

INDIANA POSTAL HISTORY
I. TITLE PAGE AND EXHIBIT OUTLINE

DR. ERNST H.C. HEUSLER, POSTMASTER (P.M.)

HEUSLER, INDIANA, MARRS TOWNSHIP,
A POSEY COUNTY DISCONTINUED POST OFFICE (DPO)
OPEN FROM AUGUST 7, 1893, TO FEBRUARY 28, 1903¹.

We owe much of today's interest in Indiana postal history to those who have gone before us. J. David Baker compiled a landmark two volume treatise on the subject.² Robert Rhodehamel was perhaps the most compulsive postal history accumulator that Indiana or any state has known.

Dr. Ernst H.C. Heusler P.M. of Heusler, Indiana, was a postal history producer par excellence. Most Indiana post offices open ten years or less have few if any surviving covers. The fact that so many spectacular Heusler covers in superb condition have survived is testimony to Dr. Heusler's effort.

This exhibit showcases covers that demonstrate Dr. Heusler's passion for perfection in postal history production. This is an expansion of a 2006 exhibit that presents ongoing research in the personal and postal history life of Dr. Heusler. Translations and further research indicates Dr. Heusler was likely an early Indiana stamp dealer, too. Around the turn of the century (1900+) he and Rev. K. Wiegmann, originally Mt. Vernon (Posey County), serviced a network of Germans in this country and abroad who were likely active stamp collectors.

EXHIBIT OUTLINE

- I. TITLE PAGE
- II. HEUSLER, POSEY COUNTY, INDIANA
- III. THE MAIL SERVICE
- IV. BACKGROUND HISTORY OF THE AREA
- V. ERNST H.C. HEUSLER: HIS HISTORY
 - A. PERSONAL
 - B. AS A PHYSICIAN
 - C. AS A POSTMASTER
 - D. AS A STAMP DEALER
 - E. HIS DEATH
- VI. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS



II. HEUSLER, MARRS TOWNSHIP, POSEY COUNTY, INDIANA

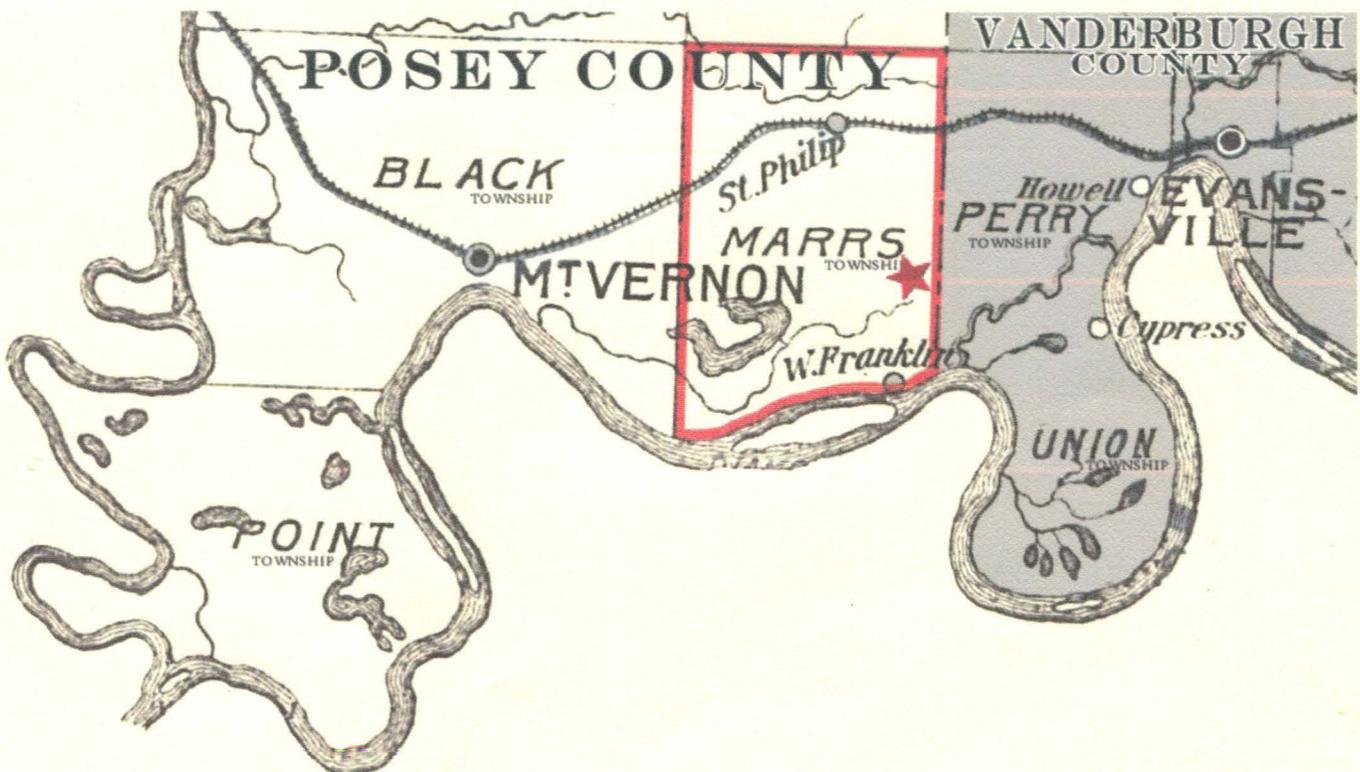
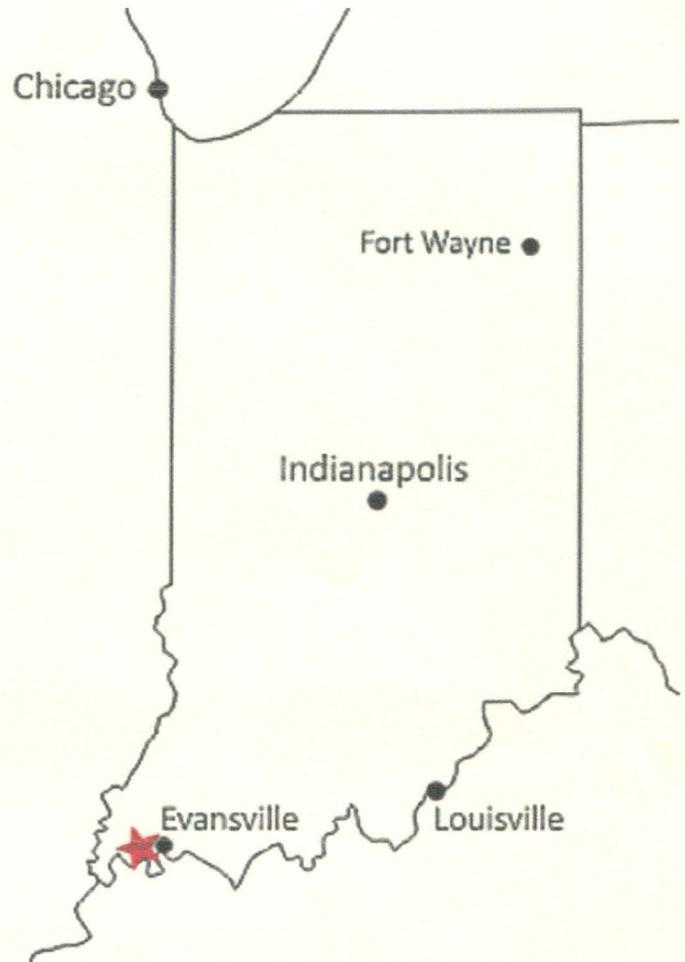
Posey County is in the extreme **southwestern** corner of Indiana.

Marrs Township is in the **southeastern** corner of Posey County.

★ HEUSLER

III. THE MAIL SERVICE

Prior to Aug. 7, 1893, **WEST FRANKLIN**, was the post office for the Salem Church (Heusler) area. While the Heusler office was in service, mail went west from **ST. PHILIP** to **MOUNT VERNON** and beyond and mail went east to **HOWELL**, **WEST EVANSVILLE** and beyond via the **Louisville and Nashville Railroad**. During the period of the Heusler Post Office service (1893-1903), most covers and postcards had a **ST. PHILIP** CDS as a transit mark. After February 28, 1903, mail service for the area was via Rural Free Delivery (RFD) **CXPRESS**.



Partial map of Posey County & Vanderburgh County - From a 1896 Railroad Map of Indiana

III. MAIL SERVICE

WEST FRANKLIN (Posey County) JUN 8, 1890 CDS, census card. This office was the office for Heusler until ERNST H.C. HEUSLER M.D. opened the HEUSLER office on August 7, 1893.



This census card is shown on the cover of the *Posey Count Postal History Publication*, Indiana Postal History Society.

The reverse of this card shows that URBAN S. MARRS was the enumerator. He was the nephew of Samuel R. Marrs, the man after which **MARRS TOWNSHIP** was named.^{3,4.}

June 4, 1890. ENUMERATION DISTRICT No. 40.

ENUMERATOR'S DAILY REPORT TO SUPERVISOR.

I have this day enumerated the following:

No. of living persons [Schedule 1]	- - - - -	36
No. of farms [Schedule 2]	- - - - -	6
No. of establishments [Schedule 3 and Special Schedules]	- - - - -	
No. of deaths [Schedule 5]	- - - - -	
No. of names on Supplemental Schedules 1 to 3	- - - - -	4
No. of names on Veterans' Special Schedule	- - - - -	1

Time actually and necessarily occupied in the service: 15 hours; 20 min.

