



Cancellation Club **NEWS**

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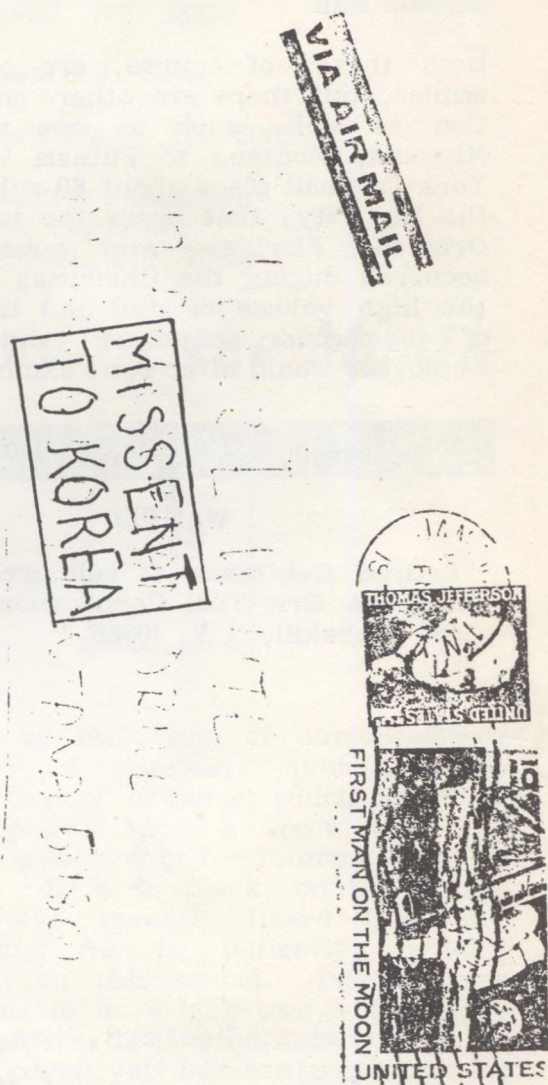
A Thought About Postal History Today *by Paul J. Wolf*

Postal History is alive and well! It is being made daily, and a watchful eye on the incoming mail will bring some amazing findings.

Presented here are some prime examples. There were all missent, and wildly so! It should be remarked that during the extra heavy workload at Christmas time, there are many to be seen, but all incoming covers should be looked at carefully. Often the only clue is that a letter which should have taken three days for delivery has taken 10 or more. Usually there is a back stamp placed there by the office which received the letter in error, so turn your covers over, and look at the backs. But those shown here are even more interesting.

First, a letter with the "Via Air Mail" etiquette from Jamaica, New York, to Missoula, Montana. This bears on its face a boxed red hand stamp "Missent to Korea." No date stamp from the Korean Post Office, but obviously they had enough missent mail to have created their own handstamp to deal with it.

It should be pointed out that the Post Office makes appropriate handstamps when the volume of work is large enough to warrant one. Obviously, if this were the only missent piece they had ever received, there would be no such handstamp, and a manuscript notation would have been used.



A Thought..(cont'd)

The second prime example was addressed from Missoula, Montana, to Beckenham, Kent, England, again, by air mail. This one got to Manila, in the Philippines and has not only a black boxed "Missent to Manila" on the face, but a backstamp, the CDS of the Airport Postal Facility in Manila. This letter was mailed to a family member in England on June 29, 1974 and received the Manila backstamp on August 6, 1974. No arrival stamps from Britain, but it was finally returned to me, under cover, by request, for my collection of missent mail.

Both these, of course, are extreme examples, but there are others in my collection as well, such as one mailed from Missoula, Montana to Putnam Valley, New York (a small place about 60 miles North of the Big City) that bears the backstamp of Orlando, Florida. And none of these occurred during the Christmas rush, when the high volume of mail and the presence of numerous temporary and unskilled employees would offer some excuse.

WANTED

"Retired Gentlemen to sell precision tools. Reply to Grit Tool Corporation, P.O. Box 526, Peekskill, N.Y. 10566."

For Love of a Cancel Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?

by Alyce Evans

A new book on 19th century fancy cancellations is due out this summer. Edited by Hubert Skinner, published by the A.P.S., this long-awaited work will be issued in a regular and a deluxe edition. As an added bonus, one-side unbound proof sheets will be available for those who wish to clip and file for their records.

