

Wichita Stamp Club Newsletter



Vol. 84, No. 9, September, 2016

Jeff Lough
Editor



"Go Fly A Stamp"



Click on a link below in order to go directly to the article.

[Don't Sweat the small Stuff](#)

This little honey comes to us to Port Leyden, New York via Alstead, New Hampshire

[Travel Kansas](#)

A Philatelic visit to Soldier, Kansas

[A Second Visit to Sedgwick County](#)

[Kinder Post](#)

Philatelic Play

[Miscellanea](#)

A number of philatelic tidbits

[Go to WSC Home Page](#)

Don't Sweat the Small Stuff by Neal Danielson. This is the 76th 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 Port Leyden, New York by way of Alstead, New Hampshire. The Small Stuff measures 5 1/2 inches by 3 1/8 inches and is franked with a 3¢ George Washington Stamp (Scott #147) and tied to the cover with a fancy cancel and a circular date postmark from Port Leyden, NY on September 1. The cover contained a correspondence with a date of September 1st, 1882. Port Leyden is a settlement in Lewis County, New York and its name is derived from early history relating to a port on the Black River Canal (Figure 1). The Black River Valley is located in the town of Leyden and the Port Leyden village is located within the Valley (Figures 2 & 3). In the early 1800's a mill was built on the site where Port Leyden is located and the settlement was known as "Kelsey's Mills." During the development years of the Black River Canal the name was changed to Port Leyden in 1838. Although the Canal was completed in 1850 but was determined to be unstable in 1851 and therefore not usable. Other villages along the path of the Black River Canal experienced difficulty with construction of the Canal and eventually the canal was abandon thus the status of Port Leyden no longer was recognized as a Port by 1900. The correspondence in Figure 1 was sent to Alstead New Hampshire. The town of Alstead is located in Cheshire County and is home to the Feuer State Forest (Figure 4). Alstead's history dates back to the 18th Century when to town was chartered by Massachusetts Governor Jonathan Belcher in 1735 as one of nine forts constructed to protect the southwestern area and New Hampshire from Indian attacks. It was granted as Newtown in 1752 by Governor Benning Wentworth, but was incorporated in 1763 as Alstead. The name Alstead was given in honor of Johann Heinrich Alstead who was responsible for compiling an encyclopedia that became popular at Harvard College.

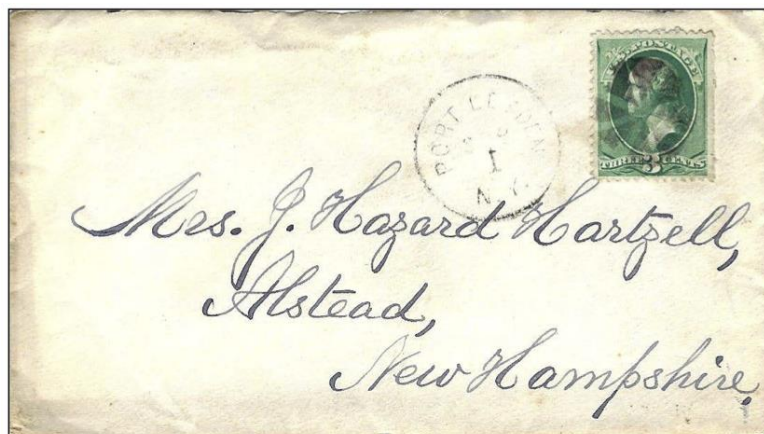


Figure 1

The town of Alstead did not see settlers until 1764 and would waver in its allegiance following the Revolutionary War. When it did decide it join Vermont in April 1781, but George Washington became involved and with his insistence the town returned to New Hampshire authority in 1782. Alstead was formerly known as Paper Mill Village, having established the state's first paper mill in 1793 on the

Cold River by Ephraim and Elisha Kingsbury. Paper was considered rare and expensive in those days, being made by chopping rags of linen and cotton cloth into pulp.



Figure 1



Figure 2

Unfortunately the mill was destroyed by fire in 1880. However, the Alstead area was fortunate in having streams and ponds that powered several different small mills. One of Alstead's benefactors was native son John G. Shedd, president of Marshall Field's department store in Chicago, who funded the construction of the Shedd-Porter Memorial Library and native son Charles M. Vilas, a philanthropist, gave a large public recreation area, school building and the only carillon (living quarters for the older generation) in Cheshire County.



