



The Maine Philatelist

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Whole No. 167

Benjamin Riggs and his “Riggs Mail”

By Michael Strout

In the Spring 2013 issue of *The Maine Philatelist*, Bill Sammis wrote about Benjamin Robbs and his Bath, Maine mail and express service. In that article, there was a plea for examples of “Riggs Mail.”

A cover has come to light, shown in *Figure 1* at right. This cover was mailed to Caleb M.H. Tarr from the Monmouth Mutual



Figure 1

An example of “Riggs Mail” from 1860s.

There is a Monmouth datestamp at lower right.

Fire Insurance Company. Inside were three insurance policy premium payment slips (shown in *Figure 2*).

As Bill Sammis wrote back in 2013, the Eastern Express Company was formed by consolidating three existing companies: Hodgman, Carr & Company, Carpenter & Company and Winslow & Company. This gave the Eastern Express Company the most comprehensive network within the state, Sammis noted.

By October 21, 1857, and possibly from its inception, Benjamin Riggs was the company agent at Bath. During this same time period, residents of Bath would use “Riggs’ Mail” as their post office mailing address.

There is still much to be learned about Riggs Mail and its place in Maine postal history. Please let us know if you have any covers with Riggs Mail in the address.

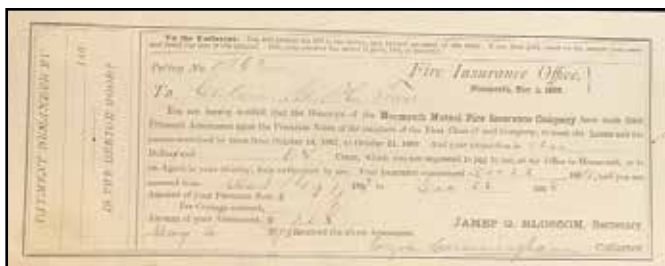
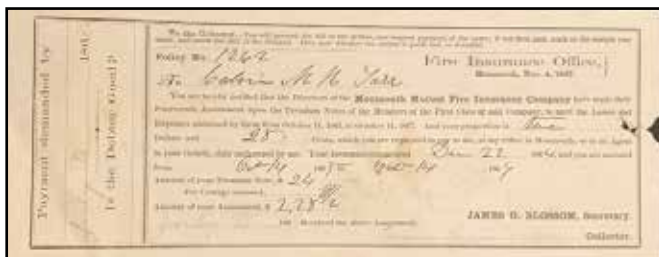


Figure 2

Insurance policy premium payment slips from the 1860s, issued by the “Fire Insurance Office” in Monmouth.

Michael Strout of Hulls Cove is a member of the Union River Stamp Club

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Maine stamp club meetings



Club meeting schedules may change from month to month; to avoid disappointment, please check with the email contact for the meeting before making plans to attend. Please send information to the editor.

BRUNSWICK AREA COIN & STAMP CLUB

The club sponsors four coin and stamp shows annually, held on the First Sunday in May; Second Sunday in July; Last Sunday in August; First Sunday in October. Shows are held at the Exhibition Hall, Topsham Fairgrounds, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Regular meetings are held the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. at People Plus Center, corner of Cumberland and Union Streets, Brunswick. Contact Bob Caouette, email: brunswickcoinclub@comcast.net. Website: brunswickmainecoinclub.com.

UNION RIVER STAMP CLUB

Regular meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Church of the Nazarene, 445 High St., Ellsworth. Contact Secretary Art Wittine at lindawittine@yahoo.com or Bruce Downs (email: brucewdowns@yahoo.com) for additional information.

WATERVILLE STAMP CLUB

The Waterville club meets on the first and third Friday of each month at 6 p.m., except during June, July and August, when the meeting is on the third Friday only. Meetings are held at the Kennebec Valley Community College, King Hall Building, 92 Western Ave., Fairfield 04937. Buy, sell, trade, auction items, program, business meeting. For information, contact Alan Tieman, 156 Deer Run St., Apt. 2, Pittsfield, ME 04967. Email: cantdog1@gmail.com.

YORK COUNTY STAMP CLUB

The club meets the second and fourth Thursday of each month from the fourth Thursday in August to the second Thursday in June. Meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Sanford Masonic Temple on Elm Street in Sanford (behind the library). Usual events include raffle, auction and presentations by members. Dues are \$10 per year. For information, contact Secretary Tracey Lévasseur, 329 Ross Corner Rd., Shapleigh, ME 04076. Email: sharpei@sacoriver.net.

Maine Circle Postmarks

By Larry Huff

There is no such thing as an orderly sequence of Maine postmarks up to the time when the Post Office Department began to furnish handstamps. Each postmaster suited his own fancy and this resulted, in some instances, in very interesting postmarks. Generally speaking, the larger number of offices used a circle cancel which was about 30mm in diameter, the lettering being in Roman caps. A partial examination of the postmarks in the Maine record, which appears to be sufficient for the purpose of demonstrating the irregularity or succession, shows this postmark to have been used as early as 1816 and as late as 1878. This was not at any given post office, however. Colors seen were red, blue, black, and more rarely, green.

