

# LA POSTA: A JOURNAL OF AMERICAN POSTAL HISTORY

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*COVER:* Our cover illustrates a Christmas greeting postcard dating from about 1905. A top-hatted snowman gives a fanciful humanized Christmas tree a hug and a kiss in a lighthearted message of peace and joy. Tom Clarke explains how Christmas evolved over the past 200 years into the mega-event that it is today.

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## IN THIS ISSUE:

**Nisei Soldiers in WWII**  
By Richard W. Helbock ..... 9

**A Statistical Analysis of Nebraska Territorial  
Postal History**  
By Ken Stach ..... 15

**Montana Territorial Postmarks**  
**Part 10: Richland, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Sanders**  
**and Silver Bow Counties**  
By Wesley N. Shellen & Francis Dunn ..... 20

**The Postmasters General of the United States,**  
**1775-1971**  
**Part V: Return Jonathan Meigs, Jr. 1814-1823**  
By Daniel Y. Meschter ..... 30

**An Elusive 20<sup>th</sup> Century "Ugly Duckling"**  
**Treasure Trove #3**  
By Michael Dattolico ..... 33

**Company Post Offices of Dallas County, Texas**  
By A. Eugene Gaddy ..... 37

**Postal Markings of North Dakota Territory**  
**Part XVII: Traill, Walsh, Ward, Wells,**  
**and Williams Counties**  
By Mike Ellingson ..... 40

**Four Catalyzing Events for Christmas**  
By Tom Clarke ..... 52

**The Post Offices of Breathitt County, Kentucky,**  
**Part 2**  
By Robert Rennick ..... 65

**Also Miscellaneous Columns, Notes**  
**and Announcements**

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### Year End Thoughts

My thanks to readers who took time to send an email or note of appreciation for the color cover on our November issue. It was, of course, our first full color cover and, hopefully, it won't be our last. The only thing that prevents us from running color covers on a regular basis is money. Adding full color and lamination to a *La Posta* cover costs on the order of \$500, and thus represents about a 25% increase in our costs of production and mailing. The message is clear—we can perhaps run an occasional color cover for special issues, but a regular diet of full color covers is beyond our means given our current number of subscribers.

This issue we are back to our more familiar mono-color cover, but we still have some outstanding articles and research segments inside to help you pass your quiet hours over the holidays. In a very timely fashion, **Tom Clarke** takes us on a historical tour through the past 200 years to examine how the Christmas holiday with all its symbols and pageantry has evolved from a simple religious event into today's mega-production. Tom integrates personal quotes from contemporary correspondence to give us an insight to the flavor of the times with some fascinating facts about the origin of such Christmas icons as trees, gifts, and stockings hung above the fireplace. This is a great example of research using postal history artifacts to explore social change in America.

**Mike Ellingson** brings to a close his long-running serialized catalog of North Dakota Territorial Postmarks. We have been pleased to publish all 17 installments of Mike's pioneering work and we look forward the day when Mike releases an alphabetically organized version as a catalog of Dakota territorial postmarks used in North Dakota. Great work, Mike!

Meanwhile, **Wes Shellen** and **Francis Dunn** are close to wrapping up their Montana Territorial Postmark Catalog. Part 10 appears in this issue, and there is but one more group of counties to follow.

**Ken Stach** presents us with an interesting statistical analysis of Nebraska Territorial postmarks with a view toward using postmaster compensation data as a predictor of surviving covers from any given post office. It's a fascinating bit of research and one I'm sure that our more mathematically oriented readers will relish.

We are pleased to welcome **Michael Dattolico** back to our pages with the third in his Treasure Trove articles. This time Michael examines postal use of a recently released USPS "ugly duckling."

**Eugene Gaddy** is new to our pages, but we hope that he becomes a regular contributor. In this issue Eugene introduces us to a pair of company towns in Dallas County, Texas.

**Daniel Meschter** continues his chronological series spotlighting the various men who have served as U. S. Postmaster General, and **Robert Rennick** concludes his profile of the post offices of Breathitt County, Kentucky, that was begun in our last issue.



Finally, yours truly, offers a brief article discussing the role of Japanese-American soldiers in World War II. The article is heavily based on a contemporary newspaper story in the Heart Mountain (Wyoming) *Sentinel* and illustrated by several covers mailed by nisei servicemen in various Army units.

All in all, I think you'll agree, we have served up a varied holiday fare. Seasons Greetings from Cath & I!

*Richard W. Halbur*

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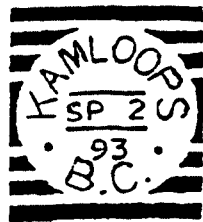
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**Figure 1** This cover was posted Tech Sergeant Noboru Tsutsumi of HQ Company, 2nd Battalion, 442nd Infantry, while the unit was in southern France in December 1944. It was mailed to the Heart Mountain Christian Church in thanks for a Christmas parcel.

## Nisei Soldiers in World War II

by Richard W. Helbock

Prior to Pearl Harbor there were some 110 thousand persons of Japanese ancestry living peacefully and productively in scattered areas mostly along the West Coast of the United States. With the initiation of the Selective Service Act in 1940, the nisei—second generation Japanese-Americans born and educated in the United States—were inducted into the armed forces and trained along with their fellow countrymen. There was no significant discrimination and no segregation.

The attack on Pearl Harbor had a devastating effect on the Japanese-American community. Persons of Japanese descent became the target of mistrust and suspicion. Pressure groups, aided by war hysteria, advocated and were instrumental in the mass evacuation of those of Japanese ancestry—both citizen and alien—from the coast to inland relocation centers

*Many of the details in this article are based on a newspaper story by Kunio Otani entitled "Nisei Soldiers are Serving on All Fronts", that appeared in the Heart Mountain Sentinel of August 12, 1944.*

established a remote locations under supervision of the War Relocation Authority. The exodus was accomplished in the early summer of 1942.

Nisei were barred from volunteering or being drafted into the armed services after the United States entered the war. Japanese-Americans were classified either 4-C (enemy alien) or 4-F (physically unfit), and many became convinced that they had truly lost their status as American citizens.

The approximately 5,000 nisei who were already in uniform before Pearl Harbor were widely distributed throughout the various branches of the armed services. Many were located at camps situated along the West coast. Nisei serving in combat branches were immediately transferred to non-combat units—many to the medical corps. All nisei soldiers on the Pacific coast were transferred to camps in the Midwest, and General John L. DeWitt commanding the Western Defense area announced that soldiers of Japanese ancestry would be barred from the coastal area.

After the initial shock began to wear off, many Japanese-Americans did exactly what good Americans have always done—began writing letters of protest to their public officials demanding that they be al-

lowed to serve in the army. These protests were met with some sympathy, but no action throughout the remaining months of 1942.

On January 28, 1943, Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson issued an unexpected proclamation stating:

Plans have been completed for a nation-wide voluntary induction of American-born Japanese now in the ten relocation centers and elsewhere in the United States and the Hawaiian Islands. Loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry will compose a special unit in the United States army. This action was taken following study by the War department of many earnest requests by loyal American citizens of Japanese extraction for the organization of a special unit of the army in which they could have their share in the fight against the nation's enemies.

It is the inherent right of every faithful citizen, regardless of ancestry, to bear arms in the nation's battle. When obstacles to the free expression of that right are imposed by emergency consideration, those barriers should be removed as soon as humanly possible. Loyalty to country is a voice that must be heard, and I am glad that I am now able to give active proof that this basic American belief is not a casualty of war.

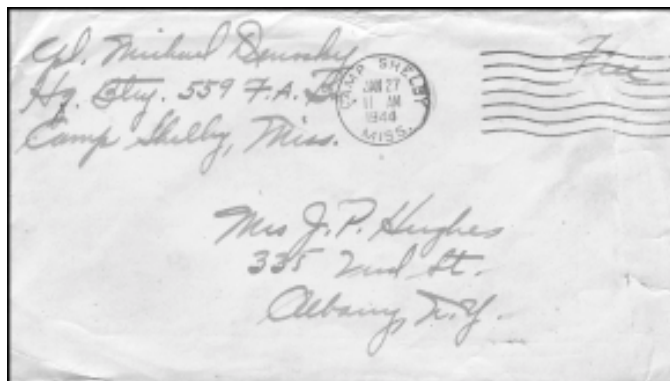
President Franklin D. Roosevelt publicly endorsed the plan and added:

The proposal of the War department to organize a combat team consisting of loyal American citizens of Japanese descent has my full approval. The new combat team will add to the nearly 5,000 loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry who are already serving in the armed forces of our country.

Reaction to the War department's proposal was mixed among the nisei interred at the various camps. The first step involved dispatch of army registration teams to each of the relocation centers with questionnaires to be answered by each male nisei of military age. Some were suspicious of the motives of the Government and were still smarting from the trauma of the recent relocation and its aftermath. Others, seeing the registration and formation of the combat team as the first steps toward eventual restoration of their citizenship rights, welcomed the government action.

### **The 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team**

In all, some 1,200 young men from the various relocation centers volunteered for service in the new regimental combat team. The volunteers left the centers early in the summer of 1943 and reported to Camp



**Figure 2** This cover was mailed from Camp Shelby, Mississippi, at the time the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT was in training. The sender was not a Nisei. At its peak, there were some 100,000 armed service personnel assigned to Camp Shelby.

Shelby, Mississippi, where they found the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion from Hawaii already in residence and training.

The 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion had been organized at Oakland, California, on June 15, 1942, from 29 officers and 1,277 enlisted men of Japanese ancestry who had formerly been members of the 298<sup>th</sup> and 299<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiments, Hawaiian National Guard. These Hawaiian Guard units had been federalized in 1940 to protect the islands, but after the Pearl Harbor attack it was deemed preferable to replace the nisei troops with replacements from the mainland.

The 100<sup>th</sup> completed their training at Camp Shelby in August 1943 and shipped out of the New York Port of Embarkation reaching North Africa on September 2, 1943. They joined the 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division just in time to participate in the attack on the Salerno beachhead and spent the remainder of 1943 and over half of 1944 fighting their way up the Italian peninsula.

On August 5, 1943, the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team—composed of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment, the 522<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery Battalion and the 232<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Company—was attached to IX Corps. The unit staged at Camp Patrick Henry, Virginia, on April 24, 1944, and departed Hampton Roads Port of Embarkation on May 3, 1944, less the 1st Battalion. They arrived in Italy May 28<sup>th</sup> and were immediately attached to the 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. The 442<sup>nd</sup> saw its first combat in June 1944 as they cleared the Italian villages of Belvedere and Sassetta. There followed many weeks of intensive fighting in central Italy before the regiment was transferred to southern France in October.



**Figure 3** Although the 442nd Infantry tends to receive most of the press for their exploits in Italy and southern France, the Regimental Combat Team also contained the 552nd Field Artillery Battalion. This cover was mailed by Private George Sakaguchi of that unit while in southern France.

The 1st Battalion, which had remained back in the US, was redesignated the 171<sup>st</sup> Infantry Battalion on August 10, 1944, and the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion was assigned to the 442<sup>nd</sup> in its place. The 171<sup>st</sup> remained at Camp Shelby throughout the war.

The 442<sup>nd</sup> fought in eight major campaigns in Italy, France and Germany, including the battles at Belmont, Bruyeres and Biffontaine. At Biffontaine, the unit fought perhaps its most famous battle, the "Rescue of the Lost Battalion". In this bloody confrontation, the 442<sup>nd</sup> unit lost more than 800 troops to rescue 211 members of the Texan 1st Battalion of the 141st Regiment. There were also numerous accounts of individuals who displayed incredible valor while attempting to advance their positions and rescue wounded comrades.

In less than two years of combat, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team earned more than 18,000 individual decorations including one Medal of Honor, 53 Distinguished Service Crosses, 588 Silver Stars, 5,200 Bronze Star Medals, 9,486 Purple Hearts, and eight Presidential Unit Citations (the nation's top award for combat units). The 442<sup>nd</sup> returned to the United States on July 3, 1946, and was eventually inactivated in Hawaii on August 15, 1946.

## The Draft Resumes

On January 21, 1944, the War Department reinstated the draft for Japanese-Americans. The Department announcement read in part:

Japanese Americans considered acceptable for military service will be reclassified by their selective service boards on the same basis as other citizens, and called for induction if physically qualified and not deferred.

The excellent showing which the combat team has made in training, and the outstanding record achieved by the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion now fighting in Italy were major factors in the adoption of the present plans.

The majority of nisei living in relocation centers welcomed the announcement because it gave them additional hope that their rights as American citizens would eventually be returned. On February 27, 1944, the first group of 18 Heart Mountain, Wyoming, residents left for physical examinations at Fort Warren. From that time on the draft called an average of about one hundred men a month from Heart Mountain. Those who passed their physicals reported to Fort Logan, Colorado, where they were initially assigned to an enlisted reserve corps for a short time. When called to active duty, the men were again sent to Fort Logan for processing before being sent on to either

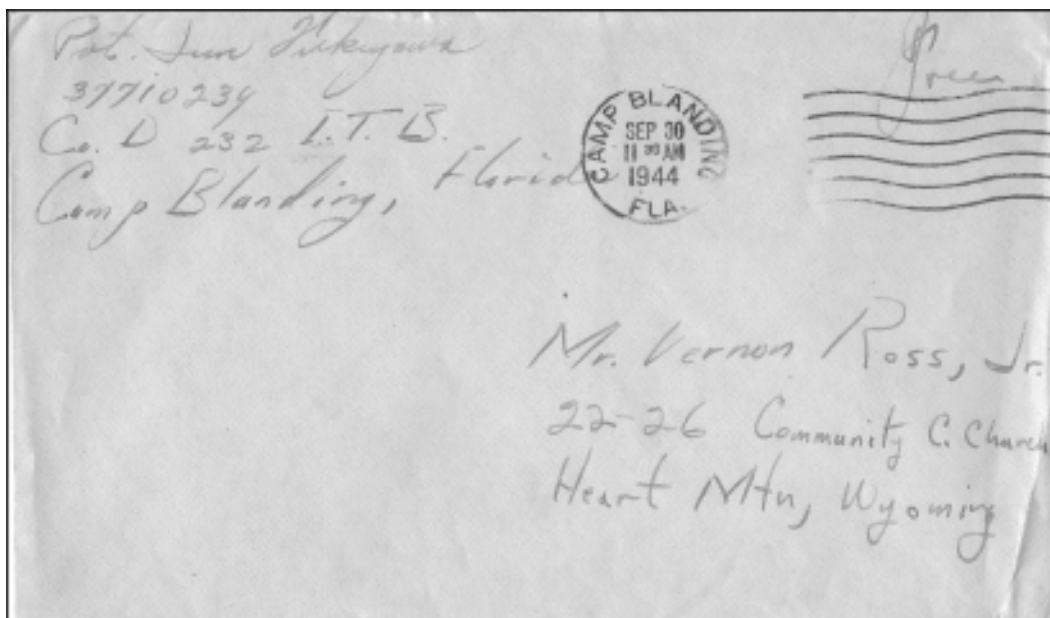




**Figure 4** A crowd gathered in summer 1944 at the Administration Building flag pole to honor a group of Heart Mountain inductees into military service. The number on the service star banner indicates that 336 young men had been inducted from the camp up to this time. Source: Heart Mountain Sentinel, August 12, 1944.

Camp Shelby or Camp Blanding, Florida, for training (figure 5). The Heart Mountain community organized a send-off ceremony for each group of inductees.

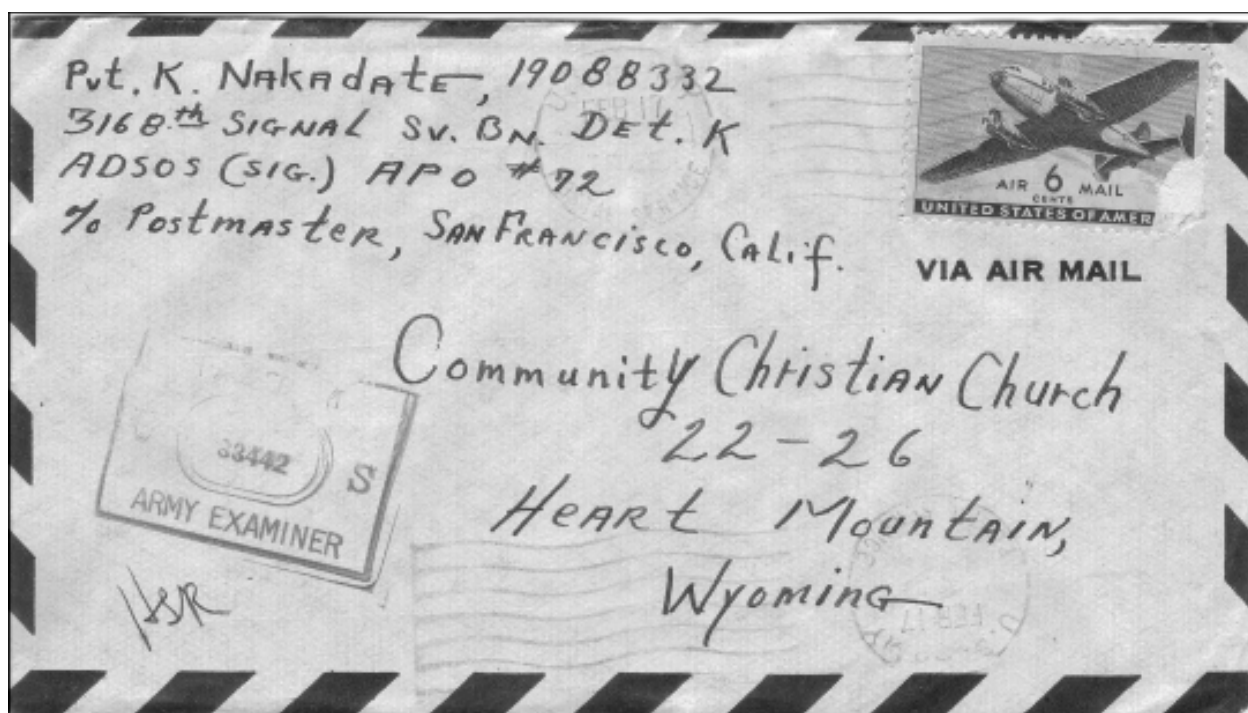
**Figure 5** This cover was mailed by Private Jim Fukiyawa who was in training at Camp Blanding, Florida, in late September 1944.



There were some individuals who vigorously opposed reinstitution of the draft and failed to report when called by Selective Service. During the first four months some 63 selectees failed to report for their preinduction physicals. These men were arrested by U.S. marshals and given a mass trial in Federal District Court in Cheyenne. They were convicted on charges of violating the Selective Service Act and sentenced to three years each in federal penitentiary.

The statistics for the Heart Mountain camp from February through mid-August, 1944, are probably fairly typical of the overall internment camp response to the draft although reaction by the nisei camp residents is reported to have varied from camp to camp. During that time, a total of 589 Heart Mountain young men were ordered to report for their preinduction physical examinations. From that group 458 reported, 54 were excused and 77 resisted the draft.

Of the 458 that took their physical examinations, 231 were accepted, 206 were rejected and 21 were undetermined and held over. By August 12, 1944, 149 Heart Mountain residents had been inducted and 80 of those had been called to active duty.



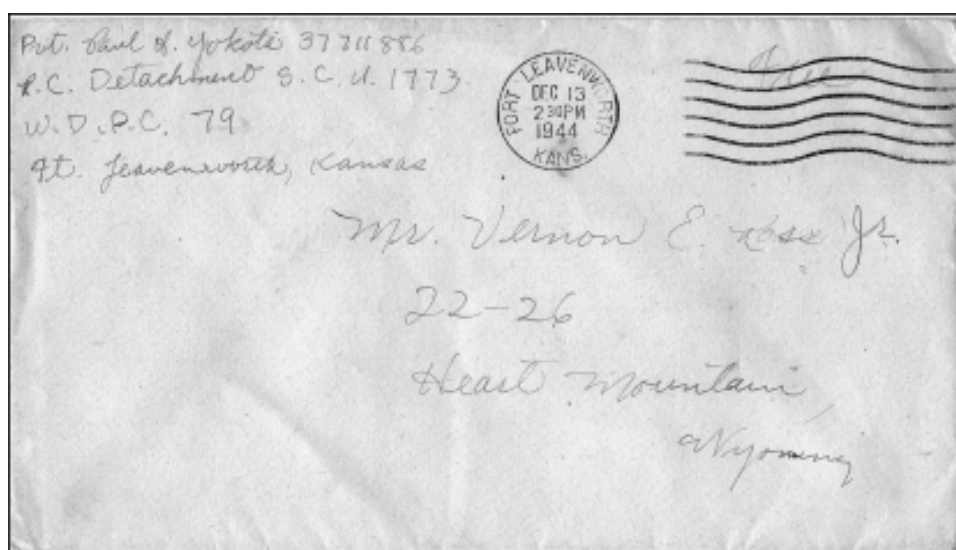
**Figure 6** This cover was mailed by Private K. Nakadate with the 3168th Signal Service Battalion, Detachment K, in February 1945. The unit was stationed at Base K, Tacloban on Leyte in the Philippines. It is highly likely that Private Nakadate was engaged in translation and prisoner interpretation at the time.

Many of the young men who were drafted from the internment camps were eventually assigned to elements of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team. Others were selected for duty with the Army Intelligence services as translators and interpreters in the Pacific theater. *Figure 6* illustrates a cover from Private K. Nakadate serving with the 3168<sup>th</sup> Signal Service Battalion, Detachment K. It was mailed through APO 72 in February 1945 when that post office was serving Base K, Tacloban on Leyte in the Philippines.

Veterans organizations estimate that some 6,000 Nisei soldiers served in the Army Military Intelligence Service in all areas of the Pacific and East Asia and in the subsequent Occupation of Japan. The MIS soldiers interrogated enemy prisoners, translated key documents, helped intercept, decode, and interpret Japanese communications, wrote propaganda leaflets, and made broadcasts.

When the war was over; they continued to perform valuable service in helping run the occupation of Japan.

Paul H. Yokota, a nisei from Heart Mountain, was one such soldier. *Figure 7* illustrates a cover from Private Yokota postmarked December 13, 1944, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. At that time he was serving in a guard unit at the US Army Detention Center.



**Figure 7** This cover was mailed by Private Paul Yokota while he was on duty at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas in December 1944.



**Figure 8** After completing the Military Intelligence School course at Fort Snelling, PFC Yokota served with the American Government of Occupation in Japan. This cover was mailed through APO 500 at Yokohama, in January 1946.

In 1945 Private Yokota attended the Military Intelligence Course at Fort Snelling, Minnesota, and graduated in July. Figure 8 illustrates a cover from Private First Class Yokota postmarked January 24, 1946, now serving with the American occupation government in Japan.

Much has been written in recent years of the experience of Japanese-Americans during the tumultuous days of World War II. Their shocking removal from the Pacific Coast and confinement to remote concentration camps stands as one of the most disgraceful acts perpetrated by the United States government against its people. Recent events in our country have demonstrated all too clearly how a climate of fear can be produced as a result of unexpected foreign attack. We can, perhaps, better understand today the national psychology that permitted the interment of over 110,000 Japanese-Americans from 1942 to 1945, but we must bear in mind that, if we wish to prevent a repetition of this colossal injustice, we must hold in check the more militant and over-zealous voices in our government who would seek to subjugate American human rights in the name of security.

The fact that thousands of young nisei joined America's struggle against the Germans and Japanese during World War II—despite the fact that the Ameri-

can government had incarcerated them and their families in desolate internment camps—is a tribute to the peaceful and forgiving nature of the Japanese-Americans of that era. Can we expect some other targeted racial or ethnic group of today to be as forgiving?

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<http://www.javadc.org/>

Personal conversations with Vernon E. Ross, Jr., in 1988. Mr. Ross was formerly pastor of the Community Christian Church at the Heart Mountain Relocation Center.



# A Statistical Analysis of Nebraska Territorial Postal History

By Ken Stach

Yes....“A Statistical Analysis of Nebraska Territorial Postal History”. The title sounds rather strange, doesn’t it? Hopefully, though, the reader will overcome this bulky title and see how the methodology illustrated in this article is useful in ascertaining the likelihood that a cover exists from a particular post office in the area of his/her collecting interest. However, I do not intend for this to be a mini-course in statistics! Before I get into the data and results, let me first provide a little background regarding the thought process used in this analysis.

I’ve collected Dakota Territorial postal history for about 25 years. It’s only been in the past couple years that I’ve taken up collecting material from the neighboring, and earlier, Territory of Nebraska. The late Charles W. Winter’s benchmark book, *Nebraska Territory Postal History* (copyright 1999, Western Cover Society) can be credited for catalyzing my interest in Nebraska Territorial material. If you’ve not had the chance to read/study a copy of this book, I strongly suggest doing so, even if you have no interest in western postal history. The format, content, and presentation of Winter’s book are all superbly done.

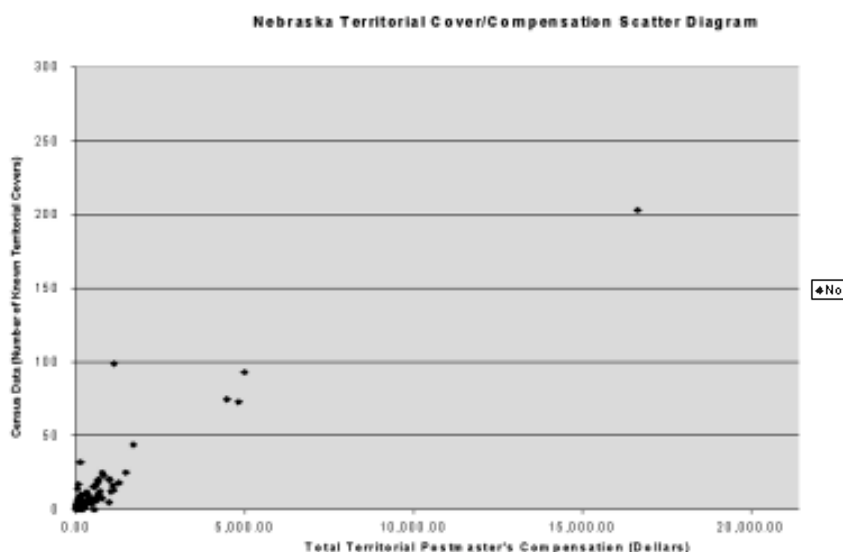
The great thing about Nebraska Territorial postal history is that it covers the relatively short period of only 13 years from 1854-1867; whereas Dakota Territory’s lifespan was a full 28 years (1861-1889). This shorter period of existence made the process used in this analysis much easier for Nebraska Territory, as there was less data to input to the mathematical model. The same process is applicable for Dakota, if one has the patience (and data) to enter all the numbers into a spreadsheet and perform the statistical analysis.

My background is in engineering, thus explaining my unusual mix of statistical methods with postal history. Engineers learn very early in their academic work to study the relationship between variables. Those relationships become espe-

cially valuable when one set of data can be confidently used to predict the result of another. Engineers and statisticians frequently graph this data on what is called an “X-Y Diagram”, where the “known”, or input, data is on the X (horizontal) axis of the chart, and the resultant variable is on the Y (vertical) axis.

