



The Maine Philatelist

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Whole No. 130

A study of Maine's horizontal date hand cancels to date

By Dan Goodwin and Tom Sullivan

In the Beginning

Tom and I have never met personally. While posting messages on an Internet message board, we discovered that we both had an interest in postmarks in general and Maine in particular. We were intrigued by the newer Maine hand cancels which had shorter and thicker bars than some of the older types. To determine how widespread the use of these cancels were in Maine, we decided to send requests for hand cancels to every post office in the state, asking for cancels from one of their hand cancellers. Tom started with "A" and worked forward. I started with "Y" and worked backward.

The response from the postmasters in this state was excellent. There are more than 400 post offices in the state and we have received hand cancels from nearly all of them. Approximately 50 percent of the returns were horizontal date cancels (or HDC as we now call them). The ratio of horizontal date cancels versus the number of total hand cancels was interesting because we didn't know what to expect.

Almost immediately we noticed that many of the HDCs had differing lengths of killer bars. Determining what was a normal length killer bar and what was a variation proved to be frustrating. A killer bar length is dependent on several factors: the age of the handstamp, amount of pressure applied and even the manufacturer. While comparing several covers for killer bar length, Tom realized that all the short killer bar cancels had horizontal date lines regardless of kill bar length. Further investigation into my own covers corroborated Tom's findings. We then decided we could simplify cataloguing the information by changing the project name to Horizontal Date Cancels. By changing the name to HDC we did not need to consider kill bar length as a variation.

While studying our returned covers, we determined that there were three distinct types of horizontal date cancels. In addition

to the single circle, there is the double circle and the double circle with the inner circle split into an upper and lower arc. We have also recorded 20 variations. Each cancel type shares some variations and some variations are unique to each type of cancel.

Types and Variations

The three cancel types are thus explained. Type 1, the most popular, is a single circle. Type 2 is a double circle. Type 3 is a double circle with the inner circle split into two arcs. Information contained in the cancels are town name, ZIP code and month-day-year date line horizontally across the center. There

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Contract Postal Work 1828-1833

By Nancy B. Clark

Those who work to document postmaster appointments, delving in old records and straining to read microfiche, occasionally are fortunate enough to come across a piece of original documentation in our own holdings: a postmaster appointment, a certification of bond established, or a record book from a post rider. Recently, in preparing for a talk on the District period of Maine history, I opened a box I had not opened since our move three years ago, and found something of interest. I thought my fellow MPS members might be interested in the contents. Input is sought by the author.

The first item is a printed notice from John McLean, Postmaster General, and dated 26th July 1828. Sent under free frank from Washington City to Augustine Blake, Esq., Monmouth, ME, it requests an accounting of the number of horses, drivers and carriages used in transporting mail on each route, including those where only riders and horses are used.

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The Maine Philatelist is published quarterly by the Maine Philatelic Society, Inc.

Website: <http://www.ainop.com/users/max/mps.htm>

The purpose of the Society, a non-profit Maine corporation, is to promote philately in the Pine Tree State. Membership is open to anyone. Membership applications are available from the Secretary, listed below.

Dues are \$5.00 per fiscal year (ending in June).

Life Membership is also available.

Contact the Secretary for details.

Articles for publication should be sent to the President/Editor at address below.

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PUBLISHING SCHEDULE

The Maine Philatelist is distributed to members in January, April, July and October of each year. Below is a list of deadlines for each issue and the anticipated mailing date. While deadline for copy (articles) is firm, the anticipated mailing date is just that -- a "best guess" of mailing.

ISSUE COVER DATE	DEADLINE FOR COPY	JOURNAL TO PRINTER	ANTICIPATED MAILING DATE
January	Dec. 15	Dec. 30	Jan. 15
April	March 15	March 30	April 15
July	June 15	June 30	July 15
October	Sept. 15	Sept. 30	Oct. 15

Maine stamp club meetings



Stamp clubs in Maine are invited to become members of the Maine Philatelic Society. We will publish, free of charge, meeting information and locations.

WATERVILLE STAMP CLUB

The club meets on the first and third Friday from September to May and on the third Friday only during June, July and August. Meetings are from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the Kennebec Valley Technical College (KVTC) on Western Avenue in Fairfield (Exit 35 of Interstate 95). For information, call 872-5107. Nonmembers are invited to attend.