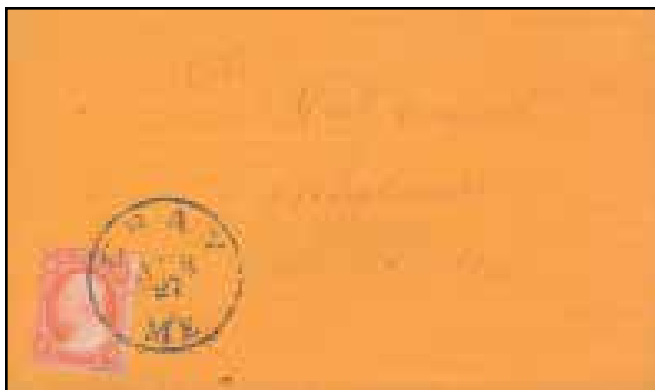
The second type had quite wide use from 1860 to 1882, and in red, blue and black. The third type, the one having the widest use, has been seen from 1864 to 1894, and in blue and black. This is a similar type used by a few offices which contained the hour of cancellation but no year date. It is known from 1877 to 1899. Year dated postmarks came into general use around 1875, and the type with both year date and hour about 1881.



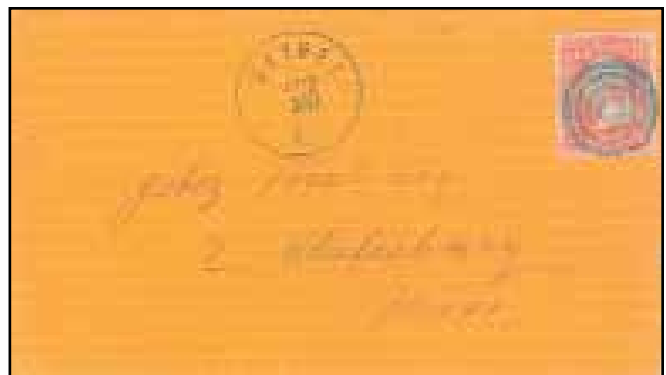
*Early Bangor single circle postmark, 32mm.
The Bangor Post Office opened on October 1, 1800.*



*Single circle postmark for Bridgeton, Maine,
later changed to Bridgton. The post office was
established in 1821 in Cumberland County.*



*Early Gray, Maine single circle postmark.
The Gray Post Office was established in
Cumberland County in 1795.*



*This single circle postmark was applied in Bethel,
located in Oxford County. The Bethel Post Office
was established in 1815.*

Chasing Postmarks: Biddeford

By Dan Goodwin

This time we chase postmarks from Biddeford, Maine. The Biddeford Post Office was first established on December 21, 1790 and discontinued in April of 1801. It was again established in 1802 and again closed in 1807. The current operating post office was established on July 19, 1870 and is operating today.

Postmarks from the first and second time periods are classified as Rarity 9 in the *Rarity Guide to the Post Offices of Maine* published by Maine Philatelic Society in 1995. Postmarks from the third time period are common for the most part and are not rare.

In addition to the postmarks pictured, Biddeford has produced several pictorials for special events and anniversaries. If you continue to search, it seems you can always find something old that is new to you.

The cover shown in *Figure 1* is postmarked in 1851, four years after the first U.S. stamps and bears a large “5” where a stamp would be. The rate for the trip to Portland at that time was five cents. Flag cancels,



Figure 1

An 1851 cover with Biddeford, Maine postmark at upper left.



Figure 2

February 19, 1909 flag cancel (above) and Biddeford cancel on postal card (below).



an example of which is shown in *Figure 2*, were common in the early 1900s from many locations and are a good subject in which to specialize. An earlier postmark on a U.S. Postal Card is also shown in *Figure 2*. The remaining postmarks, *Figure 3*, are common but interesting nevertheless.

Figure 3 (left)

Biddeford cancels from 1920s (upper left), 1984 (lower center) and 2002.

Interesting postcard has 1907 calendar attached to view side

By Mark Fonda

In today's world, you never know what condition your mail will arrive in. Torn envelopes, ripped packaging and damaged stamps are common. And we won't even discuss the length of time it takes a letter to be delivered! But it used to be different. An example that recently caught my attention was the postcard shown in *Figure 1*. At a quick glance, it doesn't appear to be spectacular, just a black and white image showing a man and a bicycle in front of a house. But there is more to the story.

