



Cancellation Club NEWS

Vol. 29, No. 1, Whole No. 266, February 2008

Louisville, KY Geometrics

Two bold 1877 geometrics from Louisville, KY, courtesy of the Northland Co., are shown in Figures 1 and 2. Louisville is well known for patent cancels with designs similar to Figure 1 that produced needle-like puncture holes in the center. These cancels vary in terms of the number and shape of the surrounding "wedges" or "rays." Dates reported include 1873, 1875 and 1879. See pages 200 and 201 of the Cole book for several Louisville examples as well as similar cancels from nine other post offices. Also, Charles Wood

reported the discovery of such a cancel from St. Louis, MO in the May 2005 *NEWS* and had earlier reported finding a previously unknown Detroit, Michigan example in the November 2003 *Chronicle*.

The Louisville designs did not always have (or at least show) the punctures in the center. The Figure 1 cancel has 14 wedges and there are no indications of punctures.

The Figure 2 cancel is wonderful. Shall we get a bit lyrical and call it a sunflower?■

Figure 1

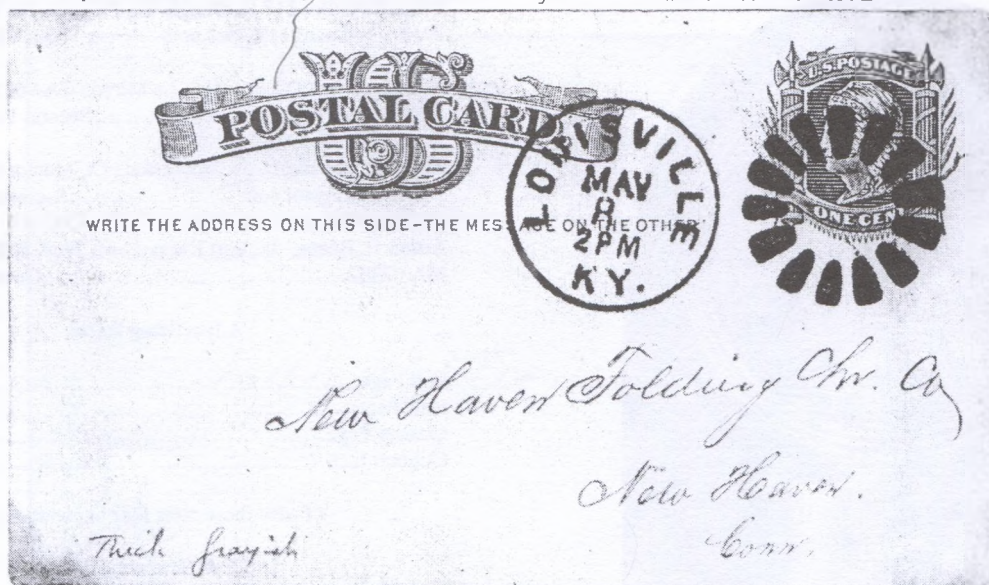
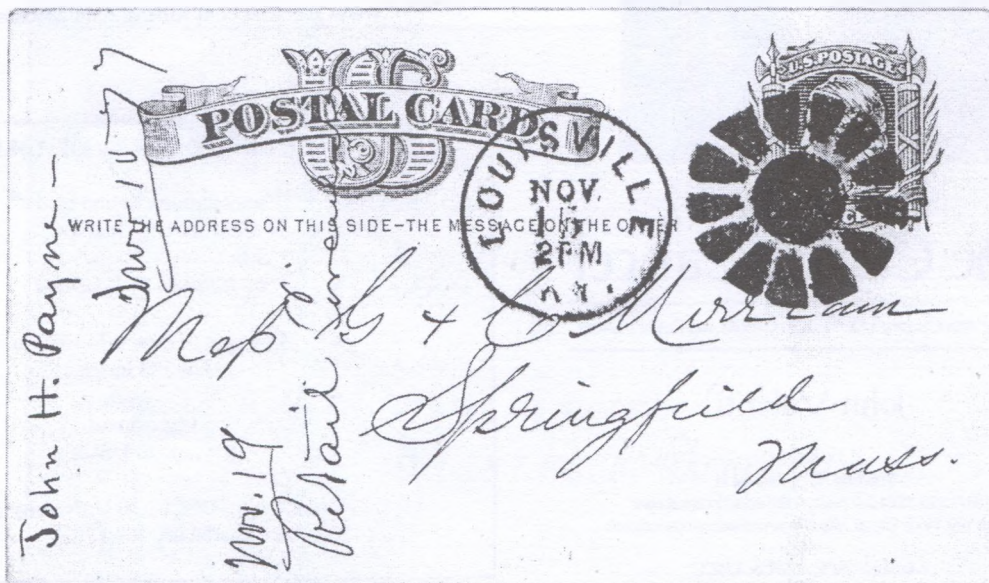


Figure 2



Dear Reader,

Illustrated herewith is a reduced size image of a desk clock presented in December by the USCC Board to Wendell Triplett for his excellent work in compiling the newly published update to the Whitfield cancellations book. For readers who have the book and refer to it with any regularity, we recommend that you consider acquiring this important supplement which provides additional information about many of the listed cancels. Ordering instructions can be found elsewhere in this issue.

The USCC is always eager to recruit new members who share our interests. The USCC Board encourages each of us to take a few minutes to think about the collectors we know who are interested in cancellations and, if they are not listed on the USCC membership roster, either talk to them about the USCC or pass their names on to me. We'll send to potential members a sample issue of the *NEWS* and a flyer that briefly describes the USCC and its operations. This is an excellent way to support our Club.

Roger Curran



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One Card, Two Cancels

by Roger D. Curran

We have focused attention before on covers such as Figure 1 showing a small triumph of the old way of canceling over the new. "Man over machine" we might be inclined to say but that would misrepresent the situation totally. The problem didn't result from any machine malfunction but rather from the manual facing of the card before it entered the machine. The machine-applied postmark and cancel on the back are excellent – clear and complete. This card, however, was improperly faced so that the back was struck. It is obvious that the error was quickly noted because the card was correctly canceled a half hour later. But why wasn't the card just put back in a stack, correctly faced, for another machine strike? Perhaps the error was noticed after the stack of processed cards was taken from the canceling machine section of the PO to an area where mail was separated for out-of-town distribution.

The late Bob Payne's excellent book, *Thomas Leavitt His History and Postal Markings 1875-1892*, refers to this set of markings as Type B-1(D), and reports a first period of use

from 8/1/79-4/8/80. Readers will note that the "D" in the center of the ellipse tilts slightly to the left. Bob stated that it is not unusual to see the letter tilted or even inverted. He thought the letters (contained on a small disc, I assume) were inserted into the ellipse die and could rotate because there was no "keeper" to hold the letters upright. Bob illustrated an 1879 Boston card with Leavitt cancels (1) correctly placed at the upper right of the card and (2) upside down and backwards at the lower left, both struck at "11AM" of the same day. Here the clerk did immediately put the erroneously struck card, properly faced, back in a stack for a second machine cancel.

The Boston "H" cancel is listed in the USCC "Boston Large Negative Cancels" progress report of November 2003 as seen from 5/22/78-8/11/81. Since then there has been a report of a 9/10/81 example.■

