

Van Buren Postal History

Aroostook County, Maine

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

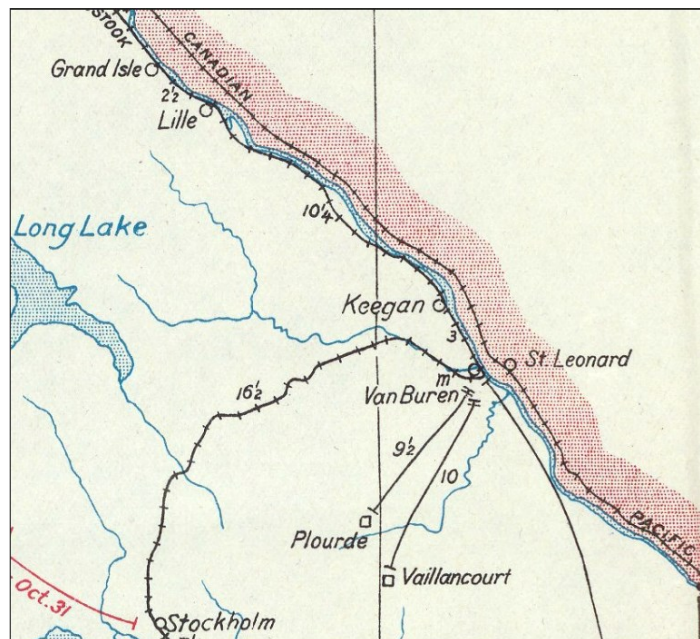
Van Buren is a town in Aroostook County, incorporated on February 11, 1881, from Van Buren Plantation. Part of Van Buren was set off to become part of Grant Isle (later called Grand Isle) in 1859; it annexed land from Hamlin plantation in 1907.

During the history of the town of Van Buren, there have been four post offices.

Briefly, the history of these four is as follows:

1. [Keegan](#) Post Office opened on 5 August 1907 and closed on 15 October 1971.
2. [Upper Van Buren](#) Post Office opened on 10 May 1875 and closed on 1 May 1877.
3. [Van Buren](#) Post Office opened on 11 November 1851 and is still operating.
4. [West Van Buren](#) Post Office opened on 11 November 1851 and was renamed [Grant Isle](#) Post Office on 13 June 1859.

In 1914, there were two post offices in Van Buren: Keegan and Van Buren. (source: Post Route Map of the State of Maine 1942. Courtesy of David Rumsey Map Collection, Stanford Libraries, Stanford University.
<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/s/193qf0>



Keegan

5 August 1907:

Keegan post office opened.

5 August 1907:

Napolean Duperry became the Postmaster of the Keegan Post Office.



20 July 1908:

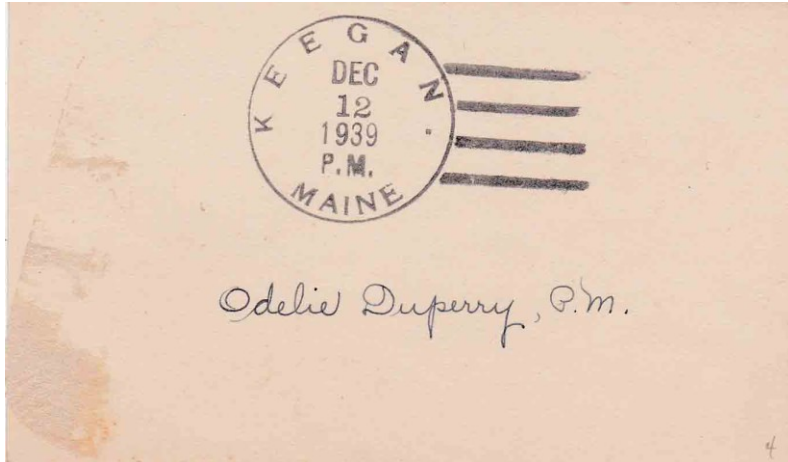
The circular postmark is 32 mm in diameter with a four-bar (A) killer.

12 February 1915:

Mrs. Odell Duperry became the Postmaster of the Keegan Post Office.

1 July 1939:

Keegan Post Office became a Presidential Post Office.



12 December 1939:

The circular postmark is 33.5 mm in diameter with a four-bar (B) killer. A similar postmark and killer dated 14 February 1950 is known.

28 February 1941:

Mrs. Blanche D. Voisine became the Acting Postmaster of the Keegan Post Office.

7 October 1941:

Mrs. Blanche D. Voisine became the Postmaster of the Keegan Post Office.



4 May 1966:

The circular postmark is 33 mm in diameter with a four-bar (F/2) killer.

28 May 1971:

Mr. Albenie J. Voisine became the Officer-In-Charge of the Keegan Post Office.

