

# *The Post Offices of Maine: the Database*

*Updated through February 2024*

This database is a project of the Maine Philatelic Society, [www.mainephilatelic.org](http://www.mainephilatelic.org). It is based on the book, *The Post Offices of Maine 2022*, which was published by Moosehead Communications in 2022 and is now out-of-print. This database will be updated and maintained by the editing team of that book.

***The editors are grateful to all those who encouraged and contributed to this effort.***

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Post offices at Glenmere (above) and Waite (below). The Glenmere sign shows that the post office was in the town of Saint George. The Waite post office changed from an independent post office to a rural station of Danforth in 1967, and without a date for the photo, it is unknown whether this is the independent office or the rural station. As the switch was administrative, it would not necessarily be reflected on the sign or the postmark.



# Introduction

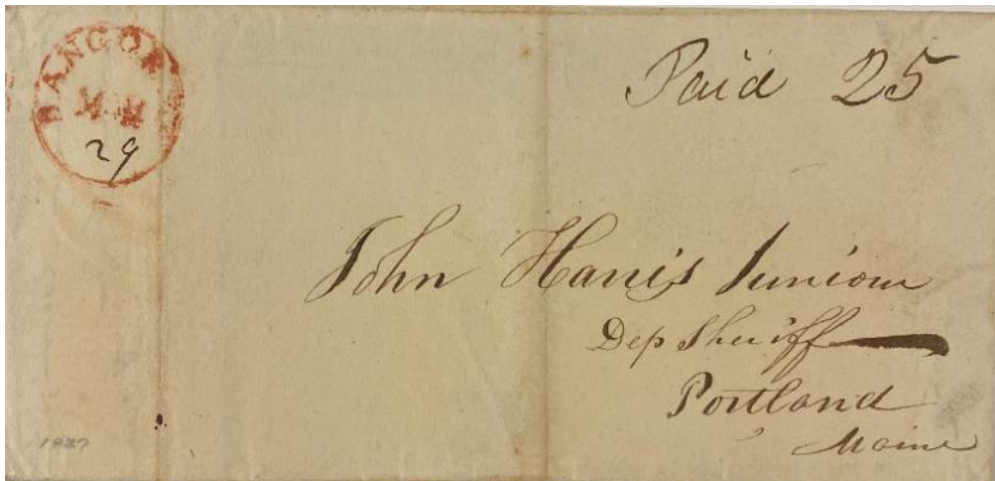
## The history of this database and its predecessors

This database is the source of the tables that appear in *The Post Offices of Maine -- 2022*, which is the revised and enlarged version of *The Post Offices of Maine*, initially edited by Bruce Hazelton and published by the Maine Philatelic Society in 1995. Sometimes known by collectors as “The Maine Rarity Guide”—reflecting its original subtitle—the 1995 edition has been out of print for many years, and the printed edition of the 2022 book sold out recently.

An early version of the post office listings at the heart of this book first appeared over eighty years ago. In 1943, *Maine Postal History and Postmarks*, by Sterling T. Dow, was published by Severn-Wylie-Jewett of Portland, publishers of the stamp newspaper *Mekeel's Weekly*. It was the very first state postal history book, and neither the author nor the publisher knew how it would be received. It is now recognized as a classic. Part of the book is a listing of Maine post offices, which, as Dow points out in his Foreword, was the work of George Davis Chase. Chase, Dean of Graduate Studies at the University of Maine, visited the U. S. Post Office Department in Washington, was given access to official records, and compiled notes from which he created the list that first appeared in Dow's book.

The Dow book, including Chase's list, was the basis for the 1995 edition of *The Post Offices of Maine: A Rarity Guide*. The editing team for the 1995 edition was headed by Bruce Hazelton, with research by Richard Bedford. Scarcity ratings were done by Hazelton, Elwyn J. Doubleday, Jr., and Raymond Woodman.

In August 2020, a group of interested collectors of Maine postal history material gathered to update the 1995 edition of *The Post Offices of Maine*. Over the course of numerous versions, many Zoom meetings and countless hours of research, the group corrected typos and other errors, added missing dates, determined the locations of many post offices, identified changes to county boundaries, and added more than two hundred additional post offices, stations and branches not previously included. They uncovered information that was not available to the previous authors and added source citations for most changes. Every effort was made to make *The Post Offices of Maine -- 2022* as complete and accurate as possible, but some errors did creep in, and things have continued to change. Covers have been found from several offices not previously known to have survived. This database is maintained by the 2022 editing team, taking in to account all addenda and errata to the 2022 book, which are also published in *TMP* and elsewhere on [mainephilatelic.org](http://mainephilatelic.org).



Above: an example of a folded letter with an enclosure. This cover has an early use of a circular date stamp (CDS) from Bangor, and a manuscript Paid 25 (double the single sheet rate). It is dated March 29, 1827.

Below: letter datelined Houlton Plantation, Maine 06/11/1821 -- double cross border to Topsham, State of Maine. The letter was carried to Fredericton, New Brunswick, most likely through Woodstock. At Fredericton, the Paid 9 (pence) was the postage to Robbinston, Me. There the Canadian postage was crossed out, and 18 ½ cents was charged, to be paid by the recipient at Topsham.



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## Format

*The Post Offices of Maine* database is presented here as two different downloadable pdf files, ready for printing. [Table One](#) is sorted by post office, with each name listed alphabetically and then chronologically by the established date. [Table Two](#) is sorted by county, then by town, and then by the established date. Both tables include opening and closing dates, the name of the town where the office is or was located, the names of both the current and the historical counties, a scarcity rating (S/R), and in some cases notes of additional details.

There may be multiple entries for a post office in situations where the post office has changed counties or where a post office has closed and later been re-established.

Several post offices in the 1995 edition have been moved to Appendix B in this edition. Research has not uncovered any records to support their existence.

**Changes, additions, corrections, etc.**, to the 1995 edition have been documented. For example, the entry for the Bald Mountain discontinuation date 30-Apr-1966 was corrected to 30-Apr-1968 using information obtained from the *Postal Bulletin 20529*. This is shown as (PB 20529). References to the *Postal Guide* would be shown as (PG 1954).

The database provided online currently includes addenda and errata (corrections) reported through the end of February 2024. It is our intent to provide updates on an ongoing basis. We strongly urge anyone with additional information or corrections to contact us so that we can incorporate and share that information. A current version of the Addenda and Errata document is available [here](#) for those who wish to note corrections in their printed books.

## What is included and what is not:

This book lists all post offices known to have operated in the State of Maine, with their county and town location, along with the dates that each post office operated, as best as can be determined from available records. A scarcity rating (S/R) has been assigned to indicate how common or scarce a postmark from a given post office could be. Also included are those post offices for which a postmaster was appointed, but the post office never actually opened. These were listed in Postmaster Appointment records and sometimes in the *Postal Bulletin*. Some offices were carried on the books for a period of time before being rescinded without ever opening. In the 1995 edition, there were post offices whose locations were unknown, including some of those that never opened. These were shown with the post office name repeated as the town name, despite there being no such town. All but three of these unknowns have now been located.

### Types of Post Offices included are:

- Named Post Offices
- Named stations and branches
- Named rural stations and branches, which are called now Community Post Offices (CPO)
- Named and numbered contract stations and branches
- Named and numbered Money Order Units (MOU)
- Carrier annexes
- Mail processing annexes and plants
- Military post offices located in Maine
- A few unofficial post offices



**"BANGOR, ME. POST OFFICE SO. BREWER BRANCH"**

South Brewer was a branch of Bangor from 1926 to 1960. Photo probably 1950s.



**Included in the appendices are:**

Notes of clarification

Entries deleted, with explanation, from the main listing of the 1995 edition.

Post offices located outside Maine, administratively attached to Maine post offices.

Military post offices located outside Maine, administratively attached to Maine post offices.

“Stations” that were not stations but were accounting mechanisms at some post offices.

**Not Included are:**

Military postal system offices not affiliated with the USPOD/USPS

Railway Post Offices (RPO), Rail Road Route Agent Postmarks (AGT), Terminal RPOs (Term), Transfer Offices (TO), Transfer Clerks (TC), and Highway Post Offices (HPO), all operated by the Railway Mail Service or its successor the Postal Transportation Service

Steamboat markings

Rural Free Delivery (RFD) cancels

Private Express Mail

Temporary special stations, such as stamp shows and pictorial cancels

Carrier operations located in adjacent post offices

Non-personnel box units with no staff and no retail operations

Village Post Offices, a new category of contract outlet with such limited services that, despite the name, cannot be considered post offices by any standard definition

## What is in the listings:

### Names

Post office names were often spelled differently in different records, and we have tried to note as many of these changes as possible. Spellings sometimes shifted over time without any specifically authorized change. There were no official policies on spelling before the 1890s.

That changed when the U.S. Board on Geographic Names issued a report on January 5, 1892. The report recommended, among other things, dropping possessive apostrophes, shortening “burgh” to “burg,” shortening “borough” to “boro,” changing “centre” to “center,” and combining two-word names into single-word names. These changes were implemented inconsistently, all over the country, between 1892 and 1895, often with no specific date recorded. For those post offices whose spelling was changed, this edition provides a separate entry for each name and assigns a scarcity rating for each entry.

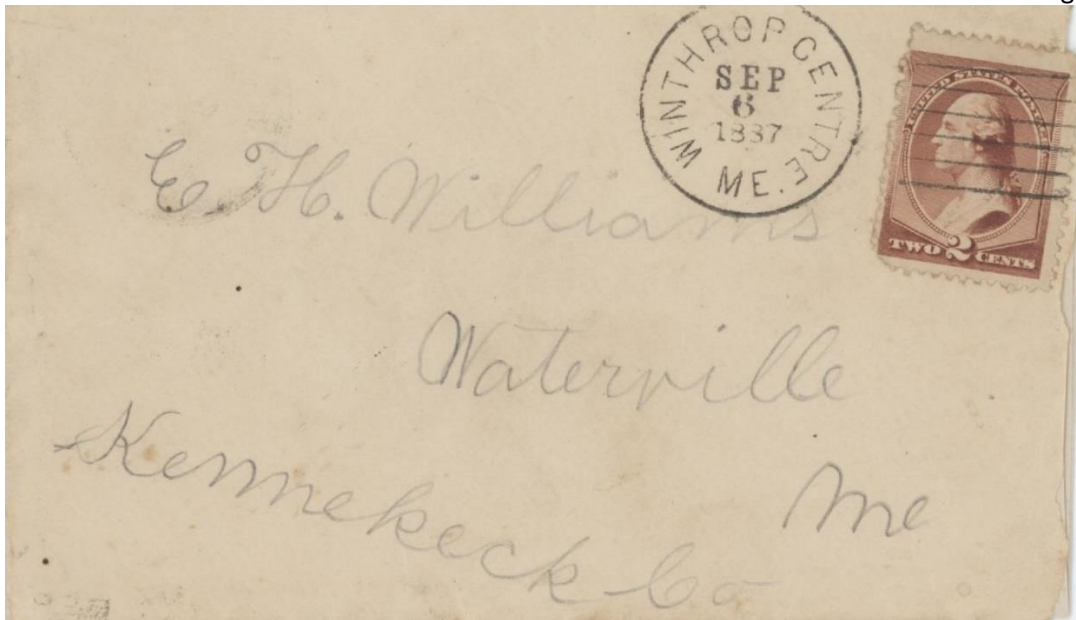
It should be noted that it was, and still is, not unusual for postmarks to show an inaccurate spelling of a post office name or otherwise inaccurate rendition of that name, particularly for stations and branches. For example, one might see a postmark misspelled Carribou with two r’s, or a town missing an apostrophe before the official change. This guide has endeavored to identify such postmarks in the Notes column as “has been seen.”

