



Missouri Postal History Society

SHOW-ME GAZETTE



We're Back!

I suppose you are wondering what has happened to the **SHOW-ME GAZETTE**. We were all wondering. This time, it is truly back.

The newsletter you hold in your hands is a team effort. It only continues when readers like you contribute something to fill the pages.

If you wait for your editor to fill the pages, it will be about stuff you don't want to read like his two 19th Century Falkland Islands covers to Missouri.

See the article about Dues on page 6.

Articles Needed

Think you have something to say? We want it. Here are the guidelines for writing for the Gazette:

- Articles should be emailed in electronic format. They may be in Word, WordPerfect, text, RTF, DOC, DOCX, TXT, SWX, or other widely used format.
- Pictures should NOT be embedded in the document and must be sent separately.
- Covers, stamps, mailbags, etc. must be scanned at 300 DPI or greater. Pictures/scans should be in JPG, PNG, GIF, TIFF, or RAW format.
- Within your document, mark where the text and picture intersect with brackets [] i.e. [pix of grenadines cover]
- Please spellcheck before sending and leave notes enclosed in brackets [] for the editor.
- Documents should be between 200 and 2,000 words. (The Registry Markings article in this issue is 1100 words).

- Send your articles in electronic format to ALAN@MOPHIL.ORG or snail mail to: Alan Barasch, PO Box 411571, St Louis, MO 63141-3571

I plan to put out an issue four times a year to coincide with the bigger shows in Missouri.

I am looking for people scattered throughout Missouri and other states to write about the various sections of the state. I know that everything in Missouri did not happen in St. Louis or Kansas City; who can supply information from Joplin, Springfield, St. Joseph, or Kansas City?

The Scarcity of Small Town Registry Markings

By David L. Straight

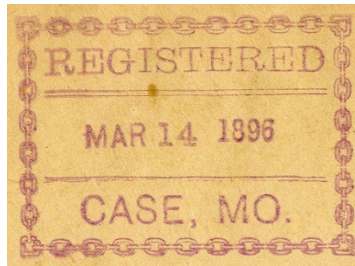


Figure 1: Case Chain closeup

The purple chain-link, "Registered" datestamp from Case, in Warren County, Missouri creates a striking cover. See on Figure 3 on page 2.

No doubt, Conrad Schmidt was remitting a cash payment for his subscription to the German agricultural newspaper, Acker & Gartenbau Zeitung, published in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The dealer from whom I purchased the cover said the usual sort of thing, "It's rare. I've never seen another one like it." Although he may have been telling the truth, "rare" is an overused word in our hobby. Two factors – initial usage and survival rate – contribute to the scarcity of covers.

Data from the cover itself along with knowledge of registered mail practices allows us to more objectively evaluate the scarcity of this particular

marking along with 19th century, small town registered covers in general.

From its introduction in 1855 through the early years of the 20th century, registered mail usually contained cash payments. During this period, registered mail was often the only viable method for citizens of small town to purchase goods and services outside their local community.

Until the creation of the Federal Reserve Bank in 1913 and the subsequent establishment of a national clearinghouse, out-of-town checks were



Figure 3: Case, MO Chain

either refused or subject to cumbersome and expensive collection fees, paid to the express companies for transporting the gold or currency necessary to cover the check. The alternatives, where they were available, were express company or post office money orders. Express company offices were generally located only in towns having train stations.

Although the Post Office introduced money orders during the Civil War, the service spread slowly. As late as 1904, forty years after their introduction, less than half of the post offices sold money orders.

During the decade before World War I, the Post Office extended money order service in nearly every office and branch. By 1917, First Assistant Postmaster General Daniel C. Roper was able to write, "There is little excuse for sending money or stamps through the mails." The use of registered mail changed when it became a service for mailing valuable documents, not cash.

Because it contained the word "Registered," the Case handstamp could only be used on that subset of mail (Figure 3).

Apparently, the postmaster felt there was a sufficient volume of registered mail to warrant the expense of a separate datestamp, since he had to purchase the device himself. Registered covers provide data for estimating the annual volume of registered mail from an originating post office. The manuscript marking "Reg. 35/31" on the Case cover means that it was Registered Letter 35, dispatched in Registered Package Envelope 31. The March 14, 1896 postmark was applied on the 74th day of the quarter. Dividing the sequential number of the date by the registry number ($74 \div 35 = 2.11428$), indicates that on average a Registered Letter was mailed from Case every 2.11 days. If the annual volume matched the activity of the first quarter, approximately 172 Registered Letters were mailed from Case in 1896.

By way of contrast, a cover (Figure 2) mailed eight years earlier from St. Louis to Budejovice, Bohemia on December 13, 1888, also the 74th day of a quarter, was number 12,163. This works out to approximately 164 registered letters per day from Saint Louis or over 59,000 annually in 1888. Rural fourth-class post offices generated only a tiny fraction of the registered letter volume of St. Louis, then the fourth largest city in America.

