



U.S. Cancellation Club NEWS

Vol. 32, No. 7, Whole No. 296, August 2015

"Circular" Ellipses

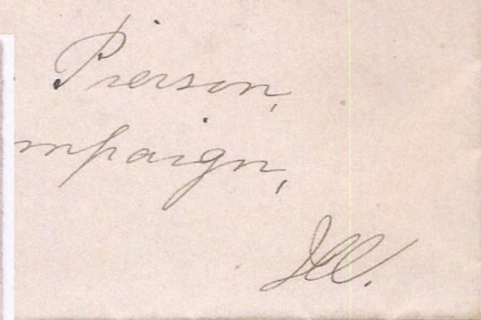
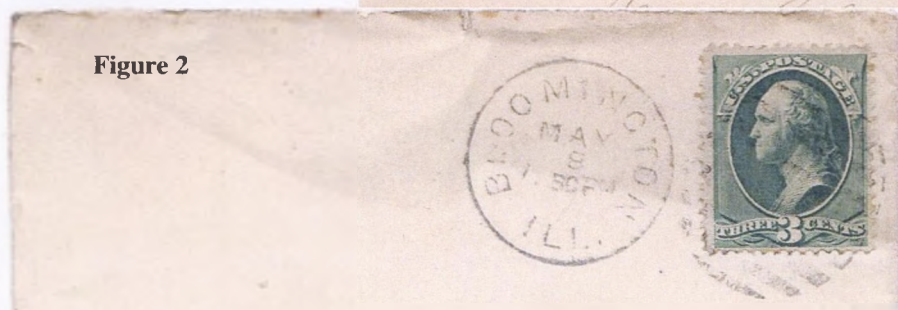
by Ardy Callender

New York City was the first post office to employ a new "all steel" duplex hand-stamp in which the killer portion was made up of a series of 9 bars in an ellipse shape with an internal ring surrounding either a number or letter. An 11 bar ellipse cancel was used ex-

Figure 1



Figure 2



perimentally during 1874-75 period but the nine bar came into common use on May 3, 1876. Soon other major cities followed suit, employing this type of steel duplex device but often with variations in both the



Figure 3

circular date stamp and ellipse obliterator.

Numerous studies of these New York City ellipse cancellations have been undertaken over the last fifty years including many reported in the USCCN (Burr, April 1952, Willard, July 1954, Tinsley, Sept, 1954 and numerous others more recently by Roger Rhoads and Roger Curran). However, for other U.S. cities the best resource for ellipse cancellations is volume two of Edward Willard's book entitled *The United States Two Cent Red Brown of 1883-1887* published in 1970. This book provides tracings of most of the

ellipse cancels used before machine cancels took over from the duplex in the early 1890's.

In this article the "circular" ellipse refers to a distinct ellipse cancellation which is consistently more rounded in outline. This type of cancellation was used in 9 cities: Bloomington, Illinois; Brooklyn, New York; Lewisburg, Pennsylvania; Louisville, Kentucky; Lynn, Massachusetts; Memphis, Tennessee; Oswego, New York; Portsmouth, New Hampshire; and Rochester, New York. Variations within the group consist of the

number of bars, numbers within the central circle and size of ellipse (see Tables 1 and 2). All cancellations and circular date stamps recorded were struck in black ink and the central numbers are sans serif. Based on the covers observed in this study, these cancellations were in use between 1882 and 1889. Expansion of this range is expected as new finds are reported. Examples of each cancellation will be shown and discussed below. All drawings are either from Willard's book

Continued on page 124

The U.S. Cancellation Club NEWS

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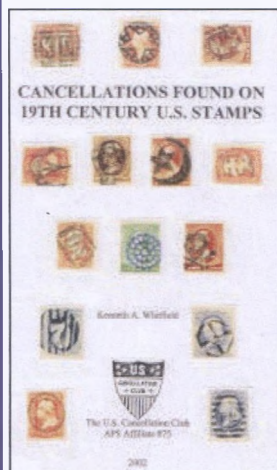
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President's Message

Dear Readers,

First and foremost, I would like to thank John Donnes for his dedication and commitment over the last four years as President of the U.S. Cancellation Club. His enthusiasm for the club will be much valued as Co-Editor along with Ardy Callender. I am looking forward to working with John and Ardy over the next two years.

Also, at this time, I would like to extend my sincerest thanks and appreciation to Roger Curran for his selflessness for many years as Editor. His devotion and perseverance have been invaluable to the Club.

I would now like to take the opportunity to introduce myself as your new President. I was reintroduced to collecting about 25 years ago after the normal hiatus of high school, girls, marriage, and career. My interest in cancels and markings developed soon after I returned to collecting. I have been a member of the U.S. Cancellation Club since the 1990's and previously held other positions within the Club. I am currently the "Back Issue" Coordinator for the *NEWS*. Now that I recently retired from the Philadelphia Fire Department after 30 years of service, I can pursue my philatelic endeavors.

I would like to thank Bob Trachimowicz for building and maintaining our previous web site. One of my goals is to re-establish the U.S. Cancellation Club web site. All ideas and suggestions are certainly welcome particularly if anyone has any experience or knowledge of building or designing web-sites. See my contact information in the Masthead.

I am looking forward to StampShow 2015 taking place in Grand Rapids as it will be a pleasure to meet members, both old and new.

Warmest regards,
Vince Costello

Editor's Note

Now that summer vacations are an enjoyable memory, the kids and grandchildren are headed back to school, we philatelists find ourselves with a little more time to indulge into another area of enjoyment- the research, collecting and sharing of information about stamps and covers with interesting postmarks and 'fancy' cancels. I'm sure that Club members will agree with me that the *NEWS* has been an integral and reliable source, not to mention vital seed, for obtaining information towards this endeavor. I'd also like to echo our President's message about Roger Curran and ad that Roger has been the proverbial farmer and sower of this seed

for more years than many of us can remember. And though Roger is retiring as Editor of the *NEWS* I know he will be, without a doubt, a continuing contributor of articles and a generous source of information to the new Editors.

Having known Roger for so many years I know, too, that he would be the first to say that the *NEWS* would not be what it is today without the help and dedication he received, not only from the Board, but from the many Club members that submitted articles and material for publication.

Our *NEWS* is a composite of information that covers a wide subject range and, it should go without saying, it is very unlikely that one Club member has all the knowledge and physical material on hand to write the many articles needed to publish as fine a journal as ours. With as many Club members as we have and the array of knowledge to be had Ardy and I, as the new editors of the *NEWS*, ask for your help and continued support by submitting articles and material for publication. If each member wrote just one article in their area of interest, or shared the information one interesting cover might give to a reader as an incentive for further discussion or research, the *NEWS* would be on tract to thrive for many years to come.

Thanking all our members in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,
John Donnes,
Co-editor

Chicago Postal Markings and Postal History

By Leonard Piskiewicz

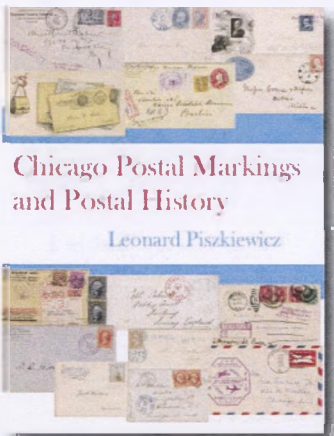
This phenomenal book is the culmination of more than 25 years accumulating Chicago postal history items by its author. It provides a comprehensive analysis of cancellations usage for all markings known used in Chicago from its beginnings as a post office in 1831 until the mid-1950s, a hugely useful book for members of the U.S. Cancellation Club! The book also includes those types of markings that continued to the end of the 20th century and are of interest to specialkists (e.g., airmail, registry). 576 pages...packed with illustrations.

