

The

Journal

of



New York State Postal History

Volume 35

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Alan Parsons
President

Martin Margulis
Editor

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

by Glenn A. Eustus © 2001

A few years ago, I compiled a similar study of the stampless period in Essex County, New York which was published here in *The Journal of New York State Postal History*.

I used the American Stampless Cover Catalog (5th ed.) (1997) (ASCC) definition of the stampless period, i.e. through 1855, although in a few specialized rates, stampless mail was possible through 1863. My goal with this type of article is to summarize information available from several different sources into one concise source.

I would challenge other ESPHS members to create similar studies of their counties of interest. Actually, this is not as difficult as it would seem, especially if you have access to the references listed in the Works Cited at the end of this article. It is just a matter of compiling the information and then cross-referencing the data.

Earliest manuscript information comes from Chlanda and Wilcox (1984) and Penwell (1999). Earliest handstamp information comes from the ASCC unless otherwise cited.

Other Notations Used:

= information from Bernadt book

^ = information from personal collection

SIO = Still in Operation (2001)

The first post offices established in Clinton County were Champlaintown and Plattsburg, both on September 14, 1797. Willsborough was established the same date but, in 1799. It became part of Essex County when that county was established. Also on this date a number of other post offices north of Albany were established creating a postal route on the western shore of Lake Champlain north to Quebec. Before this date there was only a federal postal route on the eastern shore of Lake Champlain through the state of Vermont.

The Stampless Era in Clinton County, New York 1797-1855

Post Office Name	Date Established	Earliest Manuscript	Earliest Hand Stamp	Date Discontinued
Aaronsburgh	1852	1852		1853
Beekmantown	1822	1832		1902
Black Brook	1833	1833	1850s	1923
Cadyville	1840	1849		SIO
Champlain	1797	1806	1838	SIO
Chazy	1806	1818	1839	SIO
Clintonville	1832	1832	1831(?) ^a	1966
note: ^a listing could be for Clintonville in Onondaga Co. since Clintonville in Clinton County was not until February 1, 1832.				
Coopersville (1 st)	1841			1852
Corbean	1830			1831
Dannemora	1850	1867	1853	SIO
East Peru	1848			1853
Ellenburgh	1830	1840s	1850	SIO

Post Office Name	Date Established	Earliest Manuscript	Earliest Hand Stamp	Date Discontinued
Ellenburgh Centre	1856		1852(?) ^b	SIO
note: ^b According to Smith and Kay, Ellenburg Center was established April 19, 1856.				
Farrell Place	1840	1841		1853
French Mills	1811			1817
Frontier	1849	1850s		1915
Hoyleton	1852		1852	1852
Hurlbut's Mills	1853	1850s	1852 ^c	1856
^c Hurlburt's Mills was established January 18, 1853				
Ingraham (1 st)	1854			1877
Lawrence's Mills	1823			1833
Moor's	1822	1844	1837	SIO
Moor's Forks	1850	1850s		SIO
Morrisonville	1851	1850s#	1850	SIO
New Sweden	1830	1837	1854	1859
North Plattsburgh	1833	1838 (1828#)		1840
Peasleeville (1 st)	1846			1851
Perry's Mills	1831			1834
Peru	1798	1799	1839	SIO
Plattsburgh	1797	1798	1821	SIO
Redford	1832	1834		SIO
Rouses Point	1823	1824	1826	SIO
Rouse's Point Village	1852	1853 (1852#)	1852	1854
Russia Iron Works	1823	1828		1832
Sampson's Pond	1854			1856
Saranac	1831	1835		SIO
Schuyler's Falls	1833	1837	1852	SIO
Sciota	1848			1936
Union Falls	1833	1833	1850s	1917
West Ausable	1852			1853
West Chazy	1833	1851 (1819#) ^d	1850s	SIO
note: ^d West Chazy was established in 1833.				
West Plattsburgh	1840	1865		1906
Wood's Falls (1 st)	1855			1856
Wrightsville	1848			1855

Post Offices Known only in Manuscript

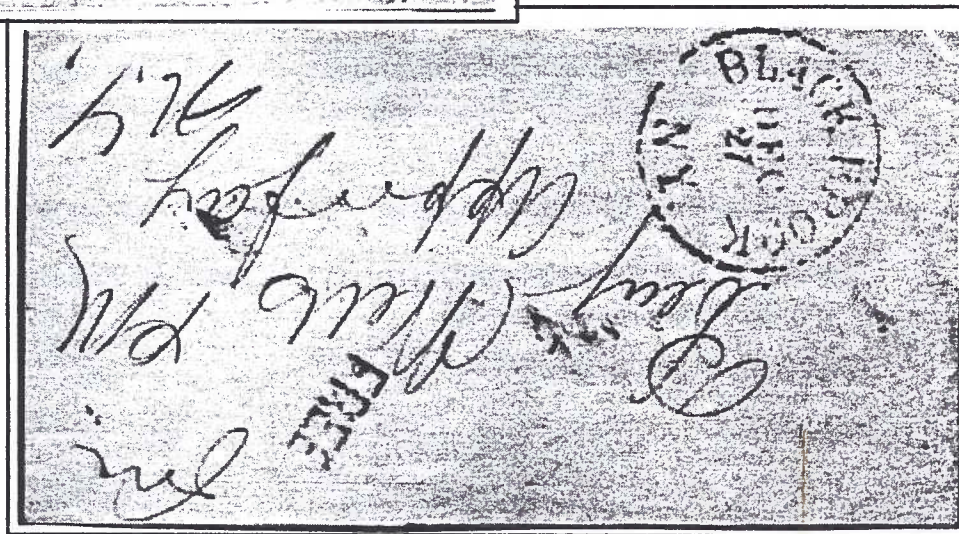
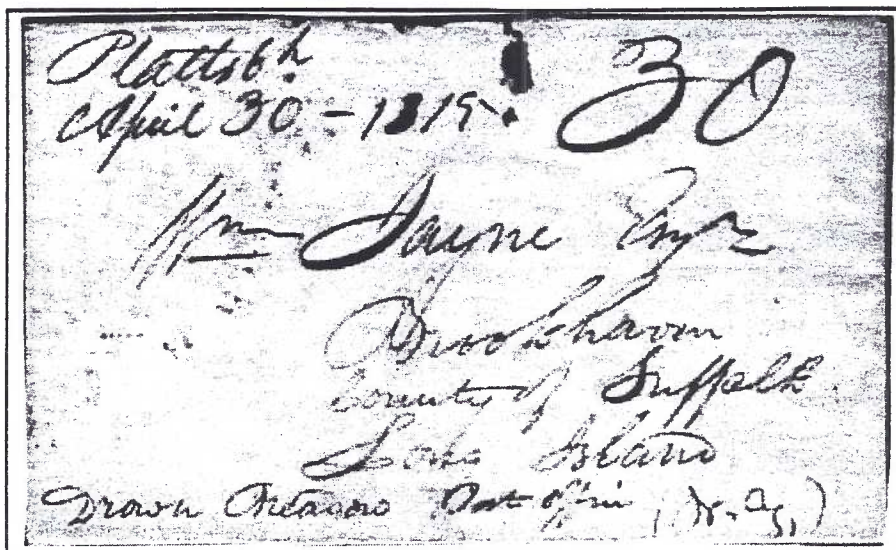
Aaronsburgh
Russia Iron Works

Post Offices with No Recorded Markings

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

Works Cited:

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- Thomas J. Alexander, ed., *Simpson's U.S. Postal Markings 1851-1861*, 2nd edition. Columbus, OH: U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, Inc., 1979.
- Stets, Robert J., *Postmasters and Post Offices of the United States 1782-1811*. Lake Oswego, OR: LaPosta Publications, 1994.

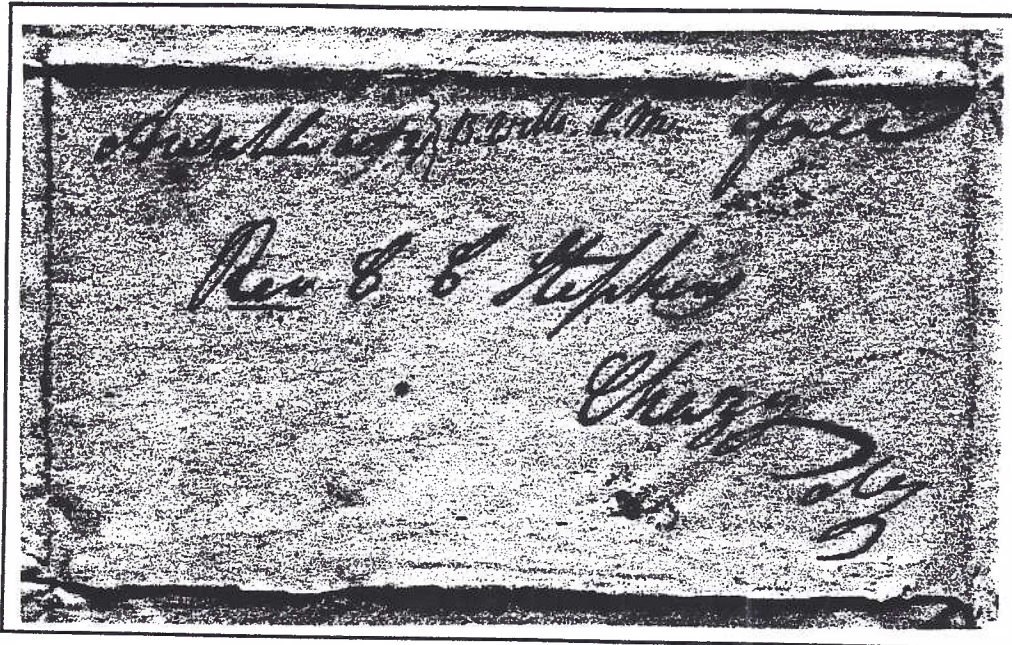


NEW YORK MANUSCRIPT POSTMARKS

by Ken Hall
Las Vegas, Nevada

Ausable, New York was about 154 miles north of Albany in Essex County, Jay Township. The town was originally called Wells Corners, with Benjamin Wells as postmaster. On January 7, 1828, the name was changed to Ausable and Mr. Wells continued as postmaster.

The letter has a manuscript postmark with a manuscript FREE, and B. Wells, P.M. It is datelined Jay Oct 21, 1830 and is a one-page personal letter signed by Benjamin Wells discussing the possibility of getting "a few more dollars" for a preacher. As far as I can determine, this is the earliest known use.



The letter reads:

Dear Sir

I have seen Dec (Deacon) McLoud and Malbone reflecting the subscription in Willimington for preaching and find there is a prospect of getting a few dollars more for Mr Sumner.

Doct Hough has been to Keene to see Dec (Deacon) Bruce and thinks we may get a trifle more help from them. Mr Sumner will wait a few days to see what we can do for him.

Miss Skinner will be at Peru Village on the 10th of next month at Nathan Rice Esq

Me and Mrs Wells best respects to you and Mrs. Stephens. We think it will not be convenient to visit you until winter.

July Oct 21/1830

Dear Sir

I have seen Dea McCloud & Mottom
Respecting the subscription in Hollington for
Preaching and find there is prospect of getting a
few dollars more for Mr Sumner

Doct Hough has been to Maine to see
Dea Bruce and thinks we may ^{get} a triffe more
help from there. Mr Sumner will wait
a few days to see what we can do for him

Miss Skinner will be at Peru village on the 10th
of next month at Nathan Rice Esq

meeting and other Wells but expects to join H. H. H.
we think it will not be convenient to visit you
untill winter

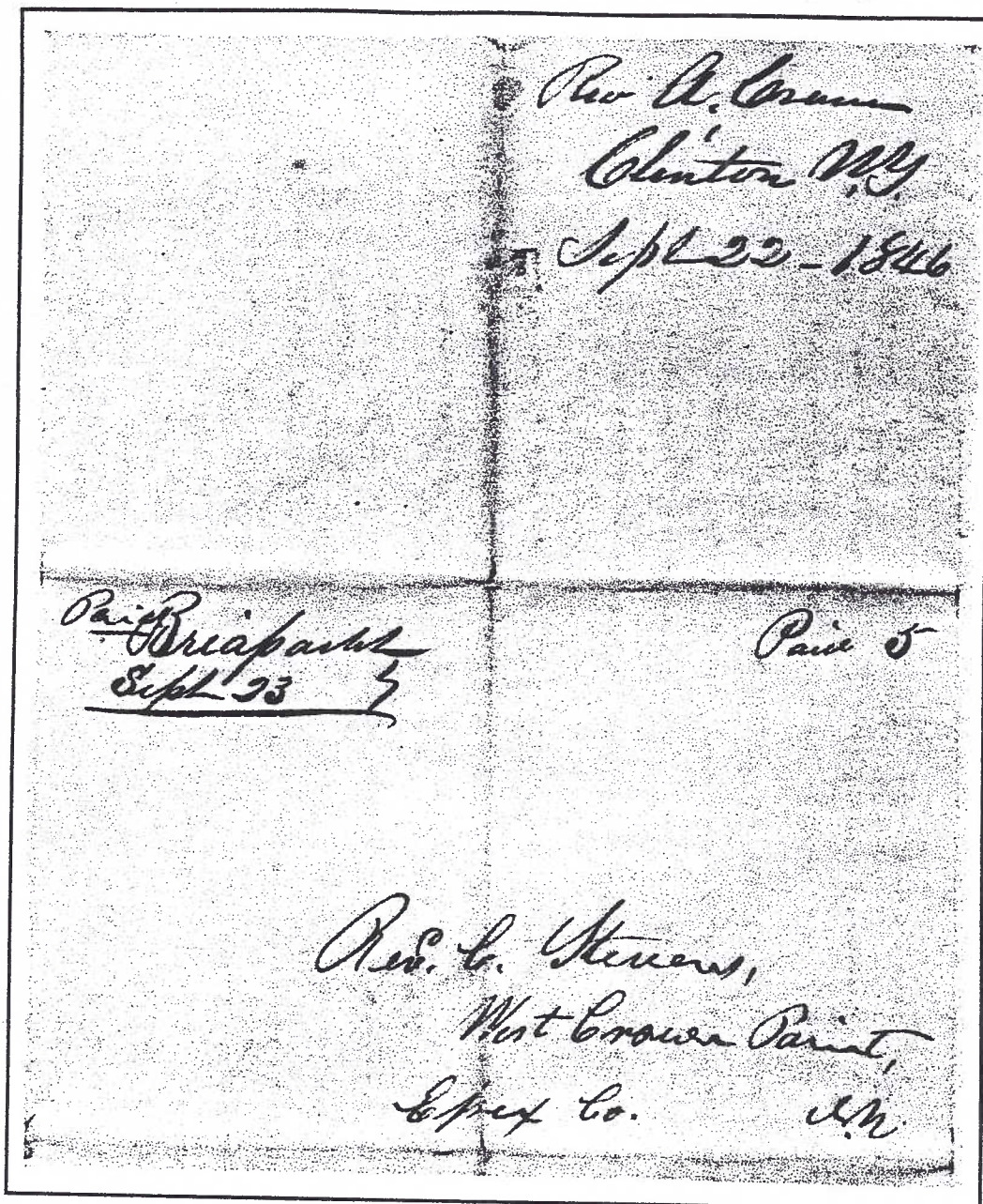
Benjamin Wells

N. E. C. Stephens

P.S. I will write a line and let you know more
about Mr Sumners business soon

The following letter datelined, Clinton, Oneida Co Sept 22, 1846, and is signed A. Crane, Cor Sec. Mr. Crane was the corresponding secretary of the American Home Missionary Society, Utica, NY. The postmark looks like "Briapa-t, Sep 23." I can find no city listed in my 1850 Gazetteer, and nothing listed in Oneida Co that is close to it..

I have contacted Doug Penwell and his answer is as follows: "In reviewing the SFL copies you sent, can only guess that this is a really poorly scripted "Bridgeport." Nothing else makes sense. It is a small possibility that this isn't NY, as the writer directed mail to NYC. He was obviously a member of the American Home Missionary Society. He may have traveled from Clinton prior to mailing." To me, the writing is very readable and not poorly scripted. Since the letter was written September 22, and mailed September 23, the distance between where the letter was written and mailed was not very great.



Chittaw, Oneida Co. Sept. 22, 1846.

Rev. C. Stearns,

My dear Brother,

I am rejoiced that West Crown Point has a Pastor. I trust that God has a great & a good work for you to do there - a work that will not only bless that town, but that Co., our State, & nation, & world.

You will agree with me, I presume, that the Home Missions Society is acting a vital part in the great work of reclaiming our world from sin. You will, therefore, be solicitous to keep your people well instructed on this department of Christian missions. We regard the "Home Missionsary" a very important agent in this work. We wish to extend its circulation. The annual price of it is but \$1. beside postage, & it is sent without charge as follows, viz.

To Life directors & Life Members of the Society.

To Missionsaries,

To every minister who takes a collection for the Socy.

To every individual who contributes \$10. or more

To every congregation or Association, desiring it,
a copy ~~for~~ will be sent for every \$10. contrib.

May we not send you or your people some copies on the above conditions? To whom shall we direct? Write to me or to the Secretaries at N. York.

We hope you will have a collection taken up every year for Home Missions, & be sure to make the collection as general as possible. We need the widows' mites to serve the widows' prayers.

Commending you to God & the word of his grace, I am,

Affecy. yours, Abraham. C. Stearns.

Ausable: Postmaster
FREE frank. Datelined, Jay,
Oct 21, 1830. One page
personal letter addressed to
the Rev, C.C. Stephens about
the cost of getting someone
to preach, and signed by
Benjamin Wells. Earliest
known use.

Ausable Oct 21 1830
Rev C. C. Stephens
Chazy N.Y.
B. Wells

Coopersville
May 16
Rev C. C. Stevens
Elizabethtown
Chen Co. N.Y.

Coopersville: May 16,
1844. Datelined, Champlain
May 14, 1844. Three page
personal letter addressed to
the Rev. C.C. Stevens about
religious matters, and signed
by H.C. Dickinson. Earliest
known use.

Westport: June 9, 1848.
Datelined, Elizabethtown,
June 7, 1848. One page
personal letter addressed to
the Rev C.C. Stevens about
preaching and signed by
Charles Bruce. Latest known
use.

Westport N.Y.
June 9
Rev C. C. Stevens
Crown Point
Chas. Bruce

NEW YORK STATE POSTAL MARKINGS 1900 TO 1910

by William J. Hart

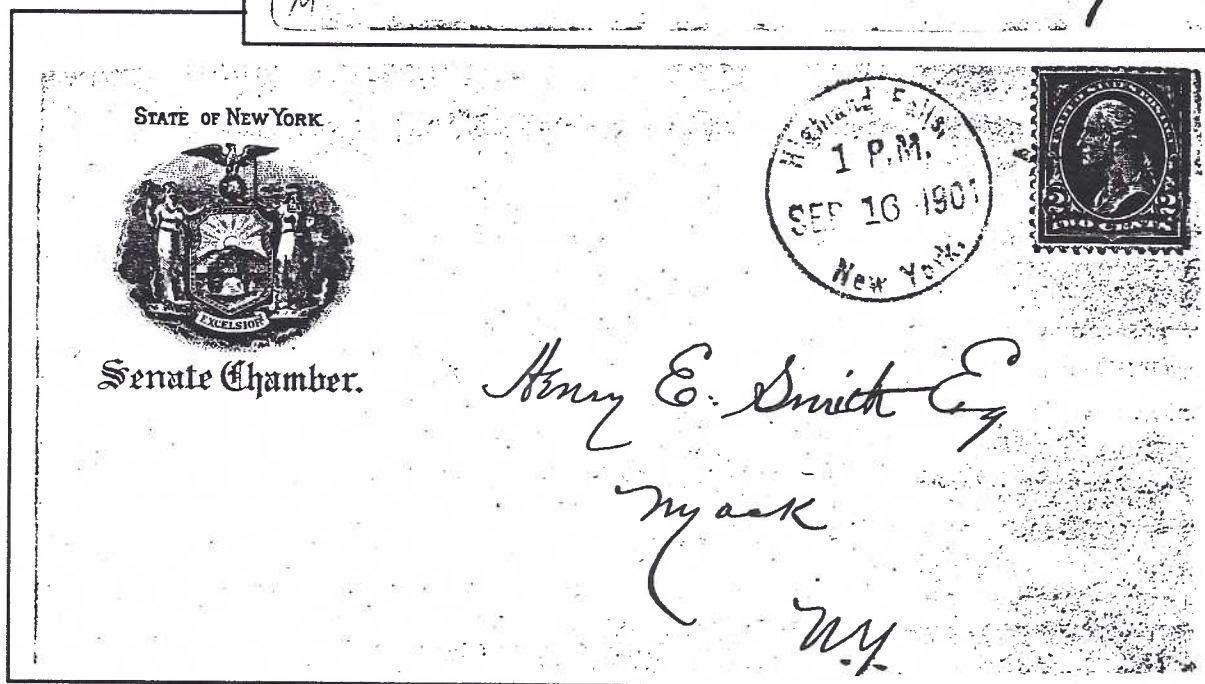
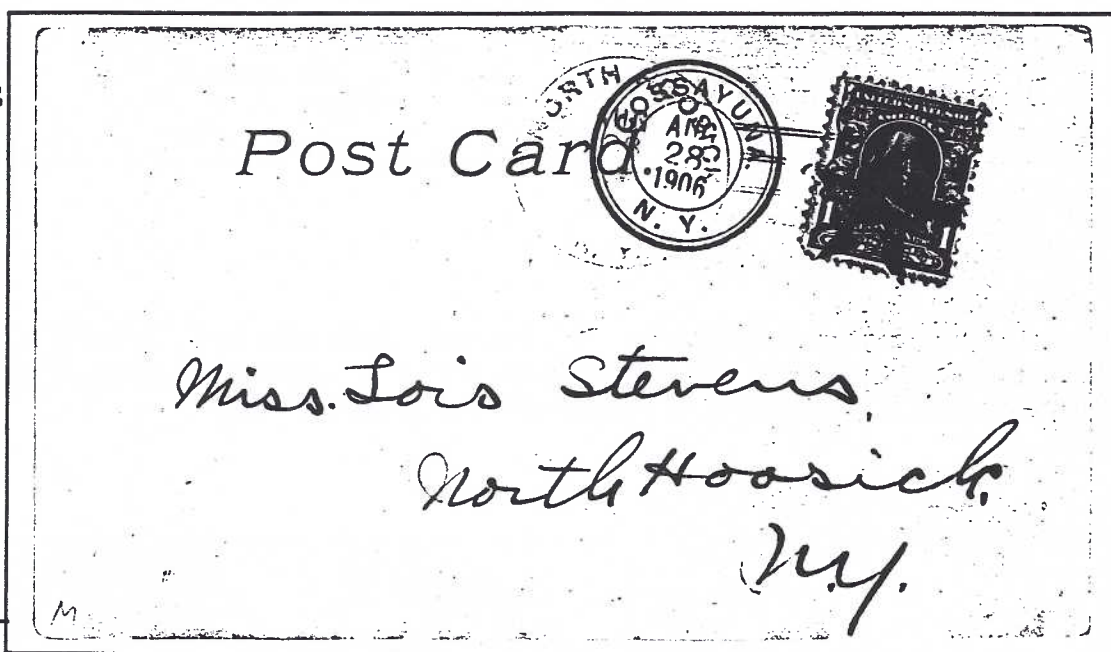
This exhibit shows the variety of postal markings used by New York State independent post offices in the designated period. It consists of covers and post and postal cards that illustrate the range of cancellations and postal service markings represented by hand and machine varieties. The material shown was selected to emphasize smaller offices statewide. New York City is excluded.

Fancy Hand Cancels

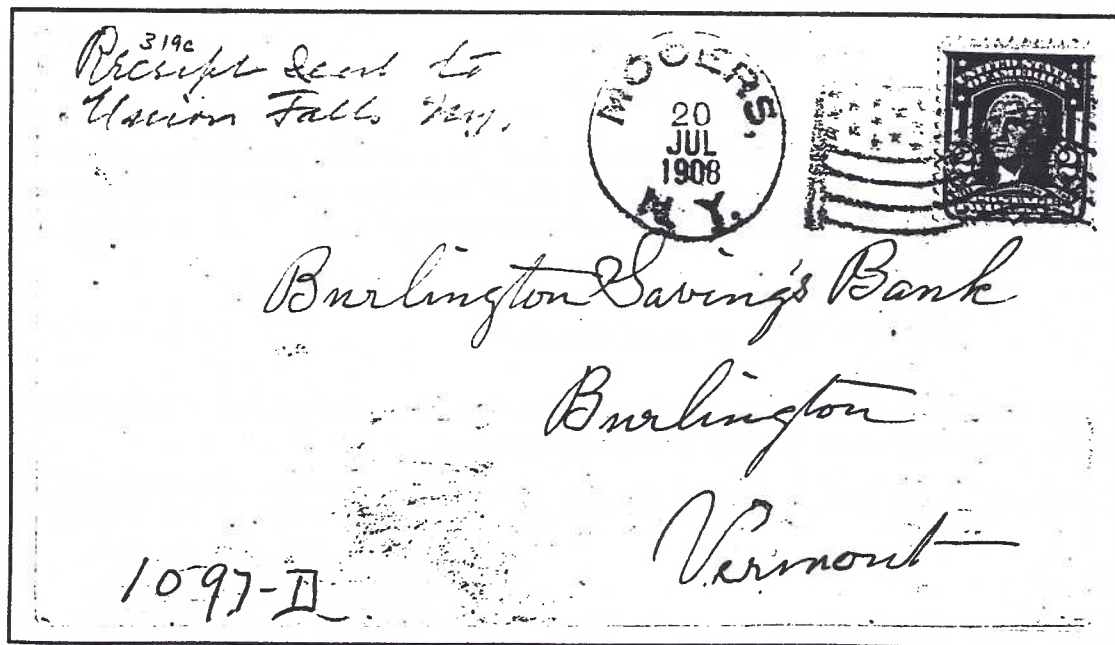
These are relatively scarce and represent the waning use of star or other fancy purchased killer cancels at the turn of the century, as the post office department started providing cancellers.

Upper:
Blue triple ring CDS
with star killer,
1906, Cossayuna,
Washington Co.

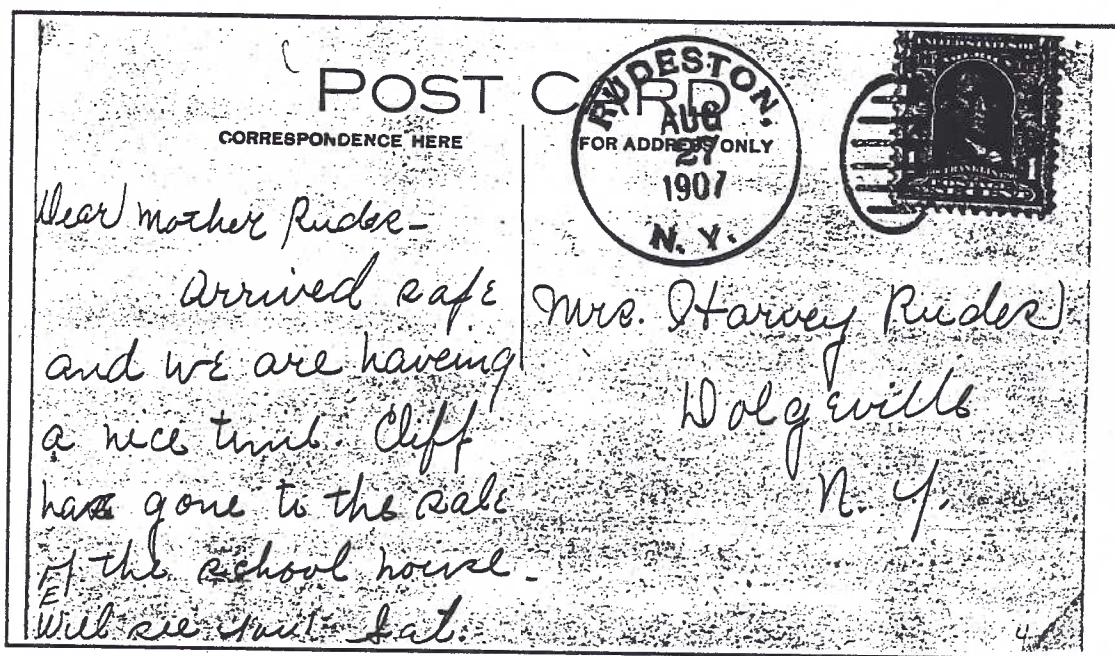
Lower:
Non-standard
duplex with a star
killer, 1901,
Highland Falls,
Orange Co.



A scarce hand flag cancel, 1908, Mooers, Clinton Co.

