



# The Maine Philatelist

Vol. 35, No. 4

April 2003

Whole No. 131

## A visit to the Turner Village Post Office in 1923

Quite some time ago (1999 to be precise), Richard W. Gerry of Orono sent your editor an article on the Turner Village Post Office, taken from a 1923 report. The article was placed in the file folder of "forthcoming articles" for *The Maine Philatelist*, awaiting a photograph of the post office and example of cover from the town from other sources (Mr. Gerry did his best!), but since neither was forthcoming, it's time to publish the article. Thanks to non-member W. Dennis Stikes of Livermore for providing the following to Mr. Gerry for publication here:

### THE TURNER VILLAGE POST OFFICE

The Post Office in Turner Village is one of the earliest institutions of the town. It is likewise one of the most indispensable, for the reason that progression is one of the most important laws of the universe and, if a town becomes isolated, cut off from the rest of the world, left entirely to itself, it loses its incentive to grow; the people become self-centered, their horizon narrows, the interest in life becomes dulled, the younger generation moves away to a more congenial lo-

cality and the town, as such, soon ceases to exist. The Post Office and the facilities which it affords for keeping in touch with mankind everywhere is a medium unsurpassed even by the telephone, telegraph or the more modern "wireless."

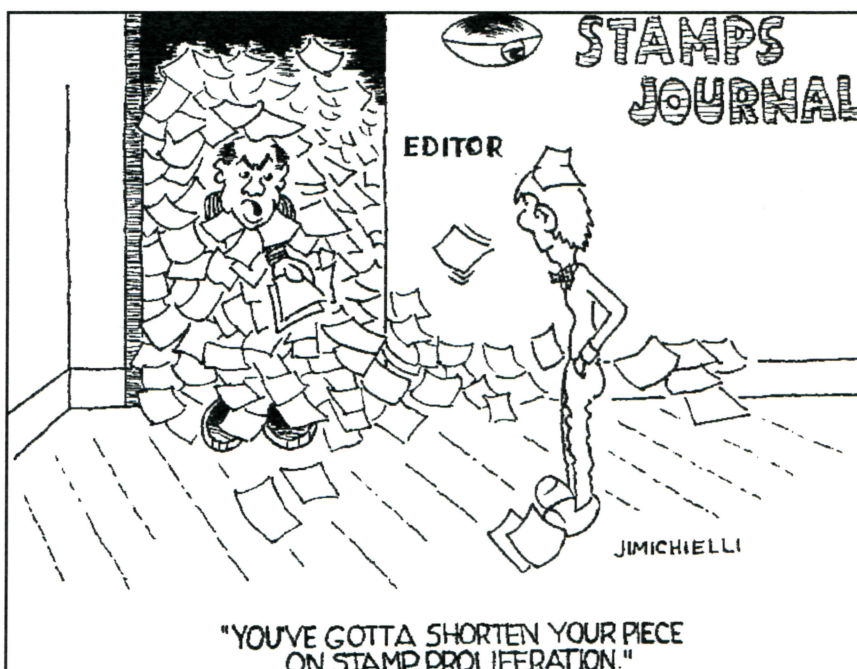
Referring to *The History of Turner*, a work which was written and published in 1886 by Rev. W.F. French, D.D., it is found that the first post office in the Town of Turner was established in 1804, and Ichabod Bonney was appointed postmaster. His death occurring soon after, Gen. Alden Blossom was chosen as his successor. It is understood that this first post office was situated on what is now known as Upper Street. At that time the mails were carried on horseback and only arrived once each week. This event was always heralded by the sounding of a trumpet by the mail carrier while he was still some distance away and it called the people together to welcome his coming, which was the one great event of the day. Josiah Smith and William Sawin were the mail carriers at that time.

*Continued on page 3*

## Introducing stamp artist Jim Michielli of Lamoine

Stamp artist Jim Michielli of Lamoine is well-known for his artistic creations, and he has graciously agreed to provide examples of his artwork "Never Hinged" for readers of *The Maine Philatelist*. We will publish one of his cartoons in each issue of TMP.

