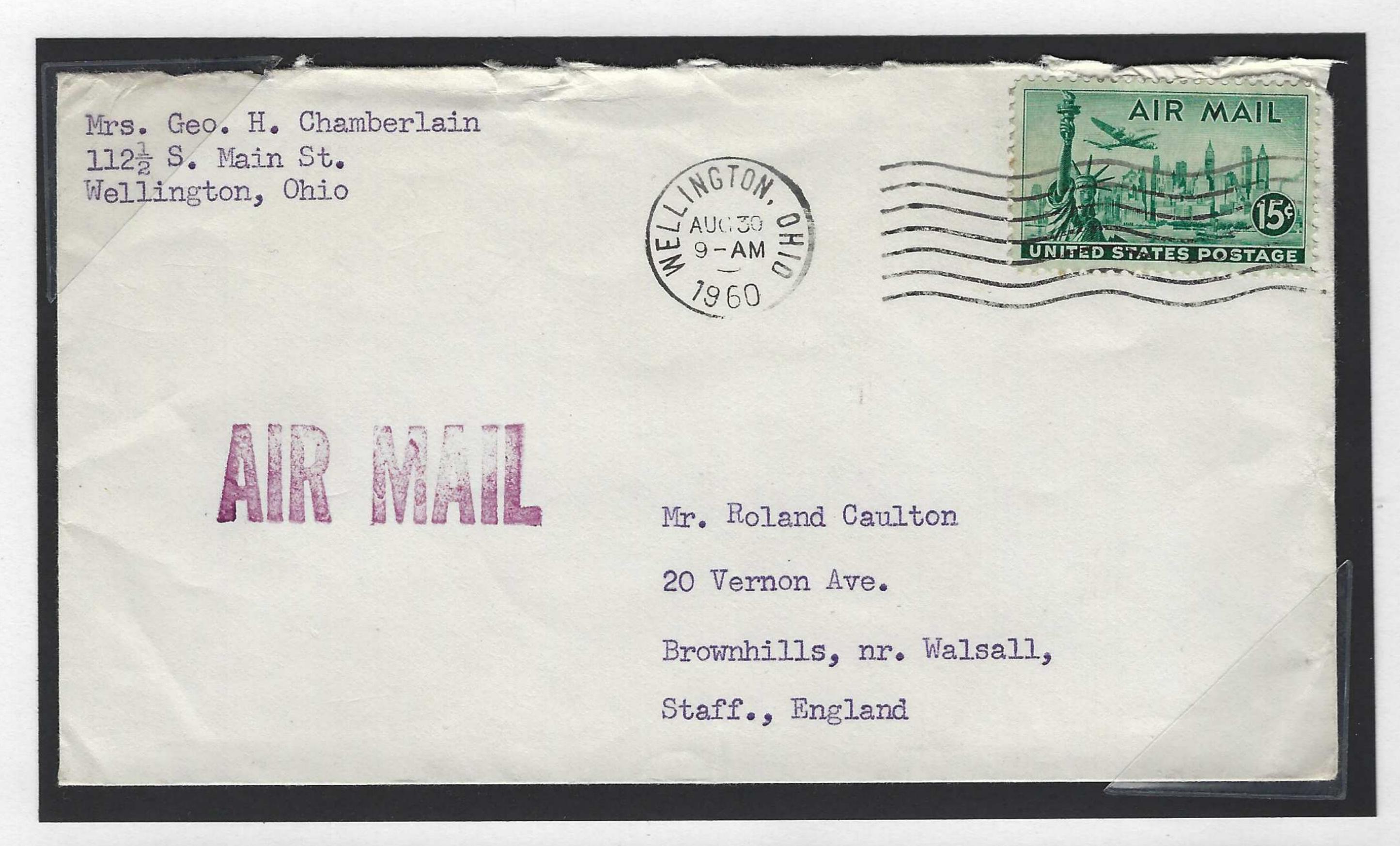