Postmarks of branches, rural stations/rural branches, and CPOs often do not show the parent office name. For example, cancels from South Portland Branch Portland usually say only “South Portland,” and Christmas Cove continued to use its “Christmas Cove” canceller after it became Christmas Cove RS South Bristol. These are not inaccurate and are not noted. A postmark need not show the full name to be from a branch but only be from the proper time period.

**All Capital letters** are the norm for most printed cancellations. This book capitalizes only the first letter of each word in the post office name. For example, A CDS might have NORTHPORT CAMP GROUND which will be seen as Northport Camp Ground in this edition.

**Sometimes the numbers; (1) and (2) appear after the name of a post office.**

These numbers indicate the (first) and (second) *localities* of post offices of the same name. If the same post office name is used for two separate post offices in two respective villages at different times, they will be identified in this manner. These numbers do not indicate time periods.

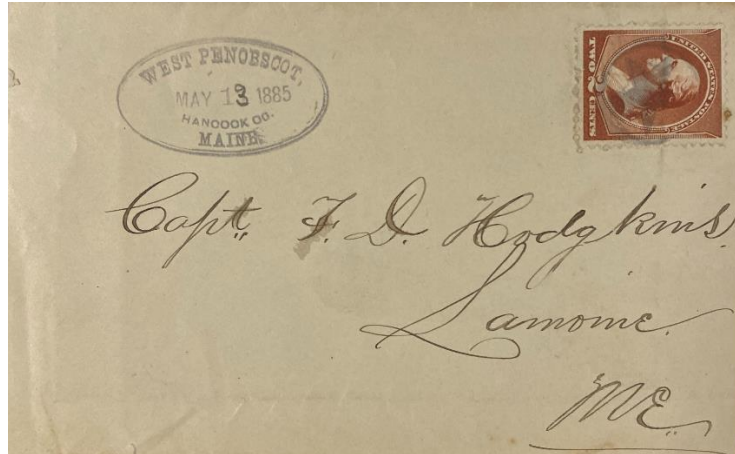


These covers are an example of a spelling change, Winthrop Centre (above) to Winthrop Center (below), brought about by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names around 1893. The cover below also shows an excellent example of one of the first types of standardized duplex handstamps.



## Towns and Counties

In this work, “town” refers to the minor civil division (city, town, plantation, or unorganized township). Towns have defined boundaries. Villages are settlements within towns, which generally do not have specific boundaries, and sometimes straddle town lines.



**The West Penobscot Post Office was located in the village of West Penobscot, part of the town of Penobscot. The oval shape and mention of the county are unusual features. Fancy star killer.**

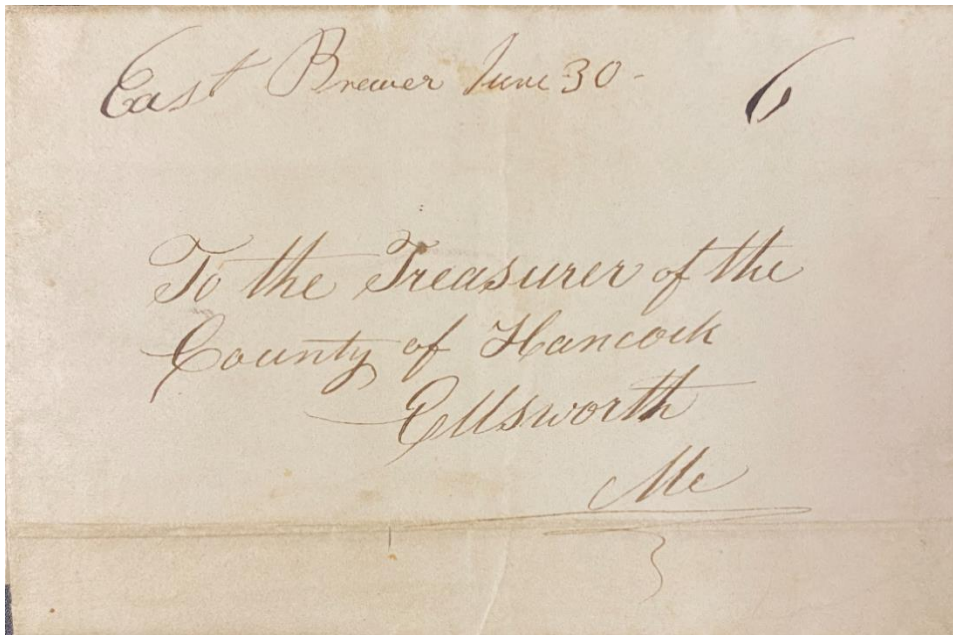
In the town column, we show the name of the current town in which the office was (or is) located. Over the years, there have been hundreds of changes in municipal boundaries in Maine, and it is not unusual for a post office location to have been in more than one town over the years.

Our goal has been to enable postal history collectors and researchers to determine not only the current town where a post office was located, but also to find all the post offices that have operated in a given town.

Post Office	Town (current name)	S/R	Historic County	Current County	Opened	Closed
Farmington	Farmington	10	Lin	Fra	24-Aug-1797	Cc: 01-Apr1799
Farmington	Farmington	8	Ken	Fra	Cc: 01-Apr-1799	Cc: 09-May1838
Farmington	Farmington	0	Fra	Fra	Cc: 09-May-1838	Operating

**An example of how a county change is listed in this edition**

Many post offices have been in two, or even three, different counties over time as new counties were formed, and boundaries changed. Each post office will have an entry for each county it was in, with columns for both the historical and current counties.



Looking for the whereabouts of East Brewer presents an excellent example of the challenges encountered in assigning a historic post office location to a town. The area surrounding the East Brewer post office seceded from Brewer in 1852 to become the newly created Town of Holden. (Brewer, only forty years earlier, had been carved out of the Town of Orrington.) This post office has gone through a succession of seven different names, culminating in the current name Holden, having changed its name from East Holden in 1995.

This example is a manuscript postmark stampless folded letter (SFL) from East Brewer (Maine) on June 30 (1845.) The Post Office Department did not provide postmarking devices to small post offices at this time, so many postmasters simply hand-wrote the post office name, date, and the rate charged for the letter. It was common to omit both the state and the year, but like many letters, this one can be dated by the sender's dateline inside. June 30, 1845, was the last day of this postage rate, which was 6 cents for a single sheet of paper for up to 30 miles. East Brewer was within 30 miles of Ellsworth. The following day, postage would drop to 5 cents for up to 300 miles. As with most letters at the time, this letter was sent collect. The United States did not issue postage stamps until 1847.

In the cases of three post offices, we have been less than certain about their locations. In all three cases, the postmaster appointment was rescinded, and the office never opened, so there should be no postmarks or covers from these offices. Belden, in Penobscot County, has been narrowed down to two likely towns. Lake, in Piscataquis County, has several possibilities. Stanton, in Somerset County, is more elusive and uncertain. For those who wish to pursue these mysteries, details are provided in Appendix A. We welcome more definitive information readers may be able to offer on the location of any of these.

## Dates

Determining a post office's opening or closing date can on occasion be a bit problematic, sometimes leaving more to the postal historian's interpretation than one might expect.

The date of appointment of the first postmaster is generally taken to be the date of establishment of a post office, but the news of that appointment may have taken time to reach Maine, and the post office may not have been open to the public on that date.

In early Postal Bulletins, the dates shown were often the date of the order to establish, meaning the office may not have opened immediately. In later Postal Bulletins, the orders for both openings and closings would often specify a subsequent date on which the order would take effect. In situations where the effective date differs from the date of the first postmaster's appointment, the effective date is generally considered more accurate.

Sometimes with a name change or a change of status from a post office to a rural station, the Postal Bulletin listed both the last day of the old name and the first day of the new name as being the same day, and we have generally presented them as listed. In fact, however, the first day of the new name would probably have been the following business day. This means that the last day of the old name may have been a Saturday, and the first day of the new name the following Monday. In modern times, the reported closing date of an office might be a Saturday, with the actual last day of business occurring the previous day, a Friday.

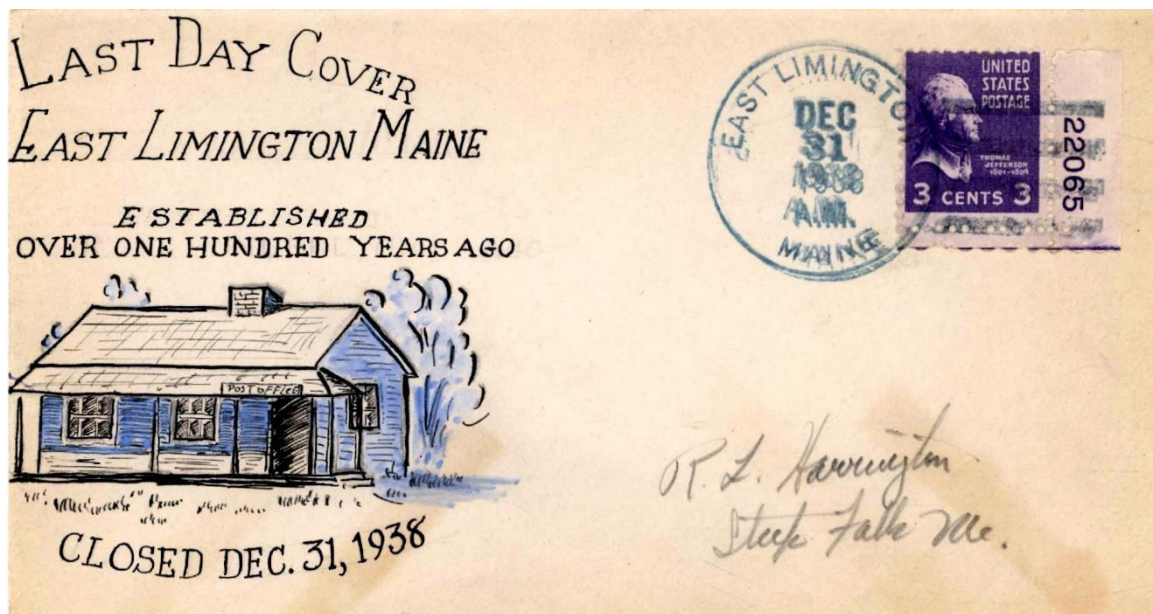
Sometimes changes to summer post offices were recorded during the winter when the office was not open at all.

Occasionally "favor cancels" were made after an office closed. Such favor cancels do not reflect an actual later date of operation than official records indicate but rather a favor to a collector by someone with access to the postmarking device.