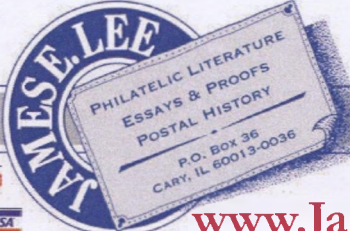
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“Circular” Ellipses *continued*

or in the case of Louisville, from Lewis Cohen’s book entitled *Postal History of Louisville, Kentucky* (1987, La Posta Monograph Series, volume 1). All other tracings are by either John Donnes or Ardy Callender.

Bloomington, Illinois was one of three cities to use a 9 bar circular ellipse. The ellipse measures 25mm. x 29mm. with the number 1 (see figure 1) in the central ring. This cancellation has been found with different orientations of the ellipse to the CDS (see figure 2). These orientations are probably a result of “spinning” of one of the elements within the duplex. Thus far, it has been recorded during the latter half of 1883.

A second city to employ the 9 bar circular ellipse was Memphis, Tennessee (see figure 3). Only a single example of this ellipse has been reported by Roger Curran and was used during April 1883. The ellipse appears to measure 24mm. x 28mm. as the strike is incomplete. The numeral in the central circle is a number 1.

Brooklyn, New York was the only city to employ circular ellipses with three different bar arrangements; 9, 10 and 11 bar. This city is also unique in that only the stations used the circular ellipse while the main Post Office used a different, normal proportioned ellipse during the same time period. Thus far, a 9 bar has been found used

at Station B (Brevoort - see figure 4) with the number 1, at Station V (Van Brunt - see figure 5) with the number 2 and at Station W (Williamsburg - see figure 6) with the number 1. Station V is known to have used the 9 bar with an inverted or upside down number 2 during April of 1885 (see figure 7). The ellipses from Station B and V measure 24mm. x 29mm

Bars	City/State	Ellipse	Numbers Seen	Size Ellipse
9	Bloomington, Illinois		1	25mm. x 29mm.
9	Louisville, Kentucky		1, 2, & 3	24mm. x 29mm..
9	Memphis, Tennessee		1	24mm. x 28mm.
10	Lewisburgh, Pennsylvania		1 & 2	24mm. x 29mm..
10	Louisville, Kentucky		2	25mm. x 29mm.
11	Lynn, Massachusetts		1	24mm. x 29mm.
11	Rochester, New York		1	24mm. x 29mm.
12	Oswego, New York		1	24mm. x 29mm.
12	Portsmouth, New Hampshire		1	24mm. x 28mm.

Table 1



Figure 4

while Station W measures 24mm. x 28mm. A 10 bar was used at Station W (Williamsburg - see figure 8) with the number 1 and measures 24mm. x 29mm. The 11 bar was employed by Station G (Greenpoint - see figure 9) with the number 2 and at Station W (Williamsburg - see figure 10) with the number 3. Both 11 bar ellipses measure 25mm. x 30mm. It remains to be seen if this cancellation turns up used from the other Brooklyn station: Station E, corner of Atlantic and Smith Avenue. It also seems likely that other numbers will be reported as a complete set between 1 and 3 may have been used at all stations. Dates of usage range between 1882 and 1885.

Like Brooklyn, Louisville, Kentucky employed ellipses with more than one bar arrangement; 9 bar and 10 bar. The 9 bar ellipse measured 24 mm. x 29 mm. (see figure 11) and the numbers inside the central ring were made up of a set numbering

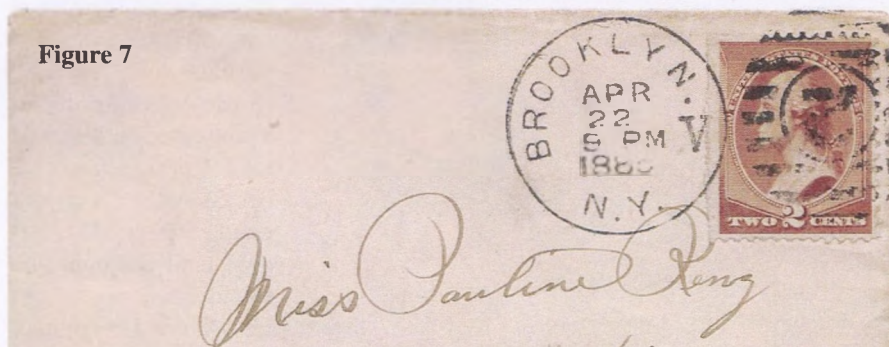
Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7



1, 2 and 3 (all three numbers have been observed). Dates of usage range between 1883 and 1888. A 10 bar has been reported by Louis Cohen (1987, pg. 20) on a postal card. He provided a drawing of the ellipse but not the CDS. The 10 bar is a bit larger than the 9 bar measuring 25mm. x 29mm. with the number 2 in the central ring. Dates of usage are during 1885.

Lewisburg, Pennsylvania was the third city to use the 10 bars ellipse (see figure 12). Willard

notes only the number 1 in the central circle (pg 137). However, a number 2 has been seen on two other covers. The size of the ellipse is 24 mm. x 29 mm. and the dates of use range between 1885 and 1889. Both a domestic use and a local use have been recorded. It is interesting to note that the CDS on the local cover is missing the time slug but has



Figure 8




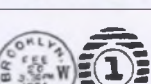
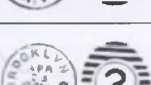

Bars	City/Station	Ellipse	Numbers Seen	Size Ellipse
9	Brooklyn, Station B		1	24mm. x 29mm.
9	Brooklyn, Station V		2	24mm. x 29mm..
9	Brooklyn, Station W		1	24mm. x 28mm..
10	Brooklyn, Station W		1	25mm. x 29mm..
11	Brooklyn, Station G		2	25mm. x 30mm.
11	Brooklyn, Station W		3	25mm. x 30mm..

Table 2

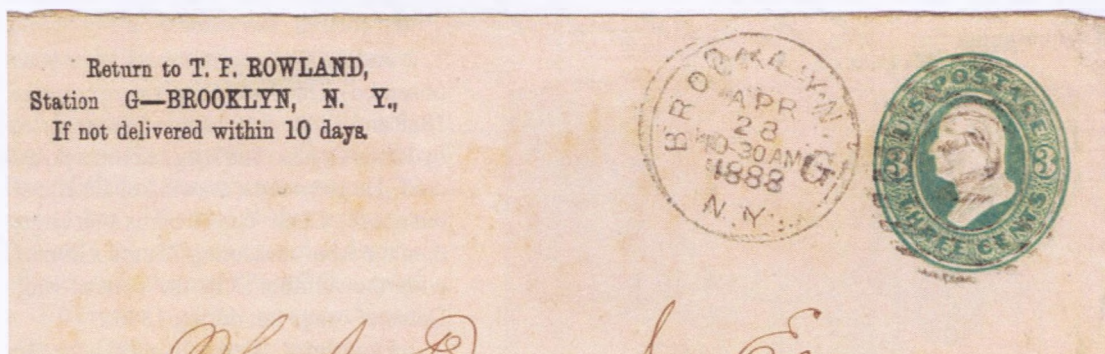


Figure 9



Figure 10

the year date while the same CDS on the domestic use is missing the year date but has the time slug.

Lynn, Massachusetts was one of two cities to use the 11 bar ellipse (see figure 13). It was in use between 1884 and 1886. The ellipse measured 24mm. x 29

mm. and only the number 1 has been observed (confirmed by Willard pg. 138). This ellipse has also been found "shifted" in relation to the CDS.

