

Mariaville Postal History

Hancock County, Maine

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

Mariaville was first settled around 1800 when a sawmill was developed at Mariaville Falls, not far from Amherst, on the Union River. The sawmill settlement grew to include about 50 families, but faded around 1820 and today there is no sign that a community was ever located there. It never had an official post office, although it did have a store. One can speculate about whether the store also served as an unofficial post office. At this time, people were settling in other areas of the town, with official records showing Mariaville getting its first post office in 1833, three years before the Town of Mariaville was incorporated on February 29, 1836, from Mariaville Plantation. In 1850 the Town of Mariaville set off land to form the short-lived Town of Tilden, which was annexed back into Mariaville in 1852. Historically, Mariaville had close ties to Waltham, on the other side of the Union River, but that connection was lost following the flooding of the Union River to create Graham Lake in the early 1920s.

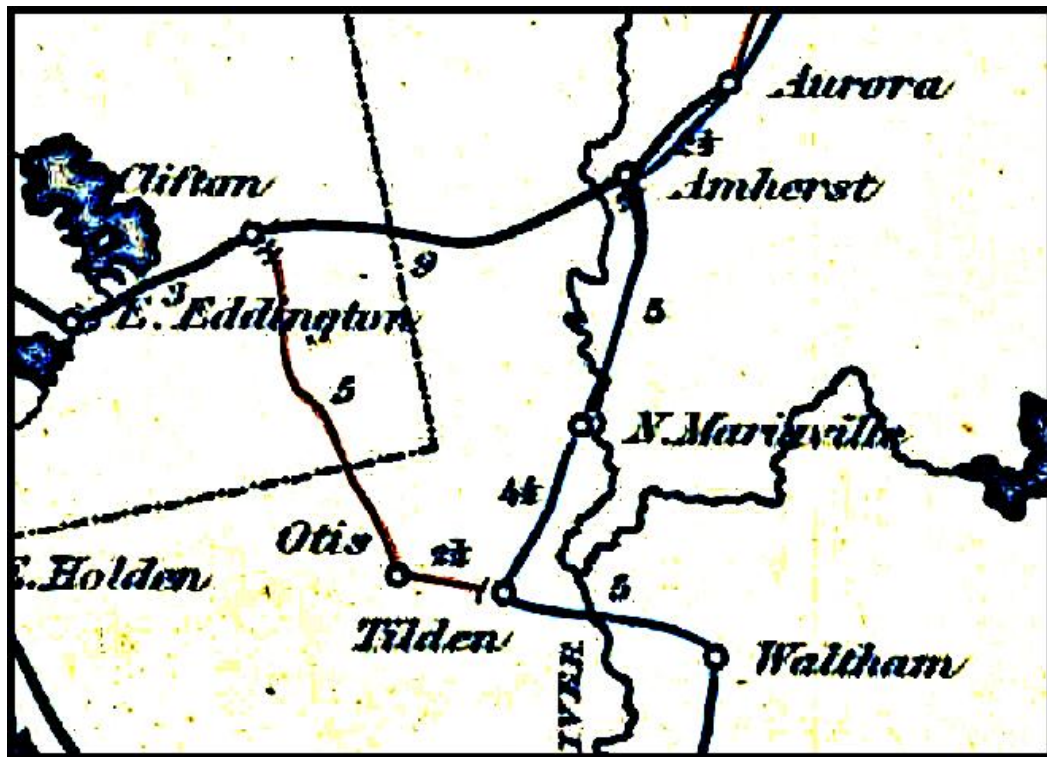
The postal history of this town is confusing: essentially, two locations had seven different post offices between 1833 and 1923. (The post offices are listed here as seven different post offices to reflect their distinct statuses in the official records, and to align with the book and database that this project is based upon, [The Post Offices of Maine 2022](#).) Briefly, the history of these seven is as follows.

First, in the more southerly location, at the road junction once called Jordans Corner, or Tilden, or Mariaville, the federal records show three post offices operated. This is on Route 181, just north of Tannery Ridge. This was an active community in the 1800s but all that remains now is a lone house, a few hundred feet west on Pyle Road, which leads over to Route 180 in Otis. The approximate location is identified with a red mark on the 1881 map on page 3.

