

# Fort Kent Postal History

## Aroostook County, Maine

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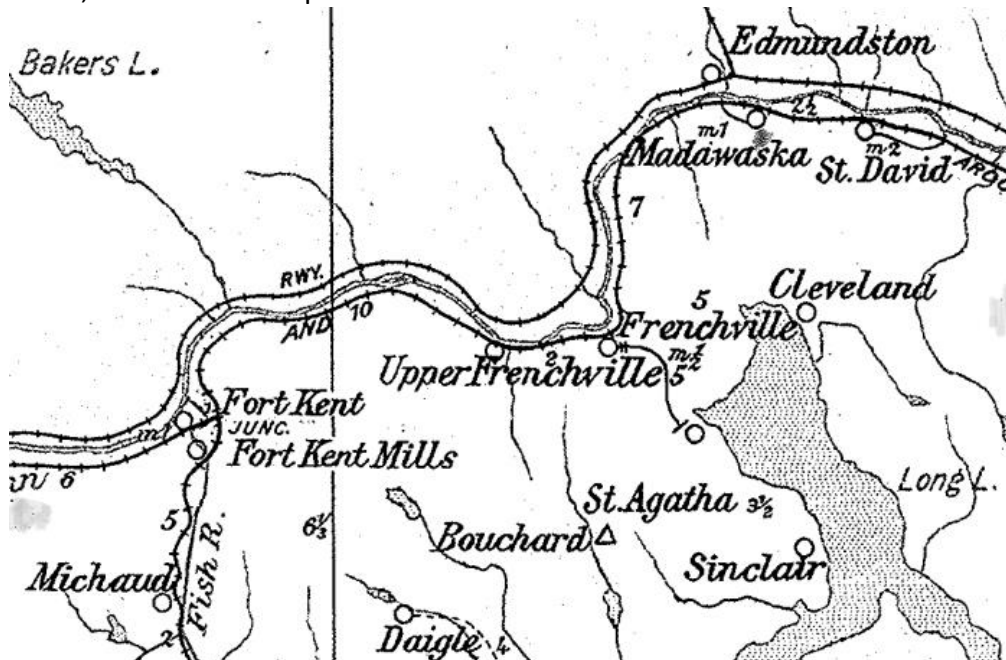
The Fort at Fort Kent was erected in the summer of 1839 as an American border outpost during the undeclared Aroostook War. Fort Kent was part of Hancock County, then Penobscot County in 1816, and finally, Aroostook County in 1839. It was incorporated as a town in 1869.

During the history of Fort Kent, there have been two post offices and possibly a third.

Briefly, the history of these is as follows:

1. **Fish River** Post Office. Covers for Fish River have been seen. However, no Post Office Department records have been found. See *The Post Offices of Maine 2022*, appendix A-10.
2. **Fort Kent** Post Office was established on 6 September 1843 and is still operating.
3. **Fort Kent Mills** Post Office was established on 11 April 1906 and is still operating.

In 1914, there were two post offices in Fort Kent: Fort Kent and Fort Kent Mills.



source: Post Route Map of the State of Maine 1914

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

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

[Fish River](#)

