



The Maine Philatelist

Vol. 42, No. 3

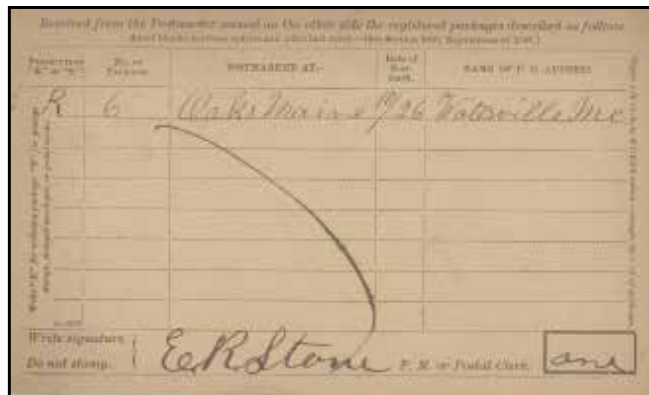
July 2023

Whole No. 168

Registered Package Receipts from Oaks, Maine

By Kelvin Kindahl
Secretary

As noted in the January Addenda and Errata column, a group of Registered Package Receipt (Form 1556) cards was recently found from the Oaks Post Office, listed in *The Post Offices of Maine – 2022* with a scarcity rating of 8. Registered Package Receipts were a part of the recorded chain of custody system for registered mail. When such receipts find their way into collector hands, they often come in bunches. In this case, 28 were found in an out of state collection which had been started in the mid -1950s. It is believed this group was not known to Bruce Hazelton in 1995, or to the collecting community at large, until now.



Front (left) and reverse side of Registered Package Receipt from Oaks, Maine, dated October 26, 1899.

In determining scarcity ratings, the specific number of extant items which constitutes an S/R 8 was not determined, but it is surely fewer than 28, and certainly fewer than 28 plus however many were known in 1995. Thus, Oaks should now be downgraded to an S/R 7.

The Registered Package Receipt card was first postmarked by the post office which was sending out the registered item. The receipt traveled with the item, inside a Registered Package Envelope, to the next office which would handle the item, where the receipt card would be postmarked and returned to the dispatching office. Every post office handling a registered item would send a receipt back to the office from which they had gotten the item. Because Oaks was a very small office at the end of a mail distribution route, all of their incoming and outgoing mail went by way of East Otisfield, thus all of the Registered Package Receipts were postmarked first at Oaks, as the dispatching office, then at East Otisfield as the receiving office.

Oaks, for its short life of February 10, 1897 to July 14, 1905, was in Otisfield, a town in Cumberland County at the time, which was transferred to Oxford County in 1978. Oaks was at the same location as the earlier, even shorter lived, South Otisfield (2) which operated from June 15, 1889 to April 23, 1890, near

Continued on page 8

The Maine Philatelist is published quarterly
by the Maine Philatelic Society, Inc.
Website: www.mainephilatelic.org
APS Affiliate #273

The Maine Philatelic Society is an educational organization whose purpose is to cultivate and promote the study of stamps and postal history of the Pine Tree State, and to publish such knowledge for the benefit of its members and the public. Dues are \$15 for Regular Member; \$25 for Benefactor; \$35.00 for Champion.

OFFICERS

President & Editor

Dr. Everett L. Parker

207 Corinth Road
Hudson, ME 04449-3057
(207) 814-8101

email: everettparker1245@gmail.com

Vice President

Rob Washburn

P.O. Box 840
Skowhegan, ME 04976
email: stamps@beeline-online.net

Secretary

Kelvin Kindahl

267 Locust St., #2E,
Florence, MA 01062-2059
email: kelvin01027@gmail.com

Treasurer

Rick Stambaugh

18 Elmwood Ct.
North Berwick, ME 03906
email: rstambaugh@maine.rr.com

Board of Directors

Brian Damien, 10 Dunning St., Brunswick, ME 04011; email: brian.damien@yahoo.ca

Dan Goodwin, 134 Maple St., North Berwick, ME 03906; email: dgoodwi3@maine.rr.com

Marc Hasselbrack, P.O. Box 27, Stillwater, ME 04489; email: mhasselbrack@hotmail.com

James Husson, 5 Stetson Dr., Hampden, ME 04444-3444; email: jimhusson65@gmail.com

Rick Lancaster, 1177 River Road. Clinton, ME 04927; email: modcover@twc.com

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 Ellsworth Public Library, 20 State Street (use lower rear parking lot and enter to the Riverview Room). Contact Secretary Marc Hasselbrack (mhasselbrack@hotmail.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

