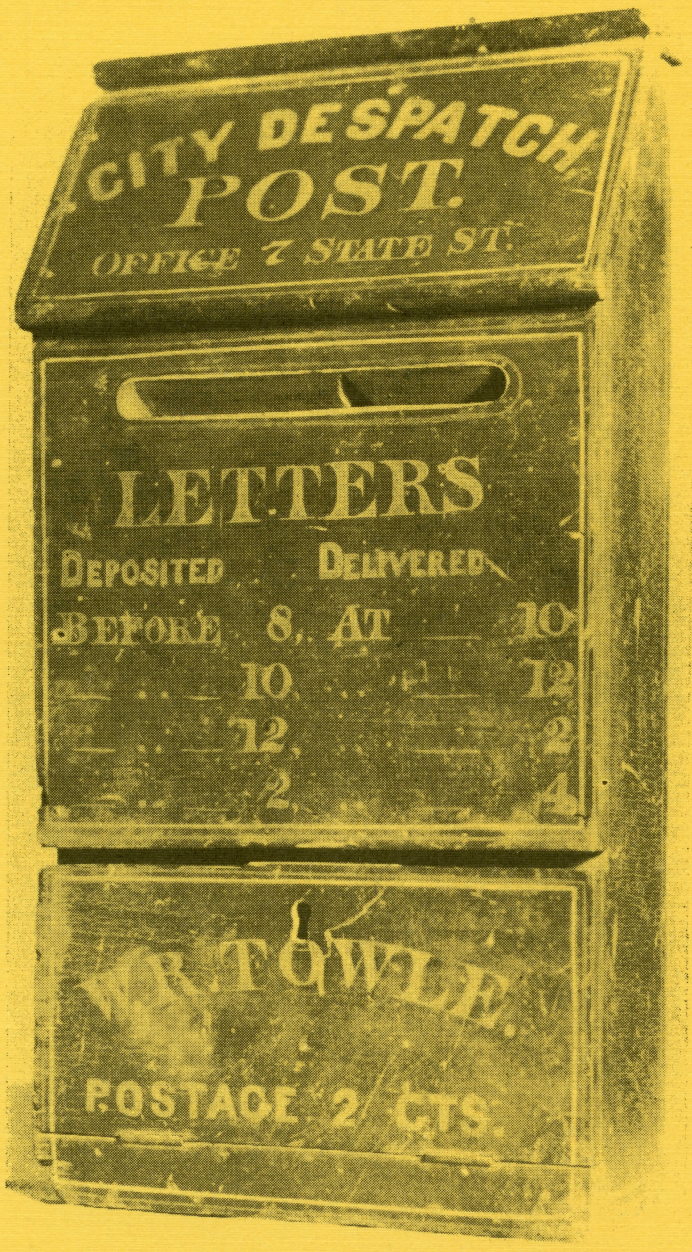
THE HELIOGRAPH



WESTERN POSTAL HISTORY MUSEUM

WINTER 1989 ISSUE VOLUME 3, NO. 1

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ARIPEX 1989 ISSUE

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OUR FRONT COVER -- Featured in this Issue is a rare wooden mail box employed by the City Dispatch Post of W.R.Towle & Co. in Boston in the late 1840's and early 1850's. This box has a connection with our articles on both page 1 and page 13. By strange coincidence the Editor used to collect railway covers on approval from the helpful stamp dealer - Stephen C. Lyon, then in Providence,R.I. One day around 1950, I received a letter from Mr. Lyon, enclosing a photograph of this very box and offering it to me for $300. I was mightily tempted because of the name, but could not quite swing that much of a payment while raising four children. I still have the photograph and was amazed when our friend, James Bruns, submitted an article with an enlargement of the very same photograph. The present whereabouts of the mail box, if it still survives, is not known, but information is requested on its location.

THE POTTS LETTER BOX

by
James H. Bruns, Curator,
U.S.Postal History and Philately
and
Michael J.Lilly, Research
Assistant, Historian's
Office, U.S.Postal Service

INTRODUCTION

We tend to take the common things in life for granted, like the curbside letter box. It's there -- as it seemingly always has been and always will be -- whenever and wherever it's needed.

Despite the fact that it ranks as little more than a footnote in the recorded history of this nation, the letter box has undoubtedly played a part in every American's life. Almost every American has at one time or another used a collection box to send a special missive of sympathy or love, or to relay a message of news or knowledge.

Because of its rather mundane familiarity, much of the history of the letter box has gone unrecorded. This is particularly true with respect to the earliest lamppost-style letter box. But then, this lack of documentation has been somewhat characteristic of the Free Delivery Service in general; as long ago as 1892, for instance, First Assistant Postmaster General S. A. Whitfield lamented this situation in his Annual Report to the Postmaster General:

"Looking backward to the origin of free delivery postal service -- only twenty-nine years ago -- it seems strange that such meager data should have been made and that they should have been so poorly preserved as to render it not only difficult, but impossible now, to fully trace the tortuous line of development of this branch of the postal service -" Nevertheless, this is an attempt to recount the general history of perhaps the first official hanging street letter box.

EARLY LETTER RECEPTACLES

One of the earliest known references to the erection of an officially sanctioned letter box in the United States appeared in 1825, when Postmaster General John McLean ordered the New York Postmaster to establish a "suitable box for the reception of letters" in Chatham Square.

Before the United States Post Office Department was able to establish its monopoly of local city mail delivery, however, a large number of private post and messenger services sprang up in cities and towns across the country. These private services made use of letter boxes for mail pick-ups as early as the 1840's.

These companies generally offered local mail delivery at competitive rates with the Post Office Department. They flourished during the mid-nineteenth century. They erected letter boxes for the convenience of their patrons in their service areas in the most frequently traveled and visible locations, such as outside drug stores, hotels, grocery stores, or popular eating establishments.

In his Annual Report for 1841, for instance, Postmaster General Charles A. Wickliffe refers to the use of two boxes by express companies in New York City, but there were many such boxes. For example, in the late 1840's, W.R.Towle's City Despatch Post of Boston erected a red "pine-wood box" with yellow lettering which measured approximately eighteen inches high, nine inches wide, and four inches deep. (See photo Front Cover) Boyd's Express Com-

pany of New York City, another local delivery firm, used a square black box with its name lettered on the front.

Other private express companies, such as the United States City Despatch Post, established by Alexander M. Greig and Henry T. Thomas in New York City, made use of letter boxes "placed in the most populous and eligible situations" of the city, including all of the principal hotels, This service, which featured carrier pick-ups of letters three times daily, was later purchased by the Post Office Department.

W. Otis Blood, Jr., son of the originator of probably the most famous private mail company to operate, documented the use of letter boxes by his father in Recollections of Blood's Despatch Post. Just prior to opening his express office, Daniel Otis Blood, an enterprising businessman, apparently erected a number of boxes, painted red on the sides and lettered "Blood's" on the front, in drug stores and along some streets in Philadelphia.

Because of several robberies, however, Blood was forced to place his letter boxes predominantly indoors, with signs to notify the public of their location within nearby buildings. The proprietor's son, in his account, suggests that the later establishment of lamppost boxes and more frequent deliveries by the Post Office Department were the result of the practices set up by his father.

In the nation's capital private letter boxes were erected for the collection of mails as early as 1856. John Wiley, who founded a city despatch company in Washington, D.C., which operated for about seven months in 1856, advertised in a circular that "Two hundred boxes have been placed in conspicuous places, and all letters, messages, &., placed therein will be delivered without delay." A later circular listed the locations of these boxes, most of which were in drug stores, hotels, and grocery stores.

OFFICIAL BOXES

Around the same time, the Post Office Department began experimenting with the use of the new style letter boxes at various post offices. The Annual Report of the Postmaster General for 1887, for instance, states that in New York "a large number of boxes for the collection of letters had been placed at convenient distances throughout the city," The Boston Post Office reportedly erected boxes as early as June 1857. In addition, local postmasters in many other large post offices about this time placed baskets or tin boxes in bars, hotels and various other public places so patrons could deposit letters. However, at least one 1850's publication complained that while such arrangements "may help the males of the community, the gentler sex manifestly cannot avail themselves of these advantages." Furthermore, such collection boxes were probably too small and frequently overflowed with mail.

THE POTTS STYLE BOX

Letter boxes have always been one of the most important commodities purchased in conjunction with the nation's urban mail service. As a rule, curbside boxes were acquired through nationwide bidding contests formally awarded by Post Office Department headquarters, but the earliest letter boxes were purchased locally by postmasters.

The systematic use of letter boxes by the Post Office Depart-

ment apparently began in 1858 with the invention of a new style box by a Philadelphia iron products manufacturer, Albert Potts.

His design, which was patented on March 9, 1858, incorporated the letter box into an existing streetside lamppost, or mounted one in conjunction with the installation of a new lamppost provided by his firm. (Figure 1). As he states in his description of the invention, its purpose was "to afford greater facilities to the inhabitants of large cities for the depositing of letters, and to enable the carriers to collect, or the citizens to deposit therein, at any period of time."

Both the mailbox and the lamppost were made of cast iron. Potts' patent drawing depicts two different sized boxes, one of which was to project from only one side of the lamppost, while the other wrapped around the entire column, thereby providing greater capacity. In either case, the boxes were to be installed by sliding them down from the top of the post until they came to rest against a protruding portion of the pole.

The boxes shown on the Potts patent drawing are extremely plain, while those illustrated in contemporary publications of the 1850's show that they were intricately embellished in a Victorian-like style.(Figure 2)

According to an 1859 Scientific American article:

"Pillar boxes have been placed in the streets of London, but the fixing of them was not only expensive, but they are cumbersome and anything save ornamental. The idea has also been suggested that letter-carriers, when they deliver letters, should take what have been written to the Post-office; but this would be a terribly cumbersome business to the letter-carrier. In fact, in all the methods of facilitating the transit of letters, there has been some great practical objection."

"We have the pleasure of calling the public attention to an improvement which has been adopted by the Postal Department in Philadelphia, where they have over 300 letter-boxes attached to lamp-posts throughout the city, thus bringing the Post-office to every one's door." (Figure 3)

Mail was collected from these boxes four times a day, with one collection on Sunday.

Boxes of this sort were also reportedly erected for the first time in New York and Boston as early as August 2, 1858, according to an article in the American Gas Light Journal, dated October 1, 1859. In addition, a brief notation in the Postmaster General's Annual Report for 1863 notes that on June 10 of that year a credit of $268.40 was made to the accounts of the Boston post office in consideration of a request from Nahum Capen, "late postmaster, Boston, Massachusetts, for street boxes in the year 1858."

In the case of Philadelphia, the order came from postmaster G.G. Westcott, who served as postmaster from March 1857 to March 1859. From available 1850's illustrations the Philadelphia boxes appear to have been inscribed "Philada P.O./U.S.M./ LETTER BOX/G.G.Westcott, P.M." According to the 1860 Philadelphia City Directory, "Letters may be mailed in all sections of the city with equal facility and be transmitted with promptness and certainty. The Postmaster-General has authorized strong and secure iron boxes to be attached to lampposts which are for the reception of letters and papers,

FIGURE 1

PATENT DRAWING of the POTTS LETTER BOX

A. Potts.

Letter Box.

No. 19,578. Patented Mar. 9, 1858.

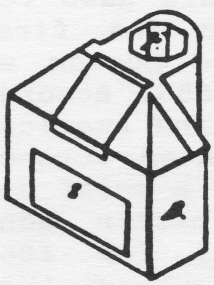


Fig. 4.

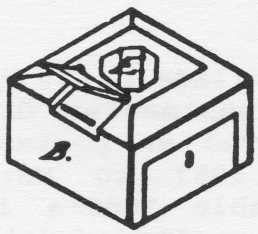


Fig. 2.



Fig. 1.



Fig. 5.

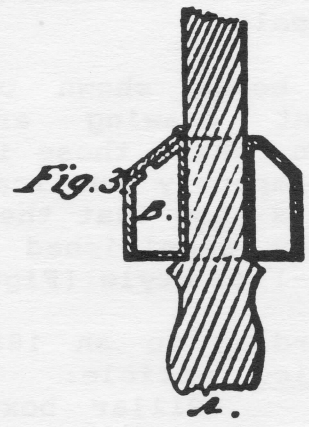


Fig. 3.



FIGURE 2
1859 illustration of the Potts style letter box published in the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN



FIGURE 3
Lady mailing letter in Potts & Roberts lamppost "collar" mail box.

prepaid by stamps according to law. These boxes are visited several times daily, except Sunday, by sworn collectors; on Sunday about sundown; and all mailable matter found there is taken to the post office without charge."

By 1859 Pott's had received inquiries about his collection boxes from foreign governments as well. The Philadelphia Post Office apparently also purchased some of the boxes used by Daniel Blood in his private post.

A notation in the Annual Report of 1862 shows that the Philadelphia Postmaster Cornelius A. Walborn was reimbursed $800 on July 22 of that year "for cash paid proprietors (of) Blood Dispatch for letter boxes ..."

The eastern seaboard was not the only area experimenting with the new boxes. As far away as San

Francisco postmaster, James B. Wethered erected a lamppost box in front of the city post office. According to an article in the Daily Alta California on January 30, 1860, this box was the same type as ones "adopted by the Post Office Department for New York, Philadelphia and other Atlantic cities, and Mr. James Wethered, who is agent for the patent on the coast, (was convinced it could) be introduced with advantage in San Francisco."

The article also states that the letter box was made in two sizes, depending on the population of the area it served. The reference to postmaster Wethered as the "agent for the patent on the coast" suggests the likelihood that other post offices in the area also made use of these boxes during this period of time.

Pott's boxes were apparently small. From available drawings and prints it would appear as though the smaller of his box sizes was probably only able to accomodate a limited number of letters at any one time. As a result, when located in particularly active sections of business districts, these boxes were probably often very full. To eliminate the problem of over-stuffing, a larger sized receptical obviously was required.(Figure 4)

The Smithsonian Institution is currently searching for early letter boxes of this style, although its effort during the past four years has been unsuccessful.

The 1858 patent was not the only design by Potts for improving street letter boxes. Potts, who apparently was the principal partner of Potts & Roberts, located at the northeast corner of Third and Willow Streets in Philadelphia, patented another one of his ideas on December 6, 1870. This design consisted of two hemispherical shells which, when bolted around the post, formed a ball-shaped letter box. Rather than being a component of the lamppost, as his previous design had been, this receptical could be simply attached to any existing lamppost. This eliminated many of the problems associated with earlier boxes, such as the need to remove the lantern and ladder bar before slipping the old style box over the shaft from the top, which was especially difficult if the upper

continued page 7

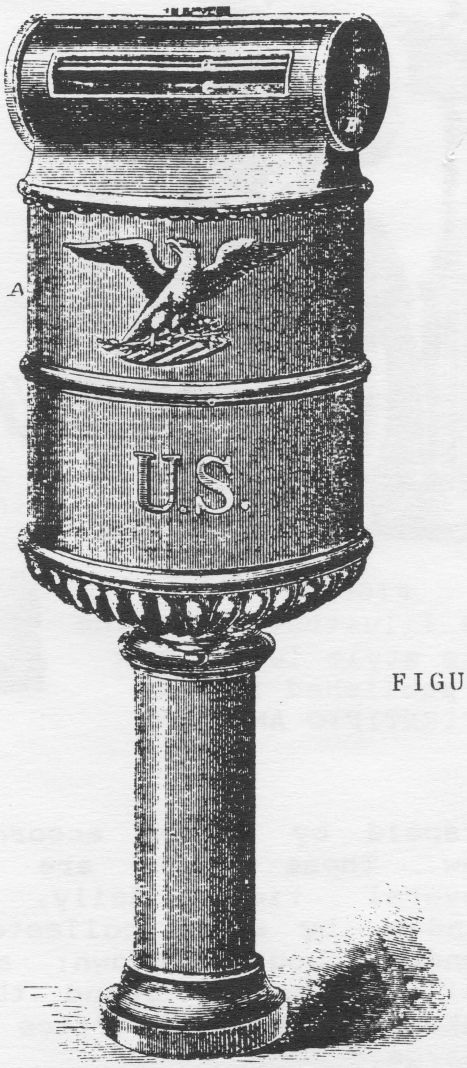


FIGURE 4

One of the basic problems with the Potts style letter box was that only letters could be deposited in them. This fault was corrected in later designs, such as one patent issued in the 1860's to J.W.Brown. None of this type known to have existed.

portions of the lamppost had rusted up, or the fitting of boxes to various sized posts. (Figure 5)

As Potts envisioned it, the interlocking pieces of the spherical box had lugs cast along the interior edges through which square head bolts and nuts could be inserted to hold the hemispheres together. The fastening would be accomplished by working through the small door, provided at the base of the globe-shaped box. This, Potts emphasized, placed the fasteners out of reach of any wishing to tamper with the mailbox. The castings were to be made to conform to the shape of different posts, and once it was assembled, the entire unit was to be locked in place by means of steel bolts attached from the inside to the shaft of the lamppost. This safeguard was designed to eliminate the risk of someone sliding it up on the post. The joints were to be rendered completely water tight by the use of a cement. Two holes were provided for inserting letters. These were not covered by a movable flasp, but instead were protected by overhanging projections.

