

Carthage Postal History

Franklin County, Maine

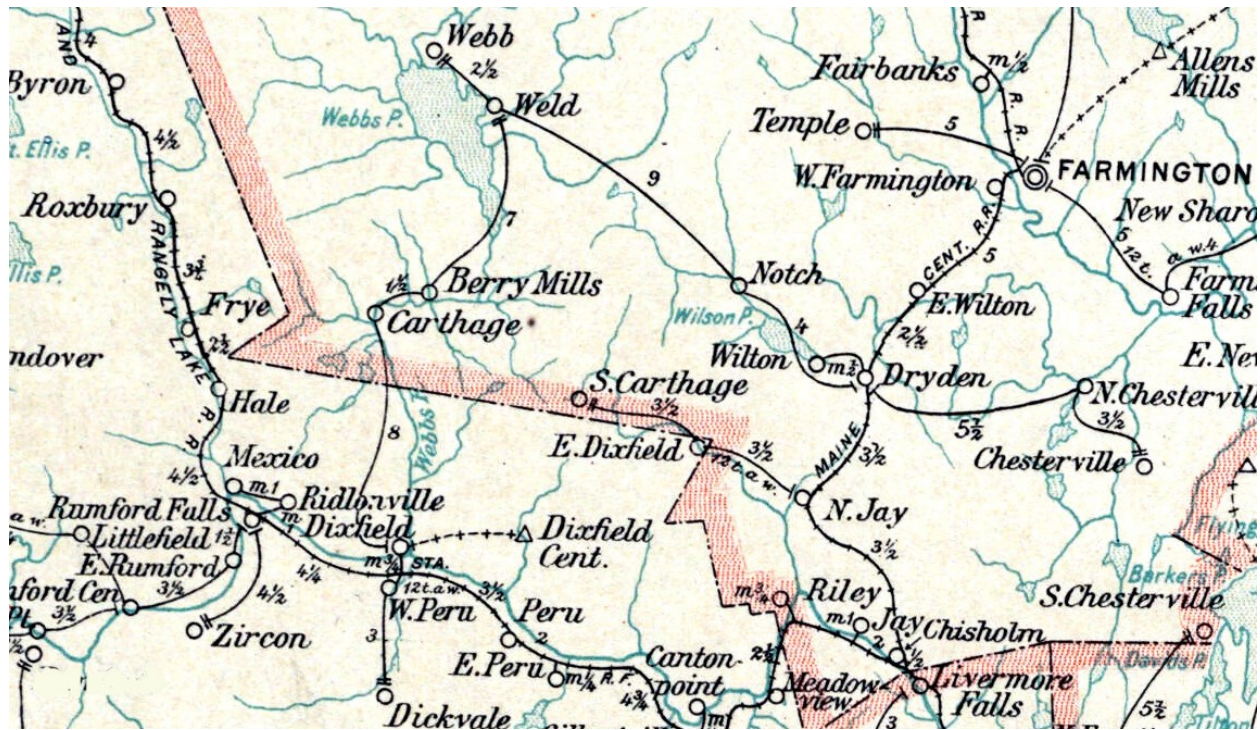
Last update for this page: 18 January 2025

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>.

Once known as Plantation No. 4, Carthage was first settled in 1812 and incorporated as a town in 1826. It was initially in Oxford County until 9 May 1838, when it became a part of Franklin County.

Briefly, there were nine post offices in Carthage:

1. [Berry's Mill](#) Post Office (formerly Carthage (1) Post Office) opened on 3 May 1862 and closed on 5 October 1892 and was renamed Berry Mills.
2. [Berry Mills](#) Post Office (formerly Berry's Mill Post Office) opened on 5 October 1892 and closed on 28 February 1938. Note: Numerous spellings have been used over the years: Berry's Mill, 1862 and 1868, Berry's Mills 1873 and 1883, Berry Mill 1885 to 1898, Berry's Mills 1886 to 1898, and Berry Mills 1896 to 1939 have been seen.
3. [Carthage \(1\)](#) Post Office opened on 31 March 1828 in Oxford County. The County changed to Franklin on 9 May 1838.
4. [Carthage \(1\)](#) Post Office, 9 May 1838, formerly in Oxford County, is now in Franklin County. Carthage (1) Post Office closed on 3 May 1862 and became Berry's Mills Post Office.
5. [Carthage \(2\)](#) Post Office opened on 7 December 1892 and closed on 15 June 1901.
6. [Carthage \(2\)](#) Post Office reopened on 14 October 1901 and closed on 14 January 1914.
7. [Carthage \(2\)](#) Post Office reopened on 8 August 1914 and closed on 31 July 1931.
8. [South Carthage](#) Post Office opened on 30 June 1851 and closed on 22 January 1855.
9. [South Carthage](#) Post Office reopened on 13 March 1862 and closed on 31 May 1908.



In 1903, there were three post offices in operation in the Town of Carthage:
Berry Mills, Carthage, and South Carthage.

Post Route Map of the State of Maine, 1903. Detail from map reproduction courtesy of the
Norman B. Leventhal Map and Education Center at the Boston Public Library.

<https://collections.leventhalmap.org/search/commonwealth:cj82km77v>

Berry's Mill

Note: Numerous spellings have been used over the years: Berry's Mill, 1862 and 1868, Berry's Mills 1873 and 1883, Berry Mill 1885 to 1898, Berry's Mills 1886 to 1898, and Berry Mills 1896 to 1939 have been seen.

3 May 1862:

Berry's Mill Post Office (formerly Carthage (1) Post Office) opened.

3 May 1862:

Wallace Clark became the Postmaster of the Berry's Mill Post Office.



11 November circa 1865: Manuscript postmark

27 March 1867:

Charles Cary became the Postmaster of the Berry's Mill Post Office.

3 May 1871:

William Clark became the Postmaster of the Berry's Mill Post Office.

8 April 1872:

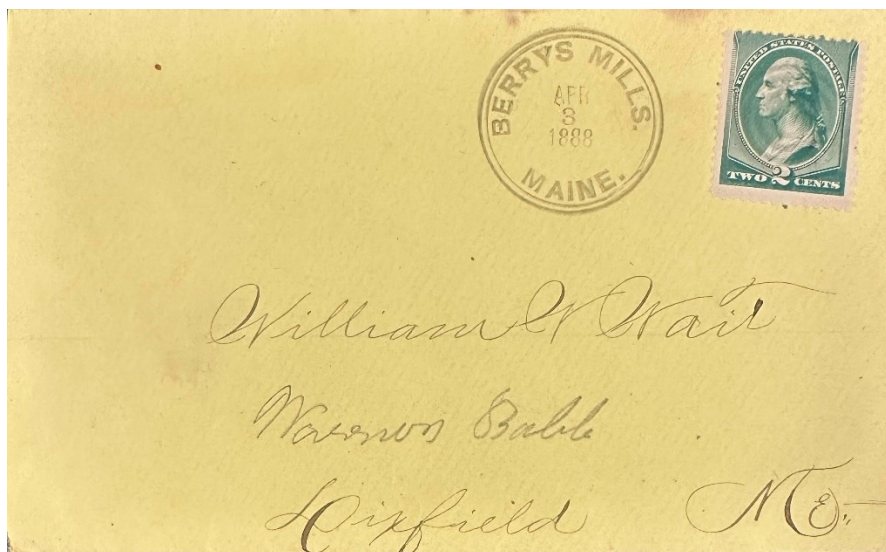
John L. Pratt became the Postmaster of the Berry's Mill Post Office.

13 November 1884:

Isaac Barrett became the Postmaster of the Berry's Mill Post Office.

13 November 1885:

William W. Goodwin became the Postmaster of the Berry's Mill Post Office.



3 April 1888: The double-ringed circular postmark is 30 mm in diameter with a faint three-circle target killer.

18 March 1889:

John F. Libby became the Postmaster of the Berry's Mill Post Office.

Berry Mills

Note: Numerous spellings have been used over the years: Berry's Mill, 1862 and 1868, Berry's Mills 1873 and 1883, Berry Mill 1885 to 1898, Berry's Mills 1886 to 1898, and Berry Mills 1896 to 1939 have been seen.

5 October 1892:

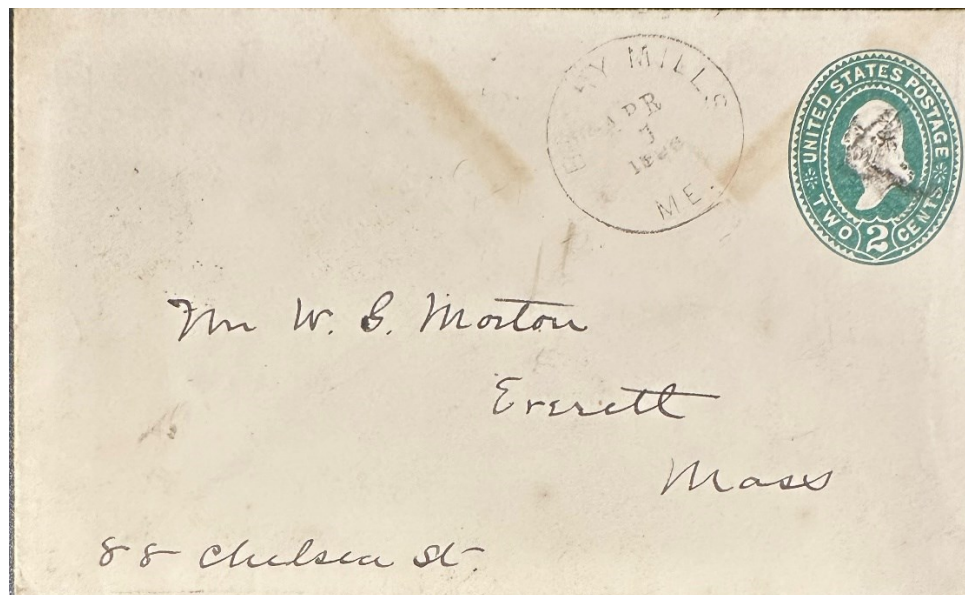
Berry's Mill Post Office closed and was renamed Berry Mills Post Office.

5 October 1892:

Greenfield Coburn became the Postmaster of the Berry Mills Post Office.

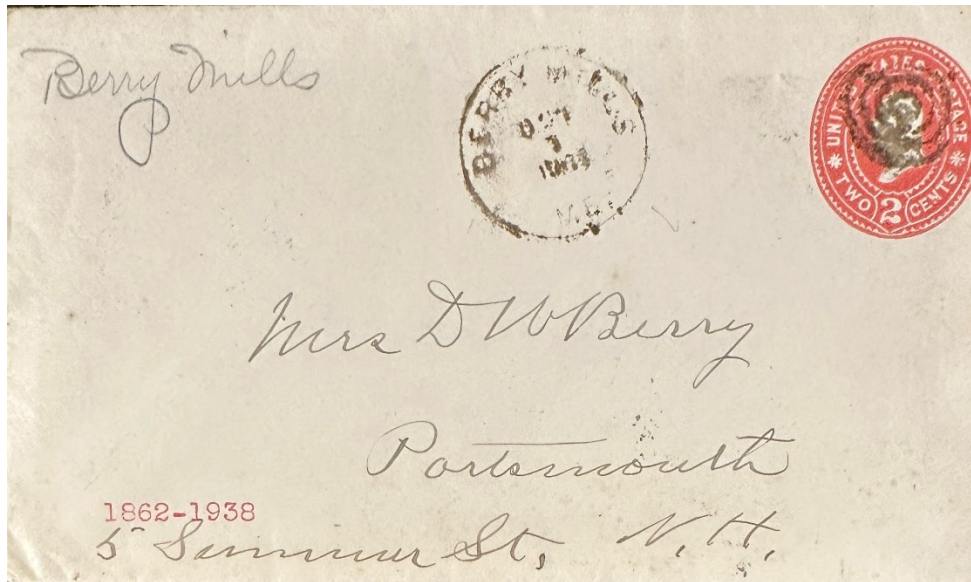
19 January 1894:

Luther Hutchinson became the Postmaster of the Berry Mills Post Office.



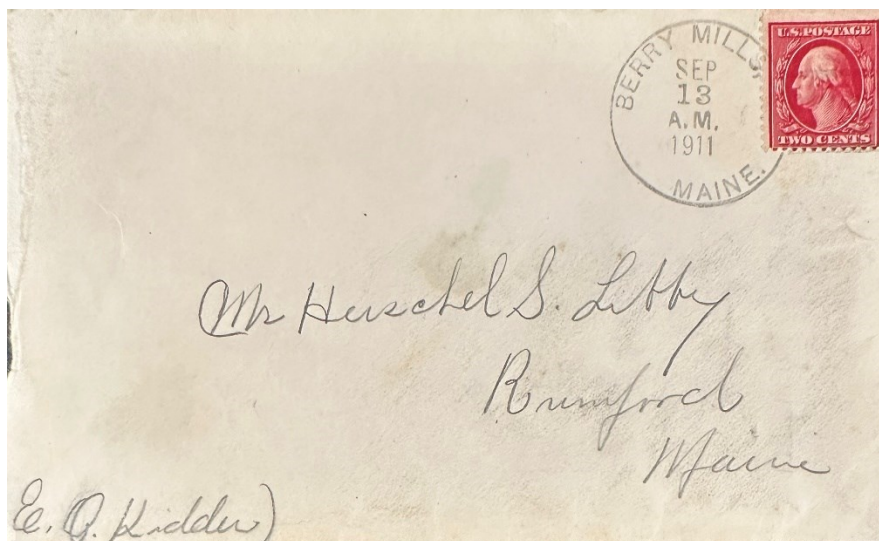
7 April 1896:

The circular postmark is 28 mm in diameter with a cork smudge killer.



1 October 1902:

The circular postmark is 27.5 mm in diameter with a four-circle target killer.



13 September 1911:

The circular postmark is 32 mm in diameter with a four-bar A/1 killer.

4 August 1914:

Etta M. Hutchinson became the Postmaster of the Berry Mills Post Office.

17 November 1928:

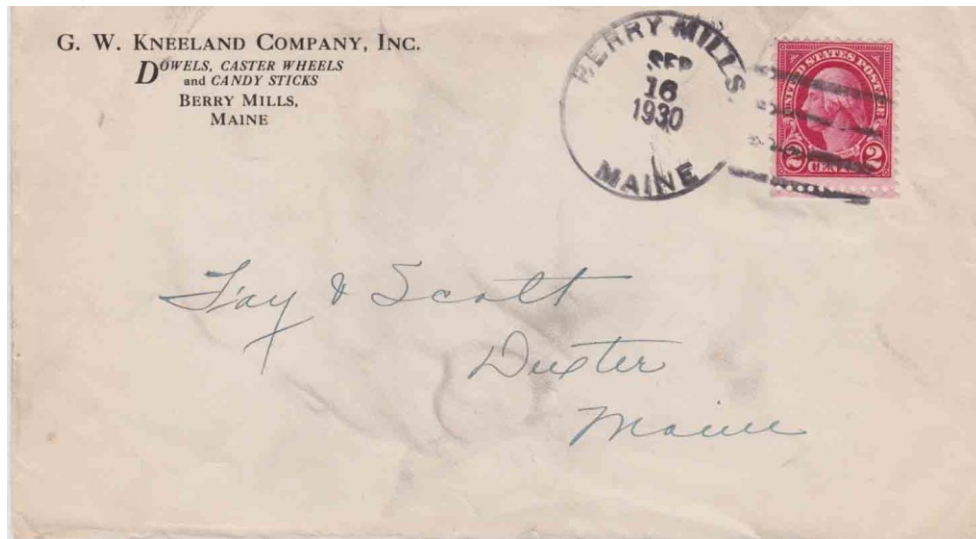
Mrs. Etta M. Stevens (name changed by marriage) became the Postmaster of the Berry Mills Post Office.

19 October 1929:

Mrs. J. Hattie M. Flagg became the Acting Postmaster of the Berry Mills Post Office.

16 November 1929:

Mrs. J. Hattie M. Flagg became the Postmaster of the Berry Mills Post Office.



16 September 1930:

The circular postmark is 32 mm in diameter with a four-bar C/1 killer.
A similar postmark and killer dated 20 August 1935 is known.

10 April 1937:

Frank H. Richardson became the Acting Postmaster of the Berry Mills Post Office.

15 May 1937:

Frank H. Richardson became the Postmaster of the Berry Mills Post Office.

1 February 1938:

Berry Mills Post Office closed effective 28 February 1938 with service from Weld.

Carthage (1) (Note: There were two post offices in Maine named Carthage at different times and locations. The (1) is just a notation. It does not appear in the postmarks and is only used by postal historians and collectors to differentiate between the different post offices.)

31 March 1828:

Carthage (1) Post Office opened in Oxford County.

31 March 1828:

John Storer became the Postmaster of the Carthage (1) Post Office.

14 December 1829:

Leonard Morse became the Postmaster of the Carthage (1) Post Office.

28 December 1832:

Daniel H. Bonney became the Postmaster of the Carthage (1) Post Office.

3 February 1834:

Gideon Powers became the Postmaster of the Carthage (1) Post Office.

23 August 1837:

Addison Powers became the Postmaster of the Carthage (1) Post Office.

9 May 1838:

Carthage became part of Franklin County. Addison Powers remained as Postmaster.

23 August 1837:

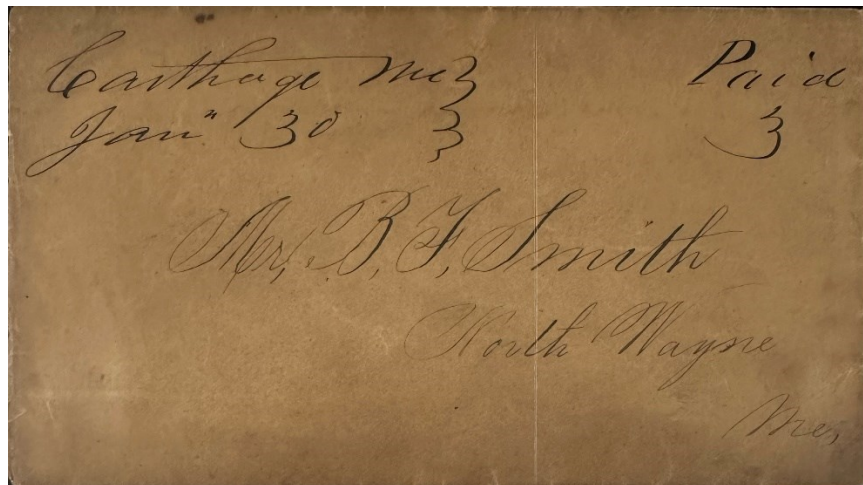
Lowell Mitchell became the Postmaster of the Carthage (1) Post Office.

8 July 1845:

Gorham S. Mitchell became the Postmaster of the Carthage (1) Post Office.

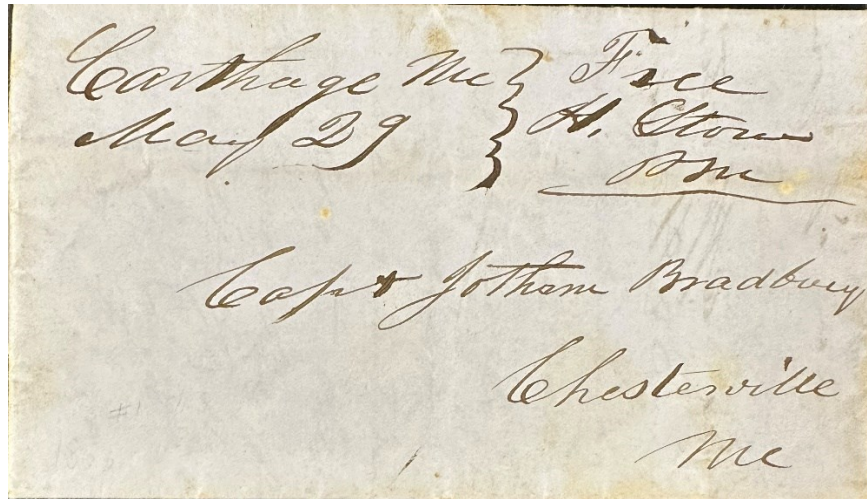
14 April 1846:

Harrison Storer became the Postmaster of the Carthage (1) Post Office.



30 January 1853:

Manuscript postmark and killer.



29 May 1853:

Manuscript postmark and killer with Postmaster's signature.

19 September 1861:

George A. Morse became the Postmaster of the Carthage (1) Post Office.

3 May 1862:

The Carthage Post Office closed, and the name changed to Berry's Mill.

Carthage (2) (Note: There were two post offices in Maine named Carthage at different times and locations. The (2) is just a notation. It does not appear in the postmarks and is only used by postal historians and collectors to differentiate between the different post offices.)

7 December 1892:

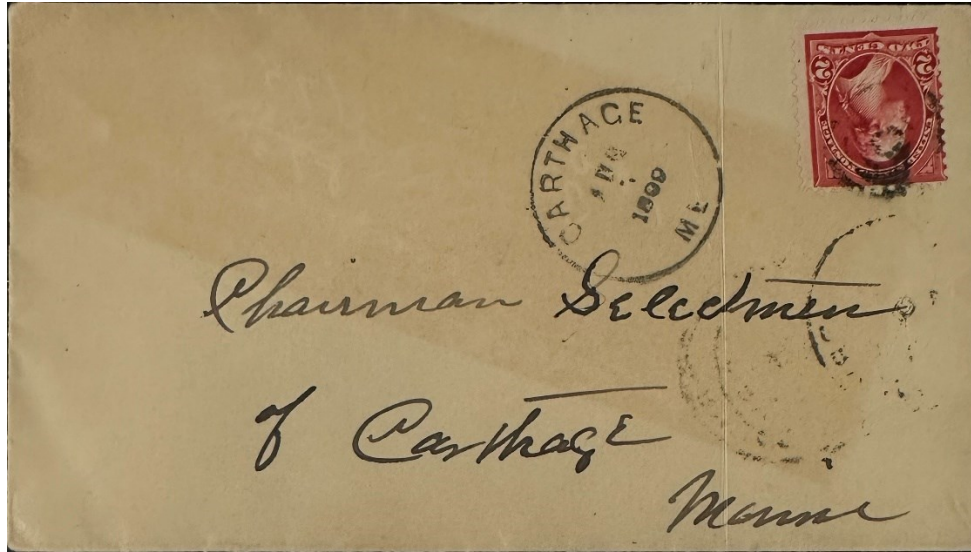
Carthage (2) Post Office opened.

7 December 1892:

Irene M. Staples became the Postmaster of the Carthage (2) Post Office.

25 July 1898

Irene M. Leach became the Postmaster of the Carthage (2) Post Office.



7 June 1899:

The circular postmark is 27 mm in diameter with a four-circle target killer.

29 May 1901:

Carthage (2) Post Office closed effective 15 June 1901 with service from Berry Mills.

14 October 1901:

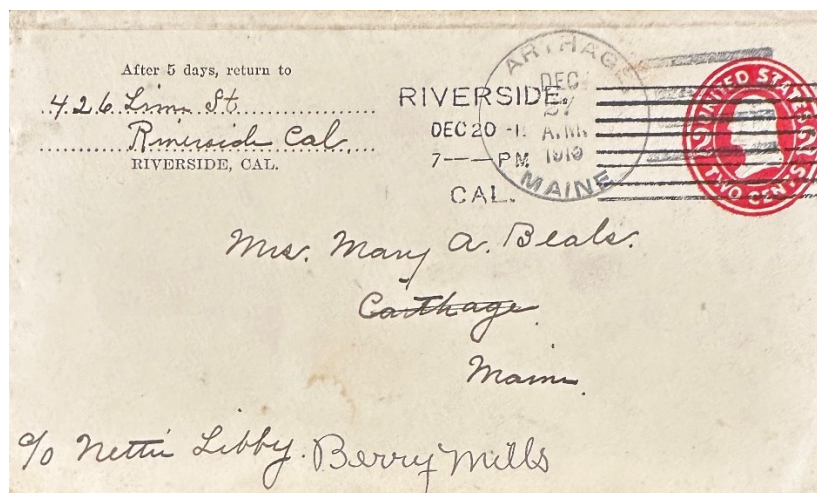
Carthage (2) Post Office reopened.

14 October 1901:

Mary H. Mitchell became the Postmaster of the Carthage (2) Post Office.

4 May 1907

Flora B. Brown became the Postmaster of the Carthage (2) Post Office.



27 December 1910:

The circular postmark is 32 mm in diameter with a four-bar B killer.

14 January 1914:

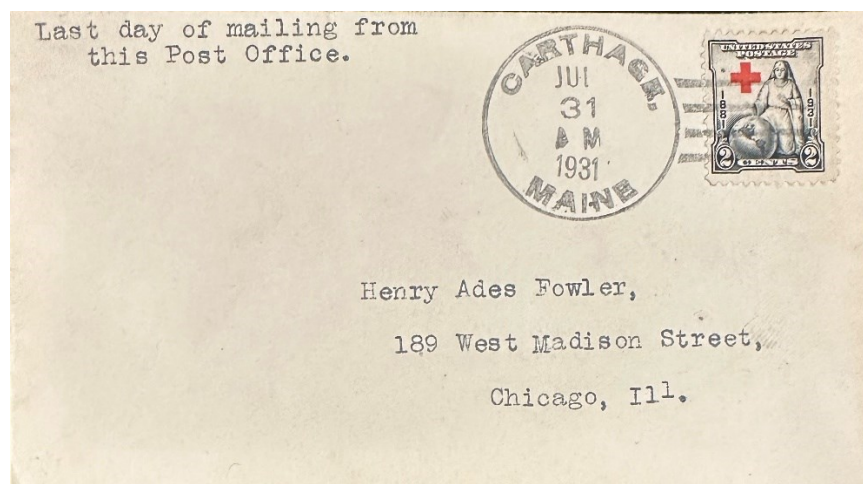
Carthage (2) Post Office closed with service from Dixfield Post Office.

8 August 1914:

Carthage (2) Post Office reopened.

8 August 1914:

Mildred C. Swett became the Postmaster of the Carthage (2) Post Office.



31 July 1931:

The circular postmark is 32.5 with a four-bar A/3 killer.

31 July 1931:

Carthage (2) Post Office closed with service from Dixfield Post Office.

South Carthage

30 June 1851:

South Carthage Post Office opened.

30 June 1851:

Wyman V. Tainter became the Postmaster of the South Carthage Post Office.

22 January 1855:

South Carthage Post Office closed.

13 March 1862:

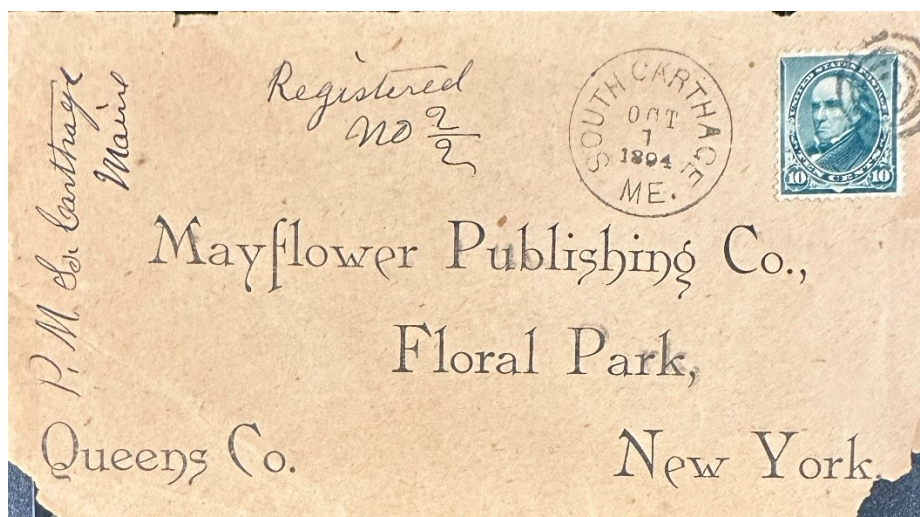
South Carthage Post Office reopened.

13 March 1862:

Wyman V. Tainter became the Postmaster of the South Carthage Post Office.

12 February 1886:

Silas C. Morse became the Postmaster of the South Carthage Post Office.



1 October 1894:

The circular postmark is 27 mm in diameter with a four-circle target killer. Similar postmarks and killers dated 9 August 1890 and 25 February 1890 are known.

6 September 1895:

Frank W. Morse became the Postmaster of the South Carthage Post Office.

29 October 1898:

Wyman V. Tainter became the Postmaster of the South Carthage Post Office.

31 May 1908:

The South Carthage Post Office closed with service from Dixfield.

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 the Strout Family, and 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:

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

National Archives Catalog: Postmaster Appointments

For appointments up to 1832 – which are NOT organized by county -- we recommend you consult the Finding Aid published on this website:

<https://www.mainephilatelic.org/pma-findingaid.pdf>

For appointments from 1832 up to 1971 -- which ARE organized by county -- please be aware Carthage was part of Oxford County until 9 May 1838. Appointments up to 1838 will be found under Oxford County, and appointments for 1838 forward will be found under Franklin County.

See the following files on the National Archives website:

for Oxford County <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/78746776>

for Franklin County <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: <https://www.mainephilatelic.org/books/post-office-sources.pdf>

Sources, Carthage History

“Carthage,” article in Maine, An Encyclopedia.

<https://maineanencyclopedia.com/carthage/>

Counties, Cities, Towns and Plantations of Maine: A Handbook of Incorporations, Dissolutions and Boundary Changes. https://digitalmaine.com/arc_publications/11/

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

<https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3733f.la000267>

U. S. Geological Survey Quadrangle Map, Dixfield, Maine 1926

https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/ht-bin/tv_browse.pl?id=052c8ab9f00102e3561b1731246c58a1

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

Sources, Postmarks

Anderson, Gary. Maine Doane cancels; from the Doane Cancel website,

[http://www.doanecancel.com/maine doanes.html](http://www.doanecancel.com/maine_doanes.html)

<http://www.doanecancel.com/doane.html>

Richow, Harold E., Encyclopedia of R.F.D. Cancels, Second Edition, LaPosta Publications, 1995

Sanders, Christine, The 4-Bar Postmark of the USPS, PMCC Bulletin Reprinted Article, Original Publication Date: June, July & December 2012.

[http://www.postmarks.org/resources/PMCC FourBarCancelsUSPS.pdf](http://www.postmarks.org/resources/PMCC_FourBarCancelsUSPS.pdf)