

LA POSTA: A JOURNAL OF AMERICAN POSTAL HISTORY

33470 Chinook Plaza, Suite 216,
Scappoose, OR 97056

Website: www.la-posta.com

Publisher: Richard W. Helbock

Associate Editors:

Henry Berthelot	Tom Clarke
Rod Crossley	Michael Dattolico
Martin Margulis	Bob Munshower
Dennis H. Pack	Robert G. Schultz
Randy Stehle	

Advertising Manager: Cathy R. Clark

COVER: Our cover illustrates a picture post card view of the Key West, Florida, Customs House and Post Office as it appeared about 1910. The brick structure was completed in 1891. The illustration is intended to call attention to our new series of articles detailing the postal history of the Florida Keys.

La Posta: A Journal of American Postal History is published six times a year with issues mailed on or about the 20th of February, April, June, August, October and December. Persons wishing additional information about advertising, manuscript submittals or subscription should contact the publisher at 33470 Chinook Plaza, Suite 216, Scappoose, OR 97056

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

U. S. A.	- \$20.00 per annum (6 issues)
CANADA	- \$28(US) per annum (6 issues)
OVERSEAS	- \$32.00 per annum surface
	- \$55.00 per annum airmail

April - May 2002
Volume 33, Number 2
Whole Number 194

IN THIS ISSUE:

Postmarks Among the Palms: A Postal History of the Florida Keys

Part 1: Key West

By Richard Helbock and Jerry Wilkinson..... 9

Montana Territorial Postmarks

Part 6: Lake and Lewis & Clark Counties

By Wesley N. Shellen & Francis Dunn 20

The Postmasters General of the United States, Part 1 Samuel Osgood, 1789-1791

By Daniel Y. Meschter 30

Another Philippines Canceled "Casualty" Discovered

By Michael Dattolico 34

Sub-station Postal Markings With "Sub" 1890-1910

By Dennis H. Pack 38

Auxiliary Markings – Unmailable: Objectionable Picture Post Cards Revisited (Again)

By Randy Stehle 50

Registration at Philadelphia, Revisited

By Tom Clarke 55

West Virginia Research Papers: True

By Alyce Evans 60

The Post Offices of Letcher County, Kentucky, Part 2

By Robert M. Rennick 62

Named for Jef. Davis

By Herbert P. McNeal 70

Also Miscellaneous Columns, Notes and Announcements

LA POSTA SUSTAINING SUBSCRIBERS

The following individuals and institutions have contributed financial assistance to *La Posta* in excess of their subscriptions. We are indebted to them for their generous support. Without it *La Posta* could not continue to exist.

Joseph J. Adamski
Gary Anderson
Bill Arata Stamp Company
Archives International LLC
"A. A. Armstrong, Jr. MD"
Jon K. Arndt
Dennis K. Austin
Ted Bahry
Mark T. Baker
Kendall Lee Ballard
Jacob M. Bard
Richard Bard Jr.
Edmund Bashista
Rex J. Bates
Henry F. Battestin Jr.
William H. Bauer
Robert A. Beall
Arthur E. Beane Jr.
John E. Beane MD
John W. Becker
John Beirne
William R. Beith
Bary D. Bender
Dr. Steven J. Berlin
Henry J. Berthelot
Donald G. Beuthel
John Bigart
Dr. W. Wallace Bilyeu
James B. Blandford
Thomas V. Boettger
Eppe Bosch
Deane R. Briggs M.D.
John Broberg
Roger S. Brody
William E. Brooks
Dan Brouillette
Mike Brown
Stuart R. Brown
Dr. Kenneth E. Burden
Elmer Campbell
E. B. Cantey Jr.
Thomas E. Caton
Thomas E. Chastang
C. Robert Chow
Clay's Covers
Louis Cohen
Stephen E. Cohen
Giles R. Cokelet
David C. Collyer
Philip C. Cooley
Bruce L. Corey
Joe H. Crosby
Rod Crossley
Raymond A. Currier
Richard F. Curtin
Matt Dakin
Doug DeRoest
Carl R. Ditsch
Lee Drickamer
Joseph E. DuBois
Robert M. Ebner
Bernard J. Eddy
Craig Eggleston
Stephen W. Ekstrom
Jim Elin
Mike Ellingson
David M. Ellis
Roland H. Ensz
Alyce & Don Evans
Arthur R. Everett
Arthur Everett
Richard Farquhar
Ronald W. Finger
Sidney Fingerhood

Kenton Forrest
Dale Forster
Myron Fox
John J. Germann
Glenn Gholston
C. Dorance Gibbs
Michael Goldstein
Max A. Gors
Ted Gruber
Seely Hall Jr.
Larry J. Haller
Kenneth L. Hamlin
John T. Hardy Jr.
Wayne Hassell
Thomas Hayes
Bruce Hazelton
Dr. Edwin J. Helitzer
Gary G. Hendren
H. Stanton Hill
Dorlon Himber
Terence Hines
Joseph A. Holzman
Victor Horadam MD
B. Clyde Hutchinson
James H. Inverarity
James D. Jacobitz MD
Stefan T. Jaronski
Jonathan L. Johnson Jr.
Al E. Jones
Charles A. Jones
Gordon E. Katz
Phil Kay
Robert Keatts
Curtis R. Kimes
Lucien S. Klein
Kenneth Kloss
Daniel M. Knowles M.D.
Kelly J. Krizan MD
Jon E. Krupnick
Alfred F. Kugel
Richard E. Kunz
Floyd Kunzwiler
William O. Kvale
Walter P. LaForce
Edward C. LaFountain
Dick Laird
Curt J. Lamm
Eliot A. Landau
Russell Lang
Robert M. Langer
Peter Larson
Howard Lee
James E. Lee
Arnold A. Leiter Uncle Sam S&C
Brian P. Levy
Richard A. Long
Robert Lorenz
Thomas H. Luellen
Dr. Dennis J. Lutz
Millard Mack
Larry Dean Maddux P.L.S.
Howard A. Mader
Richard Malmgren
Oscar R. Marsh
Peter Martin
Bernard D. Mayer Jr.
Thomas C. Mazza
Larry McBride
R.J. McEwen
William T. McGreer
Robert G. Metcalf
Jewell L. Meyer
Steven Miedziak
Lynn I. Minneman

Orville Mohr
Jack E. Molesworth
E. F. (Al) Mueller
John G. Mullen
Robert Myerson
Burnham S. Neill
Eric A. Nelson
Ray L. Newburn Jr.
Francis E.W. Ogle
Arthur E. Olson
Douglas Olson
Robert Omberg
Bruce E. Panek
Richard H. Parker
Alan Parsons
Donald R. Pearson
Eugene T. Peterson
Hans Pohler
Rev. Elwood S. Poore
Louis Prahar
Stephen Prigozy
Robert Quintero
Mrs. Beatrice Rainier
James H. Raley
Peter J. Rathwell
Robert D. Rawlins
Byron L. Reed
Louis A. Repetto
Robley D. Rhine
Norman N. Ritchie
Hal Ross
Vincent A. Ross
Millard H. Ruether
Roger Rydberg
Edmund J. Schenck Jr.
Schmitt Investors Ltd.
Neil C. Schroeder
Robert G. Schultz
Joseph Sedivy
Michael Senta MD
Terry Shaw
Timothy M. Sheehan
Wesley N. Shellen
Gina Sheridan
James E. Shew
David J. Simmons
Donald T. Smith
Rev. Fred K. Smyithe
Al Soth
John W. Spangler
Gus Spector M.D.
Duane Spidle
Ken Stach
Thomas E. Stanton
Randy Stehle
Seymour B. Stiss
Robert Stoldal
W. L. Strauss
Bob Summerell
Robert A. Svoboda
John & Nina Swanson
Stephen T. Taylor
Robert Tepe
The Postal History Foundation
Donald G. Thompson
Don Tocher
Thomas K. Todsén
Allan Tomey
William Jay Treat
Ron Trosclair
Joseph A. Turek
Mort D. Turner
Tonny E. Van Loij
Frank Von Borstel

Howard A. Wallace
M. Lauck Walton
Ronald A. Wankel
Dr. Ronald A. Ward
Roy Ware
John Weigle
Edward Weinberg
Larry Weinstock
Kenneth L. White
C. Michael Wiedemann
Kirk Wolford
John Wright
Richard Wyman
Nicholas Zevos

PUBLISHER'S PAGE

The Latest News from Around our Cottage

PRODUCTION IMPROVEMENTS

Last issue's experiment intended to improve the quality of images in *La Posta* was a big success. Several of you emailed to let us know how much you liked the sharper, more highly resolved figures illustrating covers, photographs and maps. Cath and I felt the same way and, despite the slightly increased cost in printing and preparation time, we will continue to follow this new procedure.

Readers contemplating a future article to be published in *La Posta* can now expect to see greatly improved image quality in their presentations. In order to achieve these improved results, cover illustrations and support photos should be submitted as *color* photocopies, black & white photos or scanned images with resolution of at least 200dpi at 1:1 scale.

By far the most efficient means of transmitting both text and images to us is via email with attachments.

SUBSCRIBERS' AUCTION 69

Current plans call for mailing the catalog for Subscribers' Auction 69 with our June-July issue, but as this is written we are still woefully short of material for the sale and it may have to be postponed until the August-September issue. Readers wishing to consign material for SubAuct 69 should contact us as soon as possible via email to let us know your intentions and send lots via USPS Global Priority mail to us at P.O. Box 100, Chatsworth Island, NSW 2469 Australia.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

According to Jim Lee, *Postmarks on Postcards*, Second Edition, sold about 300 copies during its first two months on the market. I have received several personal messages from both people new to the hobby and a few "old pros" who enjoyed the expanded content and updated presentation. Thus far, the only published review I've read was quite positive so I believe the book has been reasonably successful and will fill a need in the body of postal history literature.

La Posta readers not familiar with the *POP*, and who might be misled by the name, should know that the intent of the book is to provide a basic introduction to all postmarks used at U.S. post offices during the

first two decades of the 20th century and the ways in which they are collected. Since this era coincided rather closely with the years of the great picture post card craze in the U.S., many examples of these early 20th century postmarks have survived in abundance only on post cards—hence the title.



The book has been divided into two parts: the first explores all US postmark types found on cards and covers of the Postcard era; and the second provides details of the ways in which US postmarks are collected.

Part I consists of ten chapters featuring Doane cancels; manuscript & straight-line markings; anachronisms, mimics & other non-standards; and machine cancels just to name a few. Each subject is carefully explained and well illustrated, and the discussion includes comments on the market value for each postmark type.

The chapter on machine cancels includes a simple technique that enables the reader to make a rapid identification of the manufacturer of nearly all machine cancels of the 1900-1920 period. Each chapter concludes with an up-to-date list of references that can lead the reader to more detailed information.

Part II discusses the major ways in which US postmarks are collected. The six chapters in this section include collecting by geographic regions, rural free delivery, railway post offices, naval & military specialties and an entirely new chapter on collecting ancillary & auxiliary markings. Each chapter contains information on collector organizations and references, as well as lots of illustrations and a basic introduction to the specialty.

FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

Work is well underway on a second edition of *United States Doanes*. As many of you Doane collectors know, Gary Anderson has been working with state Doane coordinators over the past couple of years, and with their help, has succeeded in greatly expanding and refining the Doane listings for the various states. These lists will be enhanced by the addition of a new

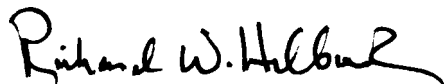
scarcity index for each and every known Doane cancel and the result will be published as *United States Doanes*, Second Edition. We currently anticipate publication sometime during autumn of this year.

Publication of *United States Post Offices, Volume V – the Ohio Valley* is also anticipated for fall 2002. This volume will continue the format of Volumes I-IV and will list the post offices of Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky.

IN THIS ISSUE

Beginning in this issue, I have the honor of working with Jerry Wilkinson, an historian of the Florida Keys who maintains the marvelous local history website www.keyshistory.org, on a series of articles exploring the postal history associated with that highly interesting chain of sub-tropical American islands. We have been further assisted in this endeavor by Dr. Deane Briggs, editor of the Florida Postal History Journal. La Posta readers with an interest in postal history of the Sunshine State should contact Deane at 160 E. Lake Howard Drive, Winter Haven, FL 33881 or via e-mail at drb@gte.net. The FPH Journal is now in its ninth year of publication. Articles are well-researched and clearly written, and I recommend that all readers seeking to build a comprehensive library of U.S. postal history consider adding the FPH Journal to their holdings.

Wes Shellen and Francis Dunn continue their pioneering catalog of Montana Territorial Postmarks. Dennis Pack presents a census of U.S. sub-station postmarks that included the “sub” designation from 1890-1910. Michael Dattolico examines the postmarks of a Spanish-American War era Philippine post office. Randy Stehle revisits one of the more unusual auxiliary marking subjects—unmailable. Dan Meschter profiles Samuel Osgood, Postmaster General of the U.S. from 1789-1791. Tom Clarke resumes his discussion of registered mail from Philadelphia. We continue Robert Rennick’s detailing of the post offices of Letcher County, Kentucky. Alyce Evans shares with us another of her West Virginia research papers and Herbert McNeal introduces us to a piece of postal history confirming the Confederate use of a U.S. stamp. All in all, a rather interesting and informative issue, I’d say, mates.



POSTAL HISTORIANS ON LINE

The following individuals have expressed an interest in corresponding with other collectors via e-mail. 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

- Paul G. Abajian** [Vermont postal history]
— PGA@vbimail.champlain.edu
- Murray Abramson** [4th Bureaus & air to foreign destination]
— abram001@mc.duke.edu
- Charlie Adrion** [Flag Cancels] — adrionc@mail.idt.net
- Carl W. Albrecht** [Certified Mail/Postal Forms & Labels]
— calbrech@infinet.com
- Jim Alexander** [Texas Postal History]
— JAlexa5943@aol.com
- John Amberman** [Dealer]
— amberman@ambermanpostalhistory.com
- Gary Anderson** [US Doanes & ND postal history]
— garyndak@ix.netcom.com
- Kirk Andrews** — kirk.j.andrews@intel.com
- A.A. Armstrong, Jr.** [Western Nebraska & S.D. butcher PPCs] — draa@rockski.net
- Roland Austin** [Liberty Series & Modern p.h.]
— raustin13@aol.com
- Harold Babb** [Southern States postal history]
— babbx01@netside.com
- Mark Baker** [CA & NV postal history dealer]
— mbcovers@directcon.net
- Michael A. Ball** [Alaska Arctic & Antarctic incl. military]
— BallAgency@aol.com
- Alan Banks** [Missouri] — abanks7@aol.com
- Richard Bard, Jr.** — dbard@plix.com
- John H. Barwis** — j.h.barwis@siep.shell.com
- John E. Beane, MD** [West Virginia postal history]
— JBEANE@prodigy.net
- William R. Beith** [Eastern Oregon] — wrbeith@attbi.com
- Henry J. Berthelot** [train, ship wreck mail & US postal card p.h.] — hankberthelot@yahoo.com
- Henry Betz** [Franklin Co., PA & Cumberland Valley RR]
— hbetz@epix.net
- Jim Blandford** [Mich. Doanes & Early Detroit]
— jblandf526@aol.com
- Tim Boardman** [Washington PH, photos, books & maps]
— Simcoe@dsl-only.net
- Joe Bock** [US Airmail 1935-1950 & Arizona town cancels]
— jandrhobbies@commspeed.net
- Eppe Bosch** — bonep@qwest.net
- Caj Brejtfus** [1851-61 3c & Machine cancels]
— brejtfus@earthlink.com
- Deane Briggs, MD** [Florida Postal History]
— dbriggs2@tampabay.rr.com
- Roger S. Brody** [US 2nd Bureau issue] — RSBCO@aol.com
- Mark Burnett** [Washington-Franklins Series]
— MBur331547@aol.com
- Raymond Buse** [Cincinnati & Clermont Co., OH p.h.]
— stampat@aol.com

POSTAL HISTORIANS ON LINE

Conrad L. Bush [Confederate Fancy & Unusual Cancels]
— bearclan@brandons.net

James W. Busse [San Diego Co.p.h.] — Jimb1997@aol.com

C & H Stamps [Canal Zone, DWI postal history]
— CZCD@aol.com

Carl Cammarata [Alaska] — carlcammarata@earthlink.net

Gary Carlson [machine cancels] — gcarlson@columbus.rr.com

Glenda & John Cheramy [Dealers] -- gcheramy@shaw.ca

Bob Chow [Colorado] — rc71135@aol.com

Douglas Clark [Railway Mail] — dnc@alpha.math.uga.edu

Nancy B. Clark [Maine postal history] — nbc@cape.com

Tom Clarke [Philadelphia] — ocl-tom@ix.netcom.com

Louis Cohen [Kentucky postal history]
— cohenstamps32@aol.com

Giles Cokelet [Montana postal history]
— giles_c@coe.montana.edu

Robert W. Collins [Korean War & "Collins" postmarks]
— rwcoho@juno.com &/or ohiowc@aol.com

Joe H. Crosby [Oklahoma & Indian Territory p.h.]
— joecrosby@home.com

E. Rod Crossley [CA RPOs & Ventura Co.]
— rcrossley@worldnet.att.net

Tony L. Crumbley [NC & Confederate postal history]
— crumbley@infi.net

Richard Curtin — curtin@inreach.com

Allison W. Cusick [Ohio & WV p.h.; Doanes & Non-standard]
— awcusick@aol.com

Matt Dakin [Mississippi Postal History]
— patdak@mindspring.com

Mike Dattolico [La Posta Associate Editor]
— MMDATTOL@aol.com

Hugh J.W. Daugherty [Postal History Dealer]
— hjwd@capecod.net

Jean DeRoest — jean.deroest@verizon.net

James P. Doolin ["Columbus" townmarks, stampless-WWI]
— jamesdoolin@doolco.com

John L. DuBois — jld@thlogic.com

Leonard M. Eddy [Oklahoma & Arkansas p.h.]
— lmeddy@arkansas.net

Craig Eggleston [US Possessions] — cae@airmail.net

Stephen W. Ekstrom [US Transports & Connecticut p.h.]
— SWEKSTROM@aol.com

James F. Elin [Arizona post. hist.] — JamesFelin@aol.com

Mike Ellingson [North Dakota p.h.]
— mikeellingson@attbi.com

David Ellis [Michigan postal history] — dellis7109@ntimes.net

Alyce and Don Evans [WVa and Los Angeles, CA, p.ht.]
— DEvansUSAF@aol.com

James W. Faber [WY, NW OH, Hancock Co, ME, No. WI]
— faber@bluemarble.net

Wayne Farley [West Virginia P. H.]
— CWFARLEY@aol.com

Richard Farquhar — FARQRICH@aol.com

Louis Fiset [WWII civilian internment ph]
— fiset@u.washington.edu

Ken Flagg [WWII APO, esp. Alaska & Canada]
— ken0737@cw.com

Jane King Fohn — Jkfohn1442@aol.com

Jim Forte [Dealer] — jimforte@postalhistory.com
& Website <http://postalhistory.com>

Nancy Foutz [postcard dealer] — dexterpc@bestweb.net
Myron Fox [US & German censorship & WWI & WWII]
— MyronFox1@aol.com

Bob & Kathy Friedman [Dealer-Friedman's Covers]
— covercnr@eaze.net

Gene Fricks [Literature, TN & NJPH]
— ernest.fricks@stoneweb.com

Mike Fritz [Idaho postal history] - idahofritz@msn.com

Bob Gaudian [Connecticut Postal History]
— rgstamper@aol.com

Don Garrett [Mississippi] — Donompix@aol.com

John Germann [Texas postal history & ship covers]
— jghist@neosoft.com

Ray Getsug [Minnesota postal history, literature]
— RayG669563@aol.com

Don Glickstein [postal cards used in Alaska]
— glickwolf@earthlink.net

Jerry Gorman [Rhode Island PH]
— barbarag@worldnet.att.net

John Grabowski [20th Cent. postal history, esp. Prexy era]
— minnjohn@concentric.net

Ken Grant — kgrant@uwc.edu

Thomas E. Greene [Rhode Island PH] — TGBG@aol.com

John Grosse — johngrosse@compuserve.com

Ted Gruber [Nevada] — TedGruber@aol.com

E. J. Guerrant [Unusual US Stamp Usages]
— ejguerrant@prodigy.net

Alex Gundel [Mail to Foreign Destinations]
— Alexander.Gundel@dlr.de

Michael Gutman [Mass ph & 19th cent., Precancels]
— mikeg94@attbi.com.

Larry Haller [Handstamped Flags] — LJHaller@aol.com

Art Hadley [Indiana postal history] — ahadley@hsonline.net

Raymond Hadley — ray-suzann@gci.net

Ken Hamlin [Montana postal history & ephemera]
— kphamlin@in-tch.com

Lou Hannen [Classic Railway & Waterways]
— loucanoe@3rddoor.com

Scott Hansen [US Navy WWII, Philippines & Cent. Michigan]
— hansens@genrad.com

John T. Hardy, Jr. [US postal cards & Philippines]
— john_hardy@msn.com

Ron Harmon [Florida PH] — rrrhm@hotmail.com

Leonard Hartman [Literature dealer] — www.pbbooks.com

Wayne Hassell [Dealer, US Marines, Wisconsin & Michigan]
— junostamps@aol.com

Thomas Hayes [South Dakota & Wyoming p.h.]
— dakter@nvc.net

Bill Helmer [Nevada] bill5168@worldnet.att.net

Gary Hendren [Missouri PH] — g2hslm@msn.com

Monte Hensley [Mexico pre1868 & Revolution]
— MHENSLEY@IBM.NET

Jack Hilbing [Illinois and Pennsylvania postal history]
— fjackh@msn.com

Terence Hines [Hanover, NH & #E12-21 on cover]
— terencehines@aol.com

Joe Horn — horn@mail.utexas.edu

John Hotchner — JMHStamp@ix.netcom.com

Pete Hubicki [1861 3c & Columbia, Montour & Northumberland Co., PA]
— phubicki@carolina.rr.com

POSTAL HISTORIANS ON LINE

Stefan T. Jaronski [Ithaca NY p. h.; Confed. States military ph]
— bug@midrivers.com

Cary E. Johnson [Michigan p.h.; Railway, Waterway
& Streetcars] — cejohn@umich.edu

Jim Johnson [Dealer - Postal History USA]
— Jimdad67@cs.com

Charles A. Jones [CO & Prexy postal history]
— cgjones@gj.net

Barton D. Kamp [Massachusetts postal history]
— bartdk@mindspring.com

Gordon Katz [Postal History on Postcards & Maryland]
— g.e.katz@worldnet.att.net

Phil Kay [Hawaiian postal history] — pilau@aloha.net

Robert Keatts [Walla Walla Co., WA p.h.]
— lkeatts@mail.bmi.net

Kelvin Kindahl [New England p.h.; postmarks]
— kanda@javanet.com

C.Randy Kimes [US Naval covers] — pmarche@jps.net

Jim Klinger [Colorado ph & Navel covers] — IX15@aol.com

John Koehler [Montana postal history]
— jkoehler@wa.freei.net

Van Koppersmith [Alabama & Mississippi p.h.]
— cleave3@aol.com

Jim Kotanchik [Franklin Co., MA & PO Seals]
— jkotanchik@flashcom.net

Jon E. Krupnick [Pacific Flights 1936-46 & US Pacific
Possessions] — jonpac@aol.com

Alfred Kugel [20th Cent. Military Mail, US Possessions &
Offices Abroad] — afkugel@hotmail.com

Paul Kukstis [Auction House] — letters@kukstis.com

Rick Kunz [RPO, AGT, RR postmarks]
— rkunz@eskimo.com & www.eskimo.com/~rkunz/

William O. Kvale [Minnesota ph, esp. territorial & Civil War]
— FLO3WIL@aol.com

Walter LaForce [US Doanes & NY RFD & Co/PM cancels]
— vlwl@rochester.rr.com

Gary Laing [Virginia p.h.] — laing@naxs.com

Curt J. Lamm [Unusual 1851-61 townmarks]
— cjlamm@netstorm.net

Eliot A. Landau — LAND1942@aol.com

Peter B. Larson [Northern Idaho] — plarson@wsu.edu

Ken Lawrence — apsken@aol.com

Wes Leatherock — wleathus@yahoo.com

Howard Lee [4th Bureau Issues & US Int'l. Airmail thru 1941]
— gimpo@adnc.com

James E. Lee [Philatelic Literature Dealer]
— philately2@earthlink.net & www.jameslee.com

Brian R. Levy [Long Island PH & Expositions]
— BELLOBL@AOL.COM

MingKung Jason Liu [China/US combinations & crash cvrs.]
— mliu@DataPathSystems.Com

Bud Luckey [Siskiyou Co. and N. Ca.]
— luckey@snowcrest.net

Len Lukens [Oregon p.h. & trans-Pacific airmail]
— llukens@easystreet.com

David Lyman [World postmarks on covers or piece]
— postmark@sympatico.ca

Max Lynds [Aroostook Co., Maine p.h.] — Max@pwless.net

Tom Maringer [Arkansas PH] — maringer@arkansas.net

Robert L. Markovits — lrlm@pioneeris.net

Peter Martin — pmartin2020@aol.com

Doug Marty [Dealer Postal History, Ephemera, Postcards]
— dmarty@wtp.net

Chester M. Masters — chetmasters@mail.wa.freei.net

Bernard Mayer [Oklahoma] — Bernie@m47303.com

David McCord — damac52@attbi.com

Harry McDowell [Columbia SC Confed. p.h.]
— harmacd@aol.com

Chuck & Jan McFarlane [Ausdenmoore-McFarlane Stamps]
— Mcmichigan@aol.com

Bob McKain [Western PA] — bmckain@nb.net

Michael J. McMorro [Vermont photocards & POW cards
of WWI & WWII] — SFA@SOVER.NET

Michael E. Mead [Britannia Enterprises - postal history dealer]
— meadbe@s-way.com

Jim Mehrer — mehrer@postal-history.com
& website http://www.postal-history.com

Mark Metkin [Idaho postal history]
— metkin@mindspring.com

Jewell Meyer [Arizona] — jlmeyer_2000@yahoo.com

James W. Milgram, M.D. [U.S. postal history and historical
letters, esp. Civil War & West] — j-milgram@nwu.edu

Corbin Miller [Idaho P.h.] — corbinlm@yahoo.com

Jim Miller [Dealer] — jmiller@cariboo.bc.ca

Steve Morehead [Colorado postal history]
— steveasc@ix.netcom.com

Bob Munshower — bearmt19@mail.idt.net

Larry Neal [Holmes Co., Ohio postal history]
— larryln@valkyrie.net

Bill Nix [Skamania Co., WA] — wanix@gorge.net

Jim Noll — jenca@pacbell.net

Martin Nicholson — Martin@crozet.demon.co.uk

Charles A. O'Dell [Missouri & eastern Colorado]
— odellcd@earthlink.net

Kevin O'Reilly [NWT, Yukon & Labrador; US APOs in
Canada] — xcarc@ssimicro.com

Clay Olson [Tioga Co., PA] — shawmut@comcast.net

James Orcutt [Washington] — jorcutt@u.washington.edu

Dennis Pack [Utah ph & Branch offices]
— dpack@VAX2.Winona.MSUS.EDU

John Palm [Merced & Mariposa Co., CA]
— jwpalm@elite.net

Ray Palmer [Oregon, esp. Yamhill & Polk Counties]
— rpalmer@onlinemac.com

Ed Patera [California] — ELPATERA@aol.com

Bob Patkin [Machine cancels] — bpat@shore.net

James Patterson — patterson@azbar.org

Eustolio G. Perez [Dealer/Collector Mexico to US covers]
— SouthwestCC@Prodigy.net

Paul E. Petosky [Michigan postal history & RPOs]
— paulpetosky@yahoo.com

Walt Potts [Monona Co., Iowa] — Pottsplit@aol.com

Stephen Prigozy [Telegraph covers] — prigozys@aol.com

Ada M. Prill [Delaware Co., NY]
— ada@math.rochester.edu

Pete Rathwell — prathwell@swlaw.com

Byron L. Reed [South Dakota p.h.] — byronreed@aol.com

Robert Quinetero [Detroit River Sta/Mailboat 1895-Current]
— qover@ameritech.net

Norm Ritchie [CO, UT, AZ & NM postal history]
— mnp@ctos.com

Roger Rhoads [UX1 & UX3 cancels & PH]
— rrrhoads@aol.com

POSTAL HISTORIANS ON LINE

Thomas Richardson [North Carolina P.H.]
— stamps@northstate.net

Harold Richow [WWII Alaska, US in Canada & Philippines] — harr@pe.net

Al Ring [Arizona postal history] — ringal@msn.com

William B. Robinson [Wisconsin p.h./postal history dealer]
— wbrob@hotmail.com

Julius Rockwell [Alaska] — juliusro@alaska.net

Robert G. Rose [New Jersey p.h.] — rrose@phks.com

Steve Roth — smroth@itsanet.com

Art Rupert [Rural Branches & Stations]
— aerupert@bentonrea.com

Roger Rydberg [Colorado postal history]
— roger-rydberg@worldnet.att.net

Bill Sammis [US Express Company labels, stamps & covers]
— cds13@cornell.edu

Bill Sandrik [Postal History dealer] — sandrik.philat
@zzapp.org & www.ballstonphilatelics.com

Robert Sanford — rsanford@rev.net

Dennis W. Schmidt [Texas p.h. & US Officials]
— officials2001@yahoo.com

Fred Schmitt — fred@fredschmitt.com and
www.fredschmitt.com

Roger G. Schnell [Mok Hill pre1870; US ph to fgn. dest.
1934-54] — rkschloss@pstcomputers.com

Niles Schuh [Florida postal history] — niless@earthlink.net

Robert Schultz [Missouri postal history]
— schulhstry@aol.com

Joseph Sedivy — JNSED717@aol.com

John Seidl — jseidl@mindspring.com

Larry R. Sell — philart@infoblvd.net

Mike Senta [Alaska postal history] —
msenta@pobox.mtaonline.net

Norman Shachat [Phila. & Bucks Co. PH]
— nshachat@aol.com

Lloyd W. Shaw [Utah p.h. & general postal stationery]
— LWStamp@aol.com

Terry Shaw [Alaska] — cgsarchxx@aol.com

Wesley Shellen [Montana p.h. & Machine cancels]
— WesNDeb@aol.com

Gina Sheridan — gsherida8502@yahoo.com

David J. Simmons — Stampmaven@partnercs.net

Ed Siskin [Pree-1800 Postal History] — esiskin@cox.rr.com

Russell V. Skavaril — skavaril.1@osu.edu

Rich Small [Machine cancels] — rsmall9293@aol.com
& www.members.aol.com/rsmall9293/index.htm

Chet Smith [US branches & stations] — cms@psu.edu

Jack M. Smith, Sr. [Texas Doane Co-ordinator]
— jacksr@tstar.net

Fred Smyithe — FSmyithe@aol.com

Gus Spector [PA advertising covers & postal history]
— gspec56@aol.com

Keith Spencer [Alberta & western Canada] — krs2@ualberta.ca

Duane Spidle [Colorado P.H. & RPOs & pre-1907 precancels]
— dspidle@concentric.net

Anita Sprankle — sprankle@kutztown.edu

Chet Sprinkle — 73114.2115@compuserve.com

Ken Stach [Dakota & Nebraska territories]
— ken.stach@kosa.com

Randy Stehle — RSTEHL@ix.netcom.com

Rex H. "Jim" Stever [Republic of Texas] -
— rhstever@camdeninc.com

Carl Stieg [Dist. Of Columbia to 1910] — carl_phil@webtv.net

Bob Stoldal [Southern Nevada] - stoldal@vegas.infi.net

Matt Stoll [Samoa, Arizona & NJ p.h.] — stoll57@yahoo.com

Greg Stone — Michcovers@aol.com

David L. Straight [Back of Book] -- dls@library.wustl.ed

Greg Sutherland — Gregfree@aol.com

Robert Svoboda [Montana postal history]
— SVOBODA7@aol.com

Bob Swanson [WWI Domestic p.h.] — rds@swansongrp.com
& www.swansongrp.com/posthist.html

Doug Swisher [Ohio & Florida P.H.] — doug22@mediaone.net

Stephen T. Taylor [postal history dealer] --
staylor995@aol.com
& www.stephentaylor.co.uk

Gerry Tenney — gtenney@gateway.net

Ed Thomas [New England town cancels] —
Edthomas@fsc.edu

Robert L. Toal — rtoal@ukt.edu

Don Tocher [19th Century US] — dontoch@ix.netcom.com
& www.postalnet.com/portfolios

Bob Trachimowicz [TOB markings] — track@ma.ultranet.com

William Treat [Colorado & Navajo crafts]
— jtsouthwest@msn.com

Ron Trosclair [Louisiana postal history]
— rontrosclair@yahoo.com

Henry G. Turnbull [Arizona & Maine p.h.]
— aznphgt1@webtv.net

Tom Turner [Alabama postal history] — turnertomp@aol.com

Frans van de Rivière [international: postmarkers and
procedures] - fr123@planet.nl

Dirk van Gelderen [Alaska postal history] — dirk@esveld.nl

George P. Wagner [US 2nd Bureau, Wash-Franklins &
Prexies] — Gpwwauk@aol.com

Lauck Walton [Meagher Co, MT & Shenandoah Co, VA]
— jwalton@shentel.net

Ron Wankel [Nebraska & WWII APOs on #UC9]
— rwankel@aol.com

Ron Ward [Maryland PH] — Anoph2@aol.com

Edward Weinberg [Contra Costa, CA p.h]:
— edwardepirus@hotmail.com

Mike Wiedemann [Florida p.h. & Cutley Advertising]
— cmikew@mindspring.com

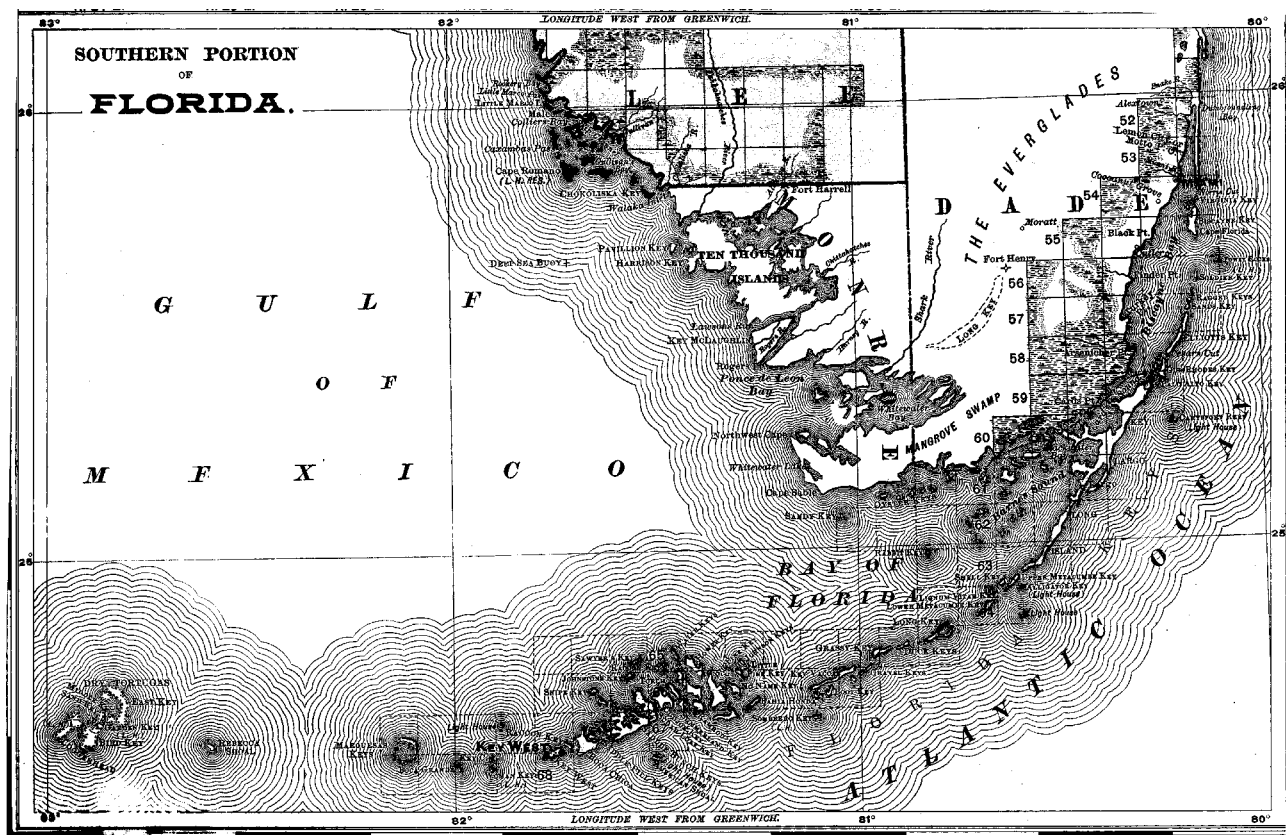
Clarence J. Winstead [NC Doanes, flags, RPOs & PPCs]
— clarencewinstead@msn.com.

