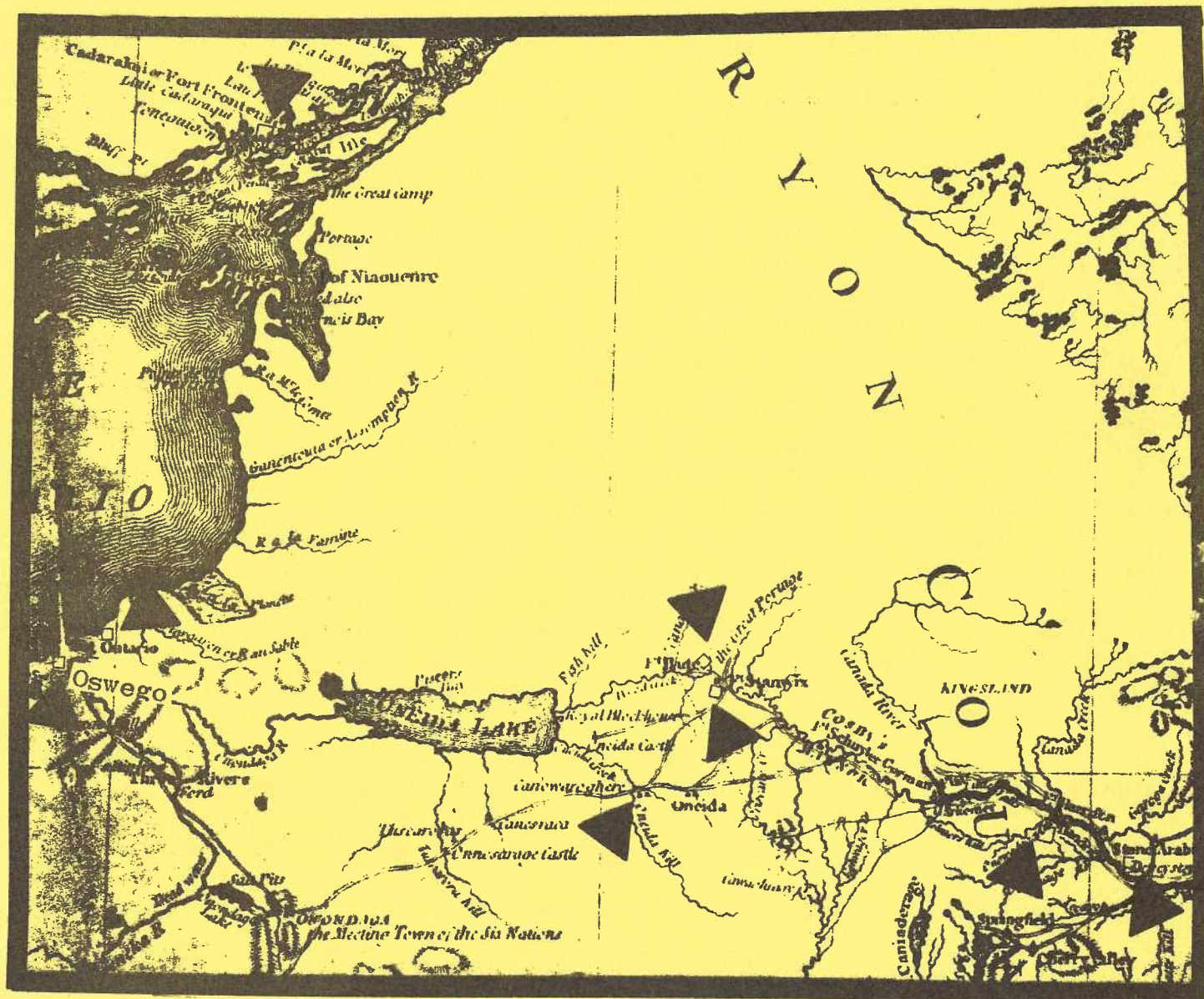


# Excelsior



Scene of the 1758-9 Bancker French and Indian War Letters  
as it was in 1775

EMPIRE STATE POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Summer, 1977

## THE LAST FLAG CANCEL MACHINE

by Harry Taber

Flag cancellations are a specialized collecting interest. The machines were manufactured by the American Postal Supply Company of Boston, Mass. and Portland, Me., which for many years was one of the biggest companies in the postal supply business.

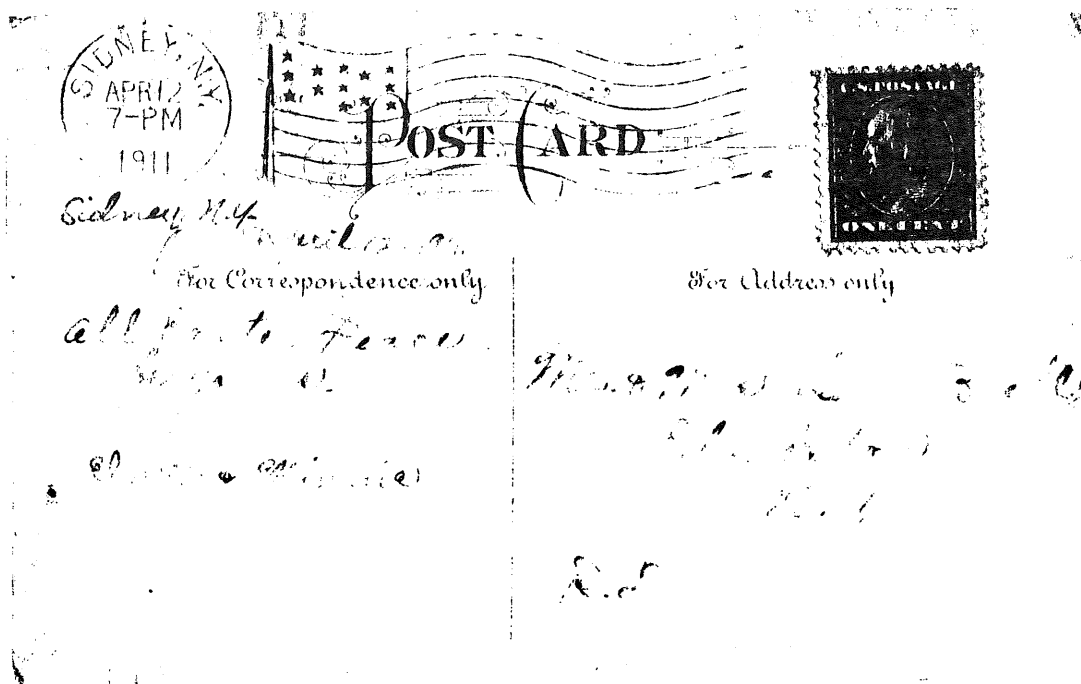
While a number of handstamps used flag designs, for example, the Newark Valley, N.Y. cancel of the 1850's, or the Washoe, Nev. Union flag cancellation (late 1860's), no machine flag cancellation is known prior to 1894. The American Postal machines of 1878 made a cancellation consisting of a circle, followed by six straight lines. However, a 13-star flag type was adopted in 1894, and it is known used in Boston as a killer on December 4th of that year. An earlier November 6th use has also been reported. A number of variations of this flag cancel were issued by the American Postal Supply company over the years down to 1925. However, the company is no longer believed to be in existence.

