



U.S. Cancellation Club NEWS

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Ellipse Cancels of the East Capitol Station/Station B

by Roger D. Curran

The May 2012 *NEWS* carried an article on 19th century ellipse cancels used by the main Washington, D.C. post office. Updates appeared in the November 2012 and February 2013 issues. Attention is now turned to one of the stations.

The East Capitol Station (ECS) was opened on September 20, 1881. At the same time the informal Congress post office that had operated for roughly 20 years at the U.S. Capitol was closed. (See the February 2014



Figure 1

NEWS for an article briefly discussing this office.) Whether the ECS was also designated Station B in 1881 is unclear, at least to this writer, but an ellipse with a "B" in the center was first duplexed to an ECS postmark in 1885 and perhaps earlier. In 1895, "STATION B." finally replaced "EAST CAPITOL STA" or "E.C.S." in postmarks.

Presented below, in chronological order, are handstamp cancellations, all of them ellipses, used by ECS/Station B, from the beginning in 1881 up to the late 1890s when machine cancellations took over the lion's share of the workload. Covers relied on are ones that I have seen directly or involve clear photocopies. Also, I have incorporated a considerable number of reports from Carl Stieg, who made an outstanding study of Washington, D.C. postal markings, as pre-



Figure 2



Figure 3

Continued on page 3

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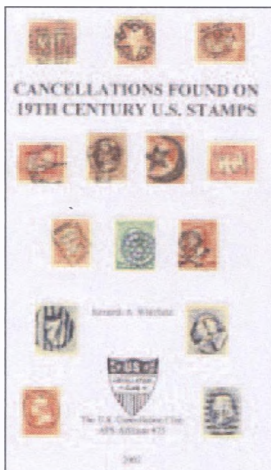
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Continued from front page...



Figure 4

sented in the March and May 2001 issues of *La Posta*.¹ In addition, two reports by Jim Cole in the Spring 1989 *NEWS* are used. Future studies, based on additional cover reports, may alter the chronology and introduce new cancels. They will surely expand the date ranges. And in some cases, if not most, the expansions will likely be considerable.

The first cancel to appear is most unusual. Gilbert Burr's tracing is shown in Figure 1 and he said this about it:

"... is one of the finest executed of any to be found. This is ... from Washington, D.C. used by East Capital Sta., and I have never found but one in all the thousands I have looked over."²



Figure 5

Uses are recorded from 10/18/81-1/15/85. Having seen at least 14 on-cover and a number of off cover examples, I believe it is not as scarce as would be suggested by Mr. Burr's remark. An example is shown in Figure 2.

The next cancel is a "B" in circle in a barrel ellipse. Actually there are two versions – one with a smaller accompanying postmark (23mm as opposed to 25mm for the larger). Also, there is a slightly smaller "B" in the ellipse duplexed to the larger postmark. See examples of each in Figure



Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8

3. The smaller postmark version is recorded from 3/19/85-12/30/88 and the larger from 8/13/88-7/1/91. There is a report in the Spring 1989 NEWS (page 105) of this "B" ellipse design used on 1/10/83. This listing updates an initial report on Washington, D.C. ellipses in the Summer 1988 NEWS (page 53). Since this date is more than two years

earlier than what is otherwise recorded for the smaller postmark version, I wonder if it could be a typographical error. However, it should be noted that I record no examples in 1886 or 1887, so use of the handstamp may have been spotty. Also, we should remember that this study deals with a small sample of covers.

An ellipse with pointed ends containing a "B" in the center (no surrounding circle) is recorded from 12/29/85 to 3/9/90. (See Figure 4).

Next we have a similar ellipse but with an "O" rather than a "B" in the center - see Figure 5. Dates recorded are 11/20/85 to 8/9/88. A variation of this design (Figure 6) with rounded rather than pointed ends has been recorded from 5/11/89 to 9/21/92.

We come now to a very unusual and I think quite attractive ellipse involving "E.C.S." in a rectangular box with three bars above and below - see Figure 9. Dates recorded are 9/15/91 to 1/24/95. A similar ellipse design but with a "B" in the box (Figure 8) is reported from 3/16/95 to 11/18/97.

Following next is a barrel ellipse with a "1" in the center. Two handstamps were involved with a major difference in the postmark design - see



Figure 9



Figure 10

Figure 9. The "EAST CAPITOL STA." version is recorded from 5/26/93 to 2/2/95 and the "E.C.S." from 10/1/93-2/8/95. There may be slight differences between the two ellipses but no attempt

was made to identify them.

Finally, Mr Stieg reported two barrel ellipses with a "1" in the center duplexed to "STATION B. WASH./D.C." postmarks - see Figure 10 which repro-

duces his illustrations. He reports the postmark with the smaller letters used on 6/6/95 and the postmark with larger letters from 3/1/98 to 7/8/99. I have but one actual example to show – see Figure 11. It involves the larger letters postmark.

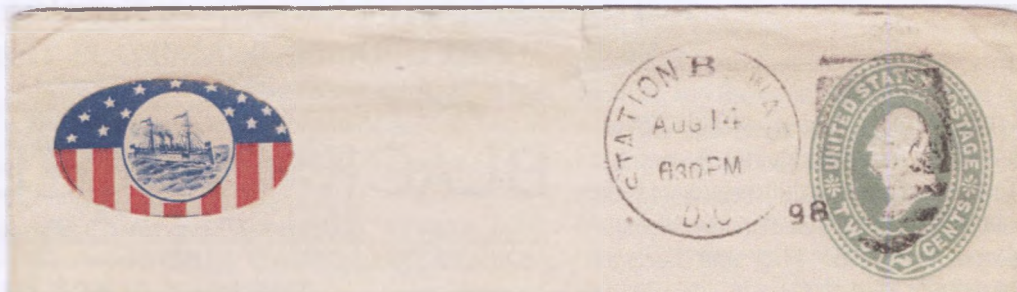


Figure 11

¹Stieg, Carl M. "Postal markings of Washington, D.C. Stations," *La Posta* March 2001, pp. 41-2, and May 2001, pp. 40-1.

²Burr, Gilbert M. "Standardized Hand Issues," *The American Philatelist*, September 1935, pp. 617-8.



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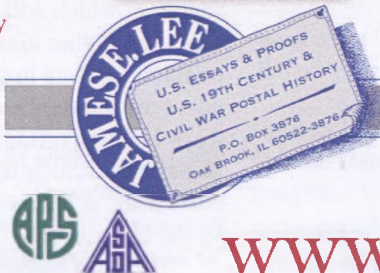
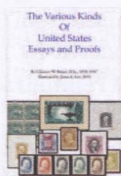
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Red Cancellations on Large Bank Note Issues

Part 1: Domestic Mail

by Ardy Callender

This article will figure and review the use of red cancellations during the Large Banknote Issue Period (1870-1890). It will be divided into two installments: Domestic Mail and Foreign Destination Mail.