I certify that the above report of work done and of time occupied is correct. } Urban S. Marrs

POST-OFFICE: West Franklin

COUNTY: Posey

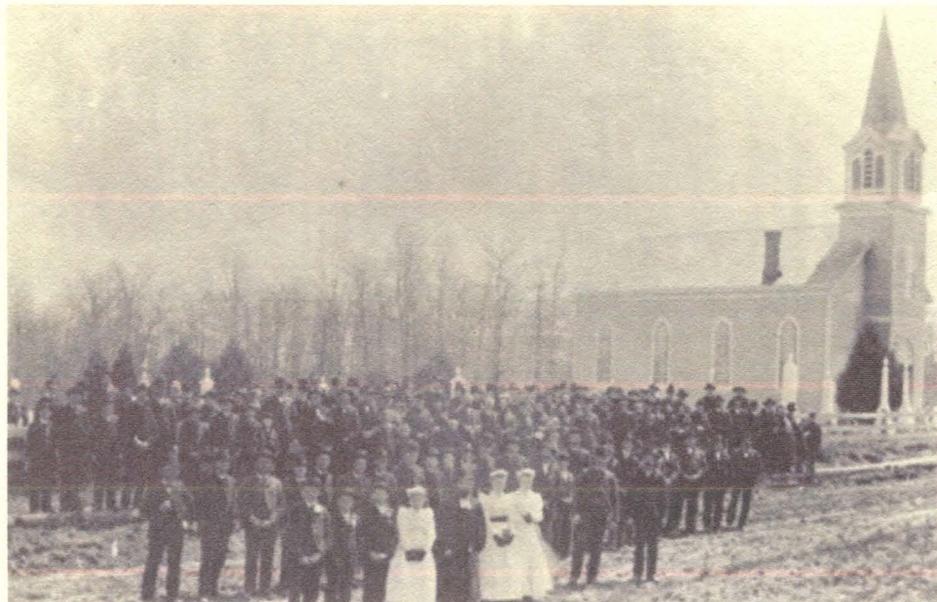
ENUMERATOR.

Photocopy of card reverse.

IV. BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF THE AREA

THE BEGINNING---

The county was formed in 1814 and was named for Thomas Posey, a Revolutionary War general who became governor of the Indiana Territory from 1813 to the start of statehood in 1816. The first county seat was established in 1815 at Blackford, Marris Township, before eventually moving permanently to Mount Vernon in 1825.



This is the oldest picture in existence of the Salem church and the congregation (Taken April 10, 1892). The frame church was built in 1888.

"A large influx of German immigrants from 1830 to 1890 became the foundation of strong agriculture in Posey County. Ninety-three percent of the population of Marris Township in the 1850 census were Germans..."

The Posey County Evangelical Protestant Church of Salem began in 1849 as a gathering of twelve families in a hilly region eight miles west of Evansville and two and a half miles north of the Ohio River.

"Later this community came to be known as HEUSLER because of the post office situated for some years in Dr. Heusler's house next to the cemetery."⁵

Dr. Heusler's home also served as a medical and postal office. Photo below taken June 9, 2006.



V. ERNST H.C. HEUSLER: HIS HISTORY

A: PERSONAL

Dr. Heusler was born in Landstuhl, Germany, in 1852. He arrived in New York on June 17, 1881, aboard the ship *Main*, having embarked from Bremen, Germany.⁶ Soon after landing in New York, Dr. Heusler headed for the Midwest.

This is evidenced by his marriage to Caroline Pfeffer of Mount Vernon, Posey County on November 1, 1883; the birth and death of their first son in 1894; and his memberships in the Posey County, Vanderburgh County, and Indiana State Medical Societies.



Location of Landstuhl in Germany

MARRIAGE LICENSE

129

757

State of Indiana, Posey County, ss:

✓ *Be it Remembered, That on the 30th day of October A. D. 1883*
 a Marriage License was issued to *Ernest Heusler and Carrie Pfeffer*
 in the words and figures following, to-wit:

Indiana, to-wit, Posey County:

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS—GREETING:

Know Ye, That any person legally authorized to solemnize Matrimony is hereby licensed to join in
Marriage as HUSBAND AND WIFE, Ernest Heusler and Carrie Pfeffer
and for so doing this shall be his sufficient authority.

In Testimony Whereof, I George M. Curtis Clerk of the Posey
Circuit Court, hereunto subscribe my name and affix the Seal of said Court,
this 30th day of October 1883,

George M. Curtis Clerk
By George W. Wilson D. C.

And Afterwards, to-wit: *On the 12th day of November A. D. 1883*
 the following Certificate of the Marriage of said parties was returned and filed, to-wit:

INDIANA, TO-WIT, POSEY COUNTY:

This certifies that I joined in Marriage as HUSBAND AND WIFE, Ernest Heusler
and Carrie Pfeffer, on the 1st day of November 1883

Rev. Adalbert Stenger
 757

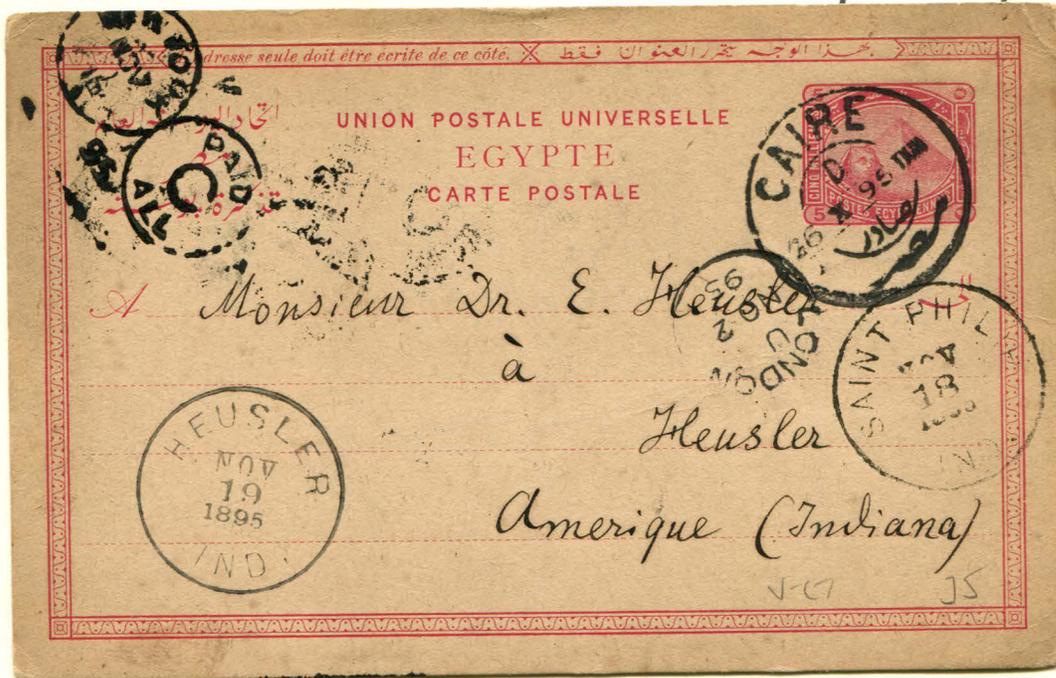
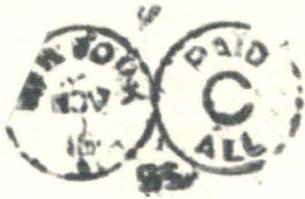
Reduced copy of license — From the Court House Records. Marriage November 1, 1883 by Rev. Adalbert Stenger, pastor of Salem Church Marrs Township, Posey County.

INCOMING POSTAL CARD FROM EGYPT TO DR. HEUSLER

Cancelled CAIRE (CAIRO, EGYPT) 26 X (Oct) 1895

LONDON, ENGLAND, transit mark NO(V) 2 (18)95

NEW YORK, USA, transit full circle
NOV 16 with (18)95 outside
the circle; circle PAID ALL



SAINT PHILIP IND NOV 18 1895 (DPO 1872-1902) CDS
used as transit mark

HEUSLER IND NOV 19 1895 CDS used as a receiving mark



A translation of reverse message in German indicates personal postal card, not medical use.

BILL FOR SERVICE

Note WEST FRANKLIN, IND. Address in 1885. He never moved his office. Instead it was serviced by three different post offices throughout this exhibit and his life in Posey County: WEST FRANKLIN prior to 1893, HEUSLER during the ten years he was postmaster (1893-1903), and HOWELL (West Evansville), as mentioned in his obituary.

West Franklin, Ind., May 27. 1885

Mr. Alwine Lehmer

To Ernst H. Heusler, Dr.

PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON.

		\$	
1884.	<u>Prescribe:</u> 24. October, 24. October, 25. October, 26. October, 27. October		
	28. October, 29. October, 30. October, 22. December.	18	
	<u>Medizin:</u> 23. October, 24. October 26. October, 27. October,		
	4. November, 22. December, 24. December.	3	50
		21	50
	Dawon erhalten	10	
	Prognose	11	50.

