

# Wichita Stamp Club Newsletter



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Jeff Lough  
Editor



*"Go Fly A Stamp"*



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## RUSH COUNTY Part I: Liebenthal and Farm-Based POST OFFICES. by Jeff Lough

In Kansas at least three commonly available types of maps are useful for postal history research. Two of the postmarks and post offices discussed below appear on the older 1898 railroad map (Figure 1) but not on the current highway map (Figure 2). The railroad map documents that the post offices existed, being noteworthy in particular for Fenton, Kansas for whom references and descriptions have not been located. If one map is laid over the other one it is possible to locate their possible sites on a modern road map. Other items of interest demonstrated by the two types of maps in this situation include showing the competing railroad companies, the Missouri/Union Pacific and Santa Fe/Burlington Northern Santa Fe paralleling one another for more than a hundred years with the strength of the Missouri/Kansas/Union Pacific systems winning out, being able to control the location of the county seat at La Crosse rather than at the original seat, Rush Centre/ Rush Center. Nowadays the highways are much more important even in the local transport of milo, wheat and corn. In fact the author traveled these roads unsuccessfully looking for evidence of the two post offices. The lower two maps (Figures 3 and 4) were copied from documents shared by the Rush County Registrar of Deeds in La Crosse. They show major portions of the townships in which Pleasant Dale and Fenton were located. It needs to be noted that these plat maps refer to the locations as "P.O.'s", bearing no indication that there was more than a farm house at the location. These farm house locations were important for providing not just a place from which to send and receive mail but as locations for the local farmers to buy a range of necessary goods.

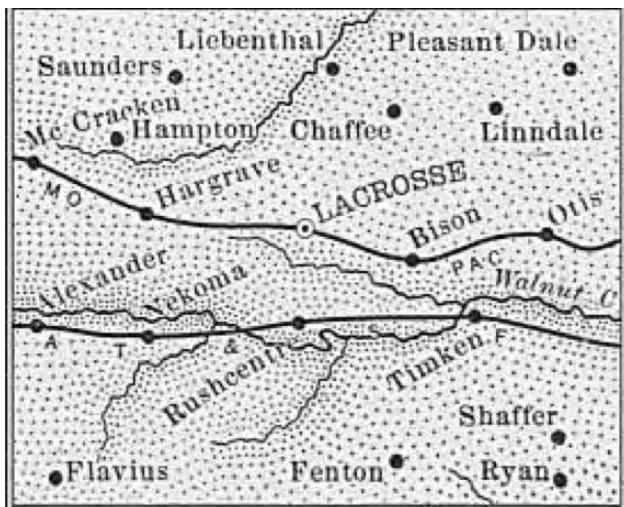


Figure 1



Figure 2

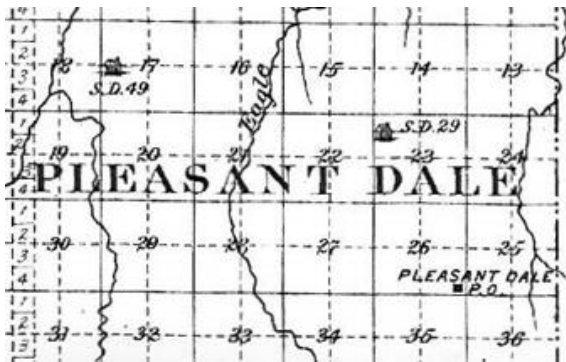


Figure 3

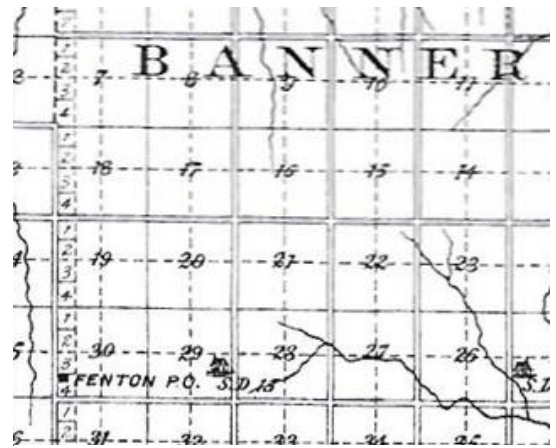


Figure 4

The letter accompanying the Pleasant Dale cover, dated 7-27-82 includes the following comments: “Dear Friends at Southberg, It is a long time since I have written any of you. I find each year brings with it more & more work until I find life on the plains such a dreary treadmill I sometimes become thoroughly disgusted with it. It is now almost three month(s) since we have had a good rain. I am tired of the sun, I am losing faith. I don’t like to think & I try very hard not do so, If I do think I feel that God has forgotten just a little spot of ground in the very heart of this United States. North, South, East, & West, they have had rain enough to....good corn crops, But just in here the rain does not come & we have cut our corn field up for fodder.... I can not understand it. It is beyond all comprehension unless it is because we are so wicked....It is a terrible day—the wind is blowing a gale from the south. The dust is fearful & the sun is hot & humid, just such a day as we had three years ago when the prairie was burned over.”



