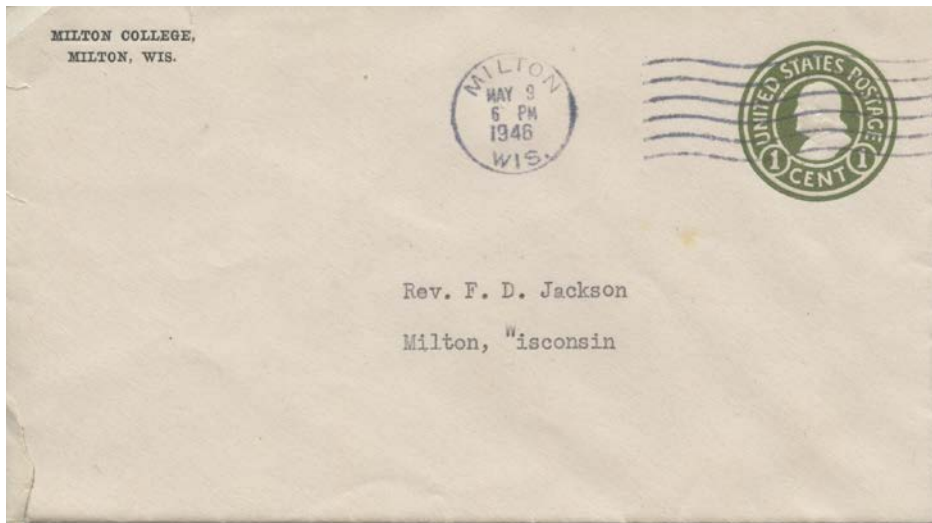


Milton College and Madison College Covers

By Bill Johnston

As so often been showed in this publication, illustrations of postal history or of stamps that at first seemed to have no common connection, but the author shows a commonality of the illustrations. The images of two college related covers given below is another example of this.

The covers are related to two different Sabbatarian Christian denominations' colleges that existed in the states of Wisconsin and Tennessee. The institutions fulfilled the needs of their communities, but eventually ceased operations because of financial challenges. Neither college was especially large, and therefore little postal history is known to exist.



[Cover to left, Late Drop Letter Usage for This 1 Cent Postal Stationary.]

Milton College was founded in 1844 for the benefit of the people of Milton, Wisconsin by members of the Seventh Day Baptist denomination. The college never was an official institution of the denomination, but most of the faculty were members of the church. All the presidents of the college were Seventh Day Baptist until 1954. In 1982, the college closed due to

economic conditions and accreditation issues. At the time of closing, the college was Wisconsin's oldest continually operating college.



[Cover to left, Madison College Cancel with 1948 California Gold Centennial Stamp.]

Madison College was founded in 1904 by members of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination near Nashville, Tennessee. The college was originally known as the Nashville Agricultural Normal Institute. The college was not an official institution of the denomination until 1963. The curriculum of the college was for students seeking a career in nursing, agriculture, teaching, and other fields. In 1964, the college ceased its operations, but the hospital on the campus continued operations. The years of operation for the Madison College post office were 1936 – 1956.

Common, yet uncommon, covers representing similar existence brought together by postal history.

Phil's Corner by Phil Fettig

USS ORLANDO (PF-99)

Most serious collectors of Naval Covers want items that if not actually originated on board the ship, were prepared nearby for events such as launching or commissioning. They do not want covers made years later for pure philatelic reasons. Sometimes it is not possible to easily find a cover with the ship's name in the cancellation. That is the case in the cover shown below. The Frigate USS ORLANDO (PF-99) was built in 1943-4 and commissioned in November, 1944. During World War II ship's names were removed from canceling devices for security reasons. The USS ORLANDO was a relatively small ship, just 304 feet long and 38 feet wide and weighed 1,430 tons. She carried a crew of 201 officers and men and was armed with 2 small naval cannons which fired shells with a diameter of 3 inches.



The Orlando spent the first part of 1945 helping to escort convoys across the Atlantic Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea. Later, in July, she underwent a fast conversion to serve as a Weather Ship. In August the Orlando departed for Pearl Harbor and World War II ended while she was at sea. In September the Orlando arrived at Pearl Harbor for a short stay before departing for Adak, Alaska.

Her Weather Station duty lasted until May 1946, at which time she returned to the U.S. in Seattle, Washington where the ORLANDO was decommissioned and scrapped later in 1947.

There is a record of the ORLANDO having a cancellation for a short period in 1945 and examples are listed in the Universal Ship Cancellation Society Catalog as "limited" and "scarce" with no more than a few hundred in existence.