Kirk Wolford [Postal History Dealer]
— krkstpc@goldstate.net



Project 2002 State Doane Co-ordinators

Alabama - Tom Turner P.O. Box 187 Bessemer, AL. 35021-0187
 Alaska - David McCord 21056 N.E. 117 th. St. Redmond, WA. 98053-5399
 Arizona - Jewell Meyer 20112 Westpoint Riverside, CA. 92507-6608
 Arkansas - Tom Maringer 2692 Powell St. Springdale, AR. 72764
 California - Randy Stehle 16 Iris Court San Mateo, CA. 94401
 Canal Zone - Gary Anderson P.O. Box 600039 St. Paul, MN. 55106
 Colorado - Charles Boubelik Box 40 Canon City, CO. 81215
 Connecticut - Ralph Edson 365 Westland Ave. Cheshire, CT. 06410
 Delaware - Gary Anderson P.O. Box 600039 St. Paul, MN. 55106
 Florida - Deane R. Briggs, M.D. 160 East Lake Howard Dr. Winter Haven, FL. 33881
 Georgia - Gary Anderson P.O. Box 600039 St. Paul, MN. 55106
 Hawaii - Gary Anderson P.O. Box 600039 St. Paul, MN. 55106
 Idaho - Corbin Miller P.O. Box 110609 Campbell, CA. 95011-0609
 Illinois - Jim Mehrer 2405 30th. St. Rock Island, IL. 61201
 Indian Territory - Joe Crosby 5009 Barnsteeples Court Oklahoma City, OK. 73142
 Indiana - Arthur Hadley 3407 N. 925 E. Hope, IN. 47246
 Iowa - Dr. James Williamson 1686 Alpha Dubuque, IA. 52001
 Kansas - Chris Warner P.O. Box 8544 Topeka, KS. 66608-0544
 Kentucky - Dick Laird 1310 Bittersweet Drive Greenfield, IN. 46140
 Louisiana - Warren Sanders 17843 Prestwick Ave. Baton Rouge, LA. 70810
 Maine - Bruce Hazelton P.O. Box 69A Cumberland Center, ME. 04021
 Maryland - Gordon Katz 9924 Springfield Drive Ellicott City, MD. 21042-4947
 Massachusetts - Barton Kamp 43 Zenith Drive Worcester, MA. 01602
 Michigan - David Ellis 4732 Amberwood Court Carlsbad, CA. 92008
 Minnesota - Gary Anderson P.O. Box 600039 St. Paul, MN. 55106
 Mississippi - Matt Dakin 2011 N. Hills Dr. Opelika, AL. 36801
 Missouri - Robert Schultz P.O. Box 28961 St. Louis, MO. 63132
 Montana - Giles R. Cokelet 3 Hodgeman Canyon Road Bozeman, MT. 59718
 Nebraska - Jim Mehrer 2405 30th. St. Rock Island, IL. 61201
 Nevada - Ted Gruber Box 13408 Las Vegas, NV. 89112
 New Hampshire - Russel White, IV P.O. Box 1360 Lake Geneva, WI. 53147-6360
 New Jersey - Arne Englund 423 Penwell Rd. Port Murray, NJ. 07865-3012
 New Mexico - Dr. Thomas K. Todsén 2000 Rose Lane Las Cruces, NM. 88005
 New York - Maris Tirums P.O. Box 5475 Albany, NY. 12205
 North Carolina - Tony Crumbley Box 215 Newell, NC. 28126
 North Dakota - Gary Anderson P.O. Box 600039 St. Paul, MN. 55106
 Ohio - James W. Faber P.O. Box 1875 Bloomington, IN. 47402-1875
 Oklahoma - Joe Crosby 5009 Barnsteeples Court Oklahoma City, OK. 73142-5405
 Oregon - Bill Beith P.O. Box 301263 Portland, OR. 97294-9263
 Pennsylvania - Bob McKain 2337 Giant Oaks Drive Pittsburgh, PA. 15241
 Puerto Rico - Gary Anderson P.O. Box 600039 St. Paul, MN. 55106
 Rhode Island - Jerry Gorman 24 Oakridge Dr. West Warwick, RI. 02893-5483
 Samoa - Gary Anderson P.O. Box 600039 St. Paul, MN. 55106
 South Carolina - Dick Laird 1310 Bittersweet Drive Greenfield, IN. 46140
 South Dakota - Ken Stach 15 N. Morning Cloud Circle The Woodlands, TX. 77381
 Tennessee - Paul Phillips P.O. Box 240 Knoxville, TN. 37901
 Texas - Jack M. Smith, Sr. Box 334 Burnet, TX. 78611
 Utah - Lloyd Shaw 128 E. 1200 S. Bountiful, UT. 84030
 Vermont - Bill Lizotte 98 Brooklyn Heights Apt. 5 Morrisville, VT. 05661-5907
 Virginia - Larry McBride 315 N. Bryan St. Arlington, VA. 22201-1420
 Washington - **Doug DeRoest Doane Coordinator Emeritus** - Current Washington Doane
 Coordinator - David McCord 21056 N.E. 117 th. St. Redmond, WA. 98053-5399
 West Virginia - Wayne Farley 105 Allison Ave. Bridgeport, WV. 26330
 or - Alyce Evans P.O. Box 286 Bonsall, CA. 92003
 Wisconsin - Gary Anderson P.O. Box 600039 St. Paul, MN. 55106
 Wyoming - Charles Boubelik Box 40 Canon City, CO. 81215



Map 1 The Florida Keys as depicted in an 1892 Rand McNally World Atlas.

Postmarks Among the Palms: A Postal History of the Florida Keys

By Richard Helbock and Jerry Wilkinson

The United States is blessed with a marvelous diversity of geographic landscapes within its broad reach from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from Canada south to the Mexican borderlands and the Caribbean. Despite this richness, there is one type of landscape that is severely limited—the tropical island with fringing coral reef.

Delicious visions of such islands have danced through the imaginations of countless Westerners ever since the first explorers began returning to Europe and spinning their tales of palm-fringed beaches washed by azure and turquoise seas. Of course, the realities of life on a tropical island could never equal our mind's eye view, but no matter. The image remains very compelling to this day.

While it is true that there are no islands within the "lower 48" conforming to the strict definition of tropical, i.e., lying between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn, there is one chain of islands that

meets almost every island-dreamers image of *tropical*. The Florida Keys stretch over 200 miles in a gentle westward arc from the southern tip of Florida. They are a collection of low coral and limestone outcrops that were originally covered by all manner of tropical vegetation including coconut palms, mangroves, sea grape and wild paw paws. Their white, sandy beaches continue to be washed by clear waters that constantly change in color from chalky green to azure blue to deep violet. And offshore, at a very short distance, lies the only living coral reef in the United States.

In 2000 the Florida Keys were home to about 80 thousand permanent residents with the winter population swelling to over 125,000. About one-third of the full-time residents lived in Key West, and over 15% of the total population were over 65 years of age. The population of the Keys has increased from just under 50 thousand in 1960, but the number of Key West residents actually declined slightly during the last four decades.

Despite their recent popularity as winter escapes and year-round retirement destinations, the Florida Keys were long all but ignored by most Americans due to their remoteness. It wasn't until 1912 that Key West was first linked to the mainland by rail, and completion of the first Overseas Highway did not occur until 1928. The history of American interests in the Florida Keys however, is long and peopled by interesting characters engaged in unusual activities. We propose to introduce some of these characters and their pursuits through a survey of the postal history of the various islands of America's "tropical paradise."

Part I: Key West

Key West is the most southerly city in the United States. Situated at latitude 24° 33' north, it lies just 45 miles north of the Tropic of Cancer. It is, by way of comparison, 755 miles farther south than Los Angeles. The island on which Key West was built is just four miles long and a mile and a half wide, but its natural deep water harbor—the deepest between New Orleans and Norfolk, Virginia—attracted attention of seafarers at a very early date.

AMERICAN BEGINNINGS

John Simonson, a Mobile businessman, purchased the island from Juan Pablo Salas in January 1822, just two months prior to the establishment of the Territory of Florida. Roughly one month following the sale, Lieutenant Matthew C. Perry sailed his US Navy schooner *Shark* into the harbor and claimed the island as a United States possession.

The early months of American settlement at Key West were plagued by both confusion over property rights and the threat of pirates. In April 1823 Commodore David Porter arrived in Key West with his West Indies Squadron to establish a base from which to conduct operations against the pirates. Porter's efforts floundered for the first two years, but, once he determined to pursue the pirates into their lairs using shallow-draft barges, he successfully eliminated the scourge.

With Commodore Porter's eradication of the pirates and a decision by Congress as to lawful property ownership in May 1828,



Figure 1 Key West circa 1830.

Key West began to attract an increasing number of residents. Some of these new residents were attracted by an 1825 decision of the US Congress to pass the Federal Wrecking Act. This act prescribed that all property wrecked in US waters should be taken to a US Port of Entry for disposition. In 1828 Key West was designated a Port of Entry. These two factors combined to create the rise of Key West's first major local industry—wrecking.

GROWTH THROUGH WRECKING

The first United States post office was established on the island on February 18, 1829, with the appointment of Henry S. Waterhouse as postmaster. That same year the city was surveyed and in 1830 the U.S. Census counted 517 residents of Key West (*figure 1*). Wrecking quickly grew into a very profitable local industry for Key West. When a ship ran aground on the reef off the Keys, wreckers from Key

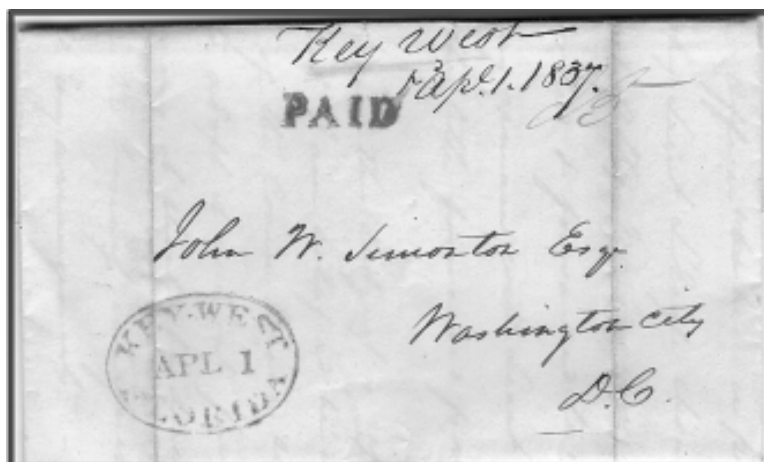


Figure 2 This stampless folded letter concerns real estate transactions at Key West in 1837 by Army officers and indicates the early interest shown by the US government in the island's strategic position.



Figure 3 This Key West cover dates from the late 1850s, a time when the wrecking industry was at its peak.

West rushed to the site to rescue survivors and carry off as much of the ship's cargo as they could salvage. The law permitted wreckers to retain a percentage of the salvaged cargo and impressive fortunes were built on the practice. Key West became a very wealthy town during the 1830s, 40s and 50s. In years when the seas were rough, the local economy benefited from as much as a million and a half dollars from wrecking. During the 1850s, nearly 500 ships—roughly one per week—were shipwrecked off the Keys¹.

It must be said that wrecking was a very controversial activity. There were claims that some ships had been lured onto reefs at night by unscrupulous profiteers using lights. These evil doers then rushed out to perform their rescue missions and scoop up as much cargo as they could in the process. The United States government finally brought about the end of the wrecking era by building a series of lighthouses along the reef during the late 1850s. But after three decades of enjoying this very prosperous venture, Key West had grown into Florida's largest urban place with an 1860 population of nearly 3,000.

Wrecking was not the only pillar upon which the early economy of Key West rested. Local collection and processing of natural sponges began to develop in the 1840s, and, aided by an influx of experienced settlers from the Bahamas, grew into an important part of the economy of the town. Key West remained the sponge center of Florida until the 1870s when the industry began to relocate north along the state's west coast.

IMPORTANCE OF THE MILITARY

The third major economic pillar of Key West in the early years was the military. Two companies of US Army troops were first dispatched to Key West in 1831. No doubt, their continuing presence helped prevent attack of the town during the Second Seminole War that started just four years later. In 1845 the U.S. Army selected a site at Key West to become part of the nation's coastal defense system. The post, known as Fort Taylor, was built of brick and marked the beginning of a long-standing permanent relationship between Key West and the U.S. military and naval establishment.

The existence of Fort Taylor had a major impact on Key West in 1861. Florida seceded from the Union on February 10, 1861, thus becoming the third state to officially declare for the Confederacy. Three days later, during the night of February 13th, the Union troops assigned to the continuing construction of Fort Taylor seized control of Key West, thus maintaining an important base of naval operations for the United States throughout the Civil War. *Figure 4* illustrates three covers mailed from Key West during the Civil War era. The fact that each cover bears a different type of postmark suggests that the post office was doing a brisk business during the war. The fact that no fighting occurred in Key West during the war was a major benefit to its prosperity and sense of well-being. While many other Southern towns and cities faced sometimes drastic reconstruction after hostilities ceased, Key West was able to enter the postwar era completely unscathed.



Figure 4 These covers were all posted in Key West during the Civil War year. The fact that each cover bears a different postmark suggests that the volume of business was rather high at Key West during the war. Occupation throughout the War by Union forces insured a constant flow of mail between this southern outpost and the northern states. These covers were addressed to New Jersey and Pennsylvania.



Figure 5 This cover passed through the Key West post office on December 11, 1868. Addressed to an officer at Fort Jefferson on Dry Tortugas, the cover was redirected back to Philadelphia. The Fort Jefferson post office was discontinued only a few weeks prior to the arrival of this envelope at Key West. (Courtesy of Dr. Deane Briggs)

CIGAR MANUFACTURING

Cigar manufacturing took hold as a major new industry in Key West in the 1870s. The first cigar factory in the town had actually started back in 1831, but it took the outbreak in 1868 of the Cuban War of Independence to propel Key West into the forefront of the industry. Large numbers of Cuban refugees traveled the 90 miles from Havana to Key West during the 1870s and '80s, and turned the town into the world's leading center of cigar manufacturing. The town's population nearly doubled from 5,675 in 1870 to 9,890 in 1880, and then nearly doubled again by 1890 with a total of 18,080. Cubans made up nearly half of the town's population.

Cigar manufacturing eventually abandoned Key West for Tampa. A lengthy strike by cigar workers and a major fire in 1886, combined with a concerted effort by the city fathers of Tampa to offer relocation incentives, managed to attract several of the cigar companies to the northern town. The industry did not relocate overnight however, and cigar making continued as Key West's primary industry into the early decades of the 20th century.

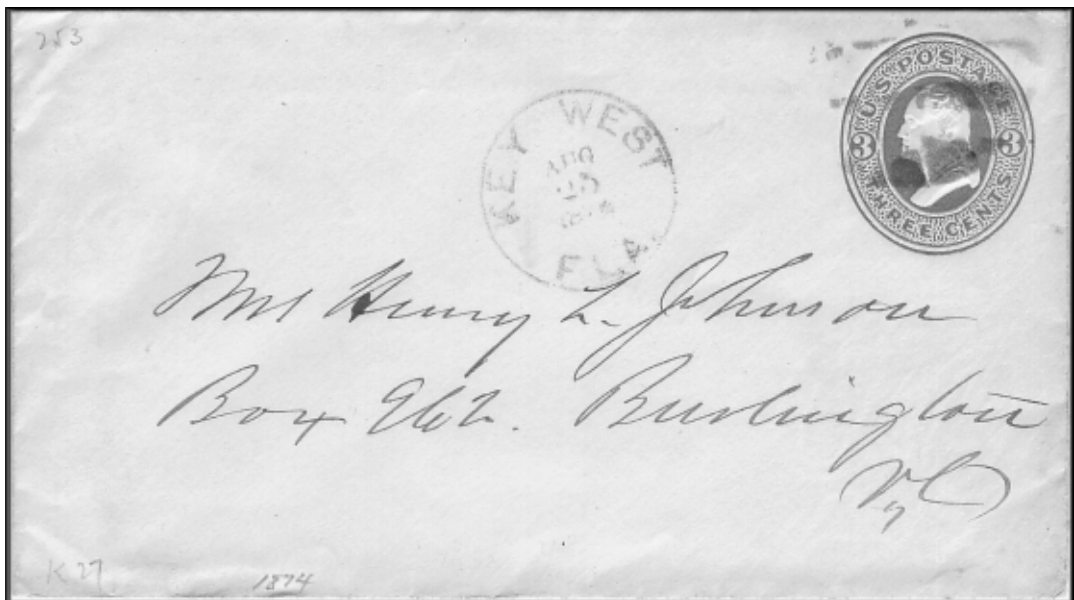


Figure 6 This cover was postmarked at Key West in 1874 at a time when the town was experiencing a rapid growth in the cigar manufacturing industry.

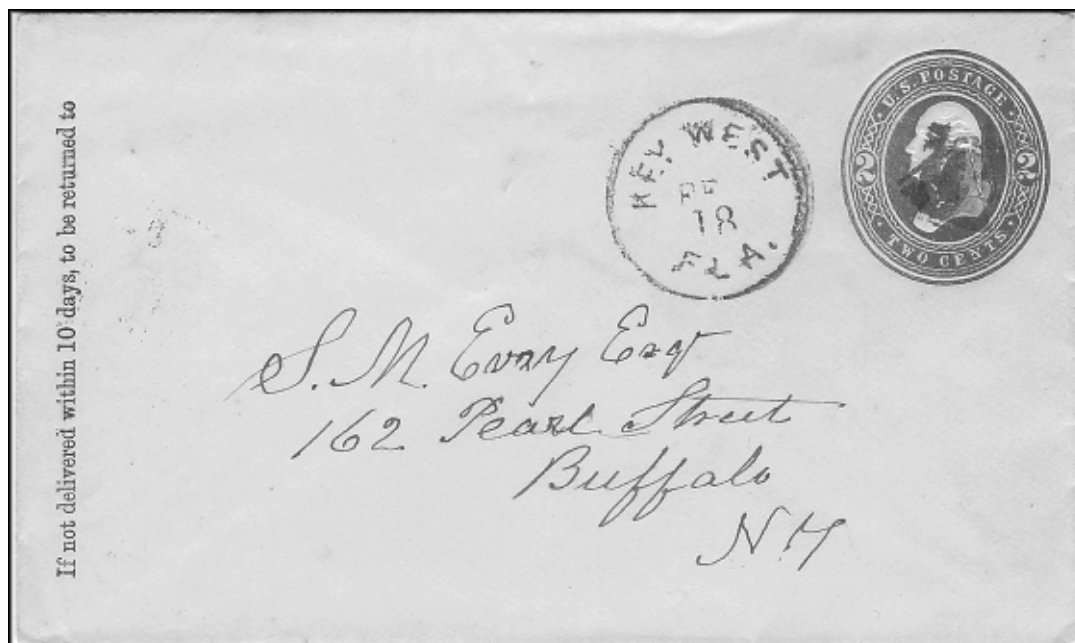


Figure 7 This 1885 cover reached its destination in Buffalo, New York, in just one week.

Figure 8 This cover displays an early style of steel duplex handstamp postmark. Its use at Key West indicates that the office was regarded by the Post Office Department as busy enough to be issued more durable postmarking and canceling equipment.

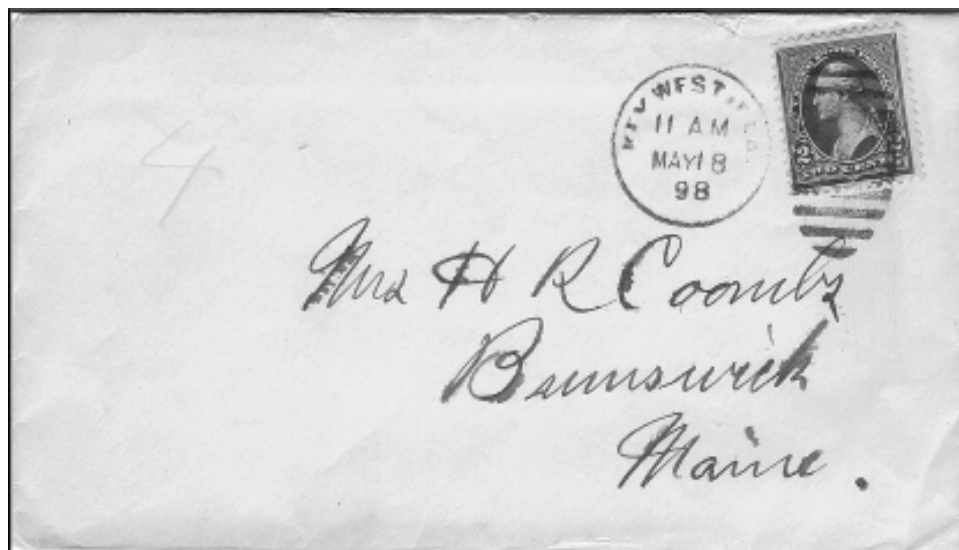
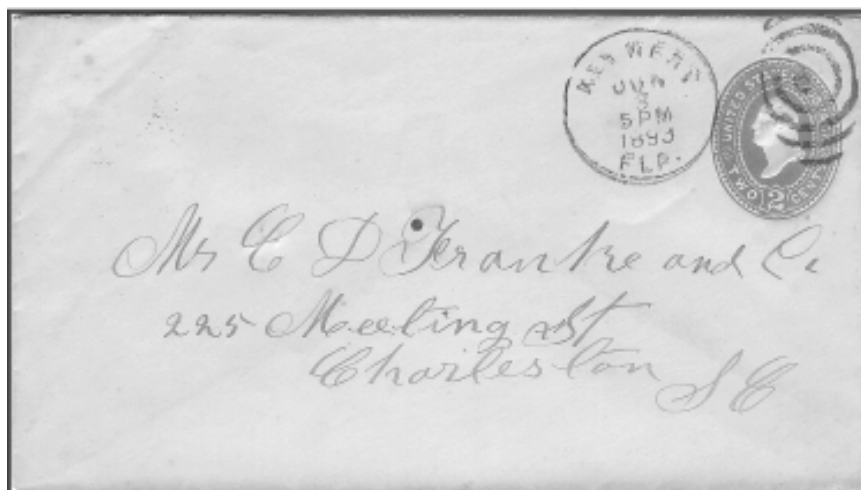


Figure 9 This May 1898 Key West cover dates from the peak of the Spanish-American War activity in Cuba. Key West was heavily engaged in the logistics supporting military activity.

American War of 1898 focused the nation's attention on Key West and brought a build-up of military forces briefly at the end of the old century, but the Census of 1900 reported that the town's population had actually declined during the decade to a total of 17,114. It was a portend of things to come.

AN ISLAND NO MORE!

Henry Flagler purchased a small railroad connecting Jacksonville and St. Augustine in 1885. He began extending his new line—renamed the Florida East Coast Railway (FEC Railway)—south and reached Palm Beach in 1893. Spurred onward by the promise of generous land grants, Flagler built the line in Fort Dallas on April 16, 1896. Later that same year, the town was renamed Miami.

Flagler announced his intent to extend the FEC Railway south through the Keys to Key West. Having been shut out of much participation in the Spanish-American War because Miami was not considered a *real* seaport and seeing his rival Henry Plant's Tampa benefit from increasing maritime traffic, Flagler invsaged Key West as an important supply point in the forthcoming US effort to built a Panama Canal. In late 1902 he sent William J. Krome across the Everglades seeking a possible route to Cape Sable then across to

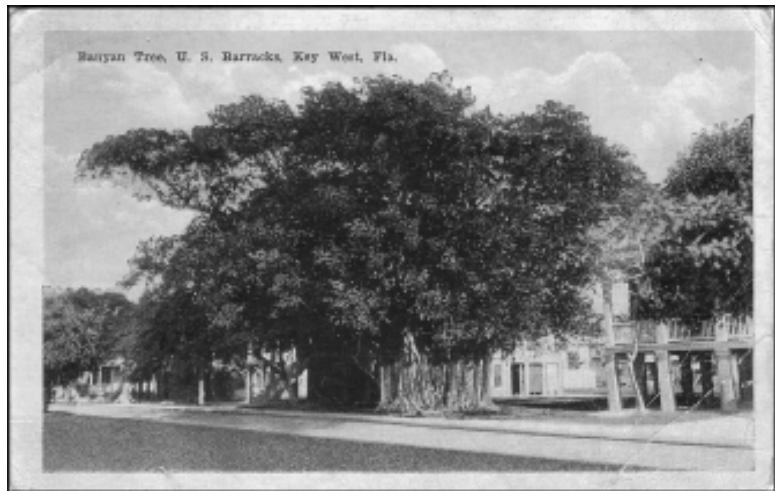


Figure 10 A 1910 postcard view of the U. S. Barracks at Key West.

No Name and on to Key West. Krome reported back in early 1903, but the route was not acceptable so Krome finished surveying the route to Homestead that same year. In January, 1904 Krome was preparing to look at a route to Turtle Harbor which has deep water just off shore of North Key Largo. This was short lived and Krome was sent surveying down the Keys to Key West for the remainder of 1904. Flagler announced his Key West Extension in early 1905 and work began almost immediately. The selected route ran south from Homestead to Key Largo and connected islands throughout the chain by a series of bridges (*map 2*).

Construction teams were dispersed to a series of camps numbered One (Key Largo) through 82 (Key West) during the spring of 1905. A more detailed consideration of the settlement impact of Flagler's FEC Railway on the Keys will be presented in the discussion of individual communities that follows.

Construction of the FEC Railway across the Keys was a huge engineering feat and exceedingly expensive. The line required some very lengthy bridges to link islands, and hurricanes added to the difficulties by causing death and destruction in 1906, 1909 and 1910. Finally, on January 22, 1912, the 82 year old Henry Flagler triumphantly road his private car "Rambler" pulled by engine number 201 into Key West. The project had cost an estimated 20 million dollars. Flagler died the following year.



Map 2 This portion of a 1929 Rand McNally World Atlas map shows the FEC Railway route through the Keys.



Figure 11 A 1918 postcard illustrating a “Bird’s Eye View of Key West.”

Completion of the FEC Railway meant that Key West was now an island in name only. It was now cheaper and quicker to move freight and passengers between the island and the mainland, and the first influx of tourists began to aid the lagging Key West economy. In 1918 the U.S. entry into World War I caused renewed military and naval activity at Key West. A coastal air patrol facility was built and the naval base was expanded to accommodate destroyers and submarines.

Tourist activity began to increase after the war as the Florida land booms centered national attention on the Sunshine State. The FEC Railway built a sumptuous resort called the Casa Marina Hotel which opened New Year’s Eve 1921. The future must have looked very bright for Key West in those opening years of the Roaring Twenties.

The population of Key West remained fairly constant from 1900 to 1920 at about 20 thousand. Civic leaders determined that, while the FEC Railway had brought great economic benefits, what was really needed was a highway connection. In 1923 Monroe County, which encompasses all the Keys south of Key Largo, approved \$300 thousand to initiate construction of the first Overseas Highway, a route which would consist of a combination of graded roadway and auto ferries to bridge the longer gaps.

DISASTEROUS DECADES

A devastating hurricane lashed south Florida in 1926. Miami, then already the hub of new developments in the Keys, was particularly hard hit, but despite this setback work on the highway continued. Albeit forty miles was by ferryboats, in 1928 the first Overseas Highway opened for vehicular traffic all the way to Key West.

The 1926 hurricane crippled south Florida’s economy. In 1929 the stock market crash sounded a death knell to the Florida boom. The FEC Railway filed for bankruptcy in 1932. The Navy reduced its primary Key West base to maintenance status in 1932.

Cigars lost out to cigarettes as the tobacco delivery method of choice and the local sponge industry was plagued by disease. The final blow occurred in September 1935 when another major hurricane swept into the Upper Keys and destroyed forty miles of railroad and highway. Key West was once again an island; dependent solely on sea and air supply.

The Census of 1940 counted less than 13 thousand residents still in Key West.

RECOVERY IN WARTIME

The damaged railroad right-of-way was converted to a refurbished Overseas Highway. Gone were the tedious ferry connections as railroad bridges found new life as highway bridges. In 1938 Key West was once again linked to the mainland and the following year

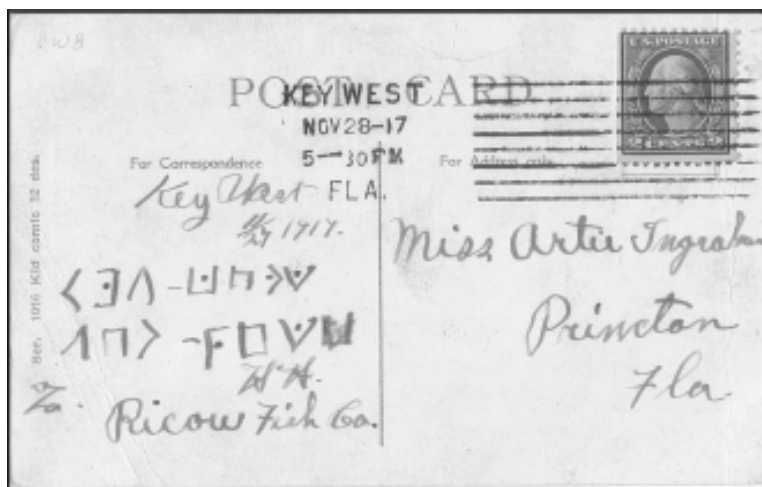


Figure 12 This 1917 postcard bears an example of the Key West postmark/cancel made by a Columbia machine.

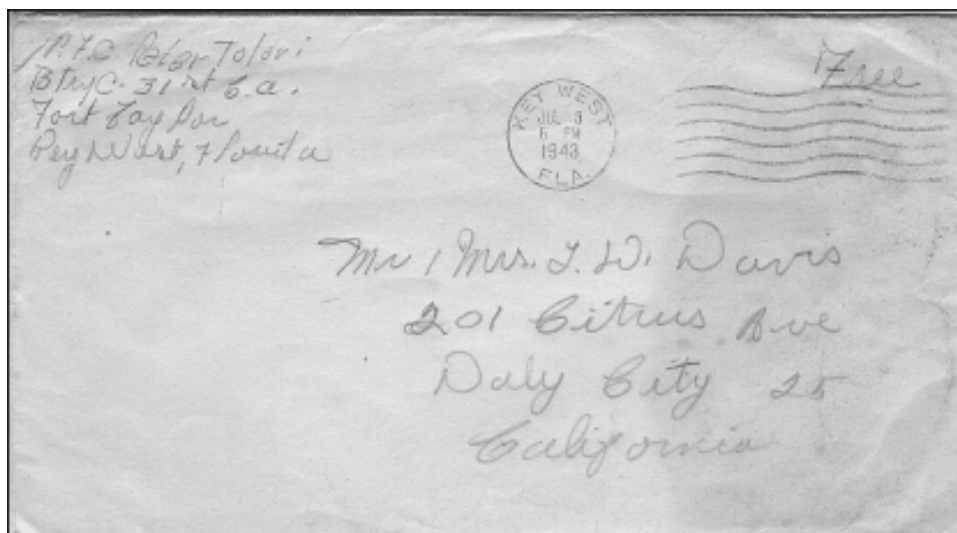


Figure 13 This free franked cover was mailed by an Coast Artilleryman stationed at Fort Taylor during World War II. The war gave Key West's economy a much-needed boost.

President Franklin Roosevelt traveled the new Overseas Highway and reopened the naval facilities at Key West.

Military and naval operations at Key West increased significantly during World War II. In order to truck men and supplies more quickly from the mainland, the military improved the Overseas Highway by cutting 17 miles from its length with a shortcut eliminating the Pirates Cove portion of the route. Fresh water was brought to Key West via an 18-inch pipeline built through the Keys.

Population lost by Key West during the late 1920s and 1930s was regained during the war, and in 1950 there were 21,792 residents of the southernmost city. As Key West entered the 1950s, postwar tourism was growing rapidly and the discovery of rich shrimp fishing grounds around Tortugas in 1949 bode well for a whole new local primary industry. True, there were ups and downs in the growth of the local economy during the last half of the 20th century, but the general pattern was stable and positive. Physical constraints of land and water prohibit Key West from ever growing too big, but there is much to be said for the concept of learning to live with limited growth. Perhaps we who do not live on islands should observe Key West more carefully and learn from their experience.

EARLY POSTMARKS OF KEY WEST

The earliest recorded Key West postmarks are handwritten, or manuscript, and date from the 1830s. Very few of this type are known according to research compiled and published in the *Florida Stampless Postal History 1763-1861*, published by the Florida Postal History Society in 1999.

In 1831 Key West post office began using an oval handstamp that read KEY-WEST/FLORIDA to postmark mail (*see figure 2*). Quite a few examples of this attractive postmark, often applied in red ink, have survived since it was used throughout the 1830s and 1840s.

The Key West oval was eventually replaced by a succession of circular postmarks. *Plate 1* illustrates many different varieties of Key West postmarks that have been recorded from the 19th century. Dates of use data for these postmarks are summarized in *table 1*.

Endnotes:

(1)Laskin, David *Eastern Islands* New York: Facts on File, 1990, p.233.

References:

BOOKS

Bradbury, Alford G. and E. Story Hallock. *A Chronology of Florida Post Offices*, Federation of Florida Stamp Clubs, 1962.

Briggs, Deane (ed.) *Florida Stampless Postal History 1763-1861*, Florida Postal History Society, 1999.

Jennings, John E., Jr. *Our American Tropics*, New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Co., 1938.

Laskin, David. *Eastern Islands*, New York: Facts on File, 1990.

WEBSITE

www.keyshistory.org

(To Be Continued)

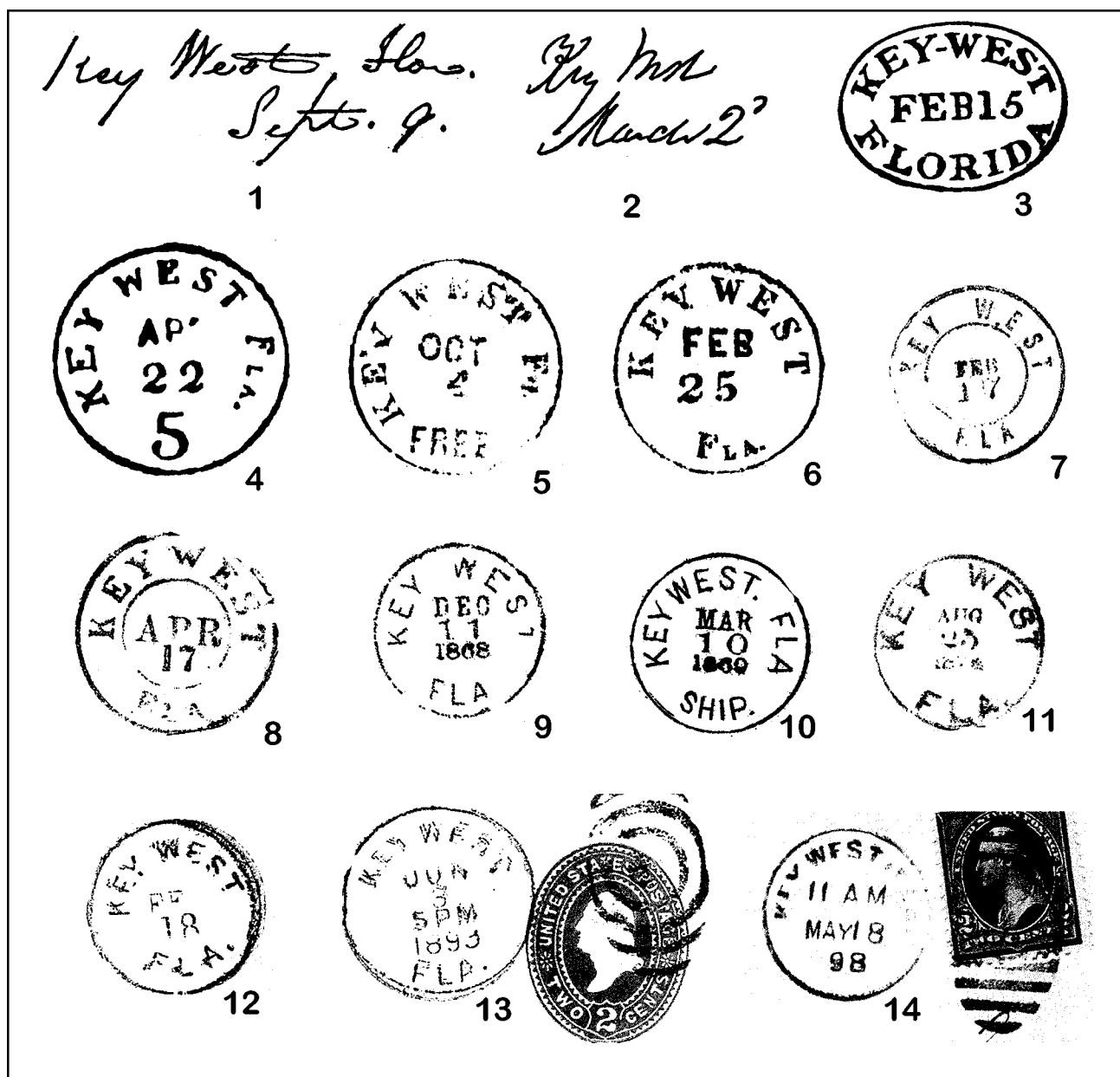


Plate 1 Key West postmarks of the 19th century.