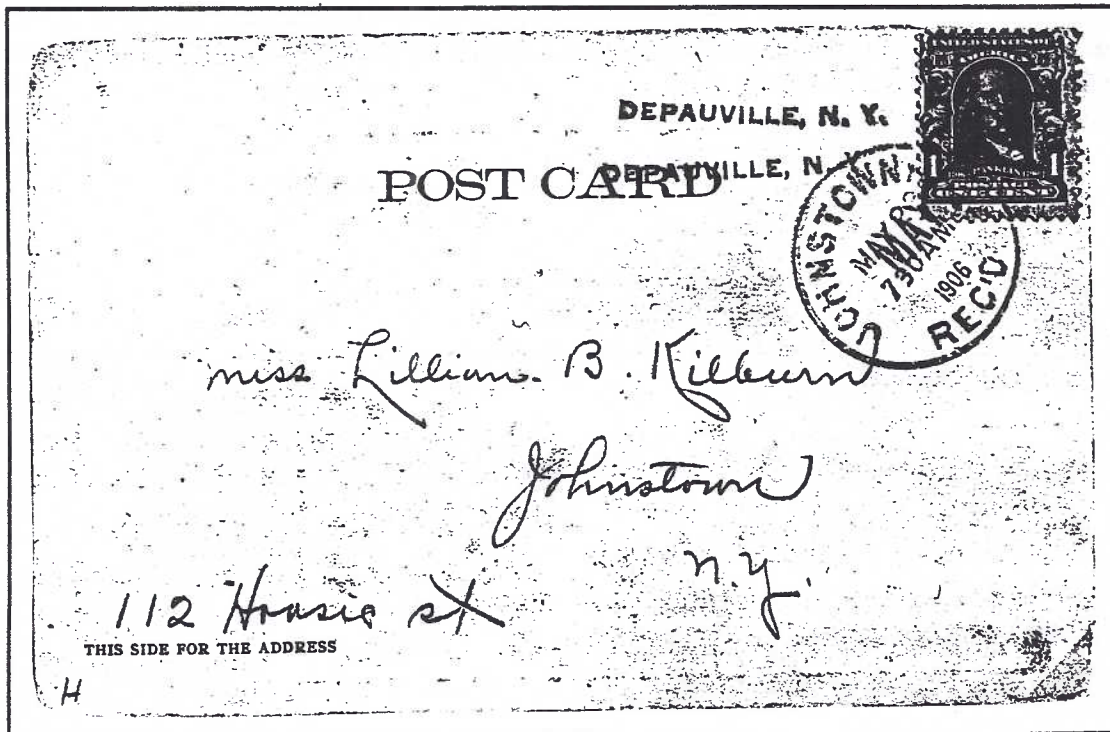


Duplex cancel with an uncommon scarab killer, 1907, Rudeston, Hamilton Co., DPO 1886-1913. Note the family connection in the message and address. The first postmaster was Daniel Rudes and the 1890 population was 25. When discontinued it was served by Piseco, which had a 1910 population under 100.

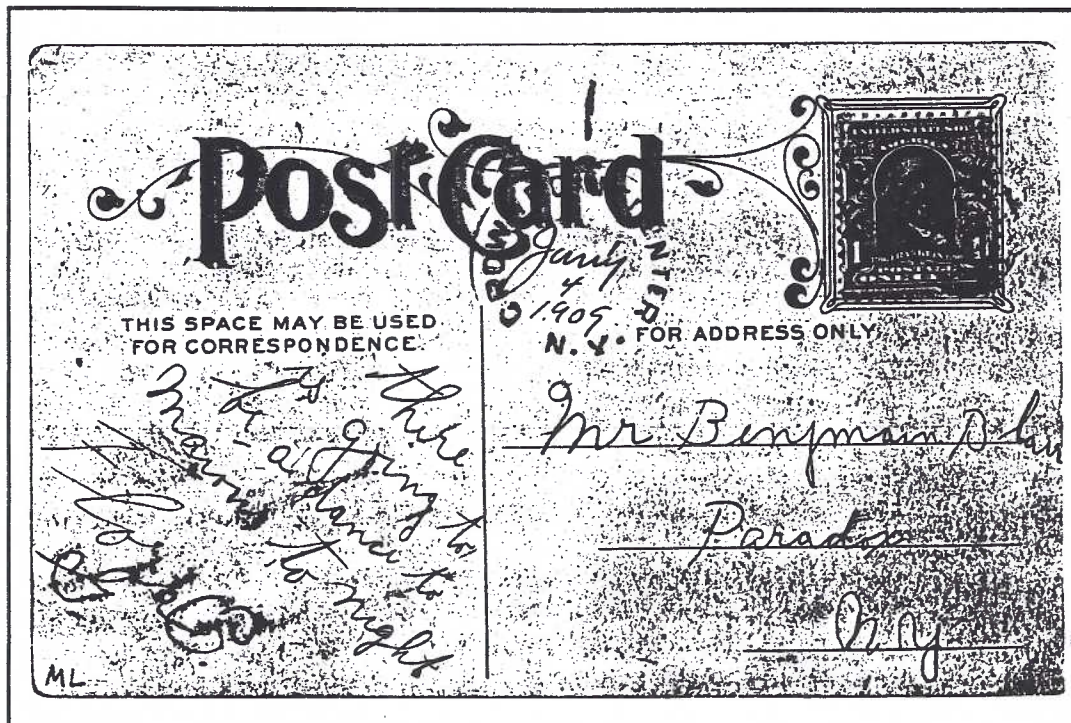


Non-standard Cancells

Depauville, Jefferson Co., May 22, 1906. This shows a temporary cancel used in May 1906, following a fire that destroyed the post office. It is known as early as May 10.



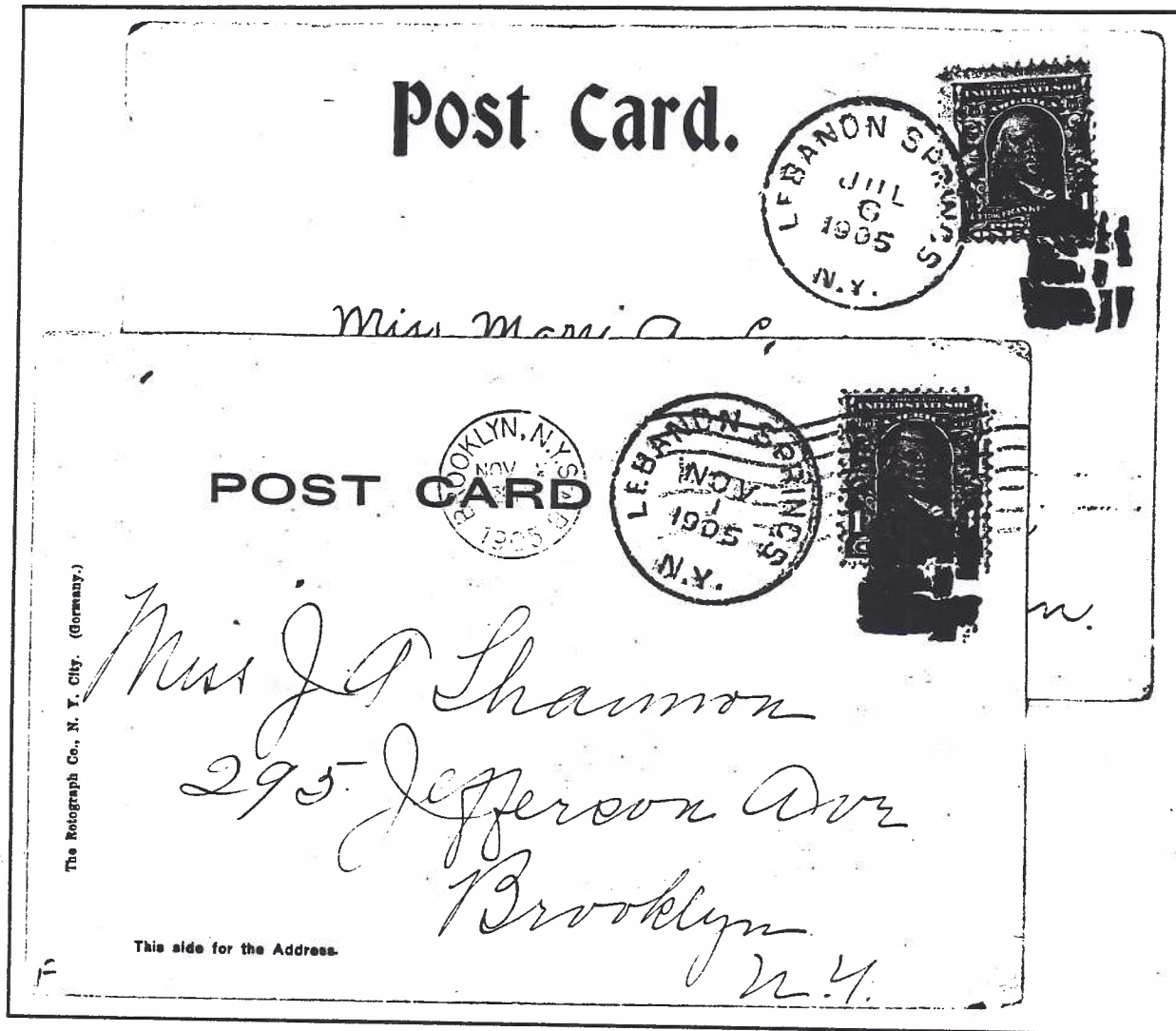
Crown Point Center, Clinton Co., Jan 4, 1909 (DPO 1951). Scarce use of manuscript date inside of CDS in this period.



Cork Killers

A cancellation device consists of two parts—a dater stamp, most commonly circular, and a killer. The dater stamp used for first class mail will show the place name, state and date and may show the time. The killer will be to the right of the dater and is intended to obliterate the stamp to prevent reuse. With hand stamp canceling devices the killer is found in a wide variety of forms of which the cork was one of the earliest forms and for small post offices inexpensive.

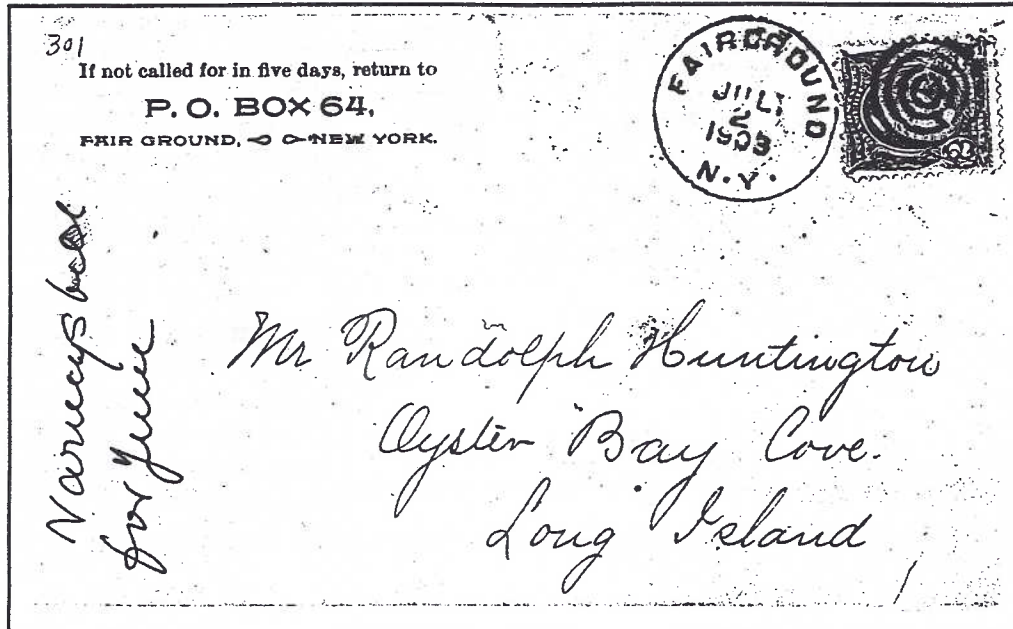
Below is a crude form showing the effect of four months use. 1905, Lebanon Springs, Columbia, Co, currently in operation.



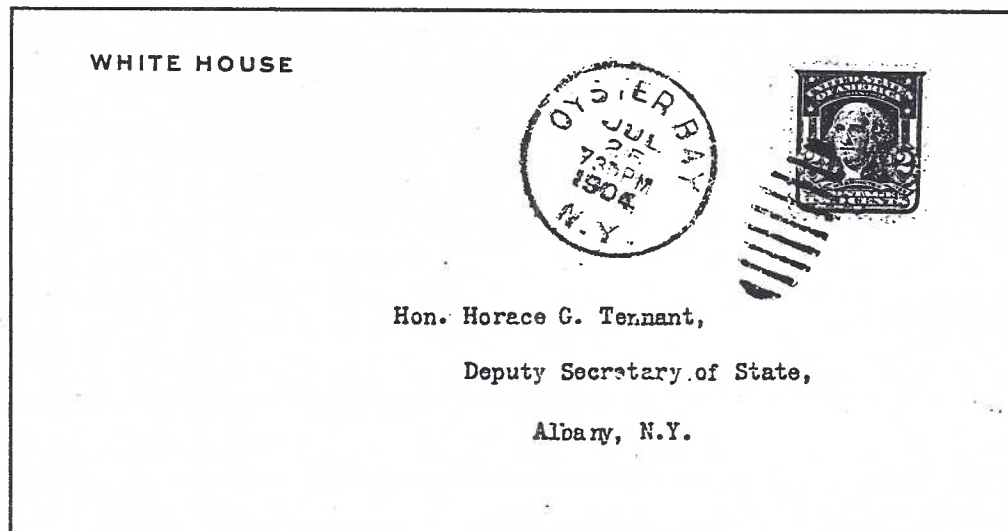
Bull's Eye Killers

In 1860 a postal regulation was issued requiring postmasters to use a killer type cancel instead of the circular date stamp to cancel the postage stamp. The second most common type killer for the next twenty-five years was the bull's eye or target type. Although more frequently used separately, it is known in the form of a duplex.

The bull's eye killer continued to be used well past 1900 by many third and fourth class post offices until replaced by one of several type duplexes to be shown later in this exhibit. The majority of bull's eye killer were a standard 16mm outside ring diameter. *Fairground, 1903, Suffolk Co., to Huntington Station in 1912.*



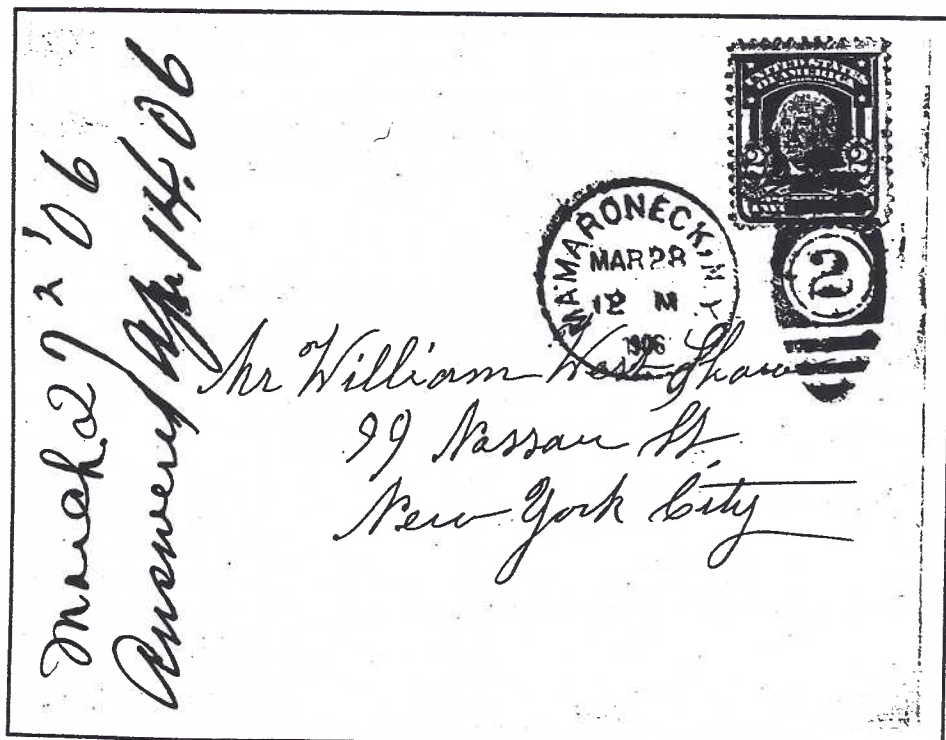
Barred Oval Killer Duplex



Around 1900 a duplex hand cancel of simple design became available and was rapidly seen at all post office class levels, where hand canceling was consistent with the mail volume. The design has a plain barred oval as killer. Some variation in size is noted, but there are mainly two kinds that probably represent the two major sources. The most common has a CDS diameter of 29-30 mm and an oval height of 25-26mm.

The example shown was mailed from Theodore Roosevelt's summer home with a thank you note from William Loeb, the president's secretary. It also shows a fine example of the current two-cent definitive. *Oyster Bay, 1904, Nassau Co., in operation.*

Numbered Barred Oval Killer Duplex



In the mid-1870s a standardized duplex hand cancel with an oval killer became available commercially. It was initially used in large cities. The killer design usually included a number or letters that might designate a branch or station location or the identity of a clerk. The killer has been called a "football" killer from its shape. It has also been called a "lantern" killer, particularly with number 1, from the resemblance of the center to a trainman's lantern.

The CDS is typically 25mm diameter and the killer is 33mm high and 15mm wide. Number 1 is the most common. By the 1890s the design was being used in smaller first class and second class offices. All of the numbered

duplexes shown here are from post offices presently operating. Mamaroneck, 1906, Westchester Co., Number 2 is uncommon.

Doane Cancels

The Doane is a duplex hand cancel issued by the government in this period, primarily to fourth class post offices. There are three basic types identified by the variations in the killer portion of the cancel:

Type I

5 killer bars

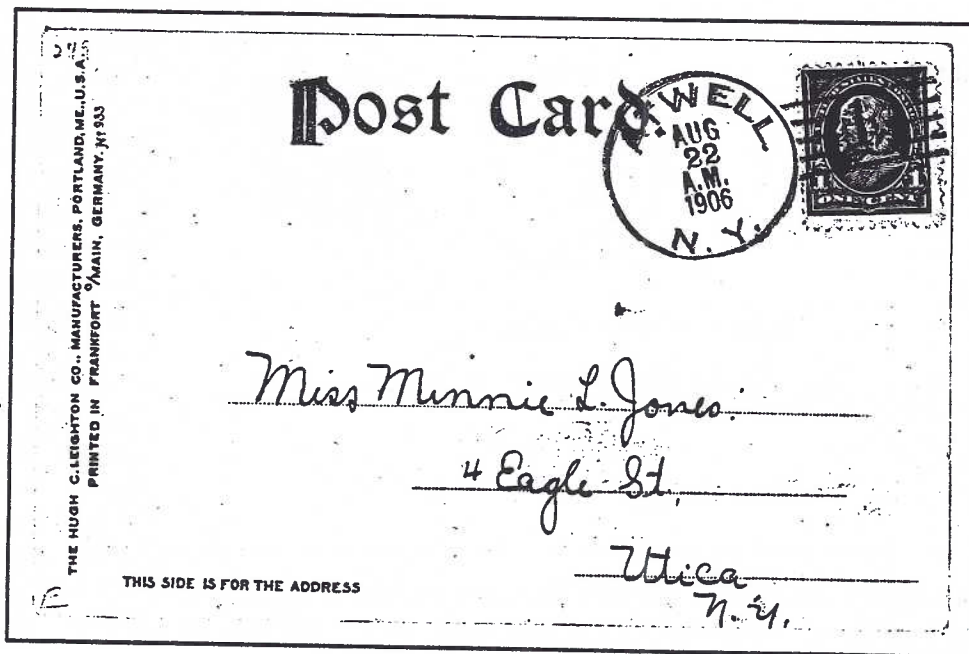
Type II

4 hollow killer bars

Type III

4 solid killer bars

The killers all contain a number, most commonly 1 or 2, that reflect the level of business by that office. The CDS is found with several different fonts. Although the Doane cancels started appearing in 1903, they were not common until



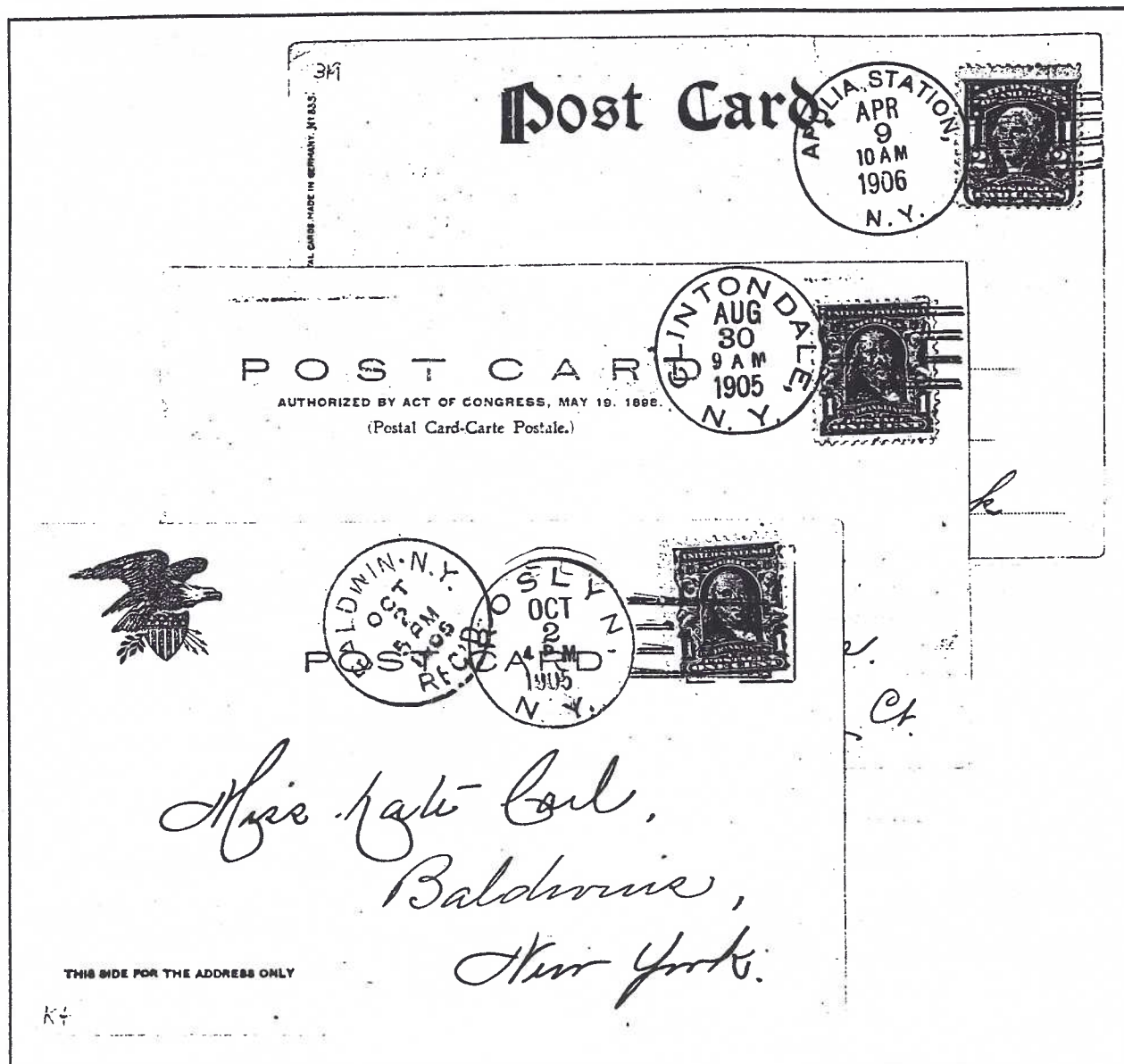
1905. Illustrated is the Type I, which is the least common. D 1/1, 1906, Atwell, Herkimer Co., DPO 1953.

Doane Cancels - Type II

D 2/4, Apulia Station, 1906, Onondaga Co.

D 2/5, Clintondale, 1905, Ulster Co.

D 2/17, Roslyn, Nassau Co.



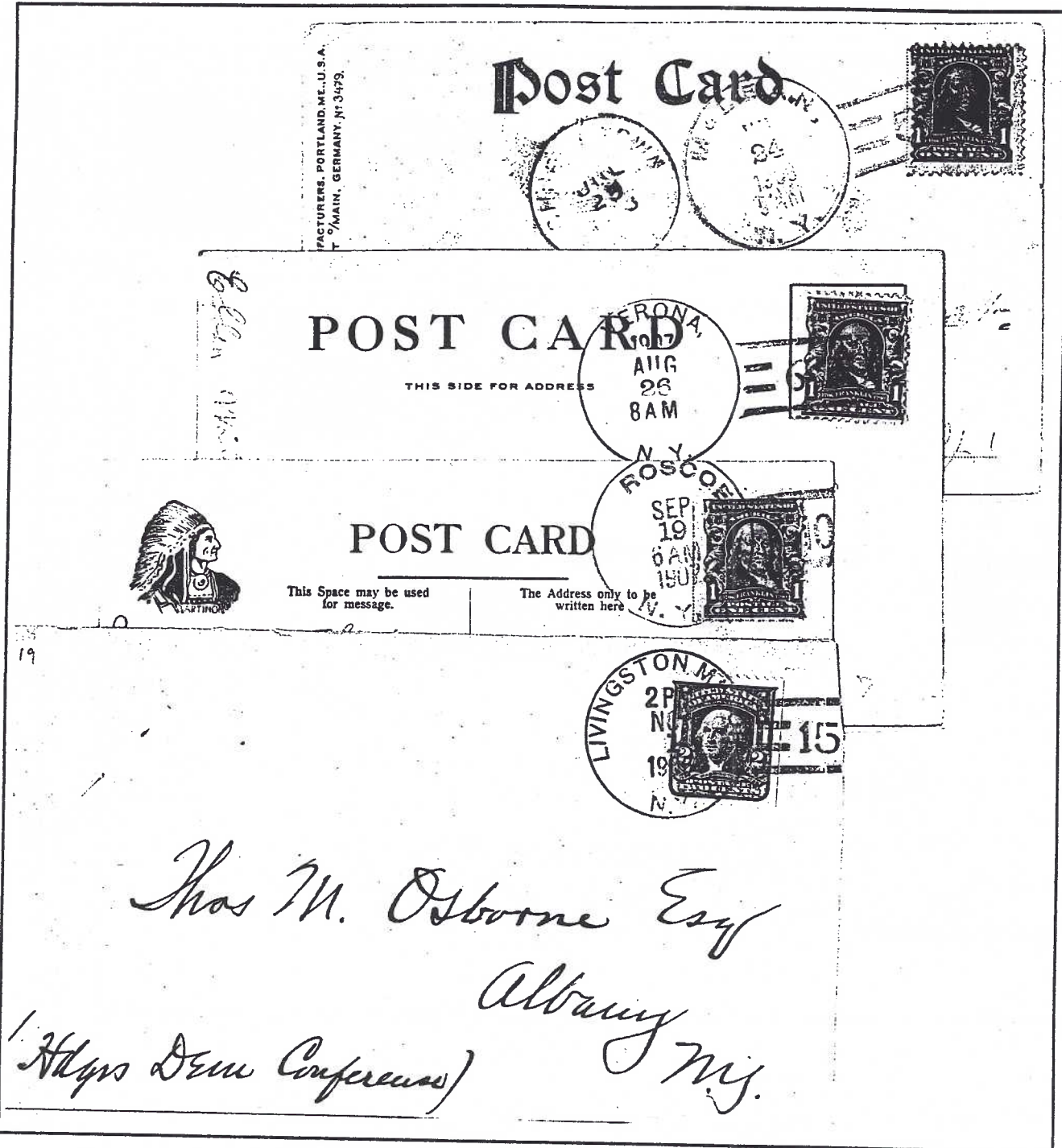
Doane Cancels - Type III

D 3/5 McLean in purple, 1908, Tompkins Co.

D 3/6 Verona, 1907, Oneida Co.

D 3/10 Roscoe, 1907, Sullivan Co.

D. 3/15 Livingston Manor, 1906, Sullivan Co.

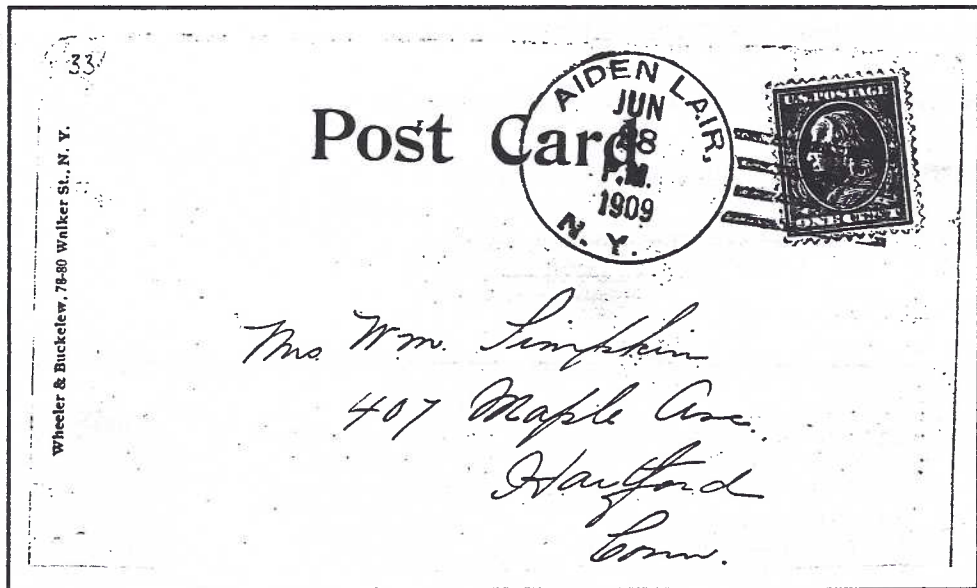


Duplex With Bar Killer

In 1906 the government started issuing simple duplex canceling devices with four bar killers to third and fourth class offices. They were uniform to the extent of having block letters in the CDS with the name place around the upper inside of the rim and NY at the bottom, as well as four horizontal lines in the center showing the date and usually the time. The duplex nature of the cancel is confirmed by the fact that the bars are always parallel to the lines of the date. The CDS rim is about 31mm diameter.

