



The Vermont Philatelist

Journal of the Vermont Philatelic Society

May 2018: Volume 63, Number 2 -- Whole Number 249



Herrick (Franklin County)

In August 1962, George Slawson, then the editor of the *Vermont Philatelist* began a series on “Rarely Found Post Offices”. Herrick was the first post office in the series. The text was accompanied only by a black and white line drawing of a circular date stamp. With the advent of scanners, we can now illustrate color scans of such covers. Member George Cumming sends this scan of a registered cover from Herrick.

Slawson wrote: “Herrick (Franklin Co.), located in the northeastern section of the township of Fairfield, nearly 5 miles north of East Fairfield, consisted of a church, a cemetery, a school, and a straggling of perhaps a dozen farmhouses, one of which maintained a store of sorts in its front room. The residents of this community, then known as Norfolk (named after the location in Connecticut from whence most of these settlers came) found it a lengthy and tiresome process to make the approximately ten mile round trip by wagon over poor roads in order to obtain their mail. Bayson Dickenson, the storekeeper, held a meeting in his home and announced he had applied to Washington for a postoffice, and had been informed that an office would be granted if,

(continued on page 5)

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Cover of the Issue

The Cover of the Issue this quarter is not a cover but a piece with an interesting cancel. The Ascutney, VT handcancel has the correct ZIP Code listing: 05030 but not the correct ZIP + 4 for the 9 digit identification. Handcancels should only have the 5 number ZIP Code since a ZIP + 4 number is actually assigned to a



specific location or postal box. The correct ZIP + 4 for the post office (postmaster) is 05030-9998. The 05030-9700 was the ZIP + 4 for the 1797 Ascutney House Restaurant next door to the post office.

It seems that the Ascutney office has used the -9998 extension for a number of years. Below are two examples from 2009.



Other post offices with the -9998 extension in handcancels include Arlington (2011 example), Bristol (2009), Essex Junction (2009), Fairlee (2009), Forest Dale (2009), Granville (2010), Huntington (2010) (both black and red handcancels), Jay Peak (2002), Northfield (2009), North Troy (2009), Peacham (2009), Waitsfield (2006), and Whiting (2009).

Membership News

Welcome to new members:

#881--Harold L. Jones, PO Box 340, Meriden NH 03770-0340

#882--Daniel H. Lamorey, PO Box 1553, Williston VT 05495-1553

(Herrick) *(continued from page 1)*

during a three month test period, outgoing mail taken to East Fairfield proved sufficient to warrant such an office.

“And so,” stated Mr. Dickenson, “I want each of you young fellows to write your girl a letter every day for the next three months.” Most of them did, and as a result, a postoffice was installed on Sept. 1, 1899 -although named “Herrick” after the most numerous of the settling families. “And,” explains Howard V. Hull, “most of us quit writin’ that fall ‘cause after so many letters we all got married.” The postoffice languished until it was removed Jan. 31, 1902, after only 29 months.

“As far as is known to the Editor (or S. V.Drenan, or L.T.Hayward, etc. *[ed note: Drenan and Hayward were prominent Vermont postal history collectors in the mid-20th Century]*) no letter has ever been found cancelled with this postmark, although one letter has been discovered with a legible receiving stamp, or backstamp showing the office’s only postmark. Since this is the only copy of the Herrick postmark reported, it becomes a definite rarity, in spite of being a backstamp.”

The cover found by George is a registered letter to the Rixford Manufacturing Company in East Highgate, Vermont and has an East Highgate receiving cancel on the reverse. In the August 1976 *VP* it was announced that a drop letter from Herrick had also been found as well as another letter. Currently Herrick has a scarcity rating of 8.

Vermont Stamp Clubs

Information about Vermont stamp clubs is on-line at <http://www.vermontps.org/clubs/clubs.html>. It would help greatly if a member of each club would check out the club’s information and inform me of changes. Also, if the club program for the year is available that would help also. Glenn Estus (email: gestus@vermontps.org)

The Green Mountain Stamp Society will be holding a stamp bourse at the Grace Christian School, Kocher Dr. (off Route 7) Bennington, Vermont from 9 am to 3 pm on Saturday August 25, 2018. At this time the Society is expecting 6 dealers to be present.

Cross-Border Trio

By Richard Marek

Because I wasn't finding much new to add in other areas, for several years now I've been concentrating my Vermont collecting on mail to and from what today comprises Canada. It has proven to be a challenging subject because it includes a multitude of shifting rates, rules, exceptions to the rules, and special postal markings, many a puzzle to try to understand. The three covers shown here show a bit of that interesting complexity.

The first two were purchased together at the Buxboro show this year and are from the same correspondence. Both went from Winchendon, Massachusetts to Stukely, Quebec. It is in the Eastern Townships, a bit west of the northern tip of Lake Memphremagog.

The January cover has a faint Montreal backstamp that appears to be from 1853, which would make sense in light of the other markings.



The United States and Canada had arrived at an 1851 treaty to establish a unitary payment to carry letters from one country to their destinations in the other. Before that each country charged its own postage "to the lines" (border) and then the receiving country charged its own rate "from the lines" to the destination. Those rates varied, kept changing and might or might not be able or required to be partly or entirely pre-paid at different times.

Eventually the postal authorities in both countries realized that all of this complexity was accomplishing very little except to create con-

fusion and inhibit the amount of mail being sent across their border. The thought occurred to them that the mail going in each direction was more or less equal over time. If each country simply collected an equal rate for the entire trip wherever the postage was paid, then their revenue also would average out.

