Sebago Postal History

Cumberland County, Maine

Last update for this page: 20 September 2024

This page is part of the Maine Postal History website—a project of the Maine Philatelic Society.

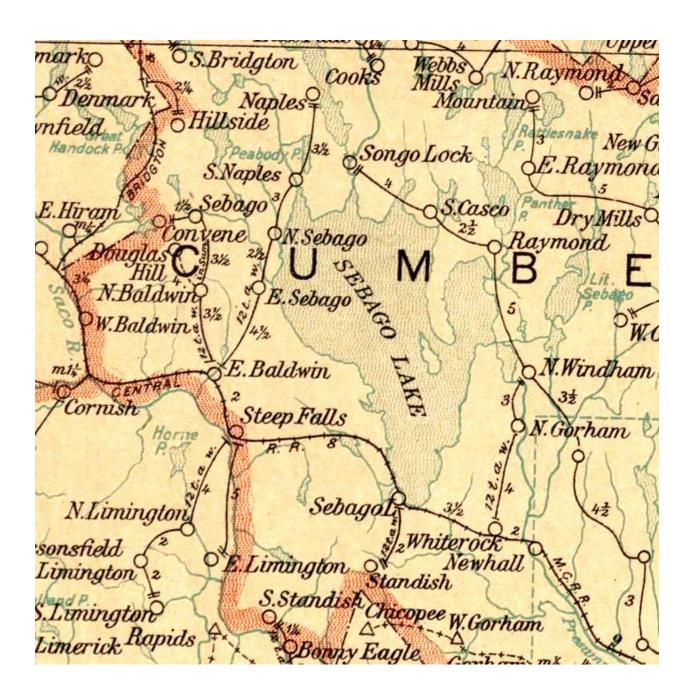
For more information, see http://www.mainephilatelic.org/mph.

Originally a part of Flintstown -- which became the Town of Baldwin in 1802 -- the Town of Sebago was carved off and incorporated in 1826. Later, land was annexed to Sebago from the Towns of Baldwin and Denmark; and carved off from Sebago to help create the Town of Naples. The name from the Wabanaki language means "big still water." It has been a popular resort area since the 1870s, as reflected by the fact that many of the postmarks from these offices are on postcards.

Briefly, there were eleven post offices in Sebago:

- 1. Convene Post Office opened on 11 November 1892 and closed on 30 June 1955.
- Douglas Hill Post Office (formerly Webrowe Post Office) was established on 17 February 1902, but as a summer office it didn't actually open until 1 April 1902. It closed on 28 January 1972.
- 3. <u>East Sebago</u> Post Office opened on 15 January 1876 and closed on 1 July 1997, with the name changed to Sebago (2).
- 4. Hillside Post Office opened on 17 July 1897 and closed on 30 June 1955.
- 5. North Sebago Post Office opened on 8 May 1884 and closed on 8 May 1964: Name changed to North Sebago RS East Sebago.
- 6. North Sebago RS East Sebago Post Office (formerly North Sebago Post Office) opened on 8 May 1964 and closed on April 1977.
- 7. Sandy Beach Post Office opened on 31 March 1855 and closed on 23 January 1871.
- 8. Sebago (1) Post Office opened on 5 January 1829 and closed on 30 April 1940.
- Sebago (2) Post Office (formerly East Sebago) opened on 1 July 1997 and is still operating.
- 10. <u>Webrowe</u> Post Office was established on 2 April 1901. Although it was discontinued when the name changed to Douglas Hill on 17 February 1902, it was a summer office, so the last day it was actually open as Webrowe was 29 November 1901.
- 11. West Sebago Post Office was to open on 30 July 1886, but the order was rescinded and never opened and discontinued on 17 August 1887.

(Note that the village and post office named <u>Sebago Lake</u> are not located in the Town of Sebago, but instead in the neighboring <u>Town of Standish</u>, to the south.)



In 1903 there were six post offices in operation in the Town of Sebago: Convene, Douglas Hill, East Sebago, Hillside, North Sebago, and Sebago. The village and post office named Sebago Lake are located in the Town of Standish.

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

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

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

Convene

11 November 1892:

Convene Post Office opened.

