

Civil War Pension Philately

Scott Ney

Philatelic Society of Lancaster County

August 27, 2025

The [National Archives and Records Administration \(NARA\)](#) is the custodian of about two million Civil War pension files, which are among the most frequently used research sources in the National Archives. These files provide information about veterans, as well as their widows, minor children, and dependent fathers and mothers. The vast majority of the hundreds of millions of pages preserved at the National Archives reached the Bureau of Pensions in Washington, D.C. via the U.S. Mail, and millions of notices, vouchers, checks, and other correspondence reached pensioners and their attorneys via their local post offices.

The focus of this presentation is on federal pensions; the administration of pensions to confederate veterans and dependents was handled by Southern state governments and necessarily constitutes a collecting specialty all of its own.

Remembering a few of my Pensioners:

Pvt. Levi Ney, Co. D, 46th Pennsylvania Veteran Volunteer Infantry (Dependent Father's Pension) – Died on July 21, 1864, of wounds received during the Battle of Peach Tree Creek in Georgia, July 20, 1864

Corp. Henry C. Gaither, Co. H, 39th U.S. Colored Troops (Widow's Pension) – declared insane and admitted to an asylum in 1884; died in 1888

Corp. Edward King, Co. D, 46th Pennsylvania Veteran Volunteer Infantry (Invalid's/Widow's Pension) – Died in 1888

Pvt. Peter Kreiser, Co. D, 46th Pennsylvania Veteran Volunteer Infantry (Invalid's Pension) – Died of a gunshot wound received in a [domestic violence incident](#) in 1912

2nd Lt. Thomas L. Moyer, Co. E, 151st Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry (Invalid's/Widow's Pension) – Declared insane in 1868, a condition directly related to a chest wound suffered at the Battle of Gettysburg on July 1, 1863

Private Levi Ney

46th Pennsylvania Veteran Volunteer Infantry



**GEORGIA
CASUALTY**

Private Levi
Ney, Mess 4, was
killed at Peach
Tree Creek.

Corporal Henry C. Gaither

39th U.S. Colored Infantry



Corp. Henry C. Gaither, Company H, Thirty-ninth U.S. Colored Infantry

Carte de visite by unidentified photographer, about 1865. Collection of the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum.

Service Records at the NARA

601
Gaither Henry.
Co H., 39 U.S. Col'd Inf.
Private | *1st Corporal*
CARD NUMBERS.

1	58437A6	26
2	58437AA	27
3	5843751	28
4	5844029	29
5	5844129	30
6	584422A	31
7	5844823	32
8	5844414	33
9	5844518	34
10	5844611	35
11	5844700	36
12	5844784	37
13	9144490	38
14		39
15		40
16		41
17		42
18		43
19		44
20		45
21		46
22		47
23		48
24		49
25		50

Book Mark:

See also:

Each service record is a collection of index cards that were compiled by clerks from original regimental muster records. They were created primarily to help verify service for the purpose of awarding pensions. This is an image of the folder holding the record cards of Corp. Henry C. Gaither.

Service Records at the NARA

N | 46 | Pa.

Levi Ney
Pvt., Co. D, 46 Reg't Pa. Infantry.
 Appears on
Muster and Descriptive Roll of Vet. Vols.
 of the organization named above. Roll dated
Decherd Tenn Jan 13, 1864.
 Where born Berks Co. Pa.
 Age 23 yrs; occupation Miller
 When enlisted Dec. 22, 1863.
 Where enlisted Decherd, Tenn.
 For what period enlisted 3 years.
 Eyes grey; hair brown
 Complexion dark; height 5 ft. 6 in
 When mustered in Jan. 13, 1864.
 Muster-in to date Dec. 22, 1863.
 Where mustered in Decherd, Tenn.
 Bounty paid \$ 100; due \$ 100
 Where credited
 Company to which assigned
 Remarks: Where credited
Cold Spring, Detamanta
Pa.
 Book mark:
Harpur
 (341) Copyist.

N | 46 | Pa.

Levi Ney
Pvt., Co. D, 46 Reg't Pa. Infantry.
 Age 23 years.
 Appears on a
Detachment Muster-out Roll
 of the organization named above. Roll dated
Decherd Tenn Jan 13, 1864.
 Muster-out to date Dec. 21, 1863.
 Last paid to Oct. 31, 1863.
 Clothing account:
 Last settled, 186 ; drawn since \$ 100
 Due soldier \$ 100; due U. S. \$ 100
 Am't for cloth'g in kind or money adv'd \$ 100
 Due U. S. for arms, equipments, &c., \$ 100
 Bounty paid \$ 100; due \$ 100.
 Remarks: Due U. S. for
Nothing 12.25
Discharged by virtue of re-
enlistment as Vet. Vol.
under the provisions of
G. O. 191 of 1863 from the
War Dept.
 Book mark:
Waddington
 (349) Copyist.

Two examples of cards from the service record of Pvt. Levi Ney, including his physical description at reenlistment in January 1864 and record of mustering out, ending his first enlistment, in December 1863. Most service record cards simply state whether the soldier was present or absent during two-month periods of his enlistment, and do not record engagements or other information not found on regimental muster rolls. Levi's service record folder also contains his re-enlistment papers and information about wounds he received in battle and periods when he was taken prisoner on the battlefield.

Service Records at the NARA

Sharttsville Berks Co. Pa.
July 16th 1863

Thomas
Adjutant General
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir

In Conformity
with Special orders No 187. I obtained
leave of absence from Major Gen. Schenck
^(dated from 12th inst.)
for 30 days on Surgeon's Certificate
of disability. I do hereby report
that I have this day returned home
safe. My address is Sharttsville
Berks County Pa.

Yours to Command
Thos L Moyer
2nd Lieut Co. E "137 Pa

Service records generally don't contain personal correspondence, but the record of 2nd Lt. Thomas L. Moyer contains a letter he sent to Washington after he was sent home to Berks County to recover after being wounded at Gettysburg on July 1, 1863.

Pension Files at the NARA

State of Pennsylvania COUNTY OF Lebanon

Sworn to and subscribed before me this day by the above-named affiant, and I certify that I read said affidavit to said affiant, including the words _____, and the words _____ added _____

and acquainted him with its contents before he executed the same. I further certify that I am in no way interested in said case, nor am I concerned in its prosecution; and that said affiant is personally known to me and that he is credible person.

Geo. S. Knapp
Justice of the Peace
(Notary Public)

_____, Clerk of the County Court in and for aforesaid County and State, do certify that _____, Esq., who hath signed his name to the foregoing declaration and affidavit was at the time of so doing _____ in and for said County and State, duly commissioned and sworn; that all his official acts are entitled to full faith and credit, and that his signature thereto is genuine.

Witness my hand and seal of office, this _____ day of _____, 189____

Clerk of the _____

NOTE.—This should be sworn to before a CLERK OF COURT, NOTARY PUBLIC, or JUSTICE OF THE PEACE. If before a JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, then CLERK OF COUNTY COURT must add his certificate of character hereon, and set on a separate slip of paper.

ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE.

CLERK OF COURT
1 Chas. Knapp
Justice of the Peace
PENSION DIVISION
OCTOBER 189____
OFFICE

Filed by _____

Printed and for sale by J. H. BAKER, Harrisburg, Pa.

GENERAL AFFIDAVIT.

State of Pennsylvania, County of Lebanon, ss.

In the matter of the mother's claim for Pension of
Levi Ney, who was killed at the battle Peach Tree Pt.
on July 21st, 1864.

ON THIS _____ day of October, A. D. 188____, personally appeared before me _____

Justice of the Peace _____ in and for the aforesaid County, duly authorized to administer oaths

Edward King _____ aged 44 years, a resident of Tower City

in the County of Schuylkill and State of Pennsylvania

whose Post Office address is Tower City, Schuylkill Co., Pa.

aged _____ years, a resident of _____

in the County of _____ and State of _____

whose Post Office address is _____

well known to me to be reputable and entitled to credit, and who, being duly sworn, declared in relation to aforesaid case as follows:

(Note.—Affiant should state how they gain a knowledge of the facts to which they testify.)

That he enlisted at Harrisburg, Pa., on the 20th
day of September 1861, in Co. D, 46th Pa. Vols., in company
with his brother and that he enlisted together in the same
Regiment on the 13th day of February 1864, that they
were mess mates nearly all the time, and that on
the 20th day of July 1864, while in the line of
his duty, at the battle of Peach Tree Pt. in the
State of Georgia, the said Levi Ney was shot
in the abdomen below the navel from which
wound he died the following day (July 21, 1864)
and that he was with him when he died,
did not assist in his burial as he the said Edward
King was himself wounded in the same battle, that
they were companions before enlisting, living in
the same neighborhood and that he knows
that the parents of said Levi Ney had the services
of their son before he enlisted and that he sent
money home to his parents while in the service,
and that he knows that his parents owned a small
tract of uncultivated mountain land, from which
they could not raise enough to live, it being nothing
but rocks and scrub oaks, and that the said
Levi Ney did and assist his parents while
at home and while in the service of his country
and would be of great service to them now as they
are old and feeble.

and _____ further declare that he has _____ no interest in said case and _____ is _____ not concerned in its prosecution.

Geo. S. Knapp _____ Edward King _____

(If Affiant sign by mark, two persons who can write sign here.) (Signature of Affiant.)

Photocopies of pages from Pvt. Levi Ney's pension file

Pension Files at the NARA

most further states that he is well acquainted with the claimant, having known him for 45 years, and further that his knowledge of the facts above derived from said acquaintance, and from having served as private of Company D, 1st Regt. Pa. Vol., from the day of January 1864 to the day of July 1868, further states that the claimant is totally disinterested in this claim, and that he is a credible person.

Subscribed before me this day by the above-named affiant, and I certify that I read the affidavit, and acquainted him with its contents before he executed the same, that I am in no wise interested in said case, nor am I concerned in its prosecution; and the said affiant is personally known to me, and that he is a credible person.

Notary Public for the County of Lebanon, Pa.
 Ephraim S. Shury
 Office of the Notary Public

in and to before a CLERK OF COURT, NOTARY PUBLIC, or JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, in the County of Lebanon, Pa., who hath signed his name to the foregoing affidavit, was at the time of so doing, commissioned and sworn, that all his official acts are entitled to full faith and credit and that his hand and seal of office, this day of February, 1888.

CLERK OF THE COURT
 David Ney
 306 038
 1888

Proof Origin of Disability
 CLAIM OF
 David Ney
 306 038
 1888

GENERAL AFFIDAVIT.

State of Pennsylvania, County of Lebanon ss.,
 I, the master of Donahoe, Negrotian of David Ney, who was a private in Co. D, 1st Regt. Pa. Vol.,
 THIS SIXTEENTH day of March, A. D. 1888, personally appeared before me, a Justice of the Peace, in and for the aforesaid County, duly authorized to administer oaths, David Ney, aged 60 years, whose Post Office address is Lebanon, Pa.
 who, being duly sworn, declared in relation to said case as follows: that he has been, well and personally acquainted with the said David Ney since 1848 until present time, during which time he has lived with him, and seen and conversed with him as often as he could, and worked and worked a good deal together, and that from personal knowledge gained of the claimant's physical condition, to the best of affiant's judgment, these disabilities have disqualified the claimant for manual labor to the extent of 10 years or present time, and to the extent of 10 years or present time.

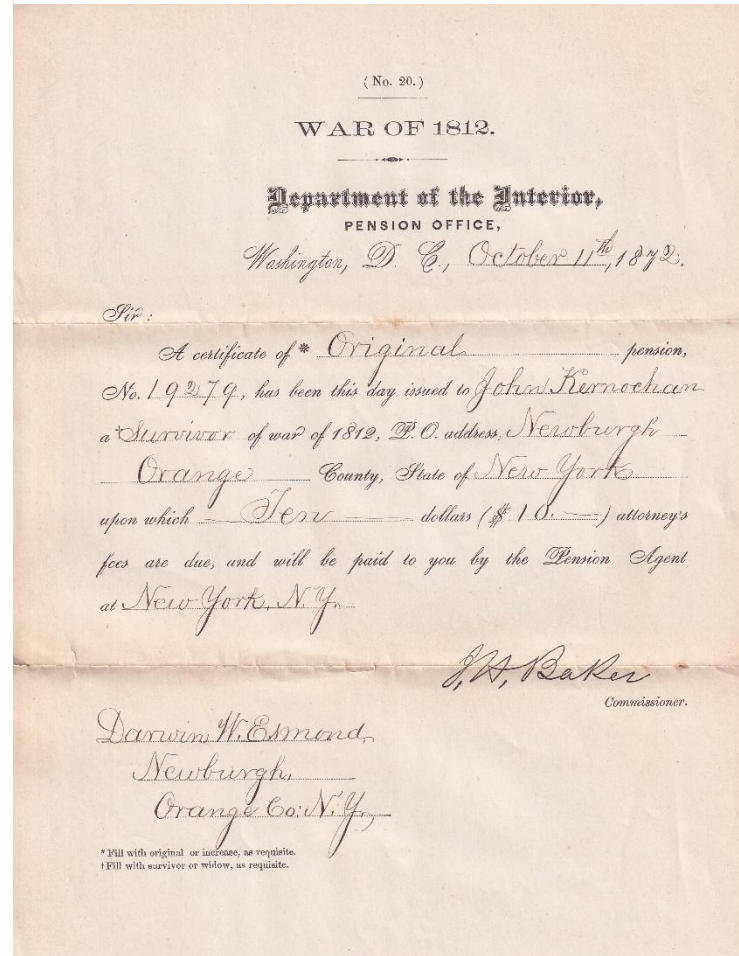
and he further declares that he has no interest in said case, and is not concerned in its prosecution.

