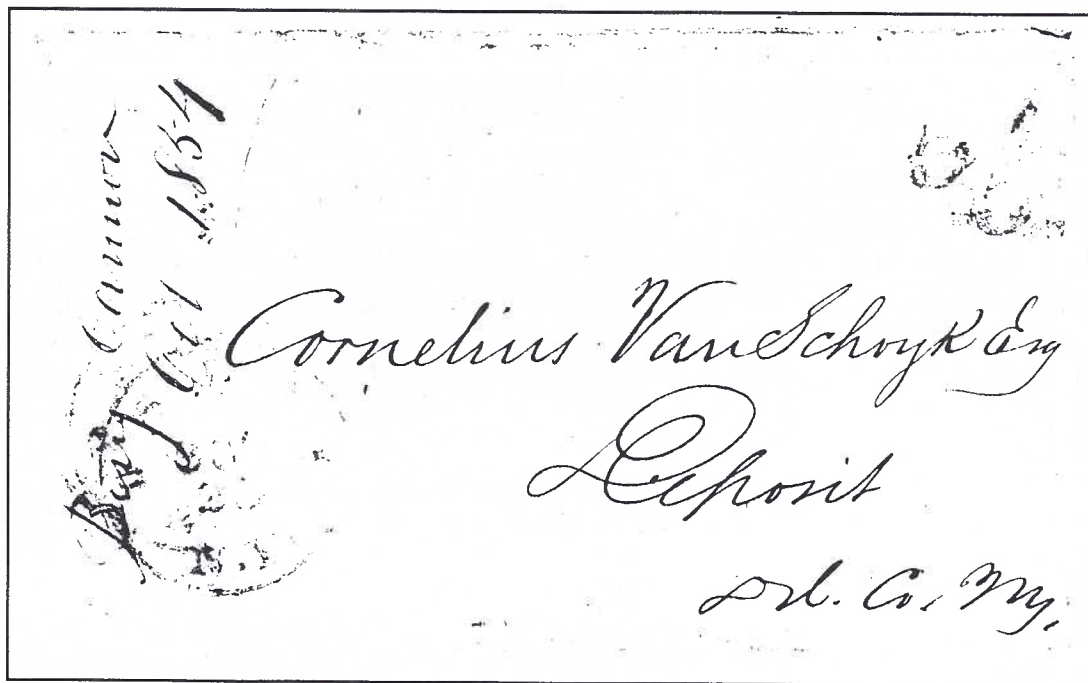
By July 12, 1854 stamps had finally arrived at the Delhi office, still using green ink and a new grid canceller.



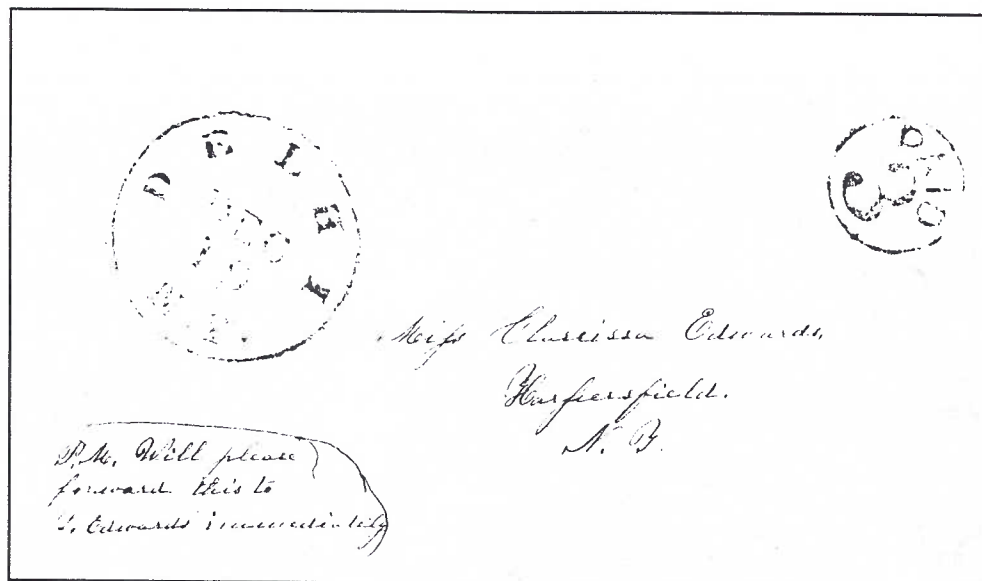
Here is a Die 5 Nesbitt envelope which was not issued until March 1854. This letter was probably mailed in 1854 since green ink was discontinued by December of 1854.