The other city employing the 11 bar ellipse was Rochester, New York (see figure 14). It measures 24 mm. x 29 mm.

and only the number 1 has been recorded. Dates of usage range between 1882 and 1885. Willard (pg. 150) speculated that due to increased demand, a new type of ellipse with the numbers 1 and 2 was ordered in 1884. The new ellipse was not of the earlier "circular" ellipse style but of the more typically proportioned 9 bar ellipse (Willard, pgs. 149, fig. 1301).

Oswego, New York was one of two cities using a 12 bar ellipse (see figure 15). It measured 24 mm. x 29 mm. with only the number 1 being recorded. The dates of usage range between 1883 and 1884.

Portsmouth, New Hampshire was the other city that employed the 12 bar ellipse (see figure 16). This cancellation measures 24mm. x 28mm. with the number 1 found in the central circle. Willard (pg. 148) reports this cancel as not duplexed as the obliterator is usually observed at a different orientation to the CDS. It seems more likely that the ellipse was simply "shifted" as is the case with ellipses seen from Bloomington, Illinois and Lynn, Massachusetts.

Although the "circular" ellipse is found predominately used on domestic mail, foreign uses are occasionally encountered. Presumably, foreign mail use could be found from any of the

listed cities. A nice foreign mail usage from Lynn, Massachusetts to London, England is shown in figure 17. The 1 cent entire is franked with a pair of 2 cent red browns (#210) which are tied by three strikes of a 11 bar ellipse. The right stamp is tied by a Boston foreign mail "Boston Paid" at the bottom. The back stamp reads London W. C. AP 19, 84.

Another foreign use is from Brooklyn, New York to Berne, Switzerland and forwarded to Florence, Italy (see figure 18). This cover is franked with a pair of 2 cent red browns (#210) and a single 1 cent (#206) tied by two strikes of the Brooklyn (Station W) 11 bar ellipse. The cover transited through the main New York PO (back stamp) and received three other back stamps in

Switzerland and Italy: Berne, Basel and Florence.

"Circular" ellipse cancellations are very distinct and can present a challenge to acquire, particularly from the smaller cities. Other uses such as registered or printed matter/circular rates may exist and will be reported in the future. I would like to acknowledge John Donnes and Roger Curran for providing scans of their material and their most helpful comments.



Figure 11

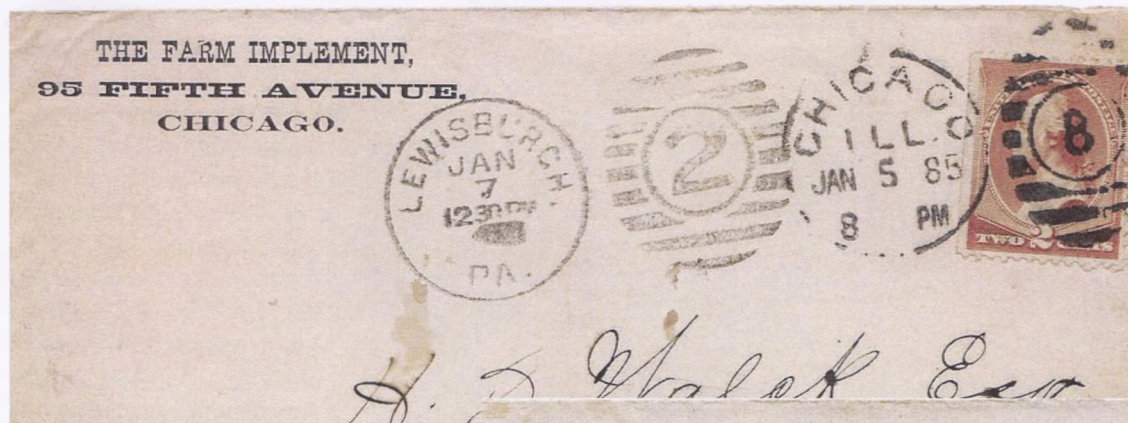


Figure 12



Figure 14

Figure 15

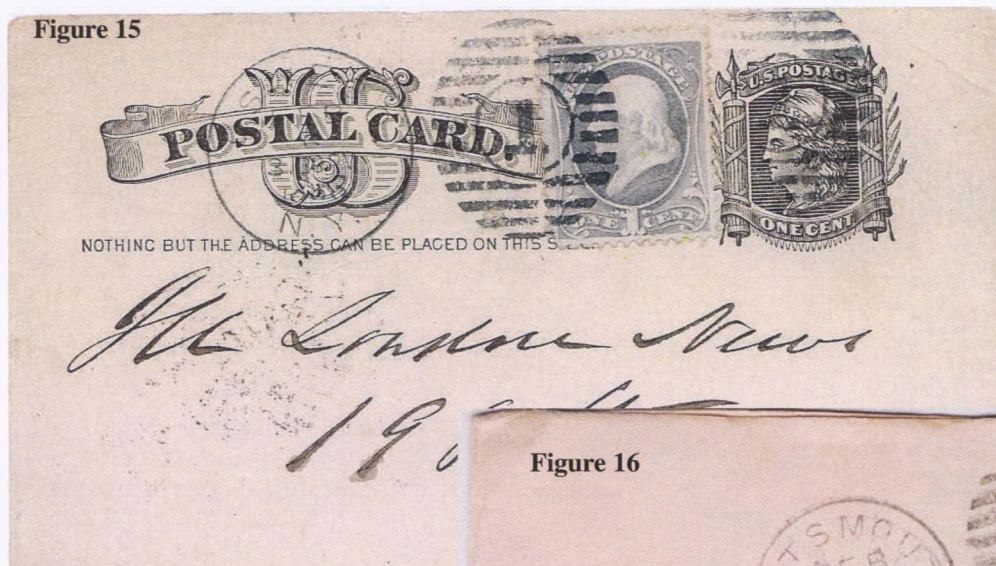


Figure 16



Figure 17



Figure 18

Crescent and Star

by Roger D. Curran

Crescent and star cancels are well known to collectors of U.S. cancels because there are enough examples "out there" to be encountered with some frequency. Probably the largest example comes from Northampton, Massachusetts – see Figure 1 which is Whitfield #3220. The dates of use listed in the 2012 Whitfield update are 4/3/85-6/18/85. There are two additional versions of this cancel known, one with a small "N" under the star (see Figure 2) and the other with a small "S". In his Sc. 210 book, Willard speculated that the letters referred to northbound and southbound mail. The "S" is very scarce.

Figure 3 and 4 are from Bangor, Maine. I think both are reported by Cole – CR 27 and 28 on page 140. Although the tracings don't match closely, this is probably due to strike variations or the precision of the tracings. Were the Figures 3 and 4 cancels intended to be Masonic symbols? The Bangor postmaster from 2/25/71-2/27/87 was an Angus B. Farnham. Cole reports as MA-37 a clearly Masonic cancel from Bangor (Figure 5) and listed it on 1873 issue stamps. Cole also reports MA-45 from Bangor, another Masonic cancel, shown here as Figure 6 and notes it struck on 1883 issue stamps. This strongly implies, of course, that Farnham was a Mason and the crescent and star cancels were intended to reflect Masonic symbols.

It is interesting to note that there were other U.S. cancels, used during the 19th century, depicting a crescent but with objects other than a 5-point star. These include a 6-point star, Maltese cross, Christian cross, and a sphere – see page 109 of Whitfield. These other objects were, of course, used to a much lesser extent. Wendell Triplett reported the crescent and "H" cancel shown in Figure 7 from Hillsdale, New York on a Sc. 219D. He noted that in June 1889 Hillsdale used a cancel involving a 6-point star, another Masonic symbol, with an "H" in the center.



