SOUTH DAKOTA

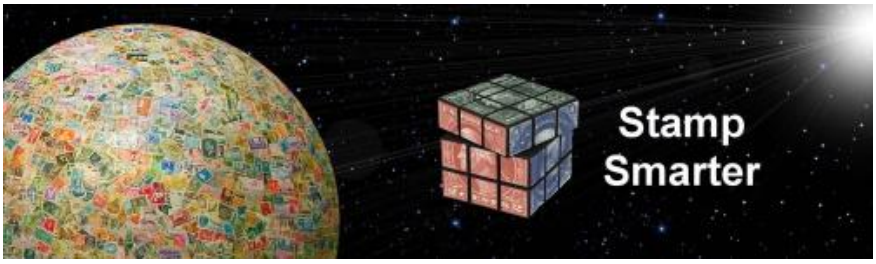
“Official Business”

State Departmental Offices

Illustrated Covers

1860 - 1960

Compiled by Mike Ludeman



Hosted in the Stamp Smarter Library

https://stampsmarter.org/learning/StateGovCovers.html

SOUTH DAKOTA: "Official Business" Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards

INTRODUCTION

Mike Ludeman

Although the use of an envelope to securely enclose a letter sent through the mails has been around for many centuries, it was not until the 1840s when several events occurred that brought them into widespread use in the United States. The first was the invention of manufacturing equipment which could mass produce the envelopes inexpensively, and the second was the change in how the United States Post Office Department calculated the way it charged for the postage to carry a letter through the mails. The early rates were based on the number of pieces of paper that made up the letter, and since the envelope was considered a separate sheet, the rate would automatically be doubled for a letter sent in an envelope. This occurred as the result of the Postal Act of March 3, 1845, when rates were changed to consider the weight of the letter rather than the number of sheets comprising the mail piece. This law became effective on July 1, 1845.

By the early 1860s, several state governments had begun to produce decorative envelopes with an all-over background design for use in their "Official Business" correspondence. The typical design included some representation of the official state seal in the upper left corner, together with the name of the individual department or agency, either as part of the design with the seal or in the background of the entire envelope. As these envelopes were often printed in bright colors, they no doubt readily caught the attention of their recipients.

Eventually the local governments (county and city) began to emulate the state government, and some prepared illustrated envelopes for use in their departments and agencies.

The present monograph is an initial effort to document and illustrate these envelopes which were used at all offices within the current state. It is not intended to be complete in all respects, such as one might expect in a formal handbook or catalog but has been prepared to provide the reader with an introduction to a representative sample of the styles and varieties of envelopes that were used during this period, and perhaps educate the collecting community as to the possibilities that could exist in collecting them.

The initial section will include those envelopes used by the state agency and departmental offices, which are typically located at the state capitol. The state department envelopes have been organized into an alphabetical order based on the agency or department name. These department names were not always consistent, as they evolved over time, and therefore, these are usually grouped by what the compiler believed was the most obvious choice. Within the envelopes from a specific

A second section was prepared to include envelopes from agencies and departments prepared for and used by the county and other local (city) governments. The organization of this section was arranged in alphabetical order by county, then by county seat, and finally by date, with any envelopes from a city office in the county to follow.

SOUTH DAKOTA: "Official Business" Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards

Only the illustration of front side of these envelopes has been included, unless there is some significant postal history element present on the reverse. When the envelope illustrated also included contents related to the purpose of the office, the contents, or at least the illustrated portion of the letterhead or billhead, were also included. As the search for relevant envelopes proceeded, other state and county documents with "interesting" billhead type illustrations were encountered, and because I found these interesting in terms of explaining the purpose for the use of these envelopes, they were included as well.

DAKOTA TERRITORY AND SOUTH DAKOTA

The region that eventually became the states of North and South Dakota was originally part of the Northwest Territory and the northernmost part of the lands acquired in the Louisiana Purchase. As new settlers moved into the unorganized territories, the regions were organized by the United States Congress into a series of new named territories, and when the population reached a critical level, the territory would become a state, and lands not part of the new state were redistributed into new territories.

In 1861, the Dakota Territory (D.T.) was created out of unorganized lands from the Minnesota Territory and the Nebraska Territory, and the provisional capitol was established at Yankton, D.T. These lands also included much of what would later become Montana and Wyoming. Growth was slow until the 1870's because of the Civil War and the threat of the Sioux tribes who were the original settlers. Most settlement was in the southern part of the territory near the Nebraska border until the discovery of gold in the Black Hills.

Yankton continued as the territorial capital from 1861 until 1883, when it was moved to Bismark. Efforts to achieve statehood began at that time, but were unsuccessful until February 22, 1889, when President Cleveland signed a bill dividing the Dakota Territory in half, creating what would become North and South Dakota to the east, where they became states on November 2, 1889.., and splitting off much of the western portions into the Territories of Montana and Wyoming, with the understanding that all four would achieve statehood in a short period of time. Montana became a state on November 8, 1889, and Wyoming followed shortly thereafter when it became a state on July 10, 1890.

Counties were established in the Dakota Territory as early of 1862, as the population necessary to establish local governments reached the necessary levels. Yankton, Jones, and Jackson counties were established in 1862, and others soon followed, although the last of the current 66 counties were not established until 1916. The evolution of the South Dakota counties is complicated and beyond the scope of this Introduction.[1]

The organization of envelopes in the following sections will not distinguish between those used during the Dakota Territorial period and the statehood of South Dakota. Because of the late settlement of thee state and its counties, it does not appear that any of the traditional all-over illustrated envelopes were acquired by the state government for use by its departments.

[1] List of counties in South Dakota, Wikipedia, URL = https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_counties_in_South_Dakota , accessed July 17, 2021.

THE FUTURE PLANS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The complete series of these monographs has been hosted on the Stamp Smarter website through the courtesy of Don Denman. These are not intended to be an active project of the original compiler, but the source documents (a simple Microsoft Word file) can be made available to other collectors who would be interested in taking responsibility to add new materials to them.

For the immediate future, the compiler solicits the contribution of digitals scans that illustrate envelopes which are not present in these monographs, including those present but were used with different dates. Preference will be given to those envelopes with the all-over illustrations, and the state/local buildings and seals, and those used prior to 1920. Contributions of envelopes from any state will be welcome. It is requested that the submitted envelopes should be scanned at 300dpi and provided in the JPG format when possible. Images of envelopes created with a camera or iPhone are not really useful unless they are carefully focused and prepared with no angular distortion. If contributing more than a small number, please contact me to discuss options other than email.