When this logic eventually prevailed the resulting 1851 Treaty with its unitary rates made cross-border mail much less complicated and easier to administer. Increases in mail volume under this simpler system also made it more cost efficient.

Winchendon's bold blue "10" rate marking on each of these covers, together with the absence of any separate Canadian "from the lines" rate marking shows that both of them were sent under the 1851 treaty rates. But what, you might ask, about that big "6" which was struck in black over the "10". Isn't that another Canadian rate and thus inconsistent with the treaty?

Yes it is a Canadian rate, but it is not there because of any separate Canadian postage fee - as would have been the case before 1851. It's there because both letters were sent "collect," with the recipient responsible for paying the postage. The "6" marking simply represents Canada's six pence equivalent which it collected to match the U.S. ten cents rate. The February cover is undated and may or may not be from the same year, but that time the postmaster in Stukely didn't bother showing the payment conversion.

Another aspect of the 1851 Treaty explains why both of these covers also belong in a Vermont collection. That Treaty required that the "exchange office" where mail was transferred from the sending country to the receiving country mark the mail with its country of origin. Vermont had several of these exchange offices over the years - in fact Burlington's post office was created to serve as the very first U.S. exchange office under the initial Canada/U.S. postal treaty and Swanton was the second in the country.

A variety of "country of origin" handstamps were used by U.S. exchange offices and Burlington had one of the more striking ones. Its red "U. States ribbon" seen on the January cover indicates that it was transferred into the Canadian mails there. The cover's blend of red, blue and black handstamps also makes it the only tri-color marking combination I have seen on any Vermont cross-border mail.



The February cover has a much more mundane looking country of origin handstamp, but that marking actually is far scarcer than Burlington's. It was applied at the Swanton exchange office and it is the earlier of two different styles of arc used there. Swanton also had a significantly larger arc marking which I have seen struck only in black (although the color of exchange markings apparently held no special postal significance).

That larger black Swanton arc is found significantly more frequently than the smaller red one used here. This is only the second small Swanton arc I have seen and I know of only one more reported copy.

I remain unsure why these two covers, both having the same origin and destination and quite possibly sent within a month of one another, were handled by different Vermont exchange offices. Perhaps this simply resulted from the vagaries of the connections they made in their journeys, but they definitely do belong back together today as interesting illustrations of Vermont's exchange office mails.

My third cover, also from the Boxboro show, shows two unusual features from the period before the 1851 unitary rates were adopted. It was posted at Montreal in November of 1850 addressed to Middlebury, Vermont. It likely entered the U.S. mails at either Swanton or Burlington.

Postage rates are just what we would expect in 1850 – a 4 ½ pence manuscript Canadian marking to carry the letter to the lines and 5 cents U.S. to pay for the rest of the trip to Middlebury. What puzzled me, though, was the little italic "PAID" handstamp next to the "5" rate mark.

At the time, the Canadian postage rate normally would have been marked on a cover by the Montreal post office. Then, a U.S. rate would have been added to it at the U.S. exchange office or, if it failed to do so, at the destination office.



However, neither U.S. office would have had any reason to add a “PAID” marking along with the rate. By the time it reached the exchange office the letter already was being carried in the mails, so neither the sender nor the recipient was around to pay the postage then. And, at the receiving office, a letter sent collect simply would have been handed over as it was paid for without any marking being added.

The answer to the problem is suggested by the distinctive matching color of all of the markings on the cover – all of them, including the PAID and 5 actually were applied at Montreal. That office was allowed to accept pre-payment of both Canadian and U.S. postage at this time, although pre-payment of neither was required. While pre-payment of the Canadian component was not uncommon even though not required, this pre-payment of the U.S. portion which resulted in Montreal’s handstamped 5 and PAID was quite unusual.

Here, that postage pre-payment probably was driven by the fact that the letter enclosed currency for Middlebury’s Town Treasurer – most likely for some tax or fee. Sending the letter with postage due presumably would have still left the sender in arrears with Middlebury by that small amount.

This shows that the PAID marking must also have applied to the Canadian rate despite being placed next to the U.S. rate. Failure to also

pre-pay that portion of the postage would have made no sense, since it only would have created a different little shortfall with the treasurer.

The truly incredible aspect of this cover, however, is the “MONEY LETTER” handstamp at the top. That marking was used by a Canadian forerunner of the registry system which later would be established in 1855 by both Canada and the United States.

The problem with this first system, though, was that a Money Letter handstamp clearly indicated the presence of money but it then afforded no special protection for the value it proclaimed. The Money Letter just went through the regular mail bearing an open invitation for the light fingered. Its only special treatment was a receipt when delivered. And one wonders if even that last step ever happened once it entered another nation’s mails.

Given these limitations, it is little wonder that Canadian Money Letters were not widely used, even domestically. Registry eventually would create much more meaningful protections for valuable mail and become much more widely used.

The great rarity of surviving Money Letters to destinations outside of Canada is readily evident by looking at the 2005 auction catalog for the late Allan Steinhart’s remarkable collection of Canadian foreign mail. It lists just two Money Letters sent to the U.S. and two to England and says that those four covers probably represent the bulk of all known examples. Another major stampless auction, the Dr. John Robertson collection several years ago, included just four handstamped Money Letters sent to the U.S. and some of those likely were ex-Steinhart.

