

Wichita Stamp Club Newsletter



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Neal E. Danielson
Editor



"Go Fly A Stamp"



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Featuring a commercial cover soliciting subscriptions to the *Dairy Goat Journal*

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BILLY'S COMMERCIAL COVER by Neal E. Danielson

Did you know that dairy goats have a smaller population than dairy cattle, but more dairy goat products are consumed throughout the world than dairy cattle products? The goat was one of the first domesticated animals in Western Asia. The Old Testament contains verses that reference the goat about 150 times. Dairy goats are not as numerous in the United States as dairy cattle. However, in many other countries of the world they are the major milk producer. The reason being, smaller land area to graze and less specialized feed. Dairy goat populations expand as our population competes for land area. The animals are ideal for rural families that are employed in the city but live in the country. Goats have always been popular as 4-H Club projects. India is the largest country of the goat producing world with California leading the way in the United States.

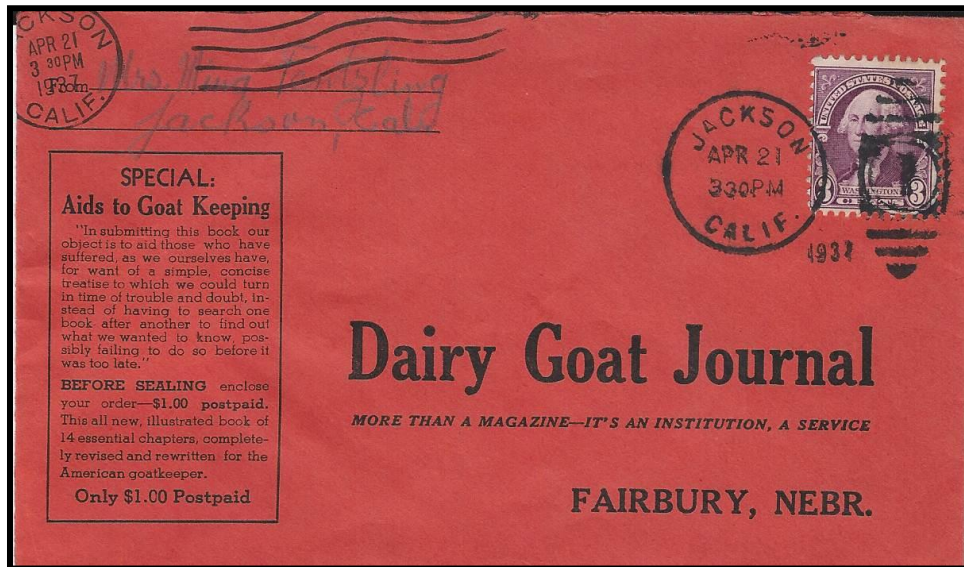


Figure 1--Dairy Goat Journal Cover

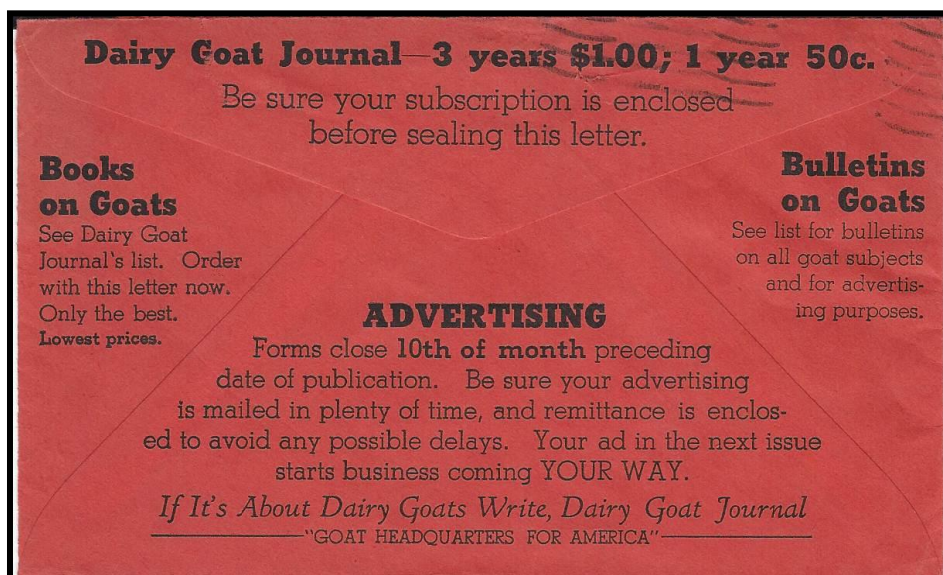


Figure 2--Reverse Side of Cover

Above is pictured a commercial advertising return cover (Figure 1) from the *Dairy Goat Journal* out of Fairbury, Nebraska, although today the Journal is located in Medford, WI. The Journal is owned by Countryside Publication, Ltd., which also publishes *Countryside & Small Stock Journal*; *Backyard Poultry and Sheep 1 Magazine*. The Journal has been serving the Dairy Goat Industry since 1916. Each issue of *Dairy Goat Journal* provides timely articles about raising, breeding, and marketing dairy goats as well as health issues and recent news of interest to goat owners and the dairy goat industry.

The cover is franked with a 3¢ George Washington stamp (Scott #720) and tied to the cover with a foot print killer cancel postmarked from Jackson, Calif. On Apr 21 1931. The cover apparently contained a subscription to the Journal or one of the other publications available from the publisher.

References:

Dairy Goat Journal website: www.dairygoatjournal.com

Facts about Goats: <http://users.frii.com/dawog/Goats/DairyGoatFactBook.htm>

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A CHRISTMAS STORY