I would like to thank Ken Stach for sharing images of a number of his covers with state departmental Official Business” corner cards, as well as some from the county governments. All contributors will be acknowledged in the monograph(s) for which they submit examples unless requested otherwise. Any errors are the sole responsibility of the compiler, and please bring any errors found to my attention.

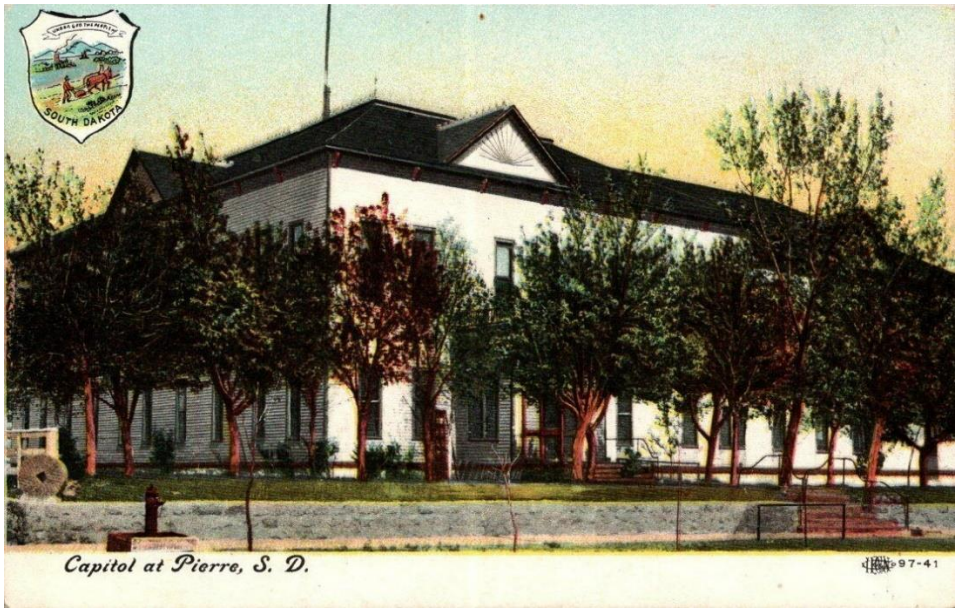
Mike Ludeman

mike@ludeman.net

July 2021

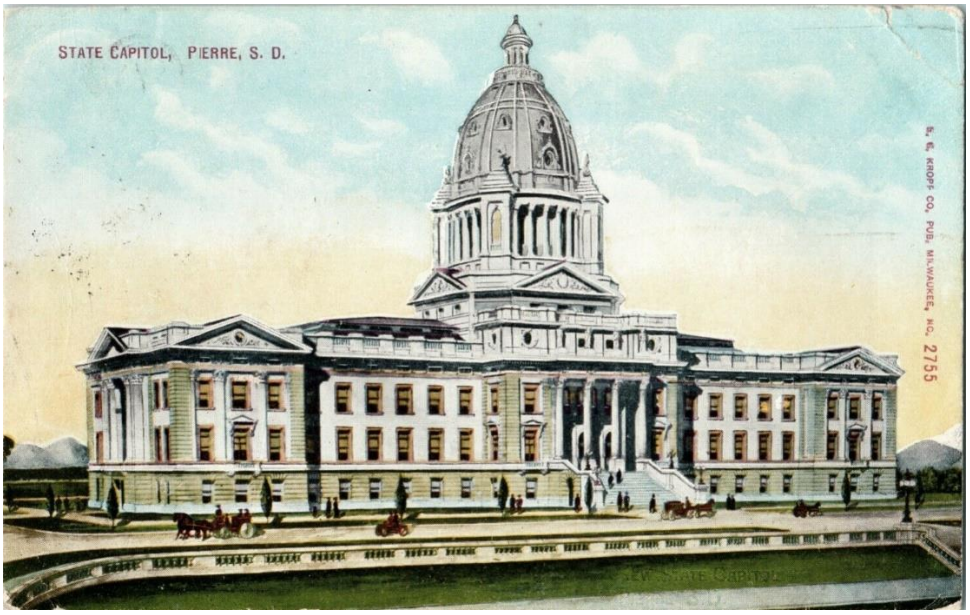
V3

First State Capitol Building



Postcard image courtesy eBay seller pcxgaragesale, June 2021.

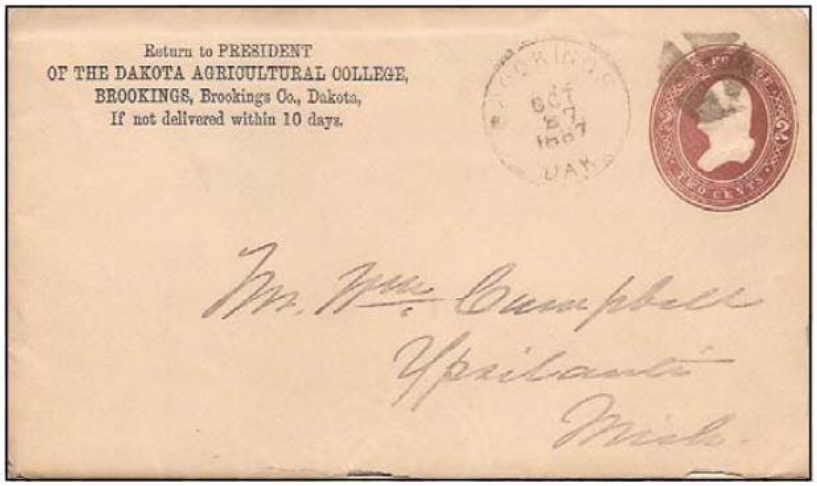
New Capitol - Constructed 1910



Postcard image courtesy eBay seller aaroninniligata, June 2021.

SOUTH DAKOTA: "Official Business" Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards

ID:	State: Dakota Terr.	County: Brookings	City: Brookings
Dates: 27 Oct 1887	Color: Black on yellow	Size: Regular	
Office: "PRESIDENT / OF THE DAKOTA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE,"			
Notes:			
Source: Image from **The Dakota Collector,** June 2008, p. 8.			



