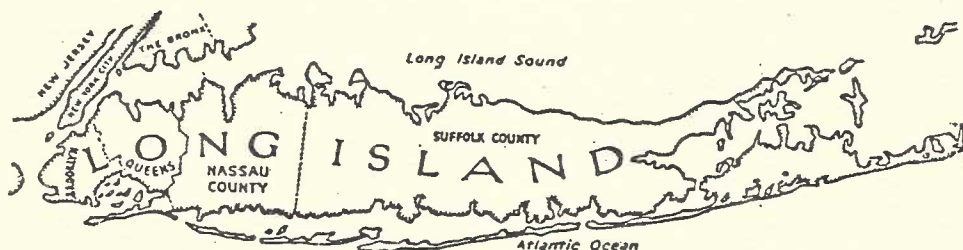


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LONG ISLAND POSTAL HISTORIAN

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.





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Long Island Postal Historian

The Newsletter and Journal of the Long Island Postal History Society

APS Affiliate No. 154

SPRING 1988

VOLUME 12 No. 1

WHOLE No. 24

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Robert S. Miller.....	Contributing Editor

Membership in the LIPHS began on August 1, 1987 and expires on Dec. 31, 1988. 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.

The LIPHS wants to express its appreciation to the following members for their concerned support of the Society.

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LIPHS STUDY GROUPS

1869 Pictorial Issue on L.I. Covers

Brad Arch

144 Hamilton Ave.

Clifton, N.J. 07011

L.I. Fancy Cancels

J. Fred Rodriguez

P.O. Box 112005

Miami, Florida 33111

Manuscript Post Offices of L.I.

Arthur Fitzpatrick

263 Cushing Ave.

Williston Park, N.Y. 11596

County Postmarks of L.I.

Daniel M. Knowles, M.D.

97-10 71st Ave.

Forest Hills, N.Y. 11375

Long Island Rail Road

Daniel M. Knowles

97-10 71st Ave.

Forest Hills, N.Y. 11375

L.I. Receiving Cancels

Brian Levy

1983 Guildford Park Dr.

Seaford, N.Y. 11783

Please report new finds, earliest and latest known dates, unusual usages, etc. to the respective study group leader. Photocopies of covers will be appreciated.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

May I begin my first "official" message by thanking each and everyone of our members for honoring me with the position of President. Within the term that I shall serve, there are a number of goals which I would like to see attained by the society.

Firstly, I would like to see our membership increase. The well-being and success of any society starts with its membership. A larger membership will mean a greater input of information, more exposure and a more viable society. I would like to institute a membership drive and set a goal of twenty new members this year.

Secondly, I would like to see more participation from our current members. Write an article about your favorite cover! Attend our meetings! In short, get involved!!! Start by attending our meeting on April 10th which will be held in conjunction with the Long Island Post Card Club Bourse.

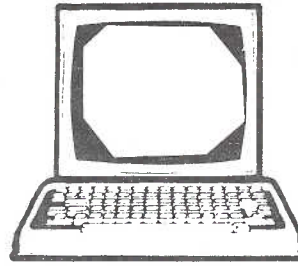
Any correspondence would be greatly welcomed. Please feel free to write to me, I look forward to meeting you all at the April 10th show.



Joel Shapiro
135 E83rd Street
New York N.Y. 10028



From the Editor's Desk



We continue to offer a good variety of articles and columns thanks to the support of members who are taking a more active role and interest in our Society and in the Postal Historian.

The early history of the Flushing Post Office through the mid-nineteenth century is featured by Brendan McCann, a new writer to these pages. One of the busiest post offices on L.I. in the 1800's, Flushing today continues to thrive in commerce and as a suburb within New York City.

Brad Arch has put together a fine showing of L.I. covers bearing the 1869 pictorial issue, a most popular collecting area. He is the leader of the study group for the 1869 Pictorial issue and requests your additions to the data base that he has already compiled.

Both Bob Miller and Dan Knowles, contributing editors, return with their regular columns, now a popular feature of the L.I. Postal Historian.

For the Summer issue we will feature an article by Carl Baker about missent and forwarding markings on L.I. covers, a favorite collecting interest of Mr. Baker's.

See you all at the Show on April 10th.


J. Fred Rodriguez

**Secretary's Notes,
Society News and
Correspondence from Members**



We reinstate and welcome back the following members:

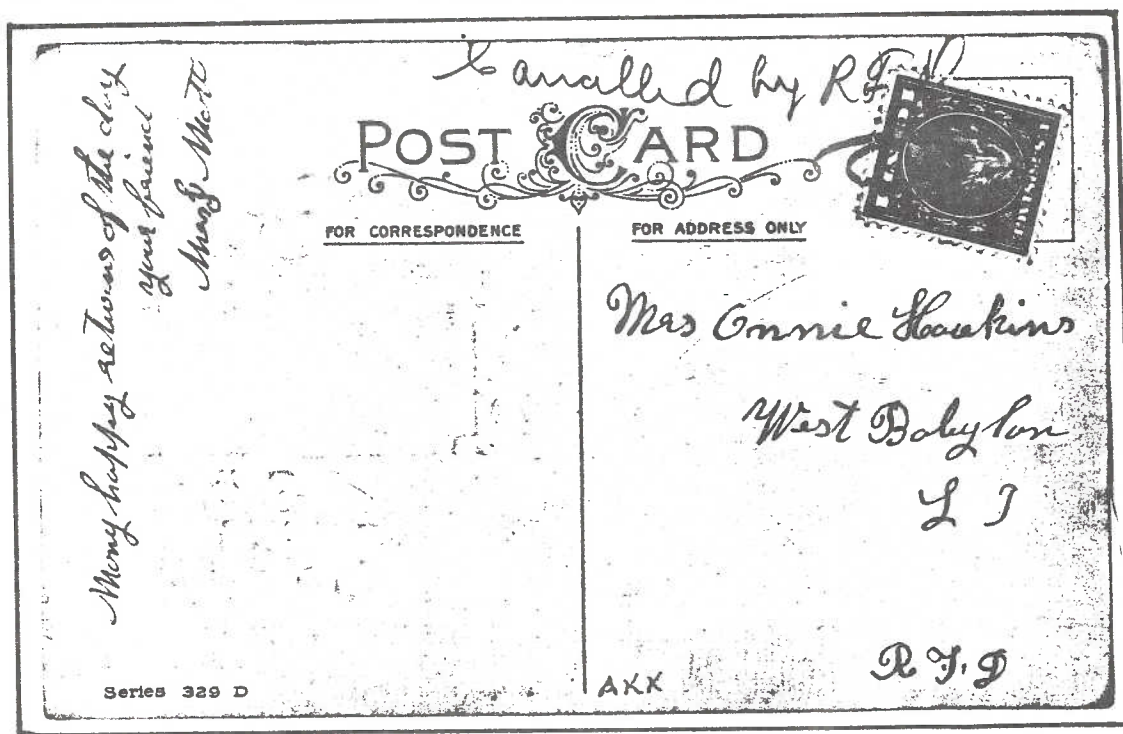
No. 5	Calvet M. Hahn (H&H Marketing)
No. 44	Gary R. Hammond
No. 116	Alvin Hansen
No. 109	Nassau Council Stamp Club (Kenneth A. Lawson)
No. 113	Frank J. Pichardo
No. 83	Smithtown Library (L.I. Room)

Change of Address:

No. 8 John M. Price, Jr. M.D.
 16 Southland Drive
 Glen Cove, N.Y. 11542

Heard from Richard O. Jones of Massapequa who regularly sends us copies of covers recently acquired by him. This is much appreciated as we are keeping computerized records backed by photocopies of as many L.I. covers in existence as possible. This data gathering work is in preparation for a major work by your editor on L.I. postmarks. Although it is anticipated that this work will take a number of years to complete, it nevertheless is well on the way.

One of Richard's prized finds is a manuscript RFD cancel on a post card, circa 1912, with the inscription: "Cancelled by RFD" with the stamp tied. It is addressed to West Babylon, L.I. This is the third known RFD cancel from L.I., the others being Huntington and Orient. It is illustrated below. Perhaps a member interested in this area of postal history can research the postal records in the National Archives and report on the history of the rural free delivery system on Long Island. Not much is known about it.



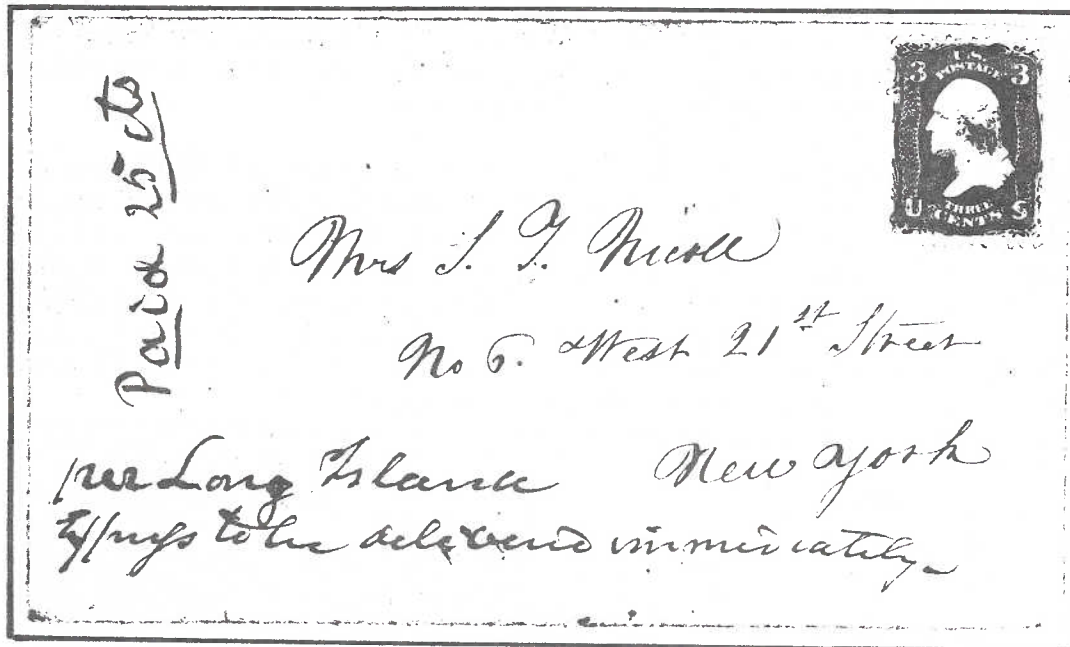
SPECIAL ELECTION RESULTS

A total of 27 ballots were received with a unanimous election of Joel Shapiro as President and Martin Margulis as Vice President. Fred Rodriguez received 26 votes as one member decided not to vote for Rodriguez because the proposed amendment to the LIPHS constitution automatically makes the Editor a trustee with voting powers. The constitutional amendment making the Editor and the immediate Past President Trustees with voting powers passed unanimously.

It is now up to the Board of Directors to decide whether to hold elections for two new directors in the near future or wait until the regular election in 1989. Fred Rodriguez and Carl Baker are the new Trustees, their posts as directors are now vacant.

*****LIPHS*****

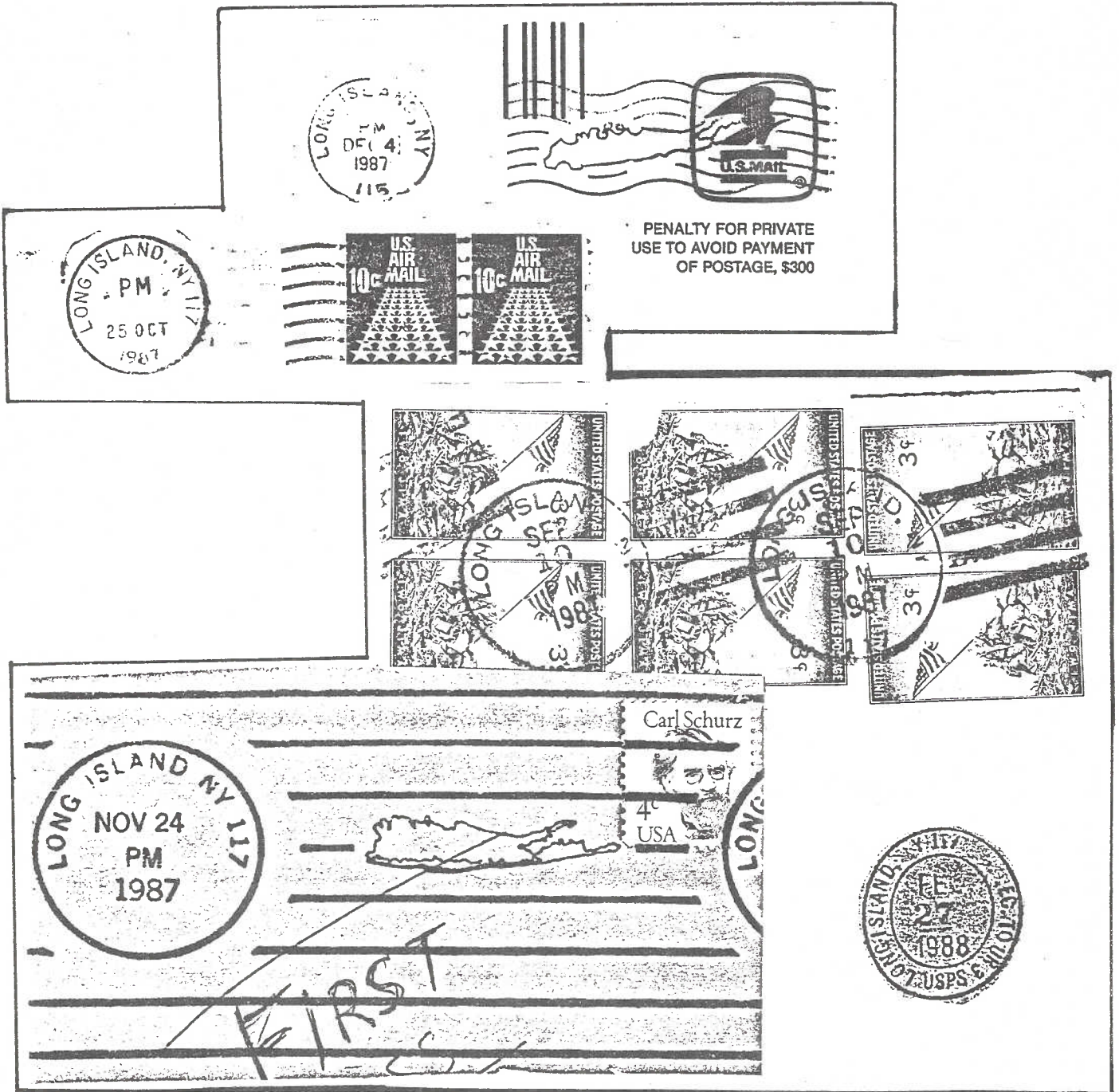
Member David L. Jarret sent two copies of very rare covers from L.I. One of the them is illustrated below.

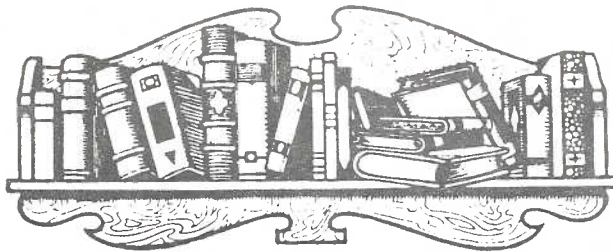


Letter headed "Shelter Is. Dec 23rd 1864" sent to Mrs. S.T. Nicoll in New York City "per Long Island Express to be delivered immediately". The letter has a ms. "Paid 25cts" in addition to the regular 3 cent regular postage. David Jarrett indicates that this is an example of a manuscript frank, unlike a directive that would be in the same handwriting as the addressee. He has only seen one other example. The letter to "my dear daughter" regrets the sudden death of her husband and the parents inability to attend the funeral in NYC. Collection of David L. Jarrett

NEW LONG ISLAND POSTMARKS IN USE AT THE MELVILLE PROCESSING CENTER

The new mail processing center at Melville is using new postmarks, both handstamps and machine cancellations with the generic Long Island remitting postmark. The machine cancels have a map of Long Island as a cancellation. We thank members Fred Schmitt, Brad Arch and others for sending us examples of some of the new Long Island postmarks. The Modern Postal History Society newsletter illustrated one of these in its most recent issue.





BACK ISSUES FOR SALE

We have available the following back issues of the LIPHS Newsletter, the LIPHS Journal, the LIPHS Newsletter and Journal, and the Long Island Postal Historian as follows:

Publication		Quantity Available	Unit Price
Newsletter	March '83 #8	10	\$2.00
"	Sept. '83 #10	10	2.00
"	Dec. '83 #11	10	2.00
Journal	Winter '84 #7	2	3.00
Newsletter & Journal	Fall '84 V8#3 W#10	1	2.00
"	Winter '84 V8#4 W#11	4	2.00
"	Spring '85 V9#1 W#12	11	2.00
"	Summer '85 V9#2 W#13	2	2.00
Postal Historian	Fall '85 V9#3 W#14	1	2.00
"	Summer '86 V10#2 W#17	1	2.00
"	Fall '86 V10#3 W#18	34	3.00
"	Winter '86 V10#4 W#19	36	3.00
"	Spring '87 V11#1 W#20	42	3.00
"	Summer '87 V11#2 W#21	42	3.00
"	Fall '87 V11#3 W#22	49	3.00
"	Winter '87 V11#4 W#23	47	3.00
Supplement No.1	Spring '87	40	2.00

FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED. Send check payable to LIPHS with order to:

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

The Post Office at Flushing Village By Brendan McCann

In the 17th Century many of the English settlers and settlers with a different religious background than the Dutch settlers in Manhattan, had been forced to Queens to escape religious persecution.

Thomas Stiles and his associates under a grant given by William Kieft of the West India Company were permitted to incorporate the town of Flushing, formerly Vlissingen. They kept their English customs but were governed by a Dutch governor.

During the Revolution, Flushing lay under enemy occupation. Because of their English background both Flushing and Jamaica were somewhat sympathetic toward the Tory cause. But, as the years wore on, the farmers were forced to take British officers into their homes with bed and board. The farmers were paid, but in time the officers also started to steal and plunder as did the enlisted men. At one point ten thousand British soldiers were stationed in and around Main Street in tents. When food was in short supply the farmers were told to empty their warehouses. The Friends Meeting House on Northern Boulevard was used as a prison, a hospital, and a hay magazine. 73rd Ave. near the Black Stump Cementary on 182nd St. was the main road built eastward to connect the British camps. Finally in 1783, victory was achieved and the British embarked to Nova Scotia. A wild celebration was held on Jamaica Avenue and Parsons Blvd.

It took many years for the farmers to rebuild their stock, but in 1813, once again, the British who were involved in the Napoleonic Wars, attempted to blockade New York Harbor and Long Island. In 1815 after building extensive fortifications the war ended.

After the war, Queens began to grow once again. Between 1825 and 1840 there was a large population increase. Since Flushing was busting at the seams, it was decided to open a post office between Jamaica and Oyster Bay. The ideal place was Benjamin Lowerre's general store. In 1821 the ALLEY Post Office was opened with Lowerre as the first postmaster. Alley was located between Flushing Bay to the west and Flushing Creek to the east. In 1826 the post office was moved to Little Neck and Curtis Peck became the postmaster. A few year later the post office moved back to Flushing, on May 13, 1829, with Curtis Peck as postmaster.

(Editor's note: The records of the Post Office Dept., as reported by Kay and Smith in their book New York Postal History: The Post Offices and First Postmasters from 1775 to 1980 differ substantially with the information sighted in the previous paragraph, which oddy enough is taken from a Postal Service pamphlet entitled 162 Years of Service: The History of the Flushing N.Y.P.O. from 1821 to 1983 by the U.S. Postal Service. Kay & Smith report as follows:

ALLEY Established on March 1, 1821 under Samuel B. Barnum as first postmaster.
 Changed to FLUSHING on December 14, 1826 under Curtis Peck as postmaster.

FLUSHING Established on Dec. 14, 1826
 Discontinued on April 22, 1828 and moved to Little Neck.
 Re-established on May 13, 1829 under Curtis Peck, postmaster.

LITTLE NECK Established on April 22, 1828 under Effingham Lawrence as first postmaster.
 Discontinued on February 5, 1830.
 Re-established in 1859 and continued in operation until Jan. 31, 1914.
 Re-established as a Station of the Flushing P.O. on June 16, 1930 and continues in operation.

