

First Day of Use From Canarsie PO

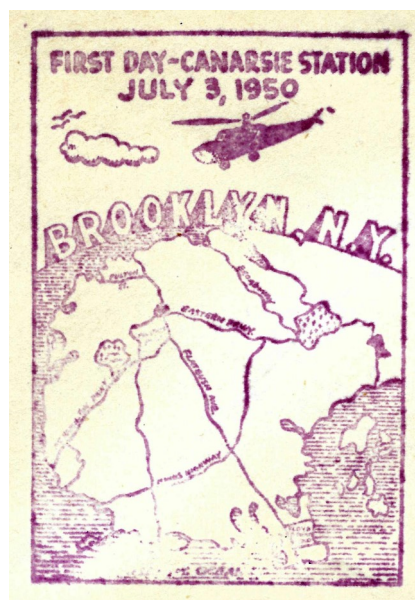
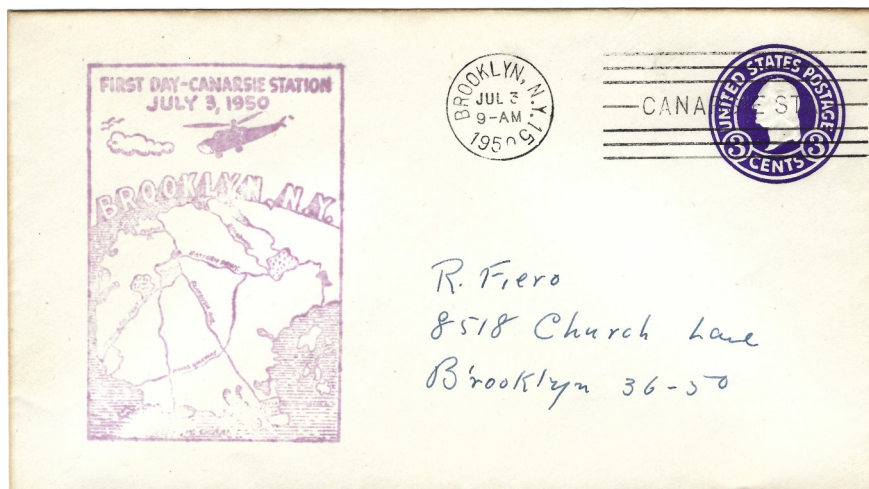
By Charles J. DiComo, PhD

Being born and raised in Canarsie, New York, a mostly residential neighborhood in southeastern Brooklyn, I am always thrilled when I can acquire a piece of local postal history. The cover I am sharing here is a recent find. I hope this will be the beginning of a series of short articles on other artifacts from my home town.

Shown is a 3-cent violet postal stationery envelope depicting an embossed portrait of George Washington. It paid the first class rate.

The cover, which had no contents, features a hand-crafted and hand-stamped cachet in violet that shows an aerial view of Brooklyn and Jamaica Bay with a helicopter flying above. The cachet celebrates the first day of use – July 3, 1950 – at the new Canarsie Station Post Office, located at 1450 Rockaway Parkway, between Glenwood Road and Conklin Avenue.

The cover entered the mail at 9



a.m. on July 3 at the Canarsie Station Post Office, where the clerk struck cancel in black:

A prestamped envelope (Scott U436) used as a first day of use item to celebrate the opening of a new post office July 3, 1950, in Canarsie, Brooklyn (above). A close-up from the cover helps tell the story.

BROOKLYN, N.Y. 15 JUL 3 9-AM 1950 and an adjacent seven-bar "CANARSIE STA." killer.

The cover is addressed to "R. Fiero, 8518 Church Lane, Brooklyn, 36-50." Church Lane is located in Canarsie, about 15 blocks southwest from the then-new post office.

Also shown is an 1873 Beers map of Flatlands, which includes Canarsie and the location of the post office at top right. An enlarge-

CANARSIE, PAGE 15

MARSELLUS, FROM PAGE 13

Erie Canal, which ran right through the heart of Syracuse.

The company had several things going for it, access to easy transportation with the canal at first, and then railroads, along with access to the hardwoods of the Adirondacks lumbering industry only about 100 miles away and a steady supply of trained immigrant workers – particularly Irish, Germans, Italians and some Poles – who craved the opportunities available in expanding America. Syracuse was an industrial city so opportunities awaited for those who could work with their hands.

It wasn't too long before Marsellus moved away from dealing with sundries and upholstery and turned his focus to caskets.

