

Clayton Lake Township Postal History

Aroostook County, Maine

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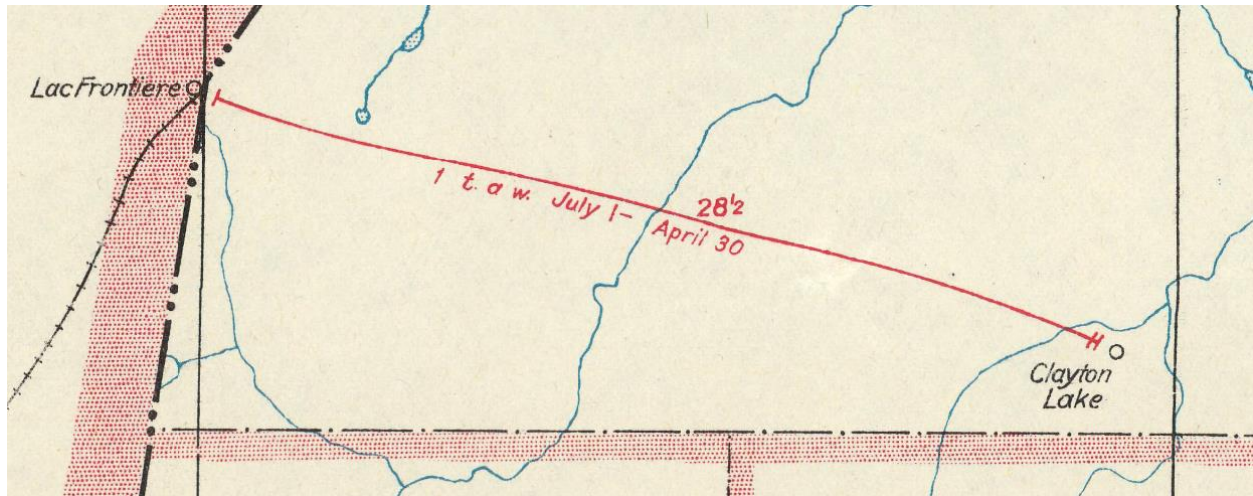
Clayton Lake is a logging camp community in the Northwest Aroostook unorganized territory, specifically T11 R14, on the north shore of the lake of the same name. The camp came into being when “King” Edouard LaCroix, the major lumber baron in the area, built a new road into the region from Lac Frontière, Québec. His company’s base of operations at Seven Islands, to the north, shifted to Clayton Lake. In those days, logging required a lot more manpower than it does today, and a lot more people lived at Clayton Lake. The post office lasted until 2004, when the CPO was discontinued. It had been the most remote post office still operating in the state.

For its first fifty years, mail for Clayton Lake was brought in from Lac Frontière, making it one of the few U. S. post offices ever to have its mail routed through Canada. For a time, not only did mail have to pass through Canada, but two other states as well. Mail for Clayton Lake went first to Portland, then by truck to Boston, by air to Montréal, and by train to Lac Frontière. That system probably shifted more to trucks as time went on. Starting on Oct. 3, 1981, Clayton Lake’s ZIP code was switched from Portland area 04018 to Aroostook area 04737. That was done because the routing was changed, and mail was then trucked in from Ashland, 65 miles to the east, over paper company owned gravel roads.

During the history of Clayton Lake Township, there has been only one post office.

Briefly, the history of this office is as follows:

The Seven Islands Post Office was moved from Seven Islands in T13 R15 WELS to Clayton Lake in T11 R14 WELS, on 1 Oct 1927 (Postal Bulletin 14418). The name was not changed until 16 May 1930, when it became Clayton Lake (Postal Bulletin 15269). On 30 June 1983, it changed to Clayton Lake CPO Ashland, then on 1 July 2003, it became Clayton Lake CPO Fort Kent, finally closing on 22 July 2004.



In 1942 the Clayton Lake Post Office was served one time a week ("1 t.a.w.") via a 28 ½ mile route from Lac Frontière, Québec. Source: Post Route Map of the State of Maine, 1942, via David Rumsey Map Collection, Stanford University: <https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/s/193qf0>

Post Offices from Clayton Lake Township are listed below. In addition, postmarks that collectors have provided to this project from the post offices associated with Clayton Lake Township have been included.

