

Hancock Postal History

Hancock County, Maine

Last update for this page: 04/24/2026

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For more information, see <https://www.mainephilatelic.org/mph>.

The Town of Hancock was incorporated on February 21, 1828, from portions of Sullivan, Trenton, and Plantation Number 8. It is known as a summer resort area and for the Kneisel Hall Chamber Music School and Festival. After the passage in 1929 of enabling legislation, it did a land swap with the Town of Lamoine, thereby moving the Marlboro area completely out of the Town of Hancock and into the boundaries of the Town of Lamoine.

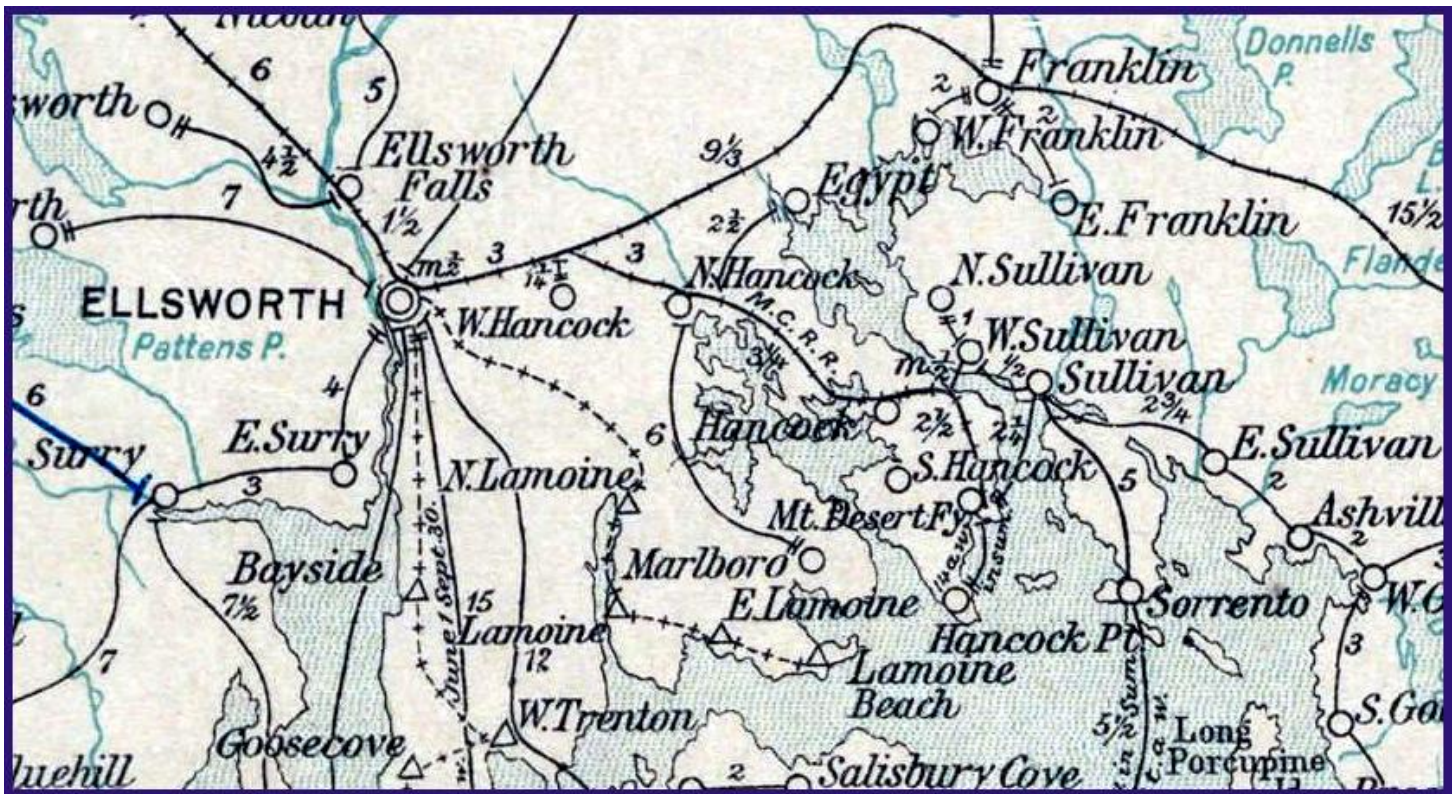
During the history of the Town of Hancock, there have been eleven post offices.

Briefly, the history of these ten post offices is as follows.

1. [Crabtree's Point](#) Post Office opened on 8 March 1870. It closed on 2 May 1870 and was renamed South Hancock Post Office.
2. [Franklin Road](#) Post Office (formerly North Hancock Post Office) opened on 1 December 1927 and closed on 28 February 1930:
3. [Hancock](#) Post Office opened on 29 April 1828 and closed on 28 April 1829.
4. [Hancock](#) Post Office re-opened on 29 May 1830 and is still operating.
5. [Hancock Point](#) Post Office opened on 5 April 1883 and closed on 19 May 1967.
6. [Hancock Point RS/CPO Hancock](#) Post Office opened in the summer of 1967 (presumed); (the earliest known use is 1974); summer office only, the post office used only "Hancock" in later years. Closed sometime between 2004 and 2010.
7. Marlboro was originally in the Town of Hancock, but the Marlboro area was annexed to Lamoine in a land swap. See the [Lamoine Postal History page](#) for details on that office.
8. [Mount Desert Ferry](#) Post Office opened on 30 December 1884 and closed on 31 December 1942.
9. [North Hancock](#) Post Office opened on 13 March 1844. On 9 November 1927 it was renamed Franklin Road Post Office, which closed on 28 February 1930.
10. [South Hancock](#) Post Office (formerly Crabtree's Point Post Office) opened on 2 May 1870 and closed on 30 August 1930.
11. [West Hancock](#) Post Office opened on 21 June 1886 to 31 March 1907.



In 1881 there were three post offices in Hancock: North Hancock, Hancock, and South Hancock. Note that the settlement (not labeled on this map, but known as Marlboro) on the west side of the Skillings River was detached from Hancock and annexed to Marlboro after 1929. Detail from map in the Atlas of Hancock County, Maine, 1881 by George N. Colby. Map is available for download from the Digital Maine Repository: https://digitalmaine.com/atlas_hancock_1881/33/



In 1903 there were seven post offices in the Town of Hancock: Hancock, Hancock Point, Marlboro, Mount Desert Ferry, North Hancock, South Hancock, and West Hancock. Detail is taken from digital copy of Post Route Map of the State of Maine 1903, provided courtesy of the Norman B. Leventhal Map and Education Center at the Boston Public Library. Link: <https://collections.leventhalmap.org/search/commonwealth:cj82km77v>

Crabtree's Point

8 March 1870:

Crabtree's Point Post Office opened.

8 March 1870:

Oliver W. Young became the Postmaster of the Crabtree's Post Office.

2 May 1870:

Crabtree's Point Post Office closed and was renamed South Hancock Post Office.

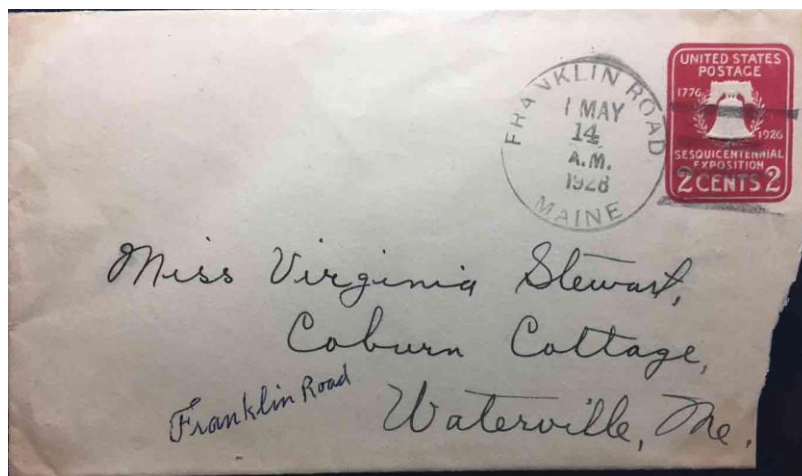
Franklin Road

1 December 1927:

Franklin Road Post Office (formerly North Hancock Post Office) opened. (Per Postal Bulletin 14529, but 11 September 1927 per Postmaster Appointment Records)

29 September 1913:

Mrs. Lena F. Stuart became the Postmaster of the North Hancock Post Office and remained as Postmaster when the North Hancock Post Office name was changed to the Franklin Road Post Office.



14 May 1928:

The circular postmark is 31.5 mm in diameter with a four-bar C/1 killer.
A similar postmark and killer dated 22 December 1927 is known.

28 February 1930:

Franklin Road Post Office closed with service from Ellsworth.

Hancock

29 April 1828:

Hancock Post Office opened:

29 April 1828:

William Abbott became the Postmaster of the Hancock Post Office.

28 April 1829:

Hancock Post Office closed.

Hancock

29 May 1830:

Hancock Post Office reopened.

29 May 1830:

Joseph Stratton became the Postmaster of the Hancock Post Office.

29 July 1833:

Martin Stratton became the Postmaster of the Hancock Post Office.

18 September 1843:

Lemuel Crabtree, Jr. became the Postmaster of the Hancock Post Office.

11 December 1854:

Pelatah Moore became the Postmaster of the Hancock Post Office.

