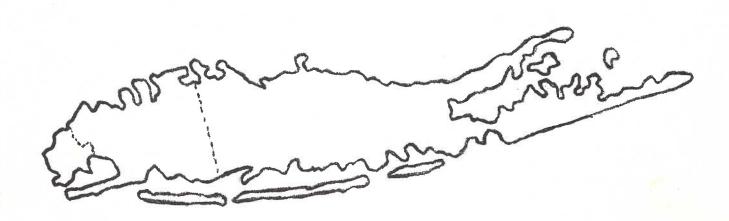
LONG ISLAND



POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY



Winter 1983 Whole # 5

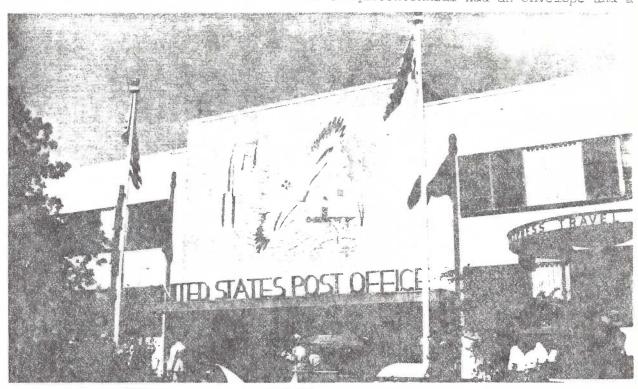


FIRST AND LAST DAYS--THE WORLD'S FAIR OF 1939

by John Riccardelli

The World's Fair of 1939 began as an idea in 1935 when a Board of Directors was organized to plan a World's Fair for New York City. The success of Chicago's 'Century of Progress' exposition of 1933-4 tempted New York to surpass it.

The 1939 Fair was to be a direct lineal descendent of the London Exposition of 1851—the first of the big modern international expositions or fairs. While New York had had an International Exposition in 1853, it was not on the same scale of the big American fair—the Centennial Exposition held in Philadelphia in 1870. Interestingly enough, the 1939 Fair was to be the first in America to claim to be a 'World's Fair', although the 1884 Industrial and Cotton Centennial held at New Orleans in 1884 had used the word 'World' in its title. All the rest were expositions and two or more stamps were issued for all but the 1920 Susquicentennial. Thus we had sets of stamps issued for the 1893 Columbian, the 1898 Omaha, the 1901 Pan American, the 1904 Louisiana Purchase, the 1907 Jamestown, the 1915 Pan Pacific and the 1933 Century of Progress. The Susquicentennial had an envelope and a stamp.

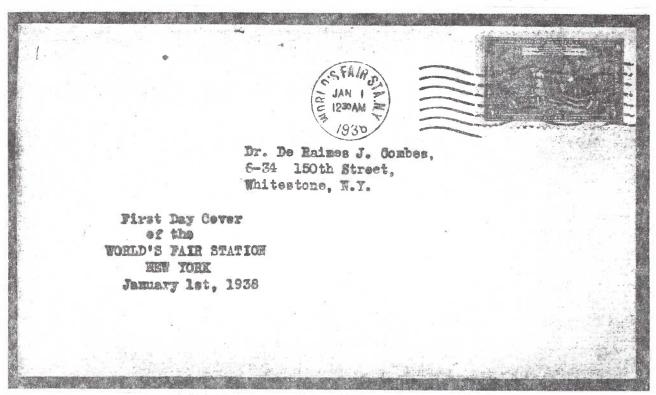


Post Office at the 1939 World's Fair

LONG ISLAND POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL Winter 1983 Whole #5

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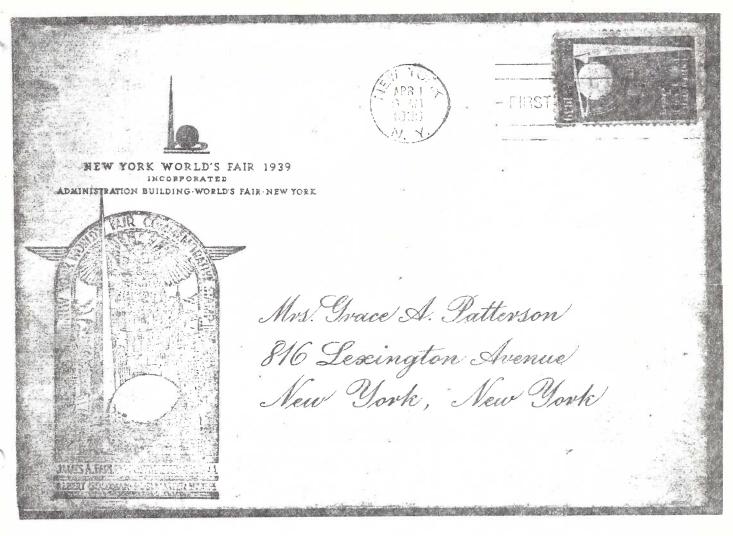
While the World's Fair Corporation had its first headquarters in the Empire State building, it was located on the fairgrounds at Flushing Meadow by August 1937.



The World's Fair postoffice, which was located next to the Administration building began operations on January 1, 1938 - fifteen months before the World's Fair stamp was issued. That, in turn, was almost a month before the Fair opened to the public.



The first use of the new postoffice for a social event took place during Air Mail Week when the Flushing Stamp Club sponsored a cachet on May 19, 1938.

