



# The Maine Philatelist

Vol. 37, No. 1

July 2004

Whole No. 136

## Cleaveland's Express

# An obscure Maine express company

By William W. Sammis

Cleaveland's Express was a short-lived and little noticed company that offered private express service between Portland and Bath, with intermediate stops (circa 1848-1849) using railroads for transportation. They did not maintain an office at Portland but their advertisement in the Portland newspapers of October 3, 1848<sup>1</sup> indicates that they had entered into a conjunctive arrangement with Child & Company's Express.<sup>1</sup> Eastbound express for Cleaveland's small route would have been collected from Child's Boston-Portland railroad express route and handed off at Child's 30 Exchange Street office in Portland to Cleaveland's Express.

From Portland, Cleaveland's Express used the Atlantic & St. Lawrence Railroad to serve North Yarmouth. At the junction

at North Yarmouth they switched to the Kennebec & Portland Railroad and their express route continued through Freeport to Brunswick.

By the spring of 1849 Child & Company was out of business and Cleaveland's Express had entered into an arrangement with Longley & Company Express as the Figure 1 receipt dated May 5, 1849 indicates. Cleaveland's route now started in North Yarmouth rather than Portland, and continued through Brunswick to Topsham. It also included the newly completed nine-mile branch line from Brunswick to Bath, Maine.

Now here is a challenge to the membership. To my knowledge, no postal history exists from Cleaveland's Express. A manuscript marking on a cover would be possible and I chal-

*Continued on page 3*

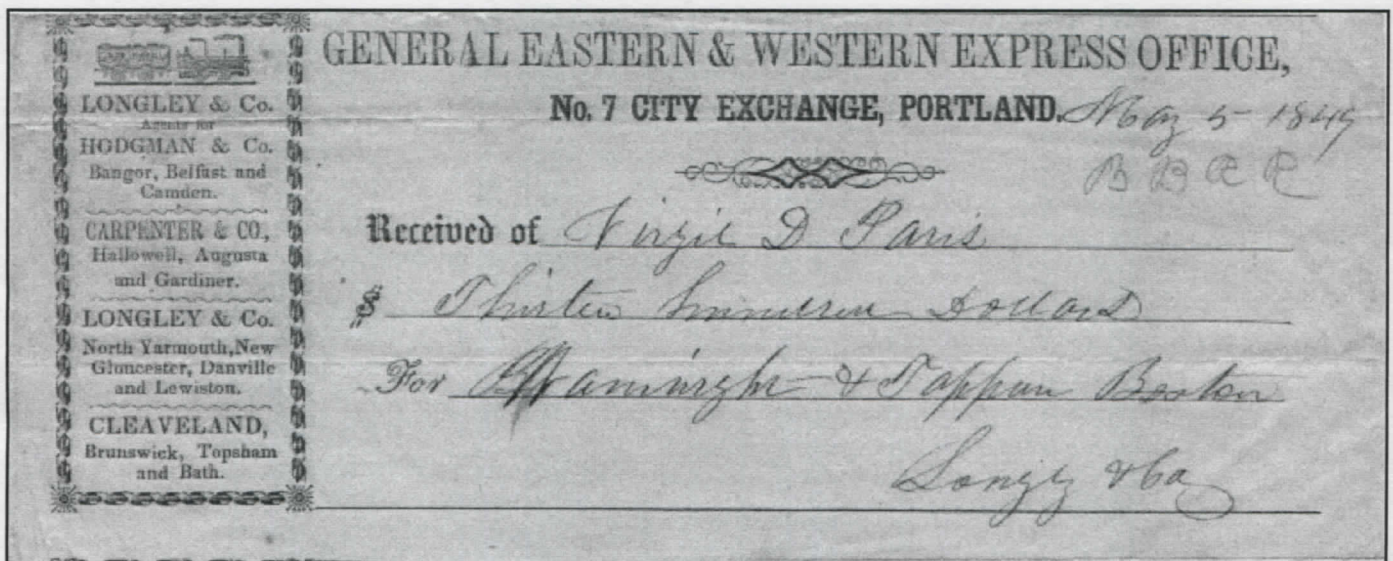


Figure 1 (above): By at least June of 1850, Longley had established a new conjunctive arrangement whereby Bath and Brunswick were added to the towns already served by the well-established steamship express of Carpenter & Company. This is indicated on Longley's receipt (Figure 2 on page 3), dated June 6, 1850. Cleaveland's Express was presumably out of business by this time.

