



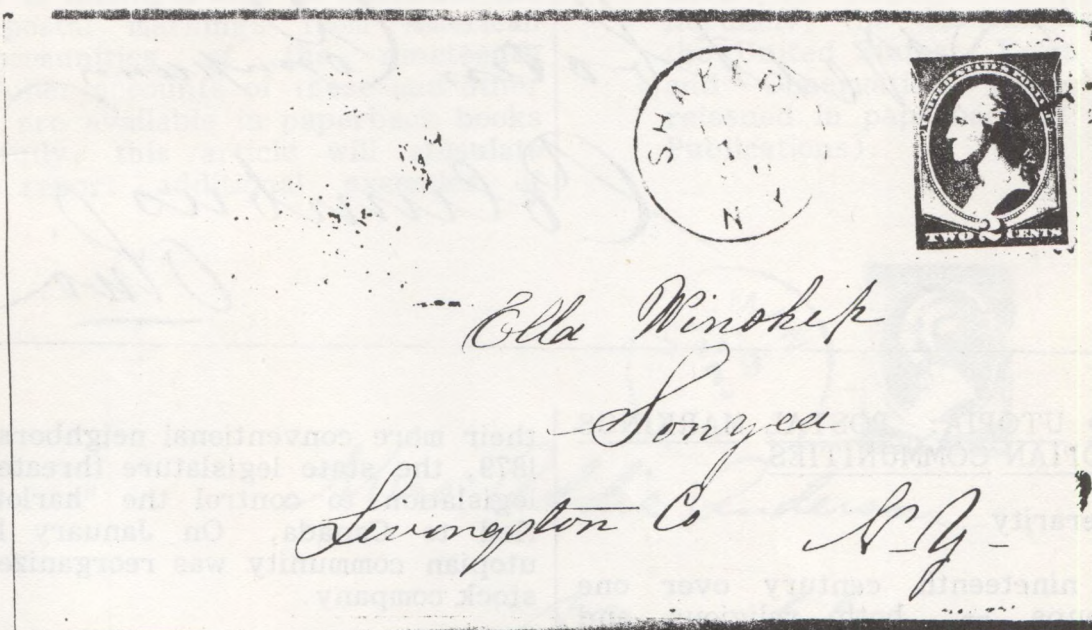
Cancellation Club NEWS

Vol. 14

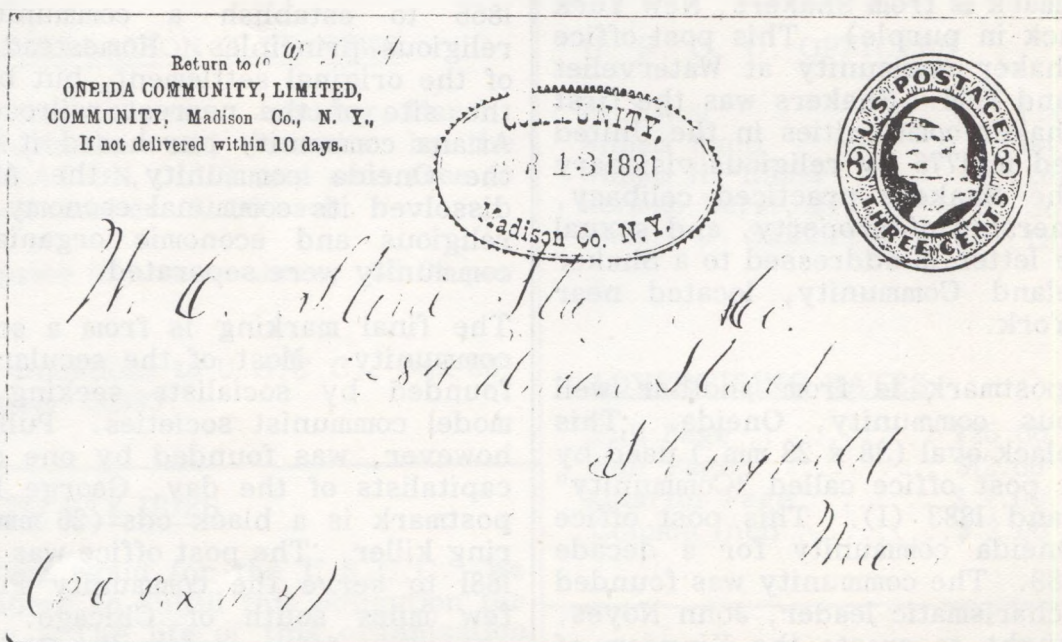
No. 1

Whole No. 153

January 1979



Covers from "Postmarked Utopia"