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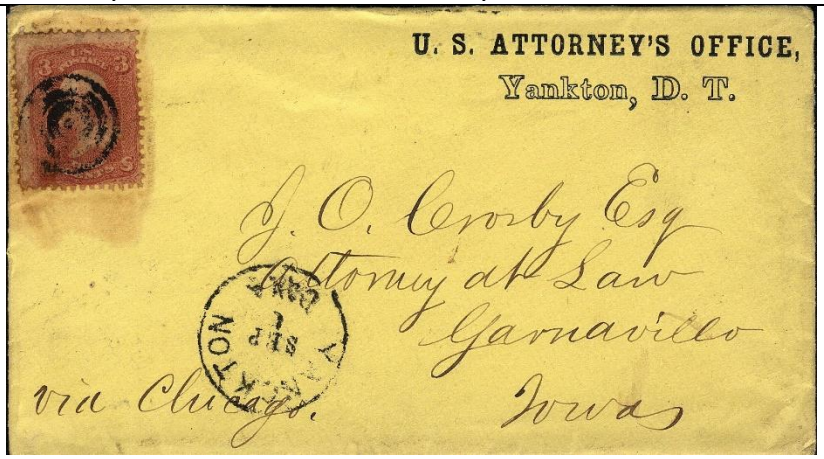
ID:	State: Dakota Terr.	County: Yankton	City: Yankton
Dates: 5 Sept 1868	Color: Black on yellow	Size: Regular	
Office: "U. S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE / YANKTON, D. T.			
Notes:			
Source: Image courtesy of Ken Stach Collection, July 2021.			



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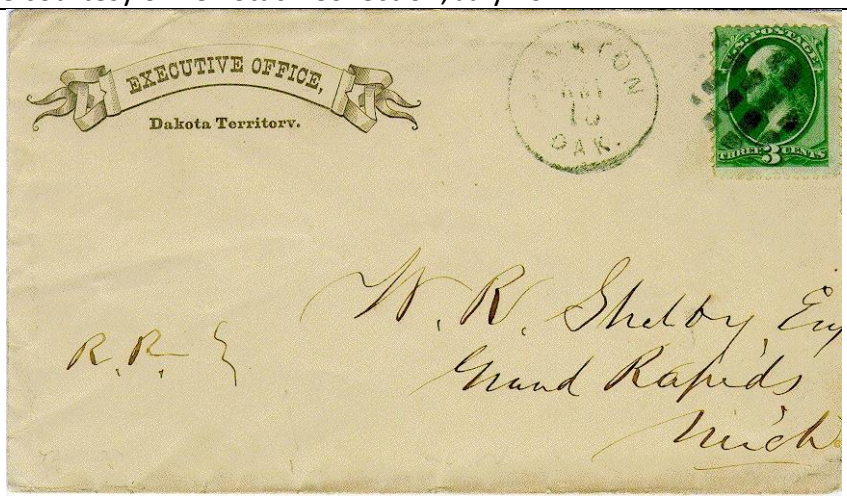
SOUTH DAKOTA: “Official Business” Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards

ID:	State: Dakota Terr.	County: Yankton	City: Yankton
Dates: 15 Nov 1879	Color: Brown	Size: Regular	
Office: “EXECUTIVE OFFICE / Dakota Territory.”			
Notes:			
Source: Image courtesy of Ken Stach Collection, July 2021.			



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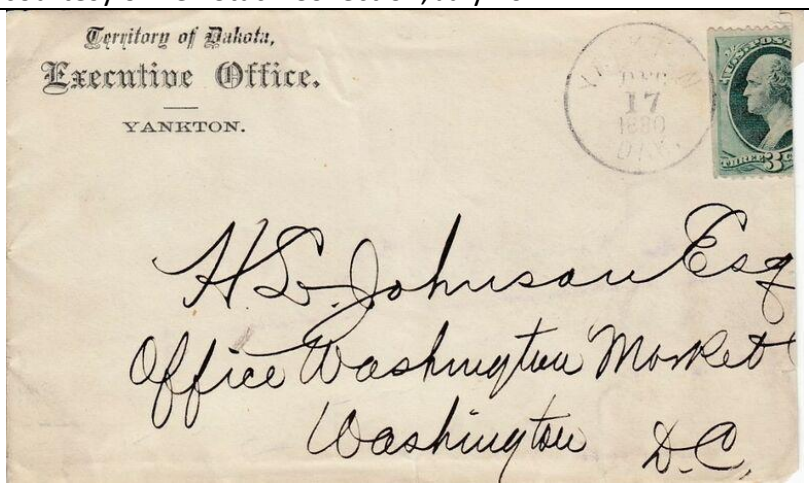
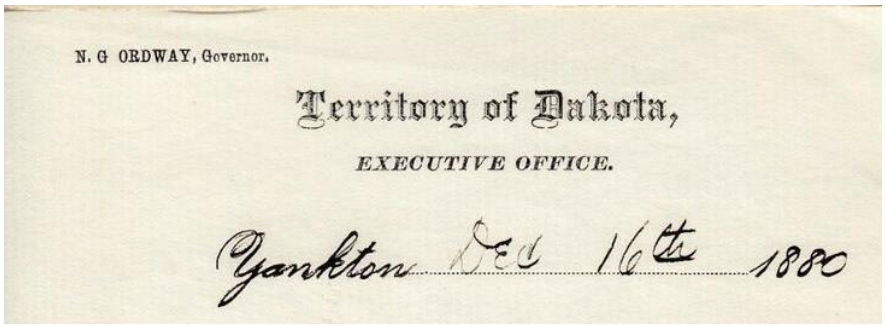
SOUTH DAKOTA: "Official Business" Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards

ID:	State: Dakota Terr.	County: Yankton	City: Yankton
Dates: 17 Dec 1880	Color: Black	Size: Regular	
Office: "Territory of Dakota, / Executive Office."			
Notes: Stationery used during the term of Territorial Governor Nehemiah G. Ordway, who served from June 1, 1880 to June 25, 1884.			
Source: Image courtesy of Ken Stach Collection, July 2021.			



Letterhead



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SOUTH DAKOTA: "Official Business" Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards

ID:	State: South Dakota	County: Hughes	City: Pierre
Dates: 28 Mar 1891	Color: Black	Size: Regular	
Office: "EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT / State of South Dakota, / PIERRE."			
Notes:			
Source: Image courtesy of Ken Stach collection, July 2021.			

