



Wellington, Ohio

A brief postal history tour

1. Introduction

Wellington, Ohio, is a village in southern Lorain County and the long-time home of the popular Lorain County Fair. The town's history can be traced to early 1818, when four men from Berkshire County, Connecticut, traveled west. The foursome -- John Clifford, Charles Sweet, Ephraim Wilcox and Joseph Wilson -- were met on the way by William T.

Welling of Montgomery County, New York.

The group made it Grafton, Ohio, in February and a month later they followed an Indian trail, cutting through a heavy forest to the land that is present-day Wellington.

Ernest L. Henes, the long-time publisher of the Wellington Enterprise, writes in "Historic Wellington -- Then and Now" that the men built a simple cabin and crude beds and began the settlement.

The origins of the village's name is uncertain. Henes recalled that the "honor of naming the town was offered to the citizen who would cut the longest stretch of road through the dense wilderness." Sweet offered the highest bid: 80 rods, about a quarter of a mile. He chose the French name Charlemont, but other settlers did not approve.

Welling followed up by cutting his contracted length of road and named the tiny establish-



Myron T. Herrick
Businessman/Statesman



Archibald M. Willard
American Painter

ment Wellington. Whether the village is named for Welling or in honor of the Duke of Wellington, the victor of the 1815 Battle of Waterloo, remains unsettled two centuries later.

Despite its size, the village has two well-known sons: painter Archibald Willard and politician and diplomat Myron T. Herrick.

Willard moved to Wellington from Bedford, Ohio, with his

family in 1853 at age 17. He began developing his art skill for a local company as a young man and by 1876 became nationally known for his painting of "Spirit of '76."

Herrick, born in 1855 in nearby Huntington, Ohio, moved with his family to the town when he was 12. He would become a railroad baron and successful political official, serving as Ohio governor from 1904 to 1906. He also was United States ambassador to France from 1912 to 1914 and again from 1921 to 1929, when he died in Paris.

This exhibit offers a glimpse of the postal history of Wellington from the 19th century until the current day.

While not complete, it provides a brief review of the mail services and postmarks that were used by those who offered postal services in the village for the last 200 years.

