

# Wichita Stamp Club Newsletter



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Editor



*"Go Fly A Stamp"*



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# Happy Birthday Kansas

## THE BIRTH OF THE GREAT STATE OF KANSAS

When Christopher Columbus discovered America in 1492, not much was known about this land called the United States. Most of the land that was inhabited belonged to the indigenous people that were spread across the continent. When Coronado made his trek across the plains of Kansas in 1540 in search of the Seven Cities of Quivira, he believed them to be rich in gold. No cities were found, but he did discover the Rio Grande and the continental divide. In 1541 Coronado's expedition explored what is now Kansas, the true Quivira. Kansas is Quivira and Quivira is Kansas. His journey brought him to the Arkansas River (Quivira River) up to a point near what is now Fort Dodge and Dodge City then to the great bend in the river (Great Bend).

History tells us that the majority of the land west of the Mississippi River belonged to Spain at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, land known as Louisiana Territory was given to Spain by France in 1762 to pay off some of its debt. Spain was ready to give it up after only 40 years of rule. In 1800, Spain transferred Louisiana to France in the secret Treaty of San Ildefonso. France's Emperor Napoleon I, assigned an army and a general to occupy Louisiana, but Spain still had the authority to govern. From 1798 to 1801, Spain had suspended the right of deposit to the U. S., which had aroused strong reaction among the Westerners.



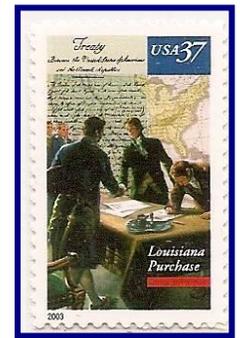
Christopher Columbus



Louisiana Purchase



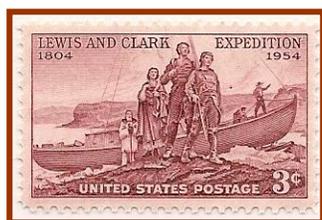
Coronado



Louisiana Purchase

When Thomas Jefferson, President of the U.S. (1801-1809) and James Madison, Secretary of State (1801-1808), heard of the pending deal, they sent Robert Livingston, who was appointed Minister to France (1801-1804), in hopes of purchasing the land east of the Mississippi known as New Orleans. This would give the U.S. access to the Mississippi River in order to transport goods by flat boat or arks, such as flour, tobacco, pork, bacon, lard, feathers, cider, butter, cheese, hemp, potatoes, apples, salt, whiskey, beeswax, and bear and deer skins. However, Napoleon I wanted to build an empire in America and would close New Orleans in 1802, so President Jefferson sent James Monroe, as an Envoy to France to support Livingston in his endeavor to purchase portions of the east bank of the Mississippi River. When word came that the United Kingdom might bring war to France, Napoleon I had a change of heart and decided to cede all the Louisiana Territory to the United States for fear that the U.S. would send troops to aide the United Kingdom. They agreed to finance minister, Francois de Barbe-Morbois' price of 60 million francs plus the assumption of American claims against France (a total of about \$15 million). The treaty, dated April 30, 1803 was signed May 2, 1803 and arrived in Washington on July 14, 1803. The United States officially took possession of the territory on December 20, 1803. The Louisiana Territory included land that would one day become Kansas Territory.

The land would be explored by many trappers, fur traders, fortune hunters and military personnel. President Jefferson's first step was to secure definite and reliable information concerning the Louisiana Territory. Jefferson sent an expedition westward to find and map a transcontinental water route to the Pacific Ocean. With approval from the Congress, Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark embarked on their legendary three-year journey to explore the uncharted West. The expedition included 33 permanent party members, known as the Corps of Discovery that started the journey up the Missouri River from their Wood River camp on May 14, 1804. The Corps of Discovery journey took them along the Kansas eastern border as they traveled up the Missouri River. The Corps of Discovery returned to St. Lewis on September 23, 1806. Maps were created following their adventures to the Pacific and back.