It is not surprising that there are discrepancies in information dealing with the early years of our post offices. Local historians, at times, have added to the confusion by citing oral sources, newspapers and other sources which are not correct or official. In the editor's opinion, the Kay and Smith information is the most reliable. If any reader has any information that can clarify or shed new light on the early years of the Alley/Flushing/Little Neck post offices, please write to the author or the editor at the addresses found on the cover page of this issue.)

The earliest recorded postmark from the Alley Post Office is a manuscript postmark dated November 8, 1823 as reported by Chlanda and Wilcox in Manuscript Post Offices of New York State published in 1984 by the Empire State Postal History Society. None are reported from the Little Neck post office during its short existence from 1826 to 1829, however the author knows of at least one early manuscript in existence from the Little Neck P.O., unfortunately its information or the whereabouts of the cover are unknown.

The earliest recorded postmark from the Flushing P.O. is July 25, 1831 as reported by Chet Wilcox in the first supplement to the Manuscript Post of New York State, which appeared in the April 1987 issue of the ESPHS Bulletin.

Shown in the next page as FIGURE 1 is a stampless letter to Great Neck with an odd routing which included the Alley Post Office. It is shown courtesy of Frederick Schmitt.

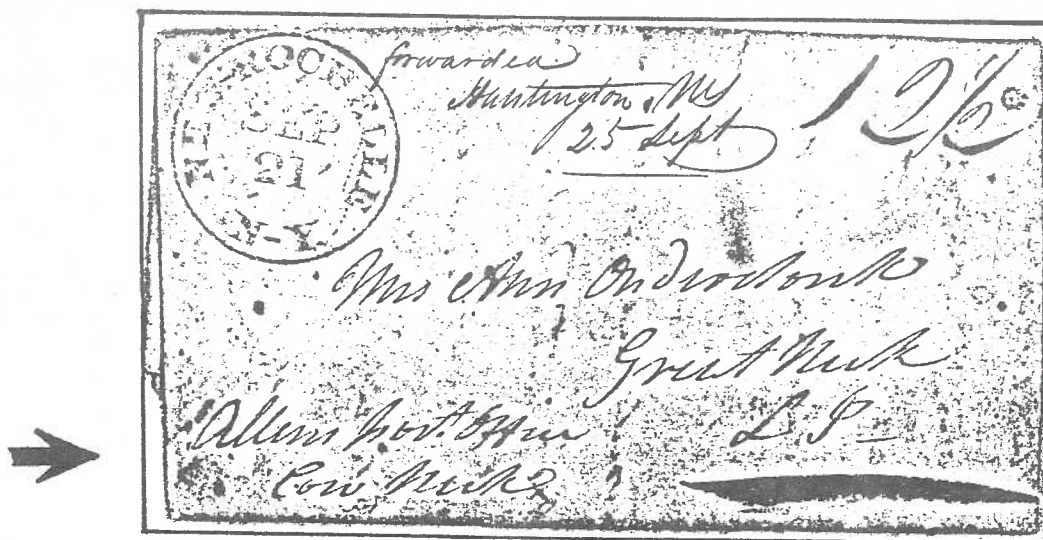


FIGURE 1 - Stampless folded letter originating at New Rochelle, N.Y. on Sept. 21 (circa 1825), forwarded from Huntington, N.Y. on Sept. 25th, with no additional postage to collect other than the 12 1/2 cents for a distance between 80 and 150 miles. Addressed to Mrs. Ann Onderdonk at Great Neck, L.I./Alley Post Office/Cow Neck.

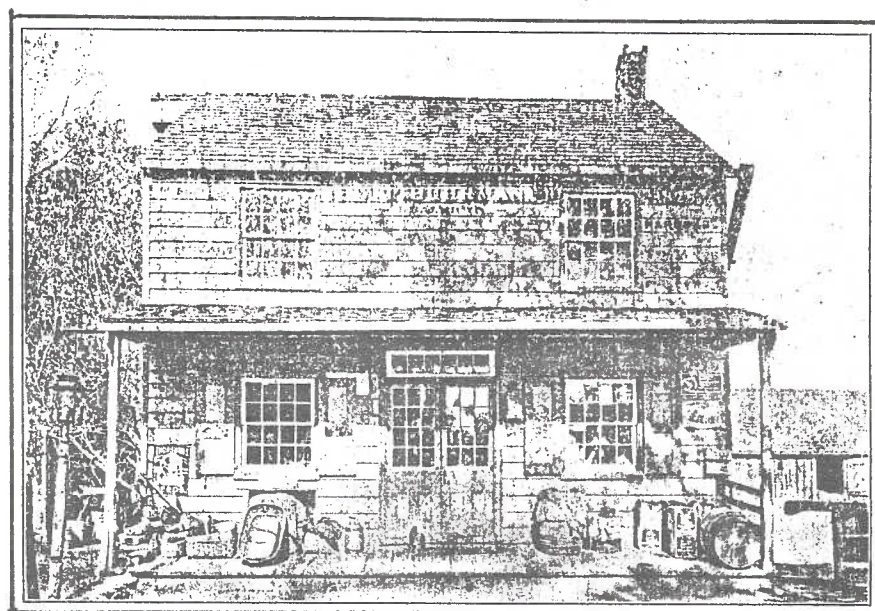
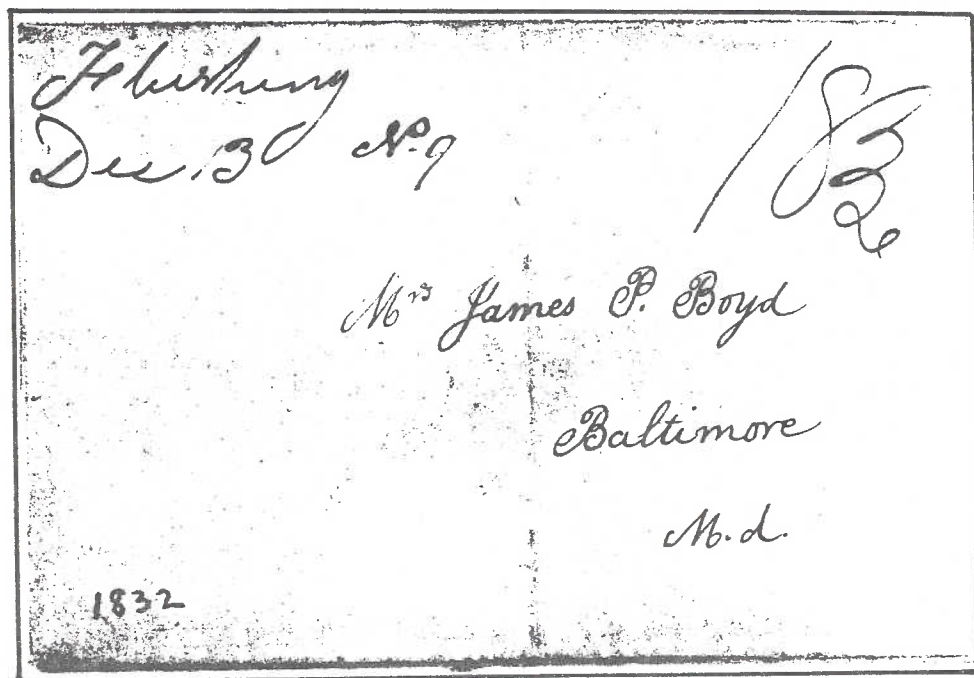
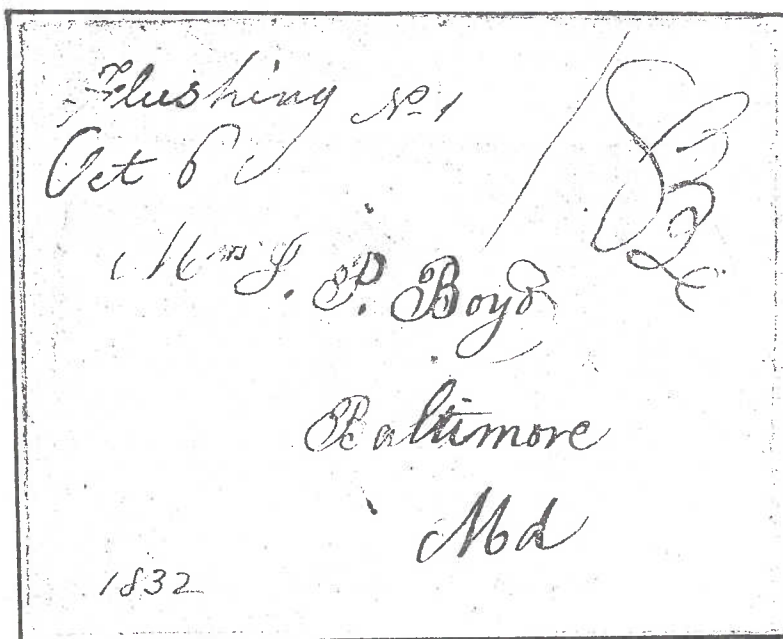


FIGURE 2 - The Buhrman store at Alley Pond which probably housed the Alley Post Office if in fact Benjamin Lowerre was its first postmaster. According to The Chronicle of Little Neck and Douglaston, Long Island by Lester Leake Riley, Benjamin P. Lowerre had acquired, by 1827, the Grist Mill and the General Store at Alley Pond. He had established the Stage which ran from Flushing village to Cow Neck. His daughter Mary had married William C. Buhrman, who took over the increasing business in 1828 and a great-grandson, William W. Buhrman held the store until 1910.

FIGURE 3 - Two stampless letters from FLUSHING to Baltimore, Md. mailed in 1832. Notice that the postmaster did not indicate the State of origin as was required by the regulations. Both letters are rated "18 3/4" in manuscript.



Below are two letters (FIGURE 4) mailed to Flushing showing two routing methods used in the early days of mail delivery. The first one is a letter sent from New York City in 1831 via the post rider. It is marked "Way 7" indicating the combined postage to be collected --6 cents for the post office and 1 cent for the mail carrier. The second letter is mailed to Miss Sarah Bowne at Flushing with a routing notation as follows: "Capt. Smith is requested to put this letter on board the Flushing Steamboat on his arrival in New York"

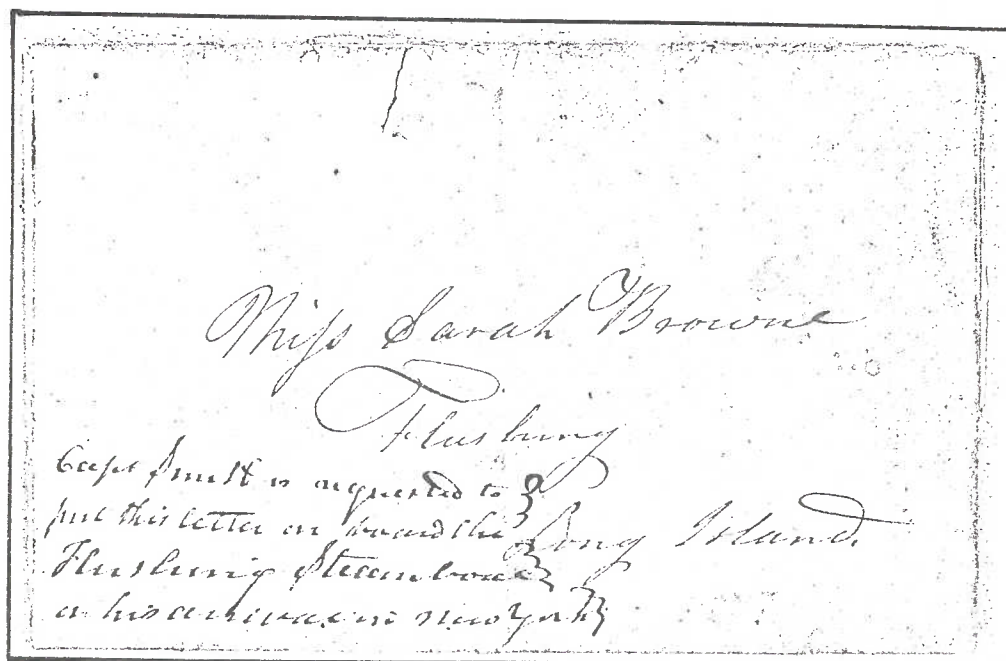
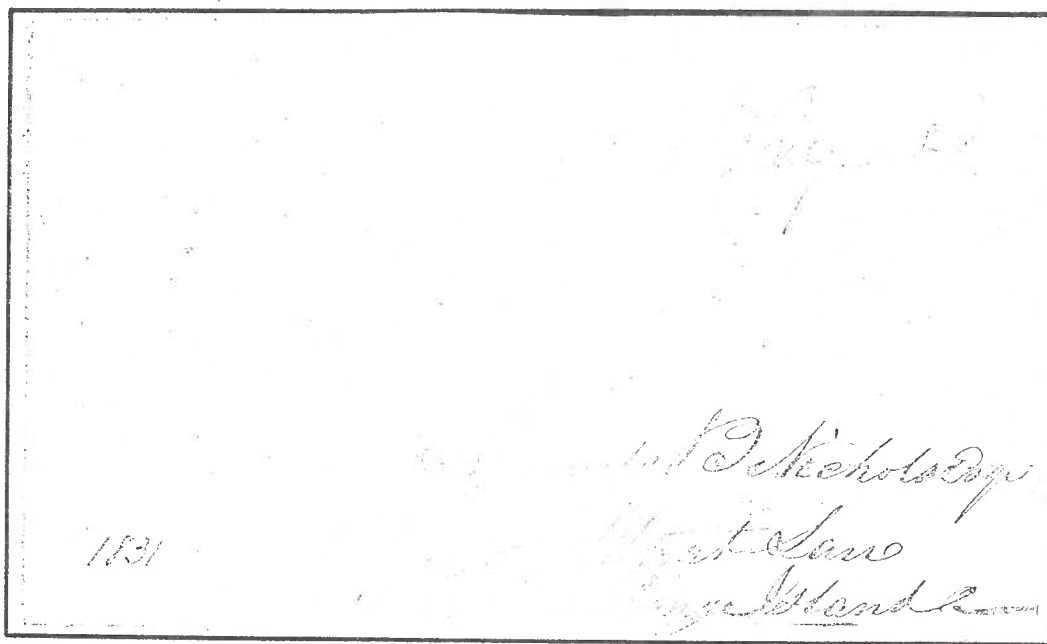


FIGURE 4 - Two early stampless letters to Flushing.

As the volume of mail increased, a straight line handstamp was purchased in 1833. Figure 5 below shows three examples of the Flushing straight line postmark, all three used in 1833. With this new postmark the postmaster had only to add the date to the letters as required by postal regulations.

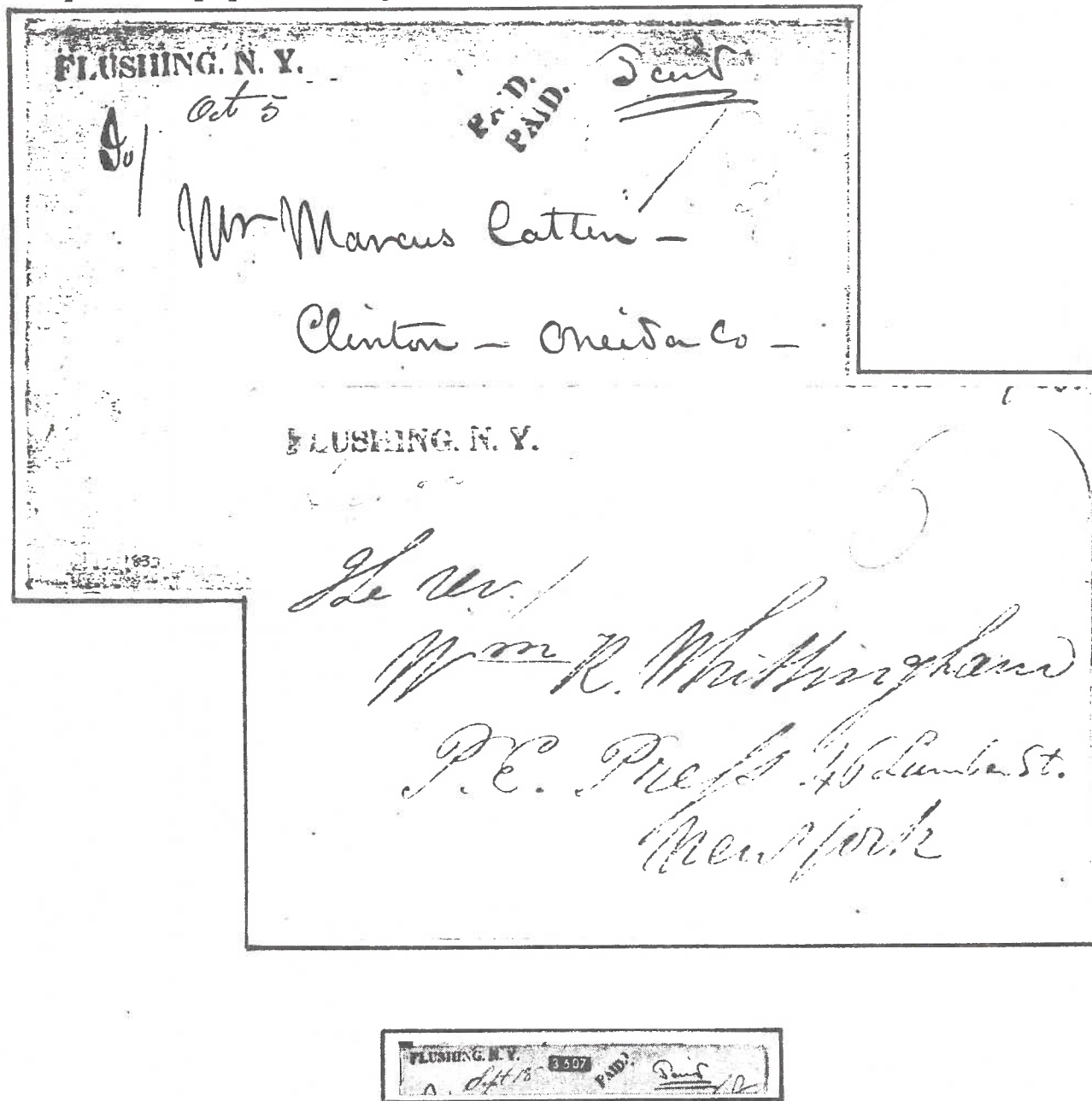


FIGURE 5 - Three examples of the red FLUSHING straight line postmark. The first example on top was sold by Richard Frajola on April 15, 1987 for \$250 and now is in the David L. Jarrett Collection. The second example is in the author's collection. The third example was partially illustrated in the Feb. 17, 1967 auction by Harmers "The Edwin Mayer" sale, as lot 3507 and sold for \$29.

By 1834 or 1835 a circular date postmark was acquired which included the date. Figure 6 shows an example of the first circular handstamp from Flushing, used in the first few years after it was introduced.