In view of this, the chances of ever finding any cross-border Money Letter at all, much less one sent to Vermont, always have appeared infinitesimal to me. To ponder the odds, one should remember that Vermont’s population in 1850 was only 314,000 out of a total U.S. population of 23,000,000 and that Steinhart after decades of collecting as a major dealer had found only two such covers sent to anywhere at all in the U.S.

Now, against all odds, we find one of those rare Money Letters which actually was sent to Vermont making its appearance at last! One of the real pleasures of philately is that there always are more treasures to be found and for anyone interested in cross-border material this pristine little cover certainly ranks among them.

The Post Horn

by Bill Lizotte

As readers may well know, I have a passion for Vermont postal history, and particularly take an interest in Vermont's stampless covers, although my interest is certainly not limited to this area. I sometimes peruse the American Stampless Cover Catalogue and other reference works to study recorded materials for presentation in this journal, and to often record information about them for readers, including rarity.

Occasionally, I read through materials in the ASCC listed for other states as well, particularly Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, and a few others which offer postmarks of a fancy nature, double and triple circles, ovals, straightline postmarks, and other interesting materials. The states just mentioned, with numerous materials available are likely overwhelming for many state collectors, except the few with considerable means, so many collectors of these materials may take an interest in only a part of their state, often by county.

Vermont is fortunate to have a happy medium of available materials, fourteen counties, but a somewhat sparse population, therefore only about five hundred and twenty-five or so Post Offices open during the stampless period. Collecting the entire state is manageable with a little patience and perseverance. Deep pockets are not required.

Comparing Vermont and Delaware

Then again, I notice that some other states have very little to collect during the stampless period. About a year ago I took a long look at the ASCC listings for Delaware and thought that I would study these and draw some comparisons between Vermont and Delaware.

I am somewhat dismayed that no covers which traveled through the mails of the Republic of Vermont can be said with certainty to have passed through the mails rather than privately carried, although the postal system was in operation from 1783 to 1792 before the United States POD took over operation. Certainly, dozens of surviving letters did pass through the Republic mails, but no postal markings were used, so there can be no proof that an individual piece of mail can be said to have gone through the public mail system.

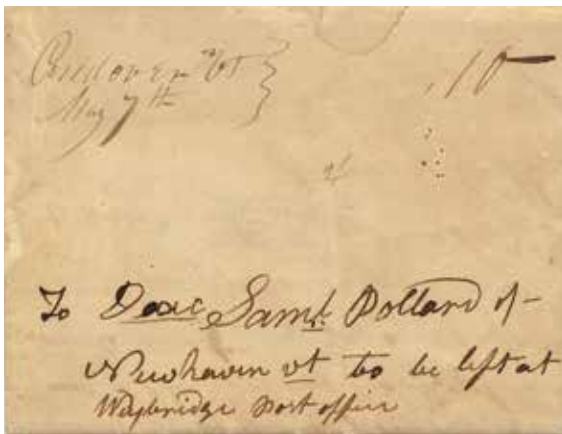
Vermont's postal history of record begins with a letter bearing a Windsor straightline used in 1792, other straightlines from Rutland and

Burlington, and another fifteen to twenty privately held letters bearing in manuscript postal markings from at least eight or nine towns by the end of the eighteenth century. (*ed. note: The May 2014 VP contains a fairly comprehensive listing of Vermont 18th century covers.*)

The number of Towns in Delaware listed as having circle or other handstamp postmarks on stampless covers is a mere twenty-seven. This includes seven straightline postmarks before 1855, compared with more than eighty from Vermont; three oval postmarks during the same period, compared with Vermont's twenty-one towns, although several of the Vermont towns used at least two different ovals, and three towns, Montpelier, Thetford, and Woodstock used four or more different ovals over a period of many years. At least 254 Vermont towns are on record having used some type of handstamp postmarking device. Even more surprising is that only three towns in Delaware, Dover, Duck Creek, and Wilmington, have known covers with postmarks, either handstamp or manuscript, prior to 1802. This is quite an extraordinary dearth of postal history for a state with a long coastline, and a history going back to such an early time.

Perhaps even more extraordinary is that Delaware stampless covers are known with manuscript postmarks from twenty seven towns; and the earliest known such cover from Delaware is a Dover letter dated to 1803. I should mention that Delaware was part of Pennsylvania and became a separate colony only in 1776.

Earlier Than Previously Reported Andover, May 7, 1835



Andover is located in the southern part of Windsor County, inland a couple of tiers from the Connecticut River, and today is a township with two small villages, but neither has an operating Post Office today. The Andover Post Office was established in 1823 and remained in operation continuously until it was permanently discontinued in 1937.

The earliest surviving cover for many years has been one dated to 1845, one of only two reported stampless covers from this office. Later Andover covers are hardly rare by any standard. A few years ago, the cover on page 11 turned up in a purchase of several others. It bears the manuscript postmark of Andover in the upper left corner, and below it a date of May 7th, with year 1835 internally. At the upper right is indicated the postage of ten cents to be collected from the addressee, Samuel Pollard of New Haven. There is the directive that the letter be left at the Weybridge Post Office, apparently closer to Pollard than his own Post Office in New Haven.

There are now three Andover stampless covers on record, all with manuscript postal markings exclusively. Although this new cover closes the gap of unknown covers for Andover by a decade, there still remains a period of a dozen years for an earlier one to surface.

The East Poultney Oval of 1824

The East Poultney Post Office was established on August 4, 1824, possibly with its first handstamp postmark already on hand, as a fancy



cogged oval postmark was struck on this cover on August 17, only thirteen days later. I acquired this cover at the recent Boxborough Show outside Boston.