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POSTMARKED UTOPIA: POSTAL MARKINGS OF FOUR UTOPIAN COMMUNITIES

By James Inverarity

During the nineteenth century over one hundred groups -- both religious and secular -- attempted to establish ideal communities in the United States. Although most of these experiments were short-lived, many left a postal record of their presence. Four examples will be illustrated here.

The first postmark is from Shakers, New York (25 mm., struck in purple). This post office served the Shaker community at Watervliet between 1871 and 1904. Shakers was the first of eighteen Shaker communities in the United States, founded in 1776 by religious visionary Ann Lee. The Shakers practiced celibacy, community ownership of property, and sexual equality. The letter is addressed to a Shaker at the Groveland Community, located near Sonyea, New York.

The second postmark is from another well known religious community, Oneida. This marking is a black oval (38 x 23 mm.) used by the New York post office called "Community" between 1881 and 1883 (1). This post office served the Oneida community for a decade from 1879 to 1889. The community was founded in 1848 by a charismatic leader, John Noyes. The group sought to create the Kingdom of Heaven on earth by practicing economic communism, free love, communal child rearing and democratic community government. These practices aroused some concern on the part of

their more conventional neighbors. When, in 1879, the state legislature threatened to pass legislation to control the "harlotry", Noyes fled to Canada. On January 1, 1881, the utopian community was reorganized as a joint stock company.

The third example is, again, a religious community. Homestead, Iowa is one of seven villages of the Amana Church Society. The postmark is a black (29 mm.) town date with a three ring killer. The Amana Society began as a German pietist sect and came to Iowa in 1855 to establish a community based on religious principles. Homestead was not part of the original settlement, but because it was the site of the nearest railroad station the Amana community purchased it in 1861. Like the Oneida community, the Amana Society dissolved its communal economy. In 1932 the religious and economic organization of the community were separated.

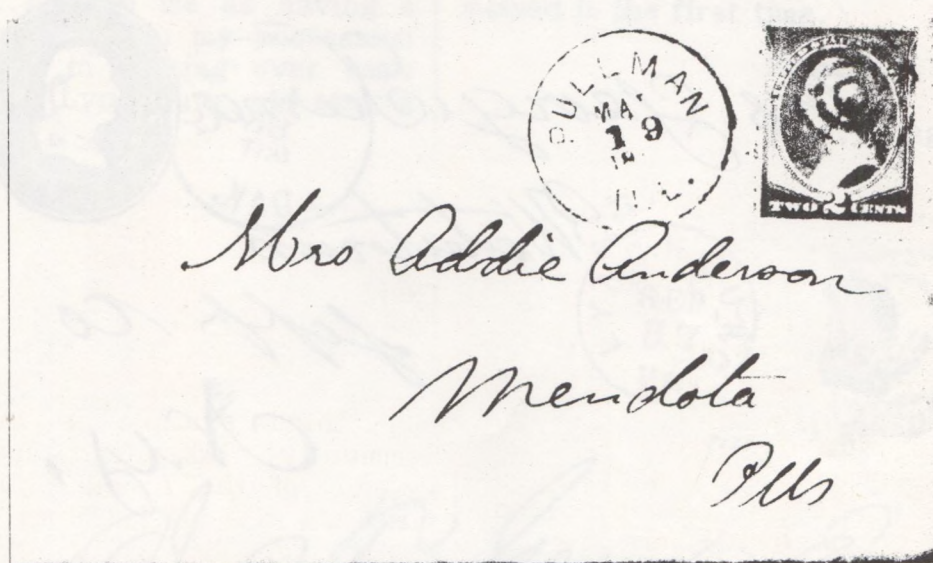
The final marking is from a secular utopian community. Most of the secular utopias were founded by socialists seeking to establish model communist societies. Pullman, Illinois, however, was founded by one of the leading capitalists of the day, George Pullman. The postmark is a black cds (26 mm.) with three ring killer. The post office was established in 1881 to serve the community Pullman built a few miles south of Chicago. Pullman had amassed a fortune after the Civil War with his railroad sleeping car. When the Pullman Palace Car Company needed a new factory, Pullman decided to build a model community in which "all that is ugly and discordant and

