

LA POSTA: A JOURNAL OF AMERICAN POSTAL HISTORY

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COVER: Our cover reproduces a Frederic Remington sketch which shows a cavalry trooper taking a drink on horseback. The drawing was originally published in Century magazine in April 1889. It is intended to call attention to our new series which will publish the William Carey Brown Correspondence from Fort Klamath, Oregon.

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Fall Season Kickoff

Our September issue is accompanied by a copy of the catalog for Subscribers' Auction No. 68, for which bidding will close November 4th for bids submitted by mail and November 16 for bids submitted by telephone or e-mail. We have received questions and a few complaints about this dual closing system, but, given the relative slowness of postal mail delivery as compared to e-mail and telephone bidding, it is the only way we can see to close our sales in such a way that successful bidders may expect delivery of their lots within a reasonable number of days following close of the sale. In a way, what we are doing is to say that we are holding a public auction which will take place on November 16, 2001. If you wish to bid by mail, your bid must reach us prior to the date of the auction—November 16th. If you wish to bid by phone or e-mail, you may do so on the day of the sale. Phone and e-mail bidding allows you to establish a virtual presence at the auction. To that end, opening bids, that is, one advance over the second highest bid, are posted on our website www.laposta.com during the last week of the sale, and updated on the morning the sale closes.

There are some wonderful items of postal history in this sale including some great territorial covers from Montana, Washington, Utah and New Mexico; a small correspondence of San Francisco Earthquake letters from the 1906 disaster, an exhaustive selection of RPO markings, great DPOs, Doane cancels, Auxiliary markings, and lots more. Check out our catalogue and examine the many illustrations posted in color through our website. Scans and/or photocopies are available for any lots, but, if you require photocopies by mail, please make your request early. Turn around time for a written request is at least *three weeks* from the time you mail your request until we can place a reply in your hands.

Gary Anderson has done an outstanding job in reassembling a team of State Doane Coordinators (see page 4). There are quite a few names familiar from the original *United States Doanes* project, but also some new folks have agreed to take on responsibility for states where the previous coordinators have stepped down. A few states are still lacking coordinators as of this writing, and if you would like to

help out, please contact Gary direct through Post Office Box 600039 St. Paul, MN. 55106, or via e-mail at garyndak@ix.netcom.com.

The goal of Doane Project 2002 will be the publication sometime next year of a completely revised, updated version of *United*



States Doanes. In the meantime, Gary will maintain updated state Doane cancel listings on his website: http://www.doanecancel.com. Look for periodic updates and reports of progress as this project continues, and, if you can add new towns, types or dates to the body of knowledge, please contact Gary or the appropriate State Doane Coordinator.

John Gallagher and other members of the Postmark Collectors Club are also engaged in a massive new project which will eventually see the Willett-Thompson Collection of United States postmarks illustrated on compact discs. To date, John and his group have published six CDs which illustrate postmarks in the huge collection organized alphabetically by post office for Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, most of New England, Maryland, Delaware, and virtually the entire Western US. CDs are available at \$15 each plus postage through John at 9226 Mellenbrook Rd, Columbia, MD 21045. Please contact John before ordering to learn more about options available and determine postage costs. This is a monumental project, and will be a primary source for many postal history research projects in years to come. It is anticipated, for example, that the Doane Cancel 2002 Project will include data from all states that have been covered in the PMCC project up to date.

Finally, to toot our own horn a little, the Fourth Volume in our United States Post Offices series should be available not long after you read this. Volume 4 contains New England, New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Sales of the book will be available from James E. Lee, P.O. Drawer 250, Wheeling, IL 60090-0250. Computer data bases for individual states may be ordered from La Posta (see page 71).

Rihard W. Hilbur

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Gary Anderson to Co-ordinate New Doane Cancel Effort

Gary Anderson, P.O. Box 600039, St. Paul, MN 55106, has agreed to serve as United States Coordinator for a project intended to revise and update the listing of Doane cancels which was published in *United States Doanes*.

Doane cancel collecting has grown into one of the more popular specialties of early 20th century US postal history as evidenced by the competition for scare examples in ebay and other public auctions. Numerous new towns, types and date range extensions have been discovered by collectors during the eight years since the initial publication of the book, and both Editor Richard Helbock and Gary have agreed to work together with the goal of publishing a totally revised edition of *United States Doanes* in 2002.

Several of the original state co-ordinators who helped assemble the first edition are no longer able or willing to participate in the new effort, and to that end Gary is currently attempting to assemble a new team of State Doane Co-ordinators. If you were involved as one of the original co-ordinators, or have an interest in working on the new project in some capacity, please contact Gary at the address above, or through email at <code>garyndak@ix.netcom.com</code>.

Gary maintains a website devoted exclusively to United States Doanes. The site already includes detailed listings of Doane cancels arranged by state, and, while not all states are currently available, he plans to add more as information comes to hand. Interested parties may visit Gary's Doane site at http://www.doanecancel.com.

La Posta Publications will be responsible for publication of the new edition, and, with the help of interested collectors, we anticipate some important improvements over the 1993 edition.

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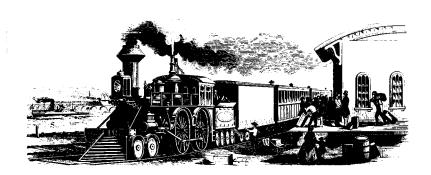
— cmikew@mindspring.com

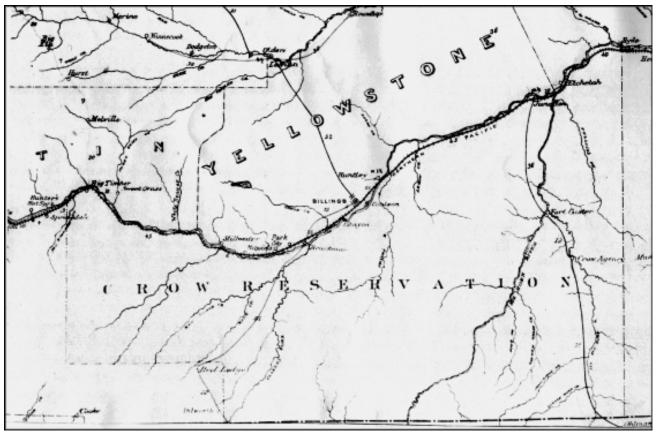
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Map 1 Most of the present day Crow Indian Reservation is contained in Big Horn County. The town of Crow Agency, the tribal headquarters, was moved three times as the reservation was reduced in size over the years. (From Postal Route Map of the Territories of Montana, Idaho and Wyoming, 1884, provided courtesy of Richard W. Helbock).

Montana Territorial Postmarks

Part 2: Big Horn, Broadwater, Blaine, Carbon, Carter, & Cascade Counties

By Wesley N. Shellen & Francis Dunn

In the first installment of our series on the postmarks of Montana Territory we reported on postmarks from Beaverhead County. In this second part we proceed alphabetically to record postmark usages from six more counties. Readers are reminded that post offices are listed here according to their *current* county locations to provide a stable point in time to identify them.

We are grateful to our publisher, Richard W. Helbock, for providing illustrations from an 1884 *Postal Route Map of the Territories of Montana, Idaho and Wyoming.* At the time when this map was published, Montana was divided into 13 large counties plus the Crow Indian Reservation. None of the six counties discussed in this installment existed in 1884, but we

include the Crow Indian Reservation portion of the map because it occupies much of the territory that is currently incorporated within Big Horn County (*map 1*). The remainder of the maps will accompany future listings of counties that have the same name as the Territorial counties from which they evolved.

We encourage readers to report new postmarks and date extenders that will improve the accuracy and completeness of our work (send reports to Wes Shellen, PO Box 9395, Missoula, MT 59807-9395; or email wesndeb@aol.com).

Montana Territorial Postmarks

Part 2: Big Horn, Broadwater, Blaine, Carbon, Carter, & Cascade Counties

By Wesley N. Shellen & Francis Dunn

Big Horn County

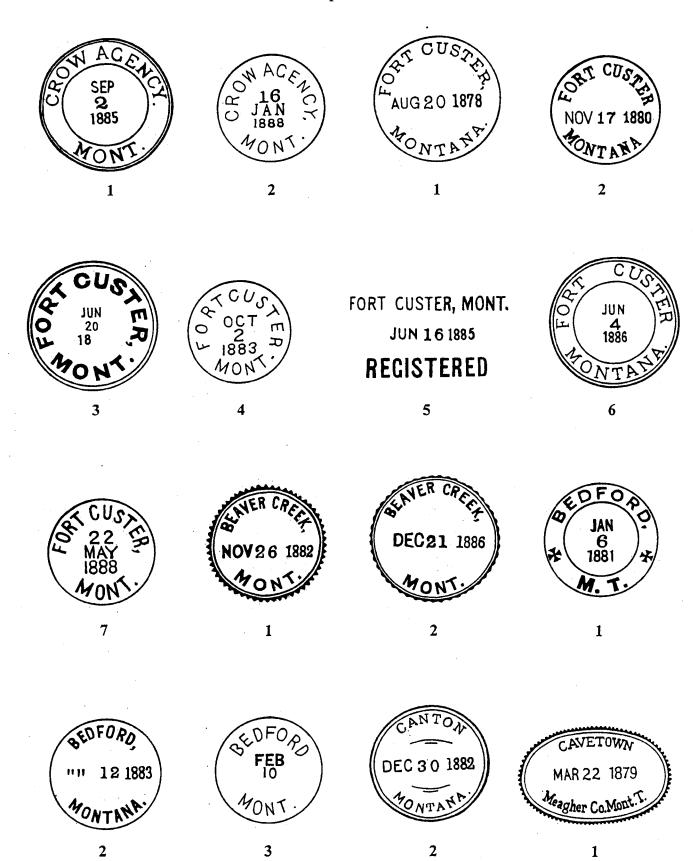
<u>Town</u>	<u>Postmark</u>	<u>Earliest</u>	<u>Latest</u>	Cancel	Notes
CRO ¹	pink, black				
2.	DLDC35 CDS28	16 JUN 1882 16 JAN 1888	16 FEB 1888 9 APR 1889	target/cork	ршк, отаск
FOR	Γ CUSTER (18	878/1901)			
1.	CDS33	20 AUG 1878	19 DEC 1878		purple
2.	CDS28	17 NOV 1880	21 NOV 1881	target	purple
3.	DLC34 20 JUI	N 1882		segmented star	
4.	CDS28	29 JUL 1883	7 DEC 1885	grid/target/cork	
5.	SL41x21	16 JUN 1885		target	purple
6.	DLDC34.5	4 JUN 1886			
7.	CDS27.5	12 AUG 1887	22 MAY 1888	9-bar grid	
MUDDY (1884-1901)					None Reported

Broadwater County

Town	<u>Postmark</u>	<u>Earliest</u>	<u>Latest</u>	Cancel	<u>Notes</u>
BEA	VER CREEK	(1872/1887)			
1.	TDLC31	8 SEP 1881	2 MAY 1883	target	magenta
2.	TDLC33	25 May 1884	21 DEC 1886	entwined "PO	D" magenta
BED	FORD (1879-	1895)			
1.	DCDS30	8 JAN 1880	6 JAN 1881	pinwheel	magenta
2.	CDS29	11 JUN 1883	12 JUL 1883	target	-
3.	CDS28	10 FEB 1885	2 APR 1888	-	
CAN	TON (1872-19	935)			
1.	MSS	29 JAN 1874		manuscript	
2.	DLC31 30 D	EC 1882		_	

CAVETOWN (1878-1880)

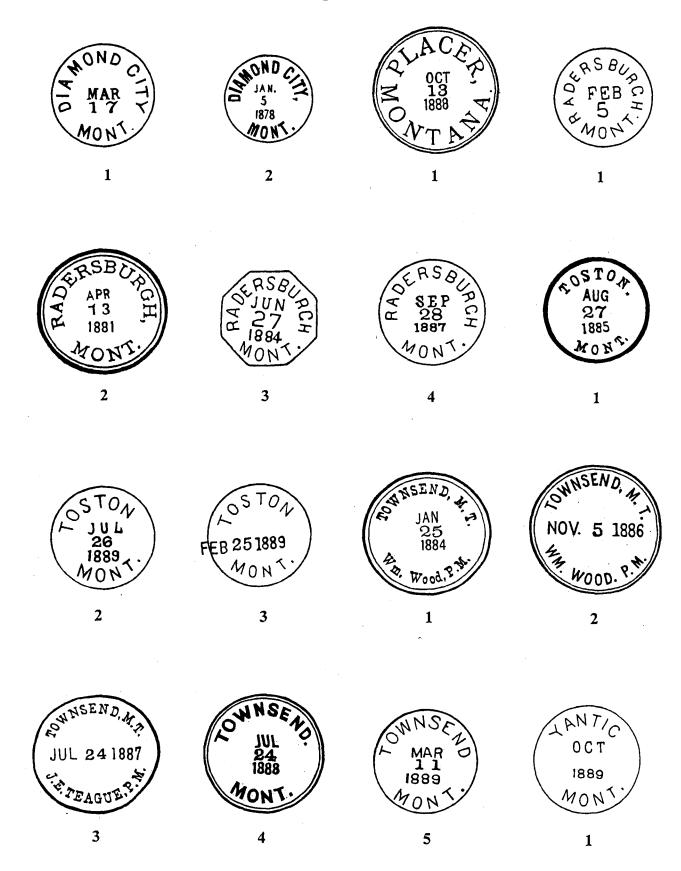
1. TDLOV 22 MAR 1879



CENTREVILLE (1872/1883)					None Reported		
DEE	DEEPDALE (1882-1883)						
DIA	MOND CITY	· ·					
1. 2.	CDS27 CDS23	12 MAY 1868 27 JUL 1877	17 MAR 1874 8 JUN 1881	target /pen cork/target	purple/magenta		
FUR	NESS (1887-1	887)			None Reported		
KEA	TINGVILLE	(1872-1873)			None Reported		
MAG	GNOLIA (1880)-1881)			None Reported		
PLA	CER (1887-92)					
1.	DLC33	15 APR 1888	13 OCT 1888		magenta		
RAD	ERSBURGH	(1868-1966)					
1.	CDS26	27 DEC 1875	22 JUL 1880	target			
2.	DCDS32.5	13 APR 1881		target	purple		
3.	OCT25	21 JUL 1881	5 OCT 1886	target			
4.	DCS28	28 SEP 1887		target			
SAIN	NT LOUIS (18	69/1895)		None Reported			
SPOKANE (1882-1882)					None Reported		
SPR	SPRINGVILLE (1868-1879)						
1.	MSS	8 JUL 1878					
TOS'	TON (1882/Da	nte)					
1.	CDS28	22 JUN 1883	17 JAN 1886	target			
2.	CDS27	27 FEB 1887	26 JUL 1889	cork			
3.	CDS27	8 DEC 1888	25 FEB 1889	cork			
TOWNSEND (1883-Date)							
1.	DLC33	25 JAN 1884	25 JAN 1886	star in circle	blue-black		
2.	DLC34	5 NOV 1886	18 NOV 1886		purple		
3.	CDS33	2 MAY 1887	24 JUL 1887	target	blue-black		
4.	DLC31	5 JUN 1888	24 JUL 1888	neg star purple			
5.	CDS27	11 MAR 1889		cork			

None Reported

WHITES (1875-1903)



	Blaine	County
--	--------	--------

Town Postmark Earliest Latest Cancel Notes

CHINOOK (1889-Date)

None Reported

COW ISLAND (1880-1880)

None Reported

YANTIC (1889-1897)

1. CDS28 ?? OCT 1889 target

Carbon County

<u>Town Postmark</u> <u>Earliest</u> <u>Latest</u> <u>Cancel</u> <u>Notes</u>

DILWORTH (1884-91)

None Reported

RED LODGE (1884-Date)

1. DLDC34 15 MAY 188?

2. CDS28 27 AUG 1889 26 SEP 1889 target

Carter County

<u>Town Postmark Earliest Latest Cancel Notes</u>

ALZADA (1885-Date)

1. DLDC31 18 NOV 1885 17 DEC 1886 target

EKALAKA (1885-Date)

None Reported

STONEVILLE (1880-1885)

None Reported

Cascade County

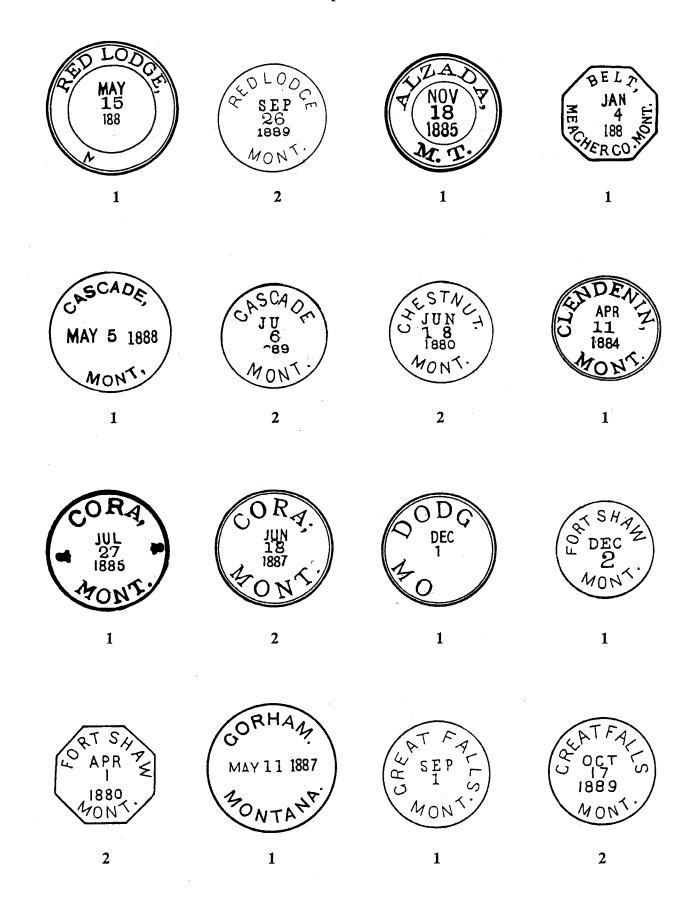
<u>Town Postmark Earliest Latest Cancel Notes</u>

BELT (1885-Date)

1. OCT 25 24 JAN 1889 star in circle

BELTANE (1880/1883)

None Reported



CASCADE (1887-Date)							
1.	CDS32	1 MAR 1888	30 AUG 1888	shield			
2.	CDS28	6 JUL 1889					
CAS'	TNER (1883-1	1883)			None Reported		
CHE	STNUT (1878	3-1890)					
1.	MSS	16 JAN 1880	18 JUN 1880	pen			
2.	CDS27	18 JUN 1880	10 AUG 1887	target			
CLE	NDENIN (188	32-1892)					
1.	DLC29	8 FEB 1884	4 ??? 1886	rim/target	blue-black		
CLE	NDENNIN (18	881-1882)			None Reported		
022	. , 2 22 12 122 1 (21	301 100 1)			Tronc Teponed		
COR	A (1882/1905))					
1.	CDS31	27 JUL 1885	5 JUL 1886	cork			
2.	DLC30.5	18 JUN 1887		wheel of fort	tune		
DOD	GE (1886-188	37)					
1.	DLC30	1 DEC 1886					
EVA	NS (1889-1937	D			None Reported		
12 (/1)	115 (100)-1/5/	,			None Reported		
FOR	T SHAW (186	7/Date)					
1.	CDS26	3 NOV 1877	2 DEC 1884	cork	blue/purple/black		
2.	OCT26	1 APR 1880	1 APR 1881		blue/black		
GOL	DRUN (1882-	1882)		None Reported			
COP	GORHAM (1885-1889)						
1.	CDS34	11 MAY 1887	26 MAR 1889	shield	black/magenta		
				2			
GRE	AT FALLS (1	884-OPEN)					
1.	CDS28	26 AUG 1886	29 JUN 1888	cork			
2.	CDS28	3 MAR 1889	17 OCT 1889	cork			
HARDY (1888/1915)					None Reported		
IDA (1888-1889)					None Reported		
JOHNSTOWN (1884-1887)							
1.	DLC29.5	? MAR 1887	9 APR 1887	purple			
				• •			
MILLEGAN (1887-1928)					None Reported		

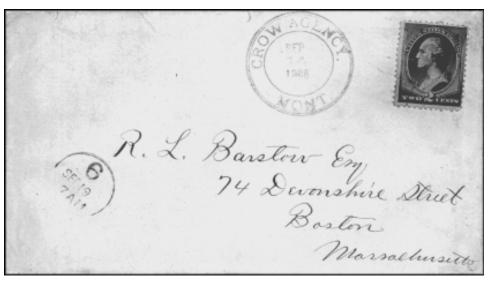


Figure 1 This cover illustrates the double line, double circle (DLDC) postmark listed as Crow Agency type 1.