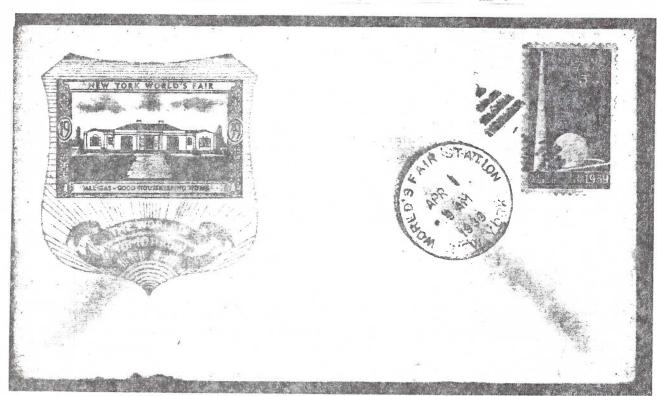


We'hl's Fair Station New York. 23714 23714
PAY TO: WHETE WORDS FOR DOLLARS PISCUESS FOR GENTS POLICES FOR GENTS FOR REMITTER
World's Fair Station, New Tork World's Fair Station, New Tork OCCI
C.O.D. PARCEL SUMBER

(Top) Official envelope of the fair used for a first day cover of the new World's Fair stamp April 1, 1939. It has a Goldman rubber stamp cachet. (Bottom) World's Fair money order issued at the World's Fair station. This example was a typical souvenier of the fair.



(Top) Typical World's Fair Station machine cancel on first day cover of the World's Fair stamp. Cachet by Hetl.
(Bottom) Unaddressed first day cover with the World's Fair Station hand cancelation. This hand-back item has a cachet by L.W. Steahle, with a Nickeln poster stamp which was one of 54 different sold to publicize the fair.



METNA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
THE ATNA CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY
THE AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE COMPANY
THE STANDARD FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY
HARTFORD. CONNECTICUT

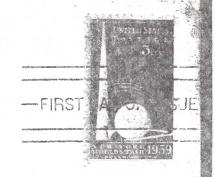
"LABORATORY FOR LIVING"

Sponsored by
THE ÆTNA LIFE
AFFILIATED COMPANIES

Business Systems and Insurance Building

NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR

First Day Cover April 1, 1939 9-AM 1939 V. Y.

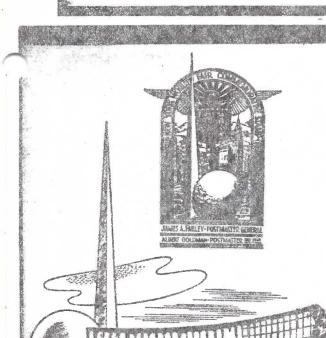


W. F. Patton, Asst. Secretary

151 Farmington Avenue

Hartford, Connecticut

PERSONAL







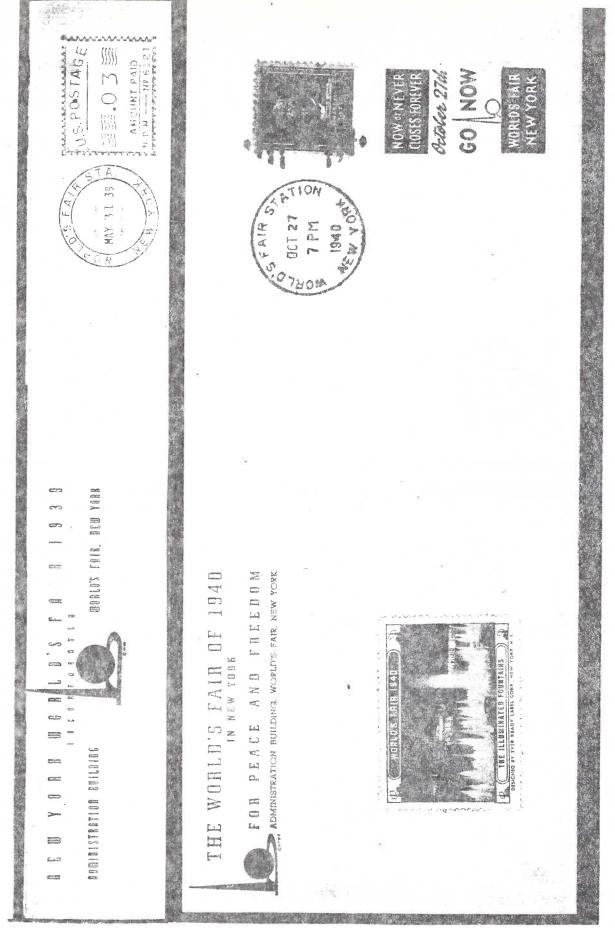
Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc.

4 IRVING PLACE

NEW YORK, N. Y.

VISIT THE CITY OF LIGHT · · · ON THE PLAZA OF LIGHT

The first day cover ceremonies for the World's Fair stamp gave exhibitors a chance to promote their exhibits in advance of the official fair opening on April 30, 1939. (Top) Aetna Life Insurance created a cachet using the official World's Fair symbols to promote its 'Laboratory for Living'. (Bottom) Consolidated Edison created this cachet to promote its 'City of Light' building. Note it uses a printed version of the Goldman cachet which was shown in rubber handstamp version on page three.