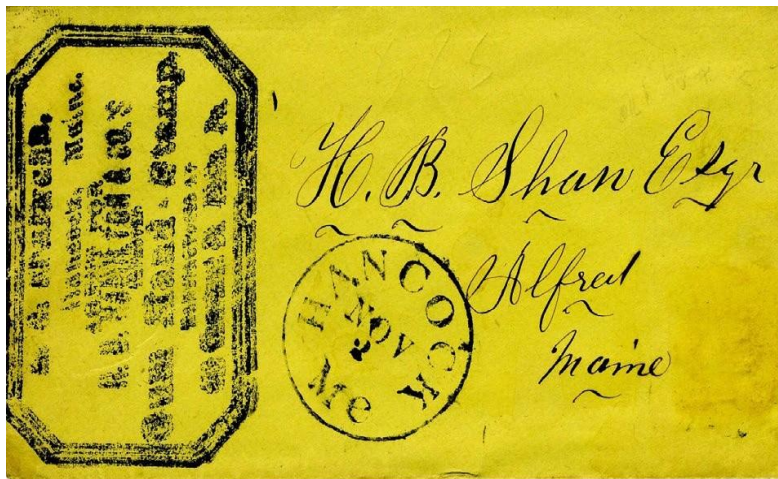


Date unknown:
The size of the circular postmark is unknown.

In many cases, surviving postmarks are only small cut pieces. While they show what the dial of the postmark looked like, the best practice today is to save the entire envelope or card that bears the postmark.

9 March 1861:

Lemuel Crabtree, Jr. became the Postmaster of the Hancock Post Office.



Date unknown,
The size of the circular postmark is unknown. (note: lowercase e)

30 July 1867:

Pelatih Moore became the Postmaster of the Hancock Post Office.

26 April 1869:

Alfred B. Crabtree became the Postmaster of the Hancock Post Office.

15 October 1885:

Alfred S. Wooster became the Postmaster of the Hancock Post Office.

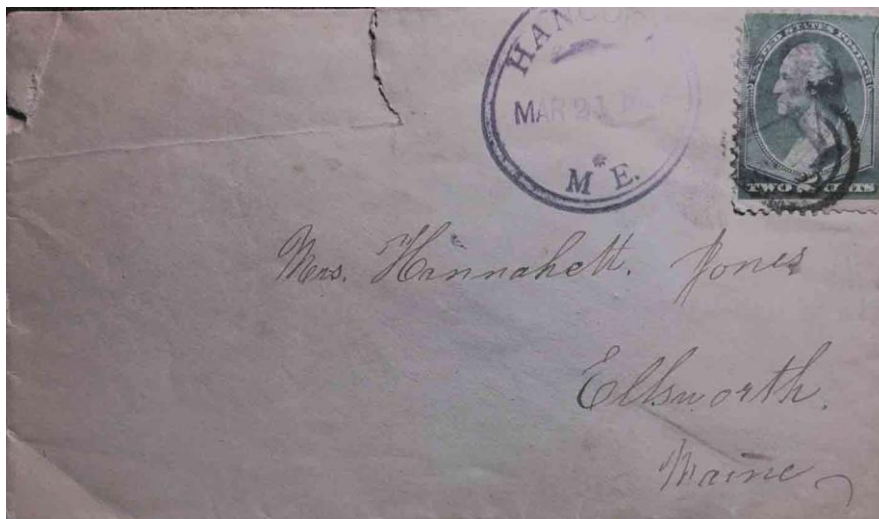
26 May 1886:

Calvin B. Young became the Postmaster of the Hancock Post Office.



30 May 1887:

Double outer ring date stamp with star killer.



21 March 1888:

The outer circle of this double circular postmark is 30 mm in diameter with a target killer.
A similar postmark and killer dated 4 March 1889 is known.

15 June 1889:

Oscar L. Crabtree became the Postmaster of the Hancock Post Office.

9 May 1893:

Mary F. Abbott became the Postmaster of the Hancock Post Office.

14 May 1898:

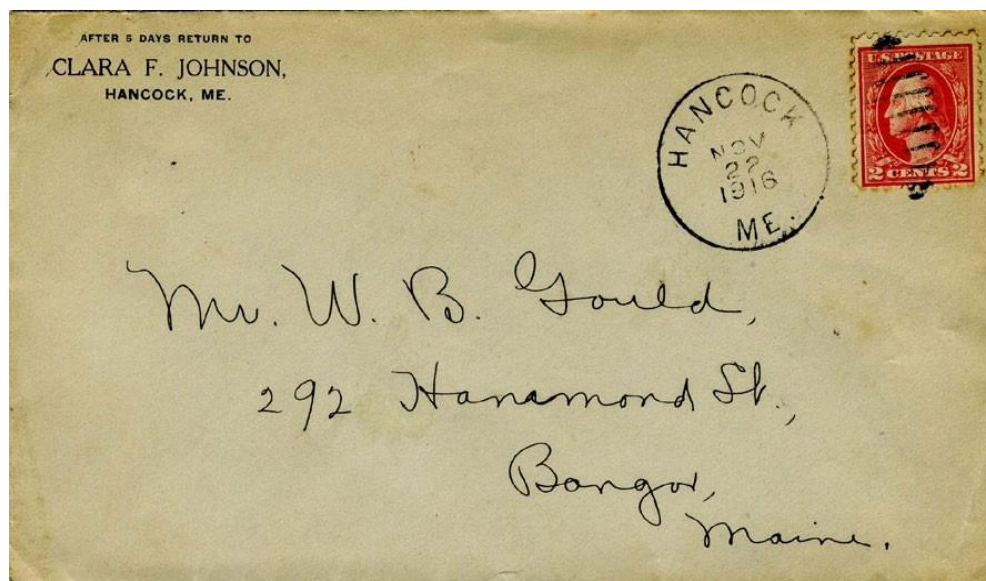
Nellie M. Crabtree became the Postmaster of the Hancock Post Office.

22 November 1911:

Nellie C. Foss became the Postmaster of the Hancock Post Office.

24 December 1914:

Calvin B. Young became the Postmaster of the Hancock Post Office.



22 November 1916:

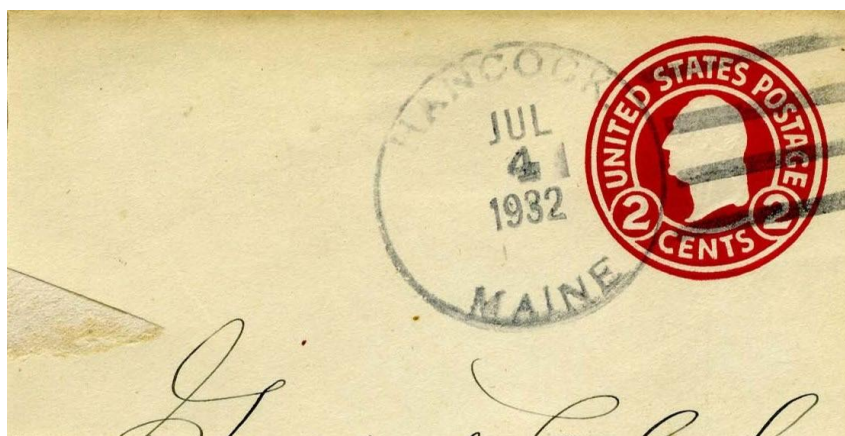
The circular postmark is 27.5 mm with a nine-bar oval duplex killer.

3 March 1923:

Alfred E. Crabtree became the Postmaster of the Hancock Post Office.

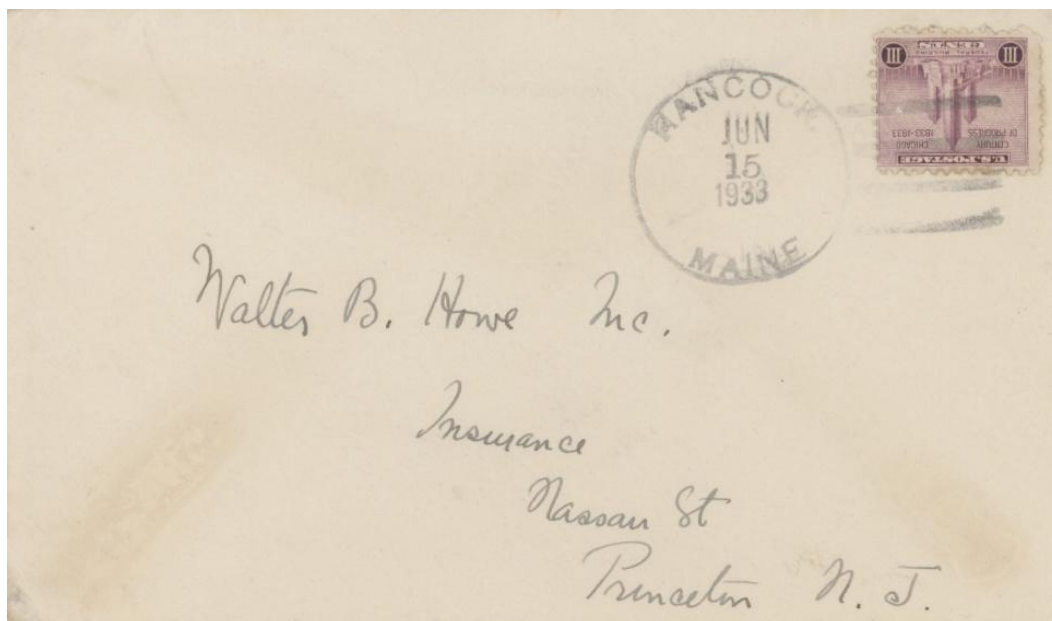


Circa 1925: Hancock Post Office – Photo Credit – Maine Philatelic Society Collection



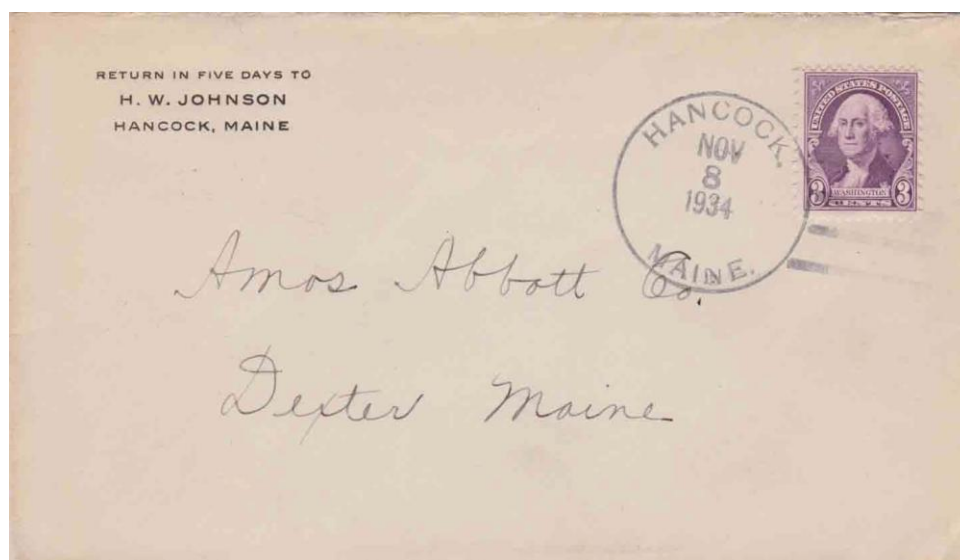
4 July 1932:

The circular postmark is 32 mm in diameter with a C/1 killer. A similar postmark and killer dated 23 August 1939 is known.



