

Excelsior!

April 2023

Whole No. 37 New Series



A cover sent from Utica just after the end of the Civil War in 1866 sent the author on a hunt to find out its back story.

A Glimpse at Utica, 1866

By Francis Ferguson

Research is kind of my thing when an interesting cover lands in my possession. Sometimes interesting information comes to light – and sometimes very little can be gleaned from what is available online as there simply is not enough data to reference anything meaningful.

This cover falls into the second category more than the first.

While I was born in Utica and spent the first 10½ cold years of my life there, I will admit that I had no idea where Cassville is located. As it turns out the post office for that town is located about 14 miles south of Utica. I was surprised to say the least. I would be willing to wager

at some point in my younger life, my family traveled through there. Unfortunately, there is no one left alive for me to ask.

The cover shown itself has a lovely strike of blue-black circular date cancel with August 2 in the center. A lovely four-ring bullseye cancel is tying an 1861 3-cent rose Washington stamp (design Scott A25) to the cover.

There is no evidence of a grill on the stamp, so it is most likely the common variety, which would have been current during the time frame.

A somewhat lighter circular information strike on the



Excelsior!

The Journal of the Empire State Postal History Society

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EmpireStatePostalHistorySociety

Francis Ferguson: A cover from 1866 runs circles around Utica with a target-style fancy cancel, a double circular date cancel and a private circular cancel from the sender. **Cover, Page 11**

Martin H. Joyce: The author shows how a single cover can tell a fascinating story of duty, honor and heroism as he traces the story of a U.S. Military Academy cadet. **Page 3**

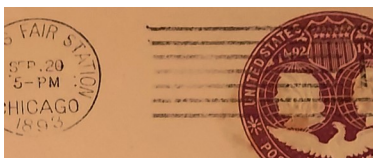


Charles J. DiComo, PhD: Prexies, a commemorative, a registration box and several handstamps make an international cover pretty irresistible. **Page 7**

It's show time: Itching to get out to a show or a bourse? There are several options. **Pages 6, 11**

Jim Petersen: The sudden death of a president prompts one governor to send an acknowledgment of mourning to a second governor, who will soon be thrust onto the country's tumultuous national stage. **Page 8**

Lawrence Laliberte: Where in the heck ...? Cover appears to be from New York state, but is it? **Page 10**



Brian Levy: A simple cover has so much to appreciate and enjoy. **Page 12**

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dated from January to June. For applications dated July to December terms are for 1 ½ years with a fee of \$30 (\$35 for non-U.S. addresses). Advertising is accepted. For ads, please contact the society secretary.

Since mail touches almost every person, postal history touches almost every interest. ... Most every significant event of the last 250 years can be traced in the mail.

— Jim Forte, postal history dealer and researcher

Wanted: Your knowledge, your interests, your articles. The Excelsior! needs all types of submissions. Share your passion, even if it's just about a single cover. Contact the editor or president for details.