11 November 1892:

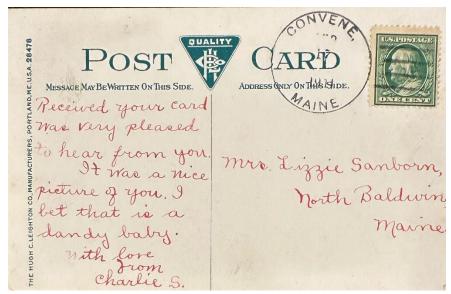
Charles Davis became the Postmaster of the Convene Post Office.

21 January 1909:

Jefferson P. Richardson became the Postmaster of the Convene Post Office.

22 November 1910:

Nellie E. Sanborn became the Postmaster of the Convene Post Office.



17 February 1911:

The circular postmark is 31 mm in diameter with a four-bar A/1 killer.

28 May 1920:

Charles E. Hunt became the Postmaster of the Convene Post Office.



13 September 1935: Badly misshapen circular postmark with a four-bar probable type D killer.

14 October 1936:

Herbert Brown became the Acting Postmaster of the Convene Post Office.

1 December 1936:

Herbert Brown became the Postmaster of the Convene Post Office.



30 June 1955:

The circular postmark is 31.5 mm in diameter with a four-bar F/1 killer.

6 May 1955:

Convene Post Office closed with service from West Baldwin.

Douglas Hill

17 February 1902:

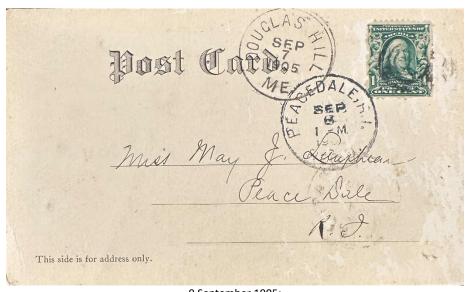
Douglas Hill Post Office (formerly Webrowe Post Office) officially established. Like Webrowe, it was a summer office.

17 February 1902:

Samuel S. Douglas became the Postmaster of the Douglas Hill Post Office.

1 April 1902:

Opened for the first time under the name of Douglas Hill.



9 September 1905: The circular postmark is 29 mm in diameter with a four-circle target killer.



4 August 1909:

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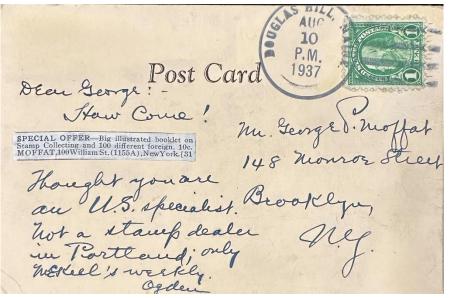
The circular postmark is 30.5 mm in diameter with a Doane 3/2 killer.

14 March 1929:

James L. Chadbourne became the Postmaster of the Douglas Hill Post Office.

12 December 1935:

Mrs. Grace C. Snow became the Acting Postmaster of the Douglas Hill Post Office.

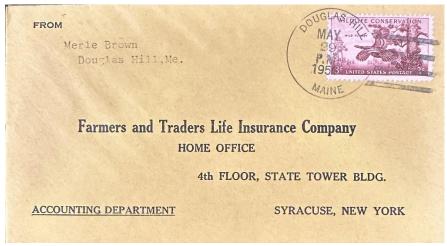


10 August 1937:

The circular postmark is 31 mm in diameter with a four-bar E killer. A similar postmark and killer dated 18 September 1935 is known.

6 January 1936:

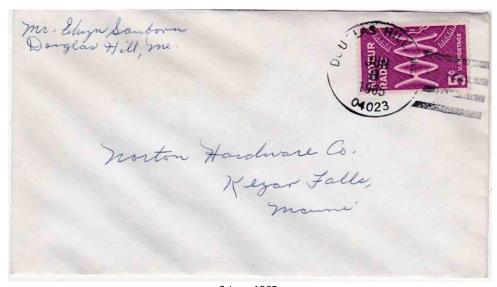
Mrs. Grace C. Snow became the Postmaster of the Douglas Hill Post Office.



29 May 1956:

http://www.mainephilatelic.org/mph

The circular postmark is 34 mm in diameter with a four-bar F/1 killer.



