

Surry Postal History

Hancock County, Maine

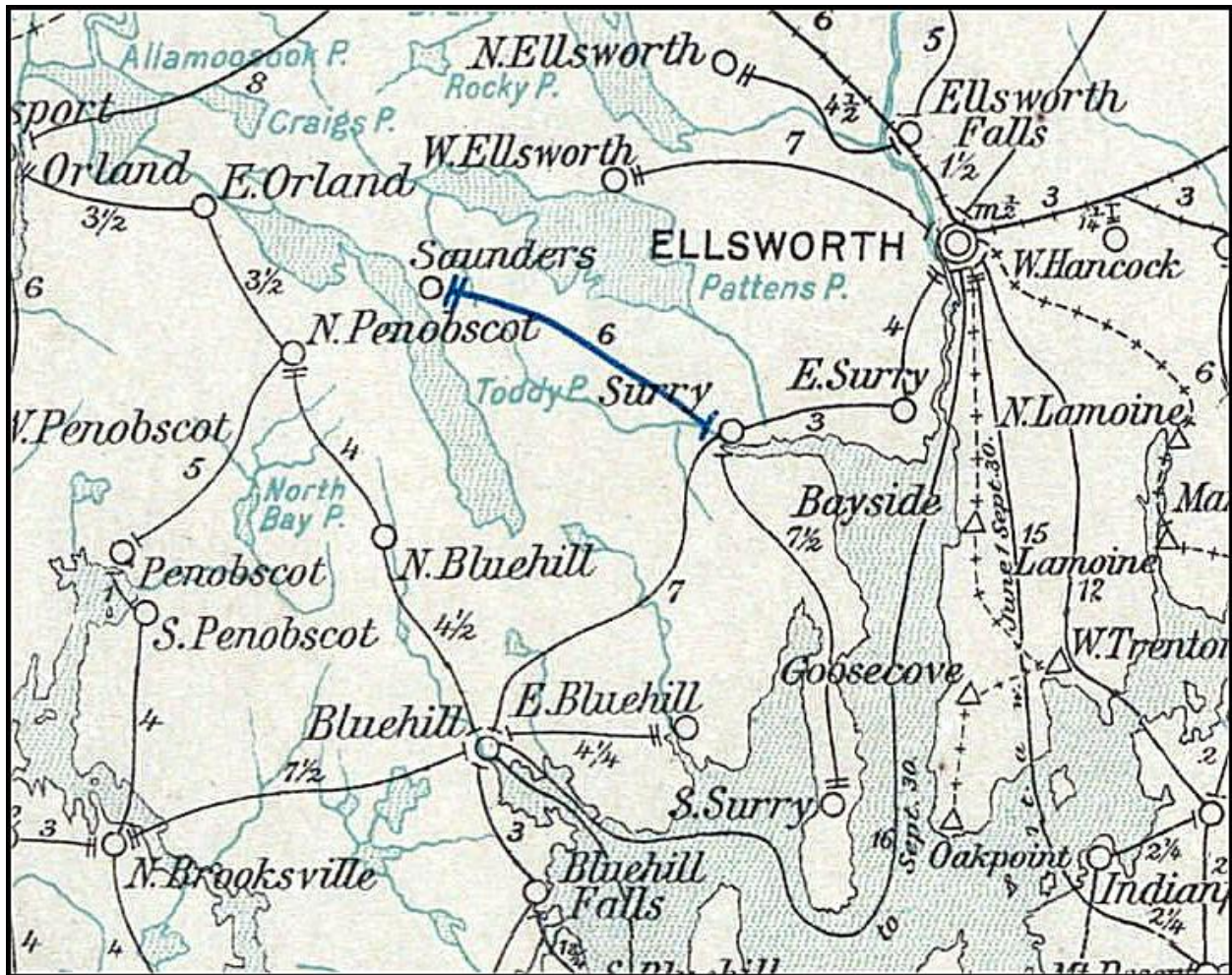
Last update for this page: 08/30/2026

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>.

