

Wichita Stamp Club Newsletter

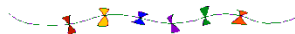


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Editor



"Go Fly A Stamp"



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

This is the 64th 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 stuff comes to you by way of Uniontown, Kansas through Bluffton, Ohio thanks to **Myron Janzen** for sharing this small stuff with all of us (Figure 1). This small stuff measures 5 inches by 3 1/8 inches and is postmarked from Uniontown, Kansas with a circular date stamp postmarked Jun 18, 1896 and mailed to a Miss Alice Hall in Bluffton, Ohio and carried a circular date stamp on the covers reverse showing a received date of Jun 20 1896 (Figure 2). I doubt if it would have arrived any earlier in this day and age of automation. The small stuff cover is franked with a 2¢ George Washington stamp (Scott #252)



Figure 1
Uniontown, Kansas Small Stuff



Figure 2
Small Stuff cover back cancel

Kansas was home to two towns with the name “Uniontown” and normally are not permitted to have a post office in both towns. The Uniontown that was located in Wyandotte County was approved for their post office March 18, 1851 and remained open until December 16, 1852. When Kansas City expanded it left Uniontown without much activity that went to Topeka or Kansas City. However it did exist during the time that the Oregon Trail was being used by settlers moving westward. Uniontown suffered from a cholera epidemic in 1850 and when everyone died the town was burned in order to insure that the cholera would not spread again. But traders returned in 1851, along with a post office and the town became a popular trading point for four years prior to the opening of Kansas Territory. As new towns cropped up Uniontown could not compete for the stiff trade business and eventually became a ghost town.



Figure 3
Bourbon County Railroad Map ca 1899

The other Kansas Uniontown is located in Bourbon County (Figure 3) on the western side west of Fort Scott the County Seat. The original site of Uniontown was located about two miles east of the present location and initially called Turkey Creek. The post office in Turkey Creek was established on February 12, 1858 and remained so until March 10, 1873 when the settlement was changed to Uniontown. The name was a result of the settler’s loyalty to the Union side during the Civil War.

Uniontown managed to maintain a decent population and established churches, merchants in the lumber business, banking, livery stable, schools (one of which is shown in Figure 4), and at the turn of the century as the form of transportation changed from horse and buggy to the automobile. This in turn resulted in service stations being built; one of the old gas pumps is reflected in Figure 5.



Figure 4
Old School in Uniontown



Figure 5
Old Gas Station Pump Uniontown

The Uniontown Small Stuff cover was sent to a town called Bluffton located in Allen County and Hancock County Ohio. The village was originally known as Shannon. The Small Cover was received in Bluffton on Jun 20, 1896. Allen County seat is Lima and a portion of Bluffton is located in the Lima Metropolitan Statistical Area and a portion is located in Hancock County which is part of the Findlay Metropolitan Statistical Area. Allen County was established in 1820 and organized in 1831. Allen County was named for Colonel John Allen who died at the Battle of Frenchtown during the War of 1812. There has been dispute over the name being given in honor of the Revolutionary War soldier Ethan Allen, but the weight of evidence presented to the General Assembly led to it being declared in favor of John Allen. When the Treaty of Greenville was signed in 1795, under the terms the northwestern Ohio was reserved for Native Americans. The area in question is where Allen County would be located thus the area was off limits to European settlements until 1817 when the Treaty of Maumee Rapids was signed. This Treaty led to the Shawnee tribe being assigned to a reservation at Wapakoneta and at their settlement along the Ottawa River called "Hog Creek". When the Treaty of Maumee Rapids was signed it gave the Ohio Legislature on March 1, 1920 and opportunity to create fourteen counties including Allen.

In 1832 the "Hog Creek" Shawnees on the reservation were removed to eastern Kansas. They received payment of \$200,000 for their land, but when they arrived at their destination in Kansas with very few provisions they immediately suffered a cholera epidemic. In 1885 Lima the County Seat was fortunate in that oil was discovered and this was the beginning of an oil boom for Allen County which lasted until after 1910.

Hancock County where part of Bluffton is located was created in 1820 and later organized in 1828. Findlay serves as County Seat of Hancock County and bears the official nickname of "Flag City, USA". Historically Colonel James Findlay of Cincinnati built a road during the War of 1812 and a stockade to transport and shelter troops in the Great Black Swamp region. The stockade eventually became a Fort and bears the name Fort Findlay. Following the War the community of Findlay was born. Historical evidence prior to the Civil War reveals that Findlay was a stop for slaves of African descent along the Underground Railroad.