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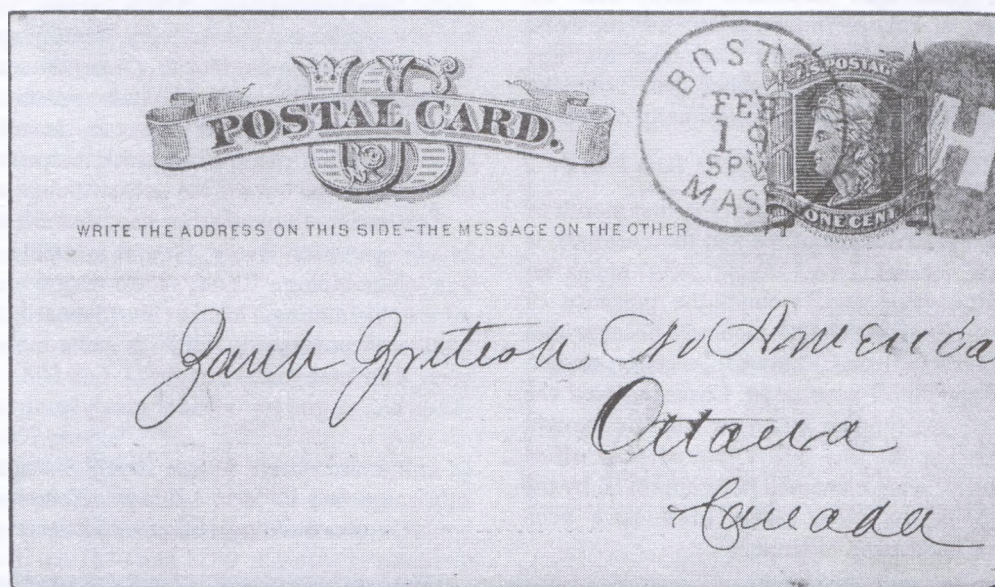
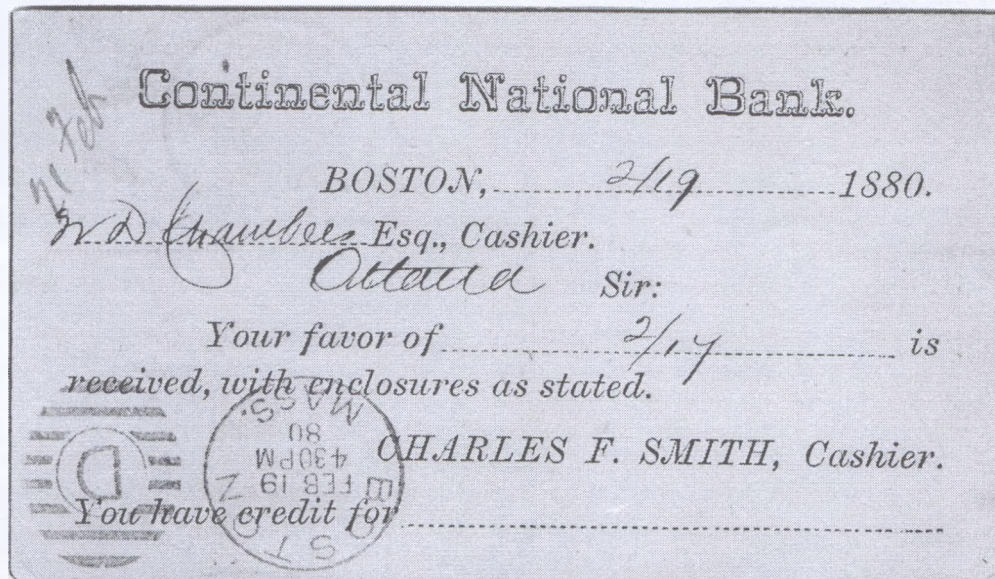


Figure 1



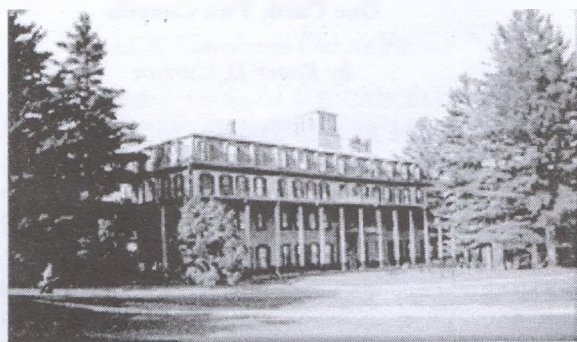
Another Hotel Postmark

Figure 1 illustrates an 1882 cover postmarked at Loon Lake House. While the hotel's business no doubt occurred largely during the summer months, it advertised as "Open Year Round" and this cover was postmarked on March 11. Skiing, perhaps, in the Loon Lake Mountains?

According to *New York Postal History: The Post Offices and First Postmasters from 1775 to 1980* by Kay and Smith, the post office of Merrillville, Franklin County, New York was established on July 19, 1837. The postmaster's name was John R. Merrill. The post office closed on December 19, 1843. It reopened on March 26, 1844, still under the name of Merrillville with John R. Merrill still the postmaster. On June 18, 1858, the post office name was changed to Hunter's Home. The Hunter's Home Post Office was in operation from June 18, 1858 until July 5, 1861 with the postmaster being Appolos A. Smith. With the closing of Hunter's Home the post office's name was changed back to Merrillville with John R. Merrill again becoming postmaster. This time the Merrillville post office was in operation from July 5, 1861 until February 16, 1882 whereupon the name was changed to Loon Lake. The Loon Lake PO was in operation from February 16, 1882 until December 1895, with the postmaster being Fred W. Chase. In December 1895 the Loon Lake name was changed to just one word "Loonlake" and was this way until December 1905. In December 1905 Loonlake was changed back to the two word name and finally closed on September 30, 1972.

The Figure 1 cover was sent within the first month of operation of the "Loon Lake" post office and the postmark is very curious. First, "Loon Lake House" was never an authorized post office name and, second, the presence of "Merrillville" in the postmark is also incorrect because that name had been discontinued several weeks earlier. Presumably, newly appointed postmaster Chase ordered the postmarker from a private supplier based on what he thought was a proper inscription for this newly named post office without knowing exactly what name had been approved by the POD. At some point the error surely must have been recognized and a new handstamp ordered.

Figure 2



Loon Lake House

Figure 2 shows an image of the hotel and the following is quoted from a website article entitled "Loon Lake Historical Structures" by Nancy Pagano.

Historically, it is important to remember that at the turn of the century (circa 1895) this part of the Northern Adirondacks had many magnificent large hotel resorts. Loon Lake House was one of the most prosperous. The well-to-do and socially prominent people of that era, including three U.S. Presidents, vacationed here. Artists, writers, musicians, architects, and the very wealthy spent their entire summers at this lakeside community, which boasted its own gravity sewage system, 2 water systems, laundry, farm, lighting plant, blacksmith, carpentry shops, and much more. A self-sufficient woodland oasis removed from the "modern world", it provided every playful possible pastime, including golf, bowling, canoeing, swimming, tennis, shuffleboard, baseball, skeet shooting, billiards and a movie theater in later years.

Loon Lake House itself burned to the ground in 1956. It was a four-storied, 31-room building with a major annex, perched

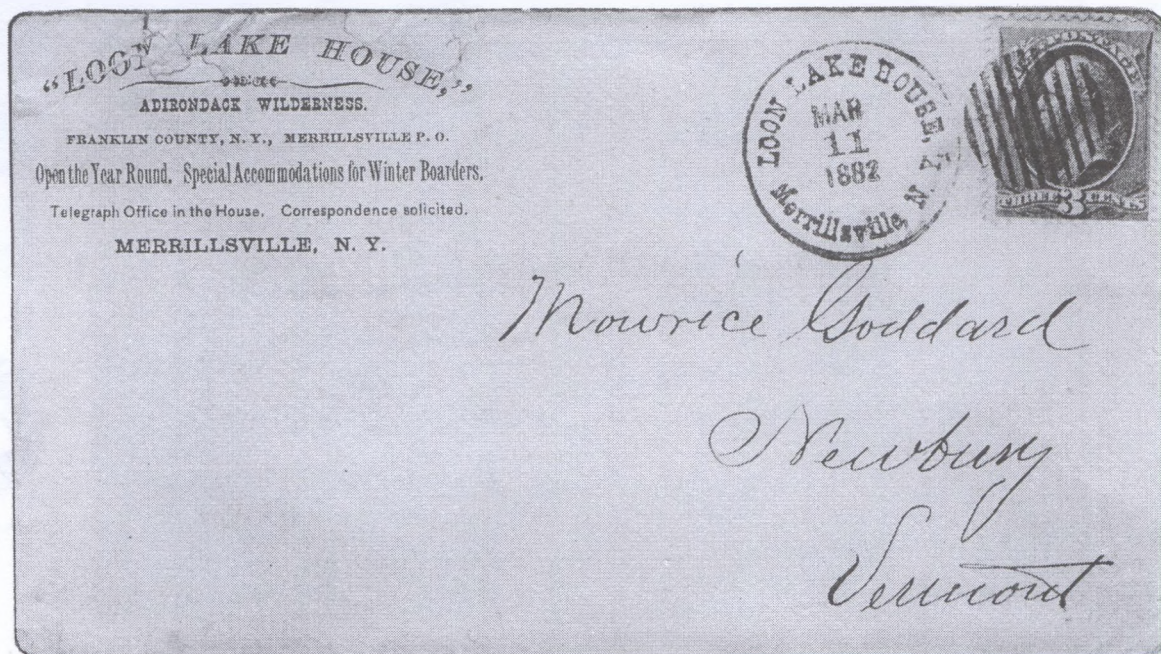


Figure 1

right above the lake.

Franklin County is a rather thinly populated county in the northernmost part of New York State. In the late 1960s the county seat Malone had a population of about 8,700 and the entire county about 44,700. Readers who can report other Loon Lake House postmarks or 1880s Loon Lake postmarks are urged to contact the *NEWS*. ■

"Not Directed"

by Roger Rhoads

Recently I acquired a Cleveland postmarked UX3 with the marking "Not Directed" in a 21 mm circle. Both the marking and the CDS are in the typical blue color for the period. The card is addressed to King & Kirtland in Plymouth, OH (Richland Co.).

