



Cancellation Club NEWS

Vol. 25, No. 7, Whole No. 240, August 2001

The Fort McPherson, Georgia "A" Cancel

by Frank Crown

As a collector of Spanish-American War patriotic covers, I was very pleased to find the cover in Figure 1. At the time the fancy "A" cancel was little more than part of the postmark. A little later I found the cover in Figure 2. This time the fancy "A" cancel attracted my attention and I bought

the cover to compare it to the markings on the first Fort McPherson cover.

Imagine my surprise when I found the "A" cancels differed from one another. Figures 3 and 4 show the markings full size with the stamp filtered out. The marking in Figure 3

(Continued on page 100)

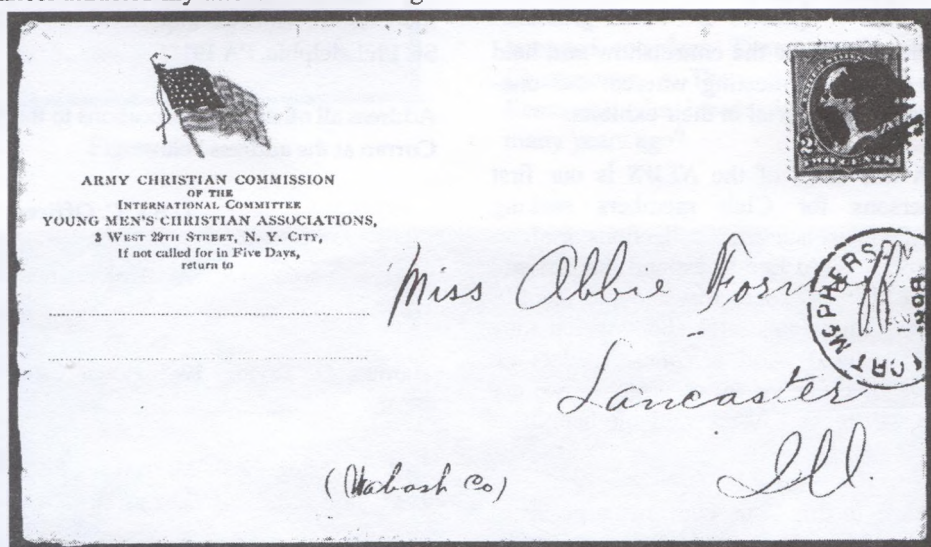


Figure 1. Fancy cancel "A" with black Fort McPherson, Ga. 5 Jul 1898 postmark.

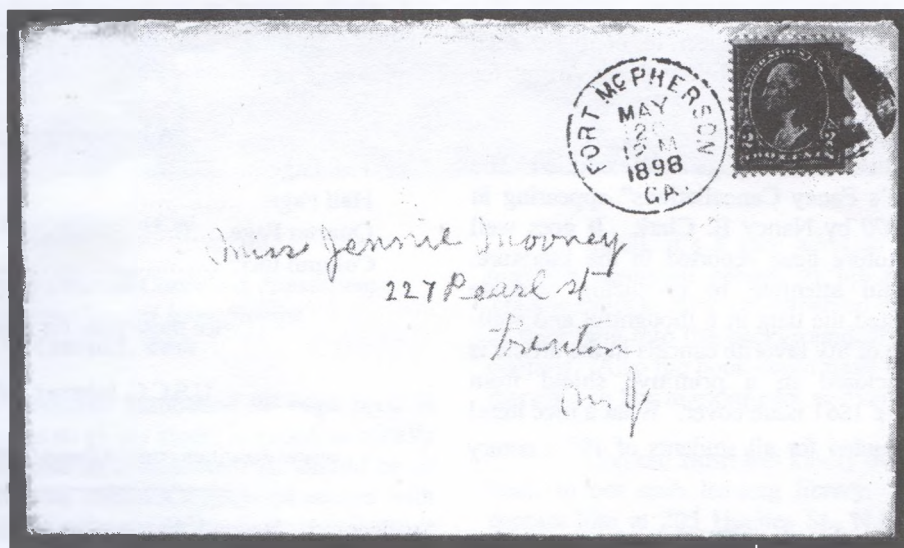


Figure 2. Fancy cancel "A" with black Fort McPherson, Ga. 20 May 1898 postmark.

Dear Reader,

Several one-frame exhibits were entered by U.S.C.C. members at the Washington, D.C. area NAPEX show held in early June. (One exhibit was unfortunately held up in the mails and didn't arrive until after the show.) All won medals including a Silver by novice exhibitor Vince Costello which was a fine accomplishment. The exhibits were:

Fancy Cancellations on the Large Banknotes 1870-1890
Vince Costello

Ellipse cancels on 19th Century U.S. Stamps
Roger Curran
(U.S.C.C. best one-frame award)

19th Century Illinois Fancy Cancels
Sy Stiss

Georgetown, D.C. Cancels 1860s-1870s
Tuck Taylor

The Club staffed a society table for the entire show and held an enjoyable Saturday afternoon meeting wherein our one-frame exhibitors discussed the material in their exhibits.

Enclosed with this issue of the *NEWS* is our first roster of contact persons for Club members seeking information about specific cancels in their collections or about their related postal history. We'd like to expand this list and urge additional club members to come forward and identify areas in which they have knowledge and about which they would be willing to be consulted. And, of course, readers are urged to take advantage of the advisory services, as we are confident this program will prove to be a valuable benefit of club membership.

The major article in this issue concerns a group of cancellations from Barre, Massachusetts featuring covers in the collection of Arthur Beane. Arthur, a long-time student of cancellations in general and with a special interest in Massachusetts postal history, has been most gracious in his willingness to allow the presentation of his covers in several recent issues of the *NEWS*. We expect to continue such reporting in the future and want to publicly thank Arthur for his support.

Attention is called to an 18 page article entitled "The True Fancies of Maine's Fancy Cancellations" appearing in *The Congress Book 2000* by Nancy B. Clark. It goes well beyond what has heretofore been reported in the literature. Nancy has paid careful attention to producing accurate tracings and has presented the data in a thoughtful and well-organized manner. One of my favorite cancels in the article is an American flag enclosed in a primitive shield from Rockland, Maine on a 3¢ 1861 issue cover. What a nice item! This article is recommended for all students of 19th Century U.S. cancellations.

Please remember that the *NEWS* is always seeking articles and contributions from readers. Whether it be a long or short article, in finished form or rough draft, all are



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Address all other communications to the *NEWS* editor: Roger D. Curran at the address below.

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www.geocities.com/Athens/2088/uscchome.htm

welcomed. Beyond that, reports of unusual cancels and the like are of constant interest. Let us hear from you.

Roger Curran

More on Indian Heads

Reports continue to arrive on additional post offices that used the intricate and delicate Indian head cancels discussed in the preceding two issues of the *NEWS*. Figure 1 was submitted by Bill Sandrik and is purple ink from Bonanza, Colorado. It resides in his (Ballston Philatelics) retail stock. The Figure 2 example is in Arthur Beane's collection.■

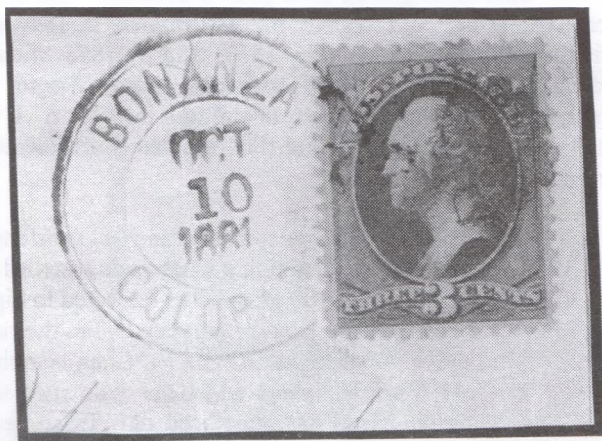


Figure 1

The book is divided into three chapters: straightline cancels, fancy cancels and unusual cancels. The straightlines are a bit sparse with but 15 Confederate townmarks shown plus four more Union military field cancels.

The next chapter on fancy cancels offers a similar number, which are primarily simple geometrics. The last chapter on unusual cancels covers targets, double rim date stamps, balloons and miscellaneous handstamps including rate markings, "PAID", "FREE", "STEAM", etc. The final six pages include a bibliography, an appendix on Confederate printing techniques, the issue date for CSA stamps and the dates of state secession.

In addition to the illustrations, quite a bit of research is included on where the covers originated. For example, there is what appeared to be a "TYNER OCT 9" cancel. Only two examples from Tyner have been reported, both curiously with "OCT9." Tyner, Tennessee turns out to be on the rail line nine miles from Chattanooga headed, according to Mr. Bush, toward the Georgia state line. He has concluded that the marking "OCT" is actually "GEO" (i.e. GEO 9) and was intended to place Tyner on the railway route from the Chattanooga. Then there is the Big Shanty marking. Remember the locomotive chase made famous by Disney many years ago?

