

Wichita Stamp Club Newsletter



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Editor



“Go Fly A Stamp”



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LORNA DOONE - A LOVE STORY by Neal E. Danielson

This story is based on a novel by Richard Doddridge Blackmore that takes place during the 17th Century in the Badgworthy Water region of Exmoor in Devon and Somerset, Scotland. The story follows two families, somewhat like the Hatfields and McCoys here in the States. John Ridd (Figure 1) comes from a respectable farm family. His father was supposedly murdered in cold blood by someone from the notorious Doone clan, which was once considered a very noble family, but now considered outlaws in Doone Valley. John grows into a very respectable farmer and takes care of his two sibling's sisters and his mother.

Sir Ensor Doone (lord of the Doones) has a granddaughter by the name of Lorna Doone that he has arranged to marry the impetuous, menacing, and now jealous heir of the Doone Valley, Carver Doone. Carver has set his mind on the fact that he plans to marry Lorna, despite the fact that she is not in love with him. Lorna is in love with John Ridd whom she met quite by accident. Carver plans to force Lorna to marry him once Sir Ensor passes on and he comes into his inheritance.



Figure 1
John Ridd practicing with his father's gun

When Sir Ensor dies, John Ridd manages to assist Lorna in escaping to his family's farm, Plover's Barrows. Feelings for Lorna in the Ridd family are mixed. Carver becomes lord of the Doones and retaliates towards the Ridd farm, but the Ridd's defended her. It was during one of these occasions that a member of the Ridd family noticed a necklace that Lorna had in her possession, which she understood from Sir Ensor that it belonged to her mother.

When the Counsellor, Carver's father who was considered the wisest of the Doone family visited the Ridd's family farm the necklace was stolen. Shortly thereafter a family friend discovered that Lorna's necklace belonged to a Lady Dugal, who was robbed and killed by a band of outlaws. Since her daughter survived the attack, Lorna must be the long lost girl in question and that she was in fact the heiress of a very large fortune, and not a Doone after all. However, the Doones were remotely related via a collateral branch of the Dugal family. Once the facts are know about Lorna she was required by law to return to London to become a ward in Chancery, thus John and Lorna's marriage was out of the question.

A revolution ensues when King Charles II dies, and the Duke of Monmouth, the king's illegitimate son, challenges Charles's brother James for the throne. The Doones abandoned their plan to force Lorna to marry Carver in order to claim her wealth and side with the Duke of Monmouth in an effort to reclaim their ancestral lands. Unfortunately, Monmouth is defeated at the Battle of Sedgemoor, and his associates are sought for treason. John Ridd is captured during the revolution. He is innocent of all charges and taken to London by an old friend to clear his name. When he arrives in London he is reunited with Lorna, now Lorna Dugal, whose love for him has not diminished. When John prevents an attack on Lorna's great-uncle Earl Brandir and legal guardian, John is granted a pardon, and given a title and a coat of arms by the king and was free to return to Exmoor.



Figure 2—Oare Church in Somerset, England

Upon returning to Oare in Exmoor he finds the community has grown impatient with the Doones and their depredations. John, the most knowledgeable citizen of the Doones leads an attack on their land. All the Doone men are killed, except the Counsellor, from whom John retrieves the stolen necklace. His son Carver, who escapes, vows revenge.

When Earl Brandir dies and the Judge Jeffreys is granted guardianship over Lorna, she is given her freedom to return to Exmoor and marry John. During the wedding ceremony at the Oare Church (Figure 2) Carver bursts into the Church and shoots Lorna and flees. John is distraught and filled with blinding rage and pursues Carver and confronts him. The two of them struggle and end up in sinking mire. Exhausted and bloodied from the fight, John can only pant and watches Carver slip away in the mire. John returns to the Church to discover that Lorna is not dead, and after a period of anxious uncertainty, she survives to live happily ever after.

