

Cary Plantation Postal History

Aroostook County, Maine

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

Cary was settled in 1824. It was organized as Plantation Number 11, Range 1, on June 30, 1859; the legislature made this organization official on February 21, 1878. It was organized as Cary Plantation on January 27, 1883; the legislature made this organization official on March 5, 1895. In July 2015, Cary Plantation residents began a plan to deorganize and become residents of the Maine Unorganized Territory. However, in March 2016, the Maine Legislature rejected the plantation's application, citing the financial burden deorganization would add to the remaining municipalities in Aroostook County.

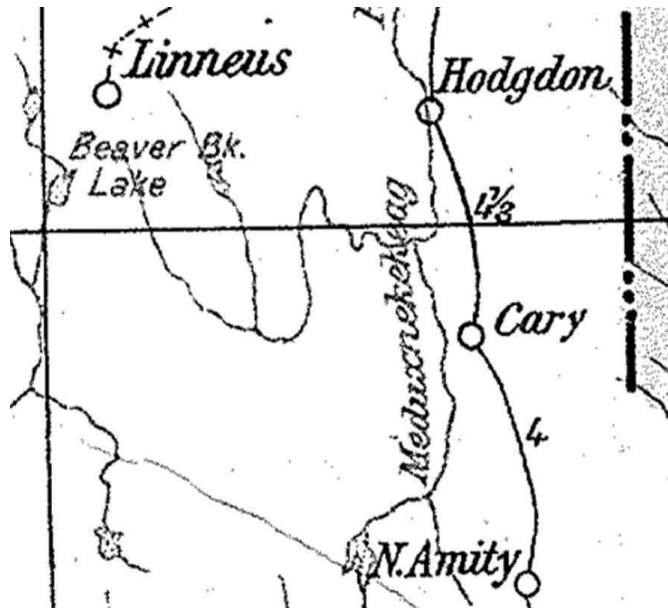
On October 3, 2017, residents again voted to deorganize, this time by a vote of 85 to 6, citing their rapidly increasing tax burden. The state legislature accepted their second deorganization proposal with an act that became law on April 21, 2018. On November 6, 2018, Cary residents voted to confirm the plantation's deorganization by a vote of 105 to 4. Cary became part of Maine's Unorganized Territory on July 1, 2019.

During the history of Cary Plantation, there have been four post offices.

Briefly, the history of these four is as follows:

1. **Bathurst** Post Office opened on 13 July 1838 (in Washington County until 1 May 1839 when it became part of the newly formed Aroostook County) and closed on 6 September 1842.
2. **Cary** (1) Post Office was established on 23 March 1880 and was renamed on 11 September 1889 as **North Amity** (2) Post Office (in Amity).
3. **Mansur's Mills** Post office was established on 27 August 1886. It was renamed **Mansurs Mills** in 1894. It was then renamed on 29 June 1896 as **Cary** (2) Post Office, which closed on 31 March 1915.
4. **Number Eleven** Post Office opened on 9 June 1862 and closed on 15 July 1867.

In 1914, there was only one post office in Cary Plantation: Cary (2).



Source: Post Route Map of the State of Maine 1914

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

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

[Bathurst](#)

[Cary \(1\)](#)

[Cary \(2\)](#)

[Mansurs Mills](#)

[Number Eleven](#)

Bathurst

13 July 1838:

Bathurst Post Office opened as part of Washington County.

13 July 1838:

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

Joshua Putnam became Postmaster of Bathurst Post Office.

1 May 1839

Bathurst Post Office became part of the newly formed Aroostook County.

14 December 1840

John V. Putnam became Postmaster of Bathurst Post Office.

6 September 1842:

Bathurst Post Office is closed.

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

23 March 1880:

Cary (1) Post Office was established.