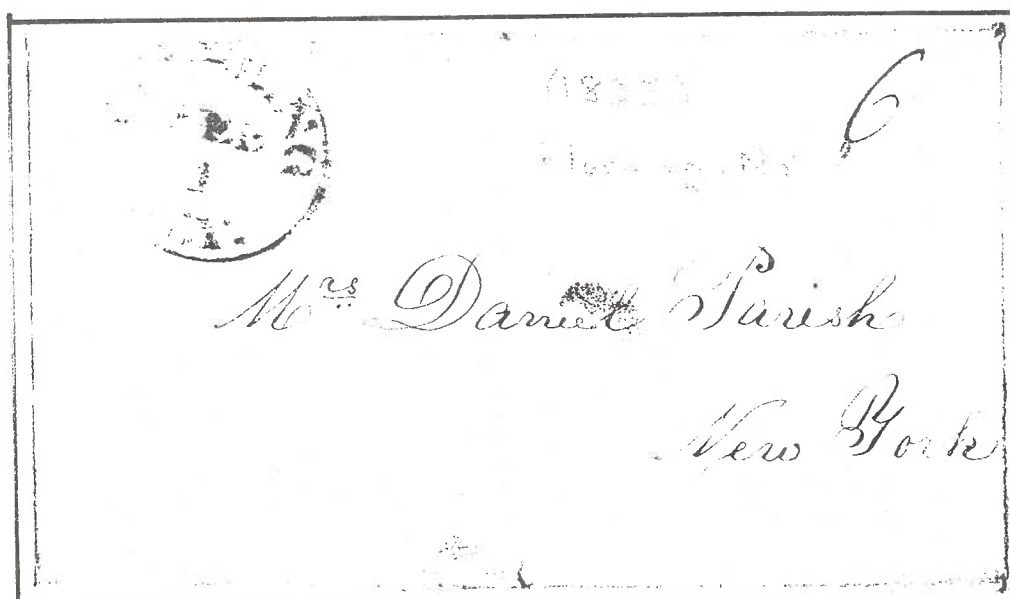
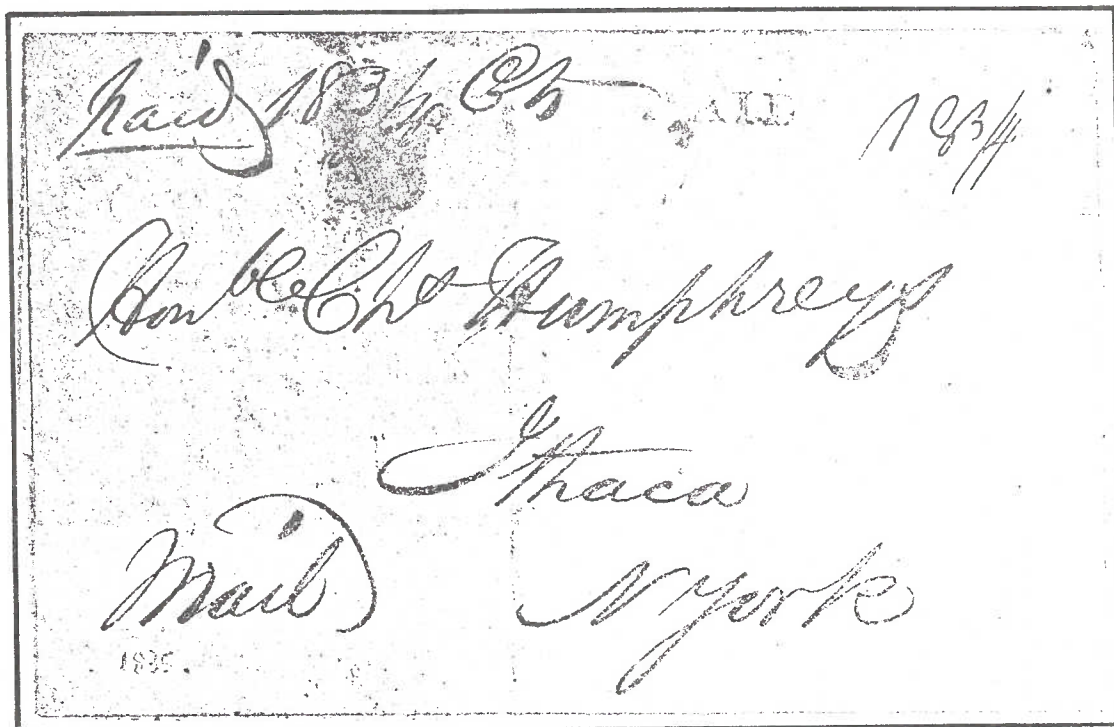


FIGURE 6 - The postmark is in green ink and the letter enclosed is datelined February 3 and written from a son to his father who complaints about being admonished by the headmaster at shcool for having "ring around the collar". Too bad they hadn't heard of "Wisk"! The letter also mentions that Thanksgiving was celebrated on December 12 or 13, not in November as is the case today.

FIGURE 7 - An 1835 stampless folded letter from FLUSHING with a handstamp "PAID" in green and a manuscript "18 3/4" but missing the town postmark, which was against postal regulations.



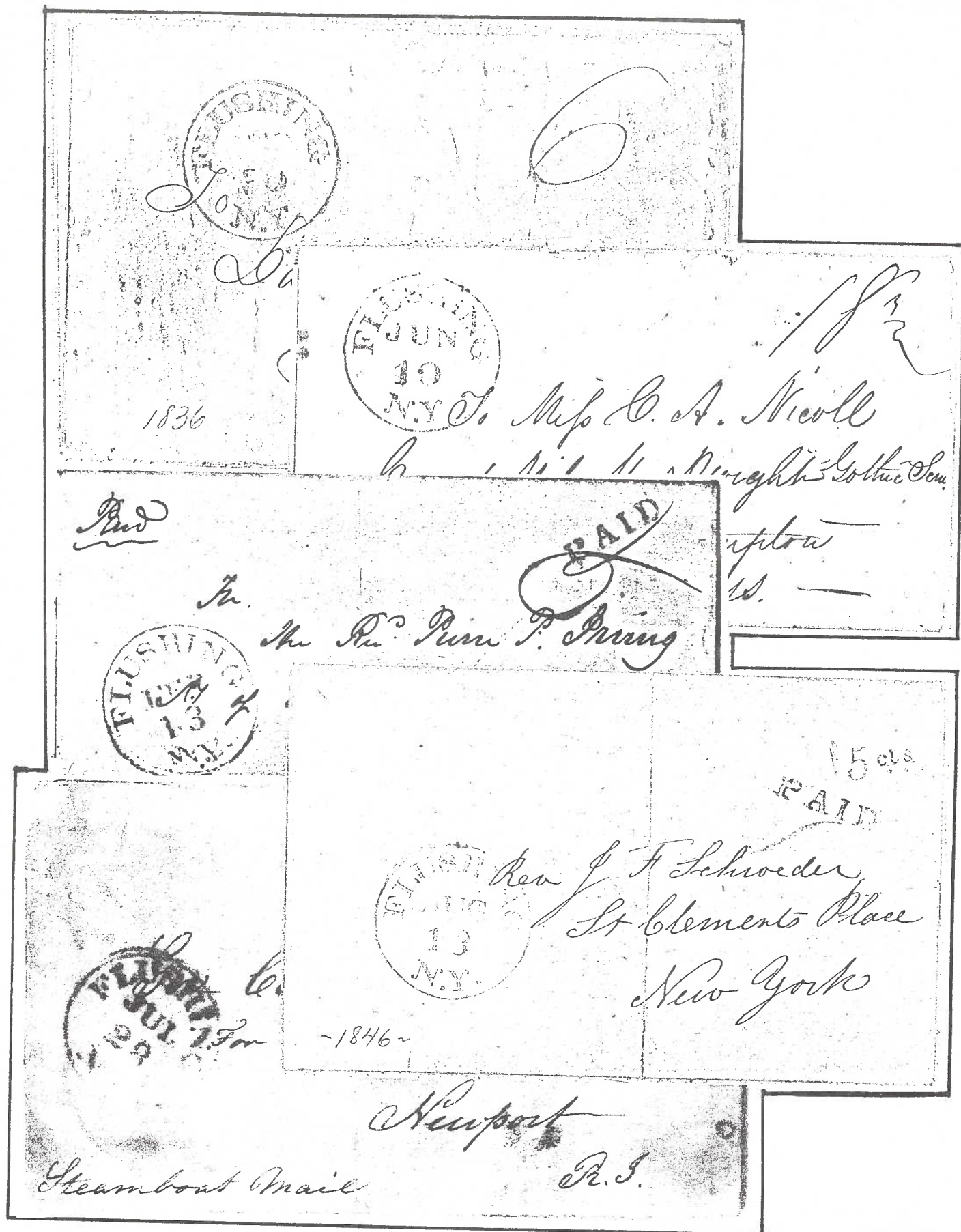
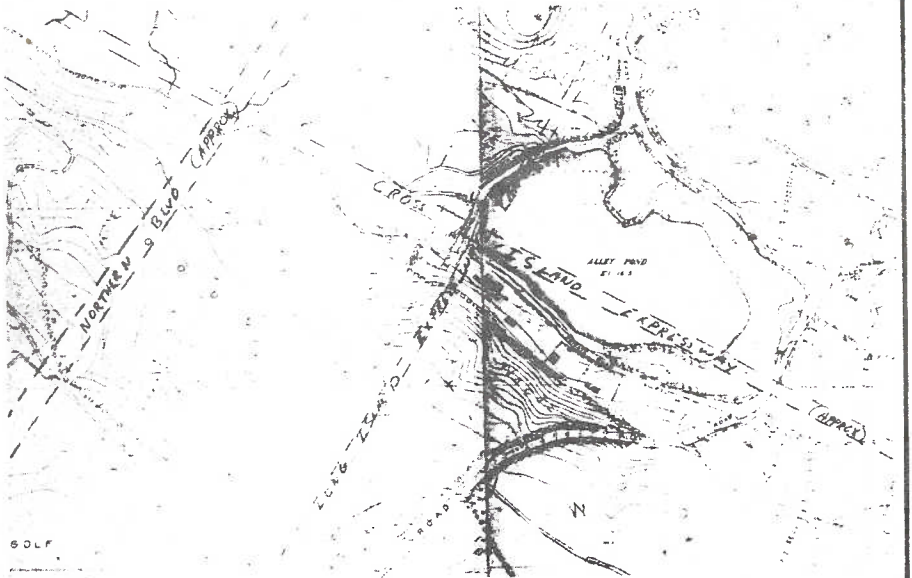


FIGURE 8 - Other examples of the Flushing circular date postmark used in 1836 through 1854. It is found in green, blue, red and black. Accompanying handstamps such as PAID, FREE, and "5 cts" and "10 cts" are also known, some illustrated above.

REFERENCES

1. 162 Years of Service, The History of the Flushing N.Y.P.O. from 1821 to 1983 by the U.S. Postal Service.
2. Queens A Pictorial History by Vincent Seyfried, 1982.
3. Manuscript Post Offices of New York State by Henry Chlanda and Chester Wilcox, 1984.
4. Manna-Hatin by the Manhattan Company.
5. The Chronicle of Little Neck and Douglaston, Long Island by Lester L. Riley, 1936.

Alley Pond was one of the most scenic and historic areas of Queens until the building of the Long Island Expressway blotted it out of existence. The pond, actually a mill pond, lay inland from the head of Little Neck Bay, and at its north edge was Buhrman's store, Flushing's first post office (1821), and the mill dam and weir. The old road, predecessor to the expressway, ran down the steep slope of the east, rounded the south end of Alley Pond, and then climbed the slope on the west. The valley and pond area is now buried under the massive fill of the expressway, and a Corvette outlet and housing colony occupy the east slope. Courtesy of Bayside Historical Society



The map above appears on page 194 of Queens A Pictorial History by member Vincent Seyfried, 1982.

FLUSHING POSTMASTERS

As listed in 162 Years of Service The History of the Flushing, N.Y. Post Office from 1821 to 1983 published by the U.S. Postal Service. "The following individuals served as Postmasters of Flushing after Samuel B. Barnum until the present. In the absence of a fully authenticated official record, however, the locations of the Flushing Post Office were presumably those listed below:"

DATE	POSTMASTER	LOCATION
5-13-1829 to 12-16-1832	Curtis Peck	Peck's Pavilion Hotel at what now is King's Row and Northern Blvd.
12-17-1832 to 01-32-1834	William Peck	Same location as above.
02-01-1834 to 06-20-1841	Joseph Bloodgood	Clement and Bloodgood's Country Store, Broadway (Northern Blvd.) and Prince St.
06-21-1841 to 03-25-1844	Asa Spalding	Either lower Main Street or lower Broadway (Northern Blvd.)
03-26-1844 to 11-24-1854	Francis Bloodgood	Clement and Bloodgood's Country Store, Broadway (Northern Blvd.) and Prince St.
11-25-1854 to 04-15-1861	Charles W. Cox	Again, either on lower Main Street or lower Broadway (Northern Blvd.)
04-16-1861 to 04-09-1866	Charles Lever	Lower Main Street
04-10-1866 to 09-19-1866	L. Bradford Prince	Lower Broadway (Northern Blvd.)
09-19-1866 to 10-21-1869	George H. Quarterman	John W. Rickey's Drug Store, Main Street, North of present 37th Avenue.
10-22-1869 to 03-27-1878	Joseph B. Stillwagon	Stillwagon's Store at 37 Main Street.
03-28-1878 to 12-03-1885	John W. Rickey	Store known as "94 Main Street" at Main and Amity (Roosevelt Ave.) Streets.
12-04-1885 to 07-17-1888	Andrew W. Smith	71 Broadway (Northern Blvd.).
07-18-1888 to 11-18-1889	Wm. B. Carpenter	Still 71 Broadway (Northern Blvd.).
11-19-1889 to 01-23-1894	Elihu F. Harris	Again, 94 Main Street.
01-24-1894 to 03-06-1898	James H. Quinlan	Still "94 Main Street".
03-07-1898 to 02-06-1905	John D. Van Nostrand	"94 Main Street".
03-01-1905 to 05-05-1913	Thomas B. Lowerre	Marx Bldg. on Amity Street (Roosevelt Ave.) just east of Main St., July 1, 1907.
05-06-1913 to 04-27-1922	Alfred J. Kennedy	Again, Marx Bldg.
04-28-1922 to 10-31-1933	John A. Rapeleye	71 Locust Street (135-40 39th Ave.) February 1, 1923.
11-01-1933 to 03-31-1934	Francis J. Cassidy (Acting)	41-65 Main Street (Present location). February 3, 1934.
04-01-1934 to 03-31-1950	Joseph A. Doyle	41-65 Main Street
04-01-1950 to 04-30-1958	Francis J. Cassidy	41-65 Main Street
05-01-1958 to 04-30-1973	John J. Hogan	41-65 Main Street
06-30-1973 to 09-1975	John F. Ward	41-65 Main Street
09-28-1975 to 11-1979	Charles E. Walker	41-65 Main Street
11-05-1979 to present	Walter J. Shanley	41-65 Main Street

Editor's Notes and Comments:

1. In the American State Papers - Post Office Department 1789-1833, A Reprint by Theron Wierenga, 1981 the following is cited:

Net Amount of Postage Accruing at each P.O. for the year ending March 31, 1827: Flushing \$54.42 (covering three and a half months).

Net Amount of Postage Accruing at each P.O. for the year ending March 31, 1830:

Flushing	\$259.56	(10 months)
Little Neck	\$ 13.23	(11 months)

During 1829 and 1830 Flushing and Little Neck both had post offices. From the figures above we can understand why the Little Neck post office was closed in Feb. 1830.

2. In the book Flushing Past and Present: A Historical Sketch by Rev. G. Henry Mandeville, published in 1860 by The Home Lecture Committee of 1857-58. Printed by James Eghert of N.Y., a number of references are made to the post office and the mails as follows:

Page 71 - "Stage Routes - The first effort to run a stage between Flushing and New York was in 1801. The route was through Newton and Bedford to Brooklyn - Fare 50 cents, Willet Mott, proprietor. He continued for seven years, and was followed by Carman Smith, Greenwall and Kissam. John Boyd, who drove for seventeen years, and was the first who ran to Williamsburg, across Grand St. ferry, up Grand to Bowery, and down to Chatham Square - Fare 56 cents; and since then a number of proprietors, for short periods, until four years ago, the route was abandoned. The stages were exchanged for the locomotive.

Page 73 - "Post Office - The first Post Office in the town was located at the Alley, where was a woollen manufactory. It was removed to the village about 1822. There was considerable opposition to the change, even by many of the villagers. One principal reason for opposing it was, it is said, that their letters and papers were now left at the Hotel where they could get them at any time, which they could not do, if the office was kept at the village and only open at certain hours. This reason probably weighed all the more powerfully as they were thus afforded a good excuse to visit the Hotel for something not carried in Uncle Sam's mail bags. The first postmaster in the village was Curtis Peck, who kept the office in the Pavillion. The second was his brother William Peck, who kept a store on the site now occupied by Peck & Fairweather. The third was the late Dr. Joseph Bloodgood who held the office for sixteen years. The fourth was Dr. Asa Spalding, who held

the office about four years, and during part of this time there were two mails a day. The fifth was the late Francis Bloodgood, who held the office for ten years, in the store of Clement & Bloodgood. The sixth and present incumbent, Charles W. Cox, was appointed in 1854."

Page 72 - "A small boat ran for a season as an experiment about 1822. But the first that ran regularly was built expressly for this route, and commenced her trips in 1823. She was named Linnaeus, and was commanded by Capt. Jonathan Peck. She was a very superior boat for those times. She ran here about ten years, and was then transferred to run between New York and New Rochelle. She was followed by:

the Flushing, Capt. Curtis Peck
then came the Statesman, Capt. Elijah Peck
then came the Star, Capt. Elijah Peck
then came the Washington Irving, Capt. Stephen Leonard
then came the Island City, Capt. Silas Reynolds
then came the Enoch Dean, Capt. William Reynolds."

3. In the Chronicle of Little Neck and Douglaston by Lester K. Riley, we read:

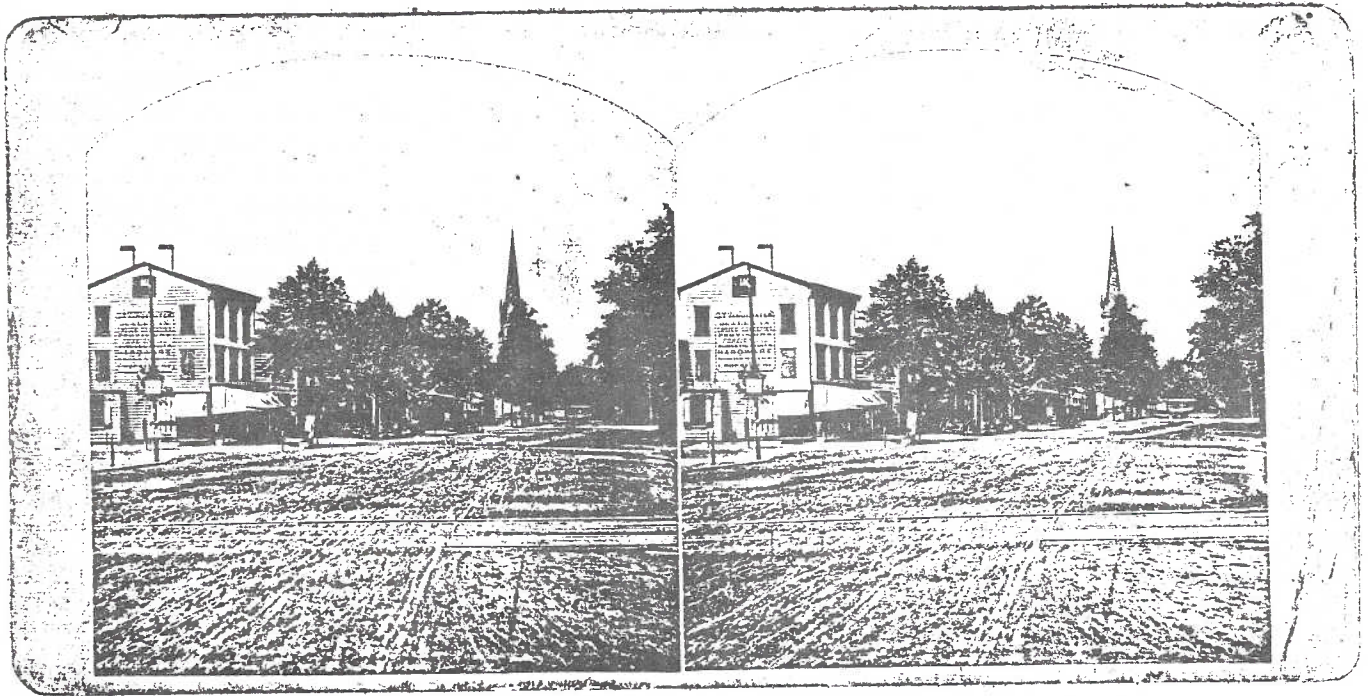
"This community, known as Little Neck from early days, which includes the half of it now called Douglaston, is the eastern end of the Flushing Township of Long Island. The portal to this "burrow" of our dreams, strange to say, was determined from the first by natural conditions through the narrow roadway (i.e. alley-ed.) that curved round the serpentine hill along Alley Pond. Thence it pursued its tortuous way over through Jamaica and Bedford to Brooklyn and then by ferry to the city beyond, a journey, take it as you will, of seventeen to twenty miles at least. That explains the significance of the establishment of the Flushing Post Office, five miles from the village proper, at Alley Pond in Little Neck some time before 1824."