15 June 1933:

The circular postmark is 33 mm in diameter with a four-bar C/2 killer.



8 November 1934:

The circular postmark is 33 mm in diameter with a four-bar C/2 killer.

Post Office Department
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300.

RETURN TO:
Postmaster
Hancock, Me.
or _____
(Railway Postal Clerk.)

Street and No. _____
Post Office _____
State _____

Postmark of Office or R. P. O.
which returns this card,
and DATE of RECEIPT.

SEP 26 1936
K. G. Haskell

GPO The Dispatching Postmaster or Railway Postal Clerk must address this card for return to himself. 65-7712

REGISTRY DISPATCH RECEIPT CARD Form 3830
Rev. 3-29-33

Page No. _____ CAUTION.—Dispatching office must draw a diagonal line across any blank spaces after last entry. See Sec. 1272, P. L. & R., 1932.

*Original Reg. No. or Jacket or Lock No.	OFFICE OF ORIGIN.	Postmark of Office or R. P. O. dispatching the registered mail
1 157	HANCOCK, ME	SEP 26 1936 K. G. Haskell
2 158		
3		
4		
5		

and DATE of DISPATCH

*Write "L" before number if piece is dispatched loose in pouch; "O" if outside piece.

RECEIVED Two articles described above.
(Write number.) (Write signature. See Sec. 1372, P. L. & R., 1932.)

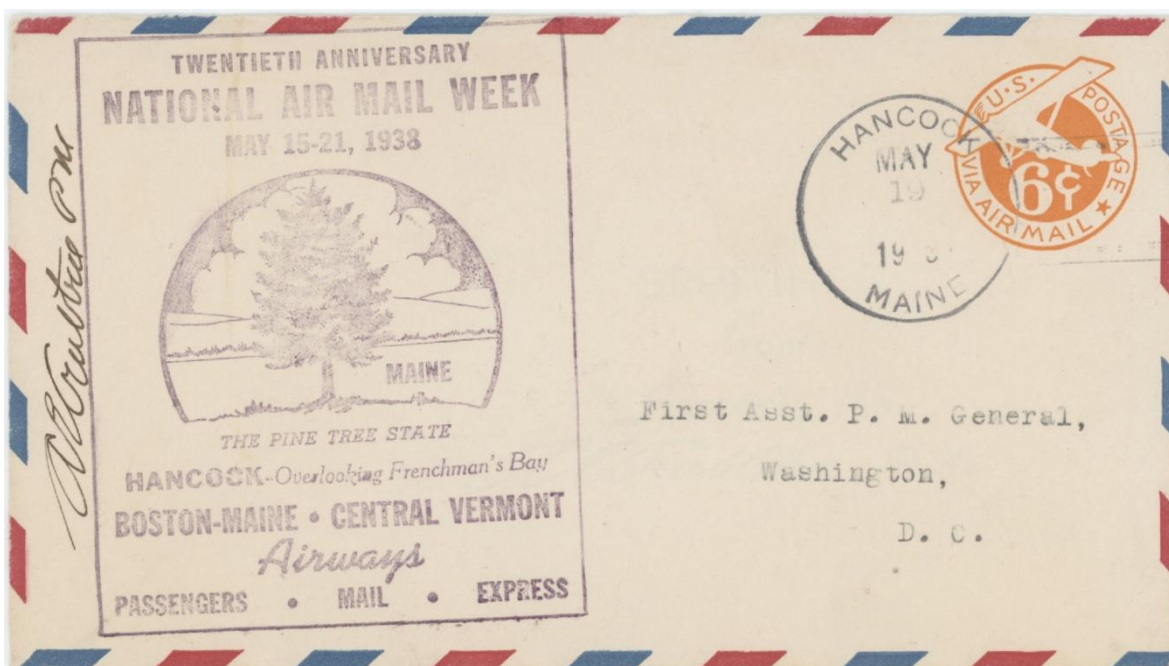
Postmaster or
R. P. O. Clerk.

Receiving office or clerk must note on this card any articles received in bad condition; and correct errors thereon, if any,
as prescribed by Sec. 1314, P. L. & R., 1932. 65-7712b

26 September 1936:

Registry Dispatch Receipt Card illustrates the extra care and security in the handling of Registered Mail. The card which was mailed back to Hancock Postmaster Crabtree was signed by the Railway Post Office clerk K. G. Haskell, certifying that Haskell had checked in the two outgoing Registered Mail items into the Calais and Bangor Railway Post Office which traveled with a Maine Central Railroad train. At that time much of the mail was transported by Railway Post Offices, which sorted the mail en route.

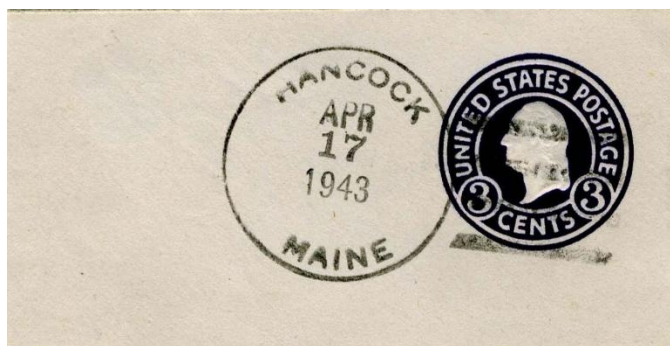
Registered Mail was signed for by each employee who handled it.



19 May 1938:

The circular postmark is 34 mm in diameter with a very faint killer.

The cachet is one of hundreds created for mail carried on National Air Mail Week, an event designed to publicize and promote the use of airmail.



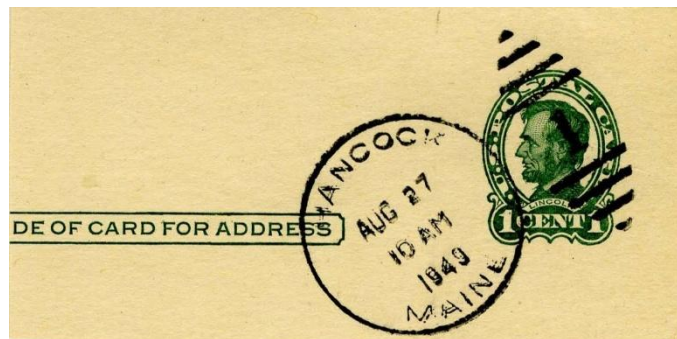
17 April 1943:

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

1 July 1945:

The Hancock Post Office became a Presidential Post Office.

Presidential offices were Third, Second and First class offices, categories measured by gross revenue. Postmasters at those offices were appointed by the President. Fourth class was the smallest size, and Fourth class postmasters were appointed by the Postmaster General. In the early 20th century, the vast majority of post offices were Fourth class. The categorizations changed to other systems later in the century, and today very few of the equivalent of Fourth class offices are still in operation.



27 August 1949:

The circular postmark is 32 mm in diameter with an eight-bar elliptical duplex/1 killer.

31 October 1958:

Mrs. Sylvia M. Young became the Acting Postmaster of the Hancock Post Office.



Circa 1960:

Hancock Post Office – Photo Credit – Maine Philatelic Society Collection.

6 July 1960:

Merle M. Dow became the Postmaster of the Hancock Post Office.

19 December 1978:

Mary E. Jones became the Officer-In-Charge of the Hancock Post Office.

16 June 1979:

Mrs. Vera B. Foss became the Postmaster of the Hancock Post Office.

3 May 1984:

Mary E. Jones became the Officer-In-Charge of the Hancock Post Office.

21 July 1984:

Mary E. Jones became the Postmaster of the Hancock Post Office.

1 July 1992:

Diane J. Nute became the Officer-In-Charge of the Hancock Post Office.

22 January 1993:

Andrea L. Dougan became the Officer-In-Charge of the Hancock Post Office.

5 February 1994:

Elbert E. Whisenant Jr. became the Postmaster of the Hancock Post Office.

15 May 2001:

The circular postmark is 33 mm in diameter with a four-bar G/1 killer



28 July 2006:

Bonnie L. Vasil became the Officer-In-Charge of the Hancock Post Office.

20 January 2007:

Bonnie L. Vasil became the Postmaster of the Hancock Post Office.

22 August 2007:

Bonnie L. Vasil's surname changed to Whelan.

13 June 2013:

Jodi K. Weaver became the Officer-In-Charge of the Hancock Post Office.

30 January 2014:

Heidi M. MacGregor became the Officer-In-Charge of the Hancock Post Office.

14 June 2014:

Heidi M. MacGregor became the Postmaster of the Hancock Post Office.

