

Wichita Stamp Club Newsletter



Vol. 84, No. 3, March 2016

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Editor



"Go Fly A Stamp"



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

This is the 71st 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.



Figure 1



Figure 2

This Small Stuff comes to you from an individual in Chicago, Illinois through a Mrs. Sheppard also of Chicago, Illinois thanks to **Jeff Lough**. This Small Stuff measures 4 1/8 inch by 2 5/8 inch and is franked with a 2¢ George Washington stamp (Scott #213) and tied to the cover with a killer cancellation foot print circular-date-stamp from Chicago, Ill on Jan 14, 1890 (Figure 1), based on the Chicago received date on the back of the cover, enhanced for clarity (Figure 2). Based on the size of the cover it more than likely contained a birth announcement or an invitation to a special event such as a birthday party or baby shower.

Chicago, Illinois and is the third largest city in the United States and is the county seat of Cook County.. Chicago was incorporated in 1837. Being located between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River contributed to its rapid growth early in the mid-nineteenth century. Chicago became an international hub for commerce, industry, finance, transportation and telecommunications.

“Chicago” is the French rendering of the Native American word *shikaakwa* which some sources translate as meaning “wild leek” or “wild onion” or “wild garlic”. The Potawatomi tribes inhabited the area in the mid-eighteenth century but were forcibly removed from their land following the Treaty of Chicago in 1833 (Figure 3). This tribe displaced the Miami and Sauk and Fox tribes that inhabited the area. Records revealed that Jean Baptiste Point du Sable was the first known non-indigenous settler of African and French descent arriving around 1780s and is commonly known as the “Founder of Chicago”.



Figure 3

Chicago's first railroads opened in 1848 with the Galena and Chicago Union Railroad and the Illinois and Michigan Canal. Sailing vessels and steamboats used the canal to gain access from the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River. The Chicago Board of Trade came into existence in 1848 and was first to list standardized 'exchange traded' forward contracts, called futures contracts.

Attention was focused on Chicago in the 1850s as a result of one of their prominent political figure Senator Stephen Douglas, the political politician responsible for the Kansas-Nebraska Act and its impact on the "popular sovereignty" approach to the spread of slavery. This same issue propelled another important Illinois figure, that of Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln was nominated for President at the 1860 Republican National Convention in Chicago. He defeated Douglas in the general election which set the stage of the American Civil War.

On October 8, 1871 one of the greatest events in the history of Chicago transpired when the city was engulfed in flames known as the "Great Chicago Fire" (Figures 4 & 5). No specific cause of the fire was ever uncovered, but speculation and the most popular tale theory that became popular as the cause of this fire was a small barn of the O'Leary family when the cow that Mrs. O'Leary was milking kicked over a lantern (Figure 6) resulting in a fire spreading to the numerous wooden structures throughout Chicago. As a result of the heat from the flames coming in contact with the cold air it resulted in a tornado like effect picking up the burning embers from the fires and carrying them to other structures. The embers traveled across the river at several points as the fire moved from one wooden structure to the next.



Figure 6



Figure 5



Figure 4

When Chicago replaced the ruins of the previous wooden structures that the fire destroyed, an area about four miles long and a mile wide, structures arose using modern construction materials of steel and stone. These materials set a precedent for worldwide construction. It was during the rebuilding era that Chicago constructed the world's first skyscraper in 1885, using steel construction beams that formed the skeleton of the building. Chicago would continue its rapid population growth in the 20th and 21st century, including additional skyscraper buildings; numerous parks; manufacturing companies; and their fair share of unpopular, yet notable events and individuals, such as the Gangster Era when Prohibition (1919 to 1933) was in effect and the rise of gangsters such as Al Capone, Dion O'Banion, Bugs Moran and Tony Accardo. Al Capone and Bugs Moran rival gang shootout in the infamous St. Valentine's Day Massacre in 1929. Chicago's centennial was celebrated when they hosted the "Century of Progress" International Exposition World's Fair in 1933 and 1934.



Figure 7



Figure 8

As we know by the Small Stuff cover, it was sent within the city of Chicago to a Mrs. Walter Sheppard who lived or resided at 2310 Calumet Ave. Chicago also has a section of the City called Calumet and a Post Office in that location (Figure 7); an apartment complex at 41st Street and Calumet Avenue (Figure 8); A Calumet Bridge that spans the river (Figure 9); and a Calumet Theater (Figure 10).



Figure 9



Figure 10

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Some of Crawford County's Postal History: Part III *by Jeff Lough*

Fuller was a coal mining town in Crawford County on the Missouri Pacific Railroad about 10 miles east of Girard, the county seat in the center of the county. It was named for mine owner Fuller. A post office was opened in Fuller in 1894 and remained in operation until 1914. Its first postmaster Arthur Benton. After the post office closed mail was processed through Mulberry, three miles north. It was referred to as a money order post office and the town had telegraph and express offices, telephone connections and a “good local trade.” Presently there are a few farm homes in the area with no commercial enterprises.

