

MISSOURI POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY GAZETTE



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Dedicated to the Discovery and Publication of Missouri Postal History
Mike Nickel, President; Alan Barasch, Secretary-Treasurer; Bob Schultz, Editor

New Year – New Direction

Hello All,

I hope everyone made it through another winter. Given the cold and snow, there was plenty of time for indoor activities like working on our collections, doing some research and reading, and perhaps writing up some of our findings.

Spring is now sprung, albeit not fast enough for a lot of folks. Warmer weather is coming fast and soon pollen will be filling the air along with baseballs. I hope that many of you made it out to the St. Louis Stamp Expo. It's a great place to reconnect with old friends, peruse the wares of national dealers, and see some top-notch exhibits.

We continue to move towards *The Gazette* being an electronic only publication, as opposed to being mailed as a hard copy. With this format we can get each issue out more quickly and efficiently with better quality to our readers. Remember it also eliminates costs. The dues money previously collected was used to pay for printing and mailing costs. All of us working and writing here do this as a labor of love. With no printing or mailing expenses, dues are eliminated.

We do need a good, working email address for you if you wish to get the free electronic version. Spread the word on this. We know there are a lot of folks out there that have received hard copies in the past for whom we don't have an email address. We also know that there are a couple of readers that don't have a computer or access to email. Those folks will continue to get paper copies mailed to them as they get them now.

If you haven't already, please send your emails, questions, or other communication to our Secretary-Treasurer, Alan Barasch, at secretary@MissouriPostalHistory.org. This is the only way to get in touch with us.

We hope you enjoy our offerings in this issue and perhaps learn something new. As always, we'd love to see you write something up from your collection. We're always happy to work with you as needed to help your ideas see the light of day.

Happy spring to everyone!

All the best,

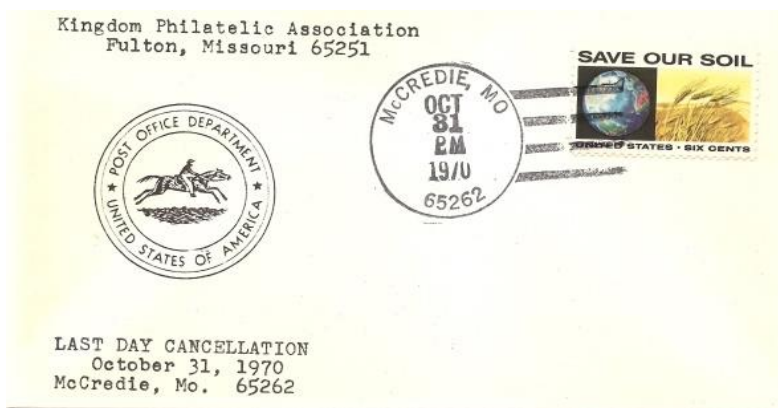
Mike Nickel and the staff of the *Missouri Postal History Gazette*

McCredie/Kingdom City

In September 1871, Mr. George P. McCredie founded a small community in north central Callaway County. In 1872, the Chicago and Alton Railroad arrived and the community flourished, becoming a shipping point for mules and cattle. This continued until the Great Depression when businesses were forced to close, and the community began to decline. In the late 1920's, just south of McCredie, a new community named Kingdom City sprang up at the junction of US-40 and US-54. US-40 became Interstate - 70 and in 1970 the two unincorporated communities merged into a single incorporated village; Kingdom City. At that time the McCredie Post Office closed, and a new Kingdom City Post Office opened, although the office continued in the same location.

The Kingdom Philatelic Association has long been active in commemorating events of Callaway County and Missouri with special cancels and cachets. Here are two such items; one commemorating the last day of the McCredie Post Office on October 31, 1970. The other commemorates the first day of the Kingdom City Post office on November 2. The cachets also reflect the changing U.S. postal system. The first cachet shows the logo for the U.S. Post Office Department and the second with the new U.S Postal Service established by the Postal Reorganization Act signed by President Richard Nixon on August 12, 1970.

