

Sorrento Postal History

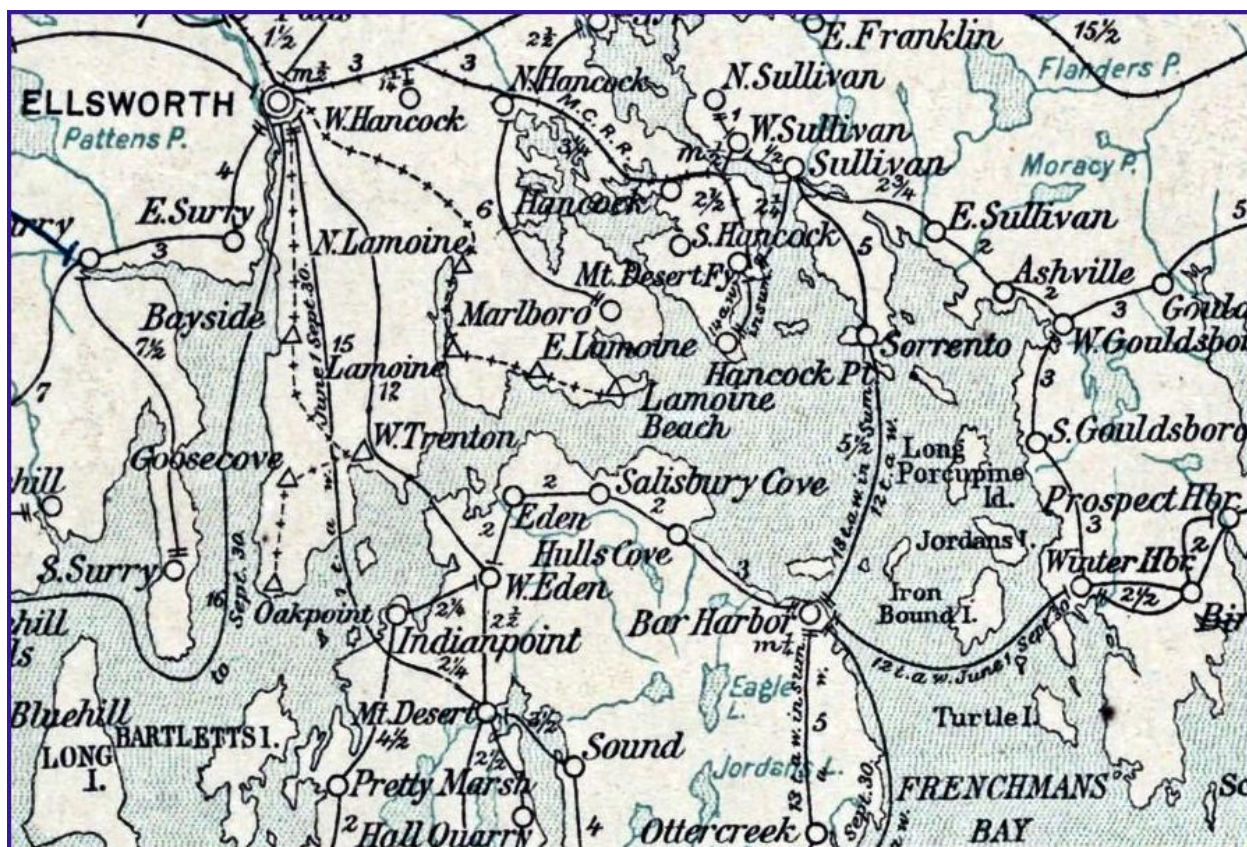
Hancock County, Maine

Last update for this page: 08/30/2026

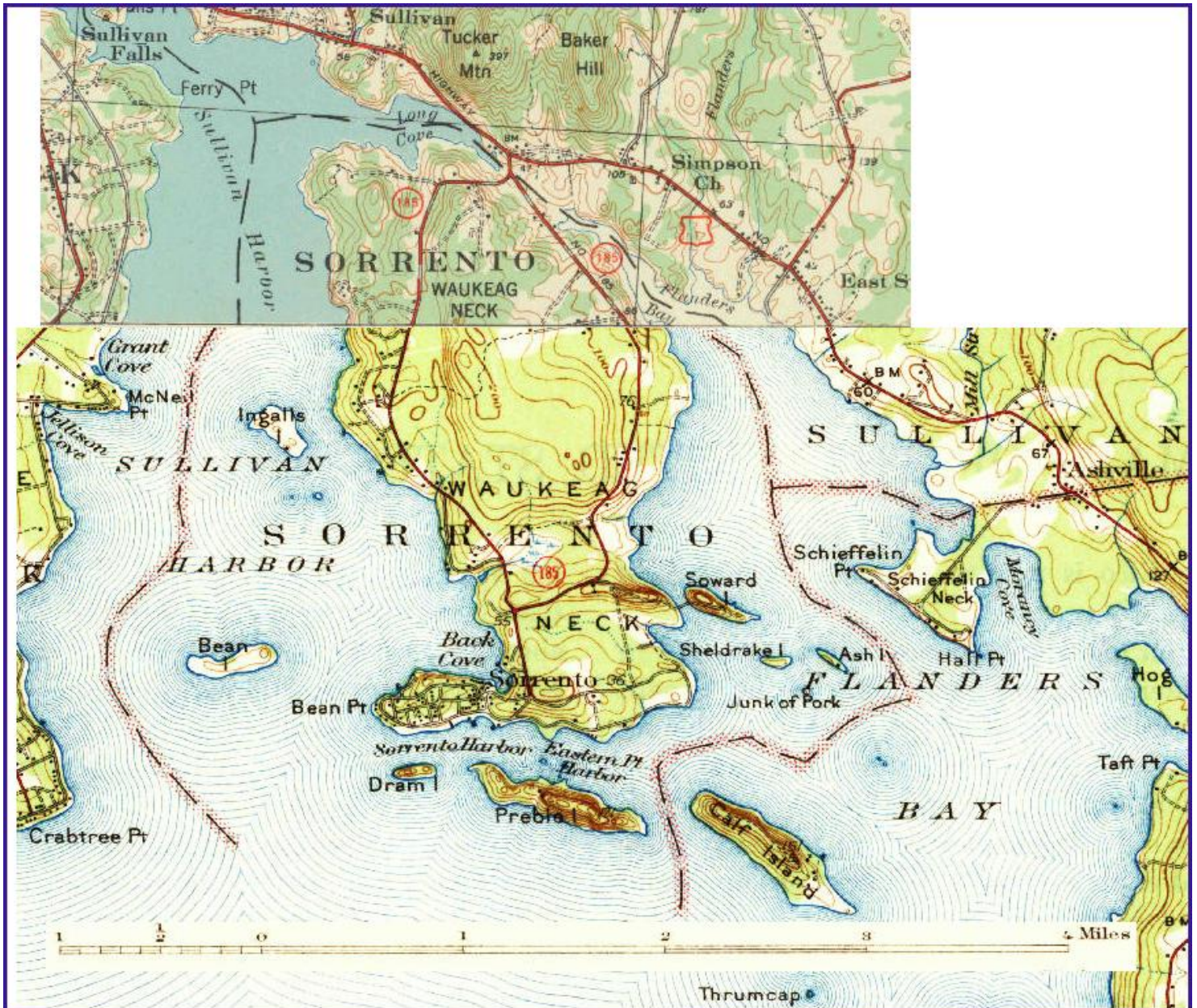
This page is part of the Maine Postal History website—a project of the Maine Philatelic Society.
For more information, see <https://www.mainephilatelic.org/mph>.

Sorrento was originally part of the Town of Sullivan. Investors developed part of Waukeag Neck as a resort area, the name Sorrento was chosen because the coastal scenery reminded someone of the Italian coast, and the incorporation of the Town of Sorrento followed in 1895. Most of the population is concentrated on Bean Point, the southwestern area of Waukeag Neck. The Sorrento Post Office is also located there.

In the Town of Sorrento, there has been only one post office. It opened on 5 May 1888, while the area was still part of the Town of Sullivan, and is still in operation.



The Post Route Map of Maine 1903 shows Sorrento (in the right center of the map) connecting with Sullivan and Bar Harbor. Map detail courtesy of the Norman B. Leventhal Map and Education Center at the Boston Public Library. Link: <https://collections.leventhalmap.org/search/commonwealth:cj82km77v>



The Town of Sorrento as it appeared on U. S. Geological Survey Topographic Quadrangle maps in 1942. The population is concentrated on Bean Point, the southwestern extremity of Waukeag Neck. We have not shown earlier local maps that are available (1860, 1881) because there was very little settlement on Waukeag Neck, and no Sorrento post office in operation during that period. Links to the maps above are detailed in the list of sources at the end of this document.

