



Cancellations Club NEWS

Vol. 25, No. 8, Whole No. 241, November 2001

THE SAN FRANCISCO COG

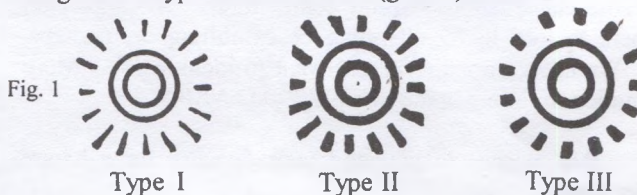
by Prescott Van Horn, Jr.

My interest in unusual cancels, including the three basic San Francisco cogs, is an outgrowth of almost 20 years of collecting cancels on nineteenth century U.S. and British stamps.

There appears to be little documentation about the San Francisco cog. One type is shown in *Cancellations and Killers of the Banknote Era* by James M. Cole and the three types in "United States Cancellations 1845-1869" by Hubert Skinner and Amos Eno. I was able to obtain a copy of "The Story of the San Francisco Cog Cancellation and its Imitations" by W. Scott Polland, MD, published in the April 1966 *Western Express* by the Western Cover Society. Polland's fourteen-page article was the most complete reference. To my surprise, the club published a short article by Wilbur W. Davis in the July 1954 *U.S. Cancellation Club Quarterly*. Also, John M. Mahoney authored *San Francisco Postal Markings 1847-1900*, published by La Posta Publications in 1992, which lists the cog cancellations. What follows is a compilation of these resources plus my own observations.

The San Francisco cog cancellation was used regularly from 1861 to 1868. All postage stamps of the 1861-1867 period except perhaps the 3¢ Pink [#64] are known with

one of the three types always in black. Tracings of the three cog types as illustrated by Mr. Davis are shown as Figure 1. The idea and source of the cog is unknown. Regular use ended for seemingly no other reason than the 1867 introduction of grided stamps. I have reviewed many auction and net price catalogs over the years and have never seen a cog offered on a grided stamp. Polland reported that he had not seen one. However, the Skinner-Eno book does report usage of the type III on the 1867 (grilled) issue.



Type I has 16 cogs around a double circle the outer one being 9mm in diameter. The outer points of the cogs form a rounded square. Its use has been mentioned in various writings from December 1861 to possibly November 1864. The origin of the type numbers is unknown, but they have been used consistently by all writers. Earliest reported usage is a Type I dated December 27, 1861 on a patriotic cover mentioned in Polland's article. A cover with type I from the author's collection is shown in Figure 2.

(cont'd. on p. 115)

Figure 2



Dear Reader,

With this mailing we include two issues of the *NEWS*, the regular fourth quarter *NEWS* and a special 50th anniversary issue that celebrates the beginning of USCC newsletters in 1951. After the first of the year the USCC will offer copies of the anniversary issue for sale in the philatelic community as a means of drawing attention to the Club and its activities with the goal of adding new members. And if you know of collectors or dealers whom you think may be interested in the USCC, please let us know and we'll send them a complimentary copy of the *NEWS* together with information about the Club. The help of members in getting the word out about the Club is vital to its success. Thank you!

The Board of Directors has selected NOJEX as the show in 2002 where the USCC will hold its annual meeting. The dates are Saturday, May 25 through Monday, May 27. NOJEX, the North Jersey Philatelic Exhibition, is a World Series of Philately show held in Secaucus, NJ which is minutes away from New York City. It has been an excellent postal history show and in a usual year has about 225 16-page exhibit frames, 40 dealer tables, and a public floor auction. The USCC will again staff a society table for all three days, hold a seminar on a cancellation-related topic and sponsor a one-frame cancellations exhibit competition. We urge club members to join in by attending or exhibiting or, perhaps, both! We have a good time and want to include you. More information to follow in the February 2002 *NEWS*.

Best wishes to you and your families for a happy holiday season.

Roger Curran

One on One Advisory Service List

Update #1

The correct telephone number for Vince Costello, Section III.(7) is 215-742-4508. Also, please add his email address:

Vinman2119@aol.com

Under Section II.(B), please add "Washington, D.C. machine cancels 1876-2960(22)" and under II.(D) add "U.S. slogans 1899-1940(22)." Thanks to Bob Payne for offering consultation in these additional areas.

New Club Members

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The U.S. Cancellation Club NEWS

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

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Type II has 16 cogs around a double circle with the outer being 11mm in diameter. Again, the outer points of the cogs form a rounded square. Uses have been reported from January 1862 through November 1864. A very nice cover from San Francisco to Norway shown on page 1099 in the December 1968 *The American Philatelist* shows a Type II canceling one 90¢ and two 1¢ postage stamps on April 18, 1862. The cover also shows the cog cancel separated [not duplexed] from the circular date stamp.

From about August 1868 until at least 1879 the cog was not used. At some point after postage due stamps were introduced in July 1879, the Type II cog was recalled and received some use on postage due mail until about 1887. A Type II is shown canceling a postage due stamp on a February 8, 1884, cover from Chiavari, Italy, on page 69 of the Fall 1989 *NEWS*. It should also be noted that this cover displays a UPU "T" meaning 'taxe' [French] or in English 'postage due', the reason for the postage due stamp. Polland shows several off-cover postage dues with Type II cog as well as an 1883 Hong Kong to San Francisco postal card bearing a pair of postage due stamps so canceled.

cancel are illustrated in Figure 4. The cog may have been used to cancel stamps on circulars during this time period. Can any reader report an *on-cover* usage of a San Francisco cog on an 1880's postage stamp?



Figure 4

While the San Francisco cog was in use, Downieville, Sierra County, California used an eight-cog cancel of a similar, but clearly different, appearance. Downieville covers bearing this cancel have been noted during the 1862-1865 period.

Dutch Flat, Placer County, California, 160 miles northeast of San Francisco, used a cog during 1880-81 with a



Figure 3

Type III has 14 cogs around a double circle the outer of which is 12mm in diameter. The outer points of the cog form a circle. Type III is reported from July 1862 to August 1868. The latest use known to Polland was June 6, 1868, on a cover to France.

Duplex cancels started with the Type III (14-cogs) about 1865. We have to assume the duplex is defined as the cds being 7mm from the nearest cog or 30mm center to center. Also, the horizontal center of the cds date should extend to the center of the cog. A clear example of a duplex cancel from the author's collection is shown on the Vermont cover in Figure 3. Duplex cancels have been seen accompanied by the double circle cds both with and without year date.

single circle cds. The Polland article pictures two covers with poor cancels which look and measure very much like the San Francisco cog. The San Francisco post office may have given Dutch Flat an unused Type III cog or the latter purchased an identical cog from the same vendor that sold the cogs to San Francisco. The lack of accurate history allows no definite conclusion.

It would be interesting to hear from other members as to what San Francisco cogs are in their collections, especially earlier and later dates than reported here or on grilled stamps. ■

For Sale: Cancellations, 3 cent 1861.

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Polland shows single examples of the Type II cog used on a 1¢ 1881 and 1¢ and 2¢ 1887 off-cover postage stamps. Two examples of the 1¢ 1881 issue bearing this

MORE CANCELLATIONS WITHIN THE TOWN MARK

by Joe H. Crosby

As a follow-up to Wilbur W. Davis' article illustrated in the August 2001 issue of the *NEWS*, here are five more town markings that include a killer, sometimes in the space designed or intended for the dates, but not in all instances.