Lewis & Clark



Lewis & Clark



Oregon Trail



Overland Mail

President Jefferson's plan to settle the vast land he had purchased was not by the white man, but rather a land that Indians could be sent to, from east of the Mississippi. An Act of Congress passed March 26, 1804 resulted in French Louisiana being cut in twain. The Territory of Orleans was established. Upper Louisiana, the rest or District of Louisiana, was established with St. Louis as its capital. The Territory of Louisiana passed out of existence by Act of Congress on June 4, 1812, when it became known as the Territory of Missouri. St. Louis continued as the seat of government and General William Clark, of the exploring expedition, was appointed the first Governor of the Territory and he was also Superintendent of Indian Affairs.

The Territory of Missouri that included Kansas was used as a way westward as time passed. Col. Zebulon M. Pike crossed the Great Plains in 1806 where he discovered what is now called Pike's Peak. Captain William Becknell established the Santa Fe Trail across Kansas in 1821 to develop trade between the east and the Mexicans on the west. In that same year the Missouri Compromise allowed Missouri to become a State in 1821. In 1827 Col. Henry Leavenworth was ordered to establish cantonment and he traveled the Missouri river to a point within twenty miles of the Platte River where "Cantonment Leavenworth" was

approved as a site by the War Department. The name was changed to Fort Leavenworth in 1832. This was followed by Captain Benjamin Bonneville exploring routes westward to determine the best to travel and by 1843 the Oregon Trail from Independence in Western Missouri to Fort Vancouver was established.

The first contract for an overland mail service was made with Samuel H. Woodson, of Independence, Missouri. It was a monthly service between that point and Great Salt Lake and was called "The Great Salt Lake Mail". The contract was awarded in 1850, the service to begin July 1, 1850 and continue to June 30, 1854. The distance was 1,100 miles and Woodson was paid \$19,500 per annum. The mail was carried on horses and mules. In 1854 the contract was awarded to W. M. F. McGraw, of Maryland for \$13,500 per annum. In 1858 the Overland Mail Service went by stagecoaches for delivery of mail, not only to Salt Lake but on to California and other parts.

Following several attempts by Stephen A. Douglas and others, to establish Nebraska as a state, from 1844 to 1854 the Missouri Compromise was repealed by the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854. President Franklin Pierce appointed Francis Burt of South Carolina as the first Territorial Governor of Nebraska the free-state and Andrew H. Reeder of Easton, Pennsylvania as Kansas Territorial Governor on June 29, 1854. However, the people that established themselves as citizens of the Territory would decide whether Kansas would be a free-state or a slave-state. From the time the Territory opened up for emigrants to stake a claim in Kansas to the time it became a state many battles would be won and lost in Kansas. We would see ten different men serve as Territorial Governors of Kansas Territory, from Andrew Reeder to George M. Beebe.

During the Territorial period several attempts were made to establish a constitution under which Kansas might be admitted to statehood. The first was as a free-state drawn up in Topeka in 1855, it failed. The second provided for a vote on admitting Kansas with slavery drawn up in Leecompton, it failed. A third constitution was drafted in Leavenworth in 1858 and adopted by the people, but it failed in Congress. The fourth and final convention was held in Wyandotte in July 1859 where a constitution was solidly controlled by the Free-State advocates. The document barred slavery and fixed the boundaries of the State. The U. S. House of Representatives voted to admit Kansas in April 1860, but the Senate, dominated by proslavery refused. It became a Republican platform issue in 1860 calling for immediate admittance. When Abraham Lincoln achieved his victory in November and followed by the secession of those states in the south, resulting in senators and representatives withdrawal gave control to Congress to the Republicans. The bill calling for the admission of Kansas as a state was brought before both houses and it passed on January 29, 1861 and thus Kansas became the 34<sup>th</sup> state. What followed is another story in history.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY KANSAS!!**



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

This is the 22<sup>nd</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 cover measures 4 1/16<sup>th</sup> inch by 3 7/8<sup>th</sup> inch (Figure 1). The cover was mailed from Augusta, Maine following a request sent to the Henrys' in Pueblo, Colorado on "Jun 8, 1953", according to the hand stamp, since there is no return address on the cover. The cover has a hand stamp "Held for Postage", which has been crossed out. The cover is franked with a 2¢ John Adams stamp (Scott #806) and a 1¢ George Washington stamp (Scott #804) from the Presidential Issue of 1938 for a total of 3¢, which was the domestic letter rate at the time (July 6, 1932 to August 1, 1958). Both stamps received a balloon killer cancel from Augusta, Maine on Jun 16 1953. Since both stamps received the cancellation, apparently the sender did not apply any stamps on the cover. Another hand stamp: "This is the mail for which you sent postage" was applied at Augusta.