The lack of a lid over the letter slot would have represented a great convenience in that the use of only one hand would have been required to mail a letter. In this way, a patron would not need to close an umbrella in a rain storm, or set down a shopping basket, or put down a child in order to put a letter in the box, but it probably would have done little towards keeping the interior of the letter box dry. Despite the uniqueness of Potts' invention, there is no indication that the ball-shaped box was ever used. (Figure 6)

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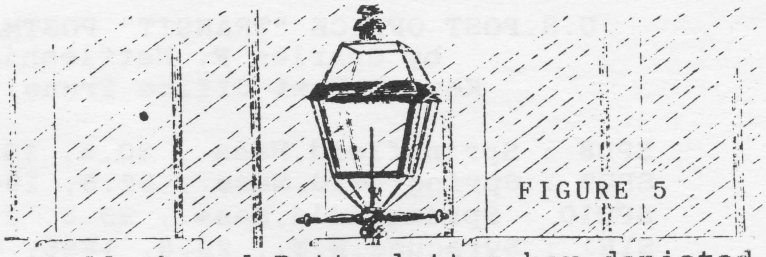
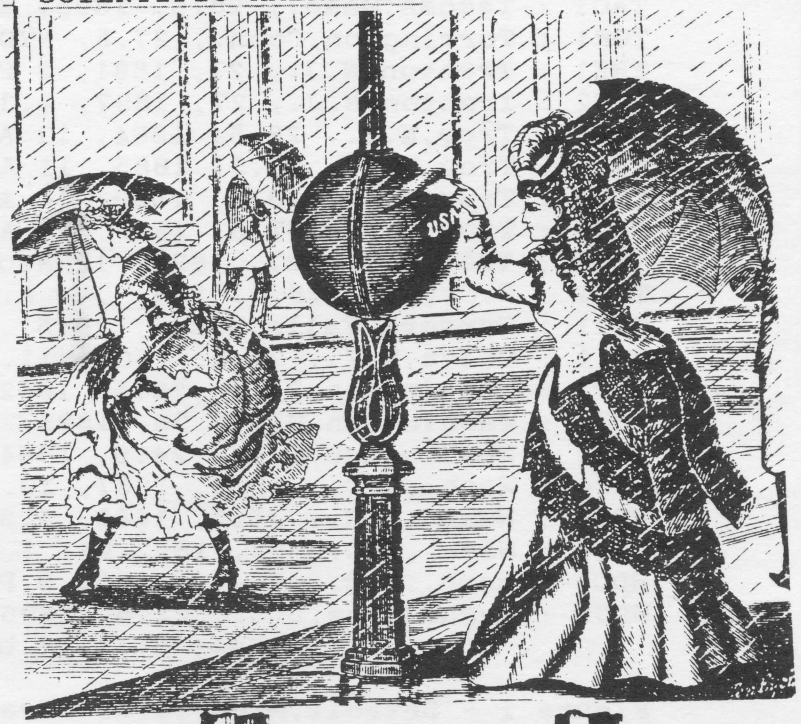


FIGURE 5

Ball-shaped Potts letter box depicted in the December 17, 1870 issus of SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN.



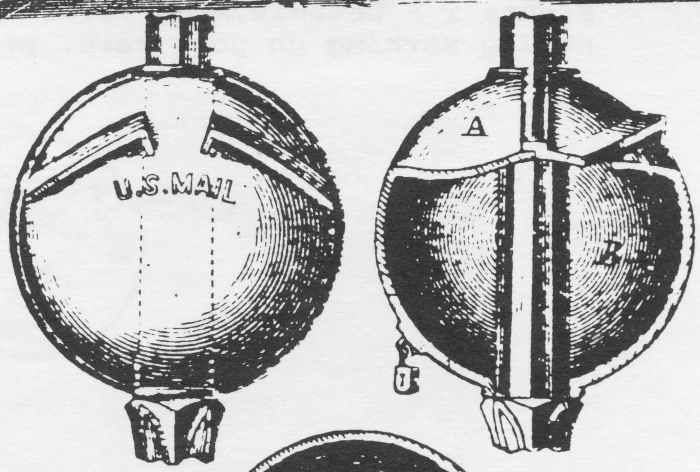
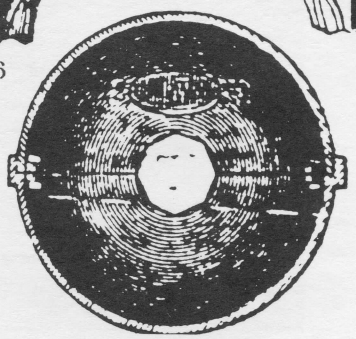


FIGURE 6



Details of Potts' ball-shaped letter box. This type box is not known to have been officially used.

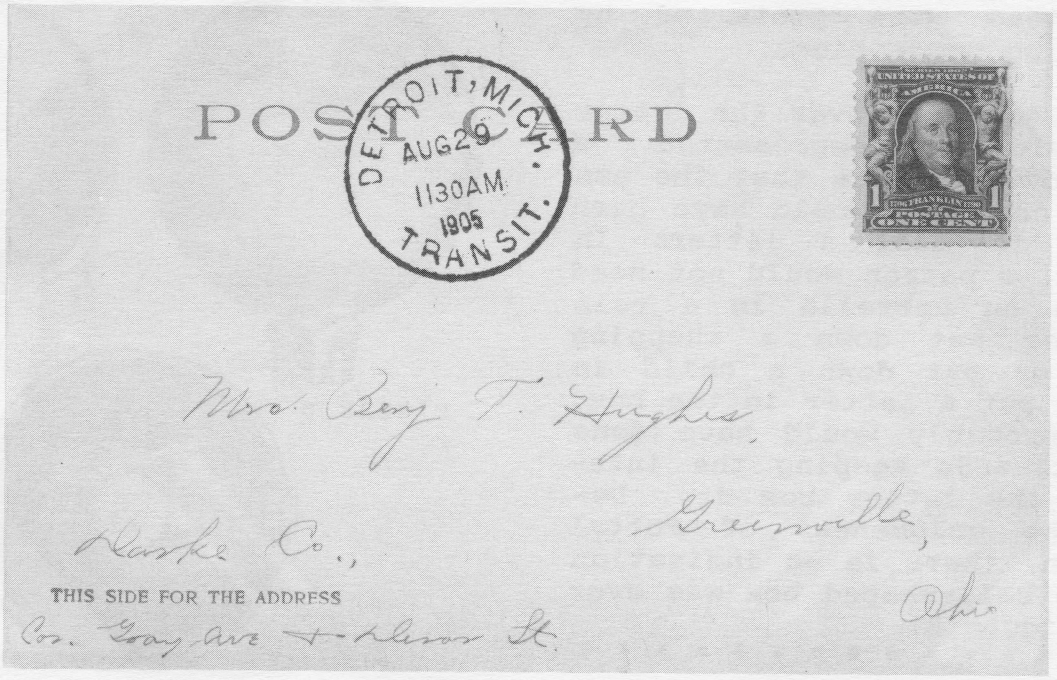
U.S.POST OFFICE "TRANSIT" POSTMARKS (Continued from Vol.II, No.4)
by Charles F. Nettleship Jr. and Charles L. Towle
Key to Post Office Transit Postmarks shown on Plate XI

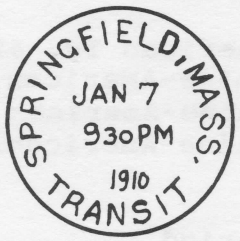
SPD8 : Springfield,Mass., 30.5, 1910, 9.30 P.M.
SPD9 : Springfield,Mass., 22.5, 1903, 8 P.M., Machine-American Ty.43
SPD10 : Springfield,Mass., 23.5, 1901, 3 P.M., Machine-American Ty.42
SYR1 : Syracuse,N.Y., 29.5, 1886, 9 P.M.
SYR2 : Syracuse,N.Y., 28.5, 1890, 9 P.M.
SYR3 : Syracuse,N.Y., 27.5, 1892, 10.30 A.M.
TAC1 : Tacoma,Wash., 26.5, 1895, 2 P.M.
TOR1 : Torrington,Conn., 27.5, NYD, 1890's, 6 P.M.
TRE1 : Trenton,N.J., 27, 1891, 2 P.M.
TRE2 : Trenton,N.J., 27, 1897, 4.30 P.M.
TRO1 : Troy,N.Y., 28.5, 1884, 11 A.M.
TRO2 : Troy,N.Y., 28.5, 1885, 11 A.M.
TRO3 : Troy,N.Y., 28.5, 1889, 10 A.M.
TRO4 : Troy,N.Y., 27.5, 1889. 10 A.M.
TRO5 : Troy,N.Y., 27, 1891, 12 Noon
TRY1 : Troy,PA., 26.5, 189__, __A.M.,partial
TUF1 : Turners Falls,Mass., 28.5, 1888, 9 A.M.
UTI1 : Utica,N.Y., 20.5. 1905. 11.30 A.M., Machine
WDC1 : Washington,D.C., 28.5, 1882, 2 P.M.
WDC2 : Washington,D.C., 25, 1883, 7.30 P.M.
WDC3 : Washington,D.C., 24.5, 1884, 3.30 P.M.
WDC4 : Wash.,D.C., 25.5, 1887, 10.30 P.M.
WDC5 : Wash.,D.C., 25.5, 1888, 5.30 P.M.
WDC6 : Wash.,D.C., 28, 1892,94, 1 A.M., 4 P.M.
WDC7 : Wash.,D.C., 27.5, 1895, 8 P.M.
WDC8 : Washington,D.C., 21.5, 1896, Machine, American Ty.42
(Year date at bottom of postmark)

Notes

All postmarks in black unless otherwise noted. All diameters are shown in millimeters. NYD = No year date shown in postmark.

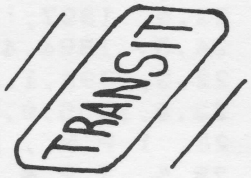
Figure 1 - Detroit,Mich.,1906. Transit Marking DET5 used as originating marking on post card, probably mailed from passing ship.





SPD 8





SPD 9

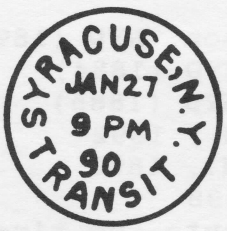




SPD 10



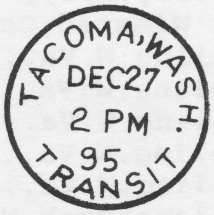
SYR 1



SYR 2



SYR 3



TAC 1



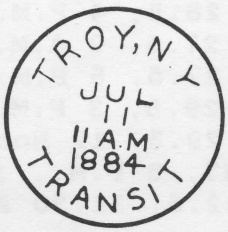
TOR 1



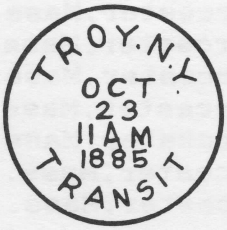
TRE 1



TRE 2



TRO 1



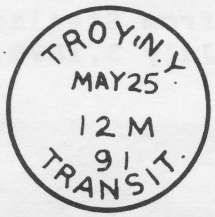
TRO 2



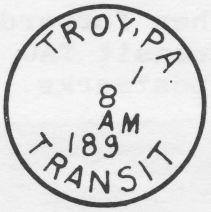
TRO 3



TRO 4



TRO 5



TRY 1



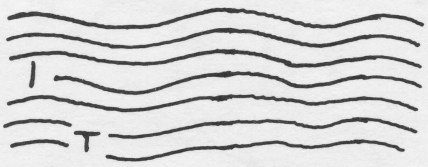
TUF 1



WDC 1

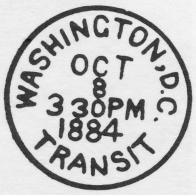


UTI 1





WDC 2



WDC 3



WDC 4



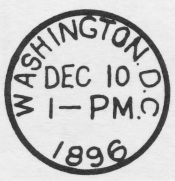
WDC 5

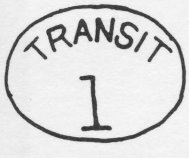


WDC 6



WDC 7





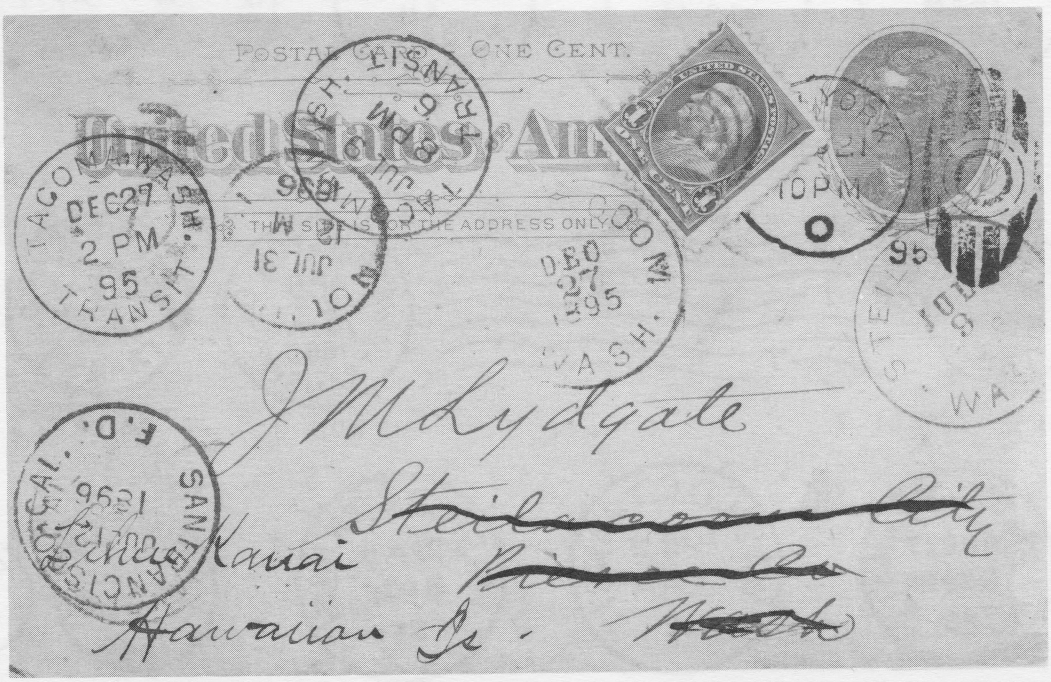
WDC 8

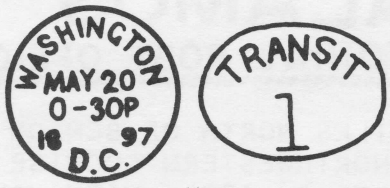
U.S.POST OFFICE "TRANSIT" POSTMARKS (continued)
Key to Post Office Transit Postmarks shown on Plate XII