[Clayton Lake](#)

[Clayton Lake CPO Ashland](#)

[Clayton Lake CPO Fort Kent](#)

[Seven Islands](#)

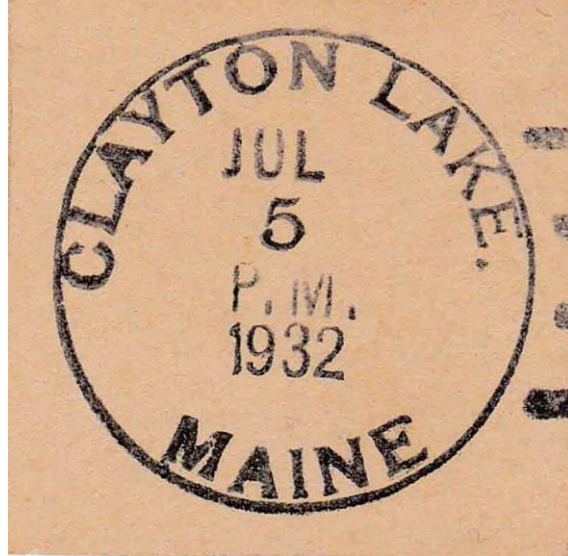
Clayton Lake

16 May 1930:

The former Seven Islands Post Office was renamed Clayton Lake Post Office.

8 July 1926:

George R. Burnham became Postmaster of the Seven Islands Post Office and remained as Postmaster when the Seven Islands Post Office was renamed Clayton Lake Post Office on 16 May 1930.



5 July 1932:

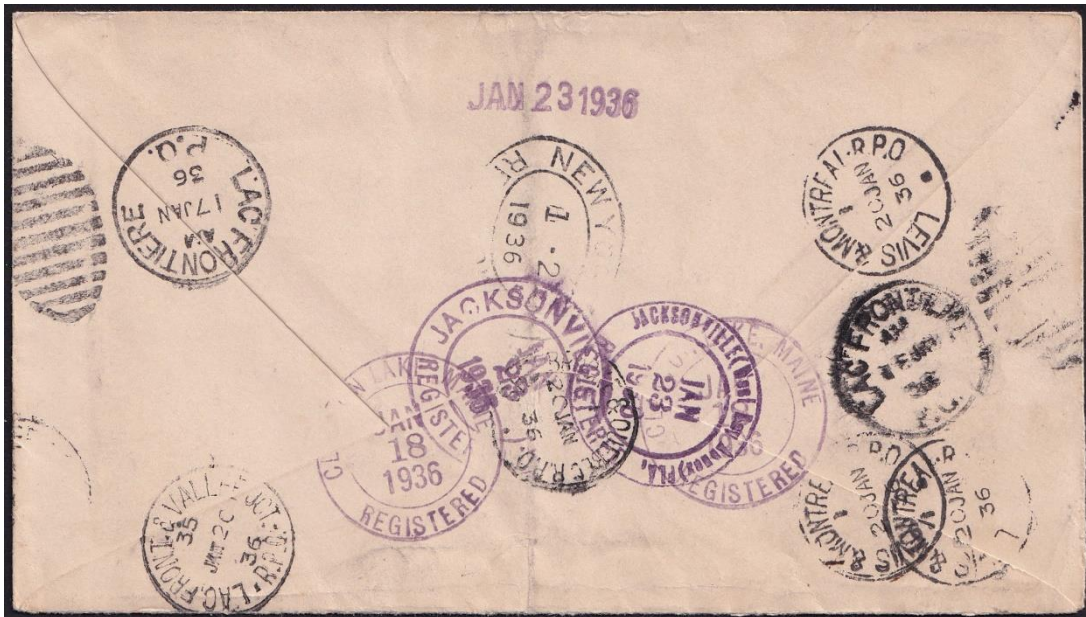
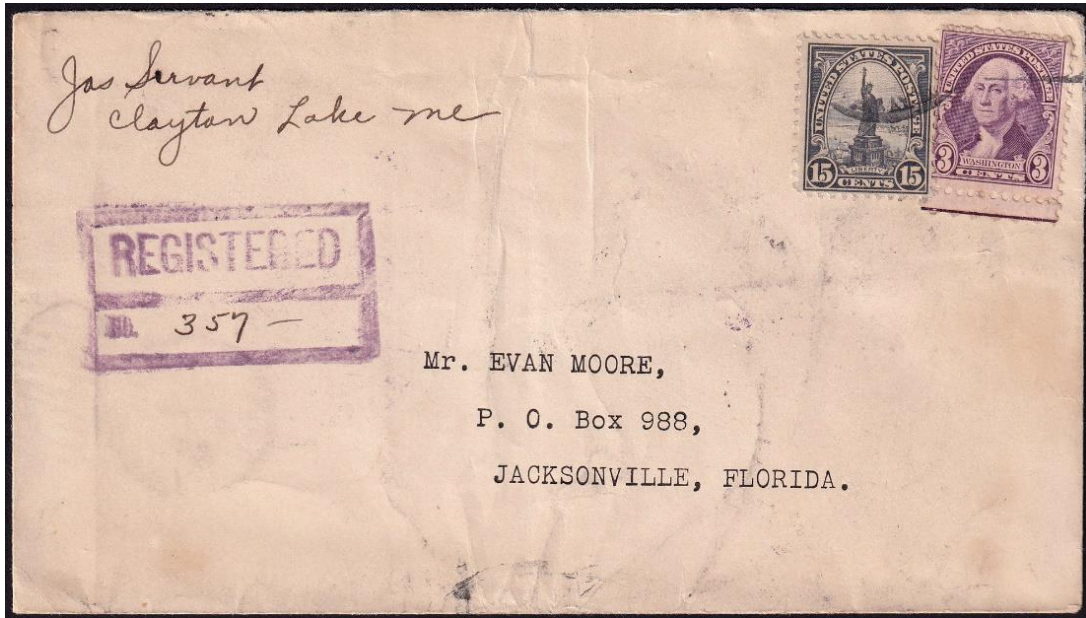
Postmark diameter 33 mm; four-bar killer.