Notice the calendar attached at the lower left. It is a small, about an inch by inch and a half 12 sheet calendar showing each month. The tiny sheets are stapled in the center and all 12 are bound to a piece of cardstock which is in turn glued to the corner of the card itself. Interestingly, even though the card was mailed in January, the calendar shows March 1907. Did someone keep the card handy and refer to the calendar for a couple of months before losing interest?

The card was mailed from Waterville, Maine at 8:30 p.m. on January 16, 1907, and arrived in Randolph, New Hampshire the next day, a distance of about 110 miles (*Figure 2*). Even though it's probably about a three-hour drive today, it would likely take two to three days by mail.

The card itself does not depict a Maine scene. It shows the Elliott Cottage in Franklin Park in Boston. In fact, the park is known as Frederick Law Olmsted's last and perhaps greatest urban park project. But even though it's not a Maine scene, it is still an interesting find!



Figure 1
Postcard with 1907 calendar attached.



Figure 2
The postcard was mailed from Waterville, Maine on January 16, 1907 and arrived in Randolph, New Hampshire the next day.

Brunswick club sets events in May and July

The Brunswick Coin and Stamp Club will hold a coin and stamp show on May 7, 2023 at the Topsham Fairgrounds from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. A similar show will be held at the same location on July 9, 2023 with the same hours. Topsham Fairgrounds is located off Elm Street (Route 24B).

ADDENDA and ERRATA: *The Post Offices of Maine*

• **Cedar** was located in Alexander, not Cooper. It was as shown in the *DeLorme Maine Atlas and Gazetteer*.

• **Cooper (1)** and **Cooper (2)**, according to the book, were operating simultaneously from June 5, 1907 to October 11, 1907. That, of course, would have been impossible. Those dates were in the 1995 book, and were inadvertently repeated. In the Postmaster Appointment records, Florence M. Howe was appointed postmaster of “Cooper late Grove” on June 5, 1907. “Late” meaning formerly, implying that Grove had changed name to Cooper. That is where the Cooper (2) comes from. Then she was appointed postmaster of Grove on December 27, 1907. Meanwhile, Eva F. Keith was appointed Postmaster of Cooper on October 11, 1907, thus setting up the two Coopers.

Studying the appointment records, in conjunction with what little local history is readily available, it becomes clear that “Cooper late Grove” was simply an error. Neither post office ever changed name. Errors in the appointment records were never crossed out; corrections were simply recorded as new information. It appears that Florence Howe, the unmarried youngest daughter of first postmaster David Howe, had actually been running the Grove Post Office since her father died in March, and was finally appointed to the Postmaster position on June 5, 1907. She was erroneously appointed to Cooper late Grove, and it wasn't until December that the mistake was recognized. Rather than correcting the June appointment to Cooper, she was appointed to Grove on December 27, 1907.

The correct entries in the book would be as follows. Cooper, December 7, 1827 - July 31, 1904; Cooper, Re: October 11, 1907 - November 30, 1944; Grove, August 4, 1894 - November 30, 1926; Grove, Re: October 12, 1928 - September 1, 1995.

The two Cooper (1) entries are both just Cooper. The Cooper (2) entry should be deleted. The two first two Grove entries should be combined, with S/R 5, and the notes about changing to and from Cooper (2) deleted.

Unrelated to the above, the second Cooper entry should have a note that the post office was located in Cathance Twp., which was called Plantation 14 at the time, from 1907 to 1923.

• **Jay Point**, current county should be Oxford, not Franklin. It was located at the place now known as Canton Point, in the part of Jay which became Canton, which unlike the current town of Jay, was never in Franklin County.

- **Livermore Falls**, first entry, Historic County should be Kennebec, not Oxford.
- **Mariner**, current town should be Long Island; note should include “Town was Portland prior to 1993.”
- **North Livermore** closed December 31, 1959, not December 31, 1960.
- **Sinclair**, town should be T17 R4 WELS.

These all demonstrate the importance of all collectors reporting their discoveries and reporting any errors, apparent errors, or questions they may have. PLEASE report anything to Postalhistorymaine@gmail.com.

Order your copy of The Post Offices of Maine, 2022 today!

The Post Offices of Maine, 2022, a project of the Maine Philatelic Society, is available for purchase. The book is a significant enhancement from the 1995 edition, with an extensive introduction, appendices and list of sources, full color pictures, and a significantly more detailed post office listing. The main listing stands at some 3,300 entries, or a couple hundred more than the old book, in addition to being 27 years more up to date. If you collect Maine postal history, you will want a copy!

The book, covering about 280 pages, is published in the 8.5 x 11 inch format and three-hole punched to fit in a binder if so desired. It is available for \$35.00 postpaid from Moosehead Communications, Inc., 207 Corinth Road, Hudson, ME 04449-3057. Checks should be made out to Moosehead Communications and NOT Maine Philatelic Society, please! The Maine Philatelic Society receives a royalty on each book sold.