demoralizing is eliminated." During the Columbian Exposition thousands of tourists visited the town with its neat brick houses and landscaped lots, that was home to some 12,000 people. The post office was discontinued a year later in the midst of the great Pullman workers strike, one of the most bitter battles between labor and capital in the nineteenth century.

This survey is intended only to illustrate the range of postal markings from American utopian communities of the nineteenth century. Fuller accounts of these and other communities are available in paperback books (2). Hopefully, this article will stimulate others to report additional examples of

Postmarked Utopia to the U.S.C.C. News.

- (1) H. K. Thompson, United States County and Postmaster Postmarks. (Jamaica, New York, 1949).
- (2) Rosabeth Kanter, Commitment and Community (Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1972). See especially the list of communities on pp. 246-248. Also valuable as an introduction is Charles Nordhoff, the Communistic Societies of the United States: From Personal Visit and Observation (New York, 1875; reissued in paperback in 1966 by Dover Publications).



THE U.S. CANCELLATION CLUB NEWS

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Address communications to U.S.C.C., Box 83, Winnetka, Illinois 60093.

TIME TO PAY DUES

It is dues time again for the U.S.C.C. We urge all members to fulfill this obligation for 1979 promptly. The life of this organization depends on the support of its members -- and that support has, of course, its financial aspects. Please send the \$6.00 payment to U.S.C.C., Box 83, Winnetka, Illinois 60093.

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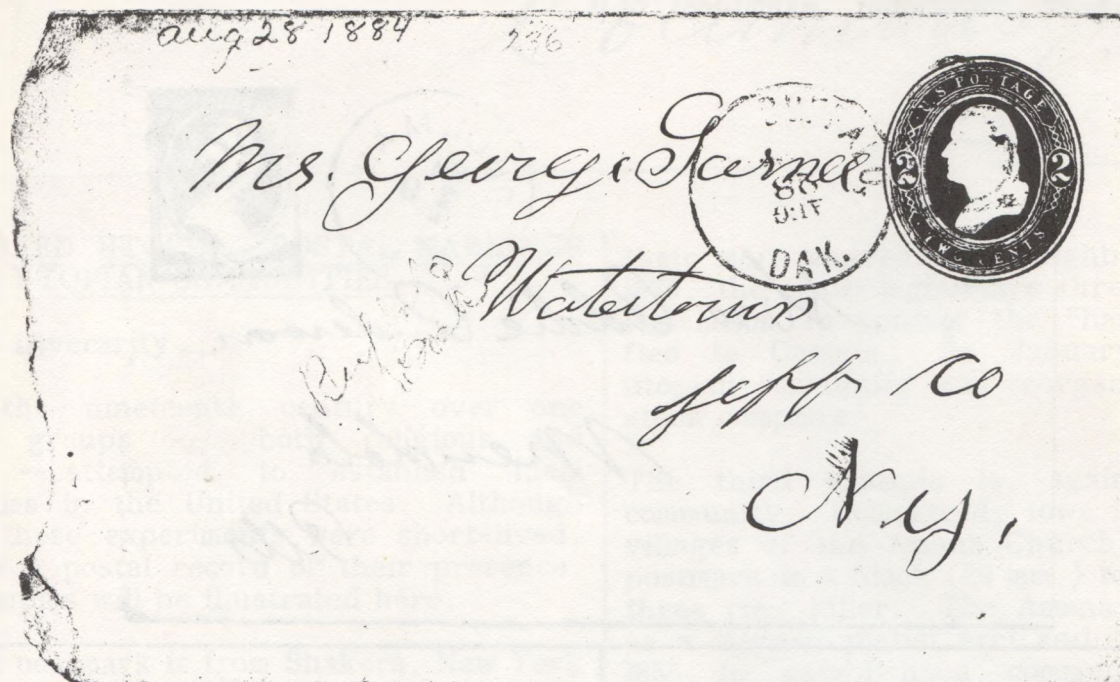
19th century IDAHO covers wanted -- especially territorials and DPO's. Mark Metkin, P. O. Box 3293, Moscow, ID 83843.

