

# Wales Postal History

## Androscoggin County, Maine

Last update for this page: 26 March 2023

This page is part of the Maine Postal History website—a project of the Waterville Stamp Club. For more information, see <https://www.thewatervillestampclub.com/mph>.

---

Wales was incorporated on February 1, 1816, from Wales Plantation. It annexed land from Litchfield (1827, 1856), Leeds (1855), and Monmouth (1855). Later, in 1867, it ceded land to Webster, now Sabattus. It was initially part of Lincoln County and then in Kennebec County on 6 March 1840 until 31 March 1854, when it became part of the newly formed Androscoggin County.

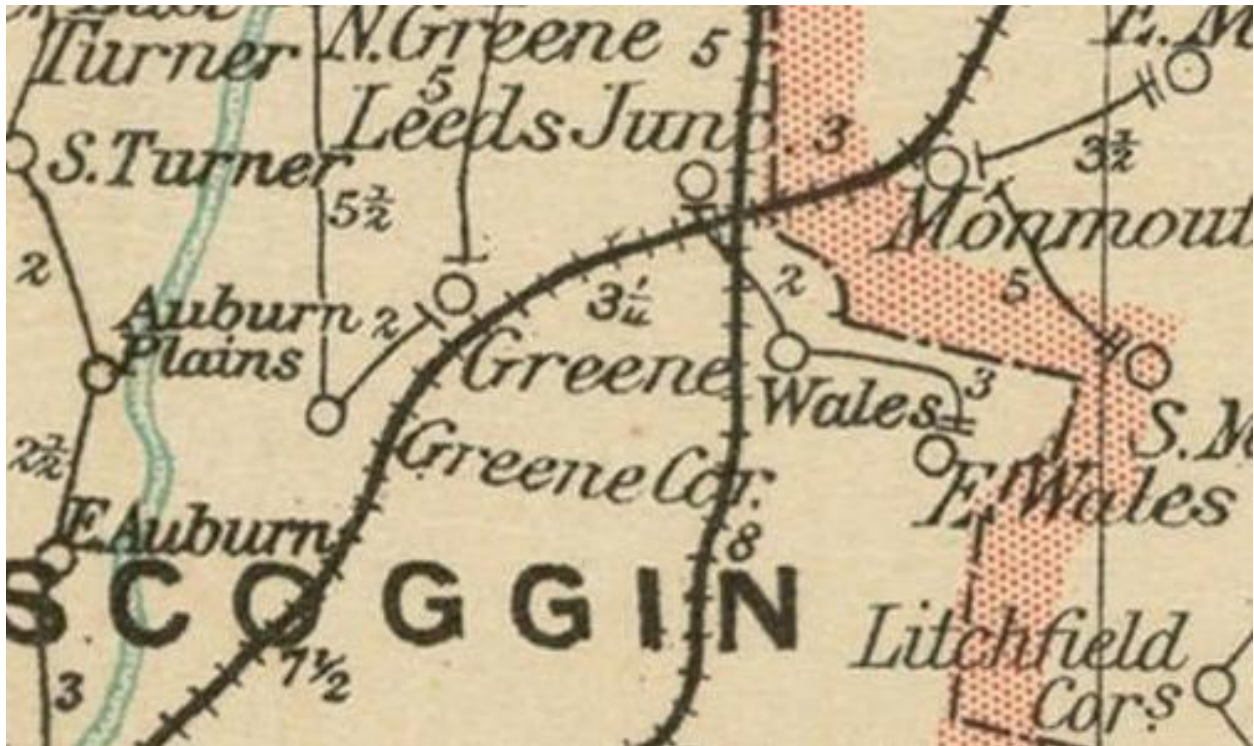
Researchers looking for records for the various post offices in Wales before 18 March 1854 should know that the information for that time frame may also be found under Lincoln and or Kennebec County, not Androscoggin.

During the history of the town of Wales, there have been three post offices.

Briefly, the history of these three is as follows:

1. **East Wales** Post Office opened on 23 December 1856 and closed on 9 February 1901.
2. **Leeds Station** Post Office was established on 15 April 1820 and was renamed on 15 March 1859 as **Leeds Junction** Post Office. This was renamed on 8 December 1961 as **Leeds Junction Rural Station North Leeds** Post Office, which closed on 15 March 1965.
3. **Wales** post office operated from 3 November 1824 until 9 February 1901.

In 1897, all three post offices were still open.