The last machine has a history all its own. It was manufactured in 1911 (the last patent on it is dated that year) and was purchased by three postal clerks in Sidney, N.Y.--Nellie Bartley, her brother Frank, and Fred Gail. The Post Office Department having been deluged by orders made the concession of allowing its employees to buy their own machines. In this case, the Delaware County Enterprise, a weekly newspaper in Sidney, reported in its April 12, 1911 edition that,

"A hand-cancelling machine, with a capacity of 250 letters a minute has been installed in the P.O. It is a greatly appreciated labor saving device."

From the earliest recorded date of this canceller--on the same day as the newspaper advertisement Wednesday, April 12, 1911 to the end of the American Postal Supply operations, nothing differentiated this machine from the other 130,000 in operation.

However, beginning in late 1923, the Sidney post office was no longer able to obtain new type for the year date from the Post Office Department and was forced to buy it from the printer



Earliest recorded example of the Sidney, N.Y. flag cancellation, dated the same day the newspaper reported it arrived in town.

locally. This local type produced a distinct variety soon noticed by flag cancel collectors. It also created a problem for the post office, for the new type required shimming to fit, e.g. the use of a small wedge to level the type up to print. There was a time period in early 1924 when no dates are found, either because the local type had not yet been introduced into the handstamp before mid-April, or because the date changing production technique was hastily done and the year date didn't print. The missing date varieties are only known at this time--not later.

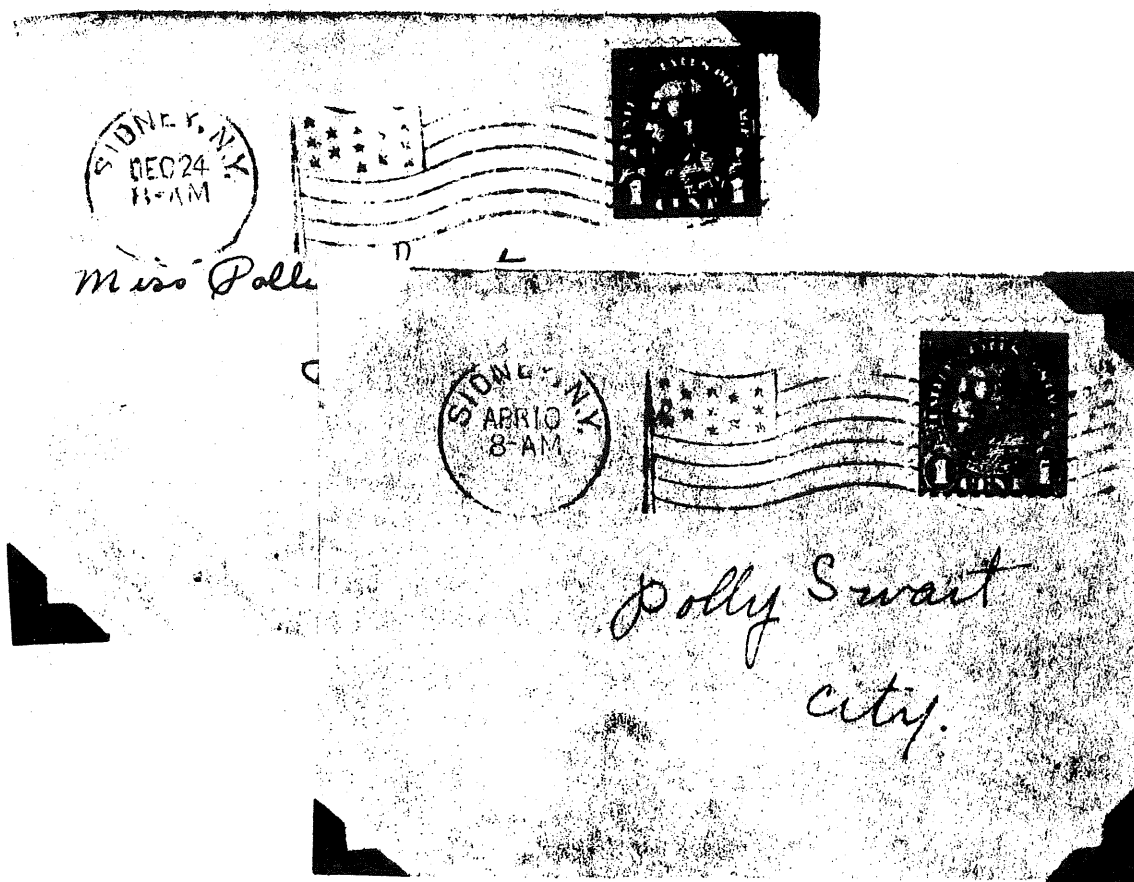
It was long believed that this machine was sold to Sidney Center postmaster, Clarence Dibble sometime in 1928 or 1929. Some of the Sidney clerks and the current Sidney postmaster remembered that this occurred during the summer of 1928. Finally three cov-

\*\*\*\*\*

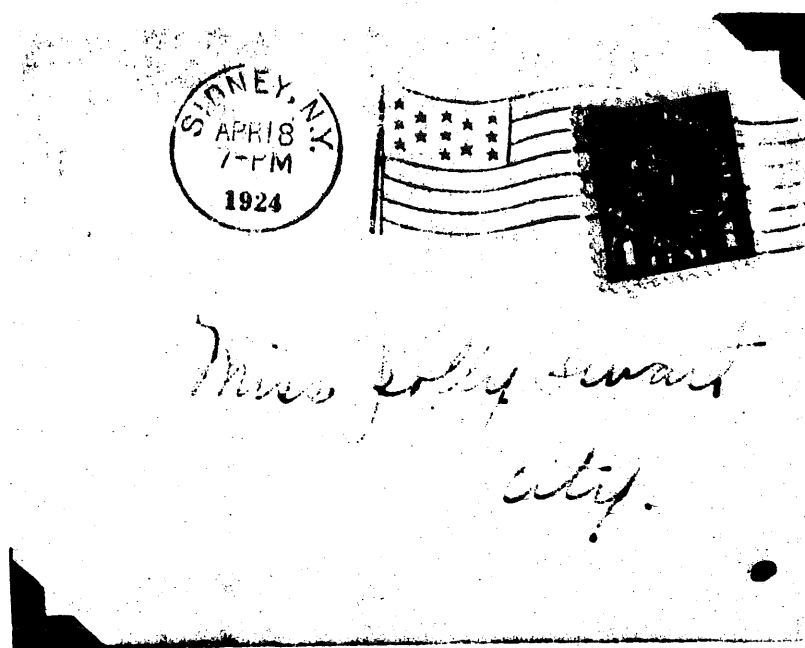
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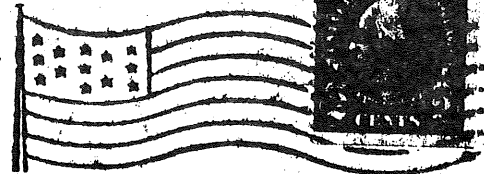
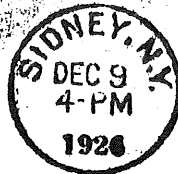
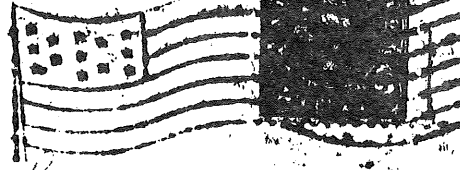
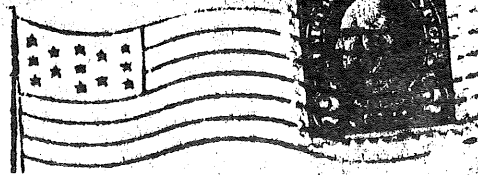