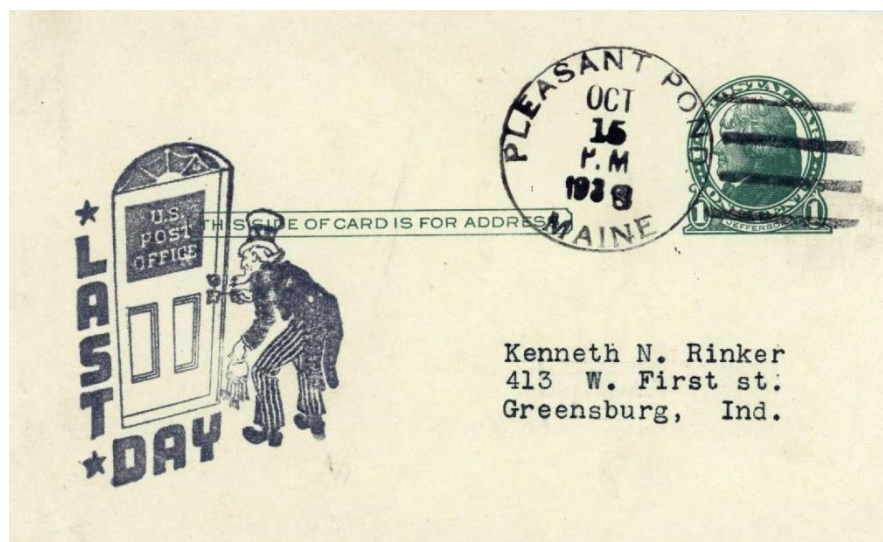
Furthermore, under the U. S. Postal Service, the term "discontinued" has changed. The discontinued date used to be the last date a place was open, but now "discontinued" means officially removed from the books, which can happen long after a post office locks its doors for the last time. The actual closing date is now the date a post office is "suspended." See "Disc." and "Susp." in the "Abbreviations and Terms" section below.

Under the Post Office Department, the discontinued date was always recorded.

Beginning in 1986, when Postmaster Finder became the official place to record Postmaster appointments, the discontinued date was always recorded there, usually with the suspended date. In 2011, USPS began to implement what was called POSTPlan, a program under which the position of Postmaster was abolished from most smaller post offices. Most small post offices are now run by other employees who are supervised by a Postmaster from a nearby post office. See "PO" in the "Abbreviations and Terms" section below. Without Postmasters to record, these post offices are no longer on Postmaster Finder, which had been the only public location where suspended dates had been recorded. Now it is necessary to get these dates individually from local or regional postal officials. The opening and closing dates of stations and branches have generally not been publicly reported since the Postal Bulletin ceased being accurate during the 1980s.



East Limington Last Day Cover from the last day the East Limington post office was open. In those days, post office closings were generally announced ahead of time, and collectors would often prepare covers to get the last day to cancel, sometimes with a cachet such as this one. Also common were simpler and generic cachets, like the one below. These days, post offices are often closed with little or no notice, even to the local patrons, such that Last Day Covers of modern closings are pretty unusual. See "Disc." and "Susp." in [Abbreviations, Acronyms and Terms on pp. 22-27](#).



## Scarcity Ratings (S/R)

This database is a scarcity guide, not a price guide. These ratings represent the relative scarcity of *all covers from a given post office, considered as a group*.

The ratings range from S/R-0 for operating post offices, from which there are a theoretically infinite number of postmarks available, up to S/R-9, meaning extremely few are known to exist; S/R-10, meaning none is known to exist; and S/R-11 for post offices that never opened, from which no postmark should exist.

An S/R-0 is certain because if a post office is operating, that fact is known. Likewise, the basis for an S/R-11 rating can be determined from the available documentary record.

The ratings are based on the collective knowledge of the editors, who have hundreds of years of collecting experience among them. If a post office is rated S/R-10, none of the editors have ever seen a cover from it, but that does not guarantee that none exists. It is expected that at least one or two covers from offices presently rated as ten will be found in the coming years, instantly changing those ratings from S/R-10 to S/R-9. At least a half dozen post offices rated S/R-10 in the 1995 book are now known. If a stash of correspondence from a currently unknown office suddenly appears on the market, an S/R-10 could drop not just to an S/R-9 but to an S/R-8. This has not happened with any of those discovered since 1995, but that doesn't mean it can't.

A specific maximum number of known postmarks has not been designated for each rating. That is, while an S/R-9 means that at least one example exists, and possibly two or three, it has not been decided that three known means an office is rated S/R-8 rather than S/R-9 or whether it takes four or five examples to make an S/R-8.

These ratings are merely a guide to the relative scarcity of examples known.

**2022 Scarcity Rating Values:** The scarcity rating values which follow are even more subjective than the scarcity ratings. The rating values are intended as an initial guide for estimating the value of a cover.

The original scarcity rating values were the work of the authors of the 1995 edition and have been modified by the editors of this edition, considering inflation and new information obtained since the previous edition. There are far too many variables to say that these are the prices one should pay for a specific cover of a particular rating. Still, these numbers give some guidance to the possible relative value of one rating compared to another.

<u>Rating:</u>	<u>2022 Scarcity Rating Values:</u>
0 = Currently operating	Nominal
1 = Common	\$2
2 to 8 = Increasingly rare	\$3, \$5, \$10, \$15, \$25, \$50, \$100
9 = Scarce	\$200+
10 = No known postmarks If found, would become an S/R-9	
11 = No postmark believed possible; office never opened according to POD records	



We strongly encourage anyone who finds an S/R-10 to contact us at [postalhistorymaine@gmail.com](mailto:postalhistorymaine@gmail.com).

One should keep in mind these values apply only to the more common items from a given office. Any place can have more valuable items. For example, there are a great many Bangor covers worth no more than the nominal figure given for a post office with an S/R-0. But a stampless folded letter (SFL), with a manuscript postmark from Bangor dated 1803, written by a prominent person, or a cover postmarked Bangor bearing any of the scarce early postage stamps, could sell for hundreds of dollars.

Thus, these values are offered only as a starting point to help estimate the value of a cover. Condition, age, usage, demand, and many other aspects affect value.

## Numbered Units

Although most post offices have had names, there have been stations, branches, and money order units identified only by number. Maine's first subordinate units, in the late 19th century, were designated as "sub-stations" and were identified only by number. In 1902, these would become stations. Although the Post Office Department began in 1908 to distinguish between stations, located *within* the city of the main post office -- and branches, located *beyond* city limits -- that separation wasn't applied to numbered units until 1962. In recent times, the U. S. Postal Service has become much more careless about these distinctions than the Post Office Department ever was and referred to all contract operations as Contract Postal Units, or CPUs. Numbered units peaked in Maine during the 1920s and 1930s, at about 45 total, with only one or two operating today. All numbered stations in Maine were contract stations. Most were in neighborhood markets or drug stores; some were at other businesses or college campuses.

The *Postal Bulletin* stopped reporting the address of numbered stations in the late 1930s. Much of the location information recorded comes from city directories.

Numbered units were listed in the *Postal Guides and the Directories of Post Offices* only until 1964. The *Postal Bulletin* stopped listing changes to numbered stations at the same time. The collector community did not obtain a national listing of numbered stations until 1981. It wasn't until the early 1990s that the Post Mark Collectors Club started a serious effort to keep track of numbered stations. As a result, information on these units between 1964 and 1981 is minimal, leaving a few opening and closing dates as vague as "1964//1981," meaning sometime between those two years.

Portland (Sta. 7), Maine. 55456  
(SERIAL NUMBER)

COUPON

ISSUING OFFICE  
STAMP HERE

Portland, Maine (Sta. 7) No. 7

August 25 1964

Eight — DOLLARS 11 CENTS  
WRITE WORDS FOR DOLLARS FIGURES FOR CENTS

PAY TO: Mrs. A. L. Lewis

REMITTER: Mrs. C. E. Hewitt

COUPON SHOULD BE DETACHED HERE BY PAYING POSTMASTER

THIS COUPON SHOULD BE RETAINED AT PAYING OFFICE

An example is a postmark of a numbered station – Portland, Maine Sta. 7. The form is a money order coupon, the receipt retained by the post office that paid out the money order. The M.O.B. (Money Order Business) DCDS (double circle date stamp) was used on money orders and money order forms.



**Auburn Sta. No. 2. Believed to be from the 1920s, at Rounds & Sands Restaurant, 210 Court Street. Rounds & Sands also did catering and sold confectioneries, fruit, ice cream, soda, cigars, and tobacco. Most likely, the store and the post office were on this side of the building, and the main restaurant was on the other side of the "coal office" door, which would have been 214 Court St. The coal office is believed to be that of J. N. Wood Co., dealers in wood and coal, with an office upstairs at 212 Court Street. The seven people probably were R. A. Rounds, Clerk-in-Charge of Sta. No. 2, F. D. Sands, and their restaurant, store, and postal station staff.**

Numbered stations opened and closed much more frequently than regular stations. Numbers that continued in the same neighborhood or under more than one designation are shown here as one entry. If a No. 1 stayed in the same South Portland neighborhood from 1900 through 1963, it would be shown as Sub-Sta./Sta./Br. No. 1.

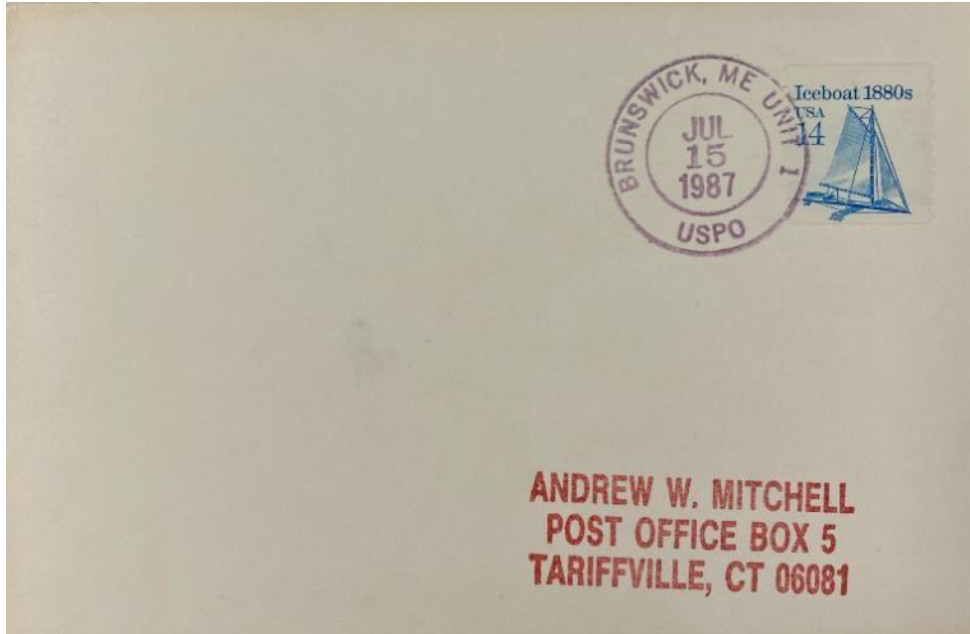
A Station No. 1 might close at one store but reopen two months later in a neighboring store. Or the next Station No. 1 might open on the far side of town, and a Station No. 2 might open across the street from the former Station No. 1. When known, the store name and address have been recorded in the Notes column. When a station moved from one store to another on the same street, two or more street numbers may be shown, in chronological order. There may or may not have been brief gaps of time between locations when there was no station.

