

Orland Postal History

Hancock County, Maine

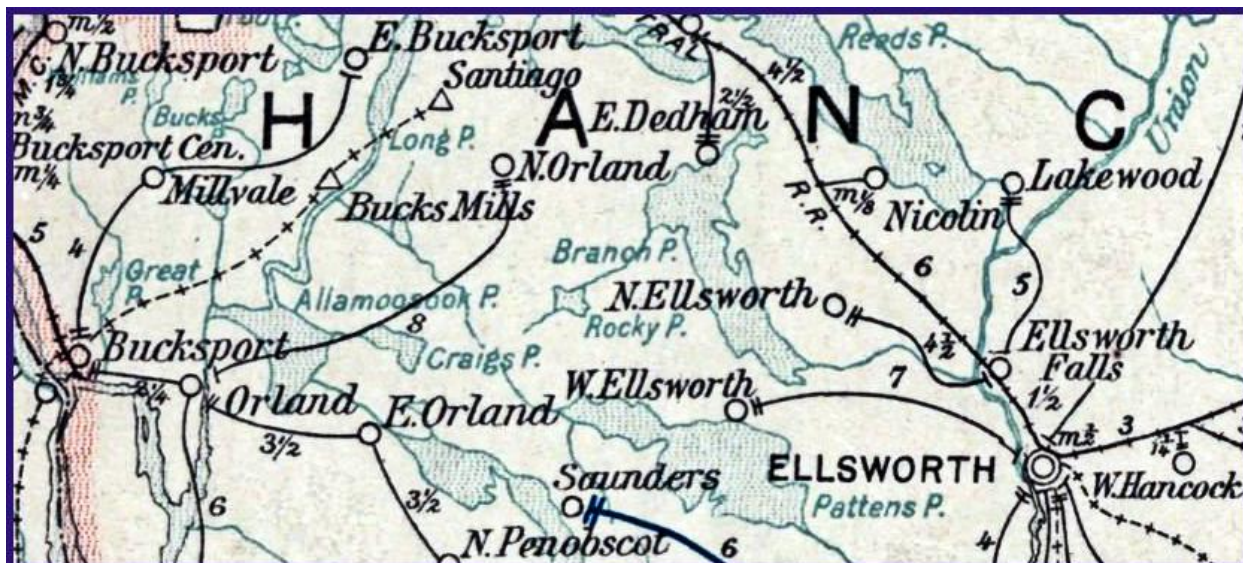
Last update for this page: 06/25/2026

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

Orland was incorporated in 1800 from Plantation 2, which originally included Bucksport and Orrington. Today the boundaries of Orland include the villages of Cranes Corners, East Orland, Five Mile Corners, North Orland, Orland (Orland Village), South Orland, and Winkumpaugh Corners.

During the history of the town of Orland, there have been five post offices. Briefly, the history of these five is as follows:

1. [East Orland](#) Post Office opened on 15 July 1867 and closed on 21 July 1869.
2. [East Orland](#) Post Office re-opened on 19 November 1878 and is still operational.
3. [North Orland](#) Post Office opened on 16 October 1889 and closed on 22 April 1890.
4. [North Orland](#) Post Office re-opened on 9 June 1890 and closed on 28 February 1913.
5. [Orland](#) Post Office opened on 8 February 1821 and is still operating.



In 1903, there were three post offices in Orland: East Orland and Orland.

Source: Post Route Map of the State of Maine 1903, available for download from
<https://collections.leventhalmap.org/search/commonwealth:cj82km77v>



In 1881, the Orland Post Office was located in George Condon's store, as marked on this map of Orland village from the 1881 Atlas of Hancock County, by George N. Colby

Source: https://digitalmaine.com/atlas_hancock_1881/38/



Above: Map of Orland, from the 1881 Atlas of Hancock County, Maine, by George N. Colby, published by S. F. Colby, 1881.