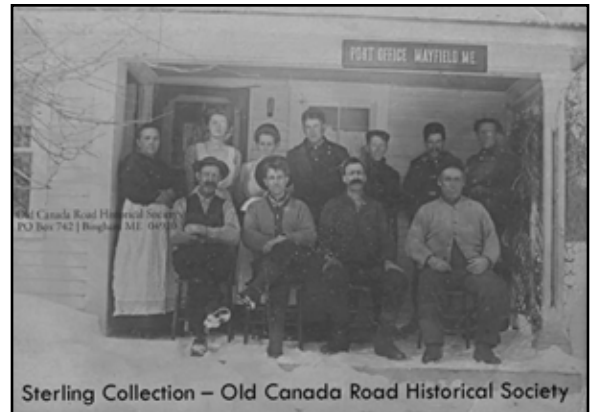
The club meets the second and fourth Thursday of each month from the fourth Thursday in August to the second Thursday in June. Meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Sanford Masonic Temple on Elm Street in Sanford (behind the library). Usual events include raffle, auction and presentations by members. Dues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

The Post Offices and Mail Delivery to Mayfield and Kingsbury, Maine

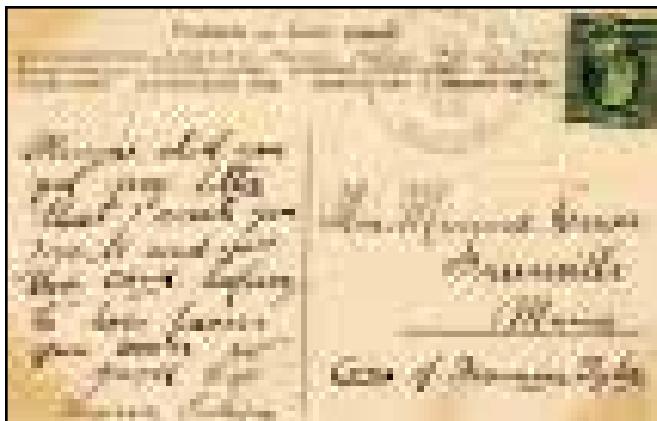
By Chris Coyle

Mayfield and Kingsbury are located in a quiet part of central Maine, east of Bingham and west of Abbot Village. The history of their post offices and mail delivery in this area has long sparked an interest in me as I grew up summers in Mayfield on Kingsbury Pond in the years 1960-1981. Mayfield is located in Somerset County. Earlier it had been known as Fordstown, named for Enoch Ford, the first white settler. The first post office opened in 1832 under the Fordstown name. The town name was changed to Mayfield when it was officially incorporated in 1836. The name of the post office was also changed to Mayfield. Mail was first brought by stage on the Brighton-Blanchard route. Later it came in on the Bingham-Abbot Line. There were two mail deliveries a day.

From Varney's 1881 *A Gazetteer of the State of Maine*, page 358: "Mayfield lies on the eastern line of Somerset County, 23 miles north of Skowhegan. It is bounded on the north by Bald Mountain Township, south by Brighton, west by Bingham, and east by Kingsbury, in Piscataquis



The Mayfield Post Office in an undated early photograph from the Old Canada Road Historical Society.



Mayfield postmark dated in February 1910 on postcard addressed to Greenville, Maine.

County. The town is quite hilly; Coburn Ridge, occupying nearly the whole western side of the town, being the greatest. It has two considerable ponds in the northern part, of which Austin Stream, running west to the Kennebec, is the outlet. Hayden Pond lies near the center of the town, its outlet emptying into Kingsbury Pond in the southeast part. The last is 2½ miles long and 1 mile wide. The principal settlement is at the southeast part of the town, on the road from Skowhegan to Blanchard. The principal rock of the town is slate. The soil is quite fertile, yielding good crops of grain. Cedar and spruce are the most numerous woods. There are two lumbermills in the town, and one mill for preparing slate, of which considerable quantities are quarried here.

The town was a part of Bingham's Kennebec Purchase. It was incorporated March 7, 1836. The nearest post office is at Brighton. The town has one public schoolhouse. The population in 1870 was 96. In 1880 it was 141."

The Mayfield Post Office was in operation for several years, but closed in 1844. The above *Gazetteer* was written during the years Mayfield did not have an active post office. The Mayfield slate quarry on Cook Hill was in operation during the years 1871 to 1880. This likely accounts for the swelling of the town's population from 96 in 1870 to 141 in 1880. The



Mayfield postmark on 1911 postcard.

post office was reopened in 1886, likely due in part to the increase in population. But after the quarry closed, the population declined to 74, as reported in the 1890 census. Mayfield surrendered its organization as a town in 1887 but was reorganized into a plantation in 1892. The organization was confirmed and made valid by the Maine Legislature in 1895.

