

Leeds Postal History

Androscoggin County, Maine

Last update for this page: 28 August 2024

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

Leeds was originally settled at the time of the American Revolution, and incorporated as a town in 1801, from the lands of Littleborough Plantation. In 1802 land was added to Leeds from Livermore; in later years, land was carved off from Leeds to be annexed to the towns of Wayne and Wales. During the history of the town of Leeds, there have been eight post offices. (The post offices named Leeds Junction and Leeds Station were located in the adjacent Town of Wales; for additional information on those offices, please see the Wales Postal History pages.)

The Towns of Leeds and Wales were part of Kennebec County until 31 March 1854, when they became part of Androscoggin County. Therefore, researchers looking for records for the various post offices in Leeds before 31 March 1854 should be aware that the information for that timeframe may be found under Kennebec County, not Androscoggin.

Briefly, the history of these eight is as follows:

1. [Curtis Corner](#) post office opened on 22 January 1853 and closed on 18 October 1957. Curtis Corner's name was changed from Curtis' Corner in 1894. (See also Kennebec County)
2. [East Leeds](#) post office opened on 5 August 1840 and closed on 8 October 1842 (See Kennebec County)
3. [Leeds \(1\)](#) post office opened on 27 August 1822 and closed on 29 April 1933. (See Kennebec County) *[\(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.\)](#)*
4. [Leeds \(2\)](#) post office was established on 23 April 1980 and is still operating.
5. [North Leeds](#) post office opened on 28 January 1826 and closed on 23 April 1980. (See also Kennebec County)
6. [South Leeds](#) post office opened on 6 June 1826 and closed on 1 November 1929. (See also Kennebec County)
7. [West Leeds \(1\)](#) post office opened on 10 April 1828 and closed on 18 April 1840. (See Kennebec County)
8. [West Leeds \(2\)](#) post office opened on 24 February 1866 and closed on 30 April 1909.



In 1891, there were four post offices in Leeds:

- Curtis Corner
- Leeds (1)
- North Leeds
- South Leeds
- West Leeds.

Extract from the 1891 Post Route Map of Maine. Map reproduction courtesy of Norman B. Leventhal Map & Education Center at the Boston Public Library.

<https://collections.leventhalmap.org/search/commonwealth:cj82kj790>

Curtis' Corner

22 January 1853:

Curtis' Corner Post Office opens as part of Kennebec County:

22 January 1853:

Salmon Brewster became Postmaster for Curtis' Corner Post Office.

31 March 1854:

Curtis' Corner Post Office became part of Androscoggin County.

19 December 1887:

Henry M. Brewster became Postmaster for Curtis' Corner Post Office.



Curtis Corner Post Office, Date unknown

1894

Curtis' Corner Post Office is renamed Curtis Corner Post Office.

21 August 1901:

John A. Merrill became Postmaster for Curtis Corner Post Office.

5 April 1904:

Fred Gamage became Postmaster for Curtis Corner Post Office.

30 October 1906:

Eben E. Rand became Postmaster for Curtis Corner Post Office.

4 April 1908:

Willard L. Kenney became Postmaster for Curtis Corner Post Office.

10 August 1911:

Herbert L. Grant became Postmaster for Curtis Corner Post Office.

30 September 1920:

Myrtle M. Bishop became Postmaster for Curtis Corner Post Office.

23 June 1921:

Edna M. Additon became Acting Postmaster for Curtis Corner Post Office.

30 March 1922:

Edna M. Additon became Postmaster for Curtis Corner Post Office.



7 August 1929:

The circular postmark is approximately 31.5 mm in diameter—four Bar (B) killer.