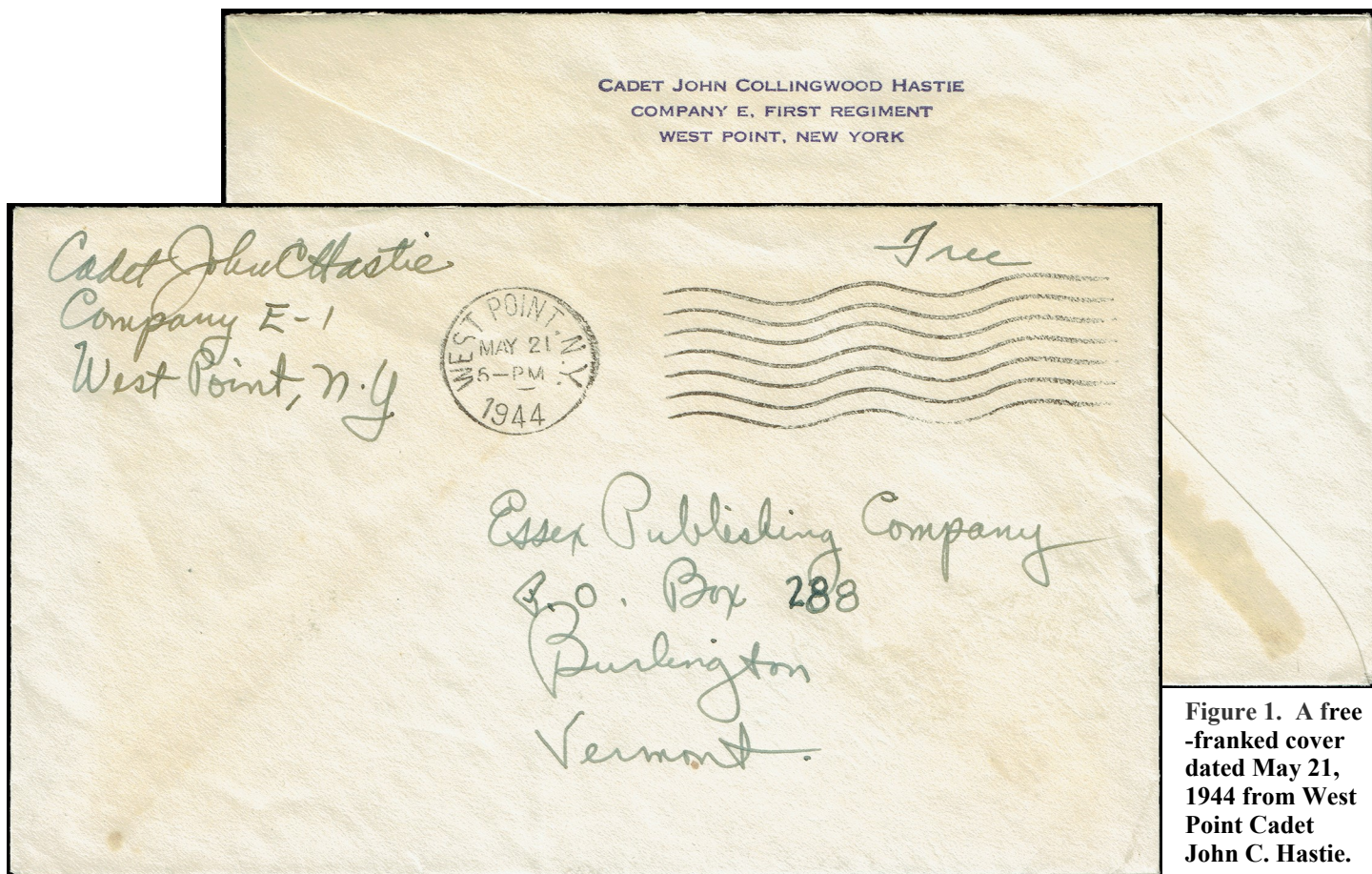


Figure 1. A free-franked cover dated May 21, 1944 from West Point Cadet John C. Hastie.

ONE COVER'S WINDOW ON HISTORY

Free-franking, the Korean War and an ultimate sacrifice: The story of John Collingwood Hastie, USMA 1945

By **Martin H. Joyce III**

Sometimes a single, simple cover serves as a window on history. Such is the case with the free-franked cover shown (**Figure 1**).

It was mailed by Cadet John Collingwood Hastie in May 1944 near the end of his second year at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, New York, to the Essex Publishing Company, a long-established publishing concern in Burlington, Vermont.

Hastie was born in 1924 in Fort Bliss, Texas. He was the son of Colonel Frank Bowman Hastie, a career Army engineer who had served in World War I, and Cécile Amélie deWitt Hastie. He later attended Theodore Roosevelt High School in Washington, D.C. while his father was stationed in the area. The younger Hastie applied for, and received, congressional nominations to both the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland, and West Point.

Hastie chose to attend West Point, and entered the Mili-

tary Academy in July 1942 as a member of the Class of 1946 – barely six months after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

Hastie was not the first member of his family to attend West Point. His great-great-grandfather, Brigadier General Henry Brewerton, Class of 1819, had served as superintendent of the Academy from 1845 to 1852.

Just a short time before Hastie arrived at the Academy (**Figure 2**), Congress authorized an increase in the size of West Point's Corps of Cadets, anticipating the need for more Army officers to serve in World War II. More than 1,000 new cadets were admitted that summer,



Figure 2. Cadet John Hastie.

AMENDMENT TO THE POSTAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Letters from Members of U. S. Military and Naval Forces. Transmission in Mails Free of Postage

ORDER No. 17352

Section 515, Postal Laws and Regulations, is amended by the addition of the following paragraphs 3 and 4:

3. Any first-class letter mail matter admissible to the mails as ordinary mail matter which is sent by a member of the military or naval forces of the United States (including the United States Coast Guard), while on active duty or in the active military or naval service of the United States, to any person in the United States, including the Territories and possessions thereof, shall be transmitted in the mails free of postage, subject to such rules

and regulations as the Postmaster General shall prescribe. (Act of March 27, 1942, sec. 901, Public, No. 507, 77th Cong.)

4. Letters sent by members of the military or naval forces of the United States, to be mailed free of postage under the conditions set forth in paragraph 3 of this section, shall bear in the upper right corner the word "FREE" and in the upper left corner the name of the sender together with his rank or rating and the designation of the service to which he belongs, as, for example, Private John Doe, U. S. Army, or John Doe, Seaman 2 Cl., U. S. Navy, or Private John Doe, U. S. Marine Corps, or John Doe, Seaman 2 Cl., U. S. Coast Guard. Such letters shall be so accepted when deposited in the mails in the United States or its possessions or at any place outside the continental United States where the United States mail service is in operation addressed to any other place where this service is in operation, including army and navy bases, naval vessels, etc. Messages on post cards may be accepted under this provision but it shall not apply to packages or parcels or any matter other than messages in the form of ordinary letters or cards. This free mailing privilege does not apply to matter sent by air mail, nor to any matter sent to the members of the military or naval forces by persons who are not members thereof.

Figure 3. The Postal Bulletin of April 1, 1942 announced free-franking privileges for members of the U.S. Armed Forces. (The layout for this clipping is altered but heading and text are as they appeared.)

more than twice the size of any previous class.

In October 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered that West Point's four-year course of instruction be reduced to three years, in order to accelerate the commissioning of new officers. Thus, Hastie and his classmates became the Class of 1945, and the other upper classes prepared to graduate early as well.

Although U.S. ground forces became involved in the conflict in the Philippines almost immediately after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the United States would not enter the European theater until the assault on North Africa (Operation Torch) in November 1942. Meanwhile however, the postmaster general issued Order No. 17352 in the April 1, 1942 edition of The Postal Bulletin, which authorized free mail privileges for members of the U.S. Armed Forces (Figure 3).