Tom Allen in his book *19th Century Cleveland, Ohio Postal Markings*, 1991, has no mention of this, and I've asked a variety of noted postal historians. No one seems to have seen such a marking in the past.

A clue to the reason for this is the originating SEP 4, 2 PM CDS. The year, 1874, is on the message side. A faint Cleveland CDS overprinted on it reads SEP 5, 10 PM. I am guessing that the card got lost within the Cleveland post office and was not discovered until very late on the next day when it was put in the Plymouth pouch. Plymouth is on a direct rail line about 80 miles southwest of Cleveland. The marking was probably a way of explaining why the piece arrived one or perhaps two days later than normal.

Plymouth got its post office in 1823 and has continued to operate to date with the exception of a short interval between 1828 and 1836. Its population in 1850 had already grown to 1662 as the railroads begun to fan out all over the state, and the town was at the crossing of two of them. This usually meant rapid growth, but in 1870 its population was only slightly more than 1,600 and it only grew in the next 10 years to 1,700 people. In future years it never got larger, and today the population is 1,852 people.

Mr. King of King & Kirtland can be further identified as David B. King who was a merchant in town which explains the business nature of the message side. James K. Kirtland was identified in both the 1870 and 1880 censuses as a cabinet maker, so perhaps that was the nature of their business.

Over the years Plymouth has been the location of several businesses, the most important of which has been the Fate, Root, Heath Co. dating back to 1912 when they began to build Plymouth diesel locomotives, a small unit that was used in mines, quarries and for shunting railcars. As an old farm boy, I remember it also as being the manufacturer of the Silver King tractor from 1934 to 1954. The company no longer makes them, and in 1997 it was moved to Bucyrus, OH and exists under a different corporate name. ■

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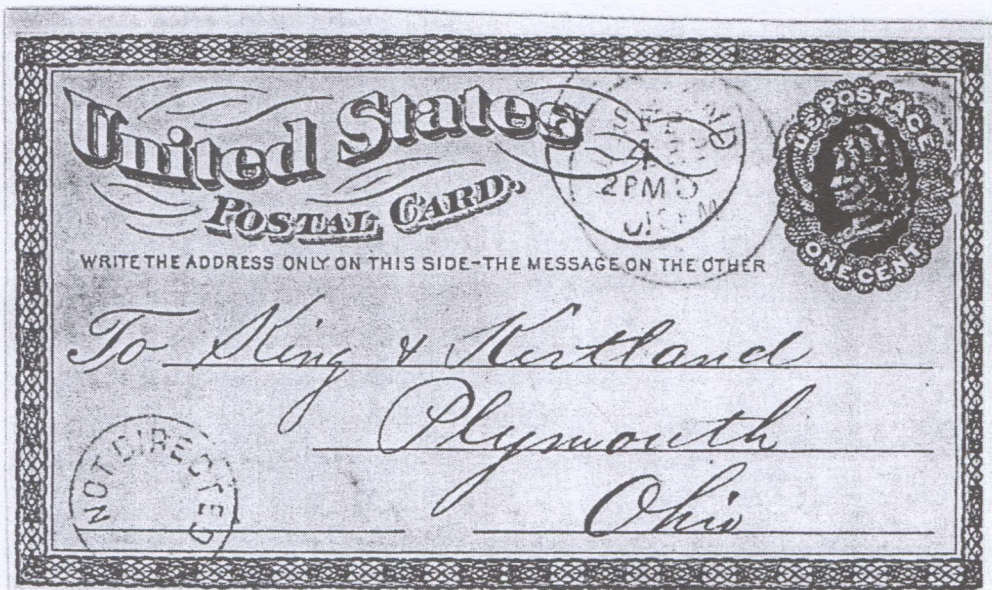
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Unusual Cross Cancel

by Roger D. Curran

The postal card in Figure 1 was struck with a delicate Christian cross cancel. The message dateline on the back is April 3, 1884. The cancel's detail is remarkably clear, including the very thin lines radiating out from the cross. Surely this was a "new" cancel that had seen very little use before the Figure 1 strike. And it would have deteriorated quickly, at least to the point that ink filled in the thin lines on the handstamp. I didn't find the cancel in the literature, but did note Figure 2, which is Whitfield 2584, reported on 3¢ green era stamps. Obviously this is not the same cancel but was possibly carved by the same person, albeit at a somewhat earlier time than Figure 1. Another New Brunswick cancel, Whitfield 5874, also reported on 3¢ green era stamps, is shown as Figure 3.

The thin-lined rays in Figure 1 appear to be an intentional part of the design. Are they just a decorative embellishment or do they connote something such as a fiery cross? I checked my 1970 *American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language* and the principal definition of "fiery cross" is as a Ku Klux Klan symbol. The Christian cross is also a Masonic symbol. Years ago, a dedicated collector of Masonic cancels, Milton Greenebaum, developed a classification chart of Masonic cancels (see Summer 1998 *NEWS*) and used Figure 4 as the listing for the cross. Do the tiny lines (almost dots) outside the box connote "fiery"? The 6-point star (Figure 3) is also used as a Masonic symbol and Mr. Greenebaum's listing for that is Figure 5. Was the Figure 1 cancel a fraternal symbol? Reader comments and additional information will be welcomed.

Our thanks to John Donnes for the tracing in Figure 1. He pointed out the unusual spacing of the letters of "New Brunswick" in the CDS. It appears as one word and there was no trace of the letter "I." Although there would have been enough space for the letter, it would have been a tight fit.■

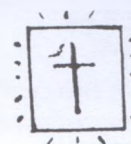
Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



CROSS
ALL DESIGNS

Figure 5



SOLOMON'S SEAL
OR
STAR OF DAVID
ALL DESIGNS

Pittsburgh Cancels

Twenty-two years ago, in the Spring 1986 issue of the *NEWS*, Bob McKain presented a 5-page article on Pittsburgh, PA fancy cancels, 1872-1882. He reported that while Pittsburgh used some fancy designs in the 1860s, by 1872 the cancels had become very mundane. The pendulum began then to swing back to fancier cancels which held sway for the next ten years. During this period a number of interesting and popular cancels were produced. The 1986 article is informative and provided extensive data, probably more so than any other single *NEWS* article, for the recently announced update to the Whitfield cancellations book. For all cancels reported, tracings were illustrated and observed dates of use were listed.

Bob writes now to say that after a period of attention to other interests, he has been focusing once again on these Pittsburgh fancys and has accumulated a much larger database. Bob plans an updated article and, in the meantime, is eager to receive additional reports of Pittsburgh (and other



Figure 1

Allegheny County post office) cancels used during the 1872-1882 period, and any that exist going back to 1870. Photocopies or scans are essential. Bob will respond to all submissions, giving his recorded dates of use for cancels presently in his database and will advise on any "new" cancels submitted. Bob's email address is 57-vette@comcast.net and for regular mail - 2337 Giant Oaks Drive, Pittsburgh PA 15241.

Readers interested in obtaining a copy of Bob's 1986 article may send a stamped self-addressed business size envelope to Roger Curran at the address on the masthead.

There is a rare manufactured cancel from Pittsburgh that may have appeared in 1882 just at the tail end of the Pittsburgh hand carved fancy cancel era. It involves a numeral in three concentric circles. After many years of searching, Bob has only seen three examples, one each with a "1", "2", and "3" in the center. Figure 1 illustrates the "2" and "3" cancels. The dates on the three covers range from October 25 to November 21, but no year date could be determined. If any reader can report additional examples, please do so either to

the *NEWS* or to Bob directly. Concentric circles cancels with a number in the center are quite common, of course, because they were used by several large city post offices - Washington, D.C., Cincinnati, OH and, most extensively, Philadelphia. At least as early as January 1883, however, Pittsburgh was showing its predilection for ellipse cancels.■

Jumbo Postmark

Gregory Hanson submits a 37-38 mm. Colerain, Ohio postmark (Figure 1) in response to the article in the November 2007 *NEWS* about unusually large cancellations. According to the 1997 *American Stampless Cover Catalog*, this postmark is recorded from 1859-1861. A smaller Quaker-dated postmark is reported from Colerain in 1854. This is the earliest handstamp marking recorded from the Colerain post office which was established in 1825.