This story did not have a postally used cover, stamp or postcard, but it did have an interesting product named after the story character ‘Lorna Doone’. The Nabisco Company makes a Lorna Doone Shortbread Cookies (Figure 3). The internet provided the answer to my question as to Nabisco giving the product the Lorna Doone name.



Figure 3—Lorna Doone Shortbread Cookies Wrapper

The answer came from a Nabisco executive: “No record exists as to the exact motivation behind the selection of that name, but in those days (1912) shortbread biscuits were considered a product of Scottish heritage, and the Lorna Doone character was symbolic of Scotland.”

References:

Wikipedia Free Encyclopedia: Lorna Doone and Oare Church
The Straight Scoop from Nabisco.

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

Travel Kansas—St. George



Figure 2
Pottawatomie Co. Railroad Map ca 1899

located in Pottawatomie County (Figures 1 & 2) not far from the confluence of the Kansas and Blue Rivers. The townsite for St. George was plotted in 1857 and St. George became the County Seat until 1861 when the town of Louisville was selected for a short period of time before Westmoreland finally achieved the honor of being the County Seat.

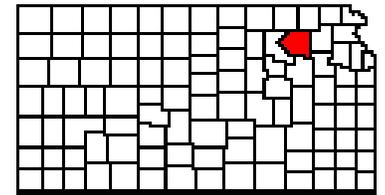


Figure 2
Pottawatomie County

In earlier stories about traveling Kansas we find that a large number of the counties and towns were named in honor of Civil War events or soldiers killed in action. This was not the case for St. George. When Kansas Territory was opened for settlement three families headed west out of St. Joseph, Missouri for California in hopes of finding gold. These were the families of George W. Gillespie, J. George Gillespie, and George Chapman; but, after several days of hard travel they camped along the banks of the Kansas River. When it was time to pick up stakes and travel westward, Mrs. George W. Gillespie refused to go and said she had traveled far enough. They all decided the next day to stake a claim in the Territory and since George was such a saint for tolerating his bossy better-half and three men by the name of George was in the party they named the settlement St. George.

The name for Pottawatomie County came about back in 1847 when the Konza Indians entered into an agreement with the U.S. government that led to their removal to an area south of Council Grove. The Pottawatomie Reserve was established not far from where St. George was located and the Tribe dominated the area for over a decade. St. George may have become a much larger town except for the fact taht the Fort Leavenworth to Fort Riley Military Road ended up being built two miles from the town and went through Louisville.

George Gillespie was appointed Postmaster at St. George and was also the town's Justice of the Peace The Post Office was originally established in a town by the name of Eldon on April 15, 1858 but moved to St. George on September 18, 1860, so Mr. Gillespie was in Eldon before it was moved to St. George.