BELFAST STAMP CLUB

The club meets on the third Thursday of the month at noon. The location changes each month. For information, call Dick Gerry, president, at 866-3583.

YORK COUNTY STAMP CLUB

The club meets on the second and fourth Thursday of each month beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Sanford Masonic Hall, Elm Street, Sanford. Usual events include raffle, auction, presentations, refreshments, and an occasional visit from a stamp dealer. Dues are \$5 per year. For information, contact Secretary Tracey Levasseur, 329 Ross Corner Rd., Shapleigh, ME 04076.

UNION RIVER STAMP CLUB

The Union River Stamp Club meets the first Thursday of each month from April through November at the Ellsworth City Hall, beginning at 6:30 p.m. For information, contact Eric Beal at <Eric_Beal@umit.maine.edu>.

MAIPEX '03 to be held in Fairfield on April 19

The Waterville Stamp Club will present MAIPEX '03 at the Kennebec Valley Technical College (KVTC) in Fairfield on Saturday, April 19.

The show will include stamps and stamp supplies, a U.S. Postal Service desk, giant board auction, post cards and covers. Refreshments will be available.

The event will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with the table auction closing at 12:30 p.m., and an oral auction starting at 1 p.m. The event will be in Carter Hall. The location is just off Exit 35 on I-95, 200 yards east on Route 139.

Contract mail periods offer interesting historical insight

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In the same box were two responses regarding Mr. Blake's performance, addressed to PMG John McLean.

Mr. Augustine Blake has transported the U. S. mail from Monmouth to Paris for nearly two years last part, & to the best of our knowledge to the satisfaction of public. Believing him to be a faithful & meritorious agent of the department, we cheerfully & cordially recommend him to your notice.

Sept 15, 1828.

*John A. Chandler, PM Monmouth
Martin Leonard (PM South Leeds)
William R. Portor PM Turner
Samuel F. Brown P.M. Buckfield
Nathanal Harlow PM West Prospect*

and

The undersigned, PostMasters on the route from Monmouth to Waterville, ask leave to express their full & entire confidence & satisfaction with Augustine Blake, the contractor for conveying the U.S. Mail on that route, & would recommend him to the consideration of the department.

*John A. Chandler P.M. Monmouth
D W Pierce P.M. Winthrop
Silas Leonard P.M. E. Readfield
John Hoxie. PM Belgrade
Elisha Hallett Jr P.M. West Waterville
Hall Chase P.M. Waterville*

There is nothing in my holdings which indicates the response to PMG McLean from Mr. Blake.

In the Report to the House of Representatives for the year ending 31 March 1827, these offices are recorded with the following statements of net postage accrued.

Post Office	Compensation
Belgrade	\$ 16.12
Buckfield	\$ 47.48
Monmouth	\$ 55.30
East Readfield	not listed *
South Leeds	not listed *
Turner	\$ 29.25
Waterville	\$353.01

West Prospect	\$ 58.72
West Waterville	not listed *
Winthrop	\$177.10

* East Readfield established 8 Feb. 1828. South Leeds established 9 June 1826. West Waterville established 6 Dec. 1827.

The Register of Officers and Agents on the 30th of September, 1831 lists "Augustin Blake" as a contractor with compensation of \$102. So apparently the letters of recommendation had the desired effect for Mr. Blake.

However, not all the postmasters are the same in this report. In the 1831 Register, the income levels and four postmasters have changed (indicated with an *).

Post Office	Postmaster	Compensation
Belgrade	Robert Wills *	\$ 11.89?
Buckfield	Samuel F. Brown	\$ 30.63?
Monmouth	John A. Chandler	\$ 31.08?
East Readfield	Silas Leonard	\$ 8.01
South Leeds	Franklin B. Leonard *	\$3.13
Turner	William K. Porter	\$ 32.21?
Waterville	Hall Chase	\$182.80?
West Prospect	Andrew Leach *	\$ 57.74?
West Waterville	Elisha Hallett, Jr.	\$15.23
Winthrop	George W. Stanley *	\$186.78?

