

Harrison Postal History

Cumberland County, Maine

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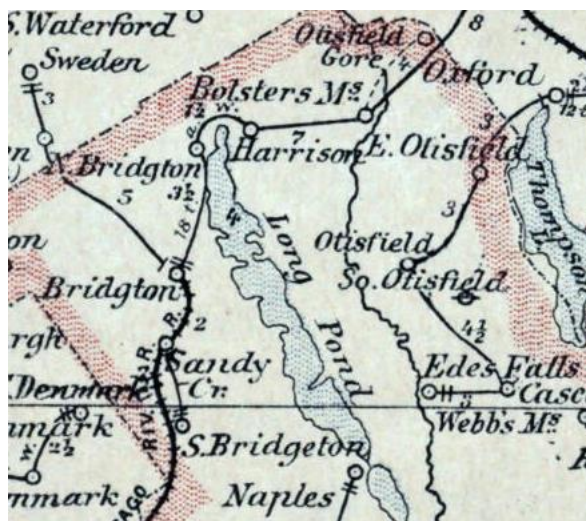
The history of the Town of Harrison is closely linked to the history of the neighboring Town of Otisfield. The original European settlers of this area came in the early 1790s and included many veterans of the Revolutionary War from Massachusetts. Otisfield, which was divided in 1805 to create Harrison, had been a land grant in 1771 from the Massachusetts General Court -- to descendants of Captain John Gorham and his soldiers who had fought in the 1690 Battle of Quebec.

On March 8, 1805, the Massachusetts General Court set off land from Otisfield and Bridgton to incorporate the Town of Harrison. It is named for Harrison Gray Otis (an heir to James Otis, for whom Otisfield was named.) Later, in 1834, land was taken from Harrison and four other towns to create the Town of Naples.

Harrison is known today as a favorite summer vacation spot. The town center is scenically located on a narrow strip of land that separates Long Lake and Crystal Lake (also known as Anonymous Pond).

The history of the post offices in Harrison is as follows:

1. [Harrison](#) Post Office (formerly West Harrison) opened on 19 February 1831 and is still operational.
2. [West Harrison](#) Post Office opened on 19 February 1829, closed on 19 February 1831, and was renamed Harrison Post Office.



Post Route Map of the State of Maine 1903.

Source:

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

<http://maps.bpl.org/id/16604>

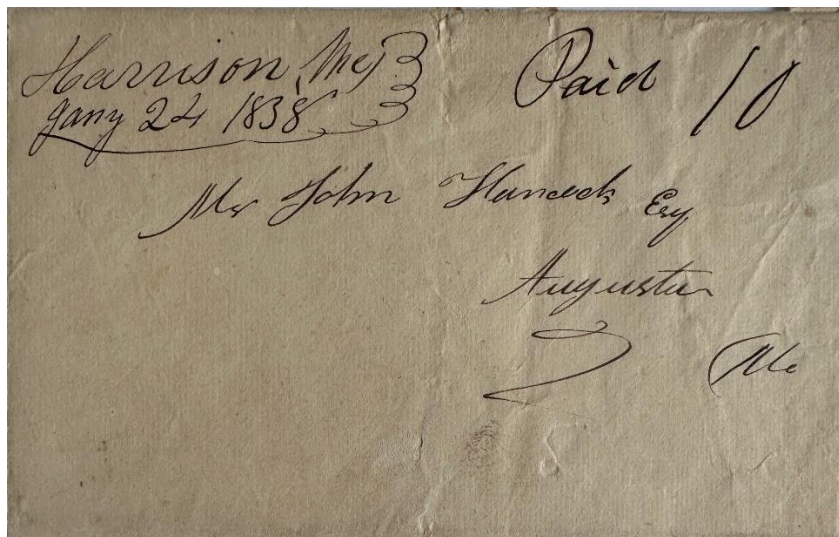
Harrison

19 February 1831:

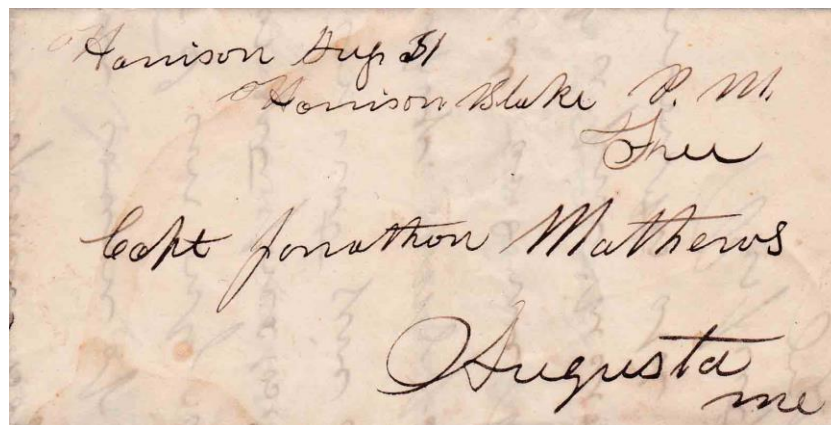
Harrison Post Office (formerly West Harrison) opened.