Fair Corporation stationery both seasons. The first season opened April 30, 1939 and closed October 31, 1939. Its theme was 'Building the World of Tomorrow' and used the tryon and perisphere as design identification. April 30, 1939 was also the first and operation for the railroad post office car. The second season opened May 11, 1940 and closed October 27, 1940. Because of the advent of war its theme was 'For Peace and Freedom'.

WORLDS FAIR. NEW YORK.
- FIRST DAY AND OFFICIAL OPENING.

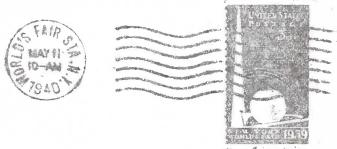
MIDGET CITY. 1940 - May 11th - 1940



midget Town was a fully operating postoffice located in the Amusement Zone, under government permission but it was only for mail on the fairgrounds. The postoffice was staffed entirely by midgets. Its cachet, stamp and cancellation are seen above. Below is an envelope printed by Morris Gest for the second season. It has a last day cancel from the Midget Town post office as well as a last day cancel from the MPO. See Whole #3 for William Duncan's article discussing this RPO operation in more detail.

May 11, 1940 was the 'first day of issue' for the Midget Town Cinderella stamp.

FIRST DAY AND THE LAST DAY OF THE WORLD'S FAIR. NEW YORK May 11th and Oct. 27th, 1940

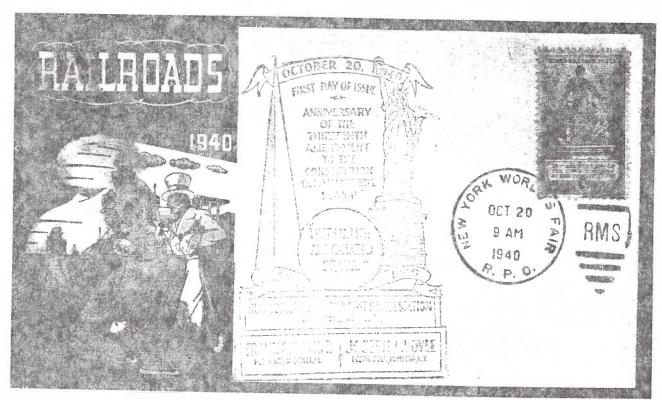




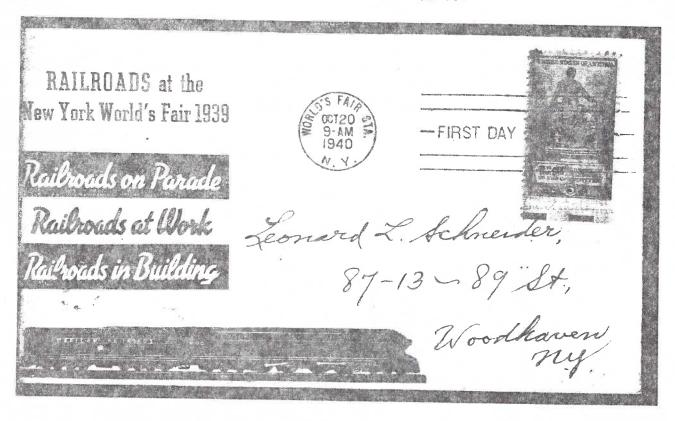
Mr. James D. Midgley

8 Glendale Avenue

Providence, R.I.



The first stame to be issued only at a World's Fair on its first day was the 3¢ Emancipation 13th Amendment issue. Other stamps had been released at expositions previously for their first days but none exclusively so. The two cachets seen here were sponsored by the Eastern Railroad Conference. (Top) Hand cancellation at the Railway Mail Car with its RPO duplex. (Bottom) Regular World's Fair station machine cancel with a railroad car cachet.



75th Anniversary

Adoption of the 13 th Amendment to the Constitution Abolishing Slavery



Mrs. Emil Rehak 227 No. Oraton Pkwy Rast Orange, New Jersey

RAILW



An Artcraft cachet used on the 13th Amendment first day cover with a machine cancel from the Railway Mail Service at the fair.

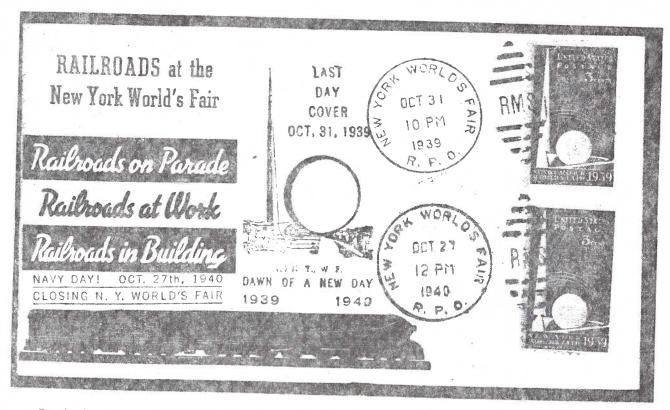


Only a few of the stamps were taken to the railway post office for first day servicing and those few must be considered one of scarcer official first days for the RPO car was on the fairgrounds which was the official first day site.