In response to a number of questions raised regarding what qualified as free mail, this order was clarified by the third assistant postmaster general in the July 10, 1942 edition of The Postal Bulletin to include "Letters sent by the midshipmen of the United States Naval Academy, the cadets of the United States Military Academy, and the cadets of the United States Coast Guard Academy."



Figure 4. The General Omar N. Bradley Army Heroes stamp (Scott 3394), issued August 16, 2000.

When Hastie entered West Point, the Corps of Cadets was organized into two regiments, consisting of eight companies each (A-H). Following completion of his initial summer training (fondly known as "Beast Barracks"), Hastie was assigned to Cadet Company E, First Regiment (E-1), along with about 60 of his plebe classmates.

Over the next three years, Hastie and his classmates would follow the news about what was happening around the world, not knowing what their fate would be upon graduation. On June 5, 1945 – a year after D-Day – the 852 members of the West Point Class of 1945 graduated and were commissioned second lieutenants. This occurred only four weeks after VE Day, and a short time before the surrender of Japan was announced on August 14, 1945.

General Omar Bradley (Figure 4), West Point Class of 1915 and commander of the 12th United States Army Group, the largest and most powerful U.S. Army formation ever deployed, spoke at the graduation ceremonies for the Class of 1945.

As the Army reduced its size following World War II, the classes of 1945 and 1946 would remain the largest classes to graduate from West Point until 1973.

Following graduation, Lieutenant Hastie was commissioned in the Army Corps of Engineers. Hastie's first tour of duty was with an aviation engineer battalion in Guam and Japan. Upon his return from Japan, he was fortunate to attend Cornell University in 1948-1949 and earn his master's degree in civil engineering.

In the meantime, a few months graduation of the Class of 1945, The Postal Bulletin issued on October 30, 1945, announced that the free franking privilege for military personnel would end on December 31, 1947.

In 1949, Hastie returned to Japan, and was assigned to the 3rd Engineer Battalion of the 24th Infantry Division. That same year, his younger brother Frank B. Hastie Jr., enlisted in the Army. He would retire as a

master sergeant in 1969.

The North Koreans crossed the 38th Parallel into South Korea in June 1950. The 38th Parallel had been established at the Potsdam Conference of July 1945 as the border between what was to become Russian-occupied North Korea, and U.S.-occupied South Korea.

As the Cold War developed, separate regimes were established in the north and south. The North Koreans breached the boundary in an attempt to take over pro-America South Korea.

The U.S. Congress wasted no time in declaring free mail privileges for members of the U.S. armed forces stationed in Korea (Figure 5). (Initially established for a one-year period, these privileges would eventually be extended until June 1955 to allow for the period of time necessary for soldiers injured in Korea to recover before returning stateside.)

In July, the 3rd Engineer Battalion moved to Korea to play an important role in a holding action to allow United Nations' forces time to gather strength for the long push back up the



Figure 6. Captain John C. Hastie's memorial marker at Arlington National Cemetery (From ANC Explorer).

peninsula. By this point, Hastie was already engaged to be married to a young woman from Detroit. He anticipated returning home in December for a Christmas wedding. It is easy to imagine that he was taking advantage of free mail once again, writing home to his parents and fiancée.

In August, he received a battle-field commission to the rank of

captain.

Just a few months later, on Christmas Eve, 1950, in an article titled, "GI Planning Yule Vows is Missing," The Washington Post reported that the Department of Defense had declared Hastie missing in action on November 24 while on a reconnaissance mission about 70 miles from the Manchurian border. Later, Hastie's commander, Colonel Peter C. Hyzer, wrote to Hastie's parents:

On November 24, 1950 [Hastie was reconnoitering an area between the prongs of the Infantry advance near the northwest corner of Korea. When he failed to return, a tank patrol went into the area and found grim evidence of a fierce battle. Native witnesses stated that a Red Chinese unit had killed or captured all of John's patrol.

On March 30, 1953, in a story about soldiers missing in action, The Washington Post quoted Hastie's mother, "We haven't had any word in over two years and don't have any indication of how he is. But we won't give up hope at all."

On March 29, 1954, about eight months

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No. 19351

INSTRUCTIONS OF ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL BUREAU OF FINANCE

FREE MAIL PRIVILEGE FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES IN KOREA

Public Law No. 609, approved July 12, 1950, reads as follows:

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That any first-class letter mail matter admissible to the mails as ordinary mail matter which is sent by a member of the Armed Forces of the United States while on active duty or in the active service of the Armed Forces of the United States in Korea and such other areas as the President of the United States may hereafter designate as combat zones or theaters of military operations, to any person in the United States, including the Territories and possessions thereof, shall be transmitted in the mails free of postage, subject to such rules and regulations as the Postmaster General may prescribe: Provided, That when specified by the sender letters weighing not to exceed one ounce shall be transmitted to destination by air mail, dependent upon air space availability therefor.

"SEC. 2. The free mailing privileges above granted shall become effective upon the date of enactment of this act and shall continue until June 30, 1951, unless terminated at an earlier date by concurrent resolution of the Congress or by direction of the President."

