Bancroft Postal History
Aroostook County, Maine

Last update for this page: 29 January 2024
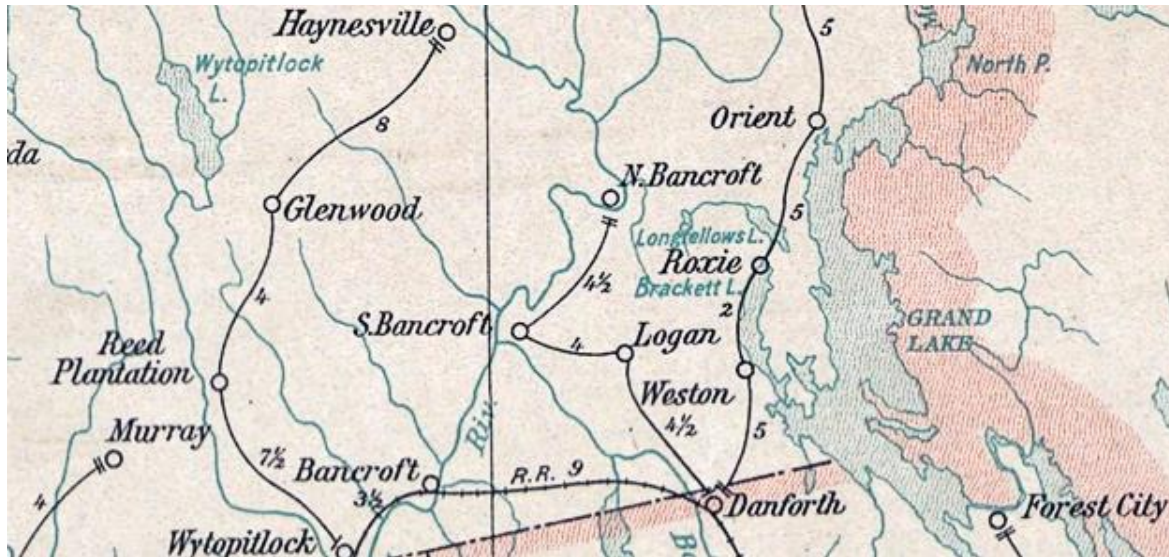
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http://www.mainephilatelic.org

Bancroft was incorporated on 5 February 1889 as a town from Bancroft Plantation, formed from the unorganized township of Baskenhegan *Gore*, T1 R2.

During the history of Bancroft, there have been five post offices.

Briefly, the history of these five is as follows:

1. **Bancroft (1)** Post Office opened on 22 May 1855 and was renamed on 26 April 1895 as **North Bancroft** Post Office, which closed on 30 April 1957*. (What does it mean when there is a (1) or (2) after the name of a post office? See the explanation near the end of this document.)*

2. **Bancroft Mills** Post Office operated from 8 February 1859 to 27 October 1863.

3. **Logan** Post Office operated from 6 October 1884 until 30 June 1911.

4. **Maloy** Post Office in Reed Plantation opened on 23 January 1891 and was renamed on 22 May 1895 as **Bancrof**t (2) Post Office, which closed on 20 September 1913, re-opened on 14 January 1916, and closed on 28 February 1975.

5. **South Bancroft** Post Office operated from 11 September 1872 until 30 November 1949.

In 1903, there were four post offices in what is now Bancroft: Bancroft, North Bancroft, South Bancroft, and Logan. (source: Post Route Map of the State of Maine 1903)

Map reproduction courtesy of the Norman B. Leventhal Map & Education Center at the Boston Public Library. Link to view or download entire map: https://collections.leventhalmap.org/search/commonwealth:cj82km77v

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Post Offices from Bancroft are listed below. In addition, postmarks that collectors have provided from the town of Bancroft for this project have been included:

Bancroft (1)
Bancroft (2)
Bancroft Mills
Logan
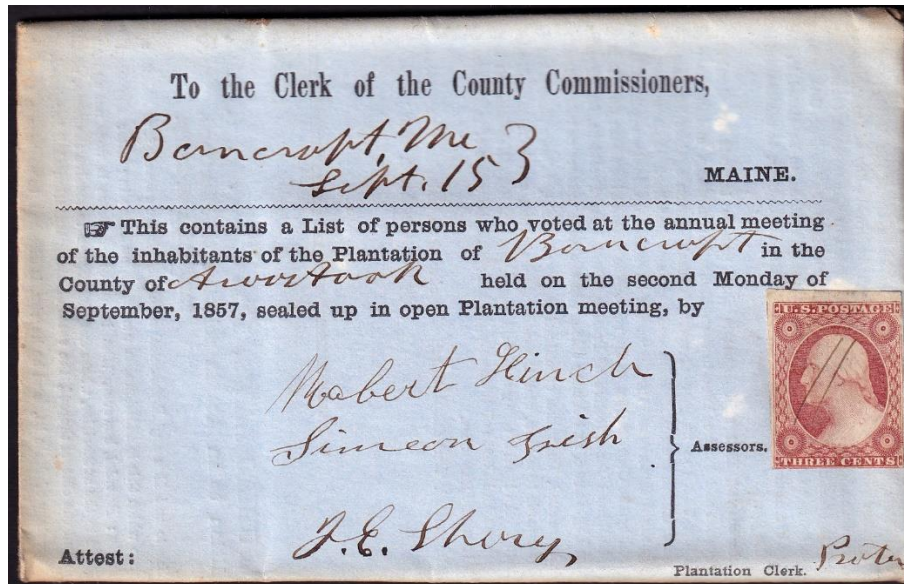Maloy
North Bancroft
South Bancroft

Bancroft (1)   Note: There was another post office in Maine named Bancroft at a different time and location. The (1) is just a notation. It does not appear in the postmarks and is only used by postal historians and collectors to differentiate between the different post offices.

28 May 1855:
   Bancroft (1) Post Office opens.
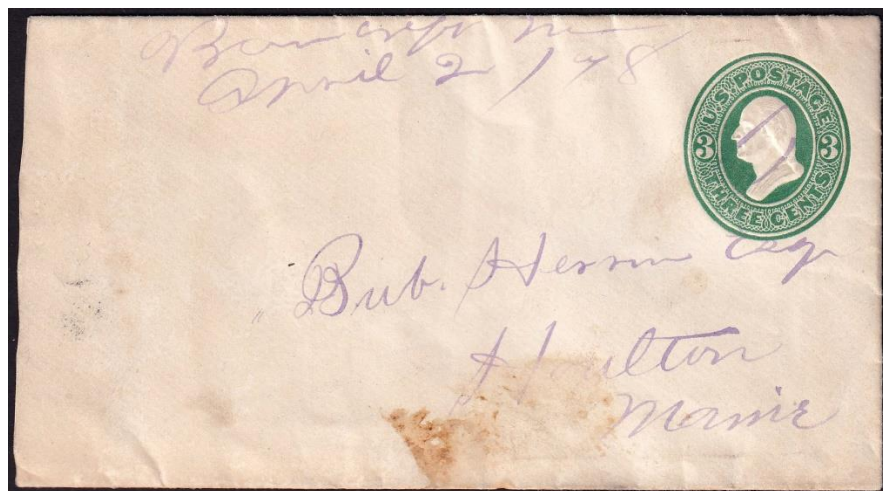
28 May 1855:

Joseph E. Shorey became Postmaster for Bancroft (1) Post Office.