16 visits for \$21.50. Wow! — From Posey County Historical Society Records

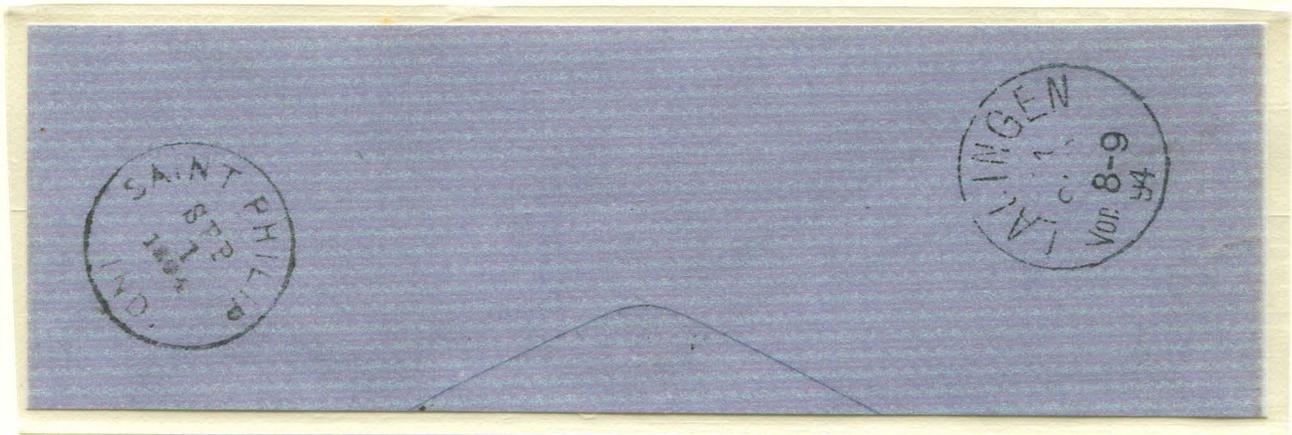
EARLIEST CORNER CARD AD COVER FOR DR. HEUSLER, PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON

Black **HEUSLER** AUG 31, 1894 CDS. Three black target HS cancel five 1¢ 1890-1893 issue stamps paying 5¢ foreign rate to Germany.

Note purple "**HEUSLER POSEY CO., IND.**" HS over **WEST FRANKLIN, INDIANA** P.O. address. HEUSLER P.O. in service after August 7, 1893.



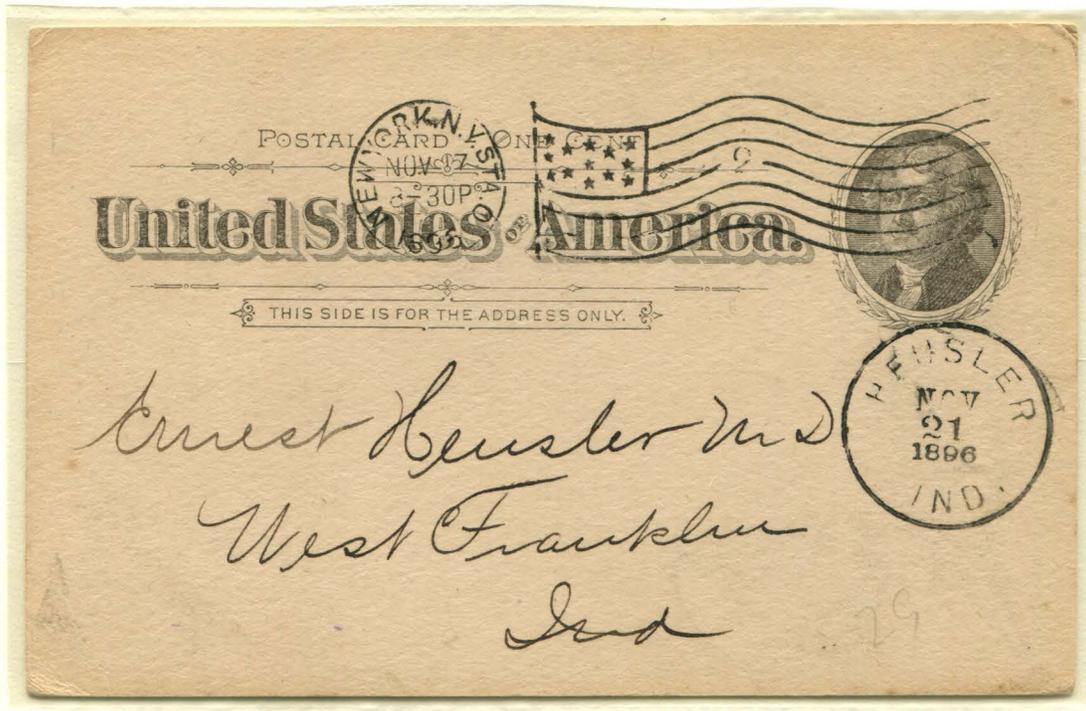
Black **SAINT PHILIP** SEP 1, 1894 CDS and 9-8-94 **LAUINGEN** (Germany) CDS as transit mark. Nine days to Germany in 1894. Impressive!



Copy of cover reverse.

INCOMING POSTAL AD CARD

Black NEW YORK, N.Y. STA. O. NOV 17, 1896 flag machine cancel ties 1¢ 1894 issue preprinted postal card to ERNST HEUSLER M.D. Note WEST FRANKLIN address. His home and office were unchanged even though the P.O. address was different before and after 1893. Black HEUSLER NOV 21, 1896 CDS as receiving mark on obverse.



PROF. BIANCHI'S **\$2.00** postpaid
ON RECEIPT OF PRICE.
DIRECTIONS WITH EACH INSTRUMENT.
MONEY REFUNDED IF NOT SATISFACTORY.

*Far Superior to any Stethoscope ever made.
Accepted by Leading Practitioners as the most powerful and accurate instrument for Diagnosis.
It is very compact and portable, measuring only 2½ inches in diameter.*

See Medical Journals
ALSO
THE NEW YORK HERALD AND
THE N.Y. WORLD, AUG. 30. 96.

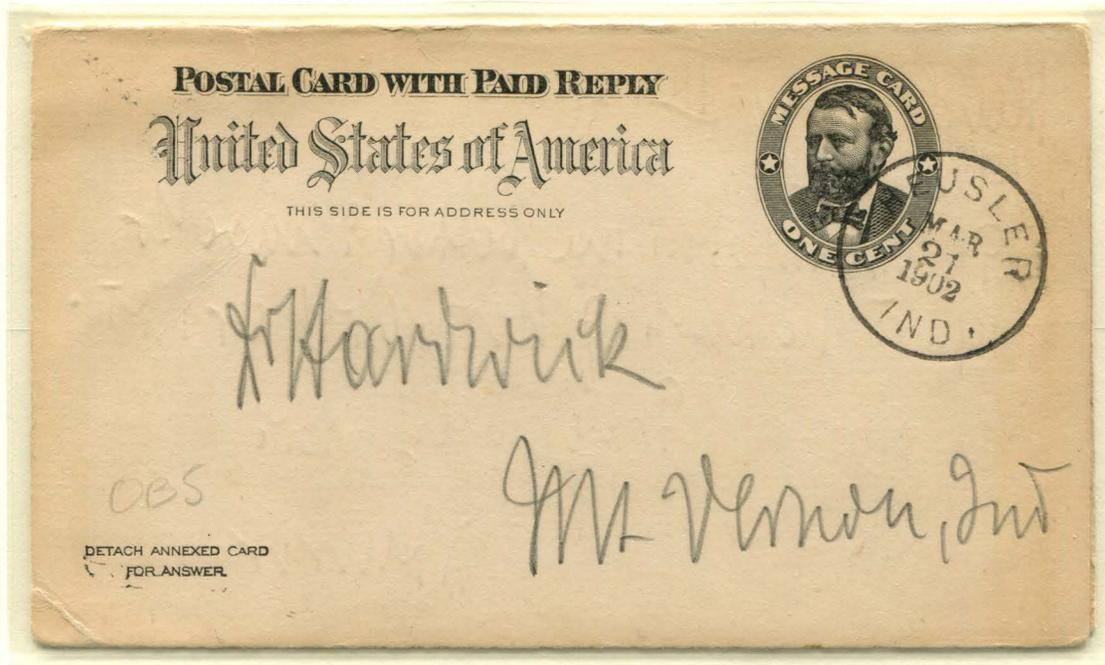
Send Orders to
KNAUTH BROS.
295
FOURTH AVENUE
NEW YORK.

Copy of KNAUTH BROS. stethoscope add on reverse.

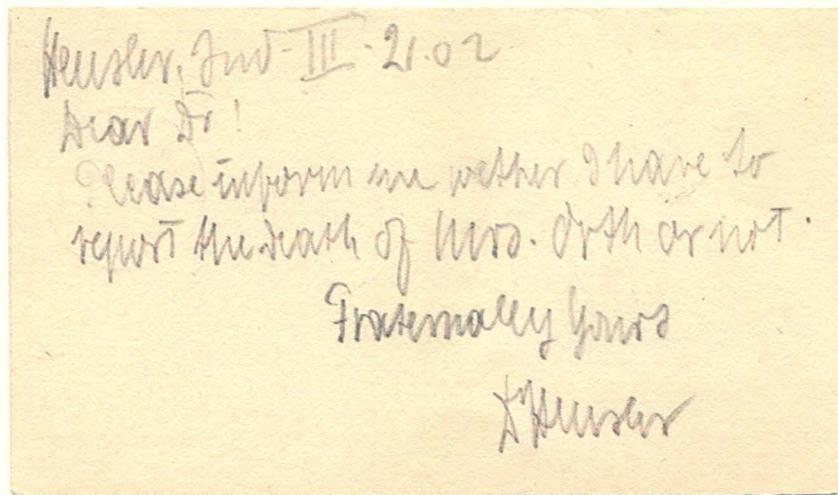
PREPAID REPLY POSTAL CARD

Black **HEUSLER** MAR 21, 1902 CDS ties this postally used and still attached 1¢ paid 1892 first issue card. It also has a partially struck black **MOUNT VERNON** MAR 22 CDS used as a receiving mark on reverse of MESSAGE CARD.