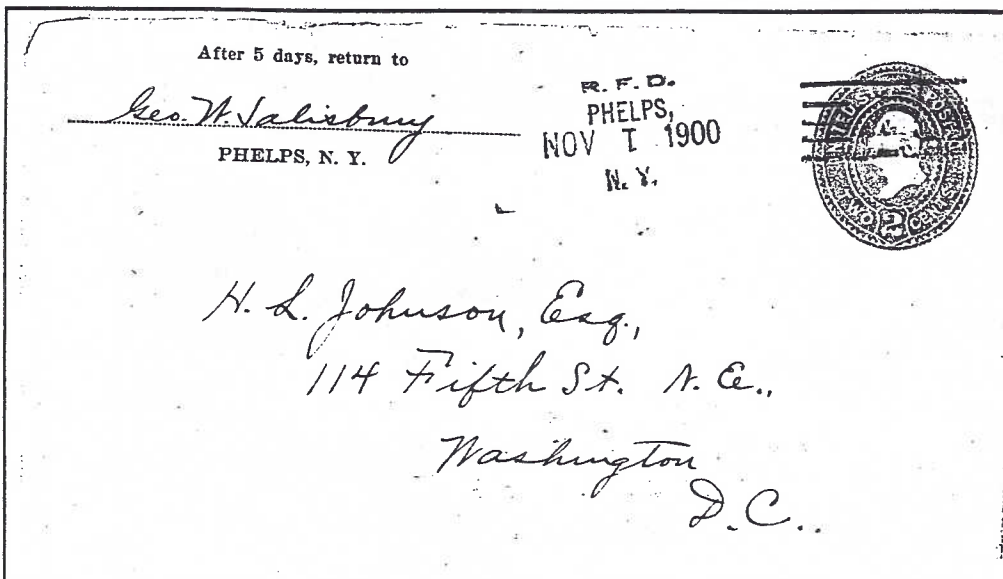
The vertical dimension of the bars is between 13 and 14 mm.

The ends of the bars vary in shape and length relative to the rim of the CDS, suggesting that the cancellation was hand crafted with no specification for that detail. The majority of this type cancel show the bar ends tapered and conforming to the curve of the CDS as shown below. *Aiden Lair, 1909, Essex Co., DPO 1911.*



RFD Hand Cancels

RFD cancels are those applied on the mail of this period by Rural Free Delivery carriers. New York's first route



was out of Elba, Genesee Co. in 1896. Three years later there were 15 offices out of which one or more routes were operating.

In 1899 the government started issuing handstamps for carrier use while on their route. However, no cancels were issued after mid-1903. Thereafter the carriers had to obtain commercial devices or use a prescribed manuscript canceling method. The issued devices and most commercial replacements were a duplex cancel with the dater a four-

line, straight-line type and the killer of horizontal bars with a space for a route number.

The size, shape and arrangement of the letters RFD in the cancel are the basis for a classification system created by Richow. The first canceller issued had RFD in small block letters. Known as Type 1 (small) it also had a five-bar killer. All later issued cancels had four bars. The first known use in New York State was in 1900 as illustrated. *Phelps, Nov 1, 1900, Rt. 1, Ontario Co. By 1910 Phelps had 4 routes.*

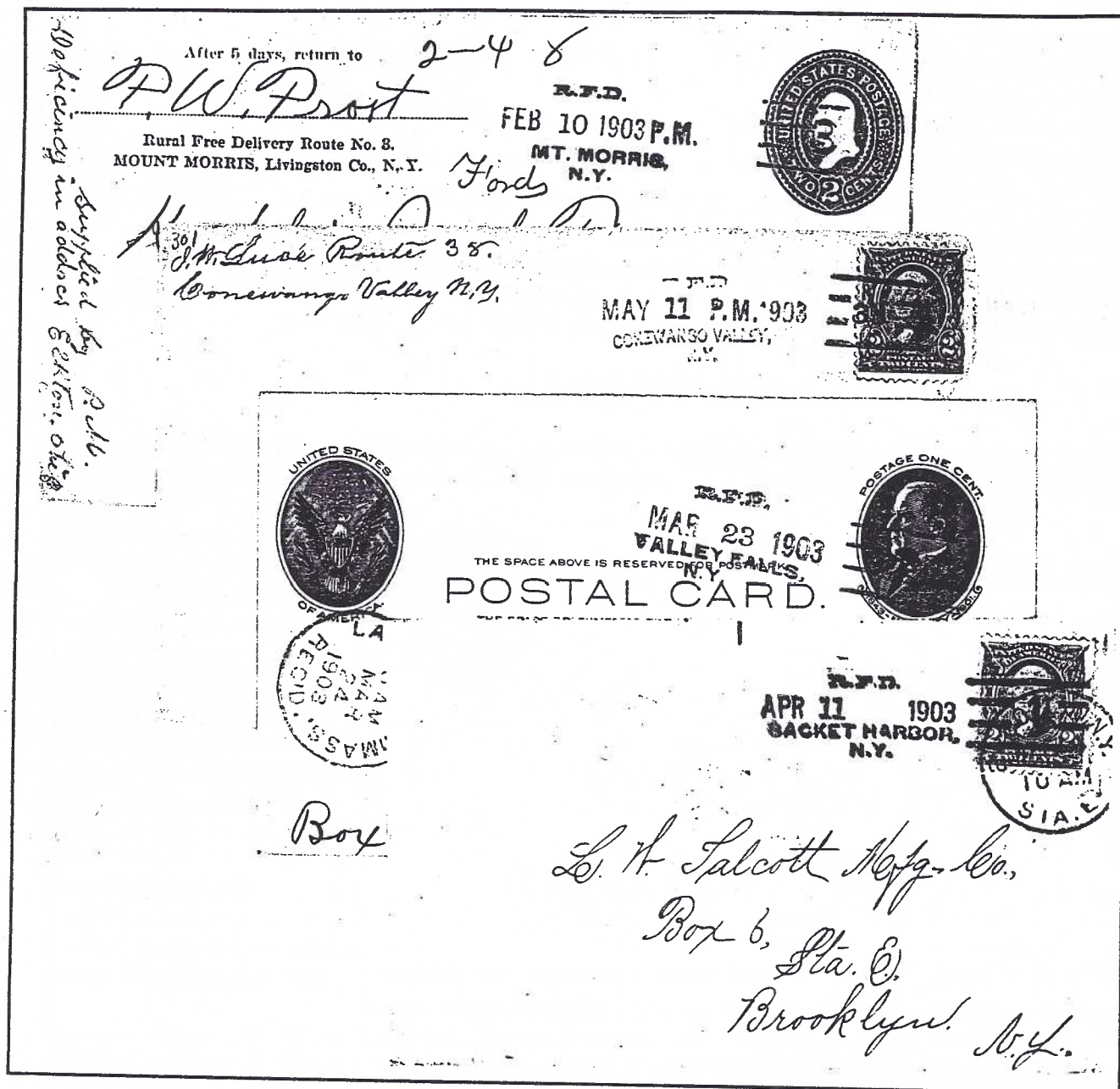
RFD Hand Cancels - Type 2 (small serifed RFD)

Mount Morris, 3 routes. 1903, Rt. 3 Livingston Co.

Conewango Valley, 3 routes, 1903, Rt. 38 of Cattaragus Co.

Valley Falls, 2 routes, 1903 in purple, Rensselaer Co.

Sacket Harbor, 1 route, 1903 in blue, Jefferson Co.



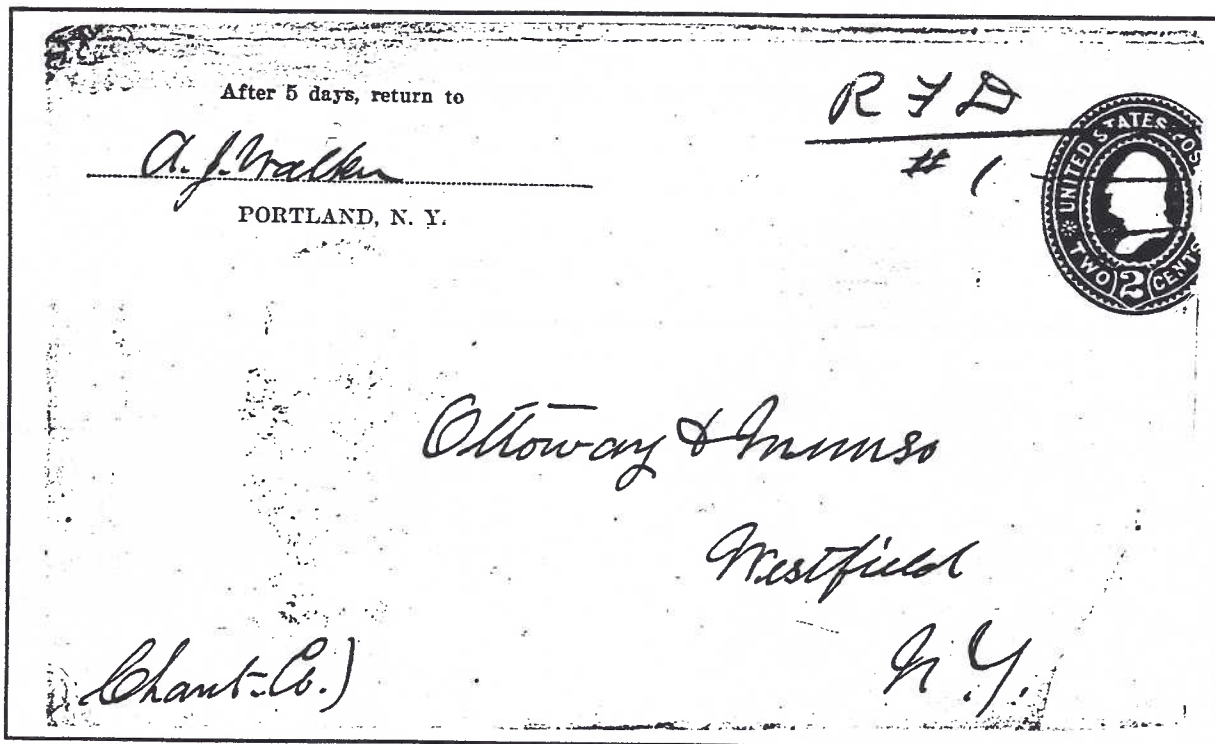
RFD Hand Cancels - Registry Service

Registry use with RFD cancellations are most uncommon.

1. Branchport, 3 routes, 1904, Rt. 14-Yates Co. This was a local letter, there was no backstamp. Cancel is Type 2.
2. Warsaw, 5 routes, 1903, Rt. 2, Wyoming Co., Type 1. The franking indicates a 2 to 3 oz. letter.

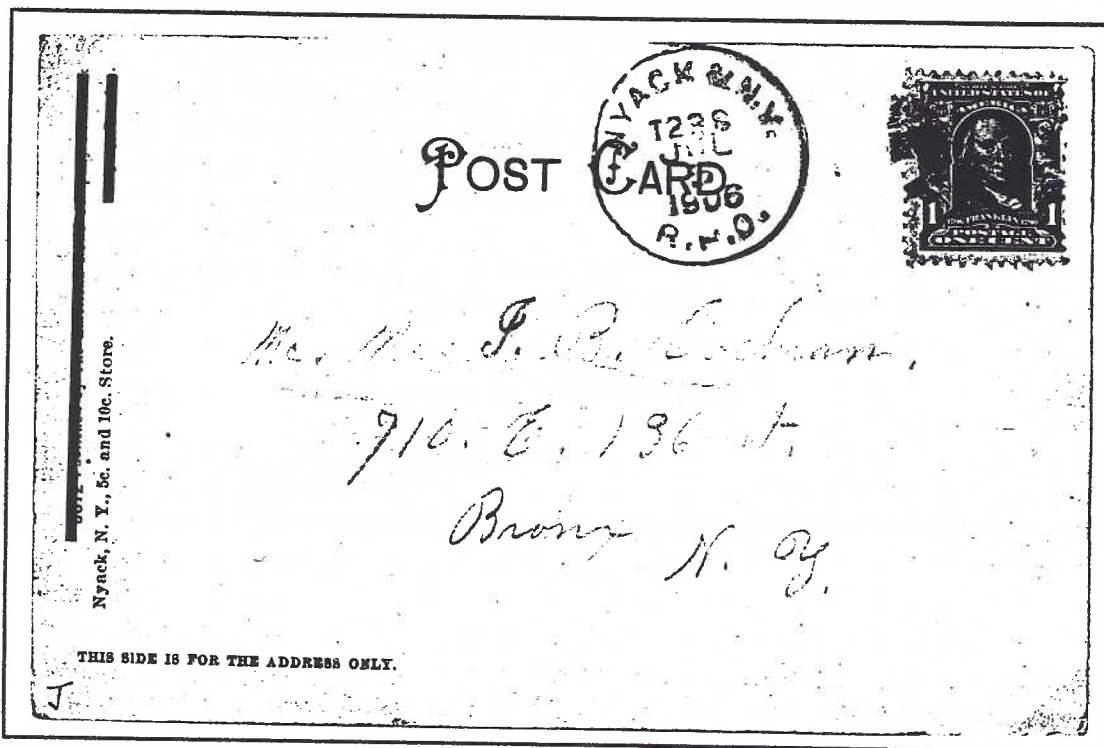


Type 11D (route only). *Portland, 1 route, 1901, Chautaugua Co.* There is a Westfield received marking on the reverse dated Feb, 11, 1901. This is a rare early manuscript cancel. Probably the carrier had not yet received his hand stamp.



Railway Post Office (RPO) Hand Cancels

While the railroads had been used to carry mail almost from their beginning, it was handled first on a contract basis by agents. Officially in 1882 the system switched from the agent service to the railway post office service, handled by clerks who were Post Office employees. Only a small portion of the mail passing through the system received the RPO transit markings—largely mail dispatched at stations, handed to clerks en route or found uncanceled by clerks while sorting.



The P.O. Department issued the typical CDSs, which showed the date and train number. The clerks made their own killers from cork or wood prior to the introduction of the duplex. The individual cancels are identified by Towle codes.

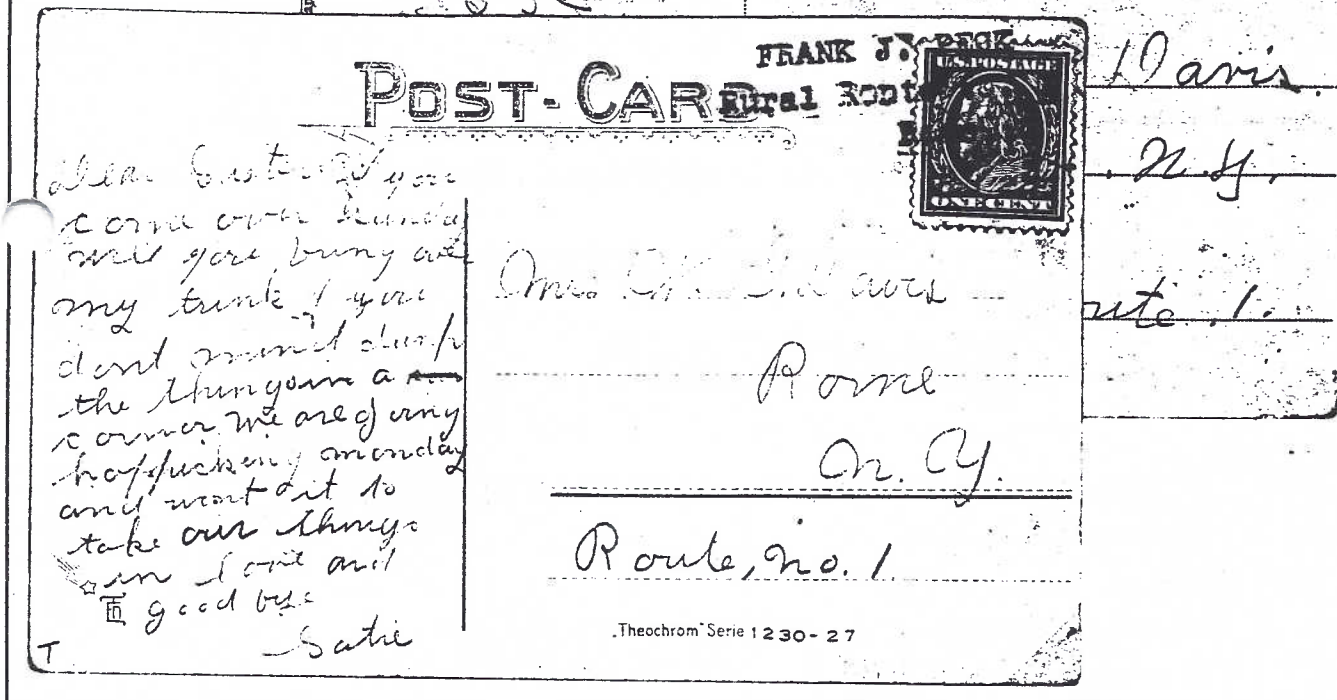
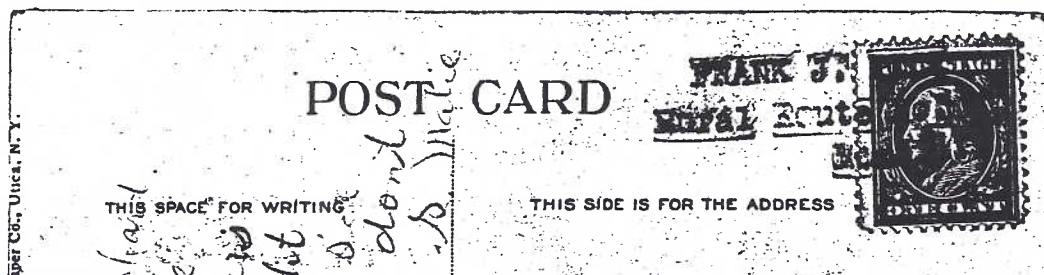
Towle 140-A-1, Nyack & N.Y., 1906, TR238, 30 mi., Northern Railroad of New Jersey (1884-1940).

RFD Hand Cancels

These cards show a carrier cancel that is designated type 5 in the Richow system. It is a simple hand stamp with typewriter characteristics, custom made for the carrier, probably of rubber.

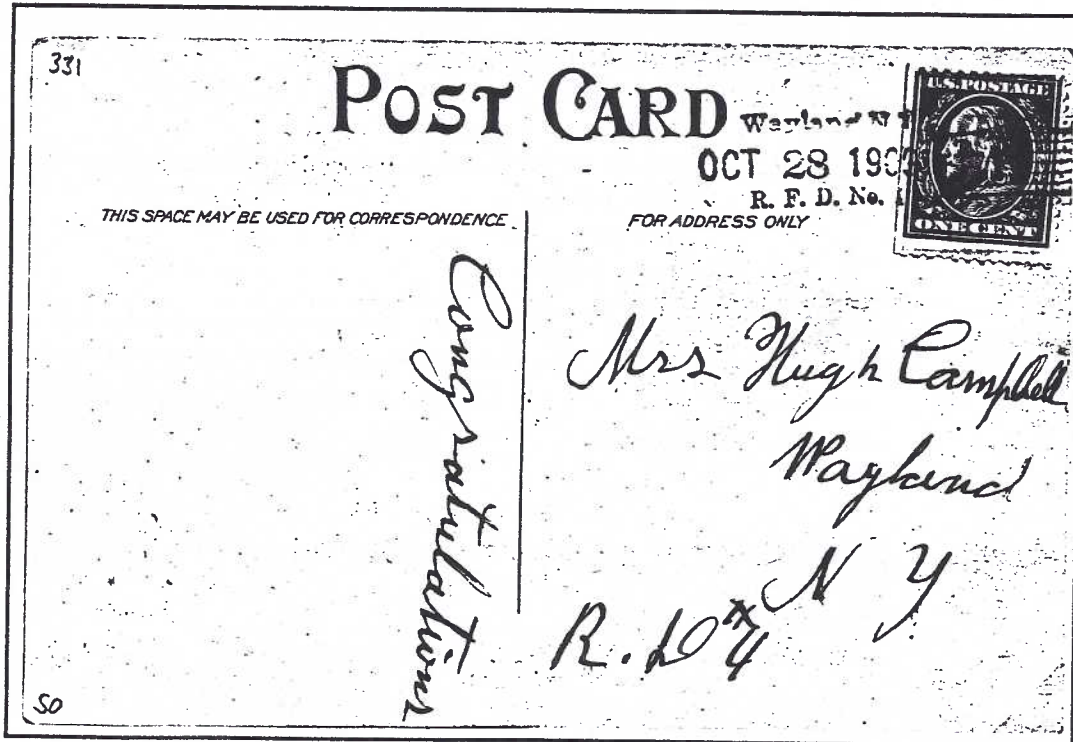
This is the only carrier cancel reported for New York, shown here in purple and violet.

Frank J. Peck
Rural Route No 1
Rome, N.Y.

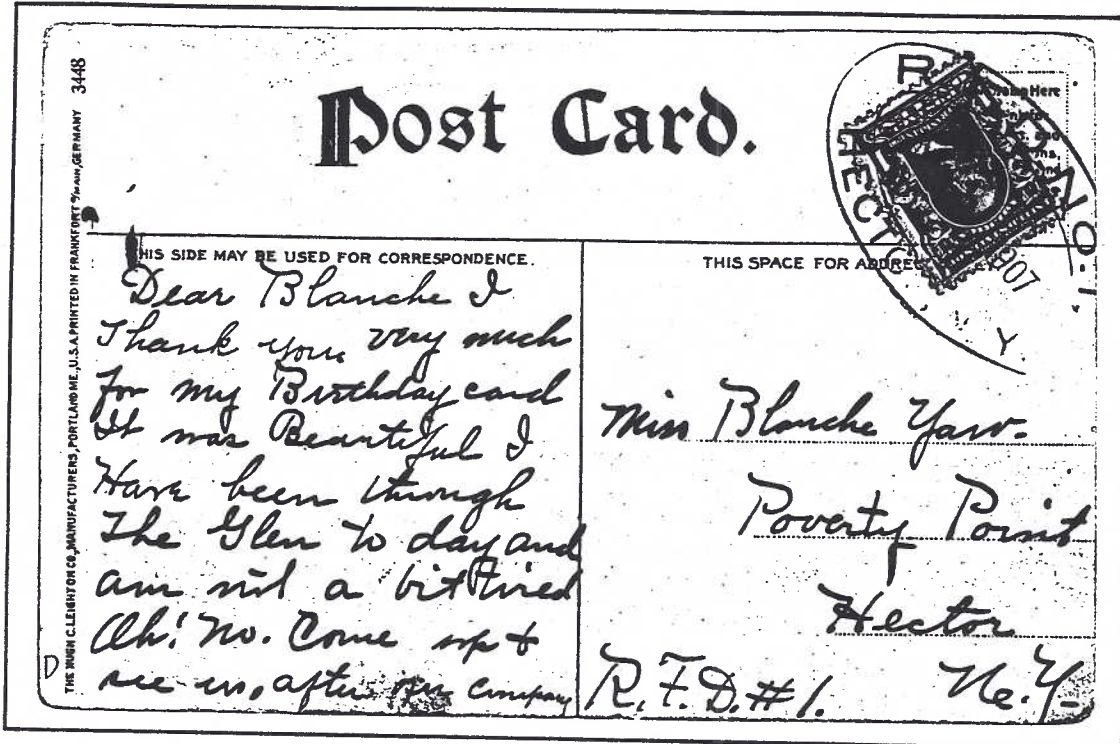


Rome, Oneida Co., had 7 routes. No year date is evident, but the stamps place the cancel between 1909 and 1912. The city directories for Rome show Frank Peck to have been the RFD carrier of Route 1 between 1908 and 1931.

Fancy RFD Hand Cancels



Wayland, 4 routes, 1909, Route 1, Steuben Co. This is a hand flag cancel. It is classified as type 6. It is scarce.

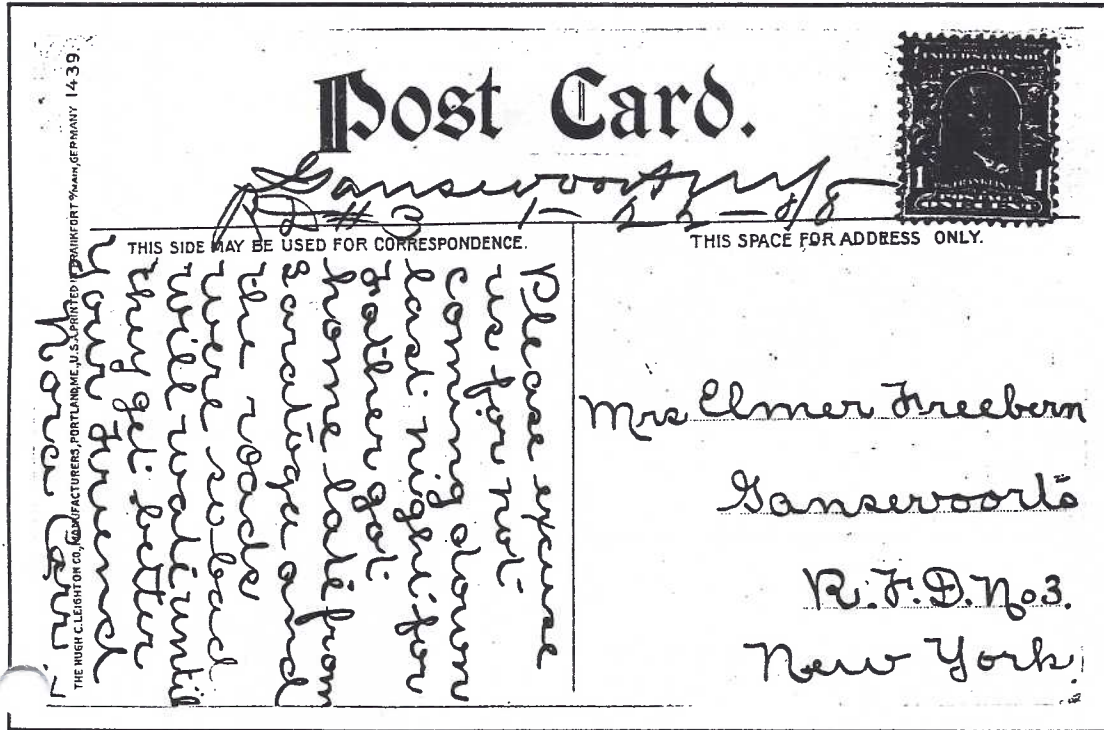


Hector, 1 route, 1907, Schuyler Co. It is a double ring oval design with no killer. Oval cancels are type 9. This is a rare cancel.

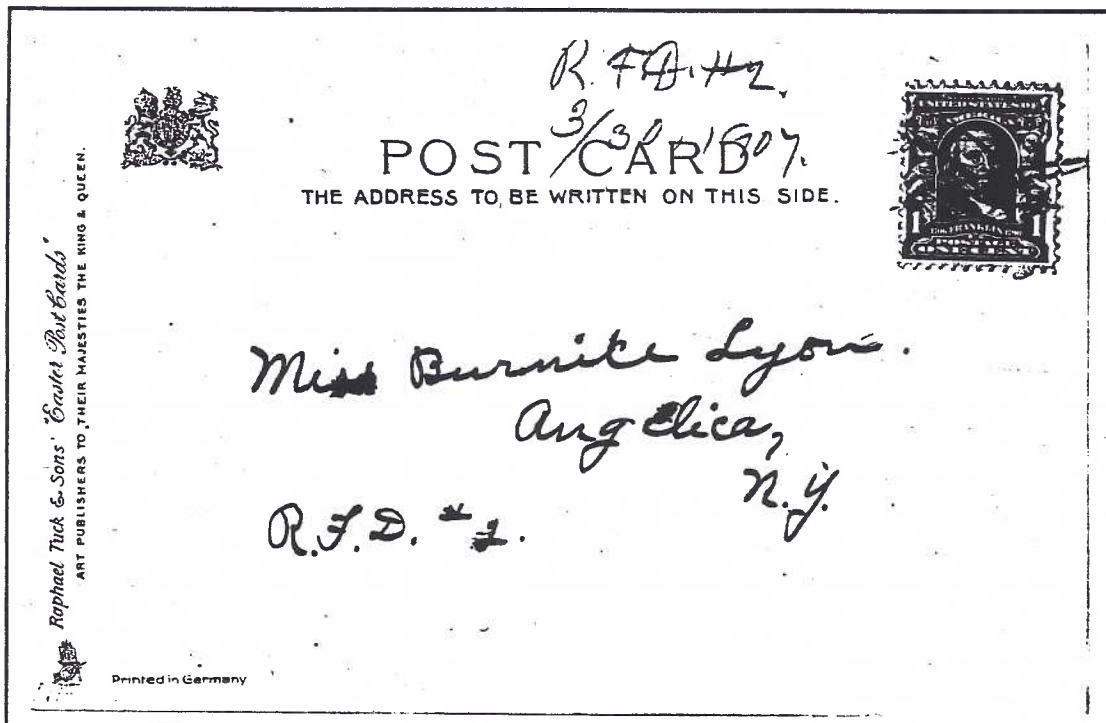
RFD Manuscript Cancels

The government stopped issuing hand cancels as of July 1, 1903. By that time the majority of routes had been defined. Thereafter carriers were told to use indelible pencil to cancel "up the line" mail and to bring other mail back to the office for regular canceling. "Up the line" mail is that which was deliverable on the carriers' route.

The carriers were expected to note place name, route and date with their indelible pencil manuscript cancel. Since there was little control on this requirement, a wide range of cancels resulted. These cancels are classified on the basis of completeness with Type 11 being a fully descriptive cancel as seen below.