The McCredie Post Office was established in 1870 with Hugo Herkenrath the first postmaster. George Polmateer was the last postmaster for McCredie and the first of Kingdom City.¹



¹ Hugo Herkenrath was born in Prussia in about 1841. In the 1870 Census, he lived in Liberty Twp. In Callaway County. He was listed as "Merchant, Retail Dry Goods." His wife, Emma, was 20 and he had a 2 month old daughter, Virginia. In the 1880 Census he is living in Fulton and his occupation is "clothier." His daughter Virginia is missing from the census (probably she had died), but there are three children ages 8, 5, and 1. Hugo died in 1900.



Here is an interesting cover with a McCredie postmark and 2c Battleship documentary stamp. This stamp was illegal to pay postage and was noticed by an alert postal employee as 2c postage due is noted on the cover. The stamp is canceled with a target cancel.

Finally, here is a post card for National Stamp Collecting Month and the Benjamin Franklin Stamp collecting club signed by the postmaster of the Kingdom City Post Office in

1980. The Benjamin Franklin Stamp Club originated in the Philatelic Education Branch of the Postal Service's Sales Division in 1974. US Postal Service support for the clubs ceased in the early 1990's.

Al White.



Marthasville – Misspelled, New Melle “Mashed”

Marthasville, Missouri has a distinction that few if any other Missouri post offices has. The post office used a cancellation device with Marthasville misspelled for at least five and one half years. On the receiving device Marthasville is spelled Mathasville. The device was used as early as Sept. 27, 1907, and as late as Mar. 25, 1913.



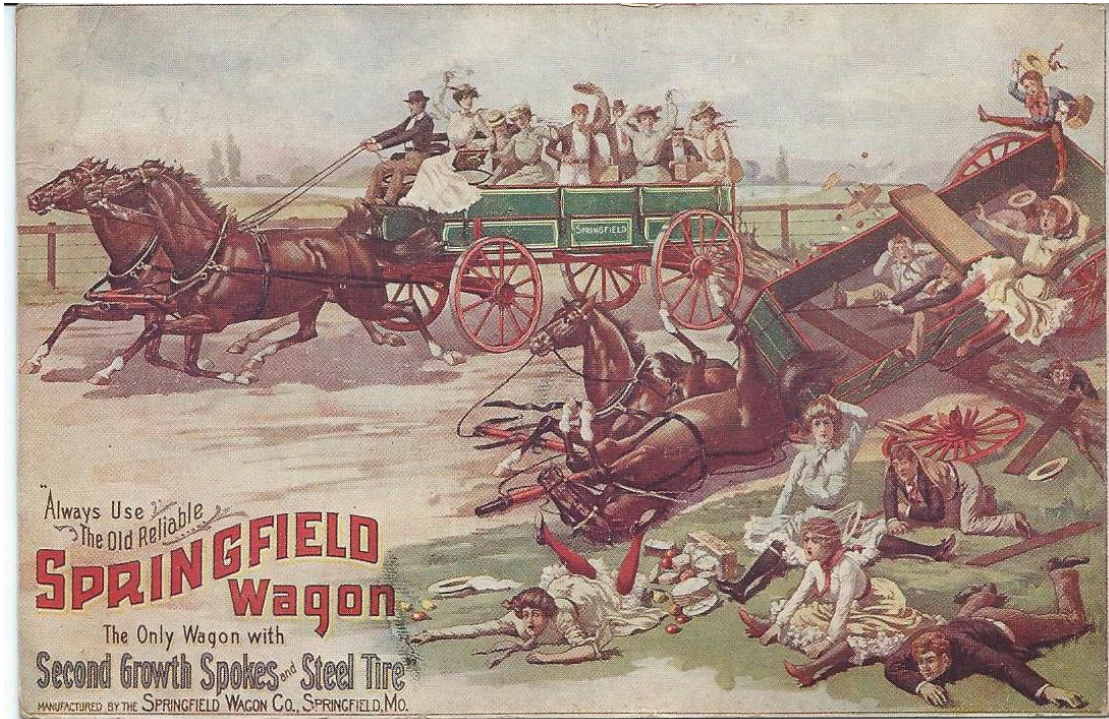
Examples of cancelation dials which have been damaged are not rare. Usually the dial is oval shaped instead of round and I assume that is the result of the dial being mashed in some way. An example is the one from New Melle. Apparently, some

