

Envelopes and stamps were pre-glued during the mid 1800's. So I found a period envelope glue receipt

18 tablespoons of Vinegar  
2 small packages of gelatin  
sauce pan

Bring the vinegar to a boil.  
Add gelatin. Stir until completely dissolved.  
Pour in a small container with a tight seal and allow to cool.  
When mixture is cool, brush onto handmade envelopes and stamps and allow to dry.

I found this mix fit perfectly in the large baby food sized jars. Stored it in the fridge so it didn't spoil. When needed, I put the jar w/o lid into a pan of water and heated it on the stove to bring it back to a brushing consistency.

You can moisten the envelopes and stamps the same way you would a modern envelope.