

# Oxbow Plantation Postal History

## Aroostook County, Maine

Last update for this page: 12 July 2024

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For more information, see <http://www.mainephilatelic.org/mph/>

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The Oxbow area of Aroostook County was settled in 1839 or 1840. Shortly after the first settlers arrived, the township, then known as T9 R6, was organized for election purposes in 1844. In the earlier days it was apparently also known as Umcolcus Plantation, although there is very little reference to that name in the official records of the State of Maine.

The plantation was first organized under the name of Oxbow for general purposes on August 8, 1870. That organization was verified by acts of the Maine Legislature in 1873 and 1895. It had a population of 147 in 1880 but had dropped to 66 by the 2010 Census. Voters of the Plantation voted to deorganize the Plantation in 2017, so that now it is an unorganized township.

During the history of Oxbow Plantation, there has been only one post office.

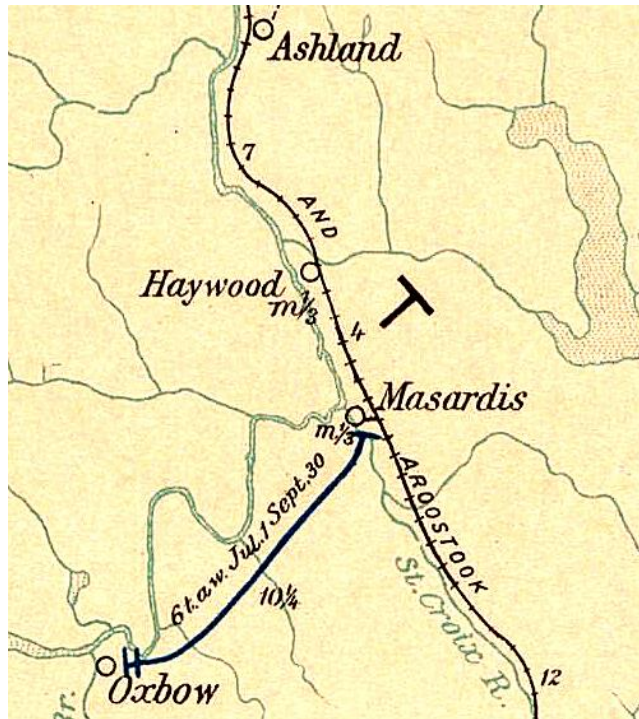
Briefly, the history of this one is as follows:

1. Oxbow Post Office opened on 9 July 1890, closed on 16 December 1896, re-opened on 29 January 1897, and closed on 19 January 2011.

The postal history of this township, T9 R6, is closely intertwined with the nearby unorganized township T8 R5.

Township 8 Range 5 had a post office named Umcolcus, which is also the name of a lake and stream that runs through other townships in the area. T8 R5 is southeast of Oxbow.

It should also be noted that Oxbow had no post office of its own until 1890, so mail going out from Oxbow might have gone through the Umcolcus post office during the years when that office was in operation. See the page on Umcolcus for an example of mail from T9 R6 with an Umcolcus postmark.



As shown on the Post Route Map, in 1903 Oxbow had mail service 6 times a week (“6 t. a. w.”) between July 1 and September 30.

Source: Post Route Map of the State of Maine, 1903

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

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

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## Oxbow

9 July 1890:

Oxbow post office opened.

9 July 1890:

William T. Libby became the Postmaster for the Oxbow Post Office.



20 March 1894 or 1899:  
The circular postmark is 27 mm in diameter.

23 September 1896:

C.C. Libby became the Postmaster for the Oxbow Post Office but was not compensated.