Figure 5

The Pleasant Dale cover, above is franked with Scott Number 297 and cancelled with a circular date stamp (CDS) with a target killer.

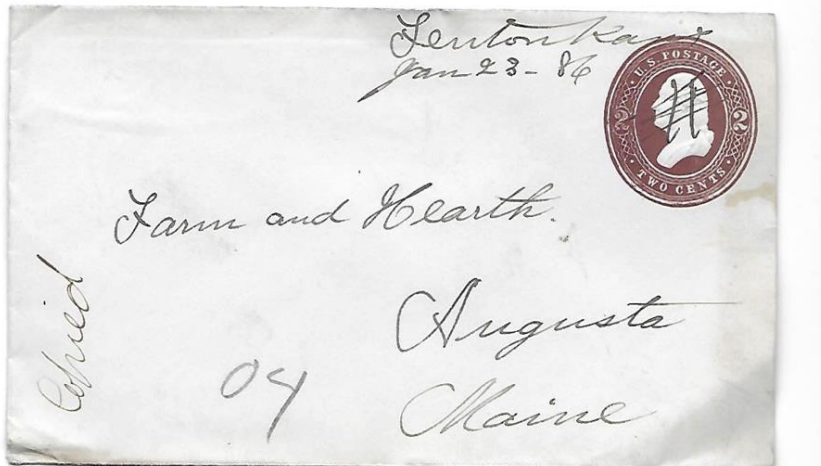


Figure 6

The Scott Number U277 two cent stamped envelope bearing a likeness of George Washington above has been given a full, appropriate manuscript postmark and cancellation, including an appropriate signature by the postmaster written alongside the left of the envelope. The handwritten cancellation indicates its posting location was Fenton.

The plat map shown here is of Liebenthal, Kansas. Liebenthal continues to exist as a small hamlet with reportedly about a hundred residents. The town is located 15 miles south of Hays and 12 miles north of the county seat, LaCrosse, on cross-nation highway 183. It is the oldest of the settlements founded by the German Roman Catholic immigrants from the lower Volga district of Russia.

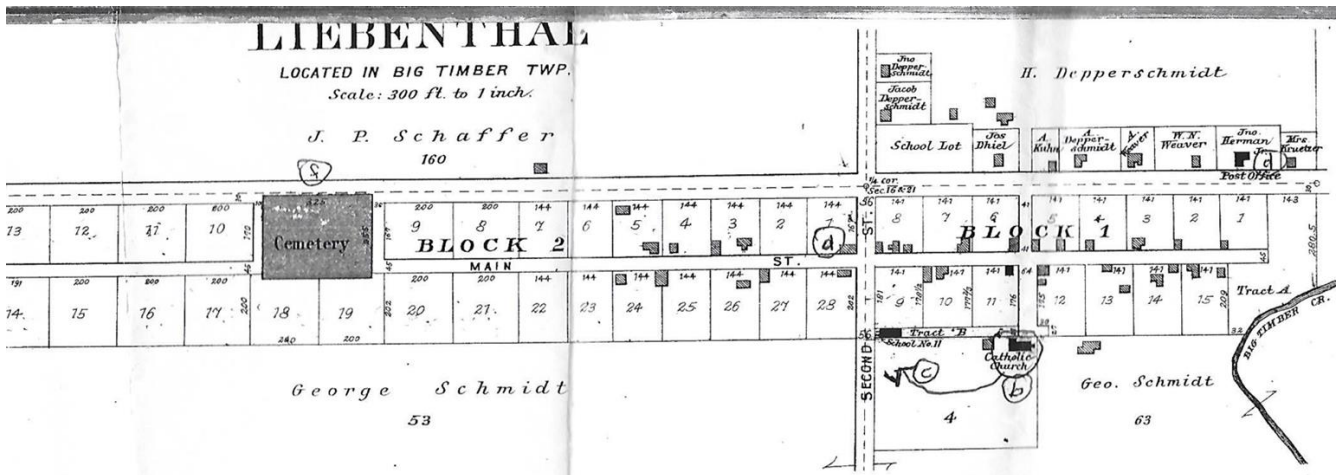


Figure 7

These families settling in Liebenthal were part of the large band of immigrants which left Saratov, Russia on Oct. 24, 1875. After spending the greater part of the winter in Topeka, they arrived in Hays Feb. 21, 1876. The following morning they moved to the present site of Liebenthal in Rush County. Starting to work at once, most of the newcomers had some simple houses completed before dark. That same night a blizzard swept over the country, adding additional hardships to the already trying lot of the newcomers. They had nearly lost what few cattle they had brought with them.

