



U.S. Cancellation Club NEWS

Vol. 31, No. 7, Whole No. 288, August 2013

Corry, Pennsylvania Face Cancel

by Donald A. Barany

This cancel from Corry, Pennsylvania has been referred to by some as a caricature of an African-American face. I have not seen an



Figure 1

example on cover. The examples in Figures 1-3 are the only examples I have been able to record.

This cancel is listed in the Skinner-Eno book on 1861 issue stamps with the designation PH-M 12 and is known on cover.

The stamp shown in Figure 1 is a Scott #63 owned by me. The stamp in Figure 2 is a Scott #65 taken from the Philatelic Foundation's website with certificate number



Figure 2

291475 and the town of origin noted. The stamp in Figure 3 is from the Metzger Blackjack collection which was sold by Matthew Bennett



Figure 3

Auctions in 2002. It is also shown on the Philatelic Foundation's website with certificate number 381001, although the town of origin is not identified.

According to Wikipedia, Corry is a city located in northwestern Pennsylvania with a population of only 6,605 according to the 2010 US Census. Therefore it most likely was a very small town in the 1860's. Nevertheless, it is the second largest city in Erie County and became famous in the late-19th and early-20th centuries for being the manufacturer of Climax locomotives. Erie County was formed from parts of Allegheny County on March 12, 1800. On May 27, 1861, tracks owned by the Atlantic and Great Western Railroad intersected with those of the Sunbury and Erie Railroad and the spot was called the "Atlantic and Erie Junction." Land at the junction was owned by Hiram Cory, who sold a portion to the Atlantic and Great Western in October 1861. The railroad constructed a ticket office at the junction and named it for Cory, but through a misspelling it became Corry. The combination of railroad growth and the discovery of oil in

nearby Titusville contributed greatly to Corry's development. This boomtown was chartered as a borough in 1863 and designated as a city in 1866.

It should be noted that there are several other notable fancy cancels from Corry. Starting in the 1860's, including possibly 1870 in some instances (with Skinner-Eno designations in parentheses where listed), there is an 8-point star (ST-8P 7), the bust of a woman (PH-F 8), two types of pumpkin faces (PH-P 4 & PH-P 14), three types of eagles with shields (PT-E 1, PT-E 3 & PT-E 4), a fraternal design cancel (FR-NM2), a letter 'C' in a cogwheel (LS-C 21) and a sunface (unlisted). On the Banknote issues from the 1870's (with Cole designations in parentheses), there are several versions of a pig which may reflect inking variances or cancel wear (AN-1, AN-2, AN-3 & AN-4), and a camel (AN-5).

In conclusion, has anyone seen the face cancel (illustrated above) on cover and if so, is there any indication of a year date? Also, does anyone know the name of the postmaster or any postal clerk during the 1860's?

NYC Domestic Mail 1859-62

A limited number of copies of the 6-page handout from Ardy Callender's lecture at NAPEX are available to USCC members. The 1859-62 period saw important cancellation developments in New York including an early introduction of handstamps duplexing a CDS to a canceler, the experimental use of a Mar-

cus Norton duplex with the characteristic sideways year date numerals, the introduction of a duplexed double circle postmark with serified letters, and the brief use of "patent" cancelers designed to cut or punch holes into postage stamps. And finally there was the introduction of cancelers made of cork or soft wood that

were to be employed for the next nearly 15 years. Ardy devotes special attention to the historical context for the use of "patent" cancels by the NYPO.

The handout is in outline form with much valuable information. To order a copy, send \$1 to your editor at the address on the masthead.

The U.S. Cancellation Club NEWS

Roger D. Curran, Editor
20 University Ave, Lewisburg, PA 17837
rcurran@dejazzd.com

Published four times a year by the U.S. Cancellation Club and included with membership. The U.S.C.C. is APS Affiliate #75.

Annual Dues: \$26 per year, \$31 for international members. Address inquiries to: Arden Callender at the address below.

Back Issues through 1997 are available at \$2.00 each postpaid. 1998 to May 2008 issues, \$3.00. August 2008 and later issues, \$6.00. Discount of 10% on orders of 25 or more issues. Contact: Vince Costello at address below.

Address library inquiries to: U.S. Cancellation Club Library, Box 2219, Sunnyvale, CA 94087. (See the August 2003 NEWS for details or write the editor.) See website for listings. Address all other communications to the NEWS editor.

U.S.C.C. Officers

John Donnes	202 Willow Dr., Gretna, LA 70053	jdones@cox.net	President
Vince Costello	318 Hoffnagle St., Philadelphia, PA 19111	vinman2119@aol.com	First Vice President
Matthew Kewriga	47 Kearny St., Ste 500, San Francisco, CA 94108	matt@kewriga.com	Second Vice President
Arden Callender	1715 Valley Vista, Houston TX 77077	callenderardy@sbcglobal.net	Secretary/Treasurer
Dan Richards	10012 Hazelview Dr, Charlotte, NC 28277	dhr327@att.net	Governor at Large

Advertising Rates

	Per Issue	Yearly
Half Page	\$110.00	\$400.00
Quarter Page	\$55.00	\$200.00
Column Inch	\$15.00	\$50.00

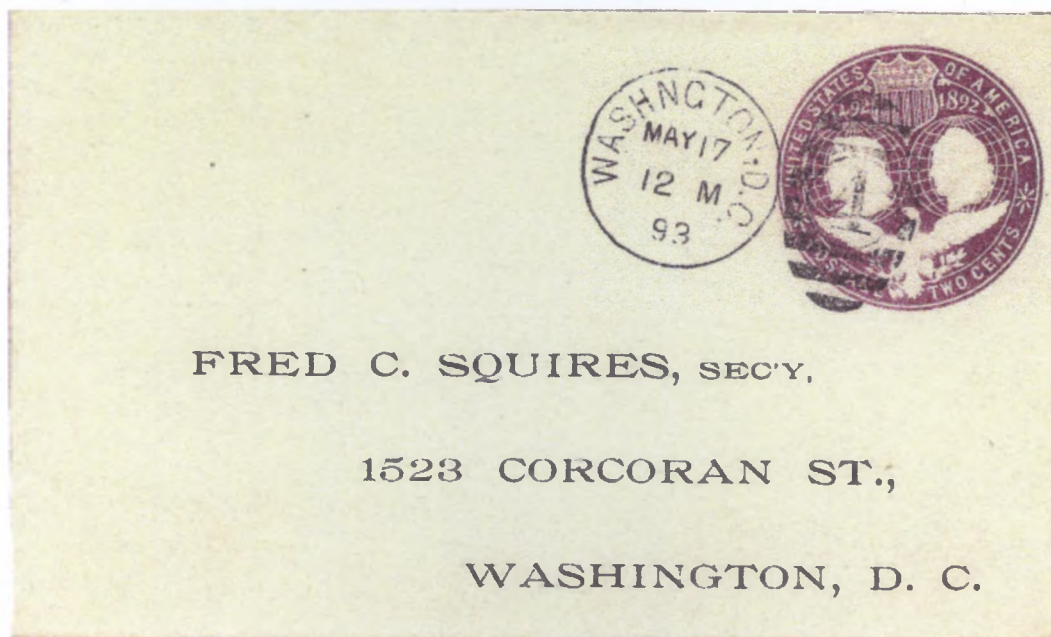
U.S.C.C. Website

<http://bob.trachimowicz.org/uscchome.htm>

For information concerning advertising, please contact the editor.

A Puzzle for Readers

The cover illustrated below was submitted by C.A. Stillions. There is something not quite right about the Washington, D.C. duplex marking and readers are encouraged to examine it to identify the problem. The answer to the puzzle appears on page 127.



President's Message

Here's wishing everyone a belated happy 4th of July celebration and hoping your weekend activities were as enjoyable as mine.