1 December 1935:

Mrs. Dorothy F. Burnham became Postmaster of Clayton Lake Post Office.

8 January 1936:

Dorothy F. (Burnham) Butler became Postmaster of Clayton Lake Post Office.
Her name changed by marriage on 5 March 1936.



18 January 1936

As was the custom with registered letters at this time, the stamps on the envelope were cancelled but did not receive a local postmark on the front; it appears that the postmaster may have used the lower-edge of her four-bar handstamp to honor that custom. However, the back was postmarked with a "Clayton Lake, Maine Registered" double-circle date stamp (DCDS). The Canadian markings illustrate the roundabout route that mail from Clayton Lake took via Lac Frontière and three Railway Post Offices in Québec before re-entering the United States. The Clayton Lake postmark is from a Saturday; apparently the Lac Frontière device had not been changed from the Friday date when the Lac Frontière postmaster backstamped the envelope.

4 November 1938:

Gerald H. Corbin became Acting Postmaster of Clayton Lake Post Office.

24 March 1939:

Gerald H. Corbin became Acting Postmaster of Clayton Lake Post Office.

28 October 1939:

Miss Myrtle B. Colson became Acting Postmaster of Clayton Lake Post Office.

18 December 1939:

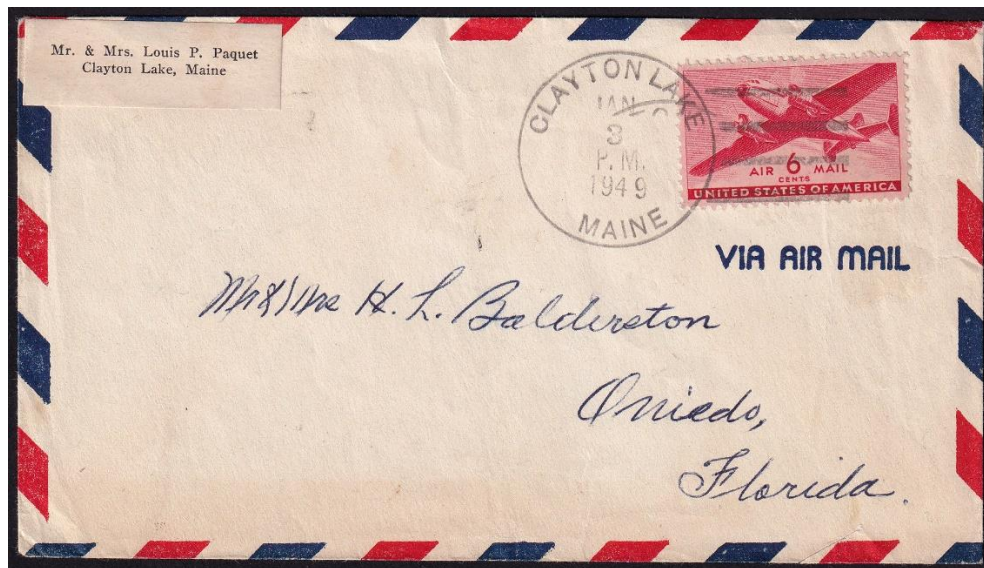
Miss Myrtle B. Colson became Postmaster of Clayton Lake Post Office.

13 June 1946:

Miss Louise M. Paquet became Acting Postmaster of Clayton Lake Post Office.

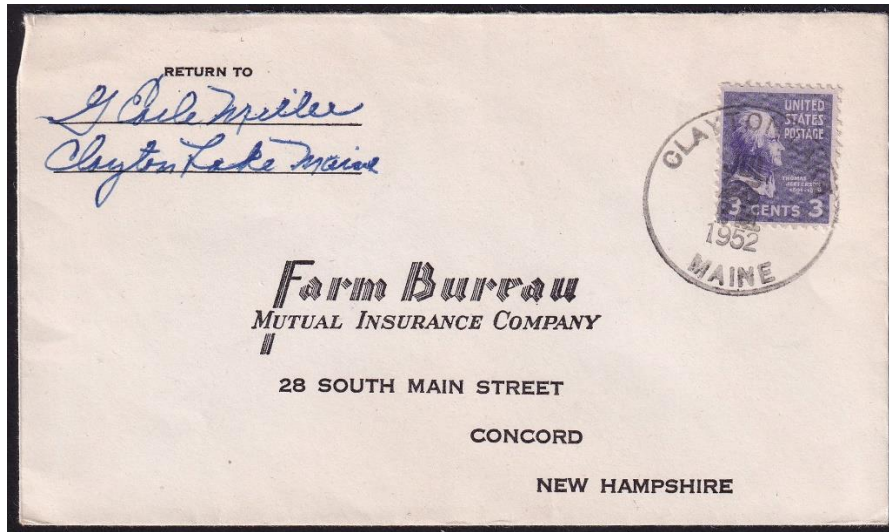
15 August 1947:

Louis P. Paquet became Postmaster of Clayton Lake Post Office.



3 January 1949:

The circular postmark is 33 mm in diameter with a four-bar (B) killer. A similar postmark and killer dated 12 April 1940 is known.



25 July 1952:

The circular postmark is 34 mm in diameter, with the CDS used as a killer.

22 June 1960:

Miss Abbie M. Paquet became Acting Postmaster of Clayton Lake Post Office.

2 December 1960:

Mrs. Jeannine P. Weymouth became Postmaster of Clayton Lake Post Office.

10 June 1966:

Mrs. Annette A. Jackson became Acting Postmaster of Clayton Lake Post Office.

24 March 1967:

Mrs. Margot B. Weber became Acting Postmaster of Clayton Lake Post Office.

12 April 1968:

Mrs. Margot B. Weber became Postmaster of Clayton Lake Post Office.

17 October 1969:

Mrs. Jacqueline E. May became Officer-in-Charge of Clayton Lake Post Office.

