U.S. Private Perforations
John V. Farwell Co. (circa 1908-1917)

In 1908, the John V. Farwell Company of Chicago, Illinois, a large dry goods organization, began using a new and faster means of doing their large number of mailings. This was accomplished by operating the affixing equipment that was made by the Schermack Mailing Machine Company, (formerly the Detroit Mailing Machine Company), of Detroit, Michigan, using the 1902 2-cent Shield issue.

The Farwell Company must have had a very large number of mailings because around 1910 they were doing about $20,000,000 in sales. With Schermack Company charging 50 cents over the face value for each of their 3000 coil roll of stamps; it is no wonder that in early 1911 the Farwell Company must have felt that they could save money by perforating the same imperforate stamps in-house. Only 1-cent and 2-cent stamps would be perforated by the Farwell Company.

Tom Chambers, a Farwell employee, produced several types of perforations while he experimented making coil stamps similar to the Schermack Type III perforated stamps they were currently using. Their perforating machine used pins to make the holes. Even as late as 1937, these various types of perforations were known as Chambers perforations. They perforated full sheets of 400 then cut them into strips then made coils. The details of the mechanism were never fully disclosed.

There are five known groups of perforations, with each group having different sub-types.

Group 1 has two types. Group 2 to 5 sub-types are described by the number of holes above an un-perforated space and the number holes below that space, such as 2A3. The two different spacing sizes between the sets of holes, were made by removing pins from the perforating machine, are classified as A for 2.5mm and B for 4.5mm. Group 5 is only known with A spacing.

Because of possible faults in the perforation process, the pins either broke or were misplaced in the device creating examples of mixed classifications as well as a shifting of the alignment of perforations.

The Farwell perforation holes are all the same size, 1.5mm in diameter with 0.5mm spacing between them, but not along the entire length of the stamp, as noted above.

Group 1: 6 holes or 7 holes
Group 2: 2 holes over 3 or 3 holes over 2
Group 3: 3 holes over 4 or 4 holes over 3
Group 4: 4 holes over 4
Group 5: 5 holes over 4 or 4 holes over 5

The printing of the 1908-1909 and the 1910-1911 U.S. stamp issues had different spacing on the vertical rows of stamps. This was done because the Bureau of Engraving and Printing was having difficulty with paper waste due to unequal shrinking of the sheets because of wet printing process problems. They spaced part of the sheet with 3mm spacing and the rest at 2mm spacing. Therefore there are pairs, strips and blocks of these issues with varying spacing between 2mm and 3mm because of the continual shrinking of the paper. This is the reason why there are multiple listings of the same issue shown here.
Included here are several covers with Farwell perforated stamps but not on Farwell Company envelopes. There are commercially used, and several seem to be from individuals, all of whom acquired Farwell perforated stamps by some means, either by special request or through a friend.

Sometime in 1917 Farwell stopped producing coils and went to United States government coils.

Farwell Company is known to have used sheets with the following plate numbers:

| Group 1 | Type 1-6 Holes-not known; |
| Group 2 | Type 2A3-July 28, 1911; |
| Group 2 | Type 3A2-June 27, 1911; |
| Group 3 | Type 3A4-not known; |
| Group 3 | Type 4A3-not known; |
| Group 4 | Type 4A4-May 17, 1912; |
| Group 5 | Type 4A5-not known; |
| Group 5 | Type 5A4-not known; |
| Type 2A3 | Issue of 1910-1911 | 2 cent | 5608 |
| Type 2B3 | Issue of 1910-1911 | 1 cent | 5489 | 5598 |
| Type 2B3 | Issue of 1910-1911 | 2 cent | 5608 | 5624 |
| Type 4A | Issue of 1910-1911 | 1 cent | 5484 | 5679 | 5709 |
| Type 4A | Issue of 1910-1911 | 2 cent | 5619 |
| Type 4A | Issue of 1912 | 1 cent | 5867 | 6041 | 7294 |
| Type 4A | Issue of 1912 | 2 cent | 5740 | 6151 | 7501 | 7708 |
| Type 4B | Issue of 1910-1911 | 1 cent | 5484 | 5679 | 5709 | 5715 |
| Type 4B | Issue of 1910-1911 | 2 cent | 5619 | 5624 |
| Type 4B | Issue of 1912 | 1 cent | 5831 |
| Type 4B | Issue of 1912 | 2 cent | 5740 | 5785 |
| Type 4AB | Issue of 1910-1911 | 1 cent | 5679 |
| Type 4AB | Issue of 1910-1911 | 2 cent | 5608 | 5624 | 5686 |
| Type 4AB | Issue of 1912 | 1 cent | 5831 | 6041 |
| Type 4AB | Issue of 1912 | 2 cent | 5785 | 6151 |
| Group 5 | Issue of 1912 | 1 cent | 6615 |
Prior to perforating its own stamps, the Farwell Company used affixing machine postage stamps provided by the Schermack Company.
U.S. Private Perforations
Schermack Period (1908-1911)