We don't know if the large postmark was ever used as a postage stamp canceler but it certainly would have been large enough to cancel multiple stamps.■

Figure 1

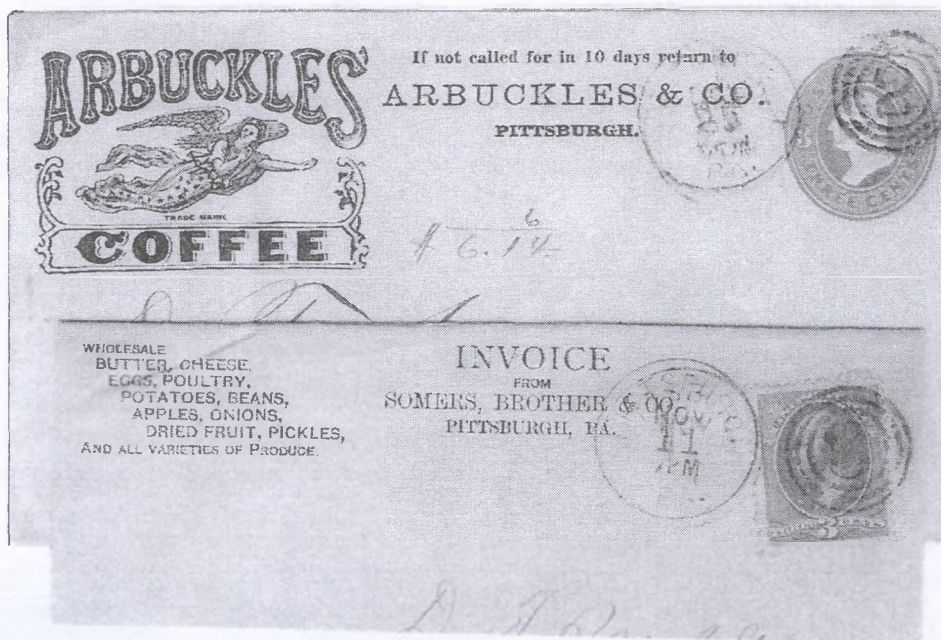
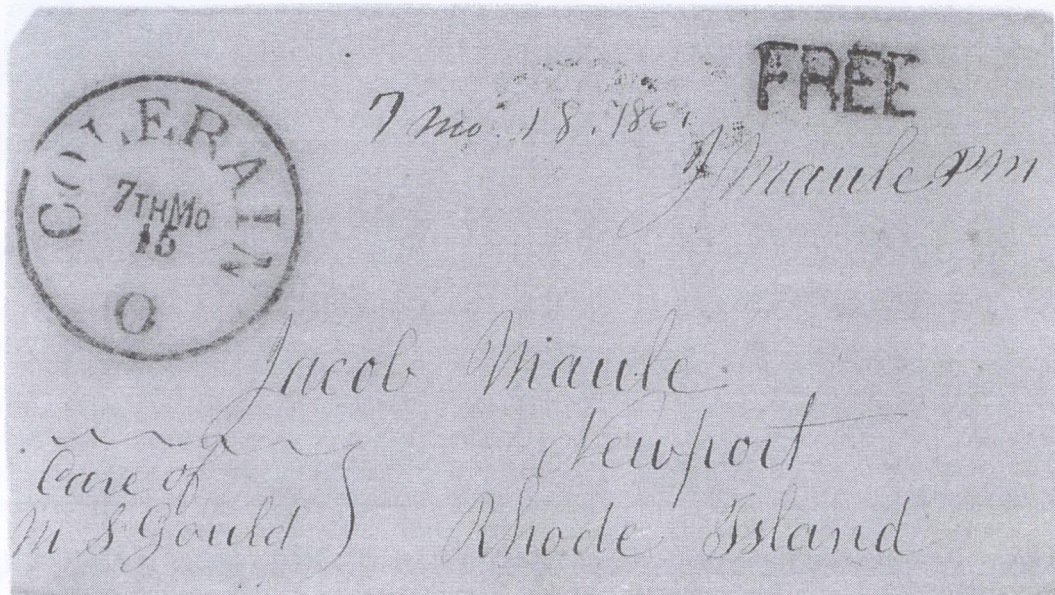


Figure 1



Addendum: Some Observations about NYFM Cancels on Printed Matter

By Alex Gundel

My article "Some Observations about NYFM Cancels on Printed Matter" (U.S. Cancellation Club News Vol. 28 No. 4 (261): 60-68, 2006) gave rise to quite a few responses from other collectors. John Donnes, Matt Kewriga, Nick Kirke and Peter Stafford reported in total 16 unlisted covers. Now 63 New York printed matter covers of the years between 1870 and 1878 can be tabulated. I am very grateful for the additional information; and this short article is to share all new information with the readers.

Unfortunately, I have to start with two corrections. In the first figure of the 2006 article, the cancels C8 and C9 were interchanged; and the second TR-W13 should read TR-W17. These errors affect this figure only.

The readers have reported three covers with formerly unknown cancels. These covers are displayed in Figures 1, 2 and 3. All of the three designs belong to those of Table 1.



Figure 1: Cover with new TR-W (similar to TR-W8) to Austria. The cover shows a red one-line "PAID ALL" marking and a manuscript date in German "1870, 15. Oktober", which was probably written by the recipient and coincides with the date of the circular. (Figure with courtesy of Nick Kirke).

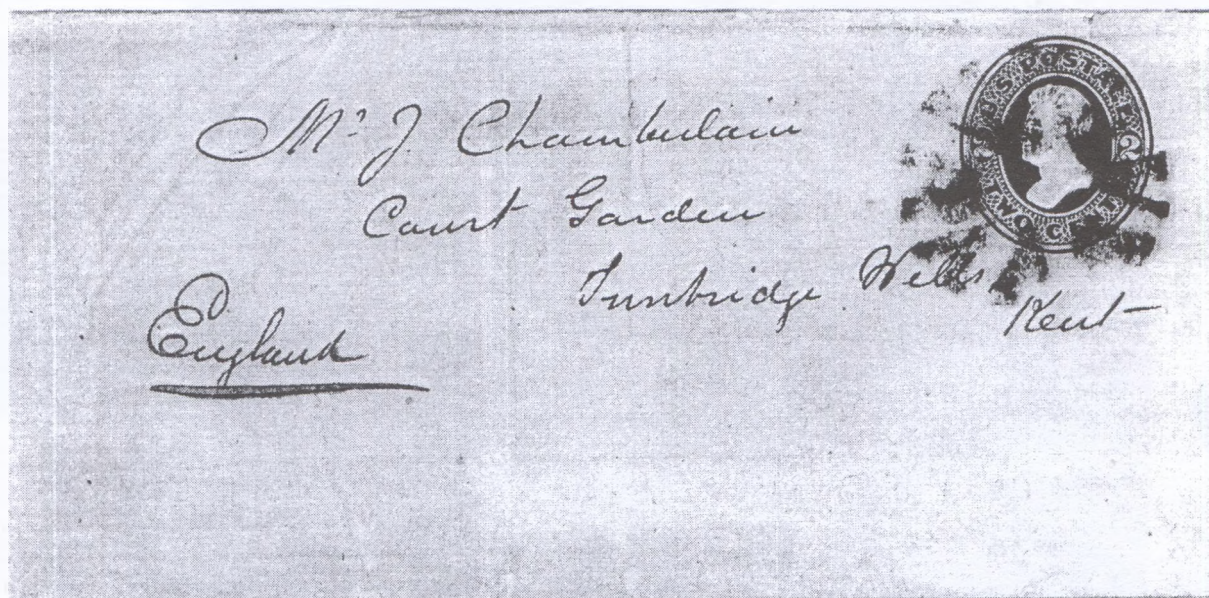


Figure 2: Undated postal stationery wrapper with new TR-W (similar to TR-W4 but larger) to England. (Figure with courtesy of Peter Stafford).