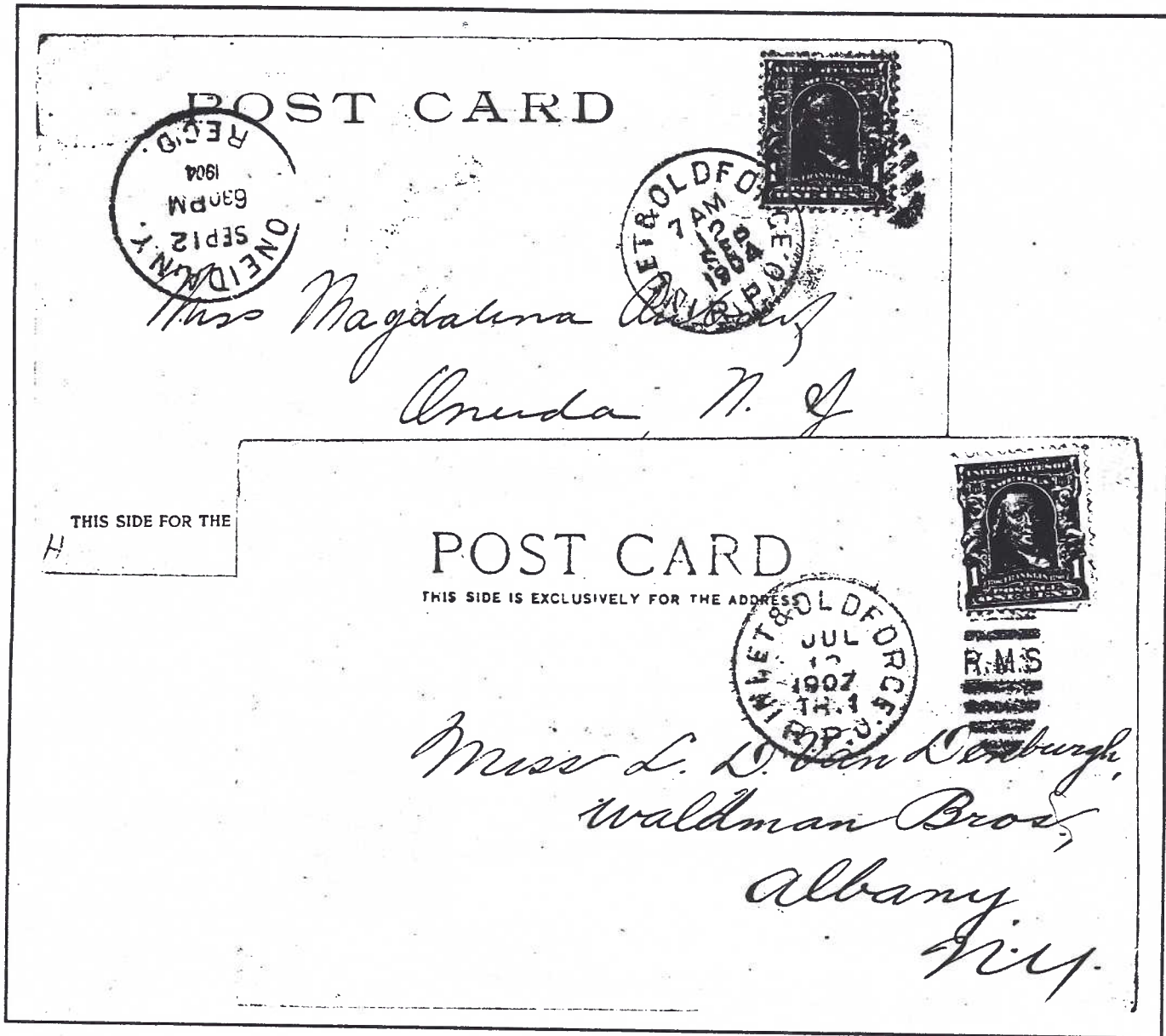
Gansevoort, 3 routes, 1908, Rt. 3, Saratoga Co.



Type 11C (route and date only). Angelica, 2 routes, 1907, Rt. 2, Allegany Co.

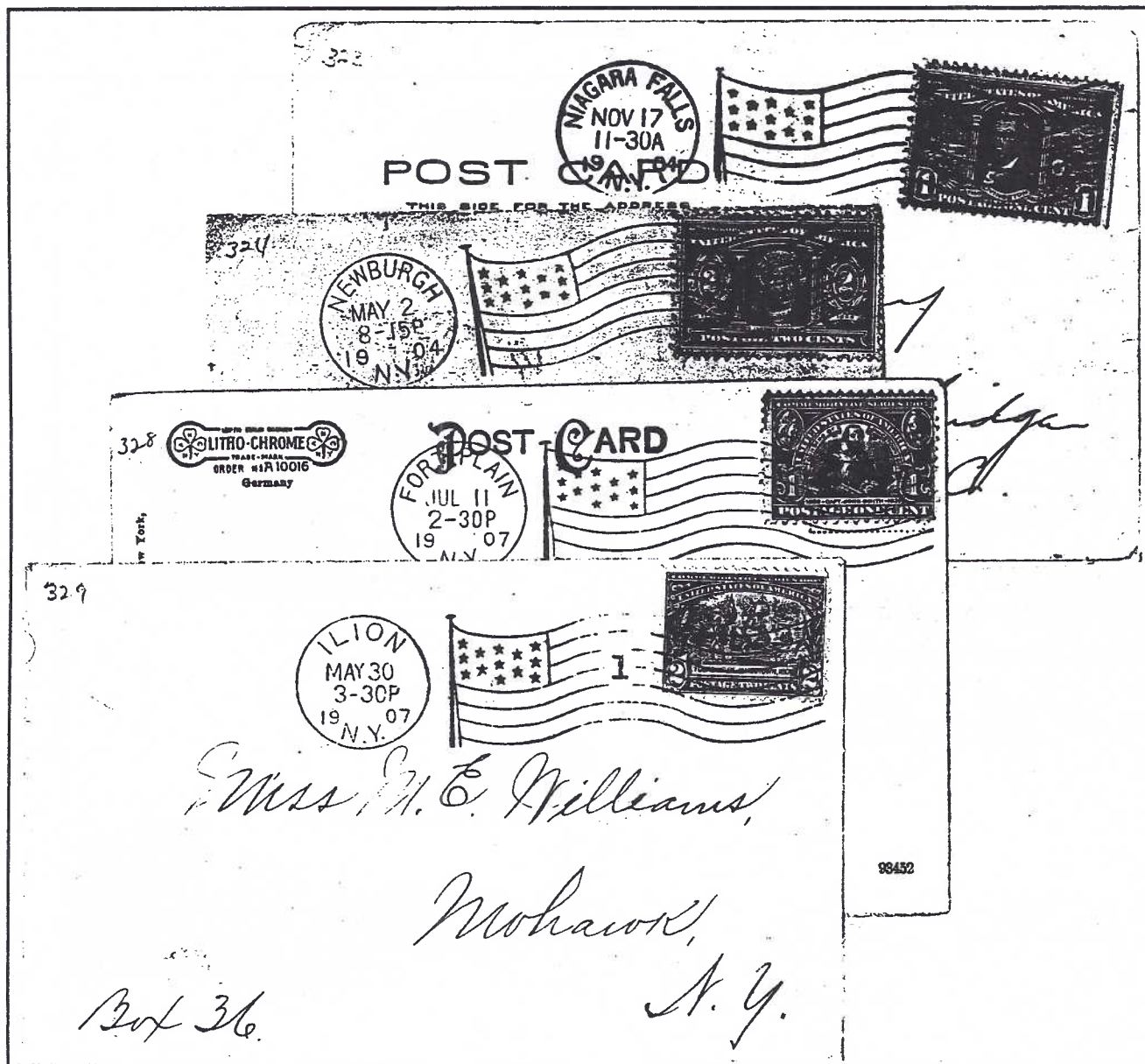
RPO Cancels on Waterways

In some areas there were no railroads, but where small steamboats provided transportation many became a part of the Railway Mail service. The killer on the cards below is the original design of the eight-bar oval introduced in 1898. Service was limited to navigable months.



Towle F-12-a, Inlet & Old Forge, 12 mi., Fulton Navigation Co. Cancels are recorded from 1901 to 1947. (upper) 1904, 7AM (time uncommon in RPO cancels). Reverse is a picture of Steamer Clearwater. (lower) 1906, Trip 1. Reverse shows a landing dock on Fourth Lake message indicates was used for twice a day mail pick-up.

American Postal Machine Company—some typical examples of their flag cancels for this period. The full range of use in New York is between 1895 and 1941.



Niagara Falls, Niagara Co., Nov. 17, 1904, (1899-1916).

Newburgh, Orange Co., May 2, 1904, (1897-1910). Third day of use of this stamp.

Fort Plain, Montgomery Co., Jul. 11, 1907, (1906-1930).



Ilion, Herkimer Co., May 30, 1907, (1901-1913).



Barry Postal Supply Company - Oswego, N.Y.

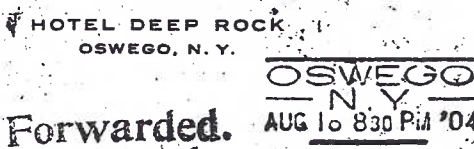

The post office of Oswego has the distinction of using the largest number of Barry types. Here are five of the six known types, the last two used only at Oswego.



1279B

P.M. If this is not the right address please forward, or return to Mr. M. Stone, C. O. Box 10, Oswego, N.Y.

Thayer

4-4-1909.

THIS SPACE FOR WRITING MESSAGES

Dear sister: Your letter Miss Gerald gladly received. No gaining sleep. Sewie called in a doctor to see his eye yesterday. He advised it. I think his eye is better. He has not been able to go out yet. Dr. said if it improves he thought he might go out this week if he keeps on improving. We received Mr. M. S. S. pictures. think they are fine. Write soon.

Yours Edna

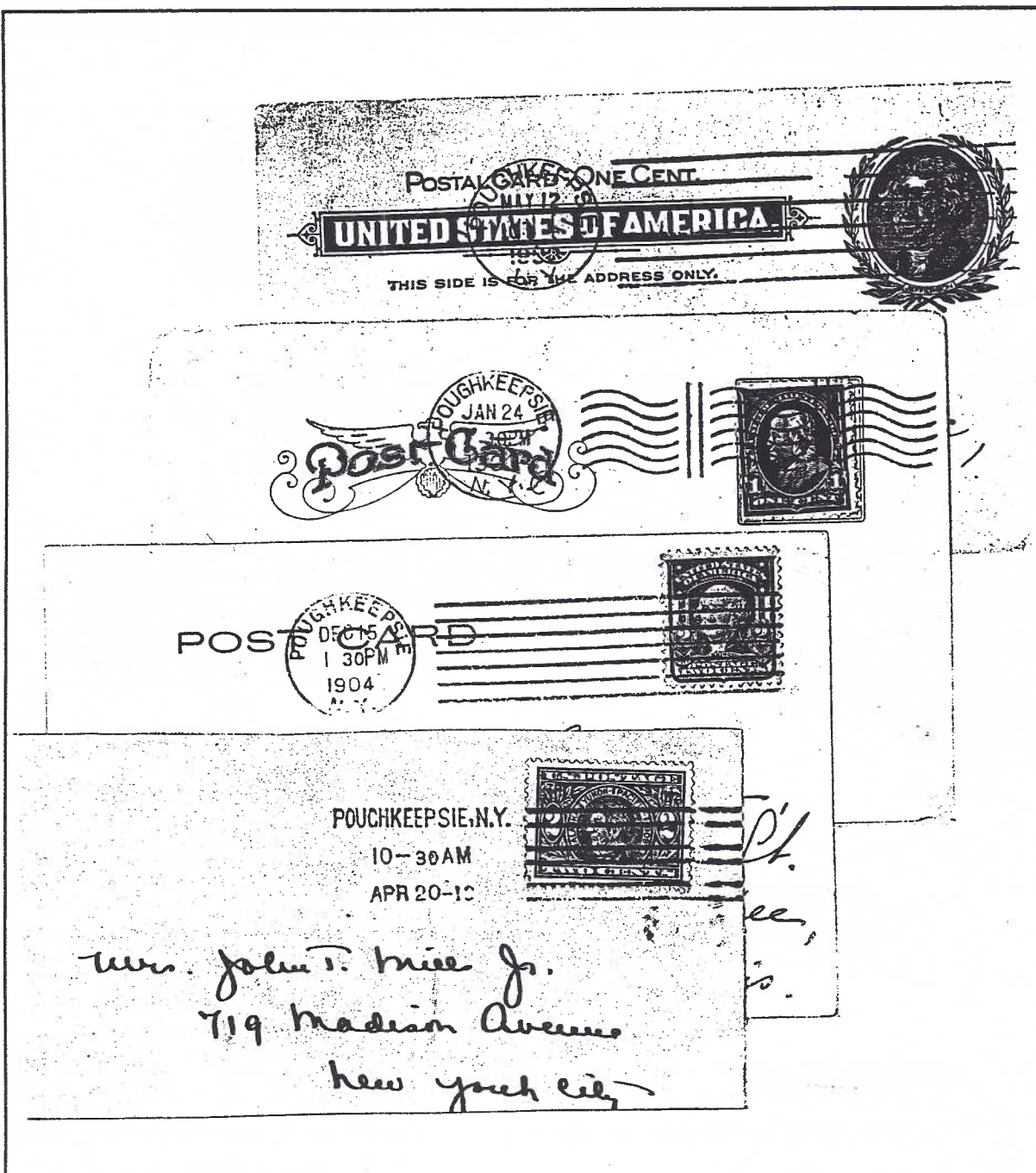
THIS SPACE FOR ADDRESS ONLY

*Mrs. Henry D. Balcom
5 Prospect Place
Gloversville
N. Y.*

28

The Columbia Postal Supply Company of Silver Creek, N.Y., provided machine cancels starting in 1901 and continued for more than two decades. In the period being shown four basic types were available, as shown below from Poughkeepsie, Dutchess Co.

May 1902 - the uncommon first Columbia CDS and killer



Jan. 1903 - a very early example of the wavy-line killer

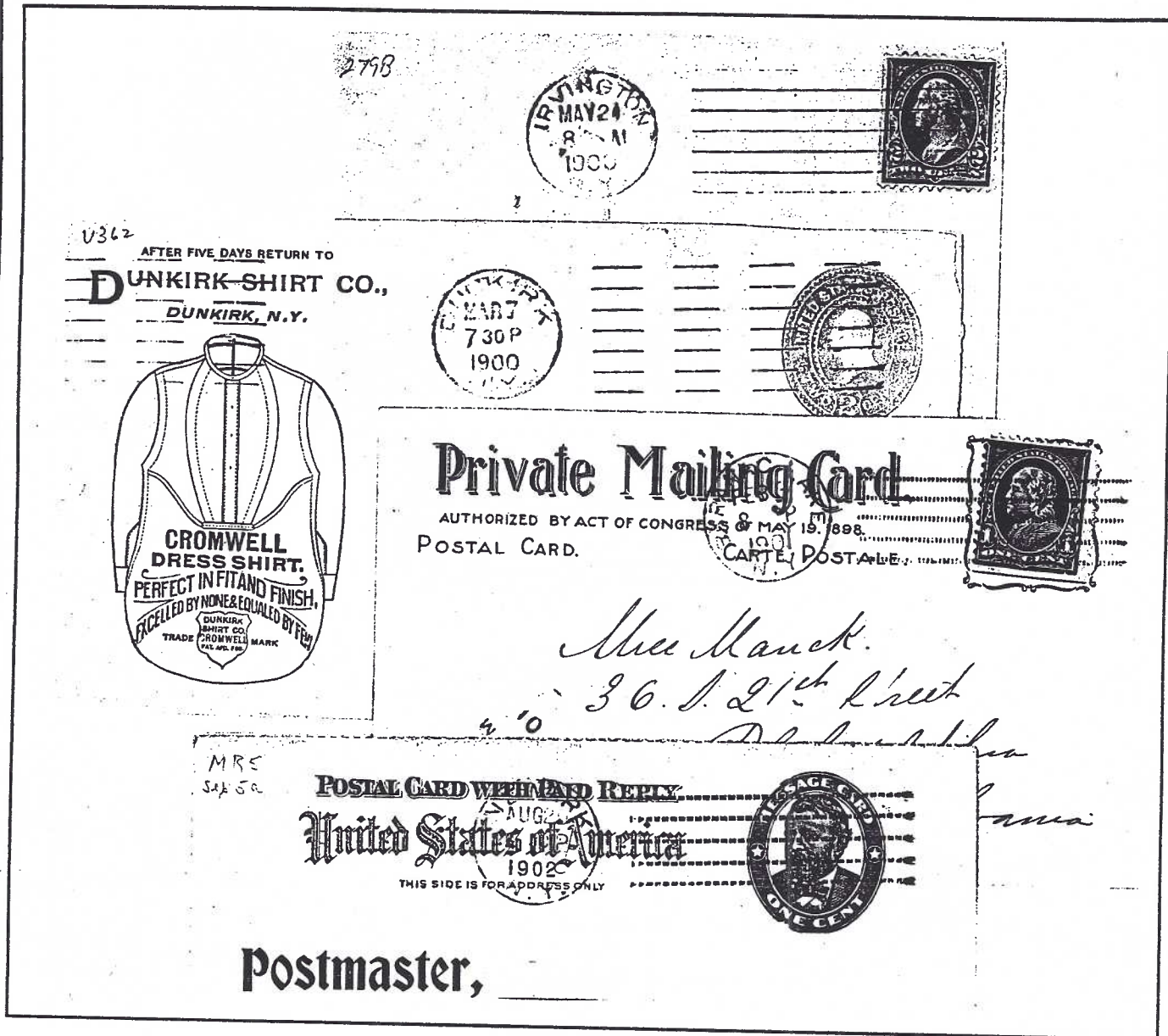
Dec. 1904 - most commonly the first variety of killer

Apr. 1910 - the distinctive Columbia straight-line dial and killer with three pairs of horizontal lines.

Doremus Cancels

A variety of machine cancels were created by Willard Doremus of Washington, D.C. They appeared in 1900 and some lasted into the late 1930s. In the period shown 80 offices in New York used the Doremus cancel. Shown here are the first four killer variations used with the first dial. The first two are scarce and other two are uncommon. All post offices represented are in operation.

Irvington, 1900, Westchester Co.

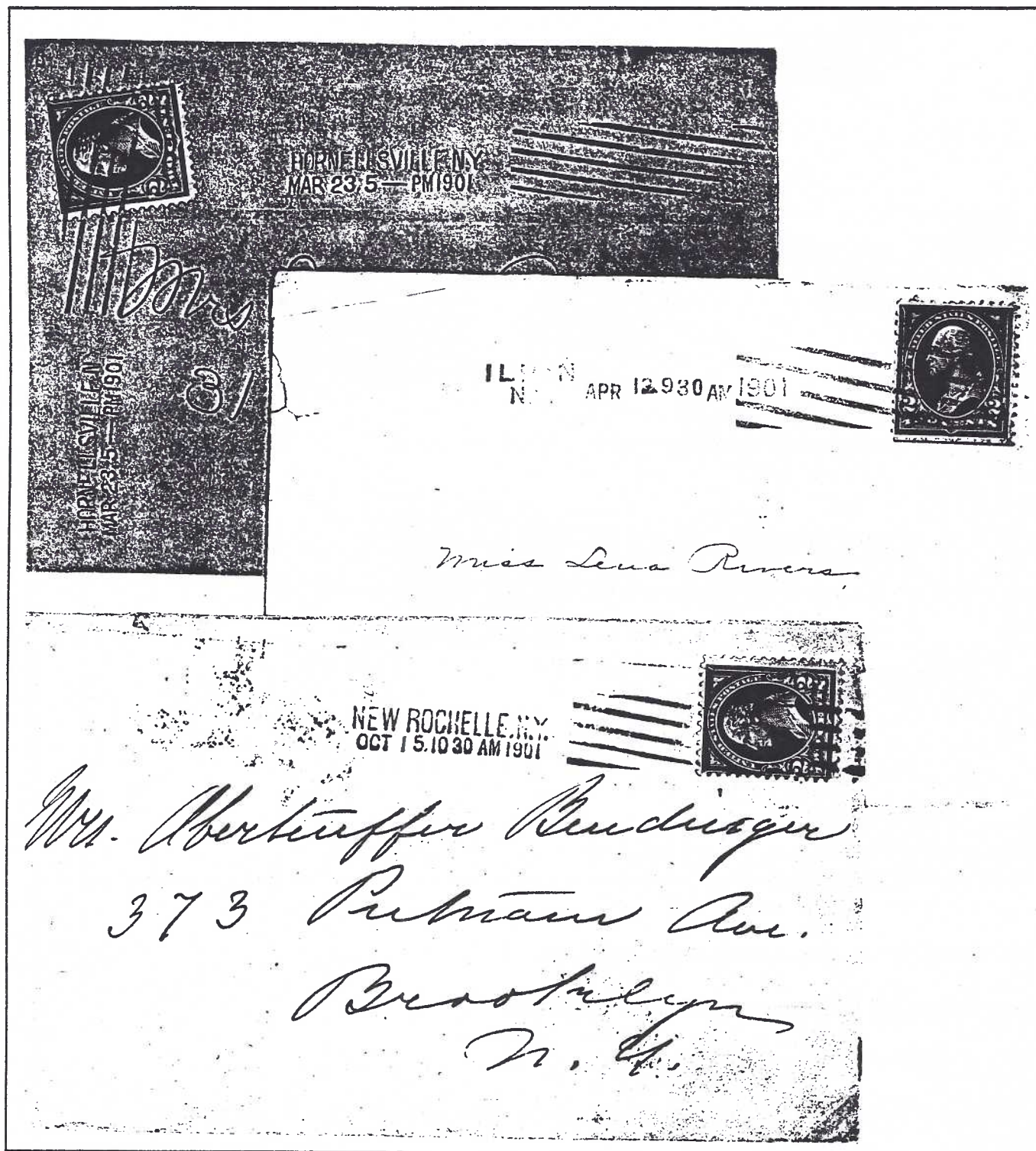


Dunkirk, 1900, Chautauqua Co.

Saranac Lake, 1901, Franklin Co.

Newark, 1901, Wayne Co.

Hampton Canceling Machine Company of Holyoke, Mass. (1896-1905). As a class, these cancels are considered scarce.

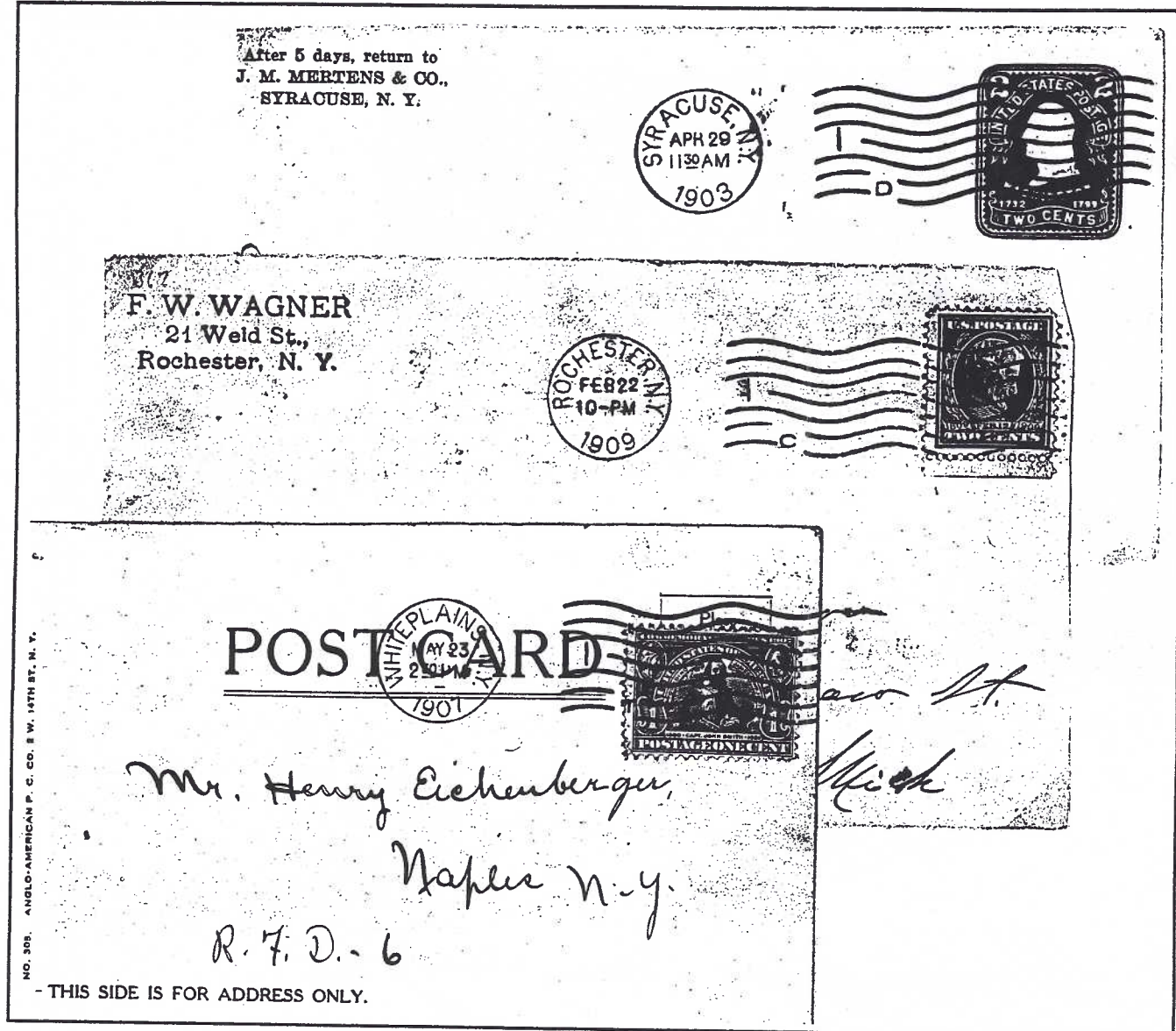


Hornellsville, 1901, Steuben Co., to Hornell in 1906.

Ilion, 1901, Herkimer Co.

New Rochelle, 1901, Westchester Co.

International Postal Supply Company



Syracuse, Onondaga Co., 1903 (early use). D = Deposited

Rochester, Monroe Co., 1909 (anniversary date. C = Collected

White Plains, Westchester Co., 1907. T = Transit

There is also an R = Received. These identities were frequently not adhered to. The T on the White Plains card is such an example.

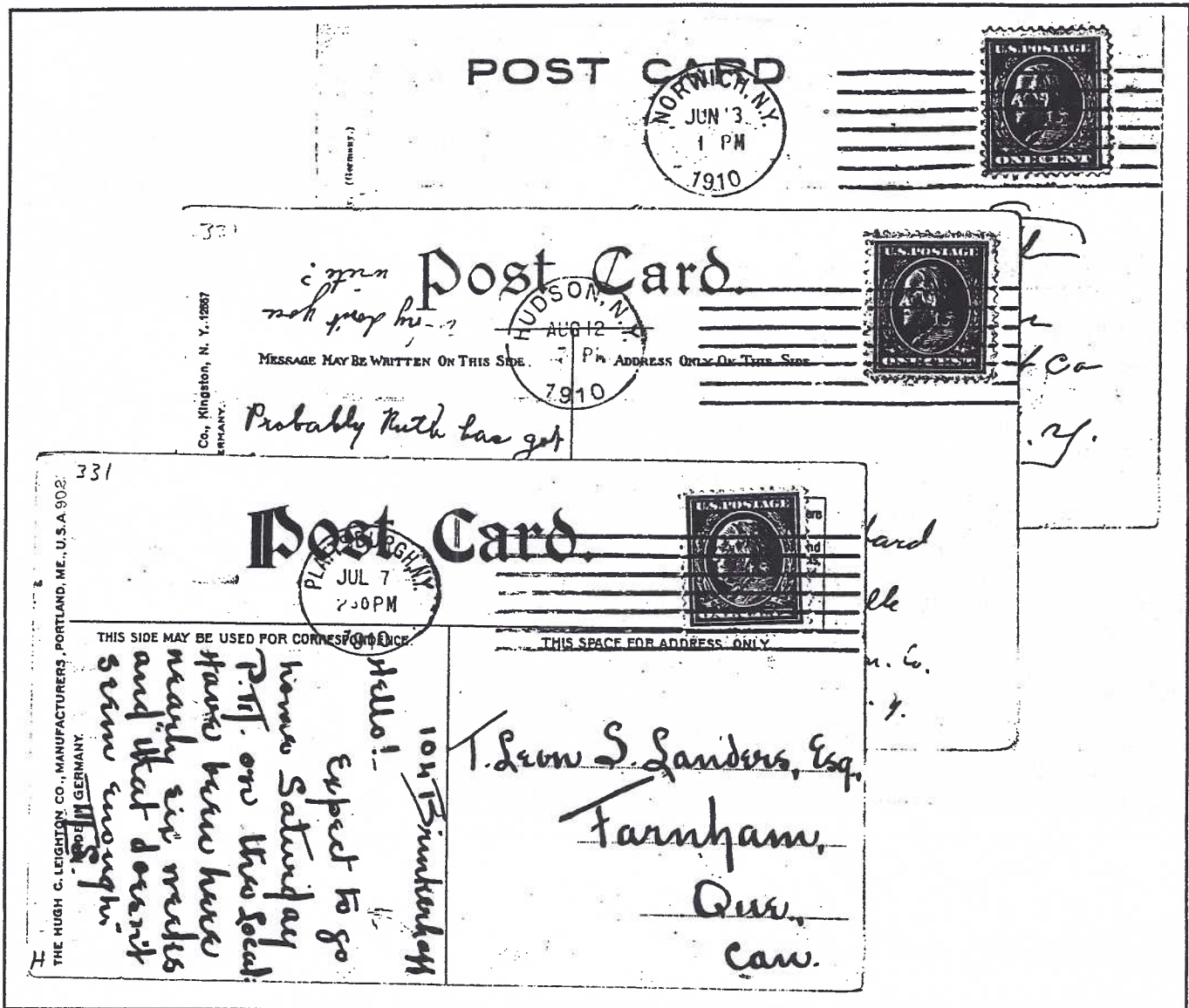
Universal Stamping Machine Company

Universal first produced New York cancels in 1910. They were readily accepted, so that Universal quickly became dominant and they remain in the market today. The examples below are all early use.

Norwich, Chenango Co.

Hudson, Columbia Co., with a picture perfect stamp

Plattsburg, Clinton Co. misspelled. H was dropped in 1894.



Registry Cancels

Many small towns, having limited registry activity, had no special cancel. The only identification was the registry number. Numbering started over each quarter.