4. Munsell's History of Queens County, 1882, pages 103-104 read:

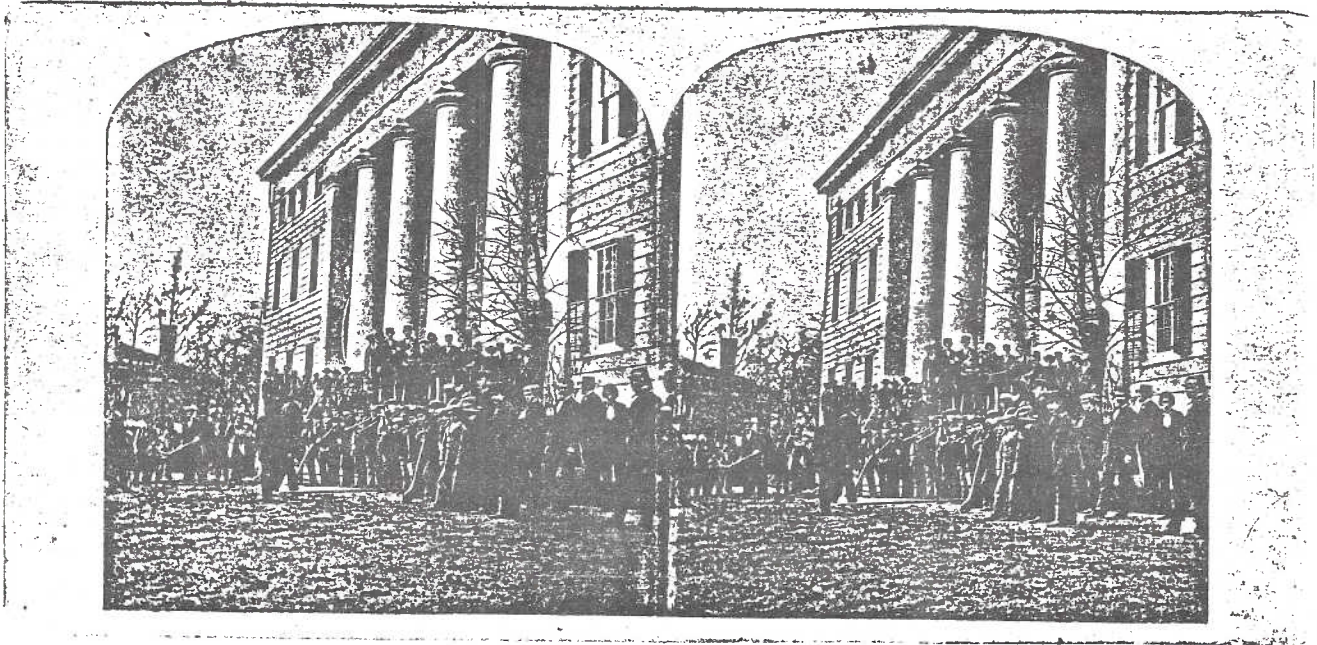
"The first post-office in the town was at what was known as the Alley or Little Neck, and was kept in a woolen factory there until about 1822 when it was removed to the village". Munsell then follows with a rehash of Mandeville's notes. Munsell also indicates that "the present postmaster (1882) is John W. Rickey."

An authentic stereoscopic photograph taken and published by O.C. Smith, a photographer at 314 Washington Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. He photographed parts of Queens in the late 1870's and early 1880's. This view is number 674 "Looking Norht on Main St. Flushing". It is on yellow stock, flat with albumen print. The large building at the corner says: "J.T. Vandewater Dealer in Choice Groceries, Provisions, Foreign and Domestic Fruits, Hardware, Woodenware, Crockery, etc." The railroad tracks can be seen in the foreground.

This stereoview is ex-Lightfoot, now in the Rodriguez Collection. A fine enlargement of it can be seen in Fred Lightfoot's book Nineteenth-Century New York in Rare Photographic Views published by Dover Publications in 1981.



A rare stereoview by photographer George Stacey taken on Saturday, November 24, 1860 of the Flushing Institute. The students and professors are gathered in front, all well dressed, some with high hats. Some sort of game being played with large paddles is being played in the foreground. (Rodriguez Collection)



Another O.C. Smith stereoview, this one numbered 681 of A. M. Laedlein's "Upholstery & Cabinet Furniture Warehouse" located at the corner of Broadway and Prince St., Flushing, circa 1875. (Rodriguez Collection).

Long Island Wind Sock

Transatlantic Airmail

Robert S. Miller

The first transatlantic airmail service, which was inaugurated by Pan American World Airways on May 20, 1939 from Port Washington, Long Island, New York to Horta, Azores, Lisbon, Portugal and Marseilles, France, had as much of an impact on the mail from Europe to the United States as that which was carried from Port Washington to Europe. In addition to the direct service from the European ports of call it was possible to dispatch mail from many other cities in Europe to the United States.

The American Airmail Catalog lists the covers that were carried from the online cities however it does not include those from the offline points. Some European catalogs include information about covers that were dispatched from a particular country however to date there is no one source from which it is possible to determine the complete number of cities from which mail was sent to connect to the inaugural service to America. It can definitely be stated that none came from England to connect to the first flight.

The cover in Fig. 1. originated in Marseilles and was autographed by the pilot of the flight Captain Arthur E. La Porte.

Marseilles - New York

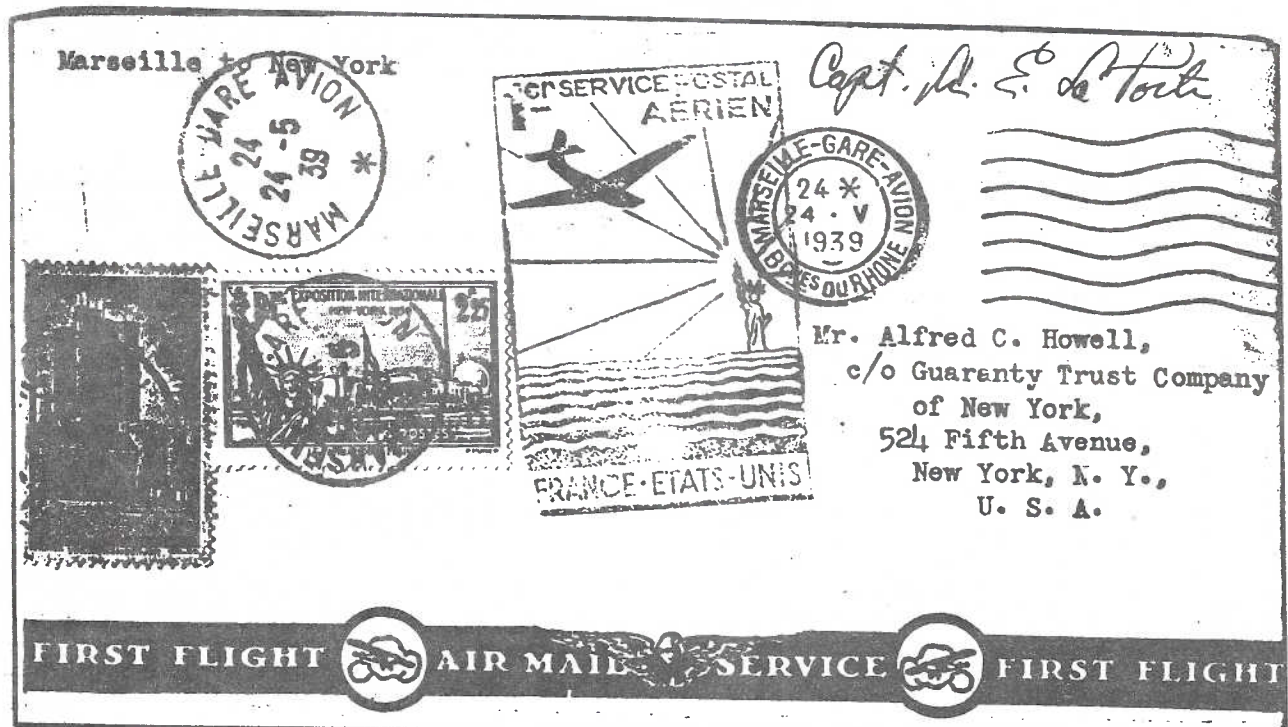


Fig.1.

The cover illustrated in Fig.2. originated in Lisbon, Portugal. Covers from this location received a different cachet then those that were dispatched from or through Marseilles.

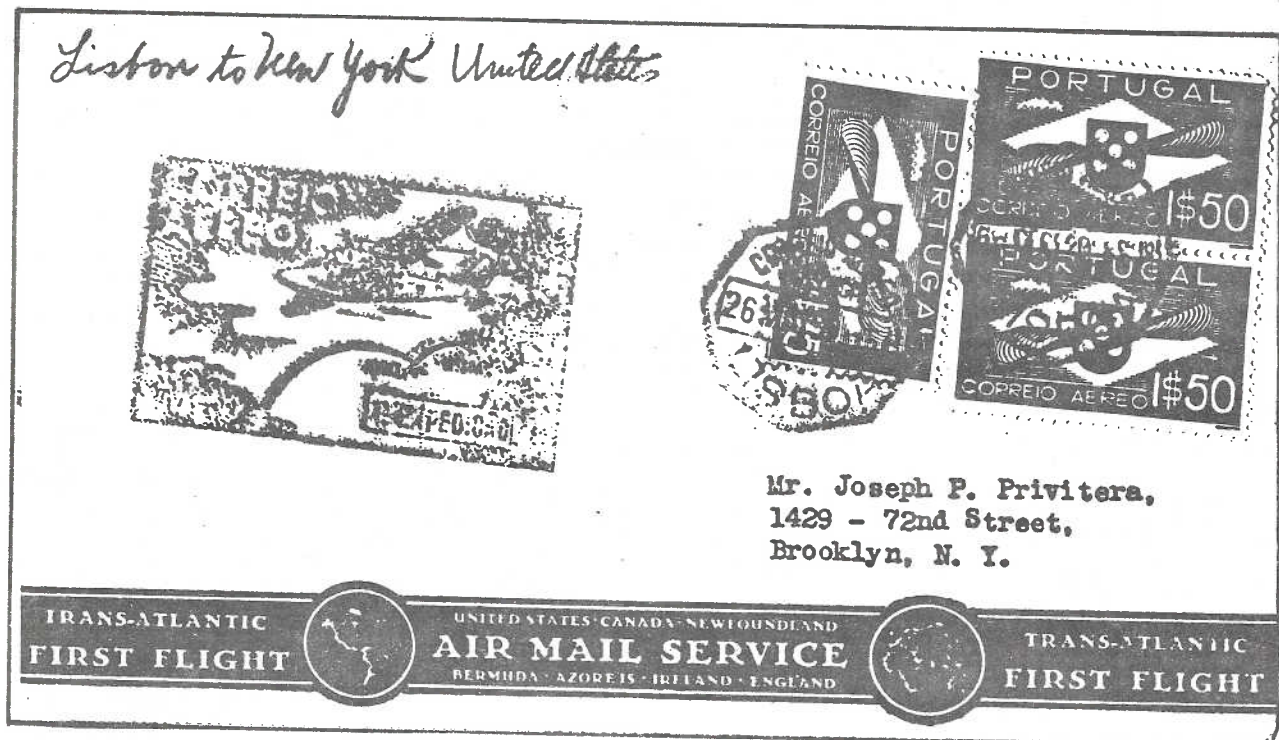


Fig.2.

The balance of the covers which are illustrated in this article originated at offline points and were dispatched through Marseilles where they joined Pan Am's first return service to the United States. All received the cachet which was used by Marseilles for mail on the first flight. The covers illustrated have red cachets however blue and black cachets are also known.

A cover from the Hague in Holland is shown in Fig.3. An unusual feature of this cover is the double cachet.

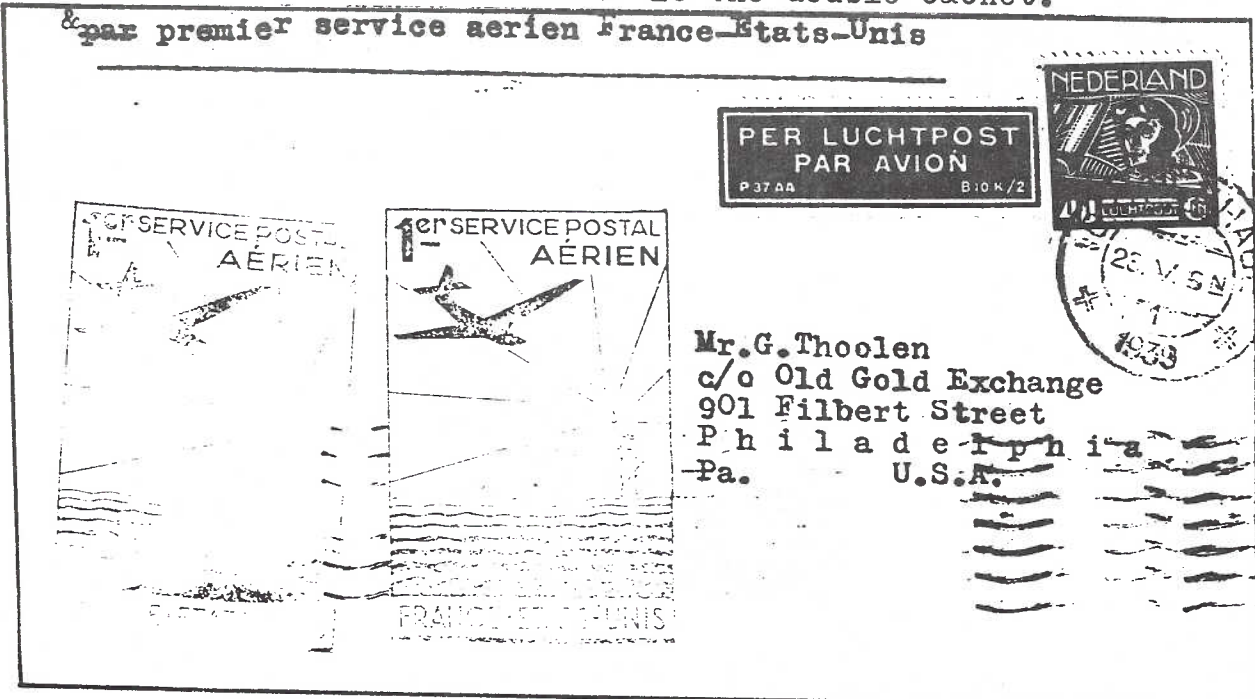


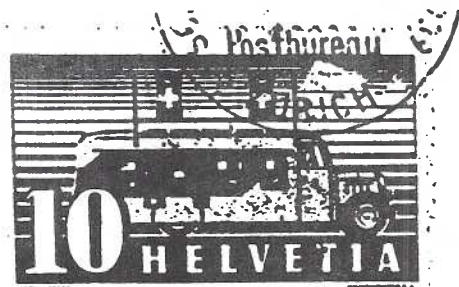
Fig.3.

ZURICH - MARSEILLES - NEW YORK

The cover shown in Fig.4. is unusual. In 1937 the Swiss established a mobile post office known as the Automobile Post Office. Mail that was handled through this facility was franked with a special stamp in addition to other postage. (see copy illustrated below) This stamp was only sold in the mobile post office and the one on the cover is the middle one on the left hand side. This cover also has the Automobile Postbureau cancellation dated May 23, 1939. The cachet which was applied to mail carried on the first flight from Marseilles to New York (Port Washington) is evidence that it was carried on the inaugural service.



Fig.4.



AUTOMOBIL - POSTBUREAU stamp issued in 1937 for use in the mobile post office.

GENEVA - NEW YORK

The author is deeply involved in the postal history of Staten Island (Richmond County) New York and an avid collector of covers that relate to Staten Island's postal history.

A cover from Geneva, Switzerland which was posted on May 24, 1939 is illustrated in Fig.5. It was too late to make the first flight from Marseilles to New York. However it did travel on the second trans Atlantic service operated by Pan American Airways. Such covers are an important part of the postal history of trans Atlantic air mail. Further because covers that were carried on other than first flights were not collected they are scarce and difficult to find.

This particular cover is the only one that is known that was destined to Staten Island and carried on the second trans Atlantic air mail flight.

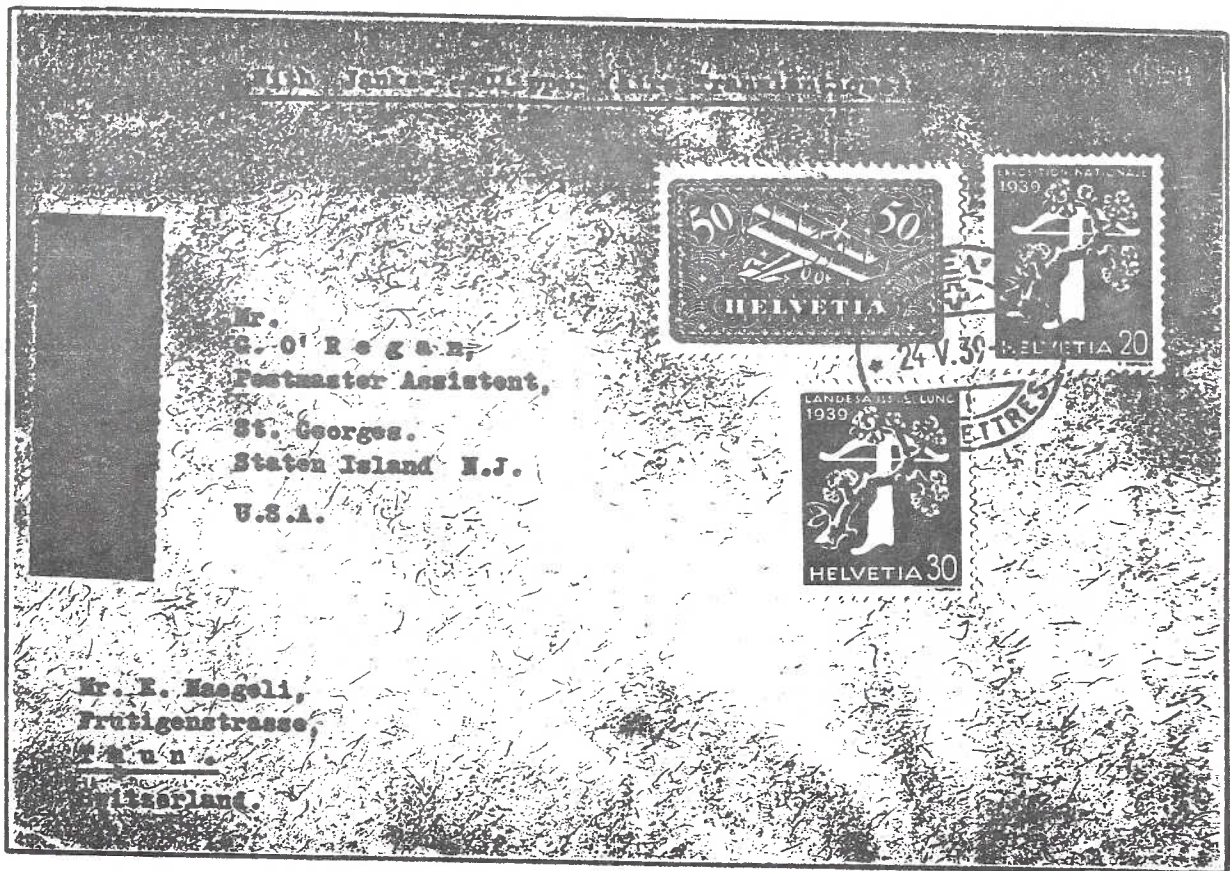


Fig.5.

NOTE: Mr O'Regan to whom this cover was addressed was assistant postmaster under four Staten Island postmasters. His nickname was "JUMBO" because of his size. He was an avid philatelist and had pen pals around the world with whom he exchanged various philatelic items. In addition to the one shown above my collection includes another that was addressed to Jumbo, Staten Island, New York.

POLAND - U.S.A.

Philately, from the earliest times, was a universal hobby. However one cannot help but wonder why a collector would participate in an event that was not directly connected to his country. The cover shown in Fig.6. originated in Warsaw, Poland and was carried to Marseilles, France where it was transferred to Pan Am's first flight from Marseilles to New York. It most certainly is a piece of mail that was the first to go from Warsaw to New York on scheduled airlines. It is not a first flight cover from Warsaw to New York which service did not occur until April 29, 1971.

NOTE: The 75 GR stamp depicts KOSCIUSZKO as the central figure. Kosciuszko is known for his participation in the American Revolutionary War and particularly for the fortifications he designed at Saratoga and West Point. Today he is remembered on Long Island for the bridge on the Brooklyn - Queens Expressway which bears his name and has been Americanized to COS - KEY - OS - KO.