Examples of the 'missing' year-date handstamps of late 1923 or early 1924.



The new locally produced year date type was shimmied in at least as early as April 18, 1924, as seen here.



*Mrs. Frank Lown*

*203 Front St.*

*Binghamton*

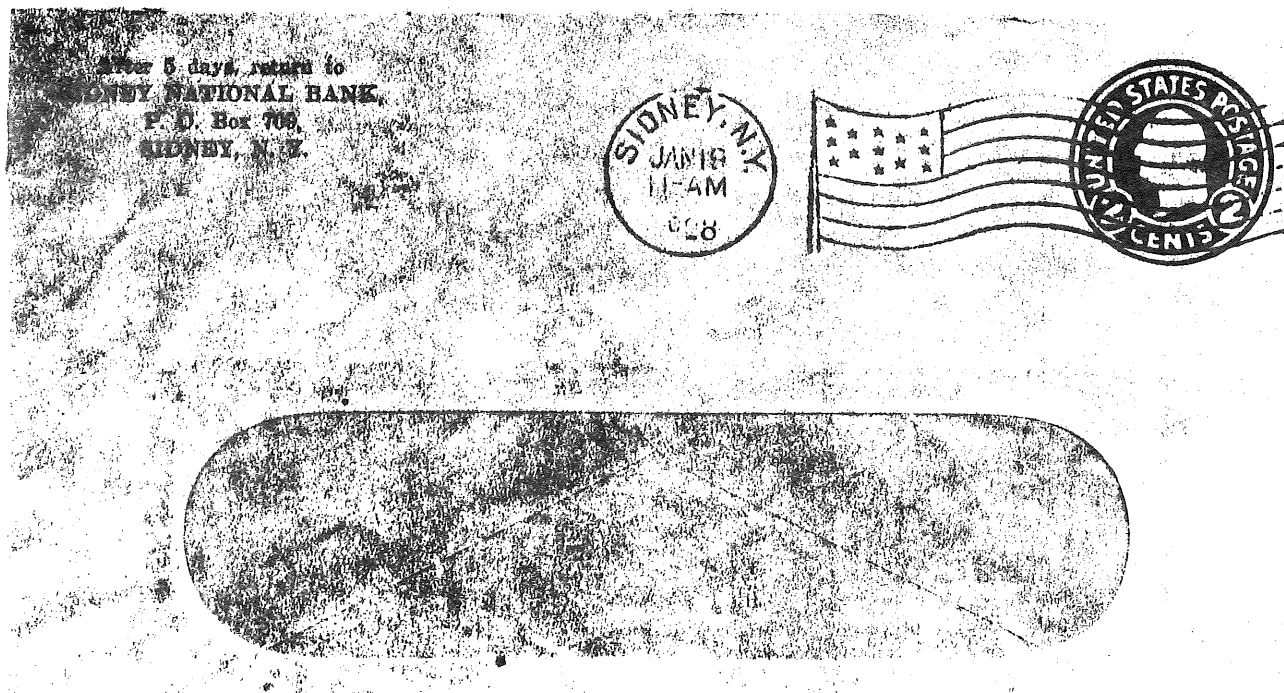
*N. Y.*

A tiny year-date type was introduced in early 1925 but it was abandoned by Fall and a larger typeface used in 1924 brought back.

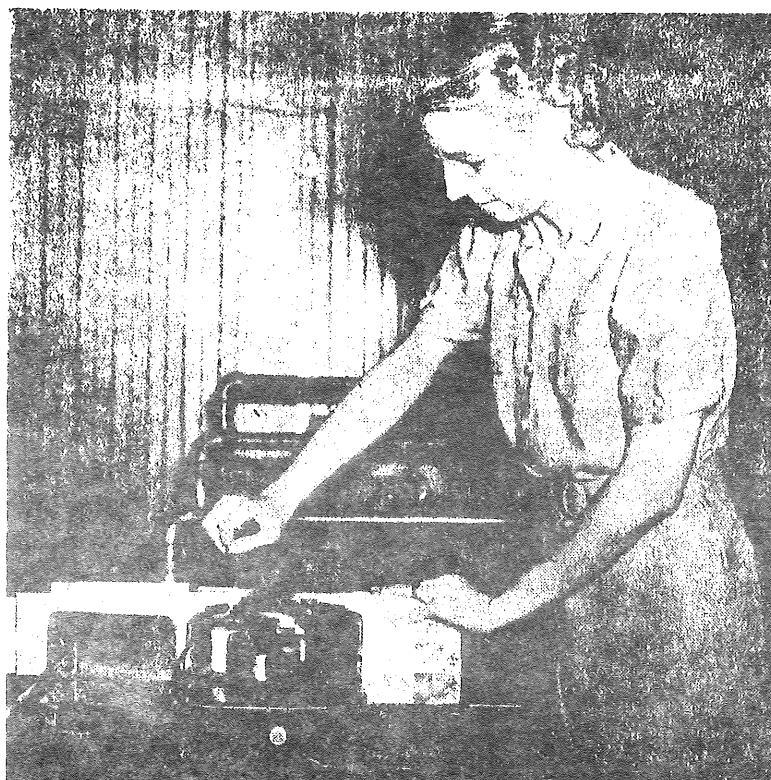
ers were found in Sidney Center were found that proved them right --these were definitely of 1928 origin although not terribly distinct in the year dates struck. Covers from Sidney, N.Y. showed that the flag cancel machine was still there in early 1928.

When he retired, Sidney Center postmaster Dibble sold the flag cancel machine to the new postmistress, Marjorie Gehrke who continued to use it until it was retired in 1941.





The last date type style used by Sidney was different from those found in any earlier period, being larger than the other local types used since 1924.

