

Gray Postal History

Cumberland County, Maine

Last update for this page: 6 September 2024

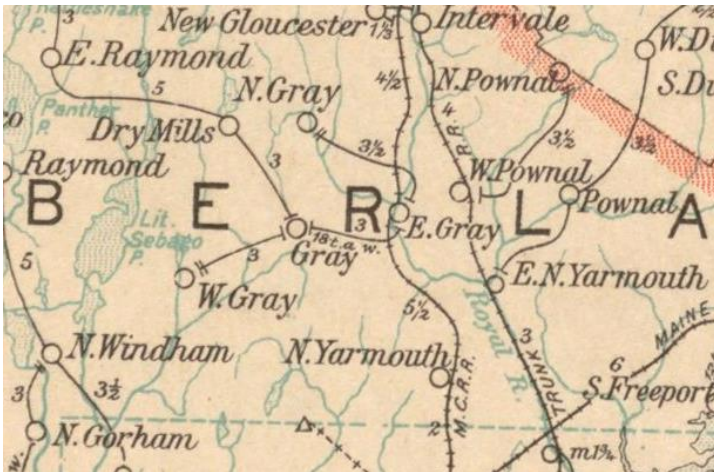
This page is part of the Maine Postal History website, a project of members of the Maine Philatelic Society. For more information, see <http://www.mainephilatelic.org/mph>.

In 1736, the Massachusetts General Court granted the land that would become the Town of Gray to a number of individuals from Boston. Early settlement was disrupted by conflict with the Native Americans who were already resident in the area. By the 1750s the name New Boston came into use; on June 19, 1778 the Town of Gray was incorporated, and named for local landowner (“proprietor”) Thomas Gray.

According to the town government [website](#), Gray was the location in 1791 of “the first successful water-powered woolen mill in North America.”

During the history of the town of Gray, there have been five post offices. Briefly, the history of these five is as follows:

1. [Dry Mills](#) Post Office opened on 15 February 1865 and closed on 31 December 1960, with the name changed to Dry Mills Rur. Sta. Gray Post Office. On 1 January 1961, it was renamed as [Dry Mills Rur. Sta.](#) Gray Post Office (actual opening date was 3 January 1961), which closed on 31 March 1964.
2. [East Gray](#) Post Office opened on 7 April 1886 and closed on 30 June 1931.
3. [Gray](#) Post Office opened on 9 March 1795 and is still operational.
4. [North Gray](#) Post Office opened on 3 March 1854, closed on 4 January 1858, re-opened on 3 February 1858, and closed on 15 August 1906.
5. [West Gray](#) Post Office opened on 18 March 1874 and closed on 31 May 1908.



In 1903, all five post offices in the Town of Gray were operational: Dry Mills, East Gray, Gray, North Gray, and West Gray.

Source: Post Route Map of the State of Maine 1903

Map reproduction courtesy of the Norman B. Leventhal Map and Education Center at the Boston

Public Library.

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

Dry Mills

15 February 1865:

Dry Mills Post Office opened.

15 February 1865:

Charles E. Libby became the Postmaster of the Dry Mills Post Office.

8 June 1903:

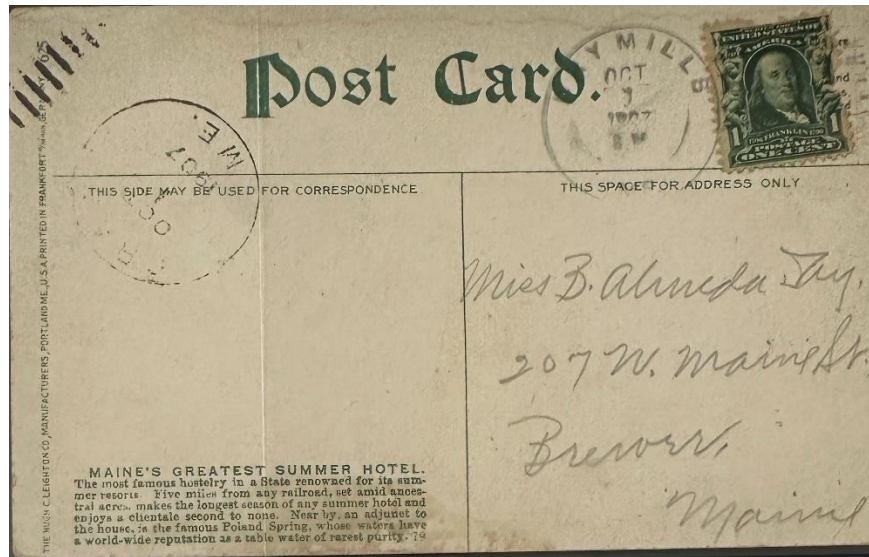
George G. Humphrey became the Postmaster of the Dry Mills Post Office.

17 October 1903:

Silas W. Foster became the Postmaster of the Dry Mills Post Office.

4 April 1906:

Horace C. Marsden became the Postmaster of the Dry Mills Post Office.

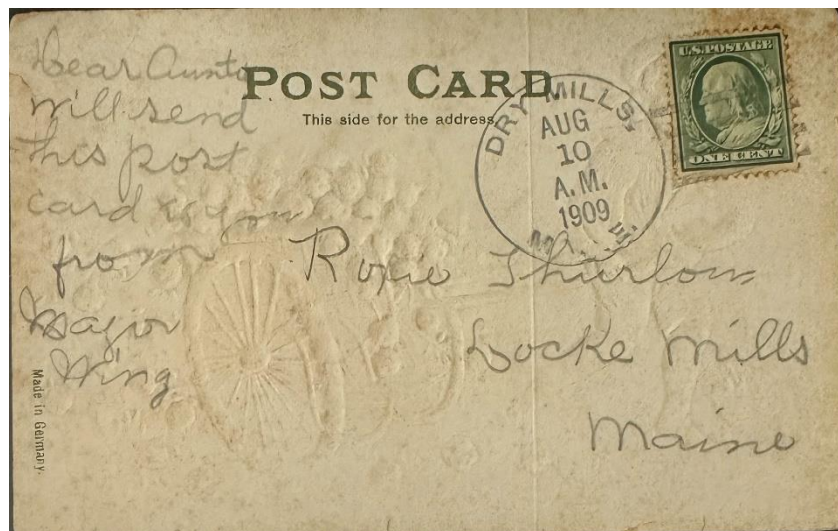


1 October 1907:

The outer circle of the double-ringed circular postmark is 29 mm in diameter with a Doane 1/1 killer.

9 December 1908:

Eugene Foster became the Postmaster of the Dry Mills Post Office.



10 August 1909:

The circular postmark is 32 mm in diameter with a four-bar (A/1) killer

14 March 1916:

Mabel F. Goff became the Postmaster of the Dry Mills Post Office.