The corner stone of the present imposing church (Figure 8) was laid on Thanksgiving Day, 1902, and the dedication took place May 28, 1905. During my tour of Rush county I visited with a Liebenthal resident, John Randa. Mr. Randa's wife, Agnes Randa, had worked as the assistant postmaster at the post office for her father, Leo Herrman, who was the next to the last postmaster in Liebenthal. His son, Wenny (Wenlen) , was the postmaster for 4 years. Mr. Randa and his wife are pictured in Figure 9, a photo placed on Mrs. Wanda's gravestone in the community cemetery on the west side of town. Liebenthal's business is a small beef jerky factory in an old bank building along the highway (Figure 10) The building that housed the most recent post office is shown in Figure 11.



Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 10



Figure 11

The William McKinley stamped postal card (UX18) with the one cent Franklin Scott Number 246 cancelled with a simple CDS postmark below (Figure 12) was mailed in 1906 by the German speaking priest who served Liebenthal for 32 years, from 1899 until 1931. The Rev. Rudolph Stollenwerk (Figure 13) mailed his postal card to an acquaintance in Vienna, Austria asking for a thousand Austrian stamps in exchange for a thousand U. S. stamps. The priest is referred to, in the cutting below from a *Mekeel's* of February 28, 1914, as being a very important stamp dealer instrumental in establishing the stamp packet business as a respectable enterprise and as beginning the giving of stamps to organized charitable groups. Rev. Stollenwerk is referred to as being one of the largest stamp dealers in the United States. His stamp business and most of his extensive stamp collection perished in a tragic fire that destroyed most of the interior and the roof of the church on August 13, 1917 (Figure 14). The article mistakenly refers to Rush County as LaCrosse County.



Figure 12



Figure 13  
Rev. Rudolph Stollenwerk



Figure 14  
The Liebenthal Church after the fire.

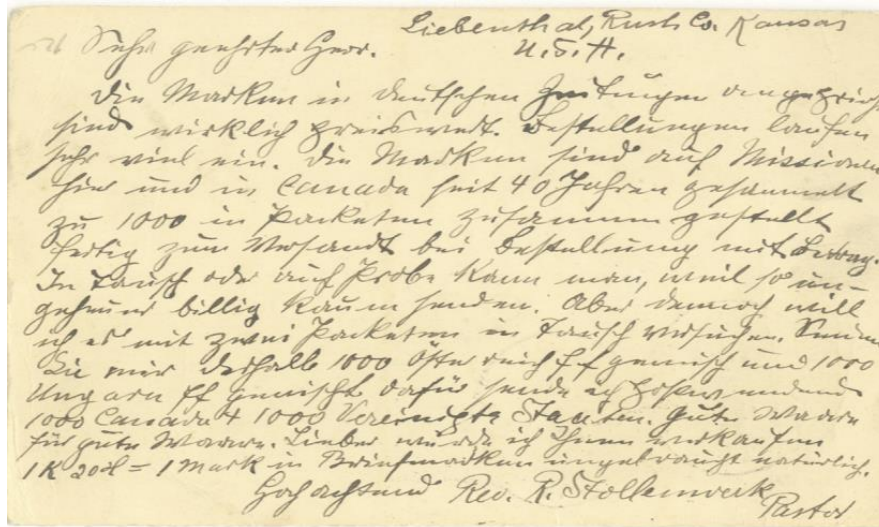


Figure 15  
Reverse of post card.

The APS Translation Service provided the following rendering from the German of Reverend Stollenweik addressed to a stamp dealer in Vienna , Austria: “Dear Sir, The stamps in the German newspaper ads are really cheap. Orders are coming in very strongly. The stamps have been collected here and in Canada in missions for 40 years and are assembled in packets of 1000 ready for shipment upon order with payment. It is hard to send anything in exchange, even as a sample, since they are so unbelievably cheap. But I'd like to try to try it anyway with 2 packets in exchange. So, send me 1000 Austria mixed and 1000 Hungary mixed. For that I will send by return mail 1000 Canada and 1000 USA. Good merchandise. I would rather sell to you at 1 kr 20 h = mark in stamps, unused of course. Respectfully, Rev. R. Stollenweik, Pastor”

A parishioner, Julian Schaffer, later established the Liebenthal Stamp Company which used the pre-cancelled cover (Scott Number U535) with an appropriate corner card displayed below as Figure 16 . On Liebenthal's plat map above one can note that a J. Schaffer owned land just to the north of Liebenthal. An advertisement of Mr. Schaffer's is shown in Figure 17.