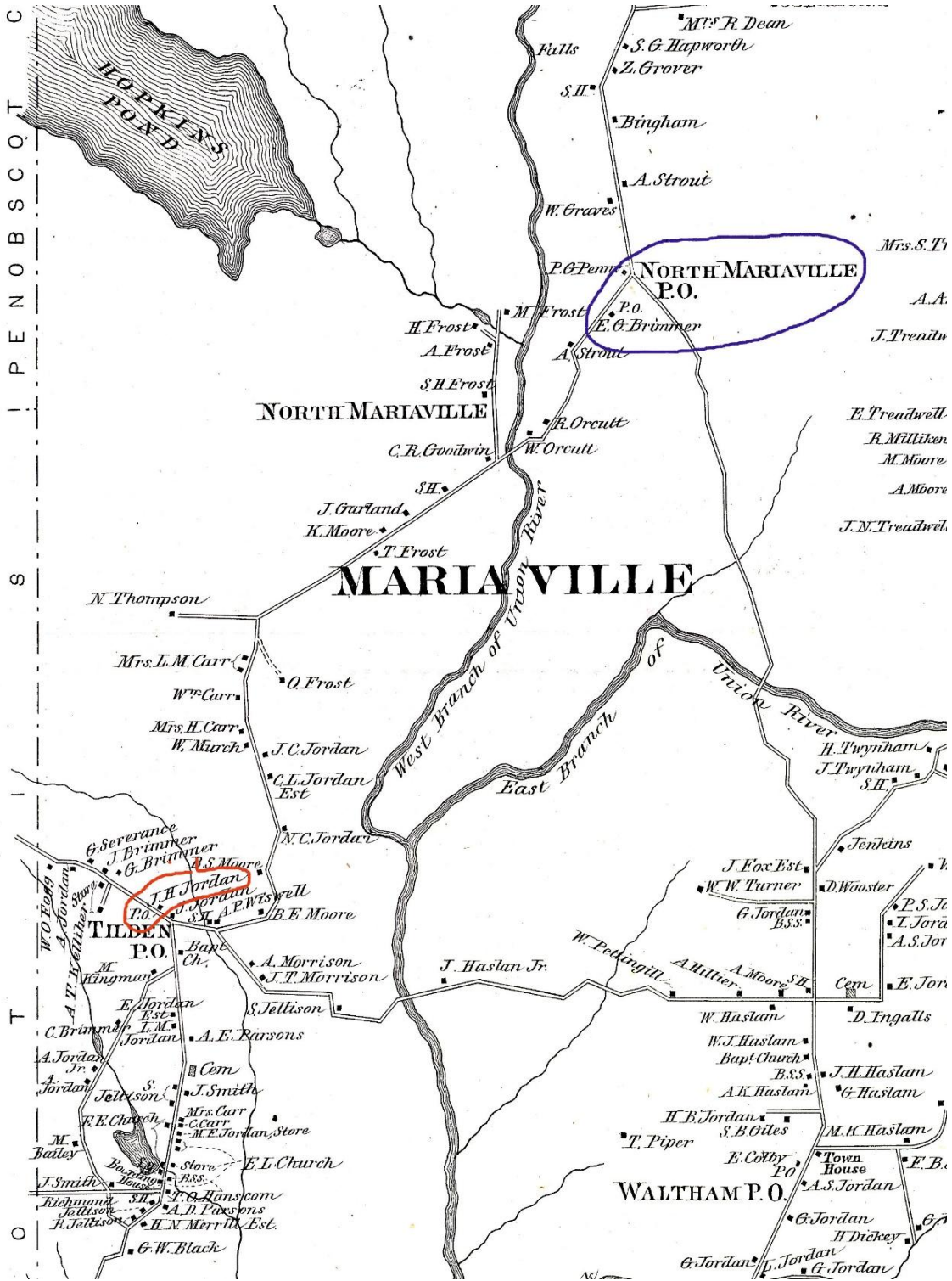
1. [Mariaville \(1\)](#) Post Office opened on 19 January 1833 and operated until 21 June 1851 when it was renamed Tilden Post Office. The Tilden name was taken from the name of the Town of Tilden, which briefly separated from Mariaville in 1850-1852.
2. [Tilden](#) Post Office opened on 21 June 1851, and was operated under than name until it took back the name Mariaville Post Office on 15 April 1910.
3. [Mariaville \(1\)](#) Post Office opened on 15 April 1910 and closed on 28 February 1914.

Second, in the more northerly location, near the intersection of Route 181 and Old County Road there is a place identified on maps as North Mariaville. The official records show that that location, identified with a blue mark on the 1881 map on page 3, had four post offices operating in succession.

