

LA POSTA: A JOURNAL OF AMERICAN POSTAL HISTORY

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COVER: Our cover reproduces an illustration showing four unhappy American Indians seated on a bench. One holds a pipe of peace and they appear to be waiting for a ceremony to begin. It is intended to call attention to the second installment of the Brown Coorespondence in this issue.

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PUBLISHER'S PAGE

The Australian "United We Stand" P-Stamp

By Cath Clark

If people are moved enough by world events, they will not wait for their governments to act, but will take matters into their own hands. A remarkable example of this is the new Australian "United We Stand" Personalized Stamp (P-Stamp). In the past, people made up special cachets and pre-printed covers to demonstrate their patriotism. Now, an individual or a company can have their very own stamp commissioned to do the same thing – at least here in Australia.

The P-Stamp was privately commissioned and released on 25 October 2001 (24 Oct. in the U.S.) to coincide with the issuance of the USPS "United We Stand" stamp. It was printed by Australia Post through the P-Stamp program, but is not an official issue. While plans are said to be in the works by the Coalition countries to produce joint issue stamps to demonstrate solidarity with the U.S., the P-Stamp has leapt well ahead of any Australian government-issued stamp.

The stunning new stamp combines the 45 cent Australian flag and running kangaroo with a U.S. waving flag and the words "UNITED WE STAND" (*figure 1*). The two flags combine beautifully since both employ red, white, and blue colors. While the stamp

itself is impressive, the full sized sheet is all the more so. The most compelling icons of the two countries – the Statue of Liberty and the Sydney Opera House – are featured prominently on the selvedge with "UNITED WE STAND" printed in large letters at the top.



Melbourne stamp dealer Max Stern teamed with a U.S. marketing firm to produce the P-Stamp. The stamp was designed by the American firm, and Stern approached Australia Post to have it printed. The design was approved quickly, complete with a custom selvedge surround. It was first made available at the Brisbane 2001 Centennial Stamp Show. According to Stern, 3000 sheets had been produced at the time of the show, the majority of which are still in Australia. The total print run will be about 10,000 sheets.

Personalised Stamps were introduced in Australia at the 1999 World Stamp Expo and have been used primarily by individuals to put their photos on a stamp. They have also been used for rugby teams, and as the occasional corporate event souvenir. Australia Post guidelines state that images other than people can be

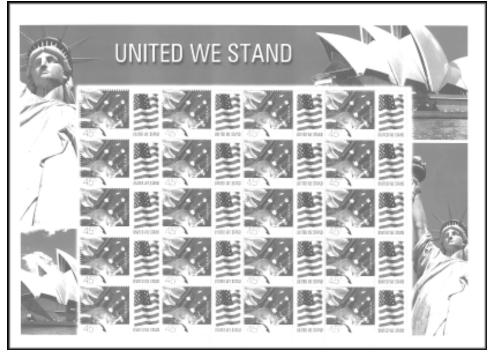


Figure 1 The "United We Stand" P-Stamp sheet with the Statue of Liberty and Sydney Opera House on the selvedge.

used on P-Stamps-such as a car, pet, or company logo-but do not address the inclusion of other country's flags. Thus, acceptance of the "United We Stand" design had to have been a policy decision made at the highest level. The stamp designers were careful not to make specific references to the September 11th disaster because the P-Stamps were not intended to be used for political causes. But, as they say, a picture speaks a thousand words.

The Brisbane stamp show first day cancel is shown in *figure 2* on an Australia Post cover for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Meetings. Ironically, the cover was issued to coincide with the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting which was to have been held in October 2001 in Brisbane. The meeting was cancelled due to security concerns in the wake of the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks.

No doubt the Australian government will participate in an official joint issue stamp by the Coalition countries in the future. Few Americans may know this, but Prime Minister John Howard happened to be in Washington, D.C. when the Pentagon was attacked, and was profoundly affected by the events of September 11. Howard had been scheduled to address Congress, but this was cancelled after the World Trade Center and Pentagon disaster. Nevertheless, he attended the first House session after the attacks, and was given a long and moving standing ovation by Congress. Australia was one of the first countries to step forward to side with America, and in October began sending air force and naval troops to support the Afghanistan campaign.

The mood in Australia toward the U.S. has been one of strong sympathy and staunch support ever since September 11th. The news was broadcast on television, newspaper, and radio non-stop for two weeks. We felt just as though we'd never left Oregon. Even here in remote country New South Wales, I've been stopped by complete strangers in markets who heard my American accent to express their sympathies. In Yamba, a coastal village where we do our weekly shopping, someone ran up an American flag on a "bush" flagpole in their front yard a couple of days after the world had learned of the tragedy. Over the course of the week, people began tying flower bundles to the flag, and it stood as a makeshift shrine for the whole town. Across Australia, similar outpourings of sympathy and solidarity were made, both officially and by every-day people, and Bill and I were both touched to see such evidence of friendship and commonality between the two countries. Even though the "United We Stand" stamp was commissioned by an American corporation, it is certainly representative of the good will of the Australian people, and I believe it will be wellreceived on both sides of the Pacific.

"United We Stand" stamps and covers can be found on e-Bay. Single sheets may also be ordered for \$15 U.S. (includes postage) from Max Stern & Co., PO Box 997, GPO Melbourne, 3001, Australia (03) 9654 6751.

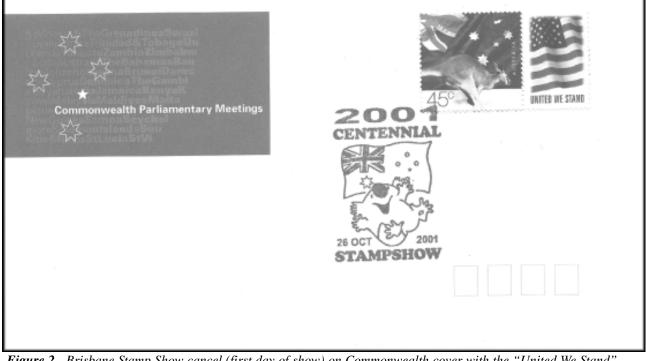


Figure 2 Brisbane Stamp Show cancel (first day of show) on Commonwealth cover with the "United We Stand" stamp.

Doug DeRoest 1949-2001



Doug DeRoest (Leon Douglas DeRoest) 52 of La Grande, Oregon died November 1, 2001 at Oregon Health Science University following a short illness.

Doug was born July 15, 1949 in Baker City and graduated from Baker High School in 1967. In 1968 he married Jean Hall. Doug first worked for Leo Adler Shipping but soon became manager for Grizzly Bear Pizza. He worked his way up to the board of directors, and when Grizzly Bear sold the company, Doug decided it was time for him to go into business for himself. He started Klondike Pizza in 1983 and continued to own it until his death.

Doug was widely known in the postal history community through his numerous articles in *La Posta* and his work as president of the Oregon Country Postal History Society. He was also quite active in local history in eastern Oregon and was the motivating force behind establishing the Interpretive Center. He also was very interested in the Chinese Cemetery in Baker City and urged its protection.

Doug had many interests. He loved restoring old cars and doing car shows. He collected old pictures of Eastern Oregon and had them restored for future generations. He loved gardening and mostly he loved birds especially his private bird Elvis (a scarlet macaw).

Doug is survived by his wife Jean DeRoest of LaGrande, Julie and Michael Marostica of Ontario, Tami and John Lannon of LaGrande, Susan DeRoest of Ontario, Michael DeRoest of Baker City, and Jim Hall of Baker City. He has six grandchildren. His mother and stepfather Toye and Dee Spence, his sister Madeline Kahn of Fallon Nevada, his brother Ron DeRoest of Baker City, his brother Dorrell Spence and Patrick Spence, and numerous nephews and nieces. Doug spent a good deal of his life with his wife caring and raising foster children and felt that they were his own. Many children called him dad.

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The following individuals have expressed an interest in corresponding with other collectors via email. Names are followed by specific interest (where known) and complete e-mail address. If you would like to join this list in future issues of *La Posta*, send us a note via e-mail at *helbock@la-posta.com*

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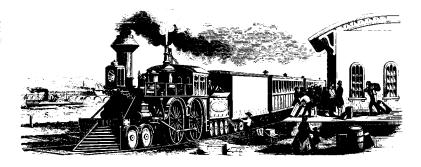
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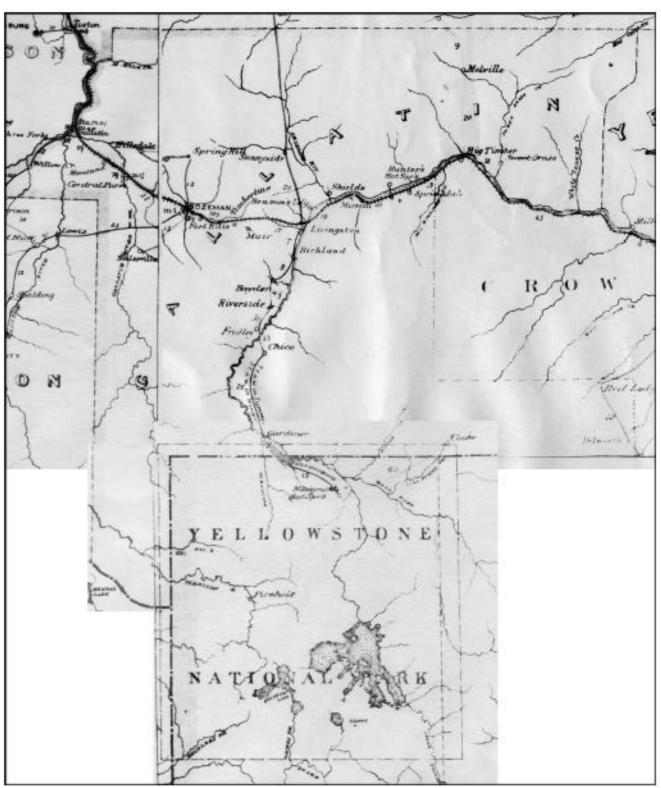
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Wyoming - Charles Boubelik Box 40 Canon City, CO. 81215



Map 1. Gallatin County took its name from the Gallatin River, named by Lewis and Clark in honor of Albert Gallatin, then Secretary of the Treasury. Parts of the original Gallatin County boundaries were taken to form Park and Yellowstone Counties in the 1880's and another part was ceded to Yellowstone Park in 1929. (From Postal Route Map of the Territories of Montana, Idaho and Wyoming, 1884, provided courtesy of Richard W. Helbock.)



Figure 1 Fort Ellis, a military post constructed of logs, was built in 1867 to protect Bozeman and the Gallatin Valley from threats of Indian invasion. The post office opened and closed twice between 1880 and 1886. This cover shows the only example reported to us of the double line, double circle (DLDC28) postmark from this scarce Montana fort.

Montana Territorial Postmarks Part 4: Flathead, Gallatin, Glacier, Golden Valley, Granite & Hill Counties

By Wesley N. Shellen & Francis Dunn

This fourth installment of our series adds six more counties to our growing record of the postmarks of Montana Territory. As in previous installments, we remind readers that post offices are listed here according to the counties in which they are found today, instead of the original territorial counties, which frequently changed boundaries due to county reorganizations over the years. Thanks to our publisher, Richard W. Helbock, we are able to show maps of the postal routes in those original counties as they appeared in 1884. The map of Gallatin County, shown in this installment, was one of the original nine counties when Montana Territory was formed.

Does anyone have a territorial postmark from Boxelder or any of the other towns listed here or in previous articles as having "*none reported?*" (Of course Boxelder or Box Elder would really be quite a find, since its post office opened on October 30, 1889, only ten days before Montana became a state.) We appreciate and encourage reports of new postmarks and date extenders that will improve the accuracy and completeness of this work for the benefit of postal historians and especially those who share our passion for Montana postal history. (Send reports to Wes Shellen, PO Box 9395, Missoula, MT 59807-9395; or email wesndeb@aol.com.) This is also an appropriate time to acknowledge and thank the thoughtful people who have provided information or assistance in response to our first three articles: Giles Cokelet, Ken Hamlin, Wayne Hassell, Richard W. Helbock, Daniel Y. Meschter, Howard Ness, Roger Robison, Chris Shellen, Stephen T. Taylor, and Jack M. Smith, Sr.

Your Participation in the Project is Respectfully Requested

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

> Wes Shellen PO Box 9395 Missoula, MT 59807-9395 email: wesndeb@aol.com

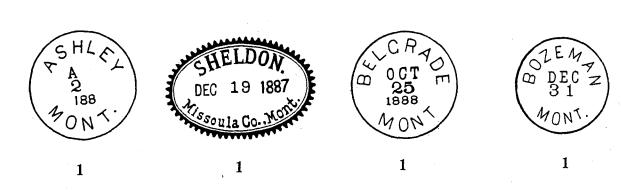
©Wesley N. Shellen & Francis Dunn

Flathead County

Town	Postmark	Earliest	Latest	Cancel	Notes
ASHL	LEY (1884/91)				
1.	CDS27	2? M?? 188?		target	
CLIF	FORD (1888-1889)				None Reported
DEM	ERSVILLE (1889/1898))			None Reported
EGAN	N (1888-1892)				None Reported
SELIS	SH (1881/1891)				None Reported
SHEL	DON (1887-1903)				
1.	TDLOV40x26	19 DEC 1887		circular grid	

Gallatin County

Town	Postmark	Earliest	Latest	Cancel	Notes
BELC	GRADE (1887-D	ate)			
1.	CDS28	24 SEP 1888	27 MAR 1889	target	
BOZI	EMAN (1868-Da	te)			
1.	CDS25	27 DEC 1869	14 FEB 1870	pen	
2.	CDS27.5	11 MAR 1876	18 DEC 1878	cross, cork	
3.	DLC30	24 SEP 1880	13 AUG 1881	target	pink, red, magenta
4.	CDS28	1 OCT 1882	24 JUN 1889	cork	
5.	OCT25	30 MAR 1883			
6.	SL34x12	5 FEB 1887	19 SEP 1887	cork	purple
CENT	TRAL PARK (18	371/1909)			
1.	MSS	11 JUL 1878	27 JUL 1880	pen	
COW	ANS (1876-1877)			None Reported
CREA	AMERY (1885-9	1)			
1.	CDS32	6 FEB 1888	8 AUG 1889	none	
DRY	CREEK (1874-1	874)			None Reported (1)
EAST	GALLATIN (1	869/1881)			None Reported
EMIC	GRANT (1872-18	376)			None Reported
FORT	T ELLIS (1880/1	886)			
1.	DLC28	4 JAN 1881	23 JUN 1882	grid, star	blue-purple
2.	DLDC28	2 APR 1883		target	





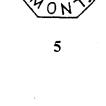




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RECISTERED, SEP 19 1887 BOZEMAN, MONTANA.

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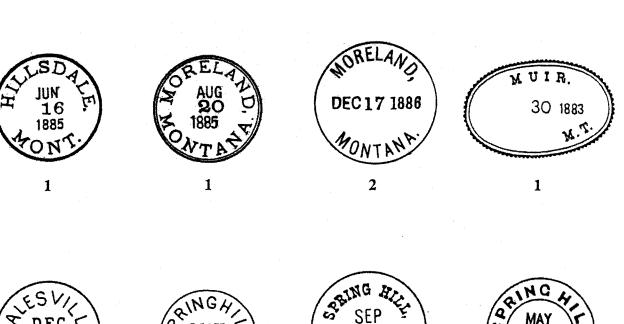




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Gallatin County

			•		
Town	Postmark	Earliest	Latest	Cancel	Notes
GALI	LATIN (GALLATIN CI	(TY) (1867-1890)			
1.	MSS	21 DEC 1879	27 JUN 1882	pen	
2.	CDS24	26 AUG 18??		target	
3.	DCDS29	27 FEB 1884	3 AUG 1884	target	
4.	CDS27	21 FEB 1887	21 JUL 1887	target	
GALL	LOP (1885-1908)				None Reported
GARE	FIELD (1867-1868)				None Reported (2)
HAM	ILTON (1868-1884)				
1.	MSS	25 DEC 1878	27 JAN 1884	pen	
2.	DLC28	1 JUL 1884	9 SEP 1884	target	
HENI	DERSON (1875-1875)				None Reported
HILL	SDALE (1881/1897)				
1.	CDS28	16 JUN 1885			
MAD	ISON (1870-1873)			None Reported	
MAM	MOTH HOT SPRING	S (1875-1877)			None Reported
MIDD	DLE CREEK (1869/187	3)			None Reported
MOR	ELAND (1884-1891)				
1.	DLC28	10 NOV 1884	20 AUG 1885	target	black, purple
2.	CDS32	20 OCT 1886	12 NOV 1888	scarab	
MUIR	R (1882/1927)				
1.	TDLOV38x24	30 ??? 1883		target	
SALE	SVILLE (1880/1927)				
1.	CDS28	28 DEC 1887		target	
SPRIN	NG HILL (SPRINGHII	LL) (1876/1904)			
1.	CDS24.5	16 MAY 187?		cork	
2.	CDS30	30 SEP 1877		negative star	purple
3.	DCDS28	29 MAY 1888		target	
THRE	EE FORKS (THREEFC	ORKS) (1882/Date)			
1.	MSS	5 MAR 1883	20 DEC 1884	pen	
2.	DCDS30	3 JAN 1885	18 AUG 1886	star	magenta
TIMB	ERLINE (1885-1898)				None Reported
WILL	OW CREEK (1867/Da	te)			
1.	MSS	13 JUN 1876	28 FEB 1884	pen	













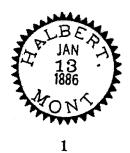




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OCT 4 1883 0NTANA 1



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Gallatin County

Town Postmark	Earliest	Latest	Cancel	Notes				
WINDVILLE (1881-1881)				None Reported				
Glacier County								
Town Postmark	Earliest	Latest	Cancel	Notes				
PIEGAN (1877-1902)								
1. CDS24.5	8 AUG 1877	22 MAY 1883	star in circle	purple				
2. CDS26.5	31 MAY 1886	14 JUN 188?	target					
	Golden Vall	ey County	7					
Town Postmark	Earliest	Latest	Cancel	Notes				
	Lamost	Lucot	Culleer	110105				
DODGETON (1883-1884)				None Reported				
HALBERT (1885-1902)								
1. TCDS28.5	13 JAN 1886	27 NOV 1887	hexagon cork					
LAVINA (1883-Date)								
1. DLDC31	4 OCT 1883	2 FEB 1885	parasol, target	gray-blue				
2. CDS27	17 SEP 1885	6 JAN 1889	target					
OLDEN (1880-1884)				None Reported				
PROFILE (1885-1888)				None Reported				
		C						
	Granite	County						
Town Postmark	Earliest	Latest	Cancel	Notes				
BEAR'S MOUTH (1875-189	2)							
1. CDS27	19 JUN 1888							
COBERLY (1872-1872)				None Reported				
DRUMMOND (1884-Date)								
1. DLC29	3 JUN 1887		target					
EMMETTSBURG (1869/187	(9)			None Reported				
GRANITE (1886/1908)								
1. CDS28	10 OCT 1887							
2. CDS25	11 DEC 1888							
3. CDS28	1 MAY 1889							

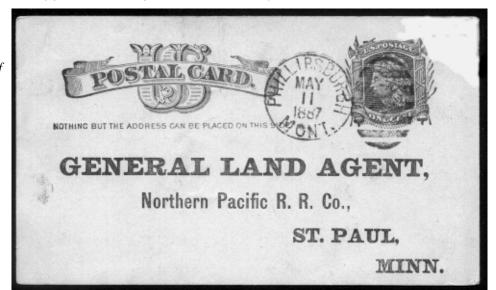
Return to BELGRADE, Montana, If not delivered within 10 days. Kushn Mic

Figure 2 Belgrade was named by a Serbian capitalist from Belgrade (now Yugoslavia), who in 1883 was a special guest on the train to the last spike ceremony for the Northern Pacific railroad. Belgrade is now essentially a suburb of Bozeman.