Another document, datelined Waterville, 28th Apl. 1832, also addressed to the PMG, deals with part of the same route.

Sir

Doct. Hall Chase has shown me a letter from your department stating that the contractor on the route from Waterville to Monmouth must be detained at Waterville until the arrival of the Western mail; my contract is for a jig mail 25 miles and is to leave Waterville at 7 o'clock A.M. & arrive at Monmouth at 6 o'clock P.M. and is contracted to drive through without a change of horses and with a single horse the pay on said route will not afford additional team; the mail arrives at Waterville from the West usually from 9 o'clock to 12 A.M. nearest the latter, doing the bad travelling. Now it will be nearly or quite impracticable to fulfil (sic) my contract in arriving at Monmouth on [?] time; no time is fixed I understand, for the arrival of

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A study of Maine's horizontal date hand cancels to date

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are numerous variations. For example, nine digit ZIP code versus five digit, AM or PM added, small number ZIP, comma after town name, etc. Illustrated data sheets are being maintained for each type which includes the type description as well as known variations for that type. A master list of all variations is also being maintained and updated as needed. A data sheet, which lists the towns with HDC, the cancel type and variations, is being continually updated as new information becomes available.

Manufacturers/Distributors of HDC

Attempting to determine the manufacturers/distributors of these cancellers has proven to be difficult. One has to actually see the canceller or get the information from post office personnel. From information received thus far, it is obvious that the number of different hand canceling devices could be a very large number. For this reason, we decided not to catalogue cancels versus canceller manufacturer.

Manufacturers, Brand, Cancel Types:

Sun State Marking, Largo, Florida

COSCO 2000 Plus and 2660 Plus (Types 1 and 3)
TRODAT 5415 and 5460 (Type 3)
MAXLIGHT XL-RD (Types 1 and 3)

Century Marking Co., Houston, Texas

XPOSTAL 2000 Plus (Types 1 and 3)
XPOSTAL 2000 Plus R30 and R40 (Types 1 and 3)
XPOSTAL TECHNO-TOUCH DATER (Types 1 and 3)

Postal Products Unlimited, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

N1002280 (Types 1 and 2)
N95-812 (Type 2)
M42-000 (Type 3)
N81-000 (Type 1)
N80-963 (Type 1)

American Promark, Inc., Davie, Florida

Just Rite 65FB (Type 1)

Northern Printers, Presque Isle, Maine

#6810 Line Dater (Type 1)

Some information was gained through Internet search, other information was provided by postmasters and window clerks. Following is the information we have at present for manufacturers/distributors, brand names and cancel types.

Future Plans

We will continue to look for additional offices using these cancels and for additional variations on the three types identified so far. We intend to keep the project current and issue updates periodically. We also solicit help from collectors and other interested parties so that we may continually update the cancel information and make it available to all who want to have it.

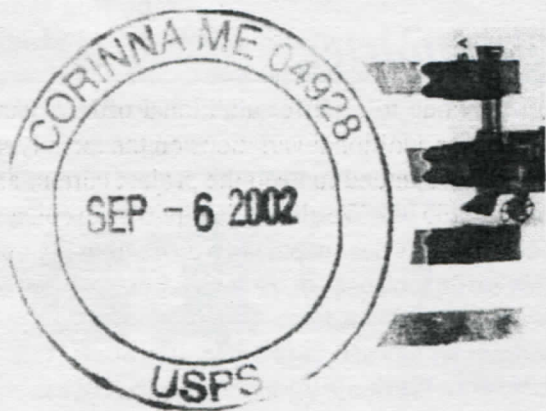
Following is a synopsis of the three basic types with notes about variations:



MAINE HORIZONTAL DATE CANCELS Typical Type 1 Cancel

Variation Codes

- a) "ME" at bottom followed by five-digit ZIP code and separated by a dash.
- b) Five-digit ZIP code at bottom.
- c) Nine-digit ZIP code at bottom.
- d) Nine-digit ZIP code at top.
- e) "AM" or "PM" between date and bottom line of information.
- f) "AM" or "PM" at bottom, followed by five-digit ZIP code and separated by a dash.
- h) USPS at bottom (Type 1 only).
- k) Killer bars touch circle.
- m) Unfilled square before "AM" or "PM."
- n) Small numbers in ZIP code, total length of five-digit ZIP 10mm or less.
- p) Comma after town name.
- r) Any top line containing a dash that is not covered in the type descriptions (excluding nine-digit ZIP codes).
- s) Any bottom line containing a dash that is not covered in the type descriptions (excluding nine-digit ZIP codes).
- t) No dash or no space between USPS (or ME) and the ZIP code (Types 1 and 3 only).
- u) Both "AM" and "PM" and both preceded with unfilled spaces.