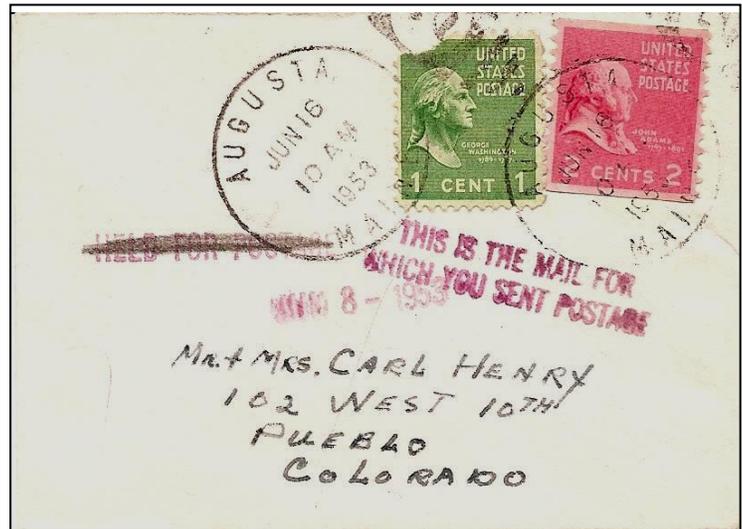


Figure 1

Small Cover Postmarked from Augusta, Maine in 1953

Augusta is in Kennebec County and is the Capital of Maine. In 1607 the ill-fated Popham Colony explored the area along the Kennebec River, but the first inhabitations were from the Plymouth Colony in 1629. The original settlement went by its Indian name—Cushnoc (or Coussinoc or Koussinoc), meaning "head of tide." As a trading post on the Kennebec River, fur trading made it very profitable. However, with the Indian uprisings and declining revenues, the colony sold out in 1861 and the post remained empty for the next 75 years. It would be 1754 before any major activity took place at Cushnoc and this resulted from the hotbed of native uprisings against British settlements. A blockhouse named Fort Western was built at Cushnoc on the eastern bank, to supply Fort Halifax upriver, as well as to protect its own region. Benedict Arnold and his troops, numbering around 1,100 used the Fort as a staging area before venturing upriver to the Battle of Quebec.

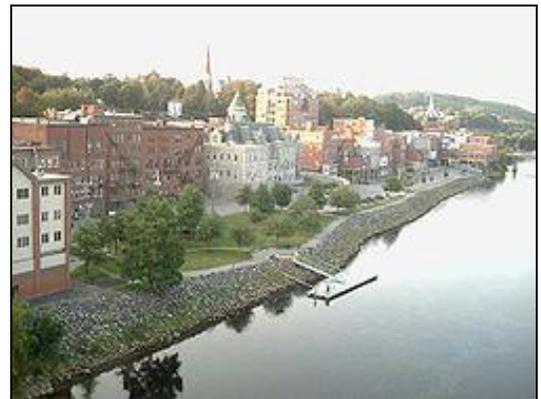


Figure 2

Augusta, Maine on the Kennebec River

Cushnoc was incorporated as part of Hallowell in 1771 and in February 1797 the Massachusetts General Court set off and incorporated "the Fort" as Harrington, but in August the name changed to Augusta after Augusta Dearborn, daughter of Henry Dearborn. Maine became a state in 1820, and Augusta was designated its capital in 1827. The city continues to remain prosperous, with its rich soil for agriculture and water

power for the industries (Figure 2). The cover in Figure 1 was sent to Mr. & Mrs. Carl Henry in Pueblo, Colorado. Pueblo (pronounced /'pweblou/) is the Pueblo County Seat. Pueblo is situated at the confluence of the Arkansas River and Fountain Creek, about 103 miles south of Colorado's capital, Denver. Traders and trappers, such as George Simpson and Mathew Kindead, helped construct the plaza that became known as El Pueblo or Fort Pueblo around 1842. Thus lays the similarity, as forts, between Augusta, Maine and Pueblo, Colorado. At the time Fort Pueblo was built along the Arkansas River, which then formed the U. S./Mexico border. Trading with the Native American tribes brought hides, skins, livestock, as well as (later) cultivated plants, and liquor. The Fort was abandoned in 1854 after a raid by the Ute Tribe and Jacarilla Apache tribes. However during the Colorado Gold Rush of 1859, the Pueblo revived itself.