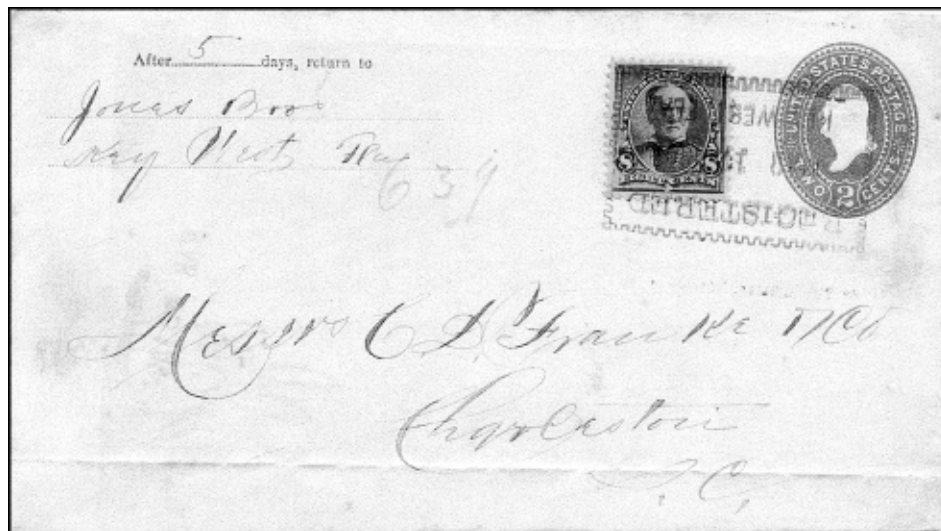
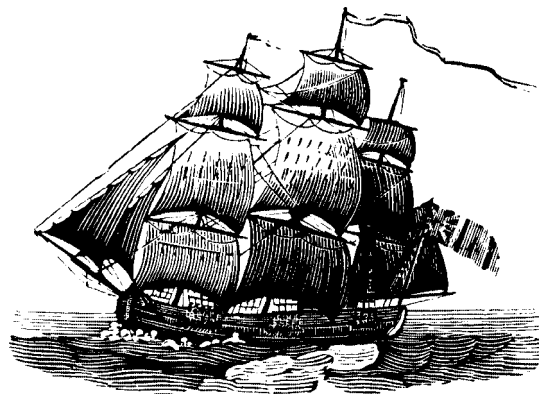
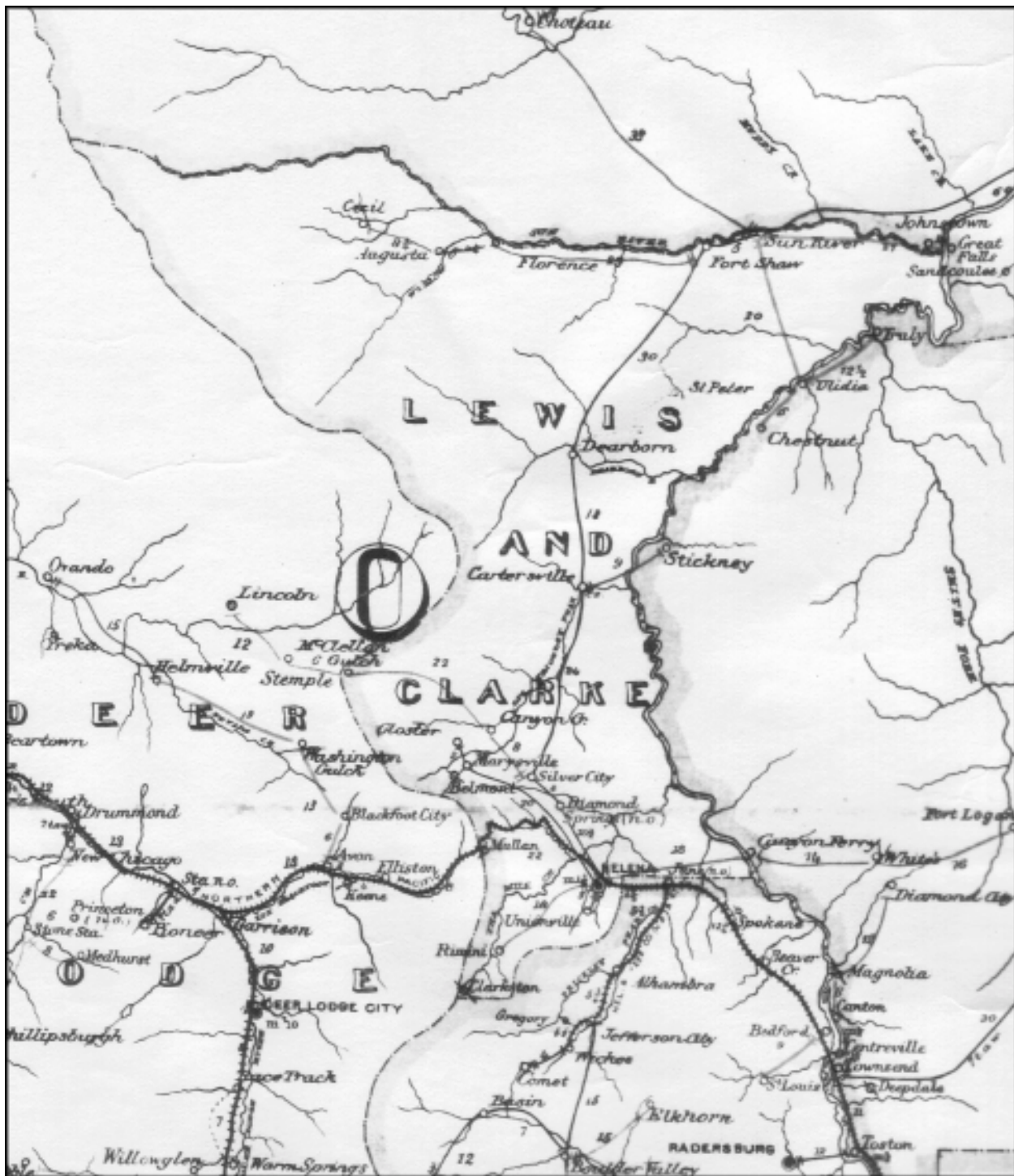


Figure 14 This cover displays the only example recorded thus far of the fancy boxed Key West registry handstamp. It is listed in Table 1 as type 15. (Courtesy of Deane Briggs)

Type No.	Earliest Known	Latest Known	Notes
1	9 Sep 1830		FSPH Type I
2	9 Dec 1838	25 Mar 1839	FSPH Type II
3	11 Nov 1831	8 May 1853	FSPH Type III
4	22 Apr 1854	8 May 1854	FSPH Type IV
5	10 Mar 18??	4 Oct 1861	FSPH Type V
6	3 Feb 1855	7 Mar 1863	FSPH Type VI
7	29 Dec 1861	17 Feb 186?	Believed late use in 1862-63
8	17 Apr 186?	13 Sep 1865	Believed early use in 1863-64
9	12 Mar 1866	11 Dec 1868	
10	16 Oct 1868	28 Apr 1869	FSPH Type VII
11	27 Dec 1869	15 Mar 1878	FSPH Type VIII
12	7 Nov 1876	6 Jan 1886	
13	24 Feb 1890	18 Apr 1896	Duplex
14	18 May 1898	5 Jul 1900	Duplex
15	17 Mar 1897		Registry marking

Table 1 Key West postmarks with dates of know use, 1830-1899. FSPH refers to Florida Stampless Postal History 1763-1861, published by the Florida Postal History Society in 1999.





Map 1 Lewis and Clark County, originally called Edgerton County, was renamed in 1867. Helena, the county seat, became the capital of Montana Territory in 1875. (From Postal Route Map of the Territories of Montana, Idaho and Wyoming, 1884, provided courtesy of Richard W. Helbock.)

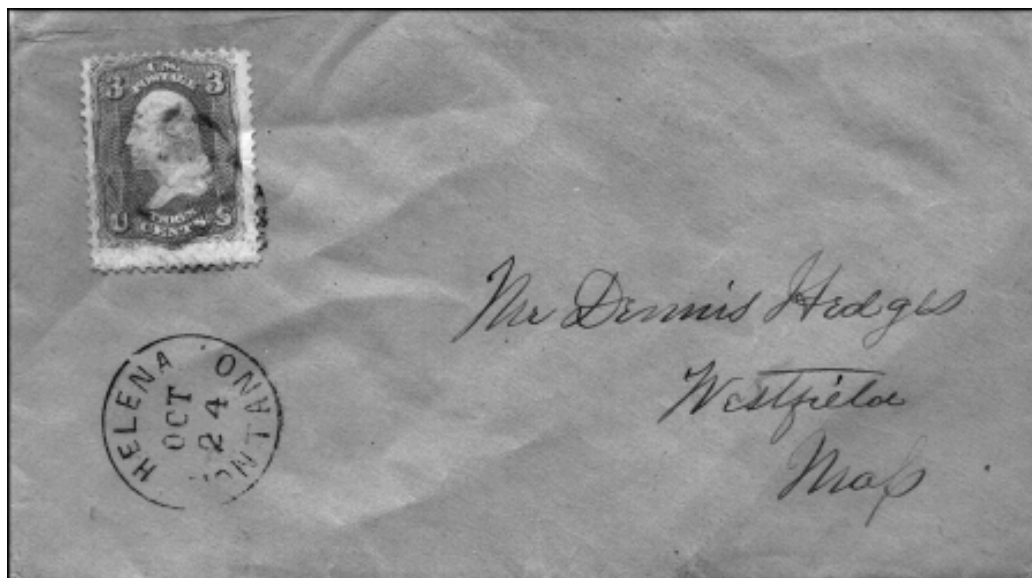


Figure 1 Helena, originally known as Last Chance Gulch, became a boomtown in 1864 when gold was discovered there. The MONTANO postmark on this cover was an unusual spelling used in only three towns.

Montana Territorial Postmarks

Part 6: Lake and Lewis & Clark Counties

By Wesley N. Shellen & Francis Dunn

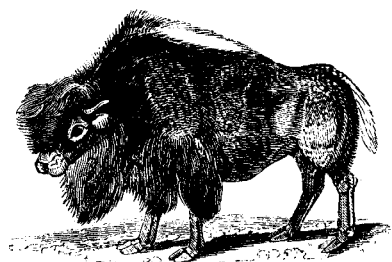
Lake County was created in 1923 from parts of Missoula and Flathead Counties. The county takes its name from Flathead Lake, the largest natural fresh-water lake west of the Mississippi River. The four territorial post offices in Lake County were all originally established in old Missoula County and postmarks from these towns are elusive.

Lewis and Clark County was originally called Edgerton County, named for Montana's first territorial governor, Sidney Edgerton. It was renamed in 1867. A map of the postal routes in Lewis and Clark County is included in this issue. In 1875, the capital of Montana Territory was moved from Virginia City in Madison County to the city of Helena in Lewis and Clark County. The postmarks of Helena are interesting for several reasons. We have recorded 17 different postmarks used in Helena, more than were used in any other city during Montana's territorial period. Helena was also one of three cities to use the Montano spelling in its postmarks, including three different types, listed here as types 2, 3, and 4 in our inventory. (The other two towns to use the Montano spelling were Bannack City and Virginia City.) Collectors may be surprised by the number of very similar Helena postmarks with overlapping dates of use.

©Wesley N. Shellen & Francis Dunn

age during the 1880's. This is probably an indication of growth in the post office, requiring multiple clerks using similar postmarking devices. Another indication of growth and centrality of the Helena post office was the variety of special service postal markings employed, including registry, receiving, and money order business (M.O.B) postmarks.

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.) We would also like to acknowledge the help and new information we have received following publication of our last installment from John Bigart, Jr., Howard Ness, Jack Smith, Stephen T. Taylor, and Roger Robison



Lake County

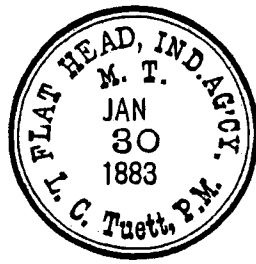
Town	Postmark	Earliest	Latest	Cancel	Notes
ARLEE (1885-Date)					
1.	CDS28	27 APR 1888	2 MAY 1889	cork	
FLATHEAD (1882-1885)					
1.	DLC32.5	28 OCT 1882	30 JAN 1883	target	
RAVALLI (1887-1983)					<i>None Reported</i>
SAINT IGNATIUS (1872-Date)					
1.	MSS	1 JUN 187?		Pen	
2.	CDS24.5	26 ?A? 187?		neg. star circle	

Lewis & Clark County

Town	Postmark	Earliest	Latest	Cancel	Notes
AUGUSTA (1884-Date)					
1.	OCT27	20 JAN 1885	3 MAR 1887	target	
BELMONT (1879-1882)					
1.	CDS30	16 DEC 1880	9 ??? 1882	Maltese cross	magenta, pink, purple
CANYON CREEK (CANYON) (1871-Date)					
1.	DLDC27.5	3 MAR 1885		target	
2.	OCT27	19 NOV 188?	6 MAR 1887		1
CANYON FERRY (1868/1957)					
1.	CDS25	16 APR 1872	28 APR 1881	target/cork	
2.	MSS	17 NOV 1878			
3.	DLDC28	13 OCT 1883		grid	
CARTERSVILLE (1881-1888)					
1.	TDLOV32x23	16 JUN 1882	12 AUG 1886	target	
CECIL (1884-1886)					<i>None reported</i>
CLARKSTON (1873/1884)					<i>None reported</i>
CRAIG (1888-1953)					
1.	CDS27.5	21 JUL 1888	6 JUL 188?		
DEARBORN (1876-1898)					
1.	MSS	31 JAN 1880	21 JUL 1880		
2.	CDS29	2 AUG 1880	? DEC 1883	none/target	
3.	CDS29	24 JUN 1887			



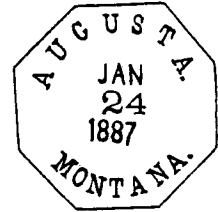
1



1



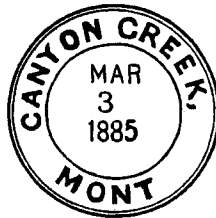
2



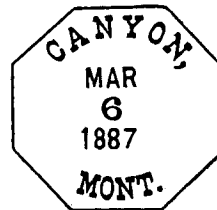
1



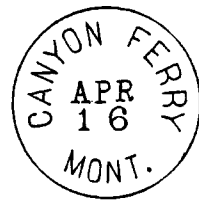
1



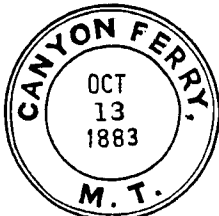
1



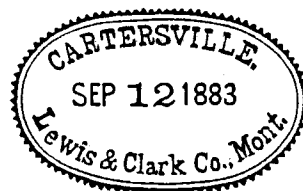
2



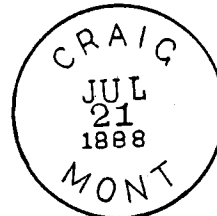
1



3



1



1



2



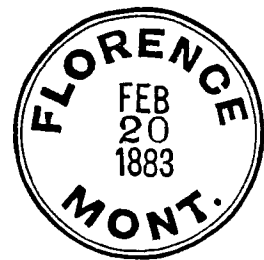
3



1



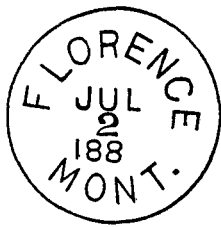
1



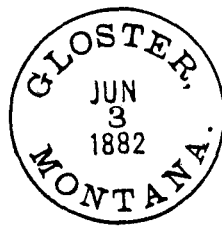
2

Lewis & Clark County

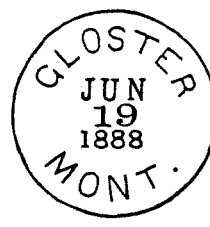
Town	Postmark	Earliest	Latest	Cancel	Notes
DIAMOND SPRINGS (1885-1886)					<i>None reported</i>
EAST HELENA (1888-Date)					
1.	CDS28	7 MAR 1889			
EMPIRE (1886/1895)					<i>None reported</i>
FLORENCE (1879-1887)					2
1.	CDS25	1 NOV 1881	16 MAR 1883		magenta
2.	DLC33	20 FEB 1883	30 AUG 1883	wheel of fortune gray	
3.	CDS27.5	2 JUL 188?		cork	
FLORENCE SPRINGS (1879-1879)					2 <i>None reported</i>
FRENCH BAR (1869-1876)					<i>None reported</i>
FULTON (1888-1914)					<i>None reported</i>
GEORGETOWN (1869/1871)					<i>None reported</i>
GLOSTER (1882-1895)					
1.	CDS27.5	2 JUN 1882	14 APR 1886	iron cross	blue-gray, purple
2.	CDS27	28 JUL 1887	19 JUN 1888		
GOULD (1888-1917)					
1.	DLC34	1? JUL 1889			
GREENHORN (1871/1883)					<i>None reported</i>
HELENA (1865-Date)					
1.	DCDS28	4 NOV 1865	3 FEB 1866	paid/6, bar grid	
2.	CDS26	11 MAR 1866	19 JUL 1866	target/paid 3	
3.	CDS26.5	1 NOV 1866	11 NOV 1866	target	
4.	CDS24	22 FEB 1867	25 NOV 1870	cork	
5.	CDS27	25 AUG 187?	24 OCT 1874		
6.	DOV23x29	26 JAN 1875	10 JUL 1876		
7.	CDS26	6 FEB 1878	12 JUL 1879	cork	
8.	CDS28	28 FEB 1880	26 JUN 1884	cork	
9.	CDS28	8 FEB 1882	11 AUG 1886	cork	
10.	DLRCT32x44	12 OCT 1883	11 JUN 1885	pen	magenta, blue
11.	CDS28	18 JUL 1884	8 JUN 1887	9 bar ellipse/cork	
12.	SL20x43	11 APR 1885			
13.	CDS28	2 DEC 1885	13 JUL 1887	cork	
14.	CDS29	23 NOV 1887	21 JUN 1889	target ellipse	



3



1



2



1



1



2



3



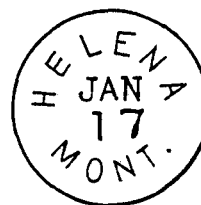
4



5



6



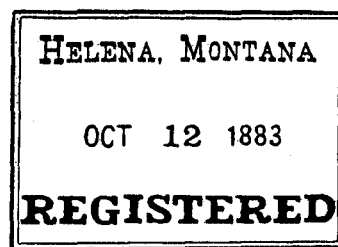
7



8



9



10



11

RECEIVED
APR 11 1885
HELENA, MONTANA.

12

Lewis & Clark County

Town	Postmark	Earliest	Latest	Cancel	Notes
HELENA (Continued)					
15.	SL35x24	27 MAR 1888			
16.	CDS29	6 JUN 1888	30 SEP 1889		
17.	CDS32	2 MAR 1889			magenta
HILGERSVILLE (1886/1890)					<i>None reported</i>
HOGAN (1887-1919)					
1.	CDS29	1 MAR 1889		target	
LINCOLN (1869/Date)					
1.	CDS24	16 JUN 1883	3 APR 188?	target	
MARSHALL (1875/1915)					<i>None reported</i>
MARYSVILLE (1881-Date)					
1.	DLC28.5	9 MAY 1881	20 MAR 1883		red, blue gray
2.	DLC33	25 SEP 1883	8 MAY 1885		
3.	DCDS27	23 MAR 1886	2 AUG 1886	10 bar cir. grid	
4.	CDS28	13 OCT 1885	21 OCT 1886	cork	
MILLERSVILLE (1875-1876)					<i>None reported</i>
MITCHELL'S (1888-1888)					<i>None reported</i>
MOUNT PLEASANT (1878-1880)					
1.	MSS	20 FEB 1880	24 SEP 1880		
MULLAN (1882-1883)					
1.	MSS	2 MAY 1883			
POWER (1881-82)					
1.	MSS	2 FEB 1882		pen	
RIMINI (1884-1936)					
1.	CDS27.5	4 JAN 1889	12 FEB 1889		
SILVER CITY (SILVER) (1867/1912)					
1.	DLDC32	6 APR 1881	10 DEC 1881	star	purple
2.	MSS	10 APR 1882			
SOUTHVALE (1879-1879)					<i>None reported</i>
SPRING CREEK (1878-1878)					<i>None reported</i>
STEMPLE (1884/1923)					
1.	MSS	20 OCT 1885			
STICKNEY (1884-1888)					<i>None reported</i>



13



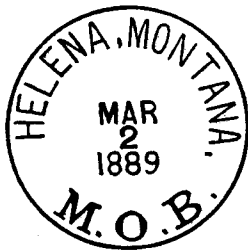
14

REGISTERED,
MAR 27 1888
HELENA, MON.

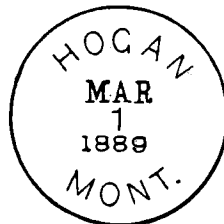
15



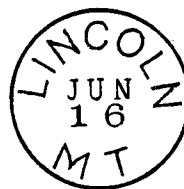
16



17



1



1



1



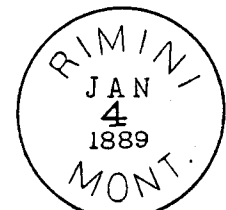
2



3



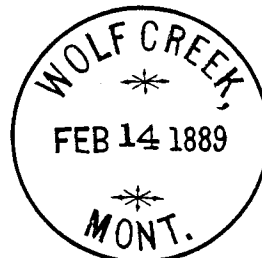
4



1



1



1

Lewis & Clark County

Town Postmark	Earliest	Latest	Cancel	Notes
UNIONVILLE (1869/1894)				<i>None reported</i>
VAUGHN (1887-1889)				<i>None reported</i>
WOLF CREEK (1888-Date)				
1. CDS33.5	26 DEC 1888	22 MAY 1889	target	black, blue
YORK (1887-1917)				<i>None reported</i>

NOTES:

1. The "CANYON" postmark is on a registry receipt from Helena addressed to Canyon Creek. This is not the same as the Canyon post office that operated in Custer/Yellowstone County from 1881-1883.
2. Florence and Florence Springs were probably in the same location. Another post office named Florence opened in what is now Ravalli County in 1888 and has operated since then.

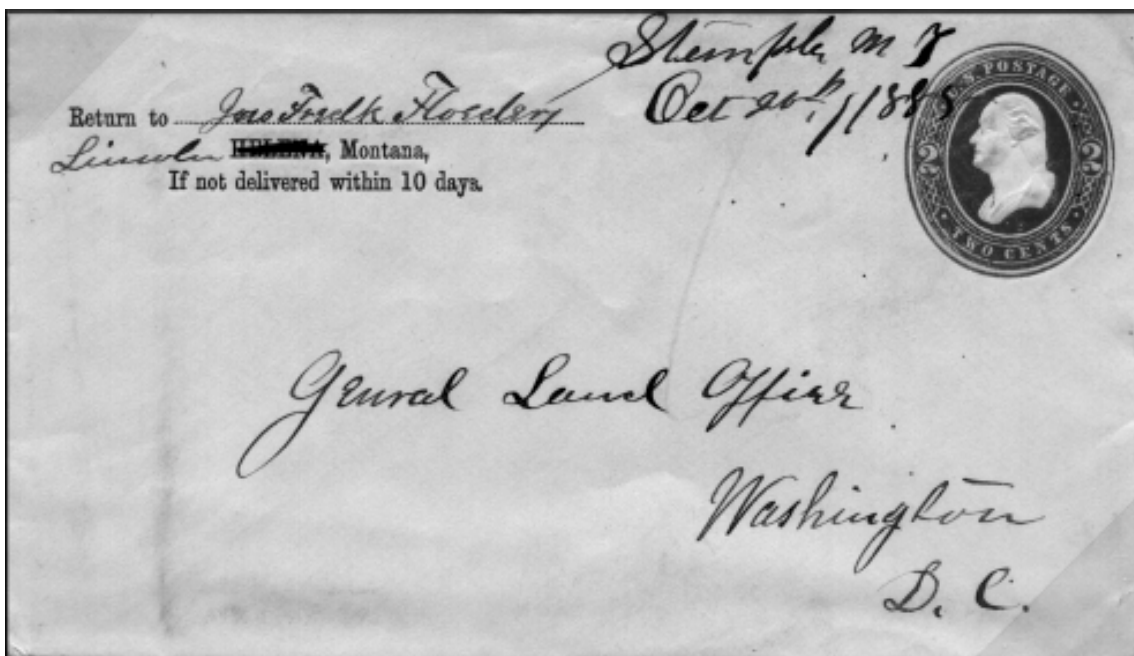


Figure 2 An 1885 manuscript postmark from Stemple, a wide spot in the road over Stemple Pass through the Continental Divide between Helena and Lincoln.

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

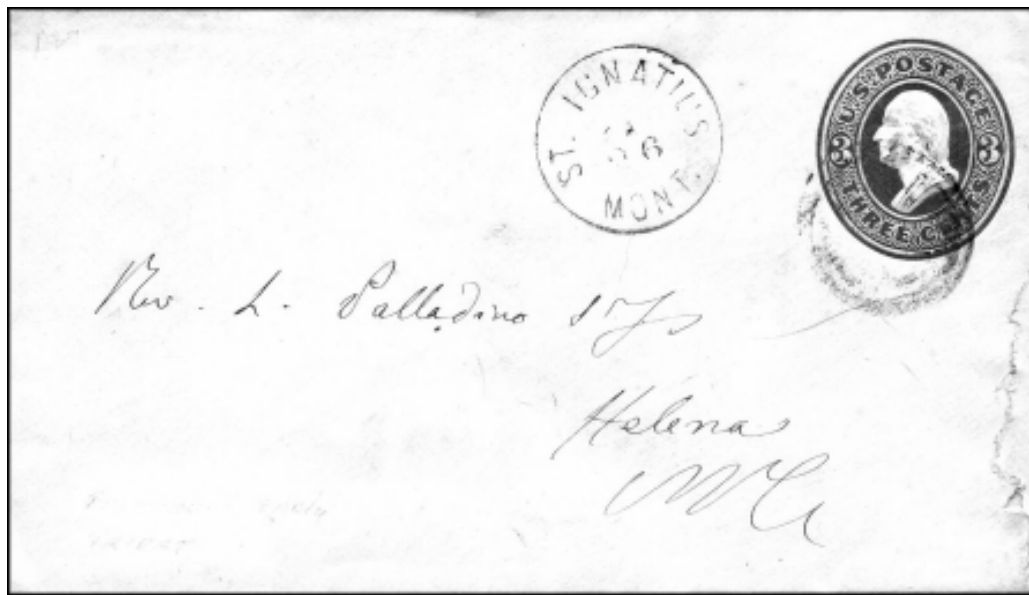


Figure 3 In 1854, three Jesuit priests established the St. Ignatius Mission in the heart of what was to become the Flathead Indian Reservation. The post office opened in 1872 to serve the town that grew up around the mission.

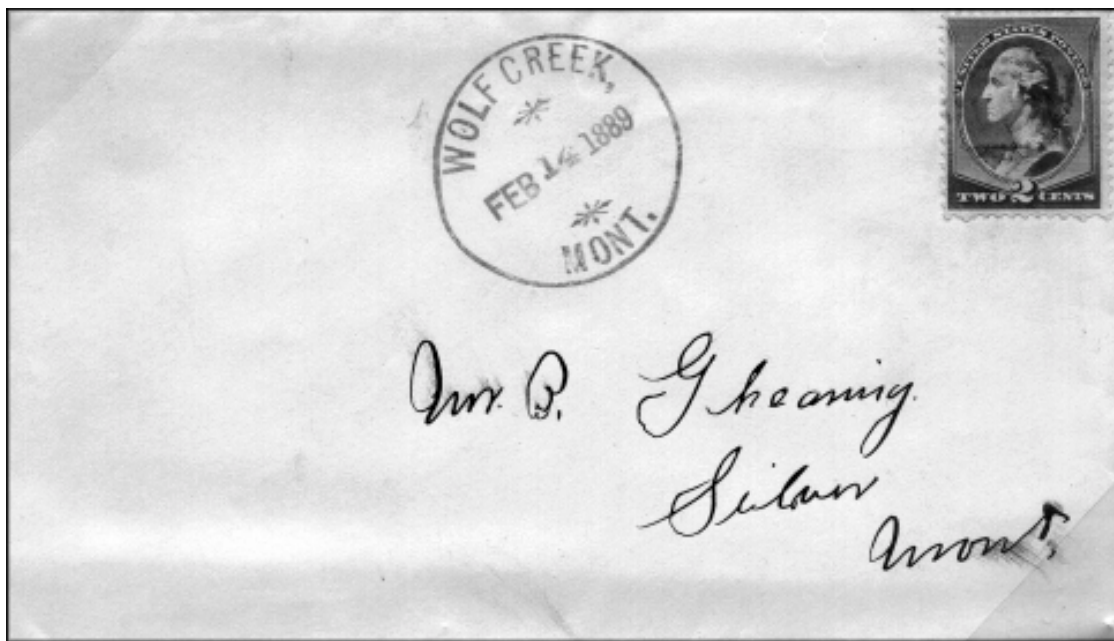


Figure 4 This black and white illustration does not do justice to the pretty blue postmark on this cover from Wolf Creek, originally named Cartersville, a tiny tourist stop north of Helena.

THE POSTMASTERS GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

I. Samuel Osgood, 1789-1791

by Daniel Y. Meschter

The U.S. Post Office Department traditionally dated its origin from September 26, 1789, the day Samuel Osgood was confirmed in office as the first Postmaster General of the United States, perhaps establishing the principle that not even the smallest post office exists until a postmaster had been appointed and qualified. This, however, misses the point that Ebenezer Hazard, the last Postmaster General under the Continental Congress, handed Osgood a postal system which in spite of its many problems was fully functional and returning a surplus to the Treasury.

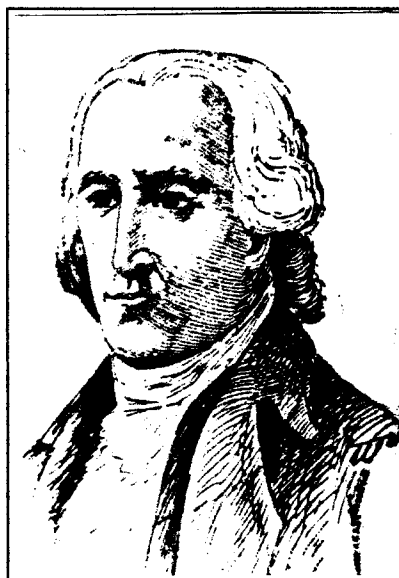
Beyond directing the appointment of a postmaster general and authorizing him to enter into contracts for the transportation of the mails, Congress satisfied itself for the moment by providing that "the regulations of the post-office shall be the same as they last were under the resolutions and ordinances of the late Congress¹." Although the Secretary of the Treasury (Hamilton) asked for his views on a new ordinance, Osgood was limited in his administration by the Continental Congress's 1782 Act.

In his report to Congress for the quarter ending January 5, 1790, Osgood listed 81 post offices with total revenues, in round figures, of \$7,525 less \$1,658 postmaster emoluments, \$334 incidental expenses including ship letters, and \$5,568 transportation costs for a deficit of exactly \$34.84². His successor's (Pickering) report for the fiscal year ending October 5, 1791 listed 80 post offices (probably two too few) with total revenues of \$42,255 less \$443 for ship letters, \$769 for incidental expenses, \$9,337 postmaster emoluments, \$3,611 general post office expenses, and \$22,596 transportation costs for a surplus of \$5,499³.

Pickering's figures for a full year after annualizing Osgood's for the first quarter of FY 1790, showed a 41% increase in revenues with virtually the same number of post offices and only 1.5% increase in transportation costs. Rich explains the increased revenue as due in large measure to a 22% growth in letters carried from 265,545 in 1790 to

324,058 in 1791 and possibly due in part to increased average distances carried, since postal rates were based primarily upon distance⁴.

This increase in the numbers of letters carried cleared up the first of a series of causes Osgood identified in his letter to Hamilton as contributing to the smallness of the Post Office's revenues under the Continental Congress's 1782 ordinance⁵. He admitted he had no remedy to suggest how to increase letter writing, but formed "an opinion from a comparative view of the wealth, numbers, and revenue, of the Post Offices of other countries," that "the Post Office of the United States ought to bring in annually nearly a half a million of dollars," under similar regulations. In fact, the number of letters carried increased an average of almost 35% per annum for the first five years of the Post Office Department with total revenues increasing to \$160,000 by 1795, but it would be twenty years (1809) before revenues would pass Osgood's half million dollar goal⁶.



Samuel Osgood

Another cause he gave was he thought postal rates were too high in some cases, dissuading writers from sending letters long distances. He cited the rates for a single letter (one sheet) set by the Continental Congress in pennyweights (dwt) and grains (gr) of silver where 24 gr = 1 dwt worth 5/90ths of a dollar and 20 dwt = 1 troy ounce worth 100/90ths of a dollar or about \$1.11:

Up to 60 miles,	1 dwt 8 gr
60 to 100 miles	2 dwt 0 gr
100 to 200 miles	2 dwt 16 gr
Each additional 100 miles	0 dwt 16 gr

On this basis he "apprehended" the cost of a single letter from Savannah, Georgia to the nation's capitol in New York City as 33/90ths of a dollar or 36 two-thirds cents, which he considered prohibitive. Implicit in his argument were the seeds of the issue whether the Post Office was to be primarily a source of revenue or to be operated as a public service.

Actually, pennyweights and grains of silver were a standard of value rather than a rate because there was no such thing as a grain or pennyweight of silver *in hand* as legal tender. Osgood noted, for example, that the postage on a single letter from New York to Philadelphia was one pennyweight eight grains of silver or sixpence two-thirds Pennsylvania currency, which could not be paid in any coin then in circulation, forcing patrons to overpay the postage by one-third pence. His recommendation was that Congress either make the rates of postage conformable to the currency of each state, which is to say to establish different rates for each state, or that the United States mint coins corresponding to the rates of postage. He seems to have missed the converse, which was to restate postal rates in terms of U.S. coinage.

The money of account at the beginning of Constitutional government was the pound, but the British government blocked the export of precious metals to its American colonies whether bullion or coin. The most prevalent coin in the colonies was the 8-reale piece called the "Spanish milled dollar" or the "piece of eight" of pirate-lore, containing about one ounce of 93% silver alloy the Spanish government minted in silver-rich Mexico and less commonly the doubloon containing about one ounce of 22 carat gold called the "Spanish gold ounce."

Aside from a wide variety of foreign coins that circulated freely and copper cents struck by a few of the colonies, the most common money was a vast variety of fractional currency issued by colonial governments and private banks and in dollar denominations by the Continental Congress; but since few if any of their issuers were prepared to redeem their notes in gold or silver, they traded at huge discounts. The practice was so scandalous the framers of the Constitution—by negation in the delegation of power to Congress "to coin money"—prohibited the printing of paper money⁷.