These crude approximations are possible because Post Office regulations required postmasters to number each registered letter and parcel. The sequential numbering restarted at the beginning of each quarter (January, April, July, and October) until the end of 1901. Beginning in 1902, the



Figure 2: Exchange Office

numbering of registered letters restarted only in January and July.

Effective from July 1907, the sequential numbering restarted only at the beginning of the Post Office fiscal year, on July 1st. Although some estimates might be skewed by a small sample size during the early days of a numbering period, using registry numbers with mailing dates provides a method for estimating the volume of Registered Mail (and thus its relative scarcity) from an originating post office during a particular year.

The other factor affecting cover scarcity is the survival rate, which varies widely for different types of mail.

My study of registered mail from Stony Hill, Missouri during 1883-1884 showed that slightly less than 10% of it was sent as personal or family correspondence, with the majority sent to various

Globe Democrat in St. Louis are among the most important sources for small town registered covers from Missouri and neighboring states.

The December 28, 1897 cover (Figure 4) from Silent Run, Kentucky to the Globe Printing Co. was marked "Reg No IX" making it the 9th Registered Letter, mailed on the 89th day of the quarter. At a rate of one registered letter about every nine days, approximately 40 Registered Letters were mailed from Silent Run that year. With less than one fourth as many mailed annually, registered letters from Silent Run appear to be scarcer than those from Case, Missouri. However, Silent Run covers, despite their less common origin, may have survived in greater numbers than Case covers, due to the Globe Democrat archive. Survival rates for registered covers are difficult to document without compiling an exhaustive census.



Figure 4: Silent Run, KY

Although we can easily calculate, initial usage rates from the registry numbers and show the disparities in registered mail volume among small towns, which is not sufficient to establish the rarity of a registered cover. The registry numbers only provide a starting point. We should not assign rarity factors or dollar values to registered covers based solely upon registered mail volumes.

Postal history collecting is a visual, as well as historical pursuit, and the marking on the Case cover is certainly more attractive and memorable than the Silent Run cover. Without finding more registered covers from Case, we do not know how many years the "Registered" date stamp was in use, only that it serviced approximately 172 Registered Letters per year.

business concerns, including publishers, who received 11% of the registered mail in the year studied. Then since registered letters are generally not family correspondence, which is often saved for sentimental reasons, their survival depends heavily upon the business practices of the firms receiving them. Some businesses last only a few years and leave no significant records; others do not save their received envelopes, or purge their files periodically.

Occasionally, a business archive comes on the market that makes a large number of registered covers available. The subscription files from the

1. Daniel C. Roper, *The United States Post Office* (New York: Funk & Wagnalls, 1917) p. 215.
2. Order No. 1263, November 14, 1901 published in the *Official Postal Guide*, vol.23, no. 12 (December 1901), p. 7.
3. Order No. 880, November 26, 1907 published in the *Daily Bulletin of Orders Affecting the Postal Service*, No. 8460 (November 27, 1907) p. 1.
4. "Registered Mail Stony Hill, Missouri, 1883: the Cultivation of Rural Commerce," *Postal History Journal*, no. 138 (October 2007) pp. 6-18.

Missouri Doanes Cancels - "A"

By Gary Hendren

Town	County	Type	EKU	LKU	Remarks
Abadyl	Christian	2--1	1910-12-28	1911-04-17	
Aberdeen	Pike	2--2	1906-11-06	1906-12-24	
Abesville	Stone	3--1	1909-09-07	1913-07-11	
Affton	St. Louis	3--1	1907-06-24	1913-03-12	
Aid	Lafayette	2--1	1908-02-12	1911-07-15	
Akers		2--1	1909-06-19		1 recorded example
Alexandria	Clark	3--7	1906-02-15	1909-06-28	
Algire		2--1	1909-12-11	1910-07-12	
Allbright	Madison	3--2	1907-04-15	1909-03-13	
Alley	Shannon	2--1	1909-03-05		1 recorded example
Altamatha		2--2	1908-08-17	1909-03-06	
Altenburg	Perry	3--3	1906-12-26	1912-12-25	
Altona	Bates	2--1	1906-06-28		1 recorded example
Amy	Howell	3--1	1906-12-27	1909-12-24	
Anglum	St. Louis	3--3	1906-06-18	1912-08-26	
Annada	Pike	2--2	1906-08-20	1911-05-25	
Anthones Mill	Washington	2--1	1907-06-29	1911-05-11	
Antrim	Wright	1--?	1907-03-26		1 recorded example
Appleton	Cape Girardeau	3--2	1907-02-11	1912-10-08	
Arab	Wayne	3--1	1908-09-19	1911-10-16	2 recorded examples
Arcola	Dade	3--3	1907-08-31	1911-12-26	
Ardeola	Stoddard	2--3	1908-10-01		1 recorded example
Arditta	Howell	2--1	1908-01-11	1908-09-28	
Arkoe	Nodaway	2--2	1907-02-27	1910-08-31	
Arley	Clay	3--1	1909-04-09		1 recorded example
Arno	Douglas	2--2	1907-11-21	1910-03-23	
Arno	Douglas	2--?	1910-03-23		1 recorded example
ARP	Ozark	2--1	1909-12-20		1 recorded example
Arroll	Texas	2--?	1908-??-??		1 recorded example
Arroyo	Phelps	2--1	1905-12-10		1 recorded example
Arthur	Vernon	2--1	1911-05-20		1 recorded example
Asbury	Jasper	3--4	1907-06-27	1910-06-06	