I believe the U.S. Cancellation Club's general membership meeting at NAPEX in June was well received by all attending. Many members and guests got a chance to sign the Club's registry book and to meet with fellow collectors. For those that were unable to attend the meeting, I'd like to take a portion of this column to give a more detailed report of what was said and the topics discussed.

The meeting opened with the introduction of Officers and Board Members and then asking the members and guests present to give their name and the town they're from. Before our new Secretary/Treasurer was asked to give a treasurer's report, our outgoing Secretary/Treasurer, Roger Rhoads, was asked to step forward and accept a gift as a token of our appreciation for the many years of service he's given to our organization. The Club gave him an antique brass postal scale, mounted on a wooden base, with two engraved brass plates. One of the plates depicted the Club's shield logo while the other gave his name and the dates he served as secretary/treasurer. I believe Mr. Rhoads was very pleased and appreciative of this recognition.

Ardy Callender then gave a treasurer's report which basically reaffirmed the written report that was given in the November *NEWS*. I then asked for a report from our editor. But before doing so, I said I'd like to say a few words about our editor, Roger Curran. I feel quite strongly about the statement I gave and, since many Club members weren't present, I would like very much to repeat those words now.

"It is said that, like the human heart, every organization has a heart – and Roger Curran has been, and still is, the heart of the U.S. Cancellation Club.

I am sure that many of you can remember when, many years ago, Roger, after taking over as President and editor, almost single handedly brought back to life this organization from a near demise. Through his leadership and hard work he's made the U.S. Cancellation the fine organization that it is today.

I'd like to ask the members and guests to give a hearty round of applause to Roger Curran as a sign of our appreciation for the special love and dedicated work he's given to our Club, and may this devotion continue for many years to come.

To Roger Curran, a hearty thank you."

(I don't believe anyone heard my final sentence as the sound of the applause drowned me out.)

In the editor's report Roger talked about Matt Kewriga moving to California and, due to an added work load, Matt's request to be replaced as the layout person for the *NEWS*. Roger thanked Matt for the generous help he gave laying out a number of issues of the *NEWS* and his work with the publisher in their production.

Working now with our new layout person, Carol Henderson, Roger went on to talk about the possibility of improving the quality of the pictures depicted in the *NEWS* and the experimentation with the layout of the articles, that being, either in a book form or, as edited in the May 2013 *NEWS*, in a 3 column layout (or possibly a combination of both?). Reports back from the readers would be most welcomed.

Other topics discussed were the modifying of our Club's bylaws so that we could apply to the IRS and change our tax-exempt 501(c)7 status to a tax-deductable 501(c)3 status. Club members Dan Richards and Roger Curran are looking into this matter. If any Club member has experience in what we're contemplating and would like to help, please contact me, Dan or Roger (our contact information is in the *NEWS* masthead).

Besides the subject of how to increase the membership, one other topic discussed was the Club's website. A number of persons asked if there was any way the Club's website access name could be changed to be more in line with the name "US Cancellation Club". I'm in the process of contacting our webmaster, Bob Trachimowicz, to see if this is possible.

After our general membership meeting, Ardy Callender put on an excellent program talking about "New York City Domestic Mail 1859-1862". His program and handout sheets contained much information not previously published. Thank you, Ardy, for a fine presentation. I'd like to thank the Club members, and their spouses, for the work they did in making NAPEX an enjoyable event. Their help with sitting at the Club's registration table and the planning of events was most appreciative.

In closing, but by no means least, I would like to thank Nick Kirke for the generous monetary contribution he gave the Club at NAPEX.

John Donnes

More on Newton Centre Postmarks and Cancellations

by Shawn Pease

The June 2013 issue of the *Postal History Journal*, under the heading of Massachusetts, provided an enlightening reference to the article written by Roger D. Curran in the February 2013 journal of the U.S. Cancellation Club. Roger's article highlights the appealing quality of the Newton Centre single star cancel in the 1889-1890 time frame. His mentioning of this cancellation reminded me that I had seen several of these star cancellations in my Pease family history papers, for which I am the self appointed family historian.

The Pease name is that of an old New England family dating back to Salem, Massachusetts in 1634 where they arrived on the ship Francis. As is typical for New Englanders, the family grew and expanded with the growth of the nation, but a deep, core root of the family tree remained in Massachusetts. The Pease family of Newton Centre draws its genealogical line from Salem, to Martha's Vineyard, to Nantucket, and then to Newton Centre shortly after the Civil War. A small family farm supplemented by day labors and horse drawn freight work provided the family income during the era of the Newton Centre star cancellations.

It was during that time that young Wesley Fletcher Pease met Annie Howley. Wesley was born at home in Newton while Annie was born in St. Sylvestre, Quebec. How they met is unclear, but during the years 1886 - 1890 they had a long distance courtship that is well preserved in the family papers. While Wesley lived and worked in Newton, Annie became a domestic servant in the town of Seal Harbor, Maine. Seal Harbor, close to the Acadia National Park, had become "the Newport" of Maine, and the richest people in the country soon built large cottages (mansions) rivaling those of its neighbor in Rhode Island. The building boom around Seal Harbor and Bar Harbor, Maine was such that in 1880 there were 30 hotels in the area. The enormous Rodick House in

1881 had 400 rooms and a dining room which could serve up to 1,000 people.

Annie and Wesley exchanged letters often in those several years, and their letters, as well as letters to and from their parents, numbering around fifty, have been preserved for future generations. Reviewing the letters we find postal markings of interest to collectors in the correspondence. First to note is that there were at least three prior postmark variations associated with the single star cancel. Shown in Figure 1 is an August 19, 1886 postmark with single star struck in magenta. Figure 2 shows a star cancellation struck in black with a larger font in the postmark's date line. Figure 3 shows the last dated use of this postmark in the correspondence, November 1, 1886. In 1888 a new,

larger diameter postmark with single star cancellation appears, with a larger font used in both the date and the MASS. abbreviation. This is shown in Figure 4, and is the only example in



Figure 4

the correspondence. Several examples in the correspondence in the year 1889 contain cancellations not of the single star variety. The example in Figure 5 illustrates an interesting cover of the time. The postmark of August 14, 1889 is well struck, and the killer for the stamp resembles a carved cork design. Later examples resolve as a negative X design, although this one marking is unclear. Of note on this cover is the Seal Harbor, Maine receiving postmark with concentric circles killer. Note that the travel time from Newton Centre to Seal Harbor was one day! Also of interest is that the letter to the young domestic servant is mailed C/O Reverend A. E. Lawrence of Seal Harbor. Almost all of the Maine-bound letters are addressed C/O Rev. Lawrence. The last use of this (non-star) date stamp in the correspondence is September 20, 1889 and is shown in Figure 6.

A plethora of single star cancellations takes up most of the correspondence during 1889 - 90. The earliest of the letters is 14 July 1890, with a star well struck on the stamp as shown in Figure 7. Another nicely struck example is shown in Figure 8. Not all cancels are as well struck. The cover in Figure 9 provides interesting markings. These two strikes appear to have used a damaged device. Note the top third of the postmarks appear to have bend marks, as if the handstamp may have been dropped. From the



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

enclosure the date appears to be August 6, 1890. Figure 10 illustrates a rather interesting cover, and leaves the observer to wonder if the postal worker may have been attempting a rather whimsical design by purposely canceling the left and right side of the cover on August 25, 1890. Unlike the earlier August dated cover, this sharp strike shows no evidence of any handstamp damage. Figure 11 illustrates the last single star strike from the correspondence, dated September 19, 1890. The final cover in the correspondence was canceled

at Newton Centre in 1893. This smaller postmark utilizes the familiar concentric circles killer. It's clear that something interesting, unusual, and rather artistic was happening in the Newton Centre post office near the turn of the 20th century. Mail, as the only reliable form of communication across such distances, held a central part in everyone's life at that time. Nicely franked and canceled envelopes clearly meant more to people of that day than in today's environment, and clearly the postal clerks in Newton Centre enjoyed

working with the mail in the summer of 1890.