Extract from the 1897 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:cj82kk95k>

Postmarks that collectors have provided from the town of Wales have been included and are highlighted in Blue.

[East Wales](#)

[Leeds Junction](#)

[Leeds Junction R.S. North Leeds](#)

Leeds Station

[Wales](#)

## East Wales

23 December 1856:

East Wales Post Office opened.

23 December 1856:

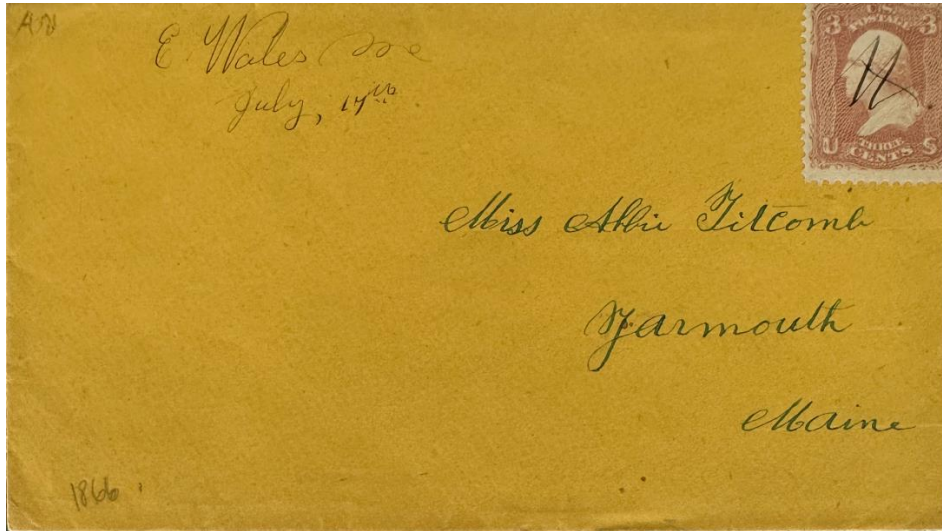
Samuel Potter became Postmaster for East Wales Post Office.

4 December 1857:

Joseph G. Bragg became Postmaster for East Wales Post Office.

20 January 1865:

Llewellyn S. Ham became Postmaster for East Wales Post Office.



14 July circa 1866:  
Manuscript Postmark and manuscript killer.

6 September 1870:

Mrs. Maria N. Ham became Postmaster for East Wales Post Office.

20 November 1876:

Mary E. Ham became Postmaster for East Wales Post Office.

28 September 1881:

Willie E. Hinkley became Postmaster for East Wales Post Office.

9 February 1901:

East Wales Post Office closed.

## Leeds Junction

15 March 1859:

The former Leeds Station Post Office was renamed as Leeds Junction Post Office

15 April 1850:

George Beals became Postmaster for Leeds Station Post Office and remained Postmaster when Leeds Station was renamed Leeds Junction.

3 December 1883:

Jefferson B. Brackett became Postmaster for Leeds Junction Post Office.

9 May 1891:

John W. Ricker became Postmaster for Leeds Junction Post Office.

19 April 1904:

Warren L. Churchill became Postmaster for Leeds Junction Post Office.

28 June 1905:

Charles B. Sherwood became Postmaster for Leeds Junction Post Office.

7 December 1906:

George B. Warner became Postmaster for Leeds Junction Post Office.



23 October 1907:

The circular postmark is 29 mm in diameter with a Doane 2/2 killer.



1915 February 25:

The circular postmark is 32 mm in diameter with a four-bar (B) killer. A similar postmark dated 16 June 1911 exists.

Click on the image to enlarge.



Circa 1915:

Leeds Junction Post Office

4 February 1929:

Harry B. Frost became Postmaster for Leeds Junction Post Office.

