

# Wichita Stamp Club Newsletter



Vol. 83, No. 11, November, 2015

Jeff Lough  
Editor



*"Go Fly A Stamp"*



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This little beauty is a postal card from the 1890's

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A visit to Elsmore, Kansas

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A little more postal history of Barton County

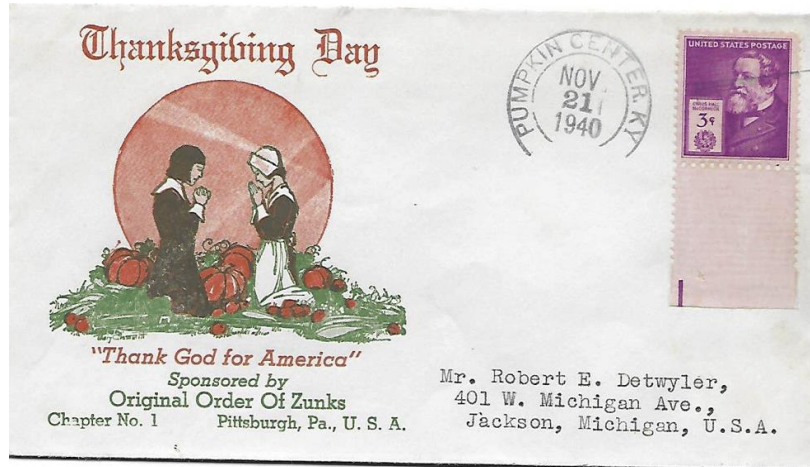
## [Elvis](#)

A note on the voting for the first Elvis stamp

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## Thanksgiving and the Original Order of Zunks by Jeff Lough

The accompanying cover was designed and distributed by an organization of hobbyists active during the second World War. The group included book collectors, coin collectors, archeologists and astrologers. They distributed about twenty covers that are available for view at the Naval Cover Museum's website. Some are listed on eBay. This particular Thanksgiving issue was provided stamps from the Famous American Series. Each of the covers was postmarked in a city with an appropriate name, i. e., "Columbus, OH" for Columbus Day and "Pumpkin Eater, KY" for Thanksgiving Day. A gentleman named Gordon Hamilton of Pittsburgh is responsible for the covers. The Original Order of Zunks had monthly meetings. Information for this note was gathered from a recent John Hotchner column in *Linn's Weekly Stamp News*.



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

This is the 67<sup>th</sup> 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 comes to you from Winfield, Kansas by way of Arkansas City, Kansas through **Myron Janzen**, (Figure 1). The Small Stuff postal card (Scott #UX9) measures 5 1/16 inch by 3 inches and cancels the postal card with a four-bar circular date stamp postmarked Winfield, KS, Apr 6 1891.



Figure 2

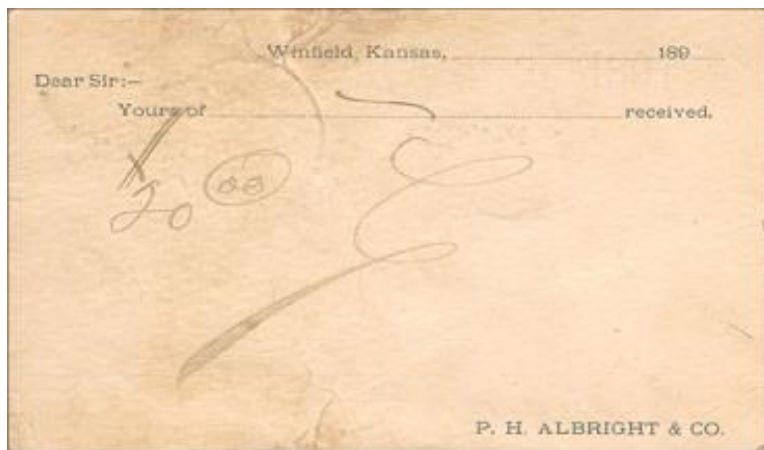


Figure 1

The message side of the postal card is a pre-printed form produced by the P. H. Albright & Co. of Winfield, Kansas (Figure 2). It appears that the Albright Company sent the postal card to the individual in Arkansas City indicating an amount of \$20.00 received from the individual. Winfield, Kansas is the county seat of Cowley County (Figure 3). Winfield came about when Colonel E. C. Manning chose the site in the Walnut River Valley between the Walnut River and Timber Creek. He purchased the land from the Chief of the Osage, Chetopah, in January, 1870. The land held an abundant supply of pure water and the river bottom land was fertile crop land. When the California gold rush opened in 1849, gold seeking novice miners from the southern part of the country came through the area on a trail that was first used by Native Americans and later white settlers called the "Old California Trail."