Ephraim S. Shury
 Notary Public for the County of Lebanon, Pa.

David I. Krueger
 Signature of Affiant

Photocopies of pages from Pvt. Levi Ney's pension file

Pension Files at the NARA



Pension files go all the way back to the Revolutionary War. At the time Civil War pensions began to be issued, there were still pensions being issued to veterans and widows for service in the War of 1812. This notice regarding a veteran's pension was provided to attorney Darwin W. Esmond of Newburgh, N.Y, in October 1872.

Pension Files at the NARA

State of Penna.
Sabanon County S. S.

On this Sixteenth day of March
A.D. 1888. Personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace
in and for the aforesaid County, duly authorized to administer
oath. Daniel Ney father of Levi Ney late a private in
company D. 46 Reg Pa. Vol. who being duly sworn according
to law. States that his Post office address is, Ney, P. O.
Sabanon County Pa. at the time of the Soldiers enlistment in
1861 the P. O. was East Clearover Sabanon County Pa. Those were
the only P. O. And he further Says that all the doctors that attended
him are dead, and he further Says all the letters received from
his son while in the army were destroyed by Rats eating
them. The following are the names and when born of the other
children of said claimant.

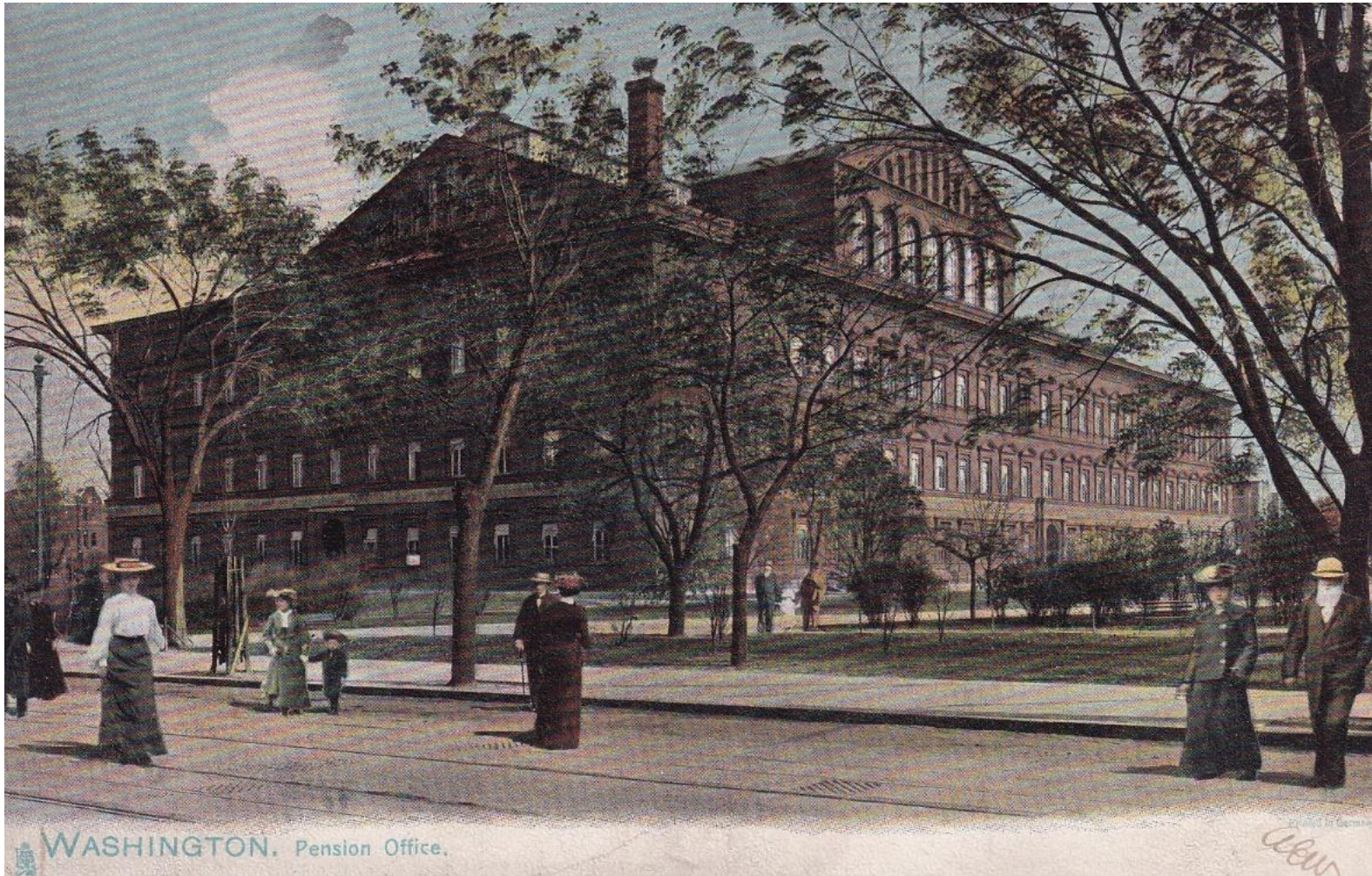
Dependent mother/father pension files may contain letters that the veteran sent home, submitted as verification of his service. This note in Levi Ney's pension file states that there were no letters to submit as evidence for his father's pension application, because "all the letters received from his son while in the army were destroyed by rats eating them."

Pension Building Washington, D.C.



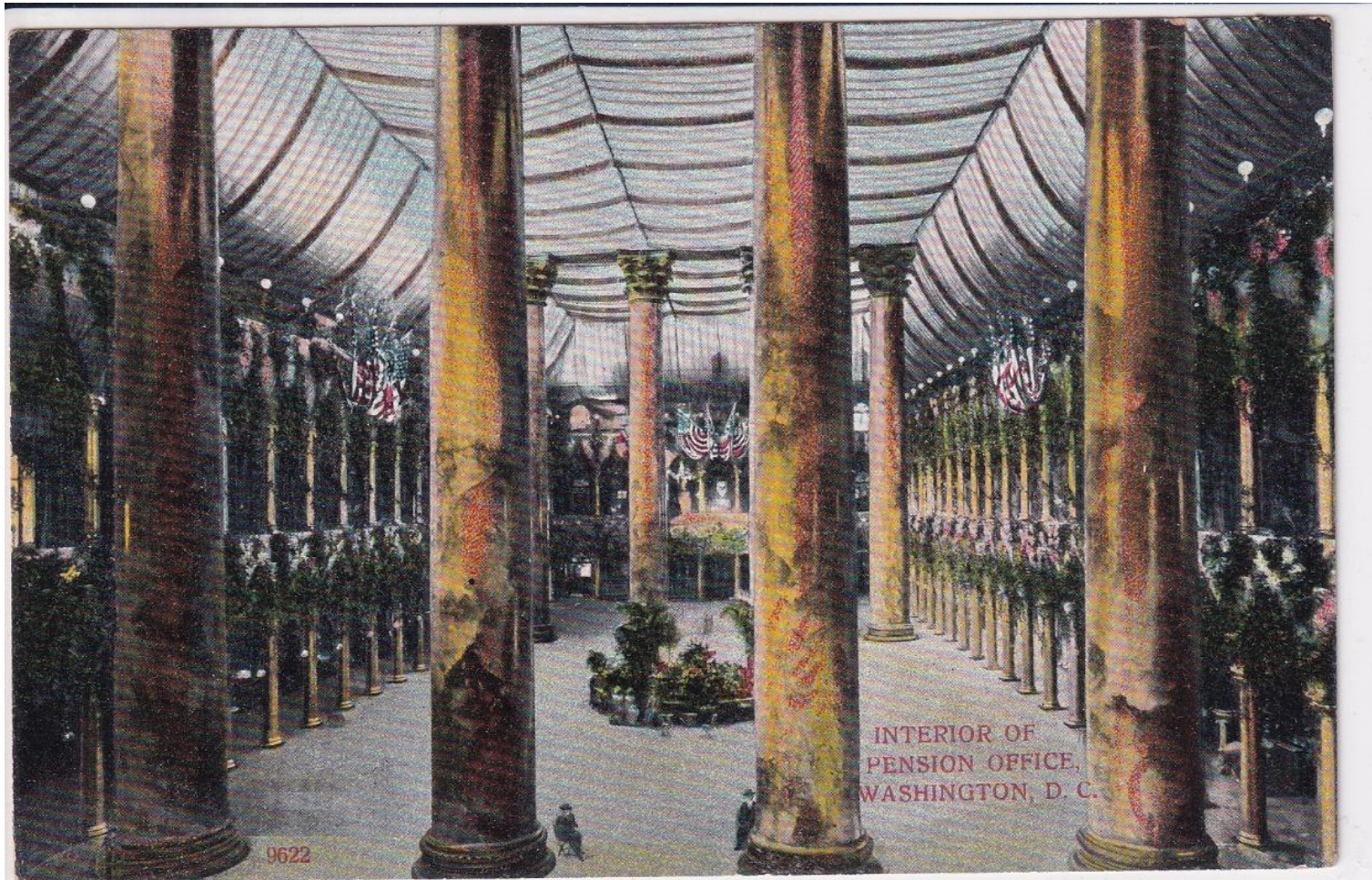
This is the building that housed the U.S. Pension bureau, completed in 1887. An army of clerks worked there, administering the pension system that provided for veterans and dependents of the Civil War and conflicts involving the United States before and after.

Pension Building



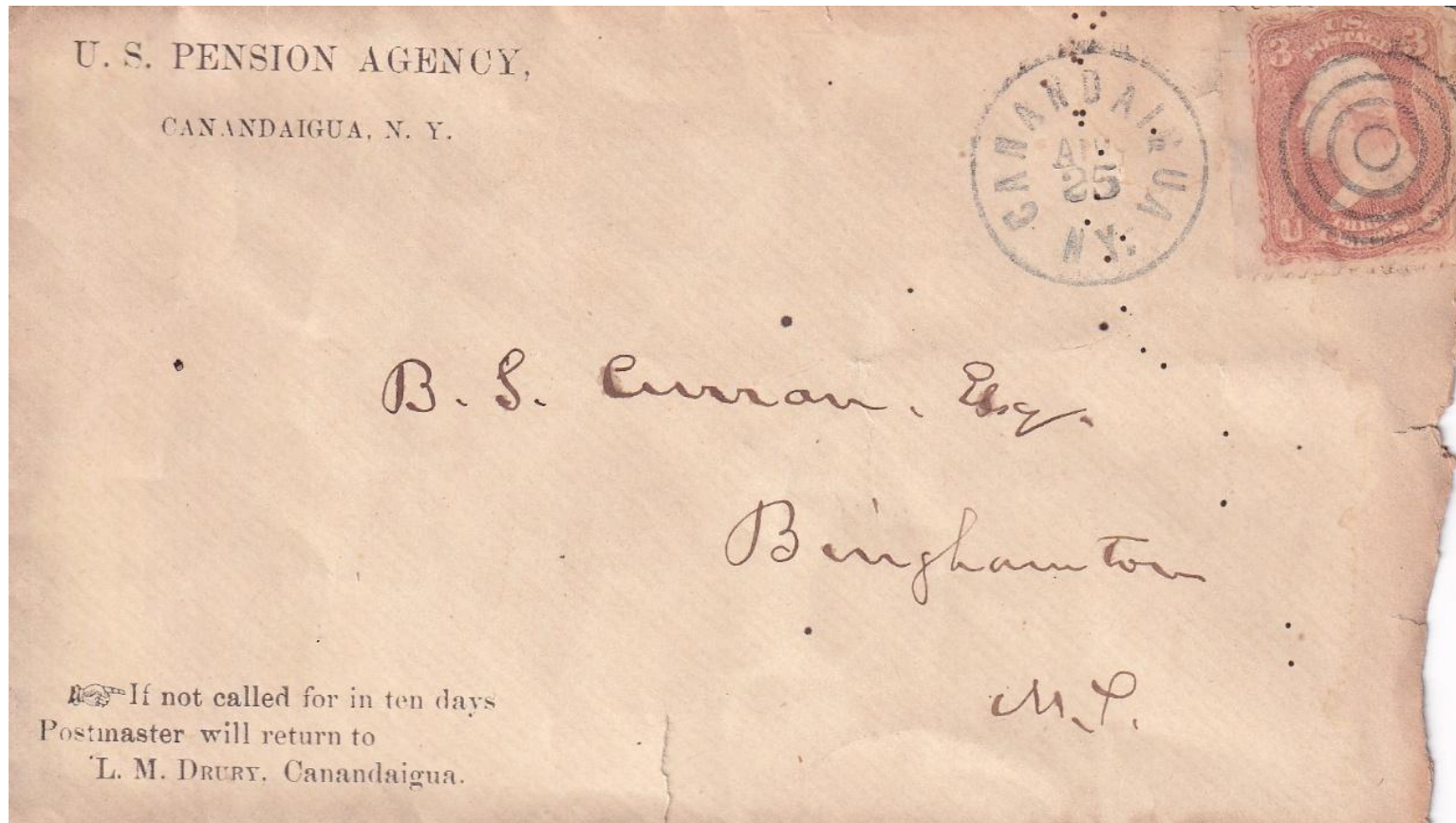
The former Pension Building still stands in Northwest Washington, D.C., and now houses the [National Building Museum](#) of architecture, design, engineering, construction and urban planning. It was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1985.