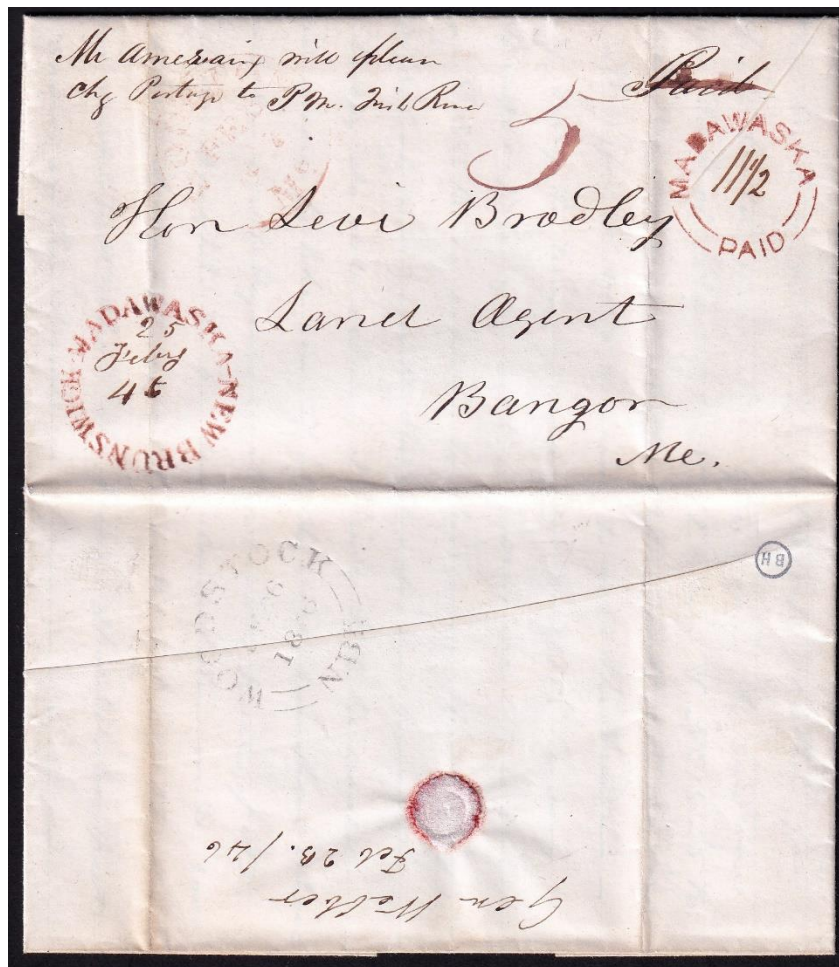
[Fort Kent](#)

[Fort Kent Mills](#)

**Fish River** (Covers for Fish River have been seen. However, no Post Office records have been found. See *The Post Offices of Maine 2022*, appendix A-10.)

Circa 1846:

First known cover with a "Fish River" marking.



Although there are no Post Office Department records of Fish River, at least two known covers indicate that there might have been an unofficial post office named Fish River in Aroostook County. Illustrated above, the first cover, from 1846, has written in the upper left corner, **“Mr. Amiraux will please chg postage to P.M. Fish River.”**

Not illustrated, the second cover, from 1848, has a manuscript postmark, **“Fish River Post Office, S. Stevens Way Office Keeper.”**

Regarding the 1846 cover, Amiraux was the Postmaster at Madawaska, New Brunswick, holding office from 6 February 1840 to 6 January 1847. (The Madawaska, N. B. Post Office was in what is now known as Edmundston, across the St. John River from Madawaska, Maine.) It appears that the cover entered the New Brunswick postal system at Madawaska, N.B. (i.e. Edmundston) then was carried to Woodstock, N.B. before making its way into the U. S. postal system at Houlton.

In the case of the 1848 cover, inscribed “Fish River Post Office, S. Stevens Way Office Keeper,” Sam Stevens was postmaster at Fort Kent a little later, from 26 March 1849 to July 1854. However, he was not yet Postmaster for Fort Kent when the second cover was posted. Was he Postmaster for Fish River at this time? The manuscript inscription with “S. Stevens Way Office Keeper” introduces some confusion – the term “way office keeper” has not been used officially in the United States postal system. But it may be that Stevens was borrowing that terminology from the neighboring New Brunswick postal system.

During this period the postal system in New Brunswick included many way offices. A way office was a place where the inhabitants of a village or rural district could leave letters. The letters were eventually taken to the nearest post office, where they entered the mail stream proper. Alternatively, it was a place where villagers could pick up their mail. Way offices often operated under very informal arrangements. Residents served by way offices may have used the term “postmaster” to refer to their local way office keeper, but in truth the way office keepers did not have the same status as postmasters, just as the way offices were not official post offices.