Alphonso L. Flanders, a descendant of first settler Enoch Ford, was prominent in the doings of the town. He owned Mayfield's only store, which was located near his residence, a short distance north of Mayfield Pond. His wife, Mary E. Chamberlain Flanders, was the long-term postmaster of Mayfield, serving in that function for 34 years.

The Mayfield Post Office was located in the Flanders' home at Mayfield Corner. Mrs. Flanders lived her entire life in Mayfield. Besides the duties of the store and post office, the Flanders opened their large home to accommodate the public. This house was later owned by the Pooler family. It was located close to the intersections of routes 16 and 151. The building had disappeared by the mid-1960s.



Kingsbury postmark on 1953 postcard.



Gravestone of long-term Mayfield Postmaster Mary Flanders. Her grave is in the old Flanders Cemetery near Mayfield Corner and within sight of her former home and post office. Photo by Chris Coyle.

Mary Flanders died in 1924 and hers was the last interment in the old Flanders cemetery near Mayfield Corner. Charles Pooler, 95, the last resident to leave Mayfield in 1948, accompanied the author to Mayfield in 2011 at which time he related having helped to dig Mary Flanders' grave 87 years before.

Mayfield's population had declined to 21 persons as reported on the 1920 U.S. Census. The post office was closed permanently in 1931. After that, the remaining postal patrons were served by the Kingsbury Post Office. The population of Kingsbury was always greater for each census period than that of Mayfield. Mayfield's plantation status was surrendered in 1937, and since then it has remained an unorganized territory.

Kingsbury is located due east of Mayfield and is part of Piscataquis County. It currently holds plantation status. Kingsbury's population declined over the years until 1980 when four persons were reported but has since increased to 28 persons.

From Varney's 1881 *A Gazetteer of the State of Maine*, page 303: "Kingsbury is situated in the south-western part of Piscataquis County, having Mayfield, in Somerset



Unusual 1886 Mayfield postmark containing the name of Postmaster M.E. Flanders. This was the same year the post office reopened. Collection of Chris Coyle.



Abandoned Flanders home, July 1960. Last lived in by the Pooler family in 1948. Photo by Bob Coyle, Collection of Chris Coyle.

County, for its western boundary. Its other boundaries are the Piscataquis County towns of Blanchard, on the north, Abbot and Parkman on the east, and Wellington on the south. The principal ponds are Kingsbury, 2 miles long by 1 wide, Foss, about 1 mile each way, and (Hilton Ponds), somewhat smaller. There are two fine Cascades in town, and the streams are well-stocked with speckled trout. The town is hilly, the principal rock is slate, and the soil, where cultivated, is mostly a clay loam, good for potatoes and grass. The trees usual in the region flourish here; and the primeval forest still stands to such an extent that one road passes through it for 9 miles without encountering a single opening. There is a saw-mill and grist-mill, built in 1835 by Judge Kingsbury; (now owned by the Hiltons) on the outlet of Kingsbury Pond. This stream forms the south branch of the Piscataquis River, while the north branch passes near the north-eastern part of the town. The stage-road from Athens to Moosehead Lake passes through Kingsbury. The village is 20 miles from Dover, and half the distance from the station of the Bangor and Piscataquis railway in Abbot. The township was a part of the Bingham Purchase. It was lotted by Eleazer Coburn, Esq., and in 1833 was purchased by Hon. Sanford Kingsbury, of Gardiner, for the sum of \$4,000. William Hilton and his brother the next year made openings, and in 1836 there were so many settlers that the town was incorporated under the name of its honorable proprietor. There are now a store, hotel, mechanic-shops, and the mills already mentioned at Kingsbury Village. There is a church organization of the persuasion called Buzzellites (followers of John Buzzell, who split from the Free Baptists in 1835). Kingsbury has two public schoolhouses. The population in 1870 was 174. By the census of 1880 it was 198.”

The Kingsbury Post Office opened in 1838. The 1876 *Monitor Guide to Post Offices and Railroad Stations in the United States and Canada* lists Kingsbury as being served by both the Adams and New York & Boston Despatch Express companies. The Mayfield Post Office was not open at the time of this publication so it was not listed. In 1885 Kingsbury surrendered its organization as a town but reorganized as a plantation the following year, 1886. The organization was confirmed and made valid by the Maine Legislature in 1895.

