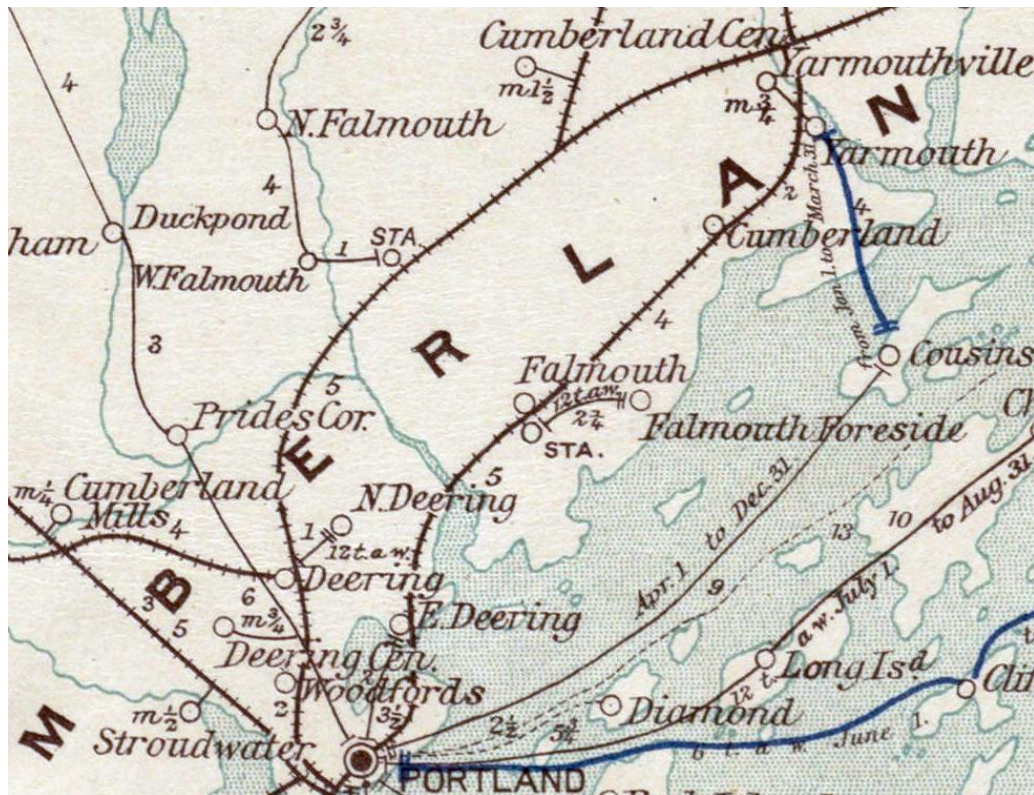# Falmouth Postal History
Cumberland County, Maine

Last update for this page: 31 August 2024

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Falmouth was officially incorporated in November 1718. Its original boundaries included today's Portland, South Portland, Cape Elizabeth, Westbrook, and Falmouth. As we know it today, Falmouth was located within this larger community and sometimes referred to as New Casco. Portland separated from Falmouth in 1786. Cape Elizabeth (which at that time included the land that later became South Portland) had already broken away in 1765. Westbrook followed in 1814.

During the history of Falmouth, there have been nine post offices. Briefly, these are:

1. **Falmouth (1)** Post Office opened in 1764 and closed on 4 July 1786. It was located in what is now Portland (see also Portland). Changed to Portland Post Office; operated under British Crown, Massachusetts, and Continental Congress. (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. **Falmouth (2)** Post Office (formerly New Casco (1) Post Office) opened on 1 October 1800 and closed on 1 August 1805. It re-opened on 19 January 1822, closed in 1824, re-opened on 26 August 1835, and closed on 30 September 1901.
3. **Falmouth B Portland** Post Office opened on 1 August 1962 and closed on 15 February 1980. It re-opened on 13 January 1983 and is still operational.
4. **Falmouth Foreside** Post Office (formerly New Casco (2) Post Office) opened on 5 October 1888 and closed on 30 September 1901.
5. **New Casco (1)** Post Office opened on 8 April 1799 and closed on 1 October 1800 with the name changed to Falmouth (2) Post Office.
6. **New Casco (2)** Post Office opened on 22 October 1857 and closed on 5 October 1888. It was changed to Falmouth Foreside Post Office.
7. **North Falmouth** Post Office opened on 26 June 1874 and closed on 20 December 1900.
8. **Presumpscot** Post Office opened on 27 June 1898 and closed on 15 March 1906.
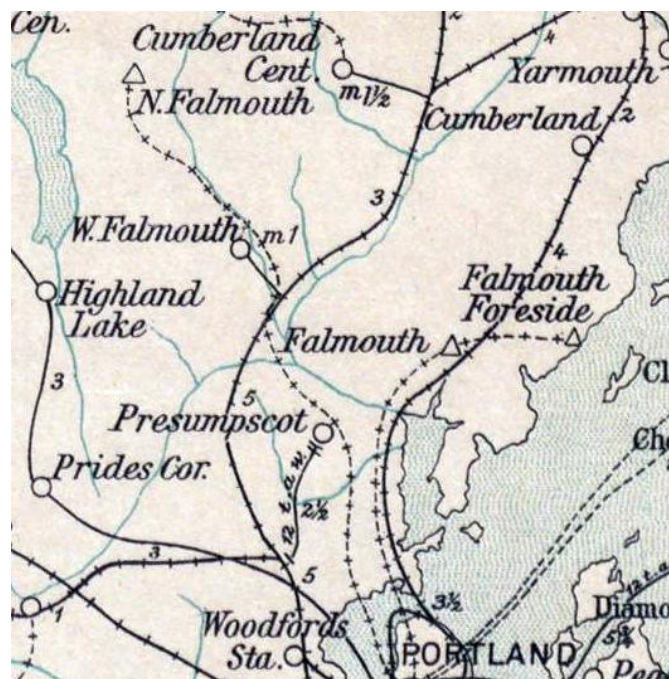9. **West Falmouth** Post Office opened on 5 August 1840 and closed on 30 September 1918.

In 1897, shown at left, there were four post offices in Falmouth: Falmouth, Falmouth Foreside, North Falmouth, and West Falmouth.

Source: https://collections.leventhalmap.org/search/commonwealth:cj82kk95k
Map reproduction courtesy of Norman B. Leventhal Map and Education Center at the Boston Public Library.

In 1903, shown at right, there were only two post offices in Falmouth: West Falmouth, and Presumpscot (newly opened in 1898, but soon to close in 1906). The introduction of RFD service had led to the closure of the Falmouth, Falmouth Foreside, and North Falmouth post offices (triangle symbol indicates a closed post office_
Source: Post Route Map of the State of Maine, 1903. Map reproduction courtesy of Normal B. Leventhal Map and Education Center at the Boston Public Library.

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

Falmouth (1) (Note: There were two post offices in Maine named Falmouth at different times and locations. 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.)

1764:
Falmouth (1) Post Office opened: From Appendix A-9 of the book The Post Offices of Maine: "As with many early offices, the exact date of the Falmouth post office opening is unclear. What is clear is that regular post rider service from Portsmouth to Falmouth started in 1764, and Thomas Child was serving as Postmaster by early 1764. Hecht and Hannemann report Falmouth opened as early as '1761, assumed', Chase gives '1763?' but Dow, in his essay *The Origin of Portland, Maine, Post Office,* says 'by Dec. 1764.' Accounts of when the name changed to Portland also vary."

1764:
  Thomas Child became the Postmaster of the Falmouth (1) Post Office.