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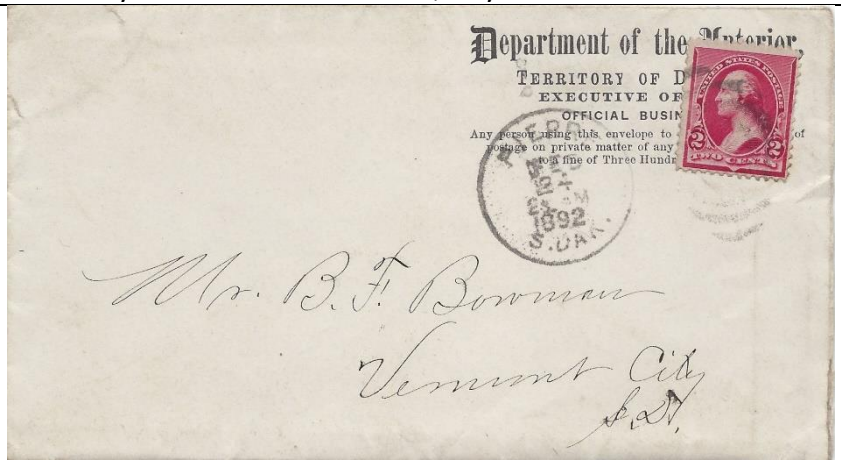
ID:	State: South Dakota	County: Hughes	City: Pierre
Dates: 24 Feb 1892	Color: Black	Size: Regular	
Office: "Department of the Interior, / TERRITORY OF DAKOTA / EXECUTIVE OFFICE."			
Notes: Old envelope used during statehood period			
Source: Image courtesy of Ken Stach collection, July 2021.			



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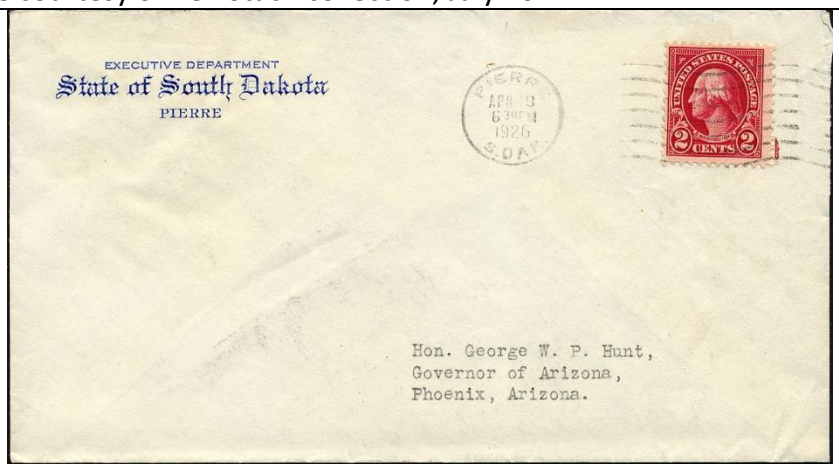
SOUTH DAKOTA: “Official Business” Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards

ID:	State: South Dakota	County: Hughes	City: Pierre
Dates: 18 Apr 1926	Color: Blue	Size: Regular	
Office: “EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT / State of South Dakota / PIERRE”			
Notes: Stationery used during the term of Governor Carl Gunderson, whose term was Jan 6, 1925 to Jan 4, 1927.			
Source: Image courtesy of Ken Stach collection, July 2021.			



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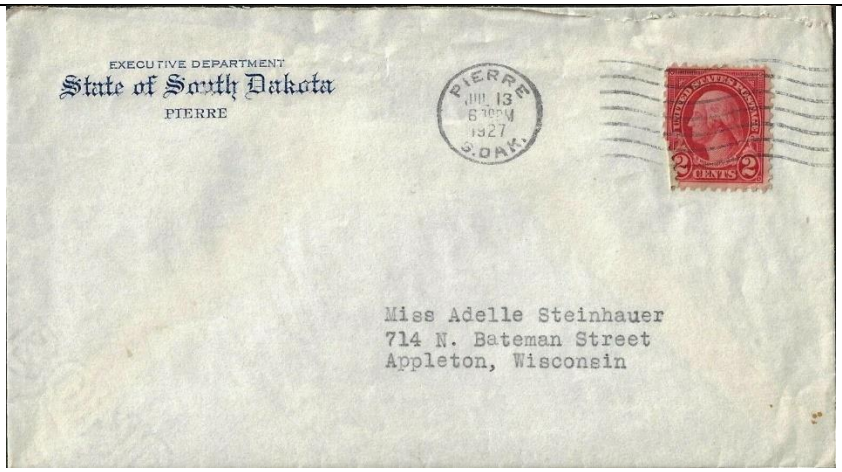
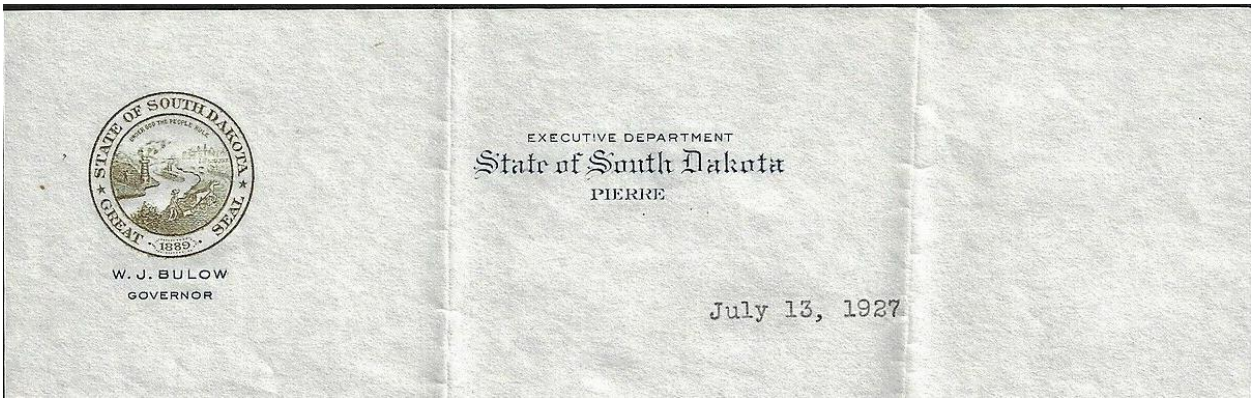
SOUTH DAKOTA: "Official Business" Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards

ID:	State: South Dakota	County: Hughes	City: Pierre
Dates: 13 July 1927	Color: Blue	Size: Regular	
Office: "EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT / State of South Dakota / PIERRE"			
Notes: Stationery used during the term of Governor W. J. Bulow, term from Jan 4, 1927 to Jan 6, 1931.			
Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller jeneezirish35, April 2021. From the Adelle Steinhauer Autograph collection.			



