



U.S. Cancellation Club **NEWS**

Vol. 35, No. 3, Whole No. 310, August 2019



In the previous issue of the NEWS, Merritt Jenkins presented a 1894 Naperville, Illinois 'Mask' on a Scott 220 cover. That reminded John Valenti of the same killer on a 1-cent Columbian cover that was once in his stock, seen here. John has more to say on page 78.

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The Official Journal of the United States Cancellation Club



The United States Cancellation Club NEWS

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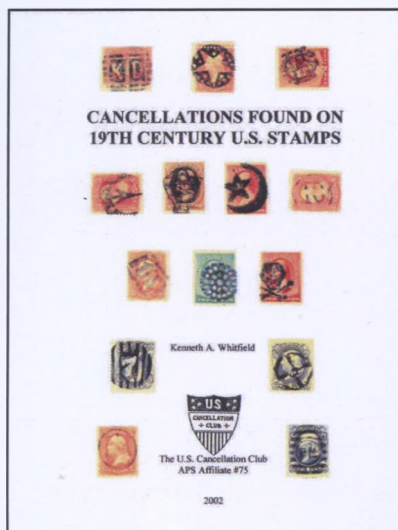
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U.S. CANCELLATION CLUB PUBLICATIONS



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

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Cancellations Found on 19th Century U. S. Stamps, by Kenneth A. Whitfield. With more than 6,000 tracings, this book is an invaluable supplement to the Skinner-Eno and Cole volumes. Includes the latest Whitfield update. \$50 postpaid to U.S. addresses. For Whitfield update pages only, \$8 post paid.

Checks made out to U.S.C.C. should be sent to Roger Curran,
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Folded Letters and 19th Century Filing Systems

Ardy Callender

Prior to the development of envelopes in the 1840's, most correspondence was written on folded sheets of paper which are commonly known in philately as "folded letters". The content was typically written on right portion of the sheet which was then folded in half (with the correspondence inside). Next it was folded in thirds with sealing wax used to secure the two flaps together on the reverse. A single sheet of paper was most commonly employed as postal rates were based not only on distance but also on the number of sheets of paper. Before the introduction of adhesives in 1847, folded letters were sent stampless, either paid or unpaid. With the advent of the 1847 Issues, folded letters could now be sent prepaid. Folded letters were eventually replaced in the 1870's as mass produced envelopes were easier to use, inexpensive and readily available.

Often encountered on folded letters are horizontal or vertical folds that don't correspond to the original folds used in fabricating the letter, as seen in Figure 1. Are these mistakes in original assembly of the letter? If not then, what purpose do these folds serve?

In philatelic literature these folds are known as "file fold lines". These file folds are actually the result of the system regularly used by 19th century businesses to organize their correspondence. Folded letters collected from the post office were opened, read and if important, refolded lengthwise either in thirds or quarters. Usually at the top of the refolded letter reference is made to the sender, date and any other pertinent information. Then, as seen in Figure 2, appropriate groups (by company, month, type of product, etc.) were banded together with the applicable information at the top. This system was employed before the first appearance of filing cabinets and each group was probably placed in orderly piles. Clerks could thumb through the top of each group to reference the appropriate piece of correspondence. At a later date, philatelists refolded the letters into their original design, now with "file fold lines".

As the common practice in the day was to save the correspondence and remove the addressed portion of folded letters, many outer half of the folded letters remain separated from the correspondence portions. Unfortunately most early post offices did not place year dates within their datestamps so that many outer halves have little year date information. The placement of information (date and sender information) on the backflap from this early filing system is extremely helpful to present day postal historians in dating folded letters. ■



Figure 1

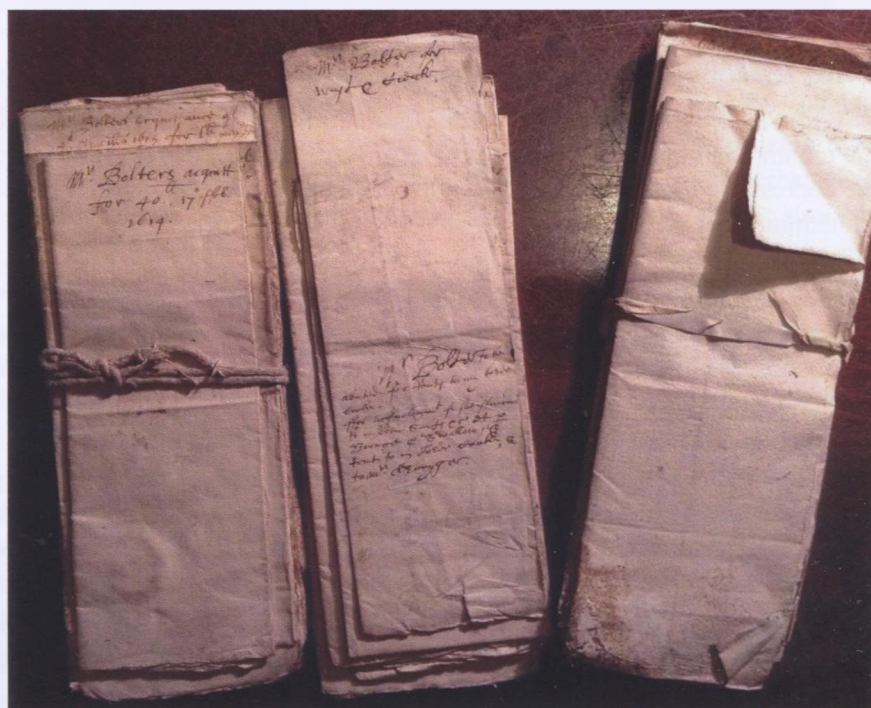


Figure 2

A New Calais, Maine Killer and an Intriguing Civil War Career

Robert L. Conley

Illustrated in Figure 1 is a cover from Calais, Maine, addressed to a Union officer in Shreveport, Louisiana. Calais (pronounced to rhyme with 'palace') sits across the St. Croix River from the city of Saint Stephen, New Brunswick, Canada, and with an 1860 population of 5,621, Calais remains the largest settlement in Washington county, the nation's eastern-most county.¹

The cover has been twice-struck by a killer of weak or indefinite impression. Overlapping tracings of each of the two strikes, less the interference from the CDS on the 1-cent stamp, is shown in Figure 2. Although rather worn, it is pretty clear that the killer is a simple negative cross with rounded ends, adorned at least in its lower-left with a 'y'. This killer is hitherto unreported.



Figure 1. A twice-struck Civil War-era letter franked with Scott 63 & 73, destined for a Union captain in Shreveport, Louisiana.



Figure 2. Two overlapping tracings.

While the killer is perhaps of some passing interest, my attention turns to the 'bigger picture'. The CDS shows only the month and day; January 17 – how can we determine the year this letter was posted? The obvious place to start is the addressee's regiment and location, but a hunch made me focus on the addressee himself – I had a feeling there was something more to this cover.

I interpreted the addressee's last name to be 'Ginny' or similar. I could not find such an officer in the 80th US Colored Infantry Regiment or anyone with a similar name hailing from Calais, and I was stymied in my investigations for several months. Eventually I had the notion to ask local Civil War author and historian, Brian Swartz for his opinion. This idea paid handsome dividends: Brian identified the addressee as Captain Moses W. Young! With the addressee's identity now known, I could dig deeper and see if there really was a hidden story behind this cover. If nothing else, I could now find this officer's portrait, shown in Figure 3.²

Moses W. Young was born in 1839 in Dixmont, Maine³, even today a delightful little hamlet, about 25 miles southwest of Bangor. His parents seemed to have a bent for drifting slowly northward from southern Maine and the family settled in and around Bangor circa 1848⁴ before moving, finally, to Calais in about 1855. But as we will see later, Moses and his older brother, Edwin, remained in the Bangor area for a few more years yet.