Figure 3 Bozeman was named in honor of John Bozeman, trailblazer and guide, who led the first train of immigrants into the Gallatin Valley in 1864. This cover shows Bozeman's first postmark. Usages of 1869 stamps such as the 3¢ locomotive on this cover are not commonly found on covers from Montana Territory.

Figure 4 The duplex postmark on this postal card shows one of several variations in the spelling of Phillipsburgh. The town, named for a popular mining superintendent, Philip Deidesheimer, variously spelled the name with one or two "L's" and with or without the final "H" at the end. In 1894 the post office settled on the official spelling used today,



Granite County

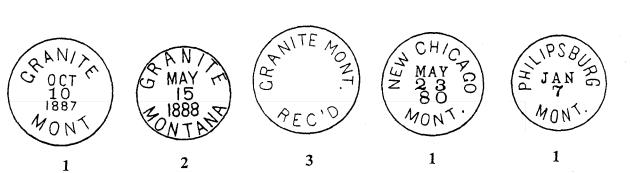
Town Postmark		Earliest	Latest	Cancel	Notes
HASMARK (1880/1897)					None Reported
NEW	CHICAGO (1872-1908	3)			
1.	CDS27	23 MAY 1880	12 ?E? 1888	fancy, target	black, purple
PHIL	IPSBURG (PHILLIPSI	BURGH) (1868-Date)			
1.	CDS25	30 SEP 1878	9 JUN 1880	target	magenta, purple
2.	OCT25.5	29 NOV 1880			magenta
3.	CDS28	20 OCT 1884	7 MAY 1886		
4.	CDS25	13 FEB 1888	6 SEP 1889	star in ellipse	
PRIN	CETON (1884/1918)				None Reported
RUM	SEY (1888-1897)				None Reported
STON	E STATION (1879-189	19)			
1.	TOV39x24	8 APR 188?	31 MAY 188?	pen, grid	purple, red
TOW	ER (1879-1879)				
1.	DLC33	4 JUL 1879		target	

Hill County

Town Postmark		Earliest	Latest	Cancel	Notes
BOXELDER (1889-Date)					None Reported
FORT ASSINABOINE (1879-191		-1911)			
1.	CDS29	8 JAN 1880	7 JAN 1882	star	
2.	CDS31	18 FEB 1882	19 MAR 1883	pinwheel	
3.	CDS28	29 AUG 1885	15 DEC 1885	cork missp	elled ASSINABONE
4.	OCT38x29	18 JUL 1885	6 FEB 1886	iron cross	
5.	OCT38x29	7 JAN 1888		star	
6.	CDS27	3 OCT 1888	21 JUL 1889	cork	
7.	CDS28	8 JUL 1889	26 OCT 1889	cork	

NOTES:

- 1. Not the same as the Dry Creek post office that operated in Dawson County, 1882-1883.
- 2. Not the same as the Garfield post office that operated in Custer County, 1881-1881.



















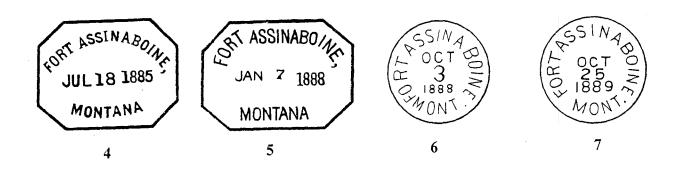




Figure 1 U.S. Government postal cards mailed from Alaskan post offices prior to 1900 are exceedingly scarce. This 1891 example from Sitka is the seventh earliest example recorded by the author.

19th Century Alaska Postal Cards: a Census

By Don Glickstein

Covers from Alaska during the 19th century are scarce, and even harder to find than covers are government postal cards.

A 1998 census by Alaska Collectors Club member Bob McKain identified 530 Alaska covers from the 19th century. Of those, 14 were postal cards. Since then, I've identified an additional seven cards, one of which has a "received" cancel, and the other is a registered-mail penalty card.

Why so few covers in a territory with 60,000 residents in 1900?

Richard Helbock, editor of *La Posta* and author of the basic Alaska postal history reference, *Postmarks of Territorial Alaska*, offered a major reason. In a 1977 *La Posta* article, Helbock noted that there simply weren't that many people in the territory. Only two post offices, Sitka and Fort Wrangel, existed in 1880, some 13 years after the U.S. bought Alaska. By the end of the decade only 12 post offices operated in the territory. Most were "very small, low-business offices from which surviving postmarks are sure to be very scarce." he wrote.

While the 1890s saw a dramatic increase in the number of post offices, most of the increase wasn't seen until 1898 and 1899, during the gold rush. In fact, in 1890, the census found under 28,000 people in the territory, of whom just 4,300 were white, and presumably literate with someone to write to on the outside. Even in 1900, after gold rush had begun, the white population was just half of the 60,000 total.

That still doesn't explain why postal cards are so comparatively rare.

I have two theories.

First, it's clear from the McKain census that most correspondence was to the lower 48 states. Anyone wishing to send a card most likely sent a picture post card, a souvenir for family and friends back home. If picture post cards were available, photographers were also available in many gold rush towns; presumably, photographs were mailed in envelopes.

Second, it may be that Alaskan post offices didn't have large supplies, if any, of postal cards. It's likely that many travelers brought their own cards with them. I'm unaware of records that might show what stamps and postal stationery was shipped to Alaska postmasters.

The census

The next oldest card for which I have the message is from Fort Wrangel, like Sitka, on the Alaskan panhandle.

Table 1A Census of U.S. Government Postal Cards used in Alaska pre-1900

Date	Town	UX	Addressee	Comment
2-24-1884	Sitka	7	James Fontaine Maury Esq., 5 Hanover St., New York	M.L.G. complains that he is astonished that Maury gave carte blanche to a woman known only by the initial "M" to spend \$100 "to amuse herself." Meanwhile, M.L.G. himself could have used the money: "It would have been a treasure to keep from real hunger Have tried to write to her, but so cold, am chiefly in bed & fingers freeze if put outside. Pneumonia and bronchitis making cough bad. Purchase as injudicious as could be & not acceptable"
8-1-1887	Sitka	9	Mrs. H. A. Yardley, Washington CT	
6-2-1888	Juneau	7	Mr. D. Hintman, 1107 Scott St., San Francisco	
7-27-1889	Fort Wrangel	9	Filer Stowell Co., Milwaukee	****
8-25-1889	Fort Wrangel	9	Mr. Ingham Ross, Oakwood Street RR Co., Dayton OH	Charles B. Clegg, a tourist and president of Oakwood Street Railroad Co., Dayton, Ohio, writes to associate on back of a card with unrelated preprinted ibusiness message. "I am writing with the Indians all about me I have a fine specimen of gold quartz for you. We to day turn our faces homeward but will not get there for a month yet."
5-3-1890	Juneau	7	? Kempel, Dayton OH	,
8-9-1890	Sitka	6	Paris, France	
8-9-1890	Sitka	9	Monsieur E(?) Breuille, Jardinier du M-Colteur, Auxerre, France	
7-14-1891	Sitka	9	Mrs. Geo. H. Edgcomb, Cortland NY	"It is about 11:30 p.m. & I am writing you from the deck of our steamer by sunlight. We are all enjoying our trip"
5-2-1893	Fort Wrangel	9	Rev. Alexander McLean, Corresponding Secretary, 27 Bible House, Astor PL, New York	Receipt from \$5 in books from American Bible society.
5-19-1894	Sitka	6	Mr. H. Rehlen, 94 Devonshire Rd. Forest Hill, London SE England	From Postmistress Paulina Cohen. Schedule for SS City of Topeka ad SS Augusta Victoria. 'The most northern P.O. in Alaska is Mitchell'
8-1-1895	Mitchell	11	Mr. H. Rehlen, England, fwd to South Norwood, with #230	
10-31-1895	Killisnoo	8	Master Eddie Odium, Lucknow, Ont.	Lists travel itinerary. "Have just arrived in perfect health. Weather fineno cold no snow."
11-6-1895	Chilkat	9	E. Odlum, Esq., Lucknow, Ont.	4-ring target killer
4-23-1896	Juneau	12	Rev. Alexander McLean, Corresponding Secretary, 27 Bible House, Astor Pl., New York	Receipt from \$2.65 in books from American Bible society.
6-26-1897	Juneau	12	Mrs. A. L. Simpson, Second St., Bangor ME	*Last night we stopped at Methahkatla and saw the Rev Mr. Duncan and his model village of civilized Indians If I had the tongue of a poet & the hand & eye of a painter I could give no idea of this wonderful land.*
6-29-1897	Sitka	12	Mrs. A. L. Simpson, Second St., Bangor ME	
4-18-1898	Skagway	14	A.L. Pheney & Co., Skagway	Skagway received cancel, 4-18-98. Receipt from C. Gotzian boot and shoe company of \$172.20. Mailed from St. Paul, Minn., 4-5-1898.
8-5-1898	Sitka	?	New York	
2-20-1899	Sitka	12	New York Daily News, 31 & 32 Park Row, New York	*We have placed your paper on exchange list and have mailed you our issueand will continue to do so.* From Alaska Publishing Co.
3-26-1899	Juneau	14	Mrs. W. C. Rogers, 468 Pleasant St., Malden MA	Flag received cancel from Malden, Mass. Letter to "Mamma" from first mate on the Bayard. "On letters to me don't write 'via Seattle' as it confuses the post masters. Will write more on arrival at Seattle."
7-20-1899	Ketchikan	Ρ	Mr. E.F. White, 127 Warren Ave., Baltimore	Registry return receipt mailed July 6, 1899 from Baltimore. Receipt cancelled in Ketchikan July 20, 1899, with Seattle transit cancel July 24.

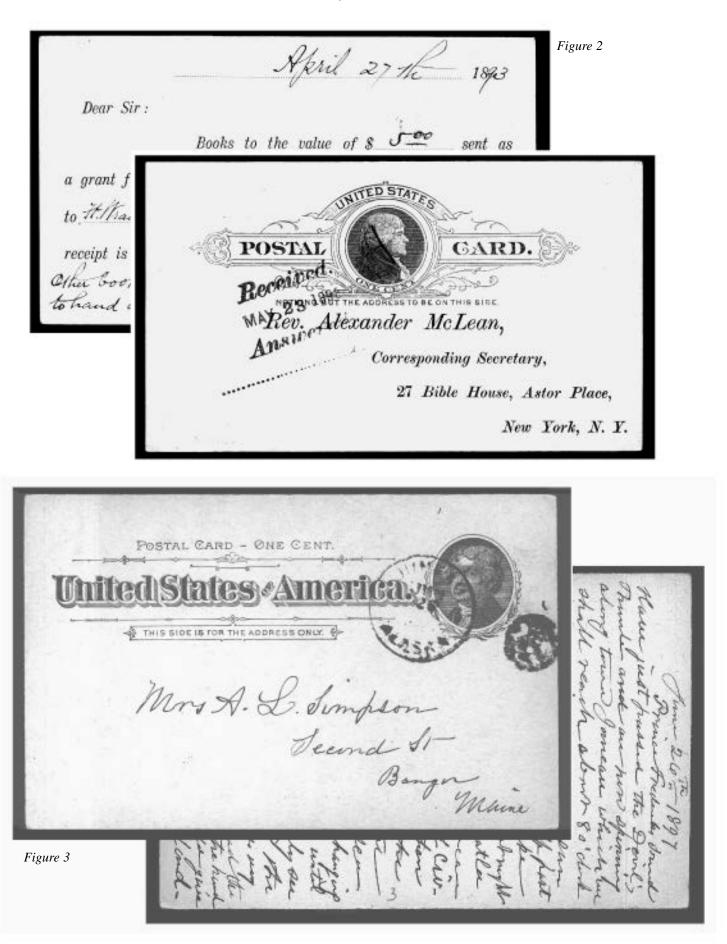




Figure 4



When the registioned letter or will require signature to the erves, and would this save a con- 4 parality of 2000 a 20 of by	parcel accompanying this card is delivered, the Postmaster from the other wide, also as his record of registered deliv- to address toops
Post Office Refai	Post Office at Sto
RETURN TO:	P. Mute ALAS
Street and Mumber,	127 Manen ave
Post Of	fice at BALTIMORE,
	County of Baltimore, State of Maryland.
Xare	
REGISTRY RETURN REC Reg. No. 625 "Reg. Letter? Reg. Letter? Reg. Letter? Reg. Content of the content Post Office at After obtaining receipt below, and without p	Por Post Office & BALTINORE, MD.
REGISTRY RETURN REC. Reg. No. 625 "Reg. Letter? Addressed to Post Office at After obtaining receipt below.	Por Por Office & BALTINORE, MD.
REGISTRY RETURN REC. Reg. No. 625 *Reg. Letter & Addressed to Post Office at After obtaining receipt below, and without p RECEIVED THE ABOVE I (Baroar's SAMP of ortuga stock) Sign on detted fines to the right.	Don Post Office & BALTINORE, MD. A Contraction and the Card, without cover binge, to address on the other side. DESCRIBED REGISTERED SLETTER.
REGISTRY RETURN REC. Reg. No. 625 "Reg. Letter" Reg. Turoels Post Office at After containing reasing below, and without p RECEIVED THE ABOVE I (Server's SARE of orners see.) Sign on dethed lines	Don Por Office & BALTINORE, MD. Aute Aut

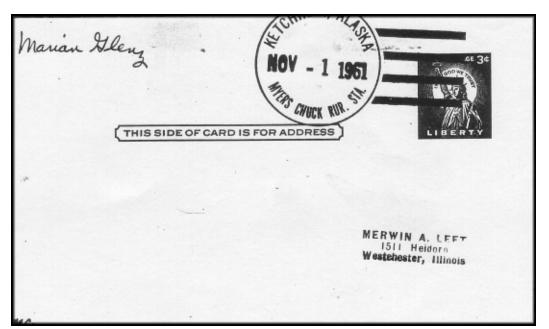


Figure 1 Ketchikan, Alaska - Myers Chuck Rural Station - postal stationery postmarked November 1, 1961, to Illinois. Located near the southernmost boundary with Canada and the U.S., Ketchikan was the major Alaskan mail outlet for the small, surrounding islands in its vicinity.

A Postal Pot Of Gold For The Future

Part 2: Rural Station Markings

By Michael Dattolico

Ver since the rural free delivery postal system was instituted in 1896, R.F.D. markings have captivated American collectors. As the 20th century ended, covers and cards with rural free delivery markings were still highly popular postal history topics. They are plentiful, affordable, and thanks to the research published by Edith Doane, Harold Richow and others, information about most of the known R.F.D. cancellations is accessible. Unknown cancellations are still being found.

Most collectors know the the rural free delivery story. Far from established town post offices were isolated farm families who did not receive home mail delivery. The new R.F.D. system provided mail service by postal carriers along specified country routes. As the 20th century moved on, former rural areas around established town post offices became more urban but not large enough to justify having their own post offices. The result was that these embryonic suburbs were treated as rural stations by the servicing offices. Thus, the 'rural station' markings became common as the century progressed. I recall that my home town post office, Fort Myers, Florida, provided service to a number of nearby rural stations throughout the 1950s & '60s.

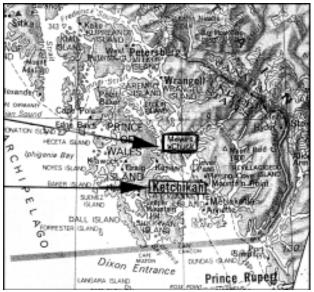


Figure 2 Map showing location of Myers Chuck, a Ketchikan rural station, in 1961. Located northnorthwest of Ketchikan, one can assume that some of Ketchikan's rural stations received their mail by boat.

As the 21st century began, serious R.F.D. collectors were taking note of and studying a vast array of often overlooked, underestimated examples of 'rural station' markings, viewing them as a collectible cousin to early R.F.D. material. Dealers are featuring more and more cards and covers bearing rural station markings in their stocks. This "extension station" phenominon has continued to evolve. Today, rural stations are often referred to as "branch offices." For our generation, of course, such markings are routinely seen on our daily mail. Many are simply pretty postmarks occasionally found and, if saved, are usually pitched into a box and forgotten.

The question arises, "Will postal historians one hundred years from now—the 2101 postal history generation—be collecting the same early R.F.D. material that we seek today? Most certainly they will. I'm sure that this collectible topic will be popular thoughout the next century, and the 2101 folks will avidly seek them just as we do today. I'm also certain that they will just as enthusiastically be seeking the many 'rural station' cancels that came into existence during the mid-20th century. Hopefully, rural station cancellations will have been catalogued, and collectors will have adequate information about them.

But there is a specific category of rural stations that will be especially desirable items collected 100 years from now. They will be the non-military rural station markings from Alaska and Hawaii near their 1959 statehood dates, rural markings from the Trust Territory of Guam along with other U.S. Pacific islands, and early 1960s rural stations from Puerto Rico. I also feel that our descendents will put a high premium on any foreign covers which were handled by U.S. rural stations, either as destinations or forwarding sites.



Figure 3 Ketchikan, Alaska's Knudson Cove Rural Station, located within the main post office's serviced area. This remote spot was probably accessible only by boat.

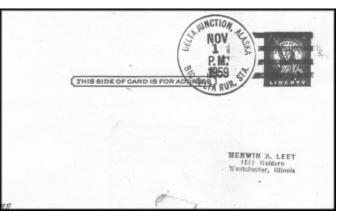


Figure 4 The Delta Junction, Alaska P.O. was established on July 7, 1957. One of its rural stations was located at Big Delta, established in the autumn of 1959. Closed tempo-rarily, it reopened on November 1, 1959.

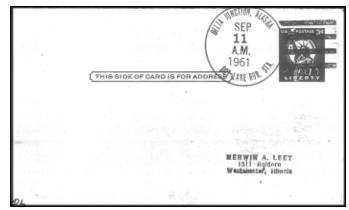


Figure 5 The Dot Lake Rural Station was part of the Delta Junction P.O. in 1961. The Dot Lake post office was established on June 1, 1952, became a rural station of the Fairbanks P.O. in 1954, and became part of the Delta Junction P.O. in the late 1950s.