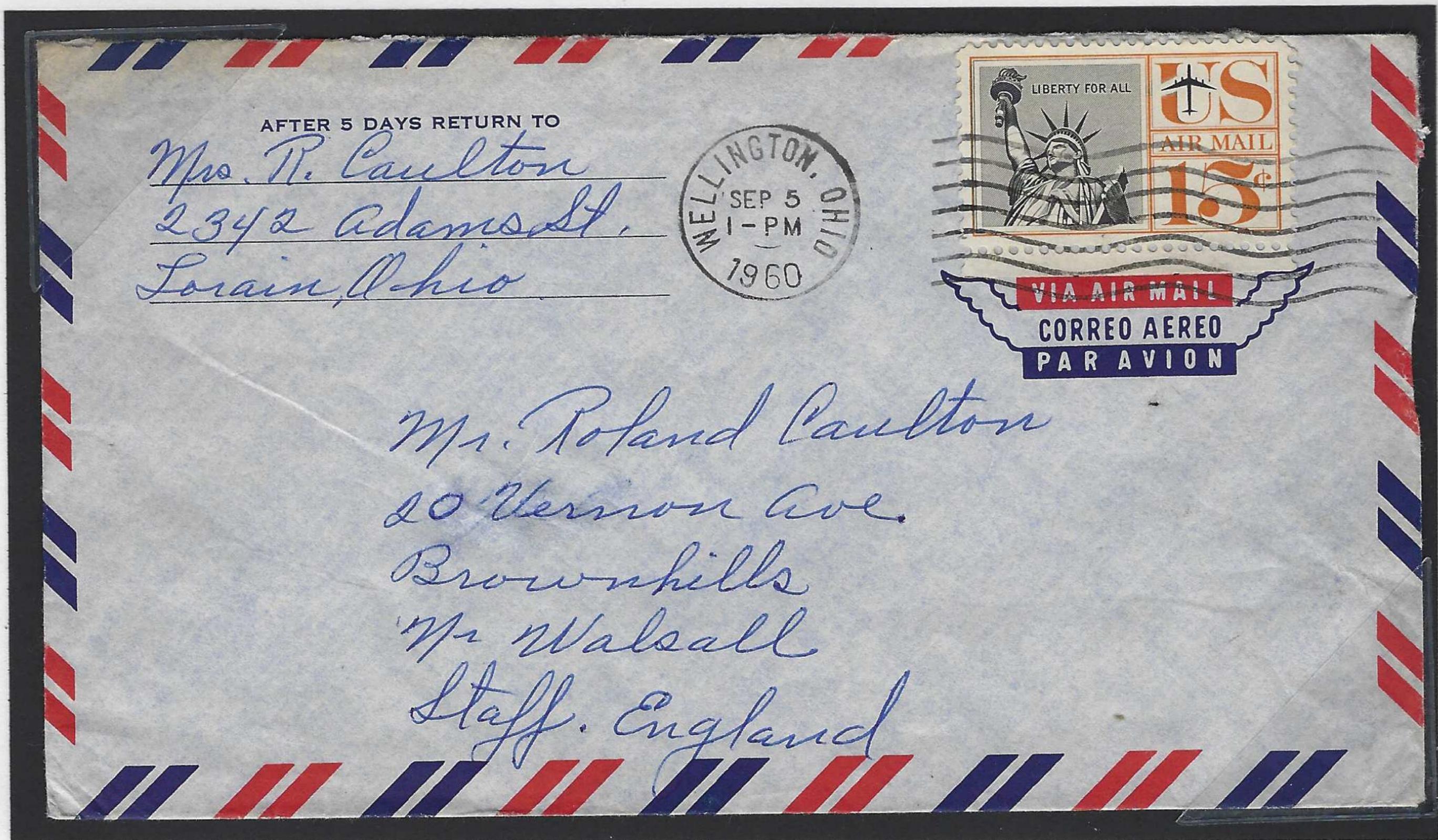


