

Wichita Stamp Club Newsletter

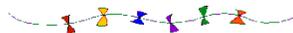


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Neal E. Danielson
Editor



"Go Fly A Stamp"



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



Figure 1
Johnson Co. Railroad Map ca 1899

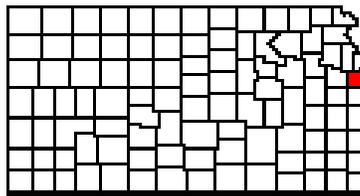


Figure 2
Johnson County



Figure 3
Wyandotte Co. Railroad Map ca 1899

Travel Kansas—Merriam located in Johnson County, Kansas (Figures 1 & 2), named in honor of Charles Merriam, a one-time secretary/treasurer of the Kansas City, Fort Scott and Gulp Railroad which ran through the area, now referred to as the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe. The County Seat is Olathe and the most populated city being Overland Park. The County is very suburban due to the Kansas City metropolitan area with a number of affluent suburbs. Johnson County was one of the first Counties established during the territorial years in 1858. Several battles were fought between abolitionists and pro-slavery during Bleeding Kansas era. Confederate Guerrillas led by William Quantrill, conducting raids in the Olathe and Spring Hill communities in 1862, killing several men and destroyed businesses and homes.

The Santa Fe Trails and Oregon-California Trails journeyed from Independence, Missouri through this area on their adventure westward. Even Wild Bill Hickok settled in the area for a time becoming Constable of Monticello Township in 1858.

Merriam is surrounded by several large suburban areas: Overland Park to the east; Shawnee on the west; and Kansas City, Kansas on the north, next door in Wyandotte County (Figure 3). The postal designation is from Shawnee Mission. The Post Office in Merriam opened 18 May 1881 and closed the 31 July 1960 after being first established 1 July 1872 as Spring Place and then to Glenwood on 8 August 1872 before being changed to Merriam on 18 May 1881. A cover postmarked from Merriam, Kans., on May 2, 1907 (Figure 4) and franked by a 2¢ George Washington stamp (Scott #319) and tied to the cover with a circular-date-stamp. The cover was mailed across the County line north to Piper, Kansas in Wyandotte County. Piper was formerly unincorporated area of Kansas City, Kansas. The Post Office in Piper opened on the 28 January 1888 and closed on 12 August 1971. Piper was annexed by Kansas City in 1991.