Figure 1

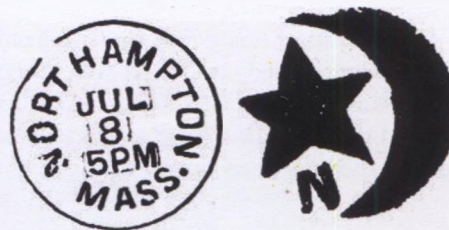


Figure 2



Figure 3

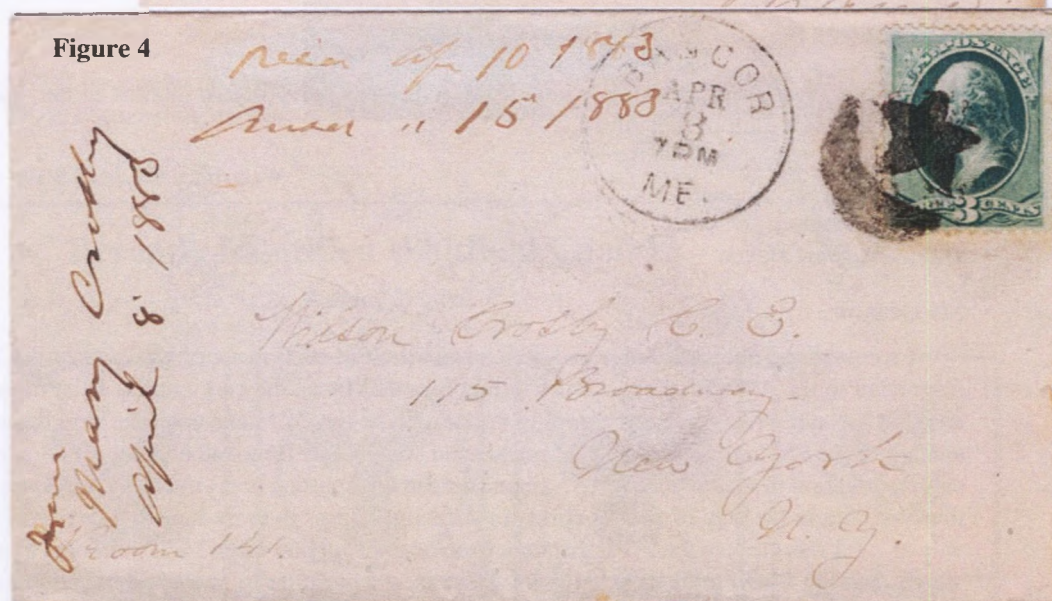


Figure 4

MA-37

II+



Figure 5

MA-45

II



Figure 6



Figure 7

John W. Hill Correspondence

by Roger D. Curran

Abe Boyarsky sends copies of two hand written letters by John W. Hill, creator of the Waterbury, Connecticut fancy cancels. The letter immediately below, for which Abe also provided a typed transcript, was sent in 1919 to, I'm quite sure, an Olin H. Clark who worked for the Aetna Life Insurance Co. in Hartford, Connecticut. Mr. Clark had written earlier to the *Waterbury Republican* newspaper in December 1918 to place an ad in the paper for old Waterbury envelopes from 1865-1871 and inquiring about the names of the Waterbury postmasters during that time.

Waterbury, CT, Mch 20

My Dear Mr. Clark:

Your letter certainly recalls old times. And I shall have to go back a good many years in order to give you any sort of an answer. My memory is not as good as it used to be. I was Clerk in the Wby P.O. about 6 years. Having taken that position after my discharge from the army in 1863. In 1869 I was app'd Postmaster succeeding Dr. Jacques in which position I served until 1886 (17 years), re-entering again 1890 – M.O. Dept – J.B. Doherty – P.M. – and served in that capacity (and otherwise) until 1917 when I resigned. Shall be 86 the 13 of Apr if I live till then.

Cannot just remember when I started the stamp canceling business but I think it was between the years of 67 and 80, anywhere along about that time at any rate! In those days the dating stamp consisted of one upright hand stamp with a little brass cup attachment in which we placed a cork, the cork having about an inch surface on top and $\frac{3}{4}$ small and I did all of the cork cutting during the time I speak of. Used nothing but a very sharp knife in the cutting of the aforesaid corks. So if there is any credit due for disfiguring "Uncle Sam's head" in those days it belongs to me. I certainly had no idea of fame or having it "thrust" upon me at this time of life. Every time a cork wore out I would cut a new one acting on the impulse of the moment and the want of a new defacer. The designs were of decidedly impromptu nature. Hence we deduce. I have no copies of the designs used at the time you mention nor any old envelopes in use at that time. Later the Dept furnished the P.O.s with its own "defacer," thus putting me out of business. You are at liberty to use this any way you see fit. I presume there is no pecuniary benefit connected with matter.

Yours very truly,
John W. Hill

27 Frederick St
Waterbury CT

I have attempted a transcription of the second letter, written by Mr. Hill two months earlier, but some portions are difficult to decipher. Herewith is the result of that effort:

Waterbury CT Jan 15/19

To Mr ... Sanborn
180 ... St. West Haven

My Dear Sir,

I received the enclosed letter and notice from the PM of Waterbury while away in Canada last summer. I responded to the PM with a short letter telling him that I was the cork cutting artist in the years you speak of and that I would write you later regarding the same. The reason I have not done so is this – I put your letter and another of the PM in my fishing jacket pocket and sorry to say forgot all about the matter until I saw your notice calling attention to which you were ... regarding the cork cutting and I must say that I was very much surprised that anything in the way of cutting corks for defacing stamps in those long ago days was worth noticing in the way of I was clerk in the PO at that time from 64 until July 69 when I was promoted from Clerk to Postmaster which position I held until March 1886 – 17 years – I presume I cut a good many corks during the time but which designs I used I've pretty much forgotten – but I dare say some of them were rather grotesque and really not worth remembering. And I never expected to be known to fame at that time or any other. Later the Dept furnished its own defacer, which put the cork cutting out of business. I re-entered the postal service in 1890 – in charge of the MO Division for a good many years. In fact have been in service all told for 50 years. Resigned Jan 1st 1918. Wish I might help you ... in this matter ... but do not see how I can.

Respy yours,
John W. Hill

27 Frederick St
Waterbury CT

Turnabout is Fair Play

by Roger D. Curran

The triple weight cover in Figure 1 entered the mails at Coopersburg, Pennsylvania on April 21, 1880. A duplexed Coopersburg CDS and cancel are present. However, only the left 3¢ green appears to have been canceled at Coopersburg and that cancel is barely visible. The cover arrived in Philadelphia the same day whereupon the postage due stamps were affixed and a received CDS marking was used as the canceler. What's interesting to me is that the "DUE/3" in circle marking was used to cancel the two 3¢ greens. This is a marking that was sometimes employed by Philadelphia as a cancel for postage due stamps – see examples in Figure 2. I have seen no other examples of this Philadelphia "DUE/3" canceling regular postage stamps.