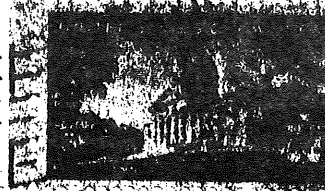
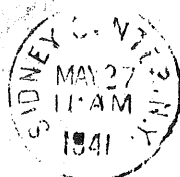


Sidney Center Postmaster Operates Rare Stamp Cancelling Device

The availability of a new electric-powered machine led the Sidney postoffice to sell off the old flag canceller to a collector enthusiast, Clarence Dibble, who happened to be the postmaster of nearby Sidney Center. Dibble bought the machine and located a new dial for it so that it could be restored to service. Thus, he was able to offer his successor, Marjorie Gehrke, a fully operating machine when she took office July 14, 1934. All she had to do was spin the fly wheel to send the letters through.

During the 1930s the flag cancellers were gradually being abandoned in town after town. For example, the Jefferson, N.Y. postmaster asked to retain his when it was recalled in 1936 and he was permitted to retain it until 1939. The Otego, N.Y. canceller was another whose demise was put off until the late 1930's. There was also an effort to end the flag canceller at Sidney Center. The P.O.D. wrote Mrs. Gehrke that if she would turn in the flag canceller they would supply a shiny new electric power canceller. This would have ended the worn characters and partial strikes that now became a trademark of the remaining flag cancellers. But the work load wasn't great and Mrs. Gehrke became attached to the old machine which was generating national publicity.

The final crunch came in 1941. It was no longer possible to obtain type for the year date and the postmistress reluctantly abandoned the machine and reverted to hand stamping the mail. But, an acquaintance, who worked in the Scintilla Magneto works in Sid-



Mrs. Julian Jackson,

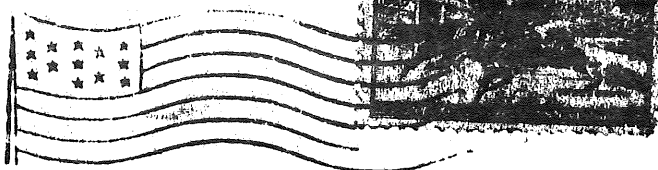
46 Ford Ave.

Oneonta, N.Y.

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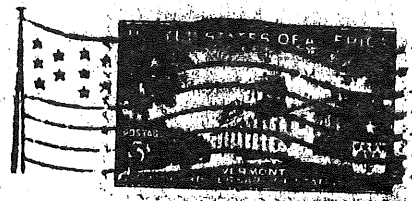
Last day of regular use was May 27, 1941.

AFTER 5 DAYS RETURN TO  
JESSE HOWES  
SIDNEY CENTER, N. Y.



Sidney Sales Corp.,

Sidney, N.Y.



(Top) A 1940 use showing the last year in which type was available. (Bottom) A favor cancel showing how a cut-down '0' was turned into a '1' for 1941.

ney conceived the idea of filing off the zero in 1941 until just an upright--slightly curved-- stroke remained to create an efficient '1'. The flag canceller was put back into service on January 22, 1941. Nevertheless the P.O.D. was no longer about to be put off. It ordered the final retirement of the machine and May 27, 1941 was selected as the last day of regular use. Collectors from all over the country sent in for the last day cancellations. There were so many that a special favor cancellation was applied on December 31, 1941 for the end of the flag cancellation era.



A REVISED CATALOGUE OF BROOKLYN  
STREETCAR R.P.O. CANCELLATIONS

by John Price, M.D.

Since I published my first article on these cancellations in Excelsior (Whole No. 6) in 1975, many collectors have sent me Xeroxes of their own covers and cards. I published a list covering these cancels, based on 160 covers and cards, in the Jan-Feb, 1977 issue of Transit Postmark Collector, the Mobile Post Office Society publication. The classification which I present here is based on an expanded sample of about 300 covers and cards.

I would like to thank Bob Truax, Charles Towle, Mike Jarosak, Douglas Clark, Earl Moore and the many others who helped me on this project.

The types listed represent major differences and are indicated by numbers. The varieties, representing minor differences are indicated by letters. Each type is illustrated.

The columns contain the following information:

- 1st: Diameter of the dial or circle in millimeters
- 2nd: Distance from the top of the B in Brooklyn to the bottom of the R in R.P.O. in millimeters
- 3rd: Shortest distance from the last letter to the O of R.P.O. in millimeters
- 4th: Number of recorded covers and cards
- 5th: Earliest date recorded
- 6th: Latest date recorded
- 7th: Towle value ratings from The United States Transit Markings Catalogue 1837-1974. These are: I. to \$5; II \$5-10; III \$10-20; IV \$20-30. While I have used Towle's ratings, they do not always accord with what I find in the market.

<u>Diam.</u>	<u>B-R</u>	<u>Last to O</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Earliest Date</u>	<u>Latest Date</u>	<u>Towle Rate</u>
--------------	------------	----------------------	---------------	--------------------------	------------------------	-----------------------

1. BROOKLYN.Y FULTON ST R.P.O.

(note the N used for both Brooklyn and N.Y.)

a. 28½	3	3	(1)	2/15/96	-	III
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2. BROOKLYN & L.I. CITY R.P.O.

a. 28½	4	4½	(2)	6/22/98	6/27/98	III
--------	---	----	-----	---------	---------	-----




<u>Diam.</u>	<u>B-R</u>	<u>Last to 0</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Earliest Date</u>	<u>Latest Date</u>	<u>Towle Rate</u>
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3. BROOKLYN, N.Y. CIRCUIT R.P.O.  
(small letters, comma after Brooklyn)



a.	28	5½	6	(5)	1/8/97	7/11/98	II
(letters are shorter and thicker)							
b.	28	7	6	(2)	7/2/98	9/23/98	II
c.	28½	5	7	(3)	8/15/96	9/22/97	II
d.	28½	5½	5½	(1)	12/10/02	-	II
e.	28½	-	4½	(1)	4/27/01	-	II

4. BROOKLYN N.Y. CIRCUIT R.P.O.  
(small letters, no comma after Brooklyn)



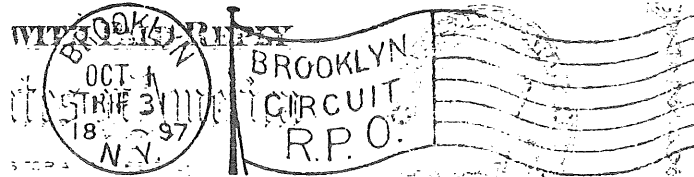
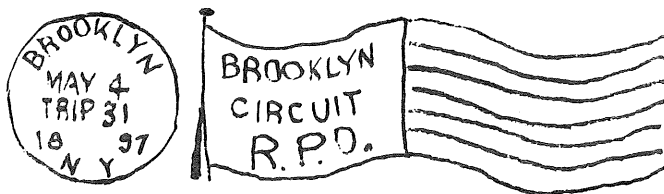
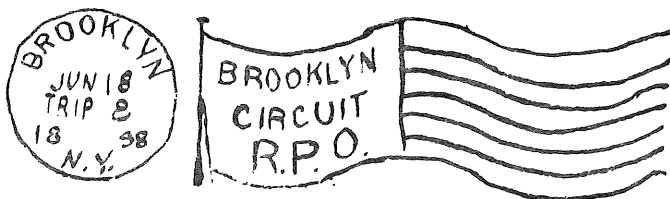
a.	28½	5½	5	(3)	9/8/96	10/2 /96	II
b.	28½	7	7	(2)	12/29/96	2/11/97	II
c.	28	7	6	(3)	10/18/97	4/11/98	II