15 October 1971:

Keegan post office closed; service from Van Buren.

Upper Van Buren

10 May 1875:

Upper Van Buren Post Office opened.

10 May 1875:

Dumas Daigle became the Postmaster of the Upper Van Buren Post Office.

27 May 1875:

Damase Daigle became the Postmaster of the Upper Van Buren Post Office. (probably a spelling correction)

1 May 1877:

Upper Van Buren Post Office closed.

Van Buren

11 November 1851:

Van Buren post office opened.

11 November 1851:

Michael Farrell became the Postmaster of the Van Buren Post Office.

10 May 1856:

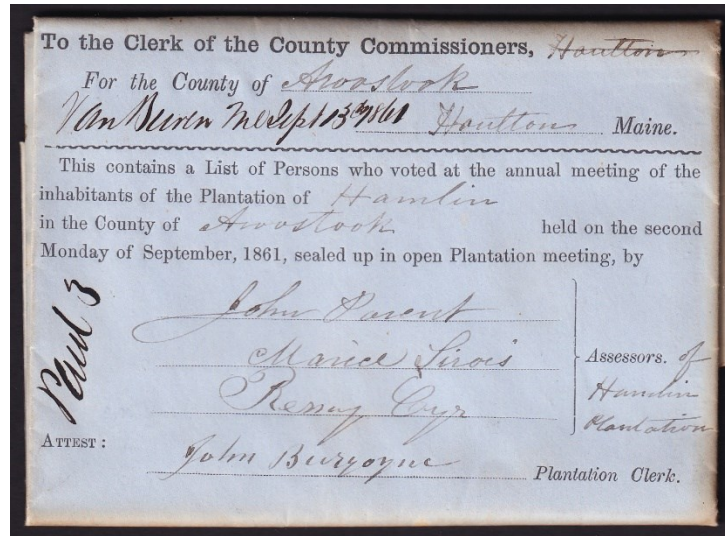
Almon S. Richards became the Postmaster of the Van Buren Post Office.

9 June 1856:

Edward Farrell became the Postmaster of the Van Buren Post Office.

22 April 1857:

Amos H. Morrill became the Postmaster of the Van Buren Post Office.



13 September 1861:
Manuscript postmark.

14 March 1865:

George W. Smith became the Postmaster of the Van Buren Post Office.

12 November 1867:

Charles F. Hammond became the Postmaster of the Van Buren Post Office.

14 October 1868:

William C. Hammond, Jr. became the Postmaster of the Van Buren Post Office.

25 September 1885:

John B.A. Farrell became the Postmaster of the Van Buren Post Office.

28 February 1889:

Charles F. Hammond became the Postmaster of the Van Buren Post Office.

16 April 1890:

Miss Margaret C. Hammond

28 March 1893:

Solomon Madore became the Postmaster of the Van Buren Post Office.

7 April 1894:

Addis E. Keegan became the Postmaster of the Van Buren Post Office.

19 June 1899:

Charles H. Hammond became the Postmaster of the Van Buren Post Office.



15 May 1900:

The circular postmark is 27 mm in diameter with an unusual three-circle target killer.

1 July 1901:

Van Buren Post Office became a Presidential Post Office.



Early 20th century color postcard shows the Van Buren post office, with New Brunswick, Canada, in the background, across the St John River.



16 April 1903:

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

2 March 1915:

Louis P. Gagnon became the Postmaster of the Van Buren Post Office.

17 August 1921:

Fredrick J. Murphy became the Acting Postmaster of the Van Buren Post Office.

22 December 1921:

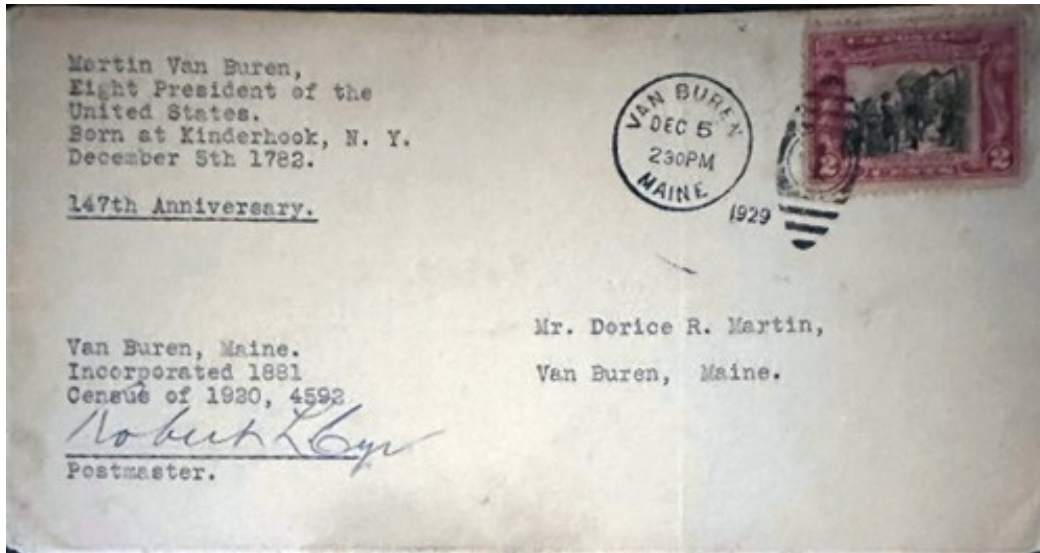
Fredrick J. Murphy became the Postmaster of the Van Buren Post Office.

