

# Avon Postal History

## Franklin County, Maine

last update for this page: 8 January 2025

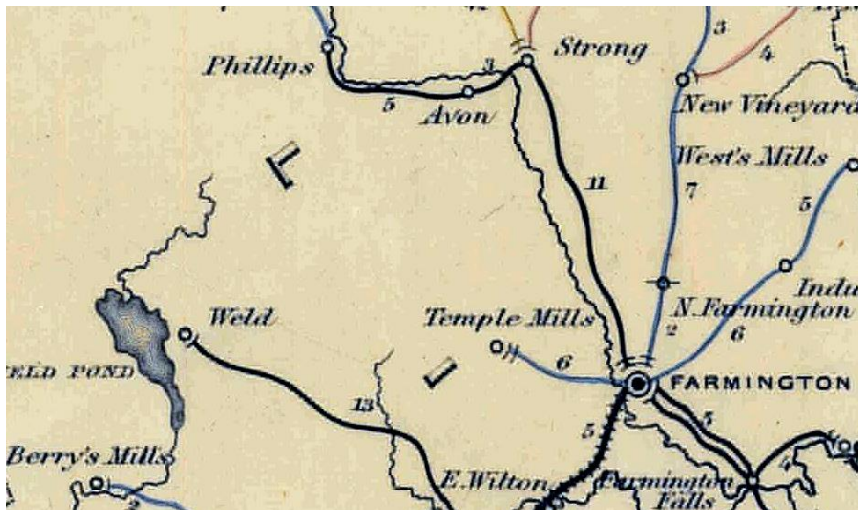
This page is part of the Maine Postal History website—a project of the Maine Philatelic Society.  
For more information, see <https://www.mainephilatelic.org/mph>.

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The first European settlers arrived in Avon in the early 1780s. Avon was incorporated on February 22, 1802, from Plantation No. 2 in Abbott's Purchase. It was part of Somerset County until 8 May 1838, when it became part of Franklin County.

Briefly, there were three post offices in Avon:

1. [Avon](#) Post Office opened on 8 January 1819 as part of Somerset County until 8 May 1838.
2. [Avon](#) Post Office became part of Somerset County on 8 May 1838 and closed on 10 September 1874.
3. [Avon](#) Post Office reopened on 15 September 1874 and closed on 27 May 1875.



In 1873, there was only one post office in Avon.

Detail from Post Route Map of the State of Maine, 1873.

Digital reproduction of map can be viewed or downloaded from the Library of Congress:

Source: <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/25464517>

## **Avon**

8 January 1819:

Avon post office opened as part of Somerset County.

8 January 1819:

Elijah Clark became the Postmaster of the Avon Post Office.

1835 December 22:

James E. Bates became the Postmaster of the Avon Post Office.

8 May 1838:

Avon Post Office became part of Franklin County. James E. Bates remains as Postmaster.

1841 May 3:

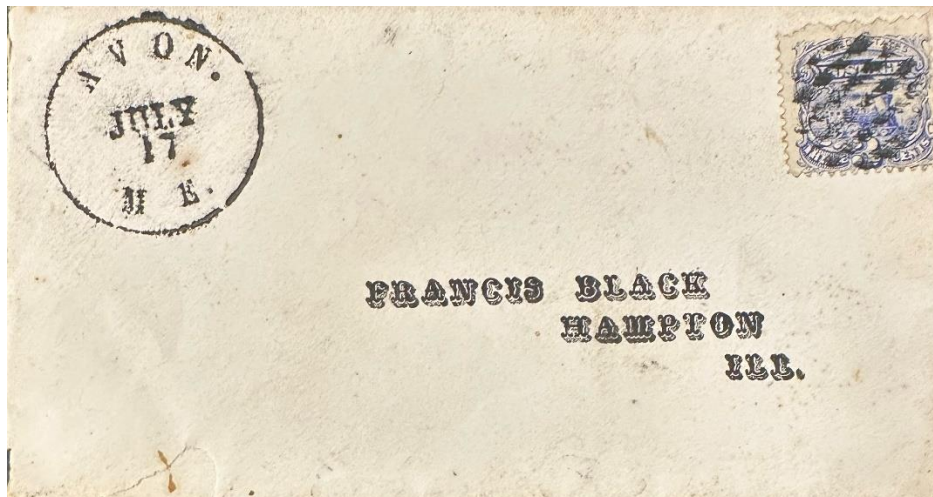
Daniel Towle became the Postmaster of the Avon Post Office.

1850 January 28:

Electa M. Towle became the Postmaster of the Avon Post Office.

1857 November 11:

Daniel Towle became the Postmaster of the Avon Post Office.



17 July circa 1870:

The circular postmark is 31 mm in diameter with a circle grid killer.





Above: Detail showing Daniel and Electa Towle's farm, location of the post office from 1841 to 1874; from Topographical Map of Franklin County, Maine, by H. F. Walling, 1861. Digital version of map available for viewing or downloading from the Library of Congress at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3733f.la000267>

Below: The Avon Post Office was located at the residence of Daniel and Electa Towle, who held the office of postmaster between 1841 and 1874. This illustration of the Towle residence appeared on the margins of the map described above.



1874 September 10:

Avon post office closed.

1874 September 15:

Avon post office re-opened.

1874 September 15:

James Badger became the Postmaster of the Avon Post Office.

1875 May 27:

Avon post office closed.

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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 for the contributions to this page by Jim Husson.

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:

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

*>>>When searching the Postmaster Appointment records, note that Avon was in Somerset County until 8 May 1838, when it became part of Franklin County. Postmaster appointments for Avon will be found in the files from both counties:*

National Archives Catalog: Postmaster Appointments for Somerset County

First frame, Somerset, Maine: <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/78746960>

Remaining frames in file labeled as Somerset, Massachusetts:

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/78746962>

National Archives Catalog: Postmaster Appointment for Franklin County

Franklin, Maine: <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/78746541>

Postmaster Finder by City:

<https://about.usps.com/who/profile/history/postmaster-finder/postmasters-by-city.htm>

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

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

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>

### **Sources, Avon History**

“Avon,” article in Maine, An Encyclopedia: <https://maineencyclopedia.com/avon/>

“Avon, Maine,” article in Wikipedia: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avon, Maine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avon,_Maine)

Counties, Cities, Towns and Plantations of Maine: A Handbook of Incorporations, Dissolutions and Boundary Changes. [https://digitalmaine.com/arc\\_publications/11/](https://digitalmaine.com/arc_publications/11/)

The Sandy River & Its Valley, by Vincent York. Farmington: Knowlton & McLeary, 1980.

Link to holdings in Maine libraries: <https://mainecat.maine.edu/record=b2605438>

Topographical Map of Franklin County, Maine, by H. F. Walling, 1861.

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3733f.la000267>

“Towle Family Correspondence.” Daniel and Electa Towle were postmasters of Avon from 1841 to 1874. Daniel left Maine to seek fortune in California between 1850 and 1853, and the letters Electa wrote to him are archived at the William L. Clements Library at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. This file describes the contents of the letters.

<https://findingaids.lib.umich.edu/catalog/umich-wcl-M-2888.12tow>