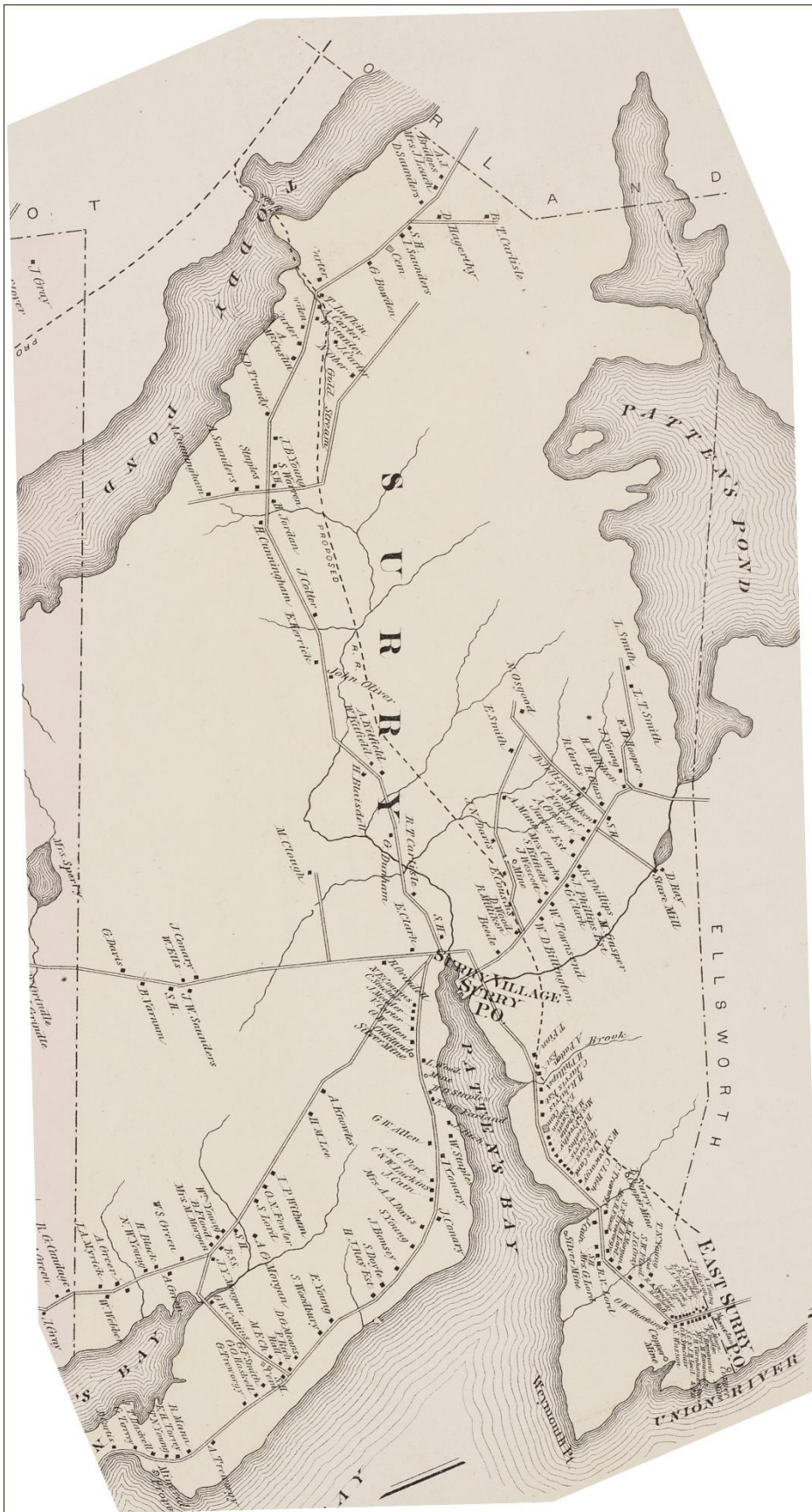
The Town of Surry was incorporated on June 21, 1803, from Township 6, East of Penobscot River (EPR). The boundary between Surry and Ellsworth has a complicated history. Due to the influence of Leonard Jarvis, who owned much land, state legislation allowed Surry to annex a large part of Ellsworth in 1821, so that the portion of Ellsworth that was west of the Union River was placed in Surry. This included the Ellsworth post office. Eventually, in 1829, through the influence of Colonel John Black, the area was restored to Ellsworth.