Because of the complex histories of numbered stations, most subsequent openings of a given number have not been designated as reestablishments, even if the same number had been used before. Nor has any effort to identify numbered stations as (1), (2), or higher numbers, as is generally done with named post offices. As much detail as could be found has been recorded here but is still incomplete. Even so, this book makes a more thorough accounting of numbered units than almost any other state post office book.

Numbered units rarely canceled outgoing mail. Their postmarks are most likely to be found as philatelic favors, on registered covers, receipts, or internal forms. They have also never been as avidly collected as named units, contributing to their being generally much scarcer than named units. However, the lack of interest among many collectors means that despite sometimes having high

scarcity ratings, covers from numbered units will typically be bought and sold for much lower prices than those from named units with identical scarcity ratings.

**Money Order Units, or MOUs**, were only found on military bases. Although initially intended to sell money orders for service members to send their pay home, they have always provided a full range of services. Postmark wording commonly identifies them as “Unit 1.”



An example of a Money Order Unit from Naval Air Station MOU Brunswick.



Post Offices at Van Buren (above) and South Gardiner (below).



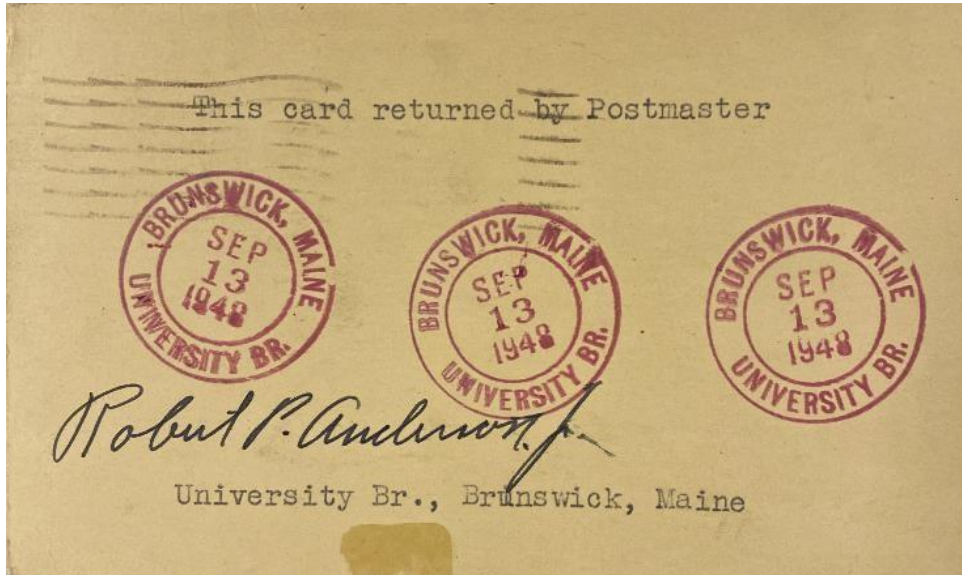
## Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Terms:

Abbreviations include many borrowed from the USPOD/USPS Postal Guides and Directories of Post Offices.

**Ax:** Annex, or Carrier Annex; these are facilities that carriers work from but have no retail window.

**B:** Contract branch; operated by a private entity, under contract with the Post Office Department or U. S. Postal Service.

**Br:** Branch; a subordinate unit, whether contract or classified; since May 1908, specifically one located beyond city limits of the parent post office.



An example of a postmark showing that the abbreviations **B**, **Bx**, **S**, and **Sx** never appear in postmarks. The abbreviations used are always just **Br.** or **Sta.** Furthermore, the use of the wrong one is not unusual. University was a station, specifically a contract station, not a branch.

**Bx:** Classified (regular) branch; staffed by postal employees.

**Cc:** County change; indicates when by State law, the county changed for that town or city.

**CPO:** Community Post Office; USPS adopted this term in 1973, with its first appearance in Postal Bulletin # 20931, dated 14 June 1973. Use of the term was gradually phased in over the next three or four years, and replaced both **RS** and **RB** without distinction. As some locations could have been **RS**, **RB**, and **CPO** at different times, the terms will be shown as **RS/RB/CPO**, rather than three separate entries.



An example of a 4-bar hand cancel. Cundys Harbor Rur. Sta. Brunswick is an example of a doubly obsolete term. Cundys Harbor became a Rural Station in 1959, but being outside the town of Brunswick, was changed to a Rural Branch in 1966, and subsequently CPO about 1975. As was often the case, the postmarking device was not changed to reflect the updated terms. Most CPOs have used either older devices showing "Rur. Sta." or "Rur. Br." or ones which do not mention the parent post office.

**CPU:** Contract Postal Unit; a term used since the 1980s, encompassing contract branches, contract stations, and CPOs, without distinguishing among them.



An example of a CPU with inaccurate wording. It is .CO B Portland, which happens to be located in the town of Cape Elizabeth.

**Disc:** Discontinued; for many years, this meant closed. In recent years, under the USPS, discontinued means officially removed from the books, even though the office may have been physically shut for several years. See **Susp**. This important distinction has not consistently been recognized in the postal

history community. When both dates are known, the suspension date will be in the “Closed” column with the discontinued date in the “Notes” column.

Often referred to in the hobby as **DPO** or Discontinued Post Office. It should be noted that being a DPO does not necessarily mean an office does not exist anymore, only that it has changed name, spelling, or status, such as from a post office to a station or branch.

Kennebunk Port changed its name to Kennebunkport in 1955, meaning Kennebunk Port, from before 1955, is a DPO, even though it is quite common, and the Kennebunkport post office still operates in the same building that was Kennebunk Port.

There are two entries for Brewer (1), two for Brewer (2), Brewer Sta. Bangor, and Brewer Bx Bangor. All six were the Brewer post office, but all except the second Brewer (2) are DPOs.

**DoPO:** *Directory of Post Offices*; successor to the *Postal Guide*

**EKU:** Earliest Known Use of a postmark

**Est:** Established

**LKU:** Latest Known Use of a postmark

**Local:** Information obtained from local Postmasters or other postal personnel, regional Postal Service administrative offices, local historical societies, historians, or others familiar with the post office.

**MOU:** Money Order Unit, Unit, or U; Mostly located on military bases, although initially intended primarily to issue money orders, they did provide a full range of postal services.

**MPHS:** *Numbered Navy and Marine Corps Post Office Locations*, Volume 3 Revised, published by the Military Postal History Society

**Non-personnel Unit:** Self-service unit providing collection and delivery of ordinary mail and sale of stamps. Special services (sale of money orders, stationary, and acceptance and delivery of certified, insured, registered, and COD mail) are provided by a rural carrier when they service the unit. Carriers are required to remain at the unit for a minimum of 15 minutes each day. Non-personnel units were first established in 1960.

**PB:** *Postal Bulletin*; in this guide, is shown with a specific issue number

**PG:** *United States Official Postal Guide*; annual or biennial books, with monthly supplements, contained, among other things, a listing of post offices and recent changes.

**PmA:** Record of Appointment of Postmasters

**PmF:** Postmaster Finder

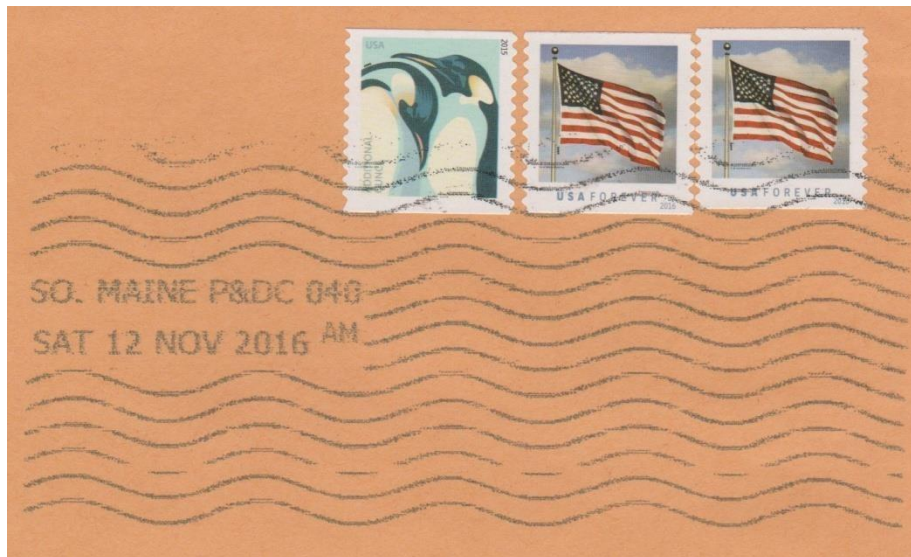
**PO:** Post Office; a post office may provide retail and/or delivery services to the local community. The person in charge was a Postmaster, except that since 2011, many small offices are now *Remotely Managed Post Offices*, which are headed by part-time employees who may or may not hold the title of Postmaster, and are supervised by the Postmaster of a nearby town.

**POD or USPOD:** United States Post Office Department; became USPS on July 1, 1971.

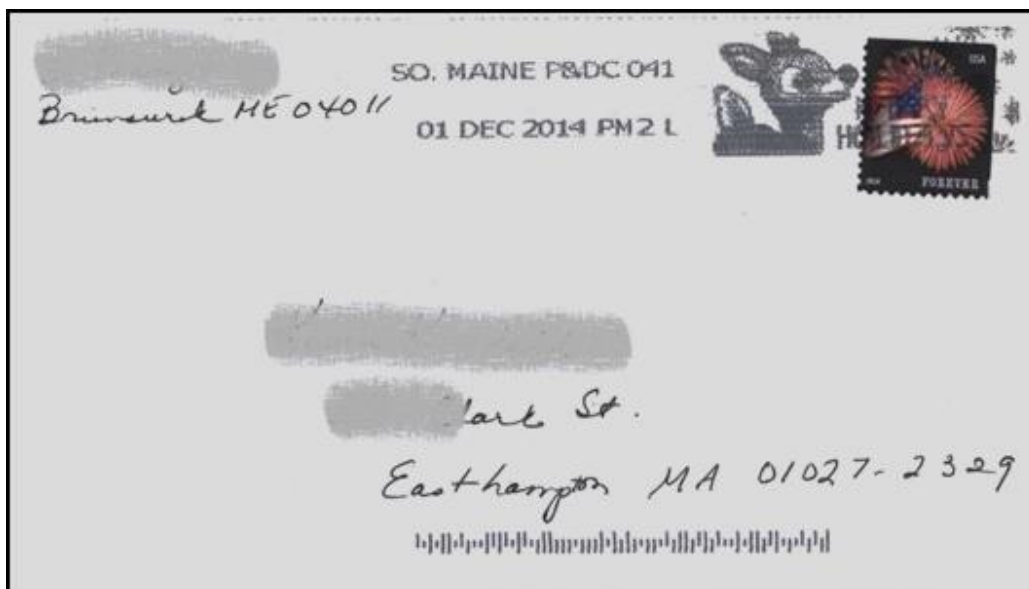


**Private:** Does not mean privately operated; Private or Special was sometimes noted in the Postmaster Appointment records to indicate a new post office that was not on an established post route and had to make its own (private) arrangements to transport the mail to and from an existing post route until the office was shown to generate enough revenue to justify the cost of transporting mail to it.