The population of Kingsbury declined rapidly between the years 1910 (108 persons) and 1920 (63 persons). The Kingsbury Post Office closed in 1917 and the postal business was transferred to Mayfield. But when the Mayfield Post Office closed for the final time in 1931, the Kingsbury Post Office reopened. In later years, the Kingsbury Post Office was located in the house owned by John Cook which also served as a hotel. This particular section of Kingsbury Plantation was known as Kingsbury Mills. The last postmaster was Effie Bean Nugent. In addition to her job as postmaster, Effie also helped with the work of the hostelry. The old 3½-story structure burned on one blustery March day in 1931 after birch bark had been stuffed into the kitchen stove. The present-day, smaller building was constructed the next summer. The Kingsbury Post Office was discontinued around 1957. By that time, it was operated only in the summer.



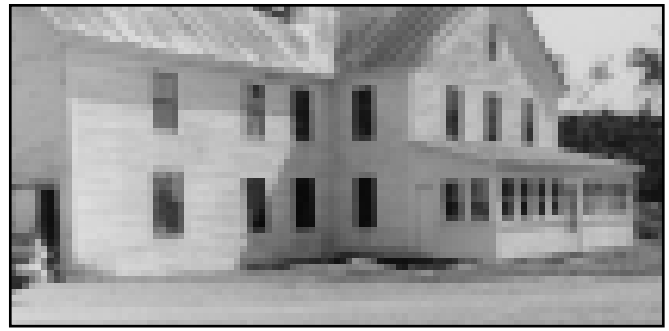
Effie Bean (Nugent), Kingsbury Post Office. Photo courtesy of Kingsbury Plantation.



Effie Bean (Nugent) and unidentified men at the Kingsbury Post Office. Photo courtesy of Kingsbury Plantation.

For a short time after the Kingsbury Post Office closed, mailboxes were located outside the Worcester house (former John Cook house) where camp and other residents could pick up their mail. Later, mail-

boxes were located along the roads where driveways went into camps. From the early 1960s through the mid-1980s, mail delivery was made three days a week by a route from the Wellington Post Office under the supervision of its postmaster, Rose McCue, and later by her successor and daughter-in-law, Greta McCue. The Wellington Post Office closed in the mid-1980s. Since that time, Mayfield and Kingsbury have been served by the Harmony Post Office.



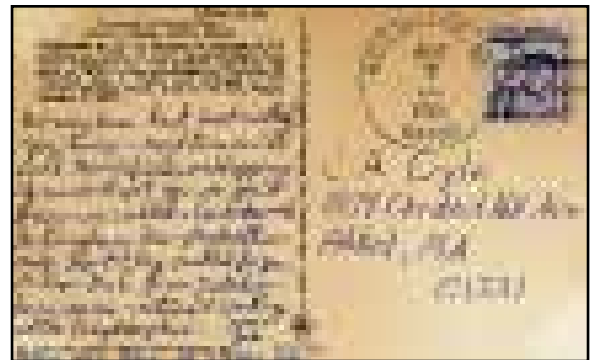
Former Cook home (Kingsbury Hotel) owned by Justin Worcester at the time of this photo, 1960. This was the final location of the Kingsbury Post Office. Collection of Chris Coyle.

Searching for postmarks from the Mayfield and Kingsbury post offices has been challenging, but interesting. A few examples are shown with this article. Of particular note is the 1986 Mayfield cancellation which includes the name of Postmaster M.E. Flanders.

Some Personal Reminiscences

During the years we summered in Mayfield, all of our mail was forwarded to Wellington. Our address was simply "Wellington, Maine 04990." There was never a street or road added to the address. Going up to fetch the mail was an exciting event for us. I wish I knew the name of the fellow who delivered our mail in a pickup truck, but I don't think we ever learned his name. He drove a route over our way around Kingsbury Pond on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. He covered what was called the Star Route, over near Parkman as I recall, the other three days of the week. There might have been a time or two when the carrier drove down the driveway with a package to be sure we got it okay. But otherwise, he left everything in the mailbox, usually a little after 10 a.m.

Sometimes we walked the long driveway to our mailbox at Route 16. Other times we drove up in the car. We sometimes stopped at the Wellington Post Office to pick up our mail on the days of the week when we didn't receive a delivery to our mailbox. From time to time during the winter months, we would receive an item of mail forwarded to us from Wellington.



A 1980 Wellington postmark on a postcard my folks mailed to me (maybe from the mailbox at the end of our driveway on Route 16) at home.