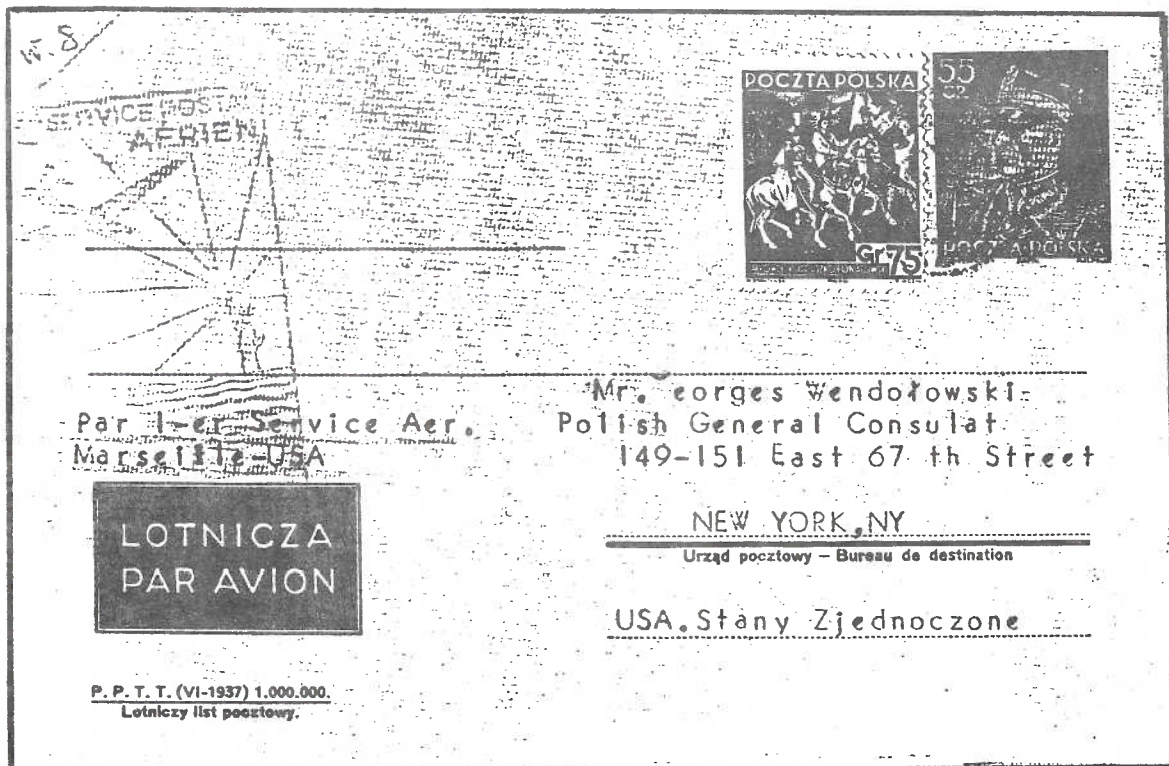


Fig.6.

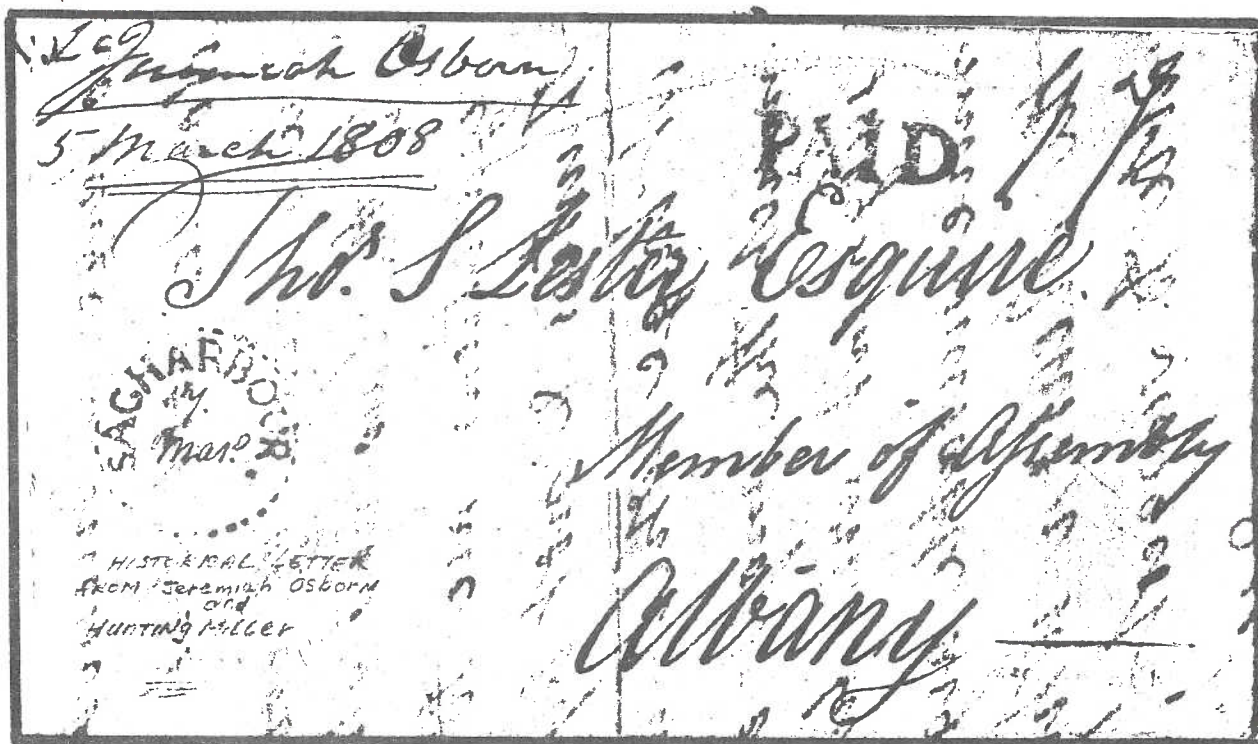
This and other covers that originated at offline points in Europe clearly illustrate the possibilities for speedy air mail service between Europe and the United States that became possible when Pan American Airways inaugurated air mail service across the Atlantic Ocean. The United States terminal of this service was situated on Manhasset Bay in Port Washington. The first trans Atlantic air mail service is another of the many air mail activities that are associated with Long Island.

COVER CORNER

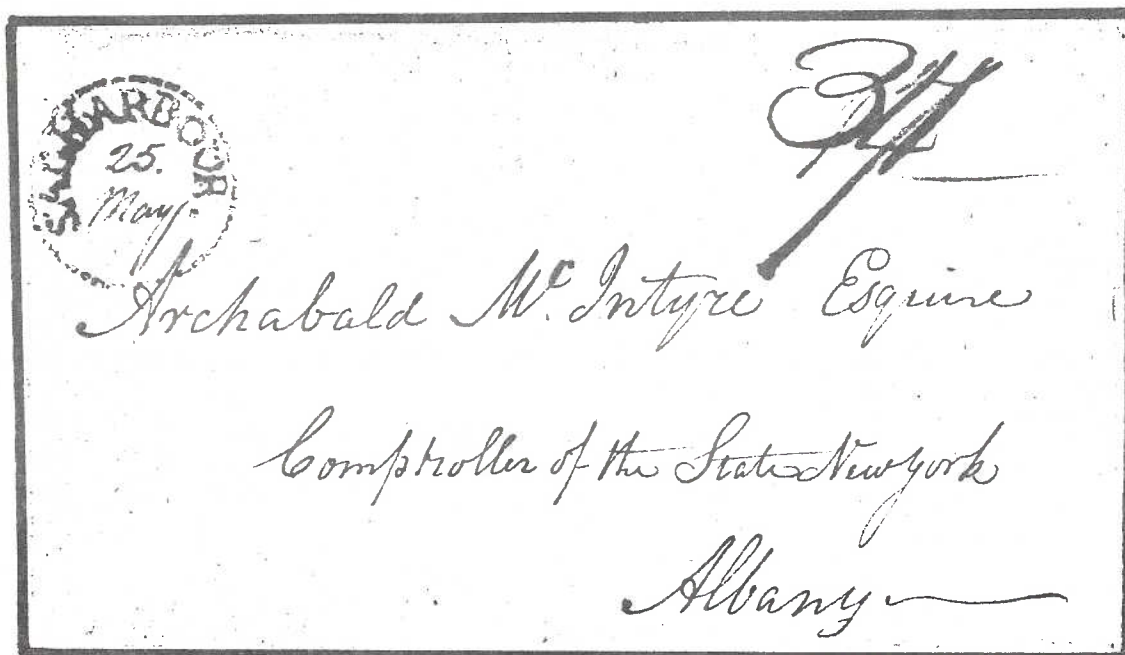
DANIEL M. KNOWLES, MD

As I have stated many times in this column, clear handstamped town markings on stampless covers from the scattered small towns which constituted eastern Long Island in the 1800s are uncommon. Their rarity is not reflected by the prices listed for them in the American Stampless Cover Catalog. The two covers illustrated here represent excellent examples of this phenomenon.

The 1971 edition of the American Stampless Cover Catalog edited by E.N. Sampson lists the rare Sag Harbour 27mm dotted circle in brown at \$20. The 1978 edition published by Phillips has the same listing at \$35. The latest edition, 1985, has the identical listing at \$45. No doubt each edition of this reference volume has simply incorporated the prior listing and elevated the value slightly in order to keep up with inflation. Since the listings are identical in each edition, they were probably based on a single cover which was identified prior to 1971. This handstamped town marking is probably considerably more valuable than suggested by the American Stampless Cover Catalog.



Illustrated here are two clear examples of this rare town marking. The cover at the top is a candidate for being the listing copy of the American Stampless Cover Catalog. It is a letter from Jeremiah Osborn and Hunting Miller to assemblyman Thomas Lester in Albany. The town marking is clear, contains a manuscript date of March 7, and is stamped in brown ink. The letter was rated 17 cents for the distance of 150-300 miles per the act of March 2, 1799. The letter was prepaid as indicated by the handstamped PAID. The PAID handstamp, the 17 cents rate, and the date are in the same brown ink as is the town mark Sag Harbour. The PAID marking is 8 1/2 by 26 1/2mm. The only other PAID marking similar to this one which I have seen on mail originating in Sag Harbor is an 8 by 26mm PAID marking on an 1824 cover.



The second cover has the same Sag Harbour in dotted circle in the same brown ink. The manuscript date is May 25, but ink docketing on the back indicates that the letter was mailed in 1807, one year earlier than the listing in the American Stampless Cover Catalog. This letter is also addressed to a state official in Albany and was rated 17 cents in brown ink. However, this folded letter sheet obviously contained additional contents necessitating the postmaster in Albany to re-rate the letter 34 cents in bold black ink. This letter was not prepaid.

I am aware of the existence of only three stampless covers bearing this rare Sag Harbor marking; I am unaware of the year of origin of the third cover. No doubt this handstamp was used for only a brief period of time in Sag Harbor. It appears to have been followed by the famous Sag Harbor oval which I have seen used during 1810-1812.

The prices listed in the American Stampless Cover Catalog often reflect prices actually realized at auction. For certain rare items such as these distinctive Sag Harbor handstamps, a recent auction realization is not available and thus the item is clearly very much undervalued at \$45. I would venture to guess that each of these covers is worth approximately 10 times that estimated value.

The 1869 Pictorial Issue as used on Long Island

by : Brad Arch

This interesting series of 10 denominations was introduced during the latter part of March 1869 starting with the three low denominations, with the higher denominations being released in the following months. The series was in nominal use until the fall of 1870, although several denominations of the "banknote" series had already been introduced earlier in 1870 as eventual replacements.



Known usages from Long Island include the 1¢, 2¢, 3¢, 6¢, 10¢ and 12¢; also the 24¢ Re-Issue.

Covers have not as yet been reported with the 15¢, 24¢ or 30¢; and there is currently no known cover bearing the 90¢ stamp from anywhere, there once was one cover known but it was stolen about 10 years ago and has never reappeared.

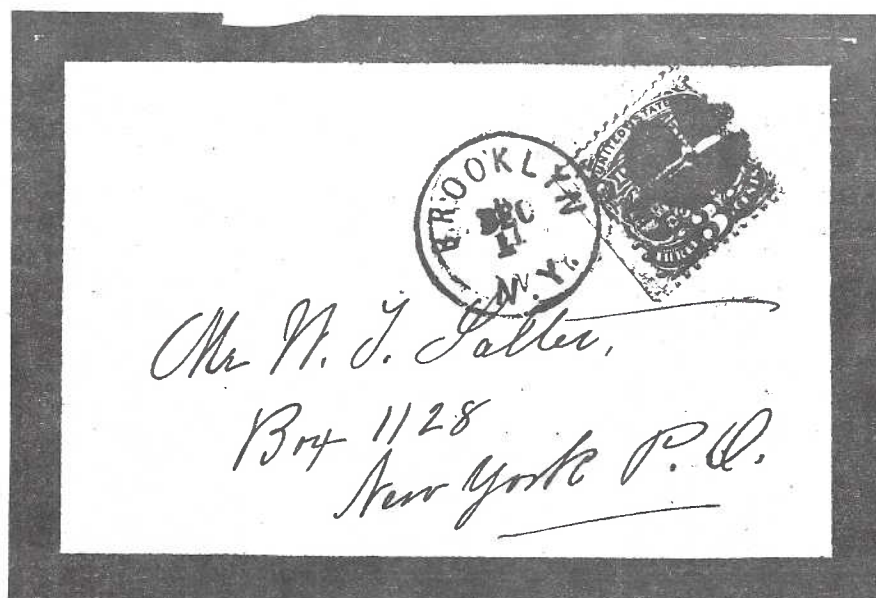
The only recorded 2¢ is as additional postage on a foreign rate letter, although there must be a fair number of common 2¢ drop letters or printed matter rate covers in existence that have not been deemed important enough to record up to this time.

The most commonly used denomination was the 3¢, which is known used from many different post offices. The 6¢ and higher denominations are only known used from the larger post offices of: Brooklyn, Williamsburgh & Southampton, and only a single use from each of Hempstead & Riverhead.

There were approx. 130 post offices in operation on Long Island during the period that these stamps were available for sale, plus the Long Island R.R.; but covers have only been reported used from about 25% of them, and none from the railroad. I look forward to receiving reports of any and all Long Island usages accompanied by clear high-contrast photocopies.

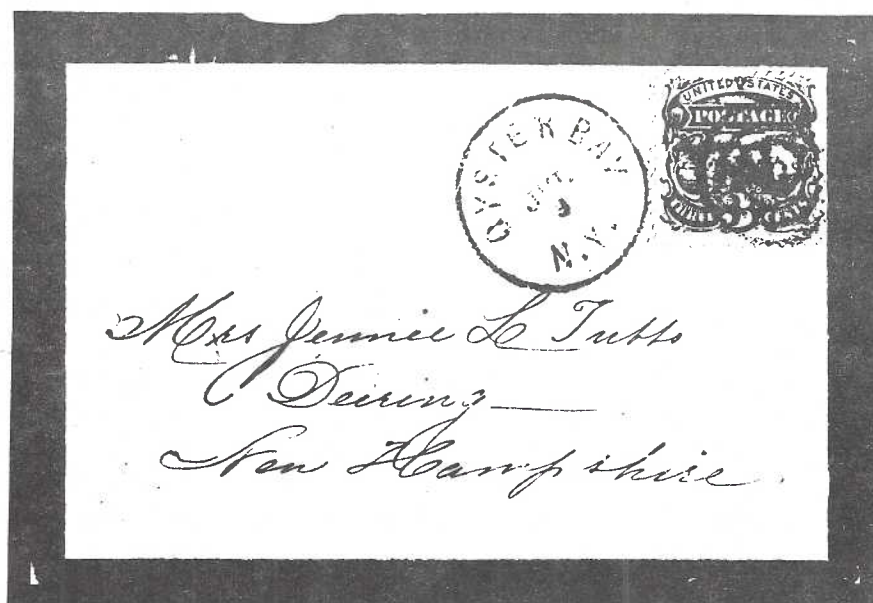
A specialty society is in existence, known as "The 1869 Pictorial Research Associates" which has been researching and publishing informative articles and books concerning these stamps and their use for the past 15 years, mostly through their Quarterly Journal "The 1869 Times". I can provide additional information and/or membership applications to anyone who may be interested in joining this group, for an SASE.

Brad Arch, 144 Hamilton Avenue, Clifton NJ 07011



3¢ on Mourning Cover from BROOKLYN

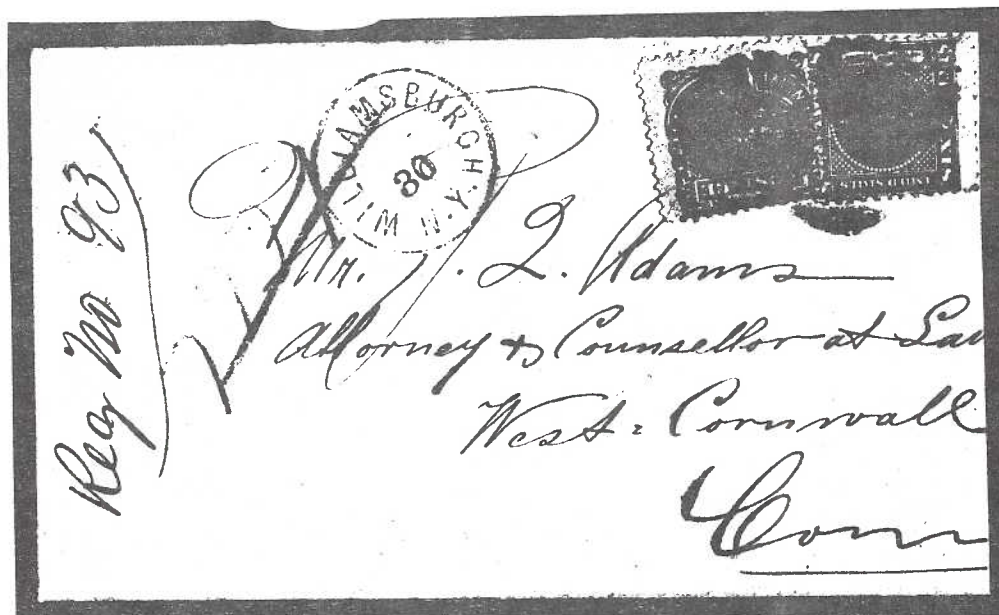
A popular collecting topic for 19th Century covers is "MOURNING COVERS", those with black edging, they were usually sold with matching lettersheets in this diminutive size and were used (according to the Victorian customs of the times) by the family of the deceased.