4 September 1971:

Mrs. Jacqueline E. May became Postmaster of Clayton Lake Post Office.

7 July 1972:

Mrs. Margo Holden became Officer-in-Charge of Clayton Lake Post Office.

28 October 1972:

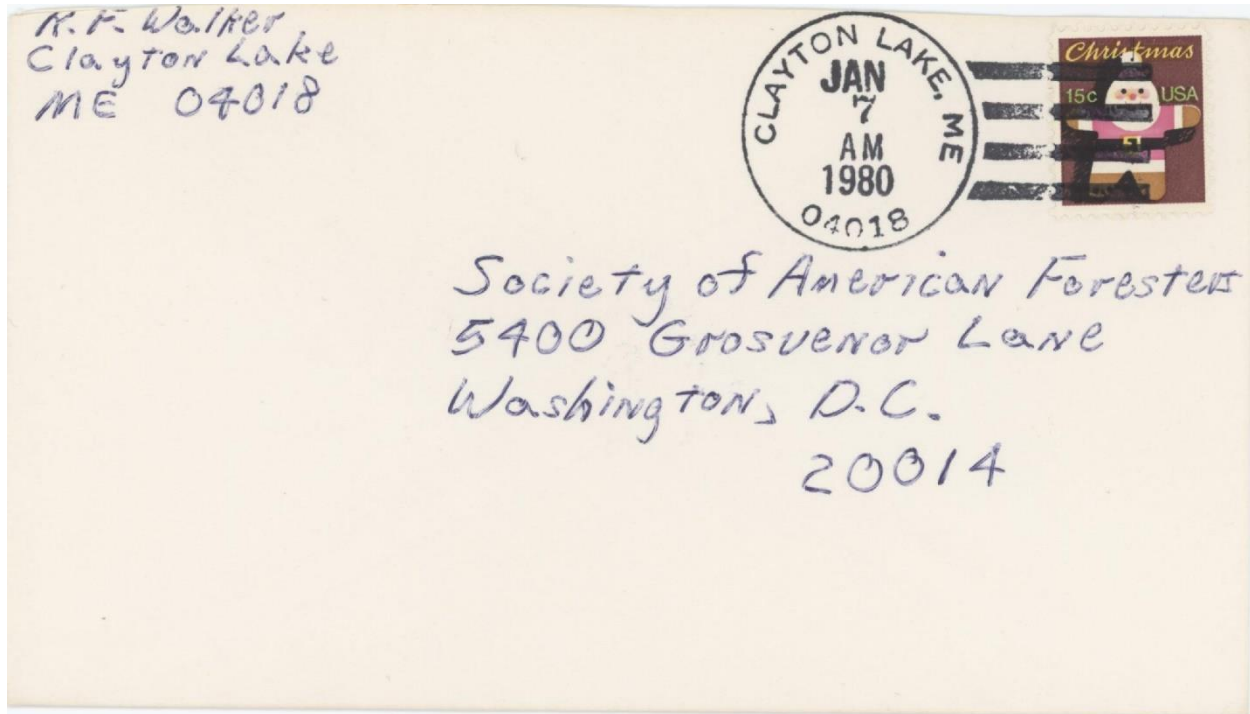
Mrs. Marguerite Holden became Postmaster of Clayton Lake Post Office.

Unknown date:

An unknown person became Officer-in-Charge.

15 December 1979:

Jolyne D. Guay became Postmaster of Clayton Lake Post Office.



7 January 1980: The circular postmark is 31 mm in diameter with a four-bar (B) killer. The postmark shows an "040" zip code reflecting its connection with the Portland Post Office.

6 August 1981:

Mrs. Maureen A. Ouellette became Officer-in-Charge of Clayton Lake Post Office.

9 January 1982:

Mrs. Maureen A. Ouellette became Postmaster of Clayton Lake Post Office.

18 January 1983:

Sonya J. Lebreux became Officer-in-Charge of Clayton Lake Post Office.