It can be supposed that since the majority of deputy postmasters were innkeepers or printers whose businesses involved large numbers of cash transactions, they would have been in a position to accept whatever money was offered for postage and to make their returns to the Post Office Department in whatever money of account it would accept without reference to the kind of money he had to accept from postal patrons.

Osgood's administration as Postmaster General can be viewed as undistinguished, but two factors should be considered in evaluating his incumbency. The first was that his views had a major influence on the legislation Congress would enact

in its next session after Osgood's resignation. The second factor is that the predominant political issue of his day was how broadly the sweeping powers the Constitution delegated to the new government could be interpreted. He was not alone among cautious government leaders in doubting how much authority he had to institute reforms he might have considered beneficial to the operation of the posts.

For example, where Section 8 empowered Congress to mint money and regulate its value, did that power extend to appointing a director, constructing a mint, hiring employees, and so on? Ironically, it was the arch-conservative, Alexander Hamilton, who pushed the Mint Act through Congress over conservative opposition in April 1792,

Again, the paradox was that while postal rates would be stated in cents for the first time by the Act of February 20, 1792, the first copper cents and half cents would not be issued for more than a year on March 1, 1793 and silver coins in the half dime, dime, quarter, half-dollar, and dollar values for almost three years on October 15, 1794.

Organizing the new Post Office Department proved to be a challenge that Samuel Osgood met as well as he could be expected in view of the uncertainties of his times.

Osgood was acquainted with Philadelphia from his years as a delegate to the Continental Congress (1781-84) and Commissioner of the Treasury (1785-89), but he resigned as Postmaster General in August 1791 in preference to moving to Philadelphia with the government. He then studied theology and was active in humanitarian, educational, and artistic affairs and served a term in the New York Assembly. Jefferson appointed him supervisor of internal revenue in New York in 1801 and naval officer of the port of New York in 1803 in which post he remained until his death in 1813.

Portrait of Samuel Osgood from *The Cyclopedia of American Biography*, 1892, v. I, p. 18

¹ Act of September 22, 1789, 1 Stat 70; re-enacted August 4, 1790, 1 Stat 178 and March 3, 1791, 1 Stat. 218.

² American State Papers, v. 27, pp. 8-12.

³ *Ibid*, pp. 13-4.

⁴ Rich, Wesley E., *The History of the United States Post Office to the Year 1829*, Cambridge, MA, 1924, p.182, Table I

⁵ American State Papers, *op. cit.*, pp. 5-7.

⁶ Rich, *op. cit.*, p. 184, Table III.

⁷ Constitution of the United States, Article 1, Sec. 8.

POST OFFICES OF THE UNITED STATES

Post Offices on the National Post Road from Maine to Georgia as of January 5, 1790

<i>Maine</i>	<i>New Jersey</i>	<i>Virginia</i>
Wiscasset	Newark	Alexandria
Portland	Elizabethtown	Colchester
<i>New Hampshire</i>	Brunswick	Dumfries
Portsmouth	Princeton	Fredericksburg
<i>Massachusetts</i>	Trenton	Bowling Green
Newburyport	Bristol	Hanover C.H.
Ipswich	<i>Pennsylvania</i>	Richmond
Salem	Philadelphia	Petersburg
Boston	Cherster	Cabin Point
Worcester	<i>Delaware</i>	Smithfield
Springfield	Wilmington	Suffolk
<i>Connecticut</i>	<i>Maryland</i>	<i>North Caroline</i>
Hartford	Elkton	Edenton
Middletown	Charlestown	Washington
New Haven	Havre de Grace	Newbern
Stratford	Harford	Wilmington
Norwalk	Baltimore	<i>South Carolina</i>
Fairfield	Bladensburg	Georgetown
Stamford	Georgetown	Charleston
<i>New York</i>		<i>Georgia</i>
New York		Savannah

Cross Post Roads

From Boston to New Haven via Providence, Newport, East Greenwich and South Kingston, Rhode Island and New London, Connecticut.

From Hartford to New London via Middletown, Connecticut.

From Hartford to New London and Providence, Rhode Island via Windham, Norwich, and New London, Connecticut.

From Philadelphia to Pittsburg via Lancaster, Yorktown, Carlisle, Shippensburg, Chambersburg, Bedford, and Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

From Wilmington, Delaware to Easton via Warwick, Georgetown Cross Roads, Chestertown, Chester Mills, and Easton, Maryland.

From Wilmington to Dover via Ducktown and Dover, Delaware.

From Baltimore to Annapolis, Maryland.

From Richmond to Norfolk via Williamsburg, Yorktown, Hampton, and Norfolk, Virginia

From Suffolk to Portsmouth, Virginia.

From New York to Albany, New York

From Portsmouth to Concord via Exeter and Concord, New Hampshire.

Post Offices as of October 5, 1791

Same as January 5, 1790 except Albany, New York; Exeter and Concord, New Hampshire; East Greenwich and South Kingston, Rhode Island; and Windham, Connecticut deleted and Bath, Kennebunk, and Biddleford, Maine; Bridgeport, New Jersey, and Bennington, Vermont, added; but deletion of Albany is certainly an error of omission in view of a mail route contract from Albany to Bennington and of Concord as a state capitol.



Map 1 United States Post Offices, 1790 (Source: A Century of Population Growth, GPO, Washington, DC, 1909)

Another Philippines Canceler “Casualty” Discovered

By Michael Dattolico

By late 1899, General Emilio Aguinaldo, commander of Filipino insurgents on Luzon, found himself losing more battles and territory to the superior force of American troops that pursued him. Forced from his first revolutionary capital at Malolos, Aguinaldo moved north, splitting his forces into three sections and positioning them throughout central and northern Luzon.

He attempted to establish a stronghold at Vigan, a town on the west Luzon coast (*map 1*). His choice was an ill fated one, however, as it was within range of U.S. Navy ships. On November 24, 1899, the battleship *Oregon* and the gunboats *Callao* and *Samar* bom-

barded Filipino defenses. Soon after, sailors and marines overran the town, forcing Aguinaldo to move north and east into the mountains. The U.S. Army took advantage of Vigan's strategic location and established its 1st District Headquarters, Department of Northern Luzon, there in March, 1900.

The buildup of U.S. forces prompted the need for postal service for the American soldiers stationed at and operating from Vigan. A military postal station was based at Vigan in early 1900 and remained operational until a civil government was established there in August, 1901.

Until recently, little was known about the total number and appearances of the military station cancelers used at Vigan. For years, many postal historians relied upon two publications that featured known Philippines military station cancels. One is George Goodale's article, "U.S. Military Postal Stations In The Philippines (1898-1904)" which presented a glimpse of the celebrated "warped" Vigan military station postmark. (*figure 1*). This article was included



Map 1 Northwestern Luzon showing location of Vigan. (Source: Cram's New Century Atlas of the World, 1901)



Figure 1 Goodale's image of the distorted Military Station Vigan cancellation published in the 1930s. The picture seems hand-drawn, causing one to wonder if Goodale had an actual cover showing the postmark to illustrate.

as the fourth chapter in Delf Norona's *Cyclopedia of United States Postmarks and Postal History*. The other more, comprehensive, booklet is Philip E. Baker's publication, *Postal Markings of The United States Military Stations, 1898 - 1902*, printed in 1963. Baker's catalog shows a picture of a normal undistorted cancellation used at the Vigan military post office (*figure 2*).

Figure 2 Military Station Vigan's postmark illustrated in Philip Baker's *Postal Markings of The United States Military Stations, 1898 - 1902*.



Today, most Philippines postal history students will agree that both publications are obsolete. Luckily, Nestor Nunez and Alfred Kugel have identified and classified other cancellations used at the Vigan military post office. That information will be published in their upcoming book which will offer a complete look at military postal operations throughout the Philippine Islands in the early years of the 20th century. Kugel and Nunez have identified five different military station cancelers used at Vigan during its military period of occupation, plus three other cancelers that were used during the late military period and throughout the civilian administration era that commenced in 1901.

Kugel and Nunez have designated the Vigan military station cancelers by number and abbreviation. They use the letters "DS" for date stamp and numbers to indicate the order in which they were used. Thus, DS1 is the first cancellation seen on Vigan military station mail. Cancellations DS1 through DS5 are shown as figures 3 through 7. Kugel and Nunez have also iden-

tified four separate obliterator used with the various cancelers. They have listed them as AX1 through AX4, although they all are not shown here.

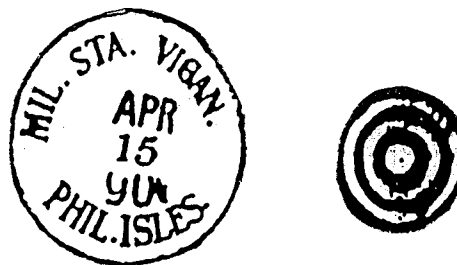


Figure 5 Cancel DS3. A single-ring rubber datestamp with a 3-ring killer without the scalloped or serrated appearance of DS2. The cancel was struck in black ink. The earliest recorded date is April 9, 1900. The latest known date is April 15, 1900.

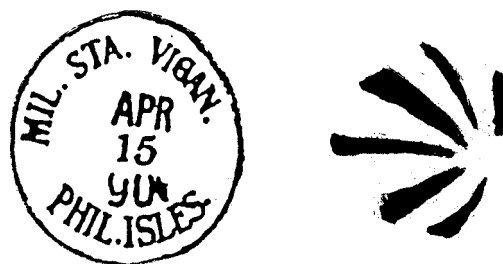


Figure 6 Cancel DS4. The original cancellation appeared much like DS3 but was not a duplex with the 3-ring killer. A six-petal "rosette" obliterator was applied separately to the stamp (shown at right here Kugel/ Nunez AX3). Only two examples are known. They are dated April 27, 1900 and May 1, 1900. It is the DS4 cancel that appears warped or distorted on the wrapper shown as figure 8.

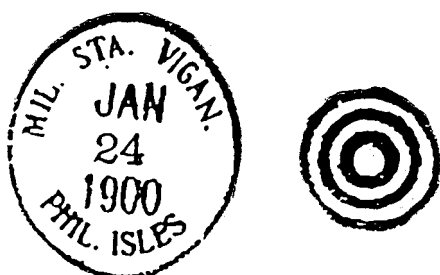


Figure 3 Cancellation classified by Kugel & Nunez as DS1. It was a single-ring rubber duplex canceler with a 3-ring killer with serified letters struck in black ink. The earliest known date seen for this cancel is January 16, 1900. The latest recorded date is February 16, 1900.



Figure 4 Kugel & Nunez cancel DS2. This is the most unique cancellation of the known Vigan-military station postmarks. It is not known whether this device was a regular circular design damaged by tropical heat, or whether it was a fancy cancel that was warped by tropical conditions. The cancel was struck in black ink. The earliest date known is February 23, 1900. The latest recorded date is April 3, 1900.



Figure 7 Single-ring rubber datestamp seen used without a killer. It was struck in black ink. The obvious differences from the other cancelers are that the wording in the dial has slipped, and the "I" in Vigan did not appear when the marker was impressed on the mailed item. It tends to show up almost as an apostrophe. The earliest known date is April 27, 1900. The latest date that this cancel has been seen is May 14, 1900.

If anything is certain, it is that the most up-to-date knowledge can be altered by the discovery of a newly found cover or related item which illustrates previously unknown features that are significant. That is the situation describing the wrapper shown as *figure 8*, discovered at the Garfield Perry Show in Cleveland in March 2001. When first seen, it was assumed that the distorted cancel shown at the lower right corner was an example of Goodale's illustration and a Kugel/Nunez type DS2. But then it was learned that the six petal "rosette" obliterator shown on each stamp of the wrapper was not used with DS2. According to Kugel and Nunez, the rosette killer was used only on the DS4 cancel design. Here is where the real story begins.

Kugel and Nunez have originally shown the DS4 cancel to be an undamaged type of the Vigan military cancellations. But the mangled cancel shown used

with the 6-petal rosette obliterators indicates another unknown, uncatalogued Vigan "warped" cancel, knowledge of which Kugel has since confirmed. Thus, two different Vigan devices are known to have been damaged yet were still used at the military postal station. This discovery will likely be assimilated into the body of facts being assembled by authors.

Why is news of this warped device important? Like the well-known damaged cancel first identified by Goodale— designated as DS2 by Kugel/ Nunez—the distorted DS4 model represents a unique phenomenon. It must be included in the overall recounting of America's military postal operations in the Philippines if the record is to be truly accurate. But an explanation about DS4s distortion must be given if present and future postal historians understand the cause of canceler DS4s destruction.

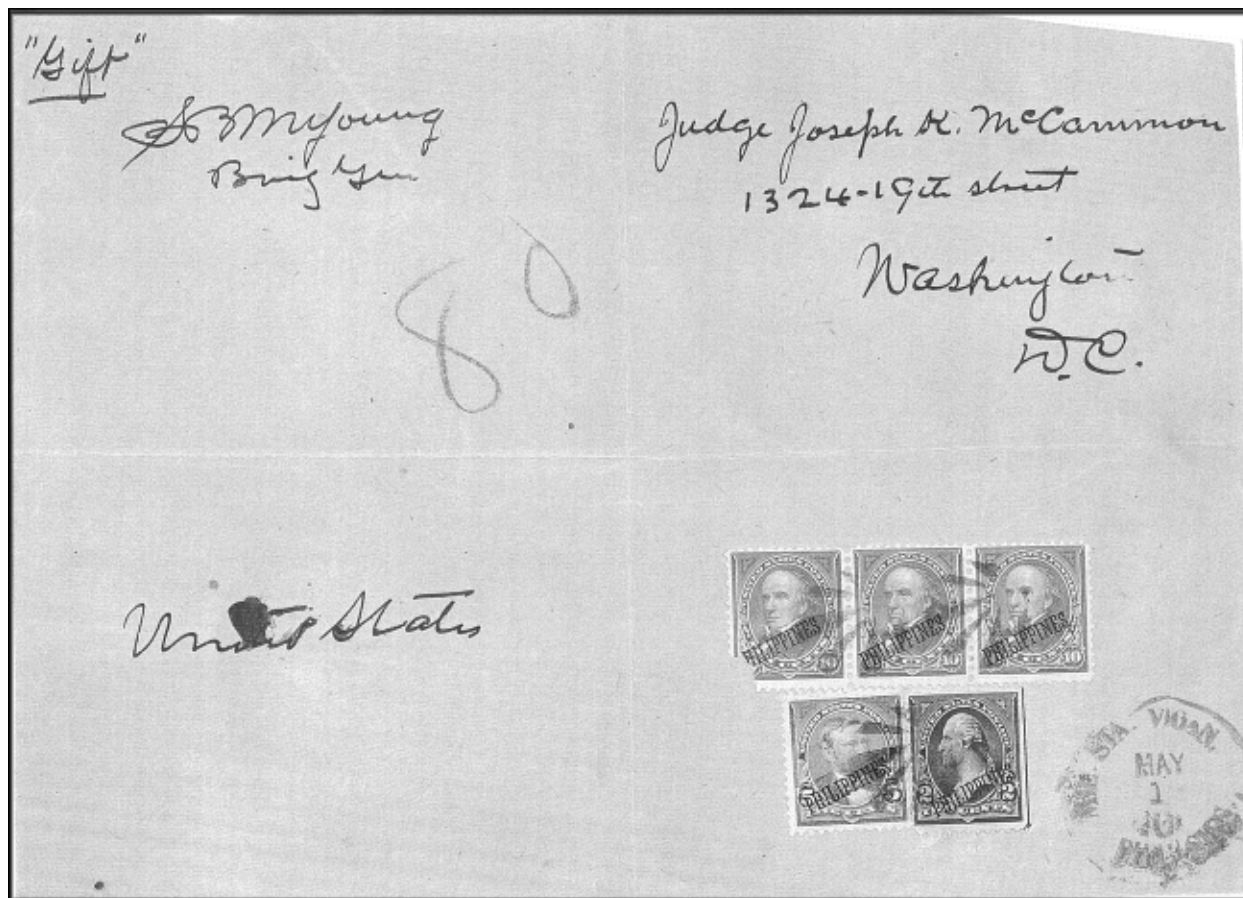


Figure 8 Portion of package wrapper mailed from the Vigan military postal station by General S.B.M. Young on May 1, 1900, to a Washington, D.C. judge. The most notable aspects are the general's signature seen at the upper-left corner; the strip of three 10-cent brown U.S. overprinted stamps and single copies of a 5-cent and 2-cent Philippine overprinted U.S. stamp struck by the 6-petal "rosette" obliterator; and the DS4 cancellation that, by May 1, was distorted by heat and/or overuse. Prior to March, 2001, this was an unknown "warped" DS4 cancel similar to the DS2 device.

The tropical heat and humidity is horrific in the Philippine islands, which lie just north of the Equator. That fact, plus the flimsy rubber cancelers manufactured for use there in 1900, probably contributed to DS4s demise. Perhaps a clerk carelessly left the rubber postmarker lying in the sun, causing it to melt, or it was simply defective.

The ruined canceler may have been the impetus for creating the 6-petal rosette obliterator, its attractive appearance intended to offset the damaged circle date postmarker. No other reason is known for the rosette's creation and usage, since it seems to appear only with the DS4 device.

Of course, the Vigan cancelers were not the only ones damaged by the heat and humidity. Some of the Manila cancelers which appear as ovals are likely heat damaged pieces. Others, such as the Military Station Aparri canceler, were probably warped by climatic conditions but were nevertheless used. One wonders how many other postmarkers were distorted but were still put into service. Examples of mail bearing other warped cancellations may exist and are awaiting discovery. It is important that collectors do not disregard or overlook such distortions. They are an integral part of the Philippines story.

The *figure 8* wrapper itself has some interesting features. First, it was mailed by Brigadier-General S. M. Young, a cavalry commander based at Vigan, to a judge in Washington, D.C. General Young's signature is seen at the upper left corner of the wrapper. Also, it contained a gift, as evidenced by that word seen at the extreme upper left corner. Finally, the 37-cents rate of postage is not commonly seen, especially with the stamps struck with the separate six-petal rosette device used at Vigan.

It is difficult to maintain a completely accurate flow of information in this time of newly found, previously unknown items of significance. Anyone updating obsolete publications accepts the fact that new finds must be melded into the main body of information. It is an inconvenience that postal history researchers accept and acknowledge. Their goal, after all, is to present an accurate accounting of what occurred during a specific period in our country's postal history. One has great respect for the work that researchers/historians do on behalf of future generations of collectors and students of postal history. It is exciting when a collector can play a minor role in those efforts.

Randy Stehle Mail Bid No. 96

16 Iris Court, San Mateo, CA 94401

Phone: (650) 344-3080;

Email: RSTEHLE@ix.netcom.com

CALIFORNIA

- 1 BARNWELL, 1909 F 4-BAR ON PPC (07-15). EST. \$25
- 2 BERKELEY, CAL REC'D/LOR. STA G+ CDS B/S ON CVR (00-02). \$10
- 3 BETTERAVIA, 1920 VG DOANE MIMIC ON COVER. EST. \$10
- 4 COOPERSTOWN, 1932 F CDS MIMIC ON LD COVER (01-32). EST. \$5
- 5 EASTLAND, 1903 VG DUPLEX ON PPC (92-04). EST. \$15
- 6 EVERGREEN, 1909 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (70/35). EST. \$5
- 7 GONZALES, 1908 VG 4-BAR ON PPC. EST. \$4
- 8 GRUBGULCH, 1909 VG DOANE ON PPC (83-18). EST. \$20
- 9 HERCULES, 1918 VG 4-BAR MIMIC ON PPC. EST. \$4
- 10 HUASNA, 1911 F 4-BAR ON PPC (99-10). EST. \$20
- 11 HUNTERS, 1910 VG DOANE ON PPC (88-30). EST. \$6
- 12 JOLON, 1909 F DOANE REC'D & O/S ON PPC. EST. \$4
- 13 JUNCTION CITY/RECEIVED, 1908 F DC ON PPC W/DEDRICK DOANE. \$5
- 14 JUPITER, 1909 VG CDS ON PPC (01-22). EST. \$15
- 15 LOCKWOOD, 1908 VG DOANE ON WRINKLED PPC. EST. \$4
- 16 MAYHEWS, 1910 F 4-BAR ON PPC (91-22). EST. \$15
- 17 MIST, 1914 F 4-BAR ON PPC (13-35). EST. \$6
- 18 MOUNTAIN HOUSE/SIERRA CO, 1910 VG DC T & C ON PPC (74-11) 25
- 19 MT. WILSON, 1904 F DC SCARAB ON PPC (04-64). EST. \$8
- 20 POMIN'S, 1924 F 5-BAR ON COVER (15-42). EST. \$6
- 21 QUAIL, 1913 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (12-14). EST. \$75
- 22 REIFF, 1912 4-BAR ON COVER (81/41). EST. \$6

COLORADO

- 23 ARMSTRONG, 1916 G+ 4-BAR ON PPC (11-17). EST. \$20
- 24 BYERS, 1909 DUPLEX MIMIC ON PPC. EST. \$5
- 25 BYERS, 1911 F 4-BAR MIMIC ON PPC. EST. \$5
- 26 CONIFER, 11/18/07 VG LKU DOANE ON PPC (94-29). EST. \$12
- 27 MEREDITH, 1909 VG TARGET MIMIC ON PPC. EST. \$5
- 28 NORTON, 1912 VG CDS ON PPC (99-15). EST. \$20
- 29 NYBURG, 1907 F 4-BAR REC'D ON PPC W/SM TEAR (89-18). E. \$15
- 30 PEORIA, 1911 VG 4-BAR MIMIC ON PPC (06-14). EST. \$20
- 31 RENE, 1920 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (12-21). EST. \$20
- 32 SQUIRREL CREEK, 1911 F 4-BAR MIMIC (BARS OFF PPC) (11-16) \$25
- 33 WIGWAM, 1908 G+ 4-BAR ON PPC W/COR BEND/TEAR (82-22) \$8

MONTANA

- 34 ABSAROKEE, 1918 F 4-BAR MIMIC ON PPC. EST. \$5
- 35 BRADY, 1913 VG 4-BAR MIMIC ON PPC. EST. \$5
- 36 CHICO, 1914 F 4-BAR ON PPC (74-19). EST. \$6
- 37 CRESTON, 1909 VG DUPLEX MIMIC AS TRANSIT MARK ON PPC. \$6
- 38 ELECTRIC, 1909 VG 4-BAR MIMIC ON PPC (04-15). EST. \$20
- 39 ELGIN, 1913 VG 4-BAR MIMIC ON PPC (11-38). EST. \$6
- 40 GRASSRANGE, 1916 F DC 4-BAR MIMIC ON PPC. EST. \$5
- 41 HUNTLEY, 1909 G+ TARGET MIMIC ON CREASED PPC. EST. \$4
- 42 INGOMAR, 1911 VG 4-BAR (EARLY USAGE) ON PPC. EST. \$4
- 43 LAMBERT, 1917 F 4-BAR MIMIC ON PPC. EST. \$4
- 44 LAMBERT, 1920 G+ DC 4-BAR MIMIC ON PPC. EST. \$4
- 45 NIARADA, 1925 F 4-BAR MIMIC ON PPC. EST. \$4
- 46 PARK CITY, 1918 G+ DC 4-BAR MIMIC ON PPC. EST. \$4
- 47 POPLAR, 1909 F 4-BAR MIMIC ON PPC. EST. \$4
- 48 POWER, 1913 VG TARGET MIMIC ON PPC. EST. \$4
- 49 SALTESE, 1908 G TARGET MIMIC ON PPC. EST. \$4
- 50 TWODOT, 1908 VG DUPLEX MIMIC ON COVER. EST. \$6

WASHINGTON

- 51 CEDAR HOME (STANWOOD), ca 1910 TY 11E (DATE) RFD ON PPC. \$5
- 52 COLEY, 1909 F 4-BAR MIMIC ON PPC (84-54). EST. \$5
- 53 FAIRBANKS, ca 1910 G+ 4-BAR ON PPC W/2nd STAMP ON DATE. \$15
- 54 FERNDALE, 1921 VG SLOGAN MIMIC ON PPC. EST. \$12
- 55 FORTSON, 1916 VG MACHINE MIMIC ON PPC. EST. \$12
- 56 GRACE, 1911 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (09-11). EST. \$75
- 57 INDEX, 1924 VG MACHINE MIMIC ON PPC W/COR BEND. EST. \$8
- 58 LAKE CUSHMAN, 1904 PARTIAL CDS ON PPC OF LAKE (92-23). \$8
- 59 LANGLEY, ca 1910 TY 11F RFD (SCRIBBLE ONLY) ON PPC. EST. \$6
- 60 MONOHAN, 9/13/10 VG ECU DOANE ON PPC (88-26). EST. \$6
- 61 OLALLA, ca 1910 TY 11F RFD (SCRIBBLE ONLY) ON PPC. EST. \$6
- 62 REARDAN, 1909 F DC W/STARBURST KILLER ON PPC. EST. \$12
- 63 RETSIL, 1924 VG DUPLEX MIMIC ON PPC W/SM TEAR. EST. \$8
- 64 RICHARDSON, 1913 G 4-BAR MIMIC ON PPC. EST. \$4
- 65 RIPARIA, ca 1908 VG DC CDS MIMIC ON PPC (82/63). EST. \$6
- 66 SEATTLE, STA NO. 1, 1920 F DC REC'D ON GPC. EST. \$5
- 67 SEATTLE/STA W, ca 1909 VG DUPLEX ON PPC (08-36). EST. \$5
- 68 SEATTLE, UNIVERSITY STA, 1901 G 4-BAR MIMIC ON PPC. EST. \$12
- 69 SKYKOMISH, 1936 G MACHINE MIMIC ON PPC. EST. \$5
- 70 TACOMA/STA P, 1908 VG DUPLEX ON PPC (05-54). EST. \$4

RAILWAY POST OFFICES (RPO)

- 71 ALAMOSA & DURANGO, 1935 F (955-F-4) ON COVER. EST. \$8
- 72 ALTON BAY & MERRY, 1937 VG (C-13-b) ON PPC. EST. \$6
- 73 ARLINGTON & CONDON, 1943 F (896.1-A-1) ON 3x5 CARD. EST. \$6
- 74 ASHFORK & PHOENIX, 1940 VG (967-A-6) ON GPC. EST. \$6
- 75 BAINVILLE & OPHEIM, 1935 VG (891.3-A-1) ON COVER. EST. \$8
- 76 B. LINE & GRAFTON, 1934 VG (889-E-1) ON COVER. EST. \$6
- 77 BROWN(WOOD) & CLOVIS, 1927 PARTIAL (484-C-1) ON CVR. E. \$4
- 78 CALEXICO & LOS ANG, 1916 F (994.1-D-1) ON PPC. EST. \$6
- 79 CANASTOTA & ELMIRA, 1891 (NEW TY) ON CVR RED'D INTO STMP. 4
- 80 CHADRON & LANDER, 1908 G+ (936-F-3) ON PPC. EST. \$5
- 81 CLEVE HUD & COL, 1911 VG (573-H-1) ON PPC. EST. \$6
- 82 COBRE & ELY, 1910 VG (977.1-A-2) ON PPC. EST. \$20
- 83 COLUMBUS & ATHENS, 1919 G (575-C-1) ON PPC. EST. \$5
- 84 CRAFTONV & LOS ANG, 1906 VG (994.2-A-2) O/S ON PPC. EST. \$8
- 85 CURLEW & SPOKANE, 1927 VG (902.1-B-2) ON CVR W/SM TEAR. \$8
- 86 EDMESTON & SIDNEY, 1918 G+ (142-A-1) ON COVER. EST. \$6
- 87 FAIRMONT & CHESTER, 1910 F (947.6-B-1) ON PPC. EST. \$10
- 88 FT. KENT & BANGOR, 1919 G+ (16-E-2) ON COVER. EST. \$6
- 89 GRANDVIEW & NO. YAKIMA, 1917 F (901.6-A-1) ON GPC. EST. \$15
- 90 LENOIR & LANCASTER, 1909 F (334-G-2) ON PPC. EST. \$8

Minimum Bid \$3.00 please. Phone bids accepted.

CLOSING DATE: June 12, 2002 (10PM Pacific)

Sub-station Postal Markings With “Sub” 1890-1910

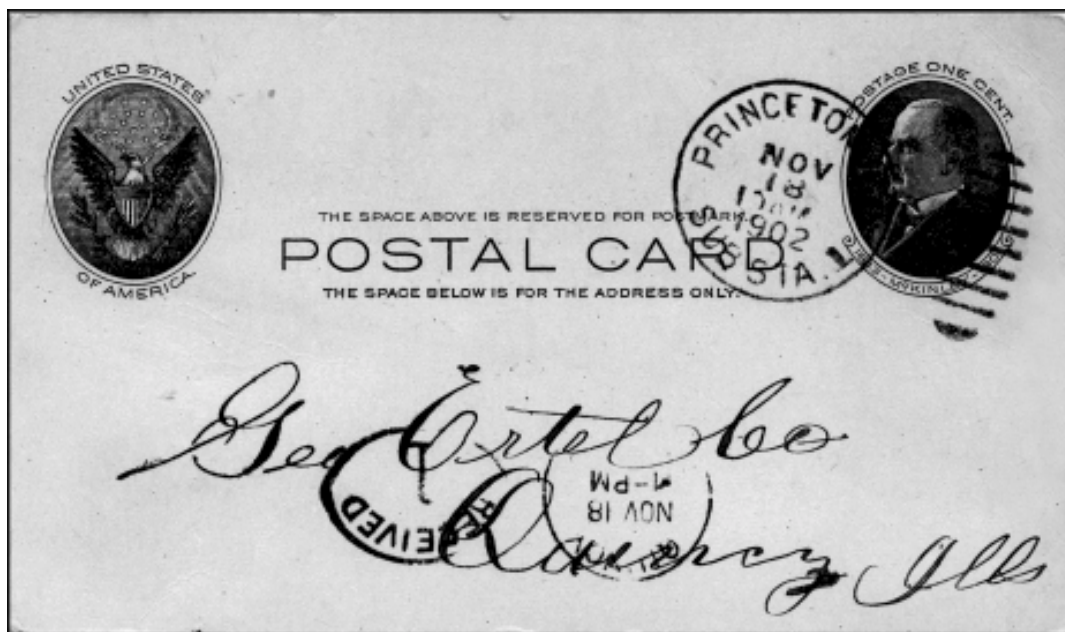


Figure 1 A metal ovate duplex marking with horizontal bars in the ellipse. Princeton, Illinois' Sub-Station No. 1 was established February 1, 1900, and changed to North End Station November 1, 1900. The marking is dated after the change.

by **Dennis H. Pack**

Between 1890 and 1902, the neighborhood post offices in many cities across the United States were designated sub-stations. This article looks at sub-station postal markings that include “sub” used between 1890 and 1910.

The article first reviews the history of the sub-station designation, considers what types of markings might contain “sub”, lists the cities that could have postmarks with “sub”, and starts a census of known markings with “sub” from this period. Readers are invited to submit their markings for inclusion in updates.

Sub-station History¹

Limited service postal stations were established by the Postmaster General in the early 1880s. These differed from “full” or carrier stations in that they did not house letter carriers, so mail was not delivered from them. The limited service stations were usually housed in drugstores or other businesses.

The Postmaster General first referred to limited service stations as sub-stations in 1882,² but it was not until 1890 that “sub-station” was included as part of the name.³ The naming of early sub-stations was haphazard. About two percent had local names, less than one percent were designated by letters, and the over-

whelming majority were designated by numbers. Starting in 1894, the Postmaster General started to make the designation and names of stations more uniform.

In 1897, the Postmaster General reported to Congress: Stations and substations are established in the larger cities to facilitate the delivery of mails, and to furnish postal facilities for patrons remote from the main office. Carrier stations distribute and dispatch mail and transact money-order and registry business, and have all the facilities of a free-delivery post-office. Substations are usually located in drug stores, transact money-order and registry business, and handle stamps and postal supplies. The larger carrier stations are on a parity with many offices of the first class in point of stamp sales and money-order and registry business.⁴

Late in 1897, the Postmaster General explained how they were to be named:

The following classification of stations and sub-stations is hereby adopted:

All stations or sub-stations, as now designated, that receive and dispatch mail, either by carriers or through boxes and general delivery, will be known as stations and will be designated by letters or local names. Sub-stations issue and pay money orders, register letters and parcels, sell postal supplies, but do not deliver mail, and will be designated by numbers.⁵

Sub-stations handled small quantities of outgoing mail and no incoming mail. No mail was delivered by or from sub-stations. Probably, only mail handed to clerks received sub-station markings. All other mail was sent to full stations or the main post office for sorting and dispatch, and, much of it, postmarking.

The official designation of "sub"-station was only used 1890-1902, so the longest any sub-station could have operated was 12 years. Few lasted that long. Post Office Department records indicate

- § 42 sub-stations were created in 1890,
- § 14 were created between 1891-93,
- § 837 were created between 1894-98 with 172 being discontinued or made full stations,
- § 913 were created between 1899-1901 with 71 being discontinued or made full stations.⁶

April 1, 1902, "sub" was dropped, and all sub-stations became numbered stations. Sub-stations were the predecessors of modern contract stations and other postal units now found at supermarket service counters and other places.

Types Of Markings Used By Sub-stations

The services offered by sub-stations and the time period during which they operated determined the markings they used. Services included receiving registered letters and parcels into the mail stream, issuing money orders and selling stamps and other postal supplies. While not specifically mentioned in Post Office Department orders, special delivery mail was posted at least some sub-stations.

Metal Duplex Cancels

Most of the mail posted at sub-stations was sent to the main post office or larger stations for sorting and canceling, so there was only a limited need for postmarkers/cancelers for first class mail. Probably, only letter mail handed to clerks at sub-stations was canceled with a duplex cancel. Between 1890 and 1902, three types of metal duplex cancels and one sub-type are reported as being used at sub-stations. These are shown in *figure 2*.

The first metal duplex cancel has circles in the ellipse and was reportedly issued about 1888-1895.⁷ The year date appears as four digits inside the postmark.

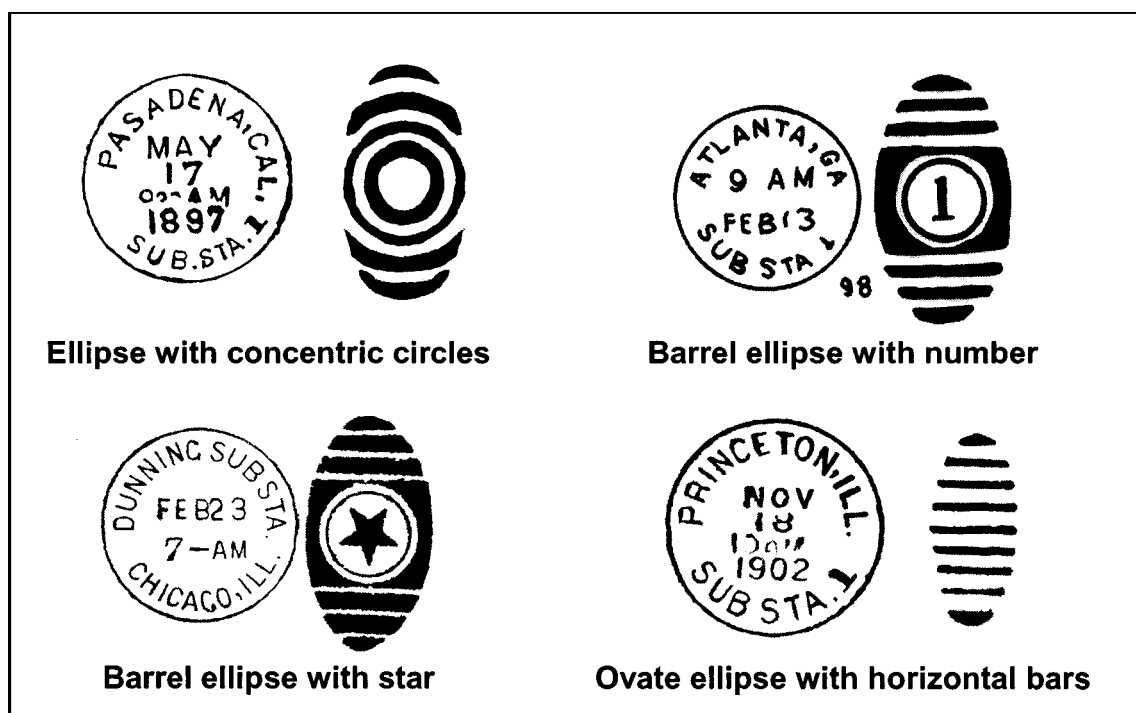


Figure 2 Metal duplex cancels used at sub-stations.