12 June 1936:

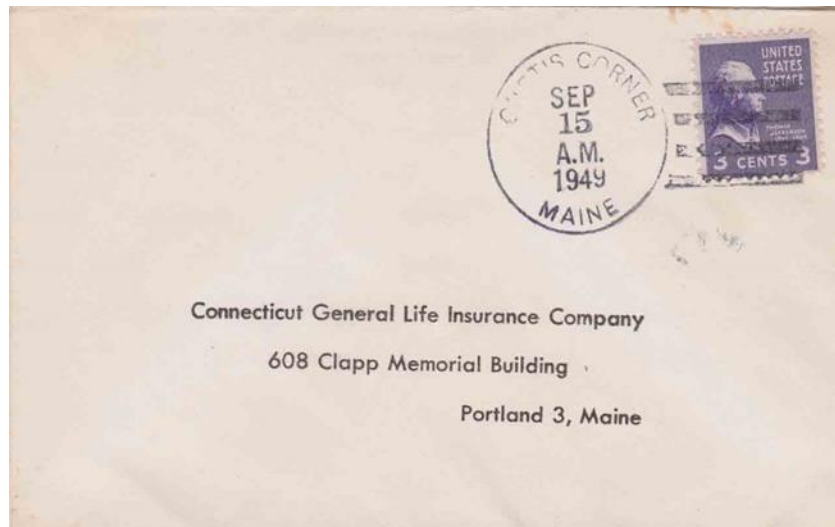
Mrs. Lizzie Cressey became Postmaster for Curtis Corner Post Office.

31 May 1945:

Mrs. Thelma J. Clark became Acting Postmaster for Curtis Corner Post Office.

26 October 1945:

Mrs. Thelma J. Clark became Postmaster for Curtis Corner Post Office.



15 September 1949:

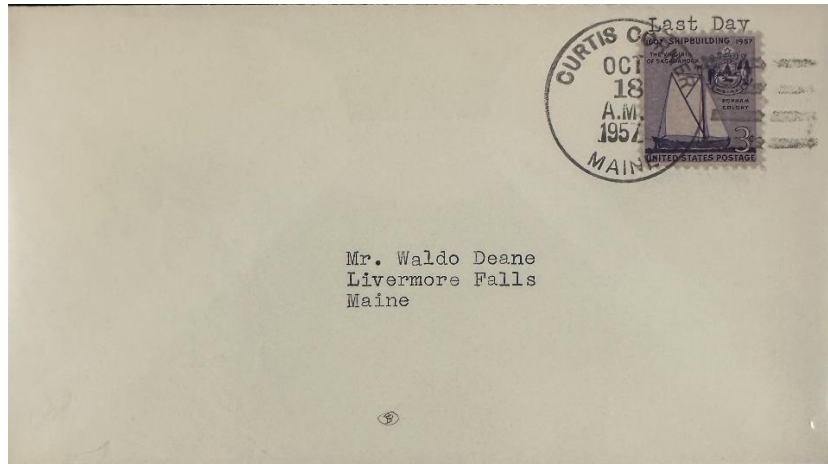
The circular postmark is approximately 28 mm in diameter—four Bar (B) killer.

31 May 1950:

Mrs. Dorothy E. Bliem became Acting Postmaster for Curtis Corner Post Office.

5 July 1950:

Mrs. Dorothy E. Bliem became Postmaster for Curtis Corner Post Office.



18 October 1957 Last Day of Operation

The circular postmark is approximately 32.5 mm in diameter—four Bar (B) killer.

1957 October 18:

Curtis Corner Post Office is closed.

East Leeds

5 August 1840:

East Leeds Post Office opens as part of Kennebec County.

5 August 1840:

Stephen Day became Postmaster for East Leeds Post Office.

8 October 1842:

East Leeds Post Office is closed.

Leeds (1)

27 August 1822:

Leeds (1) post office opened as part of Kennebec County. (Note: There was another post office named Leeds at a different time and location. 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.)

27 August 1822:

Solomon Lothrop became Postmaster for Leeds (1) Post Office.

17 June 1829:

Giddens Lane, Jr. became Postmaster for Leeds (1) Post Office.

19 April 1830:

Joseph Scammon became Postmaster for Leeds (1) Post Office.

10 May 1834:

Stillman Howard became Postmaster for Leeds (1) Post Office.

18 August 1837:

James W.L. Mitchell became Postmaster for Leeds (1) Post Office.

18 April 1840:

Thomas W. Bridgeham became Postmaster for Leeds (1) Post Office.