Winfield's founding fathers found the task of establishing a city required a lot of effort. The rapid growth of the town was given to the railroads, as all goods initially transported out of town by wagon over very rough terrain to reach Independence and Emporia. The first Railroad to arrive was the Santa Fe line from Wichita to Winfield on September 30, 1879. The telegraph office opened on September 25 with the first mail leaving by rail on October 1. The post office in Winfield opened May 3, 1870 with Edwin C. Manning serving as Postmaster. At the time our Small Stuff was posted Edwin P. Greer was serving as Postmaster, being appointed to the post August 17, 1889 and served until May 15, 1894. By the year 1887 Winfield was fortunate in having five rail lines (Figure 3).

The population of Winfield expanded to over 5,000 by 1900 due to the business that sprang up with the area railroads, flour mills, various stores, elevators, newspapers, banks, churches and schools, inspiring a large number of small manufacturing plants. Winfield became the cultural center with an Opera House and School of Music. The Winfield State Hospital started out on the University of Kansas campus in 1881 but was relocated to Winfield in 1887 and was called at that time "The Kansas State Asylum for Idiotic and Imbecile Youth". This move resulted in the Asylum becoming more independent. A new superintendent came on board in 1893 resulting in "de-sexed" patients in order not to release the "feeble-minded" into

society sexually. The name of the Asylum changed to State Home for the Feeble-Minded in 1909. Eventually the institution was called “custodial institution for the helpless” in 1933. The institution peaked in population during WWII, and following the war disabled were assessed and several issues surfaced when handcuffs, leg irons, and whips were found in the facility resulting in termination of employees. As time passed more problems occurred and by 1998 the facility was converted to a prison.

Bridges of Cowley County are popular attractions within the County. There are 18 stone arch bridges (Figure 4) all but one constructed prior to 1920. Many are on the National Register of Historic Places. Maps of the bridges are available at Cowley County website.



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 6

The postal card (Figure 1) bears the name “P. H. Albright & Co.”. Penrose Hills Albright (Figure 5), a successful business man in any avenue he pursued, was born in Maytown, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania in 1852 and in 1876 he came with his brother, Henry Haines Albright to Kansas. He established a newspaper in Cedar Vale before moving to Winfield in 1881. Along with James B. Moore he formed the firm of P. H. Albright & Company, mortgage loans, the firm acting as the western representative of George W. Moore & Company of Hartford, Connecticut. They would eventually establish firms in Medford and Newkirk, Oklahoma. He became a member of the firm of Stafford, Albright & Sadil, of Winfield, real estate brokers and abstractors of title. Mr. Albright became the president of the Winfield Construction Company, paving and sewer contractors; of the Union Oil Company; and was owner of valuable tracts of choice farm lands. In 1886 he was elected a member of the city council of Winfield. His service covered nine years. He served two terms as mayor of Winfield, being elected first in 1889 - 90 and again in 1899 - 1900. He passed away on March 8, 1922,

Penrose Albright was married to Miss Emma C. Strong of Sheboygan, Wisconsin and they had three children—Caroline, Penrose and James H. She was a refined woman and popular in the social circles of Winfield. Their son James H. would serve Winfield as Mayor in 1946.