The main industry in Pueblo for most of its history was the Colorado Fuel and Iron (CF&I) steel mill, located on the south side of town. The steel-market crash of 1982 led to the decline of the company (Figure 3). Following a couple of changes in ownership the steel mill, the production and fabrication that once existed on the site, only the steel production (electric furnaces, used for scrap recycling), rail, rod, bar, and seamless tube mills are still in operation. A section of the mill will soon be turned into the "Steelworks Museum of Industry and Culture."

Pueblo, incorporated 1870, represents the consolidation of four towns: Pueblo; South Pueblo (incorporated 1873; Central Pueblo (incorporated 1882); and Bessemer (incorporated 1886). They legally consolidated as the city of Pueblo in 1886 with Bessemer joining Pueblo in 1894.



**Figure 3**

Steel Mill in Pueblo, Colorado

References:

Wikipedia Free Encyclopedia website: Augusta, Maine and Pueblo, Colorado

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## WAKE ISLAND & CLIPPER MAIL by Neal E. Danielson

The United States of America annexed Wake Island or Wake Atoll in 1899 (Figure 1). The Island is located in the North Pacific Ocean about 2,300 miles west of Hawaii and about 1,510 miles east of Guam. The coral atoll has about 12 miles of coastline and considered an unorganized, unincorporated territory under the jurisdiction of the U. S. Department of Interior's Office of Insular Affairs. Following World War I the United States determined that the Island was strategically located and could serve as an important air and naval base for the military as well as an emergency landing strip. The U. S. Navy along with a number of civilians began construction work in 1940 and into 1941.



Figure 1

Aerial View of Wake Island



Figure 2

Boeing 314 Clipper

The Boeing Airplane Company produced a long range 'flying boat' between 1938 and 1941 designated the "Boeing 314 Clipper" one of the largest aircraft of the time. The 314 Clipper used the massive wing of the earlier Boeing XB-15 bomber prototype in order to achieve the range necessary for flights across the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans. Pan Am Airlines would receive nine out of the 12 Clippers built. The first 314, Honolulu Clipper, began service in January 1939 between San Francisco and Hong Kong, taking about six days to complete a one way trip (Figure 2).

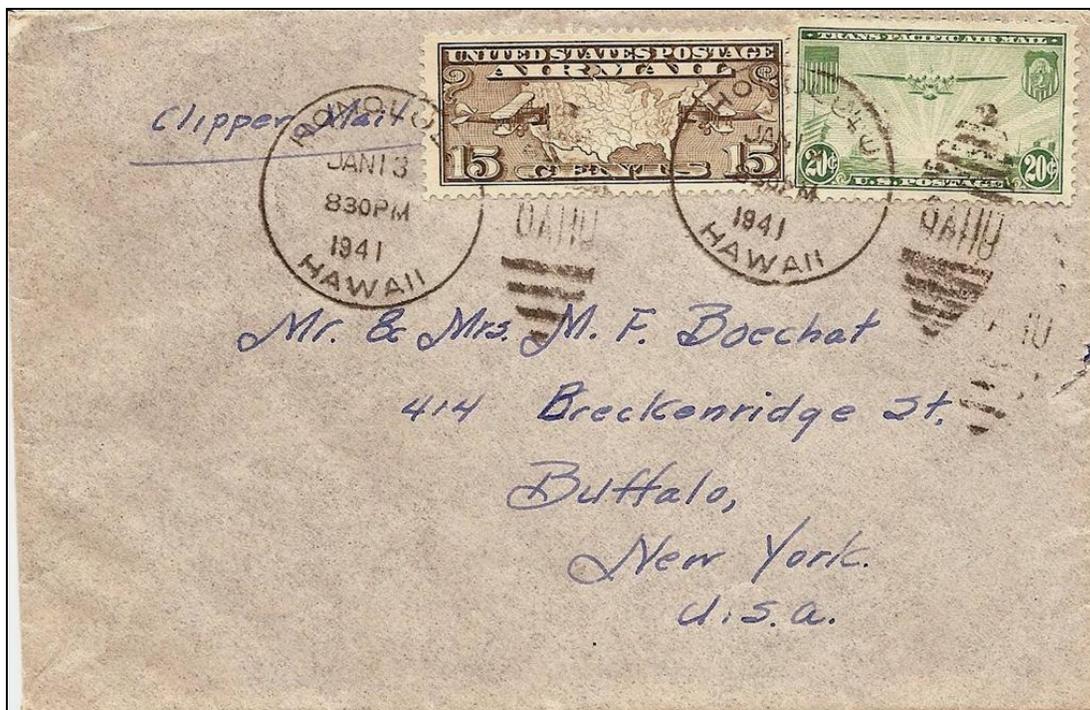
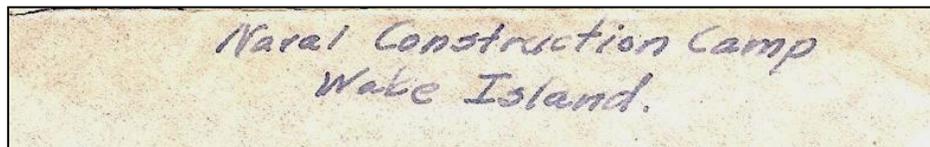