Source: https://digitalmaine.com/atlas_hancock_1881/38/

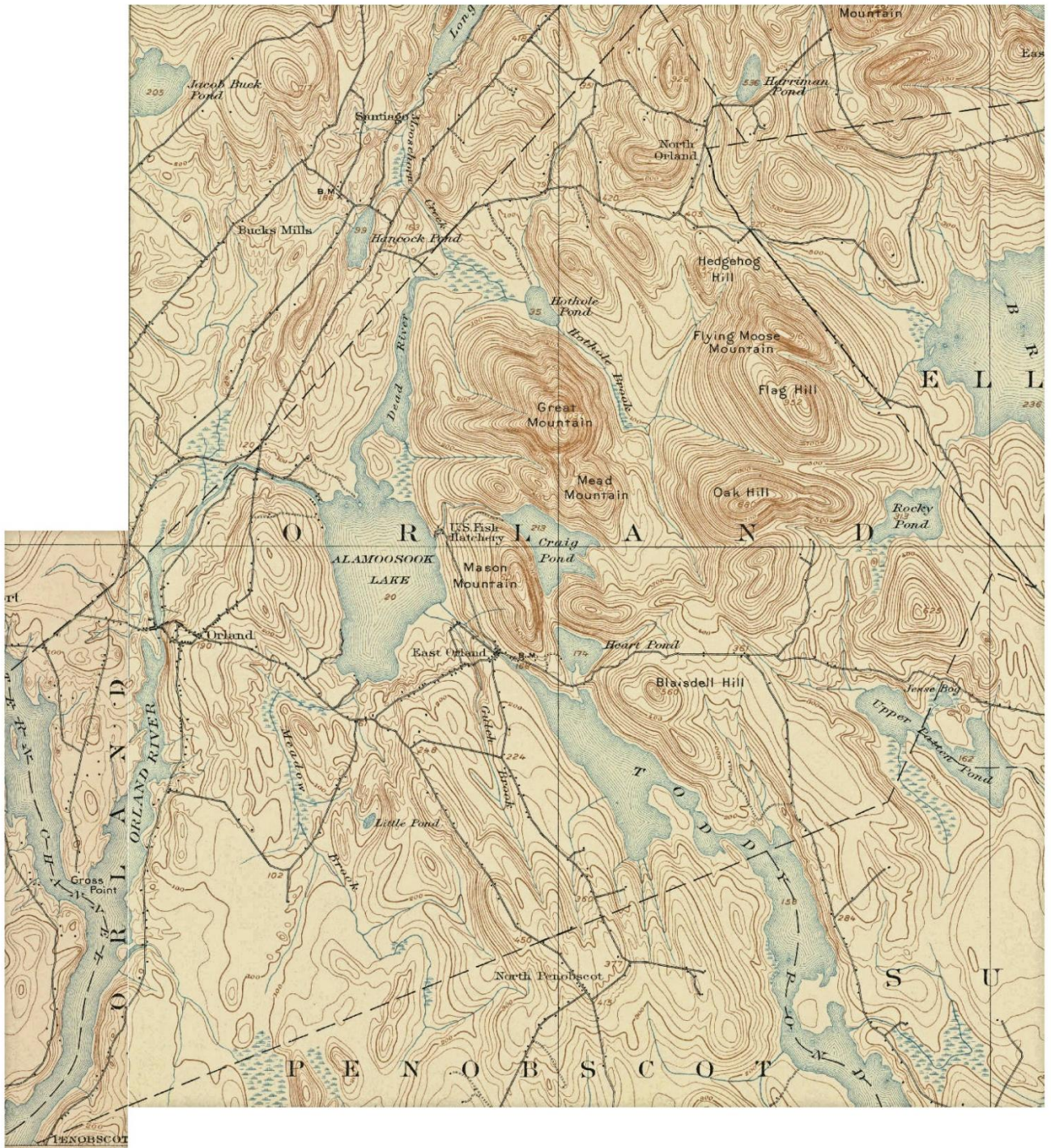
On next page: composite map of Orland, from the two adjoining U. S. Geological Survey Topographic Quadrangle maps:

Orland, 1900

https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/ht-bin/tv_browse.pl?id=6caf5de0d0598709c212ccac0ca50130

Bucksport, 1902

https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/ht-bin/tv_browse.pl?id=2100d332d01ec07055e47d95ebf02ed2



Composite topographic map of Orland, based on the 1902 Bucksport sheet (left portion) and the 1900 Orland sheet (right portion). The location of North Orland, which is sometimes not shown on maps, is shown on this one, near the northernmost corner of the town at the boundary with the City of Ellsworth. Sources for this map cited previous page.

East Orland

15 July 1867:

East Orland Post Office opened.

15 July 1867:

Vinal R. Hooper became the Postmaster of the East Orland Post Office.

21 July 1869:

East Orland Post Office closed.

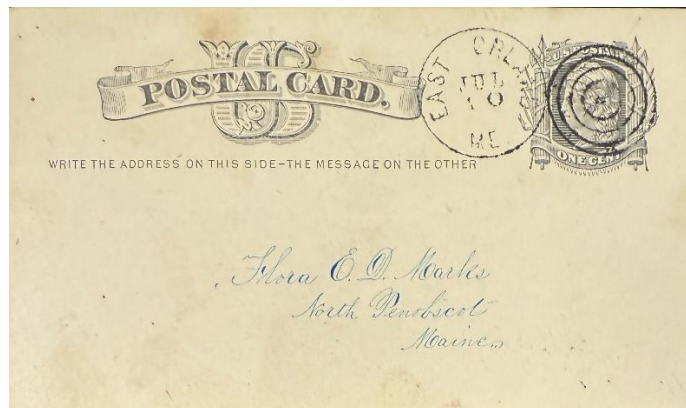
East Orland

19 November 1878:

East Orland Post Office re-opened.

19 November 1878:

Nancy M. Blaisdell became the Postmaster of the East Orland Post Office.