Old Maine Images



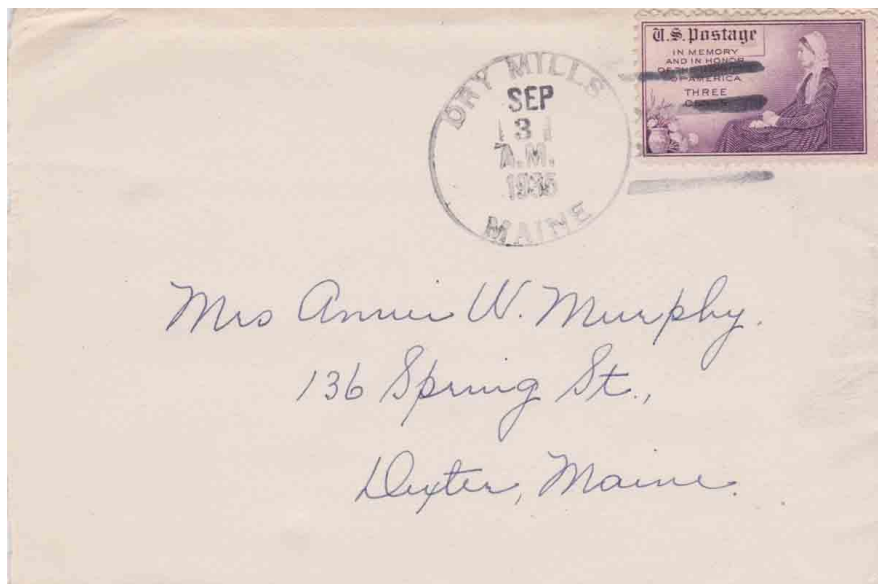
Dry Mills Store, Dry Mills Maine
Circa 1920

12 January 1925: (note; this date differs slightly from the Postmaster Record Book but aligns with the Postal Bulletins)
Margetta (Madge) M. Walker became the Acting Postmaster of the Dry Mills Post Office.

24 February 1925:
Margetta (Madge) M. Walker became the Postmaster of the Dry Mills Post Office.

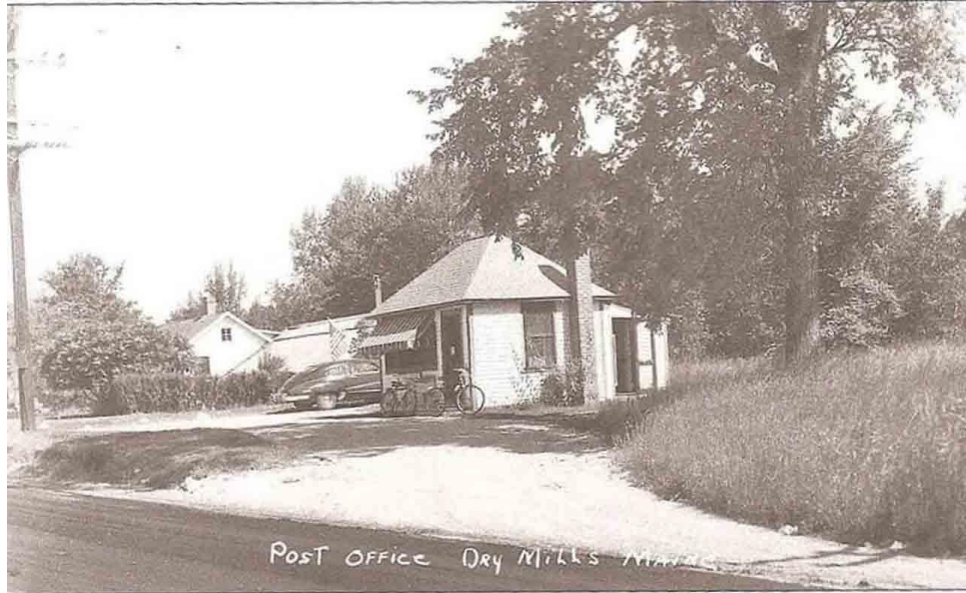
18 April 1929:
Eugene R. Stoddard became the Postmaster of the Dry Mills Post Office.

6 May 1930:
Bernice L. Prince became the Postmaster of the Dry Mills Post Office.

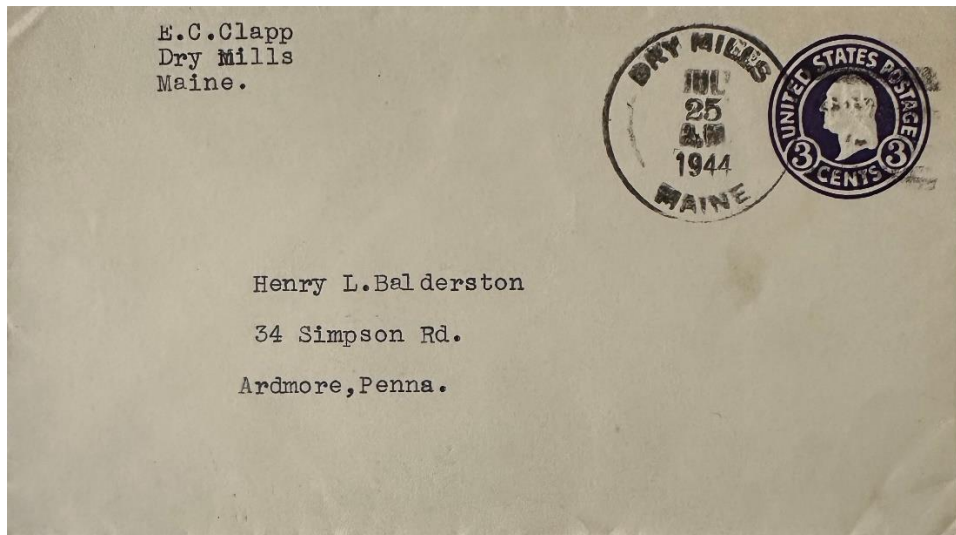


3 September 1935:

The misshapen circular postmark is 32 mm in diameter with a four-bar, probably type (D) killer.