In Calais, on June 4, 1861, Moses Young enlisted as a private in the 3rd Maine Infantry Regiment.⁵ But, our addressee is a captain – in a different regiment. Now it gets interesting – by Special Order of the War Department, Private Young is mustered out of the 3rd Maine Infantry on September 23, 1861.⁶ This is an extremely unusual event – the army doesn't make a habit of happily releasing able-bodied men!⁷ How did this happen?

The next fact to be uncovered was that Moses Young is suddenly a student of Waterville (now Colby) College!⁸ He studies there for two years whereupon he enlists as an officer in the 8th Corps d'Afrique Infantry Regiment⁹ which was later reorganized into the 80th US Colored Infantry Regiment.^{10,11}

So how did Moses W. Young enlist as a private in the earliest days of the war but get released to study in the safety of a college in central Maine, only to be commissioned as an officer once all the fighting was nearly done? Perhaps someone high up intervened on his behalf.

Enter one Hannibal Hamlin. Serving as vice-president during Abraham Lincoln's first term, Hamlin, pictured in Figure 4¹² was a Maine native and, before the war, resident in Hampden and later, neighboring Bangor.¹³ Hamlin's two eldest sons served – the younger of the two, Cyrus, seen in Figure 5¹⁴, was born in Hampden in 1839¹⁵, the same year as Moses Young.

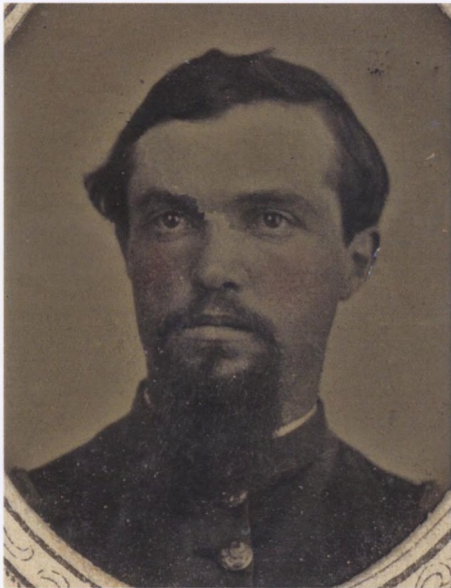


Figure 3. Captain Moses W. Young.

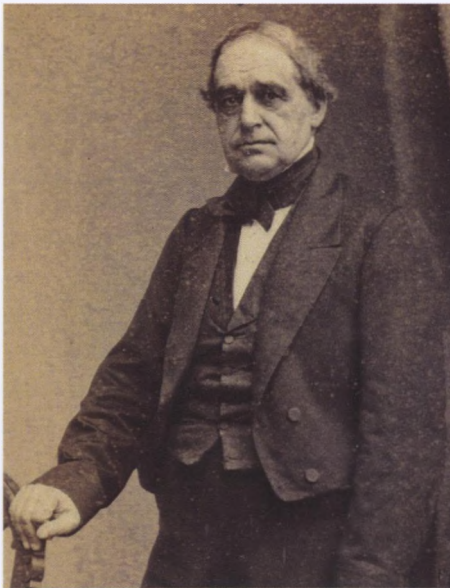


Figure 4. Hannibal Hamlin.



Figure 5. Brigadier Cyrus Hamlin.

In the late 1850s, after Young's parents and younger siblings had moved to Calais, Cyrus Hamlin attended Hampden Academy (high school), as did Moses' brother, Edwin.¹⁶ There is no way of knowing, but perhaps the two Young brothers boarded with the Hamlin family in Hampden (given that their parents and siblings had since moved to Calais).

Thereafter, Cyrus Hamlin studied at Waterville College, just as Moses did. Cyrus was a leading proponent for the use of colored troops in the war.¹⁷ In fact, at the end of the war, Colonel Cyrus Hamlin, commanded the 1,352 officers and men of the 80th US Colored Infantry Regiment.¹⁸ And here we have Moses W. Young as one of his officers! The vice-president's son and Moses Young clearly knew each other from at least their high school days – were perhaps best friends! Did the vice-president arrange for this unusual act of kindness by the US Army? We don't know for sure, but the evidence sure points that way.

Now, back to the cover. Young's regiment served throughout Louisiana from April 1864 and it was in Shreveport from about June 1865 until January 1, 1866. Thereafter, the regiment served in various places in Texas until mustered out in March 1867.¹⁹ This cover must have been mailed on January 17, 1866, nine months after Lincoln's assassination, destined for Shreveport, which Young and his regiment had left, at least officially, just weeks before. Interestingly, there are no redirection markings, so presumably Captain Young got his letter without too much difficulty.

That tells us something of the charmed life of Captain Moses Young during the Civil War, but whatever happened to his older brother, Edwin? His short story is almost too incredible to be true – in 1860, he was the assistant postmaster at Calais,²⁰ a position he re-occupied at some time after the war, but certainly by 1870.²¹ It is quite probable that he was assistant postmaster as early as January 1866, and the 'y' in the corner of the killer is in reference to Edwin Young, brother of the addressee in Louisiana!

Sometimes a rather common-looking cover and a hunch can take you down quite a winding and interesting path.

Many thanks are due to Brian Swartz without whom this story could never have been told. ■

{Continued on page 69}

Solid Center or "Black Ball" Ellipses (Part I)

Ardy Callender

The diversity of ellipse cancellations offers collectors many avenues of pursuit. Of particular interest to the author is a group of cancellations which possesses a solid center inside the horizontal bars of the ellipse. A number of these ellipses can also be found with a colorless or negative letter inside of the blackened central core. Referred to as "black ball" ellipses, they occur struck on domestic and foreign mail (duplex handstamps) as well as on circular/printed matter (simplex obliterations).

Solid centered and negative letter types are commonly seen with a thin colorless ring between the outer ring and the central core as shown in Figure 1. A possible reason for the colorless ring could be found in the design of the ellipse. It is usually assumed that most duplex handstamps possess datestamps with removable/interchangeable date slugs while the obliterator (ellipse) was made of a single piece. However, a number of "open" ellipses, an example of which is seen in Figure 2, are known – suggesting the possibility of interchangeable centers within the ellipses themselves.

In fact, interchangeable ellipse elements were discussed by Gilbert M. Burr in his 1935 article entitled "Standardized Hand Stamp Cancellations on the Bank Note Issues"¹. He states that: "I have never been able to tell positively whether or not these numerals and letters (inside ellipse) were interchangeable or not, and at one time I did believe that they were a solid piece, but now I am not so sure about it."

It is speculated here that handstamp makers provided some post offices a "universal" device with a hollow central area in which postmasters could "customize" by placing different initials, numbers, cut corks or even "black ball" elements within their handstamps. The elements would be held in place by a set screw similar to the system used in holding date slugs within the datestamp. The margins surrounding the hollow interior would result in an outer ring around the open central area, seen in Figure 2. As lettered or numbered slugs would have enough white space surrounding the central components, only the outer ring would be visible as illustrated in Figure 3. A completely solid insert would not quite border on the outer ring resulting in a thin colorless area between central core and the outer ring.

To start us off, characteristics of all solid ellipses are compiled in Table 1. Table 2 summarizes colorless or negative letter ellipses.