In 1889, Marsellus built a 70,000 square-foot, four-

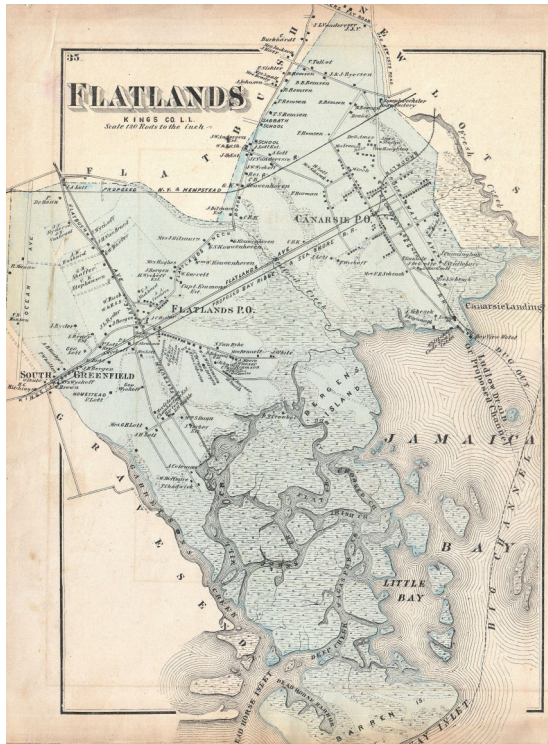
story brick building in Syracuse on the banks of the Erie Canal on the near West Side. At the time, it is one of the biggest buildings between Albany and Buffalo.

As Marsellus build his empire he apparently had time for a relatively new hobby – stamp collecting – as shown by the second cover (on Page 16), which is addressed to a Canadian stamp dealer.

The postal card mailed December 17, 1896 asks, "Are the stamps all different in you [????] offer for \$.25? 400 stamps." It doesn't any different than a query we would make today about buying a mixture. (Twenty-five cents then would be about \$8.88 today, according to the CPI Inflation Counter.)

Please note that this story does indeed include a stamp collector!

MARSELLUS, PAGE 16



At left, an 1873 map of Flatlands, which includes Canarsie at top right. At right, a close-up of the map in-

CANARSIE, FROM PAGE 14

ment shows just Canarsie, and the main thoroughfare, Rockaway Parkway, which leads to Jamaica Bay.

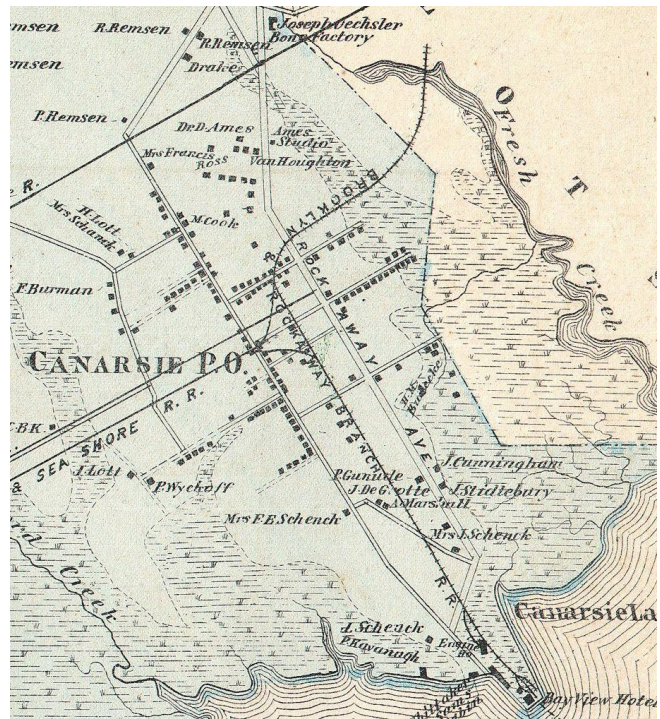
The local newspaper clipping shown (circa July 1, 1950) announces the event with the headline, "New P.O. for Canarsie," where Postmaster Edward J. Quigley announced the opening and that all postal facilities, including postal savings, will be available.

The old post office lot on Rockaway Parkway today is part of a busy retail and commercial block. Canarsie still has a post office but today a half-mile away at 10201 Flatlands Ave., at East 102nd Street, according to Google Maps.

This is a great Canarsie artifact for me and my search continues.

References

1873 Beers Map of Flatlands, Brooklyn, by Geographicus Rare



cludes Canarsie, which shows Rockaway Parkway to Jamaica Bay. (*Geographicus Rare Antique Maps*)

July 3, 1950

New P. O. for Canarsie

Postmaster Edward J. Quigley has announced that the postoffice's new Canarsie Station (Zone 36) will be opened Monday at Rockaway Parkway, between Glenwood Road and Conklin Ave. All postal facilities, including postal savings, will be available.

A newspaper clipping announces the new post office for Canarsie at 1450 Rockaway Parkway.

Antique Maps, a specialist dealer in rare maps and other cartography of the 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, as part of a cooperation project, Public Domain, Wikimedia Commons, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=14622831>.