His cartoons have been published in various philatelic publications as well as newsletters, magazines and newspapers. Mr. Michielli is also a resident of the Union River Stamp Club and a participant in various philatelic activities in Maine. He is also a member of the Maine Philatelic Society. If you would like to contact Jim Michielli, his address is 284 Mud Creek Road, Lamoine, ME 04605.





*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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e-mail - [eparker@midmaine.com](mailto:eparker@midmaine.com)

#### Vice President

Mr. Jim Foote III (2002)  
P.O. Box 16  
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#### Secretary

Mr. Bruce Hazelton (2003)  
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Cumberland Center, ME 04021

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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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John E. Engle, M.D. of Waterville ([jengle@mint.net](mailto:jengle@mint.net)) (2002)

### 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](mailto: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.



## A brief early history of the Maine Philatelic Society

In searching for material to fill these pages (see page 8), your editor came across a printed article by Captain Albert Prosser titled "A Brief History Of The Maine Philatelic Society." There is no indication where the article was originally published or when (likely early 1970s). It is reproduced here for those members who might enjoy learning more about our historical roots.

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Representatives of four Maine stamp clubs met at Augusta on June 25, 1927 and organized the Maine Association of Philatelic Clubs. About 1940 its name was changed to the Maine Philatelic Society. This federation of local clubs was one of the first statewide federations of stamp clubs in the country.

The charter members of the federation were the Collectors' Club of Portland, the Androscoggin Stamp Club of Auburn, the Kennebec Philatelic Club of Waterville and the Penobscot Collectors' Club of Bangor. Since 1927 many other local clubs have joined the federation; some have dropped out and some have changed their names. At present (year ?), 12 clubs compose the society, and, geographically, they cover nearly the whole state. They are the Belfast Stamp Club, Casco Bay Stamp Club, Franklin County Stamp Club, Kennebec Valley Stamp Club, Knox Stamp Club, Penobscot Valley Stamp Club, Portland Stamp Club, St. Croix Valley Stamp

Club, Southern Aroostook Stamp Club, Twin-Town (Norway and South Paris) Stamp Club, Waterville Stamp Club and York County Stamp Club.

For many years the activities of the society were confined chiefly to a spring and a fall meeting combined with one-day exhibition, bourse and stamp auction. On several occasions newsletters have been sponsored by the society for distribution among members of the clubs, but none of them has had a very long life. The location of the semi-annual meeting depended upon which member club volunteered to handle the details of the occasion. Prior to 1938 the meetings were often held at Hallowell, not only conveniently located for most of the membership, but also home of the famous Hotel Worster.

Augusta was another favorite meeting place in the earlier days. Later, Portland often hosted a meeting. Other towns that were hosts for one or more meetings were Waterville, Bangor, Auburn, Pittsfield, Orono, Belfast, Lewiston, Norway, Sanford, Gardiner and Wilton.

By the middle 1960s the activities of the society usually consisted of a brief meeting of the officers during a semi-annual exhibition, with the main business the selection of the site for the next exhibition.

In May 1967, the Franklin County Stamp Club, blessed with a group of enthusiastic members, hosted the spring meeting at Wilton, MAIPEX '67, the first use of the description