3 June 1965: The circular postmark is 32.5 mm in diameter with a four-bar F/2 killer.

28 January 1972:

Douglas Hill Post Office discontinued, with service from East Baldwin. Actual last day of operation for Douglas Hill, a summer office, was likely in fall of 1971.

East Sebago

15 January 1876:

East Sebago Post Office opened.

15 January 1876:

John P. Fitch became the Postmaster of the East Sebago Post Office.

4 April 1893:

La Grove M. Sanborn became the Postmaster of the East Sebago Post Office.

16 June 1897:

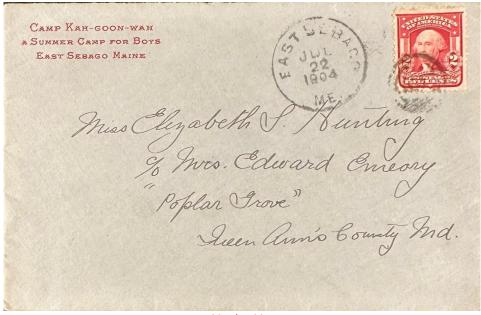
George E. Fitch became the Postmaster of the East Sebago Post Office.

31 March 1899:

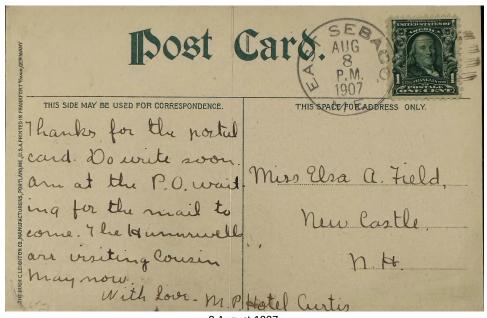
Henry W. Blake became the Postmaster of the East Sebago Post Office.

3 April 1901:

Montford P. Fitch became the Postmaster of the East Sebago Post Office.



22 July 1904: The circular postmark is 28 mm in diameter with a four-circle target killer.



8 August 1907:

The circular postmark is 28.5 mm in diameter with a Doane 2/3 killer.

18 May 1915:

La Grove M. Sanborn became the Postmaster of the East Sebago Post Office.



27 June 1922: The circular postmark is 32 mm in diameter with a four-bar C/1 killer.

22 June 1933:

Eva Francis Sanborn became the Acting Postmaster of the East Sebago Post Office.

12 October 1933:

Eva Francis Sanborn became the Postmaster of the East Sebago Post Office.



19 May 1938:

The circular postmark is 33 mm in diameter with a four-bar C/2 killer. A similar postmark and killer dated 19 June 1937 is known.

1 July 1945:

East Sebago became a Presidential Post Office.

26 August 1947:

Lawrence Ward Fitch became the Acting Postmaster of the East Sebago Post Office.

29 February 1948:

Gordon Sanborn became the Acting Postmaster of the East Sebago Post Office.

25 July 1949:

Gordon Sanborn became the Postmaster of the East Sebago Post Office.



The circular postmark is 32.5 mm in diameter with a four-bar F/1 killer.

29 August 1980:

Germaine C. Densmore became the Officer-In-Charge of the East Sebago Post Office.

15 November 1980:

Joanne N. Foster became the Postmaster of the East Sebago Post Office.

2 August 1984:

Lynn M. Micklon became the Officer-In-Charge of the East Sebago Post Office.

2 February 1985:

Warren R. Cutter became the Postmaster of the East Sebago Post Office.

19 March 1991:

Mary C. Picchi became the Officer-In-Charge of the East Sebago Post Office.

6 August 1991:

Charles Morse became the Officer-In-Charge of the East Sebago Post Office.

31 October 1991:

David J. Roy became the Officer-In-Charge of the East Sebago Post Office.

4 April 1992:

David Chessey became the Officer-In-Charge of the East Sebago Post Office.

8 June 1992:

Philip Fortier became the Officer-In-Charge of the East Sebago Post Office.

7 October 1992:

Susan M. Cloutier became the Officer-In-Charge of the East Sebago Post Office.

4 January 1993:

Amber B. Dearborn became the Officer-In-Charge of the East Sebago Post Office.