Many different colors of ink were used to cancel adhesives during the 1850s through 1880s. Some of the more scarce ink colors in use include green, true orange (not orange red), brown and yellow. In fact, gold cancels are known from at least two cites; Lodi, New York (a single cover recorded) and a couple of covers from an unknown origin which used a large gothic letter "D". It is thought that these gold cancellations were produced by sprinkling "gold dust" over an opaque oily ink. More common colored cancellations include red, purple/magenta and blue.

The use of colored inks to cancel adhesives was strictly against Postal Regulations. Regulations specified only the use of black ink (see below).

Postal Laws and Regulations, March 3, 1879, pg. 103.

Sec. 377. Manner of Canceling Stamps - The cancellation or defacing required by section 375 must be effected by the use of **black printing-ink**, wherever that material can be obtained; and where it cannot, the operation should be performed by making several heavy crosses of parallel lines upon each stamp, with a pen dipped in a good **black writing-ink**. The use of the office rating or postmarking stamp as a canceling instrument is positively prohibited, inasmuch as the postmark, when impressed on the postage-stamps, is usually indistinct and the cancellation effected thereby is imperfect.

The Post Office went one step further in the 1887 Postal Guide and stated the each post office would be supplied with black ink and if the local post office should run out, it would be up to the postmaster to find a suitable replacement at his own cost (see below).

Postal Laws and Regulations, March 30, 1886, pg. 222.

Sec. 517. How to be Canceled - Postmasters are required-
1. To cancel stamps immediately and effectually by the use of **black ink**, a standard of which has been adopted and suitable

BLACK CANCELING INK, For Post Office Use.



THE BEST BLACK CANCELING INK MADE

Is being used by 30,000 Post Offices without a dissenting voice. All claim it to be the **best** canceling ink they ever used. Works equally well with wood, metal, or rubber daters. Is indorsed by the Post Office Department, and can be sent to Postmasters only.

Sample Can, 25 Cents. Medium Can, 50 Cents.
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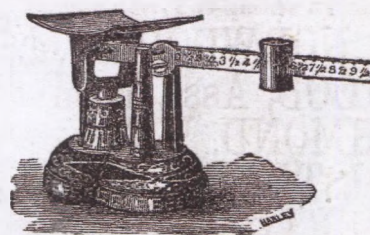


The best ink pad for the price ever introduced. Is equal to most of the \$1.00, \$2.00, and \$3.00 pads. Is intended for wood and metal daters.

Sent, postage paid (inked and ready for use), on receipt of price,

50 cents.

FAIRBANK'S SCALES FOR P. O. USE. Adopted as U. S. Government Standard.



Capacity, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. to 8 oz., price \$3.00; $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. to 12 oz., \$4.00; $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. to 4 lbs., \$7.50.

The smallest of above sizes by mail for 25 cts. extra for postage. The other sizes delivered to any express office in the United States for 50 cts. extra.



RUBBER CANCELING CORKS

Will fit the Government Standard Datums. We would advise those who are troubled with poor cancellers to give them a trial.

One Dozen, \$1.00; One-half dozen, 60 cents.

Postage paid on receipt of price.

Figure 1



Figure 2

supply of which will be sent to any post-office that may need it. The use of other kinds of ink for the canceling of stamps is not permitted, except in cases where postmasters may be temporarily out of the standard kind, in which case they may use a good quality of **black printing ink** until a supply can be obtained from the Department. Such temporary supply must be procured by the postmaster at **his own expense**, which **will not be reimbursed** by the Department.

The great majority of domestic letters with adhesives struck by red cancellations date from the early 1870s and come from

BLACK PRINTING INK FOR CANCELING PURPOSES.**THE BEST BLACK CANCELING INK MADE**

Is being used by 30,000 Post Offices without a dissenting voice. All claim it to be the best canceling ink they ever used. Works equally well with wood, metal, or rubber daters. Is indorsed by the Post Office Department, and can be sent to Postmasters only.

Sample Can, 25 Cents. Medium Can, 50 Cents.

Large Can, \$1.00.

Postage paid on receipt of price.

E. S. MILLER, Stamp, Stencil, and Printing House, NEWARK, OHIO.

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The best ink pad for the price ever introduced. Is equal to most of the \$1.00, \$2.00, and \$3.00 pads. Is intended for wood and metal daters.

Sent, postage paid (inked and ready for use), on receipt of price,

50 cents.

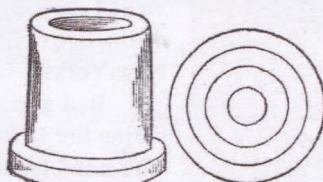
E. S. Miller, Stamp, Stencil, and Printing House, Newark, O.

Send 6 cents in stamps for Catalogue of P. O. Daters, Stencil and Rubber Alphabets and Figures, Rubber Name and Business Stamps, and samples of Comic Envelopes, Bill Heads, P. O. Note and Letter Heads, Statements, etc.. P. O. Letter Scales.

Address

E. S. MILLER, Stamp, Stencil, and Printing House, NEWARK, OHIO.

Please mention JANUARY Postal Guide.

RUBBER CANCELING CORKS

Will fit the Government Standard Daters. We would advise those who are troubled with poor cancelers to give them a trial. Sample 10 cents.

One Dozen, \$1.00; One half dozen, 60 cts.

These Corks are used with the Post Office Department's approval. Postage paid on receipt of price.

E. S. Miller, Stamp, Stencil, and Printing House, Newark, O.

Many simply carved their own devices from cork or wood. The majority of the purchased cancellations were quite standardized and the same design was used by many different postmasters and cities. The hand carved corks were more distinctive and were often nothing more than a simple carved (quartered) cork. More intricate (fancy) designs are scarce and are usually characteristic of a single city. In this review, the simple designs will be examined first while the more complex designs will be discussed towards the end of the article.

One of the most common standardized cancellations used during the Large Bank Note Era was the four ring target (see the Figure 1 ads). The four ring target is not duplexed to the CDS on the majority of these covers. Figure 2 is a small ladies cover from Martinsburgh, New York to Batavia, Illinois which is franked by a three cent green (Scott #147). The adhesive is just barely tied by an unduplexed red four ring target at left. Another small ladies cover from East Stoughton, Massachusetts to Pocasset, Massachusetts (Figure 3) is franked with a three cent green (Scott #158) tied by red four ring target. Figure 4 is also an example of an unduplexed red four ring cancel used in the 1880s. The cover, franked with a two cent red brown (Scott #210), was sent from Erwinna, Pennsylvania to Doylestown Pennsylvania. Although uncommon, duplexed targets are occasionally encountered. The small ladies cover from Thibodeaux, Louisiana to Baton Rouge (Figure 5) is an example. The "old style double ring dater" is duplexed to a red four ring target which ties a three cent green (Scott #147) at left.