10 July 1841:

Franklin B. Leonard became Postmaster for Leeds (1) Post Office.

19 July 1845:

Issachar Lane became Postmaster for Leeds (1) Post Office.

9 April 1849:

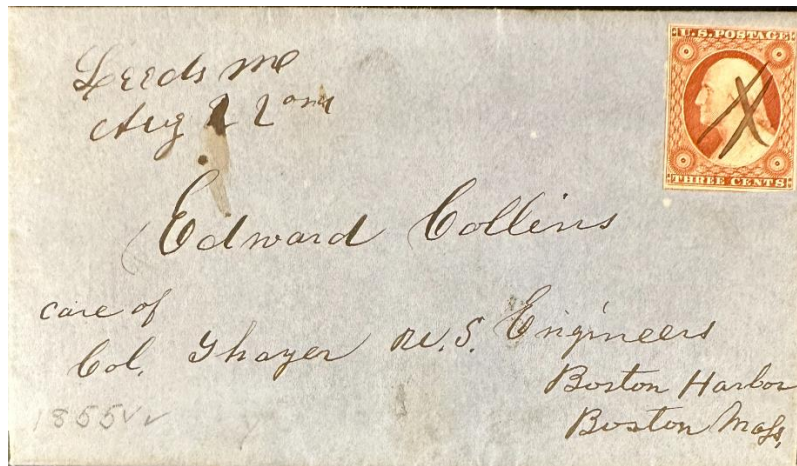
Isaac T. Boothby became Postmaster for Leeds (1) Post Office.

6 June 1853:

Solomon L. Lothrop became Postmaster for Leeds (1) Post Office.

31 March 1854:

Leeds (1) Post office became part of Androscoggin County.



22 August 1855

Manuscript postmark and killer.

7 October 1864:

Green G. More becomes Postmaster for Leeds (1) Post Office.

28 January 1868:

Charles H. Lane becomes Postmaster for Leeds (1) Post Office.

30 January 1880:

Albert Knight becomes Postmaster for Leeds (1) Post Office.

10 May 1880:

Willard Lothrop becomes Postmaster for Leeds (1) Post Office.

26 February 1886:

Cyrus B. Lane becomes Postmaster for Leeds (1) Post Office.

22 March 1886:

Wallace L. Francis becomes Postmaster for Leeds (1) Post Office.



Leeds Post Office, date unknown



Leeds Post Office, circa 1907:

This building appears like Lane's Cash Store in the picture above - W. Scott Lane Store.

4 November 1901:

Gustavus W. Lane becomes Postmaster for Leeds (1) Post Office.

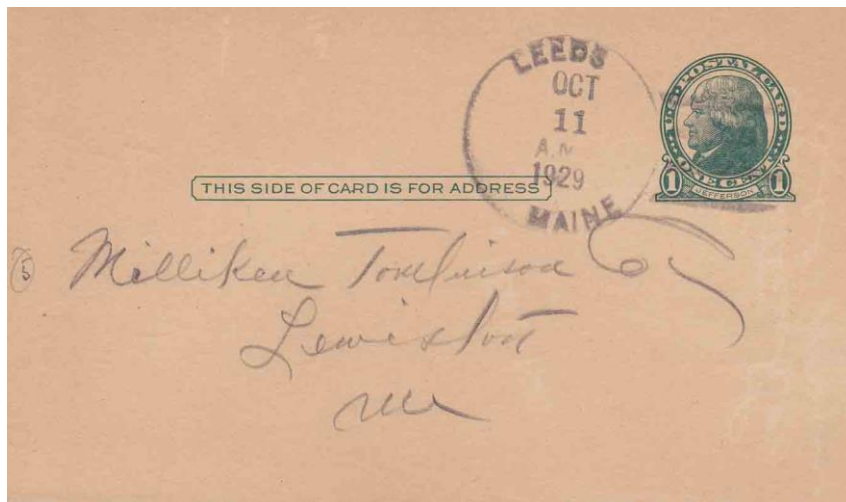
6 December 1905:

Georgia A. Francis becomes Postmaster for Leeds (1) Post Office.