5. BROOKLYN, N.Y. CIR. R.P.O.  
(small letters, comma after Brooklyn)



a.	28	10	7	(12)	10/30/96	12/6 /99	II
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6. BROOKLYN CIRCUIT R.P.O. (flag cancels)



Langford types:

1.	22	-	-	(1)	6/18/98	-	II
2.	22	-	-	(5)	3/24/97	9/ 2/97	II
3.	22	-	-	(3)	4/ 2/97	6/21/98	II
4.	22	-	-	(3)	10/ 1/97	6/29/98	II

(See Langford's Standard Flag Cancel Encyclopedia)

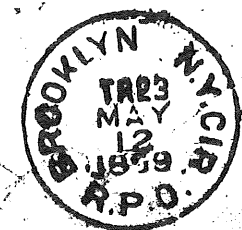
<u>Diam.</u>	<u>B-R</u>	<u>Last to O</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Earliest Date</u>	<u>Latest Date</u>	<u>Towle Rate</u>
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7. BROOKLYN, N.Y. CIRCUIT R.P.O.  
(medium letters, comma after Brooklyn)

a.	29	5½	6	(3)	10/ 4/98	2/ 9/03	II
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8. BROOKLYN N.Y. CIR. R.P.O.  
(medium large letters, no comma after Brooklyn)



a.	28½	4	4½	(6)	5/12/99	4/14/06	II
b.	same, but with RMS in oval 6 bar killer						
	28½	4	4½	(8)	8/ 8/04	2/20/06	II
c.	28½	4½	5½	(7)	1/ 6/00	5/29/01	II
d.	28½	5	5	(2)	6/16/00	6/29/01	II
e.	29	5	6	(8)	4/26/99	5/22/01	II
f.	28½	6	4	(1)	6/29/01	-	II

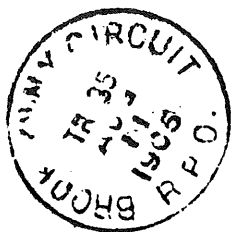
9. BROOKLYN, N.Y. CIRCUIT R.P.O.  
(large letters, comma after Brooklyn)



a.	29½	3	3	(24)	8/ 7/02	11/25/08	II
	(R.P.O. close to dial)						
b.	30	4	4	(75)	7/17/01	9/28/06	II
c.	30	4	5	(28)	8/ 4/01	8/ 3/06	II
d.	30	5	4½	(4)	7/31/01	11/21/02	II
e.	30	5	6	(3)	7/31/01	8/13/06	II
f.	30	5½	5	(1)	7/26/04	-	II
g.	30	6	5½	(10)	11/11/02	8/27/04	II

10. BROOKLYN, N.Y. CIRCUIT R.P.O.  
(medium large letters, comma after Brooklyn)

SERIES, (ENGLAND)



a.	29½	5	7½	(11)	1/31/06	10/ 8/06	II
b.	same, but with RMS in oval 6-bar killer						
	29½	5	7½	(6)	2/14/05	9/25/05	II
c.	29½	6	6	(9)	9/18/05	9/ 5/06	II
	with RMS in oval 6-bar killer						

11. BROOKLYN SO. SHORE R.P.O.  
(large letters)



a.	28½	5	5	(8)	8/24/00	8/ 5/06	III
b.	31	7	8½	(2)	10/19/04	9/14/05	III
c.	same but with RMS in oval 6-bar killer						
	31	7	8½	(2)	4/ 2/05	7/12/05	III

	<u>Diam.</u>	<u>B-R</u>	<u>Last to O</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Earliest Date</u>	<u>Latest Date</u>	<u>Towle Rate</u>
12. BROOKLYN SO. SHORE R.P.O. (medium large letters)							
a.	30	7	7	(10)	1/ 3/03	7/ 7/06	II
b. same, but with RMS in oval 6-bar killer							
	30	7	7	(1)	9/25/03		III
c.	29½	6	7	(3)	12/24/04	7/30/06	III
d.	29½	5	6	(3)	3/25/04	9/19/06	III
e.	29½	6	6	(3)	4/26/06	8/27/06	III
f.	29½	7	6	(3)	8/22/05	8/28/06	III
13. BKLYN.N.Y.SO.SHORE R.P.O. (small letters, International machine cancel)							
a.	21	-	-	(15)	9/27/04	9/27/06	II
14. BROOK. & CONEY ISL R.P.O. (medium large letters)							
a.	30	5	5	(2)	3/16/07	5/ 9/08	III
15. BROOK & FT. HAMILTON R.P.O. (medium large letters)							
a.	30	3½	5	(1)	12/21/11	-	III

I would very much appreciate hearing from other collectors about their Brooklyn streetcar cancellations and N. Y.C. streetcar cancellations as well. Please write me at No.8 Woodland Place, Great Neck, N.Y. 11021.

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EDITORIAL APPEAL: Again it is necessary for me to solicit manuscripts if further editions of Excelsior are to appear. There is just enough copy for the next edition. The editor will help you if you want writing assistance. Just sent photocopies of your covers and rough notes of your story.

FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR LETTERS FROM  
THE BANCKER CORRESPONDENCE

One of the more famous colonial finds is that of the Bancker correspondence which, according to C. M. Hahn's Discovering American Covers (Western Stamp Collector 9/4/1976), ranges from 1750 to 1799. It is of great interest to Empire State collectors, for almost all examples come from New York and many are of extreme interest. A small group, formerly in the collection of Edith M. Faulstich, the noted postal history collector, deal with the French and Indian war events of 1758-9 in mid-New York. John Bancker, who wrote them to his brother Evert, or his cousin, Garrardus dePeyster, was much involved in many of the events of the period, being stationed at Canajoharie (Ft. Hendrick), Rome (Ft. Stanwix), Oswego (Ft. Chouaguen, rebuilt as Ft. Ontario), and possibly at Ft. Niagara. An Evert Bancker was mayor of Albany in 1707.