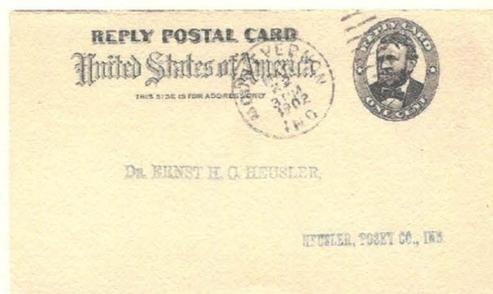
The 1¢ REPLY CARD has a black **MOUNT VERNON** MAR 22, 3 PM, 1902 CDS. It is handstamped with Dr. Heusler's name and address. These cards were sold as two attached cards, one for the message and one for the reply.



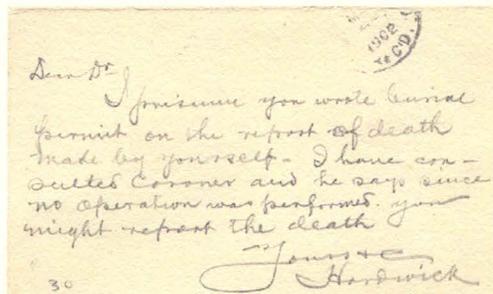
The handwritten message from Dr. Heusler concerns whether he should report a death. The handwritten response the next day by Dr. Hardwick of Mount Vernon states he consulted the coroner and, since no operation was performed, Dr. Heusler "might report the death."



Photocopy of message card reverse, reduced 75%.



Attached reply card front, reduced 45%.



Attached reply card back, reduced 45%.

CORRESPONDENCE TO MT. VERNON ATTORNEY

Black HEUSLER JUL 2, 1902 CDS. Black target cancels 2¢ 1899 issue PSE. Letter concerns bill for medical care of a deceased patient.

DR. ERNST H. C. HEUSLER.

HEUSLER, POSEY COUNTY, IND. July 2. 02.

Mr. John B. Feig

Mt. Vernon, Ind. R. R. No 1

Dear Sir!

I have a bill against Mrs. M. Orth's estate — will you settle it, (amount \$3⁵⁰) or shall I file the bill at the clerk's office?

Respectfully

Dr. Ernst Heusler.



Mr. John B. Feig

R. R. No 1

Mt. Vernon, Ind.

V. ERNST H.C. HEUSLER: HIS HISTORY
 C. AS A POSTMASTER

Ernst H.C. Heusler was appointed as postmaster on August 7th, 1893. The post office was discontinued on February 28, 1903. By February 17th, mail was to be directed to the CYPRESS office, Union Township, Vanderburgh County.

Cypress, Vanderburgh county, two carriers; length of routes, 48 1-2 mi.; area covered, 27 sq. mi.; population served, 800; number of houses on routes, 200. Postoffice at Heusler, Posey county, to be discontinued. Star route, 33.106 to be discontinued. Mail at Cypress.

Clip from Evansville Courier and Press. ^{7.}

From Record of Appointment of Postmasters. ^{8.}

397		POSEY COUNTY,	
Di	Aldrich	Chester Melchbauer 20 Jan '93 to Mount Vernon 20 Jan '93	20 Jan '93
Di	Blainville	Agadolina Garcia 10 Apr '94 to Marion 16 June '94	16 June '94
Di	Buflin	Julius Patner 6 Aug '97 James L. Nettleton 2 Jan '98	2 Jan '98
Di	Cabens	Camille Schamp 15 Aug '98 William Schifert 31 July '98	31 July '98
Di	Cooks	Jesse L. Thompson 29 June '99 Annie Thompson 30 Aug '99	30 Aug '99
M.O.	Cynthiana	Thomas Matthews 15 Sept '97 Lizann W. Whiting 24 Oct '97 20 July 1903 Irene W. Blare 28 Oct '97	24 Oct '97 28 Oct '97
Di	Farmville	George D. Love 16 Dec '97 William K. Schuchert 1 Aug '98	1 Aug '98
Di	Grafton	Henry Gauder 29 June '98 B. E. Mount Vernon 20 Jan '93	20 Jan '93
M.O.	Griffin	William L. Pennington 7 Aug '98 Boyd Cummings 26 Sept '98 Geo. M. Boyd 18 Jan '97 Charles M. Bennett 23 Feb '98	26 Sept '98 23 Feb '98
Di	Hepburn	Alie Anderson 25 July '98 Dr. Mail to Madison 21 Nov '98	21 Nov '98
M.O.	Heusler	Ernst H.C. Heusler 7 Aug '93 Dr. mail to Cypress 17 Feb 1903	17 Feb 1903

M.O. 2: Heusler
 Ernst H. C. Heusler 7 Aug '93 Dr. mail to Cypress to take effect 28 Feb 1903
 17 Feb 1903

HEUSLER JAN 26, 1894 CDS, target handstamp (HS) of 2¢ 1893 Postal Stamped Envelope (PSE) issue.



This envelope is the earliest known use (EKU) for this office. The cover has a manuscript (MS) "Dr. Heusler, Heusler Ind." It was prepared and addressed by Dr. Heusler.

COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION PSE WITH MULTIPLE 1890-1893 ISSUE STAMPS

The cover is the EKU foreign use from this office. The 13¢ postage pays the 5¢ Universal Postal Union (UPU) foreign letter rate and the 8¢ registry rate on this colorful cover to Lauingen, Germany. It has a **HEUSLER** MAY 22, 1894 CDS and target cancels, New York registry label, bold oval "AR" (AVIS DE RECEPCION which means return receipt requested), red MS "Return Receipt Demanded" in English and German. The side of the cover is HS "DR. Ernst H.C. Heusler P.M., HEUSLER POSEY CO.," The cover was prepared and addressed by Dr. Heusler.



The back of the cover has a **NEW YORK** (NY) registry oval, magenta N.Y. transit and the **LAUINGEN**, Germany DCS as a receiving mark.



COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION PSE WITH COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION STAMPS

The 1¢ 1893 PSE and 3¢, 6¢, and 8¢ 1893 issue stamps, totaled 18 cents: the 8¢ registry rate to Munich, Germany, and twice the standard UPU foreign letter rate of 5¢. The cover has HEUSLER JAN 21, 1896 CDS and target cancels, New York registry label, hand-printed boxed "AR", MS "Register", and blue HS "Registered No." with MS "18".

The back has appropriate transit and backstamps (B/S). This cover was prepared by Rev. K. Wiegmann, with a corner label applied.



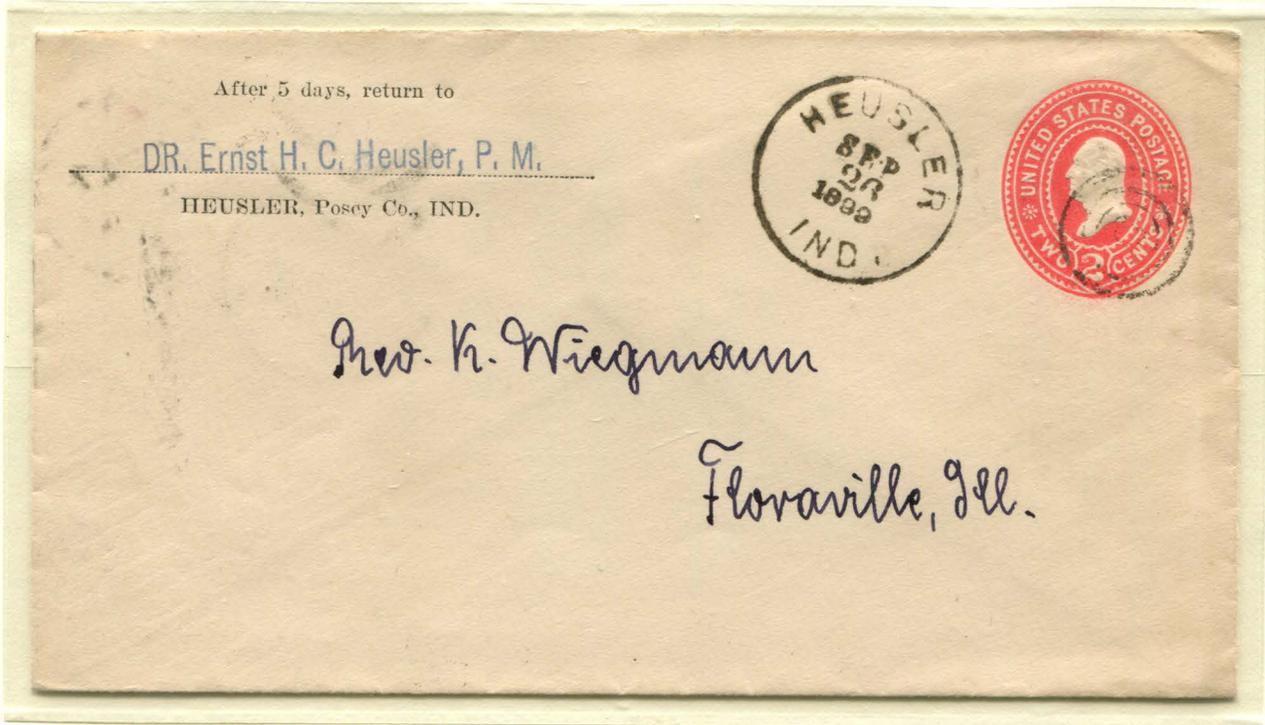
This cover is a 5¢ 1893 PSE issue paying the UPU foreign rate to Bern, Switzerland. The reverse has appropriate transit and receiving marks.