What does your stamp room or den look like?

Larry Huff of Franklin sent this photograph of his stamp room. He said it doesn't show the whole room, but his desk and some of his collections on shelves.

So what does your stamp room or den look like? Send a high resolution jpeg or tiff image and let others know.

*Email to:
everettparker1245@gmail.com.*



Eighteen days to travel 240 miles?

Remember the good old days when mail was delivered across the country in three or four days, and next day delivery was common for mail within Maine? How about the “real old days” when mail was delivered twice a day?

How things have changed in the modern era. We have featured examples in *The Maine Philatelist* of mishandling of mail, including the fact it took a month last July for some copies of this journal to be delivered, and even instances where it never was delivered.

The latest is a regular, first class letter in a #10 envelope mailed in Boston on October 20, 2022 (circular datestamp cancels the stamp at lower left). It was mailed from “BR #4” which one assumes is branch four of the post office.

For some reason, the letter languished somewhere in the Boston Post Office until November 4 (15 days), when it received another postmark with six line killer. From there it was delivered in Hudson, Maine on November 7, 2022.

Thus, 18 days from mailing to delivery. It appears the cover was abandoned in-house for about two weeks (October 20 to November 4) before being found and postmarked.



Efficiency in the post office. But remember one thing, we are better off now!

MUDPEX is coming!

Spring is just around the corner, and that means it's time for the annual MUDPEX, sponsored by the Waterville Stamp Club.

April 15, 2023

**MacCrillis-Rousseau VFW,
175 Veteran Drive, Winslow**

Contact Al Tieman, cantdog1@gmail.com

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Dealer Tables, Huge Auction!

All Welcome!

Maine on Stamps

By Brian Damien

This is the beginning of what we hope will be an ongoing feature in *The Maine Philatelist*. The idea is that we would feature one or two stamps that fall into the category of “Maine on Stamps” in each issue; we’d look at the subject of the stamp, and any interesting history we can find on the back-story behind the creation of the stamp and its usage. After each of the articles has been published in TMP, we’ll post it on the MPS website at <http://www.mainephilatelic.org>.

As the series develops, we’ll make available PDFs that can be downloaded and printed for nice album pages for the stamps. We’ll also provide, for members who don’t use computers or don’t want to print them at home, printed copies of the album pages that can be mailed out on request.

We hope it will become a feature you’ll look forward to seeing in each issue of TMP, and eventually turn into an online encyclopedia of Maine on Stamps, as well as a series of print-it-yourself album pages.

Up until the 1970s, the number of United States postage stamps that had a strong connection to Maine were few and far between. With the flood of stamps issued since then, there is a broad array of



What is now Acadia National Park, on the mid-coast, is featured on this 1934 stamp.

Scott Stamp #	Stamp Subject	Maine Connection	Category
746, 762, 5080, C138	Acadia National Park	National Park in Maine; #746 had FDOI in Bar Harbor	Places - Mt. Desert Island
819, 2217	Franklin Pierce	U. S. President, attended Bowdoin	People - Pierce
864, 4124	Henry Wadsworth Longfellow	Poet who spent time in Maine	People - Longfellow
1207, 3236	Winslow Homer	Famous American artist who stayed & painted in ME	People - Homer
1279 also revenues	Albert Gallatin	Briefly settled in Machias	People - Gallatin
1327, 5202	Henry David Thoreau	Author of <i>The Maine Woods</i>	People - Thoreau
1391	Hopper painting depicts Two Lights at Cape Elizabeth	Maine Statehood 1970, 150th	Historic Events - Statehood
1391, 3184n, 3236p, 4558	Edward Hopper	Famous American artist who summered & painted in Maine	People - Hopper
1539	Tourmaline	Maine Gem	Emblems - Mineral
1635, 4295	State Flag	Maine State Flag	Emblems - State Flag
1821	Frances Perkins	Secretary of Labor in FDR's cabinet; connection with Damariscotta	People - Perkins
1844	Dorothea Dix	From Hampden	People - Dix
1851	Gen. Henry Knox	Fort Knox named after him; owned mansion in Thomaston	People - Knox
1857	Rachel Carson	Wrote <i>Silent Spring</i> in Southport	People - Carson
1891	Portland Head Light	18c definitive	Places - Cape Elizabeth
1926	Edna St. Vincent Millay	Poet from Camden	People - Millay
1971	Chickadee & Pine Cone	Maine State Bird & Flower	Emblems - Bird and Flower
2047	Nathaniel Hawthorne	Attended Bowdoin College	People - Hawthorne
2062	Street Cars	FDOI ceremony with VP Bush at Kennebunkport Trolley Museum	First Day Event
2132	Stanley Steamer	Stanley lived in ME	Historic Events - Steam Car
2223a	Robert E. Peary	Arctic explorer from Brunswick ME	People - Peary
2374	Maine Coon Cat	Cat breed originated in ME	Animals - Cat Breed
2472	West Quoddy Head Light	East Coast lighthouses set	Places - Lubec

stamps that can be chosen for a Maine-on-Stamps collection.