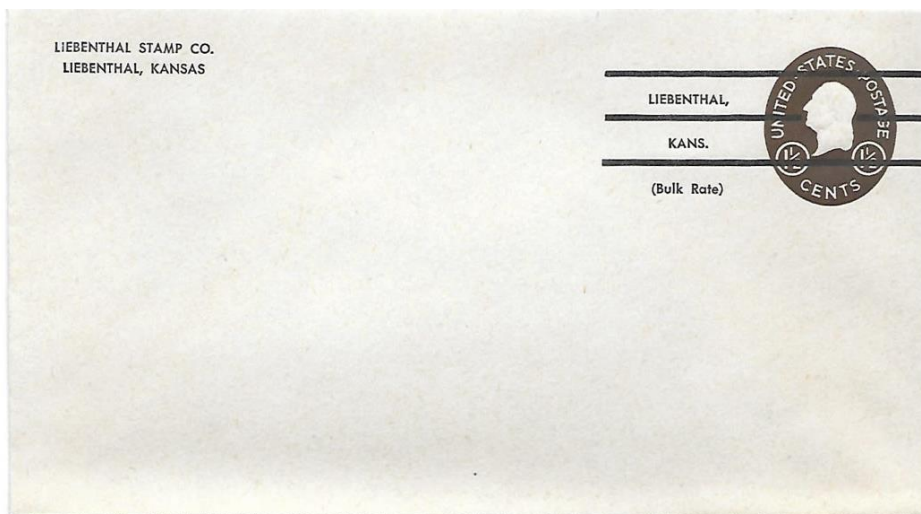


Figure 16

ALL Different; 425 Austria, 175 Portugal, 300 Belgium, France or Italy, 200 Bulgaria, Greece or Yugoslavia. \$1.00 each. Julian Schaffer, Liebenthal, Kansas.

Figure 17

Ad from page 49 of the August, 1955 issue of *Popular Mechanics*.

**A GREAT ENTERPRISE.**

"Stamp packets" of a decade ago and those that are up-to-the-minute of today, are of a great difference—the difference of a piece of cut glass and an old mined diamond!

Ten years ago the stamp packet was the outlet for damaged and accumulated unsalable stamps, not only postage, but revenues, envelopes and most anything that looked like a stamp. Today, "packet that satisfy" must be composed of all good, clean postage stamps in whole and presentable condition.

This change has been brought about by the earnest efforts of two well known stamp men. Twenty-five years ago, there was a stamp collector—a philatelist, in Germany, who was much interested in postage stamps and who studied his stamps in a way that gave him information that has been useful and he is now acknowledged as a philatelic expert. Over fifteen years ago he came to the United States with many of his countrymen. They settled in Kansas in LaCrosse County. This man is the Rev. R. Stollenwerk, a well educated man whose knowledge has been useful in building up one of the largest stamp concerns in the world. He started dealing in packets, in a modest way, over fifteen years ago and the business grew on account of the superiority of the packets to all others.

Eight years ago, Mr. H. S. Powell, of Storm Lake, Iowa, was given the position of General Manager. Rev. R. Stollenwerk, to this day has taken care of the stock and has overseen the packet

assembling; while Mr. Powell has developed the business end of the firm. Many obstacles had to be overcome—collectors were skeptical of packets—dealers were unscrupulous—and many collectors were disgusted and fell from the ranks of philately.

Through Mr. Stollenwerk and his acquaintances throughout the world—the H. S. Powell Stamp Co. secured the salesright for practically all of the missions. Today they receive large consignments from all countries and they are free from paper and bundled according to varieties. Today these mission and charitable organizations know well the value of postage stamps and do not give the stamps away. They are paid a nominal price for the consignment, which is carefully gone over and placed in stock—the largest in the world of the commoner kinds.

The higher priced stamps are used for exchanges—many stamps are secured through these exchanges that are not received direct from the source of supply—but are secured at a small outlay, in the end. Every month, they receive many tons of U. S. stamps collected by the different mission and charitable organizations—they are gone over for the higher values of parcel post and regular issues—the bulk being shipped to Europe. They get 22½c net per pound for these stamps and cannot supply the demand for them.

All stamps are sold through the different packets they offer—they have no competition—in order to let others sell their assemblings they have fixed their

prices and give as much value and quality as they can for that price. They have letters on file from the leading dealers of the several philatelic centers acknowledging the superiority of these packets which are known as the "First Quality."

The packets are continually being improved upon and the fact that the business done in 1913 was over twice that done in 1912 and that the first 15 days of February, 1914, was five times as great as the same period in 1913, proves to us that collectors are going to give this business to those who sell "packets that satisfy." The house of Powell is to be congratulated upon its business enterprise.

**THE GOODWIN BOOK.**

Within two weeks we shall be able to mail the Goodwin book on U. S. stamps. It will be a splendid production of 70 pps., handsomely bound and deserving of a place in the library of every philatelist. Moreover it will be sold at the ridiculously low price of 50c. Orders will be filled very shortly.