WDC9 : Washington,D.C., 22.5, 1897,'1', Machine- American Ty. 42
WDC10 : Washington,D.C., 24.5, 1894,4 P.M.,'2', Machine-American Ty.41
WDC11 : Washington,D.C., 22.5,1898,1.30 P.M.'2',Machine-American Ty.42
WDC12 : Washington,D.C., 23.5,1905,9.30 P.M.'2',Machine-American,Ty.43
WTY1 : Waterbury,Conn., 28, 1 P.M., NYD, 1890's
WAY1 : Waynesburgh,Pa., 28.5, 7 P.M., 1887
WES1 : Westerly,R.I., 26.5, 3 P.M.,NYD, Banknote Period
WES2 : Westerly R.I., 28.5, 9 A.M., NYD, 1890's
WES3 : Westerly,R.I., 30, 6 P.M., 1891
WND1 : West Winsted,Conn., 29.5, 12 Noon, NYD (1890).
WHE1 : Wheeling,W.Va., 26.5, 8 P.M., NYD (1884)
WHE2 : Wheeling,W.Va., 27.5, 4 A.M., NYD (1885)
WHE3 : Wheeling,W.Va., 28.5, 11.30 A.M., 1892
WHE4 : Wheeling,W.Va., 27.5, 11.30 A.M., 1896
WHE5 : Wheeling,W.Va., 26, 12 Noon, 1898
WIL1 : Williamsburgh,Mass., 28.5, magenta, no time, 1889,1890
WMT1 : Williamsport,Pa., 27.5, 7 P.M., 1896
WDY1 : Woodbury,N.J., 29.5, No time, 1906
WOR1 : Worcester,Mass., 28.5, 4 P.M., NYD, 1880's
WOR2 : Worcester,Mass., 27.5, 9 A.M., 1893
WOR3 : Worcester,Mass., 27.5, 5 P.M., 1896
WOR4 : Worcester,Mass., 29.5, 3 P.M., 1905
WOR5 : Worcester,Mass., 29.5, 12 Noon, 1907
WOR6 : Worcester,Mass., 27, 3 P.M., 1888, Machine -Wesson (?)
WOR7 : Worcester,Mass., 22.5, 11.30 A.M., 1906, Machine-American Ty.43

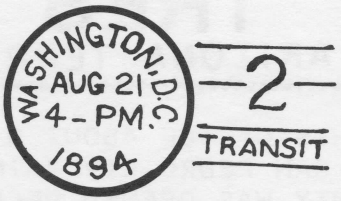
[For notes on listings see Key for Plate XI]

Figure 2 - Double usage!- Postal card UX 12, New York to Steilacoom, Wash. with a Tacoma, Wash. Transit TAC1, Dec. 27,1895. Recipient evidently kept 6 months, then forwarded from Steilacoom to Kauai, received a second Tacoma Transit TAC 1, July 3,1896, and San Francisco, Honolulu and Lihue postmarks.

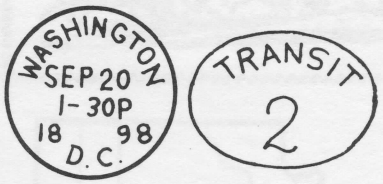




WDC 9



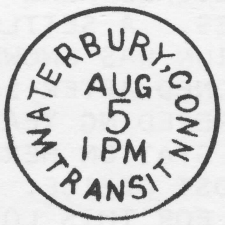
WDC 10



WDC 11



WDC 12



WTY 1



WAY 1



WES 1



WES 2



WES 3



WWD 1



WHE 1



WHE 2



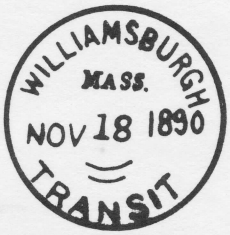
WHE 3



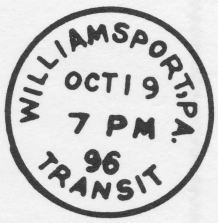
WHE 4



WHE 5



WIL 1



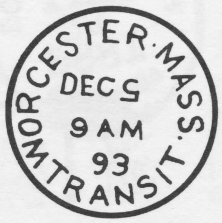
WMT 1



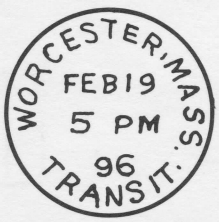
WOY 1



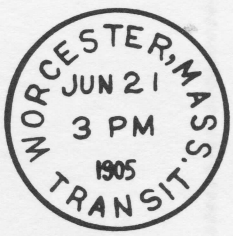
WOR 1



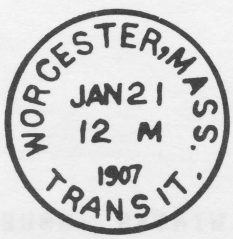
WOR 2



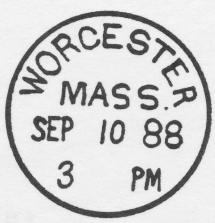
WOR 3



WOR 4



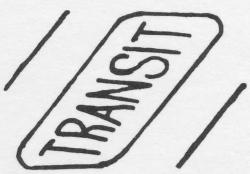
WOR 5



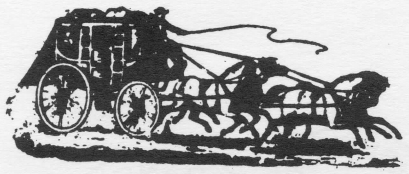


WOR 6

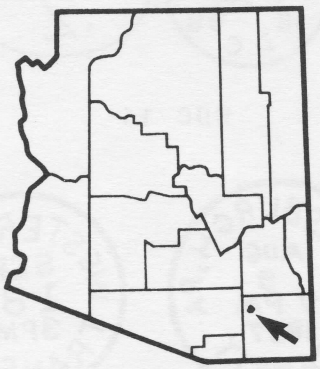




WOR 7



TRES ALAMOS
ARIZONA TERRITORIAL POST OFFICE



THIS OFFICE ABOUT 9 MILES NORTH OF BENSON ALONG THE SAN PEDRO RIVER IN NORTHWESTERN COCHISE COUNTY WAS OPENED DECEMBER 2, 1874, WITH JOHN MONTGOMERY AS POSTMASTER. THE NAME IS SPANISH FOR "THREE COTTONWOODS". AN ARMY PICKET WAS ESTABLISHED HERE IN 1867 BECAUSE OF TROUBLE WITH APACHES. A SETTLEMENT OF THIS NAME AT THIS LOCATION WAS KNOWN AS EARLY AS 1869 AND HAD BEEN ABANDONED AFTER SEVEN MEN HAD BEEN MURDERED IN THE PRECEDING YEAR. THOMAS DUNBAR OPERATED A STAGE STATION HERE AND HIRED MONTGOMERY TO RUN THE POST OFFICE. THIS EXPLAINS OCCASIONAL USE OF THE NAME "MONTGOMERY'S" FOR THIS LOCATION. HOWEVER, DUNBAR BECAME POSTMASTER ON AUGUST 30, 1875 AND SERVED UNTIL THE OFFICE WAS CLOSED SEPTEMBER 15, 1886, THE MAIL THEN GOING TO BENSON.

RECORDS SHOW ROUTE 40133, WHICH WAS OPERATED BY J. KIMBALL FROM JUNE 15 TO DECEMBER 31, 1881, MADE THE TRIP ONCE A WEEK FROM BENSON. IN 1886, WHEN THE OFFICE WAS CLOSED, IT WAS ON ROUTE 40124, FOR WHICH J. B. COLEGROVE APPARENTLY HAD BEEN CONTRACTOR SINCE NOVEMBER 11, 1882 AT AN ANNUAL RATE OF ABOUT $745.

ONLY A CUT-OUT OF THE POSTMARK OF THIS OFFICE IS SHOWN, SINCE AN ENTIRE COVER IS NOT AVAILABLE.



FFN

COLLECTING VARIATIONS OF POSTAL HISTORY
(a) GENEALOGICAL COLLECTIONS

by Charles L. Towle

As previously outlined in our "goals for "The HELIOGRAPH", we will attempt to introduce from time to time in these pages, auxiliary fields in postal history collecting which will vary in interest and difficulty.

Genealogical postal history collecting encompasses a very broad scope- from most difficult to fairly easy. The basis of this field is assembling, researching, describing and, even possibly exhibiting, postal history collections based on one's family name, or also possibly names connected with your family throughout history by marriage or association. The types of material collected, as will be seen, vary widely- with stamps, covers, post cards, corner cards, letters or postal material all being possible collectibles.

If one is named Smith or Miller the task is fairly simple- if it is Dalrymple or Towle, it tends to become much more difficult (and expensive). The incident that triggered my collecting this field is discussed on the front cover of this issue. Since then I have acquired a respectable number of association items. The single asset of a "difficult" name is that the so-called family tree has very few branches from the parent trunk. One fascinating aspect of this collecting field is that when it becomes known to your philatelic friends, they start picking up items with your family name and sending them to you and, with gratitude, I have received quite a few letters this way.

I will outline some of the associations and usages I have uncovered, along with samples of quite a few different types.

Fortunately for me, the Towle family, which apparently began in the United States about 1650, when Phillip Towle, from Cornwall, England, settled on a farm near Hampton, N.H., married Isabella Austin, Nov. 19,1657, and had four sons- Philip, Caleb, and the twins, Joseph and Benjamin, always seemed inclined towards the transportation business. Most prominent in the collecting area were two letter delivery companies in Boston- W.R.Towle & Co., and Cheever & Towle.

Oddly enough, about 1927 the kid in the next seat to me in Thayer Academy's English classes was Jon Cheever. He was expelled from Thayer for smoking in the parking lot, but grew up to be one of the greatest authors in our country.

Information on these New England letter delivery and express companies has always been rather scarce and would provide a fine research field for a young aspiring postal historian. William R. Towle & Co., according to the Boston Postmark Book, was the leading private local post in Boston from 1846 to 1851. Towle operated out of two offices, 7 State Street, and apparently later, 10 Court Square. No local stamps are known, but six different types of handstamps were employed over the years, varying in size and wording. (See Boston Postmarks to 1890 by Blake and Davis, Plate 27). Most usages are local and handstamps are very rare on cover with other postmarks or stamps. The handstamps, always in red, are frequently accompanied by a red 'PAID' on the cover. Three types of Towle & Co. handstamps are illustrated; Fig. 1, the small oval used in 1848, Fig. 2- the large oval State St. Oct.2, 1850 with red PAID, and Fig. 3 - the large oval, 10 Court

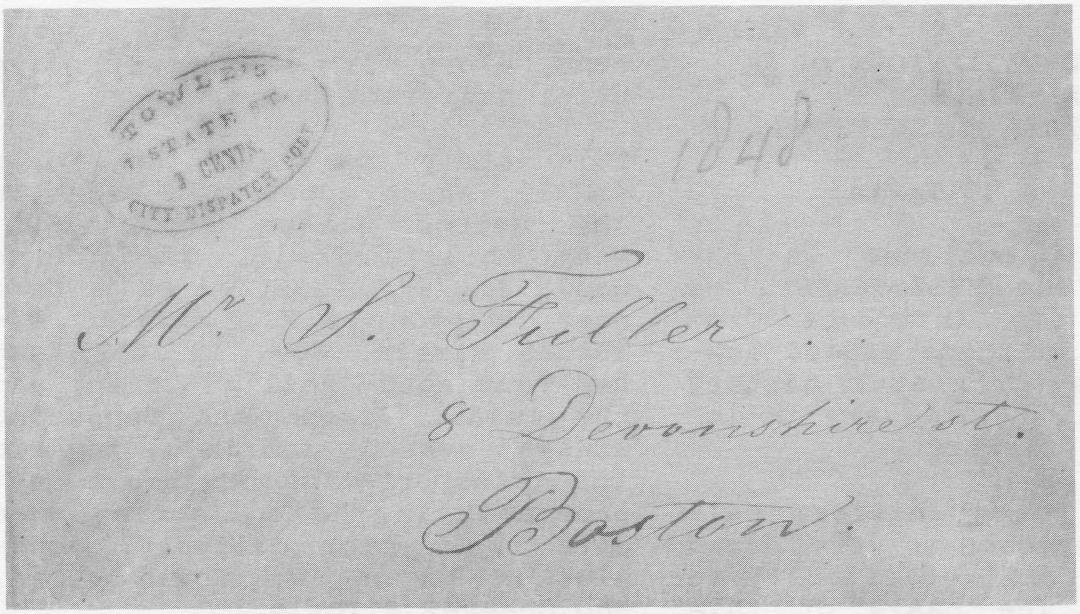


Figure 1
Towle's
City
Dispatch
Post

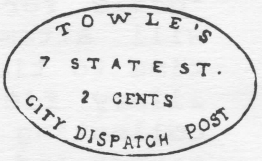
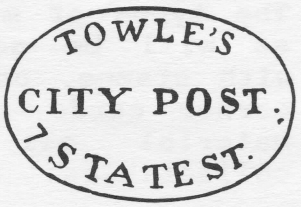




Figure 2
Towle's
City Post
7 State St.



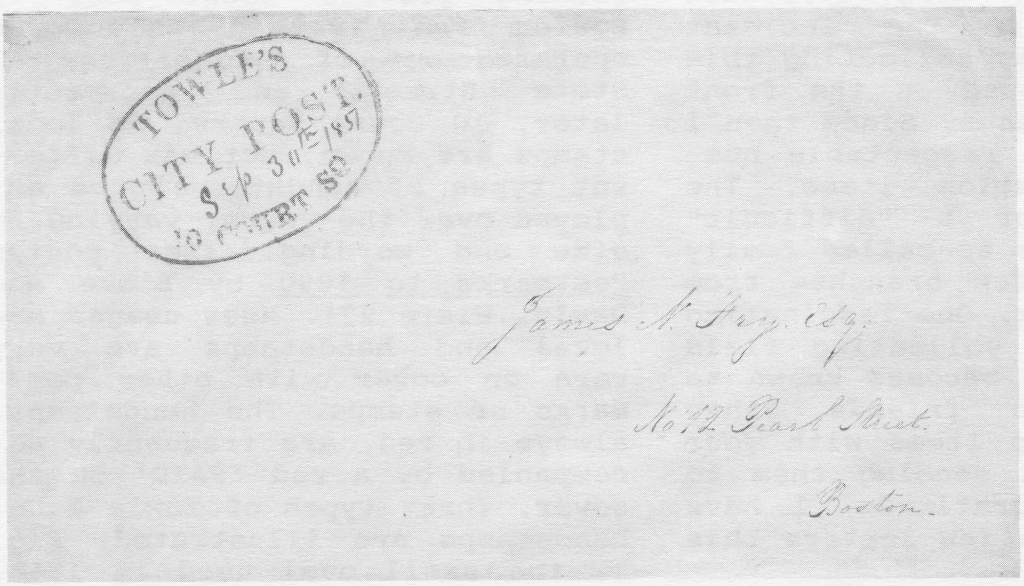
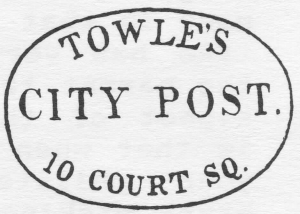


Figure 3
Towle's
City Post
10 Court
Square



Sq., with script Sept. 30, 1851. W.R.Towle & Co. was reported as sold to George H. Barker in 1851, who continued in business under his name at 10 Court Square, and then at 34 Court Sq. until 1858.