Starting in the May, 2017 issue of the *VP*, I began a three-part series of articles on early handstamps on Vermont stampless covers (1792-1830), but no illustration of this postmark was available. I included an estimate of three or four examples known, but it seems that this is only the second reported copy, earlier by two weeks, and a better strike, than the one previously reported example, struck in red ink.

This East Poultney cover is addressed to Harvy [sic] D. Smith, Esq., Gouverneur, County St. Lawrence, NY. Collect postage of eighteen and a half cents for a distance of 150 miles, but less than 400 miles is noted at the upper right. The fancy oval postmark with small serif letters and Vermont spelled in full is very similar to the equally fancy oval used at nearly Fair Haven, also used in 1824. This device was illustrated in the August 2017 issue of the *VP*. There are two obvious differences between the two. Letters in the Fair Haven device are in italics, but those in the East Poultney postmark are upright; and the embellished decorative devices left and right of the date are different.

A Couple of Burlington Manuscripts Worth Attention

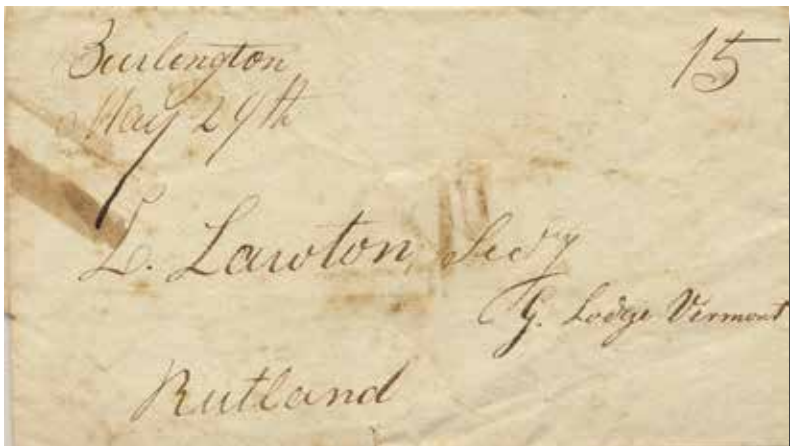
Early manuscript covers from Vermont's largest city are not plentiful, and several collectors of Burlington's early postal history may take an interest in these two items.

John Fay, a prominent Burlington lawyer, was the first Burlington Postmaster, appointed to the post early in June of 1792, and serving in that capacity while also tending his practice of law. In time the responsibility of his postal position was increased, and he invited his cousin Moses Fay to join as assistant at the Burlington Post Office. John Fay became ill in 1807, discontinuing his law practice, and turned over the business of the Burlington Post Office, unofficially, until his death in early January of 1809. Moses Fay was appointed Acting Postmaster on January 8, 1809, until the appointment of Cornelius Van Ness on or about July 1, 1809 as permanent Postmaster. There are several early manuscript stampless covers in the hand of John Fay during his tenure, and not surprisingly several more in the hand of his cousin Moses Fay in the years prior to his appointment as Assistant Postmaster, but none known during his official tenure, January 9 to June 30, 1809.



The Burlington folded letter illustrated here bears a postmark date of June 22, with collect postage of eight cents to be paid by the addressee, a legal firm with the name “Smith and Woodbridge, Esqs, Attys at Law/ Vergennes.” The letter is docketed 1809 in pencil at bottom, but there is also a curious notation on the back of the letter in ancient script, added perhaps as a joke, reading simply, “A Foot, the Arrogant, 1809”. This postmark is certainly in the pen of Moses Fay during his service as Assistant Postmaster.

Second is this folded letter with the manuscript postmark of Burlington in the upper left corner, with a date of May 29th below, and an internal year date of 1815. The collect postage rate of fifteen cents, to be paid by the addressee, is a War Rate, effective for only thirteen months



in 1815 and 1816. The regular postage rates by Postal Act of 1799 were increased by fifty percent as a tax to help pay off debts incurred during the War of 1812.

Jason Chamberlain was appointed Postmaster of Burlington on March 16, 1814, but his term was short, and was replaced when Dr. Elijah D. Harmon was appointed to the post on January 22, 1816. Since Burlington had been using an oval postmark on the greater part of outgoing mail starting in June, 1802, manuscript postmarks in the hand of the Postmaster after that time are scarce. This is possibly the only example in the hand of Postmaster Chamberlain.

***Windsor Way Cover of 1801: An Anomaly
It's Also a Free Cover to Member of Congress***



This cover is one of Vermont's earliest Way covers, in itself a small treasure, but this one is said to be the only surviving cover in American postal history to weigh the balance between a postal fee, and truly FREE mail.

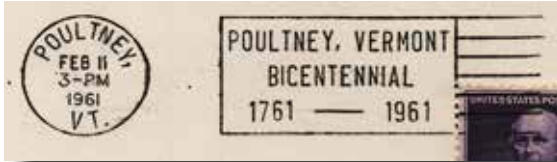
The folded letter was passed to a post rider near Windsor Vermont soon after January 20, 1801, to be mailed at the Windsor Post Office, where it was postmarked on January 30, 1801, and addressed to "The Hon'b Jona. Freeman, Esq./ Memb Cong./ Washington". [the Honorable Jonathan Freeman, Esquire, Member of Congress, Washington]. Fees are indicated in the upper right corner, as both Way and Free.

The terms are contradictory, since the letter should be free of postage when addressed to a member of Congress, but as a piece of Way mail should bear a charge of one cent for the post rider, when carried to any nearby post office. There is no indication that the one cent Way fee was paid by Congressman Freeman.