postmasters didn't feel that it was necessary to order a new device when the one they had was less than perfect as long as it was usable.

Alan Banks



Missouri Postal History – Springfield Wagon Company

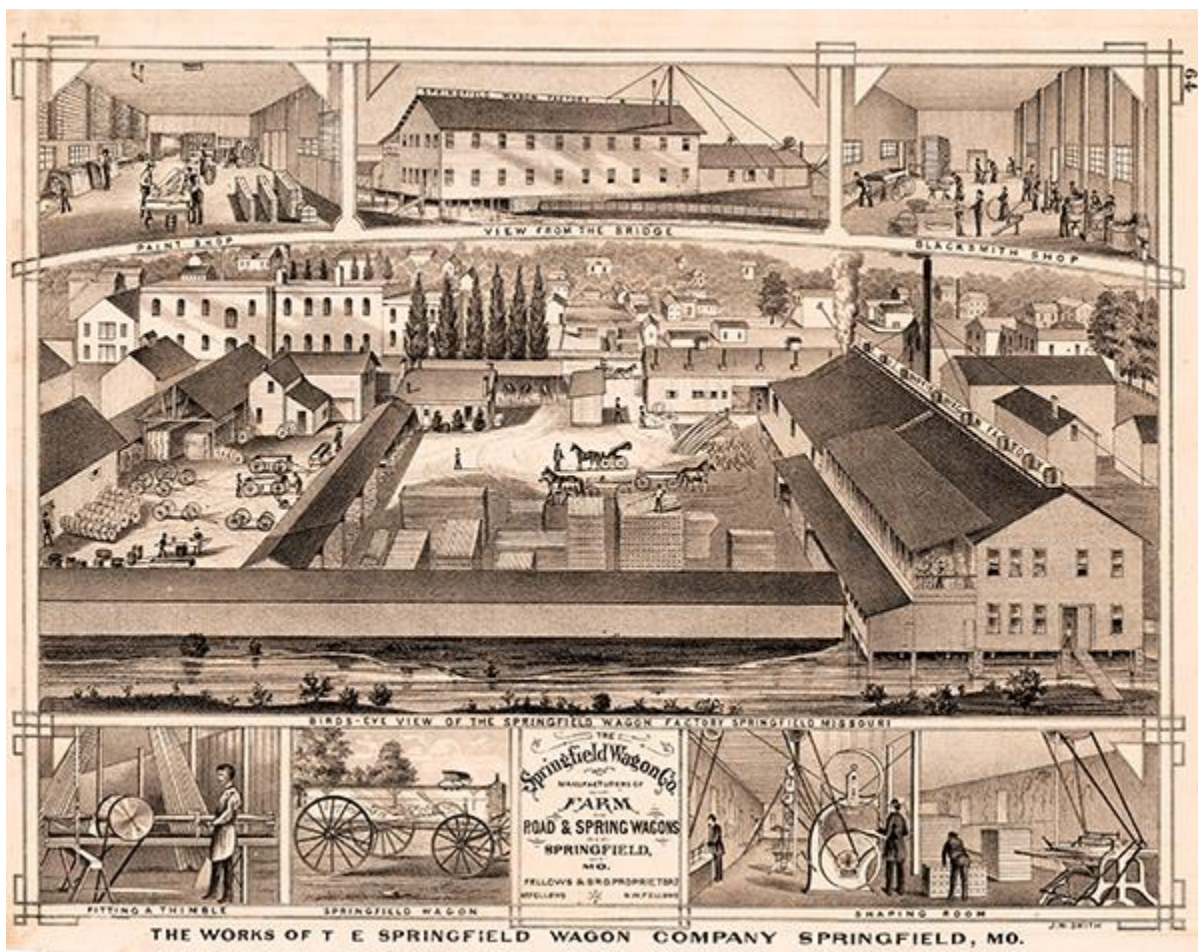
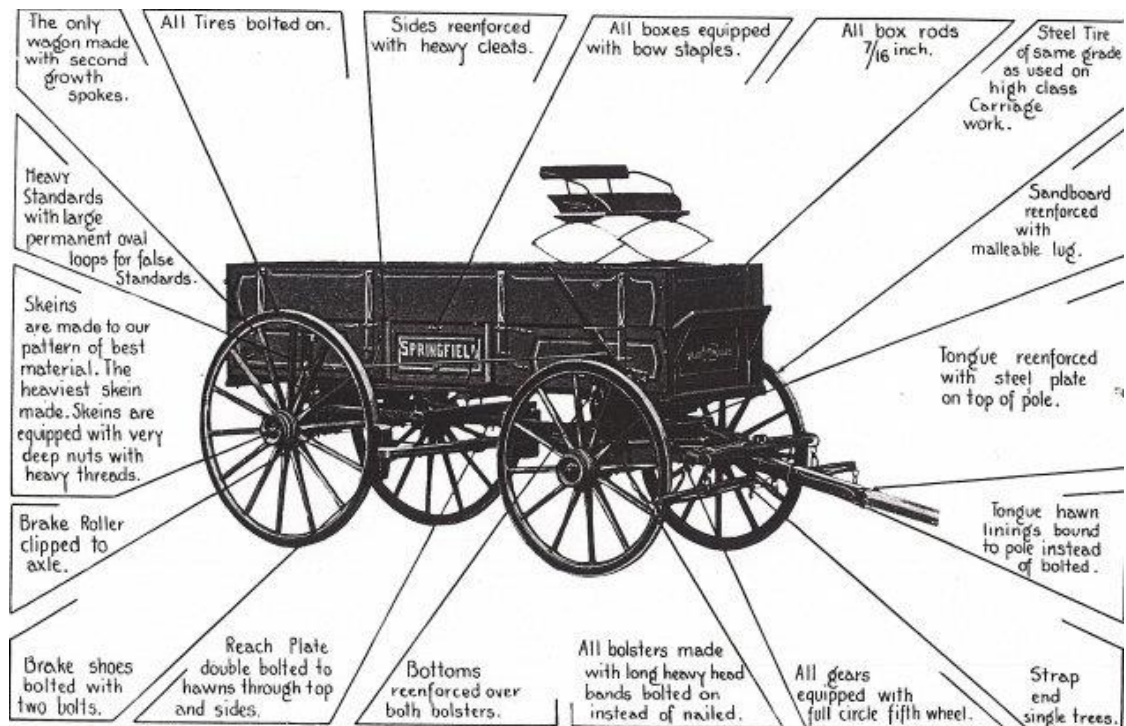


Sometimes you run across a piece of postal history that is so beautiful that you just must share it with fellow collectors. This 1911 post card is just such a piece from the Springfield Wagon Company. As advertising it meets so many criteria for effectiveness. We have a gala outing with beautiful horses in perfect step, pretty girls, handsome men out for a safe drive. What a contrast with the collapse of a less well-built wagon. Damsels are in distress and horses grievously upset due to the collapse. All because it was not a Springfield wagon! The text reinforces the illustration, “Always Uses The Old Reliable Springfield Wagon. The Only Wagon with Second Growth Spokes and Steel Tire.”