In 2101, Alaska will continue to be one of our most strategic states, serving as a vast military early warning site manned by the Air Force, Coast Guard and

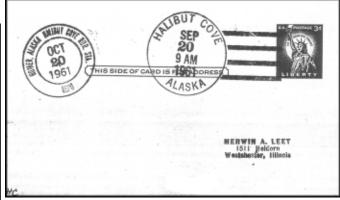


Figure 6 Postal stationery card handled at Halibut Cove, Alaska on September 20, 1961. Note the large, circle-date cancellation. But within the month, Halibut Cove was a rural station of the Homer, Alaska P.O., as indicated by the double circle-date cancellation dated October 20, 1961.

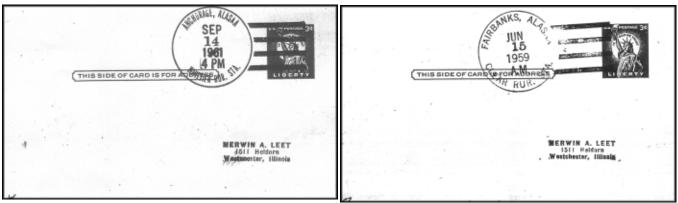


Figure 7 Postal stationery card postmarked at Anchorage, Alaska's Whittier Rural station, September 14, 1961.

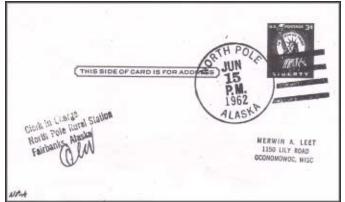


Figure 8 Large cds North Pole, Alaska postmark with 4bar trailer ties the postal stationery stamp. The handstamp shown on the card's lower left side indicates that North Pole was a rural station of the Fairbanks P.O.

Navy guarding against missile strikes. It will also be a much more developed source of oil and natural gas while remaining an ecological haven for the indigenous flora and fauna. I predict that Alaska will be a mecca for scientists studying the area's surrounding waters

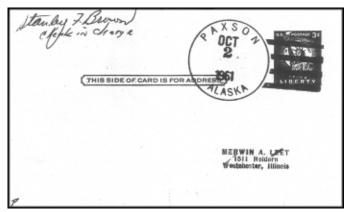


Figure 9 Large cds Paxson, Alaska marking accompanied by a distrinct 4-bar trailer which was struck on a postal stationery card on October 2, 1961. Paxson was also a rural station of the Delta Junction P.O. in 1961. Paxson was originally established as a regular post office on January 16, 1912, but its status changed over

Figure 10 Example of Fairbanks, Alaska's Clear Rural Station postmark affixed to a U.S. postal stationery card on June 15, 1959.



Figure 11 Fairbanks machine cancel struck on the card's back, showing that the Fairbanks P.O. first handled the card on June 12th.

as a primary food source, meteorologists using stateof-the-art technology for advanced weather studies, and ecologists watching over the delicate balance between man's technological thrusts and preservation of the state's unique natural environment. Alaska's population will have increased dramatically, and so will the number of philatelists interested in Alaska's rich postal history. I predict that rural station markings made at Alaska's transition from territorial status to statehood will be very popular. *Figures 1 through 11* are examples of rural stations from Alaska during its transition period.

Hawaii will always retain its tropical mystique, although I'm not so sure that it will grow at the same rate as the civilian populations in other states. Its value as a military outpost and staging area for the navy and air force, however, will not diminish. The vast installations at Pearl Harbor and Hickam Air Force Base will be maintained to handle upgraded military hardware available 100 years from now. But while its population growth might lag, the number of future collectors interested in Hawaii's 20th-century transition from territory to statehood will increase the demand for rural stations that existed in the late '50s and early 1960s. What makes them desirable even today and probably more so in the next century are several factors. January 2002



Figure 12 Large cds Haleiwa, Hawaii P.O. postmark created for use at the Sunset Beach Rural Station. Haleiwa is located on the coast of Oahu.



Figure 13 Two examples of rural station markings from very close villages in Hawaii in 1961. The rolled-on postmark tying the stationery was applied at Pukalani, a small town on Maui. The double-circle postmark was struck at nearby Makawao. This device shows that Pukalani was a rural station of Makawao.

First, most of the rural stations that existed in 1959 have either ceased to exist as P.O. extensions, have been discontinued altogether, or have become main post offices themselves serving their own populations.



Figure 14 Postal stationery piece showing legitimate usage of the half-cent Franklin and one-and-one half cents Mount Vernon issues to make the 5-cent airmail rate. The card was mailed from Lihie, Hawaii, a small settlement on the island of Kauai. You will note that the Puhi Rural Station was served by the Lihue P.O.



Figure 15 The Paia, Hawaii P.O. was located on the island of Maui. It served the Hamakuapoko Rural Station, as seen in the cancellation.

Second, many of the Hawaiian rural stations of the 1958-1962 period were established not only on the main island of Oahu, but primarily on the other, less populated islands of Kauai, Hilo, and Maui.



Figure 16 The Paia P.O. also served the Spreckelsville Rural Station in the early 1960s. The Sprecklesville post office also had its own canceler which was also used. Note the pair of one-and-one quarter cent stamps used to pay the 5-cent airmail rate to the United States.



Figures 17 & 18 The Olaa, Hawaii P.O., located on the island of Hilo, served the Kapoho Rural Station. Shown here are two cards mailed from there in the late territorial period.



Figure 19 Large cds Kamuela, Hawaii postmark designed for use at the Kawaihae Rural Station in Hawaii's waning territorial days. It was located on Hilo.

And third, perhaps it's the exotic names of the post offices and rural stations that will attract the collectors of the future, just as they pull at today's collectors. Many of the smaller places may not exist a century from now, which will make mail from them even more avidly sought. Thus, I expect rural station mail from our 49th and 50th states will be in hot demand in 2101. *Figures 12 through 20* are examples of rural stations located in the Hawaiian Islands at the time of its change from territorial status to statehood.



Figure 20 The Pahoa, Hawaii P.O. was also located on Hilo and also served the Kapoho Rural Station in 1959. Note the airmail postal stationery.

The crystal ball becomes murky when we consider how rural stations from the Trust Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico will be scrutinized by the collectors of the future. If we knew what each place's sovereign status would become in the next hundred years, it would be easier to assess the value of Guam and Puerto Rico material mailed at the midpoint of the 20th century.



Figure 21 U.S. airmail postal stationery card mailed from San Juan, Puerto Rico's Cupey Gardens Rural Station in July, 1961. The bottom picture gives the reader a better image of the cancellation. One wonders how many rural stations the San Juan P.O. served in the late 1950s.

The political status of Puerto Rico a century from now might not be so easy to predict. Puerto Rico remained an area of great conflict as the 21st century began, primarily due to the U.S. Navy's use of Visque Island as an ordinance testing range.

Some voters wanted to annex Puerto Rico and make it our 51st state, while other groups wanted total autonomy for the island.

Many Puerto Ricans wanted to maintain the status quo - the island's commonwealth status But one thing is certain - covers and cards from rural stations that existed there circa 1960 will be hard to find. I predict



Figure 22 Large cds Yauco, P.R. postmark which includes the Rubias Rural Station which it served. The back of the card shownsan image of the double-circle postmark used at the Yauco post office, Rubias Rural Station in late 1958.

that they will be coveted items by 22nd century collectors. *Figures 21 and 22* offer a sample of Puerto Rico's rural stations at the mid-20th-century mark.



Figure 23 Agana, Guam, Inarajan Rural Station postmark shown used on October 2, 1961 to the United States. That date is the earliest known usage of this postmark.



Figure 24 Postal stationery mailed from the Merizo Rural Station of the Agana P.O. on October 2, 1961. The Merizo town rural marking was first used on October 1st, 61.

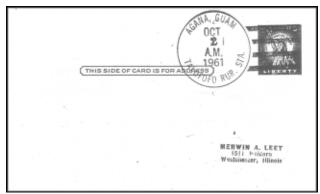


Figure 25 The postmark: Agana, Guam....Talofofo Rural Station...first appeared on September 30, 1961 and closed on September 30, 1964. Unlike the other Guam rural stations which opened and closed throughout the decades, the Talafofo r/s was permanently closed after only three years of service. A number of cancelers, many illegally produced, have appeared after 9/30/64 on

Nevertheless, rural stations dating from the late 1950s and early '60s will still be valued items, particularly those from Guam. Collectors will be drawn to them for two basic reasons: only five rural stations existed for relatively short time periods, and the Talafofo rural station is one of the scarcest rural station markings due to its short period of operation. *Figures 23 through 27* are offered for your scrutiny.

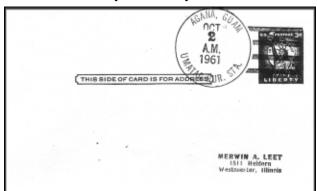


Figure 26 The Umatac Rural Station which was served by the Agana P.O. was reopened on October 1, 1961, after having been closed for some time. Its earliest known dates of use is October 2, 1961, the date of this postal stationery piece. It closed permanently on June 28, 1965, although it was likely open for business during the 1970s.

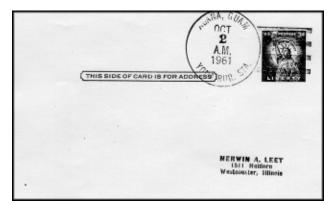


Figure 27 The Yona Rural Station of the Agana P.O. has operated as a rural station since October 1, 1961, but with closures and reopenings over the years. It has remained open for business during the 1990s.

Finally, *Figure 28* shows another sort of rural station cover that our descendants will likely seek with fervor. It is a mixed franking cover which was mailed in Germany in 1956 to a doctor working at the Marathan Shores, Florida hospital. Apparently, the doctor had moved on to Guatemala, prompting the Marathon Shores postal staff to forward it there. Note the ten-cent U.S. stamp tied by the large cds "Mara-



Figure 28 Extraordinary mixed-franking cover mailed from Germany in 1956 to a doctor who had relocated to Marathon Shores, Florida Soon after, he moved on to the American hospital at Guatemala City, Guatemala. The 10-cent stamp is tied by a large cds "Marathon, Florida, Marathon Shores Rural Station." The back of the cover shows the smaller double-circle "Marathon, Fla.

thon, Florida...Marathon Shores Rural Station" cancel. Shown on Figure 28A is a Marathon Shores double circle-date cancellation.

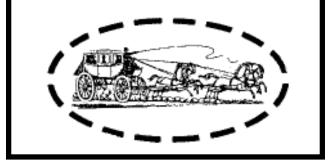
My suggestion to today's postal history community...find and accumulate the 'rural station' markings from Alaska and Hawaii near their territorial/statehood periods. Gather Guam's rural stations in the early 1960s, and accumulate all Puerto Rico rural station cards and covers from the mid-20th century. Study and document them. I think you'll find that they are not easy to find today.

Shown are examples of rural stations from Alaska and Hawaii circa 1959, along with similar Guam and Puerto Rico material, and an example of foreign mail involving a rural station being used as both a destination and forwarding location. My advice....find them, enjoy them now, catalog them and pass them on to future postal historians.

La Posta Backnumbers

Backnumbers of *La Posta* may be purchased from Sherry Straley, 2214 Arden Way #199, Sacramento, CA 95825. An index of all backnumbers through Volume 28 has been completed by Daniel Y. Meschter and is available on the La Posta website at *www.la-posta.com*.

To order backnumbers call Sherry at 916-486-9339 or send her an E-mail at *sherjohn@softcom.net*.



The Post Offices of Knott County, Kentucky: Part II

by Robert M. Rennick

(continued from Nov. 2001, Volume 32, No. 5)

For several years *Dirk* served a community centered on a boarding school on the east side of Carr founded in 1920 by two Massachusetts women, Olive V. Marsh and Ruth E. Watson. On May 25, 1928 *Dirk*, by then at the mouth of Deerlick, was renamed *Carr Creek* to honor the local school whose basketball team had just competed in the prestigious national high school tournament in Chicago. In 1950 the office was moved one fourth of a mile above Deerlick and closed in 1975. By then the school had been lost to consolidation.

The little remembered but aptly named *Hemlock* post office was operated between March 30, 1898 and mid-September 1904 by Simeon and Bessie Combs. It may have been just north of Dirk, probably just below Shingle Branch. In May 1900 it may have been moved to the mouth of Little Carr.³²

On November 30, 1897 Tenna (Mrs. Green A.) Collins opened the Omaha post office at or near the site of the old Carson office at the head of Carr Fork (see above.) In 1948 it was moved a mile and a half down the Fork to the present Ky 582 (the road between Carr and Right Beaver), and later to the mouth of Meadow Branch of Carr where it closed in 1984. Why Omaha? This name, also applied to settlements or post offices in Arkansas, Alabama, Georgia, Illinois, and Texas, was probably derived from the city in Nebraska or the Indian tribe from which the latter took its name. The area around the mouth of Meadow Branch had an earlier post office (May 5, 1906 to March 15, 1907) called Amazon. Neither this name nor postmaster James D. Hall's preferred Afton (then in use in Carter County) has been derived.

Not to be confused with *Ivis* was the post office of *Ivan* whose name has also not been derived. This was established on July 12, 1906 on top of the hill, on the road (now Ky 582) between Carr Fork and Right Beaver, about a mile north of Carr and 2 ½ miles north of Carson-Omaha. It first served a village of some 125 residents that may have been called *Martinsville* for the family of first postmaster Mary Martin, and this was the first name proposed for it. In 1918 it was moved one mile south to the Fork; and two years later it was moved 1 ½ miles down the Fork. By 1935 it was just east of Spring Branch where it closed in 1942.

At the mouth of Nealy Branch (named for area families)³³, 500 yards below Spring Branch, was the *Nealy* post office. Nathaniel G. Sturgill ran it from June 4, 1909 through September 1915.

The *Drew* post office (name source unknown) served the head of Nealy Branch, two miles from Carr, from September 27, 1910 through April 1913. Mary Jane Hall was its only postmaster.

May, which operated between 1935 and 1955, with Lawrence Watts, its first postmaster, was established two miles east of Pine Top and two miles west of Ivan (which by then was just east of Spring Branch). It too was moved, at least twice, three fourths of a mile east in 1941 and another one fourth of a mile east, to Ivan's last site, in 1948. Whether it was named for one or more of eastern Kentucky's May families needs to be confirmed.

The Little Carr Fork of Carr Fork had four post offices which will be considered below. In addition, three served its Carr Fork confluence. The first of these was *Hemlock* (see above). Then there was *Addie*, established by Robert Hall on May 15, 1909 just above the confluence. In September of that year Abraham Tolliver moved *Addie* a mile up (main) Carr where it closed at the end of June 1910. For whom it was named is not known.

The name *Addie* was suggested for another vicinity office, established on June 23, 1922 at the site of the present Carr Creek (consolidated) School at the confluence. When first postmaster Bernard B. Smith then submitted the name *Little Carr* he was advised by the Post Office Department to shorten it to its present one word form *Littcarr*. Local businesses and the office, now just below the confluence (8 ¹/₄ miles south of Hindman), serve the thickly settled and developing resort area at the upper edge of the Carr Fork impoundment.

Post Offices In The Little Carr Valley

About half a mile below the head of Little Carr and the Letcher County line, Robert Collins proposed a post office. His list of name preferences included *Carr*, *Port, Collins*, and *French*. But on March 3, 1893 his office opened as *Bath*, named for the English town. In 1946 it was moved by Anna and Perry Sloane two miles down the Fork to the mouth of Big Doubles Branch, 10 ¹/₂ miles south-southeast of Hindman, to serve the *Little Carr* locality. Here it closed in 1965.

At the mouth of Little Carr, on June 1, 1894, William R. Amburgey operated the inexplicably named *Critic* post office. In the following year John Jesse Amburgey had it moved 1 ½ miles up Little Carr to serve Francis Amburgey's flour mill at the mouth of Dead Mare Branch (three miles below Bath's first site). It closed in mid-June 1899. For some reason this office is recalled by a few persons as *Kricket* (sic).³⁴

From December 4, 1922 through January 1928 the post office of *Does* was maintained by Mrs. Eunice Pigman about a mile up Wolfpen Creek and four miles from old Bath. I'm merely guessing that the name was given by the office's applicant, Maggie (Mrs. Elijah) Hale, to honor her five children, Delice, Dona, Delmas, Dora, and David.

Post Offices On Irishman Creek

The 5 ¼ mile long Irishman Creek heads a mile south of the first Brinkley post office site and joins Carr Fork a mile below Smithsboro. Its lower section is now in Carr Lake. It is said to have been named by pioneer settler and owner George Madden for the Irish homeland of his forebears. Three post offices served its residents.

Though the application for *Jeptha*, the first Irishman office, was submitted while the valley was still in Letcher County, the office did not actually open till May 29, 1884, after Knott's establishment. Its only postmaster was its name source Jeptha T. Maddin, George's grandson.³⁵ The office, four miles north of Carr Fork and six miles south of Hindman, closed in mid-December 1890. It was re-established by Madden on November 27, 1891 as *Saint Cloud*. At least three other American post offices, in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Florida, have borne this name, and each was derived from the Paris suburb that had been the home of several French rulers, including Marie Antoinette and Napoleon.

From 1936 to 1993 Irishman's families were served by the *Amburgey* post office. This was established by Ida Madden (Mrs. John) Amburgey two miles up the creek, and named for this large extended Carr Fork family. Sometime after the Second World War it was moved a mile south to Newton Amburgey's store at the mouth of Trace Fork, but when it closed it was just below the mouth of Maden Fork, 1.7 miles above Trace and less than six miles south of Hindman by the new Rt. 3391.³⁶

Incidentally, another *Amburgey* post office had been established on January 5, 1898, probably in the vicinity of Wolfpen Creek or Deadmare Branch of Little Carr, but postmaster Wiley Amburgey's authorization was rescinded on April 21. The Amburgeys of the Carr valley were descendants of Virginia-born John (1758-1831) and Elizabeth Amburgey, who had settled there in the 1820s. Their son Ambrose owned most of Little Carr for much of the nineteenth century.³⁷

Post Offices On Breeding Creek (Of Carr Fork)

Settled early by and probably named for Elisha Breeding (died 1863), whose sons George M. And James and their families were also residents, this four mile long stream heads against the Letcher County line and joins Carr Fork at Cody. Along it extends Ky 15 and 160, connecting Hindman with Letcher's seat of Whitesburg. Three post offices served valley residents.

The earliest, *Redfox*, was operated between March 14, 1888 and mid-September 1890 by John Hale at an unknown site in the Breedings valley. On September 15, 1906 Jasper Hale (the first postmaster of Witch) re-established it some 600 yards up Hale Branch, two miles up the creek from Cody. In 1916 it was moved one mile further up the creek. In 1937 it was on Sugar Branch, just below Hale Branch. In early 1940 it may have been moved nearly three miles further up Breedings to the vicinity of the earlier Witch and Amelia, but was later moved to the mouth of Breedings Branch (earlier called Mallet Fork) where it remains.

For some years *Redfox* served a racially integrated community whose earliest black members were slaves of pioneer white landowners. According to tradition, a red fox was once found standing in the middle of the road, just too tired to resume his run from pursuing hunters.

To serve Breedings' residents after the closing of *Redfox* in 1890, Jasper Hale, on November 12, 1892, opened the post office of *Witch*. This may have been at the mouth of (then) Mallet Fork, the later site of the re-established *Redfox*, 2.3 miles above Cody. In 1903 James Breeding had *Witch* moved two miles up the creek to a site just short of the Letcher County line, where it closed at the end of September 1912. Ac

cording to May Stone, the co-founder of the Hindman Settlement School, in their 1941 manuscript study of some eastern Kentucky stream and community names, it was named for the historical witches of Salem, Massachusetts. (There's not much likelihood of its having been named for a Knott County witch.)