Pension Building



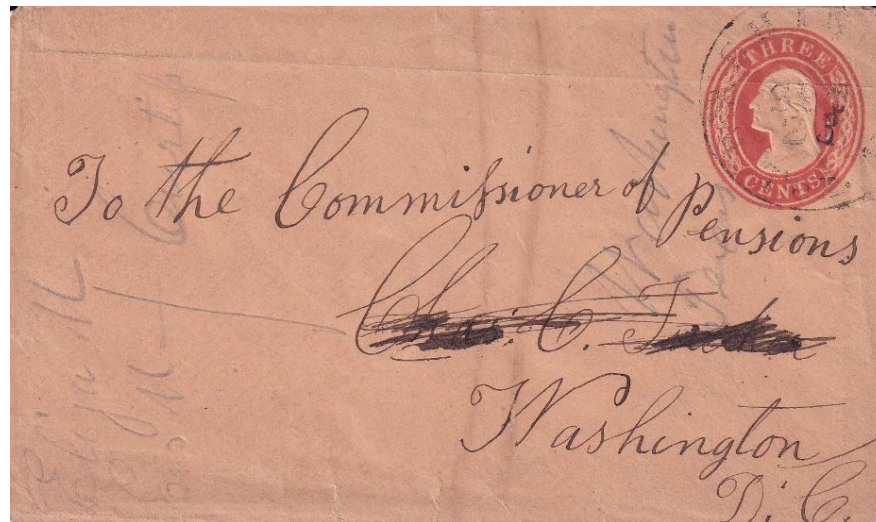
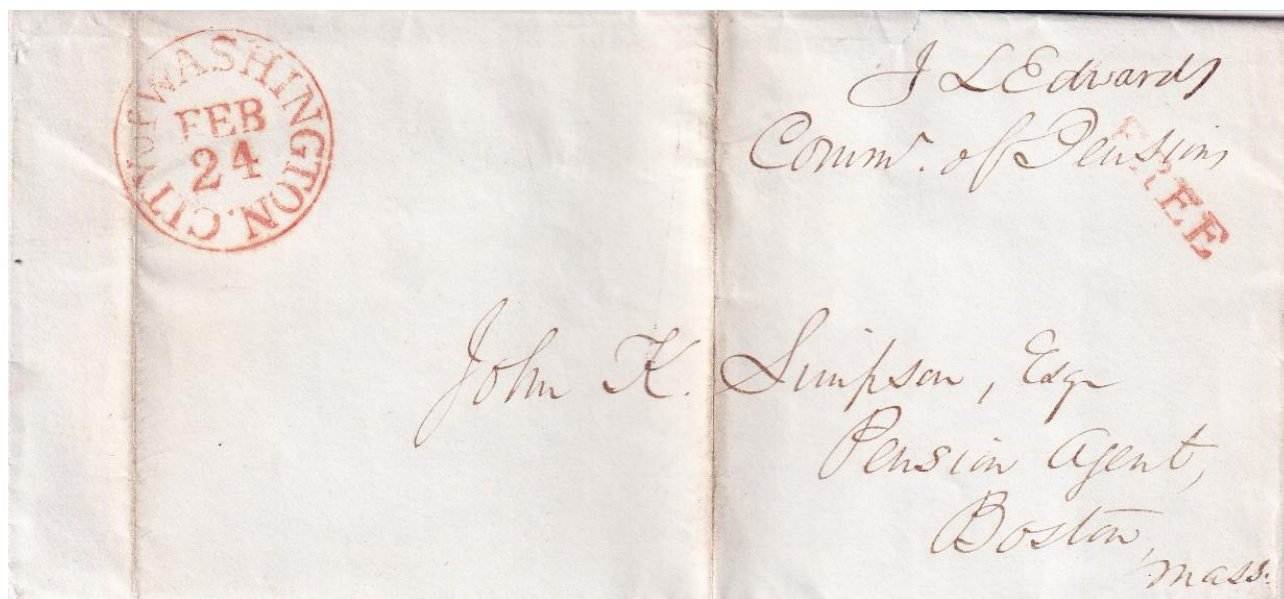
The pension building was so large that it was the host of significant gatherings and exhibitions, including presidential inaugural balls. In 1930, the building was repurposed for the U.S. General Account Office; the GAO left the building in 1950.

Pension Covers



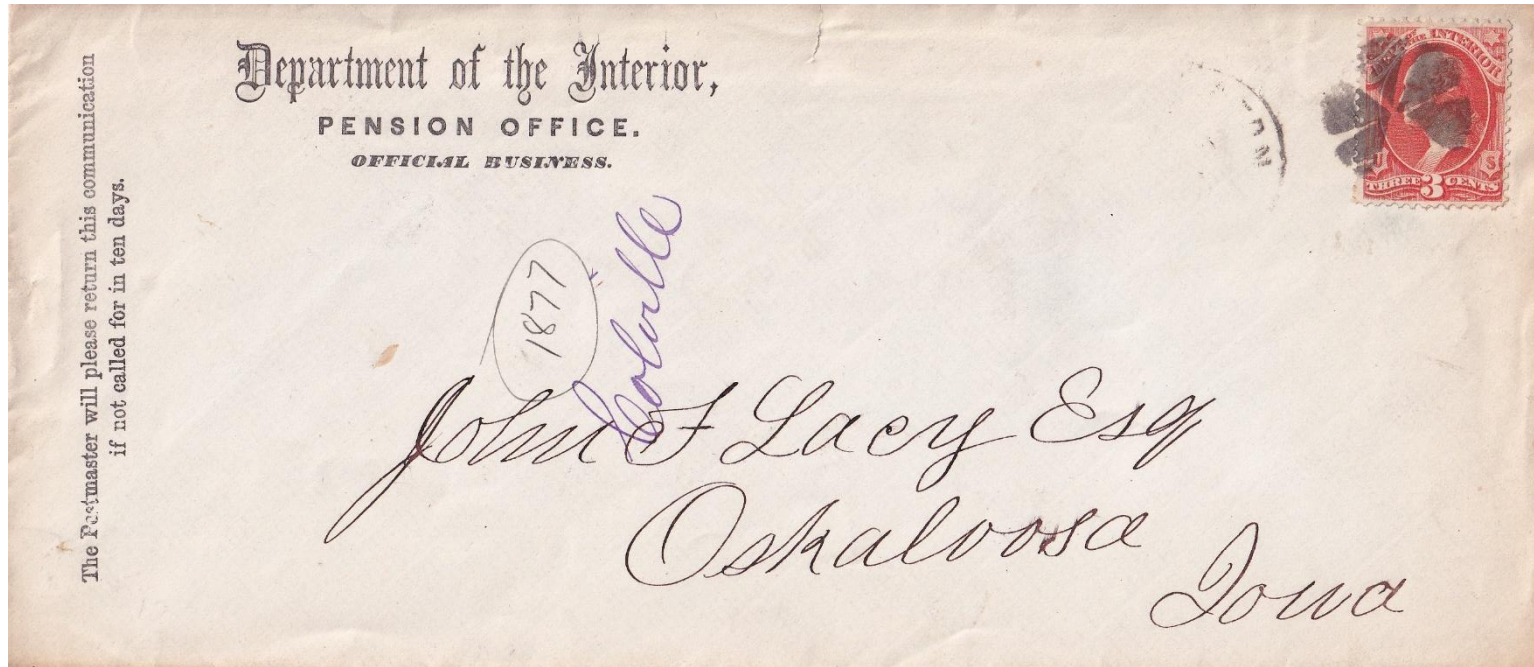
This is an unremarkable cover, but it's the first cover I acquired that eventually became my "Civil War Pension Philately" collection; from a dollar box at my first Lancaster stamp show, ca. 2017.

Pension Covers



Examples of pension postal history from before the Civil War era. The stampless folded letter from Commissioner J.L. Edwards to the pension agent in Boston is in regard to the payment of a pensioner in 1836.

Pension Covers



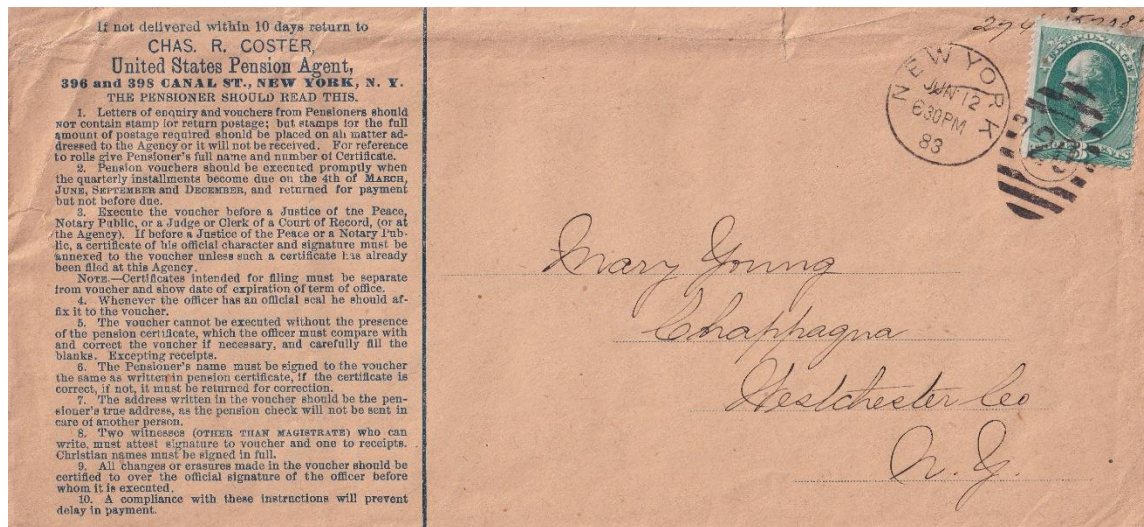
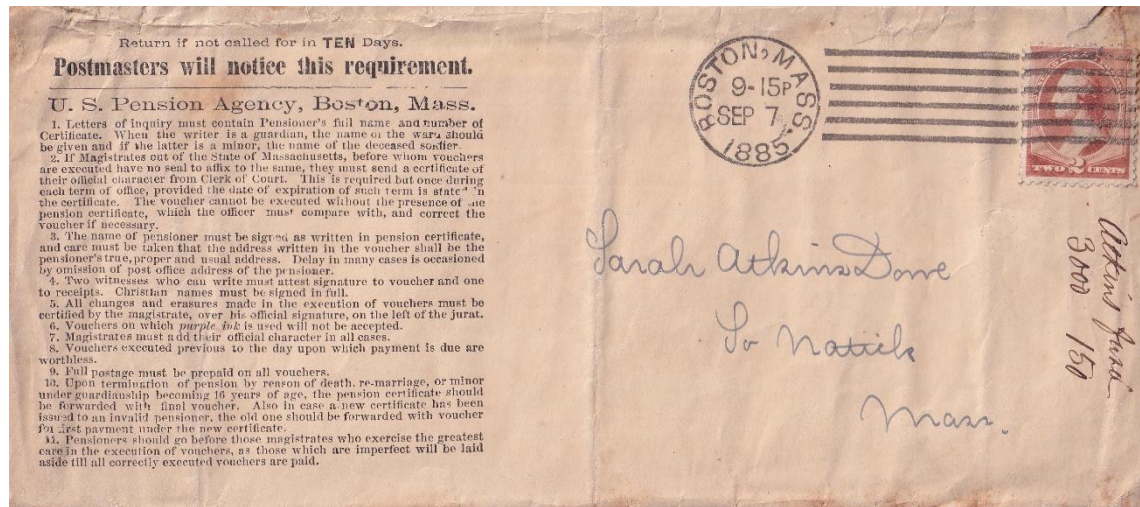
Covers from the pension office franked with Department of Interior official stamps are not common. The recipient of this cover, John F. Lacey, was a Union Army veteran in the 33rd Iowa Volunteers, elected to the Iowa House of Representatives in 1870, and the U.S. House of Representatives 1889 – 1891 and 1893 – 1907.