John V. Farwell Co.

Late Schermack Usage
Issue of 1910-1911
Chicago, IL to Sherman, TX
Double Rate
May 2, 1911
During the production of the various types of Farwell perforations there was some process or procedure that caused some form of shifting alignment of the perforations from column to column. Sometimes the shifting goes between .5 to 4 millimeters up and then down the same amount. There is not sufficient knowledge of the entire perforating process to have a firm reason for this occurrence. Shifted perforations are the norm in some groups.
First Day of Use with this type of perforation

Shifted Perforations
Chicago, IL to Perry, NY
May 24, 1911

Private perforation miscuts as seen on envelopes and stamps may have been caused by poor staff handling or maybe production process jamming, this is only guess work.
Many Farwell envelopes have also been found with the stamp inverted on the envelope. Somewhat unusual for a business. Seems that someone might have found it easier to fit the roll of stamps into the affixing machine that way or it just did not matter to them.
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 2
Type 2B3
Issue of 1910-1911

2.3 mm
(e)
(ex-Belasco)

3 mm
(e)
Paul C. Denzin, a stamp dealer from Milwaukee, WI, having removed the above stamp from a destroyed Farwell envelope swore on November 15, 1945 that it was a genuine used Farwell Type 2B3 Issue of 1910-1911 stamp.

STATE OF WISCONSIN

MILWAUKEE COUNTY

PAUL C. DENZIN on oath deposes that he is a stamp dealer at Milwaukee, Wis.; that the attached 2¢ U.S. postage stamp, Scott cat. #384, Farwell private perf., 2 perf. over 3 perf. cancelled with 7 straight lines, one broken by letters "ATION" was removed by him from a Farwell cover inadvertently destroyed dated at time of and is guaranteed Farwell use.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 15th day of November, 1945.

Notary Public, Milwaukee Co. Wisconsin

Notary Verification
Chicago-Canal Station Cancel

2.2 mm

(ex-Agris)

3 mm
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 2
Type 3A2
Issue of 1910-1911

2.1 mm
e
(ex-Belasco)

3 mm
e
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 2
Type 3A2
Issue of 1910-1911

3 mm
e
(ex-Grumin)

2.1-2.5 mm
e
(ex-Howard)

Guideline Strip
Shifted Perforations
2.3-2.5 mm
e
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 2
Type 3A2
Issue of 1910-1911

Inverted

IF NOT DELIVERED IN 3 DAYS RETURN TO
JOHN V. FARWELL COMPANY
CHICAGO.

Geo. Frosch,
Wayside,
Wis.

Shifted Perforations
Chicago, IL to Wayside, WI
June 27, 1911

IF NOT DELIVERED IN 3 DAYS RETURN TO
JOHN V. FARWELL COMPANY
CHICAGO.

The Simmons Mfg. Co.
Kenosha,
Wis.

Shifted Perforations
Chicago, IL to Kenosha, WI
September 9, 1911
There are very few examples of pairs with pasteups found or reported. However, several singles have been found on and off envelopes. There must have been pasteup "request" items from collectors and dealers but for some reason the requests were not always honored by the company.

