



U.S. Cancellation Club NEWS

Vol. 35, No. 6, Whole No. 313, May 2020



Only once before in the 63-year history of the USCC NEWS has a cover from the 47th State adorned the front page. The cover shown here, struck twice in 1884 by duplex in Georgetown, is one of the only 76 or so New Mexico killers 'recorded' to date. Cole calls this shaded cross, CSS-16, until now only known in purple and blue. Your humble editor and recent convert to New Mexico postal history offers more, starting on page 132. (Cover from the Gene Pitzer collection)

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The Official Journal of the United States Cancellation Club



The United States Cancellation Club NEWS

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Published four times a year by the United States Cancellation Club and included with membership. The U.S.C.C. is APS Affiliate #75. Annual Dues: \$26 (\$31 for international members). Please address membership inquiries to the Secretary.

Back Issues through 1977 are available for \$2.00 each, postpaid. Issues 1998 to May 2008, \$3.00. August 2008 and later issues, \$6.00. Discount of 10% on orders of 25 or more issues. Contact Vince Costello at 227 N. Allegheny Street, Bellefonte, PA 16823-1629. Email vinman2119@aol.com

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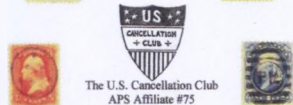
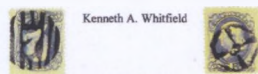
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U.S. CANCELLATION CLUB - PUBLICATIONS



CANCELLATIONS FOUND ON
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2002

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.

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

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, 18 Tressler Boulevard, Lewisburg, PA 17837.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



This year has thrown a lot of challenges for our nation, and our hobby offers the perfect distraction from the media headlines. Since I last wrote, John Valenti offered his resignation as webmaster due to life and business demands. We thank him for his service and continued support as a member and advertiser and we wish him well.

I am happy to announce the appointment of Stephen Tedesco as webmaster. He has already begun working on the new website that we expect to go live in the next few months. Stephen brings knowledge of websites through working with his local stamp club and show. His collecting interests include cancellations of the Bank Note era with a specialized 15¢ issue exhibit. We will be looking for images and content to post on to the website, so please reach out and contact him to offer help. In particular, we would like to see images of your favorite cancellations and plan to have a rolling feature on the home page that is constantly updated. We also plan to host a cancellation chatboard and include material from our *NEWS* with the expanded features available to the web medium. The possibilities are endless and our club needs a vibrant website to promote cancellations and offer our members.

The APS Great American Stamp Show 2020 is slated for August 20-23 in Hartford, Connecticut. If the show goes off as planned, a number of members plan to attend and our club will have a meeting. We will not have our own booth, but will have a seminar talk to promote the club. Please mark your calendars and let me know that you may be attending.

The *NEWS* continues with Roger Curran's "Noted in Passing" along with strong articles from our tireless editor and from club stalwarts, Ardy Callendar and Joe Crosby. We need additional content from other members to keep the *NEWS* vibrant. Our editor does have a few other things in his back pocket but he can never have too much to work with – and the intention is to stick with the 24-page format which started in November 2019. I hope you will consider writing something on the favorite cancellations in your collection.

Until next time, stay safe, and keep collecting! ■

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ARIZONA – NEW MEXICO POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Colonial, Territorial & Statehood Philatelic Studies
 Affiliate 188 of the American Philatelic Society

The Arizona – New Mexico Postal History Society (AZ-NM PHS) was founded in 1985 in Tucson, Arizona with its purpose being: "To encourage, create, sponsor and guide research in the postal history of Arizona and New Mexico."

The *ROADRUNNER*, the official journal of the AZ-NM PHS, provides a venue for members to publish articles which enlighten, enliven and educate our peers regarding the many aspects of postal history within the boundaries of these two states. From Spanish & Mexican Colonialism to Territorial mining camp growth to present day Statehood, there is a wealth of opportunities to study the many aspects of postal history related to covers, postal routes and the pioneering, enterprising folks who endeavored to bring this all to daily success.

You are invited to join our Society at a modest subscription price of \$15 per year. The *ROADRUNNER*, published and mailed quarterly, is included in the membership. Request a membership application from the Society's editor:

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The Unexplored Territory of 19th Century New Mexico Killers

Robert L. Conley

If one were to refer to Whitfield's¹ cancellation book, one would see only four towns listed under New Mexico; with Salkind², a single post office; and with Skinner & Eno³, which of course does not stray beyond 1869, you would get nothing at all! James Cole⁴, who is only concerned with cancels from 1870 and onwards, had somewhat more success and identifies 35 offices with 46 different cancels.

But how can that be – a geographically significant piece of land (which is now the fifth-largest U.S. state) with countless rural and mining outposts, past and present – and yet just three dozen or so post offices were known to use obliterated?

Perhaps New Mexico was poorly serviced by post offices before 1901? Helbock's⁵ authoritative listing of New Mexico post offices may have the answer. No, not at all – by 1890, 443 post offices had been authorized, with another 202 added by 1900.

Surely, a highly-respected New Mexico philatelist of decades past, Dr. Todsens⁶, could help? Partly – his seminal work on CDS cancels in New Mexico does include some images of killers which were duplexed. This 'byproduct' of his tracings will certainly help.

Perhaps there are numerous New Mexico articles appearing over the long, industrious life of the USCC NEWS? Nope! – apart from just two articles, published in 1973 and 2003 – a full two pages and three covers, combined – there is nothing written about pre-1901 New Mexico.

Either there is a well-hidden book out there with hundreds of otherwise unreported cancels – or, as I am guessing, there are just hundreds of unreported New Mexico cancels! At least 120 years after the fact, it is time to change that.

The first thing to do is consolidate whatever information is out there. The following table lists the 76 cancels from 55 post offices that I have been able to find as already reported, in some form, from the above sources.

County	Post Office	Description	Reference*	EKU	LKU
Bernalillo	Albuquerque	'W' in a Circle	W'field 6270	c. 1888	-
Bernalillo	Archuleta	Concentric Circles	Todsens 1	22-Jun-88	-
Bernalillo	Archuleta	Star in Circle	Todsens 2	17-Oct-93	-
Catron	Datil	Star	Cole STA-36	17-May-90	-
Chavez	Roswell	Lined Cross	Cole CSL-15	14-Nov-85	13-Mar-86
Colfax	Arms	Concentric Circles	Todsens 1	17-Feb-80	-
Colfax	Chico Springs	Negative Star	Cole STN-28	08-May-79	16-Oct-84
Colfax	Cimarron	Star in Circle	Cole STC-29	23-Mar-80	31-Mar-81
Colfax	Cimarron	Star in Circle	Cole STC-30	14-Apr-82	-
Colfax	Raton	Star	Cole STA-37	18-Jan-81	06-Jun-82
Colfax	Raton	Wheel of Fortune	W'field 2382	24-Jul-82	06-Dec-82
Colfax	Rayado	Star in Circle	Todsens 1	16-Mar-79	-
Colfax	Springer	Shaded Cross	Todsens 4	15-Nov-83	-
Colfax	Springer	Star in Circle	Cole STC-38	21-Aug-80	26-Jun-84
Colfax	Springer	Wheel of Fortune	W'field 2382	01-May-86	24-Mar-88
Dona Ana	Las Cruces	Scarab	Todsens 8A	27-Dec-93	-
Dona Ana	Rincon	Wheel of Fortune	not defined	12-May-83	08-Oct-83
Dona Ana	Thorne	Shield in a Circle	Todsens 1	15-May-82	-
Grant	Carlisle	Star	Todsens 2A	08-Aug-87	-
Grant	Carlisle	Star in Circle	Todsens 5	27-Jul-95	-
Grant	Fort Bayard	Lined Cross	Todsens 7	25-Feb-87	-
Grant	Georgetown	Shaded Cross	Cole CSS-16	19-May-82	22-Apr-86
Guadalupe	Anton Chico	Star	Todsens 2	20-Dec-79	-

County	Post Office	Description	Reference*	EKU	LKU
Hidalgo	Lordsburg	Star	Cole STA-66	01-May-82	07-Jul-82
Hidalgo	Lordsburg	Unusual Star	Cole STU-47	17-Oct-87	04-Apr-88
Lincoln	Fort Stanton	Star	Cole STA-41	14-Apr-77	27-Apr-79
Lincoln	Fort Stanton	Star in Circle	Cole STC-11	06-May-82	29-Aug-82
Lincoln	Fort Stanton	Wheel of Fortune	not defined	12-Feb-84	24-Nov-85
Lincoln	Lincoln	Concentric Circles	Todsen 1	10-Nov-79	-
Lincoln	Lincoln	Wheel of Fortune	W'field 2382	12-Apr-86	02-Oct-89
Lincoln	Nogal	Unusual Star	Cole STU-47	16-Nov-89	12-May-93
Lincoln	White Oaks	Unusual Star	Cole STU-47	27-Dec-87	21-Mar-88
Lincoln	White Oaks	Wheel of Fortune	not defined	09-Jan-84	13-May-86
Luna	Deming	Wheel of Fortune	not defined	10-Jul-82	21-Jan-84
Luna	Fort Cummings	Mask	Cole JO-144	c. 1870	-



A Cole STC-29 (star-in-circle) from Cimarron in Colfax county, duplexed with a Todsen CDS #6. Image from the website of Richard Frajola.