Figure 1 illustrates a #206 with an oval townmark from Flint, Michigan, which was probably a marking specifically designed for circular mail where no date was required. The black blob in the center almost looks like a potato!!

Figure 2 and 3 are also on #206's with circular and octagonal date stamps that have had decorative designs inserted where the dates were normally used. At Natick, Mass, within a 26 mm circular townmark there are two rectangular sets of 5 horizontal bars in the spaces for day, month, year, and time of day (Figure 2). At Nashville, Tenn. The townmark has been filled with six small black boxes that have been carefully fashioned to trim off the outside corners of the four outside squares to give a very pleasing appearance that carries out the angularity of the octagon design (Figure 3).

Figure 4 is a #183 from Appleton, N.Y. Within a smaller 23 mm circular townmark there is a decorative asymmetrical design, which has been enlarged to bring out its detail in Figure 5. This was obviously a manufactured design and not carved by a local postal clerk.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

Finally, Figure 6 shows a cover from Ypsilanti, Mich. with a 28mm circular townmark and a solid black blob in the center, tying a #219 on an unsealed circular rate cover to New York City.



Figure 4



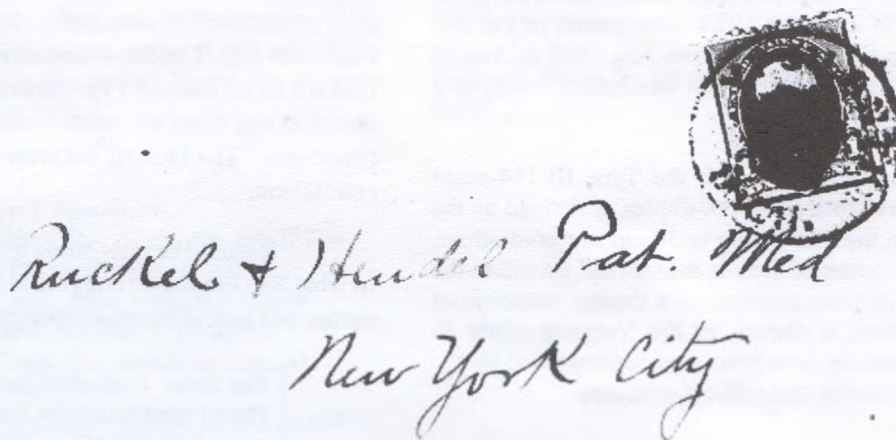
Figure 5

Wilbur Davis started off this subject nearly 50 years ago in the July 1952 issue of the *Quarterly*. Now let's keep it going and get the rest of these cancellations within the townmark reported and illustrated in the *NEWS* before the 50th anniversary arrives.■

Broken Heart?

In regard to the "broken heart" killer pictured on page 112 of the August 2001 *NEWS*, Cal Hahn responded with a question about whether a broken heart was really intended as opposed to a naturally occurring crack. He suggests the latter. Indeed, John Donnes, who made the tracing, also noted the question. Cracks are, of course, commonly seen on wood and cork cancels and who is to say *definitely* that a broken heart was intended in this particular cancel, especially given the jagged nature of the line. Your editor admits that he is inclined, at times, to believe what he wants to believe about ambiguous cancels. Yet and all, this cancel otherwise seems very sharp and complete notwithstanding the fact that it involves a finely detailed design. A crack may have occurred in the carving process but wear doesn't appear to have been a factor. Further comment is invited.■

Figure 6



Cumberland, Maine Precancels

Cumberland, Maine produced the first U.S. precancels that included the name of the post office. Hooper summarized the literature on these precancels in his book *A Historical Survey of Precancels*.¹ It was reported that the Cumberland postmaster from 1853-1870 was a David Gray who also operated a print shop.² These printed precancels, either in a straight line or circular date stamp form, are noted on 1857 and 1861 issue stamps. The latest date for a printed Cumberland precancel discussed by Hooper was March 27, 1864 with a Horace I. Gray, Copy & Job Printer, corner card on the cover.

Hooper concluded his discussion of the Cumberland precancels by illustrating a cover similar to that shown here as Figure 1, including the same corner card, with a manuscript cancel that clearly appears to be a precancel. This is due to the fact that the word Cumberland stops at "Cumberla" at the top edge of the stamp with no continuation on the cover. The precancel on the Hooper cover appears to read:

"Cumberla
Au 31
67"

The "7" rather looks like a "9" but the line that forms the loop at the top to create a "9" may well have been inadvertent. This is especially likely because the address is:

"Chairman, Board of Selectmen 1867"

In presenting this cover, Hooper stated that Bruce Hazelton showed him both the illustrated cover and another cover with a similar manuscript cancel that clearly tied the stamp to the cover.

The addressee on the cover shown here as Figure 1 ends with "1868." The stamp is a grilled issue and the manuscript cancel appears to read:

"Cumberland
Mn Mar 4"

Figure 1

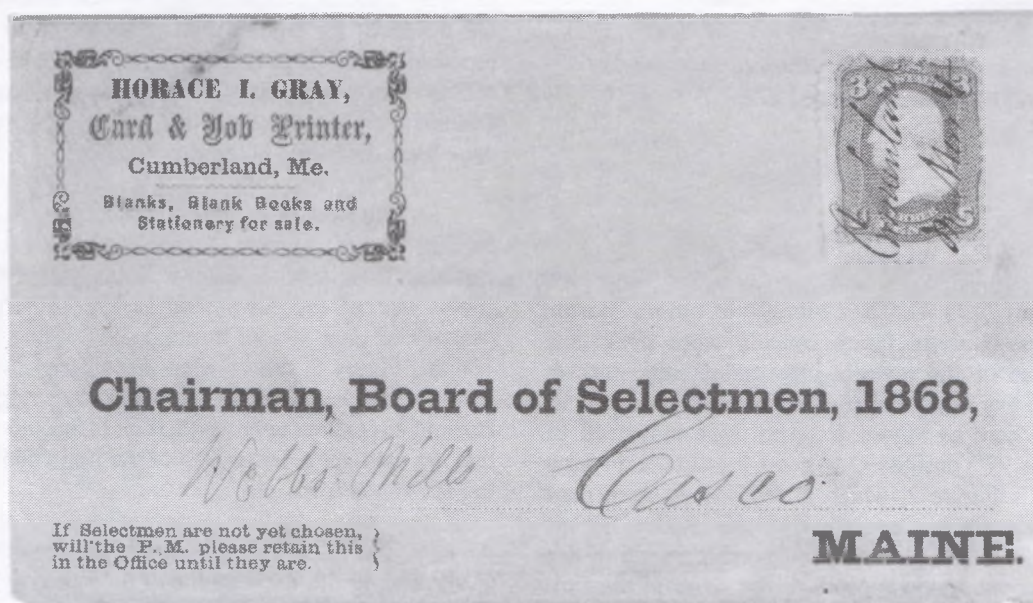
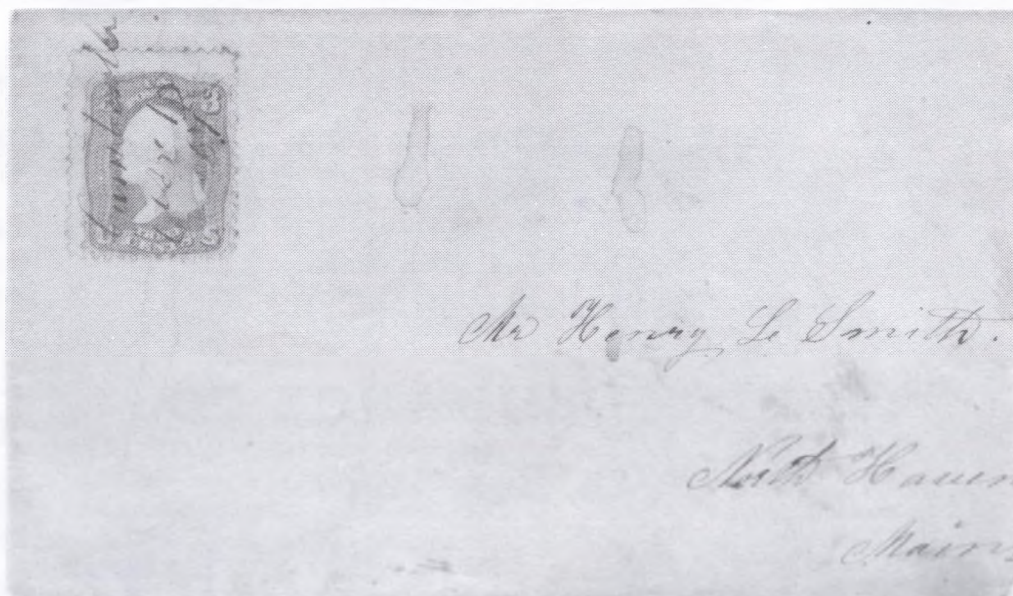


