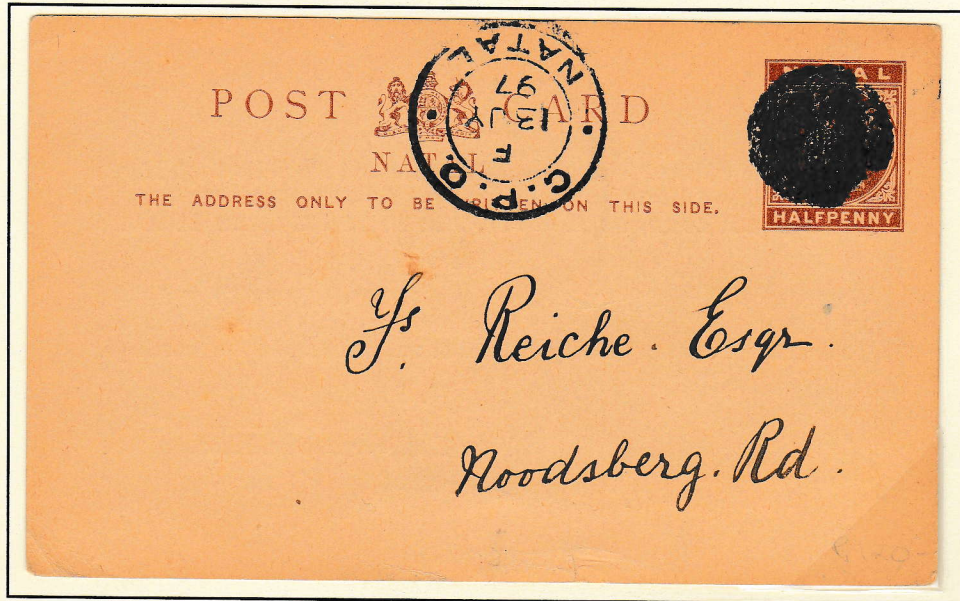
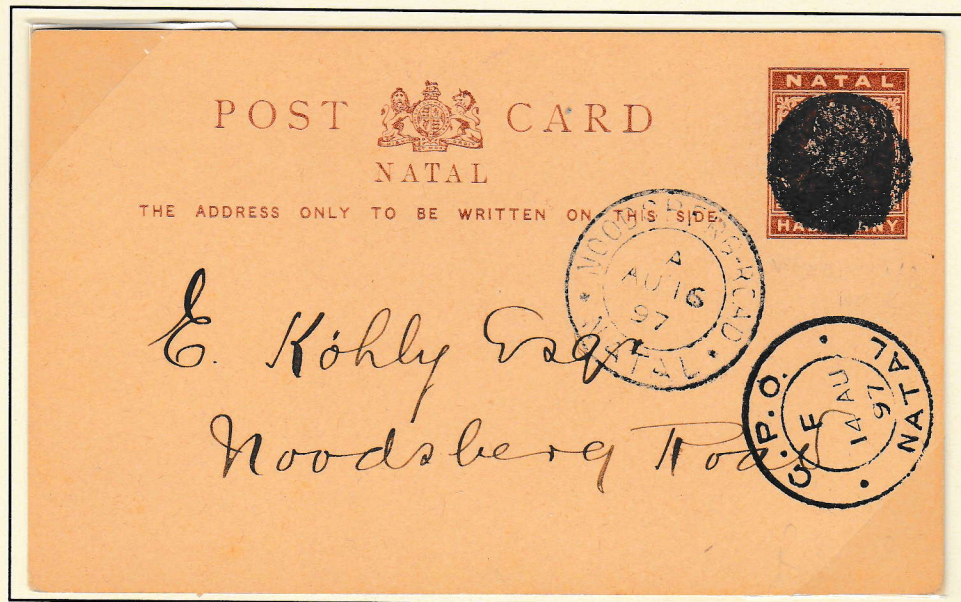


THE ORIGIN OF A MUTE CANCELLER

These two postcards, together with the card on the following page, contain printed circulars from W D Stewart in his capacities as Hon. Secretary of the New Hanover Political Association and of the New Hanover Agricultural Association. His address is given as Sterkspruit Mill or Sterkspruit Mill, Greytown Road. D. Stayt (1971) gives the locality of Sterkspruit as New Hanover, whose post office opened in 1873.



