

## COVER OF THE ISSUE

By: Glenn Estus

Thanks to Doubleday Postal History, I can show a previously unreported New York State Postmaster cancel from the mid-1870s.

Fishers Landing is a post office in Jefferson County on the St. Lawrence River. Covers from Fishers Landing at this period must not be too common. In Child's Gazetteer of Jefferson County, N.Y. (1890), he writes: "FISHER'S LANDING (p. o.) is situated on the south bank of St. Lawrence River, six miles below Clayton, and contains one hotel, one general store, a grocery, blacksmith shop, several boat builders, a few summer cottages, and about 150 inhabitants."



The cancel on the cover was a little light as well as being in blue, but thanks to retroReveal.org we are able to show the how cancel looks. For those unfamiliar with retroReveal, it is a website sponsored by the University of Utah. Although mainly for the use of researchers working with old documents, it has found a use in the philatelic world by enabling us to enhance postal markings many times hidden by the dark colors of the stamps. At the current time the website use is free.

According to Kay and Smith's "New York Postal History: The Post Offices and First Postmaster from 1775 to 1980", George S. Newton was the first postmaster when Fishers Landing was established on March 3, 1874. I was not sure how long Mr. Newton continued as postmaster since the USPS's website, Postmaster Finder, only lists postmasters since October 1968. However, a little bit of searching found a webpage which has appointment dates for Jefferson County postmasters. The site, <http://www.jefferson.nygenweb.net/pmorle.htm>, says that a new postmaster, Linus J. Pierce, took office on January 11, 1881. Thus, I assume that Newton was postmaster from 1874-1881.

Interestingly, Fisher's Landing has had no postmaster since May 2008. At the present time, there is a notation on the Postmaster Finder site that Fishers Landing was "Converted to a Remotely Managed Post Office under the direction of the postmaster of the Clayton Post Office on June 1, 2013."

When I reported this new listing on an internet message board, one person replied "Nice: looks like it may have been a self-inking ribbon handstamp, similar to those used as revenue cancels during and after the Civil War and frequently seen used by railroad agents, but not very often in regular postal use."