Hand carved quartered corks are commonly found struck in red but vary tremendously in size and the thickness of the cuts between wedges. A small quartered cork with wide grooves (Figure 6) ties a three cent green (Scott #147) on a cover from Russellville, Kentucky to Elkton, Kentucky. The color of the ink is somewhat dark red or rusty in appearance. This red ink may be a "color changeling" (due to oxidation) or just the darker original shade. Another much larger sized cork with wide grooves is

seen in Figure 7. This cover was sent from New Hampton, Iowa to Garnaville, Iowa and has a three cent green (Scott #158) cancelled SON by a bright red quartered cork. A large red quartered cork but with smaller cuts or groove is shown in Figure 8. This cover was sent from Sunbury?, Iowa to Wells, Vermont. The three cent green (Scott #147) is tied by a quartered cork

Figure 1



Figure 3

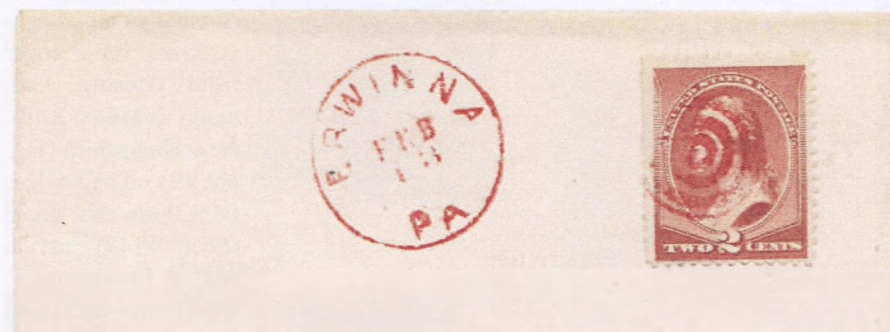


Figure 4

smaller or rural post offices. First class post offices were provided cancellation devices by the government while the 3rd and 4th class offices had to acquire their own. These small town postmasters often purchased their cancelling devices from post office supply ads in periodicals such as the US Postal Guides or the United States Mail and Post-Office Assistant (Figure 1 above).



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 10



Figure 11



Figure 12

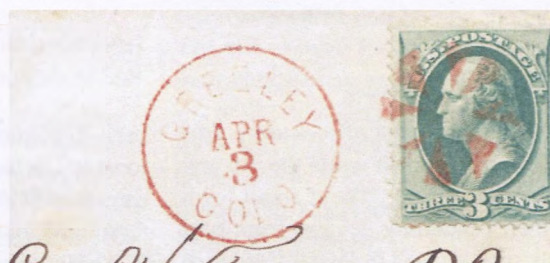


Figure 13

and appears to be duplexed. Finally, a couple of red quartered cork covers from Auburn, New York are shown as Figure 9 and Figure 10. Unfortunately there is no year date on one of the covers, so it is difficult to determine whether they are from the same year (could be simply a month apart). Regardless, comparisons of the cancellations on the entire (Figure 9) with the other cover (Figure 10) illustrate that the grooves or cuts in the cancel are much narrower on the cover to Rome, New York (Figure 9). This may have resulted from the strength of the strike, wear of the device or maybe it could even be a completely different cork. This distinctive rich shade of red ink is quite characteristic of Auburn, New York.

Red grid cancellations are another common type observed during the 1870s. A "old style" large CDS used in combination with a red ten bar grid is found on a cover from Southdeerfield, Massachusetts to Springfield, Massachusetts (Figure 11). The grid (not duplexed) ties a three cent green (Scott # 147) at the upper right. A smaller grid recorded from Delhi, New York (Figure 12) has ink of a similar color (oxidized?) to that of the Russellville (Figure 6) discussed earlier. The red eight bar grid ties a three cent green (Scott #147) at the lower right.

The circle of wedges cancellation was also found struck in red during this period. Like the quartered corks, there is much variation in these cancellations including overall size, number of wedges, shape of wedges and thickness of the cuts or grooves. A red circle of eight small wedges is struck on a cover from Greeley, Colorado to Milton Mills, New Hampshire (Figure 13). The wedges tie a three cent green (Scott #147) just at left. A Providence & Worcester Rail Road CDS is duplexed to a red circle of eight wedges (Figure 14). The enclosed letter is datelined Valley Falls (Rhode Island) and was sent to Bristol, Pennsylvania. The



Figure 14



Figure 15



Figure 20



Figure 16



Figure 17



Figure 18



Figure 19



Figure 21



Figure 26



Figure 22



Figure 23



Figure 25

three cent green (#147) is tied by both the cancellation and the CDS. Washington, Georgia is known to have used a modified circle of five rounded wedges during the Bank Note Period. The ink employed is a rusty red and very distinctive. There are two known correspondences which account for the most covers originating from this city. The cover shown in Figure 15 is a good example of the rounded wedges cancellation. The addressee, William Avery Stratton, was employed by the Internal Revenue Department in the 1870s and his correspondence is today archived at Virginia Tech. Another cover from Washington, Georgia is addressed to A. H. Stephens (Figure 16). Alexander Hamilton Stephens was the Vice President of the Confederacy and much of his correspondence has also been preserved. The cancellation ink was smeared as it was being ap-



Figure 27



Figure 30

plied with a partial fingerprint visible at the upper right corner.

Fancier cut corks have also found struck in red ink. A modified cross roads cancel is known from Weston, West Virginia (Figure 17). Neither the CDS or the cancel tie the three cent green (Scott #147) on this cover sent to Petersburg, Virginia. A fancy cut cork from Portsmouth, Nebraska is shown in Figure 18. This ink appears to be the rusty brown shade discussed earlier. This cover is part of the Harriet Shaw correspondence of Alfred, Maine. Finally, a beautiful red fancy cut cork cancel from New Philadelphia, Ohio to Rockville, Connecticut is illustrated as Figure 19. The cancel is SON on a three cent green (Scott #147). A tracing of the cancellation is shown as Figure 20.