Letters sent by members of the Armed Forces of the United States in Korea, to be mailed free of postage, shall bear in the upper right corner of the address side in the handwriting of the sender the word "Free" and in the upper left corner the written name of the sender, together with his serial number, his rank or rating, and the designation of the service to which he belongs.

The free mail privilege is applicable only to personal letter mail in its usual and generally accepted form, including messages on post cards, sent by members in the active service of the Armed Forces in Korea. This provision is primarily for the purpose of making it easier for our men in the service in combat zones to keep in touch with their families and friends.

Such letters, including messages on post cards, weighing not to exceed 1 ounce and endorsed by the sender for air service, shall be given air mail transportation, whenever practicable. Letters intended for air service should be marked or endorsed "Air Mail" or "Via Air Mail" in a prominent manner above the address and below the word "Free."

Figure 5. The Postal Bulletin of July 18, 1950 announced free-franking privileges for members of the U.S. Armed Forces serving in Korea. (The layout for the clipping is altered but heading and text are as they appeared.)

Oh, So Pretty

Prexies from Pawling Travel to Toronto via Special Postal Treaty

By Charles J. DiComo, PhD

The United States and our neighbor to the north, Canada, had special postal treaties covering everything from first class rates to registration fees, insurance fees to everything between.

The cover shown hails from Pawling in Dutchess County and was mailed to Toronto, the capital city of Ontario, Canada. Sent from a "P.H. Smith," the registered cover entered the mails on January 13, 1954, and has its normal "facial treatment" with only indistinct black target "killers" used to deface the 58-cent U.S. postage adhered, a single 15-cent Buchanan, a pair of 20-cent Garfields and a 1953 3-cent Gadsden Purchase Centenary commemorative.

As per regulations, the Pawling postal clerk struck on the front a violet boxed "Registered No. 846" handstamp and on the reverse, overlapping the back flap, the violet double-circle "Pawling, N.Y. Jan 13 1954 Registered" marking.

The cover then traveled north to Canada, addressed to "Mr. W.J. Frazer, 10 Wellwood Avenue, Toronto 10, Canada."

After a two-day cross-border trip, the small black "Toronto, Ont. REG BR A. Postal Clerk ID 1 15 54" cancel was applied at the inbound transit international Canadian Mail Branch (Registered Mail Office). The unit worked much like the New York International Registry Mail Office handling inbound/outbound registered mail for New York City.



A 1954 registered cover from Pawling to Toronto, which shows 58 cents in postage, as per an international postal treaty.

The reverse of the cover shows various handstamps from both sides of the border.

The inbound/outbound international mail unit for Toronto is in the Toronto suburb of Mississauga, Ontario, on Lake Ontario or "Toronto, Ont., Registered Branch A." The cover then made its way to Station L, where the clerk struck the blue "Toronto, Canada Postal Station "L" 15 Jan 1954" handstamp.

The U.S.-Canada Special Postal Treaties breakdown of the "58¢ Rate" is as follows:

3 cents (3cents per 1ounce) First
Class Letter Rate, to Canada*

*September 1, 1932, through July
31, 1958

PLUS

55 cents Registry Indemnity Fee**,
Canada (\$25.00 Indemnity)

**September 1, 1931, through July
31, 1958

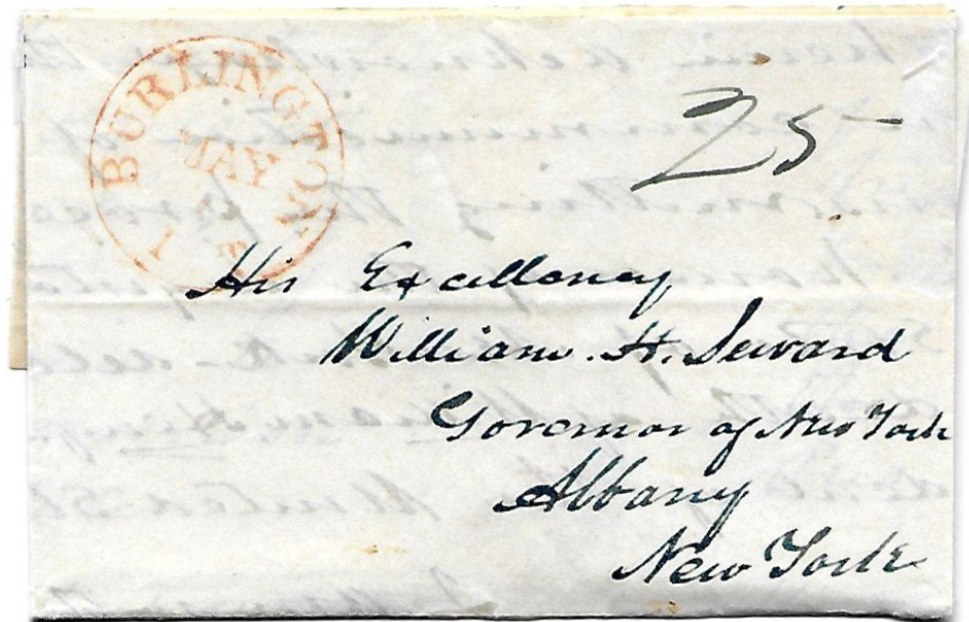
Unfortunately, the cover does not have its original contents, so we will never know what Mr. Smith was sending "securely" to Mr. Frazer.

My research suggests that the sender was a relation to Pawling author Philip Henry Smith, who published "General History of Dutchess County from 1609 to 1876, Inclusive: Illustrated with numerous wood-cuts, maps, and full-page engraving" and "Curiosities in American History: The Green Mountain Boys: or Vermont and the New York Land Jobbers" in 1887 and 1885, respectively. I have yet to locate a biography for Frazer.

Regardless, what was created by the Pawling Post Office was a colorful cover using the 1938 Presidential Issue stamps, and a late use at that.

It was in the summer of 1954 that the Bureau of Engraving and Printing would issue its Liberty definitive series, with values up to \$5, to succeed the popular Prexies, which had been in use for more than 15 years.

Acknowledgment: I would like to thank Hal Klein for his insight into the Special Postal Treaties between the U.S. and Canada.



A stampless-era lettersheet addressed and sent in 1841 to Abraham Lincoln's future secretary of state, William H. Seward. The letter writer addressed Seward, then New York's governor, as "His Excellency."

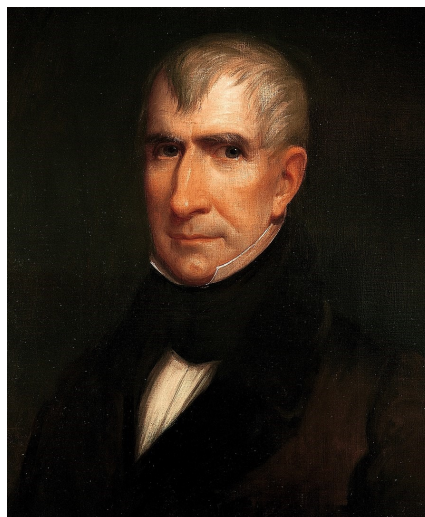
The Sudden Death of a U.S. President in 1841

By Jim Petersen

It was a cold, wet day on March 4, 1841, when William Henry Harrison was sworn in as the country's ninth president along with John Tyler as vice president. Harrison, a native Virginian who served 12 years as governor of Indiana Territory, was a Whig replacing the Jacksonian Democrat, Martin Van Buren. It was hoped Harrison would address the economic downturn that resulted from the Panic of 1837.

Perhaps wanting to show he was still the tough hero from the Battle of Tippecanoe, fought almost 30 years earlier in November of 1811, Harrison chose to take the oath of office without a hat or overcoat and then proceed to give one of the longest inaugural addresses in history, coming in at more than 8,400 words and taking nearly two hours to read.

In the process the 68-year-old military veteran and career politician developed one nasty cold, perhaps pneumonia, and died 31 days later on Palm Sunday, April 4, 1841. Two



A detail of the official White House portrait (1835) by James Reid Lambdin of Ninth President William Henry Harrison.
(Courtesy Library of Congress.)

things came about because of this. He served the shortest term of any U.S. president and became the first to die while in office.

There was no established form for mourning and funerals for presidents who died in office, but some kind of ceremony was needed that was suitable for a president. The ceremonials

over the next 30 days were modeled after royalty but were reshaped to suit the changing times.

In 1841, it took a while for reports of Harrison's death and descriptions of the funeral to reach Iowa. One lengthy description of the funeral held in the White House can be found in the May 6 edition of the Hawkeye and Iowa Patriot, a newspaper published in Burlington, Iowa Territory.

This now brings us to the letter shown here written by Iowa's territorial governor to New York's governor, William H. Seward.

It was written on May 7, 1841 and posted from Burlington on May 8. It's short and to the point and reads:

Executive Department Iowa
– Burlington May 7, 1841

Sir. I herein acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 10th Ult transmitting the proceedings of both houses of the Legislature of the State of New York relative to the

death of William Henry Harrison,
President of the United States.

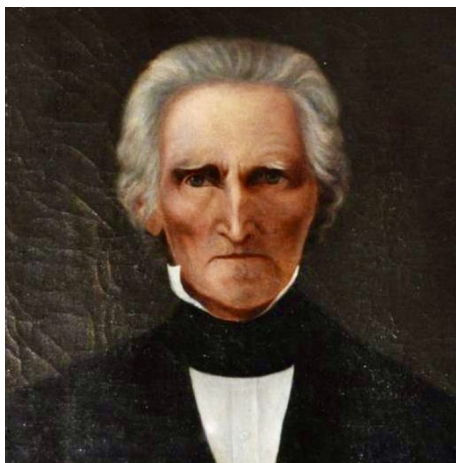
I am with high respects, Your Obedient
Servant
Robert Lucas

It may seem at first glance to be rather trivial, with Governor Robert Lucas basically sending a confirmation note to the New York governor in Albany, acknowledging the receipt of papers that gave the details for “the proceedings of both houses of the Legislature of the State of New York” as they were held sometime after the death and funeral of Harrison.