Sorrento

5 May 1888:

Sorrento Post Office opened.

5 May 1888:

Hattie E. Connors became the Postmaster of the Sorrento Post Office.



4 August 1891:

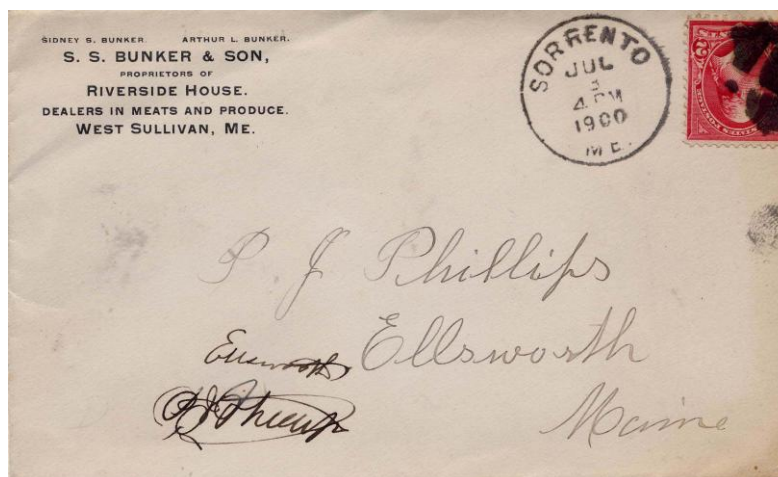
The circular postmark is 28 mm in diameter with no killer.

18 October 1894:

Edward R. Connors's appointment was not commissioned.

18 March 1895:

William H. Lawrence became the Postmaster of the Sorrento Post Office.



3 July 1900:

The circular postmark is 27 mm in diameter with a cork smudge killer.

5 November 1903:

Percy L. Aiken became the Postmaster of the Sorrento Post Office.



6 June 1904:

The circular postmark is 30 mm in diameter with no killer.



31 May 1912:

The circular postmark is 30 mm in diameter with a five-bar killer.

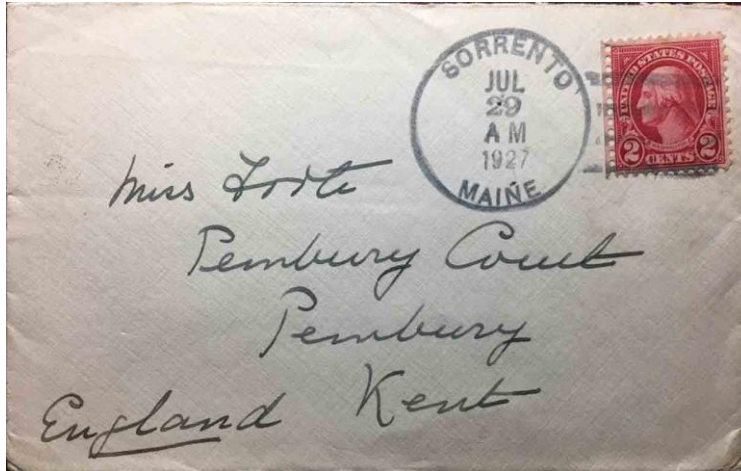


16 November 1920:

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

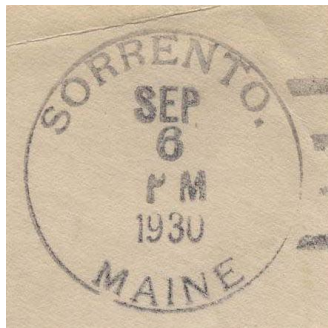
16 October 1914:

Frank L. Trundy became the Postmaster of the Sorrento Post Office.