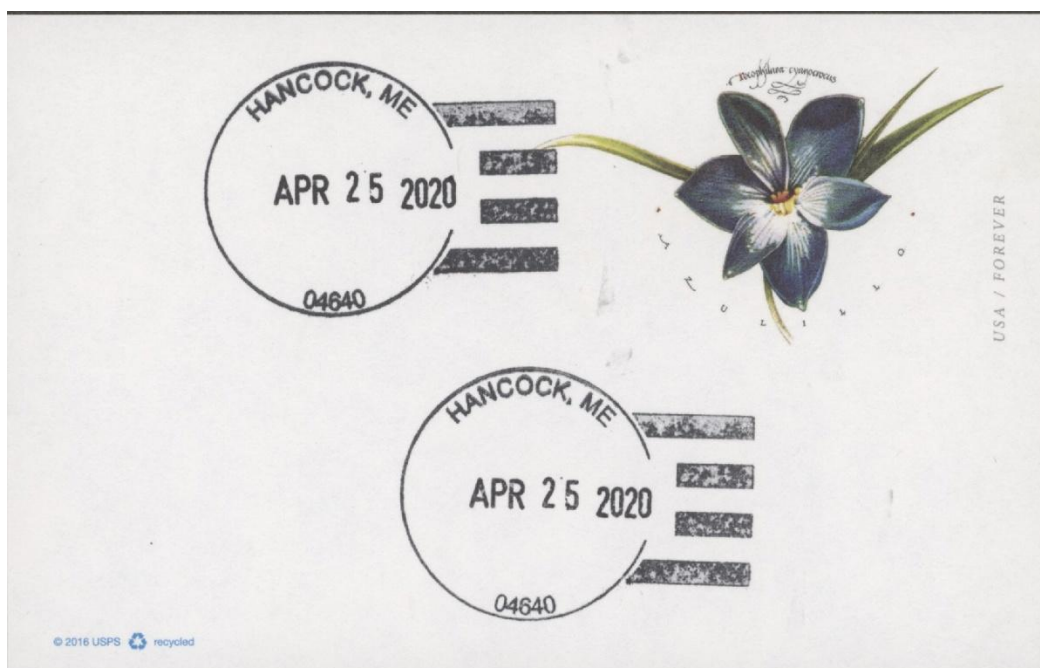
15 November 2014:

Hancock Post Office was converted to a Level 6 (6-hour) Remotely Managed Post Office under the direction of the Postmaster of the Ellsworth Post Office.



24 September 2020:

Hancock Post Office – Photo Credit – Jim Husson



25 April 2020:

Top: Circular postmark is 34 mm in diameter with a four-bar killer
Bottom: Double-circle split inner ring postmark is 44 mm in diameter

12 February 2025:

Hancock Post Office is still operational at 1405 U. S. Route 1, Hancock, Maine 04640. GPS:
44°31'44" N x 68°15'24" W

Hancock Point

5 April 1883:

Hancock Point Post Office opened.

5 April 1883:

Eleazer Crabtree became the Postmaster of the Hancock Point Post Office.



17 September 1886:

The size of the circular postmark is unknown.

At that time it was common practice among collectors to make a small cutout around the postmark, sometimes even cutting through the stamp, and preserving just the postmark.
Today the recognized best practice is to save the entire envelope or card.

5 September 1890:

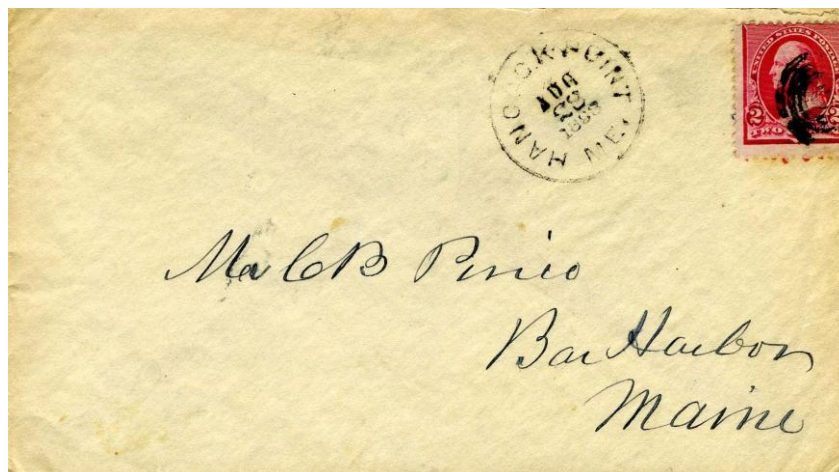
Arthur H. Crabtree became the Postmaster of the Hancock Point Post Office.

15 September 1894:

Arthur L. Young became the Postmaster of the Hancock Point Post Office.

30 July 1897:

Edith T. Crabtree became the Postmaster of the Hancock Point Post Office.

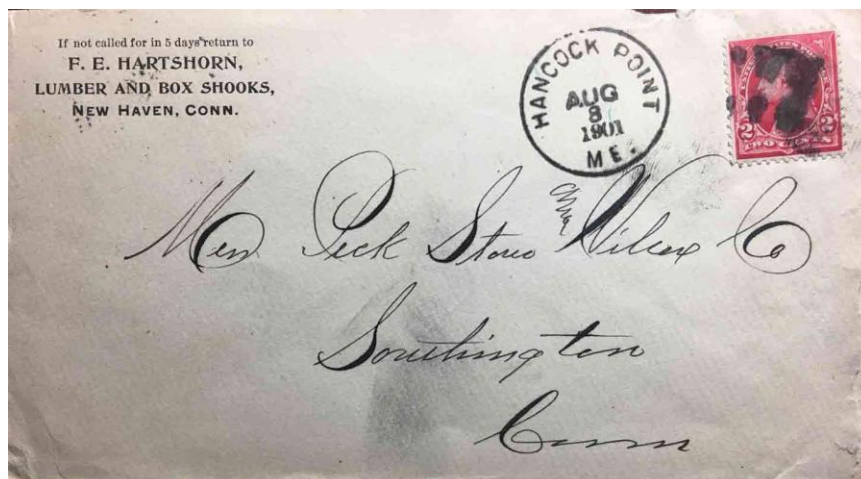


28 April 1898:

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

10 September 1900:

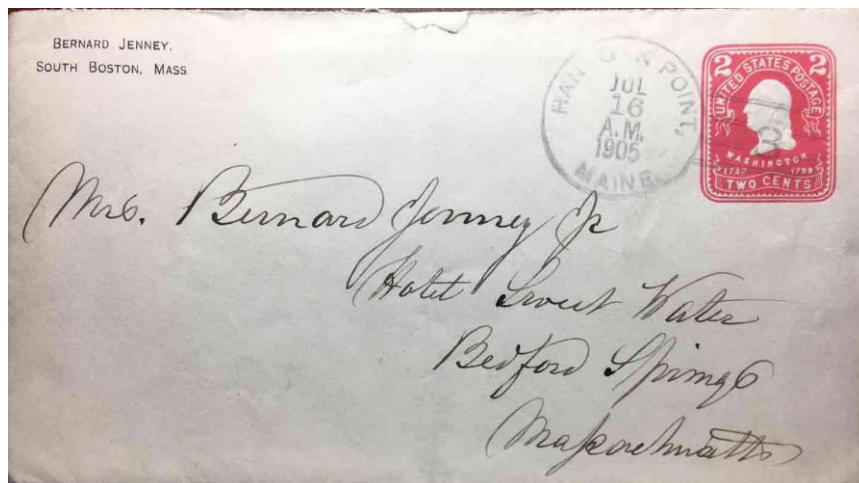
Colin A. Penney became the Postmaster of the Hancock Point Post Office.



8 August 1901:

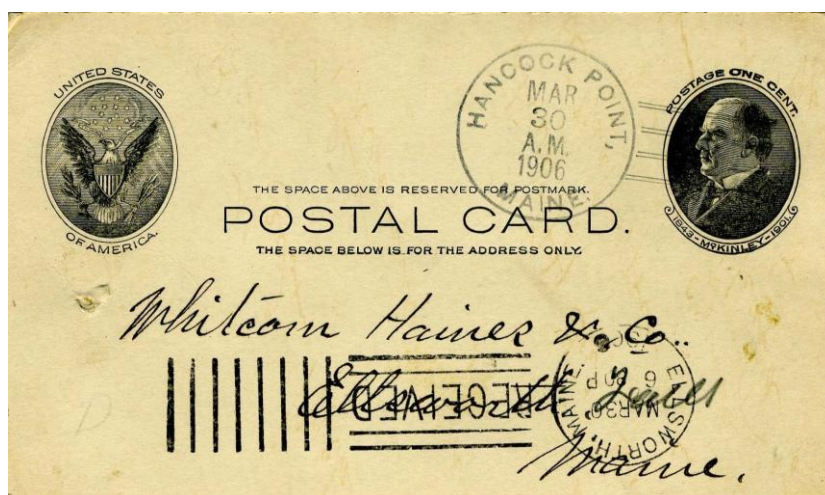
The circular postmark is 28 m in diameter with a cork smudge killer.

A similar postmark on a cut square dated 3 May 1904 is known.



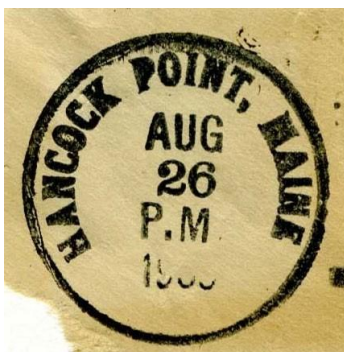
16 July 1905:

The circular postmark is 30.5 mm in diameter with a Doane 2/3 killer.



30 March 1906:

The circular postmark is 30 mm in diameter with a Doane 2/2 killer.



26 August 1909:

The size of the circular postmark is unknown, with a possible Doane killer.