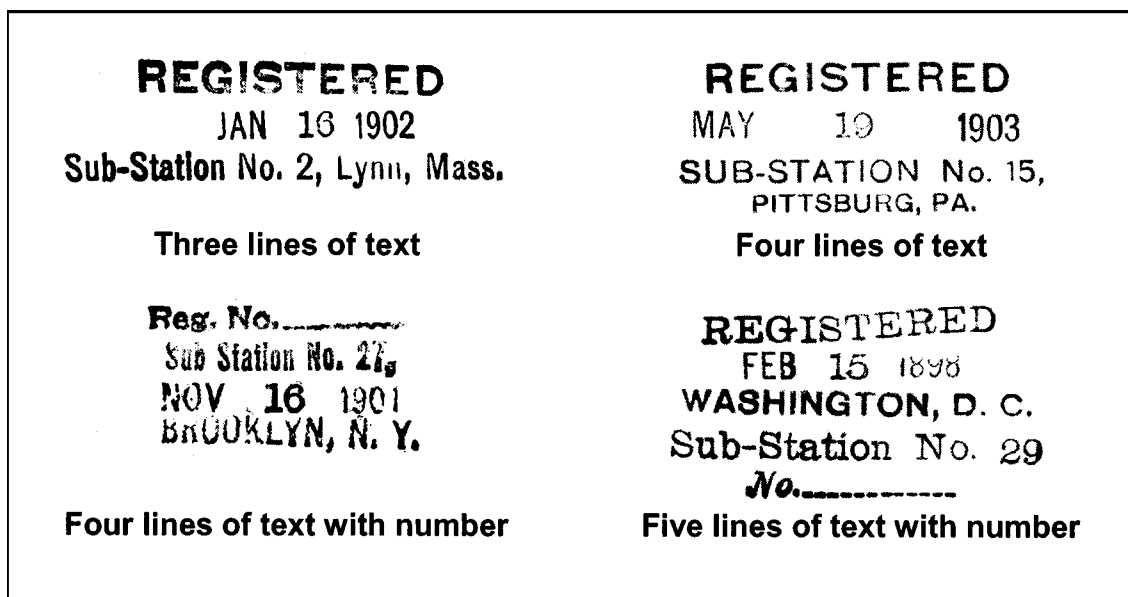


Figure 3 Straight-line registration markings used at sub-stations.

The most common metal duplex cancel used by sub-stations is the barrel duplex which was issued to first and second class post offices and their stations starting in 1895.⁸ Although this does not carry over to other types of stations, the number in the barrel of ellipse is that of the sub-station in all of the barrel sub-station cancels seen by the author. The year date appears as two digits between the postmark and the ellipse. A barrel cancel sub-type used by named Chicago sub-stations has a star in the center of the barrel and no year date.

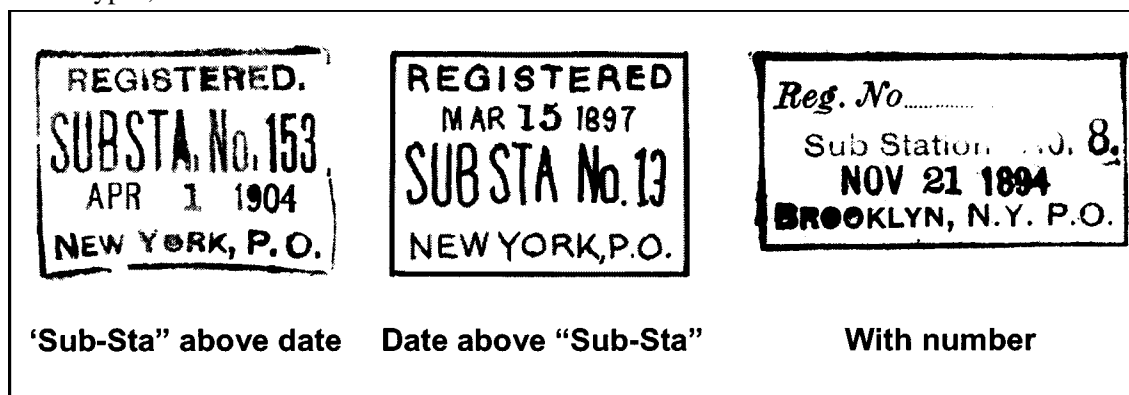
The third type of metal duplex used by sub-stations is probably the least common because it was used for the shortest period of time. Ovate bar duplexes were first issued to third class post offices in 1898 and later to more active fourth class offices.⁹ The year date is four digits inside the postmark.

Registration Markings

Registration markings are the most common type of sub-station postal marking. The author has seen two basic types, each of which has variations.

Straight-line sub-station registration markings are reported from all over the country. The basic design for most has four lines of type that contain the word REGISTERED, the date, the sub-station number or name, and the name of the parent post office. A variety of type sizes and fonts are used. A design variation from Lynn, Massachusetts, has three lines of type with the sub-station number and parent post office on the same line. Other design variations have four or five lines of type, one of which has a place to record the registration number of the article being mailed. Straight-line registration markings are shown in *figure 3*.

Boxed sub-station registration markings, shown in *figure 4*, are reported from several cities, particularly New York City. The New York City sub-station boxed markings do not include the article number. Minor variations show the sub-station number above the date or the date above the sub-station number. Boxed sub-



*Figure 4
Boxed
registration
markings
used at
sub-
stations.*

station markings from Brooklyn, New York, include a place to record the registration number of the article being mailed.

The author has not seen double circle date stamp (DCDS) registration markings with “sub”. DCDS registration markings without “sub” were used at sub-stations during between 1890 and 1902 in Washington, DC, and other cities. Since they do not contain sub, they are not included here.

Special Purpose Markings

Two types of DCDS sub-station special purpose markings have been reported: Received and M.O.B. (Money Order Business), as shown in *figure 5*. The only sub-station received DCDS marking reported to date is from Troy, New York.

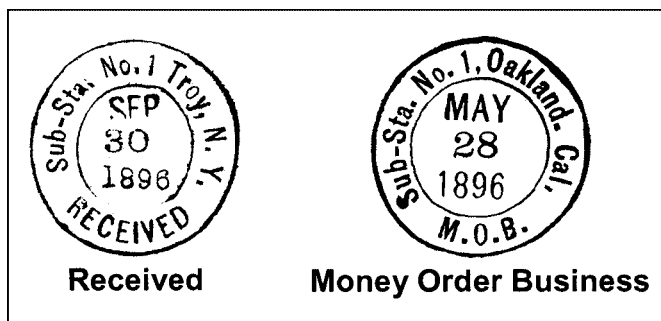


Figure 5 Special purpose markings—Double circle date stamps

Sub-Station Money Order Business DCDS markings were widely used, but not often to cancel mail. They were intended for use on paperwork relating to money orders, and are most often seen there. An Advice of U.S. Postal Money Order form with a sub-station M.O.B. marking is shown in *figure 6*.

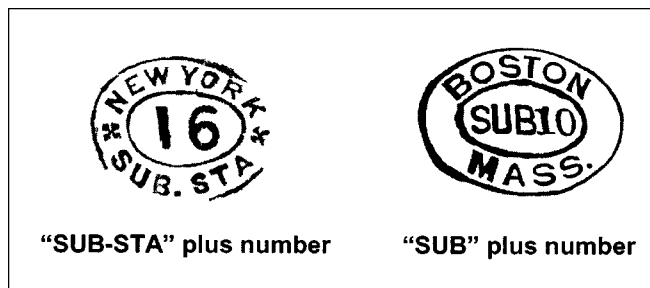


Figure 7 Double oval handstamps.

Double-Oval Cancels

Double oval cancels were used at sub-stations to cancel stamps on parcels and registered letters. Some simply canceled the stamps and were mute where they were applied. Others contained the name of the parent post office. A few include “sub”. Two types are shown in *figure 7*. One, used in New York City, includes “sub-sta” and the sub-station number. A second, reported from Boston, has “sub” and the sub-station number. To date, all of the numbers in sub-station double-oval cancels seen by the author are the same as the sub-station number. This is not true of double-oval cancels without “sub”.

Special Delivery Markings.

The only reported sub-station special delivery markings with “sub” are from Washington, DC. The example shown in *figure 8* through the courtesy of Carl Stieg does not include the name of the city.

Figure 6 An Advice of U.S. Postal Money Order form from Chicago's Sub-Station No. 56 for a money order to be paid at Eureka, Utah.

Figure 8 This special delivery marking from Washington, DC's Sub-Station 19 does not include the name of the city.

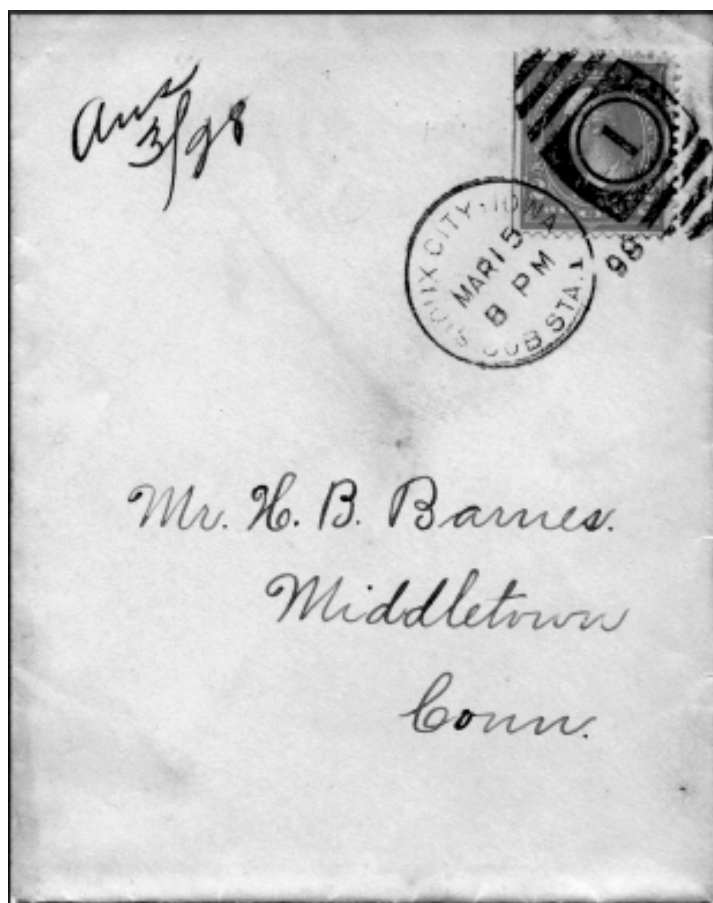


Figure 9 A barrel duplex marking from Sioux City, Iowa's Sub-Station No. 1. Three examples of this marking are listed in the census. Sioux City's Leeds Station was changed to Sub-Station No. 1 March 1, 1896. It was redesignated Station No. 1 April 1, 1902.

There are a few non-standard markings from sub-stations. They are included in the census, but not described as part of this study.

Cities That Might Have Sub-station Postmarks

The cities where sub-stations were established can be determined from records of the Post Office Department. Each establishment, change or discontinuation of a sub-station was the result of an order by the Postmaster General. The orders are recorded in the *Journals of the Postmaster General*. Starting in 1894, they were also published in the *Daily Bulletin of Orders Affecting the Postal Service*, known now as the *Postal Bulletin*.

A review of the Orders of the Postmaster General 1890-1894 and the *Postal Bulletin* 1894-1902 reveals that 251 cities in 39 states and the District of Columbia had sub-stations established in them. Massachu-

setts led with 32 cities, New York followed with 23. Seven states only had one city with sub-stations. The states and cities that are listed as having sub-stations are listed in *table 1*. The cities from which sub-station markings are listed in the census are in *italics*.

"Sub"-Station Postmark Census

The purpose of this census is to report every sub-station postal marking with "sub" known to the author. It is hoped that what is listed here is only the beginning.

The process of creating the census has involved studying all of the materials that might contain illustrations of markings. A major source of information has been the CDs of the pages of the Willett-Thompson Collection available from the Postmark Collectors Club.¹⁰ The author has searched CDs one through five.

Other sources include the author's collection, photocopies provided the author by collectors and dealers, books, and *La Posta* articles.

The key to the census listings is in *table 2*.

The census is incomplete. The CDs for large cities such as New York City and Chicago, and some states are not yet available. Even so, the available data shows some interesting patterns. A breakdown of the markings by use and type is in *table 3*. It was expected that registration mark-

ings would be the most common type of making. Seventy-five of the 147 markings, about half, are registration markings from 19 cities. Forty, about a fourth, are metal duplex markings, with 14 cities represented. The 16 M.O.B. DCDS markings are from eight cities. Most of the ten double-oval markings are on registered covers.

Eighty-nine of the markings are dated 1895-98. Only five are dated before 1895, and 18 1899-1902. Eighteen markings are dated after the sub-station designation was discontinued. The latest use of a marking with "sub" is June 30, 1910, in Elgin, Illinois.

The census lists multiple markings and multiple types of markings from some sub-stations. For example, Chicago's Sub-Station 56 has a barrel duplex marking, a registration marking and a M.O.B. marking. It was established April 1, 1896, and changed to the Board of Trade Station December 1, 1898. There are four examples listed of a metal duplex cancel from

Table 1 CITIES LISTED IN THE POSTAL BULLETIN AS HAVING SUB-STATIONS

Alabama	Birmingham, Montgomery
Arkansas	Fort Smith, Little Rock
California	Alameda, Berkeley, <i>Los Angeles</i> , <i>Oakland</i> , <i>Pasadena</i> , Presidio, Sacramento, San Diego, <i>San Francisco</i> , San Jose, Santa Barbara, Santa Rosa, Stockton
Connecticut	Bridgeport, Hartford, <i>Meriden</i> , New Haven, <i>Norwich</i> , Torrington, Wallingford, Waterbury
District of Columbia	<i>Washington</i>
Delaware	Wilmington
Florida	Tampa
Georgia	<i>Atlanta</i> , Augusta, Macon, Savanna
Iowa	Cedar Falls, Cedar Rapids, Clinton, Des Moines, Dubuque, Marshalltown, Ottumwa, <i>Sioux City</i> , Waterloo
Illinois	Bloomington, Cairo, Centralia, Champaign, <i>Chicago</i> , <i>Elgin</i> , Evanston, Harvey, Moline, Oak Park, Peoria, <i>Princeton</i> , Quincy, Rockford
Indiana	Hammond, Indianapolis, Lafayette, Richmond, South Bend
Kansas	Galena, Kansas City, Topeka
Kentucky	Ashland, Covington, Louisville, Maysville, Newport
Louisiana	<i>New Orleans</i>
Massachusetts	Adams, Amesbury, Athol, Beverly, <i>Boston</i> , Brockton, Danvers, Dedham, Fall River, Fitchburg, Gardner, Gloucester, <i>Haverhill</i> , Holyoke, Hyde Park, Lawrence, Leominster, <i>Lowell</i> , <i>Lynn</i> , Malden, Medford, Melrose, New Bedford, Newton Center, Pittsfield, <i>Quincy</i> , Salem, Springfield, Taunton, Waltham, Watertown, Worcester
Maryland	<i>Baltimore</i> , Cumberland
Maine	Augusta, Portland
Michigan	Alpena, Bay City, Detroit, <i>Grand Rapids</i> , Jackson, <i>Muskegon</i> , Owosso, Port Huron, <i>Saginaw</i> , Saginaw East Side, Saginaw West Side, West Bay City
Minnesota	Duluth, Minneapolis, Saint Paul
Missouri	Joplin, Kansas City, Saint Joseph, Saint Louis, Springfield
Montana	<i>Butte</i> , Helena
Nebraska	Omaha
North Carolina	Asheville
New Hampshire	Concord, Manchester, Nashua
New Jersey	Asbury Park, Atlantic City, Bayonne, Buffalo, Camden, East Orange, Elizabeth, Hackensack, Hoboken, Jersey City, Longbranch, Merchantville, Newark, Orange, Passaic, Paterson, Plainfield, Redbank, Rutherford, Trenton, West Hoboken
New York	Albany, Auburn, Bath, Binghamton, <i>Brooklyn</i> , Buffalo, Corning, Elmira, Jamaica, Kingston, Lockport, Long Island City, Mount Vernon, <i>New York</i> , Nyack, Olean, Oneonta, Poughkeepsie, Rochester, Syracuse, <i>Troy</i> , Utica, Yonkers
Ohio	<i>Akron</i> , Alliance, Canton, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Conneaut, Dayton, East Liverpool, Findlay, Hamilton, Ironton, Lima, Lorain, New Philadelphia, Portsmouth, Springfield, Toledo, Youngstown
Oregon	Portland
Pennsylvania	Allegheny, Braddock, Easton, Erie, Harrisburg, <i>Lancaster</i> , Newcastle, Norristown, <i>Philadelphia</i> , <i>Pittsburg</i> , Pittston, Reading, Scranton, Tyrone, Vandergrift, Williamsport, York
Rhode Island	Newport, Pawtucket, <i>Providence</i>
South Carolina	Columbia, Greenville, Spartanburg
Tennessee	Knoxville, Memphis, <i>Nashville</i>
Texas	Belton, Dallas, Houston, Waco
Utah	Salt Lake City
Virginia	Alexandria, Charlottesville, Danville, Fredericksburg, Lexington, Newport News, Norfolk, Petersburg, Richmond
Vermont	Bennington, Burlington, Saint Johnsbury
Washington	Everett, <i>Seattle</i> , Spokane, <i>Tacoma</i>
Wisconsin	Fond du lac, <i>Green Bay</i> , La Crosse, Milwaukee, Oshkosh, Racine
West Virginia	Huntington, Martinsburg

Cities in *italics* have sub-station markings with “sub” reported from them.

Table 2 - KEY TO SUB-STATION POSTMARK CENSUS LISTINGS

State: The state where the sub-station is located.

City: The post office with administrative responsibility for the sub-station.

Sub-Station: The name or number designation of the sub-station.

Postmark Type: Describes the postmark.

Codes are **duplex** is a metal ovate duplex cancel.

- **circle** indicates the ellipse is made up of concentric circles.

- **barrel** () indicates the center of the ellipse is barrel-shaped. The parentheses tell what is in the center of the barrel. A number is the number that appears in the barrel. S = star. Empty parentheses indicate whatever is in the barrel is unreadable.

- **bar** indicates the ellipse is ovate with horizontal bars.

- **wo ellipse** indicates only the circular postmark is present.

- **reg** indicates a registration cancel.

- **SL 3, 4 or 5** indicates it is a straight line marking with three, four or five lines of text.

- **w no** indicates there is a place in the marking for the registered article number.

- **boxed** indicates the marking is surrounded by a border.

- **DCDS** is a double circular date stamp.

- **MOB** is for Money Order Business.

- **Received** is what it says.

- **dbl oval** is a double oval handstamp without date.

- **sub + no** indicates the marking includes "sub" and the number indicated.

- **SS + no** indicates the marking includes "sub-sta" and the number indicated.

- **sp del** is a special delivery marking.

- **SL 5 w no** indicates it is a straight line marking with five lines of text and a place for an article number.

Date: The date of the postmark. **X** indicates a digit is unreadable. **NOYR** indicates that the postmark does not include a year date. **ND** indicates the marking does not contain a date.

Format Codes are **cover** = cover, **cutsq** = cut square, **cutrnd** = cut round, **cutsiz** = cut to size, **illus** = a published illustration, **m.o. slip** = an Advice of Money Order form, **PCG** = government postal card.

Source Codes are **PC** = private collector; **DLR** = dealer; **PMCC** = photocopies from the Postmark Collectors Club's Willett-Thompson collection; **CTP** = John Williams' *California Town Postmarks 1849-1935*; **CCGC** = Harvey M. Karlen's *Chicago Crabgrass Communities*; **WDCS** = Carl Steig's, "Washington, DC Stations," Part VII, *La Posta*, Vol. 32, No. 3 (June-July 2001); CD2 **CA0810** is a page from the Postmark Collectors Club CDs of the Willett-Thompson collection. CD2 = research disk 2, CA0810 = the California listing, page 0810.

Registration		75
straight line 3 lines	1	
straight line 4 lines	45	
straight line 5 lines w no.	19	
boxed	8	
boxed w no	2	
Metal Duplex		40
circle	12	
barrel with no.	14	
barrel w star	3	
ovate bar	1	
without ellipse	10	
Double Circle Date Stamp		17
Received	1	
Money Order Business	16	
Double Oval		10
SUB-STA + no	6	
SUB + no	4	
Special Delivery		2
Straight line w no.	2	
Miscellaneous		3
Oval	1	
Straight line	2	
Total		147

Table 3 - Breakdown of sub-station postal marking census by type.

The Census of Sub-Station Postmarks

<i>State</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Sub-Sta</i>	<i>Pmk Type</i>	<i>Pmk Date</i>	<i>Format</i>	<i>Source</i>
CA	Los Angeles	01	duplex - circle	02-Feb-1898	illus	CTP
CA	Los Angeles	02	duplex - circle	12-Jan-1898	illus	CTP
CA	Los Angeles	02	duplex - wo ellipse	12-Jan-1898	cutsq	CD2CA0810
CA	Los Angeles	02	reg - SL 4	01-Oct-1901	illus	CTP
CA	Los Angeles	03	duplex - circle	03-Oct-1896	illus	CTP
CA	Los Angeles	03	duplex - wo ellipse	28-Feb-1897	cutsq	CD2CA810
CA	Los Angeles	04	duplex - circle	26-Jun-1896	cover	PC
CA	Los Angeles	04	duplex - circle	26-Jun-1896	illus	CTP
CA	Los Angeles	05	duplex - circle	13-Apr-1897	illus	CTP
CA	Los Angeles	06	duplex - barrel ()	04-Jan-1893	illus	CTP
CA	Oakland	01	DCDS - MOB	28-May-1896	MO slip	PC
CA	Oakland	01	DCDS - MOB	13-Aug-1897	MO slip	PC
CA	Oakland	01	DCDS - MOB	07-Sep-1897	MO slip	PC
CA	Oakland	02	reg - SL 4	19-Nov-1908	cover	PC
CA	Pasadena	01	duplex - circle	17-May-1897	cover	PC
CA	Pasadena	01	duplex - circle	24-Feb-1898	cover	PC
CA	Pasadena	01	duplex - circle	22-Mar-1898	illus	CTP
CA	Pasadena	01	duplex - wo ellipse	23-Apr-1897	cutsq	CD2CA1036
CA	San Francisco	06	reg - SL 4	30-Sep-1897	illus	CTP
CA	San Francisco	08	reg - SL 4	23-Jul-1897	cover	DLR
CA	San Francisco	08	reg - SL 4	17-Aug-1897	illus	CTP
CA	San Francisco	11	reg - SL 4	12-Apr-1901	illus	CTP
CA	San Francisco	25	reg - SL 4	21-Aug-1902	illus	CTP
CT	Meriden	01	duplex - wo ellipse	01-Mar-XXXX	cutsq	CD1 CT279
CT	Meriden	03	duplex - wo ellipse	01-Jun-1897	cutsq	CD1CT279
CT	Norwich	02	reg - SL 4	28-Aug-1899	cutsq	CD1CT402
DC	Washington	01	reg - SL 5 w no T1	30-Dec-1895	illus	WDCS
DC	Washington	01	reg - SL 5 w no T2	08-Dec-1896	illus	WDCS
DC	Washington	02	reg - SL 5 w no	11-Dec-1896	illus	WDCS
DC	Washington	03	reg - SL 5 w no	09-Dec-1896	illus	WDCS
DC	Washington	04	reg - SL 5 w no	07-Dec-1896	illus	WDCS
DC	Washington	05	reg - SL 5 w no	18-Nov-1895	illus	WDCS
DC	Washington	05	reg - SL 5 w no	17-Oct-1897	cover	CD5DC57
DC	Washington	06	DCDS - MOB	01-Jun-1897	MO slip	PC
DC	Washington	06	reg - SL 5 w no	16-Dec-1896	illus	WDCS
DC	Washington	06	reg - SL 5 w no	01-Feb-1898	cover	CD5DC57
DC	Washington	07	reg - SL 5 w no	17-Dec-1896	illus	WDCS
DC	Washington	08	reg - SL 5 w no	23-Dec-1895	illus	WDCS
DC	Washington	11	reg - SL 5 w no	16-Dec-1896	illus	WDCS
DC	Washington	19	sp del - SL 5 w no	21-Jun-1901	illus	WDCS
DC	Washington	25	sp del - SL 5 w no	21-Jun-1901	illus	WDCS
DC	Washington	26	reg - SL 5 w no	ND	illus	WDCS
DC	Washington	27	reg - SL 5 w no	29-Oct-1897	cover	CD5DC60
DC	Washington	29	DCDS - MOB	19-Aug-1897	MO slip	PC
DC	Washington	29	DCDS - MOB	10-Nov-1897	MO slip	CD5DC60
DC	Washington	29	reg - SL 5 w no	15-Feb-1898	cover	PC
DC	Washington	29	reg - SL 5 w no	15-Dec-1897	illus	WDCS
DC	Washington	31	reg - SL 5 w no	15-Dec-1896	illus	WDCS
DC	Washington	34	reg - SL 5 w no	16-Dec-1895	illus	WDCS
DC	Washington	35	reg - SL 5 w no	19-Jan-1898	illus	WDCS

The Census of Sub-Station Postmarks

GA	Atlanta	01	duplex - barrel (1)	13-Feb-1898	cover	PC
GA	Atlanta	01	duplex - wo ellipse	01-Mar-NOYR	cutrnd	CD3GA032
IA	Sioux City	01	duplex - barrel (1)	15-Mar-1898	cover	PC
IA	Sioux City	01	duplex - barrel (1)	09-May-1898	cover	PC
IA	Sioux City	01	duplex - barrel (1)	15-Jan-1901	cutsz	CD4IA730
IL	Chicago	002	reg - SL 4	22-Sep-1897	cover	PMCC
IL	Chicago	005	reg - SL 4	07-Dec-1897	cover	PMCC
IL	Chicago	006	reg - SL 4	12-Sep-1895	cover	PC
IL	Chicago	006	reg - SL 4	18-Jul-1897	cover	PC
IL	Chicago	010	reg - SL 4	23-Dec-1897	cover	PMCC
IL	Chicago	011	reg - SL 4	25-Oct-1897	cover	PMCC
IL	Chicago	014	reg - SL 4	03-Dec-1895	cover	PMCC
IL	Chicago	017	reg - SL 4	22-Oct-1897	cover	PMCC
IL	Chicago	022	reg - SL 4	10-Jan-1898	cover	PMCC
IL	Chicago	024	reg - SL 4	29-Nov-1897	cover	PMCC
IL	Chicago	029	reg - SL 4	14-Dec-1897	cover	PC
IL	Chicago	031	DCDS - MOB	30-Aug-1897	cutrnd	PMCC
IL	Chicago	040	duplex - wo ellipse	13-AprNOYR	cutrnd	PMCC
IL	Chicago	048	duplex - barrel (48)	21-Jan-1896	cover	PC
IL	Chicago	048	duplex - barrel (48)	06-May-1896	cover	PC
IL	Chicago	048	duplex - barrel ()	22-Oct-1897	cover	PMCC
IL	Chicago	048	reg - SL 4	22-Oct-1897	cover	PMCC
IL	Chicago	052	reg - SL 4	08-Sep-1905	cover	PC
IL	Chicago	055	reg - SL 4	12-Nov-1897	cover	PMCC
IL	Chicago	056	DCDS - MOB	11-Jan-1897	MO slip	PC
IL	Chicago	056	duplex - barrel ()	20-Sep-1898	PCG	PC
IL	Chicago	056	reg - SL 4	15-Dec-1897	cover	PMCC
IL	Chicago	167	reg - SL 4	04-Aug-1903	cover	PC
IL	Chicago	Dunning	duplex - barrel (S)	12-Dec-1894	PCG	CCGC
IL	Chicago	Dunning	duplex - barrel (S)	23-Feb-1895	cover	PC
IL	Chicago	West Pullman	duplex - barrel (S)	24-Dec-1895	cover	PC
IL	Chicago	Woodlawn Park	DCDS - MOB	27-Jun-1894	cutsq	PMCC
IL	Chicago	Woodlawn Park	reg - SL 4	20-Mar-1893	cover	CCGC
IL	Elgin	02	reg - SL 4	30-Jun-1910	cutsz	PMCC
IL	Princeton	01	duplex - bar	18-Nov-1902	PCG	PC
LA	New Orleans	01	reg - SL 4	05-Oct-1897	cover	CD3 LA368
MA	Boston	02	reg - SL 4	23-Nov-1895	cover	CD5HKT308
MA	Boston	03	reg - SL 4	06-Sep-1895	cover	CD5HKT308
MA	Boston	03	reg - SL 4	15-Dec-1897	cover	PC
MA	Boston	08	dbl oval - sub + 8	ND	cutsz	CD5HKT294
MA	Boston	08	reg - SL 4	24-Oct-1895	cover	CD5HKT309
MA	Boston	08	reg - SL 4	16-May-1896	cover	PC
MA	Boston	10	dbl oval - sub + 10	06-Nov-1902	cover	PC
MA	Boston	14	dbl oval - sub + 14	ND	cutsz	CD5HKT294
MA	Boston	20	dbl oval - sub + 20	ND	cutsz	CD5HKT294
MA	Boston	44	reg - SL 4	07-Feb-1900	cover	PC
MA	Haverhill	02(?)	duplex - wo ellipse	30-Sep-NOYR	cutsq	CD5MA0388
MA	Lowell	01	DCDS - MOB	27-Nov-1895	cover	CD5MA0481
MA	Lowell	01	reg - SL 4	01-Mar-1898	cutsq	CD5MA0481
MA	Lowell	01	reg - SL 4	11-Aug-1898	cover	CD5MA0481
MA	Lynn	02	reg - SL 3	16-Jan-1902	cover	PC

The Census of Sub-Station Postmarks

MA	Quincy	02	reg - SL 4	05-Sep-1903	cutsq	CD5MA0761
MD	Baltimore	077	reg - SL 4	21-Feb-1901	cutsq	CD5MD030
MD	Baltimore	220	oval - reg?	ND	cutsq	CD5MD030
MI	Grand Rapids	03	DCDS - MOB	10-Jun-1899	cover	PC
MI	Muskegon	02	duplex - circle	02-Mar-1898	cover	PC
MI	Muskegon	02	reg - SL 4	01-Aug-1904	cover	PC
MI	Saginaw	06	reg - SL 4	14-Feb-1906	cover	PC
MT	Butte	01	duplex - circle	07-Jan-1899	cover	PC
NY	Brooklyn	008	reg - boxed w no	21-Nov-1894	cover	PC
NY	Brooklyn	020	reg - boxed w no	18-Oct-1897	cover	PC
NY	Brooklyn	027	reg - SL 4	16-Nov-1901	cover	PC
NY	New York	011	dbl oval - SS + 11	ND	cover	PC
NY	New York	011	reg - boxed	18-Aug-1896	cover	PC
NY	New York	013	dbl oval - SS + 13	ND	cover	PC
NY	New York	013	reg - boxed	15-Mar-1897	cover	PC
NY	New York	016	dbl oval - SS + 16	01-Oct-1901	cover	PC
NY	New York	016	dbl oval - SS + 16	29-Oct-1901	cover	PC
NY	New York	028	dbl oval - SS + 28	ND	cover	DLR
NY	New York	028	reg - boxed	19-Dec-1904	cover	DLR
NY	New York	051	reg - boxed	20-Jul-1904	cover	PC
NY	New York	058	dbl oval - SS + 58	ND	cover	PC
NY	New York	058	reg - boxed	13-Mar-1902	cover	PC
NY	New York	065	reg - boxed	18-Jan-1900	cover	PC
NY	New York	134	reg - boxed	24-Jun-1902	cover	PC
NY	New York	153	reg - boxed	01-Apr-1904	cover	PC
NY	Troy	01	DCDS - Received	30-Sep-1896	cover	PC
OH	Akron	01	duplex - barrel (1)	17-Jul-1895	cover	PC
OH	Akron	01	duplex - barrel (1)	25-Jun-1896	cover	PC
OH	Akron	01	duplex - barrel (1)	31-Aug-1897	PCG	PC
PA	Lancaster	02	SL	25-Mar-1901	cover	PC
PA	Philadelphia	29	duplex - barrel (29)	30-Jun-1896	cover	PC
PA	Pittsburg	02	duplex - barrel (N)	24-Apr-1900	cover	PC
PA	Pittsburg	07	reg - SL 4	01-Jul-1902	cover	PC
PA	Pittsburg	14	reg - SL 4	17-Jul-1903	cover	PC
PA	Pittsburg	14	reg - SL 4	13-Sep-1907	cover	PC
PA	Pittsburg	15	reg - SL 4	19-May-1903	cover	PC
RI	Providence	20	reg - SL 4	17-Mar-1902	cover	DLR
TN	Nashville	01	DCDS - MOB	14-Mar-1896	cutsq	CD3TN459
TN	Nashville	02	DCDS - MOB	16-Sep-1896	cutsq	CD3TN459
TN	Nashville	03	DCDS - MOB	08-Jun-1898	cutsq	CD3TN459
WA	Seattle	10	SL	ND	cutsq	CD2WA475
WA	Tacoma	01	DCDS - MOB	12-Oct-1896	cutsq	CD2WA547
WA	Tacoma	01	duplex - circle	29-Dec-189-	cover	PC
WA	Tacoma	01	duplex - wo ellipse	14-Oct-189X	cutrnd	CD2WA547
WA	Tacoma	02	duplex - wo ellipse	XX-Mar-1898	cutrnd	CD2WA547
WI	Green Bay	01	DCDS - MOB	22-Jul-1896	cutsq	CD4WI218

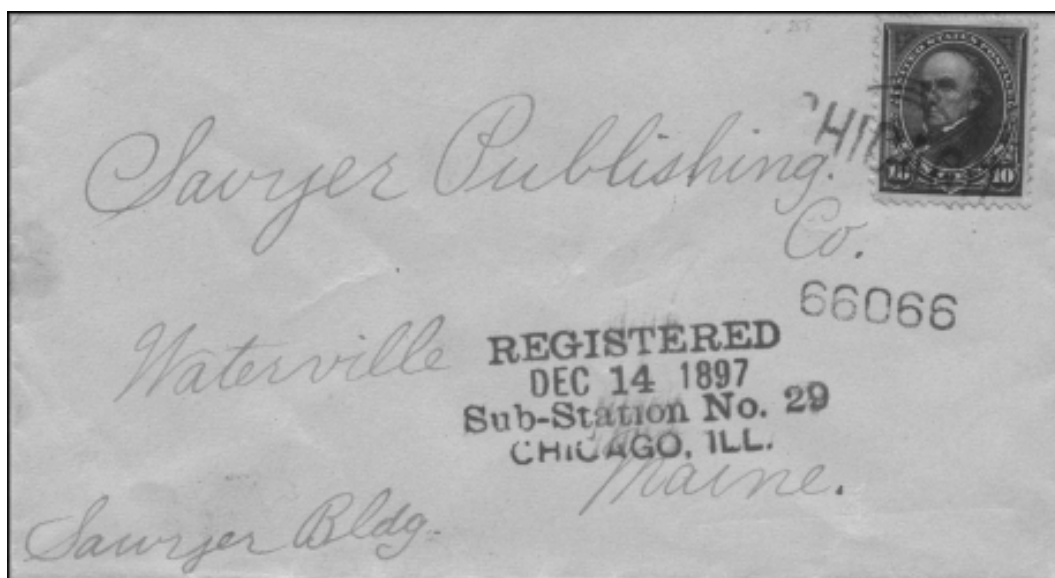


Figure 10 A typical straight-line registration marking. Chicago's Sub-Station No. 29 was established July 1, 1894, and redesignated Station No. 29 April 1, 1902.

Pasadena, California, sub-station one, which was changed from Station A March 1, 1896, and back to Station A January 1, 1898. It appears that some sub-stations handled more mail than others, and that the sub-station designation did not fit some sub-stations that were upgraded to stations.

Conclusion

The official designation "sub-station" lasted only 12 years. At most, sub-station markings were used 1890-1910, allowing for their continued use after sub-stations became numbered stations. The census shows fewer than 150 markings. Two reasons for this could be that interest in sub-stations is limited, and that sub-station markings really are fairly scarce.