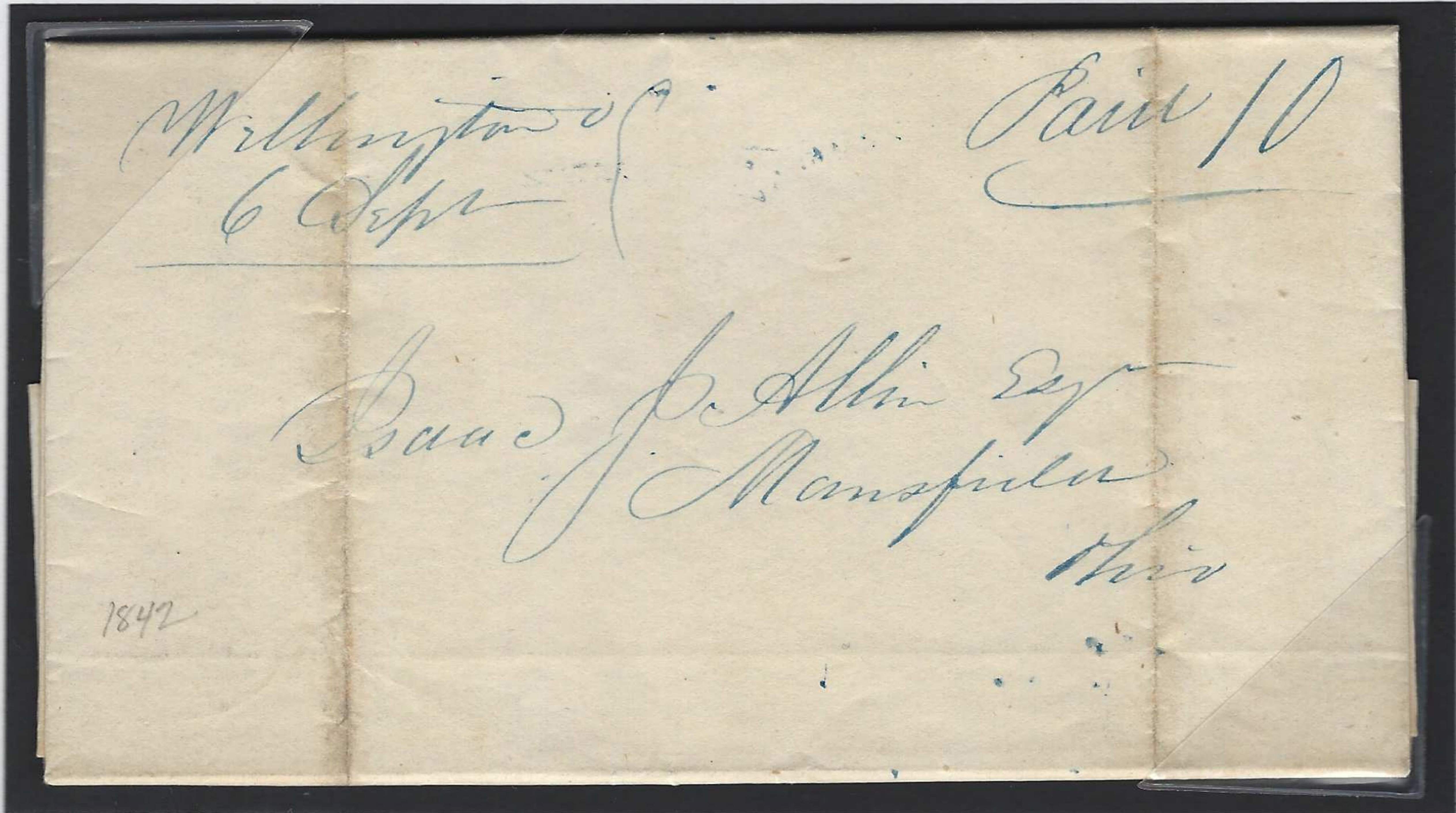
Exhibit outline

1. Introduction
2. Stampless Mail
3. 19th Century Markings
4. 20th Century Markings
5. Machine Postmarks
6. Advertising & Commercial Covers
7. Special Postal Services
8. Special Events

2. Stampless Mail

Manuscript marking

1842



Paid for tickets & meals Sept 1-42 \$55.50 - amt.
 of bal. due in Montreal 4000 - do
 amt. due April 21 '42 \$156.57
 int. 3 mo. to May 21 '42 2.35
 Paid to H. H. Hardy 158.86
 100.00 for amt.
 58.86
 1.50 extra
 60.36
 Cr. by same in a/c. then to amt. 6.00
 and unpaid 54.36
 Entry & int. on bal. 1.14
 \$55.50
 amt. paid
 Allen & Co.

Wellington 6 Sept 42
 Dear Sir
 I have issued now the invoice
 which are contained in the Bill of Goods
 purchased of McCarroll & Page Oct 1842
 1 P^o English Morocco 25 3/4" x 65" which angle to be brass 250
 1/2" twist 65" for 1/8" - 1200 ft. 600 4.50
 & also on P^o ticking 29 Yds 18" - 16 7.40
 .58
 7.98
 These are the mistakes which I found
 on P^o Bill & marked at the time of receiving the
 goods which can be seen on said bill
 I called at your office on my return
 but found it locked was in a hurry to
 get through to Appleton, consequently did
 not call at the house
 in haste Yours with respect
 J. P. Stoddard