## Manchester Lions Club prepares special 50th anniversary cover

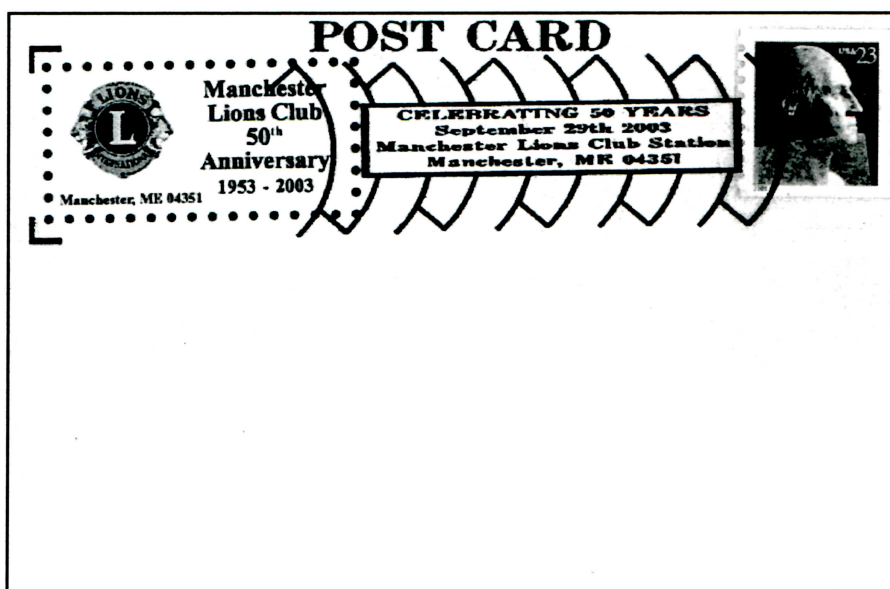
By Ken Weeks  
Of Manchester

In celebration of its 50th anniversary, the Manchester Lions Club is producing a souvenir post card. The card will include a specially designed postal cancellation bar dated September 29, 2003.

On the picture side of the post card will be a reproduction of the Manchester Lions Club charter, which is dated September 29, 1953, and lists all charter members. On the address side there is the usual space for a stamp and the anniversary cancellation. The postal cancellation bar will stretch across the card, cancelling both the Manchester Lions stamp and the U.S. stamp.

The anniversary souvenir card complete with the Manchester Lions stamp, a 23¢ postage stamp and the anniversary cancellation is free. The Manchester Lions Club is asking for a \$2 shipping and handling fee for each card sent in the U.S. and \$3 for those outside the U.S.

Orders must include payment in form of a check or money order (we cannot accept credit cards). Please include a self addressed #10 envelope or shipping label. Send your order to: Manchester Lions Club, 50th Anniversary Cover Committee, P.O. Box 1, Manchester, ME 04351.





# The 1920s saw several mail deliveries a day at Turner

*Continued from page 1*

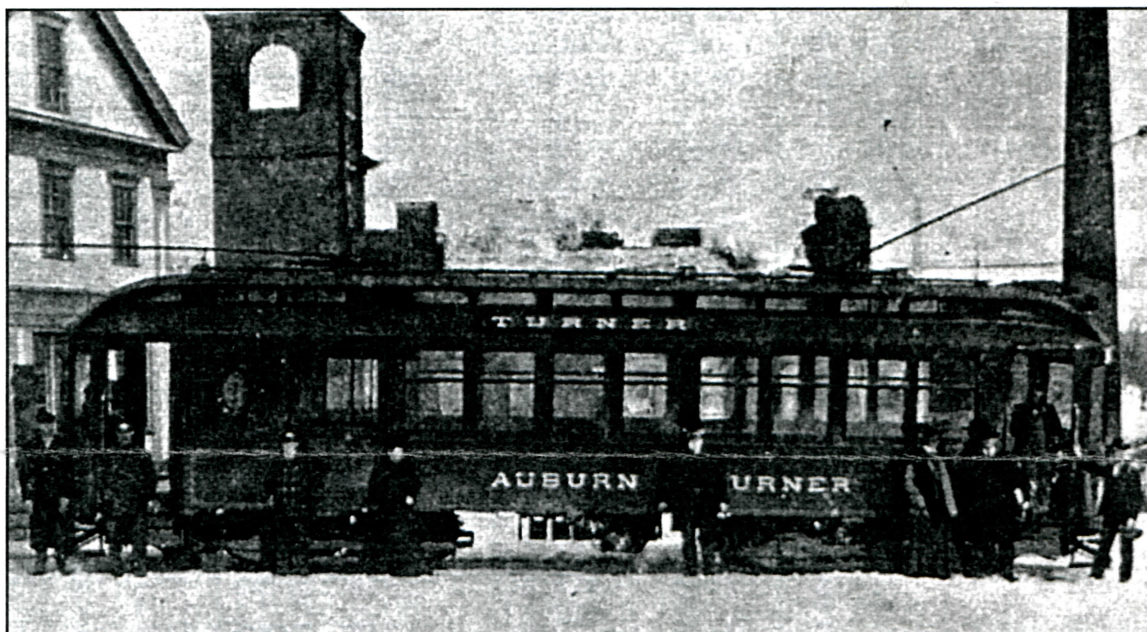
In 1825, a new post office was established at Turner Village, and William K. Porter was appointed postmaster. A new county road was made through the town and was called "The Post Road." The mail after that was carried in a stagecoach drawn by four horses and was brought three times a week each way. William K. Porter continued as postmaster until his death and was succeeded by John Blake who, in turn, was followed by Hiram Clark. Hira Bradford took charge of the office (on) October 22, 1861, and retired from it April 23, 1869. From that date, Mellen Bearce held the office until March 31, 1881; then William L. Bonney was postmaster to October 20, 1885. Following Walter Irish are James Waterman, Dr. Henry L. Irish, William Bradford and Roswell Chase, whose services in that capacity came to an end at the close of the last Presidential term.

