

Wichita Stamp Club Newsletter

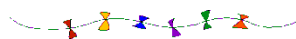


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Editor



“Go Fly A Stamp”



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[Lost Territories and Lost Colonies](#)

Places that are long gone yet have a rich philatelic history

[Travel Kansas](#)

Take a trip to Denmark right here on the prairie!

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LOST TERRITORIES AND LOST COLONIES by Jeff Lough

PART I: LOST TERRITORIES

The process of settling scores with the former German Second Reich included the transfer of various German colonies to England, France, and Japan; the transfer of significant European territory to other nations, the creation of the Free State of Danzig, and the development of plebiscites in several German language dominated areas in Europe.

After the Treaty of Versailles Germans held great resentment towards these developments and several individuals and companies issued “mourning” labels with the appearances of postage stamps for the lost colonies and territories. Those that are most commonly seen these days were issued by two entities around 1920. The second set of commonly available labels dealing with German Imperial overseas colonies will be discussed in a future article (Part II). One source refers to these as labels to be used to seal envelopes to be mailed. Another source lists several other Cinderella issues of the same theme and era.

The nine “lost territory” labels had varying colored vignettes of landmarks of each territory. The Eupen/Malmedy label shows a church that may be the same landmark as that shown on each of a Third Reich and a Belgian commemorative. The Schleswig label shows what appears to be a light house that was probably prominent on either the Baltic Sea or the North Sea. Each of the nine entities has an interesting story. Some have a rich and varied and continuing philatelic presence and a couple have only vague but interesting postal or commemorative remnants.

Alsace and Lorraine

Alsace (Elsas) and Lorraine (Lothringen) were two of the iron and coal rich areas in continuing dispute between the German governments and the French governments (Figure 1-a and Figure 1-b). Other areas in this same general region included the Ruhr Valley and the Saar. Post World War II France has issued a couple commemoratives celebrating Lorraine (Figure 1-c and Figure 1-d) and at least one honoring Alsace. The Third Reich overprinted the work horse von Hindenburg definitive’s as initial occupation postage during World War II (Figure 1-e and Figure 1-f).



Figure 1-a



Figure 1-b



Figure 1-c



Figure 1-d



Figure 1-e



Figure 1-f

Eupen and Malmedy

Eupen and Malmedy are two areas in present day Belgium that had been passed back and forth (with the very small area of Moresnet) between German governments and the Netherlands/Belgium governments (Figure 2-a). During World War I the German Empire overprinted two nice lengthy sets of Belgium definitives while they held the two separated territories (Figure 2-b; Figure 2-c and Figure 2-d). During World War II the Third Reich issued a couple commemoratives celebrating their re-conquest (Figure 2-e). Finally post-World War II Belgium has issued three related commemoratives (Figure 2-f and Figure 2-g). It is interesting to note that two of these stamps and the mourning label itself may all show the same church in the Eupen areas. Flemish is spoken in the city of Malmedy and German is spoken in the Eupen areas.



Figure 2-a



Figure 2-b



Figure 2-c



Figure 2-d



Figure 2-e



Figure 2-f



Figure 2-g

Silesia

Silesia was another area rich in coal and iron as well as other mineral resources (Figure 3-a). A couple 19th century Silesian Wars resulted in Prussia and the Austro-Hungarian Empire splitting this area that is now in southeastern Poland. After World War I Upper Silesia (for which the label was printed) became a territory "lost" to Poland while Eastern Silesia ("S.O." indicating Eastern Silesia/*Silesie Orientale*) was disputed by Czechoslovakia and Poland. Both countries and governments had strong allied support and this created a dilemma that resulted in a diplomatic and proto-military struggle that Poland won (Figure 3-b and Figure 3-c).

"Oberschlesien" is "Upper Silesia." Upper Silesian postage stamps were issued following World War I while the League of Nations controlled the area. These stamps have Upper Silesia indicated in three different languages (Figure 3-d).



Figure 3-a



Figure 3-b



Figure 3-d 3-c



Memel

Memel had been part of East Prussia prior to World War I (Figure 4-a). After the war, the League of Nations tried to control this area that was between Lithuania and Poland. Both Lithuania and Poland claimed the area. French and German Imperial stamps (Figure 4-b and Figure 4-c) were used during the time it was controlled by the League of Nations. Eventually Lithuania instituted a coup d'état and an interim puppet government issued a few sets of definitives (Figure 4-d and Figure 4-e), some in German and some in Lithuanian. During World War II Memel was re-conquered by Germany and after the war the Soviet Union made the area part of Lithuania.