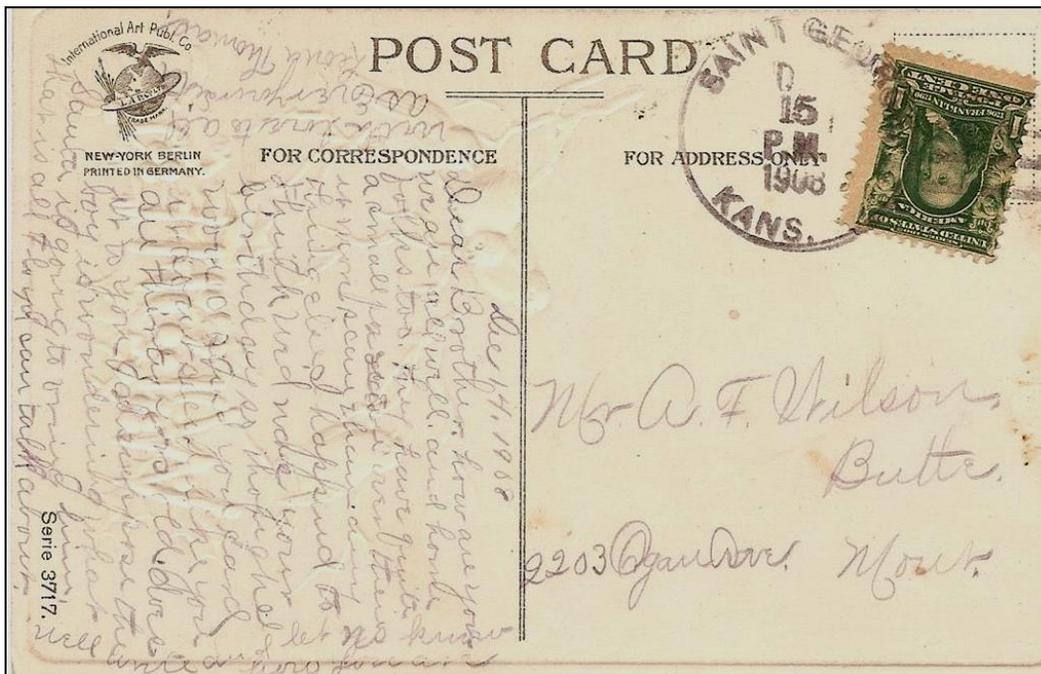


Figure 3 - Post Card postmarked from St. George, Kans. Dec. 15, 1908

There was not a lot of economic growth during the next 50 years as the only viable business was the Kansas Pacific Railroad that carried passengers and was a distribution point for the territory to the north and east. By 1879 most of the old townsite was vacant and a new district opened up in and around the Railroad making St. George a prosperous grain shipping point. The community placed a lot of faith in the “Iron Horse”. In Figure 3 a Post Card is franked with a 1¢ Benjamin Franklin stamp (Scott #300) and tied to the cover with a four-bar circular date stamp from Saint George Kans. and postmarked Dec 15 1908. The Post Card was sent to an individual in Butte, Montana from his sister who lived in St. George. She notes that the family had earlier had a smallpox scare but everyone in the family was not affected.

The small towns in Kansas had a very difficult time economically and in most case became ‘Ghost Towns’. The same thing happened to the wild life in Kansas. The buffalo were killed off by 1855 in Pottawatomie County. The antelope became a thing of the past by 1869 and the wild turkey went bye-bye in 1875. Thus enters the Kansas Fish & Game; Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission; and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Park who implemented rehabilitation programs though the cooperation of farmers and ranchers in the State. We now have an abundant deer population and the wild turkey population is ‘booming’ in and around St. George and throughout Kansas. Buffalo are maintained in small herds within the State and antelope are progressing in various segments of Kansas to the point a ‘special permit’ can be issued to hunt antelope as well as elk.

References:

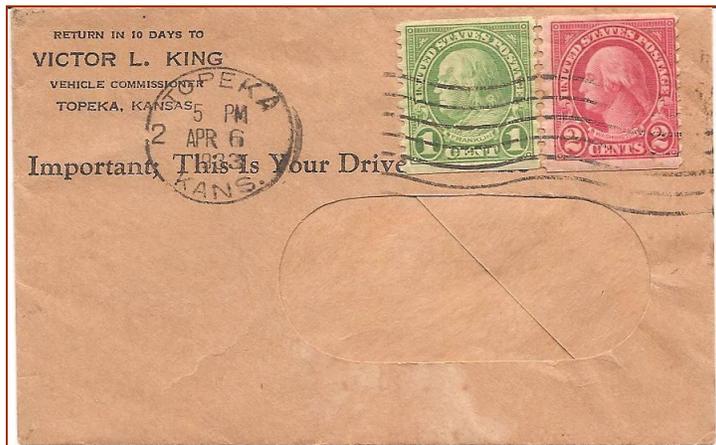
History of the City of St. George

Cutler, William G. History of Kansas website: <http://www.kancoll.org/books/cutler/html>