With the growth of the town, the salary of the postmaster has increased from the \$500 paid in 1885, to the present annual sum of \$1,200. It is reckoned as a third class office. At the present time, the Turner Village Post Office handles about 25,000 pieces of mail monthly and there are two Rural Delivery routes. The bulk of the mail was greatly increased by the establishment of the parcel post system ten years ago. In 1905 the new electric railroad from Auburn to Turner banished the old stagecoach forever in this section, and now we have several mails each day; three in and two outgoing mails daily in this year of 1923.

It is almost a century now since the post office came to the little village of Turner and, during these years, there are many odd little stories which are related in reference to the delivery of "Uncle Sam's" mail. It is but a dim tradition, the time when the mail came in on horseback, but there are those who remember the stagecoach days and they tell reminiscently about blizzards when the mail carrier drove from Portland to Farmington on alternate days and changed horses several times on his route, at one time being so delayed by the storm that there was just time to turn around and start back again when he got there. They joke, even now, about the poor mail

carrier who was forced to go on foot and drag the mail bags on a hand sled on one occasion because there were, just then, no horses available, for the reason that all of the local equine tribe was suffering from a distemper or (as it was humorously called) "The Epizootic."

The home of the post office in Turner Village has changed several times during the passing years. There have been floods and fires, there have been summer tempests and blizzards in winter, but through it all, the employees of the United States Government have faithfully performed their duty in the han-



*Auburn-Turner Railroad's first car.*

dling of the mail and more than that, no man can do.

The mailbag has arrived in Turner on horseback, by stagecoach, and now rolls aristocratically in on the electric cars. We cannot tell now in this year 1923 how much farther this evolution will continue because science, even now, gives hints of such marvelous things which are to be invented in the near future. Before another century shall have passed, the airship will have become an old story and, even after fifty years, in 1973, when this box is opened and the letters read, news of the event will go out from the Turner Village Post Office in what way? We wonder!

*Signed,*

Royal W. Bradford, Post Master  
November 16, 1923

*It appears from the last sentence that this letter by Postmaster Bradford was placed in a time capsule. Does anyone know if indeed the time capsule was unearthed in 1973? Mr. Bradford was born in Turner and in addition to being Postmaster, he was owner and manager of the grocery and general store in 1923. ☐*



"Maipex." The event was an outstanding success and reflected the considerable amount of planning and organization that had gone into it. It showed the other clubs in the society what could be done. At its next meeting, in November 1967, it was decided to revitalize the state organization. Beginning in January 1968, frequent meetings of the board of governors (two delegates from each member club) were held at a central location in the state.