Pension Covers



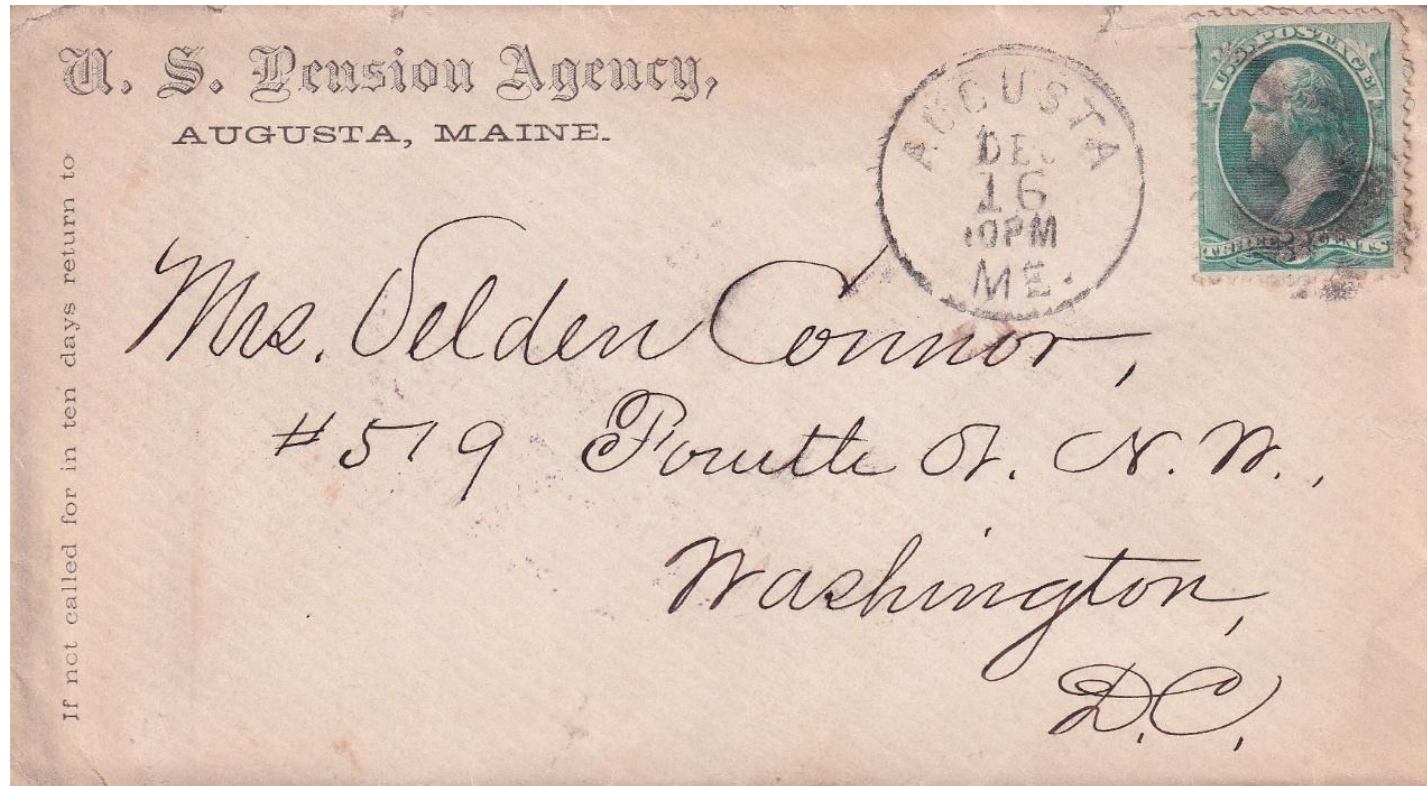
Most pension covers are found on special stationery with a Bureau of Pensions corner card on the left and an “Official Business – Penalty for Private Use” federal eagle on the right. This particular cover has several interesting additional markings: a U.S. pension office stamp, an “Army Division” stamp, and a “Returned to Sender – Cannot be found by N.Y.P.D.” return stamp. As the cover was addressed to a doctor, perhaps it contained a medical certificate to be filled out on behalf of a veteran applying for a pension.

Pension Agents



The pension bureaucracy was supported by a network of Pension Agencies located around the country to help deliver the payments due to the veterans and their families. These covers are from U.S. Pension agents in Boston and New York.

Pension Agents



As seen on these covers, Pension Agencies used regular postage stamps in their correspondence.

Pension Vouchers

Roll No. 1332

(A.)

ARMY VOUCHER No. _____

CERT. NO. 65794

INVALID.

Jesse L. Shore

_____, 188 .

\$48.00.

READ THIS NOTE CAREFULLY.

NOTE.—By Act of Congress approved July 8, 1870, these vouchers are furnished FREE OF EXPENSE TO THE PENSIONER. The following regulations are required to be made thereon. One will be forwarded to every pensioner before the 4th day of March, June, September, and December of each year. On or after the 4th day of the months above mentioned, the pensioner, with his pension certificate, will go before a magistrate and sign and execute the vouchers and sign the receipts. If the pensioner sign by mark, two witnesses thereto will be required. The executed voucher will then be returned by mail to the U. S. Pension Agent mentioned below, who, upon its receipt, will forward to the sworn address of the pensioner, given within, a check for the full amount of pension.

4TH DEC, 1889.

4TH MARCH, 1890.

Return this voucher for payment to

B. KELLY,

U. S. Pension Agent.

TOPEKA,

KANSAS.

A pensioner was sent a voucher every quarter, which was completed in the presence of a proper authority, such as a postmaster, and returned to the agent representing the pensioner's geographic area.

Pension Vouchers

Roll No. 33 111 Page No. 208
 3-280 a. Act of June 27, 1890.

Magistrate and pensioner before executing this voucher should read carefully the special instructions on face and back of same.

A **INVALID.** **A**

Be it known, That William Stevens, do solemnly swear that I am
 the identical person named in pension certificate in my possession, No. 827544 dated 3
 day of Dec, 1898, and whose name is inscribed on the rolls of the **BUFFALO**
 Agency at the rate of \$6 per month,

That I have not been employed or paid in the Army, Navy, or Marine service of the United States
 from 4th day of July, 1898, to the present time, and that my present
 P. O. address is _____
 County of _____, State of _____

(If pensioner signs by mark, two witnesses
 who can write.)

(Pensioner's signature) _____
 Signature must be written below for letter as it is in
 pension certificate.

THE PENSION CERTIFICATE MUST BE EXHIBITED TO THE MAGISTRATE WHEN THIS VOUCHER IS EXECUTED.

STATE OF _____, COUNTY OF _____, ss:
 Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of October, 1898; and I certify
 that the pensioner above named has this day exhibited to me his pension certificate, above described,
 and was fully identified as the pensioner named therein, and that he signed the following duplicate
 receipts in my presence.

(The Magistrate must certify to any
 change of residence.) (Magistrate's signature) _____
 Official character: _____

1. If the first payment, insert the date of the commencement of the pension. If not first payment, the date from which the payment is claimed.
 * When there is a change in the rate, either by an increase, or other, etc., state the former rate at which paid.

THE PENSIONER WILL SIGN THESE RECEIPTS IN THE PRESENCE OF THE MAGISTRATE.

\$ 18 _____, 1898.

Received of CHARLES A. ORR U. S. Pension Agent at Buffalo, N. Y.,
EIGHTEEN _____ dollars by check No. _____
 dated October, 1898, being for 3 months' and _____ days' pension due me
 on pension certificate No. 827544, from the 4th day of July, 1898, to the
4th day of October, 1898, for which I have signed duplicate receipts.

(Witness who can write) _____
 Sign name as above.

ORIGINAL.

U. S. SUB-TREASURY,
 New York City, N. Y.

A Pension voucher issued to William Stevens, from the Pension Agency at Buffalo, N.Y.

Pension Voucher

Page No. 248

Roll No. _____ (A.)
Act of June 27, 1890.

ARMY VOUCHER No. _____

INVALID.
William Stevens

OCTOBER 1898.

\$ 18

Return this voucher for payment to
CHARLES A. ORR,
U. S. Pension Agent,
BUFFALO,
NEW YORK.

Official character: _____

1. If the first payment, insert the date of the commencement of the pension. If not first payment, the date from which the payment is claimed.
* When there is a change in the rate, either by an increase, reduction, etc., note the former rate at which paid.

THE PENSIONER WILL SIGN THESE RECEIPTS IN THE PRESENCE OF THE MAGISTRATE.

ORIGINAL

\$ 18 _____, 189 .
Received of **CHARLES A. ORR** U. S. Pension Agent at **Buffalo, N. Y.,**
EIGHTEEN _____ dollars by check No. _____
dated **October 1898**, being for **3** months' and _____ days' pension due me
on pension certificate No. 027544, from the **4th** day of **July 1898**, to the
4th day of **October 1898**, for which I have signed duplicate receipts.
(Witness who can write.) _____
Sign name as above.

U. S. SUB-TREASURY,
New York City, N. Y.

Duplicate

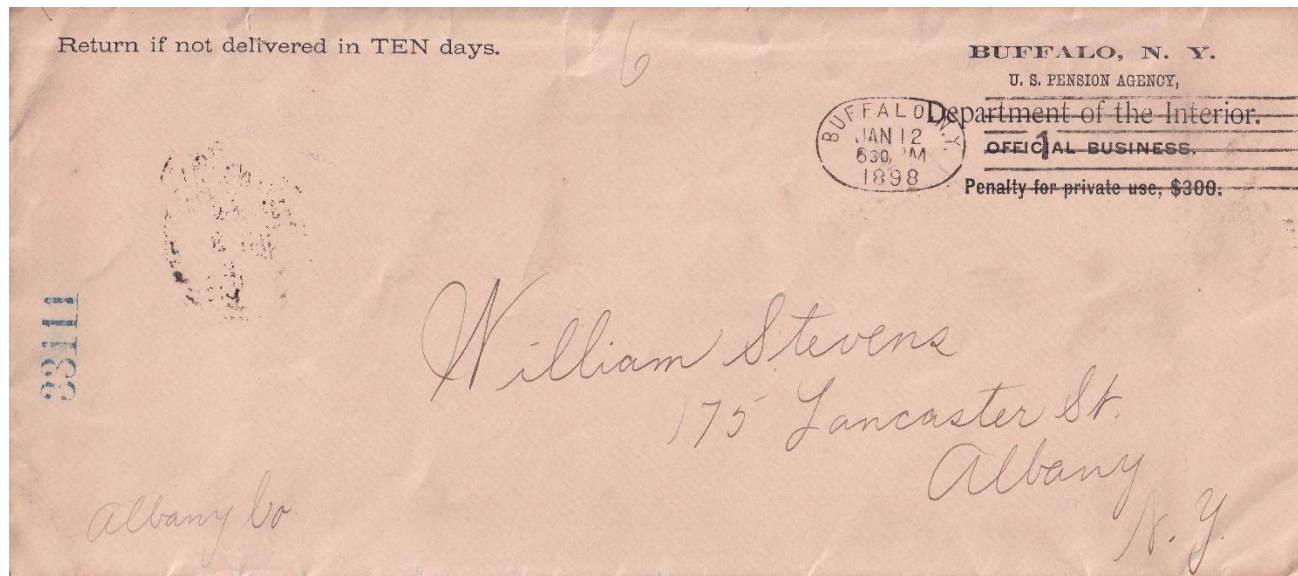
\$ 18 _____ [A.] _____, 189 .
Received of **CHARLES A. ORR** U. S. Pension Agent at **Buffalo, N. Y.,**
EIGHTEEN _____ dollars by check No. _____
dated **October 1898**, being for **3** months' and _____ days' pension due me
on pension certificate No. _____, from the **4th** day of **July 1898**, to the
4th day of **October 1898**, for which I have signed duplicate receipts.
(Witness who can write.) _____
Sign name as above.