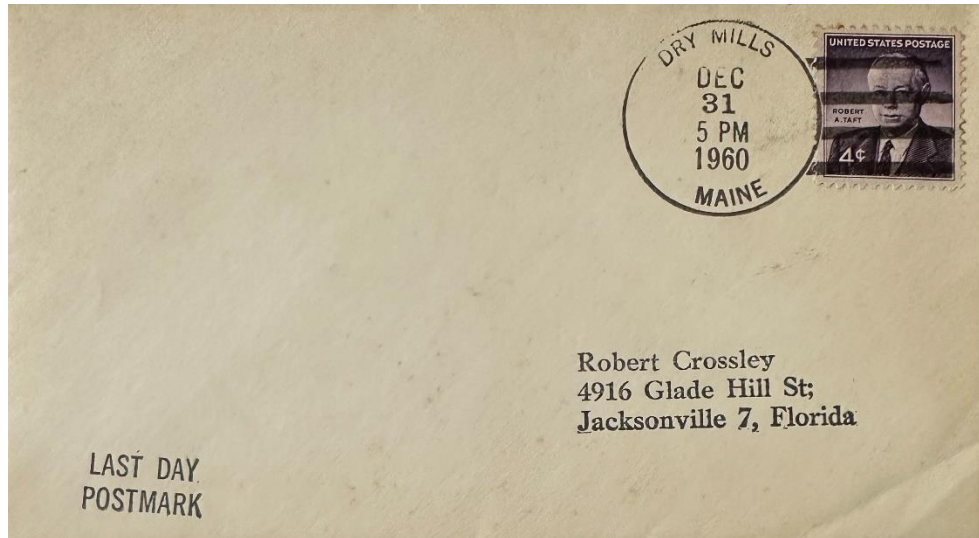
Circa 1940:
Dry Mills Post Office



25 July 1944:
The circular postmark is 33 mm in diameter with a four-bar (F/1) killer.

28 June 1960:

John E. Mains became the Acting Postmaster of the Dry Mills Post Office.



31 December 1960:

The circular postmark is 33 mm in diameter with a four-bar (F/1) killer—last Day of Operation.

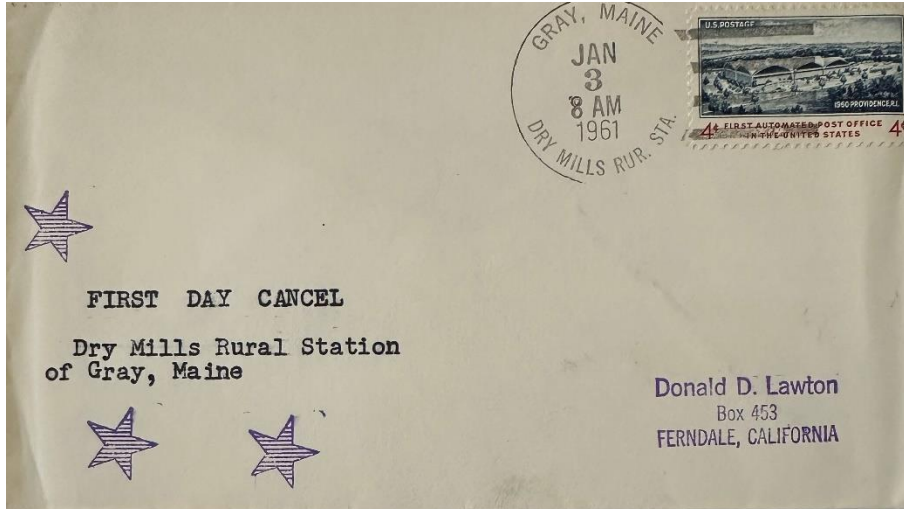
8 December 1960 discontinued, effective 31 December 1960:

Dry Mills Post Office was discontinued and renamed Dry Mills Rur. Sta. Post Office.

Dry Mills Rural Station Gray

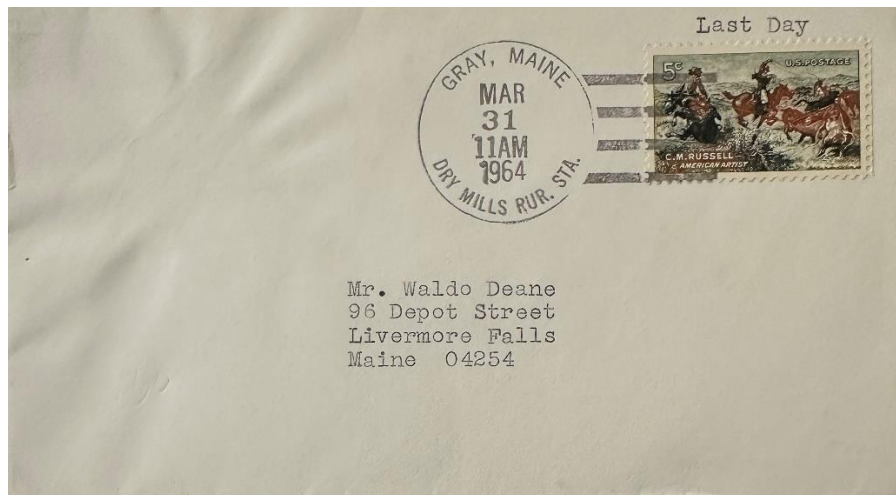
1 January 1961:

Dry Mills Rur. Sta. Gray Post Office (formerly Dry Mills Post Office) opened on 1 January. Although 1 January is the official opening day, the opening date was 3 January due to the holiday.



3 January 1961:

The circular postmark is 33 mm in diameter and has a four-bar (F/1) killer: First Day of Operation.



31 March 1964:

The circular postmark is 33 mm in diameter with a four-bar (F/1) killer—last Day of Operation.

31 March 1964:

The Dry Mills Rur. Sta. Gray Post Office closed.

East Gray

7 April 1886:

East Gray Post Office opened.

7 April 1886:

Alvin H. Perley became the Postmaster of the East Gray Post Office.

9 September 1893:

Cyrus J. Perley became the Postmaster of the East Gray Post Office.

1 November 1897:

Howard H. Jordan became the Postmaster of the East Gray Post Office.

30 December 1897:

Edward Roundy became the Postmaster of the East Gray Post Office.

20 October 1898:

Roscoe Perley became the Postmaster of the East Gray Post Office.

28 December 1901:

Wendell B. Holt became the Postmaster of the East Gray Post Office.



25 August 1904:

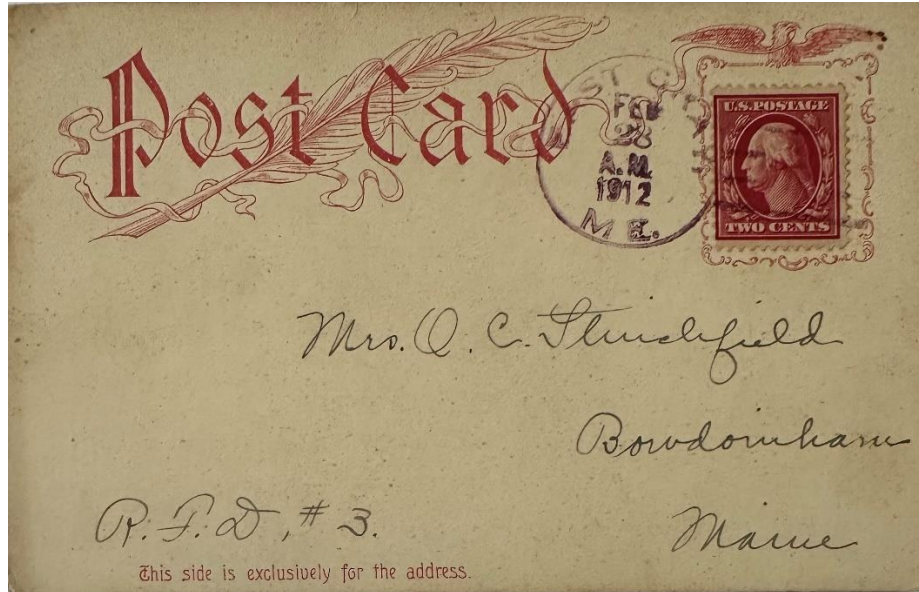
The circular postmark is 26.5 mm in diameter with a four-circle target killer.

