



# The Maine Philatelist

Vol. 38, No. 3

January 2006

Whole No. 142

## Myrick and more featured in this segment of “Hunting those small Maine post offices”

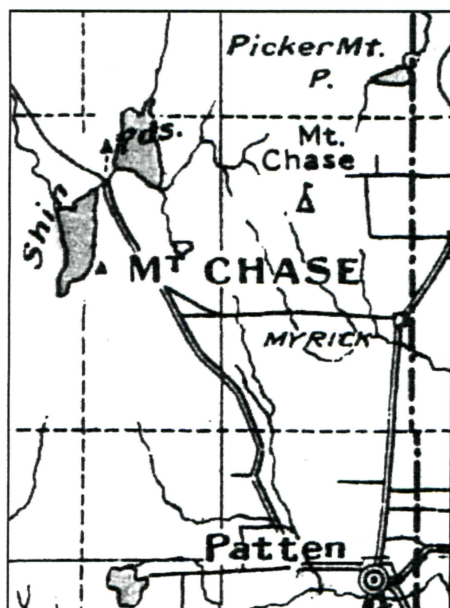
By Bruce Corey  
Of Westbrook

This is another segment of a continuing series of articles on the history of small Maine post offices and the communities or summer camps that each served. These villages or sporting camps have all but disappeared from today's maps; postmarks may or may not exist.

### MYRICK (MOUNT CHASE) (Penobscot County)

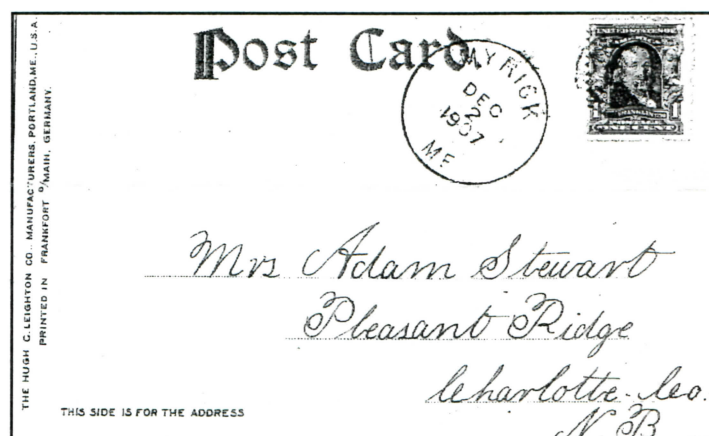
18 June 1903 - 30 June 1908; SR/7

Thomas Myrick was the first to settle in Township 5, Range 6 (T5 R6) in the mid-1840s. More people moved in, cleared the land, built homes and in many cases, began farming. In the 1850s, they renamed this unorganized township “Mount Chase Plantation.” By 1860, the population stood at 264 and the townspeople voted for incorporation. The plantation was incorporated on March 21, 1864 as Mount Chase.



Location of  
Myrick, north of  
Patten

The small town of Myrick, 100 miles north of Bangor, was situated at the very eastern border of Mount Chase and the boundary line between Penobscot and Aroostook counties. It was on the through road north from Patten to Ashland. Myrick



Post card with December 2, 1907 Myrick postmark

took its name from Thomas Myrick, the first settler. William Myrick was the first postmaster. He opened a post office in his home on June 18, 1903. He retired in 1906 and the postal duties were assumed by William Hawes. He rebuilt a room in his home, both for the post office and a confectionery store run by his wife.

Mount Chase school was in Myrick. In 1906, Eva Myrick was the superintendent of schools; Willis and Percy Steen made up the school committee. Willis Myrick was also the town clerk. Talk about a family monopoly!

When William Hawes retired in 1908, an RFD route was established out of Patten, and the Myrick Post Office closed on June 30, 1908. With an average population of 310 people during the post office years, both postmasters cancelled enough mail to give existing Myrick postmarks a SR/7 rating.

Continued on page 3



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

Life Membership is also available.

Articles for publication should be sent to the  
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#### PUBLISHING SCHEDULE

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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.

#### 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](mailto: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](mailto:kildonan@prexar.com).

#### Classified

**WANTED: SWAP OR TRADE:** U.S., Israel, Bahamas for Washington & Franklin 1910-1933, mint, NH & OG, Scott #379-577. List your wants, send me a card! Dick Carvel, 126 Stroudwater Rd., Portland, ME 04102 (telephone 775-0915) (4-06)



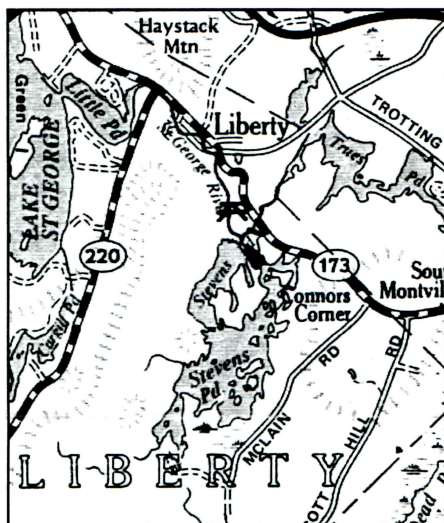
# Hunting those small Maine post offices

*Continued from page 1*

## LIBERTY (Waldo County)

This township was originally granted under the Waldo Patent. Early settlers had to maintain their rights to land titles, so they held a secret meeting and voted to take away the land agent's papers. After swearing themselves to secrecy, they seized the agent and took him to Lake George. After chopping a hole in the ice, they threatened to drop him into the icy waters below unless he gave up the papers.

*Map of Liberty  
with approximate  
location of  
Libertyville*



He promised to do that, but later his kidnappers were arrested and tried in the old Wiscasset Courthouse. The town was incorporated on January 31, 1827 as Liberty -- *freedom from land agents!*

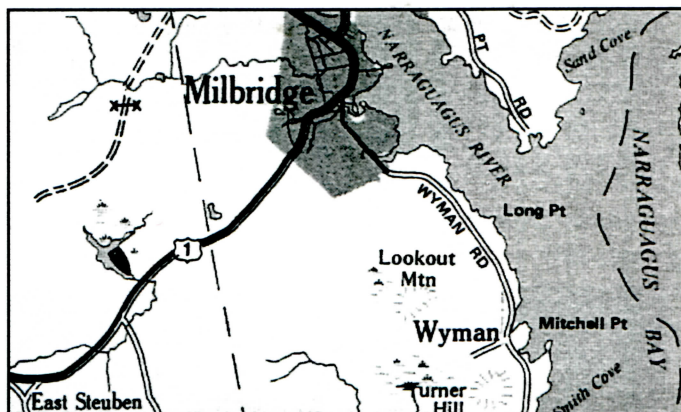
## LIBERTYVILLE (LIBERTY) (Waldo County; SR/8) 9 May 1892 - 30 June 1905

Southwest of Liberty Village, the Libertyville Post Office was opened by Martha A. Sherman in a front room of her home on May 9, 1892. This rural part of the township did have the mandatory one-room schoolhouse. Later, Herbert Moody opened a general store.

Postmaster Sherman retired after 12 years of postal service due to the impending change -- a new RFD route through this part of Liberty. Percy Leeman continued to run the office until it was officially closed on June 30, 1905. Postmarks from Libertyville are rated SR/8. Postmarks are known with a single rim handstamp with bullseye killer.

## WYMAN (MILBRIDGE) (Washington County; SR/8) 24 June 1901 - 30 June 1905

Wyman is about 2.5 miles south of Milbridge at Mitchell Point on Narraguagus Bay. By the mid-1890s, this community was large enough to support the general store built and owned by Jasper E. Richardson and Wesley Chipman. When the Wyman Post Office was opened on June 24, 1901, J.E. Richardson postmarked and sorted all mail at his large desk in the store office.



*Map showing Wyman at lower right center*

In 1904, he sold his share in the general store to Wesley Chipman, who assumed the duties as postmaster. Even though the post office was closed on June 30, 1905, he continued to operate the general store for some years. Mail was delivered to Wyman by RFD from Milbridge after that.

Even though the Wyman Post Office was in operation for 48 months, not one postmark has been reported. Both private mailing cards and regular postcards were available during those years, so some postmarks should have survived. Postmarks are rated SR/10.

## MANCHESTER (Kennebec County)

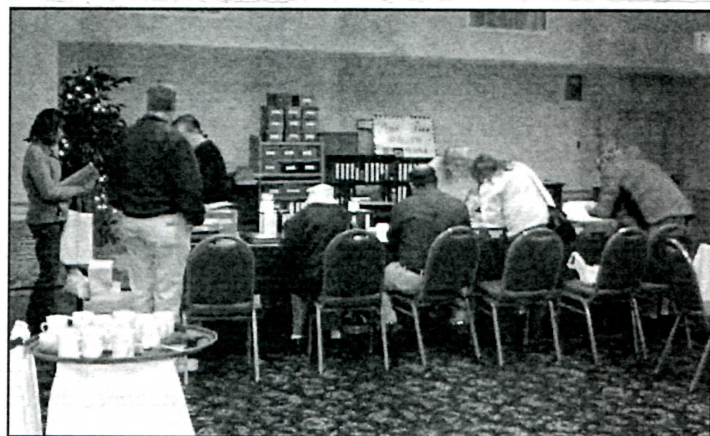
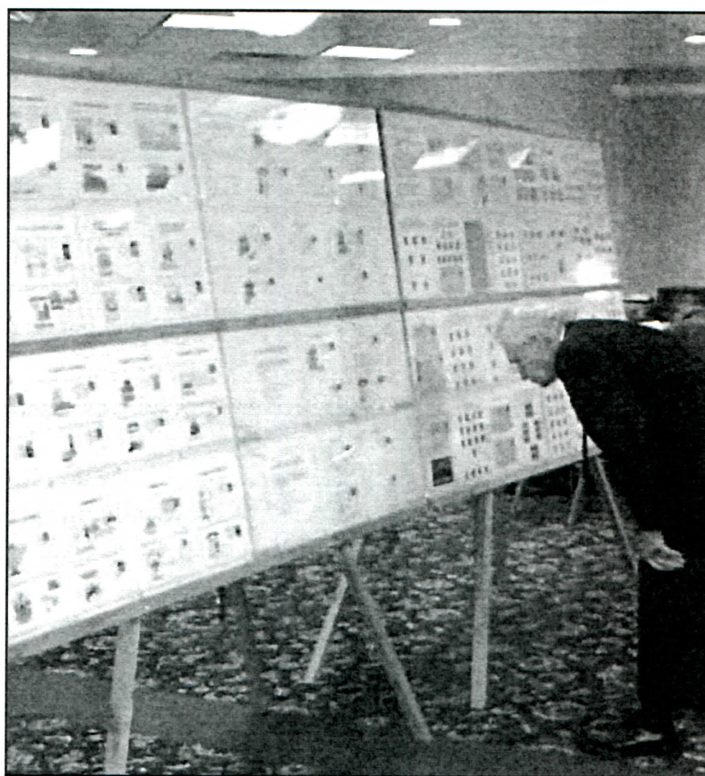
What we know today as Manchester was originally settled in 1775. When finally incorporated on August 12, 1850 at KENNEBEC, the new township comprised parts of Augusta, Hallowell, Litchfield, Readfield, and Winthrop. But the name proved unpopular and was changed to Manchester on April 18, 1854. The first township post office opened in 1818 and was called "Hallowell Cross Roads." For four years, this was the post office for Kennebec, but changed to Manchester in 1854 along with the township name change. From 1870 to 1890, carriages were built and granite wedges made in this town a few miles west of Augusta.



# Stamp show in Portland deemed a success

By Max L. Lynds  
*President*

**M**aineplex 2005 was held November 12 at the Holiday Inn in Portland. The Maine Philatelic Society and the York County Stamp Club co-sponsored the show. There were seven dealers present along with a table from the U.S. Postal Service. A "kids" table was available and there were actually young people there! The York County Club made exhibit frames available which were filled by members of both clubs. The York County club also had a cachet available honoring our veterans. Vin Yeaton made sure everyone had coffee and refreshments. The show was well attended and plans are in the works for another show same place same time next year. Thanks to everyone who helped make the show possible.



*Seen at the  
stamp show  
in Portland  
last November!*





# The "way it used to be" at the Salem Post Office

*The following article is from an unknown publication dated January 21, 1940, and was passed to Vice President Bruce Hazelton by a non-member, Gary Woolson of Newburgh. Normally we would not reprint an article without permission, but since there is little else to use, and not knowing the publication, we'll take a chance.*

*The article was written by Lulie M. Heath, "retiring postmaster."*

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"Little old Salem, Me., is losing its postoffice (*sic*), a most regrettable fact. But it has been coming to them ever since the Rangeley Lakes & Sandy River railroad was discontinued.

"There was talk at that time of putting the place on R.F.D., but they decided to make no change for awhile; in fact, the inspector told me he thought as long as I held it, there would be no change. But under the ruling of August 1939, it had to be, and so, after Jan. 31, 1940, Salem postoffice will be no more.

"Having held the office for nearly 20 years, I was asked to give some of the high lights (*sic*) of my experience as postmaster.

"I was appointed May 27, 1920, under A.S. Burlson as Postmaster-General. The office was then in a little building in the village and I was living on a farm one mile away, with housework, milk and butter making to attend.

"I sure labored under difficulties the first few years; at first my rent was raised and as I found there was no money but a lot of hard work in it for me, I sent in my resignation. Nobody seemed anxious for the job and the folks urged me to keep it, kindly offering to help me get established in another building.

"In about a year, this building was sold and again my rent was raised. I was at a loss what to do next, but a kind friend loaned me the money to purchase the place where the office is now located.

"Again the good folks helped me to move and start in once more. I had to build a stable and a little addition on to (*sic*) the house where I have run a little store ever since.

"But the old horse and buggy days were tough when I went back and forth from the farm to the hill.

"The mail had to go out about 8 a.m. and came in at 6:30 p.m., but in severe winter weather the train was often late; many times I would not get through till 9 o'clock. On some of these nights the men would come in to wait for the mail, stamping the snow from their feet and remarking what a terrible storm it was. I was almost shivering in my shoes thinking I had to close up, harness my horse and make my way home through the snowdrifts. Many nights I have listened to the wind blowing the snow and wondering if there would be any road for me to get to the office in the morning (no snow

plows in those days). A good old scout at the top of the hill often came out with his snow shovel to help me through a big drift, and another old fellow at the foot of the hill used to watch my lantern light slowly winding along at night.

"But some mornings there would be no road and still storming hard; then I put on the snowshoes and made it that way. A man said one day I was the only person passing his house for the day. It was not real nice coming into a cold house and with icy fingers building fires, and often having to put the ink-bottle on the stove to thaw before I could do any writing.

"It happened sometimes I would have to walk home. I remember one night in particular; a neighbor walked along with me as far as her home and just after she entered her house, I heard a scream. I thought something had happened to her, but soon saw her light her lamp, and knew she was all right. After I had gone a short distance I heard the scream again, this time I decided it was boys and girls over on another road and I hurried along; soon I heard it again, this time much nearer; I quickened my steps and again the scream -- this time right under the bank that runs below my road. I thought it was my turn then, and I suppose I gave about as blood curdling a yell as could be gotten into the one little word "get." I never heard another sound till I got home.

"They told me it was probably a bobcat or loupcevrier, perhaps attracted by the light from the lantern I carried or he might have been crossing on his way up the mountain and was calling his mate.

"In 1935 the train was taken off and since that (time) our mail has been brought and taken in a locked pouch by the R.F.D. carrier.

"After a few years I got my house made comfortable so I could live in back of the store and postoffice; keeping it open early and late; sometimes making out money orders at 6 in the morning or 10 at night -- often making out their applications, doing up parcels, putting on stamps, answering the telephone -- "did I have any mail and where was it from?"

"Needless to say, I shall miss it; a habit or practice of 20 years could hardly be laid aside without some concern.

"I grew to love the work and the kindly faces who would come in to sit and chat awhile; many of whom I have watched drop out of the ranks one by one.

"The little country postoffice is a centre where friends and neighbors meet and exchange greetings and comment on the doings of the town, where there is plenty of free advice, be it on running a farm or a mill, trading automobiles or bringing up the babies. It is the postmaster's business to hear it all, keep his own counsel and above all, keep smiling." ☐

*According to The Post Offices of Maine: A Rarity Guide, the Salem Post Office opened in Somerset County on May 21, 1834, closed, then reopened and closed on January 31, 1940. It was changed to Franklin County on March 10, 1838.*



## Update on Maine perfin

By Vince McDermott  
Of Brunswick

The number of perfins used in Maine continues to increase, which shows that perfin usage here was much more widespread than previously documented. I don't anticipate that many more unique usages will be found; that is, for example, ABC company in Rumford or XYZ company in Orono. But you may discover that a perfin was used in your town. The likeliest possibilities are companies like New England Tel. and Tel. (Telephone and Telegraph), Western Union, Boston & Maine RR (railroad), etc. I still don't have one from Brunswick, but have examples from Bath and Gardiner. I know close doesn't count in this case, but I'm getting warm.

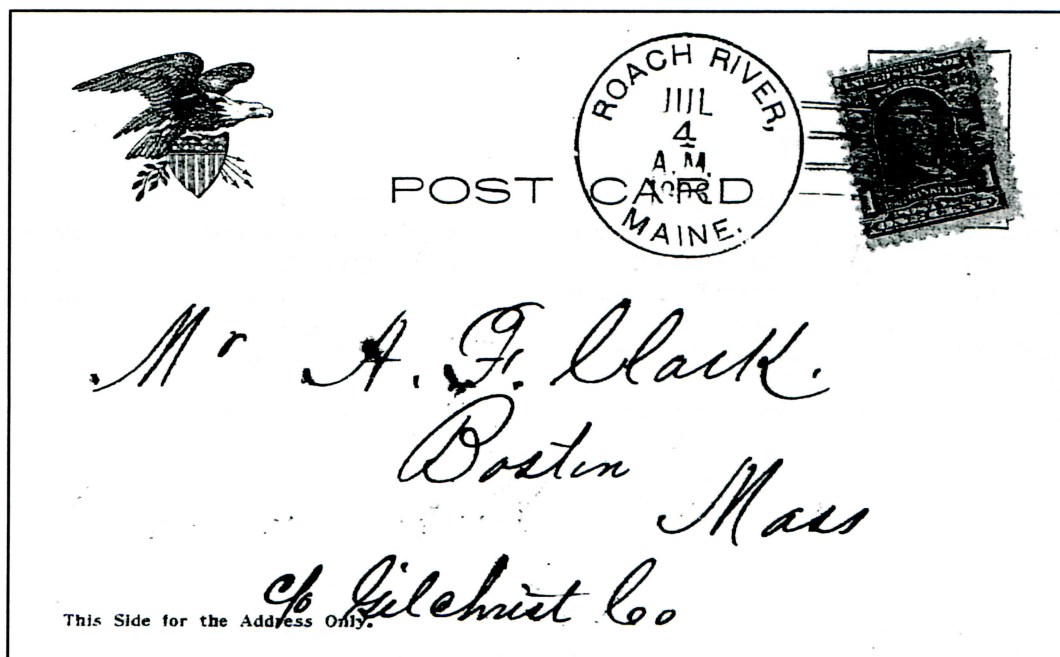
One other item of related interest. There are three known "prepers" in Maine. That is, precancelled perfins. These are:

AUBURN AJS (user unknown)  
AUGUSTA MB (Markson Brothers)  
BANGOR CW/S (Charles Williams Stores)

Does anyone know of any others? There are still more discoveries to be made. Get out there and dig!

## Ma<sup>i</sup>ne Cover of the Quarter

A postal history feature  
by Rob Washburn  
of Skowhegan



The above post card features a nice, bold July 4, 1906 Roach River, Maine cancellation. Roach River is a discontinued post office in Piscataquis County and has a "5" scarcity rating in *The Post Offices of Maine, A Rarity Guide*. The cancellation is what is known as a Doane cancel and was only in use at Roach River from 1905 to 1910. Roach River changed to Kokadjo on February 1, 1911. (Cover courtesy of Jack Pooler.)

(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).



# Secretary's Report

Dr. George Bostwick  
Secretary

## NEW MEMBERS

#662 -- Ms. Tracey Levasseur, 329 Ross Corner Rd.,  
Shapleigh, ME 04076 (email: sharpei@sacoriver.net)

#365 -- Mr. Roland Simard, 58 Granite St., Bath, ME 04530  
(email: manacorp20@aol.com)

## ADDRESS CHANGES

Mr. Breck Pegram, P.O. Box 4293, Frankfort, KY 40604

Mr. Richard Carvel, 1300 A1A South, O/C #306, Jupiter, FL  
33477

Phyllis H. Smith, 6 Running Brook Rd., Windham, ME 04062-  
1153 (formerly Phyllis Hall)

## Classified

**QUALITY GERMANY** mint and used singles and sets  
priced at 10% to 35% of Scott's Catalogue value. These  
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but some higher; many semipostals. Tom Cieslinski, (207)  
582-1654 or [tomciesl@midmaine.com](mailto:tomciesl@midmaine.com) (4-06)

## NECROLOGY

Mr. William W. Schummrck

## SECRETARY'S NOTE

Please note: if the date on your mailing label is (6-05),  
your subscription and membership have expired. Please send  
\$5 to me as soon as possible in order to ensure you receive  
the next issue of *The Maine Philatelist*.

## Plan now for April show!

The Kennebec Valley Stamp and Collectors Club will  
host its annual Collectors Show in Augusta from 9 a.m. to  
4 p.m. on Saturday, April 8. The event will be held at the  
Elks Lodge on Civic Center Drive (Route 27), heading to-  
ward Belgrade.

The show will include a dealer bourse with stamps, coins,  
postcards, covers, and paper. There will be a bargain table  
for children and door prizes. A \$1 charge will apply for  
entry for those over 12 years of age. For information, con-  
tact Shirley MacKay, club president, at 622-7978.

## Are YOU on the Internet?

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

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**Robert (Bob) Barker**

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**Al Barth**

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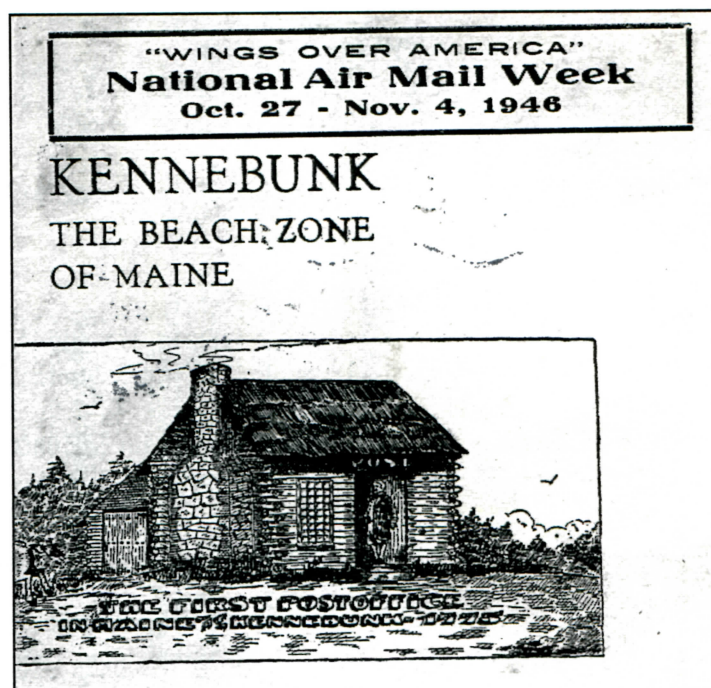


## So was this the first post office in Maine?

By George Barner  
Of Kennebunk

The cachet shown with this short article claims that the Kennebunk Post Office was the first one in Maine. The wording at the bottom of the cachet states, "The First Postoffice (sic) in Maine: Kennebunk 1775." The design shows a small log building with a man standing in front of it.

I have had this cacheted cover for some time. It is unaddressed and apparently was used in conjunction with the National Air Mail Week events of October 27 to November 4, 1946. The title at the very top is "Wings over America," and there is wording above the design, "Kennebunk/ The Beach Zone/ Of Maine." Can anyone provide additional information about the events and the cachet?



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

TO:



### IMPORTANT NOTICE:

If (6-05) appears after your name on the mailing label, it's time to renew your dues!