A new constitution was written and approved by the clubs. One of its features worthy of note is the provision that the secretary and second vice president both be from the southern (or northern) part of the state and the first vice president and president be from the other. This promotes a statewide participation in the society since the individuals holding these offices have a tenure of not over two years and the vice presidents can be expected to advance in office after two years.

In the fall of 1968 the board of governors decided that the society should conduct the spring exhibitions rather than seek a club to do it. The chief reasons for the change were to secure greater participation by the member clubs and to present a bigger and better exhibition. Monthly meetings of the board were held to plan the first one. Incidentally, the monthly meetings have continued to the present, with a gratifyingly high record of attendance. In January 1969 a subsidiary non-profit organization named MPS Inc. was incorporated for the specific purpose of conducting the exhibitions sponsored by the society. The members of the corporation were the board of governors plus several members from the local clubs who

had special talents that would be useful in producing a successful exhibition.

The first exhibition was MAIPEX '69, a two-day affair at the Falmouth Junior-Senior High School. The school's complex of buildings is nearly ideal for a stamp exhibition and bourse and its location in a suburb of Portland is a happy one for accessibility and housing of visitors. Governor Kenneth Curtis proclaimed Maine Stamp Collectors Week to coincide with dates of the show. The Post Office Department had a branch post office at the exhibition, the United Nations had a sales booth and several foreign governments sent exhibitions of their stamps. MAIPEX '69 was a very successful affair. As was the case with the Wilton show the year before, it reflected the careful planning and the many hours of work by a group which, in 1969, represented many clubs rather than a single one.

MAIPEX '69 was really a trial run for MAIPEX '70, which was held in Maine's sesquicentennial year. It was generally similar to MAIPEX '69 except that it lasted three days. The Bureau of Engraving and Printing brought its "Multi-Million Dollar" exhibit of United States paper money and stamps and also demonstrated printing methods on an intaglio press. The speaker at the awards banquet, and also one of the judges, was Herman (Pat) Herst Jr. MAIPEX '71, again at Falmouth, was the third successful exhibition conducted by MPS, Inc. Sister M. Fidelma of the Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Museum was the charming speaker at the awards banquet. ☐

(Editor's Note: My, how we've changed!)

## Are YOU on the Internet?

Here is a list of MPS members with e-mail

**Joe Antizzo**  
Joeantizzo@aol.com  
**Louis C. Bakula**  
grampsusn@aol.com  
**Robert (Bob) Barker**  
rebarker@rebarker.com  
**George Barner**  
georgebarner@adelphia.net  
**Al Barth**  
cfecat@megalink.net  
**Chuck Brand**  
shakerdom@hotmail.com  
**Tom Cieslinski**  
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**Gary Clark**  
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**Nancy B. Clark**  
nbc@Cape.com  
**David Costain**  
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rdcnrc@everlink.com

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jimforte@postalhistory.com  
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larsenj@c2i2.com  
**Philippe C. Lebel**  
PCLEBEL@hotmail.com