Figure 2 This postal card shows the double line circle (DLC) postmark with fancy segmented star cancel used at Fort Custer in 1882 (type 3).

Figure 3 A registered cover from Clendenin, illustrating a well struck double line circle (DLC) postmark.



MONARCH (1889-Date) None Reported NEIHART (1882-Date) DLC28 1. 8 JAN 1885 4 NOV 1886 target **SAINT CLAIR (1889-1893)** CDS35 4 JUL 1889 star **SAINT PETER (1885-1938)** 1. CDS28 10 NOV 1886 6 APR 1889 **SANDCOULEE (1884-Date)** None Reported **SMELTER (1888-1901)** None Reported SUN RIVER (1868-Date) 1. CDS24 27 NOV 187? 2. DCOV28x23 16 JAN 18?? green ribbon-dater target 3. CDS26 21 JUN 1878 CDS27 11 JUN 1879 4 MAY 1880 4. star in circle purple 5, DLC31 17 JUN 1881 18 JUN 1881 star in circle CDS31 31 JAN 1882 21 JUN 1882 pinwheel 6. magenta 7. CDS36 3 APR 1883 5 MAR 1883 maltese cross DLDC33 8. 1 FEB 1884 target

TRULY (1884-1905)

None Reported

28 AUG 1886

target

target

magenta/black

ULIDIA (1880-1885)

DLC33

CDS24

7 NOV 1884

31 JUL 1888

9.

10.

1.	DLDC34.5	3 APR 1881	16 JUL 1881	target	brown/black
2.	TDLOCT29	10 MAR 1883	14 OCT 1885		magenta

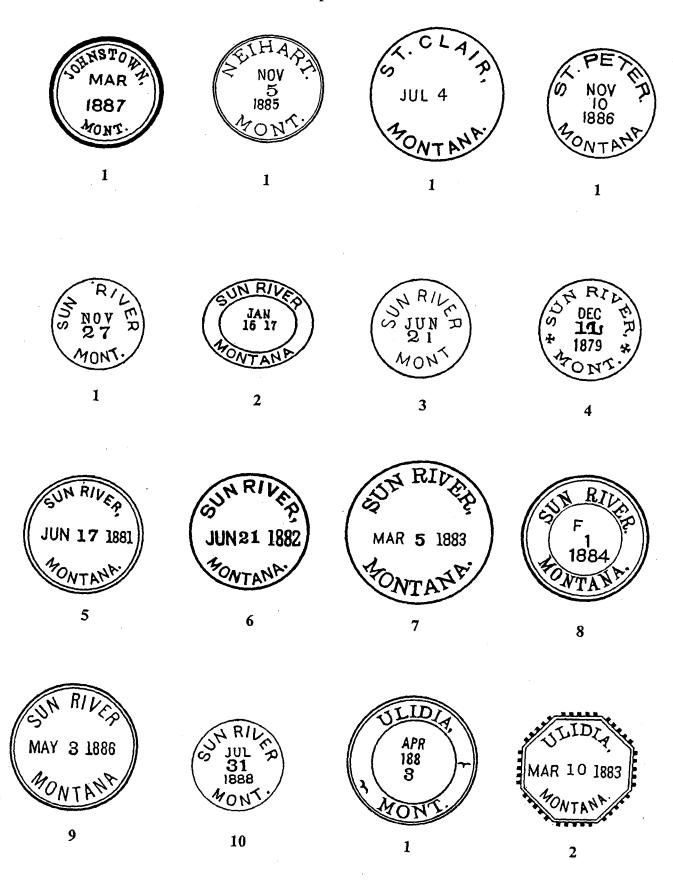
ULM (1887/Date)

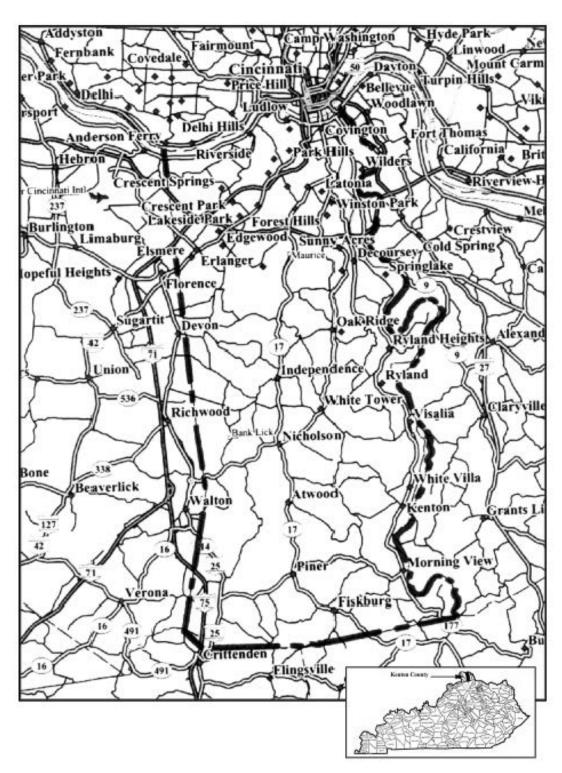
None Reported

Your Participation in the Project is Respectfully Requested

If you can expand our knowledge of Montana Territorial postmark types and date ranges, please contact

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Kenton County, Kentucky

Scale approximately 1:250,000

(DeLorme Mapping)

The Post Offices of Kenton County, Kentucky

by Robert M. Rennick

Kenton is Kentucky's ninetieth county in order of formation and, with a 1990 Census count of 142,000, its third most populous. It is separated by the Licking River from Campbell County from which all of it was taken by legislative act on January 29, 1840 when it assumed its present boundaries. Like Campbell, Kenton County's 163 square mile area has an undulating terrain with very arable uplands and productive strips of bottomland along its many streams. At least this was the case until the late nineteenth century when suburban development in the central and northern sections of the county took most of its land out of agriculture. With these Ohio and Licking River tributaries – notably Dry Run, Fowler's, DeCoursey, Bank Lick, Cruises, and Bowman's Creeks - most of Kenton's nineteenth century settlements and much of its early history were significantly associated. The county was named for the famed frontiersman Simon Kenton (1755-1836).

Also like Campbell County, Kenton has two county seats – the centrally located Independence, seventy-three road miles north of downtown Lexington, and Covington, the county's largest city, on the Ohio River, across the Licking from Newport. While the county has twenty-one incorporated communities, only nine had their own post offices and two still do. The rest have always been served by branches of the Covington office.

Most of the post offices described below are located by road miles from the Court House in Independence. The first nine of these offices were established before Kenton was taken from Campbell County. Four of them ceased operation while they were still a part of Campbell, though two were later re-established in other names.

The second class city of *Covington* had Kenton's first post office. Kentucky's fourth largest in population, the town developed from a two hundred acre tract between the Ohio and Licking Rivers early called *The Point* from which military operations against the trans-Ohio Indians were staged. Around 1790 Thomas Kennedy acquired this site that had been a part of George Muse's original 5,300 acre warrant, and within two years had built a home, landing, and tav-

ern, and begun ferry service across the Ohio to the new city of Cincinnati. By the mid-1790s the local settlement was thus called *Kennedy's Ferry*.¹

In 1814, 150 acres of Kennedy's land were sold to the bothers John S. And Richard Gano and Thomas D. Carneal on which they founded the town they named for General Leonard Covington. Covington, ne 1768), a Marylander who had briefly represented that state in the U.S. Congress (1805-07), was mortally wounded n the battle of Chrysler's Field in November 1813. The new town's plat was recorded in August 1815, and its post office was established on October 3 of that year, with Henry M. Buckner, postmaster.

Though Covington was chartered as a city in 1834 it enjoyed only a modest growth until the last quarter of the century. Then a series of annexations contributed to an expanding population that peaked in 1930 at over 65,000. Since then, Covington has been losing out to its own suburbs and its population is now down to only 43,000.

The act creating Kenton County also called for the establishment of its seat at centrally located Independence. But in 1843 the new government, acknowledging the inconvenience of this site to the citizens of Covington, some ten air miles north, transferred governmental activities to the city on the Ohio. Since that time, most of the county's governmental operations have been performed in Covington, now in a ten-story office building on Scott and Third Streets, on the site of the old Federal Building and Post Office. Independence remains but the titular seat of the county with branch office functions in its own court house.

Kenton's second post office was *Dry Creek* which is said to have been on the road between Florence and Covington, some three miles northeast of the former and six miles from the latter. This is roughly the route of the present Dixie Highway (US 25/42). That would make the office, in intermittent operation between December 9, 1825 and late September 1866, somewhere in the present city of *Crestview Hills*. John G. Ellis may have been its first postmaster. However, the office could have been in existence, at this or another site, as early as 1821.² It was obviously named for its location just south of the head of the aptly

named wet weather stream (aka Dry Run Creek) which joins the Ohio River just below the Boone County line.

As stated in the chapter on Campbell County, its seat of justice for a short time was located in the small settlement of *Visalia*. [veye/sal/ye]. This vicinity, on the west bank of the Licking River, had been settled around 1800 by the Nathaniel Vise family. On 140 acres Nathaniel Vise, Jr. in 1818 laid out and founded the town that, by 1823, when the Campbell County seat was moved here from Newport, was known as *Visalia*.

The first post office to serve this area was also called *Visalia*, and operated from July 12, 1826 through October 1835. In 1859 the *New Canton* post office (which William J. Reddick had established on January 2, 1855 at the Covington and Lexington Railroad's new station of that name, a mile north) was moved to the *Visalia* settlement and, again as *Visalia*, operated till 1934.³ Sometime after 1870 the station also moved to *Visalia* and also took this name. In March 1859 *Visalia* was incorporated, though this status must have changed sometime later for it was again incorporated, in 1976, as a sixth class city. Its two hundred residents now (1990) make their home in the area between Ky 177 and the river, some 7 ½ miles east-southeast of Independence.

Kenton's second largest town (with a 1990 population of some 16,000) is the third class city of *Erlanger* between the Boone County line, Dry Creek and Carran Drive, and the Dixie Highway which divides it from its southern neighbor Elsmere. Its city hall is about 8 ½ miles north-northwest of the Court House in Independence.⁴

This area was first settled shortly after 1800, by Bartlett Graves. By the late 1820s it had become the crossroads community of *Timberlake*. This was named for Graves' neighbor, Dr. William Thornton Timberlake (1794-1857), who had also acquired considerable acreage on the south side of the present Dixie Highway, the first major road between Covington and Lexington, that Timberlake helped to build. Dr. Timberlake also established *Timberlake*, the first post office to serve this area, and was its only postmaster, from October 24, 1829 to mid-July 1835.

By 1877 the Cincinnati Southern Railway had been built through this area and a station was located where the tracks crossed the Dixie Highway. It was named *Greenwood Station* for Miles Greenwood of Cincinnati, the railroad's first president. The post office established in this name by B. Frank Bedinger on October 29, 1877 became *Greenwood Lake* the following April, taking the name of the eight-acre pond built by the railroad half a mile north of the depot-post office to supply the water for its steam engines. Actually, the pond was called Silver Lake for its silvery appearance, and this name was given to the station to avoid confusion with the other *Greenwood* names borne by other stations on the line. But Silver Lake was disallowed for the post office which remained Greenwood Lake till it became Erlanger on May 20, 1882. By 1879 the *Greenwood Lake* name had also been applied to a small community providing summer residences to Cincinnati businessmen now able to commute by rail to their places of employment, four miles north.

Whence *Erlanger:* In October 1881 the newly organized Cincinnati New Orleans and Texas Pacific Railway Company was assigned the lease of the Cincinnati Southern which had fallen on hard times. Fiftyone percent of the CNO's stock was owned by a British syndicate controlled by Frederic Emile d'Erlanger (ne 1832), the German-born owner of a firm of Paris banks. As part of his effort to help the ailing rail line, he encouraged settlement along its Kentucky right-of-way. Thus began the intensive development of the entire area between Covington and Florence and led to the incorporation, in 1897, of the city of *Erlanger*.

Actually the community that was to become the city of *Erlanger* had been given this name before the local post office adopted it in May 1882. On July 1, 1920, the post office became a branch of the Covington post office and now serves the community from its city hall on Commonwealth Avenue.

Cloyd's Cross Roads and Sayers' were two short-lived and as yet unlocated post offices in the south central part of the county. The first was operated by James Cloyd from May 27, 1830 through October 1835. The other suggests a location somewhere on Sayers' Fork, a three mile long branch of Cruises Creek, that heads just northeast of Bracht. It operated from May 26, 1832 till early December 1835 with Henry Sayers as its only postmaster.⁵

Grants Bend of the Licking River and the area adjacent to it, some eight or nine miles south of downtown Covington, were served by four Kenton County post offices. The first, in operation from September 7, 1832 through 1850, was Barry and was probably

on the road that is now Ky 177, just north of the Ryland Heights city limits. Thomas J. Hordern, its first postmaster, likely named it for then U.S. Postmaster-General William T. Barry of Lexington, a former member of the Kentucky Senate and the U.S. Congress and sometime Chief Justice of the Kentucky Court of Appeals.

On May 19, 1879 this office was re-established half a mile east of the old Barry site as *Grants Bend* to serve the nearby Kentucky Central Railroad station of *Grants*. Jacob Hempfling, its first postmaster, was succeeded in 1882 by the Michigan-born Peter McVean, who had settled in that area just before the Civil War, and ran the office through April 1898. McVean's successor, Elizabeth Hackett, had the office moved three rail miles north to serve *Culbertson's Station* and the new community of *Springlake*, assuming the latter name. In November 1900 the office was moved again, 0.3 miles north, where it continued as *Springlake* till 1968.

The *Springlake* name is merely presumed to have derived from an aptly named local feature of which nothing has been learned. It is not even known when and to what the name was first applied. *Culbertson* was probably named for the area family that had come from Ireland around 1813. William, a local cooper and horticulturist, was its best known member.

Grant's Station got its own post office again on December 9, 1911, but instead of postmaster Roy E. Anderson's preferred name *Grants Bend* it was called *McVean*, probably for his predecessor. But this office operated only through late June 1913 and the community and station are still identified as *Grants*.

The *Grants Bend* area was early named for the pioneer Campbell County Grants. W.S. Grant (ne 1807) still owned much of the land in the bend by the early 1880s. In 1961 the U.S. Board on Geographic Names officially corrected earlier government maps that had mistakenly identified the area as *Grand Bend*.

On January 8, 1934 David L. Fisk (ne 1800), a physician, gave his family's name to a post office he established on the present Ky 17, 10 ¾ miles south of the Independence Court House. Here the *Fiskburg* post office operated through June 1858. In July 1877 Dr. John F. Ellis re-established it as *Fiskburgh* to serve Charles E. Fisk's store and several other businesses and what may have been one of the region's largest tobacco warehouses. The office closed for good in May 1903.

Independence, the county's official seat, is now a fifth class city of some 10,500 residents centering at the court house on the corner of Madison Pike and McCullum Rd. (Ky 17 and 2045). A five acre crossroads site nearby had been deeded in 1840 by John McCollum (sic) to be Kenton's centrally located seat, and its name marked the new county's independence from Campbell County.

What became the *Independence* post office on October 7, 1840 (with Thomas J. Hordern, postmaster) is said to have started as *Everetts Creek* on November 20, 1837 with Isaac Everett, postmaster. No creek by this name has been located and thus the site of this office is unknown. But since a mere five weeks later Everett had the office renamed *Crews Creek* suggests that it may have been on or near the stream, seven miles south of the court house, that to this day has been known as *Cruises Creek*. This creek, which heads just east of Walton and joins the Licking River at Morning View, was named for one of Anthony Wayne's officers who is said to have been killed by Indians on its banks.

In July of 1838 the *Crews Creek* post office was renamed *Bagby* for one or more local families who had given their name to the new voting precinct. Its location is also unknown.

Though *Independence* was incorporated in February 1842, it failed to develop beyond its small village status until the early 1960s when, to avoid Covington's southward encroachments, it responded to the request of its rural neighbors and began annexing large sections of central Kenton County. Today the city extends literally across the county, from the Boone County line to the Licking River, making it one of Kentucky's largest cities in area.

The short-lived (April 7, 1842 to July 1844) *Licking Valley* post office, with Thomas M. Clarkson, its only postmaster, has not been located. It could have been anywhere in the valley for which it was named.

At the junction of the present Ky 17 and 14, 8 ½ miles south of the Independence Court House, was *Piner's Cross Roads*. Here a post office in this name was established on August 31, 1847 with H.H. Mullins, the first postmaster. He was succeeded in September 1851 by James G. Piner. The office closed in June 1858. It was re-established on April 18, 1891 by James B. Piner to serve a store, tobacco warehouse, school, and the nearby Goshen Baptist Church. As *Piner's Cross*

Roads, the preferred name, was too long, the office operated simply as **Piner** till it closed for good in mid-May 1903.

Latonia Springs, the popular nineteenth century summer resort, with spa and hotel, was on the corner of the Highland and Madison Pikes in what is now the Lakewood section of Fort Wright. It was developed by Ralph Letton of Cincinnati after he had acquired the site in July 1829 from William Curry, Jr. At first it was called Lettonian Springs but this was soon corrupted to Latonia. In July 1832 Letton sold much of the land including the hotel he had built to Elisha Morgan. In the early 1840s, from Morgan's heirs, Dr. Stephen Mosher acquired the spa and ran it till 1866 when he sold it to a Cincinnati firm. It began to decline soon afterwards. The springs themselves dried up shortly after 1900.6

The name's derivation is still an enigma. Though most area historians believe, but for no reason at all, that it was named for Leto (whose Roman name was Latona), the mother of the classical god Apollo, I cannot help wondering if Letton hadn't named if for himself.⁷

The first post office to serve the resort was *Bank Lick* named for its site on the west side of the Bank Lick Creek which joins the Licking River three miles east. Aylett R. Critchfield and Elias S. Ellis were its first postmasters. Dr. Mosher took over the office in December 1854 and, by March 1858, had its name changed to *Latonia Springs*. It closed in late April 1874, about the time the spa was losing its appeal. By 1870 the local community was known as *Whitehouse*, and this name (though spelled as two words) was given to the new post office that storekeeper George Waldmann alone operated between February 1, 1876 and late April 1879.8

On April 10, 1886, Frederick A. Cox opened a post office on the Bank Lick Pike (now the Madison Pike or Ky 17), about one mile north of the springs. This he inexplicably called *Honesty*. In August 18893 John Weisenberger moved the office 2 ½ miles south to the community of *Sandfordtown* (centering at the present Ky 17 and I-275 interchange, at the southern edge of *Fort Wright*), which name it then assumed. Despite its curious spelling, an obvious error, the latter was most likely named for the Covington descendants of Gen. Thomas Sandford (1762-1808), who had represented that district in the state legislature

and, from 1803 to 1807, in the U.S. Congress. His son Cassius was a Covington banker, city councilman, and mayor.⁹

Some twelve miles up Bank Lick Creek from the springs, and 3½ miles southwest of the Independence Court House, was another *Bank Lick* post office that served an L&N station of that name from February 8, 1870 through November 1905. Zacharia Herndon, the local storekeeper and railroad agent, was its first postmaster. The aptly named creek itself heads just north of Walton and extends for about twenty miles through a fairly wide valley to the Licking River in South Covington.

The two *Staffordsburg* post offices served an area four miles southeast of Independence and three miles west of the Licking River. Storekeeper John Carroll opened the first office on August 28, 1850. From June 1851 till early the following May the office was inexplicably called *Beauford*. It continued as *Staffordsburg* till it closed in late August 1855.

The second *Staffordsburg* post office was opened by Pendleton Northcutt on December 29, 1890 to serve an already established village of nearly a hundred residents centering at the junction of the present Rt. 1303 and the Old DeCoursey Road. It closed in January 1902. Both offices are said to have been named for Nathan Stafford, a local blacksmith.

Neither the *Weaver's Mill* post office nor the mill it undoubtedly served have been precisely located. It may have been in the vicinity of *Maurice Station*. But this office probably holds the record in Kentucky for having the most postmasters in the shortest period of time. From December 30, 1850 through April of '51, four men (George A. Yates, James Scott, Elijah Yates, and Solomon Wayman) served in this capacity.

At the mouth of Fowlers Creek, a Bank Lick Creek tributary, was the *Fowler's Creek* post office. It was established by Joel Dedman and operated from January 29, 1855 till May 1866 when postmaster Paul Waite had the name changed to *Scott*. It continued to serve this small village, also known as *Egelstonville*, through August 1917.

