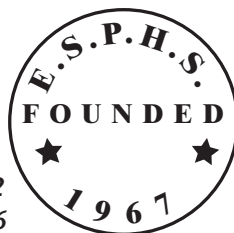


APS UNIT 28

www.esphs.org
Meets twice annually

Membership info: George McGowan
P. O. Box 482, E. Schodack, NY 12063-0482
geolotus2003@nycap.rr.com, 518-479-4396



EMPIRE STATE
POSTAL HISTORY
SOCIETY



AN 1894 TRAIN WRECK ON LAKE CHAMPLAIN

By Glenn A. Estus

On December 3, 1894, Delaware and Hudson Train Number 4 left Montreal, Quebec on its way to New York City. The train was composed of at least seven cars including a mail car. The following was reported in the *Plattsburgh Sentinel* newspaper, which included a crude outline sketch of the event:

“A railroad accident ... occurred at Cheever trestle two miles north of Port Henry (NOTE: 110 miles south of Montreal) about 1:30 o’clock Monday afternoon ...

“Number four is the mail train bound south due at Port Henry at 1:24. The train was ten minutes late ... Just as the train cleared the south end of the trestle the rails spread and the entire train except the Wagner and engine left the track ... (Editor’s note: The Wagner Palace Car was a sleeper built in Buffalo in the era before Pullman dominated the rail industry and had a monopoly on sleeping cars.)

“The mail car turned over twice and landed in the lake right side up with water up to the roof. Imprisoned within was Thomas Rouse, the United States mail agent, the only occupant. His struggle for life must have been short, for when he was found a fracture in the skull showed that death or unconsciousness was probably instant.”

The train was carrying mail from Canada to England via New York City. When the mail was recovered an explanatory purple handstamp was added to the letters by the U.S. Post Office Department. The red PAID LONDON handstamp was applied by the UK post office because the stamps had washed off in the wreck.