Much less is known about Cheever & Towle, who operated a city delivery post at 7 State St. Their two cent local stamps on cover are, in all cases I have seen, unpostmarked on the cover, and are usually found on covers to towns outside of Boston. The local stamp evidently paid the fee from pick-up point to the post office, but apparently the letters were carried directly and did not move through any central office for postmarking. Figure 4 shows such a cover to Providence, R.I.with 3 cent 1852 claret stamp tied by Boston fancy PAID and postmarked Boston, Mass. Feb. (?) in red. The local stamp of 1849, Scott 37L1, 2 cent blue is quite rare and should be authenticated as an original printing. The original stamps were printed on a thin wove paper in blocks of 20 (4x5) by woodblock. Stamps were sold singly for 2 cents each, or at sixty for a dollar. Many reprints exist in every color imaginable, but mostly they are on heavier paper. Fig. 5 shows the reprint in a sheet portion of 10.

The operations of this company are somewhat of a mystery, including the problem of the unpostmarked local stamps. Some evidently think it was a special branch of W.R.Towle to handle the letters only to Boston post office. Cheever & Towle was also sold to George H. Barker in 1851, offering the most likely proof of a connection with W.R.Towle & Co.

The Towle family name became rather common throughout New England in the next 300 years, especially in Maine and New Hampshire. Members of the Towle family held many postmasterships at such small towns as Lee and Wadleys Falls in N.H., and Lincoln in Maine. (See Figure 6).

Evidences turn up in quite a few collectible forms such as- Fig.7- an attractive carriage and sleigh company 1865 corner card of "Littlefield & Towle" at Saco, Me.; a nice 1904 corner card in Figure 8 of the E.H.Towle & Co. of Waterbury, Ct., marketing the unusual combination of athletic goods, bicycles, talking machines and records! Figure 9 shows a fine registered cover of 1907 from Boston To Brockton, Mass. with the corner card of Towle & Fitzgerald, stock brokers of Boston. (Continued next issue).

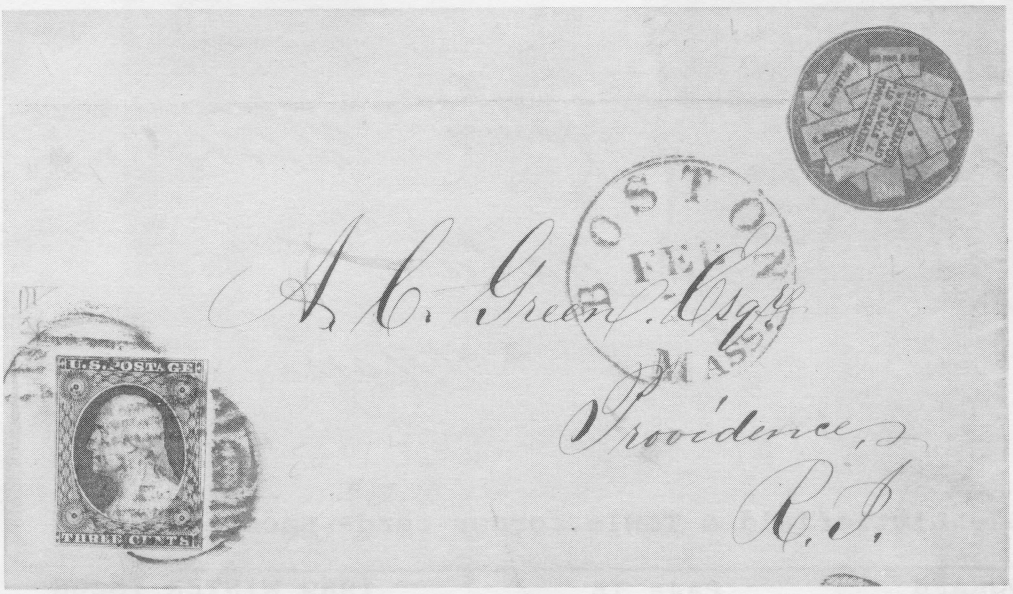
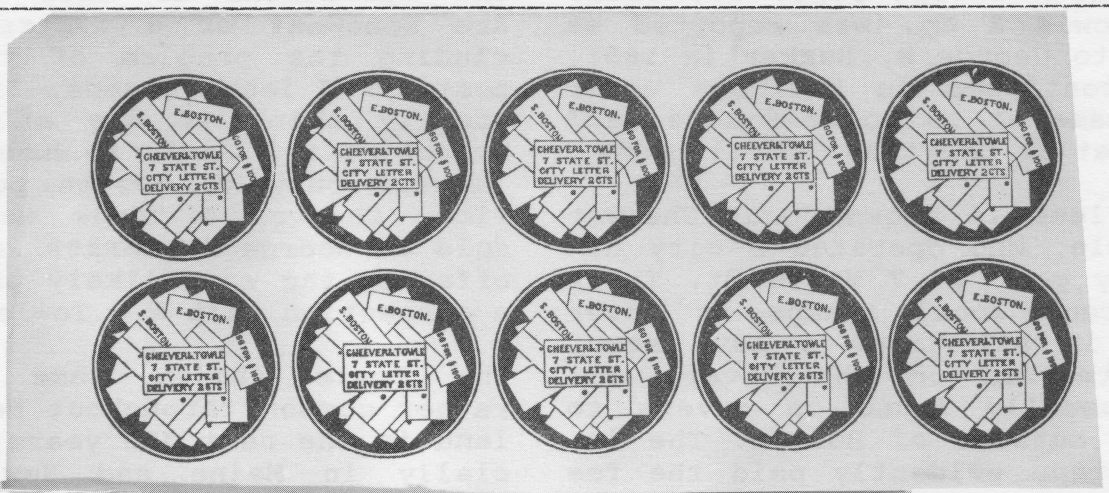


Figure 4

Figure 5 - Cheever & Towle City Delivery Local Post 2 cent stamp reprint in partial sheet of ten.



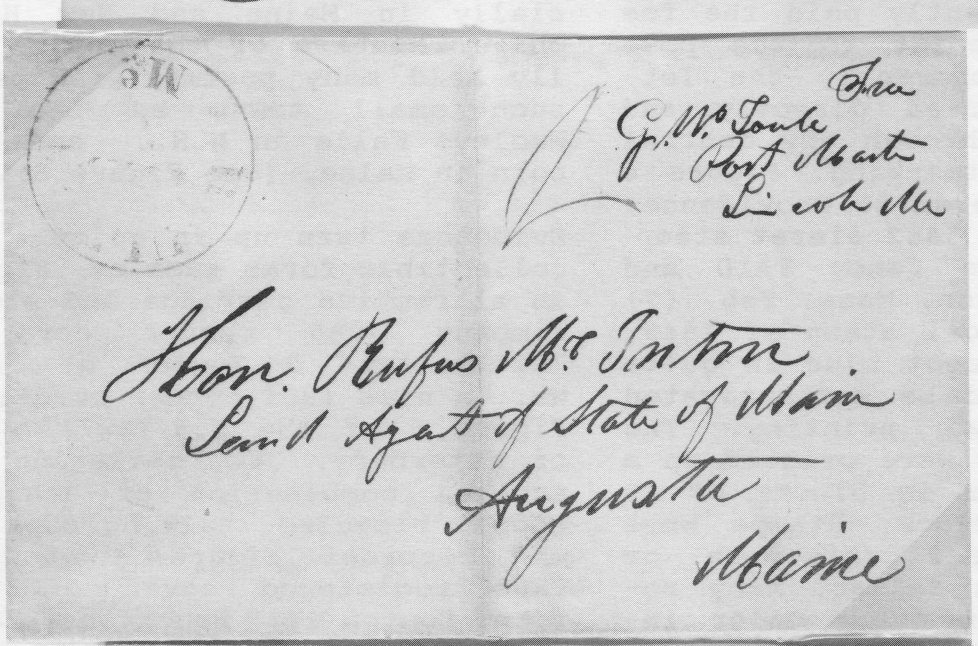


Figure 6
Free frank of postmaster G.W.Towle, Lincoln,Me. Feb. 3,1840 Blue Houlton Postmark

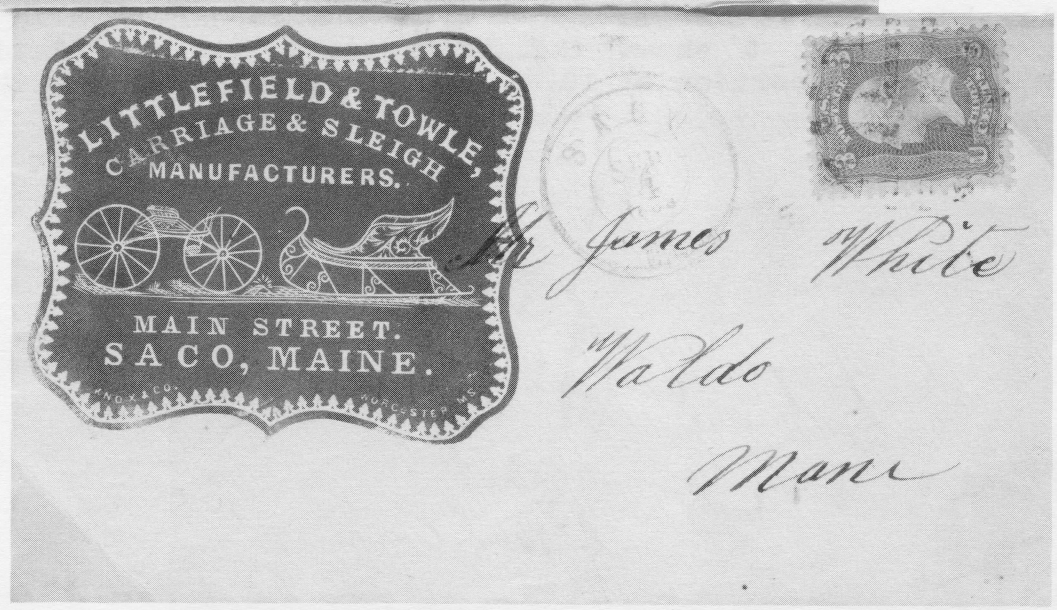
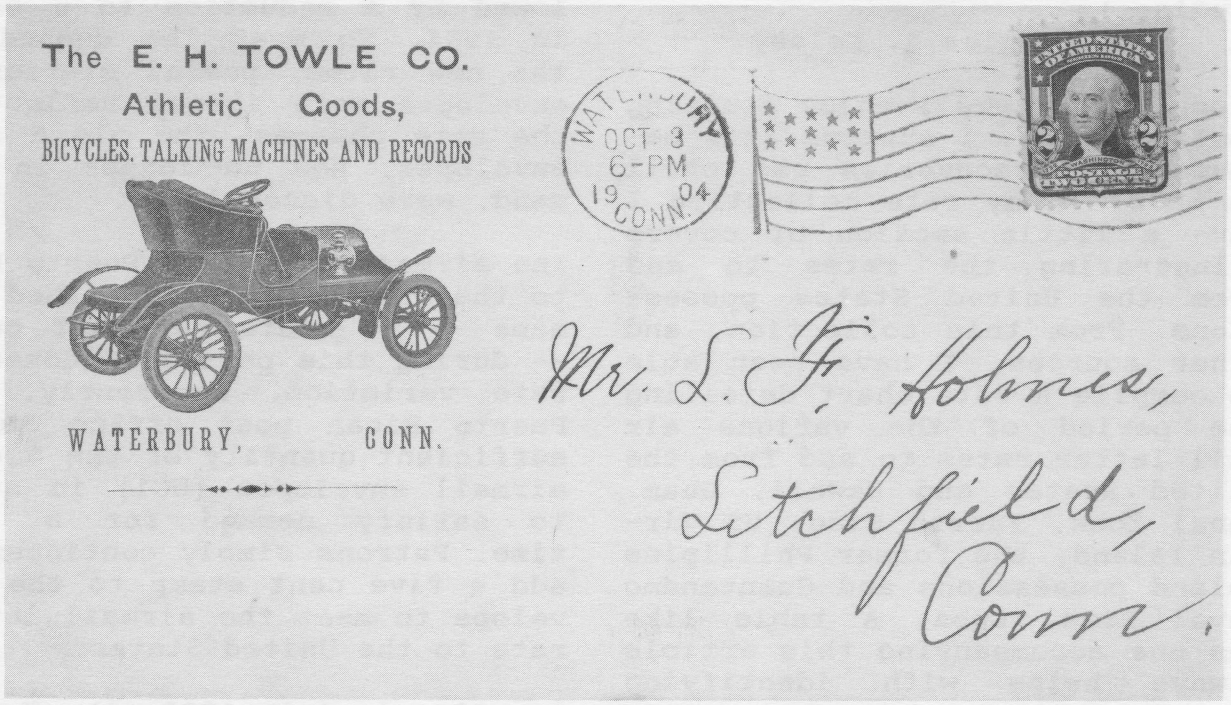


Figure 6 - Littlefield & Towle corner card- Saco, Me.,1865

Figure 8 - Corner card of the E.H.Towle Co., Waterbury, Conn. with illustration of an old automobile. 1904 Waterburg flag cancel.



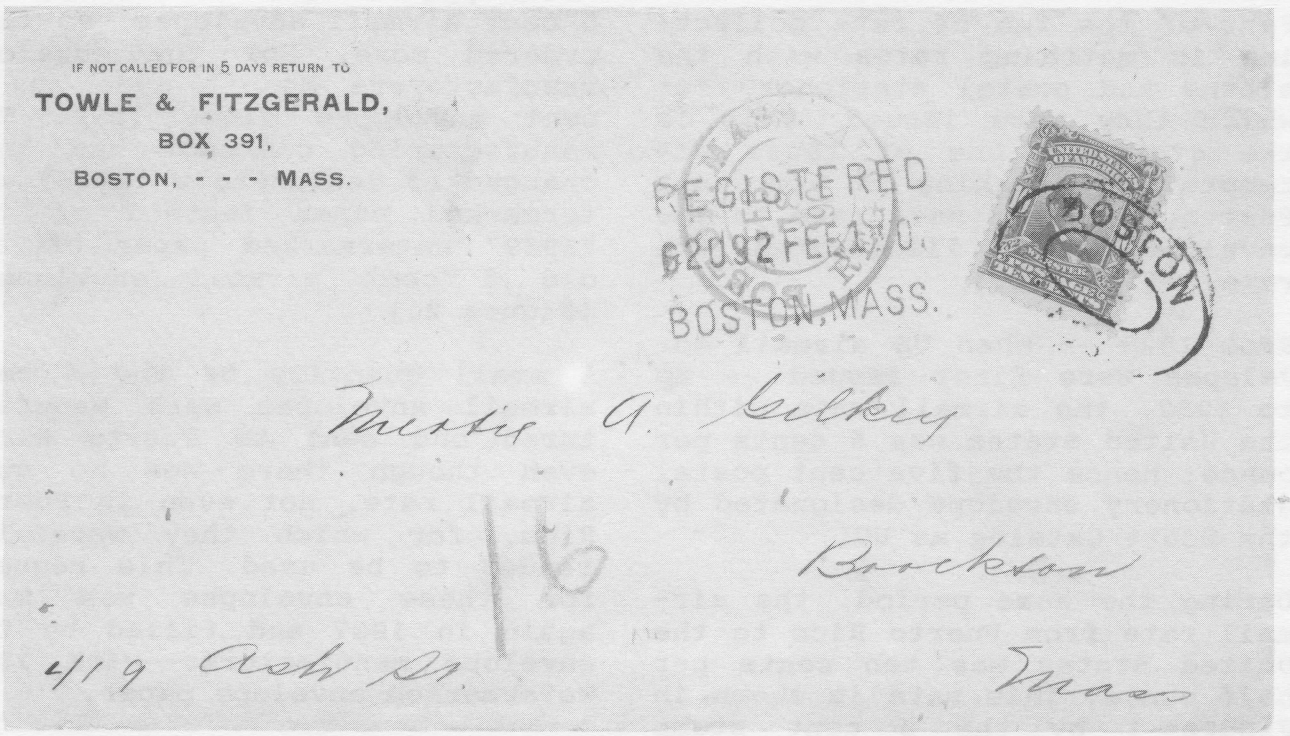


Figure 9 - Registered cover, Boston to Brockton, Mass.Feb. 19, 1907 with corner card of Towle & Fitzgerald, stock brokers. Boston three line blue registry marking, red double circle Boston postmark and black double oval Boston killer tying stamp.