The creek was probably named for John Fowler who ran a salt works on Bank Lick at least by 1796. *Scott* may have been named for the descendants of James Scott who had a home in the vicinity of Maurice Station, a mile and a half north. Hiram W. Egelston, an

Indiana-born store and hotel owner, had succeeded Waite as postmaster in 1869. Nothing but some homes now marks the site, unidentified on contemporary maps, three miles north of the Independence Court House.

The village of *Morning View* has one of county's four active post offices. It is at the northwest corner of Ky 14 and 177, 11 3/4 miles south-southeast of the Independence Court House, and just west of the L&N tracks on which it had long been located. While the local Covington and Lexington (later Kentucky Central and L&N) Railroad station was established in 1855 as Mullins Station for George H. Mullins, its post office, with Mullins as its first postmaster, opened on October 5th of that year as Morning View. Railroad officials are said to have been more impressed with the early morning view of the nearby Licking River from the site of the new depot than by the more prosaically named station. By 1880 the station and the community growing up around it had taken the Morning View name. The Post Office Department's preference for one word post office names did not prevail in this case, and while in 1895 the office became Morningview, it soon returned to the two word spelling it still bears.

Three rail miles north of Morning View is another rail station and the fourth of Kenton's active post offices. It was named for the county itself. Like Morning View the station and community it served began with another name – *Benton*. This probably honored Mortimer Murray Benton, a Covington lawyer and the first mayor of the larger town, who had helped the Kentucky Central Railroad secure its charter. The *Kenton* post office was established on February 3, 1858, with James M. Crisler, its first postmaster. The station did not assume this name until the early 1890s. After several site changes, the post office is now located at the southwest corner of Ky 177 and the Old DeCoursey Road, nine miles southeast of the Independence Court House.

The short-lived **Brown's** post office (July 28, 1863 to late August 1864) with Winder F. Williams and Richard Brown, postmasters, has not yet been located. Brown or his family could have been its name source.

The even shorter lived *Cruiser Creek* (April 29 to early December 1868) with William J. Stephens, postmaster, is assumed to have been located somewhere on or near the creek its name was obviously corrupted from.

The fourth class industrial and railroad city of *Ludlow*, with a 1990 population of some 4,700, overlooks the Ohio River and Cincinnati and is just west of the Covington city limits. It centered on a 1,200 acre military grant to Gen. Thomas Sandford that was later acquired by Thomas D. Carneal who built on the site a large mansion called *Elmwood Hall* for the local elm trees. In 1827 Carneal sold his estate to an Englishman, Thomas Bullock, who had ambitious plans for a model town he would call Hygeia for the Greek Goddess of health. These plans were soon abandoned, and in 1831 the site was acquired by Israel Ludlow, Jr. Who soon laid out and developed the town that bears his name. Its growth was later assured with the building of a bridge across the Ohio and the location there of Cincinnati Southern Railroad yards and maintenance shops. In February 1864 the city of Ludlow was chartered by the Kentucky legislature and on August 22nd of that year the *Ludlow* post office was established with John McCormick, postmaster. Since the close of the post office in October 1906, the city has been served by a Covington branch.

On October 11, 1872 John Moss, a local hotel owner, became the first postmaster of the *South Covington* office serving the aptly named suburban community growing up at the junction of the Kentucky Central and Louisville Cincinnati and Lexington (later L&N) Railroads, three miles south of downtown Covington. In May 1880 Moss had the post office name changed to *Milldale*, the name of the local precinct, that had been taken from a large mill just south of the junction.

After a brief interruption in mid-1887, the *Milldale* post office was reopened by Robert Lee Bird, M.D., whose proposed name *Latoniaville* was disallowed for being too similar to the Lawrence Co. Office of *Leotonia*. But in July 1900 (Leotonia had closed in 1892) the Milldale office was renamed *Latonia* for by then the community had become the city of *Latonia*.

The new city and its post office and rail station had been named for a nearby race track that was opened in 1883 by the Latonia Agricultural Association in an area once called *The Flats* and is now the site of the Latonia Plaza shopping center. The track, in turn, had been named for the springs (see above).

In 1909 *Latonia* became a part of Covington and its post office became a Covington branch. Some 15,000 residents in this area between Bank Lick Creek, the Licking River, and Ky 17 still proudly refer to their community as *Latonia*.

This name was also applied to another post office, operated at an unknown site between June 2, 1878 and June 1880 by Ellen O. O'Neill, and to the sixth class city of *Latonia Lakes*. This community of some 400 residents is just southeast of the junction of the Taylor Mill (Ky 16) and Lipscomb Roads. Originally a community of summer cottages on three lakes created for water activities, it was incorporated in 1953. Two of the lakes are gone and most of the cottages are now the permanent homes of working class Covington suburbanites.

The residential community still called *Ryland* dates back to an 1850s Kentucky Central station on the grounds of the present Ryland Lakes Country Club, two rail miles north of Visalia. It was probably named for James W. Ryland, a local landowner, who later petitioned for its post office that operated only between October 7, 1873 and mid-April 1879 (with John M. Mendenhall, postmaster). This is not to be confused with the sixth class city (with a 1990 population of 280) of Ryland Heights, one mile north. The St. Johns (Orphan) Asylum between Orphanage Road and I-275 gave its name to a post office at the junction of the old Lexington Pike (now the Dixie Highway) and Buttermilk Pike, about where the fifth class Lakeside Park's city hall is located. This office, with Thomas Hale, its first postmaster, operated between March 1, 1876 and early April 1894.

We may never know if Florida's *Key West* was the name source of the post office that served the community and railroad station of *Bracht*. But it did, from May 4, 1877 till mid-February 1910, with Benjamin Quick, its first postmaster. It was first located in the vicinity of the junction of the present US 25 and Ky 14, 11 ³/₄ miles south-southwest of the Independence Court House, and later at the *Bracht Station*, half a mile north. The Cincinnati Southern (CNO&TP) Railway station, an important livestock shipping point, was named by the railroad for Maj. F.B. Bracht, of nearby Grant County, the Provost Marshal in Lexington during the Civil War.

Ransom C. Pruett's (1840-1911) store on the present Pruett Road (Rt. 2045), between DeCoursey Creek and Ryland, and 4 ½ miles east of the Independence

Court House, was the site of his *Pruett* post office which operated between August 24, 1887 and mid-September 1907.

Three miles south of the Independence Court House, at the junction of the present Ky 16 and 17, is the extant hamlet of *Nicholson*. On land once owned and occupied (ca. 1814) by pioneer Elijah Williams, Harry C. Nicholson, M.D. petitioned for a post office. It was named for him and operated from December 22, 1888 through September 1907. John W. Sanders was the first of its five postmasters.

The *Atwood* post office, which Thomas A. Bird established on June 19, 1890, was named for Atwood Bird, an Independence banker, whose Virginia-born maternal grandfather, Robert Stephens, had first settled the area around 1813. The office, which closed in January 13, and the small community it served were on the present Ky 17, 2 ½ miles south of Nicholson.

A local family apparently gave its name around 1860 to the small settlement of *Morgansville* on the present Moffet Road (Rt. 2042), some seven miles south-southeast of the Independence Court House. However, its post office was not established till March 14, 1891 when Laura Francis Morgan became its only postmaster. The office closed in September 1905.

Crescent Springs, another of Kenton's fifth class suburban communities, centers on Ky 371 (the Buttermilk Pike), just north of Independence. This too began as a station on the CNO and TP (earlier the Cincinnati Southern) Railway around 1890 and was named for the springs that supplied the water for area farmers and the railroad alike. The Crescent is said to have referred to the railroad's nickname "The Queen and Crescent Route" applied after 1881 when the line linked Cincinnati (called "the Queen City") and New Orleans (called "the Crescent City"). The post office was established on September 25, 1891 on the Old Buttermilk Pike, just south of the tracks. Eliza Bird was the first postmaster. The city, incorporated in 1857, now has a population of over 2,200.

The short-lived (February 16, 1892 through January 1893) *McGill* post office was between DeCoursey Creek and the DeCoursey Pike at the southern edge of the present sixth class city of *Fairview*. It was named by and for its only postmaster John Milton McGill, though his preferred name was *Taylors* for his neighbor Robert Taylor or the nearby Taylor voting place.

The CNO and TP's *Buffington Station*, named for George N. Buffington, its resident agent, maintained its own post office, also called *Buffington*, from June 1, 1893 through February 1910. Just a third of a mile from the Boone County line (and 5 ½ miles northwest of Independence), it had only two postmasters – George W. Harrison and George Buffington himself.

Just below Ludlow is the Ohio River town and Kenton's first class city of Bromley. One of the county's oldest towns, it was laid out and named in 1848 by Charles Collins, a pharmacist, who had come from the Kent County (England) town of Bromley, ten miles south of London. 10 Bromley was already in use by an Owen County post office when the Kenton town sought an office of its own. The new office was called Mullinsville and operated between March 3, 1899 and December 1907 with Carolina Bert and James A. Leonard in charge. Bromley was incorporated in May 1890 and now has some 1,150 residents. A recent attempt to merge with Ludlow was unsuccessful. The Mullinsville name remains un-derived. There were no known local families of this name, but I wonder if it could have honored the Covington banker and distiller, Alfred R. Mullins (ne 1846), then one of the county's wealthiest residents.

The post office of *Towers* served a small village on the Taylor Mill Road (Ky 16), three miles southeast of the court house, but now partly included in Independence's corporate limits. It refers to a tower built in the late nineteenth century on land owned by a George White. The post office, which opened on April 9, 1900, with John Walker Harris, the first of its two postmasters, was to have been called White's *Tower* but postal authorities, in their simplification kick, shortened the name to *Towers* and thus it operated through September 1907. A 1964 decision of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names legitimized the bythen acceptable though ambiguous *White Tower* which now identifies the place on published maps.

Conclusion

Of Kenton County's forty post offices only those serving Covington, Independence, Kenton, and Morning View are still active. Five more currently incorporated communities had post offices that have since closed. Several places are now served by Covington branches. Most of the county's offices once served viable villages.

Twenty-two offices were named for local or area families or individuals. Three bore the names of famous but not local persons. Two were descriptive. To nine were transferred the names of nearby features (four streams, two structures, a mill, a springs, and a race track). One was named for the county. Another had sentimental or political significance to the namers. One had two probable origins – local springs and the railroad that had located a station there. One name origin (that of Key West) is not yet known, and five places (Cloyds Cross Roads, Sayers' Licking Valley, Brown's, and Cruisers Creek) have not been precisely located.

Five post offices have names not originally intended for them. Nine served communities with other names. Seven had name changes.

ENDNOTES

- ¹ Covington's *Kennedy's Ferry* is not to be confused with the Kennedy's Ferry on the site of the later Belmont and Mentor in Campbell County.
- ² The 1821 starting date is given by Alan H. Patera and John Gallagher in their *Checklist of Kentucky Post Offices*, Lake Grove, Oregon: The Depot, 1989, P.24.
- ³ No one knows why the post office and station were called *New Canton*, much less *Canton*. Obviously *Canton* alone was unacceptable since it was already in use by a Trigg County post office.
- ⁴ An article in the June 6, 1902 issue of *The Kentucky Post* reported an unsuccessful attempt to change the name of the *Visalia* community to *Bethsalia*, the name of a local summer camp, to avoid confusion with *Versailles*, the Woodford County seat. (Jim Reis, *Pieces of the Past*, Covington: The Kentucky Post, Vol. 2, 1991, Pp. 10-11.)
- ⁵ Current maps obviously err in spelling the stream's name as *Sawyers*. The *Sayers* name is still applied to a family cemetery just east of US 25, south of Bracht.
- ⁶ Dr. Joseph Gastwright, "Latonia Springs" in the *Papers of the Kenton County Historical Society*, Vol. 1, 1990, Pp. 26-28.
- ⁷ If Ralph Letton was the source of the original name, couldn't its corruption to *Latonia* have been influenced to some degree by that of the classical goddess?
- ⁸ Could this have been named for George F. Whitehouse, a wholesale grocer in nearby Milldale?

⁹ Yet the *Lake Atlas* (1883) identified an A.P. Sanford as a Kenton County-born farmer living just west of the junction of the present Kyles Lane and the Bank Lick (Madison) Pike (Ky 17). And B.F. Sanford, the New York-born editor of the Cincinnati *Weekly Enquirer*, lived a short distance south.

¹⁰ The merger of the English *Bromley* and other local communities in 1965 created the Greater London borough of *Bromley* with a population now in excess of 300,000.

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Figure 1 Pair of U.S. 13-cent stamps used on a registered cover to Germany. The stamp (Scott #622) was issued in January, 1926. The 26-cents postage rate covered the following fees: 15 cents for registry, 5 cents for first 3-ounces of overseas surface mail per UPU treaty, plus 6 cents for additional ounces. While the 13-cent stamp was not issued as part of the original 1922-26 regular set, it is considered to be part of it by many postal historians.

Treasure Troves of the Future

Installment 1

Stamps of the 1922-26 U.S. Regular Issue by Michael Dattolico

If one could predict what will be collected in the next century, it is reasonable to assume that our descendents likely will be collecting the same coveted, elusive U.S. covers that we seek today. By the year 2101, collectors entering our ranks will be enthusiastically acquiring the rare, scarce, or at least unique items that we are accumulating today. Thus, the "gems" of the present will be the gems of the future. Most opinionated soothsayers don't believe that will change. Whatever else that is collected will likely maintain a far lower priority in importance to the premier U.S. covers that we treasure.

While it is axiomatic to say that postal historians of the future will primarily seek the same covers that we do, the reasons *why* they'll collect certain covers will span a wide range of motives, many of which will be similar to ours.

One basic reason is deeply rooted in our emotional or psychological nature. People today seek . . . and will likely seek in later years . . . covers on which certain stamps have been affixed that cause people to form emotional attachments. It's as though a magnet draws him/her to such items. I profess to being one such person; I'm drawn to any cover bearing a 1901 Pan-American stamp. I can't explain the attraction, but it is there. Sentimentality is a related factor. Certain stamps seen on cover can cause us to feel a kind of nostalgia connected with people or places that we once cherished. To garner such covers is a way of assuaging some nebulous need to recapture the past. I feel that this is a universal motive encompassing people everywhere.

There are other reasons why we folks living in 2001 collect specific things, and why I believe that philatelists a century from now will act as we do. Perhaps a person might be on a quest for a long-sought cover to complete a collection. Some knowledgeable historians will be motivated by the philosophic, academic

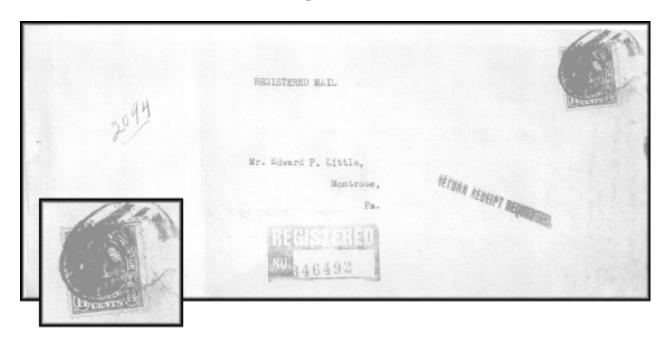


Figure 2 Business-size registered letter mailed in early 1925 showing usage of a single copy of the elusive 14-cent "Indian" stamp of the series. (U.S. Scott #565). The single copy was used to pay the following fees: 2 cents for the basic cost of the letter, 2 additional cents for the letter's heavy weight, and 10 cents for the registry fee. Usages of single copies of U.S. 565 used alone to pay legitimate postal costs are much harder to find than the stamp used with others for various reasons. Inset shows stamp and cancel enlarged.

side of our hobby and will perform ground-breaking research. The end result will be the publication of extraordinary new findings in journals or books.

Money will continue to be a variable in what people collect a century from now. Like today, investors one hundred years from now who are able to afford the known postal history rarities will buy them for future monetary gain or to use them as a hedge against inflation.

Ego satisfaction will always be a factor, since the wealthy can acquire what the average man or woman cannot. Simply possessing a one-of-a-kind philatelic treasure, regardless of price, will make the new owner feel proud, excited and happy for a while, although those not truly interested in postal history will soon sell the item when interest in it wanes.

Dealers buy valuable covers at their lowest possible price now, and sell them later when they go up in value in order to make a profit. There's nothing wrong with that; it's honest business. Dealers and collectors today have a unique relationship that I predict will continue into the next century. These are some of the reasons why we of 2001 collect what we collect. I don't think our descendents of 2101 will be much different.

But I doubt that most collectors one hundred years from now will be able to find what we regard as treasures quite so easily. With more amply funded collectors chasing the same covers that we seek today, the basic economic laws of supply and demand will leave many feeling disappointed.

So the big question is: what *else* will our descendents regard as "treasures" to be collected and studied? This is a rhetorical question, since we can't know that events will occur during the next 100 years that will affect postal history. I do believe, however, that other topics, some involving 20th-century stamps on covers, will be popular with that generation and may even be regarded as scarce, highly sought covers.

Over the years, I have heard one universal axiom accepted by dealers and collectors...what is valuable today will always be valuable. What is common today will always be common...I accepted that statement as an absolute truth for many years. But now I most heartily disagree with it.

I firmly believe that some things that we consider cheap, common and unworthy of collection today will be regarded as exceptional postal history items in later years. Unfortunately, we have overlooked or ignored them because they are plentiful, often in poor condition and are usually not considered worthy of our time.

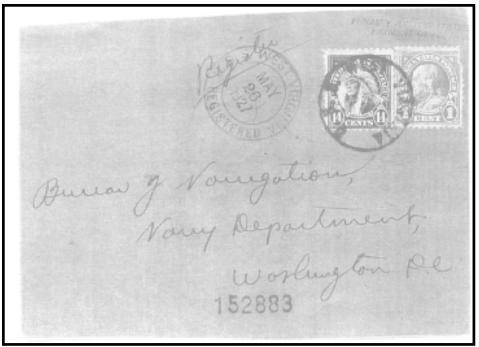


Figure 3 Portion of a wrapper mailed from the U.S.S. West Virginia's post office on May 26, 1927, to Washington, D.C. The 14-cent Indian stamp plus usage of a 1-cent stamp to pay the necessary 15 cents postage is evident. Note the "PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID PAYMENT OF POSTAGE" handstamp seen at the upper right corner. The 15-cent registry fee still had to be paid on official mail.

I think postal historians of the 21st and 22nd-century will shake their heads in disbelief because we've so

blatantly dismissed them.

If our postal historians today accept this as true, then we must begin to identify and study the ordinary material that lies all around us. Moreover, we must amass information about such topics so that there will be a starting point for the new 21st century folks who will collect our period's material.

A waste of time, you say? Again, I disagree. If you require an categorical example to convince you, then here's one that should pique your interest.

I predict that one hot topic of the future will be usage of the 12-cent Grover Cleveland stamp, the 14-cent "Indian," the 15-cent "Statue of Liberty" issue and the 13cent Benjamin Harrison

stamp, all part of the 1922-26 regular issue. That they

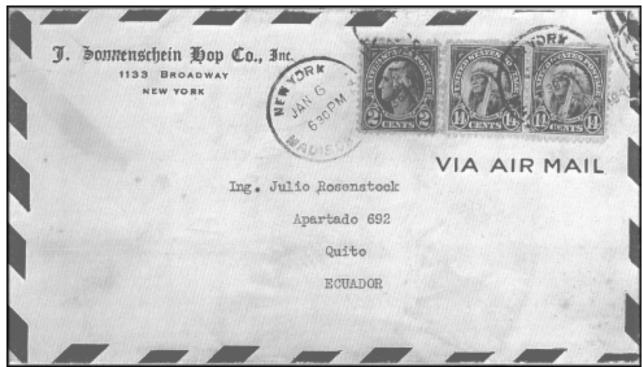


Figure 4 Airmail cover mailed from New York on January 6, 1936, to Ecuador. The pair of 14-cent Indians along with the 2-cent regular issue paid the 30-cent airmail costs to that South American country.

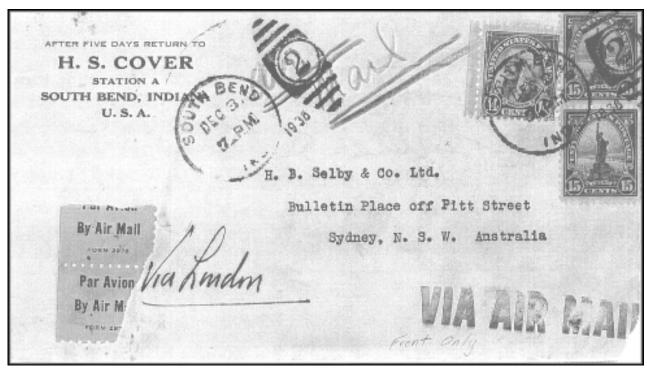


Figure 5 Air Mail cover sent from South Bend, Indiana in December, 1936, to Sydney, Australia, sent via London. The stamps affixed to the cover to pay its mailing costs are a single copy of the 14-cent #565 stamp plus a vertical pair of the 15-cent "Statue of Liberty" stamps (U.S. Scott #566), amounting to 44-cents. This rate of postage was assessed by postal clerks to cover the following costs: 8-cents fee to cover the airmail cost within the United States and UPU surface mail fee to London, plus 36-cents airmail costs via BOAC from London to Australia.

have been overlooked by many people today is predictable, since many are found in "junk" boxes and are often in poor condition.

