

Coburn Gore Postal History

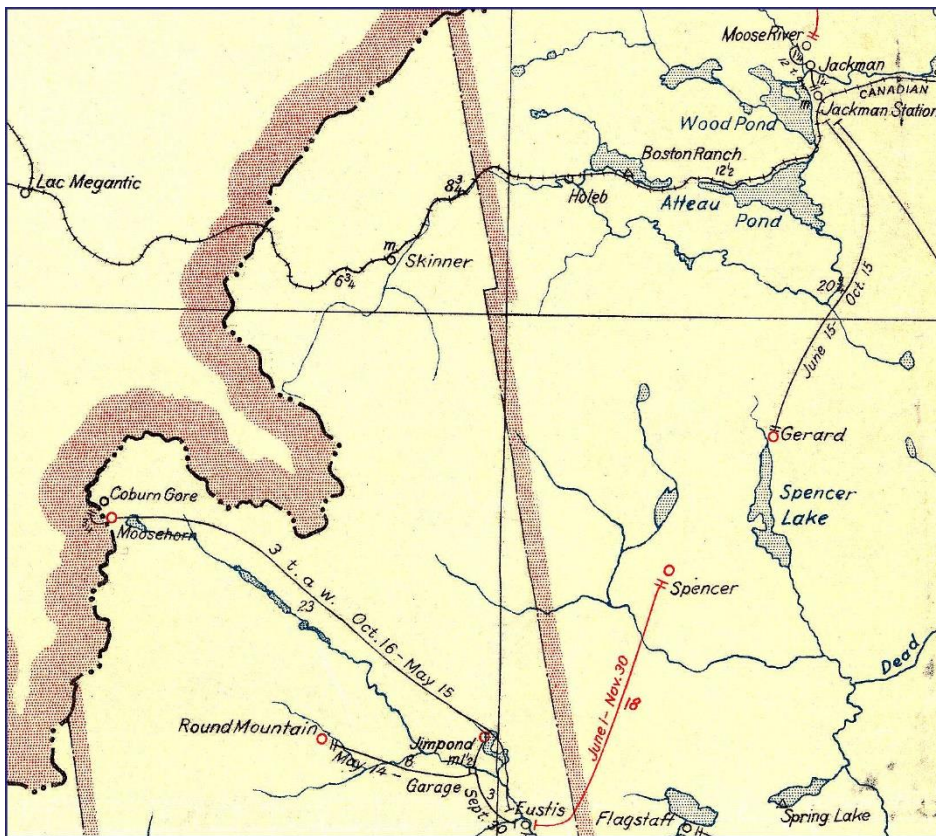
Franklin County, Maine

Last update for this page: 17 February 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>.

Briefly, there were two post offices in Coburn Gore:

1. [Coburn Gore](#) Post Office opened on 17 July 1939 and closed on 11 November 1960. This was a summer post office.
2. [Moosehorn](#) Post Office (formerly Big Island Post Office, which was moved from Seven Ponds Twp on 11 August 1932) opened on 1 October 1932 and closed on 31 July 1945. This was a summer post office. However, it did not open for the summer seasons of 1943, 1944, and 1945. Thus, the effective closing date was the end of the season on 30 September 1942.