A star-in-circle from Fort Wingate, with a Todsen CDS #3, known in September 1882 and March 1883 (as per tracing seen on page 135). This is probably the same killer identified by Cole as STC-38 which was used in Springer from 1880 to 1884. From the collection of Gene Pitzer.

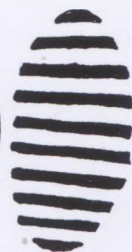
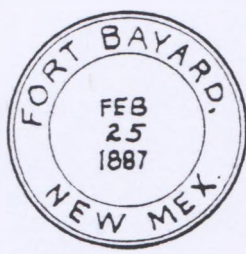


Multiple duplexed wheel of fortune strikes from Los Lunas adorn this registered cover. The April 29, 1885 date extends out Todsen's reported LKU for this #5 CDS by almost ten months. Image courtesy of Larry Rausch.

County	Post Office	Description	Reference*	EKU	LKU
Luna	Fort Cummings	'PO'	Cole PO-12	29-Sep-82	15-May-84
Luna	Fort Cummings	Star in Circle	Cole STC-12	19-Oct-79	22-Mar-82
McKinley	Clarkville	Concentric Circles	Todsen 2	17-May-99	-
McKinley	Cranes	Indian Head	Cole JO-164	06-Mar-85	14-Mar-85
McKinley	Fort Wingate	Lined Star	Cole STL-8	28-Feb-87	18-Feb-89
McKinley	Fort Wingate	Star in Circle	Todsen 3	13-Mar-83	-
Mora	Ocate	Shaded Star	Cole STB-32	05-May-87	02-Feb-88
Mora	Ocate	Unusual Star	Cole STU-47	12-Aug-90	21-Dec-93
Mora	Watrous	Wheel of Fortune	not defined	14-Apr-85	-
Rio Arriba	Cribbenville	Pinwheel in Circle	Todsen 1	31-Jan-85	-
San Juan	Bloomfield	Maltese Cross	Cole CSM-37	01-Sep-82	-
San Miguel	La Cinta	Maltese Cross	Cole CSM-38	19-Feb-83	25-Feb-84
San Miguel	Las Vegas Hot Springs	'PO'	Cole PO-7	17-Jul-82	28-Oct-82
San Miguel	Liberty	Wheel of Fortune	not defined	02-May-88	30-Jan-93
San Miguel	Los Alamos	Wheel of Fortune	not defined	25-Dec-93	25-Jul-95
San Miguel	Rociada	Geometric	Cole GHC-2	1883	11-May-95
Santa Fe	Carbonateville	Geometric	Cole GE-168	12-Oct-79	-
Santa Fe	Glorieta	Unusual Star	Cole STU-47	22-Sep-90	-
Santa Fe	Lamy	Geometric	Todsen 3	18-Jun-88	-
Santa Fe	Lamy	Unusual Stars	Cole STU-45	09-Sep-84	28-Oct-84
Santa Fe	Madrid	Star	Todsen 1	21-Dec-96	-
Sierra	Chloride	Segmented Star	Cole STG-7	14-Nov-82	01-Dec-86
Sierra	Daly	Star in Circle	Todsen 2	19-Feb-82	-
Sierra	Engel	'PO'	Cole PO-7	21-Feb-82	20-Aug-84
Sierra	Hermosa	Star in Circle	Todsen 4	03-Nov-94	-
Sierra	Kingston	Shaded Cross	Cole CSS-12	06-Nov-82	06-Dec-83
Sierra	Kingston	Wheel of Fortune	not defined	09-Jan-84	01-Nov-85
Sierra	Lake Valley	Ellipse	Todsen 2	16-Jun-83	-
Socorro	Sabinal	Unusual Star	Cole STU-47	30-Mar-91	11-Feb-93
Socorro	San Antonio	Wheel of Fortune	smaller style	29-May-85	01-Aug-88
Taos	Costilla	Star	Todsen 3	27-Oct-81	-
Taos	Costilla	Star in Circle	Todsen 4	12-Sep-93	-
Torrance	Pinos Wells	Skull & Crossbones	W'field 165	29-Dec-86	-
Union	Tramperas	Wheel of Fortune	smaller style	07-Jan-84	07-Dec-88
Valencia	Chaves	Lined Cross	Cole CSL-16	02-Nov-87	03-Apr-91
Valencia	Grant	Star in Circle	Todsen 4	19-May-94	-
Valencia	Los Lunas	Star	Cole STA-38	09-Mar-87	11-Jul-89
Valencia	Los Lunas	Unusual Stars	Cole STU-47	16-Jul-91	13-Oct-91
Valencia	Los Lunas	Wheel of Fortune	not defined	19-Mar-83	15-Jul-84
Valencia	Peralta	Maltese Cross	Todsen 3	18-Dec-85	-
Valencia	Peralta	Shaded Cross	Todsen 4	26-Oct-86	-

*Many of these obliterations are reported in multiple sources. The quoted reference in the table is generally the source of usage dates. Todsen reference numbers cite the CDS 'Town Type' that accompanies the killer.

Readers interested in viewing the relevant tracings can do so by referring to Cole and Whitfield. However, as quite a few killers are exclusively listed in Todsen – a reference only a New Mexico specialist is likely to own – tracings of these, including the related CDS, are provided below.





We now have a summary of what little has been published before. The intention is to build on this consolidated information. Should any readers have New Mexico items, pre-1901, that might be worthy of inclusion, please contact the author. Progress on this significant project will be reported upon as it develops. In the meantime, for your enjoyment, here are some soon-to-be-reported items:

Both originating in Grant County's Silver City, we have the ubiquitous (for New Mexico) quartered cork and a more-adventurous rectangle inside a quartered ring. From the collection of Paul Morton.



Recently seen on eBay, this geometric killer hails from the capital and then-largest settlement, Santa Fe. The grilled stamp and Todsden CDS #15 dates this cover to circa 1870.

Return in ten days to
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 East Las Vegas, N. M.



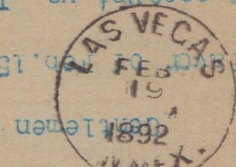
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The postmasters at Las Vegas and East Las Vegas both seemed to enjoy carving corks, the latter preferring a recurring 'N' or 'W' style. Several stars are recorded in New Mexico, but none for Roswell. Two other strikes of this Roswell CDS and duplexed star have also been discovered – in a dazzling magenta! Separ used a simple, yet uncommon, 7-bar rectangle killer. 1887 East Las Vegas cover from the collection of Gene Pitzer. Separ cover courtesy of Larry Rausch. Other covers from the author's collection.

Many thanks are due to the Arizona-New Mexico Postal History Society, Joe Cody, Roger Curran, Matt Kewriga, Paul Morton, Gene Pitzer and Larry Rausch. ■

References

1. Whitfield, Kenneth A., *Cancellations Found on 19th Century U.S. Stamps*, U.S. Cancellation Club, 2002.
2. Salkind, Sol, *U. S. Cancels 1890-1900*, self published, 1985.
3. Skinner, Hubert C. & Eno, Amos, *United States Cancellations 1845-1869*, American Philatelic Society and Louisiana Heritage Press of New Orleans, 1980.
4. Cole, James, M, *Cancellations and Killers of the Banknote Era, 1870-1894*, The U.S. Classics Society, Inc., 1995.
5. Helbock, Richard W., *Post Offices of New Mexico*, self published, Las Cruces, NM, 1981.
6. Todsens, Thomas K. Ph.D, *New Mexico Territorial Postmark Catalog*, 10th Edition, self published, Las Cruces, NM, 1994.