THE RAREST AIRMAIL ENVELOPES
(Or, What I Learned From Rate Studies.)
by Douglas A. Kelsey

I don't kmow why I enjoy studying postage rates. I suppose it's because new discoveries can still be made. In my rate collection I have a little section of covers illustrating the rates to and from the United States possessions. From this collection, and other sources, I have been able to compile a rate chart detailing the period of the various air mail letter rates to and from the United States and Hawaii, Guam, Canal Zone, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Island, the former Phillipine Island possessions and Guantanamo Naval Base, Cuba. A table like the one accompanying this article always helps with identifying those elusive rate covers.

Part of the fun of rate collecting is matching rates with the stamps and postal stationery for which they were issued. This is the story of one of those attempts of matching a ten cent Puerto Rican air mail rate to the envelope which illustrated the rate. (Figure 1.)

From 1929 -- when US airmail envelopes were first issued -- up to 1932, the airmail rate within the United States was 5 cents per ounce; hence the five cent postal stationery envelope designated by the Scott Catalog as UC1.

During the same period, the airmail rate from Puerto Rico to the United States was ten cents per half ounce. This rate is shown in Figure 1 by the 5 cent stamp added to the UC1 envelope.

Puerto Rico, a possession of the United States since 1898, had a postal service that was that was the same as, and an integral part of, the U.S. Post Office Department. Only the postage rates were different.

In 1932 the US domestic air mail rate was raised to 8 cents, followed by a reduction to 6 cents in 1934. To meet the demand of the new rates, postal stationery envelopes were issued reflecting the rate changes. The old 5 cent envelopes, now no longer in demand, were discontinued.

The airmail rate from Puerto Rico to the United States remained the same -- 10 cents per half ounce -- during this period of domestic rate variation. Apparently, the Puerto Rican post office had a sufficient quantity of the 5 cent airmail envelopes (UC1) in stock to satisfy demand for a long time. Patrons simply continued to add a five cent stamp to the envelope to meet the airmail letter rate to the United States.

Sometime in late 1935, the Puerto Rican post office ran out of the 5 cent airmail envelopes, so they ordered more. But the envelope manufacturers hadn't made any 5 cent envelopes since 1932. The manufacturing contract had been changed to designate a "1933" watermarked paper instead of the "1929" watermarked paper of the old 5 cent airmail envelopes. (Figure 2.)

A small quantity of the 5 cent airmail envelopes were manufactured and sent to Puerto Rico, even though there was no such airmail rate, not even in Puerto Rico, for which they were intended to be used. This request for these envelopes was made again in 1937 and filled by the envelope manufacturer--with 1937 watermarked envelope paper.

Today, very few of the Scott UC1 envelopes with 1933 and 1937 watermarked paper are known. They are listed in the Scott US Specialized Catalog without a price, or with a price in italics. Only approximately 65 envelopes with the 1933 watermark have been

recorded. They come in two different sizes with two different red and blue borders. My records indicate only one envelope with the 1937 watermark, although I believe there must be more out there for the knowledgeable treasure hunter.

I'm at a loss to explain why these envelopes are so rare since those I've seen have a preprinted Puerto Rican corner card of a couple of businesses. A minimum quantity for this printed corner card by the envelope manufacturer was 500. Perhaps it is another case of these residing in collections without their owners knowing the value of what they have.

Now that I have told this little story, you can see for yourself how rate collecting can lead to important discoveries -- how the interaction between rate changes and stamp or postal stationery issuances can make postal history gems for the informed collector.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

UNITED STATES AIR MAIL RATES TO AND FROM UNITED STATES POSSESSIONS. (All rates per half-ounce or fraction therof.) FIGURE 1

HAWAII

Nov.22,1935-Apr.20,1937	= 25	cents
Apr.21,1937-Jan.14,1945	= 20	"
Jan.15,1945-Sep.30,1946	= 15	"
Oct.1,1946 -	= 5	"

GUAM

Nov.22,1935-Apr.20,1937	= 50	cents
Apr.21,1937-Jun.4,1945	= 40	"
Jun.5,1945 -Sep.30,1946	= 35	"
Oct.1,1946-	= 5	"

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

Nov.22,1935-Apr.20,1937	= 75	cents
Apr.21,1937-Sep.30,1946	= 50	"
Oct.1,1946-	= 5	"

CANAL ZONE

Feb.4,1929- Mar.19,1929	= 27	cents
Mar.20,1929-Dec.31,1929	= 25	"
Jan.1,1930- Nov.30,1937	= 20	"
Dec.1,1937- Mar.31,1945	= 15	"
Apr.1,1945- Sep.30,1946	= 10	"
Oct.1,1946-	= 5	"

PUERTO RICO

Jan.9,1929- Mar.19,1929	= 12	cents
Mar.20,1929-Jan.14,1945	= 10	"
Jan.15,1945-Sep.30,1946	= 8	"
Oct.1,1946-	= 5	"

US VIRGIN ISLANDS

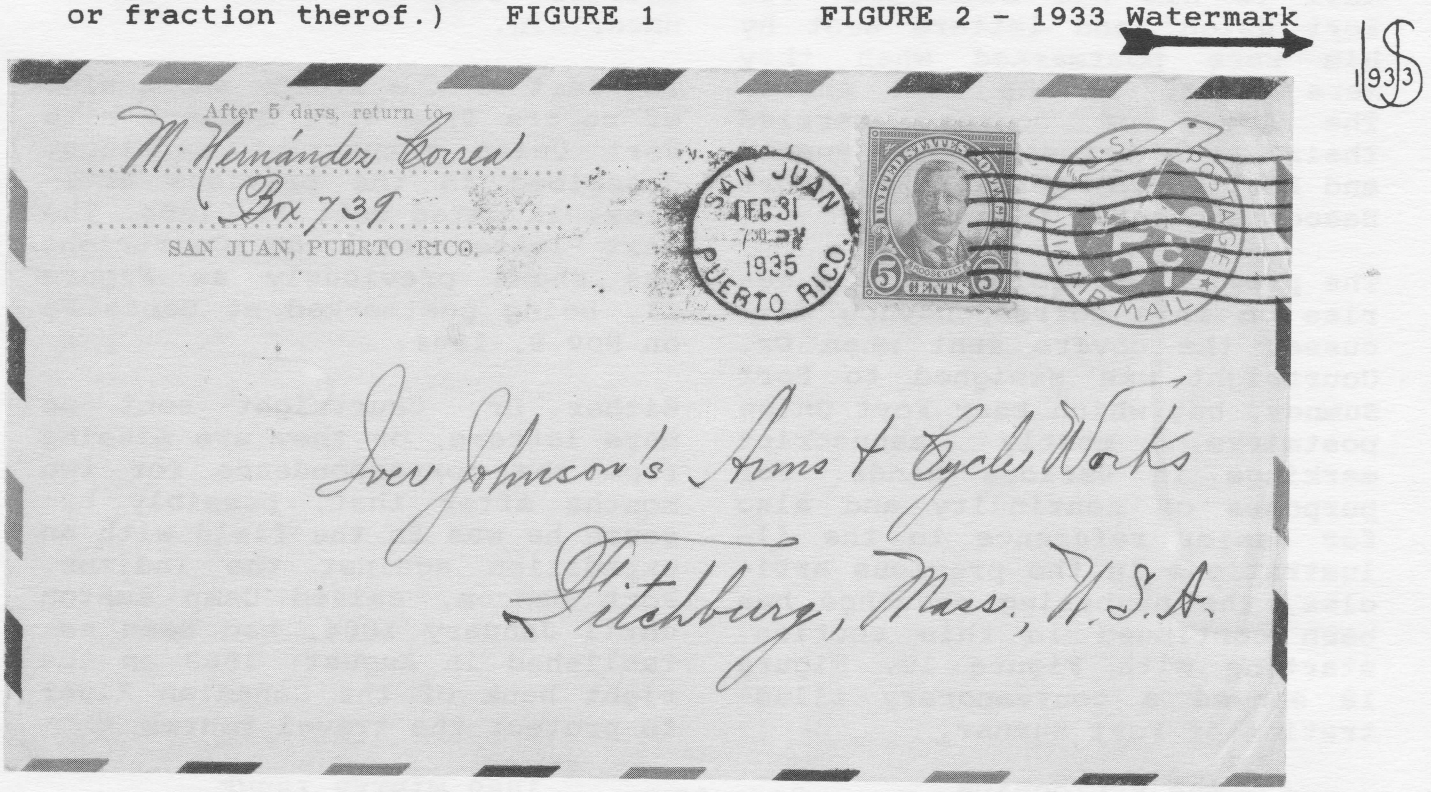
Sep.20,1929-Jan.14,1945	= 10	cents
Jan.15,1945-Sep.30,1946	= 8	"

US NAVAL STATION, GUANTANAMO BAY,

Dec.1,1937- Sep.30,1946	= 10	cents
Oct.1,1946-	= 5	"

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

FIGURE 2 - 1933 Watermark



THE COURTRIGHT-STEVENS CORRESPONDENCE FORTS BASCOM AND CRAIG, NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

by Richard B. Graham

The HELIOGRAPH for Fall,1987 and Winter,1988, issues, featured a two part article on the Courtright - Stevens correspondence between a Civil War surgeon assigned in Oct.,1863 to U.S.Army duty in New Mexico Territory and his supposed fiancee in southern Ohio.

The correspondence, which contains covers sent in both directions but has no enclosed letters, is, however, well docketed on the envelopes received by the surgeon, at least, so that the correspondence can be dated and the origins, often at other posts than where Dr. Courtright's letters entered the mails and were postmarked, can be identified.

Originally, Dr.Courtright had been assigned to Fort Sumner, New Mexico Territory, (See Figure 3), which had no post office, so that mail to him was addressed "Via Fort Union" and letters sent by him were postmarked when they were placed in the mail there. The Army, of course, carried their mail between Fort Sumner and Fort Union, possibly via Fort Bascom en route. (See map)

The previous articles in this series on this correspondence discussed the covers sent when Dr. Courtright was assigned to Fort Sumner, but which bear Fort Union postmarks, mostly manuscript markings in various hands. For purposes of continuity and also for easier reference to the illustrations in the previous articles, the numbering sequence has been continued in this section, starting with Figure 19. Figure 18 showed a contemporary illustration of Fort Sumner.

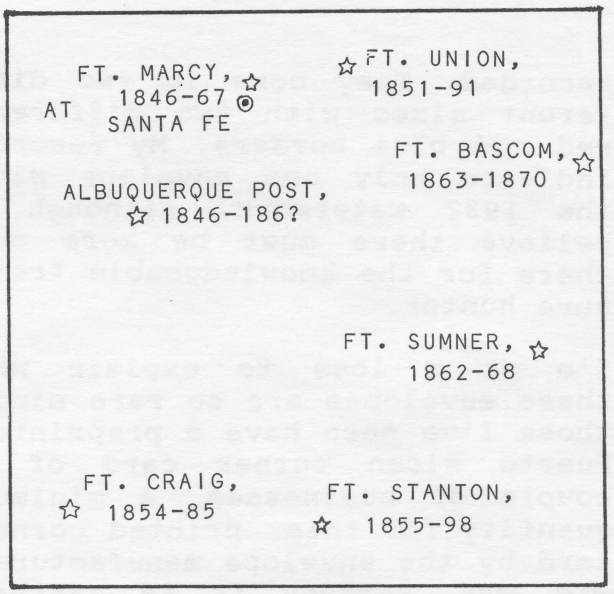


Figure 3- Sketch-map showing the relationships of the military posts in New Mexico Territory while Dr. Courtright was assigned there, 1863-1865.

Dr.Courtright was at Fort Sumner, with his mail passing through Fort Union, on the Santa Fe trail to the East, from early December, 1863 until October, 1864 when he was either sent on a field expedition or was transferred to Fort Bascom, and his location, probably constantly changing, between October, 1864 and March 1865, is uncertain.

The last of the steady succession of covers from Fort Sumner, with Fort Union manuscript markings, described in the previous articles, is dated Oct. 11, 1864. The next letter sent by Courtright was shown previously as Figure 11, being postmarked at Santa Fe on Nov.9, 1864.

Either Dr. Courtright sent no more letters, or they are missing from the correspondence for two months after that, possibly because he was in the field with an expedition against the Indians. Fort Bascom, called Camp Easton until January 1864, had been established in August, 1863 on the right bank of the Canadian River to protect the travel routes

across central New Mexico, such as the trail from Fort Smith,Ark. (held by the Confederates until Sept. 1, 1863) to Santa Fe. Fort Sumner had been established in November 1862 on the left bank of the Pecos River at the Bosque Redondo to guard Apache and Navajo prisoners. It was located just south of the present town of Fort Sumner, but neither of the New Mexican forts existed as an Army post after 1870.

The Indian campaigns in which the forts, and, probably, Dr.Courtright, were involved are covered relative to correspondence and reports in Vols.XLI and XLVIII (consecutive numbers 83-6 and 101-2) of The Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies in the War of the Rebellion, usually called the "Civil War ORA," and I have found that material interesting reading as compared with historians' accounts.

In any case, if Dr. Courtright was in the field between mid-October, 1864 and mid-March, 1865, when he arrived at Fort Craig, it would account for the fact that the correspondence has but four covers sent by Dr. Courtright during that period, when he wrote at least twice a month from both Fort Sumner, before and Fort Craig to which he was apparently assigned in March, after the period involved.

Those covers include a cover from Santa Fe, previously mentioned, two covers postmarked at Fort Union, with a handstamped c.d.s. and another cover from Santa Fe, dated February 7, before he again wrote from Fort Craig on March 13, 1865.

The first of the two covers postmarked at Fort Union in January, this on the 9th, was shown as Fig.9 in the previous articles as an example of Todsen type 8 Fort Union handstamp, as given in his New Mexico Territorial Postmark Catalog (S.H.Dike Memorial 9th Edition), published by Dr.Todsen in 1986, with a supplement the same year. The second cover is shown here as Figure 19, also with the Todsen type 8 marking but dated Jan.31,(1865).

Courtright sent the last cover we have from him during this period of apparent movement in the field, shown in Figure 20, and mailed from Santa Fe on February 7 (1865). The marking on the first Santa Fe cover of this period when Dr. Courtright was "moving around" is dated Nov. 9, (1864) and, (see Fig. 11 in previous section) is Todsen's Santa Fe type 6, for which he had previously reported latest date of use as Nov. 23, 1863. The marking on the cover shown as Figure 20 is Todsen Type 11, for which he shows reported usages only in 1860 and 1861, but this usage is from 1865.

Many collectors believe that each new type of postmark hammer relegated its predecessor to oblivion, but, particularly in post offices that could have received large amounts of mail on the day mails were to be dispatched, it is not unusual to see the occasional usage of an old type postmarker that would have seemingly been long discarded. The reason for such use was usually so that several people could work the mail at the same time.