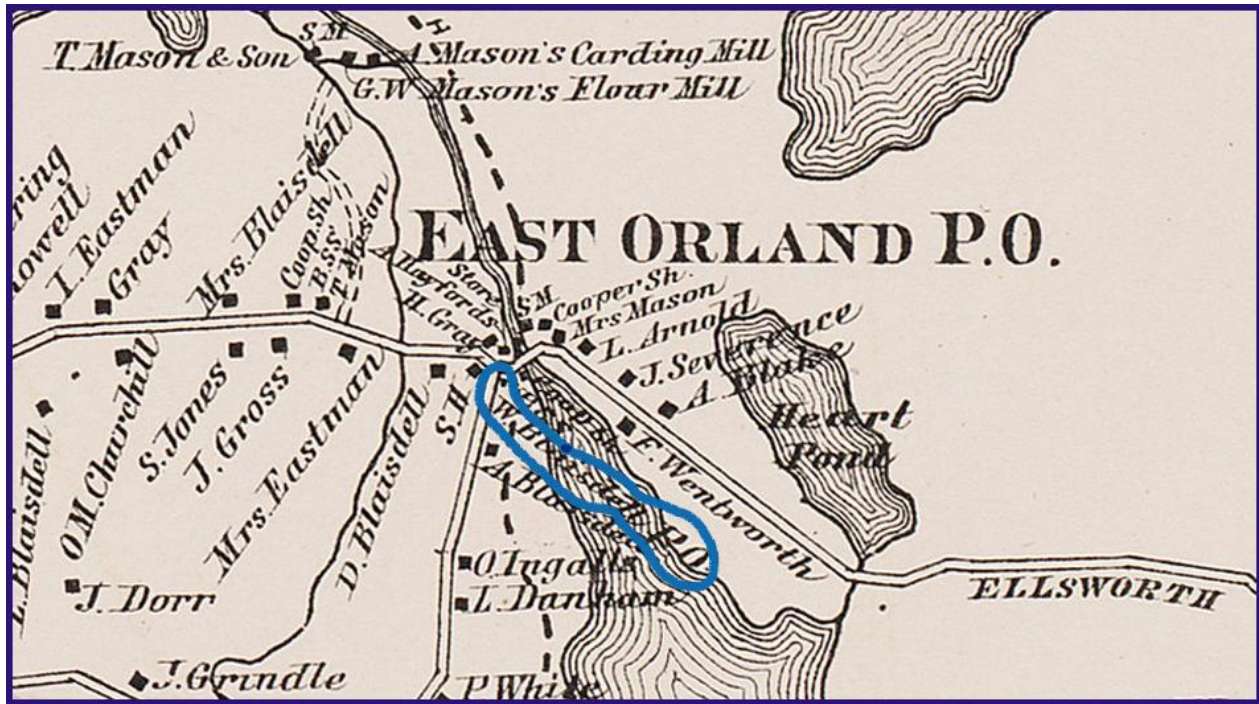
10 July circa 1880:

The circular postmark is 24 mm in diameter with a five-circle target killer.



13 July unknown year:

The size of the circular postmark is unknown.



Detail taken from the map of Orland in the 1881 Atlas of Hancock County, Maine, shows the location of the East Orland Post Office at the home of Nancy and William Blaisdell.

Source: https://digitalmaine.com/atlas_hancock_1881/38/



21 June 1904:

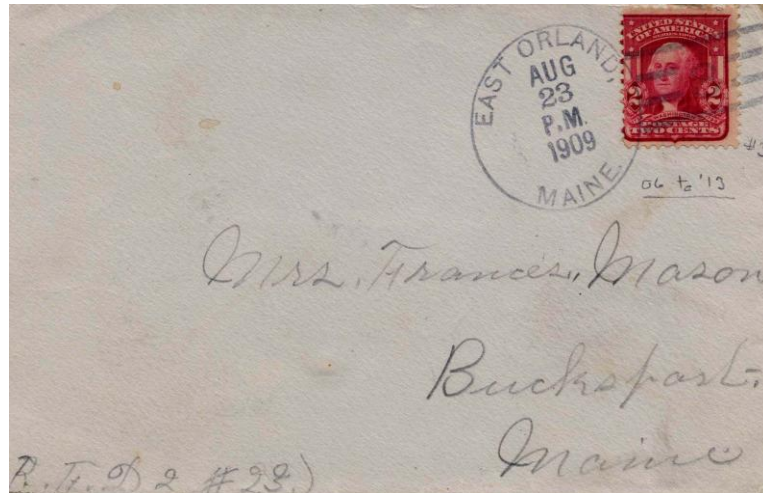
The circular postmark is 27.5 mm in diameter with a probable four-circle target killer.

24 September 1902:

William L. Wentworth became the Postmaster of the East Orland Post Office.

8 April 1908:

Mrs. Ethel Snow became the Postmaster of the East Orland Post Office.

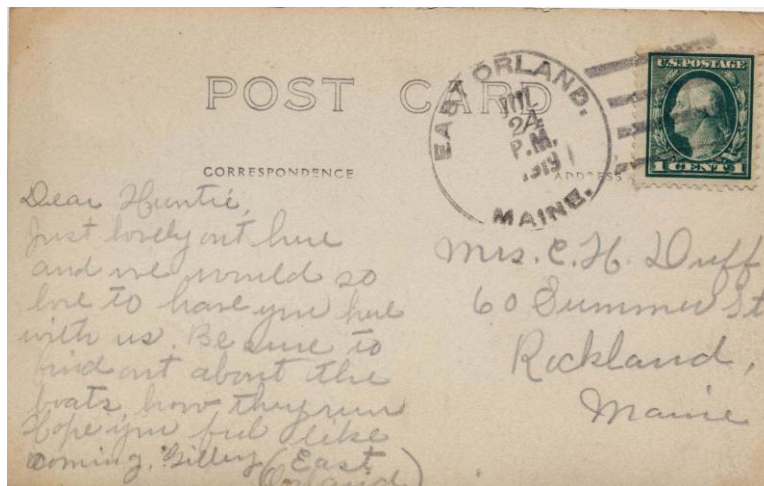


23 August 1909:

The circular postmark is 31 mm in diameter with a four-bar A/1 killer.