Figure 4-a



Figure 4-b



Figure 4-c



Figure 4-d



Figure 4-e

Danzig

Following World War I the Treaty of Versailles made Danzig/Gdansk a "Free State" to deny it to Germany and give Poland access to the Baltic Sea (Figure 5-a). An overwhelming portion of the population at this time was German speaking and apparently wanted to be part of Germany. During the transition period late German Imperial definitives were overprinted (Figure 5-b). The Free State of Danzig issued some of its own very interesting and varied stamps (Figure 5-c). At the same time Poland issued a few stamps overprinted for Polish citizens to use (Figure 5-d). The Nazi conquest of Danzig in 1939 was the beginning of continuing multi-national armed conflict in World War II. It is interesting that the Polish postal facility in Danzig was among the very first areas attacked by German forces. The fighting Polish postal workers have been honored with a Polish commemorative stamp.



Figure 5-a



Figure 5-b



Figure 5-c



Figure 5-d

Hultschiner

Hultschiner is an interesting very small area that contained what was mostly German speaking people that had been given to Czechoslovakia after World War I (Figure 6-a). No stamps or other labels are known to have emanated from the area although there is an interesting German propaganda cover pictured on a website (Figure 6-b). A translation of this cover indicates that the Czech authorities forcibly closed German language schools and were perceived as being discriminatory towards German speakers.



Figure 6-a

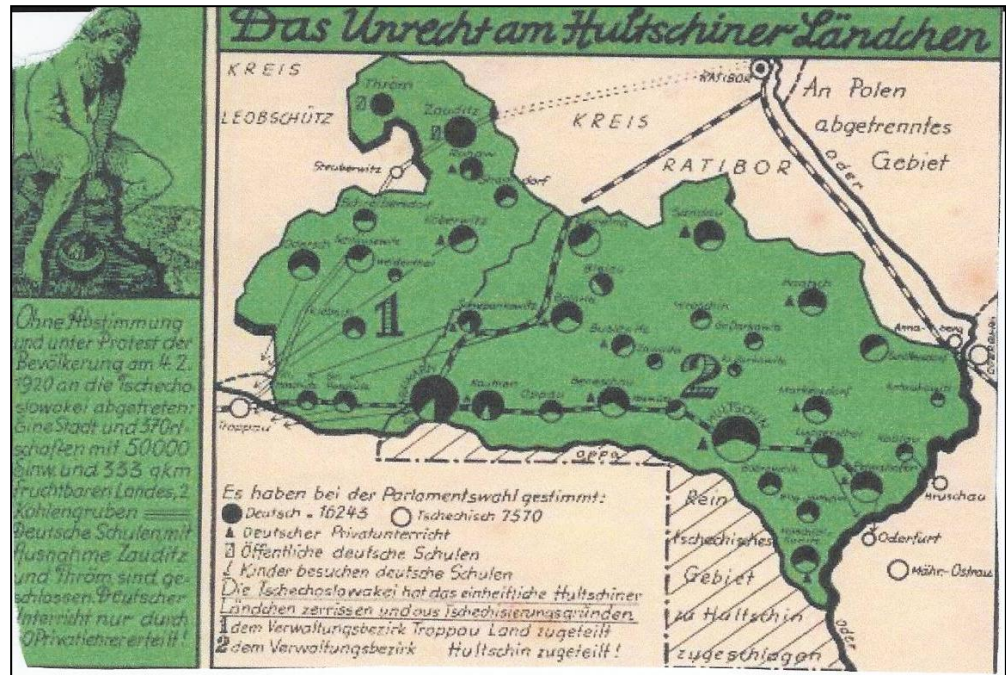


Figure 6-b

Poznan/Posen

Posen (Poznan in Polish) is a large historically and economically very significant Polish city that had been part of Prussia and subsequently the second German Empire/Reich (Figure 7-a). There are no known postage stamps used by this city or area but there are at least couple poster stamps/labels verifying Poznan's economic importance with the occurrence of trade fairs (Figure 7-b and Figure 7-c). A variety of Polish kings are buried in the main Poznan cathedral and Poznan continues today to be a major economic importance.