12 May 1775:
  Samuel Freeman became the Postmaster of the Falmouth (1) Post Office.

1 October 1775:
  Samuel Freeman was again named as the Postmaster of the Falmouth (1) Post Office.

4 July 1786:
  The Falmouth Post Office is closed and renamed the Portland Post Office.

Falmouth (2) (Note: There were two post offices in Maine named Falmouth at different times and locations. 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.)
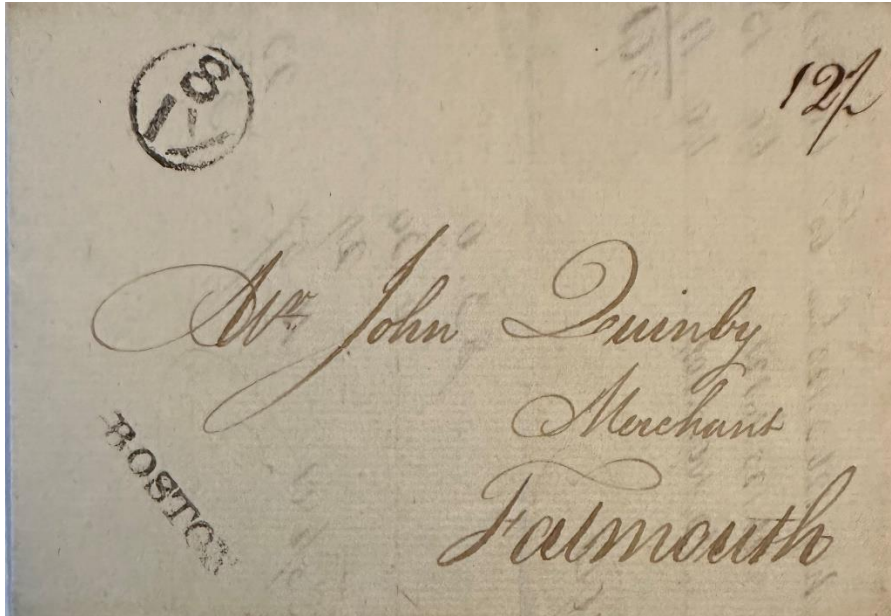
1 October 1800:
  Falmouth (2) (formerly New Casco Post Office) Post Office opened. From Appendix A-21 of the book The Post Offices of Maine: "New Casco (1) was established on 17 July 1799 and changed its name to Falmouth (2) the following year. Falmouth (2) is recorded as having subsequently reopened in 1822 and 1835. However, the closing dates before 1822 and 1835 are uncertain, and for lack of better information, the dates shown in the 1995 edition (of The Rarity Guide) are repeated here. Some sources indicate the first closure as 1804 or 1805, but the *American Stampless Cover Catalog* (1997) reports manuscript markings from 1810 to 1816. After reopening in 1822, there was a second closure in 1823 or 1824. Falmouth reopened in 1835, lasting until it and Falmouth Foreside were replaced by RFD from Portland in 1901."

1 October 1800:
  Joseph Thrasher became the Postmaster of the Falmouth (2) Post Office.

1 August 1805:
   The Falmouth (2) Post Office closed (see above note)

7 July 1798:
Cancel from Boston, addressed to Falmouth during a time when there was no official Post Office at Falmouth.

19 January 1822:
   The Falmouth (2) Post Office reopened.

19 January 1822:
   Peter McKnight became the Postmaster of the Falmouth (2) Post Office.

1824: (January 1823 per Doubleday see above note)
   Falmouth (2) Post Office closed.

26 August 1835:
   Falmouth (2) Post Office reopened.

26 August 1835:
   Ephraim Brown became the Postmaster of the Falmouth (2) Post Office.

17 June 1837:
   Joseph Colley became the Postmaster of the Falmouth (2) Post Office.

21 July 1840:
   Green Cram became the Postmaster of the Falmouth (2) Post Office.

6 August 1841:
   John E. Donnell became the Postmaster of the Falmouth (2) Post Office.

21 July 1845:
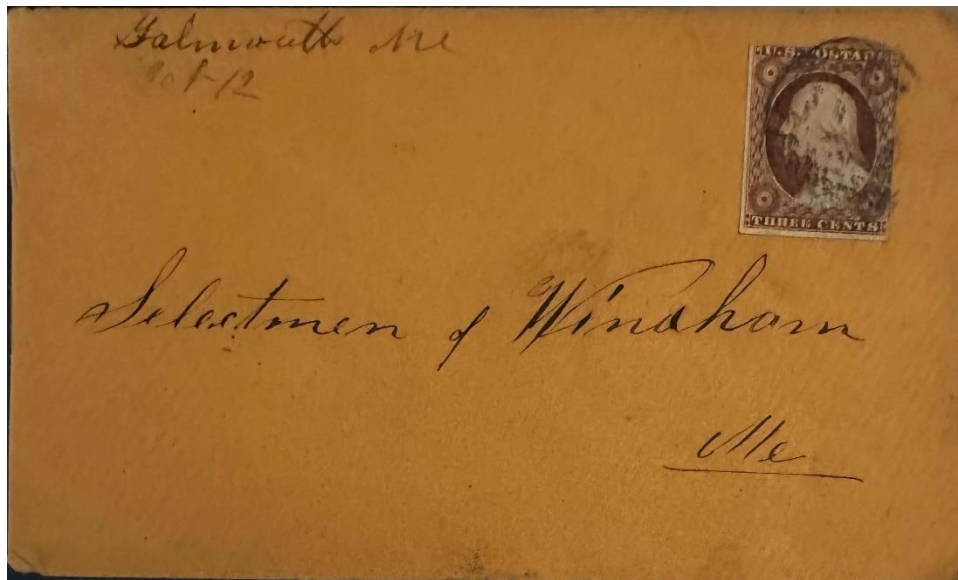   Josiah Batchelder became the Postmaster of the Falmouth (2) Post Office.