The War of the Austrian Succession (King George's War) had ended with the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle in 1748 and the major conquest, the fort of Louis<sup>burg</sup> in Canada, was returned to the French. A cold peace ensued. The British proposed to take four forts built on dubious territory before the outbreak of a new war--Beausejour, on the Bay of Fundy, Crown Point, Fort Niagara, and Fort Duquesne (Pittsburgh). The last named was the key to the West. It was attacked by Major General Edward Braddock, who was defeated July 7, 1755, subsequently dying of his wounds. His defeat brought the Indians out in force and launched the new French and Indian War (Seven-Year War). Further defeats followed. Montcalm took Fort Oswego, in 1755 and Fort William Henry, on Lake George. As colonial philosopher, Jonathan Edwards put it, in late 1756, "God indeed is remarkably frowning upon us everywhere."

However, with the naming of William Pitt as British Prime Minister in 1758, the whole aspect of war changed. The British began to move. In the summer of 1758 Bancker was at Canajoharie where he wrote two letters on June 4th. One was to his cousin, "att new york" and reads,

"fort hendrick June the 4 1758

Dear cusson

Deas few lines come to acquaint you that I am in good helt and hope to find you in the same and if you would be so good and send memywach and hanger and acx Captin mckevers for the monny and send the things with the beax here of.

Remember my love to all frinds and so no more  
at present but remain your loven frind.

/s/ John Bancker"

It must be remembered that there was no dictionary at this period and spelling was almost as it sounds, e.g. "acx" for ask or "helt" for health, or even "deas" for these.

fort hendrick June the 4 1758

Dear cusfen  
 These few Lines come to acquaint you that I am in good  
 helt and hope to find you in the same and if you write  
 be so good and send my much and hanger and axe  
 Capten mehevers for the monny and send the things  
 with the bearer here of  
 Remember my love to all frinds and so no more  
 at present but remain your loven frind  
 John Bancker

Bancker's second letter of June 4, 1758 is to his brother, and tells us that Fort Hendrick is at Canajoharie, while informing us of the Canadian and Indian (Ingen) troop movements on Lake Ontario (Oswego in the text). It reads,

"in fort hendrick att konno-jokerry  
 June the 4 1758

Dear brother these few lines come to acquaint you that I am in good helt and I hope they may find you in the same and that I have had no opportunity before to write to you and I remember my Love to mother and father and sister and brother, and all that axes after me and in Oswego Lake there is 4,000 kannadeens and ingens with bums (bum-boats) and carried guns, and our ingens dus not now whether they are gowen to Ohio or a comen this way and so no mor at present. But remain your Loving brother.  
 /s/ John Bancker"



in fort henrich all honnoy sherry June the 4 1758  
 Dear brother these few lines come to acquaint you that I am  
 in good hett and I hope they may find you in the same and that  
 I have had no opportunity before to write to you and I remem-  
 ber my Love to mother and father and sister and brother and  
 all that comes after me and in oswego Lake there is 4000  
 kannadeens and ingens with bums and carriedjans and  
 the four ingens our not now whether they are g gone  
 to oheo or a common this many and  
 present but remain your loving

For  
 Evert Bancker  
 at  
 new york  
 QDC

From the editor's collection with permission

The QDC on the address-sheet means "Quod Deo Conservet", or may God preserve this letter.

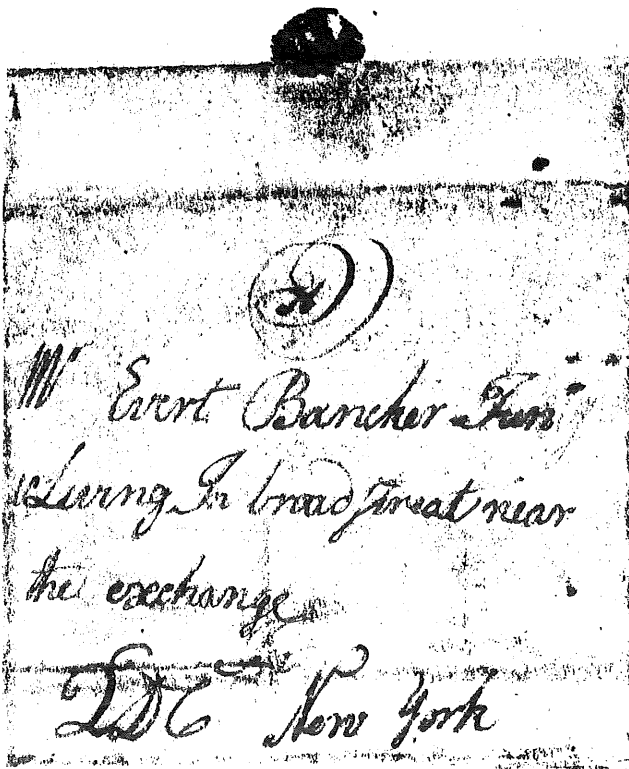
John Bancker moved westward during the summer to around Rome. From there he wrote his brother, datelining the letter, 'Great Carrying place August the 24'. This dateline presents a problem.

Alex terBraake in his Posted Letter in Colonial and Revolutionary America 1628-1790, pgs. A-8,9 reported that it was of Maine origin, because there was a 'carrying place' there. It is an impossible attribution in light of the other Bancker letters. The most famous 'Great Carrying Place' is at Fort Edward NY which is discussed in the text as is Fort Bull at the Oneida Carrying Place. Calvet M. Hahn in his review of the ter Braake book, opted for the Ft. Edward location.

(Editor's note:

Rereading the letters in light of Todaro's comments has convinced me that the Oneida Great Carrying Place is correct. In the East, the only construction was the rebuilding of Fort Carillon as Fort Ticonderoga on Lake George, following its fall in July 1758. There was no apparent building at Ft. Edward. However, during the summer of 1758, Captain John Stanwix was reconstructing Ft. Williams on the Mohawk at a cost of £60,000; it had been destroyed by Col. Webb after Oswego fell in August of 1756. We also know that Fort Stanwix was built by mid-1759.)

Great Carrying Place August the 24  
Dear Brothers  
I have Received both your letters one of the 2 and the  
other of the 10 of this month Received them the 23 with  
the express with brother as the news is taken Capen  
tune as we had a Ryd Salute and we were very  
glad to hear it and we have no account of bro. Street yet  
he stands a chance to take the Governor of Canada  
for he has been to the army deingens vid  
battos of presents for the ingens he goes past gatteroe-  
and I expect that bro. Street will have the place for there  
of our people Comaway from the fort and there is 24 men in  
the fort this men the one was taken at buls for and the  
other was taken at Oswego and they have been among  
the ingens ever since - now at the fort  
and I leave that I shall stay at the fort till cold  
weather begins for it is to be larger than fort Edward and  
if you would send my coat and gachit and and bon  
warm Cloes to wish the priesters and Remember  
my love to all that ask after me for I am well all times  
In  
Capt John Bancker



Reproduced from the editor's collection with permission.

A reason for the War was the drive to control the fur trade in central New York--a lucrative business. This letter notes the capture of Ft. Frontinac by John Bradstreet as well as release of some of the prisoners taken when Ft. Chouaguen, at Oswego, fell to the French, as well as those from Fort Bull, the north end of the Oneida Carrying Place at Wood Creek. It was only two miles from Ft. Williams at the Mohawk River end.

