



EMPIRE STATE
POSTAL HISTORY
SOCIETY

APS UNIT 28

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

LETTERS TO A STENOGRAPHER

By Alfred Carroccia

An envelope containing covers franked with Cattaraugus County manuscript and circle date cancels proved difficult to resist. At \$1 a cover who knows what I was bound to find.

The covers were in the good to fine condition. The strikes were crisp and there were several covers from Napoli, a discontinued post office, and a nice manuscript cancel from Carrolton.

There were also the perfunctory single and double-barreled cancels from Little Valley and East Randolph. All the covers were addressed to William Henry Slocum.

William Henry Slocum was born in Genesee County at East Bethany on January 1, 1844. His family moved to Michigan but returned to Cattaraugus County after the death of his mother.

He attended school in Randolph and in 1868 graduated as a stenographer from Graham's Shorthand Academy in New York City.

He was appointed official stenographer in the Allegany District Court and the first official stenographer to the Supreme Court for the Eighth Judicial District of New York which covered Western New York. In 1873 he opened Slocum's School of Shorthand in Buffalo, which he ran until his death in 1913.

Slocum's position as a stenographer accounts for the abundance of covers in this lot. He would have had frequent contact with clients who would need a stenographer for sworn testimony and statements. These covers document not only the cancels of Cattaraugus County, but also the correspondence of Slocum. ■