The Multiple Challenges of Multi-Letter Cancels

Joe H. Crosby

Part of the fun in collecting 19th century cancels is the challenge of trying to figure out the meaning of multiple letter killers. Skinner and Eno¹, devoted eleven pages of their book in illustrating 144 of what they described as "Letters - Compound; Abbreviations, Initials or Monograms". Of these, 30 were unable to be matched with any particular originating post office. The purpose of this article is to explore those markings that were identified, to correct some errors made, to question some attributions to particular named postmasters, and to report additions to listings.

Figure 1 illustrates a cover originating from Canton, Massachusetts which was lot 9 in Siegel sale 1012. The cover has a killer, struck upside down, with the letters "CST". This same killer has been seen on other letters from Canton. Figure 2 shows the Skinner & Eno listing for LC-C 3, attributing the initials to Caleb S. Taft, postmaster at Sharon, not Canton! Mr. Taft was indeed Canton's postmaster, from July 5, 1848 to November 30, 1851 and again from May 16, 1853 until August 22, 1856. Although Canton and Sharon are neighbors on the southside of Boston, this killer has never been seen on a cover from Sharon. This error has been mentioned elsewhere before².

Caleb Taft's middle name was "Strong."³ Interestingly, a Calvin Turner was postmaster at Sharon at almost exactly the same time – from 1848 to 1857. His initials could have been C.S.T., too. However, I can find no local history, official register or other document giving Turner's middle initial in any form. In state and federal censuses of the era, Turner only ever gave his first name, which would be unusual for someone with a second given name. Sure, Turner might have had a middle name, and it might have started with an "S" but, until proven wrong, I am correcting my copy of Skinner & Eno to show only Canton instead of Sharon, and leaving Caleb S. Taft, P.M. in at the top of the listing as postmaster.



Figure 1

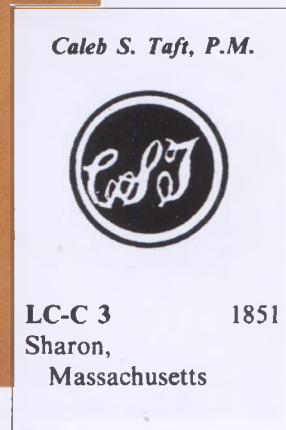


Figure 2

Figure 3 shows the tracing for Skinner & Eno LC-L 7, which is an "LV" from Lockport in upstate New York. "LV" is purported to be Leonard Vail, postmaster. Unfortunately, at no time in the 19th century was anyone with that name ever postmaster there. So, where did this reference to Leonard Vail come from? Might he have been a clerk? Well, yes – if you were to look at page 69 of the USCC NEWS in February, 2005 you'd read that Lockport's clerk was one W. Lewis Vail!

Unfortunately, that revelation is not quite accurate – in fact, Louis W. Vail is listed in the 1868 City Directory for Lockport as residing at 33 Walnut Street and working as a post office clerk. The 1870 U.S. Federal Census confirms he resides in Lockport, is 21 years of age, and his occupation is post office clerk. So, scrub "P.M." and insert "Clerk."

Heading west, a negative "MY" in a heart from Dayton, Ohio is classed as PH-H 68. Shown in Figure 4, it is also shown in Whitfield⁴ as #1797. I have seen single stamps with this killer in many auction catalogs over the years but never

on cover. A person named Meinhart is alleged to be the postmaster in Civil War-era Dayton. Unfortunately, there is no record of anyone with this name ever being postmaster in Dayton nor is there any postmaster there with the initials "M.Y"!

There was a postmaster named George Meinhart – appointed too late (June 1869) and 520 miles too far west, in New Vienna, Iowa. It is unlikely he is the Ohio resident Meinhart that Skinner & Eno allude to. So, without a single known surviving PH-H 69 killer tied to a CDS, we don't know how this incorrect attribution came about.

Skinner & Eno LC-A 4, seen in Figure 5, is listed having been seen on cover from Greenville, Alabama with an 1869-issue stamp. However, there seems to be some confusion as to what the "AL" was an abbreviation for – perhaps "Alabama" or an alternate listing of "or Allenville, Ala. (?)". As it turns out, it is neither of those earlier propositions – the postmaster in Greenville, Alabama, from May 13, 1869 was one Adaline Livingston! She did not last very long and was replaced 11 months later. Nonetheless, it would seem that the "AL" was really the postmaster, Adaline Livingston's initials, and not an abbreviation for Alabama or anything else.

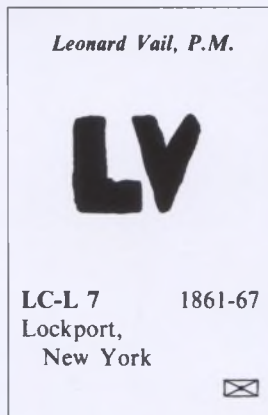


Figure 3

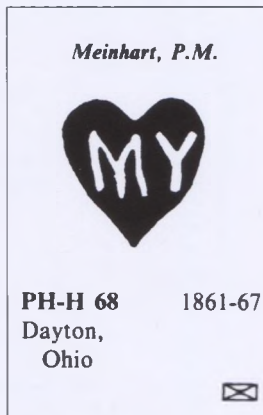


Figure 4

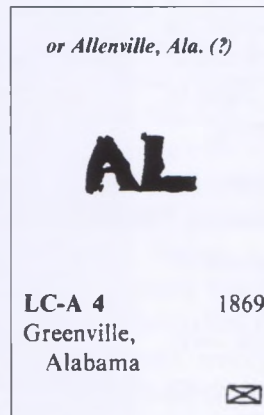


Figure 5

Figure 6 shows LC-F 2 from Skinner & Eno. Reportedly from Baileyville, Illinois it carries negative Old English letters "FT" in blue, but without attribution as to who, or what, "FT" means. None of the postmasters at Baileyville around 1861 had a name supporting those initials. After reviewing local histories and talking with local museums, the only suggestion I can offer is that "FT" stands for Foreston Township – the location of the Baileyville post office.

Skinner & Eno's LC-H 1, seen in Figure 7, is listed as having been seen on cover from Cedarburg, Wisconsin in red on an 1861-issue stamp. The initials "HB" in large oval were not identified as to meaning. Local histories online^{5,6} reveal that Hugo Boclo, came to Cedarburg in 1849, and was postmaster there for about 15 years. So, it is safe to say the "HB" was really the initials of postmaster Hugo Boclo.

Last of all, Figure 8 shows Skinner & Eno LC-R 1 and LC-R 2, both listed as originating in Rising Sun, Wisconsin but without any reported covers on 1861-67 stamps. Robert Herrick was postmaster at Rising Sun from November 19, 1859 until March 10, 1871⁷. Likewise, Whitfield listed both of these killers with the notation as "Robert Herrick, PM." Clearly, these two negative letter markings reading "RH" and reverse "RH" are postmaster Robert Herrick's initials.

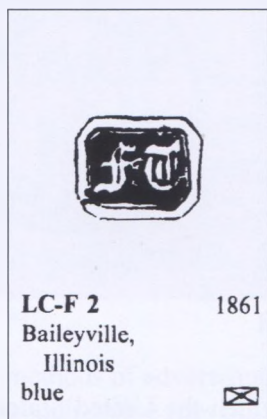


Figure 6

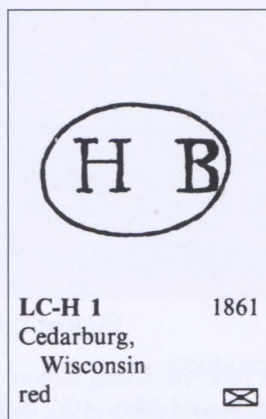


Figure 7

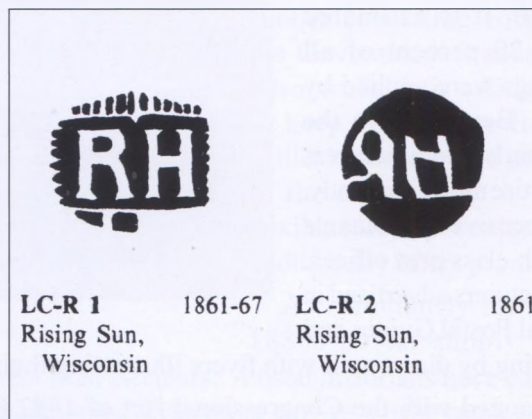


Figure 8

{Continued on page 143}

4th Class Post Office Cancellation Devices and Their Marketing in the 1880s

Ardy Callender

In 1864, a postal act established five classes (later reduced to four classes by the postal act of July 12, 1879) of post offices based on the annual compensation of each postmaster. The postmasters of the first three classes were appointed by the President while 4th and 5th class postmasters were appointed by the Postmaster General. Governmental postmarking devices were issued to many of these post offices dependent on the gross revenues of each office. The type of device per class of office included the following:

- 1st class – steel devices
- 2nd class – iron devices
- 3rd class – wood devices
- 4th & 5th class – were left to furnish their own.