Typical Type 2 Cancel

Variation Codes

- c) Nine-digit ZIP code at bottom.
- d) Nine-digit ZIP code at top.
- j) No killer bars (Types 1 and 2 only).
- n) Small numbers in ZIP code, total length of five-digit ZIP 10mm or less.
- p) Comma after town name.
- q) Parallel lines above and below date line.
- v) USPS missing (Types 2 and 3 only).



Typical Type 3 Cancel

Variation Codes

- b) Five-digit ZIP code at top.
- d) Nine-digit ZIP code at top.
- g) "ME" (and a dash) at the bottom preceding USPS and ZIP code (Type 3 only).
- t) No dash or no space between USPS (or ME) and the ZIP

- code (Types 1 and 3 only).
- v) USPS missing.
- w) With killer bars (Type 3 only).

COMPOSITE VARIATION CODES

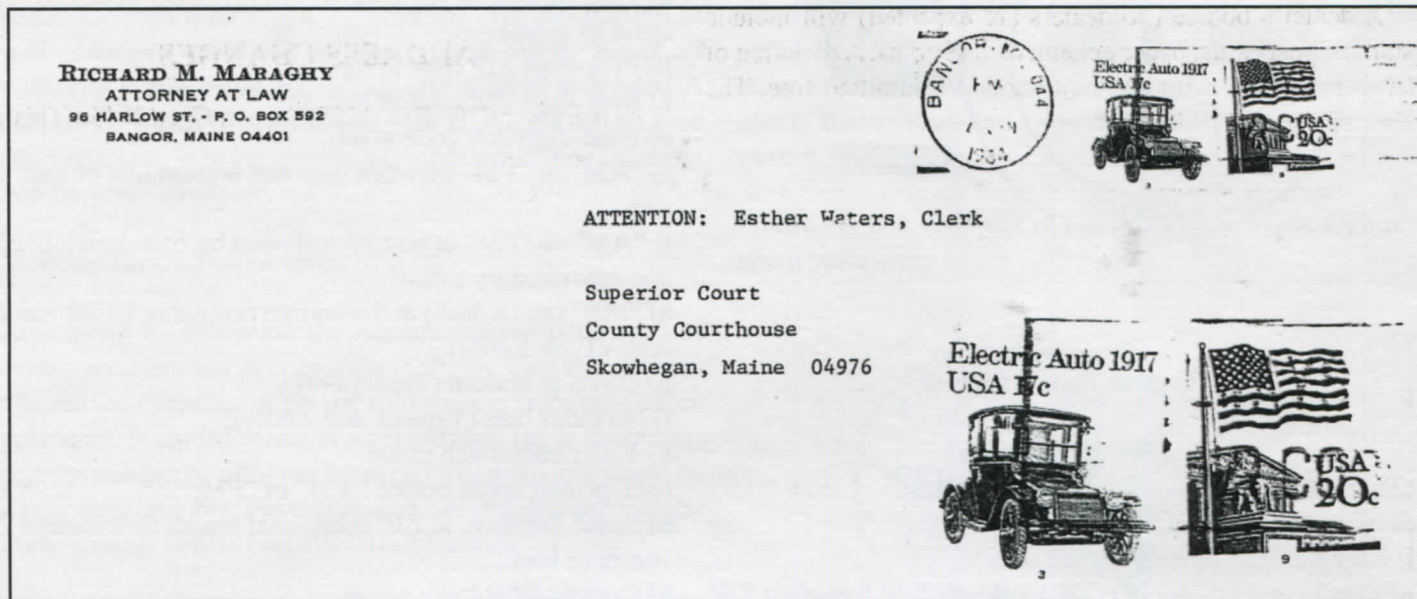
- a) "ME" at bottom followed by five-digit ZIP code and separated by a dash.
- b) Five-digit ZIP code at top.
- c) Nine-digit ZIP code at bottom.
- d) Nine-digit ZIP code at top.
- e) "AM" or "PM" between date and bottom line of information.
- f) "AM" or "PM" at bottom followed by five-digit ZIP code and separated by a dash.
- g) "ME" (and a dash) at the bottom preceding USPS and ZIP code (Type 3 only).
- h) USPS at bottom (Type 1 only).
- j) No killer bars (Types 1 and 2 only).
- k) Killer bars touch circle.
- m) Unfilled space before "AM" or "PM."
- n) Small numbers in ZIP code, total length of five-digit ZIP 10mm or less.
- p) Comma after town name.
- q) Parallel lines above and below date line.
- r) Any top line containing a dash that is not covered in the type descriptions (excluding nine-digit ZIP codes).
- s) Any bottom line containing a dash that is not covered in the type descriptions (excluding nine-digit ZIP codes).
- t) No dash or no space between USPS (or ME) and the ZIP code (Types 1 and 3 only).
- u) Both "AM" and "PM" and both preceded with unfilled squares.
- v) USPS missing (Types 2 and 3 only).
- w) With killer bars (Type 3 only).

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The authors have prepared a five page analysis of Maine horizontal cancels and types which is too long to reproduce in these pages. If you would like a copy, please send a #10 SASE with 60¢ postage, and I will send a copy out to you. The database information will be important if you try to update the information in this article.)

You may contact Don Goodwin by email at:
 dgoodwin@psouth.net
 His mail address is:
 134 Maple St., North Berwick, ME 03906.
 Thomas Sullivan can be reached by mail at
 P.O. Box 163, Hudson, ME 04449-0163

A postal history feature
by Rob Washburn
of Skowhegan

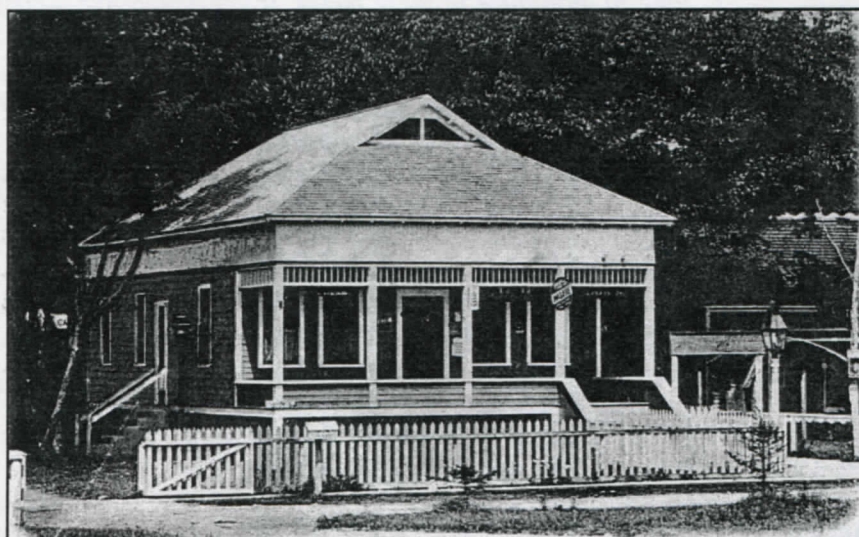
Maine Cover of the Quarter



The odds are certainly not in favor of getting TWO different plate number coils on one commercial cover, but the above cover sent by a Bangor lawyer to a Skowhegan court shows such an unusual coincidence. As you can see from the enlargement (lower right of cover), the 17¢ Electric Auto coil has a plate number 3 at bottom and the 20¢ Flag coil has a plate number 9 at bottom. Only one out of 24 stamps in a roll of 17¢ Electric Auto coils has a plate number, and only one out of 48 stamps in a roll of 20¢ Flag coils has a plate number, making the odds of this combination of both coils appearing as PNCs on one cover only 1 out of 1,152!

