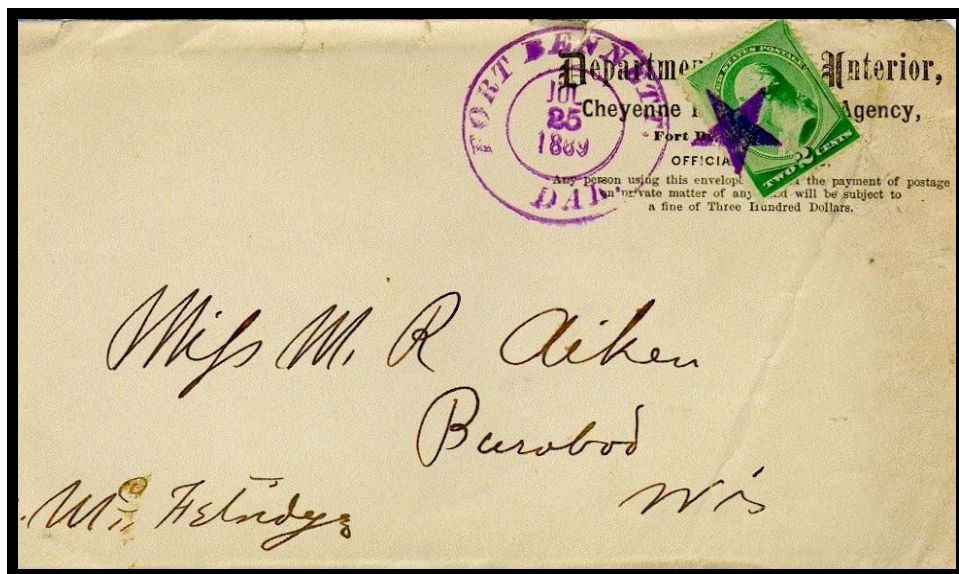


Dakota Collector

A Research Journal of North and South Dakota Postal History

Published by the Dakota Postal History Society
Vol XXI Number III
July 2004



Fort Bennett, Dakota July 25, 1889

EDITORIAL COMMENTS: FROM THE PRESIDENT

For those of you who missed it, we had a great annual meeting in Sioux Falls the weekend of Apr 3-4. In addition to getting the chance to visit with many fellow members (most of whom I had not met before....one of the many downsides in living so far from my "home" of South Dakota), we were able to recruit eight new members to our rolls. We have roughly 75 members of the Dakota Postal History Society. To put that in perspective, the prestigious Western Cover Society has been around since 1951 and has only about 245 members. And, they cover all the western states. Our meeting next year will again be in association with the South Dakota State Stamp and Coin Show in Mitchell. We hope to see more of you there!

I've had several inquiries on how to get the long out-of-print South and North Dakota books. The North Dakota book may be obtained from Alan Patera, PO Box 2093, Lake Grove, OR 97035. I am not sure of the price, but I'm sure Alan will be reasonable. The South Dakota book can be obtained from me directly for \$40 postpaid at Ken Stach, 15 N. Morning Cloud Circle, The Woodlands, TX 77381.

Best of collecting!

Ken Stach, President
(ken.stach@kosa.com)

FROM THE SECRETARY

In this issue of the Collector we have 2 great articles. A Statistical Article on South Dakota by our President Ken Stach and an article on Fort Laramie by Tom Hayes. Both of these are great and well worth reading.

With the last issue I printed it totally in color with the new printer. It is definitely not the way to go. It took me almost 25 hours and many cartridges to print it. So from a time standpoint and an economic standpoint it is not economical to print the Collector this way. I have discussed this with Ken Stach and Mike Ellingson. From now on we will print the front and back covers in color plus if we get any special articles that are worthy of printing in color we will do that. I will go back to printing the rest of the Collector in black and white as I did before. This way we should be able to keep the cost in the range where we can live with it.

It was decided unanimously at the Sioux Falls annual meeting that we will re-instate the Gordon Twedt Memorial Award. This will be funded by the Society as it has been a big push for getting our members to write articles for the Collector. Both Ken Stach and Forrest Daniel donated their prize winnings back to the Society. This will help to keep us going as the dues we collected are just barely paying for expenses.

With the October issue of the Collector I will start on South Dakota by County just the way that we did with North Dakota. Like North Dakota this is a big project and will take many years to complete. We also hope to intersperse other articles in various issues of the Collector along with the county Project of South Dakota to keep our members interest.

Gary Anderson, Secretary/Treasurer
(garyndak@ix.netcom.com)

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A Statistical Analysis of South Dakota Territorial Postal History

By Ken Stach

This article is analogous to the one I recently wrote for “LaPosta” concerning Nebraska Territorial Postal History. Readers of that publication may be a little bored by some of the repetitious language and methodology used in this article; however, I have provided new insights into the analysis of the data that should prove interesting and useful even to those who have already read the Nebraska Territorial article.

First of all, I think it may be worthwhile to provide a little relevant background data prior to getting into the hard data analysis. There were a total of 1059 unique post offices during the Territorial period within the borders of what is now South Dakota. That number includes various name changes for the same office (e.g., Denton, Diana, and Artesian City), but does not include different spellings for the same office (e.g., Flandreau and Flandrau).

The first post office established in what is now South Dakota was at Sioux Falls, and the earliest known cancel is also from that office (a Sioux Falls City handstamp oval cancel from Aug 15, 1859). However, no postmaster compensation is recorded from (South) Dakota Territory for the year 1859. Post offices sprang up very rapidly in the coming years across the Dakota frontier, as the lure of “free land” proved irresistible, even for some of the softest of eastern types who could only withstand one or two years in the harsh Dakota climate before surrendering their claim. By way of postmaster compensation, Figure 1 illustrates the proliferation of post offices during the Territorial period:

South Dakota Territorial Postmaster Compensation by Year

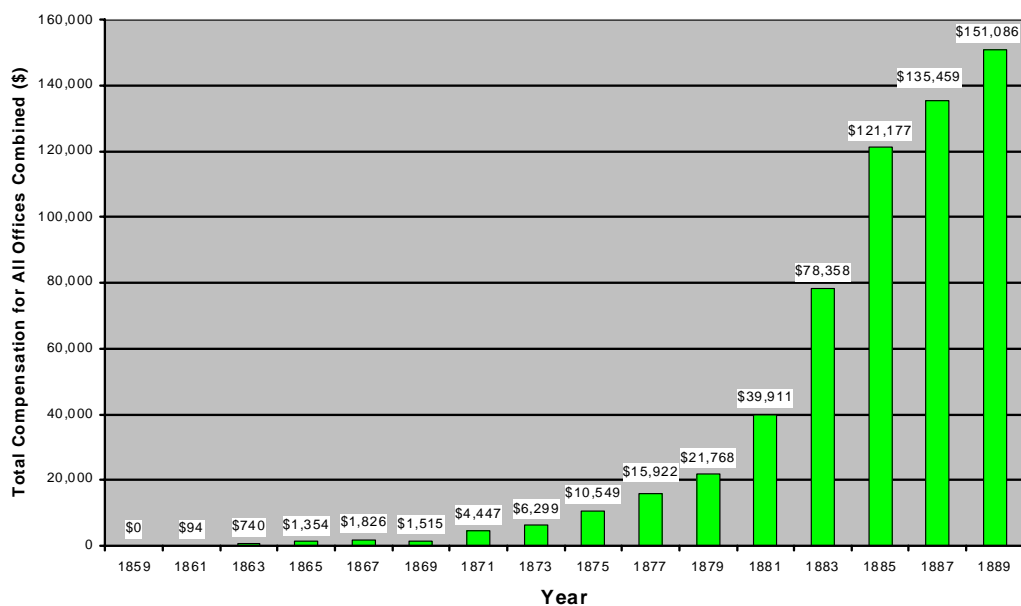


Figure 1. This bar chart shows the total postmaster compensation for all the post offices in what is now South Dakota for each year the data was recorded in the “Official Register of the United States” (for the odd numbered years). The chart clearly shows the explosive growth of the homesteading movement in the early 1880’s.