Note that this letter is probably an express mail item as the express came from NYC in 13 days with news of Bradstreet's victory the previous day and he is replying, "in haste."

The text of this letter reads as follows,

"Great Carring plase August the 24

Dear Brother

I have Reciaived both your letters, one of the 2 and the other of the 10 of this month. Reaciaved them the 23, with the expres witch broth us the nuse of and taken Caperture an we had a Ryel Sellute and we ware very glad to hear it and we have no account of boardstreat yet. He stans a Chance to take the f. governor of Cannaday for he (governor) has bean to the unnyde (Oneida) ingens wid 7 battoes (batteaus) of preasents for the ingens. he goes past gattero-egus, and I expect that broadstreat will have the place, for there 2 of our people Com away from the fort and there is 24 men in the fort. thes men the one was taken at buls for (Ft. Bull) and the othere was taken as Oswago and they have been among the ingens ever since.

Work at the fort and I bleave that I shall stay at the foart till cold weather begins for (it) is to be learger than foart edward and if you would seant my Coat and jackett, and and som warm Cloes to unkil the piesters (John dePeyster at Albany) and Reamember my love to all that asks after me for I am well att present. In hast. /s/ John Bancker"

The Canadian governor would be the Marquis de Vaudreuil who apparently had passed Fort Frontinac at the Ontario mouth of the St. Lawrence to pass down by batteau to Oswego and inland to the Oneidas. Bradstreet and his New England boys had cut his return while further West, Forbes and Washington took Dusquene.

John Bancker's next letter is almost a year later. He is at Oswego having followed the victorious troops west, and is engaged in the rebuilding of the fort. He includes a sketch of the log fort. (There had been two forts--Oswego on the east and Ontario on the west of the river--when Montcalm came from Fort Carillon (Ticonderoga) with 3,000 French and Indians. Fort Ontario was abandoned August 14, 1756 and Fort Oswego surrendered disgracefully, with all munitions, and provisions, some 850 men taken prisoners, and only 5 or 7 men killed the following day. Among the prisoners taken was an Ensign Ogden according to a letter from Portsmouth dated 2/13/1757 in O'Callaghan's Documentary History of New York, which lists him as one of those retaken on the way to France. This may well be the Kaben Ogden in the letter.) The new fort which Bancker helped build, was held by the British until December 6, 1796. There was no fighting there at all during the Revolution and the British just continued occupancy afterward. The first American civilian population did not move in until 1798. A post office was established in 1806.

The first Oswego letter notes that mail of the 28th had been received 12 days later on the 9th of September 1759. This is a very fast trip from New York as only a water route existed until at least Fort Stanwix. (Editor's note: No address leaf is found on this letter and I believe it was addressed to the Albany address of John dePeyster where John's brother was visiting. It did, however, travel by express which was the major method of communicating with Oswego in this period.)

The text of this September 10th letter reads:

"Oswago September the 10 1759

Dear brother

Your favour of the 28 day of august I have Receveit Last night and was glad to hear of you all and of Sovete but how is bille....and all the Rest of the frinds and I expect to com and se you all at the later end of next mont if I live and do well.

We are very much hurried here at Oswago for we are a bilding a Larger fort than fort Stanwick for this fort is bilt of Logs and has got 5 bastians...Kaben Ogden wonders that he has had now (no) letters from

home. he is here at Oswago. I have Received grac-  
 ouses favour where he Speaks of a Raser that is a  
 mans a lowens so that I get one mans a lowans and  
 a half and so know (no) more at present but Remain  
 your Ever Loving brother

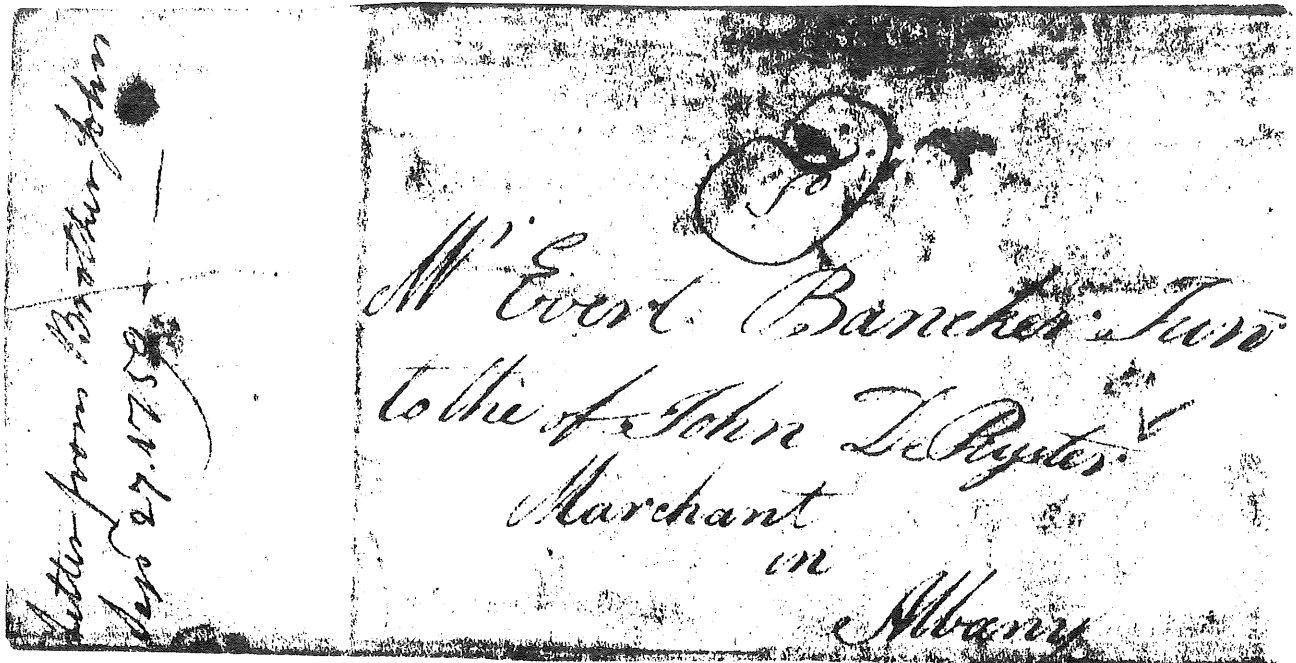
Til Deth

/s/ John Bancker

T C

I Long to hear where that bill Cox  
 to whether he is in new york or  
 at new Rashel (New Rochelle) or  
 whether he is gon at Sea"

The last of the Bancker French and Indian war letters is  
 also from Oswego, 17 days later. The timing suggests that the  
 express mail from Albany to Oswego was twice monthly. This let-  
 ter is sent to his brother Evert at Albany care of John de Peys-  
 ter at Albany. (The dePeysters had holdings just south of Stone  
 Arabia on the mid-Mohawk.) The letter suggests the urgency of  
 completing the fort, as the snow and cold would soon make Oswego



Oswego express mail letter of September 27, 1759 from  
 the editor's collection. Reproduced with permission.

a desolate wilderness and almost uninhabitable. However, there  
 was no further threat from the French, and so far as Oswego was  
 concerned the French and Indian war was over. The large 'snow'  
 mentioned is a type of ship--the biggest yet built on Lake On-  
 tario. It is identified primarily by what appears to be two  
 main masts.