During the 19th century, 4th and 5th class post offices made up the vast majority of all offices in the United States. For example, in 1869 there were 27,106 post offices of which only 980 made up the top three classes¹ – 4th and 5th class offices made up some 96 percent of all post offices in the United States!

As 4th and 5th class postmasters were required to provide their own postmarking equipment, it is no surprise that many postmasters hand carved wood or cork devices or used manuscript cancellations. Prior to 1870, it is estimated that at least 20 percent of all postal markings were applied by manuscript². Beginning in the 1870s, postmark manufacturers began to advertise more frequently, offering inexpensive handstamps for 4th and 5th class post offices. These manufacturers advertised in the US Official Postal Guides and began marketing by direct mail with flyers illustrating their products.

All this changed with the Congressional Act of 1882 (approved May 4th) in which the United States Post Office Department decided to standardize styles of postal markings to eliminate the variation in cancellations used by many post offices. At the same time, the USPOD appropriated \$35,000 per year to supply 4th class post offices with post marking

POST OFFICE SUPPLIES.

Established 1872.

Letter Scales, Inking Pads, Ink Stamp Racks, Canceling Corks, Twine Cutters, Seals, Check Protectors, Self-Inking Pocket, Pencil, and Ribbon Daters, Post Office and Business Note and Letter Headings, Envelopes, Rubber Alphabets and Stamps for every business man. Also, a full line line of our popular Post Office Account Books for large or small offices.

Over 100 different styles of P. O. Daters shown in our 72-page catalogue.

BOX RECORD. 13th Edition.
(Adapted to all Offices.)

This book has a neat heading, with columns ruled for No. of boxes, names, and space for amount paid for first, second, third, and fourth quarter of each year. It keeps a complete record for 10 years. The name of person renting a box has to be written only once during the 10 years. This feature alone is worth the price of the book to any clerk who has this work to do. It has a wide space for names to make allowance for a dozen changes in ownership of box. It is printed on first-class paper, neatly bound in cloth, and is far superior to anything of the kind ever offered. The largest offices in the U. S. consider this work far ahead of any ever issued. We make four sizes. Prices: for 500 boxes, or less, \$1.50; 1,000 boxes, \$2.00; 2,000 boxes, \$2.50; 3,000 boxes, \$3.00. A few more books left which are splendid bargains. Large size book, 3,000 boxes or less, good for five years' use from 1884, \$2.20. Small size book, 1,000 boxes, good for four years' use, price \$1.15. Same size bound in manilla cover, 85 cents.

COMPLAINT AND LETTERS FORWARDED. 10th Edition.
(Adapted to all Offices.)

A combined book containing ruled pages for 2,000 requests to forward mail and 400 complaints. Nothing of the kind ever issued so completely meets the wants of offices needing a work of this kind. A valuable work of 150 pages. Price \$2.00.

GENERAL ACCOUNT BOOK. 12th Edition.
(4th Class only.)

It will pay every fourth-class Postmaster to buy one of these books. It saves a great deal of time and trouble. Is issued expressly for keeping account of all expenses, such as Stamped Envelopes, Postal Cards, Newspaper Wrappers, Postage Stamps, Periodical Stamps, Box Rents, Postage-Due Stamps, Salary, and in fact a regular general account of everything. Has plenty of space left for any new wrinkle which the Department brings out. The book is good for thirteen years' service. Send for one and get the best book of its kind out. It contains 100 pages. Price \$2.00. Bound with manilla cover, \$1.50.

OUR POSTAL RECORD. 8th Edition.
(4th Class only.)

Is pronounced by all to fill a long-felt want. Six books combined in one. The handiest, neatest, and most valuable work ever issued for Postmasters' use. A carefully prepared work and beyond comparison. It is indeed preëminent alone, without a rival.

This book has been carefully revised, and also enlarged in size, and now is the most convenient work in use for Postmasters who desire all their accounts in combined form. The best features of our single books are in this work. The contents are: General Account, Box Record, Cancellation, Sale of Stamps, Post Office Key Deposits and Complaint. Space for Cancellation keeps a daily account. Has 31 printed dates for each month. "Sale of Stamps" is also arranged for daily and monthly sales. The great feature of this work is, that your accounts are together in a neat, compact form. For General Account and Box Record of this book we refer you to description given above. It has 200 pages and lasts five years. Price only \$3.00.

Our books are all well made, being bound in the very best material to stand the wear and tear of every-day use, and also are not awkward in shape, neither too large nor too small in size, but just right. The constant demand for them keeps our presses busy, and we urge all to secure copies before the beginning of a quarter to avoid delays.


Order early and save the rush for books to commence the next quarter with.

For a short time we can furnish specimen pages of nearly all our books. No books will be sent out for examination, as they are soon ruined by passing through the mails.


We take special care in packing books, which are sent by mail at prices stated. Ten cents extra, if Postmasters desire them registered.

ASK any SPECIAL AGENT of POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT what he THINKS OF OUR BOOKS.



No. 500.



No. 501.



No. 502.

Address F. P. HAMMOND & CO., Aurora, Illinois.

Figure 1

tools (datestamps, cancellers, ink, scales, etc.). Post offices were allotted five dollars per office. However, the payments were dispensed on a "first come, first served" basis and when exhausted, numerous 4th class post offices had to wait until the following year for their equipment. Judging by the continued use of non-standard cancellations, the process was very slow in servicing so many 4th class post offices of which there were 44,798 in 1883³.

Governmental postmarks and postal materials were, officially at least, to be purchased through the post office supply office. However, many postmasters purchased the supplies privately and charged it as an expense to their accounts. Consequently, both business and the number of postal equipment manufacturers flourished as confirmed by the proliferation of ads in the postal guides after 1882.

Throughout the 1880s, two companies were the most prominent dealers in postmarking equipment: E.S. Miller of Newark, Ohio and F. P. Hammond & Co. of Aurora, Illinois. Both companies advertised heavily in the US Official Postal Guides. An example of a Hammond's advertisement from the January, 1885 postal guide⁴ is shown here as Figure 1. The advertisement reports that Hammond & Co. was established in 1872 and lists many items necessary for cancelling adhesives (corks, inking pads, ink, etc.) as well as a full line of post office account books, "letter scales", post office note/ letter headings and envelopes. Four examples of datestamps are shown along the right side of the advertisement.

Figure 2 shows an example of an advertisement from Miller, also from the January 1885 postal guide⁵. Illustrated in Miller's ad were "The Best Black Cancelling Ink Made", "The 'Best' Ink Pad, Fairbank's Scales, and an example of rubber cancelling corks. It is interesting to note that Miller reports that his rubber cancelling corks "Will fit the Government Standard Daters." Also available is a ledger in which to keep Post Office Box records. Miller's address line at the bottom of the ad states he is a dealer in flexible (rubber) stamps, stencils and additionally offers printing services.

As previously mentioned, the 1880s postal supply companies

employed two methods of advertising: postal guide ads and direct mail circulars. Postal historians have easy access to postal guides through online sites but few circulars or flyers remain today. Even more elusive are the catalogs containing examples of the numerous cancellations that certainly would be sent to customers upon request.

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.
Large Can, \$1.00.

Postage paid on receipt of price.



THE "BEST" INK PAD.



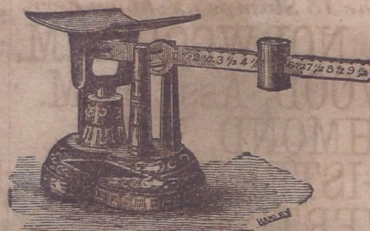
The best ink pad for the price ever introduced. Is equal to most of the \$1.00, \$2.00, and \$3.00 pads. Is intended for wood and metal daters.

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, 1/2 oz. to 8 oz., price \$3.00; 1/2 oz. to 12 oz., \$4.00; 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 Daters. We would advise those who are troubled with poor cancelers to give them a trial.