8 March 1907:

Fernald D. Sawyer became the Postmaster of the East Gray Post Office.

19 January 1911:

Edwin S. Wood became the Postmaster of the East Gray Post Office.



28 February 1912:

The circular postmark is 29 mm in diameter with a Doane 2/2 killer.

25 March 1914:

Horace C. Marden became the Postmaster of the East Gray Post Office.

13 March 1928:

Mrs. Yoa H. Gifford became the Postmaster of the East Gray Post Office.

8 October 1929:

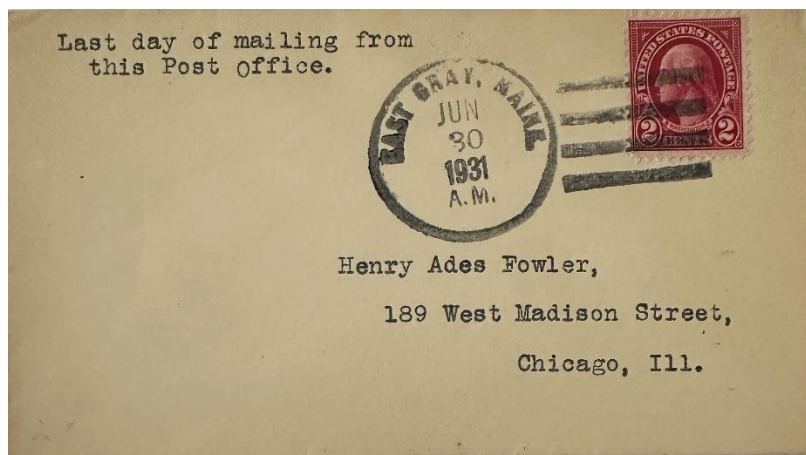
Mrs. Eva S. Whitney became the Acting Postmaster of the East Gray Post Office.

29 October 1929:

Mrs. Eva S. Whitney became the Postmaster of the East Gray Post Office.

13 January 1931:

Arthur A. Hanson became the Postmaster of the East Gray Post Office.



30 June 1931:

The circular postmark is 32 mm in diameter with a four-bar (E) killer—last Day of Operation.

30 June 1931:

The East Gray Post Office closed with service from Gray

Gray

9 March 1795:

The Gray Post Office opened.

9 March 1795:

Joseph McLellan became the Postmaster of the Gray Post Office.

3 January 1820:

James Colley, Jr became the Postmaster of the Gray Post Office.

14 July 1823:

Meshack Humphrey became the Postmaster of the Gray Post Office.

7 June 1841:

Thomas Hancock became the Postmaster of the Gray Post Office.

21 August 1843:

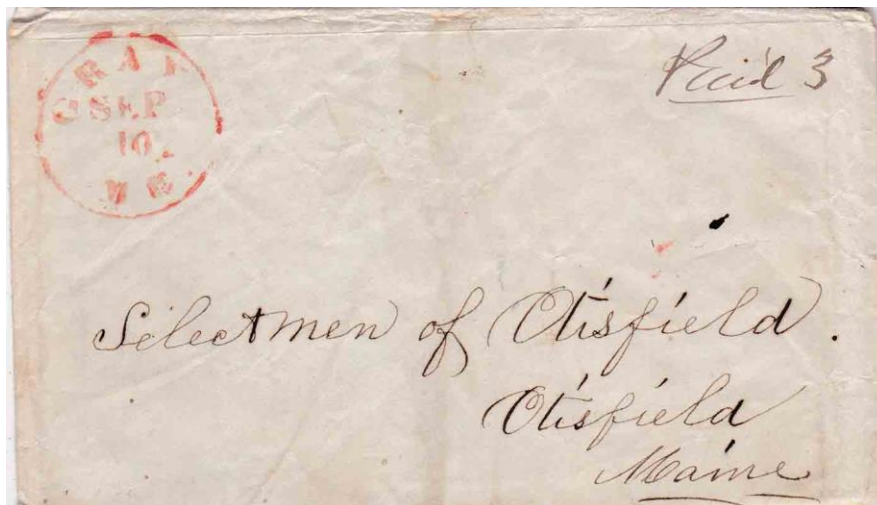
Meshack Humphrey became the Postmaster of the Gray Post Office.

30 December 1844:

James O'Donnell became the Postmaster of the Gray Post Office.

8 May 1849:

Thomas Hancock became the Postmaster of the Gray Post Office.



10 September 1852:

The circular postmark is 30 mm in diameter with a manuscript 'killer.' A similar postmark and 'killer' dated 15 July circa 1855 is known.

23 December 1852:

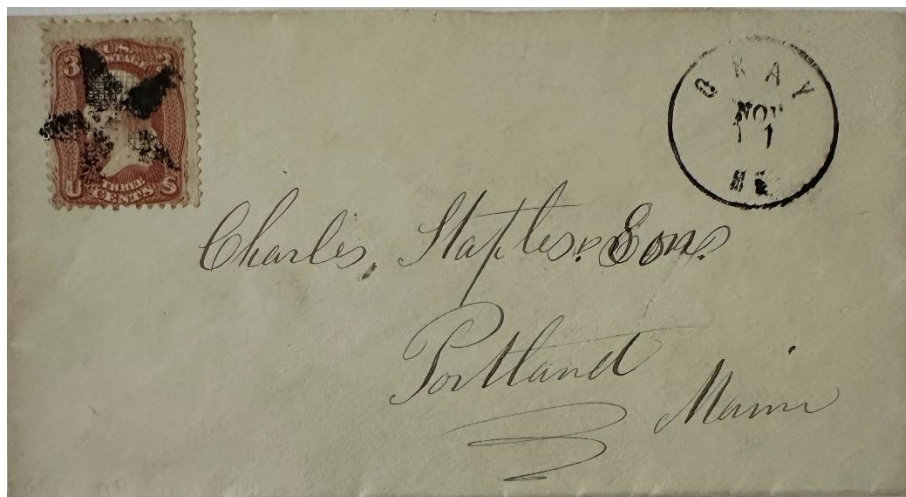
Daniel Hall became the Postmaster of the Gray Post Office.

