

Illinois Wheel of Fortune Cancellation

by Larry Rausch

This article details those towns using the Wheel of Fortune postmark that I have identified for the states of Illinois.

In the November 2005 U.S. Cancellation Club News issue, Arthur Beane announced a project to produce a monograph on the Wheel of Fortune cancels. I've taken up the task to complete this monograph.

Here is where you can help... by providing any additional covers that I have not identified and forward photo scans of these Covers to me at stonywoods840@gmail.com . All state towns and duplicates would also be appreciated.

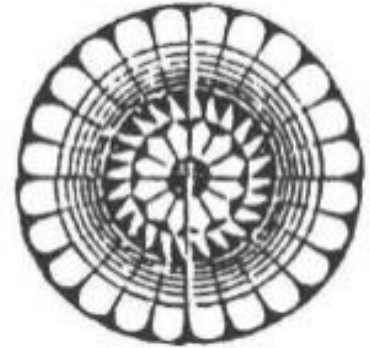


Fig. 1

In 1880 the F.P. Hammond Co. of Aurora, Illinois, introduced the canceller (Fig. 1). Today this fancy rubber canceller is called **Wheel of Fortune (WOF)**. The highly detailed stamper was made possible with the invention of vulcanized rubber. The Peerless Vulcanizer shown on the 1898 cover below (Fig. 2) may have been the type of machine to make the Wheel of Fortune device.



Figure 2. Illustrated advertising cover for the "Peerless Vulcanizers" which made rubber handstamp devices, like the Wheel of Fortune killer, possible.

The first advertisement for the WOF appeared in the January 1881 U.S. Official Postal Guide (Fig. 3). Although this ad depicts postmarks dating in the 1870's, the earliest WOF postmark found to date is February 26, 1880 from New Lisbon, Wisconsin. Illinois has many covers dated in 1880— one of the earliest is dated October 12, 1880 from Clifton, Illinois (Fig.4).

(Note: In the advertisement under "Best Offer", this Cancellor and kit cost \$3.00.)

" WHEEL OF FORTUNE "
No. 529.

POST OFFICE SUPPLIES

ESTABLISHED 1872.

WE ARE HEADQUARTERS

For the most complete line of articles used by P. M.'s and their Clerks.

Engraved Letter Headings,
" Note Headings,
Stamp Ribbons (all colors),
Money Order Daters,
Post-Office Daters,
Registered Letter Daters,
Received Daters,
Patent Inking Pads,
P. O. Canceling Ink (*by Express*),
P. O. Rubber Canceling Corks,
Twine Cutters,
Steel and Rubber Stamp Racks,
Coin Detectors,
Paper Weights,
Letter and Package Scales,
Check Protectors,
Gem Type Case,



THE BEST OFFER YET.

One RUBBER P. O. Dater and Cancellor, Ink Powder, and Pads, Dates for ten years in Walnut case with tweezers, and all the single line stamps needed in a Post Office, this style type: **UNCLAIMED**
By mail, postage paid, on receipt of price, \$3.00.


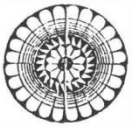
PROOFS FROM POSTMASTERS.

Your Quarterly Record received, and I like it very much. Jous Cecil, P. M., California, Md.
The \$5 Outfit ordered by me was duly received this evening. They are all A No. 1 articles, and give entire satisfaction. — JAS. S. HARNO, P. M., Orangeburg, N. Y.
The Rubber Stamps, Note and Bill Heads, came to hand all right and meet with favor with those who have examined them, for cheapness, neatness, and durability. — T. W. LITTLE, P. M., Picture Rocks, Pa.
I have been using one of your Stamps and Pads for the last year and it gives satisfaction. — W. S. BOWEN, P. M., Sheffield, Iowa.
I received my Note and Letter Heads, Dater, etc., all O. K. Am satisfied with your job. It far exceeds my expectations. Wm. J. KING, P. M., Massville, Mo.
The Dater received, and I am well pleased with it. — CHAS. COON, P. M., Albion, Idaho.
Your Box Record received, and is all O. K. — J. W. FROW, P. M., Fort Madison, Iowa.
The Pads ordered came to-day. I am very much pleased with them. — ED. S. MENARD, P. M., St. Genevieve, Mo.


Illustrated Catalogue of Post Office Supplies sent free to Postmasters only. For samples of Note and Letter Headings send 6 cts. Address
F. P. HAMMOND & CO., Aurora Illinois.

No. 530.

No. 531.




No. 532.






Fig. 3



Clifton, Illinois
Oct. 12, 1880

Fig. 4

Wheel of Fortune cancels/killers were generally used in conjunction (as a duplex) with town postmarks, as shown (Fig. 5) in Types 1 through 6; however, the WOF is known stand-alone as well (Type 0) as shown in the Homer, Illinois cover (Fig. 6).