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

Postage paid on receipt of price.

POST OFFICE BOX RECORD.

(For all Offices.)

THE MOST COMPLETE BOOK EVER PUBLISHED.

Description: has a column for each renter's name (if box is given up you have room to change name several times), a column for number of box, one for date of beginning, one for date box is given up, and one for each quarter for five years from January 1, 1884. Is printed on heavy paper and bound in cloth, and is pronounced by the Newark, Ohio, Postmaster (he having examined several books of this character) to be the most complete book of the kind he has ever seen. He has one in use in this 1,500 box office now.

Price for 500 boxes or less, \$1.50.

Price for 1,000 boxes or less, 2.50.

Price for 2,000 boxes or less, 3.00.

Same thing in paper cover, 50 cents less on each size. Postage paid on receipt of price. Sample page will be sent to any Postmaster on application.

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

Figure 2

stationery displaying some of the styles, monograms and printing available from Miller's company. Entitled "Sample Post Office Note Head", Miller also states he can provide matching envelopes. The last paragraph confirms the idea that mail order catalogs could be requested as Miller mentions "Send 6 cents in stamps for 64-page catalogue of Rubber Stamps, Stencils, etc." He also notes that he can provide 30 different styles of "Note, Letter and Bill Heads."

Of interest to cancel collectors is the entwined US Mail monogram illustrated at the bottom of the flyer. This particular cancel is listed by Whitfield as #5022⁶ and by Cole as US-148⁷. There are dozens of similar cancels listed in these references although the vast majority of them include an outer ring. The cancel offered by Miller has been recorded as coming from only eight post offices as listed in Table 1.

An example of the entwined US Mail cancellation struck in black is shown as Figure 4. The small square envelope was sent from Sesson, Pennsylvania, a DPO with a very short life – just 1886-1889. Dated 30 July, 1886, the cancellation is struck at a slight angle in relation to the octagonal datestamp indicating they are not duplexed. The cancel just ties a 2¢ 1883 American Bank Note adhesive at right. Presumably, Sesson's postmaster purchased the cancel from Miller.

Figure 5 shows another example of this cancellation but here struck in purple. The lightly toned letter originated in Centreville, Virginia and is dated 26 December 1882. It is obvious from the positioning of the cancellation and the datestamp that they are not duplexed. A clear strike of the cancel ties the 3¢ 1881 American Bank Note adhesive at the left.

The January 1883, US Official Postal Guide contained directives banning the use of rubber stamps and colored inks – although the same publication contained advertisements offering to sell those very products to postmasters! The governmental exclusion of the inks was due to

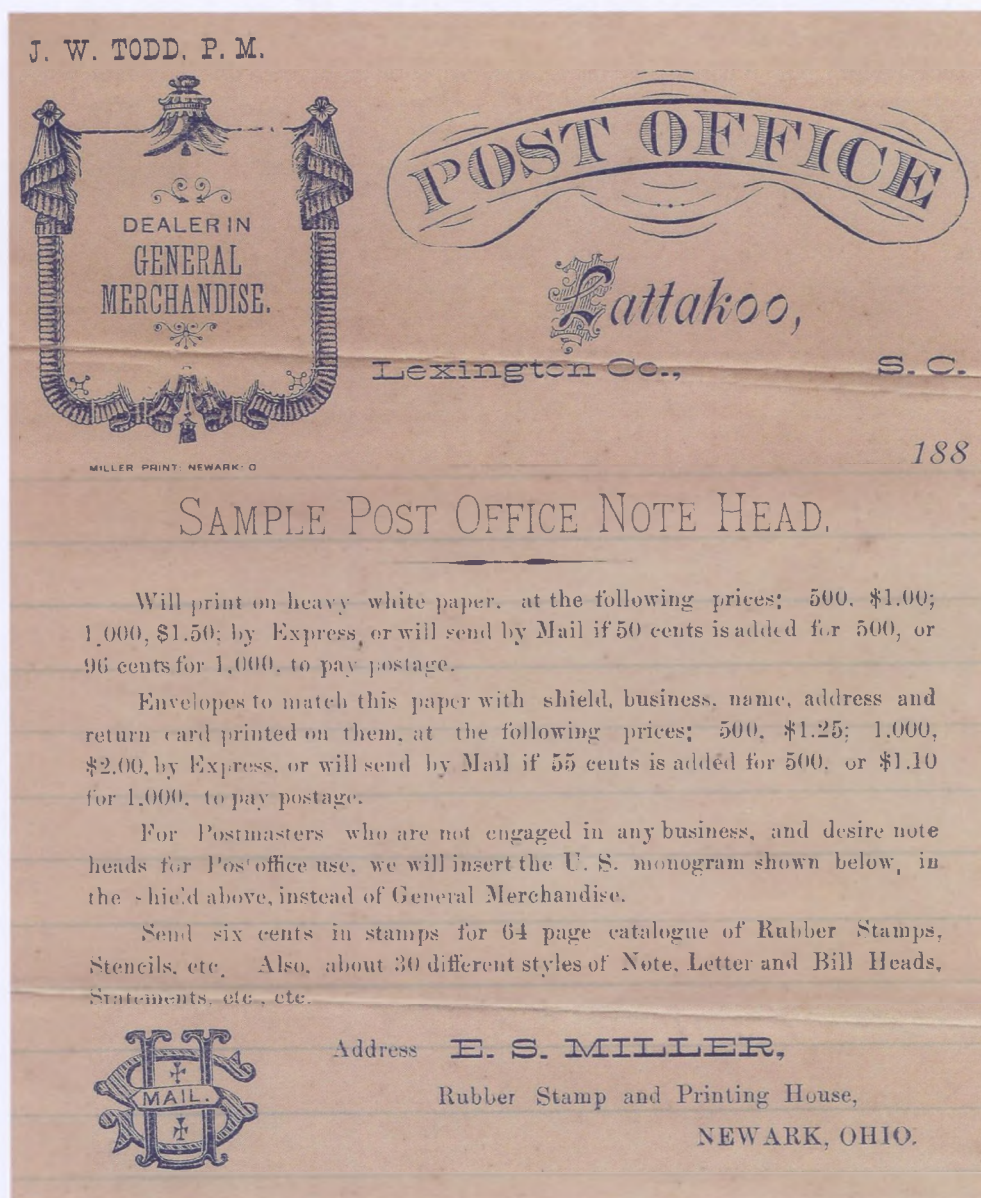


Figure 3

Post Office	Color	Reference
Centreville, OH	black & purple	Whitfield
Elcho, WI	black	Whitfield & Cole
Littleton, CO	black	Whitfield
Richfield, WI	black	Whitfield & Cole
Royalton, NY	black	Willard ⁸
Sesson, PA	black	This article. New find.
St. George, WI	black & purple	Whitfield & Cole
Wagon Works, OH	purple	Whitfield

Table 1



Figure 4

Figure 5

the fact that aniline inks could easily be washed from stamps. However, rubber stamps and colored inks continued to be used throughout the 1880s. The invention of a type of permanent ink which could be used successfully with rubber stamps became available sometime in the mid 1880s.

Other examples of direct mail circulars from 1880s postal supply manufacturers are solicited by the author. Submissions may be sent to the author via the editor of the *NEWS*. ■

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2. Ibid, p. 5.
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4. United States Post Office Department, *United States Official Postal Guide*, Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1885, p. 9.
5. Ibid, p. 4.
6. Whitfield, Kenneth A., *Cancellations Found on 19th Century U.S. Stamps*, U.S. Cancellation Club, 2012 Revision, p. 169.
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The Multiple Challenges of Multi-Letter Cancellations
{Continued from page 138}

If you are aware of any erroneous or missing attributions in Skinner & Eno (or Whitfield), please share them with the author or better yet, with all of us through an article submitted to the editor. ■

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Large Negative Boston-Style Cancels of Portland, Maine Revisited (Part II)

Robert L. Conley

Style	L/N	Description	EKU	LKU	#
P-R-17	17	in circle w/negative ring	28-Apr-82	19-May-82	5
P-R-B	B	in circle w/negative ring	4-Apr-82	7-Apr-82	4
P-R-D	D	in circle w/negative ring	30-May-82	22-Aug-82	9
P-R-E	E	in circle w/negative ring	30-Jul-83	Not seen	0
P-R-J-1	J	in circle w/neg. ring - narrow font, sharp crossbar	22-Jul-80	24-Jul-82	4
P-R-J-2	J	in circle w/neg. ring - thick font, bevelled crossbar	31-Jul-82	15-Sep-82	6
P-R-K	K	in circle w/negative ring	21-Apr-83	16-May-83	8
P-R-L	L	in circle w/negative ring	28-Aug-82		1
P-R-M	M	in circle w/negative ring	29-Nov-82	31-Jul-83	20
P-R-N	N	in circle w/negative ring	2-Oct-82	18-Oct-82	6
P-R-O	O	in circle w/negative ring	18-Apr-83	28-May-83	9
P-R-T	T	in circle w/negative ring	15-Mar-83	20-Apr-83	10
P-R-V	V	in circle w/negative ring	31-Jan-82	1-Feb-82	3

Note: P-R-J-2 was previously reported as P-VR-J.