9 July 1859:

John Small became the Postmaster of the Gray Post Office.

10 May 1861:

James Small became the Postmaster of the Gray Post Office.



11 November circa 1865:

The circular postmark is 25 mm in diameter with a fancy sold star killer.

27 September 1878:

George F. Cobb became the Postmaster of the Gray Post Office.



8 January 1886:

The circular postmark is 28 mm in diameter with a three-circle target killer. A similar postmark with no killer dated 6 April 1882 is known.

21 January 1886:

Roscoe G. Hall became the Postmaster of the Gray Post Office.

23 July 1889:

Horace F. Colley became the Postmaster of the Gray Post Office.



3 June 1891:

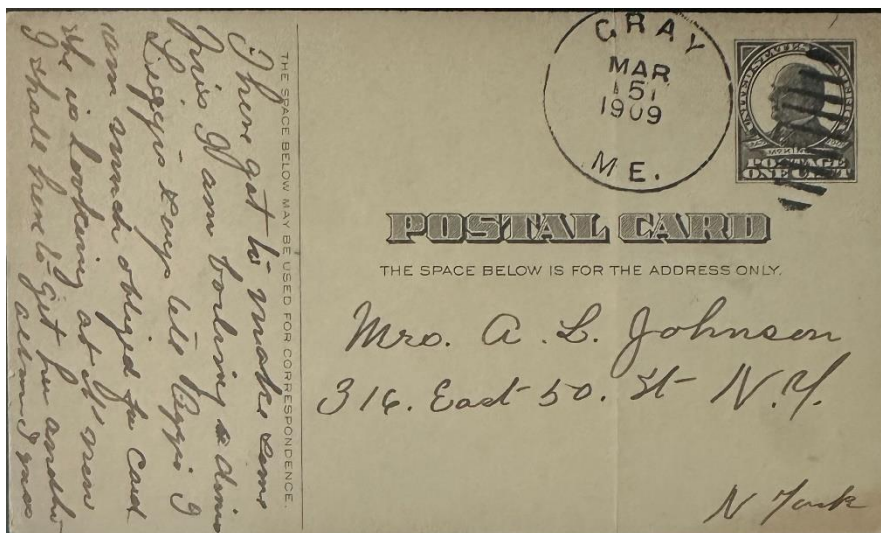
The circular postmark is 28 mm in diameter with no killer.

8 May 1893:

Frank L. Clark became the Postmaster of the Gray Post Office.

6 October 1897:

John W. Stevens became the Postmaster of the Gray Post Office.



5 March 1909:

The circular postmark is 30 mm in diameter with a nine-bar oval duplex killer.

24 October 1914:

LeRoy Libby became the Postmaster of the Gray Post Office.



Circa 1915:
Gray Post Office

1 January 1921:

Gray Post Office became a Presidential Post Office.

20 February 1922:

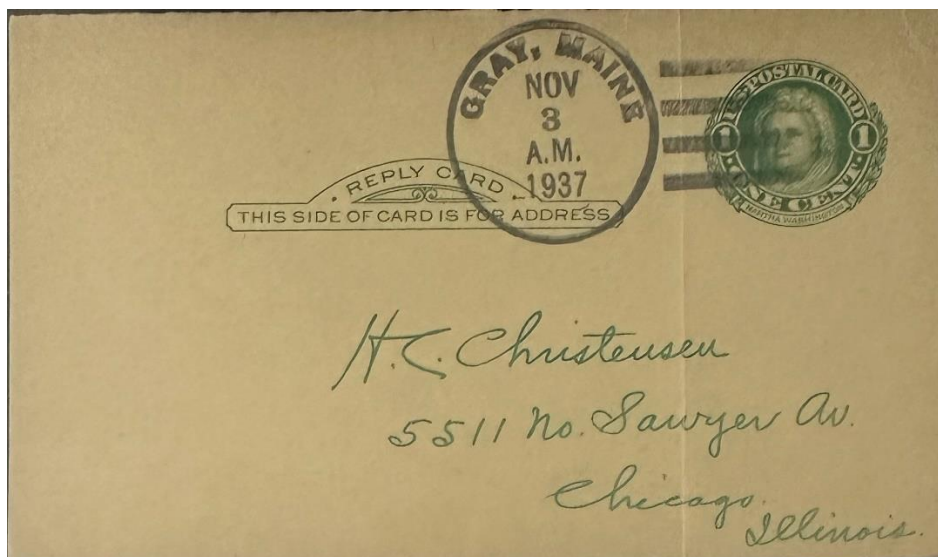
Eugene H. Lowe became the Postmaster of the Gray Post Office.

31 May 1934:

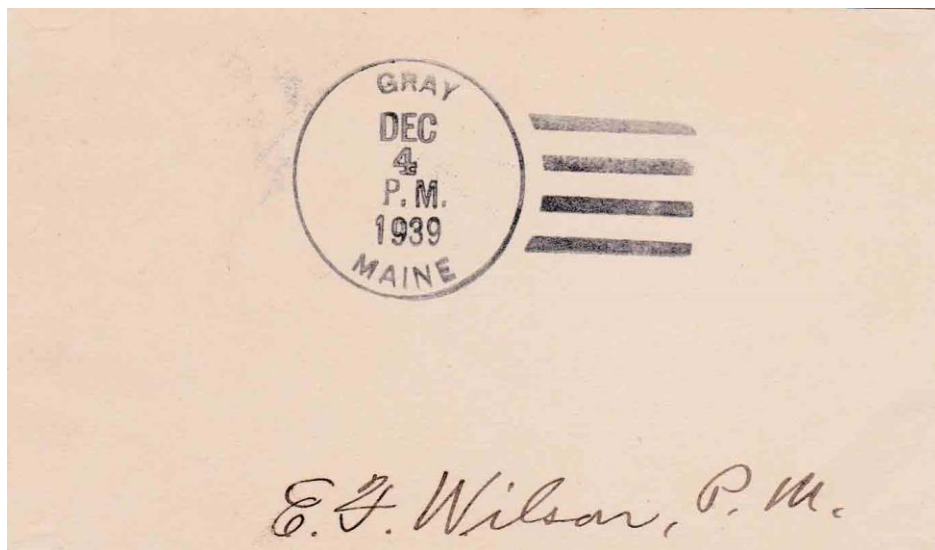
Earle F. Wilson became the Acting Postmaster of the Gray Post Office.

30 April 1935:

Earle F. Wilson became the Postmaster of the Gray Post Office.