**P&DC/P&DF:** Processing and Distribution Center/Processing and Distribution Facility; regional mail-handling plant. Currently, the only two in Maine are Eastern Maine P&DF at Hampden and Southern Maine P&DC at Scarborough.



Above: graphically cropped from a large manila envelope, an example of an ink-jet flats cancel, made by a machine which processes large envelopes, used only in P&DCs and P&DFs. One of the very few postmark styles ever to show the day of the week, and in this case one of few P&D cancels to show the time as AM. This was Friday mail cancelled after midnight.



Above: An example of a Processing and Distribution Center regular letter inkjet cancellation.

**RB:** Rural Branch; from 1966 to 1973, the equivalent of a Rural Station, but outside the town limits of the parent office; term gradually replaced by **CPO** between 1973 and 1977.

**Re:** Re-established

**Replaced:** When a new facility replaces a closed office without a simple name change. Includes replacements by a different operation category, such as a contract station taking the place of a closed post office.

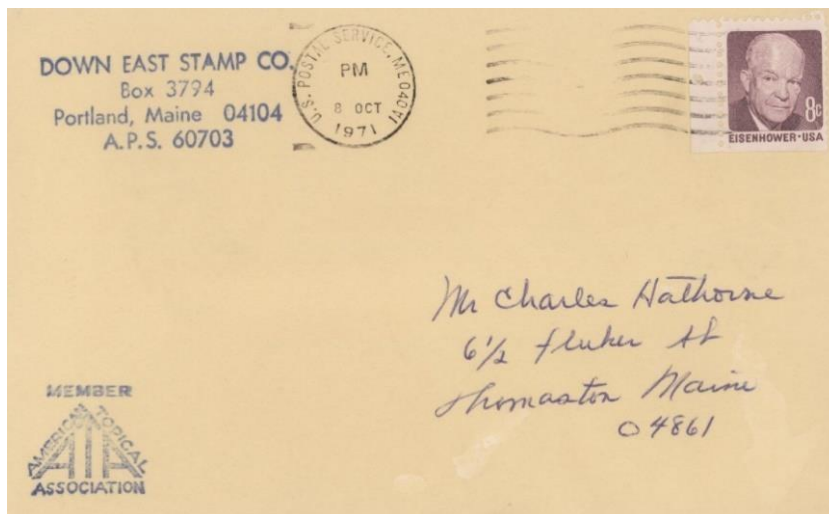
**RS:** Rural Station; from the early 20th century until 1966, a contract-run operation in a rural area, generally taking the place of an office that had closed; from 1966 to 1973, specifically one within the town limits of the parent office; term gradually replaced by **CPO** between 1973 and 1977.

**S:** Contract station; operated by a private entity under contract with the POD or USPS

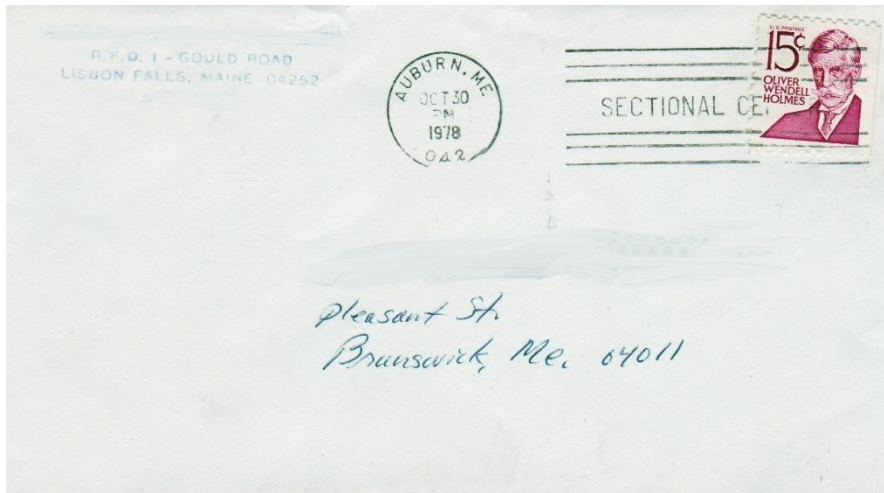
**Sectional Center:** Also called Management Sectional Center, or MSC, an earlier term for **P&DC** or **P&DF**; regional mail-handling facilities. Auburn, Augusta, Bangor, Bath, Ellsworth, Houlton, Portland, Rockland, and Waterville were Sectional Centers when ZIP codes started; Bath and Ellsworth were soon supplanted by Portland and Bangor. These Sectional Centers were all part of, or annexes of, their respective post offices, whereas the two current P&D operations at Hampden and Scarborough are both separate entities. Auburn, Augusta, Bangor, and Portland used "U. S. Postal Service 042" (or 043, 044, and 040, respectively) postmarks for a time in the 1970s and occasionally later.

**Special:** Another term for Private

**Sta:** Station; a subordinate unit, whether contract or classified; since May 1908, specifically one located within city limits of the parent post office



Above is an example of a U. S. Postal Service 040 cancel used by the Portland Sectional Center. Below is a cancellation from the Auburn Sectional Center. Auburn is the only one in Maine, and perhaps in the country, to have sometimes used those words in a cancel.



**Sub-Sta:** Sub-station; a term used from 1890 through 1902, now called contract station (see **S**.)

**Summer:** A seasonal operation; some seasonal offices have changed to year-round, and vice versa.

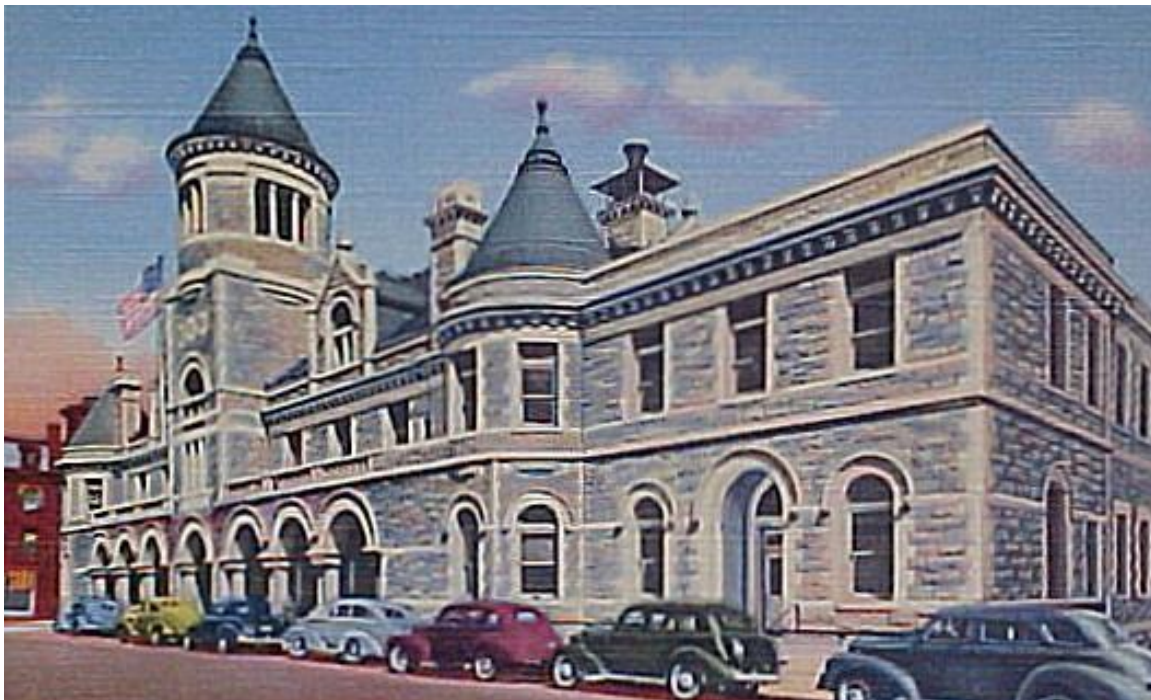
**Susp:** Suspended; since the 1980s, this has been the term meaning “closed”; see **Disc**. When both suspension and discontinuance dates are known, the suspension date will be in the “Closed” column, with the discontinuance date in the “Notes” column.

**Sx:** Classified (regular) station, staffed by postal employee(s)

**USPS:** U. S. Postal Service; was the Post Office Department before 1 July 1971.



Eastport post office building (above), originally constructed as a customs house in 1891, following a major downtown fire. The post office still occupies this building. The Augusta post office and courthouse building (below) opened in 1890. The main post office moved to a modern building in 1966, but Water Street station Augusta has operated in this building since. Both images are from vintage linen postcards.



## APPENDIX A: NOTES

A-1. **Arundel.** No Post Office Department record has been found of an Arundel post office. Charles Bradbury's 1837 *History of Kennebunk Port*, page 151, stated:

“...the road between Saco and Arundel had been shortened during the summer, and the mail and accommodating stages ran alternately through the villages of Arundel and Kennebunk. Previous to this year [1807?] there had been no post office in the town, and the citizens had taken turns in bringing the mail from the Kennebunk post office. By order of the Postmaster-General, a branch of that office was established in Arundel, and John Patten was appointed assistant postmaster, by the postmaster in Kennebunk.” It appears from this that Arundel may have been an unofficial post office.

Contemporary readers should be aware that the place named Arundel has referred to different places over the past three centuries. In the context above, Arundel refers to the area now known as Kennebunkport; it does not refer to the inland town that currently bears the name Arundel.

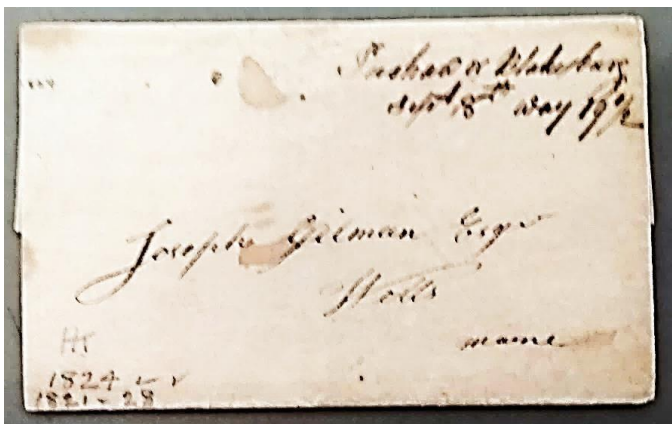
A-2. **Belden.** The postmaster-to-be was Jane McLaughlin (aka Alice J. McLaughlin). Census records from that period show her living in Prentiss in 1880 and Drew in 1910; we have no evidence to establish where she was in 1895. However, it is thought that Drew was more likely because Prentiss was relatively well served at that point, while

Drew had a population dispersed along the road leading south through the town from Wytopotlock. The name Belden might have been chosen to avoid confusion with the entirely separate sawmill settlement called Drew, located near the Kingman town line, on the north side of the Mattawamkeag River, and isolated from the settlement strung out along the road, miles to the east.

If this office was not in Drew, it was very likely in Prentiss. If town records for either town for 1895 become available, that might provide information that would resolve the question.

