

Wisconsin Wheel of Fortune Cancellation

by Larry Rausch

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

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.

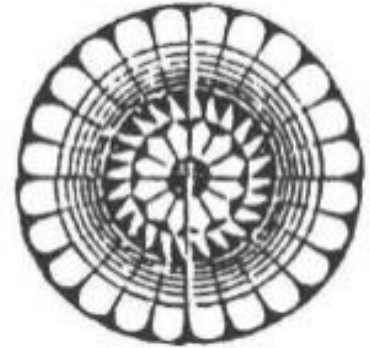


Fig. 1

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.

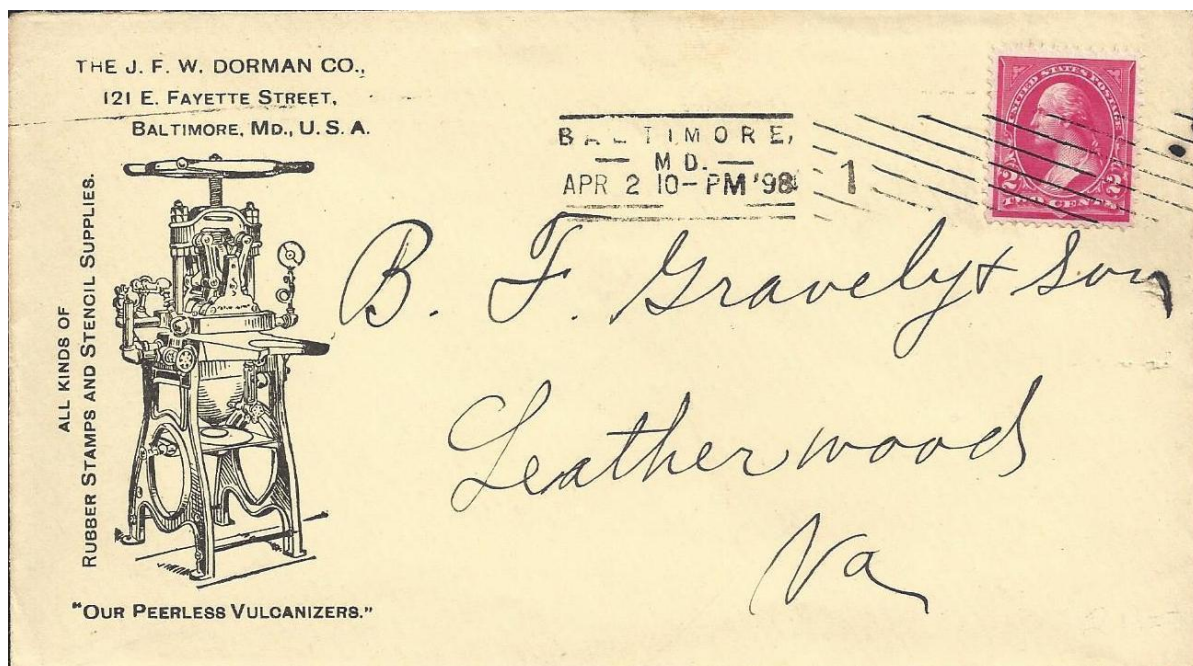


Fig. 2

" WHEEL OF FORTUNE "

No. 529.

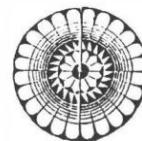
POST OFFICE SUPPLIES

ESTABLISHED 1872.

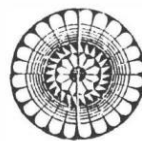
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For the most complete line of articles used by P. M.'s and their Clerks.

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- Twine Cutters,
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- Check Protectors,
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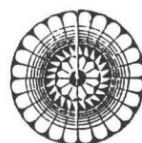
No. 530.



No. 531.



No. 532.



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. JOHN 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. HARINO, 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., Maxville, Mo.

The Dater received, and I am well pleased with it. — CHAS. COBB, 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.

Fig. 3

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.

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

I show the seven different cancellations found on WOF covers (Fig. 4)--six duplex and one with only the WOF die, coupled with many different circular date stamps as shown in the cover (Fig. 5).