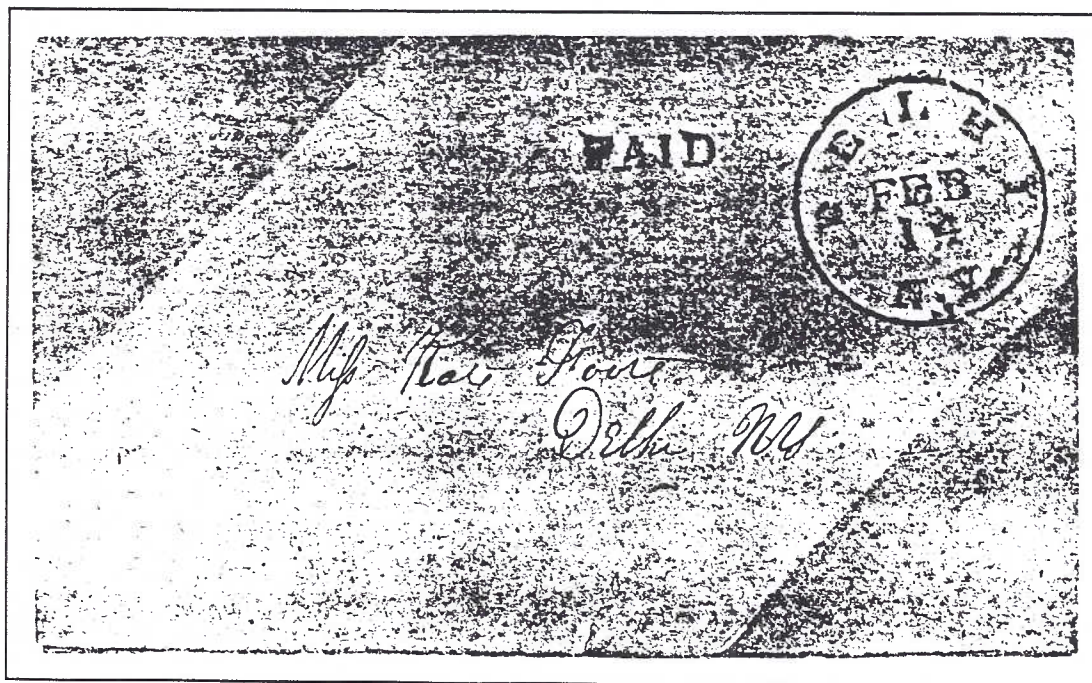
An unpaid 5-cent rate of October 1854.



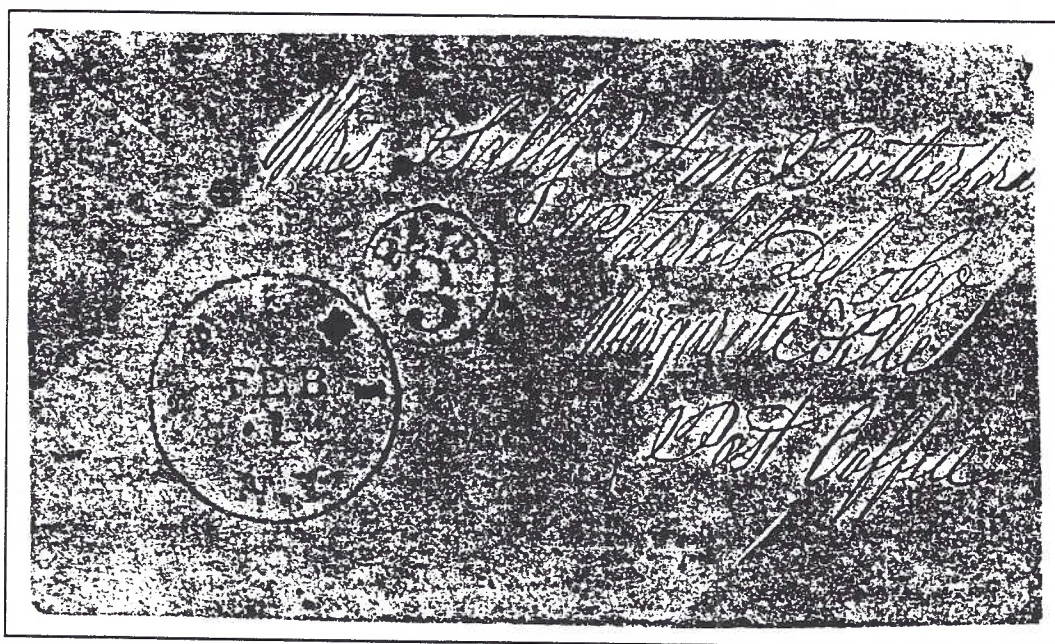
By December of 1854 the Delhi office was back to black ink.



