

Wichita Stamp Club Newsletter

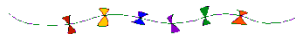


Vol. 80, No. 1, January 2012

Neal E. Danielson
Editor



“Go Fly A Stamp”



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[Travel Kansas](#)

This time we visit Waldron in Harper County.

[Don't Sweat the Small Stuff](#)

A little nostalgia for the “Good Ole Days”

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TRAVEL KANSAS—EAST TO WEST—NORTH TO SOUTH by Neal E. Danielson

Travel Kansas—Waldron is located in Harper County along the southern border of Kansas. I am amazed as I search for information on Kansas towns at the number that have a direct tie to either a town, battle, or soldier involved with the Civil War. This shouldn't be amazing as you become knowledgeable of Kansas History from the time the Kansas/Nebraska Act opened up the territory of Kansas in 1854 and the eventual statehood in 1861 followed by the Civil War. When I traveled Kansas (not literally) and located information on Freeport in Harper County we found that Harper County was named in honor of a Sergeant Marion Harper who was wounded at Waldron, Arkansas in 1863. Waldron, according to some sources, was named after Waldron, Arkansas and other sources say that the town was named after Howard B. Waldron who had acquired a large portion of land that eventually became the town site.

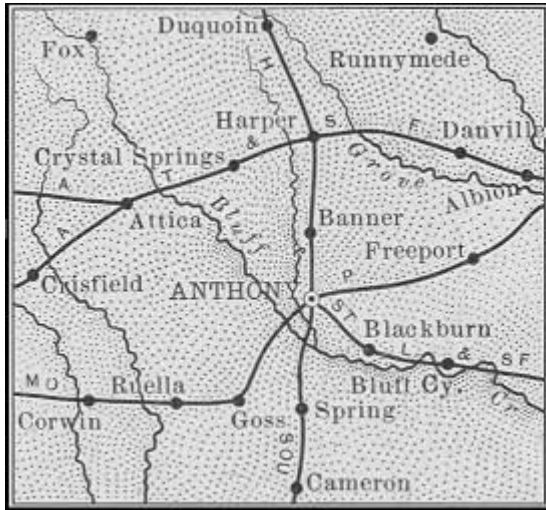


Figure 1
Harper Co. Railroad Map ca 1899

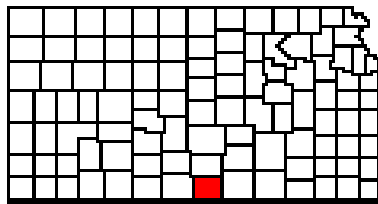


Figure 2
Harper County

Harper County was organized in 1873 under fraudulent circumstances as the settlers used names from a directory they had from Cincinnati along with a few buffalo skulls in order to have enough population to warrant being a county. The town of Harper was settled by pioneers from Iowa. They originally called the town Cora City, probably from a town in Iowa by the name of Cora, but the majority did not like the name so it became Harper City.

Waldron had its beginning around the end of 1879 when abstracts for land formerly part of the Cherokee Strip was granted to H. B. Waldron and Harrison Latham (Latham is a town in Butler, County). By December 17, 1901 following additional land transaction the plots of land were transferred to Harper County. The Kansas City, Mexico and Orient Railroad acquired right-of-way and the Choctaw Northern Railway conveyed their right-of-way to the Kansas City, Mexico and Orient Railroad Company for station facilities, to include a 'Town Well' with two tanks and proper equipment. The Railroad Company was interested in building up a town site. Being close to the Oklahoma Territory certain agreements had to be made with the Railroad on where their trains could stop. On January 23, 1902 Howard B. Waldron was appointed Postmaster of Waldron, Kansas. On April 15, 1902 the town site of Waldron, Kansas was recorded and Howard Waldron exchanged his property for property in Kansas City. This exchange took place on February 18, 1903 and Waldron turned the duties of Postmaster over to James E. Taylor on March 12, 1903.

On November 1, 1905 a charter was granted to the Waldron Town site and Reality Company by the office of the Secretary of State, Joel Randall Burrow, Secretary. Seven directors were chosen. On August 25, 1913 and new Town Charter was signed and a set of new directors appointed. Among these Directors was a L. E. Krider.