The Springfield Wagon Company was established by Homer Fellows (1832-1894 at right) in 1873 in Springfield, MO and became one of the premier wagon-makers in the USA. In 1876 they advertised that their wagons were the strongest and lightest on the market and challenged any other maker to contest their claims. Studebaker Wagon Co. of South Bend accepted the challenge, but then did not follow through thereby allowing Springfield to win by default.



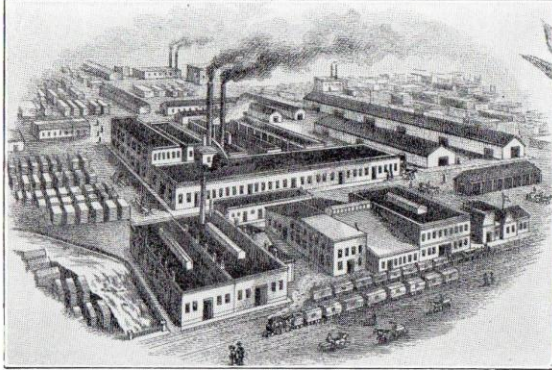
The company had continued success even with the advent of gas-powered cars and trucks. They adapted their products for use as farm wagons to be pulled by tractors and they also provided heavy wagons for circuses like Barnum & Bailey. Advertising continued touting the quality of their products. As other wagon companies adapted to the realities [Studebaker entered auto production in the early 1900s], Springfield Wagon Co. soldiered on until 1951 when production ceased.



SPRINGFIELD WAGON CO.

SPRINGFIELD, MO.

Manufacturers of Heavy and Light



FARM, LUMBER and LOG WAGONS

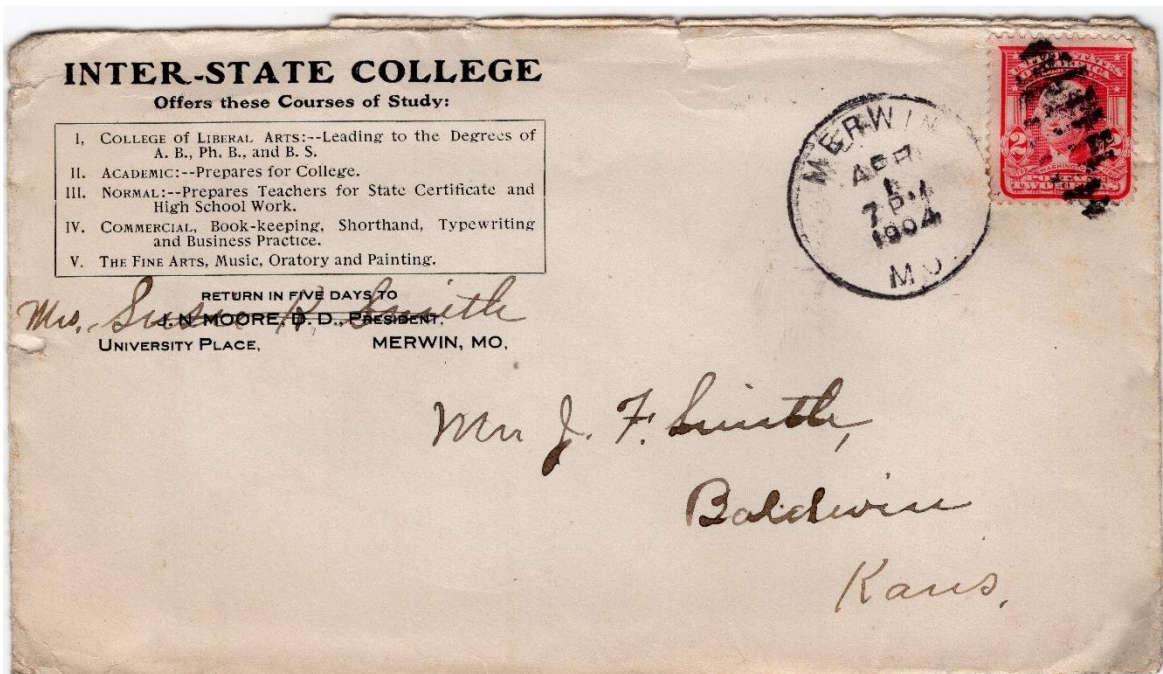
The Only Wagon with Second Growth Spokes and Steel Tire