Figure 3



Figure 4

The most interesting aspect of this Small Stuff is the correspondence by Mr. J Hazard Hartzell who was away from home in Port Leyden to his wife Aohsah, at their home in Alstead, New Hampshire. I have attempted to transcribe the letter as best I could: *Friday Morning Port Leyden, N.Y.*
September 1, 1882

My Beloved Aohsah:

I thought I would write this morning so that you could hear from me before Sunday. I expected from your letter of last Tuesday that I would receive this morning a letter from Corinne. But found at the post office nothing but disappointment in a ragged envelope. I have just returned from a call upon the Congregationalist Ministers of this place, and brought home with me a couple volumes from his library. I browsed for an hour through his books, flipping here and there into History and Poetry, Science and Philosophy, Criticism and Biography. I found him a very pleasant gentleman, a native of New York State and a graduate of Yale College. He speaks in high terms of the Hungerford Institute at Adams and also of the Clinton Institute at Fort Plain. He says they both have the reputation of being among the best in the State of New York.

I have finished skimming the volumes of the British Poets. It makes one sad to find how many of these poets were for a long time neglected and overlooked. And how many of them were attacked by bitter jealousy and heartless malice like Millen and Wordsworth, William Collins and John Teats. But in spite of remorse less opposition and envious criticism, they came down to us being with the Garlands of Renown.

I took a stroll the other evening to the upper portion of this village which runs along a high hill that overlooks the surrounding country. The view was beautiful and picturesque of green fields, deep woods and soaring uplands with their pine clad summits. It was soothing and stimulating, followed by that peaceful influence that comes from a devout contemplation of the works of the Divine Artist and the gifts of the Eternal Father.

On my left there was a thin white cloud drifting alone over blue fields of air. It looked like a marriage veil that had been snatched from some sweet bridal face by the envious and ruthless wind. In front of me the yellow haired sun, as though weary with the journey of the day, had leaped from his chariot and entered his gold embroidered tent, towards which the shadows of evening were climbing with their skirts wet with dew.

I have blocked out a sermon and am designing a poem on The Fields of Corn. Must be busy with some kind of work, and thus fill the empty hours that are placed under my mental eaves. Will order Harpers Weekly, New York Tribune, and Sunday's Courier to be sent to you from Buffalo. Presume you were all at the Falls yesterday and are arranging for the departure of Albert and Freddie for their Schools. The weather here is cloudy and pleasant this morning, and begins to feel like autumn. I see in looking out of my window the scarlet plumes of the soft maples, and that means that fall is approaching.

*A country paper announces that the wife and daughter of Rev. Dr. Hartzell arrived last Saturday at Port Leyden and are sleeping with Mrs. Manchester. Wish it were true! Loving regards to all.
Hazard.*

Hazard apparently is a minister as he intended to block out a sermon as well as having a sincere interest

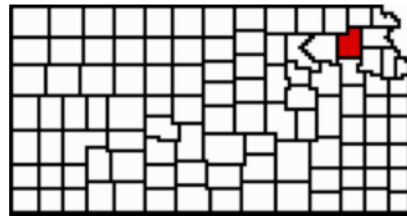
in poetry from the pages and word of this letter to his wife.

[Return to September Contents](#)

[Go to WSC Home Page](#)

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

Travel Kansas—Soldier is a village in Jackson County, Kansas with the first settlement taking place in 1877 and the village was laid out in 1877. The village is located in the northwest part of Jackson County along the Leavenworth, Kansas & Western Railroad that runs from the east through Holton the County Seat and on west to the border of the county. Soldier acquired the name form the Soldier Creek that runs from the north to the south through the County. The Missouri Pacific Railroad runs along the north part of the county; and the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad travels from the northeast corner to the southern boundary of county.



The Post Office in Soldier (Figure 1) was initially started in Smithland on July 12, 1867 but was changed to Soldier on February 21, 1883 and may still be operating, although in a newer building than originally established. The city of Soldier was incorporated in 1896. Figure 2 is a 2¢ embossed Mount Vernon envelope cancelled with footprint killer cancels and circular-date-stamp postmarked from Soldier, Kans. on May 3 1932, from a B. W. Fridley of Soldier to a Mr. Harry Knostman of Wamego, Kans.