18 March 1993:

Wayne Boyden became the Officer-In-Charge of the East Sebago Post Office.

17 April 1993:

Stanley D. Libby became the Postmaster of the East Sebago Post Office.

1 July 1997:

East Sebago Post Office closed. Name changed to Sebago (2) Post Office.

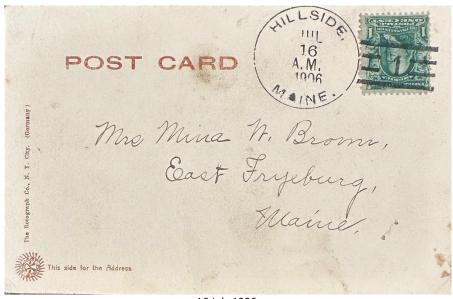
Hillside

17 July 1897:

Hillside Post Office opened.

17 July 1897:

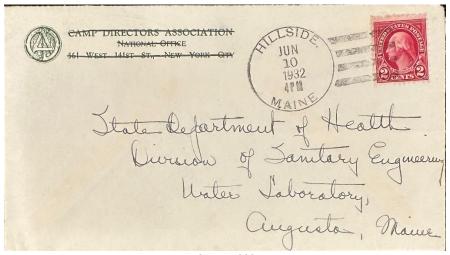
Howard E. Irish became the Postmaster of the Hillside Post Office.



16 July 1906: The circular postmark is 31.5 mm in diameter with a Doane 3/1 killer.

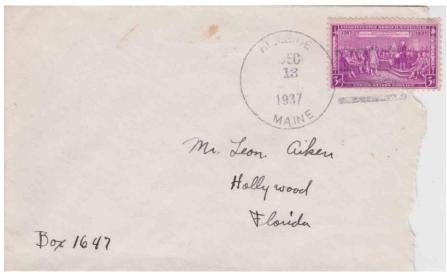
2 December 1913:

Mrs. Lucy E. Irish became the Postmaster of the Hillside Post Office



10 June 1932:

The circular postmark is 32 mm in diameter with a C/1 killer. A similar postmark dated 28 July 1931 is known.



12 December 1937:

The circular postmark is 32.5 mm in diameter with a four-bar C/2 killer. A similar postmark dated 13 December 1937 is known.



10 August 1942:

The circular postmark is 33 mm in diameter with a four-bar F/1 killer.

30 June 1945:

Mrs. Helen D. Irish became the Acting Postmaster of the Hillside Post Office.

7 January 1947:

Mrs. Helen D. Irish became the Postmaster of the Hillside Post Office.

6 May 1955:

Hillside Post Office was discontinued, effective 30 June 1955, with service from Douglas Hill.

North Sebago

8 May 1884:

North Sebago Post Office opened.

8 May 1884:

Loren Bacheldor became the Postmaster of the North Sebago Post Office.

18 April 1898:

Sumner S. Shaw became the Postmaster of the North Sebago Post Office.

21 November 1901:

George W. McKenney became the Postmaster of the North Sebago Post Office.

14 February 1910:

Alice M. Bacheldor became the Postmaster of the North Sebago Post Office.

15 June 1933:

Bertha E. Ward became the Acting Postmaster of the North Sebago Post Office.

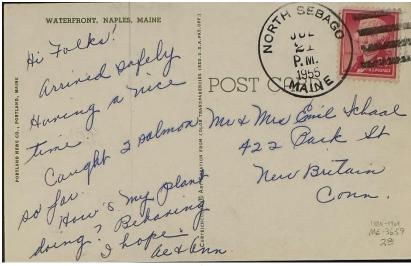
20 September 1933:

Bertha E. Ward became the Postmaster of the North Sebago Post Office.



18 September 1935:

The circular postmark is 33 mm in diameter with a four-bar C/2 killer. A similar postmark and killer dated 10 Nov. 1938 is known.



21 July 1955:

The circular postmark is 32 mm in diameter with a four-bar F/1 killer.

17 January 1964:

Postmaster records indicate Bertha E. Ward was deceased, and the post office was advanced to 3rd class. However, there is no record of another Postmaster or Acting Postmaster or that it closed.

8 May 1964:

The North Sebago Post Office closed, and its name was changed to North Sebago RS East Sebago per Postal Bulletin 20416.