Under the P.L.& R. of the early stamp period, stamps were supposed to be cancelled on the day letters were received by the post offices, but dated town postmarks were not supposed to be applied until the day the mails were sent out. Also in 1859-60, use of the townmark to cancel the stamp became forbidden by regulation, a separate cancel being required.

This, other than causing two separate operations on each letter, was easily complied with until the introduction of the duplex combined townmark and killer in the mid-1860's, which combined townmark and killer into one device.

However, the Todsen type 11 marking wasn't duplexed, as may be seen from the cover shown in Fig. 20, although I suspect the type 12, also a double circle type, introduced in October, 1864 was duplexed.

In any case, I believe that the covers sent by Courtright, mid-November, 1864, to mid-March, 1865, with postmarks of Santa Fe and Fort Union, were sent into those posts from the field or, perhaps, Fort Bascom.

The letters sent by Miss Stevens to Courtright during this period shed a small amount of light on his situation, although the fact that he was a long time in getting most of them probably shows that his plans were changed at times. Which is to say, his instructions to Miss Stevens on where to address his letters didn't prove to be of much help, although the situation certainly did produce several interesting covers.

At the end of this article in the next issue, I will list the letters in this correspondence going bothways at this time, and will include the address as well as where and when the westbound letters were forwarded when available, and also Dr.Courtright's docketing as to when and where he received them. He was, bless him, quite meticulous in this respect.

The covers addressed to Courtright that subsequently were forwarded from Fort Union with the unusual Todsen Fort Union type 6 (which apparently never displayed more than the the month and year in the date logos, although these usages are "MAR./1865" and the example shown in Todsen's catalog has a "JUN./1866" date).

Therefore the problem wasn't that the month was a permanent part of the instrument, and it is possible that the instrument was furnished without the date slugs so that others, not fitting well, were used. If the date slugs were a little bit too long, this would account for the majority of the strikes showing the date and outer circle but not the "Fort Union" name clearly.

The covers forwarded from Fort Union to Fort Craig after Dr. Courtright left Fort Sumner were discussed in the Winter, 1988 issue of the **HELIOGRAPH**, but mainly from the viewpoint of the Fort Union markings, and the fact that Dr. Courtright apparently left money at Fort Union or Fort Sumner to prepay the forwarding of his mail, even though this wasn't necessary if he was transferred in accordance with official orders.

From the cover addresses provided by Miss Stevens and the detail of the forwarding, including dates received at Fort Craig, it is apparent that she was mostly unaware of her friend Doctor's location during most of this period. It took two or three weeks to transmit mail between Ohio and Fort Union, and usually at least another week was needed to send it between Fort Union, the "reception point" in New Mexico Territory of those coming down the Santa Fe trail and remote locations such as Fort Craig. Thus, there was no way that Dr.Courtright could have kept his correspondents posted as to his location, and I believe that he

simply sent money to the postmaster at Fort Union with a request that his mails be forwarded based upon current location, rather than sending it on to Fort Sumner.

The covers shown in Figs. 9 and 11 in previous sections of this record are believed to have been sent from either Fort Bascom or the field, to be mailed from Fort Union and Santa Fe, and the covers sent by Miss Stevens shown in Figs. 11 and 12 are both addressed to Fort Bascom, apparently in accordance with instructions given by Dr.Courtright.

Figures 21, 22 and 23 show three more of the covers addressed to Dr.Courtright by Miss Stevens. They were sent to Fort Bascom, but probably intercepted at Fort Union, readdressed and forwarded. The cover shown in Figure 21 was sent from Lebanon on Jan. 4, 1865; forwarded from Fort Union, redirected to Fort Craig and sent on in March, 1865 (day unknown) assuming the month is correct--transit time, as noted previously, was two or three weeks to Fort Union, but Dr.Courtright's mail may have been held there until the postmaster received notice where it was to be sent. In any event, Courtright received what may have been a very nice bundle of mail at Ft. Craig, New Mexico Territory (See Map Fig. 3) at the opposite area of the Territory, diagonally, on March 13. Or, perhaps, it was waiting for him, when he arrived there.

The cover shown in Figure 22 was postmarked at Lebanon, Ohio on Jan. 24, (1865); was redirected, presumably at Fort Union, in Mar. 1865 in "Care of the Ast.Adj.Gen. (Assistant Adjutant General)" who at the Army headquarters in the Territory was most likely to know Courtright's current location, and received by Dr. Courtright at Ft.Craig on April 10, 1865. The cover has the Todsen Ft.Union type 6 markings with "MAR./1865" date but has no "Pd 3" as do most of the other covers. However, it should have been forwarded free in any case, assuming that Courtright's travels were in accordance with official orders, and expeditions against the Indians at this time, or any other, were not exactly vacation trips.

The cover shown as Figure 23 was handled in a similar manner to that of Fig.21. It was postmarked at Lebanon on Feb. 7 (1865), has the usual Fort Union Type 6 marking dated "MAR./1865" and a manuscript "Pd.3" applied at Ft. Union, and was readdressed to Ft.Craig by marking out the "Bascom" in the address and substituting "Craig." Dr. Courtright docketed this cover as having been received on April 10, 1865.

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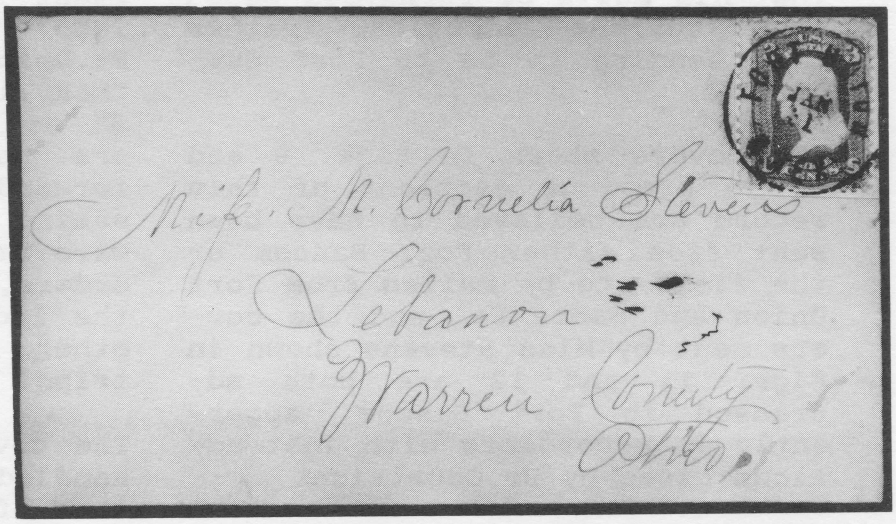


FIGURE 19 - The second of two covers sent by Dr.Courtright, in January, 1865. Although postmarked at Fort Union, he was probably at Fort Bascom or on a field expedition when he sent the letters. Not docketed.

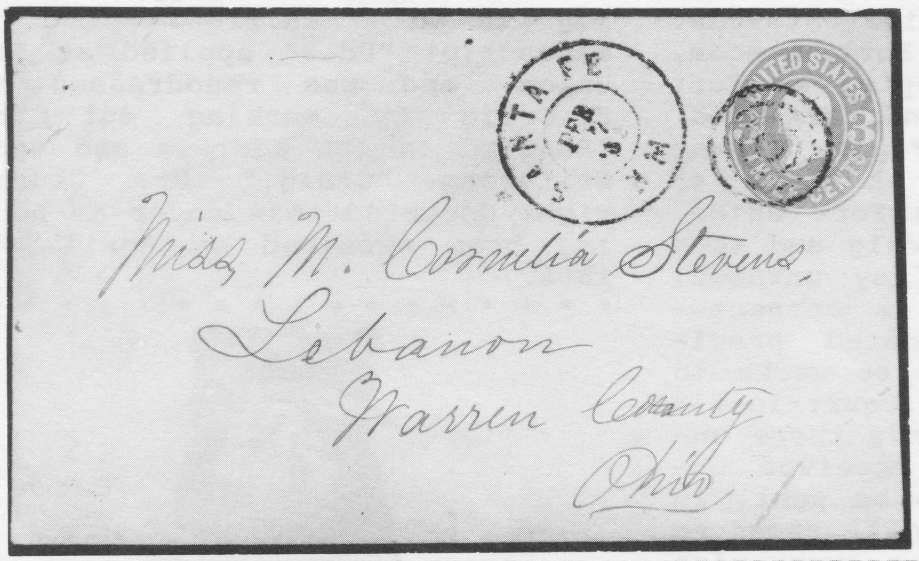


FIGURE 20- Although this cover is postmarked at Santa Fe, (Feb., 7, 1865) it was probably written far from there, while Dr. Courtright was in the field and sent with expedition dispatches to Santa Fe by military courier, Not docketed.

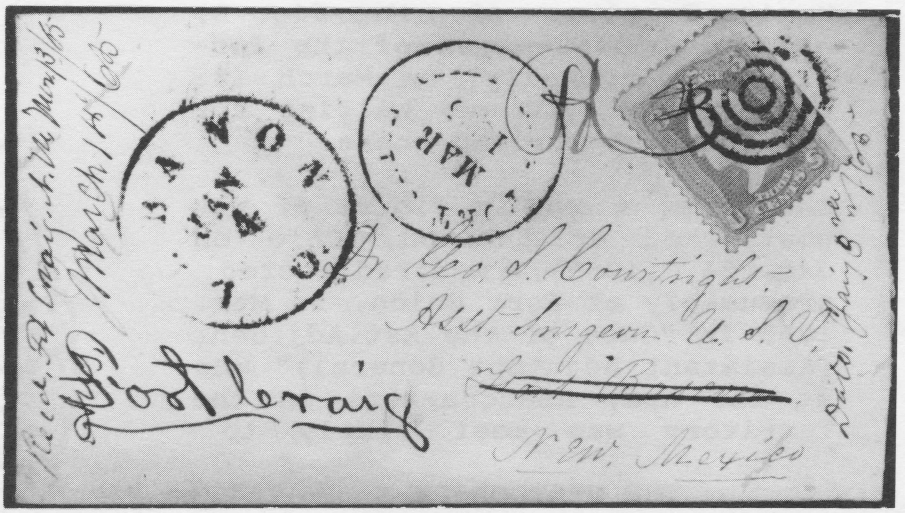


FIGURE 21- From Cornelia Stevens at Lebanon, Ohio, Jan.4, 1865 and addressed to Dr.Courtright at Fort Bascom, but he was obviously not at that location when the letter arrived at Fort Union. Redirected to Fort Craig, N.M. and postmarked with "Pd.3" in March at Ft.Union, the letter reached him on March 13, 1865 at Fort Craig.

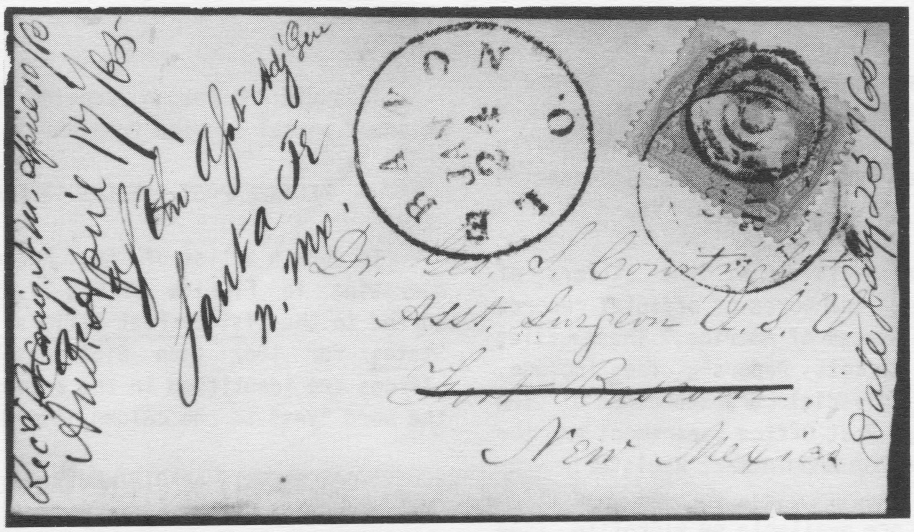
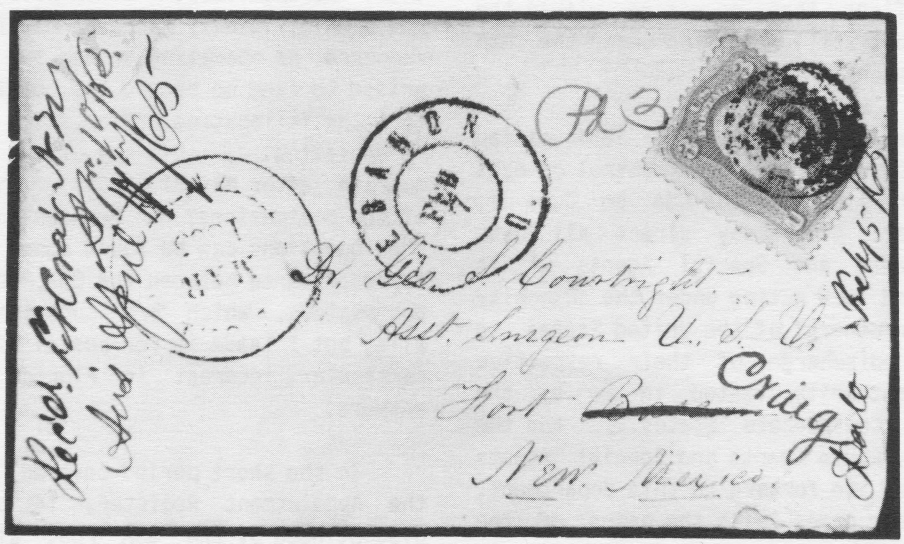


FIGURE 22 - Mailed at Lebanon, Ohio Jan. 24, 1865 and addressed to Fort Bascom, this cover was redirected at Fort Bascom or Fort Union in care of the Asssistant Adjutant General at Territorial army headquarters at Fort Marcy in Santa Fe, after being postmarked in March, 1865 at Ft.Union (illegible), on the stamp). It was received by Dr. Courtright at Fort Craig on April 10, 1865.

FIGURE 23 - From Lebanon, Ohio on Feb. 7,1865, but redirected to Fort Craig by marking out "Bascom" and substituting "Craig" in the address at Ft. Bascom, to where the cover was addressed, or Ft. Union, where it was postmarked in March with "Pd 3,". The cover was received by Dr. Courtright at Ft. Craig on April 10, 1865



The final article on Courtright-Stevens coorespondence will be in the 1989 Spring Issue of The HELIOGRAPH.

CONFEDERATE POST OFFICES IN FLORIDA

by Robert J. Stets

Have you ever heard someone say, "There's hardly any official information available about the Confederate post offices? That's not really true - there's a lot of official information available, but you have to search for it.

In the manuscript files of the Library of Congress are boxes and boxes of official records of the Confederate States of America. These files are called "The Pickett Papers". They include, among other things, official correspondence of the Confederate States Post Office Department and the first volume of the CSA Appointment Register.

These records are available on microfilm (see Bibliography) and to the dedicated postal historian who will sort through them, they contain a tremendous amount of official information about postal operations of the Confederate States of America.

In order to show what can be done with just a portion of those records - the 468-page Appointment Register, I have prepared the accompanying list of Confederate Post Offices in Florida for 1861-62.

REAGAN'S PROCLAMATION

After the Confederate States of America (CSA) Post Office Department (POD) was set up, Postmaster General (PMG) Reagan issued a proclamation to all post offices then operating within the seceeded states, but still operating under the USA Post Office Department.