Figure 3

Clipper Mail Cover Postmarked from Honolulu, Hawaii

The Clipper provided commercial passenger service that lasted close to three years from 1939 to the outbreak of WWII in 1941. The construction crew on Wake Island had limited access to the outside world as well as a lot of amenities. Figure 3 is a Clipper Mail from one of the Naval Construction Camp personnel on Wake Island as noted on the back of the cover (Figure 4)



**Figure 4**

Back of cover Cropped

The Clipper Mail cover is franked with a 15¢ Air Mail stamp issued in 1928 (Scott #C8) depicting a map of the United States and Two Mail Planes and a 20¢ Air Mail stamp issued in 1937 (Scott #C21) depicting the “China Clipper” over the Pacific, and tied to the cover with a killer cancel and circular date stamp postmarked from Honolulu, Hawaii on Jan 13 1941. The cover was sent to a family in Buffalo, New York. How the cover was transported from Wake Island to Hawaii is not known, either via naval transport or by the individual.

The Construction Camp was still on Wake Island December 8, 1941 when the island was simultaneously attacked when Pearl Harbor was attacked on December 7, 1941 (Wake Island was on the other side of the International date line, thus one day later by the calendar). The Island was defended by the Naval Forces and Marines stationed on and around the Island. The Battle was fought on and around the atoll formed by Wake Island and its islets of Peale and Wilkes Islands by the air and land. The battle ended on December 23, 1941, with the surrender of the American forces to the Empire of Japan. It would remain held by Japan until September 4, 1945. The U. S. would return to the island and construct a military base on the atoll resulting in about 450 officers and men from the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Defense Battalion; 68 U. S. Navy personnel and about 1,221 civilian workers for the Morrison-Knudsen Company.

The Boeing 314 Clipper fleet was pressed into military service during WWII, and used to transport personnel and equipment to the Pacific and European fronts. Only the markings on the aircraft were changed, as the Pan Am civilian pilots and crew members remained with the Clipper as they had extensive expertise in using flying boats for extreme long-distance, over-water flights. President Franklin D. Roosevelt flew on one of the Clippers in 1943 to a Casablanca Conference and Winston Churchill used the Clipper on several occasions during the war. Following the war the Clippers became obsolete as other long-range airliners were introduced that were landplanes and easier to fly, such as the Lockheed Constellation and Douglas DC-4.

References:

Wikipedia Free Encyclopedia website: Wake Island; Clipper Mail; Boeing 314.