16 December 1896:

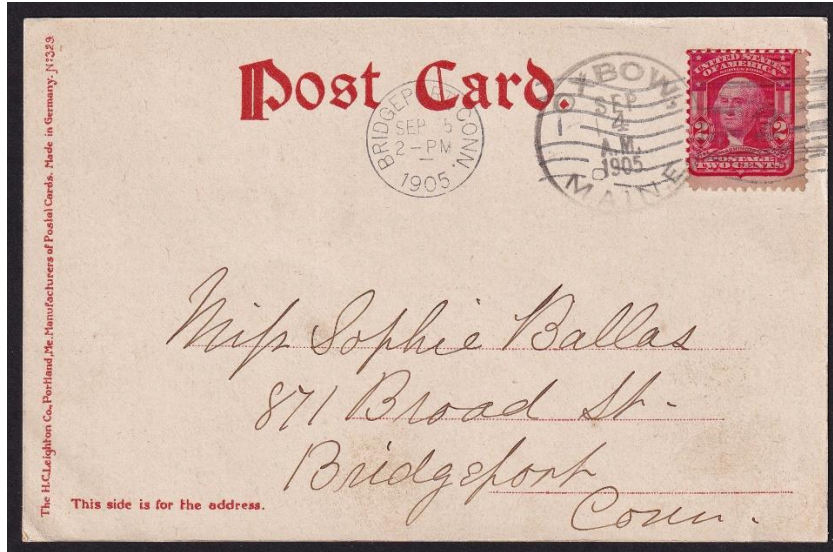
Oxbow post office closed—service from Masardis.

29 January 1897:

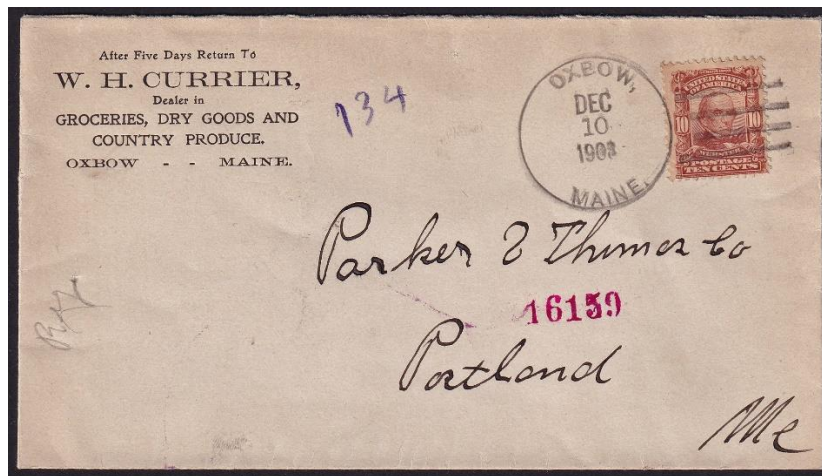
Oxbow post office re-opened.

29 January 1897:

Charles C. Libby became the Postmaster for the Oxbow Post Office.



4 September 1905:  
The circular postmark is 30 mm in diameter with a Doane 2/2 killer.



10 December 1908:  
The circular postmark is 31 mm in diameter with a four-bar (A/1) killer.

24 February 1915:

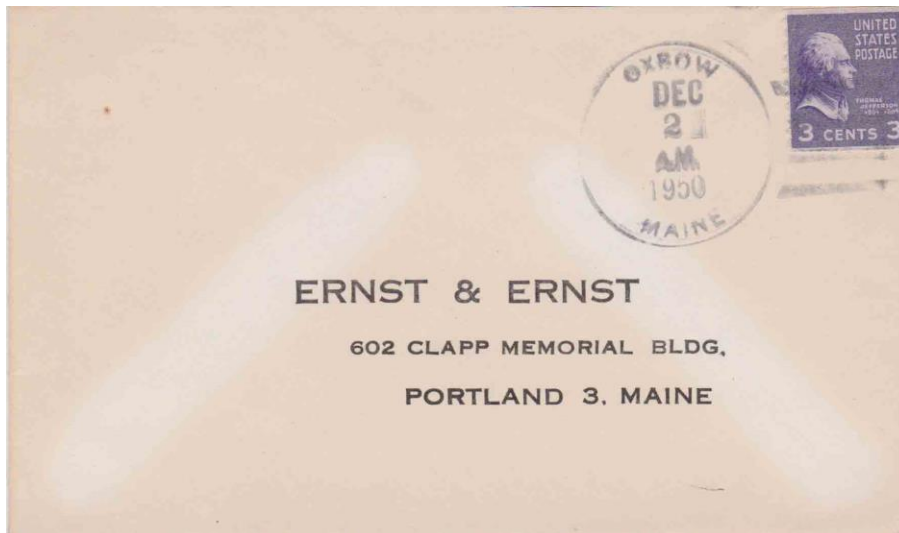
Flora E. Currier became the Postmaster for the Oxbow Post Office.