That proclamation, dated 13 May, 1861 stated that the CSA POD would take over control of mail services within the limits of the CSA on June 1, 1861, and further: "I hereby direct all Postmasters, Route Agents and Special Agents within these States, and now acting under the authority of the Post-Master General of the United States to continue in the discharge of their respective duties under the authority vested in me by the Congress of the Confederate States.... and the said Post-Masters, Route Agents and Special Agents are also required to forward to this department, without delay, their names, with the names of the offices of which they are Post-Masters.... in order that new commissions may be issued under the authority of this government."

Thus did PMG Reagan provide for the transition of postal service from USA to CSA.

FEDERAL POST OFFICES IN FLORIDA

To obtain a list of the Federal postoffices operating in Florida on May 31, 1861, I have resorted to the List of Post Offices in the United States for 1862 (see Bibliography). These 154 offices are identified in the accompanying list by the word "yes" in the column headed "1861 USA".

CONFEDERATE APPOINTMENTS FOR FLORIDA

Next, I patiently scanned through the 468 pages of Volume 1 of the CSA Appointment Record in Box 98 of "The Pickett Papers" and copied down the information recorded there about Florida post offices.

There were 142 offices listed where a CSA postmaster was officially appointed up to March, 1862, when Volume 1 ends.

That list includes 17 post offices that were NOT operating on June 1, 1861 (three of these represent changes of name for existing offices).

THE RECORDS COMPARED

A comparison of the two records shows that up until March, 1862, no CSA postmaster appointment had been officially made for 27 of the 154 offices reported as operating on May 31, 1861! I was surprised to find no record of official appointment for the Tallahassee office,which was most certainly operating. Did any of the other 26 offices operate after May 31, 1861? What were the names of the postmasters? Perhaps answers to some of the questions can be found among the many pages of correspondence between the CSA POD and the various postmasters, which are contained in this huge file, but I leave it for postal historians with a particular interest in Florida to search for the answers.

In the short period covered by Volume 1 of the Appointment Register, 14 post offices were discontinued by the CSA POD, although three of these were caused by name changes, and one by moving the post office site into neighboring Alabama.

POST OFFICES IN FLORIDA 1861 - 62

POST OFFICE NAME	COUNTY	1861 USA	DATE CSA APPT	DATE CSA DISC	POSTMASTER NAME	NOTE
Abe's Spring	Calhoun	no	2/27/62		Lawson Whitfield	special office
Adamsville	Sumter	yes	11/12/61		John Adams	
Alafia	Hillsborough	yes	8/ 8/61		Antoine Wardehoff	
Almirante	Walton	yes	7/25/61		Norman A. Campbell	
"	"		9/25/61		Charles D. Campbell	in place of N. A. Campbell, resigned
Apalachicola	Franklin	yes	7/25/61		B. F. Simmons	
Archer	Alachua	yes	7/25/61		Donald R. McDonald	
Aspalaga	Gadsden	yes	7/25/61		H. J. Biles	
Atsena Otie	Levy	yes	7/25/61	2/21/62	J. G. Jenkins	name chg to CEDAR KEY, PM resigned
Aucilla	Jefferson	yes	7/25/61		Willie Thomas	
Austinville	Santa Rosa	yes				
Bailey's Mill	Leon	yes	7/25/61		J. V. F. Lloyd	
Baldwin	Duval	yes	7/25/61		Samuel Lowe	in place of A. J. Sweet, resigned
Bartow	Jackson	no	9/25/61		Wm. P. Boroum	newly established
Bay Port	Hernando	yes	7/25/61		W. W. Garland	
Bellville	Hamilton	yes	7/25/61		John H. Baker	
"	"		12/28/61		Darius M. Jackson	in place of John H. Baker, resigned
Benhaden	Wakulla	yes				
Benton	Columbia	yes				
Black Dirt	Levy	yes	11/14/61		A. E. Hodges	
Blount's Ferry	Columbia	yes	7/25/61		John Bryan	
Blue Creek	Liberty	yes	7/25/61		Washington R. Broadwell	
Bluff Springs	Escambia	no	7/25/61		S. S. Johnson	
Bristol	Liberty	yes	7/25/61		M. Strauss	
Bronson	Levy	yes	7/25/61		Nicholas S. Cobb	
"	"		1/11/62		Wm. R. Coulter	in place of N. S. Cobb, resigned
Brooksville	Hernando	no	9/15/61		M. M. Garrison	formerly PIERCEVILLE
Callahan	Nassau	yes	1/17/62		Jeremiah B. Smith	
Campbellton	Jackson	yes	7/25/61		T. D. Brantley	
Camp Izard	Marion	yes	7/25/61		Mary Ann Cruchfield	
Cane Brake	Holmes	yes	7/25/61	12/24/61	Lewis M. Pearce	site moved to Coffee Co, AL; new P.M.
Cedar Key	Levy	no	2/22/62		Charles Parsons	formerly ATSENA OTIE, new P.M.
Cedar Tree	Hernando	yes	8/ 8/61	10/12/61	Mrs. M. E. McDonald	i/p/o Jesse H.Tucker,resgn; To PATRICK
Centreville	Leon	yes	7/25/61		Charles H. Carr	
Cerro Gordo	Holmes	yes	11/12/61		Malcolm Gillis	
"	"		3/ 7/62		H. S. Hunter	in place of Malcolm Gillis, resigned
Chattahoochee	Gadsden	yes	7/25/61		W. C. Clark	
Cherry Lake	Madison	yes	7/25/61		Joseph L. Dutton	
China Hill	Gadsden	yes	7/25/61		M. N. Fletcher	
Clay Landing	Levy	yes				
Clearwater Harbor	Hillsborough	yes				
Clifton	Madison	no	?	10/ 7/61	not given	disc. order, but no record of apptmt.
Columbus	Suwannee	yes	7/25/61		Wm H. Watson	Columbia Co. in USA list
Concord	Gadsden	yes	7/25/61		W. C. Hendry	
Coon Hill	Santa Rosa	no	10/ 3/61		W. J. Williams	
Cork	Hillsborough	yes	11/12/61		Daniel Hughes	
Cottage	Marion	yes	8/ 8/61		James S. Smith	in place of W. F. Smith, resigned
"	"		1/11/62		Joseph H. Ringo	in place of J. S. Smith, resigned
Crystal River	Hernando	yes	8/12/61		John E. Allen	
Cuyler	Suwannee	no	9/25/61		Wm. H. Rousseau	newly established
Douglassville	Walton	yes	?	12/30/61	not given	disc. order, but no record of appntmt.
Durham	New River	yes	11/12/61		Durham Hancock	Columbia Co. in USA list
Econfina	Washington	yes				
Eight Mile	Walton	yes	7/25/61	12/30/61	Lewellin M. Robinson	
Ellisville	Columbia	yes	7/25/61		P. Sheffield	
Enterprise	Volusia	yes	7/25/61		Richard N. Jeffreys	
Etoniah	Putnam	yes	7/25/61		Nathan Norton	
Fayetteville	La Fayette	yes	8/ 8/61		John C. Moore	
Fen Holloway	Taylor	no	8/13/61		J. H. Sappington	not previously reported
"	"		1/17/62		J. A. J. Collins	in place of J. H. Sappington, resigned

POST OFFICES IN FLORIDA 1861 - 62

POST OFFICE NAME	COUNTY	1861 USA	DATE CSA APPT	DATE CSA DISC	POSTMASTER NAME	NOTE
Fernandina	Nassau	yes	7/25/61		Thomas Mc Millan	
"	"		1/17/62		James G. Swann	in place of T. McMillan, resigned
"	"		2/18/62		John Hedges	in place of J. G. Swann, resigned
Flemington	Marion	yes	7/25/61		Hamden A. Stanwood	
Fort Dade	Hernando	yes	7/25/61		Richard W. Buck	
"	"		10/ 2/61		George Stafford	in place of R. W. Buck, resigned
Fort Gates	Putnam	yes	10/ 2/61		K. R. Duke	
Fort Hamilton	Madison	no	7/25/61		Jeremiah W. Anderson	
Fort Jefferson	Monroe	yes				
Fort Meade	Polk	yes	7/25/61		Louis Lanier	Hillsborough Co. in USA list
Gainesville	Alachua	yes	7/25/61		S. F. Harwood	
Geigersville	Levy	no	9/25/61		John Stockman	newly established
Greenwood	Jackson	yes	7/25/61		James Hayes	
Hamburg	Madison	yes	10/ 5/61		William Brooks	
Hawkinsville	Orange	yes	7/25/61		Ellison H. Crow	
Hibernia	Clay	yes	7/25/61		Louis Fleming	Duval Co. in USA list
Hodgson's Distillery	Leon	yes	7/25/61		W. Fisher	
Homosassa	Hernando	no	10/18/61		Jacob A. Gerrard	not previously reported
"	"		1/31/62		John C. Rouse	in place of Jacob A. Gerrard, resigned
Houston	Suwannee	yes	7/25/61		L. Snodgrass	in place of C. Lassiter, resigned
"	"		8/13/61		John Hart	
Huntsville	Columbia	yes	7/25/61	12/30/61	W. H. Hunt	
Ichetucknee	Columbia	yes	7/25/61		C. Edgar W. Collins	
Indian River	Brevard	yes	7/25/61		James Paine	
"	"		12/28/61		Susan Russell	in place of James Payne, removed
Iola	Marion	yes				
Jackson's Bluff	Leon	no	3/20/62		James B. Hopkins	ordered re-established
Jacksonville	Duval	yes	7/25/61		William Grothe	
Jamonia	Leon	yes	?	11/12/61	none given	disc. order; no record of appntmt.
Jasper	Hamilton	yes	7/25/61		Stephen S. Smith	
Jennings	Hamilton	yes	3/25/62		George S. Jennings	
Key West	Monroe	yes	none		Henry Albury	always under USA POD, never under CSA
King's Ferry	Nassau	yes	7/25/61		David Jackins	
"	"		12/28/61		R. M. Gorman	in place of D. Jackson, deceased
Knox Hill	Walton	yes	7/25/61		Neil P. Campbell	
Lake Butler	New River	yes	7/25/61		Maxey D. Collison	
"	"		1/24/62		W. J. D. Prevatt	in place of Maxey D. Colson, resigned
Lake City	Columbia	yes	7/25/61		A. S. T. Wright	
Lake Griffin	Marion	yes	11/ 1/61		W. J. Alsobrook	Sumter Co. in USA list
Lake Harris	Sumter	yes	7/25/61		W. J. Ward	
Lewisville	Nassau	yes	7/25/61		Josiah A. Lewis	
Little River	Suwannee	yes	7/25/61		J. T. Mc Leran	Columbia Co. in USA list
Long Pond	Levy	yes	8/ 8/61		Thomas R. Compton	
Long Swamp	Marion	yes				
Madison C. H.	Madison	yes	7/25/61		Samuel J. Perry	
Magnolia Mills	Clay	yes	7/25/61		N. D. Benedict	Duval Co. in USA list
Manatee	Manatee	yes	7/25/61		James Williams	in place of N. P. Hunter, resigned
Mandarin	Duval	yes	7/25/61		John C. Brown	
Mariana	Jackson	yes	7/25/61		George F. Baltzell	
Mayport Mills	Duval	yes	11/12/61		Amanda Parsons	
McIntosh	La Fayette	yes	8/13/61	10/24/61	Wm. M. Hicks	in place of Wm. F. Bynum, resigned
McLellanville	Santa Rosa	yes				
McQueen	La Fayette	yes				
Mellonville	Orange	yes	7/25/61		W. A. Lovell	
Miami	Dade	yes				
Micanopy	Alachua	yes	7/25/61		Joseph T. Colding	in place of T. J. Leonard, resigned
Miccosukee	Leon	yes	7/25/61		R. M. Burney	
Middleburgh	Clay	yes	7/25/61		Thos. J. Braunnig	i/p/o John Haws,resgn; Duval Co.in USA
Midway	Gadsden	yes	7/25/61		John P. Johnson	
"	"		8/14/61		Wm. H. Bailey	in place of John P. Johnson, declined

POST OFFICES IN FLORIDA 1861 - 62

POST OFFICE NAME	COUNTY	1861 USA	DATE CSA APPT	DATE CSA DISC	POSTMASTER NAME	NOTE
Millwood	Jackson	yes	7/25/61		Joseph Irwin	
Milton	Santa Rosa	yes	7/25/61		James A. Chaffin	
Monticello	Jefferson	yes	7/25/61		C. A. Bradley	
Morrison's Mills	Alachua	yes	8/ 8/61		Calvin Waits	in place of J. W. Peacock, resigned
Mosely Hall	Madison	yes	7/25/61		O. E. Sullivan	
Mount Pleasant	Gadsden	yes	7/25/61		Jesse Wood	
New Boston	Suwannee	yes	7/25/61		D. W. Tedder	
Newnansville	Alachua	yes	7/25/61		A. M. Caston	in place of W. C. Caston, resigned
Newport	Wakulla	yes	7/25/61		Peter H. Swain	
New River	Columbia	yes				
New Smyrna	Volusia	yes	7/25/61		Jane Sheldon	Orange Co. in USA list
Oakland	Orange	yes	7/25/61		W. C. Roper	
Ocala	Marion	yes	8/30/61		John Helveirston	
Ocean Pond	New River	yes	7/25/61	10/24/61	Levi T. Pearce	in place of S. J. Stalling, resigned
Ochesee	Calhoun	yes	7/25/61		Jason Gregory	
Olustee	New River	yes				
Orange Hill	Washington	yes	7/25/61		G. W. Underwood	
"	"		10/12/61		Dawson Wiggins	in place of G. W. Underwood, resigned
Orange Lake	Marion	yes	7/25/61		D. A. Burleson	
Orange Mills	St. John's	yes	7/25/61		Rhydon G. Mays	
Orange Springs	Orange	yes	7/25/61		James C. Cameron	
Orlando	Orange	no	7/25/61		Henry L. Meekes	
Palan	Duval	yes	10/12/61		James H. Thomas	Clay Co. in USA list
Palestine	New River	yes	7/25/61		W. P. Roberts	Columbia Co. in USA list
Palmyra	Sumter	yes	11/12/61		John W. Fussell	
Patrick	Hernando	no	10/13/61		Mrs. M. E. McDonald	formerly CEDAR TREE
Pautuxett	Wakulla	yes				
Pensacola	Escambia	yes	7/ 8/61		not listed	Reestablished by CSA on July 8, 1861
Picolata	St. John's	yes	7/25/61		George Colee	
Pierceville	Hernando	yes	7/25/61	9/14/61	M. M. Garrison	name changed to BROOKSVILLE
Pilatka	Putnam	yes	7/ 6/61		Peter L. Benit	
"	"		9/25/61		Henry Peterman	in place of Peter L. Benett, resigned
"	"		11/ 1/61		Peter L. Benit	in place of H. Peterman, resigned
Ponce de Leon	Holmes	yes				
Port Taylor	Hernando	no	9/ 3/61		B. J. Bowden	ordered re-established
Providence	Columbia	yes				
Quincy	Gadsden	yes	7/25/61		D. H. Wilson	
Rickoe's Bluff	Gadsden	yes	7/25/61		T. D. Nixon	
St. Andrew's Bay	Washington	yes	7/25/61		W. T. Porter	
St. Augustine	St. John's	yes	7/25/61		L. Andrew	
St. Helena	Columbia	yes	?	3/15/62	not given	ordered disc.; no record of appt.
Saint Mark's	Wakulla	yes	7/15/61		John C. Hill	in place of Jas. Caverly, resigned
Sandy Ford	Madison	yes				
Shell Point	Wakulla	yes				
Sikesville	Alachua	no	3/ 6/62		Wm. G. Sikes	ordered re-established
Silver Spring	Marion	yes	7/25/61		D. H. Wilson	
Sopchoppy	Wakulla	yes				
Spring Grove	Columbia	yes	?	9/ 9/61	not listed	Suwannee Co. in USA list
Stark	New River	yes	7/25/61		George E. Pace	
Sugar Grove	Alachua	yes	7/25/61	1/27/62	Melinda Richards	
Sumterville	Sumter	yes				
Suwannee Shoals	Columbia	yes	10/ 2/61		S. W. Whitehurst	
"	"		10/12/61		Jachob T. Goodbread	in place of S. W. Whitehurst, resigned
Tallahassee	Leon	yes				
Tampa	Hillsborough	yes	7/25/61		A. DeLaunay	
Tocoi	St. John's	yes	7/25/61		E. T. Paine	
Trail Ridge	Clay	yes	8/30/61		John E. Hicks	ordered re-established
"	"		1/24/62		B. H. Kaul	in place of Jno. E. Hicks, resigned
Tustenuggee	Columbia	yes	7/25/61		C. H. B. Collins	