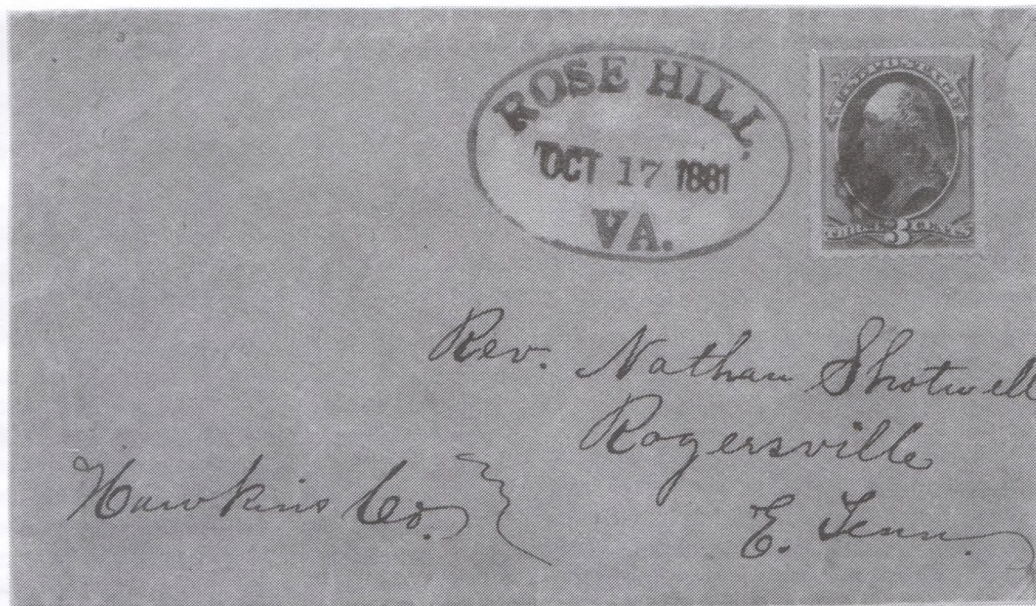


Figure 2

BOOK REVIEW

*Straightline, Fancy & Unusual Cancels & Handstamps
On Confederate General Issue Stamps*
by Conrad L. Bush

Though this handsome hardbound 90 page book is printed in black and white on glossy stock, it would be equally at home on the coffee table as a bookshelf. It should be of distinct value to those who collect Confederate covers with unusual markings. While not intended to be comprehensive for all markings, those categories covered seem to be quite complete. Connie's attempt is to add something of value to the published references on Confederate cancels and the book accomplishes that quite well.

In all, it's a nice addition to a library. The only negative comment relates to the rather poor illustrations. Tracings should have accompanied many of the cancel photos as they fade into the background of the cover due to lack of contrast. Also the book could have been tightened up a bit as there are so few markings for so many pages.

Conrad Bush has kindly donated a copy of his 1997 book to our club lending library. For further information contact him at 205 Hughes St., N.E., Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32548-6401 or by e-mail at bearclan@nwfl.net.

Roger R. Rhoads

(Continued from front page)

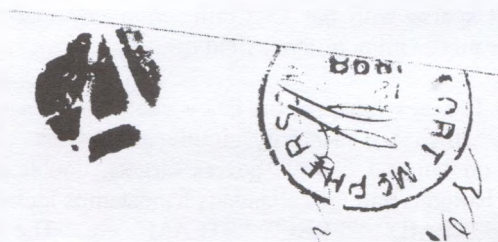


Figure 3. July 1898 Fort McPherson "A."



Figure 4. May 1898 Fort McPherson "A."

is inverted to facilitate comparison with the marking in Figure 4.

The character in Figure 4 is a well-formed negative "A." The character in Figure 3 is not so well formed. This is most noticeable in the cross arm of the "A" which is not level but rises from left to right.

Only about six weeks elapsed between the use of the two different "A" cancels. The "A" in the early cover is very well defined and six weeks seems a short period of time in which it wore to the point that it was replaced with another "A." Perhaps an unusually large volume of mail from the troops at the post training for the Spanish-American War contributed to the rapid wear of the cancel.

We are curious by nature so the natural question is what was the significance of the "A." Fort McPherson was located between the cities of Atlanta and East Point. Could the "A" have stood for the "Atlanta?" This is doubtful. More likely it represented the last name of the postmaster, O.T. Adams.■

A Brief History of Mormon Island, California

by Richard J. Sneed

In the February 2001 NEWS Roger Curran illustrated a Mormon Island, California cover bearing a Scott #210 canceled by an "MI" killer. He speculated about the exact location of Mormon Island. This article provides some more information.

Mormon Island, California, was located on the American River about 25 miles east of Sacramento. It is now

submerged beneath Folsom Lake.

Mormon Island was the earliest gold rush settlement in the Folsom area. It was the second gold rush mining camp of this era after Coloma where James W. Marshall made the first gold discovery on January 24, 1848. Miners built the "island" by carving a canal behind the river to get at the rich diggings, where as much as \$1,000 a day was extracted.

This mining town grew from a fortuitous find by two Mormons on March 11, 1848, to 1,000 miners in 1849, to a thriving population of 2,500 by 1853. But by 1856 when the Sacramento Valley Railroad came to nearby Negro Bar (present-day Folsom), Mormon Island was in decline. It was greatly diminished by 1890 and was completely abandoned in the early 1900s.

The area became home to many ranchers and farmers until 1955. In that year the remaining inhabitants resettled and the local cemetery of about 100 graves was relocated to higher ground at the New Mormon Island Cemetery before the rising waters behind the newly constructed Folsom Dam, completed in 1956, covered Mormon Island and other gold rush sites. Since then Mormon Island has resurfaced only twice, in the early 1980s and in 1992, when drought caused the Lake's level to drop more than 40 feet to expose the foundations of buildings of this historic gold mining town.

Primary information sources include *Sacramento - Excursions Into Its History and Natural World* by William M. Holden, Two Rivers Publishing Company, Fair Oaks, CA, third printing 1998, and web sites for the California State Library, Historic Folsom and the *Sacramento Bee*.■

Editor's note. In the earlier article, reference was made to "12P.M." in the *Sacramento* received marking. That was in error as it actually reads "2 P.M." The thin vertical line to the left of the "2" is not a numeral "1", but rather the edge of the "2" slug. See also the edge of the "1" slug in "14."

New Early Date for the Savannah Duplex Cancel Discovered

by Frank Crown

In the Summer 1999 issue of *U.S. Cancellation Club NEWS*, I had an article on the Savannah duplex cancel.¹ In that article the earliest recorded date of use of the Savannah duplex cancel was given as 20 October 1860.

Recently I obtained the cover in Figure 1 which bears the date of 14 October 1860. It bears a Type B marking as described in the earlier article. The earliest recorded date of use of the type A marking remains 23 October 1860.■

¹ Frank Crown, "New Early Date for the Savannah Duplex Cancel," *U.S. Cancellation Club News*, Vol. 24, No. 232 (Summer 1999), pp. 110-111.

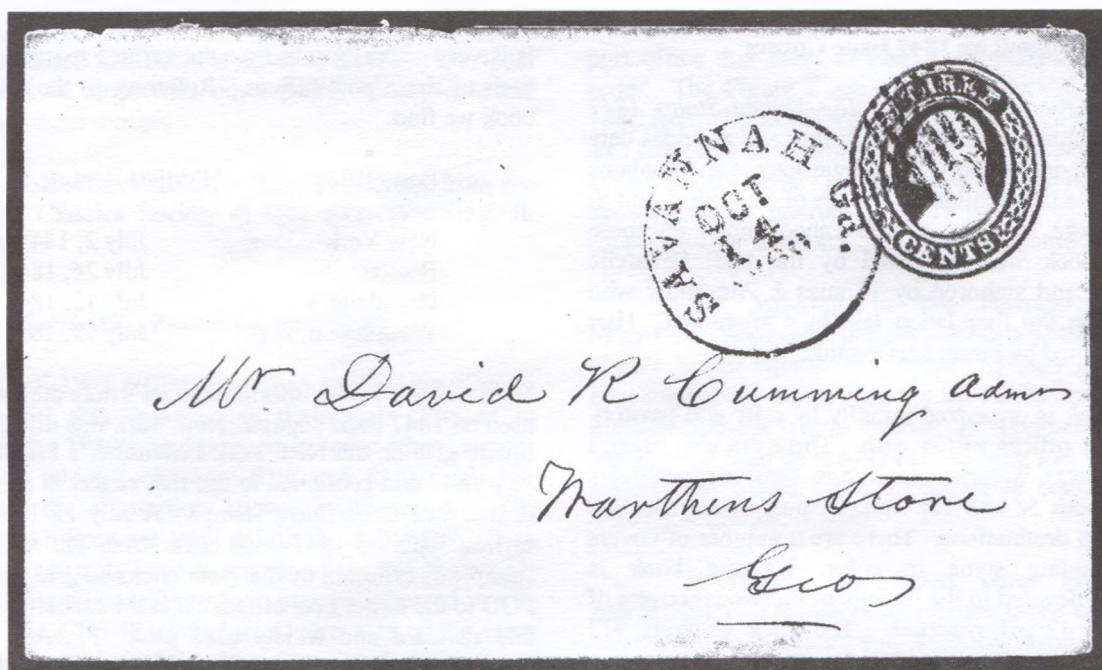


Figure 1. Black Savannah Type B duplex cancel dated 14 October 1860 used on 3 cent postal stationery envelope.

Color Cancels

by Steven Hines

If you collect color cancels, I have a word of advice – buy a halogen magnifier light. One supplier is Safe Publications, P.O. Box 263, Southampton, Pa. 18966. The halogen light emits a white light that will give you a true idea of the actual color. It costs about \$85.

When you look at the ink in the cancel, look at the tiny specks of pigment. Those tiny specks of pigment are the true color, not the surrounding lighter area. As you may know, the oil in the pigments of many early cancel inks sometimes separates from the pigment and produces a slightly different color than the pigment. That's why many "orange" cancels are returned from the Foundation as orange red. "Brown" cancels are sometimes black ink with the oil separating and making the cancel look brown. In the case of the "orange" cancel the actual color is red. In the case of the "brown" cancel the color is actually black. Unfortunately at many stamp shows the lighting is horrible. The halogen light is great to use at these shows.

Another problem that arises is when red ink has an oil separation and looks yellowish. If you look at the tiny specks of pigment you'll see them to be red.