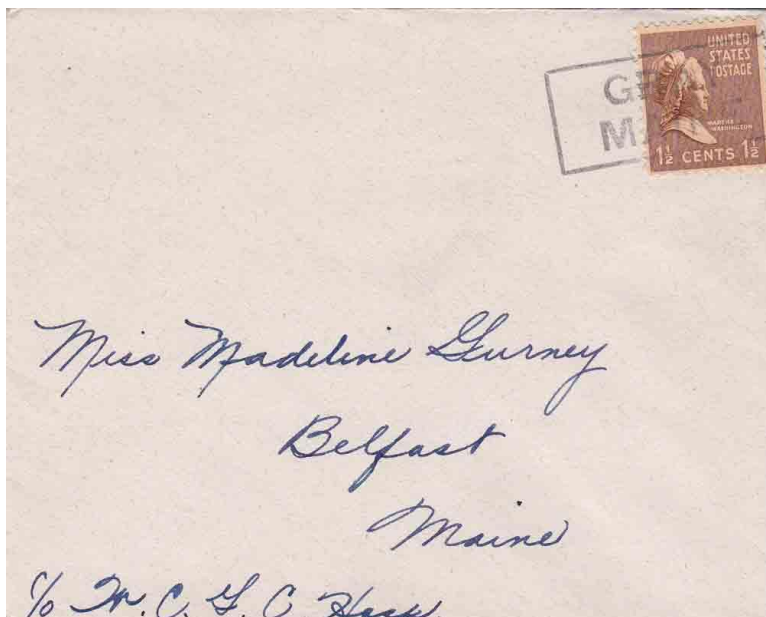


The oval (misshapen) postmark is 31.5 X 34 mm with a four-bar (E) killer.



4 December 1939:

The circular postmark is 32.5 mm in diameter with a four-bar (F/1) killer—postmaster signature.



Circa 1940:

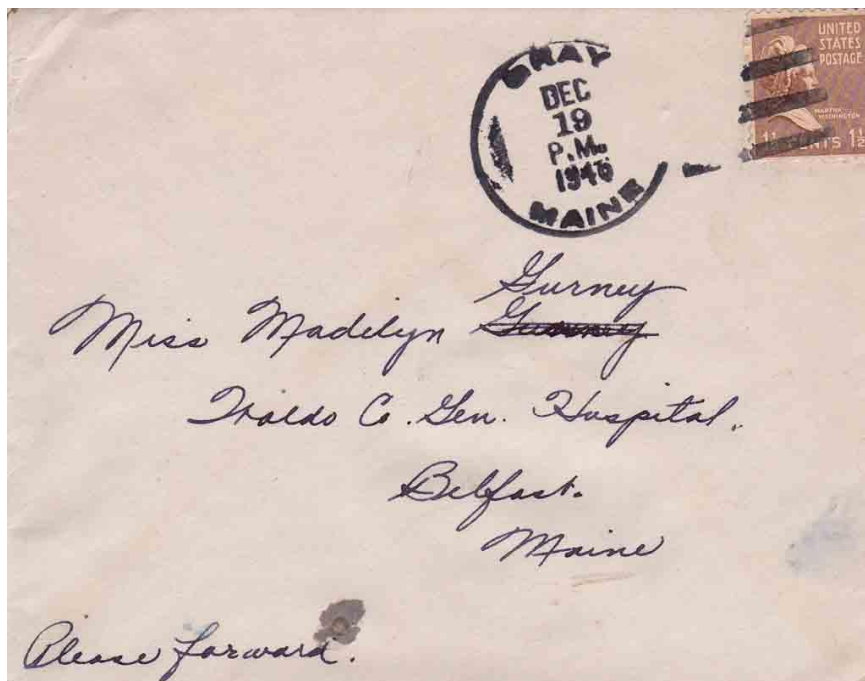
The hand-stamped box is 38 X 16.5 mm.

15 April 1944:

Mrs. Lucy E. Wilson became the Acting Postmaster of the Gray Post Office.

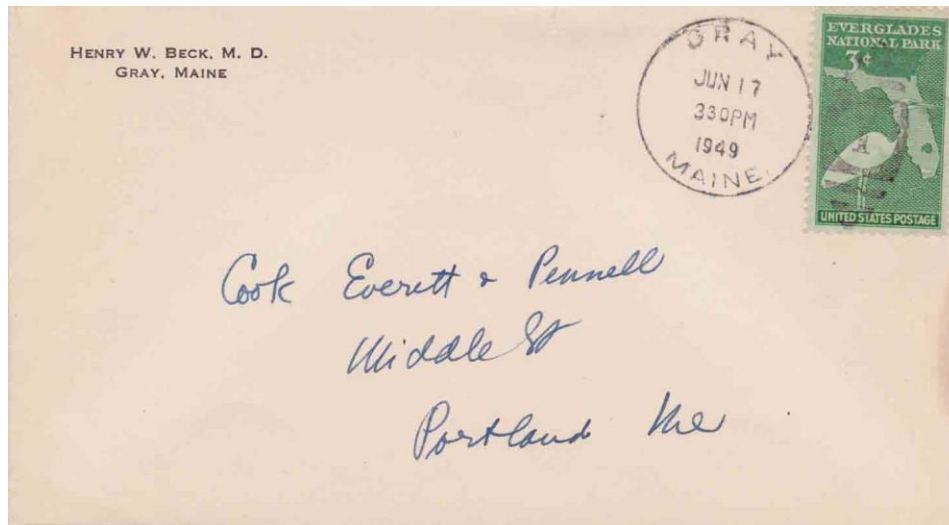
27 January 1945:

Mrs. Lucy E. Wilson became the Postmaster of the Gray Post Office.



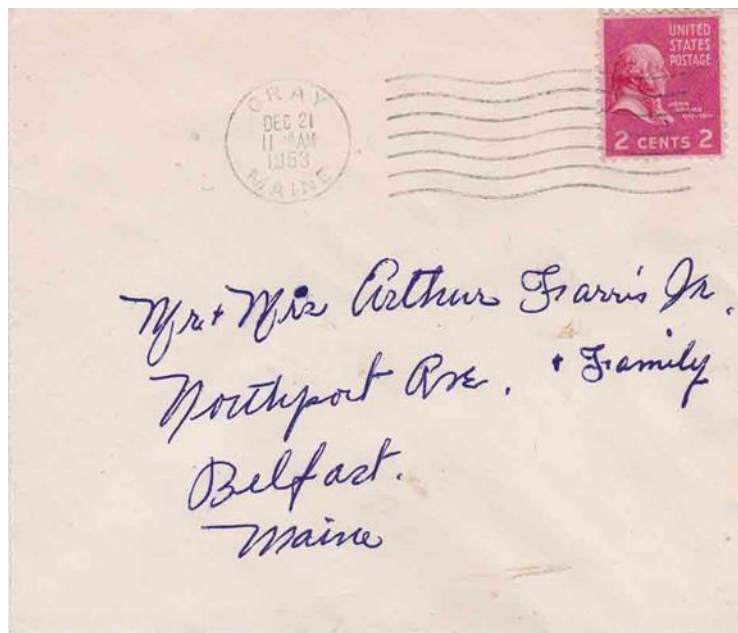
19 December 1946:

The circular postmark is 31.5 mm in diameter with a four-bar (F/1) killer. A similar postmark and killer dated 11 August 1947 is known.