Vermont Slogan Machine Cancels (Part 7)

compiled by Glenn Estus

(continued from February 2018)

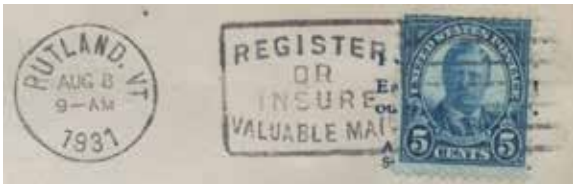


POULTNEY: 1961 -- POULTNEY, VERMONT / BICENTENNIAL / 1761 ----- 1961 (boxed)

ROCHESTER: 1981 -- HAPPY 200TH BIRTHDAY / HEART O'THE GREEN MOUNTAINS / THEN -- NOW -- FOREVER (lines in between)



RUTLAND: 1923 -- RUTLAND / VERMONT / LIVESTOCK/ EXPOSITION/ SEPT. 3 TO 8 / 1923 (boxed)



RUTLAND: 1923 - 1935 -- REGISTER / OR / INSURE / VALUABLE MAIL (boxed) (there were 9 different dies used over the 12 year period.)



RUTLAND: 1954 - 1956 -- NEW HOPE FOR HEARTS / --- SUPPORT --- THE HEART FUND (boxed)



RUTLAND: 1956 - 1965 -- FIGHT TB / SUPPORT YOUR / TB ASSOCIATION (boxed with Cross of Lorraine)

RUTLAND: 1958 -- PRAY / FOR / PEACE (boxed) (small "58")



RUTLAND: 1961 -- RUTLAND, VERMONT / BICENTENNIAL YEAR / 1761 - 1961



RUTLAND / VT: 1961-1962 -- Remember / Only you can / PREVENT/ FOREST FIRES

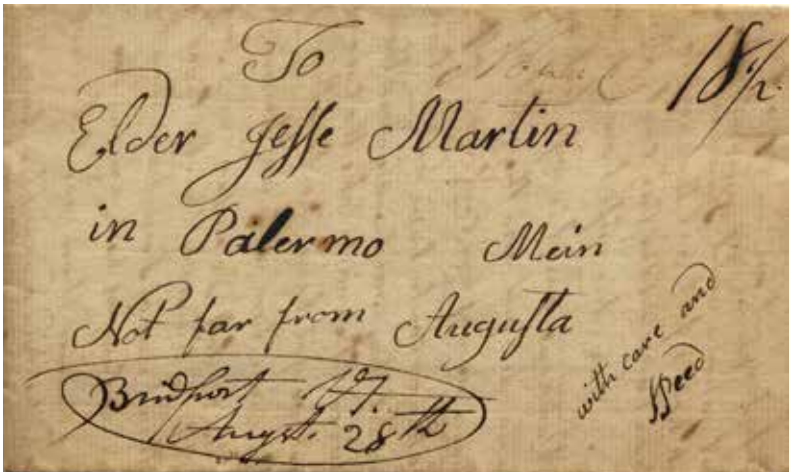
Manuscript Oval Postmarks on Stampless Covers

by Bill Lizotte

The twenty-one Vermont Post Offices which used oval handstamped postmarks during the stampless period comprise a very nice group of postmarks among the more than five hundred Vermont Post Offices during the stampless era. (*ed. note: see page 23 for a complete listing*)

However, this article is concerned with Vermont Postmasters who may have noted with some envy that this attractive style could be quite easily imitated by a flourish of the skilled hand, turning an ordinary manuscript postmark into something just a little more worth noting.

There are certainly not many of these, but perhaps a half dozen or so that should be noted for the record.



The Post Office at Bridport was established in 1805, with the earliest recorded letter from that office dated to 1811. By 1817, Bridport Postmaster Rufus Harris (1816-25) was using a manuscript or hand-written oval postmark around his town's name, leaving ample room for the month and day; or perhaps the information was placed inside the oval after the fact. This fine Bridport cover bears the postmark in the lower left corner with date of August 28th, and an internal year of 1817. Postage of eighteen and a half cents is noted at the upper left. Crowding most of the balance of the cover front is the address,

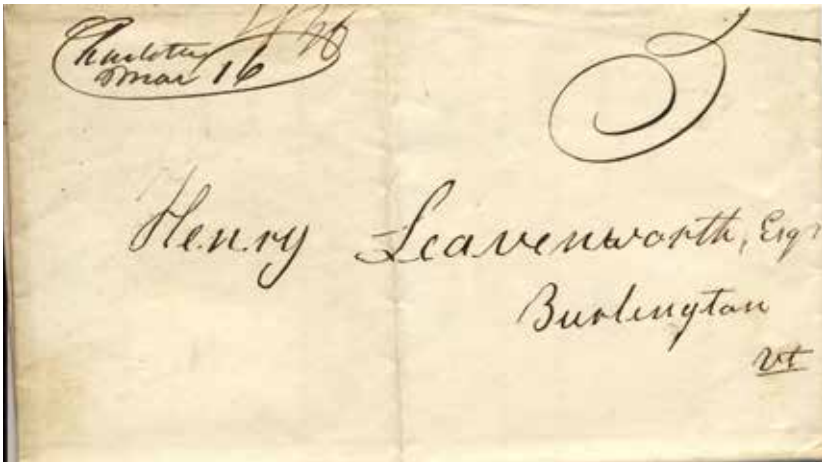
“To Elder Jesse Martin/ in Palermo Main [sic]/ Not far from Augusta” and an added note “with care and speed” below. This was during the “District of Maine” period, when that state was a detached part of the state of Massachusetts. Maine became a separate state in 1820. There is another Bridport hand written oval postmark on a cover dated 1820.