During the history of the town of Surry, there have been eight post offices.
Briefly, the history of these seen is as follows:

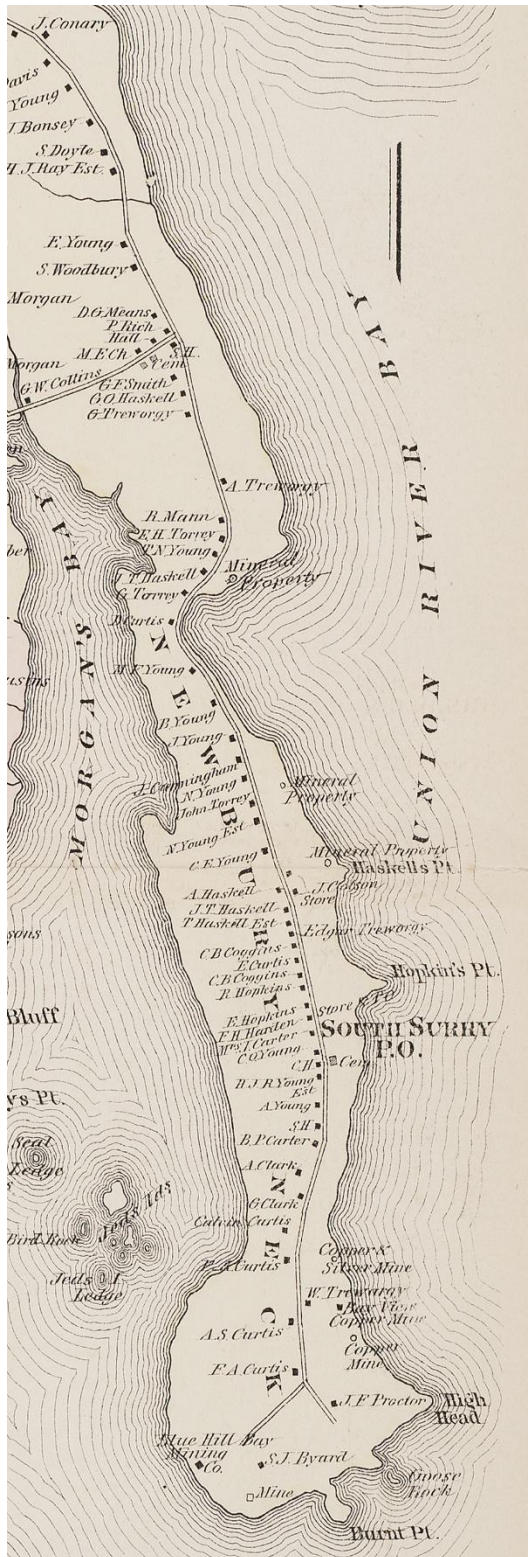
1. [East Surry](#) Post Office opened on 9 February 1872 and closed on 31 October 1924.
2. [East Surry](#) Post Office reopened on 11 March 1926 and closed on 31 May 1930.
3. [Ellsworth](#) Post Office operated within the Surry town boundaries from 28 February 1821 to 17 February 1829.
4. [Saunders](#) Post Office opened on 18 August 1902 and closed on 31 May 1905.
5. [South Surry \(1\)](#) Post Office opened on 8 April 1836 and closed on 18 September 1839.
6. [South Surry \(2\)](#) Post Office opened on 18 March 1874 and closed on 15 June 1911.
7. [South Surry \(2\)](#) Post Office re-opened on 21 October 1912 and closed on 31 October 1934.
8. [Surry](#) Post Office opened on 15 June 1812 and is still operating.



In 1903, there were four post offices in Surry: East Surry, Saunders, South Surry, and Surry. Detail from Post Route Map of the State of Maine 1903, download courtesy of the Norman B. Leventhal Map and Education Center at the Boston Public Library.
link: <https://collections.leventhalmap.org/search/commonwealth:cj82km77v>



Surry in 1881.
Detail from map in
the 1881 Atlas of
Hancock County,
Maine by George
N. Colby, shows
locations of Surry
and East Surry Post
Offices in 1881.
South Surry Post
Office was on
Newbury Neck,
shown on the next
page. Link also
shown on next
page.



