

Sandy River Plantation Postal History

Franklin County, Maine

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This page is part of the Maine Postal History website—a project of the Maine Philatelic Society.
For more information, see <https://www.mainephilatelic.org/mph>.

Sandy River Plantation is a Maine plantation in the west central side of Franklin County. Early, it was part of a multi-township plantation called Number 2 and 3 R1 and 2 and 3 R2 Plantations formed from:

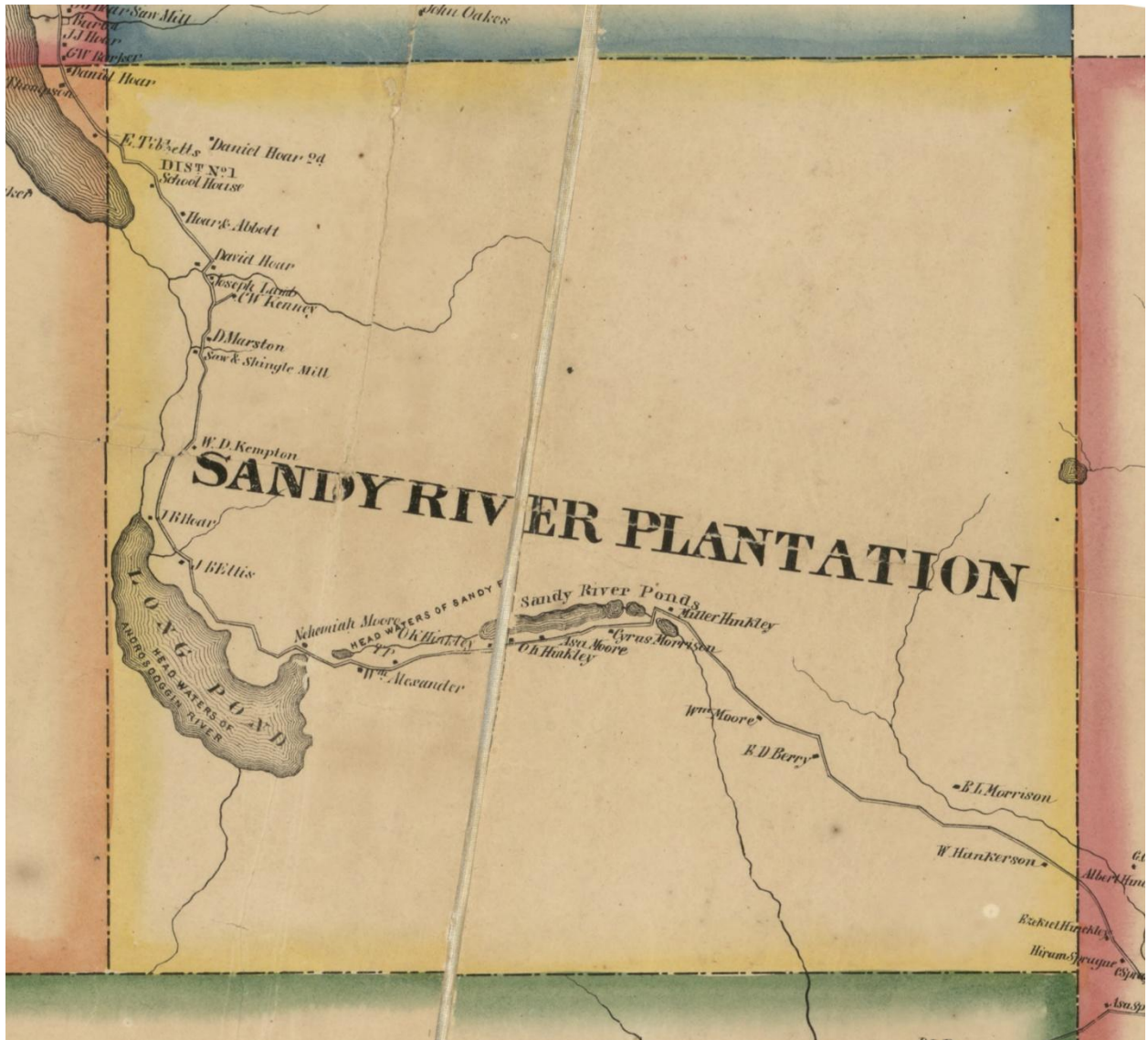
- Township 2 R1 WBKP (now Sandy River Plantation)
- Township 3 R1 WBKP (now Rangeley Plantation)
- Number 2 R2 WBKP Plantation (now Dallas Plantation)
- Number 3 R2 WBKP Plantation (now Town of Rangeley)

However, that long name was changed to Dallas Plantation in 1845 and changed in turn to Rangeley Plantation in 1852. Multi-township plantations were abolished in 1859 and split into four parts, including the present-day Sandy River Plantation. In 1865, the northern half was set off to form Greenvale Plantation, but it was annexed back into Sandy River Plantation in 1905. Sandy River Plantation has a tiny portion of Greenvale Cove of Rangeley Lake.

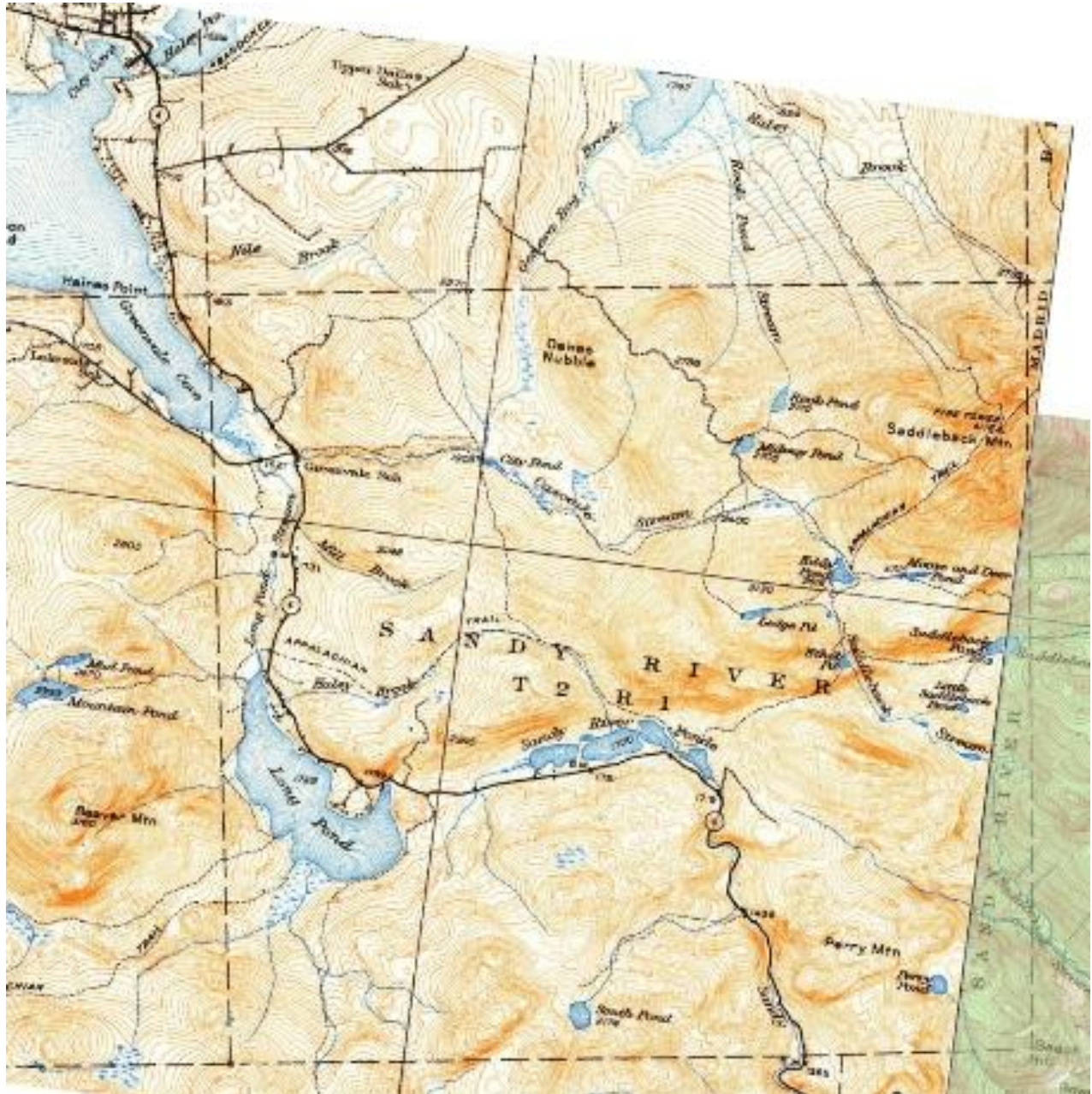
Briefly, there was one post office in Sandy River Plantation: Green Vale Post Office opened on 26 May 1868 and closed on 31 July 1901.



Greenvale was connected with the rest of the postal network via Rangeley as shown on the Post Route Map of Maine 1897. Detail from map image courtesy of the Norman B. Leventhal Map and Education Center at the Boston Public Library. Link: <https://collections.leventhalmap.org/search/commonwealth:cj82kk95k>



On this detail taken from the 1861 Topographical Map of Franklin County, Maine, by H. F. Walling, the settlement is strung out along a road that is now know as Maine Route 4. Greenvale refers to Greenvale Cove of Rangeley Lake, which appears in the northwest corner of the map. The home of Joseph Lamb, who was postmaster from 1871 to 1880, appears on the road not far from the cove. Entire map is available for free download from the Library of Congress. Link: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3733f.la000267>



Sandy River Plantation as shown on a composite of topographic maps from the 1920s and 1930s. Greenville is in the northwest corner of the plantation and once had a school as well as a post office. The village of Rangeley is just off to the northwest. Sandy River Plantation is bordered on the north by Dallas Plantation, on the east by Madrid, and on the west by Rangeley Plantation.

U. S.G.S. Topographic Quadrangle Map, Phillips 1929

https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/ht-bin/tv_browse.pl?id=352e4a63f7fb89afaad3e42d4b4a2345

U. S.G.S. Topographic Quadrangle Map, Rangeley 1933

https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/ht-bin/tv_browse.pl?id=1749de9be7b0682e719881e955ac35e2

<https://www.mainephilatelic.org/mph>

Green Vale

26 May 1868:

Green Vale Post Office opened.

26 May 1868:

Erasmus D. Prescott became the Postmaster of the Green Vale Post Office.

11 July 1871:

Joseph Lamb became the Postmaster of the Green Vale Post Office.

2 April 1880:

George M. Esty became the Postmaster of the Green Vale Post Office.

29 December 1886:

Lewis E. Bowley became the Postmaster of the Green Vale Post Office.

4 October 1889:

Ebenezer Hinkley became the Postmaster of the Green Vale Post Office.

24 August 1893:

Mary E. Clark became the Postmaster of the Green Vale Post Office.

13 July 1900:

Phebe K. Hight became the Postmaster of the Green Vale Post Office.

18 July 1901:

Green Vale Post Office closed effective 31 July 1901 with service from Rangeley.

Credits:

This document is based on the original web page compiled by the V. F. Thomas Co. (2021), with revisions and additions by James Husson and Brian Damien (2024).

Thank you to the Waterville Stamp Club (<https://thewatervillestampclub.com>) for helping ensure this project's continuity.

Sources

Postal History

Maine Postal History Gateway at Maine Philatelic Society:

<https://www.mainephilatelic.org/mph>

The Post Offices of Maine 2022, Maine Philatelic Society:

<https://www.mainephilatelic.org/books/TPOOM>

Postmaster Appointments

U. S. National Archives: Postmaster Appointments for Franklin County, Maine:

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/78746541>

For help in researching postmaster appointments see the Finding Aid for U. S. Postmaster Appointment Records, 1789-Present, <https://www.mainephilatelic.org/pma-findingaid.pdf>.

The Digitised U. S. Postal Bulletins and PL&Rs 1880-2013

<http://www.uspostalbulletins.com/>

U. S. National Archives. U. S. Post Office Department Reports of Site Locations, Franklin County, Maine. Reports for Greenvale:

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/68415820?objectPage=118> and six following pages

Additional material, including links to official records of postmaster appointments, can be found at Research Resources on Maine Postal History: <http://www.mainephilatelic.org/books/post-office-sources.pdf>.

Sandy River Plantation History

Counties, Cities, Towns and Plantations of Maine: A Handbook of Incorporations, Dissolutions, and Boundary Changes. Maine State Archives, 1980.

https://digitalmaine.com/arc_publications/11/

<https://historicrangeley.org>

Historic Rangeley, also known as the Rangeley Lakes Region Historical Society

<https://www.mainephilatelic.org/mph>

“Sandy River Plantation,” article in Maine: An Encyclopedia

<https://maineencyclopedia.com/sandy-river-plantation/>

Sandy River Plantation municipal government website

<https://www.sandyriverplantation.gov/>

Undiscovered Maine: Sandy River Plantation

<https://umaine.edu/undiscoveredmaine/western-maine/franklin/sandy-river-plantation/>

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Determining the size and type of a postmark or killer is as much an art as it is a science. Many of the cut squares originate from the digital Willett/Thompson Collection. Those postmark dimensions have been estimated by comparing them to a known object, such as a stamp, and using proportional ratios. These measurements may vary by a millimeter or two. Additionally, parameters such as V span or wBar for four-bar killers can be difficult to assess without examining the specimen firsthand. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of these interpretations.