Plate Cracks in Right Margin

Pasteup

Pasteup with Margin Imprint

3 mm

Guideline Pair
2.3 mm
(ex-Belasco)

2.4-3 mm
e

Guideline Strip
2.8 mm
e
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 3
Type 4B3
Issue of 1910-1911

Shifted Perforations
2.4 mm

3 mm
e

2.1-2.9 mm
e
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 3
Type 4B3
Issue of 1910-1911

Pasteup

2.3 mm
e

3 mm
e

Guideline Strip
2.7-2.9 mm
e
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 3
Type 4B3
Issue of 1910-1911

Earliest Known Use

Inverted

Chicago, IL
October 7, 1911
Chicago, IL to Wayside, WI
October 25, 1911
(ex-Howard)

Chicago, IL to Attleboro, MA
November 28, 1911
Pair
2.6 mm
Guideline at Left
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 4
Type 4A4
Issue of 1908-1909

Shifted Perforations
2.4 mm
e

Shifted Perforations
2.8 mm
(ex-Belasco)
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 4
Type 4A4
Issue of 1910-1911

2.2 mm

Shifted Perforations
2.6 mm
e

Guideline Pair
Shifted Perforations
2.7 mm
e

Different Shifting Positions

Shifted Perforations
2-3 mm
e

Shifted Perforations
2-3 mm
e

Guideline Strip
Shifted Perforations
2.5 mm
e
Plate Number Margin Strip
2.6-2.8 mm

Plate Number Imprint A5679

Plate Number Margin Strip
3 mm
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 4
Type 4A4
Issue of 1910-1911

Shifted Perforations
2.3 mm

Shifted Perforations
3 mm

Guideline Pair
Shifted Perforations
2.3 mm
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 4
Type 4A4
Issue of 1910-1911

Shifted Perforations
3 mm
Plate Number Imprint 5619 e

Arrow Guideline Strip
Shifted Perforations
2.8-3 mm
Stuck on Card
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 4
Type 4A4
Issue of 1910-1911

2.3-3 mm

3 mm
e

Guideline Strip
2.2 mm
e
ex- Sheldon, Grunin

Guideline Strip
2.7-3 mm
e
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 4
Type 4A4
Issue of 1912

Margin Plate Number 6041 Strip
Shifted Perforations

Top Arrow Block
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 4
Type 4A4
Issue of 1912

One Cent Unsealed Circular Rate

Shifted Perforations
Chicago, IL to Fostoria, OH
May 17, 1912
(ex-Agris)
Farwell Advertising Envelope

PETTIBONE, PEABODY CO.,
APPLETON,
WIS.

Suggestions for Decoration Day And Fourth of July

Chicago, IL to Appleton, WI
May 1913
Farwell also obtained imperforated sheets of Chicago precancel stamps. Only the 1-cent issue of 1912 has been found with both Type 4A4 and Type 4B4 perforations.

One of Two Known

Precancel
Chicago, IL

Only Known Precancel Usage
Chicago Precancel

Chicago, IL to Appleton, WI
Chicago, IL to Appleton, WI
January 27, 1914

Chicago, IL to Norwalk, OH
1914
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 4
Type 4A4
Issue of 1912

Shifted Perforations

Guideline Pair
Shifted Perforations

Shifted Perforations
Part Plate Number Imprint A5740
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 4
Type 4A4
Issue of 1912

Shifted Perforations
Plate Number Imprint A5740

e

c

Guideline Strip
Largest Known Multiple

Corner Block of 16 e
Collectors became quickly aware when a new type of perforation was first created by Farwell (Chambers) and they "requested" examples of these. Farwell, after awhile, not wanting to be bothered by this demand, supplied Type 4 sheets and other items to Chicago stamp dealer, Thomas C.E. Hunter. In return he replied to collector and dealer requests by supplying pairs, strips and blocks.