4. [North Mariaville \(1\)](#) Post Office opened on 7 February 1854 and closed on 1 March 1880.
5. [North Mariaville \(1\)](#) Post Office re-opened on 28 August 1880 and closed on 14 October 1891.
6. [Mariaville \(2\)](#) Post Office opened on 29 October 1892 and operated until 16 May 1904, when it took back the name of North Mariaville (2) Post Office.
7. [North Mariaville \(2\)](#) Post Office continued operations from 16 May 1904 until it closed for good on 31 December 1923, ending the history of post offices in the Town of Mariaville.



This detail from the 1873 Post Route Map of the State of Maine reveals the relative locations of the post offices in the Town of Mariaville. The southern location, shown as Tilden in 1873, is about 4.5 miles south of the northern location, shown here as North Mariaville. The southern location had the names Mariaville, Tilden, then Mariaville. The northern location was known as North Mariaville, except for a period starting in 1892 when it took the name Mariaville, which it had until taking the North Mariaville name back in 1904. Before the creation of Graham Lake, mail from Ellsworth reached Mariaville via a bridge over the Union River from Waltham. Detail taken from map from the U. S. National Archives: <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/25464517>



Detail taken from map from the 1881 Atlas of Hancock County, Maine available for download from Digital Maine Repository:

https://digitalmaine.com/atlas_hancock_1881/43/

What does it mean when there is a (1) or (2) after the name of a post office? Sometimes, the numbers (1), (2), and (3) appear after the name of a post office. These numbers indicate the first, second, and third localities of post offices of the same name. For example, if the post office name is used for two separate post offices in two respective villages at different times, they will be identified in this manner. These numbers do not necessarily indicate time periods. These numbers do not represent numbered stations. Some larger places, like Auburn, have postal stations with numbers. These differ from the post offices we call Auburn (1), Auburn (2), etc. Also, the numbers do not appear in postmarks or official post office publications. However, they are used by postal historians and collectors.

Post offices at the southern location in the Town of Mariaville, in chronological order:

Mariaville (1)

19 January 1833:

Mariaville (1) Post Office opened.

19 January 1833:

Jeremiah Jordan became the Postmaster of the Mariaville (1) Post Office.

21 June 1851:

Mariaville (1) Post Office closed and was renamed Tilden Post Office.

Tilden

21 June 1851:

Tilden Post Office (formerly Mariaville (1) Post Office) opened. Jeremiah Jorden remained as Postmaster.

10 October 1851:

Jeremiah H. Jordan became the Postmaster of the Tilden Post Office.

10 March 1855:

Eben Jordan became the Postmaster of the Tilden Post Office.

7 July 1857:

Abraham Morrison became the Postmaster of the Tilden Post Office.

27 July 1861:

Jeremiah H. Jordan became the Postmaster of the Tilden Post Office.

14 March 1865:

Mallory Kingman became the Postmaster of the Tilden Post Office.



1 August 1866:

Manuscript postmark and killer.

2 April 1866:

Jeremiah H. Jordan became the Postmaster of the Tilden Post Office.

14 October 1867:

George B. Brimmer became the Postmaster of the Tilden Post Office.

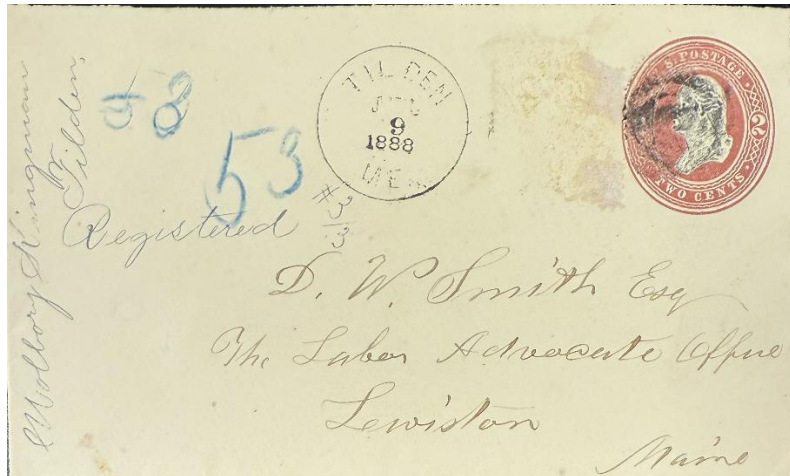
16 July 1877:

Jeremiah H. Jordan became the Postmaster of the Tilden Post Office.



18 May 1883:

The outer circle of the circular postmark is 33.5 mm in diameter with a partial target killer.