Salem, Ohio produced many different fancy red cancellations during

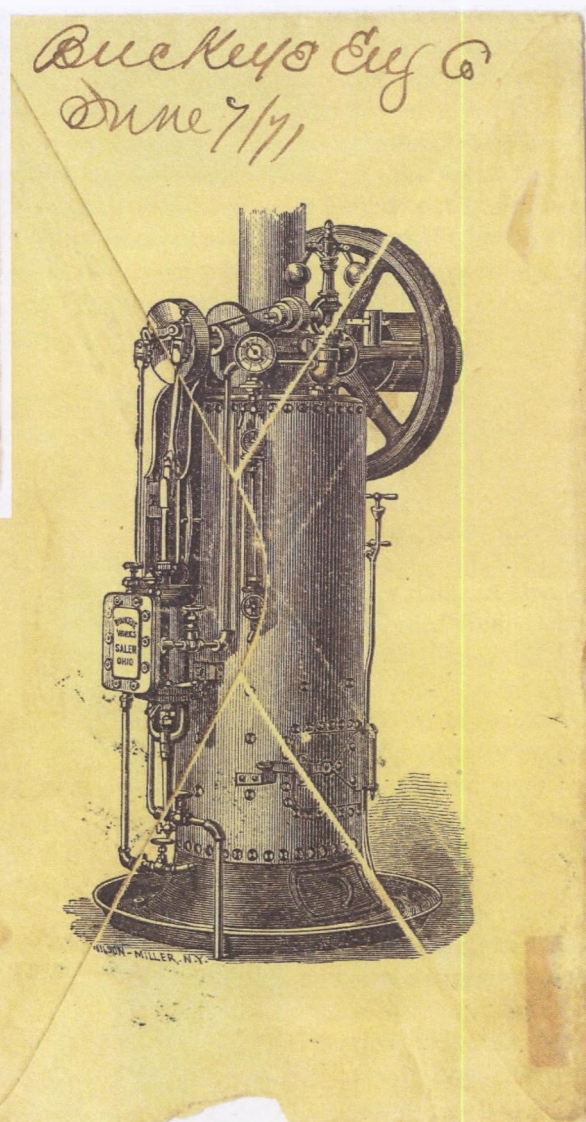


Figure 24



Figure 28

this period. One large correspondence in particular illustrates this great variety. The correspondence is from the "Buckeye Engine Co. ("General Machinists, and Manufacturers of Engines for all Purposes") of Salem, Ohio to Mr. John Jenks Esq. of Detroit, Michigan. These orange or usually yellow ad covers posses very well struck red fancy cancellations. The covers are year dated on the reverse (presumably by Jenks) between 1871 and 1872. Examples are shown as Figure 21, Figure 22 and Figure 23. Figure 24 illustrates the reverse of one of the covers (reverse of Figure 23).

Troy, Pennsylvania used a very interesting CDS and duplexed red cancel (Figure 25). The CDS is rimless and appears somewhat odd due to the few letters in the name of the city. The cancellation has a large central dot, surrounded by a series of eight smaller dots in turn surrounded by an outer ring. It is quite distinctive. One final fancy red cancellation is from Charlestown, New Hampshire (Figure 26). Charlestown is known for this Masonic cancel which was used beginning in the 1860s. It has been observed struck in black, blue and of course, red.

Circular daters and obliterations were usually struck in the same color ink as most devices were duplexed. However, a few cities used a different color ink for the CDS and the cancelling device. Charlestown, Massachusetts is known for using red ink in the CDS and black ink for the cancellation (Figure 27). Charlestown used this combination beginning in the 1860s. Since the adhesive was required to be cancelled with black ink, it really didn't matter what color was used for the CDS. However, the opposite combination is somewhat more difficult to find and the author has recorded it from only one city. Faribault, Minnesota used the old style double circle CDS stuck in black and a fancy red/violet fancy cut cork for the cancellation (Figure 28).

Thus far, everything discussed concerned red cancels on intra-city mail. However, red cancels were used in Washington, DC for inter-city or local mail. Washington used a variety of fancy red cancellations which were duplexed to at least two different CDSs. The most common date stamp had the word "local" spelled out in the bottom of the dial. The other date stamp was the standard Washington CDS (with "D.C." in the bottom). In either case, all local mail was struck in red ink and tied to a variety of obliterations. Figure 29, Figure 30 (page 10) and Figure 31 illustrate some of the variety in both the cancellations and the two types of CDS.



Figure 29



Figure 33



Figure 31



Figure 32

A different category of local mail on which occasionally red cancels have been found includes letters handed directly to the post office for local delivery rather than being placed in a letter box or returned by carrier. These letters were charged one cent rather than the two cents (see the discussion above - local rate letters from Washington, D.C. were all sent via the two cent rate). One such letter is shown as Figure 32. This deep yellow envelope from Andover, New York was sent via the one cent local rate within city in 1872. A red CDS (cancellation) ties a one cent banknote (Scott #145) at upper left. Another example (Figure 33) is a folded letter containing a printed "Report of Students Absence" for

J. W. Vandervoort of the University of Virginia. Notices were apparently sent out monthly to each student as a record of the number of absences from each lecture by the Chairmen of the Faculty. This letter, unaddressed, was sent within the university system. At this time the University of Virginia had its own post office. The one cent banknote (Scott #182) is tied by a beautiful

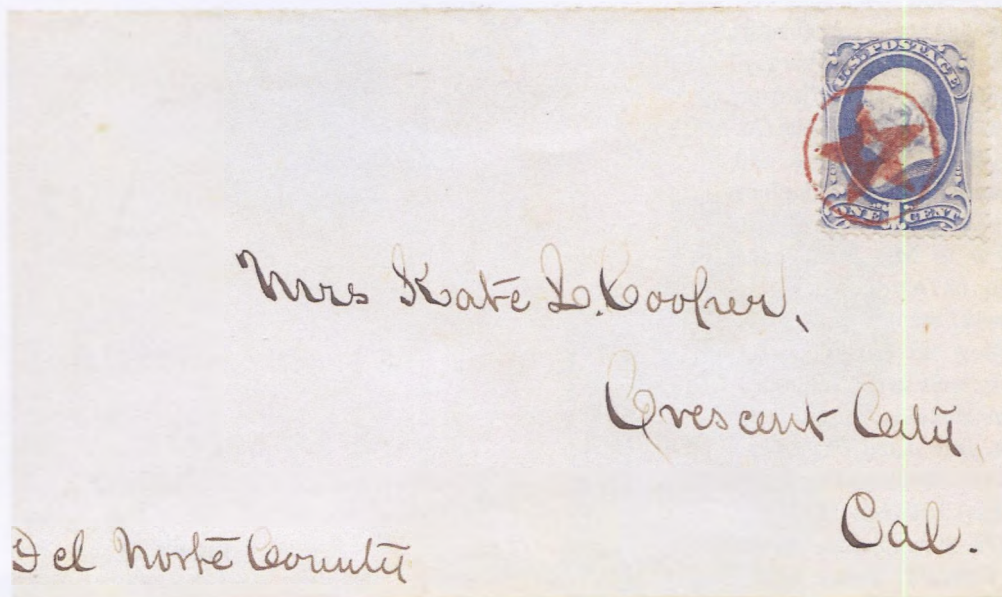


Figure 34

red thirteen bar ellipse with the year "1879" at center (listed in Cole, 1995, pg. 196, #YD-129).

One final category - red cancellations on circular rate mail. By regulation all circular/printed rate mail was sent unsealed. The rate during this period was generally one cent per two ounces. A CDS was not required and therefore most covers were

canceled simply by a cork obliterator. A particularly nice circular rate cover to Crescent City, California is shown in Figure 34. As is the case with many circular/printed rate matter covers, the origin is unknown. The back flap is unsealed as per requirement. The one cent banknote (Scott #156) is tied by a well struck red star with a hole in the center surrounded by a thin ring.