Some of the stamps Hunter received had the Types 4A5 and 5A4 varieties. These varieties occurred when a pin in the second row from the top was not removed and if the sheet was inverted. Hunter was selling the pairs at 15 cents for the 1-cent issue and 20 cents for the 2-cents issue. Dealers received a 50% discount.
U.S. Private Perforations

Group 4
Type 4A4
Issue of 1912

Chicago, IL to Sherman, TX
November 22, 1912
Chicago, IL to Norwalk, OH
September 19, 1913

Shifted Perforations
Chicago, IL
December 19, 1913
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 4
Type 4A4
Issue of 1912

Pasteup

Shifted Perforations
Chicago, IL to Appleton, WI
April 17, 1916

Pasteup with Wide Tab

Chicago, IL to Appleton, WI
September 26, 1916
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 4
Type 4A4
Issue of 1912

Post Office Official Seal Usage

Guideline

Chicago, IL
March 18, 1915

Chicago, IL
September 29, 1915
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 4
Type 4A4
Issue of 1912

Only Reported Example
Type A Spacing on Left
Pasteup on Right with Type B Spacing

The Palmer Bros. Co.,
New London,
Conn.

Chicago, IL to New London, CT
March 26, 1913

Type A Spacing
Type B Spacing on Pasteup
Single with 2¢ Lake Die II issue of 1906 having Schermack Type III perforations
New York, NY to Middlebury, VT
October 24, 1940
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 4
Type 4A4
Issue of 1916-1917

Shifted Perforations
2.6 mm
(ex-Agris)
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 4
Type 4A4
Issue of 1916-1917

Earliest Known Issue Usage

John V. Farwell Company
CHICAGO
MARKET AND MONROE STREETS

CHICAGO, ILL. OCT 24, 7-PM. 1916

Canal Station

Chicago, IL
October 24, 1916
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 4
Type 4A4
Issue of 1916-1917

Pettibone Peabody Co.,
Appleton, Wis.

Chicago, IL to Appleton, WI
February 21, 1917
The overall majority of John V. Farwell Company mailing envelopes found was at those customer key cities, not Monona, Iowa.

Just as unusual is the Post Office Seal on the mailing and the P.O. stamped notation.

Chicago, IL to Monona, IA
March 13, 1917

Missent Envelope
Two OX17 Postal Seals

(ited/replaced)
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 4
Type 4B4
Issue of 1908-1909

Only Known Used Example
Unusual Usage on non-Farwell envelope

Pair
2.6 mm
Chicago, IL to Oakland, CA
Dec? 9, 1912
e
(lifted & replaced)
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 4
Type 4B4
Issue of 1908-1909

Shifted Perforations
2.4 mm

Shifted Perforations
2.6 mm

(ex-Belasco)
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 4
Type 4B4
Issue of 1910-1911

2.7 mm
Imprint Pair
Shifted Perforations
3 mm

2.3 mm
Shifted Perforations
2.7 mm

Guideline Pair
Shifted Perforations
2.6 mm
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 4
Type 4B4
Issue of 1910-1911

Shifted Perforations
Imprint Margin
2.6 mm
e

Shifted Perforations
Imprint Margin
2.5-3 mm
Plate Number Imprint 5484

2.6 mm
Plate Number 5715

Guideline Strip
Shifted Perforations
2.6 mm

Guideline Strip
2.2-2.3 mm
e
Mysteries of Farwell Perforation
There are several examples of Farwell perforated items that bear no clear explanation of their existence.
One is the margin items that are missing perforations. Did a Farwell employee just stop the process when he reached the last vertical row at the end of the run by accident or laziness?
This variety is seen on both left and right margins and both 1-cent and 2-cent issues.

Margin Column Perforations Missing

Shifted Perforations
2.7 mm
Plate Number Imprint A5679
John V. Farwell Co.
Group 4
Type 4B4
Issue of 1910-1911

One Cent Unsealed Circular Rate

Chicago, IL to Brenham, TX
January 1912
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 4
Type 4B4
Issue of 1910-1911

Three Cent War Rate
Unusual Usage on non-Farwell envelope

Covel Mfg Co covers are also found with John V. Farwell Co, United States Automatic Vending Co, Schermack Mailing Machine Co, Brinkerhoff Vending Machine Co and their own private perforated stamps.