Figure 2



The "Mar" could be "Nov." Your editor long thought this to be a precancel but a recent examination under 10x magnification couldn't confirm it. The cross line of the "4" does not quite extend to the edge of the stamp and the top of the "d" in "Cumberland" may have an ever-so-slight tie to the cover. However, there is no question but what the manuscript cancel on the Figure 2 cover is a post cancel. It appears to read:

"Cumberland
Nov 13(?)
67"

What was the relation between Horace and David Gray? Were they brothers and did Horace buy the printing business from David? More research on various matters is needed but it is interesting to think about an apparent return to precanceling, at least very briefly, by the Cumberland post office after what may have been a period of about three years with no precancels. And it did so in a manuscript form that was also used as a post cancel. More information is eagerly sought.■

¹ Hooper, R. Malcolm *A Historical Survey of Precancels*. Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Museum, 1979.

² Ibid, p. 11.

A "7" for Good Luck?

In the Fall 2000 *NEWS*, a number of covers bearing Mittineague, Massachusetts fancy cancels were presented. Interestingly, three of the cancels incorporated the number "7." John Valenti has submitted an additional Mittineague "7" design illustrated here as Figure 1. And there may well be other Mittineague "7" designs. A good candidate, in your editor's opinion, is Figure 2, which is reproduced from page 186 of Jim Cole's book *Cancellations and Killers of the Banknote Era 1870-1894*. A nice photographic image of this cancel on an off-cover stamp appears on the cover of the Cole book.

Figure 1

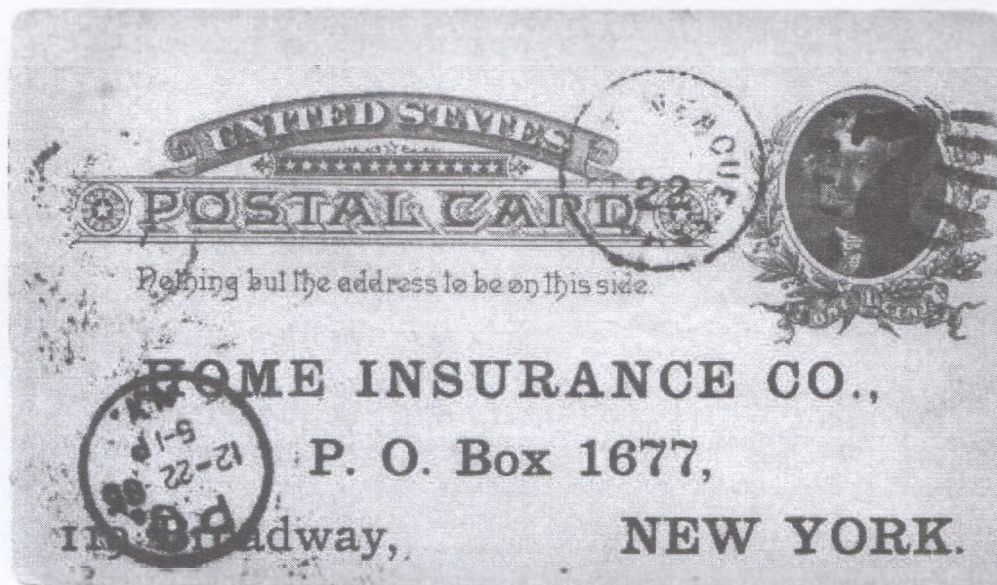


Figure 2



Why did the number "7" figure so prominently in Mittineague's killers?■

Another Duplex Pioneer

by Roger D. Curran

I think it can be effectively argued that one of the two most important steps in the evolution of U.S. canceling practices in the nineteenth century was the adoption of handstamps that duplexed a town postmark to a separate obliterator. (The other crucial step was the introduction of machine cancels.) New York City was the first post office to use duplexes for regular mail processing and the earliest date reported for the NYPO is August 8, 1860. Several other post offices followed soon thereafter including Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago, Savannah, and Pittsburgh, all of which have been discussed in these pages.

We now have a new post office to add to the list of earliest users. Figures 1 and 2 illustrate two covers from Buffalo, New York. Figure 1, dated November 15, 1860 shows use of the townmark as the obliterator, the typical practice of post offices through the 1850s and into the early 1860s. Figure 2 shows what are clearly duplexed markings dated December 9, 1860. Readers are urged to report other Buffalo covers in the November and December 1860 period so that we may get a better idea of the transition from simplex to duplex handstamps.

Thanks are extended to club member Alan Parsons for providing the illustrations of the two covers. These covers were in the Buffalo postal history collection of Nate Calkins.■