is Post Office

Figure 1
Soldier, Kansas Post Office

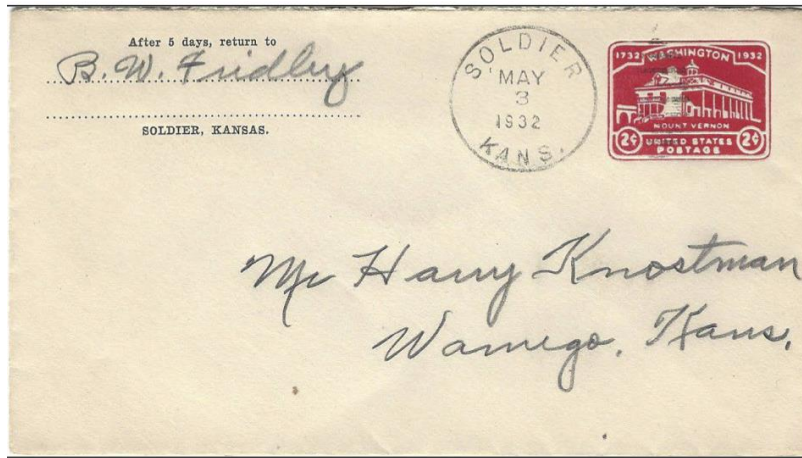


Figure 2
Soldier, Kansas Cover of May 3 1932,

In 1883 a tornado ripped through Soldier destroying 18 buildings and killed four residents. Soldier was once again hit by a tornado in June of 2008 during a series of tornado outbreaks that came out of the sky, killing one man that was found dead on the morning of June 11, 2008. The tornado was estimated to be about a half-mile wide.

The history of Jackson County reveals the early exploration by a company of Frenchmen led by M. De Bourgmont in 1724 through Kansas to the Padouca Indians; this was followed by Dr. Thomas Say in 1819 in a scientific expedition to a Kansas Village where Manhattan is now; and Fremont “the Pathfinder” passed through the County on the expedition to the Rocky Mountains in 1843.

The first election of County officers took place in 1855, electing a probate judge, sheriff, treasurer, commissioners and some citizens served in a number of capacities at the same time. The County was changed from Calhoun to Jackson by Golden Silvers in 1858, but the County did not recognize the new name until 1859. The famous Lane road passed through Jackson County and the “Battle of the Spurs” took place at the Straight Creek ford, one of several “underground railways”.

Schools in the County prior to 1859 were chiefly accomplished by private subscription. The first school was built in 1858 out of logs in Douglas Township. By 1910 the County had 90 school districts with approximately 5,000 school age children and 60 libraries. As with a number of small communities throughout Kansas education facilities were constructed in order to provide a good education for its population, but as time passed many small communities had to merge with other communities in order to have such educational benefits. The high school in Soldier was closed and went into disarray following the transfer of students to Holton in the late 1960’s (Figure 3).



Figure 3

Agriculture crops, such as corn, oats and wheat were the major money making crops, with Hay crops and Irish potatoes also extensively raised. Jackson County was also known for fruit growing with a quarter million fruit trees. Other sources of income were derived from the quarries of white, gray limestone's, with brick clay and gypsum found along the creeks. Lumber was processed in the local mill and transported by mule teams in early years (Figure 4).



Figure 4

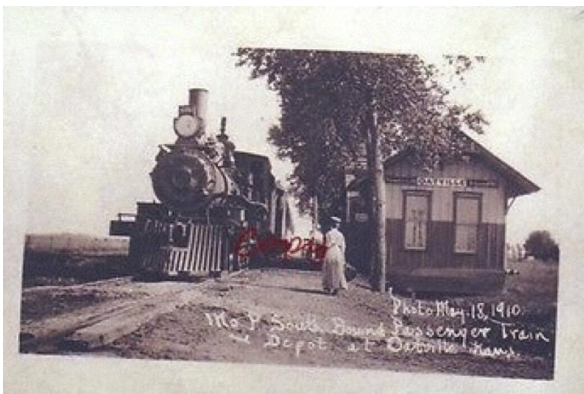
The Soldier cover was mailed to an individual living in Wamego, Kansas. Wamego is in Pottawatomie County, and was named after a Potawatomi Native American Chief. The town was platted in 1866 with a Post Office established on October 11, 1866 and Leonard C. Prunty was appointed Postmaster and would serve until May 6, 1869. At the time the Soldier cover arrived in Wamego, Mary O. Bittman was Postmaster being appointed in 1923 and would serve until April 25, 1936.