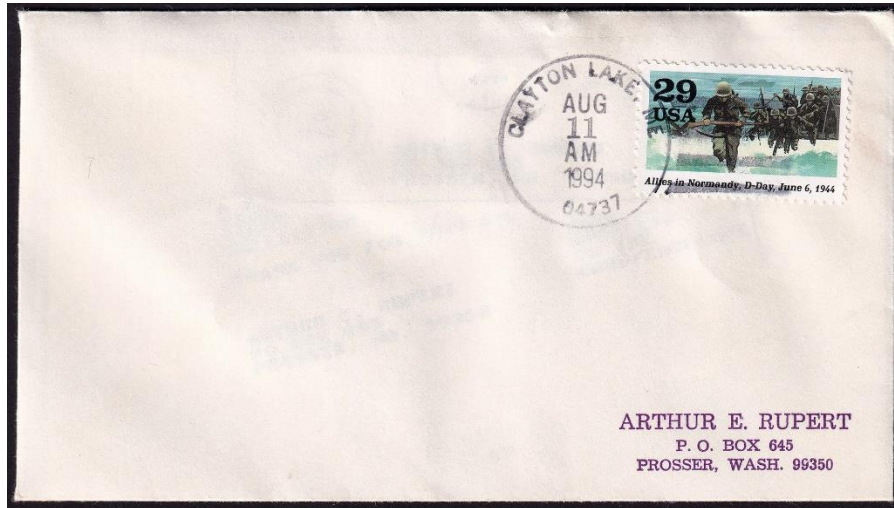
10 June 1983:

Clayton Lake Post Office became Clayton Lake CPO Ashland.

Clayton Lake CPO Ashland

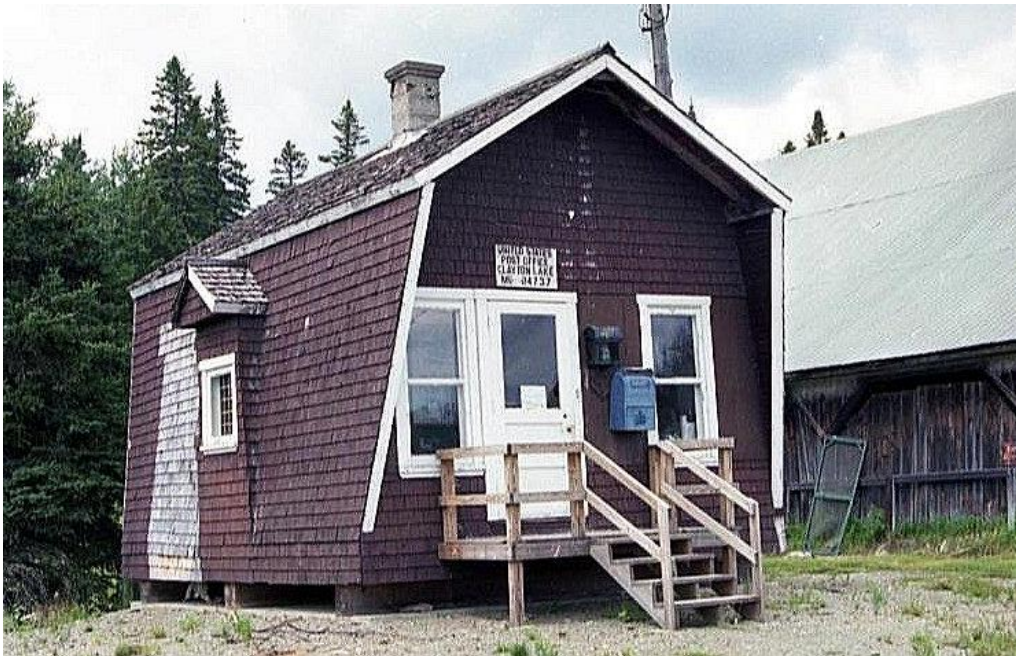
10 June 1983:

Clayton Lake Post Office became Clayton Lake CPO Ashland Post Office.



11 August 1994:

The circular postmark is 32 mm in diameter with a four-bar (B) killer. The "047" zip code reflects Clayton Lake's connection as being via northern Maine, instead of via Portland (040), Boston, and Montréal.