This Christmas Card came by way of **Bob Hirschmann** and it is printed here to share with you. The author is listed as 'Anonymous'



Figure 1--Card with Poem on Reverse Side

*'Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,
in a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone.
I had come down the chimney with presents to give,
and to see just who in this home did live.
I looked all about, a strange sight I did see,
no tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.
No stocking by mantle, just boots filled with sand,
on the wall hung pictures of far distant lands.
With medals and badges, awards of all kinds,
A sober thought come through my mind.
For this house was different, it was dark and dreary,
I found the home of a soldier, once I could see clearly.
The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone,
curled up on the floor in this one bedroom home.
The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder,
not how I pictured a United States soldier.
Was this the hero of whom I'd just read?
Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?
I realized the families that I saw this night,
owed their lives to these soldiers who were willing to fight.
Soon round the world, the children would play,
and grownups would celebrate a bright Christmas day.
They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year,
because of the soldiers, like the one lying here.
I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone,
on a cold Christmas Eve in a land far from home.
The very thought brought a tear to my eye,
I dropped to my knees and started to cry.
The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice,
"Santa don't cry, this life is my choice;
I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more,
my life is my God, my Country, my Corps."
The soldier rolled over and drifted to sleep,
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.
I kept watch for hours, so silent and still
and we both shivered from the cold night's chill.
I don't want to leave on that cold, dark, night,
This guardian of honor to willing to fight.
Then the soldier rolled over, with a voice soft and pure,
whispered, "Carry on Santa, it's Christmas day, all is
secure."*

*One look at my watch, and I knew he was
right*

*"Merry Christmas my friend, and to all a good
night.*

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TRAVEL KANSAS—NORTH TO SOUTH—EAST TO WEST by Neal E. Danielson