A-3. **Berry Mills.** Numerous spellings have over the years been used for this village's name: Berry's Mill, 1862 and 1868; Berry's Mills, 1873 and 1883; Berry Mill, 1885 to 1898; Berry's Mills, 1886 to 1898; Berry Mills, 1896 to 1938.

A-4. **Blakesburg, Kirkland, Pushaw.** In P.O.D. records following the name Pushaw is the following: “Chg. to Kirkland by postmaster, alias Blakesburg, 3 July 1828”. The record shows that Luke Wilder was the postmaster at all three offices.



Stampless Folded Letter (SFL) was headed Williamsburg Sep 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1824, postmarked by a manuscript “Pushaw or Blakesburg Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>” and rated “Way 19 ½”. The use of two alternate post office names is highly unusual. “Way” indicated that the letter was handed directly to the post rider on the way to the next post office, which in this case, was Pushaw. The rating of “19½” indicated the postage to be collected from the recipient was 18½ cents for postage of 150 to 400 miles and 1 cent paid to the post rider.

A-5. **Canaan.** The Postmaster Appointment records show that East Canaan changed its name to Canaan (3) on 31 May 1823 and that Canaan (2) changed its name to Milburn on 2 July 1823, implying that there were two separate post offices called Canaan from 31 May to 2 July. Presumably, Canaan (2) actually changed on 31 May, but wasn't recorded until 2 July.

A-6. **Castine, Penobscot.** There is no question that Penobscot (1) changed its name to Castine. The 1995 edition reports Penobscot ending 23 November 1796, but lists Castine as starting 19 September 1796. The note about the two offices simply repeats the note from the Chase-Dow listing, but does not address this discrepancy. The 19 September date is recorded by Stets; the 23 November date apparently comes from Hecht and Hannemann, who say the change was "by" 23 November.

A-7. **East Windham.** East Windham changed its name to Windham Centre on 11 July 1872. The Postmaster Appointment records show Windham Centre closing on 30 August 1872 and Windham changing its name to Windham Centre the same day, as if both East Windham and Windham changed their names to Windham Centre post offices, implying two separate Windham Centre post offices, which was not the case.

A-8. **Factory Village.** A manuscript postmark dated 25 April 1833 using this name has been seen. If it is genuine, it cannot be explained.

A-9. **Falmouth (1).** As with many early offices, the exact date of the Falmouth post office opening is uncertain. What is clear is that regular post rider service from Portsmouth to Falmouth started in 1764, and Thomas Child was serving as Postmaster by early 1764. Hecht and Hannemann report Falmouth opened as early as "1761, assumed," Chase had "1763?" but Dow, in his essay "The Origin of Portland, Maine, Post Office" says "by Dec. 1764." Accounts of when the name changed to Portland also vary.

Chase lists 1786; Dow says July 4, 1786; Stets gives July 5, 1786, while Hecht & Hannemann report Oct. 5, 1789.

A-10. **Fish River.** Covers marked "Fish River Post Office, S. Stevens Way Office Keeper" and "Mr. Amiraux will please chg Postage to PM. Fish River" have been seen. This, like Arundel, was an unofficial office and has not been found in P.O.D. records.



One of the two Fish River covers described above.

A-11. **Georgetown (1).** The provincial congress of Massachusetts Bay Colony appointed the first postmaster at Georgetown (1). This office operated for six months. The General Court of Massachusetts reopened the office in October of 1777, but the office did not function for more than a year.

A-12. **Great Falls.** The records show that Great Falls opened in Maine on 12 December 1825 and moved across the Salmon Falls River into New Hampshire on 18 June 1826, eventually changing its name to Somersworth in 1894. The *American Stampless Cover Catalog* (1997) reports manuscripts from Great Falls, Maine, from 1827, and Great Falls, New Hampshire, from 1826 to 1829. One possibility is that the office started in Maine; moved to New Hampshire on 18 June 1826; moved back to Maine later in 1826 or 1827; and to New Hampshire again sometime in late 1827, 1828, or early 1829. There were no boundary adjustments at this time, so any changes in state location resulted from the post office moving, not the boundary moving.



One of the two known Great Falls Me. Covers (manuscript, upper left)

A-13. **Lake.** The postmaster-to-be for this rescinded office was Fred Davis. The U. S. Census and articles in the Piscataquis Observer from this period showed Davis living or working in Dover and/or Sebec, involved with several business ventures in other towns in the area. Given that the name may have been intended to capitalize on its location and help promote whatever business might have hosted the post office, Foxcroft, with significant lake frontage, is thought to be a possible location of the planned Lake post office. Sebec, Bowerbank, and Willimantic also have Sebec Lake shorelines, and would have to be possible locations.

A-14. **Lewistown/Lewiston.** The 1995 Edition listed Lewiston as opening in 1795, with no closing date; re-opening in 1797, with no closing date; and opening again in 1799. No citations for these dates were shown, but the 1797 date comes from the Hecht and Hannemann listing in Dow and the 1799 date comes from Stets. Early Postmaster Appointment records spelled the name Lewistown, but no postmarks have been found with that spelling.

A-15. **Lisbon (1).** Manuscript postmarks dated 1817, 1819, and 1821 are shorthand usages, as the official name prior to 8 August 1832 was Lisbon Four Corners.

**A-16. Litchfield.** The 1995 edition listed Litchfield (1), changing to Litchfield Corner; Litchfield (2), changing to South Litchfield (2), which was different from South Litchfield (1); and Litchfield (3). It also indicated that Litchfield (1) and Litchfield (2) were both at True's Corner, and that Litchfield (3) was at Bachelder's Corner. Furthermore, it shows Litchfield (3) operating until 11 June 1849, but Litchfield (2) opened three days earlier, on 8 June 1849.

While the locations over time are confusing, it is clear that not all of what was reported was accurate. If Litchfield (1) and Litchfield (2) were both at True's Corner, that would make them the same office. Litchfield (3) is shown as being at Bachelder's Corner, and therefore different, but True's Corner and Bachelder's Corner are the same place. Thus, if the locations given were all correct, all three would be the same Litchfield, not three different ones. The two South Litchfields were at True's and Bachelder's Corners, but since those corners were the same, the two South Litchfields were the same. Furthermore, it would not have been possible for two separate post offices, both named Litchfield, have post offices to have operated simultaneously, even for three days.

True's Corner and Bachelder's Corner were what is now the center of town, at Route 132 and Hallowell Road. It is known that the name Litchfield migrated from the center, two miles north, to the village of Purgatory, at Hallowell and Hardscrabble Roads, and back again, a move not noted in the 1995 edition. It is also known that the South Litchfield post office was located at the center during a period when the Litchfield post office was at Purgatory. Therefore, Litchfield could properly be separated into Litchfield (1) located at the center, Litchfield (2) located at Purgatory, and Litchfield (1) at the center, again.

The name changes of Litchfield to Litchfield Corner and of Litchfield to South Litchfield, as recorded in the 1995 edition, are entirely possible, but no record has been found. The dates of the moves of Litchfield from the center to Purgatory and back also have been determined.

In the absence of verification of those changes, and of dates of moves, Litchfield (1), (2), and (3) are shown as simply Litchfield.

**A-17. Little River Village.** Manuscript postmarks dated 1818, 1819, and 1820 using the name Little River are shorthand usages, as the official name from 14 December 1818 to 20 February 1865 was Little River Village.

**A-18. Marine Barracks Navy Yard, Naval Prison, and Navy Yard.** Postmarks are known from the 1920s, prior to the recorded openings of Marine Barracks Navy Yard, Naval Prison, and Navy Yard stations. These may have been military-operated post offices, rather than P.O.D. operated, post offices, as described in Appendix D. Of the three Naval Prison offices, very few postmarks showing the proper names have been seen; the most common device, used at all three, was a steel duplex with the wording "Navy Yard Bldg. 95 / Portsmouth, N. H." Another DCDS (double circle date stamp) with the wording "Portsmouth, N. H. / Navy Yard Sta. Bldg. 93" is also known from the Naval Prison B period. Buildings 93 and 95 were both parts of the Naval Prison.





An example of Navy Yard Bldg. 95, used by Naval Prison B Portsmouth, N. H.

A-19. **Moluncus.** Numerous spellings have been used for this post office. Manuscript cancels are known as follows: Moluncas, 1844, 1845, 1846; Moluncus, 1840, 1842, 1845; Molunkus, 1837, 1838, 1844, 1845.

A-20. **Mount Vernon (1).** Mount Vernon Village was shown in the previous edition as having operated from 8 February 1849 to 17 February 1849, having changed its name from Mount Vernon (1) and changed to South Mount Vernon, because that is what was recorded in the Postmaster Appointment records. That is now recognized as having been in error. Mount Vernon (1) changed its name to South Mount Vernon on 8 February 1849, but was incorrectly recorded as changing to Mount Vernon Village. The error was corrected on 17 February 1849 by recording an additional name change to South Mount Vernon, rather than crossing out the earlier mistake. The change from Mount Vernon to Mount Vernon Village never occurred.

A-21. **New Casco, Falmouth (2).** New Casco (1) was established on 17 July 1799 and changed its name to Falmouth (2) the following year. Falmouth (2) is recorded as having subsequently reopened in 1822 and 1835, however the dates of closing prior to 1822 and 1835 are uncertain, and for lack of better information, the dates shown in the 1995 edition are repeated here. Some sources indicate the first closure as 1804 or 1805, but the *American Stampless Cover Catalog* (1997) reports manuscript markings from 1810 to 1816. After reopening in 1822, there was a second closure in 1823 or 1824. Falmouth reopened in 1835, lasting until it and Falmouth Foreside were replaced by RFD from Portland in 1901. The location of the Falmouth contract branch, which opened in 1962, has not been determined, but it was probably in the same Route 1 commercial strip that the current contract branch is, located in between the former Falmouth and the former Falmouth Foreside.

A-22. **Number Six.** This listing was Number Six (1) in the 1995 edition; the former Number Six (2) has been transferred to the "Removed" section at the end. This is believed never to have existed, and is believed to have been an erroneous identification of Barnard.

A-23. **Pepperrellborough.** There is no P.O.D. record of a post office named Pepperrellborough, although manuscripts marked "Pepp" have been seen with dates of 1802 and 1805; it became Saco in 1805. Letters prior to 1800 addressed to Pepperrellborough have been seen.

A-24. **Pownalborough, Wiscasset.** According to James W. North's 1870 *History of Augusta*, page 255, the Pownalborough post office could have been established in 1788, but the date of change of name to Wiscasset is unknown. In the *American State Papers*, Wiscasset is named as making returns for three months beginning 5 October 1789.

A-25. **Rosicrucian.** Postmarks of Rosicrucian Springs dated from 1882 to 1888 have been seen, but there is no P.O.D. record of a post office by that name. The 1995 edition noted that the only postmarks seen were "Rosicrucian Springs," which was never the official name of the post office. A "Rosicrusian" with the 'cian' part misspelled as 'sian' is now known.

A-26. **Sandy.** An unofficial post office service connected to logging and construction operations operated in the Big and Little Sandy Creek areas near Lake Moxie in Somerset County. It is surmised that this service was for the benefit of workers in the area and shuttled mail to the Somerset Railway. The postmark is an undated straight line in red and all capital letters. This service is thought to have existed roughly between May 1907 and February 1908. Nearby official post offices were established at Deadwater (1906), Lake Moxie (1907), and Mosquito (1908), thus satisfying the mail needs of this remote region.