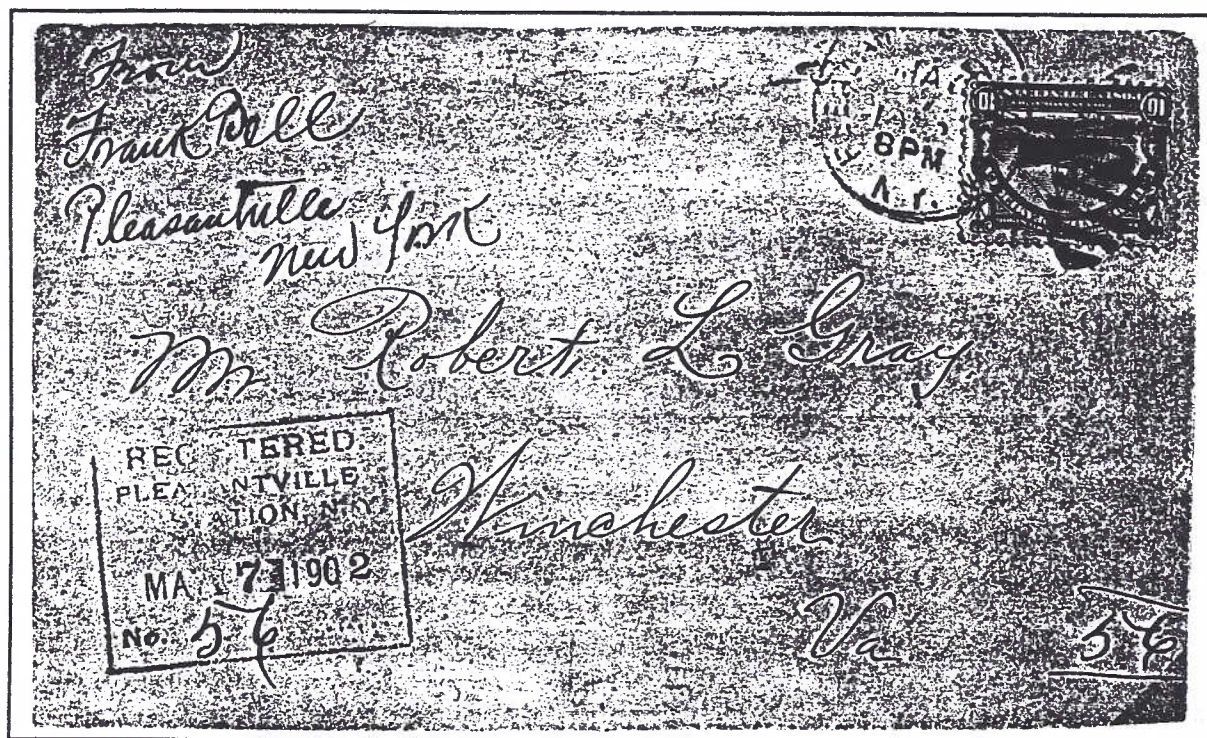


Bayport, Suffolk Co., July. 24, 1909. Registry No. 44

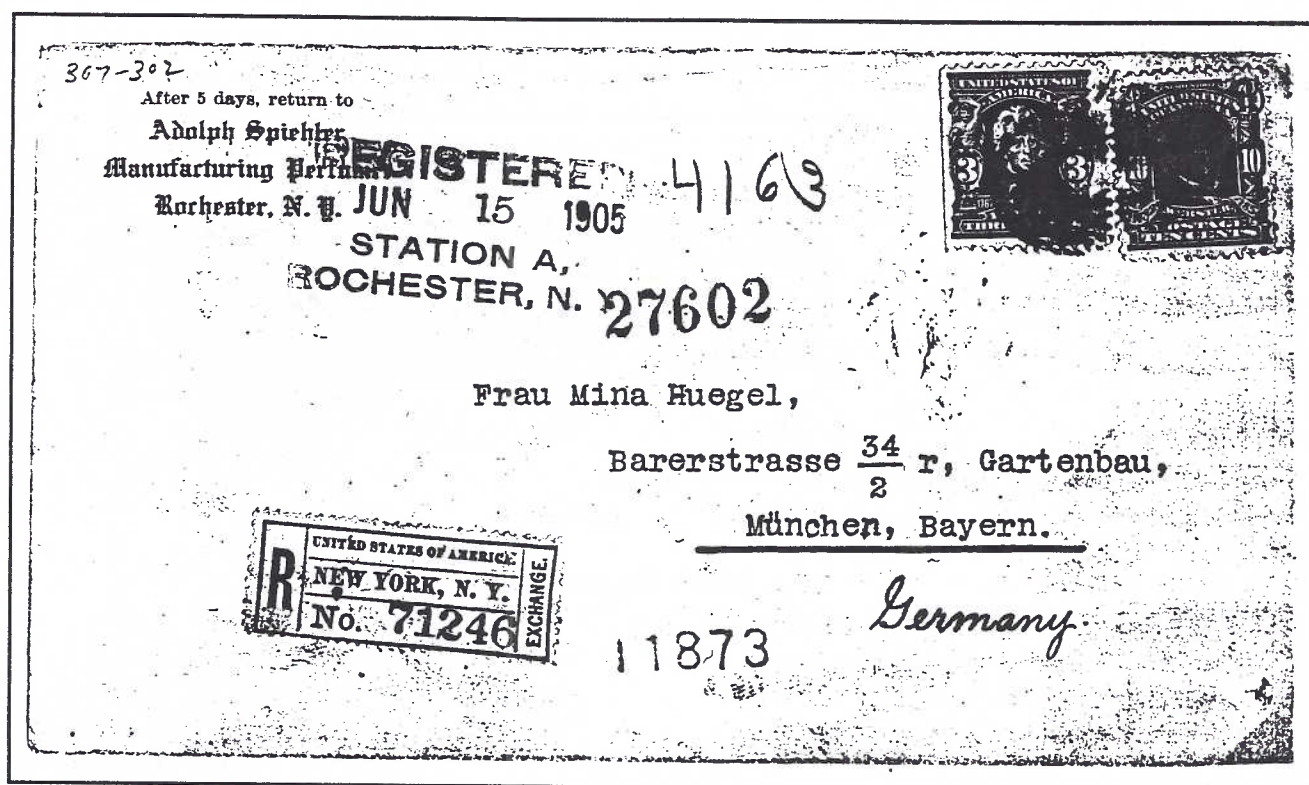
Archdale, Washington Co., Dec. 5, 1903, DPO 1905. Registry No. 35

Stockbridge, Madison Co., July 4, 1903. Registry No. 1

Pleasantville Station, Westchester Co., May 7, 1902, changed to Pleasantville in 1913. An uncommon boxed registry cancel with provision for the registry number.

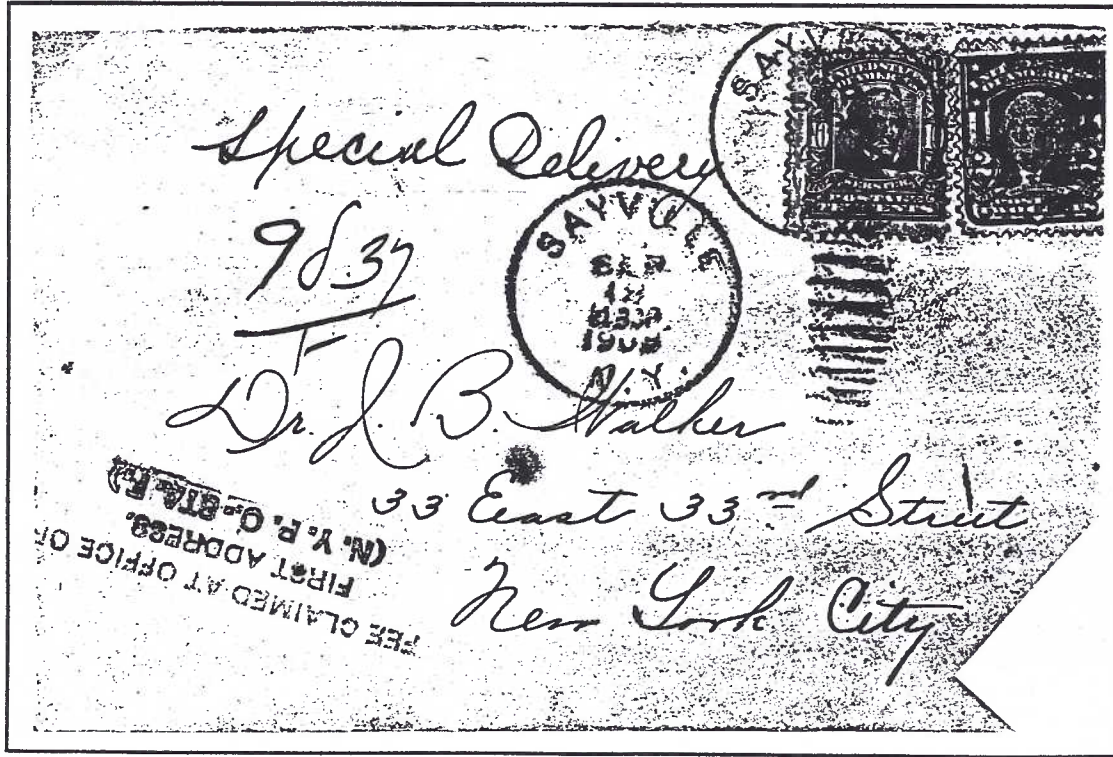


Rochester, Monroe Co., Jun 15, 1905, registry to a foreign location, with a New York transit registry label.

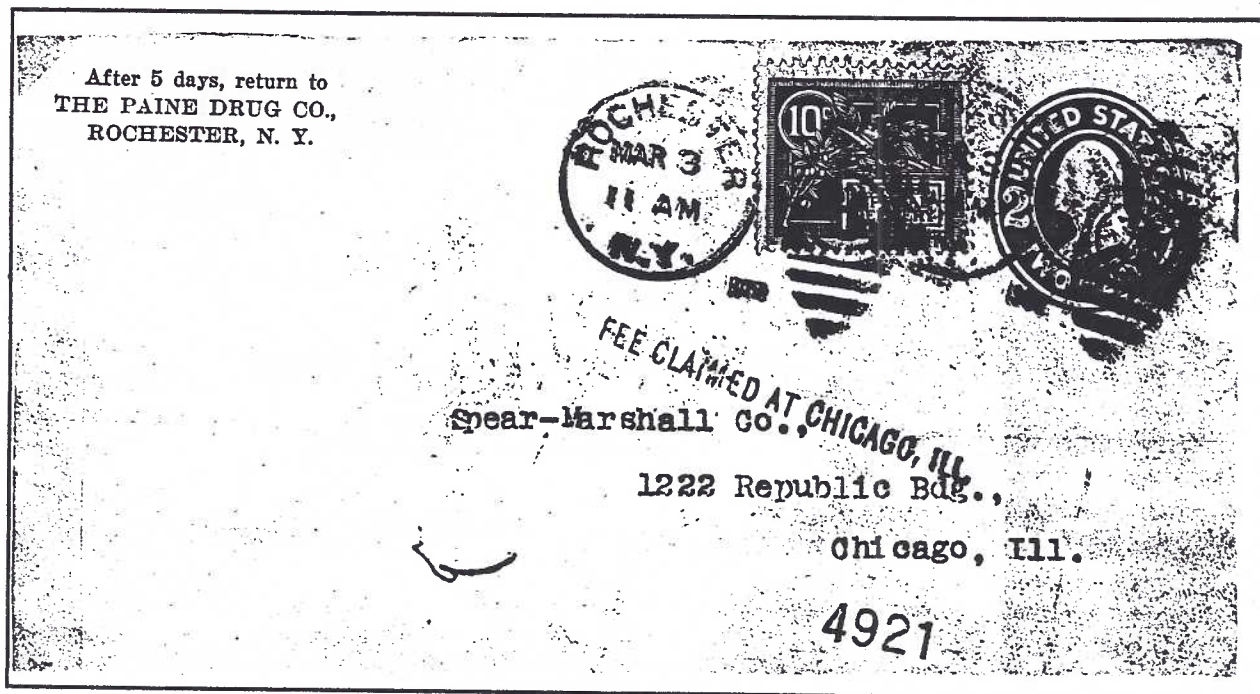


Special Delivery

Sayville, Suffolk Co., Sep 19, 4:30 PM, 1908 to NYC. No receiving time. Definitive stamps were allowed starting in 1907. A manuscript "Special Delivery" was added to indicate the service.

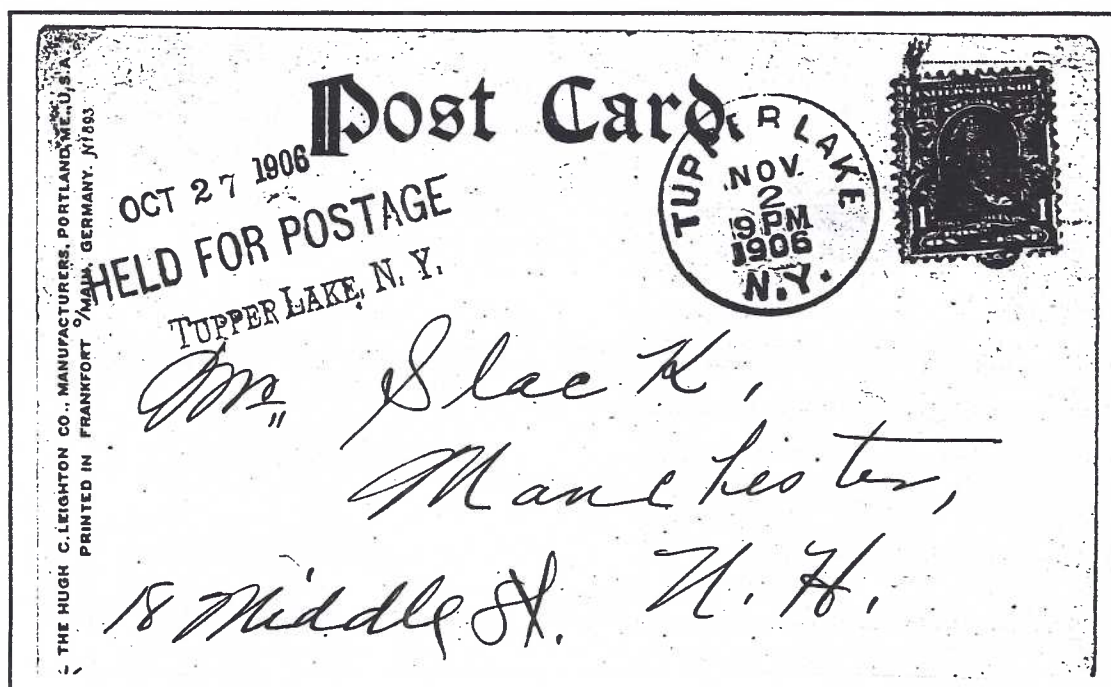


Rochester, Monroe Co., Mar 3, 11AM, 1909, arrived at Chicago, Ill., 4AM, Mar. 4

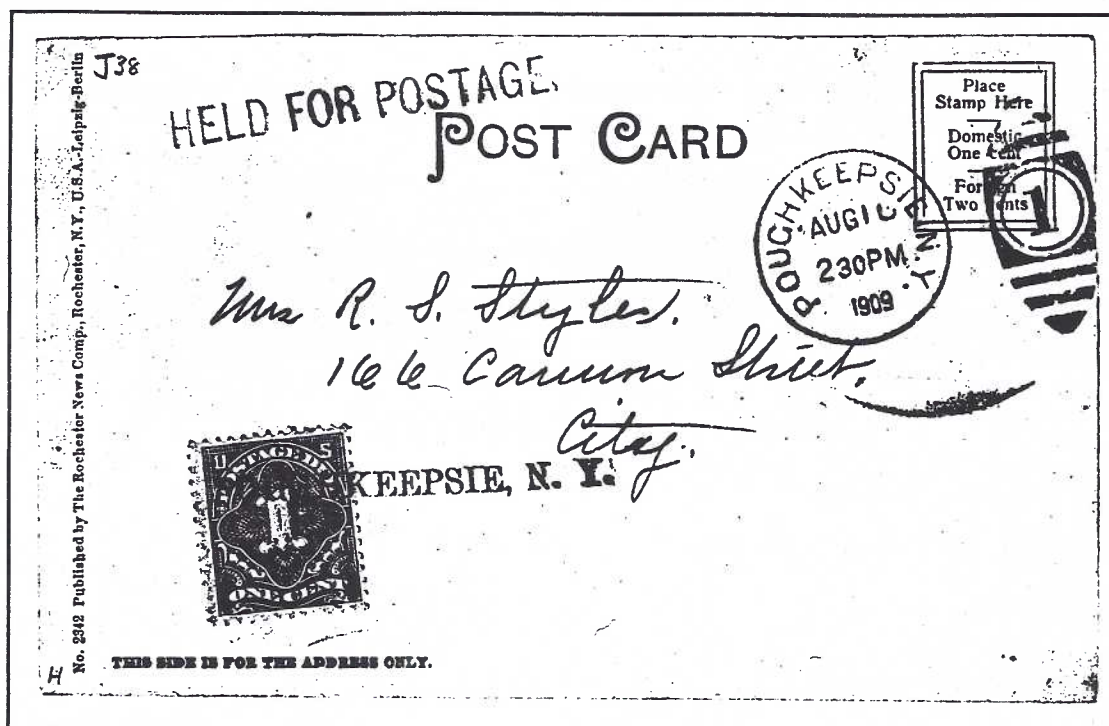


Postage Due

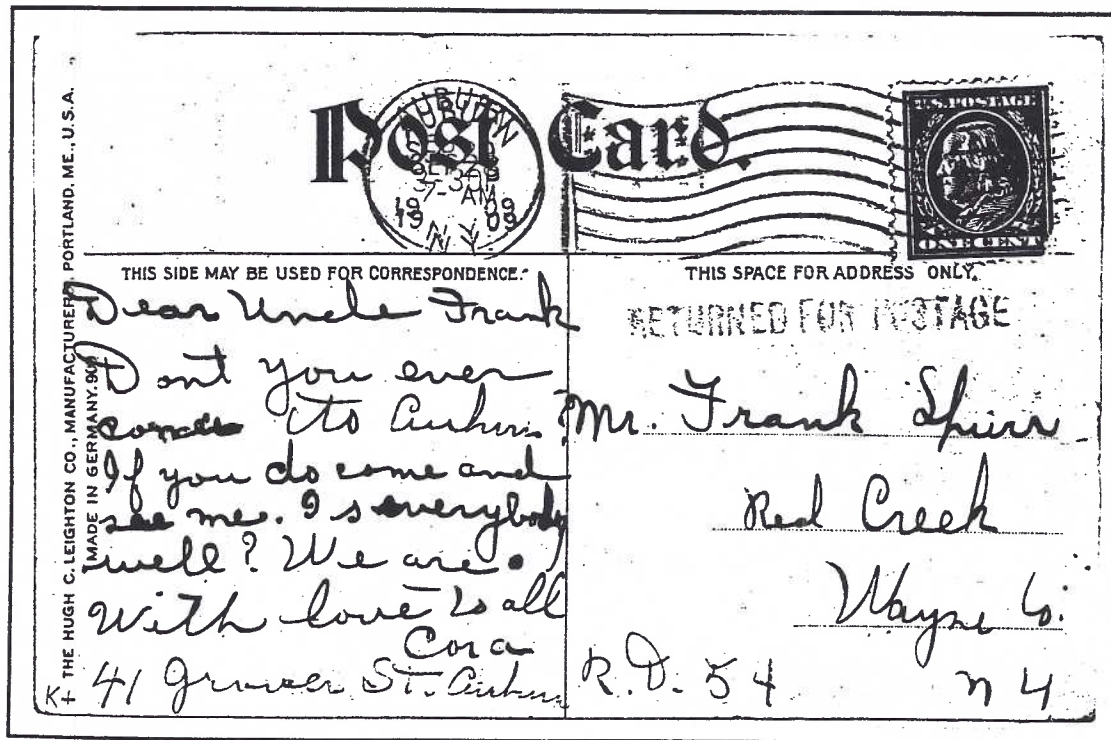
Card was mailed from Tupper Lake, Franklin Co. on Oct. 27, 1906 without a stamp. Postage was requested from the addressee in New Hampshire. It arrived on Nov. 2. Sending office normally used current stamps.



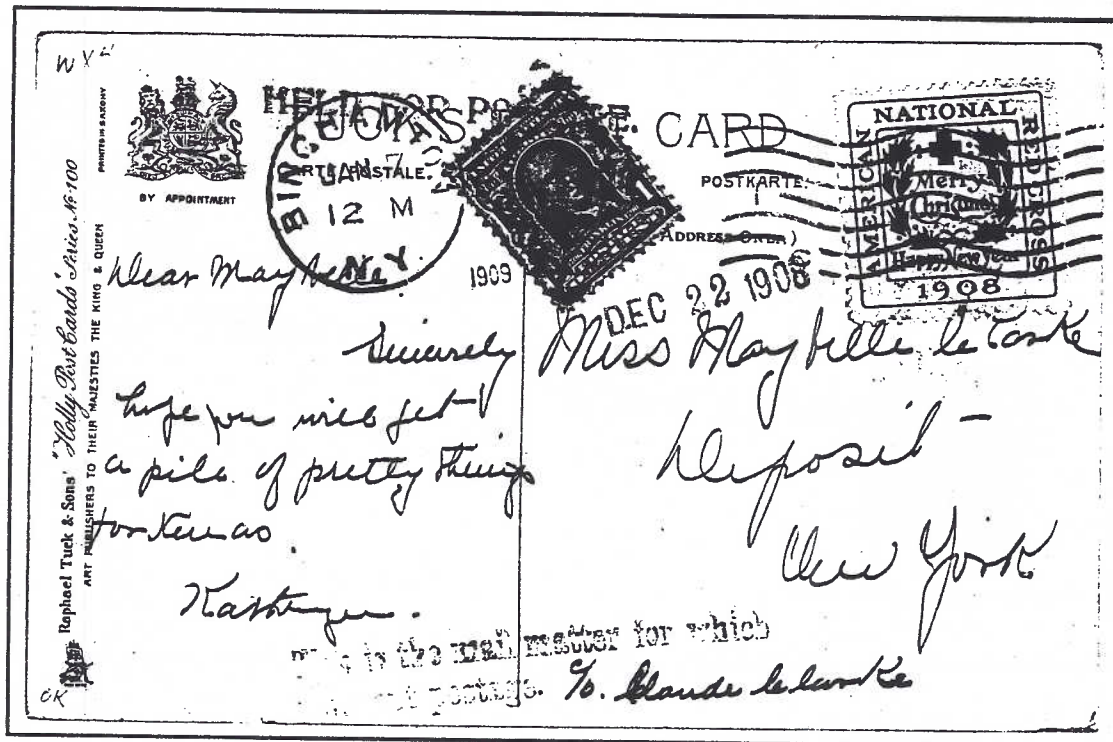
Card was sent from Poughkeepsie, Dutchess Co. on Aug 10, 1909 to a local address. Postage due stamps were normally used at the receiving office. The straight-line cancel is seldom seen.



This card got to the Auburn, Cayuga Co. post office on Sep 29, 1909 without a stamp. Since a return address was present, it was "Returned for Postage." A second cancellation of Sep 30 was applied to the stamped card.

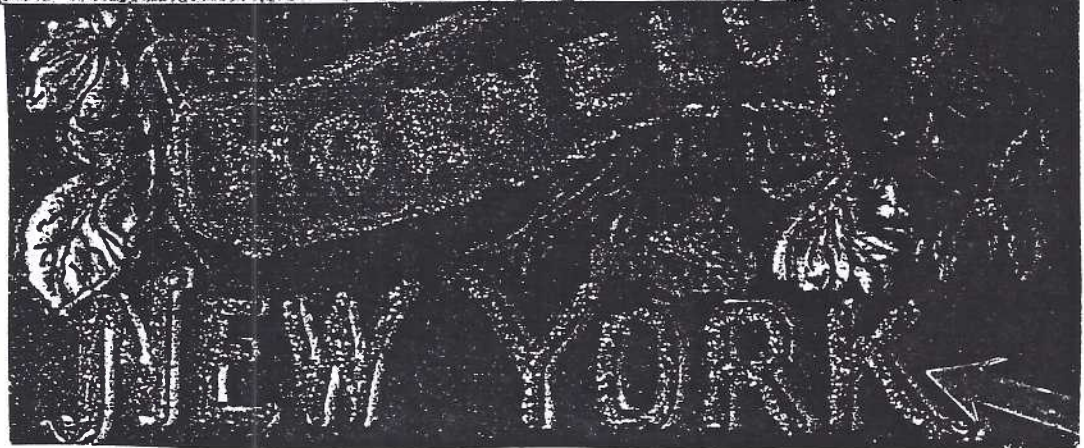
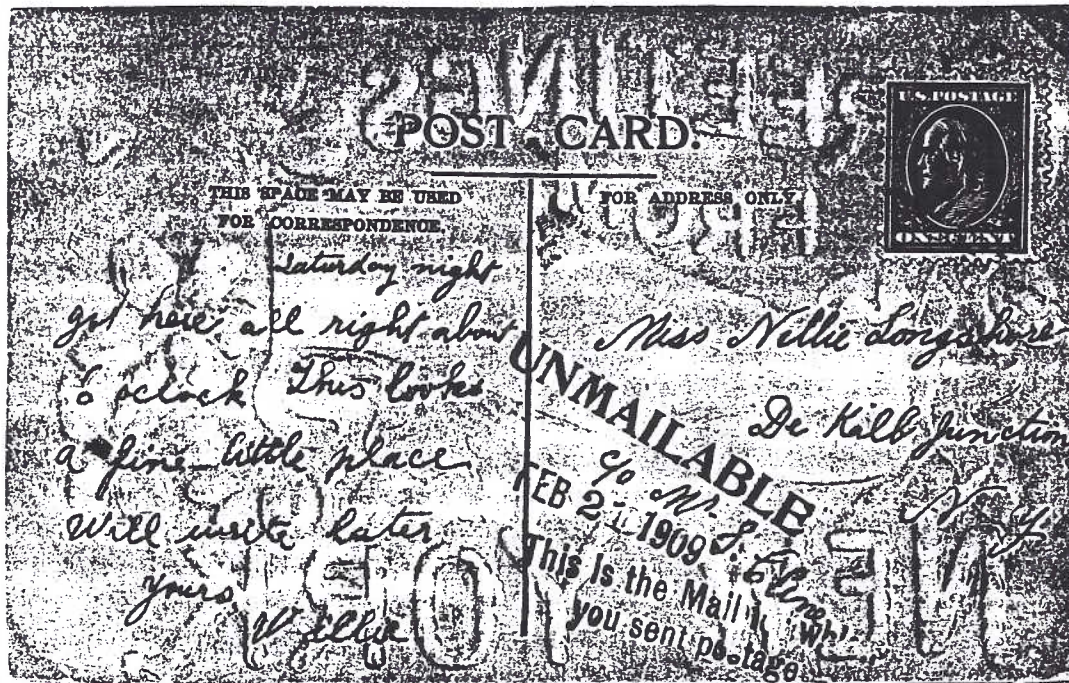


The sender erroneously used the then new Christmas seal for franking this card. It was canceled with a Binghamton, Broome Co., International machine cancel, the CDS of which is directly under the 1¢ postage, which was duly canceled on Jan 7, 1909.



Postal Deficiency

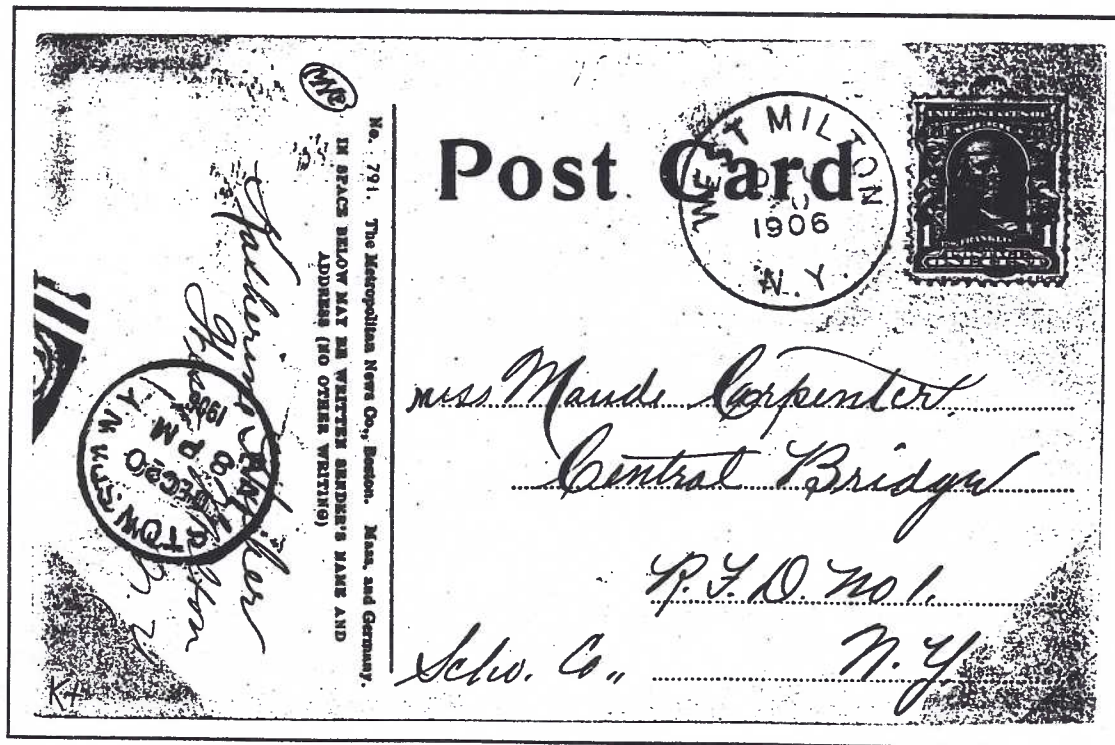
Post cards sometimes were decorated with "glitter," a sparkly, metallic looking granule, which was found to foul canceling machines. A Post Office regulation was established that required such a card to be sent by the 2¢ letter rate for special handling, preferable under cover. The regulation was issued Feb. 20, 1907.