Oxidation can also turn a red cancel into a brownish color. I have seen many of these on 1869 stamps, especially on the 30¢ stamp. Many years ago I bought a 30¢ 1869 in an auction where the cancel was described as red. When I got the stamp I was expecting a bright red cancel, which looks great on this stamp. However, the red cancel was oxidized and looked dull (ugly) red brown. The auction catalog was actually correct – it was a red cancel, but not the beautiful

bright red you'd expect. This mandates another rule – view the stamp by mail if there isn't a color picture.

In 35 years of collecting color cancels I've only been able to find four or five that are true orange on the 1851 issue. They are considerably scarcer than most people think. I would also advise any collector to have any orange cancel certified by the Foundation if bought in an auction. ■

FOR SALE: Cancellations – U.S. 1861 issue (no 3¢ stamps). Send \$3.00 for color Xerox and enlarged B&W prints. A. Boyarsky, PO Box 570, LaMirada, CA 90637-0570.

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New Book on 1847 Issue Covers

An eagerly awaited book, *The United States 1847 Issue: A Cover Census*, has arrived. It lists and provides data on covers bearing one or more 1847 issue stamps and contains a treasure-trove of information on usages of Scott #s 1 and 2. Excellent coverage is given to the cancellations on these stamps. The book was published by the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society and authored by Thomas J. Alexander who built the work on the foundation laid by Creighton C. Hart who was later joined by Susan McDonald.

The book is organized initially by state and territory and then by post offices within each. There are also listings for railroads, bisects, waterway markings, combination covers (those bearing both 5¢ and 10¢ values), post demonetization uses, and foreign destinations. There are a number of covers illustrated, including some in color, but the book is overwhelmingly devoted to the listings of individual covers of which there are 12,961 reported! The book contains 947 pages and is more than two inches thick.

The column headings for the lists are date, stamp or stamps present, color of townmark, post office address, name of addressee and "Notes." Under the "Notes" heading, information is provided on the particular cancel or cancels used. Readers are thus able to quickly review the canceling practices of individual post offices and, if there were changes along the way, to note the evolution of these practices.

A very important article on 1847 issue stamps appeared in the May 1972 *Chronicle* entitled "A Day to Remember: July 1, 1847." In it author Susan McDonald described the *first* deliveries of the 1847 stamps, which were made in person by a post office representative:

| <u>Delivery Date</u> | <u>Post Office</u> |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| July 1, 1847 | New York |
| July 2, 1847 | Boston |
| July 7, 1847 | Philadelphia |
| July 9, 1847 | Washington, D.C. |

It is very interesting to note the earliest reported covers from each of these post offices. Referring to the new Alexander book we find:

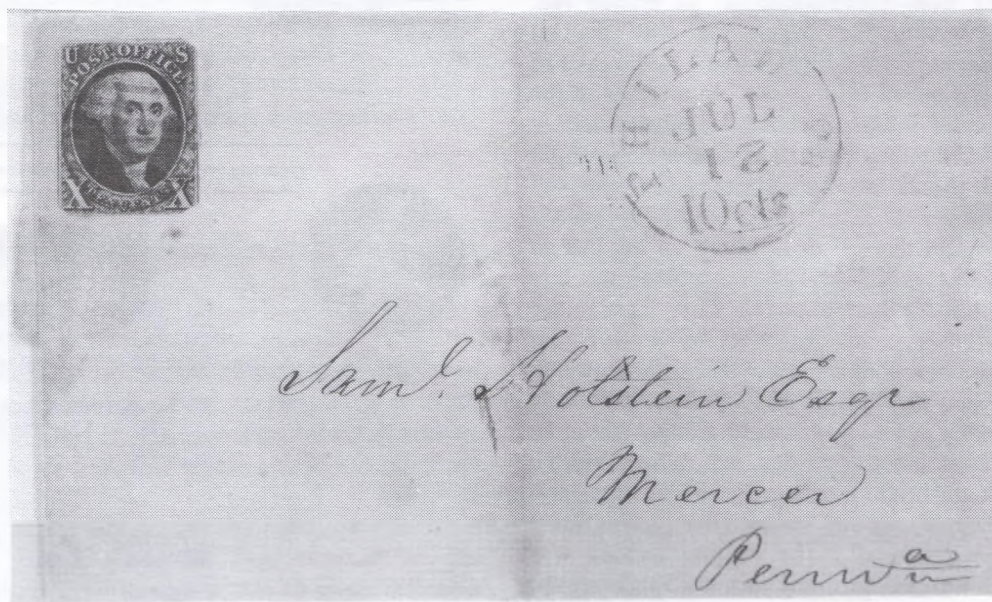
| <u>Post Office</u> | <u>Earliest Reported Cover</u> |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| New York | July 2, 1847 |
| Boston | July 26, 1847 |
| Philadelphia | July 12, 1847 |
| Washington, D.C. | July 15, 1847 |

Now with the above information, let's note the earliest *cancels* used on 1847 issue stamps. New York was using the "13-bar" square grid on the New York Postmaster's Provisional before July 1847 and continued to use that cancel in July on the new Post Office Department stamps. A July 12 10¢ cover is the earliest reported 1847-issue cover from Philadelphia and the stamp was canceled by the 7-bar enclosed grid provided by the POD to the larger post offices. It is the earliest reported use of this standard and widely used grid. Figure 1 provides an illustration of the cover. The "2" in "12" is inverted in the townmark. The enclosure is datelined July 12, 1847. Unfortunately, the blue grid, which provides a slight tie of the stamp to the cover on the right side, will not show clearly in the illustration.

It is noteworthy that Boston seems to have taken a comparatively long time in getting organized to sell postage stamps since the earliest reported cover is more than three weeks after the stamps were delivered. It would be interesting to know why this was the case. The New York, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C. post offices began selling the stamps in less than a week after their arrival.

There will, of course, be additions to the listings and they will be published in the *Chronicle* or through the Internet. But this data on hand is massive and without doubt provides an excellent basis for study and fact-finding. Mr. Alexander is to be complimented for a very professional approach to the project at hand and for the outstanding product that has emerged. While the book is expensive (certainly

Figure 1



understandable given its size and production values), it is highly recommended to all who have an interest in 1847 issue cancels as well as those with other postal history interests associated with these stamps.

The book is available for \$79.50 postpaid from the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society at Box 445, Wheeling, IL 60090-0445.■

Morrisville, Pennsylvania Ellipse

The Fall 1998 *NEWS* carried an article centering on an advertisement that appeared in periodicals directed to postmasters in the 1880's, and perhaps in some other years as well. The ad, which took more than one form, included, among others, the illustration shown in Figure 1. The numerals in the ellipse are very definitely of the New York style but such numerals have never been reported from New York in an 11-bar ellipse. They have always appeared in a 9-bar ellipse. The CDS illustrated in Figure 1 is of the same design used by the NYPO at the time.

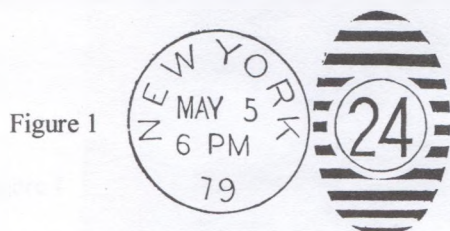


Figure 1

The 1998 article illustrated three covers postmarked from Haverford College, Pennsylvania with the 11-bar "24" ellipse. (The duplexed CDS postmark has an appearance that differs considerably from the New York CDS, due primarily to the heavier letters.) Since the "24" seems an unnecessarily high number to be coming from a small post office, and since no other contemporaneous number killers have been reported from Haverford College, we speculated that the answer might be "... something as simple as the Haverford College postmaster ordering ... (a) CDS duplexed to a killer 'like the oval with the bars in your ad' and was supplied literally with that."

A cover has come to our attention from another small post office that tends to support the idea of making such an order. The Figure 2 cover was postmarked on December 8, 1886 from "MORRISVILLE/ BUCKS CO. PA." duplexed to an 11-bar ellipse containing a "2" in the center. The "2" is of the New York style. The second digit is so lightly struck as to be completely unreadable. However, there is definitely supposed to be a second digit and we assume it to be a "4."

The lettering in the Haverford College and Morrisville postmarks is quite similar and the diameter of the circles is essentially the same. Based on their overall appearance, our editor assumes the handstamps that produced these markings were rubber as opposed to the metal handstamps used by the NYPO. Buying less expensive rubber handstamps would seem a reasonable course of action for small post offices.

If readers can report other examples of this Morrisville ellipse, especially those more clearly struck, or any related information, they are encouraged to do so.■

Ullrick's Postal History Catalog

A Volume 1, No. 1 issue of the above-cited catalog has been provided to the *NEWS* by Tuck Taylor. Dated January 1, 1955, the specific subject of the four page catalog is identified as "Cancellations on the Bank Note Issues" with the stated purpose "to provide a handy medium for the sale and exchange of fancy cancellations." It begins with a ½ page section describing how collectors go about collecting cancels and proceeds to listings of specific types of cancels with prices. As one would expect, there have been dramatic changes from 1955 to 2001 both in terms of collecting approach and prices.