**SONORA**

We offer the new stamps now in use by the Rebel portion of Mexico. 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 20c values as illustration. Set postpaid 40c; pairs and blocks same price. [cf] **GEORGE W. LINN CO.,** Columbus, Ohio

Cutting from the classic *Meekel's* of February 28, 1914

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The “CMC” on the French perfin below refers to “Chabriere, Morel et Cie” a textile company in Lyon, in the Rhone region of France. The company used the perfin from 1922 until 1945. Its predecessor, Arlès-Dufour, was founded in 1815. It was the largest European importer of silk from the Far East and was one of the leading French textile companies in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The company had exhibited at the Panama-Pacific Exhibit in San Francisco in 1915. Its founder, Francois Barthelemy Arlès, was born in 1797 of a poor family. He started his career by selling textiles in Germany. He was hired in 1820 by Maison Dufour Frères, a Huguenot textile company based in Leipzig Germany. He married Pauline Dufour in 1824. In 1825 they settled in Lyon where Dufour Frères had a commercial branch and they created Arlès-Dufour. In 1859 his two sons took over the business with the name of Société Arlès-Dufour & Cie. Between 1860 and 1882 the sales volume doubled. In 1885 the company went bankrupt. A new company, Morel-Journal et Cie, took over the assets of Arlés-Dufour.  
 Reference: *Timbres perfores France et Colonies* (2. ed.) by Dedecker, R. ( Aniche, [France]: Association Nationale des Collectionneurs de Timbres Perfores (ANCOPER), 1990).



In the summer of 1953 the Australian Government chartered the Danish ship *Kista Dan* to establish its first permanent settlement on the Antarctic continent. Phillip Law, the director of the Antarctic Division of Australia's Department of External Affairs and leader of the expedition made the following declaration as the unloading of supplies and construction of huts proceeded: “In the name of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia, I raise the Australian flag on Australian Antarctic Territory and I name the site of this new ANARE station "Mawson" in honor of the great Australian Antarctic explorer and scientist, Sir Douglas Mawson." The label pictured below was intended for attachment to mail carried on the 1954 Australian Expedition to Antarctica. A souvenir sheet featuring four designs in black and white also exists. Australian stamps were used on mail from the station until 1957 when the Australian Post Office began issuing stamps for the Australian Antarctic Territory (which were also valid for use in Australia).



Australian Antarctica  
local stamp/ cinderella



Charro on Mexican definitive

Charros were highly skilled Mexican horsemen known for their colorful costumes and yearly charreada or riding festival and jaripeo or rodeo. Programs began with morning mass followed with

demonstrations of difficult feats of horsemanship, a mid-day banquet, cock fights, fireworks and popular regional dances. They were experienced riders, uniformed in gray charro clothing and sombreros. Heavily armed with sabers, rifles and pistols, they inspired fear, as well as an expression still in use today: *con el lazo y con la lanza se forjó el Charro* (With lasso and lance, the Charro was forged). The most notable example of a charro was General Emiliano Zapata who was known before the 1918 revolution as an amazing horse rider and horse tamer. Prior to the Mexican Revolution of 1910 the distinctive *charro* suit, with its sombrero, heavily embroidered jacket and tightly cut trousers, was widely worn by men of the affluent upper classes on social occasions, especially when on horseback. A light grey version with silver embroidery served as the uniform of the rurales (mounted rural police). It wasn't until the 1930s that charrería became a rules sport when rural people began moving towards the cities. During this time, paintings of charros also became popular. The traditional Mexican *charro* is known for colorful clothing and participating in *coleadero y charreada*, a specific type of Mexican rodeo. The charreada is the national sport in Mexico, and is regulated by the *Federación Mexicana de Charrería*.

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WICHITA'S FIRST POST OFFICE WAS MUNGER HOUSE  
 . . . Patrons found their way to Waco and  
 Murdock site . . . . .

This *Wichita Eagle* photo was found in the Kansas State Archive's *Postal History* collection. The typed note to the right says: "Wichita's first post office was Munger House...Patrons found their way to Waco and Murdock site..."