Solid Centered Ellipses

A solid centered ellipse is shown as Figure 4. The postal card addressed to Budapest, Hungary is dated 17 August 1878. The 2¢ 1875 Bank Note Issue overpays the UPU postal card rate and is cancelled by a "black ball" ellipse from Camden, New Jersey. It appears as if the cancellation is not duplexed due to the errant orientation of the ellipse in relation to the datestamp. However, ellipse elements often rotate during use resulting in the asymmetrical locations. Other examples of what Burr refers to as "cock eyed" ellipses are found with solid centers². Close inspection of the central core reveals the presence of a thin colorless ring just inside the outer margin.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

An unsealed light orange entire is shown as Figure 5. Sent at the circular rate, it is addressed to Rev. E. Leonard of Morris, Connecticut. The manuscript at left indicates a year date of 1878. The origin of the entire is unknown although the ellipse is very similar to the 9-bar Camden ellipse shown above. A colorless ring is present just inside the outer margin and the ink in the central core is unevenly struck.

Marginally Enclosed "Black Ball" Ellipses

Figure 6 is a tracing of a solid ellipse taken from Cole's 1995 book³. What makes this "black ball" ellipse so distinctive is the presence of peripheral line that completely surrounds the bars of the cancel. Very few ellipses of any type are recorded with an outer line surrounding the bars. Cole's tracing lacks the colorless area just inside of the outer ring observed on the previously mentioned ellipses. Used in at least four cities, it has been found struck on both domestic

Ellipse Type	M a r g i n a l Line	Colorless Ring	Number of Rings	Core Size (mm)	Origin
9 Bar		yes		12	Camden, NJ
9 Bar	yes			12	New Haven, CT
9 Bar	yes			12	Wilkes Barre, PA
9 Bar	yes			12	York, PA
Barrel - 4 Bar		yes	1	6	Scranton, PA
Barrel - 4 Bar		yes	1	7	Terre Haute, IN
Barrel - 4 Bar		yes	1	8	Allentown, PA
Barrel - 4 Bar		yes	1	8	Bay City, MI
Barrel - 4 Bar		yes	1	10	Providence, RI
Barrel - 4 Bar		yes	2	5.5	? Burr, Fig. 61, #2
Barrel - 4 Bar		yes	2	6	Keene, NH
Barrel - 4 Bar		yes	2	6	Muskegon, MI
Barrel - 4 Bar		yes	2	7	Elgin, IL
Barrel - 4 Bar		yes	3	5	Elgin, IL
Barrel - 4 Bar		yes	4	5	Kansas City, MO
Notched Barrel		yes	1	2	Amsterdam, NY
Notched Barrel		yes	1	4	Denison, TX
Notched Barrel		yes	1	4	Houston, TX
Notched Barrel		yes	1	4	Waco, TX
Notched Barrel		yes	1	5	Easton, PA
Notched Barrel		yes	1	?	Middletown, CT
Notched Barrel		yes	1	5	Moline, IL
Notched Barrel		yes	1	5	Ottumwa, IA
Notched Barrel		yes	1	5	Painesville, OH
Notched Barrel		yes	1	5	Schenectady, NY
Notched Barrel		yes	1	6	? Burr, Fig. 63, #3
11 Bar		yes	1	5	Auburndale, OH

Table 1

and foreign mail (duplexed) as well as circular/printed matter rate material (simplex). Cole reports this cancel used from Wilkes Barre, and York, Pennsylvania and lists it as EL-143⁴. He provides no other information regarding its use other than a date of 27 July 1887. Examples from these two cities have not been examined on cover by the author.

An example of the above cancellation from New Haven, CT is shown as Figure 7. A local (drop) rate usage, the somewhat dingy cover is addressed in pencil to Mr. J. B. Pallori, Box 632, New Haven. It is franked with a 2¢ 1875 Bank Note Issue adhesive cancelled by an angled or “cock eyed” strike of the “black ball” ellipse at bottom. A second strike captures the datestamp (duplex) which indicates the letter was posted 19 April at 11PM. Careful examination of the central area indicates the colorless ring is absent.

A circular rate example of Cole’s type EL-143 is shown as Figure 8. The unsealed envelope is franked with a 1¢ 1873 Continental Bank Note Issue addressed to Andrew Richmond, Esq., Evanston Illinois. The origin is unknown. The docket at right indicates a

Negative Letter	Origin
B	New Brunswick, MA
B (thick)	Brockton, MA
C	unknown
E	Elizabeth, NJ
G	unknown
H	unknown
M	Marblehead, MA
N	Newton, MA
O	Jersey City, NJ
S	New Haven, CT
W	Camden, NJ
Symbol (see Fig.48)	unknown

Table 2



Figure 4

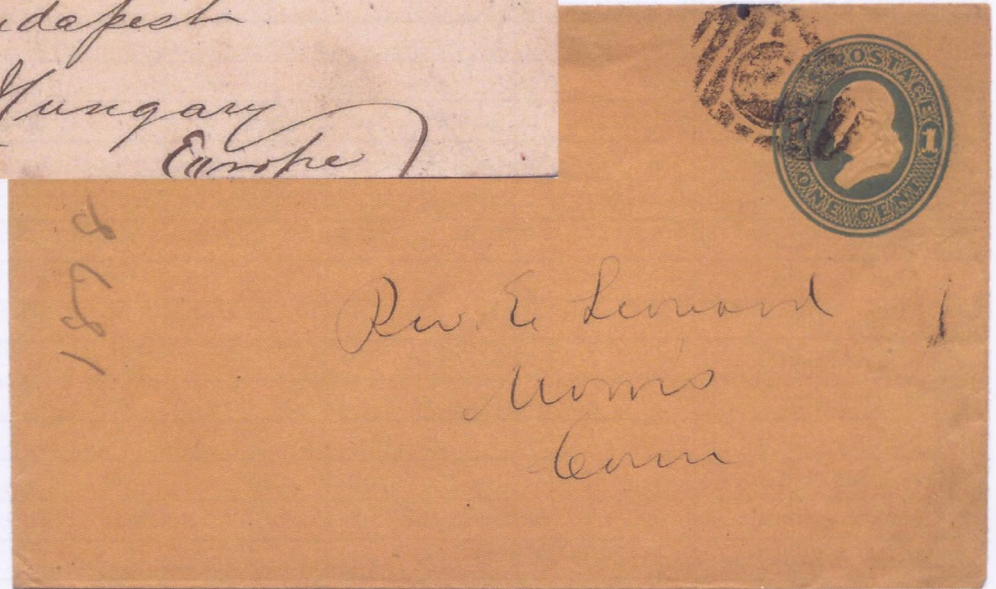


Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7

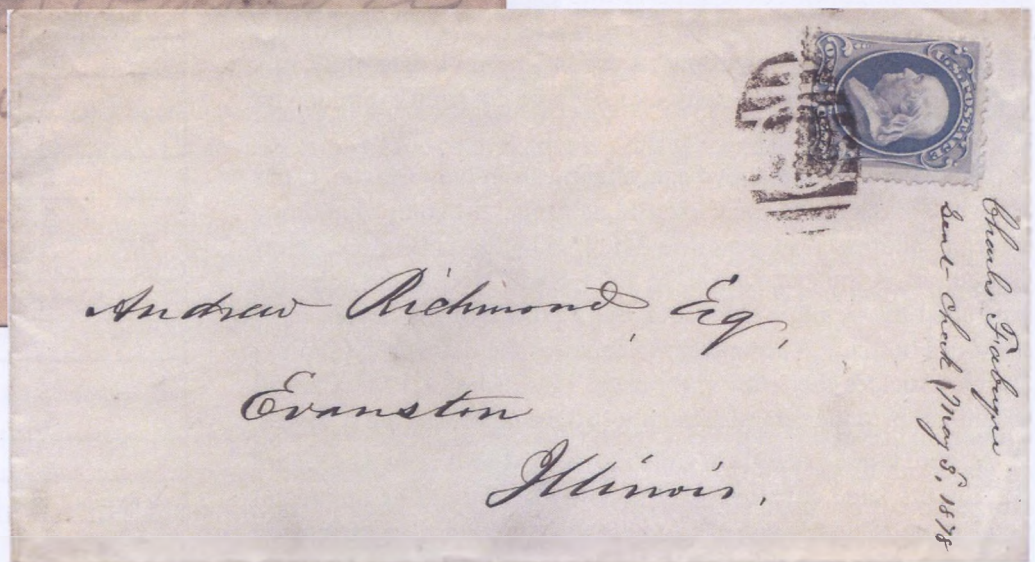


Figure 8

check was returned to Charles Fabuger on 5 May 1878. The adhesive was applied sideways facing upwards and is cancelled at bottom by a marginally lined "black ball" ellipse. Inspection of central core indicates the colorless ring is missing.