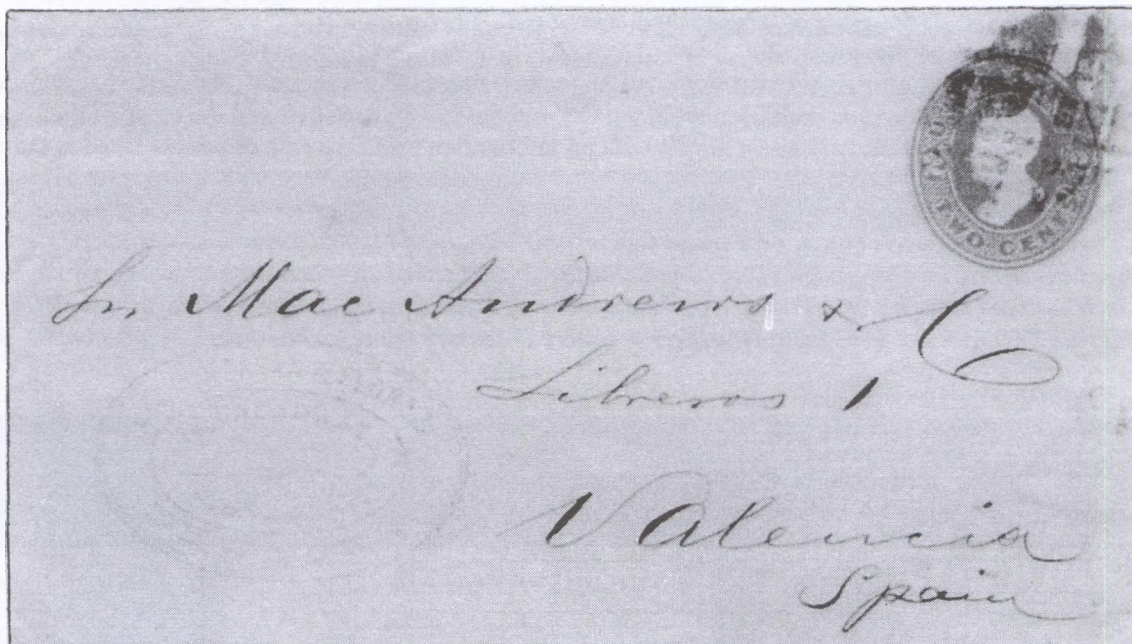


Figure 3: Undated cover with new TR-G to Spain. (Figure with courtesy of John Donnes).

Another cover has been reported that shows the only known use of TR-S3 on printed matter (Figure 4, Table 2). It was received in August 1876, whereas the known letter usages are of 1871. It is not very likely that the device of 1871 has been used again five years later. The cancel rather looks like a family member of TR-S3 or even a traditional wedge cancel.

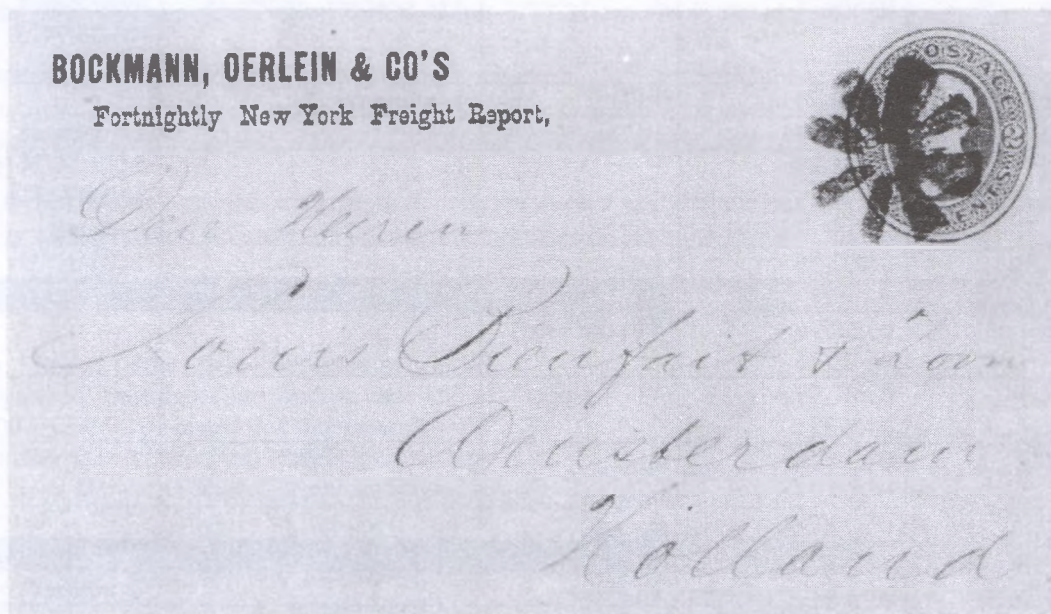


Figure 4: Undated postal stationery envelope with a cancel that looks like TR-S3. The reverse shows an Amsterdam receiving marking of August 2, 1876. (Figure with courtesy of Nick Kirke).

The 63 listed covers show 31 different cancel designs. The TR-W1 entry in Table 2 comprises the two distinct designs TR-W1E and TR-W1F. There are 9 postal stationery wrappers among the 63 covers.

For three formerly undated designs, TR-W7, TR-C2 and GE-EP4, dates have been provided by the readers. If the date of the GE-EP4 cover, a wrapper usage to Argentina with a backstamp of 11/24/75, is correct, this cover is very unusual since the printed matter usage of the NYFM cancel occurs before this cancel was used on letters from 12/15/75 to 09/07/76.

With 10 and 8 copies the cancels TR-C1 and TR-W13 are the most frequent ones. However, most certainly more than one device of these families of cancels has been used. It would be very helpful if the family members could be

identified and classified separately according to their date of use.

Table 1 contains 34 covers to foreign destinations and 21 or more domestic usages now. The Table has two sections for cancels used before or after the establishment of the General Postal Union (GPU) and the move of the New York City Post Office to the City Hall Park site. Cancels with no information about the date of use are listed at the end of the Table.

Table 1: Twenty NYFM cancels that appear on foreign printed matter but not on letters or postal cards. The cancels are arranged according to their period of use. The Table presents the number of known foreign usages, the number of covers which bear the marking "PAID ALL", and the number of domestic usages. Three of the foreign usages listed by Weiss could not be inspected. The citation numbers in squared brackets relate to the references given in the 2006 article.

Type (Weiss)	Period of Use on Foreign Printed Matter	Known Foreign Usages	Covers with Red NYFM One-Line Marking PAID ALL	Number of Domestic Usages
Usages before the NY Post Office moved to the City Hall Park location and the GPU was established				
New TR-W (Kirke)	10/15/70	1	1	
UNC-7	02/10/72	1		
TR-W7	06/25/72	2	1	more than 1
				(07/15/72 [7])
RE-E3	12/17/73	2 (1 not seen)		more than 5 (11/20/73, 4 undated)
ST-8P12	03/03/74	2	2 (1 wrapper [1])	more than 2 (undated)
RE-S6	04/09/74	2	2 (1 wrapper, Figure 2)	more than 4 (03/25/74, 3 undated)
New RE	05/22/74	1 [7]	1 (wrapper)	
GE-C6	08/30/74	1 [11]		2 (undated)
RE-E1	01/01/75	1	1	5 (12/14/74 [6] – 12/18/74 [1], 3 undated)
TR-G29a	05/07/75	1	1	1 (05/01/75)
Usages after the NY Post Office moved to the City Hall Park location and the GPU was established				
GE-C8	05/30/76 – 06/23/76	5 (1 not seen)		
GE-C10	03/01/77 – 04/?/77	4 (1 wrapper)		
GE-C9	04/30/78 – 05/22/78	2		
TR-C2	05/10/78	2		
Designs with no information about dates				
New TR-W	undated	1 [7]	1	1 (undated)
TR-C9	undated	2 (1 not seen)		
New TR-W	undated	1 (Figure 5)		
New TR-W	undated	1 [7]		
New TR-W (Stafford)	undated	1 (wrapper)		
New TR-G (Donnes)	undated	1		

The NYFM cancels of Table 1 are compared with the other 29 foreign printed matter usages that also form a distinct group (Table 2). This group comprises ten designs that are found mainly on letters and postal cards in contrast to those of Table 1. Printed matter usages present a minority of the covers.

Table 2: Ten NYFM cancels that have been found on foreign printed matter and on letters or postal cards. The cancels are arranged according to their period of printed matter use. The Table gives the number of known foreign printed matter usages and the number of letters and postal cards. In addition, the period of use on letters or postal cards is presented. The letter f in brackets marks a family of designs; at least seven out of the ten designs are families of cancels. The citation numbers in squared brackets relate to the references given in the 2006 article.

Type (Weiss)	Period of Printed Matter Use	Known Printed Matter Usages	Period of Other Uses	Known Other Usages
GE-EP3 (f)	10/08/75 [6]	1	04/26/75 – 04/26/77	111
GE-EP4	11/24/75	1 (wrapper [2])	12/15/75 – 09/07/76	40
TR-W1 (f)	03/20/76 – 08/26/76	3	04/02/70 – 12/09/76	54
TR-S3 (Kirke)	08/02/76	1	05/09/71 – 07/28/71	12
TR-C1 (f)	04/25/76 – 06/01/78	10 (4 not seen), 1 wrapper	01/15/70 – 11/22/74	54
TR-W13 (f)	10/29/76 – 08/02/79	8 (1 not seen), 1 wrapper [10]	10/20/70 – 05/13/78	68
TR-C4 (f)	10/05/78	2 (1 not seen)	10/06/70 – 11/05/71	13
GE-EN5	08/19/81	1 (wrapper [10])	03/10/75 – 05/28/75	13
TR-G30 (f)	undated	1	09/20/70 – 12/06/73	11
TR-W17 (f)	undated	1 (not seen)	02/02/74 – 05/25/78	49

Conclusion

The system laid out in the 2006 paper has been confirmed by the additional information the readers have provided. The expanded NYFM printed matter census helps to demonstrate that the period of NYCM cancels that were used for domestic and foreign printed matter seems to end prior to the establishment of the GPU and prior to the move of the New York City Post Office to the City Hall Park building. NYCM cancels do not appear on letter mail.