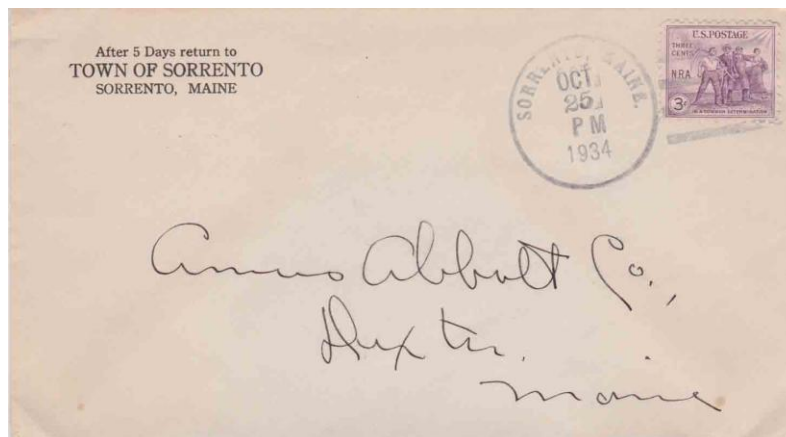
29 July 1924:

The circular postmark is 33 mm in diameter with a four-bar D killer.



6 September 1930:

The circular postmark is 32 mm in diameter with a C/1 killer.



25 October 1934:

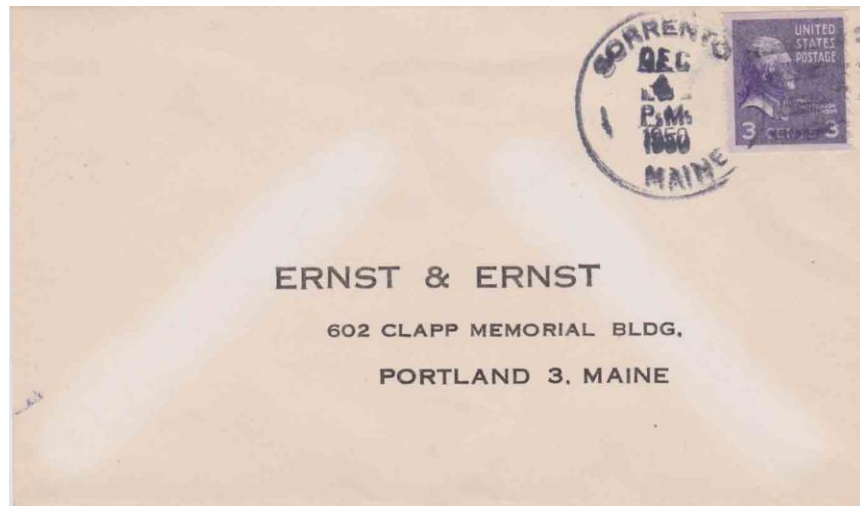
The circular postmark is 30.5 mm in diameter with a four-bar E killer.

31 December 1942:

Mrs. Arleitte S. Trundy became the Acting Postmaster of the Sorrento Post Office.

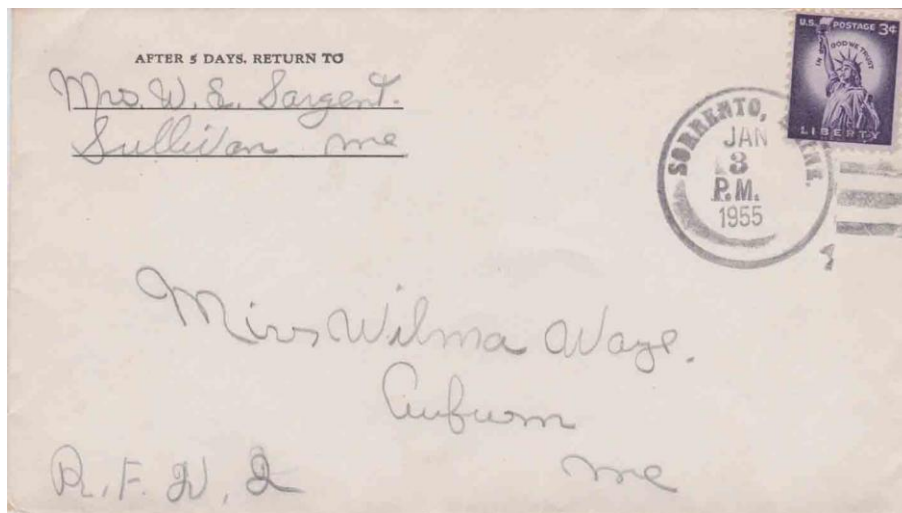
17 May 1943:

Mrs. Arleitte S. Trundy became the Postmaster of the Sorrento Post Office.