The hand-written address on the front indicates that this cover was also prepared by Rev. K Wiegmann.

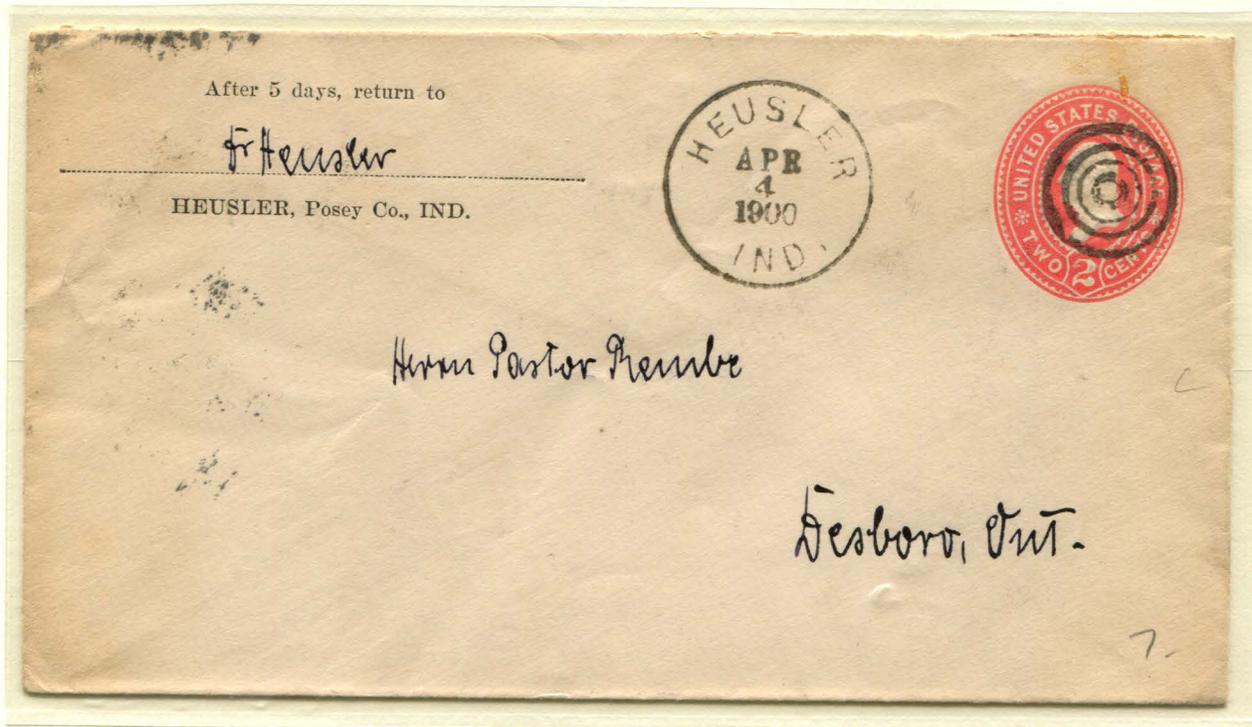


PAIR OF STAMPED ENVELOPES

These are 1887-1894 issue 2¢ PSE, the top cover paying the 2¢ domestic letter rate and the bottom cover paying the 2¢ letter rate to Canada. Both have attractive and well-struck HEUSLER CDS and target cancels. Both covers are addressed by Dr. Heusler.



This bottom cover has the appropriate transit and receiving marks on the reverse.



TWO BUREAU ISSUE COVERS, FOREIGN USE

These are a striking pair of Heusler covers to the same person in Lauingen, Germany. Both covers have Dr. Heusler's printed name and address. Dr. Heusler prepared and addressed both covers.

Black **HEUSLER** MAR 5, 1896 CDS. Target cancels 1¢ and pair 6¢ 1894 issue. N.Y. Registry label, blue "Registered No." HS and black MS "38". 13¢ rate is 8¢ registry + 5¢ foreign use. With appropriate B/S registry, and transit receiving marks.



Black **HEUSLER** DEC 10, 1896 CDS. Target cancels pair 3¢ 1894 issue (overpays foreign rate).



50¢ 1894 BUREAU STAMP

Black HEUSLER FEB 1, 1902 CDS, late use, ties 50¢ Bureau issue. Blue HS "Registered No." MS "19".



Dr. Heusler prepared and addressed this cover. Siegel's auctions show less than fifteen examples of this 50¢ stamp on cover.⁹ I believe there is no other **INDIANA** use of this stamp. Cover sent to Rev. Wiegmann, **HERKER**, Illinois in VEG-A-TAB REMEDY COMPANY envelope.

TWO WRAPPERS

Both neatly cancelled by **HEUSLER** CDSs. The top cover is an 1887-94 issue wrapper with **ST PHILIP** CDS as a transit B/S, and **MOUNT VERNON** CDS as a receiving B/S. The bottom cover is an 1899 issue wrapper; a scarce example of a wrapper to a foreign destination, with appropriate **LAUINGEN** (Germany) CDS as a receiving B/S. Both covers were attractively addressed by Dr. Ernst H.C. Heusler.



1898 TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPOSITION ISSUE

A **HEUSLER** JUL 6, 1898 CDS cancels an 8¢ and 4¢ 1898 issue and a target cancels the 1874-1886 issue PSE, paying the 8¢ registry rate and 5¢ (4¢ + 1¢) foreign letter rate to Germany. It has a hand-printed "AR" and also a bold HS oval AR, New York Registry label, blue HS "Registered No." with MS "9". The "AR" likely indicates something of value enclosed (stamps?).



The second cover is a pair of 1¢ 1898 issue cancelled by a target killer. It has a striking **HEUSLER** OCT 10, 1898 CDS on the front and a **HOWELL, IND. REC'D B/S** as a transit mark and a clear **NEW YORK** receiving mark.



ONE THROUGH FIFTY CENT TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPOSITION ISSUE ON COVER

Three, black HEUSLER NOV 30, 1898 CDS tie 1¢, 2¢, 4¢, 5¢, 8¢, 10¢ and 50¢ stamps of the 1898 Trans-Mississippi issue. Blue HS "Registered No." with MS "31". Purple "REGISTERED, DEC 5, 1898 Mansfield Ohio" three-line receiving B/S.

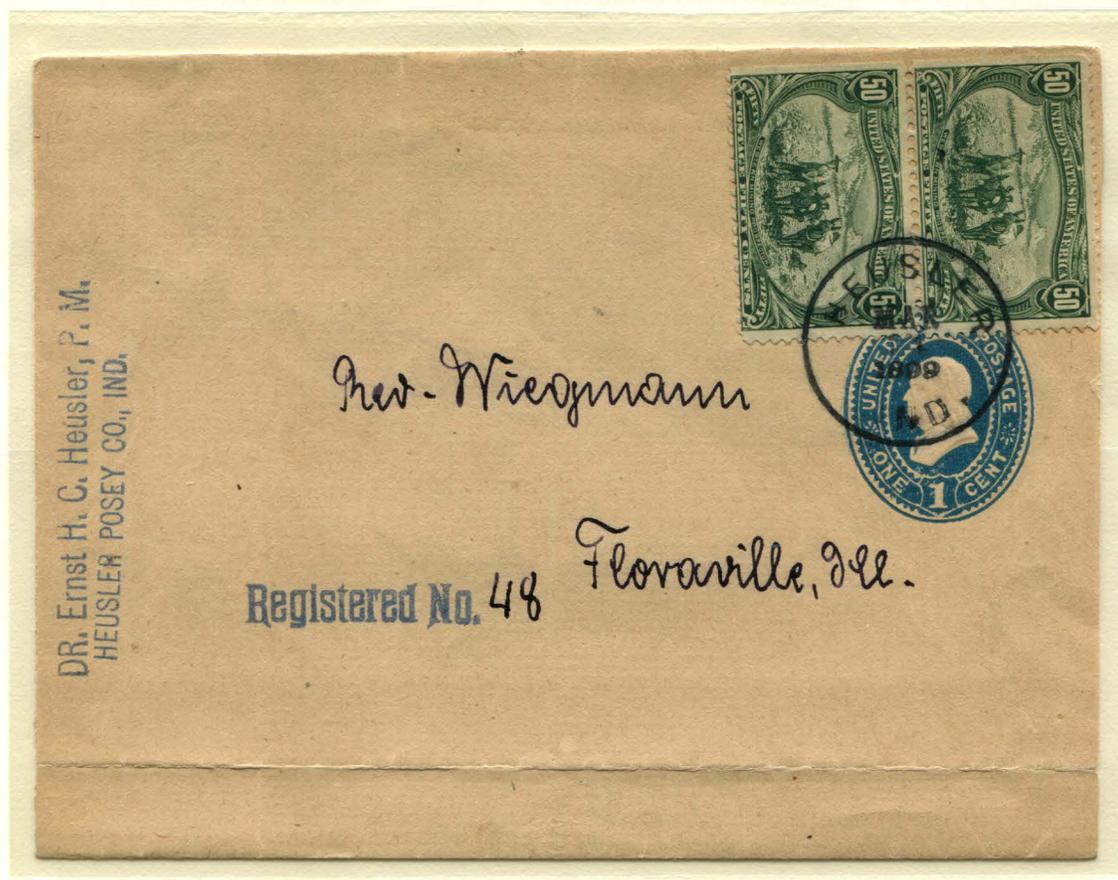


This cover was sent by Dr. Ernst H.C. Heusler to Rev. Ferdinand Busser. The 50¢ Trans-Mississippi issue stamp is known on less than forty covers. Three additional covers are known that include all 1¢ through 50¢ Trans-Mississippi issue stamps, two of which were sent through the HEUSLER post office between 1898 and 1899.¹⁰

WRAPPER WITH A PAIR OF FIFTY CENT TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPOSITION ISSUE

This cover has a vertical pair of 50¢ 1898 Trans-Mississippi issue stamps with a natural straight edge at the left on a 1¢ 1887-1894 issue wrapper. The postage is beautifully tied by a single bold **HEUSLER** MAR 14, 1899 CDS. Blue HS "Registered No." with MS "48".