The author has developed a one-frame exhibit of sub-station markings that has been shown several times. One judge wondered why the exhibit was limited to one frame because there are "tens of thousands of these markings available". The author is hoping *La Posta* readers can help him locate all the markings with "sub" he's missed. Please send clear photocopies to Dennis Pack, 1915 Gilmore Ave., Winona, MN 55987. If the postmark dates on the photocopy are not clear, please write them in the margin next to the marking. If there is sufficient interest, the census will be updated.

Special thanks to Bill Helbock, Carl Steig, Bob McKain, David Ellis, John Gallagher, Lloyd Shaw, Jim Forte, Jim Mehrer, Leonard Piszkiwicz and the Margie Pfund Postmark Museum and Research Center of the Postmark Collectors Club.

End Notes

- (1) For a more detailed history of sub-stations, see Dennis H. Pack, "Those Elusive Sub-Stations," *La Posta*, Vol. 30, No. 4 to Vol. 31, No. 1 (Sep. 1999 to Mar. 2000).
- (2) Order 372, August 21, 1882, *Orders of the Postmaster General*, Journal 83-B, p. 264.
- (3) Order 335, December 20, 1889, *Orders of the Postmaster General*, Journal 2, pp. 381-382.
- (4) *PMG Report*, 1897, p. 85.
- (5) *Postal Bulletin* 5401, Nov. 15, 1897.
- (6) *PMG Reports*, 1894, p. 109; 1895, p. 108; 1896, p. 121; 1897, p. 85; 1898, p. 116; 1899, p. 135; 1900, p. 96; 1901, p. 95.
- (7) "Postmarks and Cancellations: Duplex Metal Handstamps," *La Posta*, April-May 1987, p. 14.
- (8) Helbock, *Postmarks on Postcards*, 2d ed, p. 52.
- (9) *Ibid.*, pp. 54-55.
- (10) The CDs are a valuable research tool for those interested in looking at postmarks. Seven CDs have been completed so far. Each CD contains scanned

pages from the collection for several states. All except the first volume have an index, but some searching is still required to find specific towns. For information about the Postmark Collectors Club, the CDs and how to order them, go to <http://www.postmarks.org> or write to John Gallagher, 9226 Mellenbrook Rd, Columbia, MD 21405-1816.

Bibliography

Richard W. Helbock. *Postmarks on Postcards*. 2d. ed; La Posta Publications: Scappose, OR, 2002.

Richard W. Helbock and Dan Meschter, "Postmarks and Cancellations: Metal Duplex Handstamps." *La Posta*, Vol. 18, No. 2 (May, 1987), pp. 7-20.

Harvey M. Karlen. *Chicago's Crabgrass Communities*. Collectors Club of Chicago: Chicago, 1992.

Postmark Collectors Club. Margie Pfund Memorial Postmark Museum and Research Center. *Research Disks 1-5*, 1999-2001.

Carl L. Stieg. "Postal Markings of Washington, DC Stations." Part VII. *La Posta*. Vol. 32, No. 3 (July, 2001), pp. 27-38.

U.S. Post Office Department. *Daily Bulletin of Orders Affecting the Postal Service*. Washington. Various dates and issues.

_____. *Journals of the Postmaster General*. Journals 83-B, 2.

_____. *Report of the Postmaster General*. Various dates.

John H. Williams. *California Town Postmarks 1849-1935*. Two Vols. Western Cover Society, 1997.

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

WANTED TO BUY

- * Hawaiian Postal History 1864 to present
- * Alaska Postal History 1867 to present
- * Yukon Postal History 1885 to present
- * 19th Century U.S. Officials, Fancy cancels and Fort cancels
- * Hawaiian Stamps with town cancels

STEVE SIMS, 1769 Wickersham Dr.,
Anchorage, AK 99507-1349.

Phone: (907) 563-7281

MEMBER APS



MAINE NARROW GAUGE R.P.O. CANCELS WANTED

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

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

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 916-359-1898, fax 916-359-1963 or send her an E-mail at collectibles@4agent.org.



Auxiliary Markings – Unmailable: Objectionable Picture Post Cards Revisited (Again)



Figure 1 One of the more interesting aspects of Post Office Department mail handling was the classification of some mail matter as “Unmailable” due to objectionable content. This card was deemed inappropriate to pass through the mails in 1907.

By Randy Stehle

This author has written on the subject of objectionable picture post cards on two previous occasions. The first article dealt with the treatment of obscene matter in the mails and appeared in the March 1986 (Vol. 17, No.1, pp. 5-7) issue of *La Posta*. At that time, three post cards were shown that had been deemed unmailable due to their subject matter by the Post Office Department (POD). The second article was a follow-up to the first one and appeared in the January 2000 (Vol. 30, No. 6, pp. 19-24) issue of *La Posta*. In the almost 14 years between these two articles the author had only seen two more post cards that were treated by the POD as unmailable due to their risqué nature.

A New Discovery

The impetus for another follow-up article is the discovery of a new group of post cards that were unmailable due to their objectionable picture sides. The author was lucky enough to cross paths with someone who had a connection to the original person who

collected these post cards. The story of how she came to possess these cards can best be told in her own words:

I would like to explain the story of these post cards. My husband's mother died last year, and she had saved these cards since she was a girl. She grew up in Arlington, VA. Her father worked for the Bureau of Printing and Engraving, collecting stamps as a big time hobby. They had a single gentleman neighbor who worked at the Washington, D.C. post office. Evidently, when he died, my husband's grandfather asked for the post card collection, principally because he was going to save the stamps. The unmailable cards, we believe, should have been destroyed, and for whatever reason, this postal employee did not.

The picture side of one of the post cards from this source is shown in *Figure 1*. It depicts two older gentlemen intently watching what appears to be a vaudeville performer. The performer is clad in an outfit straight out of the Moulin Rouge and is doing the splits on the stage. The card has the printed verbiage “Looks Good From Here” on it, as well as a handwritten note that reads “Make Hay while the sun Shines/Mack & B”. The address side of the card is shown in *figure 2*. It was sent on Oct. 30, 1907 from



Figure 2 The address side of the post card illustrated in figure 1 shows the handstamp “UNMAILABLE” marking applied by the post office.

Hot Springs, AR to Knoxville, TN. A magenta “UNMAILABLE” marking has been applied just below the stamp. It is impossible to tell exactly where the marking was done. Such matter was supposed to be stopped at the office of mailing, but could have slipped by them & been subsequently caught in transit or at the delivery office.

The treatment of such matter is governed by several sections of the *Postal Laws & Regulations (PL&R)*. The 1902 edition of the *PL&R* was the last one published before this post card was mailed. In section 574 we find, “Postmasters must exclude from the mails all unmailable matter, and will be held responsible for any failure to do so.” Section 575 (d) goes on to say:

The following unmailable matter will be sent from the office where it was deposited for mailing to the Dead-Letter Office: *obscene and scurrilous matter* declared unmailable by sections 497 and 498. (Italics in the original).

Sections 497 and 498 laid out a long list of objectionable items, which included matter deemed to be obscene, lewd, lascivious, indecent, immoral, libelous, scurrilous, and defamatory or threatening in nature.

The Dead Letter Office (DLO) for most of the United States was at Washington, DC at this time. The only exceptions were for Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Philippines. Dead matter from these locations was to be handled in connection with the post offices at Honolulu, San Juan & Manila, respectively.

Once at the DLO, another section of the *PL&R* deals with the disposition of unmailable matter. Section 59 (2) helps explain how some DLO material survived destruction and ended up in collectors’ hands. It reads:

Magazines and other periodicals, illustrated papers, and picture post cards, which are suitable for that purpose, and not properly classed as merchandise, will be distributed to the various hospitals, asylums, and other charitable and reformatory institutions in the District of Columbia, as the First Assistant Postmaster-General may direct.

Section 60 goes on to say:

All letters, packets, or other matter which may be seized or detained for violation of law shall be returned to the owner or sender of the same, or otherwise disposed of as the Postmaster-General may direct.

There is some question then, as to the final disposition of such unmailable matter at this time. Luckily, none of the post cards shown in this article had return addresses. Under these circumstances, Section 58 should govern the treatment of such matter. It reads in part:

Letters [and by extension all first class mail] which do not disclose the address of the writers, so that they can be returned, must be delivered daily to the Disbursing Clerk and Superintendent of the Department to be sold as waste paper.

As these types of unmailable post cards would not have been suitable for distribution to the nonprofit groups mentioned above, and there was no return address, it seems that they should have been destroyed. A clue as to why they survived may be found by examining the dates on the post cards under study. Interestingly enough, all five shown in this article were mailed within a two-week period in late October to mid-November 1907. The author is also aware of, or in possession of a number of other post cards from this same source that supposedly came from the DLO, but are not so indicated. They also depict racy images and all fall within the same time frame as the marked post cards. It would seem that the postal worker who saved them did so for a relatively short period of time. One can only speculate that he cur-

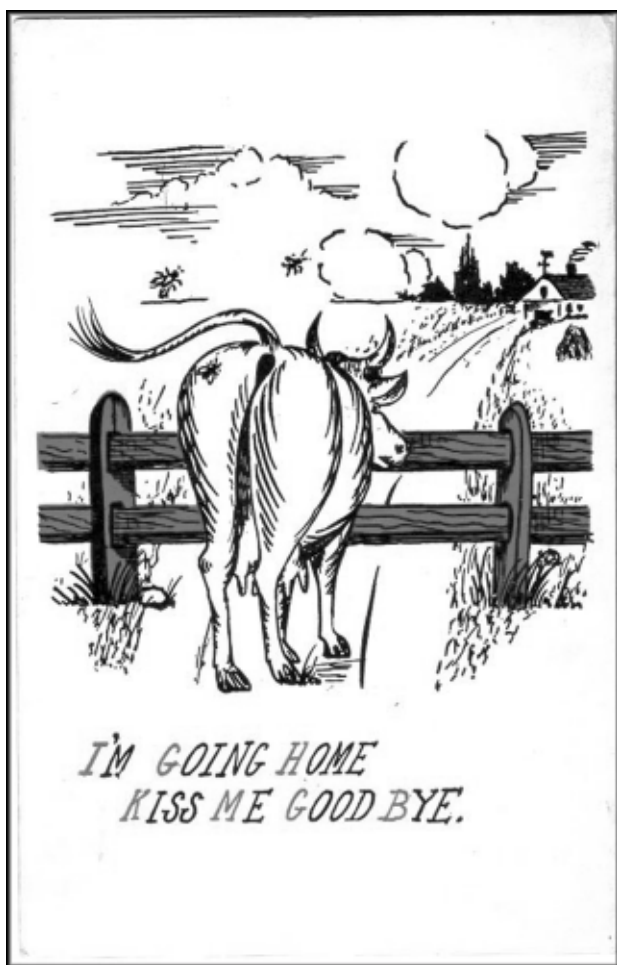


Figure 3 This card was confiscated by the mailing office as unmailable material.

tailed this activity because he was either directly or indirectly warned not to do this anymore. We can thank his acquisitive nature for helping to preserve these items for posterity.

The second post card from this source is shown in *figure 3*. The card depicts a cow (shown from the rear) looking over a fence at a house. There are three flies circling the cow's rear end. The caption reads "I'M GOING HOME/KISS ME GOOD BYE." This post card never made it out of the mailing office. It was addressed to someone in Schenectady, NY, but was never postmarked. It did receive two "Unmailable" markings.

The third post card from the same source is shown in *figure 4*. This card shows two gentlemen in formal attire bent over as a shapely young lady walks by. Her dress only comes down to mid-calf and it overly accentuates her hourglass figure. The caption reads "HAVE A LOOK, MY DEAR ALPHONSE/AFTER YOU, MY DEAR GASTON." It was mailed on October 26, 1907 from Gloversville, NY for local delivery. It received two "UNMAILABLE" markings.

The fourth post card is shown in *figure 5*. This card shows a man and woman getting dressed by an unmade bed. The woman is putting her corset on, while the man adjusts his tie with his suspenders hanging by his side. The caption reads "ELECTRICITY GONE – NO CURRENT". The author is not quite sure what this is supposed to mean, but it sounds fairly suggestive. The post card was postmarked in New York, NY. The date is not readable. It has an "Un-mailable" marking on it.

The fifth and last post card from this source is shown in *figure 6*. It shows a young lady being followed by a stork carrying a baby in a blanket. The caption reads, "Run where you may, he will catch you some day." The woman's skirt is slightly pulled up, revealing her left calf. The card was postmarked Nov. 12, 1907, at Chicago, IL. It was addressed to Galesburg, IL and received an "UNMAILABLE, N.S.M.D.9." marking. The author is familiar with this marking, and has seen other usages of it from Chicago on glitter post cards. This card, like all the other ones in this article have no glitter on their picture sides. The initials in the



Figure 4 This card dates from October 1907 and was mailed in Gloversville, NY. It was deemed "unmailable".



Figure 5 The exact meaning of this post card marked “unmailable” is unclear, but its suggestive nature is unmistakable.

auxiliary marking stand for “Nixie Searcher Mail Division 9”. The nixie clerks were essentially directory clerks who, among other duties, helped figure

out bad addresses. They also appear to have handled undeliverable mail matter. (The address on this post card is to a woman at the City Hall in Galesburg, which seems like a good address.)

Language Context Problems Continue Into the Prexie Era

The last two post cards shown seem to have objectionable language in addition to risqué images. The language in and of itself was not vulgar, but the context was. It may have been a combination of the two that landed them in hot water. If context was a consideration in the decision to ban certain post cards, then one's subjective interpretation comes into play.

A good example of this is found on the post card shown in *figure 7*. This card is not from the same source as the other cards previously shown. It is a linen comic post card postmarked in 1946 at Hot Springs National Park, AR. It is properly franked with a one-cent prexie stamp, and addressed to a P.O. box in La Vergne, TN. It has a small black “UNMAIL-ABLE” marking on it. The 1940 PL&R was in effect when this post card was sent. The section that covers indecent matter is identical to the same section in the 1902 edition.

The picture side shows a hillbilly trying to pull a donkey across a bridge. The donkey is on the Missouri side of the St. Francis River, while the hillbilly with the empty jug of moonshine is on the Arkansas side. The caption at the bottom of the card reads, “EN

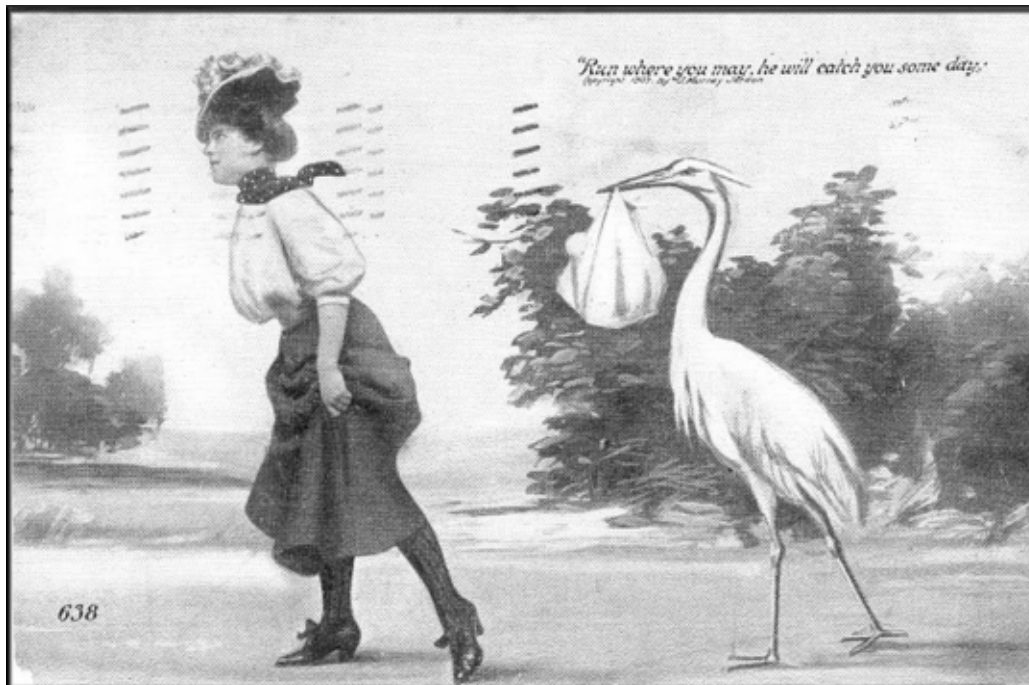


Figure 6 Marked “unmailable” in 1907, it evidently upset the sensibilities of a postal clerk back then.

Figure 6 Marked “unmailable” in 1907, it evidently upset the sensibilities of a postal clerk back then.

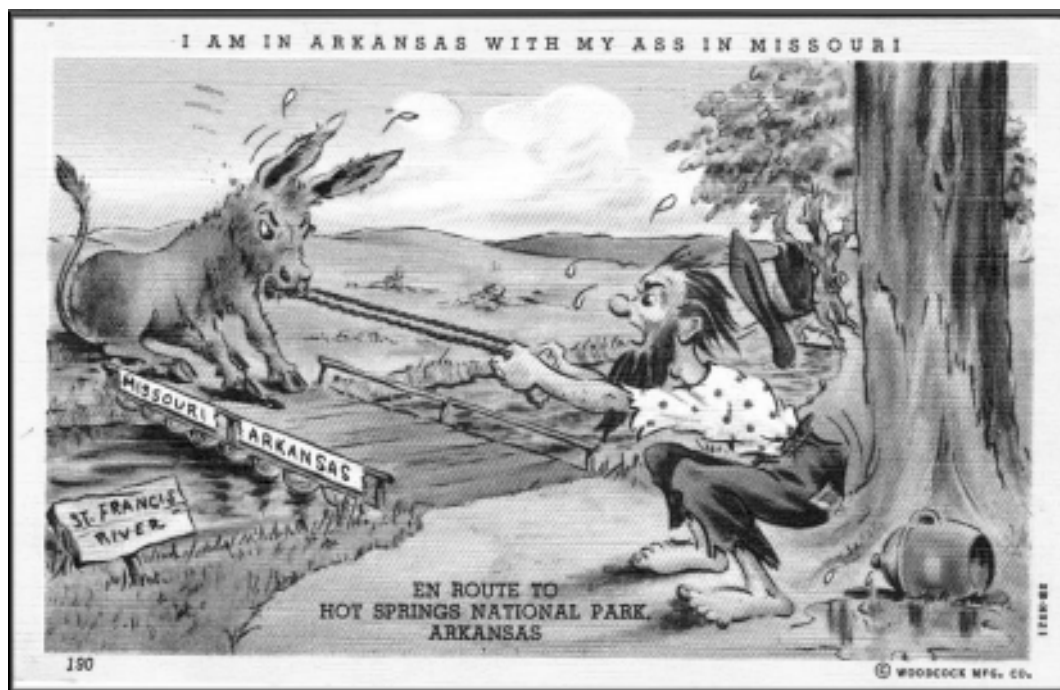


Figure 7 This post card was mailed 39 years after the one shown in figure 1, and was sent from the same place. (Hot Springs, AR changed its name to Hot Springs National Park, AR in 1922). Like its earlier counterpart, it also was marked as “unmailable”.

ROUTE TO/HOT SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK,/ ARKANSAS”. The caption at the top reads, “I AM IN ARKANSAS WITH MY ASS IN MISSOURI”. The author assumes this language is the source of the card’s problems. In the context of the post card, it is not used in a vulgar way. Of course, the whole idea of the card was to get away with using a “naughty” word by way of a double entendre. In that sense, someone back in 1946 found it objectionable. This is the latest

usage (by several decades) the author has seen of an “unmailable” marking applied to a post card for an obscene or scurrilous reason. The author would interested in seeing copies of other matter that was unmailable for similar reasons. He can be reached at 16 Iris Court, San Mateo, CA 94401, or by e-mail at: rstehle@ix.netcom.com. A follow-up article will appear if enough new reports warrant it.

MKD Research & Consulting

Michael K. Dattolico
 3830 Bernard Place
 Columbus, Ohio 43224-2201

614/263-6145
 mmdattol@aol.com

Specializing in:

- manuscript editing
- research on US military covers, US possessions and general states postal history

Registration at Philadelphia, Revisited

by Tom Clarke

Last month the two-part registered markings survey concluded by describing Philadelphia's (and by extension, many other city's) late 19th century and early 20th century registry markings. Some of the principles surrounding turn-of-the-century registration were also highlighted.

In addition to describing registry cancellation and service marking types and distinguishing between those appearing on envelope fronts and backs, the writer learned of, and relayed, some other interesting facts. They were new to him and maybe to some *La Posta* readers. These made the saga all the more fascinating.

The situation concerned an alleged lackadaisical attitude on the part of too many postmasters and their clerks. The POD was angry that they were not abiding by the rules required by the Post Office Department for properly marking registered items. This information written half a century ago by Barbara Mueller described the problem as having continually developed through the '00's, 'teens and 'twenties.

In short, the Post Office had sent a directive in 1924 to postmasters warning them to be sure to "postmark registered mail on the reverse side rather than on the address side."¹ The existing rule had mandated back stamped *postmarks* on the flap and seams for security. (The service marking announcing "Registered" or "Registry" properly went on the front.)

My comment last month, in passing, stated "A good look at Philadelphia registered mail, especially of the 1890-1910 postmark/service mark period (when small sub-stations developed), shows that clerks had been placing their registry markings either on the front or the back or on both sides." The obvious implication was that this was the problem that Mueller implied had concerned the POD. Given the evidence of the covers, this writer assumed that Philadelphia was as much engaged in sloppy postmarking (despite its usual cool, take-no-chances, conservative nature) as other towns and cities. That conclusion, the writer now realizes, was a bit hasty.

Sources

Secondary sources such as books, *La Posta* articles, or other digested information give someone else's interpretation of a topic. Primary sources are the raw information itself, which could just as easily lead another person to a distinctly different secondary interpretation.

Of course, reputable secondary sources try hard to convey proper meanings in the hope they won't be misconstrued. Readers then take over and draw out the "truth" of a situation as they reconstruct it in their own minds. Their truth is what they believe the writer is transmitting. Separating the intended from the perceived is the struggle that the reading and thinking public must always endure.

After reading Mueller's survey last month, this writer then took a stack of registered covers, and without pausing to consider the complexities and possibilities of all the variables, drew a too simplistic conclusion that "...improper stamping was [going on] at most [Philadelphia] stations and to a lesser degree the Main Office!".

Mueller's facts were instructive and overall correct, but to what degree did they describe the real experience of the main office, name and letter stations, and number (sub) stations in Philadelphia 40 years before? Best comprehension of Philadelphia's specific a set of complexities would have come from consulting primary sources like the *U. S. Postal Guide* and the *Postal Laws and Regulations* for the years 1895 and 1925.

An inquiry

After reading the registration article, an interested *La Posta* reader wrote the following email:

Subject: La Posta Article
Date: Sat, 23 Feb 2002 21:31:06 (PST)
From: xxxxxx@webtv.net (xS)
To: ocl-tom@ix.netcom.com

Your article displays covers of 1892, 1906, 07 and 09, which you say have the registration marking improperly on the front of the envelope. My studies of the District of Columbia postal markings indicate that was the proper procedure in that period. Do you have any covers during that period with the dispatch marking only on the reverse?

I submit that there is another possible explanation of the markings [for caption #26]. The corner card address I assume is within the Station 7 area. You are probably cor-

rect in suspecting that the station would not have that service. I suspect that the letter was posted at the main post office in order to obtain that service.

Regards,
xxS

There were clerical problems knowing where and how to properly place postal markings. The problem as stated last month:

The existing rule had mandated backstamps on the flap and seams for security. A good look at Philadelphia registered mail, especially of the 1890-1910 postmark/service mark period (when small sub-stations developed), shows that clerks had been placing their registry markings either on the front or the back or on both sides.

Perhaps the clerks were as confused over the nature of the devices they were given [the three- or four- or five-straightline registration markings] as collectors are today in categorizing them. We have mentioned previously their quasi-postmark status. Apparently, many of the clerks were getting it wrong. There obviously was an ambivalent understanding of the purpose of the multi-line markers, and of the other locally created styles used in other cities. Is this a major reason for the gradual adoption of the more easily comprehended—and uniform—[double circle] registry dater-backstamps between about 1895 and 1910? Probably so.

Evidence at hand suggests that, for Philadelphia, such improper stamping was at most stations and to a lesser degree the Main Office! Across the country the problem was equally widespread. Given Philadelphia's conservative nature, we can wonder why improper application of regulations was allowed....

More data

Could such a conclusion be justified? Should Philadelphia, Washington D.C., or any other office be castigated for doing a lousy job given the POD's 1924 claim?

It would be necessary to hit the books to try to understand why two excellent sources of data, Mueller and our correspondent, seemed to contradict one another and in doing so place the writer in the baffling middle.

Start with a 1926 *U.S. Postal Guide*, which contains full listings of every post office as of July of that year, as well as a summary of the pertinent postal rules every clerk must adhere to. The registration section in part contains this:

Article 50: Postmarking of Registered Mail – The Postmaster must see that registered articles are invariably postmarked...in a legible manner, as required by Section 874, *P. L. & R.* (see also Sec. 526 *P. L. & R.*)².

When a combined printing and canceling device ["duplex canceler"] is used on registered letters, the stamp should be applied in such a manner that only the impression of that portion of the stamp which cancels the postage stamp will appear on the address side of the article. As red is a distinctive color used in connection with the Registry Service it is desired that where practicable the red ink pads be used in connection with the rubber registration stamps.

A 1935 *Postal Guide* backs up Mueller's conclusion by adding the following words:

Article 39: ...However, only such canceling devices as have been authorized by the department should be used in canceling stamps on registered mail. Mail matter bearing postage stamps defaced with private cancellation marks of various designs is not deemed acceptable for mailing . . .

Last month's article paraphrased Mueller as stating "the 1924 order was the impetus for many 4th class postmasters indulging in the creation of modern fancy cancels. They could still show off the name and glory of their little burgs via pictures and designs, while not breaking the GPO's order to follow the 1879 rule! (Justice is slow, though, and these fancies were rebuked by Washington in 1928, but not outlawed until a full ten years later, in 1934³.)"

The conclusion is that at least the last part of Mueller's story is accurate. The Post Office did clamp down gradually after the mid 1920s, and by 1934/35, fancy registry cancelers were completely outlawed.

But what of the first half of her story, that clerks were routinely slipshod at following directives when marking up registered mail? Because they were doing such a poor job, the POD issued its frustrated ultimatum in 1924: No more *cancellations* on the fronts of envelopes, only on the reverse. (Again, for *cancellation* read "town name device with date.")

But what of our correspondent stating that, in fact, the main office, stations, and sub stations were quite proper in placing registry cancels (bearing the town's name and date) on mail fronts between 1890 and 1910?

Looking farther back

The only primary sources at hand are 1884 and 1885 *Postal Guides*, another from 1896, and one from 1907.

In 1884 and 85, there is only generalized and brief coverage of registry rules, and nothing about postmarks, except that postmasters are becoming sloppy in applying them overall.

By 1896, the publication had gone into more detail. The book had yet to be broken into sections but on page 833 it states:

After the letter is accepted for registration, it must be correctly numbered, commencing with No. 1 at the beginning of each quarter (Section 1046 *P. L. & R.*); it must be legibly postmarked (with black ink) with the name of the mailing post office and State, and the date of mailing, and the stamps on it must be effectively canceled with black ink, such as the Department provides for the purpose. The use of the postmarking stamp for cancellation of stamps on letters dispatched is prohibited. (Sections 1050, also Sections 472, 473, and 475.)

Note that it doesn't say that a postmark can't be used on the face, just that it can't be used to cancel stamps. This must be the crux of the confusion, the variable meaning of the word "cancellation." Postage stamps must not to be effaced by town marks (thus losing their legibility), only by "cancelers" (presumably the double ovals). But registered letters do need to be "postmarked" with the name-date stamp (and also as backstamped for reasons of security).

Station differences

The 1907 *Postal Guide* does mention that it is Title Five of the *Postal Laws and Regulations* (Sections 796 through 964) that gives detailed instructions for the conduct of the registry service. That said, little more is mentioned to guide a clerk except there is a large portion devoted to "Instruction for Post Office Stations." Stations were in the ascendancy at this time with Philadelphia already topping 150 number (sub-) stations, not to mention the 20 or so larger name and letter stations.

The *Postal Guide* for 1907, Section 429, says that postmasters in charge of stations of their respective offices must observe carefully Sections 892 and 905-9 of the *P. L. & R.* Upon notification of establishment of a numbered station, the postmaster should immediately requisition a registry postmarking stamp showing the number of the station (a double circle dater probably), one wooden canceling stamp (a double oval surely), two books of Form 02 receipts (receipts for matter dispatched from station to main office by letter carrier), etc.

Upon notification of establishment of a named or lettered (delivery) station, he should immediately requisition a registry postmarking stamp showing the name or letter of the station, two books of Form 02 receipts as above, two books of Form 01 receipts (receipts for matter dispatched from main office to station by letter carrier), etc.

Note: there is NO canceling stamp mentioned for name or letter stations, only a device [double circle, no doubt] for receipt of registered mail to or from the Main office for delivery. That seems very odd, perhaps a printing oversight? There ARE manifold numbers of name and letter canceling daters to be found. However, delivery was their main task, witness the fact that the postmaster is also to provide these delivery stations with copies of Form 1526½ (notices to addressees to pick up undelivered registered mail at the station), and also of Form 3837 (undelivered registered matter to be returned to the main office).

The following Section 430 of the 1907 *Guide* states the following:

Postmasters to whose offices stations may be attached will see that the superintendents or clerks in charge thereof are instructed to properly cancel all stamps attached to registered matter, and that every registered letter or parcel bears on the address side the date of its registration and the name of the station where it is registered.

For this purpose the postmaster will make requisition ... for proper registry marking stamps.

For the cancellation of postage stamps on registered matter a wooden canceler will be furnished. Registry postmarking stamps of the pattern approved by the Department will be supplied.

Both sides win

Thus, our correspondent is correct about stations placing cancels on the fronts of letters. Yet,

Unfortunately, there is virtually nothing in the 1917 *Postal Guide* concerning postmarking or about registered mail. Its absence could easily give rise to creative markings and the seemingly random placement on letters that would kick off the furor in 1924.

Happily, a 1913 copy of the *Postal Laws and Regulations* helps the rescue effort. From it comes the following:

Section 890: All registered matter shall be plainly marked on its face "Registered" in bold letters, and when possible in red, the original number being placed immediately under such word. This endorsement, if practicable, shall be placed in the upper left portion of the address side of the article and directly above the address. Articles too

small to contain the word "Registered" shall be similarly marked with the letter "R," to be followed by the original registration number . . .

2) The postmaster shall see that the county is plainly marked on each registered article near the lower left corner of the address side, unless it is addressed to some office which is exempted from this requirement (see Sec. 1018):

—exchanges between stations and the main office

—addressed for delivery in the same county

—known to be addressed for direct delivery from the same railway post office on which the dispatching office is located, or for direct delivery from another railway post office immediately connecting therewith.

—Dispatched in registry pouches, sacks, or jackets, or inner lock pouches addressed to the same office as the pouches, sacks, or jackets

—Addressed to any office of the first class

3) A legible impression of the postmarking stamp shall be placed twice on the back of each letter . . . as nearly as practicable at the crossings of the upper and lower flaps. The postmark shall not be placed on the face of first class registered mail. All other matter shall be legibly postmark on the address side. (see Sec. 539 and 542)

Without saying so, are the rules for postmarking letters on the front also determined by whether the mail is to be distributed within or outside the home county as we've just seen they do for the use of the county's name?

Nonetheless, the double circle dater stamp must go on the back. And unless other instructions forbade it, the above selection's words "the postmarking stamp shall be placed twice on the back" does not preclude it from being placed on the front also. It seems a clerk and his superiors did have some wiggle room when making this determination.

Curiously, this is the period when ordinary backstamping of ordinary mail had all but ceased, mostly due to the time consumed performing the task. With fewer registered articles, and their appreciable value, back stamp tracking will continue.

Still, Mueller's revealing tale of an outraged post office in 1924 has to be sufficient proof of widespread shenanigans across the country and the need to tighten the grip on regulations. But the lack of definite instructions in the era's *Postal Guides*, surely the clerk's bible, suggests that our Washington DC-collecting correspondent is also right, and we need to exonerate the clerks of the 1890-1910 period. It seems that stations of whatever size, even the main office itself, were not guilty of wholesale sloppy performance after all.

But if the 1890-1910 era covers are properly marked, was the Post Office Department in 1924 just blowing hot air? What recent infractions had developed in the late 'teens and early 'twenties?

If *La Posta* readers have access to registered covers of the late 'teens and early 'twenties, examine them to see if they can divine what the problem was. If you have other *P. L. & R.*'s of the time and the time to read about registry procedures ("Title Five"), and can provide more information, please email or write this writer: Box 290145, Davie FL 33329-0145.

I'll be happy then to communicate with our D.C.-collector correspondent and, with any luck, iron out these near century-old Registration Wrinkles.

Bibliography

Mueller, Barbara R., "Covers and the System Which Produced Them," *Postal History Journal*, Vol. II, 1, April 1958, pp. 19-24.

The covers

There are four covers repeated here from last month's *La Posta*, with minor corrections to their captions. They help set the record straight about registry station markings. But left open still is the question: In 1924, what specifically was the Post Office Department's long-standing argument about concerning poor postmarking technique?

Endnotes

¹ Mueller, p.23.

² The number system changed between 1926 and 1935. These sections are referred in 1935 to as Sec. 1216, 2208, and 2218 *P. L. & R.*

³ Mueller make the point that pre-1928 registered fancies are therefore worth more philatelically as sincere, "pure plays" than those created after the 1928 invective called attention and notoriety to the practice and the entrepreneurs moved in.



Figure 23 Even the Main Office at Philadelphia in 1907 didn't fully understand the 1879 regulation about proper registry marking. A purple DC postmark actually kills the adhesive, flouting the 28-year old directive, NOT to use "postmarkers" to efface stamps. That is a job for the wooden double oval device. A second clerk stutter-stamped a magenta DC next to it for clarity. But there are NO postmarks on the reverse, another broken rule, this one involving the security issue.

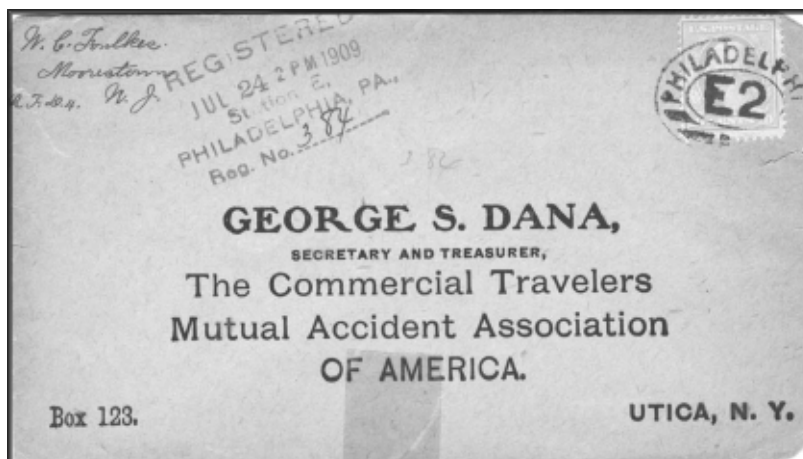


Figure 25 In the waning days of the 8+2 rate, July 24, 1909, clerk number 2 at Station E handled this registered letter. The killer is proper. And although marking on the front was mandated for stations too, the postmark should have also crossed the envelope flaps too, twice. Only a receiving stamp is found.

Figure 26 This cover was handled correctly from “Receiving Station No. 7” to Narbonne France. Perhaps New York placed the A.R. (return receipt) for it is difficult to imagine a sub-station having such a rarely used device. Despite the theory that sub-stations received the low double oval number cancels after about 1890, Station 7 doesn’t use one in 1893. It either passed the letter uncanceled to the Main Office for canceling, or possessed the RD killer and not a #7 oval. Our D.C. collector correspondent suspects that the station would not have facilities for Return Receipt service. “I suspect that the letter was posted at the main post office in order to obtain that service.” No doubt true, since number stations were only given a dater handstamp and a wooden canceler (see text).