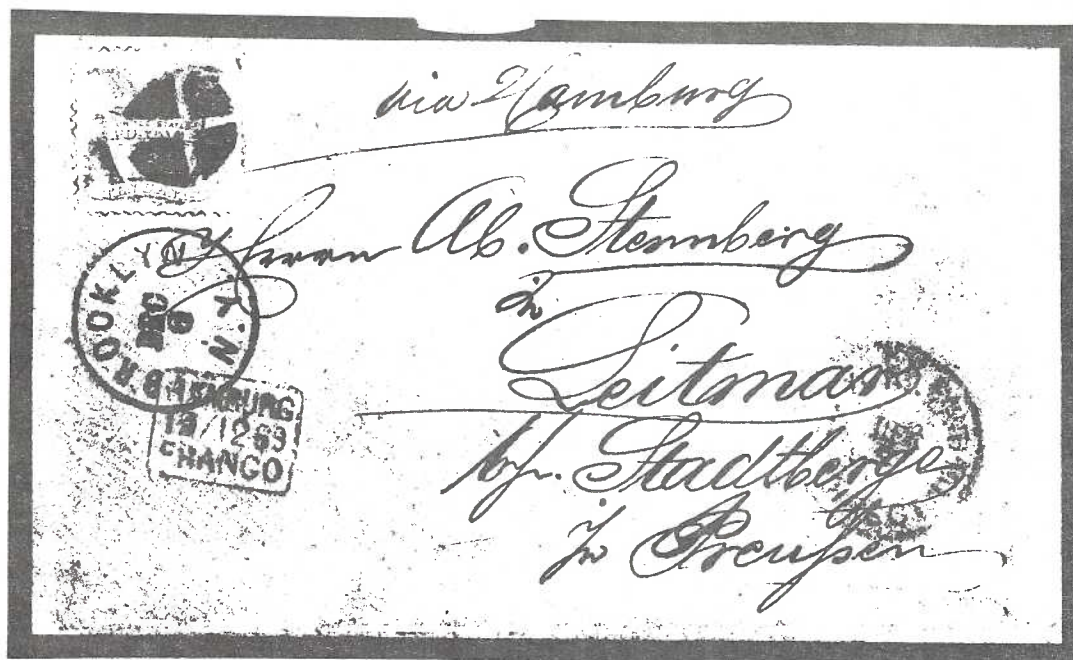
3¢ on Mourning Cover from OYSTER BAY

1869 Issue Recorded Usages from LONG ISLAND
(All Denominations Except 3¢)

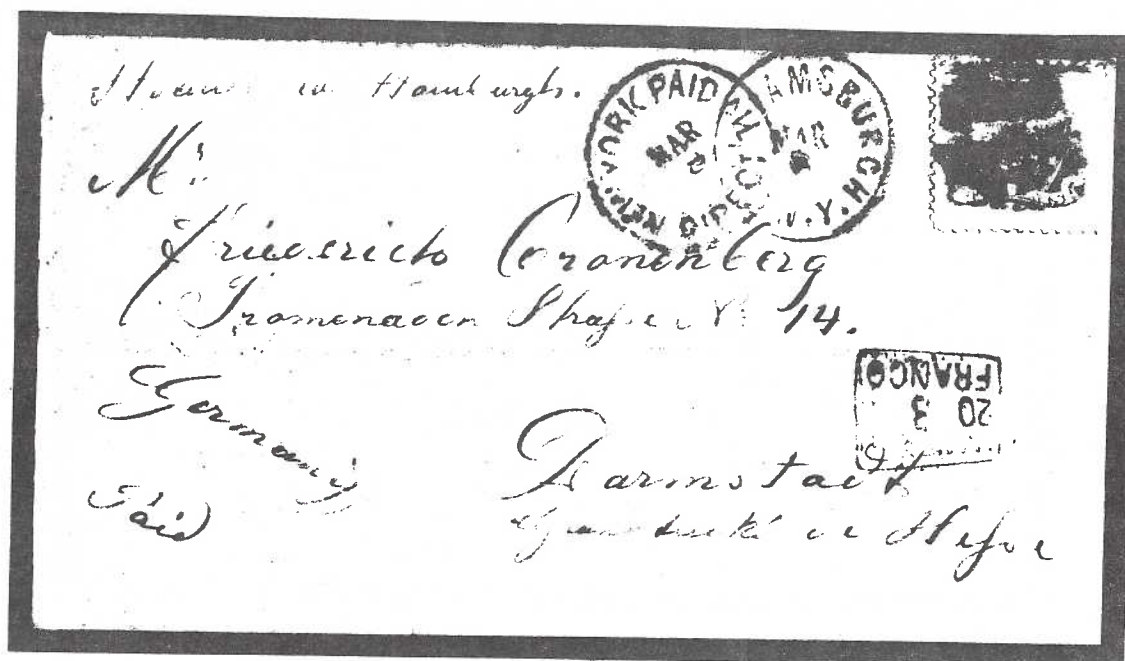
1¢ No Date Jamaica (drop letter) (straight edge w/arrow)
 1¢ No Date Jamaica (drop letter)
 1¢ 02/11/?? Greenport (drop letter) CDS & cork tie stamp
 6¢ 01/07/7? Brooklyn - Cambridge, Nova Scotia
 6¢ 07/01/71 Hempstead - London GB
 6¢ & 3¢BN ??/??/?? Riverhead - Stonybrook NY
 6¢ & 12¢ ??/30/69 Williamsburgh - West Cornwall CT
 10¢ 11/30/69 Brooklyn - Germany
 10¢ 12/06/69 Brooklyn - Leitmar, Prussia
 10¢ & 10¢ & 2¢ 04/18/70 Brooklyn - Callao, Peru
 10¢ 04/30/77 Brooklyn - India
 10¢ & 12¢ 02/28/70 Southampton - Chile
 10¢ & 12¢ 02/28/70 Southampton - Chile
 10¢ & 12¢BN ??/??/?? Southampton - Peru
 10¢ 03/08/70 Williamsburgh - Germany
 10¢ 04/30/70 Williamsburgh - Germany
 10¢ 05/21/70 Williamsburgh - Germany
 12¢ 11/08/69 Brooklyn - Great Britain
 12¢ 03/22/70 Brooklyn - Switzerland
 12¢ 10/12/70 Brooklyn - Canada
 12¢ & 3¢ 06/28/69 Williamsburgh - Switzerland
 24¢Re-Issue & 1¢BN 06/13/81 Brooklyn - Hanover, Germany



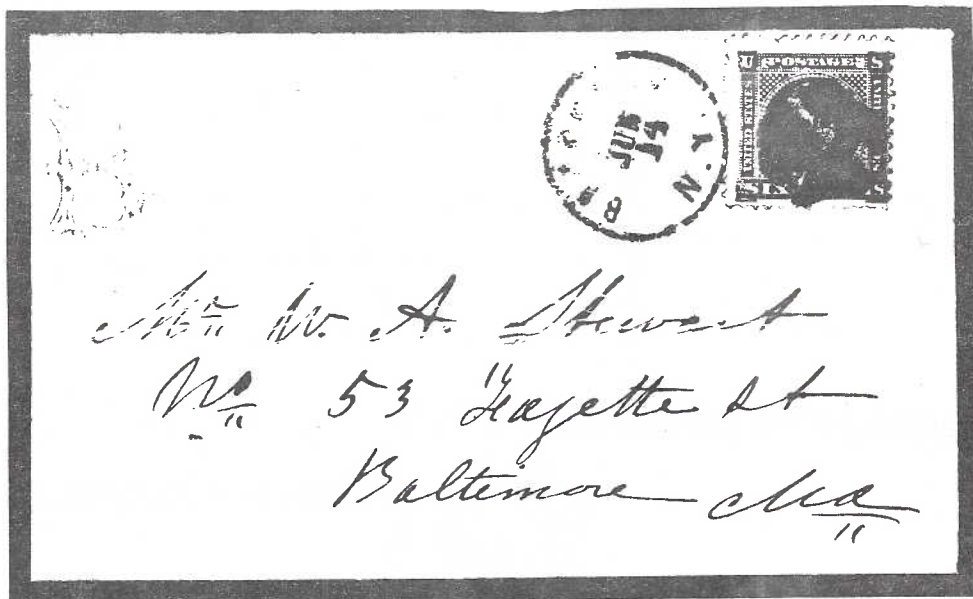
12¢ & 6¢ = 18¢
 15¢ Registry Fee & 3¢ Postage
 Williamsburgh NY - West Cornwall CT