We're launching the series in this issue with two stamps, one that is on everybody's short list of Maine on Stamps, and another that has a connection that many collectors may have missed.

Here is the list of Maine on Stamps that we propose so far. Thanks to Rick Stambaugh, and Dan Goodwin for getting the list started, and Ed Whitney, for the inspiration.

We're not quite sure how to define "Maine on Stamps," but we're not going to worry about that -- our goal here is to have some fun while taking a fresh look at some stamps we've seen many times before, and maybe discover some we didn't know about.

What is your favorite stamp on this topic? What would you add to the list? And which of these would you like to write about? Please send your ideas to the editor.



Shipbuilding in the State of Maine was featured on this 1957 three-cent stamp showing the vessel

The Virginia of Sagadahock. The stamp also called attention to the Popham Colony, which was established in 1607 by the Plymouth Company and located in the present-day town of Phippsburg, Maine, near the mouth of the Kennebec River.

2559	Reuben James	Destroyer sunk by Germans before the start of WW II had left from Portland harbor when sunk. Monument in Portland	Historic Events - WWII
2785	Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm	Maine author Kate Douglas Wiggin; fictional locale of book is Hollis	People - Wiggin
3084	Paul Bunyan	Fictional folk hero; Bangor has giant statue	People - Bunyan
3192, RB20-31	"Remember the Maine"	Naval ship blew up in Cuba; helped set off the Spanish American War	Historic Events - Battleship Maine
3427	Margaret Chase Smith	Maine's US Senator	People - Smith, Margaret C.
3430	Harriet Beecher Stowe	Author of Uncle Tom's Cabin, largely written in Brunswick ME	People - Stowe
3870	R. Buckminster Fuller	Spent much of youth on Bear Island, Penobscot Bay	People - Fuller
4073, 4074 & Canada issues	Samuel de Champlain	A leader in settlement at Dochet Island in St. Croix River, 1601	People - Champlain
4668	John Ford	Movie director from Portland	People - Ford
4748b	John Marin	Artist, painted "Sunset, Maine Coast"	People - Marin
4791	Portland Head Light	New England Coastal Lighthouses set	Places - Cape Elizabeth
5217	Andrew Wyeth	Small sheet includes Christina's World, set in Cushing	People - Wyeth
5393	George H. W. Bush	A home in Kennebunkport	People - Bush
5456	Hopper painting is "Sea at Ogunquit."	Maine Statehood 2020, 200th	Historic Events - Statehood
5464	Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens	in Botanical Gardens set/sheet	Places - Boothbay Harbor
5298c	"From Sea to Shining Sea" set	Surf at Bailey Island	Places - Bailey Island
5424-5427	Christmas wreaths	FDOI at L.L.Bean	First Day Event
5652-5653	Blueberries	FDOI at Blue Hill in 2022	First Day Event
postal card UX1/3	Massachusetts Hall	First building at Bowdoin College	Places - Brunswick
Russia 5415	Samantha Smith	10 yr old ambassador	People - Smith, Samantha

Exploring Southern Maine post offices

By Steve Bahnsen

Mine is an interesting hobby. I enjoy photographing post offices, large or small, new or old. They may be in the middle of Chicago or out in the country ... it does not matter where. My first pictures were taken where I grew up in Iowa in the 1960s. I also began visiting post offices in neighboring Illinois as well.

As I got older, then getting a job and car gave me the opportunity to travel to hundreds of cities and towns with my camera. Collecting postmarks goes hand and hand with taking a picture of a post office. I collect both stamps and cancels as a life member of American Philatelic Society.

It has been a privilege to have visited all the lower 48 states. I'll go to Hawaii and Alaska if someone pays my way. But prior to 2005, I had not been to three New England states: New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine.

Arrangements were made with a Connecticut friend to travel through Vermont and New Hampshire for two days of "postofficing." We parted ways in Dover, New Hampshire so he could take a train home.

Then came the moment I was waiting for. Crossing the state line, I entered Maine for the first time in my life! Now I could say that I've been to all the 48 states.

My first objective was to find the post office in Lebanon. Once I got there at about 1 p.m., I had been to post offices in all 48 states. I could not conceal my thrill about this feat, and told the postmaster what

had happened. Her reaction was more restrained.

The next five hours constituted the total extent of my life in Maine. I recall this as pleasant enough. The weather was fine as I made my way to 10 post offices.



The Kennebunkport Post Office.

One post office of note was Kennebunkport. It is a 1930s era building with a handsome mural showing a ship. The postmaster said I was standing where Barbara Bush stood when she came in to buy stamps (along with a Secret Service agent).