Editor's note. One wonders if the odd placement of the postmark in Figure 10 provides a further indication of the postmaster's perfectionist streak. Perhaps he was concerned that a normal strike of the duplex handstamp would have placed too much of the postmark over the name of the addressee and so he resolved the problem, but in a manner that would have left him unhappy with the result.



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 10



Figure 11



Figure 12



**FANCY CANCELS ON EARLY U. S.
FREE PHOTO COPIES.
PLEASE TELL ME WHAT YOU COLLECT.**

STEVEN HINES
P.O. Box 422
Monee, IL 60449



Answer to the Puzzle

The postmark on the cover on page 122 contains a misspelling of Washington. The letter "I" after "H" was erroneously omitted. The engraver made a mistake that was not caught by the company that provided the

company that provided this handstamp, which was undoubtedly steel faced, would have been the Chambers company of Lodge, Virginia.

It is interesting to note that this 8-bar ellipse (dated May 17, 1893) is

to simultaneously use ellipse duplex handstamps in both formats with the same range of numerals.

Figure 30 of the 2012 article illustrated a barrel ellipse with a large "3" numeral. Tom Stanton had reported

years ago a "4" in this style and the Figure 2 cover may well be an example of this "4." (We did not have a "4" example to show in 2012.) The article did illustrate a "2" thought to be of that same style. So there may well have been a set of barrel ellipses ranging at least from "2" to "4" of which Figure 2 is a part and Figure 1

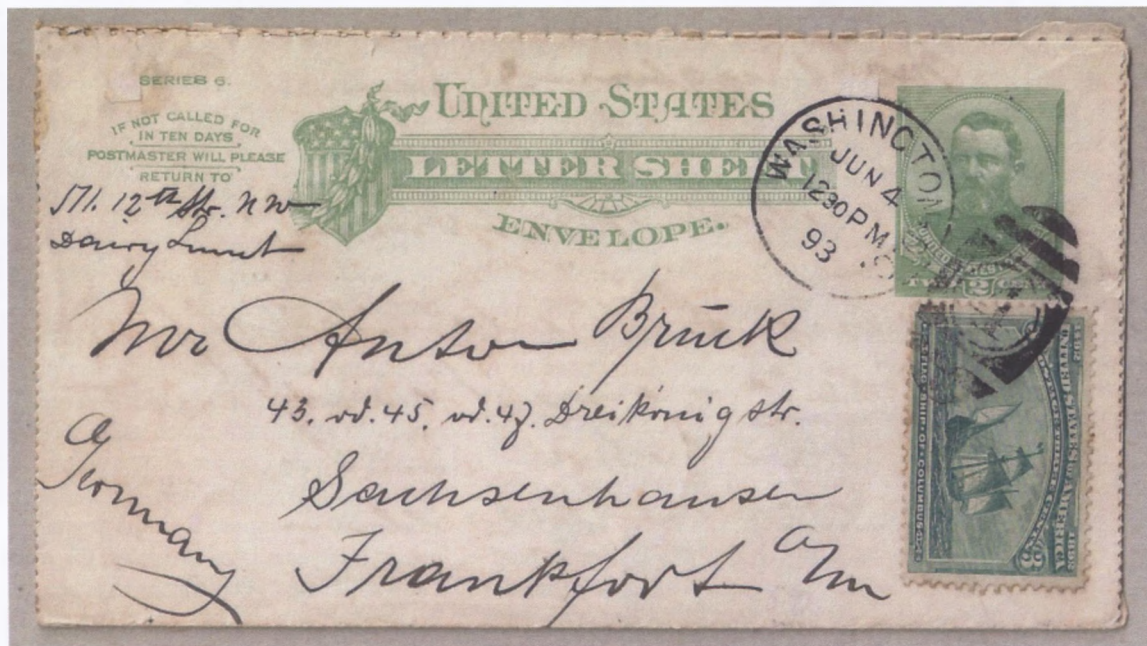


Figure 2

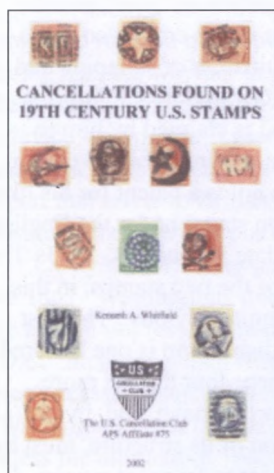
handstamp to the Washington post office and, at least initially, not by the post office itself. Presumably the error was noticed by or brought to the attention of the post office whereupon the handstamp would have been removed from service. Incidentally, the

not listed in the report on Washington ellipses in the May 2012 NEWS. Mr. Stillions submitted a second cover illustrated here as Figure 2 which appears to be the mate to Figure 1. It has the same "4" but in a solid barrel ellipse with two bars above and below. It was typical for Washington

now provides a first non-barrel mate to this set.

If readers can report examples of the Figure 1 Washington postmark (with or without the "I") duplexed to an 8-bar "4" ellipse, please contact the NEWS.

AVAILABLE — U.S. CANCELLATION CLUB PUBLICATIONS



U.S. Cancellation Club NEWS, Cross Reference Index for all issues: 1951-2009. Presented in three separate sections: Cancellations, Post Offices, and Article Titles, \$18 postpaid to U.S. addresses.

Wesson "Time-On-Bottom" Markings Revisited, Compiled by Ralph A. Edson and Gilbert L. Levere, update of 1990 Laposta monograph, 190p., see p. 70 of November 2010 NEWS, \$25 postpaid to U.S. addresses.

Cancellations found on 19th Century U.S. Stamps, by Kenneth A. Whitfield, is now available again. The book contains more than 6,000 tracings and is a valuable supplement to the Skinner-Eno and Cole books. This printing incorporates the new Whitfield update that has been offered recently. \$50 postpaid to U.S. addresses.

For Whitfield update pages only, \$8 postpaid to U.S. addresses.

Checks payable to U.S.C.C. and sent to:
U.S.C.C., 20 University Avenue, Lewisburg, PA 17837

Pearson Hill "Machine" in Washington, D.C.

An excellent article by Bernard Biales appeared in the October 1996 and January 1997 issues of the *Machine Cancel Forum* entitled "An English Marking Device at Washington City in 1866." Mr Biales discussed two Washington, D.C. covers, one dated "AP 26/66" and the other "AP2_" with the second numeral unreadable but conceivably a "5." The year date on the second cover was illegible. After considerable study he concluded that the duplex markings on the two covers were produced by a British mechanical handstamp commonly referred to as a Pearson Hill device. Figure 1 presents a photograph of the device in question, described technically as a parallel duplex obliterating machine, which is reproduced from page 353 of the