Why are these particular covers bonanzas of the future? It's not because the stamps themselves are rare. Rather, it's because of the unusual *rates* that the stamps paid during the period. Certainly, we should be concerned about the stamps' condition. But equally important is why they were used on each cover. This is crucial knowledge that we must pass on to postal historians of the next century. It will make the covers worthy of collection, research, study and exhibition.

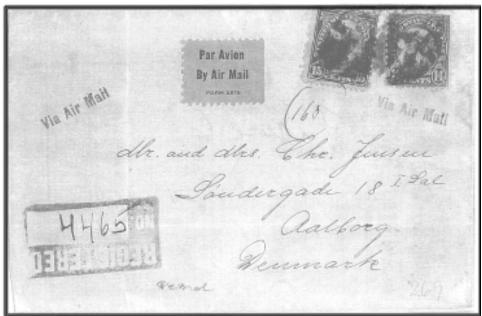


Figure 6 Registered airmail cover mailed to Denmark from Oakland, California in August, 1936. The letter left New York on August 9th and arrived at Aalborg, Denmark on August 19th. A single copy of the 14-cent Indian stamp used with a 15-cent Statue of Liberty stamp paid the costs. Fees to be paid were the following: 15-cents for registry, 8-cents airmail costs in the U.S. plus the UPU surface mail costs to Europe. A 6-cents fee to pay for the first ounce and an additional half-ounce of airmail costs from London to Denmark was included.



Figure 7 Airmail cover mailed from Chicago in December, 1936, to Panama. Stamps used to send the cover are a single 6-cent airmail stamp along with a single 14-cent Indian #565 stamp, comprising 20-cents paid postal costs. The airmail rate from January 1, 1930 through December 1, 1937 from the U.S. mainland to the Canal Zone was 20-cents per half-ounce.

Covers correctly franked with those stamps are not easy to find today. Imagine the difficulties that postal historians in the next century will encounter if they have no input from us!

Luckily, one of America's most highly revered postal historians, Howard Lee, realizes this fact and has begun a study of those stamps that paid the correct 1920s-30s registered, airmail, or overseas surface mail costs. Most usages found will be from United States origination points to other American cities. But the real jewels are the covers mailed from the U.S. with all postage paid via surface mail to Europe, and from there to Africa, Asia or Australia, some of which are fea-

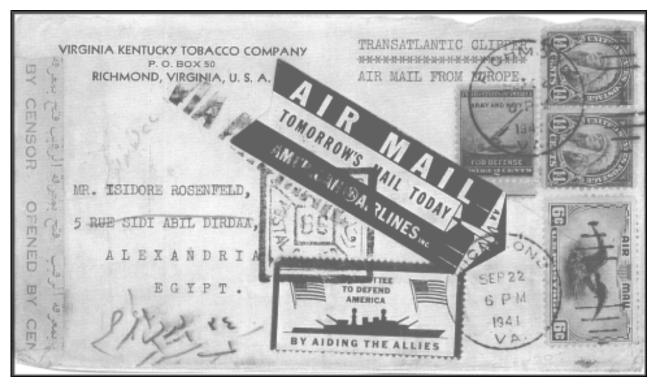


Figure 8 Letter mailed from Richmond, Virginia on September 22, 1941, to Egypt. The cover required 36-cents postage to get the letter to its destination. Stamps used to move the letter are a 6-cent airmail stamp (U.S. Scott #C23), a 2-cent National Defense Issue (U.S. Scott #900) and a horizontal pair of the 14-cent Indian stamps. That sum amounted to 36-cents, since the cost of a trans-Atlantic letter cost 30-cents, and the cost of mail going from Europe to Egypt via airmail was 6-cents per half-ounce.

tured in this article. Some of the rates paid on those covers are in a class by themselves.

One stamp that Howard Lee has especially studied is the 14-cent "Indian" stamp. It has two noteworthy characteristics: It was one of the most attractive stamps of the series; and when used correctly, it was usually used alone. In fact, the 14-cent "Indian" stamp used on cover to correctly pay postal fees is somewhat scarce.

Shown throughout this article are some covers that Howard Lee has selected for your study. They are listed as figures 1 through 8.

There are other existing jewels that generations of the future must research, study and collect. But we predecessors must all open our eyes to these modern covers that we have routinely regarded as lacking in value, and reassess their collectible merits. The longrange legacy of our hobby depends on our actions today what we hope later generations will cherish.

Research Request

Jon Krupnick, 700 Southeast 3rd Avenue, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33316, writes:

My Flight 40 (p. 414, *Pacific Pioneers*) arrived Auckland, New Zealand, Dec. 8, 1941, Does anyone have a cover carried to New Zealand or Australia on that flight with a Dec 8 or Dec 9 arrival cancel?

I have one cancelled in Noumea, New Caledonia on Dec 8 that was on the flight, but I am seeking a photocopy of New Zealand and/or Australian arrival markings.

Please contact Jon Krupnick by mail or email at jonpac@aol.com



The Age-old Battle

by Tom Clarke

It is said that toward the end of the Roman Empire (the decline and fall of civilization idea), between half and two-thirds of the working days of the year were given over to holidays. In the last year or two it seems at the turn of the century, in late Spring and Summer, there is a growing trend toward out of season, wintery Christmas movies on TV. Are we about to go the way of Rome? (Hmmm, do you take off work on *your* birth-day...?)

Then, there is no reason why, in September, we cannot celebrate with a Valentine. By the way, there is a connection between these two American style holidays.

In the early and mid-1840s, postage rates tumbled in England and America, and entrepreneurs out of need developed the envelope. These curious sleeves protected the mailing public's privacy and the entire sealed, paper sandwich cost only a nickel, then three cents to send.

Sadly, the cotton rag content of paper that everyone used those days was wonderful, but was doomed. It was almost indestructible and has left us with a huge quantity of historical newspapers in superb condition, our folded letters of course, and documents and old books whose pages have sometimes outlived the covers in which they were bound. But it was too expensive.

The demand for mailing letters became too great. Further inventive minds saw that paper pulp could be made from trees, and cheaply too. But the sulfur used in tree pulp paper manufacture later mixes with the moisture in the air and creates yellow sulfuric acid within the paper. This such self-destruction is evident especially in cheap newsprint and also a great deal of letter and business papers.

Many forests of oxygen-giving trees have been slaughtered for reading and writing pleasure. This, of course, in our day has lead in part to the ozone layer depletion, and it all began because the exponentially increasing writing public wanted cheaper postal rates.

Simultaneously, in England, young Queen Victoria was searching for a husband. Prince Albert from Germany was not a hit with Parliament, but the people identified with him and he did love to celebrate family holidays.

He introduced the Christmas tree to Buckingham Palace (or one of them) and the idea caught hold. This new way of honoring the old winter holiday lent a refreshing secular flavor it had not known before. Sure enough, such greetings to one another now had to be sent by way of the inexpensive letter carrier. The birth of the Christmas card.

Which brings us back to the out-of-season Valentine. Remember that the lovely, large, and lacy (and expensive) Valentines (and Xmas cards) of the mid-19th century —sent at 5, 3 and the 2 cents a shot— and now made out of pulp paper have helped to imperil our very existence on planet earth.

Love through the mail

Let's see how 19th and 20th century men and women dealt with the theme of love and affection, regardless of our future's plight. What follow are a few selections of communications that deal with interaction between the fair and less fair sexes in a variety of ways.

Cover 1

This is actually a "To my Sweetheart" card send in 1910 to Miss E. R. Tracy of New Haven CT. It was hand canceled at 7 AM by a dutiful clerk, knowing that the small, 2¾ inch size couldn't go through a



Figure 1a A cut to shape New Haven CT Valentine for 1910. A two cent rate either due to size or sparkles that may have been applied to the picture side.



Figure 1b Reverse of card shown in figure 1a.

electric canceling machine. But, in the back of the building, size won't stop American man from accomplishing his appointed task. In the machine it went with nary a scar for the effort.

The handwriting at first appears to be womanish. But, elegant handwriting was a coveted skill. Businessmen demanded a civilized appearance for communications. Maybe a male secretary (about 90% of this workforce in 1910) executed the address on the fateful day.

By mid afternoon, this small epistle of affection was resting in a parlor entranceway, just beneath the brassy mail slot. Miss Tracy no doubt giggled with expectation.

Why two cents and not the post card rate of one cent? Perhaps the card originally bore glued-on sparkle, which since about 1904 required the extra cent for handling.

Cover 2

More to the summer season rather than February, this next item is a gentle reminder of youthful naivete and optimism. Nellie writes to her beloved Charlie in about 1866, from Biddeford Pool ME, to his place of business, care of George P. Whitelaw (?) & Co., of Saint Louis? Unfortunately, the cover is very faded.

This is a very revealing slice of Nellie's young (16-17 year old?) life, a well-heeled young woman no doubt to vacation on the Maine coast as she does. What was the out-

come between she and Charlie? Did they marry, or split up on her return, given the scare (about what?) that old ladies' stories placed in her mind?

My Own Dear Charlie,

How nice and good of you to write me two long letters within two days. I didn't for the moment think you a "foolish boy," only said to myself, "my sweet Charlie how much we love each other and how I wish I was at home to receive some of your hugs and kisses."...

I wish I could ride with you this morning, we can't get a horse for love or money...be obliged to go in a sail boat.

All the young people of our hotel went out moonlight sailing...I decided not to go...the Party started at half past eight, and just as they got into the ocean, a calm took them, and most of the ladies were sick...did not reach the landing until half past two in the morning.

- ...I never was so consistent as I have been in loving you and I shall try always to be so Charlie, so as not to cause you pain...we will try real hard to make each other happy won't we dearest!
- ...I don't think it would have been wrong for you to have received Mr. Kendrick's congratulations. I don't believe in parading a engagement, neither do I think it right to deny it or always avoid being questioned, for am great many cruel and unpleasant remarks arise from it.
- ...I worried a good deal for fear the warm weather would make you sick, and was so glad that you wrote me you were in perfect health. I should be tempted to fly home on the telegraph wire if I heard of your being ill. ...

You don't believe it I know, neither do I, but dearest, I am awful hungry and the gong has just struck, so I am going to hurry down to dinner.

I went down to the only ice cream saloon we have here last evening. The cream tasted like frozen eggs sweetened with brown sugar, it almost made me sick.

Bye bye Charlie boy. I love you ever so much and am awful hungry

Your own Nellie

[P.S.] Later —

There have been some old ladies in our room this afternoon and they have been talking to me about getting married, and they just frighten me and make me awful blue, but they don't make me love you any less, my dear Charlie boy. Only I wish they wouldn't!

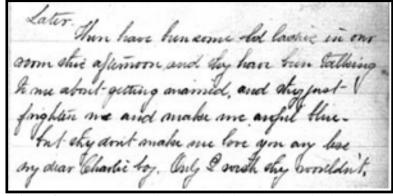


Figure 2 A young, engaged couple pool their hearts in this love letter from she to he, in circa 1866. This "P.S." slip was included by Nellie as an afterthought because of the marriage secrets several old ladies had just apprised her of!



Figure 3a A poetic graduate from Cincinnati dances handily through the language in 1875 as he expresses himself to a vacationing young lady in Connecticut.

Cover 3

Here is a letter from a boy to his girl, Miss E. H. Wilkins, of Bridgeport CT. He writes in a hasty but legible scrawl in May of 1875. He is well educated and nimble of word and goes a mile a minute throwing disparate ideas together. Hopefully, his sweet miss appreciates his verbal charms. But then what sort of friendship is this?

My dear Elib. [Elizabeth],

I obey orders and send in my grist before you find the end of those two weeks at Bridgeport. I wish to be orderly, so here I sit in my shirtsleeves bare-footed. I have just had my hair cut a la goose egg and have paid a dollar to have my last year's straw hat bleached and beautified and you may bet your postage stamps that the summer is at the door.

I must confess that I have a slight cold in my nose and have not yet got down to my dog day underwear but the roses are coming bye and bye as well as my chip hat...One straw hat cannot make a summer says the philosopher.

My down the If I day order and sond in my good to be from you for the and of the met of the met of the most of the sond of the

Figure 3b A portion of the letter to Elizabeth Wilkins.

And what are the wild waves saying? They are a little chill I suppose, but yet they ought to murmur something sweet to you. Sounds from the Sound, you might call it and thereon write a book, or since the waters are supposed to have voices, call your sketches "tongues and sounds."

...When I was a simpering schoolboy at Wilberham, I used to know quite a number of boys and girls from B. but bless my soul and theirs' I can't now recall any of their names. They are recorded away in my calf's book of autographs but that's stowed away in some old box, and except a little gleam of sunshine which they throw upon my memory, they are to me as though they had never been.

There are lots of good people down about that country that I would scrape up as old school mates. They are mostly Methodists

for whom Wilberham was a Mecca and they and I went there for terms together. Generous Yankee souls I wonder how time and the world deals with them? If anybody asks about me, say that my mother is proud of me....

...I am generally away when anybody calls...you should give me a weeks notice or so.

Cover 4

But love is not an ever-filling cup. Sometimes the cup spills a bit of its contents, and other times it just plain breaks. The following letter reports a broken piece of crockery.

In 1850, the lure of the gold fields was still just picking up speed. Out of the daily frustrations and toilsome routine sometimes emerges a glint of envy and urge to smell the hay in the next pasture, or the next state, or clear across the continent. Some men sent for their families, some had families that would stand by their dreams. Other men cut and ran. And some

wives equally cut and ran, not sufficiently full of same faith that drew others to the far west.

On March 9, 1850, Mrs. Jane Hackite (?) of Utica NY wrote to her sister, Mrs. Isaac Taylor, in New York City. The letter bears the well known, attractive Utica scroll PAID marking as would befit someone writing to another who is grieving (*figure 4*).

dear Mary,

Yesterday I received from Mrs. Murdock a letter that astonished us all, but Mother seemed to bear it much better than you possibly could think.

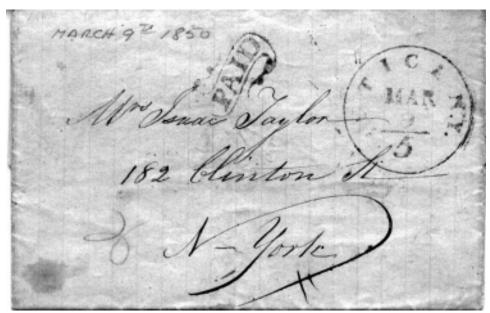


Figure 4 A Utica lady consoles her sister in 1850 after the husband has abandoned her and the children for gold in Calaforny. Their brother will visit NYC to help her settle her affairs on his own way west to look for gold!

Mrs. Murdock says that Taylor has left you and Children to do for yourselves. If so he is an <u>infernal Raskell</u> at least unworthy to be called a Husband or Man.

We all say he is gone to Calaforny - Isaac is going to Calaforny and will be with you on Tuesday. You will be supprised at this event.

My Mother says with the rest of us you must come and live with her — sell the furniture you do not want to bring with you.

I am aggitated so that you will excuse me saying more at this time. Isaac will tell you what to do. We all shall be glad to see you and dear Children. We are sorry for you, (we guess at Taylor's conduct).

From your devoted Sister,

The remarkable switch is that while one husband up

and deserts his family, presumably for the gold coast, the brother in law also is going west. But he does so with the blessing of the rest of the family. Possibly he has no children, and may well be a single brother of the sisters.

Cover 5

The eternal quest of the sexes: how to meet the other. This revealing little letter lends substantial

weight to our picture of farmyard engenues rising to the call of Nature.

Burned into our collective national psyche are pictures of hayrides and hoedowns at the boundary of town and country. We see Dale Evans batting eyes at Roy Rogers on the silver screen, as he hitches up the buckboard for a Saturday afternoon buggy ride or square dance.

In those days of yore, most everyone followed a ritual and code that suggested genteel respect for one another. It was woeful retribution from society for those who would stray.

Charles Everett, a semi-literate farmer, wrote this letter to his good farming buddy Mr. W. P. Steib, of Freedom Station OH. The nearest post office to the writer was Rootstown Ohio where it was canceled on June 19th, 1871.

Friend Pary

I had a little time to day so I thought I would write you a few lines hoping to find you well as it leaves me.

And what are you a doing now. I bought me a bugy the ather day and I had a bugy ride last night and got home at 3 oclock in the morning. Why don'tyou come some Sunday and fetch your girl with you and we will go a riding and lett me know when you are a coming.

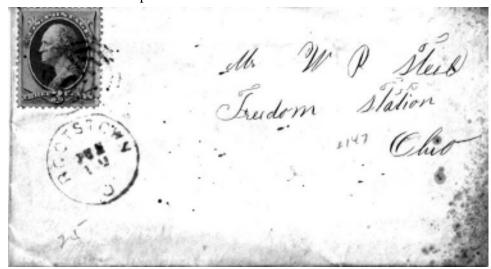


Figure 5a This cover from Rootstown, Ohio, carried a letter from a semi-literate sheepherder in Ohio in 1871 invites his farmer friend and girlfriend to go on a late night buggy ride —after sheep shearing no doubt.

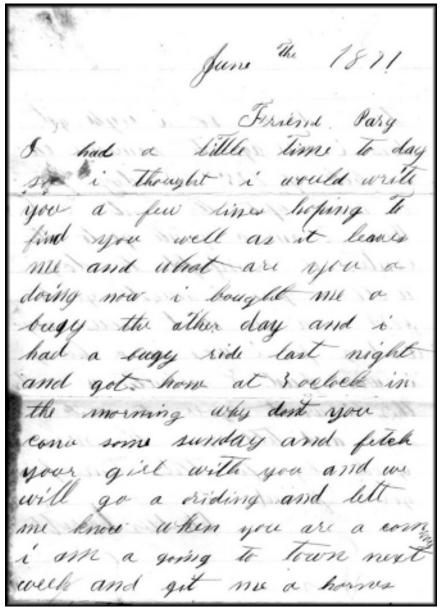


Figure 5b An invitation to a hayride.

I am a going to town next week and get me a harnes and then I can go it.

I have Just comenced to shear sheep. I was shearing last night till dark so I could git done. I am agoin to comence on a flock of 125 Monday for a man up to the senter and then I am a goin to go to the senter of brimfield to [2?] days.

Well I gess I must go to work now. You must excuse my writing for I was in a hury, I was just 8 minutes a writing this. I want you to writ soon and tell me the news.

Good by for this time from your friend,

It seems probable that love out on the farmstead was just as practical a consideration as the rest of the duties and chores that this shepherd attended to.

What, can we imagine, would the conversation sound like in that new-bought buckboard between Pary, Charles and the wimmen-folk?

Cover 6

As time goes on, the motivation stays the same but the words and jargon change as the fads come and go and leave their mark.

This thick, 15-page (one side only) so saccharine letter dates from November 1914. It's a local letter, though sealed and costing two cents because of the bulk of those 15 sheets of tablet paper (rich in sulfur!). The cancel is a handstamp duplex, typical of small mail volume offices.

The town is Ludamici GA, (there must be a long story behind a southern town with a name as peculiar), and is written to Miss Idelle Stone (?) from her devoted "J.T."

Truth to say, the fellow has a extremely limited vocabulary. Few syllables, and fewer letters per word (see especially paragraph four). But he likes to rhyme and he certainly is in love! (A sure bet, she threw him away like a bad penny.)

My darling One:

I am just as blue as I can be cause I didn't get to be with my little Sweetheart last night...I wanted to go so bad and couldn't.

I hope you all are having a nice time, while I'm here thinking of you. I wonder who has my place to night with you, wish I could hoppen up and see

...Didn't enjoy the show one bit. I

was thinking of my dear little Idelle all the time and wishing that I was with you. I didn't even speak to a Ludamici girl that night. I mean no girls at all...cause I don't love no girl but my darling little Idelle.

Your dear sweet and cherishing letter came OK and I'm sure you know or a t least can imagine how glad I was to get it.

I didn't get here untill real late Sunday night think it was about 11:30 oclock. I was thinking of you all the time and it didn't seem so far. I was so blue I didn't know what to do when I had to leave you. Seems like it was all I could do.

...Sure sweetheart, I think lots more of you than I make out I do. Do wish I had some way to prove my love, for little girl if boy ever did love a girl, I do you.

...Well you must be a sweet little girlie right on, and write me a long sweet letter when you can and tell me all about the party, for I know you all had a good time, while I had to be here all by my lonely.