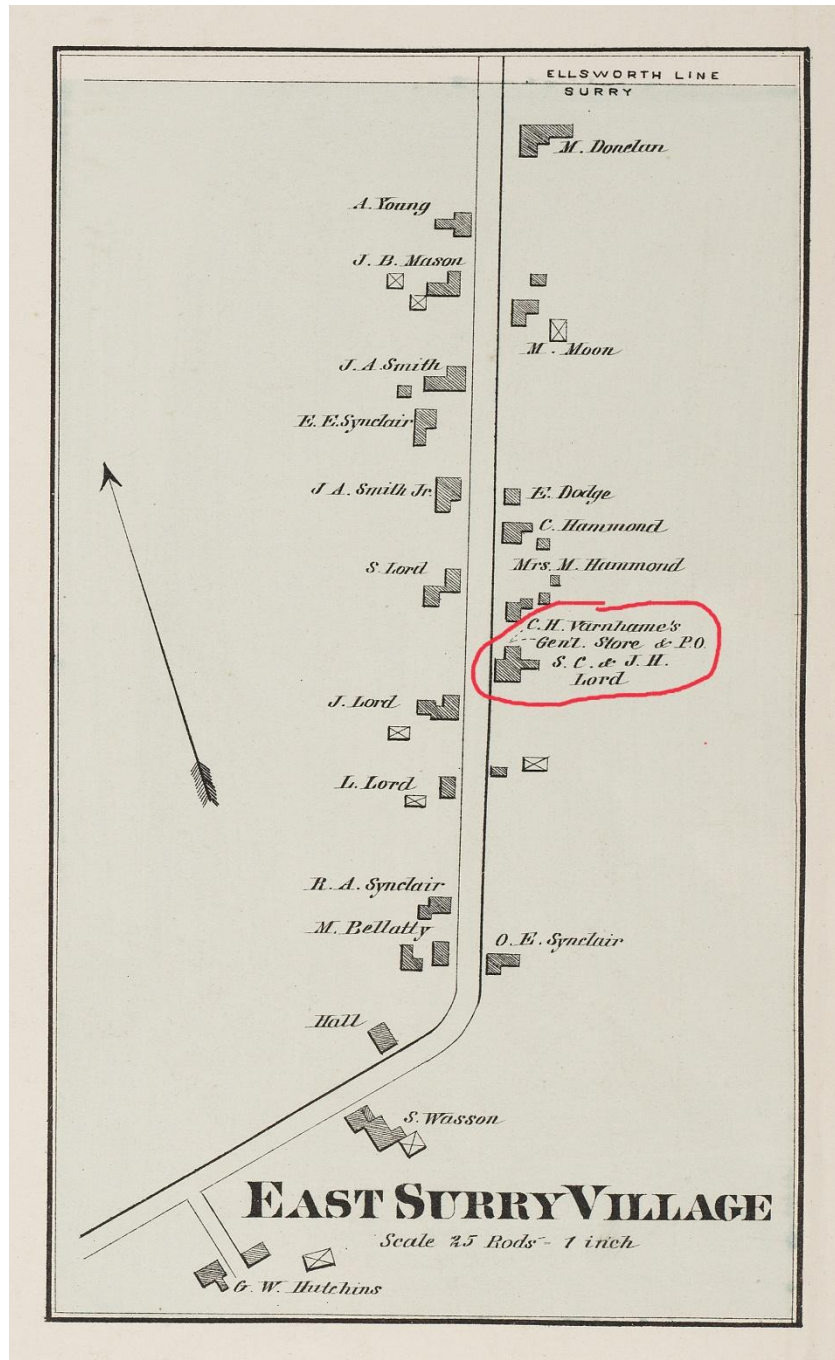
South Surry Post Office was located on Newbury Neck.

Map detail from the 1881 Atlas of Hancock County, Maine by George N. Colby. Map shown on this page and page 3 available for download from Digital Maine Repository, https://digitalmaine.com/atlas_hancock_1881/18/.

East Surry

9 February 1872:

East Surry Post Office opened.