(If you have a candidate for Maine Cover of the Quarter, please send a photocopy of your cover against a black background to Rob Washburn, P.O. Box 840, Skowhegan, ME 04976).

Post Offices of Maine A regular feature



This photo, taken from a post card, shows the post office at Beachwood in the early 1900s. If you haven't heard of Beachwood, it was in Kennebunkport in York County, and was a summer office.

According to Bruce Hazelton's The Post Offices of Maine, A Rarity Guide, the Beachwood Post Office was established on April 8, 1895 and closed on November 15, 1918. This card was postmarked at Beachwood on July 30, 1907, and is addressed to New Hampshire. Do YOU have a photo of an old post office? Send it to the editor with as much information as you know about it.

Kennebec stamp show March 22

The Kennebec Valley Stamp and Collectors Club will present a Collectors Show on March 22, 2003. The show will be held at American Legion Post 2, located on Capital Street Extension in Augusta.

A dealer's bourse (20 dealers are expected) will include stamps, post cards, paper ephemera, and coins. A donation of \$1 is requested, with children under 12 admitted free. The show will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and door prizes will be given.

For more information, contact Joe Lupsha, 25 Second St., Apt. 227, Hallowell, ME 04347. He can be reached by telephone at (207) 626-5808, or by email at bani2629@zwi.net

Secretary's Report

Bruce Hazelton
Secretary

NEW MEMBERS

Dr. Alf Jordan, 156 West Elm St., Yarmouth, ME 04095

ADDRESS CHANGES

Robert Barker, P.O. Box 1209, Jasper, GA 20143. (This is a seasonal change only.)

Gary Jeter, 70 Prospect St., Apt. 7, Westbrook, ME 04092-3962. Email: cuzimgary@yahoo.com

THE CLASSIFIEDS

Classified advertisements are free to members. You may use this space to buy and sell, trade or swap. When sending an advertisement, please mark it for the Classifieds and indicate how many issues you wish it to appear. All ads will appear twice and be removed unless otherwise indicated.

WANTED

Wanted: modern (since 1970) U.S. covers. I am especially looking for junk mail transportation coil PNC covers, Express mail, postage dues, insured mail, Certified mail, auxiliary markings. Rob Washburn, P.O. Box 840, Skowhegan, ME 04976-0840. (4-03)

Wanted: Maine hunting and fishing stamps on license. Will pay a minimum of \$20 each for every license I need. Also want Maine (and other New England states) Old Home Week seals. Terence Hines, P.O. Box 629, Chappaqua, NY 10514-0629. (4-03)

Information needed to further research on Maine NARROW GAUGE RPOs. Need RPO, month, day, year, train no. ME 4 BAR COLORED cancels, need P.O. name, month, day, year, time, color. Will respond to all information received. Bruce L. Corey, 108 Marilyn Ave., Westbrook, ME 04092-4624. (4-03)

Wanted to buy: Maine fancy cancels on cover or postal cards, stampless to 1920 only. Let me know what you have. Gil Roderick, 52 Fern St., Bangor, ME 04401. (4-03)

Collector is looking for covers from Houlton Air Force Base Station. If you have same, please contact me. Telephone: 538-9788 (home) or 532-2291 (work). My e-mail is max@ainop.com Max Leigh Lynds, P.O. Box 761, Houlton, ME 04730-0761. (4-03)

Wanted: perfins used in Maine, on cover or off (with good town cancels). Special interest in AJS (Auburn) and RB (Bangor) -- users not yet identified. Will buy or trade. Vince McDermott, 53 Willow Grove Rd., Brunswick, ME 04011-2969. (4-03)

We urgently need quantities of used Japanese stamps from the period of 1876 (Old Koban Series) through 1955. Dealer stocks, accumulations, bundle material from this period needed for our specialist customers. Will buy anything and everything (used only) at fair prices or will select only what we most urgently need at near to full Scott retail. Prompt payment always. Forty-five years in the trade! John B. Head, P.O. Box 7, Bethel, ME 04217. (4-03)

Wanted: Maine Express Covers (and others): with labels, hand-

stamps, manuscript markings or cornercards. Express Company labels and stamps (such as for newspapers, parcels or free franking) off cover also sought. William W. Sammis (Bill), 436 Thomas Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850-9653. (4-03)