Figure 1



Figure 2

Recently Identified Whitfield Cancels

by Wendell Triplett

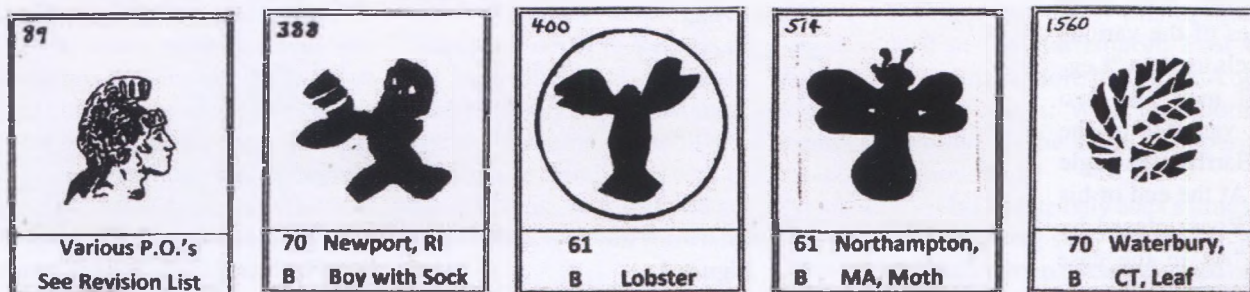


Figure 1

The Whitfield Trojan Soldier, #89, was previously listed as being from Cornwall Bridge, CT, dated March 2, 1887 on Cole #JO-120, and struck in purple ink. This same image was also used at an earlier date by Harmony, KY, dated April 22, 1881, and struck in purple ink on Scott UX5.

Whitfield cancel #388 was originally identified as an animal, a seal, but this is now known to be a "Boy with Sock". It retains the 1870 date & also being black in color. Since the original Whitfield #400 was a duplicate of cancel #388, cancel #400 was changed to a totally different cancel, a "Lobster", struck in black ink on an 1861 stamp. (Figure 3)

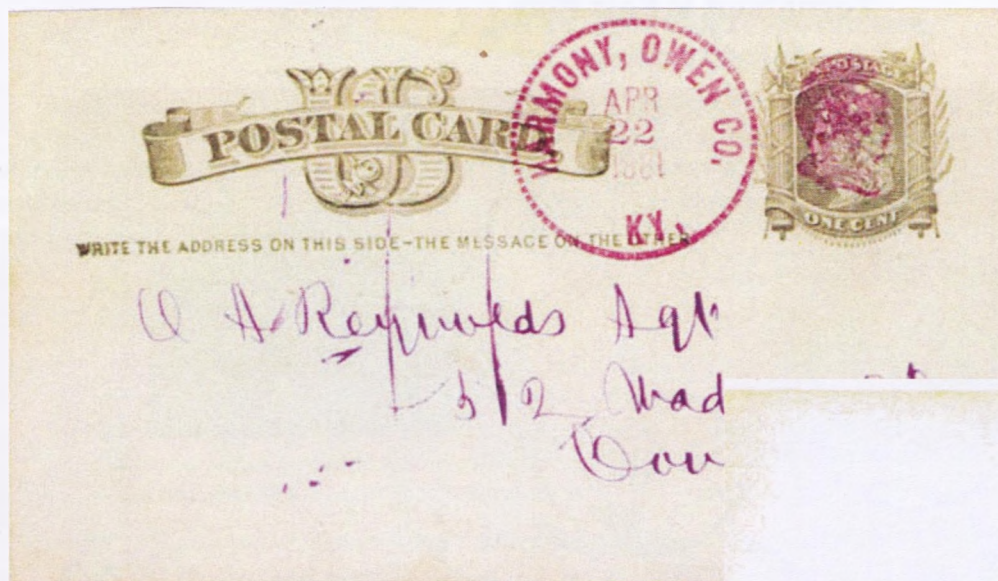


Figure 2

Whitfield cancel #514 is now identified as being a moth, from Northampton, MA, struck in black ink on an 1861 Scott #65 stamp. (Figure 4)



Figure 3



Figure 4

Harrisburgh, PA "Legislative" Precancels

— An Update —

by John Donnes

In the August 2008 issue of the USCC NEWS, Roger Curran wrote a very informative article on the above subject and pictured newly discovered covers that were mailed from various members of the Pennsylvania Senate and House of Representatives.

Shown, also, were examples of the various precancels used on "Legislative" mail and two distinct varieties of the scarce Harrisburgh eagle cancel. At the end of his article, Roger closed by saying "As in the case with so many of the subjects addressed in these pages, there is much more to be learned about this group of cancels and readers are encouraged to submit comments, information and, of course, copies of covers that bear on this interesting practice of the Pennsylvania legislature." The purpose of this up-date



Figure 1

is to show another example of a Harrisburgh "legislative" precanceled cover and to elaborate more on the usages of the distinctive Harrisburgh "eagle and shield" cancel and the, somewhat similar, "bird" cancel.

Figure 1 shows a cover with the of-



Figure 2



Figure 2A

genuine ?



Figure 2B

official Pennsylvania "Senate Chamber" cachet franked with a 3 cent 1861 stamp. The State Senator's signature, which is usually found on such mail, appears on the left and reads, as best as I can be determined, "Louis Hall, Senate". On trying to year date the cover, and checking the list of state legislative representative's on the internet, we find that Mr. Hall served as a State Senator for two separate terms: (1) from 1861 to 1862 and (2) from 1865 to 1868. The postmarks on the cover are most interesting in that one of the cancels, the four ring target cancel, was applied to the stamp before being affixed to the cover and is considered by many to be a precancel. The second postmark, dated Mar. 29, is the well-known duplexed Harrisburgh, Pa. "eagle & shield" cancel and, fortunately for postal historians, ties the precanceled stamp to the cover. The style and use of these two postmarks would indicate, to me, the Figure 1 cover's usage to be during Mr. Hall's second term and an 1865 year date usage.

The Figure 2 tracing, made from the above cover, clearly shows a shield with vertical stripes (unfortunately the target precancel obscured a portion of the eagle and I was unable to do, what I feel, a complete and more accurate tracing). Figurers 2a, copied from the Whitfield book (page 16), shows the cancel with a solid heart shaped shield while Figure 2b, a tracing from the Skinner-Eno book (page 186), shows the cancel to be more similar to the Figure 2 tracing, but in a slightly smaller size. Though Skinner-Eno seems to question the genuineness of their example and with the slight dif-

ferences found in the Whitfield tracing, it is my belief that due to the intricacy of the design, finding the cancel poorly struck on the few known covers, over inking and/or possibly just poor tracing, all three figures shown of this "eagle and shield" cancel are, more than likely, one and the same.

two CDS's accompanying the different designs, there are marked differences (especially in the distance between the "." of "PA." and the final "H" in "HARRISBURGH"). With the reporting of a second example of this "bird" cancel, differences in the CDS's and their apparent period date of usage, Roger Cur-