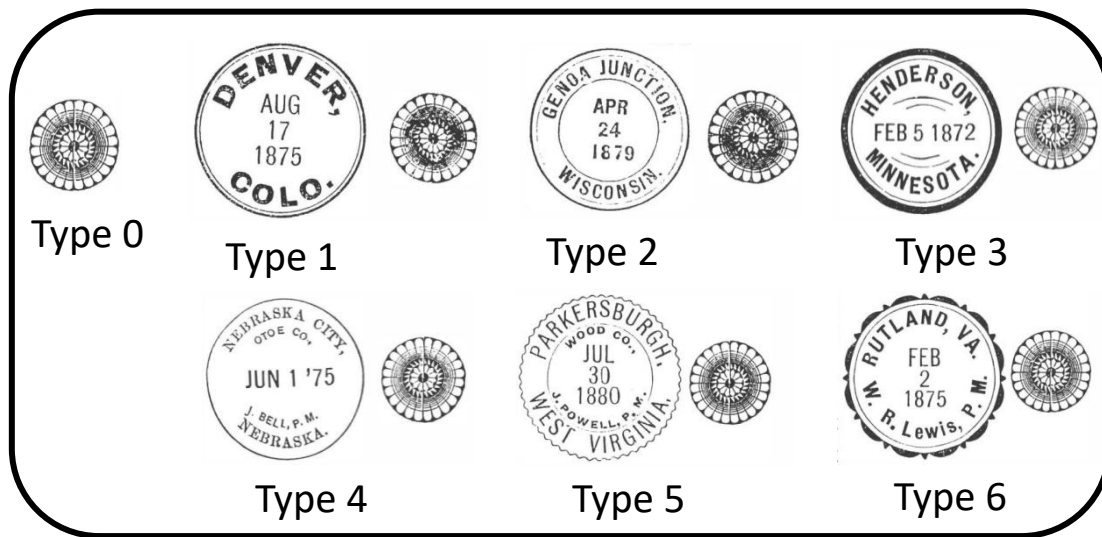


Figure 5

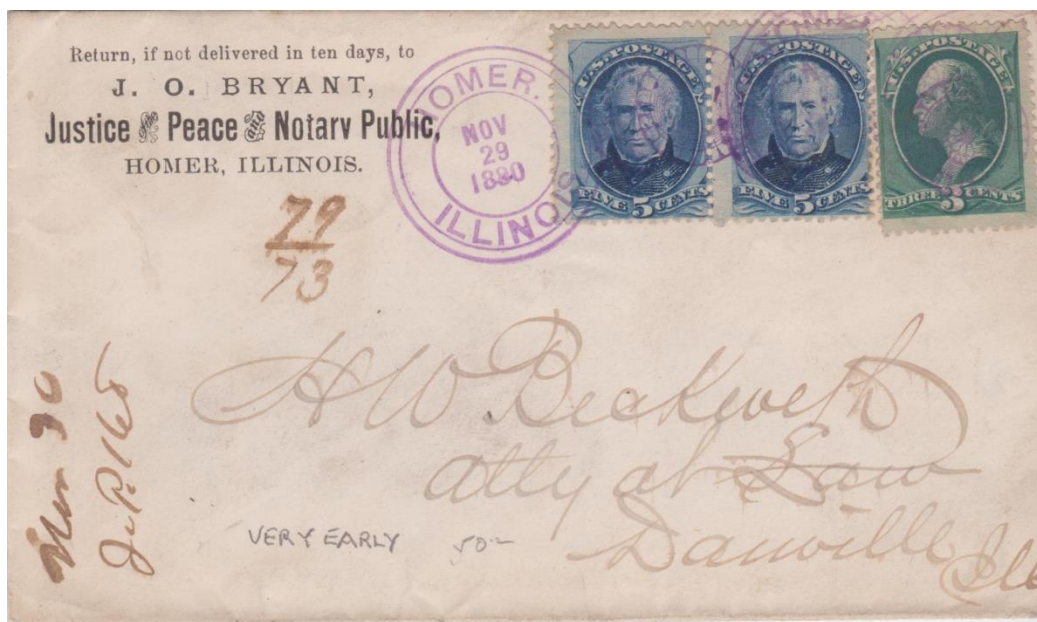


Fig 6 Homer, Illinois Nov. 29, 1880

The 1995 book “Cancellations and Killers of the Banknote Era 1870-1894” by James M. Cole listed a total of 353 US towns using the WOF cancel; for Illinois he listed 50 towns. Also the Kelleher Auction of the 2011 Arthur Beane sale had 63 Illinois WOF covers listed. To date, 92 different Illinois towns have been identified (Fig. 7-9). Some of these Wheel of Fortune Postmark covers follow this article.

Reference:

- 1) Cancellations and Killers of the Banknote Era 1870-1894 James M Cole
- 2) US Cancellation Club News
- 3) Kelleher Auctions sale #623 January 14, 2011 Arthur Beane

count	Town	Photo	Usage		Postmark Includes	Cover
			Range	type		
1	IL Aledo *				Mercer county	
2	IL Amboy **	p	1882	2	Lee county	82-4-4
3	IL Annawan * **	p	1886-93	2	Henry County	86-10-15
	IL Annawan	p	1886-93	2	Henry County	93-4-6
4	IL Armstrong *				Vermilion County	
5	IL Athensville **	p	1883	1	Greene County	83-5-26
6	IL Augusta **	p	1884	2	Hancock County	84-5-13
	IL Augusta	p	1884	2	Hancock County	84-9-8
	IL Augusta	p	1884	2	Hancock County	84-12-9
7	IL Barr's Store **	p	1886	1	Macoupin County	86-12-8
8	IL Bath * **	p	1885	1	Mason County	85-8-26
9	IL Beecher	p	1883	0	Will County	83-2-12
	IL Beecher * **	p	1883	0	Will County	83-3-16
10	IL Belle Rive * **	p	1881	2	Jefferson County	81-10-15
11	IL Berwick **	p	1883	0	Warren County	83-6-11
12	IL Blackberry Station * **	p	1885	2	Kane County	85-11-6
13	IL Bluff Springs * **	p	1885	0	Cass County	85-11-10
14	IL Boyleston	p	1885	0	Wayne County	85-3-10
	IL Boyleston **	p	1885	0	Wayne County	85-7-2
15	IL Braceville *				Grundy County	
	IL Brimfield	p	1884	1	Peoria County	84-7-11
16	IL Brimfield *	p	1884	1	Peoria County	84-9-2
17	IL Browning **	p	1884	3	Schuyler County	84-2-28
18	IL Butler * **	p	1884-5	1	Montgomery County	84-2-9
	IL Butler	p	1884-5	1	Montgomery County	85-8-17
19	IL Channahon **	p	1884	1	Will County	84-1-4
20	IL Chillicothe **		1884	0	Peoria County	84-9-18
21	IL Claremont **	p	1888	0	Richland County	88-4-3
22	IL Clifton	p	1880	2	Iroquois County	80-10-12
	IL Clifton * **	p	1880	2	Iroquois County	XX-4-11
23	IL Clinton				DeWitt County	
24	IL Cordova **	p	1886	1	Rock Island County	86-3-3
25	IL Courtland *				De Kalb County	
26	IL Courtland Sta. **	p	1883	5	De Kalb County	Co 83-4-8
27	IL Cuba	p	1884		Fulton County	84-7-30
	IL Cuba	p	1884		Fulton County	84-9-10
	IL Cuba	p	1884		Fulton County	84-9-20
28	IL Dallas City *				Hancock County	
29	IL Danforth **	p	1885	2	Iroquois County	85-9-14
30	IL Davis * **	p	1880-5	2	Stephenson County	80-5-19
	IL Davis	p	1880-5	2	Stephenson County	85-12-26