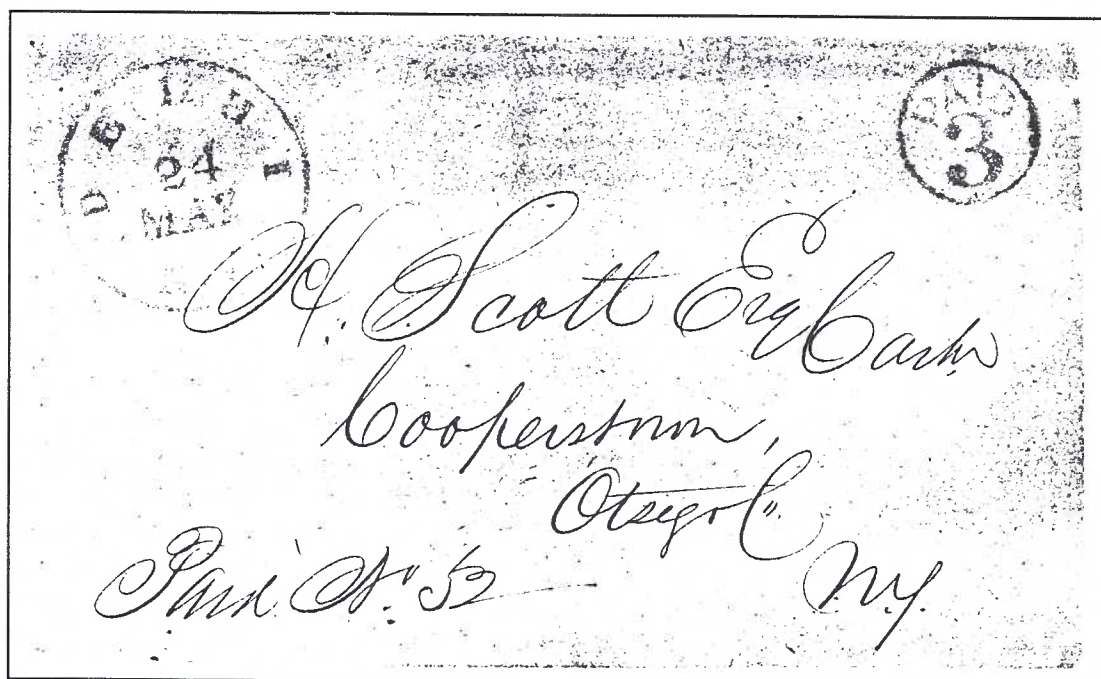
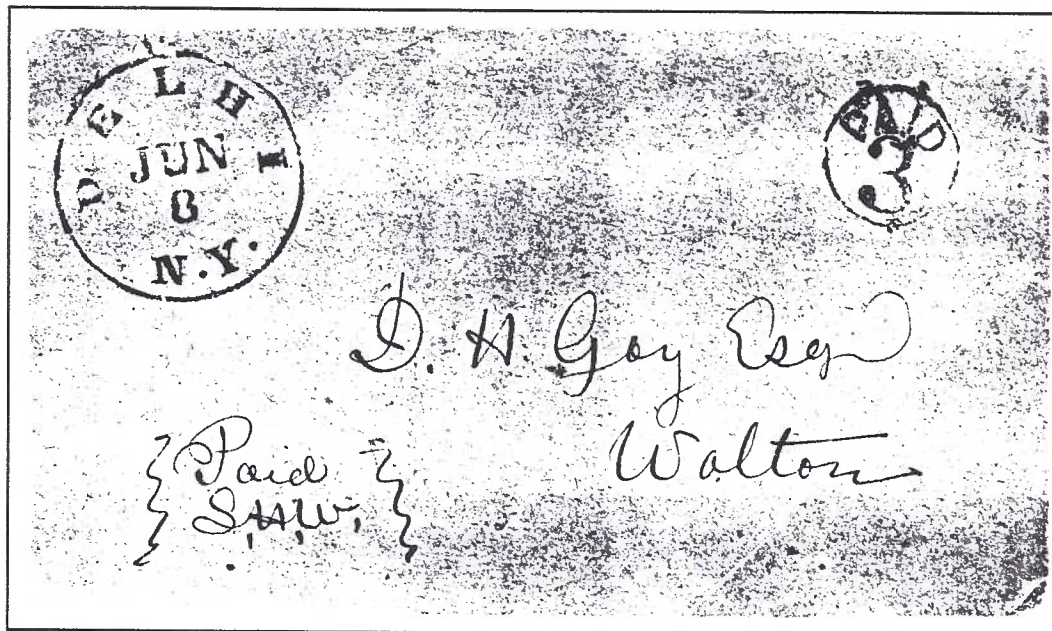
Below is a local paid and non-rated letter of the 1851-55 era. Considering the February 14 date it probably conveyed Valentine greetings.



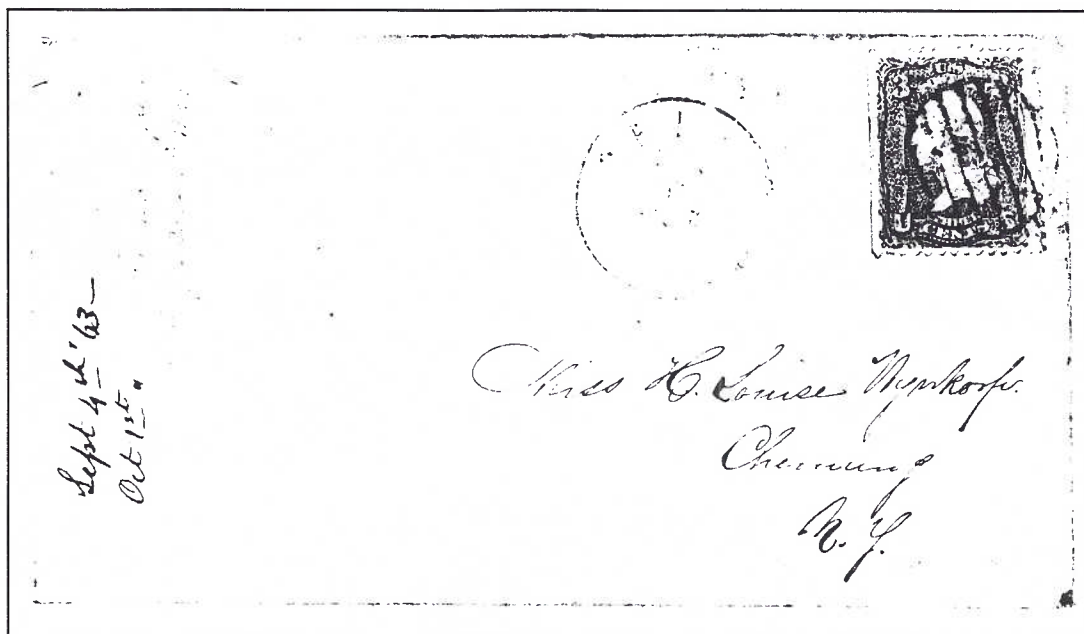
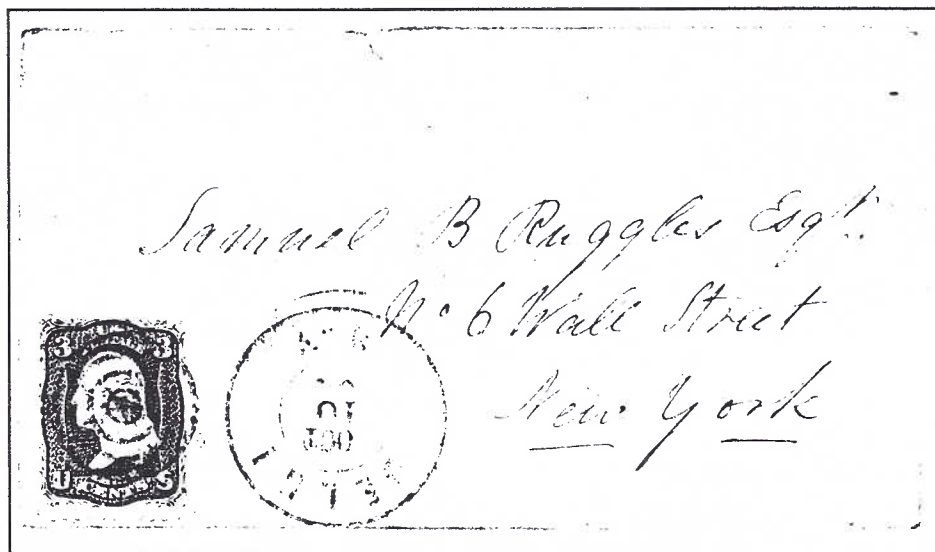
Below is a cover of the 1851-55 era in green. probably before December of 1854. Note the old original spelling of Margaretville.