The small town of Wellington did not have many paved roads when I was a boy in the 1960s. Later, many of the roads received macadam pavement. The small center of Wellington had a general store, post office, grange hall and church. The McCue family ran the general store and post office. In the early days of our summers in Mayfield, Mrs. Rose McCue was the postmaster. The post office was located in one side of her large kitchen. We entered through a door which led only to the post office section of the house. We would look through the service window and often see Mrs. McCue cooking at her stove. After she gave things a good stir, she would come over to the window to wait on us. The exterior of the house was covered with unpainted clapboards as were most of the homes in the area.

Around 1970, Rose McCue retired and the post office was relocated next door to the general store operated by her daughter-in-law, Greta McCue, who became the new postmaster. A few years later the store closed but the post office remained just inside the entryway to the former store. The delivery of our mail and the

rural post offices were our link to the outside world during our summers in Mayfield.

REFERENCES

Blanchard, Fessenden. S. 1960. *Ghost Towns of New England*. New York: Dodd, Mead & Company.

Bullinger, E. (Edwin) W. *The Monitor Guide to Post Offices and Railroad Stations in the United States and Canada*. New York: E.W. Bullinger. First published 1876. (1976 facsimile reprint).

Dow, Sterling T. 1976. *Maine Postal History and Postmarks*. With added material. Lawrence, Mass: Quarterman Publications, Inc. First published 1943.

Maine Census Data, 2001. Raymond H. Fogler Library website, The University of Maine.

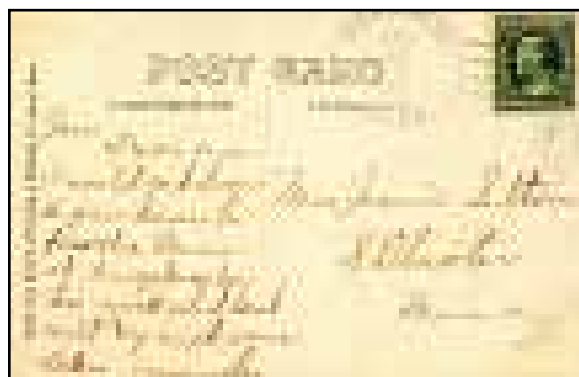
Pooler, Charles and Elizabeth Jordan, letter to Chris Coyle, Bingham, Maine, September, 1973.

Varney, G. J. (George Jones). 1881. *A Gazetteer of the State of Maine*. Boston: B. B. Russell.

Walker, Elinor Stevens. 1974. *More About Maine*. Rumford, Maine: Rumford Publishing Co., Inc.



Abbot Village scene from early 1900s showing the “K of P” Hall (Knights of Pythias) and residence. The address side of this card had a Mayfield postmark.



Postcards from Mayfield dated in August 1910, left, and November 1910.

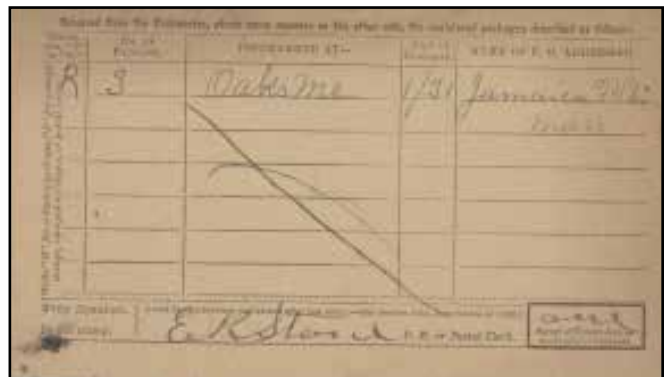


Registered Package Receipts from Oaks, Maine ——— *Continued from page 1*

what is shown in the modern *DeLorme Maine Atlas and Gazetteer*, as Dunkertown, in the southern part of Otisfield, just north of the Casco town line. South Otisfield (1) became what is now Naples, long before South Otisfield (2) was opened.

Why was the new post office called “Oaks” rather than reusing the name South Otisfield? In this pre-Rural Free Delivery time period, there was a tremendous proliferation of small post offices, and in order to minimize confusion, the Department had a policy of preferring short, simple names, and striving to avoid compound names like “South Otisfield” whenever possible.

One of the resources which have been made available online is the Reports of Site Locations, or Site Reports. These were reports submitted to the Topographer’s Office of the Post Office Department, from the middle 1800s, well into the 1900s. They generally included questionnaires asking how far the post office was from the nearest railroad, the nearest river, and similar questions. Maps were frequently included, often locally sketched. These were submitted both by petitioners seeking to open a new post office and by postmasters of existing post offices.



Registered Package Receipt card dated January 31, 1905.