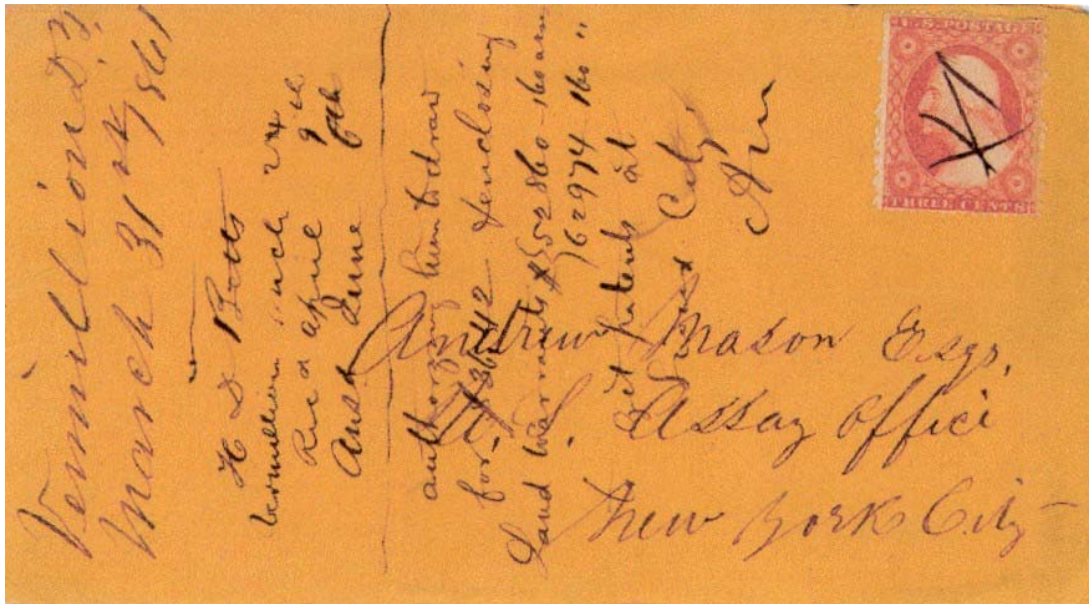


Figure 2. This cover is manuscript cancelled from “Vermillion D.T. March 31st, 1861”. As evidenced by the data in provided in Figure 1, any cancel from South Dakota Territory from the 1860’s is scarce, and those from the first year of the Territory (1861) are exceptionally rare.

Let me make it clear that I do not intend for this to be a mini-course in statistics! My intent is to analyze the available data relative to the postal history of Territorial period of South Dakota in order to better understand the likelihood of existence for covers from a given office. Before I get into the data analysis and results, let me provide a little background regarding the thought process used in developing this analysis.

My background is in engineering, thus explaining my unusual mix of statistical methods with postal history. Engineers learn very early in their academic work to study the relationship between variables. Those relationships become especially valuable when one set of data can be confidently used to predict the result of another. Engineers and statisticians frequently graph this data on what is called an “X-Y Diagram” (sometimes called a scatter diagram), where the “known” data (independent or input variable) is on the X (horizontal) axis of the chart, and the resultant (dependant, or output) variable is on the Y (vertical) axis.

The “X” Axis. The book “South Dakota Post Offices” (1990) by Patera, Gallagher and Stach contains the postmaster compensation figures for all the post offices in Territorial South Dakota for the years 1859 through 1889 (for the odd numbered years). The compensation figures provided in that book come from the “Official Register of the United States”, which was published by the government in odd-numbered years through the year 1911.

The “Y” Axis. I have collected South Dakota Territorial postal history for roughly 25 years. During that time, I have meticulously kept “census” data for the number of unique Territorial covers observed from each office. This census data is treated as the dependent (resultant) variable in the statistical analysis, with the basic premise being that the number of surviving Territorial covers is related to the postmaster compensation. I do not profess to be an expert on the subject of postmaster compensation. But, as I understand it, compensation was a function of the volume of stamps sold, the volume of mail actually cancelled at the office, and the amount of box rent. Intuitively, the compensation a postmaster received was therefore a function of the “activity level” of his office and should be related to the number of covers surviving.

The postmaster compensation data and cover “census” data is all the basic information needed to perform a simple statistical analysis. I’ve taken the raw data, entered it into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet, and summed the postmaster compensation for all the years into one number (the total postmaster compensation for the office during the entire Territorial period). This postmaster compensation data is plotted on the X axis, with the number of known cancels (census data) plotted on the Y axis in X-Y scatter diagram included as Figure 3.

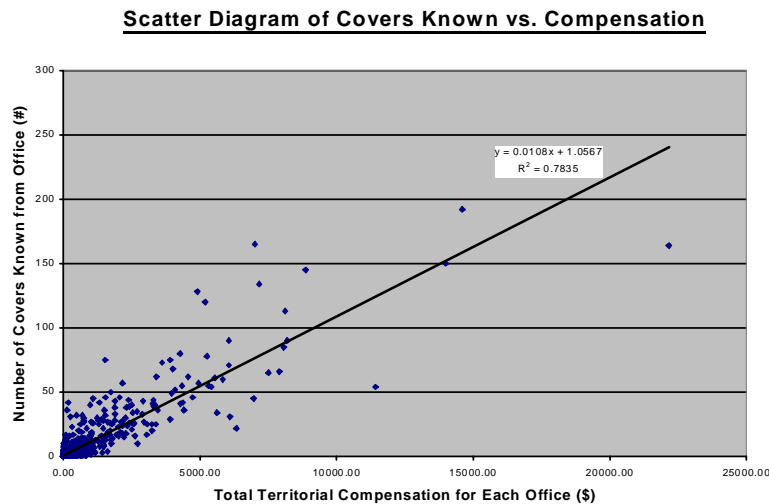


Figure 3. This “X-Y Diagram” plots the number of known covers for every post office in Dakota Territory against the total postmaster compensation for that office during the entire Territorial period.

The data in Figure 3 becomes even more useful once reduced to equation form. The “LINEST” function within Microsoft Excel can be used to generate what is known as a “linear regression”, or “best fit”, of the data (I suggest going to “Help” within Microsoft Excel to understand use of this valuable tool). Performing such an analysis of the data in Figure 2 yields the following result from Microsoft Excel:

$$Y = 0.0108*(X) + 1.06$$

Or, more simply stated

$$Y = 0.01*(X) + 1$$

Where:

Y = the predicted number of Territorial covers from a particular office

X = the total postmaster compensation for that office during the Territorial period

The slope of the curve (0.0108) can then be used to back-calculate the amount of postmaster compensation (X, in dollars) theoretically required to generate one surviving Territorial cover. The algebra required to calculate this number is simply the inverse of the slope (0.0108), or

\$92.59 = Postmaster Compensation Required to Generate One Surviving Territorial South Dakota Cover

The real issue we are concerned with is how much postmaster compensation does it take from a *small* post office in order to generate one surviving cover. I re-ran the statistics, excluding all the post offices that had greater than \$3000 in total postmaster compensation during the Territorial period. The revised database indicates that it takes \$79.56 in compensation to yield one surviving Territorial cover from a “small” office. So, there is a little change, but probably within the overall accuracy of the model.

The degree of accuracy of this “best fit” straight line to the data can be found in the “r-squared” function provided in the Excel LINEST output. In this case, the r-squared is 0.783. As a reference, 1.0 is a “perfect fit” of the data (all the data points would fall directly onto the line generated by the equation). Even in very tightly controlled laboratory experiments, an r-squared of 0.90 is considered outstanding. An r-squared to anything more than about 0.70 with “real world” data is generally considered statistically significant. Therefore, the “fit” of this data, at 0.783, to the line in our case is a very good one and can be considered relevant in predicting the likelihood of Territorial covers existing from a given office.