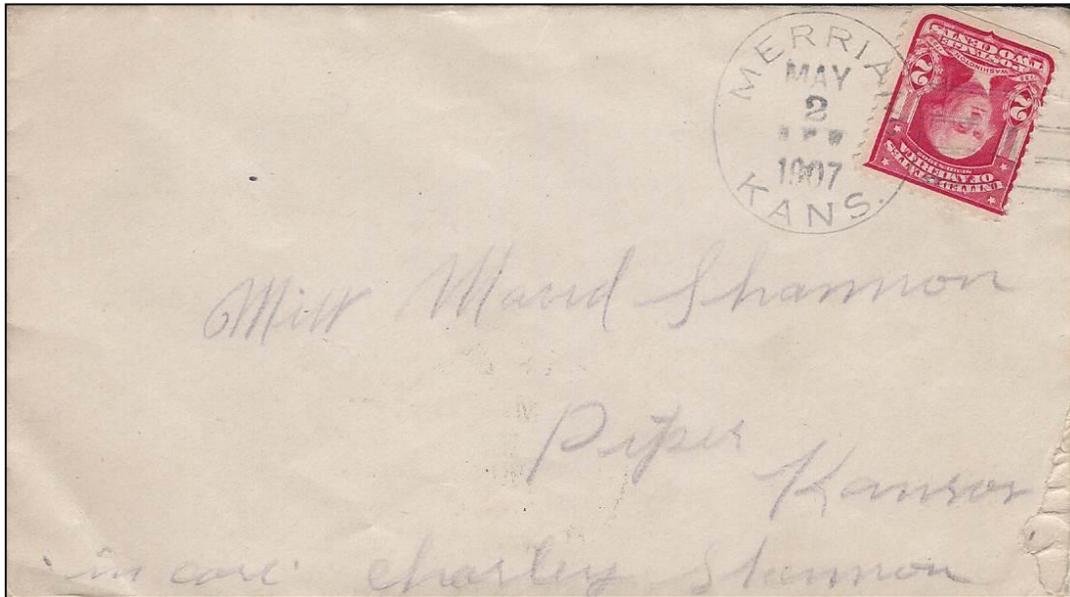


Figure 4
Cover - Merriam Postmark 1907

Today you will find Piper amongst a sprawling expanse of large scale businesses, such as Cabala's, Nebraska Furniture Mart, Great Wolf Lodge, the Kansas Speedway, the Legends at Village West, the community America Ballpark home stadium for the Kansas City T-Bones. The general area is the home of the 370 acre resort and waterpark of Schlitterbahn Vacation Village.

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Mecklenburg

The royal house that controlled the northern German grand duchies of Mecklenburg-Schwerin and Mecklenburg-Strelitz took over the region in the eleventh century. The Wend clan is believed to have been of Slavic origin. The family was fortunate enough to continue to rule these areas after Napoleon eliminated about 300 other independent or semi-independent entities of the Holy Roman Empire in the early 19th century. These two grand duchies were among the kingdoms, former Hanseatic League cities, duchy, grand duchies, Northern regional amalgamation and the princely house of Thurn and Taxis that issued their own stamps before Prussia created the German Empire following the defeat of France in 1870 when most of these entities discontinued the issuance of stamps. The Mecklenburg/Wend family coat of arms included illustrations of an aurochs wild bull with the skin still attached from the bull's neck (Figure 1). It has been hypothesized that the bull's head on the stamps of these grand duchies represent the terrifying head gear worn by early warriors of that region of northern Germany to frighten the enemy when fighting. The earliest issue of Mecklenburg-Schwerin is one of the smallest postal stamps ever issued. Four are the size of a typical stamp (Figure 2, Mecklenburg-Schwerin SN 5). Mecklenburg-Strelitz' early stamps included the same embossed bull's head, which was done without inking in. (Figure 3, Mecklenburg-Strelitz' SN 6).



Figure 1
Wild Bull's Neck



Figure 2
Mecklenburg-Schwerin 5



Figure 3
Mecklenburg-Strelitz' 6

The regions and countries that have been called Moldova or Moldavia also have a bovine-looking head as part of their central emblem or coat of arms. The country of Moldova borders the Romania region of Moldavia. (Map of region, Figure 4)

Moldova

Moldova was one of the 16 Soviet Socialist Republics of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Most of the area of that entity is currently the independent country of Moldova. It has issued stamps that incorporate a bovine head as part of the national emblem or coat of arms. (Figure 5)



Figure 4
Map of Region



Figure 5
Coat of Arms

Moldovia

Contemporary Romania consists of three fairly large distinct regions: Transylvania, Walachia and Moldavia.

The Principality of Moldavia issued an early postal set in 1858. It was one of the earliest postal issues in the world. Figure 6 (Romania SN 1258) illustrates a member of that early set on a stamp from the People's Republic of Romania, the communist bloc country of the 1950's. A similar illustration is seen in Figure 7 from contemporary Moldova

Moldavia and Walachia were first united as joint principalities in 1859 and that entity issued its own stamps which carried the same bovine head. (Figure 8, Romania SN 16).

Romania has continued to use the bovine head as part of its national coat of arms. The Moldavian bovine is referred to as an aurochs. It is regarded as an extinct ancestral species of contemporary cattle that inhabited Europe and southwest Asia. The legend behind the emblematic use of this animal is that an early Islamic chieftain in the region was hunting close to what is now the Molda River when a wild aurochs attacked him. His dog attacked the aurochs and drove the wild animal off, saving the Chief's life. The aurochs had a star on his head. The dog's name was Molda. The Chief named the nearby river after his dog. Subsequently the area around the river was given the same name. The region was symbolized by the picture of the wild animal. Aurochs also played a role in the 2012 American movie, *Beasts of the Southern Wild*. A town in Estonia is named after the beast. It also figures as part of the coat of arms of the region of Bukovina.



