# MIKE FARRELL ~COLLECTION~

INCLUDING THE HISTORY, FORGERIES, & FANTASIES OF UNITED STATES, LOCAL POSTS, CARRIERS, INDEPENDENT MAIL ROUTES, & EXPRESS CO.S

#### UNION DESPATCH (STILES'S)

The information and identification within these selections is the individual work of the Farrell Collection. It is always recommended to consult multiple sources for additional information or opinions. Local post company descriptions are based on information available at the time of writing.

Descriptions in the Farrell Collection were written based on personal research and sources including, but not limited to: Articles in the Carriers and Locals Society's The Penny Post; Amos Media's Scott Catalogue; Patton's The Private Local Post of the United States; Springer's Handbook of North American Cinderella Stamps; Lyons' Identifier for Carriers, Locals, Fakes Forgeries and Bogus Posts of the United States; articles in the USPCS's The Chronicle; Mosher's Catalog of Private Express Labels and States; articles in the USPCS's The Chronicle; Mosher's Catalog of Private Express Labels and Stamps; The Eastern Independent Mail Company Study Group's Eastern Independent Mail Companies and Express Mail Companies 1840-1845; Elliot Perry's Pat Paragraphs; James N. Drummond's Catalog of Philatelic Miscellany; and the notes of George Sloane and Gordon Stimmell.

Colors listed for stamps and forgeries are the opinions of the Farrell Collection based on viewing physical copies of the pieces under consistent lighting. Colors in the .pdfs may be slightly inaccurate due to manipulations from the scanning process, computer monitor settings, or (in event that the files are printed for offline viewing) the printing process.

Unless otherwise noted, stamps are identified by their Scott Catalogue numbers and forgeries are identified by their Lyons Identifier type. Scott numbers in parenthesis under listed forgeries represent approximately what stamp the forgery is attempting to imitate.

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These mysterious stamps were long considered bogus. The excess of forgeries and extreme rarity of real stamps made it suspicious to many collectors. Recorded in philatelic journals as early as 1875, the stamps were not listed as genuine in the Scott *Specialized* Catalogue until 2018. The genuine stamps can be identified by a background of very thin (almost invisible) vertical lines behind the horse head in the center of the design, and irregular perforation.



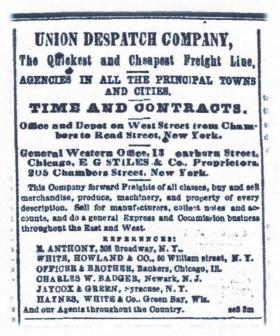
170L1 GENUINE 5¢ BROWNISH RED ON WHITE

The Union Despatch stamps are attributed to the Union Despatch express and freight company established by William and Edmond Stiles around 1855. Stiles's office was headquarted in Chicago and operated until at least 1860 with the Stiles family as proprietors. The stamps, known in 5¢ and 20¢ denominations, were probably used to pay for the delivery of packages.

Although most experts agree that these stamps originated with Stiles, there is no printed evi-

dence to tie the Union Despatch stamps with the company specifically. A key argument in linking the stamps to Stiles is the use of rough, irregular perforations on the stamps, which are some of the earliest examples of perforated stamps.

Perforation machines were in early development in the 1850s. In 1856, Chicago experimented with perforating machines on the imperforate 3¢ US stamps of 1851. These "Chicago Trial" perforations are very similar to the rough 12½ gauge perforations on the Union Despatch stamps. This observation makes Chicago, home of Stiles, the most likely origin of the stamps.



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Adding to the mystery of the Union Despatch stamps, none of the forgeries are attributed to any the major local post forgers (Scott, Hussey, Taylor, or Moens). None of the four recorded forgery types have an identified forger.



FORGERY A 5¢ RED (SHADE) ON THIN WHITE



FORGERY A 5¢ RED (SHADE) ON WHITE



FORGERY A 5¢ RED (SHADE) ON STIFF WHITE



FORGERY A 5¢ RED (SHADE) ON STIFF WHITE



FORGERY A 5¢ RED (SHADE) ON STIFF WHITE



FORGERY A 5¢ GREEN (SHADE) ON THIN WHITE



FORGERY A 5¢ GREEN (SHADE) ON WHITE



FORGERY A 5¢ GREEN (SHADE) ON STIFF WHITE



FORGERY A 5¢ GREEN (SHADE) ON STIFF WHITE



FORGERY A 5¢ BLACK (SHADE) ON THIN WHITE



FORGERY A 5¢ BLACK (SHADE) ON WHITE



FORGERY A 5¢ BLACK (SHADE) ON STIFF WHITE



FORGERY A 5¢ BLACK (SHADE) ON THICK CREAM



FORGERY A 56 RED (SHADE) ON ROUGH WHITE VERTICAL STRIP OF THREE

The Union Despatch Forgery A stamps are known printed in multiples or on papers with forgeries of other locals, such as Warwick's or Boyd's (below).



FORGERY A 5¢ RED (SHADE) ON ROUGH WHITE PAIR WITH BOYD'S FORGERY D, TYPE X

The style of the Boyd's forgery on the pair above is attributed to S.A. Taylor, but it appears to be a copy of Taylor's design rather than an original forgery.



FORGERY A 5¢ GREEN (SHADES) ON THIN WHITE TETE-BECHE PAIR

Union Despatch Forgery A stamps are known printed in multiples or on papers with forgeries of other locals. Impressions were not uniformly arranged, resulting in tête-bêche or turned pairs.



FORGERY A 5¢ GREEN (SHADES) ON ROUGH WHITE HORIZONTAL STRIP OF THREE



FORGERY A 5¢ BLACK (shades) ON THIN WHITE HORIZONTAL PAIR



FORGERY B 5¢ RED (SHADE) ON WHITE (170L1)



FORGERY B 5¢ RED (SHADE) ON WHITE (170L1)



FORGERY B 5¢ GREEN (SHADE) ON WHITE (170L1)



FORGERY B 5¢ GREEN (SHADE) ON WHITE H. LAID (170L1)



FORGERY B 5¢ GREEN (SHADE) ON WHITE - CANCELLED ( 170L1 )



FORGERY B 5¢ BLUE (SHADE) ON WHITE (170L1)



FORGERY C 5¢ RED (SHADE) ON WHITE (170L1)



FORGERY C 5¢ GREEN (SHADE) ON WHITE (170L1)



FORGERY C 5¢ BLUE (SHADE) ON WHITE (170L1)



FORGERY C 5¢ BLACK (SHADE) ON WHITE (170L1)



FORGERY D 5¢ RED (SHADE) ON WHITE (170L1)



FORGERY D 5¢ GREEN (SHADE) ON WHITE ( 170L1 )



FORGERY D 5¢ BLUE (SHADE) ON WHITE (170L1)

A bogus stamp using the Union Despatch name and border design with the central vignette crudely copied from the Penny Express Co. stamps.



BOGUS 2 5¢ DULL RED ON WHITE



BOGUS 2 5¢ GREEN ON WHITE



BOGUS 2 5¢ LIGHT BLUE ON WHITE



BOGUS 2 5¢ BLACK ON WHITE



BOGUS 2 5¢ PURPLE ON WIIITE



BOGUS 2 5¢ DULL RED ON RED



BOGUS 2 5¢ DULL RED ON ORANGE