The text of this last Bancker letter reads,

"Oswago September the 27 1759

Dear brother

Thes few lines comes to acquaint you that I am in good health as I hope these may find you in the same and that I expect to go down to new york in 7 weaks time for I dont expect to steay here above 4 weaks and go of for Albany and then for home for our fort is all most done and the barricks is all moast done and the large Snow at niagari is all most finnistas for any more nouse I dont know Remember my Love to all frinds-to Father and mother and so Remain your Loving brother.

/s/ John Bancker"

*Dear brother* *Oswago September the 27 1759*

*Thes few lines comes to acquaint you that I am in good health as I hope these may find you in the same and that I expect to go down to york in 7 weaks time for I dont expect to steay hear a boue 4 weaks and go of for Albany and then for home for our fort is all most done and the barricks is all moast don and the large snow at niagari is all most finnist as for any more nouse I dont know*

*Remember my Love to all frinds to Father and mother*

*and so Remain your Loving brother*

*John Bancker*



## SOME EARLY POST ROADS

## IN NEW-YORK.

(Continued from Whole # 6)

From Friendship, by the South Branch of Van Campens' Creek, and the Little Genessee Creek, to Cerestown, Pennsylvania.

From Unadilla, by Guilford, to Norwich.

From Otsetie, by Linkaen, to German.

From the village of Geneva, in the county of Ontario, through the village of Vienna, to the village of Newark, on the Erie canal.

From the village of Pen Yan, in the county of Yates, to the village of Yatesville, and through the town of Middlesex to Rushville.

From Middlesex to Italy, and thence through the south part of Italy, and the town of Jerusalem, to Pen Yan.

From Elmira, in New York, through Southport, up Seeley's Creek, through Wells, and Jackson, to Mansfield, in Pennsylvania.

From Danville, by Allen, to Angelica.

From Angelica, by Oransburg, Canéadea, Hume, Pike, and Gainesville, Centre road, to Warsaw.

From Angelica to Ischua.

From Pultney, by Jerusalem, to Pen Yan.

From Clarkson, by way of Sweden, Bergen, Leroy, and Covington.

From Central Square to Oswego Falls.

From Locke, by Genoa, to Kings Ferry post-office.

From Aurora, to Holland, in the county of Erie.

From Unadilla village, through Guilford, to Norwich village.

From Peckskill, by Somers, and Salem, to Ridgefield, Connecticut.

From Chester, by Craigsville, Otterkill, and Little Britain, to Montgomery.

From Harpersfield, by Davenport, Milfordville, Lawrenceville, Noblesville, and Pittsfield, to New Berlin.

From Vienna, in Phelps, to Newark.

From Fuller's Basin to Penfield.

From Hartland, by Somerset, to Kempsville.

From Oneida Castle, on the Seneca turnpike, the most direct highway to Rome; thence along the state road and canal turnpike, to the post-road leading from Utica to Sacketts Harbour.

From Elmira, through Southport, Wells, Jackson, and Sullivan, to Mansfield, in Pennsylvania.

From the meeting house in the town of Lima, by Norton's mills, to the village of Pittsford, in the county of Monroe.

From the village of Seneca Falls, to intersect the Geneva and Newburgh mail route at the post-office of Romulus.

Also from Lockport, by Tuscarora Indian village, to Manchester, at the Niagara falls, in New York.

From Bishops Corner's, in the town of Granville, to the post-office, in the town of Hartford, and from thence to the post-office in the village of Sandy Hill, in the state of New York.

From Rochester, in the county of Monroe, by the way of Webster's mills, and the brick meeting house, in Avon, to Genesee, in the county of Livingston.

From Scottsville, on the river road, to Rochester, in the county of Monroe.

From Genesee to the York post-office, by Wm. Landon's four corners, and from York post-office, by Fowlersville, to Caledonia, Livingston county.

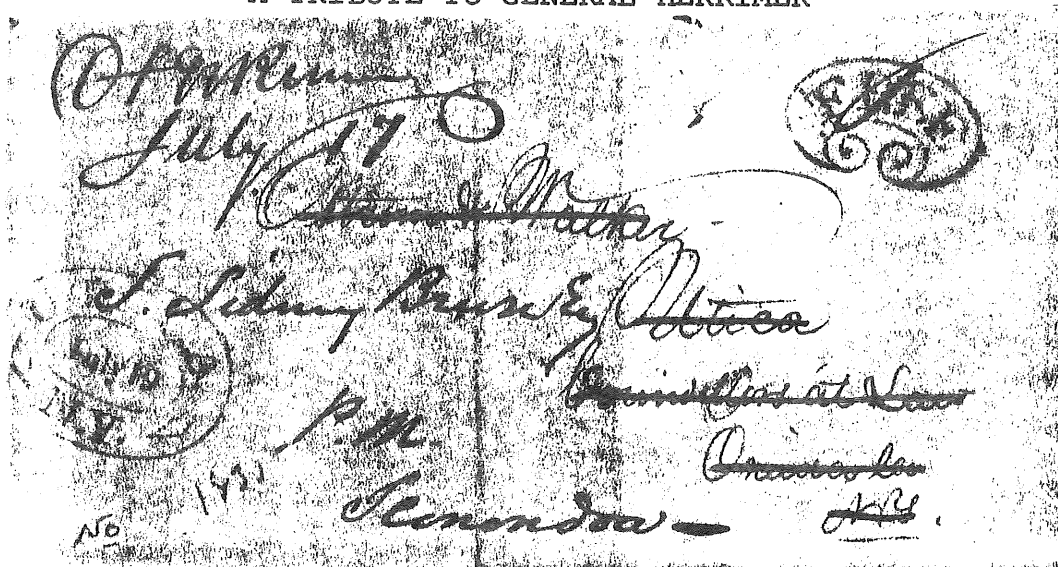
From Batavia, by way of Alexandria, Attica, and Thompson's mills, in Sheldon, and to the little Lake settlement in China, all in Genesee county.

From Covington, by way of Middleberry academy, Warsaw, and Gainesville, in Genesee county, to the town of Pike, in Allegany county.

Passed March 3d, 1825.

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## A TRIBUTE TO GENERAL HERKIMER



General Nicholas Herkimer (c.1728-8/8/1777) died at Oriskany as his forces were ambushed. The town of Herkimer, organized 1788 honors him. While there is a 1798 cover, the year of the first p. o. it is not available. This 1835 combination paid and free is an unusual enough 'Herkimer' item to substitute.