Most of the NYFM cancels that occur on printed matter after mid 1875 are neither seen on domestic circulars nor on foreign letters. New York Foreign Circular Mail (NYFCM) cancels may be a proper term for this subgroup of NYFM killers. On some printed matter covers, strikes of NYFM cancels appear after the period when they occur on letters.

The new TR-W of 1870 suggests that the year 1870 does not mark a well defined limit for collecting and researching NYFM cancels. More research is needed on the transition of cancels from the 1860s to the 1870s. ■

More on Philadelphia “Dispatched” Postmark

Norman Shachat writes with information on the Philadelphia “dispatched” postmark illustrated on page 130 of the November 2007 *NEWS*. He stated that this postmark was intended for exclusive use on mail from Philadelphia to New York City. The cover shown on page 130 was addressed to Bridgeport, CT and initially struck with the “dispatched” postmark. This was an error in terms of Philadelphia post office procedure, and when noted was corrected by the strike of a regular Philadelphia postmark with the duplexed killer canceling out the “dispatched” postmark. Other examples of the “dispatched” postmark being obliterated on covers to non-NYC addresses have been recorded. Norm identified an article by Edward T. Harvey in the February 1982 *Chronicle* that explains in some detail the use of the “dispatched” marking, which Mr. Harvey reported from late 1868 to early

1870. A Whitfield tracing of this type of marking is shown here as Figure 1. ■

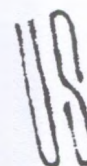
Elongated “US”

Patriotic cancels were very popular during the 19th century. One of the types involved “US” presented in a wide variety of formats, from just the two letters themselves to very ornate cancels with “US” in the center. The Skinner-Eno book lists more than 20 examples of the simplest type but not the odd and distinctive cancel shown in Figure 1. (Thanks to John Donnes for the tracing.) The stamp is a Sc 94 and the cancel is blue. Your editor has no idea where it originated. Readers who can report other examples or provide information about it are urged to contact the *NEWS*. ■

Figure 1



Figure 1



Early NYPO Duplexes – Further Considerations

by Roger D. Curran

An article in the November 2007 *NEWS* described the very early introduction of handstamps that duplexed a CDS to a canceler by the Cleveland, Ohio post office. This occurred at least by August 17, 1860. But, as has been discussed several times in these pages, the New York Post Office was the first post office to employ this revolutionary practice and did so by August 8, 1860. It involved domestic but not foreign mail. Readers will recall that the stimulus for such action was a supplemental postal regulation, dated July 23, 1860 that prohibited use of the CDS as a canceler.

It is time now to revisit this pioneering action by the NYPO, add a little new information, and raise some questions. The reaction of the New York postmaster to the July 23 regulation is reflected in a very interesting August 8, 1860 letter he sent to the Post Office Department, the text of which is presented here as Figure 1. I am aware of three covers bearing August 8, 1860 strikes of a NYPO handstamp

duplexing the CDS to a grid canceler. One of these was illustrated on page 26 of the May 2004 *NEWS*. There was a transition period from use of the CDS as a canceler, a practice which the NYPO had followed with great consistency on domestic mail since 1851, to full use of the duplexed grid canceler. This is demonstrated by covers showing stamps canceled by unduplexed grids for a short period beginning August 8, 1860. Until recently the latest date I had seen for an unduplexed grid was August 13, 1860 and that cover was also illustrated in the May 2004 article. I have now encountered an August 20 example which is shown here as Figure 2. How much later will collectors be able to report unduplexed NYPO grids on domestic mail?

The introduction of duplex handstamps by the NYPO was first described in the philatelic literature by Arthur Bond in an excellent article that appeared in 1963.¹ In it he reported that the POD responded on August 10 to Postmaster Dix's letter advising him that the action of duplexing the CDS and canceler to one handstamp infringed on a patent held by inventor Marcus Norton. On August 22, according to Bond,

POST OFFICE, New York, August 8, 1860.

SIR: The order of the Postmaster General of the 23d ultimo, prohibiting the cancelling of postage stamps by the dotting or post-marking stamps, and requiring the work to be done by a separate instrument, could not be executed in this office without an increase of our clerical force. We were compelled, a few days ago, to keep back a mail nearly half an hour in order that the postage stamps on the letters to be transmitted by it might be properly cancelled.

When the letters amount to tens of thousands, the duplication of the work of cancelling and post-marking is a very serious matter. On Monday our carriers and messengers brought to this office 11,985 letters for the mails. In this extremity, and with an extreme reluctance to augment the clerical force of the office for the purpose of doing the work, I have hit upon an expedient which answers the purpose perfectly. It occurred to me that the "separate instrument" required by the department might be attached to the post-marking stamp, and I sent for the stamp-maker and gave him my idea, which he has carried out very well. The cancelling stamp is soldered on to the other, so that one handle answers for both, and the double operation is performed with one blow. There is, therefore, no increase of work.

I send you a specimen of the work on the enclosed envelope.

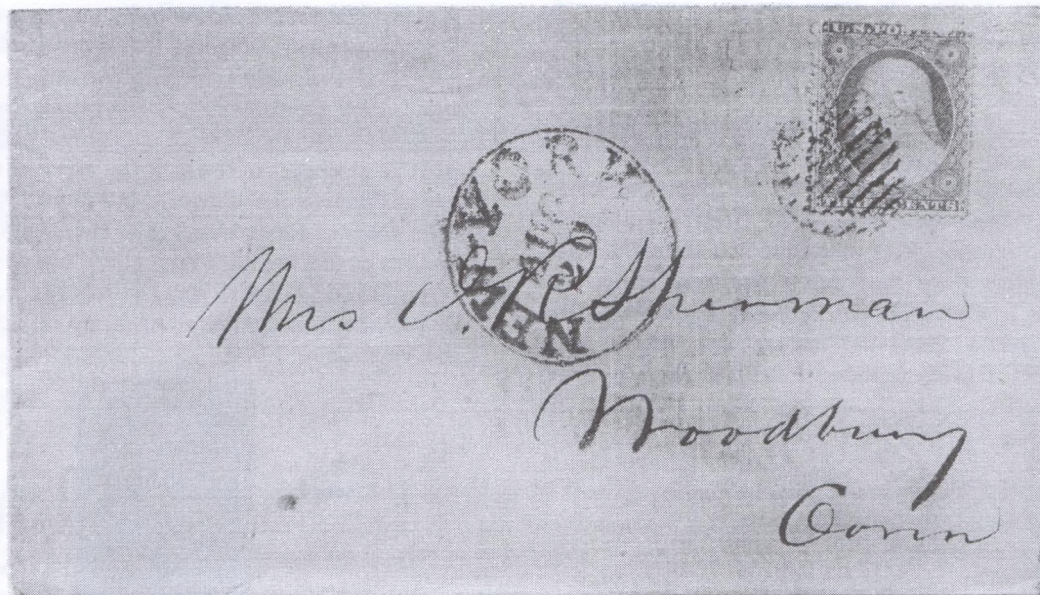
Respectfully yours,

JOHN A. DIX, P. M.

Hon. HORATIO KING,
First Assistant P. M. General.

Figure 1

Figure 2



Dix wrote back to the POD saying that Mr. Norton had visited the NYPO and Dix requested authority to purchase ten Norton duplex handstamps. Bond stated that Norton must have promptly furnished the handstamps because "an entirely new strike is seen on September 4, 1860." (Bond's tracings of the two types of markings are shown here as Figure 3.) Figure 4 is an earlier example of the larger type than the strike reported by Bond. It is of considerable interest to me just how this transition took place. Did Dix discontinue using the duplex handstamp(s) at some point after learning of the patent infringement until he was supplied by Norton? If so, when were they (or it) discontinued and when resumed? Or was there a continued period of use from August 8 onward? I have seen too few covers to reach any conclusions, even tentative. The help of readers is solicited!