CIA website: <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook> Wake Island

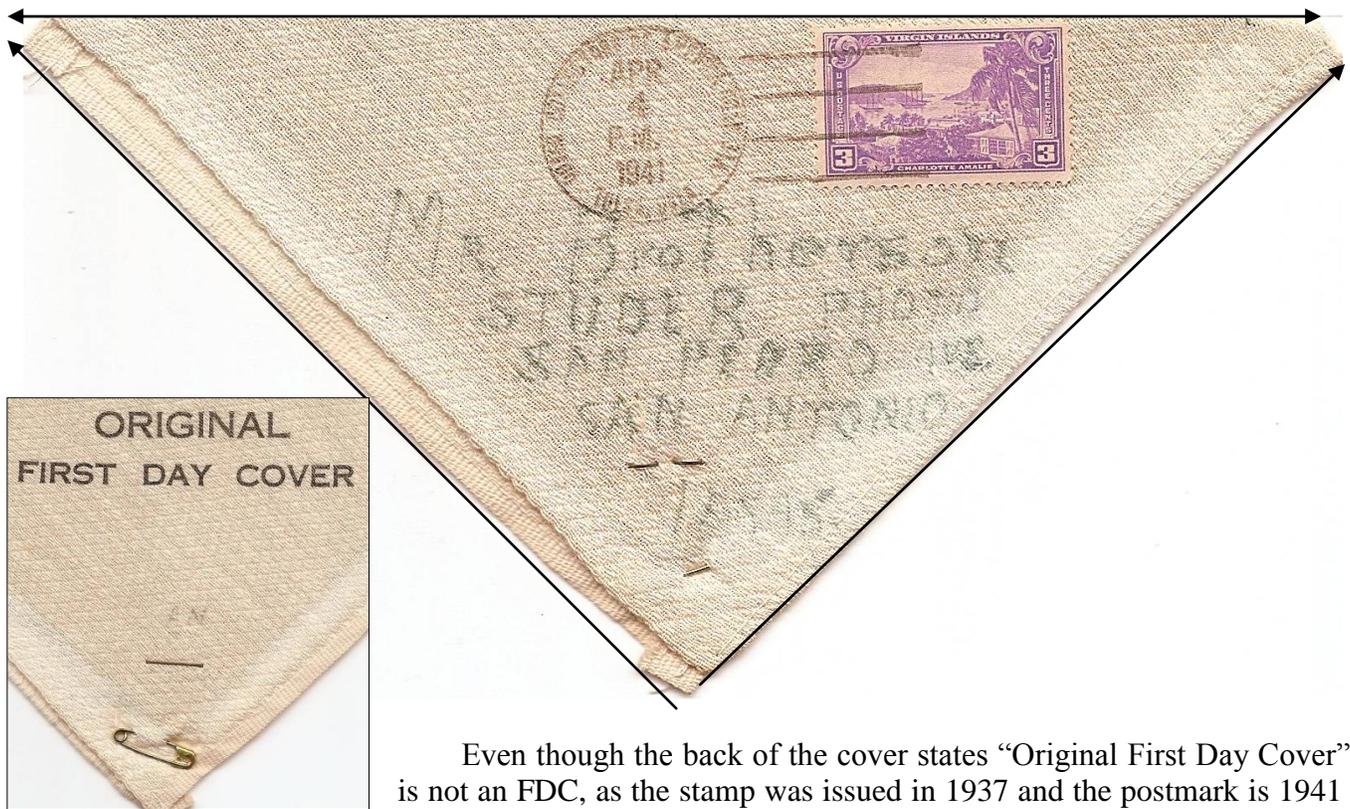
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## NOW THAT'S INTERESTING!! by ❄️📧❄️

Now for a bit of the very unusual, this cover produced by the “Cover Collectors of America” is an example of triangular cloth napkin used to produce a unique cover. It is franked with a 3¢ Virgin Island stamp (Scott #802) issued December 15, 1937. The stamp is tied to the cover with a four-bar circular date stamp postmarked Apr. 4, 1941 out of Tulsa, Okla. and sent to an individual in San Antonio, Texas. In order to keep the cloth cover rigid a triangular piece of cardboard was stapled in between the folded square to form the triangle and a small safety pin was inserted at the triangle point at the bottom.

### Now That's an Interesting Cover!!



Even though the back of the cover states “Original First Day Cover” it is not an FDC, as the stamp was issued in 1937 and the postmark is 1941 or maybe they meant First Triangle Cloth Cover?