Perhaps now is a good time for the Club members to do some reflective thinking, define our future goals and decide where we as a Club are going. With the advent of this book, might not we, as a Club begin a tradition such as putting out an annual update, adding additional information, correcting possible errors....in short, doing something meaningful as a Club?

As our masthead implies, we are a Cancellation Club. And we should be the last word on that subject. In the thirty years (next March) we have existed, we should have published our own book on fancy

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IR MAIL

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Beckenham, Kent
England BR3 4JB

MISSENT TO MANILA



Brother..(cont'd)

cancels, their origins, dates of use, rarity value and fake detection.

The secret of a successful and interesting Club is the interchange of ideas between its members. How many of us correspond with each other, exchanging ideas and information? Each of us passes information unknown to another. We should pool that knowledge in an effort to identify and gather information on the myriad cancels whose origins are unknown.

For that matter, how many of us are interested in 19th century fancies? And of those, what percentage are beginners in the field, intermediate or advanced? Are there enough of us to form a specialized study group?

So, brother, if you can spare a dime, spend it on a postcard, and give us an indication of your desire to help further the study of fancy cancels, and address it to me at Box 286, Bonsall, California 92003.

For too long, too few have carried our Club....continued passivity by the majority has been the problem of many clubs, leading to mediocrity and eventual disbandment. Let's not let that happen to us. Let's get involved....for love of a cancel!

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Query of the Month



In March of 1957, one of our members, Mr. Perry Sapperstein, submitted the above tracing of a cancel which he called the "William Tell Apple & Arrowhead", and asked the membership for information as to its origin. It is in black, on the 3¢ 1861 issue. We've recently heard from Mr. Sapperstein, he is patiently awaiting information on this cancel. Twenty-three years seems to us a long time. Have none of our members discovered this interesting cancel on cover yet? Please check and let us know.

An Early Cover From West Liberty, Iowa to Montana

by Steven L. Jensen

Through the courtesy of Herman (Pat) Herst, Jr., we are able to show and discuss an early cover from Iowa, addressed to one of the early Montana pioneers at the town that afterward became Missoula.

The comments given here, and the quotes, are from Granville Stuart's "Forty Years on the Frontier as seen in the Journals and Reminiscences of Granville Stuart," edited by Paul C. Phillips, The Athur H. Clark Co., Glendale, California, 1957.

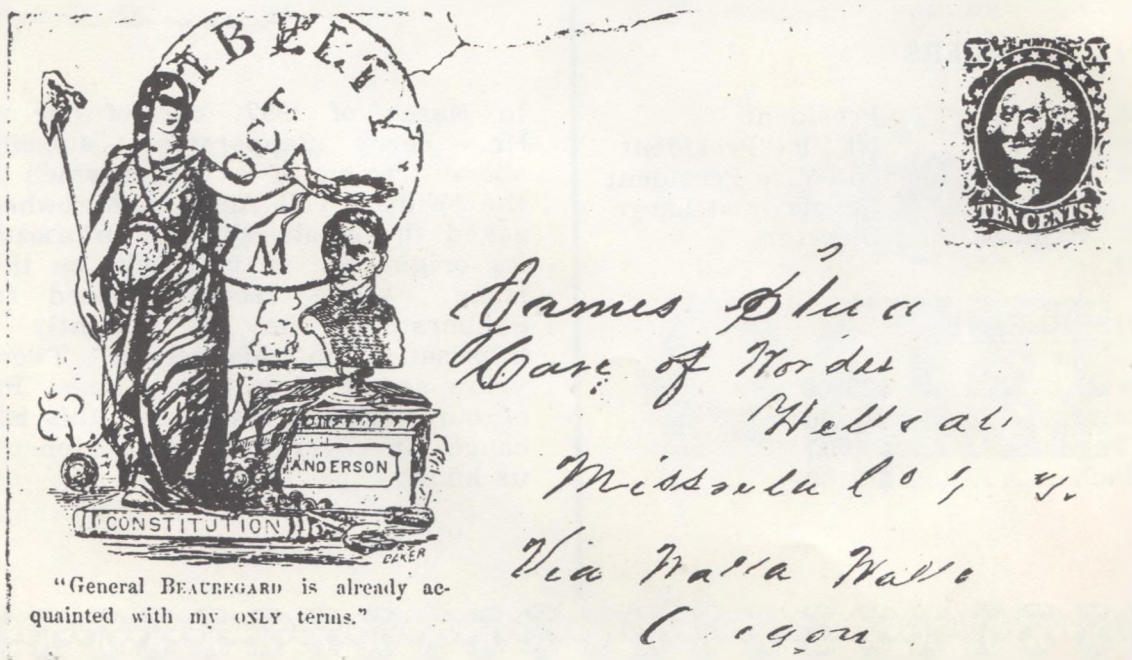
(Pages 1-4 with excerpts from the above book follow.)