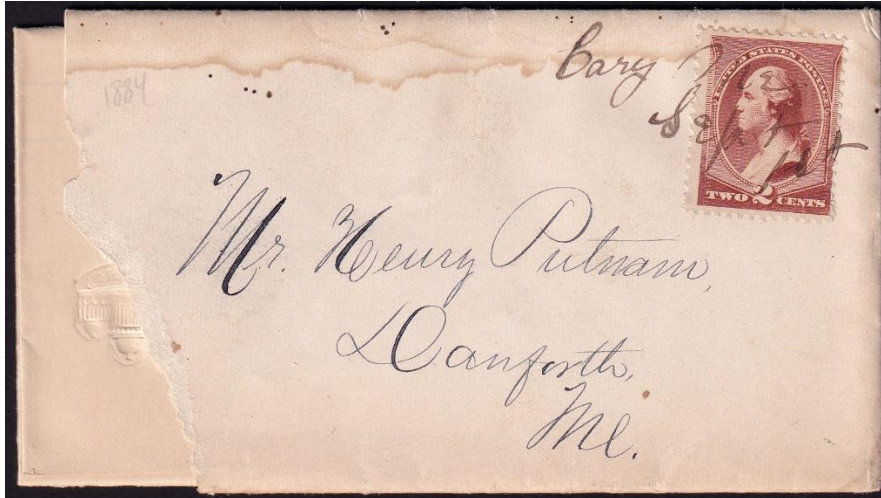
28 March 1880:

Eunice S. Carr became Postmaster for Cary (1) Post Office.

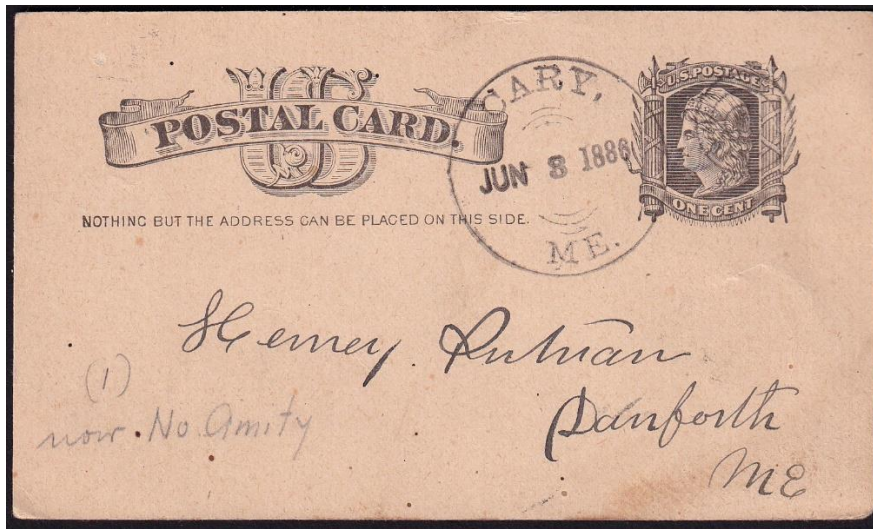


18 July 1882:

The double-ringed, coggled outer ring, oval postmark, is 38 mm wide and includes the County—four-circle target killer.