The *Amelia* post office was established on June 14, 1902 by William Riley Amburgey on Little Carr, some four miles below Bath. Since his first name preference *Oak* was in use in Bell County, Amburgey had to find another name, but whose is not known. No Amelias are listed in any of the Amburgey family histories. By 1913 this office had been moved to Breedings Creek, to the vicinity of the recently closed Witch, where, in mid-May 1916, it too ceased to operate.

Conclusion

Of Knott's eighty-five post offices (including the five that operated wholly before the county's establishment), sixteen (Hindman, Pippa Passes, Mousie, Sassafras, Garner, Topmost, Leburn, Vest, Redfox, Emmalena, Littcar, Mallie, Kite, Carrie, Fisty, and Pine Top) survive. The first two serve currently incorporated places. At least thirty offices were the foci of once viable communities (several still are). Most of the others served local schools, churches, and/or stores.

In addition, two offices were formally established but did not operate: *Amburgey* on Little Carr (1898) and Elizabeth Hall's inexplicably named and unlocated *Hattie* whose June 11, 1906 authorization was rescinded the following March.

Twenty-eight offices were named for local or area persons/families, while three honored well known nonlocal persons, and two may have borne the names of Post Office Department employees from outside the region. Geographic or descriptive words were given to eight offices. Distant places accounted for three names, while ten offices were given the names of local or nearby streams, and anther was named for the mountain in which it was located. Two names had literary origins; two more referred to local industries; another may have been that of a product then in use by local women; and one is said to have had sentimental significance to its namer. One office may have been named for a local animal; another for a local church; and a third, according to local tradition, for the witches of Salem, Mass. One name was corrupted from its original referent. Several explanations, equally valid, have been offered for yet another. The names

of twenty offices have not yet been accounted for, and three very early offices have not been located. Twentysix offices had names not originally intended for them. Ten served communities or neighborhoods with other names. Two had name changes.

Footnotes

¹ Knott's four mother counties came together near Hindman, its somewhat centrally located and enduring county seat. From Letcher came the valleys of upper Carr and the Right Fork of Troublesome; from Perry came the area along the lower Troublesome, and lower Carr; from Floyd came the area of the Right Fork of Beaver and its Salt Lick, Jones Fork, and Caney Creek valleys; and from Breathitt came the upper Quicksand watershed.

² A separate 2 ³/₄ mile long Carr Fork branch was long known as *Betty's Troublesome Creek*. But who was Betty? We can probably rule out James Still's suggestion of the early practice of summer burning of the natural gas on the creek's waters which might have given the name Bettnig (Anglo-Saxon for oil). How many early settlers would have known this?

³ The more centrally located Forks of Troublesome was considered preferable to the two other contenders for the new county seat – sites on Right Beaver and Carr Fork. ⁴ The Hoeing 1890 state map identifies this vicinity as *Cornett*, perhaps for the family of Manton and W.R. Cornett, the first Sassafras postmasters. In the earlier Crandall and Hodge (1884) and Hoeing (1886) southeast Kentucky maps, it's actually identified as *Cornett Post Office*.

⁵ See Robert M. Rennick's *Place Names of Pike County, Kentucky*, Lake Grove, Or: The Depot, 1991, P.72.

⁶ Ibid, *The Post Offices of the Upper Big Sandy Valley*, Lake Grove, Or: The Depot, 2001.

⁷ Coburn's first name choice *Salt Lick* was then, as now, in use by a Bath County office.

⁸ *Hippo* was re-established in 1926 in Floyd County, some 2 ¹/₂ miles up Brush Creek, another Right Beaver branch. (see Rennick, op.cit.)

⁹ The Bolyn family, and apparently John M. Too, variously spelled their name Bolyn, Bolen, and Boleyn. ¹⁰ According to Mousie Martin Gibson (1896-1976), the name source, her name had been suggested by her grandfather W.J. Martin since she had an older sister Kitty. Mousie, however, is not an uncommon given name in eastern Kentucky.

¹¹ Slones in the Caney valley and elsewhere in the county have variously spelled their name Slone, Sloan, and Sloane.

¹² Just three weeks before the establishment of Knott County's *Weissert* post office, another office, in Custer County, Nebraska, was opened in this name. It's said that the preferred name for the Nebraska office, suggested the office be named for him. (Elton A. Perkey, *Perkey's Nebraska Place Names*, Lincoln: Publications of the Nebraska State Historical Society, Vol. 28, 1982, P. 53.) Could he have done the same for the Knott County, Kentucky office?

¹³ At both its establishment and its re-establishment, *Hollybush* replaced the first name preferences *Elishai* and *Carlton*, respectively. Neither of these intended names have been accounted for. *Hollybush* Creek was, of course, named for the holly trees at its mouth.

¹⁴ The *Head of Hollybush* was described by an Alice Lloyd College history professor Charles Martin in his *Hollybush: Folk Building and Social Change in an Appalachian Community*, Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1984.

¹⁵ Mrs. Geddes succeeded Mr. Sloane as postmaster in 1922.

¹⁶ Over the years the town's name, also unique in this country, has come to symbolize the community and future generations of students the great influence they would have over the lives of the people they would serve.

¹⁷ This Right Beaver tributary was popularly known as Tater Branch, though in the 1913 Sellier map of the Upper Big Sandy valley, it's given as the George Cook Branch.

¹⁸ According to her Site Location Report, Ms. Hopkins had actually first proposed calling her office *Tater* for the creek.

¹⁹ Or maybe not. According to Kentucky bird authorities, neither variety of kites, the Swallowtail or the Mississippi, were ever found this far east in the state.

²⁰ In the Crandall and Hodge Sketch Map of "the Region North of Pine Mountain" (1884), Laurel Fork is shown as an extension of Quicksand Creek and Middle Fork is shown as a branch.

²¹ Newton Watkins seemingly could not agree on the spelling of his name. In his *Baker* post office Site Location Report, he spelled it Wadkins, as did his father James, but in his *Tester* petitions, he spelled it Watkins.
²² Lionel Duff, now of Lexington, Kentucky,

interviewed at his Decoy home on December 21, 1960. ²³ Clementina Combs, the daughter of Jehu and Matilda Cody, was born on Lotts Creek and married John W. in 1876.

²⁴ *Fisty*, the word, has been used throughout American the sense of quarrelsome, cantankerous, or even pushy. For brief notes on its usage, see Harold B. Allen in *American Speech*, Vol. 3 (3), February 1928, P. 217, and *Ibid.*, Vol. 17 (4), December 1942, Pp. 245-49.

²⁵ *Brinkley*, Arkansas, incorporated in 1873, was named for Hugh Brinkley, who helped bring the railroad through that area; and *Brinkleyville* was a community in Halifax County, North Carolina that was settled by and named for Joseph Brinkley in the 1760s.

extending past Brinkley.

²⁶ Until recently, maps showed this stream as Runnels Fork, but I believe Reynolds Branch was its earliest and proper name.

²⁷ The larger Yellow Creek in Bell County, Kentucky had the same name origin.

²⁸ Delores Jean Olsen of Rochester, Washington, in *Kentucky Ancestors*, Vol. 23 (3), 1988, P. 228.

²⁹ Robert C. Young, Hindman, Ky, interviewed by the author on March 25, 2000.

³⁰ Designed for flood control and ultimately recreation, the Carr Fork Dam is just above the mouth of Sassafras Creek, 8.8 miles above Carr's confluence with the North Fork at Jeff.

³¹ On early twentieth century published maps, Little Smith Branch (named for another son of William and Millie) is shown as Little Branch.

³² Simeon Combs' first name preference *Mingo* was already in use in Johnson County.

³³ The Nealys also spelled their name Neely.

³⁴ *Cricket* was the name of a short-lived (1883-1884) post office in Boyd County. The Amburgeys, who were the dominant family in the Little Carr valley, may for a time have applied their name to the Fork. (According to an 1886 Kentucky Geologicl Survey map.)

³⁵ Maddin's first name choice was *Irishman*. In his application and Site Location Reports for his two post offices Jeptha spelled his family's name with an "i". However, Census and family records usually spelled it with an "e", wherein he is listed as son of John and Ruth (Bentley) Madden. Other members of his extended family, to the present time, have also spelled the name with an "e".

³⁶ Mrs. Amburgey's first name preference *Ida* was in use in Clinton County.

³⁷ According to an August 23, 2000 interview with James Still, a long-time resident of Dead Mare Branch, who used to live in Amburgey's log home, that stream had earlier been called Surilda's Branch for Wiley's second wife.

³⁸ Emily Jones Hudson, "The Black American Family in Southeastern Kentucky: Red Fox, Kodak, and Town Mountain" in *Reshaping the Image of Appalachia*, edited by Loyal Jones, Berea, Kentucky: Berea College Appalachian Center, 1984, Pp. 136-45.

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January 2002

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January 2002

POSTAL MARKINGS OF NORTH DAKOTA TERRITORY

Part XV: Sioux, Stark and Steele County

By Mike Ellingson Post Office Box 21402 Eagan, MN 55121 E-Mail: mikeellingson@juno.com

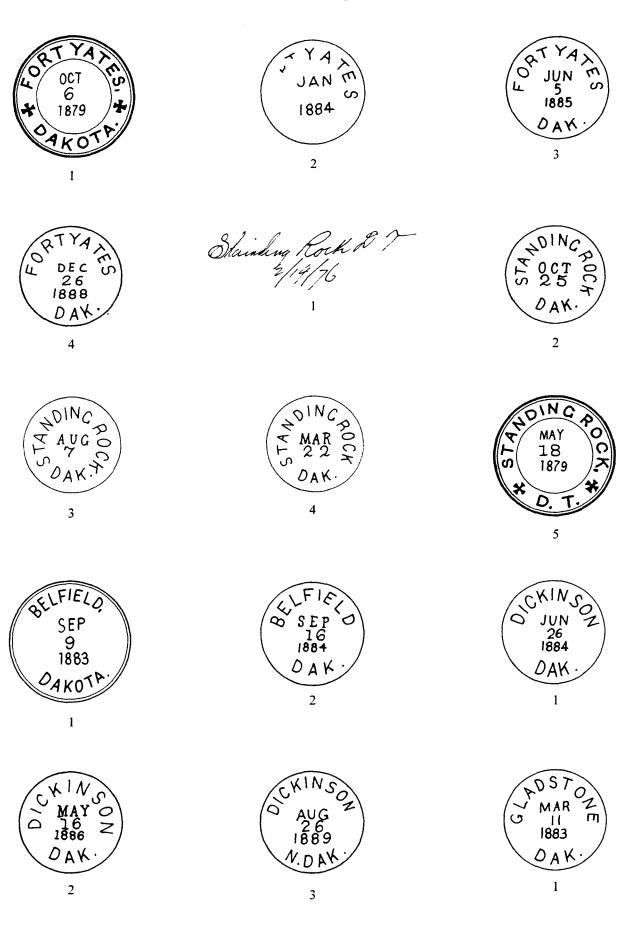
This is the fifteenth installment in an effort to catalog all known postmarks used in the portion of Dakota Territory that later became North Dakota. Please continue to send updates to the author at the above address. Thanks!

Code	Earliest	Latest	Killer	Notes
Fort Yates (1879-Date)				
1 C41H10N1B32.5	20 Jul 1879	1 Dec 1880	star-in-circle	
2 C1?N1B27	?? Jan 1884		cork	
3 C1GN1B27	22 Nov 1884	13 Apr 1888	target	1
4 C1GN1B27	10 Jul 1888	4 Jun 1889	star	
Standing Rock (1875-1879)				
1 MS	14 Feb 1876		pen	
2 C1GA1B26	16 Feb 1877	25 Oct 187?	target	
3 C1GA1B25.5	7 Aug 187?		target	
4 C1GA1B25.5	22 Mar 187?		cork	
5 C41E10N1B32.5	18 Apr 1879	18 May 1879	star-in-circle	

Sioux County

	Stark Cou	inty			
Code	Earliest	Latest	Killer	Notes	
Antelope (1) (1882-1882)					
None Reported					
Antelope (2) (1886-1954)					
None Reported					
Belfield (1883-Date)					
1 C21HN1B32	9 Sep 1883		cork		
2 C1GN1B27	20 Jun 1884	16 Sep 1884	cork		
Dickinson (1881-Date)					
1 C1GN1B27.5	26 Jun 1884		cork		
2 C1GN1B27	22 Aug 1885	15 Jan 1889	target		
3 C1BN1B27	26 Aug 1889	30 Oct 1889	cork	2	
Gladstone (1882-Date)					
1 C1GN1B27	11 Mar 1883	6 Jan 1889	target		

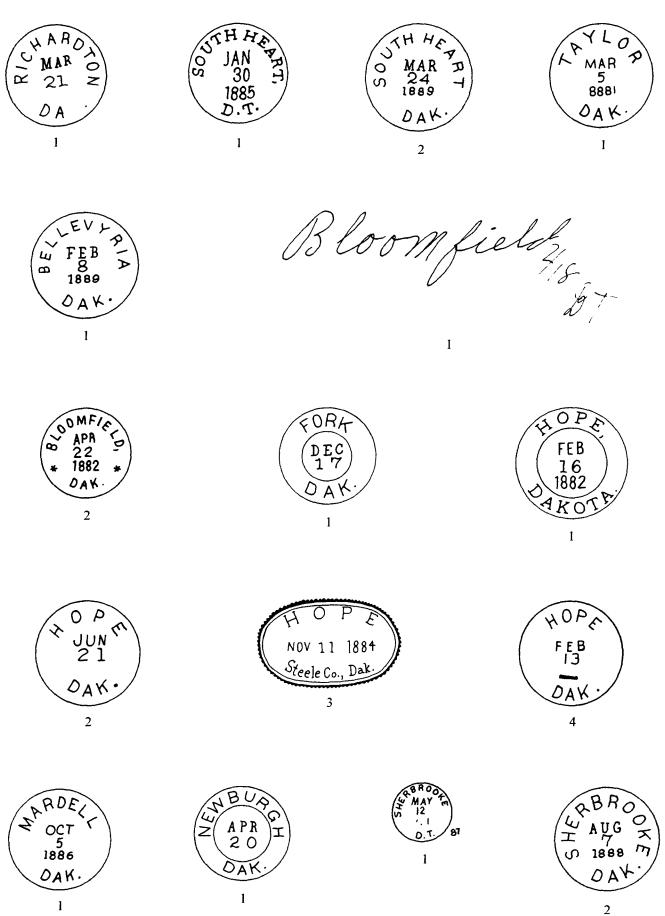
Stark County



Richardton (1883-Date)			
1 C1GA1B26.5	21 Mar 188		cork
South Heart (1883-Date)			
1 C1EN1R26.5	30 Jan 1885	14 Dec 1887	star-in-circle
2 C1GN1B27.5	7 Oct 1888	29 Mar 1889	target
Taylor (1882-Date)			
1 C1GN1B27	29 Jan 1888	7 Jun 1888	target
	Ctaala Car		

Steele County

Code	Earliest	Latest	Killer	Notes
Bellevyria (1882-1898)				
1 C1GN1B28	8 Feb 1889		target	
Bloomfield (1879-1882)				
1 MS	8 Apr 18??		pen	
2 C1G11N1B23.5	22 Apr 1882		star	
Colgate (1883-1972)				
None Reported				
Fork (1879-1881)				
1 C31GA1B25	17 Dec 18??		target	
Golden Lake (1885/1904)				
None Reported				
Hope (1881-Date)				
1 C31HN1R30	16 Feb 1882		target	
2 C1GA1B27.5	21 Jun 1883	23 Jul 1885	cork	
3 OV22G1S1R38	11 Nov 1884	16 Dec 1886	target	
4 C1GN1B28	3 Apr 1890	28 Feb 1892	cork	3
Mardell (1882-1899)				
1 C1GN1B27	26 Mar 1883	5 Oct 1886	target	
Newburgh (1877-1884)				
1 C31GN1B25	20 Apr 1882	22 Jan 1883		
Pickert (1) (1883-1896)				
None Reported				
Sharon (1889-Date)				
None Reported				



39

40

Sherbrooke	(1885-1919)
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1 C1ET7B16	12 May 1887	22 Oct 188?	S-in-circle	4
2 C1GN1B27.5	7 Aug 1888	9 Jul 1891	target	

Stony Point (1877-1879)

None Reported

Notes:

1. Seen with and without year date.

2. Unusual N.DAK designation before statehood

3. Slug usually used in lieau of year date

4. Unusual miniature 'barrel duplex' type marking

Salem, Massachusetts Return Receipt for Registered Mail.

By Terence Hines

Illustrated below is an interesting return receipt for registered mail from Salem, Massachusetts. The card accompanied a registered item sent from Salem to Bellows Falls, VT on October 3, 1903. The face of the card bears an Oct. 6 Bellows Falls cds. The reverse bears a straight line Salem, MA machine cancel that may not show in the illustration. This card bears the inscription "Form No. 1548" in tiny type in the upper right corner on the reverse.

The most interesting aspect of this return receipt card is that has the name of the town printed on both the front and the reverse. It does appear that this printing is somewhat darker than that of the rest of the card and so might have been done separately. But the difference is small. Thus, there are two possibilities. First, the postmaster at Salem may have had the name of the post office printed on his supply of Form 1548 as a convenience. Or, at least for a time, the US Post Office Department might have printed town names on cards for any postmaster who requested it. Can any reader report other examples of this card from the same time period either with or without a pre-printed town name?

This next is used to itselfly and correctly could up and addressed at the past office where the article is requirered. The possesses who observes the requirement article must see that this eard is properly signed, postmarked, and marked to the ender.	canal of Johnry Office
Post Office Department.	
RETURN TO: E. French Nerse + Sender E. French Street and Number: 8 Mit Jerms	on ft.
SALEM, MASSAC	HUSETTA REGISTRY RETURN RECEIPT.
	Received from the Postmaster at Belloraconfalle bet
	revenues of Bellows Falls Thorny Institute
	Date de de de de la composition de la compositio
	A registered article must not be delivered in anyone less the adversaries exceed upon with many's written order. When the above anough has been properly dipated, if must be portunited with mano-of delivering offer and artical data of delivery and multiple to be addense, which is defined on other or pathage.

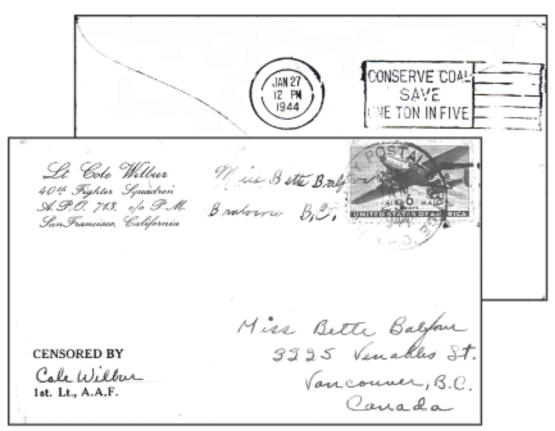


Figure 1 APO 713 cover mailed from Brisbane to Vancouver with pre-printed censor mark. Reverse side shows a four day transit time across the Pacific.