Colored Cancels on the 1869 Series: Shield

by Ed Field

Colored shield cancels on the 1869 series are rare. In two decades of collecting, I have seen fewer than ten varieties, and a couple of those required some imaginative interpretation.

Figure 1 shows a blue shield from Meridian, Mississippi on an Internal Revenue Service cover dated February 8 (probably 1870). Skinner and Eno (PS-O 3) attribute similar shield cancels, in black and blue, to Meridian from 1864 to 1869. To my knowledge, the example shown in Figure 1 is unique.

Figure 2 shows a boldly struck blue shield on a May 18, 1869 cover from Galva, Illinois. It is listed in Skinner and Eno as PS-ST 16. A similar example, dated May 31, 1869, was auctioned in Siegel's Eubanks Sale on March 1,

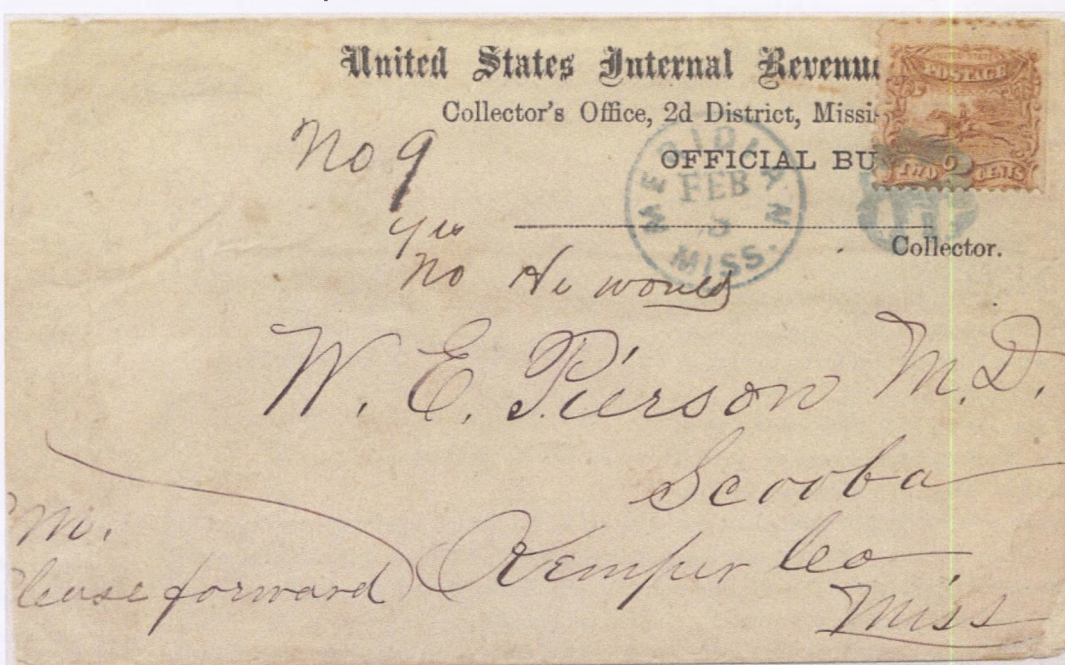


Figure 1

2011. In his 1984 book *Illinois 19th Century Cancels*, Richard

Russell reported a Galva shield on a Sc 114 cover dated June or

July 14 that is probably a third example of the Figure 2 shield.

The Galva Post Office produced other fancy blue cancels in the 1869 era, including a clover and a beer mug.

Figure 3 shows a blue shield from Farmington, Illinois on a cover dated FEB ?, probably 1870. Farmington is known to have used black shield cancels in the early 1860s, but I have never seen another blue shield from that post office.

Figure 4 shows an intricately carved blue cancel on an August 18, 1869 cover from Piqua, Ohio. I am not sure the carver intended this cancel to be a shield, but Skinner and Eno (PS-SD 8) list a similar, but not identical, black Piqua cancel as a shield. So, I will go with the experts and include it here.

Figure 5 shows an August 8 (probably 1869) South Deerfield Massachusetts mourning cover that bears a red shield cancel and matching CDS. Another South Deerfield cover, dated October 30 and bearing this cancel, appeared in Siegel's May 12, 2006 auction of the Elliott Coulter auction. I know of no others.

Figure 6 shows a blue shield cancel on a ten cent 1869 stamp. Tracing #1291 in Whitfield's book identifies the cancel's origin as St. Joseph, Missouri. Whitfield indicates his source was a Banknote cover. The 2012 update to the Whitfield book lists two dates for the #1291 shield – 9/14/73 and 11/11/73. We can thus assume that the Figure 6 stamp was used later than its period of currency.

Figure 7 shows a blue shield of unknown origin on the three-cent stamp.

Figure 8 shows a blue cancel of unknown origin on the ten-cent stamp. The carver might have been thinking "grid," but I think it's not much of a stretch to call it a shield. Similarly, the red cancel shown in Figure 9 could be a stylized rendition of a shield.



Figure 3

Figure 2

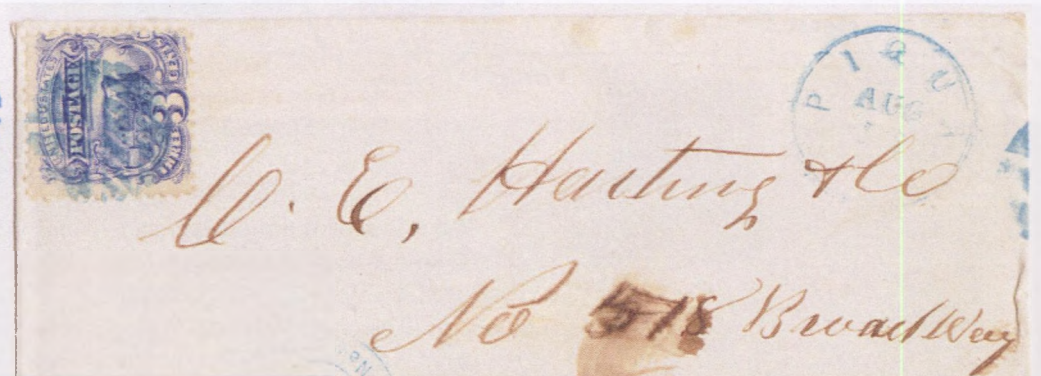


Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9

Recently Identified Whitfield Cancels

by Wendell Triplett

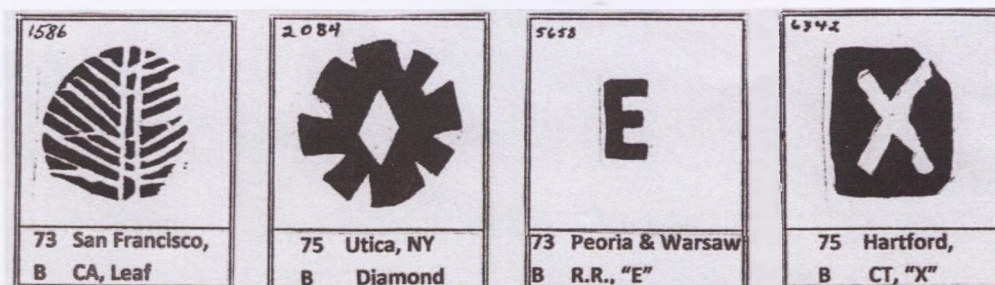


Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 3

The origin of Whitfield leaf cancel #1586 has been identified as San Francisco, California. It was struck in black ink. The cover shown in Figure 1 is dated August 12, 1877 and has a Philatelic Foundation certificate.

The Whitfield diamond cancel #2084 is from Utica, New York and is struck in blue ink. The postal card in Figure 2 was sent on May 25, 1878. The Utica postmaster at the time was Charles H. Hopkins, who served from March 7, 1867 to January 19, 1880. A very similar cancel was used by Boston on August 23, 1873. See Jim Cole's #GR-33 (Figure 3 here) on page 63 of his book *Cancellations*

and *Killers of the Banknote Era 1870-1894*.

The Whitfield "E" cancel #5658 was used by the Peoria & Warsaw Railroad. The "E" represents East-bound for the 108.8 mile trip from Warsaw, Illinois to Peoria, Illinois. See Figure 4.

The Whitfield "X" cancel #6342 is from Hartford, Connecticut struck in black ink on the Figure 5 Sc UX5 postmarked October 12, 1877. This cancel is also listed in Cole on page 290, as #LX-8. Postmaster John H. Burnham, who served from October 7, 1871 to March 9, 1881, used this cancel.


The Classic Cancel

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"running man"

Cancellation Varieties from Davenport, Iowa 1861-70

by Jim Petersen

Davenport, Iowa by 1860 had a population of 11,000 (+). The only other Iowa town on the Mississippi larger, by population, was Dubuque. Davenport would pass it by 1870 with a population in excess of 20,000. While Dubuque used only a couple of cancellation varieties during this time, Davenport had many types, especially so in 1863. This monograph will show some of these varieties.

There doesn't seem to be a correlation of cancellation types to postmaster appointments. Postmasters at this time were as follows:

Augustus F. Mast,
4/6/1853-4/4/1861
Charles H. Eldridge,
4/5/1861-3/7/1864
Edward Russell,
3/8/1864-10/5/1865
Addison Sanders,
10/6/1865-4/8/1869
Edward Russell,
4/9/1869-3/26/1885

While I don't have any information on Mast, there is a little available on the other three. Interestingly, all of these three served at various times on the *Davenport Gazette* newspaper. Eldridge's father, Duncan, was an early

postmaster of Davenport serving 2/13/1838-1/18/1844 and again 5/16/1849-12/27/1852. He also served under his son for a period of time as an assistant. Addison Sanders was a Civil War veteran. He was appointed, at the age of 38, a Lieutenant Colonel of the 16th Iowa Volunteer Infantry 11/14/1861. He was wounded severely 10/3/1862 at Corinth, Mississippi. He was missing in action and taken prisoner 7/22/1864 at Atlanta, Georgia. While recovering from his wounds he was placed in command of Camp McClellan at Davenport.

He would later receive Brevet ranks of Colonel and Brigadier General. He was given a disability discharge 3/24/1865. He would later move to Montana Territory to serve as Territorial Secretary (July 1870-January 1871) and would eventually return to Iowa, dying in 1912.

I'll present the cancellation varieties in as near a chronological order as I can. Because of the time frame (1860's), some will feature Civil War patriotic covers along with the cancellation variety. All illustrations are from full covers.

However, to save space, a number show only that portion bearing the CDS and cancel.

The first cover (Figure 1) is a Civil War patriotic with a 31mm DAVENPORT/Ioa./MAY/11/1861 CDS. The cancellation is listed by Skinner-Eno (S/E) as GE-R 2 (pg. 64) and by Whitfield (W) as 3811 (pg. 128). This cancel was used from September 1860 (possibly earlier) to at least January 1862. The May 11, 1861 date is very early for a Civil War patriotic from Iowa.

The next cover (Figure 2) shows a



Figure 1

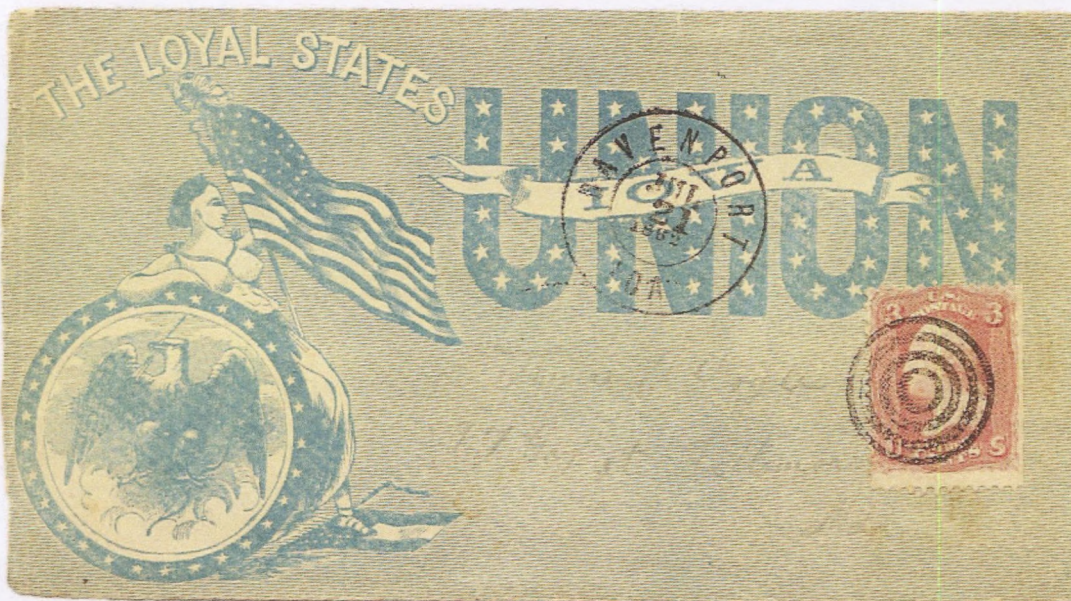


Figure 2

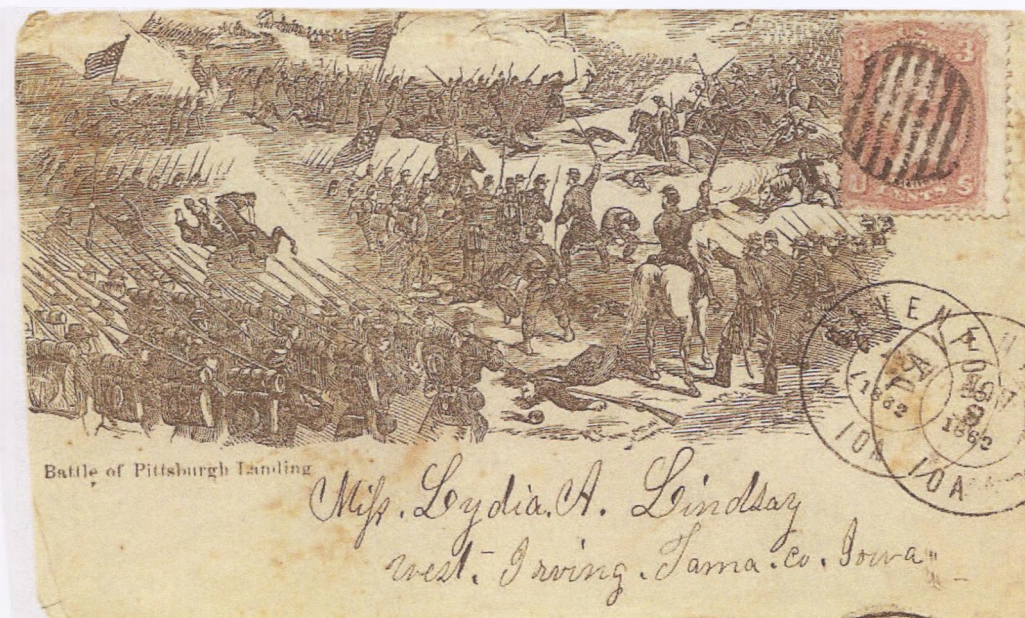


Figure 3



Figure 4

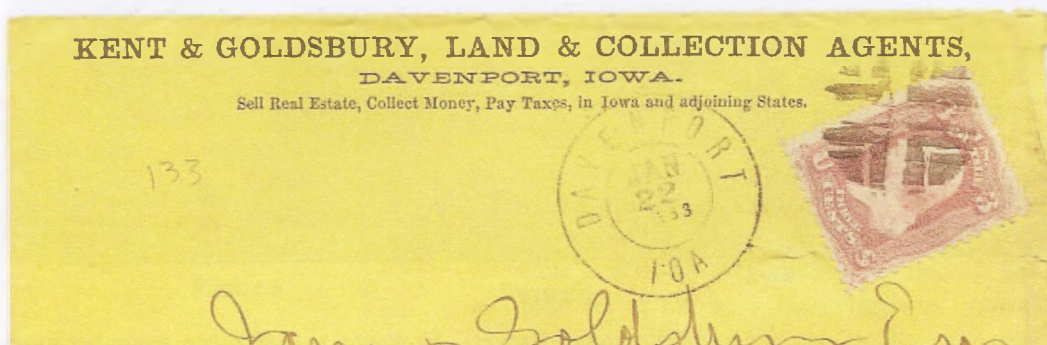


Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7

fairly common target killer on another Civil War patriotic with a 26mm double circle CDS (DCDS) reading DAVENPORT/IOA JUL/21/1862. The S/E number is SD-T 12 (pg. 34). I've seen this cancellation used from April 1862 to December 1862.

Figure 3 is yet another Civil War patriotic. It shows the same DCDS dated NOV/8/1862. Note that this is one month earlier than the latest date for the Figure 2 cover. It has a grid killer, S/E SD-G 71 (pg. 27), W 3979 (pg. 134). While this was a common killer in the 1860s, this is the only example I have from Davenport. The cover shows a battle scene from Pittsburgh Landing also known as Shiloh. The battle was fought April 6-7, 1862. Iowa had 11 regiments that fought at Shiloh and even some at the "Hornet's Nest."

1863 saw quite a few different cancellations used, some apparently monthly. The Figures 4 and 5 covers show the same DCDS as above, one dated JAN/20/1863, the other JAN/22/1863. The killers look similar, but I'm not sure that they are the same. I could not find a similar S/E or W listing. The Figure 4 cover was from Willie Guernsey, a son of the recipient. Willie enlisted as a private in Co. B of the 4th Iowa Cavalry at the age of 21 on November 10, 1861. He later transferred to Co. H 4th Iowa Cav. He was promoted to Second Sergeant. He re-enlisted December 11, 1863, was promoted to Second Lieutenant March 11, 1864, First Lieutenant No-



Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 10



Figure 11



Figure 12



Figure 13



Figure 14

vember 29, 1864 and was mustered out August 8, 1865 at Atlanta, GA.

The FEB/21/1862 DCDS cover (Figure 6) shows another killer for which I could find no S/E or W match. It appears to be a geometric design of some sort.

The Figure 7 DCDS cover is dated MAY/2/1863. The killer is listed in S/E as a grid SD-G 122 (pg. 31). I've only seen this one in blue. I've seen dates from May to July 1863.

The Figure 8 cover DCDS is dated JUL/29/1863. The killer appears to be a circle of wedges, but I could find no similar match in S/E or W. The recipient, Gideon Pitts, has an interesting history. Gideon Pitts was an abolitionist and at this time a friend of Frederick Douglass. His home was on the Underground Railroad aiding fugitive slaves to freedom. His daughter, Helen, went to Washington, DC to work on a feminist publication in 1882. She became a clerk in the office of Recorder of Deeds headed by Douglass. Douglass' wife had died in 1882 and in 1884 he and Helen were married. Not only was Helen white, she was 20 years younger than Douglass. She was quoted as saying "Love came to me, and I was not afraid to marry the man I loved because of his color." Douglass was quoted as saying "This proves I'm impartial. My first wife was the color of my mother and the second, the color of my father." Helen's family refused to speak to her after the marriage. The couple remained married until Douglass died in 1895.

The Figure 9 cover has a DCDS dated AUG/13/1863 with a geometric killer that I was unable to find a match for in S/E or W. It's the only ex-



Figure 15



Figure 16



Figure 17



Figure 18



Figure 19



Figure 20



Figure 21



Figure 22



Figure 23



Figure 24

ample I've seen and is in blue. Major Douglas Bushnell enlisted in the 13th Illinois Volunteer Regiment as a Major 12/29/1862. He was killed in action at the Battle of Ringgold Gap, Georgia on 11/27/1863, just a few months after this letter was posted.

The Figure 10 DCDS cover is dated AUG/22/1863. It's a shield listed in S/E as PS-S 7 (pg. 213) and in W as #1355 (pg. 47). I've only seen this one in blue.

The Figure 11 cover is dated SEP/28/1863. S/E lists it as LS-D 5 (pg. 284) and W as #5630 (pg. 190). I've only seen this in blue. It's interesting to note that the cover illustrated in S/E is also dated September 28.

The Figure 12 Civil War patriotic cover has a DCDS dated NOV/5/1863. It's also in blue. I could not find any "checkerboard" examples quite like it in S/E or W. I've seen a couple other examples dated in November.

The Figure 13 DCDS cover is dated MAR/7/1864. It's also in blue. I could not find similar examples in S/E or W. I also have what I believe to be an over inked copy of this on a Civil War patriotic dated in February 1864.

Figure 14 shows a DCDS cover dated JUN/12/1865. I'm not entirely certain of the year, but I believe it to be 1865. I'm also unsure as to how to describe the accompanying cancel. I could not find an example in S/E or W.

The Figure 15 DCDS is dated JUN/26/1865. The cancel appears to differ from that shown in Figure 14 above. Again, I'm not sure how to describe it. I found nothing similar in S/E or W.

The Figure 16 cover has a DCDS dated NOV/13/1865. The cancel appears to be a circle of wedges. I could not find a match in S/E or W. The enclosure is on stationery for the Agency for the

Security Insurance Company of New York City. It's signed by Daniel Hartwell who was writing to his uncle. Daniel did not come to Davenport until 1862.

The Figure 17 cover has a DCDS dated DEC/4/1865. The cancel appears to be a leaf, but I was unable to find an example in S/E or W.

The covers in the following group have no year date within the CDS (DCDS). Some have docketing to mark the year.

The Figure 18 cover has a DCDS dated DEC/16. The year is 1866 per docketing. The cancel is very similar to S/E GE-P 80 (pg. 63), but with a solid center.

The Figure 19 cover has a 24mm CDS dated JAN 28. The year is 1867 per docketing. The cancel is most like S/E CR-X 1 (pg. 83).

The Figure 20 cover also has a 24mm DAVENPORT/IOA CDS, this example is dated MAR/4. Since it's from the same correspondence as Figure 19, it may also be from 1867. The star is most like S/E ST-S 3 (pg. 85) and W 3262 (pg. 110). I've also seen another example to Phelps dated March 7.

Figure 21 has the same CDS as Figure 19. The date is APR/21 of an unknown year. The cancel is a small circle of wedges. I could not find a match in S/E or W.

Figure 22 has a CDS dated APR/29, with the year being 1867. I was unable to find the star-in-circle with center hole to match anything in S/E or W. The addressee is A.P. Wood of Dubuque Iowa. I have quite a few letters from many different towns in and out of Iowa going to Wood. It appears from his docketing notes, similar to those in the upper left on this cover, that he was trying to compile a book on Iowa soldiers in the Civil War.

The next three covers (Figures 23, 24 & 25) show what I believe to be the same cancel dating from November 1868 to March 1869



Figure 25



Figure 26



Figure 27



Figure 28

and they reflect the changes it went through. I'm not sure how to describe it other than some kind of blob. I could find nothing like it in S/E or W.

Figure 26 shows a cover with a JUL/10 CDS, with the year being 1869. The cancel appears to be some type of quartered cork killer, but I could not find a match in S/E or W. It appears to differ from the one in Figure 19. The recipient, C. (Charles) R. Riggs, had a distinguished career during and after the Civil War. He enlisted in Co. K of the 2nd Iowa Cavalry as a first Sergeant on August 24, 1861. He was taken prisoner August 26, 1862 at Rienzi, Mississippi and returned to the unit September 10, 1862. He later became Orderly Sergeant in Co. L 2nd Iowa Cav. He was discharged August 26, 1863 from Co. L of the 2nd Iowa Cavalry for promotion to the rank of Captain of Co. K of the 61st (Colored) Regiment. He remained in the south for several years after the war, purchasing property near Sunflower Landing, Tennessee. He then returned to Iowa with his wife, Jeannette, eventually moving to a farm near Sioux City in 1881.

Figure 27 has an OCT/27 CDS (possibly year date 1869) with a 3-cent pictorial issue of 1869 stamp. The cancel is another circle of wedges that appears to be larger



Figure 29

than the one shown in Figure 21. This one is also addressed to Charles Riggs.

The two covers Figures 28 and 29 are dated MAR/26 (1870) and JUL/1 (most likely 1870.) Each has a circle of V's killer. They may be the same cancel, but the V's in the Jul 1 cancel are distinctly thicker than the Mar 26 cancel which may be due to pressure on the handstamp. I could not find similar examples in S/E or W.

There are other cancels from Davenport from this decade, but I have none to illustrate here. They can be found in Skinner-Eno and Whitfield. Comments on the above or additional information will be welcomed.

Noted in Passing

by Roger D. Curran



Figure 1A



Figure 1B

Mount Vernon, Washington used a wheel-of-fortune cancel before and after statehood which began on November 11, 1889 – see Figure 1. A simple operation to cut away the “TER.” from the rubber face was all that was needed to update the handstamp. The Mount Vernon postmaster was, of course, by no means the only postmaster to do this sort of thing. Mount Vernon is an operating post office in Skagit Co. established in 1877. Its population in 1890 was 770. Can any reader narrow the time between statehood and when the postmark without “TER.” appeared? One supposes the change was made quickly.

In his book on the Sc 210 stamp, Edward Willard illustrated the cancel shown here as Figure 2 and said this about it, in part:

“For years, we pondered the Y in a circle and nine horizontal bars. The ink used here is characteristic in that it is blue-black and one might, almost say blue.”¹

I am interested in ellipse cancels in colored inks and have therefore been drawn to this cancel. However, I agree with the thrust of Willard’s remark that the ink is not technically blue. I’d describe it as dark grey with a bluish cast.

Figures 3 and 4 show 9/12/84 and 11/8/85 examples. The two strikes involve two different handstamps. The most notable difference is that of the diameters of the two CDS circles. The ellipse circles are very similar to one another although the 1884 “Y” is considerably larger than is the 1885.

The reason for the “Y” can be explained. From May 7, 1875 to September 9, 1885 the Wernersville postmaster was an Andrew M. Yonge. His replacement who began on September 10, 1885 was a James W. Deppen. We see that Deppen



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6

continued to use the “Y” canceler for at least two months after his appointment. If readers know of later uses of the “Y” canceler, or what cancel replaced the “Y,” please contact the *NEWS*. Information on the canceler that may have just preceded the “Y” ellipse is shown in Figures 5 and 6. The ink used for these cancels is similar to that for the “Y” ellipses but with a little more blue. Instead of a “Y” in the ellipse circle there is a void in that space and, of course, the CDS involves a double circle rather than a single circle. Wernersville is an operating post office established in Berks Co. in 1853. The town’s population in 1890 was 1,009.

Figure 7 shows an unusual cancel. The “8” and circle are complete and well inked. What surrounds it is just the opposite – lightly struck and incomplete. It appears to be a horizontal bars ellipse that may or may not have a solid barrel in the

middle. The “8” is quite large for ellipse numbers. One can theorize a strike from an ellipse canceler where a disc with the number and circle would be screwed in to the canceler face and, in this case, the disc was not screwed in completely. But does any reader know of 19th century ellipse cancelers with that construction? Comments and additional information will be welcomed.



Figure 7

¹Willard, Edward L. *The United States Two Cent Red Brown of 1883-1887*, Volume 2, H. Lindquist Publications, Inc. New York (1970), pp. 157-8.