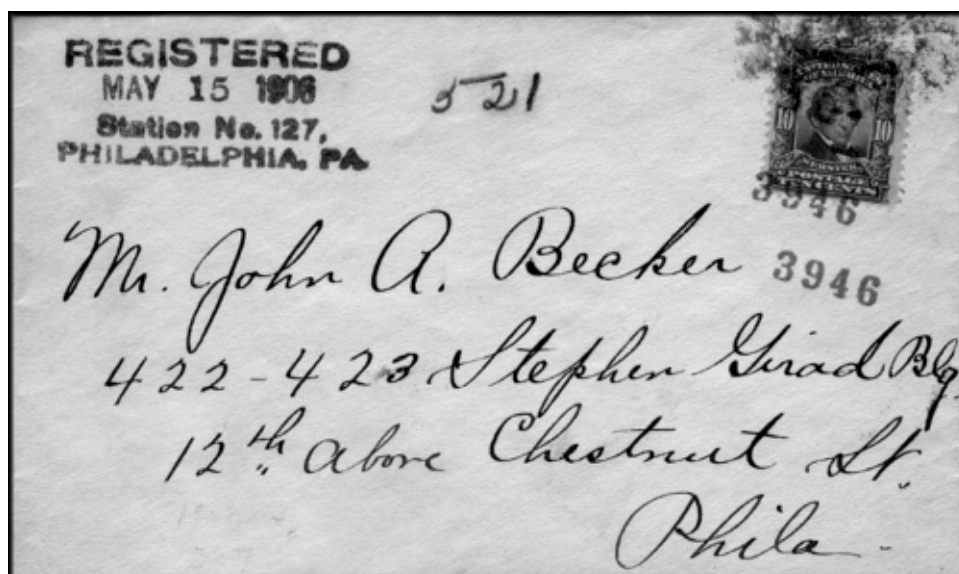


Figure 37 A standard, registered item from a high number Sub-Station, #127. The face of this letter was properly done according to the 1907 Postal Guide. What is improper 1) is the lack of the pair of reverse markings to insure a traceable pathway and timeline in case of mail loss. But the item is a local cover. Did the station clerk believe that, like the county name rule, local covers didn't require markings? If this is indeed acceptable postal behavior, this writer hasn't found regulation evidence of it yet. 2) The well-struck postmark is in black, not red, as was required. However, the hand stamped control number is in bright magenta, so the station didn't lack the right color ink. 3) There are no reverse receiving markings either, which means the Philadelphia Main Post Office was negligent. 4) The killer is illegible, as so many are from the 1890s, a cause for continuous complaint from the POD

West Virginia Research Papers: True

By Alyce Evans

SUMMERS COUNTY

TRUE

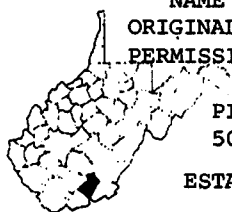
Known as PLEASANT VIEW; FALLING MOUNTAIN; AND THE PROPOSED NAME OF MOUTH OF BLUESTONE. 1920 pop-16

ORIGINALLY WAS THE SITE OF PACKS FERRY, AND PM APPLIED FOR PERMISSION TO MOVE THE OFFICE 2mi was declined. So a new office was established.

PIPESTEM DISTRICT & QUAD

505730E 415937ON 2480'

ESTABLISHED 24 JUL 1882-OP



54th county created

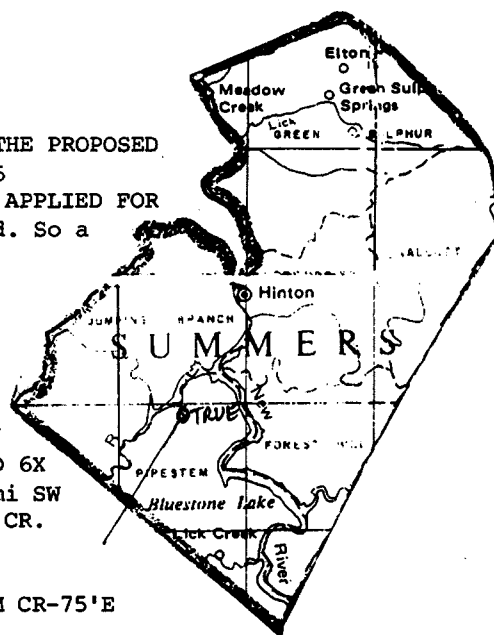
Fr Larkin M Meador 3 May 1882:

RT 12161 FR PRINCETON TO HINTON ON WHICH MAIL IS CARRIED 6X WEEKLY. CONTR. J F FREEMAN. HINTON-6mi NE PIPESTEM-7mi SW JUMPING BRANCH-6mi NW NEW R-1MI NE ON S SIDE BLUESTONE CR.

Fr Larkin M Meador 24 May 1882-PACKS FERRY-2mi SE

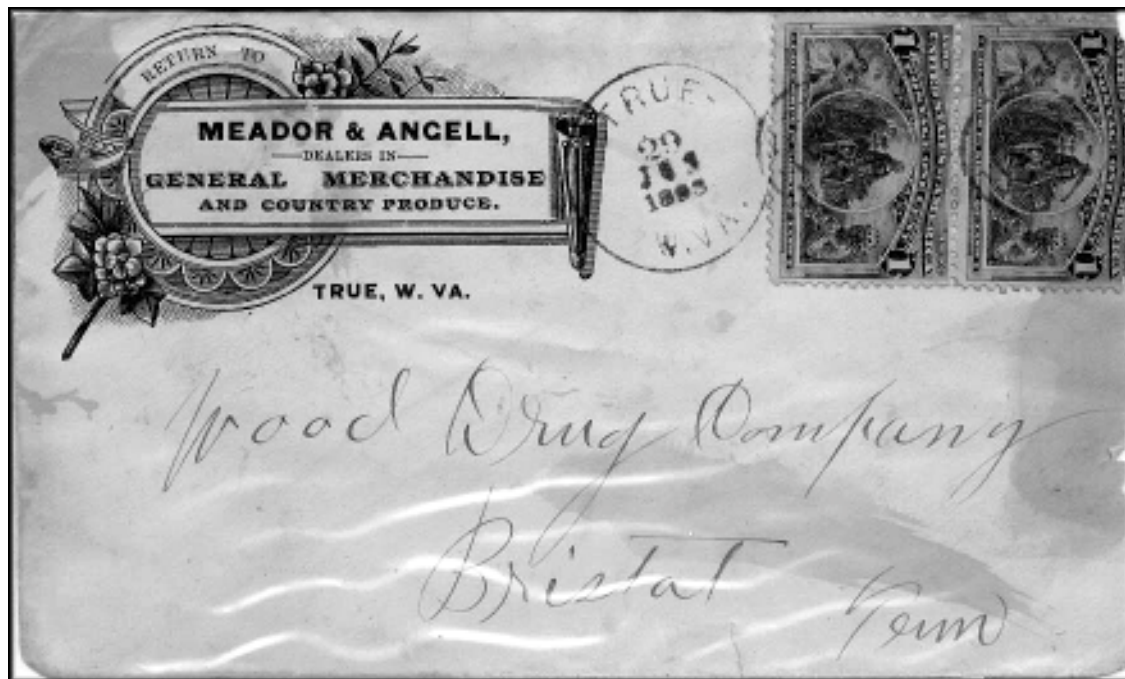
Fr John L Neely 13 Nov 1928-BLUESTONE R-900'NW PIPESTEM CR-75'E MADAMS CREEK-5/6mi NW BERTHA-4mi SE.

Fr Mrs Bessie Dodd 11 Apr 1942-SITE CHG 620 RODS SW: "already moved 3/31/42 as the present site will be flooded. pm resigned people anxious to preserve the po. 65 get mail at new site who live within a 1mi radius. CANCELS:\$51./65./60.



POSTMASTERS:

LARKIN M MEADOR	24 Jul 1882	MRS BESSIE E DODD	8 Apr 1942
WILLIE A MEADOR	3 Jan 1889	MRS WANONA C ALBERT	29 Aug 1944
EARLEY R LUCAS	23 Aug 1921	MISS RUBY ALBERT	1 Jul 1947
JOHN L NEELY	18 Aug 1925	MRS LELIA C FARLEY	1 Jan 1949(d. 6/1/61)
CLARENCE NEELY	28 May 1934	MRS S CAROL WEBB	12 Jul 1961
DURY C NEELY	29 Sep 1934	WATSON E HURST	18 Jun 1962
EARLY R NEELY	8 Oct 1936(d.1/14/38)	MRS DOLLY MYRTLE HURST	25 Sep 1964
DURY CLARENCE NEELY	9 Mar 1938	MRS MAUD ROSE CREWS	14 Jun 1968



Postmarked: True 28 Jun 1893 W.Va.

"TRUE"

FROM PACKS FERRY MAY 18 1882

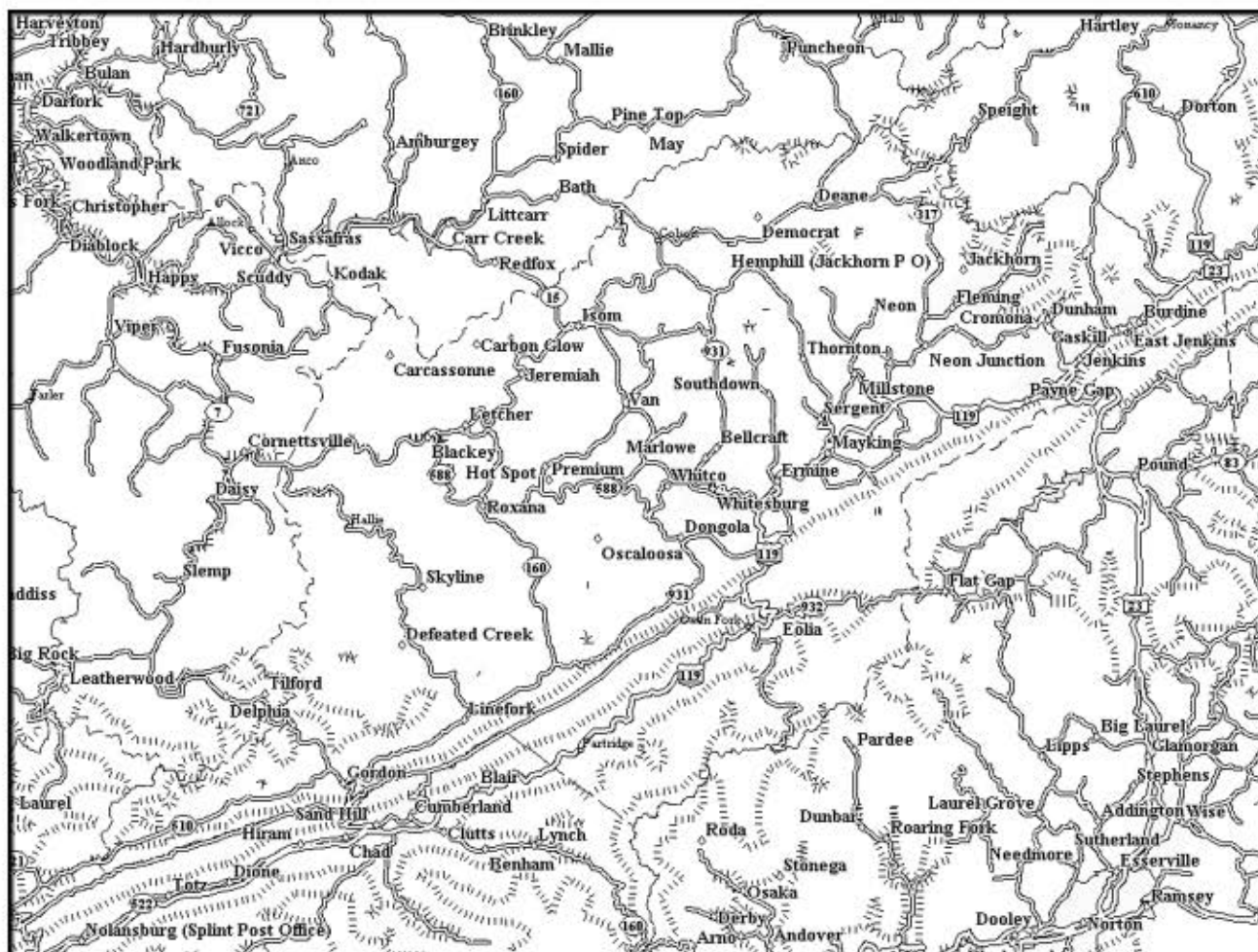
TO MR FRANK HATTON WASHINGTON DC

Dear Sir you ask the question in what direction will the proposed office be from Packs Ferry. Answer? two miles N West. Also you wanted to know if there is any objection to the proposed office. The present post master of Packs Ferry and some of the citizens on the SE side of New River object. There is about 1/3 of the SE citizens accommodated by the office at Packs Ferry, and 2/3 on the N West side of said river by the proposed office a-commodated. The only plea is that the mail is rather difficult to get as New River is to cross and those on the N west side have to pay ferriage. The proposed route will save the mail contractor fr paying ferriage across the Greenbrier river. There is quite a number of our citizens who have their mail directed to the Hinton P.O. six miles NE of proposed sitefrom the fact that Hinton is a growing town and there is more passing to Hinton than to Packs Ferry , it being 2 miles off the direct road to Hinton. Also you can see our Congressman Hon. J. E. Kenny or Mr Richard Burke who will testify to the truth of my statement. Hoping you will give it your careful attention, I remain

yours respectfully,

Proposed office will be named TRUE.

L. M. Meador



Letcher County Kentucky

Scale 1:250,000



The Post Offices of Letcher County, Kentucky: Part II

by Robert M. Rennick

(continued from Volume 32, No. 6)

The North Fork Post Offices of Indian Bottom and Blackey

Half a mile above the mouth of Rockhouse Creek was the nineteenth century settlement of *Indian Bottom*, named for the many Indian relics early found along the North Fork banks in that vicinity. On June 10, 1856 Stephen Hogg established the *Indian Bottom* post office which, for the next fifty years, served several mills and stores maintained by the Caudills, Dixons, and Backs of the lower Rockhouse area. On September 10, 1908, at the mouth of Elk Creek, two miles below the Indian Bottom post office, James H. Brown established an office which he named for his older brother Joseph Preston Brown (1860-1943), a respected local carpenter called "Joe Blackey" for his dark complexion.²¹ By the time it closed in late February 1913, the *Blackey* post office may have been serving the newly opened *Blackey* (rail) *Station*, a mile above Elk Fork and half a mile below Rockhouse Creek. To this site, shortly after the closing of Blackey, John H. Summer moved the *Indian Bottom* post office which, till then, had a non-continuous existence above the mouth of Rockhouse. On November 12, 1919 Richard B. Caudill had that office renamed *Blackey* for the station and the newly incorporated community that was growing up to serve newly opened area coal mines.

By the late 1920s, with a number of stores and shops, mills, a bank, a theater, and other businesses and a population of some 890, the town sought to rival Whitesburg, sixteen miles upstream.²² Then came the 1927 flood, several fires, and the later depressed coal industry, from which the town never recovered. Yet the post office survives, and the town was recently re-incorporated with a population of 200. The famed Caudill store, run by the Joe Begleys, and long the community's center, is now a museum. Some homes remain along the strip once called *Indian Bottom*, though that name has been preserved only in two nearby churches.

Kings Creek Post Offices

The seven mile long Kings Creek was settled in the early nineteenth century by Fields, Hoggs, Cornetts, Halcombs, and Isons and was so identified by the early 1840s. Yet no one knows for whom or what it was named. No known King families have been found among its early residents.

The first of the creek's post offices was appropriately called *Kings Creek*. This was established on January 8, 1877 with storekeeper David D. Fields, its first postmaster, and was soon serving several stores, mills, and a population of some 500. Its first known location was six miles up the creek, just below the present Rt. 931 (that extends along Cowan Creek). Around 1907 it was moved less than a mile above to a site at the mouth of Abner Branch. In February 1944 it was moved down the creek, to a site just above Fugate Branch (some eleven miles southwest of Whitesburg, via 931 and Cowan Creek) where it closed in 1984.

Just below the mouth of Kings Creek, ten miles below (west of) Whitesburg, storekeeper and lumberman George Hogg, descendant of the area's first settler James Hogg (ca. 1806), established a post office. The first name proposed was *Swift Station*, but it opened on January 5, 1891, as *Roxana* [rahx/aen/uh or rahx/aen/ee]. According to historians, it was named for a local lady, but no such person, nor anyone of that name connected with the dominant Hogg family, has been identified. Whence *Swift Station* is even more curious since the railroad didn't arrive till 1912.

The post office of *Grape* served the middle section of Kings Creek from April 10, 1901 to mid-February 1913. Arnett and Isaac Mitchell were its first postmasters. It was on the creek, one fourth of a mile above the mouth of Lynn Branch, roughly halfway between Roxana and the Kings Creek office. Its name derivation can only be guessed at

The Smoot Creek Post Office

The seven mile long Smoot Creek, which joins the North Fork eight miles below (west of) Whitesburg, had at least eight post offices, with several more serving the area around its mouth. Settled early in the nineteenth century by Combs, Fraziers, Pollys, and

Wrights, it had received its inexplicable name at least by the early 1840s. Smoot, a Dutch family name referring to one who renders lard, has never been found in Letcher County except as a nickname given to Moses Spencer Adams (1812-1890), son of Moses and Mary Garland Adams of the Pert Creek Adamses. But whether Adams was named for the creek or the creek was named for him is not known, and probably won't be.

The earliest Smoot Creek post office was aptly called **Smoot Creek** and was established at least three miles up the creek by the blacksmith Jonathan (sic) H. Frazier on December 6, 1890. In 1908 it was moved to the mouth of the creek where it closed at the end of January 1914.

The vicinity to which **Smoot Creek** was moved in 1908 had an earlier post office, first called **Mill** when it opened on March 27, 1902 with Stephen P. Frazier, postmaster; but on August 2nd of that year it was renamed **Cremona**. This is not to be confused with the later **Cromona**, the office that still serves the old coal town of Haymond (see below). It's not known why the name of the north Italian town and province was given to either office. **Cremona** was discontinued in May 1906.

By 1915, after the arrival of the railroad and the establishment of its **Smoot Creek Station**, coal production began at the mouth of this stream. The first local mines were opened that year on land leased from Monroe Frazier by Dave Hayes (or Hays), a Whitesburg attorney, and his partners Charlie Back and John A. Webb, operating as the Dalna Coal Company. This had been named for Hayes' oldest daughter Dalna (nee ca. 1901) who later married the Whitesburg banker Herman Hale. The camp and rail station soon took the name **Dalna**, as did the post office, re-established on July 1, 1918, with William B. Price, postmaster.

Several years later, the mine and camp were acquired by the **Elsiecoal** Mining Company and the post office, on July 18, 1923, took that name. The community and station, though, remained **Dalna** for awhile.

In 1930 the Elsiecoal Mining Company was discontinued. By then the community had extended at least a mile up Smoot Creek to the mouth of Johnson Branch where the commissary and several businesses were located. The **Elsiecoal** post office, though, remained at the mouth of Smoot when, on December 1, 1932, it and the station became **Hot Spot**. By then, the mines

had been reopened by John P. Gorman's Hot Spot Coal Company. On June 1, 1942, after O.J.E. Johnson and D.E.M. Howard acquired the mines and camp, the post office, still at the mouth of Smoot, took their company name **Premium**. By 1960 **Hot Spot** retained its station at the mouth of Smoot while the Premium Station served the Smoot Creek spur line two miles up the valley. The **Premium** post office continues to serve the Smoot valley, half a mile from the river, though what's left of the community is still locally called **Hot Spot**. Whence **Elsiecoal** and **Premium** remain a mystery. (Perhaps, as local tradition goes, Elsie really was someone's girlfriend.)

The county's shortest run (September 7 through November 1900) and least remembered post office **Fern** was at the head of Trace Fork, 1 ½ miles up from Smoot Creek, just off the present Ky 15/160. Its name has not been derived. On October 24, 1906 Hiram Whitaker sought to re-establish the office to serve the growing Trace Fork area and named it **Van**, probably for Van B. Combs, one of the dominant area families. But in late January 1907 Whitaker's authorization was rescinded. Then, on September 2, 1908, Fern's only postmaster Shade R. Combs successfully opened the **Van** post office in his home at or near his first post office site.²³ Sometime between 1937 and 1942 the **Van** office was moved to the mouth of Trace, four miles up Smoot Creek, and five miles northwest of Whitesburg, via Ky 15, where it ended in 1987.

A post office named **Cap**, also for reasons unknown, was authorized on June 11, 1906, but Robert Holcomb's order was rescinded in February of the following year. However, on September 2, 1908, he succeeded in opening this office on Smoot, one and a half miles above (northeast of) the mouth of Trace. Henry B. and Allen Collins maintained the office through January 1914.

Then Allen Collins re-established the office on October 6, 1915 as **Willaluce** [wihl/uh/loos]. He remained as its postmaster here and at a site half a mile above (just below the head of) Smoot till it closed in mid-March 1929. According to (then) contemporaries, it was named for Willa Lewis, of whom nothing seems to be known.

Another short-lived post office (April 8, 1907 to June 15, 1909) called **Beefork** [bee/fawrk] is said to have been at the mouth of Bee Tree Fork of Smoot, three miles from North Fork. This is curious, if that's so, since at the time of its establishment the office would

have been at the first site of the *Smoot Creek* post office. Even more curious is the fact that, according to the July 1907 Site Location Report of its only postmaster William Banks, it was 3 ½ miles west of (below) the Smoot Creek post office. Anyway, county historians have assumed that the name refers to the creek which may have been named for local honey bees.

Two Post Offices Serving Kingdom Come Creek

One of eastern Kentucky's more unusual and provocative names was applied early to the five mile long stream that joins the North Fork 8 ½ miles below Whitesburg. According to I.A. Bowles of Whitesburg, in his 1949 county history, a man named King was the creek's first settler and that later arrivals, asking who had come there first, were customarily told that "King Done Come." Yet, according to the creek's own historian Marie Frazier Day, who took issue with this account, there is no record of any early settlers named King. The creek's first settlers were, in fact, the brothers George and John Ison who lived at its lower and upper ends, respectively. They were soon joined by Solomon Frazier and, later, by Banks, Caudills, Hamptons, Fields, and Days. Rather, she believes, the name came from the Lord's Prayer and had been given the stream by its highly religious first settlers.

The first of Kingdom Come's town post offices was established by George Stamper at its North Fork confluence and operated between May 26, 1899 and mid-September 1903. Since his name preference *Dingus* was in use in Morgan County, he named his office *Alice* but no one knows why. His next door neighbors, though, were Martin and Lucinda Akmon (sic) who had a fourteen year old daughter Alice who later married a Halcomb.

The other office was the equally enigmatic *Oscaloosa* [ahs/kuh/loo/suh]. It was established on July 27, 1900 by storekeeper Harvey Ison, John's son, probably just above the mouth of Stillhouse Branch (now called Poplar Log Hollow). In 1910 Jasper Ison had it moved one mile down the creek to the mouth of Oldhouse (now Ned) Branch, one mile above North Fork. It later moved to a site just above the mouth of Frazier Branch, 1 ¾ of a mile from North Fork, where it closed in 1987.

So, why was the office called *Oscaloosa* instead of *Kingdom Come* or *Kingdom Come Creek*? By then, the Post Office Department was insisting on one word names (though some exceptions were being made), and probably also wished to avoid confusion with nearby *Kings Creek*. *Oscaloosa* (spelled Oskaloosa) is the name of towns and post offices in Illinois, Missouri, and Kansas, and was ultimately derived from an earlier town of that name in Iowa. Perhaps Letcher's was, too.

According to Mrs. Day, the name was suggested by Dr. Gideon Ison, a local man, and may have derived from the tale of the Indian chief with several beautiful wives whose favorite, the last and most beautiful of them, was aptly named Oskaloosa.

Henry Gannett, an early twentieth century U.S. government place names authority, traced the name to one of the seven wives of Chief Mahaska (or White Cloud the Elder) of the Iowas. But this was discounted by John Rydjord in his *Indian Place Names*²⁴ who pointed out that Mahaska's youngest and favorite wife was called Rantchewaime (which translates roughly as "female flying pigeon") and that none of his wives, nor those of his son, Mahaska II, were called Oskaloosa. Rydjord also questioned the romantic translation of Oskaloosa as "the last of the beautiful." But the name, he said, could have come from one of the wives of the Seminole chief Osceola, of whom, including their names, nothing is known. Or it could be a corruption of the Creek Okaloosa, meaning "black water." Or, according to the late Virgil Vogel, another authority on Native American names, it could have derived from Ishki (mother) and lusa (black) – thus "black mother," and may have been a byname of Osceola's wife Chechoter (mourning dove) who is said to have been enslaved for having "black blood."

In any event, only the post office was *Oscaloosa*; the creek and what remains of its valley neighborhood have been *Kingdom Come*.

The Dry Fork Area Post Offices

The aptly named, 4 ½ mile long Dry Fork, joins the North Fork just below the old Field post office site, five miles below Whitesburg. Its two post offices were *Crown* and *Tyra*.

Crown, whose name also remains underived, but has also been mostly confined to the post office, was established on April 22, 1898 with John C. Brown, its

first postmaster. (Could his name have been corrupted to Crown?) The office was on or just off Loggy Hollow, half a mile west of the Fork, where it remained till 1930 when it was removed by Maggie Taylor to the Fork itself. In 1937 Florence Brown had it moved one mile up the Fork to serve the community of **Dry Fork**, three miles up from the North Fork. Its operation was suspended in August 1990.

Tyra [ta:/ree] served the upper Dry Fork area, one mile north of Crown's post 1937 site, from April 6, 1905 to mid-November 1910. It was named for the local descendants of David Tyree, Sr. (ca. 1785-1876), a Dry Fork landowner and the grandfather of the first postmaster Rachel (Mrs. Elihu) Brown.

In 1912, at a site 1.4 miles below the mouth of Dry Fork, and six miles below Whitesburg, the L&N Railroad opened a station it called **Uz**. W.S. Morton, Jr., the engineer responsible for laying the tracks through that stretch of the North Fork valley, later accounted for that name. From the very beginning, he reported, the railroad had problems in this area: property owners at first refused to let surveying parties cross their land; then they wouldn't sell the right-of-way or the depot site for a reasonable price; the contractor was falling behind in his commitments, and he and the resident engineer were always arguing; and bootleggers kept the construction camp in an uproar. Finally, after listening to a summary of Morton's complaints, the L&N's supervisory engineer, J.E. Willoughby, suggested the analogy to the difficulties of the biblical Job and agreed to Morton's request that they name the new station for Job's homeland. It became **Uz**, but it's always been pronounced yu/zee.

The post office that served the station and surrounding area began as **Field**, just above the mouth of Dry Fork. It opened on March 2, 1906 with Clinton Boatright, its first postmaster, and may have been named for descendants of pioneer James Fields. On September 10, 1914 J. Henry Brown had it moved to the station where it too became **Uz** and closed in 1939.

Cowan Creek Post Offices

This 6 ½ mile long stream (sometimes called Big Cowan to distinguish it from Little Cowan, its largest tributary), heads in Pine Mountain and joins the North Fork at Ice, three miles below Whitesburg. It's said to have been named for the brothers Thomas and Bill (?) Cowan [kowun or Kown] who had explored and patented the valley in the very early nineteenth cen-

tury but never settled there. The first known permanent settlers were Samuel and John Maggard who were followed by Fields, Brown, Banks, Blair, and Day families.

Mandrake was the first of Cowan's four post offices. Crockett M. and James R. Fields maintained it between May 9, 1884 and mid-January 1917 in a stretch between Sturgill Branch and Beetree Fork (now called Long Branch). A possible name source is the mandrake or may apple, a highly poisonous perennial herb of the barberry family.

According to tradition, when a visiting postal inspector Ritter Myers arrived at the mouth of Cowan in February 1896 the North Fork there was so jammed with ice that he easily persuaded the postmaster-designate Leslie Brown to name the new office **Ice**. It opened on December 23, 1897 and by the First World War was serving a modest coal camp. Both were gone by 1934.

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries newspaper stories of events in faraway places inspired a number of American place names. One such place, a post office established at the mouth of Little Cowan on July 30, 1901 (with Nancy Day, its first postmaster), was **Dongola** [dahng/ohl/uh]. In 1896 the American media reported the capture of the Sudanese city of Dungulah (or Dongola) [dahng/uh/luh] on the Nile, the capital of the old Nubian Kingdom, thus suppressing the Mahdist rebellion and assuring continued English control of that large territory.²⁵ After several moves along the creek, this Letcher office ended in 1984 at the mouth of Grapevine Branch, two miles above the North Fork.

The family of Clark (1880-1956) and Dinah (nee 1878) Day, which moved to Cowan in the late nineteenth century, gave its name to the **Day** post office at several sites just above the earlier Mandrake. It operated as an independent office, with Mrs. Bonnie Hammond Day and others of that family as postmasters, from 1937 to 1959. Then it became a Whitesburg rural branch at the mouth of Long Branch, 2 ½ miles above Dongola.

Other North Fork Post Offices Below Whitesburg

A mile and a half below Tolson Branch, midway between Blackey and Roxana, was Gideon and Jonah Ison's inexplicably named **Extra**. This office oper-

ated from August 5, 1905 through November 1912, and is now nearly altogether forgotten. Gideon's first name preference may have been the equally unexplained *Exelent*.

The *Whitco* [wiht/koh] post office served the Whitesburg Coal Company camp and its rail station from January 22, 1918 to 1933. Edward L. Williams was its first postmaster. Surviving fires and flooding, the site is now a working class residential suburb of Whitesburg, two miles above. Attempts to incorporate it into the larger town have thus far been unsuccessful.

Post Offices in the Valleys of the Kentucky River's North Fork Above Whitesburg: Crafts Colly Creek

Known first as simply Colly Creek, for reasons as yet unknown, but since the early twentieth century as Crafts Colly Creek, this 4 ½ mile long stream joins the North Fork just below Ermine, some 2 ½ miles above Whitesburg. The still numerous Craft family descend from Archealous [ahr/cheel/a] Craft, a North Carolina-born Revolutionary War veteran, who settled on this stream around 1810.

The earliest of Craft Colly's six post offices was *Colly*. This was established on June 17, 1886 by local wagonmaker and cooper James B. Stallard about half a mile up the creek from North Fork. Some time before 1904 it had been moved a mile and a half further up this stream to a site just above Allen Branch where it closed in 1932.

The first of Letcher County's two *Burdine* [bir/da:n] post offices was operated by Shade R. Combs between January 25, 1898 and September 1902. It was a relatively short but undetermined distance above Colly's Allen Branch site, and probably served that area before Colly was moved there. Its name source was most likely Burdine Collins (1882-1951), the son of Combs' neighbors Henry P. and Clary Collins, and a grandson of an earlier Burdine (or Berdine) Collins.

The still active *Ermine* [ir/ma:n] post office at the mouth of Crafts Colly, was established on October 22, 1904 and named for Ermine Hall, the stepson of its first postmaster Sallie Hall. Ermine Hall (ne October 1896) was the son of John A. (Johnny) Hall and his second wife Mollie (nee Wright). Johnny married Sallie Ann Reynolds only months before she opened the post office. Actually *Ermine* was only one of the two names proposed for her office; the other was *Morgan* for another prominent Letcher County fam

ily. That the office might also have been named for Ermine Webb and/or Ermine Craft, as has also been suggested, is unfounded for no such Letcher Countians have been identified.

Serving the upper end of Crafts Colly between June 1, 1905 and mid-November 1919, at a site some 2 ½ miles above the Colly post office, was *Hilliard*. First postmaster Samuel Adington's preferred name *Alpha* was then in use in Clinton County. Neither name has been explained.

Neither has Dock Adams' short-lived (August 19, 1907 – August 1909) *Orlena* near the head of what was then the Right Fork of Crafts Colly and is now Company Branch.

Between June 6, 1921 and 1975 the upper end of Crafts Colly was served by the *Southdown* post office. Probably named for a local herd of this breed of sheep, it was opened by William M. Holbrook just below the head of the creek, a mile or so above the earlier Hilliard. In 1937 it was moved down the creek to the forks (now the mouth of Company Branch), four miles north of North Fork and Ermine. From 1965 to 1975 *Southdown* was half a mile above Company Branch as a rural branch of the Ermine office.

The Bottom Fork Post Office

The three mile long Bottom Fork, joining the North Fork at Mayking, was named for the large level clearing at or near its mouth that is said to have been the site of one of the earliest settlements in Letcher County. In fact, *Adams*, one of the earliest offices in the upper North Fork watershed, may have been on its banks between January 4, 1833 and December 26, 1835.

A much later office was established at the head of the Fork on June 4, 1891. According to tradition, it was named for its first postmaster William G. (Bill) Breeding; or rather, it was coined from Bill and the route that nineteenth century travelers followed between Whitesburg (and points west) and Pound Gap (the way into Virginia and points east.) Thus *Bilvia* [bihl/vee/uh or bihl/vee]²⁶. It closed in 1945.

The community and post office of *Mayking*, at the mouth of Bottom Fork, five miles above Whitesburg, was on land first settled by *Adams*' only postmaster Benjamine Webb, the son of James Webb, a leader of the pioneer Adams colony. Before *Mayking* was established on January 25, 1894, the community may have been called *Bottom Fork*. The origin of the

Mayking name has long been debated. Some say that when the first postmaster Isom Gibson failed to win approval of any of the names he had submitted to the Post Office Department, he accepted the name suggested to him, that of a recently deceased friend of a postal official. He is said to have later (January 7, 1906) received a letter from a Leominster, Massachusetts resident stating that she had named the post office for a girl friend. It's also been said to have been named for the wife or daughter of an early coal operator but nothing is known of them.

The **Mayking** post office may first have been a short distance up Bottom Fork, but by 1904 it was on the North Fork, just above the confluence. Ten years later John W. Adams moved it to his store by the new rail station, one fourth of a mile below. By 1924 it was back to its site just above the confluence where it remains. For much of the post World War II era, **Mayking** has been a trade center for area truck mines and the home of some of greater Whitesburg's more successful business and professional families.

Margaret Webb Killings' post office, established on March 31, 1898, may have been somewhere on **Bottom Fork** for this was her first name preference. But instead it was named **Margaret**, and by 1906 was on what's now Cram Creek (but was then Mill Creek). By 1911 it had moved down Cram (Mill) to its North Fork confluence, one mile below Mayking, where it closed in November 1912.²⁷

Pine creek, which joins the Bottom Fork just yards from the North Fork, had one post office, the short-lived (February 14, 1906 – mid-July 1910) and unexplained **Lima**. It was 2 ½ miles south of Bilvia, two miles northeast of Margaret, and 2 ½ miles above Mayking. Bettie Jane Kincer was its only postmaster.

Thornton Creek's Post Offices

Thornton Creek joins the North Fork 1 ½ miles above Mayking. According to the late Harry Caudill, the first settlers of this four mile long stream found trees along its banks marked with the name "Thornton Crawford," or simply "T. Crawford" with the date 1772-1774. Nothing is known of this man; he did not settle on the creek nor leave any progeny in the county.

Arch was the earliest of the Thornton valley's six post offices, and operated from September 22, 1884 - August 1887, some three miles up the creek. It was most likely named for its only postmaster Archibald J.

Jenkins (1844-1908), son of William and Mary (Cornett) Jenkins. Or, as some believe, it could have been named for his father-in-law Archelous Craft.²⁸

One half mile below (south of) Arch was probably the first site of **Evans**. This office was established on February 19, 1891 by storekeeper Simpson Evans Adams (1857-1934) who undoubtedly gave it his middle name, and was first operated by his wife Sarah (nee Webb). In 1900 it was probably moved to the Arch site, and closed at the end of May 1913.

At the mouth of Thornton Creek, to serve the Webb store and one or more Craft family flour mills, and the community growing up around them, Nehemiah M. Webb, on May 29, 1890, established the **Sergeant** [sir/djuhnt] post office. This was named for a county family descended from the brothers David (1809-1898) and Andrew. Nehemiah, who was later to become a Whitesburg postmaster and then editor of the county's weekly newspaper, *The Mountain Eagle*, was succeeded in September 1894 by his brother John S.²⁹

In 1914 the **Sergeant** post office and town were moved to the mouth of Webb Branch where, three years later, the first of several coal companies opened its area mine. By then the L&N had opened a station at the mouth of Thornton Creek and called it **Bastin**. Though the mines closed in the early 1930s most of the home-owning miners remained to work in other county mines. The town was almost abandoned after mining anywhere in the county became unprofitable in the late 1950s, but was revived by the resettlement of a number of county families coming home from northern sojourns. Since the post office closed in 1985, local people have been served by the Thornton post office which had moved to the mouth of the creek after Sergeant's move to Webbs Branch.