P-R-17



P-R-B



P-R-D



P-R-K



P-R-J-1



P-R-J-2



P-R-L



P-R-M



P-R-N



P-R-O

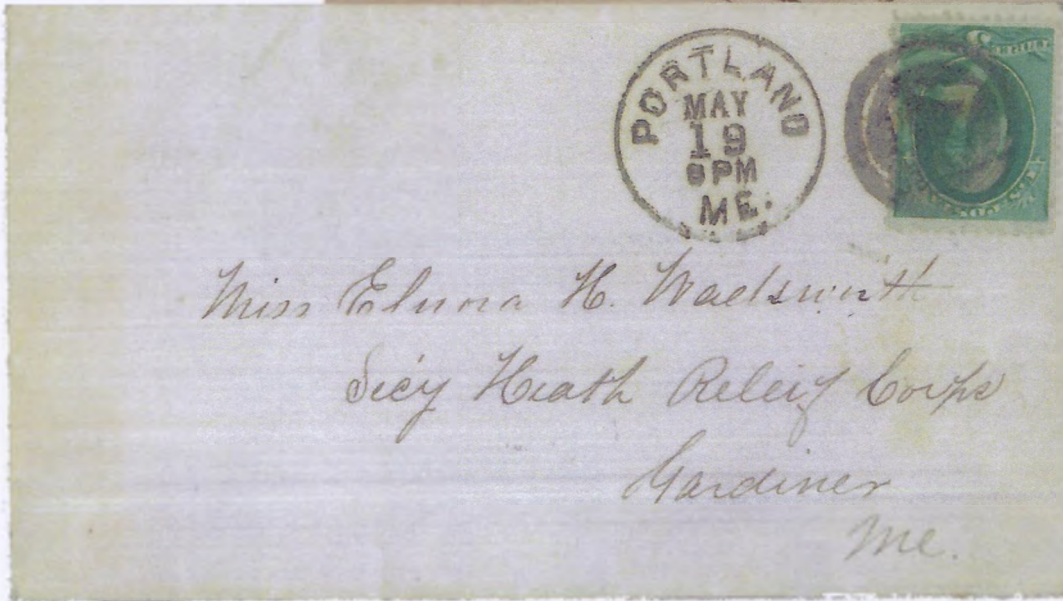


P-R-T

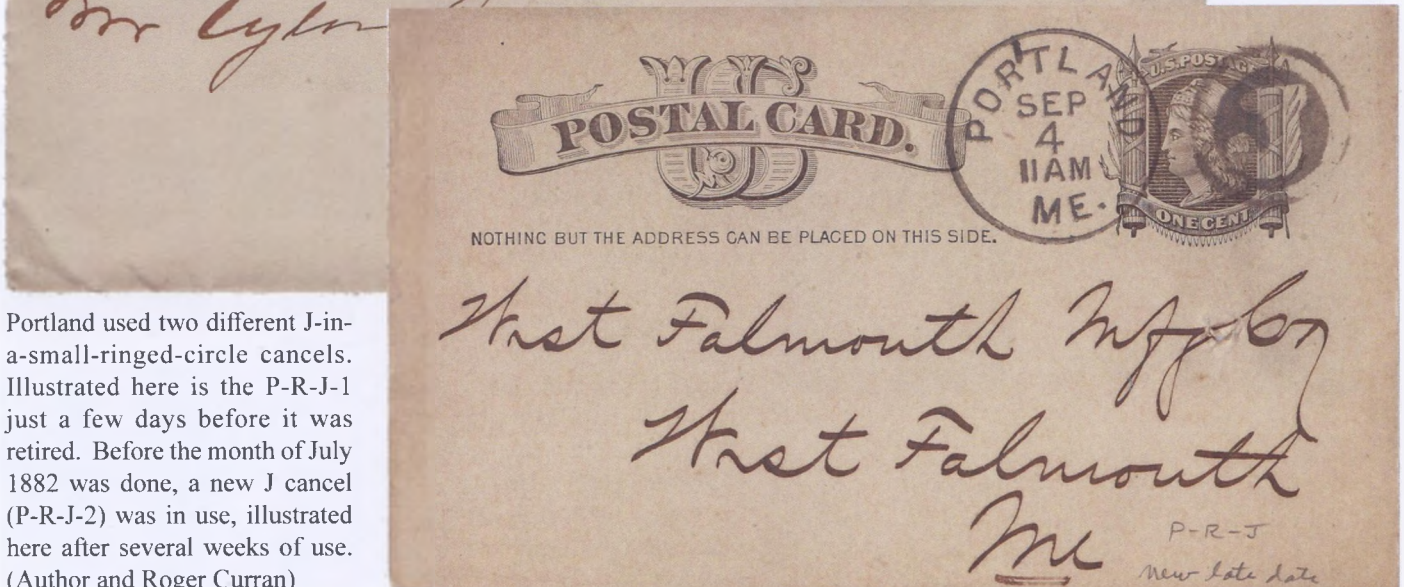
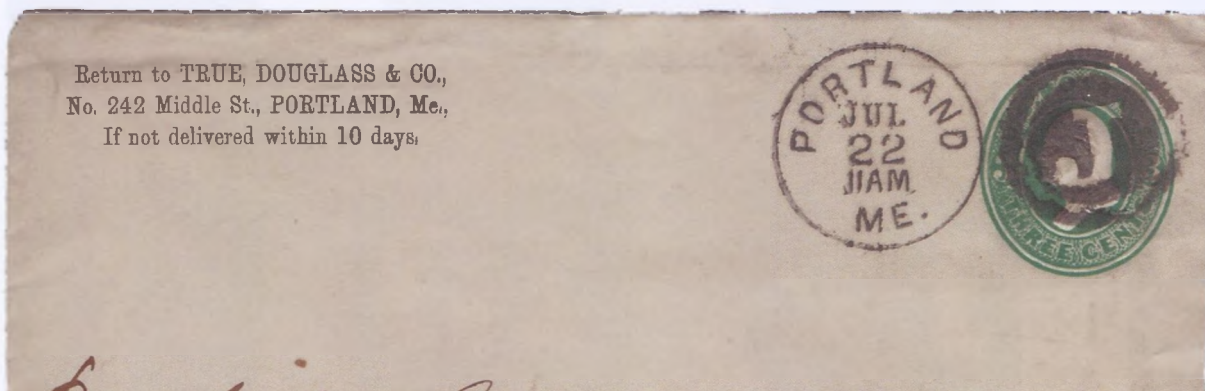


P-R-V

The P-R-D cancel saw frequent use in the summer of 1882. The example shown here is one of the earlier ones. (Bill Tatham)



The last of five known strikes of the shortlived P-R-17, showing some signs of distress. (Christopher Perry)



Portland used two different J-in-a-small-ringed-circle cancels. Illustrated here is the P-R-J-1 just a few days before it was retired. Before the month of July 1882 was done, a new J cancel (P-R-J-2) was in use, illustrated here after several weeks of use. (Author and Roger Curran)

Style	L/N	Description	EKU	LKU	#
P-S-2	2	in square	11-Nov-80	17-Mar-81	12
P-S-8	8	in square	9-Nov-81	11-Mar-83	14
P-S-10	10	in square	2-Jun-80	9-Oct-81	20
P-S-11	11	in square	15-Jul-82	16-Oct-82	5
P-S-12a	12	in square, with sharp corners	14-May-82	9-Jun-82	4
P-S-12b	12	in square, with softer corners, especially on right	21-Jun-82	9-Oct-82	9
P-S-13-1	13	in square, with sharp corners, thick font	6-Nov-82	18-Nov-82	4
P-S-13-2	13	in square, with rounded corners, narrow font	28-Dec-82	7-Jul-83	7
P-S-B	B	in square		Not seen	0
P-S-F	F	in square	9-Jul-80	8-Nov-80	15
P-S-J	J	in square	5-May-83	13-Sep-83	17

Note: P-S-10 sometimes occurred with a negative dot near the lower left corner.