Figure 6
Romania 1258



Figure 7
Similar Moldova Stamp



Figure 8
Romania 16

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PHILATELY OF HISTORIANS: PART II by Jeff Lough

Snorri Sturlison

Snorri Sturlison (1179—1241) (Figure 1, Iceland SN 231 and Figure 2, Norway SN 245) was an Icelandic historian, poet, and politician. He was the most important Icelandic historian of the Middle Ages. He was an experienced statesman and a many-sided scholar. Snorri was thoroughly trained in many branches of knowledge, but he learned especially the old northern belief in the gods, the saga concerning Odin, and Scandinavian history. His importance rests on his literary works of which “Heimskringla” (The World) is the most important, since it is the chief authority for the early history of Iceland and Scandinavia. However, it does not contain reliable statements until the history, which extends to 1177, reaches a late period, while the descriptions of the primitive era are largely vague narrations of sagas. Without Snorri’s writings, our understanding of the views and thoughts of pagan North Europeans, and even of Germanic and other peoples in general, would be considerably more limited. His writings also provide information and indications concerning persons and events influencing the peoples inhabiting Scandinavia, England, Scotland, Ireland, and other regions, in obscure periods for which information is scarce. Snorri is referenced in Jules Verne’s novel *A Journey to the Center of the Earth*, in which a German professor discovers a slip of paper from a fictitious scientist, hidden inside a manuscript written by Sturlison that eventually leads him to embark on an expedition into the Earth’s interior.



Figure 1
Iceland SN 231



Figure 2
Norway SN 245

Benedetto Croce

Benedetto Croce (1866—1952) (Figure 3, Italy SN 930) was an Italian idealist philosopher and politician. He wrote on numerous topics including philosophy, history, methodology of history writing and aesthetics. He was a prominent liberal, although he opposed laissez-faire free trade, and had considerable influence on other prominent Italian intellectuals including both Marxist Antonio Gramsci and fascist Giovanni Gentile. In 1944, when democracy was restored in southern Italy, Croce, as an “icon of liberal anti-fascism”, became minister without portfolio in the Southern Italian post war governments.

Croce held great esteem for historian and philosopher Giambattista Vico, and shared his view that history should be written by philosophers. Croce’s *On History* contends that history be seen as “philosophy in motion”, that there is no greater “cosmic design” or ultimate plan in history, and that the “science of history” was a farce.



Figure 3
Italy SN 930

Oswald Redlich

Oswald Redlich (1858—1944) (Figure 4, Austria SN 635) was an Austrian historian who wrote *Weltmacht des Barock* and *Osterreich in der Zeit Kaiser Leopolds I.* He was a member of the Bavarian Maximilian Order for Science and Art. A street in Vienna is named after him.



Figure 4
Austria SN 635

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

This is the 56th 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
Small Stuff-Stafford, Kans. 1931

This Small Stuff comes to you from Stafford, Kansas by way of Hutchinson, Kansas (Figure 1). This Small Stuff measures 3 7/8 inch X 2 3/4 inch and is franked with a 2¢ George Washington stamp (Scott #554) and is tied to the cover with a seven-wavy-line circular-date-stamp postmarked from Stafford, Kans. Sept. 26, 1931. The Post Office in Stafford opened 7 June 1878 following a move from Lulu Valley as part of Pratt County, that was opened the 21 February, 1877. Based on the size of the cover the contents were possibly a birth announcement or an invitation to a special event.