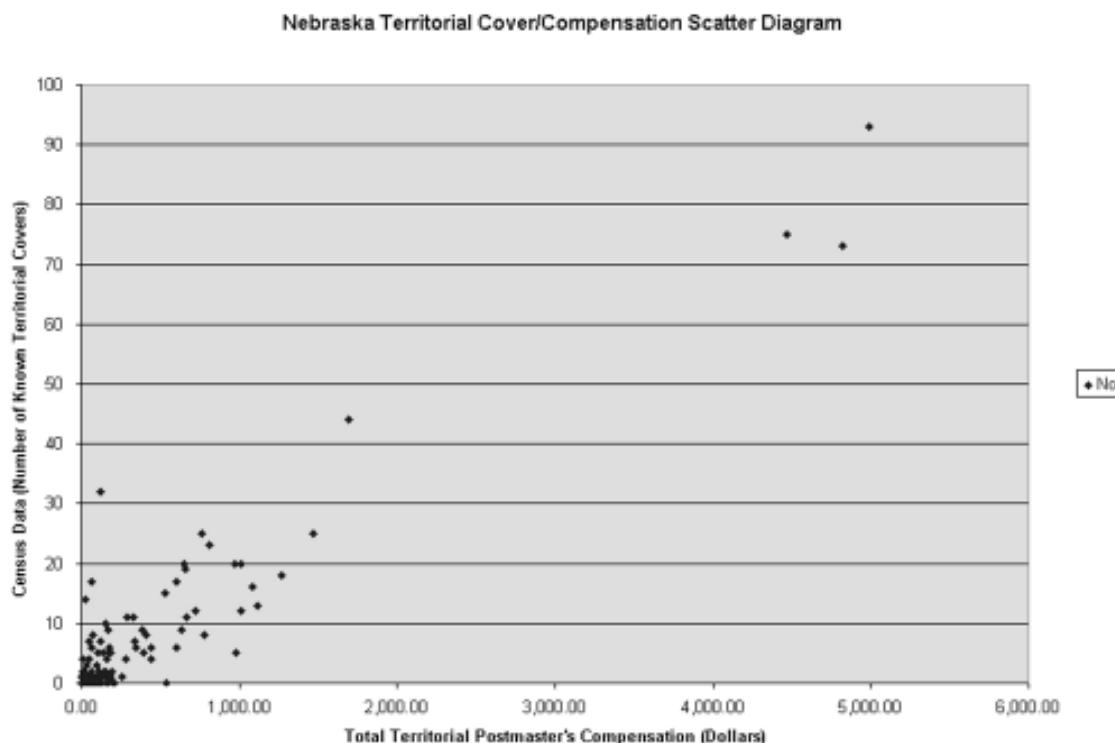
Charles Winter’s book contains the postmaster compensation figures for all the post offices in Nebraska Territory for the years 1854 through 1866 (for the even numbered years, as noted earlier), as well as the “Census” data for the number of unique covers he observed from each office during his many years of collecting Nebraska material. This is all the basic data needed to perform the statistical analysis. I’ve taken that raw data, entered it into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet, and summed the postmaster compensation for all the years into one number (the total postmaster compensation for the office during the entire Territorial period). This postmaster compensation data is plotted on the X axis, with the number of known cancels (Census data) plotted on the Y axis in *figure 1*.

The data falls into a fairly straight line. However, there are several clear “outliers” that, when eliminated, make the analysis more meaningful and easier to use. They are the data points for Fort Laramie (y=99), Nebraska City (y=203) and Omaha City (y=261). Fort Laramie has far more covers remaining in existence



**Figure 1.** This “X-Y Diagram” plots the number of known covers for every post office in Nebraska Territory against the total postmaster compensation during the Territorial period. Several “outliers” are seen in the data which, when eliminated, make the chart more useful.





**Figure 2.** Elimination of the Fort Laramie, Nebraska City, and Omaha City data from Figure 1 provides a clearer picture of the likelihood for a cover's existence from some of the smaller post offices of Nebraska Territory.

planation for this “high survival rate” is Fort Laramie’s popularity among collectors who have interests in trails, westward expansion, forts, Wyoming Territory, Nebraska Territory, Montana Territory, and/or Dakota Territory. Another probably lies in “how” postmasters were actually compensated in those days. I do not profess to be an expert on the subject of postmaster compensation. But, as I understand it, compensation was a function of the volume of stamps sold, the volume of mail actually cancelled at the office, and the amount of box rent. The latter was probably not charged to the soldiers at the forts, thus impacting compensation.

Nebraska City and Omaha City were by far the largest cities in Nebraska Territory, with each having more than three times the postmaster compensation of the next largest office. Therefore, it makes sense to eliminate these offices from the data base, since they are really markedly different from the small offices that dotted the Nebraska prairie and only had a few dollars compensation each year. Furthermore, it is really the likelihood that a cover exists from some small office that is of interest to us, and not how many hundreds of covers might exist from these very large of-

fices. Figure 2 shows how the chart looks once the data for these three offices is eliminated from the database.

The data in figure 2 still falls into a fairly straight line, but now it is much easier to see the data for the smaller offices. And, it is really those offices that we are most interested in studying, to determine the likelihood of a cover existing from them.

The data in figure 2 becomes even more useful once reduced to equation form. The “LINEST” function within Microsoft Excel can be used to generate what is known as a “linear regression”, or “best fit”, of the data (I suggest going to “Help” within Microsoft Excel to understand use of this valuable tool). Performing such an analysis of the data in Figure 2 yields the following result from Microsoft Excel:

$$Y = 0.017*(X) + 0.5$$

Where:

Y = the predicted number of Territorial covers from a particular office

X = the total postmaster compensation for that office during the Territorial period

One can then back-calculate X (in dollars) for Y = 1 (a single cover). Doing so answers the question of how many dollars of total postmaster compensation were required for one cover to still exist today from that office. That back-calculation yields a result of approximately \$30 total postmaster compensation for the territorial period.

The degree of accuracy of this “best fit” straight line to the data can be found in the “r-squared” function provided in the Excel LINEST output. In this case, the r-squared is 0.879. As a reference, 1.0 is a “perfect fit” of the data (all the data points would fall directly onto the line generated by the equation). Even in very tightly controlled laboratory experiments, an r-squared of 0.90 is considered excellent. Therefore, the “fit” of the data to the line in our case (0.879) is a very good one.

Another meaningful output of the Excel model is the “standard error of Y”, which (as the name implies) provides a numerical value for the degree of accuracy of the Y variable (the predicted number of Territorial covers from a particular office). In our case,

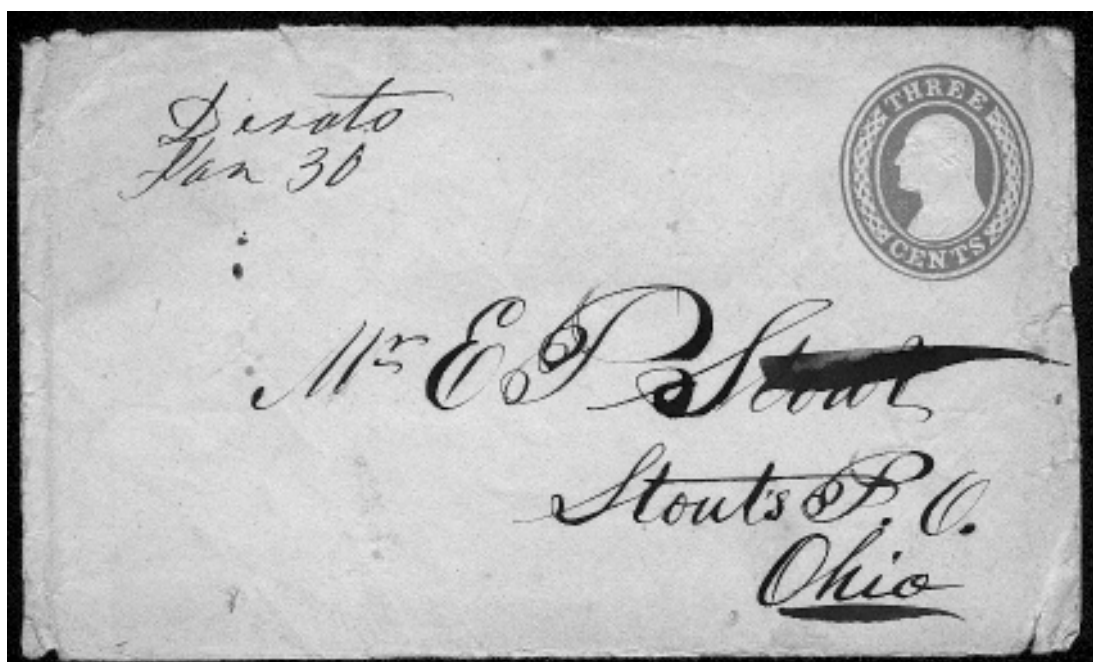
the standard error of Y is 4.2. What this means is that the accuracy of the model is roughly plus or minus four covers (since there can’t be 4.2 covers).

This means of analyzing the data raises the question, “Which post offices have more, or fewer, covers reported in Winter’s “Census” than the regression equation would predict (within the standard error of the model)?” *Table 1* provides a listing of the Nebraska Territorial post offices that have an unusually high number of covers, taking into account this standard error of the model.

Large finds of covers from most of these offices account for the “extra” covers as compared to the statistical model. For example, there was a very large find of covers from Bennett’s Ferry and Otoe City addressed to “E. R. Wright Esq., Middlebury Vermont” (the name of the post office at Bennett’s Ferry was changed to Otoe City on Apr 20, 1857). Another example is the large number of covers known from the Falls City and Salem post offices addressed to Nohart Nebraska or Washington DC as “Proposals to Purchase Lands of the Sacs & Foxes of Missouri”.

	Total		Std Error	Actual	Std Error	Number
Postoffice	Comp. (\$)	Theoretical Number	Calculated Minimum	Census Count	Calculated Maximum	Covers "Extra"
Aspinwall	533.37	10	5	15	14	1
Beatrice	659.28	12	7	19	16	3
Bennett's Ferry	49.34	1	0	7	5	2
Buchanan	153.81	3	0	10	7	3
Cottonwood Springs	1,695.43	29	25	44	33	11
De Soto	652.19	12	7	20	16	4
Falls City	810.55	14	10	23	18	5
Fontanelle	601.47	11	7	17	15	2
Fort Halleck	25.99	1	0	14	5	9
Fort Kearney	4,985.65	85	81	93	89	4
Fort Randall	121.34	3	0	32	7	25
Nohart	70.56	2	0	8	6	2
Omaha Agency	291.84	5	1	11	10	1
Otoe City	66.32	2	0	17	6	11
Salem	765.69	13	9	25	18	7
Table Rock	330.44	6	2	11	10	1
Weeping Water	166.96	3	0	9	7	2

*Table 1* A greater number of covers exist from these post offices than postmaster compensation data would lead one to believe, based on the statistical analysis of all the data. (Note that all data shown here has been rounded to the nearest whole number; whereas the calculations in the Microsoft Excel worksheet utilize all available numbers until the final rounding).



**Figure 3** A large number of covers are known cancelled from DeSoto addressed to “Mr. E. P. Stout, Stout’s P.O., Ohio” with letters enclosed. The example shown here is from January 30, 1856.

The existence of a higher-than-expected number of Fort Halleck, Fort Kearney, and Fort Randall covers is probably the same as for Fort Laramie discussed earlier in this article.

Table 2 provides a listing of the Nebraska Territorial post offices that have an unusually low number of covers from Winter’s Census, taking into account the standard error of the model. These are the “missing covers” from Nebraska Territorial offices.



**Figure 4** This Civil War Patriotic cover cancelled from “Salem N.T. Mar 1” (1862) is an example of the numerous covers known from Nebraska Territory aimed at acquiring “Trust Lands of the Sacs and Foxes of Missouri”.

	Total		Std Error	Actual	Std Error	Number
	Comp.	Theoretical	Calculated	Census	Calculated	Covers
<u>Postoffice</u>	<u>(\$)</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	<u>"Missing"</u>
Arago	534.89	10	5	0	14	5
Dakota	974.87	17	13	5	21	8
Fremont	1,013.46	18	14	12	22	2
Mount Vernon	1,112.44	19	15	13	24	2
Plattsmouth	4,817.41	82	78	73	87	5
Rulo	781.75	14	10	8	18	2

*Table 2* These six post offices have fewer covers in existence than postmaster compensation data would lead one to believe, based on the statistical analysis of all the data.

There are no known territorial covers from the Arago post office, even though the model predicts that there should be a minimum of five in existence. If and when a cancel from Arago is found (which would probably be a manuscript cancel), the author cautions collectors to be wary of forgeries. Hopefully, a genuine example does exist and will surface in the coming years.

The intent of this article was to provide readers with a methodology for analyzing the postmaster compensation data for their state or territory of collecting interest and use that data to predict the number of covers that should exist. Those readers interested in obtaining an electronic copy of the Microsoft Excel file used in this analysis can get one by e-mailing me at [ken.stach@kosa.com](mailto:ken.stach@kosa.com).

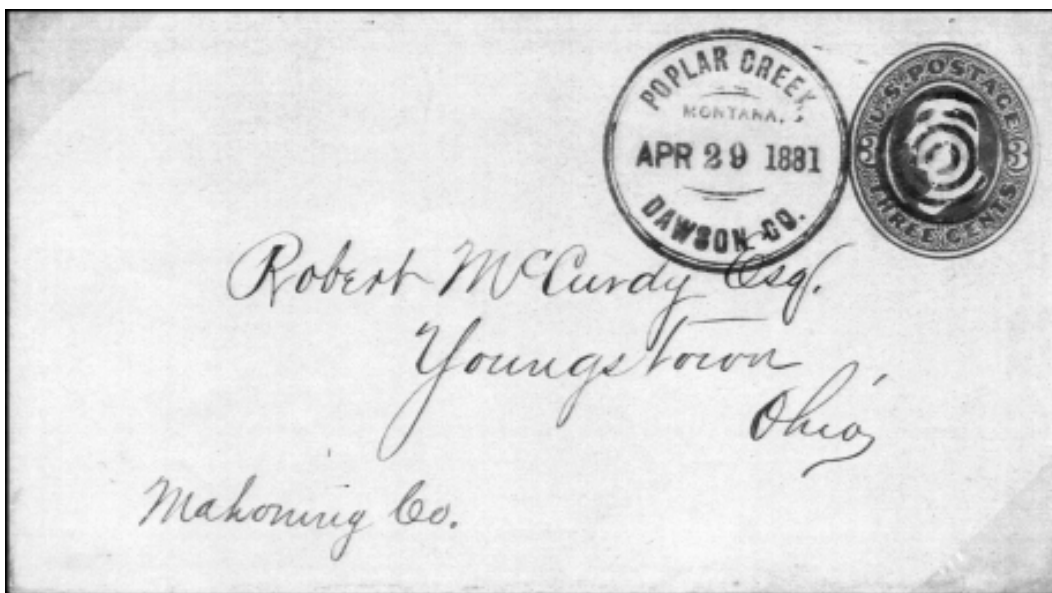


*Figure 5* The Dakota, Nebraska Territory post office has the greatest deviation (in terms of percentage) from the predicted minimum number. Only five covers are known (reported) from Dakota, whereas the model predicts a minimum of 13. This example of a Civil War Patriotic from "Dakota Neb." is cancelled Dec 23 (1862).





**Map 1** Silver Bow County, created in 1881 from part of Deer Lodge County, is Montana's smallest county, but because of the fabulous wealth extracted from Butte's mines, it was in its heyday the richest and most populous county. (From Postal Route Map of the Territories of Montana, Idaho and Wyoming, 1884, provided courtesy of Richard W. Helbock.)



**Figure 1** Although this Poplar Creek (now Poplar) postmark reads “DAWSON CO.” the post office, because of county reorganizations, found itself incorporated into **four different** counties over the years! It is currently in Roosevelt County.

## Montana Territorial Postmarks

### Part 10: Richland, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Sanders and Silver Bow Counties

By Wesley N. Shellen & Francis Dunn

This installment covers another five counties in our growing list of Montana territorial postmarks. Of these, only Silver Bow County existed during the territorial years. Silver Bow County, created in 1881 from part of old Deer Lodge County, is shown here in a postal route map from 1884. The other four counties were created after Statehood, including Richland County in 1914, Roosevelt in 1919, Rosebud in 1901, and Sanders in 1905.

One of the oldest and largest towns listed in this installment is Butte City, the Silver Bow County seat. Butte City was located on top of what became known as “the richest hill on earth,” so named because beneath its streets lay one of the world’s richest deposits of gold, silver, and especially copper. Because of its importance as a mining center, Butte City’s post office would have been a busy place, which explains why we were able to catalog so many different postmark types from there (15 in all).

On the opposite extreme, we have recorded only two or three examples of postmarks from towns in several of the other counties. For Richland and Rosebud Counties, for example, we have been able to record

postmarks from only a minority of towns which were supposed to have post offices. To fill these gaps, 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 Amberman, Giles Cokelet, Joe Du Bois, Ken Robison and Roger Robison.

### 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

## Richland County

Town	Postmark	Earliest	Latest	Cancel	Notes
	<b>DUNDEE (1884-1885)</b>				<i>None reported</i>
	<b>NEWLON (1881/1913)</b>				<i>None reported</i>
	<b>RIDGELAWN (1883/1913)</b>				
1.	DLC33	24 APR 1886			wheel of fortune
	<b>SIDNEY (1888-Date)</b>				<i>None reported</i>
	<b>TOKNA (1884/1909)</b>				
1.	DLDC34	24 MAR 1886	7 JAN 1887	circular grid	1

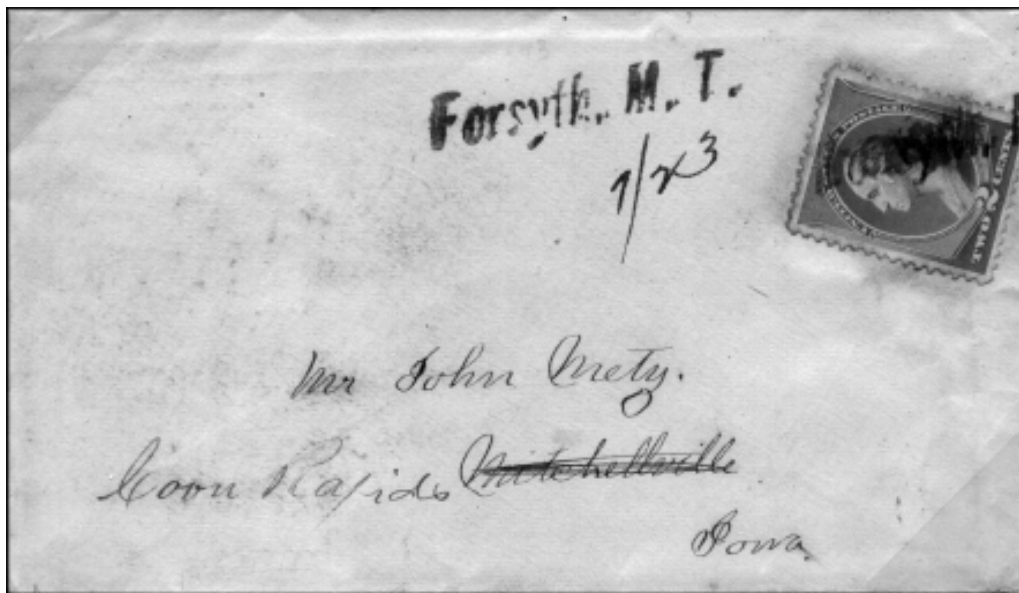
## Roosevelt County

Town	Postmark	Earliest	Latest	Cancel	Notes
	<b>POPLAR CREEK (POPLAR CREEK AGENCY) (1880/Date)</b>				
1.	DLC32	28 APR 1881	4 JAN 1883	target	
2.	CDS28	23 APR 1885	10 AUG 1885	target	
	<b>WOLF POINT (1882-Date)</b>				
1.	CDS28	15 DEC 1884	29 JAN 1885		

## Rosebud County

Town	Postmark	Earliest	Latest	Cancel	Notes
	<b>ADA (1881-1882)</b>				<i>None reported</i>
	<b>ALBRIGHT (1884/1892)</b>				<i>None reported</i>
	<b>BASINSKI (1888-1898)</b>				<i>None reported</i>
	<b>BEEMAN (1883-1884)</b>				<i>None reported</i>
	<b>BIRNEY (1886-Date)</b>				<i>None reported</i>
	<b>BRANDENBERG (1881-1957)</b>				<i>None reported</i>
	<b>BUELL (1879/1884)</b>				<i>None reported</i>
	<b>FORSYTH (1882-Date)</b>				
1.	MS	19 APR 1885			
2.	DLDC30	10 MAY 1885			
3.	SL42	5 JUL 1885	23 JUL 188?	target	magenta/black
4.	DLC33.5	10 NOV 1886	17 DEC 1886	7-bar grid	
	<b>HARRIS (1888-1899)</b>				<i>None reported</i>
	<b>HATHAWAY (1887-Date)</b>				<i>None reported</i>
	<b>HOTCHKISS (1885-1892)</b>				<i>None reported</i>
	<b>HOWARD (1883/1924)</b>				
1.	DLDC28	14 JAN 1885		Maltese cross	
	<b>LAME DEER (1887-Date)</b>				<i>None reported</i>
	<b>LEE (1888-1936)</b>				<i>None reported</i>
	<b>McDOWELL (1883-1884)</b>				<i>None reported</i>





**Figure 2** One of four reported covers with this Forsyth straight-line postmark. Often simple postmarks like this were used temporarily in an emergency, but the reason this one was used is unknown.



**Figure 3** Color advertising covers such as this one for a vaudeville theater are a sign of Butte City's commercial success and wealth.

## Rosebud County

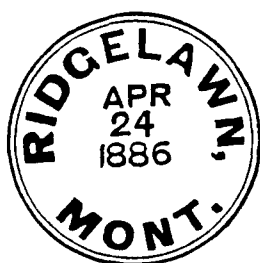
Town	Postmark	Earliest	Latest	Cancel	Notes
<b>PUTMAN (1883-1887)</b>					
1.	DLCDS35	7 FEB 1887		target	
<b>ROSEBUD (1884-Date)</b>					
					2 None reported
<b>YOUNGER (1886-1888)</b>					
1.	MSS	25 FEB 1888		pen	

## Sanders County

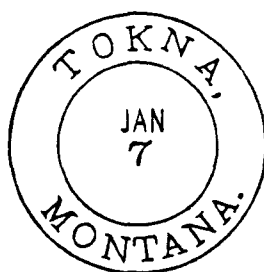
Town	Postmark	Earliest	Latest	Cancel	Notes
<b>ENTERPRISE (1884-1884)</b>					
1.	DLDC30	27 MAY 1884		wheel of fortune	
<b>HERON (1884/Date)</b>					
1.	DLC34	2 MAY 1884	7 SEP 1884	star in star	purple/black
2.	CDS27	12 JUL 1887	5 AUG 1888	target/cork	
<b>HORSE PLAINS (PLAINS) (1869/Date)</b>					
1.	MSS	15 DEC 1881		pen	
2.	DLC28	17 FEB 1883			
<b>MINERAL (1886-1886)</b>					
					None reported
<b>NOXON (1888/Date)</b>					
					None reported
<b>THOMPSON (1882/Date)</b>					
					3
1.	MSS	7 MAY 188?(L)		pen	
2.	CDS28	5 MAR 1886	10 SEP 1886	target	
<b>TROUT CREEK (1885-Date)</b>					
					4 None reported
<b>VERMILION (1889/1905)</b>					
					None reported

## Silver Bow County

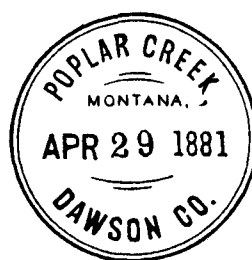
Town	Postmark	Earliest	Latest	Cancel	Notes
<b>BURLINGTON (1885-1901)</b>					
					None Reported
<b>BUTTE CITY (1868-Date)</b>					
1.	CDS23	21 JUL 187?		cork	
2.	CDS29	21 ??? 187?	8 JUN 1880	star	
3.	CDS26	11 JUN 1878	5 MAY 1880	star	purple, black, blue
4.	DLDC28	27 FEB 1879	3 SEP 1881	target	magenta
5.	DLC33	5 JUL 1880	21 MAR 1881	target	
6.	CDS27	1 JUL 1881	7 APR 1882	segmented star	blue/black
7.	DLC28	13 SEP 1882	14 SEP 1882		
8.	CDS28	7 JUL 1882	19 MAY 1883	cork	
9.	CDS25	13 JUN 1883	8 DEC 1884	star in ellipse	
10.	CDS27	13 APR 1885	21 OCT 1885	cork	



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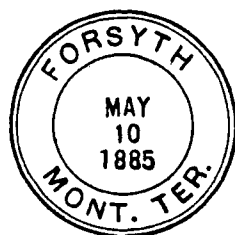
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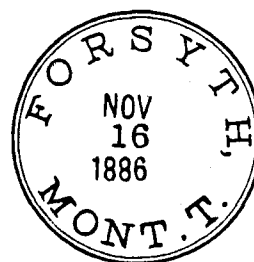
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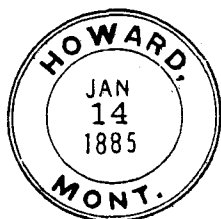
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*Forsyth, M. T.*  
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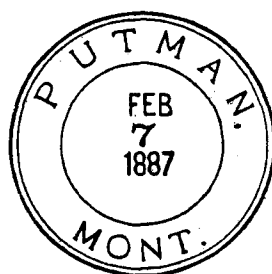
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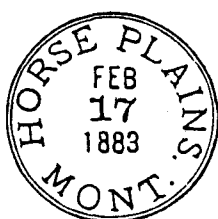
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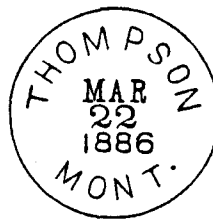
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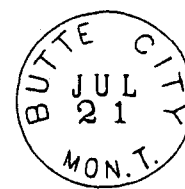
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## Silver Bow County

Town	Postmark	Earliest	Latest	Cancel	Notes
11.	DLOCT48x26	14 JUN 1884	5 OCT 1885	target	
12.	RML40x20	20 DEC 1885	30 DEC 1885		5 pink/magenta
13.	SL45x16	15 JAN 1886	16 JUN 1886	pen	
14.	CDS29	18 JAN 1886	18 JUL 1889	target ellipse	
15.	SL55x23	4 FEB 1889			magenta

### DIVIDE (1873-Date)

1.	DLDC32	25 JAN 1886	20 AUG 1889	star in circle	purple/black
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### FEELEY (1888/1904)

1.	CDS27	9 MAR 1889			
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### GRACE (1882/1926)

1.	MSS	15 SEPT 1888		pen	
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### GUNDERSON (1883-1903)

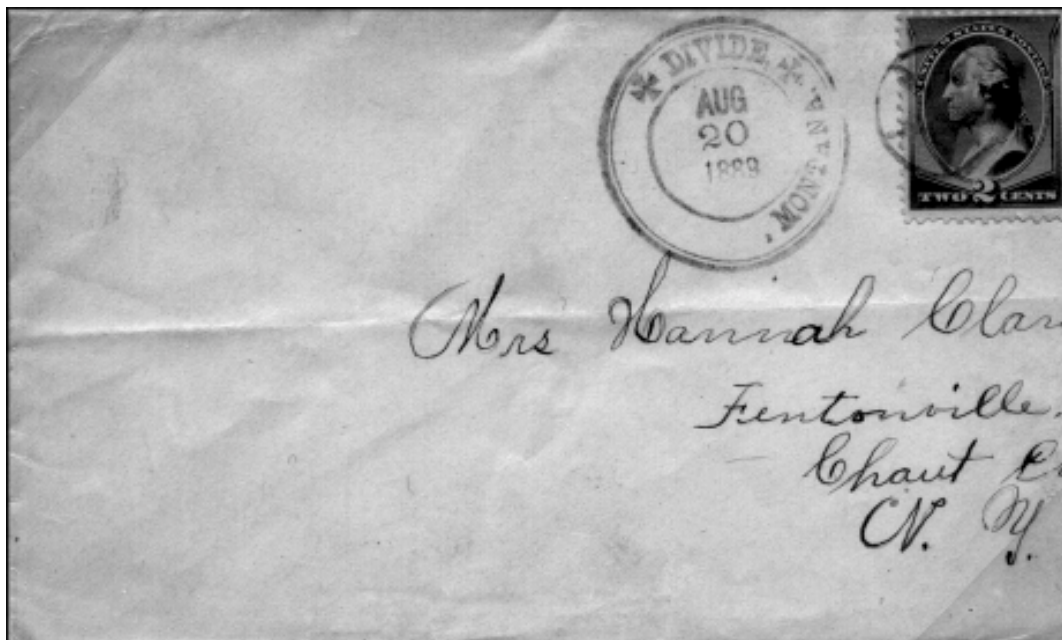
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### LIZZOTT (1888-1903)

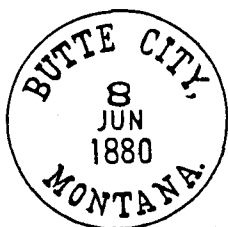
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### MELROSE (1881-Date)

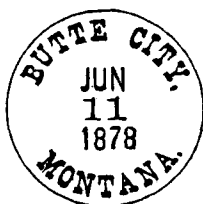
1.	DLC27	16 AUG 1881	20 ??? 1881	target	
2.	CDS28	9 JUL 1883		star	5
3.	CDS30	19 JUL 1887		star	



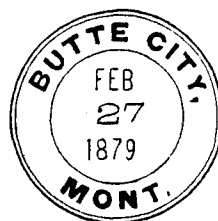
**Figure 4** All examples of this Divide postmark show a blank space and comma, suggesting that some lettering had been removed. The missing portion may have read “Deer Lodge Co.” before the reorganization that put Divide in Silver Bow