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

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

Did you miss me this past month (October issue), as space did not permit this article to appear. This is the 30th 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 3/8" X 2 3/4" and is a 'window' type envelope. The cover is franked with a 2¢ George Washington stamp (Scott #599) and a 1¢ Benjamin Franklin stamp (Scott #597). The stamps are tied to the cover with a 7-wavy line circular-date-stamp postmarked from Topeka, Kans. on Apr 6 1933. The corner card cover is from a Victor L. King, Vehicle Commissioner, Topeka, Kansas. The envelope has a printed statement "Important; This is Your Drivers License." The cover contained a small form measuring 4" X 1 3/4", that informed the recipient Delbert Barker that he had made application to Victor L. King, State Vehicle Commissioner, for driver's license. A hand written date is 3-29-33 and a hand written note "Operators License #469". The noted form was sent by the County Treasurer in El Dorado, Kansas for Mr. Barker to have while waiting for his actual license to arrive.

At the time this Small Stuff was mailed the Governor of Kansas was Alfred Mossman Landon who served in this capacity from January 9, 1933 through January 11, 1937, better known as Alf Landon and the father of Nancy Landon Kassebaum the U. S. Senator from Kansas. Governor Landon was the Republican Party's candidate for President in 1936 to run against Franklin D. Roosevelt—he lost by a wide margin. Tom B. Boyd was State Treasurer at the time this Small Stuff was mailed, serving from January 1929 through October 1, 1933.

Contacts with the El Dorado Library for information on Victor L. King and Bruce Amer or Auer, County Treasurer drew a blank response. No attempt was made to find out anything on Delbert Barker.

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NOW THAT'S INTERESTING! by *J&M*

The following corner cover came to me by way of the Wichita Coin & Stamp Show held August 20-21, 2011 at the Cessna Activity Center in Wichita, Kansas. The corner card cover is one of several that I acquired that previously belonged in the collection of one Joseph A. Stepanek in Denver, Colorado. The covers reverse has a 1946 Christmas Seal affixed to the envelope flap.