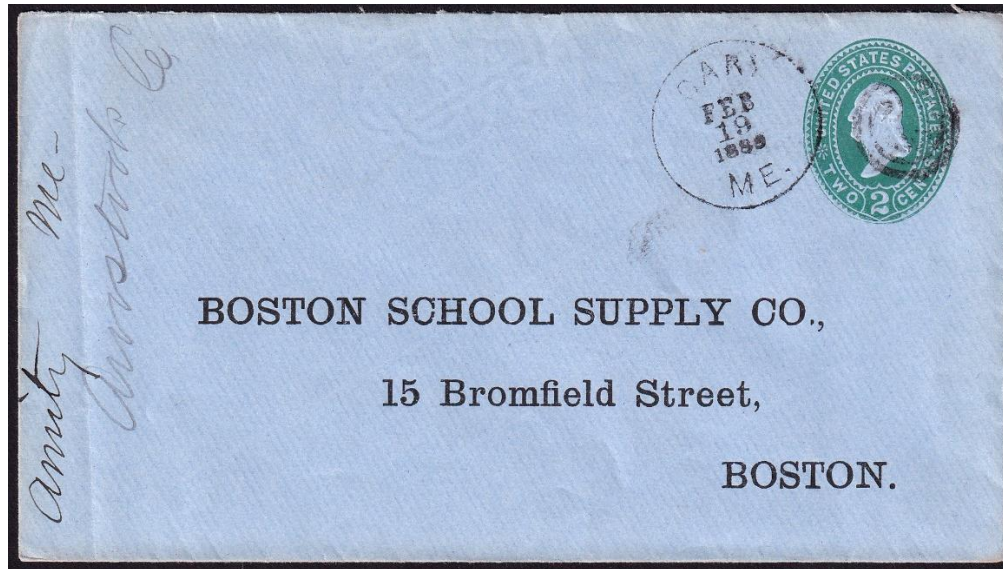
September 1, 1884:
Manuscript



8 June 1888:
The circular postmark is 36 mm in diameter with a three-circle target killer.

27 September 1886:

Milo W. Cone became Postmaster for Cary (1) Post Office.



19 February 1889:

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

11 September 1889:

Cary (1) Post Office was renamed as North Amity (2) Post Office (in Amity) (see Amity).

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

29 June 1896:

The former Mansurs Mills post office was renamed Cary (2).

9 July 1891:

Rose E. Norton became Postmaster for Mansurs Mills Post Office and remained as Postmaster when Mansurs Mills was renamed Cary (2) Post Office.

11 April 1901:

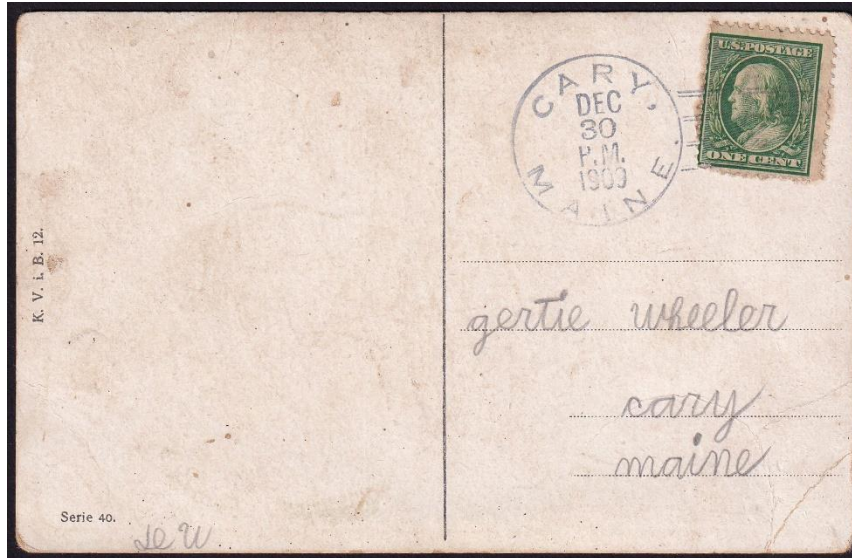
Ransom Norton became Postmaster for Cary (2) Post Office.

3 October 1902:

Isabel N. Alexander became Postmaster for Cary (2) Post Office.

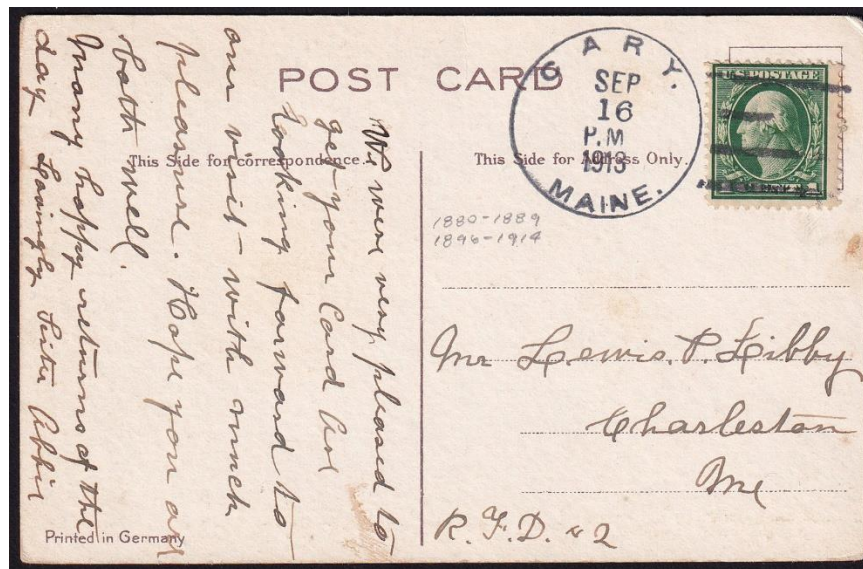
19 January 1909:

Lizzie B. Alexander became Postmaster for Cary (2) Post Office.