An Unusual World War II Censor Mark

By Joe Edinger

It pays to look through that last box. After spending the day browsing through many dealers boxes of WW II covers at the 1999 SEPAD stamp show in Philadelphia, I was bleary-eyed and ready to call it a day. I had found a few good WW II covers and also a copy of Stan Jersey's wonderful book, "Military Postal History of the United States Forces in the New Hebrides Islands, 1942-1946."

Getting home and making a pot of my favorite coffee seemed like a great idea. While heading for the exit I passed a cover dealer that I hadn't checked out. I asked if he had any WW II APO covers. He produced a large plastic tub containing about two thousand covers and said, "They're mixed in here with these foreign and other assorted WW II covers." Reluctantly I thought, let me look through this last box. The coffee would have to wait. About three-quarters of the way through the box and having found nothing of interest I was about to call it quits when a cover with a return address of the 40th Fighter Squadron, APO 713 Lae, New Guinea and postmarked at the 7th Base Post Office which was located in Brisbane, Australia at the time caught my attention. The cover was posted from the 7th BPO on 23 JAN 1944 (figure 1). The backstamp shows that the letter took only four days from Australia to Canada – not bad for those days – or even for now days!

As a retired printer what immediately caught my eye was how the censor mark on the cover looked *too* good. It had perfectly even color and impression and was perfectly positioned in the lower left hand corner of the envelope. This seemed quite an unusual application for the normal rubber stamped censor mark. I took it out of the acetate holder and upon closer inspection discovered why. It is a typeset *printed* censor mark, the only actual printed censor mark this collector has ever seen.

Concluded page 43

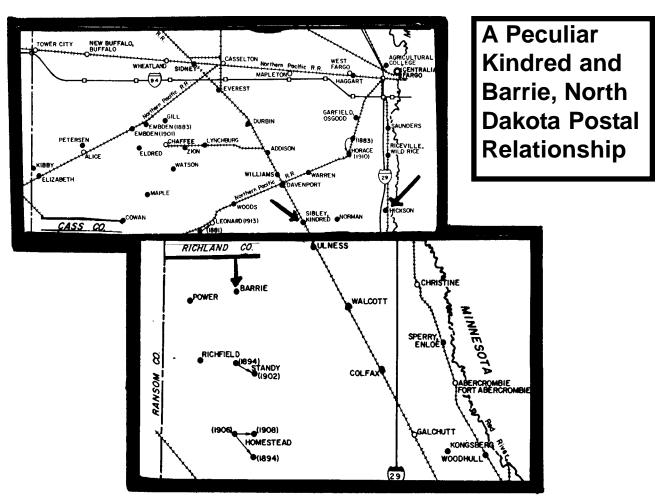
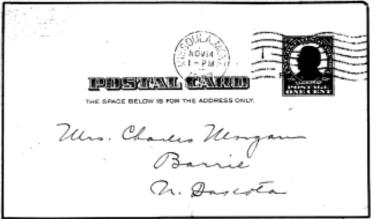


Figure 1 Adjoining Cass and Richland Counties in SE North Dakota. Arrows point to Hickson, Kindred and Barrie

By Ronald Olin

The author recently came across two cards with a peculiar and speculative relationship. *Figure 1* is a map of Cass and Richland counties in southeastern North Dakota showing the locations of the towns involved. Both cards were sent to Doug Wick in Bismarck, North Dakota for his opinion.



addressed to Barrie, N.D., with the Kindred, N.D. Rec'd postmark. Barrie, N.D. had a post office from September 20, 1878 to November 30, 1907. We felt that this postal to Barrie with a Kindred transit mark made sense. Most likely it was carried by rail, despite

Figure 2 shows the postal card from Missoula, Mont.,

Figure 2 Postal card from Missoula, Mont., Nov. 14, 1907. Addressed to Barrie, N.D. Back side has a Kindred, N.D. Rec'd, Nov. 17, 1907 the lack of an RPO postmark, and Kindred was the dropoff point. Rural mail carriers likely completed the 10-mile overland journey.

Kindred, North Dakota had a large and active RFD system in 1907. Eight different styles of cancels between 1902 and 1913 are known.

Postcard BREFKORT. POSTKARTE. CARTE

Figure 3 Back side of picture post card from Hickson, N.D. June 21, 1907. Addressed to Box 76, Kindred, N.D. Barrie, N.D. Doane, dated June 22, 1907, Transit Postmark.

Usages were on Routes 1, 2, and 3 both for delivery on the route and for delivery out of state.

Figure 3 shows the postcard from Hickson to Kindred but with a Barrie transit postmark. We felt that this finding was bizarre to say the least. Kindred is virtually halfway between Hickson and Barrie. The postcard obviously did not go by rail. Perhaps it can be explained by the fact that Kindred had an active RFD network at the time. Without knowing the various RFD routes, we could only guess. We felt of course that the human error factor should always be considered. If this was the case, there would usually have been a "Missent to . . ." auxiliary marking, but Barrie probably didn't have one. Thus, an RFD carrier is our best theory.

An unusual World war II Censor Mark (concluded from page 41)

A guess on my part is maybe this Lieutenant was a prolific letter writer and didn't want to be bothered rubber stamping over and over and perhaps also being the censoring officer he had a supply of envelopes printed with the censor mark but without his return address on them and passed them out to other members of the 40th Fighter Squadron to use and then he just had to sign his name when censoring mail.

This is strictly conjecture on my part and perhaps the reporting of other covers by collectors can help provide the explanation for this printed censor mark.

As I headed home with my prize I thought, "the coffee will taste extra good tonight."

Note: After viewing a copy of this cover, WW II cover collector and postal historian Stan Jersey theorizes that this Lieutenant probably had the envelopes printed while on leave in Australia and posted this particular cover while there.

FOR SALE OR DONATION

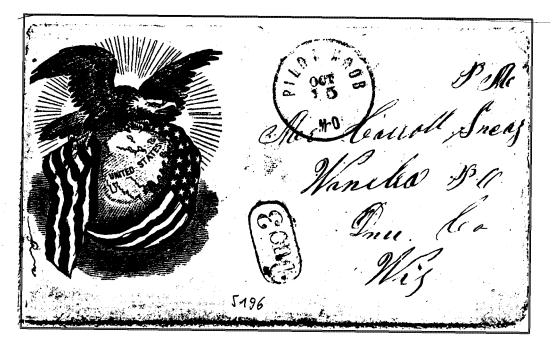
Complete run of *La Posta*, Vols. 1-30 (vols. 1 and 2 are facsimiles), best offer by an individual or justification by a library or museum with strong subject matter interest why I should donate it to them. Contact

Daniel Y. Meschter 9116 Wimbledon Drive, NE Albuquerque, NM 87111

News from the Front By Bob Schultz and Selden Trimble

One of us (S. T.) acquired the illustrated Missouri patriotic cover with an enclosed letter. The writer's handwriting and spelling left something to be desired, but deciphering it and understanding the circumstances proved to be most interesting.

First, the patriotic cover. The design is identical to Lot 4726 in the June, 2000 Bischel-Nutmeg auction of used patriotic covers. It is addressed to Mr. Carroll Lucas, P. M. Waneka P. O. Dunn Co. Wisconsin.¹ (The county is spelled "Dun" on the cover. Waneka was open 1856 - 1900). The black "Pilot Knob, Mo., Oct. 15" circular date stamp is without a year date. There is also a black "Due 3" in an oval. There are no markings on the reverse. The heading of the letter shows that the year is 1862.



The letter is transcribed below. Punctuation and capitalization have been added for clarity, but the spelling used is unchanged. Comments and additions are in brackets.

"Greenville, Mo.

Oct. the 11^{th} , '62.

Cousin Carroll

Your letter of July the 3rd was received a short time ago while we was at Helena. They hav kept us a moving so much sinc that I hav not had time to write. We was ordered back to the Cape to get recruited up a little but we had not been at the Cape only four or five days when we were ordered out her. All the well men that there could be mustered to come was 309 and 150 of them were new recruits that has come from Wisconsin this fall. There was but five commissioned officers, one Captain and four Lieutenants.

Greenville is a little small place on the St. Francis about 70 miles south west of Cape Girardeau. What we hav been sent here for is more than I can tell. There is no rebbels near here. There was about 2000 troops here when we got here, but part of them have left since for Pilot Nob.

I think there is no doubt but what we shal beav [Surely the author meant to write "leave."] this place in a few days for there is nothing for our horses to eat but what we forage and that is getting to be hard buisness as it is a verry poor country here for corn and no oats or hay. So you see our horses have to liv on clear corn and scrimped at that. I suppose that you have heard Dolph has enlisted. He belongs to the 29th Reg. I think he was foolish for enlisting. I thank a man that has a wife, too children and Father and Mother to take care of has no buisness in the army. We hav jest been having quite a time here. We thought that we was going to get drounded out. It rained so that it rased the river 27 feet in twenty four hours. If it had rased one foot higher, it would of come into our tents. I do not know when you will get this. All communications has stopped on the account of the water being so high. They hav to cross the river twice to get to Pilot Nob and no way to cross it.

I must [stop] as I [have] nothing more to write. What I hav written will not interest you much. When you write I want you to write how Bert and Lib and all hands are getting along.

So no more at present. J. L. Simmons C. Lucas

Pleas direct to St. Louis, Mo."

This letter provides some tantalizing clues as to the service of the writer, J. L. Simmons.

First, the men. As already mentioned, the recipient of the letter, Carroll Lucas, was the postmaster at Waneka in Dunn County, Wisconsin. An examination of the rosters of the Wisconsin troops in the Civil War shows that there was a Private Joseph L. Simmons in Company A of the 1st Wisconsin Cavalry.² He enlisted on September 15, 1861, and was discharged on December 1, 1862. No mention was made of his hometown. The references to horses in the letter would strongly suggest that the writer of the letter was Joseph L. Simmons.

The "Dolph" referred to in the letter was noted as having joined the 29th Wisconsin Regiment. "Dolph" is an unusual name, but it could be a nickname for Rudolph or Adolph. An examination of the roster of the 29th Regiment reveals a Rudolph Joos in Company E who enlisted on January 15, 1864. Obviously, this is too late to be the "Dolph" in the letter. There are two other candidates in the 29th. The first is Dolphus Damuth from Fort Atkinson, a town in the southeastern part of Wisconsin. He enlisted on August 15, 1862, which would fit with the dates in the letter. But a better candidate seems to be Rodolphus W. Simmons of Company F. Rodolphus was from Farmington and enlisted on August 14, 1862. Farmington is in the southwestern part of Wisconsin and Dunn County, where the letter was sent, is in the west-central part of Wisconsin. This, plus the match of last names between Rudolphus Simmons and the writer of the letter, makes a good case for establishing the identiy of "Dolph" as Rudolphus Simmons.

Next, the mention of Helena. In the spring and summer of 1862, General Samuel R. Curtis, fresh from his victory at Pea Ridge in northwest Arkansas, marched his troops across southern Missouri and into northeast Arkansas.³ Ultimately, he reached Helena, Arkansas. This 500-mile march through sparsely settled countryside, spreading devastation and having no supply support for the last part of the march, was unprecedented in the Civil War at the time and foretold Sherman's march through Georgia.

But there were no Wisconsin troops at Pea Ridge! However, at the same time that Curtis' troops were marching southeast, Brig. Gen. Frederick Steele was ordered from southeast Missouri into Arkansas. The hope was that the combined forces could take Little Rock. And Steele's army

included the 11th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment! But was the 1st Wisconsin Cavalry, or some unit of it with the 11th? There is no mention of it in Banasik's <u>Embattled Arkansas</u>.⁴ Dyer's <u>Compendium</u> lists the 1st Wisconsin as part of Col. William Vandever's command, District of Southeast Missouri, noting that they were in Jonesboro, Arkansas on August 2-3 and at Cape Girardeau, Mo. "til Oct. 3."⁵ Steele and Curtis met at Jacksonport and decided that the terrain argued against taking Little Rock. (The land was cut by overflowing rivers.) Curtis then marched on to Helena. By that time, Memphis had been taken and the Mississippi River opened to Vicksburg. His army was resupplied at Helena. In addition, the First Wisconsin Cavalry was in Helena, Arkansas. The <u>Official Records</u> contains a report from Col. Vandever on skirmishes near Helena on September 19-20 in which the 1st Wisconsin was involved.⁶ However, we cannot tell whether the First Wisconsin was originally with Steele or went to Helena later by steamboat. In any case, this then explains the mention of Helena in the letter.

Finally, Greenville, Missouri. Greenville was located on the St. Francis River and was often subject to serious flooding as was noted in the letter. (In 1940, Greenville was moved to a higher and dry location a few miles from its original site.⁷) Even though Greenville was the County Seat of Wayne County, postal service was discontinued on September 10th, 1862.⁸ Many offices in Missouri were closed during this period since guerrilla activity and Confederate sympathies of locals often precluded reliable service. (Greenville was reestablished on Nov. 14, 1865.⁹)

Dyer does note that the 1st Wisconsin "moved to Greenville, Oct. 3, thence to Patterson, Oct. 19."¹⁰ So again there is agreement between the military records and the letter writer. Military communications would have been established with Fort Davidson in Pilot Knob via a fortification at Patterson. Pilot Knob was the end point of a rail link with St. Louis. With the rain noted in the letter, communications with Pilot Knob was chancy. This particular letter was probably carried by an escorted courier, for despite the mention of no "rebbels" in the area, several guerrilla bands were indeed active. Ultimately, the 11th Wisconsin was stationed at Pilot Knob through March, 1863 doing guard duty throughout Southeast Missouri.⁹ So this letter did tell us quite a story.

References:

- 1. The addressee is confirmed in List of Post Offices in the United States, 1862. Theron Wierenga Reprint, Holland, MI, 1981.
- 2. <u>Roster of Wisconsin Volunteers, War of the Rebellion, 1861-1865</u>. First printed in 1886 and later indexed in 1914. See the web site, www.shsw.wisc.edu/roster.
- 3. Shea, William L. & Hess, Earl J. <u>Pea Ridge, Civil War Campaign in the West</u>. Chapel Hill, NC. Univ. of North Carolina Press. 1992. pp. 284-306.
- 4. Banasik, Michael E. <u>Enbattled Arkansas, The Prairie Grove Campaign of 1862</u>. Wilmington, NC. Broadfoot Publishing Co. 1998. pp.1-56.
- 5. Dyer, Frederick H. <u>A Compendium of the War of the Rebellion</u>. Dayton Ohio. Morningside Press. 1978. Reprint of the 1908 edition. p. 1666.
- 6. <u>The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies</u>. Washington, DC. Government Printing Office. 1885. Vol. XIII, p.272.
- 7. Missouri Historical Review. 54. 355 (1960).
- 8. Records of the Appointments of Postmasters. Missouri, Wayne County. Schultz, Robert G., <u>Missouri</u> <u>Post Offices, 1804 - 1981</u>. St. Louis, MO. APS Branch No. 4. 1982.
- 9. ibid.
- 10. Dyer. loc. cit.

Williams Band Eg. Thiland

Figure 1 The first registered marking, a sharp large *R*, on an *EL*, dated July 13, 1846, from Ebensburgh *PA*. There is no registry number code on the letter.

Registration at Philadelphia

Part 1

by Tom Clarke

Registered letters are fascinating simply because they bear extra markings, most of which are colorful and others are artistic and pleasing to see. They require extra cost, which requires more postage, and in all periods this means they would be more rare that standard mail. And their relative infrequency forces them to a premium value.

Early theft

Before official registration, persons gave unto God's care their valuables sent by the post. While postmen were honest, the goods inside would find their way safely to their destination. But not all government appointees and their designees are trustworthy, and citizens would rather trust coins and paper and important legal forms to servants and friends instead of the USPO.

As early as 1808, an individual was assigned to investigate mail theft.¹ However, the earliest practical attempt to prevent theft of valuable letter contents began in Philadelphia (and New Orleans-Mobile) between 1845 and 1855. It was a free service begun via informal agreements between postmasters across the country such as Cleveland and Detroit, and little Wilkes Barre PA. The Philadelphia postmaster would keep a log registry of incoming letters (perhaps mailed in a separate pouch for easy identification) that contained currency, securities, or other important papers.²

Philadelphia's "R's"

Valuable content letters would receive an "R" on outgoing Philadelphia mail to indicate their status and need for heightened care. On letters of worth incoming to Philadelphia there might be a manuscript "Reg'd" or "Registered" applied or from Cleveland and Detroit their favorite, an oval "Money Letter" hand stamp. These signaled that Philadelphia's clerks would need to log them (typically with a number in the lower left³) and render reciprocal care. Eventually these important letters received a control number on the front also, but sometimes nothing. This again suggests that they were separated from the regular mail, and recognized on receipt. Incoming letters usually, but not always, received the Philadelphia "R" marking.

The 1845 registry agreements were concluded by early Fall because the first "R" markings were stamped in Philadelphia a day or so after the dial's date of October 31.⁴ They would serve not quite a full decade, the final usage of an "R" was sometime around January 8, 1855.⁵

After this ten-year trial, official registration of valuable mail became a reality at the Post Office beginning on July 1, 1855. However, now there would be a

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Figure 2 A small blue R on an EL, flanked by orange BOSTON. PAID, and 20 markings, dated Nov 5, 1850, presumably 1850, given its worn condition. Note the number 65 in the lower left.

uniform fee of five cents –the first special service to the public. This was a separate cash transaction, not subject to the use of a five-cent stamp on envelopes.⁶ For the expense the sender received only special handling. There would be no liability for loss, no indemnification.

The markings that accompany this 5-cent rate are virtually non-existent in Philadelphia. There are no inked registry markings for eight years or more.

In the *Instructions to Postmasters* sent a month and a half before commencing the new system, much is mentioned about securing and accounting for registered letters, but not one word about placing the word registration on the letters themselves.

Why the paucity of display? Perhaps it was understood that reasonable clerks would equally mark letters and the accounts books with a code number. And the fact that these letters were to be wrapped and se-

cured with sealing wax when forwarding to the next office might suggest that an obvious service marking wasn't at first though necessary.

It might simply be that there was enough work to be done in following the new 1855 regulations: fill out the newly called-for receipts, enter them in the *Receipt Book*, account for them in the *Account of Registered Letter Sent* (and the *Account of Registered Letter Received*).⁷ Further handiwork might be prohibitive —why write more upon the envelope when the receipt and accounts were complete? Exceptions to the rule are a handful of manuscripts: "Registered No. x;" lone, presumably registry, numbers on apparently important covers; a manuscript "R," etc.

In James W. Milgram's recent book,⁸ there is a variety of 1855-1863 registered letters shown, but none, curiously, from Philadelphia. This proves nothing except that the author probably wanted to show the widespread use of registry in small American towns. However, there are not many accounted for from Philadelphia anyway, and Milgram's choice happens to underscore this fact.

Straight Lines

It seems a part of nature that mankind will begin new postal projects with straight lines. So, too, with Philadelphia registry markings. One could argue that the "R's" are in fact, very short straight lines.