14 August 1912:

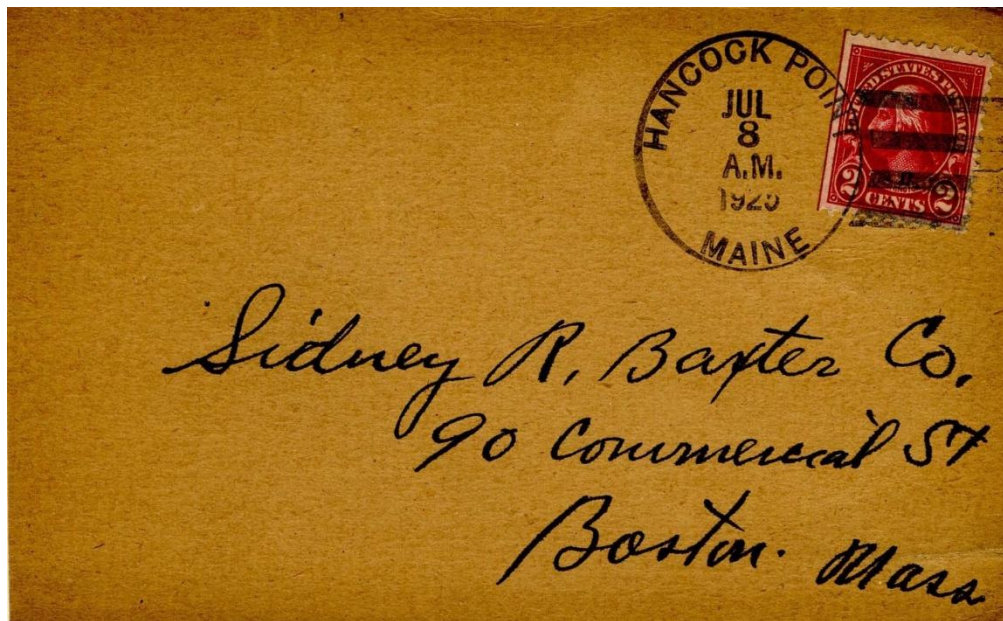
The circular postmark is 27.5 mm in diameter with a four-circle target killer.



18 December 1914:

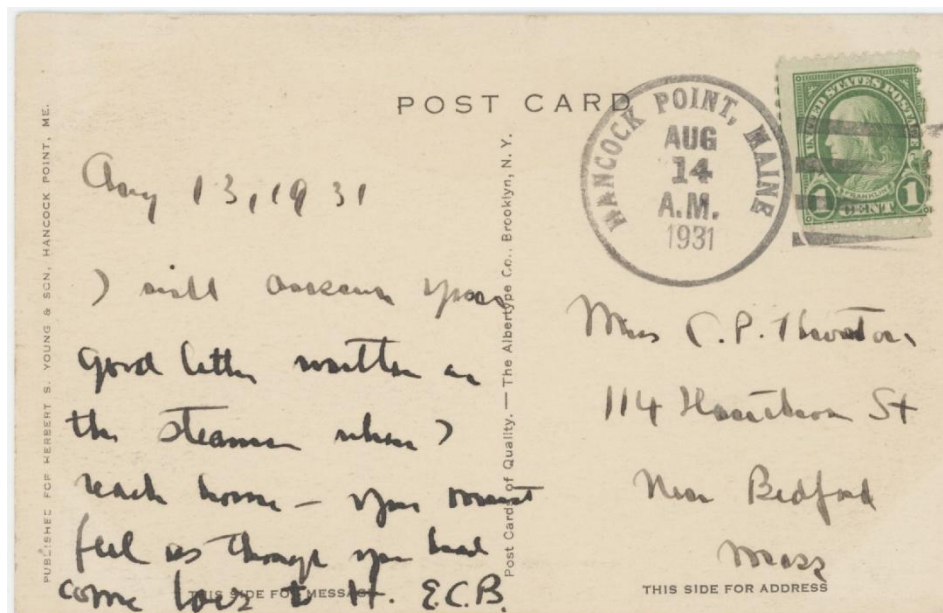
The circular postmark is 31 mm in diameter with a four-bar A/2 killer.

A similar postmark and killer dated 15 August 1914 is known.



8 July 1925:

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



14 August 1931:

The circular postmark is 31 mm in diameter with a four-bar killer.

11 April 1931:

Mrs. Lucy Ball became the Acting Postmaster of the Hancock Point Post Office.

1 November 1932:

Willaim W. Gallison became the Postmaster of the Hancock Point Post Office.

26 July 1938:

Paul Johnston became the Acting Postmaster of the Hancock Point Post Office.

22 October 1936:

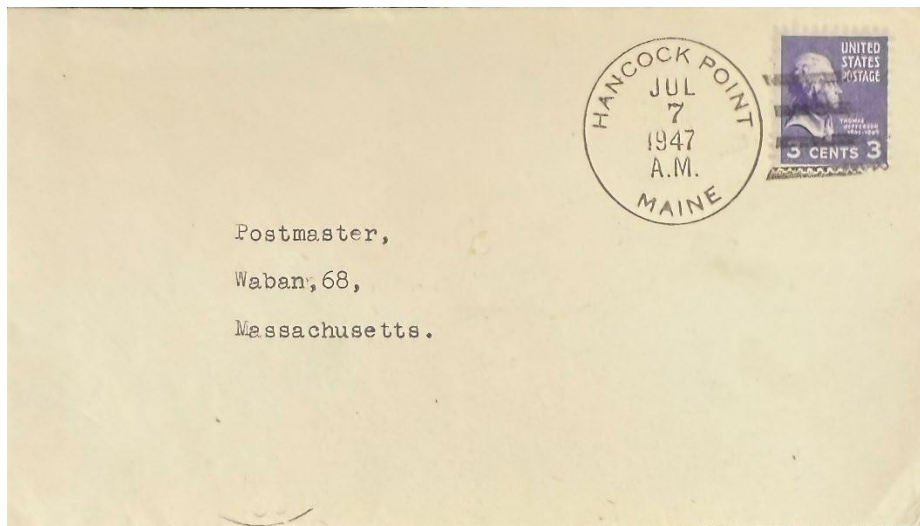
Paul M. Johnston became the Postmaster of the Hancock Point Post Office.

10 June 1943:

Albert A. Lounder became the Acting Postmaster of the Hancock Point Post Office.

10 September 1943:

Albert A. Lounder became the Postmaster of the Hancock Point Post Office.



7 July 1947:

The circular postmark is 32 mm in diameter with a four-bar F/1 killer.
A similar postmark and killer dated 15 June 1945 is known.

16 June 1949:

Merle M. Dow became the Acting Postmaster of the Hancock Point Post Office.

22 September 1949:

Merle M. Dow became the Postmaster of the Hancock Point Post Office.



Circa 1950s:
Hancock Point Post Office – Photo Credit – Maine Philatelic Collection

6 October 1960:

Sylvia M. Young became the Acting Postmaster of the Hancock Point Post Office.



Date Unknown;
Hancock Point Post Office – Photo Credit – Maine Philatelic Collection

18 May 1967:

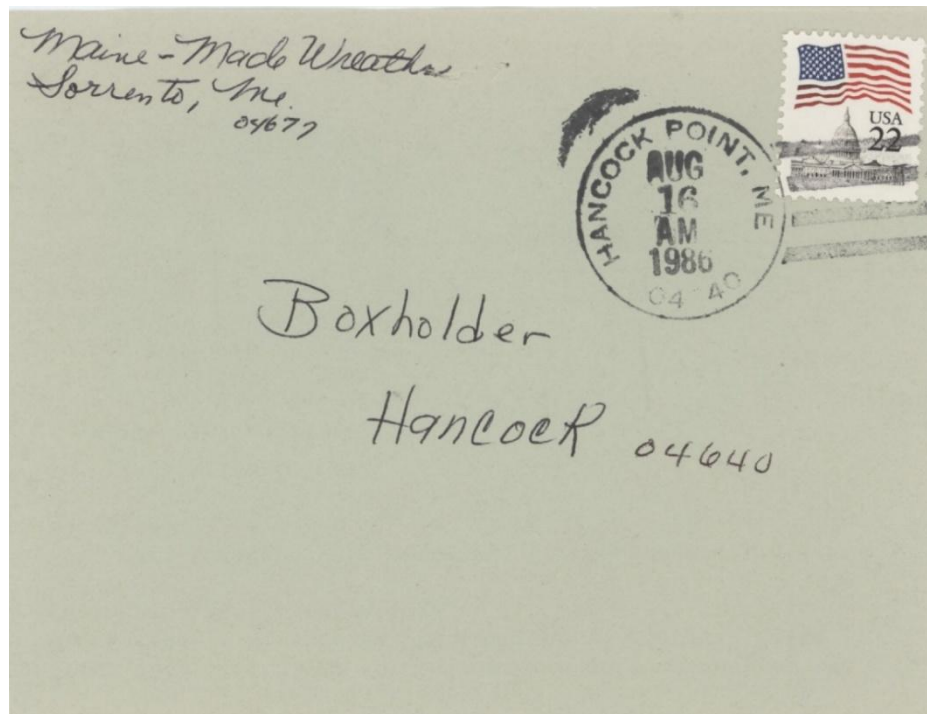
Hancock Point Post Office was discontinued effective 19 May 1967. It is believed to have been the second smallest post office in the U.S.; GPS: 44°28'05" N x 68°13'43" W.

The RS/RB/CPO designation refers to a series of technical status changes that were applied to many small post offices starting in the early 20th century. Many smaller post offices were converted to Rural Stations (RS) attached to larger nearby post offices. In the process they became contract operations, run by contractors rather than U. S. Post Office Department employees. In 1966 those Rural Stations which were located beyond the town limits of the town where the main office was located were changed to Rural Branches, while those that were within town limits remained Rural Stations. In 1977 both Rural Stations (RS) and Rural Branches(RB) were changed to Community Post Offices (CPO). In practice it was a rebranding exercise, and in many cases, there was no evident difference in the way these offices served the public. Often the postmaster left the rolls of postal employees and became the private contractor providing service at the office. In many cases the postmarking devices did not catch up with the status change, so that Rural Station (RS) and Rural Branch (RB) postmarks continued in use well into the days after an office had become a Community Post Office.