One reason is that A.W. Filstrup, the president of the company was a stamp collector.
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 4
Type 4B4
Issue of 1910-1911

2.5-2.7 mm

Shifted Perforations
2.3-3.2 mm

Imprint Strip
Shifted Perforations
3 mm

Guideline Strip
Shifted Perforations
2.3 mm

Guideline Strip
Shifted Perforations
2.7-3 mm
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 4
Type 4B4
Issue of 1910-1911

Shifted Perforations
3 mm
Plate Number Imprint 5624 e
Earliest Known Usage

Chicago, IL to Grimms, WI then redirected to Greenleaf, WI then redirected back to Grimms, WI, then redirected to Wayside, WI
October 11, 1911
October 12, 1911
October 13, 1911
October 19, 1911
(ex-Agris)

Backstamps
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 4
Type 4B4
Issue of 1910-1911

Inverted

Chicago, IL to Milwaukee, WI
January 20, 1912
(ex-Agris)
Inverted

Chicago, IL to Attleboro, MA
January 29, 1912
(ex-Agris)
Unusual Usage on non-Farwell envelopes

Shifted Perforations
Chicago, IL to Saginaw, MI December 21, 1912
(lifted & replaced)

J.M. Bartels Co. was a Stamp Dealer
Topeka, KS to New York, NY December 17, 1916
Thomas Hunter, as noted before, was selling Farwell's perforated stamps to dealers and collectors. His note "Chambers Perforations" was what the perforations was originally called.

Pair
3 mm
Chicago, IL to Oakland, CA
November 26, 1912

(ex-Belasco)
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 4
Type 4B4
Issue of 1912

Shifted Perforations

Margin Column Perforations Missing

Plate Number A5831

Guideline Pair
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 4
Type 4B4
Issue of 1912

Strip
e

Margin Strip
Shifted Perforations
e

Guideline Strip
U.S. Private Perforations

Group 4
Type 4B4
Issue of 1912

John V. Farwell Co.

Shifted Perforations
Chicago, IL to Seaton, IL
July 1912
(Front Only)
Combination of issues with private perforations

Pair with Pairs of 1¢ and 2¢ issue of 1910-1911 having Farwell Type 4B4 Perforations along with a Pair of 2¢ issue of 1912 with Farwell Type 4A4 Perforations Chicago, IL to La Porte, IN December 11, 1912 (ex-Belasco)
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 4
Type 4B4
Issue of 1912

Shifted Perforations

Pasteup
4B4 on left
4A4 on right

Shifted Perforations

Margin Column Perforations Missing

Shifted Perforations

Guideline Pair
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 4
Type 4B4
Issue of 1912

Shifted Perforations

Shifted Perforations
Plate Number 5740
e

Guideline Strip
e
Miss M. James,
c/o Pettibone Peabody Co.,
Appleton, Wis.

Chicago, IL to Appleton, WI
November 21, 1912

Allison Mfg. Co.,
Attleboro, Mass.

Chicago, IL to Attleboro, MA
November 3, 1913
Unusual Usage on non-Farwell envelope

After Three Days return to
White Bear Sewing Co.
102 South Market Street
Chicago, Ill.

Mr. C. F. Jackson,
Norwalk, O.

Chicago, IL to Norwalk, OH
January 18, 1913
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 4
Type 4B4
Issue of 1912

Guideline

John V. Farwell Company
CHICAGO

JAN 27, 1915

CANAL STATION

U.S. POSTAGE
2 CENTS

Shifted Perforations
Chicago, IL
January 27, 1915

John V. Farwell Company
CHICAGO

MARKET AND MONROE STREETS

NOV 16, 1916

CANAL STATION

Shifted Perforations
Chicago, IL
November 16, 1916
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 4
Type 4B4
Issue of 1912

Only Reported Example
Type B Spacing on Left
Pasteup on Right with Type A Spacing

Chicago, IL
February 13, 1914

Type B Spacing

Type A Spacing on Pasteup
Shifted Perforations
Chicago, IL
December 12, 1916
(lifted & replaced)

Imprint Pair
Shifted Perforations

Largest Known Multiple

Guideline Strip
Pettibone & Peabody Co.,
Appleton, Wis.