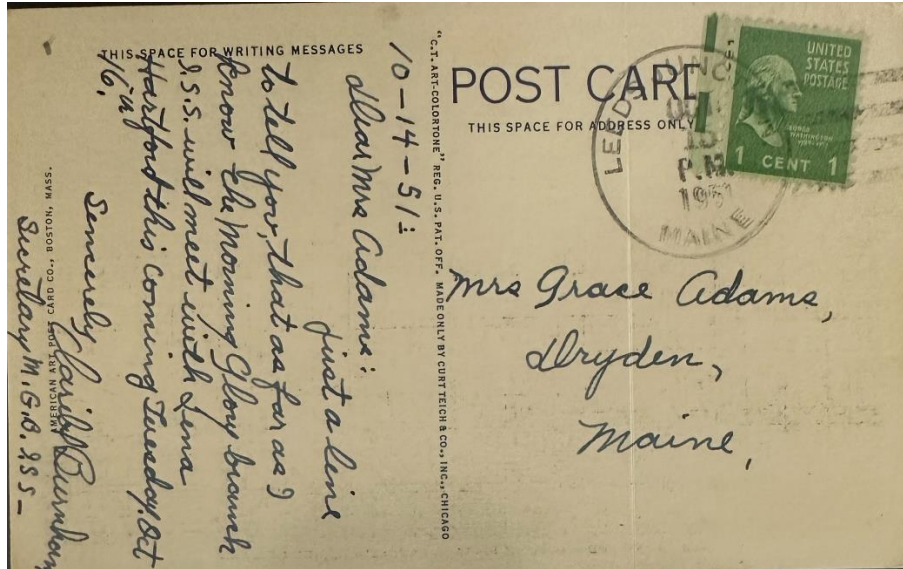
21 January 1941:

Mrs. Velma M. Otis became Acting Postmaster for Leeds Junction Post Office.

24 February 1941:

Mrs. Velma M. Otis became Postmaster for Leeds Junction Post Office.



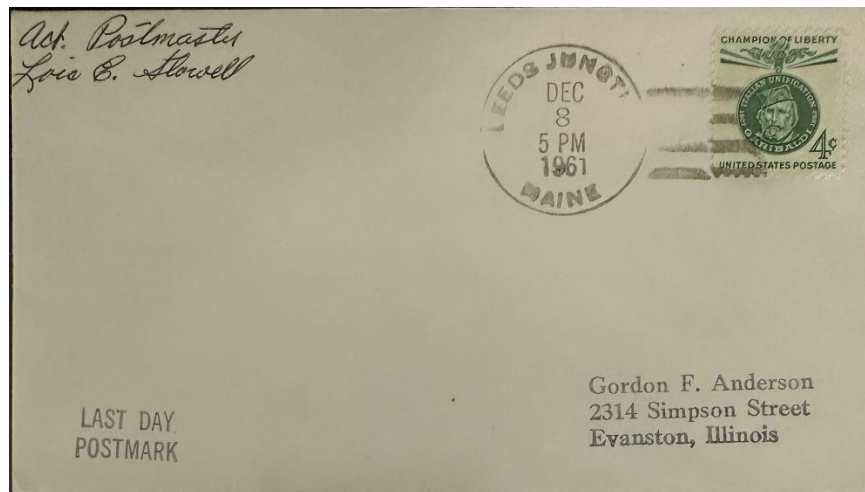


15 October 1951

The oval postmark is 32 mm x 33 mm with a four-bar (B) killer.

18 October 1961:

Mrs. Lois E. Stowell became Acting Postmaster for Leeds Junction Post Office.



8 December 1961:

Last Day of Operation with the Acting Postmasters' signature. The circular postmark is 32.5 mm in diameter with a four-bar (B) killer.

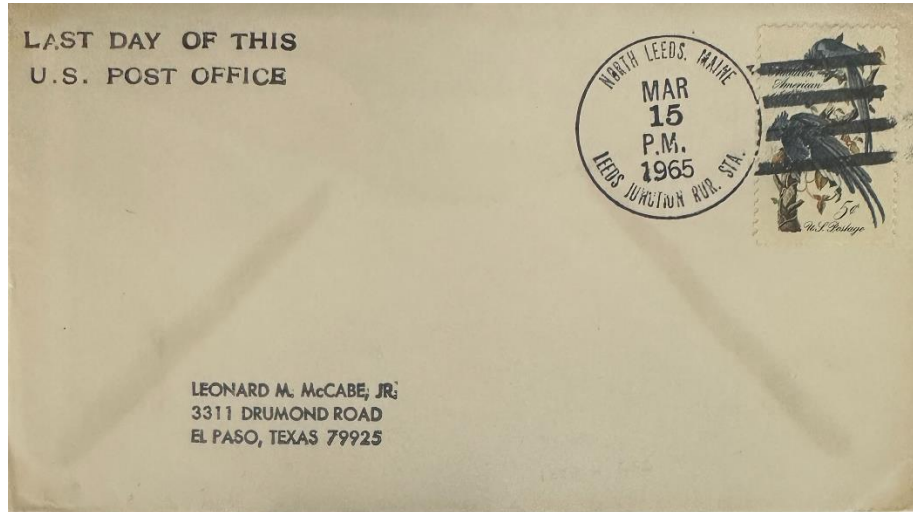
8 December 1961:

Leeds Junction Post Office became Leeds Junction Rural Station North Leeds Post Office.