Copies of this catalog are available to club members for \$1.00 postpaid by writing to U.S.C.C., 20 University Ave., Lewisburg, PA 17837.■

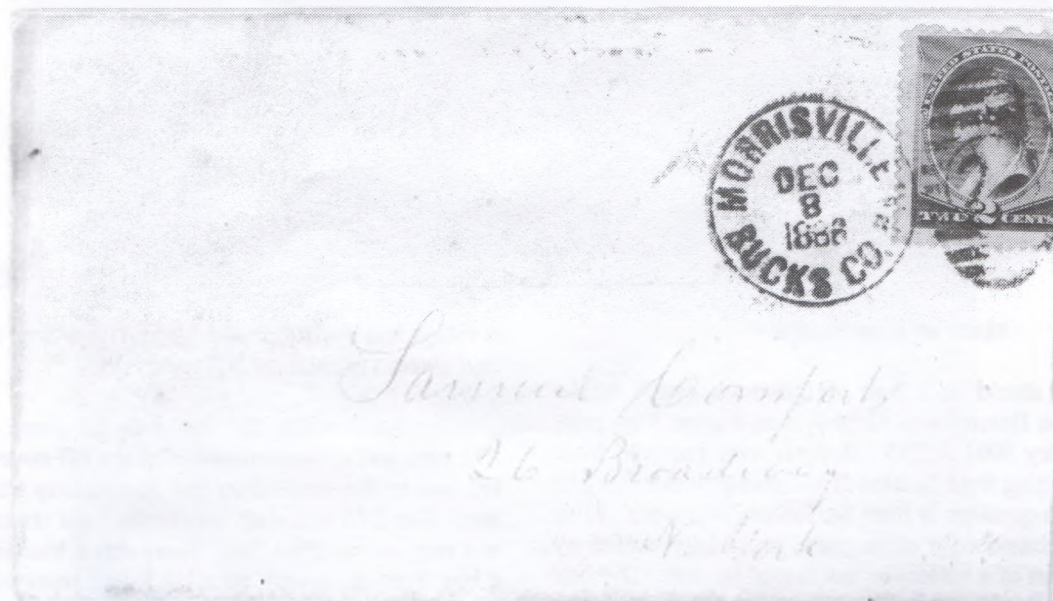


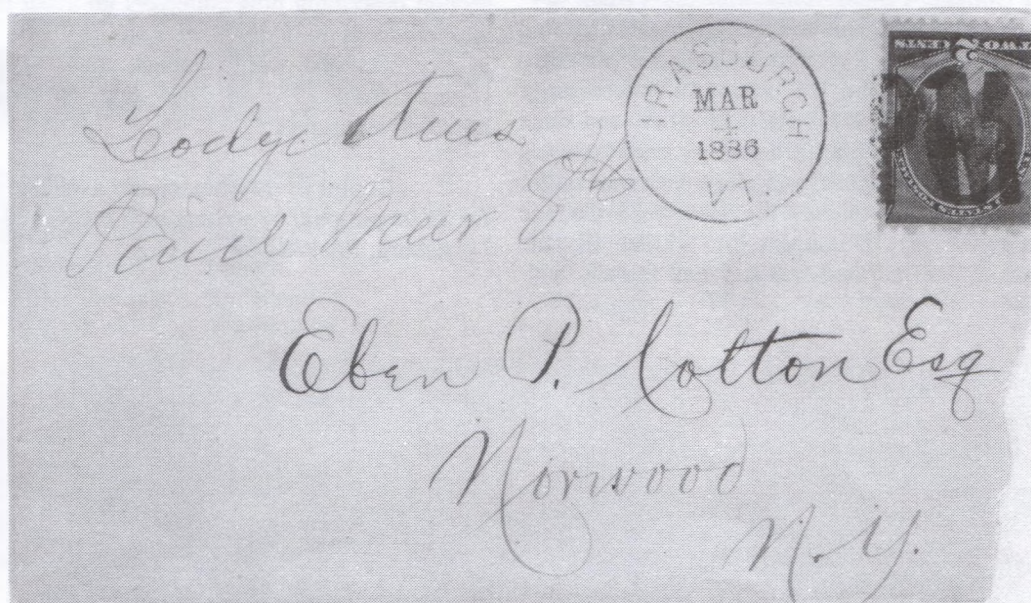
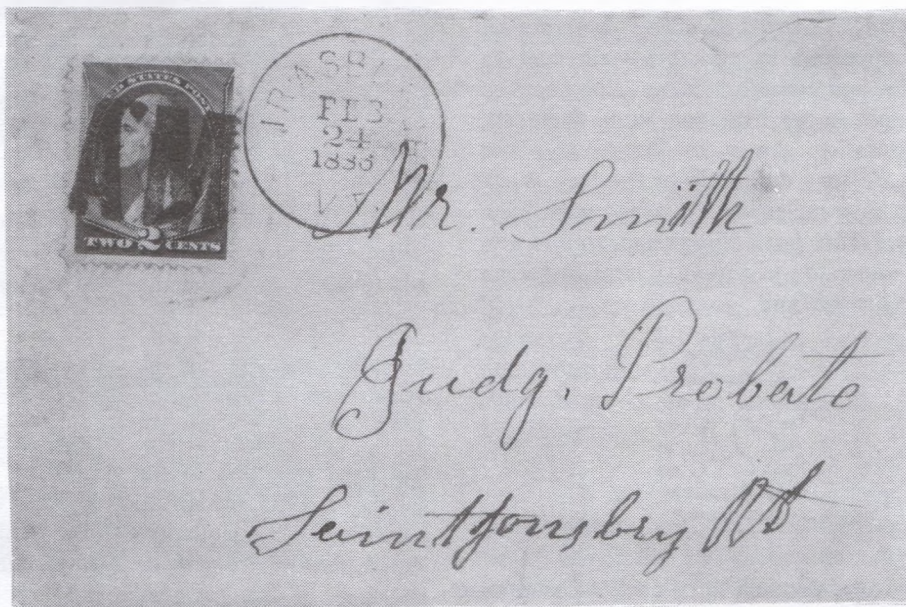
Figure 2

An Eye on the Clock?

Two Irasburgh, Vermont covers, forming a remarkable pair, are illustrated as Figures 1 and 2 courtesy of Arthur Beane. The large AM killer is dated February 24, 1886 and the large "PM" is dated March 4, 1886. Cole lists the "AM" with dates of use of February 24 – April 15, 1886 and the "PM" with only the March 4, 1886 date.¹ Apparently they were used simultaneously but it would have probably been for a short period because the markings are scarce. Also, Irasburgh must have been quite a small post office.

We can only speculate that the Irasburgh postmaster used one killer in the morning and the other in the afternoon. These killers were not duplexed, so the same townmark was undoubtedly used with both. Additional information would be welcomed.■

¹ Cole, James M. *Cancellations and Killers of the Banknote Era 1870-1894*, USPS, 1995, pp. 109, 113.



More on Blue Shield

A blue shield in a box of unknown origin in the collection of Don Barany was illustrated as Figure 3 on page 78 of the February 2001 *NEWS*. Reports were received from John Barwis (writing from Scotland) and stamp dealer Jim Lee that the cancel in question is from St. Joseph, Missouri. Their comments were based on a cover piece previously owned by John that was part of a collection purchased by Jim. The box surrounding the shield on both Don's stamp and the piece in

question has a distinct and heavy rim which becomes thicker as it sweeps around the bottom corners.

Incidentally, the shield on the piece appears to have five bars and a re-examination of the off-cover stamp by Don led him to the conclusion that it, too, may actually have five bars. The fifth and sixth bars to the right are connected by ink and may be one thick bar. There was a blue five-bar shield in a box from St. Joseph on a UX3 card reported in the January 1966 *NEWS* of a somewhat similar appearance.■

The Men of Letters in the Barre Post Office

by Roger D. Curran

Barre is located northwest of Worcester in the central part of Massachusetts. By 1969 it had a population of 1,065 but that rose to 3,479 if one included the surrounding rural area. Over a 15 year period, the Barre (pronounced "berry") post office produced an interesting array of killers with one or more letters in the center. Through the courtesy of Arthur Beane, we present a number of Barre covers and develop at least a preliminary sequencing of the cancellations used.

To set the stage, we begin with a rather plain handstamp that duplexed the Barre townmark to a target killer. A May 6, 1879 example is struck in a bright magenta ink. An April 24, 1882 example (Figure 1) is struck in black. It is

assumed that a rubber-faced handstamp produced these markings. On two covers there is, in addition to this duplex marking, a hand carved "S" in a segmented box with one extra segment above and below the box. They are dated March 15, 1884 and August 15, 1884. The latter item is shown here as Figure 2. These killers were not necessary to cancel the stamp since the target is also present. One wonders why they were applied. Was it just to add some ornamentation or an experiment of some sort?

We move now to July 1886 with the introduction of an "S" killer (Figure 3) in what appears to be an oval comprised of 12 horizontal bars. On an August 1886 cover (Figure 4) we note a reversed "S" in a circular enclosure of both horizontal and vertical bars. By November 17, 1886 (Figure 5) the "S" is correctly presented and in a much fancier design.