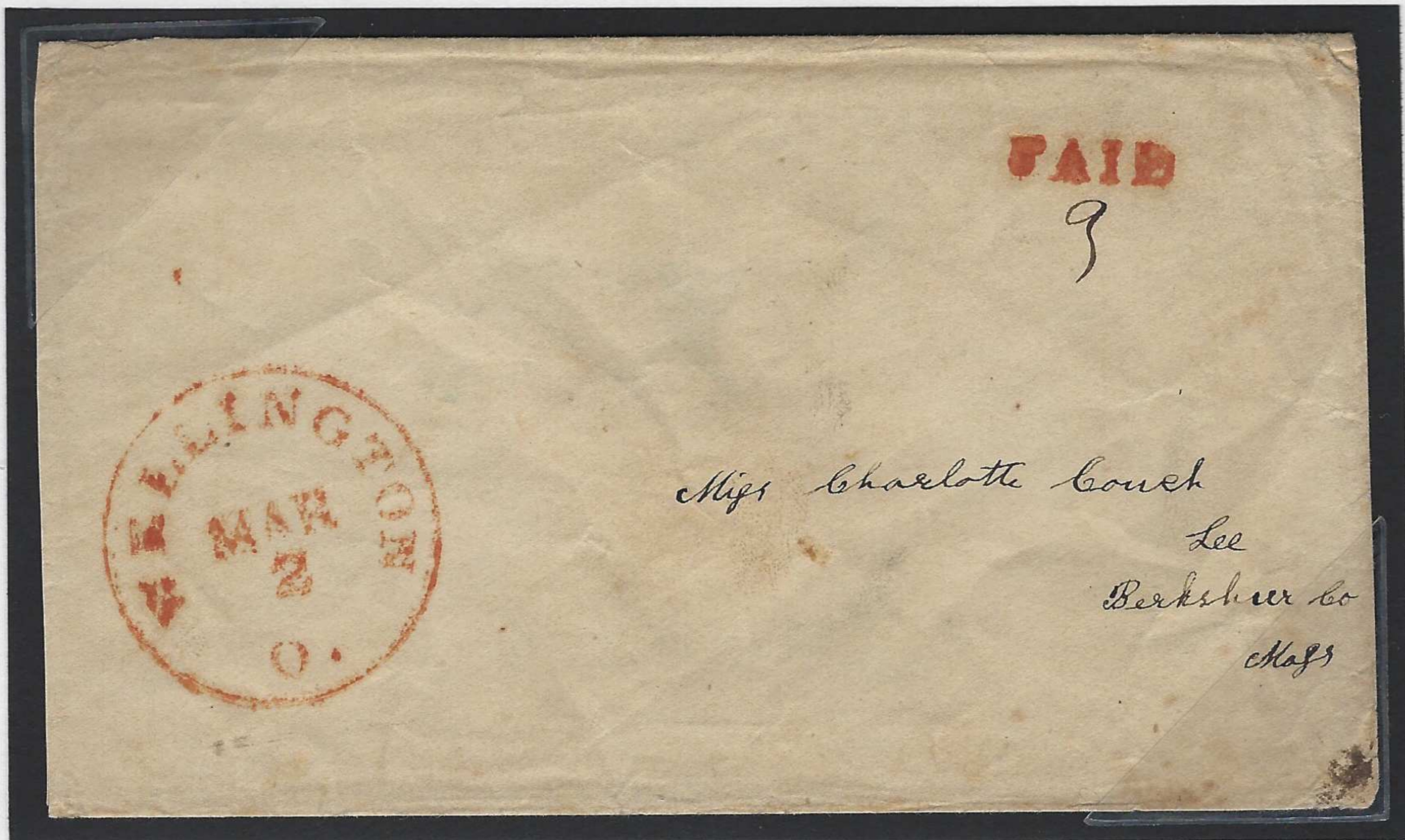
Manuscript markings were used prior to the acquisition of a postmarking device. The postage paid was usually indicated in the upper right corner. The 10-cent rate of this cover paid double the 5-cent rate for mail traveling up to 300 miles because there was an enclosure inside. The correspondence indicates the letter was written September 6, 1842. It describes a business transaction and includes a detailed financial accounting.

34 millimeter circular date stamp

In use 1840s and 1850s



Postmark in red on lady's cover dated June 11, year unknown to Lee, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, with "PAID" and "10" marking in red. This was likely mailed between July 1, 1847 and July 1, 1851 per 1/2 ounce for distances more than 300 miles.



Postmark in red dated March 2, year unknown, again to Lee, Berkshire County, Massachusetts with "PAID" marking and manuscript "3" under postage rates beginning July 1, 1851 for mail traveling up to 3,000 miles.



Later the postmaster used the same postmark with blue ink and added a PAID 3 in a 21-millimeter circle supplemental marking to indicate postage was paid.

3. 19th Century Markings

35 millimeter circular date stamp

In use 1850s



Postmark in blue from the 1850s on mail to various locales.