9 February 1872:

Mrs. Ann M. Lord became the Postmaster of the East Surry Post Office.

17 April 1876:

Mrs. Ann M. Jarvis became the Postmaster of the East Surry Post Office.

22 September 1877:

Simeon Lord became the Postmaster of the East Surry Post Office.

Detail from Atlas of Hancock County, Maine, 1881, by George N. Colby. Page containing East Surry Village is available for download from:

https://digitalmaine.com/atlas_hancock_1881/4/

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

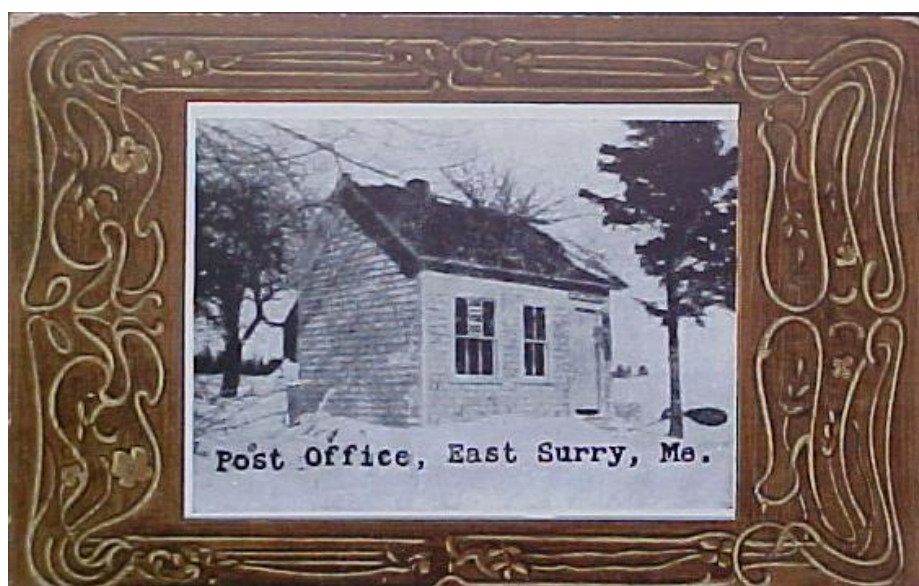
15 December 1885:

Adelia M. Gray became the Postmaster of the East Surry Post Office.



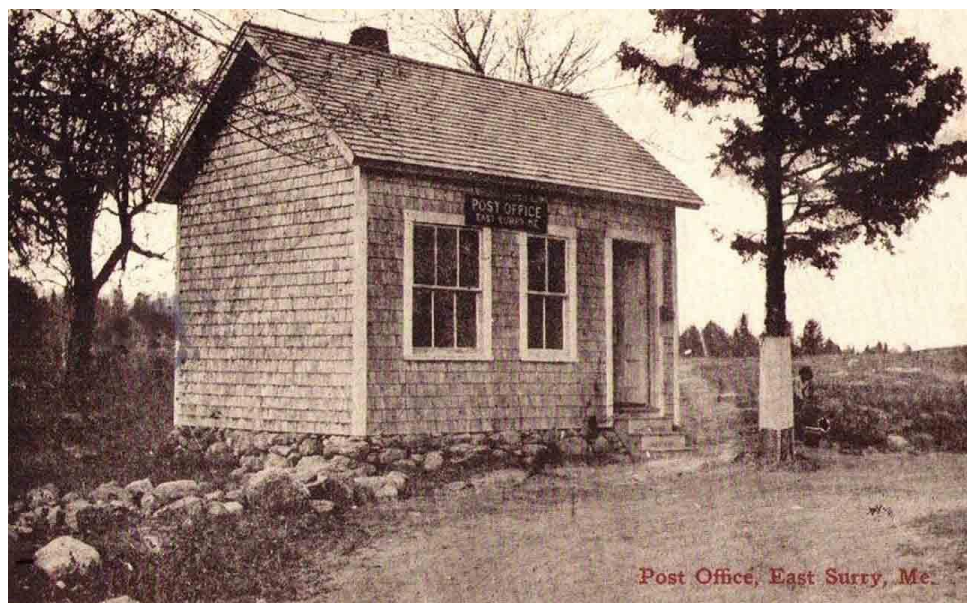
30 May 1903:

The circular postmark is 27 mm in diameter.



