How the Post Office in Elmira, NY Met the Challenges of the American Civil War

Alan Parsons
1901 Elmira Board of Trade Advertising Cover
Corner Card: U. S. Mustering and Disbursing Office; Official Business / February 27, 1864
Headquarters Depot for Drafted Men, Elmira, N.Y.

(Corner Card in Wrong Corner)
1862 Patriotic Cover for Elmira Rendezvous
(Available to the Public)
Late usage of 1858 3-cent stamp in Elmira (September 17, 1861) possibly latest known usage for Elmira.
Usage of 1861 3-cent stamp in Elmira, October 15, 1861; possible earliest usage.
Neat strike of “Held for Postage” Marking on Elmira cover dated November 29, 1862.
Demonitized 1850s Postal Stationery
“fixed” for 1863 usage with paste over not tied.
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“Held for Postage”
“Old Stamped Envelopes”
(cover belongs to Richard Drews)
“Mails Suspended”. Neat blue oval handstamp on orange cover to Union Point Ga., 3-cent Rose (65) tied by “Elmira N.Y. May 15, 1862” double-circle datestamp. Believed to have been struck in blue at New York City.
Biennial “Official Register of the United States” shows the following for Elmira, NY for postmasters’ compensation / office receipts for fiscal years ending June 30:

1861 – Daniel Stephens, postmaster, compensation $2,000 / balance due U.S. $4,859.34

1863 – Daniel F. Pickering, postmaster, compensation $2,000 / balance due U.S. $9,140.20

1865 – Daniel F. Pickering, postmaster, compensation $2,500 / balance due U.S. $21,748.27
Scott No.65 with double perfs along right and left sides used at Elmira during Civil War.
Elmira to Ireland June 24, 1863 franked by 24-cent red lilac (70) tied by quartered cork cancel and double circle datestamp, New York City transit and 2 Irish backstamps.
Unofficial F.D.C. shows hand stamped Examined marking for prisoner mail at Elmira camp; picture shows Elmira prison camp. Cover cancelled at Elmira West Side station approx. 2 blocks from site of camp.
1864 cover from Petersburg, Virginia to Confederate P.O.W. at Elmira with manuscript notations “EX” and “Exchanged”, money content indicated by “$5 greenback” and “Dep”. 
Flag of Truce via Fortress Monroe.
Elmira, N.Y. to Petersburg, Virginia.
April 12, 1865 local use folded letter mailed without postage; penciled “Due 2” to indicate postage to be collected from recipient. Signed by four prisoners, request for bibles.