A 1914 Springfield Wagon Company advertising piece. The company has grown and prospered when this illustration is compared with the older picture above. All that black smoke spewing out of the tall smokestacks was seen as a symbol of prosperity!

Bob Schultz.

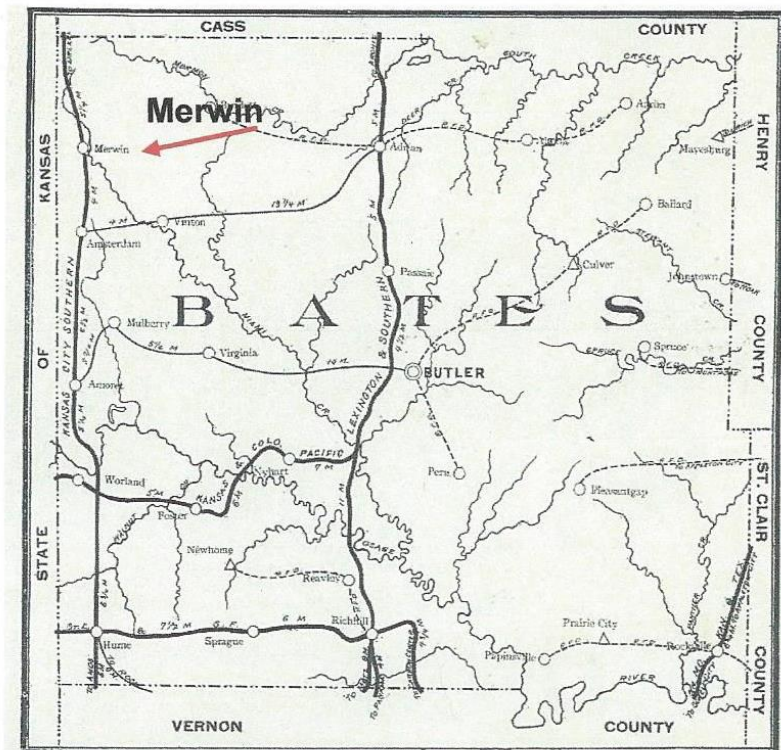
Merwin, Bates County Missouri, Inter-State College, 1904

Merwin was a small town in the northwest corner of Bates County, about a mile from the Kansas border. 2010 Census found 58 people within its 96 acres. The town was established in



1891, named after James G. Merwin, a Kansas City Southern Railroad executive. A post office served the town, 1891-1969.

As with many railroad towns, optimism ran high, prospects seemed bright, so why not establish a college in the town? Since it was near Kansas, why not call it Inter-State College, it could then attract Kansans as well as Missourians. A stock company was organized, and a structure built in 1898 by Luther S. Richardson, a local farmer. The \$10,000 building was leased to “Professors Bunyard, Smith and Reynolds who carried on a successful school for several years, when it closed for lack of patronage.” By 1905, however, Benjamin F. Bunyard was serving as a RFD carrier in Merwin.



The school building changed hands several times, ending up as a “Merwin Business College” that closed in 1914. The school building again changed hands for \$3000 and became the public school in Merwin.

The cover above, from 1904, presents another problem. The college President is listed as J. N. Moore, D. D. It must be assumed that Moore took over the college after the departure of the original staff, but no record of Moore can be found elsewhere. The letter contained in this envelope mentions that “Dr. Moore is the

new Methodist minister for Merwin.” The top portion of the letter with the “*Inter-State College*” heading is below.

Bob Schultz.