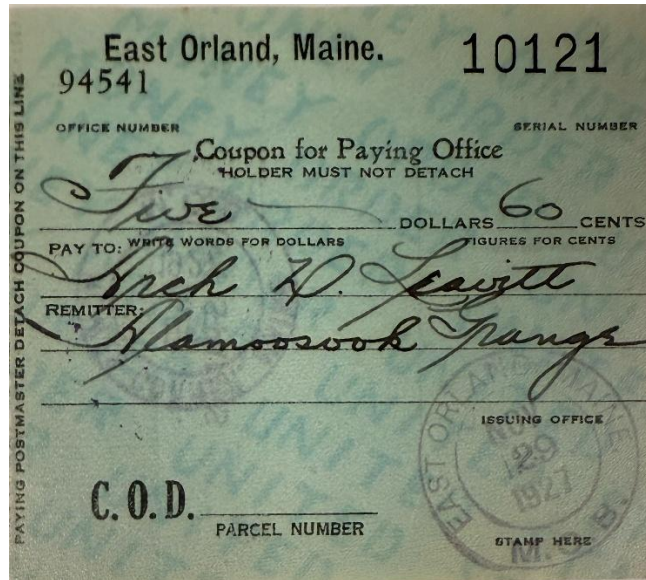
17 October 1914:

Mrs. Ethel B. Snow became the Postmaster of the East Orland Post Office.



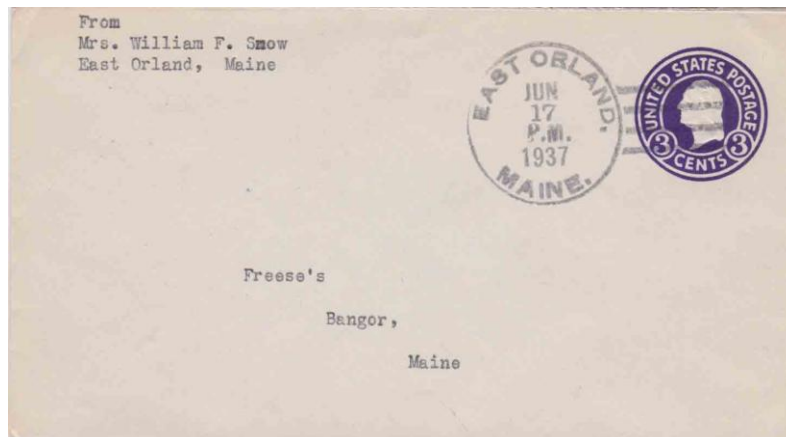
24 July 1919:

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



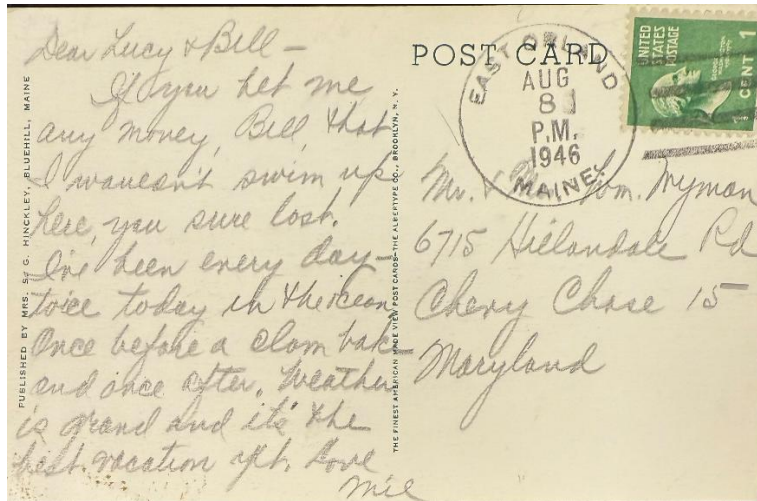
29 November 1927:

The outer circle of the double-ringed postmark is 29 mm in diameter.



17 June 1937:

The circular postmark is 32 mm in diameter with a four-bar A/3 killer.



8 August 1946:

The circular postmark is 32 mm in diameter with a four-bar F/1 killer.
A similar postmark and killer dated 30 October 1948 is known.

31 October 1958:

Philip E. Whitney became the Acting Postmaster of the East Orland Post Office.

16 February 1960:

Philip E. Whitney became the Postmaster of the East Orland Post Office.

6 May 1977:

Albert M. Whitney became the Officer-In-Charge of the East Orland Post Office.

9 July 1977:

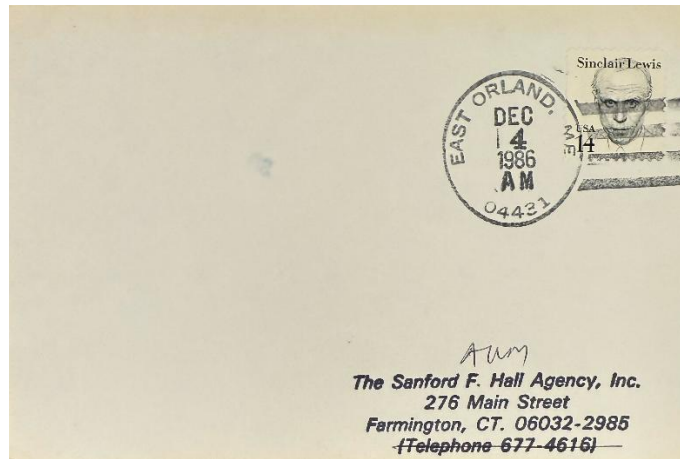
Donna Montgomery became the Officer-In-Charge of the East Orland Post Office.

25 October 1977:

John J. Somers became the Officer-In-Charge of the East Orland Post Office.

14 January 1978:

Mrs. Elizabeth M. Chamberlain became the Postmaster of the East Orland Post Office.



