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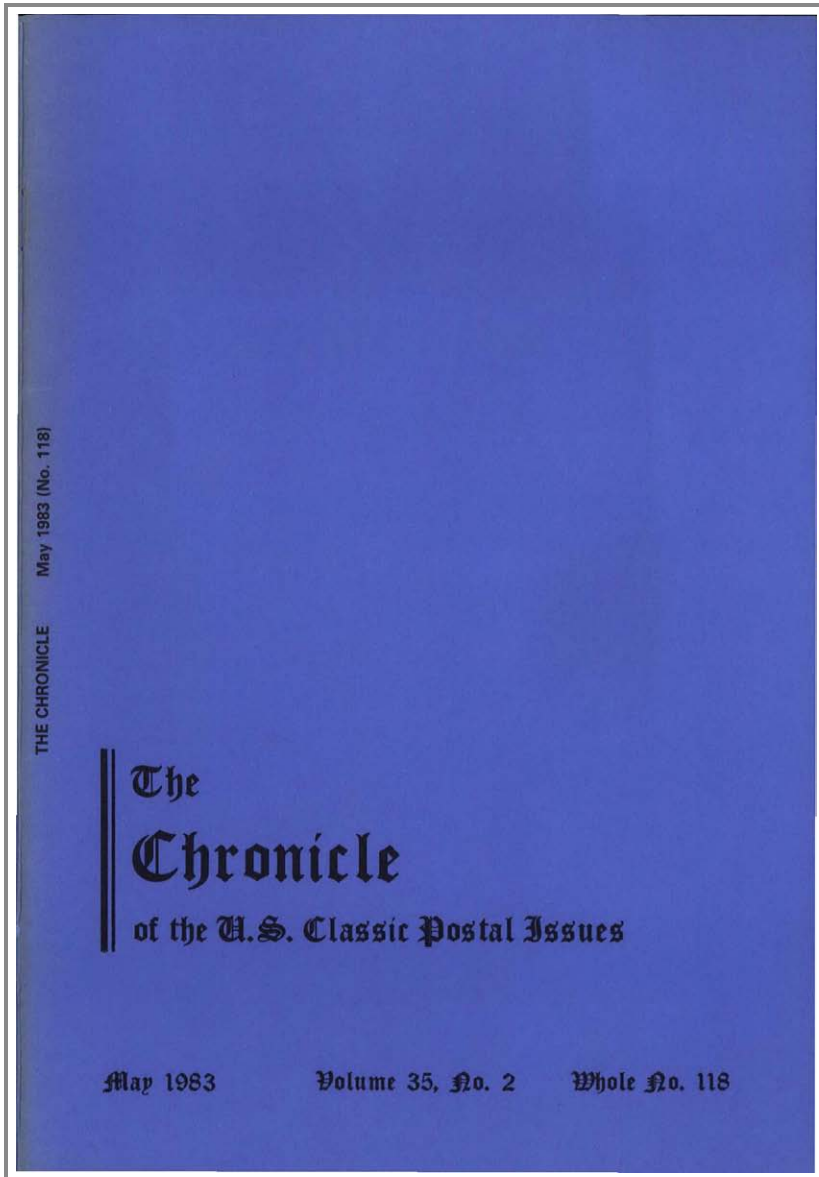


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1847 COVERS FROM PENNSYLVANIA

CREIGHTON C. HART

Articles in the *Chronicle* on '47 covers from the various states have been popular with our members and the short series on covers from New York the most popular of all.¹ There are, of course, more covers known from New York than any other state and the second largest number is from Pennsylvania. The articles on Pennsylvania will follow the same presentation as that for New York which proved so satisfactory.

In this first article are two tables of 1847 covers; one for known covers from the 47 post offices that received stamps from Washington and the other of covers postmarked from 15 odd post offices that did not receive any from Washington. It was a common practice for postmasters to purchase stamps from a neighboring post office rather than ordering them from the P.O.D. in Washington. Some such covers may have been mailed by travelers.

I anticipate that there will be four articles in this series, the second on covers from Philadelphia, the third about all covers from Pennsylvania other than Philadelphia, and the fourth giving the final result of all covers reported. Each article will include additional postmarks reported by our members for Tables I and II, so please let your Section Editor hear from you at an early date. The deadline for each issue is eight weeks before the issue is due. As you all know the *Chronicle* comes the middle of May, August, November, and February.