Town	County	Type	EKU	LKU	Remarks
Asherville	Stoddard	2--2	1908-07-29		1 recorded example
Ashton	Clark	2--2	1905-08-22	1909-02-09	
Astoria	Wright	2--1	1909-02-17		1 recorded example
Athens	Clark	2--1	1905-04-05	1910-10-05	
Aurora Springs	Miller	1--3	1909-01-22	1909-05-01	
Ava	Douglas	2--8	1904-08-06		1 recorded example
Ava	Douglas	3--10	1906-02-14	1908-01-27	
Avert	Stoddard	3--1	1908-07-24	1909-07-20	
Avilla	Jasper	2--3	1905-12-07	1908-12-31	
Axtel	Macon	2--1	1905-05-18	1911-09-13	

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In this issue

Our president, **Gary Hendren** has sent us a wonderful checklist of “A” places that had Doanes cancels. More are on the way as he updates his lists.

David Straight is researching Registry in the United States. His exhibit of Registry Forms has been making the rounds. David sent us a fine article on the scarcity of small town registry markings.

Secretary.....Howard Buhl, Edgerton
Editor & Web Nerd Alan Barasch, STL
..... webidiot@midwestPostalHistory.org
http://www.MidwestPostalHistory.org

Our Websites

For a number of years, we have maintained a website at <http://MissouriPostalHistory.org>. This shall shortly change slightly.

Your editor is also the webmaster for the Indiana Postal History Society and tentatively the Illinois Postal History Society. To keep everything in line, he has established a new web address, <http://www.MidwestPostalHistory.org>.

Officers and Workers

President..... Gary Hendren, STL
Vice-President Dennis Hahn, St. Charles
Treasurer..... Scott Couch, KC

The content remains separate, but you will be able to get to the various states postal history through one portal.

Dues

Our treasurer tells me that everyone is entitled to two more issues of the GAZETTE before we collect dues again.

It is your editor's intention to publish issues around August 1st and December 1st this year and just before St. Louis Stamp Expo next spring.

What Constitutes Postal History?

History by definition is anything that happened before this moment. Postal History is therefore anything postal before now.

Missouri has run the complete gambit of postal history from Spanish to territorial to fancy cancels, manuscripts, Doanes, machine cancels, to electronic spray cancels.

Do You Want Ads?

Advertising in this journal would defray the cost of printing and postage. On the other hand, somebody needs to sell and collect for the ads.

Some of our dealer members have asked for ad space, what do you think?

Modern Postal History

Do you pay attention to the postal barcodes on your mail? They have been changing a lot in recent years.

Have you seen mail like Figure 6 that shows a different kind of barcode.

There is a whole new protocol for reading this barcode. You may hear about 4-state barcodes. This is it. It is so named because the bars could be:

1. Full length
2. None; shown as very short at middle
3. Upwards only
4. Downwards stroke only

This is showing the full 31 digits allowed. The first 2 digits are a routing type. The next three are the Service Type. The next part being either a 6 or 9 digit Mailer ID number, this is followed by a unique number specified by the mailer identifying a single piece, and lastly the 5 or 9 digit zip code.

The code in Figure 5 was built on a website to illustrate how the code is formed. Special fonts are needed to transform the series of FDTA into machine readable codes.

The new versions of popular writing programs do not allow for old style postal barcodes as these will be discontinued in January, 2013. Mailers must apply for a new account code before using the Intelligent Mail barcode.

Oops!

Just as I was finishing writing this mess, my computer decided to go nuts and lose the last 2½ pages. I was able to recover by jumping through a bunch of hoops but not sure if I got the picture labels all fixed. It's on me, not the authors.

The Mailer ID is a 6-digit or 9-digit number that uniquely identifies the mail owner or mailing agent. Click on the following links to choose the length of your mailer ID:

6 Digit 9 Digit

Barcode ID: 1st digit: 0-9; 2nd digit: 0-4. Made up for example

Special Services: Range: 000-999.

Mailer ID: Range: 000000000-999999999.

Serial Number: Range: 000000-999999.

Delivery Point ZIP Code: 0, 5, 9, or 11-digit ZIP Code. Editor's Zip

Barcode Characters: FDDTFATAFAATD TDDDAFFD TTAFFD FTAAATDTAFAADDTAAFTFFFTADTADTADFDFA


Barcode: 

Figure 5: Compute Barcode



JOHN DOE
8403 LEE HWY
MERRIFIELD VA 22082-8412

Figure 6: Sample Bar Code