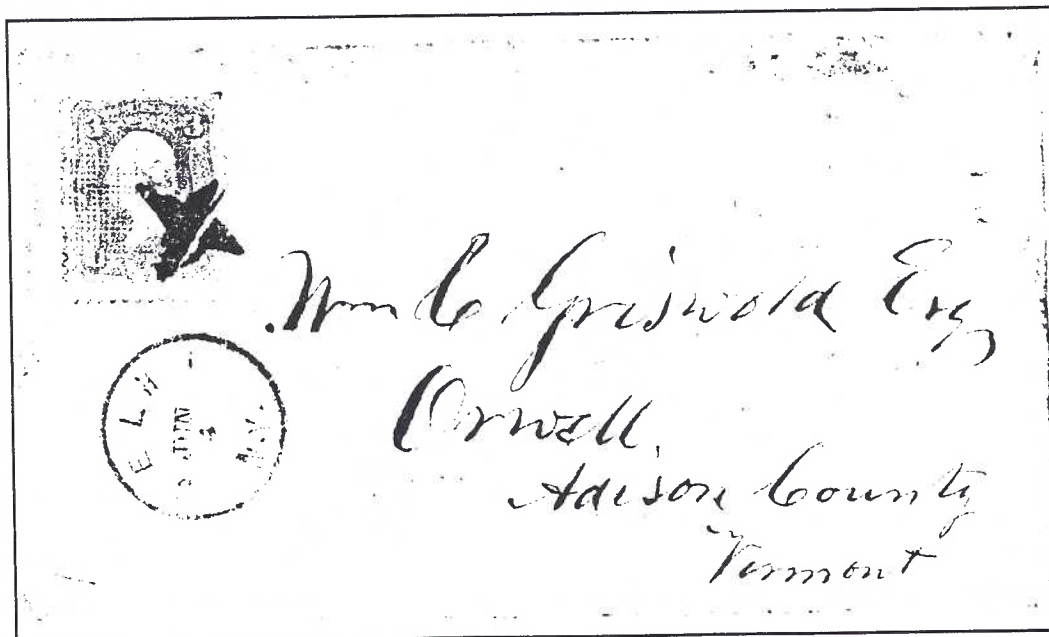
Two covers with no year dates between 1851, when the rate became 3 cents and 1854, when stamps arrived in Delhi. The use of red ink in these years seems to be scarce.



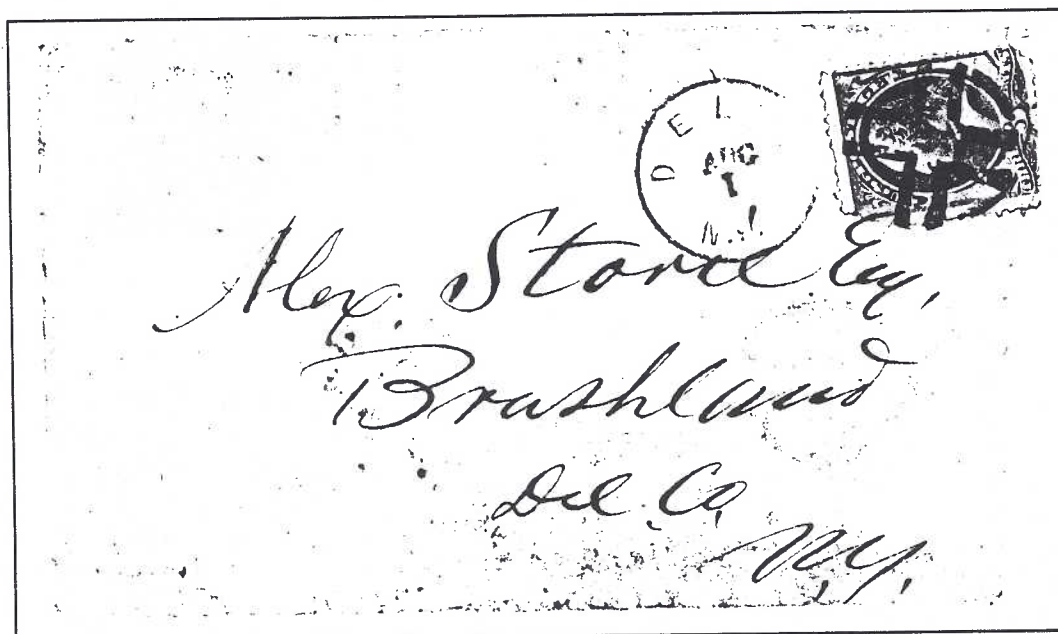
Two covers of the Civil War period with nice cancels in blue. One a grid and the other a target killer.