Another meaningful output of the Excel model is the “standard error of Y”, which (as the name implies) provides a numerical value for the degree of accuracy of the Y variable (the predicted number of Territorial covers from a particular office). In our case, the standard error of Y is 8.51. What this means is that the accuracy of the model is roughly plus or minus eight or nine covers (since there can’t be 8.51 covers).

	Total		Std Error	Actual	Std Error	Number
	Comp.	Theoretical	Calculated	Census	Calculated	"Extra"
Postoffice	(\$)	Number	Minimum	Count	(Maximum)	Covers
Aberdeen	7000.00	77	68	165	85	80
Altamont	685.95	8	0	32	17	15
Arlington	1520.48	17	9	75	26	49
Artesian City	1526.55	18	9	46	26	20
Bainbridge	26.77	1	0	11	10	1
Bangor	665.00	8	0	19	17	2
Bon Homme	1523.57	18	9	32	26	6
Carthage	2161.10	24	16	57	33	24
Castalia	1274.40	15	6	28	23	5
Colman	842.56	10	2	22	19	3
De Smet	4552.57	50	42	62	59	3
Deadwood	14593.62	159	150	192	167	25
Denver	733.55	9	0	28	17	11
Diana	547.67	7	0	20	15	5
Doland	2376.02	27	18	44	35	9
Elmer	102.65	2	0	12	11	1
Elmira	168.44	3	0	42	11	31
Estelline(2)	2048.32	23	15	46	32	14
Flandreau(au)	5173.94	57	48	120	65	55
Forest City	722.97	9	0	30	17	13
Fort Bennett	1490.73	17	9	36	26	10
Fort Randall	7158.50	78	70	134	87	47
Fort Sully	4896.85	54	45	128	62	66
Fulton	254.89	4	0	31	12	19
Gary	3996.27	44	36	68	53	15
Gettysburg(h)	1724.37	20	11	50	28	22
Gilman	116.73	2	0	36	11	25
Goodwin	1454.80	17	8	28	25	3
Groton	4263.42	47	39	80	56	24
Hand	103.00	2	0	14	11	3
Harrisburg(h)	74.71	2	0	17	10	7
Hetland	52.68	2	0	13	10	3
Hot Springs	1221.78	14	6	30	23	7
Houghton	308.04	4	0	23	13	10
Howard	3901.57	43	35	75	52	23
Huron	8860.88	97	88	145	105	40
Ipswich	3600.00	40	31	73	48	25
Lake Henry	215.56	3	0	16	12	4
Langford	967.18	12	3	40	20	20
Madison	6050.15	66	58	90	75	15
Mellette	2496.61	28	20	40	37	3
Minnesela	749.45	9	1	27	18	9
Mitchell	8109.32	89	80	113	97	16
Nordland	1081.16	13	4	45	21	24
Oahe	340.55	5	0	17	13	4
Plankinton	53.71	2	0	12	10	2
Redfield	5246.45	58	49	78	66	12
Ree Heights	1883.82	21	13	43	30	13
Rondell	604.68	8	0	25	16	9
Roscoe	1882.16	21	13	33	30	3
Rosebud	1388.27	16	8	29	25	4
Swan Lake	1866.38	21	13	38	30	8
Tyndall	2409.23	27	19	39	36	3
Valley Springs	2284.67	26	17	38	34	4
Vermont City	469.22	6	0	32	15	17
Waterbury	1013.96	12	4	27	21	6
Wentworth	1287.19	15	6	25	23	2
Wessington Springs	1310.38	15	7	42	24	18
White Lake	2906.34	32	24	43	41	2

Table 1. A greater number of covers exist from these post offices than postmaster compensation data would lead one to believe, based on the statistical analysis of all the data. (Note that all data shown here has been rounded to the nearest whole number; whereas the calculations in the Microsoft Excel worksheet utilize all available numbers until the final rounding).

This means of analyzing the data raises the question, “Which post offices have more, or fewer, covers in my ‘census’ than the regression equation would predict (within the standard error of the model)?” Table 1 provides a listing of the South Dakota Territorial post offices that have an unusually high number of covers, taking into account this standard error of the model.

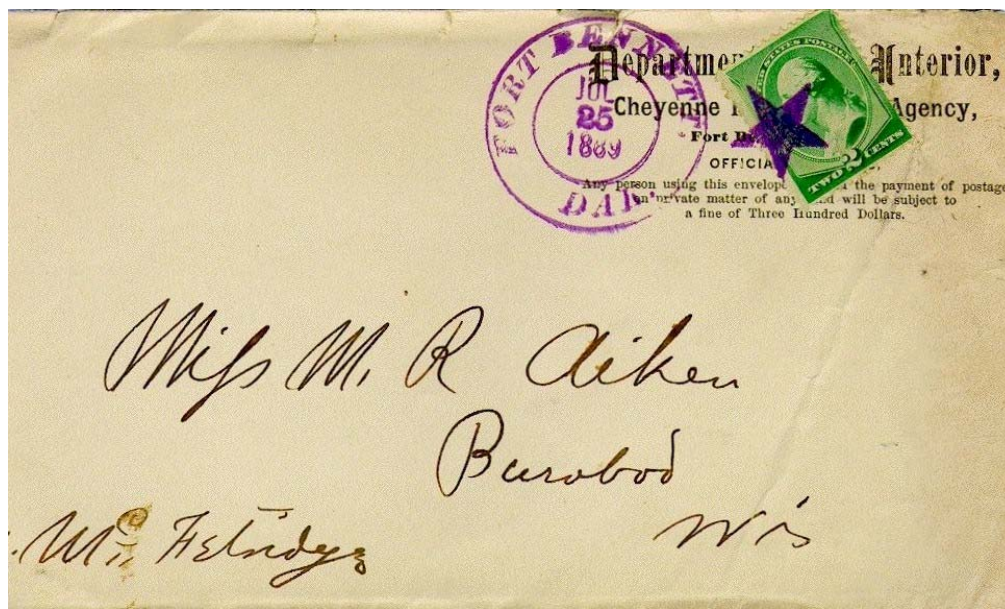


Figure 4. This cover is cancelled “Fort Bennett, Dak. Jul 25, 1889” with a nice solid star killer in purple. Fort Bennett is one of 59 town cancels that have more covers existing than the statistical model would predict.

The post offices listed in Table 1 are interesting, in that they are for the most part “common” towns, at least in terms of collecting Dakota Territorial postal history. The census data indicates that even some extraordinarily common towns such as Aberdeen, Deadwood, Huron, Madison and Mitchell still have more covers than one would expect, based on the data. I have no explanation for this phenomena; however, any collector of South Dakota Territorial postal history knows that any “lot” of material he buys is usually littered with these very common town cancels.

There are a few examples of “large finds” of covers that help to explain some of the data observed in Table 1. Collectors of South Dakota Territorial postal history are probably familiar with these correspondences:

Arlington/Denver/Nordland – Levi Bemis, Esq
 Bainbridge – Miss Jamie White
 Carthage – J. H. Patten (many as backstamps)
 Elmer/Wessington Springs – Mr. James R. Ball
 Elmira – Mr. W. D. Aldrich
 Flandreau(rau) – F. W. Pettigrew
 Fort Sully – Mrs. M. L. Irvine
 Hot Springs – Miss H. D. Hanford and Chambers Keller
 Lake Henry – Rev. A. E. Dunning
 Swan Lake – Mr. L. O. Kennedy and Levi S. Loukert
 Vermont City – Mrs. C. D. Lovejoy
 Waterbury – Miss Bertha L. Poland

Table 2 provides a listing of the South Dakota Territorial post offices that have an unusually low number of covers from the “census”, taking into account the standard error of the model. These are the “missing covers” from South Dakota Territorial offices.