Figure 1

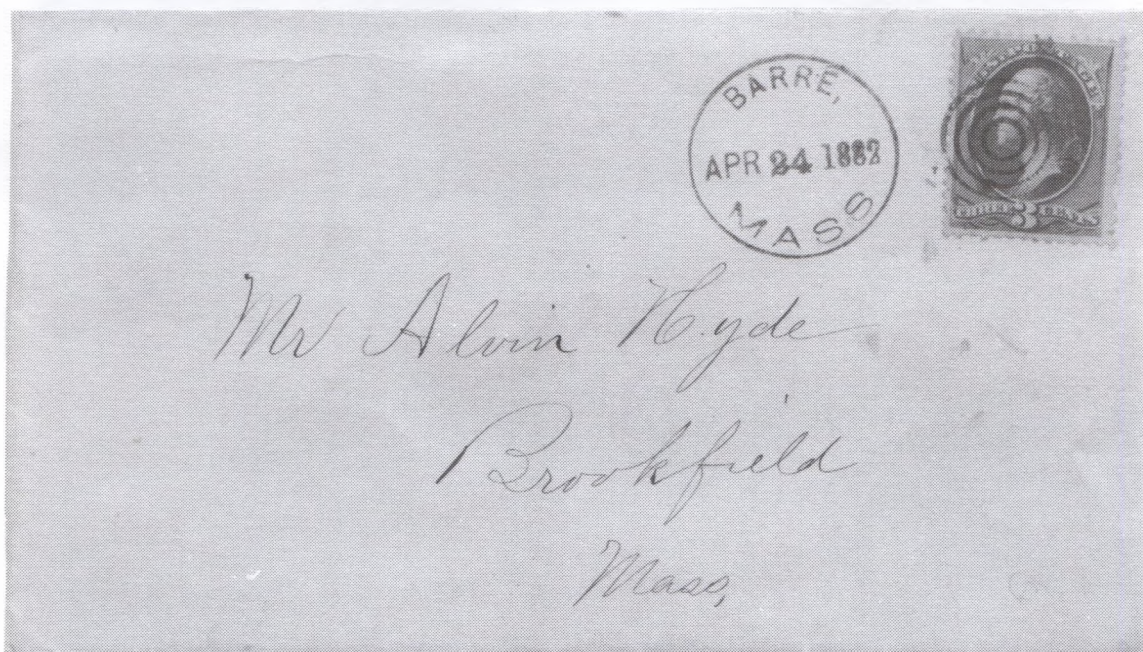


Figure 2

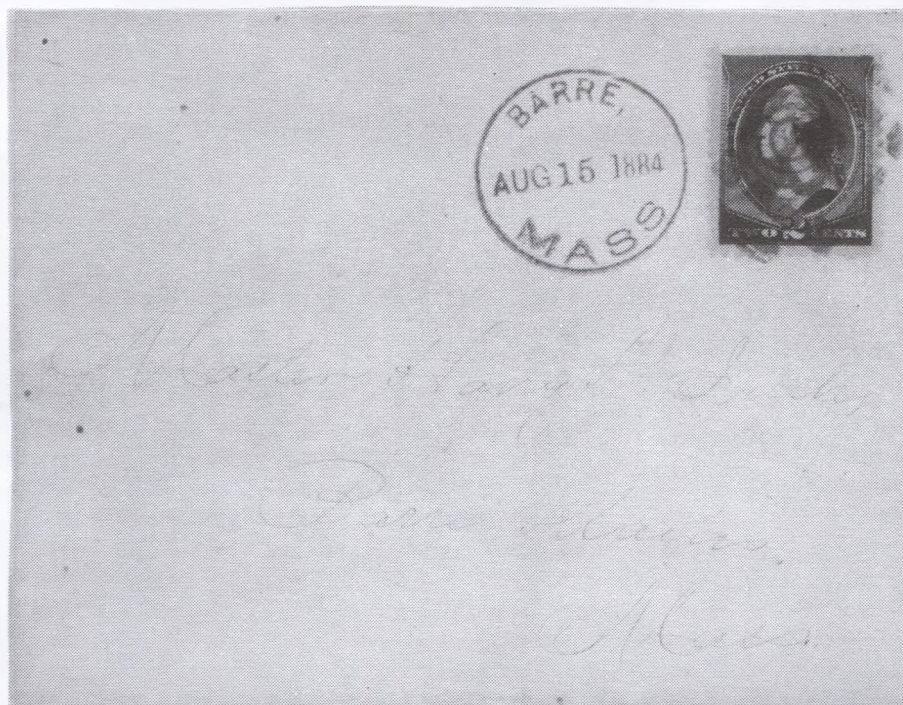


Figure 3

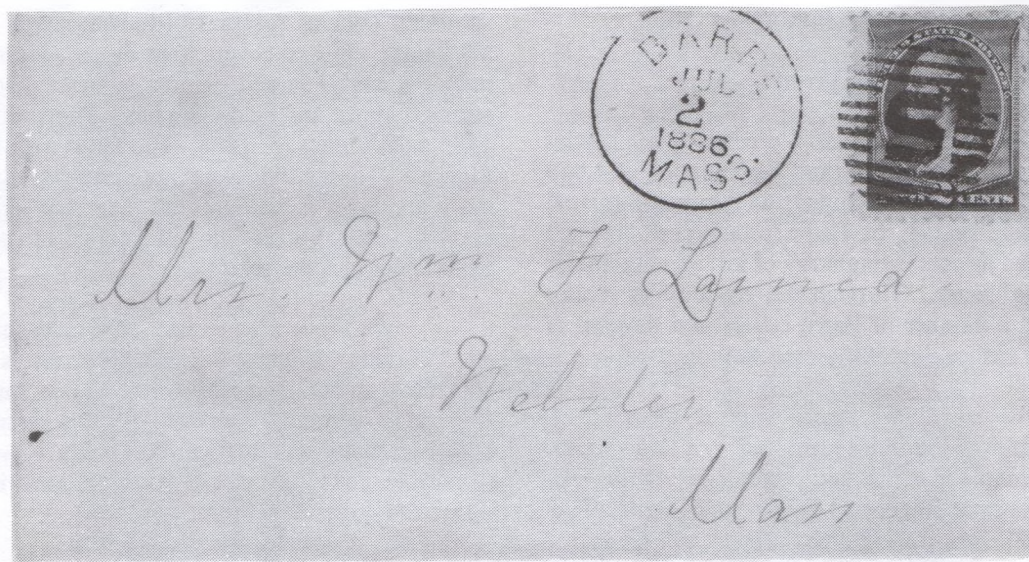


Figure 4

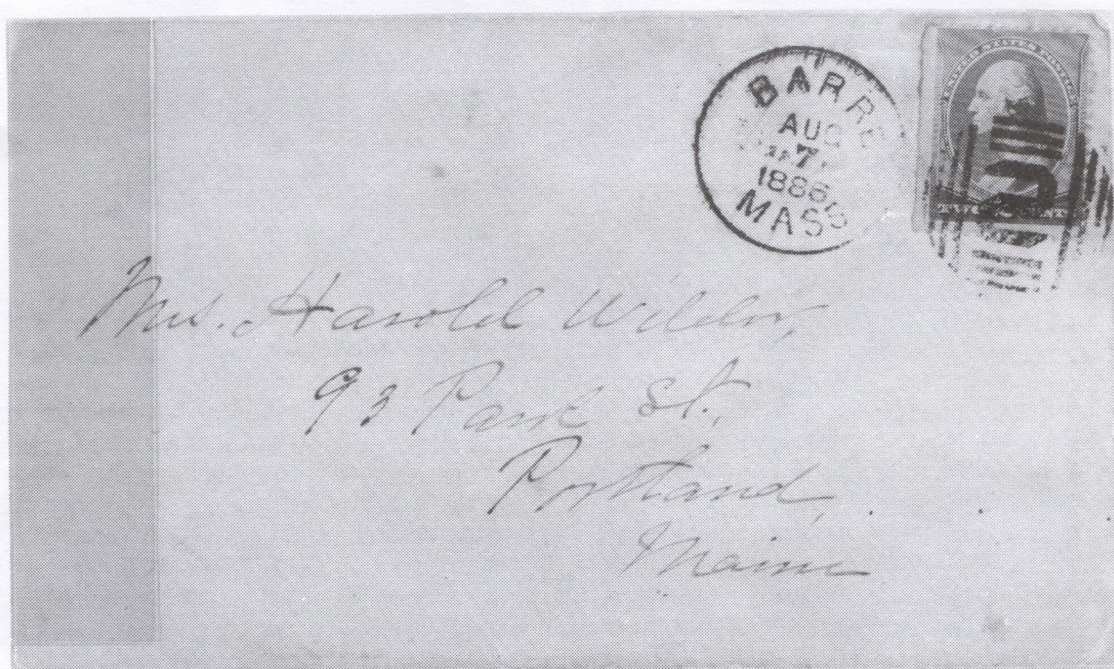


Figure 5

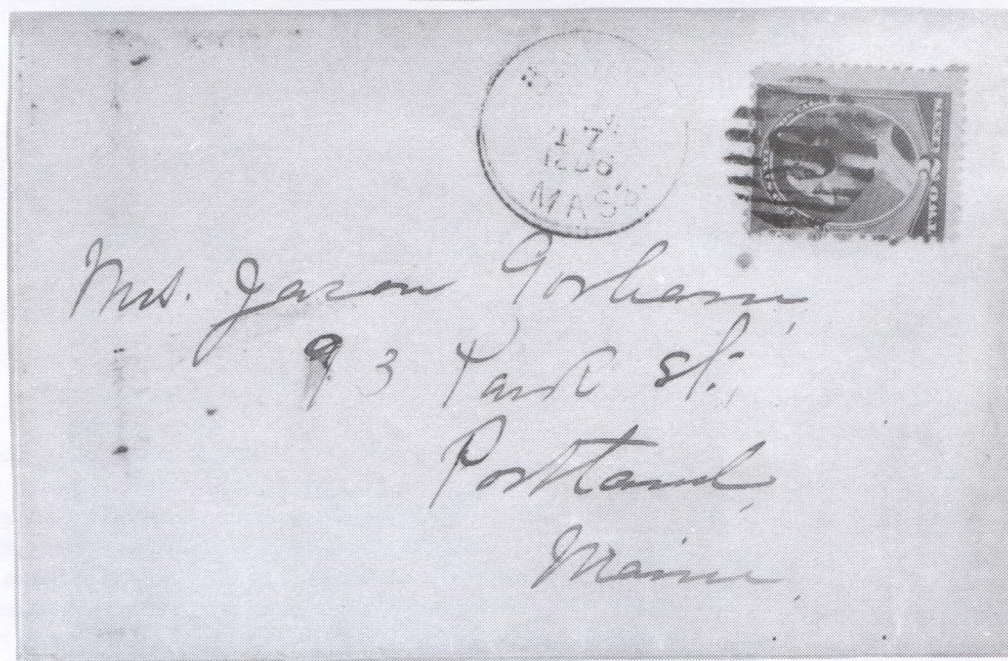


Figure 6, dated November 22, 1886 introduces a new letter – an “R.” This oval killer must have been put into service very close to November 22 because the strike is exceedingly sharp, showing no wear or ink build-up. Incidentally, it should be pointed out that, beginning with the Figure 3 cover, the townmark appears to have been applied by a metal, as opposed to rubber-faced, handstamp. It seems

clear that a metal-faced handstamp was being used with a ring into which wood or cork killers were inserted.

