# Perfinned post card used in Portland

By Vince McDermott
Of Brunswick

Early in 2003, a fellow member of the Perfins Club notified me that a post card with a Royal Typewriter Company perfin (RT) was available on eBay. It bore a January 8, 1910 Portland postmark, and documented a previously unknown usage in Maine. The card bears the address of the company (Room 25, Court Square Building). Not only that, but the message on the post card is quite interesting.

The writer saw "Post-Office." He was on the car and the writer was on the sidewalk. Post-Office rubbered and took off his hat, so the writer had to speak to him. Apparently, a man who worked in the post office noticed the writer, and "rubbered," or rubber-necked, and took off his hat. The
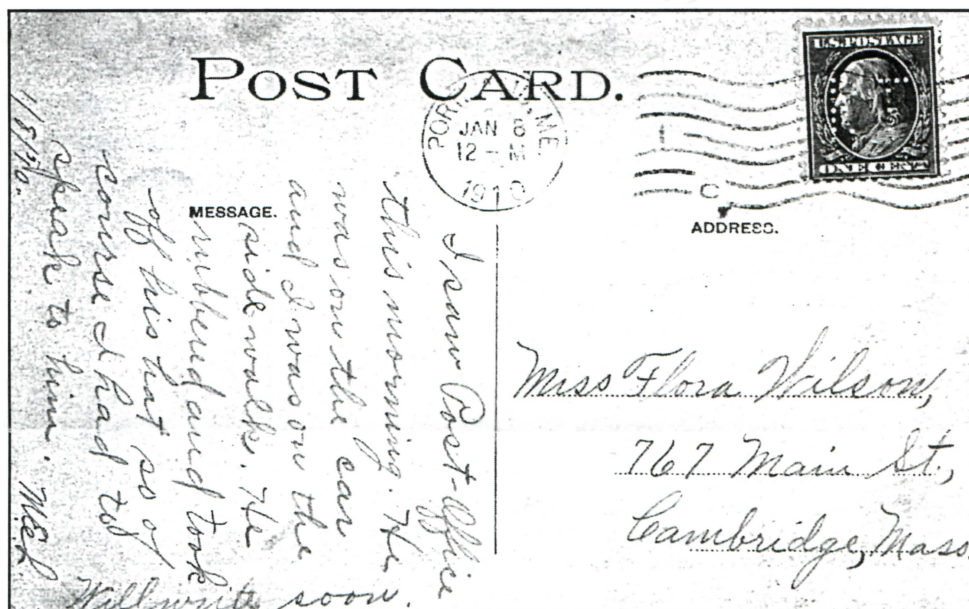
term "rubberneck" was in use at the time, and "to rubber" was used as a verb. But this is not the whole story. The bidding on eBay got a little too high for me, and I passed. Several months later, I attended the MAIPEX stamp show in Fairfield. Guess what was in the show auction? The same card! While it is not surprising that the card started out and/or ended up in Maine, to find that very card was certainly mind-boggling to me. This time, I did not let it get away!