As with Lima in Allen County, Findlay in Hancock County was a booming oil center during the 1880's along with natural gas production. However, the petroleum supply dwindled by the early 20th century. The Ohio State Music Festival in 1884 was hosted in Findlay and at this highly competitive Festival a young cornet player, Warren G. Harding and his *Citizens' Cornet Band* of Marion came in third in the competition. Harding of course went on to be elected the 29th President of the United States. Another famous musical talent was Tell Taylor in 1908 as an American songwriter, wrote the standard "*Down by the Old Mill Stream*" while he was fishing in Findlay along the Blanchard River. The song was published in 1910 and sold over 5,000,000 copies. Taylor was a comedy actor born 5 miles east of Findlay in 1876 and often swam in the Blanchard River in his younger days.



Figure 6
Warren G. Harding

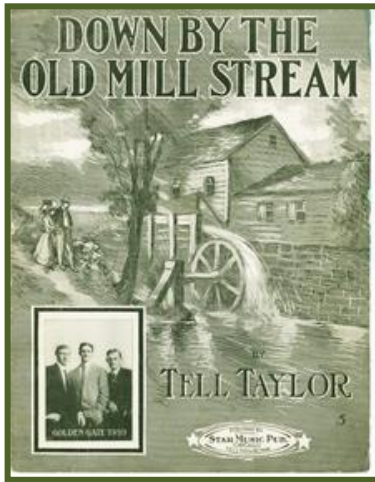


Figure 7
Sheet Music Cover



Figure 8
Old Mill Stream Findlay

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



Figure 1
Bourbon Co. Railroad Map ca 1899

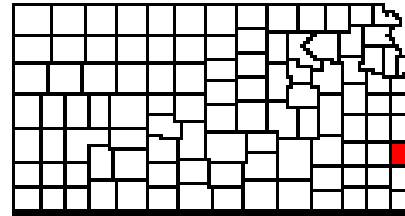


Figure 2
Bourbon County Kansas

Fort Scott located in Bourbon County in the southeastern part of Kansas (Figures 1 & 2). 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 being one of the nine counties organized in 1785 by the Virginia legislature, before Kentucky became an independent state and the birthplace of Col. S. A. Williams, who became a member of the Kansas House of Representatives from Fort Scott in 1855. The Colonel was mustered in as Captain of Company 1, Second Kansas Calvary, November 22, 1861, and resigned March 28, 1862. He died at his old home, Fort Scott, in August 1873. 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 (Figure 3). Union troops occupied the Post during the Civil War. Fort Scott was voted the County Seat for Bourbon County.



Figure 3
Fort Scott, Kansas

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.

Fort Scott served as the U. S. Army district Headquarters, quartermaster supply depot, training center, and recruitment station during the Civil War. It was the defense of Kansas and the Midwest strategically in line from Fort Leavenworth to the north and on to Fort Gibson, 150 miles to the south in Oklahoma. Fort Scott played an important role in the struggle for a free state during the Territorial years of Kansas (1854-1861). The Fort was originally established in a plan for the defense of the Western frontier (Figure 4). Citizens of



Figure 4
Troops escorting Wagon Trail

Fort Scott experienced first-hand the violent unrest that preceded the Civil War along the Kansas and Missouri border. The Forts' dragoons and infantry faced the flood of westward expansion; became immersed in the conflict and turmoil of the Bleeding Kansas years. This national controversy concerning the extension of slavery into the new territories placed Kansas at the center of eastern newspapers. Fort Scott's location along the Missouri border brought special purpose to the inhabitants of the area. Soldiers drilled as they prepared for major campaigns during the Civil War.

The Railroad played an important part in the development of Bourbon County with Fort Scott being the central hub for all the Railroads (Figure 1). The Missouri Pacific and the Kansas City, Fort Scott was the major lines entering the County from the north and going through Fort Scott. The Missouri Pacific Railroad, transverses the County from east to west. Additional lines progressed south and southwest of Fort Scott.

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. Bourbon County has four large, man-made lakes with the Bourbon-Allen State Fishing Lake in the western part; Lake Fort Scott about four miles south of the city; Elm Creek Lake about 15 miles southwest of the city; and Cedar Creek Lake located about six miles west of Fort Scott. Two major rivers supply water to the County: the Osage which flows from west to east near the northern boundary of the county. The Marmaton River flows from the west to east through the central portions of the county.

Once the citizens of Fort Scott and surrounding area determined that the land was losing some of its productivity, they decided it was time to diversify and look into the dairy business. The strategy was to enlarge the milk market then promote condensed milk as a source of year round milk. Enter Borden Company (Figure 5) that built a half-million dollar plant. A creamery and several ice cream factories helped the market along and as time passed Borden Company started the Eagle Brand Milk production (Figure 6). A flour mill with a daily output of 625 barrels of flour and 150,00 bushels of wheat. A mattress company, and advertising firm with sales nationwide, the Western Insurance Company, large fur and Wool Company, with 100,000 opossum skins shipped to London alone in one year. In the early 20th century, one of Fort Scott's brick company produced 100,000 bricks every eight to ten days. At a cost of two to four cents each, daily shipments filled approximately a dozen railroad cars.



Figure 5
Borden Company Logo



Figure 6
Eagle Brand Milk

A couple familiar places that received the bricks were in the construction of the Panama Canal (Figure 7) and the brickyard at the Indianapolis Speedway (Figure 8), as well as several miles of brick streets in Fort Scott.



Figure 7
Panama Canal 1907



Figure 8
Indianapolis Speedway

The Post Office in Fort Scott was originally established in Bates County, Missouri with a John A Bugg appointed Postmaster on March 3, 1843 and was changed to Kansas Territory on January 28, 1856 with James F. Farley serving as Postmaster. It was established as Bourbon County and on August 20, 1866 Charles W. Blair was appointed Postmaster. Figure 9 is a Postal Card (Scott #UX4), shown front and back, postmarked from Fort Scott on May 14, 1877 and mailed to a T. W. Studdart, Esq. in Sherman City, Kansas which is located in Cherokee County. Its post office opened in 1867 and changed to Sherman in 1894 and remained open until 1964.

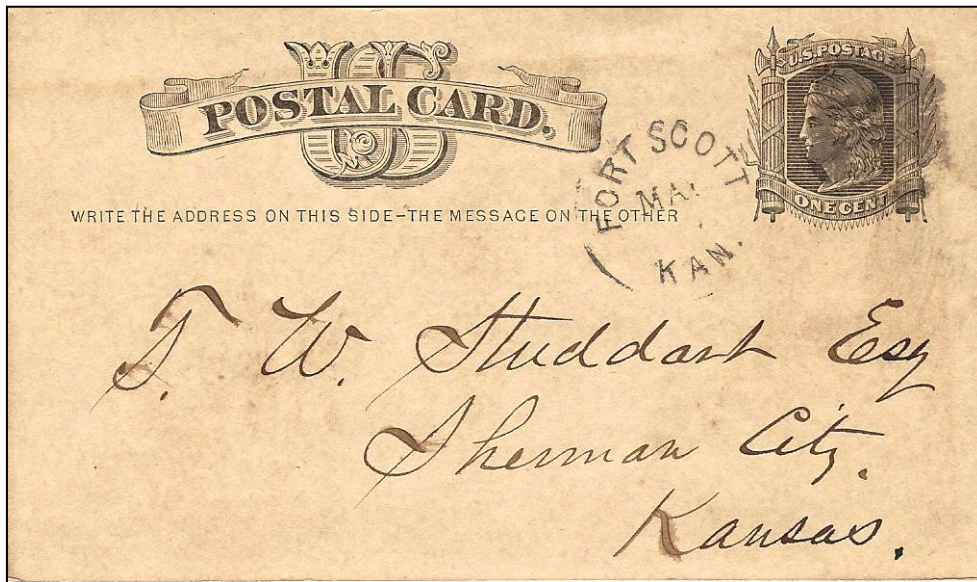
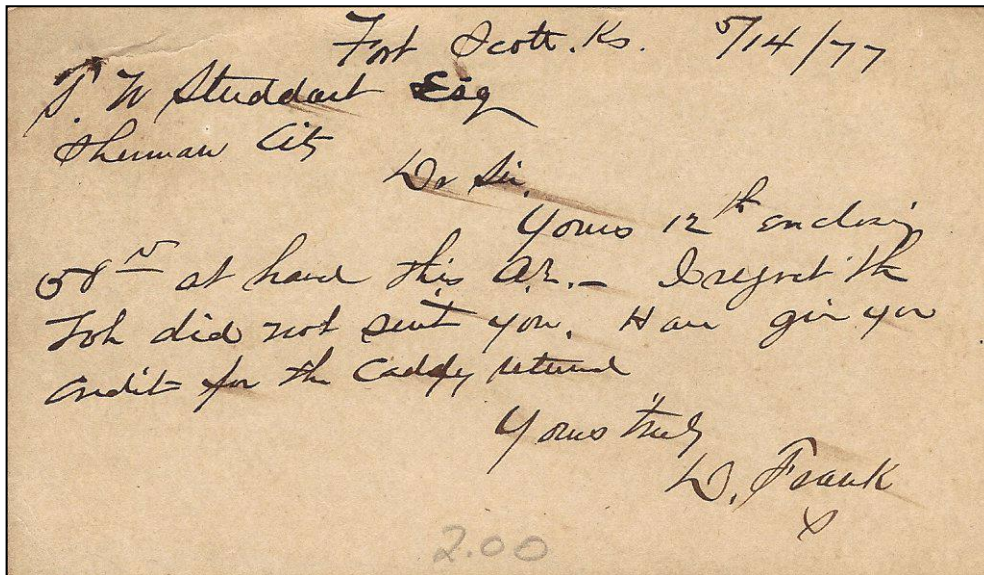


Figure 9
Postal Card Fort Scott 5/14/77



An interesting advertising cover is one postmarked from Fort Scott, Kansas on Apr 16, 1902 from the Goodlander with C. W. Goodlander, Prop. and Sam W. Webb, Manager (Figure 10). The cover is franked with a 2¢ George Washington stamp (Scott #251); and tied to the cover with a seven wavy line flag cancel. The interesting advertisement on the back of the cover is very enlightening. Apparently the building is the Goodlander Hotel but is offering "The New Sanitarium" and will be offering the services of a Prof. J. L. Bishop who is a celebrated Massagist.

The business offered special attention to Rheumatism and Brights Disease using the celebrated Sulpho-Magnesian Well Water

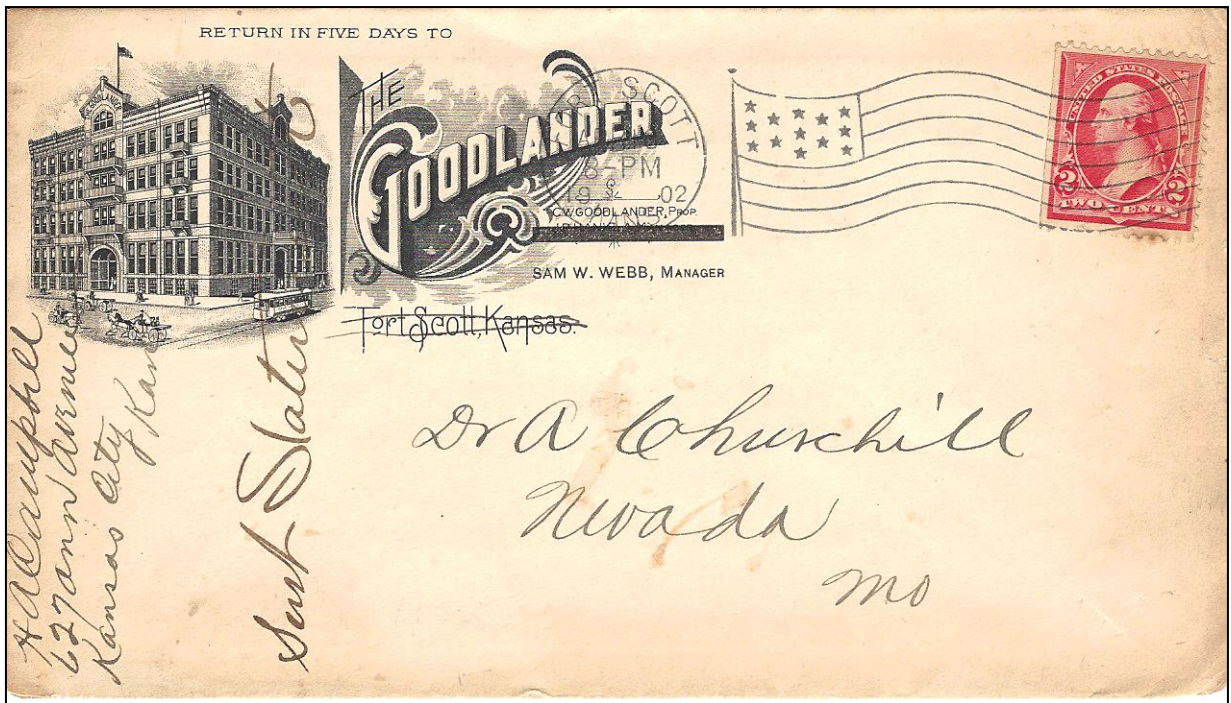


Figure 10
Advertising Cover Fort Scott 1902



Figure 11
Cover Advertisement

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