The Beers family information, Geographicus, <http://www.geographicus.com/mm5/cartographers/beers.txt>.

Canarsie Post Office opens, July 3, 1950. Facebook, private posting.

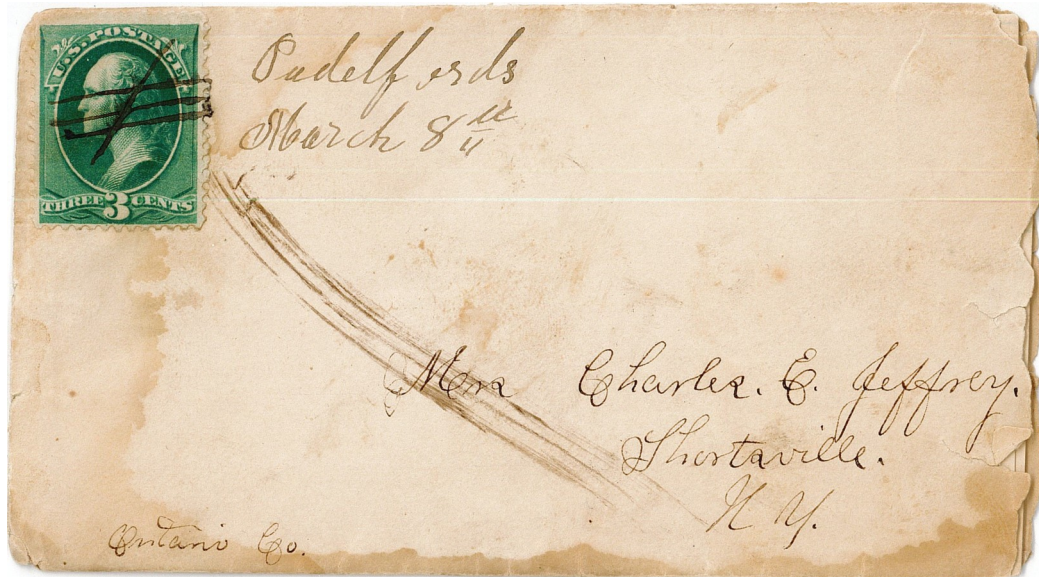
WANTED! WANTED!! WANTED!!!

Your knowledge, your interests, your articles. The Excelsior! needs all types of submissions. Share your passion, even if it's just about a single cover. Contact the editor or president for details, including guidelines submissions of text and images. Hope to hear from you soon!

Excelsior!

April 2026

Whole No. 43 New Series



A manuscript cancellation from the post office in Paddleford, Ontario County. While the year wasn't included in this manuscript cancellation, the enclosed letter is dated March 8, 1882. The letter size 7 centimeters by 13 centimeters. The addressee lived in Shortsville, just a few miles east of Paddleford's, on the same railroad line.

Padelford Revisited

By Preston E. Pierce

I was amazed when I received a recent issue of Excelsior! Included was an interesting article about an obscure railroad station and post office by the name of Paddleford (or sometimes, Padelford's or Padelfords). The author did a great job explaining why the spelling of the office name was adjusted three times, so I won't go into that.

However, I thought Excelsior! readers might be intrigued by a little more information about the Paddleford's station and post office.

It stood (the station and post office were one building) about five miles from my home in Ontario County, which is in the Finger Lakes region about 22 miles southeast of Rochester.

From the time I was growing up and starting to collect stamps and be a rail fan, I have been fascinated by it.

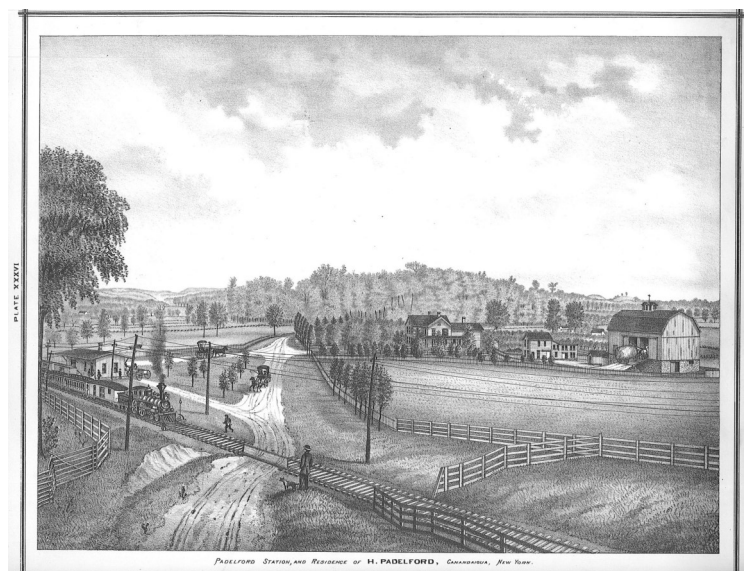


Image of Padelford's Station and Post Office from the 1876 *History of Ontario County*. Harvey Padelford's house and farm is visible in the distance on the right side of the image.



Excelsior!

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Contact: ESPHS
P.O. Box 482
E. Schodack, NY 12063-0482
www.esphs.org; www.esphs.us
[www.facebook.com/
EmpireStatePostalHistorySociety](http://www.facebook.com/EmpireStatePostalHistorySociety)

Preston E. Pierce: A cover from 140 years ago rekindles interest in a nearly forgotten Western New York rural community from simpler agrarian times. **Cover, Page 10.**

Thomas X. Casey: A philatelic story from the Bronx links old post offices, modernization and Paul Revere, yes, THAT Paul Revere. **Page 3.**

Jeff Stage: Covers help tell story of more than a century of a family's legacy. **Pages 16.**

Charles J. DiComo, PhD: Perhaps you can go home again: Collector's post office of his youth left behind a souvenir cover. What else might be out there? **Page 14.**

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Excelsior! Contact: nyspostal@gmail.com

Editor: Jeff Stage, 215 Westminster Ave., Syracuse, NY 13210; centerstage98@yahoo.com

Bulletin: Lawrence Laliberte, 15 Sunset Hill Court, (biannually) Carmel, NY 10512-5027; lawrencelaliberte426@gmail.com.

Webmaster and

Editorial Proofreader: Charles J. DiComo, PhD
Charlesdicomo@gmail.com

Society Officers

President: Charles J. DiComo, PhD ('27)
1298 Hammock Way, Lancaster, PA 17601
Charlesdicomo@gmail.com

Vice President: David Przepiora ('27)
1505 Emery Road, E. Aurora, NY 14052
djprez@hotmail.com

Secretary: George McGowan ('26)
Box 482, E. Schodack, NY 12063
geolotus2003@nycap.rr.com

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1014 Clove Road, Hobart, NY 13788
docgfd@twc.com

Board of Directors: Steve Kennedy ('28), Jeff Stage ('28), Brian Levy ('28), John Cali ('28), Heather Sweeting ('26), Bob Bramwell ('26).

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dated from January to June. For applications dated July to December terms are for 1 ½ years with a fee of \$30 (\$35 for non-U.S. addresses). Advertising is accepted. For ads, please contact the society secretary.

SHOWS AND BOURSES

April 19

Albany Spring Stamp Show, Fort Orange Stamp Club, American Legion Hall, Joseph E. Zaloga Post 1520, 4 Everett Road Extension, Albany. **Contact:** Michael Krug. **Email:** majkstamps@gmail.com. **Web:** www.fortorange-stampclub.org/.

Philatelic Open House – Stamp and Coin Show, Western Monroe Philatelic Society, Brockport Elks Lodge, 4400 Sweden Walker Road, Brockport. **Contact:** David Bombard. **Email:** dbombard@rochester.rr.com. **Website:** westernmonroephilatelicociety.blogspot.com/.

K2 Lancaster Stamp Show, Farm &

Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster. **Contact:** Kevin Kellman. **Email:** k2stamps@gmail.com. **Website:** [https://k2stamps.wixsite.com/
k2collectiblestamps](https://k2stamps.wixsite.com/k2collectiblestamps).

May 23-30

Boston 2026 World Expo, Boston Convention & Exposition Center, Boston. **Contact:** Executive Director Mark Butterline. **Email:** [markbutterline@
Boston2026.org](mailto:markbutterline@Boston2026.org). **Website:** [http://
www.boston2026.org](http://www.boston2026.org).

June 14

Syracuse Stamp Show, Holiday Inn and Suites, 400 Seventh North St. (Thruway Exit 36), Liverpool. 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. **Contact:** Dave Houseman. **Phone:** 315-437-4901.

Website: [https://syracusestampclub.org/
syracuse-stamp-show/](https://syracusestampclub.org/syracuse-stamp-show/).

June 20-21

SCOPEX 2026, Mount Nittany Philatelic Society, American Philatelic Center, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA. **Contact:** dheller5720@yahoo.com.

July 11

Big Flats Stamp & Coin Show, Big Flats Coin Club, American Legion Post, 45 S. Olcott Road, Big Flats, NY. **Contact:** Wayne Nyre. **Email:** mrstampman14891@yahoo.com.

September 13

Syracuse Stamp Show, Holiday Inn and Suites, 400 Seventh North St. (Thruway Exit 36), Liverpool. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. **Website:** [https://syracusestampclub.org/
syracuse-stamp-show/](https://syracusestampclub.org/syracuse-stamp-show/).