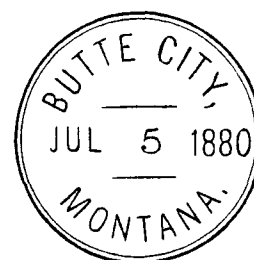
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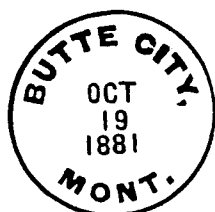
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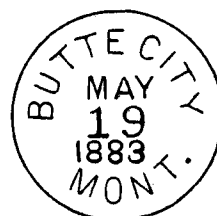
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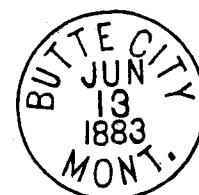
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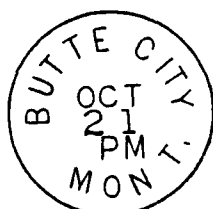
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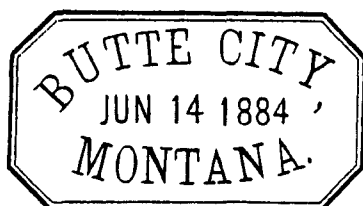
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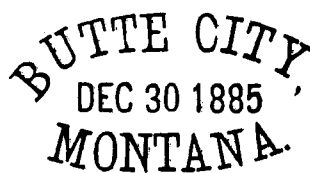
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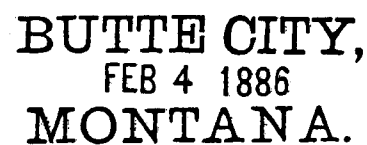
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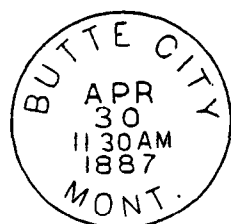
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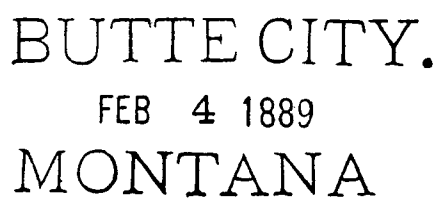
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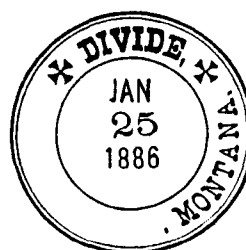
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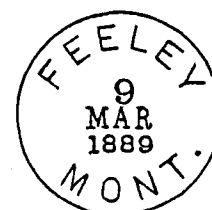
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## Silver Bow County

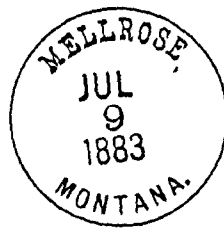
Town	Postmark	Earliest	Latest	Cancel	Notes
	<b>MOOSE CREEK (1875-1882)</b>				<i>None Reported</i>
	<b>MOUNT HOREB (1882-1883)</b>				<i>None Reported</i>
	<b>NORTH BUTTE</b>				
1.	TCDS32	31 OCT 1887			
	<b>NORWOOD (1882-1893)</b>				<i>None Reported</i>
	<b>RALSTON (1888-1896)</b>				<i>None Reported</i>
	<b>RED MOUNTAIN CITY (RED MOUNTAIN) (1867-1883)</b>				
1.	CDS27	27 SEP 1869	12 APR 1875	target	
	<b>ROCKER (1887/1919)</b>				
1.	CDS29	14 SEP 1887		Maltese cross	
2.	DLC32	5 DEC 1888		pen	
	<b>SILVER BOW (1869/1984)</b>				
1.	CDS25	28 MAR 1869	4 DEC 1877	pen	
2.	CDS27	? AUG 1885			
	<b>SOUTH BUTTE (1885/1895)</b>				
1.	TOV41x25	6 APR 1886	29 MAY 1886		
2.	RML22	17 AUG 1886			
3.	CDS28	29 MAR 1889	1 OCT 188?	neg star	magenta
	<b>VALLEY (1880-1883)</b>				
1.	DLDC33	22 AUG 1881			
	<b>WALKERVILLE (1878-1959)</b>				
1.	CDS27	2 APR 1880	31 MAY 1880	target	
2.	OV32x27	3 JUL 1882	23 MAY 1887	target	gray black
3.	CDS27	24 JUL 1887		cork	

### NOTES:

1. 1886 examples of this postmark appear to be misspelled TOKUA. The U appears to have been replaced by an N by 1887.
2. Not the same as the Rosebud post office that operated in Custer County, 1880-1884.
3. Not the same as the Thompson post office that operated in Meagher County in 1878.
4. Not the same as the Trout Creek post office that operated in Fergus County, 1867/1883.
5. Butte City #12 is a modified state of Butte City #11 with the octagonal rim cut off.
6. The alternate spelling of Melrose with two L's (MELLROSE) in this postmark is not listed in any sources we have consulted and may be a misspelling.



1



2



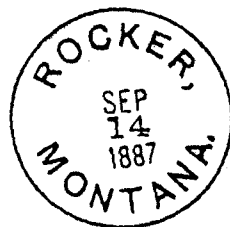
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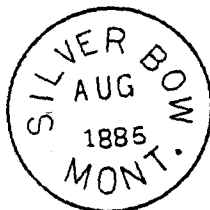
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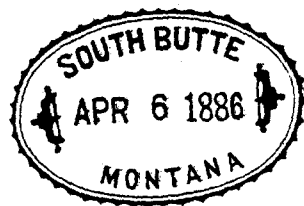
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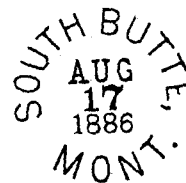
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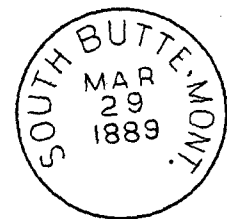
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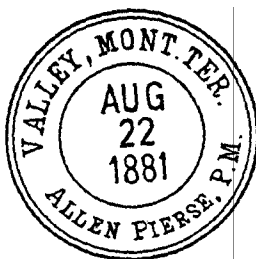
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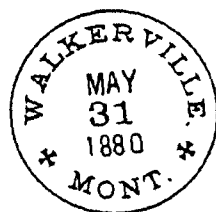
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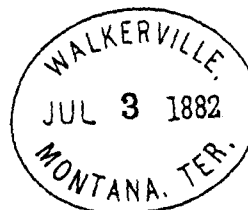
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2



3



# THE POSTMASTERS GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

## V. Return Jonathan Meigs, Jr., 1814-1823

by Daniel Y. Meschter

The appointment of Return J. Meigs, Jr. as Postmaster General was part of Madison's political ploy to remove Gideon Granger from office. For himself, Meigs was always available anytime he might be needed.

Born in Connecticut in 1764, he graduated from Yale at twenty and was admitted to the bar as soon as he became of legal age. He moved to Marietta, Ohio in 1788 shortly after passage of the Northwest Territories Ordinance where he began the practice of law and gained something of a reputation as an Indian fighter. He was appointed a territorial judge and elected to the legislature when it was instituted. He worked for Ohio statehood and was appointed Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court, serving until he was named commandant of U.S. troops in the St. Charles District of the Territory of Louisiana in 1804 and a justice on the Louisiana Supreme Court. In 1807 he was appointed a U.S. Judge for the District of Michigan until he resigned the next year to run for governor of Ohio. His election being challenged for failure to meet residence requirements, the Ohio Legislature elected him to the U.S. Senate in which he served until he was legally elected governor in 1810<sup>1</sup>.

Madison would have been familiar with Meigs' varied career in the military, on the bench, and as governor when Meigs strongly supported his War of 1812 policy<sup>2</sup>. Not only could he be confident of Meigs' availability, Meigs was untainted by the patronage scandals that led to the Granger affair. In fact, the Senate only learned of Granger's dismissal when the White House sent Meigs' nomination over for confirmation. Further, Madison had reason to think Meigs would be influential in supporting the candidacy of Secretary of State Monroe for the presidency at the end of his own term.

Meigs also was the first westerner appointed Postmaster General and as such endorsed the policy that the post office was a public service without regard to cost. Although he opposed reduction of shorter distance rates as benefiting the northeastern

states, even he recognized that the burden on letters sent very short distances, say between Washington and Georgetown, at 8¢ was so high that correspondents rarely sent letters by mail. When proposing a new rate schedule in 1816, he suggested a rate of 4¢ for up to five miles<sup>3</sup>.

In the meantime Congress enacted a 50% increase in postal rates effective February 1, 1815, "to provide additional revenues for defraying the expenses of government," specifically the War of 1812<sup>4</sup>. Under this Act the 1799 rate up to 40 miles was increased from 8¢ to 12¢, 40 to 90 miles from 10¢ to 15¢, 90 to 150 miles from 12½¢ to 18¾¢, 150 to 300 miles from 17¢ to 25½¢, 300 to 500 miles from 20¢ to 30¢; and over 500 miles from 25¢ to 37½¢.

This Act generated a substantial increase in revenue; but in spite of pressure from the Treasury to retain it as a source of revenue, Congress resisted the temptation – the House accepting the importance of written communication as public policy now

that the Treasury balance allowed its repeal.

The Act increasing postal rates was repealed effective March 31, 1816 after only fourteen months in effect<sup>5</sup>; but the old 1799 rates were restored for only the month of April before Congress, ignoring Meigs' recommendation of a rate structure less than the increased rates but actually higher than the 1799 rates, enacted a new schedule in five steps instead of six<sup>6</sup>:

Up to 30 miles,	6 cents
30 to 80 miles	10 cents
80 to 150 miles	12½ cents
150 to 400 miles	18½ cents
Over 400 miles	25 cents

The effect of this new schedule was reduce the rate for the shortest zone from 8¢ to 6¢ to accommodate eastern, urban patrons. The 18½¢ rate for the 400-mile zone was a compromise between the earlier 17¢ rate for the 150- to 300-mile zone and 20¢ for the 300- to 500-mile zone.



Return J. Meigs, Jr.

Although the rates in cents remained the same for corresponding zones (except the 8-cent rate), the new schedule had the effect of a slight increase in postage by shortening the 40-, 90-, and 500-mile zones, even though patrons in remote parts of the nation would hardly have noticed the increase from 25¢ for over 500 miles to 25¢ for over 400 miles. These new rates remained in effect until a major restructuring as of July 1, 1845<sup>7</sup>, except that a restatement in the Act of March 3, 1825 raised the 150-mile rate by a quarter of a cent to 18¼¢<sup>8</sup>.

Rich observed the impossibility of calculating the effect of rate changes on Post Office Department revenues. "If the territory served remained constant," he wrote, "some relation could be shown between rates and volume of correspondence, but Congress was constantly [increasing] the length of the post roads [opening] up new parts of the country to the Post Office<sup>9</sup>." In fact, the establishment of post roads into remote, sparsely settled regions was a contemporary form of Congressional "pork" that caused the Post Office a double fiscal embarrassment: (1) the trifling revenues such roads were sure to produce and (2) the high cost of carrying small quantities of mail over them, to which, of course, Congress could afford to be indifferent.

As it happened, Granger generated modest deficits in 1808, 1809, 1813, and 1814 when revenue growth slipped below constantly increasing expenditures due to unwarranted expansion of the post road system<sup>10</sup>. Pickering and Habersham had routinely returned surpluses to the Treasury through conservative policies and careful management; but in his nine years in office, Meigs was faced with an explosive growth of mail carried from five to nine million pieces and miles of post roads that doubled to almost 85,000<sup>11</sup>.

The 50% rate hike resulted in a 40% increase in revenue in 1815, exceeding a million dollars for the first time, paradoxically accompanied by a like increase in letters carried. Revenues and letters carried fell only 8% each in 1816, less than was to be expected before revenues resumed their long-term upward trend and Meigs increased expenditures on what Rich called a "reckless scale"<sup>12</sup>.

As a westerner, Meigs enthusiastically extended postal service deeper and deeper into the west. He increased service from Albany to Buffalo to three times a week and on to Detroit once a week in 1814. He inaugurated a weekly mail to St. Louis in 1816 and upgraded it to twice-a-week by 1825. Post offices were opened at Little Rock in 1821 and Chicago and Green Bay in 1823 while "private posts" carried the mail for its postage further and

further inland as fast as settlements were extended into western Arkansas and Missouri<sup>13</sup>.

A whole new country in the southeast opened up when President Monroe proclaimed the Florida Purchase in early 1821. A mail route was established from New Orleans to Pensacola in 1822 and others from Alabama towns to the Gulf and from Georgia down the peninsula as rapidly as passable roads were opened<sup>14</sup>.

Increasing revenues kept the Post Office afloat in 1817 to 1819, but a dip in 1820 without commensurate reduction in expenditures caused annual deficits for the rest of Meigs tenure that were alleviated in the first three years of his successor's term only by the strictest economies. That Meigs bore responsibility not only for incurring significant deficits but institutionalizing them on the theory that since the Post Office was a public service, no surpluses were to be expected from it. In view of the fact Meigs spent almost 95% of the postal revenue available to him and incurred deficits that would become routine, Rich criticized him for "extravagant" payments for mail transportation and expansion of a transportation system more widely than was essential for the Post Office to fulfill its mandate<sup>15</sup>. Nor can blame be shifted to Congress, because the Postmaster General did have discretion under the law to determine the need for and frequency of service on each route, irrespective of Congress's prerogative to establish post roads.

From the standpoint of historical perspective, however, the country was ready for a Postmaster General with Meigs' zeal for expanding service because together with Granger he faced the most important technological development in the transportation industry up to his time.

As soon as Fulton's *Clermont* made its first trip up the Hudson River in 1807, it was clear steamboats would play an important role on America's inland waterways as well as transoceanic and coastal routes. The *Clermont* was followed by *Neptune* (1808), *Paragon* (1811), *Fire Fly* (1812), and *Richmond* (1814) as the progenitors of a fleet of progressively larger and faster river boats<sup>16</sup>.

Granger was the first to notice declining revenues at post offices along the Hudson he attributed to letters being carried "out of the mail" by steamboat. His recourse was to authorize steamboats to carry letters and allow captains three cents for each letter delivered to post offices along the river<sup>17</sup>. His instructions to postmasters, however, were unclear where he wrote at one point that letters conveyed by water under this authorization

"are to be rated . . . with the same rates of postage as are chargeable for like distances on land," but continued by saying that, apparently for accounting purposes, the amounts paid, "should be charged as for Ship Letters<sup>18</sup>." Graham's illustration of a letter dated April 17, 1813 from New York to Albany endorsed "Per *Paragon*" that was rated 6 cents as a ship letter is evidence postmasters read Granger's instruction as directing them to rate steamboat mail as ship letters. In any event, it reached Albany faster than by overland stage and cheaper than the 17¢ rate in effect for the 300 mile zone in 1813<sup>19</sup>.

Congress rose to the occasion by authorizing the Postmaster General to have mail carried by steamboats in any of the waters of the United States, the captain being allowed two cents for each letter<sup>20</sup>. Meigs was unequivocal in his circular of March 21, 1815 directing that "Letters conveyed in this way are to be rated with postage in the same manner as those conveyed by land<sup>21</sup>."

In the meantime the *New Orleans* was built in Pittsburgh in 1811 and sent down river for service between New Orleans and Natchez<sup>22</sup>. The first steamboat didn't reach St. Louis until 1816 and it was 1819 before Meigs advertised for proposals to carry mail by steamboat between St. Louis and New Orleans, heralding the day when regular service would be established down the Ohio to St. Louis and New Orleans and through the Great Lakes<sup>23</sup>.

Meigs was personally popular, but he seems to have been an indifferent administrator. In 1816 a House committee investigated charges that clerks in the Post Office were selling drafts drawn in favor of the Post Office. Other inquiries were instituted in 1821 and 1822 relating to route contracts, shortages in Post Office accounts, and delinquent reports filed with the Treasury<sup>24</sup>. Meigs himself was not named, but these investigations were harbingers of closer Congressional oversight of the Post Office in the future. For the moment it was apparent the business practices Habersham instituted had outlived their usefulness and that Meigs was not enough of a businessman to update them.

Meigs, however, was astute enough in January 1822 to see trouble coming when Senator Van Buren objected to appointment of Solomon Van Rensselaer to be Albany postmaster. Remembering that Granger's removal came as a result of his failure to consult Madison in regard to the Philadelphia appointment, Meigs wisely referred the matter to Monroe; but Monroe was having none of it. He informed Van Buren's supporters that he would not intervene in the Van Rensselaer appointment on the

grounds that Congress had given the Postmaster General full authority over postal appointments<sup>25</sup>.

Monroe retained Meigs in office for a tenure that at nine years was second only to Granger's in spite of pressure to remove him in the Van Rensselaer affair; but Monroe's deference was not enough. Meigs resigned in June 1823 for reason of failing health and returned to his home in Marietta, Ohio where he died in March 1825.

Portrait of Return Jonathan Meigs, Jr. from *The Cyclopedia of American Biography*, 1893, v. 3, p. 137.

<sup>1</sup> See *Biographical Directory of the American Congress*, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1961; Vexler, Robert I., *The Vice-Presidents and Cabinet Members*, Dobbs Ferry, NY, 1975; and *The National Cyclopedia of American Biography*, 1893, v. 3, pp. 137-8 for biographical sketches of Return J. Meigs, Jr.

<sup>2</sup> Brant, Irving. *James Madison, Commander in Chief, 1812-1836*, Indianapolis, 1961, pp. 244-4.

<sup>3</sup> *American State Papers*, v. 27, p. 49.

<sup>4</sup> 3 Stat. 159.

<sup>5</sup> Act of February 1, 1816, 3 Stat. 252.

<sup>6</sup> Act of April 9, 1816, 3 Stat. 264.

<sup>7</sup> Post Office Act of March 3, 1845, 5 Stat. 733.

<sup>8</sup> 4 Stat. 105.

<sup>9</sup> Rich, Wesley E. *The History of the United States Post Office to the Year 1829*, Cambridge, MA, 1924; p. 138.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid*, p. 117; Appendix C, Tables I and III, pp. 182-4.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid*, p. 107-8.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid*, pp. 85-90.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid*, pp. 84-5.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid*, p. 110.

<sup>16</sup> Morrison, John H. *History of American Steam Navigation*, 1903 reprinted New York, 1958, pp. 19, 42.

<sup>17</sup> Letter of August 10, 1810 quoted by Stets, Robert J. *Postmasters & Post Offices of the United States, 1782-1811*. Lake Oswego, OR, 1994, p. 14.

<sup>18</sup> Letter of August 17, 1810, *ibid*.

<sup>19</sup> Graham, Richard B., *Linn's Stamp News*, May 27, 2002, p. 14.

<sup>20</sup> Act of February 27, 1815, 3 Stat. 220.

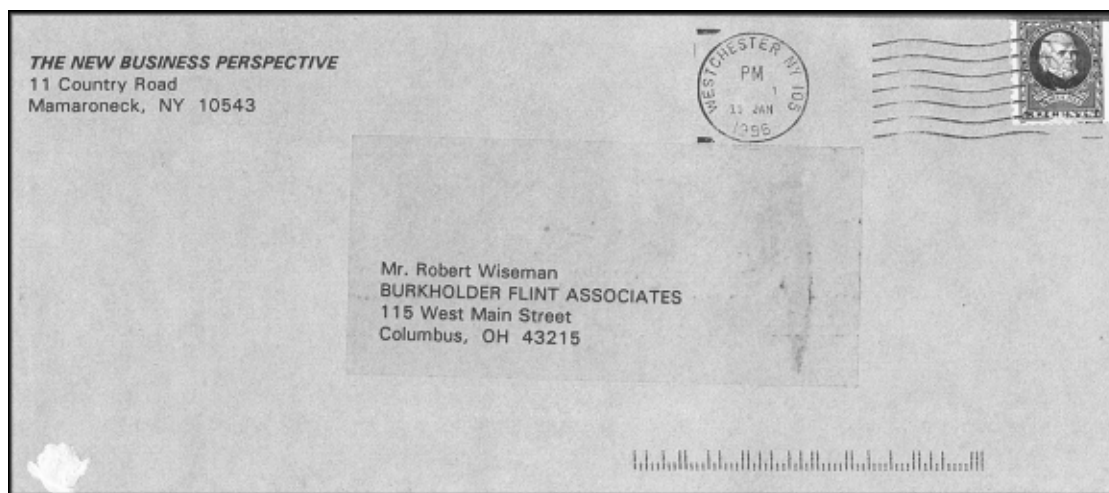
<sup>21</sup> Graham, *ante*, p. 14.

<sup>22</sup> Morrison, *op. cit.*, p. 190.

<sup>23</sup> Houck, Louis. *A History of Missouri*, Chicago, 1908, v. III, p. 63.

<sup>24</sup> *Annals of Congress*, 14th and 17th Congresses

<sup>25</sup> Ammon, Harry. *James Monroe, The Quest for National Identity*. New York, 1971, p. 496-7.



**Figure 1** Business envelope postmarked Westchester, New York, on January 11, 1996. The James K. Polk commemorative stamp was used. This is the earliest usage of this stamp found after its issuance on November 2, 1995 by this author.

## An Elusive 20<sup>th</sup> Century “Ugly Duckling”

### Treasure Trove Number #3

By Michael Dattolico

If a stamp's design, eye appeal and timely issuance are factors that influence consumer popularity, the James K. Polk stamp (Scott #2587), issued on November 2, 1995, had three strikes against it when it hit the postal market. In fact, some postal historians feel it may be one of the most *un*-popular stamps issued in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

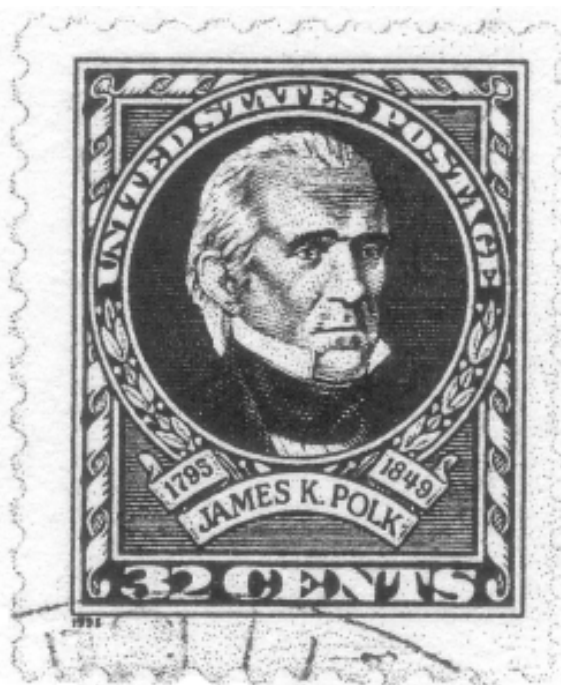
The stamp commemorated the birth of James K. Polk, born on November 2, 1795. He was the Tennessee-born President responsible for the 1846-48 war with Mexico. In the aftermath of that conflict, California and other large tracts of land were added to the United States. He is not, however, one of our better-known presidents, and some historians have labeled him as the instigator of an unnecessary war with Mexico. Unfortunately, many Americans today don't recognize Polk's name or his role in acquiring one of the largest chunks of territory in our history.

The Polk stamp's appearance has caused some collectors to feel that the U.S. Postal Service laid a goose egg. Printed in a reddish-brown hue, the color scheme of #2587 appears to be a more dark-brown color combination with white schroll bordering and a pale white bust of President Polk as the stamp's central image. Wording on the stamp's bottom perimeter is small and difficult to read, and the “32” rate number appears flattened, elongated and hard to decipher. When

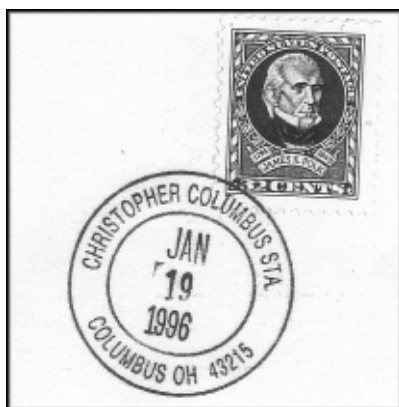
I first saw the stamp, I thought it was a South American issue. Ask some collectors to describe the Polk stamp and you'll hear adjectives such as “drab” and “lackluster.” Few philatelists queried by this author used positive descriptions of the Polk issue.

If the stamp's lack of eye appeal stymied consumer enthusiasm, what really dampened interest in the stamp was the timing of its sale. It was issued on November 2, 1995, the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Polk's birth, which seemed appropriate. But with the Christmas season approach-

ing, the U.S. Postal Service had already begun offering the year's colorful Christmas stamps for sale on

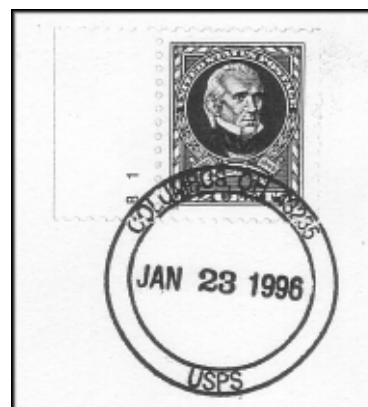






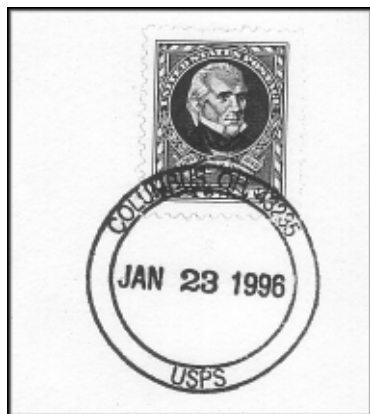
**Figure 2** Polk commemorative used on an envelope processed at the Christopher Columbus Station of the Columbus, Ohio post office on January 19, 1996.

**Figure 4** Polk issue showing wide margin and plate number cancelled at the Columbus, Ohio post office. This is clearly a cancelled-to-order example of the stamp's usage.



October 19<sup>th</sup>, with other Christmas stamps presented at post offices in early November. As if that was not enough, the Antique Autos stamp issue was offered for sale on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1995. The result was that the plain Polk stamps were not as popular as other, more colorful, interesting stamps that were offered

**Figure 3** Polk stamp affixed to a cover handled at the main Columbus post office on January 23, 1996.



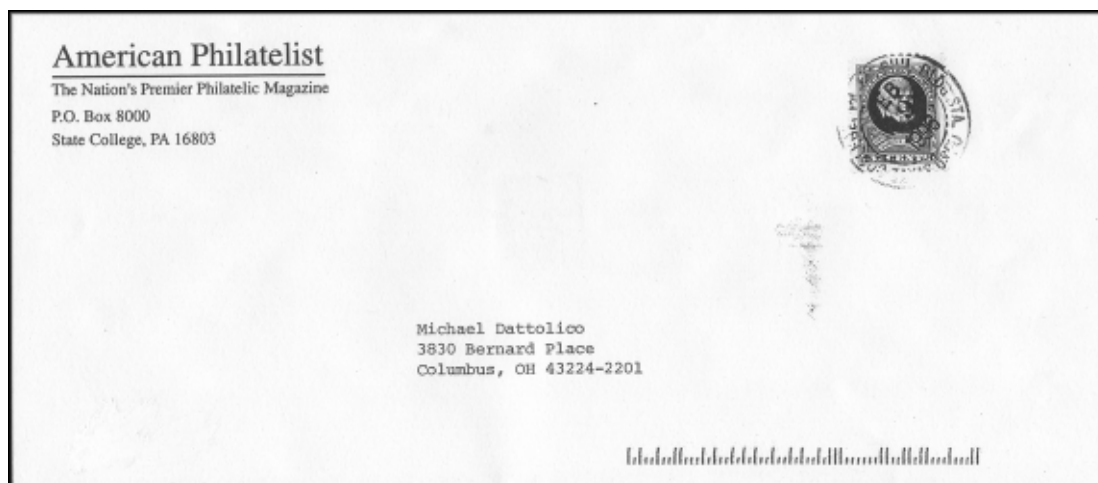
for sale at the same time. Postal officials suddenly found themselves stuck with mountains of Polk sheets that no one seemed to want.