Was Fish River an informal, unofficial U. S. post office, called a “Way Office” after the New Brunswick custom, and feeding its outgoing mail directly into the New Brunswick postal system? Was Sam Stevens the Way Office Keeper, i.e. postmaster of the informal office, before he became Postmaster for Fort Kent? Did Mr. Amiraux personally know the Postmaster/Way Office keeper at Fish River, since Madawaska is not far from Fish River?

Until further information surfaces about a Post Office at Fish River, the authors of this website have decided to continue to include Fish River but note that it would have been an unofficial post office.

Circa 1848:

No covers with Fish River markings known after this period.

## Fort Kent

6 September 1843:

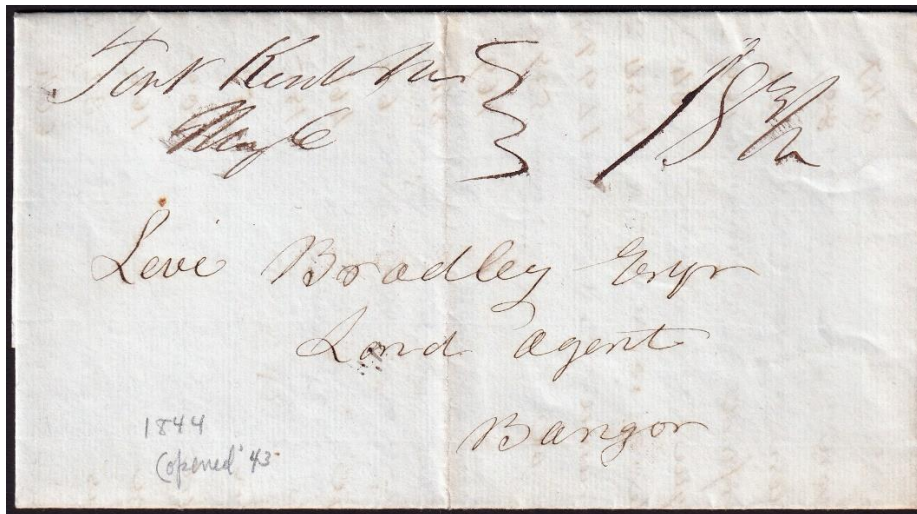
Fort Kent post office opened.

6 September 1843:

L.B. Webster is appointed Postmaster for Fort Kent Post Office but declines.

16 November 1843:

Stover Rines became Postmaster for Fort Kent Post Office.



6 May 1844:

Manuscript

23 October 1844:

William A. Winder became Postmaster for Fort Kent Post Office.

8 December 1845:

Edward D. Jewett became Postmaster for Fort Kent Post Office.



24 August 1846:

The circular postmark is 30 mm in diameter with a hand-stamped PAID and manuscript Paid 5.

26 March 1849:

Samuel Stevens became Postmaster for Fort Kent Post Office.

10 July 1854 :

John L. Turner became Postmaster for Fort Kent Post Office.



12 February 1855:

The circular postmark is 24 mm in diameter with a four-circle target killer.

11 February 1859:

David Page became Postmaster for Fort Kent Post Office.