2 May 1917:

William T. Libby became the Acting Postmaster for the Oxbow Post Office.

30 June 1917:

Myrtie M. Currier became the Postmaster for the Oxbow Post Office.



2 December 1950:

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

30 November 1956:

Jeanette C. Currier became the Acting Postmaster for the Oxbow Post Office.

25 January 1957:

Jeanette C. Currier became the Postmaster for the Oxbow Post Office.



9 April 1971:

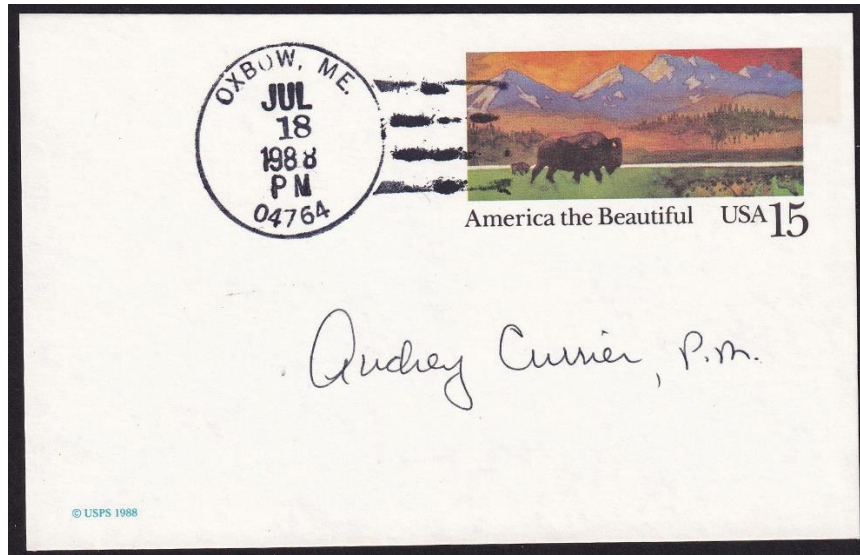
The circular postmark is 34 mm in diameter with a four-bar (B) killer.

24 June 1977:

Audrey L. Currier became the Officer-In-Charge of the Oxbow Post Office.

25 February 1978:

Audrey L. Currier became the Postmaster for the Oxbow Post Office.



18 July 1988:

The circular postmark is 32 mm in diameter with a four-bar (F/2) killer.

3 September 2010:

Ann Currier became the Officer-In-Charge of the Oxbow Post Office.

10 September 2010:

Todd Condon became the Officer-In-Charge of the Oxbow Post Office.

19 January 2011:

Oxbow Post Office suspended service.

9 March 2013:

Oxbow post office discontinued/closed—service from Ashland. The Zip Code was 04764.

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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 (2024).

Thank you for the contributions to this page by The Strout Family, Jim Husson, and Max Lynds.

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>

Letter 'K' R2, Masardis (T10R5), Ox Bow (T9R6) & Pleasant Ridge (Letter 'F' R1) Plantations [map] from the 1877 Atlas of Aroostook County, Maine:

[https://digitalmaine.com/atlas\\_aroostook\\_1877/27/](https://digitalmaine.com/atlas_aroostook_1877/27/)

Maine Plantations, from the FamilySearch.org Website:

[https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Maine\\_Plantations](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Maine_Plantations)

National Archives Catalog, Postmaster Appointments for Aroostook County, Maine

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/78746425>

Additional material, including links to official records of postmaster appointments, can be found at Research Resources for Maine Postal History:

<http://www.mainephilatelic.org/books/post-office-sources.pdf>.