It is not often that we are able to find as much detail about the addressee of a Western cover! Most of them were very close to anonymous, and many of them were happy to keep it that way! They had left behind their former existences, and were free of their former encumbrances, and they relished their liberty.

Granville Stuart was one of the most notable western historians. He was born in Virginia in 1834 and died in Butte, Montana, October 2, 1918. At the time of his death, he was under commission by the State of Montana to write a history of the state. The main data for this history were to come from a daily journal that he kept for a period of 40 years. The book listed above, edited by Phillips, is this journal.

James Stuart, to whom the cover is addressed, was Granville's older brother. The journal is essentially about their experiences in pursuit of gold. As follows is a very brief outline of their major movements up to the time of the cover.

- Left Virginia in 1837 via steamboat to Princeton, Illinois.
- In 1838, left Illinois and settled in newly created Iowa Territory, Muscatine County, near the present town of West Liberty. NOTE THAT THE COVER WAS SENT FROM WEST



Early Cover (cont'd)

LIBERTY.

- In the spring of 1852, Granville and James, their father, and an Irishman named Fayal Thomas Reilly started from "...near the village of West Liberty, Muscatine County, Iowa, on the long adventurous journey to California..." [Phillips; Vol. I, p. 39].
- The account of their journey is fantastic and contains many interesting comments about Mormons, etc. They reached California in September, 1852.
- In the summer of 1853 their father returned to Iowa... "by way of the Nicaragua route, which was by steamer from San Francisco to San Juan Del Sur, on the west coast of Nicaragua then across Lake Nicaragua then down the San Juan river on Garrison's line of steamers and thence to New Orleans, then up the Mississippi River to Dubuque and home." [Phillips, Vol. I, p. 79].
- In the spring of 1857 they decided to return home for a visit and left Yreka, California, June 14, 1857. About 60 miles north of the present Corinne, Utah, Granville took sick, July 17, 1857. He was too weak to travel for 7 weeks and the party of eleven (from California) split up; eight continuing eastward, leaving James, Granville, and Reece Anderson behind. By this time, Brigham Young had declared the state of Deseret (now Utah) free and independent, and in fact he had seceded from the Union.
- "By this time the United States troops with long slow moving ox trains of supplies, were coming up North Platte and Sweetwater rivers and the Mormon troops patrolled and guarded all the roads, and when at last I was able to mount my horse, we found all of the roads guarded, and we could neither go forward to the states nor back to California. To attempt it would cause us to be arrested as government spies and that meant sure death. A few persons found traveling were arrested and were

never heard of afterwards. No doubt Brigham's corps of "Destroying Angels," under Porter Rockwell, and Bill Hickman, could have pointed out their graves. Five years later I became acquainted with Hickman at Gold Creek, Montana, and found him a genial sort of man. I think Byron's description of 'The Corsair, He was the mildest mannered man that ever scuttled ship or cut a human throat,' would have fitted him quite well. We now found ourselves in a very dangerous situation. We could not long remain where we were, and if we tried to go anywhere else we ran the risk of losing our lives." [Phillips, Vol. I, pp. 120-21].

- Camped near the Stuarts and Anderson was Jake Meek who had been employed to carry the Hudson's Bay Fur Company mail and express between Fort Hall and Fort Boise. Meek told them that he had spent the past winter (1856) in Beaverhead Valley (of present Montana) and that it was an ideal area. On September 11, 1857, they headed north (on the same day as the famous Mountain Meadow Massacre which they didn't learn about until June 26, 1858). They reached Beaverhead Valley the end of October. "At our camp were Reece Anderson, James Stuart, Jake Meek, Robert Dempsey with his wife, Antoine LeClair and wife, and his two grown sons, and myself." [Phillips, Vol. I, p. 125].
- On May 2, 1858, the Stuarts, Anderson and Thomas Adams discovered gold. "We followed up the creek [Benetsee Creek] about five miles carefully searching for any prospect or evidences of prospecting but found nothing. Near the bank of the creek at the foot of the mountain we sunk a hole about five feet deep and found ten cents in fine gold to the pan of sand and gravel. This convinced us that there were rich gold mines in this vicinity, but as we had no tools or provisions we could not do much prospecting. This prospect hole dug by us was the first prospecting for gold done in what is now Montana and this is the account of the first real discovery of gold within the state." [Phillips, Vol. I, p. 137].