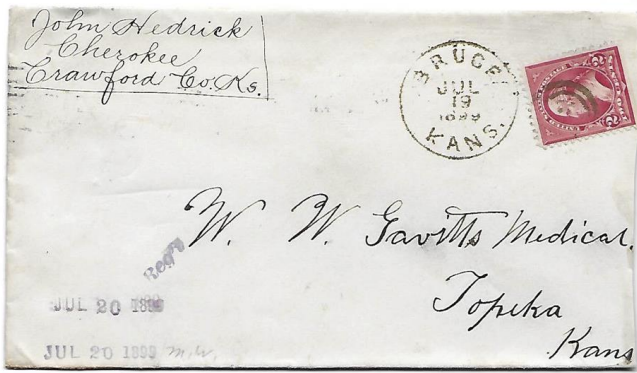
Midway was a mining community about six miles east of Pittsburg. It had been on the Santa Fe and St. Louis & San Francisco railroads. The first postmaster was Henry Kern. The town had first been known as Hole-in-the Prairie. It was renamed Midway because it was midway between Ft. Scott and Baxter Springs on the Old Military Road. A post office was opened in Midway on February 7, 1871 but it closed on March 15, 1878. It re-opened in August, 1886 with the name Nyack. On May 11, 1887, the old name Midway was restored. The post office closed permanently on July 15, 1912. The coal mining company operated the general store. In 1910 it had a population of 400. Nowadays there are farm houses close to Midway's location but no businesses. A variety of the common 2 cent Washington definitives were used with these Crawford County covers. Generally the covers were postmarked with simple date and location circular cancels with heavily used killers either Doane four bars or heavily used indistinct cancelers. The Fuller postmark is in a comparatively unusual blue color.



Bruce was a station on the St. Louis & San Francisco Railway about 12 miles southwest of Girard, the county seat and 4 miles west of Cherokee, from which place mail was received by rural free delivery. In 1910 the population was 164 and the town had the usual complement of stores and professionals. Bruce B. Brundage was the first postmaster and the post office operated from October 20, 1898 until Mr. 15, 1906.

North of Girard in the north central part of the county, Farlington had been called Farleyville, Johnson and Drywood. It had been on the Ft. Scott and Atchison Rail Road, then the Frisco. The first postmaster was Eugene Farley, who was also first settler at the site. The post office was established July 14, 1870 and is still functioning. Between 1870 and 1874 a large number of Swedes settled in the area.

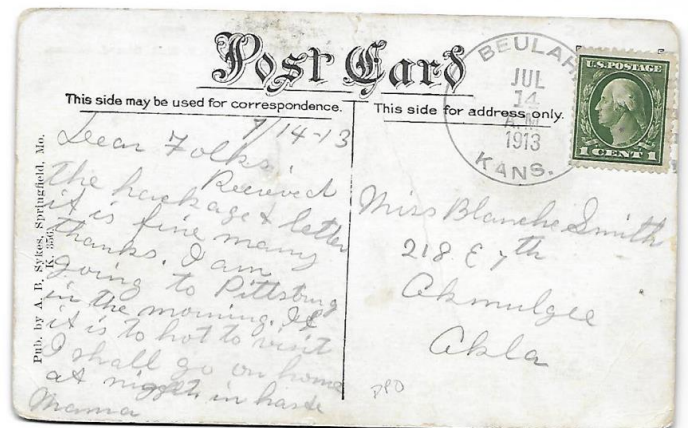
It is likely that both Bruce and Farlington were named after their first postmasters who also were among the first settlers in those areas.



Beulah is a few miles south of Girard. It had also been known as Arnold and Lionstone. Beulah had been on the Fort Scott and Chicago Rail Road. The first postmaster was Cyrus King and the post office was open from December 13, 1874 until March 15, 1955. Methodists from Iowa, Illinois and Pennsylvania formed the town company in 1874 as a colony exclusively for Methodists. Upon arrival in Kansas they stopped to dine in a Girard restaurant where they sang "Beulah Land." The Biblical name Beulah refers to the land where Jehovah reigns. Penny post cards were stamped with one cent stamps of the Washington-Franklin series such as the above Fuller cover.



Beulah Church



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Some Really Special deliveries by Parcel Post *by Jeff Lough*



Figure 4. May Pierstroff was mailed to her grandparents under the chicken rate.

During the early years of parcel post some interesting objects were mailed. On several occasions children were mailed from one post office to another. In 1913 immigration officials in New York City mailed an eight year old Bavarian girl to her father. She was given a hearty breakfast before delivered to her father by a rural mail carrier in Ohio. The picture to the left is of another child who was mailed. Four year old May Pierstroff was mailed from Grangeville, Idaho to Lewiston, Idaho on February 19, 1914 for a charge of 53 cents. Her weight was just a pound and a half less than the maximum allowable for live chickens. The conductor found Parcel Post stamps attached to her coat and she was shipped in the mail car. She was delivered to her grandmother by a mail clerk. On another occasion a baby was mailed to a divorcing father in a container marked “Live Baby” for 17 cents and delivered by postal employees. In 1915 a Florida probation officer mailed a six year old child from Florida to her father in Virginia.

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“Lord, a-livin’ in the country’s altogether kinda sad;
You cain’t do nothin’ very good, you cain’t be very bad;
And all the fun you ever had is settin’ by the gate—
a-watchin’ for the mailman, and hopin’ he ain’t late.
So I’m askin’ that you treat him good—don’t never let him down;
And when it’s rainin’ cats and dogs, don’t let his engine drown—
And if you ketch him cussin’, Lord,
Don’t mark it up again him
It’s many miles of dirty roads that put them cusswords in him.”

The National Rural Letter Carrier (July 23, 1955)