19 February 1829:

Harrison Blake became the Postmaster of the West Harrison Post Office and remained the postmaster when West Harrison Post Office changed its name to Harrison Post Office on 19 February 1831.



24 January 1838:
Manuscript postmark.



31 August 1839:
Manuscript postmark

16 April 1840:

Hosea H. Huntress became the Postmaster of the Harrison Post Office.

23 August 1841:

Francis Blake became the Postmaster of the Harrison Post Office.

29 July 1845:

Johnson Warren became the Postmaster of the Harrison Post Office.

21 October 1847:

Thomas R. Sampson became the Postmaster of the Harrison Post Office.

6 June 1849:

Francis Blake became the Postmaster of the Harrison Post Office.

5 May 1853:

Thomas R. Sampson became the Postmaster of the Harrison Post Office.

5 March 1862:

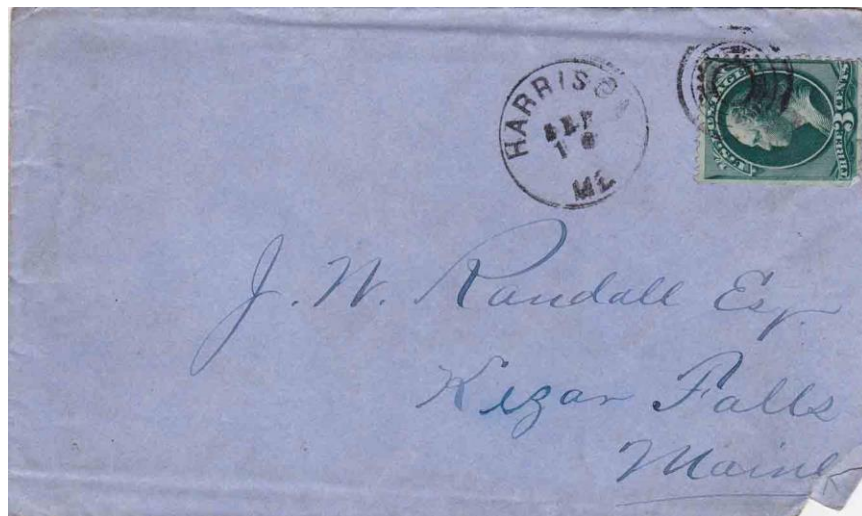
Silas Blake became the Postmaster of the Harrison Post Office.

30 November 1868:

Albion K. Morse became the Postmaster of the Harrison Post Office.

9 January 1882:

Asa B. Whitney became the Postmaster of the Harrison Post Office.



10 September Circa 1882:

The circular postmark is 24.5 mm in diameter with a four-circle target killer.

24 August 1885:

Marshall Jordan became the Postmaster of the Harrison Post Office.

27 June 1889:

William H. Bailey became the Postmaster of the Harrison Post Office.

26 June 1893:

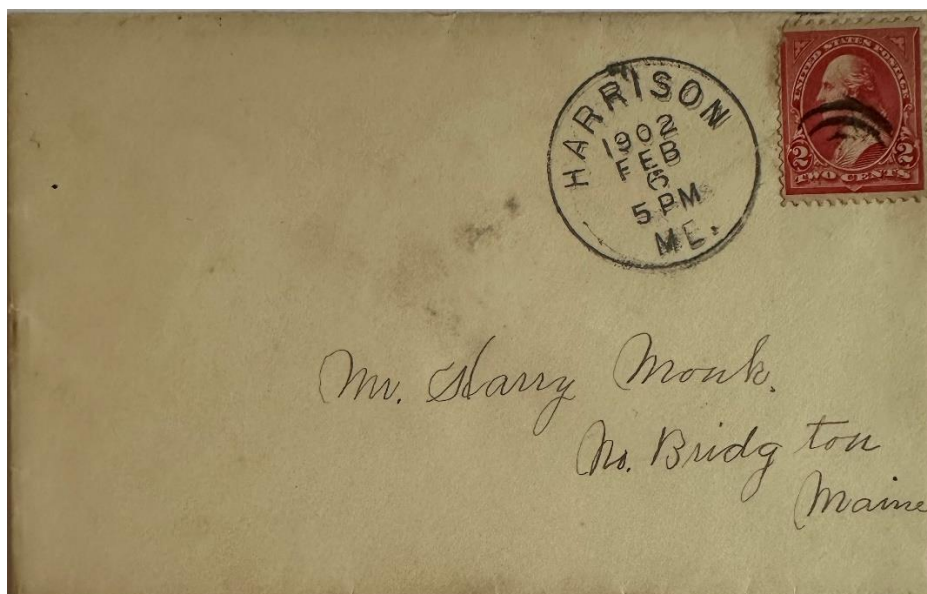
Marshall Jordan became the Postmaster of the Harrison Post Office.