Note: It is theorized that P-S-12a rapidly became heavily worn on the right and was trimmed down and used as P-S-12b.

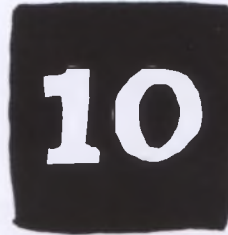
Note: P-S-13-2 was extremely distorted in its later usage.



P-S-2



P-S-8



P-S-10



P-S-11



P-S-12a



P-S-12b



P-S-13-1



P-S-13-2



P-S-F



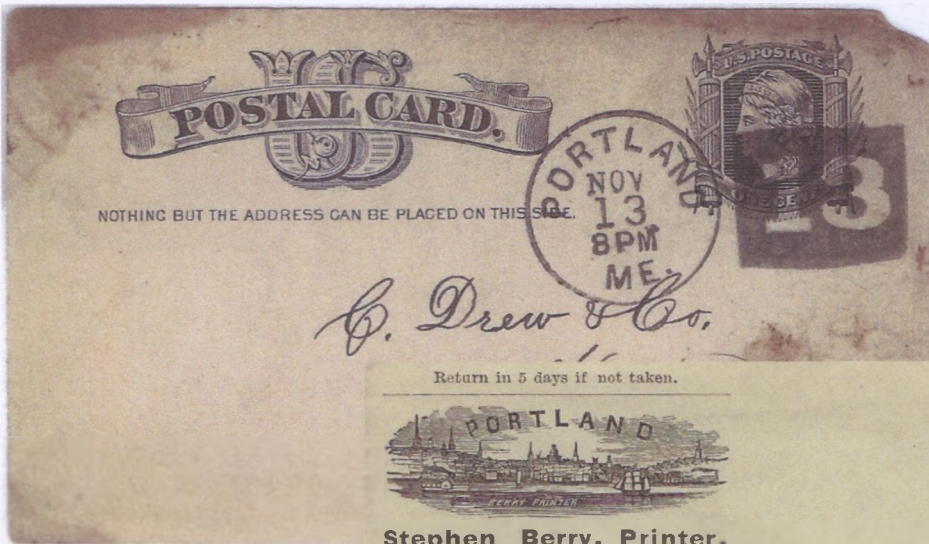
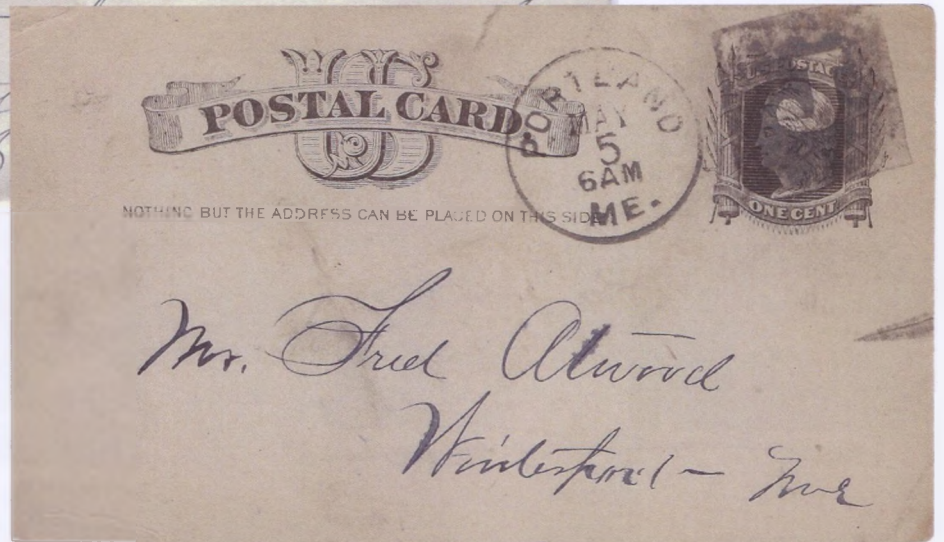
P-S-J

The May 17 strike of P-S-12 shows four sharp corners, although deterioration is evident at upper right. The July 19 strike has rounder corners on the left side from over two months of use. The upper right corner has been trimmed to remove destroyed rubber. This strike is the only one known to reveal a hint of the stamp base at upper right. (Roger Curran and Author)





Two nice, clean (earliest known) examples of a P-S-10 – this one with the dot that often does not show – and a P-S-J which was much used and well worn during its five-month life. (Bill Tatham)



The two different types of 13 in a square, P-R-13-1 and P-R-13-2. (Roger Curran and Nancy Clark)

Style	L/N	Description	EKU	LKU	#
P-L-8	8	bars (probably) closed at both ends	12-Mar-xx	Year unknown	1
P-L-10	10	bars (probably) open	1881 or 1882		1
P-L-20	20	bars closed at both ends	18-Jun-82		1
P-L-B	B	bars closed at alternate ends	22-Apr-82		1
P-L-D	D	bars (probably) closed at both ends	10-May-82		1
P-L-O-1	O	bars open	12-Apr-83	16-Apr-83	2
P-L-O-2	O	bars closed at both ends	29-Jul-83		1
P-L-V	V	bars closed at both ends	26-Jan-82		1

Note: The only known P-L-8 shows only a trace of a top bar. Until further examples are found, it is assumed that the top bar simply failed to make clean contact or once existed but since deteriorated to be nearly gone.

Note: The only known P-L-D has been truncated by removal of the right side of cover. It is assumed that the barred square continues to the right and is whole.