Letterhead



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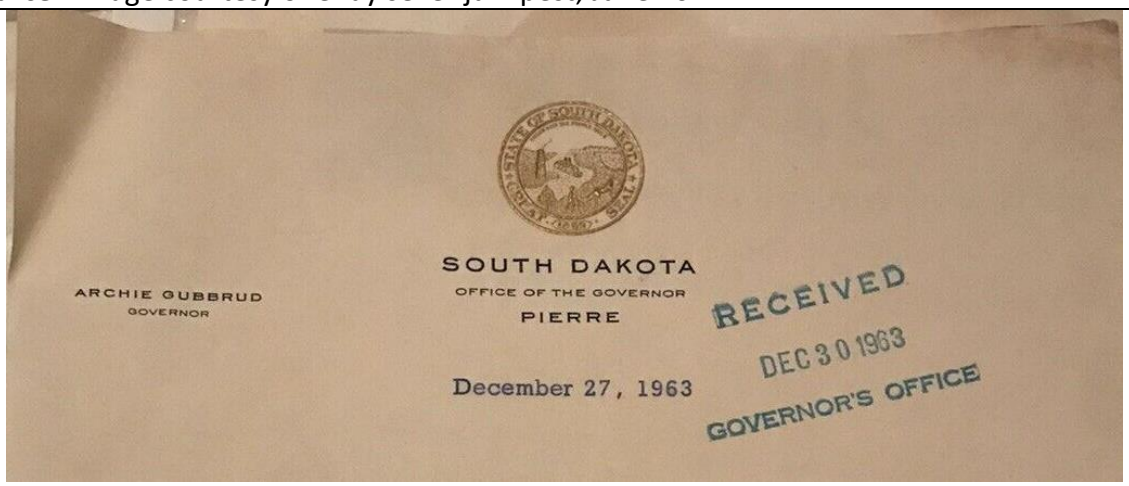
SOUTH DAKOTA: "Official Business" Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards

ID:	State: South Dakota	County: Hughes	City: Pierre
Dates: 27 Dec 1963	Color: Blue	Size: Regular	
Office: "EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT / State of South Dakota / PIERRE,"			
Notes: Stationery used during the term of Governor Archie M. Gubbrud, term from Jan 3, 1961 to Jan 5, 1965.			
Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller junkpest, June 2021.			



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ID:	State: Dakota Terr.	County: Faulk	City: Rockham
Dates: ~1880s	Color: Black	Size: Legal	
Office: "Grand Army of the Republic / DEPARTMENT OF DAKOTA"			
Notes:			
Source: Image courtesy of **The Dakota Collector**, April 2017, p. 17.			

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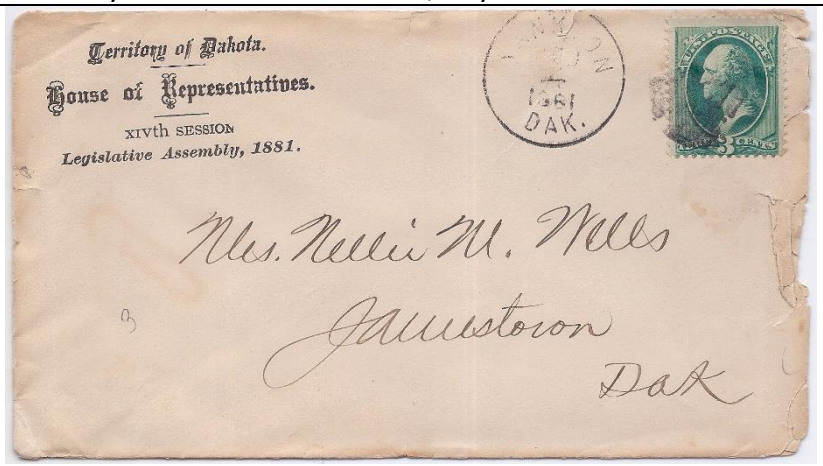
SOUTH DAKOTA: "Official Business" Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards

ID:	State: Dakota Terr.	County: Yankton	City: Yankton
Dates: 14 Feb 1881	Color: Black	Size: Regular	
Office: "Territory of Dakota, / House of Representatives."			
Notes:			
Source: Image courtesy of Ken Stach Collection, July 2021.			



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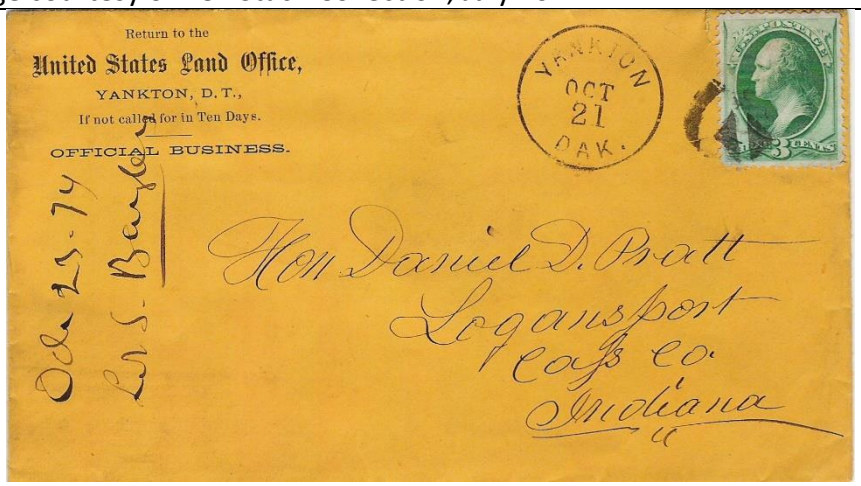
ID:	State: Dakota Terr.	County: Yankton	City: Yankton
Dates: 21 Oct 1874	Color: Black on gold	Size: Regular	
Office: "United States Land Office,"			
Notes:			
Source: Image courtesy of Ken Stach Collection, July 2021.			