6 October 1897:

Charles A. Lang became the Postmaster of the Harrison Post Office.

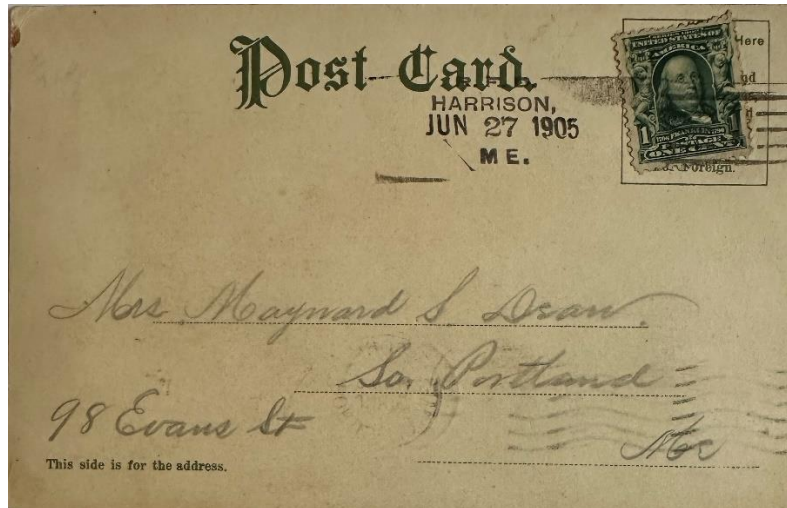


Circa 1900:
Harrison Post Office

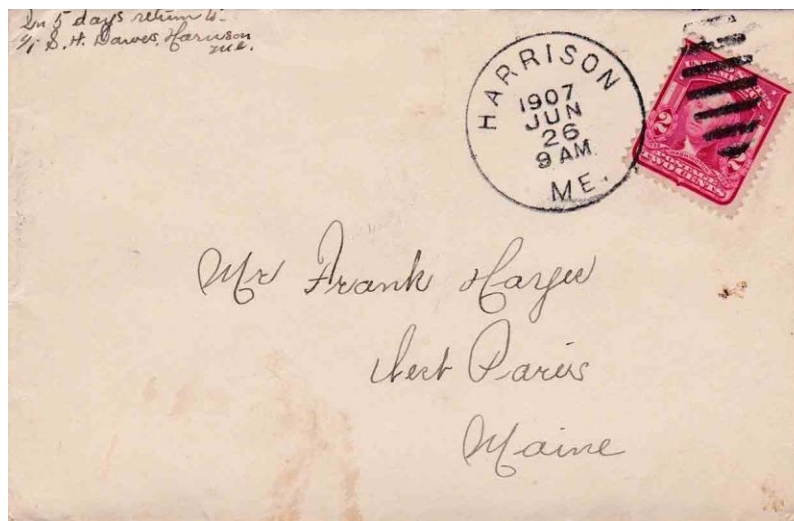


6 February 1902:

The circular postmark is 29 mm in diameter with a partial target killer.