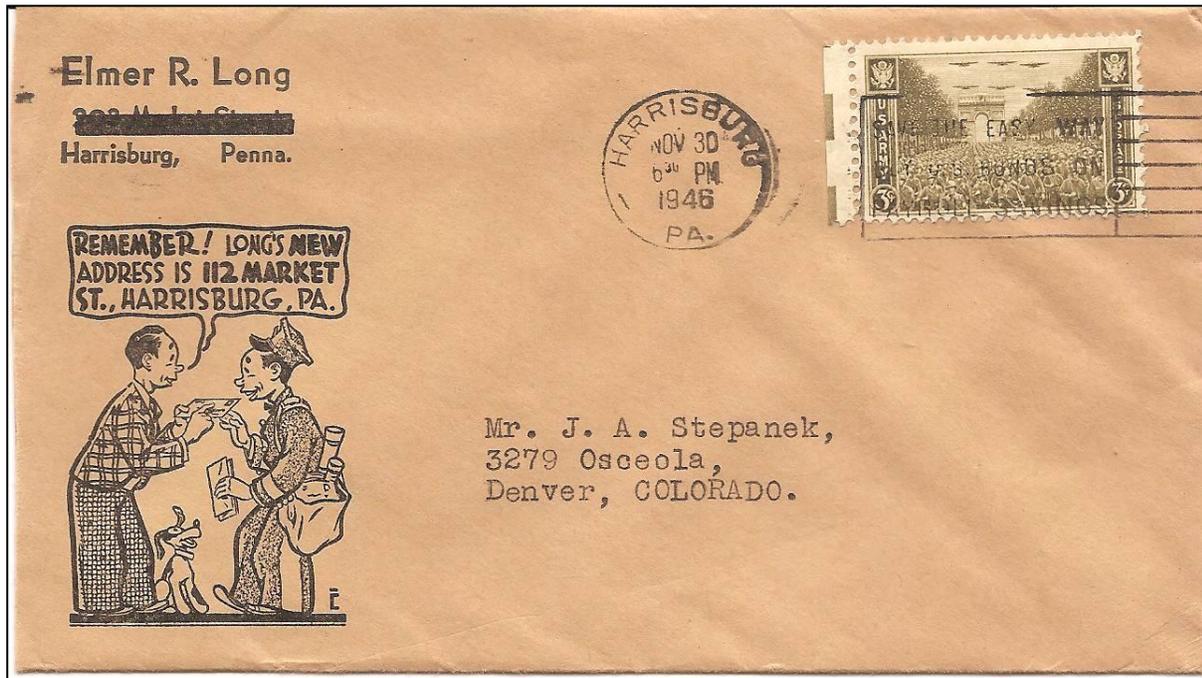


Figure 3 - Corner Card Cover from Elmer R. Long Postmarked Nov. 30, 1948

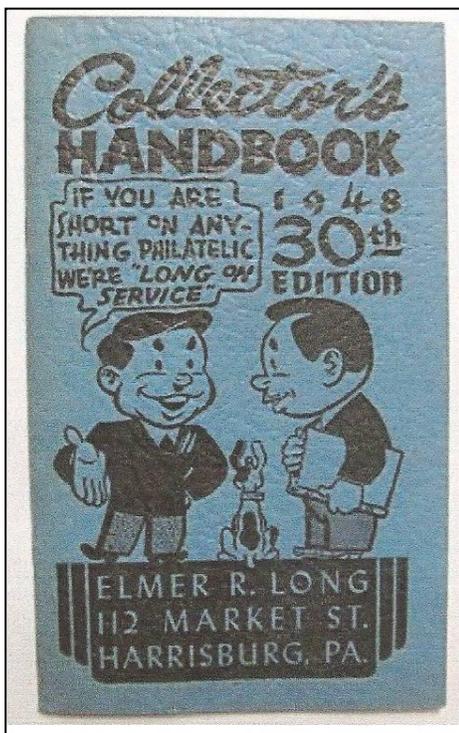


Figure 2 -Collector's Handbook 1948

The cover is franked with a 3¢ U. S. Army issue, Scott #934 on Sept. 28, 1945 and tied to the cover with a slogan cancellation “Save the easy way buy U. S. Bonds on payroll savings” with a circular-date-stamp postmarked from Harrisburg, PA. on Nov 30 1946. The corner card cover has a very interesting and unique way to let someone know their address has changed. Mr. Elmer R. Long, a Stamp Dealer in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania provided a cartoon cachet of two individuals and a dog where one of the men says “Remember! Long’s New Address is 112 Market St. Harrisburg, PA.” and mailed to a Mr. J. A. Stepank,

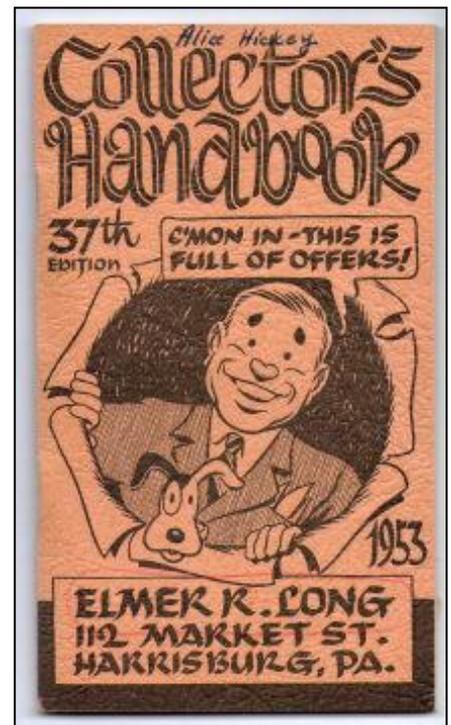


Figure 3 -Collector's Handbook 1953

in Denver, Colorado, apparently one of his customers.

Elmer R. Long not only sold stamps but produced booklets called *Collector's Handbook*. Figure 2 is a reduced copy of his 1948 30th Edition of the Handbook and Figure 3 is a reduced copy of his 1953 37th Edition. Please note that his Handbook covers were designed using a facsimile of what might be himself and his dog. His address is shown at the bottom of the Handbook.

Copies of the Handbooks obtained from websites advertising them for sale.

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