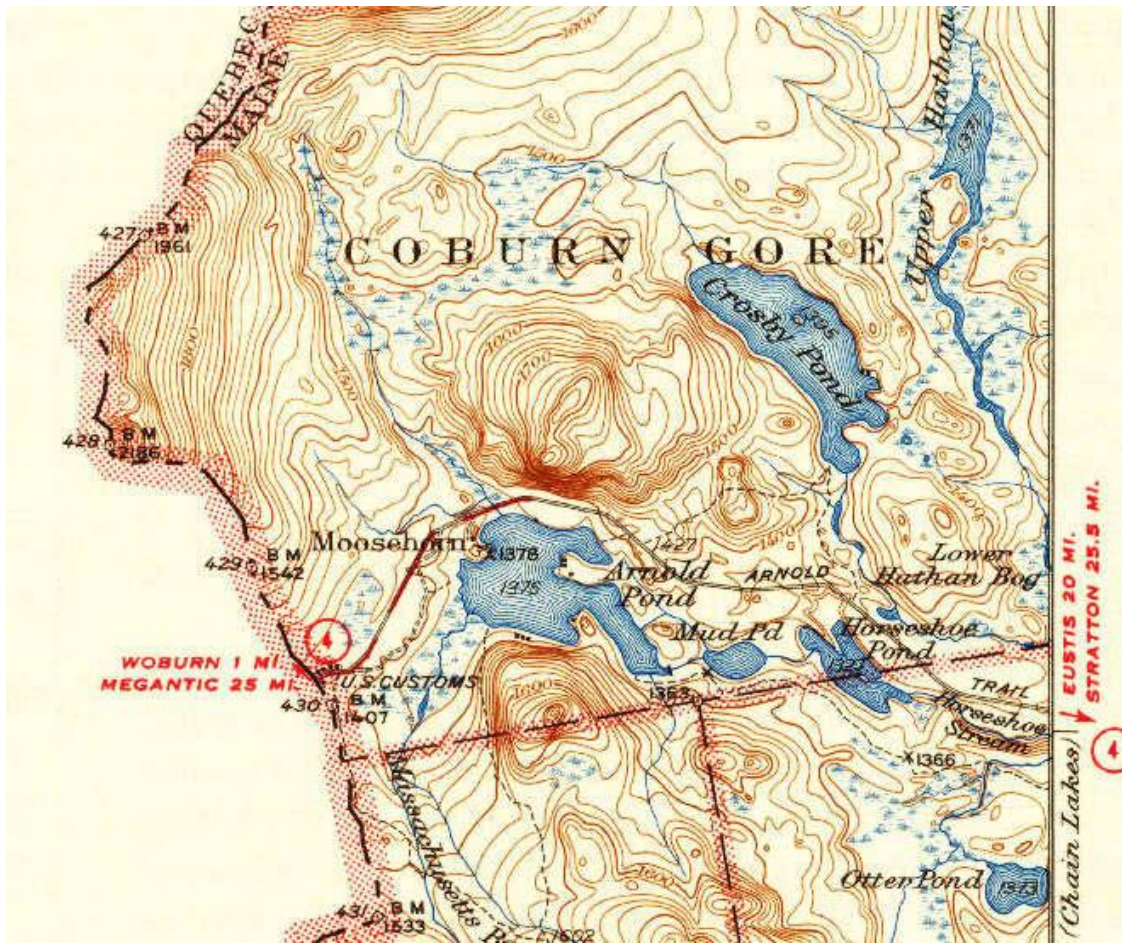


In 1941, both of the post offices in Coburn Gore were in operation. The description on the route to Coburn Gore shows that service was reduced to “3. t.a.w.”, i.e. three times a week, from October 16 to May 15.

Source: Post Route Map of the State of Maine, 1941.

Detail from digital version of map, provided online courtesy of David Rumsey Map Collection, Stanford University.

<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/s/zrc923>



The post office at Coburn Gore was located in the tiny hamlet near the U. S. Customs Station; the office at Moosehorn was established at the camps of the Megantic Fish and Game Corporation at Arnold Pond, to serve members of that club staying at the camps.

Source: Detail from U. S. Topographic Quadrangle Map, Arnold Pond, Maine, 1935.

https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/ht-bin/tv_browse.pl?id=1b8469a3d6e88f8d1958aed949dafa29

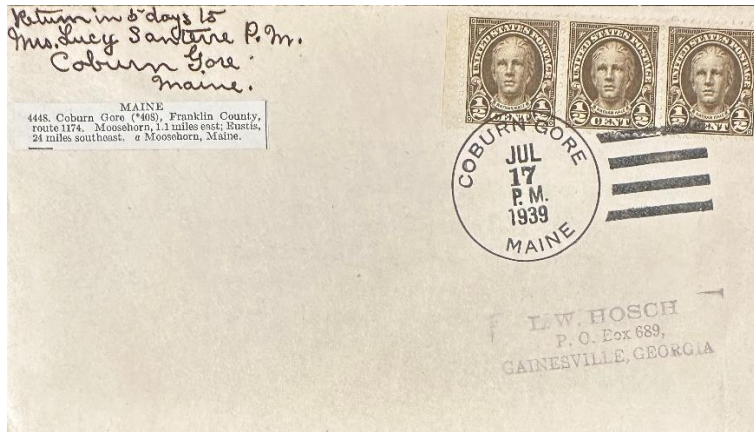
Coburn Gore

17 July 1939:

Coburn Gore Post Office opened as a summer post office.

17 July 1939:

Mrs. Lucy Santerre became the Postmaster of the Coburn Gore Post Office.



17 July 1939:

The circular postmark is 32 mm in diameter with a four-bar F/1 killer. Includes First Day of Operation and Postmaster's Signature.

28 October 1940:

Emery A. Santerre became the Acting Postmaster of the Coburn Gore Post Office.

29 May 1941:

Emery A. Santerre became the Postmaster of the Coburn Gore Post Office.

17 June 1941:

Majorie E. Gerrish became the Acting Postmaster of the Coburn Gore Post Office during the absence of the Postmaster due to military leave.

8 October 1941:

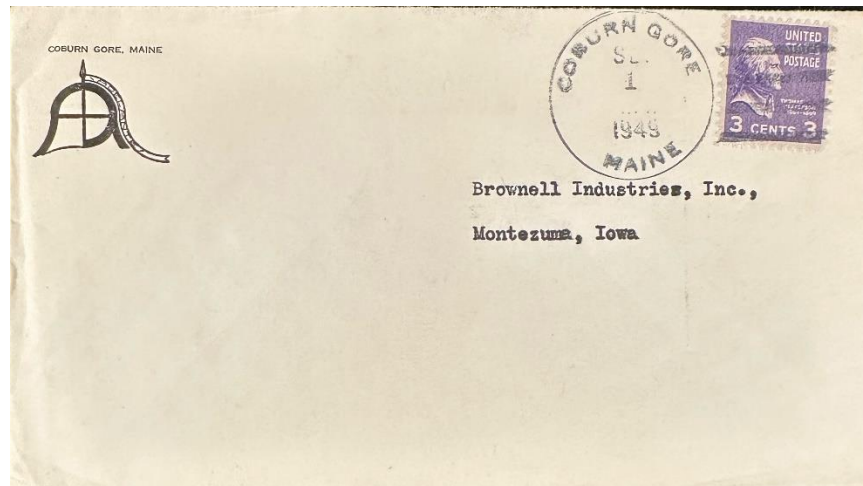
Miss Florence T. Lloyd became the Acting Postmaster of the Coburn Gore Post Office during the absence of the Postmaster due to military leave.

12 April 1947:

Mrs. Florence T. Lloyd became the (regular) Acting Postmaster of the Coburn Gore Post Office.

3 May 1948:

Mrs. Florence T. Lloyd became the Postmaster of the Coburn Gore Post Office.



1 September 1949:

The circular postmark is 31.5 mm in diameter with a four-bar F/1 killer.

12 December 1958:

Ruth E. Lloyd became the Acting Postmaster of the Coburn Gore Post Office.

27 June 1959:

Ruth E. Lloyd became the Postmaster of the Coburn Gore Post Office.



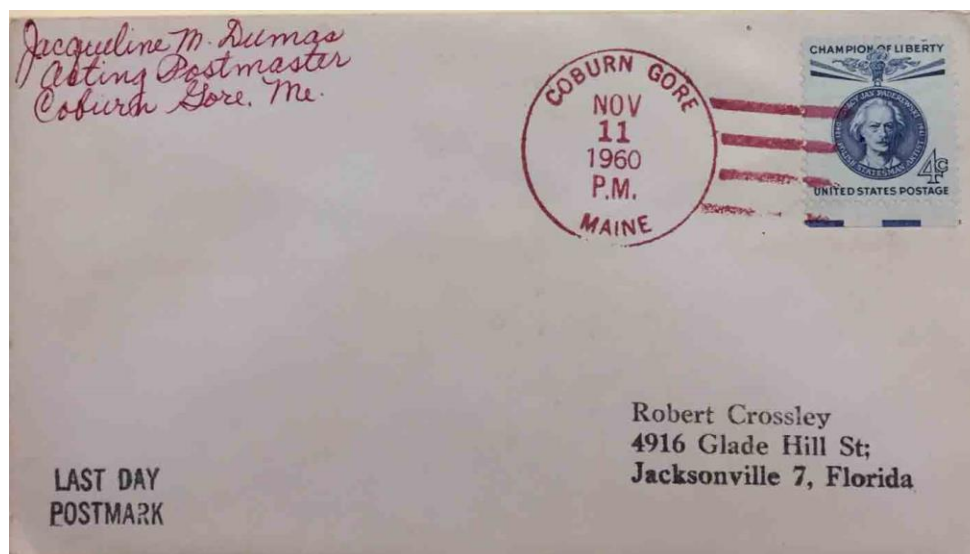
Coburn Gore Post Office in March, 1960

From collection of Maine Philatelic Society; unknown photographer

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

1 July 1960:

Jacqueline Dumas became the Acting Postmaster of the Coburn Gore Post Office.