9 April 1888:

The circular postmark is 26 mm in diameter with a four-circle target killer.
Similar postmarks and killers dated 7 December 1885 and 7 February 1890 are known.

13 April 1899:

Carrie E. Jordan was appointed Postmaster but declined.

29 November 1899:

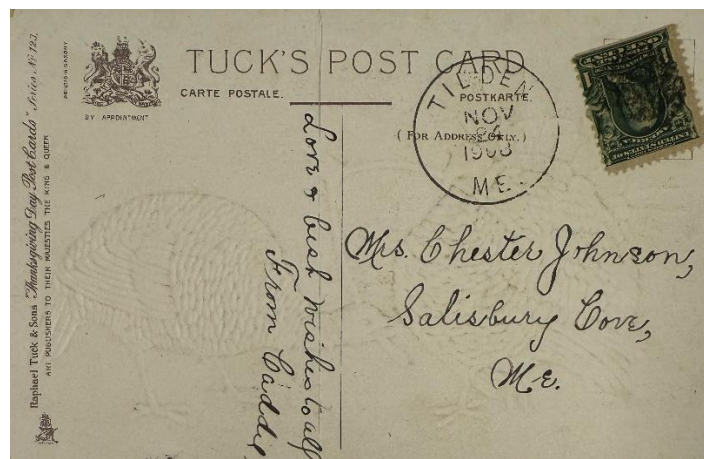
Nellie F. Pyle became the Postmaster of the Tilden Post Office.

9 February 1900:

Miss Carrie E. Jordan became the Postmaster of the Tilden Post Office.

7 September 1906:

Carrie E. Kincaid became the Postmaster of the Tilden Post Office.



24 November 1908:

The circular postmark is 28.5 mm in diameter with a cork smudge killer.
Similar postmarks with no killers dated 3 December 1909 and 23 May 1904 are known.

15 April 1910:

Tilden Post Office closed and was renamed Mariaville (1) Post Office.

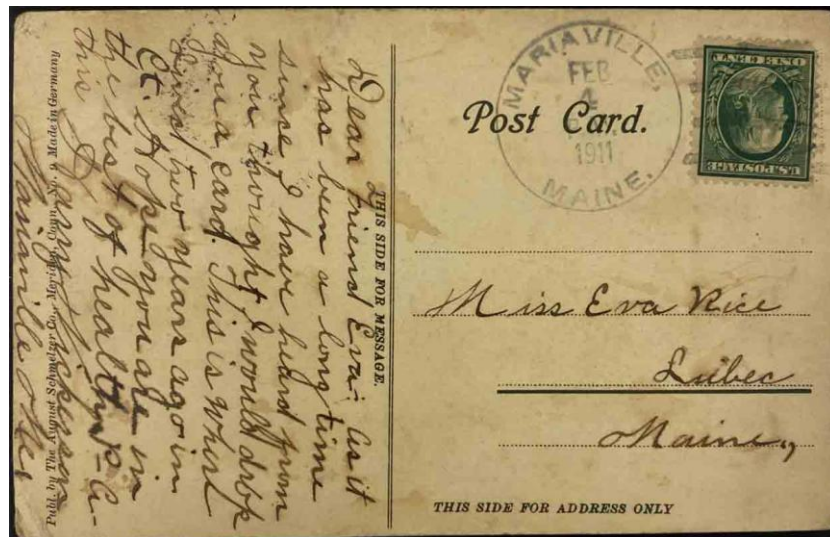
Mariaville (1)

15 April 1910:

Mariaville (1) Post Office (formerly Tilden Post Office) re-opened.

15 April 1910:

Carrie E. Kincaid remained as the Postmaster of the Mariaville (1) Post Office.



4 February 1911:

The circular postmark is 31 mm in diameter with a four-bar B killer. Similar postmarks and killers dated 6 July 1911, 30 January 1912, 13 January 1913, 30 June 1913, and 27 September 1913 are known.

28 February 1914:

Mariaville (1) Post Office closed with service from Waltham Post Office.

Post offices at the northern location in the Town of Mariaville, in chronological order:

North Mariaville (1)

7 February 1854:

North Mariaville (1) Post Office opened.

7 February 1854:

Richard Goodwin became the Postmaster of the North Mariaville (1) Post Office.

22 December 1863:

George Gorden became the Postmaster of the North Mariaville (1) Post Office.

15 February 1864:

George P. Goodwin became the Postmaster of the North Mariaville (1) Post Office.

20 January 1873:

Charles R. Goodwin became the Postmaster of the North Mariaville (1) Post Office.

