

# Fort Snelling: Redux, Redux

by Josh Furman

Last year at about this time I posted an intriguing (to me, and to at least one other reader of this journal) cover postmarked FORT SNELLING, MN. (See Serendipity XVI)

Why was it intriguing? Well, if you remember, readers were asked that question. Nobody responded. The answer was that there was no such post office as Fort Snelling, MN. It was set up specifically for this First Day of Issue Cancellation.

Now see the cover illustrated to the right.

What's so unusual? For the bicentennial celebration of the birth of our first President, George Washington, First Day Covers of the stamps in the set were created. The question arose, where to post them?

Federal Hall in New York City served as the home of President Washington's first inauguration, the first Congress, the enactment of the Judiciary Act of 1789, the adoption of the Bill of Rights, and so many other amazing firsts for our Republic. Too bad it was demolished in 1812. Seriously. The capital of the United States moved from Federal Hall in New York to Independence Hall in Philadelphia in 1790. For some time, Federal Hall was used for local government offices, but eventually the building was razed in 1812. Unbelievable. In Manhattan, the air rights above Grand Central Station were protected for historical value, but not the home of our first government.

Now, anyone who is studying the Post Offices in New York will look to see where the Federal Hall Station is located, now that the original Hall has been torn down. One can search, but to no avail. There is no Federal Hall Station in the New York Post Office.

Well, a little research helps. See U. S. Postal Bulletin Vol 53 Issue 15968. Have a look:

**SERIES OF "NEW YORK—GEORGE WASHINGTON—FEDERAL HALL" CACHETS**

**THIRD ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL,**

**Washington, July 29, 1982.**

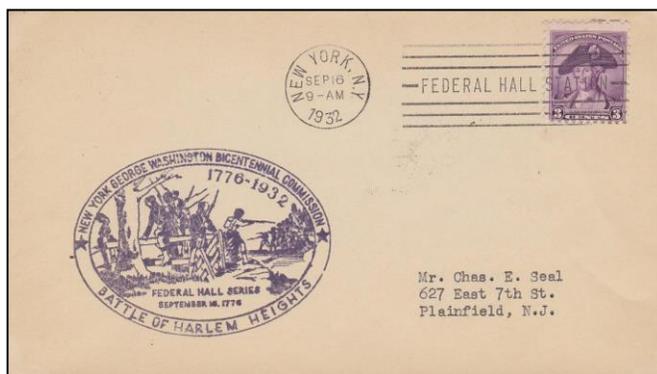
**For the information of stamp collectors and other patrons who may be interested, postmasters are advised that with approval and cooperation of the department, the New York City George Washington Bicentennial Commission is preparing a series of 12 official cachets for the various anniversary dates indicated below to commemorate important events in the life of George Washington that occurred in New York City and vicinity.**

**As a feature of the local Bicentennial Celebration the New York City Bicentennial Commission has constructed in Bryant Park back of the Public Library, Corner of Fifth Avenue and Forty-second Street, a reproduction of the original "Federal Hall" which was the first Capitol Building of the United States. A temporary postal station will be established in this building, effective August 5, 1932, through which mail matter bearing the cachets will be dispatched. This mail will also be postmarked with a special canceling die reading: "Federal Hall Station, New York, N. Y."**

So there you have it. Like the Fort Snelling Post Office, there is no Federal Hall station in the New York Post Office. It was created to serve the stamp-collecting community to facilitate First Day Covers for the Bicentennial.

Have you found any more of these phantom locations?

[The author is indebted to Steve Kochersperger, Sr. Research Analyst, Postal History, Washington, DC, for help in research for this article.]



# Postcards from the Edge by A. Stephen Patrick



City delivery and then rural route mail started in the “horse and buggy” days. However, here is a 1909 post card proudly showing the “auto-car” and the latest delivery service in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. One hundred plus years later the USPS is studying how to replace their aging fleet of mail delivery vehicles. Maybe President Trump can get a better deal. I love the uniforms, especially the hats. The mailman would really have to “bundle up” to use this vehicle in the Wisconsin winter. In an odd similarity, check out the Special Delivery 20 cent stamp from 1925.

The evolution of special delivery from the runner (SD1), to the bicycle rider (SD4), to the motorcycle rider (SD6) and finally the motorized delivery vehicle (SD7) reflects the advancements in travel methods in the early decades of the 1900s.