The Site Report for Oaks is found in the Cumberland County microfilm roll, on the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) website at <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/68415085>, frames 416, 417 and 418. There is Site Report for South Otisfield, which comprises frames 572, 573 and 574. Both include almost identical hand drawn maps, both of which identify the proposed location of “South Otisfield” post office, at a location very close to Dunkertown. The Report for South Otisfield gives the proposed name as South Otisfield, and in 1889, the name was granted. The Report for Oaks, however, although it showed the proposed location of “South Otisfield” on the map, appears to have left the “proposed office to be called” line on the questionnaire blank. “Oaks” was filled in, off-center, by handwriting that appears to match that of the Department clerk who sent the questionnaire, and does not match prospective postmaster Jillson’s handwriting.

With a few minor exceptions, the Reports are in alphabetical order, but at the time of this writing, a strange quirk of the NARA website causes the file to open in reverse alphabetical order in the Firefox browser, meaning that the Oaks and South Otisfield reports are at frames 319-317 and 163-161.

It is worth noting that as place names, neither “Oaks” nor “South Otisfield” appear to have survived, but Dunkertown can still be found on maps.

Post Route maps were produced by the Post Office Department for a number of years. They tended to be somewhat schematic, in that their function was to show post offices in relation to routes and other post offices, rather than to pinpoint exact locations. They included postal routes, railroad lines which carried mail, frequency of service, and other details, such as recently closed post offices. Many of them have been posted online, where they are a tremendous resource for the postal historian, but they are not infallible.

Online Post Route maps of Maine can be found through the Maine Philatelic Society (MPS) website at <http://www.mainephilatelic.org/PostRouteMaps.pdf>, or for the whole country through StampSmarter at

<https://stampsarter.org/learning/PostalPortal.html>.

The October 1, 1891 Post Route map (right) correctly shows South Otisfield as being a former post office, identified by a dot with a line through it, off the route, southeast of Otisfield and south of East Otisfield. The 1891 map shows a route starting at Oxford Station on the Grand Trunk Railroad from Portland to Montreal. From the train station, the route heads west and south to Oxford and East Otisfield, then Otisfield and beyond. Distances between points are shown in miles. The route was carried 12 times a week, indicated by the "12 t.a.w." marked near the starting point. The schedule would have been based on the schedule of the Portland & Island Pond Railway Post Office traveling on that line. The December 1, 1903 map (bottom) shows the route having been shortened, ending at Otisfield, with a separate route from East Otisfield heading south to Oaks. The December 1, 1897 map (below) shows pretty much the same thing as the 1903 map, with two glaring errors.



An 1891 map showing the route from Oxford Station.

Especially in this pre-RFD time period, the maps were revised frequently as new post offices opened, and some closed. With the large number of changes being made, mistakes could occur. On this map, not only are the positions of Otisfield and Oaks reversed, but near the top left it shows Otisfield Grove,



December 1, 1897 map with two glaring errors.

which should have been Otisfield Gore. The 1903 map had corrected the positions of Otisfield and Oaks, as well as the name of Otisfield Gore, which was then shown as a triangle, the new symbol for a former post office. These errors show the importance for the postal historian of consulting multiple sources when practicable, and being able to discern possible inaccuracies in the historical record. It would be unwise to take the 1897 map at face value.

The writer thanks Brian Damien for his help, including confirmation that the Site Reports did appear in reverse order, and the writer wasn't necessarily losing his mind.



December 1, 1903 map shows shortened route.

MAIPEX coming on October 14!

With the arrival of fall, it's time for the annual MAIPEX stamp show, sponsored by the Waterville Stamp Club.

October 15, 2022

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

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

Dealer Tables, Huge Silent-Live Auction!

The Post Offices of Maine on sale at the MPS table.

Contact Al Tieman, cantdog1@gmail.com

How to determine if you ARE truly a stamp collector

- You save junk mail for the stamps (if there are any).
- You know the present-day monarchs of 12 countries.
- You hate it when people misuse the word “tete-beche.”
- On bad days, you mumble about the slabbing threat.
- Your postmaster calls you for advice when there’s a need for stamps.
- You’re the only one around who recognizes the name Czeslaw Slania.
- You’re embarrassed by your country’s latest stamps.
- You look down your nose at coin collectors.
- You know the correct terms for 29 shades of pink.

Does this describe YOU?

Québec City Old Paper Show set for October

After great success in its first edition, which welcomed nearly 500 visitors over two days, the second edition of the Québec City Old Paper Show will take place October 28-29 at the Patro Roc-Amadour in Québec City.

