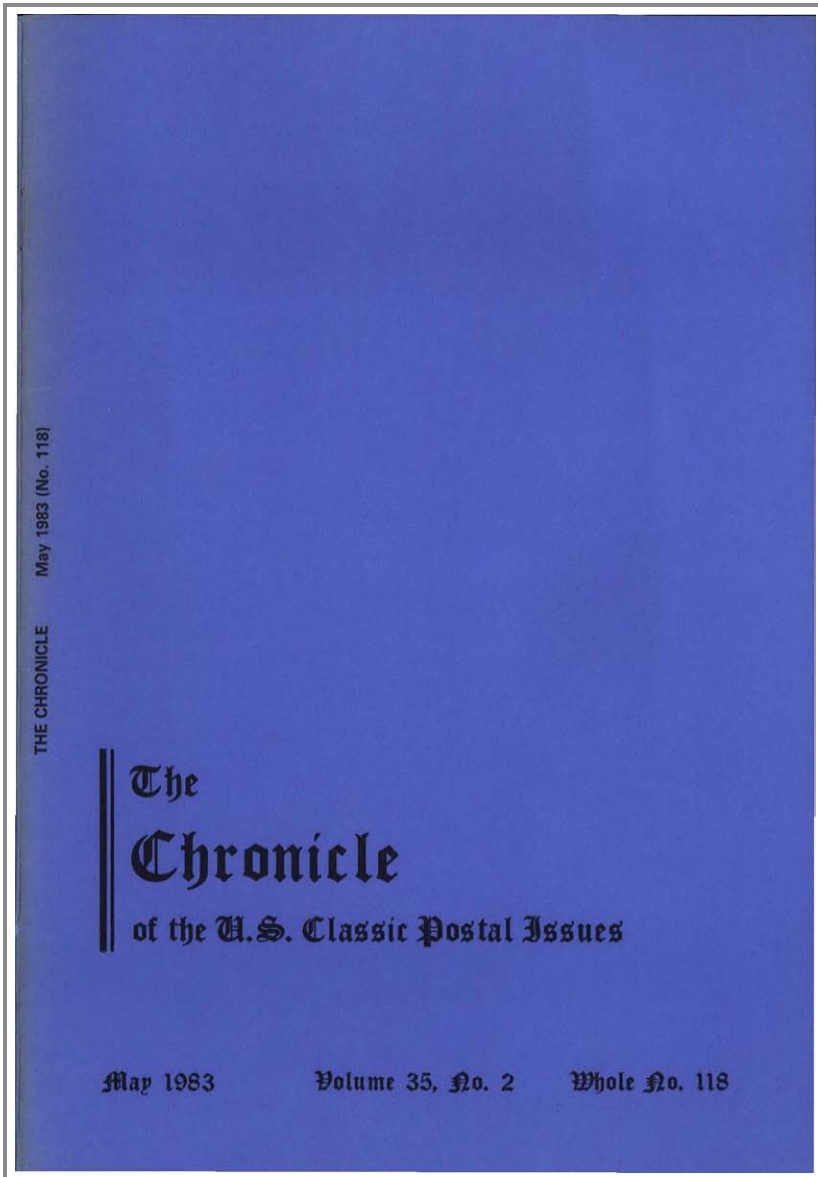




# U.S. Philatelic Classics Society

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Author(s): Calvet M. Hahn



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## THE 1851-61 PERIOD

THOMAS J. ALEXANDER, Editor

DAVID T. BEALS III, Assoc. Editor

### YEARDATED POSTMARKS OF NEW YORK STATE IN THE PRESTAMP PERIOD

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*Editor's note:* Although the first part of this article is concerned mainly with prestamp material, it is included in this section because subsequent portions deal largely with the 1851-61 period.