18 June 1927:

Robert L. Cyr became the Acting Postmaster of the Van Buren Post Office.

15 December 1927:

Robert L. Cyr became the Postmaster of the Van Buren Post Office.



5 December 1929:

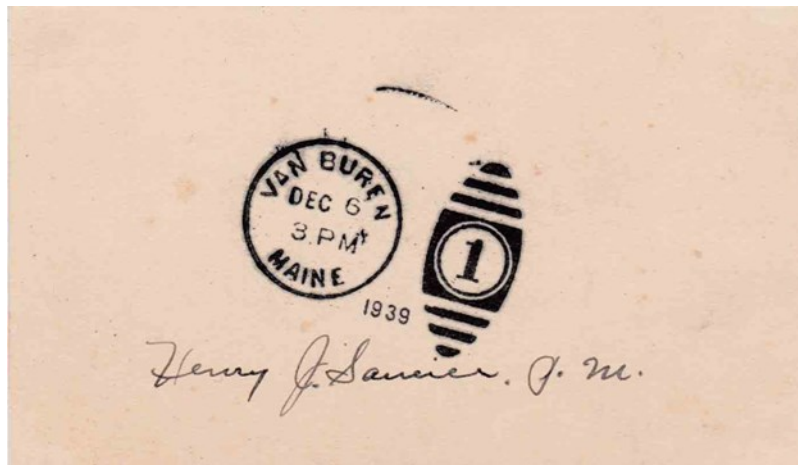
The circular postmark is 26 mm in diameter with a six-bar elliptical triplex/1 killer.

28 February 1934:

Henry J. Saucier became the Acting Postmaster of the Van Buren Post Office.

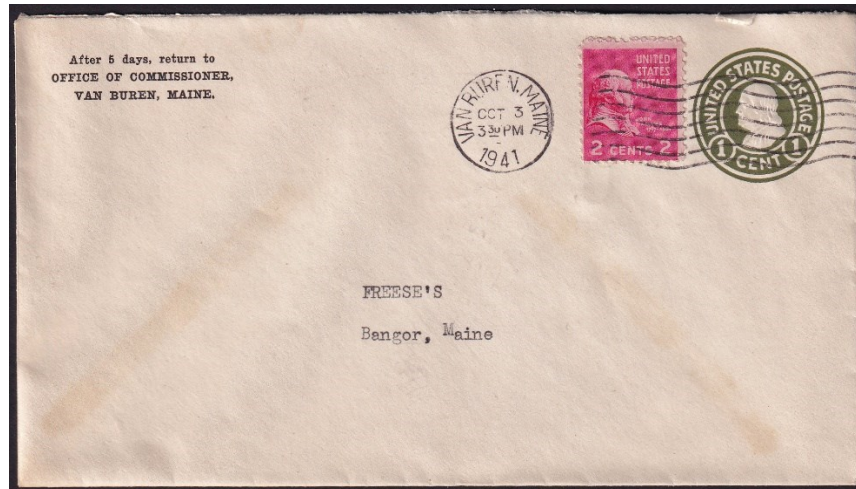
13 February 1935:

Henry J. Saucier became the Postmaster of the Van Buren Post Office.



6 December 1939:

The circular postmark is 25 mm in diameter with a six-bar elliptical triplex/1 killer.



3 October 1941:

The circular postmark is 21 mm in diameter with an International seven-wavy line machine killer.

30 November 1949:

Normand J. Cyr became the Acting Postmaster of the Van Buren Post Office.