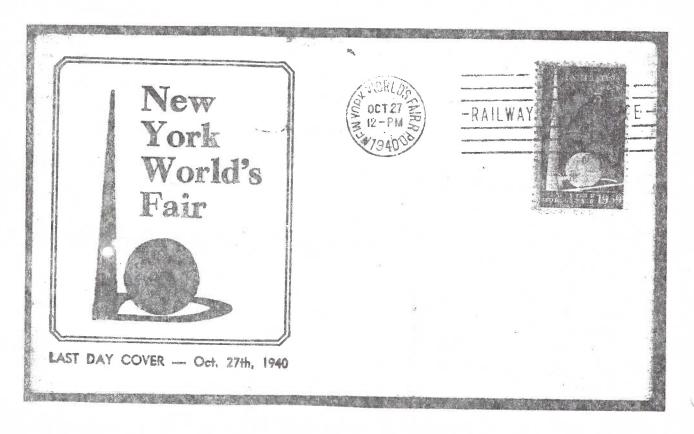




The slogan used to promote the fair on all mail from New York in 1940. This slogan was first used April 12, 1940, in New York City. The first time it was used at the fairgrounds was on June 27, 1940.



Last day cancellations (hand version) of the RPO for both seasons at the fair combined with a Navy Day 1940 cachet, as that fell on the last day of the 1940 season.



With this the New York World's Fair closed forever. A quarter century later New York would again host a World's Fair.



Abraham Woodhull was an important figure in the Long Island underground that supplied General George Washington with vital information concerning the enemy strengths, movements and disposition of materiel. Here pictured is his Setauket home which stood across the water from Strong's Neck, on the western slope of which could be seen "Nancy's Clothesline" from which the arrangement of drying wash signalled the landing of a whaleboat that would carry messages across the Sound.

The messages were usually brought out from New York City by Setauket Tavern Keeper Austin Roe and taken across the Sound by whaleboat commander Caleb Brewster. Thomas Bayles of Middle Island provided the picture here used. He sent a picture of the old house to Miss Kate W. Strong, Setauket's historian, in 1947 and her reply adds to the legend:

My Dear Mr. Bayles:

I am delighted to have the picture of the Woodhull place, as I did not have a good picture of it.

I always understood the smaller end was built by the first Richard who died in 1696. From then on it was always owned and lived in by the family. Abraham Woodhull the spy lived there. Who built the larger part I do not know.

When I first remember the mother, two sisters and either four or five brothers lived there. The "women folk" all died in one winter. After that no woman was allowed in the house. At the time of the fire there were three brothers living there. Richard the oldest told me if he had not eaten watermelon and had indigestion they would have all died in their beds.

NATIONAL AIR MAIL WEEK -- May 15th - 21st, 1938

by William J. Duncan

In 1938, the Post Office Department celebrated the 20th anniversary of the first scheduled domestic air mail service which had operated between Washington, Philadelphia and New York.

As part of the celebration Postmasters were requested to solicit the aid of local organizations to sponsor cachets for use on air mail articles mailed at the local post office during National Air Mail Week.

FREEPORT-NEWARK FLIGHT

MAY, 19, 1938

La MiceposTHASTER

MATIONAL AIR MAIL WEEK

MAY 15th - 21st

WE ARE COOPERATING

FAREPURT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

FREEPO

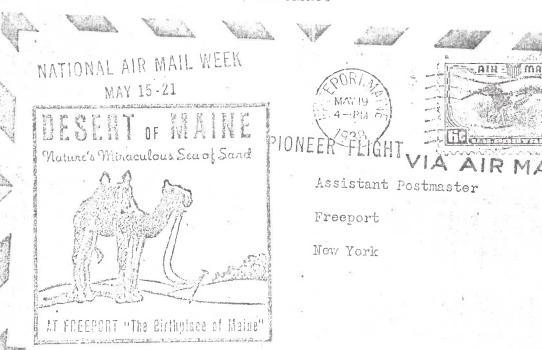
NEW YORK

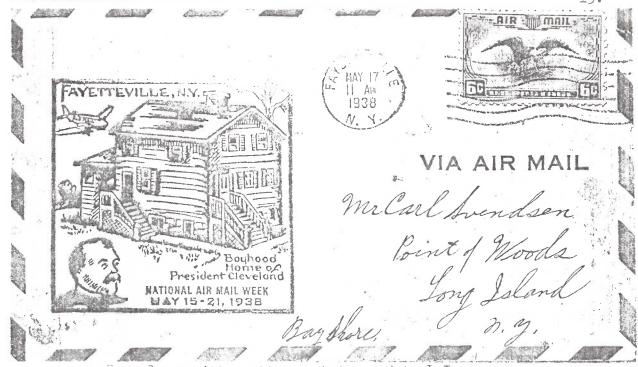
The Freeport Cachet

WW 19 WW 19 12 H 1938



MR. JOSEPH JENKINS 157 ELIZABETH AVE. NEWARK NEW JERSEY.

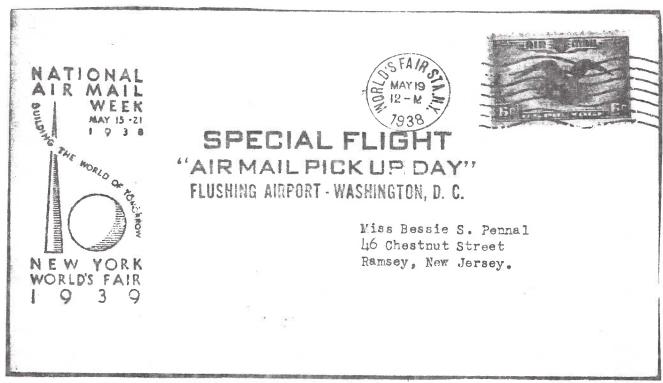




One of more interesting cachets used to L.I.