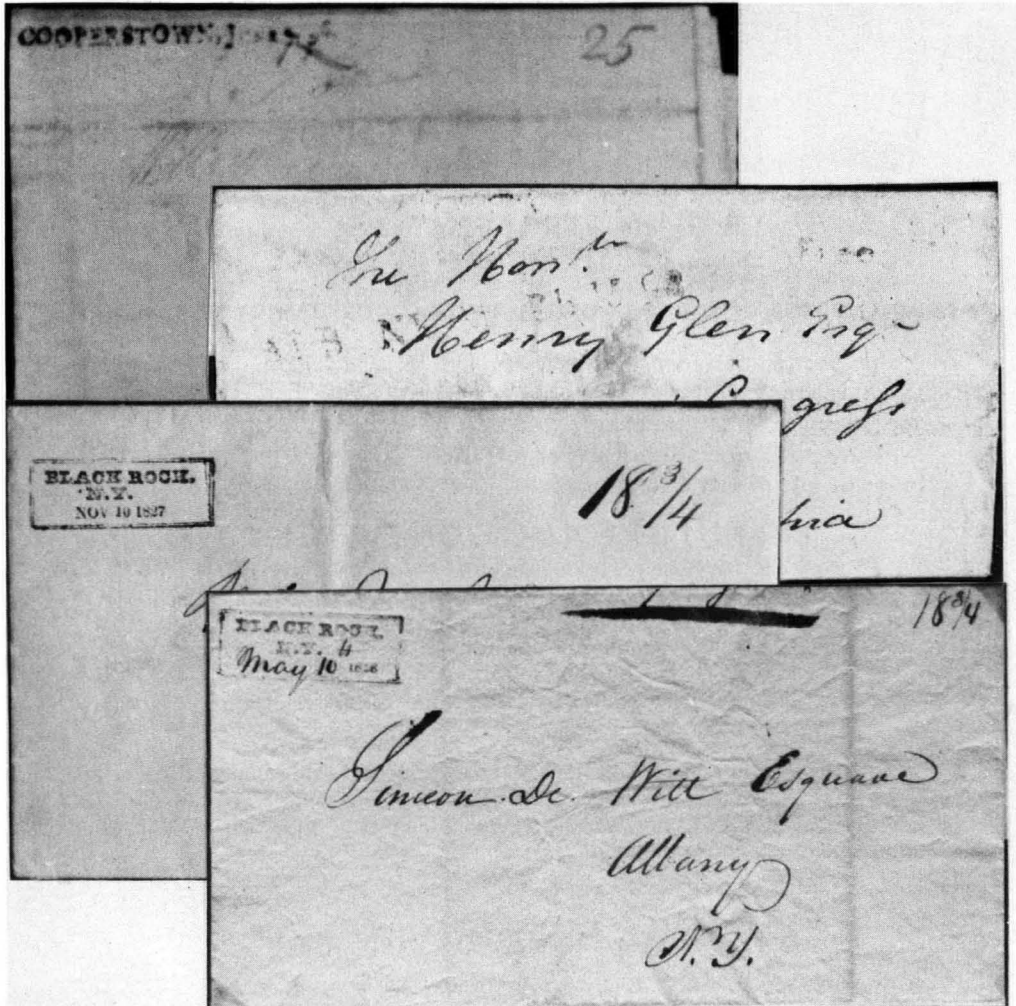


Figure 1 (top). Unlisted black 35x3mm COOPERSTOWN, JUN (7):96 with ms. 25¢ rate to Richmond, Va. Datelined Richfield June 3, 1796. The earliest yeardated New York item as well as earliest cover from this Otsego county town. Figure 2 (second). Black 30x5mm ALBANY MARh 15 98 and black Free. This early year date type known 2/29/1796 to July 1798. This example is free because it is addressed to Congressman Glenn. Figure 3 (third). Black 34x12mm boxed BLACK ROCK/N.Y./NOV 10, 1827, first style of this yeardated straightline. This example is ex-Mayer and Dunsmoor. Figure 4 (bottom). By next year month and day dates are no longer handstamped. This is a 33x13mm double-bordered box of 1828 and listing item of this style. It is ex-Smith.

Collecting dated handstamps is one of the numerous subspecialties of philately. Dates are collected in both the adhesive and the stampless period. Some collectors try for a 365-366 day calendar of their favorite stamp, town, or issue. Others seek out holidays, Sunday