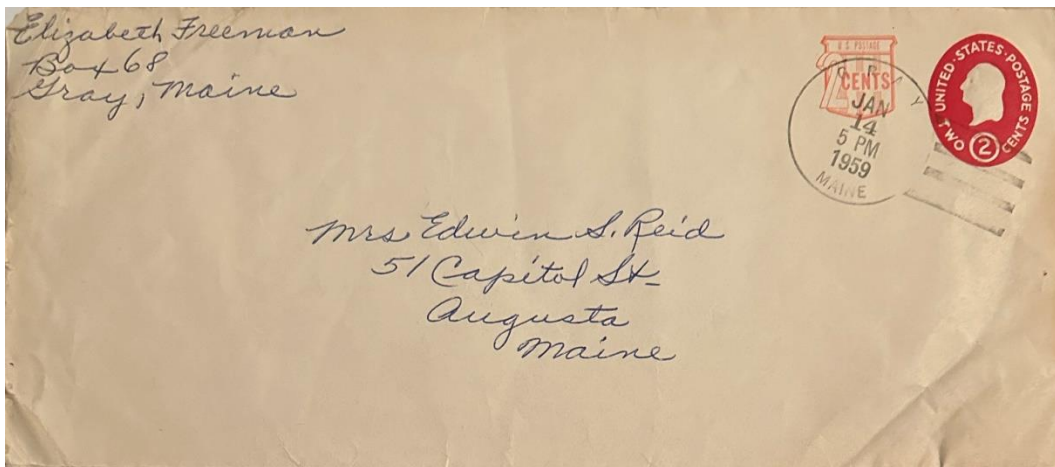
17 June 1949:

The circular postmark is 29.5 mm in diameter and has a six-bar oval duplex/1 killer. A similar postmark and killer dated 23 May 1950 is known.



21 December 1953:

The circular postmark is 20 mm in diameter with a seven-wavy line Universal Machine killer.



14 January 1959:

The circular postmark is 34 mm in diameter with a four-bar (F1) killer.

30 April 1962:

John E. Mains became the Acting Postmaster of the Gray Post Office.

2 October 1962:

John E. Maines became the Postmaster of the Gray Post Office.

30 April 1969:

Phyllis L. Bentley became the Officer-In-Charge of the Gray Post Office.

17 July 1971:

Wesley G. Oliver became the Postmaster of the Gray Post Office.

18 May 1978:

Samuel R. Weeks Jr. became the Officer-In-Charge of the Gray Post Office.

21 October 1978:

George W. Rousseau became the Postmaster of the Gray Post Office.

29 November 1979:

Russell Schaefer became the Officer-In-Charge of the Gray Post Office.

22 March 1980:

Mrs. Carmela J. Hewitt became the Postmaster of the Gray Post Office.

20 March 1980:

Warren Cutter became the Officer-In-Charge of the Gray Post Office.

21 January 1992:

Daniel Divney became the Officer-In-Charge of the Gray Post Office.

2 June 1992:

Robert Gilbert became the Officer-In-Charge of the Gray Post Office.

23 January 1993:

Joseph A. Troiano became the Postmaster of the Gray Post Office.

25 July 1997:

Kathleen Rokowski became the Officer-In-Charge of the Gray Post Office.

28 February 1998:

Nancy L. Clark became the Postmaster of the Gray Post Office.

26 January 2007:

Karolina Fournier became the Officer-In-Charge of the Gray Post Office.

16 February 2008:

Eric C. Parmenter became the Postmaster of the Gray Post Office.

31 January 2012:

Stephen Harris became the Officer-In-Charge of the Gray Post Office.

31 July 2012:

Pamela Kinney became the Officer-In-Charge of the Gray Post Office.

28 August 2012:

Linda G. McLean became the Officer-In-Charge of the Gray Post Office.

23 February 2013:

James J. McCartney became the Postmaster of the Gray Post Office.

4 March 2013:

Amanda R. Sadler became the Officer-In-Charge of the Gray Post Office.

Unknown date:

Donald Mendel became the Officer-In-Charge of the Gray Post Office.

27 December 2014:

Neal R. LaBrecque became the Postmaster of the Gray Post Office.

25 October 2016:

Susan Keene became the Officer-In-Charge of the Gray Post Office.

18 February 2017:

Lori A. Goodard became the Postmaster of the Gray Post Office.

20 November 2017:

Kristen Bishop became the Officer-In-Charge of the Gray Post Office.

3 February 2018:

Darin R. Baker became the Postmaster of the Gray Post Office.

9 October 2018:

Angela M. Thompson became the Officer-In-Charge of the Gray Post Office.

10 November 2018:

Eric P. Parent became the Postmaster of the Gray Post Office.



July 2023:

The Gray Post Office – Photo Credit Dennis Dixon

4 March 2024:

Gray Post Office is still operational at 10 Turnpike Acres Road, Gray, ME 04309, GPS 43° 52' 43" N 70° 19' 51" W.

North Gray

3 March 1854:

North Gray Post Office opened.

3 March 1854:

George Blake became the Postmaster of the North Gray Post Office.

6 November 1854:

Moses Plummer became the Postmaster of the North Gray Post Office.

4 January 1858:

North Gray Post Office closed.

3 February 1858:

North Gray Post Office reopened.

3 February 1858:

Samuel J. Foster became the Postmaster of the North Gray Post Office.