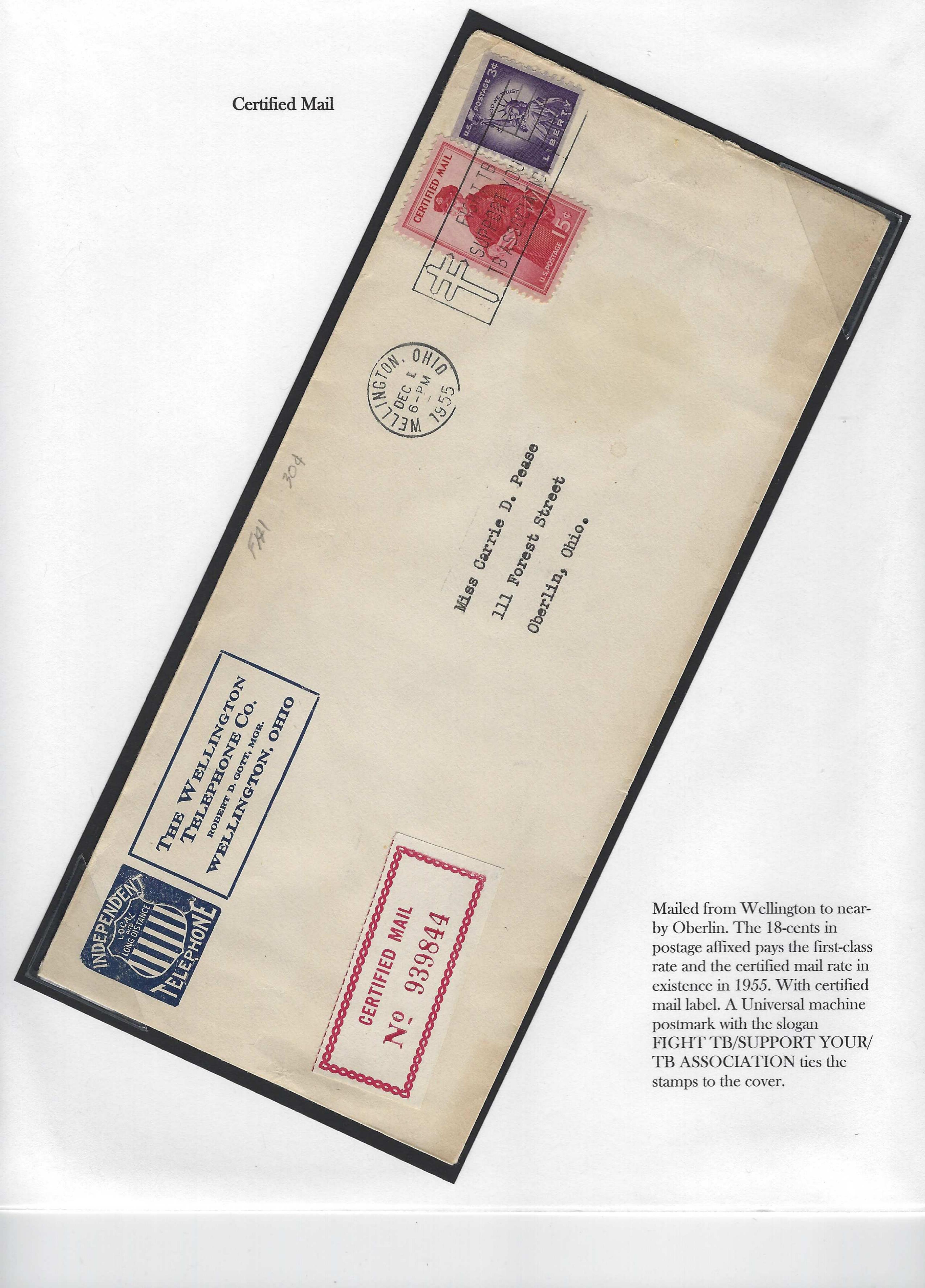
7. Special Postal Services

Airmail





Mailed from Wellington to Staffordshire, England. Both covers show the 15-cent airmail rate that was in effect in 1960.





9. Special Events



Wellington own Archibald M. Willard, painter of "Spirit of '76" was remember as part of National Air Mail Week in May 1938.





Willard in his studio in the late 19th century, left.

Willard is buried with other family members in Greenfield Cemetery in Wellington, above.

Willard also was honored on July 4, 1976, America's bicentennial, by Wellington's Spirit of '76 Museum, which produced covers with blue and brown cachets and included an insert offering a brief biography of the famous painter.