Circa 1900:

East Surry Post Office – Photo Credit – Maine Philatelic Society Collection

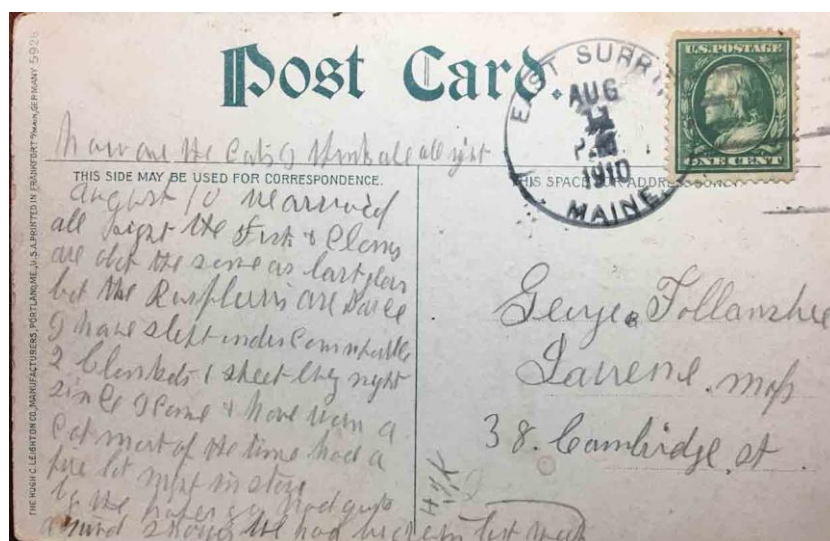


Circa 1900:

East Surry Post Office – Photo Credit unknown – Jim Husson Collection

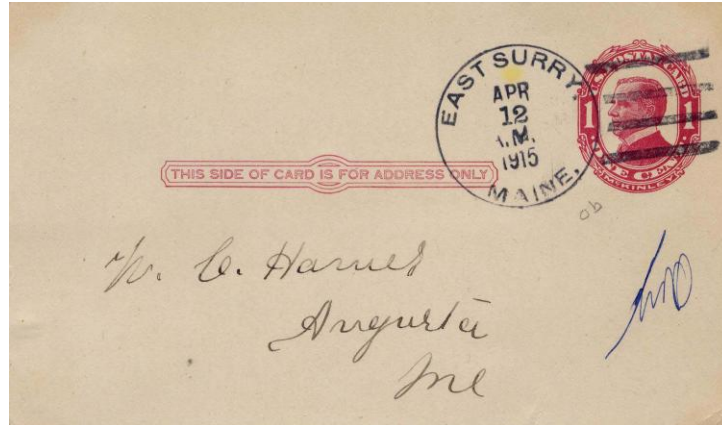
6 September 1907:

Elwyn C. Lord became the Postmaster of the East Surry Post Office.



11 August 1910:

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



12 April 1915:

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

31 October 1924:

East Surry Post Office closed with service from Ellsworth.

East Surry

11 March 1926:

East Surry Post Office reopened.

11 March 1926:

Lillian C. Lord became the Postmaster of the East Surry Post Office.



6 July 1929:

The misshapen circular postmark is 31 x 34 mm in diameter with a four-bar D killer.

31 May 1930:

East Surry Post Office closed with service from Ellsworth.

Ellsworth

An act of the state legislature, influenced by local landowner Leonard Jarvis, changed the boundary between Ellsworth and Surry so that the portion of Ellsworth west of the Union River was annexed to the Town of Surry, effective 28 February 1821. It is reported in at least one historical account that this was done despite the objections of all those residing in that area. Eventually, on 17 February 1829, due to the influence of Colonel John Black, another act of the legislature moved the area back into the Town of Ellsworth. During this period of almost eight years, the Ellsworth Post Office was operating within the boundaries of the Town of Surry. See the [Ellsworth postal history page](#) for more information on the Ellsworth Post Office.