This cover is addressed to Floraville, Illinois and has **FLORAVILLE** CDS as receiving mark on the back.



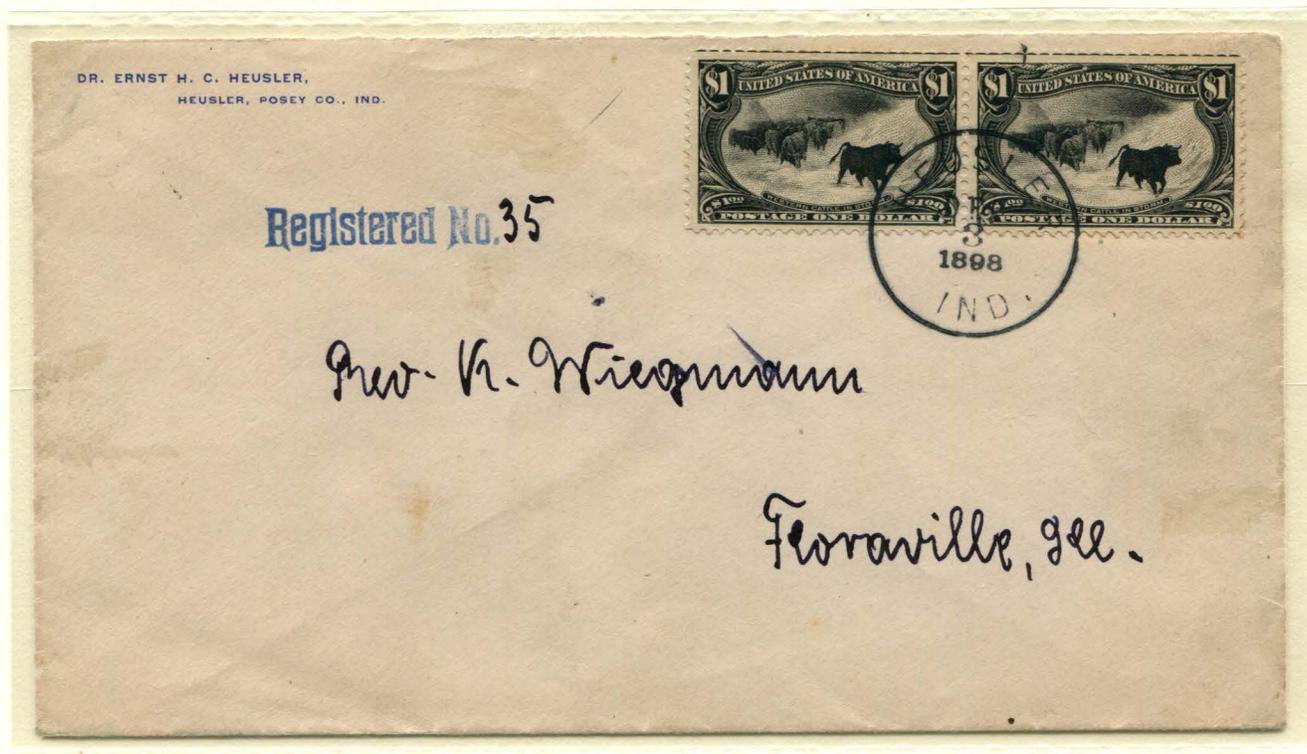
This cover was prepared and addressed by Dr. Heusler. It is stamped on the margin by "DR. Ernst H.C. Heusler, P.M. HEUSLER POSEY CO. IND."

Use of the 50¢ Trans-Mississippi stamp on a wrapper is very rare, quite possibly unique.^{9, 10.}

The 1900 population of Marris Township was 2,199.^{11.} For such a small rural community, Dr. Heusler produced surprisingly interesting and diverse postal material.

PAIR \$1 TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPOSITION ISSUE ON COVER

This cover has a horizontal pair of \$1 1898 Trans-Mississippi issue stamps symmetrically tied by HEUSLER DEC 3, 1898 CDS on a registered cover to Floraville, Illinois. Blue HS "Registered No." with MS "35".



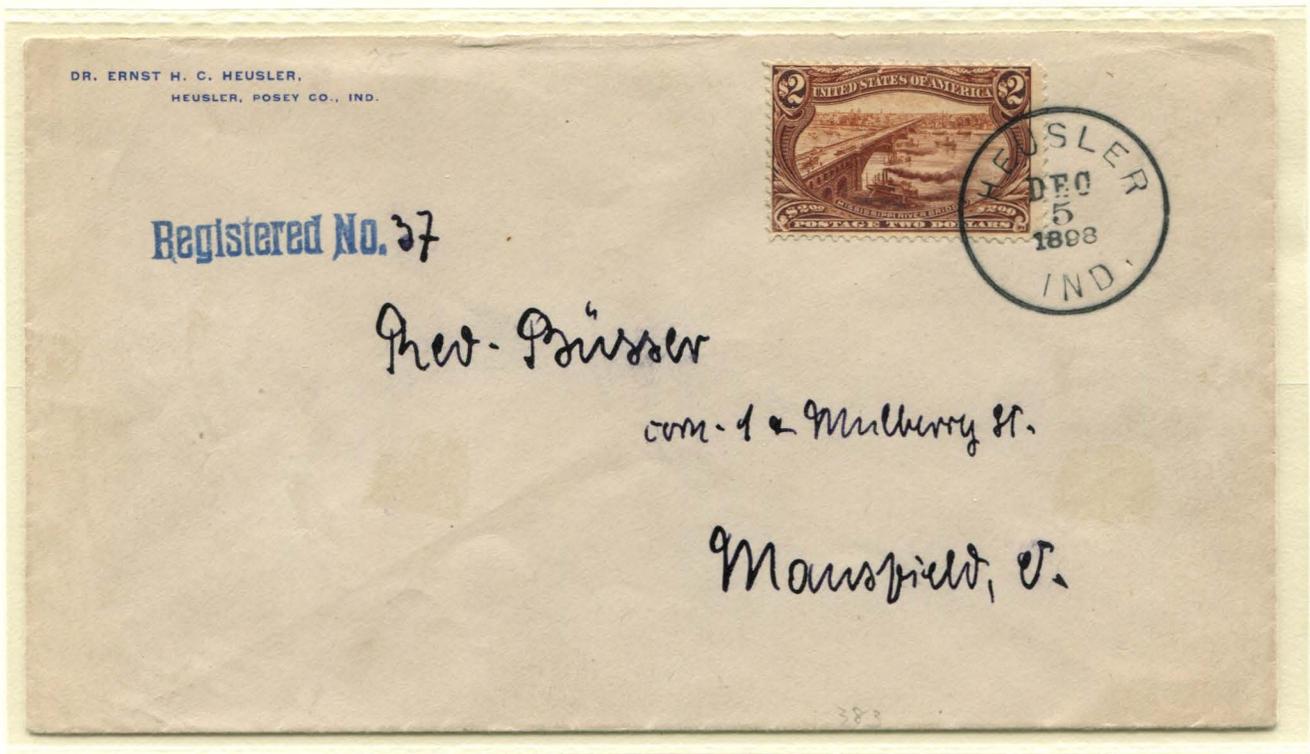
This cover is one of the finest known multiples of the \$1 Trans-Mississippi stamps on cover. Only about twenty examples of the \$1 on cover are known.¹⁰ This is a possibly unique example of a \$1 pair on cover. This registered cover was prepared and addressed by Dr. Heusler. The name and address of Dr. Heusler is printed on the corner of the cover.

Many of the Heusler registered covers are obviously prepared philatelically. This means that the postage is significantly in excess of the required postal rate. Although it is not known whether Dr. Heusler himself was a stamp collector himself, or if he was only preparing these covers for stamp collectors that he knew, the overall composition certainly is artistic.

\$2 TRANSMISSISSIPPI EXPOSITION ISSUE ON COVER

The \$2 1898 Trans-Mississippi issue stamp on this cover is tied by a black **HEUSLER** DEC 5, 1898 CDS. Blue HS "Registered No." with MS "37".