	Total		Std Error	Actual	Std Error	Number
-	Comp.	Theoretical	Calculated	Census	Calculated	"Missing"
<u>Postoffice</u>	<u>(\$)</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	<u>Covers</u>
Alexandria	4399.17	49	40	36	57	4
Big Stone City	3055.98	34	26	25	43	1
Blunt	3895.42	43	35	29	52	6
Central City	6319.00	69	61	22	78	39
Centreville	2710.18	30	22	10	39	12
Cheyenne Agency	999.80	12	3	2	20	1
Elk Point	7893.06	86	78	66	95	12
Frederick	3369.26	37	29	25	46	4
Gayville	1409.47	16	8	3	25	5
Lead City	7500.00	82	74	65	91	9
Maple Grove	809.13	10	1	0	18	1
Millbank/Milbank	6086.04	67	58	31	75	27
Miller	4406.19	49	40	36	57	4
Montrose	1748.42	20	11	10	28	1
Rapid City	6951.56	76	68	45	85	23
Richland	1604.09	18	10	4	27	6
Rockerville	1150.86	13	5	3	22	2
Saint Lawrence	3231.83	36	27	25	44	2
Springfield	5610.05	62	53	34	70	19
Sturgis	3045.87	34	25	17	42	8
Vermillion	11420.42	124	116	54	133	62
Waverly	1128.52	13	5	4	22	1
Webster	3234.43	36	27	20	45	7
Wessington	2605.61	29	21	16	38	5
Wolsey	2206.25	25	16	15	33	1
Yankton (Yancton)	22158.65	240	232	164	249	68

Table 2. These 26 post offices have fewer covers in existence than postmaster compensation data would lead one to believe, based on the statistical analysis of all the data.

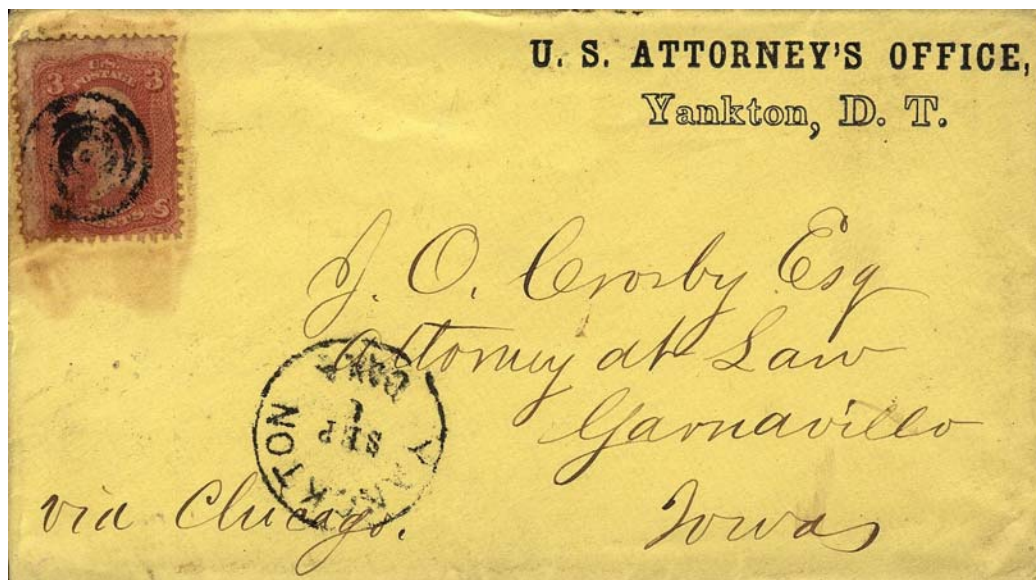


Figure 5. This U.S. Attorney's Office cover is cancelled "Yanckton Daka Sep 5" (1868). The Yanckton spelling was used from the late 1860's through about 1870. It was preceded by the "Yancton" spelling and followed by the current "Yankton". This post office is one of 26 with fewer covers reported in the "census" than one would believe existed from the statistical analysis of the data.

There are no known territorial covers from the Maple Grove post office, even though the mathematical model predicts that there should be a minimum of one and a maximum of 18 in existence. If and when a cancel from Maple Grove is found (which would probably be a manuscript cancel), the author cautions collectors to be wary of forgeries. Hopefully, a genuine example does exist and will surface in the coming years.

Perhaps the most interesting (and surprising) towns listed in Table 2 are Vermillion and Yankton (various spellings). Town cancels from these offices are fairly common, as any collector of South Dakota Territorial postal history knows. However, the model would predict that there should be an abundance of additional covers from these two offices (as well as from other fairly large offices like Elk Point and Rapid City). The only explanation I can provide is that perhaps I was not as "diligent" in tracking all the cancels from these offices. I mean, once you've seen 164 Yankton cancels it gets kind of hard to get excited about logging the other 68 into the database, now doesn't it?

Lastly, I think it is interesting to look at the number of post offices with “X” numbers of Territorial covers known from them. I realize this is a cumbersome statement. Therefore, I’ll use the old “picture is worth a thousand words” to try to describe what I mean in Figure 6 below:

Number of Offices with "X" Covers Known

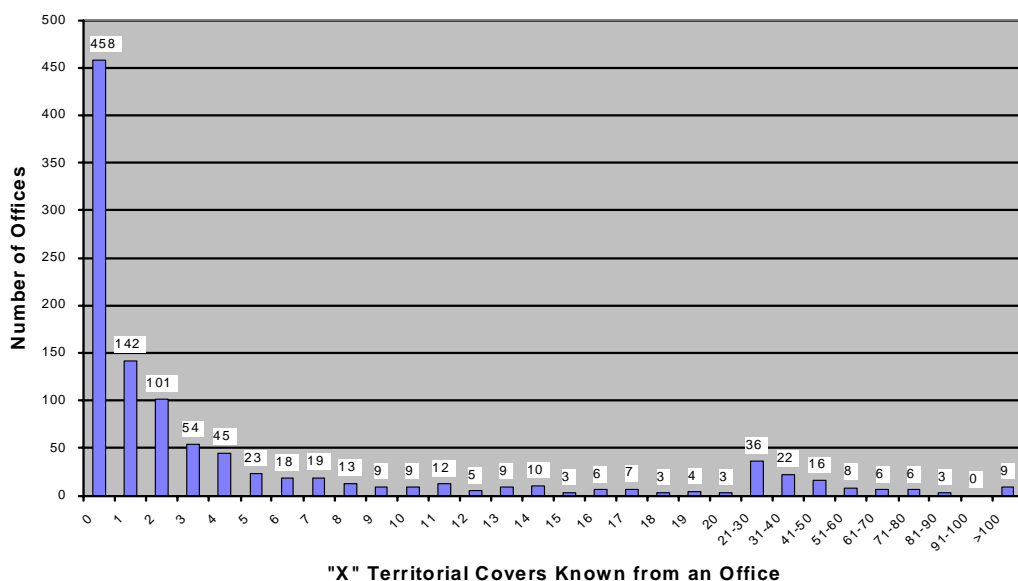


Figure 6. This bar chart illustrates the number of Territorial post offices from what is now South Dakota with “X” covers known. For example, of the 1059 total post offices that operated during the Territorial period, 458 of them have **no** known cancels to date, according to my census!