Consumer disdain for the stamps and a subsequent oversupply situation which developed became so acute that the Columbus, Ohio postmaster explained the problem to central Ohio postal patrons in a newspaper

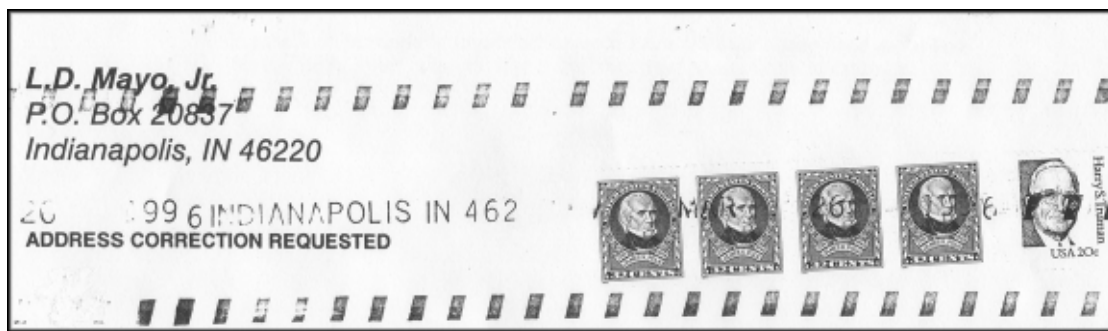
article that appeared in the *Columbus Dispatch* in late 1995. The column stated that most Columbus post office branches had a large supply of Polk stamps that no one was buying. If Columbus, Ohio had the problem, one might assume that other cities had the same lack-of-interest, oversupply snag.

Having read the newspaper article, I began looking for envelopes on which the Polk stamp was used. During November and December, 1995, I could not find any envelope on which a Polk stamp was affixed. Covers employing the Polk stamp used during those late 1995 months remain largely unseen.

The earliest dated envelope showing use of the Polk stamp that I could find is shown as *Figure 1*. It is dated January 11, 1996, and was handled by the Westchester, NY post office. I regard it as quite a find. A friend, knowing my frustrations, had three CTO (cancelled-to-order) covers created for me as a gift. Portions are shown as *Figures 2-4*. They were postmarked in January, 1996. I was appreciative, but it was not the real thing.



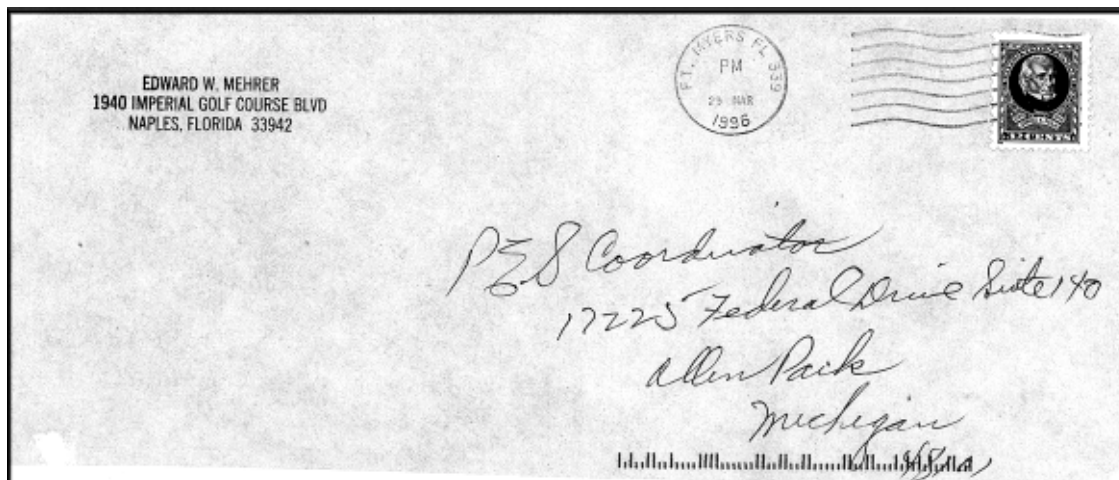
**Figure 5** The American Philatelic Society used the stamps on their correspondence, as evidenced by the illustrated cover processed at the society's philatelic station on February 19, 1996.



**Figure 6** Large envelope showing usage of a strip of four Polk stamps cancelled on March 26, 1996 at Indianapolis. This is the only multiple usage of this stamp that this author has seen.

Then I got lucky. I received a letter from Bill Welch, then editor of the *American Philatelist* journal, on which a Polk stamp was used on February 19, 1996. It is shown as *Figure 5*. Despite the messy postmark, I was elated to receive it.

items as the equivalent of being bogus. Others collect them grudgingly, especially if they are the only examples to be found. But some postal historians have no qualms about accepting them today, finding places in their collections for them and even exhibiting them.



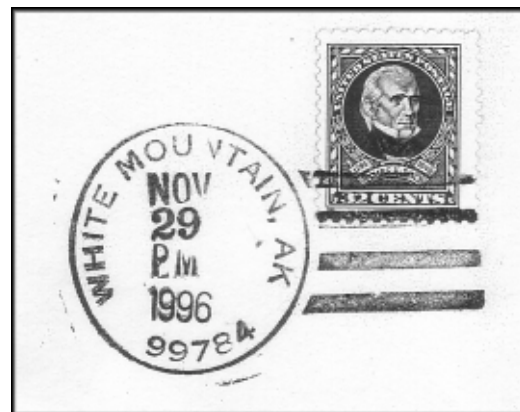
**Figure 7** A particularly important cover to me is the Polk stamp used at the Fort Myers, Florida post office on March 29, 1996. Fort Myers is my home town.

Figures 6 and 7 are materials mailed during 1996. The highlight of this pair is *Figure 6*, which shows a strip of four Polk stamps on which the mailing date, March 26, 1996, is visible. *Figure 7* was an equally exciting find, since it came from my home town, Fort Myers, Florida, on March 29, '96.

I've heard it said that every gray cloud has a silver lining. If that's true, then I predict that what we regard as an "ugly duckling" stamp will be a highly sought item in the coming century. I also predict that cancelled-to-order covers will be valued. Aside from

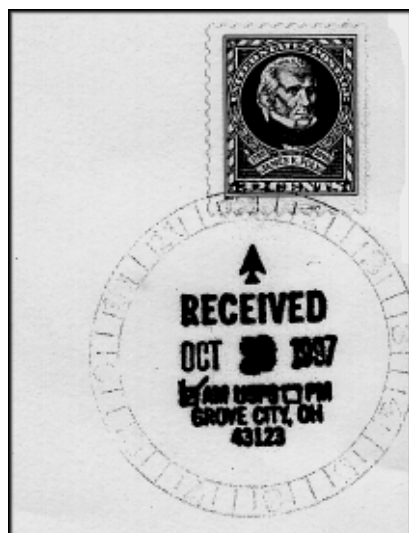
Throughout 1996 and '97, I continued to search for legitimately used Polk stamps on cover. Some examples were found, but most stamps were in bad condition, or the postmarks were illegible. Out of curiosity, I visited a few post offices in the central Ohio area to see if the stamps were still being offered for sale. They were; some post offices still had ample supplies of them. I bought a few stamps and created my own CTO covers for posterity. They are shown as *Figures 8 – 10*.

Postal historians may always be in conflict about legitimate usages versus cancelled-to-order (CTO) creations. Many collectors won't touch them, seeing such

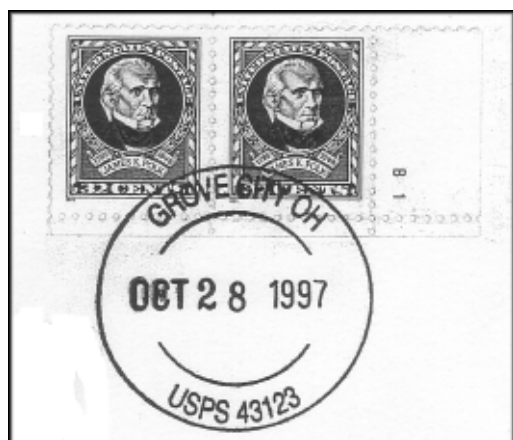


**Figure 8** The Polk stamp used on cover from an unusual origination point: White Mountain, Alaska, in late 1996.





**Figure 9** Clearly a philatelic CTO contrivance, this attractive cover was handled by the Grove City, Ohio post office on October 28, 1997, an ample supply of the stamps still existed.



**Figure 10** This pair of Polk stamps was affixed to an envelope processed by the Grove City, Ohio post office as a cancelled-to-order philatelic cover.

first-day covers sold on November 2, 1995, and cancelled-to-order items featuring the stamp, ordinary envelopes bearing the Polk stamps mailed in November and December, 1995, will be regarded as treasures. Collectors in the 22<sup>nd</sup> century anxious to find the small, unattractive stamps commemorating the birth of one of America's most misunderstood presidents may discover it to be a truly scarce item. Even CTO covers bearing the stamps may be seriously considered for study.

Thus, what began as a dismal beginning for the small, dull brown stamp will likely evolve into a success story that future generations will avidly embrace. I'd like to be around to see it.

## Randy Stehle Mail Bid No. 99

16 Iris Court, San Mateo, CA 94401

Phone: (650) 344-3080

Email: RSTEHLE@ix.netcom.com

### CALIFORNIA

- 1 AETNA SPRINGS, 1925 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (15-45). EST. \$6
- 2 AGENDA, 1906 G CDS A BIT HI ON PPC (96-07) (STAMP GONE) \$25
- 3 AGER, 1908 VG DOANE ON PPC (88-40). EST. \$6
- 4 ALCATRAZ, 1908 F 4-BAR ON PPC (74-63). EST. \$6
- 5 ANGIOLA, 1907 F DOANE ON PPC (98-27). EST. \$12
- 6 BAIRD, 1917 VG 4-BAR ON GPC (78/33). EST. \$12
- 7 BAY CITY, 1907 F DOANE ON PPC (04-14). EST. \$6
- 8 BERLIN, 1910 VG DOANE ON PPC (76-34). EST. \$6
- 9 BLUMENBERG, 1909 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (08-10). EST. \$60
- 10 BRADY, 1905 G CDS ON PPC. EST. \$5
- 11 DALY CITY, 1915 G+ 4-BAR ON PPC (13-17 PER.). EST. \$12
- 12 DUNBARTON, 1908 G LKU DOANE ON PPC (00-09). EST. \$35
- 13 ENTERPRISE, 1911 VG CDS ON PPC (78/26). EST. \$10
- 14 ESTRELLA, 1915 F 4-BAR ON PPC (86-18). EST. \$20
- 15 FELIX, 1919 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (96-23). EST. \$10
- 16 FERN, 1910 F 4-BAR ON PPC (98-45). EST. \$6
- 17 FLOYD, 1908 F DOANE ON PPC (06-11). EST. \$35
- 18 GRUBGULCH, 1894 VG CDS ON COVER (93-18). EST. \$20
- 19 HENLEYVILLE, 1910 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (73/36). EST. \$6
- 20 HUNTER, 1922 G+ 4-BAR ON PPC (88-30). EST. \$6
- 21 JAMISON, 1897 F CDS ON REG'D COVER (93-11). EST. \$20
- 22 JASPER POINT, 1912 F 4-BAR ON PPC (09-16). EST. \$35
- 23 KINGS RIVER, 1886 G+ DC ON COVER (66-95). EST. \$35
- 24 KLAMATHON, 1909 G+ 4-BAR REC'D ON PPC (97-18). EST. \$10
- 25 (L)AGONA, 1904 F PARTIAL CDS REC'D ON PPC (94-04). EST. \$8
- 26 LAKEVILLE, 1905 VG CDS ON PPC (59/20). EST. \$10
- 27 LEESVILLE, 1916 F 4-BAR ON PPC (74-20). EST. \$12
- 28 LINNE, 1910 F DOANE ON PPC (89-25). EST. \$12
- 29 LYNCH, 1908 F 4-BAR ON PPC (94-12). EST. \$20
- 30 MAMMOTH, 1908 F 4-BAR ON PPC (07-25). EST. \$12
- 31 MAYBERT, 1891 VG CDS ON REG'D REC CARD (86-10). EST. \$35
- 32 PAIGE, 1911 F 4-BAR ON PPC (08-14). EST. \$40
- 33 ROBLES DEL RIO, 1944 F BLUE 4-BAR ON PPC (41-52). EST. \$5

### COLORADO

- 34 ABBEY, 1914 F 4-BAR ON PPC W/CREASE (91-14). EST. \$15
- 35 BARTON, 1916 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (95-17). EST. \$20
- 36 CEBOLLA, 1922 VG LITE 4-BAR (STATE UNSTRUCK) ON PPC. \$8
- 37 HAPPYVILLE, 1912 G+ 4-BAR ON PPC W/BENT CORNER (01-22) \$30
- 38 OXFORD, 1911 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (08-54). EST. \$6
- 39 SALINAS, 1916 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (74-25). EST. \$12
- 40 STRONTIA SPRINGS, 1912 VG 4-BAR ON PPC W/SM TEAR (11-32) \$8

### OREGON

- 41 BURNT RANCH, 1909 G+ CDS ON PPC (83/35). EST. \$20
- 42 CUTLER CITY, 1931 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (30-65). EST. \$4
- 43 EAGLE CREEK, 1910 VG 4-BAR MIMIC ON PPC. EST. \$5
- 44 EMPIRE CITY, 1889 VG CDS B/S ON COVER (58-94). EST. \$30
- 45 REITH, 1917 F BLUE 4-BAR ON PPC (17-18). EST. \$80
- 46 SALEM, 1943 F MACH ON PPC. SATTELLITE AIRDROME RET ADD. \$5
- 47 SWIM, 1926 VF 4-BAR ON PPC (25-32). EST. \$20
- 48 TWIN ROCKS, 1918 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (14-54). EST. \$4
- 49 VIEWPOINT, 1910 F 4-BAR ON PPC (10-18). EST. \$35

### WASHINGTON

- 50 BEAUX ARTS, 1913 F 4-BAR ON PPC (13-18). EST. \$20
- 51 BRUSH PRAIRIE, ca1910 TYPE 11F (SCRIBBLE) RFD ON PPC. EST. \$5
- 52 DEWEY, 1912 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (98-18). EST. \$12
- 53 HARSTINE ISLAND, 1916 F 4-BAR ON PPC (92-26). EST. \$6
- 54 SEATTLE/QUEEN ANNE STA, 1922 VG DUPLEX ON PPC. EARLY. \$5
- 55 SEDRO WOOLEY, ca1918 TYPE 11F (SCRIBBLE) RFD ON PPC. \$5
- 56 VIK, 1909 VG DAMAGED DOANE (BARS GONE) ON PPC. EST. \$80

### RAILWAY POST OFFICES

- 57 JOHNSTOWN & ROCKWOOD, 1913 G+ (234-B-1) ON PPC. EST. \$5
- 58 MANCH & HENNIKER, 1915 VG (28-C-1) ON PPC. EST. \$6
- 59 NEW HOPE & PHILA, 1907 VG (167.1-A-3) ON PPC. EST. \$6
- 60 NO. PLATTE & DENVER, 1938 VG (950-K-1) ON COVER. EST. \$4
- 61 NO. WOODS & PLYMOUTH, 1908 VG (31.1-B-1) ON PPC. EST. \$6
- 62 ROYAL TRAIN, 1939 F (RT-1-a) ON PPC. EST. \$6
- 63 ST. PAUL & DECORAH, 1908 VG (753-X-3) ON PPC. EST. \$6
- 64 SEATTLE & SEWARD, 1939 VG (X-14-s) ON PPC. (SS COLUMBIA) \$6
- 65 SEATTLE & SKAGWAY, 1923 F (X-19-d) ON PPC. EST. \$8
- 66 TRINWAY & MORROW, 1900 F (570-F-1) ON TONED GPC. EST. \$6
- 67 TRUCKEE & LK. TAHOE, 1931 VG (997.4-B-1) ON PPC. EST. \$6
- 68 (WA)BASHA & FARIBAULT, 1912 F PARTIAL (877.2-B-1) ON PPC. \$5
- 69 WALLACE & SPOKANE, 1914 VG (896.7-A-2) ON PPC. EST. \$6

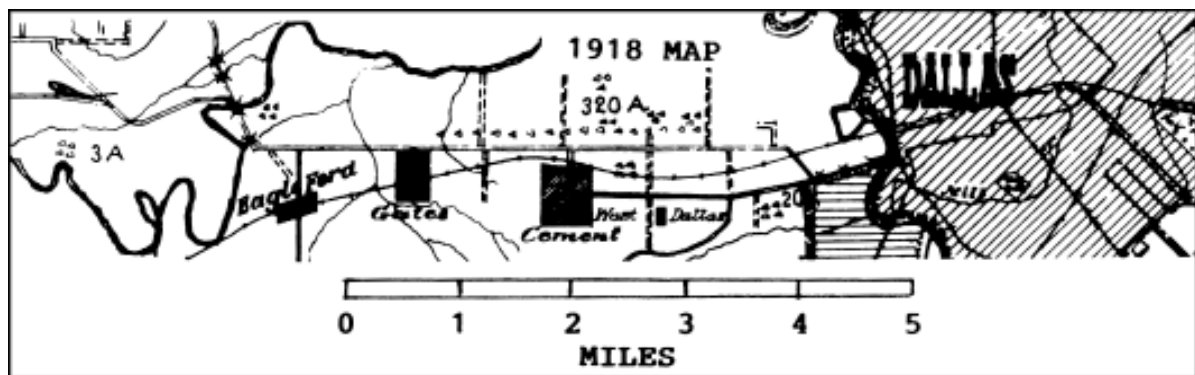
### STREET CARS

- 70 ROLAND PARK & ST. HELENA, 1902 F (BA-3-f) ON COVER. EST. \$6
- 71 TOW & CATONS, 1906 VG (BA-5-g) ON PPC. EST. \$4
- 72 BROOKLYN CIR, 1904 VG (BR-5-b) REC'D ON PPC. EST. \$6
- 73 BROOKLYN CIRCUIT, 1905 F (BR-5-d) REC'D ON PPC. EST. \$6
- 74 CHICAGO MAD ST, 1908 VG (CH-4-c) ON PPC. EST. \$6
- 75 CHI.ILL.. MADISON ST, 1904 VG (CH-4-g) ON PPC. EST. \$6
- 76 CHI & MIL AVE, 1907 G+ (CH-6-b) ON PPC. EST. \$4
- 77 CLEVELAND CIRCUIT, 1909 G+ (CL-1-a) ON PPC. EST. \$5
- 78 PITTSBURG STREET, 1908 G+ (PI-2-e) ON COVER. EST. \$6
- 79 PITTSBURG STREET CAR, 1910 F FLAG (PI-2-i) ON PPC. EST. \$6
- 80 ST LOUIS/NORTHWEST, 1909 F (SL-12-b) ON GPC W/SEALED HOLE \$5
- 81 ST LOUIS, MO. NORTHWEST, 1912 VG (SL-12-c) ON PPC. EST. \$6
- 82 ST LOUIS, MO. NORTH B'WAY, 1912 G+ (SL-13-d) ON PPC. EST. \$5

Minimum Bid \$3.00 please. Phone bids accepted.

**CLOSING DATE: February 19, 2003 (10 PM Pacific)**





*Figure 1 Locational Map of Gates and Cement, Texas -1918*

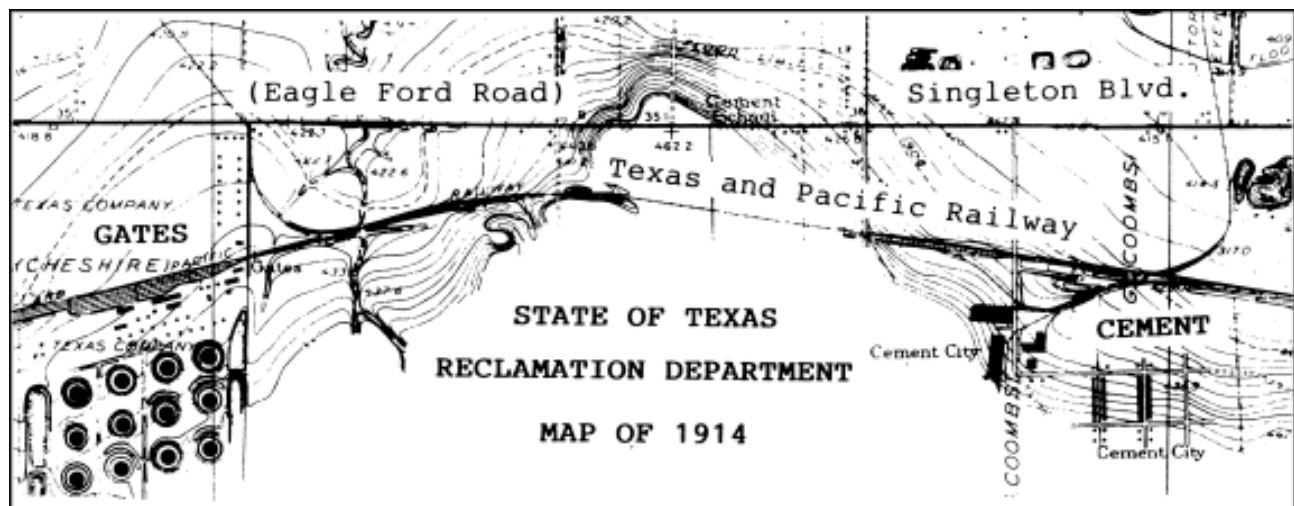
## Company Post Offices of Dallas County, Texas

By A. Eugene Gaddy

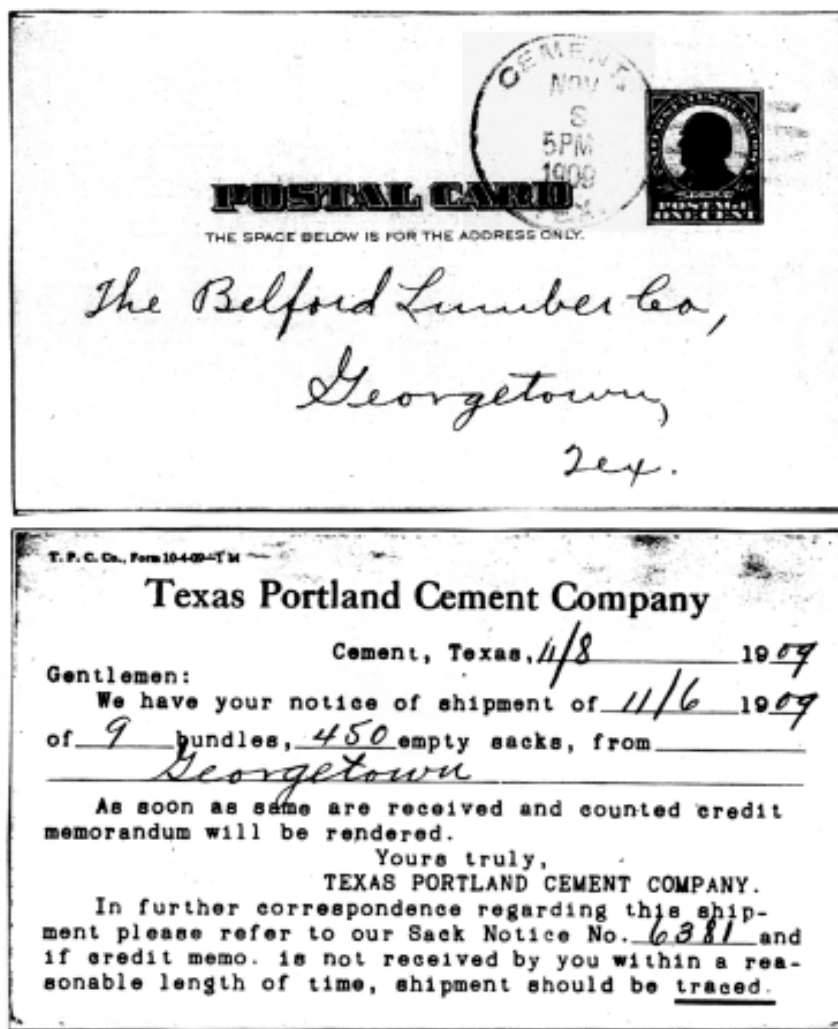
During the early 1900s there were two Dallas County, Texas post offices that existed to primarily serve industrial companies and their employees. The **Cement** and **Gates** post offices were in the industrial area of West Dallas along the Texas and Pacific Railway (figures 1 and 2).

**Cement** was located at the Texas Portland Cement Company plant, adjacent to and south of the Texas and Pacific Railway, three miles west of the Dallas County courthouse. The community was referred to as **Cement City** and included the area generally west of the present Hampton Road and north and south of West Commerce Street. The original plant and company housing no longer exist and the area is an industrial development.

The **Cement**, Texas post office was established 19 July 1907 with the appointment of Jesse W. DeFever as postmaster. He was probably a company employee but was not found in the 1900 or 1910 census. The second postmaster, Lynn Weatherford, was appointed 12 September 1910. The 1910 census shows Weatherford living in cement company housing and his occupation as "bookkeeper-cement plant." This census also shows Lloyd Whitsitt as "clerk-post office" and John Robertson as "mail carrier-cement plant." It would appear that Weatherford's postmaster duties were done by Whitsitt and Robertson. On 21 January 1913, Lloyd Whitsitt was appointed the third and last postmaster of Cement. The office was closed on 30 April 1915 and the mail was directed to Dallas.



*Figure 2 Detailed Map of Gates and Cement - 1914, adjacent to the T&PRR.*



**Figure 3** Front and back of postal card postmarked at Cement, Tex. On Nov. 8, 1909. This is typical business correspondence from the Texas Portland Cement Company.

tion facility. The refinery and storage tanks south of the railroad are now gone. Employee housing has also been removed.

The Gates, Texas post office was opened on 15 July 1908 with the appointment of E.M. Burlington as the first postmaster. Burlington has not been found in the 1910 census; but was probably a company employee. The second postmaster, appointed 7 January 1910, was James B. Saint, who is shown on the 1910 census as "office manager-oil refinery." He was a renter in the "Village of Gates on Eagle Ford Road."

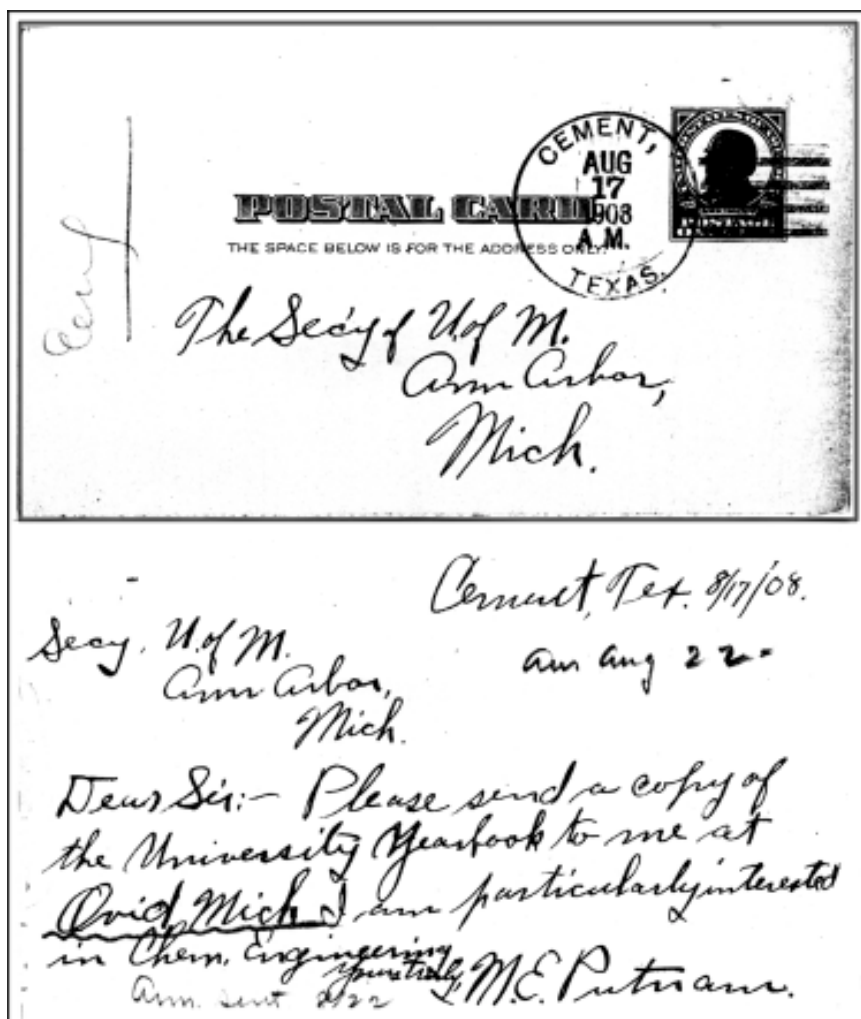
Also a renter in Gates was Addison D. Walker. In 1910 Walker's occupation was "telegrapher-railroad." On 10 October 1913 Walker became the third and last postmaster of Gates. Probably for both Saint and Walker the postmaster job was part-time. The railroad sidings shown on the map give an indication of the joint activities of the railroad and the company. The Gates post office was closed on 22 November 1918.