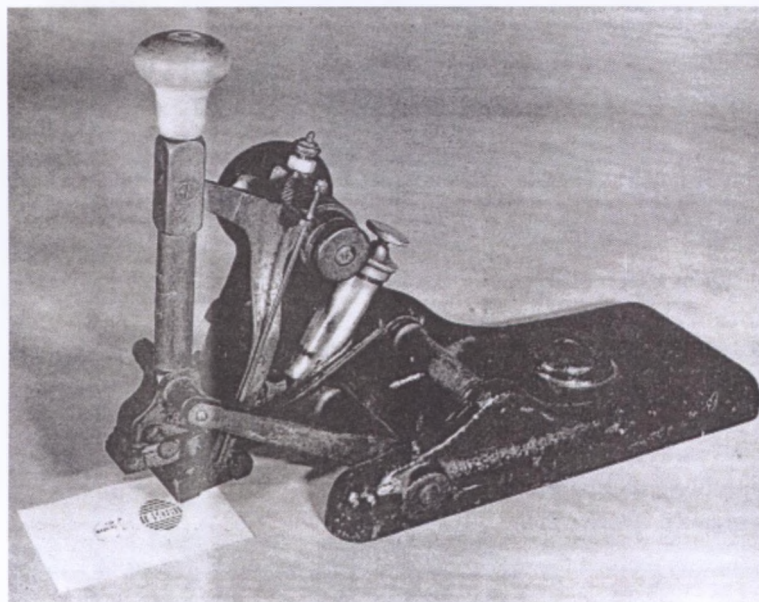


Figure 1

December 1977 *Machine Cancel Forum*. These devices began to appear in the U.K. in number in 1861. Pearson Hill subsequently produced another device, referred to as a pivot or swinging machine, designed to be attached to a wall or partition behind the stamping table that would be pulled out accordion style and brought down to apply the marking. However, this device wasn't introduced until November 1866, too late for the April 1866 markings. The mechanical feature of both devices was a self-inking mechanism that would activate when the canceling dies were raised above the canceling surface.

A third cover of the Biales type has now come to the attention of the *NEWS* and it is illustrated in Figure 2 along with a John Donnes tracing of the duplex marking. John strengthened the postmark a bit in places as it was lightly inked, which was also very much the case with those on the Biales covers. As a point of information, the circle of 8 wedges cancel in Figure 2, dated April 24, 1866, is likely the same killer as on the Biales April 26 cover, but by the 26th, the killer appears to show considerable wear. If these killers are the same, it seems unlikely that the other Biales cover, speculated as possibly April 25, is April 25 because its killer is a quartered cork.

Mr Biales made quite an extensive analysis of the markings and related matters and readers are encouraged to

review his article.

We will not cover here all the issues he addressed. He drew attention to an extract from an impressions book at the British Post Office. The markings shown here as Figure 3 appeared with a note stating

"Machine sent to the Postmaster of the United States Washington" with "May 8th 1861" entered in a column headed "Date when sent." Mr Biales noted the small postmark diameter, the code letters "AB" above the date and the positioning of the date and year lines as being remarkably similar to those in the subject Washington postmark.

A second point concerns a partial offset on the back of one of the Biales covers that is directly beneath the duplex marking on the front. That this is a coincidence is very unlikely. A clerk using a regular handstamp would not be expected to put the covers down on the table to be stamped in the same position

each time. Thus any offset on the back of the cover caused by ink on the table, or on a previously canceled cover, would not be expected to appear directly (and essentially exclusively) underneath the duplex markings on the front. But for a mechanical handstamp or machine that had a fixed impact point, as did the Figure 1 device, such precise alignment would be expected. If the duplex dies of such a device were accidentally struck on the underlying surface that had no cover resting on it, the offset on the back of the next cover would show directly underneath the duplex markings on the front. Incidentally, there was no offset on the backs of the other Biales cover or the Figure 2 cover.

A third major point concerns the date of the three covers – definitely April 1866 for two and presumably also for the third. As mentioned above, there was the report from London of a "machine" delivered to Washington in 1861. Is it reasonable to suppose that this device, nearly five years later, produced the April 1866 markings? A conclusive answer is unlikely to be found but Mr Biales drew attention to a 39th Congress, U.S. House of Representatives Report No. 98 dated July 24, 1866. It concerned claims against the Government by the holders of the Marcus Norton patent for a duplex handstamp. The Report states in part:

"... The nearest approach to a practical substitute for this invention is one of English device, manufactured by Turner & Co., London, and to be seen at the Washington post office. This is a more complex and expensive stamp. Its only novel merit is self-inking. The stamp employed is the same combination of stamping and cancelling covered by the "Norton patent," and is claimed by him to be an infringement of his invention, and that he holds a patent for his like combination stamp under the English Crown of date February 4, 1863. The similarity of the two stamps, in this respect, is quite obvious. The cost of this English stamp is one hundred dollars, ninety-four dollars more than the Norton make, and, by the complication of its structure, must by use be subject to frequent repairs. A trial of the two methods of execution,

fairly tested in the presence of your committee, attested the superiority of Norton stamp." Bailes noted the Turner & Co. was the manufacturer of the Pearson Hill parallel motion machine.

postmark was about 19.5 in diameter as opposed to 20.5 on the Figure 2 cover. The letters in the Figure 3 postmark are larger and closer together than those on the Figure 2 cover. One wonders

are the product of an English marking device.

Fast forward now to the New York Post Office in 1870. Figure 4 illustrates a cover in the collection of John Donnes

dated "AP/20" which from an enclosure can be confirmed as April 20 (1870). The postmark is small (22mm diameter) and the letters "NEW YORK" and "AP" are fine lined. These present strong similarities to the 1866 Washington and 1861 British markings. The killer is very odd and unlike any example we have seen in the literature from New York (or elsewhere in the U.S.). John describes it as consisting of 26 small triangles attached to the outer ring with what appears to be an inner ring and a small circle of wedges in the center. I believe these two markings, which are presumably duplexed (the NYPO had been using duplexes consistently on domestic

mail since 1860), are also the product of a British mechanical handstamp. I theorize that the "AP" letters are actually British code letters and the NYPO took advantage of "AP" being a suitable abbreviation for "April." The slugs for the "20" and "130PM" produced darker strikes, possibly due to the slugs being raised slightly above the surface of the postmark die after insertion and thus picking up more ink. The "AP" letters do not appear to have been produced by slugs but rather from the postmark die itself. As a point of information, while



Figure 2

All three covers show an odd alignment of postmark and cork killer. Whereas the killer normally sits at the



Figure 3

3:00 position in relation to the postmark, on the Biales covers one is at the 9:00 position and the other at 2:30. In Figure 2, it is at about 6:30. This suggests some unwanted rotation of the postmark die during use, but whether the design of the die mounting arrangement of the Figure 2 device would permit such rotation is unknown. Biales mentions one literature report that refers to British devices with postmark dies having rotational freedom.

Lastly, as Mr Biales pointed out, the 1861 "Washington" markings in the British impressions book had no "D.C." included which would have been necessary, since there were other "Washington" post offices in the U.S., unless the alternative "Washington City" was chosen. If the dimensions of the Figure 3 markings are actual size, the

whether the Washington Post Office asked the British postal authorities for a revised postmark die, assuming that a British device was being tested, or whether a revision was done locally in the D.C. area. In either case, it is hard to understand why code letters would still be present. However, based on all the evidence discussed above, your editor very much agrees with the conclusion of Mr Biales that the Washington, D.C. markings at issue