Figure 3 The small red R on an Elkton MD cover with "Registered/18" to Philadelphia. The year date is anywhere between 1851 and 1854 or 5.

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Figure 4 A post-1855 cover with enclosed letter dated Dec. 21, 1856. It tells us that a major town like Philadelphia sent about 6,000 registered items that year. Still, no hand stamp but only a manuscript R.

Beginning in late 1862, the Philadelphia straightline REGISTERED appears.

Milgram shows⁹ a supposed PHILADELPHIA blue straightline marking dating from approximately 1854. He seems to accept it as a Philadelphia marking based on the blue ink common at the time for domestic dial markings. It may be a unique marking, or it may be a

fabrication, inasmuch as the author records it as a "terrible handstamp, very hard to read...no wonder it was soon discarded. For this writer the jury is still out.

The standard REGISTERED marker appeared in blue as early as in May 1863.¹⁰ Perhaps the blue was an error or a purposeful cry of distinction. Soon it was replaced again with black ink, though after a few years,

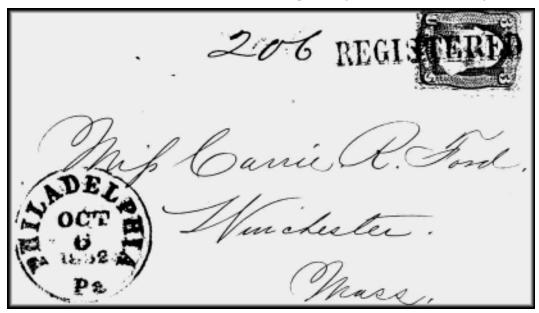


Figure 5 An early black dated October 6, 1862 from the Robert Stets collection. Is the 206 the Worcester number? By October, Philadelphia should have reached at least number 5,000, unless Philadelphia changed to numbering by the month. No stamp to reflect the 5-cent registry fee.

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Figure 6 A chalky-blue dial and REGISTERED sent to the occupation 24 Army Corps in post-war Richmond VA. The hidden 5-cent fee not expressed in stamps.

blue returned to use, from about summer 1865 to summer 1868. (Or were these colors used simultaneously throughout? More covers need to be recorded.)

More times than not, the REGISTERED service marker was also used as the killer, the rule not to use the dial for this purpose developed in 1863. Thus, it

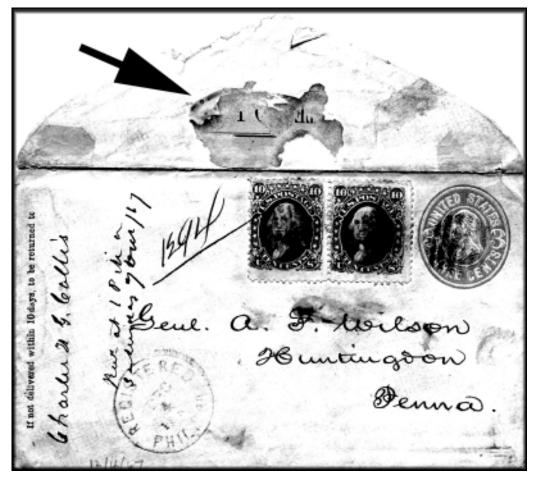


Figure 7 The short-lived 20-cent registry fee combined with a light blue REGISTERED on the top dial, and blue grid killers. The reverse gives evidence of the registry receipt attached to the back flap,(arrow) a phenomena mentioned by Milgram as "seen occasionally...the return registry receipt was not [ordinarily] attached...it was sent within the Registered Package Envelope."



Figure 8 Three backstamps, (top) a floreate fancy dated Oct. 24, 1877 (Shachat collection); (center) a "Wide rim, Textured background, Straightline Registry Backstamp" of Oct. 25, 1878; (bottom) an early "large filled square corner, dotted line" backstamp dated Apr. 8, 1879.

was a labor saving device until duplex cancellers came along.

Rate fluctuations

During the North's most depressing Civil War year, 1863, the five-cent registry fee escalated to 20 cents and remained there until after the war, ending on December 31, 1868. Late in this high fee period, on June 1, 1867, the registration fee finally was required to be paid in stamps. Thus, 20 cents in stamps would accompany standard postage on envelopes for 1½ years between July 1867 and December 1868.

The fee declined to 15 cents on January 1, 1869, and further to eight cents on January 1, 1874. This last rate was short lived also, another 1½ years, and remaining examples of this rate are scarce. The registry rate was increased to an even ten cents on July 1, 1875.

Standard circle dials

With the demise of the straightline marker in 1868, new circular registered markings took hold. A blue dated circle made its debut in March and April 1868, apparently simultaneously with a black ink device, perhaps indicating two separate registry clerks at work. The black dates from March 1868 and continues at least through early 1869.

This first circle (REGISTERED on top) is followed by a smaller (25mm) REGISTERED on bottom marker, with dates up to 1875. A larger version (27mm) succeeds this in 1877 and 1878 and a larger letter variety concludes the series in late 1878-1879. These are all black dials.

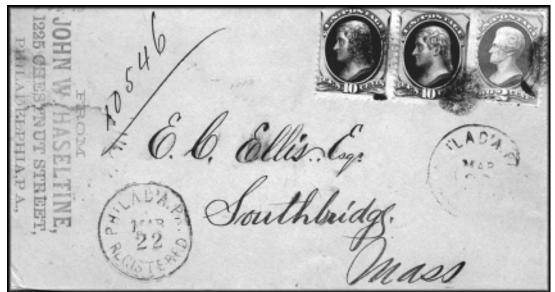


Figure 9 On March 22, 1878, famed early stamp dealer John Hazeltine sent postage stamps in this extra heavy stock envelope to Massachusetts. It has the early dial origin registry hand stamp combined with fuzzy cork killers. The reverse bears a fancy floreate backstamp to boot. The extra ten cents was due to package weight.

Retarn in 5 Days to LOCK DRAWER No. 68, Philadelphia, Pa. EGIETE ED 56 86

Figure 10 An electric-violet ink canceled the postage, though the three-line origin marking is in ordinary magenta. The perimeter is missing perhaps due to letter slugs not properly seated in the device. A double weight letter to Jonestown PA.

Humble, but magenta, rectangles

The 1878-1880 period saw a great deal of experimentation with domestic markers and duplex devices, and so too with registry markings. Whatever the origin and inspiration of the floreate marking (see further), Philadelphia's native conservatism quickly replaced this radically chic design with staid rectangles. The new color requirement, ranging from purple to pinkmagenta, may have given impetus to their creativity.

The unboxed marker may well be a poorly stamped boxed device. The lettering styles and spacing are identical, so the boxed is considered the initial rectangular type marker. The rectangle was used for an entire gen-



Figure 11 A double boxed square-style of 1886, combined with a relatively new double oval, clerk numbered killer #12. The reverse bears a double line, full lined background back stamp.

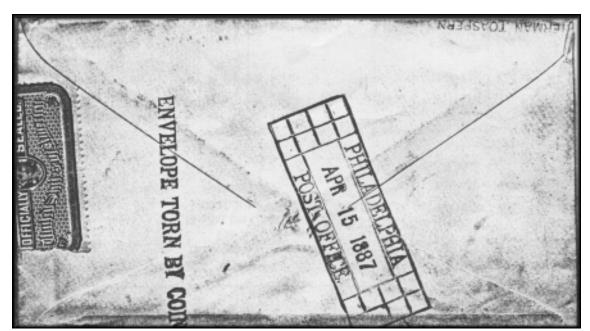


Figure 12 An 1887 damaged cover from Dora IN to Philadelphia, damaged due to coin –was this coin money, or the "quoin," the pigeon holed cabinet into which clerks sorted mail? A perfect strike of the three-line, full line background back stamp.

eration, 1880 to 1902, in a variety of types and subtypes; however, those without crosshatch lines in the background were meant to be used as origin markings. Those with background lines, full or dotted, were to be used for backstamping.

While all of the above are three-line markings, a fourline origin rectangle was used briefly around 1903, and a variety of this ended the series as it had begun, without an outer rectangular rim, about 1906. traceable backstamps, too, to enforce timeliness and care as well as enhance postal investigation when necessary.

Philadelphia paralleled New York City's ornate, gothic, entwined registry backstamps by creating an almost hopelessly ornate floral registry security marking¹¹ It is a most attractive marking too, and rare, being used for about six months, a third of the time of the previously mentioned "rare" 1860's and 1870's rate combinations.

Backstamps-fancy, with a flourish

With the 1875 rate change came specific rules for uniform registration markings. Another key policy change required pink-purplish backstamps to be applied beginning in 1879.

With the latter regulation, local hometown pride encouraged the use of distinctive hand stamps to indicate registered letter routing. Origin markings on the front would now be rectangular, as we've seen, but now there were to be

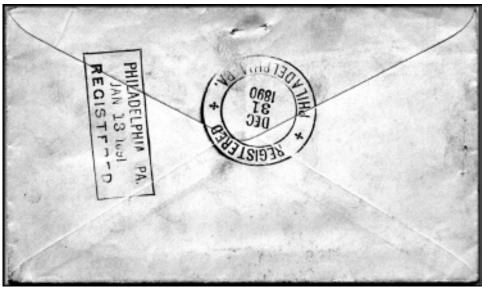


Figure 13 A combination style returned cover, a new-style 1890 double circle security backstamp outgoing, and an 1891 old-style rectangle used on the return back to sender.

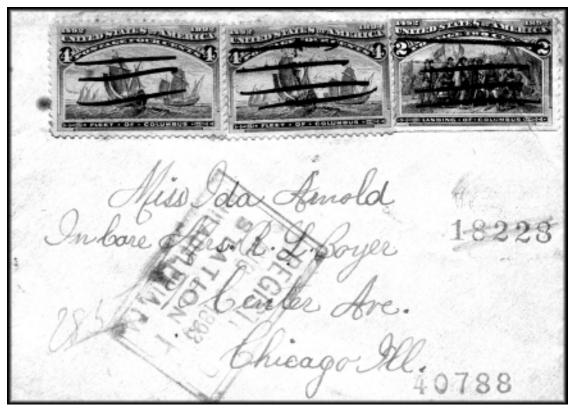


Figure 14 A double line, purple four-line origin marking from the "F"rankford Station to Chicago, August 20, 1893, pen cancelled due to laziness or because the proper killer was not available.

As mentioned, origin rectangle markers for registry developed in 1880 and were used for the backstamp design, too. But the backstamp design crew had the advantage of a head start. Immediately following the ornate floral design came a temporary filler type that has charm, but no staying power.

Call it the Wide rim, Textured background, Straightline Registry Backstamp. And it was used briefly at the end of 1878. It seems too carefully crafted to be homemade, and so perhaps it too falls into the category of a ready-made linen marker, converted for government use. Only one is recorded to date, which suggests that the standard rectangle-with-a-background type backstamp was placed in use earlier than the April 1879 earliest known usage would suggest.

At first these markers are two-line, though one style has a single line of data. These early types have large filled squares at the corners, all types used between March 1879 and November 1881.

The remaining rectangular styles are strictly variations on a theme. These all have three lines of information. One is a very distinctive double-line rectangle with full background lines, though the earlier versions have dotted lines. These dotted styles extend from April 1879 through late 1881. The full-lines-in-the-back-ground successors date between 1882 and 1892.

A late date rectangle, more like a square, very similar to the New York City style. Is this style unique or common in Philadelphia? The one recorded to date is from the prolific Frankford section of the city and is dated 1896.

To be continued....

Endnotes:

¹ Between 1806 and 1822, Chester Bailey was assigned to investigate external postal robberies and internal theft committed by postal employees. Sheele, p.77.

² op.cit., p. 77.

³ Milgram, p. 24.

⁴ Shachat, p. 14; Milgram p. 23.

⁵ op.cit., p. 19.

⁶ Mueller, p. 20. This fact was her initial discovery in 1955.

⁷ Milgram illustrates the *Instructions to Postmasters* of May 10, 1855 on p29.

⁸ *United States Registered Mail 1845-1870*, David G. Phillips Publishing Co., Inc., North Miami FL, 1998.

⁹ Figure 235, catalog R-PH-5.

¹⁰ Milgram, p.151.

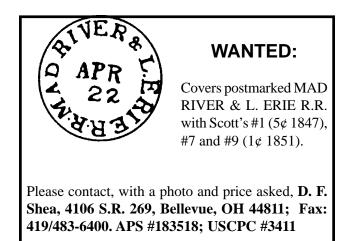
¹¹ The chances are very good that this marking was not actually invented for this purpose, but purchased from a rubber stamp catalog. Similarly, there are those handful of rare allegorical design "linen markers," that were borrowed in the stampless period as handy post office origin markers.

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. (1903-1917) Kingfield & Farmington R.P.O. (1903-1913) Phillips & Farmington (1913-1917)

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





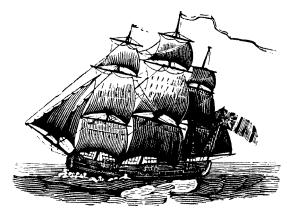


Figure 2-1 Brown's letters from Fort klamath were postmarked at Linkville, Oregon,, from the time that office opened in 1872 until the Fort Klamath post office was established in 1880.

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

Part 2

Transcribed by Cath Clark

When we last looked in on Lieutenant Brown, the winter snows had arrived at Fort Klamath. It was the day after Christmas and he had finally received an oil painting done by his sister, Helen, and was preparing for a Garrison Court hearing the following day.

Fort Klamath, Ogn. Jan 9th, 1879.

[cover postmarked Linkville, Oregon on Jan. 10: two letters enclosed]

Dear Sister:

I was agreeably surprised to get a letter from you in French – it seemed like the good old times when I was a "Yearling". The French was very good indeed except a few slight mistakes. The "Dutch", as far as I was able to judge was far ahead of the productions of Schiller himself.

You request that since I have nothing to do I will write you a French letter – Well I... am so rusty on my French that I couldn't do anything without a Dictionary – so you will have to excuse me though I will be glad to hear from you in French or English at any time.

We had about six or eight inches of snow last night and this afternoon I took a sleigh ride with Dr. Dickson – the first one I have had to my recollection since the winter of 1872 & 3. By the way I find that those furs which matched will be about \$1.40 to \$2.00 apiece.

Please let me know whether you wish any or not. Tell Ma & Grace that I have several other letters to write this evening & they will have to excuse me. I just received a catalogue from a firm in N.Y. City that deals in Rubber Goods and though I shall be glad to get the pillow if I need anything else I can write direct.

Yours Will

Fort Klamath, Ogn. Jan 9th, 1879.

Dear Father:

Yours of Jan 1st just received. I am very much obliged for that change which you sent, as we get nearly everything by mail here we have to have change. The Paymaster is coming up soon and he has been requested to bring change when he comes. Mrs. Whipple saw that painted picture of Helens last evening and she is very much pleased with it. If Helen would like to sell some of them I can write to N.Y. [West Point] and try and find a house that will purchase but I suppose her instructor will know better than any one else. I think she should take lessons, even during [school] term time if she can do so and keep up with her studies. We will not have to go campaigning this winter – at least that's not the way things look now, and the papers seem to think that we will have no war this winter though a few weeks ago they thought that was imminent.

Glad you like the Tic Tacs. The word "Tic Tacs" is the "short" for Tactics at W.P.

I am kept quite busy every day for when I am not busy with the duties of Post Adjutant we have drill or target practice to occupy the time. We have just rec'd for "L" Co 100 lbs of powder, 10,000 bullets plus primers and are trying to make our own ammunition as we also rec'd a reloading apparatus. After firing we save the empty brass shells and then reload them.

Yours affectionately

W.C. Brown

P.S. I will send by this mail a Harper's containing a picture of my "first fight." Please preserve the same. Won't you please get the Table of Rates of Insurance from the Agent of the N.Y. Life Ins for me. Don't say anything to Mc Mann about it – for I am not certain that I will change Cos.

It is not necessary to direct any letters to Co. "L" except when I am in the field. W.C.B.

Fort Klamath, Ogn. Jan 23rd, 1879.

[loose letter]

Dear Mother and Sister Grace,

Your kind letters of Jan 12 & 13th rec'd. I notice what you say in regard to the brevity of my letters but you will have to excuse me as I am just now on an important Branch of Survey and am also Judge Advocate of a Gen Court Martial to convene tomorrow or next day and consequently have all that I can attend to.

I am very sorry that I cannot attend your Silver Wedding, but Army matters are so unsettled that we can hardly make any arrangements about *leaves* or anything else at present. Don't understand Frank R~'s cabalistic words but assure you

that I am not in love (either in a small or great degree) with a fair one in St. Peter or any where else. [ed - St. Peter, Minnesota was Brown's home town.]

We are about 5 or 6 days travel from San Francisco. Do not know when I will get there – came very near it a few days ago. Ft. Klamath is East of the Coast . . . and 7 miles north of Big Klamath Lake.

Rained today and the snow is going off. Yours affectionately W.C. Brown 2nd Lt 1st Cay

Judge Advocate

[ed - Brown was obviously proud of his recent promotion to Judge Advocate as his script is in larger, sweeping letters here.]

Fort Klamath, Oregon January 30th 1899 [loose letter]

Dear Mother:

I did not receive a letter from home today but will write a few lines any how and enclose \$20.00 for your self & the girls. Pa needn't send that change with the stylographic pen as the Paymaster disbursed \$1100.00 in one & two dollar bills here the other day and I got \$100.00 worth of change myself, all in new, crisp bills.

We are through with our Gen. Court Martial, and I am glad of it, one night I was up until after 12, another until after 1 and another till after 3 o'clock in the morning making out the proceedings and this after working hard all day taking testimony, examining witnesses and acting as prosecuting attorney for the Gov't.

Well it is after 10 o'clock & I will close. Please acknowledge receipt of the money.

Yours affectionately

W.C. Brown

2nd Lt. 1st Cav

Fort Klamath, Ogn. Feb 1st, 1879. [loose letter]

Dear Mother:

Yours of the 18th was rec'd this evening. Enclosed please find twenty dollars (\$20.00) for yourself and the girls. Please acknowledge the receipt. It seems to me that a cover (that won't show dirt) is just what is wanted on that air pillow, in the field. A calico pillow case will do just as well as a more expensive one. I hope to be better fixed for a campaign, if we have one next summer, than I was last summer. Even though we don't have a campaign I am going to try and get the Colonel to let me take a detachment out and scout as I had much rather be out in camp or on the march in summer than doing garrison duty. I am afraid that I am not competent to help Grace out with her Essay much as I would like to help her, for I was never much of a hand at that kind of work.

I am glad that our General Court is over for I now have a chance to breathe easily. We have been having very cold weather of late, the thermometer getting as low as 8 degrees below zero which, although not to be compared with Minn. weather, is, me think quite frosty. There is considerable snow on the ground. Duck hunting is very good and the men spear large delicious salmon trout [sic] daily weighing from 5 to 25 lbs. There seems to be no limit to the choicest fish in these streams. We are still waiting for the Army Bill. The prospects seem to be for a reduction of Cav from 10 to 8 Regts, but as a great many will be retired and others take advantage of the clause giving those who desire to resign three year's pay. I think on the whole things will be better for us that remain than it has been in the past, for promotion will, I think, be more rapid.