Figure 1

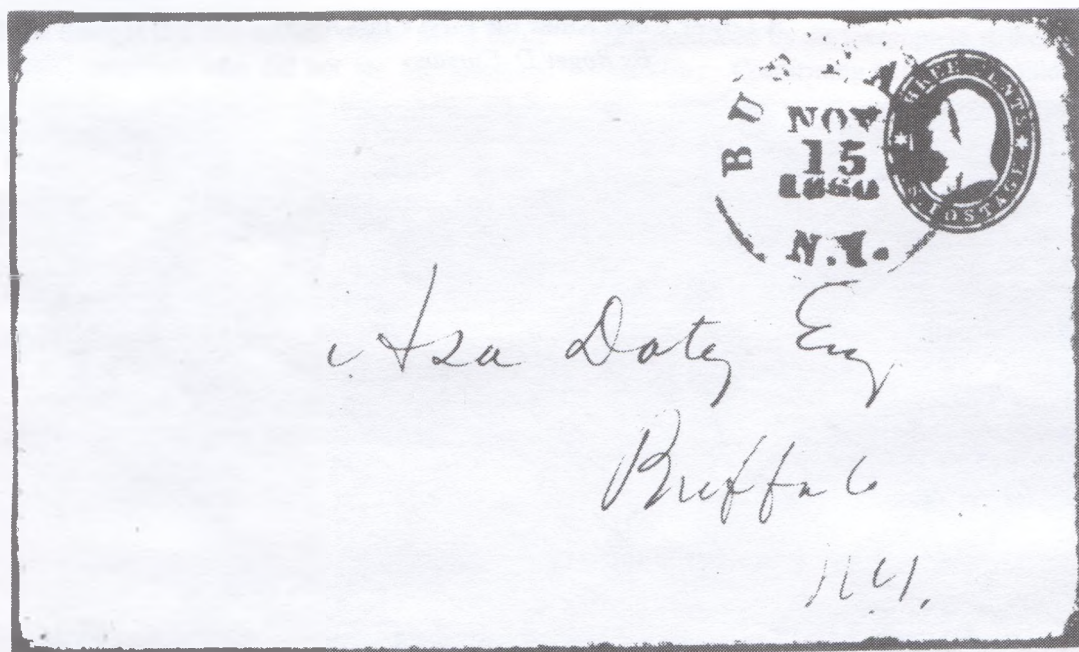
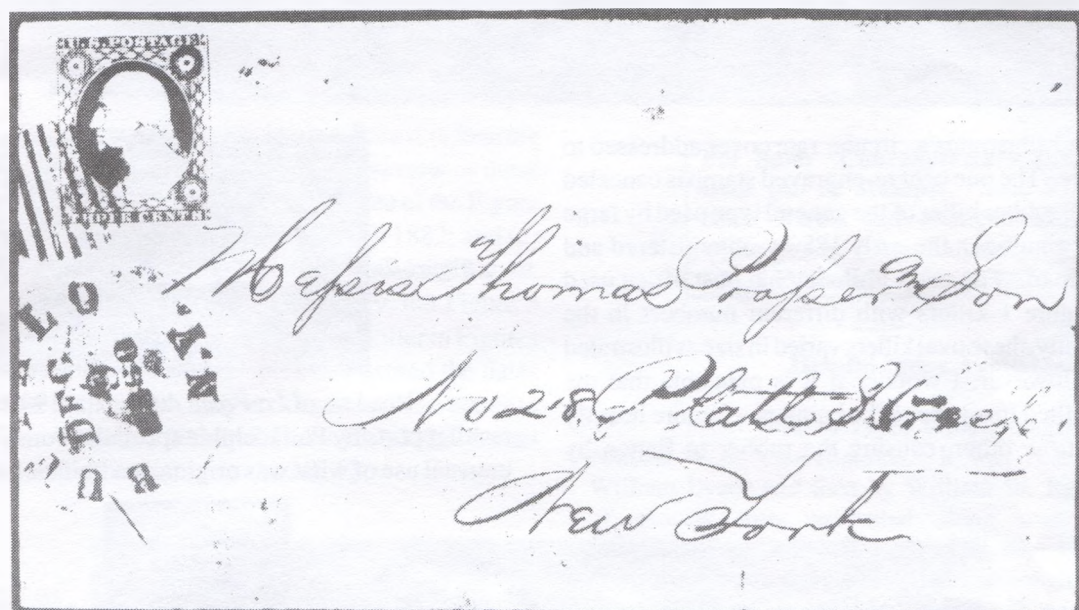


Figure 2



Unusual Cancellals

Two interesting cancels have been brought to the attention of the *NEWS*. The “8” in Figure 1 resides in the collection of Wendell Triplett. The stamp is a Scott #186 first issued in 1879. What is probably a less complete strike of the same cancel is shown on page 188 of the Cole book (without attribution) as NU-75. It is reported on 1873 issue stamps. Figure 1 vaguely looks like a hand-carved NYPO numeral cancel but the outer rim is very different. Also, the NYPO stopped using carved number cancels in 1876, as Wendell pointed out.

The second cancel is reported by Vince Costello on a Scott #213 and it is a very nice “POD” monogram. There was a commercially prepared “POD” design, of course, used by a number of towns. One variation listed on page 226 of Cole’s book is shown as Figure 3 and it is reported from seven post offices. However, the Figure 2 killer has not been reported before, insofar as we know.

Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

If readers can supply more information about the Figure 1 or 2 cancels, they are encouraged to do so. ■