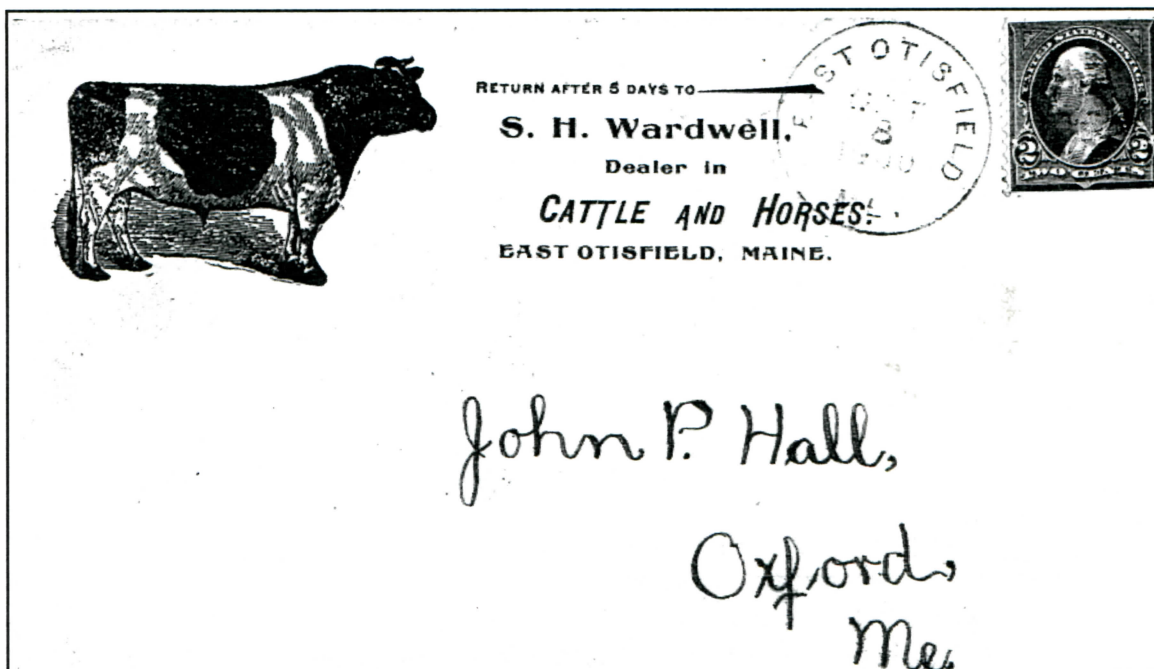
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Maynard25@Charter.net  
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**Henry G. Turnbull**  
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**Edwin F. Whitney**  
edfwhitney@yahoo.com  
**Richard Williams**  
richwilljr@adelphia.net  
**Kennedy L. Wilson**  
k-mew@midcoast.com



*A postal history feature  
by Rob Washburn  
of Skowhegan*

## ***M**aine Cover of the Quarter*

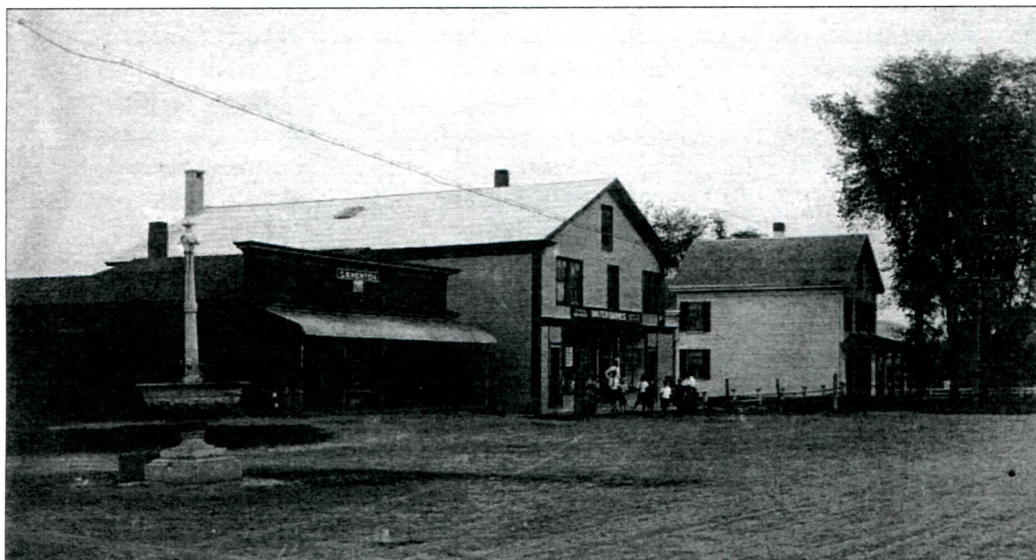


The above is a nice illustrated advertising cover from a cattle dealer with an October 8, 1900 East Otisfield cancel. The East Otisfield Post Office was discontinued on January 31, 1920.