Figure 7-a



Figure 7-b



Figure 7-c

Schleswig

Schleswig was an important area continually contested by Sweden, Austria, Prussia/Germany, and Denmark from the middle of the 17th century through the end of World War II (Figure 8-a). The War of Schleswig was key in establishing the dominance of Prussia rather than Austria as the organizer and controller of the German nation-state as Europe re-organized after the Napoleonic destruction of the Holy Roman Empire, the First Reich. Philatelically Schleswig and its northern sister-area Holstein is regarded as one of the classical 19th century Germany states or entities along with Bremen, Lubeck, Bergedorf, Bavaria, Wurttenburg, Baden, Brunswick, Prussia, Thurn and Taxis, Mecklenbrg-Schwering, Mecklenburg-Strelitz, and Hannover. As a consequence Schleswig issued stamps during the classical era before its consolidation into the North German Confederation/Prussia (Figure 8-b). It is interesting to note that the ancestors of the settlers of Denmark, Kansas, a small community northwest of Lincoln, Kansas, left their homes in Schleswig at this time to come to Kansas to avoid forced service in the Prussian army. Denmark, Kansas has a very interesting triennial community festival, history, and church. Following World War I Schleswig also held a League of Nation mandated plebiscite to determine whether it should be part of Denmark or part of Germany. A set of stamps was issued at this time (Figure 8-c). It voted to be part of Germany and has remained so since that time.



Figure 8-a



Figure 8-b



Figure 8-c

Part II—Lost Colonies will be presented in an upcoming issue of the Newsletter.

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

Travel Kansas—Denmark located in Lincoln County, Kansas (Figure 1 & 2) is an unincorporated community settled about 1869 by Danish Lutherans. Denmark, Kansas was one of the first permanent settlements in Lincoln County. The settlement was in the area of the state where “post-rock” limestone was abundant and in 1876 the community laid the cornerstone for a stone church (Figure 3) and it was completed in 1880.

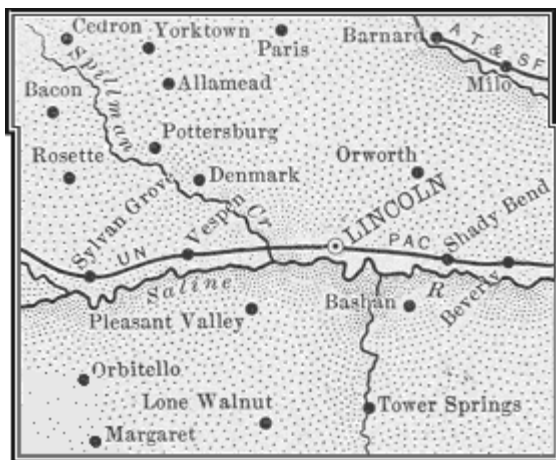


Figure 1-Lincoln County Railroad Map 1899

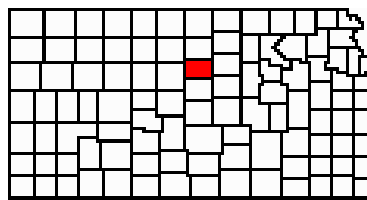


Figure 2-Lincoln County

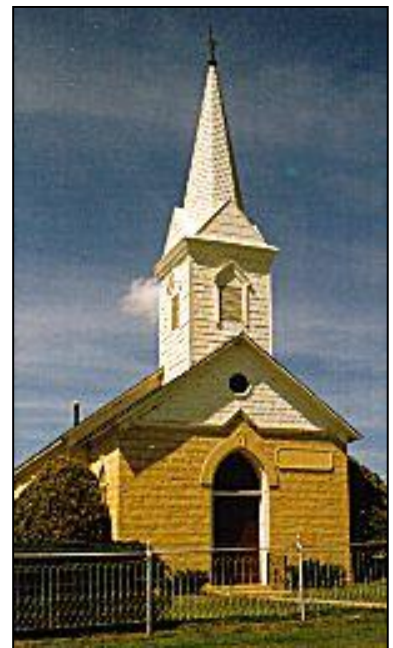


Figure 3-Lutheran Church

A bell tower and entry were added in 1901. There was a battle with some Native Americans in which several individuals were killed as the land was being settled. A terrible calamity befell the little settlement the same year that the first Danish immigrants arrived there. On Sunday afternoon, May 30, 1869, about sixty Indians attacked the settlement, killing five, three of them were Danes. The settlers took homesteads, built log cabins or dugouts, and broke the wild prairie with oxen. The fact that buggies began to be used about 1880 would indicate that the prosperity of the settlement at that time was in the ascendant. Such prosperity must have been materially advanced by the cooperative creamery, which became an important factor in the economic life of these people. Though this was a general community enterprise, the Danes looked upon it as an institution peculiarly their own since the later Danish immigrants were familiar with the cooperative creamery in Denmark. Besides the congregation the Denmark settlers organized a Danish ladies' aid society (kvindeforening) and a young people's society (ungdomsforening). The purpose of the latter was religious, recreational and cultural; and in accordance with Grundtvigian principles the two latter were emphasized fully as much as the former. In that way the Grundtvigians believed a more healthy religious life is developed among the young people than would be possible by more sensational and emotional methods. Denmark was like many other communities that appeared in Kansas by adding a couple of general stores, a blacksmith shop (eventually it became a farm implement store), a doctor's office, a laundry, a lumber yard and motor vehicle repair shop by the early 1900's. It is interesting that the first settlers dug coal from just below the surface of the ground towards the north of town.

