

Chicago Silent Precancels & A Lancaster Patriotic Cover

- ▶ *By Robert Noble*
- ▶ PSLC Annual Meeting, Open House & Exhibition
- ▶ 16 November 2019



Silent Precancels Chicago, Illinois

From the 1850's to the 1870's, Chicago's population rose from 30,000 to 300,000. It became the hub of the nation between east and west.

The Chicago fire of October 8th and 9th, 1871 slowed things down but by January 1872, Chicago's postal business transactions were second in the United States.

Many mail order houses added to the overwhelming postal business. The result was Chicago doing anything it could to keep the mails flowing.

The use of precancelled postage dues helped.

Chicago, IL Type A

"PO" within "C", all inside an
pearl strand 18-20mm by 19-21mm;
Magenta ink, gray ink known

Used by the Post Office in 1880 on the
1879 dues



Chicago, IL Type B

"C" inside a double oval 28x17mm
Gray or magenta ink

Used by the Post Office from 1881-
1884 on the 1879 dues



CHICAGO POST OFFICE in 1832, at the Forks of the river. Painting by Richard Richard. Courtesy The Northern Trust Co.

Silent Precancels Chicago, Illinois

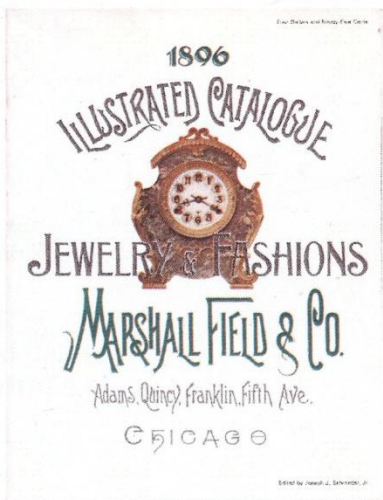
This silent precancel used in Chicago, was used to pay the 3 cents due for a "ladies sized" cover from Xenia, Ohio to Marshall Fields & Co, "The Store That Helped Build Chicago".

The "DUE 3" indicates an underpayment on first-class postage, which was 3 cents per 1/2 ounce from July 1, 1863 through September 30, 1883. WHY???? Careful examination of the cover indicates that it probably contained a silver dollar and was therefore over weight.

Chicago, IL Type D
1 pen line, black or purple ink

Used by the Post Office from 1880 to 1935 on a variety of postage dues, and PP dues

First reported use of black line on 1879, 3 cent due



Silent Precancels Chicago, Illinois

Other silents used in Chicago

Chicago, IL Type M

3 vertical lines, 1-2mm wide, 1.5mm between lines 1 and 2 and 3mm between line 2 and 3, 9mm overall, gray ink

Used by Chicago Mail Order House on a variety of Columbian denominations.



Chicago, IL Type Q

1 printed line, 6mm wide, made up of vertical lines .25mm wide and .25mm apart, black ink

Used on the 1908 series—

4 cent - Bedell Cloak & Suit Co, New York City—mailed from Chicago over NYC permit #457