Conclusion

There is a world of differences expressed in these loving excerpts, even though the motive behind all of them is universal and eternal. There are as many different sentiments in love letters as there are people to express it. All tolled, they are yet another way of finding insight into



Figure 6 A fascinating Lulamici GA local letter from 1914 sheds light on the ragtime view of love letter writing. Sugar hath no sweetness by comparison.

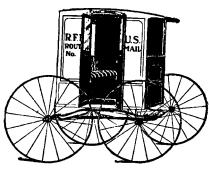
many of those who came before.

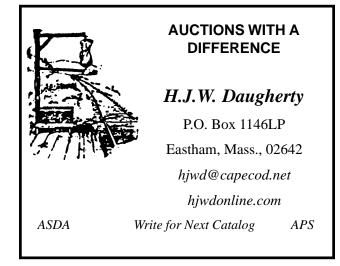
As for Christmas, people did celebrate it prior to Prince Albert. But it was a dour celebration, fully religious. Except for those who celebrated it riotously, literally, and for days, and destructively and wholly drunken. However, was it Albert's Christmas tree, or was it the invention of the envelope (thanks to lower rates) and of Christmas cards, that gave rise to the spectacular December festivities that we know today?

Was it the 1840s and 1850s Valentine's Day cards spirit that gnawed into our hearts to such a degree that today we say "love makes the world go round"? Consider, what would our view of love be like had there been no penny postage (or five and three cent letter rates) in the beginning?

And finally, did the invention of envelopes and escalating need for sulfurous tree pulp paper truly mark the beginning of the world's insidious decline into the abyss of atmospheric pollution?

Or is it just an interesting "hook" for developing an article for *La Posta*?





MAINE NARROW GAUGE R.P.O. CANCELS WANTED

Bangor & Bucksport AGT. (10/9/1879-5/31/1883)
Palermo & Wiscasset R.P.O. (1895-1896)
Albion & Wiscasset R.P.O. (1896-1902, 1909-1933)
Waterville & Wiscasset R.P.O. (1902-1909)
Harrison & Bridgton Junction R.P.O. (1900-1917)
Farmington & Rangeley R.P.O. (1892-1903)
Kingfield & Farmington R.P.O. (1903-1913)
Phillips & Farmington (1913-1917)

BRUCE L. COREY, 108 Marilyn Avenue, Westbrook, ME 04092

Postal Markings of Free Carrier Service in Washington, D.C.

by Carl L. Stieg

nitially, Washington, D.C. correspondents were charged individually for the pick-up and delivery of mail. However, after a period of commercial competition, free carrier service was authorized nationally 10 August 1863. The Washington Post Office immediately appointed ten salaried letter carriers and increased the number of drop boxes from ten to forty-nine. At that time it had the seventh largest number of letter carriers of any post office in the country, although it was the fifth largest post office in terms of letters delivered.

It wasn't until 1866, three years later, that postal markings identified the letters which received carrier service. "COLLECTED" markings, identifying letters picked up from drop boxes for transmittal to the post office, were only used 1866-1869. Nearly all of these letters were to out-of-town addresses; very few letters originating in Washington and going to local addresses were put in the drop boxes. "CARRIER" markings, identifying correspondence delivered to local addresses from within the Washington postal area also began in 1866, but were continued until 1888.

It is known that in New York City during the free carrier period that the carrier service once was physically divided into sections, each containing a carrier or sorting station. The letter carriers from each of these stations picked up mail from their area drop boxes and delivered it to their station to be sorted. Mail for out-of-town was delivered to the main post office, while local city mail was delivered to the appropriate station for delivery to the addressee. There is no known direct evidence that this same system was put into use in Washington, but it is my considered opinion that it must have occurred.

There is no known official reference to carrier or sorting stations within the Washington postal system. However, you will note in the following pages that there are several different carrier markings used simultaneously during each of the separate periods from 1863. Additional evidence is the numeral duplex dispatch markings of six for 1880-1890 and eight for 1890-1900. The Washington receivers also show numerals one through nine for 1883-1888.



The map page of the 1885 Washington City Postal Guide identifies six different offices receiving mail; Main Washington Office, Georgetown Station, East Capitol Station, Station C, Station D and Station E. It is assumed that each location housed carriers and sorted mail. Carriers are listed by name and assigned number (61) or alpha designator (A through K). The distinction between numeral and alpha lists are not clear; perhaps the alphas are supervisors. However,

there is no evidence of carrier markings on local mail of the Georgetown, East Capitol, C, D, and E Stations. It may be that the carrier markings are restricted to the area of the Main Post Office, which is much of the largest District area.

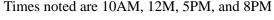
During 1885 there were 318 street collection boxes in the District, the great majority being the NW Main Post Office area. Deliveries within the main post office area varied from three to five per day, with Georgetown receiving two-to three and East Capitol three-to-four deliveries. No schedule was identified for Stations C, D, and E, which probably received two deliveries per day.

The following pages identify all the different "COL-LECTED" and "CARRIER" postal markings, and their known dates of use. Unfortunately, neither the "COLLECTED" nor the "CARRIER" markings show a year date and the Washington circular date stamps were without a year date from 1863 to 1878, which adds considerable difficulty to the evaluation of the markings. I have done my best to provide a year date for each marking from enclosed letters, annotations on envelopes, issue dates of stamps and known usage periods of other postal markings. Some of my assessments may well be in error by as much as two years. It would be of significant assistance if readers could send me photocopies of both sides of envelopes in their collections bearing CARRIER markings.

The "COLLECTED" (Pick Up) Markings

I've not read of any assumptions that the "COLLECTED" markings of 1866-69 are letter carrier connected, but there is no doubt in my mind that they identify mail picked up from drop boxes. In each instance the "COLLECTED" markings (not all of which show the time) are the same or earlier than the Washington dispatch cds (circular date stamps).

Type	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	6/3/66	25 ½ mm, COLLECTED/WASH'N.D.C.; M/D/T in black; H
		more narrow at top, period after N, 3 ½ mm letters.
2	12/10/66	26 mm, COLLECTED/WASH'N.D.C.; M/D/T in black, 4 mm letters
		N, D, and C wider apart.
3	5/6/67 - 6/24/67	As "2", N, D, and C close together, D of COLLECTED and C of
		D.C. further apart.
4 (a)	1/9/68 - 1/22/68	23 1/2 mm, COLLECTED/WASH'N.D.C.; M/D/T in black;
		3 mm letters.
4 (b)	3/13/68	Same in blue.
	Times	noted are 10 AM 12M 5DM and 9DM











"CARRIER" (Delivery) Markings

The carrier delivery markings, used simultaneously with the collected markings, are not at all similar to them in appearance. This may indicate they were produced for different organizations or that they were purposely different so that they would not be mistakenly used one for the other.

BLACK CARRIER MARKINGS OF THE 1860s

Type	<u>Dates</u>	Description
5	2/19/66 - 1/21/67	25 mm, CARRIER; M/D/# Del.
6	10/25/66 - 11/25/66	26 mm, double circle, CARRIER; M/D/Y/T. Reported only on receipts for Registered Letters.
7	6/29/67 - 10/20/69	23 ½ mm, CARRIER; M/D/# Del. Short line at bottom 1 Del, # Del, 4 TR.
8	7/28/?	27 mm, CARRIER; M/D/#Del.
9	12/29/69	26 mm, CARRIER; M/D/T/x. Letters short and squat. It has been suggested that the "x" at the bottom of the dial is a Georgetown iden tifier, but I can not find the address on my only cover in Georgetown.

It is to be noted that there is no counterpart in color to the blue "COLLECTED" postal marking.

There is an unexplained gap 1869-1871 when neither "COLLECTED" nor "CARRIER" markings have been seen. When markings reappeared in 1871 they were limited to the "CARRIER" ones.



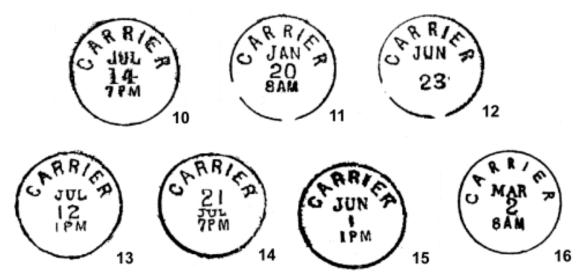
BLACK CARRIER MARKINGS OF THE 1870s

10	7/14/?	27 mm, CARRIER; M/D/T; very thin R's.
11	1/20/71 -72 or 3	As above with circle breaks at 6 and 8 o'clock.
12	3/31/73 - 6/23/73	As above, except no TIME.
13	7/12/?	27 ½ mm, CARRIER; M/D/T; R's wider than above.

BLACK CARRIER MARKINGS OF THE 1870s (continued)

<u>Type</u>	<u>Dates</u>	Description
14	7/12/76 - 9/12/76	As above, except D/M/T.
15	6/1/76	27 mm, CARRIER, M/D/T; letters smaller than above.
16	3/2/?	26 mm, CARRIER, M/D/T; letters still smaller
		C-R angle 180°.

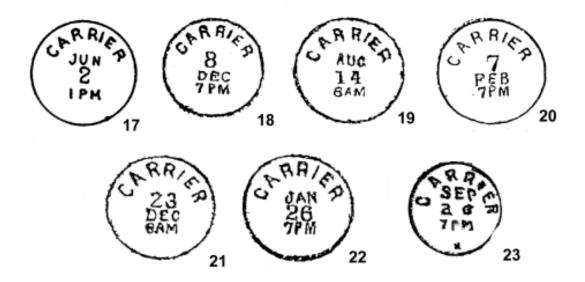
Times seen are 8 AM, 1 PM, and 7 PM.



RED CARRIER MARKINGS OF THE 1870s

17	6/2/73 - 7/21/73		26 mm, CARRIER, M/D/T, letters short and squat.
18	6/17/73 - 10/7/74		26 mm, CARRIER, D/M/T, letters short and squat.
19	8/12/75		27 ½ mm, CARRIER, M/D/T, letters short and squat.
20	1875		As above, but D/M/T.
21	1875		27 mm, CARRIER, D/M/T, letters taller.
22	7/26/76 - 7/27/76		As above, but M/D/T.
23	9/6/76 or 77	Tr:	23 ½ mm, CARRIER, M/D/T/x.

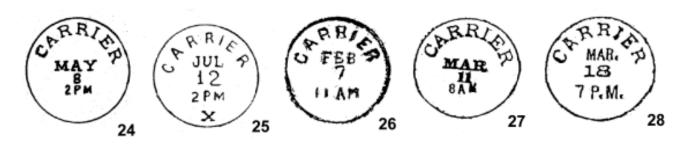
Times seen are 8 AM, 1 PM, and 7 PM.



VIOLET CARRIER MARKINGS OF 1878-79

I have no more than two copies of each of these five circular markings. I doubt that they came from a single carrier office; four different handstamps in a year are a little hard to accept. The violet Washington dispatch cds's have been recorded 7 Jan - 11 Dec 1878.

<u>Type</u>	<u>Dates</u>	Description
24	1/78	26 mm, CARRIER, M/D/T, short, chunky serif letters.
		"C" has squared appearance.
25	7/3/78	27 mm, CARRIER, M/D/T/x, smaller, well separated letters.
26	2/7/78	27 mm, CARRIER, M/D/Y, small, chunky sans serif letters.
27	2/11/78	27 mm, CARRIER, M/D/T, large serif letters nearly touching
		at bottoms.
28	3/18/79	27 mm, CARRIER, M/D/T, large spaced serif letters.



BLUE CARRIER MARKINGS OF 1879

The normal color for Washington dispatch markings, May 1879 - January 1880, is blue. I have only a single copy of each of two CARRIER markings. The first of these two has also been seen in black.

<u>Type</u>	<u>Dates</u>	Description	
29	9/11/79	26 ½ mm, CARRIER, M/D/T, serif letters.	
30	5/19/79	27 mm M/D sans serif letters	

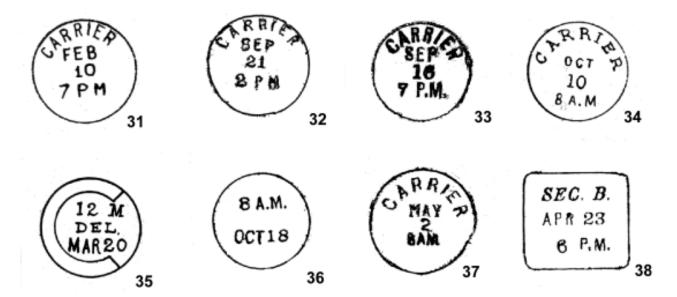




VIOLET CARRIER MARKINGS OF 1881-83

31	3/15/81 - 6/27/82	26 mm, CARRIER, M/D/T, large sans serif letters, narrow "R's", letters close to circle, covers 125° arc.
32	9/21/81	As above, smaller, wider-spaced letters.
33	9/16/82	25 mm, CARRIER, M/D/T, large sans serif letters, narrow "R's", letters close to circle, covers 110° arc.
34	5/21 - 6/15/81	26 mm, CARRIER, M/D/T, squat serif letters, covers 170° of arc.
35	2/22 - 4/4/83	25 ½ mm, T/DEL/M-D inner 18 mm partial circle.
36	10/18 - 12/30/83	25 mm, T/M-D
37	5/2/83	27 ½ mm, CARRIER, M/D/T/, large, well-spaced sans serif letters.
38	6/7/69 - 8/28/80	27 x 25 mm rectangle with rounded corners, SEC.B., M/D/T.

This last variety may not belong here at all; I'm not at all certain what it is, although one dealer called it a sorting cancel. I have seen only three copies; one local and two from out of town. Two were addressed to government agencies and the third was only by name.



BLUE CARRIER MARKINGS OF 1884

<u>Type</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Description</u>	
39	2/20/84 - 8/6/84	26 ½ mm, CARRIER (sans serif)/numeral, M/D/T	
		Known for numerals 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8.	

BLACK CARRIER MARKINGS OF 1885 - 1888

40	3/15/85 - 10/17/85	26 mm, CARRIER (sans serif)/ numeral, M/D/T Known for numerals 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.		
41	1/9/86 - 12/30/87	28 mm, CARRIER (sans serif)/large numerals, M/D/T Known for numerals 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8.		
42	12/7/87	28 ½ mm, CARRIER (sans serif), M (serif)/D/T, no numerals Short, squatty letters.		
43	12/8/87 - 1/1/88	28 mm, CARRIER (sans serif)/ small numerals, M/D/T Known for numerals 4 and 6.		
(S)	RICO OCT D SEB D SE M SPM 5	TORM 3 41 APM 42 ARRIVATION APM 43		

My heartfelt thanks to roger Rhoads for the nudge his article on the Free Delivery Carrier Markings gave me toward producing this article about the District of Columbia carrier markings.

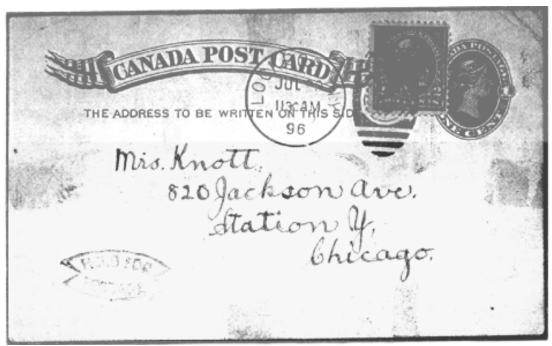


Figure 1 One-cent Queen Victoria domestic postal card issued by Canada in 1893. This card was improperly used in 1896, in the US.

Handling Postal Cards Used Improperly Outside the Country of Issuance

by Henry J. Berthelot

The writer's primary medium of collecting is postal cards, especially those issued by the United States (US). There are numerous interesting postal card study areas; one such area is that of cards improperly used outside the territorial limits of the country that had issued them. Owing to circumstance, most of those cards were forwarded through the International Mail and delivered postage due in the country of destination.

This article presents three postal cards used respectively in 1896, 1900 and 1952, and examines how each card was handled— or mishandled— by postal authorities. Seemingly, the cards were used in a non-philatelic manner. Thus, the improper use of each card may be attributed to the particular sender's carelessness and/or ignorance of Universal Postal Union (UPU) regulations.

Although a different postal administration initially handled each of the three postal cards considered herein, the cards have one thing in common: the postal administrations gave no credit to the imprinted value on the indicia. The reason why no credit was given to the imprinted value, and how each card subsequently

was handled can be traced back to the rules established at the inception of the International Mail system.

The postal administrations' authority for negating the imprinted value on the indicium of a postal card originated in the 1874 Treaty of Berne, which was modified by the 1878 Convention of Paris. That treaty was codified into US Law as 19 Statutes-at-Large 577-609. The pertinent articles for our consideration were:

The Treaty:

Article 4. The prepayment of . . . cards is compulsory. The postage to be charged upon them is fixed at one-half of that on paid letters, with [a country having the] power to round off fractions.

Article 6. Prepayment of postage on every description of article can be effected only by means of postage stamps or stamped [indicia] valid in the country of origin.

The Treaty Regulations:

Article 5. ... In case postage ... be used which [is] not of any value in the country of origin, no account shall be taken of [such postage].

Since the country of origin – meaning the country where the card was mailed – in each case presented herein was outside the territorial limits of the country which issued the card, the imprinted postage on each indicium was "not of any value" and "no account [was] taken of [such postage]."

The authority of a member country's postal administration to charge additional postage was founded in another paragraph of the Article 4, above quoted. That paragraph stated:

The charge for unpaid [cards] shall be double the rate levied in the country of destination for prepaid [cards].

The one-cent Queen Victoria domestic postal card was issued by Canada in 1893. The Queen Victoria postal card seen in *figure 1* was improperly mailed in the US at Lockport, New York, on 20 July 1896, addressed to the sender's aunt in Chicago, Illinois. The message told of the pleasant time the niece was having in St. Catherines, Ontario, Canada, and of her going "over to Lockport that morning." In this instance, the card did not pass through the International Mail. Rather, it entered the US domestic Mail directly, and was initially handled by a clerk in the Lockport Post Office. Being of domestic address and prepaid at less than one full rate, the card, pursuant to the *US Postal Laws and Regulations (PL&R)* then in effect,

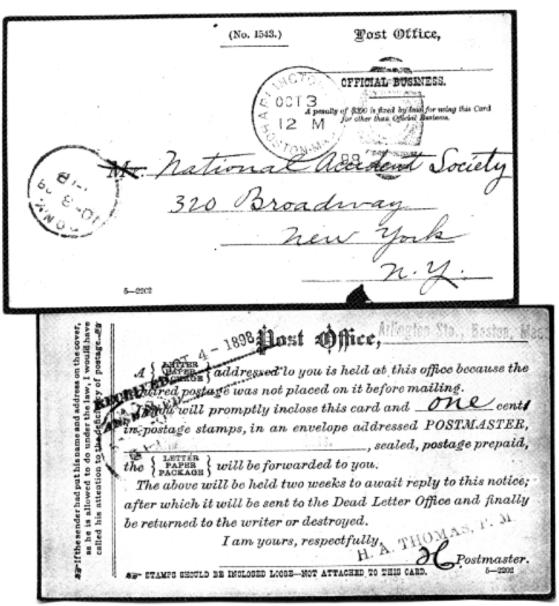


Figure 2 Example of a late 1890s penalty card Form 1543, (address side in upper view; message side in lower view) used to notify an addressee of "held for postage" matter. [This particular penalty card form was used in 1898 by the Boston, Massachusetts (Arlington Station) Post Office.]

was handled as a "held for postage" matter. A notice on penalty card Form 1543 (*see figure 2*) was sent to the addressee requesting postage. This particular penalty card Form 1543 advised the addressee, [note text in left-hand portion on the message side, reading vertically upward]:

"If the sender had put his name and address on the [card], as he is allowed to do under the law, [the Postmaster] would have called [the sender's] attention to the deficiency of postage."

The postal card then was held at the Lockport Post Office pending a reply from the addressee or the passage of a fixed amount of time, after which it would have been forwarded to the Dead Letter Office.

In 1896, the US and Canada exchanged mail pursuant to a bilateral postal Convention. Under that Convention, the single-letter rate between the countries was two cents and the postal-card rate was one cent. As relates to the charging of insufficiently prepaid mail between the two countries, the rules were the same as the rules applicable to insufficiently prepaid International Mail.

Handling the illustrated postal card as an *unpaid card*, the Lockport postal clerk doubled the postal card rate [2 X 1 cent] and requested two cents in postage from the addressee on a penalty card Form 1543. The fancy "Held for Postage" handstamp was struck on the card in magenta ink. When the Lockport Post Office re-

ceived the addressee's reply – the two-cent Washington stamp – the clerk added it to the card, cancelled it, then routed the card to Chicago. Upon receipt in the Chicago Post Office, the card was delivered without further delay.