8 August 1906:
Winfield Scott Lane becomes Postmaster for Leeds (1) Post Office.



Date Unknown
Leeds (1) post office.



11 October 1929
The circular postmark is approximately 32 mm in diameter—four bar killer.

29 April 1933:
Leeds (1) post office is closed.

Leeds (2)

23 April 1980:

Formerly North Leeds, Leeds (2) post office opened per local reports. Postal Bulletin #21387 reports the change from North Leeds was on 1 January 1983. (Note: There was another post office named Leeds at a different time and location. 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.)

23 April 1980:

Officer-in-Charge is unknown, according to Postmaster Finder. Possibly Lawrence G. Hayden, who was Postmaster for North Leeds when the post office became Leeds (2).

14 September 1985:

Glenice F. Pulsifer becomes Postmaster for Leeds (2).

28 June 1996:

Ivan Charles Allen Jr. became Officer-in-Charge for Leeds (2).

23 November 1996:

Constance V. Shaw became Postmaster for Leeds (2).

21 July 2004:

Angeline M. Palestini became Officer-in-Charge for Leeds (2).

2 October 2004:

Lorette M. Theriault became Postmaster for Leeds (2).

18 June 2008:

Thomas E. Hall became Officer-in-Charge for Leeds (2).

13 May 2009:

Carolyn S. Pike became Officer-in-Charge for Leeds (2).

19 November 2011:

Carol A. Guimont became Postmaster for Leeds (2).

26 June 2012:

Joan W. Zayszly became Officer-in-Charge for Leeds (2).

Today:

Leeds (2) post office is still in operation.

North Leeds

1826 January 28:

North Leeds post office opened as part of Kennebec County.

1826 January 28:

Walter Foss became Postmaster for North Leeds Post Office.

5 March 1842:

Russell Foss became Postmaster for North Leeds Post Office.

18 April 1846:

Walter Foss became Postmaster for North Leeds Post Office.

31 March 1854:

North Leeds Post Office became part of Androscoggin County.

7 August 1861:

Thomas C. Foss became Postmaster for North Leeds Post Office.

20 December 1871:

Jason Woodman became Postmaster for North Leeds Post Office.

10 December 1880:

Louisa M. Woodman became Postmaster for North Leeds Post Office.

10 August 1888:

Charles A. Whitehouse became Postmaster for North Leeds Post Office.

7 April 1891:

Thomas C. Foss became Postmaster for North Leeds Post Office.

21 December 1891:

Wallace C. Tribou became Postmaster for North Leeds Post Office.



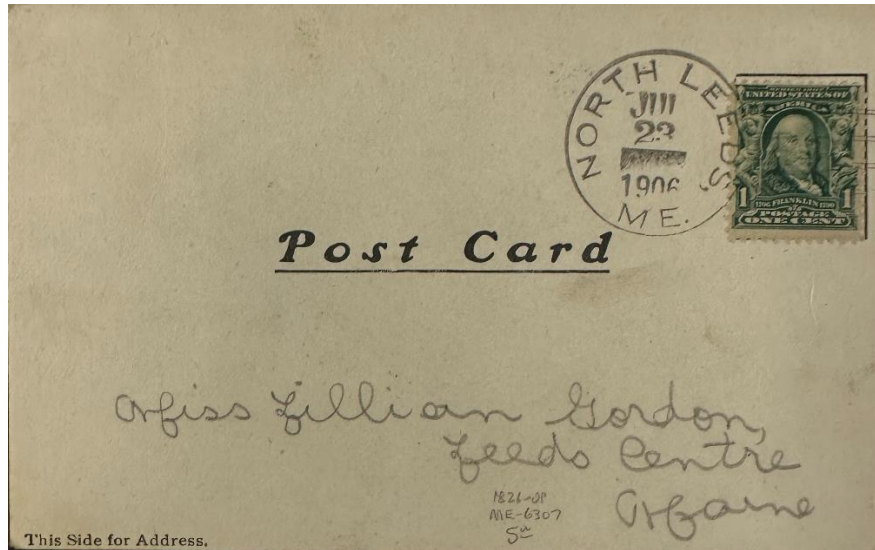
North Leeds Post Office, Date unknown. Marking on the back indicates this was North Leeds.