4 December 1986:

The circular postmark is 31 x 34 mm with a four-bar F/2 killer.

21 June 1991:

Donald A. Lynch became the Officer-In-Charge of the East Orland Post Office.

11 January 1992:

Donald A. Lynch became the Postmaster of the East Orland Post Office.

27 September 2000:

Kathy H. Ames became the Officer-In-Charge of the East Orland Post Office.

6 October 2001:

Kathy H. Ames became the Postmaster of the East Orland Post Office.

28 June 2012:

Johanna Austin became the Officer-In-Charge of the East Orland Post Office.

28 June 2013:

Bonnie Whelan became the Officer-In-Charge of the East Orland Post Office.

29 June 2013:

East Orland Post Office was converted to a Remotely Managed Post Office under the direction of the Bucksport Post Office postmaster.



21 July 2020:
East Orland Post Office – Photo Credit – Jim Husson

24 February 2025:

East Orland Post Office is still operational at 986 Acadia Highway, Orland, Maine 04472. GPS:
44°33'59" N x 68°41'06" W.

North Orland

16 October 1889:

North Orland Post Office opened.

16 October 1889:

Zenas B. Chase became the Postmaster of the North Orland Post Office.

22 April 1890:

North Orland Post Office closed with service from Orland Post Office.

North Orland

9 June 1890:

North Orland Post Office re-opened.

9 June 1890:

Willard P. White became the Postmaster of the North Orland Post Office.

5 August 1891:

John E. Ginn became the Postmaster of the North Orland Post Office.

30 December 1893:

Jabez G. Ware became the Postmaster of the North Orland Post Office.



? December 1895:

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

4 December 1902:

Imogene M. Ware became the Postmaster of the North Orland Post Office.

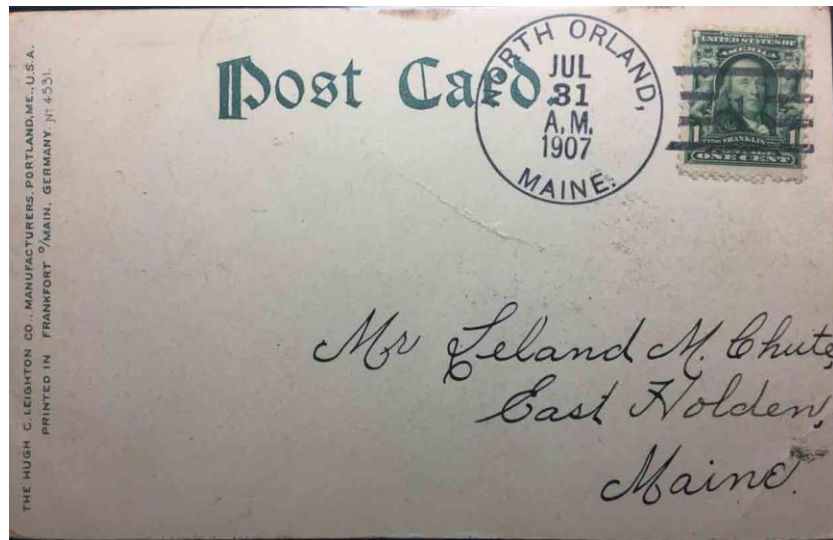
7 August 1905:

Laura J. Mumler became the Postmaster of the North Orland Post Office.



13 June 1907:

The size of the circular postmark is unknown.



31 July 1907:

The circular postmark is 31.5 mm in diameter with a Doane 3/1 killer. (this is the first recorded use of a Doane Cancel for North Orland). Similar postmarks and killers dated 22 October 1908, 13 June 1911, and 29 August 1907 are known.

28 February 1913:

North Orland Post Office closed with service from Orland Post Office.

Orland

8 February 1821:

Orland Post Office opened.

8 February 1821:

Andrew Craig became the Postmaster of the Orland Post Office.

6 October 1824:

Enoch Partridge became the Postmaster of the Orland Post Office.

29 July 1833:

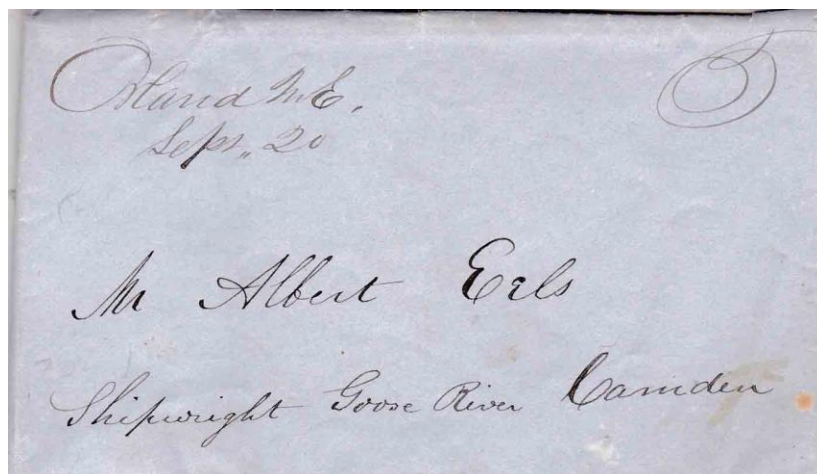
Rufus Trussel became the Postmaster of the Orland Post Office.