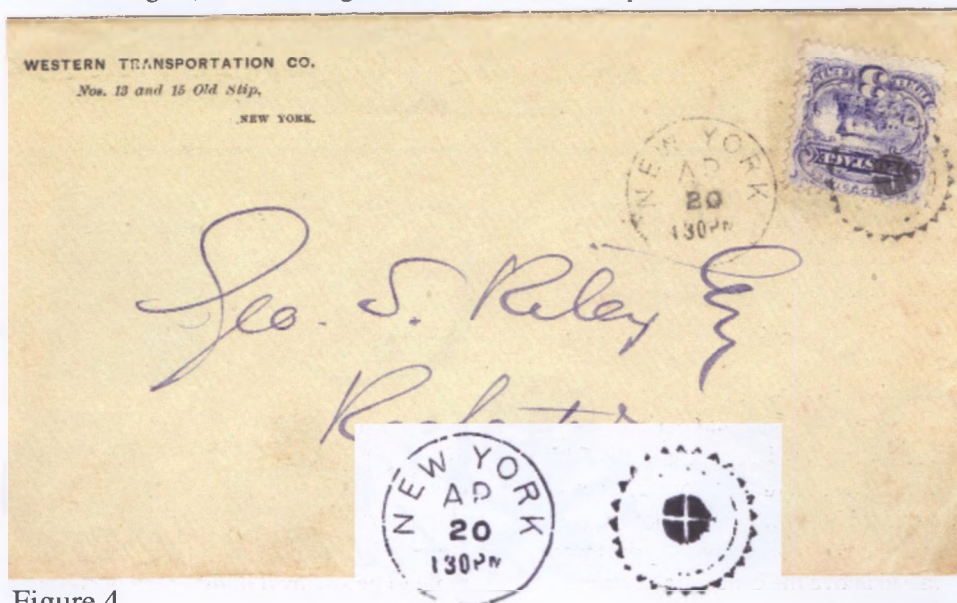


Figure 4

British postmarks did use an "AP" for April, we can say the "AP" in the Figure 4 postmark is not a month designation. The month and the day designation

appeared on one line in British postmarks of this period and the "AP" would not have been centered in the postmark, but rather set to the left so as to allow for the

one or two day slugs on the right.

Comments and additional information about the Washington or New York markings discussed above will be welcomed.

Hand Carved Concentric Circles?

by Roger D. Curran

Ellipse cancellations became ubiquitous on U.S. mail for a while in the last quarter of the 19th century. This journal has provided considerable coverage of the subject – some might say too much – in recent years.

But it is an area where there is a great deal more to be learned since it covers such a broad area and much of it has not been thoroughly studied. Some postmasters who couldn't afford, or didn't want to pay for, the standard manufactured ellipse



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

cancellers, whittled their own versions and these make for an interesting collecting area. See examples in Figure 1.

There was what might be termed a companion cancel to the ellipses – a design consisting of concentric circles with a number or letter in the center. Several of the larger post offices used them – Philadelphia, Cincinnati, Washington, D.C. and Louisville, Kentucky. See Figure 2 for typical examples. Thus they are common cancels. It is, therefore, interesting that we do not see hand-carved versions of them. There is, however, one cancel that I believe may well be a hand carved representation of a concentric circles cancel (albeit with a negative rather than positive number) – see Figure 3 which is datelined September 18, 1882 on the back. The reason for this idea is that Cortland also used what are clearly hand-carved ellipse cancells – see Figure 4. The April 3 "8" ellipse is backstamped April 4, 1882 and the December "C" ellipse is backstamped December 25, 1882. Possibly the inspiration for the Figure 3 cancel was the style of ellipse shown in Figure 5 which has been reported from Washington, D.C. from October 1880 to November 1882.



Figure 5

Pure speculation of course. Comments and additional information will be welcomed.



Figure 4

Stoneham, Massachusetts Ellipses

by Roger D. Curran

Figure 1 shows an ellipse cancel with a monogram "US" in star in the center. Ellipses with such a fancy design are uncommon but there is another unusual aspect about Figure 1 that may not be immediately apparent



Figure 1

and that concerns the stamp on which it appears – Sc 210. This cancel is not listed in the Willard book on Sc 210 and its postal history. Nor is it reported on Sc 210 in Cole. It is typically seen on Sc



Figure 2

213 which replaced Sc 210 in September 1887 – see Figure 2. Revision 2 of the Whitfield

book lists a March 6, 1888 strike. An example on Sc 212 dated October 8, 1888 appears as Figure 3. One supposes that Figure 1 represents a late use of the stamp because the year dated examples thus far noted, at least by your editor, are all 1888. If readers can report dates in 1887 or 1889, please contact the NEWS.

There was another unusual Stoneham ellipse that I assume was used before and did not overlap with Figure 1 – see Figure 4 with dates

of December 2, 1886 and November 28, 1887. The 1887 strike shows



Figure 3

considerable wear with the ring around the "H" much less clear due to merging with the bars. This 8-bar cancel also

is not listed in Willard. Perhaps the postmaster's last name began with "H."

Stoneham produced some of the best known hand carved cancels of the Sc 210 era (1883-1887) – see Figure 5. The Stoneham post office was established in 1822. The 1890 population was 6,150. The town is located north of the city limits of Boston and became a branch of the Boston post office in 1913.



Figure 4



Figure 5



EXHIBIT AWARDS WON BY USCC MEMBERS April - June 2013

WESTPEX April 26-8 2013

Gordon Eubanks: Gold medal and Grand Award; also USPCS award --Best US up to 1894, and US Cancellation Club award for "The United States Imperforate Issue of 1851-1856";

Matt Kewriga: Gold medal for "Danish West Indies Foreign Mails: 1748-UPU"

PHILATELIC SHOW May 3-5 2013

Robert Markovits: Gold medal; also USSS Statue of Freedom Award for "U.S. Special Delivery--112 Years of Service, Oct. 1 1885-June 7, 1997"

THE PLYMOUTH SHOW May 11-12 2013

Eric Glohr: Gold medal; also PSPS Award and USSS Statue of Freedom Award for "Hawaiian Postal Cards and Envelopes: Kingdom, Provisional Government, and Republic Issues".

ROPEX May 17-19 2013

Nancy Clark (together with Douglas Clark): Gold medal and Reserve Grand Award for "The U.S. 1903 Hartford Postal Stationery"; also Andy Hale Award.

George DeKornfeld: Gold medal for "The Marcophily of Hudson NY 1793-1919"

Gary Hendron: Gold medal; also most popular exhibit and APS medal for research excellence for "St Louis Streetcar Mail 1892-1915"

Alan Parsons: Vermeil medal for "Corning NY Postal History Including DPOs Now Served by the Corning Post Office"

NAPEX May 31-June 1 2013

Nick Kirke: Gold medal; also US Cancellation Club Award for "New York Foreign Mail Cancels 1845-1878". Also Single Frame Gold medal and GRAND AWARD for "New York Supplementary Foreign Mail 1870-77"

COLOPEX June 7-9 2013

James Cate: Single Frame Gold medal; also MPHS Award for "General Banks Division"

Henry Fisher: Silver medal for "Fancy Cancels on US Government Postal Cards"

Les Lanphear: Gold medal; also APS Medal of Excellence and USPCS Award for "US Departmentals, 1873-1884"

Cancellation Gallery

This cover apparently led to the Cole listing. Can any reader show another example, on or off cover?



Offset Marking

The article in this issue on what is to be assumed a British mechanical handstamp used in the Washington, D.C. post office devoted some attention to an offset on the back of one of the covers that was directly underneath a strike of the same marking on the front of the cover. Such an occurrence is a tell-tale sign of the use of a machine or mechanical handstamp with a fixed impact point.


The cover in Figure 1 illustrates nicely a typical relationship between a handstamp strike and an offset where there is no fixed impact point. In this case, however, the handstamp strike is a received mark on the back of the

cover and the offset is on the front. When your editor first saw the largely complete backwards strike of the Brooklyn received marking on the front, I thought it came from a handstamp that erroneously had a reversed postmark die. But, of course, it isn't that, but rather an offset and these always appear in reverse. This offset probably results from the clerk placing the cover to be marked face down on a stack of already

handstamped covers with the last cover struck on top of the pile. The clerk then handstamped the back of the cover which created enough pressure for the front of the cover to pick up the very substantial offset from the still moist ink on the cover that had probably been struck just a few seconds earlier. The offset on the front is set somewhat – but not a lot – lower on the cover than is the actual handstamp strike on the back.



Figure 1



The Classic Cancel

Quality 19th Century U.S. Stamps, Cancells and Postal History

John Valenti

P.O. Box 211
Wheeling, IL 60090-0211
(847) 224-2401 ✉ classiccancel@att.net
Visit my Web Site at <http://www.theclassiccancel.com>

Member: APS, USPCS, USCC

Color Cancellations on the 1869 Series: Letters

by Ed Field

This article presents letters of the alphabet that appear as colored cancels on the 1869 series. The ornate blue "G" of Galva, IL was shown in the August 2012 *NEWS*, and the blue Louisville cross-in-circle (which could be called a letter "X") was shown in the May 2013 issue. Figures 1-9 show on-cover examples, some of which are electronically cropped to save space. Figures 10-17 show off-cover examples, several of which are of unknown origin. Skinner-Eno (SE) designations are given for listed cancels.

Figure 1 shows the blue "A" of



Figure 1

Arcola, IL. Multiple off-cover examples of this cancel exist. (unlisted).

Figure 2 shows the "AC" monogram cancel of Adams Centre, NY. I can report

probably originated in 1870, indicating the monogram cancel was in use for at least 6 months. (SE SD-M 19)

The Figure 2 cover is interesting also from a non-cancel standpoint. The back flap was torn open and the cover has been reduced at right. This is evidence that the cover was opened twice. The word "Center" in the address is in an ink that has a brownish cast and which matches the ink used in "...Brinner Esq." This ink differs in appearance from that used for other portions of the addressee/address section which is slightly blacker. What limited portions can be seen of the very faint postmark at the left are consistent with "ADAMS." Given this information, it is deduced that the cover was sent to a Mr. Chidenden (?) in Adams, New York who opened the envelope. He subsequently used this same envelope to send something to lawyer Brinner (possibly a document that needed Chidenden's signature?) at Adams Centre. Chidenden changed the name and address on the cover accordingly and added the stamp on the left side. Brinner received the cover and for a

B10)

Figure 4 shows the stylized red "E" of Evanston, IL. I know of no other examples. Red cancels depicting letters are surprisingly scarce on the 1869 stamps. (SE LS-E 17)

Figure 5 shows the unlisted blue "M" of Maumee City, OH. I know of no other examples.

Figure 6 shows the reverse blue "N" cancel of Nunda, IL. It is the only example that I have seen. Skinner-Eno list this cancel in black and green, but not blue. (SE LS-N 2)

Figure 7 shows the blue negative "UV" initials of the University of Virginia. I recall seeing at least two other on-cover examples on 1869 stamps. The University of Virginia used several variations of this cancel between 1861 and 1869. (SE LC-U 3)

Figure 8 shows the unlisted blue "V" of Vallejo, California. Other examples exist.

Figure 9 shows the blue "W" of Woodstock, IL. This relatively common cancel appears on at least two other covers

and numerous off-cover stamps. (SE LS-W 12)

We now proceed to off-cover stamps. Figure 10 shows a blue "B" (origin unknown); Figure 11 shows a blue "B" within a circle of wedges, possibly from Albany, NY; Figure 12 shows the red "M" of Manchester, CT (SE LS-M 8); Figure 13 shows the blue negative "MH" initials of Mount Holly, NY (SE LC-M 1); Figure 14 shows the blue fancy "P" of Paris, KY (SE LS-P9); Figure 15 shows a blue "T" (SE LS-T 7), a rare

example of a letter cancel on a high-value stamp (origin unknown); Figure 16 shows a bold strike of a negative blue "US" in reverse (origin unknown); Figure 17 shows a negative blue "Y". It is the only one I



Figure 2

two other on-cover examples dated August 6 or 16 (see Figure 2A) and April 21. Though the year-dates cannot be specified with certainty, all three covers

second time it was opened.

Figure 3 shows the blue "B" of Belvidere, IL. This common cancel appears on several covers and off-cover stamps, including high values. (SE LS-

have seen (origin unknown).

Figure 18 shows an item that appeared as lot #543 in Siegel's 1997 auction of the prestigious Rose collection. The catalog described the cancel as the "fancy red W of Weston, CT." As the present owner, I would be delighted if that description was

accurate, but I have my doubts.

This article has shown or noted 15 different colored letters that appear as cancels on 1869 issue stamps. In addition, I know of a blue "KKK" cancel on the 15-cent stamp but have no image to show. To my knowledge, colored cancels showing

the letters D, F, I, J, L, O, Q, R, S, Z either remain to be discovered or do not exist. As with any census, this one is a work in progress, and I would appreciate any corrections or additions that *NEWS* readers might send to me. Especially appreciated would be information on towns of origin.



Figure 2A



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5

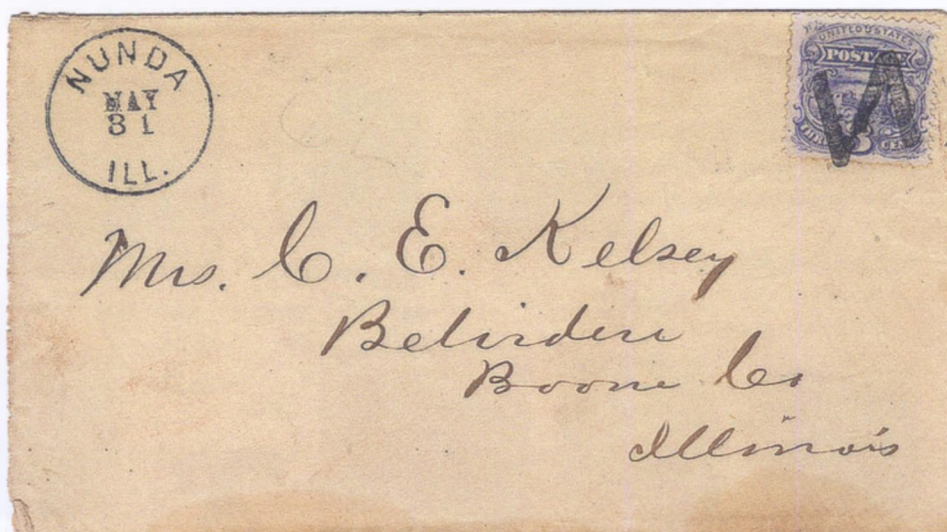


Figure 6

Color Cancellations on the 1869 Series: Letters



Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 10



Figure 11



Figure 12



Figure 13



Figure 14



Figure 15



Figure 16



Figure 17



Figure 18

Noted in Passing

by Roger D. Curran

Willard illustrated (Vol. II, p. 162) the cancel shown here as Figure 1 and said this about it:



Figure 1

"... we think (it) is a late usage and probably could be identified by a student of the 2 cent greens."

A cover bearing this cancel has recently come to the attention of the *NEWS* and is shown here as Figure 2 together with two off-cover strikes. Bryn Mawr, located just west of Philadelphia, is an operating post office that was established in 1871. I'm quite sure

between are very characteristic of Goldsborough. The "27" in the center is interesting since a small post office such as Bryn Mawr (population 876 in 1890) surely wouldn't have employed 27 clerks! It is reminiscent of the 11-bar "24" ellipse that is most associated with another small post office, Haverford College, located close to Bryn Mawr. The 11-bar "24" design (Figure 3) was illustrated by Goldsborough as one of

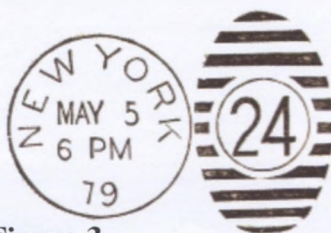


Figure 3

the canceler designs he was offering in his advertisements. One supposes that in both cases it was a matter of a small town postmaster ordering handstamps

seen the "27" ellipse in an ad but assume it did appear, at least briefly.) Figure 4 shows a "24" in a 15-bar ellipse, not



Figure 4

listed in Willard, with numerals in a style similar to the "27." Goldsborough did advertise a similar 13-bar ellipse with a star in the center. I assume the "24" ellipse also comes from a small post office,

likely also to have been located near Philadelphia.

Figure 5 reproduces an attractive letterhead used by the postmaster at Harbor, Ohio in December 1892. It depicts a train with a mail car just behind the locomotive and, on the other side, a mail wagon dropping off or picking up mail bags at the front door of the post office. Harbor is a DPO that operated from 1874 to 1895.

The cover in Figure 6 is postmarked "Station 15" with date of July 5. But Station 15 of what (?), one wonders. Turns out Station 15 is the actual name of an Ohio post office that operated from 1855 to 1940. Who knew!

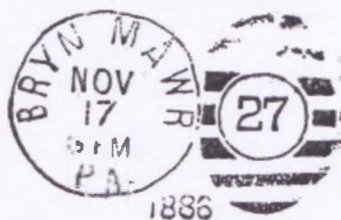
At first glance, the cancel duplexed to the Germansville, Pennsylvania postmark in Figure 7 appears to be comprised of concentric circles but, as the tracing shows, there is actually an attractive "G" in the center. Germansville is an operating post office established in 1884. A Germansville post office in the same Lehigh County operated from 1846-1862.

Joe Crosby submitted the cover shown in Figure 8. The back flap is sealed but there is no evidence that the cover was otherwise opened.

Thus it can be reasonably assumed that the cover was originally unsealed, allowing the enclosure, presumably a printed circular, to be removed without cutting an opening on



Figure 2



that the handstamp that produced the duplex marking was supplied by John Goldsborough of Philadelphia. The large letters with substantial spacing

producing impressions seen in ads and they were supplied with handstamps that produced the same numbers used in the advertising illustrations. (I have not

any of the other sides. Joe would like to determine where the cover originated and the cancel might provide the answer. Has any reader seen this cancel on cover with an identifying postmark? Any information will be appreciated.

The cover in Figure 9 bears a very late use of a fancy cancel by Philadelphia. The Sc 213 stamp was issued in September 1887, so this Maltese cross cancel can be no earlier than May 1888. Philadelphia began using "standardized" ellipse cancels in earnest in 1878 and by 1880 carved corks and the like were essentially a

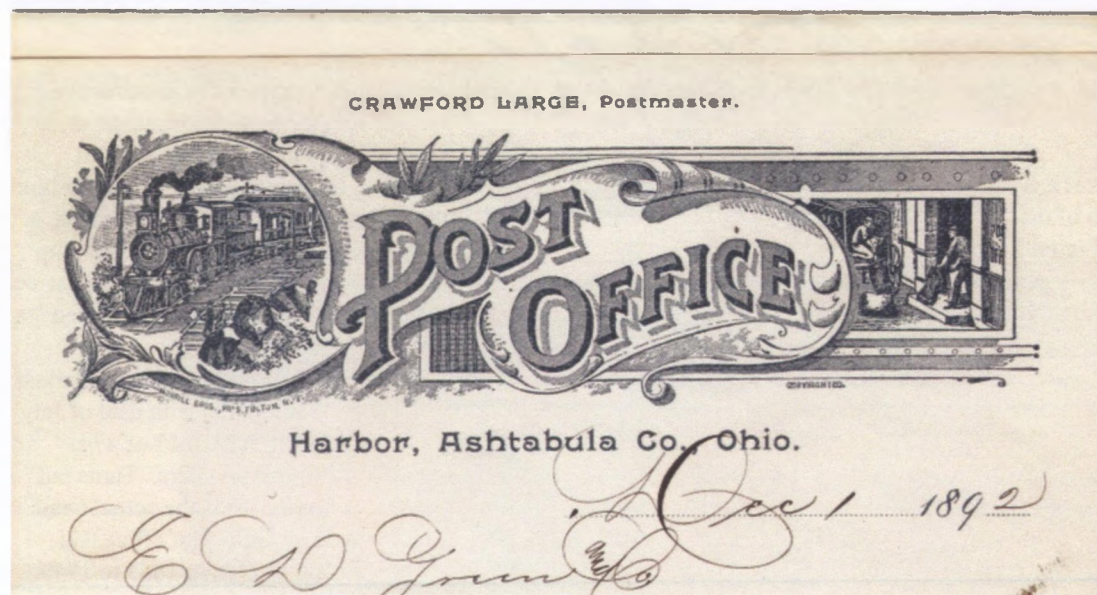
closely and believes it to be genuine. The circumstances of using such an out-of-period cancel are quite a mystery. Reader comments and additional information will be welcomed.

The post card in Figure 10 is postmarked Papakating, New Jersey, March 21, 1907. It bears a "scarab" cancel with seven bars. It is probably a mimic, as Richard Helbock would have termed it, of the popular 6-bar scarab popular in the latter part of the 19th century. Another version of the scarab, reported used in 1908 from Joyce, Iowa, contained five bars.

from a November 15 trial with year date assumed to be November 1875. (See page 25 of the May 2010 NEWS for an illustration of one of the three covers.) There are several tracings in the literature of the Figure 1 cancel, which specialists refer to as Type A-1, but we have not seen one that includes the notches in the two quartered circles where they intersect with the diagonal bars. It seems reasonable to assume, as suggested by John Donnes, that the circle material – cork or wood – had a slightly larger diameter than the two round openings in the rectangular canceling

die, and quartered circles were pushed into the openings and then likely planed down to be level with the die. The ends of the bars that extend into the notches probably helped hold the quartered circles in place. Incidentally the circles, but not the bars, showed wear over time and Bob Payne reported in his Leavitt book (page 78) that more than one set of quartered circles were used.

Figure 5



thing of the past. One would wonder if the cancel is genuine. In fact, it does have a good 2001 APES certificate. Also, John Donnes has examined the cancel

Figure 11 illustrates a card bearing the earliest reported date for the first extended test of a Leavitt canceling machine. There are three known covers

Bob Grosch submits the Boston and Albany R.P.O. cover in Figure 12. This RPO line is known to have used the two "large Boston negatives" shown in Figure 13 which are reproduced from page 25 of *Boston Postmarks to 1890* by Blake and Davis. We can assume, of course, that "E" and "W" represented "east" and "west." Bob is a specialist in these large negatives and reports that he has never before seen the "J" in square from this RPO. It is, however, one of the many large negatives that was used by the main Boston post office. If any reader can report other examples of the "J" in square from this RPO, you are encouraged to contact the NEWS.

Figure 6

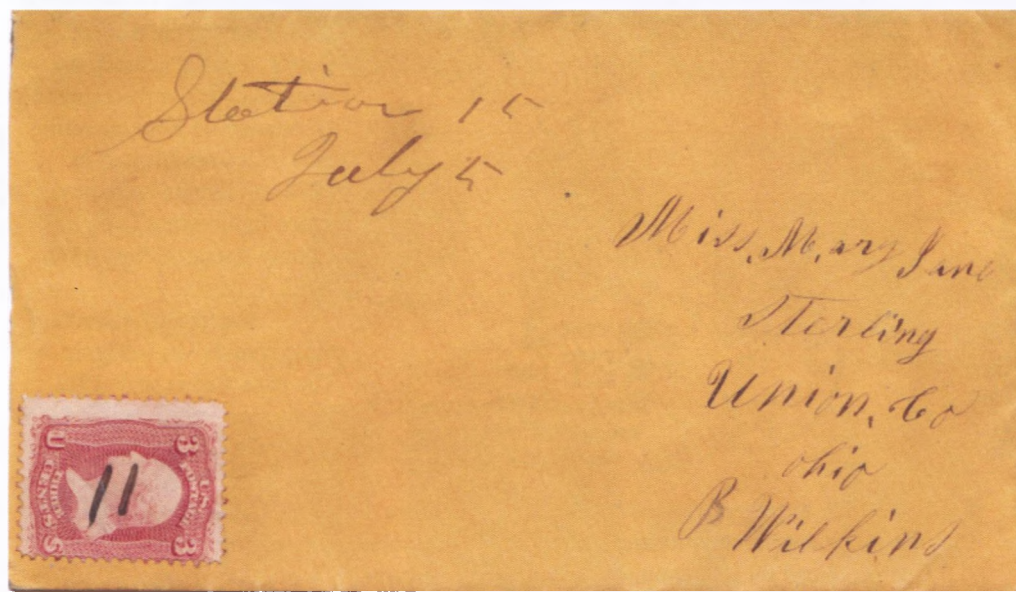


Figure 7

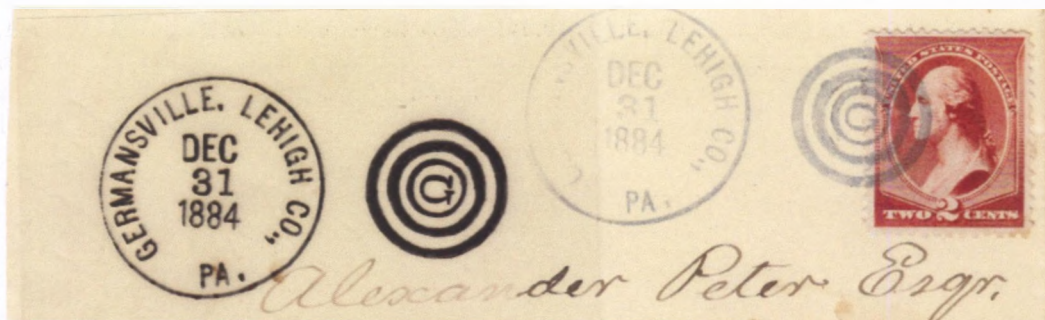


Figure 8

Figure 9

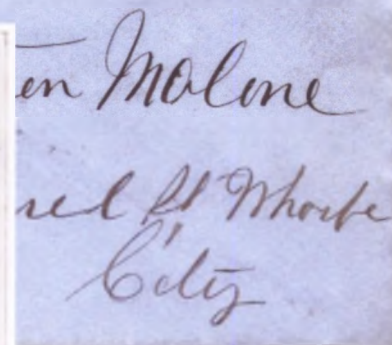
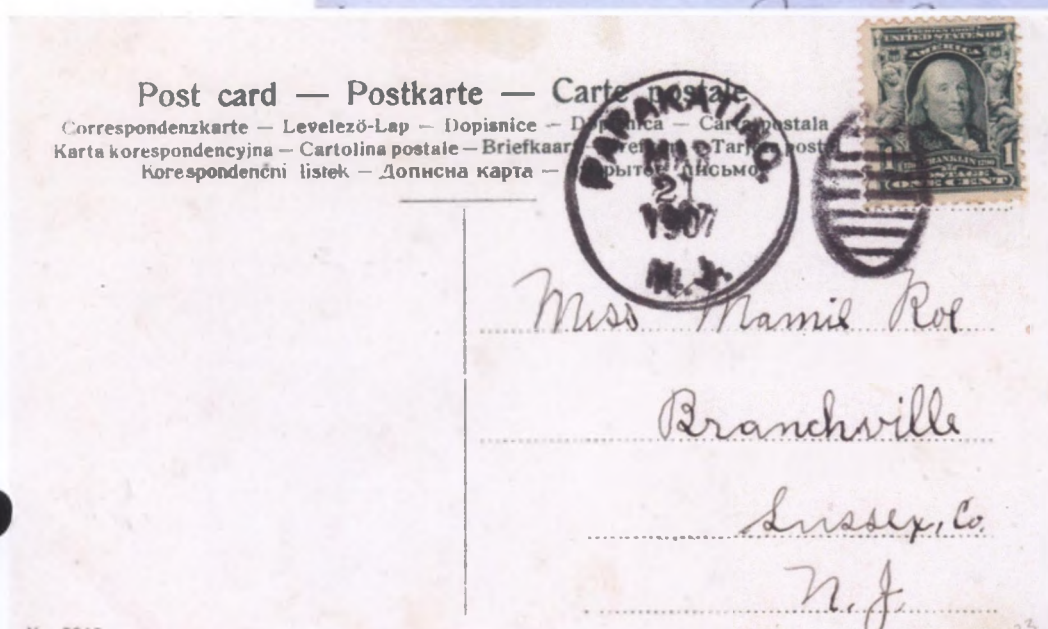
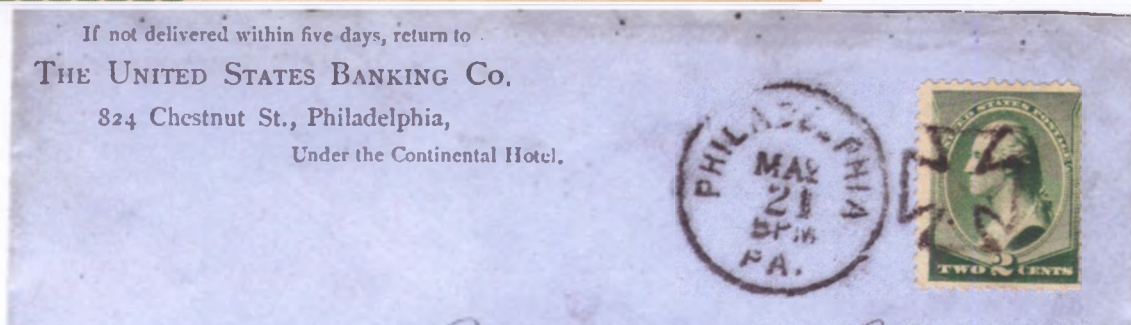


Figure 10



Figure 11



Figure 12



Figure 13

More on Mystery "15"

On the back page of the May 2013 *NEWS* the cancel shown here (Figure 1) on the Sc 210 stamp was mentioned as



Figure 1

possibly being a Philadelphia double oval cancel that was poorly inked. Or, the question was asked, did it result from some other circumstance? Philadelphia's Station B did cut down a "14" double oval and duplexed it to a Station B postmark.

Not long after the article appeared, the cover in Figure 2 came to the

attention of the *NEWS*. We now know that the cancel was not used by the Philadelphia post office, although it may have been a Philadelphia double oval that was cut down. From what letters can be seen in the postmark, it appears that the post office of origin may well be Atlantic City, New Jersey. The cover has a Philadelphia corner card, but surely that is due to pure happenstance.

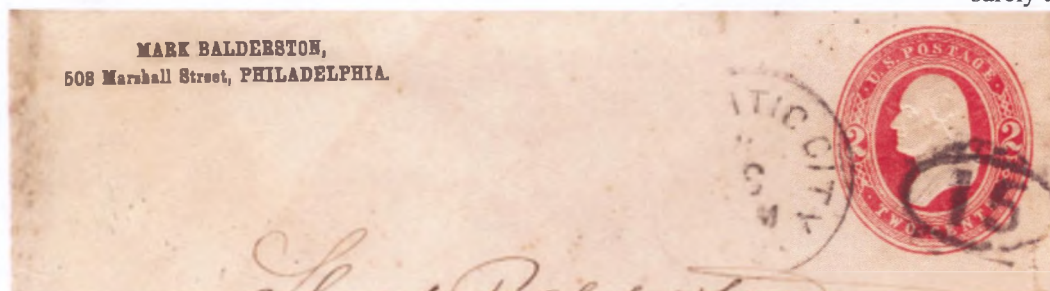


Figure 2

Philadelphia specialist Tom Clarke noted that there was a Philadelphia and Atlantic City RPO that operated in the 1880s. Could that have provided a connection?