Digressing for a moment, the writer notes that in early 1880 a change was made in the marking of insufficiently prepaid International Mail. The new procedure required insufficiently prepaid mail to be denoted at the Foreign Exchange Office in the country of origin with the letter "T" (French, meaning taxe to be paid") and with the amount expressed in Latin Monetary Union (union) centimes equivalent to the deficiency in the particular country's currency. Foreign Exchange Office clerks in the country of destination were responsible for doubling the deficient amount and converting the Union centimes into that country's currency.

The card shown in *figure 3*, a two-cent Liberty international postal card, was issued by the US in late 1898. At the time this card was mailed, the US International card rate to other member countries of the UPU was two cents, which equaled ten Union centimes. However, this card was improperly posted in December of 1900 at Sapporo, Japan, addressed to a correspondent in St. Louis, Missouri. The message side of the card wished the correspondent felicitations for the New Year.



Figure 3 Two-cent Liberty International Postal Card issued by the US in late 1898. This card was improperly used in 1900, in Japan..

The Japanese Foreign Exchange Office handled the postal card as an *unpaid letter*, denoting it insufficiently prepaid with the UPU-handstamp "25 CTMS / T." At the time, the Japanese International single letter rate to other UPU member countries was ten sen, which equaled twenty-five Union centimes; its International postal card rate was four sen, which equaled ten Union centimes. The card then was forwarded to the US.

Upon arrival of the card in the US Foreign Exchange Office at San Francisco, California, a clerk there doubled the deficient amount as had been noted in Union centimes and converted that total into US currency [25 Union centimes X 2 = 50 Union centimes. And with 1 cent US = 5 Union centimes, 50 Union centimes X 1 cent / 5 Union centimes = 10 cents US postage due.] Since the card was an issue of the US, the clerk in this instance gave credit for the imprinted value on the indicium [10 cents US postage due - 2 cents value of indicium = 8 cents total US postage due].

The clerk then affixed the handstamp "US CHARGE / TO COLLECT CENTS," writing the numeral "8" in the blank space between the words "COLLECT" and "CENT." Both the Japanese and the US Exchange Office markings were struck in black ink as was required under the International Mail Regulations. The card then was routed to St. Louis.

Upon receipt of the card in the St. Louis Post Office, a clerk attached and cancelled the two postage due adhesives to account for the eight cents collected. Presumably, that amount was received from the addressee when the card was delivered.

Effective 1 October 1907, another change was instituted regarding the denoting of insufficiently prepaid International Mail. After that date, the doubling of the deficient amount, still expressed in Union centimes, was the responsibility of Foreign Exchange Office clerks in the country of origin. Foreign Exchange Office clerks in the country of destination only had to convert the Union centimes into the destination country's currency and mark the item with a domestic postage due handstamp.

A change in the centime standard – centimes to gold centimes – was precipitated by the breakdown of the international gold standard after World War I. The resulting fluctuations in national currencies destroyed the value of the Union centime as a means of international postal accounting. The UPU found a replacement for the Union centime in the "gold Union centime." The eight International Postal Congress, held in 1924 at Stockholm, Sweden, described the gold Union centime, for purposes of international accounting, as one with a weight of "10/31st of a gram of gold of .900 fineness." Each member country of the UPU was obliged to fix its postal charges on the basis of the closest possible equivalent to the value of the gold Union centime in its own currency. For the US, one-

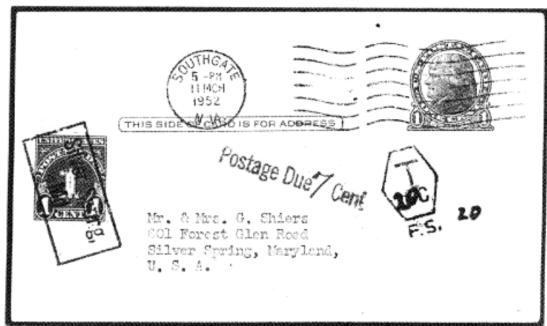


Figure 4 One-cent Jefferson domestic postal card first issued by the US in 1914. This card was improperly used in 1952, in England.

cent equaled three gold Union centimes. On 1 October 1925, the International-card rate increased; the US International-card rate to other member countries of the UPU rose to three cents.

The once-cent Jefferson domestic postal card was first issued in 1914. As the longest used postal card in US history, the Jefferson cards were utilized (except during the "War Tax" period) until 1 January 1952, when the US domestic surface card rate increased to two cents. [During the War Tax period and after 1 January 1952, the Jefferson card could be used domestically and internationally if added postage were affixed to meet the then current rate and any special service requested.]

The Jefferson postal card seen in *figure 4* was improperly posted on 11 March 1952, in Southgate, England, addressed to a correspondent in Silver Springs, Maryland. The message side of the card had a polite, personal message.

The British Foreign Exchange clerk handled the postal card as an *unpaid card*. The hexagonal UPU-"T" handstamp [referred to by the British as a "casket taxe mark"] of the London Foreign Section noted the deficient amount, doubled, as twenty gold Union centimes. The card was then forwarded to the US.

Upon arrival of the postal card in the US Foreign Exchange Office, the clerk handling it converted the gold Union centimes into US currency [1 cent US / 3 gold Union centimes X 20 gold Union centimes = 6.66 cents, rounded off to 7 cents total postage due]. Here, the clerk gave no credit for the imprinted value on the indicium. The straight-line handstamp "Postage Due Cent" was applied in magenta ink and the numeral "7" was added by hand in the blank space between the words "Due" and "Cent." Since this postage due marking was for domestic use only, the clerk affixed it in the familiar magenta ink used by the US Post Office Department. The card then was directed to Silver Springs.

The clerk handling the card in the Silver Springs Post Office incorrectly read or did not comprehend why the postage due amount was seven cents. Thus, the clerk affixed and cancelled a one-cent postage due adhesive. That amount, rather than the correct amount of seven cents, was collected from the addressee upon delivery of the card.

This article has examined why postal cards used outside the country of issuance were handled in a particular manner. Devising a plausible explanation for the mishandled cards is, for the writer, one of the most enjoyable and interesting aspects of postal history.

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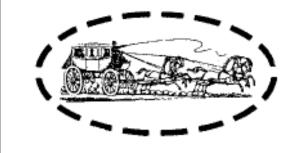
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Company I, 14th Infantry in front of Fort Klamath Post Barracks, circa 1889. (National Archives)

William Carey Brown's Letters from Fort Klamath, Oregon, 1878-1880

transcribed by Cath Clark with an introduction by Richard W. Helbock

and letters of people who lived and worked in earlier times, give us a unique perspective of historic events as seen by participants. When we find an account written by a person involved in a particularly interesting series of events in a place, which was at the time far off the beaten track, we have hit pay dirt. The letters of William Carey Brown to his family written from Fort Klamath, Oregon, between 1878 and 1881 are such an account, and we are pleased to present them in serial form to *La Posta* readers beginning with this issue of the journal. It seems appropriate to provide readers with some background details of Fort Klamath and William Carey Brown be-

fore proceeding to Brown's letters.

Fort Klamath

The War Department consented to build a military post in the vicinity of Goose and Klamath lakes along the Oregon-California border. The mission of the proposed post was to afford protection for settlers traveling the southern immigrant road.

Brigadier General George Wright, Commander of the Department of the Pacific, determined that construction of the new post should be undertaken by the recently formed 1st Oregon Volunteer Cavalry, which had been garrisoned at Fort Walla Walla with little to do since June 1862. Major Charles Drew of the 1st Oregon Volunteer Cavalry assigned the task of building the new fort to Captain William Kelly in the spring of 1863. Kelly and the men of Company C traveled to southern Oregon to construct and garrison the post before the onset of winter. Figure 1 illustrates a cover postmarked Eugene City, O.T., August 20, 1863, addressed to George Riddle, Company C, 1st Cavalry Oregon Volunteers at Jacksonville, Oregon. Despite the fact that Jacksonville post office was located over 50 miles southwest of the site of the new post, it was



Figure 1 This cover carried a letter mailed from Eugene City in August 1863 to George Riddle of Company C, 1st Oregon Volunteer Cavalry, which was at the time building Fort Klamath. Jacksonville, some 50 miles to the west, was the nearest post office.



Map 1 A portion of the A Diagram of Public Surveys in Oregon, Surveyor General's Office, Eugene City, August 24th, 1863. Site of Fort Klamath added.

the closest post office in 1863 (*map 1*). Mail service for the men of Company C would have included a horseback ride of over 100 miles round trip to Jacksonville, and although new civil post offices were to replace Jacksonville as the main supply point for Fort Klamath, it would be nearly two decades before the fort had its own post office.

The Early Years

The site chosen for construction of Fort Klamath was located in the Wood River Valley, about eight miles north of the shore of Klamath Lake. The valley varied from about six to fifteen miles wide, was well watered by a half dozen clear flowing streams and was carpeted by lush growths of grass. The nearby hills were forested with pine presenting an abundant supply of building material as well as fuel for fires. The site offered an impressive view of snow-capped Mount Shasta to the south.

Fort Klamath was designed to house two companies of troops and initially consisted of an adjutant's office, guard house, arsenal, hospital, bakery, two storehouses, four sets of officer's quarters, enlisted barracks and stables. Enlisted barracks measured 120 by 30 by 10 feet, and were divided into large square or oblong rooms heated by fireplaces and stoves. The barracks were well ventilated with twelve windows on opposite sides, and the men slept on two tier double wooden bunks (*figure 2*).

Four separate quarters were later constructed for married soldiers. These measured 30 by 15 by 10 feet and each had two windows and a single door. Officers' quarters were larger, measuring 40 feet square by 10 feet high. The stables were located a short distance from the men's quarters. They were large, well ventilated and "made with a view to warmth, dryness and durability."

Fort Klamath continued to be garrisoned by Oregon volunteers throughout the Civil War. Duties included road building and policing the surrounding countryside. Company I of the 1st Oregon Volunteer Infantry joined Company C of the Cavalry in 1865 and brought the post up to its intended two company strength. In



Figure 2 The plan of Fort Klamath, 1875. Note the four large officers' quarters immediately to the right of the parade ground, which was dominated by a 125-foot flagpole. (National Archives)

October 1865 a treaty was signed creating the Klamath Indian Reservation, and thereafter the men assigned to Fort Klamath found themselves frequently acting as a police force for the Klamath Indian Agent.

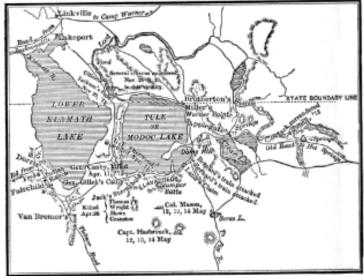
The Oregon volunteers were finally replaced by troops of the United States Army in 1867 with the arrival of Company A, 1st Cavalry, commanded by Captain John F. Smith. Company K, 23rd Infantry, was assigned in 1869, and once again Fort Klamath was a two-company post. Duties of the regulars differed very little from those of the earlier volunteers. Road building, expanding and maintaining post facilities, policing disorderly whites and Indians, and generally attempting to provide a sense of law and order to a vast and lightly settled land were chief among the activities of the US Army at Fort Klamath.

The Modoc War

The Modoc War of 1872-73 was, without a doubt, the pinnacle of excitement when it came to military life at Fort Klamath. When the treaty creating the Klamath Reservation was signed in 1865, one of the tribes, which were to cede their lands in exchange for land on the reservation, was the Modocs of northern California. Kintpuash, who was known to the white settlers as Captain Jack, led the tribe, probably numbering no more than 300. In 1870 Congress finally got around to ratifying the Klamath Reservation Treaty, and local settlers became more and more insistent that Captain Jack and his band of Modocs be removed to the reservation from their Lost River lands north of Tule Lake (*map 2*).

On November 29, 1872, a troop of cavalry from Fort Klamath advanced on Captain Jack's camp at Lost River. Rifle fire was exchanged, and the Modocs scattered. Instead of going north to the reservation, the Modocs fled south along the shore of Tule Lake leaving a trail of death and destruction in their wake. When word of this reached Brigadier General Edward R.S. Canby, Commanding the Department of Columbia, at Fort Vancouver, he dispatched a force of infantry under General E.C. Mason by special train to Roseburg, Oregon, then the terminus of the Oregon & California Railroad.

A series of inconclusive skirmishes between units of the Army and the approximately 70 Modoc warriors led by Captain Jack in the lava beds ensued in December and early January. On January 16th the Army



Map 2 "The Modoc Country" from Hubert Howe Bancroft's History of Oregon, 1888.

launched an attack on Captain Jack's stronghold with a force of 225 regulars and 150 volunteers. The attack was a disaster. Thick fog badly obscured visibility for the advancing troops and as the fog began to lift, Modoc sharp shooters directed accurate rifle fire from their positions in the lava. Quickly, the Army retreated and suffered casualties numbering nine killed and 28 wounded. It was said that not one Modoc had been seen.

Unsuccessful at battle, the Army decided to try negotiations, and to this end General Canby assumed personal command. A peace commission was established in February and by mid-March Captain Jack had agreed to attend talks in a tent set up midway between the Army and Modoc lines. Captain Jack demanded a reservation for the Modocs within their own territory. General Canby requested immediate and unconditional surrender.

As peace talks continued with no apparent progress several of the younger Modoc leaders argued that Captain Jack should kill the white general and thus frighten away the whites from Modoc country. Jack resisted initially, but finally gave in to their arguments and on Good Friday morning, April 11, 1873, as negotiations began in the peace tent, Captain Jack shot General Canby in the face, then stabbed him repeatedly until he died and stripped him of his dress uniform. One of the other peace commissioners, a Methodist minister, was also killed and a third was wounded.

The Army and the U.S. public were shocked. Canby was the only general officer ever killed during the entire history of Indian warfare. President Grant ordered the Army "to make the attack so strong and persistent that their fate may be commensurate with their crime"³. Troop reinforcements were soon rushed to the region, and the war continued.

In late April a party of 22 Modoc warriors surprised an Army detachment numbering nearly eighty who were casually eating lunch in an unprotected area. The Modocs attacked killing all five officers and twenty enlisted men. This defeat, following as it did the massacre of Canby, created considerable anger and concern among both the Army and the public. The Modocs became the subject of considerable public anger across the nation and newspapers carried suggestions of draconian measures, which might be used to root the Indians from their lava bed stronghold.

Fortunately for the Army, dissention among the Modoc leaders continued to grow, and, one by one, bands began to drift away from the main body of the tribe. Colonel Jefferson Davis succeeded Canby in command of the Department of Columbia, and in early May he assumed charge of the operations against the Modocs. His strategy was to arrest and detain Modocs wherever they could be found, and, thanks to the internal struggles within the tribe, it met with a fair degree of success. On June 1st a cavalry patrol cornered Captain Jack and his family in a lava cave, and succeeded in coaxing them out to surrender. Captain Jack and five of his lieutenants were tried –without benefit of an attorney—by a military tribunal and sen-



Figure 3 This artist's recreation of Captain Jack shooting General Canby was published in Harper's Weekly, June 28, 1873. Public outrage at the murder swept the nation and President Grant demanded swift retaliation by the Army.

tenced to death. President Grant commuted two of the sentences to life in prison, but on October 3, 1873, Captain Jack and three other Modoc leaders were hanged on a scaffold erected at the Fort Klamath parade ground.

The Later Years

With the events of the Modoc War behind them, soldiers garrisoned at Fort Klamath once again resumed activities of a quieter nature. Work on a telegraph line connecting the post with Fort Bidwell in northern California began in the early 1870s, but it would be nearly a decade before it was completed. Many of the original post buildings were in need of repair and replacement, and the 1870s brought a period of renewed construction. The fort had become a major social center for the growing number of Klamath Valley settlers and was often a source of employment and medical care.

Linkville, a town so named for its location on the Link River that joined Upper Klamath Lake with Lake Ewauna, was founded in 1867 on land settled by George Nurse. Nurse was appointed the first Linkville postmaster in December 1871 and the office began operating in July 1872. In 1892 the name of Linkville was changed to Klamath Falls.

Establishment of the Linkville post office meant that mail service was now much more accessible to the fort, and in a letter dated June 16, 1872, Major G. G. Hunt, 1st Cavalry, Commanding Fort Klamath wrote the Adjutant General, Department of Columbia:

I have the honor that on and after the 1st of July 1872, that Linkville, Oregon, about thirty-six miles from this post and accessible at all seasons of the year, is to be a postal station, to which mail for this post may be sent, and I would respectfully recommend that our mail be sent there, via Jacksonville, Oregon.⁴

Fort Klamath was awarded its own post office with the appointment of Jay Beach as postmaster on January 6, 1879. Records indicate that the office was discontinued May 26, 1879, and it may well be that the Beach appointment was never actually finalized. On November 27, 1879, John Gotbrod was appointed postmaster, but he was succeeded by Joseph S. Beach on May 18, 1880.⁵

Fort Klamath had become a mature military post by the early 1880s. Indian troubles in the region had largely subsided, and civil government and laws had expanded to the point where a military police force was no longer necessary. The US Congress was in a mood to save money by closing military posts throughout the west, and only a vigorous letter writing campaign by residents of the Klamath district prevented closure of the fort in 1886 when President Cleveland earmarked it for disposal.

Finally, in 1889, when it became obvious that there were no longer any viable military reasons to maintain the post, the decision was reached to close it. In a ceremony held on August 9, 1889, Company I, 14th Infantry lowered the flag for the last time from its lofty 125-foot flagpole. A small detachment of nine men and an officer remained behind until the facility was transferred to an Interior Department caretaker in June 1890.

William Carey Brown

William Carey Brown graduated from West Point just three days before the Battle of White Bird Canyon in which an officer and 33 enlisted cavalrymen from Fort Lapwai, Idaho Territory were killed while attempting to punish a renegade band of Nez Perces Indians for an earlier killing of four white settlers. Brown had elected to be assigned to Fort Walla Walla in eastern Washington Territory, and he must have followed closely the epic retreat of Chief Joseph and the Nez Perces as General Howard pursued them throughout the summer and fall of 1877.

Brown was born in Minnesota but, while he was a cadet, his family moved to Denver, Colorado. He became a career military man, retiring with the rank of Brigadier General in 1927 after forty years service. In addition to participating in the Indian Wars, Brown served with the Infantry in the Philippines during the Spanish-American War, took part in Pershing's Punitive expedition into Mexico in 1916-17, and was a colonel in the American Expeditionary Force to Europe in World War I.

After graduation on June 14, 2nd Lieutenant Brown enjoyed a few months of well-deserved leave and probably a short course in specialized cavalry training before reporting to Fort Walla Walla, his first duty station. He reached Fort Walla Walla in December 1877.

The Correspondence

William Carey Brown's letters to his family have been in philatelic hands for an unknown number of years. I acquired approximately fifty letters—most from Brown to his parents and sisters, but a few from the family back to Lt. Brown—in the early 1990s. I have, however, seen other covers addressed to the Brown Family in Denver from Oregon, which were not part of the lot I purchased. Obviously, an unknown number of letters, or at least the covers containing them, were sold from the original correspondence before it came into my possession. Never the less, the letters on which this article is based are rich in detail and well written. They deserve to be published now as a group before any further erosion of the original correspondence takes place.

Lieutenant Brown provides a summary of his travels in the Northwest in a letter to his parents dated June 27, 1879. We will, of course, publish that letter in the chronological order it appears, but for the moment it provides us with a guide to his itinerary with which we can align the pieces of correspondence at hand. Brown traveled to Fort Walla Walla from the railroad town of Kelton, Utah Territory in December 1877. He remained in winter garrison at Fort Walla Walla until May 1878 when he led a pack train from Walla Walla to Lewiston, Idaho Territory. He returned to the fort in early June and almost at once began to participate in the summer campaign against the Indians of eastern Oregon and western Idaho. Our first letters from Brown to his family are three short pieces that date from this summer campaign.

In September 1878, Brown accompanied his Army unit south and west from the campaign area en route to Fort Klamath by way of Fort Bidwell, California. He reached Fort Klamath on October 23, 1878, to begin a period of winter garrison duty.

We begin our publication of the Brown correspondence with his earliest letter from Fort Klamath, which was dated October 27, 1887. The sequence will then proceed chronologically so that we can appreciate the thoughts and experiences of this young officer as he adjusts to garrison duty at this remote military post during the winter of 1878-79.

When we reach the previously mentioned summary of travels letter dated June 27, 1879, we will temporarily break the chronological sequence to explore events described therein. Since this summary deals primarily with Brown's participation in the Indian campaigns of the previous summer, we will introduce contemporary maps, which permit us to trace his travels and publish the three Brown letters in our possession from that campaign at that time.