My travel continued north to Portland where I visited three offices. My return trip south used U.S. 1 to avoid I-95 before spending the night in New Hampshire.

The photos with this article show the Maine post offices I went to. They are now in the Post Mark Collectors Club's National Postmark Museum near Bellevue, Ohio. Information on PMCC is available at postmarks.org.



This mural hangs in the lobby of the Kennebunkport Post Office and shows early sailing vessels on the coast.

Photo by Jimmy S. Emerson, DVM.



The Lebanon Post Office.



The Sanford Post Office in York County.



The post office in Wells, Maine.



The Downtown Portland Post Office.



The post office in South Portland, Maine.



The Biddeford Post Office.



The Saco Post Office in York County.



This is the post office in Kennebunk, Maine.

From the President ...

If you have a keen eye, perhaps you noticed this issue of *The Maine Philatelist* has four more pages than other issues since January 2022. In fact, it is the largest issue of the journal going back to at least the 1990s.

And why is that? Because you, our members and writers, are being very generous with sharing your articles and artwork. In fact, so generous that I have about 30 pages of articles awaiting publication! I don't remember that kind of participation, and it is greatly appreciated.

BUT ... that doesn't mean it's time to sit back and rest on our proverbial laurels and give up on research and writing. We must continue soliciting material, and I encourage, yea, request that you continue sending in articles.

At this point in time, I am planning two 16 page issues and two 12 page issues per year. While I have great confidence you will keep our larder of articles full, I don't dare going to a full 16 pages for every issue. And it's also a matter of the costs to print and mail as well. So we'll see how it goes over time.

Issues continue with mail delivery of your journal. As you may know, our printing and publishing business, Moosehead Communications, Inc., prepares and distributes several philatelic journals as well as others (and always looking for more!). We heard from several folks in Florida that journals mailed first class on December 15 still had not arrived in the second week of January.

On the other side of the coin, MPS member Steve Bahnsen in Chicago emailed to say his copy of *The Maine Philatelist*, mailed on December 30, arrived at his house on January 3 -- and that included the New Year's holiday. As the kids say nowadays, "go figure." Unfortunately, I can't!

-- Everett Parker

DEADLINES

January issue

Deadline: November 15; mailing December 30.

April issue

Deadline: February 15; mailing March 30.

July issue

Deadline: May 15; mailing June 30.

October issue

Deadline: August 15; mailing September 30.

A look back ... 20 years ago

In the April 2003 issue of *The Maine Philatelist*, Richard W. Gerry of Orono prepared an article on a visit to the Turner Village Post Office in 1923. It was noted that the first post office in Turner was established in 1804 with Ichabod Bonney being appointed postmaster. At that time, mail was carried on horseback and only arrived once a week. The event was always heralded by the sounding of a trumpet by the mail carrier while he was some distance away.

Also, Jim Michielli of Lamoine began a series of stamp cartoons titled "Never Hinged" for *The Maine Philatelist*. His cartoons had been published in philatelic publications as well as magazines and newspapers.

Ken Weeks wrote about the Manchester Lions Club preparing a special 50th anniversary cover and special cancel for use on September 29, 2003, and there was an article on a brief history of the Maine Philatelic Society since its founding as the Maine Association of Philatelic Clubs in 1927.

Question & Answer



By Jim Husson

Got a question about Maine philately (or collecting in general)? Know the answer to a previously asked question? We want to know!

*Send your input today to:
jimhusson65@gmail.com*

This quarter's question is straight-forward and not a trick. Can anyone tell us what post office in Maine was the last one established before Maine became a state?

We'll have the answer in the form of an article with help from Larry Huff of Franklin in the July 2023 issue (and the answer is NOT Franklin!).

No one answered the questions posed in the January issue: who flew the first airmail in Maine, where did he or she start, and what was the date? The answers are: Harry Jones, Portland to Augusta, October 23, 1919.

Secretary's Report

Kelvin Kindahl
267 Locust St., #2E
Florence, MA 01062-2059

This will be the first report of the first dues-paying year of the revived Maine Philatelic Society. In other words, it is the first report when we know how many people are willing to pay actual money to be members of this fine organization. Last quarter, membership stood at 127; as of this writing we have 105 members. Four members resigned, meaning they made the effort to let us know that they were choosing not to renew, for one reason or another, and 22 are being dropped because they have not responded to dues notices. If you do the math, it doesn't add up, but if you add in three new members, the numbers come out right.

We welcome Mark Bloch of Stockton Springs, Greg Deweerd of Michigan, Lynn Vernon of Indiana and James Warner of Brunswick to the group.

Go to a meeting of your nearest stamp club, buy a copy of *The Post Offices of Maine*, tell your friends about MPS. Write something for *The Maine Philatelist*! Tell us about what you collect, and why you collect it. As always, the Secretary welcomes comments!