On March 20, 1900 Drucilla J. Webb opened the **Ola** office to serve a store and school in a highly populated area two miles south of Evans and two miles up the creek from the North Fork. Mrs. Webb was the daughter of Arch and Jane Craft Jenkins and the first wife of John S. Webb who ran the Sergeant and later the Thornton post offices. After her untimely death in 1904, one of her successors was Elizabeth (Collins) Webb, John's second wife. The office closed in January 1908. No one with this obviously female name has been accounted for in the Jenkins or Webb families.

The **Thornton** name was applied to a valley post office established by Lizzie Holbrook on May 9, 1908, 1 ½ miles up from Sergeant on the North Fork. In 1922, after Sergeant's move to Webb Branch, Mrs. Holbrook's successor, John S. Webb, had it moved to the old Sergeant site to serve **Bastin Station** and the Bastin and Apex coal camps there. It continues at this location.

Probably at the old **Ola** site, to serve an Elkhorn Collieries Coal Company camp, was the first location of a post office established on March 30, 1923 as **Farraday**. The first name proposed for it was **Hattie** for the fifteen year old daughter of its first postmaster Liza Bates and her husband Rob. Whence **Farraday** is not known. There is no evidence that it was named for the English scientist Michael Faraday (1791-1867) or for an Allafair Day, as has been suggested, and the county has had no Farraday families. In 1930 the office was moved one mile south to a site one mile up the creek from the North Fork to serve an Elkhorn Collieries camp called **Winters**. Here it closed in 1957.

Post Offices on Millstone Creek

A millstone at an unlocated site somewhere in its valley undoubtedly gave this 4 ½ mile long creek its name long before the post offices bearing it began their operation. The second of these offices, the still active **Millstone**, serves its North Fork confluence, 1 ½ miles above the mouth of Thornton Creek. On December 17, 1878 Jason Craft established that office in his home just above the mouth of Millstone and named it **Craftsville** for his large family that had earlier settled several of the North Fork tributaries. On June 19, 1918 Jason's son Nelson R. renamed it **Millstone**, and shortly thereafter a camp was built there by the South East Coal Company. This is the **Millstone** we know today.

On October 7, 1890 the first of the two **Millstone** post offices was established, with Joseph Hall, its first postmaster, some 2 ½ miles up the creek. Within a few years it was serving Arch C. Craft's store and several flour mills. Then, on the very same day **Craftsville** on the North Fork became **Millstone**, this **Millstone**, with Sarah J. Franklin, postmaster, became **Craftsville**. Some ten years later, Arch Craft, who had become postmaster in 1892, and for whom the office had probably been named, moved it half a mile up the creek where it closed in 1932.

From 1934 to 1939 the area that had been that had been served by Arch Craft's post office was again served by an office called **Holbrook**. It was at the forks of Millstone, a mile up the creek from the North Fork. Enoch Arden Franklin undoubtedly named it for the descendants of Randolph Holbrook who had early settled at the mouth of Millstone.

Two miles up the creek from what had been the Millstone and later the Craftsville and Holbrook offices was Lick Fork where a family of Horns is said to have lived. A half mile up this fork was the **Horn** post office, established on April 12, 1892 by Theophilis Garrett Bates. After an intermittent operation, it closed for good on July 31, 1918.

Near the head of Millstone Creek, 1 ¾ miles above the mouth of Lick Fork, was the **Meade** post office, named for one or more area families (probably Albert and Mary Meade's). Sampson H. Tolliver was its only postmaster, from May 13, 1911 through October 1914.

To be continued. . . .

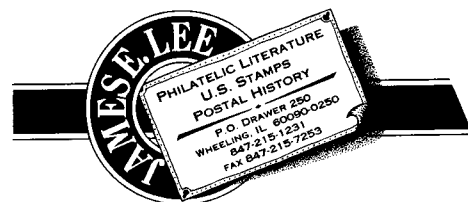
ATTENTION

Postal History & Literature Dealers

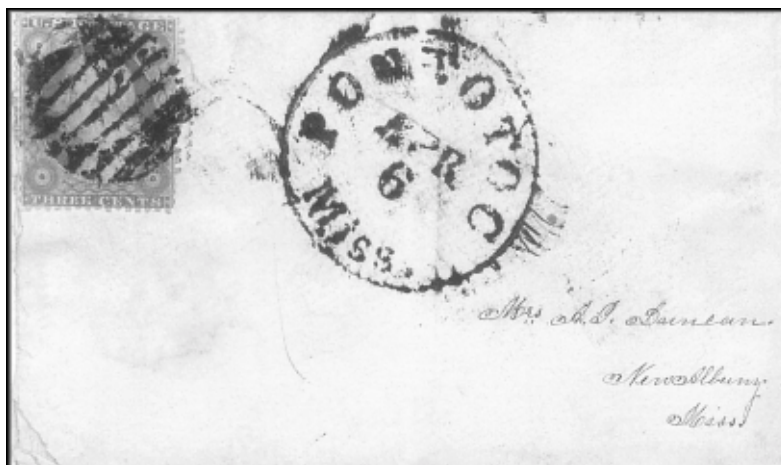
Trade discounts are available on *United States Post Offices, Volumes 1, 2, 3 & 4*, as well as other La Posta Publications.

WRITE OR CALL:

**James E. Lee, P.O. Drawer 250,
Wheeling, IL 60090
847-215-7253**



Named for Jef. Davis



*Figure 1 Cover used during the Confederate period,
with letter dated April 4, 1861*

By Herbert P. McNeal

The little cover illustrated herein first caught my eye by its bold postmark, and even though the stamp was missing from the upper left corner (since repaired), I found the content to be the real prize.

The letter, in the same tiny, cramped hand as the cover's address, was clearly written by a schoolgirl. And the date, April 4, 1861, confirms the Confederate use of a U.S. stamp.

It reads as follows:

Dear Mamma,

I am determined to fulfill my promise if the letters don't reach you.

Mrs. Conky, Mrs. Morton, and Mrs. Hormes all had a baby when I was at home. Mr. Conky is going to name his Jef Davis after the president of the southern states.

Miss Kate Herron is going to get married next week on Thursday evening. She is going to let all the girls go down to see her. I forgot to tell you who she is going to marry. It is Mr. Baranger.

I told Nannie of what she said about me. She said she did not say it, that she was going to tell aunt Eliza to take it back.

Mr. Conky is going to give us a week and four day holiday in about two weeks. I do not know exactly when it will be.

I will knit my cap and Miss Hatties cap as soon as I can get the cruell.

Write soon and tell me all the news.

Your lvg. daughter,

Dollie Duncan

United StatesPostal History

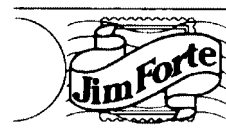
Town Cancels. D.P.O.'s, machines, advertising, R.P.O.'s, stampless and much more are featured in my state price lists. Which state may I send you?

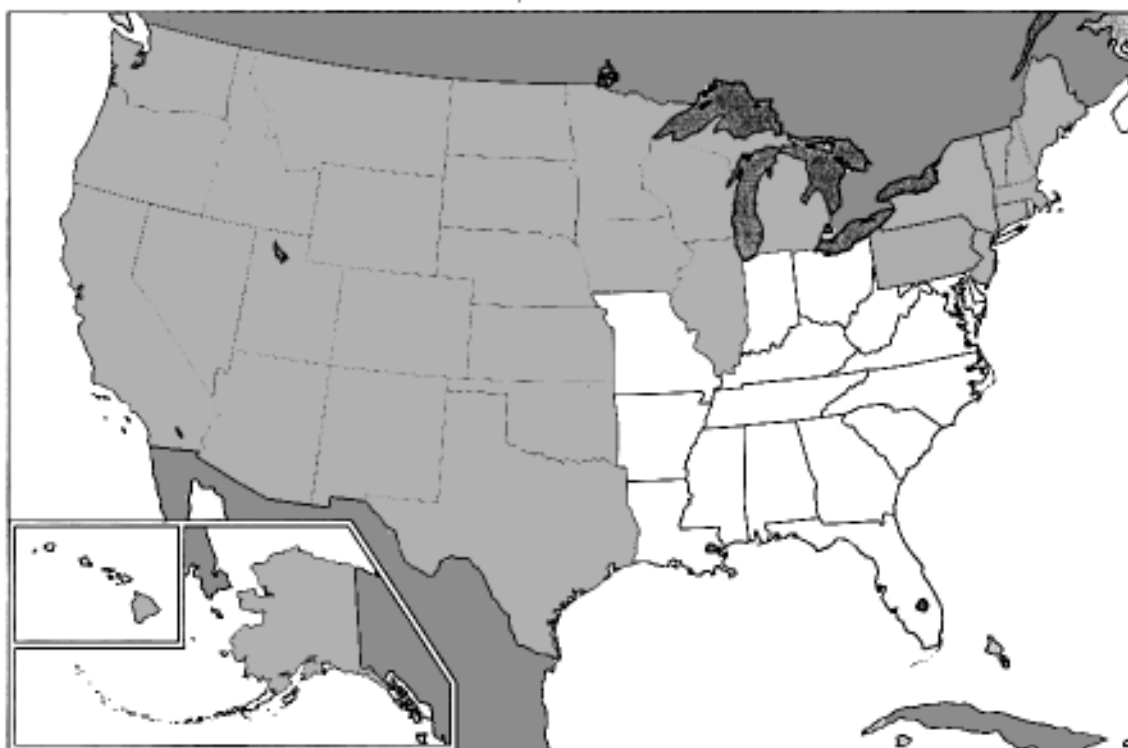
P.O. Box 94822

Las Vegas NV 89193

(800) 594-3837

FAX (702) 369-9139





Postal History Data Bases on Computer Disk

La Posta Publications is offering for sale selected postal history data bases on computer disk. Use our data bases to create your own checklists, writeup collections, design new tables and wantlists. Simply load our files, which are available on 3.5 inch floppy disks in a variety of popular data base and spreadsheet formats [e.g., Lotus 1 2 3®, Excel®, Access®, dBASE® or ASCII comma delimited], into your own data base program and begin designing tables and checklists, cataloging, and tracking prices.

STATE POST OFFICE DATA BASES

Post Office Data Bases include all the information available in our popular State Checklist series with separate fields for **Post Office**, **County**, **State**, **Dates of Operation**, and **Scarcity Index**. Sort post offices by county, chronological order of establishment, or Scarcity Index value. Print your own post office listing arranged by county or Scarcity Index. Customize the data base, or build a new expanded post office data base by adding new information to our basic design.

State Post Office Data Bases Currently Available (*postpaid or by email*)

Alaska (542 offices)	\$11.95	Nevada (709 offices)	\$11.95
Arizona (887 offices)	\$11.95	New Hampshire (897 offices)	\$11.95
California (4,278 offices)	\$24.95	New Jersey (1,532 offices)	\$11.95
Colorado (2,438 offices)	\$17.95	New York (6,112 offices)	\$29.95
Connecticut (781 offices)	\$11.95	New Mexico (1,511 offices)	\$11.95
Hawaii (193 offices)	\$11.95	North Dakota (1,881 offices)	\$14.95
Idaho (1,324 offices)	\$11.95	Oklahoma (3,447 offices)	\$22.95
Illinois (5,358 offices)	\$27.95	Oregon (2,179 offices)	\$14.95
Iowa (3,984 offices)	\$24.95	Pennsylvania (8,535 offices)	\$29.95
Kansas (4,232 offices)	\$24.95	Rhode Island (245 offices)	\$11.95
Maine (2,152 offices)	\$14.95	South Dakota (1,989 offices)	\$14.95
Massachusetts (1,332 offices)	\$11.95	Texas (7,895 offices)	\$34.95
Michigan (4,504 offices)	\$24.95	Utah (810 offices)	\$11.95
Minnesota (3,741 offices)	\$24.95	Vermont (784 offices)	\$11.95
Montana (2,075 offices)	\$14.95	Washington (2,287 offices)	\$14.95
Nebraska (2,764 offices)	\$17.95	Wisconsin (3,806 offices)	\$24.95
		Wyoming (1,002 offices)	\$11.95

Order From: La Posta Publications, P.O. Box 100, Chatsworth Is., NSW 2469 Australia
or helbock@la-posta.com



WANTED!

North Dakota

Territory
Postmarks

(Photocopies)

For publication of North Dakota Territorial
Postmarks

Short Term Plan: Serial Publication in *La Posta*

Long Term Plan: Comprehensive Catalog

Send To:

Mike Ellingson

P.O. Box 402

Eagan, MN 55121

E-mail contact:

mikeellingson@juno.com



ARIZONA - NEW MEXICO POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

**Seeks New Members, Who Seek New
Material, New Information and New
Friends**

DUES \$10 Annually

Receive "The Roadrunner" Quarterly
Newsletter

Trade Duplicates at Winter and Summer
Meetings

Contact: Thomas K.

Todsen, 2000 Rose Lane,
Las Cruces, NM 88005

or

Peter Rathwell, 4523 E.
Mountain View Dr.,
Phoenix, AZ 85028



Ausdenmoore-McFarlane

STAMPS, POSTCARDS
& COVERS

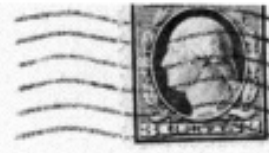
- ☐ War & Censored Covers
- ☐ Thematic Covers
- ☐ U.S. 20th Century Postal History
- ☐ Worldwide Postal History
- ☐ U.S. Postal Stationery
- ☐ Worldwide Postal Stationery
- ☐ Picture Postcards
- ☐ USPS Publicity Photos

Chuck & Jan McFarlane

P.O. Box 2348

Midland, Michigan 48641-2348

email: mcmichigan@aol.com



New WWI Postal History Book Now Available

*United States Domestic Military Facilities
in the First World War (1917-19)*

Available in printed form: 8 1/2 x 11 double sided loose
leaf, about 380 pages. Price \$30 + shipping. In US,
add \$4. (Overseas buyers please contact first).

Also available on CD-ROM: \$30 postpaid.

Send order and payment to:

Robert Swanson
P. O. Box 2867
Wailuku HI 96793-7867

e-mail: *rds@swansongrp.com*
http://www.swansongrp.com/bob.html

WANTED: CALIFORNIA

Postal History by County Pre-1920

California

Counties:

**Alpine, Inyo, Mono, San Bernardino
Orange & San Diego**

Please write or call:

Bob Nichols

1423 N. 1st Ave.

Upland, CA 91786

(909) 982-9697



Colorado Postal History Society

Now Publishing
Encyclopedia of

Colorado Post Office Markings

by William H. Bauer

- .. "Colorado Postal Historian" including the "Encyclopedia" published four times per year.
- .. Spring Meeting held annually at ROMPEX in Denver. Fall Meeting held in November.

Information and Membership Application:

Roger D. Rydberg, CPHS Secretary

354 So Nile St

Aurora, CO 80012

roger-rydberg@worldnet.att.net

Back Issues of the "Encyclopedia" are
Available

Join Now and Receive Installment No. 1.

TOMORROW'S POSTAL HISTORY IS HAPPENING TODAY!

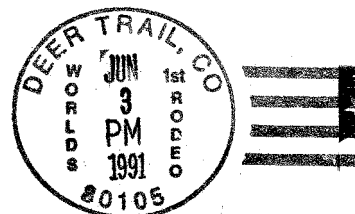
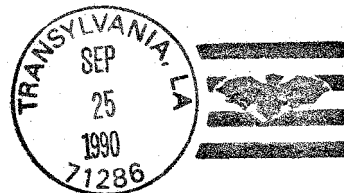
Strange but true, it is easier to find what U.S. post offices existed in 1902 than to find out what U.S. post offices are operating in 2002.

The only official source, **USPS' National 5-Digit Zip Code & Post Office Directory**, leaves out literally thousands of stations and branches, lists closed offices, and is riddled with other errors.

Finally, a complete list is here! *The Post Mark Collectors Club's Directory of Post Offices*, as noted in *Linn's Stamp News* and the *American Philatelist*, is as accurate as 10 years of research and 20 volunteers can make it. The postal rarities of tomorrow are listed here, and only here.

Available in handsome notebook format for \$50, or two computer disks for \$15.80. Payment (payable to PMCC) to Andrew Mitchell, P.O. Box 5, Tariffville, CT 06081-0005. Individual state lists also available – see order form at <http://www.postmarks.org>

Questions or requests for a free sample to above address or by e-mail to: ajmitchell2@attbi.com



KIRK'S STAMP CO.



P. O.
BOX 74



Constant Additions
Of Postal History in
Virtually All Areas

Expo's, Express

R.P.O.'s, U.S. Postal Cards,

Stationery, Stamps & More

We seek odd & unusual
please offer!

KIRK AND ELSIE WOLFORD

Phone (530) 675-2687

Fax (530) 675-1522



Email- krkstpc@goldstate.net



SINCE 1970

Your Ad Could Appear in this Space for just \$126 per year (six issues)



La Posta advertising reaches over 1,000 active postal history enthusiasts each issue. Why not let us carry your message to the hobby?

Write or e-mail

Cath Clark

at

P.O. Box 100,

Chatsworth Island, NSW 2469 Australia

cath@la-posta.com

Let a *La Posta* Classified ad send your message to over 1,100 of North America's most energetic and interested postal history enthusiasts.

As simple as 1, 2, 3!!!

1) Write down your ad on a slip of paper;

2) Count words excluding ZIP code and check the rate card on page 77 to find the cost & number of insertions, and

3) Send your ad along with a check to *La Posta*, 33470 Chinook Plaza, #216, Scappoose, OR 97056 and we'll do the rest.



DON'T MISS THE *FUTURE* OF INTERNATIONAL MAIL

Alex Gundel's new pioneering book, **Remail and the Globalization of the Mail Market**, chronicles the processing, routes, and markings of international re-mailers like DHL and TNT since the 1980s. Over 450 markings and covers are listed.

Richard Helbock, editor of *La Posta*, writes:

"What (Gundel) has written is – from a postal history perspective – earth shaking! Remailing is without-a-doubt the shape of things to come. . . ." (Oct/Nov 2000 review)

Price: \$US 19.00 cash (APS members may remit by checks drawn on a U.S. bank). Price includes surface postage. For airmail post, add \$US 10.00.

Alex Gundel, Mainzer Str. 76,

D-50678 Cologne, Germany.

E-mail: alexander.gundel@dlr.de

<http://www.dlr.de/~agundel/remail.htm>

PROFESSIONAL POSTMARK TRACING & MAPS



I will execute to your exact specifications accurate tracings of plain or fancy postmarks, cancels and maps. My work has

appeared in *La Posta* in both the Washington Territorial postmark series by Richard A. Long and the 19th Century Colorado postmark series by Richard Frajola.

If you've been thinking of a postmark catalog project, or any research which requires well-executed postmarks or maps for illustrations, but do not have the time required to accomplish the tracings, drop me a line or give me a call with the particulars, and I will give you a quote.

Jane Dallison

P. O. Box 296, Langlois, OR 97450

(541) 348-2813

WANTED: Old Letters & Correspondences

We will pay you extremely generous prices for old American letters, correspondences, diaries, journals, documents and manuscripts. We especially seek 19th century or earlier, but will consider anything pre-1945, including WWI, WWII soldier's correspondences. These needn't be for famous people, just interesting content. We also buy autographs. Free appraisals, quick decision, instant payment! We pay all postage costs.



Fred Schmitt

TOP PRICES PAID!

Visit our website: **www.fredschiitt.com**



Member: Manuscript Society,
ASDA, APS, PTS (London),
CSDA (Canada)

Investors Ltd.

International Postal History Specialists Since 1953

P.O. Box 67 • Woodbury NY 11797 USA

Phone: (631) 367-4030 (24 hours) • (631) 385-8961

Fax: (631) 425-0460

E-Mail: fred@fredschmitt.com



WANTED - 'Sailor's mail' covers (NON-philatelic)

Postmarked Dec. 1, 1941 - Sep. 2, 1945 aboard:

U.S.S. PENSACOLA (CA-24)

U.S.S. SALT LAKE CITY (CA-25)

U.S.S. NORTHAMPTON (CA-26)

U.S.S. CHESTER (CA-27)

U.S.S. LOUISVILLE (CA-28)

U.S.S. CHICAGO (CA-29)

U.S.S. HOUSTON (CA-30)

Please send full-size image (with price) via email to: pmarche@jps.net OR photocopy (with price) to:

C.R. Kimes, 1355 Martin Drive, Auburn, CA 95603



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 916-359-1898, fax 916-359-1963 or send her an E-mail at collectibles@4agent.org.

LA POSTA CLASSIFIED ADS

**Only 5 cents per word delivers your message to the
largest and best informed group of postal historians in
America**

Word Count	1 issue	3 issues	6 issues
1-25	\$1.25	\$3.12	\$5.94
26-30	\$1.50	\$3.75	\$7.14
31-35	\$1.75	\$4.35	\$8.28
36-40	\$2.00	\$4.98	\$9.48
41-45	\$2.25	\$5.61	\$10.68
46-50	\$2.50	\$6.24	\$11.88
51-55	\$2.75	\$6.84	\$13.02
56-60	\$3.00	\$7.47	\$14.22
61-65	\$3.25	\$8.10	\$15.42
66-70	\$3.50	\$8.73	\$16.62
71-75	\$3.75	\$9.33	\$17.76
76-80	\$4.00	\$9.96	\$18.96
81-85	\$4.25	\$10.59	\$20.16
86-90	\$4.50	\$11.22	\$21.36
91-95	\$4.75	\$11.82	\$22.50
96-100	\$5.00	\$12.45	\$23.70

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WWW.TOWNCANCEL.COM is the newest Postal History website. There are currently 17 states online and more coming. Do you collect State Postal History, Doane Cancels or cancels of any kind? Check out this site. Also, up to date Doane Lists of Georgia, Minnesota and Wisconsin are online. Gary Anderson, P.O. Box 600039, St. Paul, MN 55106 [33-3]

CARDS & COVERS: FOR SALE

POSTAL HISTORY featured in our mail bid sales. Free catalogs. Juno Stamps, 1765 Juno Ave., St. Paul, MN 55116-1467. junostamps@aol.com [33-3]

DPO's, RPO's, ships, Doanes, Expos, machines, military, advertising, auxiliaries, and more! My Mail Bid Sales offer thousands of postal history lots. Write/ call for sample catalog. Jim Mehrer, 2405-30th Street, Rock Island, IL 61201. Phone: (309) 786-6539. Email: mehrer@postal-history.com. Internet web site: <http://www.postal-history.com>. [34-1]

TOWNS: WANTED

SUNNY ALBERTA — Alberta town cancels and postal history. Territorial period forward. Also Edmonton and Alberta small town card views, advertising covers, corner cards -- "anything Alberta". Keith R. Spencer, 5005 Whitemud Road, Edmonton, Alberta, CANADA T6H 5L2 [33-2]

ALL STATES and categories wanted! Better consignment material always needed for my bi-monthly Mail Bid Sales. Write/ call for consignment details. Jim Mehrer, 2405-30th Street, Rock Island, IL 61201. Phone: (309) 786-6539. Email: mehrer@postal-history.com. Internet web site: <http://www.postal-history.com>. [34-1]

CALIFORNIA: MENDOCINO County to 1900: Albion, Casper, Cleone, Cuffy's Cove, Elk, Fish Rock, Fort Bragg, Gualala, Inglnook, Kibesillah, Little River, Mendocino, Miller, Navaro, Navaro Ridge, Noyo, Noyo River, Point Arena, Punta Arenas, Rock Port, Usal, Westport and Whitesboro. Send photocopies or priced on approval. Don East (APS, WCS) P.O. Box 301, Little River, CA 95456 [33-2]

TOWNS: WANTED

CALIFORNIA - KERN & IMPERIAL County covers and cards. Especially interested in Bakersfield corner cards. Send description or photocopies and prices to John Williams, 887 Litchfield Ave., Sebastopol, CA 95472 [33-6]

CALIFORNIA - SAN BERNARDINO MTNS, cancels or post cards. Valley of the Moon, Incline, Moonlake, Switzerland, Crestline, etc. Russ Keller, P.O. Box 3499, Crestline, CA 92325 (909) 338-8232 [33-2]

WANTED-WASHINGTON, D.C. covers bearing the Eagle Carrier stamp of 1861. Carl Stieg, 260 Merrydale Rd, Apt 15, San Rafael, CA 94903 [33-2]

HAWAII, YUKON and ALASKA postal history wanted to 1959. Also buy Hawaiian stamps with town cancels off cover and fancy cancels and fort cancels on 19th century U.S. officials. Steve Sims, 11769 Wickersham Dr., Anchorage, AK 99507 [33-6]

IDAHO PANHANDLE: Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Clearwater, Idaho, Kootenai, Latih, Lewis, Nez Perce, and Shoshone Counties. Interested in all postmarks and other postal history items. Send photocopies or priced on approval. Write or e-mail for post office lists. I will pay all copying or mailing costs. Peter Larson, 5301 Robinson Park Rd., Moscow, ID 83843, Tel 208-883-8297, e-mail plarson@wsu.edu. [33-6]

LOUISIANA and other mid-Gulf Coast states. Stamped/stampless, etc., postal history (1790-1920). Individual items/entire correspondences. Ron Trosclair (APS), 1713 Live Oak St., Metairie, LA 70005-1069, PH: (504) 835-9611 [33-5]

NEBRASKA TERRITORIAL covers (before Mar 1, 1867) wanted for my personal collection. Write or send copies. Ken Stach, 15 N. Morning Cloud Circle, The Woodland, TX 77381 [33-4]

NOTE:

**EXPIRATION DATE SHOWN
AT END OF EACH AD, i.e.,
[33-2], MEANS AD WILL
EXPIRE WITH THIS ISSUE.**

**AD DEADLINE FOR NEXT
ISSUE:**

May 20, 2002

**E-MAIL US IF YOU
INTEND TO RENEW
YOUR AD & TIME IS
SHORT FOR RENEWAL**

TOWNS: WANTED

NORTH DAKOTA: all postal history wanted from territorial to modern. Send photocopies or on approval. Gary Anderson, P.O. Box 600039, St. Paul, MN 55106 [33-6]

OHIO-HOLMES & COSHOCTON counties. All Postal History, DPOs. Especially want Berlin S/L and CDS on folded letters, Baddow Pass, Clark(s), DeWitts Ridge, Dino, Doughty, Drake's, Humphreysville, Jones Corners, Killbuck, Manning, Morgan Settlement, Mounthope, Palladium, Pictoria, Prairie, Salt Creek, Saltillo, Special, Tuttleville, Ward's and Winesburgh. Larry Neal, 8650 Twp Rd 79, Millersburg, OH 44654. Member APS, OPHS. [34-2]

SOUTH DAKOTA Territorial and Statehood covers wanted for my personal collection. Write or send copies. Ken Stach, 15 N. Morning Cloud Circle, The Woodland, TX 77381 [33-4]

WACO VILLAGE, TEXAS. Interesting old Texas Covers - especially those from McLennan, Bosque & Coryell Counties. Jim Alexander, Box 21792, Waco, TX 76702-1792. jalex5943@aol.com [33-2]

WEST POINT, NEW YORK covers -- stampless to 1890 -- wanted for personal collection. Send on approval or photocopies. Prompt response promised. Richard Helbock, P.O. Box 100, Chatsworth Island, NSW 2469 Australia [33-6].

WISCONSIN - WAUSAU (1850+) Would anyone have early covers, with special cancels on the letter? Looking for the octagon cancel which was used in 1870s to 1880s. Would you have any DPOs of Marathon County? Advise, with copy of cover or covers and price. APS Life Member. William Grosnick, Sr., 833 11th Avenue, Wausau, WI 54401 [33-6]



DOANE CANCELS: WANTED

Buy, sell and trade Doane Cancels of all states. Send photocopies or on approval. Gary Anderson, P.O. Box 600039, St. Paul, MN 55106 [33-5]

POSTAL STATIONERY: WANTED

WANTED: TO BUY, sell or trade, mint or used, US postally stamped cards. List available on request. Dick Borkowski, PO Box 118, Edgemont, PA 19028 [33-6]

ADVERTISING COVERS: WANTED

URGENTLY NEEDED: Pre-1900 Philadelphia, PA advertising covers illustrated with buildings and street scenes. Also any paper memorabilia or postal history from the Philadelphia Centennial of 1876. All correspondence answered. Member APS. Gus Spector, 750 S. Main Street, Suite 203, Phoenixville, PA 19460. [33-6]

LITERATURE: FOR SALE

THE AWARD-WINNING 240-page book of Wisconsin postal history - *Going For the Mail, A History of Door County Post Offices* -- is now at a special price: \$13.00 postpaid from the author. Jim Hale, 5401 Raymond Road, Madison, WI 53711. [33-6]

STOCK REDUCTION sale. Great books at great prices. Free price list. Juno Stamps, 1765 Juno Ave., St. Paul, MN 55116-1467. junostamps@aol.com [33-3]

NOW AVAILABLE: Post Offices and Early Postmasters of Virginia - \$49; The Post Offices and Postmasters of Hawaii - \$18; The Post Offices of Alabama to 1900 - \$18; The Post Offices of Georgia - \$18. Coming soon Post Offices of WV and SC. All available from the author, postpaid: Richard E. Small, 14502 Oak Cluster Drive, Centreville, VA 20120. [33-4]

United States Post Offices on CD-ROM. The most complete lists currently available*. Contains: Combined alphabetical list of active and discontinued Offices from all states (including years of operation and counties); 50 individual state lists, plus DC and Indian Territory; combined list of all Counties; and statehood, territorial and Confederate secession dates. The ultimate reference for identifying manuscript postmarks, postcards, letters, etc. (*NOTE: Alabama and Georgia have not been fully researched, but this CD includes thousands of offices previously unpublished from those states.) PC or MAC. \$99.00 postpaid, worldwide. (Illinois residents: \$105.68.) Jim Mehrer, 2405- 30th Street, Rock Island, IL 61201. [34-1]

SUB-STATION POSTAL MARKINGS: WANTED

SUB-STATION postal markings from any US city wanted. Especially interested in legible duplex and MOB markings. Send photocopies with firm price to Dennis Pack, 1915 Gilmore Ave., Winona, MN 55987 [33-4]

POST OFFICE FORMS WANTED

HELD FOR POSTAGE -- US Post Office Forms #1543, #3540, #3548 sought for study of varieties -- Need better items and accumulations of common. Write for offer: David L. Straight, P.O. Box 32858, St. Louis, MO 63132 or e-mail: dls@library.wustl.edu [33-6]

ADDRESS CORRECTION-- US Post Office Forms #3547, #3578, #3579 sought for study of varieties -- Need better items and accumulations of common. Write for offer: David L. Straight, P.O. Box 32858, St. Louis, MO 63132 or e-mail: dls@library.wustl.edu [33-6]

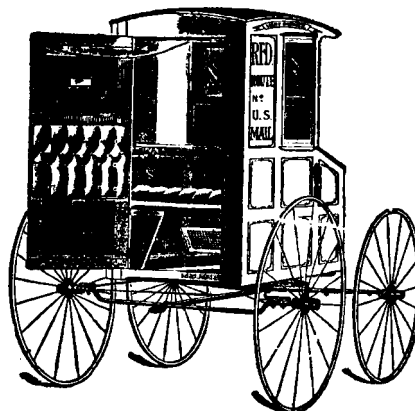
WANTED: MISCELANY

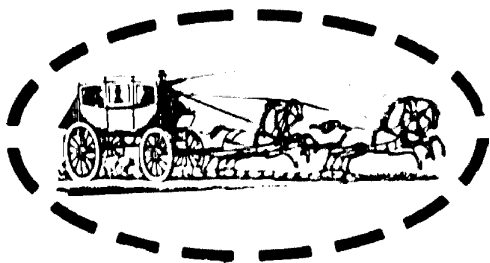
EXPRESS COMPANY & Parcel Delivery Company covers, Corner-Cards, Labels and Stamps. Locals: Forgeries and Fantasies. William Sammis, 436 Thomas Road, Ithaca, NY 14850-9653 E-mail: cds13@cornell.edu [33-3]

AIRMAIL COVERS - Commercial Only (No First Flights or philatelic)-United States to destinations in Europe, Africa, Asia and Oceania dating from before 1938. Also C1-C9 on commercial covers to foreign or domestic addresses. Send priced on approval or photocopies, or request my offer. Richard Helbock, P.O. Box 100, Chatsworth Island, NSW 2469 Australia [33-5]

FOREIGN: WANTED

PRE-WWII commercial air covers mailed from one country to another country anywhere in the world. Particularly interested in intercontinental mail, i.e. Europe to Asia, North America to Africa, Australia to Europe, etc. Send scans or photocopies for my offer, or on approval to Richard Helbock, PO Box 100, Chatsworth Island, NSW 2469, Australia or helbock@la-posta.com





La Posta Publications

**33470 Chinook Plaza, #216,
Scappoose OR 97056
email: helbock@la-posta.com**

We hope that you have enjoyed our journal and I wish to cordially invite you to become a subscriber.

LA POSTA is published six times a year and provides over 450 pages of research, news and information regarding all aspects of American postal history. With a subscription price of just \$20 per year, most of our readers consider us to be the best bargain in postal history today.

In addition to the journal, *La Posta* conducts regular mail auctions of postal history material submitted by our subscribers. These Subscribers' Auctions typically feature over 600 lots per sale and are mailed as separate booklets. They have proven extremely popular as a way for collectors to acquire moderately priced cards and covers and to dispose of their duplicate or unwanted material.

I hope you will find *La Posta* worthy of your support. If so, please take a moment to fill out the form below and send us a check in the amount of \$20, or pay via credit card at www.la-posta.com/journal.htm to begin your subscription with our next issue.

Sincerely yours,



Richard W. Helbock,

Publisher

La Posta Publications
33470 Chinook Plaza, #216
Scappoose, OR 97056

Hello Richard:

Yes, I'll give *La Posta* a try. You may begin my subscription with the July 2002 issue. Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$20.00.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

ADVERTISING IN LA POSTA

La Posta publishes two types of Ads: Display & Auction/Net Price. Details for placing each are as follows:

DISPLAY ADS - May be run on a contract basis for one, three or six insertions. Ad contents may be changed at any time, provided proper notice is given. Contract rates for ads of varying sizes are as follows:

Ad Size	One Issue	Three Issues	Six Issues
1/8-page	\$13.00	\$29.90	\$54.60
1/4-page	\$30.00	\$69.00	\$126.00
1/2-page	\$55.00	\$126.50	\$231.00
1-page	\$100.00	\$230.00	\$420.00

These charges include Type setting & Layout

AUCTION/NET PRICE ADS:

The charge for placing a 1/2-page ad is \$45.00; 1 -page \$90.00; 2-pages \$170.00

These prices are for prepaid camera ready copy. Add \$15 typing charge is for 1/2-page auctions, \$35 for 1-page auctions; and auctions over 1-page must be camera ready, transmitted via E-mail or provided on computer disc.

Ad Deadlines are as follows: Dec/Jan issue - Nov 20; Feb/Mar issue - Jan 20; Apr/May issue - Mar 20; Jun/Jul issue - May 20; Aug/Sep issue - July 20; Oct/Nov issue - Sep 20.

La Posta, 33470 Chinook Plaza, Suite 216, Scappoose, OR 97056

or

P.O. Box 100, Chatsworth Island, NSW 2469 Australia

INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

AUCTIONS

RANDY STEHLE - 37

DISPLAY ADS

CONGRESS BOOK 2001 -75

ARIZONA-NEW MEXICO P. H. SOC. - 72

AUSDENMOORE-McFARLANE - 72

COLORADO P. HIST. SOCIETY - 73

BRUCE COREY - 49

JANE DALLISON - 76

MICHAEL DATTOLICO - 54

MIKE ELLINGSON - 72

JIM FORTE - 70

ALEXANDER GUNDEL - 74

DISPLAY ADS

RANDY KIMES - 76

KIRK'S - 74

LA POSTA BACKNUMBERS - 49

LA POSTA SUBSCRIPTION FORM - 79

JAMES E. LEE - 69 & 75

MICHAEL LUDEMAN - 49

DAN MESCHTER - 8

BOB NICHOLS - 73

POSTMARK COLLECTOR'S CLUB - 73

SCHMITT INVESTORS LTD. - 76

STEVE SIMS - 49

ROBERT SWANSON - 72