P-L-8



P-L-10



P-L-20



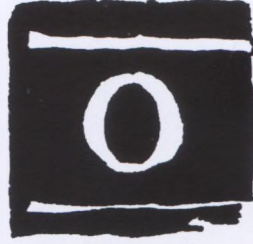
P-L-B



P-L-D



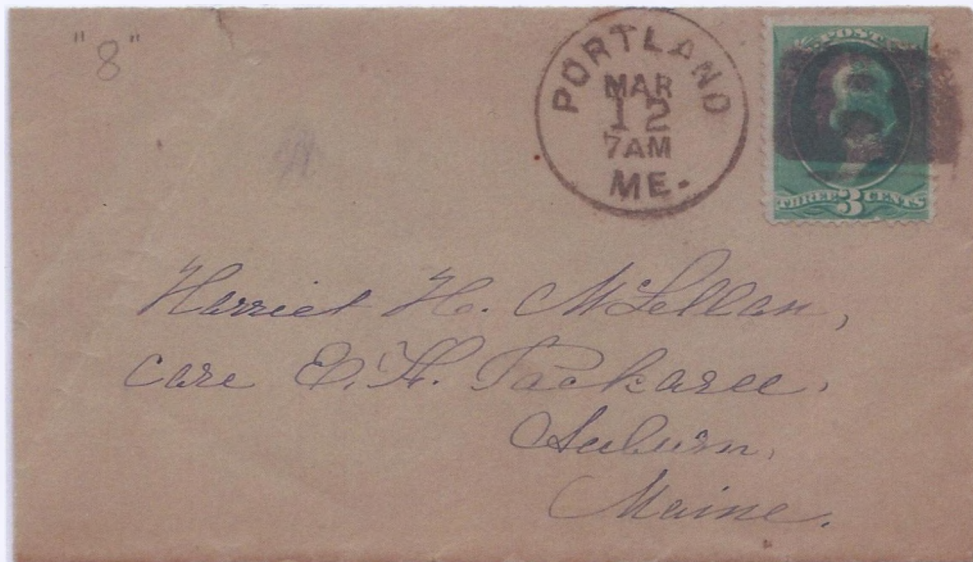
P-L-O-1



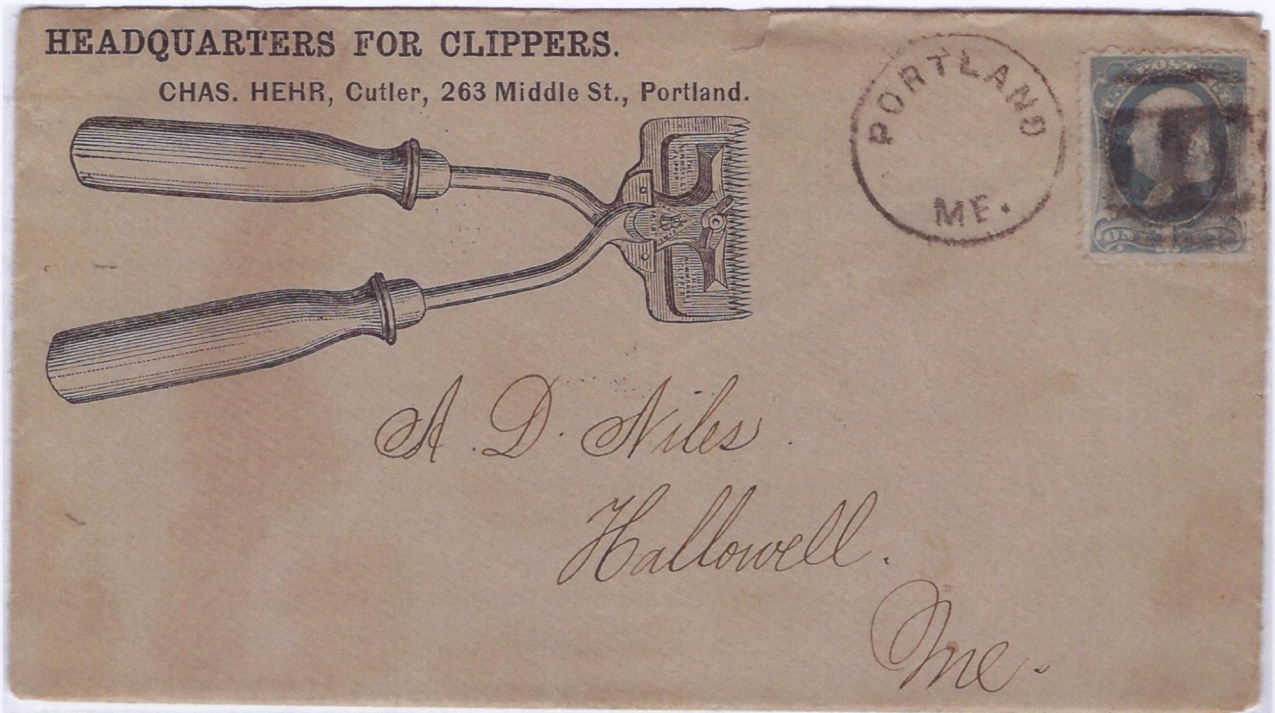
P-L-O-2



P-L-V



In comparison to Boston, Portland did not use many "L"-style cancellers and it appears they all wore down very rapidly. Whoever liked to use the '8', in all styles, seemed to be rather harsh in his treatment of the devices – almost all cancels with an '8' in Portland were very distressed. (Bill Tatham)



An unusual advertising cover with a unique strike of a dateless CDS and its duplexed killer, P-L-10. The envelope's contents included a dated circular. (Nancy Clark)



Two other "only one known" covers - P-L-20 and P-L-D. (Roger Curran)

End of Part II.

Even More on Eveleth of Durham, Maine

Joe H. Crosby

The post office in Durham, Maine and its long-serving postmaster (1862-1885), James Henry Eveleth have been mentioned previously in the *NEWS* – in an article by Roger Curran in 2006¹ and another by yours truly the following year².

Postmaster Eveleth, who can be seen in Figure 1, had a habit of cancelling and adorning covers sent to relatives with homemade killers of various styles and carrying initials identifying him as the sender. Whitfield³ provides three examples, all illustrated here as Figure 2.

Figure 3 shows a cover from 1863 or a little later, with a Scott #65 stamp strongly tied by a metal 5-ring bullseye, a circle formed by four hearts and an 8-wedge cork. None of these have been reported before. The cover is addressed to Master Willie P. Bailey, West Harpswell, Maine, which is only 22 miles from Durham. Willie is listed in online genealogical reports as being born in Durham in 1855, making him about 8 years old when the cover was mailed.

Two things about this cover are different to all the others that are known to have passed though Eveleth's hands – until now, he was known only to use fancy cancels on mail destined for relatives, and those fancy cancels always had identifying initials or names.



Figure 1

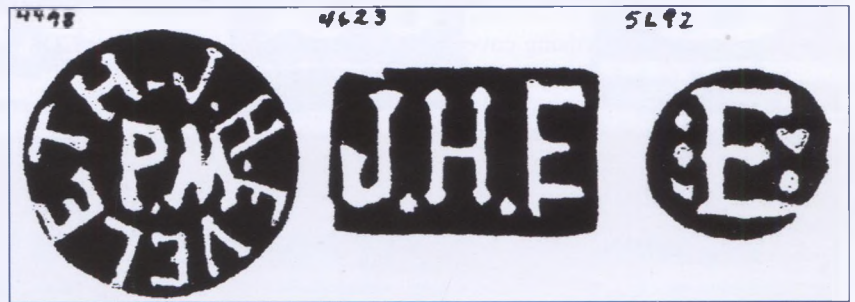


Figure 2



Figure 3

There is little doubt that the three neat favor cancels, all previously unreported, were from postmaster Eveleth. I wonder if Master Willie was the first ever youth U.S. fancy cancel collector!?! ■

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Noted in Passing

Roger D. Curran

The cover in Figure 1 bears a curious CDS with the "PA." at the bottom in much larger letters than those for the town name, Akron. One might wonder if the handstamp that applied it was ordered locally by the postmaster and was one of a kind. However, I have seen examples from at least one other post office but cannot recall the name. Readers who can report such examples are encouraged to contact the editor.



Figure 1

The cover in Figure 2 was struck by a Washington, D.C. ellipse cancel from a set involving what collectors refer to as "fishtail" numerals in the center. The numerals run from "1" to "6" but only numerals "1" to "4" show the fishtail design. The most dramatic, incidentally, is the "4" – see Figure 3. There are two sets of these ellipses, one involving eight horizontal bars and the other a solid central section, referred to as a "barrel", with two bars above and two below. Figure 3, of course, involves the latter set. "Barrel" ellipses were not used in the early years of ellipse cancels but became very popular in the 1880s. As far as I have been able to determine, these Washington ellipses represent the earliest use of the "barrel" design. Readers interested in the Washington "fishtail" ellipses are referred to an article on Washington's ellipses in the May 2012 NEWS.

The reason the Figure 2 cover is shown here, however, concerns the addressee, General Hazard Stevens, an interesting historical figure. Born in Rhode Island in 1842, Stevens was a Major and Assistant Adjutant General in the Civil War. He received the Medal of Honor for his contribution to the capture of Fort Huger, Virginia. The citation read: "Gallantly led a party that assaulted and captured the fort." Stevens was appointed to the brevet grade of brigadier general of volunteers in 1866. Two years later, while living in Washington Territory, he met the private secretary to the Governor of the Territory who, like him, was interested in climbing Mount Rainier. In 1870 they succeeded in the first ascent of the mountain. The name of Stevens' fellow climber has a certain familiarity in today's world: P. B. Van Trump.



Figure 2



Figure 3

General Stevens moved to Dorchester, Massachusetts in 1874 and in 1885 entered the state legislature. Later in life, he returned to the west coast and in 1905 climbed Mount Rainier a second time. General Stevens died in Goldendale, Washington in 1918.

From the collection of our editor, the registered cover illustrated in Figure 4 was sent on April 1, 1898 from Harrington, Maine, with transit through Boston on April 6, to West Somerville, Massachusetts. The killer used in Harrington appears



Figure 4

to have been a circle of wedges, but this particular strike came out rather poorly, due probably to over-inking or excess pressure in applying it.

The reason for showing this cover, however, has to do with the other markings on the front. There is the incomplete "Registered No" and also a "W. M. R. A." marking in the same magenta color as the registered marking. I believe the W stands for "written", the M for "mailed", the R for "received" and the A for "answered". The spaces below were dutifully filled in with the applicable dates, using ditto marks where appropriate. One last marking on the front is a "1206" in purple ink.

I assume the cover enclosed an order for some product together with cash payment. The "WMRA" marking seems to have been designed to facilitate record keeping by the party receiving an order and would presumably have been struck on the cover by that party. The fact that the colors of the WMRA and registered markings are so similar is interesting, but I chalk that up to simple coincidence. Reader comment is welcome. ■



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