13 February 1951:

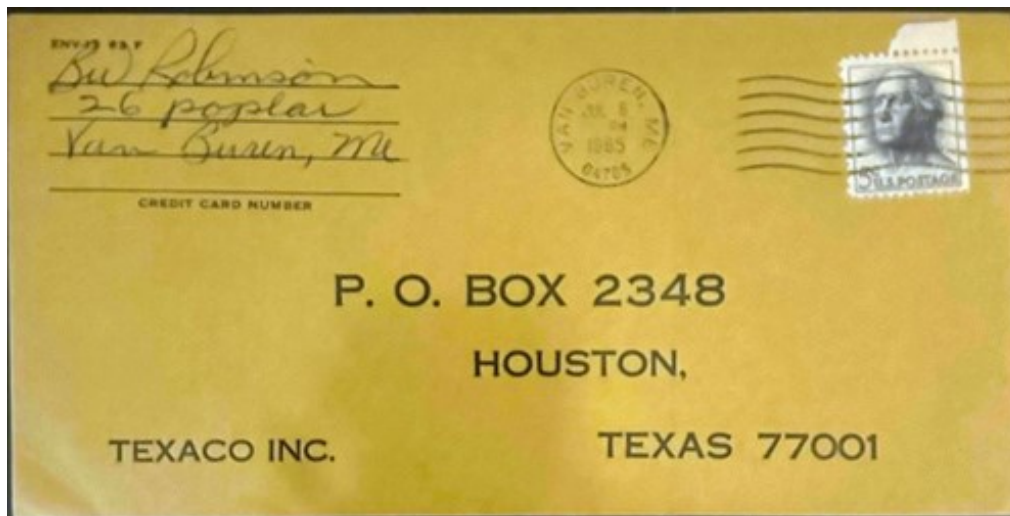
Leo N. Poirier became the Postmaster of the Van Buren Post Office.

31 March 1957:

Harry C. McManus became the Acting Postmaster of the Van Buren Post Office.

24 July 1958:

Donald L. Lapointe became the Postmaster of the Van Buren Post Office.



6 July 1965:

The circular postmark is 21 mm in diameter with a six-wavy line Universal machine killer.

7 October 1977:

Daniel F. Cyr became the Officer-In-Charge of the Van Buren Post Office.

9 March 1978:

Kellen R. Melanson became the Officer-In-Charge of the Van Buren Post Office.

3 June 1978:

Rudolph I. Cyr became the Postmaster of the Van Buren Post Office.



17 September 1987:

A special event/souvenir slogan cancel.

30 December 1988:

William H. Michaud became the Officer-In-Charge of the Van Buren Post Office.

11 February 1989:

Raymond K. Marquis became the Postmaster of the Van Buren Post Office.

23 December 2009:

Arthur L. Vick became the Officer-In-Charge of the Van Buren Post Office.

30 June 2012:

Roger P. Plante became the Postmaster of the Van Buren Post Office.

19 December 2013:

Wendy M. Stevens became the Officer-In-Charge of the Van Buren Post Office.

9 August 2014:

Wendy M. Stevens became the Postmaster of the Van Buren Post Office.



July 2023:

Van Buren Post Office. Photo Credit Dennis Dixon

6 February 2024:

Van Buren Post Office is operational at 42 Main Street, Van Buren, ME 04785. GPS 47° 09' 20" N 67° 55' 58" W

West Van Buren

11 November 1851:

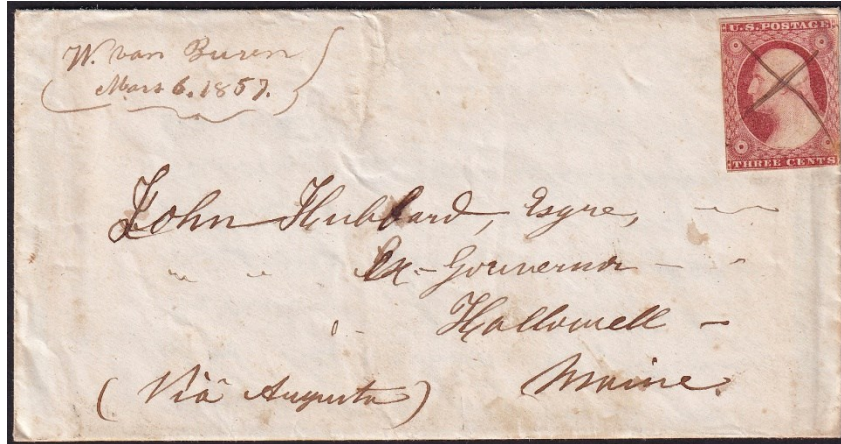
West Van Buren Post Office opened.

11 November 1851:

Moses Thibodeaux became the Postmaster of the West Van Buren.

14 July 1852:

Paul Cyr became the Postmaster of the West Van Buren.



6 March 1852:
Manuscript postmark and killer.

13 June 1859:

West Van Buren Post Office closed and became Grant Isle Post Office. See also the Maine Postal History page for [Grand Isle](#).

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>

Van Buren [map] from the 1877 Atlas of Aroostook County, Maine:
https://digitalmaine.com/atlas_aroostook_1877/2/

National Archives Catalog: Postmaster Appointments for Aroostook County, Maine.
<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/78746425>

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>

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>.