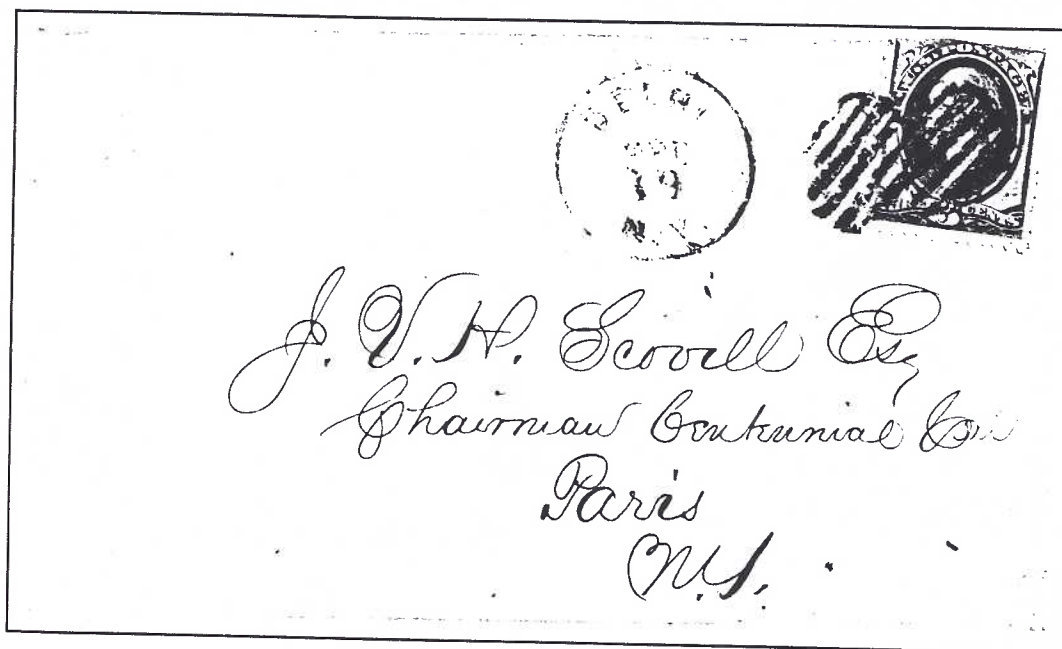
Until the Post Office Department was revamped in 1894, much latitude was allowed postmasters in their choice of canceling devices, either purchased or handmade, and the color of ink, as can be seen on the preceding pages. This is a crude star, probably cut by hand.



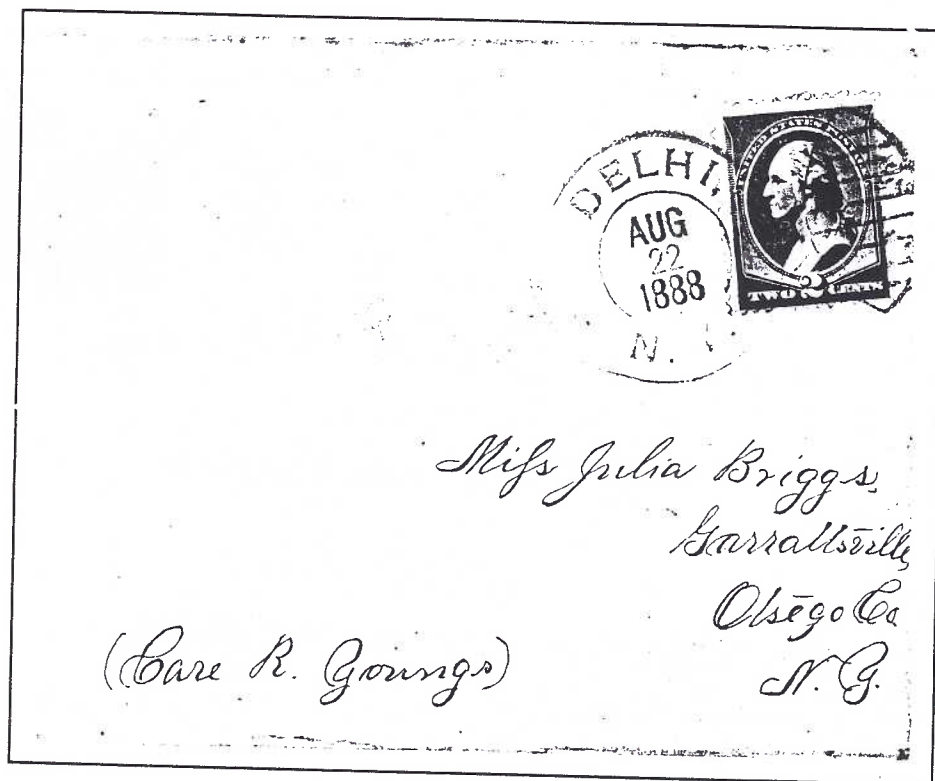
This is known as a cross-roads cancel, obtainable from one of several manufacturers who advertised in the postal guides.