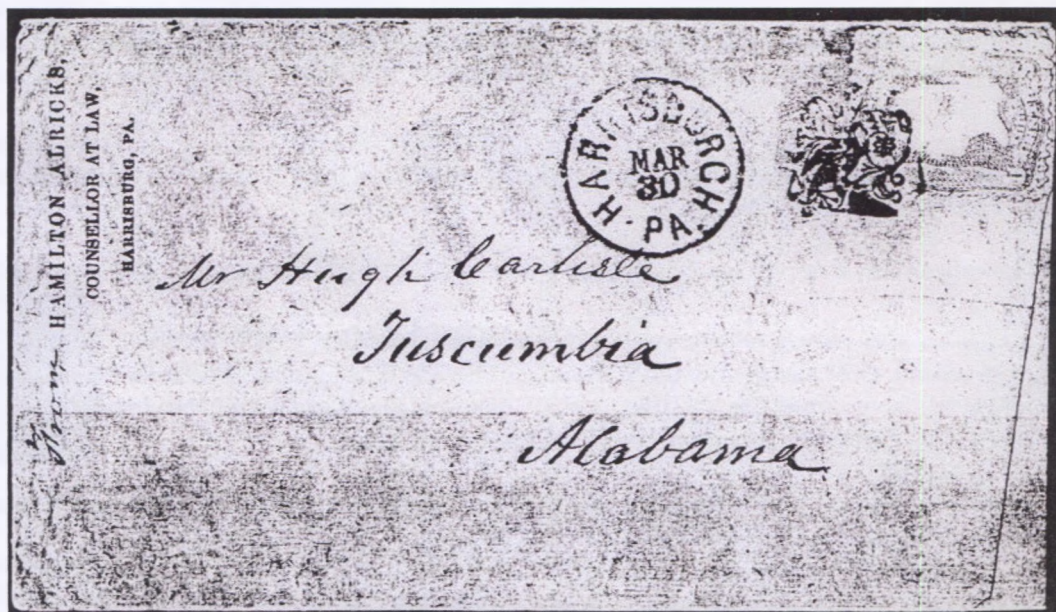


Figure 3

Roger, in his 2008 NEWS article, illustrated a portion of a cover (represented here as Figure 3) showing a cancel that had, as he put it, "a somewhat similar but, in fact, a very different design." He continued describing the cancel as not being an "eagle", but some other "bird" facing right. One of the things that perked my attention was his further statement - "a remarkably crisp and clear cancel - almost too clear." It appears, to me, there may have been some doubt in Roger's mind about the authenticity of this item. With it being the only known example reported and the potential desirability of acquiring such an item, I can well understand his concerns. Fast-forward seven years to 2015 and the item shown here as Figure 4.

Figure 4, pulled from Matt Kewriga's eBay website and described as a pair of un-grilled 1861 stamps, clearly shows another example of this Harrisburgh "bird" cancel. It should be also noted that, when comparing the



Figure 4

ran's thoughts of there being two different cancels of this design being used at the Harrisburgh Post Office, seems much more plausible. A question I might ask is: Were they both being used during the same time period and for how long?

This update only adds a little more to the fascinating story behind the use of a particular group of cancels used on Pennsylvania legislative mail and the Harrisburgh, Pa. post office. It is hoped readers will report additional examples of their usage and information or comments to the NEWS for a possible future article or extended update.



EXHIBIT AWARDS WON BY USCC MEMBERS

April-June 2015

WESTPEX: April 24-26

John Barwis: Grand Award and gold medal for "Philadelphia-Great Britain Mails."

Larry Haller: Gold medal for "United States Hand-Applied Flag Cancellations 1852-1949."

Nick Kirke: Gold medal; also APC Award, Collectors Club of Chicago Exhibitors Award, USCC Award, and USPCS Medal for "The Progression of New York Foreign Mail Cancels 1845-1878." Also Single-Frame gold medal and Donald Dretzke Memorial Award- Best Used Stamps for "New York Foreign Mail Fancy Cancels 1873-1875."

PIPEX: May 8-10

Matt Kewriga: Single-Frame Grand Award and gold medal; also USPCS Medal for "United States 1870-73 Jackson Bank Note: From Model to Complete Die."

Les Lanphear III: Reserve Grand Award and gold medal for "U.S. Departmentals, 1873 to 1884."

ROPEX: May 15-17

Gary Hendren: Gold medal; also AAPE Award for Plan and Headings; and Rochester Philatelic Assoc N.E. Wright Memorial Award for "St. Louis Street Car Mail 1892-1915." Also gold medal and AAPE Post-1980 Medal of Excellence and Auxiliary Markings Club President's Award for "Twisted Caps-Twisted Mail."

Alan Parsons: Vermeil medals for "The Sullivan Commemorative of 1929" and "Corning NY Postal History Including DPOs Now Served by the Corning Post Office."

NAPEX: June 5-7

Nancy Clark: Gold medal for "The U.S. Revalued Postal Stationary of 1971."

OKPEX: June 19-20

Les Lanphear III: Reserve Grand Award and gold medal; also APS Pre-1900 Medal and USSS Statue of Freedom Award for "U.S. Departmentals, 1872 to 1884."

Brady Hunt: Vermeil medals for "Chicago Blue-Cancellations on the First U.S. Postal Cards" and "McAlester, Choctaw Nation: An Indian Territory Crossroads"; also award for Best Exhibit of Oklahoma Postal History.

Request for Reports

According to *Scott Specialized*, the earliest reported date for Sc 64 (pink) is August 17, 1861 and for Sc 65 is August 19, 1861. Abe Boyarsky writes to say that he would like to know if any Club members have examples of Sc 64 or 65, on or off cover, that can be dated August 21, 1861 or earlier. A Sc 64 in Abe's collection is shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1

Corrections

The author of the article on colored cancellations on 1869 issue stamps beginning on page 116 of the May 2015 *NEWS* inadvertently listed Roger Curran as the author. The author of this long-running series is, of course, Ed Field.

Also, in the May issue under "New USCC Members" Richard's name should read Richard A. Van Wootten.

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Noted in Passing

by Roger D. Curran

The May 2013 NEWS illustrated an off-cover Sc 65 canceled by a partial strike of a Waverly, Ohio CDS produced by a stencil. Shown here in Figure 1 is a similar cancel, apparently produced by a stencil, from a post office that I have been unable to identify. The letters "NDLEY" are present. The letter to the left of the "N" is probably an "I" and to the left of that is what is likely an "F" or a "P" or a "T."



Figure 1



Figure 2

There was a Findley's Mills post office in Jackson County, Indiana from 1863-1870 and a very short lived Findley's Mills post office in Brown County, Indiana that operated just in 1865. I could find no CDS tracings for these POs in either the stampless cover catalog or the Indiana book by Baker. There is an operating Findley's Lake post office in New York that was established in 1855. Possibly the stenciled postmark came from one of the above.

While on the subject of stencil markings, Figure 2 illustrates a Sc 147 canceled by a numeral "6" that surely appears to be a stencil marking. Why this would be done is hard to understand, given the extra work involved.

Figures 3 and 4 illustrate covers where the canceler component of a duplex handstamp was not used, or at least not used effectively, and an older style hand carved canceler was pressed into service. Whether the circle of wedges in Figure 4 was applied in Detroit or Brooklyn is unknown but I'd guess the latter.

Occasionally the NEWS



Figure 3 & 4



Figure 5

Figure 6



is clear. Again, what would have been the cancel's meaning?

The cover in Figure 7 touches on two subjects that have been discussed in recent *NEWS* articles: (1) the first set of ellipse cancels used by Boston and (2) the handling of foreign mail in the Boston post office during the 1878-1883 era of the large Boston negatives cancels. Regarding the ellipses, these were last discussed in the November 2012 issue with focus on the ellipse with "48" in the center. Blake and Davis reported numbers up to "44" and then

a jump to "63" which, in recent years, has been considered a misinterpretation of a "39". The 2012 article reported four examples of the "48" with the comment that perhaps ellipses with numbers "45" through "47" don't exist since none have been reported to date. Figure 7 shows a fifth "48" ellipse. (Two of the 2012 reports were off-cover stamps and two were on-cover simplex uses.) The Figure 7 usage is apparently duplexed to a domestic Boston "DEC/17" CDS. Rather than an accompanying Boston foreign mail cancel there is a domestic Boston "TRANSIT" CDS dated "DEC/19." The card is datelined "1880" and presents another example of a foreign mail cover

sent during the large negatives era that was not canceled by a large negative. And it represents a decidedly late usage of an ellipse from this early set.

It is hard to fully see the cancel on the Figure 8 stamp, but the expert tracing of John Donnes brings it to life! We can now identify this graceful design as Whitfield cancel #1493.