Circular dated 7 JY 97, transit date stamp GPO 13 JY 97, no arrival date stamp



Circular, dated 12 AU 97, transit date stamp GPO 14 AU 97, arrival Noodsberg Road 16 AU 97

The fact that the handwriting on these two cards and on the card on the next page is distinctly different suggests that many copies of the circulars were made. Material in my postmark collection shows that the New Hanover cds did not change between 1895 and 1903, so the mute canceller is unlikely to have been used as a 'relief' canceller. It is

A FURTHER STERKSPRUIT POSTCARD

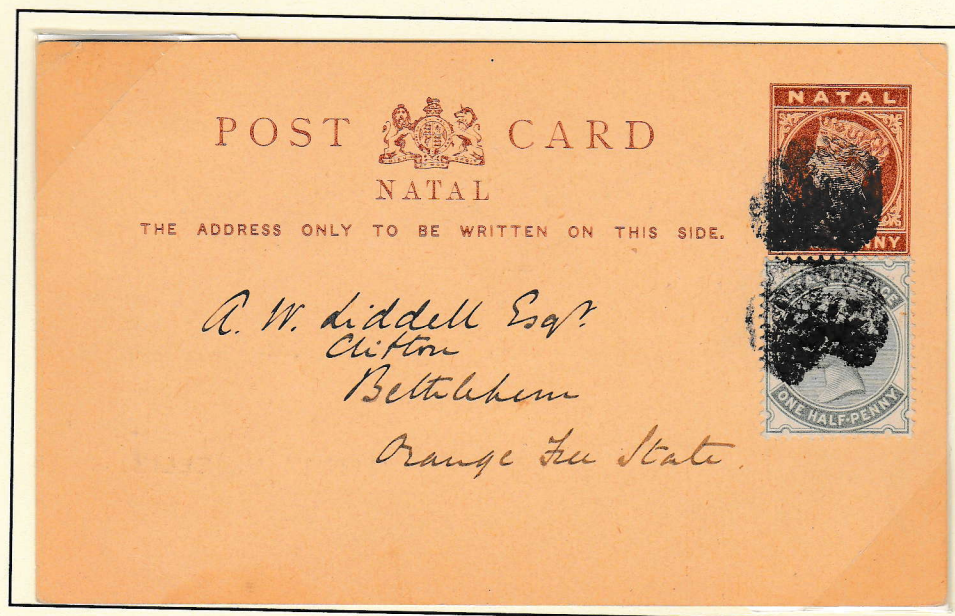
The third postcard prepared at Sterkspruit Mill by W D Stewart is shown below. It confirms the conclusion drawn at the foot of the previous page.



Circular, dated 22 MR 98, transit date stamps GPO 25 MR 98 (twice) and POA 75 (Boom St, Pietermaritzburg), no arrival date stamp.

The combination of transit cancellations on this card suggest that the route followed by the card was Sterkspruit to GPO to POA 75 (mis-directed) to GPO to Wartburg.

A FURTHER POSTCARD CARRYING A CIRCULAR MESSAGE



Undated Circular, mute canceller, transit date stamp GPO 24 JY 97, arrival cds Bethlehem

This 4th circular with a mute canceller supports the hypothesis that at least some mute

A 1903 MUTE CANCELLER

As the writer of the message did not include her postal address, the card below reveals only that the mute canceller was used in 1903. The message was not a circular so that the postcard proves that not all mute cancellers were associated with circulars.



SUNDRY POSTAL MARKINGS



Dundee Coalfields



Ixopo



Boxed S



SV

inside a barred oval inside a barred oval

Seals used as cancellers not known to HKL

Known to HKL



Pen cancellations