A Thumbnail Sketch of the Artist and Painting

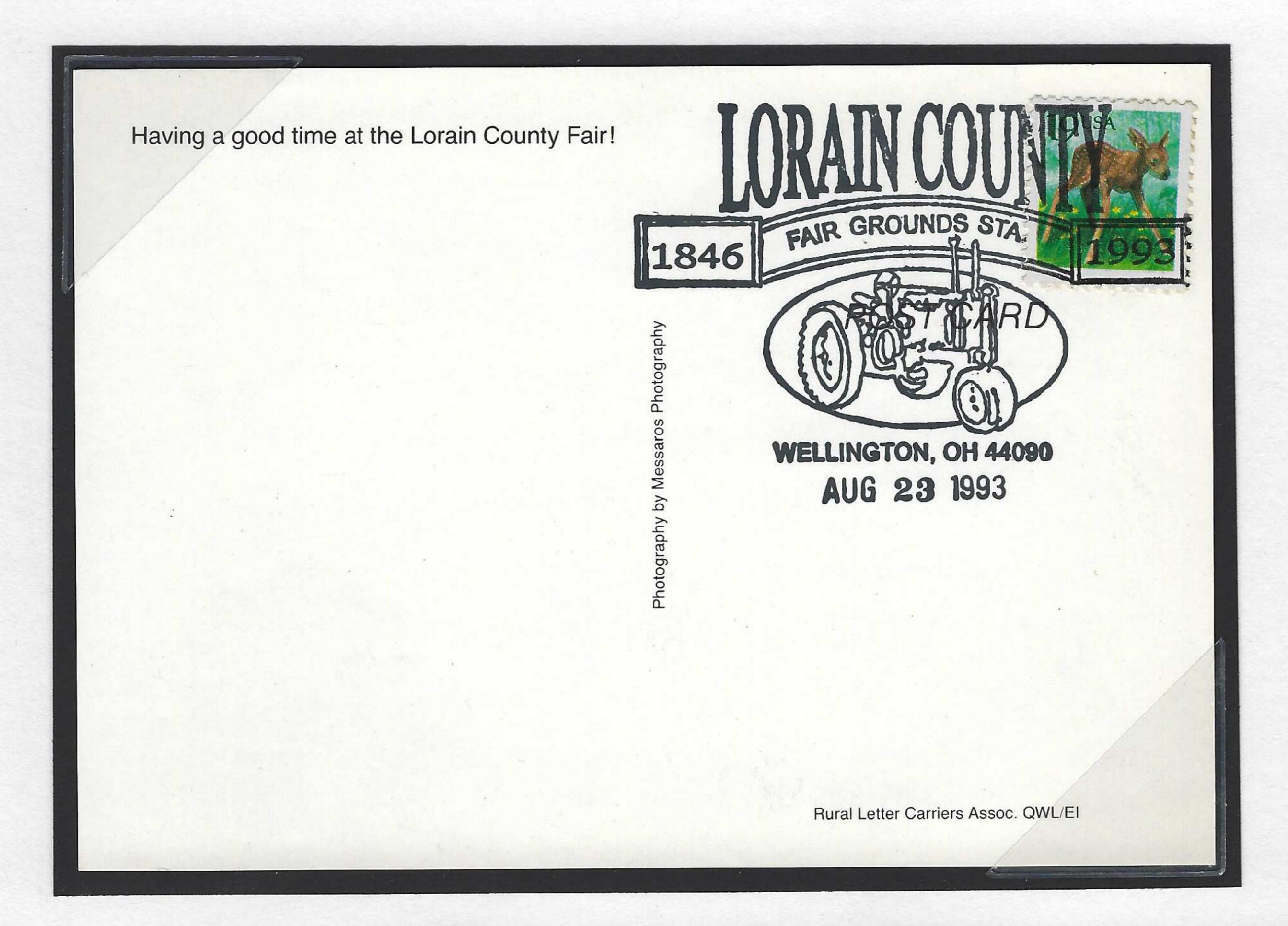
In 1876, an unknown, unschooled, but inspired Wellington, Ohio wagon painter captured the bold pioneering spirit that gave us our liberty in 1776, and with paint and brush placed it on canvas to live forever. He was Archibald McNeil Willard, a descendant of Major Simon Willard who came from England in 1634 and was one of the founders of Concord, Mass. He served in the Civil War as a color sergeant and his country's flag became one of deep significance to him. He conceived the idea for the "Spirit of '76" when he looked up from his easel and observed three musicians —a fifer, an adult drummer and a boy drummer—strutting in the Wellington Public Square. The painting, an 8x10 ft. canvas, won immediate acclaim at the Nation's Centennial Celebration in Philadelphia, following which it was purchased by General Devereaux, father of the drummer boy, and given to his hometown of Marblehead, Mass., where it hangs in Abbott Hall. Copied millions of times in the past century, it is conceded to be our nation's most inspirational painting, destined to have everlasting appeal. When in the Wellington area, do visit the "Spirit of '76" Museum which features a dozen Willard original paintings and upwards of 3000 artifacts. Admission is free, And, should you wish more cachets, send your check for \$1 for singles or \$2.50 for a set of 3, together with a self-addressed and stamped No. 10 envelope to:

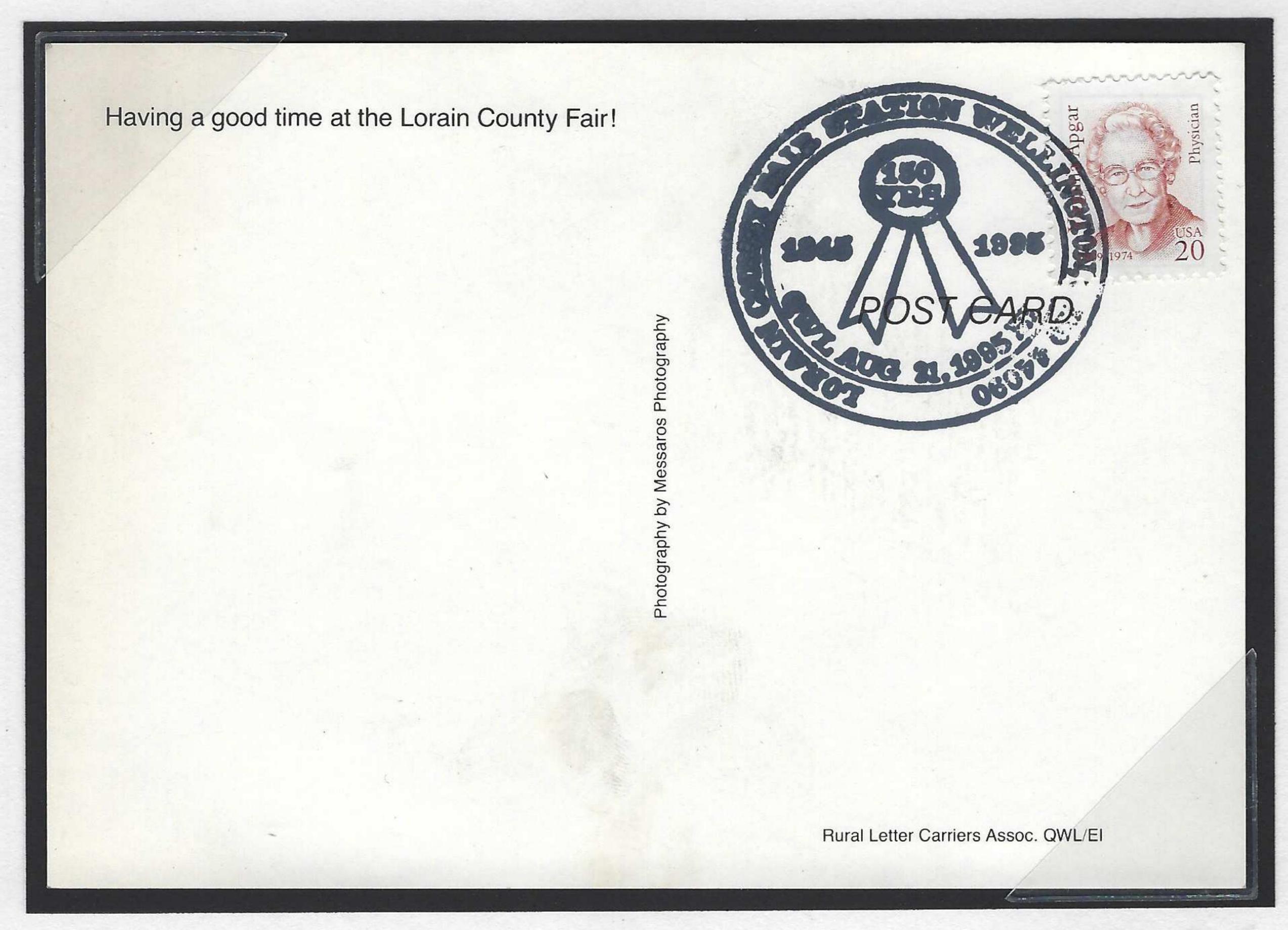
P. O. Box 76 Wellington, Ohio 44090

For several years in the 1990s a special postmark was developed for the Lorain County, which is held annually in Wellington. "QWL" refers to quality of work life. These examples were used a Lorain County Fair post card.