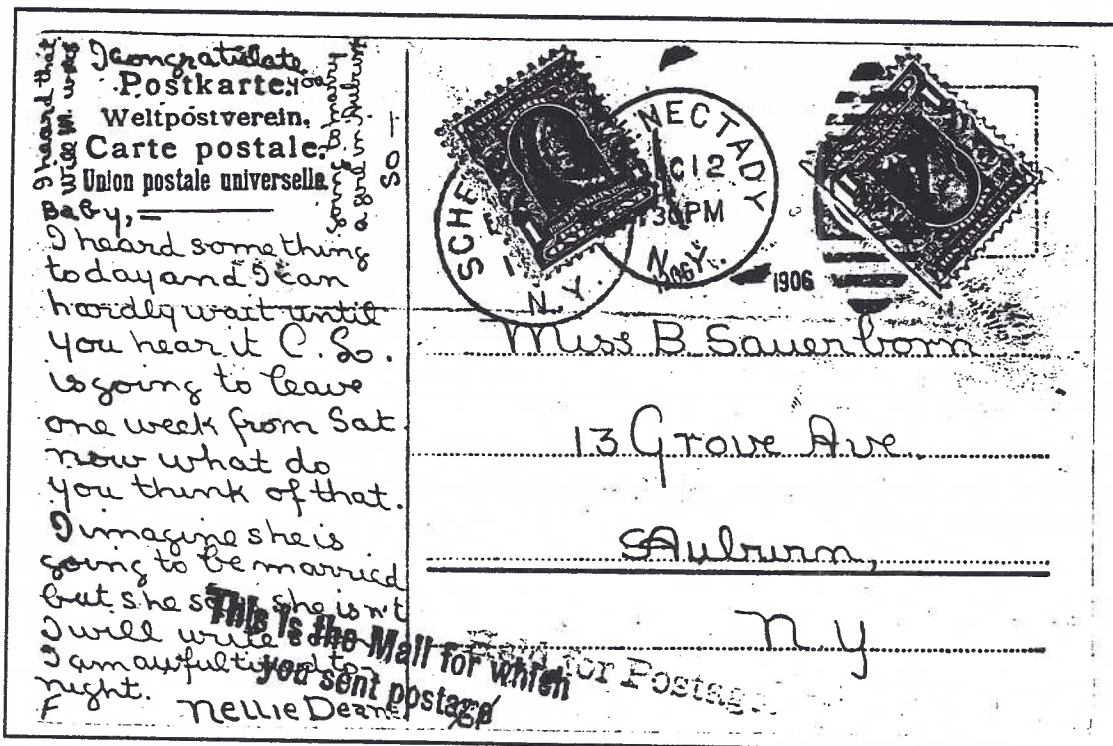
This card was sent on Feb 21, 1909 from Hornell, Steuben Co., which at the time used an American flag type machine cancel. The DeKalb Junction addressee was assessed additional postage, after which the card was forwarded by the Post Office, probably under cover.

The Divided Back

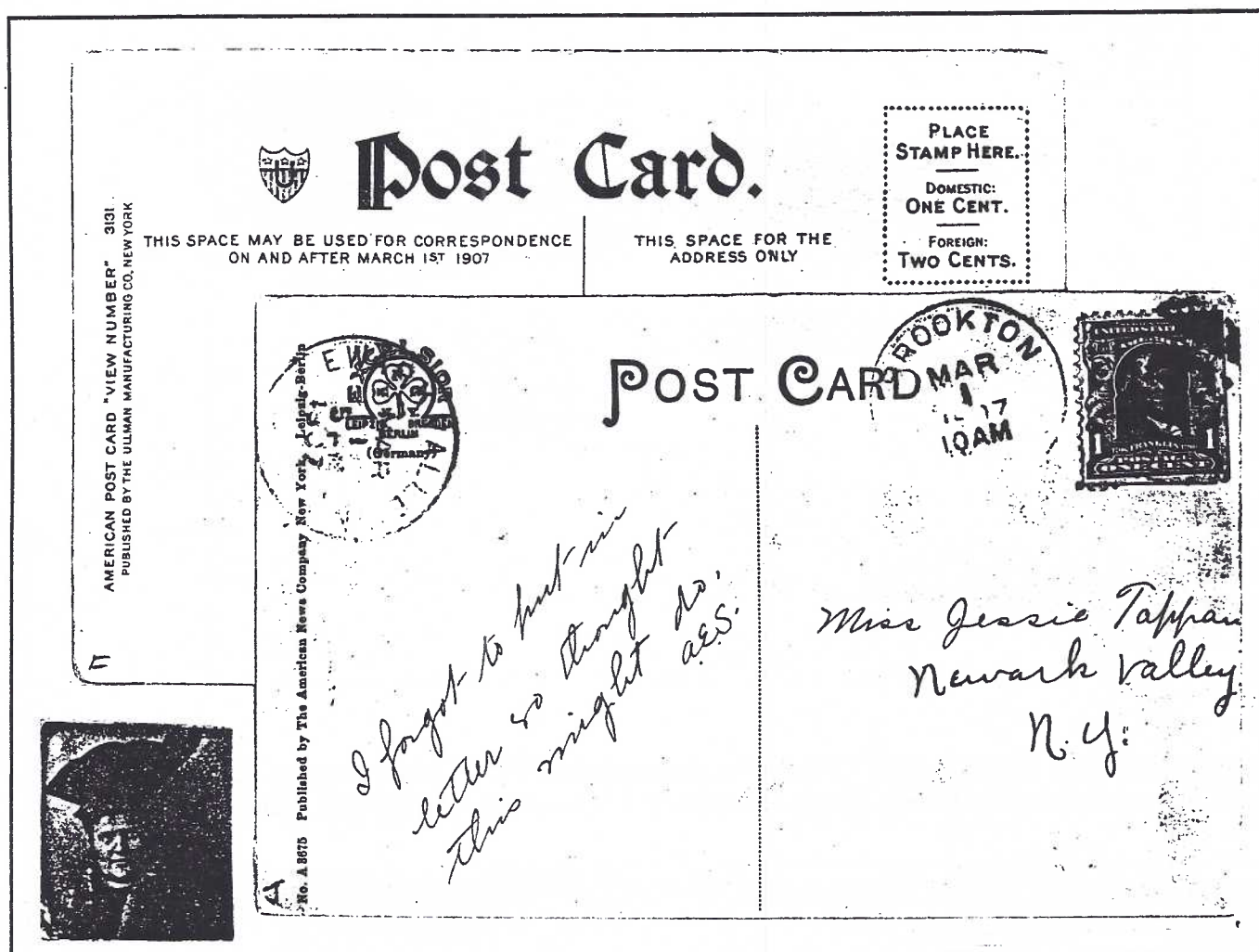
On July 1, 1898 the postal rate for private cards was reduced to 1¢ for domestic destinations with the stipulation that only the address could be put on the side with the stamp. There was one exception, rarely seen, that gave the sender permission to add the sender's name and address, as seen on the card below.



This card was sent from Schenectady, Dec 12, 1906. The addressee in Auburn was dunned, when the card was "Held for Postage." This was the more common procedure for the rate infraction.



With the influx of foreign printed post cards where the left half was allowed for a message, our postal regulations were finally changed as of March 1, 1907 to allow use of the left side. In anticipation of the change and to educate the card buyers some domestic cards were imprinted with the March 1 legend as seen below. Used examples with the legend seem to be scarce.



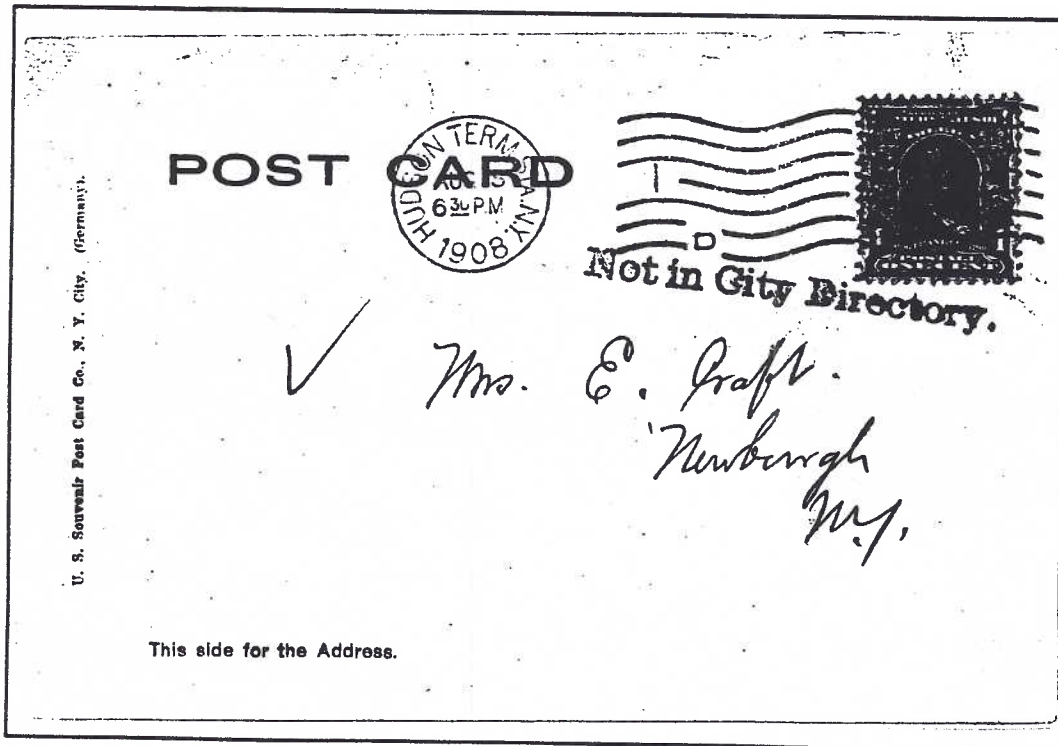
Brookton, 1907, Tompkins Co., DPO to Brooktondale 1926. This card shows the first day of the new rate. It is rare.

Apparently the regulation was not disseminated to the public very well, because such a use in the first three months after March 1 is difficult to find. Within this exhibit only about 40% of all the 1907 cards have messages to the left of the address.

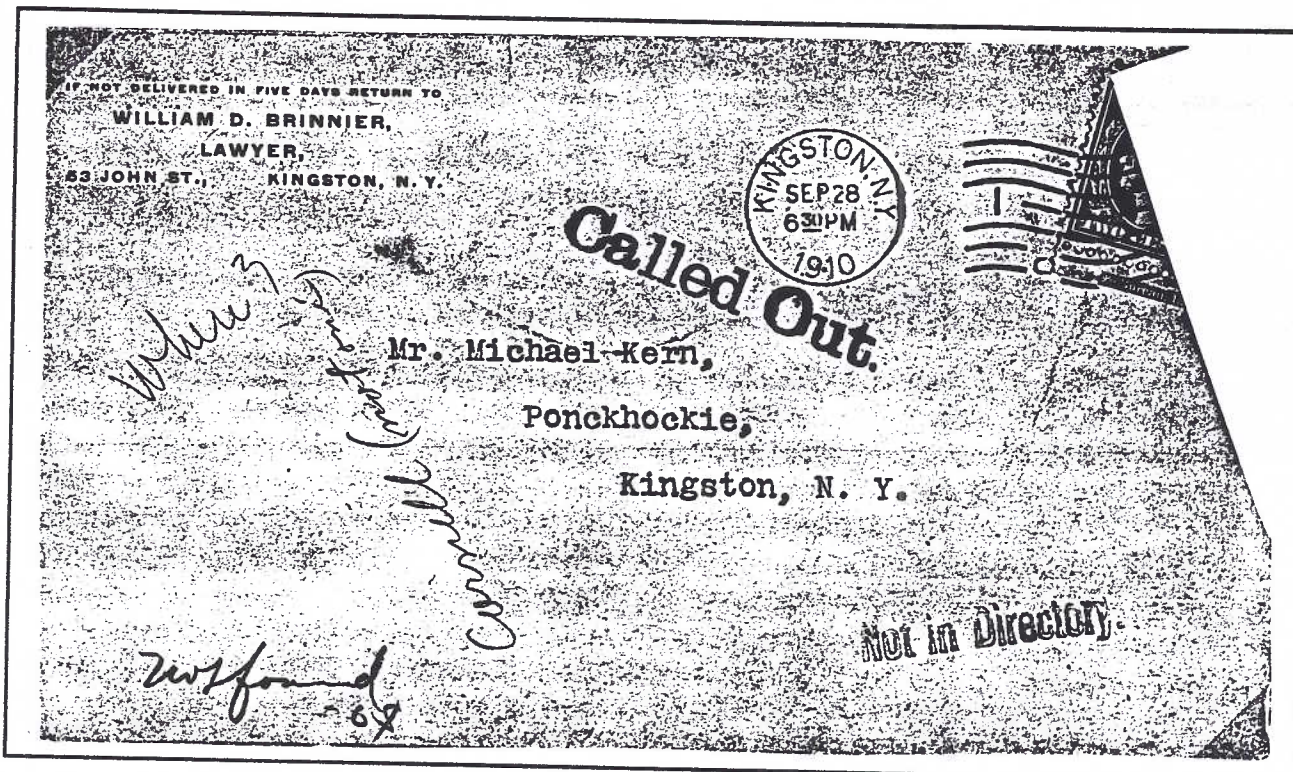
This card is doubly unique, because the 1907 regulation lifted the prohibition of pasting anything to the card. This card has a small photo attached to the reverse to which the message refers.

Post Office Address Deficiency Service

Newburgh, Orange Co.-NOT IN CITY DIRECTORY. This card is an acknowledgment from Five Points Mission in N.Y.C. for a donation by Mrs. Craft, who apparently did not provide an address. It is likely she never received the card.

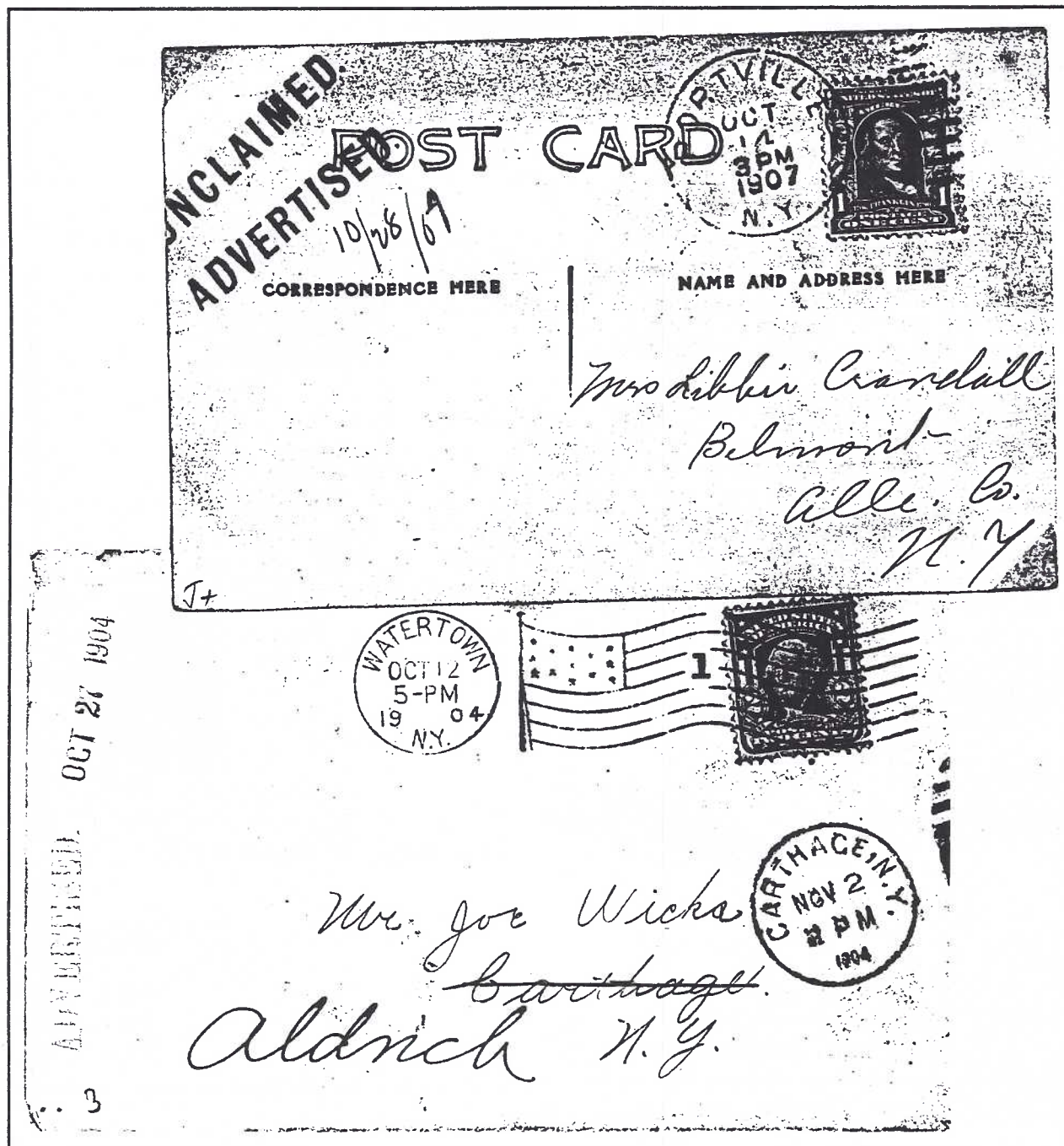


Kingston, Ulster Co., - CALLED OUT. This was a procedure that goes back to the days before city carriers. The several manuscript notations suggest the addressee was not found. The letter was probably returned to the sender.



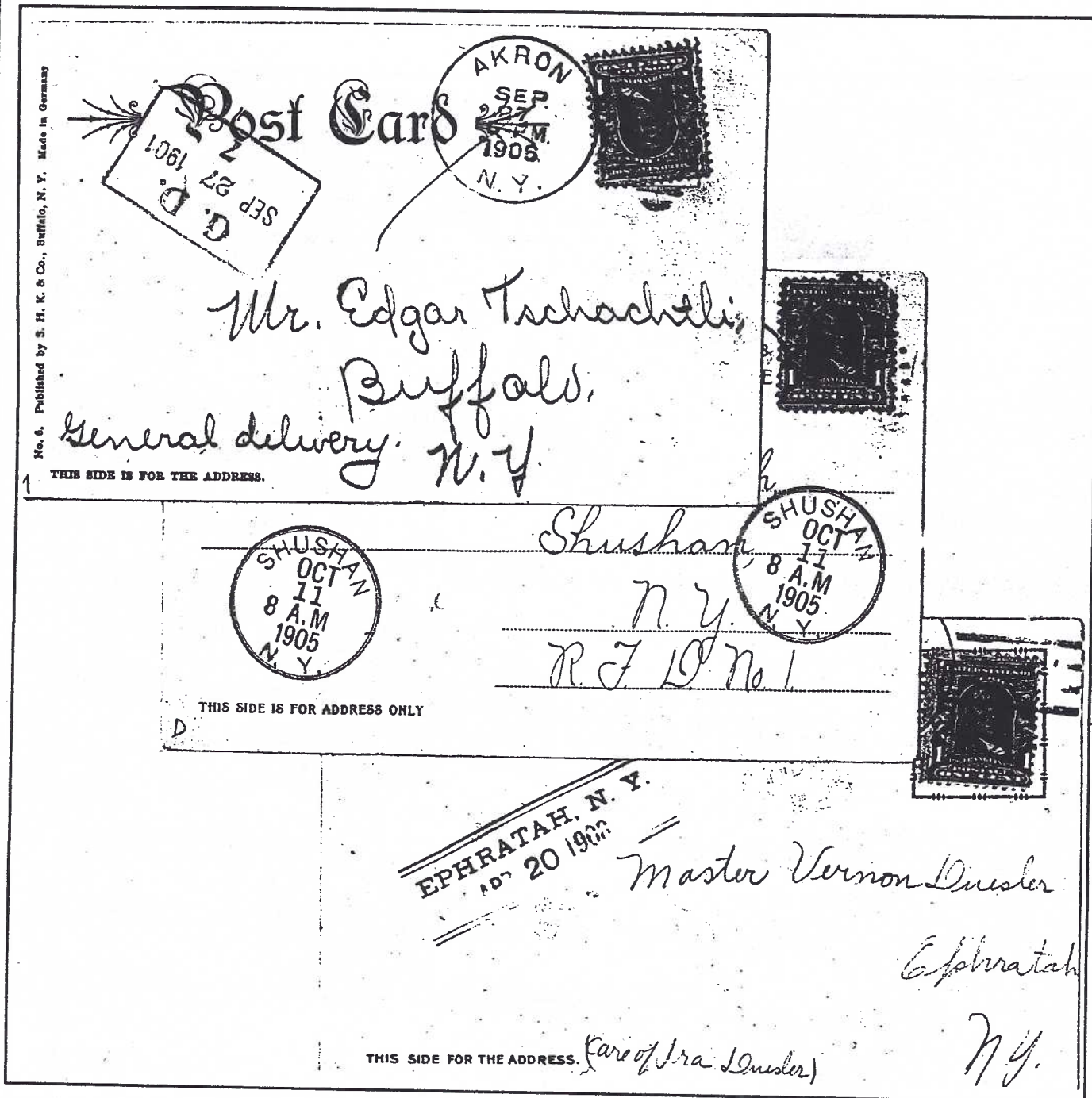
Advertised Mail

After 1900, this service is seldom encountered.



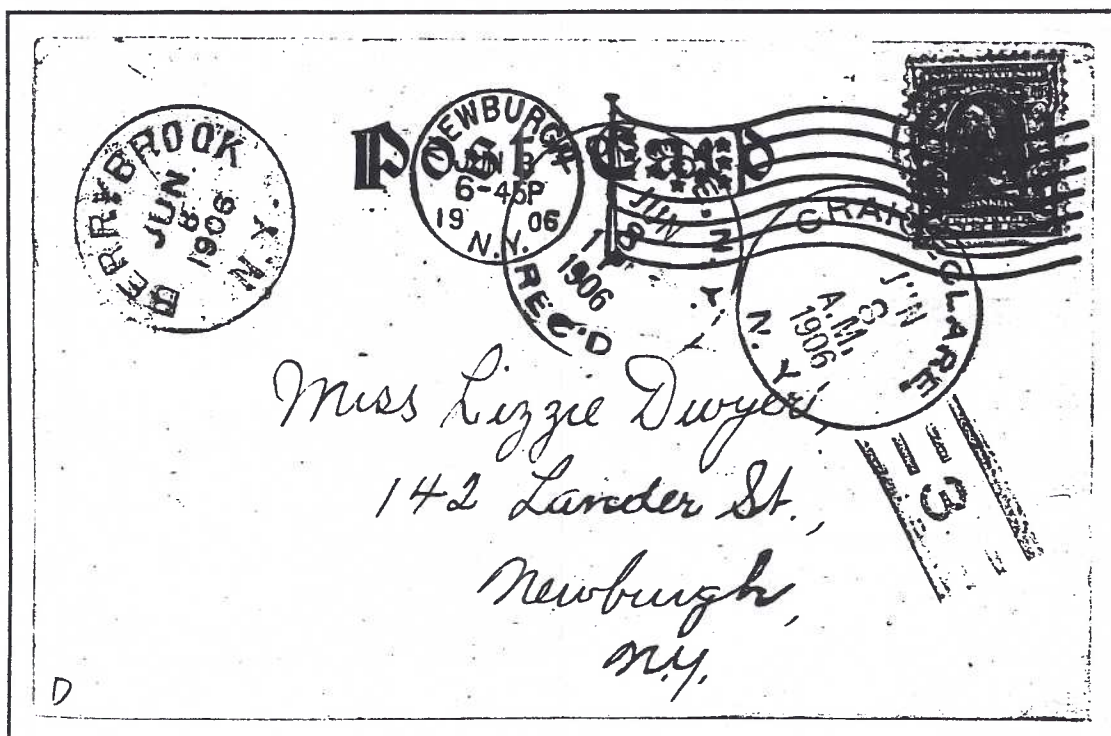
1. This card was sent to Belmont, Allegany Co., on Oct. 14, 1907. The manuscript date indicates it was advertised two weeks later, but was not claimed. The message on the reverse is from a worried friend.
2. The sender of this piece was more fortunate, as the advertising, which took place 15 days after it was sent, appears to have provided a redirection from Carthage, Jefferson Co., to Aldrich, St. Lawrence Co., from which there was a Nov 3 backstamp.

Uncommon Receiving Marks



1. Buffalo, Erie Co., Sep 27, 1901 (error 1906), General Delivery
2. Shushan, Washington Co., Oct 11, 1905
3. Ephratah, Fulton Co., Apr 20, 1908

Multiple Markings



Berrybrook,
Jun 8, 1906,
Delaware Co.
DPO 1919

Craigclaire, AM,
Sullivan Co.
DPO 1914

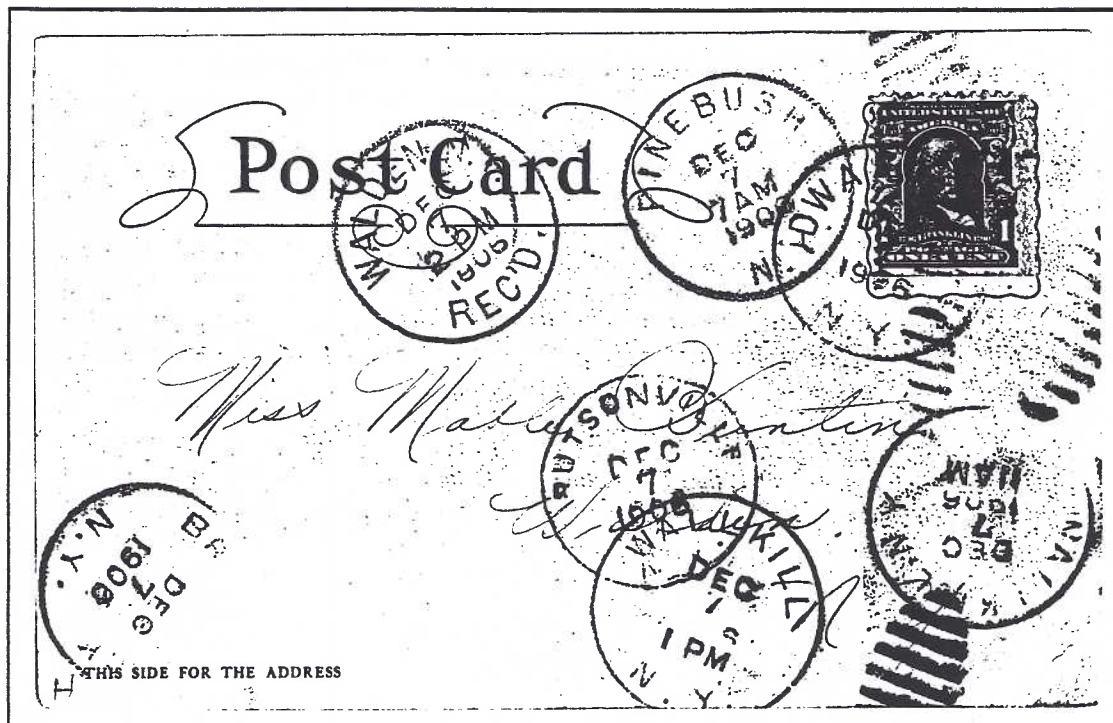
Roscoe, 1 PM
Sullivan Co.

Newburgh
6:45 PM
Orange Co.

7 postmarks in

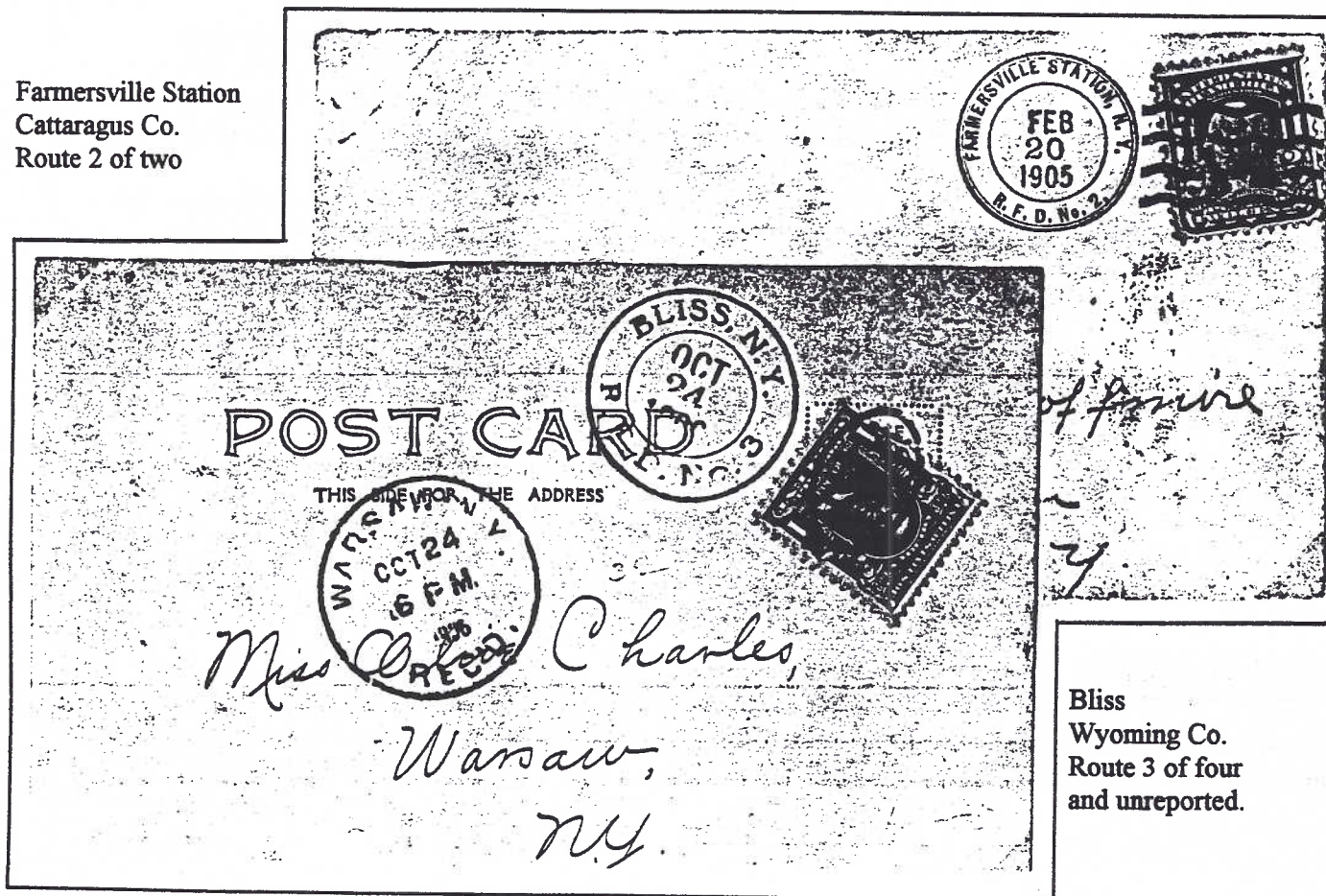
7 hours. In 1906 the mail sometimes moved the long way around. This card with a Pine Bush scene shows a postmark sequence on December 7 with Pine Bush and Walden in Orange Co., and the others in Ulster Co. as follows:

1. Pine Bush, 7AM
2. Dwaarkill
DPO 1916
3. Bruynswick
DPO 1907
4. Rutsonville
DPO 1918
5. Wallkill
received at 11AM
6. Walden
received at
2PM



Non-standard Cancellations type 8 has a circular dial as part of design.
Both routes had the same style cancel. Two other Bliss routes had the same style cancel.