Chicago, IL to Appleton, WI
February 22, 1917
During the perforation process the pins used to punch the holes were sometimes spaced differently in each row in an effort to center the perforations. This resulted in having both Type A and B spacing in the same row. This can be seen in the following examples.

Combination Perforations 4B4-4A4-4A4
3 mm

Combination Perforations 4B4-4A4-4A4-4A4-4A4

Margin Strip with Pressmen Initials
3 mm
e
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 4
Type 4A4 and Type 4B4
Issue of 1910-1911

Shifted Perforations
2.6 mm
Left Column Type A
Center Column Type B
Right Column Type B

Margin Block
Shifted Perforations
2.6 mm
Bottom Row Type A
Top Row Type B

Guideline Block
Shifted Perforations
2.6 mm
Bottom Row Type A
Top Row Type B

Arrow Guideline Block of 8 with Pressmen Initials
Shifted Perforations
3 mm
Bottom Center Row Type A
Margin Top Column Type A
Top Center Row Type B
Margin Bottom Column Type B
Shifted Perforations
3 mm
Plate Number Imprint A5679 with
Pressmen Initials
Top Row Type A
Middle Row Type B
Bottom Row Type B
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 4
Type 4A4 and Type 4B4
Issue of 1910-1911

Combination Perforations 4B4-4A4-4A4

Pressmen Initials
Shifted Perforations
3 mm

One of a few known Pasteup on any Farwell Issued Stamp

Shifted Perforations
Combination Perforations
4A4-4B4-4A4
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 4
Type 4A4 and Type 4B4
Issue of 1910-1911

Guideline Block
2.3-2.4 mm
e
Top Row Type A
Bottom Row Type B

Shifted Perforations
2.3-2.4 mm
Middle Row Type A
Top Row Type B
Bottom Row Type B
e

3 mm
Top Row Type B
Bottom Row Left
Column Type A
Bottom Row Middle and
Right Column Type B
e
**U.S. Private Perforations**

**John V. Farwell Co.**
Group 4
Type 4A4 and Type 4B4
Issue of 1910-1911

**Shifted Perforations**
3 mm
Top Margin Column Type A
Bottom Middle Column Type A
Bottom Right Column Type A
Bottom Margin Column Type B
Top Middle Column Type B
Top Right Column Type B

**Guideline Block**
Shifted Perforations
2.2 mm
Bottom Row Type A
Top Row Type B

**Center Guideline Block**
Shifted Perforations
2.3 mm
Bottom Row Type A
Top Row Type B
(ex-Sheldon, Grumin)
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 4
Type 4A4 and Type 4B4
Issue of 1910-1911

Shifted Perforations
3 mm
Plate Number Imprint 5608
Bottom Row Type A
Top Row Type B
Middle Row Type B
(ex-Sheldon, Grunin)

Shifted Perforations
2.5-2.7 mm
Plate Number Imprint 5686
Bottom Row Type B
Top Row Type A
Middle Row Type B

Shifted Perforations
3 mm
Plate Number Imprint 5624
Bottom Row Type A
Top Row Type B
Middle Row Type B
(ex-Sheldon, Grunin)
Thomas C. E. Hunter of Chicago was given the job of handling collector and dealer requests for Farwell perforations after the company decided not to process the same. Hunter was given 400 pairs of the 1910 Issue and 600 pairs of the 1912 Issue. It is believed that he had both the one and two cent stamps in sheet format from which he created pairs, strips and blocks.
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 4
Type 4A4 and Type 4B4
Issue of 1912

Arrow Guideline Block
Shifted Perforations
Margin Top Column Type A
Bottom Middle Column Type A
Bottom Right Column Type A
Top Middle Column Type B
Top Right Column Type B
Margin Bottom Column Type B

Arrow Guideline Block
Margin Top Row Type B
Margin Bottom Row Type A

Center Guideline Block
Shifted Perforations
Bottom Row Type A
Top Row Type B
U.S. Private Perforations

Shifted Perforations
Margin Row Type A
Top Row Type A
Middle Row Type A
Bottom Row Type B
Plate Number 6041

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 4
Type 4A4 and Type 4B4
Issue of 1912