27 June 1905:
Rural Free Delivery postmark Richow Type 1.



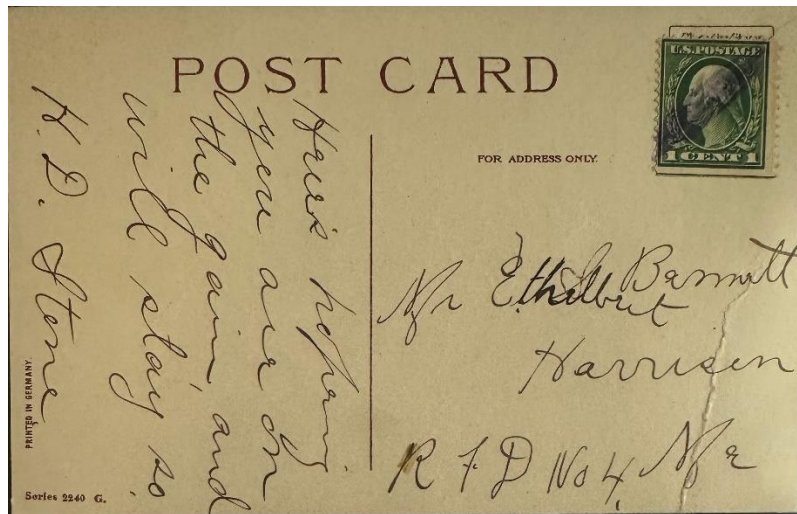
26 June 1907:
The circular postmark is 29.5 mm in diameter with a nine-bar oval duplex killer. Similar postmarks and killers dated 25 May 1910 and 6 December 1906 are known.

1 July 1908:

Harrison Post Office became a Presidential Post Office.

10 June 1910:

George E. Tarbox became the Postmaster of the Harrison Post Office.



Circa 1912:
Rural Free Delivery postmark Richow Type 11F.

20 May 1914:

George S. Pitts became the Postmaster of the Harrison Post Office.

18 February 1916:

Helen K. Noyes became the Acting Postmaster of the Harrison Post Office.

15 March 1916:

James T. Kneeland became the Postmaster of the Harrison Post Office.

14 July 1924:

Frank P. Freeman became the Acting Postmaster of the Harrison Post Office.

5 January 1925:

Frank P. Freeman became the Postmaster of the Harrison Post Office.

28 June 1933:

Charles H. Pitts became the Acting Postmaster of the Harrison Post Office.

7 January 1935:

Charles H. Pitts became the Postmaster of the Harrison Post Office.



31 October Circa 1935:

The circular postmark is 22 mm in diameter with a seven-wavy line Universal Machine killer.

29 December 1944:

Mrs. Ida Pitts became the Acting Postmaster of the Harrison Post Office.

3 November 1945:

Mrs. Ida Pitts became the Postmaster of the Harrison Post Office.

23 May 1947: Mrs. Ida Pitts' name changed to Mrs. Ida M. Blake

27 February 1969:

Joseph L. Irish became the Officer-In-Charge of the Harrison Post Office.

17 April 1971:

Joseph L. Irish became the Postmaster of the Harrison Post Office.

21 May 1976:

Linwood A. Meserve became the Officer-In-Charge of the Harrison Post Office.

9 October 1976:

Linwood A. Meserve became the Postmaster of the Harrison Post Office.

Unknown date:

Unknown name became the Officer-In-Charge of the Harrison Post Office.

6 July 1985:

James W. Colburn became the Postmaster of the Harrison Post Office.

29 December 2004:

Wayne A. Cadman became the Officer-In-Charge of the Harrison Post Office.

19 February 2005:

Wayne A. Cadman became the Postmaster of the Harrison Post Office.

29 May 2009:

Daniel W. Forsythe became the Officer-In-Charge of the Harrison Post Office.

17 July 2010:

Linda G. McLean became the Postmaster of the Harrison Post Office.

15 April 2020:

Melissa M. Cabana became the Officer-In-Charge of the Harrison Post Office.

20 June 2020:

Melissa M. Cabana became the Postmaster of the Harrison Post Office.

30 October 2020:

Rebecca Schofield became the Officer-In-Charge of the Harrison Post Office

9 April 2022:

Micki J. Foss became the Postmaster of the Harrison Post Office.



October 2023:

Harrison Post Office-Photo Credit Dennis Dixon

9 March 2024:

Harrison Post Office is still operating at 5 Front Street, Harrison, ME 04040 GPS 44° 06' 36" N
70° 40' 49" W

West Harrison

19 February 1829:

West Harrison Post Office opened.

19 February 1829:

Harrison Blake became the Postmaster of the West Harrison Post Office.

19 February 1831:

The West Harrison Post Office closed and was renamed Harrison Post Office.

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).

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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

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Postmaster Finder by City:

<https://about.usps.com/who/profile/history/postmaster-finder/postmasters-by-city.htm>

Harrison [map] from Atlas of Cumberland County, Maine 1871

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U. S. Geological Survey, Topographic Map, Norway, Maine Quadrangle 1946

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“Otisfield” article in Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Otisfield, Maine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Otisfield,_Maine)

“Harrison” article in Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harrison, Maine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harrison,_Maine)

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

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

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>.