



EMPIRE STATE
POSTAL HISTORY
SOCIETY

APS UNIT 28

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Meets twice annually

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A PRE-CIVIL WAR KNOXVILLE TO KNOXVILLE COVER

By Alan Parsons

The cover shown here, mailed “Post Office business/Free” from Knoxville, New York, on September 22 (no year date) to the postmaster in Knoxville, Tioga County, Pennsylvania was issued from a Steuben County New York post office with a very short life.

It existed from August 16, 1852, to August 15, 1854, (Kay & Smith *New York Postal History: The Post Offices and First Postmasters from 1775 to 1980*, APS 1982).

Cheryl Edgcomb, longtime postmaster at Knoxville, Pennsylvania, who is now retired and one of the founders and former CEO of Stamp Camp USA, found the cover in an attic of the house she and her husband bought when they made Knoxville, Pennsylvania, their permanent residence. The house once belonged to Victor Case, a prominent Knoxville resident who had served as postmaster.

Knoxville, New York, was a borough on the north side of the Chemung River across from Corning on the south side. Knoxville New York, today is Corning Northside. Knoxville, Pennsylvania, is about 33 miles to the southwest.

Edgcomb framed the cover, presumably addressed to Case, and hung it over her desk in the Knoxville, Pennsylvania, post office while she was postmaster. I first saw the cover on a visit to the Knoxville post office on Stamp Camp business and realized it would make a significant addition to my Corning Postal History exhibit if she was willing to sell it.

Edgcomb’s former Knoxville, New York, cover now is in my Corning, New York, postal history exhibit with the statement that it possibly is the only surviving cover from this two-year post office. After showing the exhibit twice since acquiring the cover I discovered a listing in Chlanda & Wilcox *Manuscript Post Offices of New York State* published by the ESPHS in 1984, for Knoxville, Steuben County: “Earliest Date 12/23/NYD, Free (no latest date listed).” I will check with Henry Chlanda about this listing, and also check with postal historian Douglas Penwell, but it seems certain I will have to revise my write-up. ■