Included will be the first national “Up to 2 Pages” exhibition. Details (prospectus, new judging grid, registration form and details) will be available online on the show’s website, but also can be requested by contacting Grégoire Teyssier at gteyssier@videotron.ca.

As usual, about 20 dealers of postal history, postcards, postage stamps, old papers and books, coming from throughout the province, but also from Ontario and the Maritimes will be present as well as two days of conferences and presence of La Société d’histoire postale du Québec, la Société philatélique de Québec, le Club des cartophiles Québécois.

ADDENDA and ERRATA: *The Post Offices of Maine*

Corrected entries in the book should be as follows.

- **Bancroft** (1) established May 28, 1855, not May 22.
- **Bathurst**, first entry, “Current County” column should be Aroostook.
- **Orient**, first entry, “Current County” column should be Aroostook.
- **South Thomaston** is in South Thomaston, not Thomaston, and has been since 1848. South Thomaston was in fact in Thomaston until 1848.
- **Turner** (1) established Oct. 3, 1800, not Jan. 1, 1800. This date comes from Stets, and is believed to be accurate. The Jan. 1, 1800 date was a repeat of Hazelton’s date, which appears to be a typo for Jan. 1, 1801, which was the date of the first postmaster’s first financial returns to Washington, which in turn means he was probably appointed during the previous quarter.

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 the Secretary at Kelvin01027@gmail.com or 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.

The last post office to be opened before Maine became a state

By Larry Huff

In the last issue of *The Maine Philatelist* (Vol. 42, No. 2), Jim Husson asked in his “Question & Answer” column if anyone could identify the last post office to be opened before Maine became a state on March 15, 1820. While the short answer is Newburgh in Penobscot County, it is interesting how many name changes the town underwent, and how it is still evolving.

While it is not unusual for a town or settlement’s name to evolve over time, the postal service has recognized no less than seven changes over the years (see chart below). According to *The Post Offices of Maine - 2022*, the Newburgh (with an “h” at the end) Post Office was established on January 8, 1820 (thus becoming the last post office established before Maine became a state). The first postmaster was Rufus Gilmore. The name was changed to “Newburg” (without an “h”) in 1894 after the U.S. Board on Geographic Names issued a report recommending post office names drop possessive apostrophes, and other changes. This meant “burgh” would become “burg” and “centre” would become “center” and two-word names would become one word. “Newburg” lasted until August 31, 1905. From that time, mail was delivered via Hampden Highlands and then Hampden.

“Newburgh” remains a problematic name. The town reverted to using the Newburgh with an “h.” However, until recently, the fire department did not. Therefore, the building does not have the “h,” but their newest fire truck does have the “h.”



*Imperforate three-cent Washington, deep orange-brown
Type 1 on cover addressed to “Newburgh” Maine.*

Thanks to Jim Husson for assistance in research for this article.

NAME	OPENED	CLOSED	NOTE
Newburg	1894	1905	Spelling changed from “Newburgh”
Newburg Center	1894	1905	Spelling changed from “Newburgh Center”
Newburg Village	1894	1905	Spelling changed from “Newburgh Village”
Newburgh	1820	1894	Spelling changed to “Newburg”
Newburgh Center	1893	1894	Spelling changed from “Newburgh Centre” to “Center”
Newburgh Centre	1853	1893	Spelling changed to “Newburgh Center”
Newburgh Village	1876	1894	Spelling changed to “Newburg Village”

From the President ...

In the April issue, I mentioned we would have two 16 page issues and two 12 page issues per year for the foreseeable future, but I failed to mention which issues would be in which format. I am inclined to use the following format: January, 12 pages; April, 16 pages; July, 16 pages; October, 12 pages.

Of course, that is not etched in the proverbial concrete, and might change, especially if we need more pages for a longer article. That also means the next issue will be only 12 pages unless there is a last-minute change. As we increase membership, and thus have more income, I hope we can make all issues 16 pages.

Recently I had an email from Elmer Harmon in Dennysville about an organization which donates stamps to veterans interested in philately. He said it would be a nice gesture to mention it in *The Maine Philatelist*, and I agree.

The organization is the Arie Foundation, P.O. Box 64, Old Bethpage, NY 11208-0064. All donations are tax deductible. Additional information is available by email at: ariefound@aol.com. The website indicates they provide free stamps to patients in veterans VA hospitals and children in hospitals. And thanks to Elmer for the information!

Everett Parker

Brunswick club sets July event

The Brunswick Coin and Stamp Club will hold a coin and stamp show on July 9, 2023 at the Topsham Fairgrounds from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Topsham Fairgrounds is located off Elm Street (Route 24B).