All previously discussed marginally enclosed solid ellipses lack a colorless ring surrounding the interior core. An example which does possess the colorless ring is shown as Figure 9. This figure was taken from Gilbert M. Burr's article published in *The American Philatelist*⁵. Burr attributed the cancellation to Camden, New Jersey but also mentioned he had received information from a Mr. Fred G. Floyd who was aware of the "same type of cancel from Portland, Maine". Unfortunately, I have never seen an example from either city. However, the light orange entire shown above as Figure 5 (presumably from Camden), could explain Burr's reporting of an encircled ellipse. The colorless ring can be easily identified around the left side of the inner core. What appears to be an outer peripheral line can be seen partially at the top, along the right side and at bottom left of the ellipse. The appearance of the line could be derived from the angle of the strike, resulting in over-inking at the margin of the cancel. The horizontal bars along most of the left side of the ellipse do not show any sign of a marginal ring. Therefore, until a better strike is available, Figure 5 is not included within the marginally enclosed ellipse group. The author has yet to find a marginally lined ellipse with a colorless ring surrounding the core as figured by Burr.



Figure 9

Notes

1. Burr, Gilbert M., "Standardized Hand Stamp Cancellations on the Bank Note Issues", *The American Philatelist*, 1935, p. 619.
2. *ibid.*, p. 620.
3. Cole, James, M, *Cancellations and Killers of the Banknote Era, 1870-1894*, The U.S. Classics Society, Inc., 1995, p. 324.
4. *ibid.*, p. 324.
5. Burr, *op. cit.*, p. 620.

End of Part I.

A New Calais, Maine Killer and an Intriguing Civil War Career

{Continued from page 65}

Notes

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2. Maine State Archives (https://digitalmaine.com/arc_civilwarportraits/1911/). Accessed April 5, 2019.
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4. Maine, Death Records, 1761-1922, Vital Records; Roll Number: 3, published by Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010, Provo, UT. Accessed May 13, 2019.
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6. Email correspondence with Brian Swartz, April 4, 2019.
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16. Hampden Historical Society - telephone discussion May 4, 2019
17. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyrus_Hamlin_\(general\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyrus_Hamlin_(general)), accessed May 7, 2019.
18. https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/search-soldiers.htm#sort=Last_Name+asc,First_Name+asc&q=%2280th+Regiment,+United+States+Colored+Infantry%22. Accessed May 2, 2019.
19. <http://www.civilwararchive.com/Unreght/uncolinf3.htm#80>, Accessed March 6, 2019.
20. 1860 United States Federal Census; Calais Ward 3, Washington, Maine; Roll: M653_454; Page: 145; FHL microfilm: 803454, published by Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009, Provo, UT.
21. 1870 United States Federal Census Calais Ward 4, Washington, Maine; Roll: M593_562; Page: 93A; FHL microfilm: 552061, published by Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009, Provo, UT.

Observations on the Oval & Circular Date Stamps Used in Worcester, Massachusetts (Part I)

Bob Trachimowicz

This article showcases the results of some 45 years of research into Oval and Circular Date Stamps used in Worcester, Massachusetts before 1900.

Along with a short history of the development of the original Worcester Oval and Circular Date Stamp "S" Number List, it contains an expanded, corrected and updated List and descriptions of all currently known Worcester "S" Numbers, including an image of each style.

The List includes all Major "S" Numbers, but it does not expand on minor variations of individual "S" Number styles. These slight variations can be found in the layout and orientation of letters near the rims of multiple canceling devices produced for a given cancel Style. Further, the List does not include entries from Stations of Worcester, such as Quinsigamond, Barbers, Greendale and Lakeview, nor does it cover Registry markings.

Several decades ago, the late Dr. David J Simmons and I began corresponding about Worcester's postal history. David had developed a List of Circular Date Stamps (CDSs), plus one Oval Date Stamp (ODS), that had been used in Worcester on "First Class" Mail during the era that begins when Manuscript/Straight Line Markings were discontinued (ca 1790) and continued some 100 years to the beginning and early use of Machine Cancels (1892-1894).

David assigned an "S" (Simmons) Number to each ODS/CDS that he had identified. In my articles in the February, 2019 and May, 2019, issues of the USCC NEWS, I referenced two of those "S" Numbers to conveniently differentiate between the two CDS styles that I was describing. However, because this article expands and updates David's original "S" Number List, the "S" Numbers that I referenced in my recent articles on the Worcester Turner Cancels require correction. Previously identified Style S-11 is now Style S-22 and previously identified Style S-12 is now Style S-23.

David used two major sources in compiling his original "S" Number List – they were the American Stampless Cover Catalog (ASCC), and holdings from his collection. David was of the opinion that the ASCC was long on information but short on illustrations, which he felt led to ambiguities. Accordingly, he did not try to rationalize every entry for Worcester in the ASCC with a corresponding "S" Number. However, while assigning "S" Numbers to the different Worcester CDS Styles that he could validate from his collection, David realized that there might be some additional Worcester CDS Styles for which he had not yet assigned an "S" Number. This proved to be an astute assessment.

It was never really intended for David's original Worcester CDS "S" Number List to be the definitive work on the subject. To the contrary, we used it basically as an aid to our discussions when we wrote to each other. Although we made several comments and notations over time to expand the List to include new finds, it did not undergo a significant revision until I began this article. To develop this expanded, updated List, I reviewed my Worcester collection and identified examples of folded letters, covers and postal cards to fill in the gaps in the List and documented examples of CDSs that had not been already assigned an "S" Number.

Following is a brief description of each of the "S" Numbers in my expanded, updated List. Information shown includes Size, approximate Dates of Use and reported Ink Colors. Some illustrations show interesting markings, rates or killers that were associated with corresponding "S" Numbers. Very minor variations in the spacing or characteristics of the non-movable City and State letters in a CDS Style, or minor variations in the style of fonts of the changeable Day, Month and Year slugs for a CDS Style, or inverted Day, Month or Year Slugs were not considered as a factor in establishing CDS "S" Numbers in this new List. For example, Style S-22 has been identified as having at least three discernable varieties. However, the presence or absence of a Year Slug in a CDS does constitute a new CDS Style for this List.

As will be seen from the illustrations, CDS layouts usually included Month and Date slugs but do not always incorporate a Year Slug. Accordingly, for those "S" Numbers Styles that do not have Year Slugs, Dates of Use are often not easily determined. To determine the approximate Dates of Use, I relied, where I could, on dated enclosures, annotations and other docketing markings from items in my collection, as well as previously published data.

I welcome any and all comments from USCC Members that clarify and/or expand on any data noted below, especially Dates of Use.