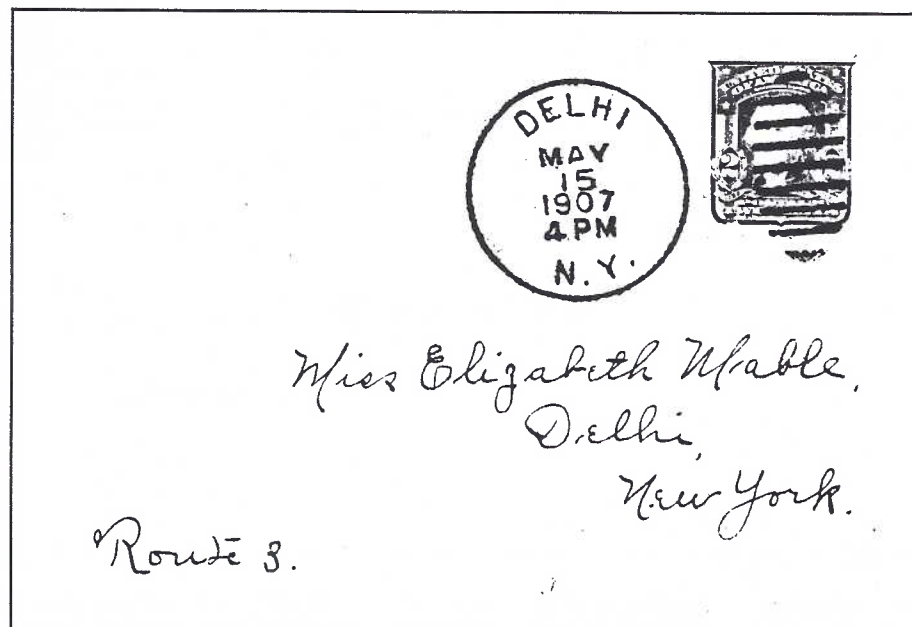
This is a grid cancel of the 1870s. There are several varieties and was used by many post offices.



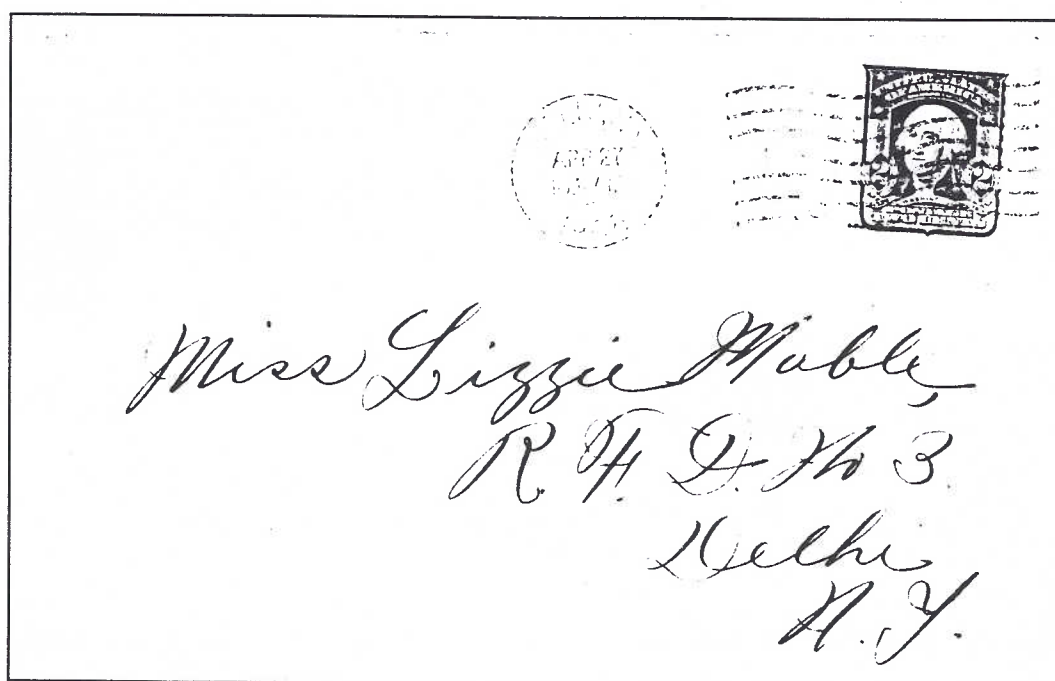
Here is a double circle cancel with the killer, or stamp canceller, attached. Known as a flatiron, it was also a common device.