22 June 1849:
   Joseph Colley became the Postmaster of the Falmouth (2) Post Office.

30 June 1852:
   William N. Richards became the Postmaster of the Falmouth (2) Post Office.

28 December 1853: Ezra T. Williams became the Postmaster of the Falmouth (2) Post Office.

12 October 1855:
Manuscript postmark with a circle handstamp killer.

17 December 1862:
   Stephen J. Merrill became the Postmaster of the Falmouth (2) Post Office.

Unknown date:
   R.A. Hines is mentioned in the Official Registry as receiving Postmaster compensation but is
not listed in the Postmaster Records.

23 March 1868:
   Melville C. Merrill became the Postmaster of the Falmouth (2) Post Office.

26 December 1872:
   Joseph G. Colley became the Postmaster of the Falmouth (2) Post Office.

26 May 1874:
   Lucien Ingalls became the Postmaster of the Falmouth (2) Post Office.

18 May 1881:
   Susan A. Colley became the Postmaster of the Falmouth (2) Post Office.

13 April 1888:
   Charles K. Richards became the Postmaster of the Falmouth (2) Post Office.

3 December 1898:
   Jacob Merrill became the Postmaster of the Falmouth (2) Post Office.

18 April 1901:
   Samuel W. Hamilton became the Postmaster of the Falmouth (2) Post Office.

26 August 1901 discontinued effective 30 September 1901:
   The Falmouth (2) Post Office closed with service from Portland.

Falmouth B Portland

1 August 1962:
   Falmouth B (Branch) Portland Post Office opened.

15 February 1980:
   Falmouth B Portland Post Office closed.

13 January 1983:
   Falmouth B Portland Post Office reopened.

29 February 2024:
   Falmouth B Portland Post Office is still operational at Shaw's Grocery Store at 251 US-1, Falmouth, ME 04105. Also seen as CPU Shaw's Post Office GPS 43° 43' 24" N   70° 13' 47" W.

Falmouth Foreside

5 October 1888:
   Falmouth Foreside (formerly New Casco (2)) Post Office opened.

1 February 1888:
  Ralph S. Norton became the Postmaster of the New Casco (2) Post Office and remained
Postmaster when the New Casco (2) Post Office name changed to Falmouth Foreside Post Office
on 5 October 1888.

10 April 1889:
  George D. Sargent became the Postmaster of the Falmouth Foreside Post Office.

1 September 1893:
  Eben H. Ramsdell became the Postmaster of the Falmouth Foreside Post Office.

23 April 1897:
  George D. Sargent became the Postmaster of the Falmouth Foreside Post Office.

27 August 1901
  Discontinued effective September 1901 with service from Portland:
  Falmouth Foreside Post Office closed.

New Casco (1) (Note: There were two post offices in Maine named New Casco at different times and locations. 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 April 1799:
  New Casco (1) Post Office opened. See the note above from Appendix A-21 of the book The Post Offices of Maine:

8 April 1799:
  Joseph Thrasher

1 October 1800:
  New Casco (1) Post Office closed, and the name was changed to Falmouth (2) Post Office.

New Casco (2) (Note: There were two post offices in Maine named New Casco at different times and locations. 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.)

22 October 1857:
  New Casco (2) Post Office opened.

22 October 1857:
  Shubael D. Norton became the Postmaster of the New Casco (2) Post Office.

9 March 1875:
   George D. Sargent became the Postmaster of the New Casco (2) Post Office.

1 February 1888:
   Ralph S. Norton became the Postmaster of the New Casco (2) Post Office.

5 October 1888:
   New Casco (2) Post Office closed, and the name was changed to Falmouth Foreside Post Office.

North Falmouth

26 June 1874:
   North Falmouth Post Office opened.

26 June 1874:
   Isaac W. Gould became the Postmaster of the North Falmouth Post Office.

31 August 1875:
   Clarence M. Morrill became the Postmaster of the North Falmouth Post Office.

12 May 1879:
   Thaddeus M. Lewis became the Postmaster of the North Falmouth Post Office.

10 February 1886:
   Esther E. Emery became the Postmaster of the North Falmouth Post Office.

3 April 1890:
The circular postmark is 27 mm in diameter with a four-circle target killer. A similar postmark with no killer used as a received cancel dated 15 July 1897 is known.