The Post Office in Denmark, Kansas was first established on May 2, 1872 and would remain open until February 19, 1904 when it was closed. However, the Post Office re-opened on March 30, 1917 and remained open until January 31, 1954. A commercial window cover from Richardson Engine Service and Supply at 145 Lulu in Wichita, Kansas 67211 sent the return cover to a business in Denmark whereupon the business affixed a 3¢ Betsy Ross Issue of January 2, 1952 (Scott #1004) to the cover and applied a hand cancel “Denmark, Kan.” across the stamp (Figure 4).

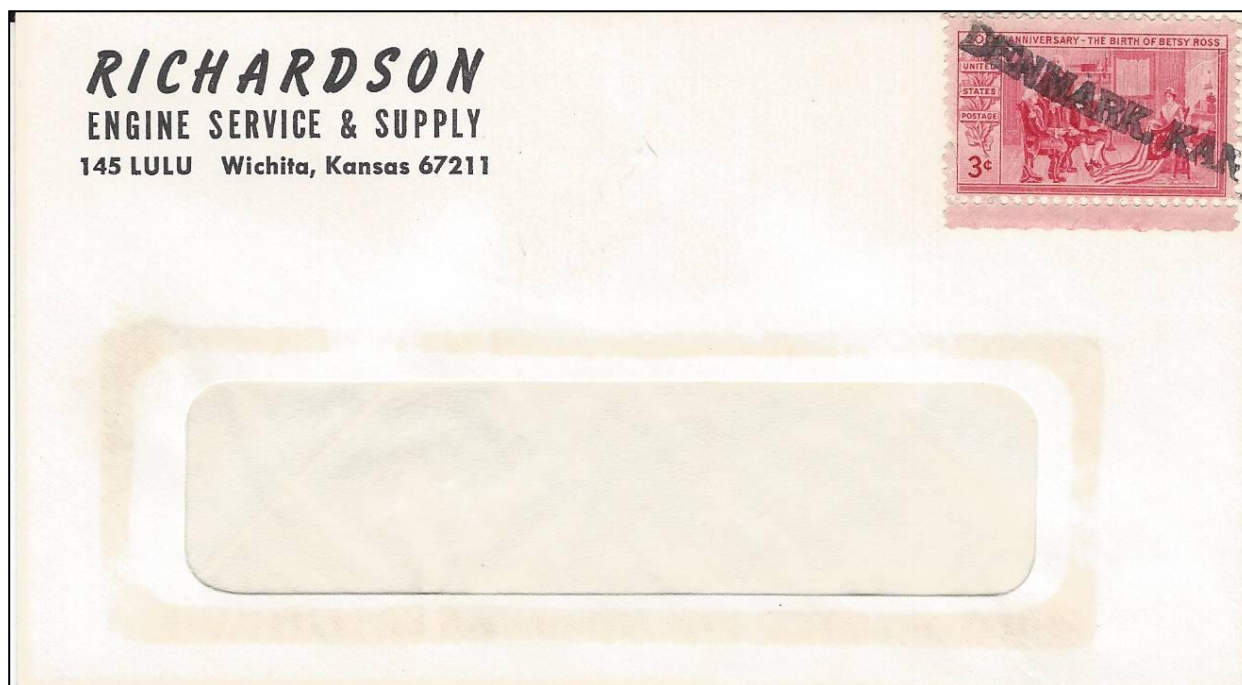


Figure 4-Commercial Cover Denmark, Kansas

The grade school was on the east side of town by the church. When kids went to high school they went southwest to the Sylvan Grove high school. The school building is used as a community center nowadays. The church is an active Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church that is on the National Register of Historical Places. The builders of the church used architectural symbolism to denote the Holy Trinity and three essential sacraments. Above the altar is a replica of a Danish guiding ship, after the Viking practice of burying a ship with Viking leaders to help them get to the after life. These people belonged to that faction of the Danish Lutheran Church called the Grundtvigian which looked upon the apostolic creed as divinely inspired rather than the Bible. A book was written about Denmark, KS; it is *Beyond the Prairie Wind* by Ruth Sorensen, published by Partnership Book Services in Hillsboro, KS in 1996.

References:

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

Wikipedia Free Encyclopedia website: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duchy-of-Schleswig>

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