Figure 7

count	Town	Photo	Usage		Postmark Includes	Cover
			Range	type		
31	IL Dekalb * **	p	1884	1	De Kalb County	84-10-3
32	IL Delavan * ** *	p	1887-8	2	Tazewell County	87-6-23
	IL Delavan		1887-8	2	Tazewell County	87-10-19
	IL Delavan	p	1887-8	2	Tazewell County	88-4-12
33	IL Dixon *				Lee county	
34	IL Elkhart * **	p		2	Logan County	xx-11-12
35	IL Ellsworth * ** *	p	1881	2	Mc Lean County	81-8-9
36	IL Elwood *	p	1881	2	Will County	81-3-2
37	IL Elmwood				Peoria County	
38	IL Essex *				Kankakee County	
39	IL Galesburg *				Knox County	
40	IL Gardner **	p	1881-2	2	Grundy County	81-11-21
	IL Gardner	p	1881-2	2	Grundy County	82-9-27
41	IL Goodwine *				Iroquois County	
42	IL Greenbush **	p	1885	0	Warren County	85-1-10
43	IL Greenfield **	p	1883	2	Greene County	83-7-5
44	IL Harrisonville **	p	1892	5	Monroe County	PM/Co 92-1-23
45	IL Hebron * ** *	p	1883-5	2	McHenry County	83-11-19
	IL Hebron	p	1883-5	2	McHenry County	84-3-17
	IL Hebron		1883-5	2	McHenry County	85-8-10
46	IL Hettick **	p	1888	1	Macoupin County	88-10-11
47	IL Hillsboro * ** *		1883		Montgomery County	83-10-16
48	IL Hillsborough	p	1884	2	Montgomery County	84-2-8
	IL Hillsborough	p	1884	2	Montgomery County	84-4-14
49	IL Homer **	p	1880	2	Champaign County	80-11-29
50	IL Hoosier Prairie **	p	1883	0	Clay County	83-10-5
51	IL Kickapoo *				Peoria County	
52	IL Kramm *				Peoria County	
53	IL Lanesville * ** *	p	1889	1	Sangamon County	89-5-9
54	IL Leland * ** *	p	1887	1	La Salle County	87-2-17
55	IL Marengo **	p	1882	2	McHenry County	82-5-27
	IL Marengo	p	1882	2	McHenry County	82-5-16
56	IL McLean *		1883		McLean County	83-5-9
57	IL Meriden * ** *	p	1884	1	La Salle County	84-3-6
58	IL Metamora	p	1885	1	Woodford County	85-5-22
59	IL Milan * ** *	p	1884	1	Rock Island County	84-8-25
	IL Milan	p	1884	1	Rock Island County	xx-10-7
	IL Milan	p	1884	1	Rock Island County	XX-9-XX
60	IL Nameoki *				Madison County	
61	IL New Salem **				Pike County	
62	IL Norris City **	p	1882	2	White County	82-5-17
63	IL North Alton **	p	1889	2	Madison County	89-8-19

Figure 8

count	Town	Photo	Usage		Postmark Includes		Cover
			Range	type	County	Co	
64	IL Odell	p	1884	2	Livingston County	Co	84-11-28
65	IL Oglesby **	p	1883	1	La Salle County		83-3-6
66	IL Onarga *				Iroquois County		
67	IL Peotone	p	1882	2	Will County		82-8-3
68	IL Plano * **				Kendall County		
69	IL Pratt * **	p	1885	0	Whiteside County		85-6-3
70	IL Pulaski **	p	1890	2	Pulaski County		90-2-14
71	IL Reading *				Livingston County		
72	IL Reno		1890		Bond County		
73	IL Ridge Farm **	p	1888	1	Vermillion County		88-6-30
74	IL River Forest * **	p	1888	0	Cook County		88-9-24
75	IL Rosemond **	p	1893	3	Christian County		93-6-6
76	IL Sailor Springs *				Clay County		
77	IL Savannah **	p	1882	2	Carroll County		82-5-21
78	IL St Francisville **	p	1885	0	Lawrence County		85-6-5
79	IL St Jacob * **	p	1886-93	4	Madison County	Co	86-11-15
	IL St Jacob		1886-93	4	Madison County	Co	93-6-12
80	IL Secor *	p	1883	2	Woodford County		83-1-2
81	IL Shabbona * **	p	1881-9	2	DeKalb County		81-11-26
	IL Shabbona	p	1881-9	2	DeKalb County		85-6-26
	IL Shabbona	p	1881-9	2	DeKalb County		89-6-21
82	IL South Evanston * **	p	1884	1	Cook County		84-2-26
	IL South Evanston * **	p	1884	1	Cook County		84-3-28
83	IL Stillman Valley * **	p	1887	1	Ogle County		87-5-23
84	IL Stone **	p	1885	0	Lee county		85-5-29
	IL Stone	p	1885	0	Lee county		85-9-14
85	IL Stonington **				Christian County		
86	IL Tower Hill **	p	1887	0	Shelby County		87-11-30
87	IL Tucker * **	p	1891	3	Washington County		91-2-3
	IL Tucker	p	1891	3	Washington County		91-2-17
	IL Tucker	p	1891	3	Washington County		91-3-16
	IL Tucker	p	1891	3	Washington County		91-7-15
88	IL Vera *				Madison County		
89	IL Voorheis *				Piatt County		
90	IL West McHenry * **		1883-7	0	McHenry County		83-9-24
	IL West McHenry	p	1883-7	0	McHenry County		84-10-17
	IL West McHenry	p	1883-7	0	McHenry County		86-6-1
	IL West McHenry	p	1883-7	0	McHenry County		87-2-11
91	IL Weston **	p	1883	2	McLean County		83-9-8
	IL Weston		1883	2	McLean County		83-X-X
92	IL Winnetka *				Cook County		
	* Cole list ** 2011 Beane sale						