Wanted: Early USN postcards of battleships with ship cancels before 1920 (called classics): BB2 USS *Massachusetts*, BB4 USS *Iowa*, BB5 USS *Kearsage*, BB7 USS *Illinois*, BB8 USS *Alabama*, BB9 USS *Wisconsin*. I have other BB covers and postcards for trade. Also interested in topicals, especially flowers on stamps, and Antarctic stamps. Louis C. Bakula, P.O. Box 150, West Poland, ME 04291-0150. (4-03)

Wanted: Any PPC with Lake Cobbesseconte (Manchester, Maine as well). Also any PPC with rural railroad scenes as well as RPO covers in the lower price range. Gary Clark, 3607 Landings Way Dr., Apt. 107, Tampa, FL 33624. (4-03)

Wanted: Postal history of Pitcairn Island in the South Pacific, St. Pierre & Miquelon and Newfoundland. Some stamps also needed. Let me know if you have anything to offer. Everett L. Parker, 719 Moosehead Lake Rd., Greenville, ME 04441 (4-03)

FOR SALE

Precancel approvals: town and types 15¢, classics, 1922-26 general, bicents, prexies, perfins available. Buro approvals starting at 10¢ each. Good mixed precancel lots. 2,000-\$35.00; 10,000-\$145.00. Mixed buros, 2,000-\$35.00, 10,000-\$145.00. Dick Laetsch, 108 Ashswamp Road, Scarborough, ME 04074. e-mail: precancel@aol.com; website: www.precanceledstamps.com (4-03)

For sale: DPO, Macy, ME - Doane 1906 on PPC, Rarity 8. First \$75.00 takes it. Carl A. Burnham, RR1, Box 559, Limington, ME 04046. Telephone 637-2871. (4-03)

For sale -- helping friend dispose of father's collection. Sheets, blocks, booklets, assorted postage at face. Airmail, singles, blocks half of catalogue value. Mint postal cards, postal reply cards. Please ask by Scott number. Charles Boudreau, 37 Center St., P.O. Box 498, Machias, ME 04654-0498. Telephone 255-3918. (4-03).

Contract mail periods offer interesting historical insight

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the Western mail at Waterville it arrives at Norridgewock 15 or 20 miles above (according to the route) at 6 o'clock P.M. which gives ample time from Waterville after 12 o'clock M When the Monmouth or my mail leaves Waterville at the hour, 7 o'clock A.M. It arrives at Winthrop in season to meet the Western mail on its route to Augusta through Monmouth and Winthrop; - thus offering facilities for the towns of Belgrade, Mt. Vernon, Readfield to forward their communications earlier than they otherwise could do, or if the mail is detained at Waterville latter this could not be done.

I wish instructions from the Department on this subject. I wish to know the construction that is given to my contract by the Department. And if alternatives are to be made in the time of departure, a corresponding alteration in the time of arrival should in justice be made otherwise it would seem just

GENERAL POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

26th July, 1828.

SIR,

I am desirous of ascertaining the number of carriages, horses and drivers employed in the transportation of the mail on each of your routes, and the number of horses and of riders employed on each route, where horses only are used.

In your answer, please designate the route by its number, and the places of its beginning and termination.

With great respect,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN M'LEAN,

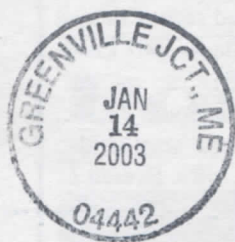
Post-Master General.

Please direct your answer,—“ GENERAL POST-OFFICE, care of Mr. Brown.”

that additional compensation should be allowed in order to finish additional contractor for Route from Waterville to Monmouth.

With room for postmasters to sign, this message is a copy of one presumably sent to PMG Barry. Any further information MPS members can contribute will be most welcome. ☐

Maine Philatelic Society
719 Moosehead Lake Rd.
Greenville, ME 04441-9727



MAILER'S
POSTMARK
PERMIT
#001



TO:

IMPORTANT NOTICE:
If (6-02) appears after your name on the mailing label, it's time to renew your dues!