U. S. SUB-TREASURY,
New York City, N. Y.

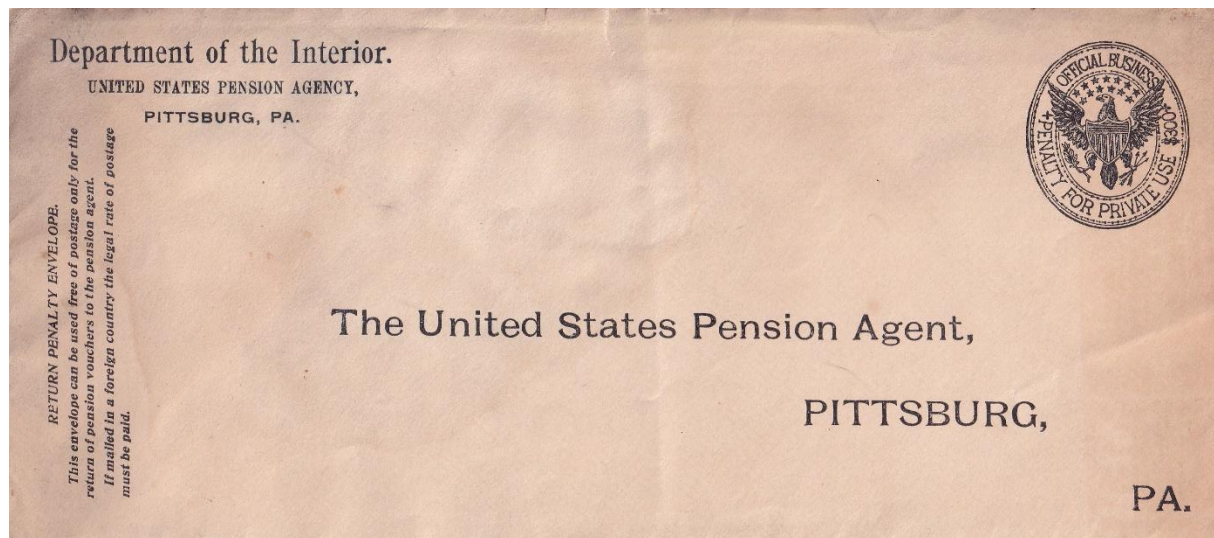
This Voucher is Worthless if Executed before October 4th, 1898.

Another view of the pension voucher issued to William Stevens. These were slightly larger than legal-sized documents that had to be executed on or after a specific date.

Pension Voucher



This is the cover that contained William Stevens' pension voucher. I bought the cover "as is" and discovered the voucher in it, a pleasant surprise.



Pension Vouchers were returned to the pension agent in envelopes such as this one.

Pension Certificate

0.3-886
ACT OF MAY 11, 1912.
AMENDED BY ACT, MARCH 4, 1913.

No. 715,307

Reissue and Increase

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF PENSIONS

It is hereby certified That in conformity with the laws of the
United States John Y. Wren
who was a Musician, Co. K, 67th Regiment Pennsylvania Infantry
is entitled to a pension at the rate of
Twenty-five dollars per month from May 30, 1915, and
Thirty dollars per month from May 30, 1920
dollars per month from
Reissue to correct name from John T. Wren, and allow increase.

Given at the Department of the Interior this
Ninth day of November
one thousand nine hundred and fifteen
and of the Independence of the United States
of America the one hundred and fortieth.

Miss A. J. [Signature]
Secretary of the Interior

Countersigned
Miss A. J. [Signature]
Commissioner of Pensions
E. H. [Signature]

For each payment containing any portion of the same time to be deducted.

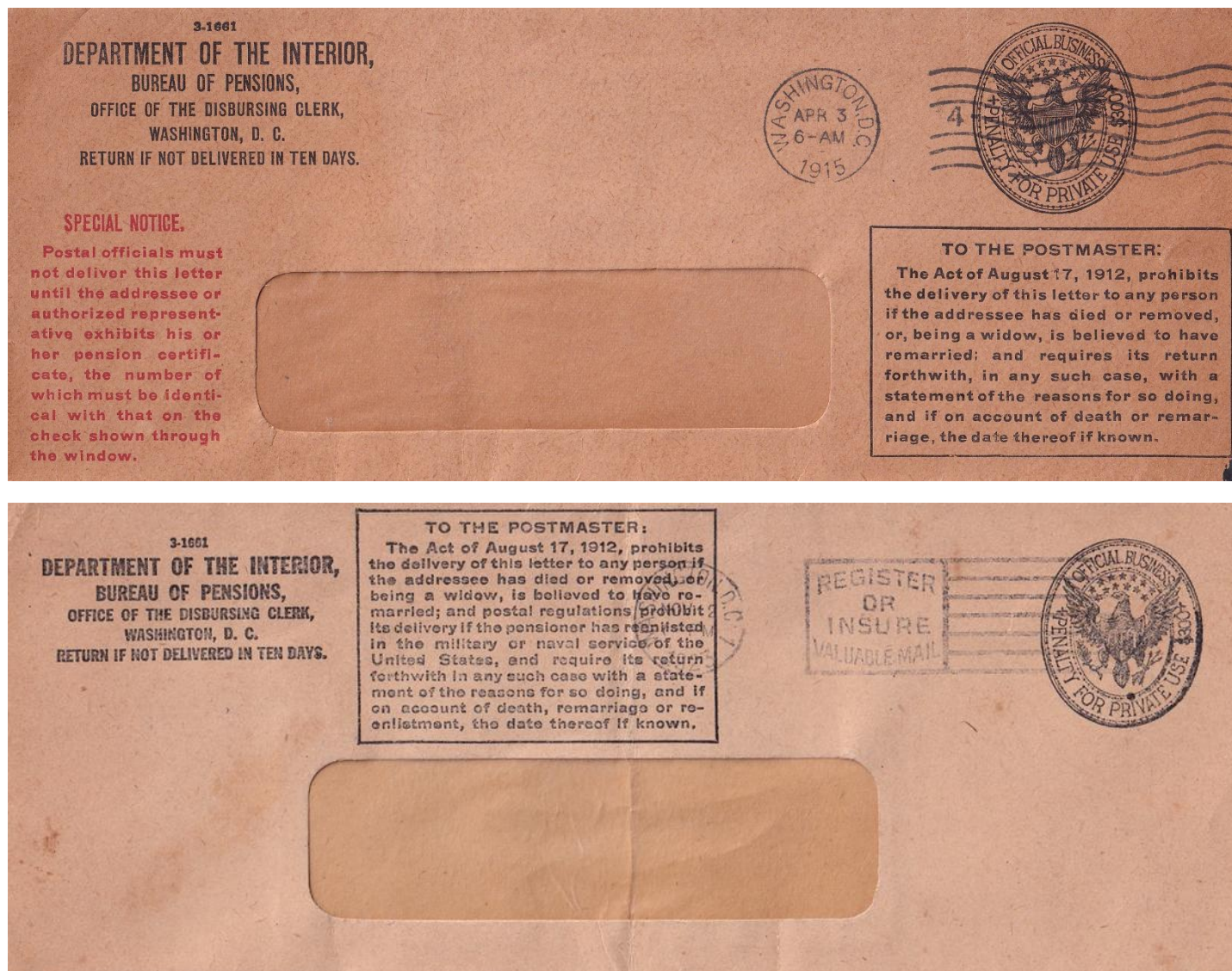
Pensioners were issued a certificate to document their identity and the amount of pension that they were entitled to. As the pension increased, slips of colored paper documenting the increase were pinned to the top of the certificate.

Pension Checks



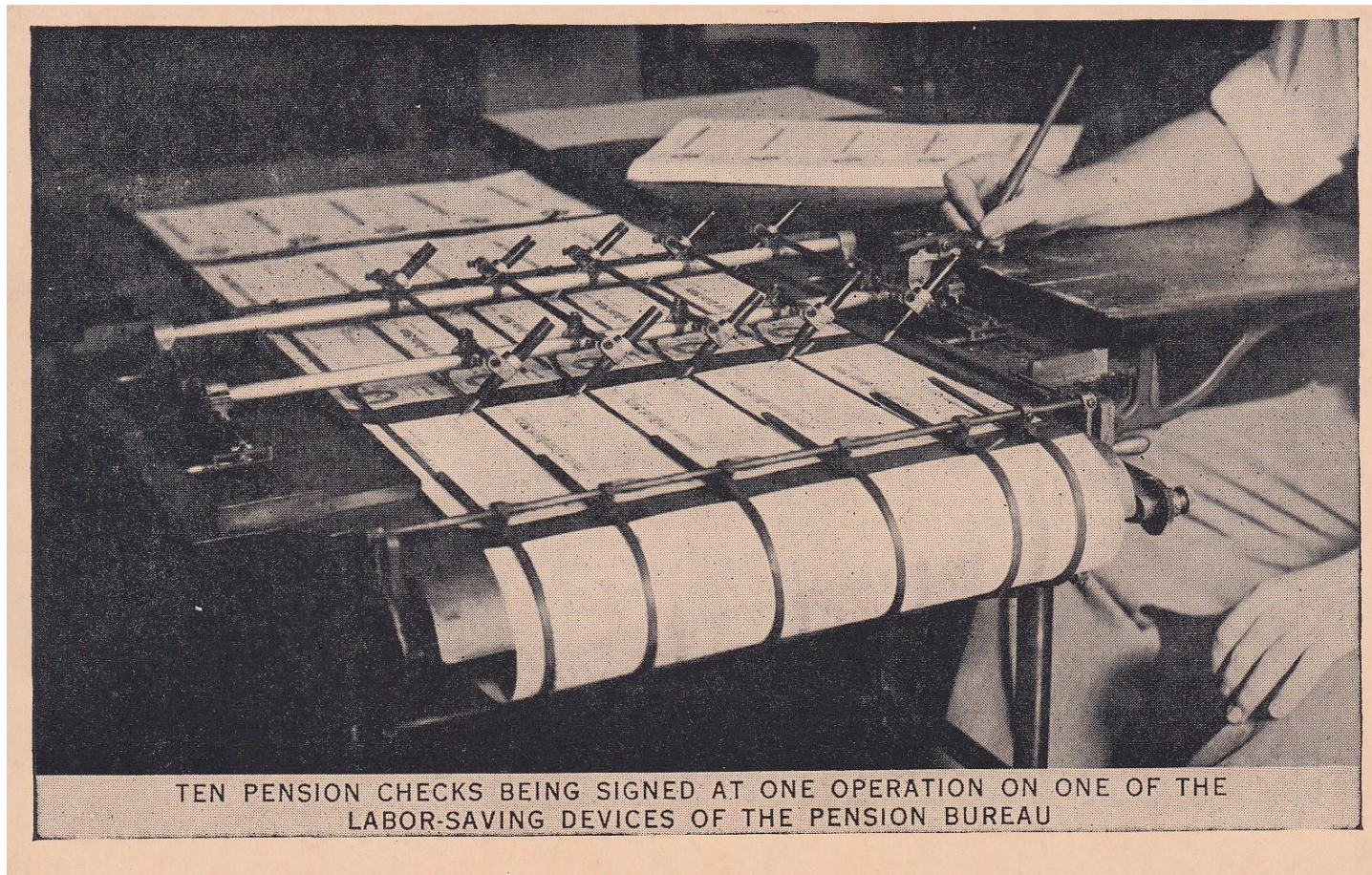
After the voucher was executed and returned to the agent, a check was issued. Pension checks did not require the use of revenue stamps.

Pension checks



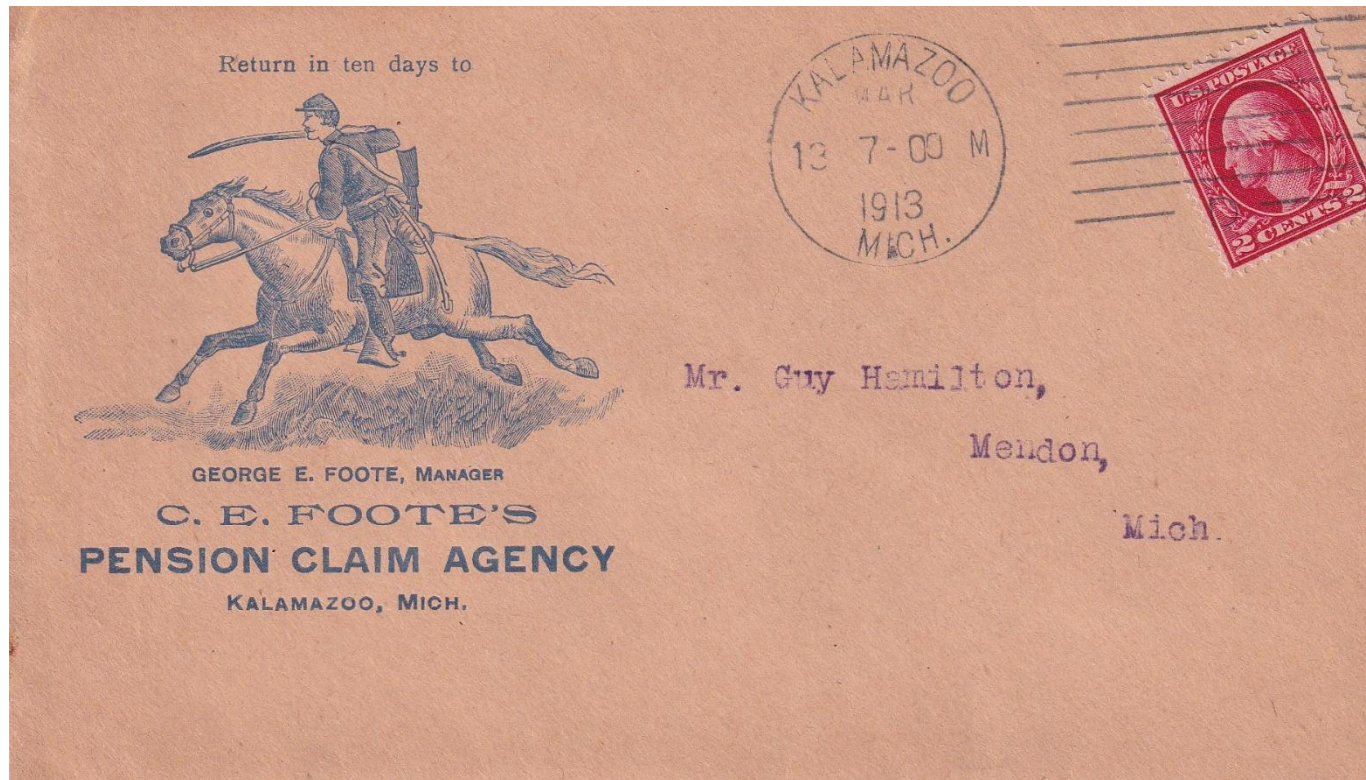
Two different types of window envelopes, from 1915 and 1923. Based on the printed notices I believe they contained checks.