The point may be easier to see in the form of a pie chart, as provided in Figure 7:

Number of Offices with "X" Covers Known

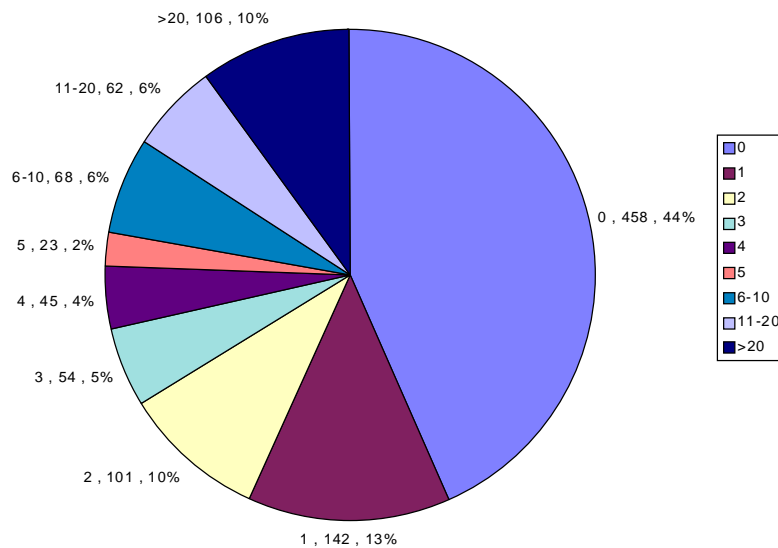


Figure 7. This pie chart takes the same data as provided in Figure 3 and shows it in a different format. In addition, “grouping” of the data has been done (e.g., combining those with 6-10 covers known, 11-20, >20) to make the data easier to analyze. The numbers near the “pieces of the pie” are the number of cancels known, the number of post offices with that number of cancels known, and the percent of the total of the 1059 Territorial offices represented in that segment.

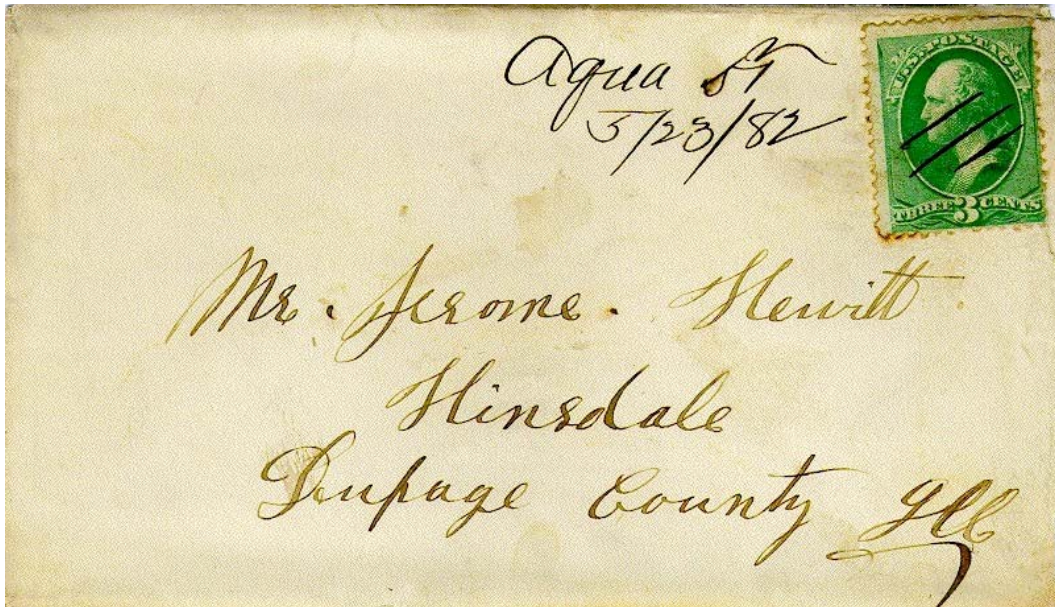


Figure 8. This cover is manuscript cancelled from the small Beadle County office “Aqua DT 5/23/82” and is one of the 142 South Dakota Territorial post offices which have only one known cancel.

The intent of this article was to provide readers with a methodology for analyzing the post-master compensation data for their area of collecting interest and then use that data to predict the number of covers that should exist. It would be interesting for someone to do the same analysis with data from Territorial North Dakota....to see if the same equation and trends holds true “across the border”.

Comments, questions, and reports of any “new finds” are welcomed by writing to me at 15 N. Morning Cloud Circle; The Woodlands, TX 77381 or by e-mailing me at ken.stach@kosa.com.

FORT LARAMIE - 1850 to 1868

by Tom Hayes

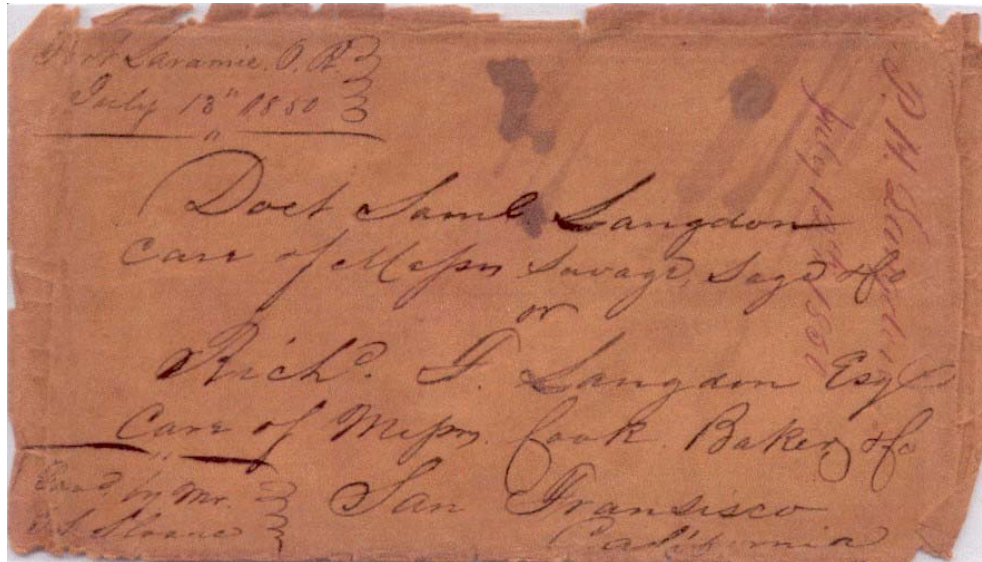
The mystique of Fort Laramie, the early mountain men, the fur traders, in a rugged desolate area that in winter only the strongest and most prepared could survive. It is high country with snow and wind and freezing temperatures. Today it is still one of the least populated states for people per square mile. Fort Laramie became important after the discovery of gold in California in 1849 and the subsequent gold rush that was quickly followed by the rush of immigrants to not only California, but to what is now the Washington and Oregon area. To reach their dream they had to travel the known routes, which took them through Wyoming, and to Fort Laramie.

Traveling from the East to the opportunities of the West at 10, 15 or 20 miles per day, weather permitting, required advance planning if you were to cross the Rocky Mountains before the fall snows prevented your travels. Leaving from the St. Louis or St. Joseph area along the Mississippi River, which at the time was the end of civilization and the beginning of the wild, unsettled West, one had to join up with others for safety and then plan on arriving at Fort Laramie by May or June in order to safely travel through the mountain passes west of Fort Laramie in time. Immigrants came mostly by wagon trains, where they were strangers at first, but soon developed a comradeship for everyone's safety and survival. These wagon trains had guides that were many times the old mountain men and trappers that were familiar with the area from the days before 1850 and the demand for the beaver pelts ended.

There weren't many towns or forts along the trail in 1850 to stop at, so naturally when they did arrive at a place like Fort Laramie for rest and re-supply, they would also want to send letters to those they left behind, either family or friends informing them of their progress. The mail in these early days only went east once a month during the warmer months, and from Fort Laramie, this was on the 15th of each month, and from looking at the covers known, they were all postmarked on the 15th, apparently no matter what day the postmaster received the mail. Later Fort Laramie was to have twice a month service on the 1st and 15th.