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

Elsmore was located along the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad in Allen County (Figures 1 & 2) The town was originally called Elsinore and a post office was established with that name on November 22, 1866. Elsmore is a corruption of Elsinore, where Shakespeare's play *Hamlet* was set. On August 25, 1888 the old town of Elsinore was moved a few miles east when citizens heard that the route of the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad from Kansas City to Parsons was going to go through that location. They purchased 20 acres and platted the new town. As a result the railroad arrived and built a depot and stock yard. It soon became a popular trading center and shipping point for that area and in 1909 was incorporated. The town boasted of having a money order post office, which was established February 11, 1889 and the name of the town changed from Elsinore to Elsmore with two rural delivery routes; telegraph and express depot. The town expanded around the railroad depot with a grain elevator, a lumber company, drug store, a bank, hardware store, and furniture store; dealers in coal, buggies and farm implements; and had a feed store, millinery, laundry, blacksmith and hotel.

Elsmore was like its twin community of Savonburg south a few miles along the railway, as both came about due to the railroad and they both enjoyed a substantial immigrant of families from Sweden. Savonburg was founded in 1879 but did not incorporate as a city until 1902. It became popular when they organized a community band. (Figure 3).

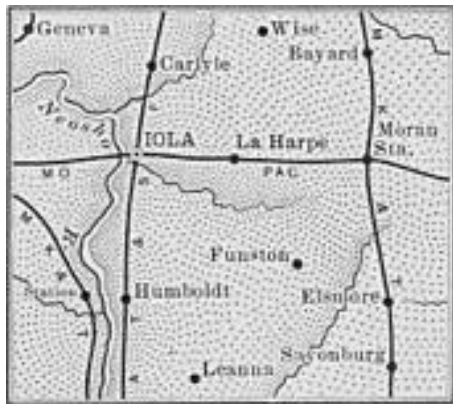


Figure 1  
Allen County Railroad Map ca 1899

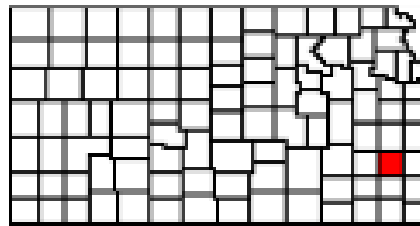


Figure 2  
Allen County



Figure 3

The Elsmore cover (Figure 4) is franked with a 1½ ¢ Martha Washington stamp (Scott #805) of the Presidential Issue of 1938. The stamp is tied to the cover with a four-bar balloon cancellation postmarked Dec 22, 1941 and sent to an individual in Eudora, Kansas. The cover contained a simple Christmas card that was signed 'Grandma'.

Eudora is located in Douglas County along the Kansas and Wakarusa Rivers. History tells us that the Eudora area predates the American settlement as the area was home to several different Indian tribes for thousands of years. The Kansa tribe was the most notable and the one that the state of Kansas was named in honor of. The Kansa tribe lived along the rivers before the government forcibly removed them in 1820s in order to make room for the Shawnee tribe. A few miles south of the town was a region where the Oregon Trail and Santa Fe Trail passed through.

When the Kansas-Nebraska Act was passed by Congress in 1854, word spread about land that could be settled in the new Territory. A group of potential settlers from a German Immigrant Settlement Company out of Chicago traveled to the new Territory to choose a town site. The group favored the Eudora site and negotiated a contract with the Shawnee Chief Paschal Fish who owned most of the land assigned to the Shawnee tribe. The town of Eudora was named in honor of Chief Paschal Fish's daughter (Figure 5). The first post office was established in Eudora on September 1, 1857 and the town was incorporated in 1859.



Figure 4



Figure 5

Eudora's involvement in the Civil War included the conflict during the Bleeding Kansas Era as the town strongly supported the Union and many citizens of Eudora enlisted in order to defeat the Confederacy. When William Quantrill made his famous trip into Lawrence, Kansas in 1863 committing his infamous and deadly raid he passed through Eudora on his way. Some of the citizens of Eudora attempted to warn Lawrence of the Quantrill's approach but two of the men were thrown from their horses and one even died of his injuries. However, following the Quantrill raid the citizens were quick to give aid to the citizens of Lawrence to help in their recovery. Following the Civil War Eudora began to grow rapidly in the late 1800's through the early 1900's due to its proximity to Lawrence and Kansas City.