1 cent - Chas A Stevens & Bros, Chicago



Chicago, IL Type S

2-6mm wide, 2-5.5mm apart, gray ink

Used on 1908-1914 issues, including PP

by

Siegel Cooper & Co,

W B Conkey Co - publishers

Bedell Clothing- mailed from Chicago over NYC permit #457

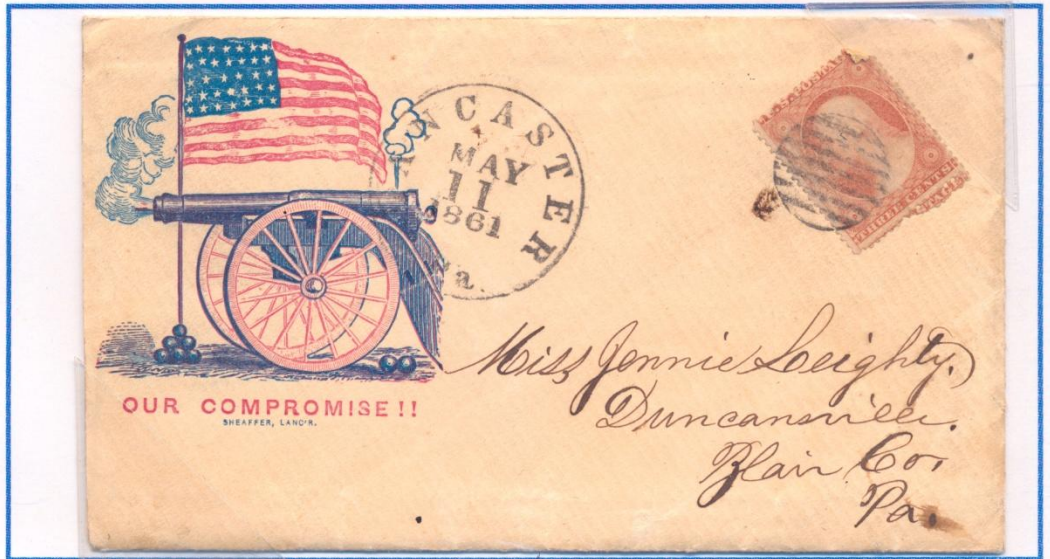
Charles Scribner Sons, New York City- mailed from Chicago

Sears Roebuck.



Patriotic Cover:

Letter of Corporal John H Black
mailed from Lancaster PA.

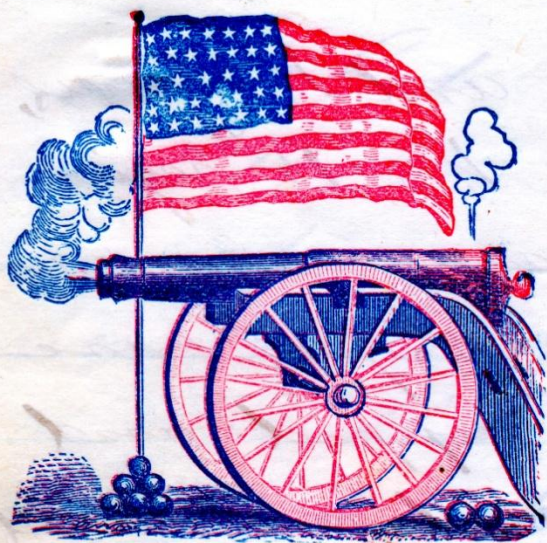


This letter to his wife to be Jennie Leighty, dated May 10, 1861 and post-marked at Lancaster on May 11 tells of camp life at the fair grounds in leaky tents.

The envelope and stationery were made by Sheaffer, Lancaster

Enclosed letter





OUR COMPROMISE!!

SHEAFFER, LANO'R.

Lancaster, Pa.
May, 10, 1861
Dear Jennie:—

Your letter of a few days past arrived at Camp Curtin on yesterday morning about 9 o'clock, and by 10, we were loaded on freight cars and shipped to the above named city. There were two trains and each train had 800 soldiers aboard, making in all 1600. I fancied the freight cars very much, for I, with a few others, took the privilege of riding on decks from which we had a beautiful view of the surrounding country, and to tell the truth I must say I never saw a prettier section of

Patriotic Cover:

Letter of Corporal John H Black Lancaster PA.

(continued)

Immediately after the bombardment and surrender of Fort Sum., April 14, 1861, President Lincoln asked for 75,000 volunteers to quell the Southern rebellion.

Governor Curtin of Pennsylvania asked for 13,000 volunteers. Camp Curtin, near Harrisburg, became the training spot for Pennsylvania recruits beginning on April 18, 1861.

14th Regiment Company H was recruited in Blair County. It was mustered in April 24. On April 30th the regiment was organized at Camp Curtin. They moved to Lancaster on May 9th and remained on duty there until June 3, 1861.

The company was mustered out later in 1861 as their enlistment had expired, **however many reenlisted** including John H. Black.

A Yankee Horseman in the Shenandoah Valley



The Civil War Letters of John H. Black,
Twelfth Pennsylvania Cavalry