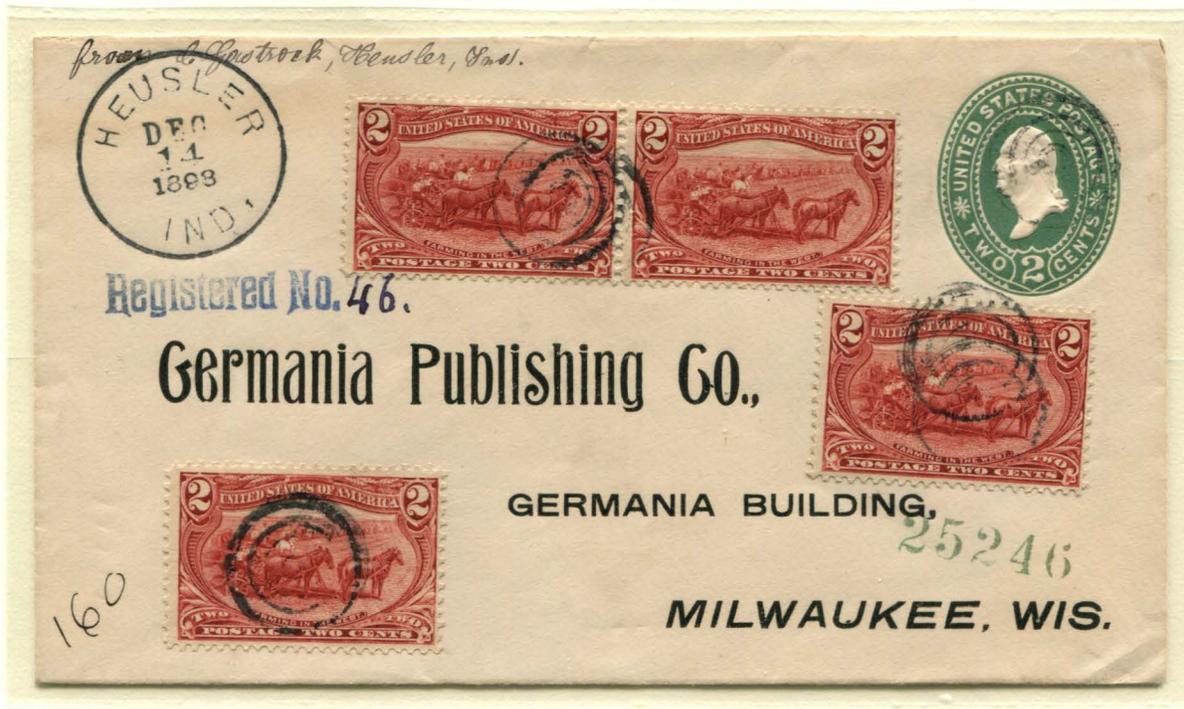
Prepared and addressed by Dr. Heusler, this cover was sent to Rev. Ferdinand Busser, in Mansfield, Ohio. Includes purple **MANSFIELD** three-line B/S.



Seven covers are known with single usages of the \$2 Trans-Mississippi issue stamp. This cover is illustrated in the Neil-Rosenthal book.⁹

TWO COLORFUL HEUSLER COVERS

Both have clearly struck **HEUSLER** CDS and target cancels. The DEC 14, 1898 cover is an 1887-1894 PSE issue that paid the 2¢ domestic letter rate. It is registered with four 2¢ 1898 issue stamps paying the 8¢ registry rate. There is a blue HS "Registered No." and MS "46" on the front.



The second cover has a 1¢ and a 2¢ 1901 Pan-American Exposition stamp on a 2¢ 1899 PSE issue, thus paying the 5¢ foreign letter rate.



PAN-AMERICAN EXPOSITION ISSUE

This registered cover to Herker, Illinois includes three 4¢, three 5¢, three 8¢, and four 10¢ 1901 Pan-American issue stamps, all tied with black **HEUSLER NOV 1, 1901 CDS**. Black HS "Registered No." with MS "20".

The attractive and unusual 91¢ postage is mounted and addressed upside down on a printed postal envelope. The cover was addressed by Dr. Heusler.



This and all the Heusler covers in my collection are as carefully opened as they were cancelled, perhaps reflecting the recipients' appreciation of Dr. Heusler's effort. I have never seen a ratty, tattered, or otherwise abused Heusler cover. Every Heusler cover in my collection is cancelled by either single or multiple **HEUSLER CDS** with or without single or multiple target cancels.

V. ERNST H.C. HEUSLER: HIS HISTORY
D. AS AN EARLY INDIANA STAMP DEALER

REV. K. WIEGMANN POSTAL CARD

Black MOUNT VERNON MAY 6, 1893 CDS. 1¢ Grant 1891 postal card issue and 1¢ 1893 Columbian Exposition issue, both cork cancelled, paying 2¢ foreign rate to Leipzig, Germany.



Translation:

Mount Vernon, Indiana, 6/5 1893.

Dear Sir!

Yesterday I sent a registered letter to you. At that occasion I forgot to answer one of your questions. You kindly asked if my little one*, who by the way is a beginner†, has Argentine stamps. Unfortunately he owns only the two stamps you had kindly sent him: 5¢ 1890 (red) and 10¢ 1890 (brown). By sending him occasionally you make him very thankful.

Kindest regards,
Your K. Wiegmann

Translation notes:

* "his youngest son"

† "beginner in stamp collecting"

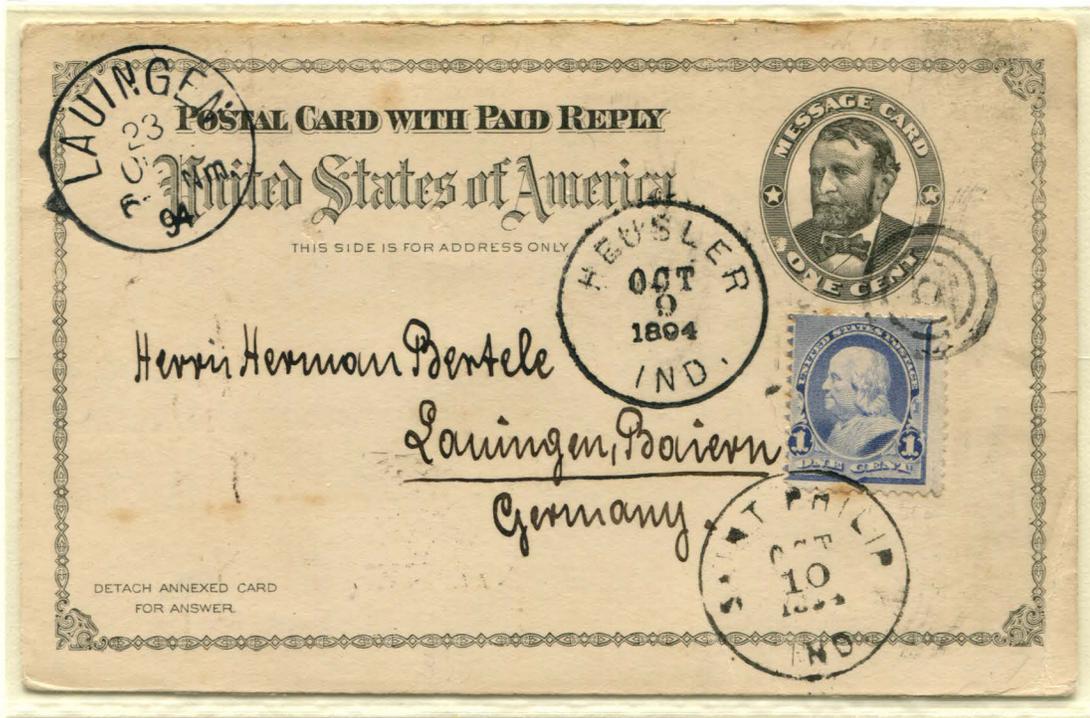
(Translation by APS Translation Service, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823)

Note this date (May 6, 1893) is two months before the opening of the **HEUSLER P.O.** (August 7, 1893). Text indicates registered letter sent to Alfred Geyer, Leipzig, one day earlier.

Both covers on **page 14**, and both covers on **page 19** show Rev. Wiegmann's distinctive handwriting style. Two of those covers are registered, indicating "something of value" enclosed. All four covers were routed through **HEUSLER**.

Dr. Ernst H.C. Heusler sent seven covers to Rev. K. Wiegmann. The postal card **page 29** indicates a monetary transaction between the two. Certainly suggests a tight philatelic relationship.

A 1¢ 1892 issue reply card with additional 1¢ 1890 issue stamp, tied by black target HS. HEUSLER OCT 9, 1894 CDS; SAINT PHILIP and LAUINGEN (Germany) receiving CDS.



Translation:

(Parts of the text are obliterated by moisture or covered up. Content was surmised. A line ___ indicates that it could not be seen, parentheses indicate that enough could be seen to make an educated guess as to its content.)

Heusler, Ind. October 9th, 1894.

(Dear) Friend,

Now for something new ____, a domestic postal reply card transformed into an international one and you have another Rarity. Use the reply card and I will send the whole thing back to you. Then my cancelation, etc. Your recognition gives me pleasure – in the mean time you will have in any case the registered cover as “non plus ultra”, franking that was fun for me. Did you get the Hawaii I sent? How is it going with the Mexicans? Recent or old? The latter are quite uninteresting, but if you want some I’ll get you some. Higher values of this (area) will be hard to find but (worth) the effort.