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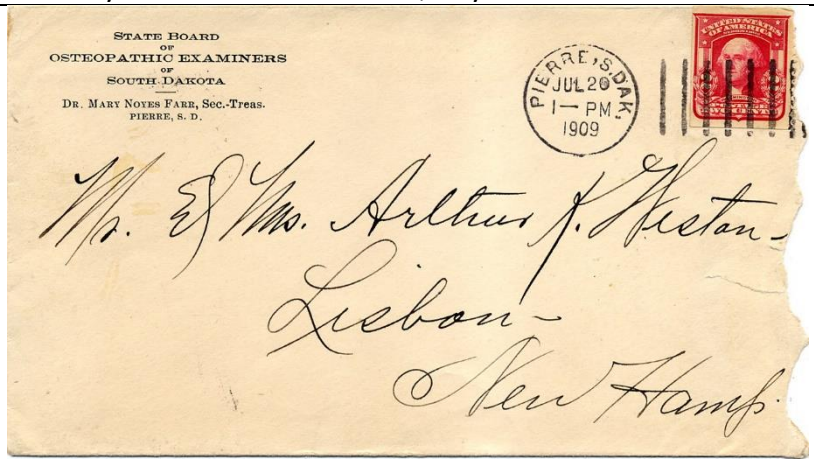
SOUTH DAKOTA: "Official Business" Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards

ID:	State: South Dakota	County: Hughes	City: Pierre
Dates: 20 July 1909	Color: Black	Size: Regular	
Office: "STATE BOARD / OF / OSTEOPATHIC EXAMINERS / OF / SOUTH DAKOTA"			
Notes:			
Source: Image courtesy of Ken Stach collection, July 2021.			



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ID:	State: Dakota Terr.	County: Yankton	City: Yankton
Dates: 13 Nov 1863	Color: Black	Size: Regular	
Office: "PROVOST MARSHAL'S OFFICE"			
Notes:			
Source: Image courtesy of Ken Stach Collection, July 2021.			

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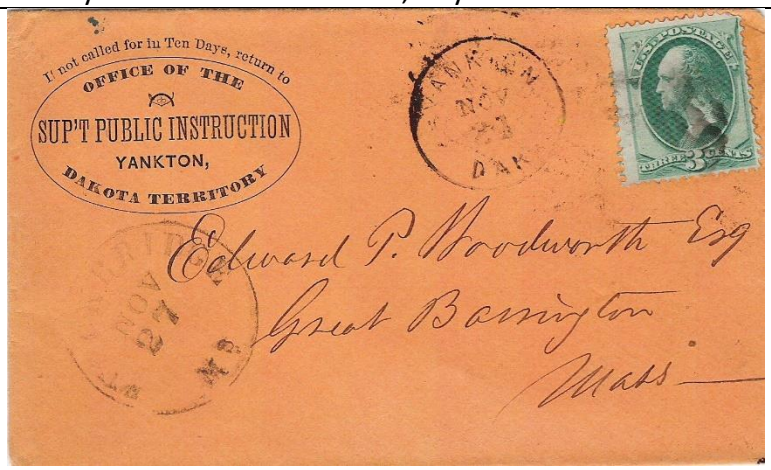
SOUTH DAKOTA: "Official Business" Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards

ID:	State: Dakota Terr.	County: Yankton	City: Yankton
Dates: 21 Nov ~1870s	Color: Black on Orange	Size: Regular	
Office: "SUP'T PUBLIC INSTRUCTION"			
Notes:			
Source: Image courtesy of Ken Stach Collection, July 2021.			



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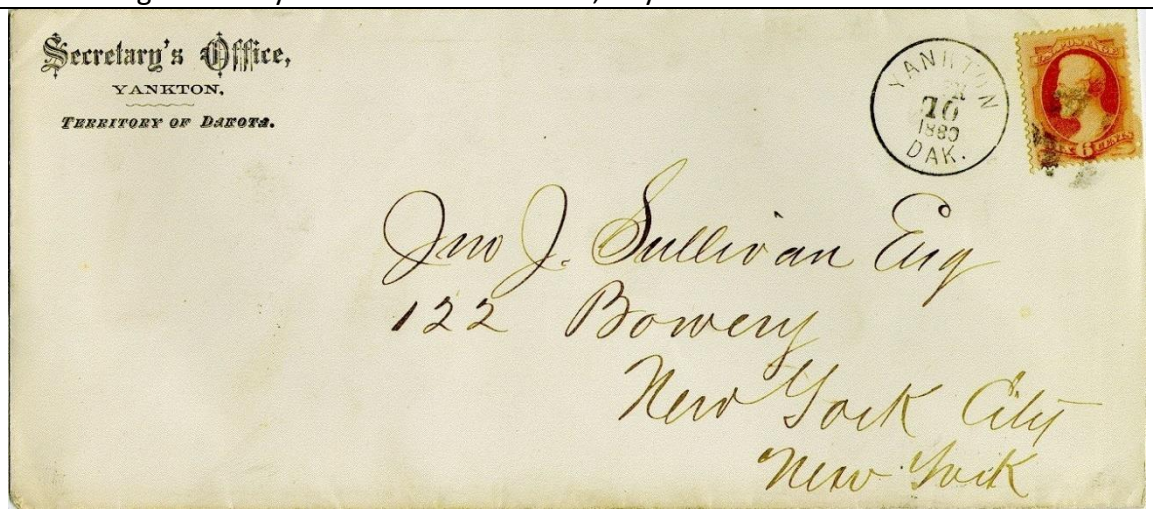
ID:	State: Dakota Terr.	County: Yankton	City: Yankton
Dates: 10 Apr 1880	Color: Black	Size: Legal	
Office: "Secretary's Office,"			
Notes:			
Source: Image courtesy of Ken Stach Collection, July 2021.			