Now, try and think of Wyoming and Fort Laramie from 1850 to 1868 as being in the middle of nowhere and just a stopping place along the trail to the west. These trails followed the water that was so necessary for survival and Fort Laramie was along the North Fork of the Platt River, on the trail. At this time, excluding the military, the permanent residents in the entire area probably only numbered in the hundreds at best, and therefore not enough for any kind of legal status, such as being a territory. But it was still there, and many people were going there, and knowing the US Government, this part of the country had to be somewhere so that they could exercise control over it. So in early 1850, possibly about March 14th when John S. Tutt was appointed the first postmaster, Fort Laramie was administratively attached to Clackamas County, Oregon Territory. But not actually being in Oregon Territory, but on the Oregon Route to Oregon Territory, thence the designation "O.R." for Oregon Route. A similar example exists from Nebraska with the Fort Kearny, OR manuscript cancel and the four fancy Ft. Kearny O.R. hand stamps that were also considered to be on the Oregon Route, all from 1852.

There are currently 16 covers reported or tracked with this "O.R." designation. Only one has a manuscript cancel, figure 1, dated June 13, 1850, which is the earliest reported cover from what is now Wyoming. There are earlier letters known, datelined Fort Laramie, but with cancellations from elsewhere as they were hand carried and didn't enter the mail until back east.



The 15 reported covers with an "O.R." hand stamp are dated between July 1, 1851 and June 15, 1852. Figure 2 shows the June 15, 1852 cover, the one with the letter that has been widely reproduced where the receiver is to read this to the senders wife, have her "sell the farm", and then asks the receiver to bring the senders wife with him the next spring to Sacramento City.



From June 15, 1852 until Fort Laramie was made part of Nebraska Territory on May 30, 1854, there are two covers known, a manuscript without the OR, dated Feb. 25th without the year known, and a hand stamp where the OR was removed from the dial. Fort Laramie was now, from a postal history standpoint, considered Unorganized Territory. The manuscript cancel last appeared in the August 2001 Regency Auction. The Unorganized Territory hand stamp, figure 3, is dated June 15, 1853 and is a 24-cent rate transatlantic to Great Britain.

On May 30, 1854, Nebraska Territory was formed and most of Wyoming except for the SW corner was now part of Nebraska Territory. There are about 75 Fort Laramie, NT covers known. More and more people were immigrating to the West and some were now staying in Wyoming. Two more post offices were opened during this period, Fort Halleck, NT and South Pass City, NT.

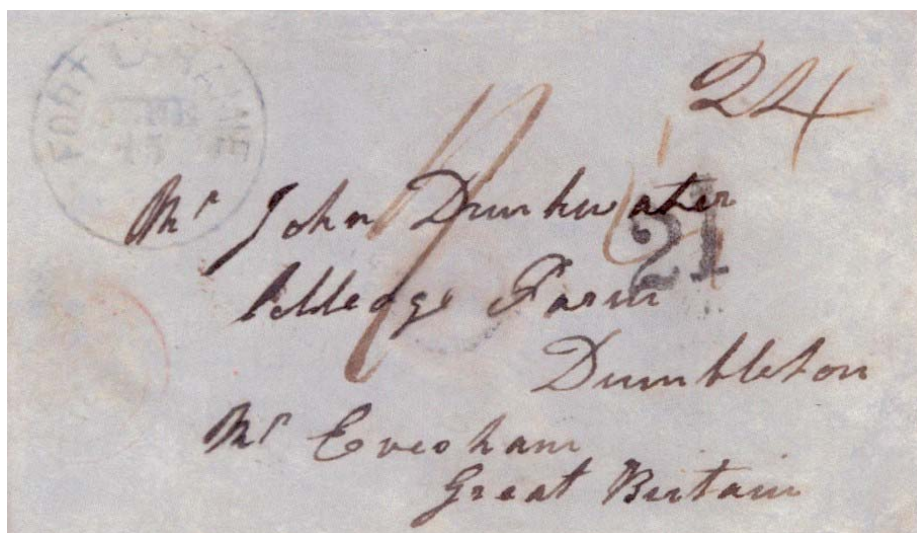
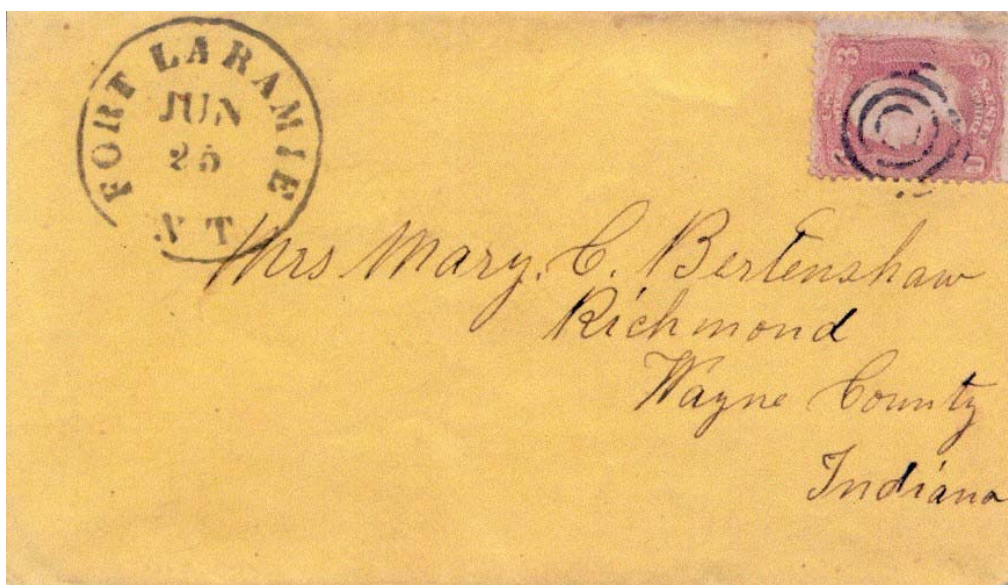
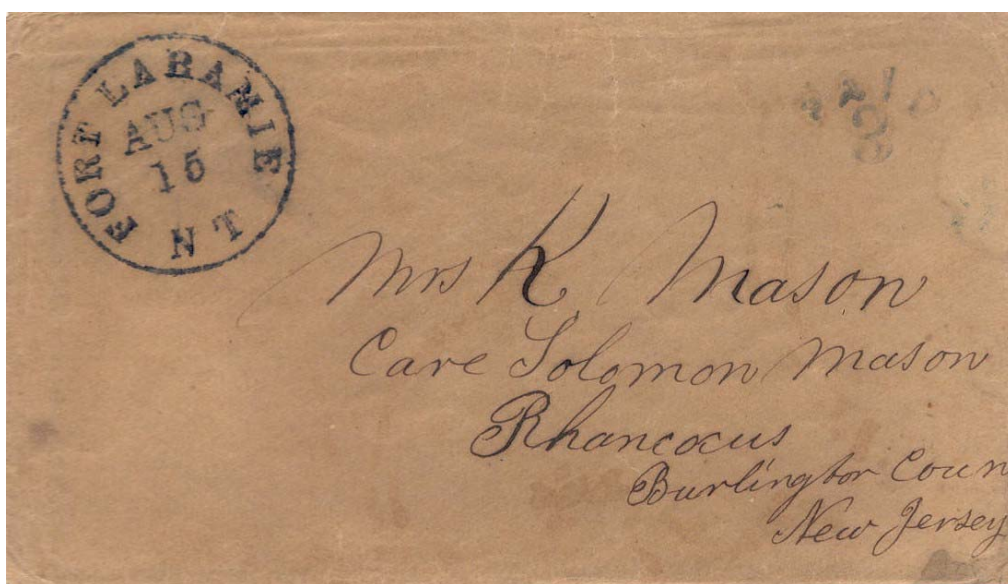