Postal items from Gates appear to be fairly scarce. The facility's business correspondence would be expected to be the responsibility of an off-site corporate office and the number of employees was never great. The author has seen only one, the item shown in *figure 5*. The postmark date is September 21, 1910. The card, probably from a new refinery worker states, "This is some fine job, not."

Cement and Gates represent situations not common to north Texas post offices. The area was served by a rural route, but the companies saw the need for full

Postal items from Cement are not scarce, and two examples are shown in figures 3 and 4. The cement company sent business correspondence to customers and there was a large number of employees. The post office also served an area of West Dallas that extended past the company property.

**Gates** was at the Texas Company petroleum refinery and storage plant, only 1 1/2 miles west of Cement and one mile east of the **Eagle Ford** post office. This was one of the earliest facilities of now Texaco. The post office was probably named for John Warne Gates, one of the founders and the major stock holder of The Texas Company. The refinery and storage tanks were adjacent to and south of the Texas and Pacific Railway. Company housing was provided north of the railroad and south of Singleton Boulevard. The present Norwich Street is along the east side of the site. The property between the T&P and Singleton is still owned by Texaco and is now a gasoline distribu-

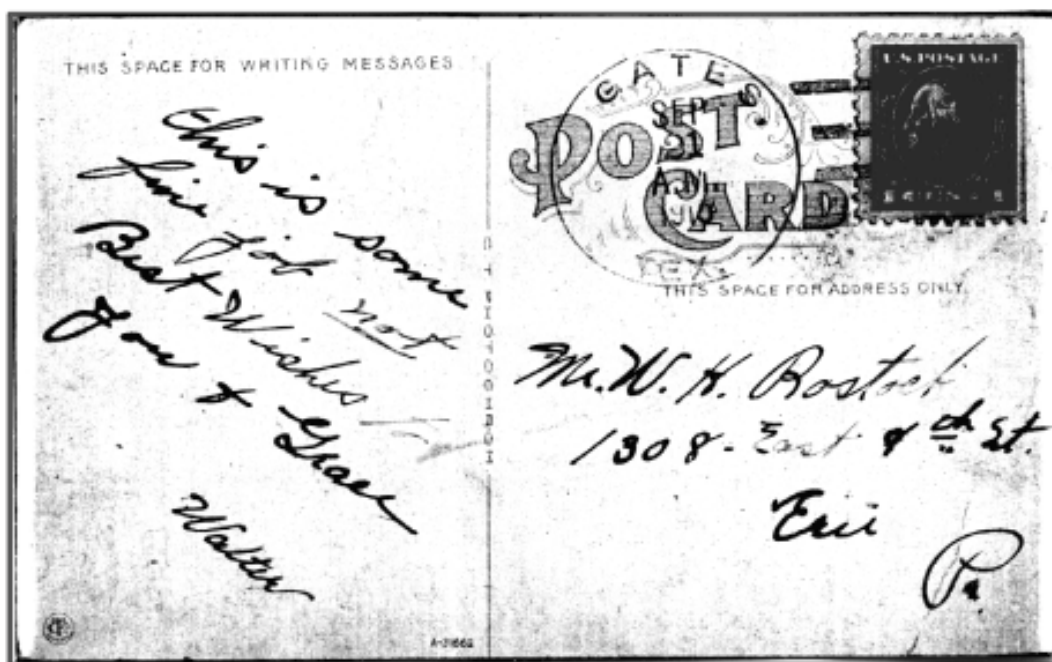


**Figure 4** Postal card postmarked at Cement, Texas on Aug. 17, 1908. A plant employee sent the card to the University of Michigan requesting that a chemical engineering catalog be sent to him at his home town in Michigan.

certainly were a benefit to the workers. They were not terminated because of a revision of business, but because the employees gained transportation to the nearby post offices of Dallas to the east and Eagle Ford to the west.

post office service. Transportation for the labor forces at the facilities was limited and most of the employees were from other areas. These two post offices

**Figure 5** Picture post card postmarked at Gates, Tex. On Sept. 21, 1910. The card, sent to Erie, Pennsylvania, is from an employee of the refinery. He states "this is some fine job not."



# POSTAL MARKINGS OF NORTH DAKOTA TERRITORY

Part XVII: Traill, Walsh, Ward, Wells, and Williams

By Mike Ellingson  
Post Office Box 21402  
Eagan, MN 55121  
E-Mail: [mikeellingson@attbi.com](mailto:mikeellingson@attbi.com)

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

## Traill County

Code	Earliest	Latest	Killer	Notes
<b>Bellmont (1879-1909)</b>				
1 C1HS1R28	25 Jul 1880		star-in-circle	
2 C1GA1B27	3 Dec 1887		cork	
3 C1GN1B27	28 Oct 1890		target	
<b>Blanchard (1880-1976)</b>				
1 C1GN1R28	7 Jan 1882		target	
2 C1GN1B26.5	16 Jul 1884	4 Sep 1885	target	
3 C1EN1R26.5	29 Jul 1887		target	
<b>Buxton (1880-Date)</b>				
1 C21G'9N1R32	29 May 1883	5 Sep 1883	target	
2 C41HN1R30.5	4 Dec 1883		target	
3 C1F3S1R34	22 Jul 1888	16 Nov 1889		
<b>Caledonia (1875-Date)</b>				
1 C41KN1B31	3 Jan 1880	11 Jul 1880	star-in-circle	
2 C41HN1B27.5	12 Jan 1881	17 Jan 1883	target	
3 C1GN1B27	22 Jan 1884	20 Nov 1888	cork	
4 C1GN1B27	16 Mar 1889	29 Apr 1889	cork	
<b>Clifford (1883-Date)</b>				
1 C1GN1R27	24 Jul 1884		target	
2 C1GN1B26	9 Dec 1886	3 Dec 1889	target	
<b>Comstock (1880-1881)</b>				
1 C21G'9N1R32	30 Jul 1881			1
<b>Cumings (1881-1922)</b>				
1 OV22E1S1R38	10 Apr 1883	20 Apr 1886	target	
<b>Elm River (1874-1880)</b>				
1 C41K12N1R30.5	28 Aug 1879	28 Oct 1879	cork	
<b>Eyresville (1880/1882)</b>				
1 C1GA1B23	23 Mar 188?		target	1
<b>Frog Point (1872/1879)</b>				
1 C1HS1B28.5	23 Apr 1879			



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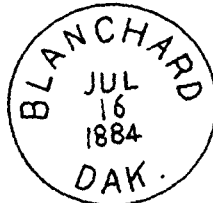
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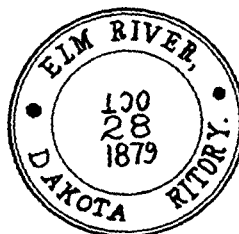
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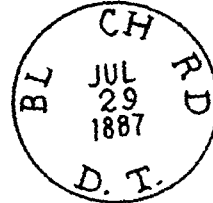
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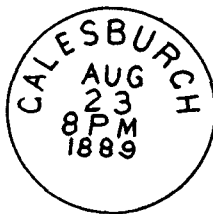


## Trail County

Code	Earliest	Latest	Killer	Notes
<b>Galesburg (1882-Date)</b>				
1 C31HN1B31	11 Sep 1886	10 Nov 1888	cork	
2 C1GT1B27	7 Nov 1887	23 Aug 1889	duplex	
3 C1GN1B27	2 Apr 1891	27 Nov 1891	target	
<b>Goose River (1871-1875)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Hague (1882-1900)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Hartsland (1879-1880)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Hatton (1881-Date)</b>				
1 C1GN1B27	13 Sep 1886	?? ??? 1892	target	
<b>Hillsboro (1881-Date)</b>				
1 C21HN1R29.5	25 Aug 1882	5 Apr 1884	shield-in-circle	
2 C1HN1R30	16 Feb 1884	14 Feb 1885	star-in-circle	
3 C1GN1B26	30 Oct 1885	2 Feb 1888	target	
4 C1GN1B27	31 Aug 1888		cork	
5 C1GN1B27.5	2 Dec 1888		cork	
6 C1HS1R30.5	16 Mar 1889	21 Mar 1889		
<b>Kelso (1882-1967)</b>				
1 C21G'9N1R32	11 Sep 1882		target	
2 C1GN1B26.5	22 Jan 1883		target	
<b>Little Fork (1878-1879)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Mayville (1877-Date)</b>				
1 C1GA1B26	7 May 1882	14 Jul 1883	target	
2 C1GN1B26.5	3 Jul 1884	7 Nov 1884	cork	
3 C1GN1B26	12 Sep 1885	15 Nov 188?	cork	
4 C1GN1B26.5	16 Nov 1885	10 Apr 1890	cork	
<b>Portland (1882-Date)</b>				
1 C1GN1B27	21 Feb 1887	11 Nov 1887	target	
2 C1GN1R26	1 Dec 1887	8 Jun 1888	target	
3 C1GN1B27	3 Nov 1888	9 Jun 1891	cork	
<b>Quincy (1880-1896)</b>				
1 C22H3N1B32	21 Apr 1880		star	
2 C1GN1B26.5	11 Aug 1887			
<b>Safford (1881-1882)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Weible (1883/1909)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				



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## Walsh County

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Code	Earliest	Latest	Killer	Notes
<b>Acton (1879-1913)</b>				
1 C31H11N1R26.5	2 Jun 1886		target	
<b>Amor (1881-1882)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Ardoch (1882-1975)</b>				
1 C21G'9N1R32.5	13 May 1882		target	
2 C41HN1R29.5	? Dec 1883	22 Jan 1884	honeycomb	
3 C21G'9N1R32	21 Sep 1893	14 Nov 1893	maltese cross	
<b>Auburn (1883-1943)</b>				
1 C1GIN1B28.5	2 Apr 1886	2 Aug 1887	target	
2 C1GN1B27	27 Oct 1889		target	
<b>Butler (1883-1884)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Cashel (1887-1943)</b>				
1 C1GN1B27	11 Oct 1888		target	
<b>Conway (1) (1884-1884)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Conway (2) (1885-1961)</b>				
1 C1GN1B27.5	21 Jun 1886		target	
2 C41HN1R32.5	27 Jan 1887	31 May 1887	target	
<b>Dundee (1881/1902)</b>				
1 C1GN1B27	26 May 1889		cork	
<b>Edinburgh (1882-1892)</b>				
1 C1GN1B27	29 Dec 1884	26 Jul 1890	target	
<b>Fairchild (1884-1885)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Fertile (1881-1883)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Forest River (1878-Date)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Galt (1883-1892)</b>				
1 C1GN1B26.5	28 Dec 1887		target	



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## Walsh County

Code	Earliest	Latest	Killer	Notes
<b>Garfield (1880-1886)</b>				
1 C22H1,11N1B30	18 Oct 1883	17 Jan 1884	star	
<b>Grafton (1879-Date)</b>				
1 C21HN1R27.5	28 Dec 1880	22 Feb 1882	target	
2 C1GN1B23.5	17 May 1883	22 Dec 1884	duplex	
3 C1GN1B27	1 Jun 1886		cork	
4 C1GN1B26.5	4 Apr 1888	6 Jun 1888	cork	
5 C1GN1B27	24 Jul 1889	14 Feb 1891	cork	
<b>Kelly's Point (1878-1879)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Kelner (1884-1885)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Kensington (1879-1884)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Kinloss (1886/1905)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Lambert (1886-1907)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Lampton (1882-1887)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Latona (1884-1908)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Louren (1880-1880)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Medford (1881-1910)</b>				
1 C1GN1R28.5	26 Feb 1884		cork	
2 C21GS1B30	3 Apr 1890		star	
<b>Minto (1880-Date)</b>				
1 C21HN1B27.5	1 Jun 1882	24 Jul 1882	star-in-circle	
2 C21HN1B33	3 Sep 1883	? ??? ????	maltese cross	
3 C1HS1R30	1 Feb 1884	26 Jul 1884	star-in-circle	
4 C1GN1R26.5	2? Jan 1885	6 Sep 1886	target	
5 OC1G'7N1B25	14 Apr 1886			
6 C1GN1B27	1 Aug 1889		cork	
<b>Mount View (1880-1884)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Nova (1881/1888)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Park River (1) (1879-1882)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Park River (2) (1884-Date)</b>				
1 C1GN1B27	20 Apr 1885	27 Oct 1887	target	
2 C1GN1B27	6 Feb 1888	21 Oct 1889	cork	





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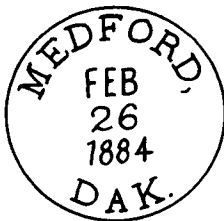
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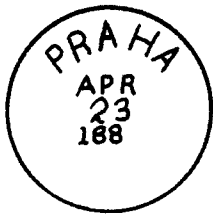
## Walsh County

Code	Earliest	Latest	Killer	Notes
<b>Perry (1880-1883)</b> <i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Pisek (1887-Date)</b> <i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Praha (1883-1907)</b> 1 C1GN1B26.5	23 Apr 1887			
<b>Richmond (1879-1890)</b> 1 C21E1N1R27.5	15 Feb 1888		target	
<b>Rose Point (1871-1873)</b> <i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Saint Andrew (1880/1903)</b> <i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Silvista (1883-1904)</b> 1 MS	3 Mar 1884		pen	
<b>Sweden (1879-1882)</b> 1 C31H3,10N1R26.5	7 Jun 1880	23 Aug 1880	target	
<b>Tomey (1886-1907)</b> 1 MS	28 Mar 1887		pen	
<b>Vesely (1886-1887)</b> <i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Vesta (1883-1905)</b> 1 C1HN1B28	28 Sep 1886	3 Apr 1890		
<b>Voss (1888-1983)</b> <i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Walshville (1878-1914)</b> <i>None Reported</i>				

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## Ward County

Code	Earliest	Latest	Killer	Notes
<b>Black (1886-1887)</b> <i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Burlington (1884-Date)</b> 1 C22HN1B34	5 Apr 1886	10 May 1886	target	
<b>Des Lacs (1888/Date)</b> <i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Echo (1887-1898)</b> 1 C1GN1B27.5	4 Feb 189?	22 Feb 189?	cork	



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*Silveta D.T.*  
3/3/84

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*Long D.T.*  
3/9/87

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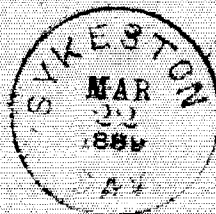


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Return to D. T. DAVIS,  
TREASURER Wells County,  
SYKESTON, DAKOTA,  
If not called for in 10 days.



*Mrs M. E. & Fitch*  
*North St Paul*  
*Minn.*

Sykeston is the only known Wells County Territorial marking.

## Ward County

Code	Earliest	Latest	Killer	Notes
<b>Logan (1887/1931)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Minot (1887-Date)</b>				
1 C31G'1N1B27	10 Nov 1887	25 ??? 1888	cork	
2 C1GN1B27.5	14 Apr 1888	5 Mar 1889	cork	
3 C1GN1B27.5	1 Jul 1889	25 Oct 1889	cork	
<b>Saint Carl (1885-1891)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				

## Wells County

Code	Earliest	Latest	Killer	Notes
<b>Gwynne (1882-1883)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Oshkosh (1888-1894)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Sykeston (1883-Date)</b>				
1 C1GN1B28	22 Mar 1889	9 Oct 1889	target	

## Williams County

Code	Earliest	Latest	Killer	Notes
<b>Fort Buford (1867/1895)</b>				
1 C1GA1B26.5	13 Jul 1875	22 Nov 187?	target	
2 C1EN1B24	12 Jul 1878	29 Dec 1879	star-in-circle	
3 C1HS1B30	29 Mar 1881	29 May 1882	star-in-circle	
4 C1GN1B27	7 Jan 1887	9 Jun 188?	cork	
5 C1GN1B26.5	30 Jun 1886	22 Apr 1888	cork	
6 C1GN1B29	5 May 1889	17 Apr 1890	star	
<b>Grinnell (1881/1920)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Leighton (1883-1883)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Little Muddy (1878/1887)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Nesson (1886-1918)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Williston (1887-Date)</b>				
1 C21GN1R30.5	31 May 1889	28 Jul 1889	cork	

### Notes:

- Traceable postmark not available.



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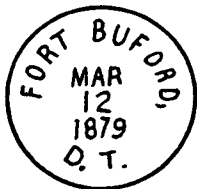
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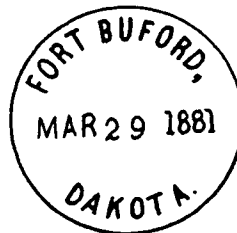
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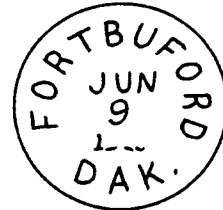
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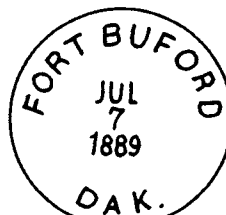
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## Four Catalyzing Events for Christmas

by Tom Clarke

*La Posta* readers are probably relieved that the Christmas (and Hanukkah) holiday tumult and hubbub have passed for another year. Children and parents view it with a mix of exaltation and foreboding. But businesses delight that it generates 40% of their annual revenue in the 3½ short weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Yet little of today's slavish spending existed prior to the 1920's and virtually none before 1870.

There's a lot of background story to tell to orient the reader of old letters to appreciate the ramifications inherent in them. Unfortunately, the wonderful spectacle of America's Christmas reinvention can't be packed into the few tidbits of text found in a handful of old letters. However, the lines excerpted here, when seen against the historical background and effects, will carry us back to the days when momentous change was in the air.



*A typical embossed Christmas card from Station S, Philadelphia on December 24 at 9:30 PM to a local address. Delivery on Christmas Day was assured.*

### In Short . . .

Two hundred years ago, Christmas was mostly a solemn event listed on a sparse holiday calendar. Depending on where you lived it may have been totally ignored. Others saw it as a convenient social event. Absolutely no one could have possibly imagined it in its 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> century materialistic guise.

In the earliest days, where appreciated, Christmas offered a welcome excuse to visit and share with one's family and friends the great American bounty that was available in most years. It also, in the sense of shared physical warmth, helped pass the time during the unforgiving winter cold that was prevalent at the tail end of the planet's "Little Ice Age." (Recall the ice chunks seen in "Washington Crossing the Delaware" and Benjamin Franklin's mention of ice-skating on the Delaware—something not done in 200 years.)

After the American Revolution, manifestly English customs such as tea drinking and English spellings and pronunciation will be widely condemned. (Noah Webster will publish various works aimed at Americanizing the language, not the least of which is his groundbreaking dictionary of the American tongue.) Another scorned custom was the Anglican appreciation of Christmas. On December 25, 1789, the first Christmas under America's new constitution, Congress would be session, and will continue so, as needed, until Christmas was declared a federal holiday on June 26, 1870.

But beginning about 1820, family life in America began to transform and Christmas celebration was at the heart of the matter. In ensuing years, through personal initiative and creativity, cultural blending, and commercial frenzy, the country was a different place.

### Before 1776

With the advent of European arrival in North America, native peoples found kinship in at least one way. Original People celebrated December 21, the winter solstice, with dances, drums, feathers, and prayer. When Catholic priests came to the Spanish southwest, they managed to blend their own Holy Birth traditions with the Indian celebration of Mother Earth via song, prayer, bird whistles, drums, feathers, masks, and turquoise. It has become, for San Felipe Pueblo NM, a fascinating, blended December celebration that lasts to this day.

In New England Christmas went uncelebrated. In the Middle Ages, Christmas was a raucous, drunken time when presents were more a bribe from the nobility and wealthy to the lower class not to disrupt and destroy. Religious Reformation brought vast change in Europe and it altered the way Christmas was perceived.

Calvinist Puritans abhorred the old celebrations, comparing them to pagan rituals and to hated Catholic observance. To the New England Puritans, Christmas was strictly sacred. The Pilgrim's second governor, William Bradford, wrote that he tried hard to stamp out the "pagan mockery" of the observance, and he penalized "frivolity."

In England, Puritan leaders preached against "the heathen traditions" of Christmas carols, decorated trees, and any joyful expression that desecrated "that sacred event." From 1659 to 1681, the General Court of Massachusetts forbade with a fine of five shillings per offense the observance

of any such day as Christmas or the like, either by [the ceasing] of labour, feasting, or any such way

other than a church service. People were fined for hanging decorations.

Connecticut at the same time prohibited keeping Christmas and saints' days, mince pies, playing cards, or performing on musical instruments. These laws will remain on the books until the early 1800s.

## Beyond New England

Those who celebrated old time traditional Christmases were the Church of England "Anglicans," Roman Catholics, and Lutherans, and German Moravians in the Middle Atlantic colonies of New York, Pennsylvania, and Maryland.

In Philadelphia, Peter Kalm, a Swede, visited in 1749, and described Christmas Day among its few Roman Catholics:

Nowhere was Christmas Day celebrated with more solemnity than in the Roman Church. Three sermons were preached there, and that which contributed most to the splendor of the ceremony was the beautiful music heard today... Pews and altar were decorated with branches of mountain laurel, whose leaves are green in wintertime....

He reported that the Quakers ignored the celebration of Christmas, but Presbyterians were converted to it:

Christmas Day.... The Quakers did not regard this day any more remarkable than other days. Stores were open, and anyone might sell or purchase what he wanted.... There was no more baking of bread for the Christmas festival than for other days; and no Christmas porridge on Christmas Eve! One did not seem to know what it meant to wish anyone a merry Christmas.... The Presbyterians did not care much for celebrating Christmas, but when they saw most of their members going to the English church on that day, they also started to have services.

**Figure 1**

...Can you not come and spend the Christmas Holidays with us? We have written to Parker & George and if we could all be together it would be so nice. Will you not come? now do. We are going to have a nice time. We shall have no school Christmas week. You know the Philadelphians make a great deal of Christmas, it is all fun and frolic then. We shall have a Christmas tree, and I hope it will be full too. Do write to us soon, and tell us you will come too. It would be so pleasant.... (Elizabeth)

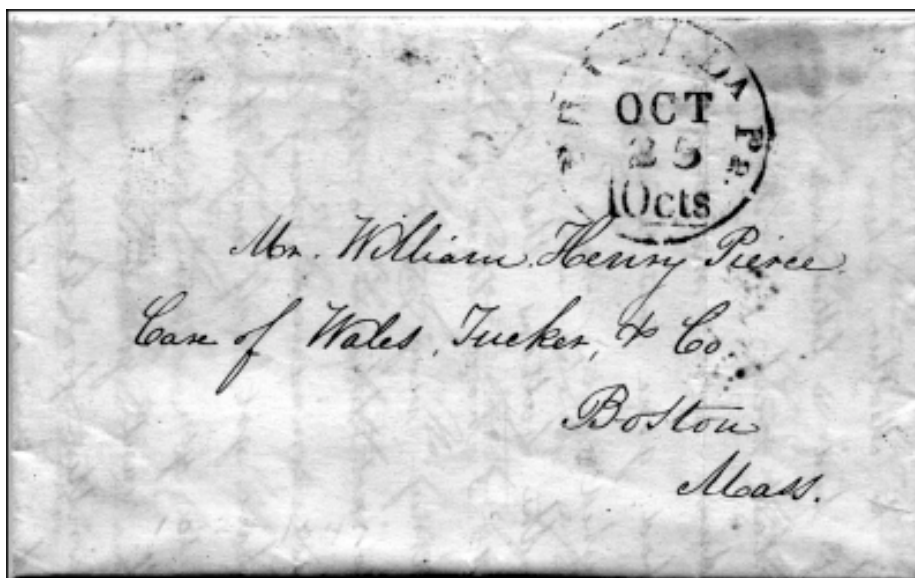
...It would be most pleasant if we could have all the Brothers with us at Christmas. We should make it a very happy week. Do come and persuade Parker & George to come.... (Daniel)

...We all want you to come and spend Christmas with us. I have written for George and Parker to come. Mr Woods has got him a nice place and I know he will like [it] here it is so very pleasant you persuade him to come And you must be sure to come with him....(E—)

## Virginia

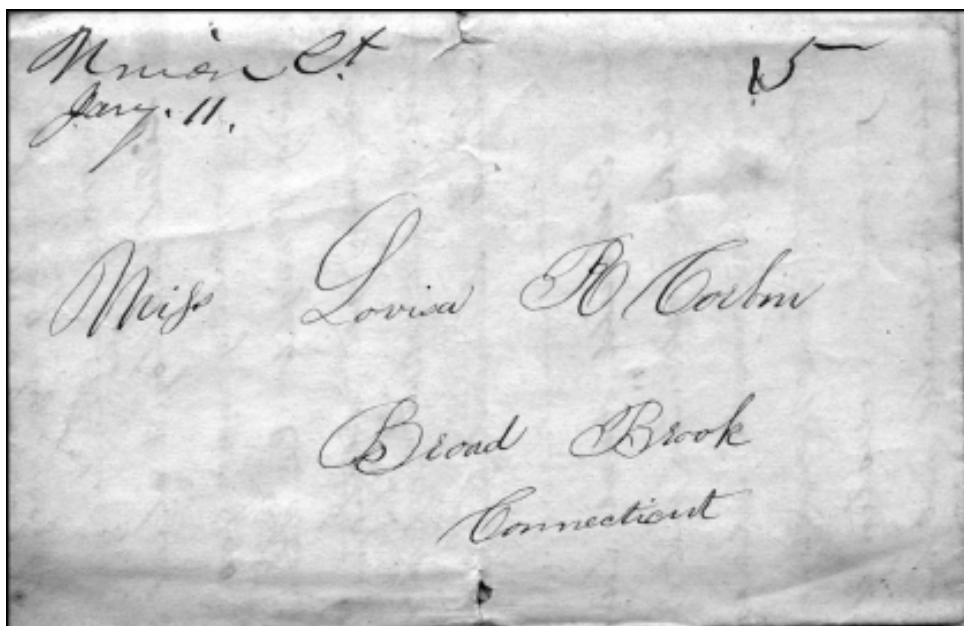
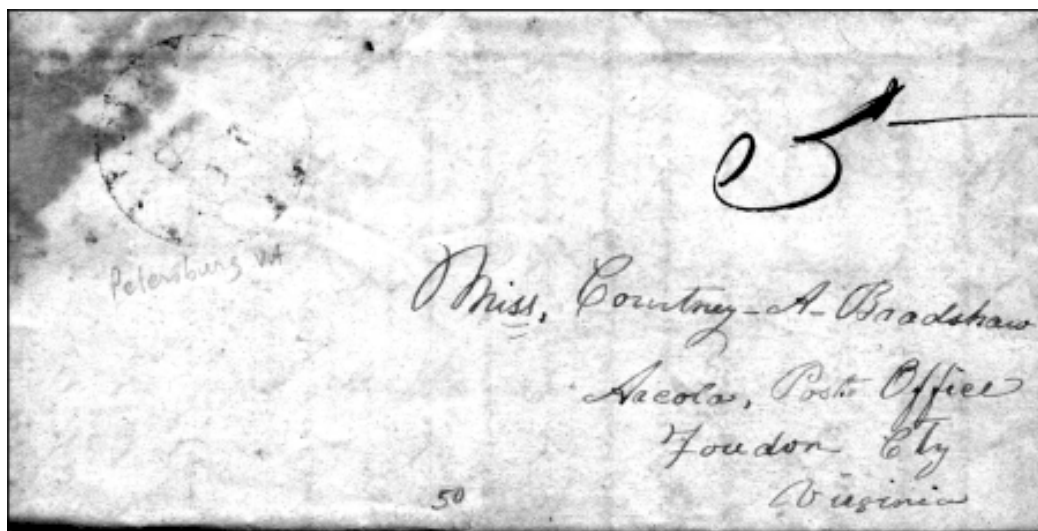
More worldly Londoners settled Virginia, thus Christmas was recognized there and enjoyed. In the first settlement, Jamestown, Captain John Smith reported that Christmas was enjoyed by all and passed without incident. It will continue for 150 years at which time Presbyterian missionary Philip Fithian in urban, upper class Williamsburg VA (December 18, 1773) observed a season still rich in holiday anticipation:

When it grew to dark to dance...we conversed till half after six; nothing is now to be heard of in conversation but the Balls, the Fox hunts, the fine entertainments, and the good fellowship which are to be exhibited at the approaching Christmas.