Figure 2
Stafford Co. Railroad Map ca1899

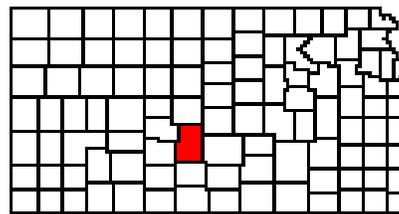


Figure 3
Stafford County

Stafford is located in Stafford County (Figures 2 & 3). Stafford County was organized in 1873 with permanent settlements beginning in 1874. Stafford is often referred to as the “Gateway to Quivira”, located a few miles east of St. John the County Seat. The Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad transverses the county from east to west .traveling through Stafford and St. John. The Missouri Pacific railroad enters the south east corner of the County and travels northwest exiting at the upper northwest part of the County. The Santa Fe Railroad Depot (Figure 4) is located in Stafford and is used by the Union Pacific, once part of the Missouri Pacific. Stafford, the town and county, are named in honor of Captain Lewis Stafford, Co. E.1st. Kansas, and lost his life at the Battle of Young’s Point, Louisiana.

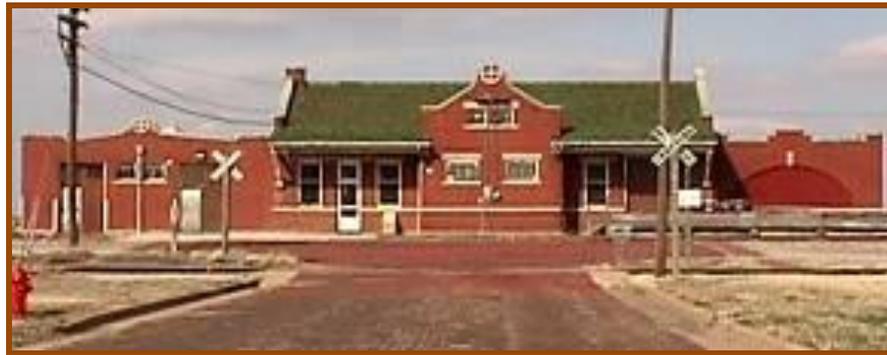


Figure 4
Santa Fe Depot in Stafford

Quivira is a National Wildlife Refuge about six miles north and six miles east and is considered a birdwatchers’ paradise (Figure 5). The wetlands of Quivira is water in the “Great American Desert”, as early settlers and explorers often referred to the Great Pains area due to its vast expansion of unending prairie. The Wildlife Refuge was established in 1955 consisting of 22,135 acres that provides a combination of inland salt marsh and sand prairies and is the largest inland salt marsh in the United States. The name Quivira has its Spanish origin, based on the Spanish Explorer Coronado who traveled the area in 1541 looking for the Seven Cities of Gold.



Figure 5
Quivira - Great & Snowy Egrets

Water being scarce this area along with Cheyenne Bottoms in Barton County is an oasis for the waterfowl migration the Central Flyaway south and on their return trip to the north. The Ninnescah River that runs along the southeast corner also provides refuge for waterfowl along with Rattlesnake Creek and Wild Horse Creek that still flow northeast. The water table in the County beneath the land keeps crops growing even in dry years. The economic areas of the County involve cattle ranching, winter wheat planting and harvesting and one of the major minerals of the area is petroleum. Stafford County is generally flat with grass-covered sand dunes dotting the countryside.

St. John the County Seat was named in honor of a former Kansas Governor, John P. St. John. The town square provides an attractive fountain. The area surrounding the town consists of fields of wheat, corn, milo, soybeans, garden crops, pine trees and large groves of shelter belts and timber claims. These are all man made attractions as the early settlers found the area largely void of any timber except along rivers and creeks and lots of grass covered sand dunes.

The Ida Long Goodman Memorial Library in St. John is considered a magnificent library serving both the school and the public. The combining of the school district libraries allows the expanded hours for use of their personal computers and a modern building.

References:

Stafford: <http://www.skyways.org/kansas/kansas/towns/stafford/index/>

Quivira: <http://www.friendsofquivira.org/newsletter.pdf>

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