11 November 1960:

The circular postmark is 33 mm in diameter with a four-bar F/1 killer—Last Day of Operation with the Postmaster's signature. A similar postmark and killer dated 11 November 1960 (Last Day of Operation) without a Postmaster's signature is known.

11 November 1960:

Coburn Gore Post Office closed with service from Eustis.

Moosehorn

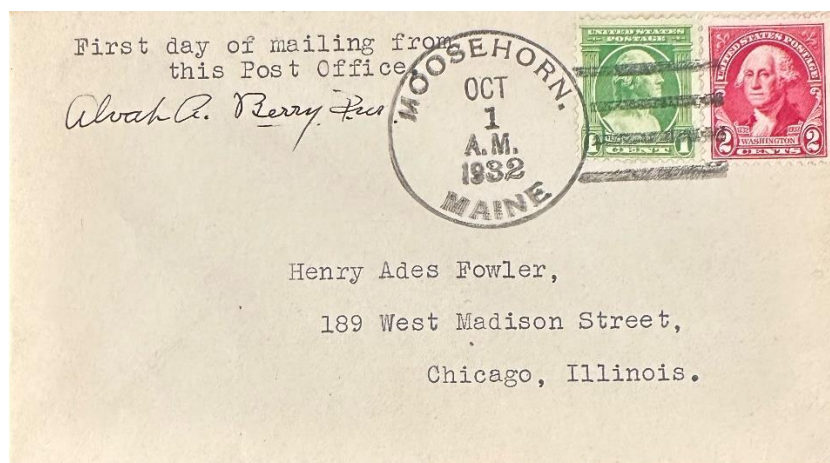
As revealed by Reports of Site Location documents filed with the U. S. Post Office Department, the Moosehorn Post Office was created to service guests and employees at the Megantic Fish and Game Corporation facilities at Arnold Pond, less than a mile from the border crossing and the hamlet of Coburn Gore.

1 October 1932:

Moosehorn Post Office opened. It was a summer post office.

1 October 1932:

Alvah A. Berry became the Postmaster of the Moosehorn Post Office.



1 October 1932:

The circular postmark is 33 mm in diameter with a four-bar C/2 killer—First Day of Operation and Postmaster's signature.



17 July 1937:

The circular postmark is 33 mm in diameter with a C/2 killer. With a Postmaster's signature. Two similar postmarks and killers dated 21 September 1938 and 28 September 1939 are known

1943, 1944, 1945:

Moosehorn Post Office did not open for the season.

26 July 1945:

Moosehorn Post Office closed with an official effective date of 31 July 1945. However, the last effective date of actual operation was 30 September 1942, with service from Coburn Gore.

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 Roland Simard 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 Franklin County, Maine

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

National Archives Catalog: Reports of Site Location, Franklin County, Maine

Link to image of application to open post office at Coburn Gore

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/68415820?objectPage=63> (and three following pages)

Link to image of application to open post office at Moosehorn

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/68415820?objectPage=170> (and three following pages)

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, Coburn Gore History

U. S. Geological Survey Topographic Quadrangle Map, Arnold Pond, Maine, 1935.

https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/ht-bin/tv_browse.pl?id=1b8469a3d6e88f8d1958aed949dafa29

Megantic Fish and Game Corporation Map

<https://digitalmaine.com/maps/51/> Large map, very intense detail. Best to view before downloading; Can be downloaded but file is extremely large (385MB) and in tif format.

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

The Megantic Fish and Game Corporation [book]. In digital collection of Bibliothèque et Archives National du Québec. Gives a glimpse of life at the exclusive sportsmen's camps that some summer post offices existed to serve. Large file, but can be downloaded by choosing the print option, then "printing" to PDF file.

<https://numerique.banq.qc.ca/patrimoine/details/52327/2675059>

Sources, Postmarks

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