Although not quite so obviously ovular is this postmark from Burlington which includes three separate flourishes of the pen completely encasing the postmark and date of June 15, and an internal year of 1804. Postage of seventeen cents is recorded at the upper right, addressed to David Jewett of Jaffrey, New Hampshire. John Fay was Postmaster of Burlington from 1792 to 1809. I am not aware of other similar “oval” manuscripts from the Burlington office.

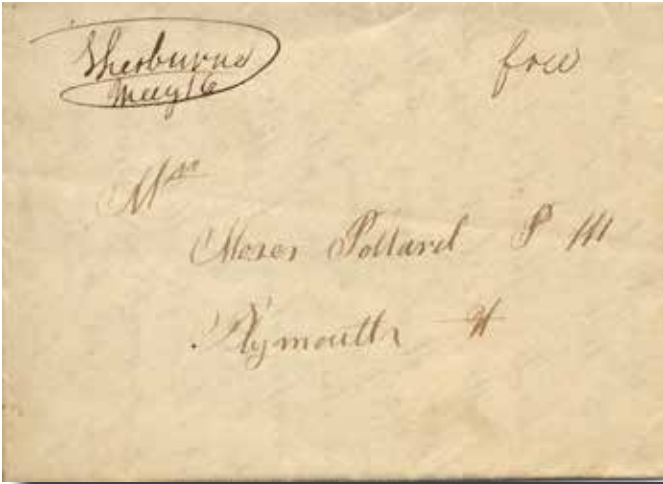


The Post Office at Castleton was established in 1805, and the earliest reported cover from this office is dated 1808. By 1812 Postmaster Samuel Moulton (1810-38) was also employing a wide ovular flourish to the mail from his office, although this seems not to have lasted long into his tenure as Postmaster. At least two examples of the Castleton oval are in my collection, the first dated 1812. The illustrated letter is addressed to Mr. Ziba Ware of nearby Wells, Vermont. The letter appears to bear postage of six cents, and if correct, the docketing date of 1812 on this cover is incorrect; the six-cent rate did not exist until 1816. A tiny piece of the dateline which includes the last two digits of the year has been torn away. Perhaps collectors could check their early Castleton manuscripts for subsequent years to determine if Postmaster Moulton continued long term usage of the oval flourish.



A fourth Vermont Post Office to employ the thrifty use of a hand drawn oval postmark was Charlotte, although this usage is much later. This letter is postmarked on March 16, 1846, with collect postage of five cents indicated at the upper right. It is addressed to Henry Leavenworth, a lawyer in Burlington. In this instance, the oval is a wide sweep of the letter C at the start of the town name, fully circling the town name, state abbreviation, and date. I am again not aware of other Charlotte ovals. The term of office for Charlotte Postmaster Samuel Barnes was brief, perhaps not allowing time for much usage of it.

The Post Office at Sherburne, now Killington, was established in 1828. The manuscript oval on this folded letter is drawn at the upper left without state abbreviation, and with date under the town name. The letter is noted Free at upper right, addressed to Postmaster Moses Pollard in Plymouth, hence no charge for the postage. The letter bears



no internal year, but Moses Pollard served as Postmaster at Plymouth from 1829 to 1842. Reports from readers of this journal with similar Sherburne “ovals” would perhaps tie this down to a narrower period. The Town of Sherburne took the name Killington about a decade ago, but the village, and hence the Post Office, took that name in late 1961.



The final manuscript oval used in Vermont (with an example in my collection) was at West Rutland on a cover addressed to John Kellogg, the Postmaster at Benson from 1813 to 1822, and again during the 1840s, dates uncertain. However, this letter is dated March 24, internally 1831, when he was not the Postmaster, and postage of six cents was required, noted at the upper right. There is another cover dated 1832 with a similar oval, also addressed to Kellogg in Benson.

There is also noted use of an enclosed oval used at Barnet in 1812 which I have seen, although I have no examples of this to share with readers. A second example of the Barnet oval is also reported.

In noting similarity and differences in the six illustrated “ovals” in manuscript, it is clear that they fall into two obvious types, while the single Burlington cover seems to be an exception, with three flourishes of the pen used to “enclose” the town name and date.

First are Bridport, Castleton, and Charlotte, which share one important characteristic. All begin with a wide sweep of the pen which begins with the first letter of the town name, even the Bridport. The sweep allows ample and deliberate space for the month and day.

Second are the Sherburne and West Rutland, which begin with an oval flourish of the pen entirely apart from the town name, sweeping back on the left side of all reported examples, slightly short of connecting, but continuing inside the middle of the oval, allowing for the town name to be written above it, and the date below.

This interesting group should be studied further in the years ahead to allow for more towns and more examples to be included.

(ed note: I checked my collection of Vermont stampless covers and discovered two similar manuscript ovals: one from Charlotte and one from Jeffersonville. If anyone else has similar material, contact the editor and I will be happy to include that information in upcoming VPs).