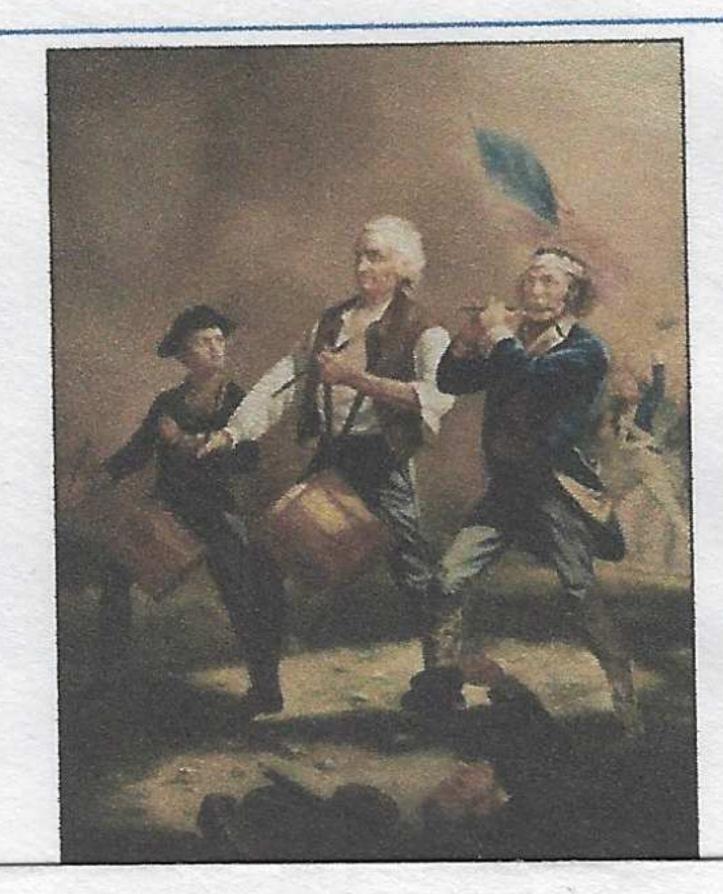


The "QWL" theme was dropped in subsequent years of the fair postmark.



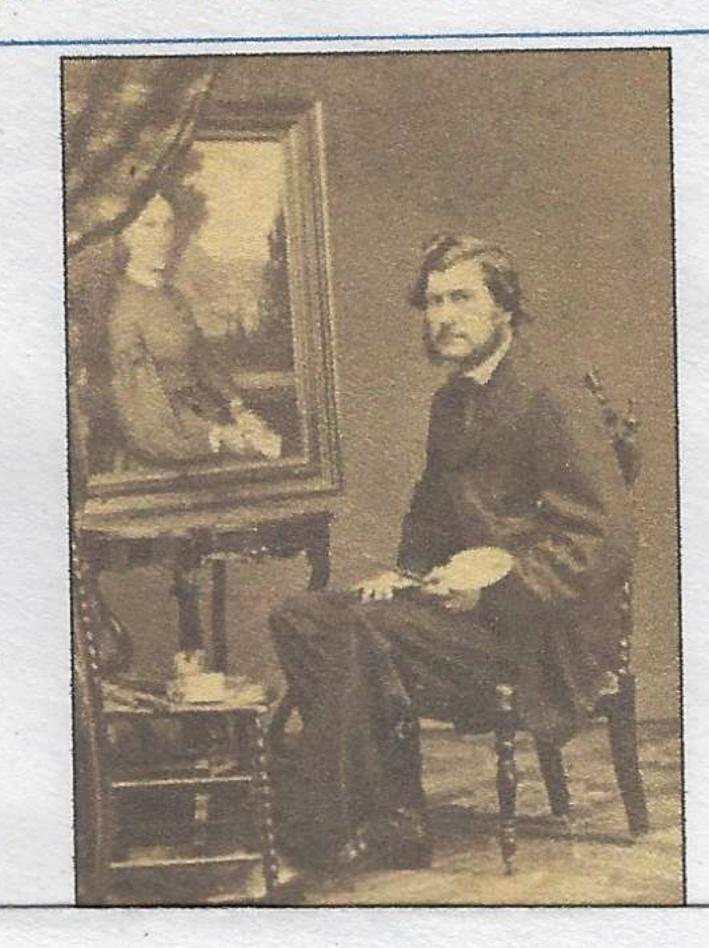


WELLINGTON, OHIO BICENTENNIAL





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