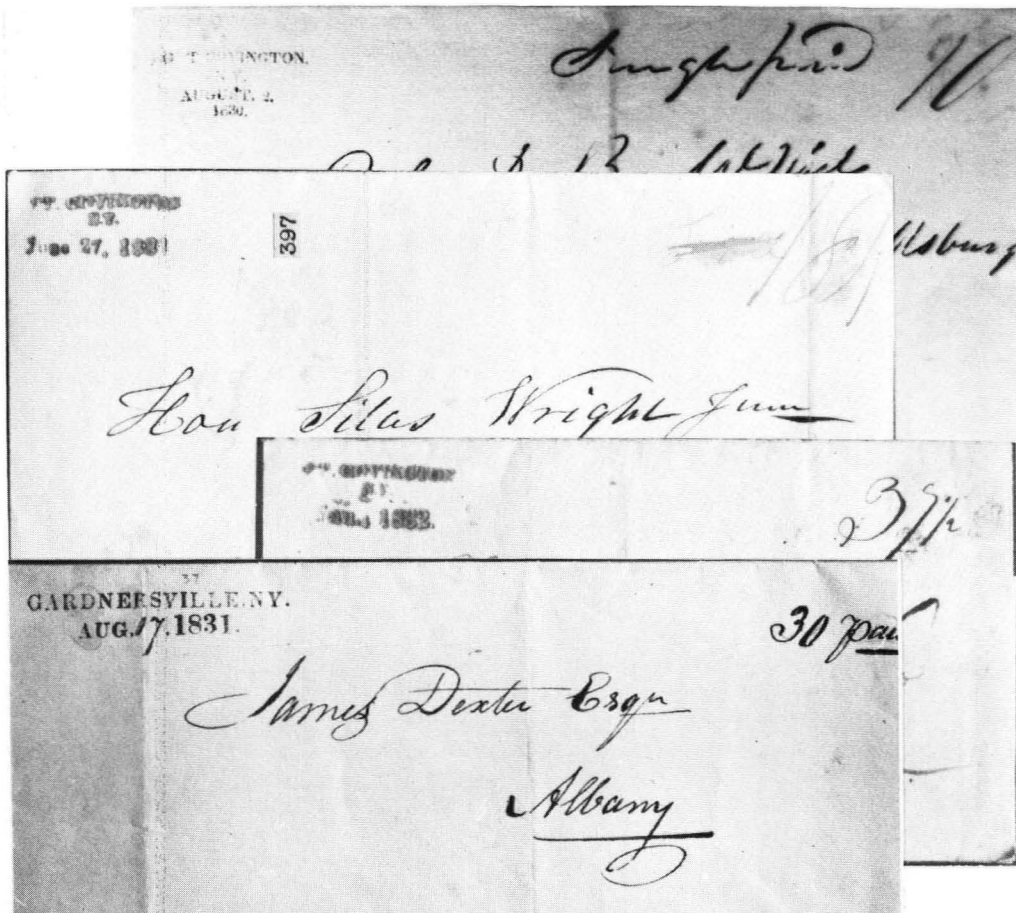


Figure 5 (top). A black 4-line 28x11mm straightline from FORT-COVINGTON/N.Y./AUGUST. 2/1830 — the first style known in black and red. It follows the yeardated oval. This example is ex-Smith. Figure 6a (second). Red 27x12mm FT. COVINGTON/N.Y./June 27 1831 rerated from Free to 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢ because the Comptroller is not entitled to free letters. Catalog recording copy. Figure 6b (third). A similar example of January 1 1833 with 37 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ rate is the last strike of this variety on record. Figure 7 (bottom). Uncataloged black 56x10mm GARDNERSVILLE N.Y./AUG. (17) 1831. and ms. 30 paid triple letter on leases. This example is ex-Harry Dunsmoor. I record a possible year-dated item in 1846-9 but have not seen it.

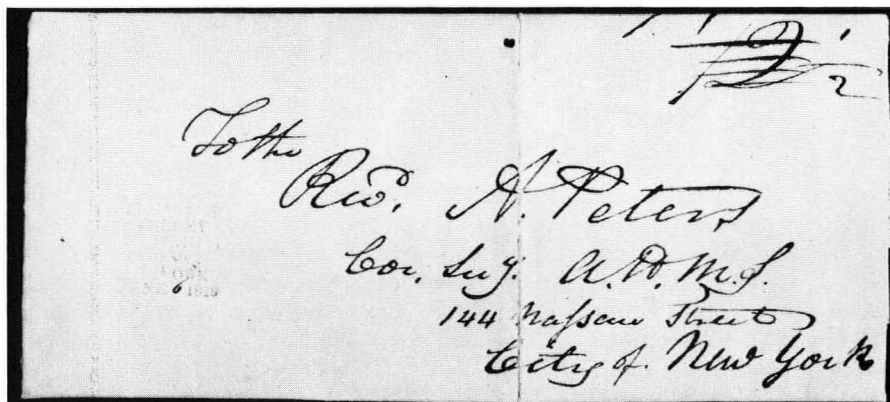


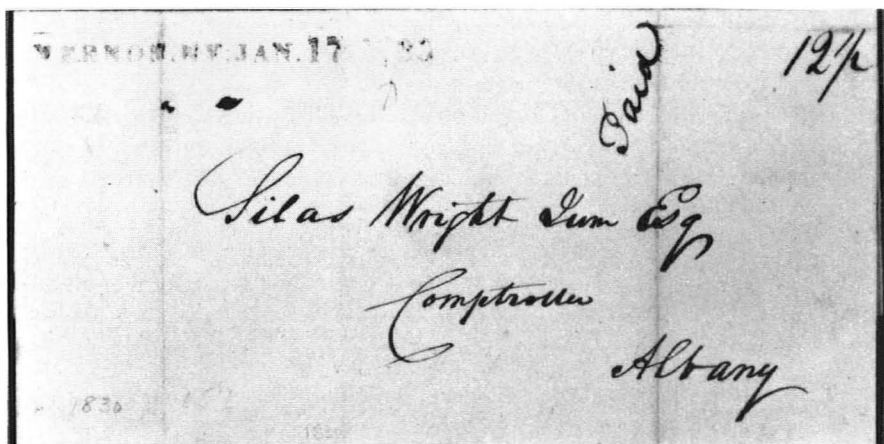
Figure 8. The unique example of the 6-line county, year-dated straightline. Red 18x17mm PLEASANT/VALLEY/DUTCHESS/COUNTY/N. YORK/JUNE (6) 1829. Termed by Ed Mayer the most unusual of all straightlines. About church affairs in Dutchess county. Ex-Dunsmoor and Mayer.

markings or leap-year dates. Unusual datestyles are favored by others. One way to collect is to collect the yeardated postmarks. I propose to discuss those on stampless covers from New York state.