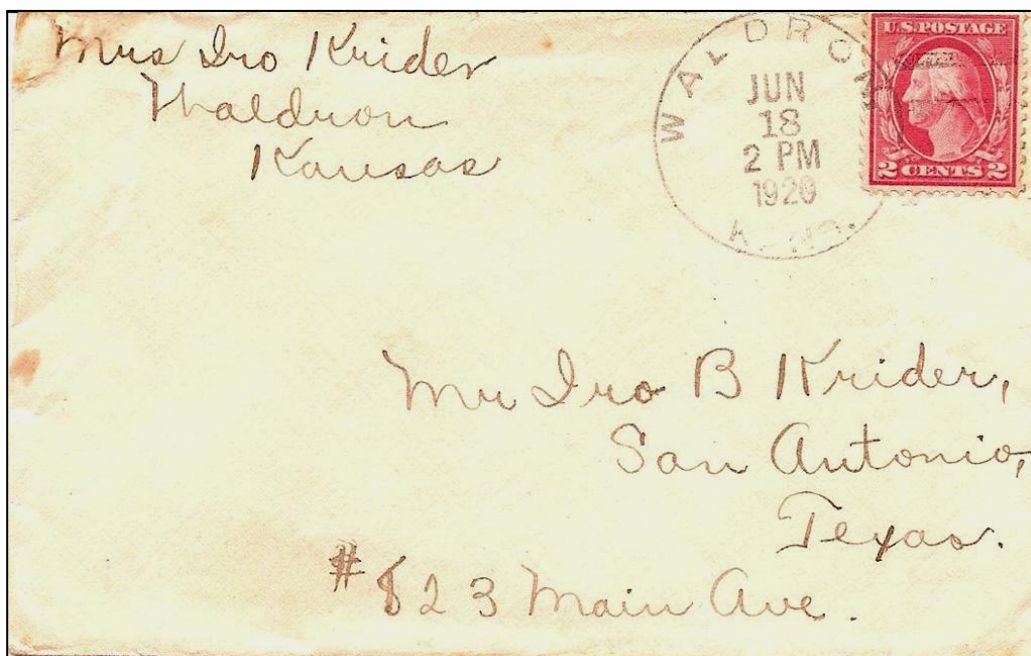


Figure 3—Cover postmarked from Waldron, Kans. Jun 18 1920

A cover postmarked from Waldron, Kans. on June 18, 1920 (Figure 3) is franked with a 2¢ George Washington stamp (Scott #406) and tied to the cover with a balloon cancel. The cover is from a Mrs. Iro Krider of Waldron, Kansas to a Mr. Iro B. Krider in San Antonio, Texas. The Postmaster in Waldron during this timeframe was Mrs Grace Harrison who was appointed to the position January 8, 1915 and remained until December 6, 1931.

References:

- U. S. Postal Service website for Postmasters: <http://webpmt.usps.gov/>
- Rydjord, John, *Kansas Place-Names*, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK 1972
- Waldron, Kansas website: "History of Waldron"
- Wikipedia Free Encyclopedia website: Waldron, Kansas
- Blue Skyways website: <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/>

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DON'T SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF by Neal E. Danielson

This is the 31st in a series of articles relating to small post cards and small covers so if you have any in your collection that you would like to share please let us know.

This small stuff measures 3 ³/₄ inch by 2 ⁷/₈ inch and was sent during the Christmas Season in 1929 from Colwich, Kansas to Claflin Kansas (Figure 1). The small stuff cover is franked with a 2¢ George Washington "Kans." overprint stamp from the Kansas-Nebraska series issued May 1, 1929, Scott #660. The stamp is tied to the cover with a four-bar balloon cancel from Calwich, Kans on Dec 21 1929.

This small stuff cover contained a bi-fold small Christmas card with a short Christmas message and signed by the sender 'Marie W.' The card was cropped and shown as the front of the card (Figure 2) and the inside of the card (Figure 3)



Figure 1 - Small Stuff Cover postmarked Dec 1929

Colwich is located in Sedgwick County, Kansas. Its post office opened on the 18th of December in 1885 and is still open as of this writing. The town of Claflin is located in Barton County, Kansas. Its post office opened on 27th of May in 1887 and is still open as of this writing.

Oh if only Christmas cards were of this type these days but Hallmark Cards needs to make money so they are much larger these days with a variety of verses and colorful designs.



Figure 2 - Front of Christmas Card (cropped)

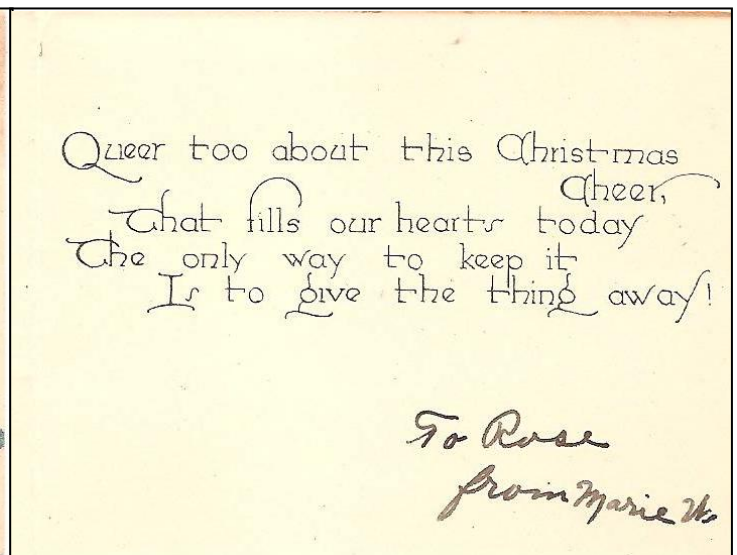


Figure 3 - Inside Christmas greeting (cropped)