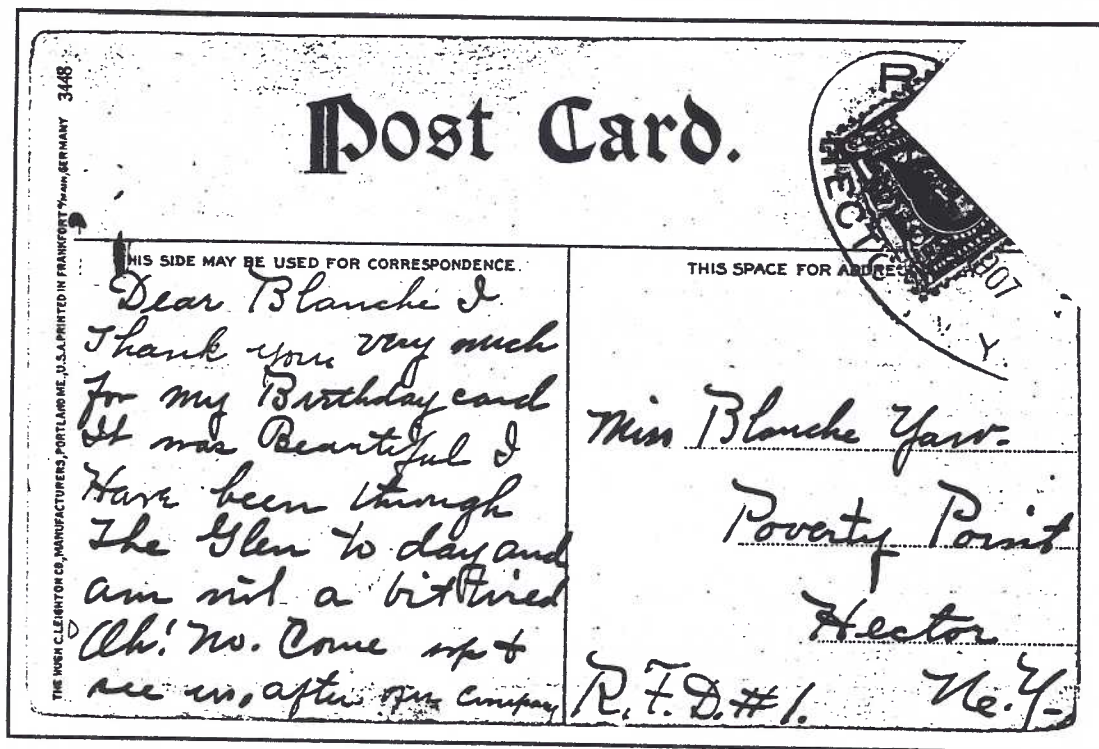
Farmersville Station
Cattaraugus Co.
Route 2 of two



Bliss
Wyoming Co.
Route 3 of four
and unreported.

Non-standard cancel type 9 represents all fancy designs.

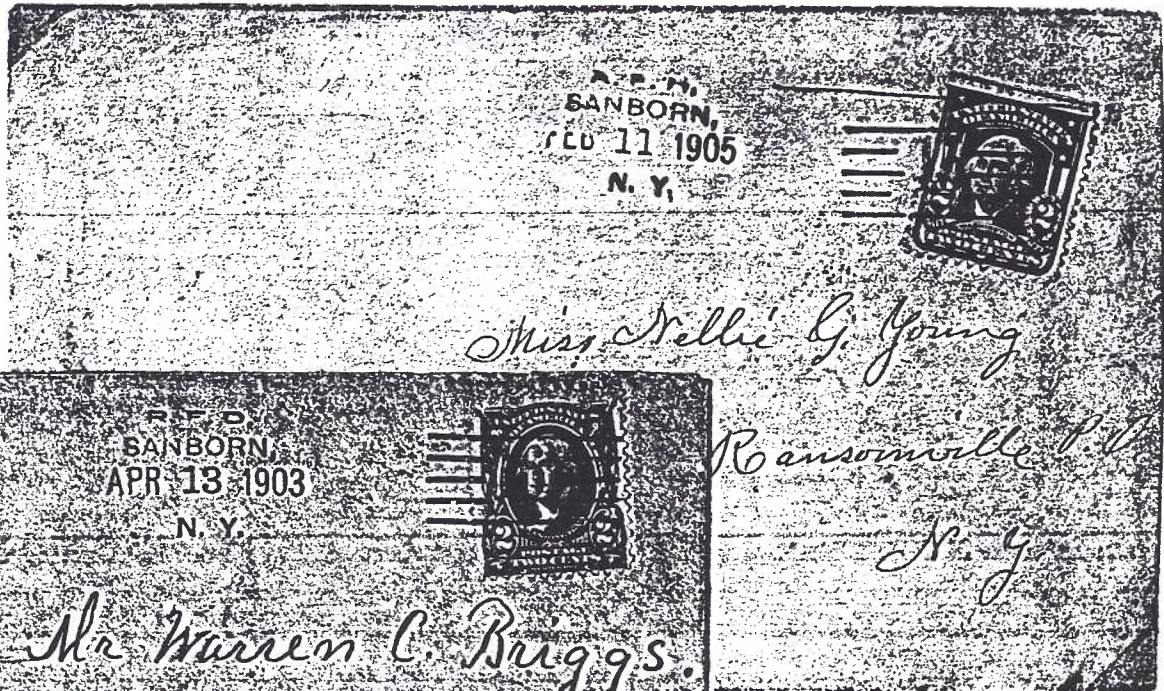
Hector
Schuyler Co.
one route
Only N.Y. fancy



RFD County Systems

As RFD mail handling evolved, it was recognized that integration of routes in some areas would be more efficient. Niagara Co., the first in New York followed by nine others, was studied in early 1901 from which 42 routes were laid out, numbered in sequence and started in November 1901. Sanborn had three routes, all Type 1.

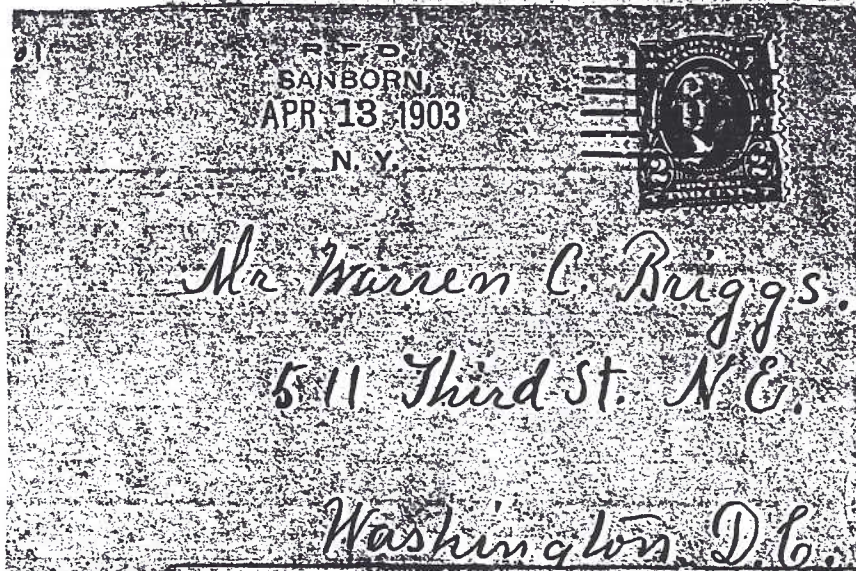
Route 15



Miss Nellie G. Young

*Ransomville P.O.
N. Y.*

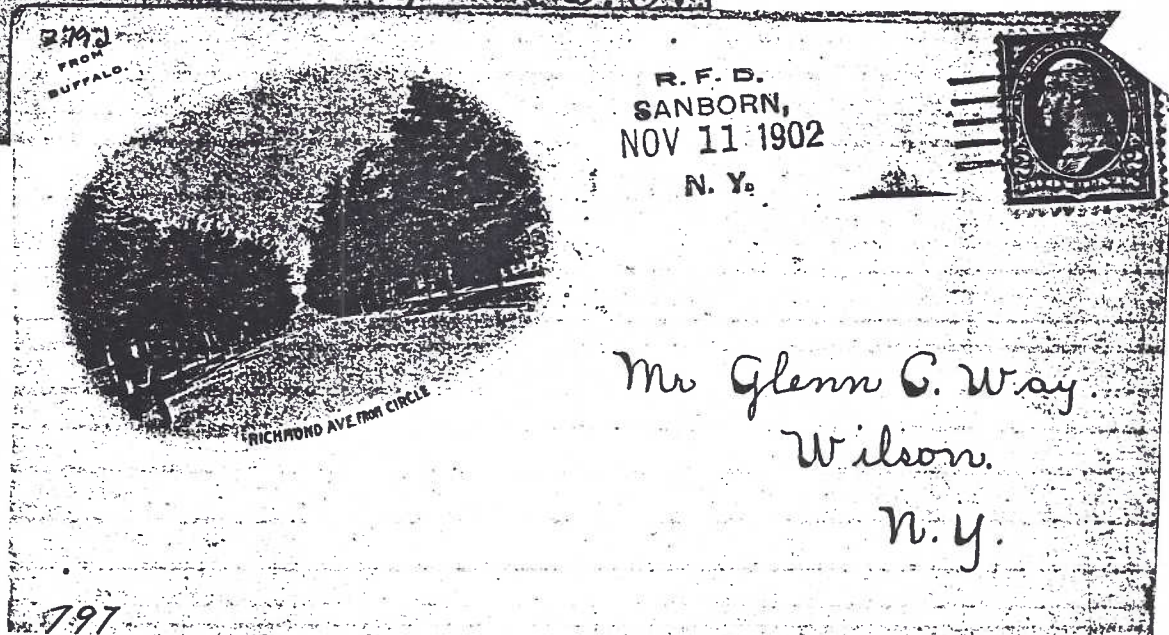
Route 16



*Mr Warren C. Briggs.
511 Third St. N.E.*


Washington D.C.

Route 17





*Mr Glenn C. Way
Wilson.
N. Y.*

RFD Cancels with Overseas Destinations


POSTAL CARD.
THE SPACE ABOVE IS RESERVED FOR POSTMARK.
THE SPACE BELOW IS FOR THE ADDRESS ONLY.

*Mrs. Haulan,
 Junissamon,
 Co. Cork,
 Ireland.*

**Hyde Park
 Dutchess Co., Type 2**





**Hyde Park
 Dec 23 1903**

*J Maxwell
 Charlbury
 Chichester
 Dumfriesshire
 Scotland*


**Glens Falls
 Warren Co.
 Type 2**

R.F.D.
DEC 23 1902
MOUNT KISCO.
N.Y.



*Mrs. Hamilton A. Hopkin.
 Villa Lillien.
 7 Abegg Strasse
 Wiesbaden.
 Germany.*

**West Monroe
 Oswego Co.
 Type 1**



**WEST MONROE,
 MAY 23 1903
 N.Y.**

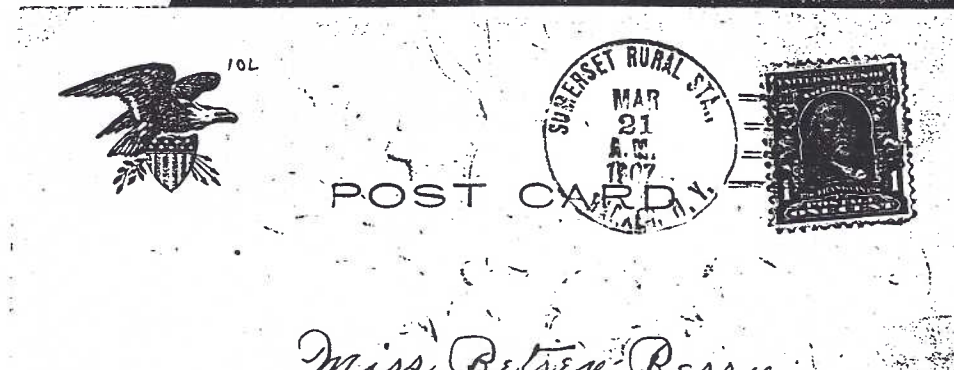
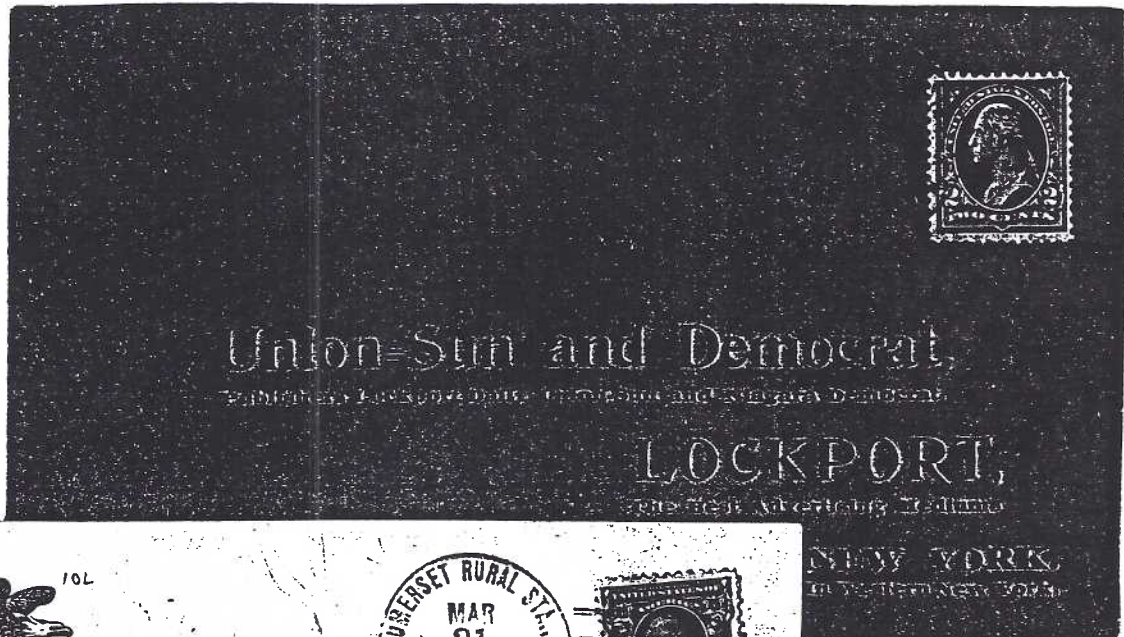
*R. Donaldson
 Comarines
 Philippine Islands*

**Mount Kisco
 Westchester Co.
 Type 2**

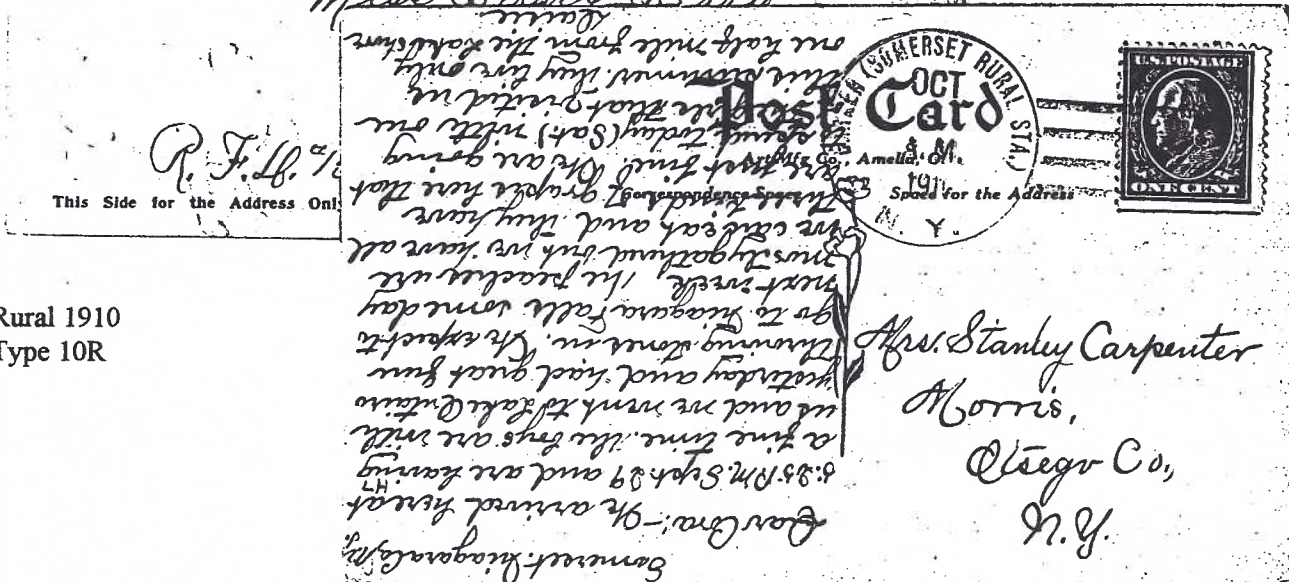
Type 10 - Postal and Rural Stations

A few offices were maintained to service interconnecting routes, when the county system was established. They were called Postal Stations. P.O. records identify ten of which six markings have been reported. Shown below is Somerset Postal Station, RFD Barker, N.Y. In 1904 the designation was changed to Rural Station. Somerset was one of six and the only one operating after 1907. These hand stamps were P.O. issue.

Postal 1902
Type 10B



Rural 1907
Type 10L

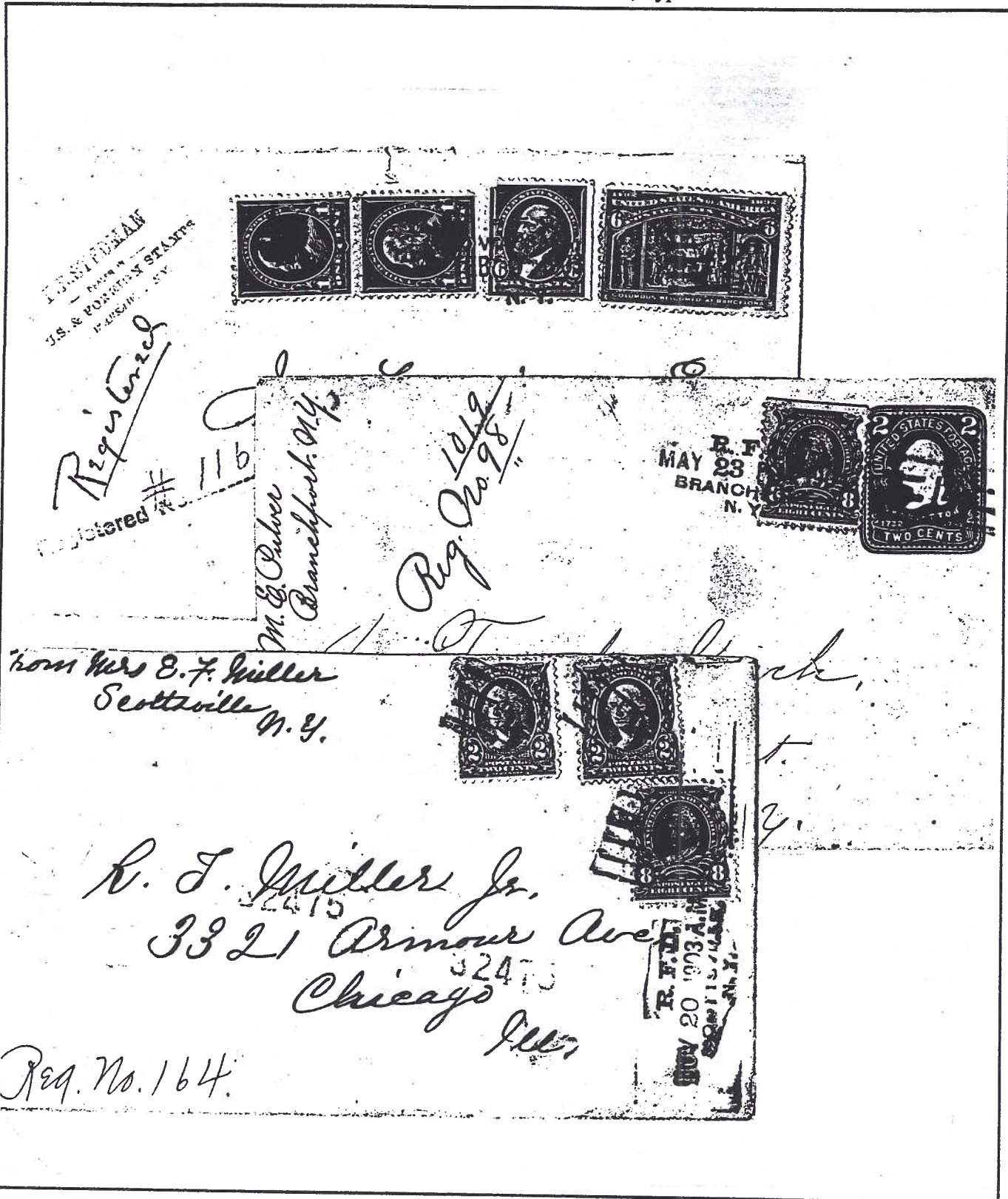


Rural 1910
Type 10R

Registered Mail on Rural Routes

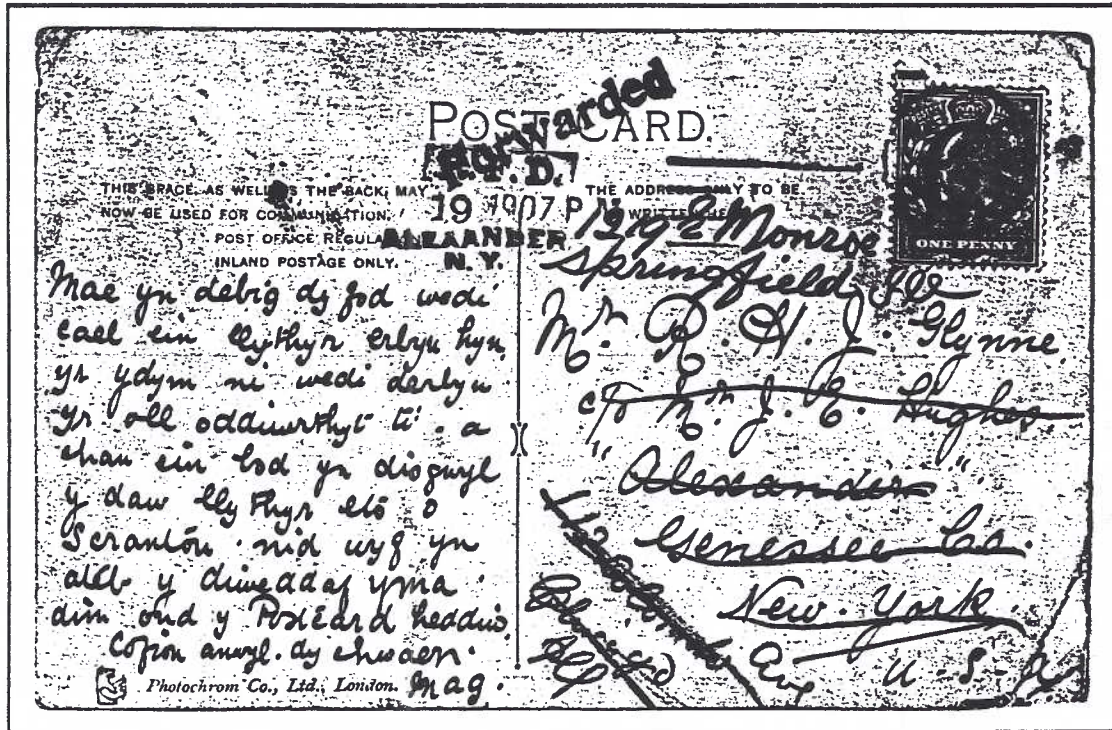
The combination of registry service with RFD hand cancels is uncommon, but each carrier had his own log book and could provide a variety of services.

Warsaw, Wyoming Co., Route 2 of 5, Type 1.
Branchport, 3 routes, Rt. 14 of Yates Co., Type 2.
Scottsville, Monroe Co., Route 1 of 2, Type 2.

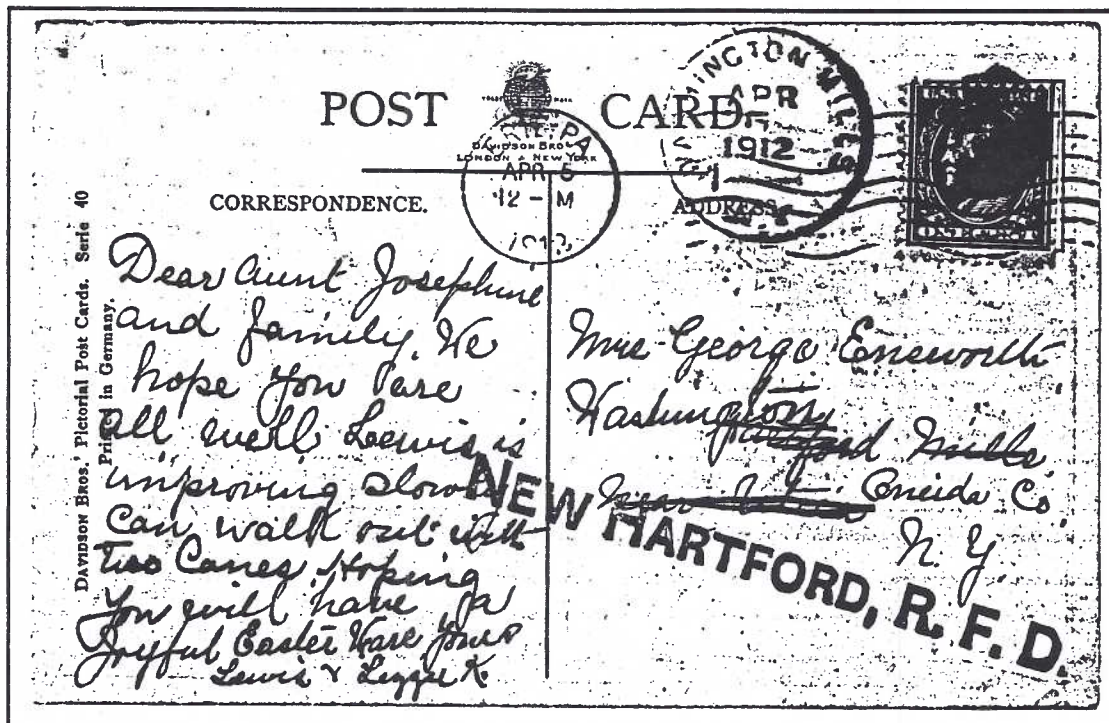


Directory Assistance for RFD

From Cwmyglo, Great Britain to Alexander, Genesee Co., 2 routes. Type 2, Rt. 1 hand stamp used as a transit mark and readdressed to Illinois with FORWARDED applied.



Misaddressed card received at Washington Mills and directed to NEW HARTFORD, R.F.D., two routes. Both are adjacent communities near Utica, Oneida Co. The Type 3 marking suggests an occasional need.