[Return to September Contents](#)

[Go to WSC Home Page](#)

Sedgwick County 2 by Jeff Lough

Oatville was a hamlet located in Waco township on the Missouri Pacific Railroad 6 miles southwest of old Wichita in an area where the old Chisholm Trail had passed through. The large number of cattle heading north had made the ground so hard that early farmers found it very hard to plow. The establishment of the town of Oatville included plans to build the Wichita, Anthony and Salt Plains Railroad through southern Sedgwick County. Oatville was to be the first station out of Wichita towards the southwest. The town was named and platted by mule trader and landowner James Royal and Newton H. Robinson. Eventually on August, 1882 a subsidiary of the Missouri Pacific: the St. Louis, Fort Scott and Wichita Railroad was built through Oatville's original incarnation, Oatland. When the railroad moved east a quarter mile, the town was renamed Oatville. A general merchandise store was built by Newton H. Robinson and housed the post office beginning Oct. 2, 1884. It was bought by E. A. Abbott in 1884 who then became the postmaster. Robinson built another store and was again appointed postmaster later in 1885. Cleveland appointed J. W. Tatman in 1886, a Democratic supporter thusly replacing the previous Republican. Bernell Bigelow became postmaster in October, 1891. A grain man from Conway Springs, Kansas, Sly Dixon, painted 44 cars loaded with corn with bright decorations at the time of the Republican National Convention nominating William McKinley in St. Louis in June, 1896 and was planning for them to be in Wichita when McKinley was to be visiting. A lightning storm started a fire that burned up 3 railway cars and the depot. An abandoned station in West Wichita was loaded on a flat car and moved to Oatville. Blackmar reported that Oakville had telegraph and express offices, a money order post office and one rural route and that the population in 1910 was 42. Bigelow again became postmaster in 1898 and remained so until 1923. Ernest Tatman was the post office's first rural carrier. Roy C. Hayden was next until 1935. The Oatville post office discontinued Nov. 30, 1936. Its route was divided between the Wichita and Clearwater post offices. Route 6 out of Wichita included residents east of Oatville and Route 8 to Clearwater included those patrons west of Oatville. Oatville had a Methodist church, a blacksmith shop, and an elevator. The Oatville Rural Telephone Company, a bill from which is in the accompanying cover ran from 1904 until 1948 and was bought out after an ice storm destroyed many lines that were too expensive to replace. The Oatville Cemetery, founded before the town in 1877, two miles away is still activ The Big Ditch took part of Oatville and all that remains of the town is a small hand lettered sign. The postal envelope (XSAGOT) bears a four bar Doane postmark.

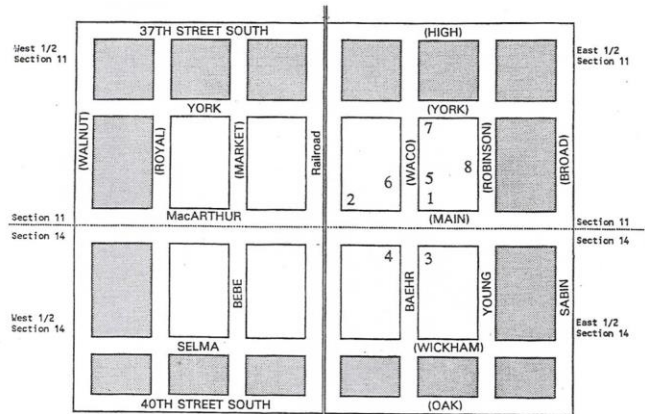


Oakville Railroad Station



Telephone No. _____
 Oatville, Kansas, 3/1/1922
 TO **Oatville Telephone Co. DR.**
 M. E. L. Myers
 To Rental From 12/1/21 to 4/1/22 | 5.00
 Toll and Mess. From 7/1/21 to 1/1/22 | 2.70
 Miscellaneous _____
 Bal. on Account _____
 Total, \$ 7.70
 FIND TOLLS ITIMIZED BELOW