The Freeport Chamber of Commerce not only sponsored a cachet, as requested by Postmaster Edward A. Rice, but Mr. Abraham Litwak, a Chamber member who was also a licensed pilot, flew a pouch of mail from the Freeport post office on May 19th to the Air Mail Field, Newark, N.J. which was at that time the postal unit handling airmail to and from New York, N.Y.

The May 19th flight was in a single engine open cockpit biplane from an open field south of Merrick Road and east of Meadowbrook Parkway, near the present site of the Town of Hempstead Merrick landfill.



Example of the Flushing L.I. cachet used at the World's Fair.

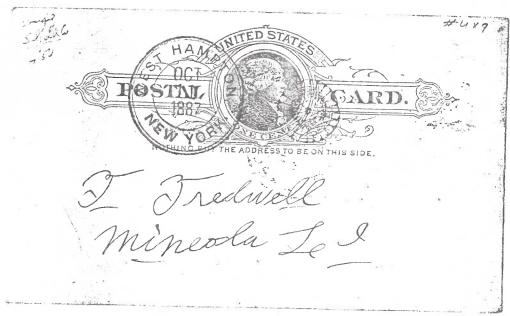
SELECTED LONG ISLAND FANCY CANCELS

by Carl Baker

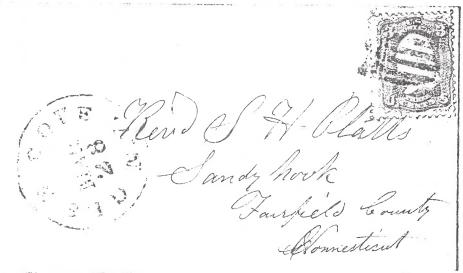
There has been little documentation thus far of the fancy cancels of Long Island. In order to spur research along these lines I should like to offer some examples from my collection.



Red double circle from Bellport, N.Y. shows an interesting 1880 duplex killer.



East Hampton use of the Hammond patent 'Wheel of Fortune'. This cancel is depicted in the Hammond ad reproduced in U.S. Cancellation Club News November 1906 (Vol. 8, No.6) However, it is only reported for Alexandria Bay, Bangall, Clinton, Coeymans and West Hampton. Apparently East Hampton followed West Hampton.



Black Glen Cove circle and black shield killer on #65. While this item is recorded as PS-ST37 in the Eno fancy cancellation book, the illustration does not appear to closely match this example.



Greenlawn Maltese Cross. These Maltese are widely used stock cancellation devices in the 1880's. This cds belies the postoffice records which show the town as 'Green Lawn' prior to 1895.

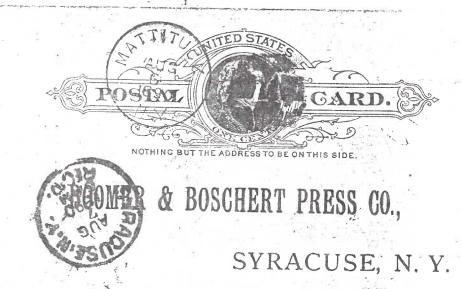
Capt Came, lock

Mad line

Com

Black cds and Jamesport L.I. shield reported as PS-FC46 in the Eno fancy cancel book. This example suggests there are three stars at top not two dots as in that book's drawing.

(Below) The black Mattituck reverse 'M' dated 8/6/1890 on a postcard to Syracuse, N.Y.



One of the few Long Island cds's to actually use the term 'Long Island' is this dated 9/o/1883 example from Oyster Bay. Oyster Bay is recorded in Willard's United States Two Cent Red Brown of 1003-1887, as having a particularly delicate star killer (Willard #299) which he records in magenta. This may be it in a poorer strike caused by the embossed envelope.

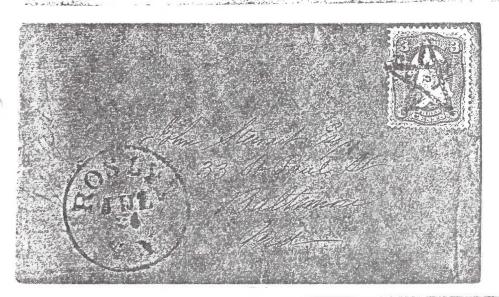
Roe's Hotel,
Patchoque,
L. J.

Mrs. A. J. Corsa

Mo 640 Monror St.

Brookf

Patchogue negative star on a particularly delicate hotel corner card. It is dated 9/2/1897. Not among the styles recorded by Willard for 1883-7.



This black Roslyn, N.Y. star with dot in center is not recorded on cover in the Eno book where it is ST-D-13. This tied example authenticates it.

This black Southold fancy reverse multiringed circle killer is dated here 11/5/85. It is on a UX9. Willard picked this up from Herst-Sampson (#1081) where it is ascribed to Whallonsbury, N.Y. Willard lists it as #559.



FLAG CANCELLATIONS OF LONG ISLAND II. The Early Brooklyn Post Offices

by Calvet M. Hahn

As part of the background for this study of flag cancellations and the offices that used them in Brooklyn, I felt it advisable to get lists of the Brooklyn stations and their addresses from the beginning of the flag cancel era to 1920. Because I did not carry my notes with me when I visited the New York Public Library, I pulled the City Directories and Brooklyn telephone books from 1884 onward. This meant that I had a great deal of useful material that was not immediately relevant.