An example of a postcard that may have originated from an unofficial post office at Sandy

A-27. **Sebec.** Sebec, suspended 25 July 1989, changed to CPO, per Postmaster Finder. Known to have been CPO Brownville, the only other record found shows Sebec Village CPO Brownville disc 30 November 2006. No further record of "Sebec Village" is known. Local reports from the 2006-2007 period indicate that Sebec CPO had been attached to Dover-Foxcroft, rather than Brownville, in its first several years.

A-28. **South Molunkus.** Manuscript postmarks are known as South Moluncus – 1868 to 1870; South Molunkas – 1845 to 1868.

A-29. **Stanton.** The postmaster-to-be for this rescinded office in Somerset County was Charles L. Jackson. Census records from the period show Jackson as residing in Bingham. However, an inquiry to the Old Canada Road Historical Society, the local historical society for the region, turned up no information on any place called Stanton. Stanton is not a common family name in Somerset County. It has been speculated that Stanton could have been a temporary railroad location, like Landers. Still, no reference has been found in Robert M. Lindsell's 2000 *The Rail Lines of Northern New England*, Walter MacDougall's 2000 *The Old Somerset Railroad* or the digitized reports of the Maine Railroad Commissioners. It might have been a temporary location on the Canadian Pacific line that runs through the northern part of Somerset County. Robert Brewster Stanton was a significant figure in devising a route for the CPR in the Canadian west.

**APPENDIX B: LISTINGS FROM THE 1995 EDITION****NOT INCLUDED IN THE 2022 EDITION**

Davidsville; believed listed in error; no record found.

Dickey's Mills; believed to have been a local name. No record has been found of a post office having operated by that name.

Dresden Camp Ground, in the town of Richmond; no record has been found, may have been confused with Richmond Camp Ground.

Drew (1); no record has been found of a Drew post office operating from 1873 through 1874. The location at Prentiss Twp (T7 R3 NBPP) is suspect.

East Fairfield; 6 November 1838 to 1838, special office, listed in error; should have been East Pittsfield.

Friendship (1); believed listed in error; no evidence of a Friendship post office in the 1800-1819 timeframe.

Haines; listed in error, a misreading of the old-style handwriting of Kineo. (see picture on p. 277 in Sources)

Hersey; (2) listed in error; Hersey RS Pembroke replaced West Pembroke, not a nonexistent Hersey.

Hersey RS Pembroke; 1 November 1967 (PB 20615) to 31 July 1967 (PB 20886) was a non-personnel unit, not an actual post office. Replaced West Pembroke; name changed to Pennamaquan RS Pembroke.

Hill Plantation, 28 March 1903 to 22 February 1907; although the town of Winterville Plantation did change its name to Hill Plantation during this period, no evidence found that the post office changed its name.

Magalloway; no evidence was found of a post office by this name.

North Orrington; reestablished: 1908-1909, no evidence was found of a post office during this time.

North Wayne RS East Winthrop; formerly North Wayne RS Fayette, no evidence of North Wayne changing parent office from Fayette to East Winthrop.

Number Six (2); listed in error, believed to have been Barnard.

Pennamaquan RS Pembroke; 1 November 1967 (PB 20615) to 31 July 1972 (PB 20886) was a non-personnel unit, not an actual post office. The name was changed from Hersey RS Pembroke.

Pond Cove B Portland; this branch never existed; Pond Cove was an alternate name for Cape Elizabeth B Portland, which did use a "Pond Cove, C. E. 04107 Contract Station" postmark.

Readville; probably never existed. It is believed that Readfield (1), Readville, and Readfield (2) were all Readfield.

Robbinston; did not close and reopen in 1860. Reported closing and reopening were a mechanism to demote from Presidential status.

Rumford (3); did not close on 31 August 1912 and reopen on 22 March 1916; it operated continuously.

South Chatham RB Fryeburg; was in New Hampshire See [Appendix C](#).

South Medway; believed listed in error; no record found of a South Medway post office.

Unity College S Unity; 16 October 1968 (PB 20675) to 31 December 1971 (PB 20855), although reported in the Postal Bulletin, this rural station never actually opened, according to the college librarian who had been there since the school's founding, and who was a collector herself.

## APPENDIX C: POST OFFICES OUTSIDE MAINE

Post offices located outside Maine, which were administratively attached to Maine post offices

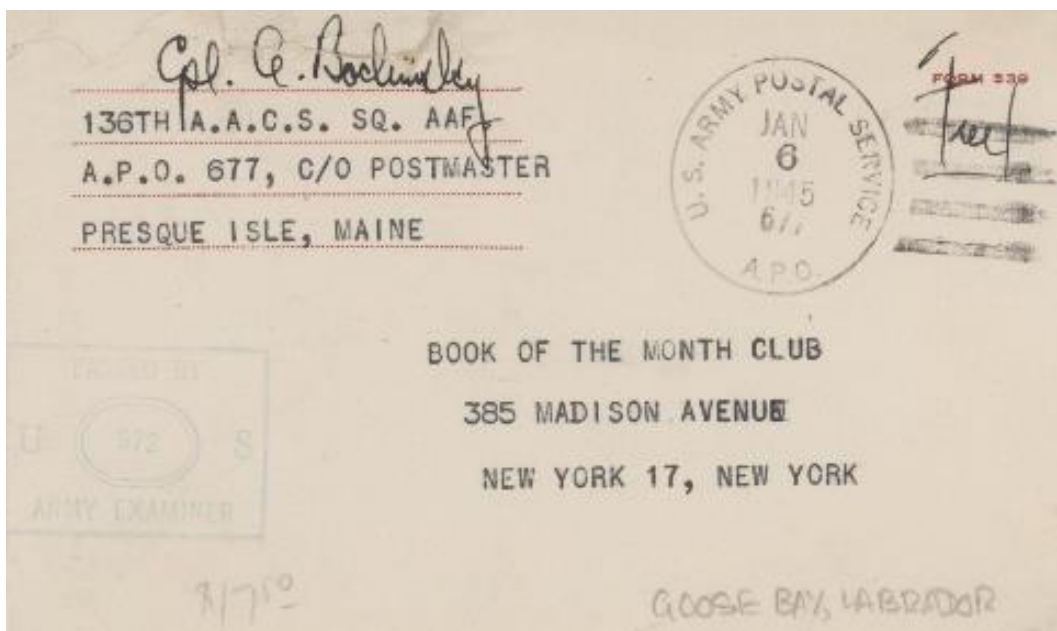
South Chatham RS/RB Fryeburg; was a summer office in Chatham, Carroll County, New Hampshire, from 15 June 1964 (PB 20398) to 30 June 1972 (PB 20898); it replaced the former South Chatham post office. The postmark did not indicate that it was in New Hampshire.

## APPENDIX D: MILITARY POST OFFICES

Presque Isle is the only post office in New England to have had Army Post Offices administratively attached to it.

APO 440 branch Presque Isle, 1 March 1944 (PB 18689) to 31 August 1945 (PB 18854); reopened as a branch of New York, NY 1 September 1945 (PB 18866); located at Longue Pointe-de-Mingan, Quebec

APO 677 branch Presque Isle, 8 August 1942 (PB 18478) to 31 August 1945 (PB 18854); reopened as a branch of New York, NY 1 September 1945 (PB 18866); located at Goose Bay, Labrador



An example of APO 677 branch Presque Isle, the APO number beneath the year

APO 691 branch Presque Isle, 1 March 1944 (PB 18689) to 31 August 1945 (PB 18854); reopened as a branch of New York, NY 1 September 1945 (PB 18866); located at Fort Chimo, now Kuujjuaq, Quebec

APO 692 branch Presque Isle, 1 March 1944 (PB 18689) to 31 August 1945 (PB 18854); reopened as a branch of New York, NY 1 September 1945 (PB 18866); located at Frobisher Bay, Northwest Territories, now Iqaluit, Nunavut Territory

There were several Navy-numbered offices assigned to Naval Construction Battalions, which were administratively branches of New York, which traveled with the Seabees all over the world, including brief periods at Camp Lee-Stephenson, the Naval Construction Training Center at Quoddy Village, and one which spent a brief time at Naval Air Station Brunswick.

Navy 10419 operated from 1 June 1944 to 1 March 1946; was at Quoddy from 1 June 1944 to June 1944

Navy 10446 operated from 1 June 1944 to 30 September 1944; it was only at Quoddy

Navy 10702 operated from 4 October 1943 to 31 October 1945; was at Quoddy from 16 November 1943 to 30 March 1944

Navy 10759 operated from 30 September 1943 to 30 November 1945; was at Quoddy from 30 September 1943 to 16 December 1943

Navy 17013 operated from 8 August 1949 through at least 1989; was at Brunswick NAS from January 1954 to March 1954

The Department of Defense also operates its own internal postal system, unconnected to the U. S. Postal Service. The system has been active for many years. It has had at least two, and probably more, “post offices” at Maine bases. These offices don’t necessarily use any kind of postmark.

One currently exists at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, in the same building as the USPS post office. It has used an “OMC Portsmouth / NH 03804” of the exact same style as many current USPS postmarks. OMC stands for Official Mail Center, “official mail” being official military business. Postmarks are known from three of the Portsmouth Navy Yard post offices from before the recorded openings of those offices. They may have been from this internal postal system.

Another is known to have operated next door to the USPS post office at Brunswick Naval Air Station. Postmarks are unknown.

## **APPENDIX E: “STATIONS” WHICH WERE NOT STATIONS**

These were “stations” (or branches) that were not physical locations, but were accounting mechanisms listed as stations. Some Navy numbered branches were accounting numbers at other Navy numbered units. All of these were branches of New York, regardless of location. C. O. D. stations were part of the money order accounting system at some larger post offices. All C. O. D. stations in the country were closed in 1951 when the POD switched to a new money order system. Postmarks of all these stations are quite scarce.

Before the days of personal checking accounts and credit cards, C. O. D., or Cash on Delivery, was a very common system for customers to pay for mail order packages. The merchant would send the package; the customer would pay cash to the post office (or the rural carrier) for both the postage and a money order to the seller for the purchased item. The post office would then send the money order back to the seller.

Navy 13989 B New York, NY, 15 August 1944 (PB 18744) to 3 October 1945 (MPHS); this was the accounting number for money order business at Navy 10267 B Portsmouth, NH, at the Naval Hospital at Portsmouth Navy Yard, in Kittery

C. O. D. station Auburn, 16 May 1943 (PB 18592) to 1 July 1951 (PB 19527)

C. O. D. station Augusta, 1 May 1923 (PB 13145) to 1 July 1951 (PB 19527)

C. O. D. station Bangor, 1 September 1938 (PB 17504) to 1 July 1951 (PB 19527)

C. O. D. station Bath, 16 May 1943 (PB 18592) to 1 July 1951 (PB 19527)

C. O. D. station Belfast, 16 October 1950 (PB 19375) to 1 July 1951 (PB 19527)

C. O. D. station Biddeford, 01 May 1946 (PB 18923) to 1 July 1951 (PB 19527)

C. O. D. station Brunswick, 01 June 1943 (PB 18598) to 1 July 1951 (PB 19527)

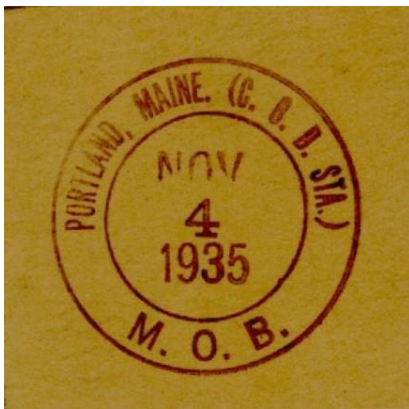
C. O. D. station Caribou, 01 June 1950 (PB 19339) to 1 July 1951 (PB 19527)

C. O. D. station Ellsworth, 1 June 1950 (19339) to 1 July 1951 (PB 19527)

C. O. D. station Farmington, 1 August 1949 (PB 19255) to 1 July 1951 (PB 19527)

C. O. D. station Gardiner, 1945//1947 (PG) to 1 July 1951 (PB 19527)

C. O. D. station Lewiston, 16 April 1943 (PB 18573) to 1 July 1951 (PB 19527)



**An example of a C.O.D. station. Portland M. O. B., a philatelic use of a M.O.B. (Money Order Business) DCDS (double-circle date stamp) which was usually only used on money orders and money order forms**

C. O. D. station Portland, 15 October 1934 (PB 16529) to 1 July 1951 (PB 19527)

C. O. D. station Rockland, 16 May 1943 (PB 18592) to 1 July 1951 (PB 19527)

C. O. D. station Sanford, 16 January 1944 (PB 18683) to 1 July 1951 (PB 19527)

C. O. D. station Skowhegan, 16 September 1946 (PB 18954) to 1 July 1951 (PB 19527)

C. O. D. station Waterville, 16 September 1946 (PB 18954) to 1 July 1951 (PB 19527)



Above: an example of an early (1873) double circle date stamp (DCDS) and separate circle grid killers.

Below: An example of a Type 2 Doane cancel, specifically a Type 2/2. The 2 in the killer bars indicate that the Waltham postmaster's pay for the year prior to the device being issued was (more than \$100) up to \$200. Doanes are named for the collector and researcher Edith R. Doane.





Above: An example of a Transit marking, indicating the card transited through the Augusta post office on its way from its origin to its destination. "Transit" was used at some larger regular post offices and had an entirely different meaning than "Transfer," which was used only in the Railway Mail Service.

Below: Portland CDS with Negative 12 killer, 1870s. Portland used a variety of different negative letters and numbers.





## Research Resources on Maine Postal History

### The Basic Sources

Dow, Sterling T., *Maine Postal History and Postmarks*. [book] This was the original state post office book. Includes post office listing compiled by University of Maine Prof. George Davis Chase, who traveled to Washington and transcribed Post Office Department records for Maine. Originally published 1943 by SevernWylie-Jewett; reproduced by Quarterman Publications, 1976. The 1976 reprint added several new articles including the two which follow. The 1943 edition of the book has been archived online by HathiTrust.org: <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.b4512618>



Prof. Chase

Dow, Sterling T., “The Origin of the Portland, Maine, Post Office” published as an addition to the 1976 reprint of *Maine Postal History and Postmarks*.

Hecht, Arthur and Paul Hannemann, “The Postoffices of the District of Maine” (1957) published as an addition to the 1976 reprint of *Maine Postal History and Postmarks*.

Maine Philatelic Society, *The Post Offices of Maine: A Rarity Guide*, edited by Bruce Hazelton. [book] 1995. This was the modern update to the Dow/Chase post office listing. Addenda and errata appeared in *The Maine Philatelist*, [periodical] Jan., Apr., Jul., and Oct. 1996, Apr., Jul., and Oct. 1997, Jan., Apr., Jul., Oct. 1998, and Jan. and Apr. 1998.

Lynds, Max, **Maxlynds.com**. [website] Includes Bruce Hazelton’s Maine post office worksheets, based on Sterling Dow’s work illustrating postmarks from the 1800s, and information on cross-border mail. <http://maxlynds.com/wp/postal-history/>

### Primary Sources: U. S. Post Office Department and U. S. Postal Service

U. S. Post Office Department and private publishers, *Table of Post Offices of the United States and other titles*. Listings of post offices, published between 1803 and 1873.

U. S. Post Office Department, *U. S. Official Postal Guide*. [official printed documents, archived on a private website]. Contains postal regulations and lists of post offices, published annually or biannually, with monthly supplements, 1874 to 1954.

Links to digital versions of both publications above can be found on StampSmarter, a website with many other good resources. [https://stampsmarter.org/learning/Home\\_USPOD.html](https://stampsmarter.org/learning/Home_USPOD.html)

U. S. Post Office Department/U. S. Postal Service, *Directory of Post Offices*, published annually from 1955 through 1980, supplanted by *National ZIP Code & Post Office Directory*, and subsequently *National Five-Digit ZIP Code & Post Office Directory*. After the switch to being

a ZIP code and post office directory, the accuracy of the post office information diminished significantly over the years. Publishing of hardcopy Directories ceased in the early 2000s.

U. S. Post Office Department, **Records of the Post Office Department, 1773-1971**, at the National Archives, <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/357> . This is a series of ledgers with many notes on post office openings, closings, and name changes. The **Record of Appointment of Postmasters** is in three parts: handwritten ledgers, microfilmed, and digitized. Getting to the specific record sought can be challenging; some helpful background information for searching the postmaster appointments is on in the **Finding Aid for U. S. Postmaster Appointment Records, 1789-Present**, available at <http://www.mainephilatelic.org/pma-findingaid.pdf>

**Record of First Returns Received from Postmasters, 1789–1818** is a valuable substitute for the appointment records from before 1814, which were destroyed in a fire in 1836.

**Record of Appointment of Postmasters, 1814–1832** is often hard to read. It is organized by post office name rather than by state.

**Record of Appointment of Postmasters, 1832-1971** is organized by state and county and is much easier to use. However, it is more difficult to find the county desired.



This illustration from the Record of Appointments of Postmasters for Piscataquis County reveals one of the problems with interpreting handwritten records. This entry for Kineo has been incorrectly transcribed by some as Haines or Hines, leading to the erroneous entry for Haines as a post office in the 1995 edition.

U. S. Post Office Department, **Site Location Reports of Post Offices, 1837–1950**.

[official handwritten, typed, or printed documents, archived on the website] The Site Location Reports were forms filled out as part of establishing post offices or after offices were operating, giving information about their location relative to other offices and other features. At the National Archives: <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/608210>

U. S. Post Office Department and private publishers, **Post Route Maps**, various years found on StampSmarter.com [website] <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1g4EGYDoiZR9EMR-he2W35LgX5iokrSmt/view>. Post Route Maps of Maine that are available for unrestricted download are detailed in **Post Route Maps of the State of Maine 1796 – 1942**, available at <http://www.mainephilatelic.org/PostRouteMaps.pdf>.

U. S. Post Office Department/U. S. Postal Service. **Postal Bulletin**, published daily, weekly, or bi-weekly, under slightly different names, from 1880 to today, containing, among many other things, notices of post office changes. [official printed documents archived on website] <http://www.uspostalbulletins.com/Home.aspx>

U. S. Postal Service, **Postmaster Finder**. [website] <https://about.usps.com/who-weare/postmasterfinder/welcome.htm>. This has been the official place for recording postmaster appointments since 1986.

## Secondary Sources

Carter, Russ, *Numbered Navy & Marine Corps Post Office Locations, Volume 3*. [book or CD-ROM] Military Postal History Society, seventh edition.  
<http://www.militaryphs.org/publications.html>

Maine Philatelic Society, <http://www.mainephilatelic.org> [website] Includes data and text drawn from the book, *The Post Offices of Maine 2022*, with frequent database updates. The mainephilatelic.org site also now incorporates web pages on the postal history of more than 400 individual Maine cities and towns. These pages, which are being revised and enlarged, include basic data on openings and closings, and may include postmaster appointments and images of covers, postmarks, and post offices. These city and town pages were originally developed by the V. F. Thomas Co. and published as the Maine Postal History website.

Phillips, David G., *American Stampless Cover Catalog: The Standard Reference Catalog of American Postal History*. [book] D. G. Phillips Pub. Co. Vol. 1, 5<sup>th</sup> edition, © 1997. The U. S. Philatelic Classics Society now owns the copyright and is in the process of updating the catalog, with the working copy online at <https://d2jf3tgwe889fp.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/ASCC-Maine.pdf>

Post Mark Collectors Club, *PMCC Directory of Post Offices – Maine*, edited by Kelvin Kindahl. Editions 1 to 8, 1995 to 2022. [printed list] <http://www.postmarks.org/directory/>

Stets, Robert J., *Postmasters and Post Offices of the United States, 1782– 1811*. [book] La Posta Publications, 1994. This book is an excellent compilation, primarily based on hundreds of pages of handwritten records from the *Letter Books of the Postmaster General* and other sources.

## Contacts in the Postal History Collecting Community

American Philatelic Society <https://www.stamps.org>

Maine Philatelic Society <http://www.mainephilatelic.org> email contact: Dr. Everett Parker, [everettparker1245@gmail.com](mailto:everettparker1245@gmail.com) Publishes *The Maine Philatelist*, which regularly includes articles on the post offices and postal history of Maine.

Post Mark Collectors Club <http://www.postmarks.org> New England Chapter, which publishes *New England Postmark Newsletter*. Email contact: Kelvin Kindahl, [kelvino1027@gmail.com](mailto:kelvino1027@gmail.com)

United States Philatelic Classics Society <https://www.uspcs.org>

Waterville Stamp Club <https://www.thewatervillestampclub.com> Hosts MAIPEX (in the fall) and MUDPEX (in the spring), the two major shows in Maine dedicated just to stamps and postal history. Large table/live auction.

Information about contacts, meetings, and events of stamp clubs in Maine is at the Maine Philatelic Society website, <http://www.mainephilatelic.org/upcoming>.

### Illustrations

The images in this document are all from sources in the public domain; or from covers, postcards, or photographs in the collections of the editors, with the following two exceptions:

The photograph of Prof. George Davis Chase on page 41 is from the Digital Commons of the University of Maine: [https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/univ\\_photos/1006/](https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/univ_photos/1006/)

The photograph on page 42 of a manuscript ledger entry from the Record of Appointments of Postmasters is a screenshot from the website of the National Archives of the United States: <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/78746909>, frame 7.

### Back cover illustrations:

Back cover, top, Abbot, Me June 12 (letter datelined 1850 inside) stampless folded letter (SFL), rated 5 cents postage, to be collected from the recipient. Sending mail collect was standard at the time. Had it been prepaid, it would have been marked "Paid 5." Five cents was the rate for up to 1/2 ounce going not more than 300 miles, from July 1, 1845 to June 30, 1851.

Back cover, bottom, Zircon, ME to North Attleboro, Mass. Apr. 5, 1901. Received North Attleboro, apparently held for 1¢ postage due. Zircon was a small community in the southern part of Rumford, near the Zircon Water Bottling Company, Zircon Brook, and Mount Zircon.

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## Maine Post Offices from A TO Z