Handstamped Vermont Oval Cancels

| Town | Dates reported | Size | Estimated Number | Other Information |
|-----------------------|----------------|---------|------------------|--|
| Brandon | 1841 | 28x25 | 8 | dotted, red, green |
| Bridport | 1830 | 32x24 | 1 | brown |
| Burlington | 1802-34 | 34x23 | 500-600 | red, black, maroon |
| Burlington | 1834 | 34x23 | 35-40 | maroon |
| Cornwall | 1834 | 37x29 | 2 | purple, very rare |
| Danby | 1828-47 | 28x23 | 15 | dotted, red, black, green |
| Danby | 1847-49 | 28x23 | 6-7 | dotted, red |
| Danville | 1825-30 | 30x25 | 12-15 | oval of dashes |
| Derby Line | 1835-43 | 28x23 | 25-30 | red and black |
| East Poultney | 1824 | 28x21 | 4-5 | dotted, red, black |
| East Wallingford | 1851-55 | 30x23 | 1 | thin Gothic letters |
| Fair Haven | 1824-25 | 28x23 | 4 | very fancy |
| Montpelier | 1808-17 | various | 15 | six varieties |
| | | | | [various kinds, most seem to be unique except those in 1815-17 period] |
| Peacham | 1828-30 | 35x24 | 4 | concentric, primitive |
| Pompanoosuc | 1848 | 48x24 | 1 | irregular, red |
| Randolph | 1823-32 | 26x21 | 3 | black |
| Rutland | 1830-35 | 38x25 | 100+ | dashed line, red, common |
| Saint Johnsbury Plain | 1829 | 35x26 | 3 | very rare, brown |
| South Strafford | 1834-41 | 35x26 | 4 | italic lettering, black |
| Thetford | 1811-25 | various | 15-20 | ms town & date inside oval |
| Thetford | 1826-30 | 35x25 | 6-7 | solid line oval |
| Vergennes | 1825-29 | 33-27 | 5 | red, sawtooth edge |
| Wilmington | 1836 | 36-28 | 2 | red, small case lettering |
| Woodstock | 1820-31 + | various | 50+ | cogged |

*(listing originally published in
The Vermont Philatelist August 2010)*

1898 “Pointed Finger” Return Marking from Morses Line Vermont

by Terence Hines

The illustrated cover has many interesting features but the most interesting is the small “pointed finger return to sender” marking at the top left. With a return address in Waterville, the cover was postmarked in Waterbury Center at 8 AM on Nov. 14, 1898, addressed to Waterville. It bears a Waterville postmark dated Nov. 15 at 8 AM. At Waterville the cover was forwarded to Morses Line, a small town right on the Canadian border. The back shows two postmarks relevant to its travel from Waterville to Morses Line. First there is a Franklin “REC'D” marking dated Nov. 15 at 4 PM. There is also a Morses Line postmark dated Nov. 15, but with no time included.

The cover went uncalled for at Morses Line and so was returned to the sender two weeks later. There is a second, but very faint, Morses Line postmark on the back which may have been applied when the cover left that office on its trip back to Waterville. It was received in Waterville on Nov. 30 at 9 PM, as indicated by the two postmarks on the reverse.

The handstamped pointing finger auxiliary marking was applied at Morses Line. It represents a very early use of such a marking.



VPS MAIL AUCTION #129

CLOSING DATE: July 15, 2018

Standard auction rules and conditions apply. Errors returnable within 5 days. Successful bidders will be notified; lots mailed upon receipt of payment. No buyer's fee. Successful bidders will be charged postage and insurance at cost. Bid increments; under \$50 = \$1.00; \$50 and up = \$5.00. Mail bids to Stanley Sumner, POB 956, Montpelier, VT 05601.

WE NEED AUCTION LOTS

Please send in material for the VPS Auctions. Lots should be in VG or better condition and should relate to Vermont Postal History. Small amounts of other philatelic material will be accepted. Please provide your minimum bid per lot. A 10% fee of the sale price will be deducted for the Society on consignment lots. Mail lots to Stanley Sumner, Auction Coordinator, POB 956, Montpelier, VT 05601.

Notice: The Auction Manager has reported that he receives bids for every auction which are less than the Minimum Bid printed at the end of each lot listing. Save yourself some time and effort and don't bid less than the Minimum. No bids are accepted less than the minimum.

VERMONT DPO'S

Table with 2 columns: Description and MIN.BID. Items include North Sherburne in MS & CDS on PPC 1911 with stamp missing SR7, 8 DPO's SR2's on covers and cards, 10 DPO's SR3's on PPC's, 11 DPO's SR4's on covers & cards, and 12 DPO's SR5's on covers & cards.

MISC. VERMONT COVERS AND CARDS:

Table with 2 columns: Description and Price. Items include 3 AD covers from Burlington 1893, Newport 1936 & Troy 1890 all VF, 7.4 RPO's on PPC's & 1 cover with Burlington Transit clerk/bold crossroad cancel, VERMt & MASSts RR on 1850 stampless cover Red/Orange cancel, Mobile Office Society classifies "Very Rare" VF, Waterbury 1864 conc. circle on #65 F/VF, Felchville double circle 1883 with target on 3c BN VF, Taftsville on U5 entire (red on buff) F/VF, Wells River SFL/bold serif letters with MS March 27 inside cds 10 rate 1842 F/VF, and 2 - 903 FDC's House of Farnham & Fidelity VF.