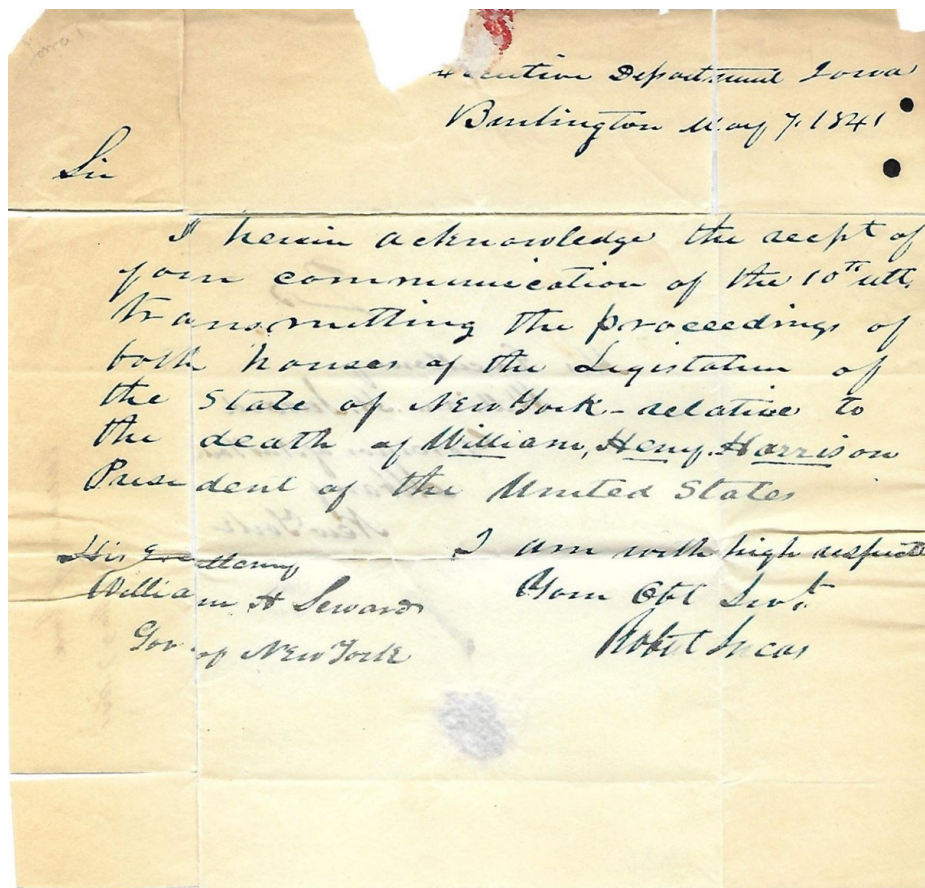
Following Harrison’s death the entire nation was asked to participate in 30 days of mourning. Every state, including New York, held memorial services for the late president.

Lucas was keen on promoting education in the territory. While funds were limited he and his personal assistant, T.S. Parvin, worked very hard to build up an “official” Territorial library.

It is most likely the papers mentioned in Lucas’ letter eventually made their way into the library housed in the Old Capitol in Iowa City. (The territorial capital was orig-



Robert Lucas (1781-1853), who served as first governor of Iowa Territory (1838 -1841). The portrait (1858) is by Iowa City artist George H. Yewell. (Image courtesy of Our Iowa Heritage.)

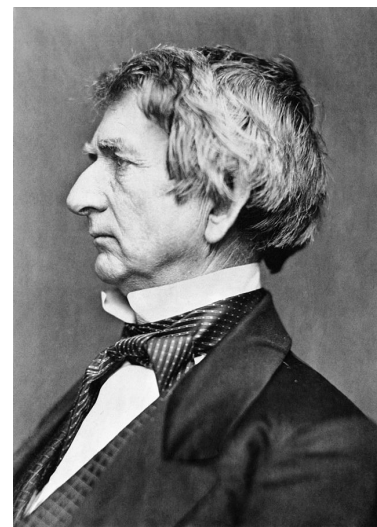


A letter written in 1841 by Iowa Territorial Governor Robert Lucas to New York Governor William H. Seward following the death of President Harrison. Seward (below) was 12th governor of New York state, serving from 1839 through 1842.

inally in Burlington, where this letter was posted. It later moved to Iowa City and finally to Des Moines in 1857.) They were there from 1859 to 1882, then moved to the North Hall on the campus of the University of Iowa, also in Iowa City. Unfortunately, these papers were most likely lost in 1897 when lightning struck the building resulting in a devastating fire.

Of course, Seward (1801-1872) would go on to have a distinguished career having served as governor of New York (1839-1842), U.S. senator (1849-1861) and secretary of state (1861-1869). He was a prominent figure in the Republican Party in its formative years and an opponent to the spread of slavery leading up to the Civil War.

Acknowledgement: I would like to thank Marty Boller for his great assistance in putting this article to-



gether.

Resources

Our Iowa Heritage website (<https://ouriowaheritage.com/>).
Wikipedia entries on William Henry Harrison and William H. Seward.
Prints and Photographs Online Catalog, Library of Congress.



This 19th century U.S. postal card was sent from Hyde Park to Germany, but it made an intriguing stop before it departed to Europe.

Where Did I Come From? It Didn't Make Sense

By Lawrence Laliberte

The postal card illustrated was acquired from Drew Nicholson. Drew collected Germany and Dutchess County, New York. This is a very attractive piece of postal history on many fronts.

First: The postal card (Scott UX 10) was issued in 1891. It is oversized, measuring $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches by $6\frac{1}{8}$ inches. This was fine for domestic use, but was oversized by the UPU standards, which set at a maximum size of $3\frac{9}{16}$ inches by $5\frac{9}{16}$ inches. If this were a UPU compliant card, the 2 cents postage would be sufficient.