Two covers in early 1877-January 27 and 29 – show a return to an “S” in the killer design. The latter example is shown here as Figure 7. An “H” in an oval of horizontal bars appeared by July 1887. July 27 and August 15 (Figure 8) examples are also noted.

Figure 6

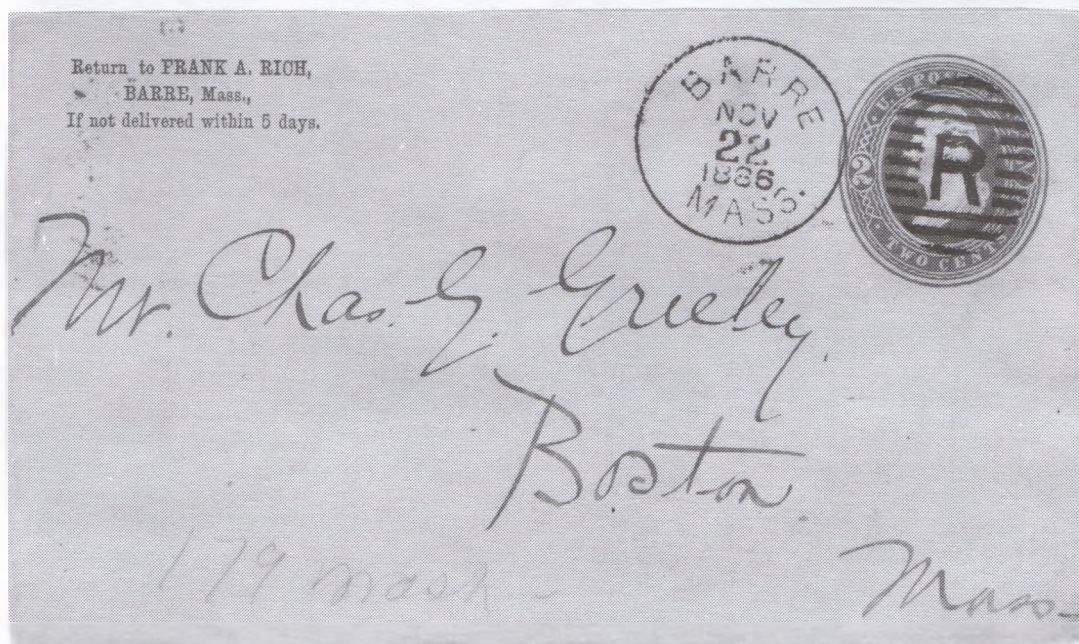


Figure 7

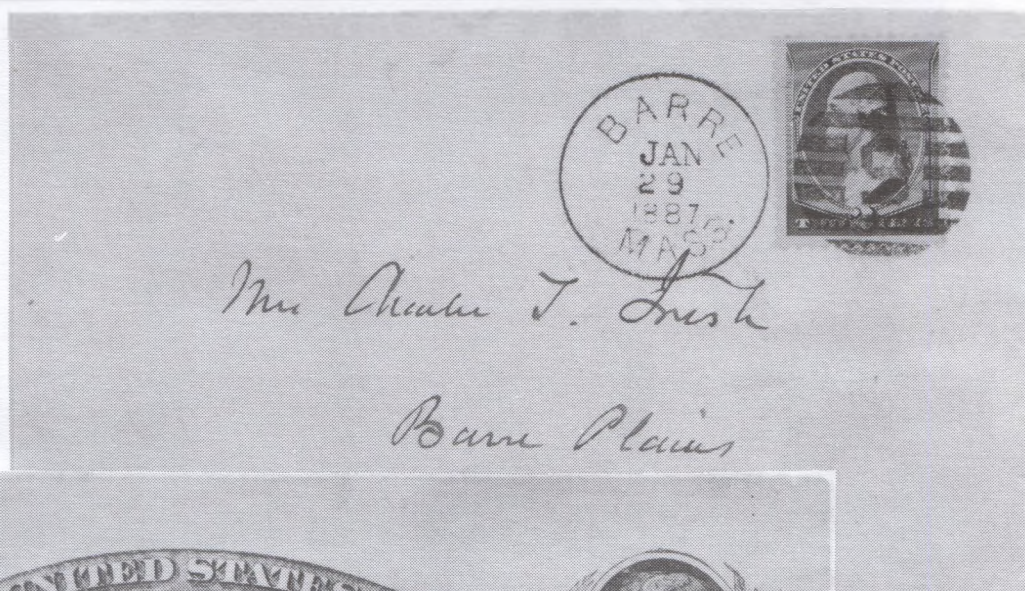
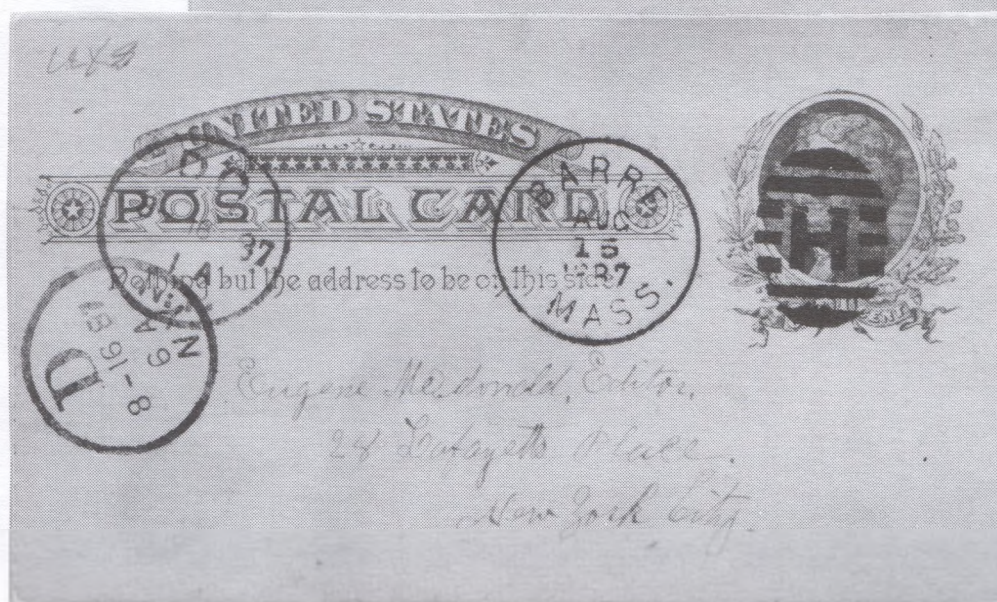


Figure 8



A multiple letter killer appeared by 1887. The cancel in question is noted on two covers – one dated September 26, 1887 and the other, very curiously, dated February 27, 1889. The latter cover is shown as Figure 9. The letters appear to be “WH” or “HW” although one might suppose that an “A” is also intended. Jim Cole, in his Banknote era cancels book,

reports dates of use of May 23 to September 19, 1887 for what appears to be the same killer, but with the other side up. The Figure 9 cover shows a very crisp strike. Was a second killer of the same design carved in 1889? A “W” was introduced (Figure 10) by October 8, 1887.