A Lower Class Killer for First Class Mail

By Roger D. Curran

Figure 1

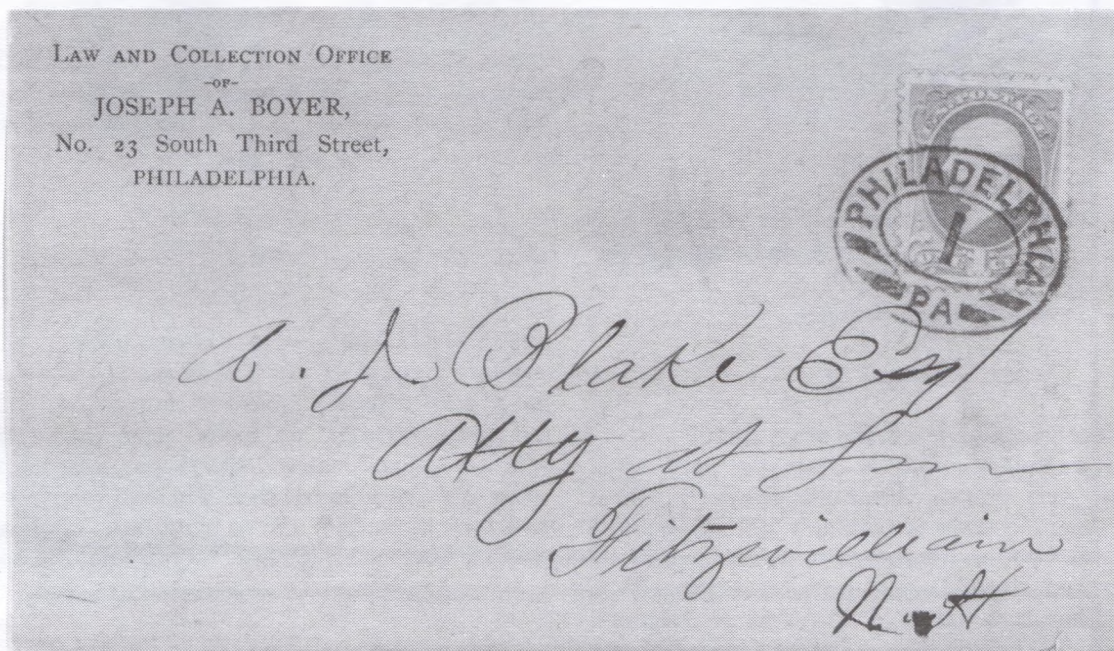


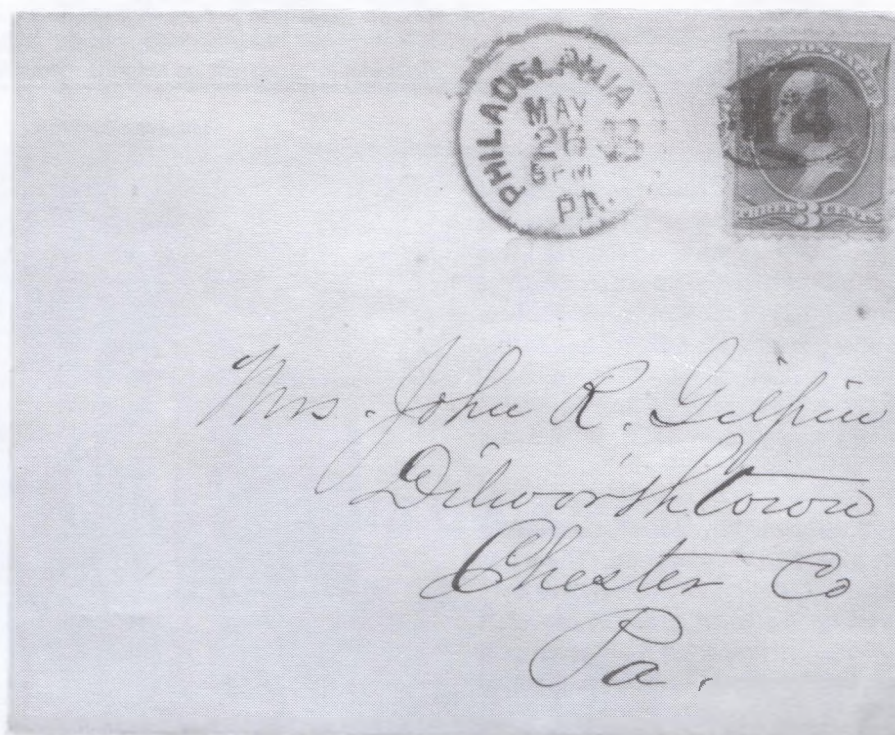
Figure 1 illustrates a circular rate cover addressed to New Hampshire. The one cent re-engraved stamp is canceled by a double oval rubber killer of the general type used by large post offices, beginning in the early 1880's, on registered and non-first class mail. The main Philadelphia post office used a set of the Figure 1 killers with different numbers in the center. Apparently, these oval killers varied in size as illustrated in Figure 2. However, I wonder if it is plausible that the differences resulted from one strike being much more heavily impressed than the other, causing the rubber to flatten by spreading out.

Figure 2



Readers of *La Posta* during the 1990's will probably recall reports by Philadelphia specialist Tom Clarke of a quite unusual use of what was originally a Philadelphia double oval

Figure 3



killer. With the thought that this subject would likely be of interest to USCC members who did not see Mr. Clarke's articles, the situation is reviewed briefly here. The uses in question came from Philadelphia's Station B and involved a cut-down version of a Philadelphia double oval "14." It was apparently duplexed to the townsmark by being plugged into the ring on the handstamp that normally would have received a cork or wood killer. In the Figure 3 and 4 examples, what remained after the cutting down process was the number in the middle along with the rim that surrounded it but with some damage, particularly to the left side. The 3¢ greens are all re-engraved issues and the 2¢ vermilions are soft paper. Figure 5 illustrates a different cut-down with portions of the design above and below the rim still present, but with essentially the same cutting on the left side as is seen in Figures 3 and 4.

Figure 4



Mr. Clarke reported seven Station B covers bearing a cut-down Philadelphia "14" cancel. From a review of these covers he noted the following: (1) the earliest use of the Figure 5 killer was May 7, 1882 and the latest May 13, 1882; and (2) the earliest use of the killer in Figures 3 and 4 was May 19, 1882 and the latest June 21, 1882. Obviously, the Figure 5 killer was cut down a second time to create the killer in Figures 3 and 4. If readers can report examples that extend the dates of either version of the killer, they are urged to do so either to Tom Clarke directly at box 290-145, Davie FL 33329 (e-mail at ocl-tom@ix.netcom.com) or to the *NEWS*.

Figure 5



Figure 6



We'll close with a cancel similar to the "14" that may or may not be a cut down Philadelphia "15" on a two cent red brown (Figure 6.) The "1" in the illustration will perhaps appear to have a serif at the top, thus distinguishing it from the non-serifed "1" numerals used by Philadelphia in those large double oval killers. However, I believe it is not in fact a serif but an appearance caused by the particular strike. We suppose this Philadelphia cancel (if that is what it is) could have simply

been produced by an incomplete strike of a normal double oval killer. Confirming examples would clearly be needed before attaching any particular significance to it.■

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Helpful Index Available

From 1932 to 1945, *Stamps* magazine ran a column entitled "U.S. Cancellations." It was first authored by Dr. William Evans and then by William W. Reynolds. Tracings of cancels were presented along with such additional information as post office of origin where known. All told there were more than 500 articles although some were quite short. The major problem in using these articles has been searching for particular cancels, given the lack of an index or table of contents. Club member John Donnes recently provided to your editor a copy of a 14-page index for these articles prepared years ago by Henry J. Berthelot. The index arranges the categories of cancellations in alphabetical order (for example, "A" cancels, anchor cancels, animal cancels, arrow and arrowhead cancels, etc.). Then, for each category, the dates of the articles containing such cancels are listed. Readers can quickly access a chronological set of articles to locate, say, "heart" cancels.

There is a complete photocopy set of the articles in the USCC Library and a copy of this index has been provided to our librarian to add to this set. For those who hold their own sets and wish to acquire a copy of the index may contact the *NEWS* editor. They are available for \$2 postpaid.

Thanks to John Donnes for thinking of the *NEWS* and also to Henry Berthelot who graciously and enthusiastically permitted the *NEWS* to make his index available to USCC members.■

Glastonbury "G."