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

**Cherryvale, Montgomery County, Kansas** a city located in southeastern part of the state (Figures 1 & 2). Montgomery County was created by the Kansas Legislature in 1867 when they divided Wilson County in half and then was organized in 1869 by proclamation. The county lies along the border north of the Oklahoma Indian Territory. In fact the land that makes up the county belonged to the Osage Indians; however, following the Civil War land was readily available for purchase by the white man and they pushed the Indians off their land.

Independence is the County Seat and in 1870 the settlement of Cherryvale was homesteaded. The settlement received its name from all the cherry blossoms that dotted the landscape. The first Post Office was established May 19, 1870 and William J. Brewer was appointed Postmaster. The name changed to Cherry Vale on July 17, 1871, with Mr. Brewer remaining as Postmaster until Jan. 29, 1872. The Post Office would remain as Cherry Vale until August 24, 1894 when the name changed back to Cherryvale and Thomas W. Anderson was appointed Postmaster.

It didn't take long for the area to get a name for itself when the Benders built an Inn on the outskirts of the town. From 1871 to 1873 the Benders, later called the Bloody Benders killed at least 12 travelers including one child. Figure 3 is a Cinderella stamp produced in 1961 during the Kansas Statehood Centennial advertising a replica of the "Bloody Bender's Home". The Wayside Inn was located along the Osage Trail one of the main roads. John Bender, Sr.'s family consisted of his wife Marli, their son John Jr., and daughter Kate. Their demise came following the murder of Dr. William York when he rested at the Inn on a return trip from Fort Scott to his home in Independence. He had let his brother Colonel Ed York know that he had stopped at the Inn and when he did not return home Colonel York went to the Inn and found a locket that belonged to his brother, but when the returned with authorities the Benders had skipped the country. Several stories were generated about the capture and death of the Bender family, but none were ever proven to be true. Cherryvale did not like the publicity and did not want to have the community known as the place of such tragic happenings.

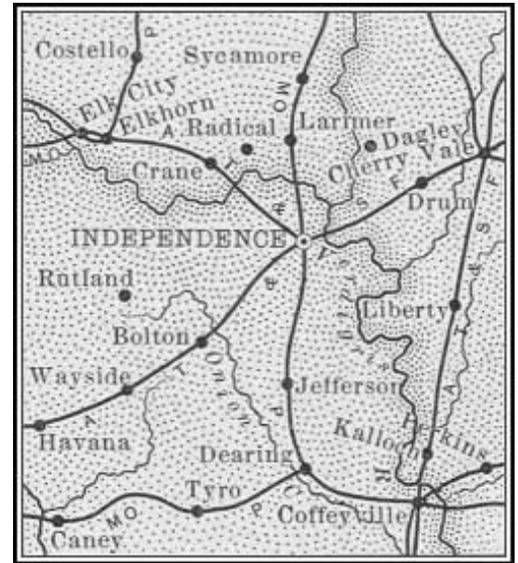


Figure 1

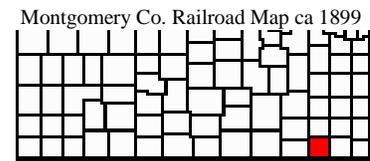


Figure 2

Montgomery Co.