THE CLASSIFIEDS

Classified advertisements are free to members. You may use this space to buy, sell, trade or swap. When sending an advertisement, please advise it is for The Classifieds and indicate how many issues you wish it to appear. All ads will be printed four times and then removed unless indicated otherwise.

WANTED

WANTED: New England numbered stations, sub-stations, C. O. D. stations, other stations and branches, postal forms, documents, any time period. Kelvin Kindahl, 267 Locust St. # 2E, Florence, MA 01062-2059. Email: Kelvin01027@gmail.com. (4-23)

WANTED: U.S. precancels, buy or trade. Elmer L. Harmon, 83 Milwaukee Road, Dennysville, ME 04628; email: Elmerlookharmon@icloud.com. (4-23)

WANTED: Lubec postal history. Particularly interested in South Lubec postal markings. Please email John Schorn, jschorn@gmail.com (4-23)

WANTED: I am writing a postal history for Hampden, Maine. I am interested in buying or obtaining scans for the following: Hampden, Hampden Corner, Hampden Highlands, North Hampden, South Hampden, West Hampden, East Hampden, East Hampden Branch Bangor, Hampden Postal Distribution Center, Hampden Centre, Hampden Center and Nealey's Corner. Contact Jim Husson at jimhusson65@gmail.com (4-23)

WANTED: Postal history from Isle au Haut, Look-out, and Stonington, Maine. Will buy, but if not for sale, a scan or photocopy would be appreciated. Peter Martin, P.O. Box 6074, Fredericksburg, VA 22403; e-mail: pmartin2525@yahoo.com (4-23)

FOR SALE

FOR SALE: For sale, 50 quality worldwide stamps for SASE. Elmer L. Harmon, 83 Milwaukee Road, Dennysville, ME 04628; email: Elmerlookharmon@icloud.com. (4-23)

FOR SALE: Vatican City sets and FDC's, Australian, French and British Antarctica, all MNH-VF sets. Prices you can't refuse! What do you need? Joseph LoPreiato: enotrialp@gmail.com. (4-23)

FOR SALE: Collect old Maine postcards? Here's an interesting collection of 50 OLD unused cards with color and b&w scenes. Most appear to be 1930s-1960s era. All in good condition, set your own price ... I just want to move them to a new home! Everett Parker, email: everettparker1245@gmail.com. (4-23)

Member Collecting Interests and email addresses

Eric Beal
ebeal@maine.edu

Tom Cieslinski
Allagashtom41@yahoo.com

Nancy Clark
nancy.b.clark@icloud.com

Brian Damien
brian.damien@yahoo.ca
*Collects Maine and Québec postmarks, stamps,
postmarks and postal history of Newfoundland.*

Roy Douglass
roywdouglass@gmail.com
Collects worldwide, U.S., FDCs.

Bruce Downs
brucewdowns@yahoo.com
*Collects Deer Isle postal history and covers
surrounding Maine statehood date.
Also French and Swiss.*

Paul Eagle
paul@earthlovers.org
*Collects pre-1950 European postage, back of book,
cinderellas.*

Patrick F. Gilheany
landpgil@hotmail.com
Collects China, Japan, Germany, trains on stamps.

Dan Goodwin
dgoodwi3@maine.rr.com
*Collects U.S. plate blocks prior to 1980, Maine
postmarks, anything Christmas related, Naval ship
postmarks, World War II related.*

Tim Grant
tjgrant@roadrunner.com
*Collects U.S. (including BOB) in MNH condition
and U.N. singles and Inscription Blocks, also in
MNH condition.*

Robert Gross
mainer144@gmail.com
Collects stamps related to North Carolina.

Elmer Harmon
Elmerlookharmon@icloud.com

Jan Hokenson
janhoken@aol.com
*Collects worldwide to 1949 including dead
countries and military occupations.*

Larry Huff
leinsteinhn@gmail.com
*Collects U.S. classics, Worldwide to 1940,
Christmas Seals, Perfins, Disney Stamps,
U.S. mint sheets, FDC's.*

James Husson
Jimhusson65@gmail.com
Collects Maine postal history.

Kelvin Kindahl
kelvin01027@gmail.com
*Collects New England postmarks and postal
history, all time periods.*

Rusty Marr
hemarr@outlook.com
*Collects worldwide, U.S. mint, plate blocks, FDCs,
stationery, Christmas seals, Disney
and U.S. back of book.*

Peter Martin
pmartin2525@yahoo.com

Perry N. Moore
perrynm912@gmail.com
*Collects U.S. postal definitives, especially color
variations.*

Maynard Otis
motis2775@gmail.com
*Collects U.S., Canada, British Colonies,
ships and military.*

Everett L. Parker
everettparker1245@gmail.com

Jack Pooler
car99@comcast.net
Collects Maine postmarks.