Figure 9



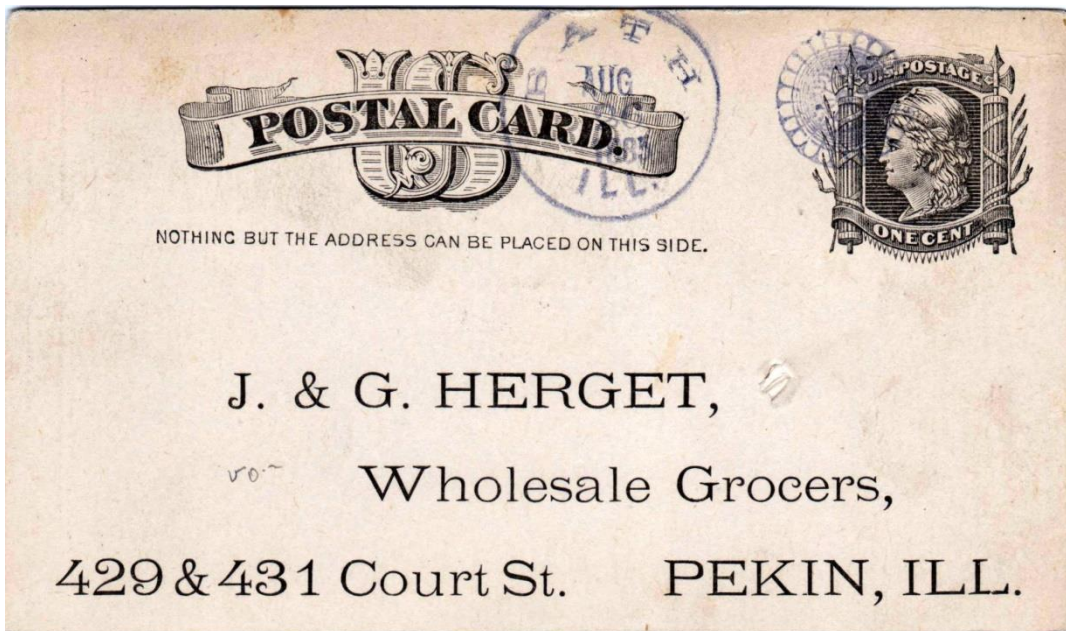
Amboy, Illinois
(Lee)
Apr 4, 1882



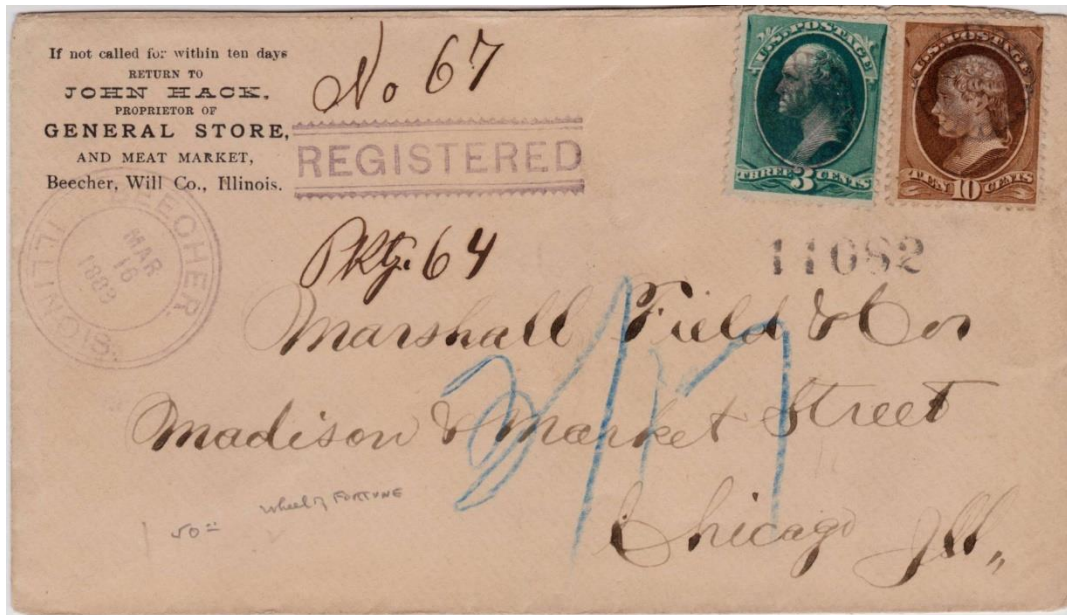
Annawan, Illinois
(Henry)
Oct 15, 1886



Augusta, ILLs
(Hancock)
Sep 8, 1884