1 March 1880:

North Mariaville (1) Post Office closed

North Mariaville (1)

28 August 1880:

North Mariaville (1) Post Office re-opened.

28 August 1880:

Eliza A. Brimmer became the Postmaster of the North Mariaville (1) Post Office.



Circa 1885:

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



15 March 1888:

The circular postmark is 28 mm in diameter with a four-circle target killer.

2 November 1906:

14 October 1891:

North Mariaville (1) Post Office closed with service from Amherst.

Mariaville (2)

29 October 1892:

Mariaville (2) Post Office opened.

29 October 1892:

Eliza A. Brimmer became the Postmaster of the Mariaville (2) Post Office.



30 April 1902:

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

16 May 1904:

The name of Mariaville (2) Post Office was changed to North Mariaville (2) Post Office.

North Mariaville (2)

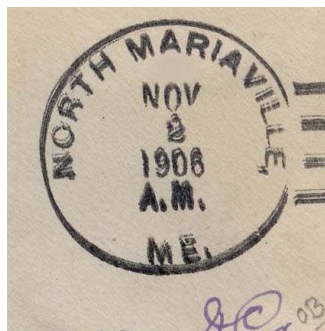
16 May 1904:

North Mariaville (2) Post Office, formerly Mariaville (2) Post Office opened.

Eliza A. Brimmer remained the Postmaster.

23 February 1906:

Cora L. Brimmer became the Postmaster of the North Mariaville (2) Post Office.



2 November 1908:

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



23 June 1914:

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

31 December 1923:

North Mariaville (2) Post Office closed with service from Amherst.

1 January 1924:

With both post offices closed, mail carrier service via Star Route 1428 out of Amherst began to serve a portion of Mariaville along what is now known as Route 181. See illustrations of the listing from the U. S. Postal Bulletin on the next page.

These notices, posted in the U. S. Postal Bulletin from December 20, 1923, document the replacement of the North Mariaville Post Office with mail carrier service out of Amherst. Alroy E. Sumner was the first carrier. Jordans Corner appears to be the name that the U. S. Post Office Department had then applied to the location variously known as Tilden or Mariaville, at the corner of Maine Route 181 and Pyle Road. The n.o. abbreviation indicates that the location was Not an Office.

1428. Amherst by North Mariaville to Jordans Corner (n. o.), 9.5 miles and back, six times a week. From January 1, 1924, to June 30, 1925. Alroy E. Sumner, of Amherst, contractor, at \$990 per annum. Contractor required to sell stamp supplies, etc. [19 December.

**1428. Amherst to Jordans Corner (n. o.):
Motor vehicle to be used when road and weather conditions permit.**

When motor vehicle can be used.

Leave Amherst daily except Sunday 7 a. m.

Arrive Jordans Corner (n. o.) by 8.30 a. m.

Leave Jordans Corner (n. o.) daily except Sunday 8.35 a. m.

Arrive Amherst by 10.05 a. m.

When motor vehicle can not be used.

Leave Amherst daily except Sunday 7 a. m.

Arrive Jordans Corner (n. o.) by 9.30 a. m.

Leave Jordans Corner (n. o.) daily except Sunday 9.35 a. m.

Arrive Amherst by 12.05 p. m.

Effective January 1, 1924. [19 December.

Source: http://www.uspostalbulletins.com/PDF/Vol44_Issue13348_19231220.pdf

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 (2024-5).

Thank you for the contributions to this page by the Strout Family, Willett Thompson Collection, Vintage Maineia, 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>

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 05/19/2026 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, Hancock County, Maine. Site Location Reports for the Post Offices in the Town of Mariaville
Mariaville:

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/68415820?objectPage=661>

North Mariaville:

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/68415820?objectPage=738> and the three following pages

Tilden:

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/68415820?objectPage=944> and the three following 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 Mariaville History

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_1881/43/

Honey, Mark. *Mariaville: A History of Wm. Bingham's Settlement on the Union River*. 1986. This is the authoritative source on Mariaville. Additional information is in Mark Honey's five-volume work, *King Pine, Queen Spruce, and Jack Tar: An Intimate History of Lumbering on the Union River*. These books are available for consultation at the Ellsworth Public Library.

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

U. S. Geological Survey. Editions of historic (as well as current) topographic maps of Mariaville 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>

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Ellsworth 1911

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

Great Pond 1932

https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/ht-bin/tv_browse.pl?id=282f93c0ce4d3d310453efc20c7f1f24

Postmarks

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

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

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

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.