POST OFFICES IN FLORIDA 1861 - 62

POST OFFICE NAME	COUNTY	1861 USA	DATE CSA APPT	DATE CSA DISC	POSTMASTER NAME	NOTE
Uchee Anna	Walton	yes	12/28/61		John W. Edge	in place of L. R. Sims, resigned
Vernon	Washington	yes	7/25/61		Abraham M. Skipper	
Volusia	Volusia	yes	7/25/61		Michael J. Doyle	
Wacahoota	Marion	yes	7/25/61		John S. Beauknight	
Waldo	Alachua	yes	8/20/61		H. Broad	in place of .....Canard, removed
Wardville	Walton	yes				
Warrington	Escambia	yes	7/ 8/61		S. M. Davidson	Reestablished by CSA on July 8, 1861
Waukeenah	Jefferson	yes	7/25/61		John Mc Lean	
Wekeiva	Levy	yes	7/25/61		Peter A. Presler	resigned, replaced by J. Marcum
"	"		11/ 1/61		John Marcum	site of P.O. changed to Marcum's house
Welaka	Putnam	yes	7/25/61		M. Smith	
White Springs	Hamilton	yes	7/25/61		Albion W. Knight	
Yellow Bluff	Duval	yes	10/26/61		W. R. Tomb	

Bibliography:

List of Post Offices in the United States, 1862 reprinted 1981 by Theron Wierenga, P.O. Box 2007, Holland, MI 49423

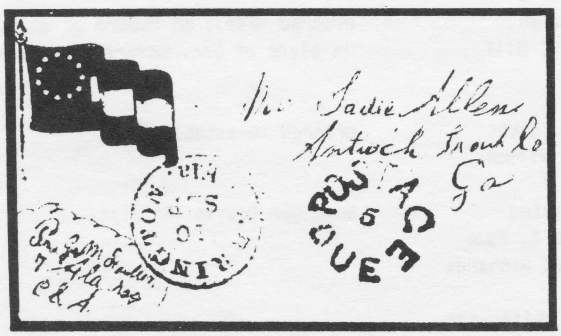
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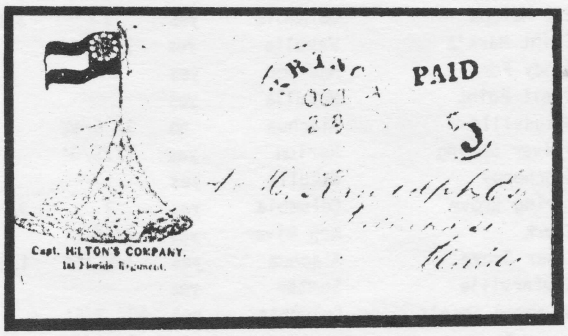
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Florida Confederate covers are popular, but expensive. The four covers shown above collectively brought over $8,300 in David G. Phillips Co. auction sale of The Charles Meroni Florida Collection in Jan. 1985.

THE STRIP TRIP
A Philatelic Adventure

by Robert B. Bechtel

The Western Postal History Museum field trip, known as the Strip Trip, was the longest since these expeditions began more than six years ago. The nickname "strip" comes from the area of Northwestern Arizona next to Utah called the Arizona Strip. It is the most isolated area of Arizona with only one unpaved road serving its 11,000 square miles. It is called by some the Tibet of Arizona. There are only about 3,000 inhabitants scattered throughout its rough terrain, which is defined as a huge plateau cut off from the rest of Arizona by The Grand Canyon. This geographical barrier makes the strip country more culturally related to Utah, as we found out, still very much a part of the fundamentalist polygamy sect.

At seven A.M. on May 31, 1988 Mr. & Mrs. Al Kuhm, Mr. & Mrs. Alex Lutgendorf, our Director Doug Kelsey, and the author, left from the WPHM parking lot and headed north on I-10 toward Page. Az., the destination of our first day's travel. We had a delightful excursion for lunch, however, at Owen Kriege's new home in Sedona before going on.

We arrived at Page before sunset and had supper at the Wahweap Marina overlooking Lake Powell. The post office at Page, first opened on Oct. 12, 1957, was located in a shopping center. Page began as the construction camp for Glen Canyon Dam and remains as the gateway to the recreational area created by the dam.

Our goal for the second day was to arrive at the North Rim in time for supper. The scenery from Page onward contains some of the most dramatic sights in North America. We were constantly stopping for photographs of broad vistas, vermilion cliffs and spectacular rock formations. Our first destination was Lee's Ferry, the pioneer crossing of the Paria River, which had its post office opened on Apr. 23, 1879 and closed on Jan. 31, 1914. The post office building and Lee's home are remarkably well preserved.

The Marble Canyon post office at our next stop had been opened on Dec. 1, 1927 and closed Feb. 15, 1935; then reopened again on Jan. 12, 1957. We got current examples of all the available cancels and moved on again to Jacob's Lake (Jan. 10, 1933 to Aug. 1, 1981). We reached the North Rim in time to watch the sun go down and watch the lights come on at the South Rim, 10.8 miles across the chasm. Next day the postmaster at North Rim was very obliging and let us make many combinations of current cancels.

Our third day was the most strenuous for travel because we would have to traverse the entire strip, where there are no accomodations and come out in Utah. The roads in the strip had been rutted deeply by recent rains and we spent a good deal of time riding in the ruts, hoping not to scrape off the oil pan.

Fredonia (P.O. est Apr. 6, 1892) was the take-off point into the strip. We next visited Pipe Springs National Monument which never had a post office, then went north to Moccasin, a veritable oasis of green trees and fields, where the last postmaster, Mrs. Heaton, showed us all that was left of the last post office in her home, a blind mail slot in the wall. Moccasin had first opened its post office on June 11, 1909 and closed on Apr. 27, 1972. Then we were off to look for Cane Beds (Mar. 14, 1917

to Apr. 18, 1945) and Lopeant (Jan. 28, 1921 to June 14, 1922). There are a few cancels known from Cane Beds, but none of Lopeant. We found a sign identifying Cane Beds, but no one could tell us where Lopeant was and our mail inquiries on the subject were not returned. Throughout this area we were regarded with suspicion. There seemed to be much evidence of either the practice or the remnants of polygamy with many children, few women, and almost no men.

The long trip to Tuweep ranger station (Sep. 9, 1929 to Jan. 26, 1951) left us wondering where the post offices could have been because there were very few houses in the area. The view from the Toroweap lookout is the most spectacular of all Grand Canyon views. The drop is over 2,000 feet straight down to the Colorado River. We could see the pontoon boats floating down the river loaded with tourists.

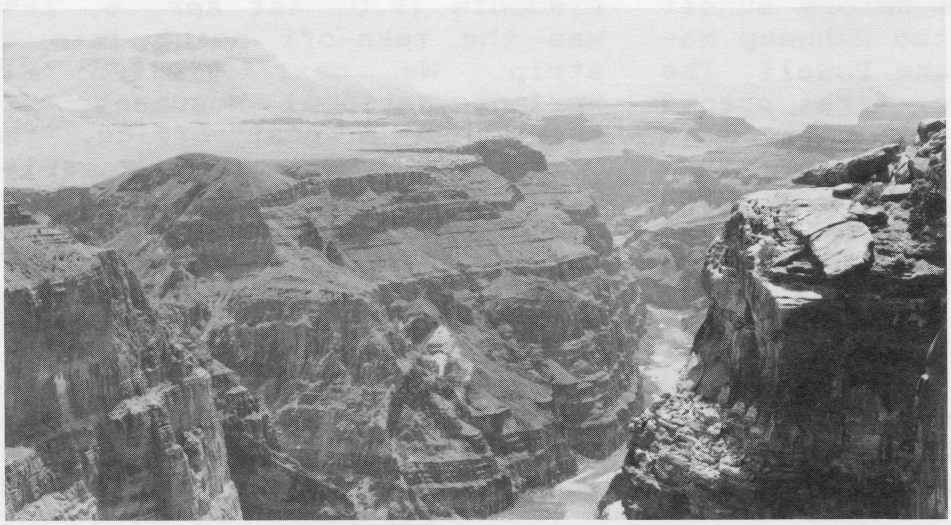
Turning north and west again we passed the ruins of the village of Mount Trumbull (May 12, 1920 to July 31, 1954), also known as Bundyville. There seemed to be a few remaining houses that were occupied, but there was a preponderance of vacated farm houses all along the road.

Wolf Hole (July 13, 1918 to Apr. 4, 1927) had a single adobe ruin to mark its former existence and then there was not a sign of human occupation until we reached St. George, Utah, location of the Temple for the Mormon settlers of the strip. It was good to be back in civilization again, for we wondered what would have happened if our truck had failed.

The fourth day we found Littlefield by turning back into Arizona at its extreme northwest corner. The post office (est.Oct. 25,1894) was at the rear of a charming house in a grove of trees.

In the late sixties and early seventies of the last century, Arizona had a small triangle of Nevada as its own county called Pah Ute. There were two post offices we tried to locate, Overton (Apr. 25, 1870 to Dec., 16, 1872) and Callville (Jan. 25, 1867 to June 15, 1869).. But both sites were now in Nevada under the waters of Lake Meade. At least one, Callville, had a bay named after it.

That evening we arrived at Las Vegas to unload any cash we might have foolishly brought along, and the next day departed for Tucson. We all agreed that the round trip of over 1700 miles took us among the most beautiful and unusual scenes Arizona has to offer.



Toroweap Lookout

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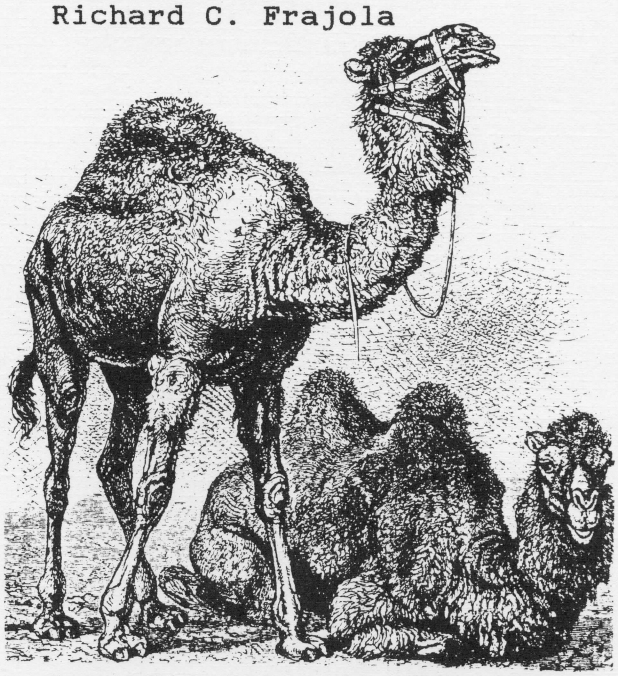
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ARPIEX '89 ISSUE - In lieu of our regular "Camel's Tale" in this issue we show the reverse of a picturesque souvenir cover of the Australian Camel Mail - produced by Gold Coast Philatelic Society. Perhaps the Great Australian Camel Race will inspire a future pre-ARIPEX event re-creating the great Arizona Camel Cavalcade from Wickenburg via Vulture Mine and Quartzite to Yuma. Hi Jolly would salute from his grave.



Nettleship collection

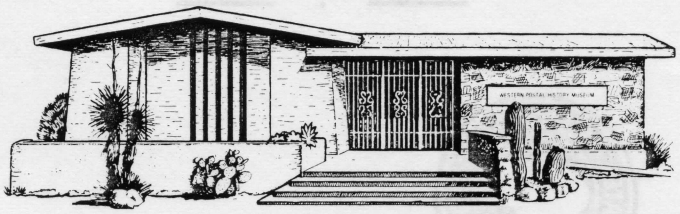


ILLUSTRATION: VINCENT ZENONE, 1966: ADAPTED FROM "LA FAMILLE," MARIE LAURENCIN, 1908

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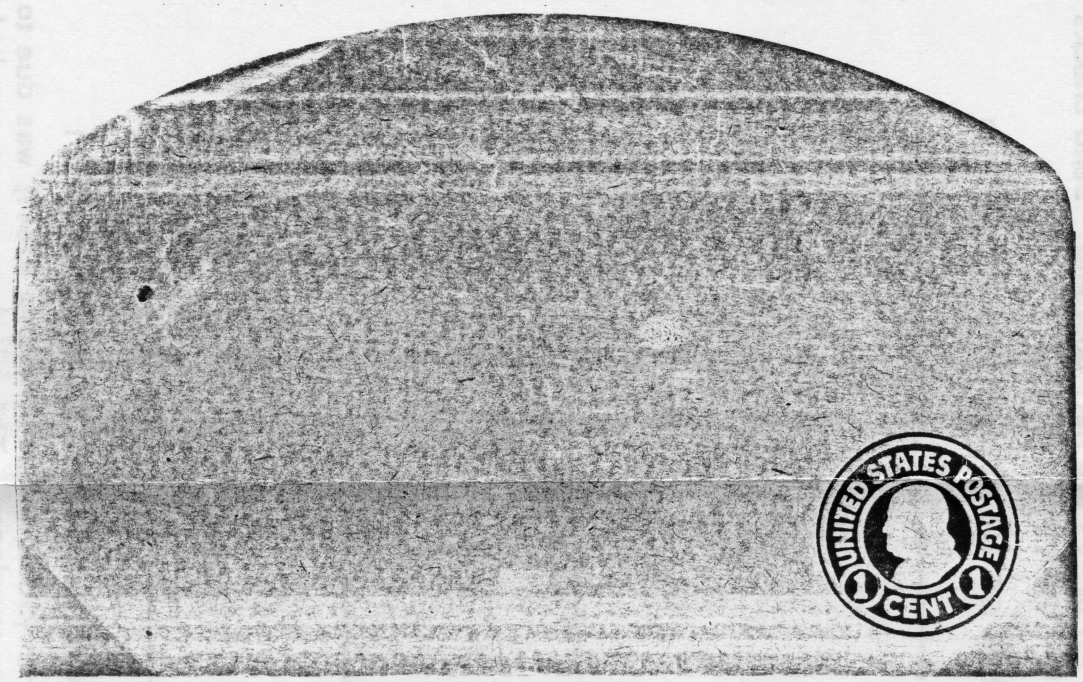


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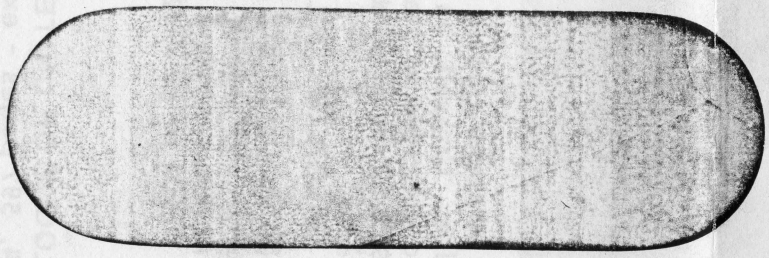
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