**Figure 1** A blue PHILADA Pa./OCT/25/10cts, datelined October 24, 1847, two brothers and a sister write to a working brother in Boston. The opinion within that Philadelphians loved celebrations completely contradicts the comment by Peter Kalm a century before about Philadelphia's prudish attitude toward holiday joy.

**Figure 2** A long, chatty letter between Southern misses, an "elderly" cousin of maybe 25? to a teen, from Poplar Grove VA, December 15, 1845, postmarked (poor) in blue PETERSBURG/DEC/17/VA with a ms 5, to Arcola, Foudon Cty VA.



**Figure 3** From Union CT (ms) to Broad Brook CT, ms 5 rate, January 10, 1847, between sisters.

By comparison, Christmas Day in 1775 was a disappointment. He was harvesting souls in the poorer western Virginia counties among the Scotch-Irish Presbyterian backwoodsmen. Part of his diary entry for December 25 says:

Christmas Morning—Not A Gun is heard—Not a Shout—No company or Cabal assembled—Today is like other Days, every Way calm & temperate—People go about their daily Business with the same Readiness, & apply themselves to it with the same Industry.

Common décor included “sticking of the Church” with green boughs on Christmas Eve. Garlands of holly, ivy, mountain laurel, and mistletoe were hung from the church roof, the walls, and the church pillars and galleries. The pews and the pulpit, and sometimes the altar, were bedecked with garlands. Virginians decorated homes in the same way, but they most likely reserved one or two main rooms in the house for the Christmas observance.

### Figure 2

Dear Cousin, we have had some very cold weather and but little snow we have only had a little snow one day and I snow balled with...until my hands were as red as goose paddles you know Cous, it is very amusing (and exciting) for one to snow ball I would be glad to see you the next time we have snow as I am very expert at it (as Montgomery says) Christmas is most here are you ready for it I know you are for young ladies and gentlemen are generally ready for holyday and frolicks [dances] I have heard of but few parties that are to take place this Christmas not more than one or two I do not approve of so much gaiety as I once did I heard the other day that I would be invited but have [not] received an invitation yet....

## Carols

Isaac Watts (1674-1748) hymns—the most famous was “Joy to the World,”—and they were a favorite of many Virginians including the slaves. Virginians enjoyed other popular English carols such as “The Snow Lay on the Ground,” “The First Noel,” “God Rest You Merry Gentlemen,” “The Holly and the Ivy,” “I Saw Three Ships,” and “The Coventry Carol”.

Of Watts’s hymns among the slaves, Phillip Fithian wrote:

My landlord tells me, when he waited on the Colonel [Cary] at his country-seat two or three days [ago], they heard the Slaves at worship in their lodge, singing Psalms and Hymns in the evening, and again in the morning, long before break of day. They are excellent singers, and long to get some of Dr. Watts’s Psalms and Hymns, which I encourage them to hope for.

Early “hillbillies” in The Appalachian Mountains gave us a popular song, “The Twelve Days of Christmas.” It was originally an ancient “counting song” and no one seems to know what it originally meant. Sellers use it profusely today to accompany their goods.

### Figure 3

...Caroline wished me to have me come there and go to school with her this winter. I wish I could go for I do not like our teacher at all well I do not know what ails him but Brother Charles says he does not know and I rather guess he told the truth I have got to Rule of Three in Dabolls Arithmetic We have had some first rate sleighing here but it is all gone now only here and there a drift beside the wall and fences. H. and I expect to go to Willington as soon as it is good sleighing. We do not have any singing school here this winter I wish there was one very much... You wished to know if I had my my stocking well filled on Christmas eve I can tell you what I had and then you may judge for yourself. well the first thing that I come to was a very nice buckle which looked as if it was made in the year 1 and then the next was twenty cents away down in the toe of my stocking that was all worth mentioning....

## Four Early 19<sup>th</sup> Century Catalyzing Events

Two decades into the 19th century Americans re-invented Christmas, and it quickly evolved into a family-centered day of peace and plenty and nostalgia. The four catalyzing events that helped shape the mold for the future American holiday are

1) Urban unemployment - was high and gang rioting by the disenchanting often occurred during the Christmas season “time of plenty.” New York’s City Council instituted the city’s first police force in response

to the 1828 Christmas Riot. Conscientious upper class citizens began to look for solutions to Christmas rowdiness.

2) Washington Irving - in 1819 wrote a series of stories about the celebration of Christmas in an English manor house. *The Sketchbook of Geoffrey Crayon, gent.*, describes a landed lord who invites commoners into his home for the holiday and the two groups mingled easily and in good humor. It was not so in American society. Irving saw Christmas as a peaceful, warm-hearted holiday that could bridge every social status. His stories influenced many because they assumed he was describing existing conditions. He invented brotherhood to the benefit of us all.

Ten years before, in 1809, the same writer helped popularize *Sinter Klaas*, the Dutch nickname for St. Nicholas, whom he dubbed the “patron saint of New York” in *The History of New York*. The fantasy helped set the stage for the next event.

3) Clement Clarke Moore—a conservative minister, wrote an imaginative Christmas poem in 1822 to entertain his three young daughters, “An Account of a Visit from St. Nicholas.” For ten years or more he refused to publish it because of its simple-minded, non-religious nature. He (and Irving) created an image of a gift-giver to children, Santa Claus, a “right jolly old elf” and the familiar vision of the flight from roof to roof on Christmas Eve in a miniature sleigh of eight tiny reindeer.

4) Charles Dickens - “wished to raise the Ghost of an idea” in December 1843, in his *A Christmas Carol*. It aspired to a sense of civic responsibility, charity and goodwill towards all mankind, the deep affection that could exist between parent and child, and the ultimate horror due a selfish businessman run greedily amok.

*A Christmas Carol* struck a powerful and lasting chord in the United States and England and elsewhere. It plead for a new approach to the holiday and each other, a change in the relationship between haves and have-nots, and for compassion to the benefit all humanity.

## Far Reaching Results

The fundamental result of these four episodes between 1830-1850 was a seminal rethink of the family. Before 1830 a child’s role was that of a miniature adult and strict demands were made. Children were generally seen as willfully disobedient adults who, despite

their small, uncoordinated arms and legs, comprehended life’s rules but chose to flaunt them. Discipline, not understanding, was required. The submissive role of women..., well, that was to wait for another day.

The New View saw children in a more sensitive light. They needed care, wide behavioral latitude and attention to their emotional and academic needs—even a hug now and then. The New Christmas would provide converted families with a day to lavish attention and gifts, and hugs, on their children without appearing to spoil them.

Americans seized the idea of Christmas as not only religious but also as a loving family holiday. America built a Christmas tradition all its own over the next 100 years by adopting portions of various immigrant ways: tree decoration, greeting cards, gift giving, unique foods, caroling, even a televised Christmas opera.

As in Washington Irving’s day, many saw the holiday they celebrated as carrying on the tradition of centuries. It took time and reflection to realize that, as with Thanksgiving, a brand new theme and format that amply filled the cultural needs of a vast multi-cultured nation had been born afresh.

## Gifts

Gift giving that centered on children and other loved ones has been an important part of the Christmas celebration from the days of the holiday’s reincarnation. Stores began to advertise Christmas shopping in 1820, and by the 1840s, newspapers were creating separate sections for holiday advertisements, which often featured images of varied versions of the new character Santa Claus.

In 1841, thousands of children visited a Philadelphia shop to see a life-size Santa Claus model. Soon stores began to attract children and parents with the lure of a “real” Santa Claus. Businesses, Christian and non-Christian, quickly saw the profits to be made by embracing the festival in its entirety.

## Trees

The use of evergreens as symbols of undying life in the midst of frigid want goes back millennia. The Pennsylvania German settlements brought over the concept of community trees as early as 1747. A more famed American usage were the trees reputedly set up by German Hessian soldiers at Trenton, New Jer-



sey, in 1776. Washington's troops would have seen them hours after they had crossed the Delaware and after killing and capturing 200 of the celebrants: the first American victory and truly a holy day worth saluting.

Although trees had been a tradition in many German homes much earlier, as late as the 1840s most Americans did not accept them, seeing them as unchristian pagan symbols. However, the term "Christmas tree,"

would become commonplace soon after in the late 1840's after "royals" across the sea spurred a new custom into a gallop in England and the States.

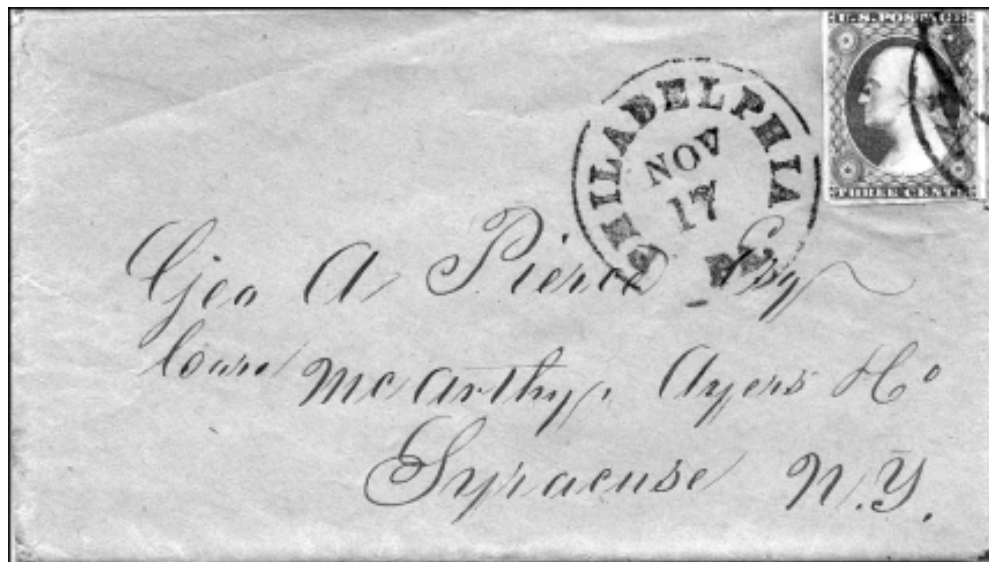
**Figure 4**

... I believe our Thanksgiving is on the same day as yours, so I will eat a big piece of our turkey & a mince pie for you, so I think if we eat our own share too; You will most like It see 2 very sick men about that time, don't you say so, eh?...I forgot to above that in addition to the good dinner, I shall afterwards smoke to your health & future prosperity. And as it is 1/2 past 11 o'clock I will smoke one now if you will join me, so get a match & fire up....("Wilson")

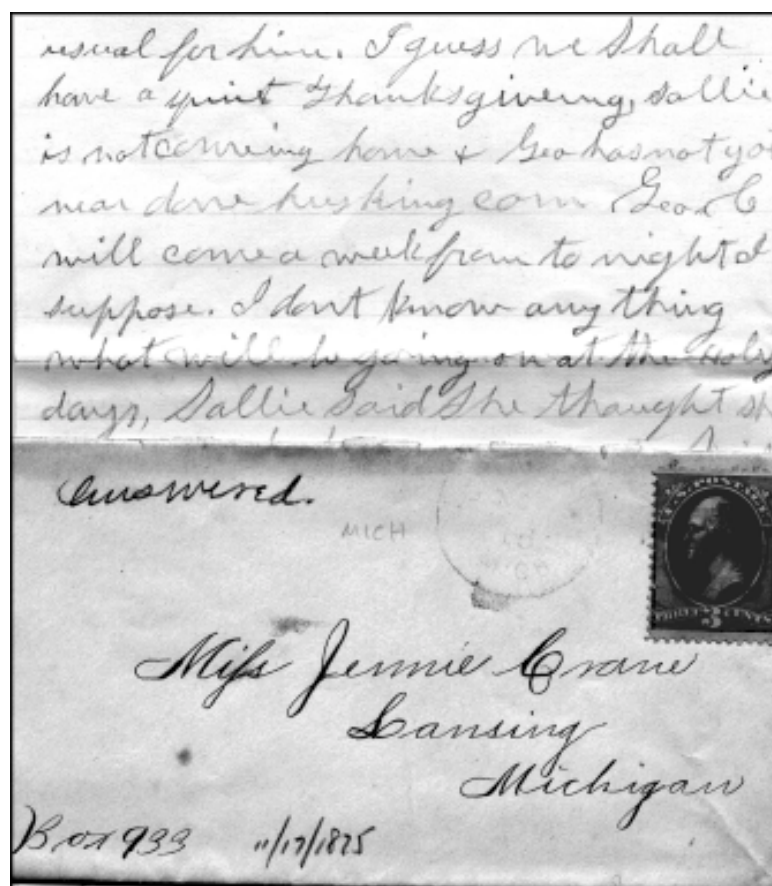
**Figure 5**

... very unusual for him. I guess we shall have a quiet Thanksgiving, Sallie is not coming home & Geo has not got near done husking corn. Geo C will come a week from to night I suppose. I dont know anything what will be going on at the Holy days. Sallie she thought she should ask her room mate Miss Wilson to spend them here...

Meanwhile, the distinct northern and southern colonial attitudes about Christmas continued well into the early Republic. The North and South were divided on the issues of both Christmas and slavery. Many



**Figure 4** Cover and letter from PHILADELPHIA/PA. blue, to a Syracuse NY lawyer on Nov 17, 1852. Sc. 11 with two additional partial strikes. (from an acquaintance of recently elected President Franklin Pierce to Pierce's brother George, a lawyer, prior to the naming of Thanksgiving as a set-date national holiday)



**Figure 5** A farmer's wife writing from Lima OH to her daughter in Lansing MI, November 17, 1875. She passes the local gossip according to "Madame Rumor" and mentions Will coming home from the dance early and getting into bed at 10 PM, "unusual for him..."

Northerners clung to the view that Christmas festivity was sinful. To these, celebrating Thanksgiving was the appropriate, truly American holiday. In the South, the Christmas season was counted on as a key marker of the Social (that is, no-work-to-be-done-outdoors) Season. The first three states to make Christmas a legal holiday in fact were Alabama in 1836 and Louisiana and Arkansas in 1838.

Interestingly, in the year in-between, 1837, England gained a new youthful queen, Victoria. She quickly married Albert, from Germany. In 1846, the popular monarch was sketched in the *Illustrated London News* standing with her husband and children around a small, decorated fir tree. What was done at court immediately became fashionable, not only with the British, but with America's aristocratic, fashion-conscious Eastern Establishment. Christmas trees had arrived. When Victoria authorized the publication of an engraving of the royal family's tree for Philadelphia's very popular *Godey's Lady's Book*, tree decorating quickly spread across America.

Communal trees decorated by and for townsfolk were the rage. These trees were adorned with apples, fruits and nuts, cookies, popcorn and cranberry strings, home-made paper items, candles, and small presents. In 1848, the first glass hollow ball tree ornaments, or "kugel," appeared in Germany, ancestral to the ones used today, though they were not to be sold in America until the 1880's.

The first sale of commercial trees seems to have started in December 1851, when a woodsman living in New York cut down the evergreens surrounding his home and took them by sled into the city, sold them, and made money.

## Cards

An artist named John C. Horsley probably designed the first Christmas card for a friend in England in 1843. The design showed a family party, beneath which the words "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to You" were inscribed. The practice soon also became widespread in the United States.

This card was doubtless sent in an envelope, but was it stamped with a penny red or was it hand carried? Since postage was just over two years old in England, did it take 2+ years for the British to invent the envelope? The U.S. adopted similar rules on March 3, 1845. How long after this was an enveloped Christmas card sent? Ordinary envelope use begins by at least December.

## Melting Pot Changes

The hundred years of mass immigration to the U.S., begun in the 1820s, deluged society with dozens of incoming groups who, though most shared a common reverence for Christmas, celebrated it variously and added their own distinctive traditions. The American Christmas was slowly taking shape.

The foremost exception to Christmas contribution is, of course, the substantial 1820s-plus German Jewish, and the 1890s-plus Russian Jewish immigration. Not surprisingly, these people also fit well into the general mold of melting pot change. Their celebration of Hanukkah, at roughly the same time as Christmas, would likewise undergo dramatic alteration once upon these shores.

As with Christians, inward and spiritual tended among some to the outward and secular—and present-laden. Sensing the melting pot concept, some Jews wished to blend in better with the new, more liberal American character. In the 1880s, along with so much other societal change, they established Reform Judaism. A touchy subject to this day among some Jewish leaders are the current draped lights and “Hanukkah-bushes” adorned with mini-lamps and dreidels, which sprout in some Jewish homes at Hanukkah annually. This behavior earns the disdain of some, just as divisive as were the earlier years of Christmas celebration.

Then as today, parents of both religions grew/grow guilt-ridden when bombarded by their children’s entreaties for items seen in the Sears or Montgomery Wards mail order catalogs, or in TV ads and Internet images. American marketing quickly bridged barriers between the faiths and helped commercially unify both holidays to a degree that would make 17<sup>th</sup> century ministers and 18<sup>th</sup> century rabbis blush. Given such history, Islam’s Ramadan and Eid will surely follow their lead within a few short generations.

### Christmas Bringer of Peace

In the 1850s slavery divided the nation and there was little peace in the North or South over the issue. Other tensions were being fed by immigration and religious difference. Irish were coming by the thousands and with them Roman Catholic numbers were exploding. The racist Native American Party [referring not to Indians but to its protestant, northern European American members] was campaigning. Nevertheless, both Protestant and Catholic found in Christmas a common chord. Thus, during the 1850’s Christmas emerged as a nationwide holiday of religious and cultural observance. Businesses closed for the day and decorated fir trees were the fashion.

The nation fought the Civil War, still the customs of Christmas during the 1860s focused on family. Tree traditions flourished during the 1860’s. A full-sized tree that touched the ceiling replaced the modest table-top tree of the 1840’s and 50’s.

The ideal tree was described in an 1860 *Godey’s Lady’s Book*: the best trees were to be decorated with strings of red holly berries, candles attached with wires, small bouquets of paper flowers, strings of beads, tiny flags of gay ribbons, patriotic stars and shields of gilt paper, lace bags filled with colored

candies and other presents. “Public trees” were set up in private homes and owners charged an admission fee to view the tree.

During the war famed cartoonist Thomas Nast sketched Santa Claus wearing stars and stripes and giving gifts to Union soldiers. By the end of the 1860s, thin glass figures of birds, pinecones, and icicles appeared. The new candleholder, called a counterbalance candleholder, had a weight attached to the bottom that kept the candle standing upright. Still, Christmas trees were fire hazards and it was still necessary to keep a bucket of water by the tree and a person to keep watch over it.

By the 1870s, puritanical attitudes towards Christmas had softened and the vast majority of the American people embraced the holiday. It was becoming a permanent icon in this country, and finally, on June 26, 1870, Congress declared Christmas a federal holiday.

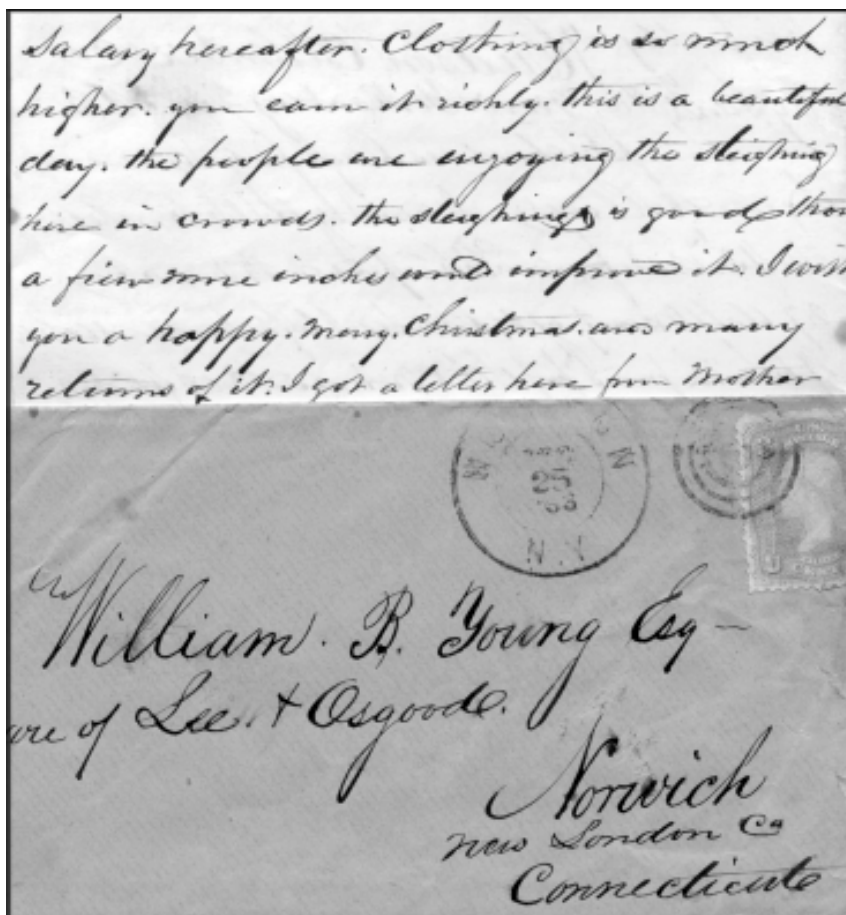
#### Figure 6

... this is a beautiful day. the people are enjoying the sleighing here in crowds. the sleighing is good though a few more inches would improve it. I wish you a happy merry Christmas and many returns of it. (the rest of the 2 1/2 pages is crammed with details of the business, a working man’s holiday. He plans to be gone another 8-9 weeks. )

#### Figure 8

...The ice men would not object to a cold spell so as to get their ice houses filled, and lovers of skating would like to have some sport on the slippery element....The Christmas holidays are a thing of the past and one would think they had been past for a long [time] as matters and things now look. Hundreds of people are no doubt glad to see that they are gone inasmuch as they involve a great deal of expense, still there as much pleasure in giving away some little mementoes to friends. My sum total of presents has not been very extensive this year. I have one from Rettie, the match safe, and you promised me another, which will make two...the toilet set from you, and also a comb box from Rettie....





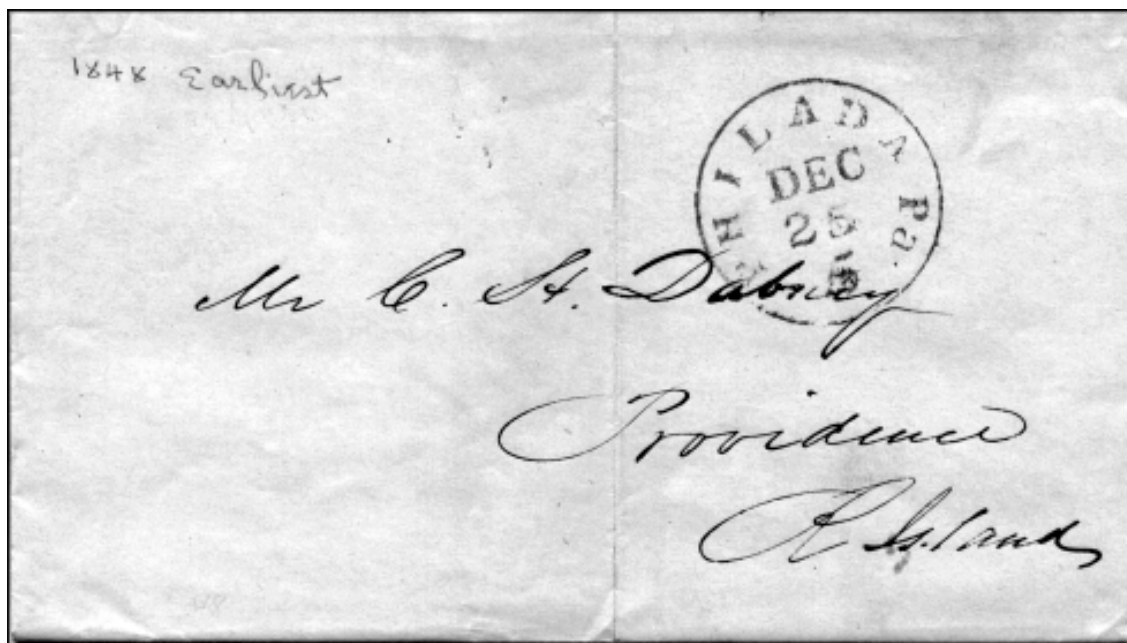
**Figure 6** Cover and letter from a traveling salesman writing from Hudson NY to his home in Norwich CT, Christmas Day, 1863. The writer discusses cash sent and his son in previous letters, and that he should ask for a raise. He mentions the death of a 110-year old man of his acquaintance on his sales circuit.)

## Business flourishes alongside Christmas

In the 1870's, American businesses imported large quantities of tree ornaments from Europe. These ornaments were sold on street corners, in toy stores, and variety stores. Tin ornaments, wax angels, cornucopias, tinsel, glass beads and balls were all popular additions to an evergreen.

Tinsel, made in strips from a combination of wire and foil and then snipped to produce crinkled strands, was first used on trees in the 1870s. Its companion glass ornaments, first made by William DeMuth of New York, reflected twinkling stray beams of light. In 1876, the first patented metal tree stand was manufactured in the U.S., at last adding stability.

Hazard reared its head again when in 1882 Thomas Edison fashioned electric lamps for Christmas trees. Trees were still decorated with metal and flammable paper, wax, and wood, and his red, white and blue wrapped crepe paper lamps



**Figure 7** Postmarked on Christmas day, 1848 from PHILADA Pa./5 to Providence RI. Christmas, a Monday in 1848, didn't alter the strictly business nature of this letter. The writer had stopped at Providence via train on Saturday (12/23) but found the addressee's store closed.

were fragile and extremely expensive—and dangerous. Expensive, because the strings of bulbs had to be individually arranged, wired, and mounted by trained electricians. Though still experimental, Grover Cleveland used them on the White House Christmas tree.

Flocked or “frosted” trees became the rage in 1883:

Sprinkle the tree all over with water, shake off the excess water, and then dredge the tree with flour. If there remains too much water on the branches, the flour will cake.

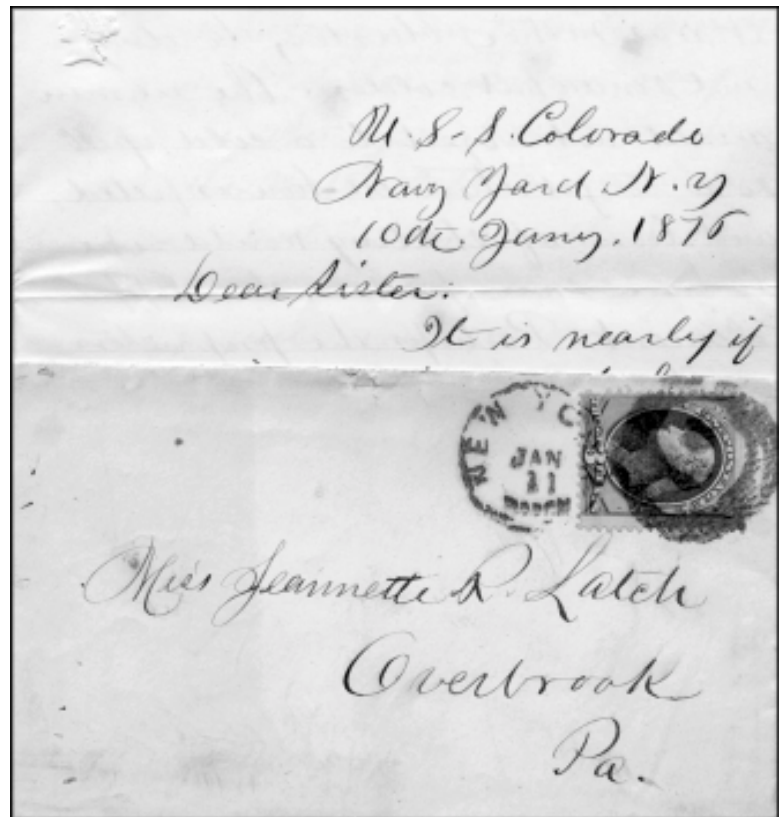
### Christmas in the Victorian Era

Though the tree and stockings are elements of two different traditions, they had merged by the 1880s as parts of a single American celebration. (Stockings on the fireplace mantel recall St. Nicholas flinging coins down a chimney to anonymously pay the dowry for daughters otherwise to be sold into prostitution! The coins reportedly bounced into wet stockings hanging by the fireplace to dry.) Commercially produced lithographed holiday stockings became especially popular during the decade.