Figure 9

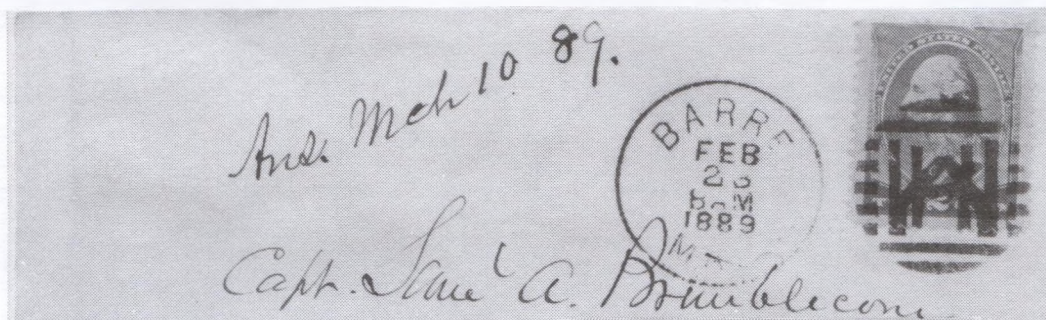


Figure 10

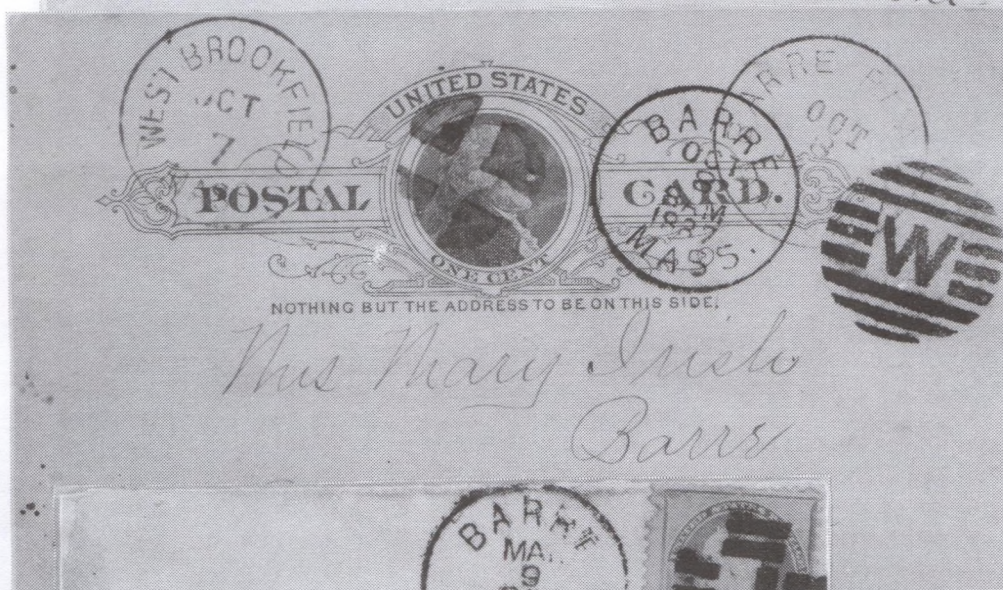
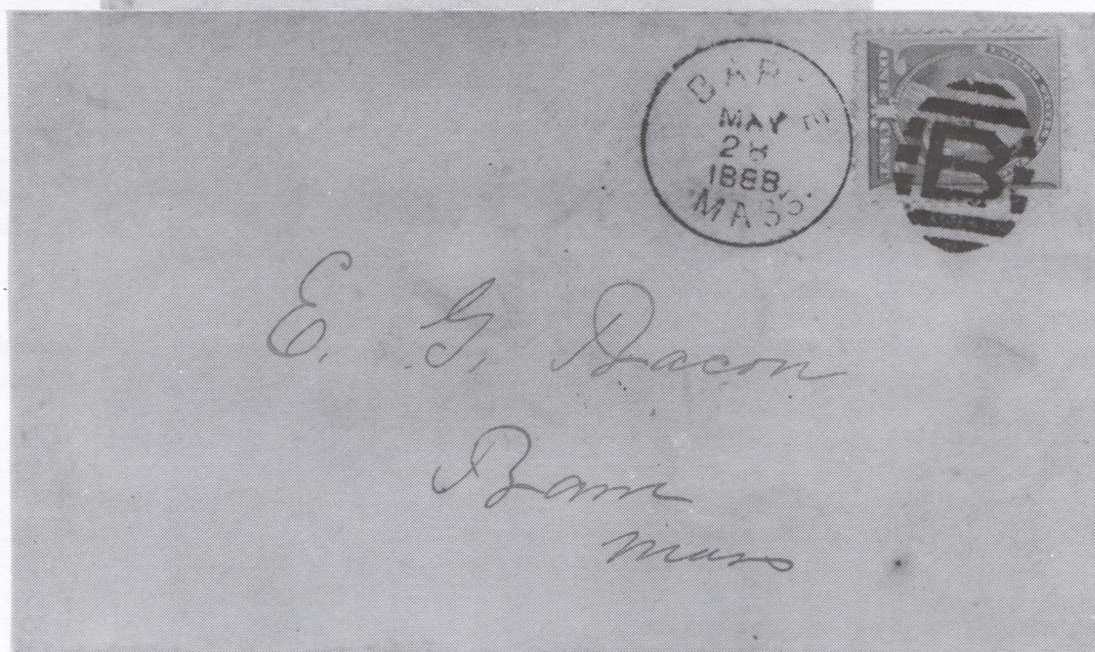


Figure 11



Figure 12



The letter "J" was introduced by March 9, 1888 (see Figure 11), a letter "B" by March 28, 1888 (see Figure 12 for a May 28, 1888 example), and a different style of "J" (Figure 13) by November 19, 1888. (Four examples of this killer have been noted in the November/December 1888 period.)

The year 1889 brought an "M" dated February 25, 1889 (Figure 14) and the only non-letter killer we noted from Barre during this period. A full example dated March 11, 1889 is illustrated in Figure 15 together with a later strike of an incomplete design. Presumably the ornamentation on the left side broke off between March 11 and March 25, 1889.

Figure 13



Figure 14

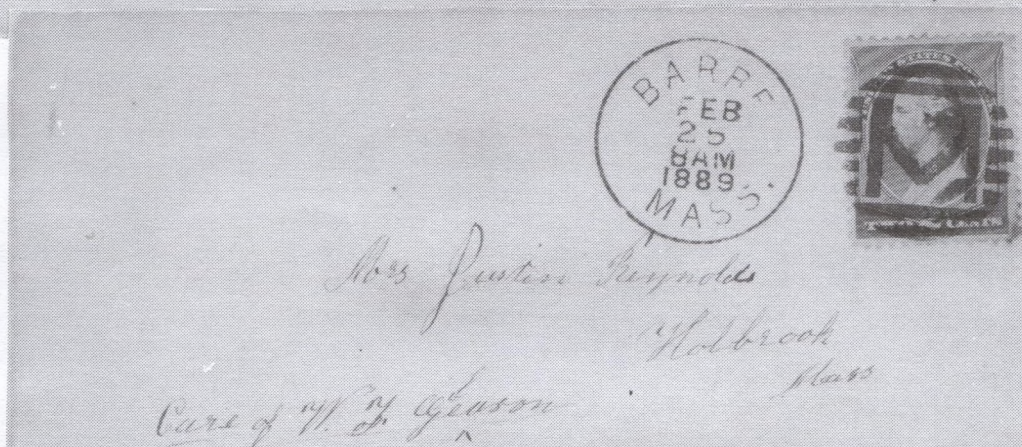
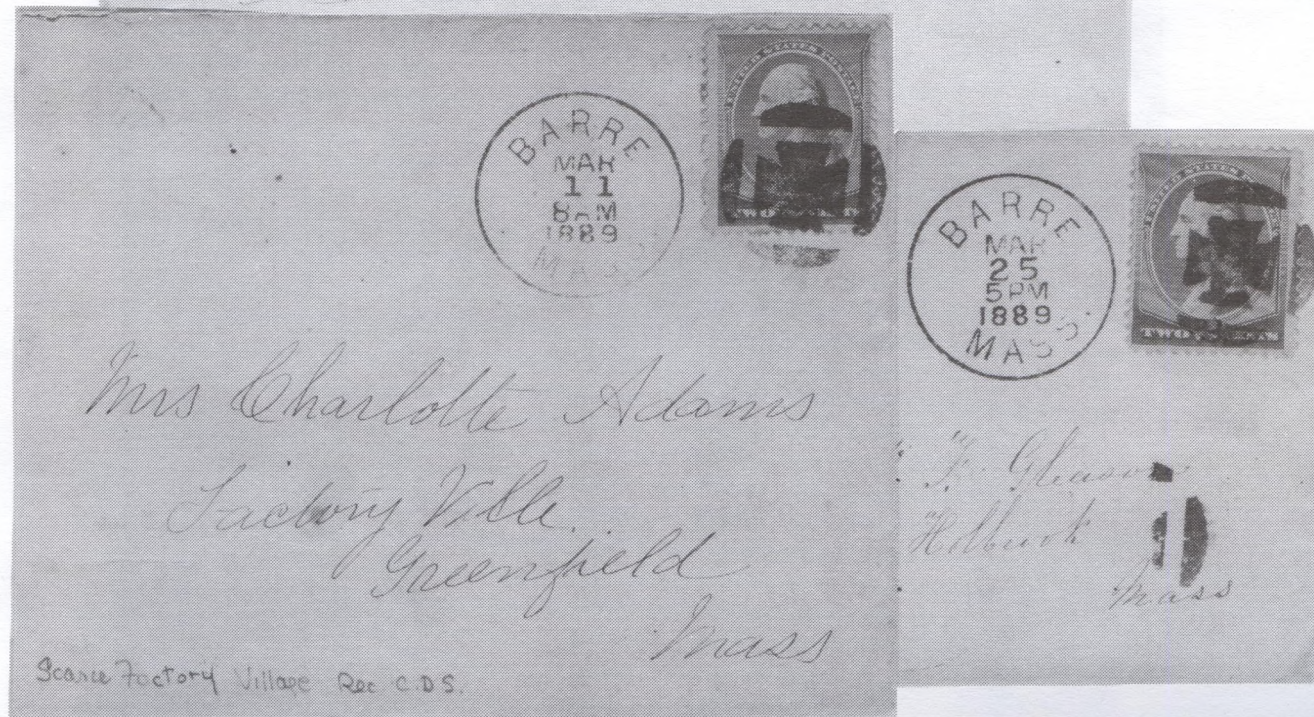


Figure 15



There was a return to a "J" killer by May 4, 1889 (Figure 16).

An "MJC" killer (Figure 17) was used as early as August 8, 1889. Cole reported usages from August 30-October 3, 1889.

Figure 18 shows an "OC" in a segmented circle struck squarely on the one-cent imprint of the UX9 postal card. There is no year-dated dateline on the reverse nor can the year be determined from the received marking. The card appeared in December 1886 and was current through December 1891.