Shifted Perforations
Top Row Type A
Middle Row Type A
Bottom Row Type B
Plate Number 6041
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 4
Type 4A4 and Type 4B4
Issue of 1912

Margin Strip
Shifted Perforations
Combination Perforations
4A4-4B4-4B4-4B4-4B4

Block
Bottom Row Type A
Top Row Type B

Centerline Block
Shifted Perforations
Bottom Row Type A
Top Row Type B
U.S. Private Perforations

Arrow Guideline Block
Shifted Perforations
Top Margin Left Column Type A
Top Margin Column Type B
Bottom Margin Left Column Type B
Bottom Margin Column Type A

Guideline Block
Shifted Perforations
Bottom Row Type A
Top Row Type B

Margin Column Perforations Missing

Top Row Type A
Middle Row Type A
Bottom Row Type B
Plate Number
6151
(ex-Belasco)

Shifted Perforations
Bottom Row Type A
Top Row Type B
Middle Row Type B
Plate Number
Imprint A5785

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 4
Type 4A4 and Type 4B4
Issue of 1912

Type A at Left and Type B at Right

IF NOT DELIVERED IN 8 DAYS RETURN TO
John V. Farwell Company
CHICAGO

NOV 5
8-P.M.
1913

The Pettibone Peabody Co.,
Appleton,
Wis.

Shifted Perforations
Chicago, IL to Appleton, WI
November 5, 1913

AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO
John V. Farwell Company
CHICAGO
MARKET AND MONROE STREETS

PETITBONE
8-P.M.
1916

Pettibone Peabody Co.,
Appleton, Wis.

Shifted Perforations
Chicago, IL to Appleton, WI
October 26, 1916
Dealing with this Group 5, Types 4A5 and 5A4, it has been believed to have been a mistake in the early part of Farwell’s development. Because of the perforation size as well as the placement of the perforating pins, the vertical spacing between the sets of perforations was either “A”, 2.5mm or “B”, 4.5mm, except for Group 5 which only has “A” spacing.

The company had developed a device that fed a sheet of 400 imperforated stamps into it and had a perforating arm that had rows of perforating pins on it. No one is sure if the arm had one row of perforating pins or twenty (20) rows of pins. The logical and efficient method would have been twenty rows matching the sheet size. By removing or adding these perforating pins, different combinations occurred.

If there had been only one arm then first or second row from the top of the sheet with the extra perforating pins. Then each of the other 19 rows would be same except if they found the error and fixed it.

Twenty rows of perforating pins is the most likely process. Since only the first stamp row from the sheet top was the one reportedly with the extra pin then the rest of the 19 rows would have the 4X4 perforations.

Therefore since the fifth perforating pin was only placed in the first or second row from the sheet top, there could not be any block having either Types 4A5 or 5A4 in each row of the block.

One theory regarding this Group 5 comes from Howard’s book (pp. 71-72) where he mentions a letter from Vinton Sisson, someone who was dealing with the early perforations of many different company stamps, stating that Farwell had settled on the 4x4 system. But an employee who was to remove a pin from the arm to have the device produce the 4x4 perforations failed to do that. This produced a perforation that had a 4x5 configuration because he left a fifth perforating pin in the second row from the top of the sheet.

A second theory was that a full sheet of stamps were inverted being placed in the device so that the 5 holes were now on the top row and the 4 on the second row of each stamp.

A third theory comes from Belasco’s book (pp. 97) where he describes a 1912 letter to C.H. Mekeel a well known dealer from a Thomas Hunter, a Chicago dealer. He thought that the 4x5 combination was produced because an employee carelessly inserted a fifth perforating pin into the second row from the top of the sheet of stamps.

If the fifth perforating pin was carelessly placed in the first row from the top of the sheet, we would then have a Type 5A4 perforation.
All of these speculations do not explain a few of the following:

Shown here is an example of a pair and strip with a Type 4B4 perforation in the stamp margin and Type 4A5 on the balance of the item. Was one pin not put in or the balance not pulled out?

Then there is the opposite scenario, a strip with a Type 5A4 in the left margin and the balance with Type 4B4. Here did they forget just one pin and pulled the rest, who knows?