Figure 3



Now, one more question. Dix's August 8 letter implies that he stopped using the CDS as a canceler before August 8 by his statement:

Figure 4

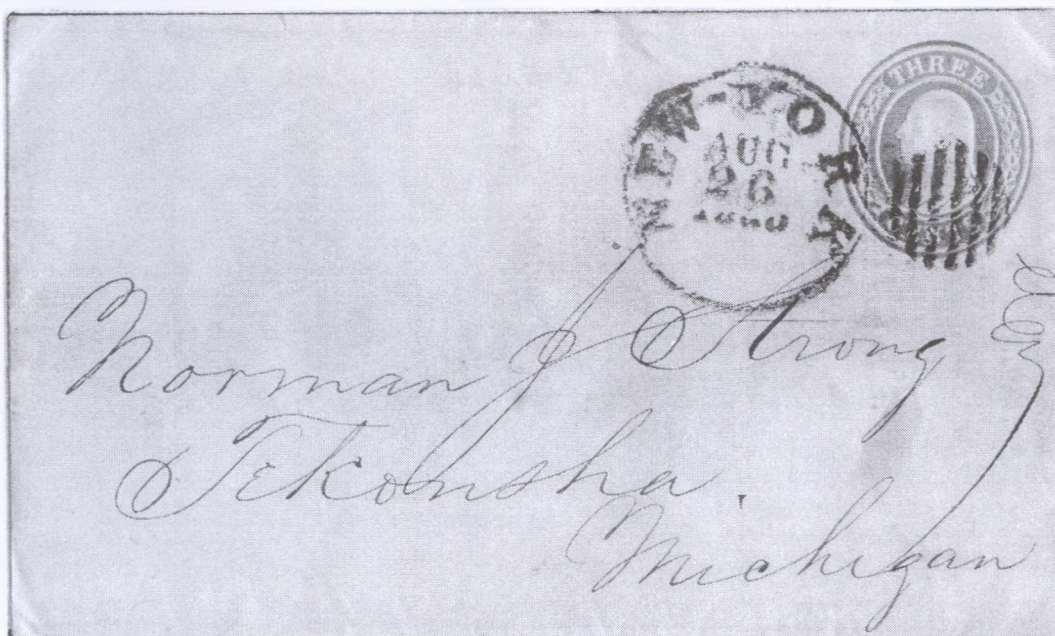
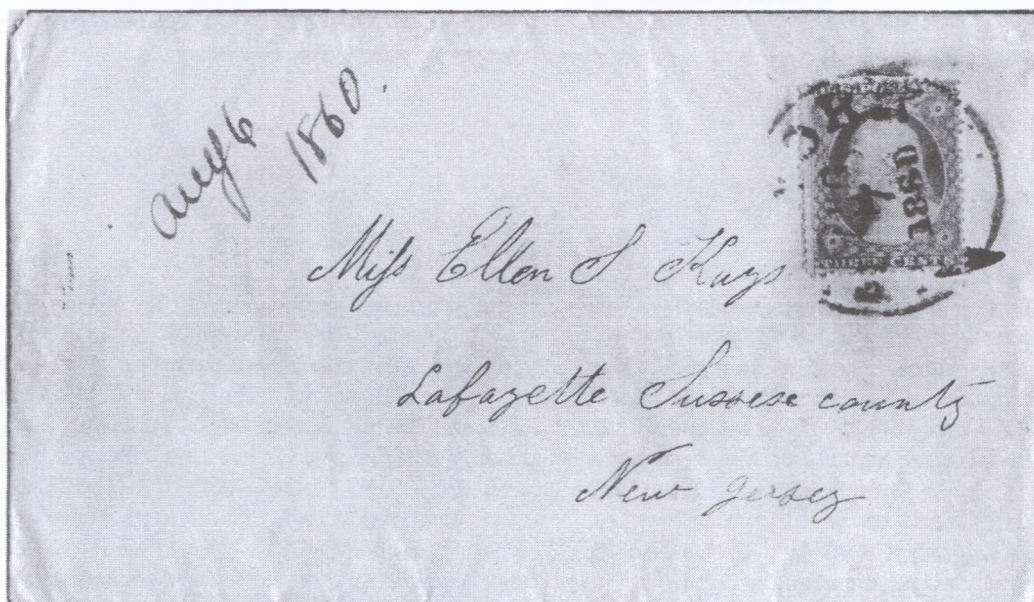


Figure 5



"We were compelled, a few days ago, to keep back a mail nearly half an hour in order that the postage stamps on the letters to be transmitted by it might be properly cancelled."

Again, while the covers I have seen are limited in number, I have noted no NYC covers before August 8, 1860 (dated on or after the July 23, 1860 regulation) canceled by a separate grid. Figure 5 shows an August 7, 1860 cover with the stamp canceled by the CDS, as had long been the practice. Reports of any New York domestic mail covers dated from July 23 to August 7, 1860 are eagerly sought.

The large CDS and grid markings basically gave way in late 1861 to a smaller double circle CDS duplexed to concentric circles killer. A John Donnes tracing of an example from his collection is shown as Figure 6. Near the end of 1862 the NYPO began using hand-carved cork killers.

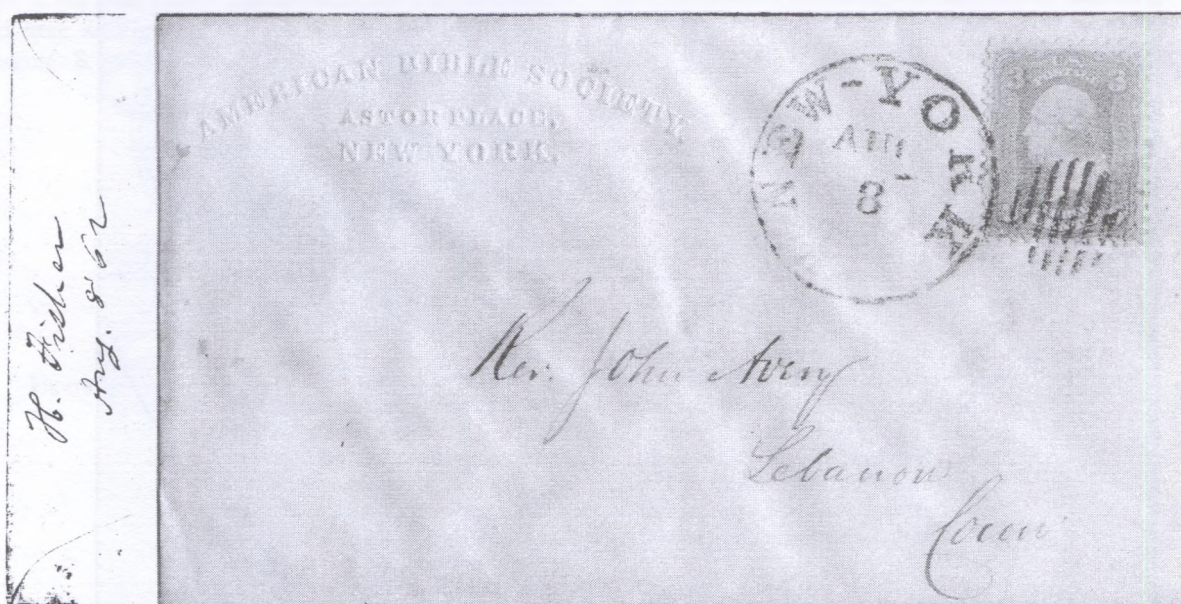
Figure 6



Some old duplex handstamps, however, were kept in service, presumably until they wore out, as the cover in Figure 7, with docketing on the back, demonstrates. And I have seen other similar examples. It is interesting that the Figure 7 cover is dated exactly two years after what is probably the first use of such a duplex.■

¹ Bond, Arthur H. "Time-Saving, Duplex Handstamp; Its Invention, Use and Manufacture" *Postal History Journal*, Vol. VII, No. 1, June 1963, pp 59-62.

Figure 7



Glen Allen Cancels

by Roger D. Curran

Probably the best known and most popular precancel of the classic era is the 5-point star from Glen Allen, VA shown here as Figure 1. (It is not the only Glen Allen precancel star but the one that gets the most attention.) This star is normally seen in black ink. It is also occasionally noted in red and rarely in green. I understand that no cover has been reported bearing this star in green. The 2004 edition of *Silent Precancels* by David W. Smith and published by the Precancel Stamp Society lists this cancel basically on Continental, American and re-engraved issue stamps. However, there is also a listing of a bluish green example on Sc 279, an 1898 issue stamp and a blue example on Sc 134, an 1870 issue. The Sc 134 listing has a question mark next to it which, of course, advises that the editor is unsure about it.