Clayton Lake Post Office, July 1998, taken by John Gallagher for Post Mark Collectors Club.

<http://www.postmarks.org/photos/us.php?st=ME>.

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

1 July 2003:

Clayton Lake CPO Ashland Post Office became Clayton Lake CPO Fort Kent.

Clayton Lake CPO Fort Kent

1 July 2003:

Clayton Lake CPO Ashland Post Office became Clayton Lake CPO Fort Kent.

22 July 2004:

Clayton Lake CPO Fort Kent Post Office closed with a Zip Code 04737.

Seven Islands Post Office

16 December 1919:

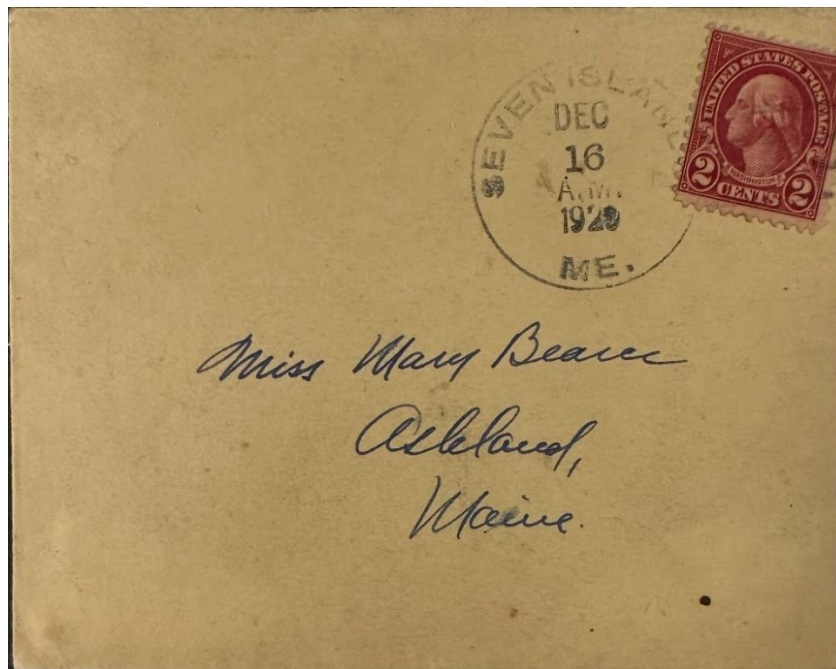
Seven Islands Post Office opens.

16 December 1919:

Albert M. Currier became Postmaster for Seven Islands Post Office.

10 January 1924:

Louise McGillicuddy became Postmaster for Seven Islands Post Office.



16 December 1930:

The circular postmark is 32.5 mm in diameter with a four-bar (A) killer.

8 July 1926:

George R. Burnham became Postmaster for Seven Islands Post Office.

1 October 1927:

The Seven Islands Post Office in T13 R15 WELS was moved to T11 R14 WELS.

16 May 1930:

The former Seven Islands Post Office was renamed Clayton Lake Post Office. George R. Burnham remained as Postmaster.

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, Kelvin Kindahl, and Brian Damien (2024).

Thank you for the contributions to this page by The Strout Family, Jim Husson, Kelvin Kindahl, and Max Lynds. Thanks to John Gallagher for giving permission to use the post office photo, taken for the collection of the Post Mark Collectors Club. Thank you to the Waterville Stamp Club <https://www.thewatervillestampclub.com> for helping to ensure the continuity of this project.

Sources:

The book *Nine Mile Bridge*, by Helen Hamlin, who taught school and lived in the area for several years in the late 1930s, gives a good flavor of the region, and includes descriptions of how the mail reached Clayton Lake. Link to find Maine libraries that own the book:
<https://mainecat.maine.edu/record=b5960510~S0>

Kelvin Kindahl, "Maine had the most remote post office in New England," in *The Maine Philatelist*, Vol. 44, No. 1, January 2022.

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

1955 U. S. Geological Survey topographic quadrangle map Clayton Lake:
https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/ht-bin/tv_browse.pl?id=9ebba7ac187f72a4864b7f5d16abf08d

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>.