We will then return to Brown's letters in chronological order and follow his life and adventures through the remainder of his assignment at Fort Klamath. There are a number of letters available to us from Lt. Brown's family members addressed to him at Fort Klamath beginning with the summer of 1879, and we will thus be able to present our readers with both sides of the conversation in some instances.

End Notes

¹Bancroft Hubert Howe, *History of Oregon*, Vol. II, p.495.

²War Dept., Surgeon General's Office, *Report on Barracks and Hospitals*, 1871, p.434

³Bancroft, p.614.

⁴Helfrich, Devere, "The Linkville-Klamath Falls Post Office" in *The Postal Historian*, Vol. I, No. 3 (September 1967), p.12.

⁵Griffin, Bernard, "Fort Klamath Postal History", in *The Postal Historian*, Vol. III, No. 5 (November 1968), p.49.

The Letters

Fort Klamath, Oregon, Oct 27th, 1878.

[letter only]

Dear Mother,

I arrived here on the 23d Oct and found yours of Sept 25th, Oct 1st, 9th & 15th waiting for me and as I had considerable to attend to in getting back from the campaign I thought I should wait until today before attempting to answer all four of the letters at once. Grace's & Helen's letters were also rec'd and I will answer all at once. I have heard nothing [on] our Indians needing removed but if they [do] I think it would be impossible for me to get to go for reasons too numerous to mention.

I enclose a copy of that report that I sent Gen Forsyth. Please return it as I may need it for reference at some future time.

I think that air pillow that you speak of must be a "way up" affair. Would you please send me one by mail. I used a bag of clothes for a pillow this summer and fall which was not as "downy" as it might have been and my head being so heavy (on acc't of the might and density of skull, & not of brains) that my ear (probably longer than the usual pattern) used to get unmercifully pinched. I want a color of pillow that won't show the dirt and I don't care about its being so very large.

Yours, Will

[Additional letter on the reverse]

Dear Sisters,

As I am writing letters all around I guess you will have to excuse me for writing to you both at the same time. I wrote last from Willow Ranch. From there we marched north, passing on the east side of Goose Lakes. This is a very beautiful & fertile valley. In fact after passing the Warner Range (which separates Bidwell from Goose Lake) the whole country changes and instead of sage and alkali we got into a country "where the grass grows" and that is well timbered with pine timber. We saw large numbers of white geese here. Ducks in [great] quantity. From there we struck west to Drew's Valley where we camped, and waked up next morning to find the ground covered with [birds]. Our chief amusement was watching a grey hound that we had running down rabbits.

The day we got in I shot a goose with a carbine, and as it was the first that I had ever brought down this fact must be noted. We camped that night at "True [Shout] Spring". This is well named for the water, clear as crystal, comes boiling out from the crevice of a rock with a noise. The stream it makes is about 1 ft deep and 6 ft wide. This night the wagons which had missed the camp did not get in until after dark, but we were glad enough to get them then as some were afraid of them not getting in at all.

I like Klamath very much, although it is in the wilderness. It is a very pretty post and flowing just back of the post is one of the clearest streams of water that I have ever seen. It is very large and comes from an immense spring a short distance above. The post is just in the edge of the pine woods . . . The valley, which is quite large is surrounded by mountains. There is excellent hunting & fishing here but I don't expect to get time to indulge in it before winter. The . . . officers here now are Col Whipple who is Commanding Officer & 2nd Lt. [Willis] Wittich 21st Inf. Class 74. The garrison consists of Co. "L" 1st Cav & Co. "F", 21st Inf. Capt.

Jack of Modoc fame with several others were hung here several years ago and the gallows & graves are still standing.

I am going to move into my quarters tomorrow and I want to get one of Helens pictures this winter to hang up and when the other officers are admiring it, I will tell them that it is merely a little sketch of my sister's - just daubed up in a few hours you know - and it wasn't a good day for painting either. Lt. Wittich is quite artistic and has a number of his paintings hung up in his parlor. The Q.M. Dept furnishes plenty of furniture here. For example, I have a "whatnot" office desk with pidgeon [sic] holes, table & chairs and I am also going to get a sofa & bed stand, all of which cost me nothing. There are plenty of quarters but some of them are a little cold in winter. It is said that they have four ft of snow on the parade ground in winter. Col Whipple wanted to make me Post Adjt, the day after I arrived but I have begged off for a while. We expect Capt Riley & . . . Duncan 21st Inf here this fall or winter & also Shelton.

Col Whipple has invited me to mess with him this winter, which I shall do. I am at present messing at Wittich's. I am the only bachelor at the post. I am glad to see that you are both doing so well in your studies, and hope you will continue to do as well as you have done. I rec'd a number of papers here for which accept thanks. We get our mail here on Tues. Wed. & Saturdays. Linkville is the nearest town and that is 36 miles from here, and Reading is I believe the nearest R.R. station. Don't know just how far it is to the R.R. My . . . private property came through nicely. Mrs. Lt. Bowers and Mrs Col Perry very kindly packed them securely for me. I am sorry I didn't get one of those "pappoose holders" since I wanted one but am afraid that they would [prove] too odiferous for a parlor ornament. People at this place do a great deal of sending but I don't know just yet what I will do this winter. I will first have to make out my Q.M. Commissary and company papers that I could not make out in the field. I have just rec'd the "Rules for the Conduct of the War Game or Kreigspeil" which is an excellent thing for officers, but the maps & pieces cost about \$125 imported from London.

Yours, Will.

Fort Klamath, Ogn Oct 27th 1878

[additional letter enclosed with above]

Dear Father

I arrived with the company on the 23d and we received a very hearty welcome from the officers at this place. Col Whipple had arrived about two weeks previous with the Co property. He gave me a room in his quarters and Lt Wittich invited me to mess with him until I got settled. If the other officers take quarters when they come, I will have five good rooms besides a kitchen & servants soon. I will however use only two of them. I expect to mess with Col Whipple this winter at least and probably next summer until we get another man from the Point who I expect will take Wittich's place when Wittich is promoted.

This is a very pretty country around here and we have good grazing, the climate is however too cold for farming as we are surrounded by mountains and the elevation is 4239 ft.

Enclosed you will find twenty (20) dollars for my Life Insurance, which should be paid Nov 8th. Why don't you get your life insured. I have written several times about it & you give me no answer. I sent, you will remember, \$20 toward it, and if you will let me know how much more is needed for the payment on a \$1000 policy for one year I will send the balance. You promised that you would get your life insurance just as soon as your health was such that you could pass the examination and if it is so now I think you ought to get insured at once.

Oct 29th. I send by this mail a copy of our Class Record, also photo of Camp Bidwell Cal, also [N.Y. Graphic] containing picture of Ft Boise I.T. drawn by Patten of our class. Please let me know if you receive all of the above.

I enclose check for \$41.90, \$20 of this is to pay for the amt paid by you for my special permit to do frontier duty – paid to the Ins Co and the balance is for Ma, Grace & Helen for the month of Sept (\$5.00 to each of the girls & the balance to Ma). I am at last settled for the winter and am much better located than I was at Walla Walla. We are enjoying beautiful weather.

I wish you would let me know whether that 1% extra on my Life Ins. Has to be paid every year or whether the payment that has already been made is the only one required for the permit.

P.S. The mail is just in and yours of the 22nd received. Don't know just how far it is from here to the R.R. but I believe Reading is the nearest station. I am sorry to hear that [sheep] business is so poor but hope that it will improve. I would much rather serve here than to have such a position as Lt. Lundeen has. Field service I do not count as an objection but I think it is a great advantage. Lt. Lundeen has probably never seen a day of field service and don't know how much fun it is. I have gained about 7 or 8 lbs this summer... & my health is splendid. One gets valuable experience in the field that he can get in no other way....

Just received a letter from Frank Johnson he is No 5 in his class. Says that a Plebe got 12 months confinement not long ago for running it down to Highland Falls.

Expect Shelton & Capt Riley here in a few days.

Yours, Will

Fort Klamath, Oregon Nov 6th, 1878.

[cover postmarked Linkville, Nov. 17]

Dear Mother.

I expected your letter from home by yesterdays mail but it did not appear. We now have two drills per day, both dismounted and I have much to do.

Enclosed please find twenty dollars (\$20.00) for yourself and the girls this month. If you want any more money be sure and let me know.

It rained here day before yesterday and snowed in the mountains.

Please acknowledge receipt of money & send me a late copy of the St Peter Tribune for we do a "powerful sight" of reading at this post.

Write soon.

Yours.

W.C. Brown

Fort Klamath, Oregon Nov 12th, 1878

[cover postmarked Linkville, Oregon, Nov. 14]

Dear Mother,

Yours of the 27th as well as the 4th are rec'd. You seem to think that I must be "all tired out" from the summer's campaign, but I assure you that when I got in I weighed about 146 or 7 and my usual weight is 141 or 2 and I was feeling splendid. For I enjoy campaigning very much, for one is constantly seeing new country and getting valuable experience. We are . . . living among uncivilized people here, in fact the people seem to be just as much civilized here as anywhere else. The post is much prettier than Walla Walla and the officers of "B" Co. 1st Cav who left here would be glad to get back and the "L" Co officers are highly pleased with this new post, although when first ordered I would rather have gone to Walla Walla, I doubt now whether I wold accept a chance to go back.

We have been having delightful weather here since I arrived and no snow to speak of on the plain, although there has been plenty on the mountains. I am afraid that I cannot get home to attend your silver wedding.

Yours, Will

[additional letter on reverse]

Dear Grace & Helen:

Your kind letters of the 3rd Oct were received. Glad indeed that Helen passed such a good examinations. How large is the class, and where do you stand in it.

If Grace's bad pencil had not been "all in her eye" I don't doubt but what she would have passed well also, however we'll wait until next month when we hope she will "cover herself with glory" and not go fooling around her optics with a bad pencil, perhaps she was trying to "pencil her eyebrows" if that's so Grace, try stove polish the next time, as it is more convenient to use – besides its cheaper.

I liked what I saw of Cal. very much. I intend messing with Col Whipple this winter, as he has very kindly invited me to do so, and am messing there now. The Col has gone down to Yreka for Mrs Whipple & the two children, and will be back in a few days. Shelton + [his wife] arrived the other day and Shelton invited me to

mess with him this winter but of course I couldn't accept as I had made previous engagements. Shelton & Wittich have both asked me to come down and live in the set opposite them, in case Capt Riley wants my set of qtrs. Each house has two sets of officers quarters and I will be well provided for this winter. I am the only "bachelor" at the post. Lt. Duncan 1st [Inf] 21st . . . arrives tomorrow with his bride – a daughter of Maj Keefer

By an act of Congress we now have to pay for our fuel at the rate of \$3.00 per cord for hard wood. We use pine here and 1 ¾ cords of pine is counted equal to 1 cd of hard wood. We expect Capt Riley here this week and by the time this reaches you we will all be settled I hope for the winter. We have two drills per day now but that will stop as soon as snow falls and then for the balance of the winter my duties will consist principally of Reville & Morning Stables and I will get through my duties daily at 6:45 A.M. and have the balance of the day to myself except when I am Officer of the Day.

This is pumice stone country & the pumice is so light that it will float while we have wood – rich pine knots – that will sink in water – wonderful country, aint it. I learned the other day that Bret Harte, the poet used to be in Col Whipple's employ as a printer. The Col used to be an editor.

No more news for the present.

Yours,

Will

Fort Klamath, Ogn.Nov 21st, 1878

[cover postmarked Linkville, Oregon, Nov 23rd 1878]

Dear Mother & Sister Helen:

Your favors of the 10th were duly received, acknowledging receipt of \$10.00. I am very glad to learn that Pa is going to get insured. If the N.Y. Mutual Ins Co proposes to charge me \$20 per year for my insurance and \$20 per year additional for permit to do frontier duty I don't propose to pay it, if I can do better in another Co. I think I shall try the N.Y. Life—though I shall continue my payments in the Mutual for at least one year longer in order to get a paid up Policy for what I have already paid, and since policy will be good for all cases except where an officer dies "with his boots on."

That painting of Helen's can be sent with perfect safety by mail. It can be placed on a roller, or if that won't do - and will injure the picture – she can place it between two very stiff pieces of paste board, thin pieces of wood, or even shingles and if securely done up they will come nicely. Matter is sent by express here but it comes only to Ashland and from there here, if it comes by special carrier it is expensive. Officers here use the mail constantly for such purposes and it is very safe. I would like to get the St. Peter Tribune regularly if it is not too much trouble to you for at least whenever there is anything of interest. By sending it when you are done with it, it will only cost 52 cents per year & otherwise it would cost \$2.00.

Col Whipple appointed me Post Adjutant this morning and so I will have to be present and receive the reports of the two Co's at Reveille, Retreat & Tattoo & will also have to Mount the Guard daily. It will be a good thing for me however as I want to learn the duties of Adjutant. The Adjutant is supposed to be the confidential private secretary as it were, of the Commanding Officer and to see that the regular routine duties are conducted in a military manner. As I mess with the Col it is very convenient for both. Mrs Whipple has returned from the East.

We are all here now as Capt Riley & family, 1st Lieut. Duncan & his bride have arrived and we are getting settled as far as possible for the winter. At a small, out of the way post like this the officers are very sociable, especially with a bachelor, & I have callers nearly every evening.

The other evening Dr & Mrs Dixon called & Lt & Mrs Duncan & the other evening Lieut. & Mrs. Wittich, so I manage to pass away the time very pleasantly. I am very busy now however settling my Commissary accounts and learning the ropes in the Adjutants office.

Shelton & I have picked out a team of black ponies out of the Q.M.'s herd and thus have a good team to hitch to.

Yours,

Will

Fort Klamath, Ogn. Dec 5, '78

[cover postmarked Linkville, Oregon Dec 7]

Dear Mother & Sister:

Yours of the 24th was duly received. Lt Wittich and Mrs Wittich left today for Ft Vancouver where Lt W. is assigned for duty on detached service at Dept Headquarters. Col Whipple will also leave soon for the same place as he is to appear as a witness before a Court of Inquiry. This will leave Capt Riley in command temporarily. New officers with Shelton, Duncan & the Post Surgeon Dr Dickson compose our garrison of officers.

I have plenty of society as, being the only bachelor, my "den" is the loafing place for all the other fellows & nearly every evening there are several of them in, all but the Company officer.

This evening we had a Board of Examination to examine candidates (enlisted men) for the position of School Teacher. Dickson, Riley & myself were on the Board & we met in my quarters and had considerable fun examining the three candidates but finally selected two...men, one for a day school for the children of enlisted men and officers & the other (my Sergt Major) for a teacher of the night school for the men.

A fire [was started] this evening by the burning of an Indian hut (deserted) across the creek. I had the garrison turned out & the fire was soon put out. . . .

Col Whipple's family consists of himself, Mrs. W., Sophie aged 5 yrs & Elmer the little boy first able to talk & run around and who thinks "Contenant Brown" is a great fellow. Mrs. W. is a perfect model of a lady and reminds me very much of Mrs. Lyman Marshall. No young ladies in the garrison & not likely to be any soon, guess I can stand it though.

You ask if it is not monotonous & what do I do to amuse (?) myself. And that seems to be the prevailing idea that we have nothing. Why it is now 10:15 P.M. and with the exception of an hours nap between 7 & 8 A.M. I have been "whooping it up" all day, & tomorrow it will be the same way only possibly more, for I expect to have to hear the non-Commissioned officers at recitations in [tactics]... tomorrow night & I will have to hone up before lunch, then I have the proceedings of the two Boards to write up

& Duncan is going to apply to get another Board convened. I have been trying for two days to get my hair cut & couldn't get time.

Being Post Adjutant takes a great deal of time and one has more responsibility also as being the representative of the Comdg Officer. I have to [look after] matters in his absence. I send by this mail copy of Harpers which has a picture that gives an excellent idea of the country around West Point. Ft Montgomery is a little below (or south) of Highland Falls. . . .

No more news – excuse bad writing as I am in a hurry to get to bed.

W. C. Brown
"2nd" Lieut. 1st Cavry
Post Adjutant

Fort Klamath, Ogn. Dec 14th, '78.

[with cover postmarked Linkville, Oregon Dec 17th]

Dear Mother:

Yours of the 1st was rec'd but not fully answered for want of time. Sent check for \$40 by last mail, (Dec 12th or13th). Did you get it? If you need more let me know. Glad to see that the girls have such good reports.

As to writing a composition you will remember that this used to be my poorest "hold" and I am getting worse in that direction every day, for it is entirely out of my line, it is about all I can do to word the Post Orders so there will be no "loopholes" in them.

I pay for

Board per month

Washing \$5.00

Striker* \$6.00

Oil \$1.00

Wood about \$3.00

Total \$40.00

We expect Shelton & Whipple back from Portland the last of this month. Being Co. Commander & Post Adjt. keeps me pretty busy. I attended the [disbursements?] of Co "L' the other day. We got over \$4000, \$535 of which went back as deposits on which the men get 4 percent interest & their money is perfectly safe.

Haven't time to make a sketch of Ft Klamath even if I was an artist but hope to send you some views of the place next summer. We have about 5 inches of snow now & the weather is somewhat like Minn weather.

I have a soldier clerk now in my office who with the Acting Sergt. Major do my writing and then I have the Orderly Trumpeter or Musician to carry orders & run errands and we are slowly getting things "put to rights" in the office.

Yours sincerely

Will

Enclosed find a "piece" [news clipping?] on the Poor Indian. Please [place] the same in the scrap book.

*Transcriber's Note: A "striker" was an enlisted man working in service to an officer.

Fort Klamath, Ogn. December 17, 1878.

[cover postmarked Linkville, Oregon Dec 17]

Dear Sisters

I will send you by tomorrow's mail a copy of West Point *Tic Tacs* for a New Years present. Partial list of illustrations

page 15 View up the Hudson. . .

p 16 Ruins of Fort Putnam

p 17 Interior view of Ft Clinton & Field Observatory . . .

p 18 Camp

p 20 View down the Hudson from Battery Knox

p 21 Section Room

p 27 The Plebe's Delight (?) "Second Exercise"

p 29 On Police

p 31 Excellent view of a Graduating or "28th" Hop in the Mess Hall

p 32 Flirtation Walk

p 36 . . . View of Barracks & Academic Building from the plain . . .

p 37 A cadet is an angel – to outsiders

p 45 View of a cadet's room – a second classman's "celebration"

p 56 Explorations in Fort Clinton Ditch by Moonlight

p 68 Plebe policing a 1st Classman's Test . . .

p 73 The Class of 73 join the Reveille fun in the area at midnight to celebrate their becoming "Yearlings."

Yours, Will

By the way I want to get a "Stylographic Pen" – <u>short, plain</u> variety and cannot get any paper change here & we have no P.O. Money office.

The price is \$3.00. I think it will be an excellent thing in the field as the handle contains the ink & can be closed air tight. . . . I wish Pa would send for it by Registered letter or money order & have it sent either to him or to me.

Would like also to have sent me 5 or 6 dollars in bills as there are several other things that I wish to send for to get up a good campaign outfit. I was poorly outfitted last summer but this next summer I want to be better prepared. Enclosed find \$10 for same.

Fort Klamath, Ogn Dec 19th, 1878.

[cover postmarked Linkville, Oregon Dec 21]

Dear Mother:

Your favor of the 7th together with Helen's oil painting was received today and to say that I am perfectly delighted with it won't adequately express my feelings. Every one to whom I have showed it admires it very much. Capt Riley thinks it ought to be worth about \$50.00. I want Helen to keep on with her lessons again next summer and will furnish the necessary [finances]. I suppose she does not have time at present while she is going to school – but whenever an opportunity occurs she should take advantage of it and endeavor to improve.

I have been "celebrating" my birthday by going duck hunting and succeeded in shooting a "great big mallard" and one or two others. We have plenty of ducks here right on the creek that runs through the garrison, and we have them here all winter for this stream coming from a mountain spring near here never freezes over and the ducks come here from the sloughs near here that freeze over.

I am fortunately not the School Supt here and am glad of it as I have so much other work to do that I could not attend to it properly. . . . Do not get extra pay for being Adj't. The picture & frame came through very nicely indeed. In sending articles of that kind it would be well however to put over the corners a corner cut out of a paste board box with perhaps a little cloth inside. I put up that copy of Tic Tacs that I sent by last mail something in that way. Let me know if it comes through all right.

We do not have any chaplain at this post – there [are] already about 35 in the Army. Recd the Denver & Peter Tribunes - thanks.

Yours affectionately Will

Fort Klamath, Ogn. Dec 24, 1878.

[cover postmarked Linkville, Oregon Dec 24]

Dear Sister Helen:

Thanks for the parcel. Painting arrived in good condition this A.M. It is a perfect beauty. I showed that large one to Mrs Whipple and she was perfectly delighted with it and thinks you are quite an artist.