20 October 1861:

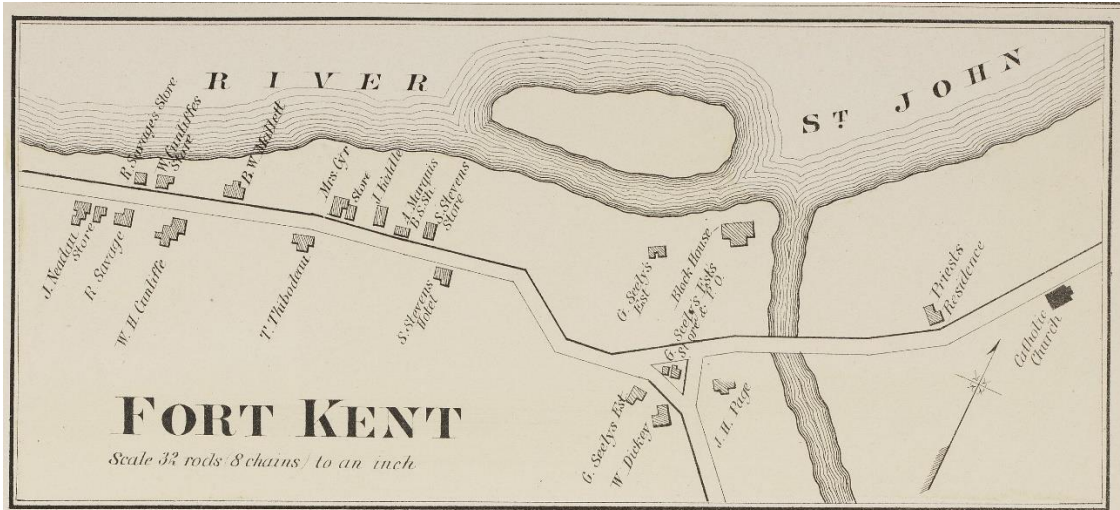
The circular postmark is 30 mm in diameter with a manuscript killer.

26 November 1869:

George Seely became Postmaster for Fort Kent Post Office.

26 October 1874:

I. Hampton Page became Postmaster for Fort Kent Post Office.



1877 Map

Shows the Fort Kent Post Office was located at the triangle in the road in G. Seely's Store

36 February 1886:

Henry W. Naden became Postmaster for Fort Kent Post Office.



Date Unknown

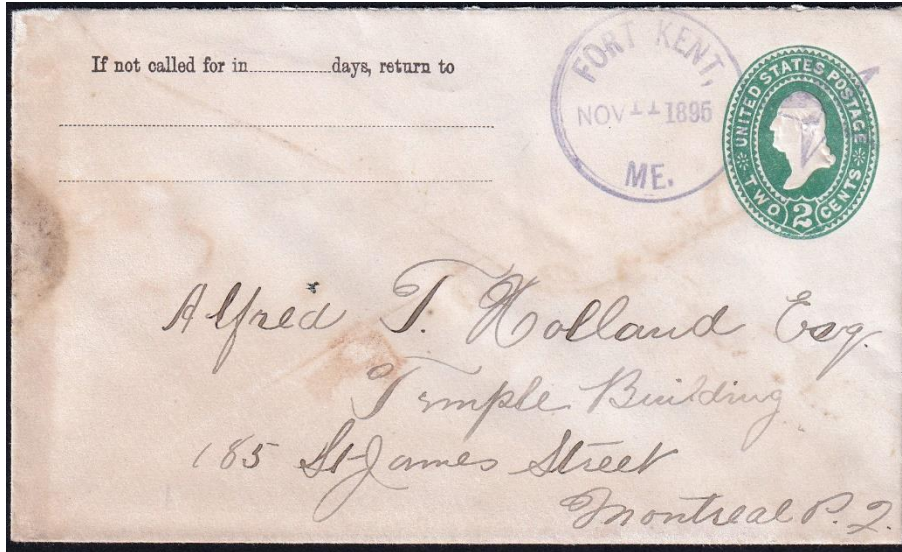
Post Office at Fort Kent



Date Unknown  
Fort Kent Mail Carrier



31 January 1890:  
The irregularly shaped circular postmark is 33 mm in diameter with a three-circle target killer.



11 November 1896:

The circular postmark is 30 mm in diameter with a fancy partially shaded star killer.

12 June 1897:

Frank W. Mallett became Postmaster for Fort Kent Post Office.

17 June 1913:

Irenee Cyr became Postmaster for Fort Kent Post Office.



10 April 1916:

The circular postmark is 29 mm in diameter with an elliptical nine-bar duplex killer.