Hancock Point RS/CPO Hancock

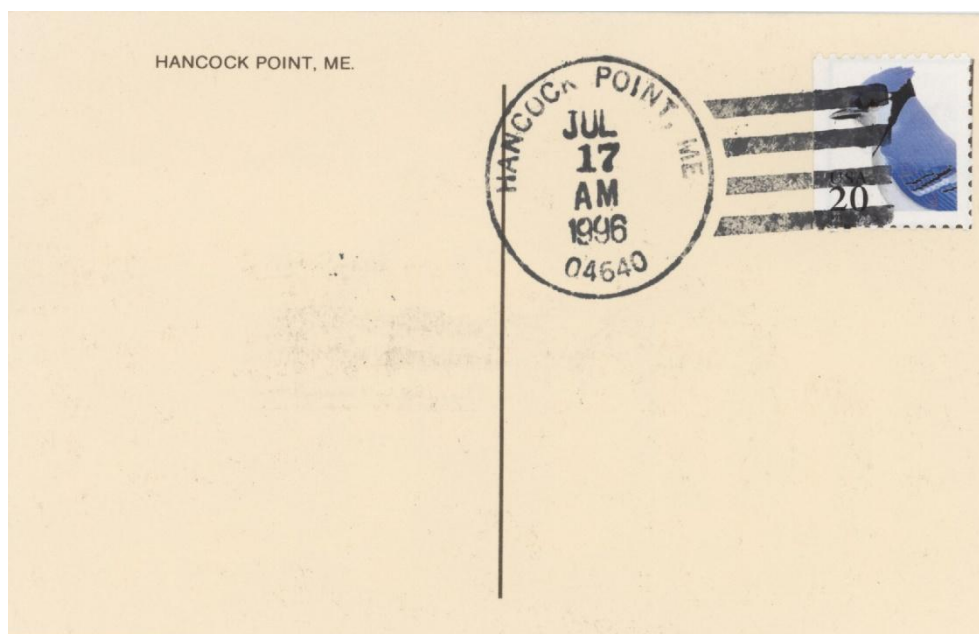
Summer of 1967: (this is a presumed date; the earliest known use is 1974)

Hancock Point RS/CPO Hancock Post Office opened as a summer office only; the post office used only a postmark with the wording "Hancock Point" in later years.



16 August 1986:

The circular postmark has a diameter of 33 mm with a four-bar killer.



17 July 1996:

The circular postmark has a diameter of 33 mm with a four-bar killer.



19 August 1998:

Hancock Point Post Office. Photo Credit – Kelvin Kindahl Collection

2004//2010:

Hancock Point RS/CPO closed sometime between these dates.



24 September 2020:

The little building that housed the Hancock Point Post Office is still standing, long after its closure.

Photo credit: Jim Husson

Mount Desert Ferry

From 1884 to 1931, the Maine Central Railroad served Bar Harbor via a branch rail line that ran from Ellsworth through Hancock and down the Crabtree Neck peninsula to McNeil Point, where the terminal area of Mount Desert Ferry was located. The rail line originally was called the Maine Shoreline Railroad but eventually was known as the Waukeag Branch or the Bar Harbor Branch of the Maine Central Railroad. The railroad never reached Mount Desert Island, but the Maine Central ran a steamer ferry that brought passengers the last six miles across Frenchman's Bay from Hancock to the dock in Bar Harbor, so passengers could buy rail tickets directly to Bar Harbor. Some of the tracks leading to Mount Desert Ferry were ripped up many years ago, and the name Mount Desert Ferry disappeared from maps in the early years of the twentieth century.

In its day, Mount Desert Ferry was a busy place, with seven or eight passenger trains arriving every day, two large hotels, and all the employment that activity generated. The location was also the site of a disaster that took twenty lives in 1899 when a gangplank collapsed.

The name Mount Desert Ferry is familiar to folks who collect Railway Post Office markings. At one time, between 1915 and 1917, and again briefly in 1921-22, Mount Desert Ferry was the eastern terminus of the Bangor and Mount Desert Ferry R.P.O.

Vestiges of the rail line are visible in places along the nearby Old Pond Trail.

30 December 1884:

Mount Desert Ferry Post Office opened.

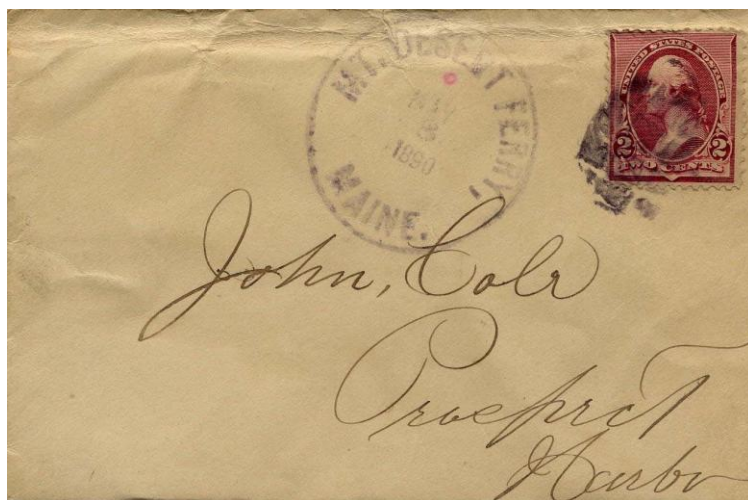
30 December 1884:

Ivory L. Wardwell became the Postmaster of the Mount Desert Ferry Post Office.



1886:

The circular postmark is 27 mm in diameter with no killer.



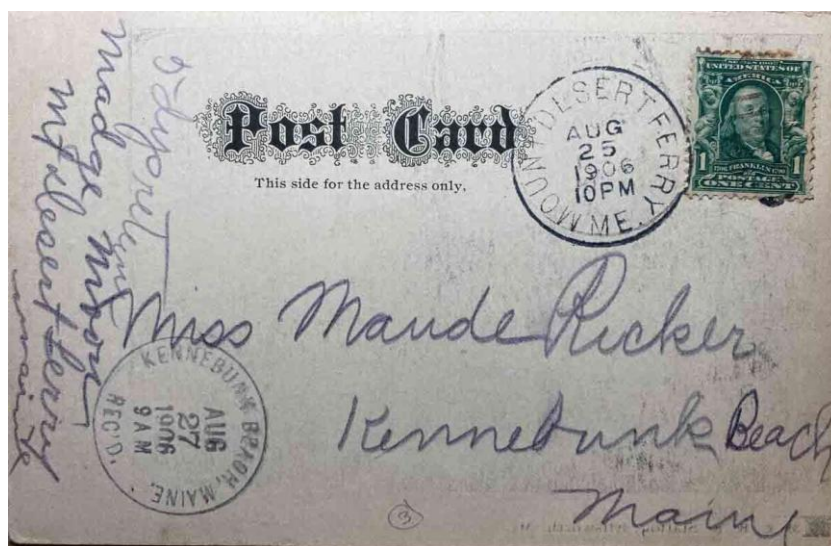
8 May 1890:

The circular postmark is 34.5 mm in diameter with a fancy circle geometric-shaped killer.



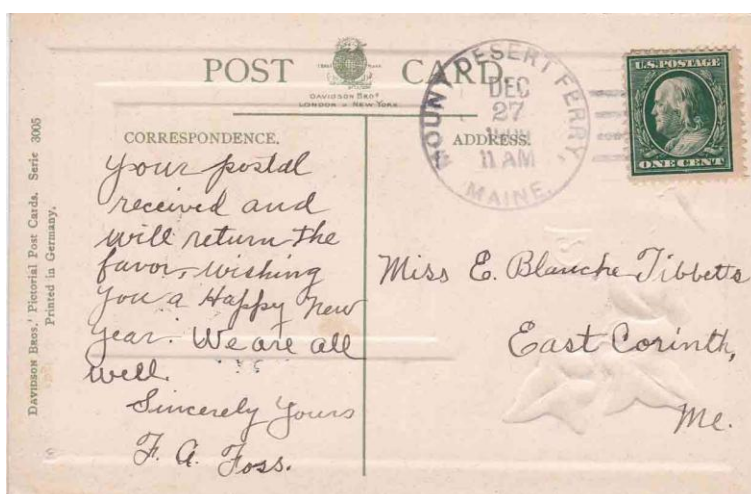
29 April 1891:

The circular postmark is 34.5 mm in diameter with an unknown killer.



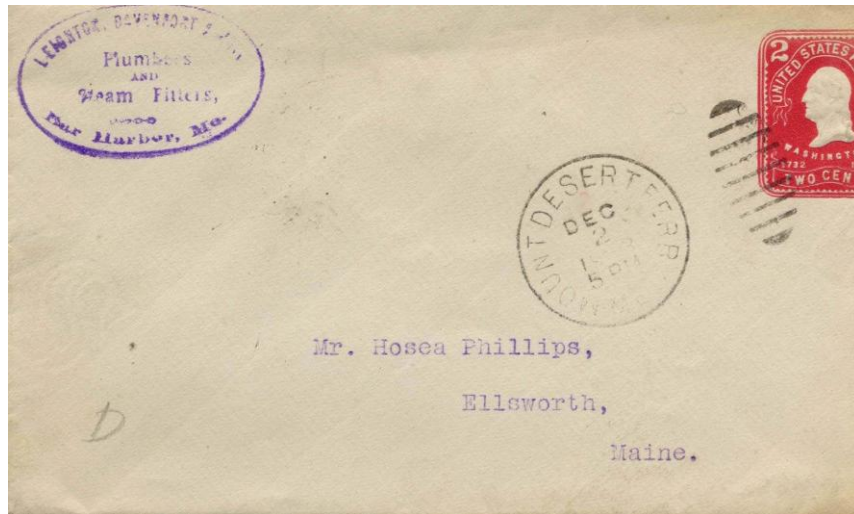
25 August 1906:

The circular postmark is 29.5 mm in diameter with a nine-bar oval duplex killer.