Pension Checks



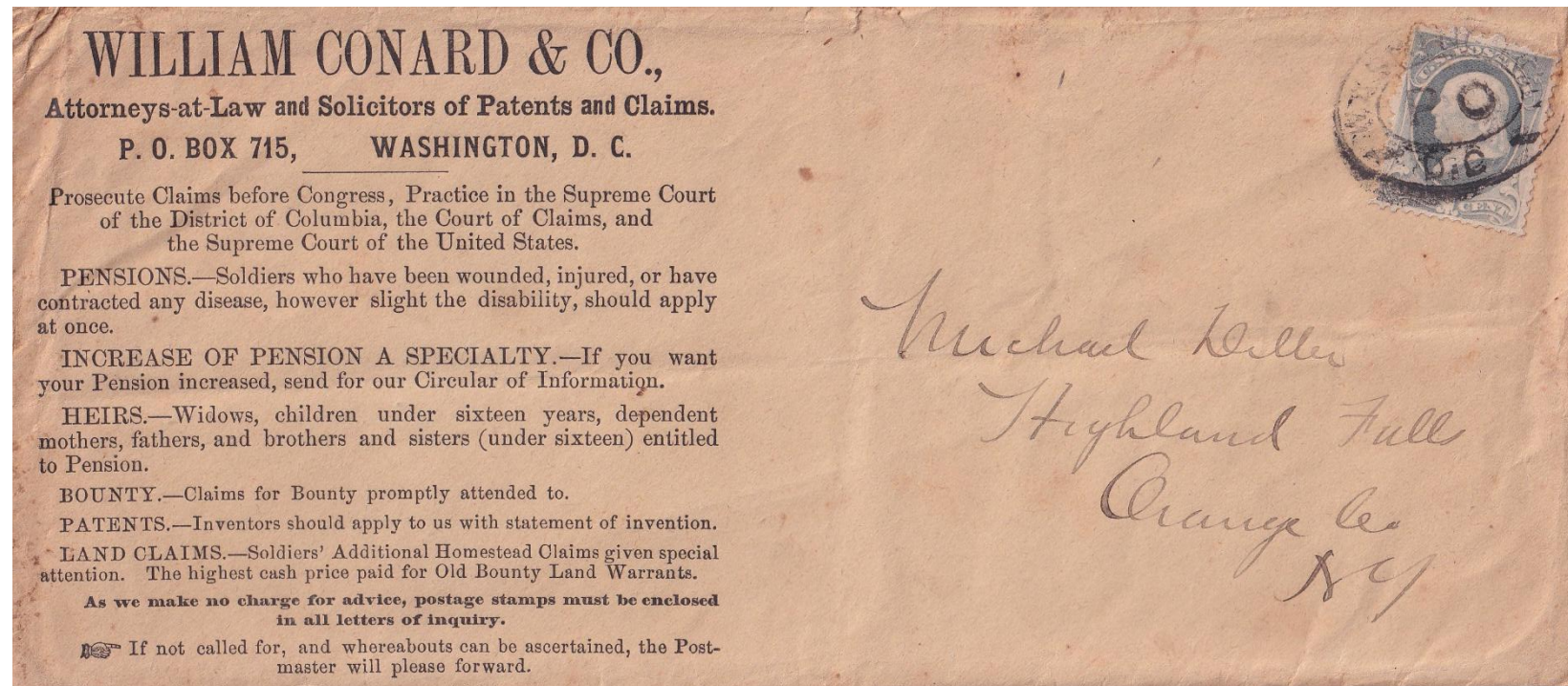
The note on the back of this card, issued for the Sesqui-Centennial International Exposition in Philadelphia Pa., describes the duties that the Pension Bureau was charged with in 1926: U.S. Department of Interior, The Pension Bureau, adjudicates claims for pensions arising out of United States military and naval service rendered prior to October 6, 1917, or after July 2, 1921, and pays the pensions provided for by general and special Congressional legislation; settles claims for accrued pension and for reimbursement of expenses of the last sickness and burial of deceased pensioners; and administers the laws providing for the retirement of classified civil service employees, adjusting claims for and making payments of annuities, refunds, and allowances under those laws.

Pension Attorneys



An unusually graphic advertising cover for Foote's Pension Claim Agency in Kalamazoo.

Pension Attorneys



In the decades following the Civil War, pensions were a lucrative business for attorneys. This cover contained a packet of information that a claimant could complete and return to Conrad and Company.

Pension Attorneys

Office of WM. CONARD & CO., Attorneys-at-Law and Solicitors of Patents and Claims,

P. O. Box 715.

Washington, D. C., October, 1883.

WE CAN GET YOUR PENSION INCREASED.

NO CHARGE IF UNSUCCESSFUL.

We have all the particulars of your case, and do not require any more information, and know we can get your rate increased. Please fill out, sign, have witnessed, and properly executed the enclosed blank and return same to us without delay, and we will push your case with the utmost expedition.

REMEMBER, that we are not a firm of mushroom Claim Agents, such as are springing up by the hundreds every year, but have been in the business for fifteen years right in this city. We have procured hundreds of Pensions and Increase of Pensions for our clients in all sections of the country. They are our best references as to our conduct and treatment of them. We give a few names and addresses of our clients in different sections of the country, together with the amount of arrears paid in each case. We refer to each and every person named below as to our skill and ability in conducting their claim; but if you desire it we can send you special references here of Government officials, officers of banks, &c.

REFERENCES:

T. M. J. Wilkin, Box 141, Delhi, Delaware Co., N. Y.-----	\$5,958 00	J. E. Albin, Jamesport, N. Y.-----	\$1,920 00
Julia A. Maynard, Chicago, Illinois-----	5,700 00	Catharine Du Bois, Sing-Sing, N. Y.-----	1,920 00
Isaac C. Butterfield, Lancaster, Fairfield Co., Ohio-----	3,468 00	Isaac Booker, Napoleon, Iowa-----	1,920 00
Thomas Burke, Lowville, N. Y.-----	3,009 00	E. M. Bumpus, Lg. Plain, Bos. Co., Mass.-----	1,920 00
Michael Loftus, National Military Home, Dayton, Ohio-----	2,800 00	Annie Fency, Altoona, Pa.-----	1,872 00
Eli Haradon, Early, Iowa-----	2,800 00	Wm. Orr, Marcus, Iowa-----	1,848 00
Valentine Korell, Bernard, Mo.-----	2,418 00	Fanny Piper, Ripton, Vermont-----	1,824 00
Charles Fisher, National Military Home, Dayton, Ohio-----	2,400 00	Bridget Houlihan, Rock Falls, Ill.-----	1,820 00
Dr. Preston Fisher, Farmington, Washington Territory-----	2,550 00	Margaret Crombie, Logan, Iowa-----	1,800 00
George H. Dern, Altoona, Blair Co., Pa.-----	2,350 00	Thomas B. Kelly, Lynn, Mass.-----	1,848 00
Samuel J. Turner, Lewiston, Maine-----	2,406 00	Phebe Personious, Samsonville, N. Y.-----	1,824 00
James Brady, Fall River, Massachusetts-----	2,304 00	Wm. H. Collins, La Crosse, Wisconsin-----	1,824 00
Horatio Leader, Reading, Pa.-----	1,938 00	Frederick Jokish, Mukwonago, Wis.-----	1,800 00
		Helen Mitchell, Argyle, Wis.-----	1,728 00
		Henry D. Winship, Snachwine, Ill.-----	1,734 00
		Rachel Haintz, Lehigh Gap, Pa.-----	1,728 00
		Lucy A. Rine, Frederick, Md.-----	1,728 00
		Abraham Horning, New Hudson, Mich.-----	1,720 00