I received a letter from Horace Tomlinson a few days ago. He says that "Saint Peter is rather dull, and although he has considerable affection for the place, he will not be deterred from leaving at a fitting opportunity." He wants to go into the stock raising business. J.R. Gardner has sold out his interest in the grocery business . . . Miss Nettie G. and Mr. Andrew Williamson are quite a "spoony" couple. Tell Helen that I can't say when I shall get home but am afraid that I shall have to wait until I get a . . . promotion. The chances are that I will to some other regiment and can take a furlough enroute to my new station, or soon after. I can thus save considerable in travelling expenses.

I am very hard up for news I guess. I will have to stop and let the \$20.00 bill go for the rest.

Yours Affectionately, W.C. Brown Tell Helen that I will answer her letter soon.

Fort Klamath, Oregon Feb 4th 79

[postmarked Linkville, Oregon Feb. 5]

Dear Father:

Enclosed find twenty dollars (\$20.00) to pay for my Life Ins, due I think May 8th. Please ask Mr. McMann when you pay him, how soon I will be entitled to a dividend. This dividend I wish to go toward paying the premium.

The latest rumor is that eight Cos of troops in this Dept are to take the field in April to overcome some of the Indians who are yet sullen. Probably it will be 8 Cos of the 1st Cav. I do not know whether "L" Co will go or not. The chances look as though we would not.

I have been very busy all day making out a copy of the Post Return, administering oaths on affidavits, trying to straighten out my Q.M. papers, etc. I received a letter tonight from the Q.M. Gen calling me to account for one woolen blanket (\$4.25) which I had issued to a prisoner in the Guard House at Walla Walla. I shall have to write to his Co Commander at Ft Snelling Minn, sending a Clothing Receipt Roll to get the man's receipt. If I can't get his receipt or account for it properly it will be stopped against my pay. I am just getting my Q.M. Returns ready to make up that ought to have been tendered last July.

Yours aftc [affectionately] W.C. Brown

Fort Klamath, Ogn. Feb 11, '79.

[postmarked Linkville, Oregon Feb. 12]

Dear Mother:

Yours of 27th are rec'd. I have just returned from Ashland 101 miles from here from a chase after a deserter, who used to be my cook and "striker" in the field. After an about constant ride (horseback & on buckboard) for nearly two days and one night I overhauled him near Ashland. I made a complete surprise. The first intimation, I think, that he had of being followed was when I told him that he was my prisoner and he turned and looked at the muzzle of my revolver. I took him to Ashland and locked him up in the calaboose and the ingenious wretch cut through the floor with a pocket knife which he had concealed and made his escape.

I have circulated telegrams and posters freely and have some hopes of catching him again. I rode on the buckboard yesterday from about 4 A.M. till 11:30 P.M. and have ridden 37 miles today in the saddle. Consequently as I have plenty to do excuse this short letter from

Will.

P.S. My Stylographic Pen came through all right and will be a splendid thing in the field where carrying an ink bottle is very inconvenient if not altogether impracticable. (This is the kind of writing that it does) – the writing would look better perhaps if a more skillful hand guided the pen that that of

W.C.B. [ed. – the "P.S." is in a blue pen while the main letter is in black].

Fort Klamath, Oregon. Feb 27th, 1879.

[postmarked Linkville, Oregon Feb. 28]

Dear Father:

Yours of the 16th rec'd today. Glad to see that business is improving. I hear this evening that the Senate passed the Army Appropriation Bill but have left for the next session the Reorganization Bill which was tacked on to the Appropriation Bill.

I wish they would hurry up and do something with us and then let us alone. The Army is just full of old Majors, Capts & Lts that are carried on as being for duty but who are totally unfit for hard field service and as we 2nd Lieuts have to do all the work, or most of it anyway I think it is about time that there was some one "retired."

Tell Grace that Gen. Howard is a Brigadier General and commands the Dept of the Columbia which embraces Wash Ter, Ogn & part of Idaho. He was a Maj Gen of Volunteers during the war. He graduated in 1854. I had the honor of commanding his escort last summer for abut a day and messed with the Gen & his staff.

I received the Denver and St. Peter Tribunes the other day. I cannot find anything more to write about and so will close.

Your Son,

Will

I know how soon I will get a "bar" promotion is rather unsettled just now. Wish I could be present at the Silver Wedding.

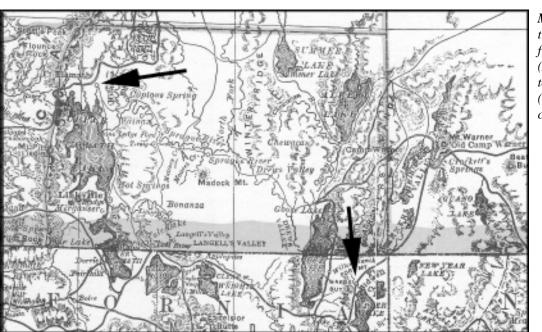
Fort Klamath, Oregon. April 14th, 1879.

[postmarked Linkville, Oregon. April 14]

Dear Mother & Sister Grace:

Yours of the 23rd and 28th March were received during my absence at Bidwell. It took me five days to ride over and five back and then I stayed then one day. The first march (from here to Yainax) runs 46 miles over a very bad trail. The balance of the road was fair with the exception of mud, snow, rain & bedbugs. I had quite a pleasant out-trip. I saw thousands of ducks & geese on the road and captured a goose nest with 6 eggs. I found or had accounted for, all the Indians that I went after. The stopping places on the road weren't quite so good as the Sturtevant in New York but we managed to worry through our meals.

Col Whipple has gone to Portland on a General Court Martial and it is said that he is indeed to appear before a Retiring Board, so if he is retired we will get another Captain. The bars on my shoulders however haven't commenced to sprout just yet. Col W's. retired pay will amount to \$1,900.00 per year and he can go where he pleases in the U.S. and engage in any business that he chooses since he is now in better health than Pa is. The only thing the matter with him is that he is nearly 60 yrs old & cannot endure a hard campaign. While I was on my way back from Bidwell, stopping at one of the dirtiest places on the road I happened to see a piece in



Map 1 Routes of travel circa 1879 from Fort Klamath (Arrow upper left) to Fort Bidwell (arrow lower center)

the paper entitled *The Hunchback or Fall of Pemberton Mill* by Elizabeth Stuart Phelps . . . is this the piece that Helen did? If so, I think she must have read splendidly to take the prize in a piece like that.

It has been snowing all day and is quite chilly. Being surrounded by mountains we get worse than our share of stormy weather. I don't expect to go on a campaign this year as I do not think there will be any.

I return the slip taken from the St. Peter Tribune. It's quite a puff. Glad to see it. Don't know some duty that will take me East or near home somewhere & then take a leave so as to get my transportation paid.

The papers you sent were received. I received a letter from Horace Tomlinson the other day. He is keeping books for Hall, Patterson & Co Live Stock & Grain Com. Merchants Chicago Ill. He likes it very well & hopes for something better in time. One of our "L" Co men accidentally shot himself through the foot this morning

when I can get home on leave as I am now only entitled to two & the 30th of Sept to three months leave on full pay and whatever extension I might get would be on half pay and then it is very expensive travelling in this Western Country. I think the best plan would be to watch my chances for



Figure 2-2 This cover, while not part of the Brown Correspondence, was mailed from Fort Bidwell at approximately the same time as Lieutenant Brown made his visit in March 1878.

while cleaning his carbine which he had carelessly neglected to unload and the Doctor had to cut his foot off.

We are talking of making a trip down to the Lava Beds this summer and view the scene of the Modoc War, and see where Gen Canby was killed.

Yours afct [affectionately] W. C. Brown

April 15th, 1879.

[postmarked Linkville, Oregon Apr. 16]

Dear Mother:

Your letter & Helen's received today. Tell Pa that he needn't send a note for that \$20.00 and that I do not intend to charge him any interest. I wish you would tell Pa that I said to get his life insurance as soon as his health gets good and he can pay the premium from that \$20.00 that I sent about a year ago and the change from the \$20.00 that I have sent him. I am glad to learn that you now have a piano to use and agree with Pa that Grace ought to begin and take lessons at once and get all the benefit she can from the instrument

Please let me know how much to send for Grace's music lessons and Helen's course in Painting and Elocution & I will remit the amount.

We have been on a Board of Survey today on a lot of canned Asparagus, Lima Beans, Cranberries, Mushrooms, French Peas, Irish Potatoes & Egg Plums which there is no sale for among the officers and which we recommended be sold at public auction. Will be on a Garrison Court tomorrow to try a Corporal for selling some of his clothing to an Indian.

We have 11 "reds" in the Guard House and I may get the detail to take them to Portland & Ft Vancouver enroute to the Yakima Reservation. Well, as I think there can be no cause for complaint on account of the shortness of this letter I will close.

Yours affectionately

Will

Just received a letter from Frank Rundale. He noticed the Silver Wedding announcement & sends his compliments and wishes you many happy returns of the event. Walt Kerr has the appointment of Instructor at Cornell. Mr. Kerr has clearly vindicated himself in the minds of all honest & most of the dishonest people in the state.

Fort Klamath, Oregon. May 1st, 1879.

[postmarked Linkville, Oregon May 3]

Dear Mother:

Yours of the 14th rec'd. The pillow cases were all right. I leave this A.M. for Vancouver with detachment of 15 men & 31 Indian prisoners. Yours in haste

Will

N.E. part of Josephine Co. Ogn. May 8th, 79.

[Letter postmarked Roseburg, OR May 12]

Dear Sisters:

Being in camp & having but little to do I thought that perhaps you might like to hear how I was getting along with my "Oiwashes". All the men have their feet shackled and at night I have them all lie in a row with their feet toward the fire and run a chain between their feet and thus confine them as you would string pop corn. The squaws & papooses stay near by & all closely guarded. I have 18 men & 13 squaws & papooses guarded by a detachment of 15 men. Have two wagons for the Indians and one for our use. I expect to be in Vancouver about the 12th and unless sent to Yakima or delayed at Vancouver will start back on the 14th.

We have a very pretty camp here with abundance of grass, wood & water on the slope of a hill. We have been traveling through a pretty and fertile country the past few days viz: Rogue River Valley. It is well timbered and slightly undulating. I expect to meet Col Whipple on the 10th between here & Roseburg. He is returning from Portland where he has been on a Court Martial.

One of my men of the Infantry Co got too much [liquor] the other day and got himself into trouble & if I conclude to proffer charges against him he will stand a fair chance of one year in the Guard House or prison at hard labor. It is about 210 miles from Klamath to Roseburg the way we had to come through. It is but 70 miles in a direct line and I am thinking some of asking to be detailed to find or make a trail through direct which will save a great deal of distance if one goes mounted. How would Brown's Trail sound anyhow?

La Posta

Figure 2-3 Brown's letter written on the trail while escorting Indian prisoners to be put on the train at Roseburg was postmarked in that town on May 12th.

May 10th – Four miles south of Myrtle Cr. [Creek], Douglas Co., Ogn. Have a very good camp here and expect to make Roseburg (21 miles) by 1 P.M. tomorrow and will immediately make arrangements for taking my prisoners aboard the train Monday morning. I let my white prisoner off on consideration of his apologizing and taking a pledge. I have just administered the oath to him (I being a Post Adjt & having authority to do so) not to use liquor during the re-

21 1883. Yesterday we had, I think the muddiest roads that I ever saw in my life and today they were very bad indeed. It rained a good part of the day yesterday but this evening . . . comfortable again and I am sitting in my "A" tent on the bed of leaves & blankets with a good oak wood fire out in front. We find the Indians very handy in getting fuel, and when I want it I just get my "striker" Luke a carbine & go out with half a dozen of "Los" and they bring me all I want. I expect to see some fun when I get them on the cars at Roseburg as I don't suppose one of them ever saw a locomotive in his life.

mainder of his term of enlistment, i.e. till March

Yours afct

W.C.B.

Roseburg May 11th – Just got in and have a crowd of a hundred or more at my camp looking with eyes, mouths & ears all open to see the Indians. Had the most . . . mud today that I ever saw. One of the wagons which runs empty got mired and it was all that the team could do to haul the empty wagon out. Rained last night and this morning, also is raining now.

[ed. – Apparently Lieutenant Brown was not satisfied with his "stylographic" field pen since this letter was written with a sharp pencil.]

Vancouver Barracks, W.T. May 13th , 79.

[postmarked The Dalles, Oregon May 17]

Dear Father:

I arrived here last evening with my prisoners which were turned over and are to remain here at present. I took supper at Gen Howard's and was invited to stay there but thanked them and went over & stayed with I. Hofner, a classmate of mine.

I met Gov Ferry, Gov of W.T. at Gen Howard's today. The Gov is here making arrangements about the Moses Tribes etc. Gen Howard goes up the river tomorrow on the steamer Wide West and I suppose the Indian Chiefs will accompany him, and perhaps Gov Ferry. I am going along and am to be assigned to Command a Company of Indian Scouts to be enlisted up the country. I don't know what my P.O. address will be for the present but will let you know as soon as I find out.

Am going over to Portland as soon as the steamer leaves for which I am waiting.

Yours afct, W.C. Brown

Steamer Harvest Queen May 14

Have had a pleasant trip up the Columbia & will be in Walla Walla tomorrow where I am going to get a horse, one or two enlisted men,

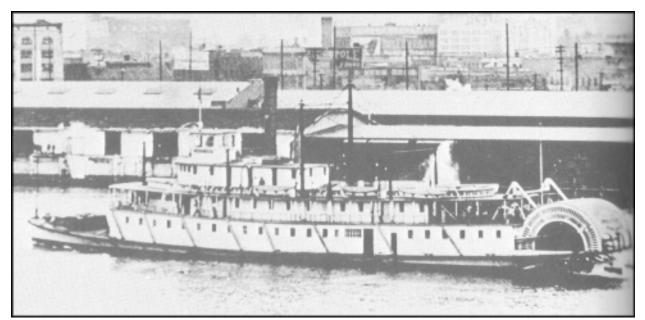


Figure 2-4 The stearn-wheeler "Harvest Queen" was added to Oregon Railway & Navigation Company's Columbia River service in 1878. She was described as a floating palace and had an overall length of 200 feet.

etc. for staffing my Co. Am having a good time and taking my meals with a Brig Gen & a Governor just as though I was somebody.

W.C. Brown 2nd Lt 1st Cav (Prospectively) Comdg Co. of Indian Scouts

Pendleton, Ogn. May 27th, 79.

[postmarked Pendleton, Oregon May 28]

Dear Mother:

I am still here waiting for Farrow who I expect will be here in a few days. It is pretty tiresome trying to "kill time" especially after being so busy as I have been for the past year. I have just commenced A.B. Meachams book called *Wigwam & Warpath*. It is a history of the Indians and Indian wars (especially the Modoc War) in Oregon. Meacham was the Supt. of Indian Affairs of Oregon.

Have been out to the Agency with Dr. McKay who is a half breed but a very well educated and respected physician. There is to be a council of the Indians in a few days and I am invited to be present.

I send by this mail a photo of Umapine, a Hereditary Chief of the Cayuses. Umapine was one of the chiefs that went to Washington re-

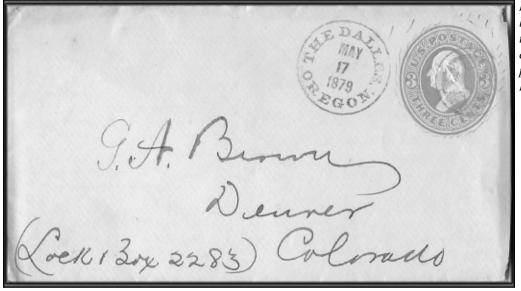


Figure 2-5 Brown's letter written on board the Harvest Queen was carried in this cover postmarked The Dalles, May 17, 1879.

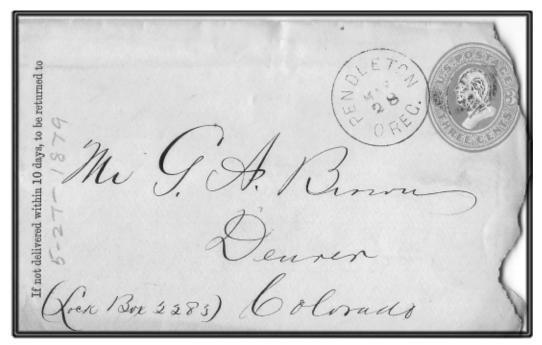


Figure 2-6 This cover was postmarked Pendleton on May 28, 1879. It carried Lieutenant Brown's letter written while waiting in that town to transfer his prisoners.

cently with [Moses] and gave me his picture on his return. While at Washington & enroute they wore civilian clothes but this afternoon I met him coming down to see me on business and he had his face painted and his gaily colored hat & blankets on, as wild an Indian as can be seen any

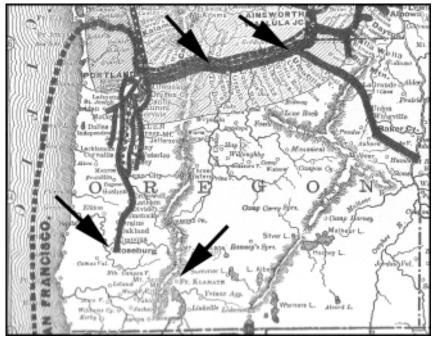
where. The Cayuses are very wealthy.

Howlish Wampo one of the chiefs owns between two & three thousand ponies and Agent Cronoyer told me that an Indian wasn't considered hardly respectable if he did not own over 100 horses.

The tribes here are the Cayuses, Umatillas & Walla Wallas. They are fine looking Indians, paint their faces red and [brown]. The gayest & brightest colored blankets that I ever saw & it is from these fellows that I am to get my scouts. They all talk the Nez Perce language. There is a very slight prospect of my accompanying a party of them with my scouts over to some of the reservations over in Montana. That will suit me very well as I get out this summer just to knock around & see the country. Yours Truly

W.C. Brown

To Be Continued



Map 2 Oregon circa 1876 showing railroad and steamer routes. Arrows indicate locations of Fort Klamath, Roseburg, The Dalles and Pendleton.

Comments on the Demand for State Postal History

By Jim Forte

I have issued U.S. town cancel pricelists since 1985. One of the most common discussions I have had over the last 16 years has been from what states do covers sell the best and from what states do covers sell the worst. The conversation starts out promising. It's fairly easy to anecdotally decide the fast moving and the slow moving states. The conversation quickly slows. There is little anecdotal evidence for ranking the great range of states in the middle. I have a record of every cover I currently have in stock. I have a record of every cover I have sold since mid 1992. A bit of analysis of all this data should prove very helpful in determining which states actually are the most popular and which states are the least popular.

In order to understand the results of the analysis, it is vital to understand the data. The information is derived solely from my sales. There is no input from anyone else's sales or any auction data. My business is 90%+ derived from pricelists. I list covers priced starting at \$5.00. Therefore, my numbers do not take in demand for covers under \$5.00. Most of the covers I sell are under \$50.00. The numbers have more limited value for expensive covers. I do not list covers after 1945. My numbers cannot make any statement about more modern material. I focus on serving beginning and intermediate collectors. In most cases I do not sell to the leading collectors for the state. Therefore, demand from advanced collectors is underrepresented. With all these caveats, these numbers represent the heart of the market.