15 December 1900, effective 20 December 1900:
  North Falmouth Post Office closed with service from Portland.

Presumpscot

27 June 1898:
  Presumpscot Post Office opened.

27 June 1898:
  Albert H. Wilson became the Postmaster of the Presumpscot Post Office.

29 May 1900:
  Abbie C. Wilson became the Postmaster of the Presumpscot Post Office.

31 July 1906 discontinued, effective 15 March 1906:
  Presumpscot Post Office closed with service from Portland.

West Falmouth

5 August 1840:
  West Falmouth Post Office opened.

5 August 1840:
  Franklin Hosmer became the Postmaster of the West Falmouth Post Office.

http://www.mainephilatelic.org/mph

17 May 1841:
  Ozias Merrill became the Postmaster of the West Falmouth Post Office.

11 April 1851:
  John Noyes became the Postmaster of the West Falmouth Post Office.

16 December 1862:
  Ellery H. Starbird became the Postmaster of the West Falmouth Post Office.

14 March 1864:
  Daniel F. Small became the Postmaster of the West Falmouth Post Office.
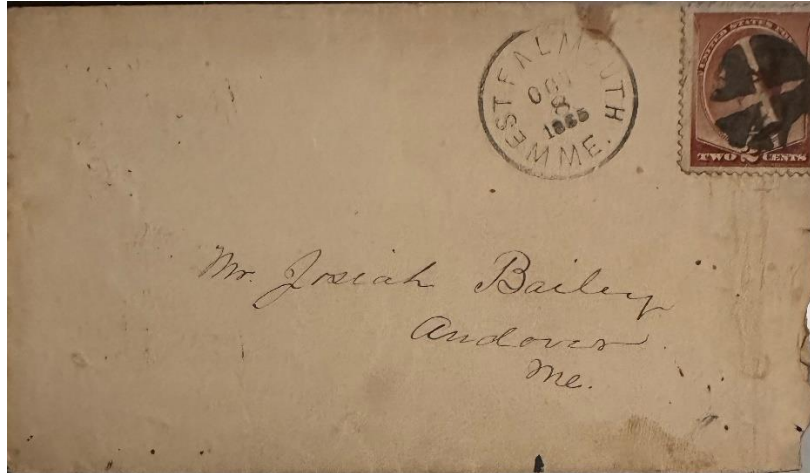
24 May 1865:
  William P. Newman became the Postmaster of the West Falmouth Post Office.

23 September 1884:
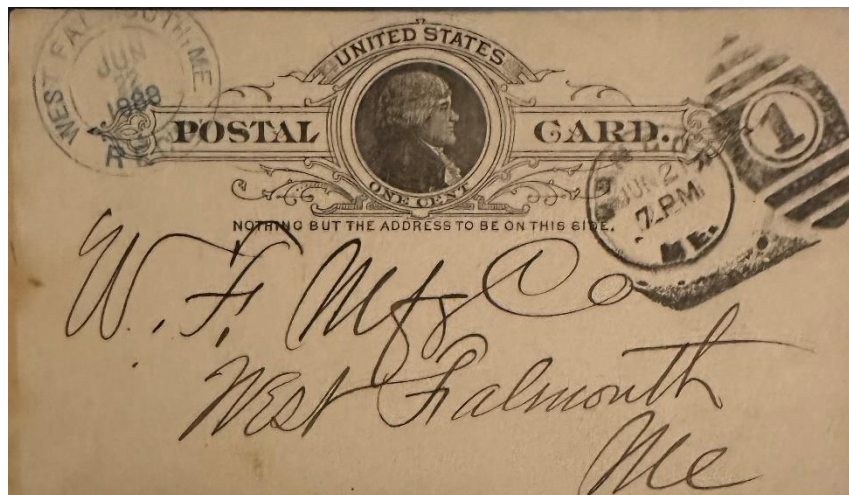The circular postmark is 26 mm in diameter with a four-circle target killer.