North Sebago RS East Sebago

8 May 1964:

North Sebago RS East Sebago Post Office (formerly North Sebago Post Office) opened.



9 August 1968:

The circular postmark is 32.5 mm in diameter with a four-bar F/1 killer.

April 1977:

North Sebago RS East Sebago Post Office closed.

Sandy Beach

31 March 1855:

Sandy Beach Post Office opened.

31 March 1855:

Nathaniel Fieket became the Postmaster of the Sandy Beach Post Office.

23 January 1871:

Sandy Beach Post Office closed.

Sebago (1) (Note: There were two post offices in Maine named Sebago at different times and locations. 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.)

5 January 1829:

Sebago (1) Post Office opened.

5 January 1829:

William Fitch became the Postmaster of the Sebago (1) Post Office.

24 July 1840:

Robert McDonald became the Postmaster of the Sebago (1) Post Office.

15 March 1842:

William Fitch, Jr. became the Postmaster of the Sebago (1) Post Office.

19 November 1845:

William Bickford became the Postmaster of the Sebago (1) Post Office.

22 June 1848:

John E. McDonald became the Postmaster of the Sebago (1) Post Office.

27 June 1849:

William Wingate became the Postmaster of the Sebago (1) Post Office.

30 March 1853:

Joseph Ridlon became the Postmaster of the Sebago (1) Post Office.

19 November 1853:

John E. McDonald became the Postmaster of the Sebago (1) Post Office.

29 September 1856:

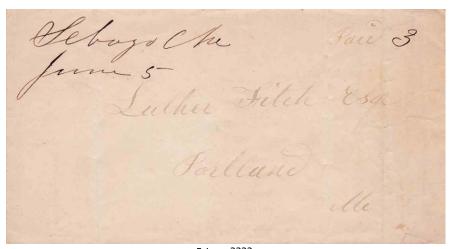
Joseph Ridlon became the Postmaster of the Sebago (1) Post Office.

10 September 1857:

John D. Martin became the Postmaster of the Sebago (1) Post Office.

17 August 1861:

Peter B. Young became the Postmaster of the Sebago (1) Post Office.



5 June ????: Manuscript postmark and Paid 3.

2 July 1867:

Luther H. Fitch became the Postmaster of the Sebago (1) Post Office.

12 October 1869:

Simon Davis became the Postmaster of the Sebago (1) Post Office.

26 April 1870:

Luther H. Fitch became the Postmaster of the Sebago (1) Post Office.

23 September 1885:

Edwin L. Poor became the Postmaster of the Sebago (1) Post Office.

24 March 1889:

Mrs. Eunice B. Fitch became the Postmaster of the Sebago (1) Post Office.

23 June 1893

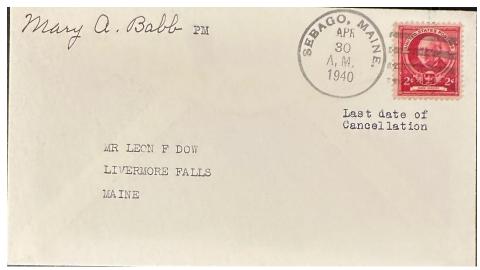
Edwin L. Poor became the Postmaster of the Sebago (1) Post Office.



3 January 1912: The circular postmark is 33.5 mm in diameter with a Doane 3/2 killer.

19 September 1912:

Miss Mary A. Babb became the Postmaster of the Sebago (1) Post Office.



30 April 1940: The circular postmark is 31.5 mm in diameter with a four-bar E killer.



2 April 1940:

The circular postmark is 31.5 mm in diameter with a four-bar E killer. Note that this postmark is dated after the order to discontinue was issued, but before the effective date, and may likely be a favor cancellation.

23 March 1940:

Order to discontinue Sebago (1) Post Office was issued, to be effective 30 April 1940 with service from Convene.

Sebago (2) (Note: There were two post offices in Maine named Sebago at different times and locations. 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.)

1 July 1997:

Sebago (2) Post Office (formerly East Sebago) opened.

http://www.mainephilatelic.org/mph

17 July 1993:

Stanley D. Libby became Postmaster of the East Sebago Post Office and remained as Postmaster when the East Sebago Post Office's name changed to Sebago (2) Post Office.