There are other factors which affect my numbers. Since I issue lists for all 50 states, I try to acquire covers from a good mix of states. In general, I try to avoid buying large collections of any one state. This is not always possible. Over the years I have bought several large collections. These tend to skew numbers a bit. A collection inflates the number of covers available from that state. It also tends to increase sales from that state. This increase tends to even out over time. Over the past few years I have purchased significant collections of Arizona, Californian, Kansas, and Nebraska. While I have not made any alterations in the data to correct for these collections, numbers for these states will be higher than they might be. I have had two instances where I sold virtually every cover from a state to one person in one order. This had happened with Wyoming and Montana. Both of these states rate higher right now than they should. Time will even out the numbers.

There are two ways to rank how well covers sell. The first is to count how many covers have sold from each state. If you have 100 covers from one state and 100 covers from another state and you sell 70 covers from the first state and 50 covers from the second state, you would conclude that the first state sells better than the second. The second way to rate states is to look at how much money is derived from selling covers from that state. Assume every cover you sell is sold for \$10.00. With state one you sell 70 of 100 covers for a total economic impact of \$700. With state two you sell 250 covers of 1000 for a total economic impact of \$2500. One methodology favors small states. The other favors big states.

I think it is reasonable to present the data in three ways. First, I rank the states based upon the percentage of the covers I have sold. I added the number of covers I have in stock for a state to the number of covers sold and then expressed that by the number of covers sold and then expressed that result as a percentage. Second, I rank the states based upon the total sales for the state. I totaled the sale price of all the covers I have sold for a state, divided that number by the total sales for all town cancels and express that number as a percentage. Finally, I took the average of the ordinal ranking for sales by percentage and the rank for sales by dollars to get an overall rank.

United StatesPostal History

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Rank	State	% Sold	18	RP	57.69%	36	CT	49.62%
1	MT	91.03%	19	FL	56.90%	37	GA	49.11%
2	RI	82.64%	20	MS	56.26%	38	OK	49.09%
3	ID	75.29%	21	SC	56.07%	39	IA	47.56%
4	HI	72.45%	22	ΤX	55.07%	40	MA	47.38%
5	MD	72.26%	23	DE	54.41%	41	NH	47.33%
6	CO	72.19%	24	NC	53.85%	42	ND	47.11%
7	LA	71.45%	25	IL	53.76%	43	KS	47.05%
8	VT	71.27%	26	DC	53.61%	44	NM	46.82%
9	MI	66.76%	27	AZ	53.60%	45	OH	45.99%
10	NV	65.99%	28	NE	52.29%	46	NY	45.75%
11	WY	65.80%	29	SR	52.02%	47	UT	44.73%
12	AL	64.97%	30	PA	51.72%	48	OR	42.01%
13	CA	64.90%	31	ME	51.71%	49	WV	41.46%
14	TN	61.84%	32	WI	51.15%	50	KY	40.78%
15	IN	60.59%	33	VA	50.08%	51	NJ	40.77%
16	AK	58.35%	34	WA	50.02%	52	MN	38.49%
17	AR	57.80%	35	MO	49.63%	53	SD	34.26%

Rankings of the States by Percentage of Covers Sold

Rankings of the States by Percentage of Dollar Value of all Town Cancels Sold

Rank	State	% Dollar Value	18	VT	1.70%	36	OK	0.86%
1	CA	12.34%	19	ME	1.66%	37	RI	0.85%
2	NY	7.62%	20	CT	1.54%	38	SD	0.75%
3	PA	6.00%	21	IN	1.52%	39	AR	0.73%
4	RP	5.51%	22	MT	1.50%	40	MN	0.72%
5	MA	3.93%	23	NM	1.45%	41	ID	0.71%
6	OH	3.36%	24	NJ	1.43%	42	MS	0.69%
7	IL	2.74%	25	IA	1.43%	43	AL	0.67%
8	AZ	2.67%	26	MD	1.41%	44	NV	0.65%
9	CO	2.48%	27	WA	1.34%	45	SC	0.62%
10	MI	2.24%	28	FL	1.31%	46	HI	0.62%
11	OR	2.01%	29	MO	1.31%	47	SR	0.61%
12	WI	1.94%	30	AK	1.27%	48	WY	0.60%
13	KS	1.91%	31	LA	1.16%	49	ND	0.52%
14	VA	1.90%	32	KY	1.01%	50	UT	0.52%
15	NH	1.89%	33	TN	0.98%	51	GA	0.44%
16	NE	1.77%	34	NC	0.97%	52	DC	0.40%
17	ΤX	1.77%	35	WV	0.93%	53	DE	0.30%

(RP is for Railroad Post Offices. SR is for Streetcars)

These numbers are cumulative. Demand changes over time. There are states that were very slow in 1992 that are very popular now. There are states that were hotly collected in 1992 that now find few adherents. After I have issued new list for all the states in about 18 months, these numbers will be different. You will be able to make a comparison. You cannot look at overall numbers without some conception of the direction of the market. Otherwise you may see 1992 numbers not representing 2001 reality. With these overall demand rankings, a note about the direction of the market is included.

Overall Ranking of the States

1	CA	Increasing'
2	CO	About the same
3	MI	Increasing
4	RP	Decreasing sharply
5	MT	About the same
6	VT	About the same
7	MD	Decreasing sharply
8	IL	About the same
9	PA	Increasing
10	AZ	Decreasing sharply
11	IN	Decreasing
12	LA	Decreasing
13	RI	About the same
14	TX	Decreasing
15	ID	About the same
16	NE	Decreasing
17	WI	Decreasing
18	MA	Decreasing
19	AK	Decreasing sharply
20	FL	About the same
21	TN	Decreasing
22	VA	About the same
23	NY	Increasing
24	HI	About the same
25	ME	Decreasing
26	OH	About the same
27	NV	Decreasing sharply
28	AL	Increasing
29	AR	About the same

30	СТ	About the same
31	KS	About the same
32	NH	About the same
33	NC	Decreasing
34	OR	Decreasing
35	WY	About the same
36	WA	Decreasing
37	MS	Increasing
38	IA	Decreasing
39	MO	About the same
40	SC	About the same
41	NM	About the same
42	OK	About the same
43	NJ	About the same
44	DE	About the same
45	SR	About the same
46	DC	About the same
47	KY	About the same
48	WV	About the same
49	GA	Decreasing
50	ND	Decreasing sharply
51	SD	Decreasing sharply
52	MN	About the same
53	UT	Decreasing

TEXAS Research Assistance Wanted

Postal Historian preparing list of all Texas contract stations/branches since 1900. Need information after Postal Bulletin stopped listing numbered stations in 1969. Looking for collector prepared or postmaster supplied lists for 1970-1995 that identify CS/CB/CPU's by name and/or number, address, place of business, dates operated, or any subset of this information. I do not need Rural Stations/Branches/CPO's. Any and all information appreciated. Thanks in advance.

> Michael Ludeman, PMB 800012 2400 Wallace Pack Road Navasota, TX 77868

West Virginia Research Papers: Kincaid

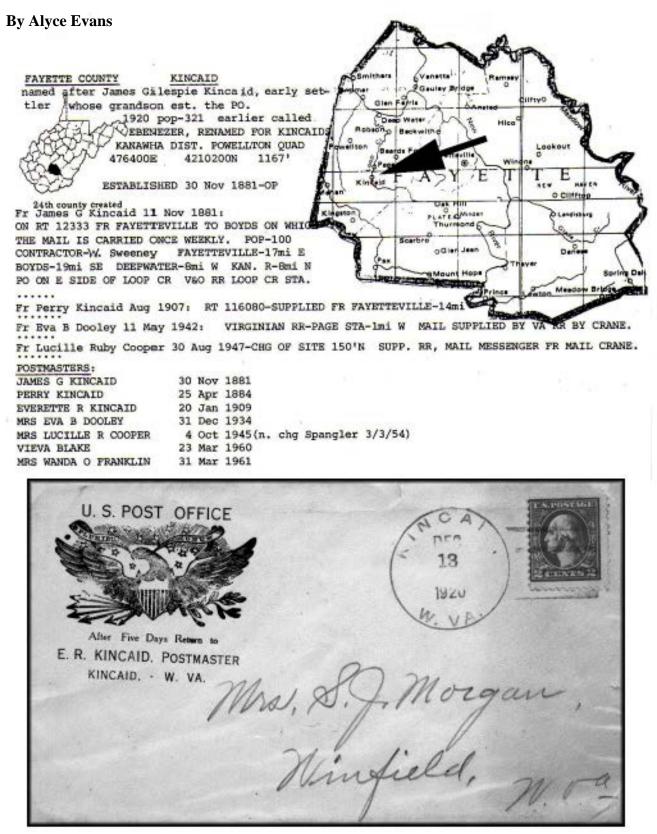


Figure 1 This cover postmarked Kincaid in December 1920 displays the decorative corner card of Everette R. Kincaid, who served as postmaster from 1909 to 1934.

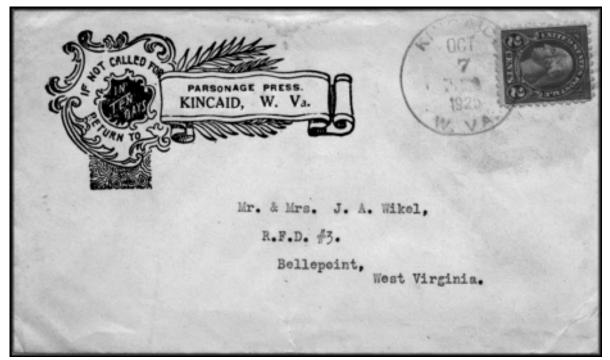


Figure 2 This October 1925 cover bears the rather ornate corner card of Parsonage Press of Kincaid.

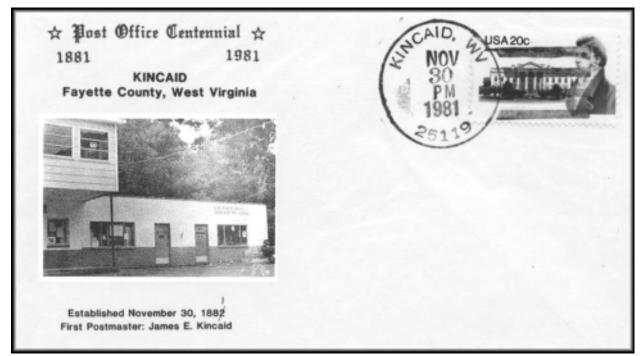


Figure 3 This cover commemorated the 100th anniversay of the founding of the Kincaid post office. Unfortunately, the date shown below the post office photo in the cachet was one year off. The current Kincaid postmaster reports that the office still occupies the building shown here.

La Posta

12 horal. CHARLEN DOLLARS AND De balinep 1997. Hantsoille

Figure 1 This manuscript letter dated 27 Feb 1858 is the earliest recorded from Ft. Worth. It is from Col. Nathaniel Terry, a former lieutenant governor of Alabama.

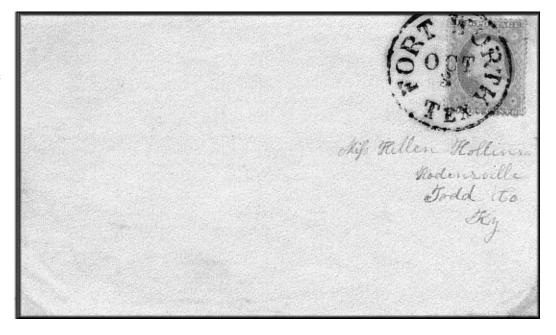
Early Fort Worth, Texas Covers

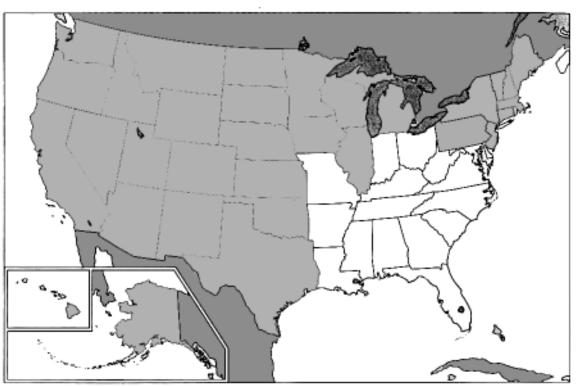
By Thomas J. Alexander

At the close of the Mexican War, General Winfield Scott sent a troop of soldiers into northern Texas to establish a base for protection of the few settlers in the area. The post, originally called Camp Worth, after Brig. Gen. Worth was established in 1849. After a few months, the post was renamed Fort Worth even though no fort was ever erected. In September, 1853, soldiers were transferred from Fort Worth to Fort Belknap. After the garrison was removed from Fort Worth, settlers moved into the abandoned military buildings and a trading post was established. The town grew slowly from this nucleus, and the first post office was established in 1856.

The first letter with the manuscript cancel is dated Feb. 27, 1858 (*figure 1*). It is the earliest recorded cancel from Fort Worth. It is from Col. Nathaniel Terry, a former Lieutenant Governor of Alabama. He was the largest slave holder in the little town. The second cover bears the first hand-stamped town mark used in Fort Worth (*figure 2*). It is the only recorded example of this particular marking.

Figure 2 This letter bears the first handstamped town mark used in Fort Worth. It is the only recorded example of the marking.





Postal History Data Bases on Computer Disk

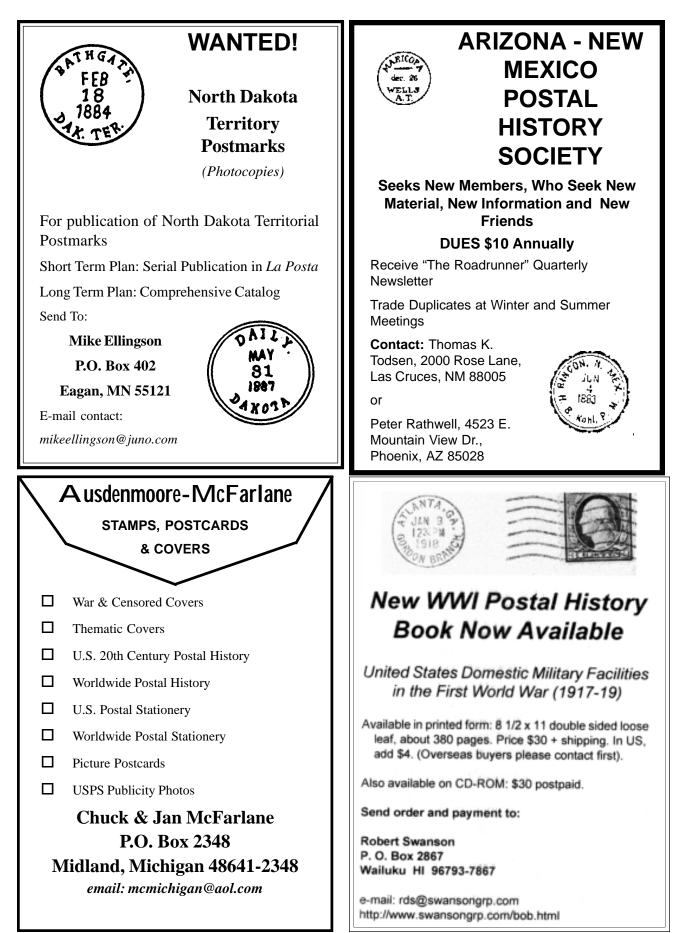
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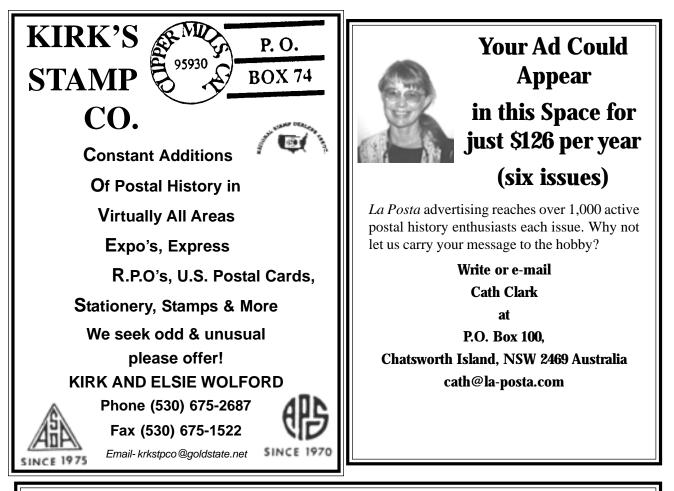
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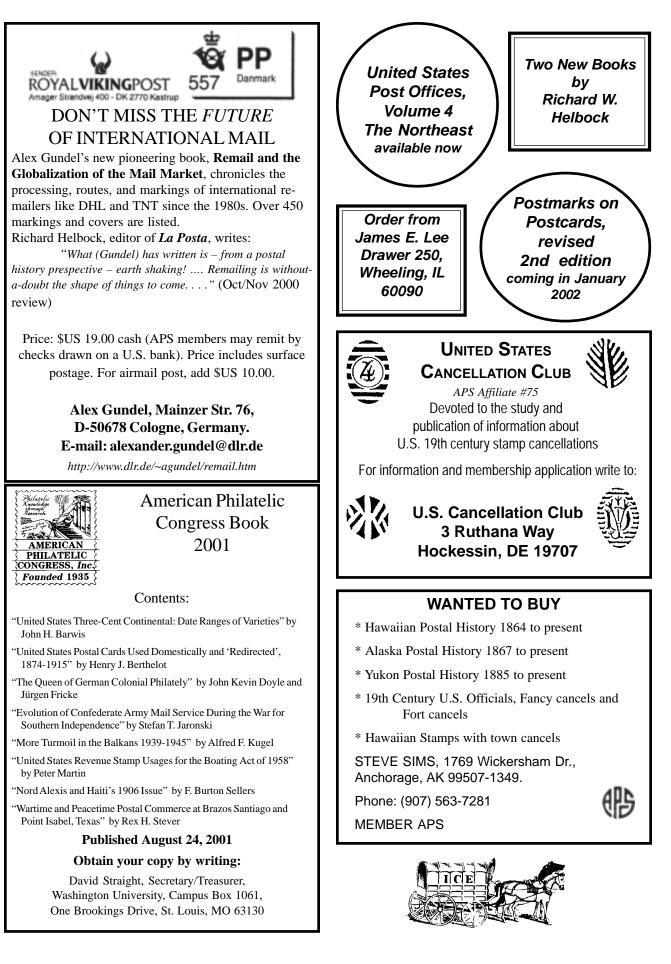
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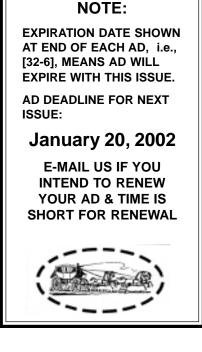
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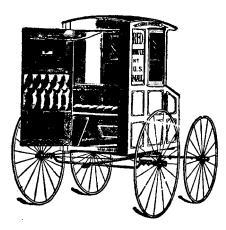
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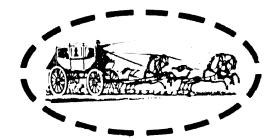
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