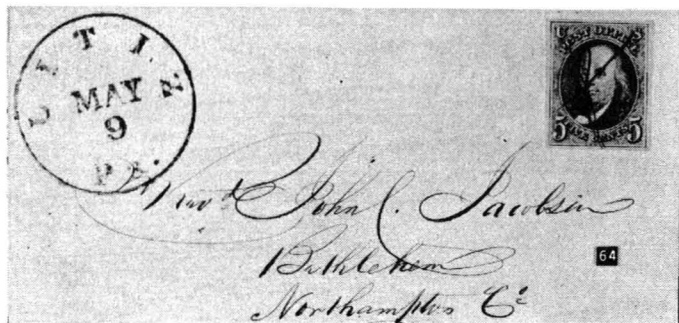


Figure 1. Litiz, with only one "T", was the spelling used during the currency of the 1847 stamps. The illustration is from an H. R. Harmer auction catalogue for May 5, 1971.

In Table I Litiz (Figure 1) is listed as one of the 1851 post offices. The present-day spelling is Lititz. According to *Pennsylvania Postal History* (John L. Kay and Chester M. Smith, Jr.), the change took place February 2, 1880.

Table II lists two covers that probably are in error. Arlington Center is a cover Elliott Perry describes as in the Senator Ackerman collection but no such post office is listed during the currency of the '47 stamps nor do Kay and Smith list such a post office at any time. Evansville, Ia. was apparently misread as Evansville, Pa. The two Evansville post offices given by Kay and Smith are later: 1855-1901, and 1904 to date. The 10¢ rate is correct for a letter from Evansville, Ind., to New York. Indiana was abbreviated Ia. at this time and Iowa was spelled out in its postmarks. This cover was sold as lot 76 in the H. R. Harmer auction held June 18, 1968.

Both Arlington Center and Evansville will be dropped in the final tabulation unless some collector can confirm their existence.

No STEAM-BOAT covers coming into Philadelphia are known among the nearly 1,000 so far listed. Covers picked up by coastwise steamboats were deposited at the first post office

1. *Chronicles* 94-101 inclusive (May 1977 to February 1979).

TABLE I
1847 STAMPS
Supplied to 47 Post Offices in Pennsylvania

<i>Post Office</i>	<i>5¢</i>	<i>10¢</i>	<i>Known Covers</i>
Allegheny City	600	200	(0-5¢ : 0-10¢)
Bedford	400	100	(1-5¢ : 0-10¢)
Bellefonte	1,000	50	(2-5¢ : 0-10¢)
Bethlehem	1,200	50	(4-5¢ : 0-10¢)
Brookville	200	—	(0-5¢ : 0-10¢)
Butler	1,200	250	(0-5¢ : 0-10¢)
Canonsburgh	700	150	(0-5¢ : 0-10¢)
Carbondale	700	—	(0-5¢ : 0-10¢)
Clarion	400	50	(0-5¢ : 0-10¢)
Columbia	800	100	(0-5¢ : 0-10¢)
Erie	4,800	2,100	(3-5¢ : 0-10¢)
Florence	400	—	(0-5¢ : 0-10¢)
Frankford	300	50	(1-5¢ : 0-10¢)
Franklin	300	50	(0-5¢ : 0-10¢)
Girard	500	150	(0-5¢ : 0-10¢)
Greensburg	1,200	—	(8-5¢ : 0-10¢)
Harrisburgh	4,000	250	(2-5¢ : 1-10¢)
Honesdale	800	100	(0-5¢ : 0-10¢)
Huntingdon	800	50	(0-5¢ : 0-10¢)
Lancaster	1,600	100	(6-5¢ : 1-10¢)
Lewistown	400	—	(3-5¢ : 0-10¢)
Litiz (Lititz)	200	—	(1-5¢ : 0-10¢)
Meadville	400	100	(1-5¢ : 1-10¢)
Mercer	200	—	(0-5¢ : 0-10¢)
Minersville	400	—	(0-5¢ : 0-10¢)
Montrose	1,500	50	(0-5¢ : 0-10¢)
Mt. Pleasant	200	30	(0-5¢ : 0-10¢)
New Castle	500	100	(0-5¢ : 0-10¢)
Norristown	600	—	(0-5¢ : 0-10¢)
Paradise	400	—	(0-5¢ : 0-10¢)
Philadelphia	462,000	77,000	(757-5¢ :200-10¢)
Pittsburgh	16,200	6,100	(33-5¢ : 19-10¢)
Pottsville	4,800	400	(4-5¢ : 0-10¢)
Reading	800	100	(5-5¢ : 3-10¢)
Strasburgh	300	—	(0-5¢ : 0-10¢)
Summit Hill	700	50	(1-5¢ : 0-10¢)
Towanda	1,900	—	(0-5¢ : 0-10¢)
Tunkhannock	600	50	(0-5¢ : 0-10¢)
Uniontown	200	100	(0-5¢ : 0-10¢)
Warren	500	100	(2-5¢ : 0-10¢)
Washington	600	200	(0-5¢ : 0-10¢)
Wellsborough	1,200	150	(0-5¢ : 0-10¢)
West Chester	2,000	100	(3-5¢ : 0-10¢)
West Middletown	700	50	(0-5¢ : 0-10¢)
Wilkes-Barre	3,700	100	(14-5¢ : 0-10¢)
York	500	—	(1-5¢ : 0-10¢)
Youngstown	400	—	(1-5¢ : 0-10¢)
	523,800	88,580	(853-5¢ 225-10¢)