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SOUTH DAKOTA: “Official Business” Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards

Part 2

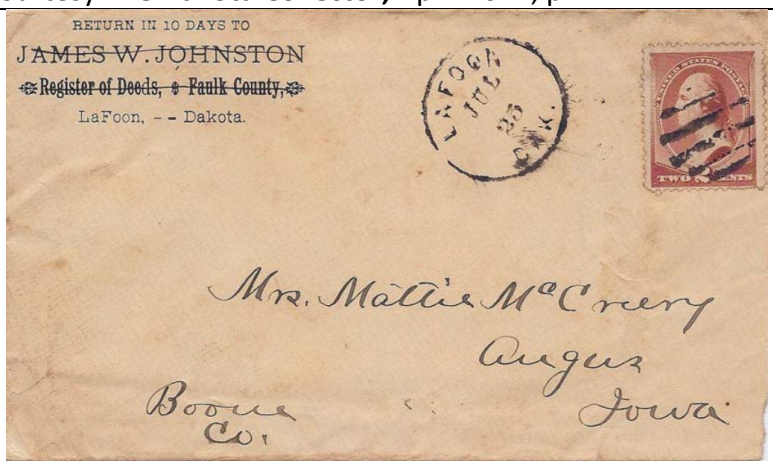
SOUTH DAKOTA

County & City Agencies
“Official Business”
Envelopes

Arranged by County and City

SOUTH DAKOTA: "Official Business" Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards

ID:	State: South Dakota	County: Hughes	City: Pierre
Dates: 25 July ~1880s	Color: Black	Size: Regular	
Office: "JAMES W. JOHNSTON / Registered of Deeds * Faulk County"			
Notes:			
Source: Image courtesy **The Dakota Collector,** April 2017, p. 12.			



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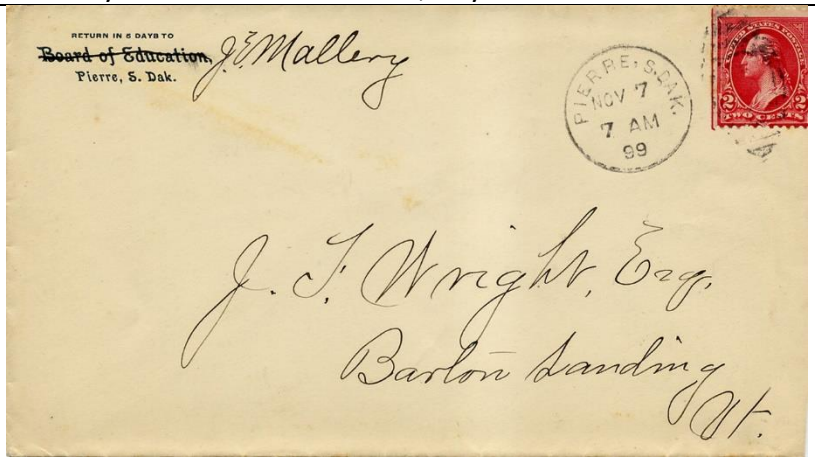
ID:	State: South Dakota	County: Hughes	City: Pierre
Dates: 7 Nov 1899	Color: Black	Size: Regular	
Office: "Board of Education"			
Notes:			
Source: Image courtesy of Ken Stach collection, July 2021.			



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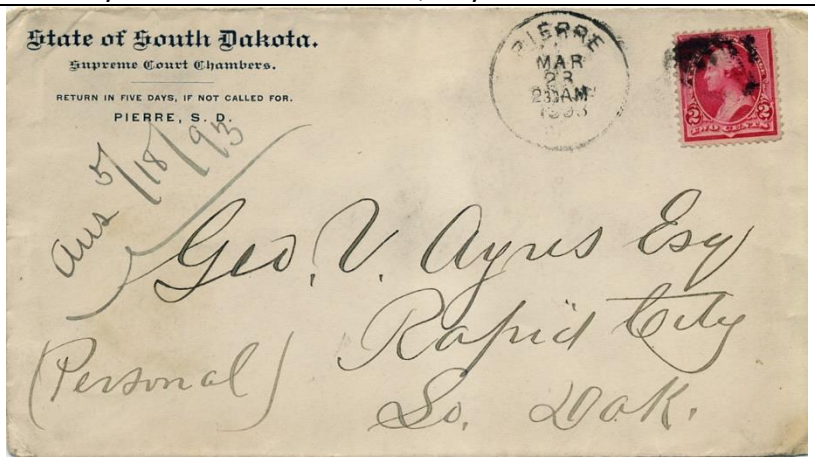
SOUTH DAKOTA: "Official Business" Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards

ID:	State: South Dakota	County: Hughes	City: Pierre
Dates: 28 Mar 1893	Color: Black	Size: Regular	
Office: "State of South Dakota. / Supreme Court Chambers."			
Notes:			
Source: Image courtesy of Ken Stach collection, July 2021.			



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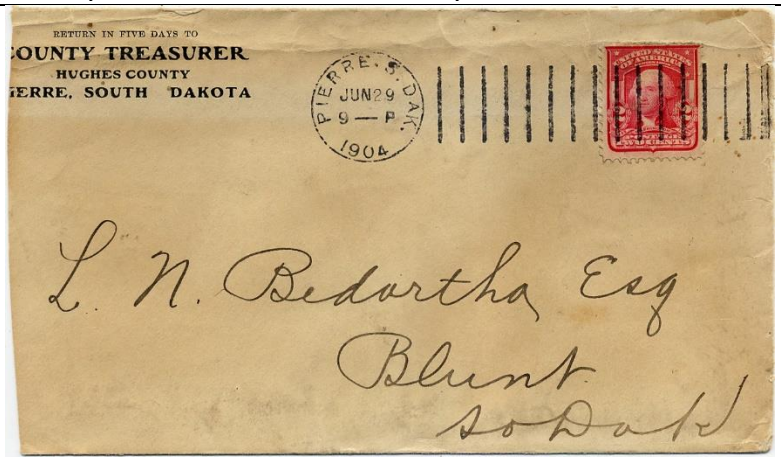
ID:	State: South Dakota	County: Hughes	City: Pierre
Dates: 29 June 1904	Color: Black	Size: Regular	
Office: "COUNTY TREASURER / HUGHES COUNTY"			
Notes:			
Source: Image courtesy of Ken Stach collection, July 2021.			



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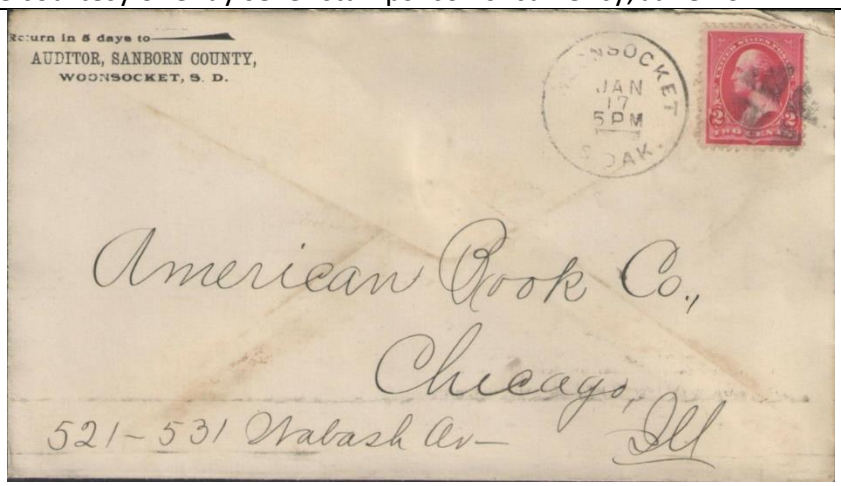
SOUTH DAKOTA: "Official Business" Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards

ID:	State: South Dakota	County: Sanborn	City: Woonsocket
Dates: 17 Jan ~1890s	Color: Black	Size: Regular	
Office: "AUDITOR, SANBORN COUNTY,"			
Notes:			
Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller stamps*coins*currency, June 2021.			