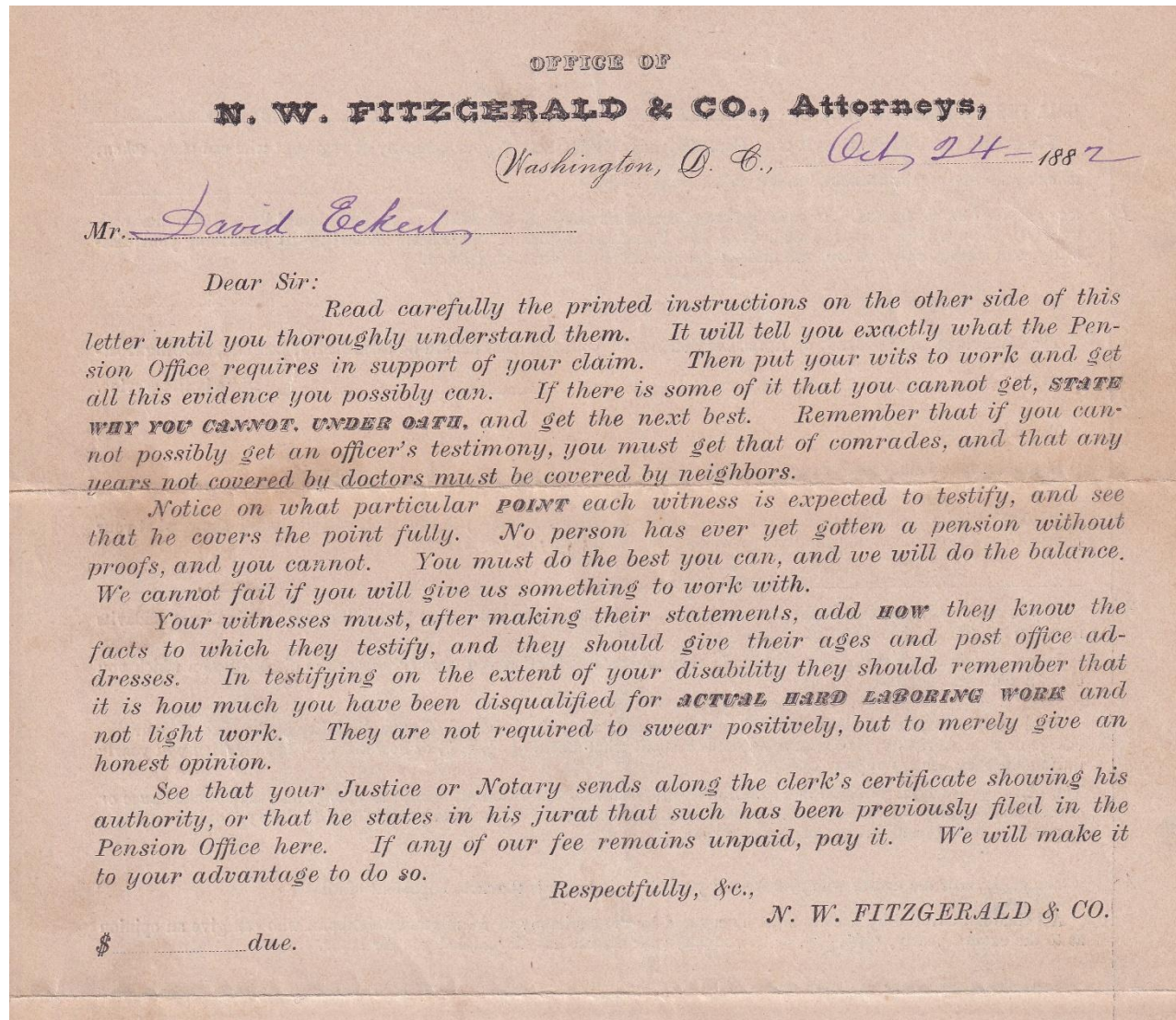
Isaac Taylor, Whitesville, Mo.....	\$1,728 00	Hiram J. Fannis, Hunters' Run, Pa.....	\$1,248 00
Catharine Smith, Samsonville, N. Y.....	1,728 00	Geo. Loughbine, Ashland, Pa.....	1,296 00
Mary A. Pratt, Concord Station, Pa.....	1,728 00	Jabez Myers, Hornersville, Ohio.....	1,220 00
Susan N. Miller, Bridgeton, Me.....	1,720 00	James C. Cushman, Middleboro, Mass.....	1,292 00
Martha P. Pilling, Wadefield, Mass.....	1,632 00	James C. Dodroe, Lancaster, Ohio.....	1,220 00
E. M. Newkirk, Milford, N. Y.....	1,632 00	Berry B. Loss, Logan, Iowa.....	1,200 00
Sarah H. Smith, Stafford, Vt.....	1,632 00	Wm. H. Wright, Surrey, N. H.....	1,200 00
Nathaniel L. Ives, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.....	1,632 00	Isaiah Grant, Waterville, Maine.....	1,220 00
George W. Davidson, Plainfield, Wis.....	1,632 00	Wm. Smith, Laurenceburgh, Pa.....	1,224 00
Aaron W. Harter, Green, Iowa.....	1,640 00	Emily Mead, Mt. Vision, N. Y.....	1,200 00
John Moore, Camp Point, Ill.....	1,632 00	Wm. G. Gray, Stafford's Corners, N. H.....	1,224 00
Rebecca English, Mt. Joy, Ohio.....	1,632 00	Samuel Lewis, Davenport, Iowa.....	1,224 00
Jos. M. Smith, Labette, Kansas.....	1,610 00	Jackson Hiles, Lancaster, Pa.....	1,248 00
Jerome Like, Madalin, N. Y.....	1,654 00	Jno. Vaughn, Terre Haute, Ind.....	1,152 00
Jno. Finan, Sligo, Ireland.....	1,632 00	Henry Gray, Ayer, Mass.....	1,130 00
Mark Godown, Canton, Kansas.....	1,652 00	Wm. Stevens, Boonville, Ind.....	1,176 00
Charles Hurd, Bancroft, Mich.....	1,670 00	Maggie E. Knapp, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.....	1,104 00
Laura A. Henry, Titusville, Pa.....	1,632 00	Luke Culver, Bryon, Wis.....	1,112 00
Wm. A. Parker, Iddianola, Iowa.....	1,670 00	Wm. Brannan, Pall Mall, Tenn.....	1,152 00
Barbara Bessel, Racine, Wis.....	1,632 00	James G. Price, Mt. Erie, Ill.....	1,158 00
Judy Wright, Paris, Tenn.....	1,536 00	Charles C. Johnson, Maple Hill, Kansas.....	1,152 00
Mary Allen, Elizabethtown, Tenn.....	1,536 00	Henry Leudolph, Elba, Minn.....	1,116 00
Susan English, Lancaster, Ohio.....	1,520 00	Jas. W. Nonslar, Belleflower, Ill.....	1,114 00
M. Grosser, Ashland, Pa.....	1,514 00	Martin Funk, South Fork, Pa.....	1,152 00
W. F. Peddycord, Nappanee, Ind.....	1,540 00	Dorr Price, Randolph, N. Y.....	1,172 00
T. N. Robertson, Gentryville, Ind.....	1,530 00	Edgar W. Barber, Castalia, Ohio.....	1,152 00
Edward B. Nugent, Bay City, Mich.....	1,560 00	James Farrar, Lyons, Kansas.....	1,152 00
Joel Prime, Delphos, Ohio.....	1,536 00	Wm. Stephens, Boonville, Ind.....	1,180 00
Eli A. Jarrett, Big Laurel, N. C.....	1,536 00	T. J. Tyson, Warrensburg, Mo.....	1,152 00
Ann Hunsacker, Parsons, Kansas.....	1,536 00	Geo. Wright, Troy, Kansas.....	1,160 00
Catharine Ruff, Sybertsville, Pa.....	1,536 00	Isaac Pierce, Stockton, Kansas.....	1,190 00
Wm. H. Richmond, Mt. Pleasant, Mich.....	1,500 00	John W. Fisher, Osceola, Iowa.....	1,152 00
Lydia Starke, Falconer, N. Y.....	1,536 00	Daniel Flynn, Charlestown, Mass.....	1,176 00
S. W. Alden, Green Bay, Wis.....	1,536 00	Stephen M. Waite, Rose, N. Y.....	1,152 00
Margaret Reb, Ashland, Pa.....	1,536 00	A. K. Bliss, Mt. Ida, Wis.....	1,152 00
Philina Moore, Salem, Kansas.....	1,536 00	Jno. E. Williamson, Rock Island, Ill.....	1,152 00
Jno. Allen, Farmingdale, N. Y.....	1,440 00	Ellis Smith, Patchogue, N. Y.....	1,120 00
Bernard Colwell, North Adams, Mass.....	1,440 00	Wm. R. Lawrence, Sibley, Iowa.....	1,080 00
Mary E. Huxford, Juneau, Wis.....	1,440 00	P. Dair Hutchins, Wis.....	1,004 00
Romain C. Barless, Rose, N. Y.....	1,498 00	C. O. A. Schrader, Oil Creek, Ind.....	1,080 00
Elisha Cook, Ottumwa, Iowa.....	1,440 00	Margaret Stanley, Tyrone, Pa.....	1,010 00
Chas. E. Mudgett, Sandwich Centre, N. Y.....	1,488 00	Francis E. Declair, Dunkirk, N. Y.....	1,024 00
Mary Waddell, Waynesboro, Pa.....	1,440 00	B. V. Hood, Paris, Ark.....	1,008 00
Dr. S. H. Hagadorn, So. Bay City, Mich.....	1,320 00	M. C. Fitch, Hopeville, Iowa.....	1,065 00
Robert Speer, Kirkwood, Ill.....	1,344 00	Rebecca C. Berry, Logan, Iowa.....	1,080 00
Frank McDaniel, Ayr, Nebraska.....	1,364 00	Jos. H. N. Edwards, Logan, Iowa.....	1,075 00
Susan Rowe, Belfast, Maine.....	1,340 00	Wm. O. Kimberlin, Noble, Ill.....	1,008 00
Chas. Merritt, 65 H st., So. Boston, Mass.....	1,351 00	James Newton, Terre Haute, Ind.....	1,080 00
Helen L. Adams, Pontiac, Ill.....	1,326 00	G. W. Burterson, Halltown, Ill.....	1,065 00
Johannah Doherty, Erie, Pa.....	1,320 00	L. C. Truell, 206 Essex st., Lawrence, Mass.....	1,090 00
Archie Monroe, Knoxville, Tenn.....	1,344 00	Dr. R. A. Hammil, Xenia, Ohio.....	1,008 00
Jackson Hiles, Lancaster, Pa.....	1,248 00	A. T. J. Tyson, Warrensburg, Mo.....	1,080 00
Michael Brennan, Altoona, Pa.....	1,224 00	Powell Bingham, Socorro, New Mexico.....	1,010 00
Jno. H. Klenert, Malboro, Mass.....	1,296 00	Reuben Gribble, Liverpool, Pa.....	1,080 00

WM. CONARD & CO.,

P. O. Box 715, Washington, D. C.

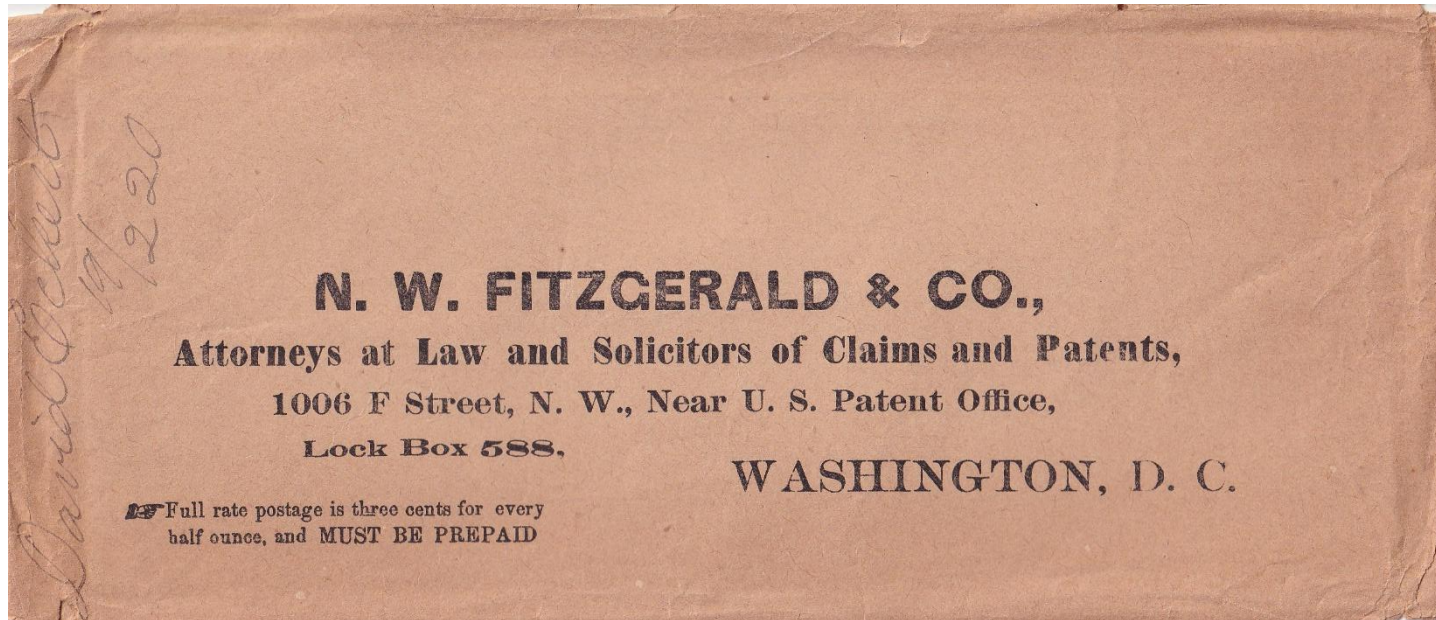
William Conrad and Company's promotional sheet noted, twice, that they won a sum of \$1,248 for Jackson Hiles of Lancaster, Pa.

Pension Attorneys



Instructions provided by N.W. Fitzgerald (cropped).

Pension Attorneys



A return envelope provided to the claimant by N.W. Fitzgerald and Company of Washington D.C., for the return of forms and other evidence.

Pension Attorneys

lv. *100*

CERTIFICATE DIVISION. 3-165aa. ACT OF JUNE 27, 1890.

Claim No
623611

NOTICE OF ISSUE.

Department of the Interior,
BUREAU OF PENSIONS,

Si *Sept 30*, 189*7*

You are hereby notified that a certificate, No. *452380*
for *Orig* pension has this day been issued in favor of
Catharine Deery (now) Hickley *mother of John J. Deery*
Home for aged women, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and that the
pension is payable by the Pension Agent at *Des Moines*
who will also pay to you a fee of \$ *10*

Rate of pension \$ *12.* per month from *Nov 4*, 18*95*

Very respectfully,

J. S. McDaniel
Cedar Rapids
Iowa

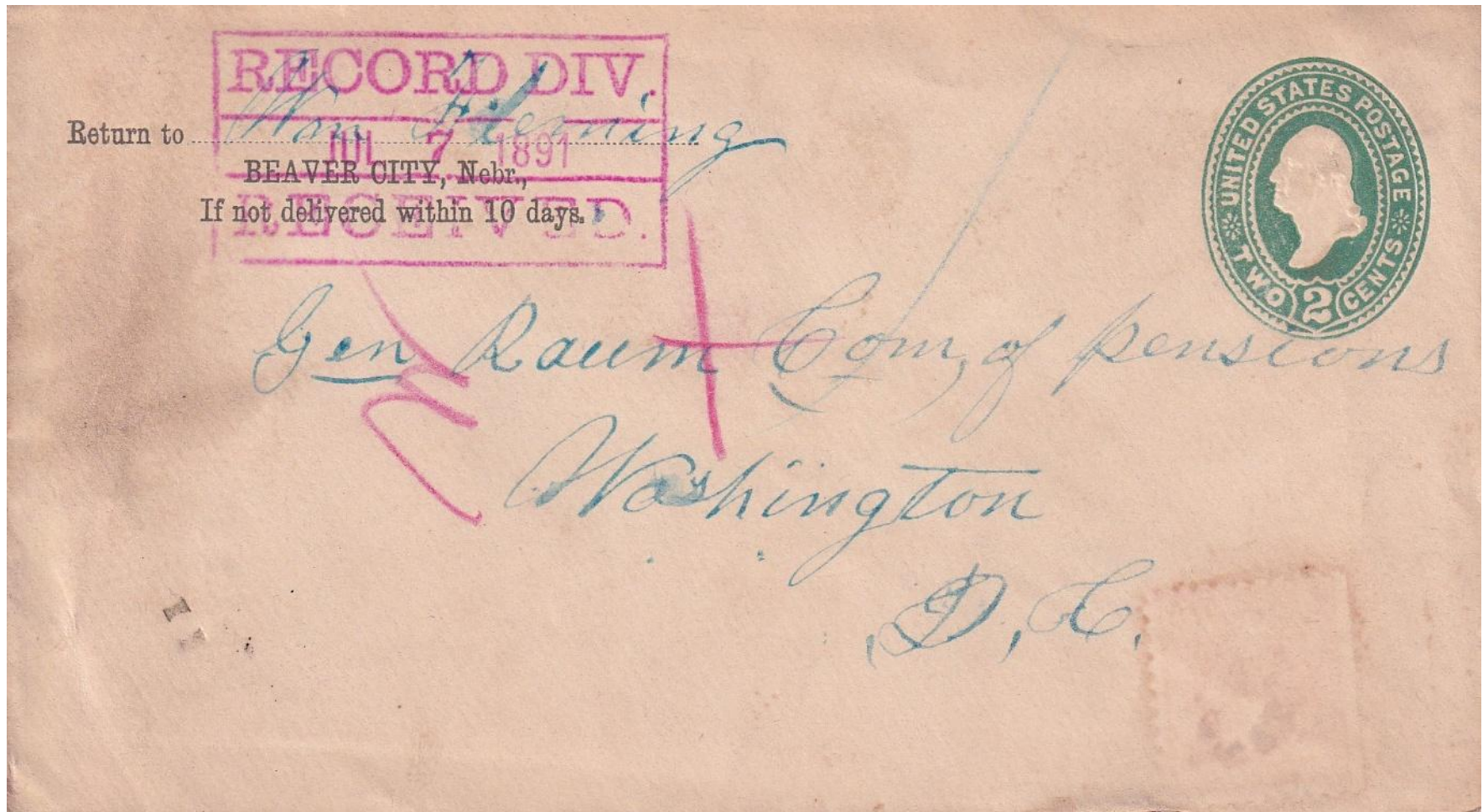
McClay Brandt
Commissioner.

