
VERMONT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

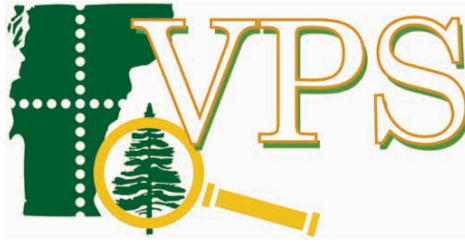
www.vermontps.org

Meets annually

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A GREAT RESOURCE FOR POSTMARK COLLECTORS

If you have an interest in the postal history of almost any state, you should be a member of the Postmark Collectors Club. In addition to publishing the monthly *PMCC Bulletin*, the club also maintains the Margie Pfund Memorial Post Mark Museum and Library at Historic Lyme Village in Bellevue, Ohio.



One of the strengths of the museum is the Willett–Thompson Collection of older material from the nineteenth century and early twentieth century mounted in more than four hundred binders. The entire collection has been scanned and was released to collectors a few years ago on two CDs for the entire collection or 11 CDs with regional states.

As editor of the *Vermont Philatelist* I finally found the time to check over the Vermont section of CD #5 which comprises Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Maryland, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the Canal Zone.

The Vermont portion of the CD includes scans of more than five hundred and fifty individual pages in the collection. Author Bill Lizotte discussed “Depression Era (Type E four bars)” handcancels in a recent issue of the *Vermont Philatelist*. These handcancels are characterized by having both the post office and the state name at the top of the cancel with the date in the middle in four lines and the circle bottom entirely vacant.

While Lizotte had a listing of twenty-eight such cancels in his collection, by looking in the W–T scans we were able to find four more cancels, two of which Bill had heard about (Fairfield and Graniteville) but never verified and two which were completely new to him (East Dummerston and Orwell).

According to Lizotte, this type of handcancel was only supplied to post offices after September 30, 1930 and into mid-1931. Many of the items in the collection are 2 × 4 inch cuts, not full covers. However, as a research utility it is a valuable resource, especially for those who cannot visit the museum in person.

More information about the W–T Collection can be found under RESOURCES on the PMCC’s website — WWW.POSTMARKS.ORG. ■