1998 June 11: Four bar cancel with 35 mm cds

29 March 1999:

Cynthia A. Rogers became the Acting Postmaster of the Sebago (2) Post Office.

19 November 1999:

Alicia Gamow became the Officer-In-Charge of the Sebago (2) Post Office.

17 June 2000:

Margo E. Walker became the Postmaster of the Sebago (2) Post Office.

14 February 2002:

Karolina Fournier became the Officer-In-Charge of the Sebago (2) Post Office.

24 May 2002:

Amber B. Dearborn became the Officer-In-Charge of the Sebago (2) Post Office.

10 August 2002:

Linda G. McLean became the Postmaster of the Sebago (2) Post Office.

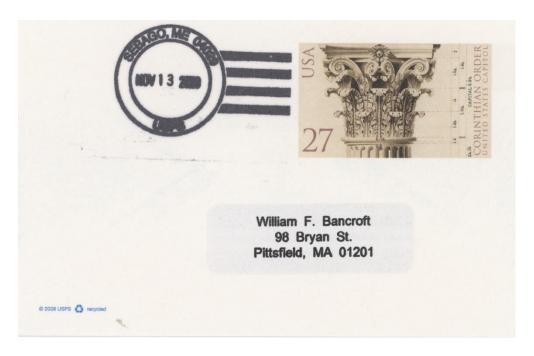
http://www.mainephilatelic.org/mph

5 April 2004:

Amber B. Dearborn became the Officer-In-Charge of the Sebago (2) Post Office.

30 July 2001:

Ellen J. D'Alessio became the Postmaster of the Sebago (2) Post Office.



2008 November 13: Four-bar cancel with 30 mm double-circle CDS

19 December 2011:

Ellen J. D'Alessio's surname changed to Crosby.

26 June 2014:

Amber B. Dearborn became the Officer-In-Charge of the Sebago (2) Post Office.

20 September 2014:

Sebago (2) Post Office was converted to a Level 6 (6-hour) Remotely Managed Post Office under the direction of the Postmaster of the Limington Post Office.



22 July 2022: Sebago Post Office. Photo Credit J. Husson

12 September 2024:

Sebago Post Office is operational at 222 Sebago Rd. Sebago, ME 04029. GPS 43° 51′ 06″ N 70° 38′ 03″ W.

Webrowe

29 April 1901:

Webrowe Post Office opened. It was a summer post office under this name, as it was under Douglas Hill, the name it took beginning in 1902.

29 April 1901:

Edward S. Douglas became the Postmaster of the Webrowe Post Office.

29 November 1901:

Last day of operation under the name Webrowe.

17 February 1902:

Webrowe Post Office discontinued, and the name was changed to Douglas Hill Post Office.

West Sebago Post Office

30 July 1886:

West Sebago Post Office was to open but never did.

30 July 1886:

Jacob Witham was to become the Postmaster of the West Sebago Post Office, but the office never opened.

17 August 1887:

West Sebago Post Office was discontinued.

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 Jim Husson.

Thank you to the Waterville Stamp Club (https://thewatervillestampclub.com) for helping ensure this project's continuity.

Sources, Sebago and Postal History:

The Post Offices of Maine 2022, Maine Philatelic Society:

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

Maine Postal History Gateway at Maine Philatelic Society:

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

The Digitised U. S. Postal Bulletins and PL&Rs 1880—2013 http://www.uspostalbulletins.com/

Baldwin and Sebago [map] from Atlas of Cumberland County, Maine 1871. https://digitalmaine.com/atlas cumberland 1871/11/

Town of Sebago History, from the town government website: https://www.townofsebago.org/town-information/pages/town-history

"Sebago, Maine," article in Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sebago, Maine

"Sebago," article in Maine, An Encyclopedia https://maineanencyclopedia.com/sebago/ 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

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http://www.doanecancel.com/doane.html

Sanders, Christine, The 4-Bar Postmark of the USPS, PMCC Bulletin Reprinted Article, Original Publication Date: June, July & December 2012.

http://www.postmarks.org/resources/PMCC FourBarCancelsUSPS.pdf

U. S. Cancel Finder: Find a Machine Cancel by Style on the Swanson Group website: http://swansongrp.com/postal/about/index.html