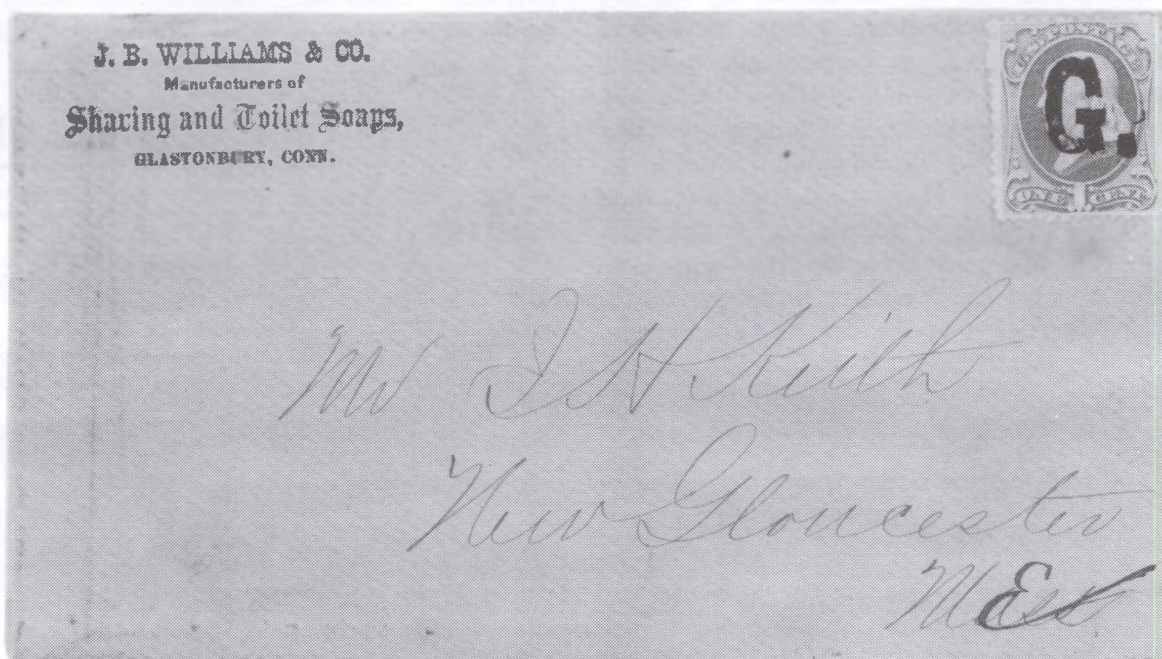
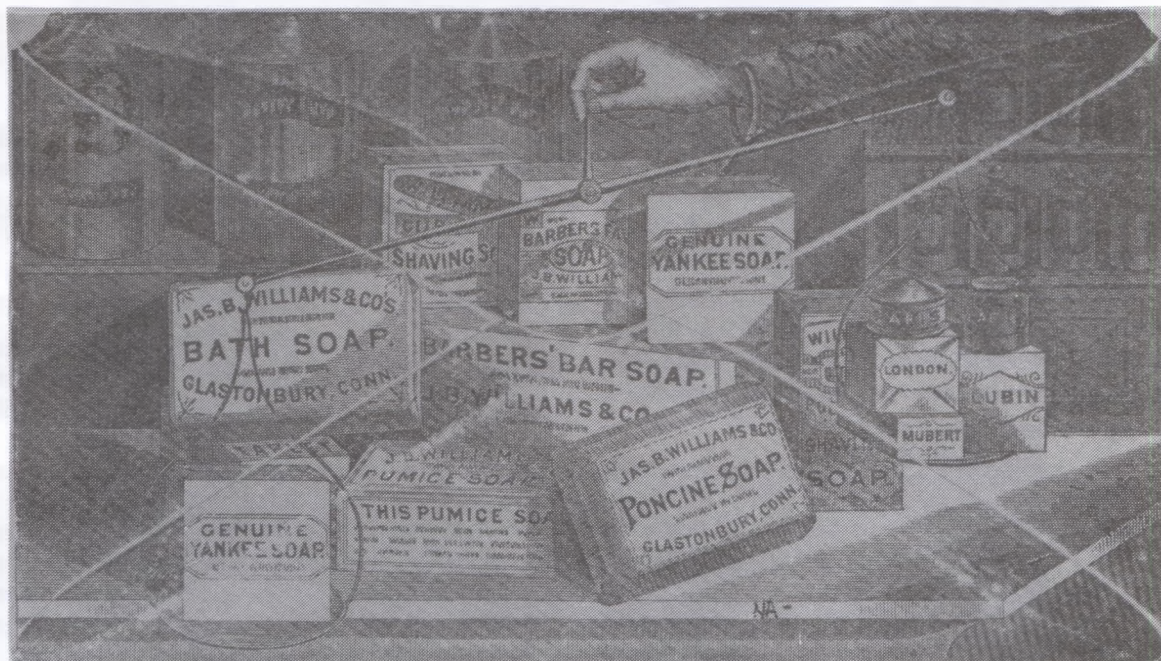


Figure 1



The cover illustrated as Figure 1, which resides in the collection of Arthur Beane, tells a very considerable amount about the production of this very popular classic precancel. On the back of the cover are two offsets – a reverse "G." in the upper left corner and a reverse "J.B. Williams & Co." corner card in the upper right corner. Unfortunately, the reverse corner card will scarcely show in the illustration but the reverse "G" hopefully will be evident.

There are two basic ways to precancel stamps. One is to precancel the stamps before they were affixed to the covers (this would normally be done while the stamps were still in sheet form) and the other way is to precancel the stamps after they were put on covers but before the covers were processed in the post office.

The offsets on the back of the Figure 1 cover make it crystal clear that the stamp was first affixed to the envelope, the "G." and corner card were then simultaneously printed on the stamp and cover, after which the covers were promptly stacked before the ink dried leading to the offsets. No doubt this sequence was assumed by collectors but the Figure 1 cover nails it down.

The same procedure was used in the production of the famed Glen Allen star precancels, for it is not uncommon to see the stamp tied to the cover by the star which proves, of course, that the stamp was placed on the cover before the cancellation applied. However, your editor does not recall seeing the Glastonbury "G" tying the stamp to the cover although it is assumed that such examples are out there.

Figure 2



Figure 2 illustrates a precancel seen with some frequency on 1¢ banknotes. It is reported to be from Gloucester, Mass.¹ This example displays multiple "R" images (barely showing at top and at left) which strongly implies that it was precanceled before being affixed to a cover. It is thought that sheets of stamps were impressed with plates of "R" cancels in such a manner that the "R" cancels overlapped the individual stamps.■

¹ Cole, James B. *Cancellations and Killers of the Banknote Era 1870-1894*, USPCS, 1995, page 199.

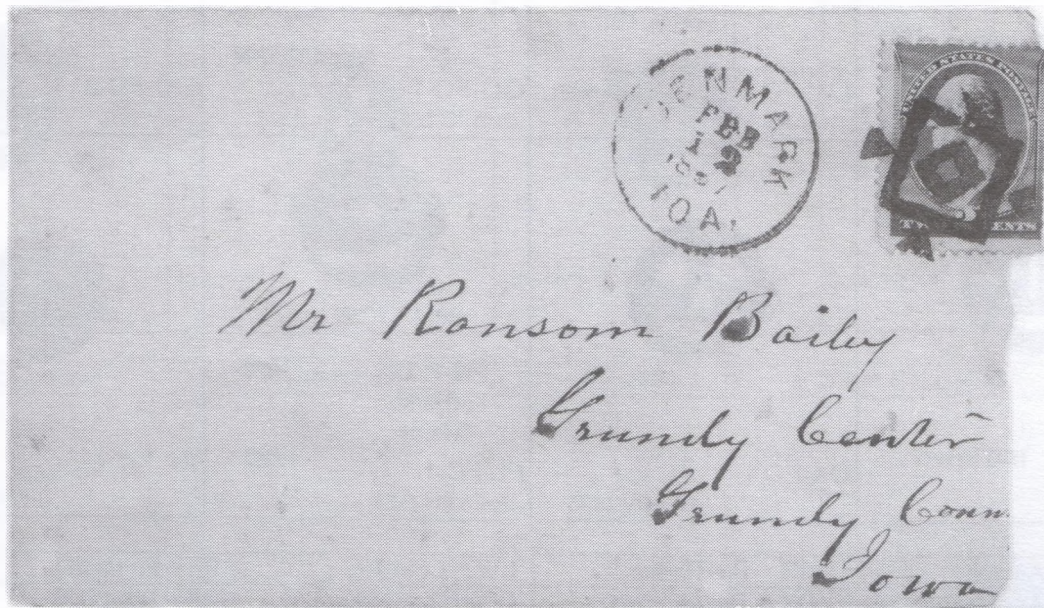
Most Unusual

by Roger D. Curran

Cancellation collectors are, I believe, often drawn to the subject by the seemingly endless array of different cancels used by U.S. post offices on 19th century stamps. If variety is the spice of life, then this field is lively, indeed. Occasionally one comes across an example that is *really* odd, even in the context of normal wide variation.