Early Cover (cont'd)

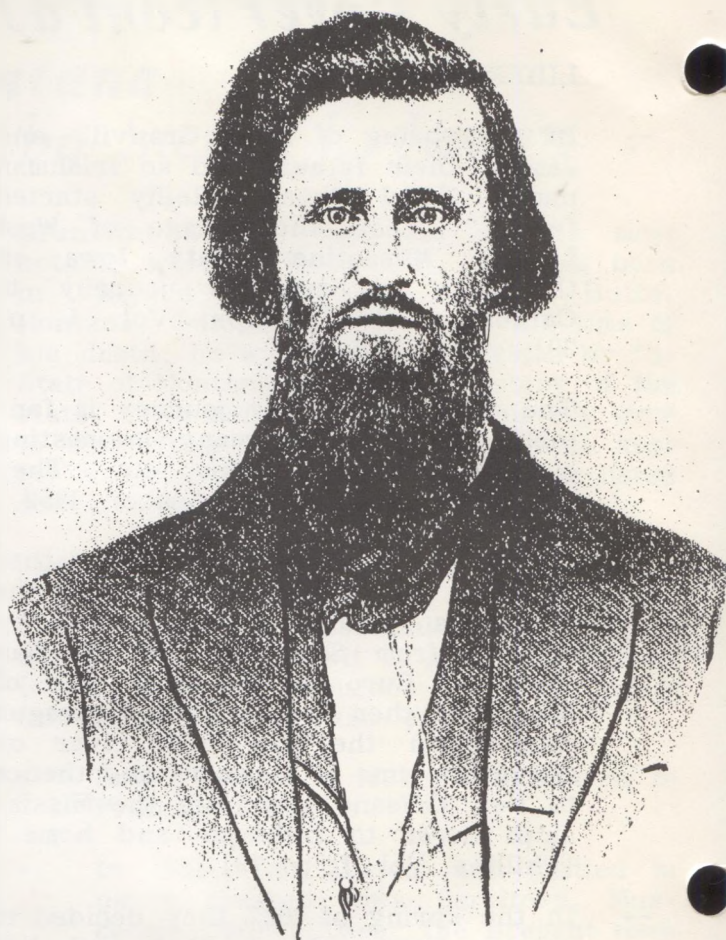
It is now generally conceded by historians that the first gold found in Montana was discovered by Francois Finlay in 1852. Finlay, better known as "Benetsee" and for whom the creek was named, was apparently cautioned not to spread the news of his discovery. Finlay was probably the first to discover gold but the Stuarts were the first to spread the news.

-- In the fall of 1860, Frank L. Worden and Captain C. P. Higgins built a log cabin and log store three miles below the present town of Missoula, Montana. They named their settlement Hell Gate. HELL GATE EVENTUALLY BECAME THE SECOND TOWN IN MONTANA TO HAVE A POST OFFICE. The Post Office was established January 13, 1864 with William Tipton as first postmaster. Bannock City had the first Post Office, established November 21, 1863. [Note: The list of Montana Post Offices published by Harry Fine in the July, 1959, issue of Western Express lists Hell Gate in Madison County. It was not; it was in Missoula County.]

-- Various entries in the journal apply to the receipt of mail by the Stuarts:

August 22, 1861. "Capt. Richard Grant and Thomas Pambrum arrived from Hell Gate, and stayed all night with us... He [Grant] brought us four letters from the states that we brought from Walla Walla by Bachelder's Express to Hell Gate, to Worden and Higgin's store. One letter was from our mother, one from Uncle Valentine Bozarth, one from Cousin Sallie Bozarth, and one from brother Samuel. Great was our rejoicing at their arrival." [Phillips, Vol. I, pp. 185-86].

February 27, 1862. "No news from the states. I suppose Bachelder's Express from Walla Walla to Hell Gate and Cantonment Wright is snowed under." [Phillips, Vol. I, p. 198].