27 December 1909:

The circular postmark is 31 mm in diameter with a four-bar A/1 killer.
Similar postmarks and killers dated 21 July 1913 and 27 July 1920 are known.



2 December 1923:

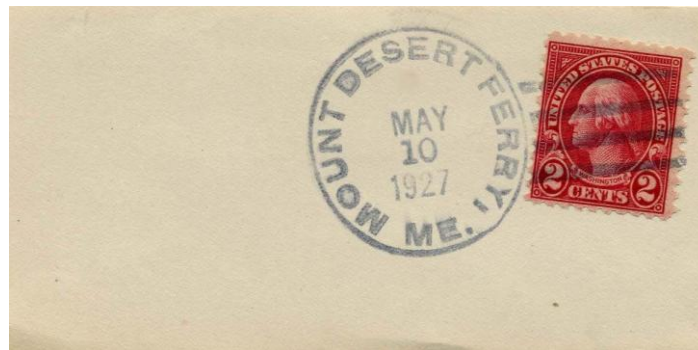
The circular postmark is 27.5 mm in diameter with a nine-bar oval duplex killer.

16 April 1919:

Ernest E. Abbott became the Postmaster of the Mount Desert Ferry Post Office.

11 January 1927:

Nellie A. Grant became the Acting Postmaster of the Mount Desert Ferry Post Office.



10 May 1927:

The circular postmark is 31 mm in diameter with a four-bar A/3 killer

7 February 1928:

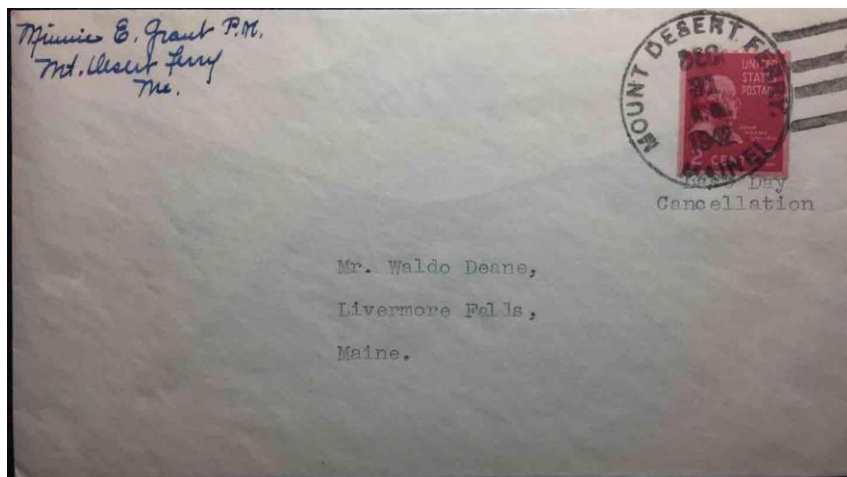
Nellie A. Grant became the Postmaster of the Mount Desert Ferry Post Office.

21 August 1931:

Everard W. Grant became the Acting Postmaster of the Mount Desert Ferry Post Office.

17 October 1931:

Everard W. Grant became the Postmaster of the Mount Desert Ferry Post Office.



31 December 1942:

The circular postmark is 34.5 mm in diameter with a four-bar F/1 killer—last Day of Operation with a postmaster's signature.

17 December 1942:

Mount Desert Ferry Post Office was discontinued effective 31 December 1942 with service from Hancock. The actual ferry to Bar Harbor had been discontinued years earlier, in 1931.

North Hancock

13 March 1844:

North Hancock Post Office opened.

13 March 1844:

Samuel N. McFarland became the Postmaster of the North Hancock Post Office.

27 October 1848:

William Flye became the Postmaster of the North Hancock Post Office.

20 July 1849:

Albert C. Sibley became the Postmaster of the North Hancock Post Office.

6 December 1850:

Stephen Joy became the Postmaster of the North Hancock Post Office.

23 March 1851:

Albert C. Sibley became the Postmaster of the North Hancock Post Office.

11 June 1851:

Moses Butler became the Postmaster of the North Hancock Post Office.

23 March 1855:

David McFarland became the Postmaster of the North Hancock Post Office.

2 March 1868:

Thomas Graves became the Postmaster of the North Hancock Post Office.

31 July 1871:

Eben Clark became the Postmaster of the North Hancock Post Office.

2 October 1871:

James M. Butler became the Postmaster of the North Hancock Post Office.

16 November 1885:

Robert M. French became the Postmaster of the North Hancock Post Office.

23 October 1886:

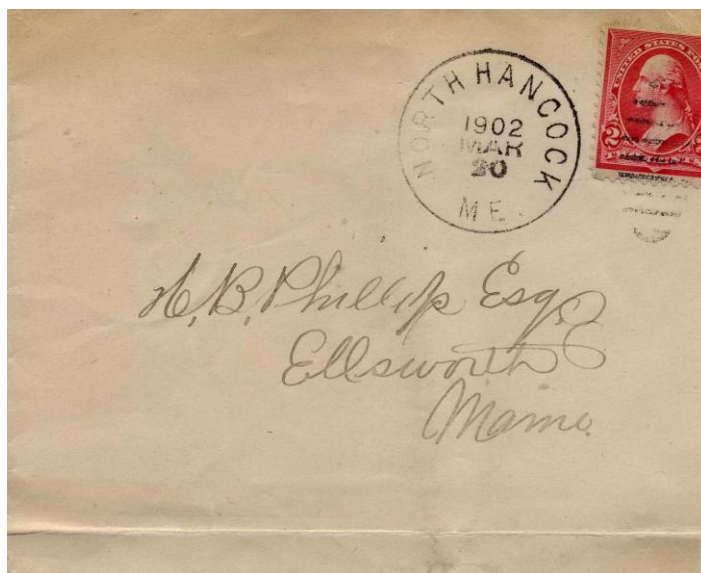
Marcus Mullan became the Postmaster of the North Hancock Post Office.

14 July 1888:

Ney Killman became the Postmaster of the North Hancock Post Office.

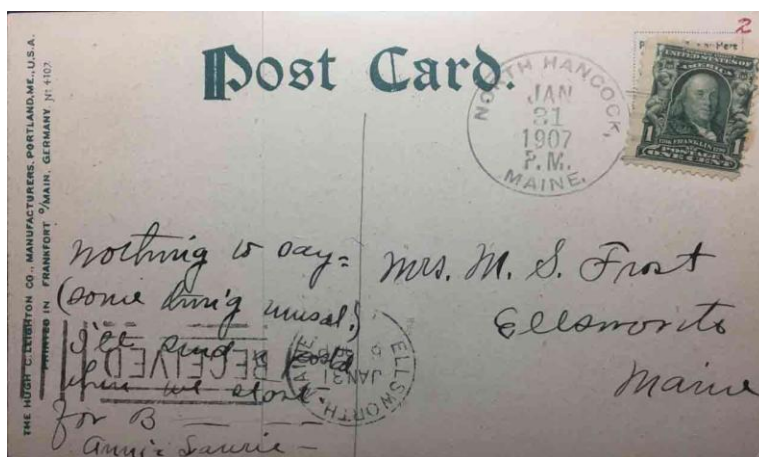
3 April 1899:

George L. Stewart became the Postmaster of the North Hancock Post Office.



20 Mar 1902:

The circular postmark is 27.5 mm with a nine-bar oval duplex killer.



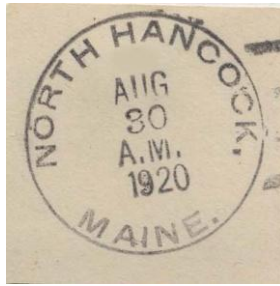
21 January 1907:

The circular postmark is 28 mm in diameter with a Doane 2/2 killer.

A similar postmark and killer on a cut square dated 9 January 1907 is known.

29 September 1913:

Lena F. Stewart became the Postmaster of the North Hancock Post Office.



30 August 1920:

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

9 November 1927:

North Hancock Post Office was renamed Franklin Road Post Office.

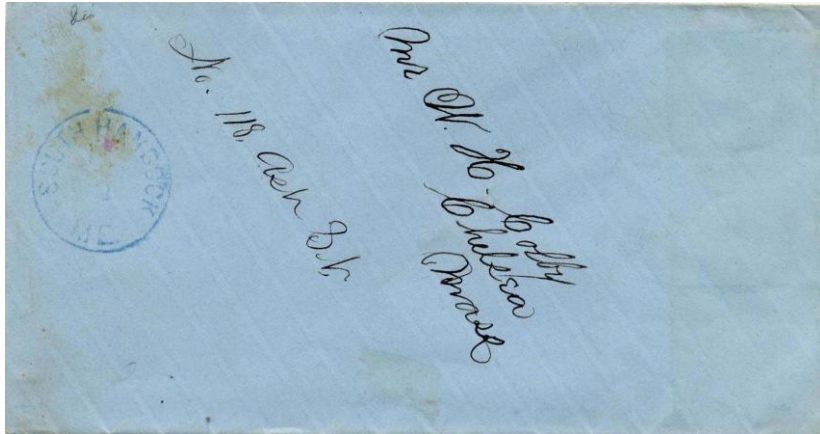
South Hancock

2 May 1870:

South Hancock Post Office (formerly Crabtree's Point Post Office) opened.