Bath, ILL
(Mason)
Aug 26, 1885



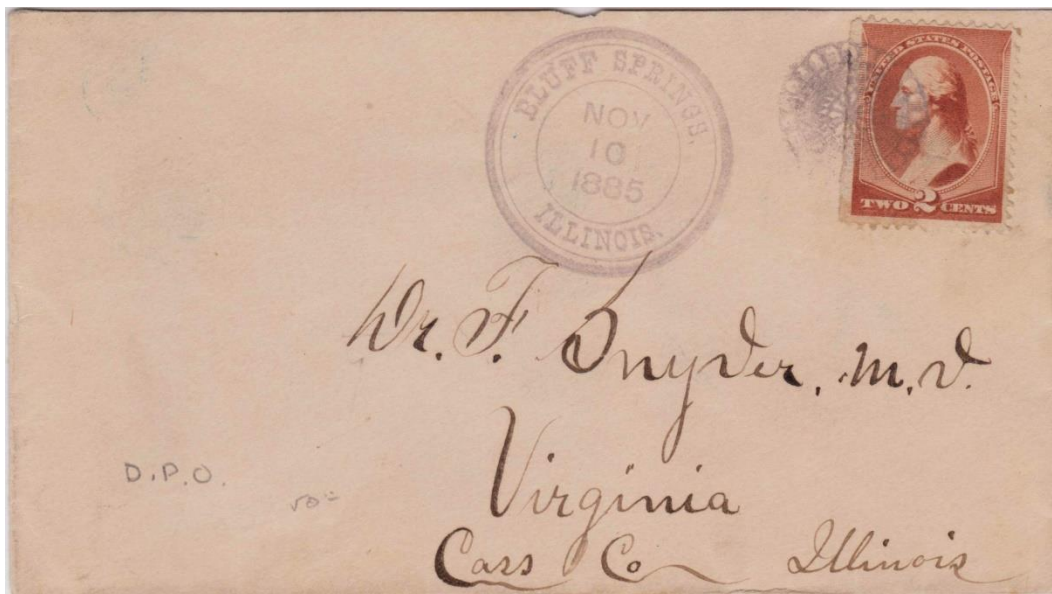
Beecher, Illinois
(Will)
Mar 16, 1883



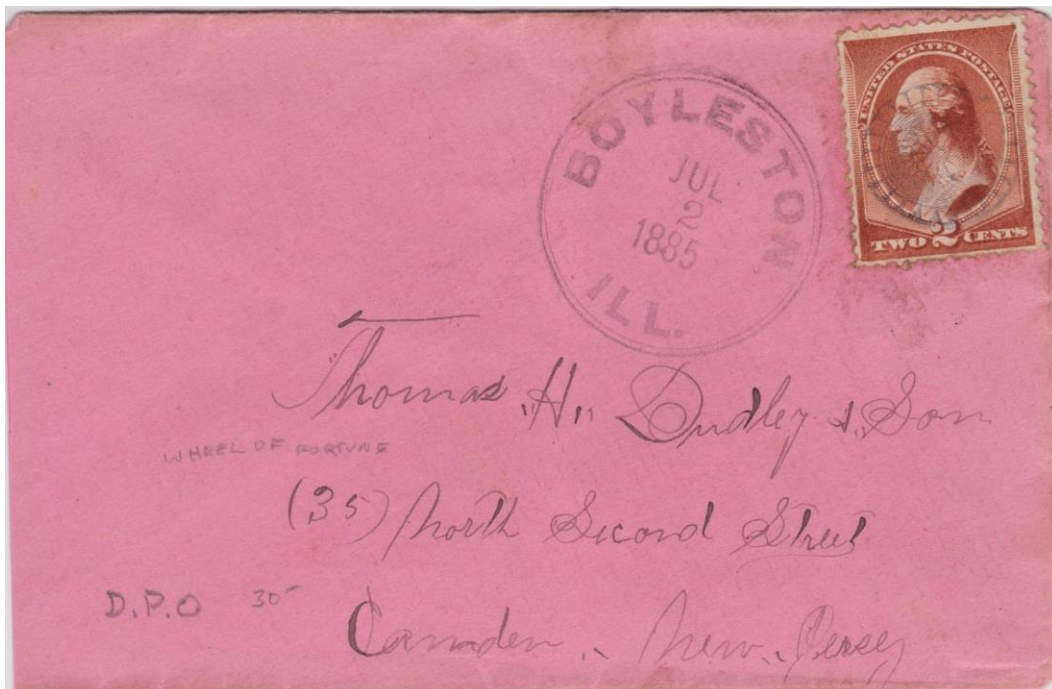
Belle Rive, ILL
(Jefferson)
Oct 15, 1881