15 September 1857:
Manuscript

26 April 1862:
 Albert Kelley became Postmaster for Bancroft (1) Post Office.

2 April 1878:
Manuscript

17 April 1882:
  Clara B. Kelley became Postmaster for Bancroft (1) Post Office.

26 June 1888:
  George W. Kelley became Postmaster for Bancroft (1) Post Office.

14 May 1890:
  Albert Kelley became Postmaster for Bancroft (1) Post Office.

23 October 1891:
  George W. Kelley became Postmaster for Bancroft (1) Post Office.

14 October 1892:
  Carrie B. Watson became Postmaster for Bancroft (1) Post Office.

20 July 1893:
The circular postmark is 28 mm in diameter with a four-circle target killer.

28 May 1894:
  Eva A. Lee became Postmaster for Bancroft (1) Post Office but declined.

29 June 1894:
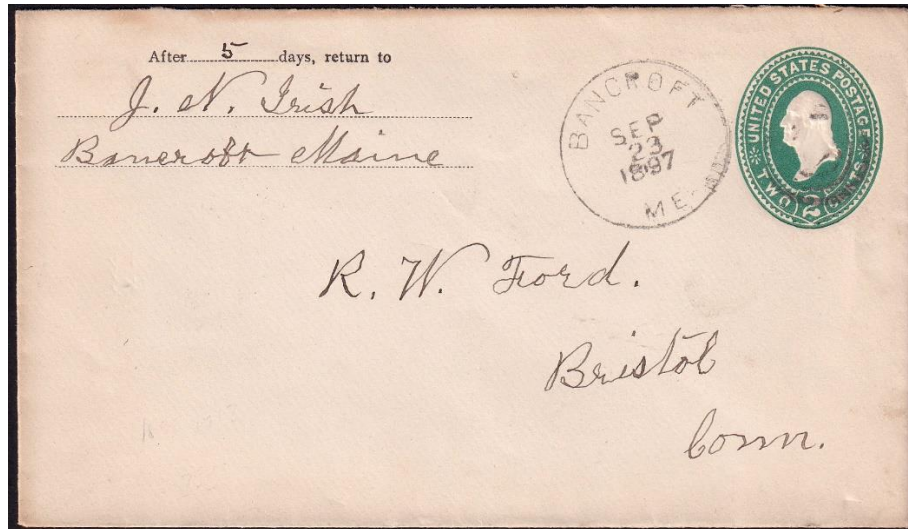 Maud S. Case became Postmaster for Bancroft (1) Post Office.

26 April 1895:
  Bancroft (1) Post Office is renamed North Bancroft Post Office.

Bancroft (2) Note: There was another post office in Maine named Bancroft at a different time and location. The (1) is just a notation. It does not appear in the postmarks and is only used by postal historians and collectors to differentiate between the different post offices.

22 May 1895:
  Formerly Maloy Post Office in Reed Plantation was renamed Bancroft (2) Post Office.

23 September 1897:
The circular postmark is 28 mm in diameter with a partial target killer. Another cover-dated 7 March 1908 without
a recognizable killer is known.

23 January 1891:
   Lyman A. Irish became Postmaster for Maloy Post Office and remained Postmaster when
Maloy Post Office changed its name to Bancroft (2) Post Office.
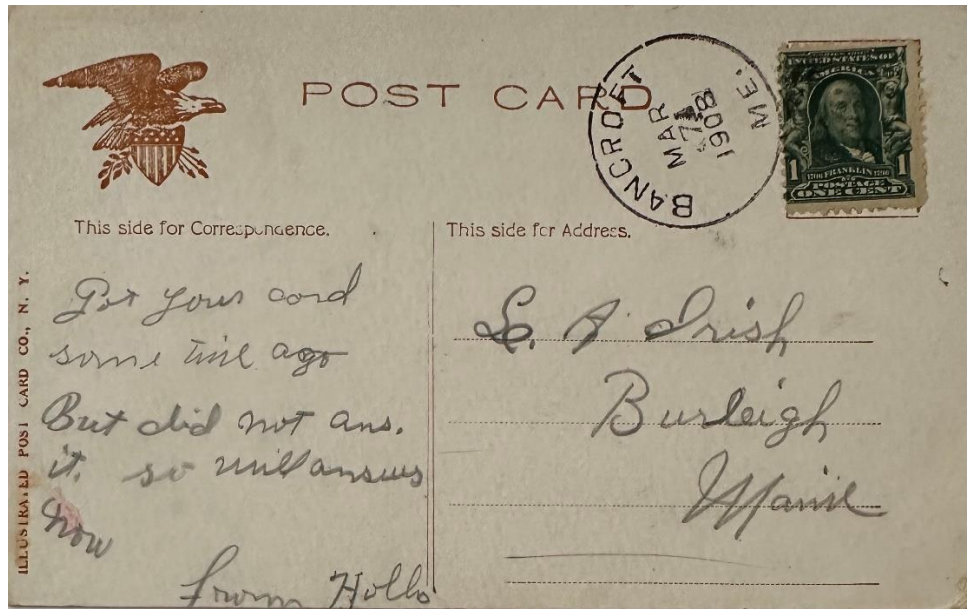
28 August 1903:
   Clarence P. Lyons became Postmaster for Bancroft (2) Post Office.