Kind regards, Dr. Ernst H.C. Heusler

(Translation by APS Translation Service, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823)



A 1¢ 1891 issue postal card with additional 1¢ Bureau issue stamp paying the foreign postal card rate to Germany, both tied by black target HS. Well-struck and attractive **HEUSLER** NOV 10, 1897 CDS. **LAUINGEN** CDS as a receiving mark on the front of the card.

Addressed to Herman Bertele in Lauingen, Germany. Dr. Heusler's distinctive signature and handwriting in purple ink are on the reverse of this postal card.

Translation:

XI.10.97. Dear friend! The new stamps arrived and are on their way to you now. Uncle Sam never issued any blue on white except these small stamps. These small stamps have long been out of print and can only be bought off merchants. Only with a lot of effort was I able to find these, but you are not going to get anymore. In several weeks we will be getting new post cards and you will be receiving some of them then. Canada is going to receive new stamps also, envelopes, since the jubilation series* is already almost completely out of print. China has finally been receiving the new stamps from ½¢ to \$5 for approximately two weeks which had been announced back in February – they are no beauties. Did you want to have Chinese? Certainly Canadian? Greetings. Your Dr. Heusler.

* Queen Victoria Jubilee series issue date June 19, 1897

This postal card is one of the key cards of the exhibit. When I prepared the first exhibit in 2006, it was not known by any of our Indiana postal history experts whether Dr. Heusler was a stamp collector, a stamp dealer, or whether he just prepared outstanding covers. This cover, as the translation shows, suggests he was probably one of Indiana's early stamp dealers.

A 1¢ 1892 issue postal reply card, cancelled by black **HEUSLER** APR 13, 1899 CDS. **HOWELL** IND. REC'D. CDS receiving mark and partial **FLORAVILLE** CDS with barred ellipse duplex HS.



Addressed to Rev. Wiegmann in Floraville, Illinois. The message is written in unusual script, with many letters influenced by Greek.

Translation:

IV. 13. 99
Α C T T ! Αποτρεψε γρηγορησως τον - (εστω δακνυον
Εγος Αποτρεψωσιν ανθρωπ; Εισ αφορμην του Βεργαυ δακνυον
ηδωκνυον - οβελ δεξιν ! Μανιστ βαρδς με γρη εμνησ Ζου Τηρω-
Ρινωρε αυρ. αυτ. δε γεγεδ' του Αρτου, Τηρω 75 ε. Αρτου ογ
τηρω γρη νουν Ζουρωρε ηδωκνυον, δε αφορμην του Αρτου ογ
αυρ, οβελ δεξιν Μανιστ δε Αρτου Ρινωρε; ηδωκνυον δεξιν
δακνυον ηδωκνυον γρη ανθρωπ, αυρ - γρη δεξιν ηδωκνυον
με δακνυον κωρ ηδωκνυον 75 ε Αρτου ογ του Τηρω Ρινωρε !
Να, ηδωκνυον εν του δακνυον !! Εσ ανθρωπ ηδωκνυον αυρ ηδωκνυον
Κοττωρεσιν. Μανιστ ηδωκνυον ογ ανθρωπ, αφορμην του Τηρω
δε Τηρω ογ ανθρωπ ηδωκνυον ηδωκνυον αυρ ηδωκνυον ηδωκνυον
Ρινωρε αυρ ηδωκνυον ανθρωπ ηδωκνυον ηδωκνυον ηδωκνυον
ηδωκνυον. Εσ ανθρωπ ηδωκνυον.

Back of card, reduced 70%

IV.13.99

LHP, Londoners arrived yesterday – many thanks for your consideration; I do hope you “surcharged” me the amount? Maneel sent me some time ago Puertoricans with imp “de gerra” (IMPUESTO DE GUERRA) on approval. Price 75¢. Would have liked to have them for my sister but the overprint was poor, as I wrote him on returning them. He replied that I could hardly find clearer ones; yesterday he wrote me that my account was charged 75¢ for Puertoricans! Well I wrote him all right!! Soon one will need a copy press. My paw is slowly improving but a numb feeling while writing is very troublesome and I certainly can’t use the hand for anything strenuous. For the moment I can’t play prizefighter. Kindest regards. Yours, EH

V. ERNST H.C. HEUSLER: HIS HISTORY
E. HIS DEATH

WITNESS TESTIMONY

The following are the testimonies had at the inquest of Dr. Ernest Huesler at his home in Marrs township, near Manuel's church in Posey county, Indiana.

The witnesses who testified are as follows:-

Mrs. Carrie Huesler being duly sworn upon her oath deposes and says as follows:-

"I am 60 years old. I am the wife of Dr. Ernest Huesler. When I came into the office about 4:00 o'clock Friday afternoon, Oct. 12, I found my husband lying on the floor. The doctor had been complaining a little the last few days but we did not think it was anything serious. There were no marks of violence on his person. He was not struggling. I do not know how long he had been dead but I am sure that it had not been long for a patient called on him about one half hour earlier in the afternoon. There was no blood on the body."

Signed: Mrs. Carrie Huesler.

"I am 60 years old. I am the wife of Dr. Ernest Huesler. When I came into the office about 4:00 o'clock Friday afternoon, Oct. 12, I found my husband lying on the floor. The doctor had been complaining a little the last few days but we did not think it was anything serious. There were no marks of violence on his person. He was not struggling. I do not know how long he had been dead. I am sure that it had not been long for a patient called on him about one half hour earlier in the afternoon. There was no blood on the body."

From County Court House Records

CORONER'S REPORT

"...I find the deceased came to his death by reason of a ruptured heart."

An equally plausible cause of sudden death under the circumstances is an acute ventricular arrhythmia.

From County Court House Records

The undersigned Coroner of Posey county, Indiana, on the 12th day of October, 1917, in the county of Posey, Marrs township, state of Indiana, held an inquest upon the dead body of Dr. Ernest Huesler. Deceased was at the time of his death about 65 years of age, about 5 ft. 11 in. high and would weigh about 185 lbs. He was dressed in white cotton underwear, colored socks, white top shirt, and a knit jacket, a pair of striped trousers and calf skin shoes. He had on his person \$3.25 in cash, a pocket knife and a pocket book.

After hearing the evidence and examining the body I find the deceased came to his death by reason of a ruptured heart.

J. R. Barrett, M.D.

Coroner of Posey county, Indiana.

OBITUARY

The *Evansville* paper, page 9. Note name was spelled "Hensler" not Heusler. Because many records were handwritten, a "u" could look like an "n".

THE BODY OF DR. E. H. HENSLER, of Union-tp, who died Thursday, was buried Sunday with Pythian honors.

ERNST H. C. HEUSLER, M.D., Howell, Ind., died suddenly from heart disease, October 12. Dr. Heusler was born in Germany in 1852. He was a member of the Vanderburgh County Medical Society and the Indiana State Medical Association.

An obituary for Dr. Heusler was also published in the *Journal of the Indiana State Medical Association*¹².

TOMBSTONE



Salem Cemetery, Marrs Township, Posey County. Photo taken June 9, 2006.

SUMMARY & CONCLUSIONS

This exhibit features the personal, medical and postal life of DR. ERNST H.C. HEUSLER, P.M. He was born in Germany in 1852, emigrated from there to the United States in 1881, and settled in Marrs Township, Posey County, Indiana. He married Caroline Pfeffer in 1883. He actively practiced medicine in Marrs County until thirty minutes or so before his death. All of this was perhaps rather ordinary.

What was not ordinary was the ten year period from 1893 to 1903 when he also became postmaster of a small Indiana town, and the community around Salem Church, Marrs Township, "came to be known as Heusler because of the post office situated for some years in Dr. Heusler's house next to the cemetery."³ He produced colorful, clean and spectacular covers, many of which have survived and are coveted by today's postal history collectors. He became perhaps Indiana's greatest postal history producer.

Was he one of Indiana's first stamp dealers? The direct and circumstantial evidence supports that idea.

Dr. Heusler died October 12, 1917. He is buried with his wife and two of his four children in the northeast corner of Salem Cemetery, Marrs Township, Posey County, Indiana, **TEN PACES FROM HIS HOME, MEDICAL OFFICE, AND THE HEUSLER POST OFFICE.**

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- ⁶ New York. *Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, New York, 1820-1897*. Micropublication M237. Rolls #95-580. National Archives, Washington, D.C.
- ⁷ *Evansville Courier and Press*. Saturday, February 14, 1903. Page 2.
- ⁸ *Record of Appointment of Postmasters, 1832-1971*. NARA Microfilm Publication, M841, 145 rolls. Records of the Post Office Department, Record Group Number 28. Washington, D.C.: National Archives.
- ⁹ "Siegel Auction Galleries — Power Search." Siegel Auction Galleries — Power Search. Accessed May 13, 2016. [https://www.siegelauctions.com/lot_lkp.php.]
- ¹⁰ Neil, Randy L., and Jack Rosenthal. *United States of America: The Trans-Mississippi Issue of 1898*. Danbury, CT: Andrew Levitt, 1997.
- ¹¹ "Indiana Township Census Counts, 1890 to 2010." Township Census Counts: STATS Indiana. Accessed May 13, 2016. [http://www.stats.indiana.edu/population/PopTotals/historic_counts_twps.asp.]
- ¹² *Journal of the Indiana State Medical Association*, Vol. 10, #11. November 1917, page 440.