Figure 16



Figure 17

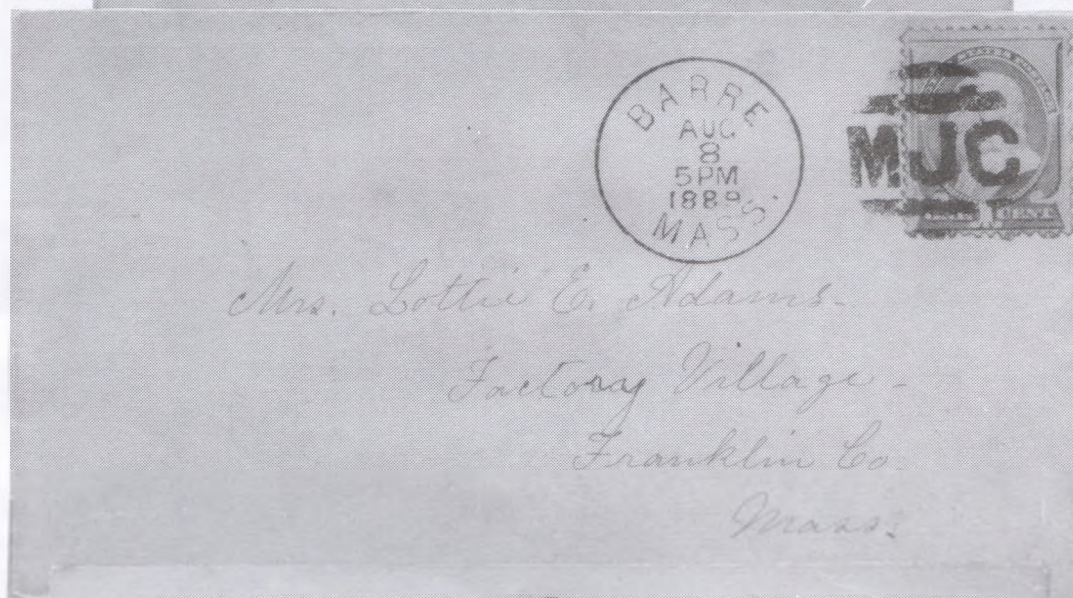
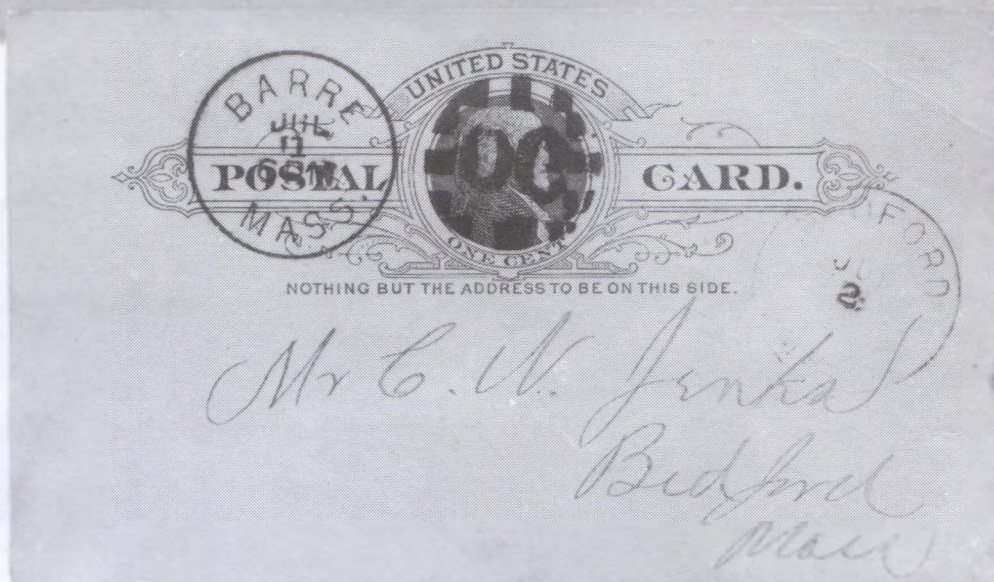


Figure 18



The final three killers (Figures 19-21) form an interesting group. The April and June covers can be dated as 1890. The January cover has no dated backstamp or enclosure. However, given the killer's similarity to that on the April cover and the fact that the stamp (Scott #212) was current until March 1890, we speculate it to be January 22, 1890. We assume it is a "W" that is being represented in both Figure 19 and 20 since it is clearly a "W" in Figure 21.

A limited amount of information about the names of Barre postmasters was passed on to Arthur Beane some years ago. In 1878 the postmaster was W.F. Brooks. From 1891-1911 it was Benjamin Brooks. In 1888, the person's last name was Wheelock. One can speculate that the multiple letter killer in Figure 8 is, in fact, a "WH" for Wheelock and that

this person was the Barre postmaster in 1887 as well as 1888. Also, the "W" killers in Figures 9 and 19-21 may stand for Wheelock who may have remained as postmaster after 1888 until being replaced by Benjamin Brooks in 1891. But what of the other letters noted? Were they the initials of clerks? Who was the postmaster in the years 1884, 1885 and 1886?

Thus ends our report on the Barre letter cancels. Surely there are additional designs out there and we urge readers to check their holdings and records and report additional cancels, additional dates for the cancels listed here, or other pertinent information to the *NEWS*. Barre is one of the 19th century post offices deserving of thanks for providing material to enrich our collections. ■

Figure 19



Figure 20

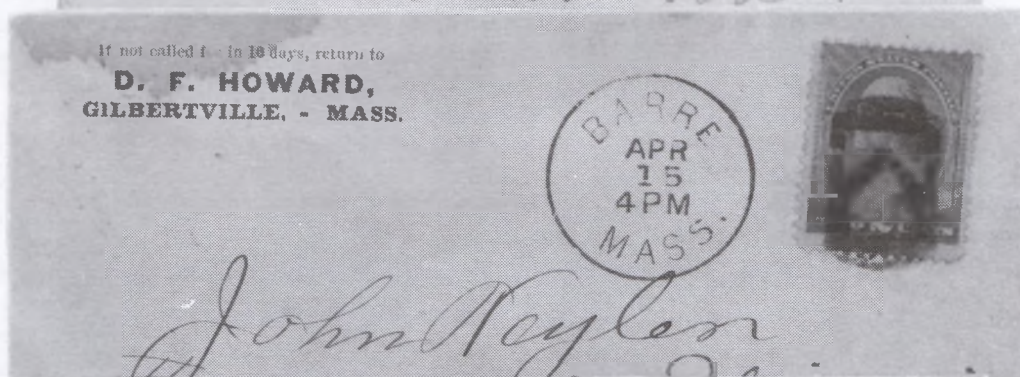
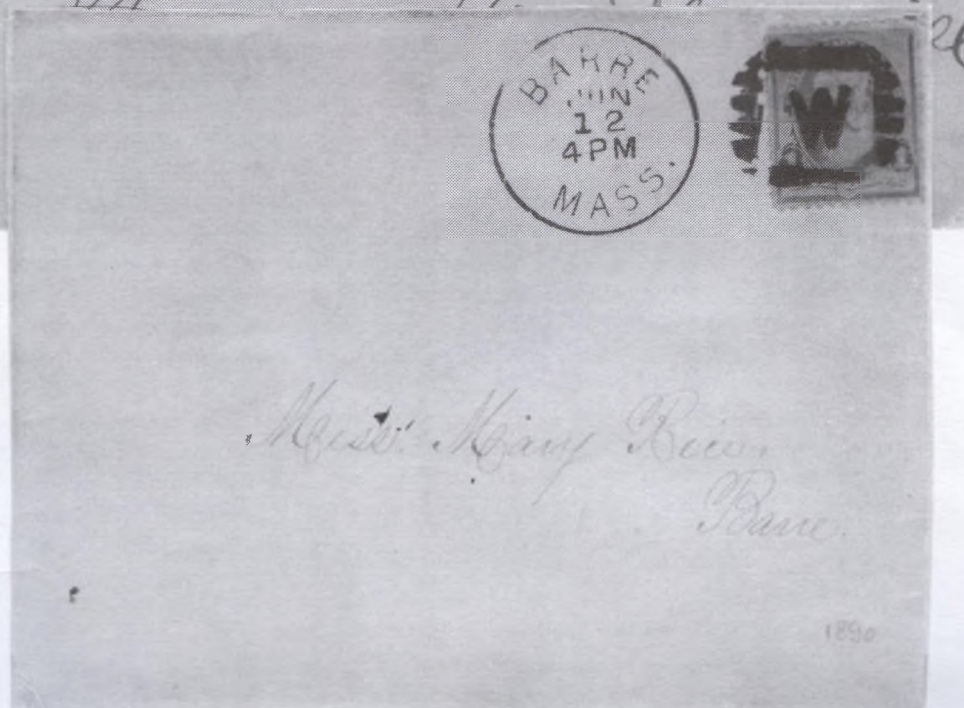


Figure 21



Royalton, Vermont Cancellation

An unusual cancellation from Royalton, Vermont was the subject of a brief article in the July 1952 issue of the *U.S. Cancellation Quarterly* by Wilbur W. Davis. Mr. Davis was a co-author of the 1949 book *Boston Postmarks to 1890*, which is still the standard reference book on the subject. The article is reproduced herewith:

CANCELLATION WITHIN THE TOWN MARK by Wilbur W. Davis



Here is an unusual type of cancellation, it being contained concentrically within the circular town mark. It is from Royalton, a small town in the East-Central part of Vermont. I have three items, each on a small piece of cover. Two of them cancel 3¢ green stamps of the 1881 issue and the third cancels a 2¢ vermilion stamp of the 1879 issue. In all cases the relation of the cancellation to the letters is identical, proving the whole to be a stationary unit. In each case the marking is placed centrally on the stamp.

Figure 1 illustrates a cover bearing this marking together with an off-cover strike. The stamps are Scott Nos. 206 and 183 respectively. Apparently the cover was initially canceled as though it contained a circular. (No postmark date was required on unsealed circular mail and a great many circular covers don't show it.) It appears the post office subsequently noted it to be a letter, albeit to a local address, which then led to the regular CDS postmark.

Figure 2 shows another example of a crossroads killer within a non-dated postmark on an off-cover Scott #206. The postmark reads "DEPOSIT/N.Y."

Figure 2



Wood Carver's Art

Cancellation collectors have been, since the beginning, fascinated by the many and varied designs carved by postmasters or their clerks in the pieces of soft wood or cork that were used to obliterate postage stamps. John W. Hill of the Waterbury, Connecticut post office is widely regarded as producing the ultimate in such carvings, particularly during the 1860s. But many other post offices were also noteworthy suppliers of the carver's art.

Figure 1



In a number of cases on off-cover stamps, we don't know where particular examples originated. One such item is illustrated in Figure 1. The stamp is a Scott #88. Readers who can identify the post office of origin or report additional examples are urged to do so. Your editor has been unable to locate any listing of this "broken heart" cancel, which possesses especially fine detailing in the arrow feathers.

Thanks to John Donnes for his excellent tracing. ■

Figure 1