Berwick, ILL
(Warren)
Jun 11, 1883



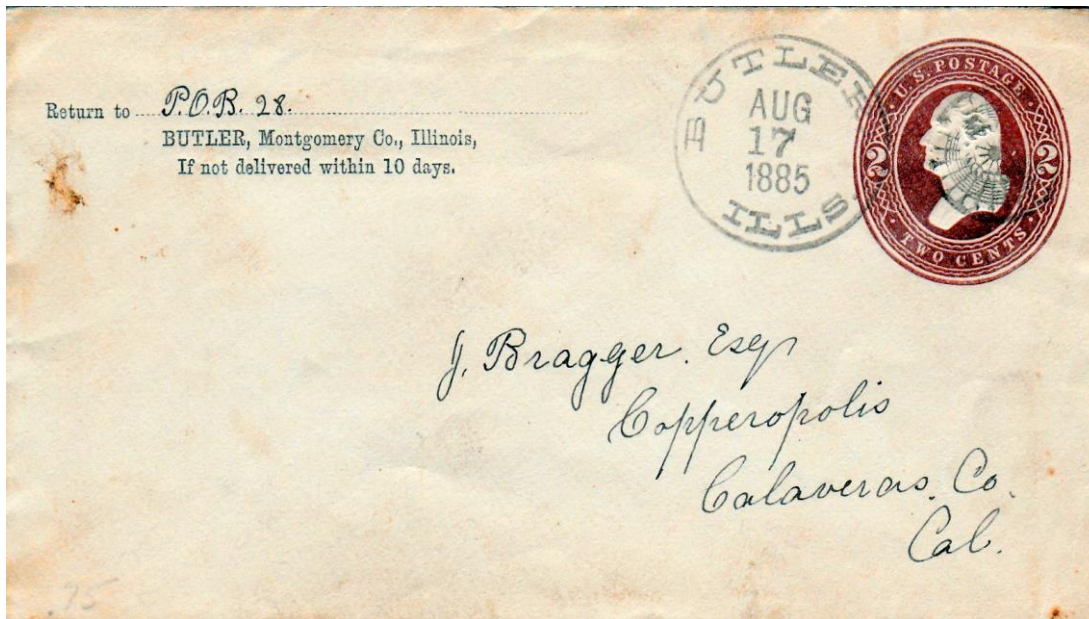
Bluff Springs, Illinois
(Cass)
Nov 10, 1885



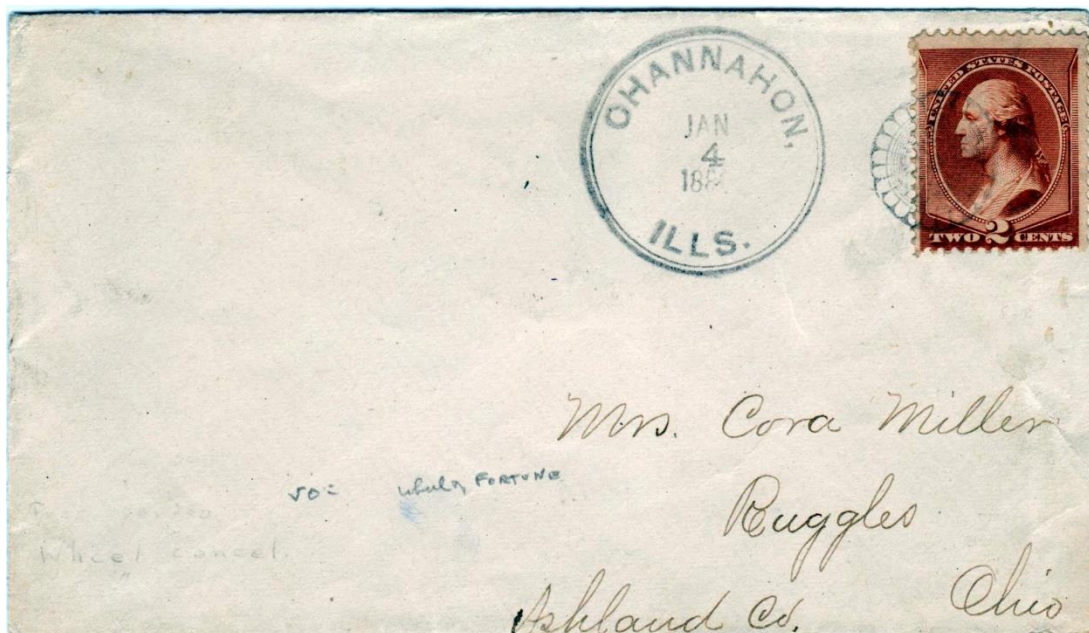
Boyleston, ILL
(Wayne)
Jul 2, 1885



Brimfield, ILL
(Peoria)
Jul 11, 1884



Butler, ILLS
(Montgomery)
Aug 17, 1885



Channahon, ILLS
(Will)
Jan 4, 1884



Mattie J. Davis
Wallace
Box 51
Ill

D.P.O

75⁰ wheel of putnam

DeKalb co

Courtland Sta., ILLs
(DeKalb)
Apr 8, 1883



NOTHING BUT THE ADDRESS CAN BE PLACED ON THIS SIDE.

Mrs. Rev. A. Johnson
Mt. Palatine
Putnam Co.
Ills

70⁰

wheel of
FORTONE

Danforth, ILLS
(Iroquois)
Sep 14, 1885



Misses E. L. & I. J. Houghton.
Wellesley
Mass.