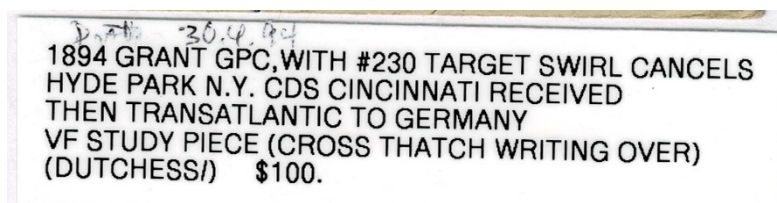
Because the card was oversized it was uprated to a letter which required 5 cents in postage. With no return address, and being partially paid, the card received the hourglass marking of "T," in a thin circle at left and, to the

right of the "T," a "15 CENTIMES" within a second circle. It was sent on its way to Germany. The French centime is the UPU base currency upon which all transactions are based.

In Germany, the clerk converted the 15 centimes into 25 pfennigs, noted by the large "25" handwritten in blue.

Second: Routing – The dealer's description shown states the card was cancelled at Hyde Park, went to Cincinnati, Ohio, before going to Germany. This should have been a red flag. Hyde Park is best known as the home of Franklin D. Roosevelt and is on the Hudson River about 80 miles north of New York City.

So, why did the card, en route to Europe, go to Cincinnati when a more direct and logical route would be to New York City? The answer is that it didn't originate at

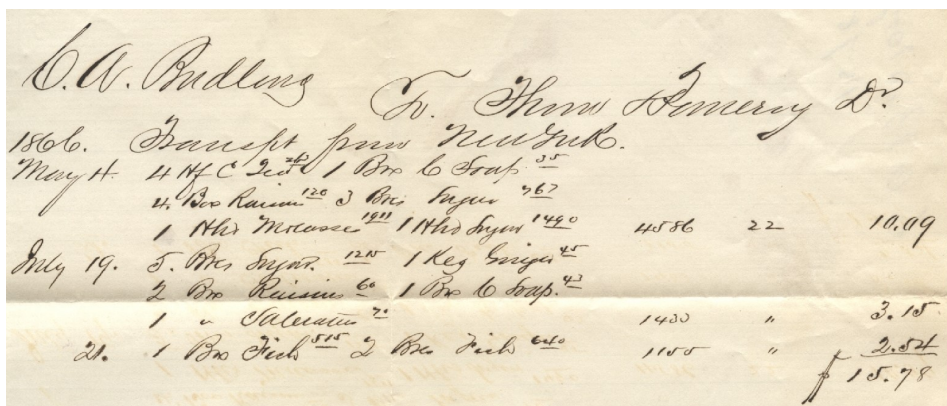


A dealer's description of the cover shown, noting it was sent from Hyde Park, New York.

Hyde Park, New York, but at Hyde Park, Ohio, which is a suburb of Cincinnati. This was easily verified by doing a Google search of "Hyde Park, Ohio."

While I was playing with Google and the site geotarget.com, I decided to do a

HYDE PARK, PAGE 11



A detail from the contents of the cover shown on Page 1 confirms the date of the postal cancellation as well as that the sender was a grocer of some sort.

UTICA, FROM PAGE 1

upper left side shows in all capital letters: "Thorn & Pomeroy / Utica N.Y." dated Aug. 2, 1866. While the date is a little questionable because of the light nature of the strike – it is confirmed by the enclosure. Utica in 1860s had a population of a little more than 22,500.

Poking around the worldwide web did not yield a lot of information. Thorn & Pomeroy appears to be a grocer of some nature from what little turned up. That suspicion is confirmed by the enclosure that lists purchases made on May 4, July 19, and July 21 totaling \$15.78. The invoice references, soap, raisins, molasses, sugar and fish. The second to the last entry is illegible. (I would welcome any more information regarding Thorn & Pomeroy.)

The receiver of the letter appears to be C.A. Bradling, Esq. After poking around for an hour no substantial information could be located. I did seem to find tidbits of hope in different places, but I feared going down a rabbit hole that would consume countless hours of time.

Well, it was fun. What do you have in your accumulations awaiting the light of day?

The Author. Francis Ferguson was born in Utica and relocated to a warmer climate in Florida very happily in 1970. He is approaching retirement after more than 43 years in the IT field, 35 of them working for the University of Florida.

He has the desire to spend less time with computers (except when doing research and writing) and more time reading and being a philatelic person. The future awaits!

SHOWS, FROM PAGE 6

Massachusetts May 5-7

Philatelic Show, Northeastern Fed. Of Stamp Clubs, Boxboro Regency Hotel & Conference Center, Boxborough.

Website: www.PhilatelicShow.org.

New Jersey May 6

MSC Monthly Bourse, Merchantville Stamp Club, Martin Luther Chapel School, 4100 Terrace Ave, Pennsauken.

Website: www.merchantvillestampclub.org.

New Jersey May 13

Clifton 2023 Spring Stamp Cover Postcard Collectables Show, Clifton Stamp Society, Clifton Community Recreation Center, 1232 Main Ave., Clifton.

Website: www.clifton-stamp-society.org.

Connecticut May 28

Fourth Sunday Stamp Show, New Haven Philatelic Society, Annex Y.M.A Club, 554 Woodward Ave, New Haven.

Website: <http://nhps1914.com/>

Pennsylvania June 10-11

SCOPEX 2023, Mount Nittany Philatelic Society, American Philatelic Center, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte.

Email: dheller5720@yahoo.com

New York June 11

Holiday Inn, 400 7th North St., Liverpool. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Contact: <http://syracusestampclub.org/>

Ohio August 10-13

Great American Stamp Show, American Philatelic Society, Huntington Convention Center, Cleveland.

Website: <http://www.stamps.org/GASS>

HYDE PARK, FROM PAGE 10

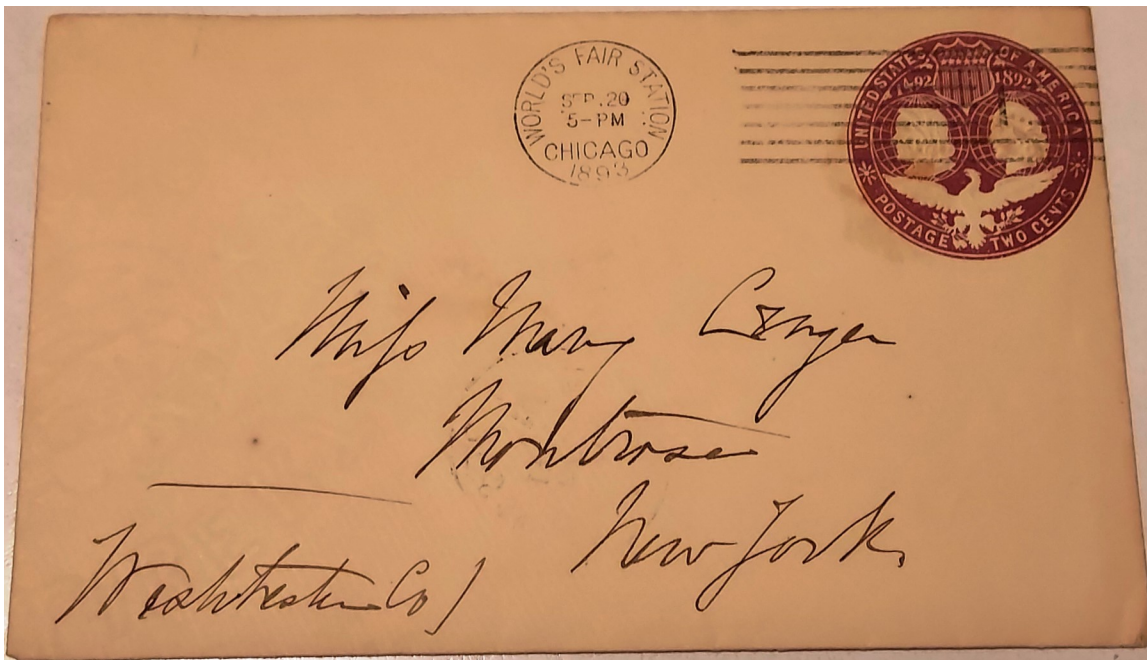
little more searching on Hyde Park, because I was aware of one in Vermont and another outside of Boston, but how many are there?

The search produced the following list. Note that Massachusetts is missing.

I also tried Albany. This time, it came up with 26 locals worldwide with 20 of them in the states.

Finally, I tried Poughkeepsie. It listed one in Arkansas that I knew of, but did not list Poughkeepsie Gulch in Colorado. Granted, that is not a community.

Alabama	Michigan
Arizona	New York
California	Ohio
Delaware	Oklahoma
Florida	Pennsylvania
Georgia	South Carolina
Indiana	Utah
Maryland	Vermont



This simple cover sent from the Chicago World's Fair of 1893 appears pretty basic, but has a lot going for it. Below, is the receiving cancellation on the reverse.

Simple, But So Much to Like

By Brian Levy

My favorite cover shown here is not one from my home of Nassau County, but one from Chicago to Montrose, New York.

Why is it a favorite? Because it combines my two cover collecting sidelines: expositions and receiving cancels.

Here is a detailed catalog description:

This very fine cover was sent to Miss Mary Conger from the World's Columbian Exposition, also known as the Chicago World's Fair. The expo, held on 690 acres in Chicago, opened May 1, 1893 and closed October 30 of the same year.

This cover was mailed on September 20, 1893 and carries a Columbian Exposition cancel of "World's Fair

Station," a William Bomar type C93-12a, on a 2-cent violet pre-tamped Columbus and Liberty Exposition envelope (Scott U349).

The back shows a Montrose receiving cancel with a partial postmark of "Se(p)/22//NY." The cover has minor staining on the front and back and a back flap tear, but is otherwise clean.

Receiving cancels have enhanced my New York state collecting pleasures. Receivers were very prevalent in the late 19th century, but rarely seen today. They make a great addition to a county/town collection.

As far as expositions, it was very common for a collector to attend a fair or expo and prepare covers with cachets to send home, but unusual to see one in the regu-



lar mail.

Oh, there is one more piece of evidence to show how this cover was likely NOT sent by the collector.

At the bottom left front, the sender noted that Montrose was in "Washington County." If Miss Mary Conger (or a collector she was close to) sent the letter, she would have known that Montrose is in Westchester, County.

There is no indication that the postal service misdirected the cover to Washington County.

Wanted: Your knowledge, your interests, your articles. The Excelsior! needs all types of submissions. Share your passion, even if it's just about a single cover. Contact the editor today at nyspostal@gmail.com.