28 July 1838:

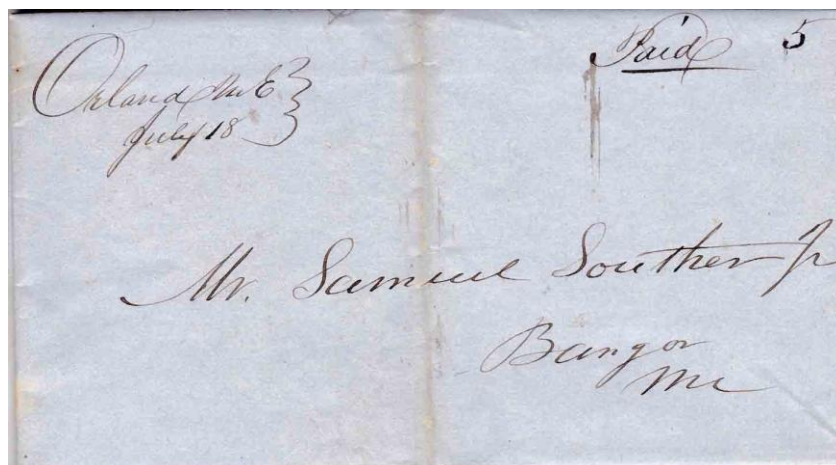
Lewis W. Conner became the Postmaster of the Orland Post Office.

30 December 1842:

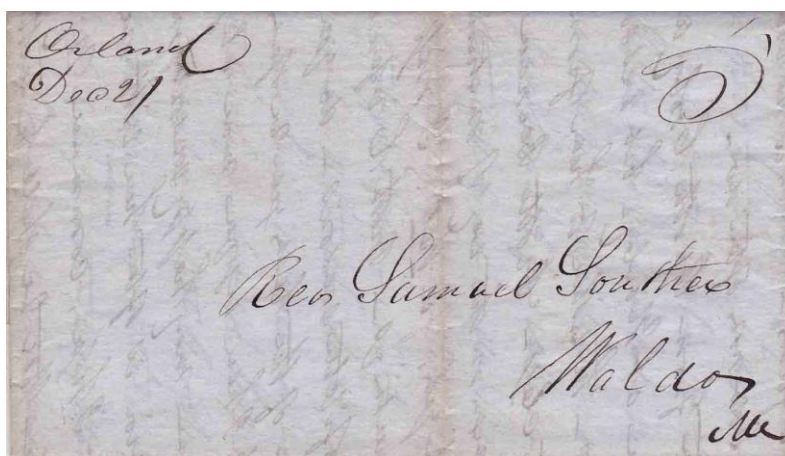
Parker W. Perry became the Postmaster of the Orland Post Office.



20 September circa 1840:
Manuscript postmark and killer.



18 July 1846:
Manuscript postmark and killer.



21 December 1846:
Manuscript postmark and killer.



18 March 1850:
Manuscript postmark and killer.

9 December 1850:

Aaron P. Emerson became the Postmaster of the Orland Post Office.

30 March 1853:

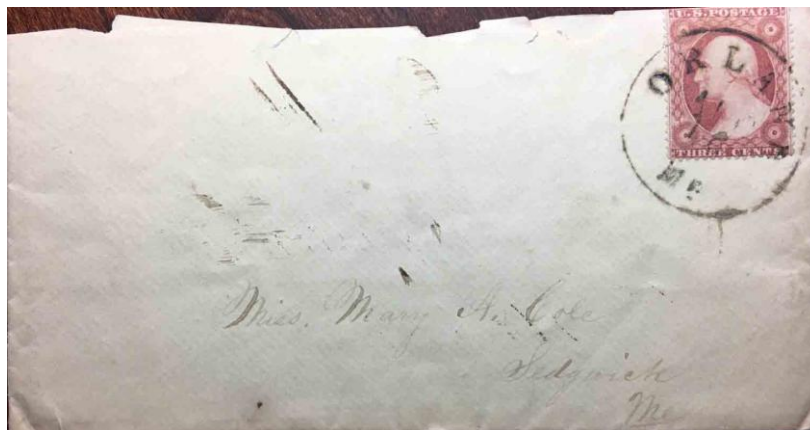
Samuel P. Brown became the Postmaster of the Orland Post Office.

17 March 1854:

Charles J. Perry became the Postmaster of the Orland Post Office.

11 December 1854:

Stillman Cotton became the Postmaster of the Orland Post Office.



18 ??? 1859:
The circular postmark is 31 mm in diameter with the postmark used as a killer.

9 July 1861:

Nathan H. Powers became the Postmaster of the Orland Post Office.



6 August unknown year:
The size of the circular postmark is unknown.



6 October unknown year:
The size of the postmark is unknown.

18 August 1864:

Oliver B. Trott became the Postmaster of the Orland Post Office.



28 February 1879:
The outer circle of the double-ring circular postmark is 25.5 mm in diameter with a fancy shaded star killer.

2 March 1880:

George H. Condon became the Postmaster of the Orland Post Office. (The map on page 2 shows the location of Mr. Condon's store, which housed the post office.)

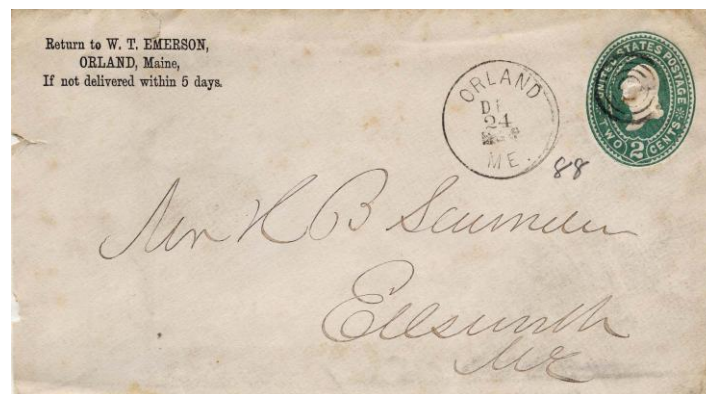


25 September 1880:

The octagon-shaped postmark is 24 x 24 mm with a fancy solid-shaped star killer.