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## Barton County Part III: The Northern Route By Jeff Lough

The northern communities of Barton County generally developed as locations along the Missouri Pacific and Santa Fe Railroads. Some of the covers indicate that St. Louis was an important regional business center.

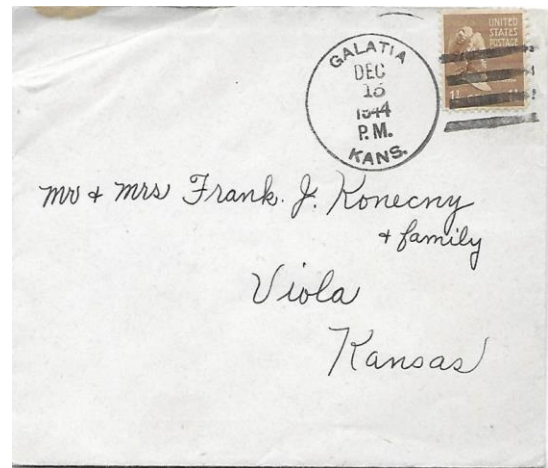
### Clarence

Clarence was a rural post office established in 1874 in the home of its postmaster, Thomas Byrne. On Feb. 3, 1887 it moved to the home of another farmer, William Wilkinson, where the post office was known as Bartholdi. The Post Office was subsequently moved to the town of Albert, Kansas later on Aug. 20, 1887. Albert developed as a town because it was on the Santa Fe. All three of those areas are in southwest Barton County, west of Great Bend and north of Pawnee Rock.

The accompanying Clarence cover is a U288 stamped envelope and serviced with a handwritten cancellation and date, indicating the primitive resources available to the farmer-postmaster..



Clarence Cover



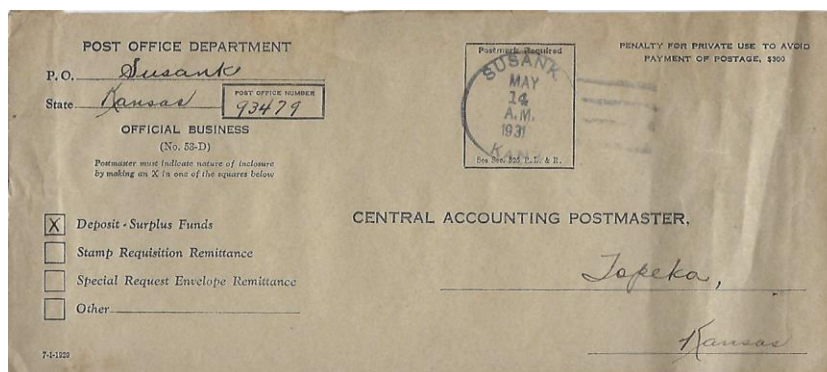
Galatia Cover

### Galatia

Galatia is in the far northwest of Barton County. Settler David C. Barrows founded the community and laid out the town site in 1885. Originally named Four Corners, settler Henry G. Weber renamed it Galatia after his hometown of Galatia, IL. A post office was established at Galatia in 1889. The Santa Fe Railway opened a freight rail line to Galatia in 1916, and the town grew to include three grain elevators, a bank, a lumberyard, and three general stores. By 1921, the population had grown to 202. After that, however, the population began to decline. The post office closed in 1966. The Galatia cover is serviced with the one and a half cent Martha Washington prexie and postmarked with a four bar circular stamp dated December 16, 1944.