16 September 1907:
    Alexander Rosebush became Postmaster for Bancroft (2) Post Office; however, he declined.

23 December 1907:
   Amelia J. Kinney became Postmaster for Bancroft (2) Post Office.

7 March 1908:
The circular postmark is 28.5 mm in diameter with no killer.

15 November 1909:
    Elise F. Willett became Postmaster for Bancroft (2) Post Office.

30 March 1911:
The circular postmark is 32 mm in diameter with a four-bar (A) killer.

20 September 1913:
    Bancroft (2) Post Office closed, service from Wytopitlock.

14 January 1916:
  Bancroft (2) Post Office is re-established.

14 January 1916:
  Mrs. Elise F. Ouellette became Postmaster for Bancroft (2) Post Office.

12 March 1924:
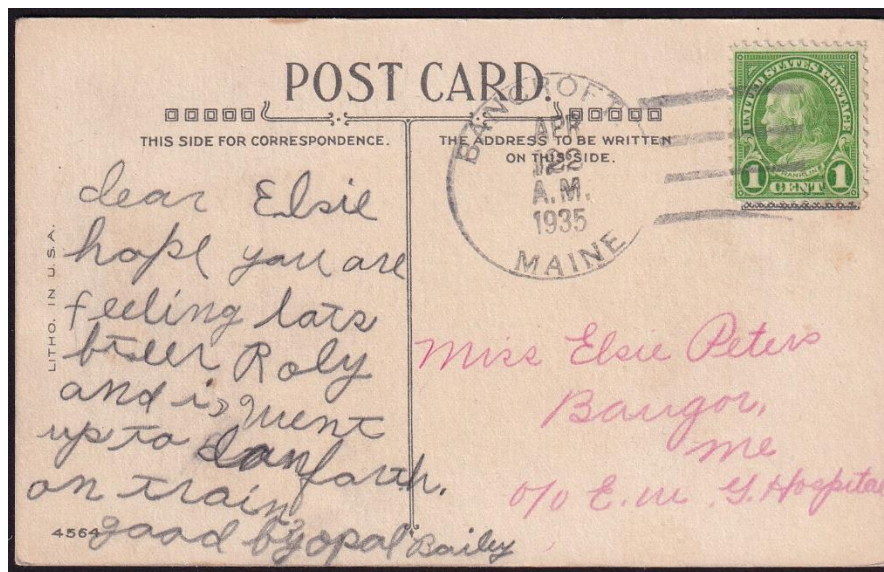 Miss Annie E. Ouellette became Postmaster for Bancroft (2) Post Office.

4 April 1924:
  Miss Annie E. Ouellette became Acting Postmaster for Bancroft (2) Post Office.
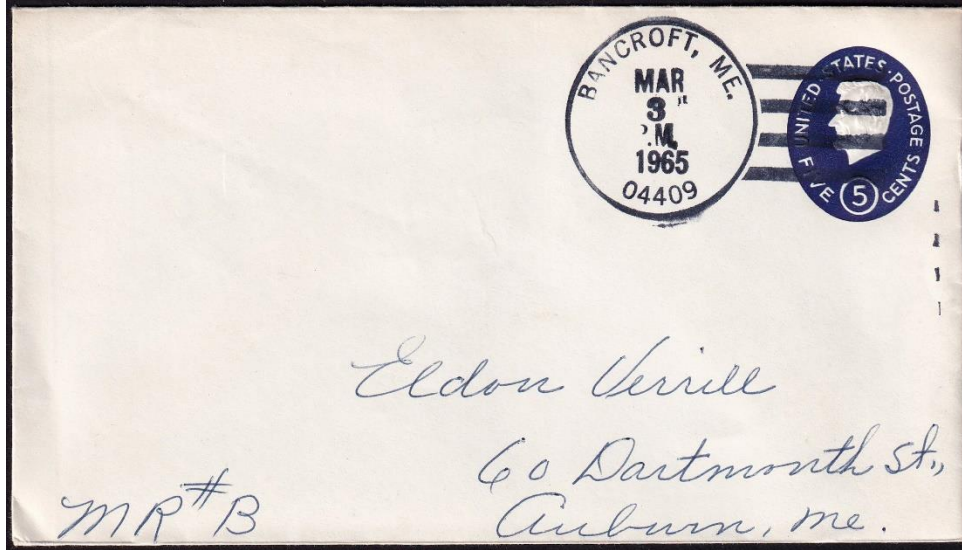 Miss Annie E. Ouellette's name changed to Mrs. Annie E. Morse.

2 May 1927:
  Mrs. Phyliss M. Bailey became Postmaster for Bancroft (2) Post Office.

22 April 1935:
The circular postmark is 32 mm in diameter with a four-bar (B) killer. Another cover with a similar postmark and killer dated 22 October 1958 is known.

3 March 1965:
The circular postmark is 33 mm in diameter with a four-bar (B) killer.

1 November 1974:
  Mrs. Marjorie E. Legacy became Postmaster for Bancroft (2) Post Office.

28 February 1975:
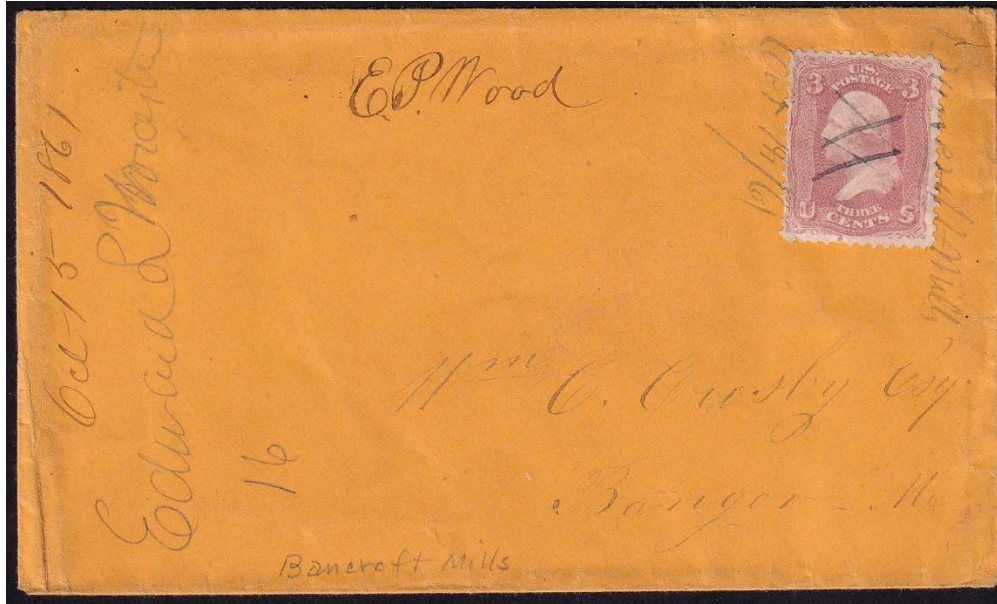 Bancroft (2) Post Office closes with a zip code of 04409. Mail to Wytopitlock.

Bancroft Mills
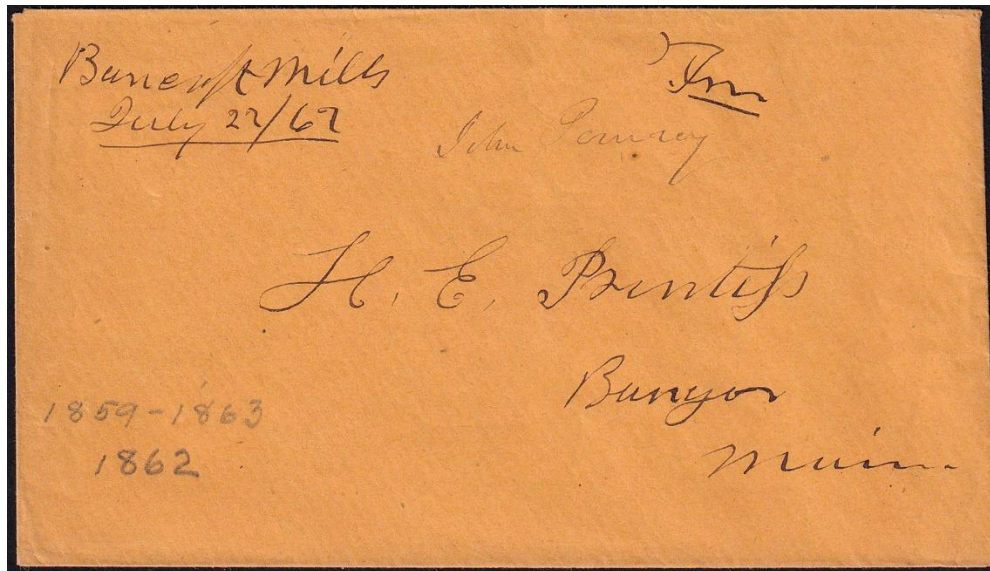
8 February 1859:
  Bancroft Mills Post Office opens.

8 February 1859:
  John Pomroy became Postmaster for Bancroft Mills Post Office.

14 October 1861:
Manuscript

22 July 1862:
Manuscript

27 October 1863:
  Bancroft Mills Post Office closed.

Logan

6 October 1884:
  Logan Post Office opened.

6 October 1884:
   Joseph T. Houghton became Postmaster for Logan Post Office.

26 March 1886:
   George A. Smart became Postmaster for Logan Post Office.

26 March 1889:
The circular postmark is 27 mm in diameter with a four-circle target killer.

30 June 1911:
   Logan Post Office closed. Service from Bancroft.
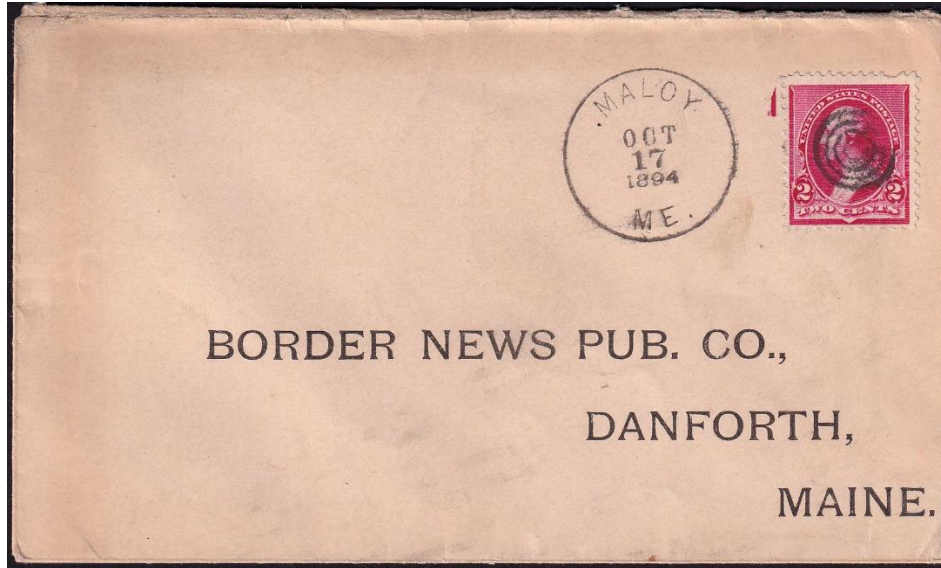
Maloy

23 January 1891:
   Maloy Post Office in Reed Plantation opened.

23 January 1891:
   Lyman A. Irish became Postmaster for Maloy Post Office.

17 October 1894:
The circular postmark is 27 mm in diameter with a four-circle target killer.

22 May 1895:
   Maloy Post Office's name changed to Bancroft (2).

North Bancroft

26 April 1895:
   Bancroft (1) Post Office is renamed North Bancroft Post Office.

29 June 1894:
   Maud S. Case became Postmaster for Bancroft (1) Post Office and remained Postmaster when Bancroft (1) Post Office became North Bancroft Post Office.
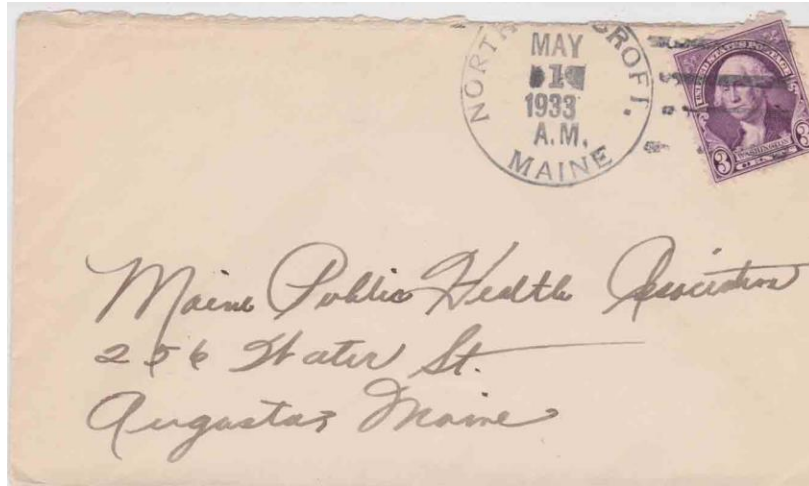
3 November 1900:
   Bertie M. White became Postmaster for North Bancroft Post Office.

1 March 1910:
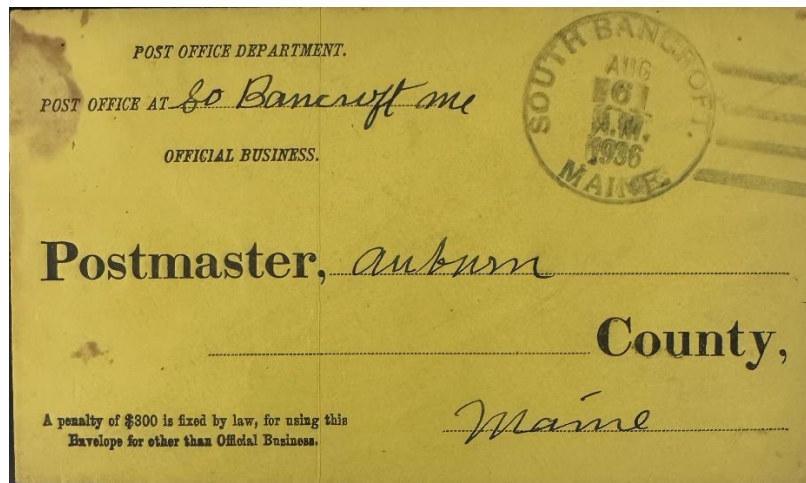   John W. Weeks became Postmaster for North Bancroft Post Office.

13 March 1918:
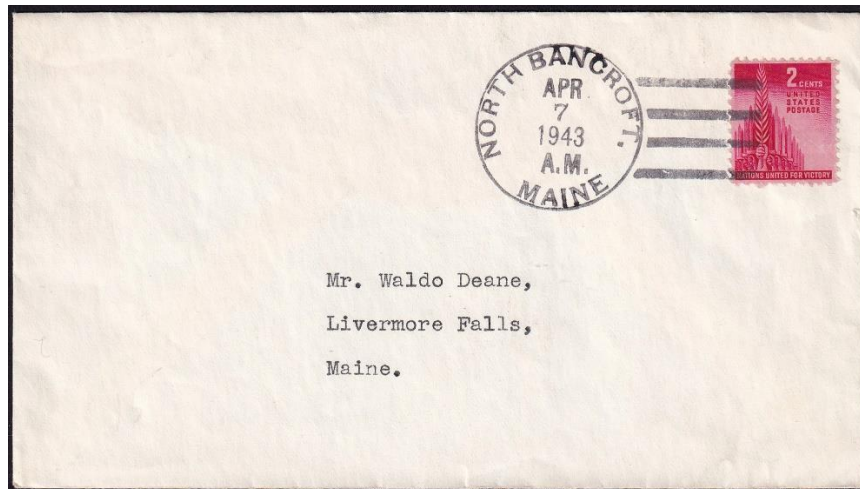   Mrs. Mary M. W. Campbell became Postmaster for North Bancroft Post Office.

1 May 1933:
The circular postmark is 32–33 mm in diameter with a four-bar (B) killer. Click on the image to enlarge.

6 August 1936:
The circular postmark is 33 mm in diameter (with the year printed below AM) and a four-bar (B) killer.

7 April 1943:
The circular postmark is 33 mm in diameter with a four-bar (B) killer.

6 June 1944:
   William E. Weeks became Acting Postmaster for North Bancroft Post Office.

26 January 1945:
   William E. Weeks became Postmaster for North Bancroft Post Office.

30 April 1957:
   North Bancroft Post Office closed. Service from Danforth.

South Bancroft

11 September 1872:
   South Bancroft Post Office opened.
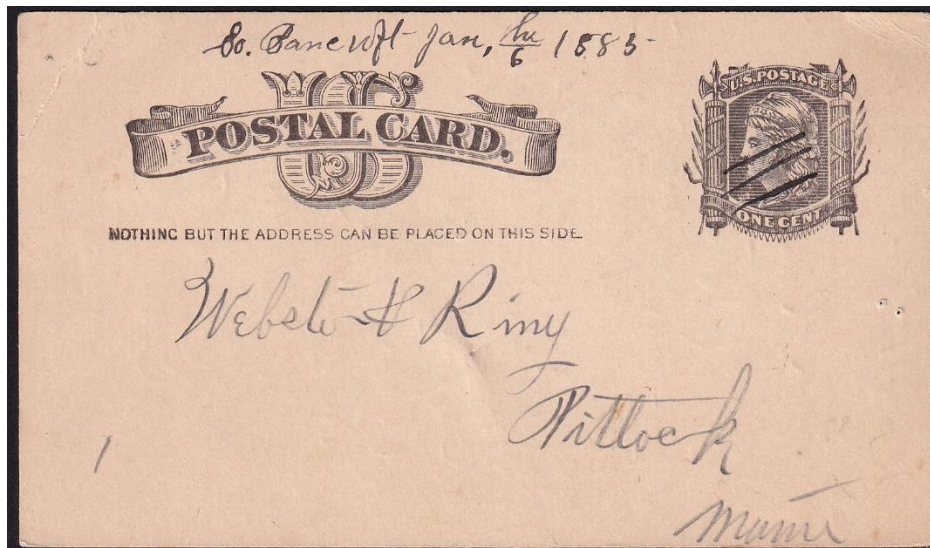
11 September 1872:
   James W. Smart became Postmaster for South Bancroft Post Office.

20 August 1877:
   James H. Dingee became Postmaster for South Bancroft Post Office.

22 October 1877:
   Mrs. Lucia A. Smart became Postmaster for South Bancroft Post Office.

6 January 1883:
Manuscript

20 December 1883:
   Barney Fitzpatrick became Postmaster for South Bancroft Post Office.

23 May 1901:
   Berton R. Fitzpatrick became Postmaster for South Bancroft Post Office.

21 November 1903:
The circular postmark is 28 mm in diameter with a smudged killer.

27 June 1904:
   Alvin P. Fitzpatrick became Postmaster for South Bancroft Post Office.

(14 February 1907):
   (Frank Liskeness) became Postmaster for South Bancroft Post Office.
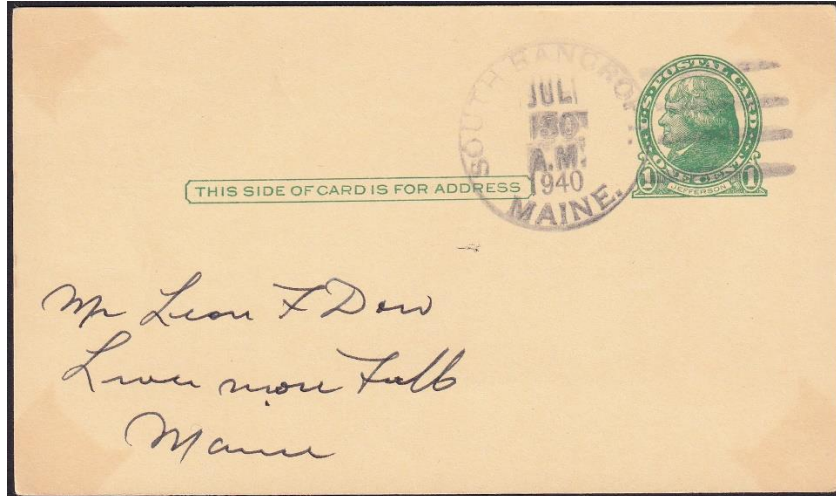
6 June 1907:
   Mrs. H. Alptena Liskeness became Postmaster for South Bancroft Post Office.

13 February 1940:
   Mrs. Ivilla F. Lee became Acting Postmaster for South Bancroft Post Office.

26 March 1940:
   Mrs. Ivilla F. Lee became Postmaster for South Bancroft Post Office.

30 July 1940:
The circular postmark is 35 mm in diameter with a four-bar (B) killer.

13 July 1949:
   Robert E. Lee became Acting Postmaster for South Bancroft Post Office.

30 November 1949:
   South Bancroft Post Office closed. Mail to Danforth.

What does it mean when there is a (1) or (2) after the name of a post office?

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. For example, if the 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 necessarily indicate time periods.
These numbers do not represent numbered stations. Some larger places, like Auburn, have postal stations with numbers. These differ from the post offices we call Auburn (1), Auburn (2), etc.
Also: the numbers do not appear in postmarks or official post office publications. However, they are used by postal historians and collectors to refer to different post offices, as noted above.

Credits:

This document is based on the original web page created by the V. F. Thomas Co. (2021), with revisions and additions by James Husson and Brian Damien (2023).

Thank you for the contributions to this page by James Husson, The Strout Family, and Max Lynds.

Thank you to the Waterville Stamp Club https://thewatervillestampclub.com for helping to assure this project's continuity.

Sources:

The Post Offices of Maine 2022, Maine Philatelic Society:
http://www.mainephilatelic.org/books/TPOOM

Glenwood, Reed & Bancroft Plantations, Part of Haynesville, Orient, Weston [map] from the 1877 Atlas of Aroostook County, Maine:
https://digitalmaine.com/atlas_aroostook_1877/7/.

New England Stampless Postmasters:
https://web.archive.org/web/20230324222654/http:/doubledaypostalhistory.com/postmaster/index.php

National Archives Catalog, Postmaster Appointments for Aroostook County, Maine:
https://catalog.archives.gov/id/78746425

Postmaster Finder by City:
https://about.usps.com/who/profile/history/postmaster-finder/postmasters-by-city.htm

Additional material, including links to official records of postmaster appointments, can be found at Sources for Researching Maine Post Offices, Postmasters, and Postal History:
http://www.mainephilatelic.org/books/post-office-sources.pdf.