Wendell Triplett submits the outlined heart cancel (Figure 9) from Hardin, Ohio. Is that a cross in the middle? Hardin is a DPO that operated in Shelby County from 1820 to 1909.

Figure 9



Figure 7



delves into the quite small world of early 20th century fancy cancels. The most recent article was in the November 2012 issue.

Figure 5 shows a clear negative "4t" from North Amherst, Massachusetts. Was that a playful reference to "40" or something else? And what would be the significance of the "40" or "4t"? We'll probably never know. Four plus years later, what appears to be a negative "41" was used in Newcastle, Virginia – see Figure 6. Certainly the "4"



Figure 8

The Cancellations of Belmond, Iowa

Editor's note: In a continuing series of articles on Iowa cancellations, Club member and postal historian, Jim Petersen, elected, in this issue of the NEWS, to share with the readers a grouping of cancellations from the small town of Belmond, Iowa. I've taken the liberty of paraphrasing and expressing many of the comments and conclusions originally given by him.

The town of Belmond is located in the north central part of Iowa, along highway 69, in the northeast corner of Wright County. According to the book, *Iowa Post Offices 1833-1986* by Alan H. Petera and John S. Gallagher, Jim reports that the Belmond Post Office was established on June 18, 1856. Jim also reports that the town was incorporate in 1881 and that its population in 1890 (courtesy of Wikipedia) was listed at 803. The 2014 U.S. Town Census Report now gives Belmond a population count of a little over 2,300 people. With its ever growing population and remote location in the County, it's no wonder that the post office is still in operation today.

This article will focus on the variety of cancellations, colors and style of circular date stamps (CDS's) seen on intercity first class mail used from Belmond during the 1870's and 1880's. The cancellations are quite varied with at least five different colors seen: black, magenta and three shades of blue, one a very dark shade of blue, one a somewhat lighter blue and yet a third even lighter greenish-blue. It appears there were also five different styles of CDSs used during this time frame, though, due to a lack of covers reported, it is hard to state exactly how long any particular cancel or CDS was in use. One interesting comment made by Jim was that, even with the Belmond Post Office being established in 1856, he has seen no reports of covers or postmarks used from this town during the 1856 to 1869 time frame.

The first two items (Figures 1 and 2) bear the commercially purchased, and fairly common four ring target cancel, one in magenta and the other in blue. The magenta postmark is dated Jan 4, 1876, as per dated message on