15 July 1895:

Guy W. Foss became Postmaster of North Leeds Post Office.

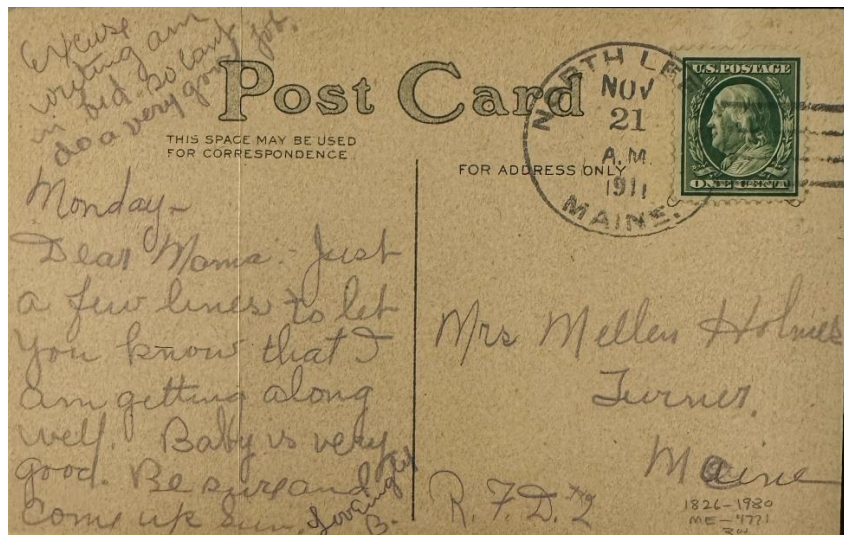
19 January 1901:

Vesta T. Foss became Postmaster of North Leeds Post Office.



23 July 1906

The circular postmark is approximately 28 mm in diameter—Doane 2/3 killer.