Style S-1

31mm x 25mm

1790s-1830s

Black, Red, Blue

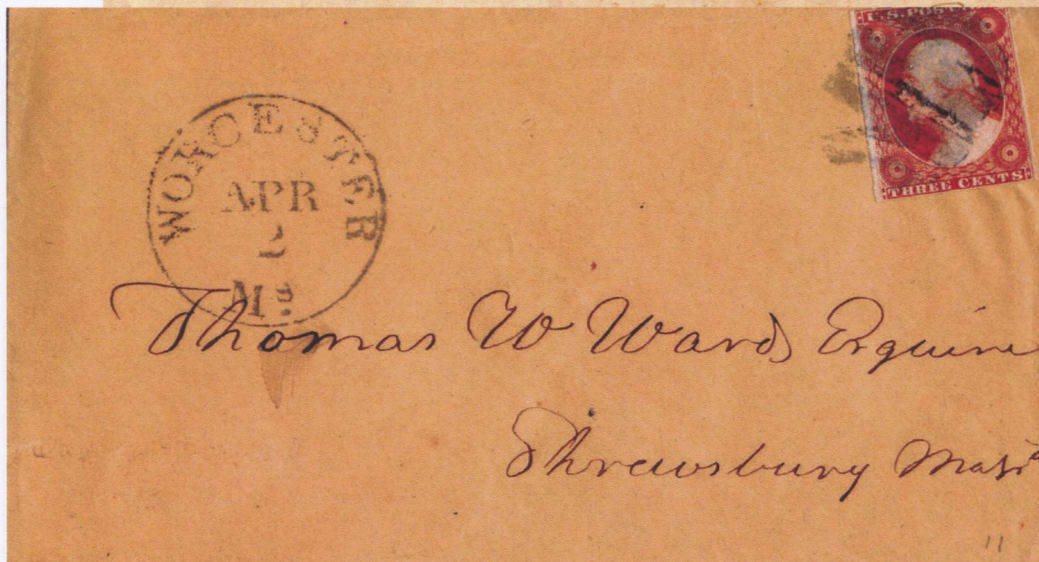


Style S-2

30mm

1820s-1850s

Black, Red, Blue



Style S-3

30mm

1830s

Red



Style S-4

29mm

1830s

Red

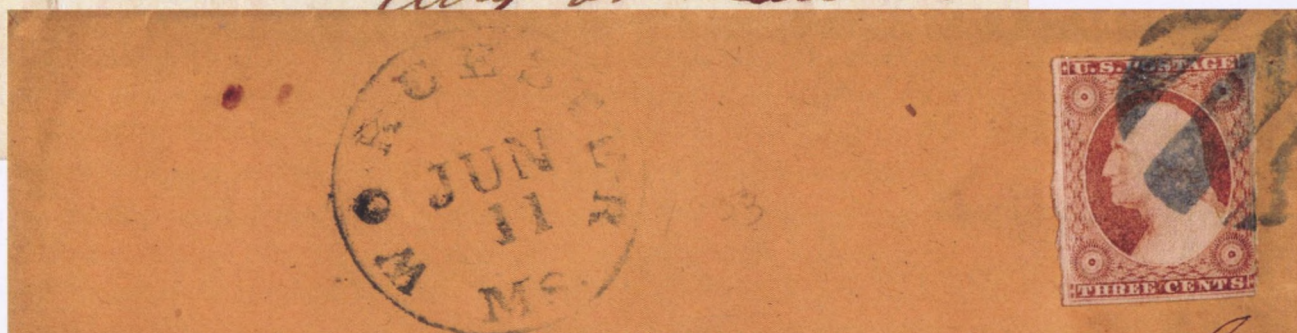
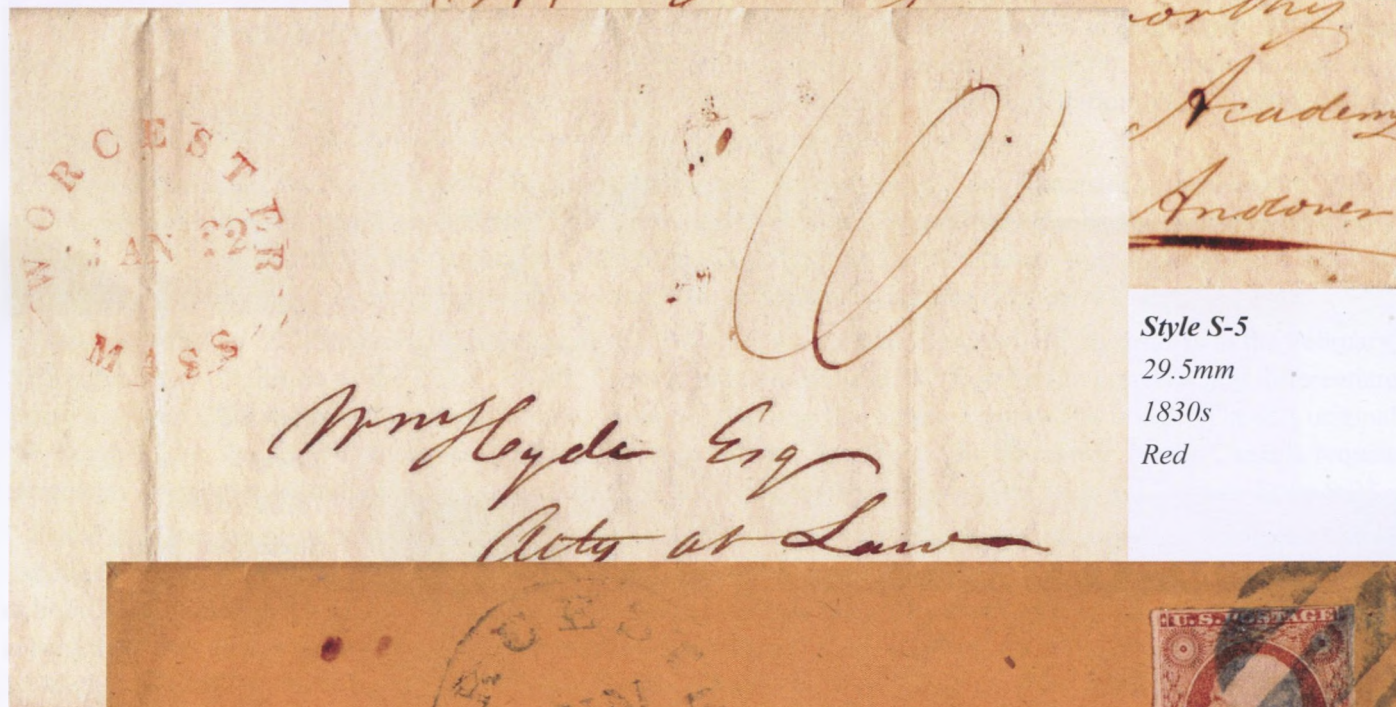