The earliest yeardated postmark I've recorded for the United States is the 36x10mm Baltimore straightline of the style illustrated on page 81 of the current *American Stampless Cover Catalog*. It is known used from August 15, 1782, to December 10, 1782, and the early example was first reported in *Postal Markings* of December 20, 1933. To date, no earlier has appeared in the philatelic literature. Yeardated straightlines were next used at Portsmouth,



Figure 9 (top). Black 37x5mm straightline SCARSDALE and ms. N.Y. paid 3 cts with black oval 29x23mm OCT 3/1861 sealed with blue love seal. A second example of 8/29/61 on a patriotic is in the Richard Sachs collection. Figure 10 (second). Black 48x10mm straightline SCHUYLERS LAKE/NOV. (8) 1831 NY and ms. Free to Hon. Michael Hoffman on legal matters. Catalog listing example, ex-Dunsmoor and Mayer. Figure 11 (third). Error example, black 47x9mm SCHUYLERS LAKE/SEPT (5) 1832. YN and free franked by pm. R. W. Tunnikoff. One of two known examples with the state reversed. Ex-Knapp, the other of 9/10/32 is ex-DeGraff. Figure 12 (fourth). Black straightline 50x10mm SCHUYLERSVILLE/N.Y. DEC (6) 1841 and ms. 18¾¢ rate. A second copy of July 9th is known. Ex-Dunsmoor and Mayer. Figure 13 (bottom). Straightline in black 54x8mm SCHUYLERSVILLE N.Y./JUNE (20) 1842 and ms. 12½¢ rate. One of two with NY on top line, other is July 1, 1842.



**Figure 14. Black 32x2½mm. VERNON. NY. JAN.17 1830 and ms. Paid 12½¢ rate. Recording example of this unique yeardated town. Other examples of this year do not have yeardates.**

N.H., in 1789 and 1792 and at Richmond, Va. in 1794 through 1799.

Thus far, the earliest examples from New York state come from Albany and the Otsego county town of Cooperstown. The 1796 Cooperstown yeardated straightline is apparently unique and not reported in the catalogs. The Albany marking has just the last two digits of the year added to the straightline. It is catalogued in 1798 but I also record it on a 1796 cover, which is the only non-1798 example I know of.

In addition to the two towns just listed, I record the following New York towns with yeardated straightlines on stampless covers: Black Rock (1827-8), Ft. Covington (1830-32), Gardnersville (1831), Hagamans Mills (1852), Little Falls (1822), Middlefield (1830), Pleasant Valley (1829), Scarsdale (1861), Schuylers Lake (1831-3), Schuylerville (1841-2) and Vernon (1830). In a number of cases there are several varieties of each and the markings are known in red and black. Some varieties are very rare and command high prices because they are errors or unusual markings in some other respect, *e.g.*, the only six-line county marking.

The only New York straightline yeardate reported in the 1851-61 period is the Hagamans Mills which is known both stampless and with adhesives. It is illustrated in the revised *Simpson's U.S. Postal Markings 1851-61*.

(To be continued)

### **RITCHERDSON'S MISSOURI EXPRESS CO.**

The February issue of the *Chronicle* illustrated a cover bearing a label of this company and evidence on its face that express charges had been paid in addition to the U.S. postage.

Mr. Jerry Schwimmer has provided the editor with an extensive review of this company, including an article by C. Corwith Wagner that appeared in the February-April, 1954, issue of *Western Express*. The company apparently originated in early 1853 as Ritcherdson's Daily Express, which carried packages between St. Louis and Alton, Illinois. In 1855 Ritcherdson's Missouri River Express was organized to operate by boat between St. Louis and St. Joseph, stopping at major river towns along the way. The boat originally used was the *Polar Star*. Later that year the name was again changed, to Ritcherdson's Missouri Express, the name which appears on the label previously illustrated. One reason for the name change was the use by the firm of the new Pacific Railroad Company trains to carry their packages as far west as Hermann, Missouri. Towns on the Missouri River beyond that point continued to be serviced by river boat. The last mention of the company that Mr. Wagner could find in the *Missouri Republican*, published in St. Louis, was on April 28, 1857.

Mr. Schwimmer has a freight receipt printed by the company (dated at Jefferson City, January 15, 1857) for a package to be delivered to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas Territory. The