Figure 1 is such an item – a box enclosing a hollow diamond and surrounded by four small triangles. I think it is the presence of the triangles on the outside that makes the cancel seem so peculiar. The overall effect is slightly reminiscent of American Indian designs used, perhaps, on clothing or blankets, but who knows. Anyway, it has a good APES certificate and expresses some postal clerk's or postmaster's individuality. The Denmark, Iowa postmark is dated February 12, 1887.■

Figure 1



More on Bottle Stopper Killers

In the February 2001 *NEWS* there was a report of a size "1" rubber stopper killer. It was used by the New York Post Office in June 1875. A second example of this killer, used in March 1875, was reported in the May 2001 *NEWS*. It resides in the collection of John Donnes.

These size "1" killers are large. It appears that as a general proposition, back in the 1870s and 1880s, the smaller the size number, the larger the rubber stopper. This article briefly explores examples at the other end of the size spectrum. Figure 1 shows a "5 ½" killer and Figure 2 a size "6." The latter item is in the collection of Vince Costello.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

To date, all size numbers from "1" to "6," including the half sizes, have been reported except for "1 ½" and "5." However, shown in Figure 3 is a tracing of a "5" killer that is included in a large collection of tracings made 50 years ago by Kenneth A. Whitfield. Readers will note that the "5 ½" appears to be slightly larger than the "5." This may be due to the "5 ½" killer having slid a bit upward and to the right, as the "5 ½" is not centered in the impression.

Comment is invited. ■

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Faces of Maine

The October 1999 issue of *American Philatelist* carried a most interesting article by Nancy B.Z. Clark on Maine pumpkinhead cancels. Readers who have not seen that article are urged to seek it out. In the course of her research

on Maine fancy cancellations she has, among other things, developed the tables we are pleased to reproduce herewith. These include the pumpkinheads as well as other representations of the human visage.■

Maine Fancy Cancellations





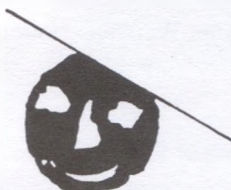











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J0-127 III-  Auburn, Me. AB-FC 1 Cole JO-127 May 3, 1887	 AU-FC 1 learing 1890s	 BH-FC 1 skull 6 FEB 1896	J0-28 II+  Dexter, Me. DX-FC 1 1875 P.C. Cole JO-28
 DX-FC 2 bonhomme 23 JUL 1887	 HT-FC 1 slate 8 OCT 1885	 HT-FC 1a magenta 14 APR 1886	 HT-FC 1b black Cole JO-161 27 JUL 1886
"Head of Washington"  PH-F 56 1861 Head Tide, (?) HT ? Maine blue Sk-En PH-F 56 1861	J0-30 II+  Lewiston, Me. LW-FC 1 1879-81 issues pumpkin with teeth Cole JO-30	J0-26 II+  August 12, 1890 OO-FC 1 Cole JO-26	 OO-FC 2 27 JUL 1897
J0-27 II+  OO-FC 3 1890 issues Cole JO-27	 OX-FC 1 15 NOV 1895	 PH-P 23 1869 Portland, Maine PL-FC 1  Sk-En PH-P 23	 RF-FC 1 8 SEP 1907

AB = Auburn	BH = Bar Harbor	LW = Lewiston	PL = Portland
AU = Augusta	DX = Dexter	OO = Old Orchard	RF = Readfield
	HT = Head Tide	OX = Oxford	

Maine Fancy Cancellations

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RC-PL 1 pumpkin or apple 3 JUL 1889	TH-FC 1 notch for stem 10 DEC 1894	TH-FC 2 with eyelashes 29 MAR 1895	TH-FC 3 9? OCT 1896
			
TH-FC 4 25 JAN 1897	TH-FC 5 vampire teeth 22 MAY 1897	TH-FC 6 28 MAY 1897	TH-FC 7 8 JUL 1897
		J0-29 II+  Thomaston, Me.	
TH-FC 8 16 DEC 1897	TH-FC 9 17 JAN 1898	TH-FC 10 trapezoidal nose Cole JO-29	TH-FC 11 carrot nose 7 MAR 1899
			
TH-FC 12 cross-eyed 1 MAY 1899	TH-FC 13 frowning 22 DEC 1899	VB-FC 1 speaking 21 AUG 1897	WA-FC 1 laughing 20 SEP 1897

RC = Richmond

TH = Thomaston

VB = Vanceboro

WA = Waterville

EAH

by Roger Curran

Some 19th century postmasters carved their initials in the killers they used. None are common but the post office from which they are most frequently seen is probably Richfield Springs, N.Y. A typical example is shown in Figure 1. The "EAH" refers to Eugene A. Hinds (or Hines) who served as postmaster from December 9, 1864 to March 6, 1887.¹ Both versions of the last name have been reported in the philatelic literature. These initials come in both negative and positive types with variations noted of each. Several examples are shown in Figure 2.

I can offer little information on the length of time the "EAH" cancels were used but I have seen them on National, Continental, American and reengraved printings and have noted a report of a July 28, 1883 usage of the negative letters version and a February 5, 1881 usage of the positive letters.² Edward Willard did not report any "EAH" cancels on the two

cent red brown stamp which was introduced on October 1, 1883.

Figure 3 illustrates an interesting Richfield Springs cover. The killer contains a negative "E" which, one would assume, is for "Eugene." There are thin negative vertical lines to the left and right of the "E" which I have attempted to read as forming part of an additional letter or letters, but without much success. Since extraneous lines are associated with a few other negative "EAH" killers, I believe these in the Figure 3 killer are also extraneous.

Reports of additional information on the "EAH" killers and on any other killers used by Richfield Springs that include one or more letters would be appreciated.■

¹ Alyce Evans, "Multiple Letters on Banknote Issues," *U.S. Cancellation Club NEWS*, Winter 1984, page 13.

² Ibid.