Figure 1--Bourbon Co. Railroad Map ca 1899

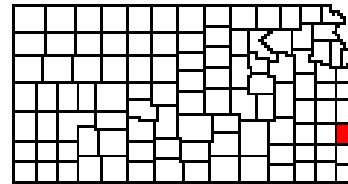


Figure 2--Bourbon County

Travel Kansas—Devon located in Bourbon County, Kansas (Figure 1 & 2) in what became known as Mill Creek Township. Bourbon County was one of the original thirty-three counties established by the Territorial Assembly of 1855. When the Louisiana Purchase was initiated in 1803 the Government sent Zebulon Pike to survey the area in 1806 arriving at what is now known as Fulton and Hammond in the northeast part of the County. The name was derived from Bourbon County, Kentucky, the birthplace of Col. S. A. Williams, a member of the Kansas House of Representatives from Fort Scott in 1855. The name Bourbon came from the dynasty of France. Initially the area was inhabited by Native Americans, mostly Osage, with the southern portion set aside as Cherokee Neutral Lands. The remaining portion of the County was made up of Iroquois and New York Tribes. By 1842 buildings were erected at the site of Fort Scott, named for the General-in-Chief of the Army, Winfield Scott. Union troops occupied the Post during the Civil War. Fort Scott was voted the County Seat for Bourbon County.



Figure 3--Cover Postmarked from Devon, Kans.

When the Kansas-Nebraska Act was enacted in 1854 Kansas became a battleground for pro-slavery renegades crossing the border from Missouri in hopes of making Kansas a slave state. During the formative years in Kansas, Fort Scott had to handle several incidents involving claim jumpers for the County.

Bourbon County industries include agriculture with leading crops of milo, oats, flax, wheat and soybeans; livestock, coal mining, garment manufacturing, aluminum, granite and marble works, printing business for forms, cabinets, trucking and insurance companies.

The Railroad played an important part in the development of Bourbon County with Fort Scott being the central hub for all the Railroads. Devon being in the Mill Creek Township struggled to acquire a railroad with the majority of the citizens voting against the bonds

The Post Office was first established as Mill Creek on May 16, 1860 and would change to Devon on February 26, 1889 and would remain until September 9, 1989 when it was closed with mail going to Fort Scott. A cover (Figure 3) is postmarked from Devon, Kans. Jul 30 1942 during WWII. The cover is franked with a 1/2¢ Benjamin Franklin stamp (Scott #803) from the Presidential Issue and a 1¢ Statue of Liberty stamp (Scott #899) from the National Defense Issue and tied to the cover with a four-bar Balloon Cancel and mailed to an individual in Ft. Scott. Mrs. Geneva Leone Grubb was Postmaster during this time period being appointed Acting Postmaster June 30, 1940 and Postmaster on August 2, 1940 and would remain in this position until August 30, 1975.

As noted earlier one of Bourbon County's industries was insurance companies. A commercial return cover (Figure 4) franked with a 4¢ Abraham Lincoln stamp (Scott #1036) and tied to the cover with a four-bar balloon cancel postmarked from Devon, Kans. on May 10 1959 and mailed back to The Victory Life Insurance Company in Topeka Kansas, by a person named Ernest R. Johnson of Devon.

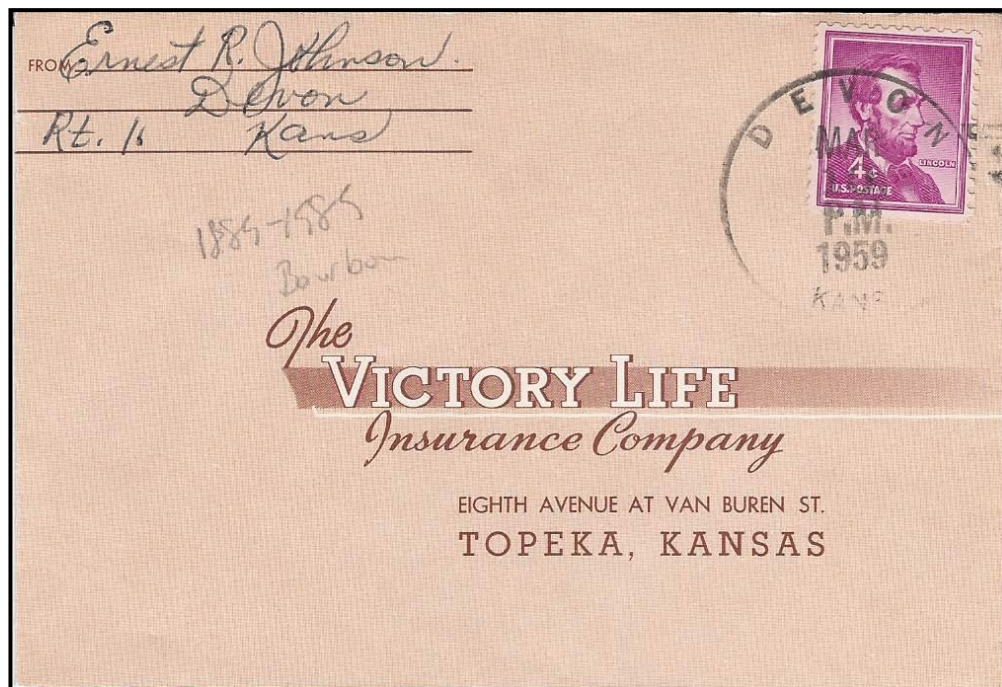


Figure 4--Commercial Insurance Cover



Figure 5--Reverse Side of Commercial Cover

The reverse side of the cover (Figure 5) notes that this was the “Home Office Victory Life Insurance Company”. The separated Cinderella stamp is a \$4.00 value off the book *Arundel* by Kenneth Roberts (Figure 5), a chronicle of the province of Maine and of the secret expedition had by Benedict Arnold against Quebec.

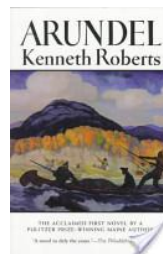


Figure 6-Arundel

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NOW THAT'S INTERESTING! by *SGR*

Back in the earlier days there were a number of Minstrel Shows thought-out the country. While searching for an interesting cover or postcard at our August Stamp Show I came across a postcard that related to Minstrel Shows which were traveling groups and so did the this post card. The postcard is franked with a 1¢ George Washington stamp (Scott #408) and tied to the cover with a seven-wavy-line circular date stamp postmarked from Greenwood on Nov 26, 1921 and sent to an individual at Billboard Pat. Co., Cincinnati, Ohio (Figure 1). On Dec. 12 1921 it received a seven-wavy line circular date stamp in Cincinnati, Ohio (Figure 2), the postcard was then sent to general post office, Augusta, Kans. where it received another seven-wavy line circular date stamp postmarked Dec. 14, 1921. The postcard has a penciled in address % Edward Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri. Not sure if the postcard ever reached the recipient. **Now That's Interesting!!**

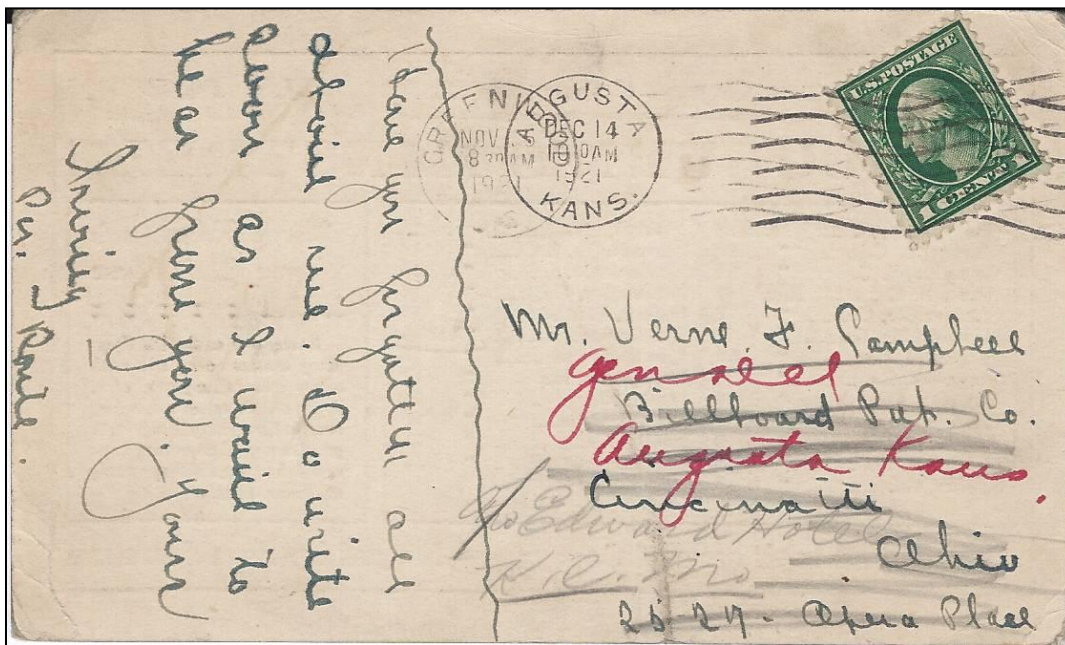


Figure 1--Postcard mailed to Cincinnati, Ohio

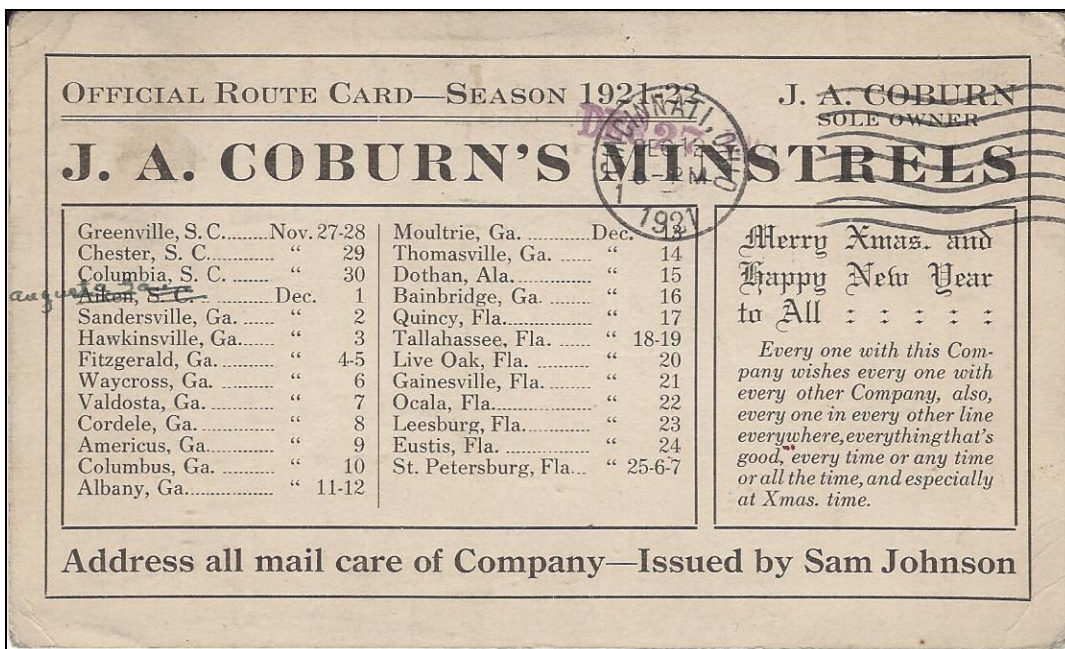


Figure 2--Reverse side of Postcard

The reverse side of the postcard provides an interesting aspect of early Minstrel Shows. The information provides an Official Route Card for Season 1921-22 by the J. A. Coburn's Minstrels, J. A. Coburn, Sole Owner. The card give dates the Minstrel Show will be in South Carolina, Georgia and Florida during the months of November and December. The Dec. 1 scheduled performance in Aiken, S. C. was crossed out and Augusta, GA hand written. Mr. Coburn took the opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Xmas. and Happy New Year.

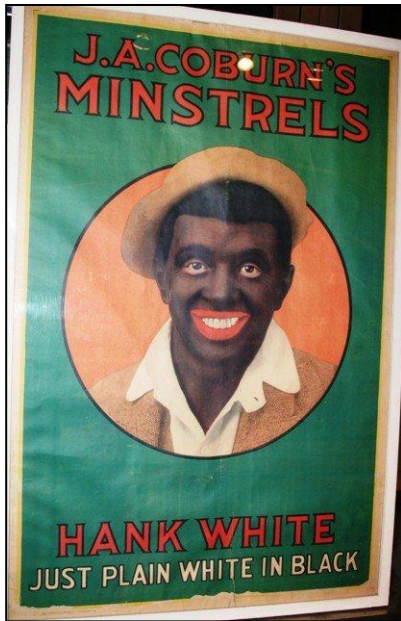


Figure 3--J. A. Coburn's Minstrels Poster

The J. A. Coburn's Minstrels were a group of white performers that dressed up and performed as African-Americans. The posters sent out to advertise an upcoming performance (Figure 3) depicts an individual by the name of Hank White with the notation "Just Plain White In Black". **Now That's Interesting!**

The J. A. Coburn's Minstrels has another feather in their hat as they have been designated Cultivar (a cultural variety) of the Tropical Hibiscus *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*. **Now That's Even More Interesting!**

J. A. Coburn's Minstrels popularity extended from the Western states to the Southern states. Manager Coburn developed many young performers. One of the earliest indigenous forms of American entertainment was minstrel shows, which were developed in the 1840s with peak performances following the Civil War and remained popular until the early 1900s. Minstrel Shows evolved from the performances of black musicians who sang, with banjo accompaniment, in city streets and the impersonation of blacks by white actors between acts of plays or during circuses in the 1830s.

References:

- Circus History Society, Burnt Cork Supplement; <http://www.circushistory.org/Cork/Burntcork6.htm>
- Princeton University Library; <http://findingaids.Princeton.edu/getEad?eadid=TC050&kw=>
- Dave's Garden; <http://davesgarden.com/guides/pf/go/44249/>
- Live Auctioneers, LLC, New York; <http://www.liveauctioneers.com/item/3493279>

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DON'T SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF by Neal E. Danielson

This is the 39th in a series of articles relating to small post cards and small covers so if you have any in your collection that you would like to share please let us know.

This Small Cover was generated in Buffalo, New York on July 31, 1864, by a lady called Lavinia and mailed to her sister Mrs. D. S. Austin, in Messina Springs, St. Lawrence County, New York. The Small Cover measures 5 3/8 inch by 2 3/8 inch and is franked with a 3¢ George Washington stamp (Scott #65) and tied to the cover with a patent cancel (Figure 1).

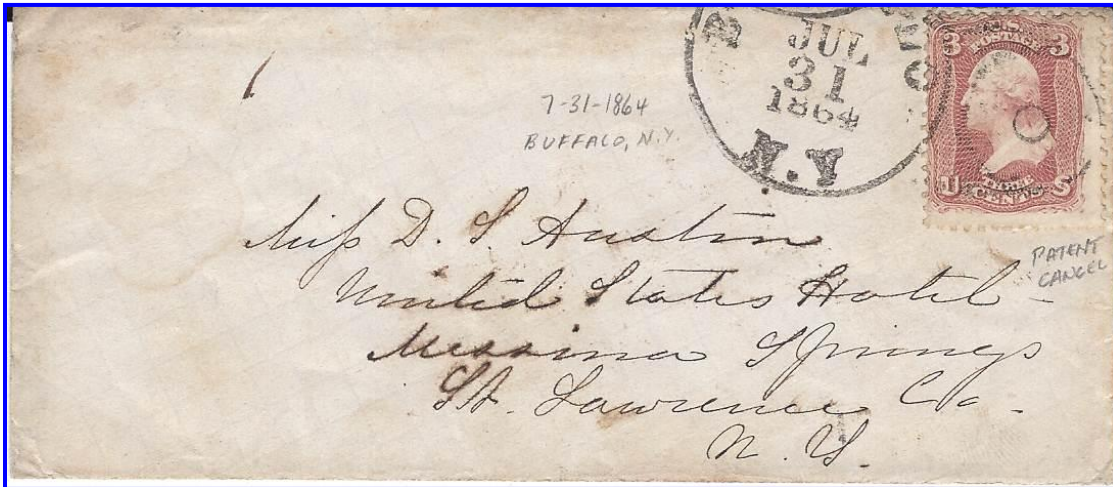


Figure 1--Small Cover Buffalo, NY. 1864

Buffalo, New York came about following the Senecas of the Iroquois Confederacy when they conquered the Neutral Nation that had settled in the region. In 1804, Joseph Ellicott, an agent of the Holland Land Company designed a bicycle spokes grid system that would branch out from the downtown. The War of 1812 brought a major fire to the town on December 30 1813 by the British forces and burned the town. The Erie Canal was completed on November 4, 1825 giving Buffalo a strategic position at the western end of the system. Buffalo would become home for African-Americans and in 1845 construction began on the Macedonia Baptist Church and would become an important meeting place for the abolitionist movement.

Massena is a town in St. Lawrence County, located on the northern border and nicknamed "The Gateway to the Fourth Coast" due to its location along the St. Lawrence River. Massena along with its' villages are named after a Napoleonic Wars hero, field marshal André Masséna. Massena is home to an Alcoa plant, and a former General Motor aluminum engine-casting plant now closed due to the polluted site. Massena Springs is located on the north shore of the Raquette River about one mile southeast of Massena village. The springs were discovered by the St. Regis Indians of 1785. Although it smelled bad the sick Indian along with moose and deer came to lick the water. The springs were become vary popular. In 1848 Benjamin Phillips became proprietor of the springs, and erected what was long known as the United States Hotel, and which was very popular. It was burned in 1871 and the Hatfield House was erected. The cover above was in care of the Hotel.

WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD by Neal E. Danielson

This commercial cover (Figure 1 & 2) was sent by the Fiedler Bros. Thomasboro, Ill. to The Beckley Ralston Company, Chicago, Illinois. The cover is franked with two 1¢ George Washington stamps (Scott #405) and tied to the cover with a four-bar circular-date-stamp postmarked from Thomasboro, Ill around 1918. A Henry Fiedler was one of the early settlers of Thomasboro and there were other Fiedler's living in Thomasboro; Donald Fiedler, Sr.; O. J. Fiedler, Sr.; Larry Fiedler and Mike Fiedler. The cover went to The Beckley Ralston Company who was in the bicycle manufacturing business in 1905 of Ariel, Ariel Special, and Colonial bicycles and by 1916 they were in the distributing business of selling automotive tools and supplies. By 1923 The Beckley-Ralston Co; Chicago, Ill manufactured both loud speakers and receivers (Figure 3). Their street address was 1825 S. Michigan Ave., in Chicago, Illinois.

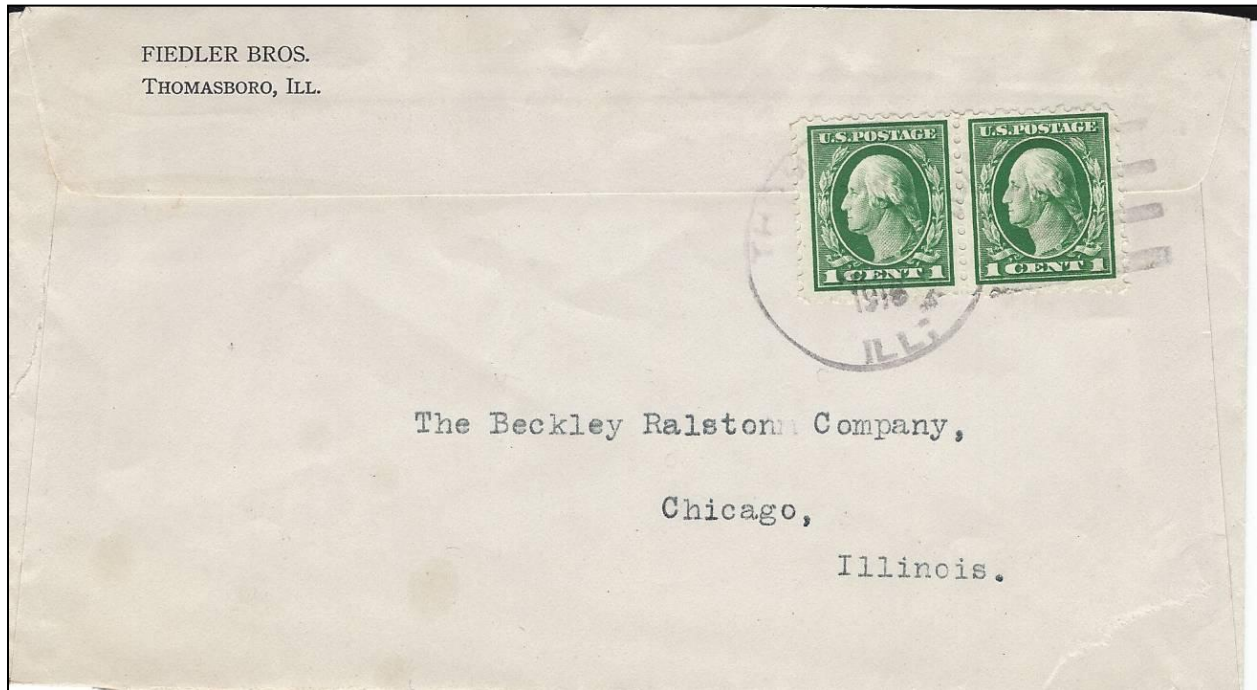


Figure 1--Commercial Cover Goodrich Tires



Figure 2--Reverse side of Commercial Cover



Figure 4--B. F. Goodrich



Figure 3--Beckley-Ralston Logo

The Fiedler Brothers may have been in the automobile tire business as the cover in Figure 2 represents “Goodrich Tires”. The commercial cover depicts a small boy, who apparently had been fishing, giving an invisible car, except for the Goodrich Tires, with four individuals inside, directions down the road. The tires are labeled “GOODRICH Mfg. by the B. F. Goodrich, Co., Akron, O. USA 34 X 4”, with “Best in the Long Run” in the lower right.

When Henry Ford invented the automobile it brought about other industries in support of the automobile. Akron, Ohio became the rubber capital of the world. When Benjamin Franklin Goodrich entered this world on November 4, 1841 in Ripley, New York, before the automobile was even invented (Figure 4). Goodrich would go on to be trained as a physician and received his M. D. status from Western Reserve College in Cleveland, Ohio. When the Civil War broke out he served the Union Army as a surgeon. Goodrich’s son Charles Cross Goodrich set up the first rubber research laboratory in 1895 and was the pioneer in the rubber industry the first 20 years of its existence. He purchased the Hudson Rubber Company

following a licensing agreement with Charles Goodyear in 1869 but by 1870 the company failed and he moved to Akron and found the company that bears his name, B. F. Goodrich Corporation. He was the first man in Akron to own telephone compliments of Alexander Graham Bell in 1877 which was installed from his home to the factory. One of his first inventions was cotton-wrapped rubber hose, impervious to freezing by firefighters, followed by garden hoses and bicycle tires. Benjamin died at the age of 46 in 1888. Following his death the company introduced the pneumatic tire that was needed for the speed of the advances made by the automobile.

In 1926 the company invented Plasticized polyvinyl chloride (PVC); synthesized rubber in 1937; and in 1960s built early space suits for NASA astronauts. The Goodrich Corporation abandoned the tire business in 1988 and focused on the aerospace, defense and homeland security markets. The brand name “Goodrich” appears on Michelin who purchased the company business in 1994.

References:

Goodrich Corporation: <http://www.goodrich.com/Goodrich/Enterprise/About-Goodrich/A-History-of-Innovation/>

Wikipedia Free Encyclopedia website: Benjamin Franklin Goodrich

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