Dana Hale

70⁰

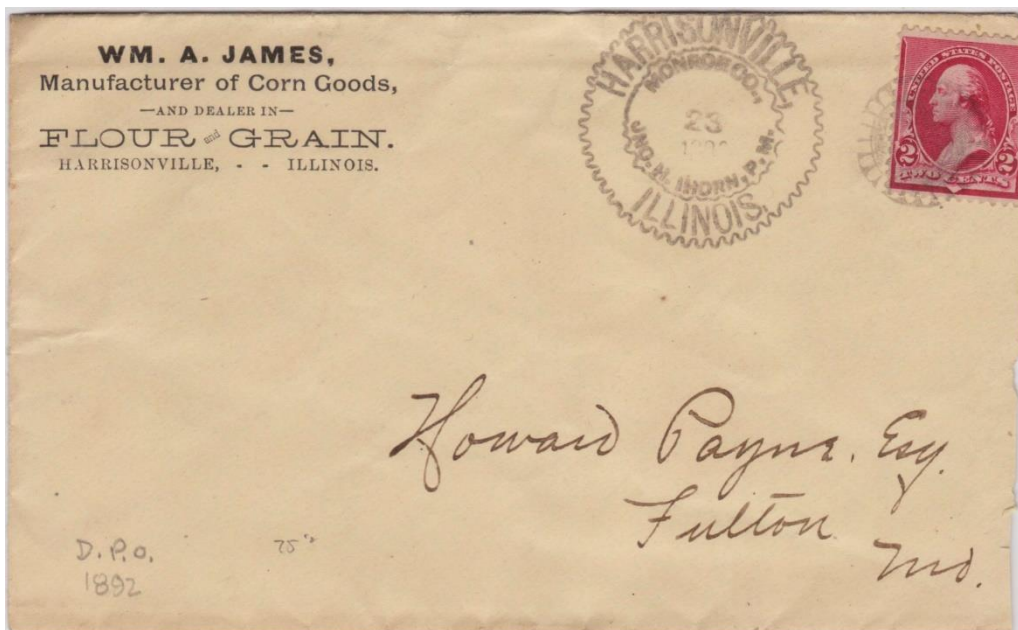
Delavan, Illinois
(Tazewell)
Jun 23, 1887



Gardner, Ill
(Grundy)
Nov 21, 1881



Greenfield, Illinois
(Greene)
Jul 5, 1883



Harrisonville, Illinois
(Monroe)
Jan 23, 1892



*Mrs Justin Rogers
Chaumont
Jefferson Co
N. Y.*

Hebron, ILLS
(McHenry)
Nov 19, 1883



*Received April 16-84
APR 17. 84*

*Mr Edgar Strain
Hillsboro
Montgomery Co Ill*

Hillsborough, ILL
(Montgomery)
Apr 14, 1884



H. F. PRIEST & CO.
GROCERIES
And General Merchandise,
LANESVILLE, ILL.



*Mr James M. Mahon
Springfield
North side square Ill*

Lanesville, Illinois
(Sangamon)
May 9, 1889



Mr. Wm. A. Moore,
 Dept. Interior,
 Washington
 Land Office 302 D.C.

Marengo, Illinois
 (McHenry)
 May 27, 1882



Chief Signal Officer, U. S. Army,
 Washington,
 D. C.

D.P.O.

Meriden, ILL
 (LaSalle)
 Mar 6, 1884



Please return to S. Palmer
 Milan Ill. if not called for in
 5 days

Carpenter Organ Co,
 Mendota
 Ill

35-

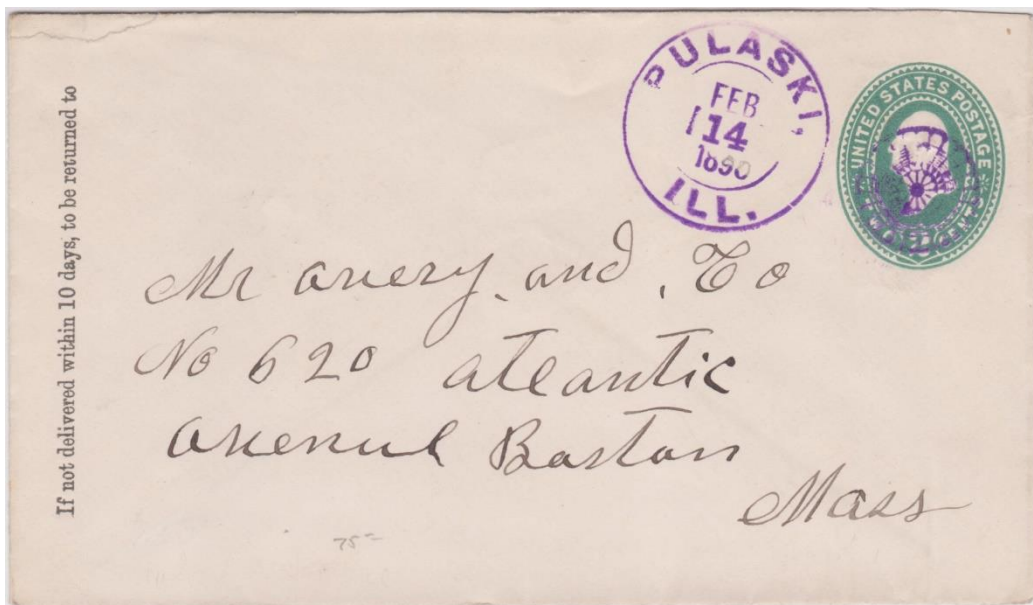
Milan, Illinois
 (Rock Island)



Norris City, Illinois
(White)
May 17, 1882



North Alton, ILL
(Madison)
Aug 19, 1889



Pulaski, ILL
(Pulaski)
Feb 14, 1890

IF NOT CALLED IN TEN DAYS RETURN TO
JONAH M. DAVIS,
UNDERTAKER and Dealer in FURNITURE,
OIL PAINTINGS, FIXTURES, &C.
RIDGE FARM, :::: ILLINOIS.



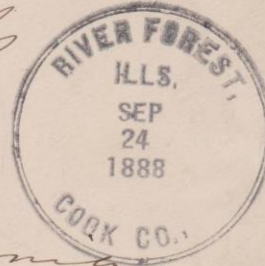
Ann O'Leas
Spiceland
Ind.