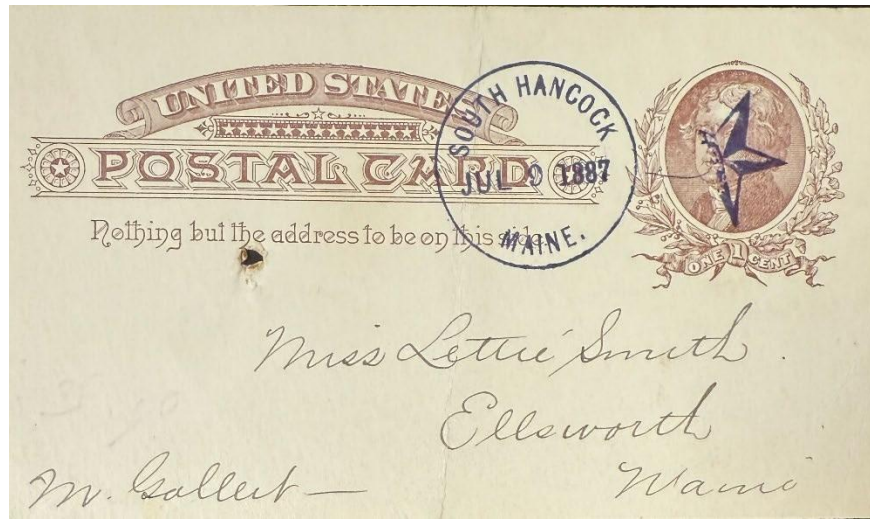
8 March 1870:

Oliver W. Young became the Postmaster of Crabtree's Point Post Office and remained as Postmaster when Crabtree's Point Post Office was renamed South Hancock Post Office.



Date Unknown:

The size of the postmark is unknown.



9 July 1887:

The circular postmark is 30 mm in diameter with a fancy shaded star killer.

10 October 1887:

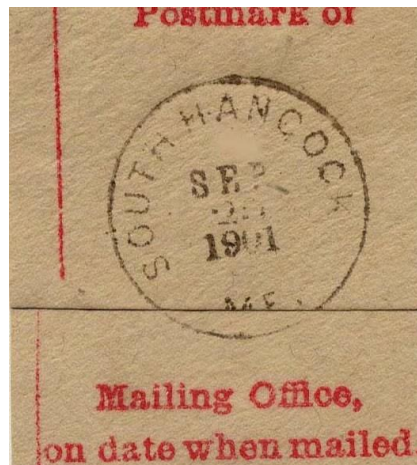
Crosby Y. Wooster became the Postmaster of the South Hancock Post Office.

12 April 1889:

Horace D. Ball became the Postmaster of the South Hancock Post Office.

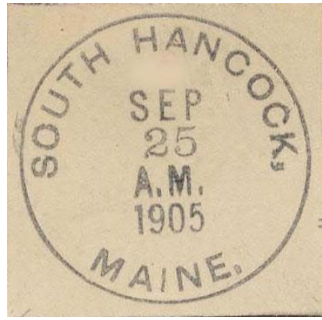
12 July 1893:

Julia H. Wooster became the Postmaster of the South Hancock Post Office.



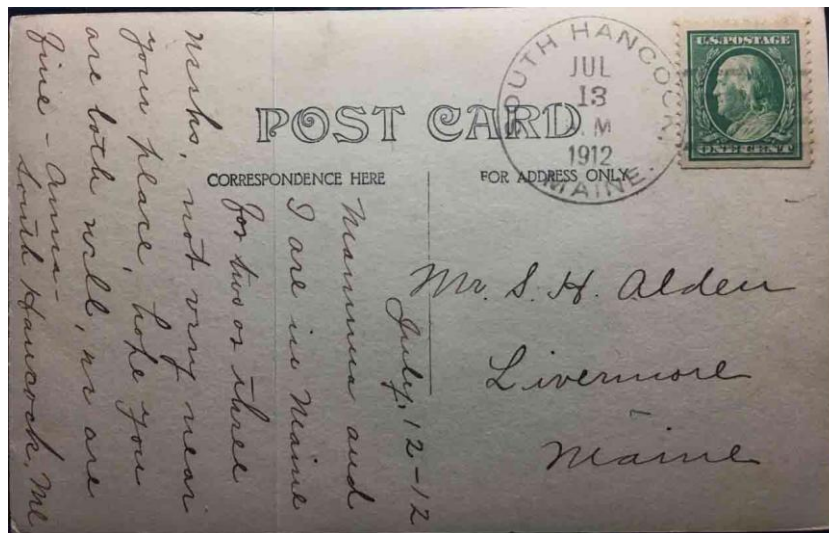
25 September 1901:

The size of the circular postmark is unknown.



25 September 1905:

The size of the circular postmark is unknown with a Doane 2/1 killer.



13 July 1912:

The circular postmark is 33 mm in diameter with a four-bar A/2 killer.

A similar postmark and killer dated 15 November 1920 is known.

30 August 1930:

South Hancock Post Office closed with service from Hancock.

West Hancock

21 June 1886:

West Hancock Post Office opened.

21 June 1886:

James M. Butler became the Postmaster of the West Hancock Post Office.

19 August 1887:

Luther H. Springer became the Postmaster of the West Hancock Post Office.

21 September 1897:

Israel Durgan became the Postmaster of the West Hancock Post Office.

11 October 1902:

Mary R. Butler became the Postmaster of the West Hancock Post Office.

24 October 1903:

Henry C. Milliken became the Postmaster of the West Hancock Post Office.



27 September 1905:

The size of the circular postmark is unknown.

21 February 1907:

West Hancock Post Office closed effective 31 March 1907 with service from Ellsworth.

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 (2024-26).

Thank you for the contributions to this page by Jim Husson, Brian Damien, Kelvin Kindahl, the Strout family, and the Willett Thompson Collection at the National Postmark Museum of the Post Mark Collectors Club (<https://postmarks.org>).

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. Post Office Department. ***Appointments of Postmasters*** records, Hancock County, Maine, via Ancestry.com, or via U. S. National Archives website. Hancock County appointments are in two files. The first file has only four frames. Most of the appointments are in the second file (which as of 11/14/2025 is incorrectly labeled as Penobscot County):

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/78746582> (only four frames)

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/78746587> (incorrectly labelled as Penobscot County)

For help in researching 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 and Hancock Counties, Maine. Site Location Reports for Hancock:

Franklin Road:

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/68415820?objectPage=542> and the following page

Hancock:

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/68415820?objectPage=590> and the following page

Hancock Point:

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/68415820?objectPage=592> and the following four pages

Mount Desert Ferry:

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/68415820?objectPage=675> and the following six pages

North Hancock:

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/68415820?objectPage=719> and the following page

South Hancock:

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/68415820?objectPage=893> and the following five pages

West Hancock:

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/68415820?objectPage=990> and the following three pages

→ *It is important to note that the archives of the Reports of Site Locations are incomplete, and do not represent all the sites where the various post offices were located.*

Additional material can be found at Research Resources on Maine Postal History:

<http://www.mainephilatelic.org/books/post-office-sources.pdf>.

Town of Hancock History

Dobbs Productions, Acadia Channel. ***Downeast Scenic Railroad***. 5-minute video on the historic railroad line extending east from Ellsworth and through Hancock to Mt. Desert Ferry.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EKYyuZKijy0>

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Web page provides basic information on the railroad.

Colby, George N. ***Atlas of Hancock County, Maine***. S. F. Colby & Co., 1881. Digitised version of page showing the Town of Hancock can be downloaded from

https://digitalmaine.com/atlas_hancock_1881/33/

Crabtree, Alfred B. ***Hancock, 1828-1928***. Crabtree was the Postmaster of Hancock.

<https://archive.org/details/hancockmaine182800crab>

Hancock Historical Society. <https://www.hancockmainehistory.org/>

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

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

Minner, Brook Ewing. "The Bar Harbor Express: A Most Elegant Travel Option," article in ***Chebacco***, Vol. XIV, 2013, pp. 7-18. (*Chebacco* is the journal of the Mount Desert Island Historical Society.) link:

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/610d5055699fb835cba4d997/t/61c1ab458ddb217e1dd3931b/1640082259379/2013-The-Bar-Harbor-Express_ocr.pdf

Sarnacki, Aislinn. "Go back in time by hiking along this old Bar Harbor railway," *Bangor Daily News*, May 15, 2025.

<https://www.bangordailynews.com/2025/05/15/outdoors/act-out/hiking-bar-harbor-maine-railway-joam40zk0w/>

Smith, Mac. *Disaster at the Bar Harbor Ferry: Maine's Worst Maritime Tragedy*. Down East Books, 2022. While the book is centered on the disaster that caused the death of 20 passengers, the last chapter of the book, "The Loss of Mount Desert Ferry," pp. 187-210, offers a lot of background information on Mount Desert Ferry and the community that developed around it.

U. S. Geological Survey. Editions of historic (as well as current) topographic maps of Hancock are available to download as digital graphic files from the USGS website. Search for maps from this link:

<https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/topoview/viewer/#4/39.98/-100.06>

The composite topographic map of Hancock is based on four different topographic maps with titles and links shown below:

Bar Harbor 1942

https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/ht-bin/tv_browse.pl?id=a43d8abe7d338a9b9f90fd6d823f2159

Ellsworth 1911

https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/ht-bin/tv_browse.pl?id=ab804084da15689575d44cd53bbe1b05

Mount Desert 1904

https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/ht-bin/tv_browse.pl?id=e0b616e2a112f40c52c4241e3e71c673

Tunk Lake 1932

https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/ht-bin/tv_browse.pl?id=93bf54f2c6bf3ba4cd8f11dc7ab6e4a1

Postmarks

Anderson, Gary. Maine Doane Cancels, from the *Doane Cancel website*,

http://www.doanecancel.com/maine_doanes.html

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Helbock, Richard W. *Postmarks on Postcards: An Illustrated Guide to Early 20th Century U. S. Postmarks*. Revised, Second Edition. Scappoose, Oregon: LaPosta Publications, 2002.

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

Disclaimer:

As with any database of this size, occasional errors—especially typos—are inevitable. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this work and to correct any mistakes made by previous authors. We take full responsibility for any errors and encourage you to bring them to our attention so that we can make the necessary corrections.

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 at the Post Mark Collectors Club Museum (<https://postmarks.org>). 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.