WANTED . . . Phila Station Markings
 Columbia Station
 Circle Date - STATION D
 " " STATION E Phila. Sta.
 STATION H Cancellation
 STATION I with these
 STATION M markings

8th Street Station
 Circle Date STATION P
 Flag Cancel STATION R
 Spring Garden Station
 Circle Date STATION T
 Olney Station
 Paschville Station
 Circle Date STATION V

Circle Date STATION W
 Flag Cancel STATION W
 Circle Circle Date STATION X
 Verrees Mills Station
 Circle Date STATION Z
 East Falls Station
 Flag Cancel Bridesburg Station
 East Fall Station
 Loban Station
 Nany Yard Station
 Broad St. Term. R.P.O.

Mr. Alton M. Gaumer
 573 Easterly Parkway
 State College, PA 16801



FROM BUFFALO TO BUFFALO GAP

By George Phillips

Take a close look at the accompanying illustration, and you will discover two things. First, that the postmaster put the date, August 28, in upside down; and second, the word "BUFFALO" is much off center. And it is the latter which makes the cover a good illustration of the strange mess the "BUFFALOs" got into in Dakota Territory.

The post office from which this cover came was located in Cass County, which is in North Dakota. It was originally established as NEW BUFFALO on October 15, 1878, and was changed to BUFFALO on June 5, 1883. For some reason, the postmaster did not want to discard his old postal stamp, so he simply carved away the word "NEW", and left the offbalanced postmark we see here.

Along about the same time a post office named BUFFALO GAP was established in Custer County, which is in southwestern South Dakota -- many miles from the Cass County BUFFALO. It was established on July 9, 1877 and discontinued on September 15, 1879. The postmaster during the period of operations was George C. Boland. By the following spring, Mr. Boland was able to have his post office re-established, but with the name of BUFFALO instead of BUFFALO GAP. That was on March 6, 1880. He apparently was not happy with the change -- or else the Post Office Department made a mistake -- and the name was changed back to BUFFALO GAP as of May 10 of that year.

Thus, if you should find a cover postmarked BUFFALO, DAKOTA, dated between March 6 and May 10, 1880, you would have a rare item. In fact, it is quite possible that none exist, and that if mail was processed at that post

office during that period, it probably was postmarked BUFFALO GAP, either with the old handstamp or in manuscript. How long the offbalanced postmark was used at BUFFALO

after the NEW was eliminated, I do not know. Perhaps some other Dakota collector has evidence.

QUESTION CORNER

Dear Sir:

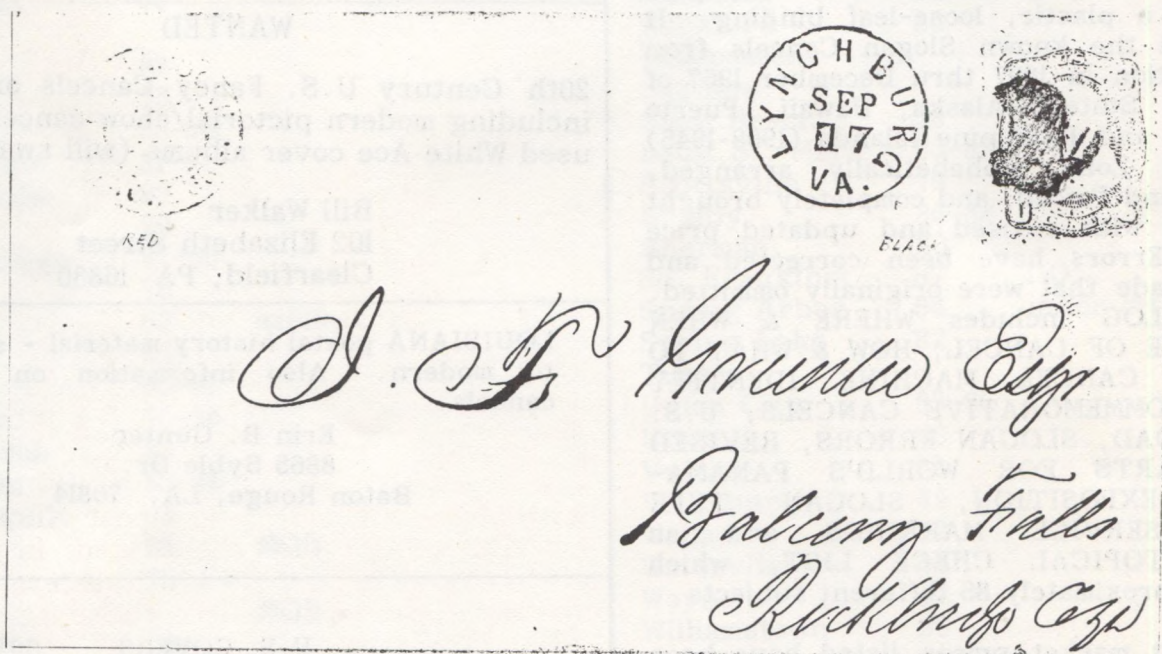
Enclosed is a copy of a cover from Lynchburg, Virginia, which shows what appears to be the head of an animal cancellation struck on a 3¢ 1861. The cover bears the hand stamp of Geo. W. Rocke of Lynchburg in a red cds as a return address. This dates the cover as September 17, 1867.

The cover was not sold to me as having a fancy cancellation and was in my possession for some time before in looking over some unmounted covers the Lynchburg cds rang a

bell as a city where some fancy cancellations were used that are noted in the Herst - Sampson book such as #1424 (dog's head) and #1496 (Uncle Sam). However, the enclosed is not listed and I would be interested in knowing if anyone in the Club has another copy or has seen this before and has an opinion on what animal it might represent. Incidentally, one has to view the cover upside down to best see the head. This is why I missed it the first time.

Sincerely,

R. J. Nunge



Dear Sir:

Can anyone identify this cancel? It's on a 1¢ 1873 continental bank note.

Thanks,

Steven Ruecker

P. S. An article or series of articles that might be of interest to members, would be on the value of some cancels other than the usual corks, targets, etc. Nothing elaborate, just a general guide for stars, paid, numerals, letters, patents and other collectible types, with illustrations if possible.



WANT ADS

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR OF 1898

Want anything connected with its postal history -- especially patriotics, military station cancels, and/or off-cover items. Also any Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam, Philippines under U. S. Administration. Send priced or for offer. Dealers' offers welcomed.

Leonard Diamond, 407 Lincoln Road, Miami Beach, Florida 33139

FLORIDA COVERS WANTED

ANYTHING - XIX or XX'Th Century, RPO's, Flags, DPO's corner cards, STAMPLESS, CANCELS, Etc.

Larry Resnick
1720 S.W. 84th Avenue
Miami, Florida 33155

UNITED STATES POSTAL SLOGAN CANCEL CATALOG

The 1968 (6th) Edition, Revised 1975, of the U.S. POSTAL SLOGAN CANCEL CATALOG consists of 128 pages (5 1/2 X 8 1/2) plus covers, in a plastic, loose-leaf binding. It contains all the known Slogan Cancels from their inception in 1897 thru December 1967 of the United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, U.S. and Philippine Islands (1908-1945) and Canal Zone alphabetically arranged, Numbered and Priced, and completely brought up to date with revised and updated price changes. Errors have been corrected and additions made that were originally omitted. The CATALOG includes WHERE & WHEN USED, TYPE OF CANCEL, HOW & WHAT TO COLLECT, CANCEL MACHINE IDENTITY CHART, COMMEMORATIVE CANCELS, U.S. USED ABROAD, SLOGAN ERRORS, REVISED TYPE CHARTS FOR WORLD'S PANAMA-PACIFIC EXPOSITION, SLOGAN TYPE SPECIAL SERVICE MARKINGS and an elaborate TOPICAL CHECK LIST, which contains approximately 85 different subjects.