In consequence, this section will discuss the early offices of Brooklyn so that a more rounded picture appears. To do this I have supplemented the Directories with material derived from the various philatelic lists of Brooklyn post offices such as the ones published by Kaiser, DeGraff and John Kay and Chester Smith, with particular attention to the last as the most complete and up-to-date.

The first post office in Kings County which is Brooklyn today was Brooklyn. It made its first returns on July 1, 1803 so it was established somewhat earlier. In the pre-Civil War period we get the following:

Brooklyn (pre-7/1/1803) Flatbush (8/10/1814-2/28/94) Williamsburgh (2/10/1829-9/2/73) Fort Hamilton (2/10/1833-4/30/96) East New York (1/23/1838-10/7/80) New Utrecht (1/21/1839-3/18/86)

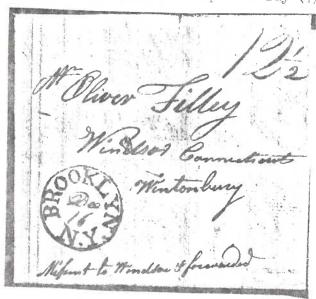
Gravesend (12/20/45-4/30/96) Flatlands (0/10/1847-4/30/96) Greenpoint (7/14/1849-9/2/73) Gauarsie (9/24/52-10/11/59) Cresco (5/24/54-5/1/68) Bay Ridge (1/21/58-10/10/60)

Of these Bay Ridge went out of existence for a few years and was then reestablished (0/21/52-12/1895). The same situation occurred with Canarsie which was reestablished (3/18/63-4/30/96). Both Williamsburgh (9/2/73-12/86) and Greenpoint (9/2/73-12/80) became part of Brooklyn in 1873. The name of the Cresco station was changed to Parkville (5/1/68-8/1/94) while a Brooklyn substation named Van Brunt was created in 1676 and lasted until December 1886.

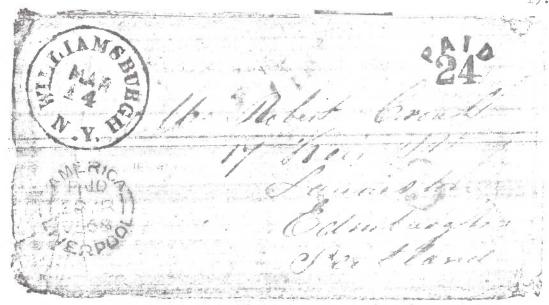
Four other post offices were established before the City Directory list of June 1884. These were:

Brevoort (/ /1875-12/86) Brighton Beach (7/23/78-10/13/79)

Windsor Terrace (12/12/I881-9/27/82) Sheepshead Bay (7/10/1882-4/30/96)



The earliest Brooklyn handstamp I record, as well as the only one of this type, is this bright magenta item postmarked Desember 10, 1818 which was missent to Windsor, Conn. and forwarded to Wintonbury.



A rather unusual Williamsburgh cover is this 1850 example with a black cds and arc rAID/24. Addressed to Edinburgh, Scotland, which went via the Cunarder Persia that left New York May 14th and arrived Liverpool on the 23rd. There is a red 131 at right showing credit to the U.S. The letter was backstamped on arrival on the 29th.

fapt. E. Z. Veronsend

assistant adj. Gent.

Mashington L.C.

One of the early letters out of Ft. Hamilton is this example with a red 34mm cds dated June 10,1851 and addressed to the Assist. Adjt. General in Washington. It is ex-ward.

Chrs. Richard Smith Ohr. 6 Samorn 49. Philadelphia.

Care of Johnson & Bo.

East New York had two handstamps-u 30mm black the and this 34mm balloon style-that were used in the stampless period. This example of o/2/5-was used circa 1853-4. This is from the Dorr collection.

This letter from New Utrecht is dated July 17,1848 and discusses life as a teacher in that town as well as the joys of sea bathing. The writer sings for \$400 a year in the Dutch Reform Church and wants to give up teaching to become an 'agriculturist' in western New York. The letter is rerated from 5¢ to 10¢ for over 300 miles.

July 13 Met Bage Experience Co.

GREEN POINT.N.T

IAID 3

Green Point is known with two styles of straightline—a black 33x3mm single line and this black 36x8mm two-line version. I record another used on 6/15. This 8/13 version was used in 1852. It is ex-Dunsmoor and Ed Mayer.

ve Saurence Ein Spacuse

1852

In the 1884 Brooklyn directory there are only five stations:

Main-319 Washington St., James McLee P.M. Charles M. Orton, Assist. P.M. Brevoort-1250 Fulton, Louis Baxter, Supt. Greenpoint-Greenpoint and Franklin, Edward Brooks, Supt. Van Brunt-5th Ave between 11th and 12th St., Ed McMannus, Supt. Williamsburgh-South Fifth, corner Fourth, Wm. B. Hopkins, Supt.

There were ten other stations in the county:

Bay Ridge Canarsie East New York

Flatbush Flatlands Fort Hamilton Gravesend New Utrecht Parkville Sheepshead Bay

In 1885, Samuel Smith took over the assistant postmastership of Brooklyn while in 1886, B.F. Conlin took over as superintendant of the Van Brunt station. A new station was erected in Brooklyn, Station S located at Broadway and Williamsburgh Ave. with J.L. Broome as Superintendant while the East New York Station was absorbed as the 26th Ward in East New York, at Penn Ave. near Atlantic with R.R. Wheeler as postmaster. Outside of Brooklyn a post office was erected at Coney Island (1/18/86-

4/30/96) while the New Utrecht post office was closed and replaced by one at Bath Beach (3/18/86-4/30/96).