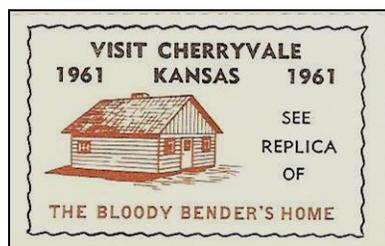


Figure 3

A Cinderella stamp depicting the Bender Home

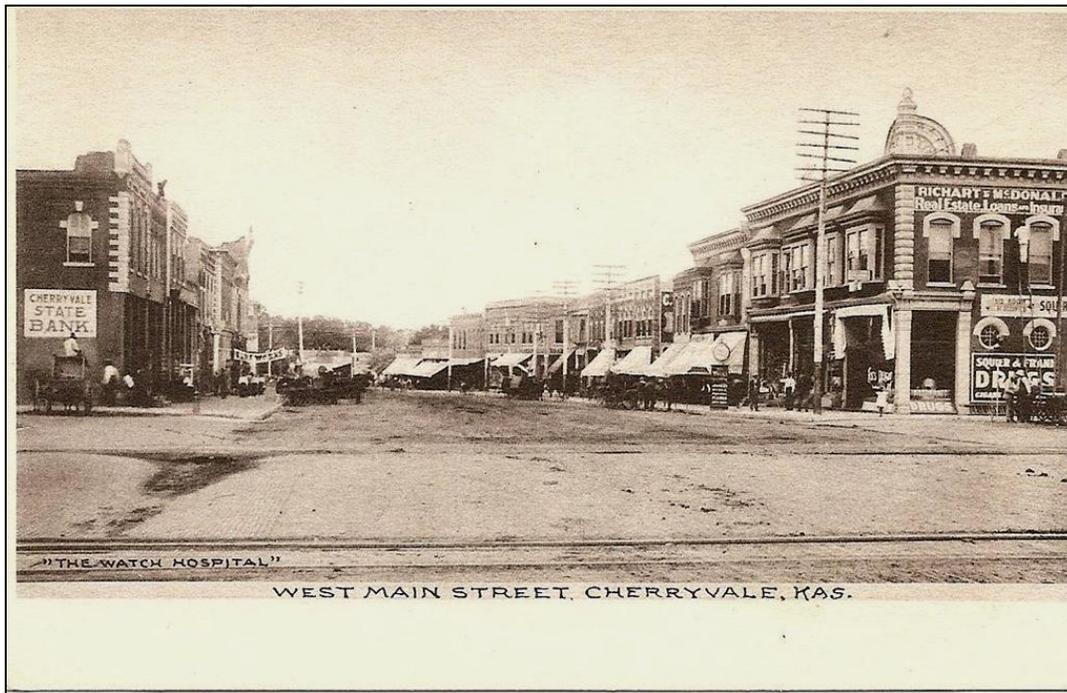


Figure 4

Post Card of West Main Street in Cherryvale, ca 1900

In May 1871 the Kansas City, Lawrence & Southern Railroad acquired land and platted the town of Cherryvale, but it would take several years for the town to see major progress. By 1882 Cherryvale had 6-brick factories, thus most of the streets, sidewalks and downtown buildings were paved with bricks (Figure 4). Zinc mining, glass and the brick production brought about an increase in population and a boon to the railroad. The Edgar Zinc Company became the world's largest zinc smelting facility. The first natural gas well was drilled within the city in 1887 and by the turn of the century approximately 30 gas wells were producing in the city.

Cherryvale was home to Frank Bellamy who wrote the "Pledge of Allegiance" in a contest to express allegiance to the U. S. Flag, at the age of 16 and was published Sept. 8, 1892 in "The Youth Companion". The pledge was first used officially at a national celebration with the opening of the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1898.

The population of Cherryvale reached around 7,000 by 1906 but dropped to 6,018 in 1907. Figure 5 is a Post Card franked with a 1¢ Benjamin Franklin stamp (Scott #300) and tied to the cover with a 13 star flag cancel postmarked from Cherryvale, Kans on Dec. 31, 1906 and mailed to a Mr. Guy G. Baker in Jefferson, Kansas Rural Route 1. The Post Card received a receipt cancellation from Jefferson, Kans. Jan. 1, 1907, New Year's Day. Thomas H. Earnest was the Cherryvale Postmaster being appointed to the position Dec. 19, 1902 and he would remain Postmaster until Feb. 15, 1911.



Figure 5—Post Card postmarked from Cherryvale, Kans. Dec. 31, 1906



Figure 6—Post Card depicting Cherry Blossoms.

The reverse side of the Post Card (Figure 6) depicts Cherry Blossoms and wished Mr. Baker a “Happy New Year”. A P. K. Baker is hand written at the lower right of the Post Card.

Another familiar name 'Vivian Vance' is born in Cherryvale in 1909. As with many small communities in Kansas time has not been nice to them as they have dwindled in manufacturing facilities, mining and railroad traffic. Even the Cherry Blossoms have gone by the way-side in Cherryvale.

References:

Blue Skyways website: <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/>

Wikipedia Free Encyclopedia website: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cherryvale%2C\\_Kansas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cherryvale%2C_Kansas)

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