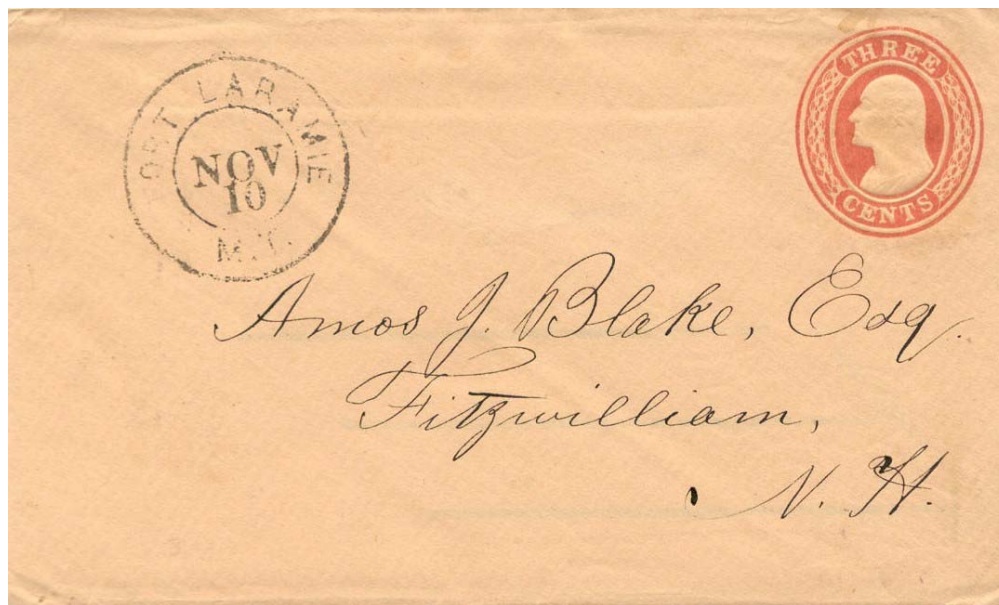
Figure 4 is a Fort Laramie, NT, paid 3 in arc, stampless, with an unbroken dial. Figure 5 shows where the dial has been broken at 7 o'clock, which is thought to have happened in early 1861. Even though this area was made part of Dakota Territory from March 2, 1861 to March 3, 1863, there are no known Dakota Territory covers known from this first DT period. The Fort Laramie, NT hand stamp continued to be exclusively used during this period. From 1861 to 1863, Dakota Territory was young, there was really nobody west of the Missouri River and then virtually most of the people left DT because of the Indian uprisings at the time. So the extreme western part of DT that is now known as Wyoming, was basically forgotten about.



Then on March 3, 1863, Wyoming became part of Idaho Territory, somehow. But not many realized this. The NT cancel was still being used, and there are no known IT cancels. However, figure 6 is a soldiers paycheck from Fort Laramie, IT. It seems that the Army Paymaster thought that it was IT, and made it out as such. I have two examples of these checks, both with multiple endorsements on the back where it exchanged hands many times just like it was currency until they were finally presented and cashed at a bank in Denver, Colorado Territory. The first national bank didn't open in Wyoming until 1871. The Forts Suttler's would often serve the banking needs of the area. S.E. Ward, the Suttler at Fort Laramie, endorses this example. This Idaho Territory period lasted until May 26, 1864, when it again became part of Dakota Territory.



But wait a minute, from a postal history stand point, from November 10, 1864 to July 18, 1865, as the known covers are between these dates, someone at Fort Laramie thought they were now part of Montana Territory. In figure 7, they started using a Fort Laramie, Montana Territory hand stamp, while at the same time continued to use the Fort Laramie, NT stamp during the same period. According to the Post Offices Official Register, in 1865, the Fort Laramie postmaster received compensation as part of three different territories, IT, MT, and DT. I am sure that this was confusing to just about everyone, especially those who lived there.



All this happened during the second period it was in Dakota Territory. The earliest reported Fort Laramie, DT cover is from July 29, 1865 and is figure 8. It is estimated there are between 50 and 75 Fort Laramie, DT covers known. During this DT period, the following post offices were opened: Benton, Cheyenne, Fort John Buford, Fort Phil Kearny, Fort Reno, Fort Sanders and Laramie City.



On July 29, 1868, Wyoming became a Territory that included all of that part of Wyoming that was in Dakota Territory, that part in the SW corner that was part of Utah Territory in the Fort Bridger area, and the NW part from Idaho Territory. Wyoming became a state on July 10, 1890.

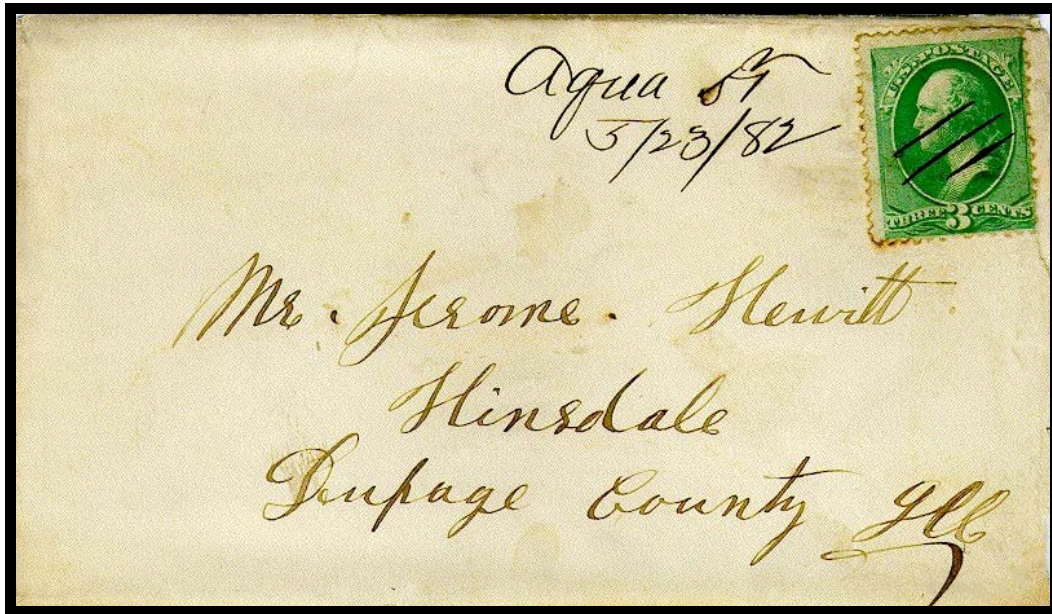
Because of the gold rush of 1849, the new immigrants coming to America seeking farming opportunities that were no longer available in the Eastern US, then the Civil War brought many to the West for various reasons, there was a mass immigration through Fort Laramie to the West. As more people stayed in the Wyoming area to seek their own opportunities, or simply because they ran out of money, the population grew from almost nothing in 1850 to enough people to become a territory of their own in 1868. In the process they were part of more administrative boundary changes than anywhere else in the United States. From the Louisiana Purchase to un-chartered country to Oregon Route, to unorganized, then Nebraska Territory, Dakota Territory, Idaho Territory, somehow was Montana Territory, back to Dakota Territory and finally Wyoming Territory.

From a Postal History prospective, pre-territorial Wyoming is not the easiest to collect, mostly due to the lack of material. Fort Laramie is the most common by total numbers known, but some examples are most difficult, as they don't show up often. It takes time and persistence. This author has all 8 of these items in his collection, a feat that was not easily accomplished without the availability of the Charles Winter's and Jack Rosenthal collections that were auctioned in the past few years.