8 October 1885:
The circular postmark is 26 mm in diameter with a quartered circle killer.

10 February 1886:
   Arthur S. Noyes became the Postmaster of the West Falmouth Post Office.
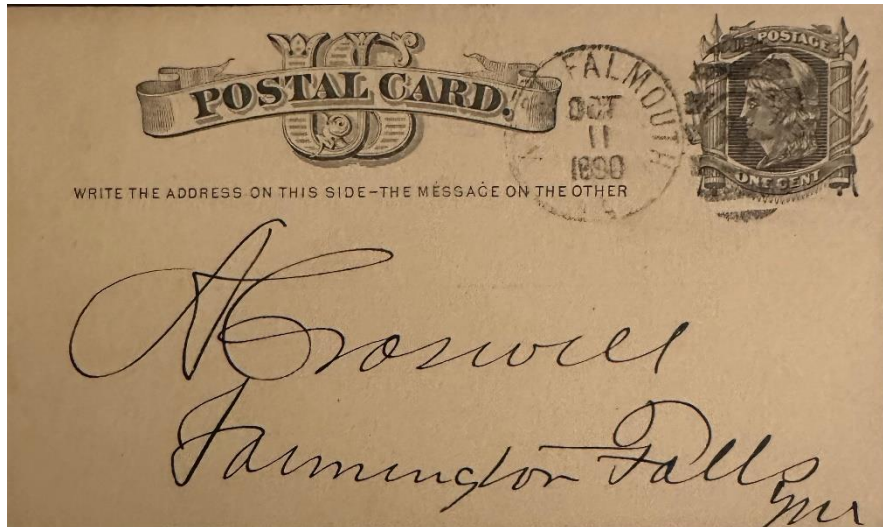

22 June 1888:
The outer circle of this double-ringed circle postmark is 29 mm in diameter with no killer.

10 May 1889:
   William P. Newman became the Postmaster of the West Falmouth Post Office.
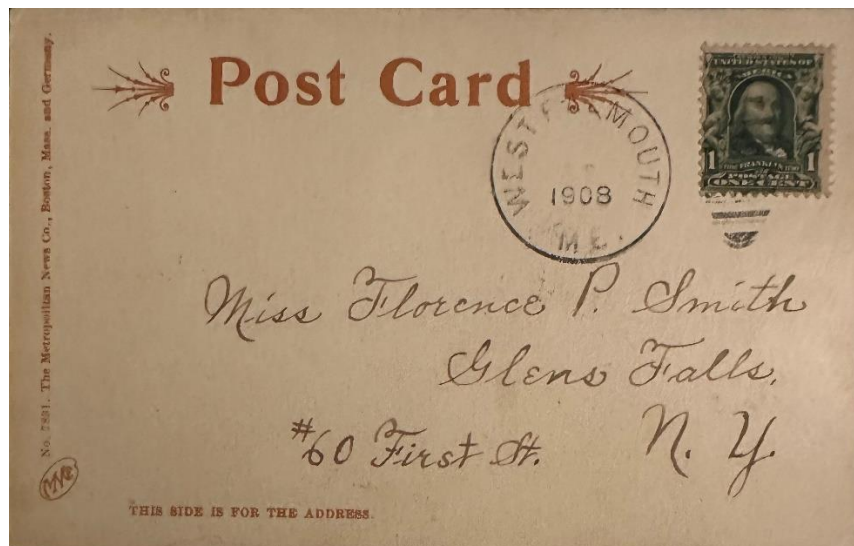
17 October 1889:
   Arthur S. Noyes became the Postmaster of the West Falmouth Post Office.

11 October 1890:
The circular postmark is 25 mm in diameter with a seven-bar oval killer.

1908:
The circular postmark is 29 mm in diameter with an eight-bar oval duplex killer.

6 July 1916:
   Carrie M. Hall became the Postmaster of the West Falmouth Post Office.

27 January 1917:
   Rose M. Marrinos became the Postmaster of the West Falmouth Post Office.

30 September 1918.
   West Falmouth Post Office closed with service from Woodford Station.

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 (sec0nd) localities of post offices of the same name. 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 are _not_ the same thing as the post offices we call Auburn (1), Auburn (2), etc.

Also: the numbers do **not** appear in postmarks or any official post office publications, but 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 (2024).

Thank you for the contributions to this page by James Husson.

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

Sources:

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

National Archives Catalog, Postmaster Appointments for Cumberland County, Maine
https://catalog.archives.gov/id/78746483

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 Research Resources on Maine Postal History: http://www.mainephilatelic.org/books/post-office-sources.pdf.

"Falmouth," article in Maine: An Encyclopedia

Falmouth [map] in Atlas of Cumberland County, Maine 1871
https://digitalmaine.com/atlas_cumberland_1871/39/