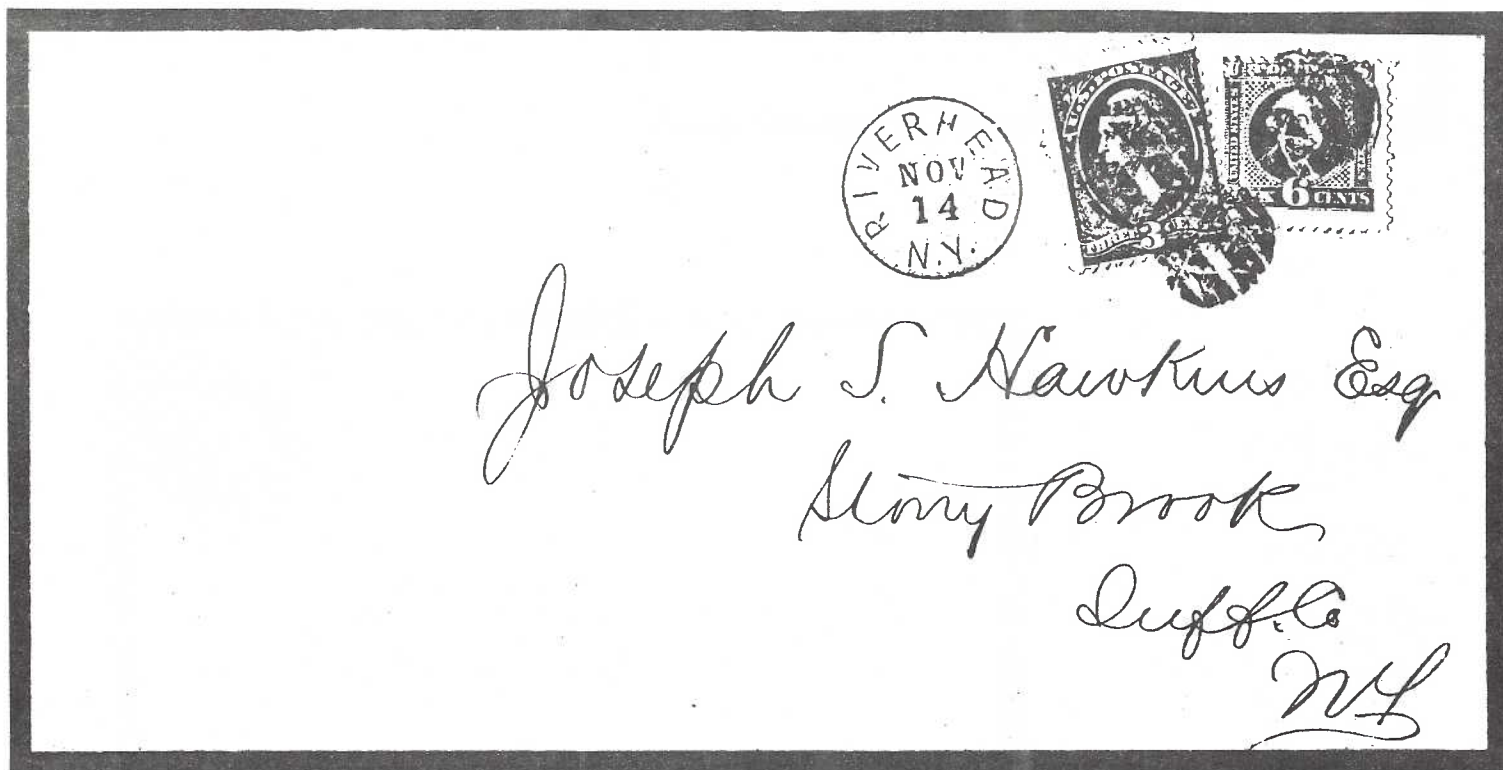
10¢ Brooklyn NY - Leitmar, Prussia



10¢ Williamsburgh NY - Darmstadt, Germany

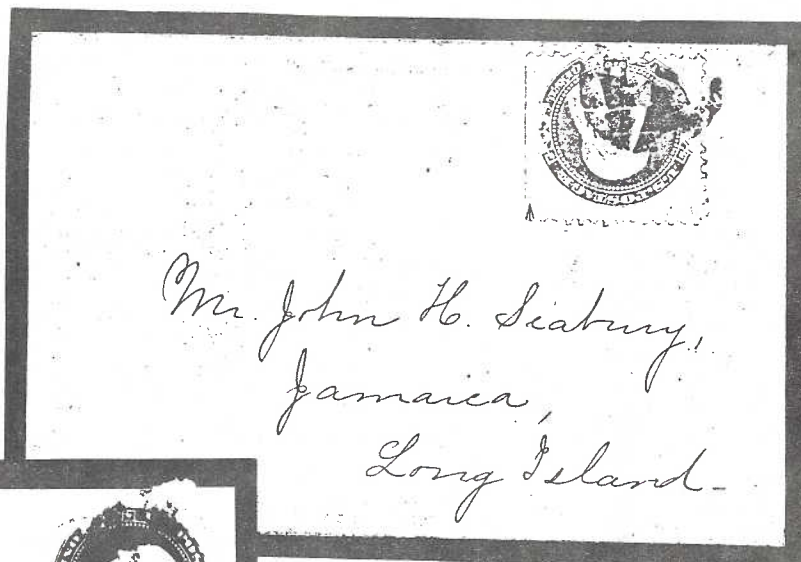


6¢ Brooklyn NY - Baltimore MD
2 x 3¢ Domestic Letter Rate

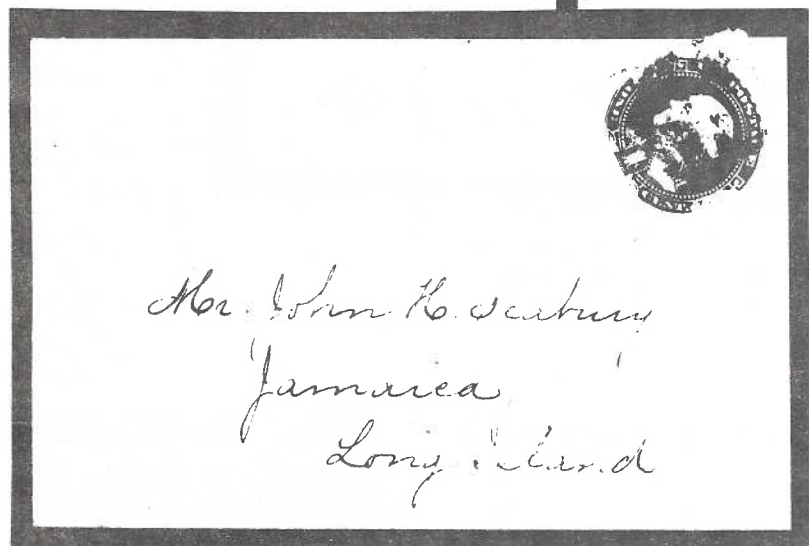


6¢ & 3¢BN Riverhead NY - Stony Brook NY
3 x 3¢ Domestic Letter Rate

1¢ Drop Letter Rates

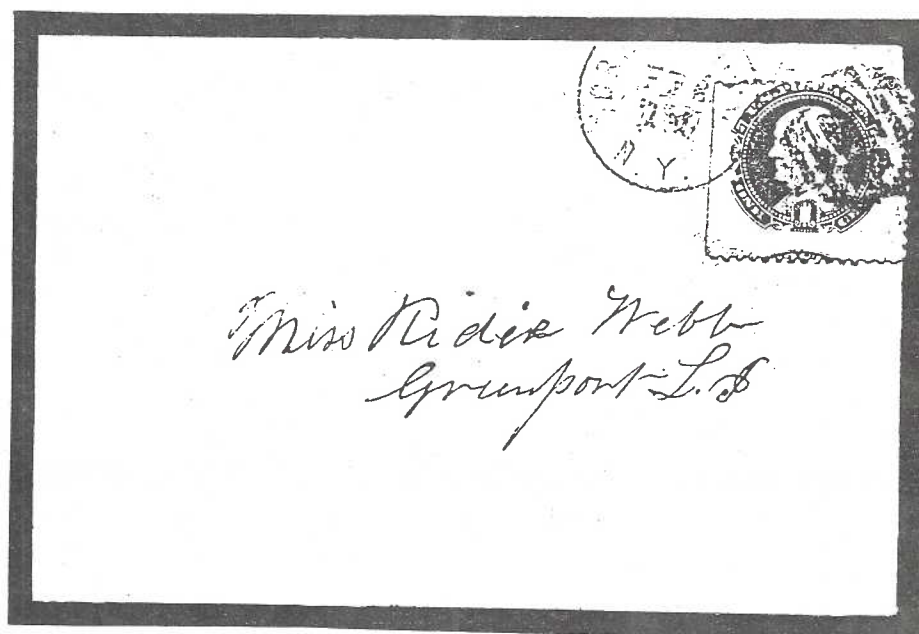


Jamaica NY - Jamaica NY
no CDS as is typical

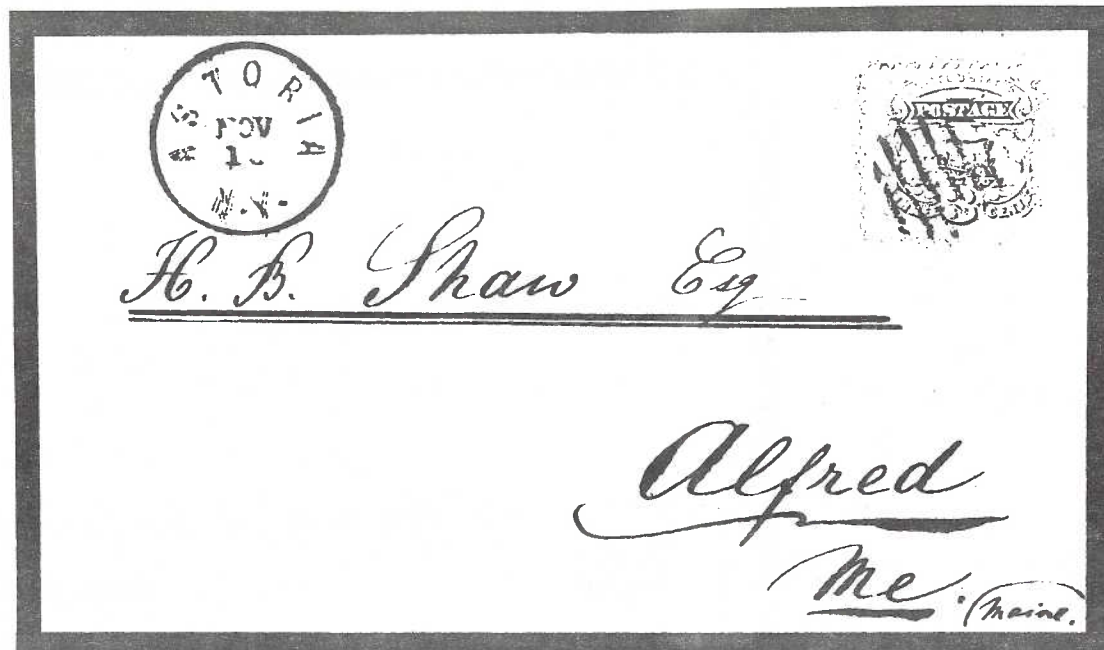


Greenport NY -
Greenport NY

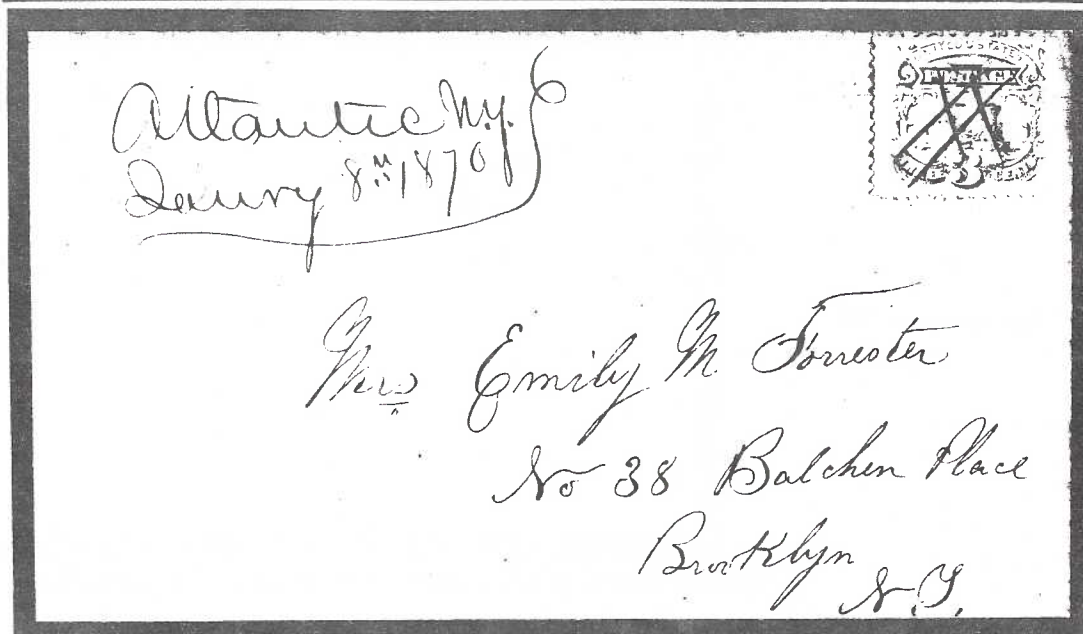
CDS & Cork tie



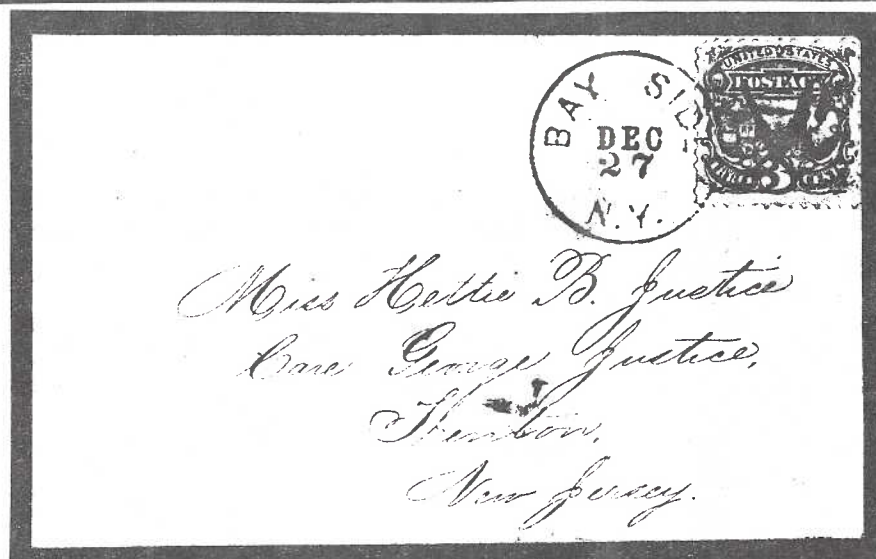
Astoria NY



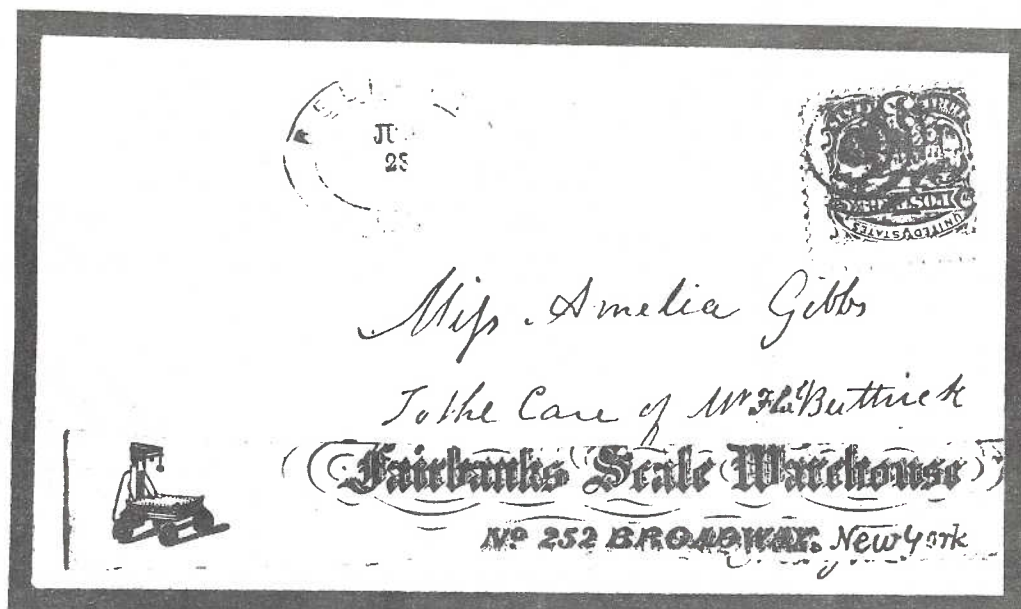
Atlantic NY



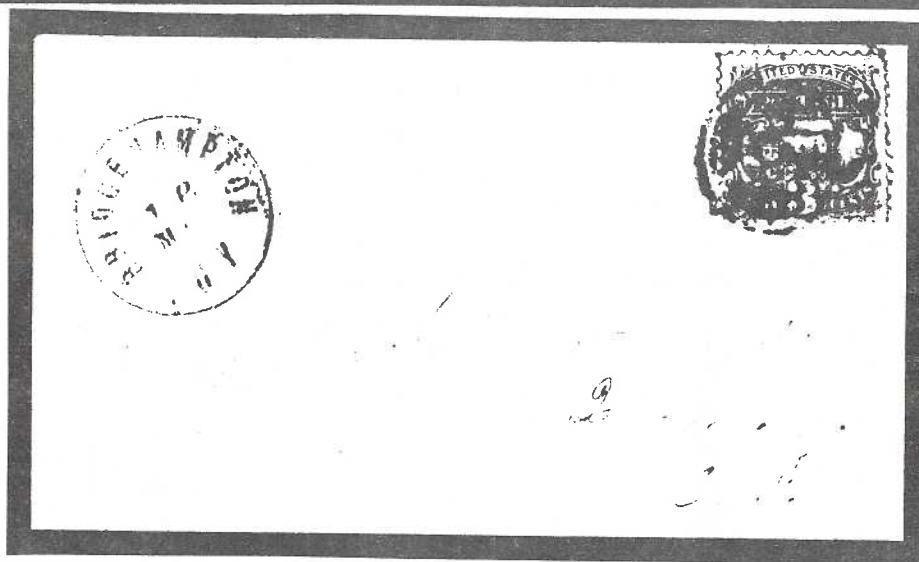
Bay Side NY



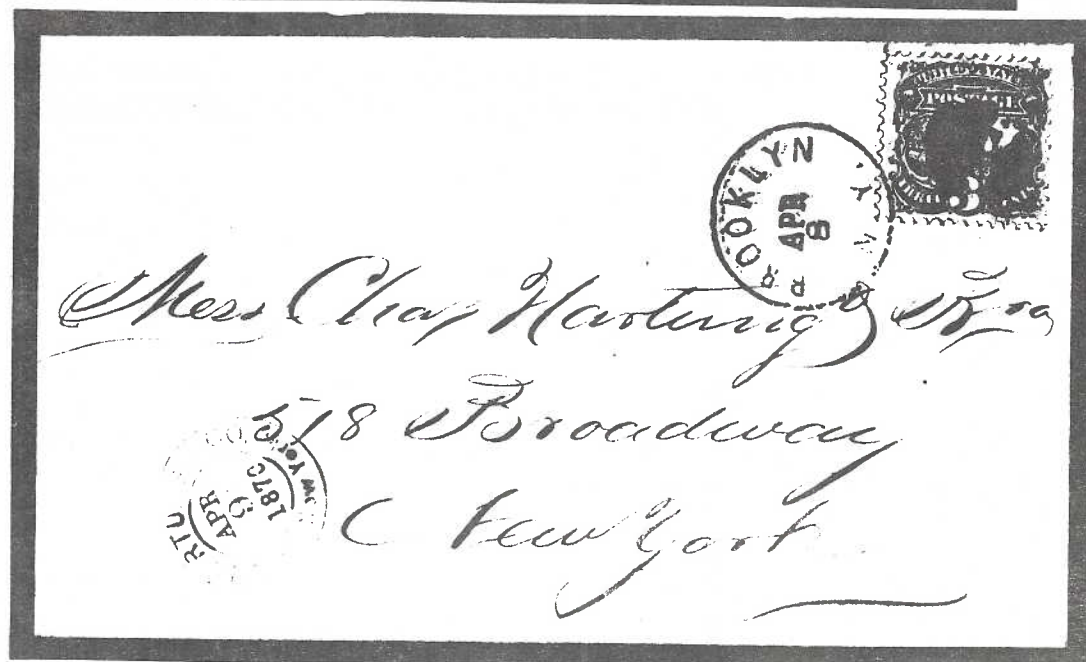
Bellport NY



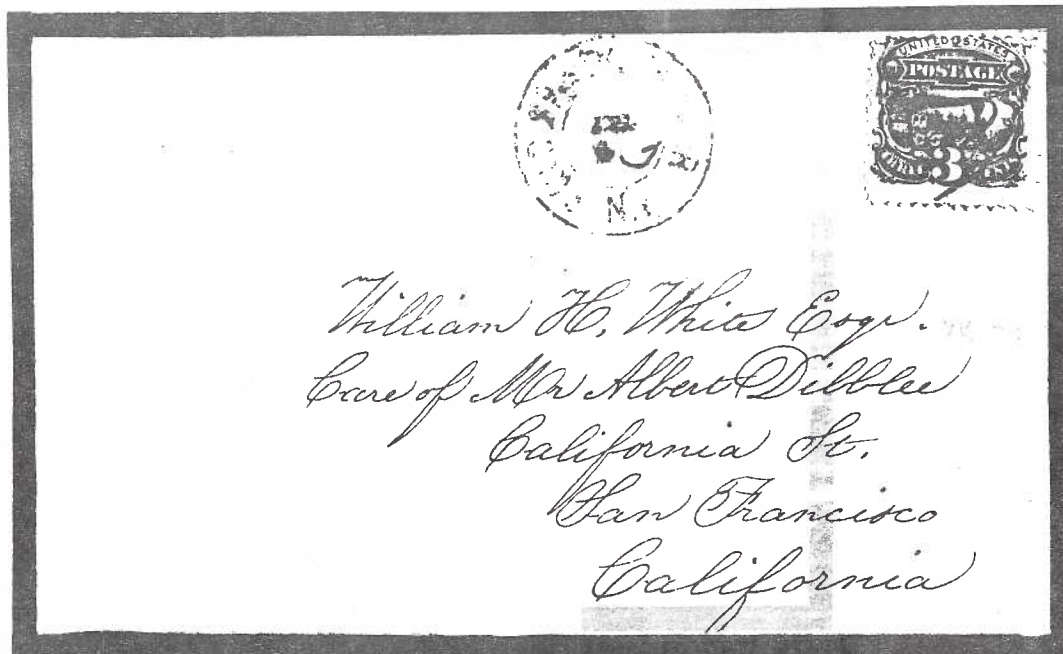
Bridgehampton NY



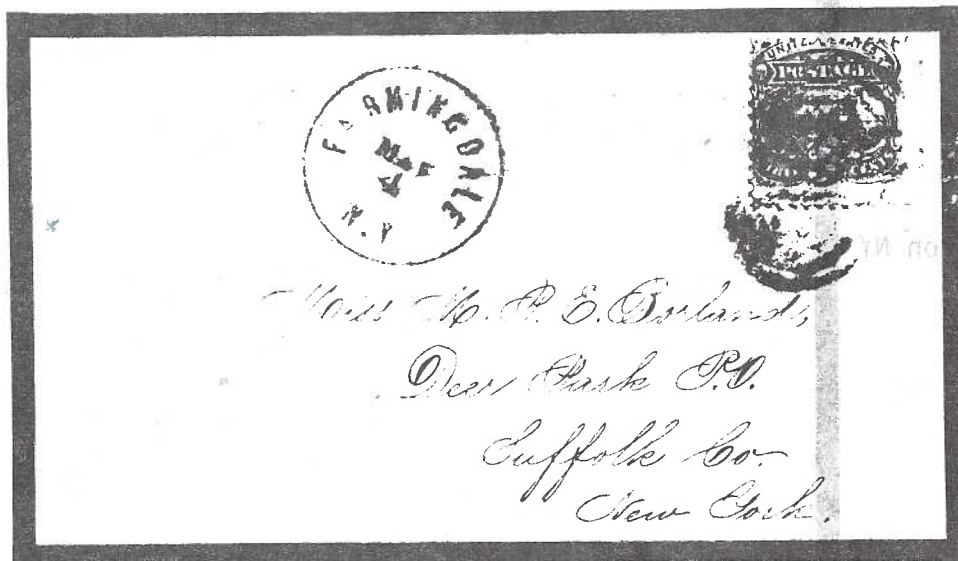
Brooklyn NY



Cold Spring Harbor NY



Farmingdale NY



Flatbush NY

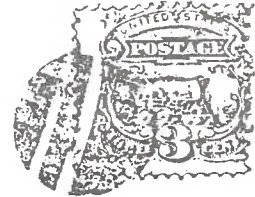


Flushing & North Side R. R. Co.

(Lessee of North Shore R. R.)

GENERAL OFFICES,

COLLEGE POINT, L. I.



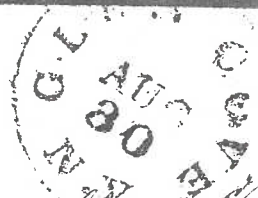
Mrs. J. C. Blanchard
East Corinth
Maine

Flushing NY



Mr. Cropper
105 East 14th Street
New York City

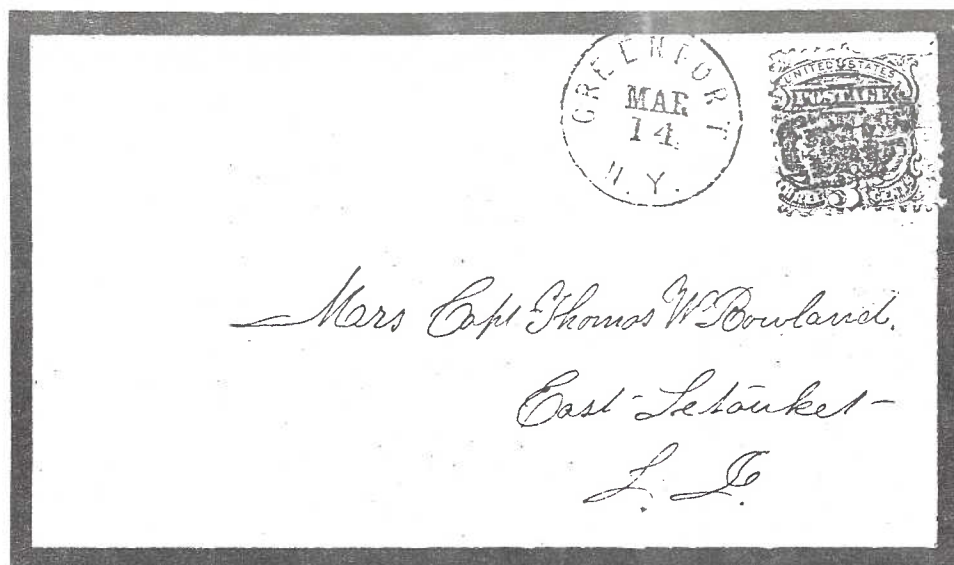
Fort Hamilton NY



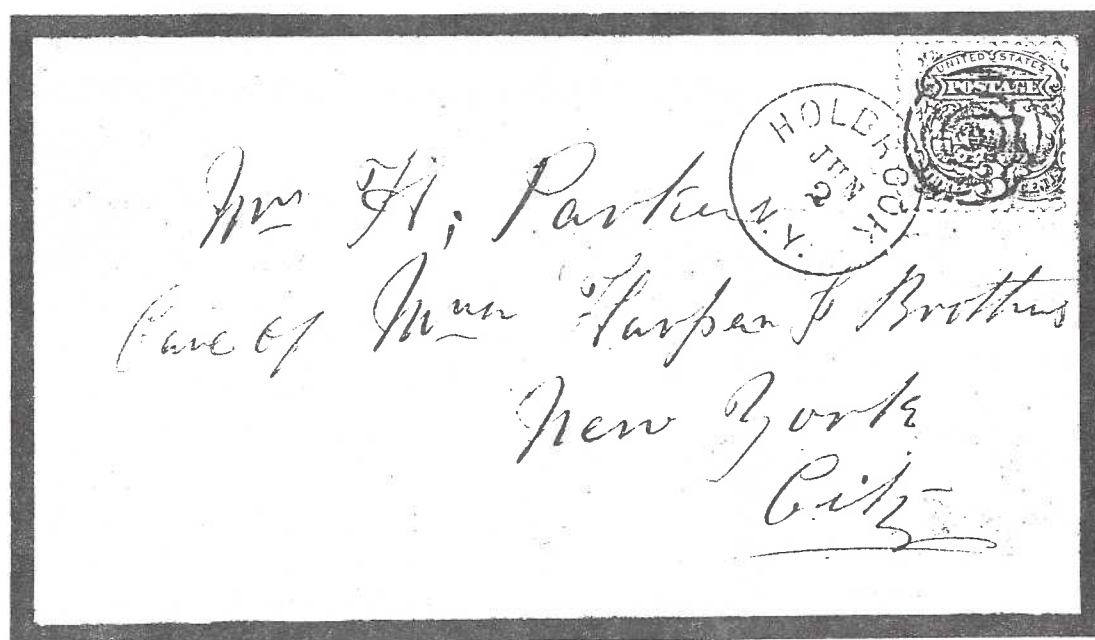
Miss Cora Naylor
Tiffin
Ohio

Glen Cove NY

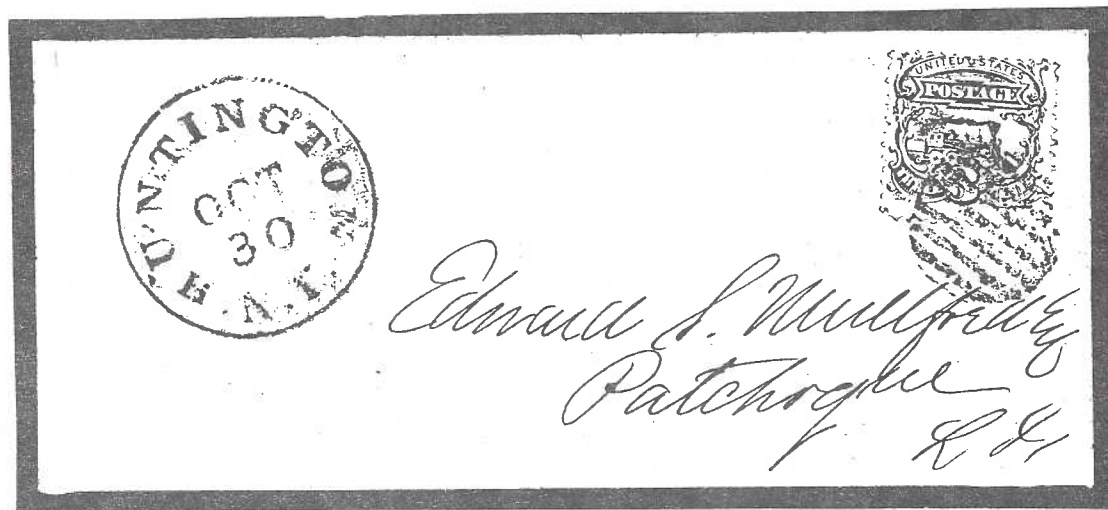
Greenport NY



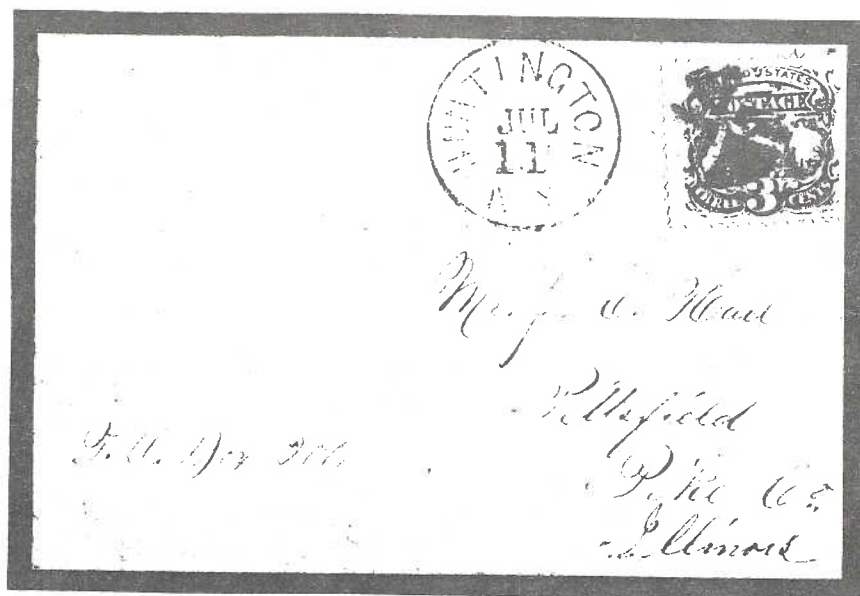
Holbrook NY



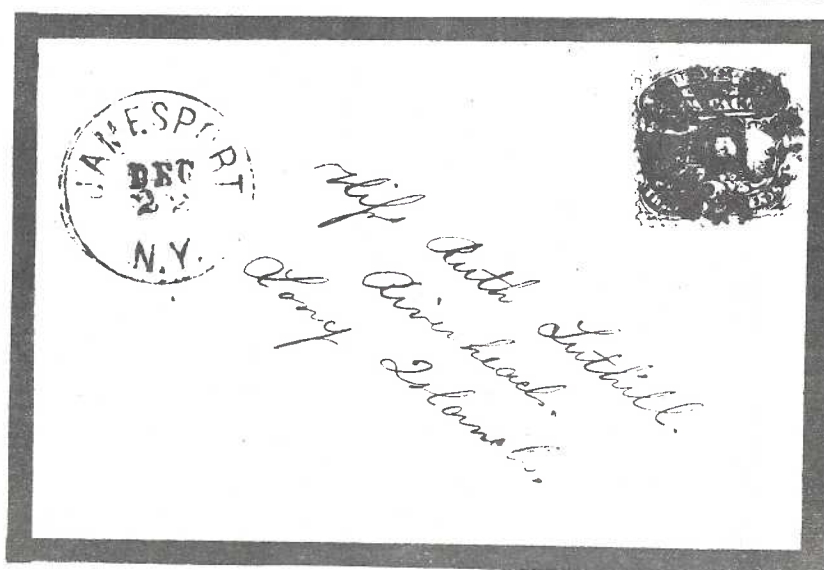
Huntington NY
(Large CDS)



