

Is it Cleveland or Cleaveland?

Following the Revolutionary War, Congress worked at resolving the western land claims of the various colonies (now states). Those in the north had colonial land claims that extended well through the Northwest Territory created by the Ordinance of 1787. Connecticut agreed to give up its claim to the portion of the land which crossed New York and Pennsylvania and the remaining land to the west except for that portion lying between the parallels forty-one degrees and forty-two degrees, two minutes. This became the Connecticut Western Reserve.



In 1795 Connecticut then sold three million acres of land to the Connecticut Land Company for \$1.2 million that was used to support the Connecticut school system. In turn, the land was sold to settlers, many of whom were from that

state.

In 1796 Gen. Moses Cleaveland, a major investor in the Connecticut Land Co., surveyed the area that was to become Cleveland, and lots were available for sale by 1797. Early on the population growth in the Western Reserve was quite slow, with only 1,500 folks living in the area in 1800. By 1810 this had increased to 10,000, but only 10 families lived in Cleveland (or Cleaveland) itself. The town was incorporated on December 23, 1814.

The city began to grow rapidly after the completion of the Ohio and Erie Canal in 1832. The canal provided freight transportation to the south all the way to the Ohio River and then onwards to the Mississippi River and New Orleans. With Cleveland's very good harbor, goods could also be loaded onto Lake Erie schooners and shipped to Buffalo and then to New York via the Erie Canal that opened just six years earlier.

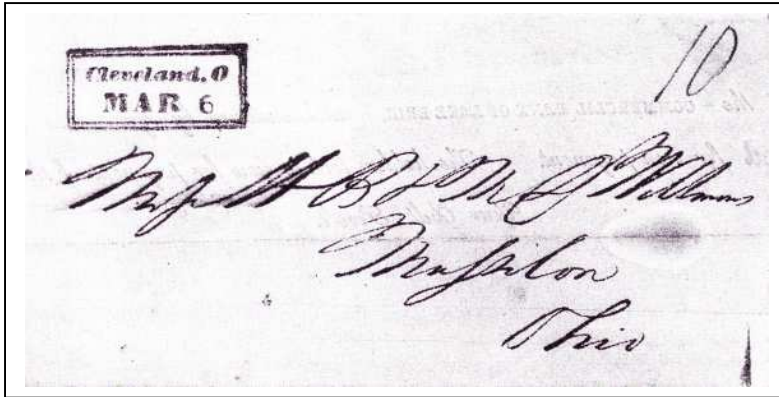
Up to this time, Painesville to the east was the magnet for lake shipping due to its excellent harbor. However, with no canal it languished, and today its population is only 20,000. Compare this to the growth numbers of Cleveland starting in 1830, 1,075; 1850, 17,034; and 1870, 92,289.

Now, what about the spelling of the city's name? The story is told that the spelling of the city's name was changed in 1832 by *The Cleveland Advertiser*, an early city newspaper. In order for the name to fit on the newspaper's masthead, the typesetter dropped the first "a."

What about the "Cleaveland" post office? It was opened in 1804 with Elisha Norton being the first postmaster. All covers have manuscript postal markings until 1813, when PM Asabel Walworth began to use a straight line townmark as shown here using loose type. There were four types used between Dec. 1813 and Sept. 1815. Because small offices were not provided devices by the USPOD, these four were owned by Walworth and not given to his successors.

A rectangular box containing the text "Cleveland Oh. March 3" in a simple, handwritten-style font.





Type V 1834 10¢ rate for 30 to 60 miles

PM Daniel Kelley used only manuscript markings while Irad Kelley, his successor in 1817, apparently began to have more mail as the population increased. So he created a box townmark composed

again of printer's type as shown nearby. Five

varieties were used from Jan. 1826 through Dec. 1834, spanning the years of Kelley and Daniel Worley. It was still "Cleaveland" for the first four with "Cleveland" showing up in Jan. 1834 as used by PM Worley. So finally the name became the modern day "Cleveland" as noted on the nearby cover dated March 6, 1834.

Is it time to think of yet another name change? How about "Believeland"?

Information taken from *19th Century Cleveland, Ohio Postal Markings*, 1991, Garfield-Perry Stamp Club