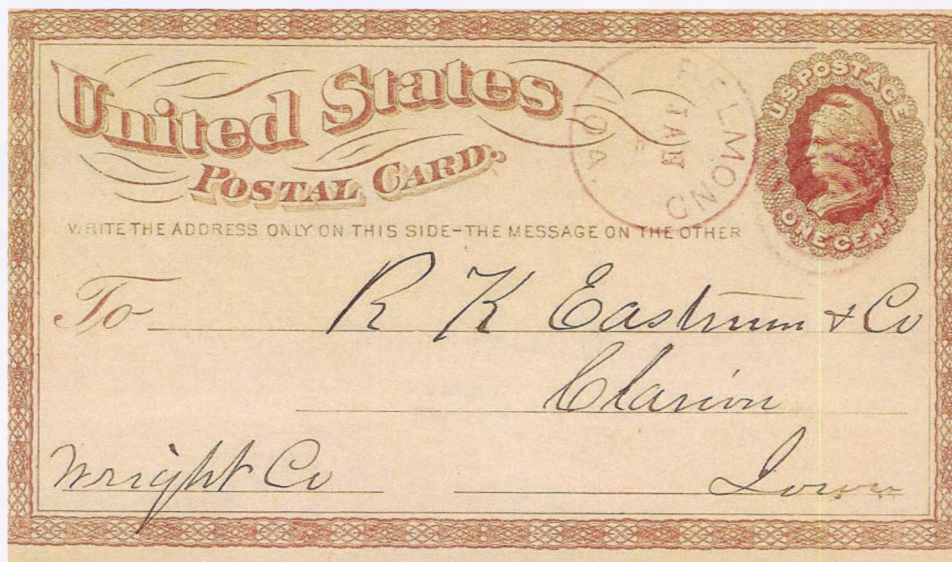


Figure 1



Figure 2

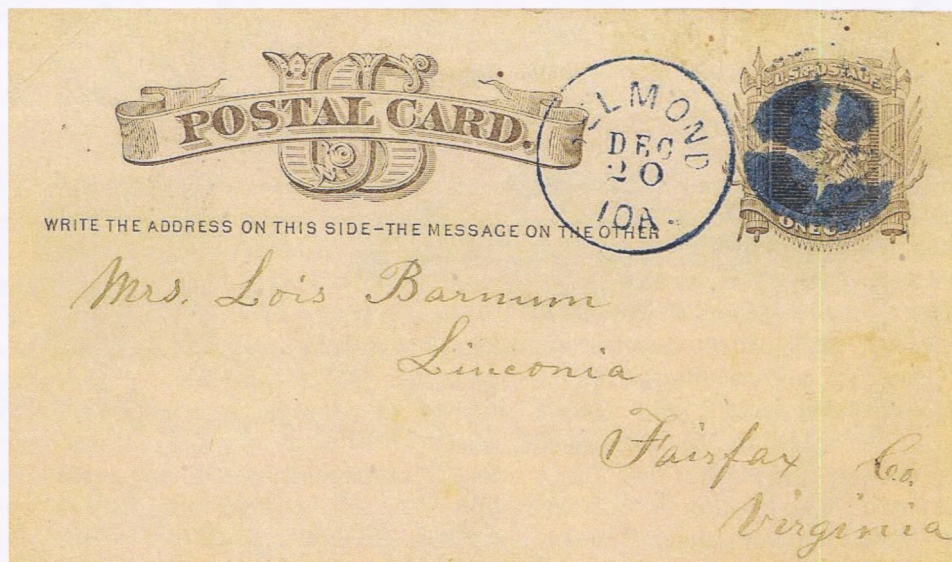


Figure 3



Figure 4

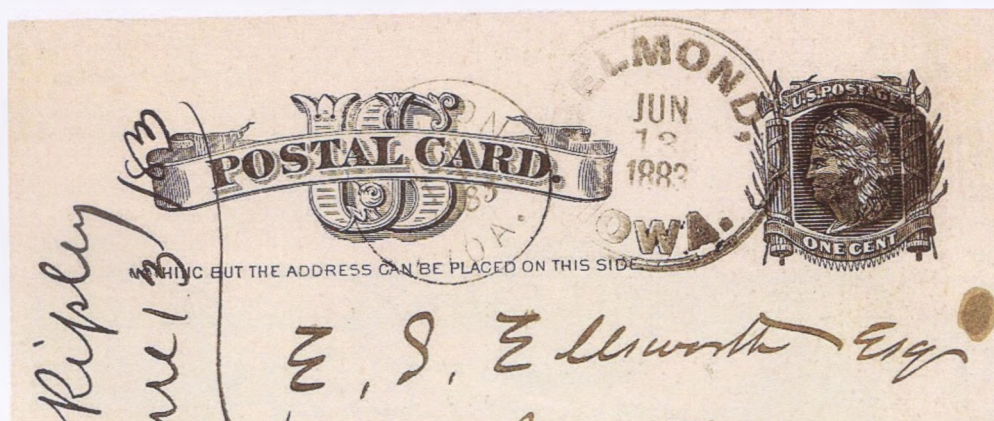


Figure 5



Figure 6

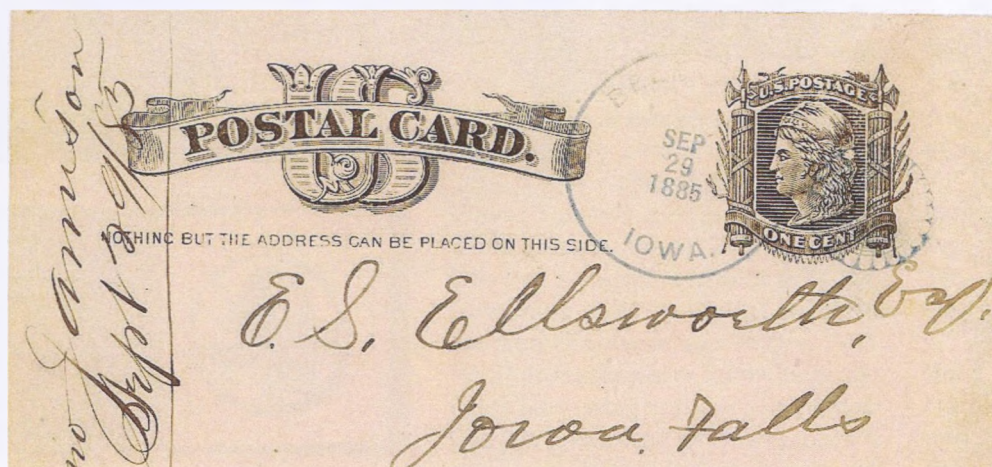


Figure 7

back and, with the town and state's lettering being quite close to its outer ring, we'll consider this the first of the various styles of the CDS's to be reported. As per docketing, the Figure 2 blue postmark can be dated Jun 24, 1877 and, with the town and state lettering being nearly a 3 min. distance away from the outer ring, we'll designate this CDS as the second style. It is also quite obvious, with the overlapping of the four ring target with the CDS, the blue 1877 cancel is not a duplex cancel. Though the earlier 1876 Figure 1 magenta cancel might appear to be a duplex cancel it is, for numerous reasons, more than likely un-duplexed, also.

The Figure 3 card shows the use of a fairly worn quartered cork killer in blue. The year date of this Dec. 20 cancel is undetermined but the CDS is of the same style as used on the earlier 1877 postmark.

With the popularity and availability of ordering rubber post office handstamps from the various advertised manufacturers the Belmont Post Office, in 1883, appears to have acquired their first 'fancy' cancelling device (see Figures 4 and 5). This cancel is most assuredly a duplex cancel and is shown in both the deep blue and black colors. The Figure 4 card was cancelled on Jun. 4, 1883 while the Figure 5 card, using black ink, was cancelled a number of days later on Jun. 13, 1883. Were there two different ink pads? Or was black ink added to the blue pad? We may never know but, hopefully, other strikes of this cancel will come forth showing a possible progression from blue to black and solve the mystery. The CDS, the third style reported, is quite large (33mm) and has an encompassed full year date and a double outer ring. This particular negative star killer is listed in Whitfield's, *Cancellations Found on 19th Century U.S. Stamps*, as no. 3087 (page 104)

and is reported as being used at various post offices, though not attributed to Belmond, Iowa (we can now add Belmond to the listing).

While on the subject of 'fancy' star cancels the Figure 6 item, dated Apr 20, 1885, was canceled with a completely different CDS and star cancel. This particular handstamp device also appears to have been made of rubber and purchased from a manufactured outside source. The postmark, canceled in an off shade of magenta, utilizes an attractive triple ring CDS with fleurons and a duplexed negative star killer with an attached outer ring. This ringed star cancel is also listed in the Whitfield book as no. 3082 and is attributed as being used in a number of small towns (the Figure 6 Belmond star cancel usage can now be added to the listing).

One would think that, in 1885, the post office activity from the rather small town of Belmond would be relatively light and no need for the constant changing of postmark devices. But yet, in Figure 7, we see another change in both the CDS and 'killer'. This Sep 29, 1885 postmark is canceled with the lighter greenish-blue shade of ink and now consists of a single ring CDS and embraces a full year date. What might be considered most interesting about this postmark is the implementation of the so called "wheel of fortune" killer. This attractive cancel was well received by many postmasters throughout the United States and could be purchased from the F. P. Hammond & Co. of Aurora, Illinois. James M. Cole, in his book *Cancellations and Killers of the Banknote Era 1870 – 1894*, published in 1995, went to great lengths listing the towns known having used this cancel (of the ten Iowa towns listed, Belmond was not one of them). For those keeping track of their usage, Jim Petersen, in his notes to the editor, states that he has seen one other example of this Belmond "wheel of fortune" cancel used in early October of 1885.

Finally, the last three items (Figures 8,



Figure 8



Figure 9

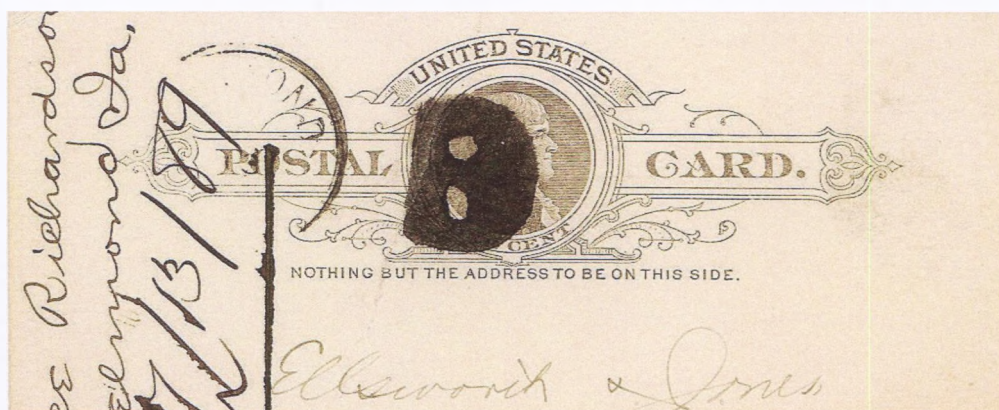


Figure 10

9, and 10) show nice examples of the letter "B" that appear to have been carved into cork (or a piece of wood) by the Postmaster or possibly a postal clerk. Figure 8, dated Aug 17, 1887, shows a great example of the "B" in its negative state while Figures 9 and 10, dated May 23, 1888 and Jul 13, 1889 respectively, show it in the positive state. It's quite possible the 1888 example, after a year of usage, has worn to the state as we see it in Figure 10. The CDS on all three of the "B" cancels appears to be the same and represents the fifth style of CDS seen in this report. When checking the in-

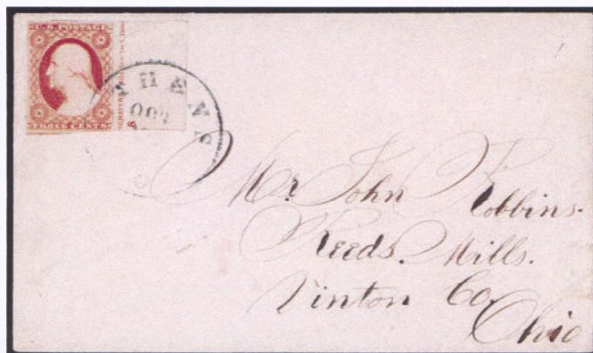
ternet's "Postmaster Finder" listing it did not give the names of the early Postmasters for Belmond, Iowa. So, for now, it would seem safe to say, and probably most logical, that the "B" stands for the town's name and not the last name of the Postmaster. And, as a final note, I did not see any of these specific "B" cancels listed in either the Whitfield or Cole books.

If Club members have additional covers or information on the postal history of Belmond, Iowa, the *NEWS* encourages you to report them for any potential follow up article.

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