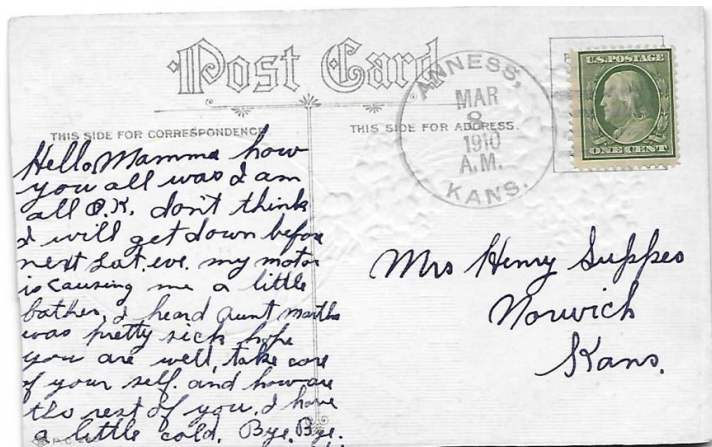
DATE	BY WHOM	TO WHAT PLACE	TO WHOM	TOLLS	MESS. SER.
<i>Please</i>					



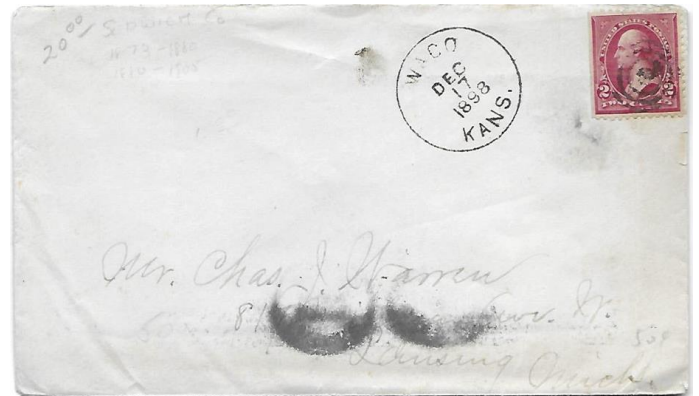
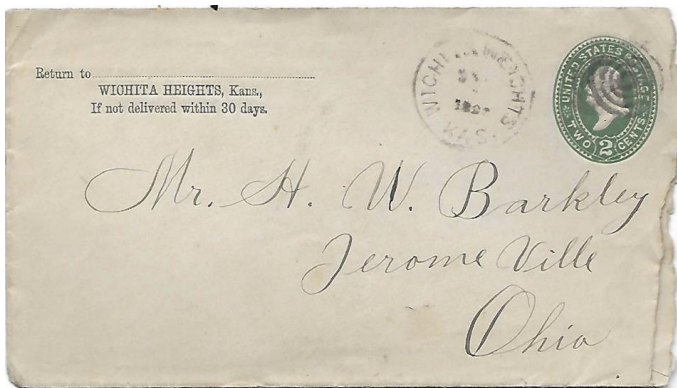
Original Plat Map for Oakville

W.H. Wilson, from Arcade NY, established **Anness** in 1880, naming it after his wife Ann. The southwestern Sedgwick County town was reputedly founded in order to sell a large portion of land to one of the railroad companies (the Leroy & Western) set up by the Missouri Pacific Railroad in order to gain local funds. Wilson named the town after his wife Ann. The farm community of Anness exported wheat and other agriculture products. In 1887 the post office at Kalamazoo, a few miles to the east, was moved to Anness.. Anness' first postmaster was James W. Brown. Anness once had 100 residents with a blacksmith shop, saloon, church, and store. The school was known for having a buffalo wallow in the playground. All that remains now on the dusty road going through where it once stood is a name on a farmer's coop. Its nearby neighbors included Runnymede in northeast Harper Conty, Peotone (mentioned in the first chapter of this series of articles) and Milton in the far northwest of Sumner County. Anness' post office building is now part of Old Cowtown in Wichita, although there is no indication in or around the building that it was once the Anness Post Office.

The accompanying post card was sent to the party's mother in Norwich which is just a short distance away in Kingman County. The penny Franklin is postmarked with a 5 line Doane cancellation of March 8, 1910 in the morning.



Bayneville was located 12 miles south of Wichita and had been served by the St. Louis, Ft. Scott and Wichita Rail Road, a subsidiary of the Santa Fe Railroad. Bayneville was named for a resident of Anthony, Kansas who had purchased a large piece of land for the railroad. The first postmaster was Clarence H. Noble and the post office operated from September 3, 1884 until June 30, 1934. At one time Bayneville had two mercantiles, a hardware store, blacksmith shop, barber shop, a commercial elevator and a “community church”. The church was later used by the Grange. Bayneville had one rural route that was transferred to a Clearwater, Kansas route shortly before the Bayneville post office closed. The classic George Washington 2 center, Scott Number 213, has a well used target killer and circular post mark indicating what seems to be a date of August 3, 1887.



Wichita Heights was a planned settlement that briefly had a post office that was located three to six miles north of Wichita and seven miles from Valley Center on the Santa Fe Railroad. It had a railroad depot, a general store and a post office. Its first postmaster was Oliver P. Light. The post office was open from May 22, 1888 until October 15, 1900. A nice target killer on the 2 cent postal envelope (Scott Number U311) accompanies a circular postmark with an 1889 date.

The **Waco** post office was first know as Cowskin. The Cowskin post office was established on December 8, 1870. Its first postmaster was Samuel K. Davis. Cowskin had been an Indian village and had been named for nearby Cowskin Creek. The name was changed to Waco in 1880. The Waco post office was established February 25, 1873 and closed on January 14, 1905. The first postmaster was Benjamin Watson. After the Waco post office closed it was served by a rural delivery route from Peck, in southern Sedgwick County. Farber (page 106) reports that in the early days the area residents were served by a “...post office at Hays Mill (later called Haysville)...Mail for the people around Waco was picked up in Haysville and brought back by 'Aunt Meg Hegger.' using a horse and cart for transportation.” As time passed, the Midland Valley Railroad came through 1½ miles east of Waco. Because of this, a new town sprung up along the railroad called New Waco. This left the town on Lawrence Road (now South Broadway, old Highway 81) to be known as “Old Waco.” Early European-Americans were predominantly Germans. Waco had several flour mills, schools, a general store, blacksmith shop, numerous churches, a lumber yard, grain elevator, restaurant and a brick factory. The advertised “good yellow-leg chicken dinners” served in the town hall were known as “Waco Wegos.” The cover above carries a well used target killer with a circular cancellation marking Scott Number 250.

References for Sedgwick County article

Bentley, O. H. (Editor in Chief) *History of Wichita and Sedgwick County Kansas. Past and Present. Including an Account of the Cities, Towns and Villages of the County.* Chicago, IL: C. F. Cooper & Company, 1910. 2 Volumes.

Blackmar, Frank W. (Editor) *A cyclopedia of state history, embracing events, institutions, industries, counties, cities, towns, prominent persons, etc.* Chicago, IL: Standard Publishing Company, 1912. 2 Volumes.

Brite, Joyce Hoerman. *History of Oatville, Kansas.* Manhattan, KS: Self published, 1993.

Clearwater News. (Clearwater, KS) June 28, 1934. "Post Office Closing Recalls Early Day. Bayneville Typical of Many Small Communities."

Farber, Madeline K. *Mulvane. City of the Valley. Past and Present. Including an account of the Cities, Towns, Townships and Villages of the Mulvane Area.* Mulvane, KS: Mulvane Historical Society, 1977.

Jackson, Alex "Anness, Sedgwick County," *Chapman Center Research Collections*, accessed August 1, 2016, <http://ccrsresearchcollections.omeka.net/items/show/17>.

[Return to September Contents](#)

[Go to WSC Home Page](#)

Update on the Kinderpost Phenomena by Jeff Lough

A number of months ago we published an article about the toy post office games/ kits that numerous companies had and continue to produce for children to play with and learn from. I have recently acquired one of the toy kits, produced and promulgated in German, likely in the 19th or early 20th century. It contains a sheet of stamps picturing a train. The cover of the box for this kit is illustrated as Figure 1. The kit includes several postal and telegraph forms, illustrated as Figures 2, 3, and 4. Picture post cards as well as postal cards were also included (Figures 6 and 7). Other kits included cancelers, telephones, uniforms, pretend money and masks to wear depicting postal workers. Early German Kinderpost stamps often mimicked real postage stamps. At least one type of German kinderpost toy/ kit is still produced.



Figure 1

Post-Einlieferungsschein
 Daß am heutigen Tage
 Gegenstand, |
 bei Post- |
 anweisungen |
 auch Nr. |

Wert- angabe	
Gewicht	
Em- pfänger	
Bestim- mungsort	

zur Beförderung mit der Kinder-
 post eingeliefert worden, wird be-
 scheinigt
 den 19
 Post-Annahme Nr.

Figure 2

Kinderpost-Zahlskarte

eingesandt am 19 für Konto Nr.

Abfänger

Reichsmark

Konto Nr.

Kinder-Postleitzahl

Polstermark

Kinder-Posteinlieferungsschein

Reichsmark

Nr. Konto Nr.