The current market prices listed have been determined by compiling and averaging actual market prices from information received from collectors and dealers throughout the philatelic world. Slogans add value to all types of post cards and covers, entires, etc. ALL FLAG SLOGAN CANCELS, FAIRS AND EXPOSITION SLOGAN CANCELS are listed with revised market prices.

The UNITED STATES POSTAL SLOGAN CANCEL CATALOG -- 1968 Edition Revised 1975 is now available for \$5.75 postpaid. Please send check or money-order to:

MOE LUFF, 12 Greene Road, Spring Valley, N.Y. 10977

BOX U.S.C.C.

Wanted to buy NH covers and DPO's send for free buying list.

Henry Stevens Box 417
Alton, NH 03809

WANTED

20th Century U.S. Fancy Cancels on cover, including modern pictorial/show cancels. Also, used White Ace cover albums (will swap).

Bill Walker
102 Elizabeth Street
Clearfield, PA 16830

LOUISIANA postal history material - stampless to modern. Also information on unusual cancels.

Erin R. Gunter
8865 Syble Dr.
Baton Rouge, LA. 70814

U.S. COVERS

I STOCK ALL AREAS, ISSUES, USAGES, CANCELS EXCEPT MODERN FDC. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE? SELECTIONS SENT ON APPROVAL TO USCC MEMBERS ON REQUEST. HENRY M. SPELMAN III
P.O. BOX 645 San Anselmo, Calif. 94960

WANTED

Auxiliary postal markings on 19th Century U.S. Covers and information on same. Please send priced. Also need advertising covers of newspapers. Harry Kennedy, 50 W. Siebenthaler, Dayton, Ohio 45405. U.S.C.C. #1136.

MORE OCTAGON INFORMATION

From William C. Allen:

These Michigan postmarks were originally listed in the May - June and September - October 1978 issues of the Penninsular Philatelist.

MICHIGAN

Ann Arbor	69	
Ashland	83-84	
Athens	81-92	
Ausable	85	
Baldwin	75	
Bath	85-86	MOB
Benzonic	93	
Bloomington	84	
Breedsville	88	
Burlington	87-88	
Byron	78	
Cedar Springs		
Ceresco	78-79	
Charlevoix	77	
Chelsea		
Clare	83	
Clayton	73	
Clinton	85-86	
Constantine	81-84	
Coopersville	83	
Covert	79	
Cross Village	87-90	
Dayton	78	
Detroit	67	earliest
Dexter	82	
Door	80-81	
Dowagiac	75-76	
East Jordan	83	
East Milan	83-86	
Eaton Rapids	83	
Edmore	85	MOB
Elsie	75	
Farmers		MOB
Farmington	84	
Fletcher		
Flushing	79-80	
Fremont Ctr.	81	
Galien		
Gaines Statn.	88	
Gowen	82-86	
Grand Blanc	79	
Grand Haven	85-86	
Harrison	82	DOL
Hartland		
Hastings	79	
Holt	85-86	
Homer	71-84	
Imlay City	83	
Jackson	65	
Laingsburg	78	
Lawrence	75	

Lowel		
Ludington	79	
Lyons	86	
Manton	84	
Marcellus	85	
Mason	86	MOB
Mattawan	77	
Michigamme		
Monroe	83	
Montague	78	
Nadeau	87	
Nashville		
New Baltimore	81	
Nuncia	86	
Orion	84	MOB
Oscodo	79	
Otisville	82	
Pentwater	87	
Perry	84-87	MOB 87
Petoskey	73	
Pewamo	81-84	
Pierson	78	
Pontiac	79	
Port Huron	77	
Richland	82-90	
Rockford	80	
Roscommon		
Saginaw		
Sand Beach	78	
Sault St. Marie	83-88	
Scottsville	79	
Shelby	86-88	
Sherman	80	
So. Frankfort	87	DOL
Spring Arbor	84	inner circle
Spring Lake	82	
Tustin		
Union City	83-85	
Utica	83	
Vulcan	81	
Vicksburg	84	
Wallace	82	
Watervliet	84	
Wayne	87	
Williamstown	80	
Woodland	82-83	
Wyandotte	76	

From Ray L. Newburn:

COLORADO

Box Elder	88	SOL
Manitou	87	SOL

From Wilbert Miller:

WISCONSIN

Durand	78	CP
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I thought this was a common cancel but haven't seen it listed.

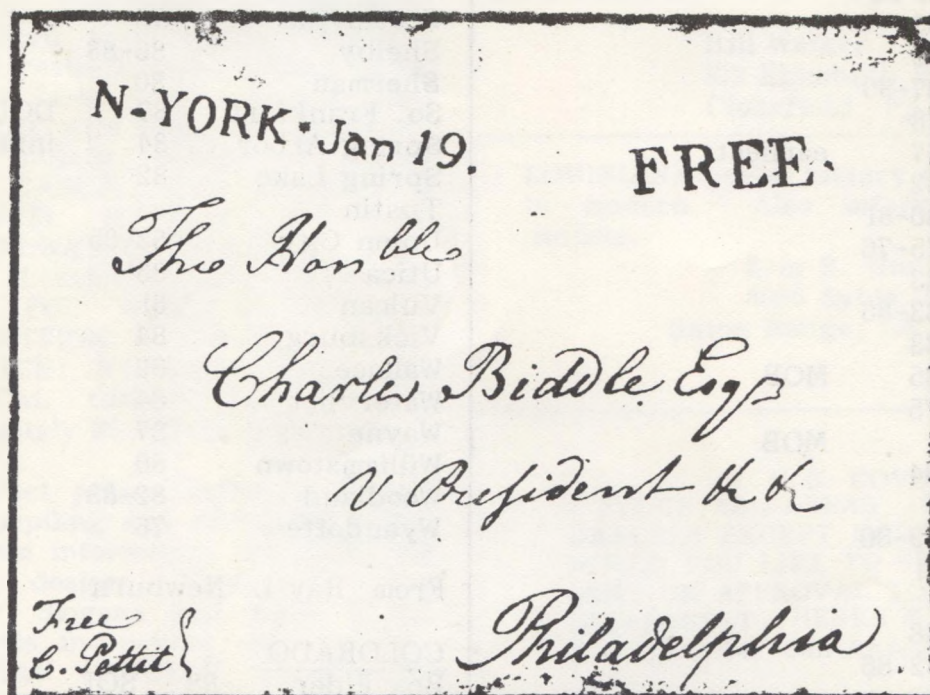
HISTORY IN THE MAKING:

PERIOD OF THE CONFEDERATION

By Professor C. S. Thompson, Jr.

The letter, Figure 1, was written by Charles Pettit, a Revolutionary War patriot and member of the Continental Congress. Charles Pettit entered the continental army where in 1778 he was appointed Assistant Quartermaster-General by Nathaniel Greene. After serving with distinction for some time, he resigned the post and subsequently became a member of the Pennsylvania Assembly. He served with this body during the years 1784 to 1785. At the time he wrote this letter, January 1786, Charles Pettit was a member of the Continental Congress and although opposed to parts of the federal Constitution, he nevertheless urged its adoption. Following the close of the war, he became an importing merchant in Philadelphia and was an original director and later president of the Insurance Company of North America. He served in this capacity from 1796 until his death in 1806.

The Honorable Charles Biddle, Esq., to whom the letter is addressed, was at that time the vice-president of the Continental Congress then meeting at Philadelphia. A reading of the three pages of the letter indicates that it addresses itself to some of the problems encountered by the young nation in its political infancy. It particularly calls attention to the "Connecticut Claimants", who were certain individuals that claimed to have been elected to congress from that state. The Article of Confederation did not specify how many representatives each state could send to congress and there was a deadlock over the issue with various individuals claiming to be the rightful representative. Problems such as this as well as many others involving state's rights resulted in the convening of a meeting of committee members in 1786. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the possibility of dissolving the Articles of Confederation. Connecticut was able to work out a compromise on the representation issue for which it earned the name Constitution State. A formal convention was called in the ensuing year at which time the Articles of Confederation were dissolved and the Constitution became a fact of life.

ERRATUM

An error was made in the article headed from Harry L. Fine, page 132. The date he began collecting territorial covers and cards postmarked Fort Laramie was 1941 not 1931.