28 September 1885:

Richard P. Harriman became the Postmaster of the Orland Post Office.



24 December 1888:

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

25 September 1889:

John Ames became the Postmaster of the Orland Post Office.

31 August 1893:

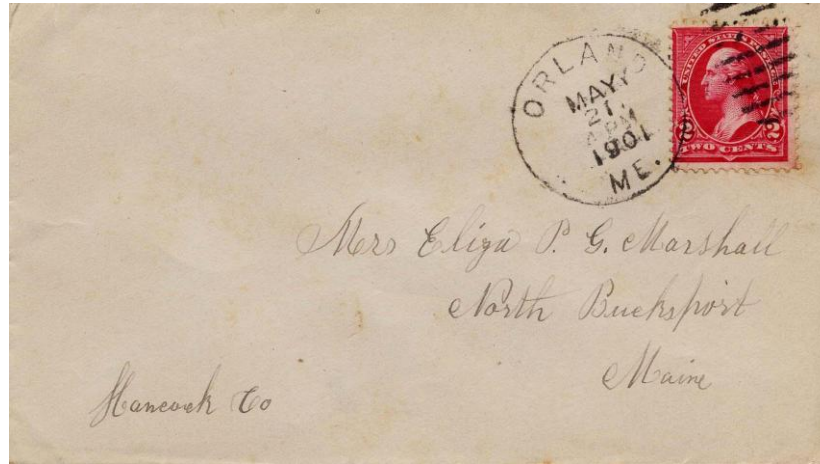
Mrs. Julia B. Harriman became the Postmaster of the Orland Post Office.



17 April 1897: The size of the circular postmark is unknown.

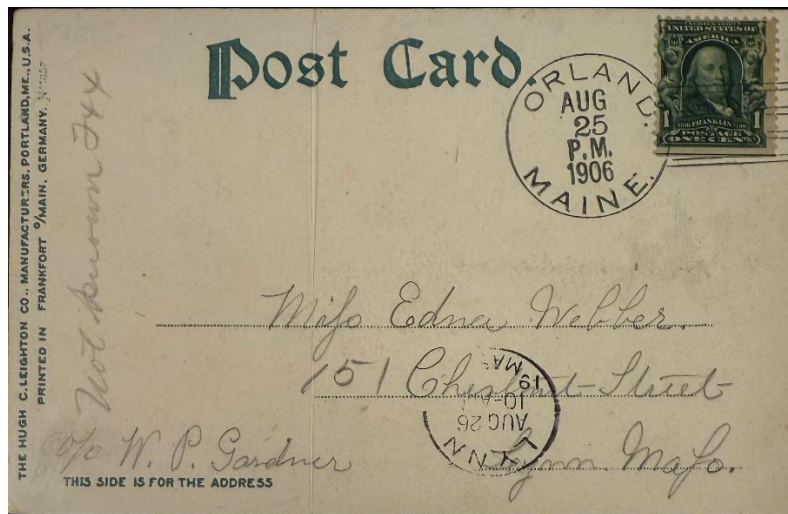
19 January 1898:

John Ames became the Postmaster of the Orland Post Office.



21 May 1901:

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

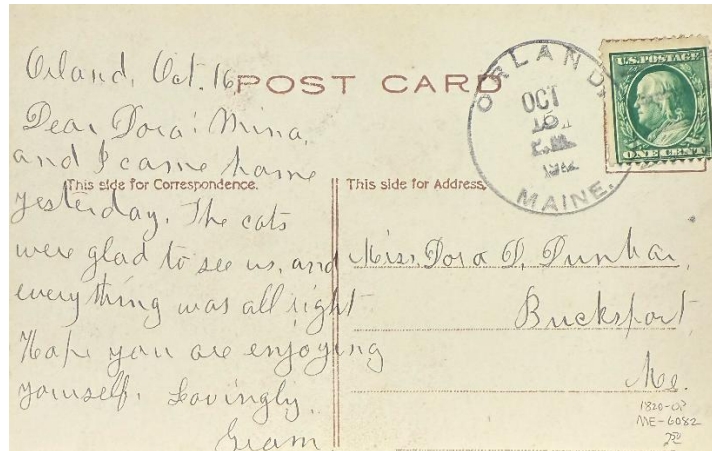


25 August 1906:

The circular postmark is 28 mm in diameter with a Doane 2/5 killer.
A similar postmark and killer dated 28 September 1908 is known.

17 April 1908:

Nathaniel H. Ames became the Postmaster of the Orland Post Office.



15 October 1912:

Misshapen circular postmark is 32 x 34 mm with a four-bar B killer. Similar postmark and killer dated 1 April 1919 is known.