I am ever so much obliged for the picture, whoever it came from. Although it came very well indeed it would be well in the future to wrap gilt frames with cotton on the inside to prevent scratching.

Yours in haste from the Adjutants Office, Will

Fort Klamath, Ogn. Dec 26th, 1878.

[letter only]

Dear Sister Helen:

Your favor of the 15th was duly received, and contents noted. The pictures both came through nicely, and are admired very much indeed. I can put on more <u>style</u> than the Comdg Officer now, for . . . I have <u>bona fide</u> oil paintings and didn't have to go out of the family for talent either. I propose to make all the ladies jealous by telling them that "these are merely sketches made by my <u>little sister</u> & it wasn't a good day for sketching either."

Well you say that criticisms are in order and as we say in Courts Martial "having maturely considered the evidence adduced we find" that the flowing water in the stream in the large picture (Castle Rock) might be improved upon. The lines are too straight and lack a smoothness that the water should have in its first plunge over the fall before it breaks.

The other picture is almost too small to find a fault in it but in a finished painting from the hand of an artist the water should look more smoothe [sic] & transparent.

I wouldn't know how myself to remedy either but you know that I am of that disposition that I can find fault with almost anything, hence these criticisms. I am perfectly aware that it is easier to criticize the work than to do it, for I could not begin to do as well myself.

I hope you will try hard to improve, and take lessons during vacation and I will pay for them, and you may soon find that it will be far easier, more profitable, and better in every way to sell your pictures than to teach school. Tell Pa that I want to know if he does not think now that it pays for you to take painting lessons. Tell Grace that I received that paper holder and like it very much.

By the way do you want any mink or marten furs. I can get mink next month for 75 cents to \$1.00 per skin and martin for \$1.00. The Post Trader has also on hand two red fox skins at \$1.00 each. I just happened to find out the price by asking the Post Trader for Lt [Furse] 1st Cav who wrote & asked me if I could get some for him and I thought perhaps you would like some also. Let me know how many of each are wanted & give instructions as to selecting.

By the way you wanted to know how I had my room fixed up. Well I have a very handsome pattern 3 ply [impressive] carpet on my sitting room – prevailing color green & yellow & a little red – writing desk with pidgeon [sic] holes in one corner very convenient, in the opposite corner are two shelves on which I have your pictures (I am going to hang them up soon). Also a lounge that Lt. J. Q. Adams left at this post in another corner. . . & in the opposite a what not with my books. I have a large centre [sic] table, round with a green cover and on the east side of the room I have a good mirror under which hangs a wisk broom in a fancy holder – a Christmas gift - from Miss Sophie Whipple, & on the opposite side is the fireplace & mantel on which I have an alarm clock. This, when I am Officer of the Day I set for about 1/2 an hour before Reveille when I get up & inspect the guard & so do not have to sit up till 12.

I have beside a bedroom with a little bay window on the north side of the house good carpet, quite pretty on the floor – closet also & shelves too. Have 3 good split bottomed chairs – all room furniture is furnished by the Q.M. Dept here and I am quite comfortably fixed.

When does your contest for [Reading] prize come off? I hope you will get the prize. The soldiers had a theatrical performance here yesterday evening which we all attended. It was very good indeed. They have a very good room fitted up & have stage scenery & etc. I send by

this mail copy of supplement to the Army & Navy journal containing the principal points of the Army Bill, it is said however that there is no probability of its passing.

By the way when you get so that you can paint men & horses I have a picture for you to paint. It is a Cavalry Bugler in full dress on a handsome bay horse – the Trumpeter has his bugle to his lips sounding the "Rally". It is a very striking & handsome picture. I can get a sort of colored lithograph for you to copy from.

I am on a Garrison Court tomorrow.

Yours,

Will

To Be Continued





Figure 1 Fort Liscum, Alaska, circa 1906.

How was the Chow . . . and Mail Delivery . . . at Fort Liscum, Alaska, 1900-1910

by Michael Dattolico

If you were a soldier serving in Alaska the first years of the 20th century, you'd have been a lucky man to be assigned to Fort Liscum. Located on the south shore of Port Valdez, it was situated four miles southwest of the city of Valdez (*figure 1*). Named for Colonel Emerson Liscum who was killed in China during the first days of the Boxer Rebellion, the post's mission was to secure the south terminus of the Fairbanks-Valdez military road.

The fort was established per General Order #14, Feb-

ruary 12, 1900. The first unit to occupy the post was Company G., 7th U.S. Infantry, which arrived in April, 1900 and remained until May, 1903.

Soldiers assigned to Fort Liscum saw no combat and from all indications, they were content to patrol the military road. From existing correspondence, we know that the soldiers there could hunt, fish and trap during their off-duty time. But perhaps the most satisfying "perks" for a GI stationed at Fort Liscum in those days were good chow and regular mail service.

The cover shown as *figure 2* was mailed from Private James F. Brennan, a cook, to a friend in Pennsylvania in August, 1905. Enclosed with the letter to the addressee, Ms. Winegardner, were "Bills of Fare," or daily menus for the Fort Liscum troops. They are illustrated as *figures 3* through 6. Each "Bill of Fare" was daily posted in a prominent place, such as head-quarters or a barracks bulletin board. The menus that Brennan sent to his Pennsylvania friend spanned the period from April through the 4th of July holiday of 1905. As you peruse each menu, you can surmise that



Figure 2 Letter from Pvt. James F. Brennan, a 3rd U.S. Infantry cook stationed at Fort Liscum, Alaska, to a lady friend in Pennsylvania, August, 1905.

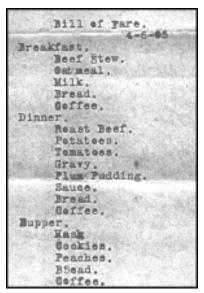


Figure 3 "Bill of Fare" – the menu for April 6, 1905 at Fort Liscum.

Figure 5 July 5, 1905 menu for Fort Liscum's troops. Note that potatoes and beef were the basic foods on each soldier's plate. Occasionally, other vegetables such as cabbage appeared for the troops.

```
Bill of Fare
                 7-5-05
Breakfast.
     Bacon.
     Fried Petatees.
Hot Cakes.
     Syrup.
     Bread.
     Coffee.
Dinner.
     Reast Beef.
     Petatees.
     Gabbage.
     Gravy
     Pumpkin Pie.
     Bread.
     Coffee.
Supper.
     Chopped Beef.
     Reast Petatees.
     Gravy.
     Doughnuts.
     Pears.
     Bread.
     Coffee
```

Figure 4 Fourth of July, 1905 menu. While vegetables were scarce items, each supper usually included fruit.

```
Bill of Fare.
                7-4-05
Breakfast.
     Bacon'.
     Boiled Egga.
     Biscuit.
     Syrup.
     Bread.
     Coffee.
Dinner.
     Roast Beef.
     Potatoes.
     Kidney Beans,
      Gravy.
      Catsup
      Apple Pie.
      Apples.
      Pickles.
      read.
      Goffee.
Supper.
      Beef Steak,
      Fried Potatoes.
      Gravy.
      Pears.
      Fruit Cake.
      Bread.
      Coffee.
```

Bill of Fure Breakfast. Baden. Oatmeal. Milk. Biscuits Syrup. Bread. Seffee. Denner. Reast Beef. Peta tees. Beans Gravy Peach Pie. Bread. Ceffee. Bupper. Reast Beef . Reast Petatees. Gravy. Peaches Bread. deffee

Figure 6 Meal plan for July 7, 1905. Note that for breakfast, oatmeal was offered in place of eggs along with the ever-present ration of bacon. The dinner meal did include beans, the only other vegetable offered besides potatoes

no soldier went hungry on the army meals provided at Fort Liscum. That's especially true when you consider that fish and wild game supplemented the army mess fare. On a more amusing note, the clipping from a Seattle newspaper advertised pills for relief from "gas." Brennan wanted his lady friend to see if she could get a supply for him from the Williamsport, Pennsylvania distributor. It is shown as *figure 7*.

But perhaps the biggest bonus of all was regular mail service. Like Guam and Samoa, the folks who handled the soldiers' mail were civilians and are listed in *Table* 2. The postmasters likely were settlers who may have been former gold miners or their relatives and stayed

after the 1898 gold craze ended. The troops based at Fort Liscum were lucky; only four army posts out of 17 installations had their own post offices.

It is certain that incoming mail was delivered on a regular basis. The soldiers' mail for men stationed at the closest posts in southeastern Alaska was probably gathered in Washington state and sent by schooner on a regular schedule. Most likely, men stationed at Fort Wrangell and the Post at Sitka got their mail first, since they were the closest ports to Washington. Fort Liscum's mail likely was delivered next.

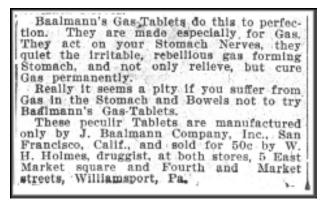


Figure 7 Partial clipping from a Seattle newspaper also mailed to the addressee regarding the problem of "gas." According to the letter, Brennan asked his friend to see if the Williamsport, Pennsylvania distributor could send him some of the pills for the troops at Fort Liscum.

As for Fort Liscum, this author has seen far more postcards, probably sold at Valdez and mailed by soldiers, than actual letters with contents. It should be noted that during the 1905-1907 period, the Fort Liscum postmark was a Doane marking, which makes it even more appealing to collectors.

POSTMASTERS* APPOINTMENT DATE
George F. Kane November 5, 1900
Mildred Hunter July 19, 1904
Alvin R. Palmer October 22, 1906
Alexander Smart June 18, 1908
Daniel Millen November 26, 1909
Charles R. Hale March 2, 1911

TABLE 2
Fort Liscum Postmasters

Army Units Stationed at 1	Fort Liscum				
1900 - 1910					
1,00 1,10	1900 - 1910				
ARRIVAL DATES	DEPARTURE DATES				
April 29, 1900	May 15, 1903				
May 15, 1903	July 12, 1904				
July 12, 1904	July 12, 1906				
July 12, 1904	July 12, 1906				
July 12, 1906	July, 1907				
July, 1907	(Circa 1910)				
	ARRIVAL DATES April 29, 1900 May 15, 1903 July 12, 1904 July 12, 1904 July 12, 1906 July, 1907				

^{*}Some individuals were named postmasters at Fort Liscum but declined to accept the position. Their names are not indicated here.

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OOZ BONANZA 1911 VG+ B 4-Bar (94-18) Est $25.00

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OOZ BONANZA 1911 VG+ B 4-Bar (94-18) Est $25.00

OOZ BONANZA 1911 VG+ B 4-Bar (94-18) Est $25.00

OOZ BARDY 1910 VG+ A 4-Bar as Recd (91-18) Est $50.00

OOZ BARDEL 1909 VG- BARDEL 1900 VG- BARDEL 1900 VG- BARDEL 1909 VG- BARDEL 1909
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097 PINCHOT, 1909 BLUE 4-Bar CDS on stamp (08-10) $25.00

098 PINEHURST. 1911 FINE A 4-Bar (03-18) Est $25.00

100 PINCHOST, 1911 FINE A 4-Bar (03-18) Est $25.00

101 ODE FORMER 1, 1910 VC line A 4-Bar (03-18) Est $25.00

102 POWELL, 1910 VC line A 4-Bar (06-10) Est $5.00

102 POWELL, 1910 VC line A 4-Bar (04-10) Est $5.00

103 PRARIEL 1910 VC line A 4-Bar (04-10) Est $5.00

105 RAMSEY, 1910 VC line A 4-Bar (04-10) Est $5.00

106 RAYMOND, 1912 VC A 4-Bar (06-40) Est $5.00

107 REA, 1912 VC line A 4-Bar (06-40) Est $5.00

108 RAYMOND, 1912 VC A 4-Bar (06-40) Est $5.00

108 READ (1914 VC line A 4-Bar (06-40) Est $5.00

109 RAYMOND, 1912 VC A 4-Bar (06-40) Est $5.00

100 RAYMOND, 1912 VC A 4-Bar (06-40) Est $5.00

101 REVNOLDS, 1905 FINE TY 2/2 DOANE, recel Entire on back. ENTERPRISE CDS as Origin, rough @ Rt 8. soil. Est $1.50

111 RESORT, 1912 VC A 4-Bar (198-15) View of town Est $15.00

112 RIDECBALE, 1924 FINE C 4-Bar (15-57) Est $1.50

113 Soiling (94-65) Est $4.00

114 ROCK CREEK, 1938 VC 4-A 4-Bar (17-25) Est $1.50

115 ROCKWILLE, 1909 VC 4-CDS (05-12) Est $25.00

116 ROCKWILLE, 1909 VC 4-CDS (05-12) Est $25.00

117 ROSESPORK, 1907 Fine CDS, Idaho not struck EARLY (91-43) Est $3.00

118 ROSEWORTH, 1908 VC 6-CDS on charp, Reg Entriev very rough @ n & 117 ROSESPORK, 1907 Fine CDS, soil & crease PPC (96-11) E$25.00

118 ROSEWORTH, 1908 VC 6-CDS on CVD, Bist $15.00

120 RUSY CTT, 1865 WG 60-CDS on CVD, Bist $15.00

121 ROSESPORK, 1907 Fine CDS, soil & crease PPC (96-11) E$25.00

122 SALLEM, 1911 C+ Object on CVD, 1904 Fine CDS, soil & crease PPC (96-11) E$25.00

123 SALEM, 1911 C+ Object on CVD, 1904 Fine CDS, soil & crease PPC (96-11) E$25.00

124 SALUBRA, 1986 WG CDS on CVD, Will-etter (70/16) E$3.00

125 SEAPOAM, 1927 Fine CC 4-Bar on Philat GPC Est $1.00

126 SEAPOAM, 1927 Fine CC 4-Bar on Philat GPC Est $1.00

127 SEAPOAM, 1927 Fine CD 4-Bar on Philat GPC Est $1.00

128 SEAPOAM, 1927 Fine CD 8-Bar (19-10) Broon CD 10-10 Est $1.00

129 SEAPOAM, 1927 Fine CD
```

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MONTANA

225 BEDFORD, 1882 FINE CDS Star in Circle GPC (79-95) \$50.00
226 ALDER, 1908 G+ very wom 2/2 Doane Ruby as recd E \$6.00
227 ALHAMBRA, 1907 VG lite @/1 DOANE on Reg Rect card \$10.00
228 ALLERDICE, 1887 VG+ toothed CDS/Star in circle on GPC (81-89) \$60.00
229 ALLERDICE, 1887 VG+ toothed CDS/Star in circle on GPC (81-89) £\$50.00
230 ASHLAND, 1908 VG 2/2 DOANE as friver lest \$10.00
231 BEARMOUTH, 1908 VG+ 2/2 DOANE as friver lest \$10.00
232 BIGFORK, 1908 2/2 DOANE par on stamp Est \$10.00
233 BOZEMAN, 1880 VG++ Magenta DCDS witnerior ornament GPS \$15.00
234 BOZEMAN, 1880 VG++ Magenta DCDS witnerior ornament GPS \$15.00
235 BUTTE CITY, 1887 G+ Duplex on Entire Est \$15.00
236 BUTTE CITY, 1887 G+ Duplex on Entire Est \$15.00
237 CORBIN, 1908 VG 2/1 DOANE, rotated dial on stamp E 10.00
238 DEMERSVILLE, 1891 G+ CDS on Reg Rect Card(89/92) E \$60.00
239 DIXON, 1909 VG lite 2/1 DOANE, rotated dial on stamp E 10.00
238 DEMERSVILLE, 1891 G+ CDS on Reg Rect Card(89/92) E \$60.00
240 DORSEY, 1910 VG+ 2/2 DOANE (98-13) Est \$25.00
241 FORT KEOGH, 1882 VG Triple CDS Entire short tears (78-08) E \$65.00
242 FRENCHTOWN, 1908 FINE Purple 2/2 DOANE Est \$12.00
243 GARNEILL, 1907 VG Ty 2 DOANE leather FC Est \$10.00
244 GLENDIVE, 1884 G+ Territorial CDS on GPC Est \$7.50
245 HALL, 1907 VG Ty 2 DOANE Est \$8.00
246 HARRISON, VG 3/2 DOANE Est \$1.00
247 HELENA, 1867 G CDS on CVR Scott #65 Est \$15.00
248 HELENA, 1867 G CDS on CVR Scott #65 Est \$15.00
249 HELENA, 1867 G CDS on CVR Scott #65 Est \$15.00
250 HOMEPARK, 1907 VG+ 2/1 DOANE EKU Est \$25.00
251 HOMESTAKE, 1909 VG+ 3/1 DOANE LKU Est \$25.00
252 JEFFERSON CITY, 1913 VG lite 2/2 DOANE Est \$10.00
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254 KILA, 1910 FINE 3/2 DOANE Est \$10.00
255 LOGAN, 1907 G+ Ty 2 DOANE Est \$10.00
256 LAKESIDE? 1908 G purple Duplex "side" not struck (07-20) 15.00
257 HALWIN, 1891 FINE DCS/Star on GPC (74-72) Est \$20.00
258 LIVINGSTON, 1887 CDS on CVR tears & 8.00
259 LOGAN, 1907 G+ Ty 2 DOANE (87-73) Est \$10.00
259 LOGAN, 1907 G+ Ty 2 DOANE Est \$10.00
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290 EL DORADO, 1882 Manuscript on CVR (79-07) E \$20.00 291 WELLS, 1884 VG Magenta CDS on CVR Est \$ 15.00

292 WASHOE CITY, 186? VG+ CDS as Fwd to Shermantown. On cover with Scott #65, back flap missing (62/94) Est \$ 50.00
293 AURORA, 1908 VG 3/1 DOANE on CVR (66/19) E \$10.00
294 BEATTY, 1905 Fine Ty 2 Doane on Reg Rect Card, EARLY \$15.00
295 COBRE, 1909 64 DOANE on stamp & 6ff @ side Est \$15.00
295 DUCKWATER, 1908 VG 3/2 DOANE (73-41) Est \$10.00
296 FALLON, 1905 VG++ 2/10 DOANE EKU on CVR Est \$15.00
297 HAWTHORNE, 1910 RED 2/7 DOANE LKU Est \$15.00
298 KIMBERLY, 1908 G+ Ty 3 Doane, on stamp Est \$8.00
299 MILETT, 1909 VG 3/1 DOANE (06-30) Est \$8.00
300 PARADISE VALLEY, 1909 VG 3/4 DOANE on CVR E \$12.00
301 RUTH, 1904 VG++ Ty 2 DOANE on Reg Bill card EARLY \$12.00
302 SHERIDAN, 1904 FINE 1/2 DOANE on Reg Bill card EARLY \$12.00
303 SMITH, 1909 FINE 3/1 DOANE on GPC Est \$10.00
304 SPARKS, 1908 VG+ 3/15 Doane CVR trim @ Rt (65-20) \$12.00

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321 CRABTREE, 1908 FINE 3/3 Doane, crease Est \$ 6.00
322 DETROIT, 1909 VG+ 2/3 Doane, soil Est \$ 6.00
324 DILLARD, 1908 VG 1/1 Doane as recd Est \$ 6.00
325 ELKTON, 1911 FINE 3/4 Doane Est \$5.00
326 HARDMAN, 1909 VG+ Ty 2 Doane stamp replaced \$5.00
327 HOLBROOK, 1908 G+ 3/2 Doane (83/33) \$7.00
328 HOT LAKE, 1907 VG 3/4 Doane (83/43) \$7.00
329 HUGO, 1911 VG 2/1 Doane (96-56) Est \$ 7.00
330 IRRIGON, 1907 VG 2/1 Doane, recd & O'strk Est \$5.00
331 KERBY, 1909 FINE 2/4 Doane (56-65) Est \$6.00
332 LENTS, 1908 FINE 3/5 Doane (86-17) Est \$ 6.00
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346 MERIDEN, 1909 VG 2/2 Doane Est \$ 6.00
347 MERIDEN, 1909 VG 2/2 Doane Est \$ 6.00
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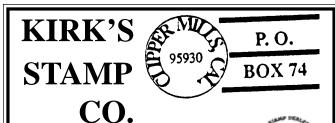
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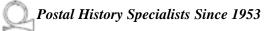
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September 20, 2001



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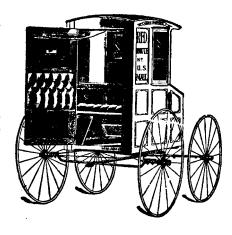
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VALLEJO, NAV ENLISTED BARRARCKS STA, 1943 F DC ON CVR. \$6
VALLEJO, NAV ENLISTED BARRARCKS STA, 1943 F DC 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 27 28

COLORADO

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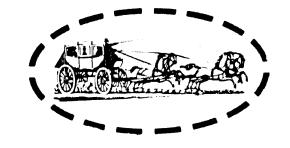
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