Style S-5

29.5mm

1830s

Red



Style S-6

32mm

1849-1856

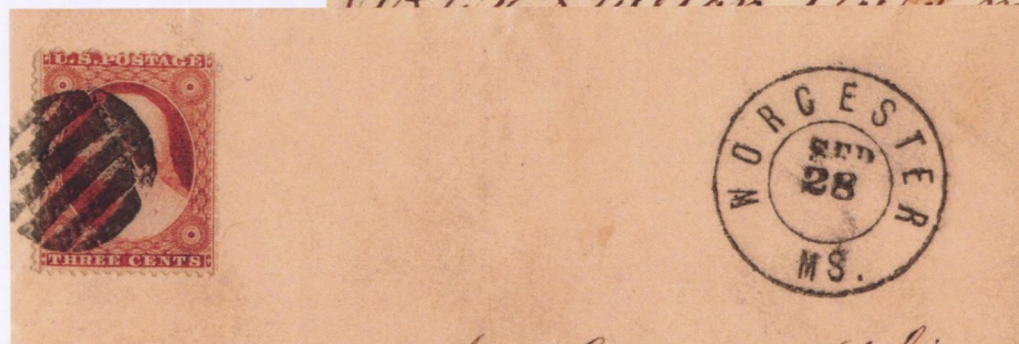
Black, Red, Blue



Style S-7
33mm
ca 1850
Black



Style S-8
32mm
1850s-1860s
Black



Style S-9
26mm/14mm
1850s-1860s
Black



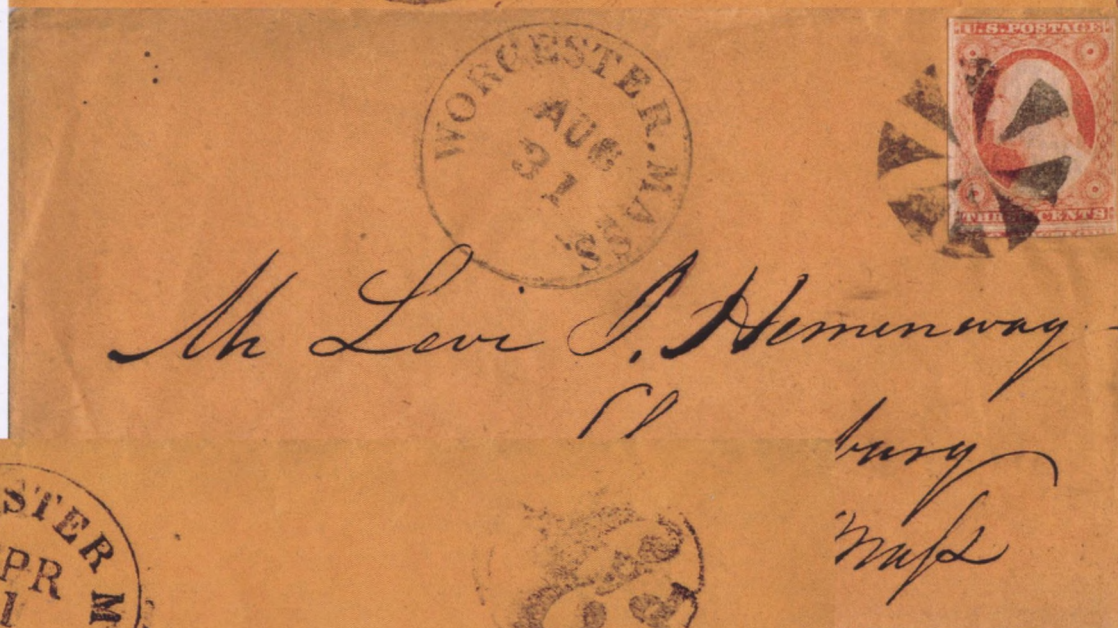
Style S-10
30mm
1853-1862
Black, Blue

Style S-11

32mm

1854-1855

Black

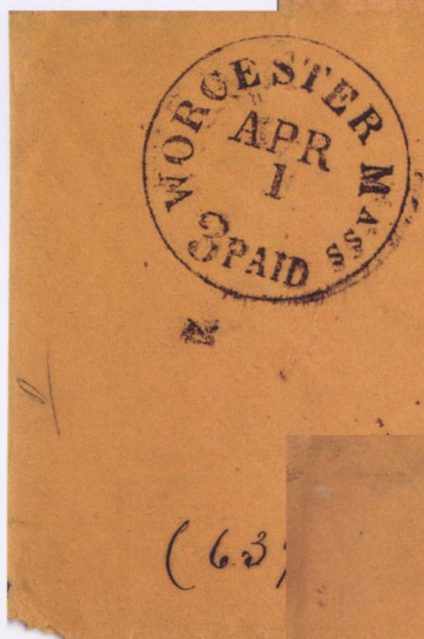


Style S-12

32mm

ca 1855

Black



Style S-13

32.5mm

ca 1855

Black



End of Part I.

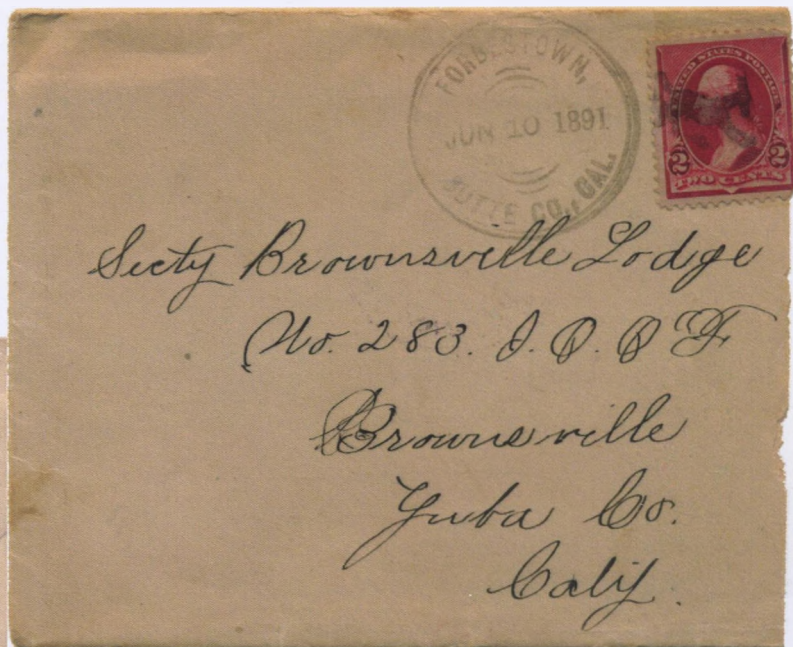
Cancellations on the 2¢ Issue of 1890 (Part II)

Merritt Jenkins

Forbestown, in Butte county, California was one of only five Post Offices known to use the "Kicking Mule." Cole's *Cancellations & Killers of the Banknote Era 1870-1894* classifies this duplexed killer as AN-11 and notes a very long usage period at Forbestown – from March 1882 until September 1892. The cover illustrated here is addressed in the same hand, to the same addressee, as the example Cole shows on page 155 of his book.

I should point out that the "Mule" illustrated is closer to the date stamp than normal. The normal distance is about 4mm. When I purchased this cover the stamp was at the correct distance but hanging about 2mm off the right edge of the envelope. Damage to the perforations was evident. I soaked off the stamp and moved it approximately 2mm to the left to prevent further damage.

Of some passing interest, the reverse of the Forbestown cover shows two duplexed back stamps: the earliest is a blue Maltese Cross from Clipper Mills, CA and the second is a purple, negative Star-in-Circle from Brownsville, CA.



Front and reverse of a Forbestown, CA, kicking mule, 6/10/1891.



Here are a few more fancies, the first three of which appear to be unreported. The cross and four circles originated in Lancaster, Texas, and is reported by Cole as GE-118.



Heart



Heart within a Heart



Union Jack?