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ID:	State: Dakota Terr.	County: Walsh	City: Vesta
Dates: 25 Sept 1886	Color: Violet	Size: Regular	
Office: "NOTARY PUBLIC / *AND JUSTICE OF THE PEACE*"			
Notes: Return is a handstamp.			
Source: Image courtesy of **The Dakota Collector**, Apr 2010, p. 15.			

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Part 3

SOUTH DAKOTA

Private Business’s
Using designs similar to the
“Official Business”
Envelopes

Arranged by County and City

No covers identified.

Part 4

SOUTH DAKOTA

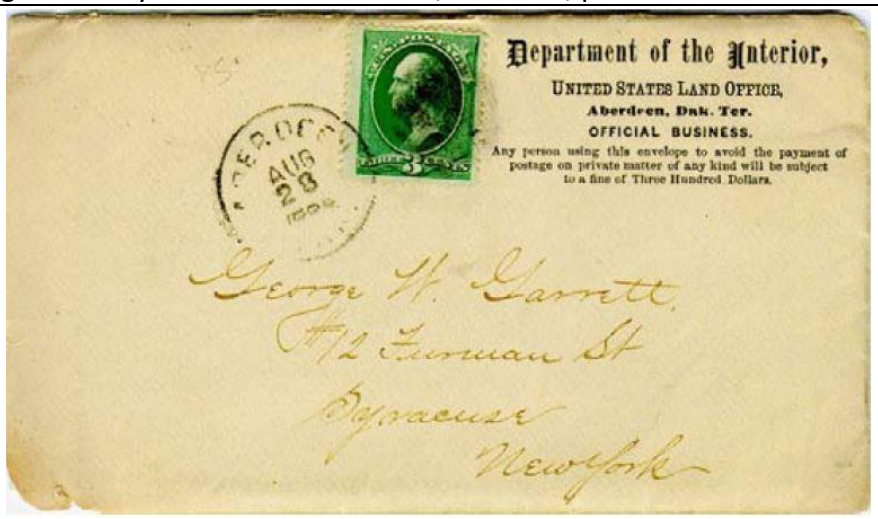
Federal Department & Agency Envelopes

Used within the State

Arranged by County and City

SOUTH DAKOTA: "Official Business" Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards

ID:	State: South Dakota	County: Brown	City: Aberdeen
Dates: 28 Aug 1883	Color: Black	Size: Regular	
Office: "Department of the Interior / UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE,"			
Notes:			
Source: Image courtesy **The Dakota Collector**, Jan 2009, p. 6.			



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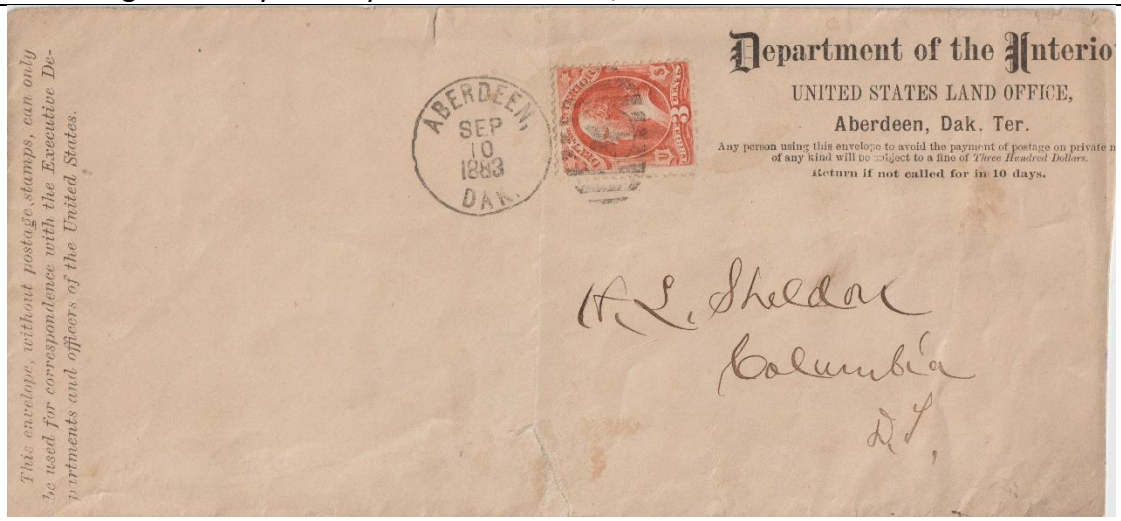
ID:	State: South Dakota	County: Brown	City: Aberdeen
Dates: 10 Sept 1883	Color: Black	Size: Legal	
Office: "Department of the Interior / UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE,"			
Notes: Return now vertically along left edge.			
Source: Image courtesy of Larry Rausch collection, June 2021.			



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SOUTH DAKOTA: "Official Business" Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards

ID:	State: South Dakota	County: Brown	City: Aberdeen
Dates: 28 Sept 1883	Color: Black	Size: Regular	
Office: "Department of the Interior / UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE,"			
Notes: Return now vertically along left edge. No **"Official Business"** notation.			
Source: Image courtesy **The Dakota Collector**, Jan 2009, p. 6.			

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ID:	State: Dakota Terr.	County: Lawrence	City: Greenwood
Dates: 21 Oct 1876	Color: Black	Size: Legal	
Office: "United States Internal Revenue, / Dep'y Collector's Office, District of Dakota."			
Notes: Located in what became South Dakota.			
Source: Image courtesy of the **Dakota Collector**, Vol XXVIII, No. 2, April 2011, p 15.			

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