Minutes from Apr 4, 2004 Meeting of the DPHS
8:00 a.m. – Sunday Apr 4, 2004 – Sheraton Hotel Convention Center

- 1.) Self-Introduction of Attendees (Gary Anderson, Don Schiele, Rick Spidahl, Byron Reed, Glen Jorde, Dean Randall, Walter Anderson, Tom Hayes, Ken Stach)
- 2.) Financial Report (Anderson). Beginning 2003 balance of \$2028.75, ending balance of \$4395.25 with long-term liabilities (lifetime memberships) of \$1500.00.
- 3.) Status of Color Printer Acquisition (Anderson). \$641.50 raised through donations and donation auction. \$217.44 spent on the color printer. Color will be used for the front and back covers and for “special” articles where color will enhance presentation. Mike Ellingson will assist in printing the front and back.
- 4.) Membership Drive (Stach). Nine (9) new members had been signed up for the DPHS by the end of the two-day show. Perhaps the biggest draw was the box of freebee covers. We will continue to use this as a feature to draw people in to us at next year’s show. In addition, we will offer dealers a free quarter page ad to entice them to sign up.
- 5.) Future Articles for *The Collector*
 - Series on South Dakota Counties begins with the October, 2004 issue
 - “Favorite Cover” feature
 - “Mystery Cover” feature
 - Continue the “Gordon Twedt Memorial Award” with \$100 prize (declined both years we’ve done it....so self-funding)
- 6.) Other Topics for Discussion
 - Next year’s meeting will be at the SD State Show in Mitchell
 - Discussion on development of a web page. Ken Stach has the ball to take the first shot at developing. Thoughts are to then have “samples” of old Collectors and JPG’s of covers on the web site, with members having access to a full library of the same.
 - Schiele discussed his work to take the past 20 year of The Collector and put them into PDF format on CD’s and DVD’s. He has a couple sample years completed. Gary Anderson and Ken Stach will review.
 - Question on availability of “North Dakota Post Offices” book by Patera and Gallagher (1982). Alan Patera has copies available, he can be reached at:
Alan Patera
PO Box 2093
Lake Grove, OR 97035
Phone 503-635-1379

Financial Statement for 2003 - Dakota Postal History Society			
<i>Prepared by Gary Anderson - DPHS Secretary/Treasurer - March, 2004</i>			
Balance Sheet Item	Balance	Asset or Income	Liability or Expense
Beginning Balance - Jan 1, 2003	\$2,028.75		
<u>Transactions Associated with Membership Dues:</u>			
Income from Regular Dues		\$ 900.00	
Income from Six Life Memberships @ \$250		\$1,500.00	
Long-Term Expense Associated with Life-Time Memberships			\$ 1,500.00
Net Proceeds from Dues		\$ 900.00	
<u>Transactions Associated with Donation/Auction for Printer:</u>			
Proceeds from Donation Auction for Printer		\$ 451.50	
Cash Donations for Printer		\$ 190.00	
Total Proceeds from Printer Fundraising		\$ 641.50	
<u>Expenses Associated with Publishing "The Collector":</u>			
Printing, Postage, Envelopes for Four Issues in 2003			\$ 675.00
Ending Cash Balance - Dec 31, 2003	\$4,395.25		
<u>Distribution of Cash Assets:</u>			
Thirteen-month Certificate of Deposit	\$2,000.00		
Checking Account	\$2,395.25		
<i>Total Assets</i>	\$4,395.25		
Net Assets as of Dec 31, 2003 ("Ending Cash Balance" minus the Long-Term Liability of the Life-Time Memberships)	\$2,895.25		



Aqua, D.T. manuscript cancel May 23, 1882

Gary Anderson Postal History

**P.O. Box 600039
St. Paul, MN. 55106**

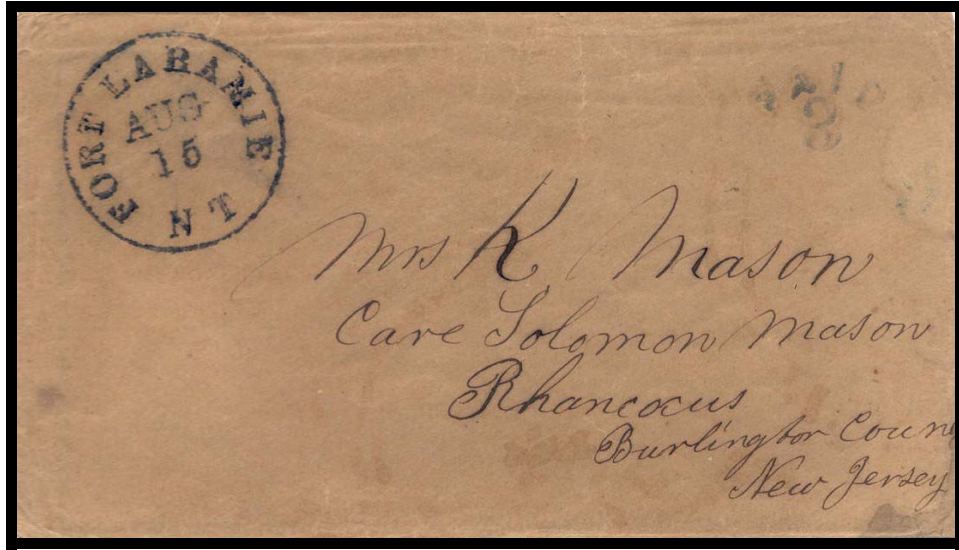
**North and South Dakota Postal
History online. Over 1000 North and
South Dakota Covers and Cards
online including Territorials.**

You can visit the website at:

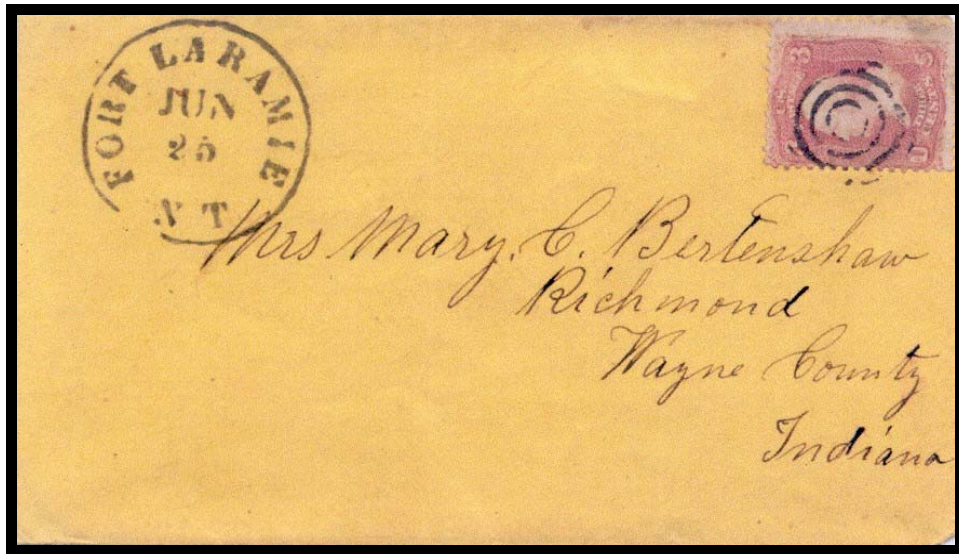
<http://www.towncancel.com/>

**Announcing “The Gordon Twedt
Memorial Award for an Article on
Dakota Postal History”.**

Open to anyone who is a member of the Society. Any research pertaining to the postal history of The Dakotas, North or South. Deadline is December 31, 2004. Send article to Dakota Collector, P. O. Box 600039 St. Paul, MN. 55106. The judges of this contest will be Gary Anderson, Doug Wick and Ken Stach. The winner will have their article published in the Dakota Collector and receive a \$100 cash prize. It was decided at the annual meeting this year in Sioux Falls that this award would be continued and come out of the club treasury since it was such a success. The first two winners Ken Stach and Forrest Daniel donated their prize back to the society. We hope that this will continue to be a successful contest.



Fort Laramie, N.T. Aug 15th



Fort Laramie, N.T. June 25th