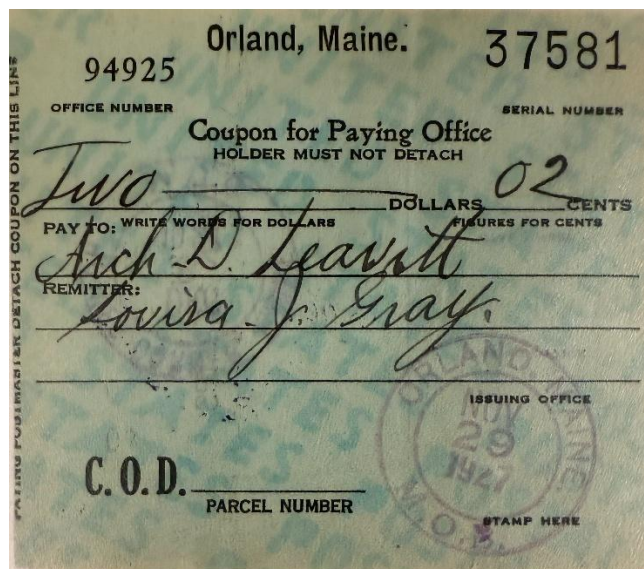
20 October 1913:

William B. Hutchins became the Postmaster of the Orland Post Office.



14 June 1917:

The size of the postmark is unknown.



29 November 1927: The circular postmark is 29 mm in diameter.

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

8 February 1932:

Kelsey Grey became the Acting Postmaster of the Orland Post Office.

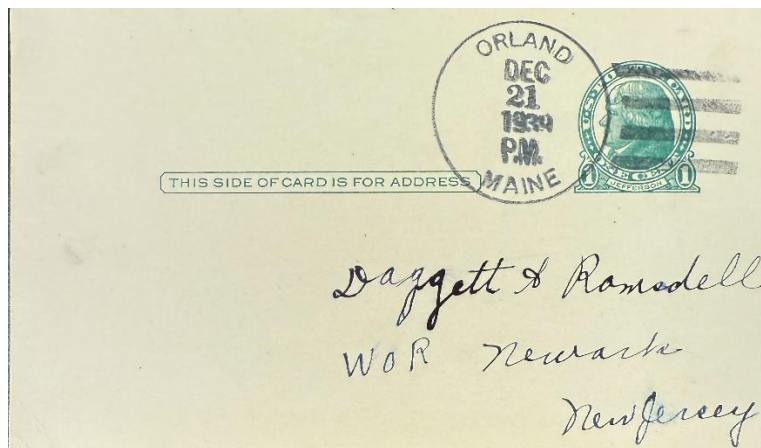
14 May 1932:

George E. Saunders became the Postmaster of the Orland Post Office.



14 November 1934:

The circular postmark is 33 mm in diameter with a four-bar D killer.
A similar postmark and killer dated 4 December 1937 is known.



21 December 1939:

The circular postmark is 32.5 mm in diameter with a four-bar F/1 killer.
Similar postmarks and killers dated 19 August 1940 and 21 October 1942 are known.

1 June 1944:

Mrs. Laura B. Soper became the Acting Postmaster of the Orland Post Office.

6 November 1944:

Mrs. Laura B. Soper became the Postmaster of the Orland Post Office.

4 November 1954:

Mrs. Doris M. Hutchins became the Acting Postmaster of the Orland Post Office.

13 May 1955:

Mrs. Doris M. Hutchins became the Postmaster of the Orland Post Office.

31 October 1986:

Janet S. Forbes became the Officer-In-Charge of the Orland Post Office.

31 January 1987:

Kathy H. Ames became the Postmaster of the Orland Post Office.

27 September 2000:

Mary Jane Lucas became the Officer-In-Charge of the Orland Post Office.

23 January 2002:

Wallace Smyth became the Officer-In-Charge of the Orland Post Office.

6 April 2002:

Ivon G. Turmel Jr. became the Postmaster of the Orland Post Office.

18 January 2007:

Tiffany J. Shepard became the Officer-In-Charge of the Orland Post Office.

12 May 2007:

Suzanne L. MacLeod became the Postmaster of the Orland Post Office.

20 September 2014:

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



25 July 2020:

Orland Post Office – Photo Credit – Jim Husson

24 February 2025:

Orland Post Office is still operational at 59 Castine Road, Orland, Maine 04472. GPS:
44°34'16" N x 68°44'52" W.

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, 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>

<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, Lincoln County, Maine, via Ancestry.com, or via U. S. National Archives website.

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/78746587>

(Note: this file contains Hancock County, but it is 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, Lincoln County, Maine. Site Location Reports for the Post Offices in the Town of Orland:

East Orland:

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/68415820?objectPage=489> and the following page

Orland:

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/68415820?objectPage=778> and the four following pages

North Orland:

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/68415820?objectPage=742> and the nine 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 Orland History

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

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

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/

Orland town website: “History of Orland,” <https://townoforland.org/history-of-the-town>

Sawyer, George R. “Post Offices,” pp. 59-64 in ***Best Remembered: Orland, Maine 1800-2000***. PDF of this book available for download from

<https://storage.googleapis.com/juniper-media-library/575/2026/05/Best-Remembered.pdf>

U. S. Geological Survey. Editions of historic (as well as current) topographic maps of Orland are available to download as digital graphic files from the USGS website.

<https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/topoview/viewer/#4/39.98/-100.06> The Town of Orland is on four different topographic sheets. Most of Orland is on the Ellsworth sheet.

Walling, **H. F. *Topographical Map of Hancock County, Maine***, 1860. Available for download from <https://www.loc.gov/item/2011588006/> Not a topographic map as is known today, but it does depict hills, rivers, streams, and ponds – as well as houses and businesses, labelled with names of residents and owners.

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.