

# Bridgewater Postal History

## Aroostook County, Maine

Last update for this page: 18 May 2023

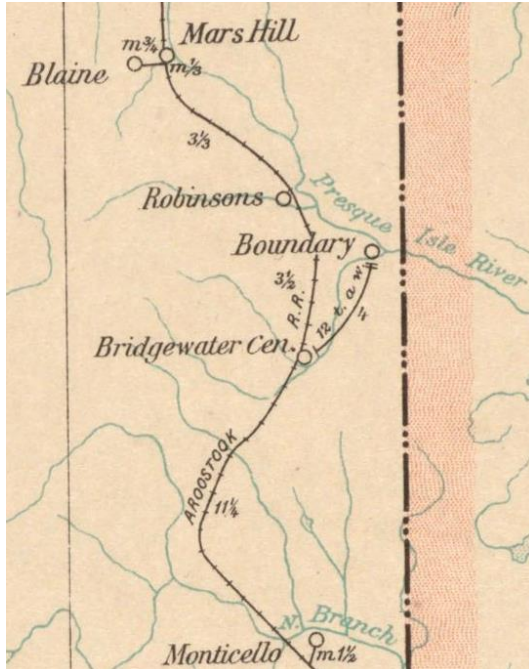
This page is part of the Maine Postal History website—a project of the Waterville Stamp Club.  
For more information, see <https://www.thewatervillestampclub.com/mph>.

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Bridgewater was incorporated on March 2, 1858, from portions of the Bridgewater Academy Grant R1 Plantation and the Portland Academy Grant Plantation.  
During the history of the town of Bridgewater, there have been three post offices.

Briefly, the history of these three is as follows:

1. **Boundary** Post Office operated from 12 May 1898 until 30 November 1905.
  2. **Bridgewater (1)** Post Office opened on 8 February 1849, closed on 21 April 1860, re-opened on 13 September 1860, and closed on 19 October 1894. [What does it mean when there is a \(1\) or \(2\) after the name of a post office?](#)
  3. **Bridgewater Centre** Post Office opened on 27 November 1885 and was renamed **Bridgewater Center** Post Office around 1893, and on 1 March 1927, it was renamed **Bridgewater (2)** Post Office, which is still operating.
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In 1903, there were two post offices in what is now Bridgewater: Boundary, and Bridgewater Center.

Source:

United States. Post Office Dept. "Post route map of the state of Maine showing post offices with the intermediate distances on mail routes in operation on the 1st of December, 1903." Map.

Boston Public Library, Norman B. Leventhal Map and Education Center.

<https://collections.leventhalmap.org/search/commonwealth:cj82km77v>

Post Offices from Bridgewater are listed below. In addition, postmarks that collectors have provided from the towns/villages associated with Blaine for this project have been included.

[Boundary](#)

[Bridgewater \(1\)](#)

[Bridgewater \(2\)](#)

[Bridgewater Center](#)

[Bridgewater Centre](#)

## **Boundary**

12 May 1898:

Boundary Post Office opened.

12 May 1898:

James H. Farley became Postmaster for Boundary Post Office.

<https://www.thewatervillestampclub.com/mph>



16 March 1900:

The circular postmark is 28 mm in diameter. Another similar, received postmark dated 15 March 1900 is known.

23 November 1901:

Rue T. Snow became Postmaster for Boundary Post Office.

28 January 1905:

Maurice A. Burt became Postmaster for Boundary Post Office.

30 November 1905:

Boundary Post Office closed. Service from Bridgewater Center.

**Bridgewater (1)** Note: There was another post office in Maine named Bridgewater 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.

8 February 1849:

Bridgewater Post Office opened.

8 February 1849:

Joseph Ketchum became Postmaster for Bridgewater (1) Post Office.



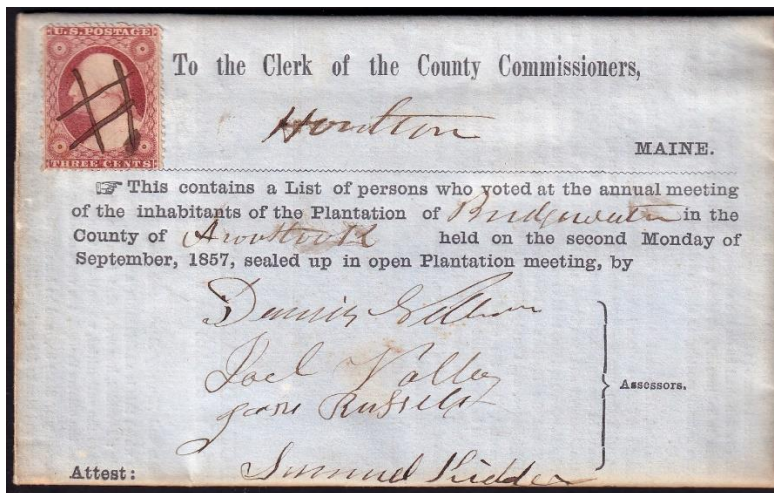
15 September 1849:  
Manuscript

13 May 1854 27:

Charles Kidder became Postmaster for Bridgewater (1) Post Office.

December 1856:

James H. Ketchum became Postmaster for Bridgewater (1) Post Office.



14 September 1857:  
Manuscript

21 April 1860:

Bridgewater (1) Post Office closed.

13 September 1860:

Bridgewater (1) Post Office was reestablished.

13 September 1860:

Linneus Morse became Postmaster for Bridgewater (1) Post Office.

2 October 1860:

Charles Kidder became Postmaster for Bridgewater (1) Post Office.

13 January 1863:

James H. Ketchum became Postmaster for Bridgewater (1) Post Office.

9 December 1863:

George W. Collins became Postmaster for Bridgewater (1) Post Office.

31 October 1873:

Frank P. Orcutt became Postmaster for Bridgewater (1) Post Office.

9 October 1876:

Mrs. Harriet M. Rice became Postmaster for Bridgewater (1) Post Office.

22 October 1877:

James Kidder became Postmaster for Bridgewater (1) Post Office.

6 November 1877:

James H. Kidder became Postmaster for Bridgewater (1) Post Office.

23 November 1880:

Della J. Kidder became Postmaster for Bridgewater (1) Post Office.

17 January 1882:

Della J. Whitney became Postmaster for Bridgewater (1) Post Office.



11 January 1887:

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

7 December 1887:

Lottie M. Hume became Postmaster for Bridgewater (1) Post Office.

21 December 1886:

Edwin O. Collins became Postmaster for Bridgewater (1) Post Office.

21 May 1888:

Richard H. Perkins became Postmaster for Bridgewater (1) Post Office.

14 June 1889:

Mrs. Isadore A. Barrett became Postmaster for Bridgewater (1) Post Office.

29 September 1893:

Ida A. Perkins became Postmaster for Bridgewater (1) Post Office.

19 October 1894:

Bridgewater (1) Post Office closed. Service from Blaine.

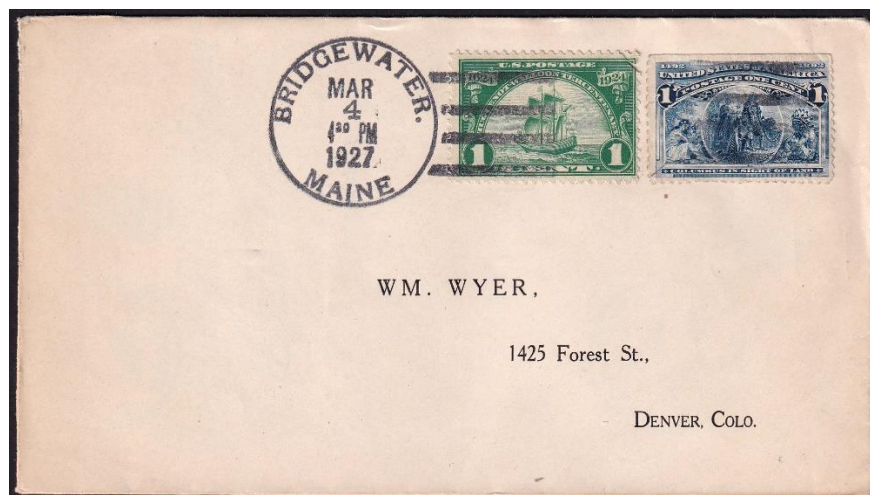
**Bridgewater (2)** Note: There was another post office in Maine named Bridgewater at a different time and location. The (2) is just a notation. It does not appear in the postmarks and is only used by postal historians and collectors to differentiate between the different post offices.

1 March 1927:

The former Bridgewater Center Post Office was renamed Bridgewater (2) Post Office.

12 November 1926:

George W. Barrett became Acting Postmaster for Bridgewater Center Post Office and remained Postmaster when Bridgewater Center Post Office became Bridgewater Post Office.



4 March 1927:

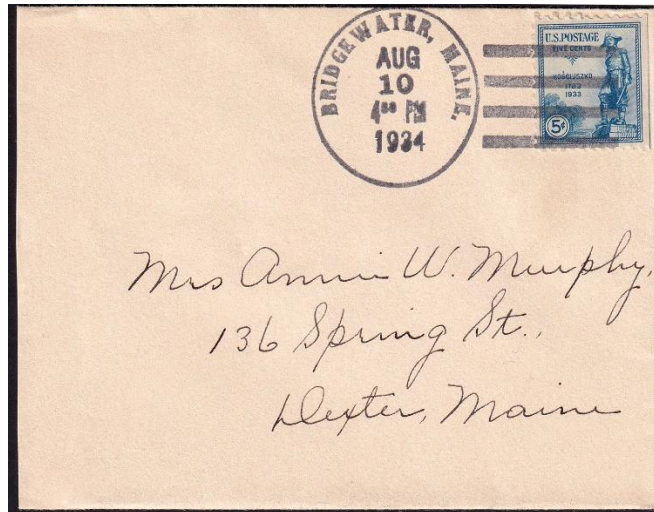
The circular postmark is 32 mm in diameter with a four-bar (B) killer.

14 July 1927:

Donald W. Stackpole became Acting Postmaster for Bridgewater Post Office.

15 December 1927:

Donald W. Stackpole became Postmaster for Bridgewater Post Office.



10 Augusta 1934:

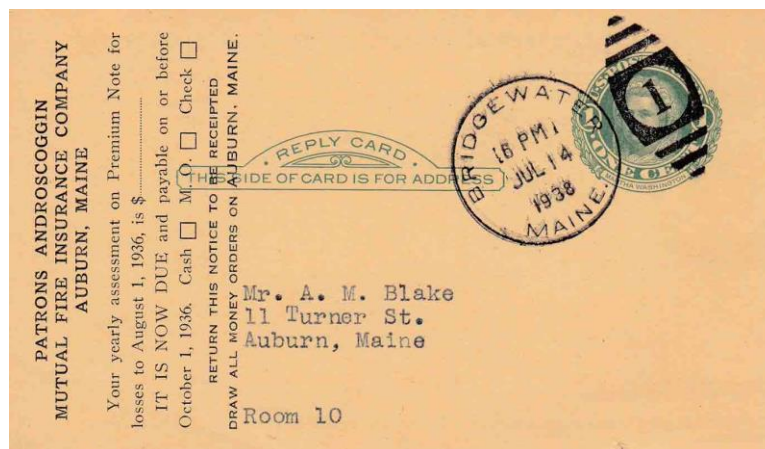
The oval postmark is 30 mm x? mm with a four-bar (B) killer.

31 January 1936:

Bethe M. MacDonald became Acting Postmaster for Bridgewater Post Office.

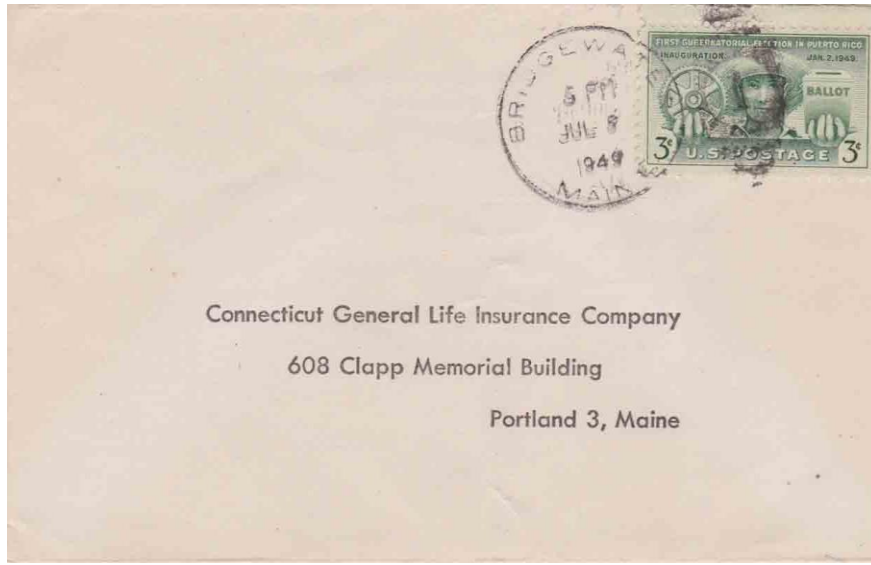
2 February 1937:

Betha M. (MacDonald) Stone became Postmaster for Bridgewater Post Office.



1938 July 14:

The circular postmark is [...] mm in diameter with an elliptical duplex/1 killer.  
(Click on the image to enlarge)



5 July 1949:

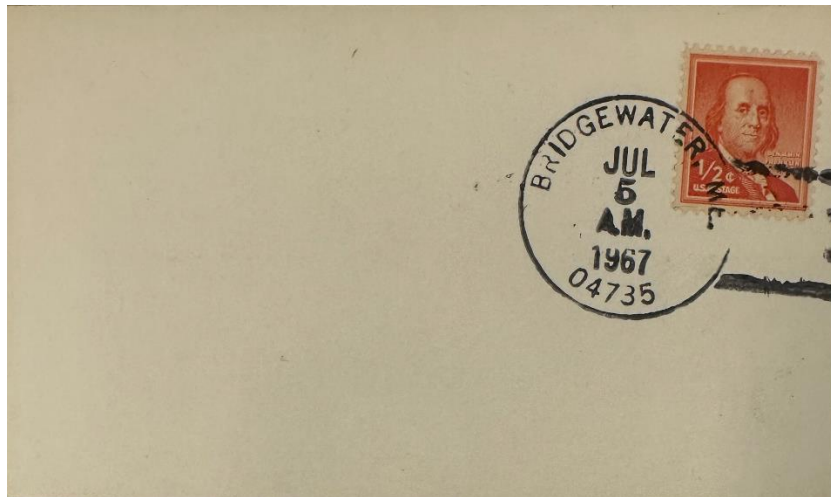
The circular postmark is 30 mm in diameter with an elliptical duplex/1 killer.  
(click on the image to enlarge)

31 October 1956:

George W. Brewer became Officer-in-Charge for Bridgewater Post Office.

24 July 1958:

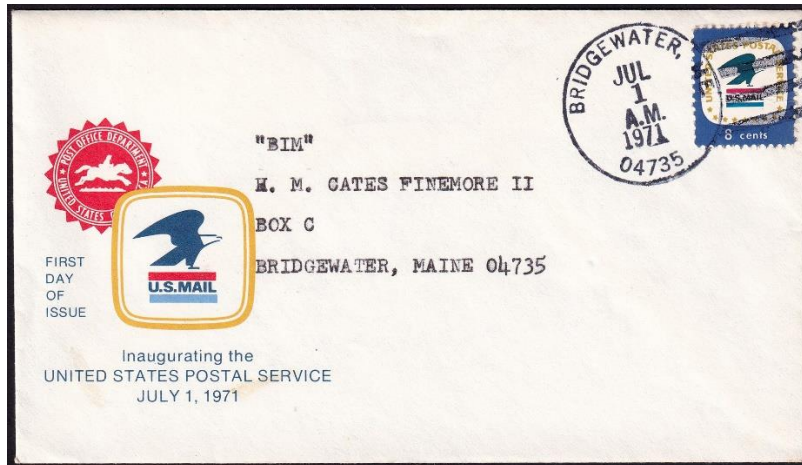
George M. Roberts became Postmaster for Bridgewater Post Office.



5 July 1967:

The circular postmark is 34 mm in diameter with a four-bar (B) killer.





1 July 1871:

The circular postmark is 32 mm in diameter with a Zip Code and a four-bar (B) killer.

26 January 1979:

Arnold R. Scott became Officer-in-Charge for Bridgewater Post Office.

25 July 1979:

Andrew W. Pendexter became Officer-in-Charge for Bridgewater Post Office.

8 September 1979:

Phyllis G. Billings became Postmaster for Bridgewater Post Office.

29 September 1989:

Clinton H. Watson became Officer-in-Charge for Bridgewater Post Office.

30 December 1989:

Trudy B. Bradstreet became Postmaster for Bridgewater Post Office.



Bridgewater Post Office, ca. 1990s

29 September 2014:

Amyee Pryor became Officer-in-Charge for Bridgewater Post Office.

1 November 2014:

Bridgewater (2) Post Office was converted to a Remotely Managed Post Office under the direction of the Postmaster of the Mars Hill post office.

2023:

Bridgewater (2) post office still operates with a Zip Code of 04735.

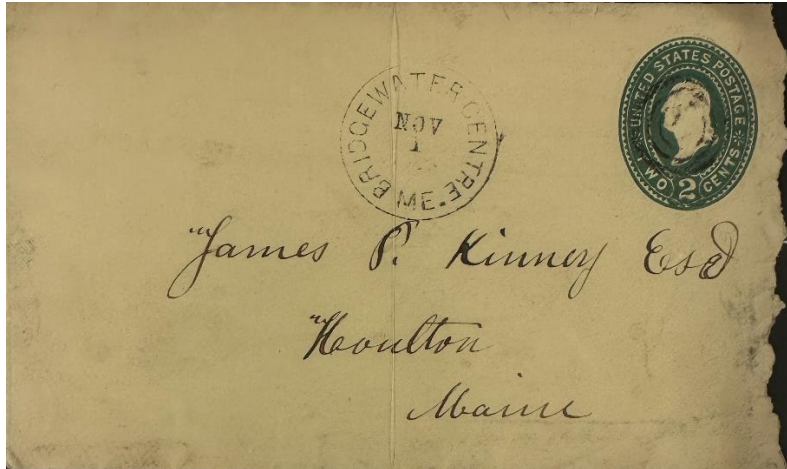
## **Bridgewater Centre**

27 November 1885:

Bridgewater Centre post office opened.

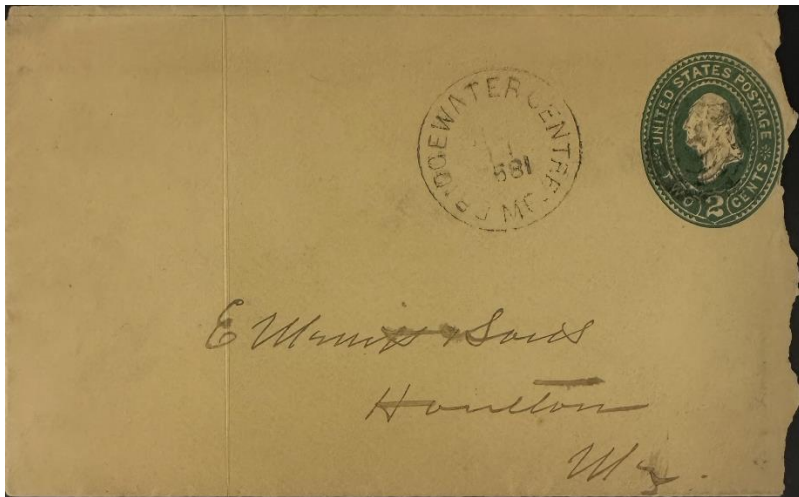
27 November 1885:

Charles P. Church became Postmaster for Bridgewater Centre Post Office.



1 November 1888:

The circular postmark is 28 mm in diameter with a target killer.



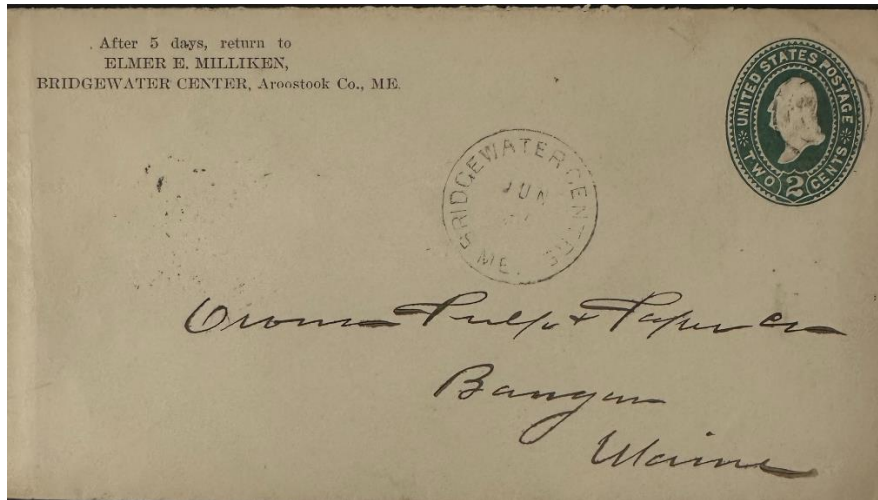
14 March 1892:

The circular postmark is 28 mm in diameter with a target killer. Note that the year is inverted.



7 February 1893:

The circular postmark is 30 mm in diameter with a target killer.



27 June 1896:

The circular postmark is 28 mm in diameter with a target killer. Another similar postmark dated 8 February 1897 is known. In 1893 the Post Office Department issued regulations that Post Offices with Centre needed to change their name to Center. Not all post offices immediately complied with this rule. Interesting that in the upper left corner is Bridgewater Center, and the postmark is Bridgewater Centre.

1893:

Bridgewater Centre Post Office is renamed Bridgewater Center Post Office.

## **Bridgewater Center**

1893:

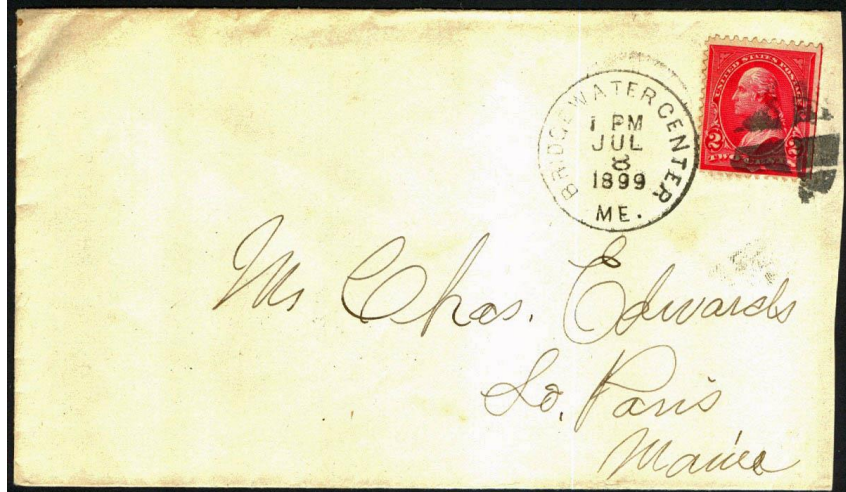
Bridgewater Centre Post Office is renamed Bridgewater Center Post Office.

5 January 1897:

Hattie M. Church became Postmaster for Bridgewater Center Post Office.

20 June 1898

(George W. Sanford) became Postmaster for Bridgewater Center Post Office. Rescinded.



8 July 1899:

The circular postmark is 29 mm in diameter with a fancy cork geometric killer.

10 July 1899

George W. Sanford became Postmaster for Bridgewater Center Post Office.

1 March 1901

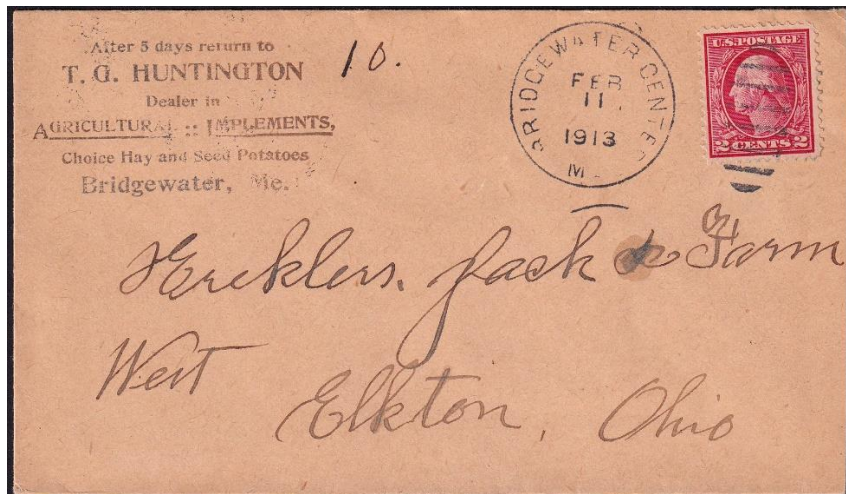
Albert L. Chandler became Postmaster for Bridgewater Center Post Office.

22 July 1909

Harvey A. Tompkins became Postmaster for Bridgewater Center Post Office.

1 September 1909

Ada A. Perkins became Postmaster for Bridgewater Center Post Office.



11 February 1913:

The circular postmark is 29 mm in diameter with an eight-bar elliptical killer. There are other similar cover-dated 9 October 1912 and 10 February 1916 known.

28 April 1916:

Franklin Bradstreet became Postmaster for Bridgewater Center Post Office.

31 March 1918:

Edmund O. Collins became Postmaster for Bridgewater Center Post Office.

1 October 1920:

Bridgewater Center Post Office becomes Presidential.

12 November 1926:

George W. Barrett became the Acting Postmaster of Bridgewater Center Post Office.

1 March 1927:

Bridgewater Center post office was renamed as Bridgewater (2) post office.

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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 compiled 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.

And thank you to the Waterville Stamp Club <https://thewatervillestampclub.com> for hosting this project.

Sources:

The Post Offices of Maine 2022, Maine Philatelic Society:

<http://www.mainephilatelic.org/books/TPOOM>

Bridgewater [map] from the 1877 Atlas of Aroostook County, Maine:

[https://digitalmaine.com/atlas\\_aroostook\\_1877/26/](https://digitalmaine.com/atlas_aroostook_1877/26/)

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>.