Ridge Farm, ILL
(Vermillion)
Jun 30, 1888

Respecting ^{my wife's} wedding
presents

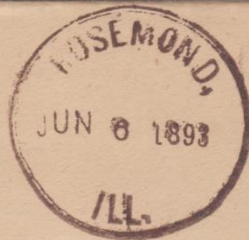


Mrs. Gazy R. Thicks
Bathston
Pennsylvania



RARE
D.P.O.

River Forest, ILLS
(Cook)
Sep 24, 1888



Mr John F. Martin
Rochester, Ny

Rosemond, ILL
(Christian)
Jun 6, 1893

D.P.O.
61 Mayne St.



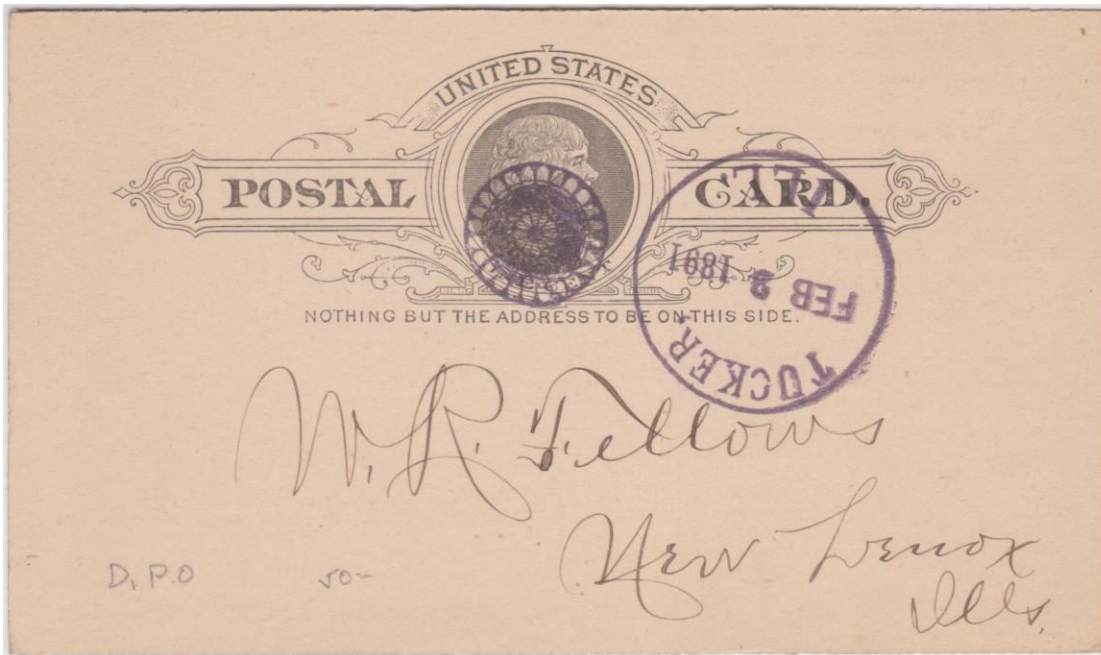
South Evanston, ILL
(Cook)
Feb 26, 1884



St. Francisville, ILL
(Lawrence)
Jun 5, 1885



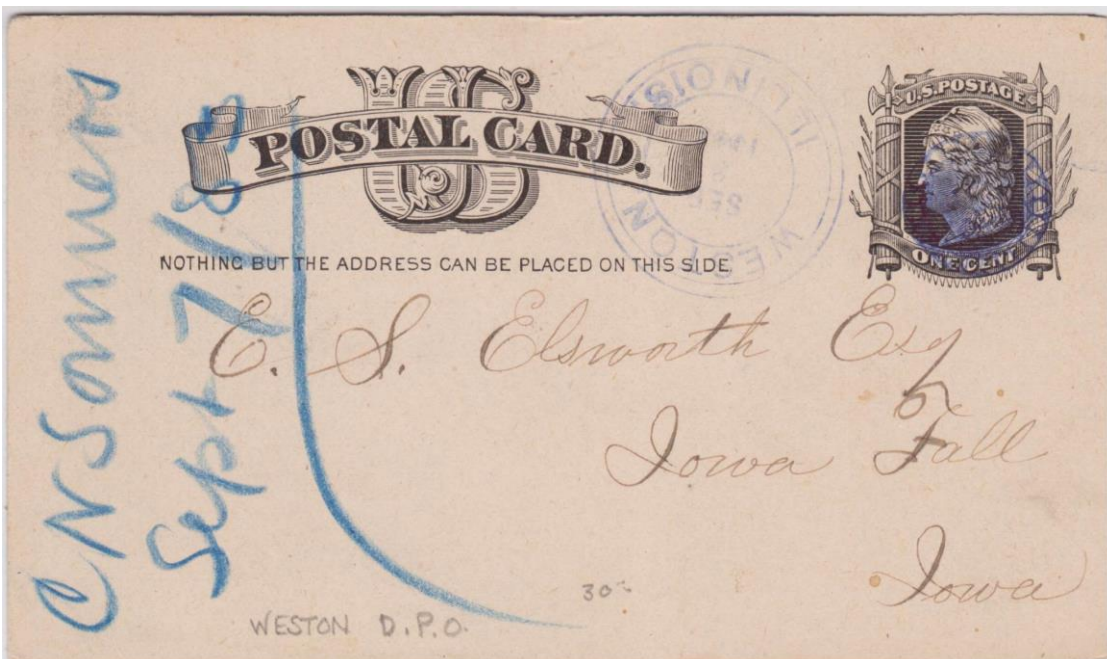
Tower Hill, ILL
(Shelby)
Nov 30, 1887



Tucker, ILL
(Washington)
Feb 3, 1891



West McHenry, ILL
(McHenry)
Jun 1, 1886



Weston, Illinois
(McLean)
Sep 8, 1883