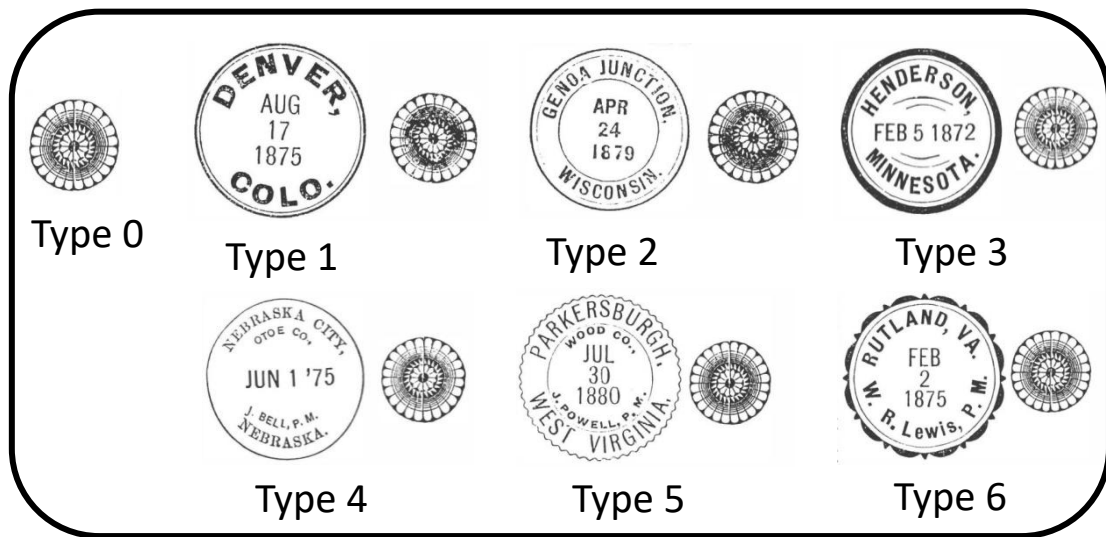


Fig. 4

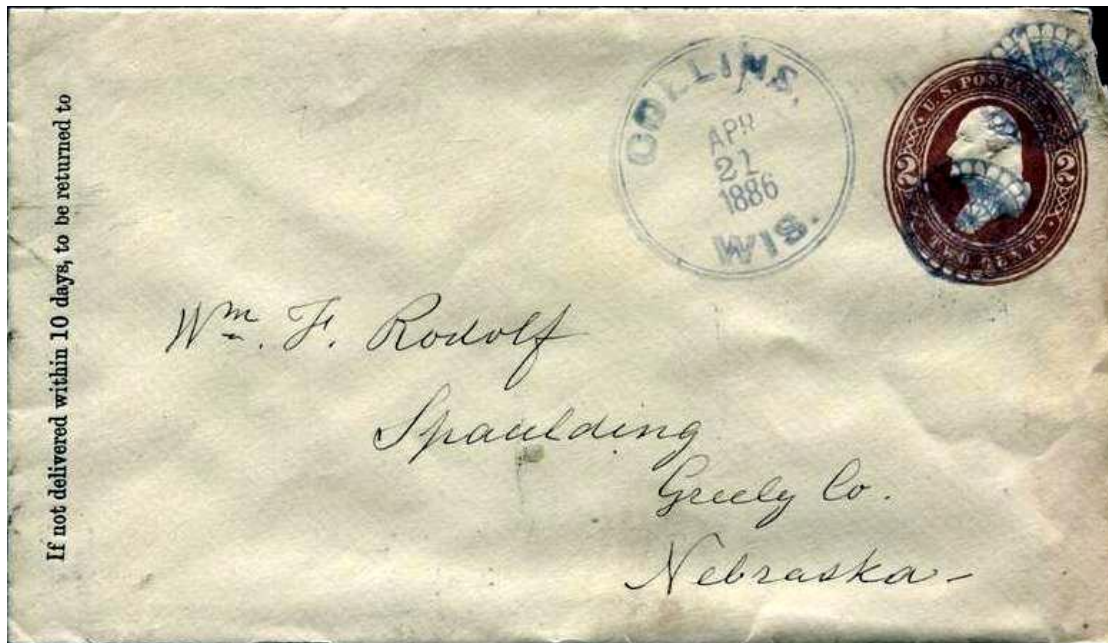


Fig. 5

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 Wisconsin he listed 22 towns. Also the Kelleher Auction of the 2011 Arthur Beane sale had 23 Wisconsin WOF covers listed. To date, 33 different Wisconsin towns have been identified (Fig. 6). Some of these Wheel of Fortune Postmark covers follow this article.

Reference:

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

				Usage		Postmark Includes	Cover
count	Town	Photo	Range	type	County		Date
1	WI Allenville * **	p	1884	1	Winnebago County		84-3-3
2	WI Ashland * **	p	1887	1	Ashland and Bayfield counties		87-3-1
	WI Ashland	p	1887	1	Ashland and Bayfield counties		xx-2-17
3	WI Atlanta **	p	1902	0	Rusk County		02-3-13
4	WI Bakerville *		1884		Wood County		
5	WI Barron **				Barron County		
6	WI Beloit *				Rock County		
7	WI Black River Falls * **	p	1887	3	Jackson County		87-10-15
8	WI Boaz **				Richland County		
9	WI Cadott *		1884		Chippewa County		
10	WI Caryville **	p	1887		Dunn County	Co	87-12-7
11	WI Cobb **				Iowa County		
12	WI Collins **	p	1886	0	Manitowoc County		86-4-21
	WI Collins	p	1886	0	Manitowoc County		xx-11-30
13	WI Danville * **		1889		Dodge County		
14	WI Edwards *		1885		Manitowac County		
15	WI Falls River *		1886		Columbia County		
	WI Genoa Junction	p	1886	2	Kenosha & Walworth Counties		85-8-19
16	WI Genoa Junction	p	1886	2	Kenosha & Walworth Counties		86-2-18
	WI Genoa Junction **	p	1886	2	Kenosha & Walworth Counties		86-5-5
17	WI Grantsburg * **		1887		Burnett County		
18	WI Houlton * **		1886		St Croix County		
19	WI Hudson * **				St Croix County		
20	WI Indian Ford **				Rock County		
21	WI Jenny & Tomah Agt. *		1880		Monroe County		
22	WI Mather * **	p	1881	2	Juneau County		81-7-22
23	WI Mauston				Juneau County		
24	WI Merrill & Tomah Agt. *		1880		Monroe County		
25	WI New Lisbon * **	p	1880-91	2	Juneau County		80-2-26
	WI New Lisbon	p	1880-91	2	Juneau County		91-6-20
	WI New Lisbon	p	1880-91	2	Juneau County		91-12-9
26	WI Richfield **				Washington County		
27	WI Schofield * **		1884-5		Marathon County		
28	WI Shiocton **	p	1884	1	Outagamie County		84-6-23
29	WI Sherry *		1885		Wood County		
30	WI Shiocton *		1884		Outagamie County		
31	WI Sparta * **	p	1880	2	Monroe County		80-8-28
	WI Sparta	p	1880	2	Monroe County		80-8-11
32	WI Spring Prairie * **		1885		Walworth County		
33	WI Tomah * **		1880-3		Monroe County		
	* Cole list ** 2011 Beane sale						

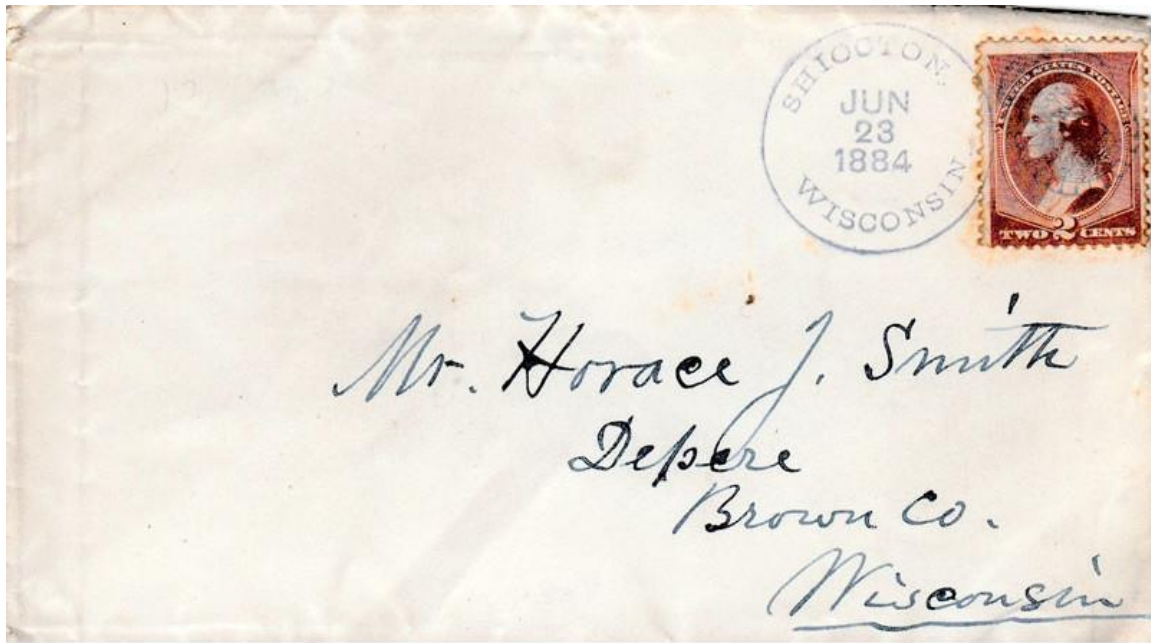
Fig. 6



Black River Falls, Wisc Oct 15, 1887



Mather, Wisconsin Jul 22, 1881



Mr. Horace J. Smith
De Pere
Brown Co.
Wisconsin

Shiocton, Wisconsin Jun 23, 1884



H. E. Cobleigh
Newbury
Vermont
P.O. Box 24

Sparta, Wisconsin Aug 11, 1880