Glen Allen precancels were used on mail from a

Figure 1



printing establishment known by the name Cussons, May & Co. or Cussons, May & Sheppard. Collectors may wonder what Glen Allen cancels were used on mail other than that of the Cussons company. The post office was established in 1866 and the precancels began appearing soon after. The Summer 2000 *NEWS* illustrated a June 12, 1871 Glen Allen cover from Bob Payne's collection that had an elaborate square printed postmark. The postage stamp was canceled by crosshatched pen marks. Did Glen Allen use manuscript cancels at this time or did the presence of a printed postmark cause the post office to set aside a duplex handstamp and improvise a cancel? The corner card on this cover appears to

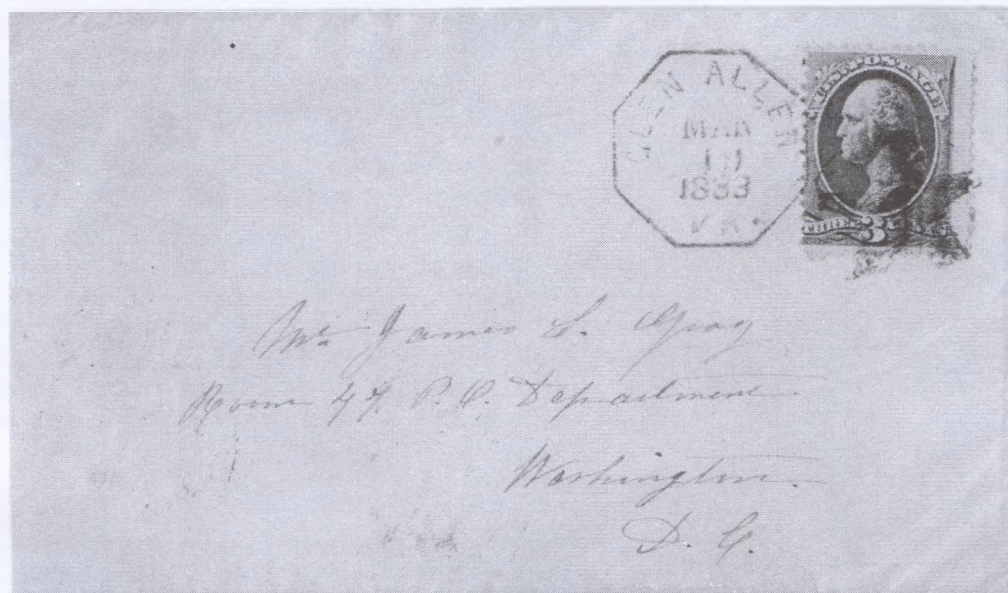


Figure 2

be that of a predecessor to the Cussons company.

Figure 2 is the only cover from Glen Allen that I recall seeing other than those involving precancels. Surely there are a number out there but perhaps they are not particularly noteworthy from a cancel or other postal history standpoint and don't command much attention. Glen Allen was a small post office. The town's population in 1890 was 48.

It is interesting to see a star used as the cancel in Figure 2. Readers are encouraged to report non-precancel covers in their collections from Glen Allen during the last quarter of the 19th century so that we can get a clearer picture of this town's regular canceling practices.■

Unusual to Say the Least

Jim Kesterson submits the cover shown in Figure 1 struck by a non-first class mail cancel that has a design neither

he nor your editor recalls seeing before. The period of probable use would be late 1880s through early 1890s. The circle postmark in the middle reads WAUWAUTOSA/WISC with lines of ornamentation in slight arcs above and below. Canceling bars, of course, extend both left and right. There are six bars with each of the middle four split into two lines. Jim reports the cancel to be an apparent "pale strike of a very dirty purple." An additional way to say it might be a grey black with a hint of purple.

Given the presence of a color in the ink, I think we can surmise that a rubber-faced handstamp was used and rule out any likelihood that it was a machine cancel. Shall we call it a pseudo-machine cancellation and add it to the Bob Payne's listing of such cancels that appeared in the May 2003 NEWS?

Readers who can report other examples of this cancel or other cancels with the same or similar design are encouraged to do so.■

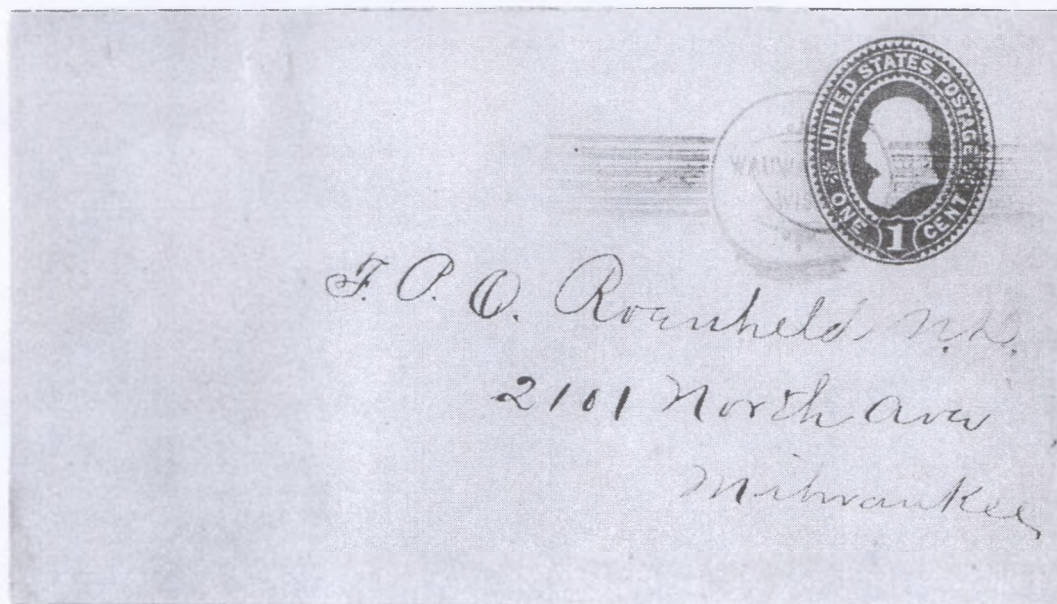


Figure 1

Cancels Depict Town Name

Very occasionally, the design of a canceler reflects the name of the post office. Figure 1 illustrates a cover in the collection of Arthur Beane with the cancel in the shape of a "hayfork" or "pitchfork" from Unadilla Forks, NY. The cancel is PO-Wt 21 and 21a (two states) in Skinner-Eno and #751 in Whitfield.

Since star cancels are so common, we have to make a bit of an assumption that the outline star on the Figure 2 cover was intended to be a "lone star." The Lone Star, PA post office operated in Greene Co. from 1880 to 1900.

Finally, we come to a postmark that itself provides a nice tie-in to the name of the post office. And you thought there were only 30 days in June! The Cuckoo post office operated in Louisa Co., Virginia from 1870-1956. The piece, dated June 32, 1883 is shown through the courtesy of the Northland Company.■

Figure 3



**From a Large Old
Fancy Cancel Hoard**

For sale now online at

www.NORTHSTAMP.com

Figure 1

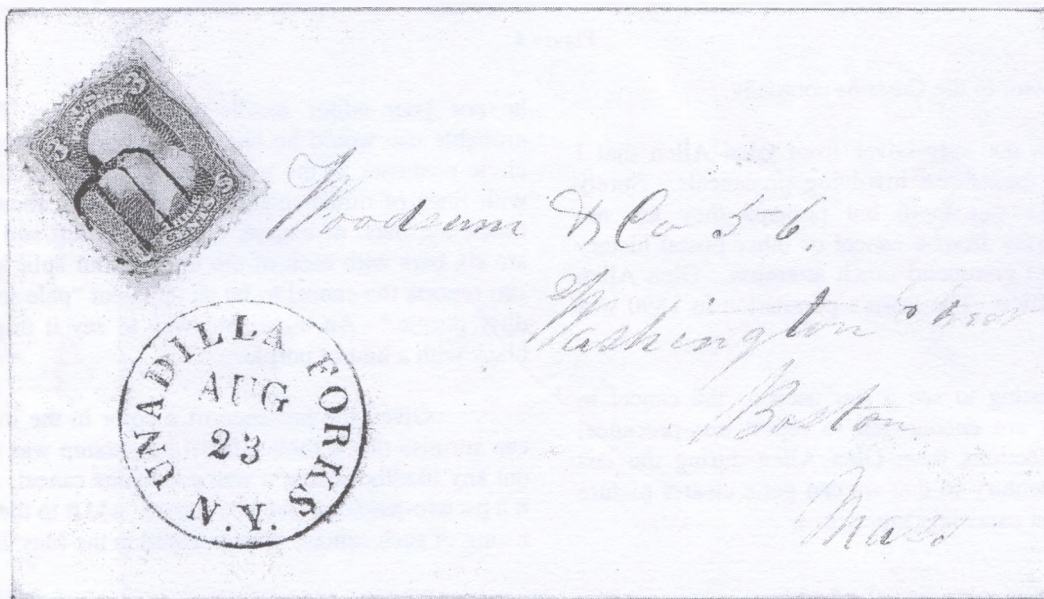


Figure 2