Despite the depression and failures of 1893, the 1890s overall were a decade full of excesses, including Christmas. The famous photo of the two dozen tuxedoed barons of Wall Street seated around a banquet table each wearing a headband of holly comes to mind. Appropriately enough, it's been noted that whereas Europeans used trees a mere four feet in height, Americans still demanded trees that reached to the ceiling.

Glass ornaments soared in popularity in 1890, when F. W. Woolworth imported \$25 worth of glass ornaments and sold them at his Five and Ten Cent store in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The supply was depleted in just a few days. The next year he placed a much larger order and sold out in a short period of time. Store records indicate that over the next several years Woolworth sold over \$25,000,000 worth of these ornaments, all for nickels and dimes: the birth of billion dollar chain.

Materialism, media, advertising, and mass marketing have made Christmas and Hanukkah the cash cows they are today. The holiday traditions we enjoy developed in the melting pot of America, from the de-

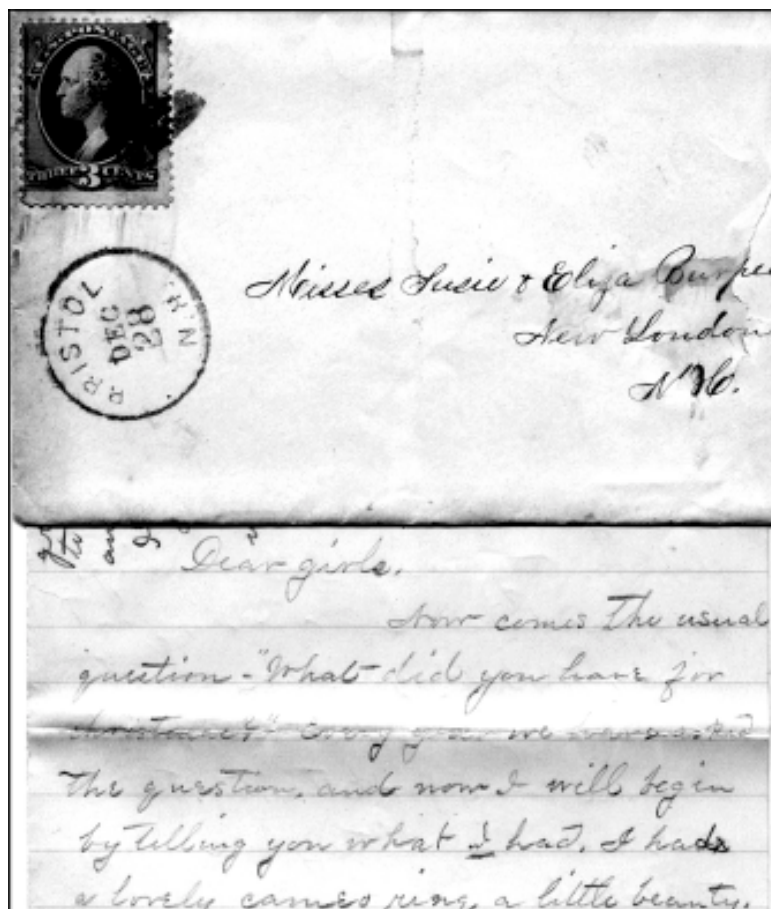


**Figure 8** To his sister from a seaman aboard the USS Colorado at the NY Navy Yard, with a fancy void 9 killer duplex, to Overbrook, Phila., PA, January 10, 1876.

sire of so many to come and savor the benefits of a new homeland and endless opportunity. Some of them succeeded in making millions by selling new holiday concepts to America's millions.

### Figure 9

Dear girls, Now comes the usual question - "What did you have for Christmas?" Every year we have asked the question and now I will begin by telling you what I had. I had a lovely cameo ring, a little beauty. Eva gave me a great long piece of illusion to wear around my neck and down to my waist - and fasten with rosebuds. Mama gave me a pair of light kid gloves. They are a lovely color sort of a cream color. Charlie and Etta gave Eva & me two large pictures, one of Charlie and the other of Etta — in frames. I think as much of them as anything. Mabel gave me some little crocheted slippers. they were awful cunning.... then I had a light pink ribbon to wear my locket on, the one you gave me last year.... I received the little cake of soap...I'm going to keep in my box of ribbons to make them smell good...Now girls you must write soon and tell me all about your Christmas, every thing you get, etc., etc....



**Figure 9** Bristol NH to New London NH, December 26, 1880, from a sister? to her two sisters.

**Figure 10**

Dear Emma, I told you after Christmas I would write to you so this is the letter, we are thinking Chet is snowed in down there but Charley will go to the train to see whether he comes or not—did he have a good time, what did you all do & where did you all go while he was there did you get your cup & saucer on the tree & how did you like it. we had some very nice presents Chet didn't wait to see what he got I will tell you an umbrella & tie from his mother & a tie from Cora we didn't have any thing for him, it's a bad day out the catholics are just gathering home from church they must like to wade through the snow...his father give us a set of solid silver tea-spoons they are just as light as a darn needle abt the same weight—and a very nice table spread from his mother his father give him a china bowl with a cover on for his tobacco, she was very much pleased with her dress she said. she gave Cora a calico dress & that was all.... Jim Corbett gave Cora the handsomest shawl I think I ever saw I want one just like it—it was 10 dollars....

The needy in 1890 found aid not from these robber baron entrepreneurs, but from the Salvation Army. They needed money for free Christmas meals and began dressing unemployed men in Santa suits to solicit donations. Multitudes of S.A. Santas have been ringing bells across America ever since.

By the turn of the century, most of today's Christmas customs and traditions were firmly in place. Southern custom saw the holiday begin at midnight with firecrackers, skyrockets, horns, and noisemakers. Sometimes a band came out and paraded the streets. Decorations were primarily greens, mistletoe, and stockings.

New England continued conservatively. In New Hampshire, for example, community trees often served the whole town where parents decorated the trees with the gifts for their children.

## 20th Century Flair

The Christmas tree had become such a national symbol for the holiday by 1900 that many low paid American workingmen celebrated around a tastefully, inexpensively decorated evergreen. But the total was estimated at only 20% of families.

—Popular Teddy Roosevelt was a true conservationist and led the fight against cutting live trees for the holiday. Thousands of farmers began to plant trees as a cash crop. By 1909 nearly four million trees were harvested for Christmas.

—America's Christmas seals are first sold in late 1907 to advance Delaware local crusader Emily Bissell's war on tuberculosis. "Stamp out tuberculosis!" went the initial story in Philadelphia's *North American*.

—In 1909, Pasadena, California began a new tradition by decorating an outdoor tree with lights. Community trees were usually set up in a town hall or schoolhouse. Centered about this tree was the Christmas entertainment program to be enjoyed by everyone.

—On New Year's Eve, 1912, without a huge dropping ball or Dick Clark to oversee, more than 80,000 people gathered in Madison Square around the public Christmas tree to sing out the old year and sing in the new.



—The 1913 Sears, Roebuck and Company Catalog advertised the sale of the first artificial trees. They came in four different sizes, ranging from 17 inches to 55 inches.

—Americans still distrusted the safety of electric lights in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century so candles were still used extensively. But candles dripped wax onto everything. Finally in 1917, during wartime, the first dripless candles were offered.

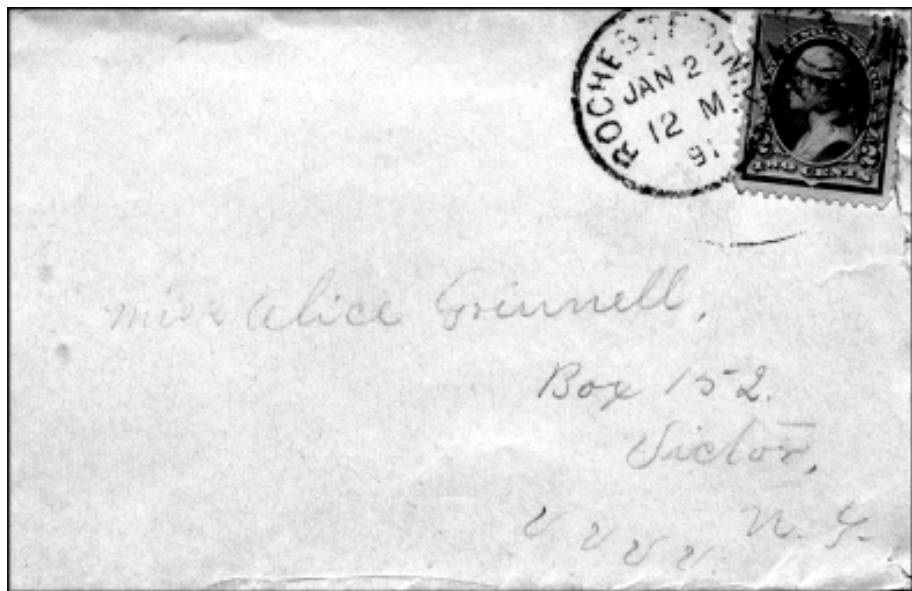
—By 1920, the Christmas tree custom was nearly universal. During these Roaring ‘Twenties the first National Christmas tree came to life, under Calvin Coolidge. This 60-foot balsam fir was lit in an impressive ceremony in 1923. Washingtonians gathered at the entrance of the White House to sing Christmas carols. And holy First Amendment!, a fanfare of trumpets heralded shepherds as they journeyed toward the illuminated cross on the Washington Monument.

—Christmas tree farms sprang up during the Great Depression since nurserymen couldn’t sell their evergreens for landscaping. These cultivated trees were preferred to wild ones because they had a symmetrical shape.

—Santa Claus officially came to town during the Thanksgiving Day parades across the nation beginning in the 1920s with Macy’s and Gimbel’s Department Stores in New York and Philadelphia, and Hudson’s in Detroit. Their parades attracted tens of thousands of potential customers. With the 1947 *Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street*, complete with Messrs. Gimbel and Macy playing themselves, commercialism and holiday fantasy combined to reach new heights.

—In the 1940s an average American household would spent about \$10 decorating their first Christmas, and then about \$3 every year thereafter on the replacement of broken ornaments. In 1941 you could buy a five-foot Christmas tree for 75 cents.

—In 1954 over 31 million live trees were sold, but artificial trees that came in green and white were popular for people with a limited amount of space.



**Figure 10** Rochester NY to Victor NY, posted Jan 2, 1891, but partly written Sunday, December 28, 1890.

—By the 1980s no longer did tradition and “good taste” dictate that commerce wait for the first shopping day of Christmas, the day after Thanksgiving. Economics dictated that too much depended on success during those 3-4 weeks before Christmas. And so, Christmas gear began to vie with Halloween pumpkins and skeletons in store ads and on store shelves. Much more recently, Labor Day in September marks the time for cards and tree décor in certain chain drug stores. After all, with 40% or more of many businesses dependent on healthy Christmas holiday sales, an early start could guarantee a successful bottom line.

—Christmas of the 1980s and 90s witnessed “theme trees”: decorating a tree with your favorite football, basketball, or baseball team’s ornaments, or with light-houses, sailboats, toy soldiers, or beautiful blown glass ornaments, all in a way reminiscent of the past.

—Oddly enough, tradition still dictates that the most crowded and sales-rich shopping day of the year continues through the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century to be that day after Thanksgiving—news anchors describe it as such. Though business get a far earlier start, shoppers seemed to prefer the ways of their childhood.

## The Future

Celebrating Christmas has changed in form but not much in substance in 160 years. Friends and family still gather together to bake, carol, and open presents together around a Christmas tree adorned with lights, old and new hangings, all of which have special mean-

ing to those who placed them there. And gifts are exchanged, and those kids are definitely hugged (and maybe spoiled a bit too).

What will future Christmases be like? If the past and present are evidence of things to come, Christmas in the 21<sup>st</sup> century will continue to mix the old and the new. Peace Finally on Earth' tree themes for your undersea habitat home, fresh baked Martian angel cookies, a teleportation kit with love from mom and dad, a joint carol-sing with Moon Base 4.

Gadgets and methods and ornamentation will change but the sharing and caring and togetherness and goodwill will remain.

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# The Post Offices of Breathitt County, Kentucky

## Part II

by Robert M. Rennick

[Continued from *La Posta* November 2002, Volume 33:5]

Two miles above (east of) Haginsville was *Stevenson*. This post office was established on April 24, 1895 by local grocer Hiram D. Back to serve a village of nearly 1,000 residents at the mouth of Meatscaffold Branch. In the fall of 1916 it was moved three fourths of a mile up the Branch where it remained till 1940 when, to be on a new highway (now Ky 30), it was moved one mile southeast to the mouth of Andy's Branch. In this vicinity it closed in 1965. Whence its name is not known. Since there were no known Stevensons in Breathitt County in the late nineteenth century, one has to wonder if it could have been named for then Vice President Adlai Ewing Stevenson (1835-1914) who, only six years before, had been President Cleveland's First Assistant Postmaster-General.

Two post offices served the residents of Lower Caney Creek which joins Quicksand 4 ½ miles above (east of) Rousseau. The first, *McQuinn*, began on Quicksand one mile above the mouth of Caney on July 26, 1904. According to early twentieth century maps it may have moved to the mouth of Caney before it closed in October 1907. Its only postmaster Catie McQuinn is said to have named it for her grandfather Charles Brooks McQuinn (1820-1905) of a family that owned much land on Caney, South Fork, and the main Quicksand valley.

Just before *McQuinn* closed Thomas B. Sturdevant opened (on April 2, 1907) an office he called *Guage* [gaydj] which is said to have been two miles from Cattie McQuinn's office. In his Site Location Report, Sturdevant mentioned that his office would be serving a community called *Rich* (*Ritchie*?) which suggests that it was a couple of miles up Little Caney Creek, the first major branch of Caney. This makes sense since, at that time, a narrow gauge rail line extended up that creek to haul timber from the Magoffin-Breathitt County border country.<sup>19</sup> The *Guage* post office likely replaced *McQuinn* at the mouth of Caney shortly after the older office closed, for it's shown at this site on maps from 1908 till at least 1915. By the early 1920s it had moved a mile down Quicksand to the mouth of Collins (identified on contemporary maps as Calico) Creek. Here it was suspended in October 1989

The *Lunah* post office occupied several sites on Quicksand between its Winnie and Russell Branches. On March 31, 1910 James W. Stacy opened the first, probably at or close to the mouth of Russell Branch, four miles above Caney Creek and five miles below the Lambric post office. According to one account,<sup>20</sup> it was named for a local resident Mahala (nee Miller) (Mrs. Andrew) Ritchie (1837-1922) who was called "Lunah." It closed on March 1, 1913. On June 25, 1925 it was re-opened by John W. Clemons opposite the mouth of Winnie Branch, three-fourths of a mile below the Russell Branch site. By 1933 it had returned to Russell Branch where it closed in 1957.

Then there was *Noctor*, a post office established near the mouth of Roark Branch, 2 ½ miles up Quicksand from the North Fork, whose name source still eludes county historians. No such families are found in county or Census records. It was once claimed that first postmaster Willard Roark had intended it to be named for a John Langley Nocton, a governor of somewhere or other, but the Post Office Department acknowledged it as *Noctor*, and this was never corrected. But who was this Gov. Nocton? The office served the lower Quicksand valley from January 11, 1911 till its suspension on October 1, 1992.

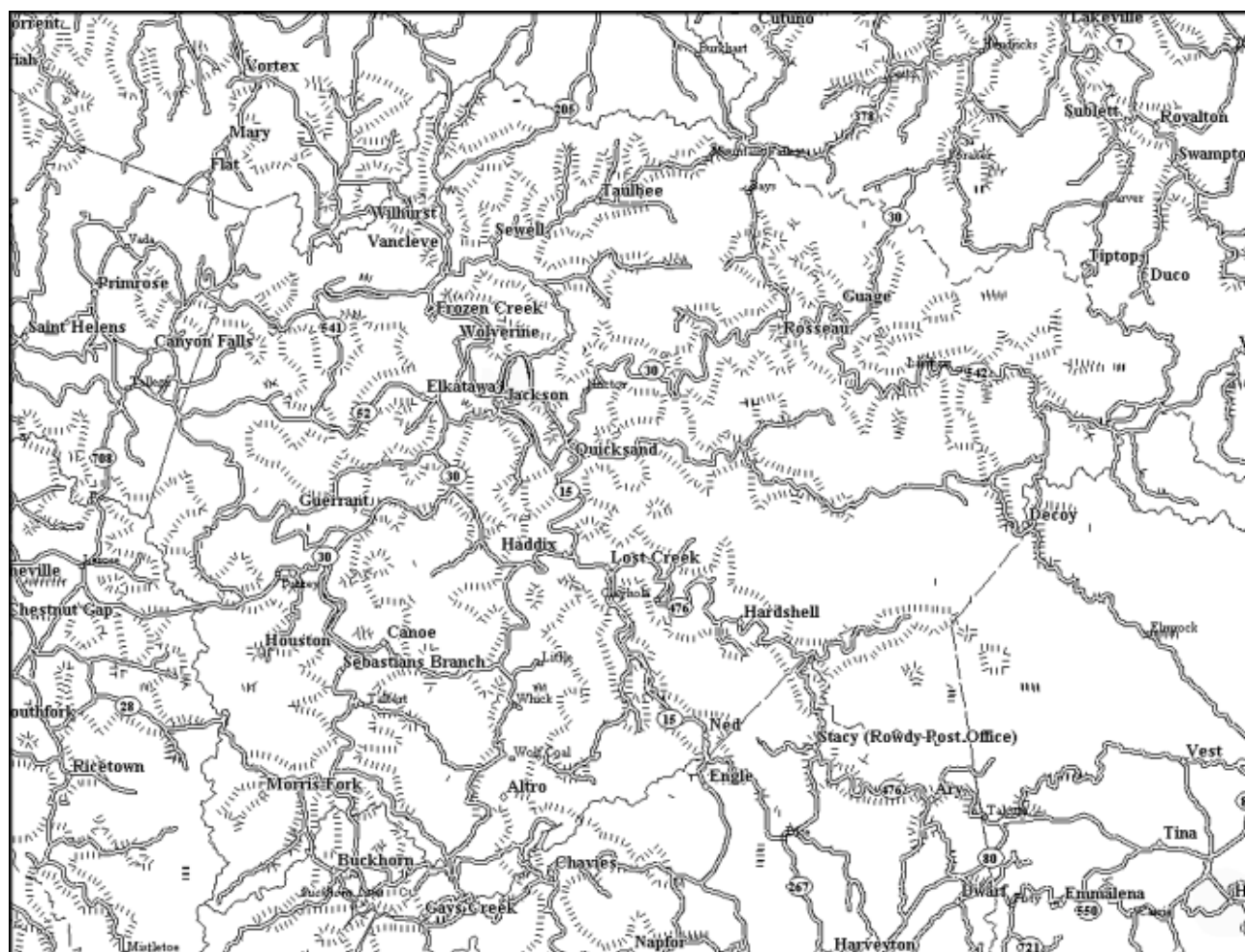
Nor is it known for whom (or what) the short-lived (December 24, 1914 through January 1916) *Gill* post office was named. This office was at the mouth of Slate Branch, five miles below Stevenson and five miles above Noctor, which accounts for postmaster John L. Roberts' first name choice *Slate Branch*.

Breathitt's most recently established post office *Evanston* was eight miles up Spring Fork from Lambric, at the mouth of Little Fork, 1 ½ road miles from the Magoffin County line. From 1950 to 1974 it served a coal town founded in 1950 by the Pond Creek-Pocahontas Coal Company and named for Everett J. Evans of Paintsville, Kentucky who was instrumental in acquiring the property. Rolla D. Campbell, a company employee, was its first postmaster.

## Post Offices in the Troublesome Valleys

The forty mile-long Troublesome Creek, whose main channel heads at Hindman in Knott County (see below), is said to have been named by Colby Haddix, an early settler of the area where it joins the North Fork, 9 ¼ miles above Jackson. How old a name it is not





## Breathitt County Kentucky

Scale 1:250,000



known, but the stream was so identified in the 1820 act creating Perry County. It was most likely named for the many twists and turns in its lower section impeding travel in either direction. Nine Breathitt post offices served its main valley and two important branches.

The first of these branches, Lost Creek, heads in Perry County, 3 ½ miles north of Hazard, and extends for about twenty miles to join Troublesome just opposite the Lost Creek post office. This is less than two miles from Troublesome's North Fork confluence and eleven miles above Jackson. Lost Creek's valley was quite isolated in pioneer times and stories have been told of hunters and other

early travelers getting lost when straying too far from its banks. According to one account, a family suffered a bad accident on a particularly icy stretch and lost all of their possessions. In other traditions, while hunting, Colby Haddix, Ned O'Grady, or Barney Russell (or, possibly, all of them) got lost on the stream and weren't found by their North Fork settlement companions for several days.<sup>21</sup>

Breathitt's first Troublesome Valley post office was **Lost Creek**, established by Joseph B. Haddix on October 11, 1849. By the 1880s it was serving a village and rural neighborhood known locally as **Troublesome**, with several businesses, including Day and

Sallee's general store and postmaster F.M. Day's steam-powered saw and grist mill. The office survives.

Some seven miles up Lost Creek, in his home at the mouth of Cockrell's Fork, Jeremiah Combs established a post office which, contrary to popular assumption, he did not name for his son-in-law Edward P. (Ned) Turner. Turner was only twelve years old when the post office was established in 1886 and was living with his family on Middle Fork. He did not marry Combs's daughter Mary Elizabeth till 1891. It seems more likely to have been named for Combs's neighbor Edward "Ned" Sizemore.<sup>22</sup> Anyway, *Ned* was opened on February 26, 1886, and by the mid-1890s was serving at least three stores, including Jeremiah's, two mills, and some other businesses. In 1923 Jeremiah's son John H. had the office moved half a mile up the stream to the mouth of Perkins Branch. It was back at the mouth of Cockrell's when it closed in 1984.

At the mouth of the 4 ½ mile-long Leatherwood Creek, roughly midway between the mouth of Lost Creek and Ned, were the post offices of *Leatherwood* and *Watts*. *Leatherwood* was established on June 18, 1913 by Lewis Watts and closed in mid-April 1919. In the winter of 1934-35 the office was re-established, also as *Leatherwood*, but in 1949 it became *Watts* for the local family, while the community it served remained *Leatherwood*. From 1965 to 1973 the post office was a rural branch of Lost Creek. Like the creek in Perry County, Breathitt's Leatherwood was named for the local trees.

## Breathitt County's Buckhorn Creek Post Offices

Not to be confused with the Buckhorn Creek in Perry County (see above) or other such named streams in Kentucky is this fourteen mile-long stream that heads in the Grey Horse Hill in Knott County and joins Troublesome just north of the Perry County line and twelve miles from the North Fork.

The first of its three post offices was called simply *Buckhorn*. This was established by John Harvey and operated between September 11, 1879 and early April 1881 just about on what became the Knott County line. In 1886, to again serve this area, Harvey established an office he called *Buck* half a mile within the newly organized Knott County (see below).

The second Buckhorn office was *Noble*. This was established by James Hutson on October 28, 1889 on

Troublesome, half a mile below (northwest of) the mouth of Buckhorn, and named for a pioneer family.<sup>23</sup> In 1923 the office was moved 2 ½ miles east, up Buckhorn to a site half a mile above Long Fork, where it closed in 1975.

Buckhorn's short-lived (July 5, 1899 to June 15, 1900) *Gomez* [ghom/ehz] post office was some four miles east of Noble, with Ballard Combs, the first of its two postmasters. Combs served in Cuba in the Spanish-American War and is said to have brought this name back with him.

## Other Troublesome Post Offices

The other extant Troublesome post office is *Clayhole*, established on April 5, 1899, one mile up Riley Branch, and five miles east of Lost Creek. Dulana L. Allen was the first postmaster. It's said to have been named for the "sticky blue clay in (the local stream) bed."<sup>24</sup> In 1918 it was moved to main Troublesome, and later to several sites on that stream: the mouth of Russell Branch, the mouth of Barge Creek, the area below Riley, and now the mouth of Riley.

Among the pioneer settlers of lower Troublesome were the sons of blacksmith Samuel Haddix. Their land included the area at the mouth of the creek, nine miles above Jackson, where William Hadix operated a salt well in the 1830s and coal was produced in limited quantities in the early 1850s. It was not, however, until the arrival of the railroad in 1911 that a town was founded there and, with its station, was called *Haddix*. On July 8, 1916 the *Haddix* post office was established with Floyd Russell, postmaster. In November 1990 it was suspended, and postal services for the lower Troublesome were once again provided by Lost Creek, two miles east. While most historians agree that the community, station, and post office were named by the railroad for the Haddix family as a whole, at least one member, Tom, assumed credit on the basis of his having surveyed for the L&E through Breathitt and Perry Counties and his owning or at least living on the local right-of-way.

The *Hardshell* Baptists had a church on Troublesome that gave its name to the post office established by Garvey Noble on August 11, 1917. This office was at several sites between Clayhole and Noble until it ceased as an independent office in 1959. From then through 1994 it was at the mouth of Caney Creek, as a rural branch of Lost Creek, 7 ¼ miles below.

## Other Post Offices South of Jackson

The nearly three mile-long branch and rural neighborhood named for the local family of the Lee County, Virginia-born Hugh Bush, gave its name to the **Bush Branch** post office half a mile up from the North Fork. It was opened on September 5, 1892 with Roderick R. Baker, postmaster, but in 1914 was moved to the new **Altro** [ael/troh] rail **Station** on the river, just above the branch, and twenty-one miles south of Jackson. The station name given by the railroad has not been derived, but on September 16, 1916 the office took this name, and as **Altro** it continued to serve the south end of Breathitt's North Fork area through June 1996.<sup>25</sup>

Another North Fork branch to give its name to a post office was the two mile-long **Howards Creek**, 12 ½ miles above (south of) Jackson. William E. Campbell maintained it at the creek's mouth from October 12, 1892 to 1915 when his successor William Russell had it moved across the Fork to the newly located railroad tracks. Here it closed in August 1916.

The three mile-long **Georges Branch**, five miles above Hoards Creek, might have given its name to Rodger Spicer's office at its mouth but for its similarity to Lawrence County's George's Creek.<sup>26</sup> Instead, it was established, on July 6, 1894, as **Strong** to honor the important local family. Recall that Edward Strong had earlier (1837-1847) maintained the **Strongville** post office at the mouth of Lick Branch, three miles north.

Though the **Strong** post office lasted only through April 1896, its site was shortly to have another office, called **Whick**. Established on August 21, 1901, with John P. Arrowood, postmaster, the new office was named for John Breckinridge "Whick" Allen (1855-1922), the proprietor of the local store first owned by his father James Carver Allen. Until recently the office served the **Whick** rail station on the east side of the North Fork, at the mouth of Fishtrap Branch, directly across from Georges Branch. It still serves this area but from the west side of the river, just below the rail crossing.

**Deaton** was William H. Deaton's first name choice for an office just below the mouth of the North Fork's Caney Creek, 2 ½ miles above (south of) Whick. But it was operated as **Roosevelt** by Deaton and several members of his family between March 3, 1902 and mid-August 1916. Could it have been named for then U.S. president Theodore Roosevelt?

Since **Clyde** was already in use in Wayne County, Thomas M. Davidson named his new office, on November 10, 1902, **Woburn**. But **Woburn** too has not been

derived. There were no known Breathitt families with this name. But a fairly good-sized city north of Boston, Massachusetts has been **Woburn** since the 1660s.<sup>27</sup> Breathitt County's **Woburn** was first located 1 ½ miles south of the mouth of Bush Branch but, by 1910, it had been moved to a site half a mile below Strong Branch where it closed in October 1914.

At the mouth of one of the North Fork's ubiquitous Big Branches, three miles above (south of) Quicksand, was the post office of **Kragon**. It was established on December 28, 1914 by and named for K. Ragon, the president of the Kentucky Wood Products Company, which had opened a plant there the year before. Fern Ragon was its first postmaster. It closed in 1933.

The **Wolf Coal** post office, named for the coal produced by the Wolf Creek Coal Company on the North Fork branch of this name, was established on June 10, 1915 with Emma B. Arnett, postmaster. According to her Site Location Report, it was first 1 ½ miles up the creek from the rail station that already bore this name. From 1918 till it closed in November 1989 it was on the North Fork, just below the mouth of the creek, 2 ½ miles below Altro and three miles above Whick.