The act of July 4, 1884, provides that the fee for the prosecution of a pension claim shall be \$10 only, unless a larger fee, not exceeding \$25, is agreed upon under a special written contract. The fee will be paid to the attorney or other person entitled thereto, by the Pension Agent out of the pension allowed. Should the attorney or other person demand or receive for his services any greater compensation, he would subject himself to the penalties provided in the statute, as follows:
Any agent or attorney or other person instrumental in prosecuting any claim for pension or bounty land who shall directly or indirectly contract for, demand, or receive or retain any greater compensation for his services or instrumentality in prosecuting a claim for pension or bounty land than is herein provided, or for payment thereof at any other time or in any other manner than is herein provided, or who shall wrongfully withhold from a pensioner or claimant the whole or any part of the pension or claim allowed and due such pensioner or claimant, or the land warrant issued to any such claimant, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof, shall for every such offense be fined not exceeding \$500, or imprisoned at hard labor not exceeding two years, or both, in the discretion of the court.

o-4

This notice of the award of a pension to the mother of John Deery, from the files of Attorney [Jeremiah McDaniel](#) of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, stated that Mr. McDaniel was entitled to collect a fee of \$10.

Pension Covers



A cover addressed to the Commissioner of Pensions in Washington, D.C., with the Record Division receiving stamp.

Pension Covers



A cover, with the circular date stamp of the Pension Office, addressed to the Honorable [H. Clay Evans](#), who was the Commissioner of Pensions from April 1897 – May 1902. Mr. Evans, who was born in Juniata County, PA, on June 18, 1843, served in the 41st Wisconsin Infantry, and in Congress, representing Tennessee's Third Congressional District from 1889 – 1891.

Pension Covers



This cover, a Bureau of Pensions penalty envelope, is franked with two one-cent stamps, as its contents were personal.

Pension Postal Cards

MAIL SECTION. 3-977.
Clerk.

Department of the Interior,
BUREAU OF PENSIONS.

SIR:
Receipt of the paper below designated is acknowledged, as of the date stamped above.

1. Appl. of Laura E. Elliott for Pension, late June 27, 1908.
2.
3.
4.
5. Widow of Benjamin F. Elliott Co. - Oregon
6. in Indian War 1857-1856.

Very respectfully,
V. Warner -
Commissioner.

N. B.—Give name and service of soldier and number of claim when writing to this Bureau.

6-764

Old War and Navy Division. 3-527.
(Old No. 3-041.)

Department of the Interior,
BUREAU OF PENSIONS,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

SIR: The claim of Laura E. Elliott
late Indian War
for pension under the Act July 27 1892, Act June 27 1902
has been received and numbered Widow Org 10426.

The claim will be considered when reached in its order, and the requirements, if any, duly communicated to you. The number of the claim, as given above, and the soldier's name and service should be indorsed on every paper relating thereto which may hereafter be filed in this Bureau.

Very respectfully,
V. Warner -
Commissioner.

0-4

The Pension Bureau used postal cards to provide receipts for information received and notices of actions taken by the bureau. The cards on this slide and the next, from the files of Attorney Jeremiah McDaniel, show the progression of a pension claim for Laura Elliott, the widow of Benjamin Elliott, a veteran of the "Indian War". The two cards are confirmation of receipt of her application from the Mail Section, date-stamped March 14, 1908, and a notice of the opening of her case, dated March 21, 1908. The Record Division stamp overprints "Old War and Navy Division".

Pension Postal Cards

MAIL SECTION. *Indian War* 927.
 Clerk. *10425*
 Department of the Interior,
 BUREAU OF PENSIONS.

PENSION
 APR 27
 1908
 OFFICE.

SIR:
 Receipt of the paper below designated is acknowledged, as
 of the date stamped above

1. *Widow of Benjamin T. Elliott*
2. *Co. D. 1st Regiment Cavalry Oregon*
3. *M. M. Williams, Captain*
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Very respectfully, *V. Warner*
 Commissioner.

N. B.—Give name and service of soldier and number of claim when writing to this Bureau.
 6-764

MAIL SECTION. 3-977.
 Clerk. *44*
 Department of the Interior,
 BUREAU OF PENSIONS.

PENSION
 JUL 6
 1908
 OFFICE.

SIR:
 Receipt of the paper below designated is acknowledged, as
 of the date stamped above

1. *Widow of John H. Henderson*
2. *Company 1st of Infantry of Montana*
3. *and Soldier*
4. *Widow of John B. Elliott of date*
5. *June 17, 1887*
6. *Widow of Benjamin T. Elliott*

Very respectfully, *V. Warner*
 Commissioner.

N. B.—Give name and service of soldier and number of claim when writing to this Bureau.
 6-764

These cards were sent to attorney Jeremiah McDaniel to acknowledge receipt of additional information for Laura Elliott's widows pension claim.

Pension Postal Cards

RECORD DIVISION. 3-040. ACKNOWLEDGING RECEIPT OF CLAIM.
J.C.B.
Department of the Interior,
 BUREAU OF PENSIONS,
 Washington, D. C. *Mar. 25 1902*

Madam,

Your claim for pension has been received, recorded, and given a number as below, and will be taken up for action in its regular turn.

Your claim is entitled *W. O.* No. *758.985*
Maria M. Stamper *Wid. Joseph Stamper*
 Co. *M.* 1st Reg't *Iowa. Cav.*

and in all communications relative thereto be sure and state the same in full, as above.

Very respectfully,
W. C. Evans
 Commissioner.

also n. G. 0-8 *LD A*

egw. H.C.B. CERTIFICATE DIVISION. 3-656
 Ctf. No. *759.243*
 Name, *Elizabeth F. Hannah* DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
 BUREAU OF PENSIONS.
 Washington, D. C. *Feb. 18 1915*

Madam:

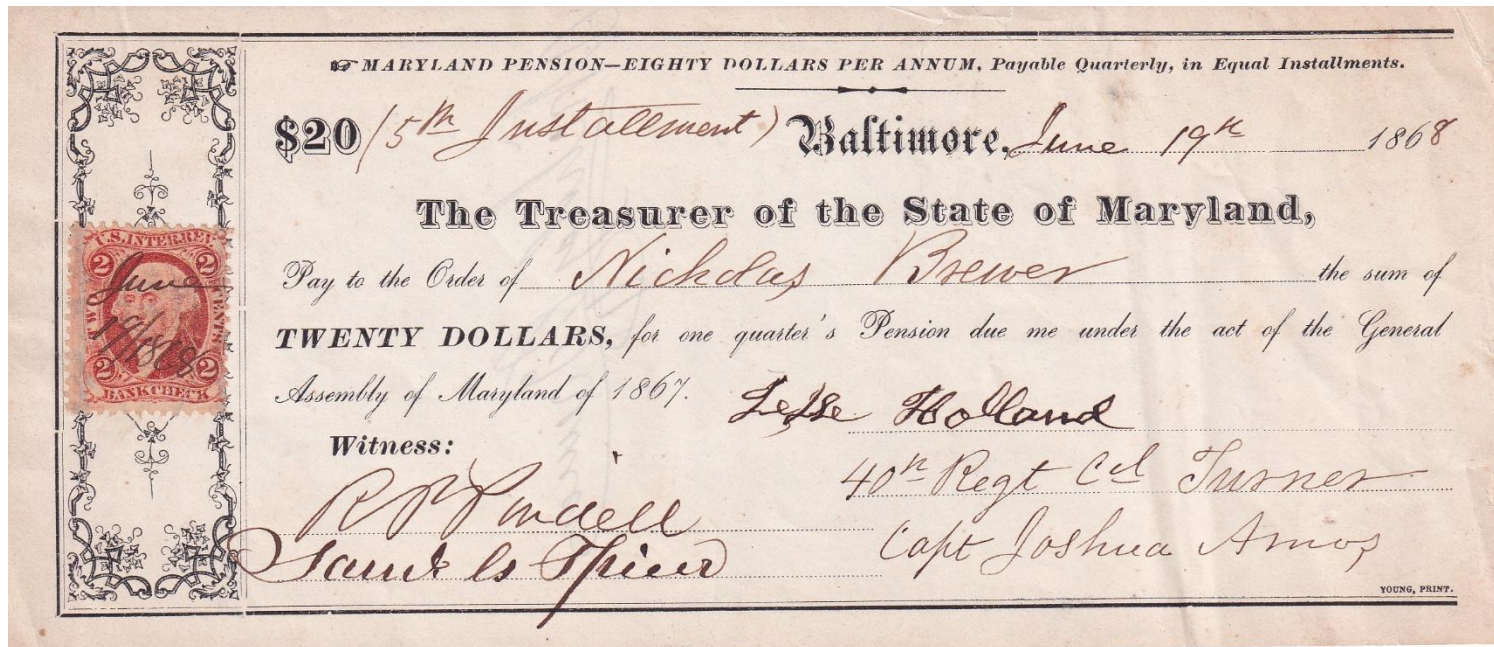
Your application for a new certificate in lieu of the one alleged to have been lost or destroyed has been received and will be considered ~~before the next payment of pension is due.~~ *at once.*

Very respectfully,
James H. ...
 Commissioner.

6-3970

Two more examples of postal cards from the Pension Bureau; the top is a notice from the Record Division that a widow's pension for Maria M. Stamper has been assigned a certificate number, and at the bottom, a notice from the Certificate Division to Elizabeth Hannah that they received her request to issue her a new certificate.

A Revenue Stamp and a Challenge



This appears to be a draft for a Maryland State pension issued to Nicholas Brewer. At first my electronic research turned up nothing, because I assumed this was for a Civil War pension. This was not a good assumption, because I couldn't find a "40th Maryland Regiment". Also, Northern states had no role in federal pension system. Southern states generally provided pensions for their veterans, but as Maryland was a border state, the citizens of Maryland threw their hats in with both causes. A check of the [National Archives](#) website doesn't list the Maryland archives as a place where one can write with confederate pension inquiries.

As it turns out, Colonel Andrew Turner commanded the 40th Hartford County Regiment – in the War of 1812. The only "Nicholas Brewer" I was able to find in Maryland who was alive when this pension draft was issued is [Colonel Nicholas Brewer](#), who was a "sprightly and active gentleman" up until about two or three weeks before his death in 1880 at the age of 90 years. The information provided in his obituary on the Find a Grave website doesn't provide the information needed to link him to Col. Turner's regiment, so there's more to be learned about this item.

A few acknowledgments, in no particular order . . .

My late “Cousin” Beulah Stoudt - Follmer, my first mentor in genealogy,
who introduced me to our uncle, 2nd Lt. Thomas L. Moyer

Mr. Hal Klein, philatelic mentor, who passed along an archive of pension
papers that once belonged to attorney Darwin Esmond that he inherited
from a collector friend long ago

Ms. Catherine Carey, my wife’s aunt in Baltimore, who introduced me to
Corp. Henry C. Gaither

Mr. Ben Myers, who like me, has an ancestor in Company D of the 46th
Pennsylvania Infantry; Ben wrote a [magazine article](#) about that company
and a [book](#) containing the diary of Captain George A. Brooks.