15 February 1921:

Corrine Pinette became Acting Postmaster for Fort Kent Post Office.

11 April 1922:

Earl H. Roberts became Postmaster for Fort Kent Post Office.



25 April 1934:

Irenee Cyr became Acting Postmaster for Fort Kent Post Office.

23 May 1934:

Irenee Cyr became Postmaster for Fort Kent Post Office.



4 December 1933:

The circular postmark is 30 mm in diameter with an elliptical duplex/1 killer. A similar postmark dated 2 August 1939 is known.



Circa 1940:  
Fort Kent Post Office

30 June 1948:

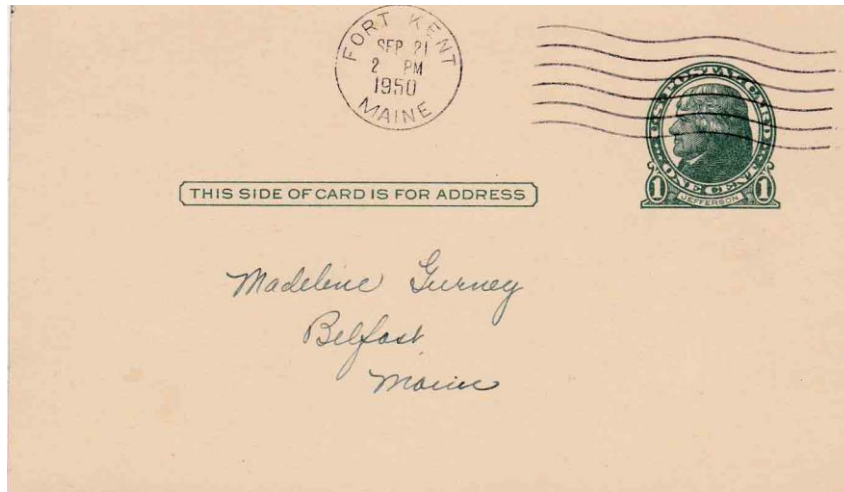
Joseph H. Nadeau became Acting Postmaster for Fort Kent Post Office.

2 June 1949:

Ernest G. Labbee became Postmaster for Fort Kent Post Office.

21 September 1950:

The circular postmark is 20–21 mm in diameter.



21 September 1950:

The circular postmark is 20.5 mm in diameter with a six-wavy line International Machine killer

30 June 1964:

Claude A. Cyr became Acting Postmaster for Fort Kent Post Office.

23 June 1966:

Claude A. Cyr became Postmaster for Fort Kent Post Office.

31 March 1977:

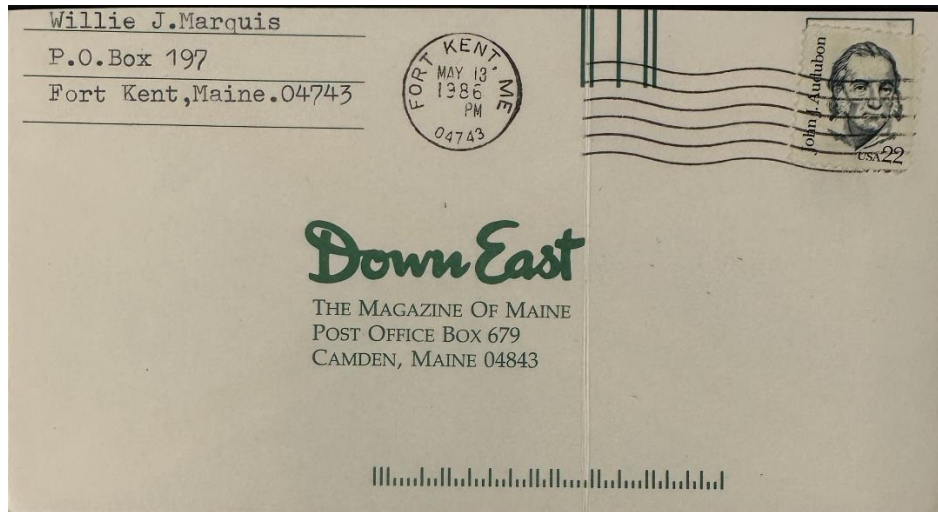
Philip N. Madoreo became Officer-in-Charge for Fort Kent Post Office.