JAMES STUART

May 5, 1863. "Two pack trains arrived from Walla Walla. Bought from them the following:

52 lbs. Tobacco @ \$4.00	\$208.00
168 lbs. Bacon @ .40	67.20
241 lbs. Sugar @ .60	144.60
17 ½ lbs. Soap @ .50	8.75
	\$428.55

The pack trains brought us our mail, some letters from the states and some San Francisco papers sent to us from Hell Gate by Worden.

The letters from Iowa came by way of the Isthmus of Panama to San Francisco, then to Portland and the Dalles, and then overland to Walla Walla, and on by Frush and Sherwood's Express to Hell Gate, then up here by any

Early Cover(cont'd)

reliable person coming this way. We pay \$1.00 express on each letter received and 75¢ on each sent out, but letters from home are welcome at that price." [Phillips, Vol. I, p. 239].

IT IS HIGHLY PROBABLE THAT THIS IS THE ROUTE THE COVER TOOK RATHER THAN VIA BACHELDER'S EXPRESS AS I STATED EARLIER.

Other comments about James Stuart include:

- First County sheriff in Montana - Missoula County, Washington Territory, 1862.
- He led the famous Yellowstone expedition of 1863. A portion of his party was forced to return and in route back discovered the famous Alder Gulch gold field.
- Active in the search for a direct route from the East to Montana.
- In 1865 he was commissioned Lieutenant Colonel to quell the Blood Indian uprising.
- Appointed post trader at Fort Brown in 1871.
- In June of 1873 he went to Fort Peck as Assistant Indian Commissioner. He died there of liver disease at 5:30 a.m., September 30, 1873, at the age of 42.

Change of Address

Allen V. Fracchia
1890 Canal Street
Auburn, CA 95603

Robert M. Hedges
Route 2, Box 73 F
Hancock, MD 21750

Frederick H. Hemphill
62 Jackson Road
Newport, RI 02840

Rev. Elwood S. Poore
302 South Denton Street
Gainesville, TX 76420

Ralph W. Sharp
152 Capt. John Smith Loop
North Fort Myers, FL 33903

Daniel Seigle
P.O. Box 909
Radio City Station
New York, NY 10019



The Johnsonville, Pennsylvania Harp by Alyce Evans



The harp and shamrocks shown above is a reproduction from a "sample catalog" of metal stock dies put out by a foundry in the 19th century. It was a common practice of foundries to show such examples of their stock to printers, who could in turn offer their customers a choice of design in calling cards, advertising cards, etc. The customer would usually buy the die and retain it for future re-orders.

The postmaster of Johnsonville, Pennsylvania came into possession of the above design and used it as a cancelling device. We have it on cover and both the 24mm. cds. and the harp cancel are in green, the cancel tied to a 3¢ banknote of the 1873 or 1879 period. It is addressed to Mr. John A. Kressler, Five Corners, New York. It is backstamped New York, June 16, 4:30 PM, with the year date illegible.

Johnsonville, located in Northampton County, was originally called Boston and underwent five name changes during its existence:

1. Boston: The first post office was established April 9, 1850, with S. Weller serving as the first

Harp (cont'd)

postmaster. After only 17 days, postal service was discontinued under this name and was changed to Kautatinchunk.

2. Kautatinchunk: Postal service established under this name April 26, 1850, with S. Weller still the postmaster. Less than a year later, the name of the town was changed back to Boston.
3. Boston: Postal service established under this name March 6, 1851 and discontinued March 26, 1862. There is a hiatus in the records from the date of this closing until Johnsonville was established four years later, indicating the town was without mail service.
4. Johnsonville: Postal service re-established under this name June 20, 1866. One possible explanation for this latest name change could be that another "Boston", in Allegheny County was petitioning the post office for service, which was granted January 25, 1867 and is still extant.

Johnsonville could not have been a very large town at this time, (by 1890 there were merely 151 souls), and in the next 67 years had only four postmasters, and only one who was not named Stier (June 20, 1866), Amandus Bach (Dec. 19, 1872), Wm. G. Stier (January 28, 1873), and John F. Stier (August 14, 1885). Johnsonville underwent its final name change in 1917, when it became known as Stiers.

5. Stiers:

Postal service established under this name January 18, 1917, and was discontinued May 16, 1933. John F., Stier continued on as postmaster until it closed, serving a total of 48 years. Postal service was never re-established and mail was routed to Bangor.

Harps as cancels are not common. The green St. Patrick, Missouri harp is the only other known to us. If any reader is aware of another, or has the Johnsonville one in their collection, please let us know.