27 October 1870:

John W. Humphrey

9 January 1871:

William Beatty

26 February 1886:

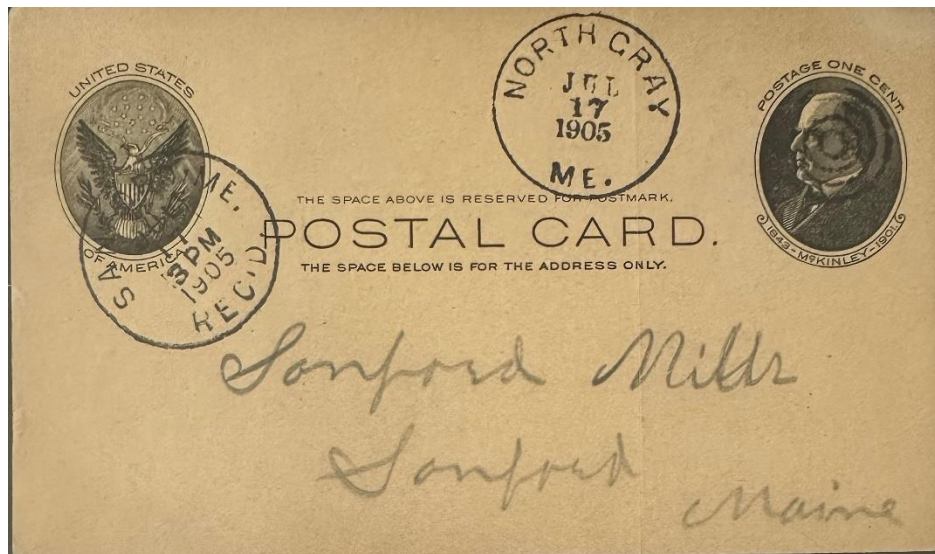
Frank H. Lawrence

26 October 1889:

Fred S. McDonald

14 September 1893

Horatio M. Sawyer



17 July 1905:

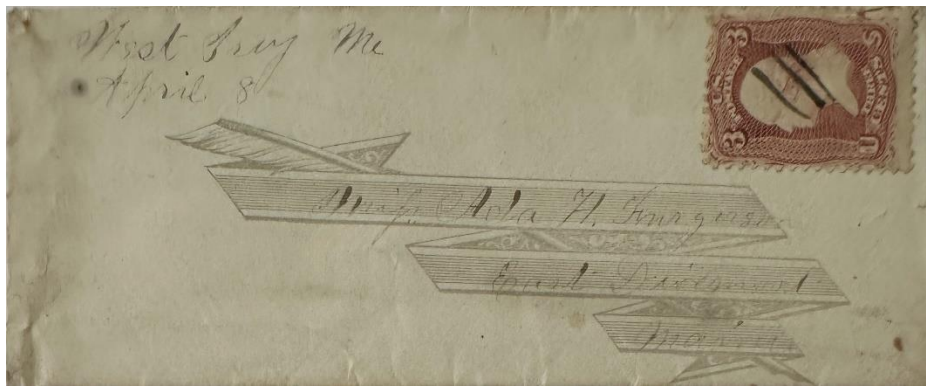
The circular postmark is 28 mm in diameter with a four-circle target killer.

3 July 1906 discontinued, effective 15 August 1906.
North Gray Post Office closed service from Gray.

West Gray

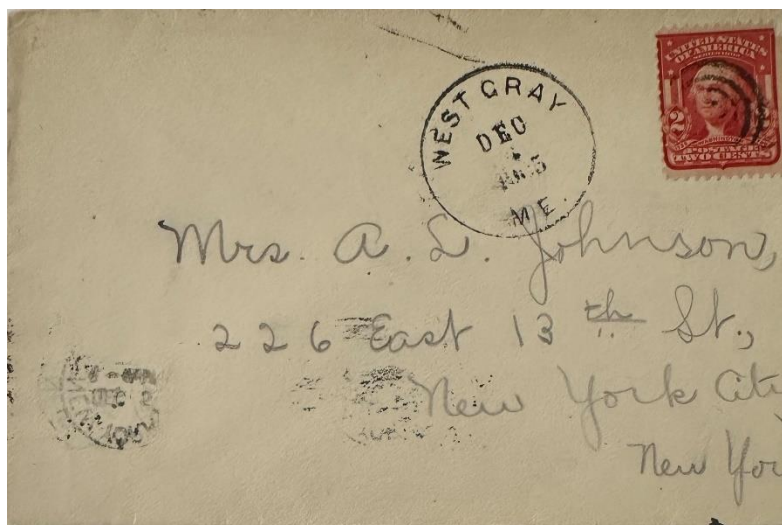
18 March 1874:
West Gray Post Office opened.

18 March 1874:
Robert A. Allen became the Postmaster for the West Gray Post Office.

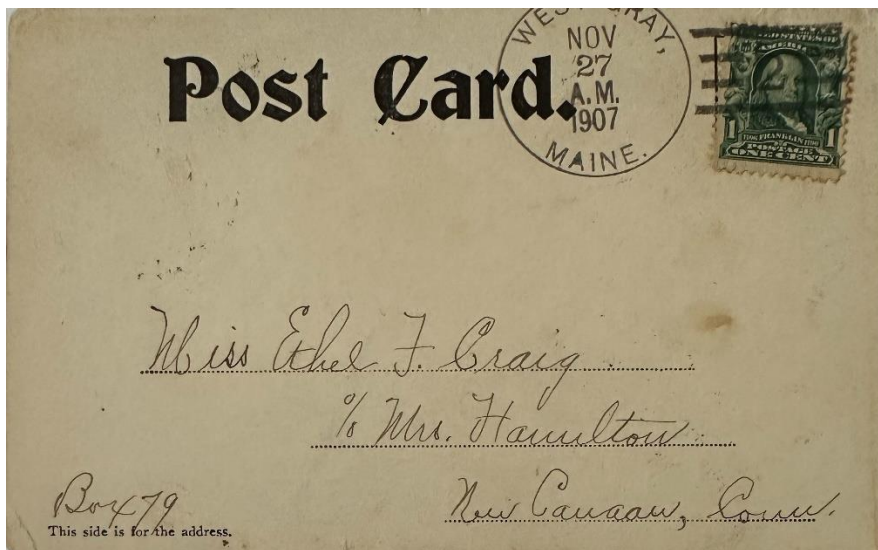


8 April circa 1875:
Manuscript postmark and killer.

20 July 1904:
Edwin L. Field, Jr. became the Postmaster for the West Gray Post Office.



28 August 1905:
The circular postmark is 27.5 mm in diameter with a four-circle target killer.



27 November 1907:

The circular postmark is 31 mm in diameter with a Doane 3/2 killer.

25 April 1908 discontinued, effective 31 May 1908:
West Gray Post Office closed with service from Gray.

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 the Strout Family and 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>

Maine Philatelic Society Postal History Gateway:
<http://www.mainephilatelic.org/mph>

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>

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

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>

About Mabel Goff Knapp, a postmaster of Dry Mills:

<https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-lewiston-daily-sun-mabel-goff/142663605/>

Gray [map] from the Atlas of Cumberland County, Maine 1871

https://digitalmaine.com/atlas_cumberland_1871/20/

“Gray, Maine” article in Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gray,_Maine

“Gray,” article in Maine: An Encyclopedia <https://maineanencyclopedia.com/gray/>

“Gray, Maine: History,” on Gray town government website

<https://www.graymaine.org/history>

Counties, Cities, Towns and Plantations of Maine: A Handbook of Incorporations, Dissolutions and Boundary Changes. Maine State Archives, 1980.

https://digitalmaine.com/arc_publications/11/