26 October 1977:

Diane J. Jandreau became Officer-in-Charge for Fort Kent Post Office.

8 April 1978:

Rupert Thibodeau became Postmaster for Fort Kent Post Office.



13 May 1986:

The circular postmark is 20.5 mm in diameter with a six-wavy line International Machine killer.

2 January 1997:

Charles Vincent became Officer-in-Charge for Fort Kent Post Office.

24 May 1997:

Manzer Belanger Jr. became Postmaster for Fort Kent Post Office.



5 June 2006:

The oval postmark is 30 mm wide and 34 mm tall with a four-bar (B) killer.

13 October 2006:

Gail Daigle became Officer-in-Charge for Fort Kent Post Office.

5 January 2007:

Sharon Crane became Officer-in-Charge for Fort Kent Post Office.

21 July 2007:

Randolph T. St. Peter became Postmaster for Fort Kent Post Office.

22 March 2017:

Marie E. Schnetzka became Officer-in-Charge for Fort Kent Post Office.

17 May 2017:

April M. Pelletier became Officer-in-Charge for Fort Kent Post Office.

2 September 2017:

April M. Pelletier became Postmaster for Fort Kent Post Office.

21 December 2019:

Lori J. Boudin became Postmaster for Fort Kent Post Office.

Date Unknown:

Person unknown became Officer-in-Charge for Fort Kent Post Office.

22 April 2023:

Nathalie E. Nadeau became Postmaster for Fort Kent Post Office.



2023:  
Fort Kent Post Office.

2023:

Fort Kent post office is still in operation. 152 West Main Street; Fort Kent, Maine.  
Zip Code 04743. Lat./Long.: N 47°15'14" x W 68°36'44"

## Fort Kent Mills

11 April 1906:

Fort Kent Mills post office opened:

11 April 1906:

Delia Austin became Postmaster for Fort Kent Mills Post Office.



21 November 1906:

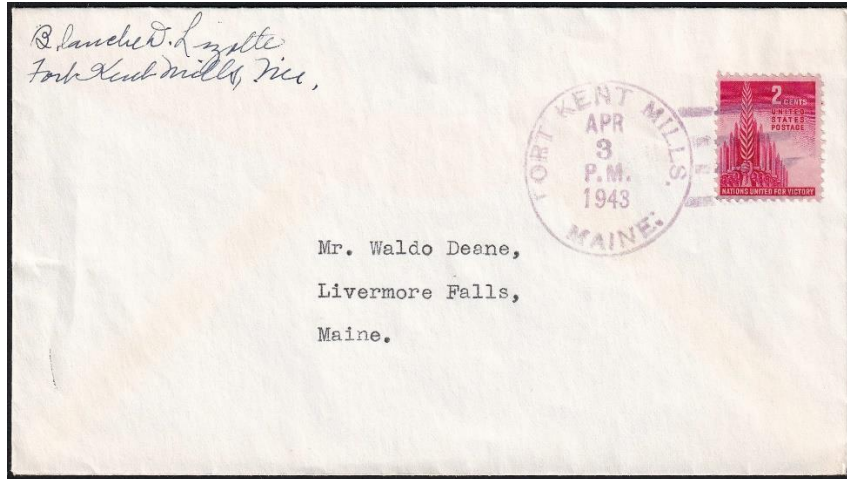
The circular postmark is 30 mm in diameter with a Doane 3/4 killer.

1 September 1941:

Mrs. Blanch D. Lizotte became Acting Postmaster for Fort Kent Mills Post Office.