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 July 2003 issue of *The Maine Philatelist*, MaryAnn Bowman introduced some ideas on how to revitalize philately during summer months. The focus was on how stamps can be a summer diversion from the more serious philatelic activity normally undertaken at other times of the year, while at the same time providing direct insight into how we can attract young people to philately.

Also, Vince McDermott of Brunswick provided a primer on perfins and their use in Maine. He noted that most collectors have encountered perfins and some ignore them and some hate them, but some passionately collect them! The article included several examples of perfins on cover, including from Portland in 1911, 1929 and 1933. At that time (2003), listed Maine perfins included Auburn, Augusta, Bangor, Boothbay Harbor and Portland.

In his quarterly postal history feature "Maine Cover of the Quarter," Rob Washburn of Skowhegan showed a Blackwell, Maine cancel on cover.

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 perhaps a rather simple one, or maybe not so simple. Which Maine county does not have and never did have a post office with a name that starts with the letter "A"?

The answer to the question we posed last quarter, what post office in Maine was the last one established before Maine became a state is Newburgh, and a more thorough discussion about how that came to be is found on page 11 of this issue in an article by Larry Huff.

Have a question you would like answered? Send me an email!

What does your stamp room or den look like?

Bernie Vinzani of Whiting sent this image of his stamp den. He noted, "This shows the stamp desk in my home office and my shelf unit of albums. The digital microscope and light table allow me to photograph watermarks on stamps which is a major collecting interest. The library card catalog drawers house envelopes of stamps, many of which I give to young folks who have interest. The drawers were purchased from the University of Maine at Machias after the library went digital. So what does your stamp room or den look like? Send a high resolution pdf or tiff image and let others know. Email to: everettparker1245@gmail.com.



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, Lookout, 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: 656 different U.S. precanceled stamps. Will trade or for sale at Scott catalogue prices. Phone or write for list. Sorry, no computer or smartphone, just landline -- (207) 989-1061. Donald Drewry, 473 S. Main St., Brewer, ME 04412-2428 (4-25)

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)

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.

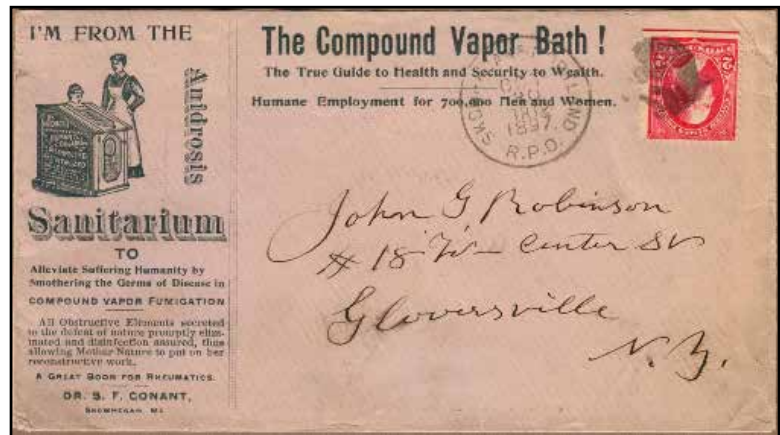
Donald Savage
dsavage7@maine.rr.com
Collects worldwide to 1959, U.S. to date.

Maine Cover of the Quarter

A postal history feature by Rob Washburn of Skowhegan.

The illustrated cover (front and back) is from the Anidrosis Sanitarium in Skowhegan, Maine. The Anidrosis treatment advertised was a procedure where a patient is placed in a box with head exposed and the special vapors cured your ailments. It would definitely be considered a quack medicine cure today.

(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" and
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!

Secretary's Report

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

As of the last report, we had 105 members; now we have 110. The gain of five is made up of two new members, one previously resigned member having changed their mind, one late renewal, and along with the free *American Philatelist* subscription given to Bangor Public Library, we have donated a subscription to *The Maine Philatelist*.

We welcome Dave Kremelberg of Monroe and Betty Perry of Scarborough to the group.

If you would like to receive important notifications from MPS, but don't necessarily want to share your email address publicly, please let the Secretary know. He certainly finds email addresses very useful at dues renewal reminder time, but he will NOT use them for spam.

The Bangor Stamp Club is now active, meeting in Hermon on the last Friday of each month. Contact Dave Kremelberg at dkremelberg@protonmail.com for more information. Go to a stamp club meeting, share something from your collection in *The Maine Philatelist*, tell us about what you collect, and why you collect it. As always, the Secretary welcomes comments!

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

To: