

# Caribou Postal History

## Aroostook County, Maine

Last update for this page: 13 February 2024

This page is part of the Maine Postal History website—a project of members of the Maine Philatelic Society. For more information, see <http://www.mainephilatelic.org/mph>.

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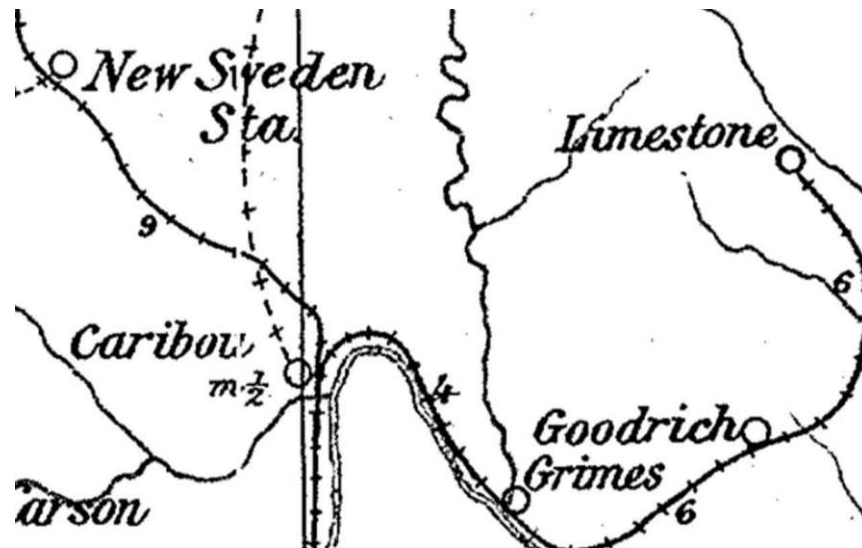
Settled in 1824, it developed as a lumbering center and was incorporated in 1859 as Lyndon. It was renamed Caribou in 1877.

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

Briefly, the history of these five is as follows:

1. **Caribou (1)** Post Office was established on 9 May 1848, was renamed **Lyndon** Post Office on 15 January 1852, and closed on 10 November 1900. [What does it mean when there is a \(1\) or \(2\) after the name of a post office?](#)
2. **Caribou (2)** Post Office was established on 14 June 1860 and is still in operation.
3. **East Caribou** post office was established on 12 March 1887 and closed on 10 November 1900.
4. **East Lyndon** post office operated from 26 January 1874 until 11 December 1886.
5. **Grimes** post office operated from 17 November 1898 until 30 June 1915.

In 1914 there were two post offices in Caribou: Caribou (2) and Grimes. (source: Post Route Map of the State of Maine 1914)



source: Post Route Map of the State of Maine 1914

<http://www.mainephilatelic.org/PostRouteMaps/MainePostRouteMap1914.pdf>

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

[Caribou \(1\)](#)

[Caribou \(2\)](#)

[East Caribou](#)

[East Lyndon](#)

[Grimes](#)

[Lyndon](#)

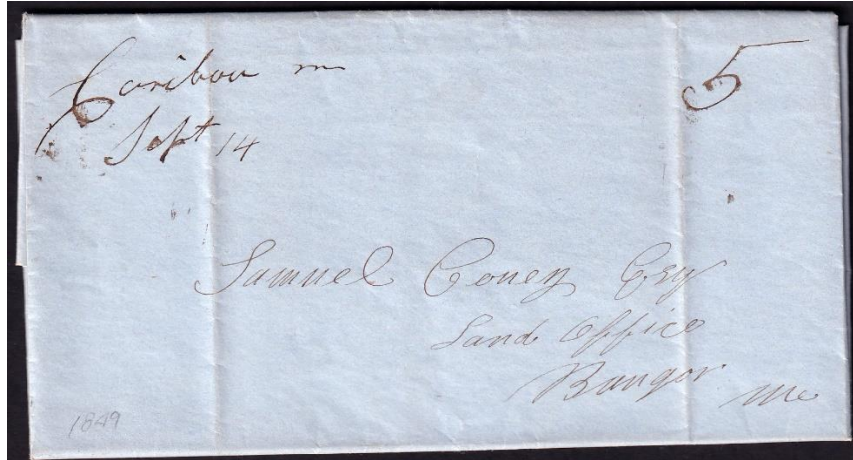
**Caribou (1)** Note: There was another post office in Maine named Caribou at a different time and location. The (1) is just a notation. It does not appear in the postmarks and is only used by postal historians and collectors to differentiate between the different post offices.

9 May 1848:

Caribou (1) Post Office opened.

9 May 1848:

Ivory Hardison became Postmaster for Caribou (1) Post Office.



14 September 1849:  
Manuscript

9 January 1850:

Thomas J. Hobart became Postmaster for Caribou (1) Post Office.

13 November 1850:

Joseph W. Hines became Postmaster for Caribou (1) Post Office.

15 January 1852:

Caribou (1) Post Office was renamed Lyndon Post Office.

**Caribou (2)** Note: There was another post office in Maine named Caribou 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.

14 June 1860:

Caribou (2) Post Office opened.

14 June 1860:

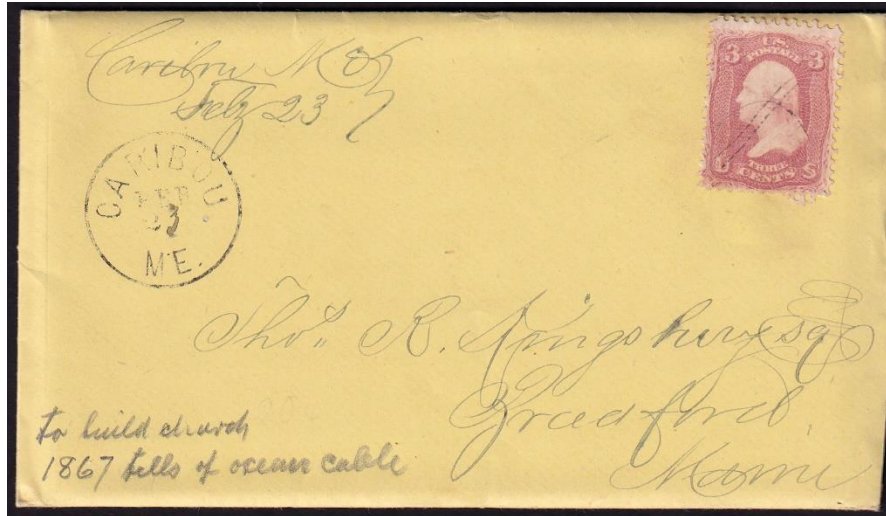
Washington A. Vaughan became Postmaster for Caribou (2) Post Office.

28 January 1862:

Daniel F. Adams became Postmaster for Caribou (2) Post Office.

8 April 1864:

Judah D. Teague became Postmaster for Caribou (2) Post Office.



23 February 1867:

The circular postmark is 24 mm in diameter with a manuscript killer.

18 November 1868:

Lester Dwinel became Postmaster for Caribou (2) Post Office.

13 July 1870:

Warren S. Dwinel became Postmaster for Caribou (2) Post Office.

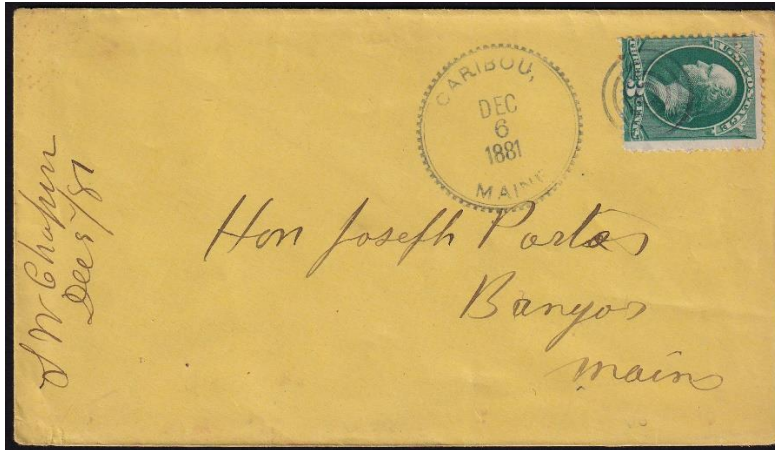
3 May 1876:

Joseph Gary became Postmaster for Caribou (2) Post Office.



4 April 1880:

The octagonal postmark is 25 mm across with a cork smudge killer.



6 December 1881:

The cogged circular postmark is 32 mm in diameter with a four-circle target killer.



11 June 1883:

The octagonal postmark is 25 mm across with a target killer.

13 July 1885:

Orlando H. Smith became Postmaster for Caribou (2) Post Office.



3 September 1886:

The circular postmark is 25–26 mm in diameter with a cork killer.

<http://www.mainephilatelic.org/mph>

29 March 1890:

Joseph W. Gary became Postmaster for Caribou (2) Post Office.

27 April 1894:

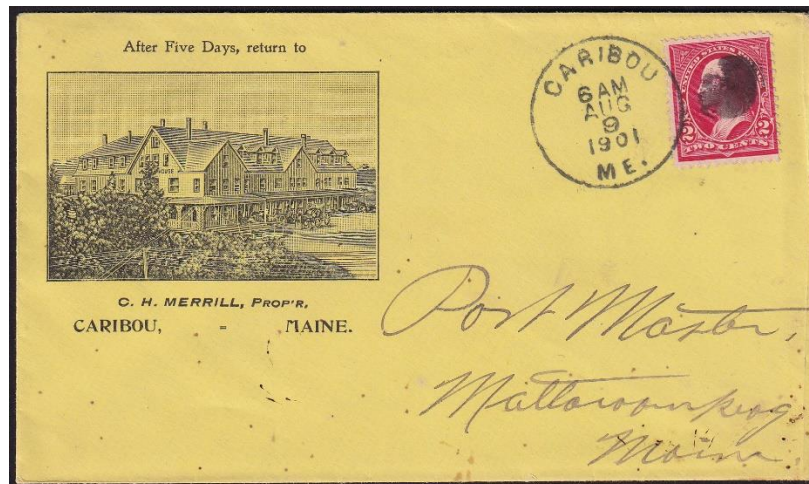
Michael A. Barrett became Postmaster for Caribou (2) Post Office.

4 May 1898

Joseph W. Gary became Postmaster for Caribou (2) Post Office.

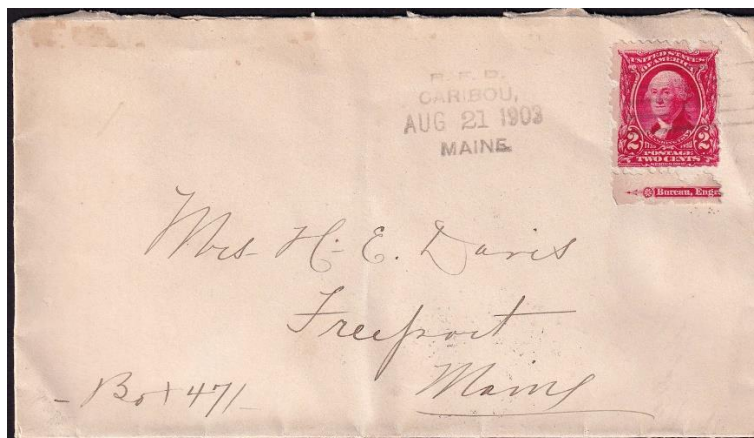
14 February 1890:

Caribou (2) Post Office became Presidential.



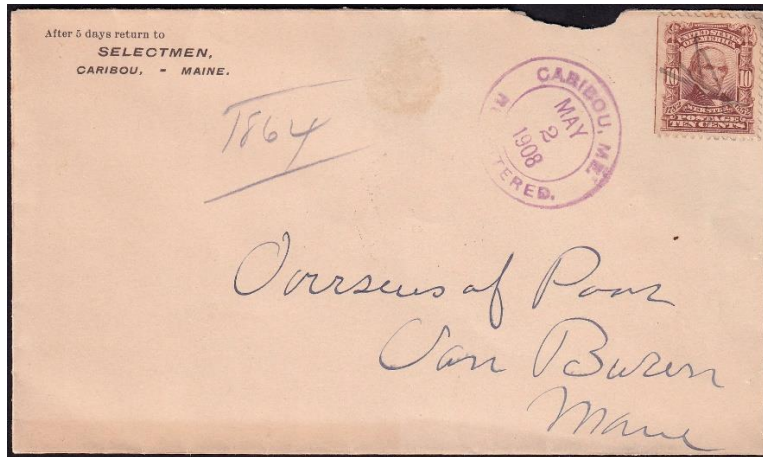
9 August 1901:

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



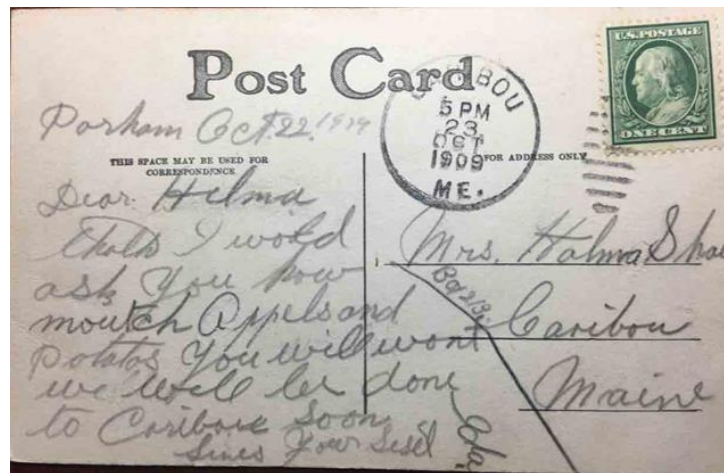
21 August 1903:

R.F.D. Type 1 Route 3



2 May 1908:

The outer ring of this postmark is 30 mm in diameter with a manuscript killer.



23 October 1909:

The circular postmark is 30 mm in diameter with an eight-bar elliptical duplex killer.  
(Click on the image to enlarge)

30 May 1914:

Fred S. Doyle became Postmaster for Caribou (2) Post Office.

1 October 1919:

Roy C. Gary became Acting Postmaster for Caribou (2) Post Office.

18 May 1920:

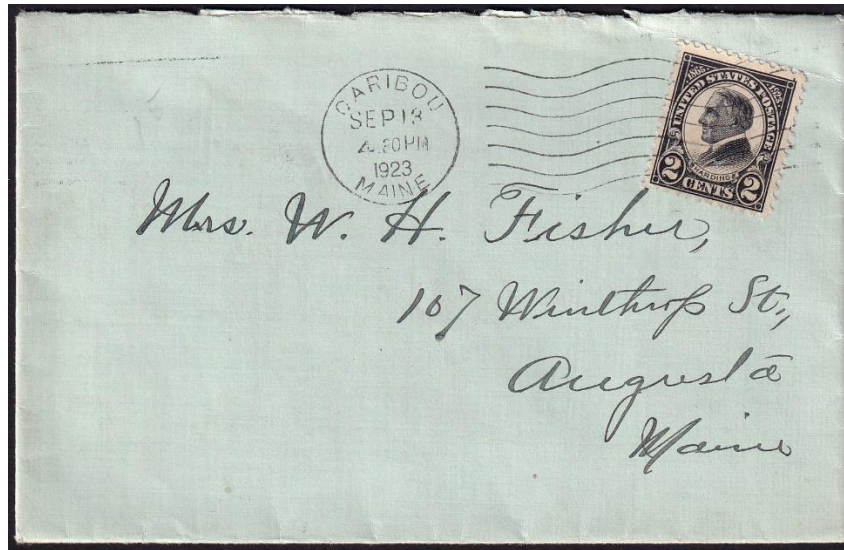
Roy C. Gary became Postmaster for Caribou (2) Post Office.

13 July 1920:

Cecil E. Billington became Postmaster for Caribou (2) Post Office.

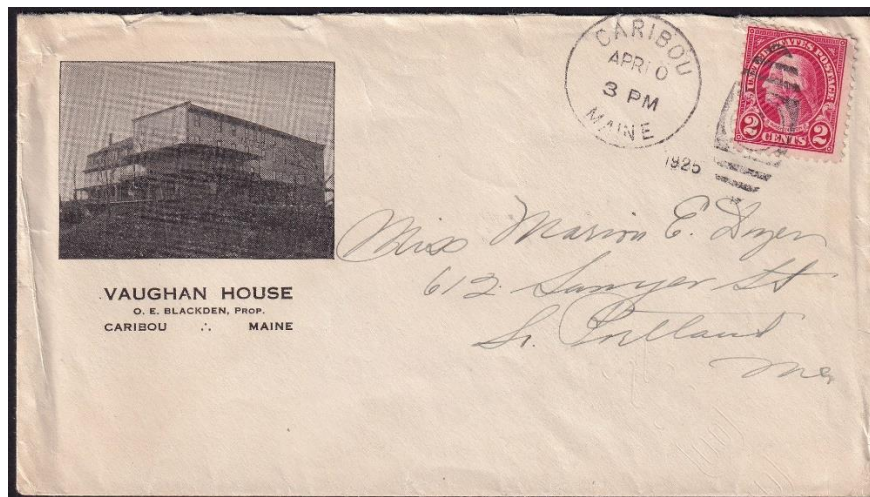
7 February 1922:

George H. Howe became Postmaster for Caribou (2) Post Office.



13 September 1923:

The circular postmark is 27 mm in diameter with a seven-line International Machine killer.



10 April 1925:

The circular postmark is 26 mm in diameter with an elliptical Triplex/1 killer.

31 August 1930:

Napoleon P. Levasseur became Postmaster for Caribou (2) Post Office.

20 December 1930:

Roy C. Gary became Postmaster for Caribou (2) Post Office.

30 September 1932:

John S. Clark became Acting Postmaster for Caribou (2) Post Office.

27 July 1933:

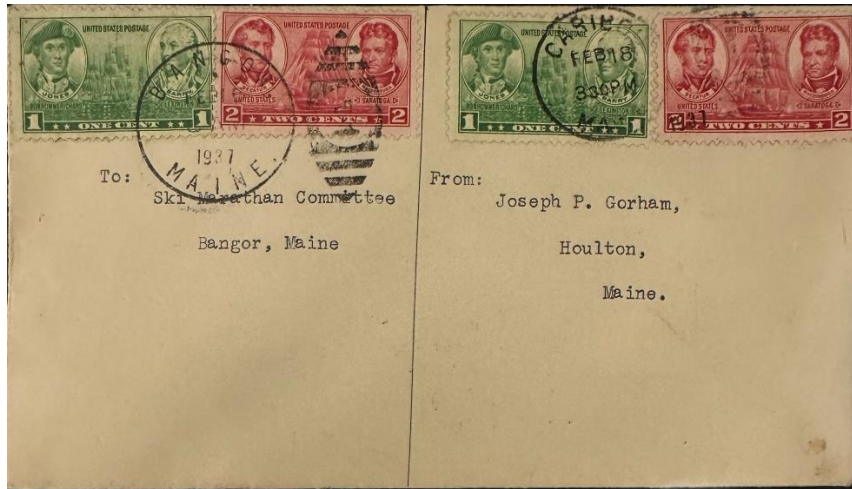
Floyd A. Smith became Acting Postmaster for Caribou (2) Post Office.

<http://www.mainephilatelic.org/mph>



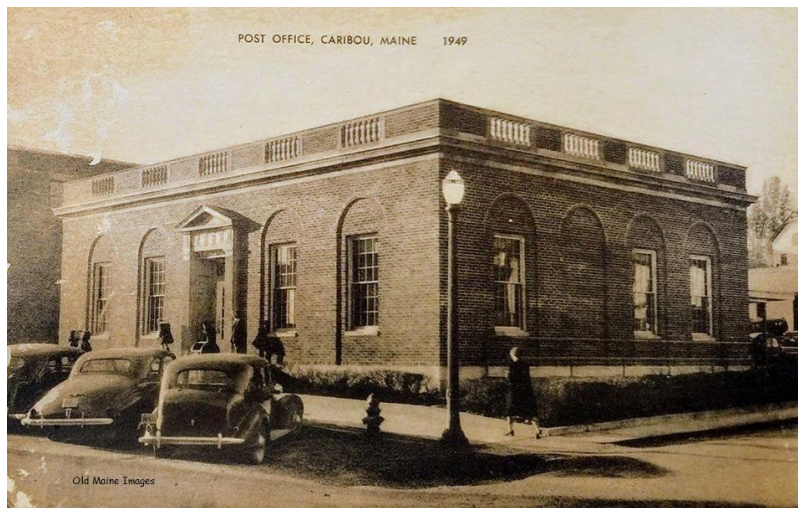
31 January 1934:

Floyd A. Smith became Postmaster for Caribou (2) Post Office.



18 February 1937

The circular postmark is 26.5 mm in diameter with an elliptical duplex/1 killer.



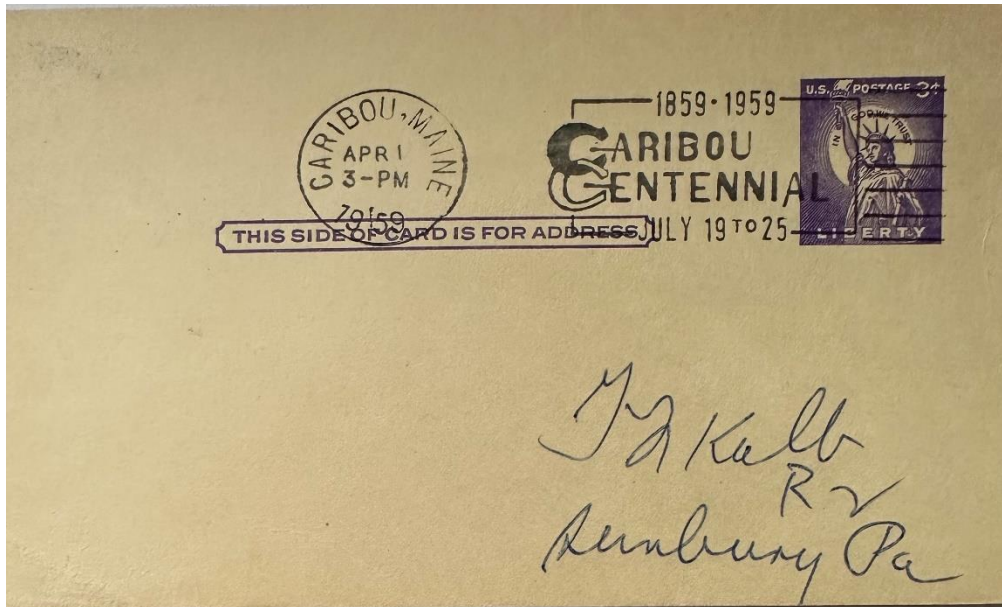
Caribou Post Office 1949

31 August 1951:

George M. Trusty became Acting Postmaster for Caribou (2) Post Office.

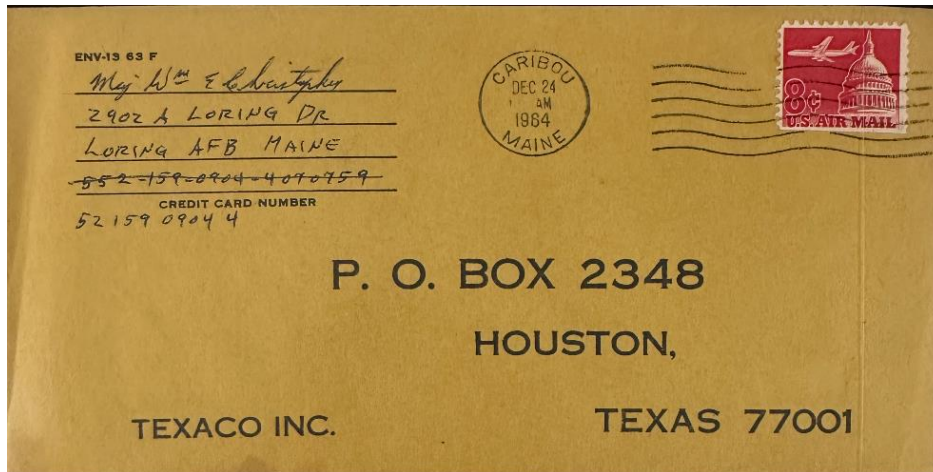
1 March 1954:

Arthur Atwood Anderson became Postmaster for Caribou (2) Post Office.



1 April 1959:

The circular postmark is 23.5 mm in diameter with a slogan killer commemorating Caribou's Centennial.



24 December 1964:

The circular postmark is 21.5 mm in diameter with a six-wavy line machine killer.

10 March 1978:

Paul R. Ingraham became Officer-in-Charge for Caribou (2) Post Office.

23 September 1978:

Reginald B. Albert became Postmaster for Caribou (2) Post Office.

8 June 1984:

Andrew W. Pendexter became Officer-in-Charge for Caribou (2) Post Office.

27 October 1984:

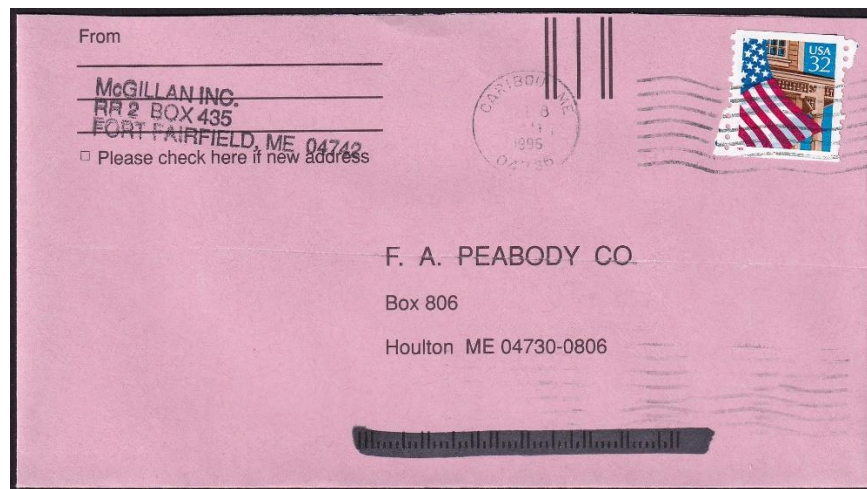
Everett L. Cole became Postmaster for Caribou (2) Post Office.

30 March 1994:

Rickey Corey became Officer-in-Charge for Caribou (2) Post Office.

6 August 1994:

Randy P. Michaud became Postmaster for Caribou (2) Post Office.



8 July 1995:

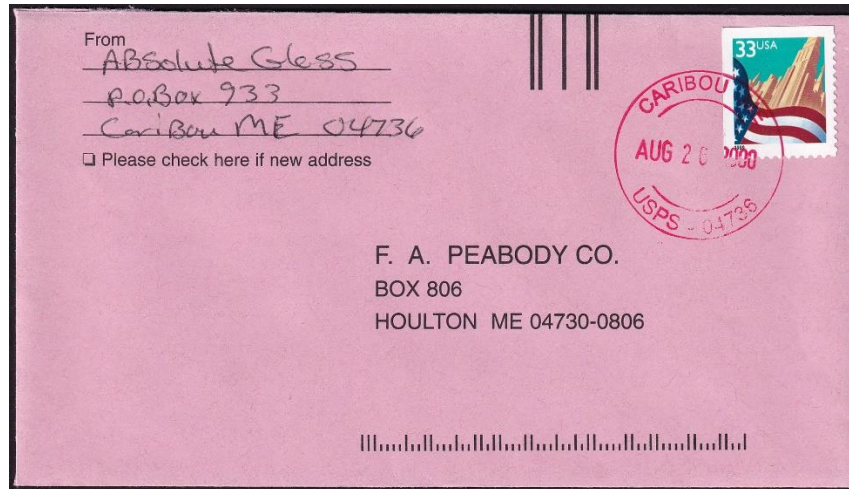
The circular zip-coded postmark is 21 mm in diameter with a seven-wavy line machine killer.

10 March 1998:

Theodore L. Bell became Officer-in-Charge for Caribou (2) Post Office.

28 August 1999:

Theodore L. Bell became Postmaster for Caribou (2) Post Office.



20 August 2000:

This double-ringed zip-coded postmark's outer ring is 33 mm in diameter, with the CDS used as a killer.

20 February 2007:

Lisa L. Cantafio became Officer-in-Charge for Caribou (2) Post Office.

8 December 2007:

Lisa L. Cantafio became Postmaster for Caribou (2) Post Office.

28 March 2018:

Joshua Wortman became Officer-in-Charge for Caribou (2) Post Office.

12 June 2018:

Donald Cyr became Officer-in-Charge for Caribou (2) Post Office.

14 August 2018:

Shawn R. Rogers became Officer-in-Charge for Caribou (2) Post Office.

16 March 2019:

Shawn R. Rogers became Postmaster for Caribou (2) Post Office.

2023:

Caribou (2) Post Office is still in operation. Zip Code 04736

### **East Caribou:**

12 March 1887:

East Caribou Post Office opened.

12 March 1887:

Newman R. Doyle became Postmaster for East Caribou Post Office.

10 November 1900:

East Caribou Post Office closed. Service from Caribou (2).

### East Lyndon

26 January 1874:

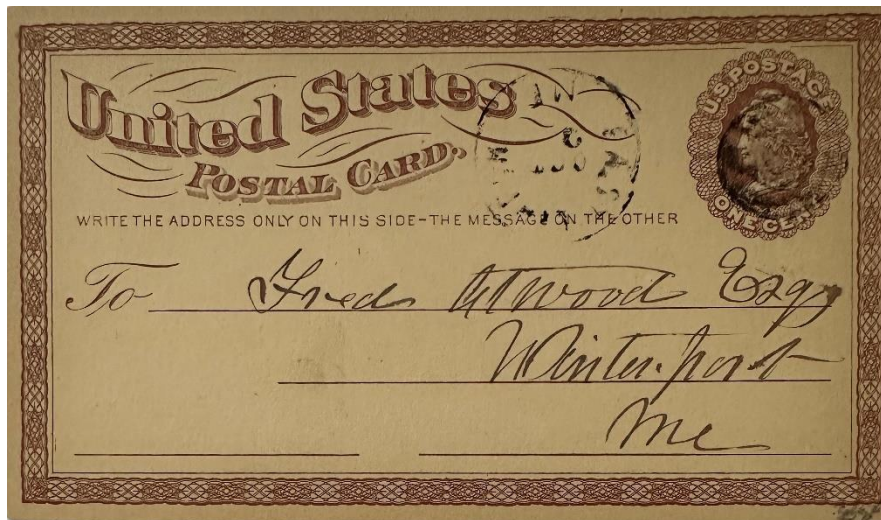
East Lyndon Post Office opened.

26 January 1874:

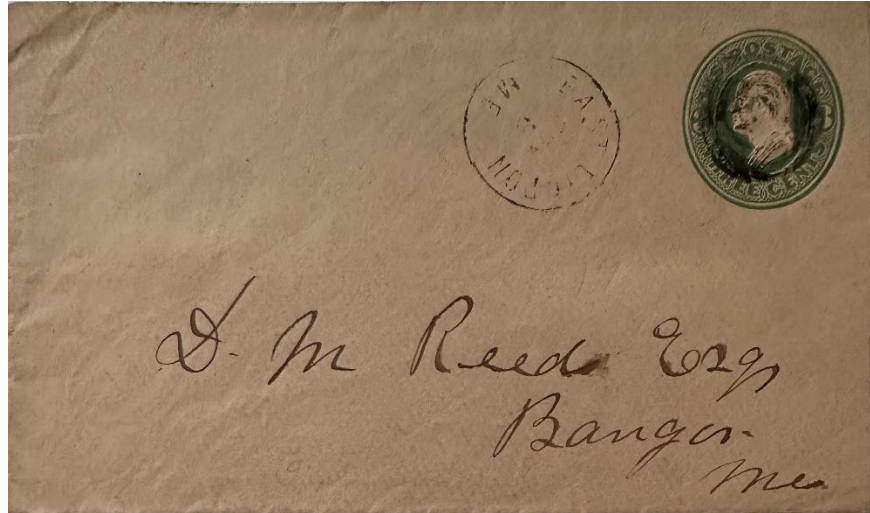
James Doyle became Postmaster for East Lyndon Post Office.



22 December 1874:  
Manuscript



7 October 1880: The circular postmark is 25 mm in diameter with a target killer.  
The place and date are confirmed with information from the contents on the back of the card.



Circa 1880: The circular postmark is 25 mm in diameter with a four-circle target killer.



2 September 1884:

The circular postmark is 25 mm in diameter with a target killer.

11 December 1886:

East Lyndon post office closed with service from Lyndon.

## Grimes

17 November 1898:

Grimes Post Office opened.

17 November 1898:

William N. Gould became Postmaster for Grimes Post Office.

23 December 1899:

George L. Kearney became Postmaster for Grimes Post Office.

15 August 1901:

George B. Churchill became Postmaster for Grimes Post Office.

9 May 1902:

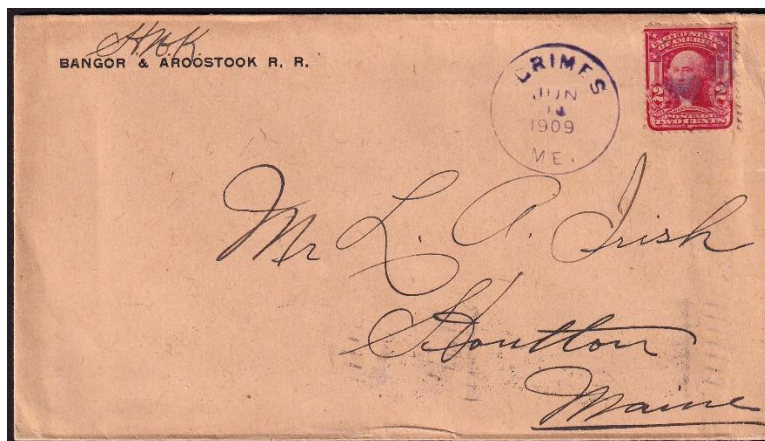
Fred J. Crozier became Postmaster for Grimes Post Office.

29 May 1903:

Thomas R. Spencer became Postmaster for Grimes Post Office.

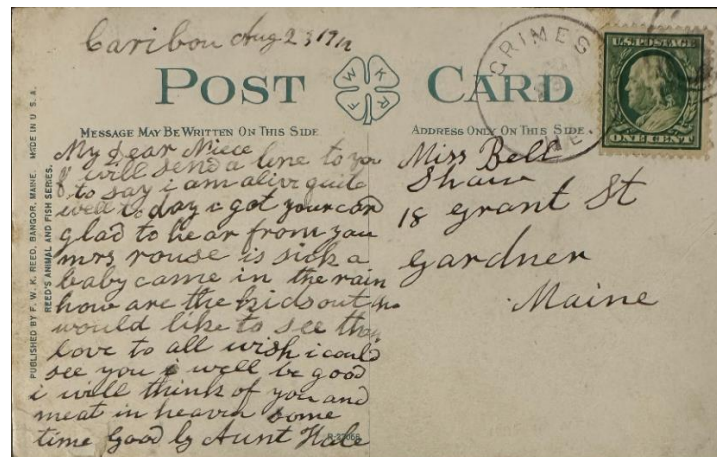
13 June 1905:

Thomas Pearce became Postmaster for Grimes Post Office.



14 June 1909:

The circular postmark is 28 mm in diameter with a cork-smudged killer.



23 August 1912:

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

29 December 1913:

Byron C. Raymond became Acting Postmaster for Grimes Post Office.



6 April 1914:

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

30 June 1915:

Grimes Post Office closed: Service from Caribou (2)

## Lyndon

15 January 1852:

Formerly Caribou Post Office, the name is changed to Lyndon Post Office.

13 November 1850:

Joseph W. Hines became Postmaster for Caribou Post Office and remained as Postmaster when Caribou Post Office was renamed Lyndon Post Office on 15 January 1852.



17 September 1852:

Manuscript

<http://www.mainephilatelic.org/mph>



16 February 1853:

Washington Long became Postmaster for Lyndon Post Office.

16 September 1853:

Ivory Hardison became Postmaster for Lyndon Post Office.



19 August 1861:  
Manuscript

15 November 1861:

Grinfill C. Hall became Postmaster for Lyndon Post Office.

10 December 1861:

Amos Dwinel became Postmaster for Lyndon Post Office.

23 May 1871:

Henry L. Rolfe became Postmaster for Lyndon Post Office.

9 March 1874:

Grinfill C. Hall became Postmaster for Lyndon Post Office.



19 July 1895:

The circular postmark is 27 mm in diameter.

10 November 1900:

Lyndon Post Office closed. Service from Caribou (2)

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*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 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.

Thank you to the Waterville Stamp Club <https://thewatervillestampclub.com> for ensuring the continuity of this project.

Sources:

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

Caribou [map] from the 1877 Atlas of Aroostook County, Maine:  
[https://digitalmaine.com/atlas\\_aroostook\\_1877/42/](https://digitalmaine.com/atlas_aroostook_1877/42/)

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>.