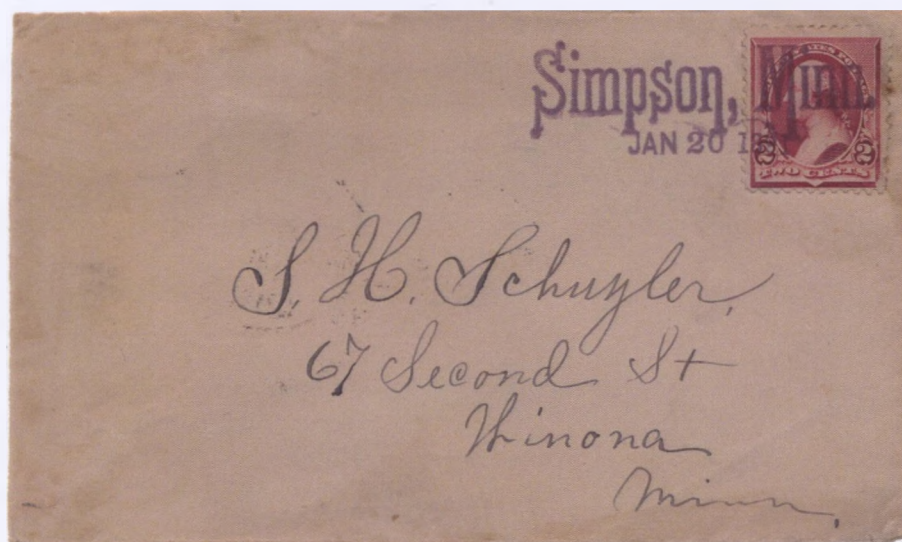
Cross and Four Circles

The next item is my "What the heck is this?" cover. It is dated May 13, [1890] at Bernardston, Massachusetts. Sometimes I see this blob as a dolphin. When I rotate the cover 90° to the left I tend to see an elephant. Your guess is as good as mine, but our editor is convinced there are two very faint legs, as seen below, and he humbly suggests that the image is in fact a turkey with its rear feathers up. Has anyone seen something similar?

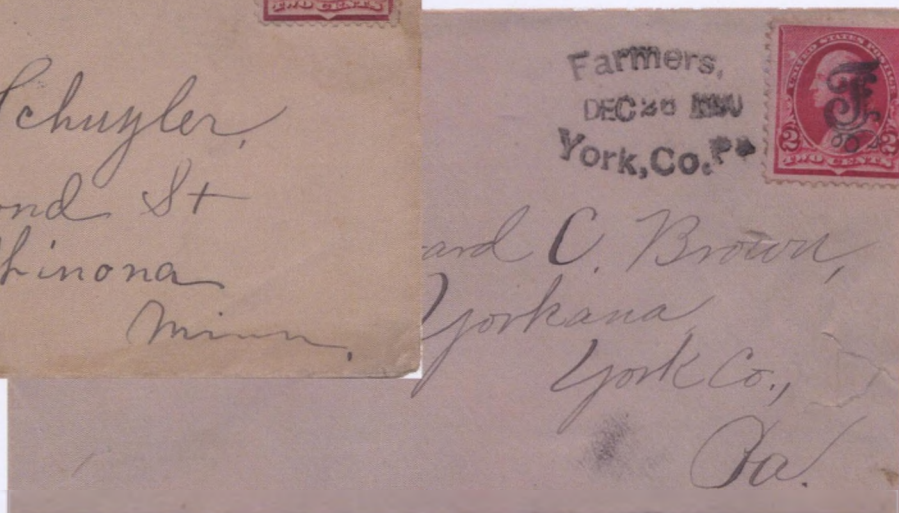


Is the "What the heck is this?" cover from Bernardston, MA, a feathered turkey? It looks like a mighty nice drumstick on the left!

Then we have two interesting covers, where there is little doubt as to the offices of origin: Simpson, Minnesota and Farmers, in York county, Pennsylvania. Cole lists the 'F' monogram only as Lf-5, curiously with the same known usage date!



Simpson, MN, 1/20/1891.



Farmers, York Co., PA, 12/26/1890.

Stars and Crosses are very common fancy cancels found on the Scott 220. Two of my more interesting examples follow. The first is the Canoe Camp, PA cover. I show this example because it is a bit of an enigma and I have seen only one other cover from there. When I purchased it many years ago, the dealer said that Canoe Camp was a Pennsylvania logging camp. However, the *United States Post Office List* of all Post Offices in Pennsylvania did not contain Canoe Camp at all, not even as a discontinued PO. Looking further into this, I found two sources of additional information: written in 1897, the book, *Tioga County History* by Joyce M. Tice covers Tioga and two adjoining counties. It mentions Canoe Camp as an active lumbering operation that began in the late 18th century. And then, Richard Helmblock's book, *United States Post Offices, Vol. 4, The Northeast*, lists a Canoe Camp, PA Post Office in Tioga county that operated from 1812 - 1918.

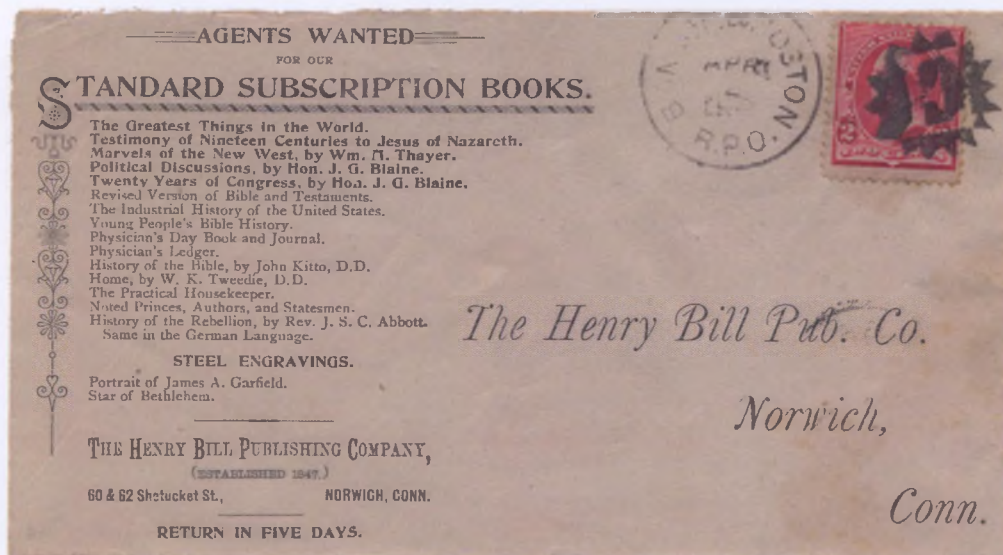


Canoe Camp, PA, Star in diamond, 4/27/1894.

Highland Springs, CA, Maltese cross, ?/16/1890.

The second example is an unusual Maltese Cross from Highland Springs, California – it is the only example of this type of cross I have seen. A pencil notation indicates it is a discontinued PO. Again, it is not mentioned in the USPO list. Today, Highland Springs (formerly Highland) is an unincorporated community in Lake County, CA, about 125 miles north of San Francisco. The first Highland Springs Post Office opened in 1875 and closed in 1880. The Highland Post Office opened in 1880, changed its name back to Highland Springs in 1884, and closed in 1921.

Positive and negative single letters and numerals are fairly common; multiple letters and numerals are less so. Here is a negative letter “E” on a railroad cover, which is noted by Sol Salkind as type L-E-23 in his book *U.S. Cancellations 1890-1900*. “E”, “N”, “S” and “W” on railroad covers usually denote the direction of travel by the train; this Bangor & Boston R.P.O. item went east. The backstamp reads “REC. Norwich, CT, 4/3/1893.”



Bangor & Boston R.P.O. CDS with fancy negative E, 4/3/1893.

End of Part II.

More on the Napierville, Illinois, 'Mask' Cancel of 1894

John Valenti

On page 35 of the previous issue of the *NEWS*, Merritt Jenkins shows us a cover with a mask fancy cancel from Napierville, IL. The cover looked familiar to me so I reviewed Cole's *Cancellations & Killers of the Banknote Era 1870-1894* – there, I found on page 165, an illustration of what appears to be the same cover. The Cole illustration appears to show a repair at the top that does not appear in the *NEWS* illustration, but the post mark, killer, stamp and location of the cover damage all are otherwise identical!