*(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 postcard, shows the post office at Andover, Maine. According to Bruce Hazelton's *The Post Offices of Maine, A Rarity Guide*, the Andover Post Office was established on August 18, 1824, and is still operating. It is located in Oxford County. Do YOU have a photo of an old post office? Send it to the editor with as much information as you know about it*



# Secretary's Report

Bruce Hazelton  
Secretary

## NEW MEMBERS

Kennebec Valley Stamp Club, P.O. Box 122, Winthrop, ME 04364-0122  
Candice M.V. Hamm, P.O. Box 116, Stillwater, ME 04489-0116  
Rev. Herbert Hixon, 3901 Bahia Vista #607, Sarasota, FL 34232  
Raymond Woodman, 65 Johnson Rd., Auburn, ME 04210  
Claudia J. Gowdy, 98 Union St., Apt. 1, Brewer, ME 04412-2047

## ADDRESS CHANGES

There are no new addresses to report

## NECROLOGY

Frank Peltier  
Ed Whitney

## 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 Cobbessseeconte (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).



## So what part of Maine philately are YOU researching?

Yes, it's time for another call for articles for forthcoming issues of *The Maine Philatelist*. Once again the file folder of available material is getting rather slim. Thanks for those writers who have contributed articles, but there is a need for even more.

So having said that, what is your editor seeking? While I realize some of you are trying to be helpful with all submissions, sending in poor photocopies of covers with no information really isn't helpful. Nor are long database lists with no information. I regularly read other state philatelic society journals, and am amazed at the amount of *research* being done. Many have nice, long in-depth articles about a particular facet of the state's postal history, and the articles are well illustrated with examples of covers and postmarks.

I can't believe that depth of research is not being conducted in Maine. With nearly 200 members, someone must be exploring interesting parts of the state's postal history. So why don't you write about it? I've asked the occasional member about that, and it seems like there's a great reluctance to write because the potential author believes he or she must be a Rhodes scholar to put pen to paper. Such is not the case! If it were, there would be very little written material out there!

I do ask that you send articles either typewritten, or preferably, sent as a non-attachment email. Illustrations should be clear and crisp photocopies, or if a particular item is not too valuable, send it to me and we'll scan it and return it to you.

Of course, I don't want to be responsible for covers worth thousands of dollars!

In recent issues, Dan Goodwin and Tom Sullivan provided an excellent article about Maine's horizontal date hand cancels, and this is a prime example of the type of research that's needed. You will remember that we offered a copy of an extensive database listing for the cost of a SASE rather than publish all of the information in the journal. Of course, only two people asked for copies. If you're interested in the list, it's still available.

So why not accept this challenge: dig out an old Maine cover from your collection. Study it for awhile. Look at it carefully and learn the story that cover has to tell. Research the postmark. You'll find a lot of helpful information in Bruce Hazelton's landmark *The Post Offices of Maine: A Rarity Guide* and Sterling Dow's *Maine Postal History and Postmarks*. If you don't have copies of these books, try your local library or the American Philatelic Research Library. Study the sender's name and the recipient. Check local historical societies and libraries and learn all you can about the cover.

Then write up what you know. Perhaps you can find a photograph of the addressee. All of this information is useful and helpful to postal historians, and you can provide a key role in developing that information. But it won't happen if you won't make an effort to do it -- and learn something new, too!

-- Everett Parke.

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



**IMPORTANT NOTICE:**  
If (6-03) appears after your  
name on the mailing label, it's  
time to renew your dues!

(6-03) #321  
LYNDS, MR. MAX  
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