VERMONT ADVERTISING COVERS:

| | |
|--|-------|
| 14. Bristol 1912 Sons of Veterans Auxiliary with Fancy Seal cachet VF..... | 15.00 |
| 15. Burlington 1890 Standard Accident Ins. Co. nice..... VF | 10.00 |
| 16. Poultney 1887 Moseley & Stoddard MF'g co. Creamery & Refrigerator (nice etching of Refrigerator VF | 25.00 |
| 17. Rutland 1903 Tuttle Company Booksellers - all over Ad cover (both sides) VF | 15.00 |
| 18. Rutland 1898 Wheeler & Sheldon High Grade Fertilizers - Fancy Ad VF | 15.00 |
| 19. Springfield O.E. Noyes Merchant Tailor, fine woolens (illustration of Man measuring man for a suit) on 3c banknote (very nice) VF..... | 15.00 |
| 20. Springfield 1912 Parks & Woolson Machine Co. Polishing, Pumicing, Brushing & Sanding Machine on blue cover VF | 15.00 |
| 21. East Richford (SR5 DPO) on Blue Kimball & Co. cover Patent Chopping Trays with nice etching of Tray - neg. Star cancel in black circle on 3c banknote F/VF | 25.00 |
| 22. Waterbury Center 1903 -nice etching of Patent Lined Butter Boxes, W.H. Anderson, with letterhead enclosure, VF..... | 25.00 |

MORE VERMONT DPO'S ON COVERS & CARDS:

| | |
|--|-------|
| 23. East Cambridge 1907 Doane on PPC VF..... | 15.00 |
| 24. East Clarendon 1905 Doane on PPC VF | 5.00 |
| 25. East Granville 1962 Rural Sta. (2 pmks) on cover VF.... | 10.00 |
| 26. East Richford 1921 4-bar on PPC VF | 10.00 |
| 27. East Sheldon c1875 cover with 3c BN/circle pmk with partial light strike, small piece missing at bottom of cover F | 60.00 |
| 28. North Fayston 1885 rare cover with spotty cds on #210 VG | 75.00 |
| 29. South Franklin on 1913 mourning cover VF..... | 25.00 |
| 30. South Lincoln 1949 on card F/VF..... | 3.00 |
| 31. South Newbury 1941 on cover F/VF | 3.00 |
| 32. South Woodbury 1910 on PPC F/VF..... | 4.00 |
| 33. Stratton 1906 duplex on 2c entire F/VF | 25.00 |
| 34. Tinmouth 1891 with 2c red on cover F | 25.00 |
| 35. Townline 1895 with corner Ad cover F | 35.00 |
| 36. Tyson 1893 target cancel on cover F/VF | 10.00 |
| 37. Walden 1938 4-bar on PPC VF..... | 6.00 |

- 38. Weathersfield with #65 on clean cover c1863 F/VF 15.00
- 39. West Braintree c1853 MS pmk on postal stationary VF 30.00
- 40. West Marlboro c1863 MS pmk (in pencil) on #65 cover r
are F/VF..... 65.00
- 41. West Poultney blk cds on stampless ladies cover with
bold PAID F/VF..... 20.00
- 42. Weybridge c1899 cds on 1 cent drop rate cover F/VF 25.00

CABOOSE:

- 43. Elgin ILL. 1908 Registered env. with #306 & 319 to Barre,
VT. with Elgin National Watch Company trademark etching
(very nice) with round sealed mail sticker on back. Line on
front & sticker says " Please Cancel with Hand Stamp" VF10.00

PRICES REALIZED SALE #128:

| | | | | | | | |
|----|-------|----|-------|-----|------|----|-------|
| 2 | 11.00 | 13 | 11.00 | 31 | 9.00 | 42 | 10.00 |
| 3 | 11.00 | 18 | 6.00 | 32 | 3.00 | 43 | 25.00 |
| 4 | 6.00 | 21 | 3.00 | 33 | 3.00 | 44 | 21.00 |
| 5 | 16.00 | 22 | 5.00 | 36 | 8.00 | 47 | 20.00 |
| 6 | 11.00 | 23 | 4.00 | 37 | 7.00 | 49 | 11.00 |
| 7 | 4.00 | 25 | 9.00 | 38 | 5.00 | 50 | 21.00 |
| 9 | 6.00 | 26 | 4.00 | 39 | 7.00 | 51 | 28.00 |
| 10 | 6.00 | 27 | 3.00 | 40 | 9.00 | 52 | 16.00 |
| 12 | 4.00 | 30 | 5.00 | 41. | 9.00 | 53 | 11.00 |

Thanks to Merle Farrington & others for their donations.

Member's Adlets

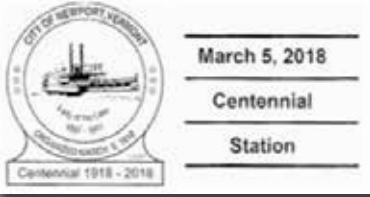
Your adlet could have gone here. Send it to Glenn Estus at the address on page 2 or by email to gestus@vermontps

Wanted: Scott #1s, 1847 issue on covers from Bennington or East Bennington. Scott #73 from Bennington, Slade, PO Box 643 Bennington VT 05201, (802) 442-6974

For Sale: Old Postcards. Send want list to Robert Page, 25 Lexington Ave., Brattleboro, VT 05301

Wanted, Mint or Used -- U. S. Scott # 3473 Express Mail, #4739 Express Mail: Bob Fowler tele.# 802-899-4525 email; n1pdv.vt@gmail.com

Pictorial Postmarks: 1st & 2nd Quarters 2018



(Machine Slogans: continued from page 19)



RUTLAND, VT / 05701: 1963-75 -- Remember / Only you can / PREVENT/ FOREST FIRES



RUTLAND, VT / 057: 1977 -- Remember / Only you can / PREVENT/ FOREST FIRES