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.

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

**OFFICERS**

*President*

Mr. Max Lynds (2006)

P.O. Box 761

Houlton, ME 04730

email: Max@pwless.net

*Vice President*

Mr. Bruce Hazelton (2006)

P.O. Box 67A

Cumberland Center, ME 04021

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Mr. Jim Foote III (2006)

P.O. Box 16

Manchester, ME 04351-0016

*Treasurer*

Mr. Rick Stambaugh (2006)

18 Elmwood Ct.

N. Berwick, ME 03906

email - rickstambaugh@xpressamerica.net

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

John E. Engle, M.D. of Waterville  
(johnengle@mac.com) [2006]

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**EDITOR**

Dr. Everett L. Parker

719 Moosehead Lake Road

Greenville, ME 04441-9727

email: eparker@midmaine.com

**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**

It appears the Belfast Stamp Club is no more. Could someone please confirm the status? **(No one has confirmed status or contacted us about this club, so it will be dropped from the listing.)**

**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 third Thursday of each month from April through November at the Ellsworth Library, beginning at 6:30 p.m. For information, contact Eric Beal at 827-2686 or Eric.Beal@umit.maine.edu.

**KENNEBEC VALLEY STAMP AND COLLECTOR CLUB**

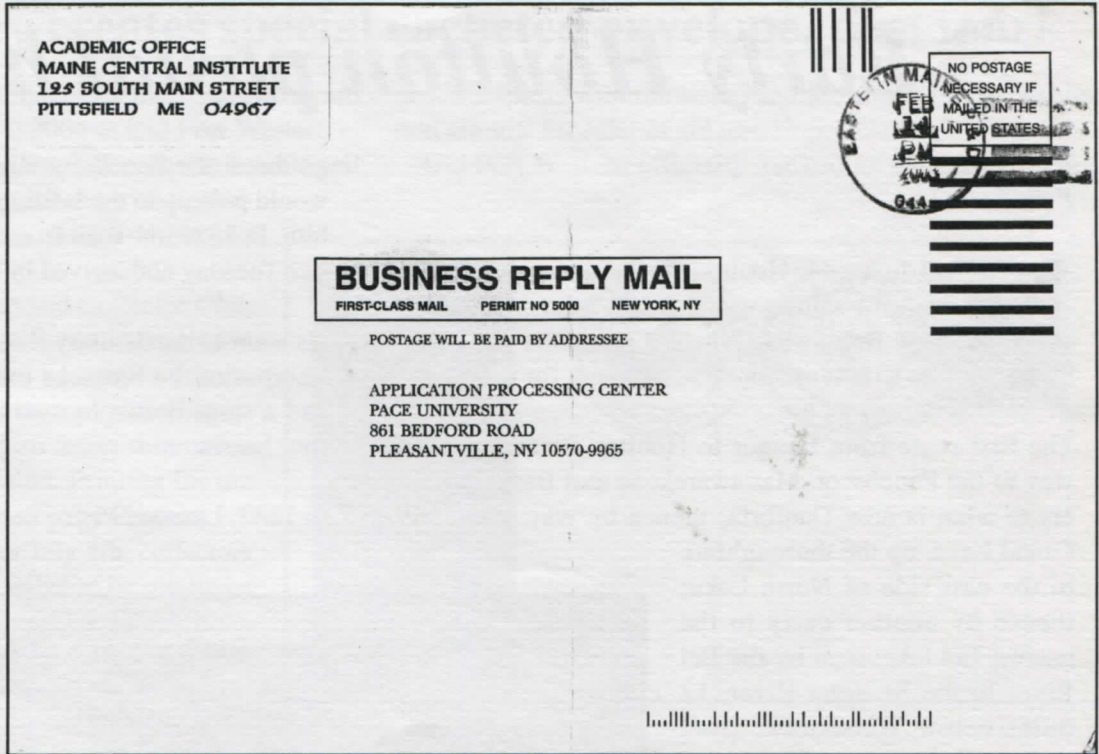
The Kennebec Valley Stamp and Collector Club meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at the Central Maine Power Company headquarters on Edison Drive in Augusta. Meetings are from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. For additional information, call Shirley MacKay at 622-7978, or contact by email at kildonan@prexar.com.