30 December 1909:
The circular postmark is 28 mm in diameter with a Doane 2/2 killer.

4 May 1910:
Willard Oliver became Postmaster for Cary (2) Post Office.



16 September 1913:
The circular postmark is 32 mm in diameter with a four-bar (B) killer. A similar postmark and killer is known dated 2 August 1912.

31 March 1915:
Cary (2) Post Office closed—service from Hodgdon.

Mansurs Mills

27 August 1886:

Mansurs Mills Post Office opened.

27 August 1886:

Hickory A. Mansur became Postmaster for Mansurs Mills Post Office.

10 November 1888:

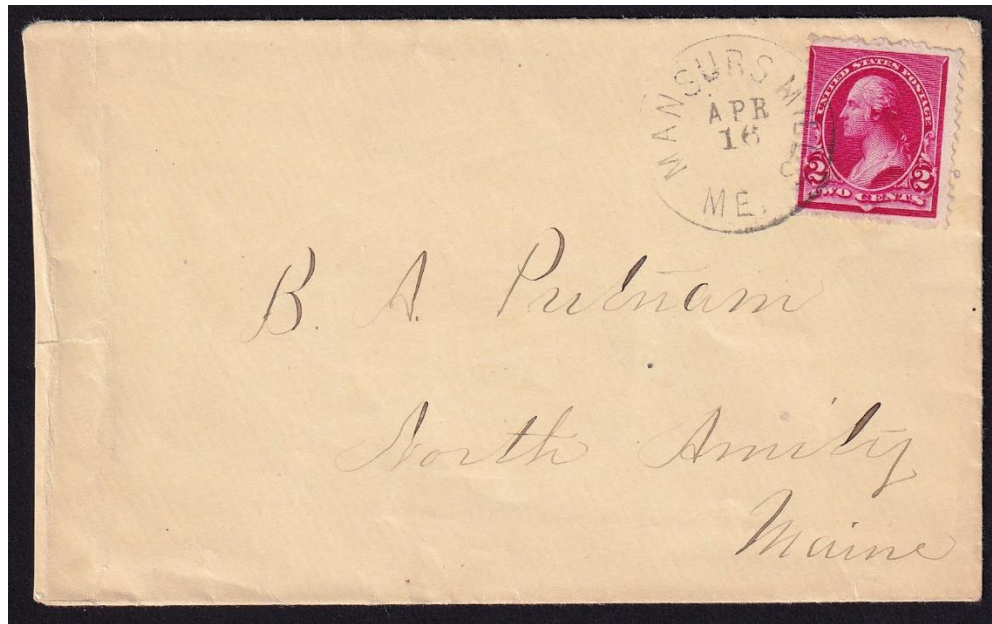
James Oliver became Postmaster for Mansurs Mills Post Office.

29 May 1889:

Rutha Jane Oliver became Postmaster for Mansurs Mills Post Office.

9 July 1891:

Rose E. Norton became Postmaster for Mansurs Mills Post Office.



16 April 1894: The circular postmark is 27 mm in diameter. A similar postmark is known dated 6 June 1894.

1896 June 29:

Mansurs Mills Post Office was renamed Cary (2) Post Office.

Number Eleven

9 June 1862:

Number Eleven Post Office opened.

9 June 1862:

William Reed became Postmaster for Number Eleven Post Office.

1867 July 15:

Number Eleven post office closed.

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).

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Sources:

The Post Offices of Maine 2022, Maine Philatelic Society:

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

Plantation No. 11, R 1, and Amity [map] from the 1877 Atlas of Aroostook County, Maine:

https://digitalmaine.com/atlas_aroostook_1877/11/

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>.