In Kind. Postfach

Polstername

Polstermark

Figure 3

Paßkarte

Zum Zustellen des Aufgabebetriebs

Abfänger

Empfänger

In

Polstername

Polstermark

In das Paket abenanz
 ein 'Doppel' der Auf-
 schrift legen!

Polstermark

Polstername

Polstermark

Figure 4

This kit also includes a small hand stamping device and some individual printing types so that one may compose and stamp a more official looking message or heading or overprint or postmark in print.

Three different partial sheets of small stamps are also to be found. It is interesting these stamps have perforations but look rather odd because the holes are “regular” size but the stamps are much smaller. An example of one of the small stamps is given below

The accompanying stamp is part of a set of three and we have here both the enlarged (Figure 5) and actual sized (Figure 6) examples.



Figure 5

6



Figure 6

[Return to September Contents](#)

[Go to WSC Home Page](#)

The *Topeka Capital* of February 4, 1965 reported that the Postal Savings System was going to end. At that time 3,466 U.S. post offices offered the service. A Topeka post office spokesman said that a new depositor had not opened an account in Topeka for at least 5 years. Postal Savings paid 2 percent interest. The service was started more than 50 years ago for immigrants and others who were concerned about the unstable banking situation. In 1965 banks were insured by the FDIC and paid 3 or 4 percent interest. In 1964 deposits had dropped \$69 million.



Usually when we think of newspaper stamps, we think of stamps issued for the purpose of mailing newspapers. However, in this unusual case, the Swedish stamps are PRINTED IN NEWSPAPERS for the general public to use to mail letters. The stamps were to be cut from the newspaper and glued to an envelope in a location like that for which regular adhesive stamps were placed. These were created as part of Swedish post office campaigns to encourage letter writing. Above is an example.



A couple state revenue stamps from the 1950s illustrate the use of state maps as an important part of the stamp design. The illustration to the left was used to validate the payment of a special tax for soft drinks. It came in 10 colors and values. The Arizona stamp to the right was a cigarette metered stamp. What appears to be an old cattle brand decorates the upper center of the stamp. It had been printed in purple.

St. Gabriel the Archangel is the Patron Saint of philatelists.

The *Topeka Capital* of September 26, 1908 listed some of the nicknames of Overland Mail coach drivers in Kansas, Colorado and Nebraska: Happy Jack, Smiling Tom, Rowdy Pete, Rattlesnake Pete, One-eyed Tom, Crosse-eyed John, Red Horse, Fiddle Jim who used to saw cat gut along the Platte, Long Slim, and Whiskey Jack. Sounds like your typical stamp club membership.

Interesting website: <http://online.fliphtml5.com/tsue/hauk/#p=1> A complete book by Dr. Elchanan Bar-Lev on the first stamps of countries that don't exist anymore.



Tver Oblast is a part of Russia whose capital of over a million people is Tver. From 1935 to 1990 it was known as Kalinin Oblast in honor of early communist leader Vladimir Lenin. It is a region of lakes, hills and the sources of large rivers of international importance such as the Volga and Dnieper. The Oblast has a modern tourist infrastructure and many historic towns. The above photo is of a castle used in Ostashkov by the ruling prince during the times of the Russian Empire.

A Different Kind of Imperf by Jeff Lough

Perhaps this is a silly out-of-the-way discovery from my friend, the *Weekly Philatelic Gossip*, but I like it anyway. In the early 1860s in England a few companies and a private “club” experimented with a way to keep associated individuals from personally using the organizations' postage stamps. However, instead of the very popular imperfs, that have been used in a variety of places worldwide, they overprinted the definitive stamp. In the case below the Oxford Union Society overprinted some of their definitives. The 1864 one penny red lettered 1G has an appropriate “underprint” in red reading

upwards as indicated by the arrow. The OUS is an old ongoing institution encouraging debate of public policy that has had everyone from the UN Secretary General and most U.S. presidents to Miss Piggy as speakers..



September 15, 2016 “Pony Express”, By Tom Hankins. We all know from postal history the Pony Express lasted only 18 months, with the initial ride made on April 3, 1860. But you may not know, there have been commemorative re-rides since that time. The re-rides have the same charge per letter and the same route as the original time. At this program, re-ride letters and covers will be shared with historical events from the route. The Pony Express riders connected the East to the West.



[Return to September Contents](#)

[Go to WSC Home Page](#)