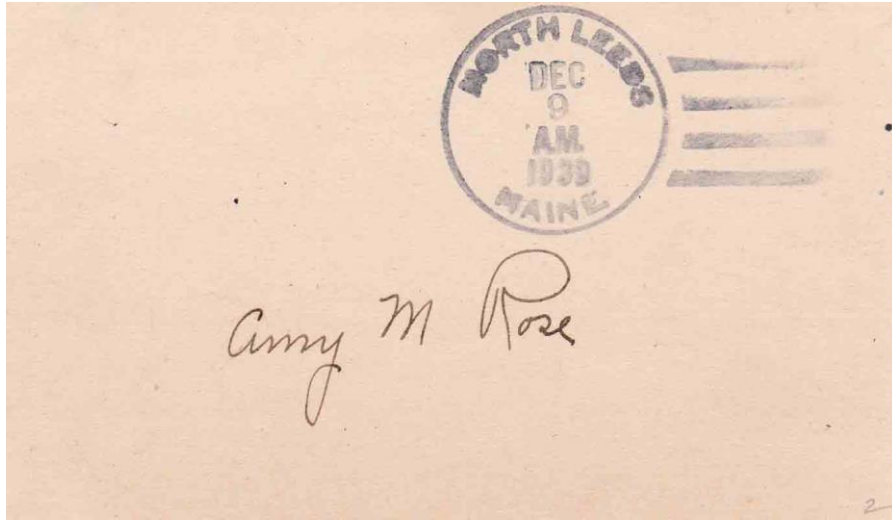


21 November 1911

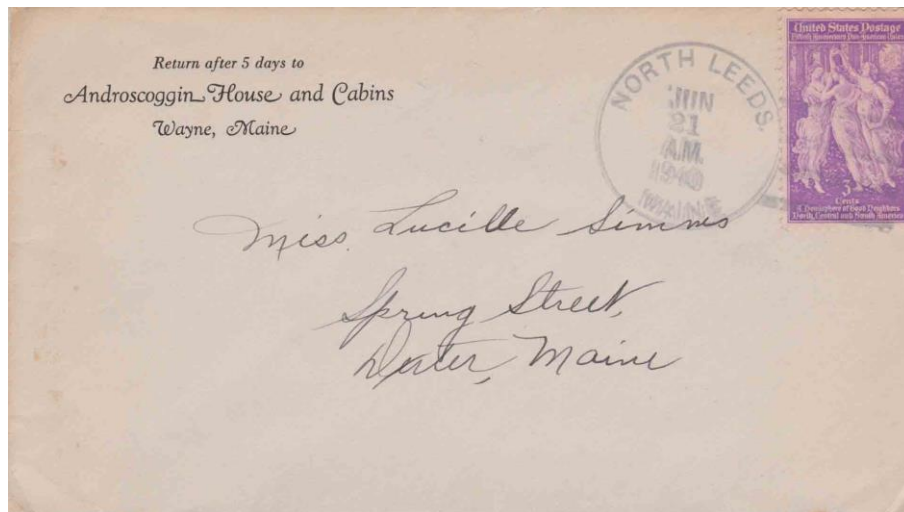
The circular postmark is approximately 31 mm in diameter—four-bar (A) killer.

14 October 1922:

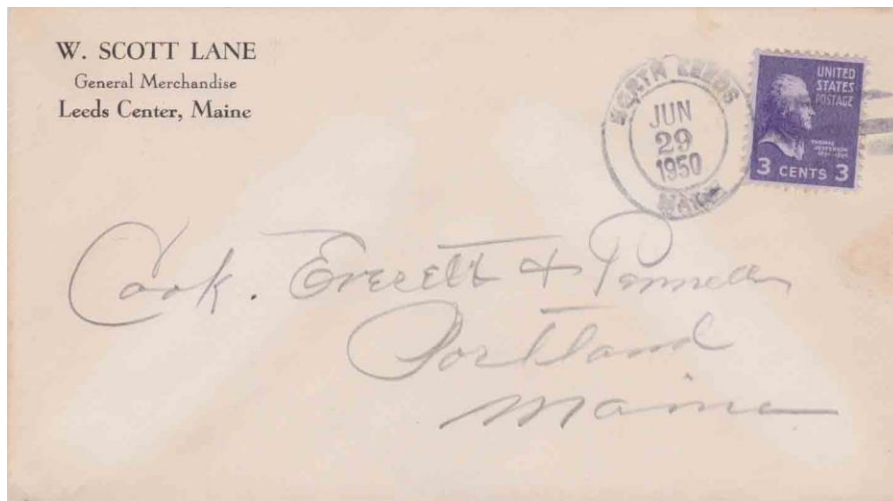
Mrs. Amy M. Rose became Postmaster of North Leeds Post Office.



1939 December 9:
The circular postmark is 32–33 mm in diameter with a four-bar (B) killer with the signature of the Postmaster.



1940 June 21:
The circular postmark is approximately 33 mm in diameter. Four bar (B) killer



1950 February 9 through 29 June 1950:

The outer circle of the postmark is 28–30 mm in diameter, and the inner circle is 17–18 mm in diameter—partial four-bar (B) killer.

30 June 1953:

Joseph E. Stetson became Acting Postmaster for North Leeds Post Office.

21 October 1955:

Paul F. Gould Jr. became Postmaster for North Leeds Post Office.

1976 September 30:

Jean R. Stetson became Officer-in-Charge for North Leeds Post Office.

1977 February 12:

Jean R. Stetson became Postmaster for North Leeds Post Office.

1978 December 29:

Rodney C. Wood became Officer-in-Charge for North Leeds Post Office.

1979 May 19:

Lawrence G. Hayden became Postmaster for North Leeds Post Office.

1980 April 23:

North Leeds Post Office became Leeds (2) Post Office.

South Leeds

6 June 1826:

South Leeds Post Office opens as part of Kennebec County.