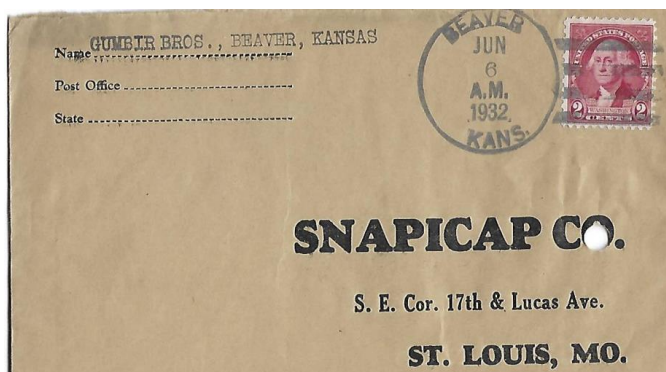
### Susank

Susank, Kansas has a current population of 34. It was named for a Barton County official, Ed Susank. The post office in Susank opened in 1921 and was discontinued in 1991. There are a couple small businesses serving the surrounding farming community together with about 20 homes.. A current U. S. Senator, Jerry Moran, was a resident of Susank. The accompanying Susank cover is an official post office envelope probably used to send remittance or business summary information to a supervisor or clerk in Topeka. It is postmarked with a four bar circular date stamp of May 14, 1931.

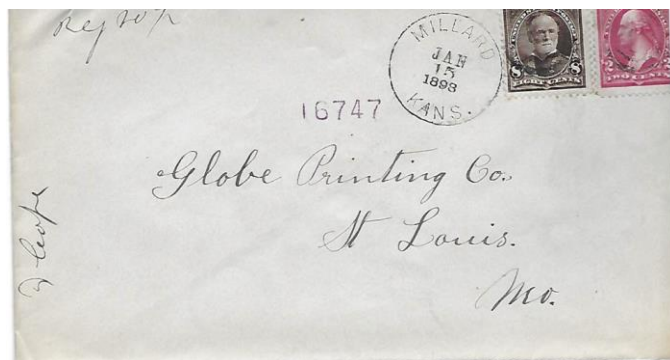


### Beaver

Beaver was established in 1918 when the Santa Fe Railroad built a branch to pick up wheat on the line that ran from Little River to Galatia. Beaver's post office was established on June 19, 1919. Joseph Feyerabend was the first post master. Few homes appear to be in Beaver these days but it has a number of farm related businesses including the grain elevator shown in the accompanying photo. The accompanying cover is stamped with Scott # 707, a stamp of the Washington Bicentennial Issue based on a portrait by Gilbert Stuart and post marked with a four bar circular stamp dated June 6, 1932.



Beaver Cover



Millard Cover

### Millard

Millard is about 23 miles northwest of Great Bend on the Santa Fe and 10 miles northwest of Hoisington. Francis Millard was the first post master. It originally began as a halfway station for early settlers who hauled lumber between Russell and Great Bend. The railroad ended in 1919 and so did the town. The eight cent Sherman and two cent Washington Scott Number 250 are canceled with a pretty worn out four bar circular cancellation with a date of January 15, 1893.

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In 1993 the United States Postal Service issued the most popular U. S. commemorative of all time, the first Elvis Presley stamp. Those interested were given a chance to vote between two proposed designs. That input played a role in the final determination. To the right is the reverse of the post card that was the ballot. Below is the front of the post card with the mailing address for the ballot count and an opportunity for the patron to receive developing information. Of course another U. S. Elvis Stamp was issued August 12<sup>th</sup>, this year.

To receive more information in 1993 about the Elvis stamp please fill in your name and address below: (optional)

Mr    Mrs    Ms

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_


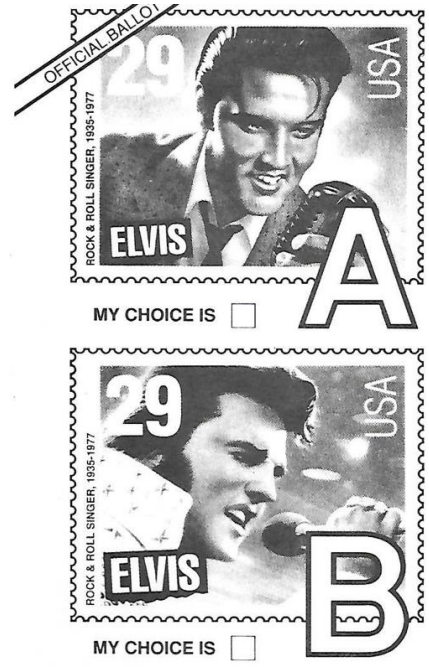
City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

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ELVIS POLL  
PO BOX ELVIS  
MEMPHIS TN 38101-1001

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