# Interesting 4 bar killer from Eastern Maine

By Terence Hines

The illustration at right shows a business reply envelope with an interesting Maine four bar killer postmark. It reads "EASTERN MAINE P & D/ 044" and is dated February 14, 2003.

I assume that "P & D" stands for "Processing and Delivery." Perhaps someone can answer the question with certainty.



# An obscure Maine express company

Continued from page 1

lenge the membership to make such a find. A handstamp, forwarding label or printed receipt would perhaps be too much to hope for in this endeavor. I invite all correspondence on

this or other express companies. You may contact me at the following electronic mail address: [cds13@cornell.edu](mailto:cds13@cornell.edu).

**FOOTNOTE**

<sup>1</sup> Dow, Sterling T. *Maine Postal History and Postmarks* (Portland, Maine: Severn-Wylie-Jewett Co., 1943), 61.

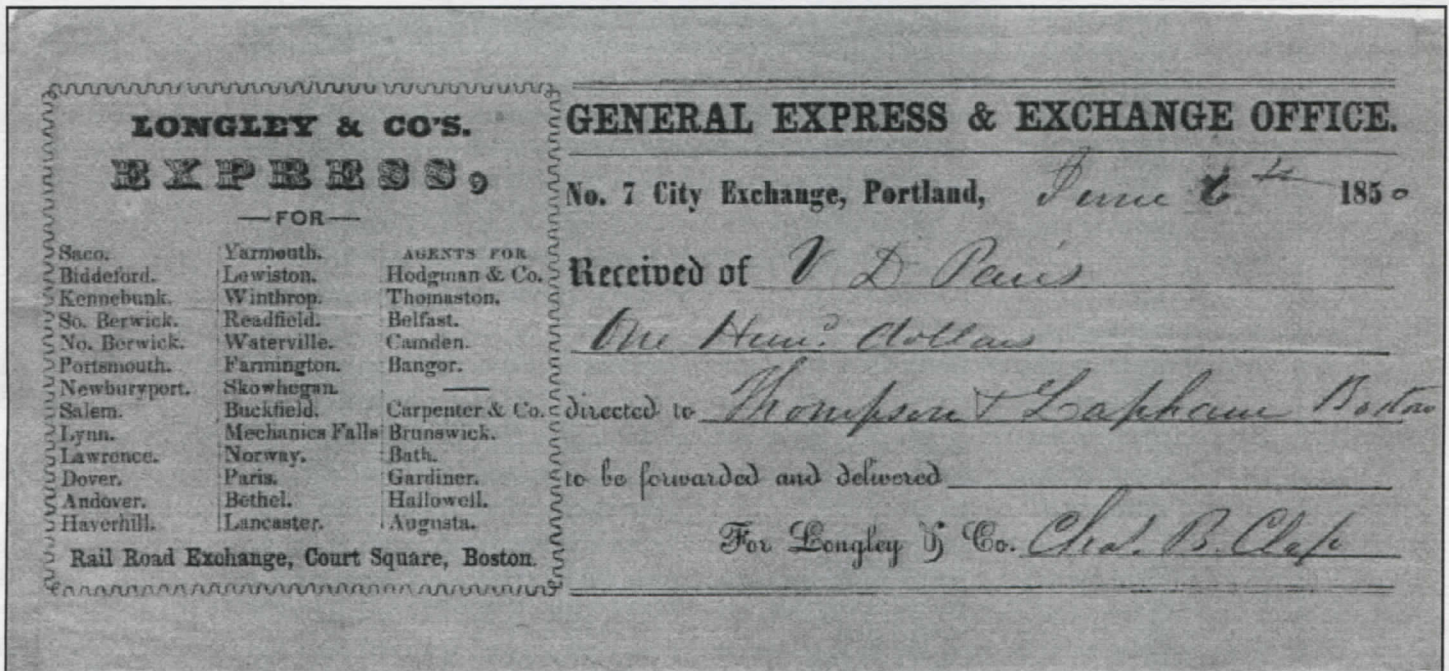


Figure 2

# Early Houlton postal history

By Max Lynds  
President

Mail directed to Houlton Plantation in its earliest days came by sailing vessels to St. John or Fredericton, New Brunswick, where it remained until sent for by the settlers who sent money in payment for postage.

The first route from Bangor to Houlton Plantation was by way of the Penobscot, Mattawamkeag and Baskahegan rivers to what is now Danforth; thence by way of a carry to Grand Lake, up the thoroughfare to the east side of North Lake; thence by another carry to the nearest Eel lake: then by the Eel River to the St. John River, 12 miles below Woodstock; from there to Woodstock; and then overland to Houlton Plantation.

About 1823, the route was shortened about half way by leaving the Baskahegan Stream and cutting a trail directly north 36 miles to Houlton Plantation. The first mails from Bangor were brought over this route.

Mr. James Lander was the first to make a business of taking the mail through to Baskahegan and return. Later, Lander drove the Calais stage for many years after it was established. A Col. Burley of Bangor had the mail contract and employed Lander.

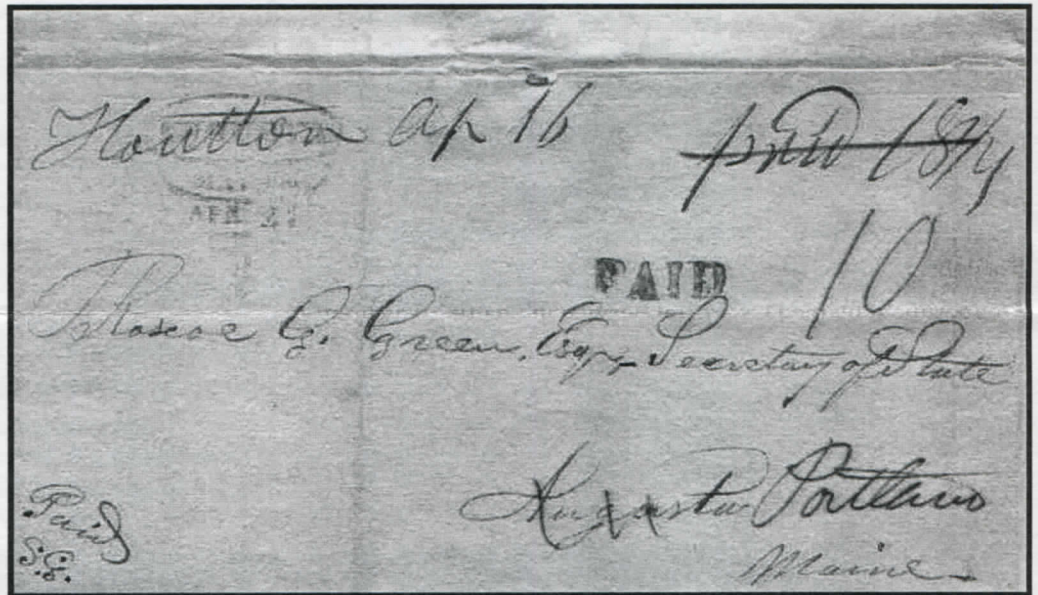
Houlton's first post office was established in Amos Pearce's home on Court Street in 1826. President John Quincy Adams appointed Pearce postmaster. A year later, Pearce fell from the roof of his new home and was instantly killed. Amos Pearce's brother, Abraham, was appointed the second postmaster.

In 1829, James Thomas of New York, sutler at the garrison, took the mail contract between Bangor and Houlton. Mr. Knowlen of Hodgdon was hired to carry the mail on horseback to the Soldiers Landing, where he would take a boat and

go down the Penobscot River to Bangor. On his return, he would pole up to the landing where his horse was waiting for him. In 1829, the mail from Bangor was delivered to the carrier Tuesday and arrived in Houlton Saturday evenings.

As soon as the Military Road was passable in 1831, Colonel Thomas of the Barracks transferred the mail route to it and had a stage drawn by two horses at first and soon after by four horses.

In 1843, Leonard Pierce became postmaster. There is a story



*Houlton, Maine manuscript cancel, April 16, 1832, to Augusta with a paid 18 3/4¢ rate. Forwarded with cornucopia postmark to Portland for an additional 10¢. Letter was to Roscoe Green, Secretary of State from Samuel Gooch. Mr. Gooch was requesting that a day be appointed in the spring of 1832 for an election to pick which town in the Northern District of Washington County would be chosen for the Register of Deeds. Houlton was in Washington County until Aroostook County was formed in 1839.*

told that a laboring man came to the post office inquiring of his mail. There was a letter from the "old country" with 25¢ postage due. He asked Mr. Pierce if he would read the letter to him as he could not read. Mr. Pierce kindly obliged and, after hearing the contents of the letter, the man said, "It's not worth 25 cents" and went on his way. Some time later the man returned asking if there were any letters for him. Mr. Pierce said, "There is one but I am too busy to read it." The man paid for and received his letter. It was the previously read letter so the post office received its postage due. ☐

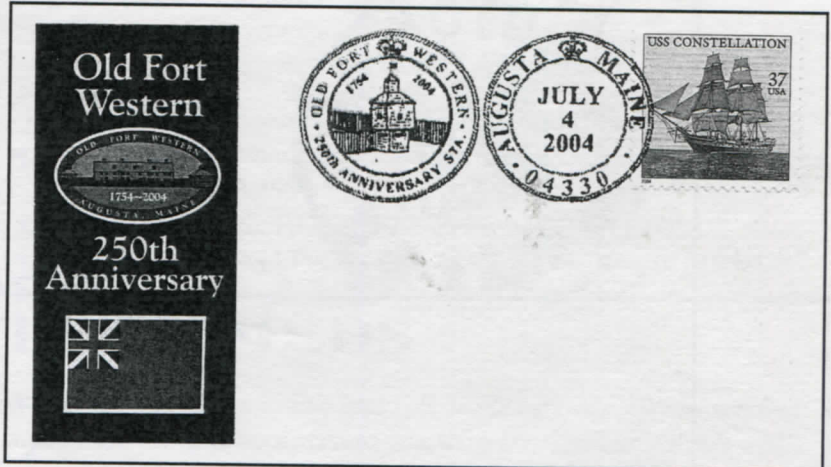
# Kennebec Valley creates special cacheted envelope, post mark

A special cacheted envelope, envelope insert, and post card were made available on July 4, 2004 at Old Fort Western in Augusta. A U.S. Postal Service employee was on hand to sell stamps and apply a special cancellation. The envelope, insert, post card and cancellation honor the fort's 250th anniversary.

in 1990. Cards with the stamp and the anniversary cancellation are still for sale, as are unstamped cards.

Old Fort Western officially marked its 250th anniversary

The Kennebec Valley Stamp and Collector Club designed and produced 500 numbered and cacheted (marked with a special design) envelopes for the occasion. The envelopes features a modified anniversary banner. Each contains an insert summarizing the fort's history and mission. Printing for the project was donated by J.S. McCarthy Printers.



For a period of 30 days after July 4th, collectors and others may obtain the cancellation by sending a stamped envelope to Postmaster, U.S. Post Office, Augusta, Maine 04330. The cacheted envelopes with insert were also offered for sale by the Kennebec Valley Stamp and Collector Club at the fort on the Fourth of July.

on July 4. It was on that day in 1754 when timbers for the fort's main house, now a National Historic Landmark, arrived at Cushnoc, now Augusta.

The Kennebec club also designed a special post card with a drawing of the fort by artist Paul Plummer. One hundred of the post cards have a unique plastic stamp used as part of an experiment by the U.S. Postal Service in Seattle, Washington

Persons wanting to purchase the cover by mail should  
*Continued on page 8*

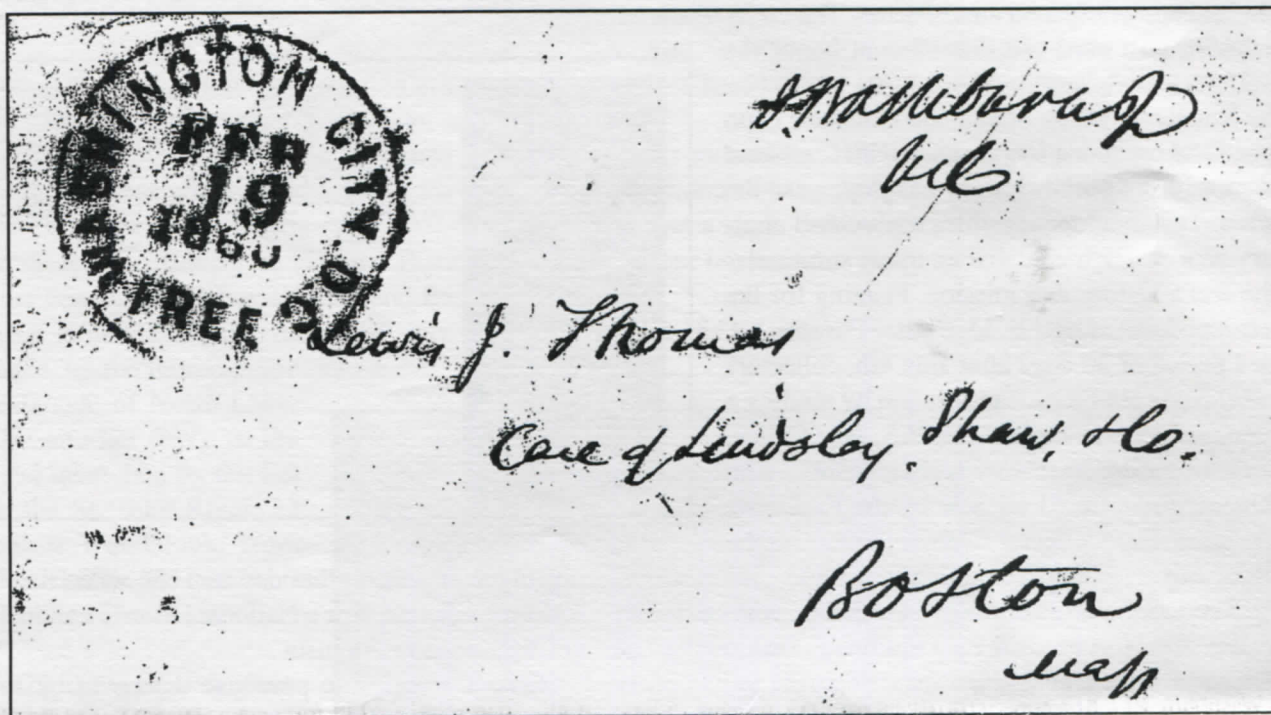
## Are YOU on the Internet?

*Here is a list of MPS members with e-mail*

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <b>Albert Aldham</b><br>bertaldham@webtv.net        | <b>Dr. John Engle</b><br>johnengle@mac.com          | <b>James Larsen</b><br>larsenj@c2i2.com                  | <b>Steven Pottle</b><br>sppride@aol.com                  |
| <b>Joe Antizzo</b><br>Joeantizzo@aol.com            | <b>Jim Forte</b><br>jimforte@posthistory.com        | <b>Philippe C. Lebel</b><br>PCLEBEL@hotmail.com          | <b>Gil Roderick</b><br>destamps@acadia.net               |
| <b>Louis C. Bakula</b><br>grampsun@aol.com          | <b>Dan Goodwin</b><br>dgoodwi3@maine.rr.com         | <b>Rev. Robert Leon</b><br>bobleon@tabletoptelephone.com | <b>William W. Sammis</b><br>cds13@cornell.edu            |
| <b>Robert (Bob) Barker</b><br>rebarker@rebarker.com | <b>Robert Gross</b><br>bobgrossrc@adelphia.net      | <b>Max Lynds</b><br>Max@pwless.net                       | <b>John E. Sawhill Jr.</b><br>bsawhill@suscom-mainse.net |
| <b>George Barner</b><br>georgebarner@adelphia.net   | <b>Stuart Haskell</b><br>GCH127@aol.com             | <b>Paul R. Maynard</b><br>Maynard25@Charter.net          | <b>Art Scarano</b><br>a.j.scarano@att.net                |
| <b>Al Barth</b><br>cfercat@adelphia.net             | <b>Gary W. Hibbard</b><br>ghibbar1@maine.rr.com     | <b>Vince McDermott</b><br>vjmcdermott@aol.com            | <b>Barry Serpell</b><br>serpellmaine@aol.com             |
| <b>Chuck Brand</b><br>shakerdom@hotmail.com         | <b>Terence Hines</b><br>TerenceHines@aol.com        | <b>Andrew J. Moran</b><br>amoran66@yahoo.com             | <b>Roland Simard</b> manacorp@aol.com                    |
| <b>Tom Cieslinski</b><br>tomciesl@midmaine.com      | <b>Alf Jordan</b><br>ajordan1@maine.rr.com          | <b>Ed Muzzy</b><br>edmuzzy17@aol.com                     | <b>Henry Stevens</b><br>hstevens@stamps.win.net          |
| <b>Gary Clark</b><br>gclark1@tampabay.rr.com        | <b>Kelvin Kindahl</b><br>kanda@javanet.com          | <b>Robert W. Olmsted</b><br>cal@americanletters.org      | <b>Ron Stewart</b><br>sstewart@clinic.net                |
| <b>Nancy B. Clark</b><br>nbc@Cape.com               | <b>Dick Laetsch</b><br>precancel@aol.com            | <b>Phil Peverada</b><br>peverada@midcoast.com            | <b>Henry G. Turnbull</b><br>AZNPTHGT1@webtv.net          |
| <b>David Costain</b><br>dcostain@midmaine.com       | <b>Steve LaForge</b><br>stephenlaforge@netscape.net | <b>Thurlow Pitts</b><br>antares23@hypernet.com           | <b>Edwin F. Whitney</b><br>edfwhitney@yahoo.com          |
| <b>Roger Curran</b><br>rdcnrc@evenlink.com          | <b>Rick Lancaster</b><br>modcover@awi.net           | <b>Jack Pooler</b><br>car99@comcast.net                  | <b>Richard Williams</b><br>richwilljr@adelphia.net       |
|   |   |  | <b>Kennedy L. Wilson</b><br>k-mew@midcoast.com           |

A postal history feature  
by Rob Washburn  
of Skowhegan

# Maine Cover of the Quarter



The above free frank cover is from Israel Washburn Jr. when he was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. He served as a Congressman from 1851 to 1861 and then resigned once he was elected governor of Maine. Israel Washburn's brother, Cadwallader, was a Civil War general and later governor of Wisconsin, and another brother, Elihu, was Secretary of State during Ulysses S. Grant's presidency. Cover courtesy of Millard Mack.

*(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

*In the April 2004 issue, it was noted that the illustration of a Maine post office which was printed therein was the last one on hand, and there was a plea for additional items. It was noted that if no new item was received the feature would be dropped. No one has bothered to send in new material, or even indicated they cared, so it has been dropped.*

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I am pleased to participate in the MPS election even from this distance. I still miss Maine immensely. I knew Harold Karkas well and I heard from a cousin in Farmington Falls, a daughter in Rumford and several others in the Wilton, Dryden and Jay area. He was an obvious gentleman and I knew him well as a fellow collector, and yes, even as the "greeter" at Wal-Mart.

We were both very active in the Franklin County Stamp Club, long since defunct. I was an officer as well. We had a very nice group of collectors, now mostly passed on. Now it appears the Belfast club has turned up its toes; a pity.

Ralph (Wally) Smith  
Leesburg, Florida

## Secretary's Report *Bruce Hazelton Secretary*

### NEW MEMBERS

Andrew W. Mitchell, P.O. Box 5, Tariffville, CT 06081-0005.

### ADDRESS CHANGES

Eileen Brennan, 252 East Pond Rd., Jefferson, ME 04348  
Leonard Belanger, 9 Pleasant Wood Dr., Apt. 105, Augusta, ME 04330-4994  
Alvin Barth, P.O. Box 12, Paris, ME 04271-0012  
Joe Lupsha, 4 Packet Rd., Apt. 227, Hallowell, ME 04347

## 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. (4-04)

**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. (4-04)

**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. (4-04)

**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. (4-04)

**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, 22 Beech Dr., Brunswick, ME 04011. (4-04)

**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. (4-04)

**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. (4-04)

**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. (4-04)

**Seeking exhibit quality** Andover, Maine material from the period 1 January 1913 through 30 June 1916. Postal cards, postal stationery, covers, parcel wrappers, postage dues, precancels, perfins, booklet panes, multi-denominational covers, i.e., overseas or international uses, postal history, post office forms, postal item relating to Andover, Maine. Single items to large lots. Send photocopy with price. Postage refunded if not purchased. R.M. Arndt, P.O. Box 60292, Midland, TX 79711-0292; email: Texas432@webtv.net (4-04)

### 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-\$175.00. Dick Laetsch, 2 Shady Creek Ln., Scarborough, ME 04074. email: precancel@aol.com; web site: www.precanceledstamps.com (4-04)

**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. (4-04)

**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. (4-04)

**For sale: Eight Scott International** albums, worldwide, Vol. 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17. Thousands of stamps included. Gary Soper, P.O. Box 15461, Portland, ME 04412 (207) 892-9372. (4-04)

# Club offers special cover

*Continued from page 5*

remit \$2 by check or money order (made out to the KVSC Club) and to Joe Lupsha, KVSC Club, 4 Packet Rd., Hallowell, ME 04347, no later than July 31. The post card is available for an additional \$1. Include an SASE if you wish the envelope to be protected from additional postal markings in Portland.

*AUGUSTA, MAINE*



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

**It (0-04) appears after your name on the mailing label, it's time to renew your dues!**

# It's time for MAIPEX '04!

**The Waterville Stamp Club will sponsor MAIPEX '04 on Saturday, October 16, 2004, at its usual venue, Carter Hall at Kennebec Valley Community College in Fairfield. Plan to attend!**

*Stamps and Supplies  
U.S. Postal Service desk  
Giant Board Auction  
Post Cards and Covers  
Refreshments available  
50/50 Drawing!*

**9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Table Auction closes 12:30 p.m.  
Oral Auction starts 1:00 p.m.  
Exit 132 (old Exit 35) on Interstate 95**