A cover from my dealer's archive is shown on the front cover of this issue. This shows the Naperville mask killer cancelling a 1¢ Columbian on October 22, 1894. Detail of its CDS and killer is shown in Figure 1.

Cole records this killer as JO-86 and notes it is known in use from October 11 to November 15, 1894. This cover and Merritt's cover which is dated October 29 are both inside this five-week period. Presumably, at least two other covers, on the outer limits of usage dates, are known and are out there somewhere. ■



Figure 1

Noted in Passing

Roger D. Curran

The February 2019 *NEWS* illustrated a cover bearing a wheel of fortune (WOF) cancel that originated at Guatemala City, Guatemala on May 22, 1896. An earlier Guatemala City WOF appeared in the November 2009 *NEWS*. Just recently, Larry Rausch reported the wonderful cover, front and back shown in Figure 1. Not only is it aesthetically very pleasing but it presents a Guatemala City WOF that entered the U.S. mailstream at New Orleans on June 1, 1896



Figure 1

The 1995 Cole book on Banknote-era cancels reported a Mexico WOF usage from Lampazos de Naranjo, Nueva, Leon. In addition to the cover above, Larry also submitted the cut square from a Mexico postal stationery entire shown here as Figure 2. Readers who can identify any additional non-U.S. uses of WOF cancels are urged to contact the editor.



Figure 2

Illustrated as Figure 3 is an Old Town, Maine cover bearing two Scott 210 stamps struck in an intense black ink by two circular cancels showing a negative "X" and three odd-shaped "ornaments." The sender was the I.O.O.F. Lodge in Old Town, a town which lies just a few miles to the north east of Bangor.

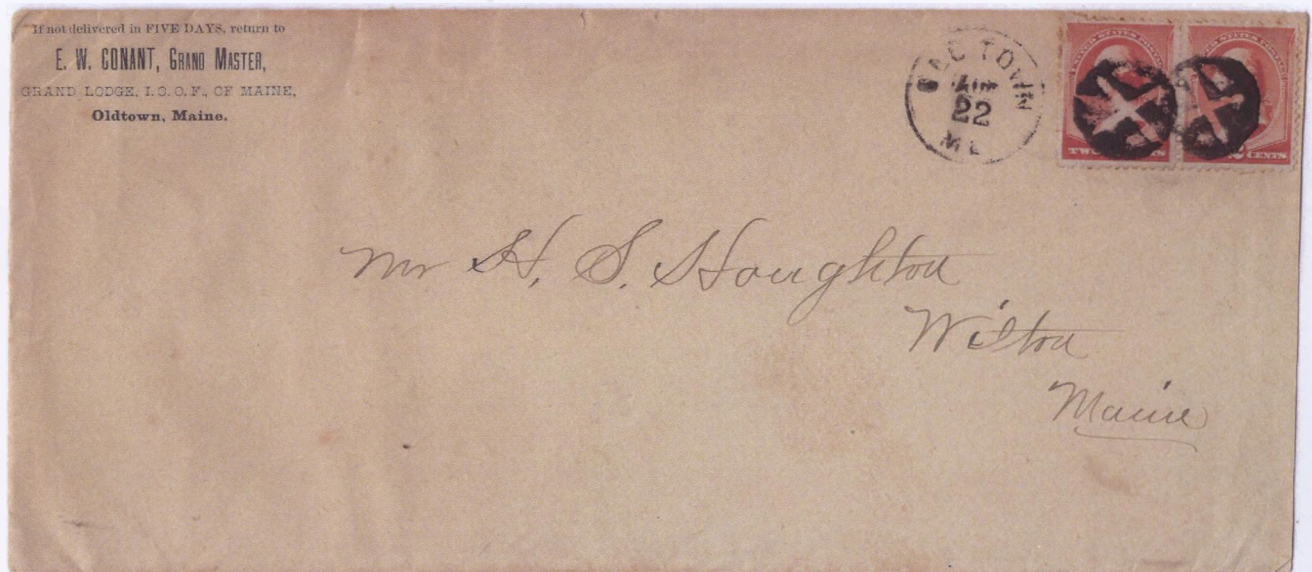


Figure 3



Figure 4

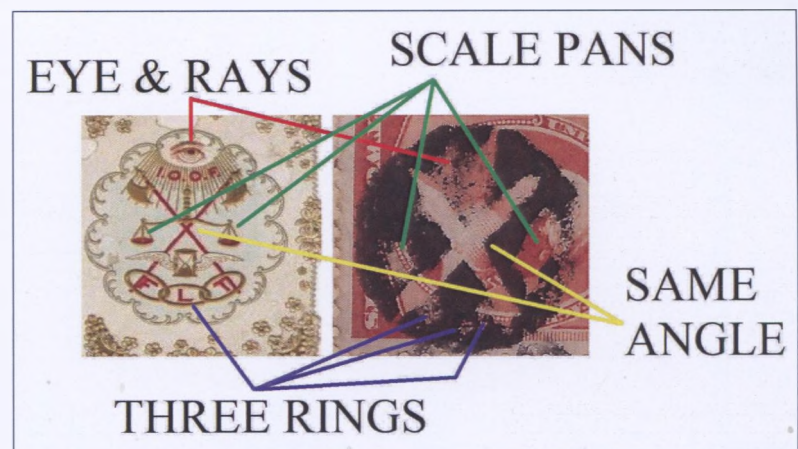


Figure 5

The cover is in the collection of our editor and was acquired from a well-respected dealer who suggested that the cancel's design may represent a fraternal theme, in particular the I.O.O.F. A little research determined that from 1885, the Old Town postmaster was a Melville M. Folsom. He enlisted as a captain in the Civil War and mustered out a major and joined I.O.O.F. Lodge 60 "Star in the East" in 1865. Including some 35 years as a leading citizen of Old Town, Folsom remained with that lodge until his death in 1900. A brief survey of I.O.O.F. symbols yielded the example in Figure 4. While this is obviously quite speculative, one does get the impression that the design of the cancels on the cover might well have intended to convey something specific. Figure 5 goes some way into interpreting this killer's meaning. What do readers think? Let us hear from you. ■

TREASURER'S REPORT

MEMBERSHIP as at 15 June, 2019: 197, consisting of 6 Life Members and 191 Regular Members.

Membership as at March 29, 2016:	210
New Regular Members:	11
Deceased Regular Members:	-3
Irving Bayer	
Brad Horton	
Modest M. Opryska	
Resigned Regular members:	-2
Jesse Harris	
Richard Van Wootten	
Members Dropped for Non-Payment Dues:	-19
Current Membership:	197

CASH AT BANK as at 15 June 2019: \$22, 231.07.
Balance March 29, 2016: \$20,053.09

Approximately 40 Members made donations of up to \$100 without any solicitation.

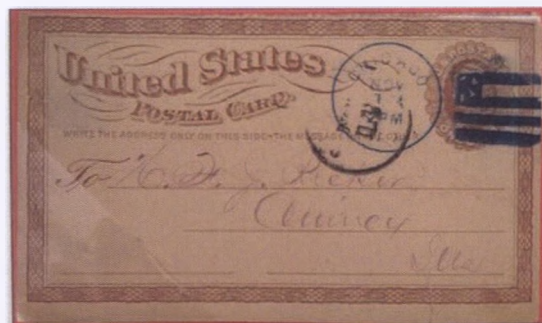
Respectfully Submitted

Joe Crosby

Treasurer

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