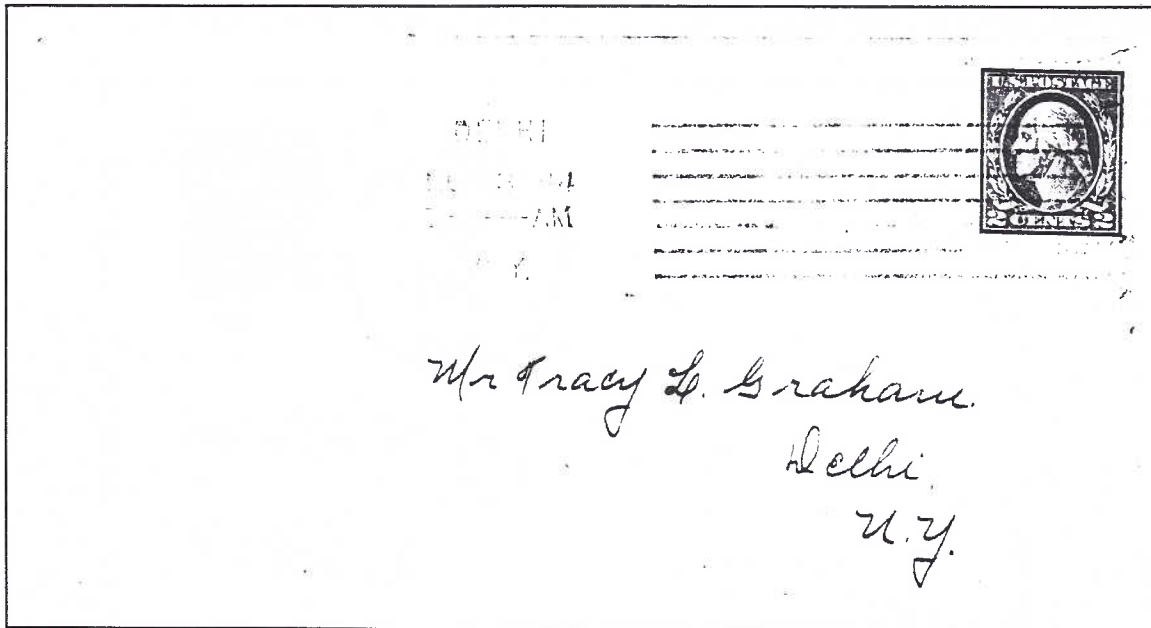
In 1894 the Post Office Department tightened up several procedures. Only black ink was to be used. No more purchased cancels on the face of the letter, the Post Office Department would supply all cancels. Nothing was said about the backs of letters and the postmasters continued to use their purchased cancels as backstamps. Below is an example of a Post Office Department issue cancel. There were several types and were called duplex cancels. This was used until 1907.



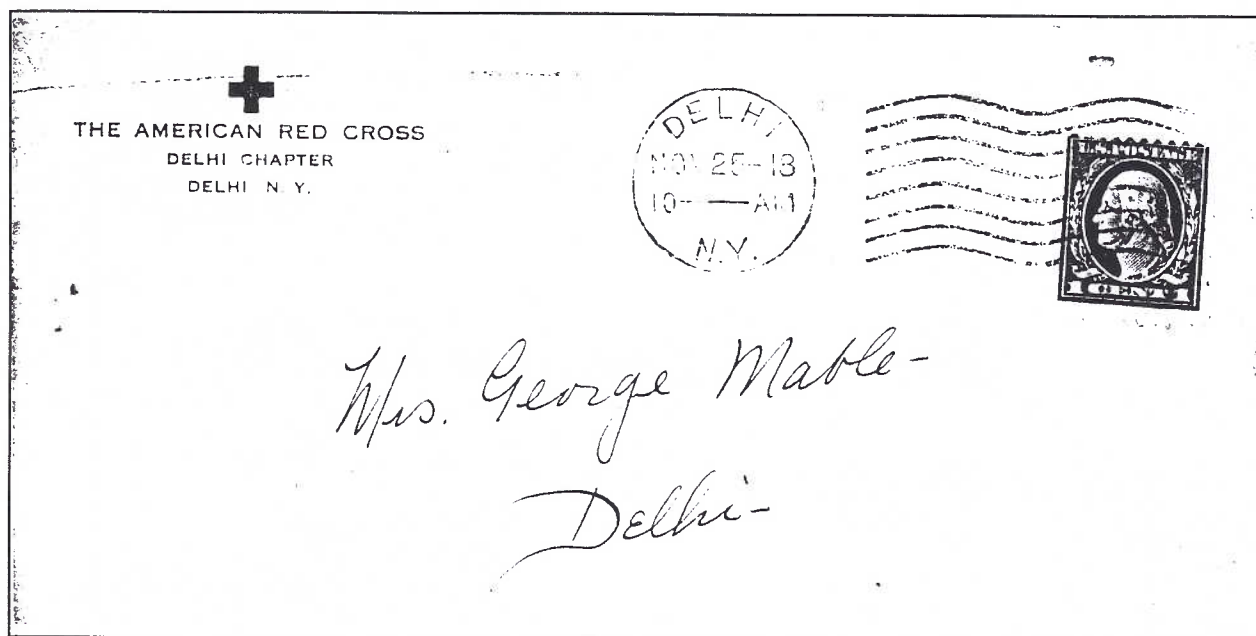
Around 1907-1908 the Delhi office entered the machine age with the installation of a hand cranked machine canceller made by the International Postal Supply Company.