The L&N station of **Copland** [kohp/luhn(d)], between Haddix and Whick, was established in 1912 and named for the local Levi Cope family. On July 9, 1919 the proposed **Copland** post office was opened by George Arrowood but called **Saldee** [sael/dee] allegedly for some local man's girl friend; or for two local families, the Deatons and the Salyers or Sallees. In the late 1960s the office was moved across the North Fork to a store on Rt. 1110, three-fourths of a mile above the station. And here it closed at the end of 1989.

The **Barwick** post office was established on March 1, 1920, with storekeeper Roscoe Shackelford, its first and longtime postmaster. It was at the mouth of Strong's Branch where it served the **Barwick Station** and, shortly, the Barwick Coal Company mine and camp. No one is sure how it got its name. There were no such local families. Stephen Bowling, the county's leading historian, thinks it might have referred to a rock bar in the river above Whick.<sup>28</sup> In 1944 the office was moved half a mile up the North Fork and one fourth of a mile north of the tracks that went through a tunnel on its way into neighboring Perry County. Here it closed in 1968.

At the mouth of John Little Creek, named for a pioneer settler, son of Edmond, Jr. and Sallie Lindon Little, the L&N early established another station and



called it *Little*. However, it was not to have its own post office until 1931 when Clifford J. Strong opened it near the station, roughly midway between Copland-Saldee and Whick. It was suspended in November 1991.

## Post Offices on the Kentucky River's Middle Fork and its Branches

The Kentucky River's Middle Fork, which heads in the southwest corner of Leslie County, joins the North Fork 2 ½ miles above Beattyville (Lee County's) city limits. The main valley and major branches in its Breathitt County stretch were served by 25 post offices.

The first of these was the underived *Crockettsville*, established on July 7, 1849 to serve the newly founded town of this name on George Boling's land just below the mouth of Long's Creek.<sup>29</sup> George Boling (or Bowling) was its only postmaster, for the office closed in August 1851. On July 21, 1874 Robert Johnson re-established the *Crockettsville* office on Middle Fork, one fourth of a mile above Longs Creek, to serve one or more stores and his own lumber business. By 1912, however, the office was on Longs Creek, 1 ¼ miles west of the Middle Fork. In 1930 it was moved back to the mouth of Longs to serve a community also known as *Longscreek*. Five years later it was moved to a site just north of Bowling Creek and, in 1949, it was moved another fourth of a mile north to a site just above (south of) the mouth of Joes Branch, some twenty miles south-southwest of Jackson (via Ky 30 and 315) where it closed in January 1955.

From April 21, 1915 through January 1921, Edward Deaton maintained the *Deaton* post office in the wide westside of Middle Fork bottom some 500 yards north of Joes Branch, in the area later served by the *Crockettsville* office. But at that time the later was still 1 ½ miles up Longs Creek. In his Site Location Report, though, Deaton mentioned that his office would be serving the *Crockettsville* community.<sup>30</sup>

In 1820 Virginia-born Stephen Jett (1772-1862) purchased 20,000 acres in a three mile-long Middle Fork valley, and shortly thereafter the valley and a small settlement there took the name *Jett's Creek*. From October 20, 1857 till late March 1860 Newton Jett maintained the *Jetts Creek* post office at some unknown site in that valley. In November 1870 Newton re-established the office at the mouth of the creek, twelve miles west-southwest of Jackson, to serve a small settlement also known as *Jettsville* with two stores and some other businesses. Over the next few

decades several other Jetts were postmasters and local storekeepers. Sometime before the First World War the office was moved a mile or so up the creek, to a site probably just above its Right Fork where it closed again in May 1924. On September 10, 1926 it was re-established, with Golden Johnson, postmaster, back at the mouth of the creek, and here it remained till it closed for good in 1957.

The descendants of the pioneer brothers James P. and Wiley Cope were another family that gave its name to a Breathitt stream, 4 ½ miles north of the mouth of Jetts Creek. Probably near the head of the two mile-long Cope Branch of the Middle Fork was the *Copebranch* post office operated by Frank P., Alex P., and Arch C. Crawford from December 16, 1886 through January 1906.<sup>31</sup> On April 24, 1915 Arch Crawford re-established the office at the mouth of the branch, where it closed in 1955.

There are two possible, though traditional, name derivations of the four mile-long Shoulderblade Creek, an east-side Middle Fork tributary. It may have been named by early hunters for what resembled the shoulder bone of a very large animal found near their camp. Less likely was it named for the shape of the area between Shoulderblade Creek and Old Buck Creek which joins the Middle Fork two-thirds of a mile above the other stream. At least on the map it seems to resemble a human shoulderblade. Anyhow, on August 11, 1891 James T. Chadwick established a post office 2 ½ miles up the creek and called it *Shoulder Blade* (sic). In 1904 it was moved at least half a mile down the creek where it closed in February 1914.

On March 9, 1910 another post office was established on Middle Fork, some 400 yards north of the mouth of Shoulderblade, and two miles below the Shoulder Blade post office. When Matthew J. Long, a Spanish-American War veteran, learned that his first preference *Pinegrove* was in use in Clark County, he called his new office *Juan*, it's been said, for the Battle of San Juan Hill. By 1922 this office was at the mouth of Old Buck Creek, but in 1938 it was moved to the vacated *Shoulder Blade* site on Ky 30, 9 ½ miles southwest of Jackson where, in 1960, it became a Jackson rural branch. The community it has served is locally called *Juan* [wahn, though sometimes dju/aen], while *Shoulderblade* is applied only to the creek.

The three mile-long Canoe Creek joins the Middle Fork from the east, roughly midway between Shoulderblade and Longs Creeks. The first of its two post offices

was established as **Canoe Fork** by Samuel Callahan on August 14, 1891, one fourth of a mile up the creek, at the mouth of Little Fork. William Little was its first postmaster. In June 1894 it became simply **Canoe** [usually locally ku/nu]. According to tradition, the creek waters once got so low that someone's canoe could not be floated out and had to be abandoned. In 1940 the office was moved to the mouth of the creek, but in 1945 it was back where it began, and here it ended in December 1990.

Near the head of Canoe Creek, 2 ½ miles above the Canoe post office, was the **Arrowood** post office. It was named for a Middle Fork family, or for the Rev. Nathan Arrowood who had settled on Canoe in the 1850s and helped found Baptist churches in the area. James B. Turner began the office on January 6, 1919, but had first planned to call it **Cardinal**. It was discontinued in 1932.

The Twin Creeks, distinguished as Upper and Lower, join the Middle Fork less than 500 feet apart at Athol on the Lee County line. Along the 6 ½ mile Upper Twin ran the Kentucky Union (later the Lexington and Eastern and the Louisville and Nashville) Railroad, and two of its stations had their own post offices. The first of these, the aptly named **Oakdale**, was established on June 20, 1892 with Floyd Day, postmaster, 3 ½ miles from the Middle Fork. It closed in 1957.

Two miles up the creek (east) from Oakdale, and four miles west of Elkatawa, was the station, store, and post office of **Chenowee** [chehn/oh/wee]. This operated, from December 12, 1917, with Henry Drake, its first postmaster, through October 1922. It was re-established by Robert Turner in 1946, a short distance east of its first site, but closed in 1955. One may merely assume a Cherokee derivation of its name which was also applied to a place in Tennessee.

One post office, the short-lived (October 2, 1928 to 1932) and all but forgotten **Isolation**, served the Lower Twin Creek. Jessie Creech Bowman was its only postmaster. Its precise location is not known but, according to Mrs. Bowman's Site Location Report, it was four miles north of Middle Fork, three miles southeast of Fillmore (a Lee County post office), and 2 ½ miles from the Lee County line, suggesting that it was at the upper end of Lower Twin, or even at the head of its Bean Fork branch. At that time this area was fairly isolated, but whether that accounts for the name we can't tell. The area it served is now locally called **Smack-'em**.

In 1908 famed Presbyterian evangelist and educator Edward Owings Guerrant (1838-1916) established the Highlands Institute, a school, church, orphanage, and hospital complex, half a mile up Puncheon Camp Creek which joins the Middle Fork 1 ½ miles below (north of) the mouth of Turkey Creek.<sup>32</sup> This vicinity was already being served by the **Herald** post office, established on November 30, 1895 and named for the family of its first postmaster Breckinridge H. Herald. On February 31, 1911, however, the office was renamed **Guerrant**, and closed in 1988.

Some four miles below (north of) the mouth of Longs Creek, the Middle Fork is joined by the three mile-long Turners Creek. At the latter's mouth, on February 12, 1914, Talbert Nathan Turner (1890-1973) established the **Talbert** [tahl/birt] post office he is said to have named for himself or his uncle Talbert "Big Tall" Turner (1879-1966)<sup>33</sup>. Other Turners, including his wife Easter and daughter Rutha, also ran this post office. In 1934 Easter had the office moved half a mile up the creek to the mouth of Pipemud Branch where it served a store till it closed in December 1993.

On August 22, 1925, with Mrs. Mary T. Johnson, postmaster, a post office called **Beech** for the many area beech trees was established on Bowling Creek, an east side branch of Middle Fork that joins it half a mile below (north of) the mouth of Longs Creek. According to Mrs. Johnson's Site Location Report, it was 2 ½ miles from Middle Fork and would serve the village of **Beech** with a population then of some 200. Over the next twenty-five years the office was moved down the creek several times till, when it closed in 1963, it was 1 ¾ miles up the creek from Middle Fork. On contemporary maps the **Beech** community is shown at the mouth of Duff Fork, less than two miles above the last post office site.

The Middle Fork's most recently established post office was **Sebastians Branch** which served one or more local stores on Ky 315 and the west side of Middle Fork, just below (north of) the mouth of the stream for which it was named. The 1 and 1/3 mile-long stream which joins the Fork from the west, had been named probably by the 1850s for John Sebastian (ne ca. 1783) who had acquired and settled on it in the 1840s. Old land records even identify the stream as John Sebastian Branch. The office, established in 1947 by Walter Sebastian, a descendant, was suspended in late June 1990.

## Post Offices in the Middle Fork's Turkey Creek Valleys

The main Turkey Creek valley, which extends for nearly 6 ½ miles to Middle Fork, two miles northwest of the mouth of Shoulderblade, was once thickly populated by wild turkeys. Six post offices served this valley and its branches.

The first of these, **Turkey**, established on March 8, 1894, was at several sites on Terry Fork, the lowest of the creek's tributaries. On first postmaster-storekeeper Jacob Terry's Site Location Report, its first proposed name was **Choctaw**, and it would be two miles from Middle Fork. It was then, or would soon be, serving his store, a feed mill, and a distillery on the road to Owsley County (now Ky 30), some two miles from the county line. When the office closed in 1982 it was on Terry Creek and Ky 30, three fourths of a mile from Turkey Creek, serving the community officially called **Turkey Creek** but locally referred to simply as **Turkey**.

However, the **Terry** post office, in service between October 20, 1897 and December 19, 1901, was not on Terry Creek but on the Middle Fork itself, just above the mouth of Turkey. It was named for the family of its postmasters Charles and Louraney Terry.<sup>34</sup>

Another short-lived (July 18, 1900 to January 15, 1906) post office, the underived **Wharf**, was at two sites on Turkey. The first, with Andy Short, Jr., postmaster, was probably 3 ½ miles up that creek; but in 1904 Ellen Griffith had it moved 1 ½ miles down the creek.

A locality that may then have been called **Forest** and **Turkey Creek** was a short distance above the mouth of Short Fork of Turkey, some five miles from the Middle Fork. On April 24, 1908 its post office was established with Breckinridge Herald's daughter Belle (Mrs Harlan) Griffith, postmaster. Since **Forest** was then in use in Morgan County, it was called **Houston**. Local tradition has it that it was named for some man passing through of whom nothing is known. When it closed in 1975 it was at the mouth of Short.

A little over two miles below (north of) Houston, at the mouth of the more or less aptly named Four Mile Fork of Turkey, was John Callahan's post office. Since **Fourmile** was then a Bell County office, he called his **Conestoga** and ran it, alone, from January 30, 1911 through January 1914. It's not been learned why he chose this name.

**Verneda**, operated by Nannie B. (Mrs. Luther) Little from July 29, 1925 through February 1931, was named

for her 18-year-old daughter. In Mrs. Little's Site Location Report, the office was placed 2 ½ miles south of the Turkey post office, 5 ½ miles from Middle Fork, and half a mile from the Owsley Co. line, probably at or near the first Houston site.

## Post Offices in the Middle Fork's Long Creek Valleys

According to late nineteenth century government maps, Longs Creek headed just east of the Owsley-Perry-Breathitt convergence and extended for some 5 ½ miles to Middle Fork, a mile above (south of) Crockettville's final site. It still does, though modern maps identify it as Freeman Fork. Longs is said to have been named for an early Virginia hunter who, with a companion, was bringing home a slain bear when his (or the other's) gun accidentally fired, killing him. Freeman is said to have been named for Hiram Freeman (1819-1905).<sup>35</sup>

The first of the four Longs Creek post offices was operated as **Gobelgap** by Elihu Reynolds between November 13, 1915 and mid-December 1918. Reynolds's Site Location Report had it on Longs Fork (sic), 2 ½ miles south of Crockettville (which was then 1 ¼ miles up the creek). The name has not been explained; there were no Gobel or Goble families in the county at that time.<sup>36</sup>

In the early 1920s the small village of **Gobel Gap** (sic) was again to be served by a post office of this name. But instead John Helton opened it on January 29, 1923 as **Dalesburg**. After several moves successively up the creek it closed in 1962, about half a mile below the old Valjean post office site. Whence **Dalesburg** is also not known. The only Dale family in Breathitt County in the 1920s lived some distance away.

**Valjean** [vael/djeen], just below the head of Longs, operated from July 19, 1920 through July 1925 by Jerry J. and Hulda Morris. The first name proposed for this office was **Shop**. Whence **Valjean** is only a guess. Could it have been named for the hero of Victor Hugo's "Les Miserables"? Jerry Morris, incidentally, was Dalesburg's second postmaster (ca. 1931).

The hamlet of **Morris Fork** centers on the Forest Hill Community Center on the Longs Creek branch whose name it bears. From a remote and disreputable section of the county in the early twentieth century, this became one of the more progressive rural communities in eastern Kentucky following the arrival, in the mid-1920s, of the Rev. and Mrs. Samuel Vandermeer and the establishment of their Presbyterian mission. The

**Morris Fork** post office opened at the mouth of what's now called Ingol Fork of Morris, three miles from Middle Fork, on May 25, 1931 with James Cornett, postmaster. It closed in 1983. The stream, first called Riley Fork for the family of Patrick and Nancy (Neal) Riley who had settled there in the 1820s became Morris Fork some years later for a family that had arrived in the 1850s.<sup>37</sup>

Finally, five offices were authorized by the Post Office Department but for some reason never operated. Nor have their locations been determined. **Allen** was officially established by and probably named for John M. Allen on July 5, 1893. An office called **Parson** was established on March 14, 1899 with Elizabeth Russell its first postmaster followed, on May 12, by George W. Barnett. No Parson(s) families are found in late nineteenth century county records. Could it have been named for an area pastor or for a Dr. Parsons, the Methodist minister and pioneer Jackson resident? On December 16, 1893 John Griffith was permitted to open a post office called **Milan** (derivation unknown) but his authority was rescinded on May 9 of the following year. John M. Roberts' **Vanzel** post office, officially established on October 31, 1898, never materialized either. And we've already seen that John E. Helton's proposed **Lonetree** never opened its doors as such in 1906 though it might later have been the post office of **Dalesburg**.

## Conclusion

Only six of Breathitt's ninety-seven operating post offices (Jackson, Vancleve, Lost Creek, Whick, Clayhole, and Bays) are still active. Jackson serves the county's only incorporated place. At least thirty-three offices were the centers of villages with more or less concentrated populations. Nearly all of the others served at least one or more churches, a country store and/or rail station, and maybe a local school.

Thirty-six post offices were named for local or area people, while three honored well known national figures. Three were named for distant places while to seventeen were transferred the names of nearby streams and to another a local church. Local economic activities or the companies that carried them out gave names to five offices. One was named for an alleged local event. One may have been named for a person or place connected with the Spanish-American War. One name (Elkatawa) has several possible explanations. The name derivations of twenty-one offices have not yet

been learned. Three offices are still not precisely located.

The names of twenty-seven offices were not those first proposed for them. Seventeen served communities, rural neighborhoods, or rail stations with other names. Ten had name changes.

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Calculated reforestation in the University of Kentucky's Robinson Forest in the southeast edge of the county has led to a moderate resurgence of commercial timbering.

<sup>2</sup> After serving as postmaster, Alexander, Sr., who had settled at the mouth of Lick Branch in 1820, was a Perry County court clerk and county judge, and later ran another salt works and a mill at the lower end of Troublesome Creek.

<sup>3</sup> Charles Hayes, "Jackson" in the *Kentucky Encyclopedia*, Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1992, P. 459. As a flood control measure, the U.S. Corps of Engineers, in 1956, dug an "overflow channel through the neck of the Panhandle bend (which ) shortened the river by four miles." In 1962 the Kentucky Highway Department "widened the cutoff to 350 feet." But Jackson still suffered flooding, especially in 1984. (Leland R. Johnson and Charles E. Parrish, *Kentucky River Development: The Commonwealth's Waterway*, US Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville District, 1999, Pp. 160, 200.)

<sup>4</sup> **Burton Bend** was named for the many local descendants of James Burton (ca. 1830).

<sup>5</sup> Until the Second World War, that section of the creek above Taulbee was identified on published maps as Sulphur Lick.

<sup>6</sup> Day's first name preference was **Lusk** for another family.

<sup>7</sup> John Wills Taulbee (1832-ca. 1860s was the son of William Ashford and Angelina Birchfield Taulbee.

<sup>8</sup> Some have said that **Wilhurst** was named for a Hurst and a Wilson, perhaps William K. Wilson, an early postmaster.

<sup>9</sup> Postmaster Hannibal was the son of William L. and Isabella (Belle) Duff Hurst, and the grandson of Samuel Henry Hurst I (who had acquired land on Boone Fork in the early 1840s) and his second wife Sally (nee Landsaw). He was thus a great great grandson of Hurst family progenitors Henry and Elizabeth. The Hurst Fork of Johnson, on which **Peartree** was

located, was once owned by a cousin, Judge Zachary Taylor Hurt, and was the site of the Premium Coal and Lumber Company's Hurst mine (ca. 1910). (According to the Hurst family's history published by J. Caesar Hurst, another of Williams's sons, and available in the Breathitt County library in Jackson.)

<sup>10</sup> A little known *Vancleave* post office operated in Calloway County, Ky. Between 1895 and 1905.

<sup>11</sup> The 8 ½ mile-long Cope Fork, not to be confused with the Cope Branch of Middle Fork and its post office namesake, joins Frozen Creek 3 ½ miles above the North Fork. It was named for the family of Wise County, Virginia-born James D. Cope 1798-1884) and his wife Elizabeth (nee Crawford) who had settled in that valley in the 1830s.

<sup>12</sup> Suggested by Stephen Bowling, the editor of the *Jackson Times*, interviewed by the author on May 15, 2000.

<sup>13</sup> E.O. Robinson of Fort Thomas, Ky. and his partner Fred W. Mowbray of Cincinnati long felt a sense of responsibility for the areas whence their timber had come. In addition to providing the land for the experiment station, their company funded the Homeplace Hospital and schools in Perry County (see above).

<sup>14</sup> According to Jackson's Site Location Report, the first name proposed for this office was *Bearl*.

<sup>15</sup> Breathitt County's *Clemmons* post office is not to be confused with Perry County's *Clemons* (established in 1924) which had been named for another branch of that family. Why the Breathitt office name was spelled with two "m's" when the family always spelled their name with one, has not been explained.

<sup>16</sup> Jack Deberry, *Kentucky Encyclopedia*, Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1992, P. 783.

<sup>17</sup> *Days* was the first name proposed for the re-established *Rousseau* post office.

<sup>18</sup> William Hagins (1766-1833) and his wife Mary or Polly (nee Linville) Hagins, their family's Breathitt County progenitors, settled near Quicksand's Spring Fork. Their son Thomas soon acquired considerable acreage in the middle Quicksand valley and later served his county in the state legislature. Another son, Daniel, was the county's sheriff in 1842.

<sup>19</sup> Unlikely was it named for a Guage Williams who was allegedly killed there for, as Stephen Bowling

pointed out, in a July 10, 2000 interview, no such person appears in county records.

<sup>20</sup> Stephen Bowling, interviewed by the author on May 15, 2000.

<sup>21</sup> "Origins of Names of Streams" Jackson Hustler, ca. 1893; "Creek Names" *Ibid.*, November 18, 1890; and J.J. Dickey's July 21, 1898 interview with Edward Callahan Strong, respectively.

<sup>22</sup> Stephen Bowling, interviewed by the author on March 2, 2001.

<sup>23</sup> Three sons (William, Nathan, and Enoch) of Richmond, Virginia-born William Noble settled in the Troublesome valleys. Nathan's descendants were to succeed Hutson as *Noble* postmasters.

<sup>24</sup> May Stone's DAR manuscript—*Origin of Names of Places and Streams in Some Eastern Kentucky Counties*, ca. 1941, in the library of the Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort.

<sup>25</sup> For many years *Altro Station*, since closed, was the home of section gangs employed by the railroad to maintain its area tracks. To this day, the branch and rural neighborhood served by the *Bush Branch* post office has locally been called *Bushes-branch*.

<sup>26</sup> George's Branch of the North Fork is said to have been named for old man George Miller of the Troublesome valley who died on it around 1803 while he was returning home from the Middle Fork area. (According to Green Trimble's typescript on Breathitt County stream names, found with the WPA (Federal Writers Project) Breathitt County manuscripts in the Kentucky Archives, Frankfort.)

<sup>27</sup> *Woburn*, Massachusetts is known to have been named for a parish in Bedfordshire, England which was the estate of the Dukes of Bedford.

<sup>28</sup> Interviewed by the author on May 15, 2000.

<sup>29</sup> The establishment of the town of *Crockettsville* was approved by the Kentucky General Assembly on February 23, 1847, but no mention is made in its authorization of the source of the name.

<sup>30</sup> The Deatons of Breathitt County were descended from John Deaton and his sons William, Lewis, and John who came to Kentucky from Lee County, Virginia in 1815.

<sup>31</sup> Frank Crawford's first proposed name *Cops Branch* was apparently unacceptable to the Post Office Department.

<sup>32</sup> Guerrant, a Sharpsburg, Kentucky native and Confederate officer, later became a medical doctor and Presbyterian minister, and helped to organize churches in eastern Kentucky, including one in Jackson.

<sup>33</sup> Talbert Nathan's first proposed name was *Turner* for his well-established family for whom the stream had been named years before.

<sup>34</sup> Charles Terry was probably descended from Ike Terry, ne 1820, who had settled on Longs Creek (ca. 1859) and later moved to Turkey. By 1900, Miles and Lourainne (sic) Terry, Charles's parents, were living at the mouth of Terry.

<sup>35</sup> Stephen Bowling, *op. cit.*

<sup>36</sup> Somewhere in this area John E. Helton, on May 1, 1906, received authorization to operate a post office called *Lonetree*, but this was soon rescinded and it never opened. If this office wasn't to be at the first site of *Dalesburg*, it may have been proposed for or at least referred to the Lonetree Branch of Burton Fork of Longs Creek.

<sup>37</sup> Charles Riley of Jackson, Ky., interviewed by the author on May 18, 2000.

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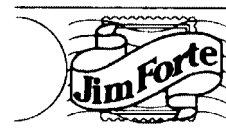
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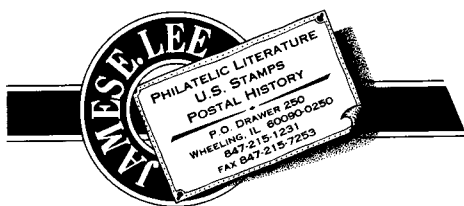
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91-95	\$4.75	\$11.82	\$22.50
96-100	\$5.00	\$12.45	\$23.70

### CARDS & COVERS: FOR SALE

DO YOU COLLECT State Postal History, Doane Cancels, or cancels of any kind? Check out my website [www.towncancel.com](http://www.towncancel.com). Now with over 30 states online plus Dakota Territory and more coming. Over 6000 covers online with over 1000 of them pictured. Gary Anderson, P.O. Box 6000039, St. Paul, MN 55106. [34-3]

POSTAL HISTORY featured in our mail bid sales. Free catalogs. Juno Stamps, 1765 Juno Ave., St. Paul, MN 55116-1467. [junostamps@aol.com](mailto:junostamps@aol.com) [34-3]

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](mailto:mehrer@postal-history.com). Internet website: <http://www.postal-history.com>. [34-1]

GRAND FATHER'S Collection: All covers old, U.S. Postal history 36/\$110; U.S. Naval 36/\$110; First Flights 36/\$110; Advertising 36/\$110; Worldwide Postal History 36/\$110; (½ lots available). Beautiful covers! Send \$5 cash for entire catalog. Victor Schwez, 10519 Casanes Ave., Downey, CA 90241 [35-4]

### TOWNS: WANTED

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](mailto: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 [33-6]

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: LOS ANGELES County to 1900 and City of Los Angeles forerunners. Scans, photocopies or approvals. Michael Zolno, 2855 West Pratt, Chicago IL 60645, [mzolno@aol.com](mailto:mzolno@aol.com) [34-2]

### TOWNS: WANTED

CALIFORNIA - SISKIYOU COUNTY: wanted, covers, acrds, letters and billheads and early paper. Send photocopies, description and prices to: Bud Luckey, 6110 Beverley Way, Dunsmuir, CA 96025 [34-2]

WASHINGTON, DC COVERS wanted. Non-machine 1900-1915. No 3rd class. Carl Stieg, 260 Merrydale Rd., Apt 15, San Rafael, CA 94903. [carl\\_phil@webtv.net](mailto:carl_phil@webtv.net) [34-4]

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, Latah, 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](mailto: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. Email: [rontrosclair@yahoo.com](mailto:rontrosclair@yahoo.com) [34-5]

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 [34-4]

### NOTE:

**EXPIRATION DATE SHOWN  
AT END OF EACH AD, i.e.,  
[33-5], MEANS AD WILL  
EXPIRE WITH THIS ISSUE.**

**AD DEADLINE FOR NEXT  
ISSUE:**

**January 20, 2003**

**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 [34-6]

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 [34-4]

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 [34-5]

## 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

LA POSTA BACKNUMBERS—long run of the journal available from early subscriber. Also *Western Express*. Contact Phil Kay [pilau@mobbettah.net] for details. [34-2]

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 [34-3]

NOW AVAILABLE: Post Offices of Virginia - \$20; The Post Offices and Postmasters of Hawaii - \$20; The Post Offices of Alabama to 1900 - \$20; The Post Offices of Georgia - \$20; Post Offices of Puerto Rico - \$20; Post Offices of Philippine and Ryukyu Islands (under US administration) - \$20. Coming soon Post Offices of WV and SC. All available from the author, postpaid: Richard E. Small, 14349 Coleraine Ct, Reston, VA 20191. [34-4]

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 [34-4]

## 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

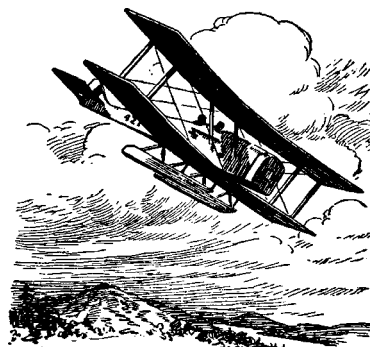
9¢ ALAMO US #1043: plate varieties; commercial covers (interesting destinations and postal markings); unusual FDCs especially postmarked other than San Antonio; Alamo memorabilia. Jane Fohn, 10325 Little Sugar Creek, Converse, TX 78109-2409; janekfohn@sbcglobal.net [34-3]

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 [33-5]

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

COMMERCIAL AIR air covers, 1945 or earlier, any 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](mailto:helbock@la-posta.com)





## 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 - 36

### DISPLAY ADS

ALASKA COLLECTORS CLUB - 64

ARIZONA-NEW MEXICO P. H. SOC. - 64

COLORADO P. HIST. SOCIETY - 4

JANE DALLISON - 76

MICHAEL DATTOLICO - 3

JIM FORTE - 74

### DISPLAY ADS

ALEXANDER GUNDEL - 75

RANDY KIMES - 76

LA POSTA BACKNUMBERS - 76

JAMES E. LEE - 75 & 79

JIM MILLER - 4

BOB NICHOLS - 75

SCHMITT INVESTORS LTD. - 76

STEVE SIMS - 4

STEPHEN T. TAYLOR - 4