27 February 1942:

Mrs. Blanch D. Lizotte became Postmaster for Fort Kent Mills Post Office.

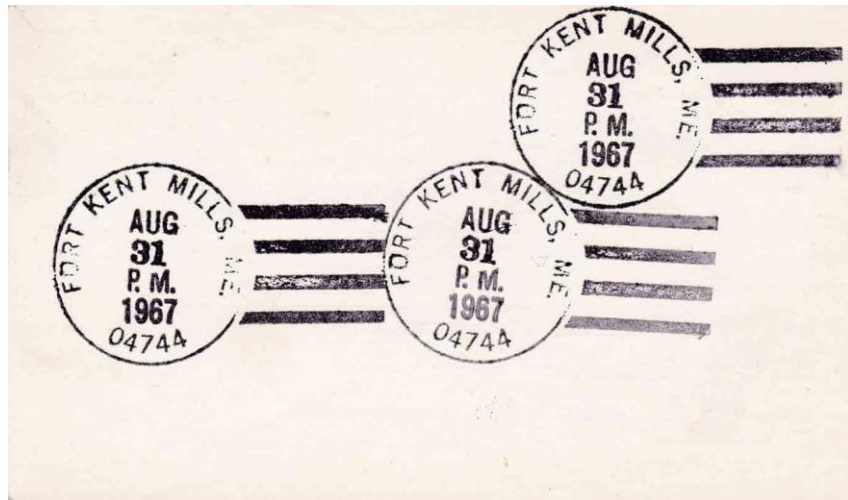


3 April 1943:

The circular postmark for this Postmaster signed cover is 30 mm in diameter with a four-bar (B) killer.

17 May 1952:

Mrs. Blanch D. Lizotte's name changed to Mrs. Blanch D. Carlson.



31 August 1967:

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

16 October 1970:

Mrs. Edna Raymond became Officer-In-Charge for Fort Kent Mills Post Office.

22 January 1972:

Edmond Theriault became Postmaster for Fort Kent Mills Post Office.

3 November 1978:

Theresa P. Voisine became Officer-In-Charge for Fort Kent Mills Post Office.

2 May 1979:

Manzer Belanger Jr. became Officer-In-Charge for Fort Kent Mills Post Office.

2 November 1979:

Patricia C. Roy became Officer-In-Charge for Fort Kent Mills Post Office.

19 February 1981:

Theresa P. Voisine became Officer-In-Charge for Fort Kent Mills Post Office.

13 June 1981:

Theresa P. Voisine became Postmaster for Fort Kent Mills Post Office.

26 May 1999:

Leta Voisine became Officer-In-Charge for Fort Kent Mills Post Office.

4 December 1999:

Leta Voisine became Postmaster for Fort Kent Mills Post Office.

19 January 2015:

Fort Kent Mills Post Office became a Remotely Managed Post Office under the direction of the Postmaster of the Fort Kent Post Office.



2023:  
Fort Kent Mills Post Office.

2023:

Fort Kent Mills Post Office is still in operation. 345 Market St, Unit 102, Fort Kent Mills, ME 04744. 47° 14' 15" N 68° 34' 42" W

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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 the Strout Family, James Husson, and Max Lynds.

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

Sources:

*The Post Offices of Maine 2022*, Maine Philatelic Society:

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

Fort Kent (T18R6 & 7), Wallagrass Plantation (T17R7) & T17R6 [map] from the 1877 *Atlas of Aroostook County, Maine*:

[https://digitalmaine.com/atlas\\_aroostook\\_1877/47/](https://digitalmaine.com/atlas_aroostook_1877/47/)

Fort Kent & Saint Francis (T17R9) & Saint John (T17R8) Plantations [map] from the 1877 *Atlas of Aroostook County, Maine*:

[https://digitalmaine.com/atlas\\_aroostook\\_1877/46/](https://digitalmaine.com/atlas_aroostook_1877/46/)

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>.