In the Directory of 1887 we find Joseph C. Hendrix is the new Brooklyn post-master with Samuel Smith continuing as his assistant. The Brooklyn stations were renamed with alphabet designations so that we now have the following:

Main --319 Washington
B (Brevoort)-1250 Fulton
G (Greenpoint)-300 Manhattan
S --Broadway & Wil'by
V (Van Brunt-400 Fifth
W (Williamsburgh)-55th corner Bedford
E (East New York)--Atlantic, corner Hendrix
F (Flatbush) Flatbush, corner Atlantic (to 1894)
C --546 Fulton
H--Hopkinson corner Herkimer

By 1888 when the Directory was published in June, the Greenpoint address was Manhattan, corner of Milton and two new stations appeared:

D (DeKalb)-089 DeKalb to 12/1893 R --302 Van Brunt

From 1887 until the Directory of June 1896, we get the following new post offices erected outside of Brooklyn:

Bath Beach Junction (5/15/88-0/5/88)
reestablished as Blythebourne (6/5/88-4/30/96)
Bensonhurst (5/22/89-4/30/96)
Gravesend Beach (1/20/87-4/30/96)
Lawn Wood (5/17/92-4/30/96)
Van Pelt Manor (8/20/90-12/95)
West Brooklyn (1/2/92-4/30/90)
Wood Lawn (5/14/1890-5/17/92) to Lawn Wood

Within Brooklyn, the following stations were added or created by absorbing previously independent post offices:

Station C--12/1889 Station H--12/1889-12/1894
Station K--12/1889-12/1894
Station A, 12 Graham St.--12/1890
Station M--12/1890-12/94
Station X--12/1890-12/94
Station B, 1256 Fulton (from B-Brevoort)
Parkville--8/1/94-1/1/95 (from Parkville)
Station 29 (1/1/95) (from Parkville station)
Manhattan Beach--5/4/95

On April 30, 1896, the postal service of Kings County was reorganized so that all offices became stations of the Brooklyn post office. As this is also the year in which the flag cancellation was introduced into the Brooklyn service, the City Directory list of station addresses of June 1896 is particularly significant. That

June 1895 Brooklyn Stations

Main-Tillery and Adams--A.T. Bullivan P.M.; John C. Cody, Assist. A--14 Graham
B--1266 Fulton
C--1191 Third
D--1928 Fulton

Brooklyn Stations o/1890 (ont)

```
E -- 2648 Atlantic
                                   G -- 328 Manhattan
                                 H -- Bath Beach
                                  K -- Blythebourne
                                  L -- Canarsie
                                 M -- Coney Island
                                 N -- Fort Hamilton
                                  0 -- Sheepshead Bay
                                 S -- 1251 Broadway
                                  V -- 277 12th St.
                                  W -- Bedford c. 55th
                                  Flatbush -- 830 Flatbush
                                  Manhattan Beach-- Manhattan Beach
Substations:
                                 1 -- Henry, c. President
2 -- 848 Fulton
                    1 -- Henry, c. President
2 -- 646 Fulton
3 -- 132 Flatbush
4 -- 580 Myrtle
5 -- 540 Union
6 -- 3J2 Van Brunt
7 -- Avenue C, Cumberland
8 -- 38 Atlantic
9 -- Hoyt, c. Union
10 -- Sands, c. Jay
11 -- 508 Court
12 -- DeKalb, c. Myerson
13 -- 4 Wallabout Market
14 -- 129 Hamilton
15 -- o92 Grand
16 -- 253 N. 2nd
17 -- Bedford c. N. 7th
20 -- De Kalb, c. Tompkins
21 -- Fulton c. Rockaway Ave.
22 -- 1076 Bedford
24 -- Wyrtle c. Wyckoff
25 -- Broadway c. Halsey
26 -- Reid c. Hancock
29 -- Lawrence c. N. Boulevard
30 -- 272 3rd
31 -- Coney Island Rd. c Greenwood
32 -- 252 5th
33 -- 592 3rd
40 -- E. Parkway c. Thatford
40 -- E
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    28 -- 772 Halsey
                          27 -- Myrtle c. Hamburg
```

In 1901 the Main postoffice was listed at Washington corner of Johnson and the new postmaster was Francis H. Wilson. Stations A through G stayed the same with the others changed as follows in the 1902 Directory:

> Bath Beach - Bath Ave. near 19th Blythebourne - 13th Ave., c. 55th Camarsie - Station L Coney Island - Arcade Pl., near Surf Ft. Hamilton - 4th Ave. c. 99th Sheepshead Bay - Voorhies Ave. n. 523rd S -- Broadway c. Greene V -- 5th c. 9th W -- 220 Broadway Flatbush - 830 Flatbush Manhattan Beach - Manhattan Beach Hotel

Substations:

- Mannacct

 ions:

 1 Henry c. President
 2 Greene c. Cumberland
 3 132 Flatbush
 586 Myrtle

 6 38 Atlantic
 9 41 Flatbush
 10 Sands, c. Jay
 11 Manhattan c. Siegel
 12 DeKalb c. Ryerson

- 7 Ave C, c. Cumberland

Brooklyn Directory 1902 (cont.)

```
13 4 Wallabout Market
                    50 Barren Island
14 129 Hamilton
15 692 Grand
                    51 3rd c. 73rd
49 63 Morgan
```