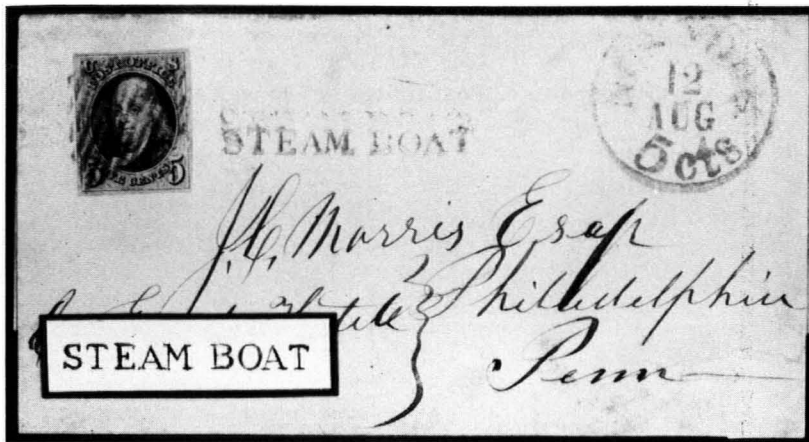


Figure 2. This letter entered the mail at New York having been carried there by a non-contract coastwise steamboat. It was forwarded to Philadelphia by rail. No '47 cover is known having a STEAMBOAT handstamp for letters entering the mail at Philadelphia.

and are so designated as well as having the postmark of the receiving post office. Covers for Philadelphia picked up by steam boats from the north were deposited at New York where they received the STEAM-BOAT handstamp and were forwarded by rail to Philadelphia. Any covers with a Philadelphia postmark and STEAM-BOAT probably were picked up by coastwise boat coming from the south. Such covers must be very rare and I'd like to see any STEAM-BOAT covers of the 1847 period with or without stamps to see if any such covers could exist. (Figure 2).

If these articles on Pennsylvania '47 covers prove popular, the same information will be given for Massachusetts, the state from which the third largest number of '47 covers is known to be extant.

TABLE II
1847 STAMPED COVERS
From 15 post offices not receiving
a supply from Washington

	<i>Known Covers</i>		<i>Known Covers</i>
Arlington Center*	(1-5¢ : 0-10¢)	Phoenixville	(1-5¢ : 0-10¢)
Blairsville	(1-5¢ : 0-10¢)	Pottstown	(2-5¢ : 0-10¢)
Carlisle	(1-5¢ : 0-10¢)	Salem	(0-5¢ : 1-10¢)
Chester	(2-5¢ : 0-10¢)	Salem Crossroads	(1-5¢ : 0-10¢)
Downington	(1-5¢ : 0-10¢)	Scrantonia	(1-5¢ : 0-10¢)
Easton	(3-5¢ : 0-10¢)	Springfield	(1-5¢ : 0-10¢)
Evansville*	(0-5¢ : 1-10¢)	Wrightsville	(1-5¢ : 0-10¢)
Germantown	(1-5¢ : 0-10¢)		

*Arlington Center and Evansville are probably in error; see text.

UPDATE OF NEW YORK STATE POSTMARKS

Since 1977 two additional New York postmarks have been reported. A 5¢ cover from Greenport, Long Island, has at last come to light. The Greenport post office ordered the 5¢ denomination several times for a total of 5,000 stamps. That no cover had survived was apparently explained by stamps purchased at the Greenport post office being handed to the route agent of the Long Island Rail Route so that they were cancelled with that popular postmark.

A 5¢ cover from Wappinger's Falls has also been reported. The Wappinger's Falls post office did not receive any stamps so this one is to be added to Table II.

I have seen both covers and believe they are genuine.