Figure 1

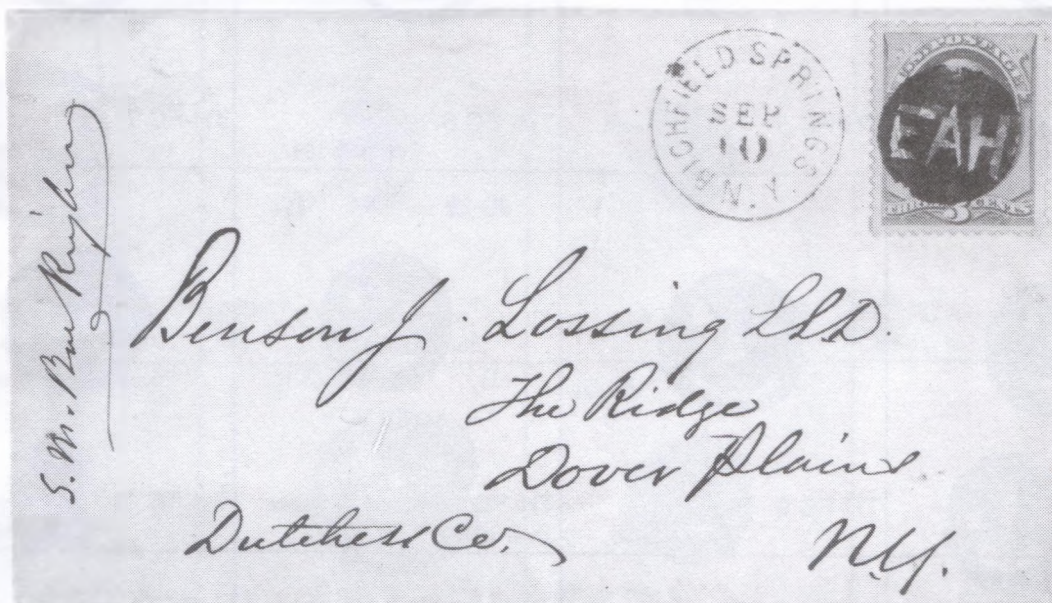
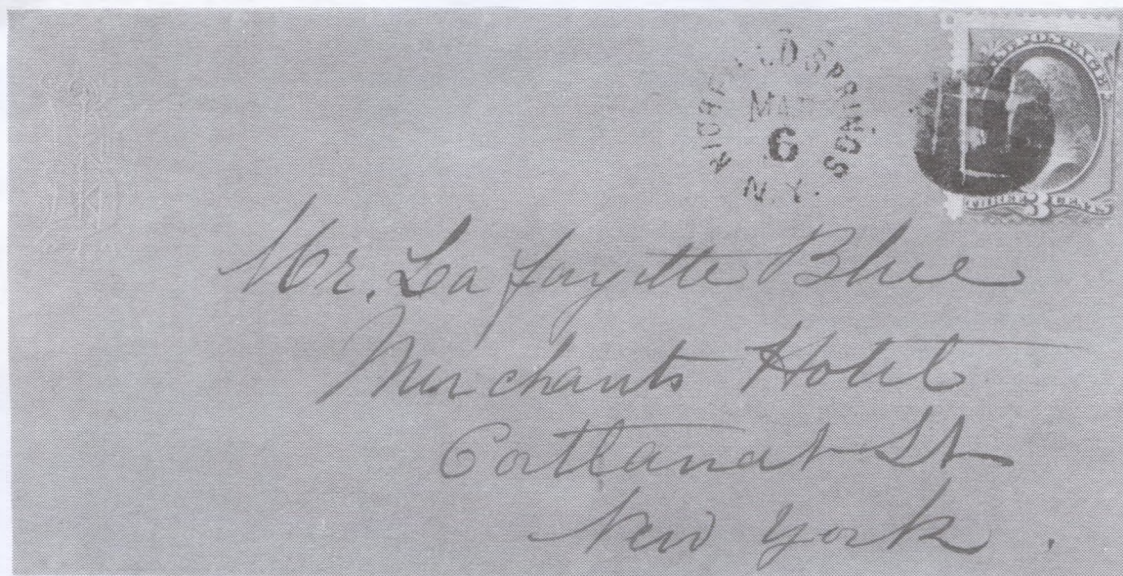


Figure 2



Figure 3



NYPO Station I Revisited

In the Spring 2000 issue of the *NEWS* we discussed letter "I" cancels and mentioned Branch Station I of the NYPO, stating:

"In 1873-4 there was a Station 'I' at Broadway and 84th St. It ceased to exist in 1875 when it became Station 'O.' A new Station 'I' at Columbus Ave. and 105th St. was established in 1897."

Wendell Triplett gently pointed out to your editor that this information is incorrect. A portion of his letter is quoted herewith:

"*The New York Postal History, the Post Offices and First Postmasters from 1775 to 1980*, by John L. Kay and Chester M. Smith, Jr., published by the APS, in 1982, says

Station 'I' was first established in 1875 and discontinued in 1877. It was re-established later on January 15, 1897 and discontinued October 1, 1946, transferring to Morningside. NYC Station "O" was first established in 1867 and discontinued in 1870, re-established in 1875 and discontinued in 1877, and re-established again in December 1890 and discontinued June 1, 1947, transferring to Old Chelsea."

We are pleased to correct the record.

Wendell was also kind enough to send along a postal card (Figure 1) to illustrate the point that Station "I" existed after 1874. The card can be dated February 4, 1876 and the killer contains a nice letter "I."■

Figure 1

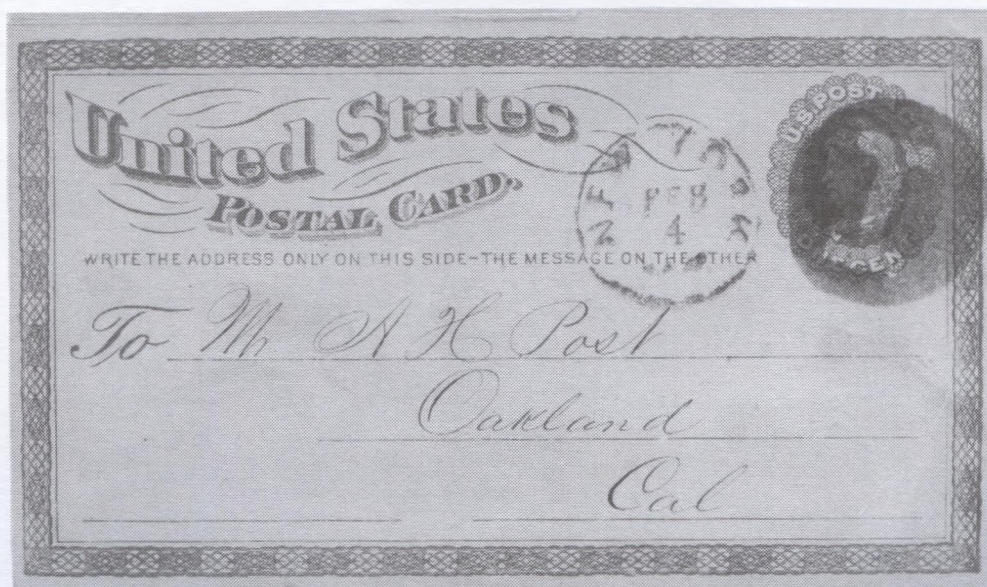


Figure 1



More on "24" on Ellipse

In the August 2001 *NEWS* we discussed an ellipse cancel from Morrisville, Pennsylvania dated December 8, 1886 that we assumed was of the same design as the 11-bar ellipse from Haverford College, Pa. that contained a "24" in the center. "Assumed" because while the first numeral of the two digit number was clearly a "2" the second digit number was unreadable. Norm Shachat, a specialist in Bucks County, Pa. postal history submitted a copy of a Morrisville cover dated October 12, 1886 that appears here as Figure 1. It clearly shows a "24" in the center. Norm wrote that he believes this cancel was used from about 1883 to about 1889 based on examples in his collection. Morrisville was undoubtedly quite a small post office, as examples of this cancel appear to be decidedly scarce.

Help Wanted! Fancy Cancels from Perry, NY

Joe Crosby is working on an article devoted to the fancy cancels of Perry, NY. He has identified approximately 20 so far and would like the article to be as complete as possible. A sample is shown as Figure 1. If you have examples in your collection, please contact Joe as soon as possible. All contributions will be acknowledged in the article unless anonymity is desired. Joe can be reached by e-mail at jocrosby@home.com or regular mail at 5009 Barnsteeples Ct., Oklahoma City, OK 73142.■

Figure 1