The Post Mark Collectors Club *Bulletin* of October, 2016 (Page 7. "Two More New post Offices" By Steve Bahnsen) reported that "Two communities on the Great Plains got new post office buildings in the summer of 2016. One was in a town nearly destroyed by a tornado in 2009. That was in Greensburg, Kansas where a tornado took out all of the business district, including the post office and many homes. This community is located about 30 miles east of Dodge City along US Highways 54 and 400. Within two days of the storm, a mobile trailer post office was brought into Greensburg. Hundreds of cluster boxes were placed next to the trailer. The Post Office was the first business to reopen after the twister. However it took much longer for Greensburg to get a new post office. Some of this delay hinged on how the town would rebuild. They now have a new school, hospital, bank, grocery store and city hall. The court house withstood the storm. But there are many square blocks and vacant lots in Greensburg where nothing exists. The Postal Service rented space in a new strip mall the city built downtown to entice businesses to return. new post office buildings in the summer of 2016. This is a modern facility open six hours a day during the week and two hours on Saturday for retail service. People can get their post office box mail anytime. "



The Post Mark Collectors Club is an exciting postal history-oriented organization that specializes in U. S. postmarks, publishes an outstanding monthly magazine, has a unique and valuable library of postmarks in Ohio and has an annual convention at one of the major national stamp shows. Anyone interested in this organization is encouraged to write Robert J. Milligan, 7014 Woodland Oaks Dr., Magnolia, TX 77354-4898. Yearly memberships are \$20.00.

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



Figure 1

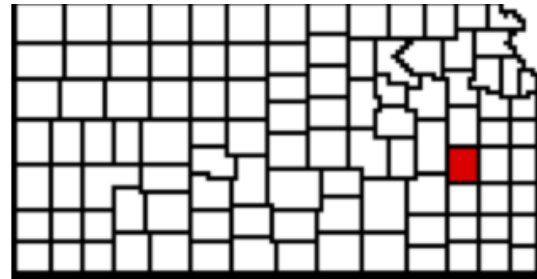


Figure 2

**Travel Kansas—Burlington**, located in Coffey County, Kansas (Figures 1 & 2) at the cross rails of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe and Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroads and near the Neosha River that travels from the western border of the County to the southeast border. The Missouri Pacific Railroad maintained two branches in the upper right of the County as well as a line that crossed the southern boundary of the County. The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad maintained a line that crossed the northwest corner of the County. The County had dealings with numerous Railroad Companies in their formative years. The Burlington Town Company was incorporated and approved February 20, 1857. One of the major players in the Company was O. E. Learnard, a native of Burlington, Vermont resulting in the town being named Burlington. Several men arrived in January 1857 and boarded with Charles Morse, whose home was about three miles downriver from the town site. The first house in Burlington was two small structures purchased in Hampden and made into James Jones' provision store. A log house was the second structure built as a wagon shop for Edward Murdock. The third building constructed was the Burlington Hotel by F. A. Atherly under contract with the Town Company. The lumber for the Hotel was rafted down the Neosha River about 35 or 40 miles. The first family to arrive was the Reverend Peter Remer and family. Mrs. Remer was the first woman to appear on the town site so she became a major attraction by all the construction workers on the Hotel. The Hotel was located near the river in order to provide lodging for the mill workers. Other residents began arriving and soon the town had its first steam saw mill, this was followed by two general merchandise stores. During the Civil War era the town basically came to a standstill until May 19, 1863 when the County Seat was moved to Hampden, by an overwhelming majority of votes. The following day after the vote a S. S. Prouty who had taken a leave from the Army arrived on the scene and indicated he would put up \$500 for the town to erect a building to house a woolen carding mill and funds to purchase machinery for its operation. This brought renewed strength to the residents and

eventually the carding mill developed into a large woolen factory and a cotton gin was added. Mr. S. S. Prouty was one of the early residents of Burlington having set up a newspaper business in 1859. After a couple of unexpected moves on October 4, 1859 the *Neosho Valley Register* appeared in Burlington. During the Civil War the paper was leased out until Mr. Prouty was discharged from the Army. He began publishing the *Kansas Patriot* in September 1864 until he sold the paper in April 1869; the *Voice of the People* commenced in May 1874 but only lasted until November 1874; in February 1875 the first number of *The Independent* hit the streets of Burlington and was considered to always be independent politically until a Mr. Watrous became sole management of the paper it turned to being Democratic; the *Neosho Valley Register* was Republican as was the *Kansas Patriot*; the *Voice of the People* was Reform; and the *Burlington Republican* was Republican. When the railroad arrived in 1870 and the town saw steady progress in population and business development, with a schoolhouse built in 1873. The first bank began business on April 16, 1870. The post office was initially established in Hampden on June 15, 1857 and moved to Burlington on February 16, 1858 and is still open. Another town called Hampden had a post office from April 9, 1864 but closed on April 2, 1866.

A cover franked with a 2¢ George Washington Stamp (Scott #634) and tied to the cover with a six-wavy-line circular-date-stamp postmarked from Burlington, Kansas Dec. 23, 1931 (Figure 3) apparently a Christmas card or Christmas message within. On the back of the cover is 1931 Christmas Seal (Figure 4) which was the 25th Annual Seal issued by the non-profit organization.

Coffey County is home to the John Redman Reservoir, named after John Redman who was editor of the *Burlington Republican* known as one of the ‘golden era of Kansas journalism’. The Neosho River was dammed in order to create the Reservoir, which also gave a boost to the economy of Burlington.



Figure 3



Figure 4

Another major asset of Coffey County and the town of Burlington is the Wolf Creek Nuclear Generating Station that is the only nuclear power plant in Kansas. The plant is located on the Coffey County Lake southeast of the John Redman Reservoir (Figure 5). Coffey County was one of the original 33 counties created by the Territorial Legislature, with boundaries established on July 22, 1855 and organized on February 17, 1857.



Figure 5

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

This is the 79th 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 from Santa Claus, Indiana, that is, by way of Readville, Massachusetts and although it measures above what I like to present in this column it does fit the season so we will proceed. The cover measures 5 1/8 inch by 3 5/8 inch and apparently the cover was reused as there is an original cancellation of what appears to be a red stamp or image with a seven-wavy-line circular-date-stamp from Santa Claus and then the cover was franked with two 1¢ George Washington stamps from the 1938 Presidential issues (Scott #804) and both stamps are tied to the cover with a seven-wavy-line circular-date-stamp postmarked from Santa Claus, Indiana on Dec 9, 1949 (Figure 1).



Figure 1



Figure 2

The back of the cover carries a logo from the "Santa Claus Letter Club, Inc." at the bottom of the circle and "Yes, I'll Answer Your Letter" with Santa poised beside a free standing mail box and mailed to an individual in Readville, Mass. (Figure 2) The first Post Office opened on May 21, 1856 with John Specht serving as Postmaster and the office was located in Madison County, then it was changed to Spencer County with John Blum serving as Postmaster on July 9, 1863.. On June 25, 1895 the town changed its name to "Santaclaus" with Henry H. Moll serving as Postmaster. However, the name change only lasted until February 12, 1927 when it was changed back to "Santa Claus" with Oscar L. Phillips serving as Postmaster. If I guessed correctly on the postmark year as 1949 then a Elbert S. Reinke was serving as Postmaster, being appointed on May 23, 1947 as Acting Postmaster at first and Postmaster on June 26, 1949. He would serve until November 16, 1973 when Mrs. Beatrice M. Martin was appointed Officer-In-Charge. The interest in the name did not peak until 1914 when Santa Claus' 14th Postmaster, James Martin, began answering the children's letters. This brought numerous people to the Post Office to get the special postmark, so much was coming in and going out that the U. S. Postal Department suggested changing the name of the town, but the townspeople rejected the idea.



Figure 3



Figure 4

Eventually James Martin enlisted Jim Yellig to help him write back to the children from across the globe.. Now the Santa's Elves Inc. and the Santa Claus Museum organize volunteers to write the letters. The Post Office (Figure 3) shown is the current one, but the original Post Office is housed in the Museum. The statue out in front of City Hall (Figure 4) is just one of many different statues that are erected within the town. One of the larger statues was recently restored (Figure 5) The Small Stuff Cover from Santa Claus, Indiana contained a letter pre-printed from Santa Claus (Figure 6). Each year Mr. Martin and the originations hold a contest for the children to submit suggested pictorial cancellations for the letters going out from Santa Claus, Indiana. Shown in Figures 7 & 8 are two such cancellations that have been used. One of the leading promoters of Santa Claus, Indiana is Pat Koch and her husband Bill Koch. Bill's father Lloyd was one of the initial founders of the amusement venture. Pat has been instrumental in keeping the Park visible to the public along with her husband and children. They are responsible for the amusement park that includes one of the world's largest wooden roller coasters, called the Raven located in Holiday World. The Santa Claus Museum & Village traces the history of the original town buildings back to 1856; history of the Santa Claus Post Office; Santa's Candy Castle and Barrett Park. Initially the Amusement Park focused on Christmas and Santa Claus, but through the imagination of Bill Koch the Park expanded to include themes relating to Halloween, Thanksgiving and Fourth of July. A House of Dolls (Figure 9) is located on the grounds of the Park where you can find some Elves along with a wide selection of antique dolls and other interesting items that can be purchased. Even President Ronald Reagan visited the House of Dolls during his tenure as President. It was moved from its original location in Santa Claus to its current location in the Park area as was the one of the old Churches. If you would enjoy a letter from Santa Claus just send your letter to Santa along with a self-addressed envelope with a legible return address, leaving an area about 2 inches by 4 inches in the stamp area for the postmark. Send to the address below to arrive before December 21, 2016. Santa Claus P O box 1 Santa Claus, IN 47579

The popularity of Santa Claus, Indiana has spread across the United States and a number of Foreign Countries. One such cover was originated from a family in Derby, Indiana and sent to an individual in Paola, Kansas (Figure 10). The cover carries a regular postal cancellation from Santa Claus, Ind. on Dec 13, 1964, but also carries a special Santa Claus, Ind. Pictorial cancellation depicting Santa and Reindeers from the U. S. Post Office in Santa Claus. Three Cinderella Christmas related seals placed strategically on the back of the cover as shown below the cover (Figure 11).



Figure 5

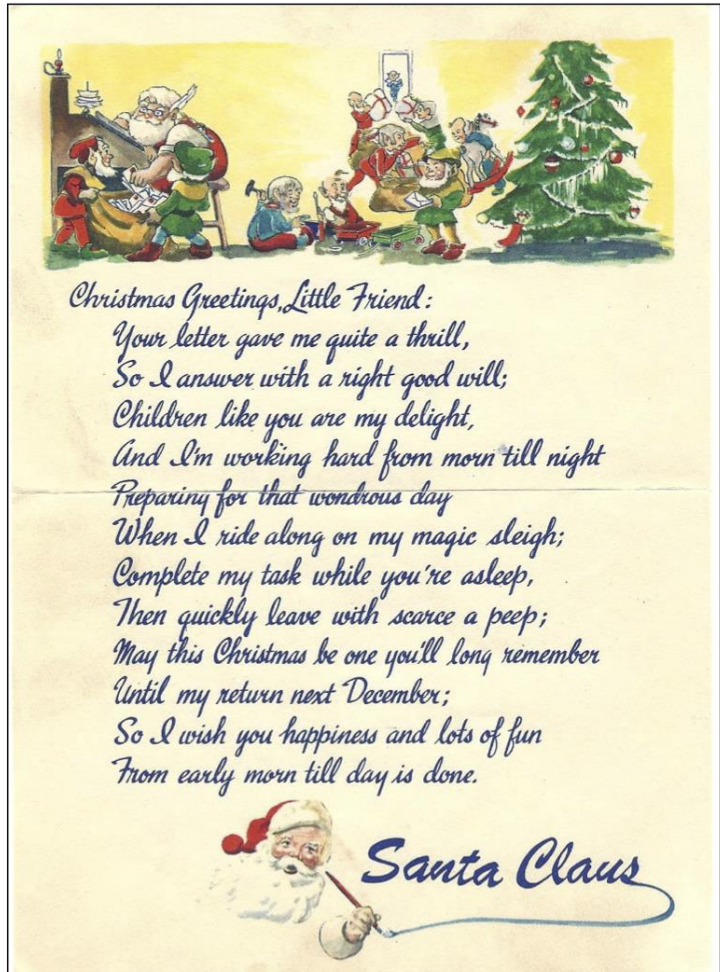


Figure 5



Figures 7&8



Figure 9

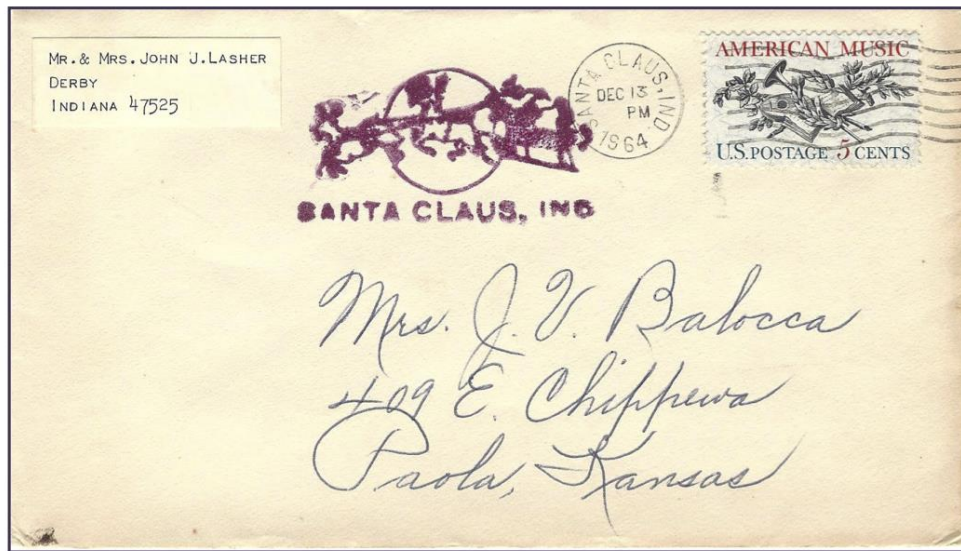


Figure 10

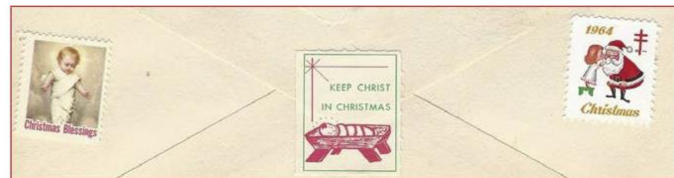


Figure 11

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