4 December 1950:

The circular postmark is 32.5 with a four-bar F/1 killer. A similar postmark and killer dated 7 April 1950 and a similar postmark with no killer dated 15 August 1952 are known.



3 January 1955:

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

20 February 1969:

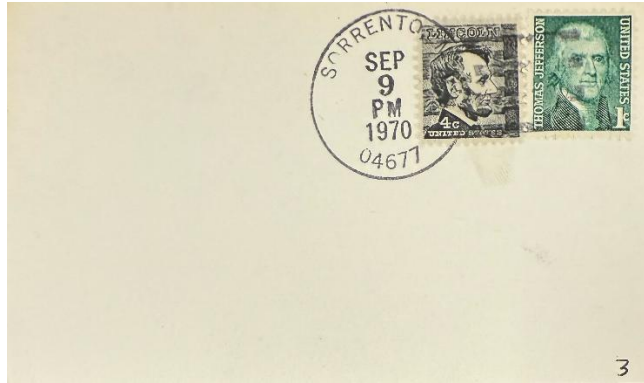
Mrs. Florence L. Dumont became the Officer-In-Charge of the Sorrento Post Office.

7 April 1969:

Kathleen L. Trundy became the Officer-In-Charge of the Sorrento Post Office.

8 August 1969:

Mrs. Florence L. Dumont became the Officer-In-Charge of the Sorrento Post Office.



9 September 1970:

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

6 March 1971:

Mrs. Florence L. Dumont became the Postmaster of the Sorrento Post Office.

4 June 1988:

Beatrice W. Abbott became the Postmaster of the Sorrento Post Office.

30 April 1992:

Suzanne L. MacLeod became the Officer-In-Charge of the Sorrento Post Office.

10 September 1992:

Cheri Brooks became the Officer-In-Charge of the Sorrento Post Office.

22 January 1994:

John E. Fraser became the Postmaster of the Sorrento Post Office.

9 April 1997:

Gail Nelson became the Officer-In-Charge of the Sorrento Post Office.

30 June 1997:

Karen Nankervis became the Officer-In-Charge of the Sorrento Post Office.

27 August 1997:

George Limbaugh became the Officer-In-Charge of the Sorrento Post Office.

20 December 1997:

Leigh W. Liebow became the Postmaster of the Sorrento Post Office.

10 January 2015:

Sorrento 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. The Postmaster position remained until ultimately vacated.



24 September 2020:
Sorrento Post Office – Photo Credit – Jim Husson

1 March 2025:

Sorrento Post Office still operates at 16 Main Street, Sorrento, Maine 04677. GPS: 44°28'24" N x 68°10'58" 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 (2024-6).

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 to 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 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. Post Office Department Reports of Site Locations, Hancock County, Maine. Site Location Reports for the Post Offices in the Town of Sorrento:

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/68415820?objectPage=867> 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 Sorrento History

Johnson, Lelia A. Clark. ***Sullivan and Sorrento since 1760***. Hancock County Publishing, 1953. Also available as a searchable PDF from the Internet Archive. Search for post office:

<https://archive.org/details/sullivansorrento00john>

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/ 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 Sullivan.

“Post Offices,” by Betty M. Hills and Peggy Simpson, pp. 123-134 in ***A Bicentennial History of Sullivan, Maine***, edited by S. Josephine Cooper. 1989, Sullivan-Sorrento Historical Society. The authors have included very good details, including photos, and documented their sources.

Sullivan-Sorrento Historical Society... <https://sullivansorrentohistory.org/timeline>

Town of Sorrento. History of Sorrento: <https://www.sorrentome.org/history>

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

Sorrento is split between two different topographic maps with titles and links shown below:

Bar Harbor 1942 https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/ht-bin/tv_browse.pl?id=a43d8abe7d338a9b9f90fd6d823f2159

Tunk Lake 1932 https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/ht-bin/tv_browse.pl?id=93bf54f2c6bf3ba4cd8f11dc7ab6e4a1

Postmarks

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. We are happy to hear from you via our email, postalhistorymaine@gmail.com.

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

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.