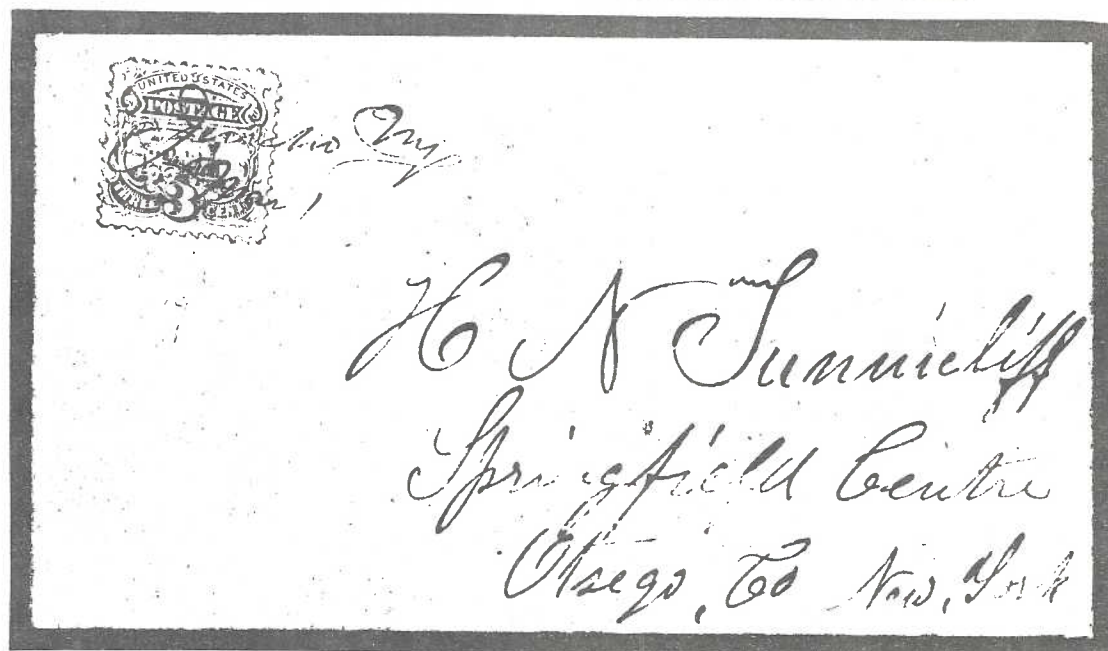
Huntington NY
(Small CDS)



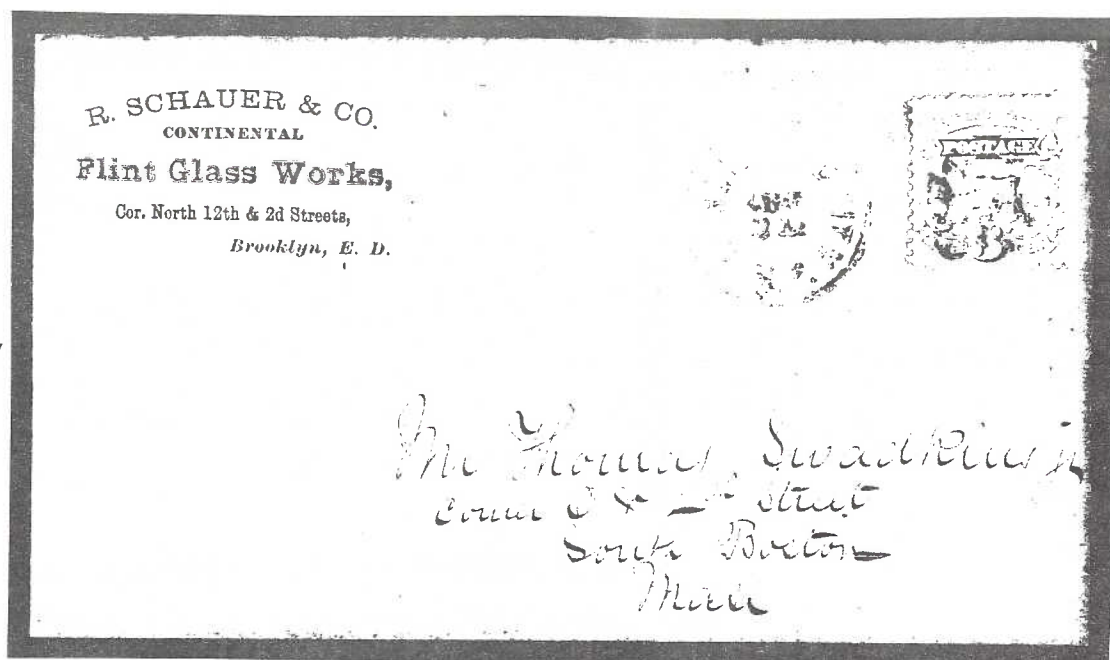
Jamesport NY



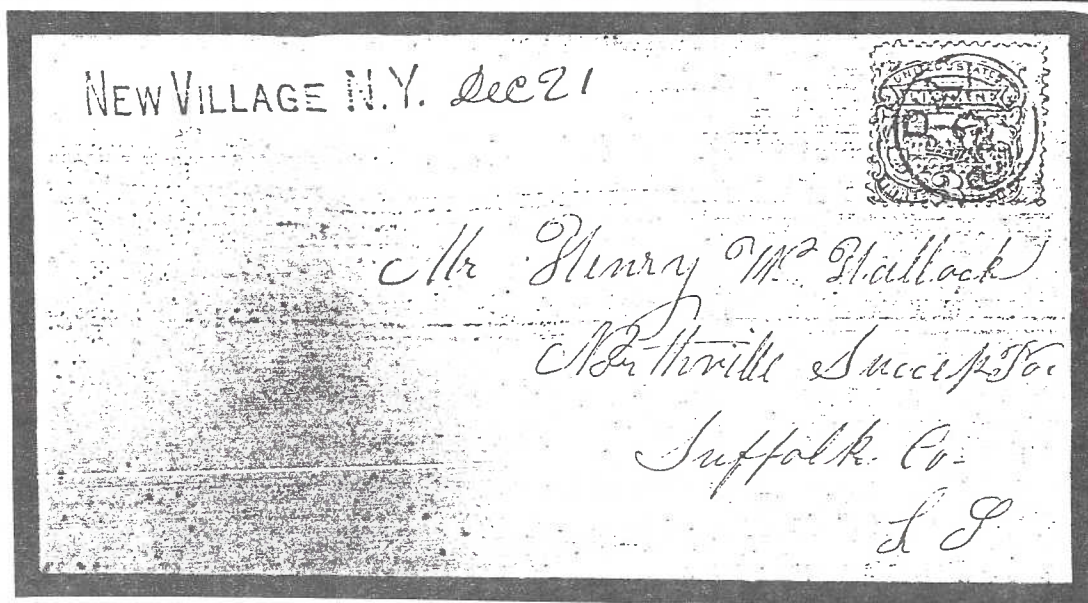
Jericho NY



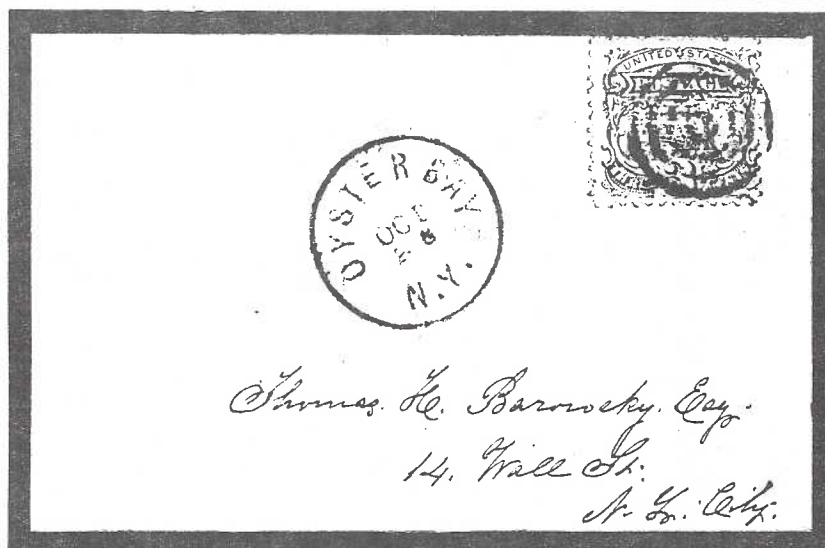
Long Island City NY



New Village NY



Oyster Bay NY



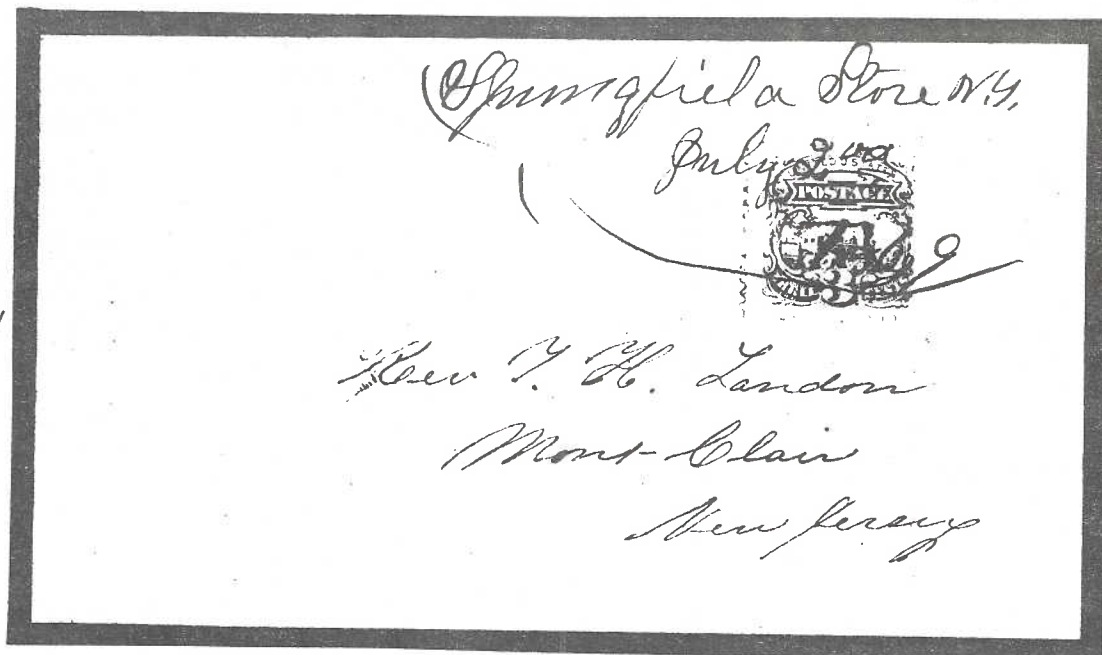
Sayville NY



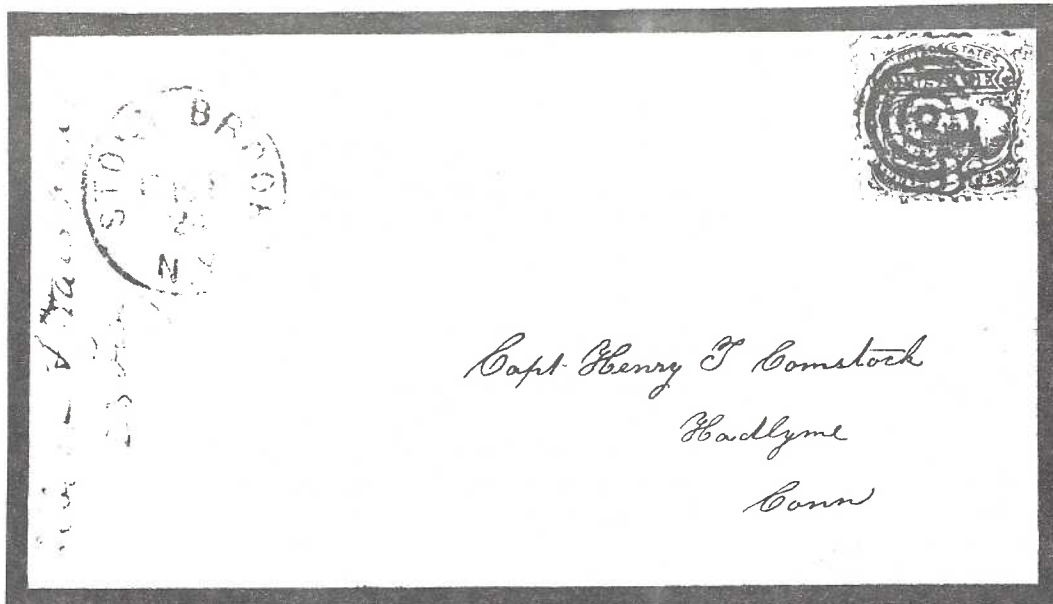
Shelter Island NY



Springfield Store NY



Stony Brook NY



Whitestone NY



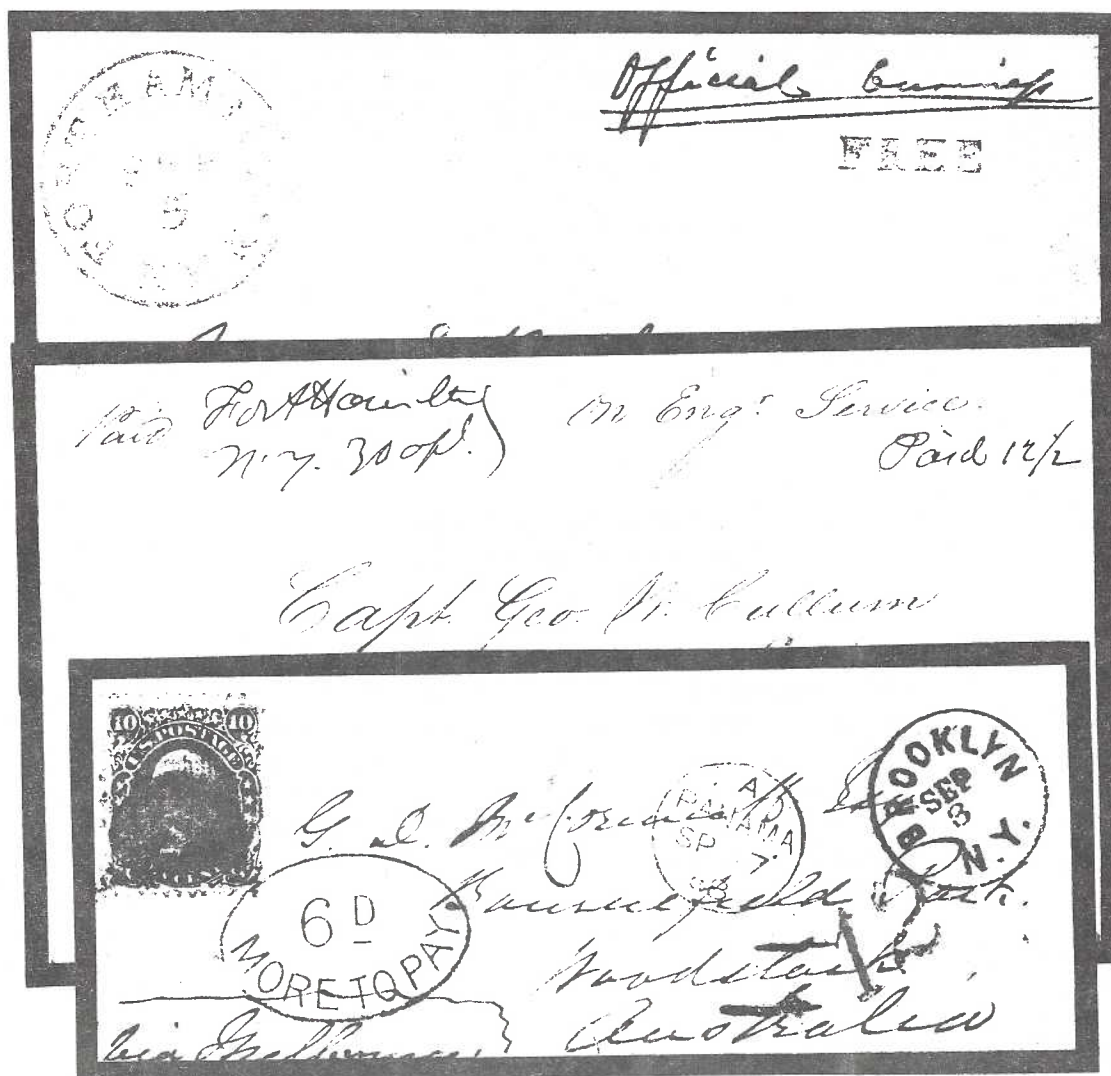
Williamsburgh NY



AUCTION ACTION
LONG ISLAND POSTAL HISTORY AT AUCTION

Sold By	Date	Lot	Description	Estimate	PR
Kelleher Sale 576	9-9-87	230	24c Grau lilac (37), vf fresh & bright tied by grid cancel to Bark Oceans Favorite, Falmouth, England. Brooklyn N.Y. Apr. 24 postmark, red 19, Falmouth May 6 '61 backstamp. VF clean cover with P.F. Certificate	1,100	1,150
Kelleher	1-20/22 1988	329	(Valentine Cover) 3c dull red (11), fine pair, pen-cancelled on 10 1/2"x8 1/2" all- over embossed cover to Greenpoint, City of Brooklyn with Harlem, N.Y. Feb 15 red cds and Missent to Brooklyn, N.Y. black circle, F-VF cover w/enclosure.	750	380
		782	10c Yellow Green (68), 3 stamps, fine, small small flaws, incl. tear, & 1c blue (63) and 3c Rose (65) all tied by Brooklyn, N.Y. Oct 6, 1862 dcds pmks to Legation U.S. Guatemala.	1,000	725
		943	10c Green (89), Fine-vf, grid cancel tied by 6d More To Pay black oval to cover to Wood- stock, Australia with Brooklyn, N.Y. Sep 3 pmk. Panama Sp. 17 '68 transit, red 12, blue Melbourne backstamp.	400	320
		2916	Fort Hamilton, N.Y. 30 Apl. manuscript pmk and ms. "Paid 12 1/2" on folded cover to Fort Trumbull, New London, Ct. circa 1845.	100	36
		2917	Fort Hamilton, N.Y. Sep 5 clear red circle and red sl FREE on 1850 stampless.	150	34
		3068	Steamer Oregon 5, extra fine red oval on 1846 folded letter. New York to Providence.	100	130
Zimmerman	12-19-87	50	New Village, N.Y. Free, E.C. Hammond, PM, all in manuscript on turned cover #U19 1c blue, star die entire.	75-100	110
		51	New Village, N.Y. Mch 27th Free, E. C. Hammond, P.M. all in ms. on turned cover with ms. CORAM, N.Y.	75-100	130
		52	New Village, N.Y. Nov 9th, Free E.C. Hammond, P.M. All in ms. to Freeport, L.I.	75-100	100

Sold By	Date	Lot	Description	Estimate	PR
Zimmerman	12-19-87	53	East Moriches, N.Y. Feb 10 "5" rate, all in manuscript to Mattituck, L.I.	75-100	140
		54	Manorville, N.Y. Apr. 7, "5" rate, all in in ms. on embossed ladies cover to Mattituck, L.I.	75-100	100
		55	Manorville, N.Y. Paid 5 and Paid 3 rate markings, all in ms. on separate envelopes to Mattituck.	150-200	140



Various lots from the 577th Kelleher Sale held on Jan. 20-22, 1988

Legend: * includes 10% premium; F=sold to a floor bidder; B=sold to the book; under Price realized the first number is the opening bid, when available, and the second number is the price sold. NS= Did Not Sell.

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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

*****Q*****

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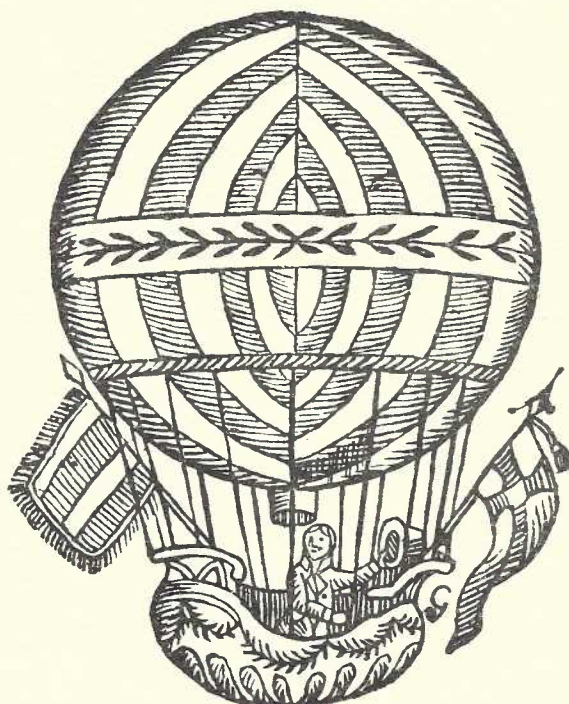
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