The City Telephone Books were used for 1905, 1910 and 1920. No substations were listed in the 1920 book. Throughout the Main Post Office continued at Washington and Johnson. The stations were as follows:

Sta. A B C D E F G J	1905Jan. 16 Graham 1206 Fulton 5121 3rd 1923 Fulton 2048 Atlantic 860 Manhattan 132 Flatbush	1910Jan. (same) (same) (same) (same) 2084 Atlantic 830 Flatbush (same) Myrtle & Wyckoff LIRR Depot c. Flatbush	1920Feb. (Tel.Exchange) ool Broadway (Stage) (same) (Bedford) 5009 oth (Sunset) 1915 Fulton (Decatur) 2581 Atlan (E. New York) 744 Manhattan (Greenpoint)
P S R T	1202 Broadway	1781 Pitkin (same) Nostrand Ave. 170 Hamilton	70 Thatford (E. New York) 1075 Lafayette (Bushwyck) 155 Hamilton (Henry)
Y. Y.		299 9th 1 220 Broadway 	303 8th (South) 220 Broadway (Williamsburg) Gravesend & 47th(Midwood)

Brooklyn Post Office Stations 1905, 1910 and 1920 (cont.)

1	station	1905	1910	1920	(Tel.Exchan
	Flatbush Bath Beach Blythebourne Coney Island Ft. Hamilton Cheeoshead Arverne Astoria Hollis Jamaica L.I. City Queens Sta. Lichmond Hill Jrion Course Woodnaven	630 Flatbush 1830 Bath Ave. 13th Ave. 2 55th Surf Ave., Coney Isle. 4th Ave. 2 99th Vornees Ave. Sheepshead B.	1829 Bath 5424 13th Ave. Surf Ave C.I. 9824 4th Ave. 1700 Shore Rd. Arverne L.I. Van Alst Ave. Hollis L.I. 328 Fulton 51 Jackson Queens L.I. Lefferts Ave. Union Course LI	908 Flatbush 19th & 80th (same) (same) 9015 Fifth Avenue U	(Flatbush) (Bensonhurst) (Shore Rd.) (Coney Isle)
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BROOKLYN POST OFFICES SUBSTATIONS IN MARCH 1910

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Of the Brooklyn stations, none of the numeric stations were apparently issued flag cancellation devices. In the Alphabet stations some seven used flag cancel cevices according to the lastes records while six of the name stations—other than the main office—had flag cancel devices.

Pioneer Flights of Garden City Estates, New York: 1911, by Robert Schoendorf. Limited soft cover printing of 300 copies containing 75 pages and including 75 illustrations. Available at \$20 postpaid from Al Zimmerman, \$73 Van Nest Ave.

This is an original research study of the first official airmail service, which was inaugurated at Garden City Estates, Long Island September 23, 1911. Mr. Schoendorf has dug up a mass of contemporary documentation and philatelic ephemera as well as numerous flown covers to commemorate this historic occasion. In the process he has altered some previously accepted conclusions, solved some mysteries and created others by giving us a much fuller picture of what happened. It can be recommended as a basic source book for anyone interested in the origins of the U.S. airmail service.

The background is set by a discussion of some of the unofficial flights of 1909-10, some of which have philatelic connections. Schoendorf then moves into a detailed coverage of the nine-day international aviation torunament that gave us our first official airmal covers. For most collectors the most interesting events are those surrounding the first official flight.

The contemporary documents show the initial mail bag was put together by postal inspector M. H. Boyle who cancelled the covers and then gave the bag to Brooklyn carrier Clarey who handed it over to Earle Ovington. Ovington had been sworn in that day as the first U.S. airmail pilot. Mr. Ovington flew the bag, estimated at about 30 pounds, in his Queen Bleriot Monoplane #13 to Mineola where it was pitched over the side to the Mineola postmaster who had been awaiting it for several hours. This account documented by Schoendorf differs in a number of details from the 'official' accord subsequently published by the Postmaster General.

One of the remaining mysteries of great interest to postal historians is just how many pieces of mail were carried on the first flight. Schoendorf notes that generally indicated figures show ohe letters and 1,280 cards while one contemporary news account reports 15,000 pieces of mail (pg. h0-1). He feels the higher figure is more accurate. This reviewer opts for a middle figure. As Ovington commented the mail was over 15 pounds and the New York Times of 9/25/11 put it at 30, the 15,000 piece estimate seems high, for two flights on the 24th carried 6,165 cards, respectively. On the 20th two bags totaling 22 pounds weighting 14 and 16 pounds letters and 78 pieces of printed matter in two bags weighting 14 and 16 pounds letters and 78 pieces of printed matter. Thus 4,200 pieces weighted 22 pounds and ever, as Schoendorf notes the official figure of 1,900 pieces is low. It would only weight 10 pounds.

Among the continuing mysteries are how many of the first flight items survived and where are they today? Were any pieces of printed matter carried as they were on subsequent days? Where are the 100 cards posted on the 27th by Mrs. Woodruff that did not get the normal cancel? Schoendorf also boses the mystery of the arrangements made with English pilots when they carried the U.S. mail.

Mr. Schoendorf hasn't answered all the questions regarding these first flights. However, he has moved us a considerable distance down the road toward a better understanding. This work is of particular interest to Long Island collectors who on the Island.