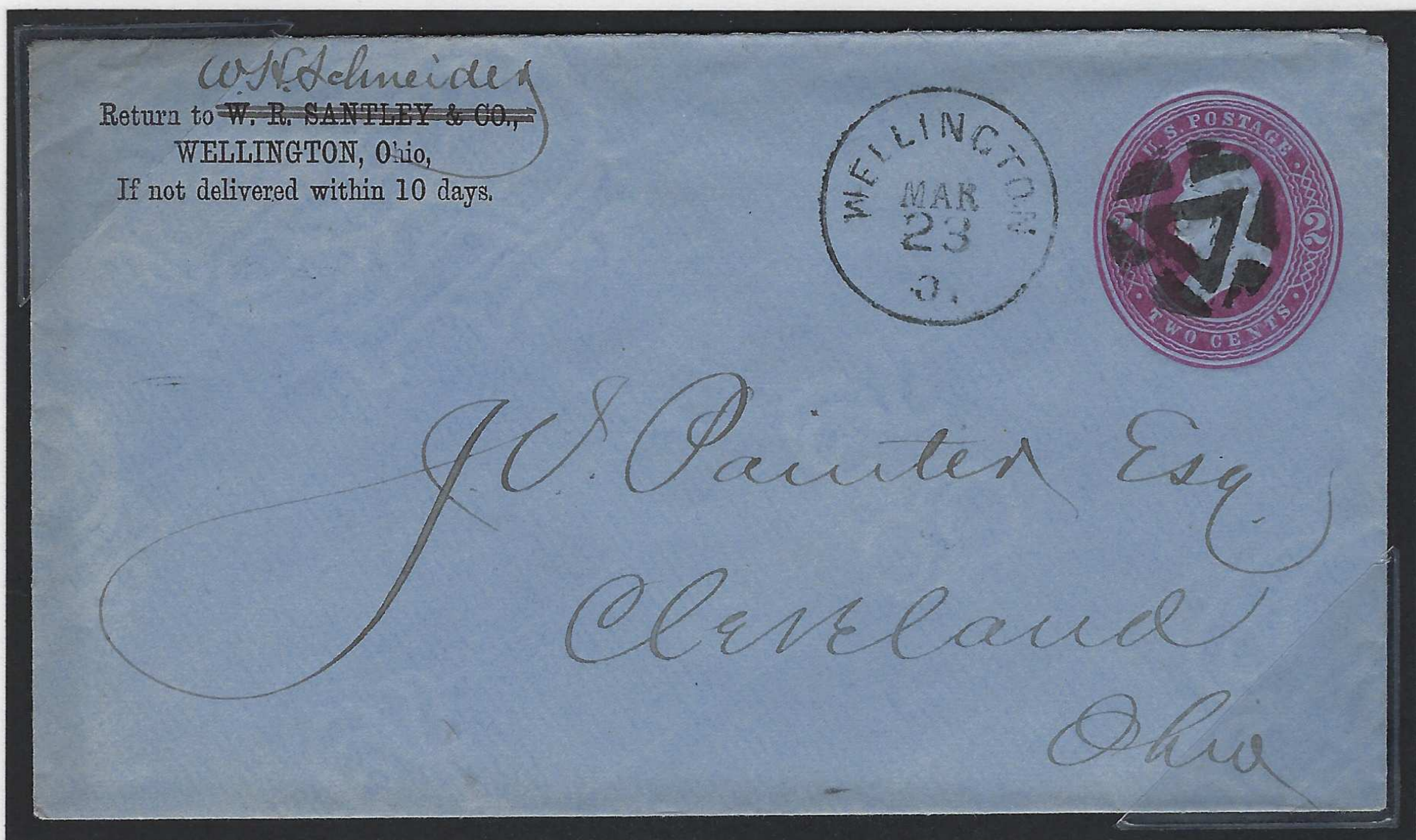
26 millimeter circular date stamp

In use 1870s and 1880s

By the 1870s postmasters began using different types of duplex markings, or killers, in addition to the traditional circular date stamp. The Post Office Department did not automatically provide postmarking devices to local post offices unless enough revenue was generated. As a third-class post office at the time, Wellington's postmaster had to provide his own cancel, which meant buying one or making it himself.