6 June 1826:

Franklin B. Leonard became Postmaster for South Leeds Post Office.

5 December 1838:

Joshua S. Turner became Postmaster for South Leeds Post Office.

27 July 1840:

Oscar D. Turner became Postmaster for South Leeds Post Office.

10 July 1841:

John Gilmore became Postmaster for South Leeds Post Office.

16 August 1843:

Salmon A. Wing became Postmaster for South Leeds Post Office.

31 March 1854:

South Leeds became part of Androscoggin County.

2 June 1856:

Ormond T. Wing became Postmaster for South Leeds Post Office.

10 March 1863:

William Wing became Postmaster for South Leeds Post Office.

19 May 1863:

Sanford Gilbert became Postmaster for South Leeds Post Office.

2 January 1865:

James L. Bates became Postmaster for South Leeds Post Office.

12 March 1867:

Dudine S. Wing became Postmaster for South Leeds Post Office.

18 January 1876:

Greenlief Parker became Postmaster for South Leeds Post Office.

3 August 1887:

Lois V. Parker became Postmaster for South Leeds Post Office.

17 August 1895:

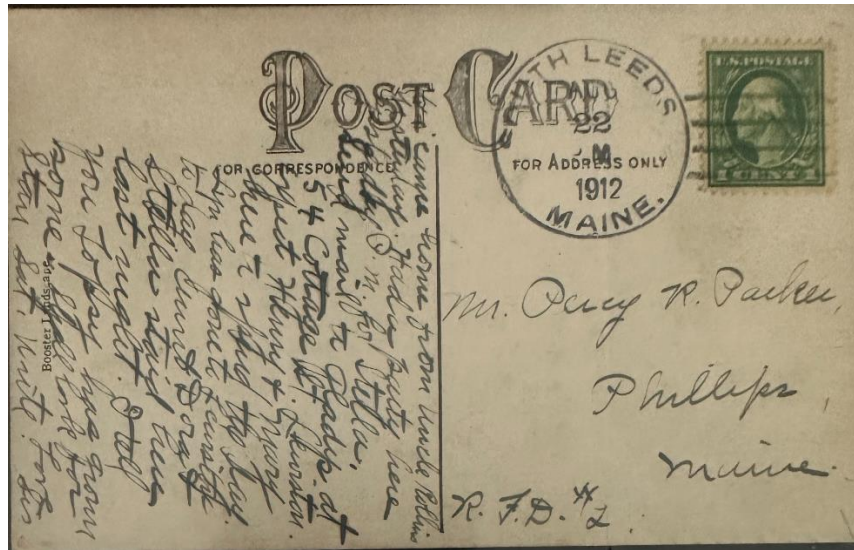
William Wing became Postmaster for South Leeds Post Office.

5 January 1907:

Dora L. Wing became Postmaster for South Leeds Post Office.

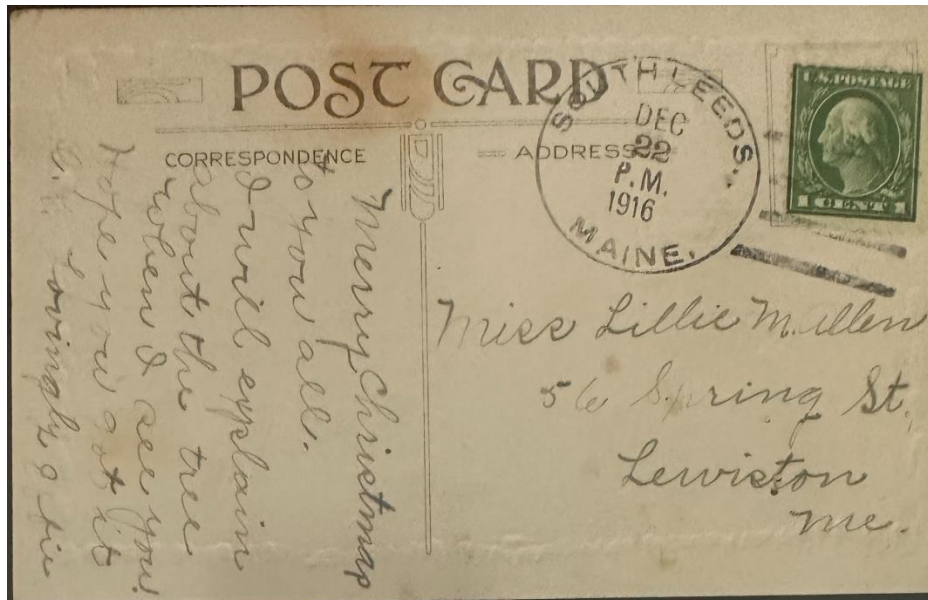
21 March 1911:

Percy R. Parker became Postmaster for South Leeds Post Office.



22 August 1912:

The circular postmark is 31.5 mm in diameter with a four-bar (A) killer.



22 December 1916:

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

15 November 1929:
South Leeds Post Office closed.

West Leeds (1)

10 April 1828:

West Leeds (1) Post Office opens as part of Kennebec County. (Note: There was another post office named West Leeds at a different time and location. 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.)

10 April 1828

? Samuel Jennings became Postmaster for West Leeds Post Office.

15 November 1828:

Percy L. Jennings became Postmaster for West Leeds Post Office.

23 March 1837:

? Luce Luretias became Postmaster for West Leeds Post Office.

18 April 1840:

West Leeds Post Office closed.

West Leeds (2)

1866 February 24:

West Leeds (2) post office opened. (Note: There was another post office named West Leeds at a different time and location. 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.)

24 February 1866:

Gessins F. Jennings became Postmaster of West Leeds (2) Post Office.

28 April 1868:

Stephen R. Deane became Postmaster of West Leeds (2) Post Office.

2 May 1882:

Gustavus A. Jennings became Postmaster of West Leeds (2) Post Office.

30 June 1888:

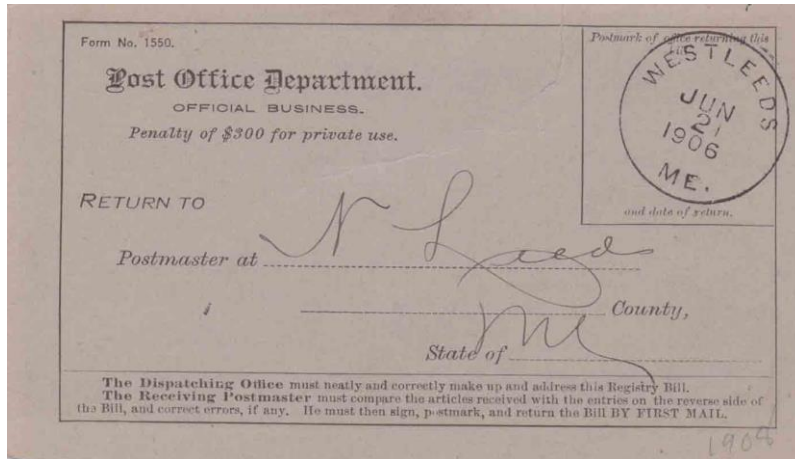
Roscoe E. Swain became Postmaster of West Leeds (2) Post Office.

28 July 1893:

Perry Grant became Postmaster of West Leeds (2) Post Office.

25 January 1906:

Howard E. Lincoln became Postmaster of West Leeds (2) Post Office.



1906 June 2:

The circular postmark is approximately 28 mm in diameter. (Note that the number of the day [2] is centered, and what appears to be a 1 is ink from the edge of the inserted day number.)

1909 April 30:

West Leeds (2) post office closed.

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 (second) 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 Leeds Postal History 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 Kelvin Kindahl, James Husson, and the Strout family collection.

And thank you to the Waterville Stamp Club <https://thewatervillestampclub.com> for assuring the continuity of this project.

Sources:

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

Leeds [map] from the 1873 Atlas and History of Androscoggin County, Maine:
https://digitalmaine.com/atlas_androscoggin_1873/19/ This is very useful for identifying the locations of some old post offices.

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

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>.