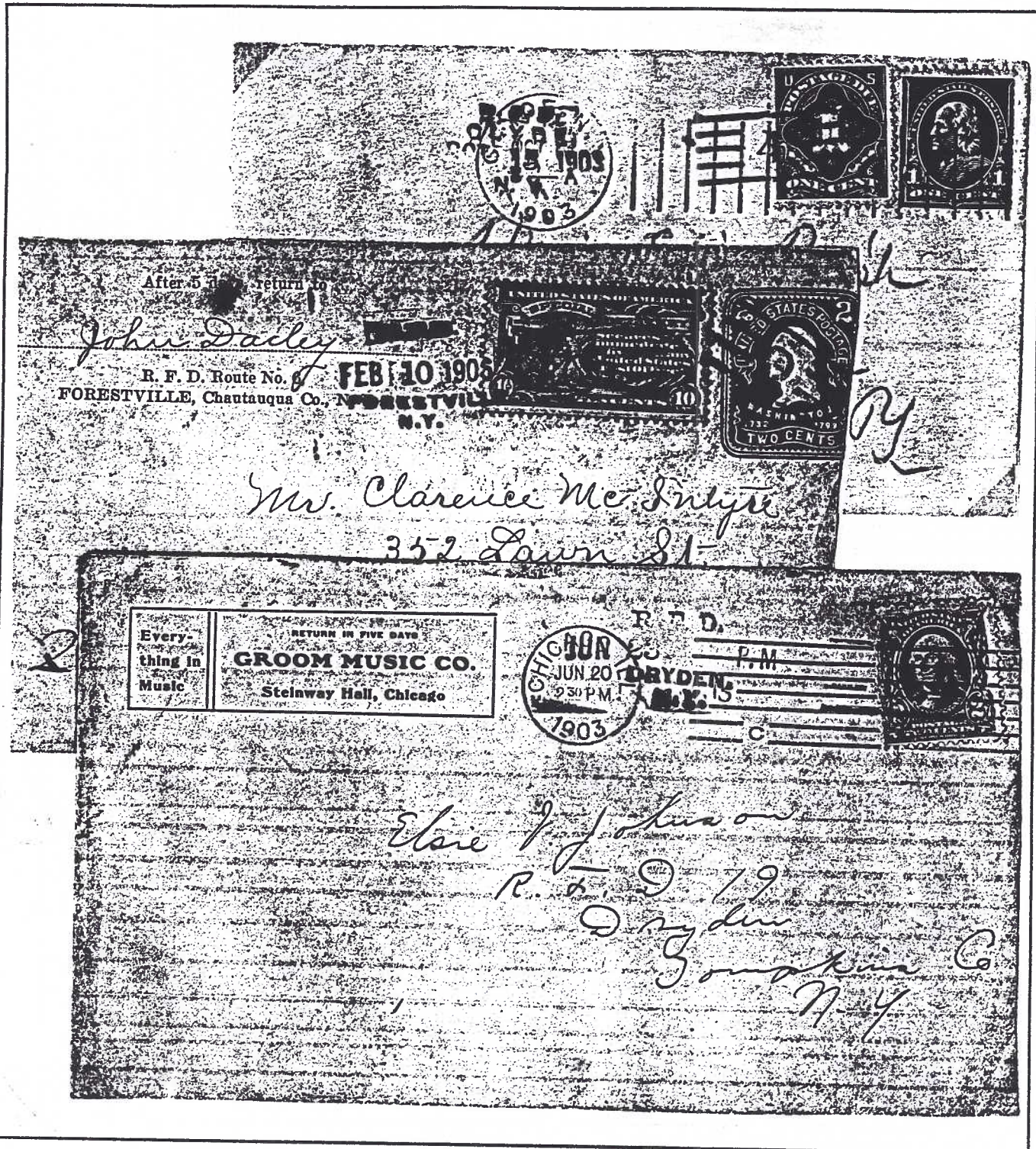


P.O. Service Markings with RFD Cancels

(Top) The advent of RFD service precluded the drop letter rate. This letter franked with 1¢ 1898 stamp was canceled with Clyde Doremus machine, over which a 1¢ due stamp was applied and in turn canceled with a Type 1 RFD of Clyde, Wayne Co., Rt. 4 of five.

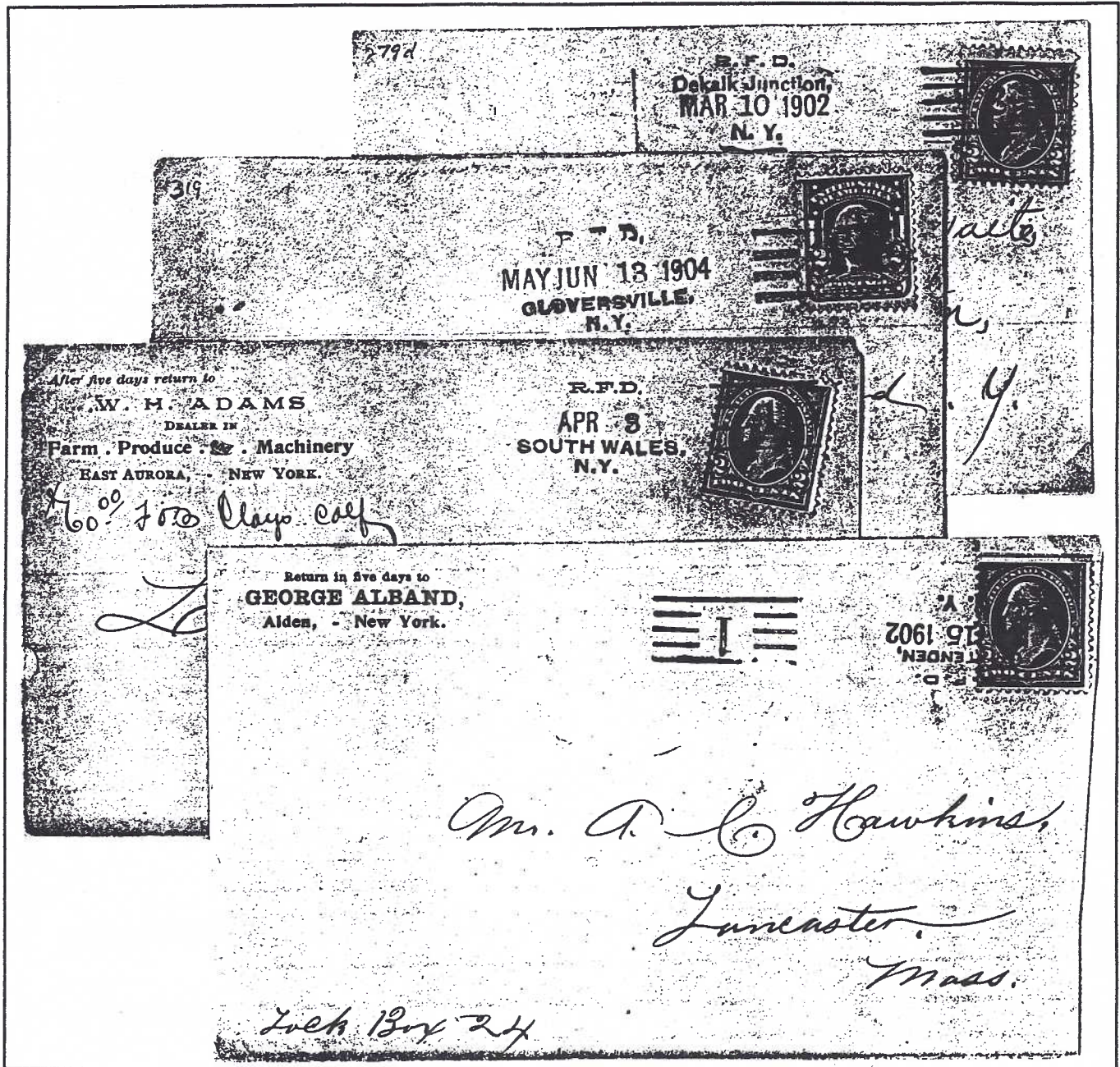
(Middle) Type 2 cancel of Forestville, 5 routes, Rt. 6 of Chautauqua Co. Cover has two RPO Feb. 10 backstamps and a 9 AM Feb. 11 Pittsburgh receiving cancel. Special Delivery sent from rural routes is most uncommon.

(Bottom) A Type 2 cancel is used as receiving mark from Dryden, 2 routes, Rt. 19 of Tompkins Co. The cover, mailed June 20, was backstamped Dryden received Jun 22, 9 AM and the RFD cancel applied June 23.



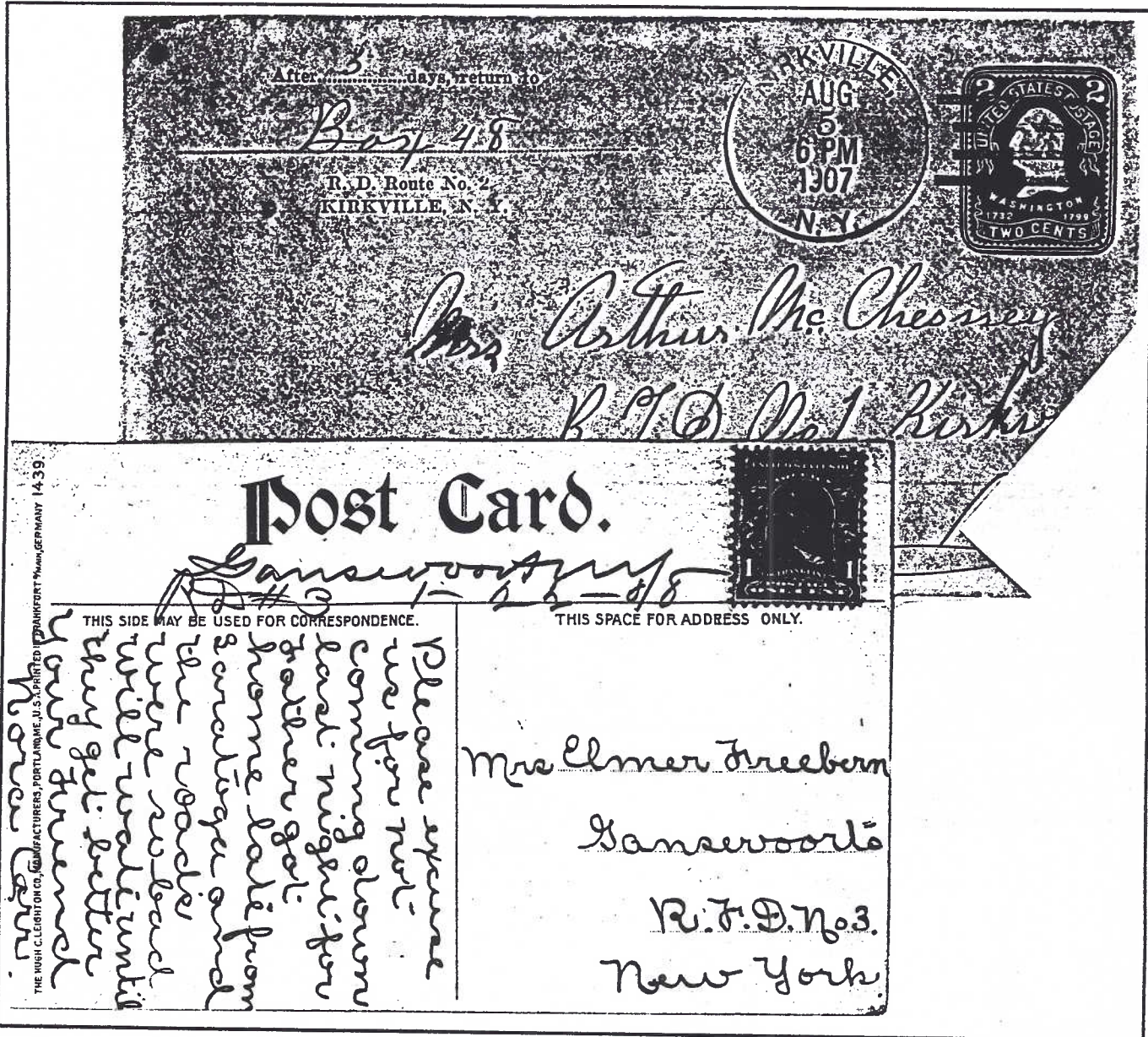
RFD Hand Cancels - Errors

- (1) Spelling error - Dekalb Junction, 3 routes, 1902, Rt. 2, St. Lawrence Co.
- (2) Month error - Gloversville, 2 routes, 1904, Rt. 2, Fulton Co.
- (3) No year date - South Wales, 1 route, 1902, Erie Co. Very uncommon for pre-1904 use. A year date was used in 1903.
- (4) Inverted - Crittenden, 1 route, 1902, Erie Co. Seldom seen - 2 out of 400 known.



RFD Epilogue

The use of RFD hand cancels was very brief - about ten years with a few exceptions. In the fourth year, as of July 1903 the P.O. ceased issuing the hand stamps. The carriers were directed to manuscript cancel "down-the-line" mail and bring the remainder to his office for canceling.



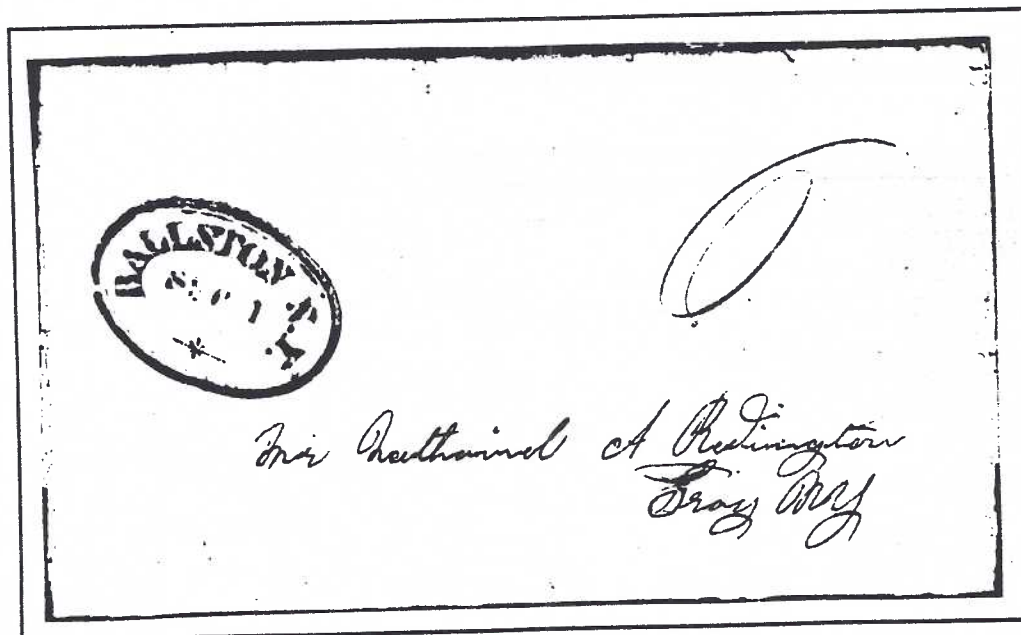
Kirkville, Onondaga Co., 2 routes. Letter sent from Rt. 2 to Rt. 1. No carrier cancels are recorded for Rt. 2 after 1903. Obviously taken to local office for canceling.

Manuscript cancels are classified in the Richow system as Type 11 with a wide range of sub-types depending on completeness. This complete example is from a route of which no hand stamps are recorded.

Gansevoort, NY, RD#3, 1-22-08 (Saratoga Co.)

TYPICAL BALLSTON OVALS (Saratoga County, N.Y.)

Submitted as a four page exhibit in a recent
ESPHS K.R. Delisle Competition by John A. Lange, Jr.



September 1, 1829

Earliest known Ballston
oval with fancy ornament.

33½ x 22½ mm Red

Double-Line Oval
Thick outer line,
thin inner line

6 & town in red

Fancy ornament below
month/day

The internal dating of the letter is "Tuesday morn, September 1." Years having this combination of weekday and date are 1812, 1818, 1829, 1835 and 1840. Since circular strikes are known starting in 1832, the conclusion was reached that the only possible year would be 1829.

The 1985 ASCC reports the oval with ornament as only occurring in black in 1831. PM of NYS (1993) lists O-R and Black for 1831-32. This cover shows usage two years earlier.

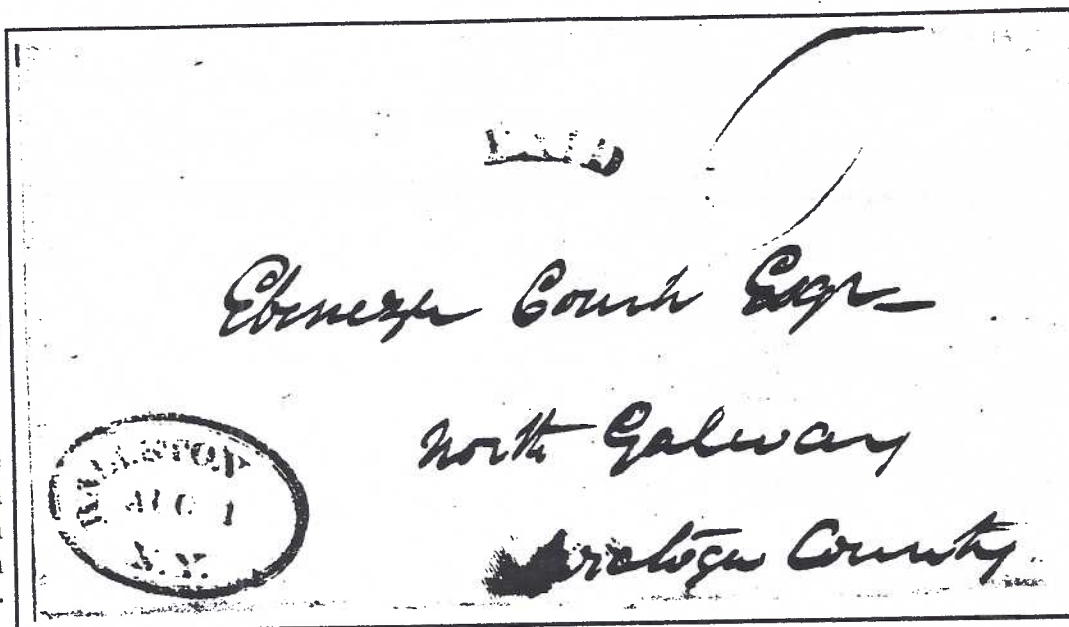
1829

33½ x 23 mm
Double Line Oval

18 x 4½ arc "PAID"

Both markings in red,
town & paid 6 in black
ms.

This strike is a different variety from the presently listed Ballston, Ballston Springs and Ballston Spa ovals in the following respects:



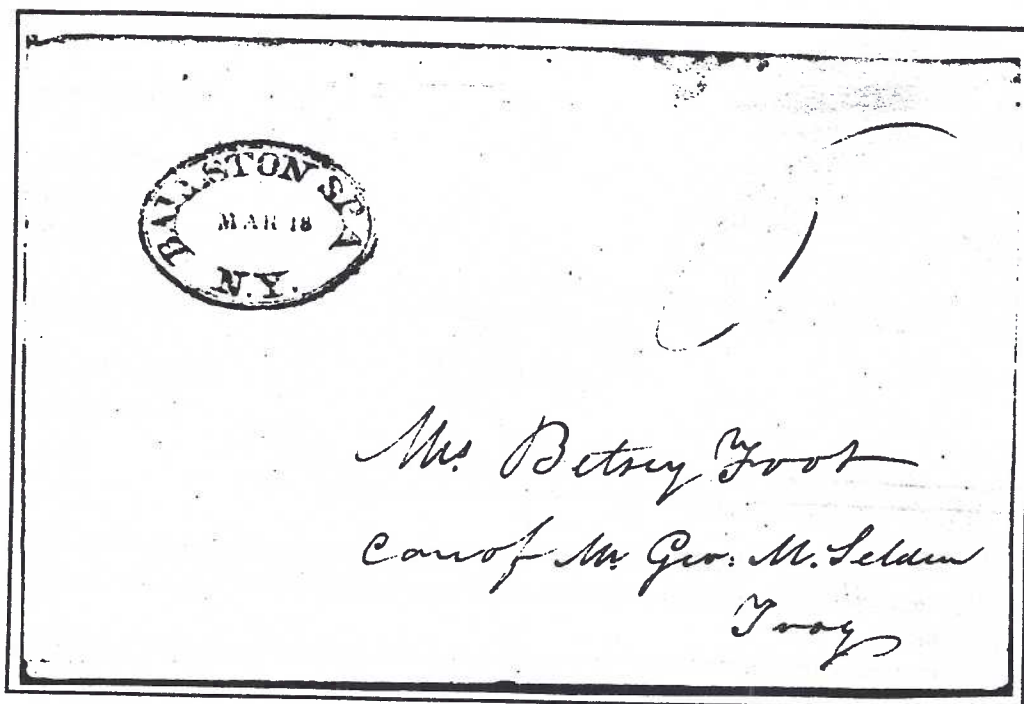
1. Size:
 - Ballston 33½ x 22½ mm & 34 x 23 mm with and without * at bottom, 1831
 - Ballston Springs 31 x 22 mm, 1826 - 1827
 - Ballston Spa 31 x 21 mm, 1826-1828; 35 x 24 mm, 1828-1829

2. Lettering Position: "BALLSTON" curves from the left side thru the top, similar to the Ballston Spa Ovals, but there is a large area at the top right which is blank. This blank space is just the right size for the word "SPA."

Ballston Spa Double-Line Oval, 31½ x 22½ mm
 This carce double-line oval strike is known only for a short period, 1826-28.
 Both in red, ms rates in red also.

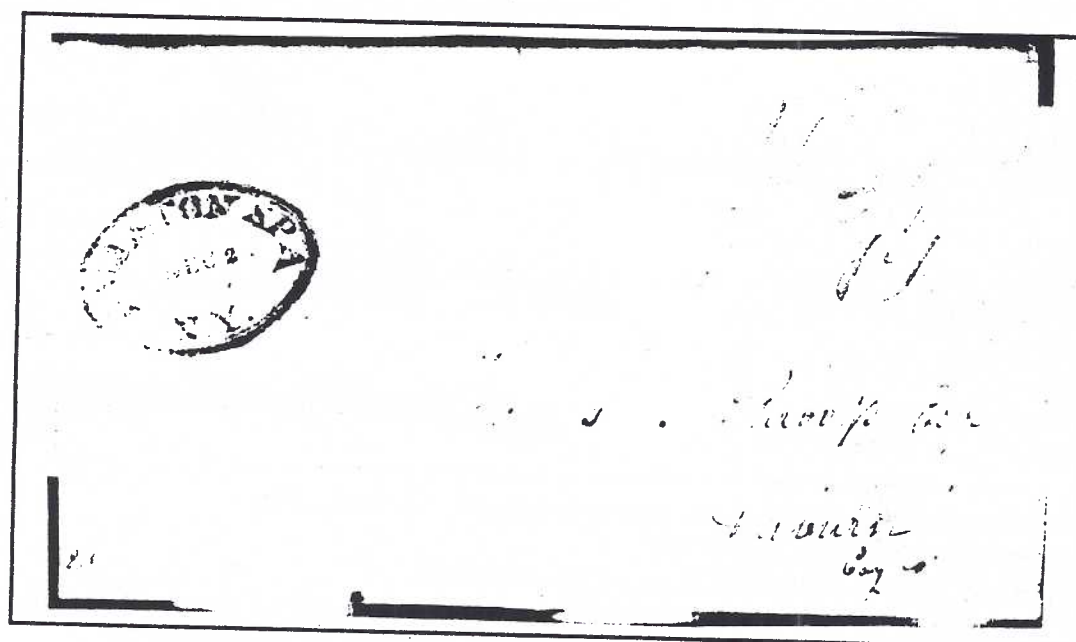
1826

6¢ rate for single letters with a destination of not over 30 miles.

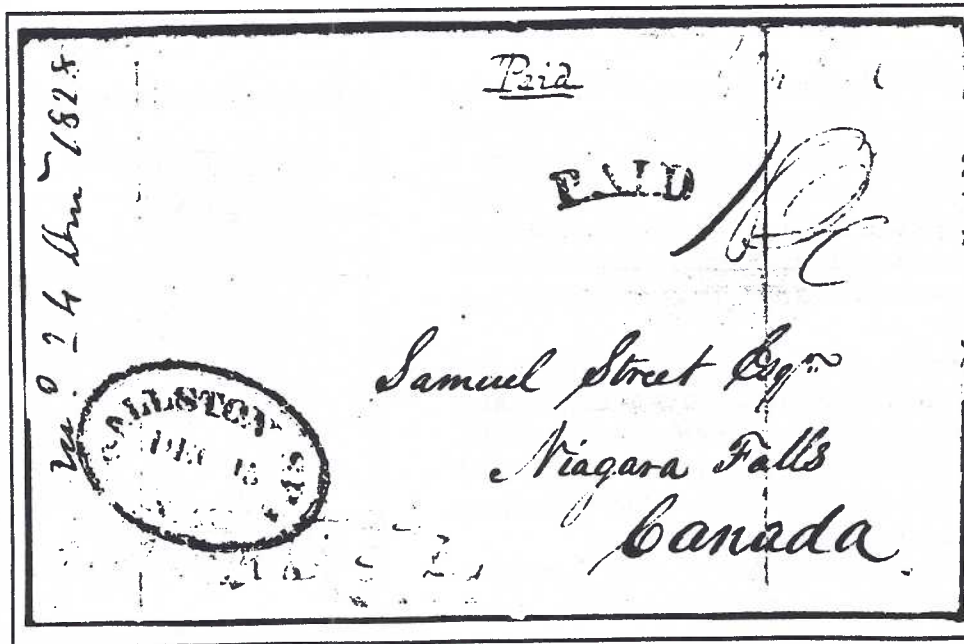


1826

18¾¢ zone rate 150 to 400 miles.



33 x 23 Double-Line Oval
December 15, 1828



Cross-Border Mail to Canada "PAID TO THE LINES"

Letters from the United States to Canada could be sent unpaid or prepaid, as done here. However, the Canadian postage could not be prepaid in the United States and an additional fee of 4½ Canadian pence was paid by the Canadian recipient.

Markings:

1. B. Spa red 33 x 23 mm, double-line oval known only in 1828-1829.
2. B. Spa red 18 x 4 mm "PAID" in an arc, manuscript "Paid"
3. B. Spa red "18¾" 18¾¢ zone rate for a single letter, 150 to 400 miles, this rate effective May 1, 1825 to June 30, 1845.
4. Canadian red 4½, 4½ Canadian pence, equaling the prescribed rate of 4d Sterling; rate for up to 60 miles for a single piece of paper, rate effective June 1, 1792 to Jan. 4, 1844.

We need your articles for the next edition
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PARDON MY SMIRK

Sidney Fingerhood
Ardmore, Pennsylvania

Smirk is an intransitive verb, whose meaning we all know, but one that we do not often use in everyday speech. "To smile in a conceited, knowing or annoyingly complacent way," is the Webster's Dictionary definition. This word immediately sprang into mind when I opened my copy of the July 13, 1998 issue of *Linn's Stamp News* and, on page 1, was a notice of a postage stamp to be issued in honor of Lila and Dewitt Wallace of *RD (Reader's Digest)* fame (Fig. 1)

I have never been much of an *RD* fan but I have been aware of the good work and philanthropy of the Wallaces and, for this reason I tip my hat. My smirk arose from the exasperation felt toward *RD* by every road clerk during the 1960s. In that decade and into the 70s, *RD* had a promotion scheme, a sweepstakes of sorts, that must have been sent to every household in the United States.

In this promotion, somewhat similar to what *Publisher's Clearing House* does today, recipients would fill out a form and send it off to *RD* headquarters in Pleasantville, N.Y. in hopes of winning thousands of dollars, or all sorts of prizes. Remember now, these were the days before the advent of casinos, state lotteries and OTB, and when, as now, "hope sprung eternal." All this extra mail would up on RPOs terminating in New York City and then sent to Pleasantville by truck from the New York City GPO or by closed pouch on the New York Central tracks along the old line of the Brewster & New York RPO (mercifully gone in 1954.



Fig. 1. The 32¢ Lila and DeWitt Wallace stamp was issued July 16, 1998 in Pleasantville, N.Y.

Reading these works as a layman, it may be difficult to grasp how the volume of New York State mail increased. Our comrades from connecting trains at Washington D.C. could do only so much to help us and so our trains into New York City were the distribution of last resort. Our three New York State distribution clerks were increased to five men and all of us involved in other assignments were ready to help out, whenever free moments appeared. We would flip through letter packages of state mail, pull out *RD* letters and let the regular New York State clerks work their normal mail. Sometimes we would be able to get a substitute clerk out of a terminal just to perform this task. Larger post offices would already make up direct letter packaged to *RD* using the green label 88 (Fig. 2); smaller offices were not always as helpful. We would make direct pouches, labeled to READERS DIGEST/PLEASANTVILLE, NY, on one banner trip we dispatched 11 times, that is 11 direct pouches!

In retrospect, I cannot seem to remember our crews ever getting stuck on New York State mail, but of course there was a downside. Due to this volume of mail, we were not able to find time for distribution to our connecting RPOs out of New York City and Northern New Jersey. Except for making directis of larger post offices, we would not break down the New York and Chicago RPO into sections, except up to Croton-on-the-Hudson

where at least offices close to New York City could be made up and not miss service; otherwise, this mail would have had to go back, usually at Albany, on an RPO going the other way. We would follow a similar procedure for the New

GPO : 1968 O-56496

POSTMASTER

This cooperation on your part will enable this office to place responsibility and eventually give you better service.

Upon opening this package you will kindly note whether or not errors are found. If so, please enter your firm name and date on this slip, and return it together with wrongly delivered mail to the post office.

Impression of postal installation stamp, date, tour, or number must appear below:

UNITED STATES POST OFFICE

DIRECT PACKAGE

Firm Case Mail

ALL FOR FIRM ON FACE

POD LABEL
SEP. 1960 88

Fig. 2.

York and Sala RPO out of Jersey City, New Jersey and for the New York, Scranton and Buffalo RPO out of the Hoboken, New Jersey terminal. It was not an ideal solution, but we had no other alternative.

Eventually, the sweepstakes deadline passed and suddenly everything was back to normal (until December, but that is an entirely different story).

During those years, Warren F. Kimball, Jr., the leading founder of MPOS, was living in Pleasantville, New York. I was in regular correspondence with Warren during those days and you can be certain I never allowed my mail to get mixed with *RD*.

Now with all this, can you understand my smirk?

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MANUSCRIPT DATA STILL NEEDED!

Just because the Master Supplement has been published doesn't mean that there is no more work to be done. Please look over your copy (*what do you mean, you haven't ordered one yet?*) and send new towns, dates, or corrections to the editor. If you have suggestions about format, they will be considered for the next edition. WE URGENTLY NEED DATA ABOUT MULTI-COUNTY OFFICES! Your contribution is appreciated.

SEND DATA TO:

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