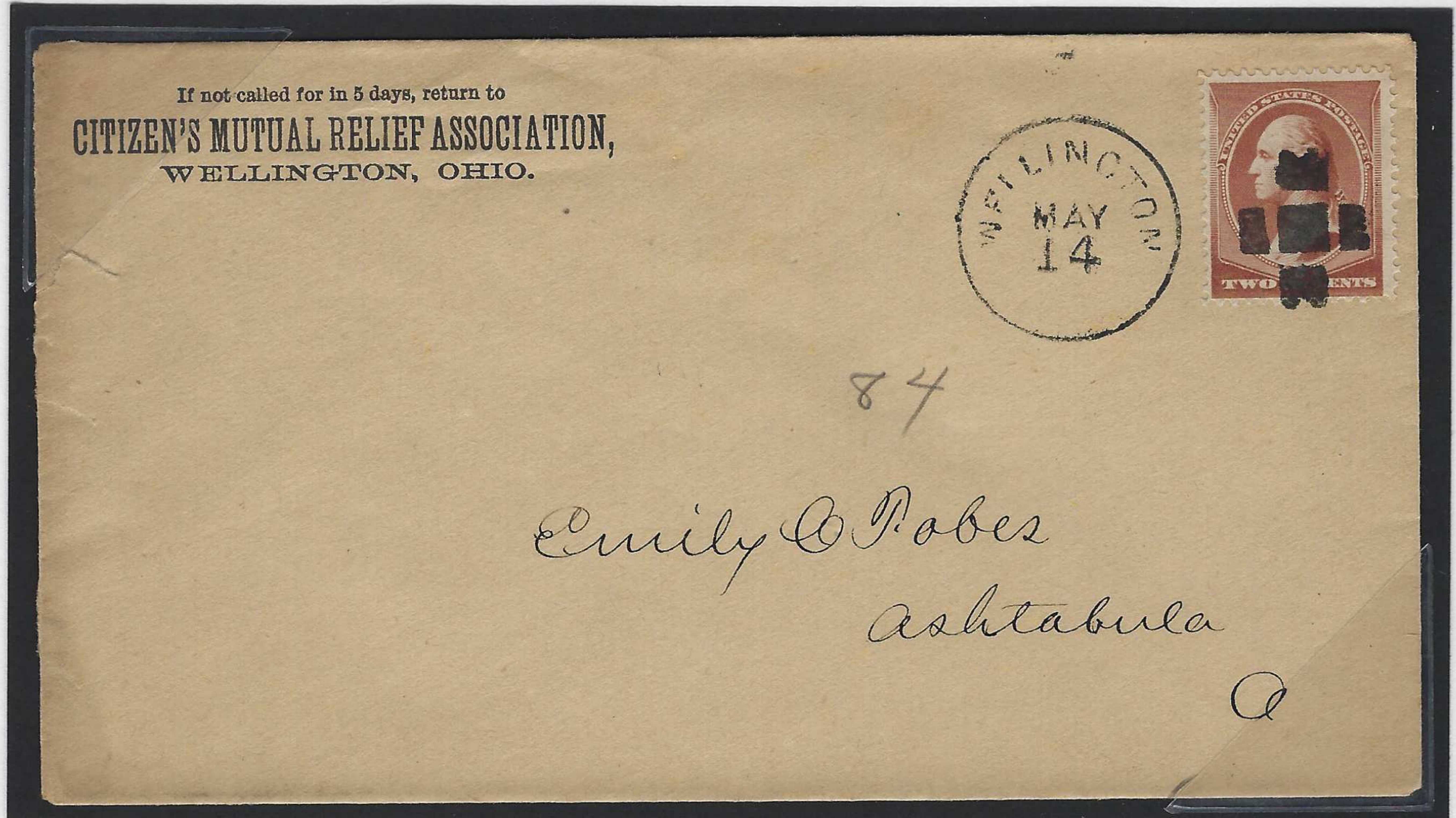
An example of the 1-cent drop letter rate where free delivery by carrier had not been established.



The circular date stamp of the period had a sans serif font. This style of cancel, or killer, shows a spoked triangle. It was likely carved from cork or wood.



This style of duplex killer is what is known as a circle of wedges, likely carved from cork.



The duplex killer in this example is a group of five boxes arranged in a cross-like pattern with a large center square.

If not called for in 5 days, return to
Citizens' Mutual Relief Association,
WELLINGTON, OHIO.



*Chas J Fobus
Ashtabula*

Another style of cancel was a simple box with heavy borders.

UNITED STATES
POSTAL CARD

Nothing but the address to be on this side.



*Lydia E. Poer
Towon City
D.C.*

Same circular date stamp from August 27, 1886 is paired with a circle of four wedges. (Year determined from correspondence on reverse).



TOP: Gear circular date stamp with pinwheel killer used in the 1880s. This example is dated Nov. 21, 1880

BOTTOM: 28-millimeter circular date stamp paired with "W" duplex.

4. 20th Century Markings

30.5 millimeter circular date stamp

Month/day/time/year

In use 1900s



26 millimeter circular date stamp

Month-day/time, with year outside of CDS

In use 1910s and beyond