Also there is a pair with a Type 4A5 then Type 5A4 on the balance. Did the left stamp edge have one pin added to the second row and the balance added to the top row? Do we call this a Type 4A5 or a Type 5A4?

There is a paste-up strip with a Type 4A5 in the first two columns from the left and then it is pasted to a Type 4B4 with Type 4A5 on the balance of the strip. This happens when the left stamps are at the end of a strip and then pasted to the next strip's margin.

So what is the Farwell Group 5? Is it a series of compounding errors caused by poor management, poor training of staff, carelessness or just a poorly designed piece of mechanism?

Since we see this Group 5 on the 1¢ and 2¢ issues of 1910-1911 as well as 1912, this problem may have started in 1911 when they started producing their stamp perforations, but as we see it continued on until they stopped production.
It occurred during the production of Group 4 when an extra perforating pin was carelessly inserted in the device in the second row of the perforating device producing the Type 4A5. When it was accidently inserted in the first row it produced examples of Type 5A4. This is the reason blocks would only have the extra pin hole on one row not two, neither Type 4A5 or Type 5A4 on both rows of a block. Because of the extra 5th perforating pin the spacing between the perforation set of holes are always A Type.

2.3 mm e

Shifted Perforations 3 mm
(ex-Grunin)

2.5-2.7 mm e
This block is an example showing the Type 4A5 perforations only in one row of the block.

Margin Column Perforations Missing

Shifted Perforations
2.8 mm
Top Row Type 4A5
Bottom Row Type 4A4
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 5
Type 4A5
Issue of 1910-1911

2.3 mm

Shifted Perforations
3 mm
e

Combination Perforations 4A5-4A5-4B4-4A5-4A5
Showing the left pair attached to the right pair by the margin missing a 5th pin.

Pasteup Strip
Shifted Perforations
e

Guideline Strip
Shifted Perforations
2.2-2.4 mm
Only Known Used

Shifted Perforations

(ex-Miller)

Guideline Strip
It occurred during the production of Group 4 when an extra perforating pin was carelessly inserted in the device in the first row of the perforating device producing the Type 5A4.

When it was accidentally inserted in the second row it produced examples of Type 4A5. This is the reason blocks would only have the extra pin hole on one row not two, neither Type 5A4 or Type 4A5 on both rows of a block.

Because of the extra 5th perforating pin the spacing between the perforation set of holes are always A Type.
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 5
Type 5A4
Issue of 1912

(ex-Belasco)

Guideline Pair
Farwell Group 5, the following examples also occurred.

The 5th pin missing from the second row of the margin but not the remaining stamps in the second row. Or did they forget to remove the other 19 pins. Producing the following combination of perforations.

Combination Perforations 4B4-4A5-4A5

Margin Pair
Shifted Perforations
2.7 mm

Combination Perforations 4B4-4A5-4A5-4A5-4A5

Shifted Perforations
2.6-2.7 mm
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.
Group 5
Type 4A5
Issue of 1910-1911

Farwell Group 5, the following examples also occurred.

The 5th pin missing from the second row of the margin but not the remaining stamps in the second row. Or did they forget to remove the other 19 pins. Producing the following combination of perforations.

Combination Perforations 4B4-4A5-4A5

Shifted Perforations
3 mm

Combination Perforations 4B4-4A5-4A5-4A5-4A5

Shifted Perforations
3 mm
(ex-Sheldon, Grunin)

Group 5
Type 4A5
Issue of 1912

Combination Perforations 4B4-4A5-4A5

Margin Pair

Farwell Group 5, the following examples also occurred.

The 5th pin inserted in the first row at the left but not the remaining stamps of the first row, or the 5th pin was not removed from the first row. Producing the following combination of perforations.

Combination Perforations 5A4-4B4-4B4-4B4

![Stamps Image]

Shaved Perforations
(ex-Sheldon, Grunin)

The 5th pin inserted in the second row at the left but also in the first row of the remaining stamps. Producing the following combination of perforations.

So is this a 4A5 or a 5A4?

Combination Perforations 4A5-5A4-5A4

![Stamps Image]