(EDITOR'S NOTE: I recall my parents using the term "rubbering" often, as in, "What are you rubbering at?" As a matter of curiosity, was this primarily a Maine, or coastal Maine, term, or was it used elsewhere in the U.S. or Canada in earlier days [as example, in the World War II era and into the 1950s]?)
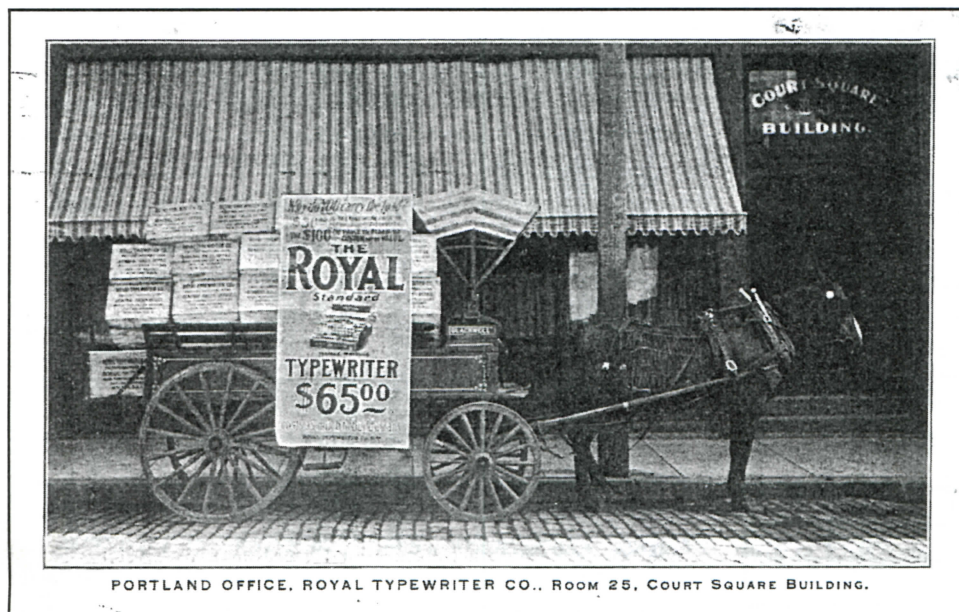
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PUBLISHING SCHEDULE

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.

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@gwi.net.

Hunting those small Maine post offices

Early post offices at Hutchins, Collegetown, Ducktrap

By Bruce Corey
Of Westbrook

Here is another segment of a continuing series of articles on the history of small Maine post offices and the community 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.

HUTCHINS (FREEDOM)
(Waldo County)
23 November 1894 - 31 May 1905; SR/6

First settled in 1794 by the Smith brothers, this area was named Smithtown Plantation in their honor. Later, the name was changed to Beaver Hill Plantation. Outraged by British attacks on District of Maine towns during the Revolutionary
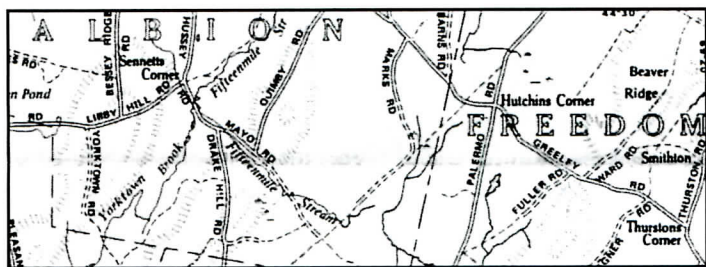
Map of Freedom locating Hutchins (noted as "Hutchins Corner"), just above the "R" of "Freedom."

War, citizens defiantly voted to name their new town "Freedom." It was incorporated on June 11, 1813 as the 197th town.

John Comings was appointed the first postmaster on May 11, 1816 and operated the post office from his home. The post rider delivered mail on a weekly schedule.

Hutchins Corner is still at the junction of the Palermo and Greeley roads in southwest Freedom. People living in this

Registered Package Receipt with Freedom cds at right and Hutchins cds (March 31, 1905) at lower left.

rural farming community used the post office and general store in North Palermo, only a few miles south. Charles P. Hutchins opened a small post office in his home on November 23, 1894. Later, he became a trial judge.

By 1905, an RFD route had been surveyed and would operate from Freedom west on Albion Road (Route 137), then down Palermo Road through Hutchins Corner to the Freedom town line. Charles Hutchins closed the post office on May 31, 1905. The RFD carrier made his first run the next day with horse and buggy. Postmarks are rated SR/6 and Hutchins Corner is shown on current maps.

COLLEGETOWN (DIXMONT)
(Penobscot County)
18 Sept. 1806 - 1 July 1807; CH: Dixmont; SR/9

In the mid-1790s, 20,000 acres of land, 20 miles southwest of Bangor, were granted to Bowdoin College. First settled in 1799 and soon called Collegetown, it was renamed Dixmont when incorporated on February 28, 1807 (in honor of Elizah Dix, an early proprietor).

Benjamin Butler received an appointment to start the first post office in town. Collegetown was opened on September 18, 1806 in the back of Butler's store. He kept incoming mail in a desk drawer and usually passed out customers' mail when they came into his store.

Map of Dixmont

The post office was not renamed Dixmont until July 1, 1807. One Collegetown marking on a folded letter has survived and it is rated SR/9.
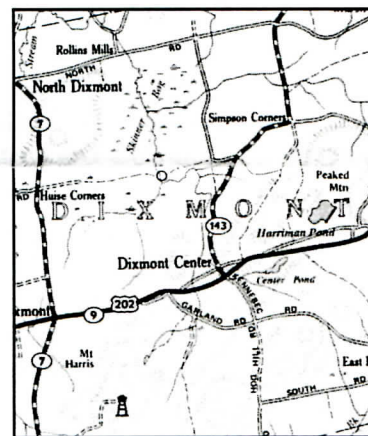
DUCKTRAP (LINCOLNVILLE)
(Waldo County)
1 Oct. 1794 - 1 July 1802; CH: Lincolnville; SR/8

Near the mouth of a tidal river, Indians trapped ducks while they were molting and unable to fly. That's why Nathan Knight, who built the first log home near here in 1770, called this area Duck Trap. General Henry Knox of Revolutionary War fame originally purchased this land north of Thomaston in 1792. Overextended financially, he mortgaged part of this region to General Benjamin Lincoln and General Henry Jackson in 1798. Meanwhile, the region was organized as the Plan-

Small post offices of Maine

tation of Duck Trap. When incorporated as the 137th town on January 23, 1802, it was renamed Lincolnville in honor of General Lincoln.

The first post office appointment was received by Joseph Adams. He set up the office, called Ducktrap, in his tavern on October 1, 1794. Incoming mail was kept in a wooden box on a table; people sorted through the letters to see if they had any mail. The post road passed through Duck Trap and the post rider dropped off any mail once a week.

Later postmasters were Josha Adams, Benjamin Carver, and George Ulmer. The post office was renamed Lincolnville on
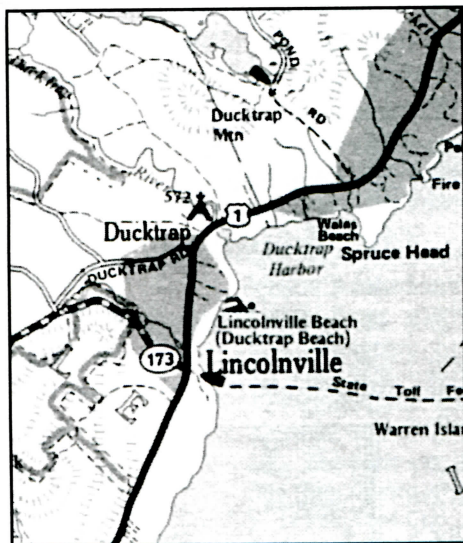

Lincolnville, showing Ducktrap just above the name on the map.

July 1, 1802. A current Maine map shows a river, beach, road, and village named Duck Trap in Lincolnville. Markings from this early post office are now rated at SR/8.

FORTUNE ROCK (BIDDEFORD)
(York County)
5 June 1886 - 28 February 1906; SR/8

Fortune Rock (named for luck) is a long, sandy beach, three miles south of Biddeford Pool and a quarter mile off Route 9. It always has been a summer community with beachfront homes, similar to Bay View, Camp Ellis and Goose Rocks Beach.

The post office in Fortune Rock opened in the home of the postmistress on June 5, 1886. George K. Burnham ran this office until 1898, and A.H. Lord was post-
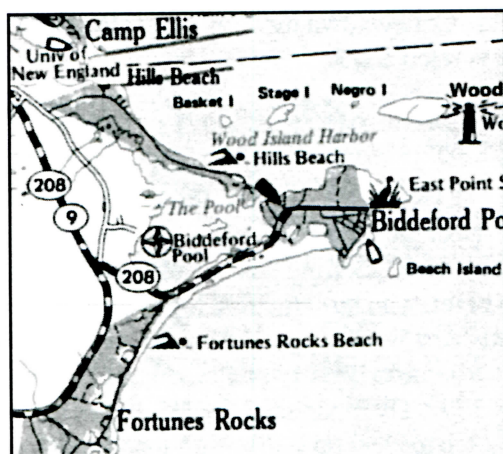
*Location of Fortune Rock (shown here as "Fortunes Rocks") in Biddeford.*

master during 1899. W.C. Bryant owned the Fortune Rock House and moved the post office into his hotel in 1900. This office was discontinued on February 28, 1906 and replaced by an RFD route from Biddeford. Postmarks are seldom seen and rated at SR/8.

Freshwater ponds are found very close to the high-water mark in this area. Mrs. M.E. Curtis ran the Curtis House for many years and Hotel Rox was operated by Emmons & Tanner. Also known as Fortunes Rocks and Fortune Rocks by different map-makers over the years, this shoreline community is still found on local maps.

GREAT FALLS (GORHAM)
(Cumberland County)
30 Dec. 1872 - 17 Jan. 1873; CH: North Gorham; SR/9

Great Falls was a small village lying along the Presumpscot River in the northern part of Gorham. The first building on these falls was a sawmill built of logs by Zephaniah Harding, Zebulon Trickey and Solomon Mains between 1767 and 1770. A bridge was constructed across the Presumpscot
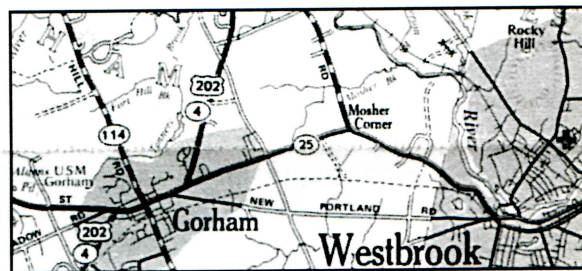
Map showing Gorham area.

River and an access road was cut through to the Windham road. For many years, boards from this mill sold for $2.50 per thousand board feet. They were hauled by ox teams in a two-wheeled cart to Windham Hill, then through back roads to the ship landing on the Fore River in Stroudwater. When the Cumberland & Oxford Canal opened through Great Falls in 1829, these long trips became a thing of the past. The canal boats would off-load lumber shipments at the landing in Stroudwater.

Great Falls had always received its mail from Windham -- in the early years once a week by post rider, later by stagecoach. Charles D. Seeley started the first post office at Great Falls on December 30, 1872. He operated it from his store near the abandoned Cumberland & Oxford Canal. On January 17, 1873, just 19 short days later, the name was changed to North Gorham. Several Great Falls markings have survived and all are rated at SR/9.

PIMNAQUAM (PEMBROKE)
(Washington County)
24 January 1827 - 2 August 1832; CH: Pembroke; SR/7

When the first settler built his log cabin in 1774 near the

Pennamaquan River (Abenaki for "sloping ridge of maples"), his land was still in Dennysville. This region was set aside and incorporated as Pembroke on February 4, 1832.
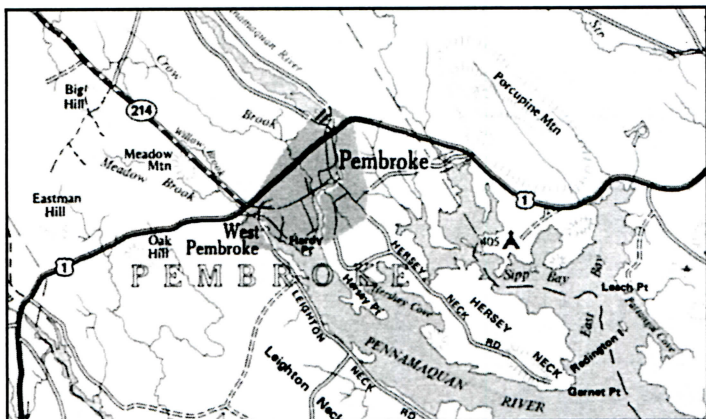
Map showing Pembroke area.

For the right to name the town, Esquire Jerry Burgin gave the town a set of books. He then named it after Pembroke, Wales (blocks of salt were imported from there to Pembroke, Maine, where it was refined into table salt).

The first post office was opened in the postmaster's home on January 24, 1827 and called Pimnaquam. When the town was incorporated as Pembroke, the post office name was finally changed on August 2, 1832. Pimnaquam markings are more commonly known now, so the rating has been changed to SR/7.
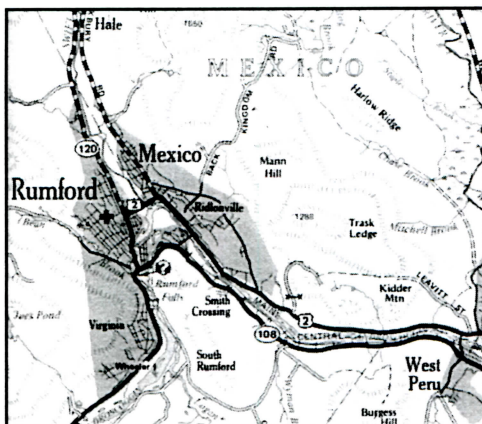
HOLMANTOWN (MEXICO)
(Oxford County)
16 October 1817 - 1823

Land across the Swift River from Rumford was first settled in 1790 and incorporated at Holmantown on February 3, 1818 in honor of an early settler. Ten days later, a request to change the name to Mexico was filed with the General Court of Massachusetts. Respect for the people of Mexico and their fight for independence from Spain in the early 1800s led to the name change.

Isaac Green received a commission from the Postmaster General with instructions for the operation of a post office from his store. Green opened the Holmantown office on a table in one corner of his small store on


Holmantown is now Mexico.

October 16, 1817. The post office was in operation nearly four months before the town itself was incorporated. Even though the town had been renamed Mexico in 1818, the post office was not changed until 1823 (exact date unknown). No Holmantown markings have survived.

HURD'S RIDGE (BURLINGTON)
(Penobscot County)
19 Jan. 1833 - 28 July 1838; CH: Burlington; SR/9

Tristam Hurd was among the first settlers who came to this township 45 miles northeast of Bangor in 1824. The residents voted to name it after Burlington, Massachusetts when incorporation took place on March 8, 1832.
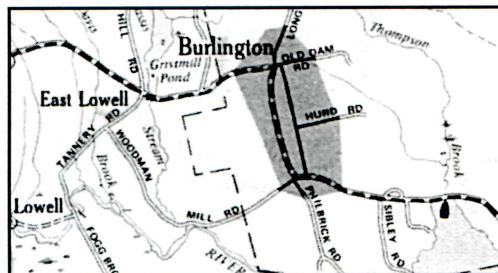
The first post office in Burlington was started by Ezra

Map of Hurd's Ridge (Burlington).

Richardson from his home on January 19, 1833. It was called the "Hurd's Ridge Post Office" to honor Tristam Hurd. Amzi Libby renamed the office Burlington on July 28, 1838. Hurd's Ridge markings are rated SR/9.

JOY (TROY)
(Waldo County)
5 Jan. 1817 - 3 June 1826; CH: Montgomery; SR/9

A tract of land 22 miles north of Belfast was first settled in the 1790s and organized as Bridgton (Bridgestown) Plantation to honor General Bridges (Bridge), the first proprietor. Early settlers voted to name it Kingsville (to honor Maine's
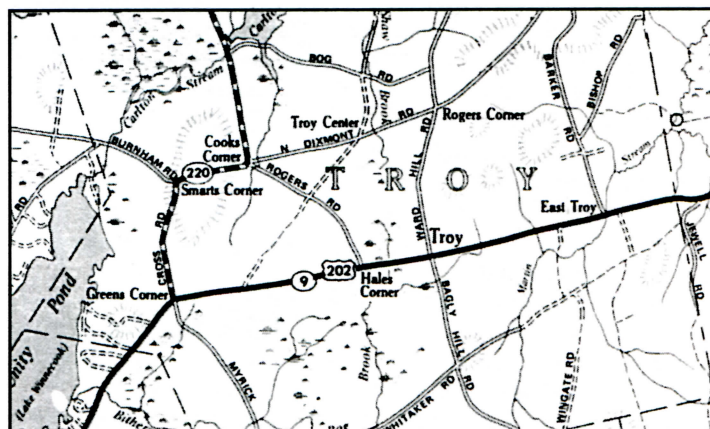
Map showing location of Troy.

first governor, William King) when it was incorporated on February 22, 1812. A few years later, the name was changed to Joy, for Benjamin Joy, a Boston merchant and proprietor in 1816.

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Josiah Mitchell was authorized by the Postmaster General to establish a post office in his town. Joy opened in Mitchell's store on January 5, 1817. Mitchell weighed and marked outgoing mail at the counter. People picked up their own mail from a wooden box that was kept on a shelf.

Less than 10 years later, the town's name was changed to Montgomery to pay homage to American General Richard Montgomery who died in the Battle of Quebec during the Revolutionary War. The last day of Joy was on June 3, 1826 and surviving marks from this office are rated SR/9. There would be no Joy in Troy!

MONTGOMERY (TROY)
### (Waldo County)
3 June 1826 - 30 July 1827; CH: Troy; SR/10

The town's post office was renamed Montgomery on June 3, 1826. Yet another town name change was in the wind -- and the last. Troy, a name taken from the ancient city in today's Turkey, was the new name for this town on February 10, 1827. The post office was renamed Troy on July 30, 1827. No Montgomery markings are known.

PLANTATION NO. 12 (ORANGETOWN)
(Washington County)
1 January 1817 - 1818; SR/9

A large tract of land bordered on the west by East Machias and on the east by the outlet of the Orange River was first settled by John Carter. He had served in the Revolutionary War and left the service as a Brigadier General in 1793. Shortly thereafter,
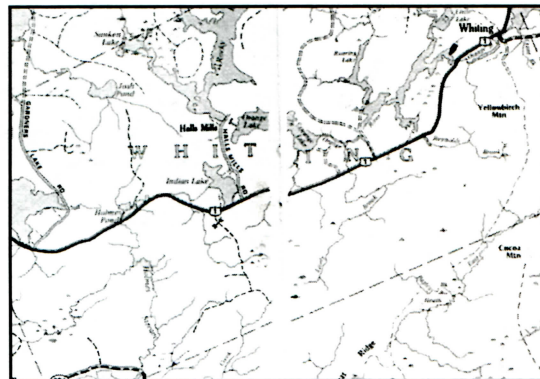
Map of Whiting area.

he moved to what would be known as Plantation No. 12.

Timothy Whiting, an early settler, was awarded the postal

M aine Cover of the Quarter

*A postal history feature
by Rob Washburn
of Skowhegan*
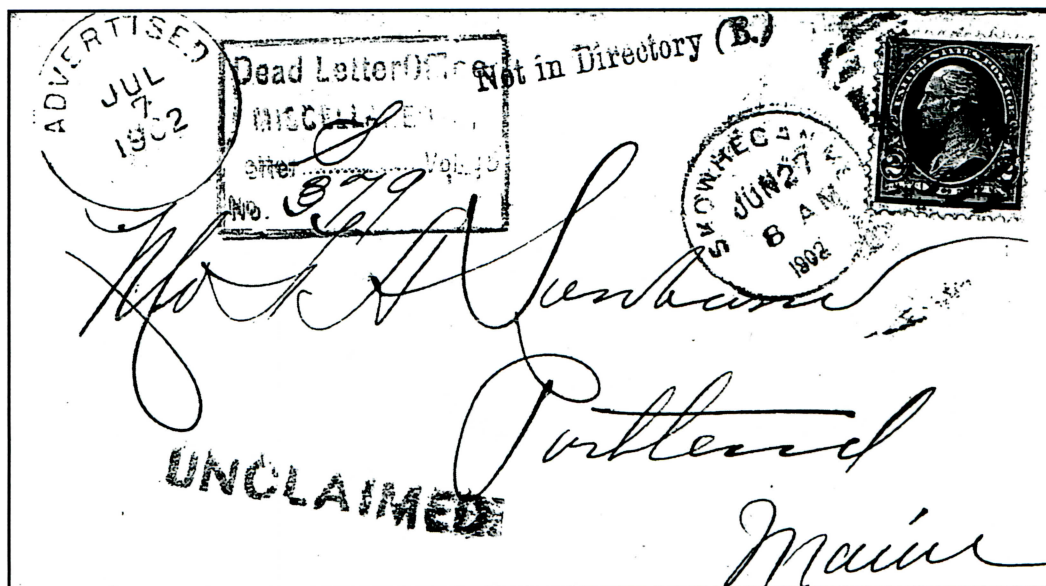
The above cover sent from Skowhegan to Portland features four different auxiliary postal markings:
• in black ink, "UNCLAIMED" • in purple ink, "Not in Directory (B.)" • "ADVERTISED JUL 7 1902," and
• "Dead Letter Office MISCELLANEOUS Letter S Vol. 15 No. 379."

(If you have an unusual, scarce or interesting Maine cover 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).

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contract. On January 1, 1817, he started a post office called Plantation No. 12 from a room in his home at the junction of the Eastport and Lubec roads. A post rider dropped off and picked up the mail once every two weeks.

Due to the prominence of Orange Lake and the Orange River, the plantation was renamed Orangetown in 1818. Postmaster Whiting changed the name of his post office to Orangetown that same year. One marking from Plantation No. 12 is now known to exist and is rated SR/9.

ORANGETOWN (ORANGETOWN)
(Washington County)
1818 - May 1, 1826; CH: Whiting; SR/9

Timothy Whiting continued to operate the post office, now Orangetown, from his home. On February 15, 1825, the town was incorporated as Whiting, in honor of Timothy Whiting, who donated 400 acres of land to the community. The post office was renamed Whiting on May 1, 1826. Orangetown markings are rated SR/9.

Secretary's Report Dr. George Bostwick, Secretary

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Bobby J. Barnhart Jr., Brunswick (*full address will be published in the April issue*)

EMAIL ADDRESSES

New email addresses have been listed below for Elwyn J. Doubleday, Steven J. Hogan, and James J. Quinn.

Please submit your dues renewal promptly! If your label shows (6-06), that means your membership expired at the end of June and this is your LAST ISSUE! Please send your $5 renewal fee today! PLEASE SEND DUES ONLY TO SECRETARY!

Are YOU on the Internet?

Here is a list of MPS members with e-mail

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Letters

Rarity guide

To the Editor:

Relating to the rarity guide, Halls Mills in Washington County is shown as a 10. This isn't a cover, but at least one postmark does exist from the place. It is in one of the collections at the Post Mark Collectors Club Margie Pfund Memorial Postmark Museum in Bellevue, Ohio.

It may be unfortunate, but the reality is that there was a time when cutting was the standard, and there are postmarks out there in the world which aren't on cover. This is one of them. The museum maintains collections of cut postmarks, in addition to the primary cover collections, largely for that reason.

Kelvin Kindahl
East Hampton,
Massachusetts

(EDITOR'S NOTE: *The Post Offices of Maine: A Rarity Guide*, published by The Maine Philatelic Society in 1995, lists Halls Mills in Whiting. The post office opened on July 6, 1915, and closed on May 30, 1918. It has a rating of 10.)

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

TO:

IMPORTANT NOTICE:
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