Phebe Quattrucci
phebeq63@yahoo.com
Collects worldwide and U.S.

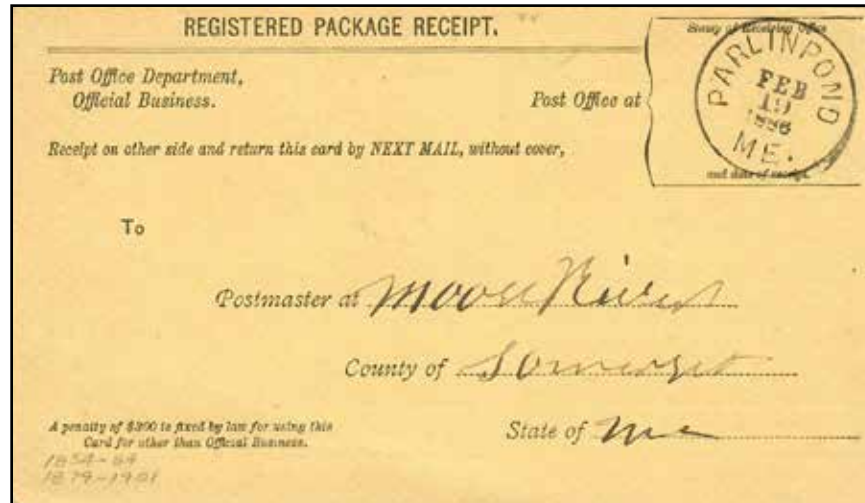
Gil Roderick
gil@destamps.com
Buys and sells Maine postal history.

Bill Sammis
cds13@cornell.edu
Collects Maine and eastern express companies.

Donald Savage
dsavage7@maine.rr.com
Collects worldwide to 1959, U.S. to date.

Maine Cover of the Quarter

*A postal history
feature by
Rob Washburn
of Skowhegan.*



The above Registered Package Receipt has a rare February 19, 1886 Parlin Pond cancel. *The Post Offices of Maine – 2022* gives the cancel a scarcity rating of 8. In 1901, the Parlin Pond Post Office was changed to Lake Parlin. Lake Parlin’s post office was discontinued in 1905.

(If you have an unusual, interesting or scarce Maine cover candidate for Maine Cover of the Quarter, please send a clear photocopy against a black background to Rob Washburn, P.O. Box 840, Skowhegan, Maine 04976 or email: stamps@beeline-online.net).

Internet listings

Continued from previous page

Rick Stambaugh
rstambaugh@maine.rr.com

Mike Strout
mstrout69@gmail.com
*Collects Maine postal history Maine precancels,
Maine state revenues, U.S. revenues,
Patriotic covers, Ship covers and postal cards.*

Alan Tieman
cantdog1@gmail.com

Lynn H. Vernon
vsos@marshallfiber.com
*Collects Canada & Provinces, Falklands, Tristan,
Ascension, St. Helena, Liberia, Maine postal
history/postmarks and Topicals: penguins, tractors.*

Bernie Vinzani
bvinzani@maine.edu
*Collects watermarks on stamps, printing and
paper of stamps, postal history of Downeast
Maine, and early bishop marks and postmarks
of Great Britain.*

Rob Washburn
stamps@beeline-online.net

Art Wittine
lindawittine@yahoo.com
*Collects U.S. “back of book” & U.S. with plate
numbers.*

Would you like your email and collecting interests listed? Just contact the editor at the email shown on page 2! There is no charge for this service, and your listing will continue until you notify us to remove it!

Iconic Maine Precancels

By Rick Stambaugh

I'll try to write an article each quarter featuring iconic Maine precancels. This first attempt shows the common Bangor precancel Type 203, an electroplate printed precancel device usually with 100 subjects to cover the standard pane of definitive stamps. Its value in Gunesch's *Handbook on Bureau and Local Precancels*¹ is the minimum. So, why do I consider it "iconic"? Because sometime in the late 1920s, red ink was used on five values.



From the Gunesch handbook, we learn: "About a decade ago, Bangor made the precancel world sit up and take notice. Type 3 (*NOTE: now Type 203*) suddenly made its appearance on five values of the 1922 issue in red ink, the 1¢, 5¢, 7¢, 11¢ and 15¢. The 7¢ is the best of these."² I don't know of any other red ink precancels. There are many blues, magentas, violets used by handstamped precancel users. But these Bangor reds were printed on a printing press with red ink. I consider the 11¢ the best, not the 7¢.

FOOTNOTES

¹ Adolf Gunesch, *Handbook on Bureau and Local Precancels* (8th Edition). (Chicago: Self published, 1939).

² *Ibid*, p. 94.

Maine Philatelic Society
207 Corinth Road
Hudson, ME 04449-3057

To: