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LONG ISLAND POSTAL HISTORIAN

THE NEWSLETTER AND JOURNAL OF THE LONG ISLAND POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY



Dedicated to the collection and research of the postal history of
Brooklyn (Kings Co.), Queens, Nassau and Suffolk Counties.



VOLUME 11 NO. 2 SUMMER 1987 WHOLE NO. 21

Long Island Postal Historian

The Newsletter and Journal of the Long Island Postal History Society
APS Affiliate No. 154

SUMMER 1987 VOLUME 11 No. 2 WHOLE No. 21

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Membership in the LIPHS begins on August 1st of each year. Back issues will be provided to those joining or renewing after that date. A completed application and dues check are to be sent to the Secretary at the above address. See back page for application form. Dues are as follows:

Regular.....	\$ 15	Patron.....	\$ 50
Sustaining.....	\$ 25	Life.....	\$200

See the Classified Ads section for advertising rates.

DUES NOTICE

Effective August 1, 1987 Regular Membership Dues will increase to \$15.00, and will cover the 17 month period starting on August 1, 1987 and ending on December 31, 1988. Beginning in 1989, we will be on a calendar year basis.

Send in your renewal checks to the Treasurer at the address below:

John M. Price, Jr. M.D.
8 Woodland Place
Great Neck, N.Y. 11021

SPECIAL NOTE: We need members to renew at the SUSTAINING MEMBER level of \$25.00 or at the PATRON MEMBERSHIP level of \$50.00. The added financial support is needed so that we can continue to improve your Society's quarterly publication, and to begin to provide you with additional services. The additional support, especially in light of the extra long period that the renewal covers, will be greatly appreciated.

REMEMBER - RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW

Members not renewing by August 1, 1987 will be dropped from the roster and will not receive the Fall Issue of the Long Island Postal Historian.

President's Message

Regrettably, Carl Baker announced at the meeting of the Society held on April 11, 1987 that he had to resign his post due to personal reasons. Carl will remain as a Director of the Society as the immediate Past President. According to the By-Laws, upon the resignation of the President the Vice President becomes the Acting President for the remainder of the term. In this case, the remaining term expires on August 1, 1988. I accepted to take the additional responsibilities as Acting President. The Board of Directors decided that it was best to have a Vice President who resides in the New York metropolitan area or Long Island as I reside in Florida; therefore I resigned as Vice President and Joel Shapiro was selected as the Vice President of the Society. Joel will represent me at meetings of the Board and of the members at large in the event I am unable to attend.

The Board wants to express its appreciation to Carl Baker, one of our founding members, for his tenure as President and for his many contributions to our Society. We are lucky to have Carl Baker in our ranks, and I am personally happy that he will continue to participate as a Director and as a frequent contributor to the pages of the Long Island Postal Historian.

J. Fred Rodriguez
Acting President



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



The final installment of the Greenport Post Office story, through the end of the nineteenth century, is the lead article. This three-part article turned out to be much longer than what I initially envisioned. From a list of postmasters and a handful of covers, the story grew as a result of the cooperation of many of our members.

Bob Miller continues reporting on the history of the airmail on Long Island. His article about Lindbergh's historic flight in 1927, taking off from Roosevelt Field, L.I. on his way to France makes interesting reading.

The last few months have been extremely active at the auction block. Some fantastic whaling covers and gold rush covers to L.I., as well as other desirable Long Island covers sold at high prices. Dan Knowles reports on many of the sales in the Auction Action column.

The Fall Issue will have the story of the United Nations postal history on Long Island. Linda Wierenga's final installment about the Jones whaling correspondence from the archives of the Cold Spring Harbor Whaling Museum will also appear. Regular feature columns and other short articles will roundout that issue.

The Editor wants to thank all those members that are helping in making the Society and its publication successful. The Summer Issue and the Supplement which accompanied it was well received. Many liked Carl Baker's article on Bethpage.

Fred Rodriguez

Secretary's Notes and

Member's Correspondence

We welcome the following new members:

No. 124	No. 125	No. 126
Jim Forte	Christopher F. Rupp	Stephen M. Raphael
P.O. Box 176	P.O. Drawer J	626 Sixth St.
Edison, N.J. 08818	Lenox Hill Station	Brooklyn, N.Y. 11217
	New York, N.Y. 10021	
No. 127	No. 128	
Tom Mills	Sag Harbor Whaling and Historical Museum	
P.O. Box 549	George S. Finckenor, Sr.	
Goshen, N.Y. 10924	P.O. Box 1327	
	Sag Harbor, N.Y. 11953	

Mr. Forte is a dealer in U.S. and worldwide postal history. He issues periodic net price lists of postal history and sends approvals to qualified buyers. He is a member of the ESPHS, APS, etc.

Mr. Rupp was referred by Joel Shapiro. Tom Mills is a well known dealer of postal history. He has a tremendous stock of covers and deals in quality material. He attends most philatelic shows.

Mr. Finckenor is the Village Historian for Sag Harbor and North Haven as well as the Curator of the Sag Harbor Whaling Museum. He writes that the museum has plenty of whaling letters in its collection. Perhaps at some future date an enterprising member will be able to make the time to photocopy those letters for a multi-part article similar to the one about the Cold Spring Harbor Whaling Museum correspondence being written by Linda Wierenga. Mr. Finckenor is an author as well. A recent issue of the L.I. Forum has an article by him on an old Sag Harbor whaling captain.

Please add the new members to your roster found in Supplement No. 1. We now have 94 active members.

*****MEMBERS IN THE NEWS!*****

David L. Jarrett has been re-elected to a three year term as a trustee of the Philatelic Foundation. We noticed an article by him in the March-April 1987 issue of the Transit Postmark Collector, the official publication of the Mobile Post Office Society. His article is about 1847 covers which have been found to be fakes and are now in the reference collection of the Philatelic Foundation. Of interest to the L.I. postal historian is a cover to Samuel L. Gardiner at Sag Harbor bearing an 1847 U.S. #1 5-cent Franklin stamp tied by a double circle LIRR postmark. The cover also has a similar LIRR strike on the top left corner. The bogus cover is one of three 1847 covers with forged railroad route agent handstamps that were recently donated to the Philatelic Foundation.

Two of our members were successful with their exhibits at INTERPEX '87. Steven Reinhard won the Reserve Grand Award, a Gold, and the APS 1900-1940 medal for "U.S. Pioneer Airmail 1910-1916". This is the highest award that Steven has won to date in exhibiting his fine collection. Robert S. Miller won a Silver-Bronze medal for his "Wings to the Orient".

Richard C. Frajola obtained a 1st Place award in the One-Frame Exhibit at the 97th Garfield-Perry Stamp Club March Party in Cleveland, Ohio held on March 20-22. His exhibit was entitled: "War of 1812 Special Mail Routes".

The Winter 1987 edition of the Cold Spring Harbor Whaling Museum newsletter shows a photograph of Frederick P. Schmitt, author and former Whaling Museum curator. He donated his private library of literature pertaining to whales and whaling. The collection of approximately 3,000 items consists of books, pamphlets, and archival material. The CSH Whaling Museum is now one of the foremost research centers for whaling.

That publication also shows a number of photographs taken at the 50th birthday party of the museum. There is a fine photo of member Harriett Valentine, a trustee of the museum.

Charter member Arthur Fitzpatrick writes to the Editor as follows: "Here's a novel suggestion to put to our reader-members for a reaction. The idea is simply to reproduce two pages of a different members' L.I. collection in each issue of the Journal. They would be accompanied by a brief account, by the member, of the why and wherefor of his method of mounting and describing. There are several reasons for my submitting this idea. One is curiosity on my part. Outside of the periodic meetings of our Society, such as at the Collector's Club, there is no occasion where such exchange of information can take place. There are on Long Island no competitive exhibitions of material even if we wanted to. Distance and in some cases lack of travel mobility result in a small percentage of members attending our meetings." Any comments?



Town of Huntington

Rufus B. Langhans
Historian

May 18, 1987

Mr. J. Fred Rodriguez
Vice President & Editor
Long Island Postal Historian
P.O. Box 112005
Miami, Florida 33111

Dear Editor:

I enjoyed the article on Bethpage in your Spring 1987 issue by Carl F. Baker. I would like to note, however, that the statement "all land being within the former Queens County eastern boundary" referring to the eastern boundary of the Bethpage Purchase is incorrect. The eastern boundary of the Bethpage Purchase went as far east as "old Route 110" or the present Walt Whitman Road south of Old Country Road, well within Suffolk County. The eastern border followed Old Route 110 to the south and then went west on Melville Road. Old Country Road in the Town of Huntington was the northern boundary of the Bethpage Purchase in Huntington.

There is an historic marker at the southwest corner of Old Country Road and Sweet Hollow Road in Melville which states: "BETHPAGE PURCHASE Northeast corner of the Bethpage Purchase by Thomas Powell from the Massapequa Indians in 1695".

Thomas Powell was ordered to leave the Town of Huntington when he refused to pay taxes in support of the established church, despite the fact that he had held office in Huntington and was well respected. His Quaker faith was stronger than his civic duty.

This office has an 18th century map (copy) showing all property owners in the Bethpage Purchase.

Sincerely,

Rufus B. Langhans
Rufus B. Langhans

228 Main Street · Huntington, New York 11743 (516) 351-3244

MINUTES OF APRIL 11, 1987 MEETING

DANIEL M. KNOWLES

This meeting of the LIPHS was held at the Collector's Club of New York. Members in attendance included Carl Baker, John Price, Joel Shapiro, Daniel Knowles, Brad Arch, Brian Levy, Martin Margulis, Fred Rodriguez, Brenden McCann and Steve Rienhart. One guest, Frank Dunning, was also present.

The meeting was called to order by Carl Baker at 1:45 p.m. Drs. John Price and Daniel Knowles presented the Treasurer's and Secretary's reports, respectively.

Carl Baker began the discussion by suggesting the need to have a publicity chairman. Active discussion ensued concerning the role of the publicity chairman and his/her activities. Participants in the discussion emphasized that the publicity chairman should be capable of publicizing the LIPHS at meetings and shows and should emphasize the acquisition of new members for the Society. Brenden McCann volunteered to be the LIPHS publicity chairman.

Brian Levy reported on the affiliation of the LIPHS with the American Philatelic Society. The APS has informed us that we will be given a free table at the Boston APS show in August on which we can place literature publicizing the LIPHS. Fred Rodriguez volunteered to provide Brian Levy with sample copies of the Journal, application forms and other literature which can be handed out at the show.

Brian Levy also suggested that APS members living on Long Island be canvassed for their interest in joining the LIPHS. The group agreed that this was a worthwhile activity and Brian Levy volunteered to send applications and other general information concerning the LIPHS to APS members residing on Long Island.

Brad Arch suggested that a LIPHS award be given at any show held in New York City or on Long Island for the best exhibit of Long Island material at the given show. The group voted unanimously to approve that such an award be given.

Carl Baker announced his desire to voluntarily step down as the LIPHS President for personal reasons. Fred Rodriguez resigned as Vice President and agreed to serve as Acting President until elections could be held in August, 1988. Joel Shapiro was voted to serve as Vice President.

Several members discussed the need to have a more formal schedule of LIPHS meetings. Fred Rodriguez moved to hold one meeting each year at the Collector's Club of New York with one or more additional meetings to be held on Long Island. This motion received unanimous support. Joel Shapiro volunteered to serve as a liaison with the Collector's Club for this purpose.

The participants decided to discuss revising the Constitution, establishing a LIPHS Library, and establishing a LIPHS scrapbook at a future Board Meeting.

The continuing problem of having an adequate Treasury to perform the Society's functions was discussed. In particular, it was noted that the monies brought in each year from dues are probably insufficient to even pay for the Journal. Therefore, the group voted unanimously to raise the present dues from \$10.00 to \$15.00. All other dues levels will remain at their present rate. The new minimum dues level of \$15.00 will go into effect August, 1987. The fiscal year will be changed from August to January.

Following this discussion, the participants moved to close the meeting in order to have lunch and to discuss the collecting aspects of Long Island postal history.

Long Island Postal History Study Groups Formed

The following study groups have been formed to research and document particular aspects of Long Island postal history. Please help the group leaders by sending them copies of your covers and the appropriate information about them, i.e. color of postal markings, dateline of contents, backstamps, etc. You will hear from them directly appealing for help. Please do this much for your Society's efforts in this field. Additional Study Groups will be formed as needed. Those now functioning are listed below:

I. The 1869 Issue on Long Island Covers

Leader: Brad Arch
144 Hamilton Ave.
Clifton, N.J. 07011

II. Manuscript Post Offices of Long Island

Leader: Arthur Fitzpatrick
263 Cushing Ave.
Williston Park, N.Y. 11596

III. Long Island County Cancellations

Leader: Daniel M. Knowles, M.D.
97-10 71st Ave.
Forest Hills, N.Y. 11375

IV. Fancy Cancellations from Long Island

Leader: J. Fred Rodriguez
P.O. Box 112005
Miami, Fla. 33111

Have a happy Fourth of July!!!!

THE GREENPORT POST OFFICE IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY
Part III - 1869/1899 - Conclusion
By J. Fred Rodriguez

On April 13, 1869 Ebenezer Clark regained management of the Greenport Post Office from David O. Crawford. It is during Clark's second term that we find the use of the fancy cancellation shown to the right.

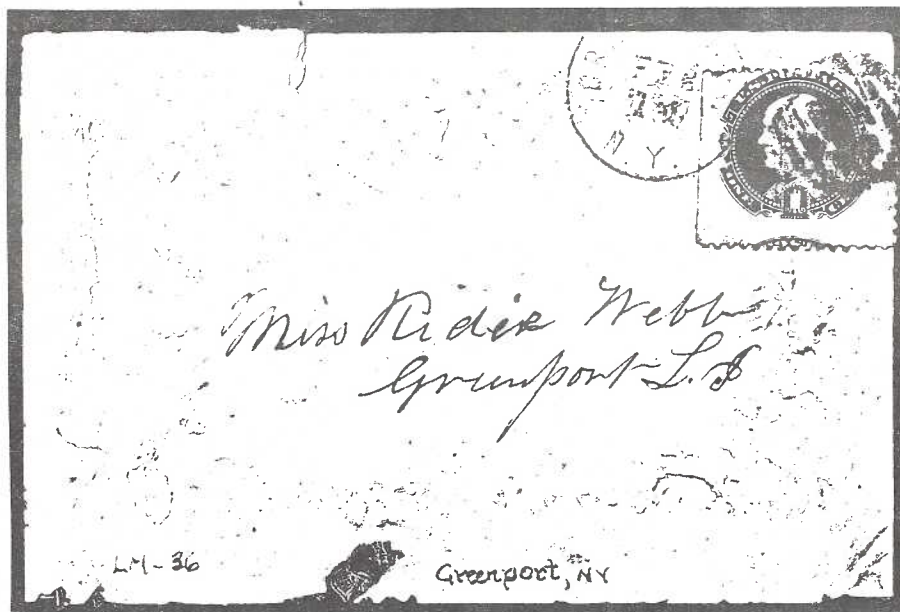
This is a cork killer with the carved letters "E C", his initials.

Clark was a shoemaker by trade, thus it is reasonable to assume that he carved the device himself.

This cancellation is listed in the Hertz-Sampson book on 19th Century Cancels as cancellation number 2001 used in 1873 on a Scott's #158,

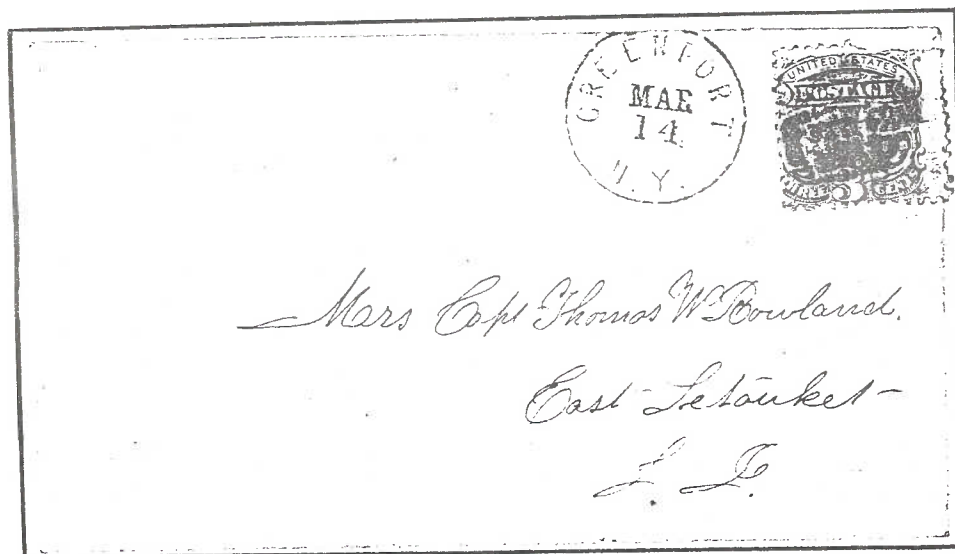
with a question mark as to origin. (1)

In the 1980 book of fancy cancels by Skinner-Eno, the cancellation is also listed as #LC-E-1 and #LC-E-1a, identified as a Greenport cancel used in 1869 on cover. (2) Illustrated below, and in the next page, are two covers with this fancy cancel.



GREENPORT/FEB/14/N.Y. 24mm black circular date stamp (cnds), tying a 1 cent Franklin stamp on a drop rate cover. This stamp (Scott's #112) was issued on March 27, 1869, thus its use on this cover is from 1870, 1871 or 1872 as in January 1873 Postmaster Clark was replaced. It would be unlikely that this cancel would be used by the new postmaster. This copy was furnished by Richard C. Frajola, Inc.

The next cover, from the author's collection, was used on March 14 to East Setauket. A Scott's #114, the popular 3 cent locomotive stamp in ultramarine, is cancelled by the "EC" cork fancy cancel. The grill on the stamp can be clearly detected on the bottom right margin. The Scott's Catalogue defines a grill as follows: "The grill (sometimes called embossing) consists of small square pyramids in parallel rows impressed or embossed on the stamp, with the object to break the fibers of the paper so that the cancellation ink would soak in and make washing for re-use impossible."(3)



GREENPORT/MAR/14/N.Y. 24mm black cds. Negative letter cancellation "EC". The 3 cent #114 was issued on March 27, 1869, therefore this cover was used in 1870, 1871 or 1872 as well.

Bill Stearns provided the copy of the cover that follows. The same 24mm postmark is used as in the previous two covers. The #114 stamp is cancelled and tied by a different cork killer, although a common one. This cover, used on May 17, was posted in 1870 or later.



Postmaster Clark remained in charge of the mails until replaced by David Wiggins on January 21, 1873. The new postmaster manufactured hats and was a retailer of men's furnishings. His store, and possibly the post office nook, was located where Roulston's store used to be on Main Street. (4)

It seems appropriate, before we continue with the story of the post office, to relate something of what was going on at Greenport and the surrounding area at this time. The town was growing and prospering. In 1873 Claudio's famous restaurant, still in operation today, was built at the foot of Main St. facing the wharf. (5) About this time Shelter Island began to be visited by the Methodist who purchased a nearly uninhabited area known as White Hill or Prospect.

These church families from New York City, wanting to spend their summers in a more wholesome atmosphere, unlike the worldly vacationers summering at the Hamptons, built a number of cottages and a large boarding house which they named the Prospect Hotel. The Methodist Association established a camp meeting grove and an open air auditorium. Others not connected with Methodism started to move in and in 1873 the Manhansett House was built at Dering Harbor. Due to the success of these resorts it became necessary to have post offices nearby. Letters were usually given to people sailing back to Greenport, or taken to the Shelter Island post office in the middle of the island. The first post office in the Prospect area was established at the Manhansett House hotel on July 14, 1879. According to Kay and Smith, that office was discontinued and re-established in 1880. (6) It was located in the lobby of the hotel. Daniel Kellog was the first postmaster. The second post office, established on July 21, 1880 was named Prospect Grove under George Edward Gay. The name later changed to Shelter Island Heights in 1886.

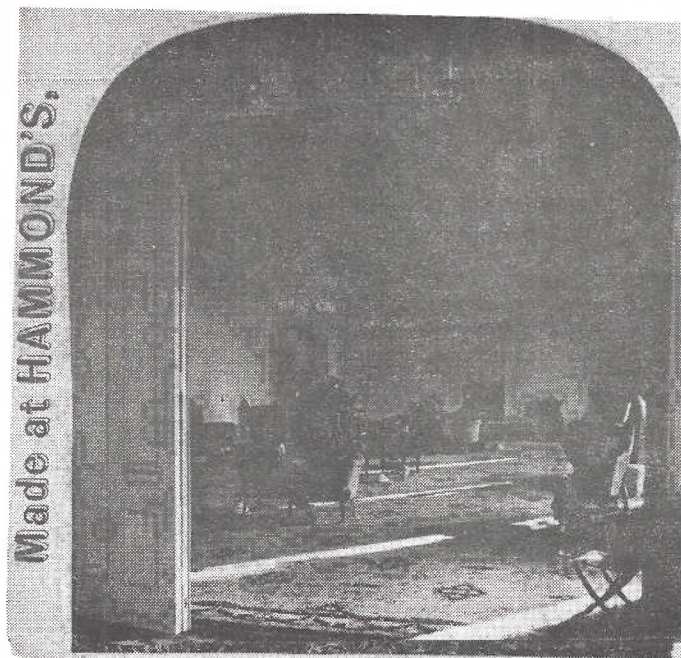
According to the recollection of a Greenport resident, in 1877 the only means of transportation between Greenport and Shelter Island was by two sail boats, one commanded by Henry Jennings and the other by Charles Costa. (7) The ferry service was established earlier though, probably in 1869 or 1870. The "Cambria" was the first steam ferry boat put into use in 1872 or thereabouts. (8)

We are fortunate that Louis Hammond, Greenport's stereophotographer, captured for posterity, the Greenport area during the years 1878 to 1885. Although he took photos in all formats, he specialized in stereoscopic photographs for outdoor scenes. He visited Shelter Island regularly and sold his views at the hotels and to the summer residents. The author owns forty stereoviews taken by Hammond, as well as cartes de visite and a few cabinet photographs. On October 20, 1878 Hammond placed an advertisement in the Sufflok Times at Greenport. It announced his new store: "NEW JEWELRY STORE, On Main St., Opposite J. Clark's Hotel. L. Hammond takes this method to inform the people of Greenport and the public in general, that he has returned after an absence of three years and a half, and opened his business again, where he hopes to meet his old friends and customers. He is in readiness to supply them with any article in the line of Clocks, Watches, Jewelry and Fancy Goods, at the most reasonable prices..."(9). Although there is no mention of his photography business, it was well known throughout Greenport.

We have illustrated some of Hammond's stereoviews in the two previous articles about Greenport and we will illustrate additional ones here. Some of the stereos that follow are illustrated for the first time ever.



The Manhasset House, circa 1880 above. The parlor, circa 1882 below. Beautiful crystal chandeliers, large carpets and numerous spittoons can be seen. The walls appear to be 12 feet high in this very spacious parlor.

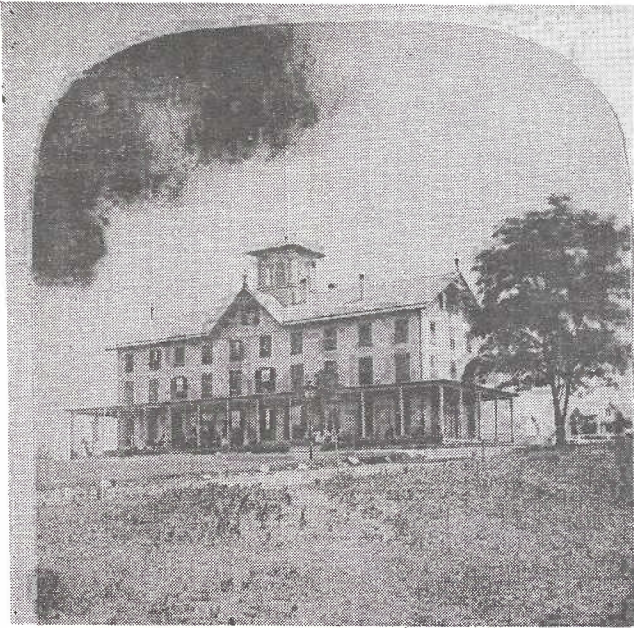




A group of well dressed guests at the Manhansett House
"Piazza", Sept. 25, 1879.

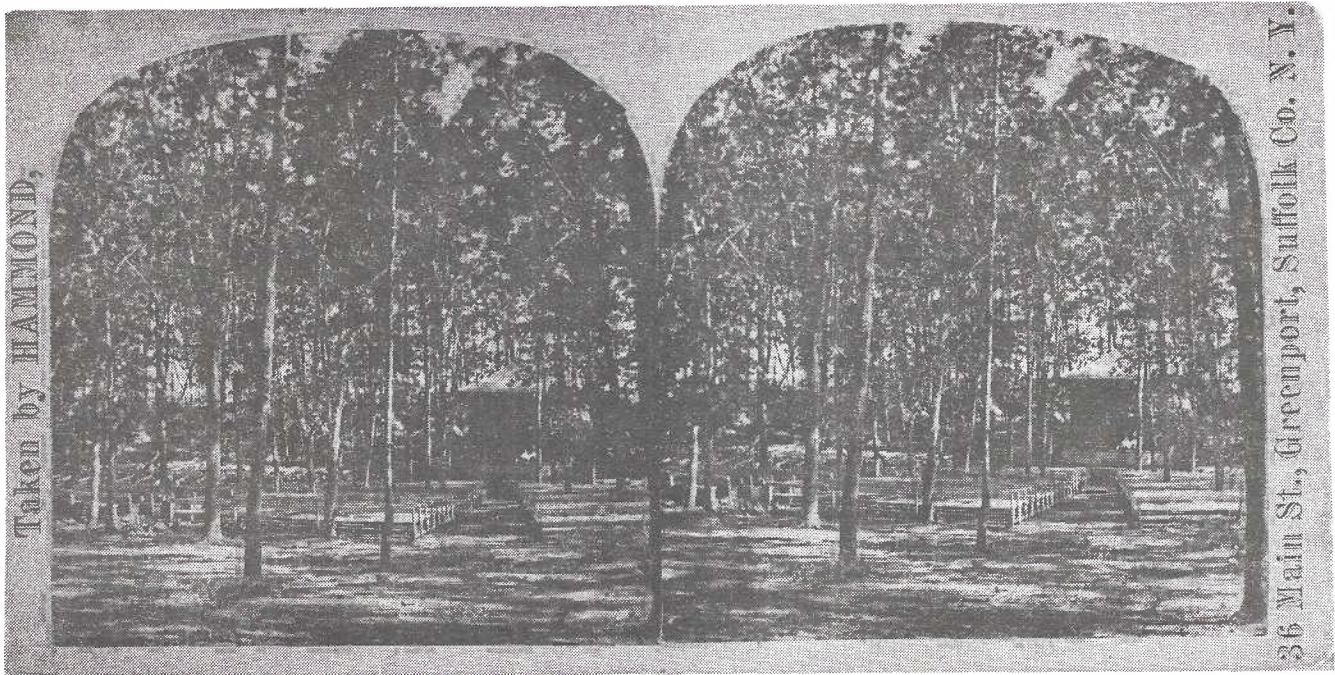


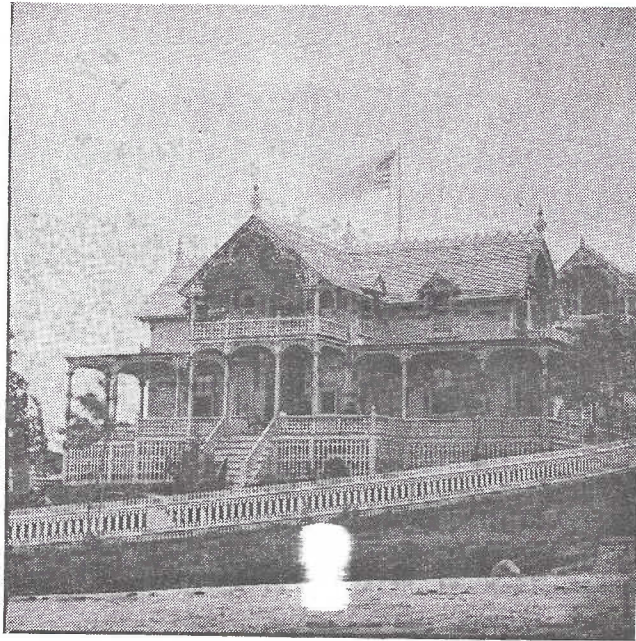
A closer view of the impressive Manhansett House in 1880.



"A five-story wooden structure with one hundred sixty rooms, called the Prospect House, was opened in the early summer of 1872...In the grove above the hotel a preacher's stand and wooden seats were constructed for camp meetings" (10).

Two different halves of stereoviews showing the "Hotel de Prospect" as Hammond labeled it are shown above. The camp meeting grove is shown below.

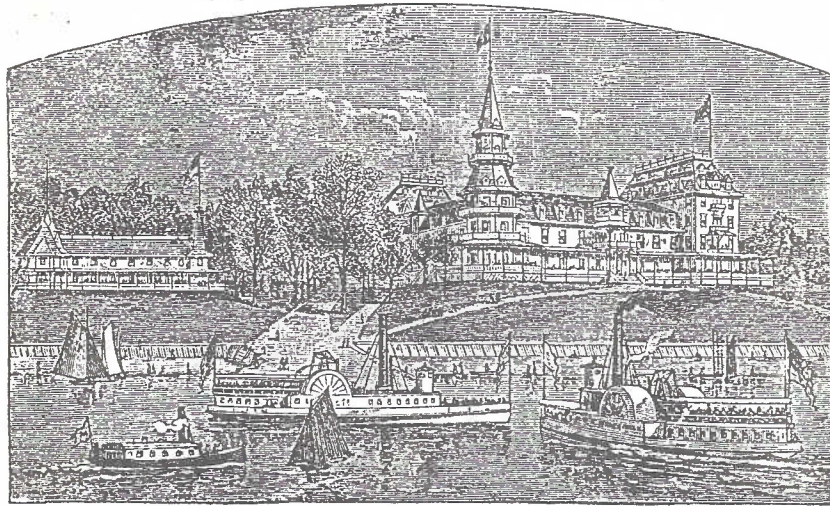




Two "ginger-bread" victorian homes at Shelter Island, circa 1882 as photographed by Louis Hammond, Greenport.



Woodcuts of the two principal hotels on Shelter Island. These appeared in Long Island of To-Day, a traveller's guide dated 1884 which sold for 25 cents, issued or sanctioned by the Long Island Rail Road. (11)

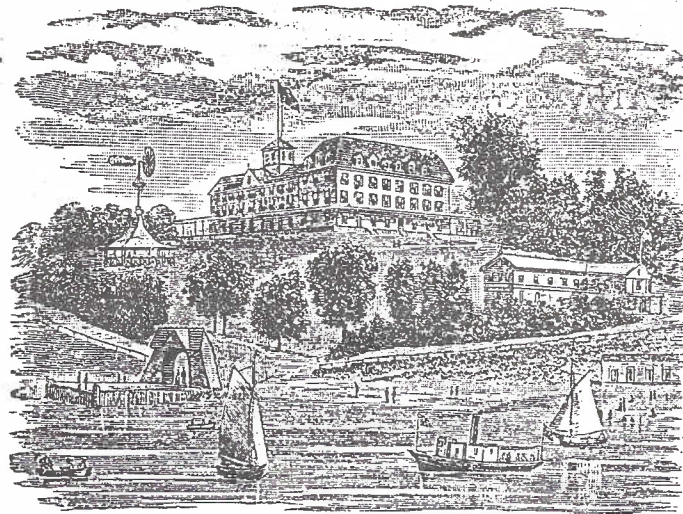


MANHANSET HOUSE,

Shelter Island, L. I., N. Y.

Opens June 24th, 1884.

E. N. WILSON, Proprietor.



PROSPECT HOUSE,

SHELTER ISLAND, N. Y.

The property upon which the Prospect House is situated rises in a gradual slope from the beach to a height of over two hundred feet, the highest elevation on the island. Has electric bells and other modern conveniences, and comfortably accommodates two hundred and fifty guests. *Its sanitary condition is pronounced perfect.* Located upon the ground is an inexhaustible spring of the pure water for which Shelter Island is renowned, and from which the hotel is supplied.

THE LONG ISLAND RAILROAD, with its fast trains from New York or Brooklyn to Greenport, thence by Ferry to Prospect, one and one-half miles distant, arriving at the hotel in two hours and thirty minutes. *Baggage should be checked to Greenport*, where hotel porters will meet guests and take charge of baggage. Also by the steamer W. W. Coit from Peck Slip, New York, and daily by steamer from New London and Hartford, connecting with trains at these points.

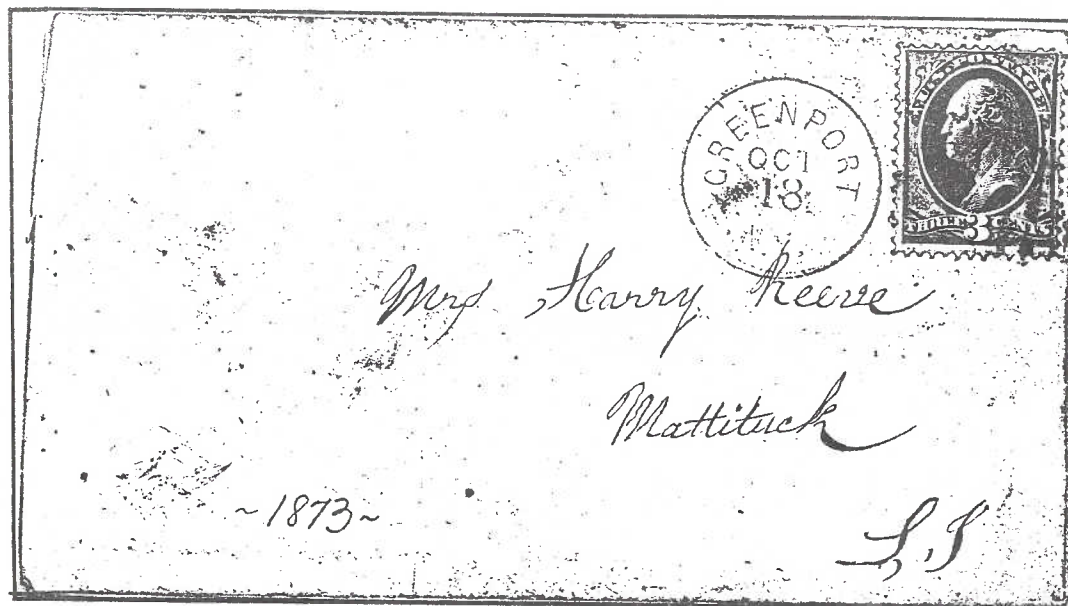
The Hotel will open the 19th of June. Special rates for two or more weeks.

Transient Rate, \$3.50 per day.

D. P. HATHAWAY, Proprietor,

Late Grand Pacific Hotel, Chicago.

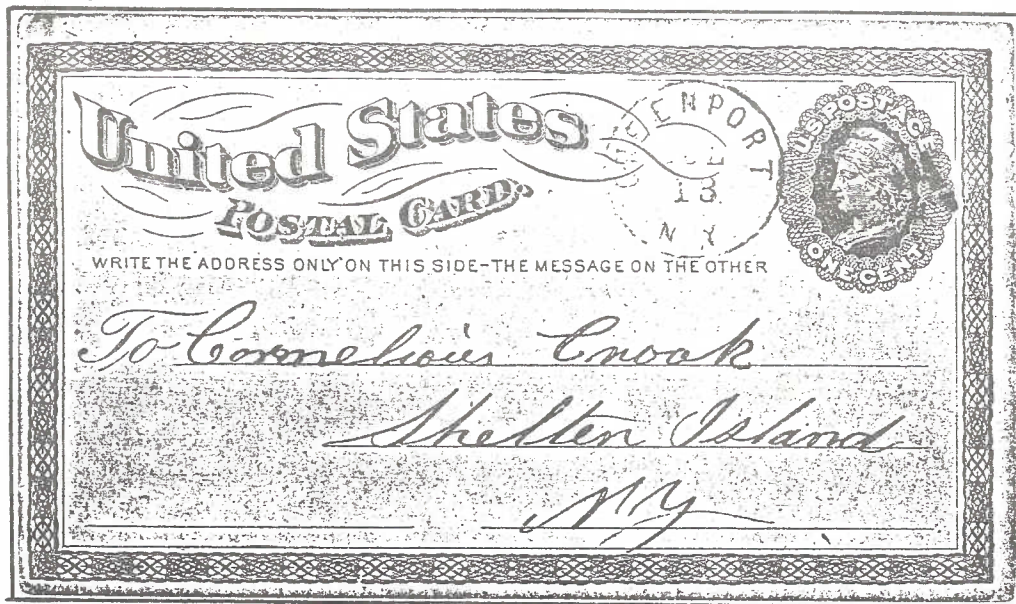
In 1873, with Wiggins now in charge, a new town postmark comes into use, namely a 26mm cds which is shown below.



A 3 cent stamp of 1870 is used to pay the domestic letter rate to Mattituck, L.I. An indistinct cork killer ties the stamp to the cover. The contents are dated 1873.

The smaller 24mm cds continues in use, however, as evidenced by the postal card shown in the next page. The Post Office Dept. began issuing postal cards in 1873. The one illustrated here was issued on July 6, 1873, showing Miss Liberty, and is identified as #UX3 by the Scott's Catalogue. It is used from Greenport on July 13, 1873 or 1874 and is addressed to Cornelius Crook at Shelter Island. The message reads as follows: "You had better let your sheep run a little longer as they are not fat enough to kill, so don't fetch any this week. Chet Dawson".

A government postal card of 1873, the first design, used from Greenport to nearby Shelter Island. The 24mm cds from Greenport continues in use after Postmaster Ebenezer Clark was replaced by David Wiggins in 1873. It is illustrated in the next page.



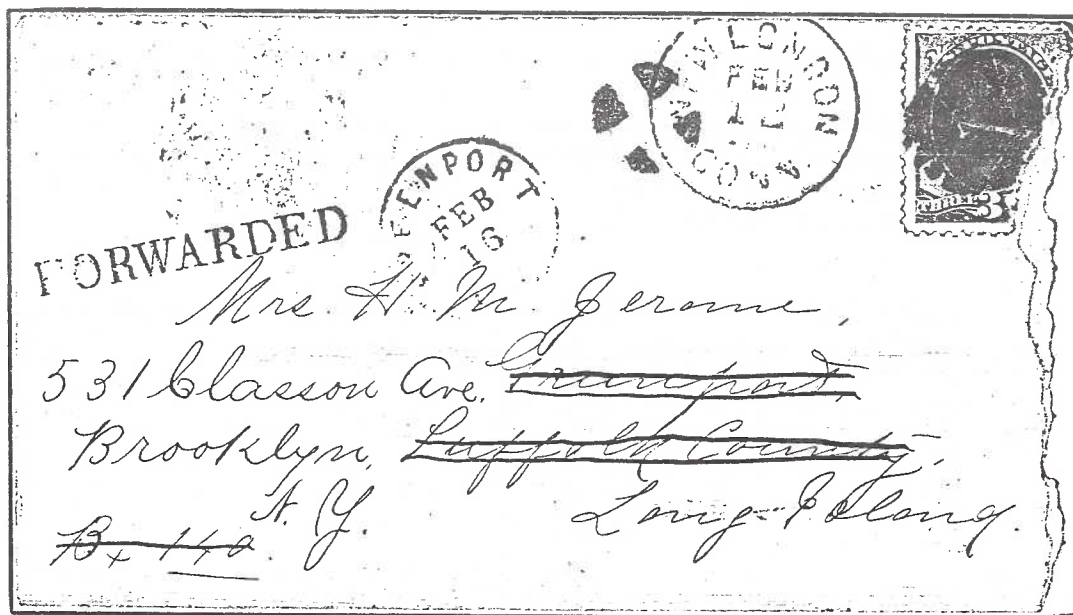
In 1876, in order to commemorate the Centennial, the Post Office Dept. awarded the contract for printing a commemorative stamped envelope to the Pimpton Manufacturing Company. The design depicted a post rider on horseback and a railway mail train, showing the progress of mail delivery in the first hundred years of our nation. An example of this envelope used from Greenport in 1876 is shown below.



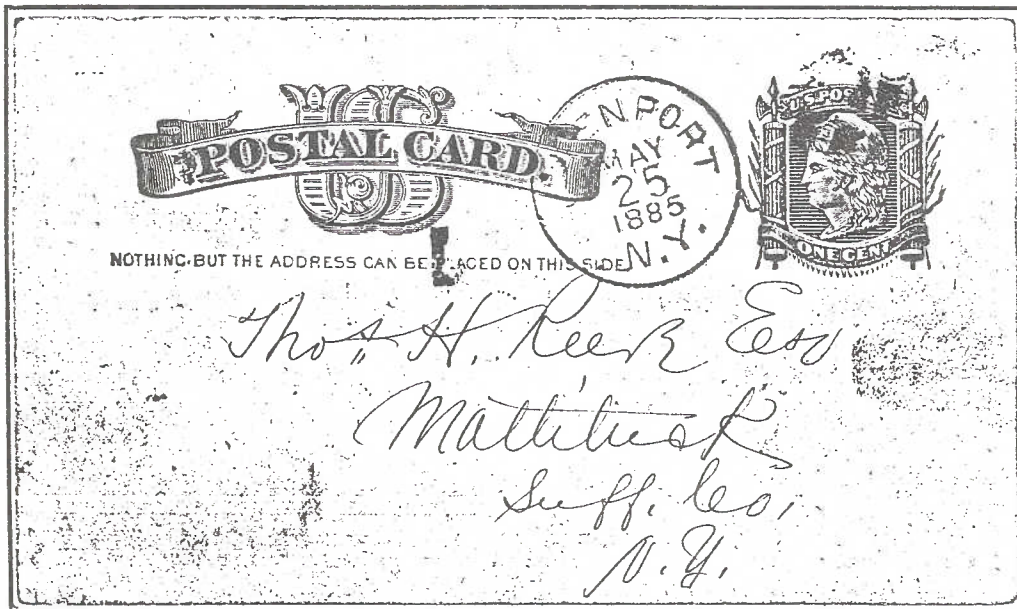
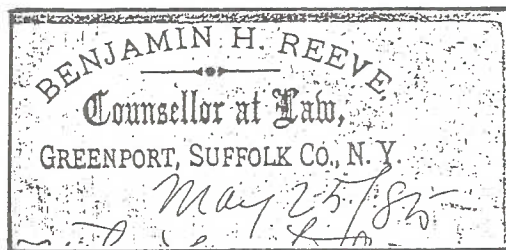
The 24mm black cds from Greenport is used on this cover posted on October 12 (1876). The docketing indicates receipt 8 days later after it was forwarded to Wells, Minn. A common cork killer is used to cancel the stamp.

Postmaster Wiggins remained in office until 1887 having been reappointed on January 29, 1877, January 17, 1881, and January 22, 1885. During his post office tenure Greenport continued to prosper and grow. Many new businesses were established. Hotels and boarding houses proliferated. The fish factories in the areas employed several thousand workers. The port's commercial importance continued to grow. The population of Greenport grew by 42% from 1860 to 1880 counting with 2,370 people in 1880. (12) As a consequence, the post office business grew. It probably moved to larger quarters about this time. Sterling Hall was built in 1878, later to be replaced by the Greenport Opera House in 1899. The post office was housed at Sterling Hall, located on Main Street, for many years.

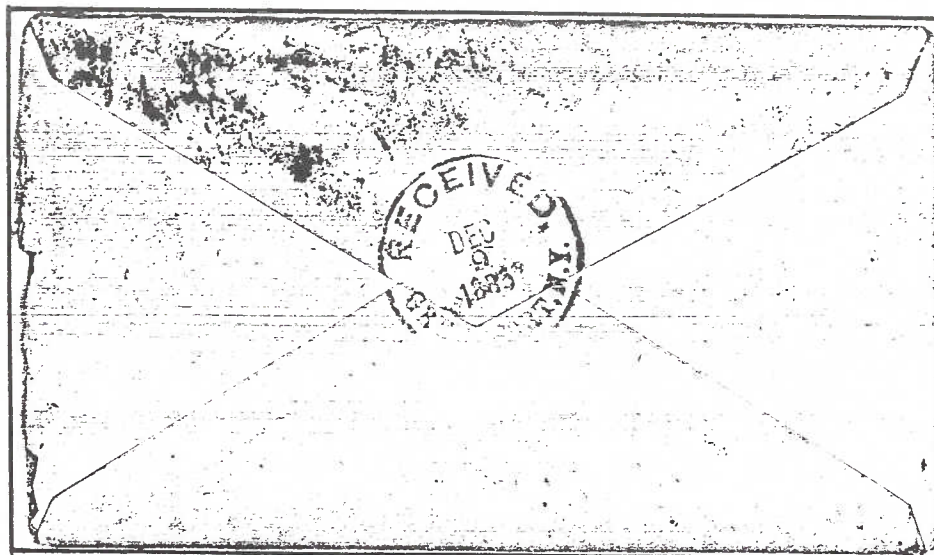
A number of covers shown below and in the following pages were all used during Postmaster Wiggins' tenure.



The cover above was mailed from New London, Conn. on Feb 12 (1881) and received at Greenport later that day or the next. On Feb. 16th the postmaster forwarded the letter to Brooklyn after finding out that Mrs. H.M. Jerome had moved there. On that date he applied the 24mm Greenport cds, a wide cross-roads cork killer, and a straight line "FORWARDED" handstamp measuring 4mm x 40mm. The cover received an 1881 Brooklyn N.Y. receiving handstamp at 8 P.M.

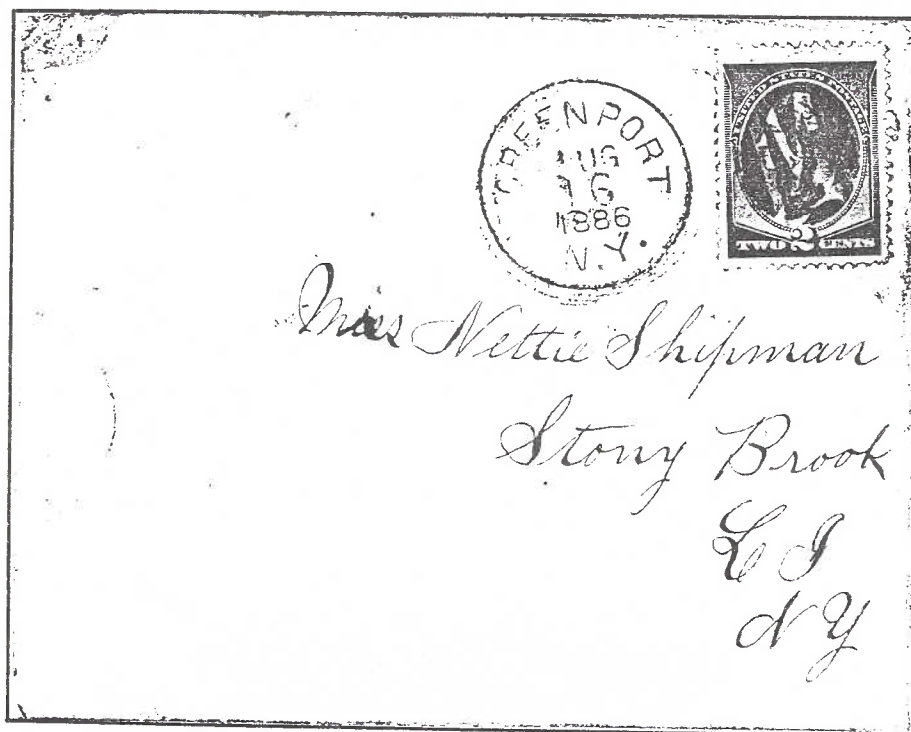


Shown above is the next recorded postmark from Greenport. A black 28mm cds, GREENPORT/MAY/25/1885/N.Y. An indistinct cork killer cancels the postal card which has a bright purple return address handstamp shown above.



Mail to Greenport begins to be handstamped when received in 1885 as evidenced by the backstamp shown above. A cover mailed from Bayville, L.I. with a blue 26mm cds
RECEIVED,/DEC/9/1885/GREENPORT,N.Y.

The next cover, postmarked in 1886, is interesting as it shows the second example of a negative letter killer from Greenport. A two cent red brown Washington stamp issued on October 1, 1883 to meet the reduced first class rate of 2 cents for each half ounce, is cancelled by a negative "W", the postmaster's initial. The cancel appears to be an "M" because it was struck upside down. See below.



Before we continue with this story, we want to illustrate a rare stereoview taken at Greenport in 1884 by Hammond. It is a photo of the U.S.S. Ohio which was taken to Greenport Harbor to be wrecked for the copper in her hull. The famous Hercules figurehead can be clearly seen, still on the ship. John Aldrich, a leading Greenport builder, bought Hercules from the salvage company for \$10 which in 1820 had been carved by Dodge and Sharpe, Manhattan wood sculptors, at a cost to the Government of \$1,500. Later Aldrich sold it to the proprietor of the Canoe Place Inn at Hampton Bays for \$15 who erected it on Montauk Highway across from his hotel. (14) Many years later it was removed to Stony Brook where it is on permanent display near the bay under the administration of the Stony Brook Community Fund.



*****THE LONG ISLAND POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY*****

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LONG ISLAND POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY
97 - 10 71st Ave.
Forest Hills, N.Y. 11375





The Long Island Postal Historian; The Newsletter and Journal of the Long Island Postal History Society; is published quarterly and is dedicated to the collection and research of the postal history of Brooklyn (Kings Co.), Queens, Nassau and Suffolk counties.

Advertising rates are as follows;

Outside back cover :	\$50.00 per issue
	or \$180.00 per year
Inside front/back cover:	\$40.00 per issue
	or \$140.00 per year
Full page :	\$25.00 per issue
Half page :	\$15.00 per issue
Quarter page:	\$10.00 per issue
Classified Ads:	\$1.00 max. 30 words

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On January 28, 1887 a new postmaster named John T. Gallup was appointed to take charge of the mails at Greenport. He was a local merchant dealing in tin, sheet iron and copper ware, cooking parlor and office stoves, as shown by a very ornate bill head illustrated below.

THE BEST BASE BURNERS & HEATERS.



1887

FIRE PLACE HEATERS.

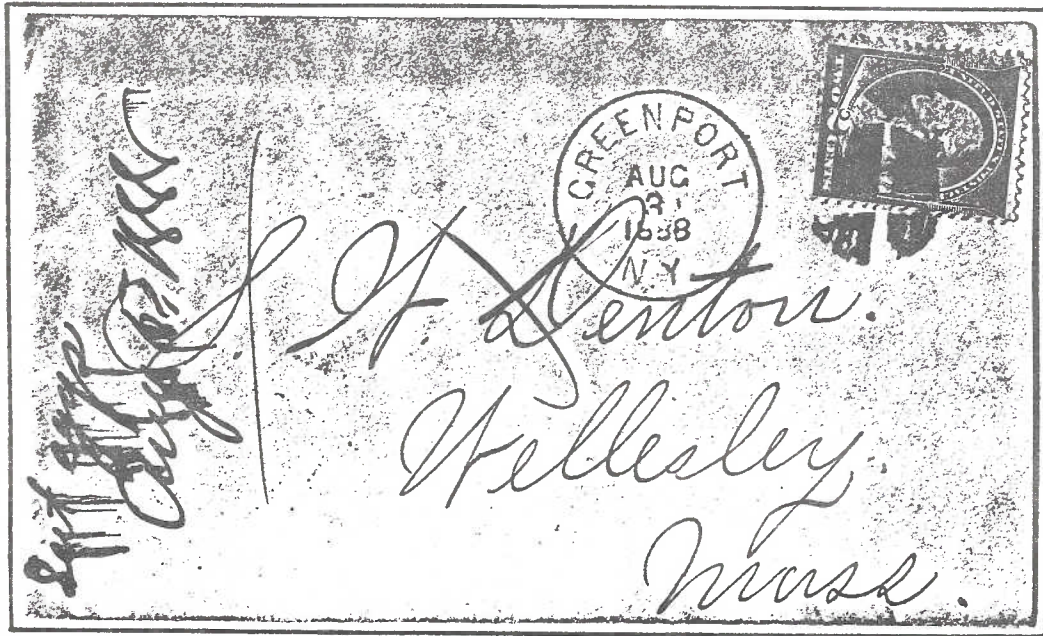
Greenport, L. I. Sept. 12th 1882

Mrs Goldsmith & Tuthill
Bought of J. T. GALLUP,
 DEALER IN
Tin, Sheet Iron & Copper Ware, Cooking Parlor & Office Stoves
Ship Caboozes, Hot Air Furnaces & Cooking Ranges,
Britannia and Japanned Ware, Pumps, Lead Pipe,
 SHEET LEAD, ZINC, &c., &c.
 Roofing and Jobbing done with neatness and dispatch.

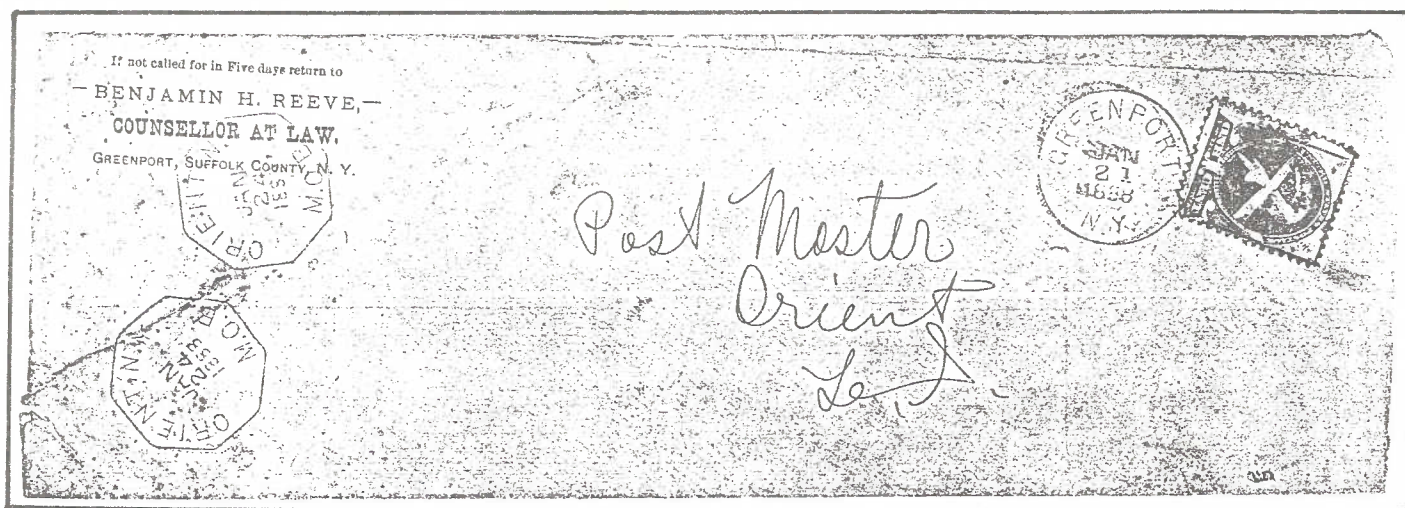
Nov 4 2 Bars	60		
July 18 " Stove top, 2 Brackets, 1 bar	5 00		
	5 60		
Recd Pymt	1 39		
J. T. Gallup	4 21		
Check 4, 21			
P.O. Order 1 39			
	5 60		
Clean receipt return			

An 1882 invoice from John T. Gallup made out to the firm of Goldsmith & Tuthill of New Suffolk, L.I.

Two covers posted during Postmaster Gallup's tenure in office are shown below. The first one has a black 27mm GREENPORT/AUG/3/1888/N.Y. postmark, and a black cross-roads killer tying a 2 cent banknote stamp. The cover is shown courtesy of Kenneth Pitt of Catharpin, Va., a collector of Greenport postal history.



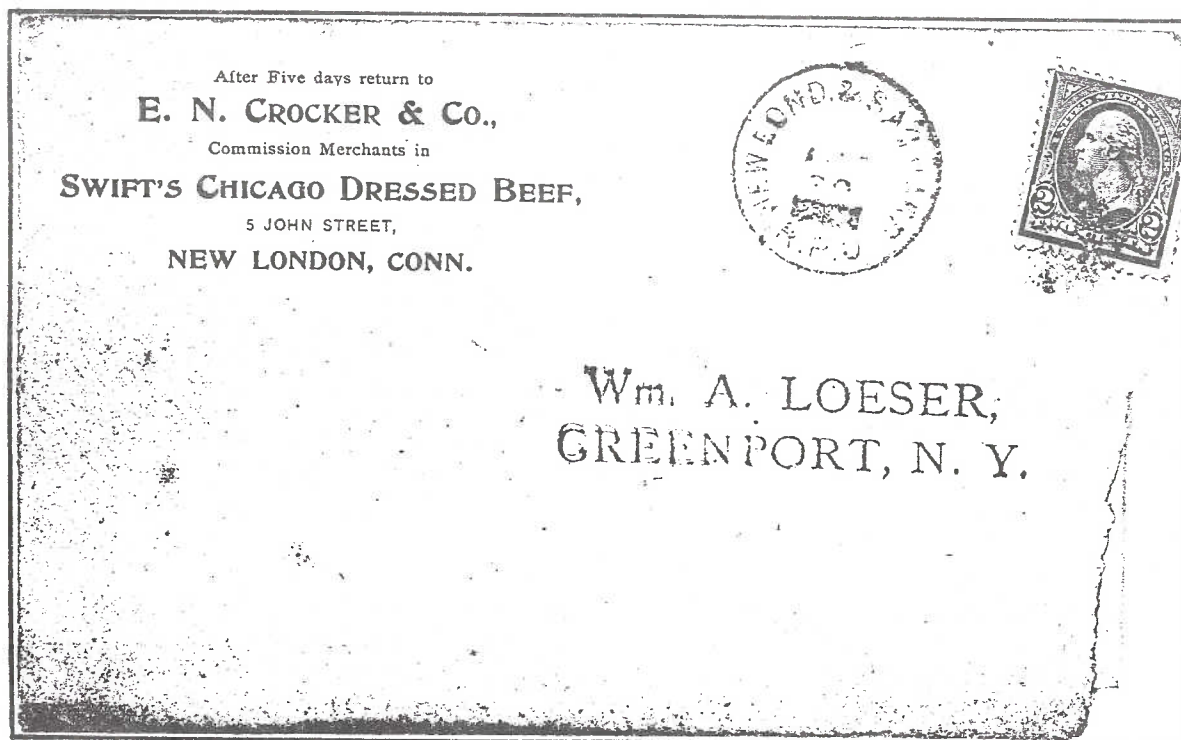
The other piece, shown on the next page, is a wrapper bearing a similar cds dated Jan/21/1888 tying a 1 cent stamp, addressed to the Postmaster at Orient, L.I. An unusual black octagonal "receiving" handstamp was used at the Orient Post Office three days later. It was also struck twice on the back of the wrapper. The initials M.O.B. appear at the bottom of the postmark. Some postal history students have stated that M.O.B. stood for Money Order Branch. Others think it stands for Money Order Business. I tend to agree with the former. Greenport was also a Money Order Branch, having received that designation during Postmaster Gallup's first tenure in office.



A reduced copy of an 1888 wrapper mailed by a prominent Greenport attorney, to the Postmaster at Orient. A striking octagonal postmark was used to indicate receipt.

The winter of 1888 saw one of the worst blizzards to hit Long Island. It snowed for days on end. Snow changed to rain, but the temperature dipped again and the rain froze causing much damage to trees. The snow created havoc for the Long Island Rail Road trains. Snow was from 10 to 25 feet deep in some of the cuts on the track. Over 3,000 men worked long hours digging and clearing a path all along the railroad system. Ms. Elsie Knapp Corwin tells us in her book, Greenport, Yesterday and Today that "no western mails have been received at Greenport since Saturday (March 17, 1888 -ed.). On Thursday Postmaster Gallup sent mail matter to New York and Brooklyn and points beyond by steamer Manhasset to New London, thence by boat to New York." (15)

Although we don't have all the facts, we know that there was an official postal route between New London and Sag Harbor with an intermediate stop at Greenport. Historian Richard Bayles states, in his Historical and Descriptive Sketches of Suffolk County (1874), that in 1872 a mail route between New York and Boston via Allen's Point, Con. was re-established. (16) Possibly he is referring to the steamboat route from Sag Harbor and Greenport to New London. Illustrated on the next page is a scarce example of a Long Island steamboat Railway Post Office, unlisted by Towle and first reported in this publication.

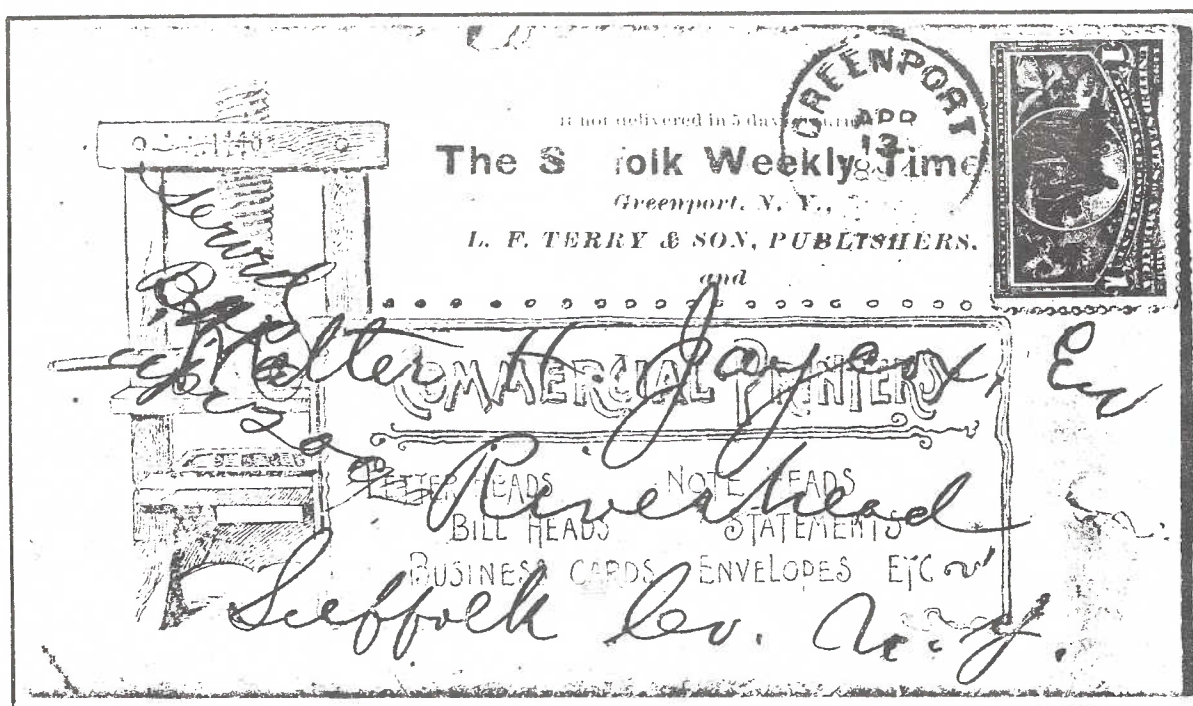


A black 28mm cds "NEW LOND. & SAG HARB. R.P.O./AUG/30/____" (1898) received at Greenport at 7 P.M. on the same day as evidenced by a receiving backstamp. Fred Lightfoot came across an April 1, 1892 Greenport newspaper item which said that the Steamer "Manhanset", with Capt. Jas. F. Smith, was carrying U.S.Mail on daily trips on New London-Greenport-Sag Harbor route.

John T. Booth took over the duties of postmaster from Gallup on December 21, 1889. In the 1891 edition of Lain's Brooklyn and Long Island Business Directory, Booth is listed as John F. (not John T.), Postmaster, located on Main Street at the Sterling Hall. (17) That same edition lists Louis Hammond at 37 Main St., Jeweler and Photographer. Former Postmaster Ebenezer Clark is listed as the Tax Collector.

On March 15, 1894 John T. Gallup regained his post at the Post Office. It is from this period that the cover shown on the next page is used.

Illustrated advertising cover, showing an antique printing press, from The Suffolk Weekly Times, L.F. Terry & Son, Publishers and Commercial Printers. "Letterheads, Note Heads, Bill Heads, Statements, Business Cards, Envelopes, Etc.". A 1 cent stamp (Scott's #230) was used. This stamp was issued to commemorate the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition held at Chicago from May 1, 1893 to October 20, 1893. This deep blue stamp showing Columbus in sight of land was used to pay the 1 cent circular rate. The postmark is a black 27mm cds used on April 13, 1894.

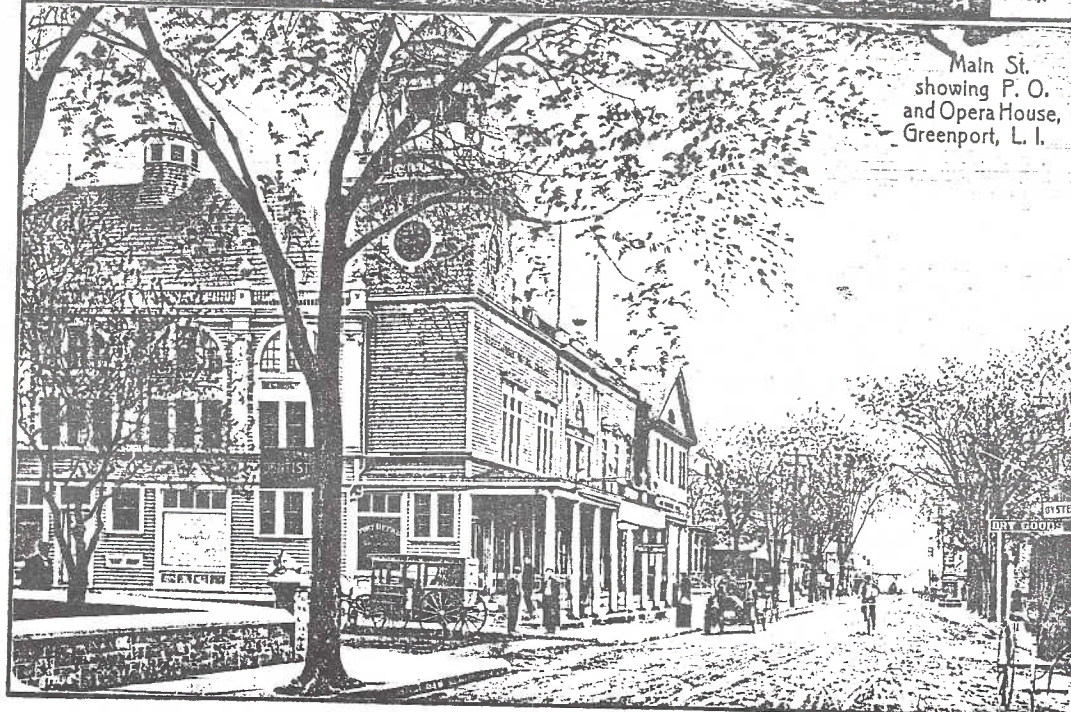


During this period the big craze at Greenport was bicycling. The Suffolk Times reported that "Greenport is bicycle mad. It is estimated that there are at least one thousand wheels ridden through the streets every day." (18) In 1894 a stock company was formed to construct and operate a telephone on L.I., from Orient and Montauk Point to New York City. The central office was established in the rear of the Geo. H. Corwin Drug Store. A pill box from that early drug store in Greenport is in the author's collection. It is in pristine condition and is shown here.

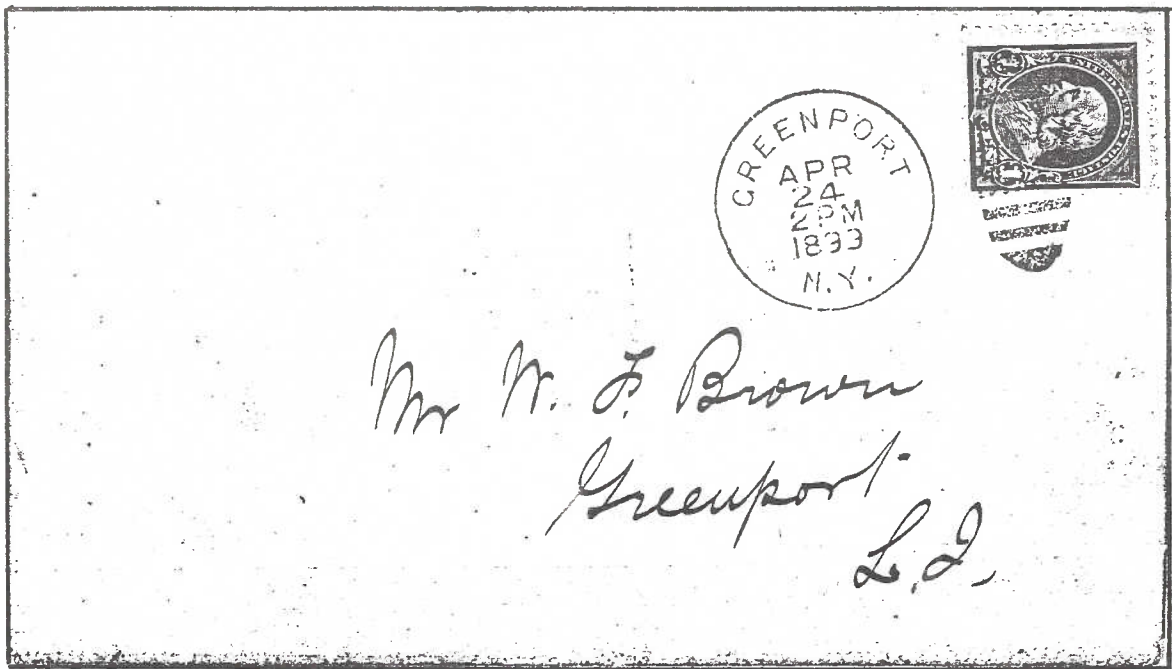


Postmaster Gallup relinquished his post to Joseph Ogle on March 9, 1898. Not long after taking charge, Postmaster Ogle faced a catastrophe, for on New Year's Day, 1899 a disastrous fire leveled the old Sterling Hall. Postmaster Ogle, Assistant Postmaster Willard Monsell, Main route clerk Max Meyers and several others who assisted rescued all the mail. The letter boxes which were the Postmaster's property were burned. They were valued at \$450 and insured for \$300. (19). The hall was rebuilt and renamed The Opera House. The post office remained there until moved to Front Street.

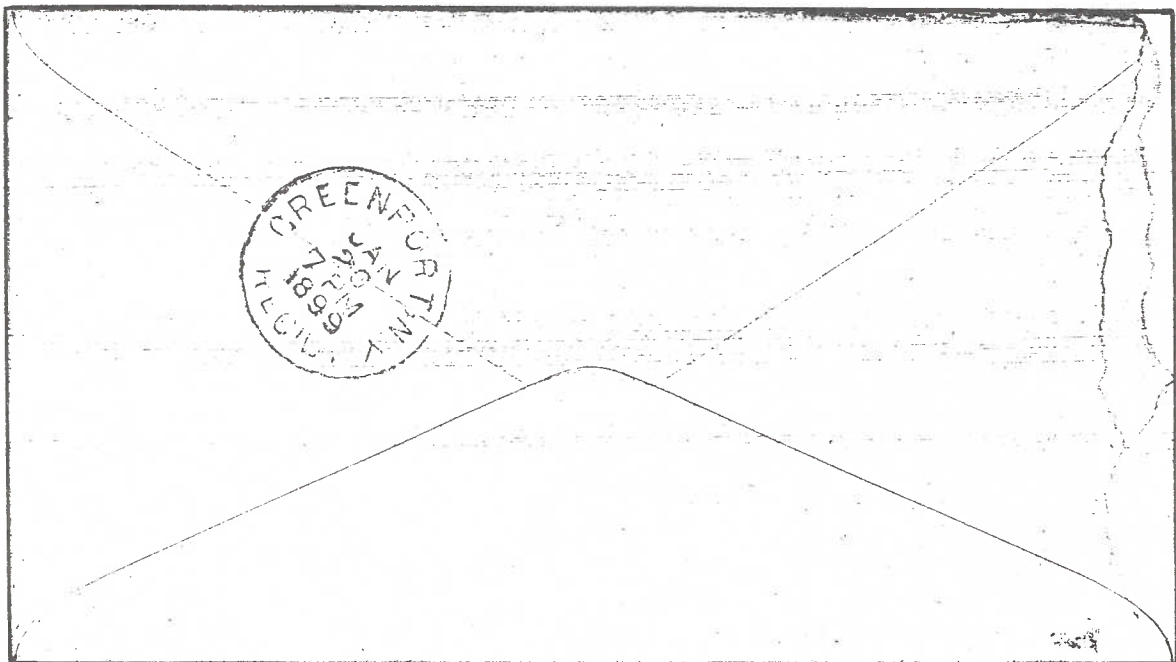
Two early post card views give us a good look at his grandious building. The Post Office was at the corner of the building.



The last two covers to be illustrated are used in 1899 near the close of the century.



A black 29mm duplex postmark is now in used. The seven-bar oval killer is an integral part of the handstamp device, thus its classification as a duplex.



A black 28mm receiving handstamp used on a cover from Shelter Island. Its use is a few days after the fire that destroyed the Post Office at Greenport.

Postmaster Ogle remained in office until 1914. He was later appointed again in 1923 and 1927. His assistant, William C. Monsell then became the postmaster in 1931.

With this we close the fascinating story of the Greenport Post Office in the 19th century. Perhaps one of our members interested in Greenport postal history can finish the story through the present time.

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THE GREENPORT POSTMASTERS

Jeremiah Moore	October 4, 1824	Farms P.O.
Jeremiah Moore	March 13, 1832	Changed to Greenport
John Clark	June 10, 1837	
John Lewis	June 6, 1849	
John L. Church	November 5, 1852	
William J. Wheeler	April 26, 1853	
John O. Ireland	October 14, 1854	
William J. Wheeler	February 26, 1855	
S. Wells Phillips	June 26, 1858	
Joseph H. Skillman	November 30, 1860	
Ebenezer Clark	April 27, 1861	
David O. Crawford	December 17, 1867	
Ebenezer Clark	April 13, 1869	
David Wiggins	January 21, 1873	
John T. Gallup	January 28, 1887	
John T. (F.) Booth	December 21, 1889	
John T. Gallup	March 15, 1894	
Joseph Ogle	March 9, 1898	
Herbert W. Rackett	March 10, 1914	
Joseph Ogle	February 10, 1923	
William C. Monsell	July 21, 1931	
George A. Rackett	March 3, 1936	Acting Postmaster

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Madame Alexander Story-Book Dolls

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18th c Pine Neck Barn & Buttery

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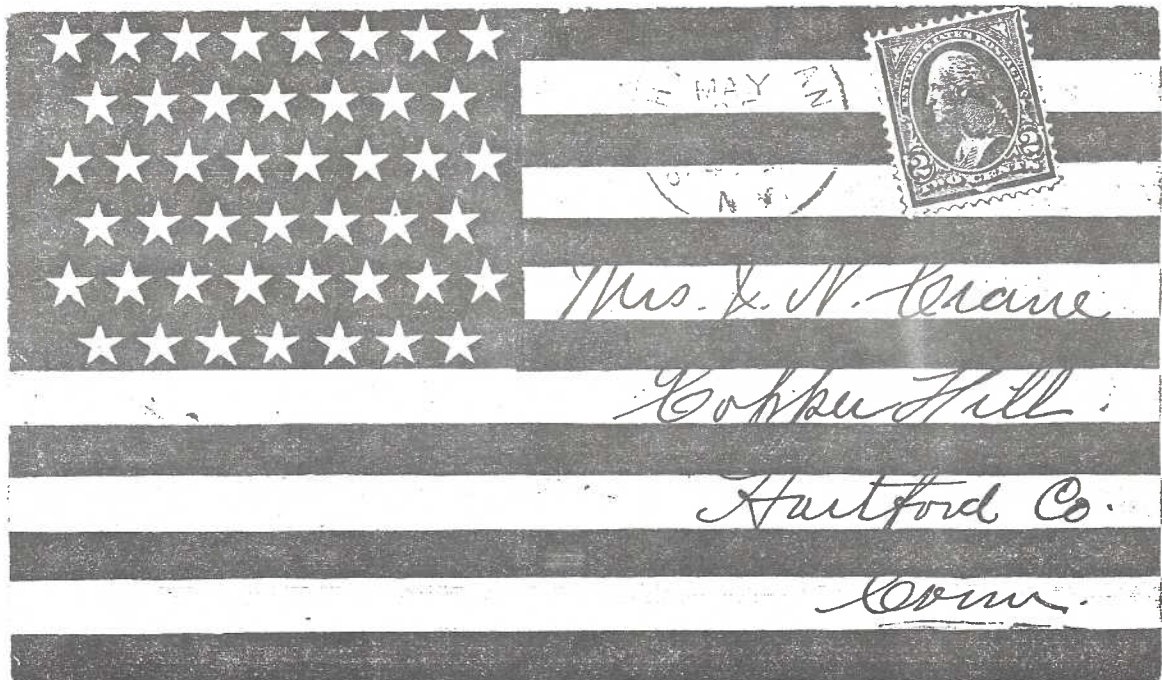
Exchange 765-1550

Groups by Appointment

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14. Ibid, pg. 68.
15. Ibid, pg. 73.
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17. Lain & Co., Brooklyn and Long Island Business Directory,
Published by Lain & Co., Brooklyn, 1891.
18. Corwin, Elsie K., Greenport, Yesterday and Today,
Printed by the Suffolk Times, Greenport, N.Y. 1972. Pg.
79.
19. Ibid, pg. 153.



This Spanish American War Patriotic of the U.S. Flag used from Smithtown Branch is an appropriate cover to wish all of you a Happy FOURTH OF JULY holiday weekend.

"Long Island Wind Sock"
Roosevelt Field 60 Years Later

Robert S. Miller

On May 20, 1927 an overloaded specially built Ryan aircraft roared down the dirt runway at Roosevelt Field on Long Island it's motor straining under full power. The long wheel tracks on the muddy surface evidenced the difficulty it experienced in trying to become airborne and witnesses stated that the wheels almost touched the wires at the end of the field. The pilot Charles A. Lindbergh, a alnky youth, headed for Paris. France and became world famous 33½ hours later when he landed at Le Bourget Airport and became the first to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean as well as the first to make a west to east crossing.

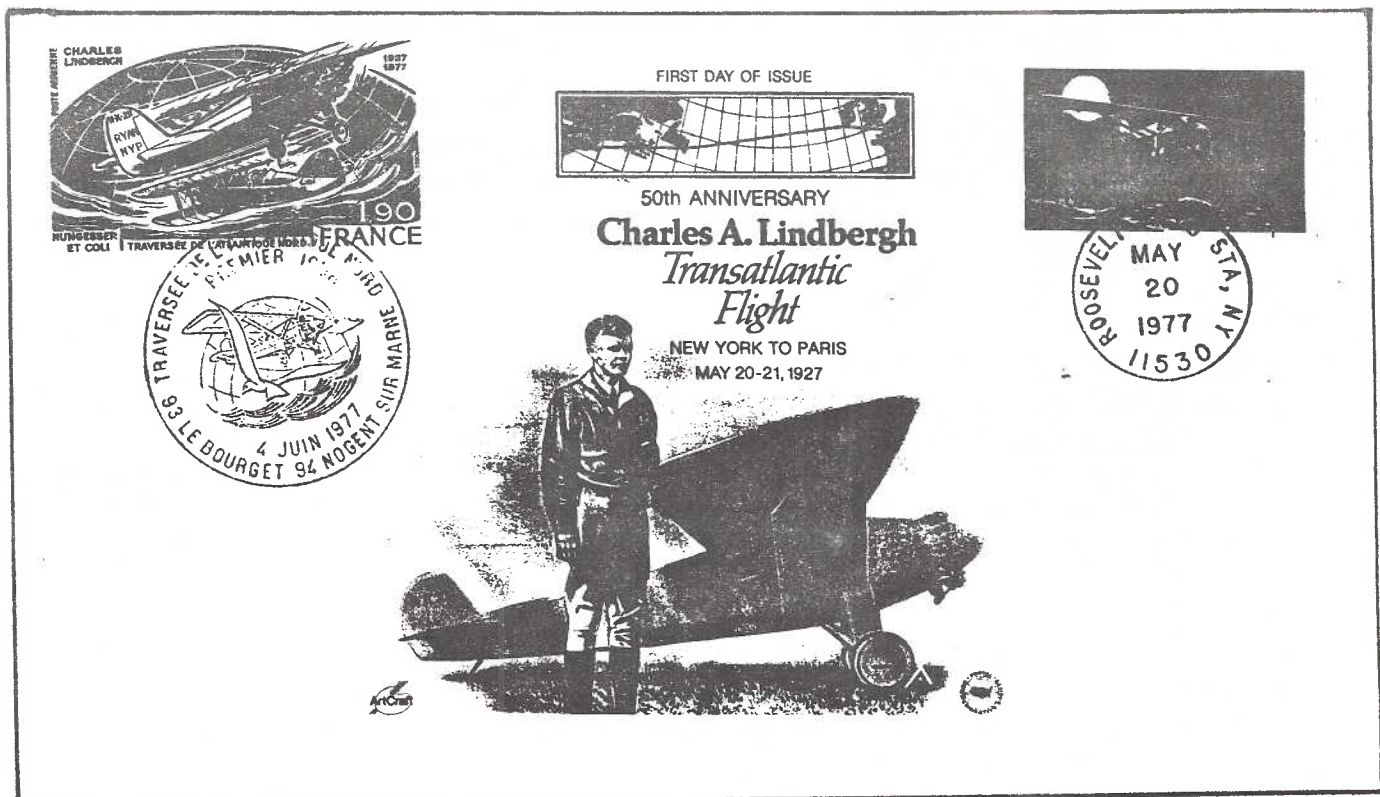
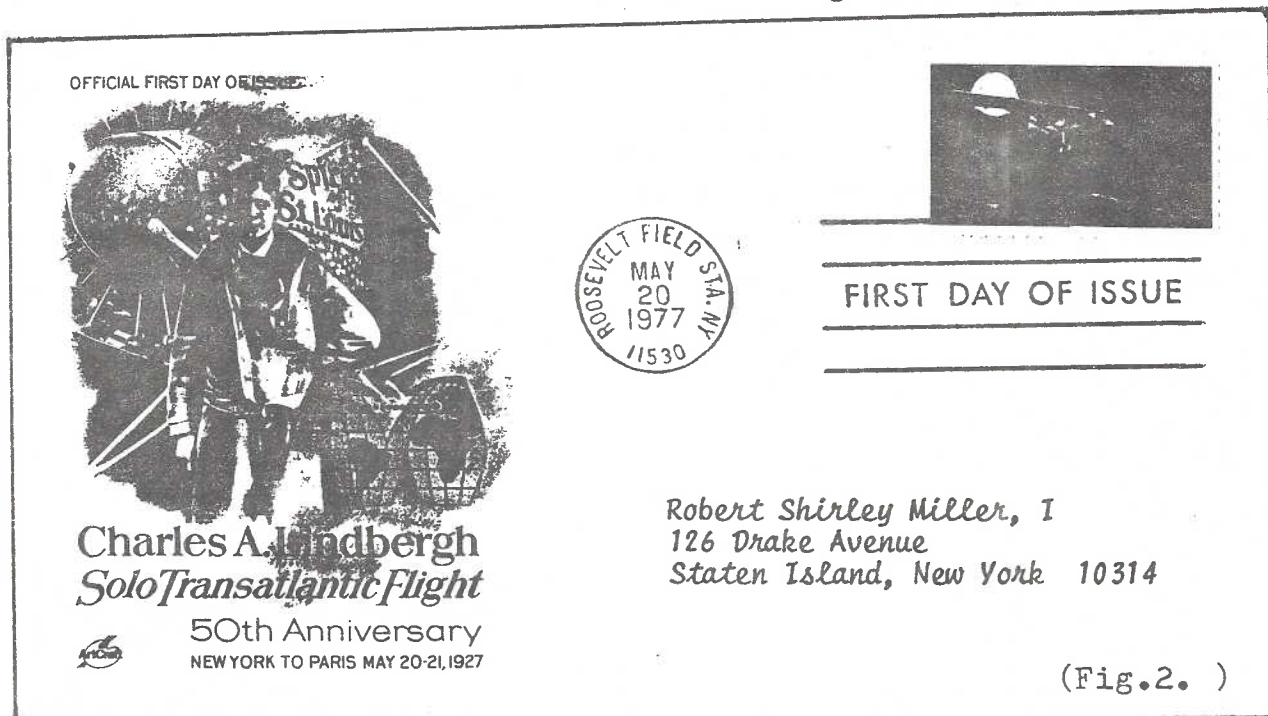
America's hero "The Lone Eagle" received numerous requests to visit places in the United States and by October 23, 1927 he flown to each of the 48 ststes on a Goodwill Tour. Between December 1927 and February 1928 he also made a Latin American Goodwill Tour that included Central America, the Canal Zone, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela and the islands of the Caribbean. Souvenir covers were produced at most locations. Of particular interest is the one shown in Fig.1. which was carried in the "Spirit of St Louis" by Lindbergh from Port au Prince to Havana. This was the only time official mail was carried on the "Spirit of St Louis". (Mail was also carried from Santo Domingo to Haiti and Cuba.)



(Fig.1.)

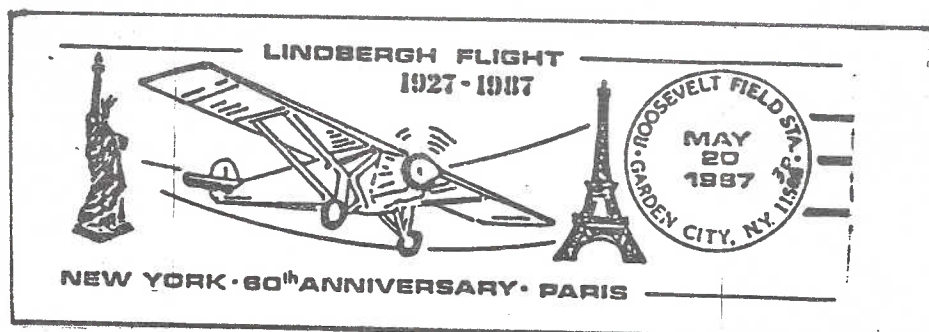
The souvenir covers created for the many events connected with Lindbergh gave raise to a group of collectors who specialize in Lindbergh items. They are so numerous today that a section of the American Air Mail Society catalog is devoted to them.

May 20, 1977, the 50th anniversary of Lindbergh's epic flight, was an occasion for a special United States commemorative stamp. The Roosevelt Field that Lindbergh had taken off from had long ago ceased to be used for aviation and had become a shopping center. A station of the Garden City post office was situated on the lower level of the Roosevelt Field Shopping Center and was selected as the location for the first day of issue. (Fig.2.)



The cover shown above was cancelled at Roosevelt Field on the 50th anniversary and also at Le Bourget.

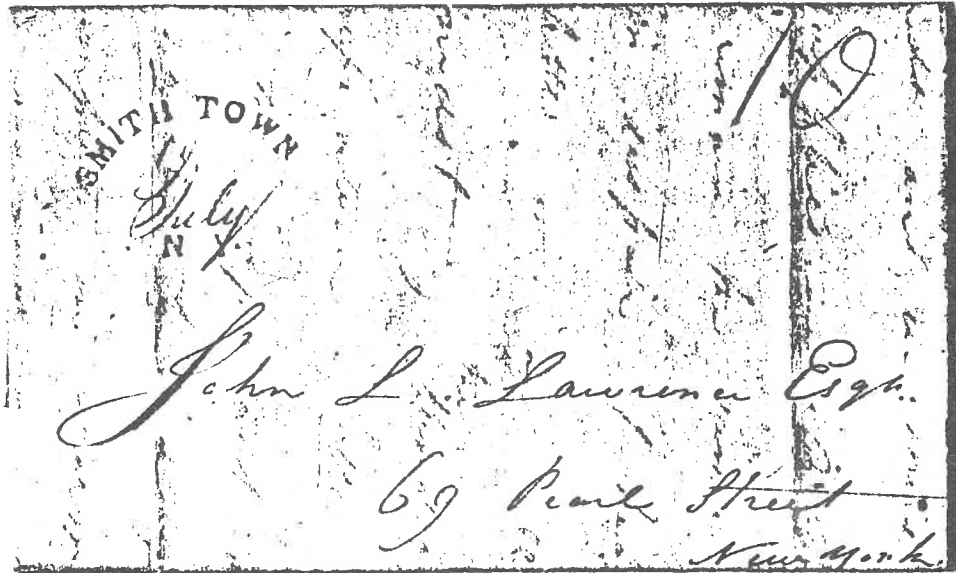
To commemorate the 60th anniversary of Lindbergh's epic flight a number of celebrations were planned at various places around the United States. One at Little Falls, Minnesota, where Lindbergh grew up as a boy, San Diego, where the Spirit of St Louis, was built by the Ryan Corporation and the 82 cities Lindbergh visited on his Goodwill Tour after he returned from Paris. The Sky Island Club of Long Island had a lunch at Garden City and the Aeromail Club of the Aerophilatelic Federation of the Americas made a special cachet to be used at the Roosevelt Field Station of the Garden City post office. (FIG. 3.)



(Fig.3.)

The only evidence of Lindbergh's take off from Long Island is a marker in the parking lot of the Roosevelt Field Shopping Center which is located between Fortunoffs and the race track. At 7:54 a m on May 20,1987, sixty years after the flight that electrified the world, two persons were present at the marker to celebrate the event. The drizzle and overcast were reminders of that day long ago when so many thronged to Roosevelt Field to see Lindbergh start his flight to fame.

The most widely sought after category of Long Island postal history is probably the stampless cover. Many of the very small Long Island towns simply employed a manuscript postmark and date of mailing. Most of the remaining towns employed the typical circular date stamp. However, a few towns also used fancy, oval, straight line, or arc style postmarks. A rare example of an arc style postmark is illustrated below.



Although Colonial Period stampless folded letters without postal markings are known from Smithtown, the earliest known manuscript postal marking for Smithtown is 1820, according to the "Manuscript Post Offices of New York State" by Chlanda and Wilcox. Smithtown began using the traditional circular date stamp in approximately 1854. Therefore, a manuscript postmark was employed for nearly the entire period of time prior to 1854. The only exception appears to be the two Smithtown arc type postmarks used in the 1820's. Fred Lightfoot, in the Fall 1985 issue of the "Postal Historian", mentions a June 25, 1824 letter from George S. Philips, the Postmaster at Smithtown, which is in the Pennypacker Collection. The letter is said to bear the arc marking of Smith Town/N.Y. with a manuscript date. This marking appears to be the same one listed in the American Stampless Cover Catalogue and is probably similar to the one illustrated here. The cover illustrated above is datelined Smith Town July 18, 1824, less than one month later than the cover in the Pennypacker Collection. Both this and the Pennypacker cover markings are in red ink. You will note that the town is indicated as Smith Town. In the same article by Lightfoot, a cover from the Rodriguez Collection bearing a slightly different version of the Smithtown arc is illustrated. That cover has the town name joined together as one word and a date plug has been placed within the handstamp. However, that letter originated on July 23, 1825, approximately one year later than the present cover. There is little doubt that only a very small number of such early stampless covers exist. Thus, these unusual style early handstamped postal markings of Long Island are exceedingly rare and provide handsome additions to any Long Island postal history collection.

AUCTION ACTION

DANIEL M. KNOWLES

During the past few months, several Long Island Covers exchanged hands at auction. Some of these items are particularly rare and others also extremely valuable. Unfortunately, because of the great value of some of the Long Island pieces, the items were not bought by Long Island collectors per se, but rather by collectors of the stamps used on the Long Island covers. A list of sales, the Long Island covers sold at those sales, and the bidding action on those covers is detailed below.

Richard C. Frajola, March 14, 1987

- | | | |
|---------|---|-----|
| No. 260 | Brooklyn N.Y. June 22 CDS "1¢" rate handstamp on very fine local use invitation. | 90 |
| No. 267 | Flushing N.Y. October 21 Red CDS, "Free" handstamp and orange "See 293 Sec P.O.O. Instruction" two line handstamp at left on 1842 entire to postmaster in Michigan. Fine. | 80 |
| No. 410 | Steamer 5 Red oval handstamp on entire to Boston. Fine. | 55 |
| No. 586 | Brooklyn N.Y. January 3 CDS tying #63 and #65 by open grid cancels to cover with faults. | 105 |

Richard C. Frajola May 30, 1987

- | | | |
|---------|--|---------|
| No. 237 | Flushing, N.Y. Red straight line postmark, "PAID" handstamp, manuscript "OCT 5" date and "18 3/4" rate on 1833 folded letter to Clinton, N.Y. Very Fine. | 250 (F) |
| No. 240 | Green Point, N.Y. June 15 Two line postmark and "PAID 3" handstamp on fine cover to Virginia. | 250 (F) |
| No. 629 | Rail R. Red straight line handstamp and "5" rate handstamp on 1846 folded letter from New York. Lot also includes 1842 folded letter with red "Railroad Car" straight line postmark. Fine. | 100 |

H.J.W. Daugherty Philatelic Auctions April 11, 1987

- | | | |
|--------|--|----|
| No. 53 | "Cutchogue N.Y." manuscript town and "18 3/4" rate on 1853 stampless folded letter. Fine to very fine. | 38 |
|--------|--|----|

William A. Fox Auctions, Inc. May 24-25, 1987

- | | | |
|---------|---|--|
| No. 166 | Examined, James Jheens Assistant Deputy Commissary Prisoner's endorsement on back of 1778 Flatbush Long Island folded letter. Folds and reinforcements and left-sided reduction but fine. (An extremely rare Revolutionary War item). | |
|---------|---|--|

Est 750-1000

David Phillips May 15, 1987

- No. 1204 LIRR/TAT black handstamp signifying the Long Island Railroad with the initials TAT, most likely representative of a route agent. The TAT is in negative letters. This extremely rare fancy cancel ties a #65 to a slightly reduced envelope. (I believe that this may be one of only two or three known strikes of this extremely rare fancy cancel).

130/325 (F)

Peter Kenedi, Inc. June 6, 1987

- No. 193 Bellport, N.Y. CDS along side target cancel tying 1865 24¢ grey (78b) on yellow-orange cover to London via New York. All appropriate transit markings clear and on the front of the cover. Very fine.

120 (F)

Al Zimmerman June 13, 1987

- No. 254 Riverhead/Jan/23/N.Y. postmark on faulty legal size cover containing #63 and #96 tied by grids indicating double rate postage. (This stamp combination must be extraordinarily rare from Long Island).

80/85 (F)

- No. 311 Oakdale Station/SEP/18/8AM/1895/N.Y. Scarce Long Island DPO CDS on Blue Point Oysters corner card carrying #267. Very fine.

32/65 (F)

- No. 434 Munnatawket Hotel/Fisher's Island, N.Y. Multicolored illustration of hotel on reverse of #UX14 government postal card. The card is addressed but not postmarked. Very scarce, pioneer card. Fine.

75/-(B)

- No. 435 The Mansion House Hotel./Fisher's Island, N.Y. Multicolord illustration on unaddressed #UX14 postal card. Fine and scarce pioneer card.

75/-(B)

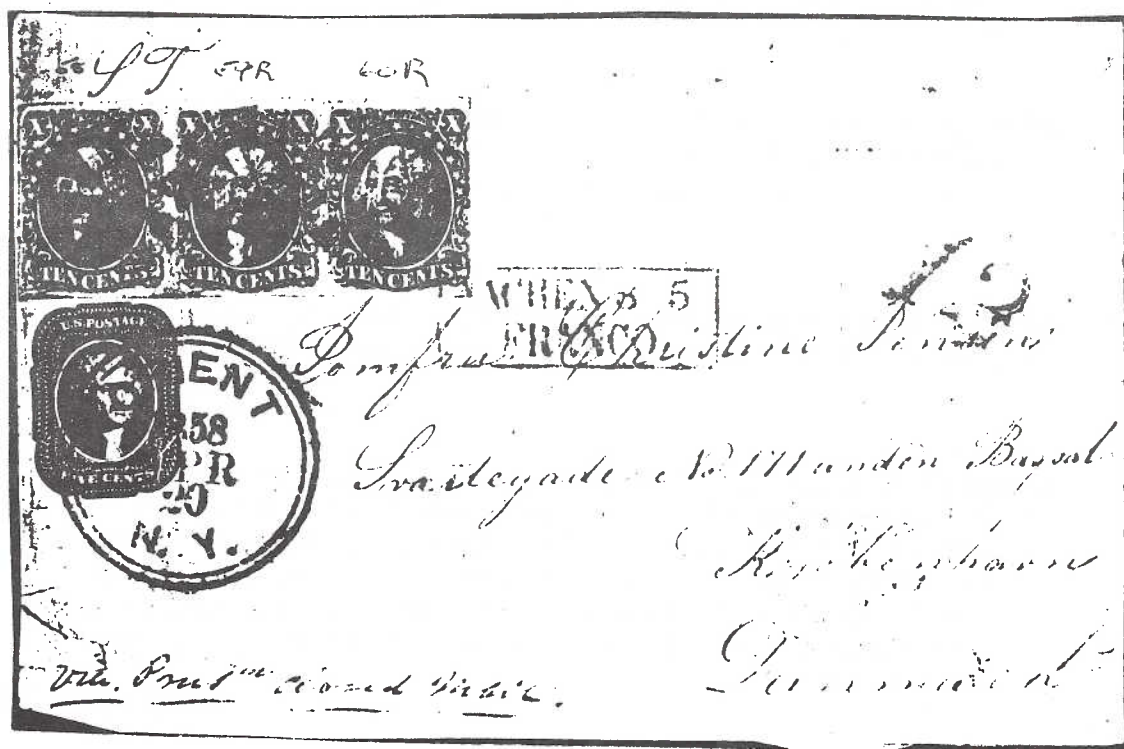
- No. 613 Smithtown, N.Y. Jan.1,1913 handstamp ties two singles of the #Q2 2¢ parcel post stamp. This is a first day of use on parcels and is accompanied by a 1986 Philatelic Foundation Certificate and appropriate articles by Herman Herst. (This is the only known first day usage of a parcel post stamp from Long Island. This cover has been extensively described and is a well known philatelic rarity discussed in detail by Henry Gobie in his book on the parcel post).

750/2100 (F)

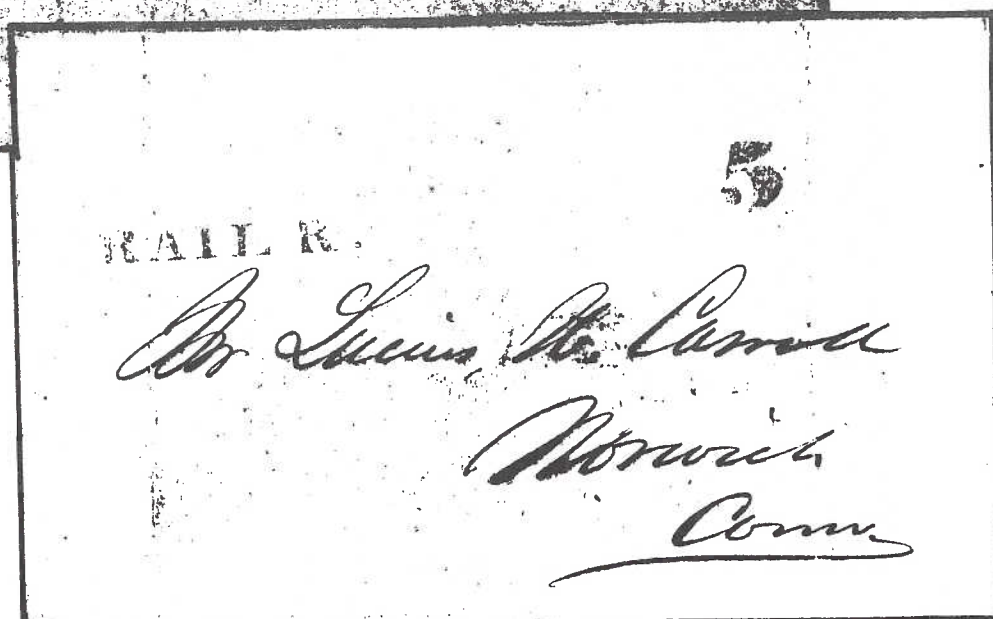
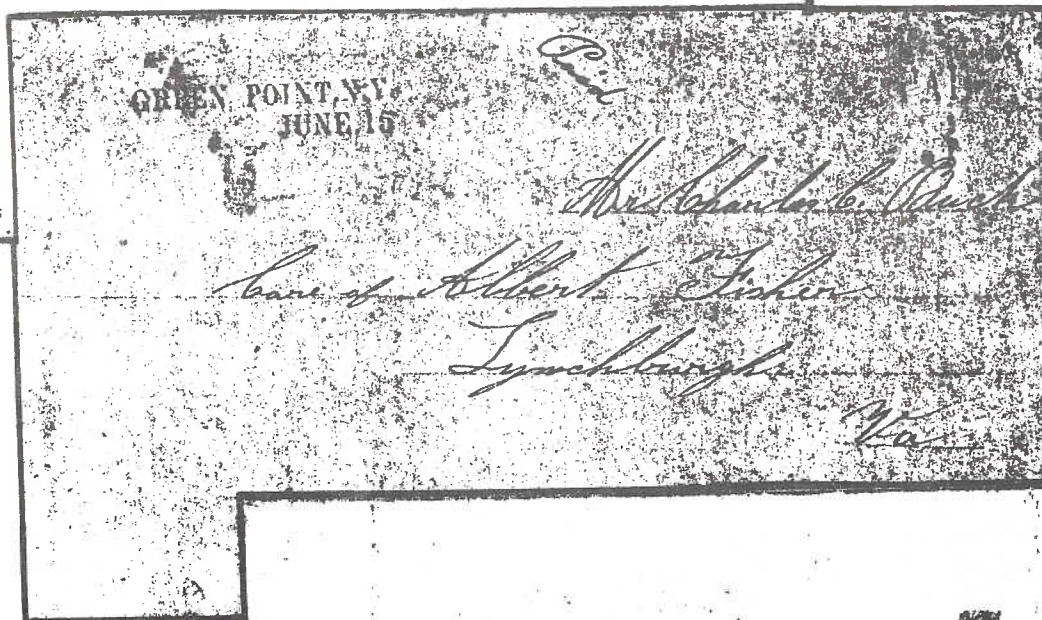
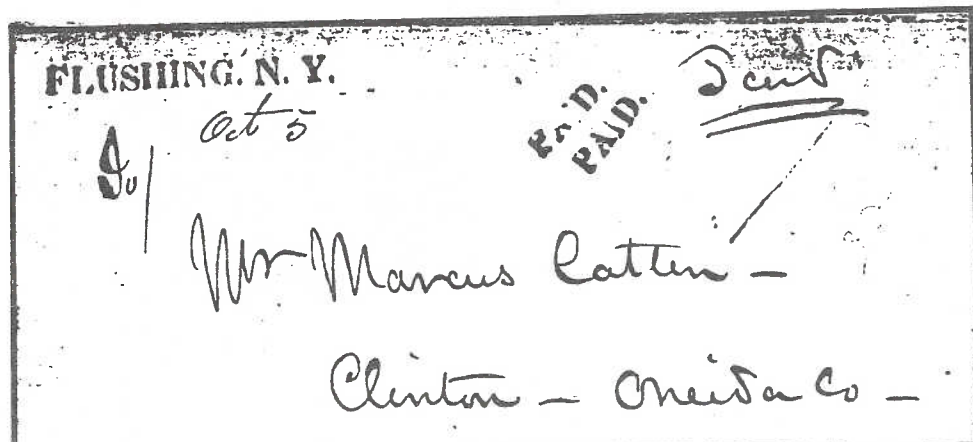
In addition to these items, three other valuable pieces came upon the market in the past few months. The Robert A. Siegel rarities of the World Sale for 1987 contained two rare and rather exotic Long Island postal history items. The first item was Lot No. 105 which consisted of a 5¢ red-brown (#12) used with a horizontal strip of 3 of the 10¢ green, type 2 (#14) on a cover mailed from Orient, Long Island to Denmark. The Orient double-line CDS is extremely bold and ties the 5¢ red-brown. This beautiful cover was estimated at \$2,000 to \$5,000, but was eventually knocked down at \$7,000.

Also included in this rarity sale was Lot No. 424. This beautiful cover contains the US 12¢ black (#17) affixed over the Hawaiian 5¢ (#5) which is alongside the Hawaiian 13¢ red (#6). These Hawaiian stamps are tied by the red Honolulu U.S. Postage Paid which are in turn tied alongside with the U.S. 12¢ black by the San Francisco, California postmark on a December, 1855 folded letter from Hilo to Sag Harbor, N.Y. The letter was then forwarded to Southampton. The letter was marked with the Sag Harbor CDS and a manuscript forwarded 3. This is an extremely rare and important Hawaiian/U.S. combination cover which is signed by Ashbrook and is x-Seybold. The cover was estimated at \$5,000-\$10,000 and was sold for \$8,000.

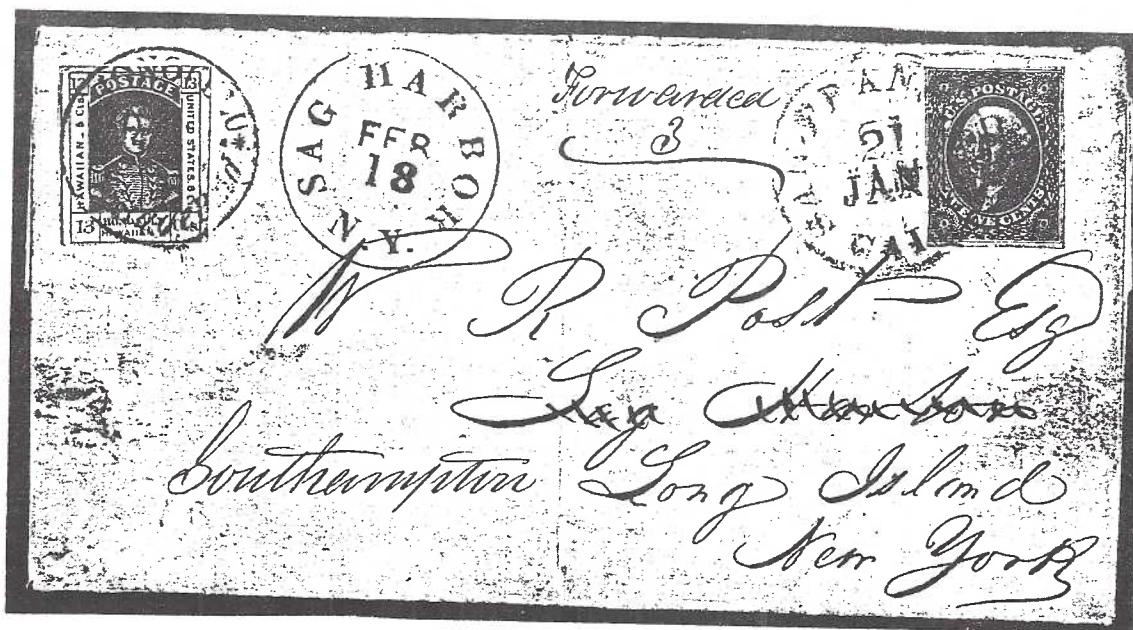
Interestingly, the June 25, 1987 Seigel Auction contained another cover from the same correspondence with similar markings. This item was also mailed in 1855 to the same destination as the one in the rarity sale. The cover contains the 13¢ dark red Hawaiian stamp (#6) with large margins tied by the red Honolulu U.S. postage paid CDS and is used with the U.S. 12¢ black (#17) which is tied by the San Francisco, California postmark. The letter is an 1855 folded letter from Hilo to Sag Harbor, once again postmarked with Sag Harbor CDS and a manuscript forwarded 3, and forwarded on to Southampton. The letter is also x-Seybold. The estimate for this cover was \$7500. However, the bidding opened at \$3,000 and the cover was eventually knocked down at \$11,000.



Pictured below are three covers from the Richard C. Frajola May 30, 1987 public auction. Lot 237 Flushing straightline and Lot 240 Green Point straightline each sold for \$250. Lot 629 "Rail R" and one other railroad cover sold for \$100



Lot #424 from the Siegel Rarities Sale is shown below. It sold for \$8000. A similar cover in Siegel's June 25th Sale identified as Lot 591 sold for \$11,000. This one is also shown below courtesy of Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries.



Pictured below is a reduced copy of a very rare cover from California to Shelter Island which sold at the Chritie's Louis H. Grunin Sale for \$25,000 + 10% buyer's commission. The use of a bisected stamp, the choice postal markings, and the combination of colors make this gem of a cover a showpiece.

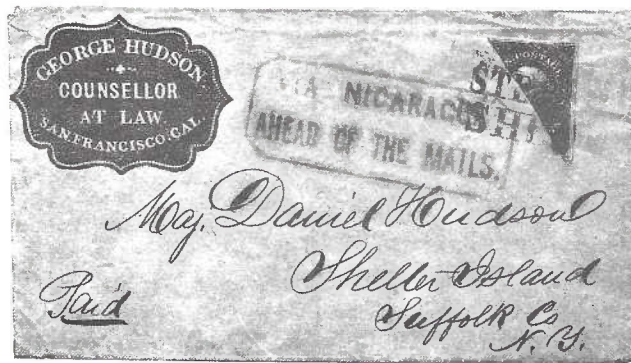


Figure 2. Half of a 12¢ stamp was used on this letter to pay the 6¢ postage during a shortage of 3¢ stamps in San Francisco in the early 1850s. The red mark was used to promote the mail route via the isthmus of Nicaragua, established by Cornelius Vanderbilt. Estimate: \$15,000 to \$20,000.

*****C L A S S I F I E D A D S*****

WANTED - LONG ISLAND RECEIVING POSTMARKS; For study and collection. Contact: Brian Levy, 1983 Guildford Pk. Drive, Seaford, N.Y. 11783; (516) 781-4966

WANTED - UNITED STATES PIONEER AIRMAIL CARDS, Covers, related items, 1910-1916. Send photocopies and asking prices. Stephen Reinhard, P.O. Box 110, Mineola, N.Y. 11501

FOR SALE - Good duplicates from my collections. Long Island books, photos, postcards and many L.I. covers. Send for net price list. Fred Rodriguez, P.O. Box 112005 Miami, Florida 33111-2005

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