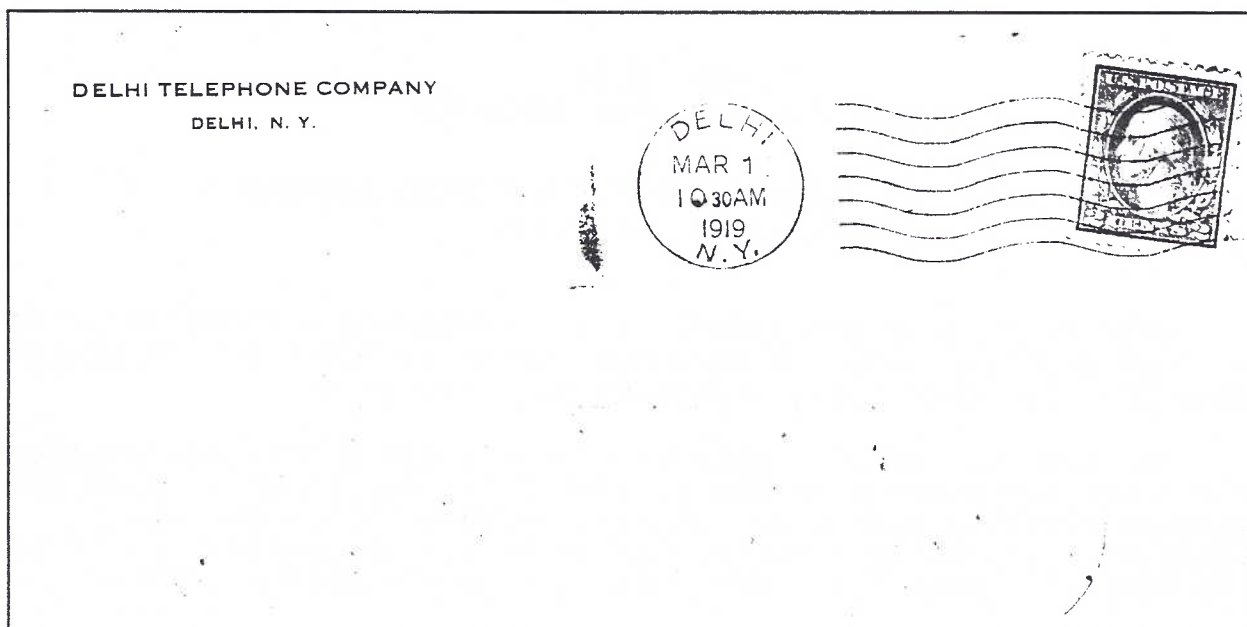
In 1913 the International was replaced by a straight line canceller produced by the Columbia Postal Supply Company. This did not print clearly at all times and after three years was replaced.



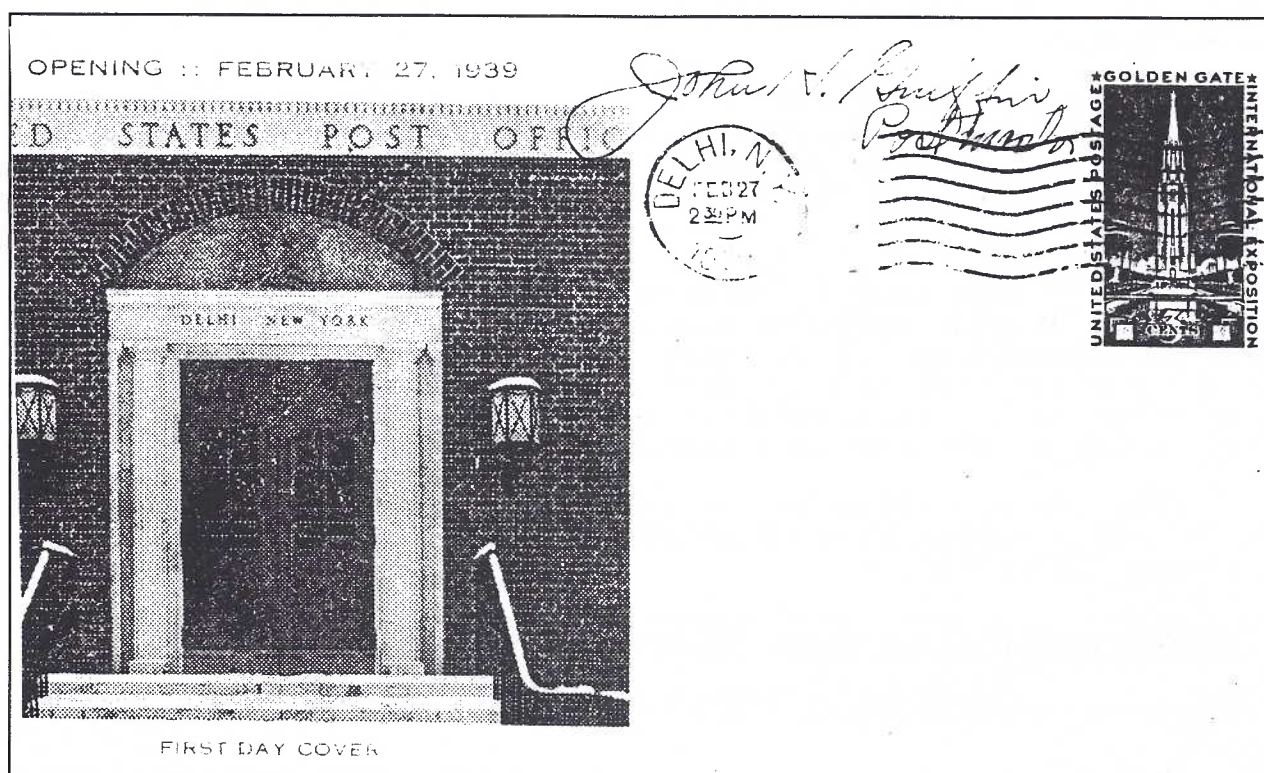
In 1915 the Columbia was replaced with another Columbia making a wavy line cancel. This was an experimental machine made by Columbia and only two machines were ever placed in operation. They proved unsatisfactory and the machine was replaced in 1918. The other machine was placed in the post office in Jersey Shore, Pennsylvania and only lasted a short time.

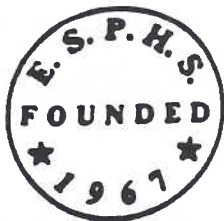


The eight-bar wavy Columbia cancel placed in use in 1915 was replaced in 1918 by still another Columbia with seven thin wavy lines. This was used well into the 1920s and completes our study of Delhi cancels over the years.



Just to fill out the page, here is a 1939 dedication cover of the Delhi Post Office erected under John Griffin, Postmaster.





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**200 YEARS OF CAYUGA COUNTY, NY POSTAL HISTORY
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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.

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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.

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