## Leeds Junction RS North Leeds

9 December 1961:

Formerly Leeds Junction Post Office became Leeds Junction Rural Station North Leeds Post Office.



Last Day of Operation cover. The circular postmark is 33 mm in diameter with a four-bar killer. Another similar LDO cover is known.

15 March 1965:

Leeds Junction Rural Station North Leeds Post Office closed.

## Leeds Station

15 April 1850:

Leeds Station Post Office opens.

15 April 1850:

George Beals became Postmaster for Leeds Station.

31 March 1854:

Leeds Station became part of the newly formed Androscoggin County.

15 March 1859:

Leeds Station Post Office name is changed to Leeds Junction.

## Wales

3 November 1825:

Wales Post Office opened as part of Lincoln County.

3 November 1825:

Arthur N. Given became Postmaster for Wales Post Office.

<https://www.thewatervillestampclub.com/mph>.

18 January 1836:

Arthur Given became Postmaster for Wales Post Office.

6 March 1840:

Wales Post Office became part of Kennebec County.

31 March 1854:

Wales Post Office became part of the newly formed Androscoggin County.



25 March circa 1875:

The circular postmark is 24 mm in diameter with a four-circle target killer.  
Click on the image to enlarge.

15 November 1875:

Mrs. Elizabeth Given became Postmaster for Wales Post Office.

5 April 1876:

Alden Moulton became Postmaster for Wales Post Office.

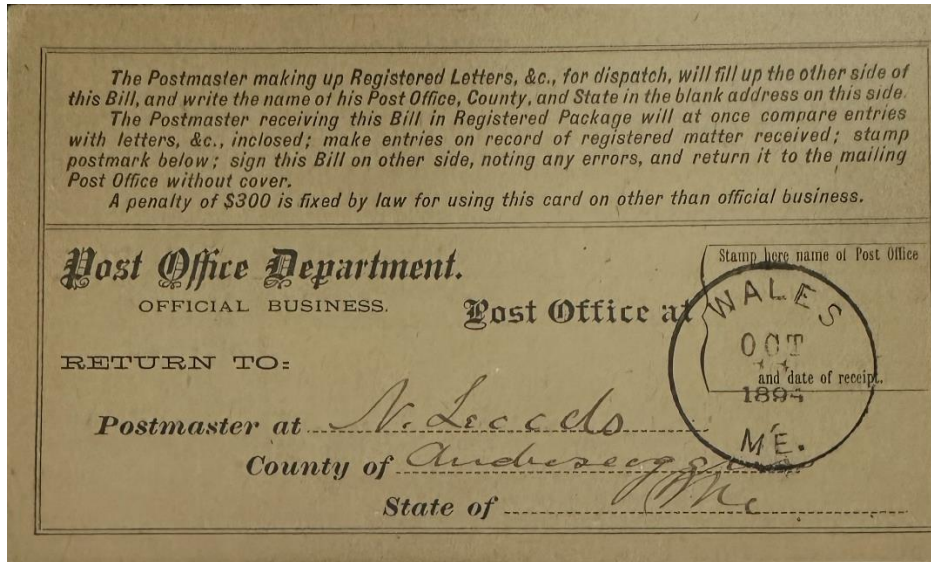
18 February 1886:

Hattie L. Given became Postmaster for Wales Post Office.

30 June 1893:

Etta L. Johnson became Postmaster for Wales Post Office.





11 October 1895:  
The circular postmark is 28 mm in diameter.

4 September 1900:

Etta L. Webster became Postmaster for Wales Post Office.

9 February 1901:

Wales Post Office closed.

---

Credits:

This document is based on the original Wales 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 hosting this project.

Sources:

The Post Offices of Maine 2022, Maine Philatelic Society:

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

Wales [map] from the 1873 Atlas and History of Androscoggin County, Maine:

[https://digitalmaine.com/atlas\\_androscoggin\\_1873/39/](https://digitalmaine.com/atlas_androscoggin_1873/39/) This is very useful for identifying the locations of some old post offices.

Additional material, including links to official records of postmaster appointments, can be found at Sources for Researching Maine Post Offices, Postmasters, and Postal History: <http://www.mainephilatelic.org/books/post-office-sources.pdf>