Saunders

Saunders, open for less than three years, was located in the Toddy Pond area. We have no illustration of the Saunders postmark, and no photograph of the Saunders Post Office. If you are aware of either a postmark or a photo, we would appreciate hearing about it. You can reach us via email at postalhistorymaine@gmail.com

18 August 1902:

Saunders Post Office opened:

18 August 1902:

Lottie Leach became the Postmaster of the Saunders Post Office.

2 May 1905:

Saunders Post Office was discontinued effective 31 May 1905 with service from Surry.

South Surry (1)

8 April 1836:

South Surry (1) Post Office, a private office, opened.

What does "Private" mean? As noted in the postmaster appointment ledgers, "private" did not mean what it might seem. It meant that the supply of mail from existing post routes was to be done at private, rather than Post Office Department expense. New post offices that were located off of existing routes were generally designated as "private" or later "special" at first but normally would eventually be supplied at POD expense.

8 April 1836:

Robert Hopkins became the Postmaster of the South Surry (1) Post Office.

18 September 1839:

South Surry (1) Post Office closed.

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 same post office name is used for two separate post offices at different times, they will be identified in this manner. 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.

South Surry (2)

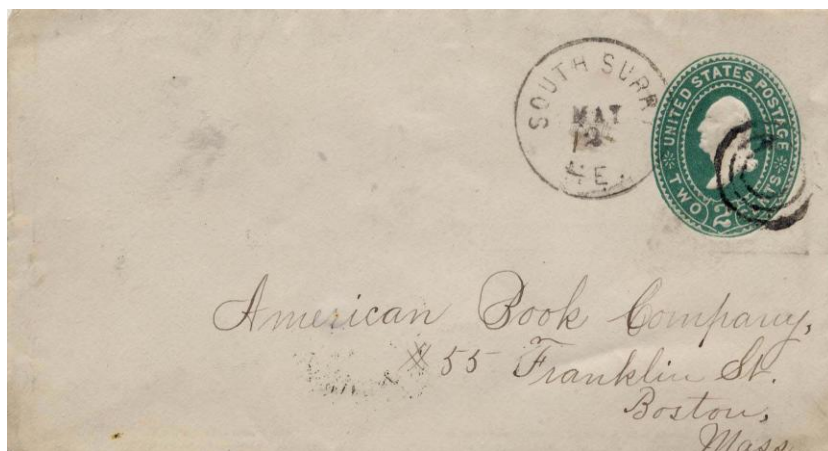
18 March 1874:

South Surry (2) Post Office opened.

18 March 1874:

Francis H. Harden became the Postmaster of the South Surry (2) Post Office.

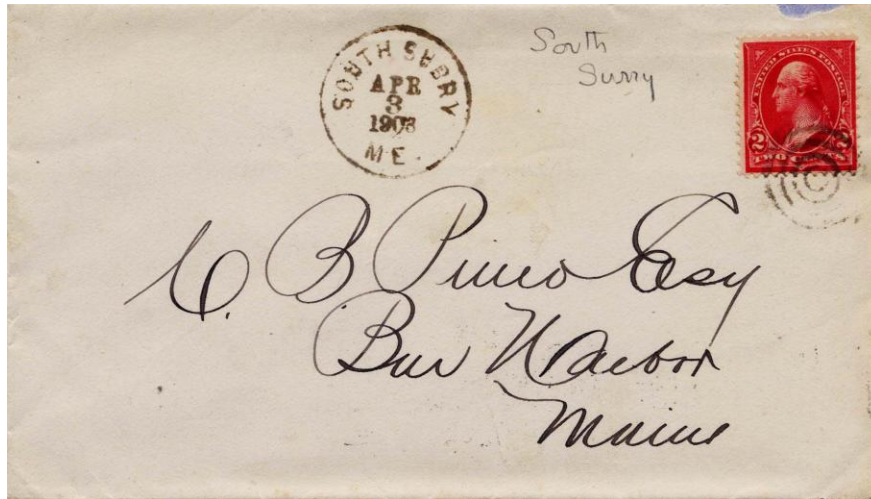
The location of the South Surry Post Office in 1881 is shown on the map of Newbury Neck on page 4.



2 May Circa 1888:

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

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

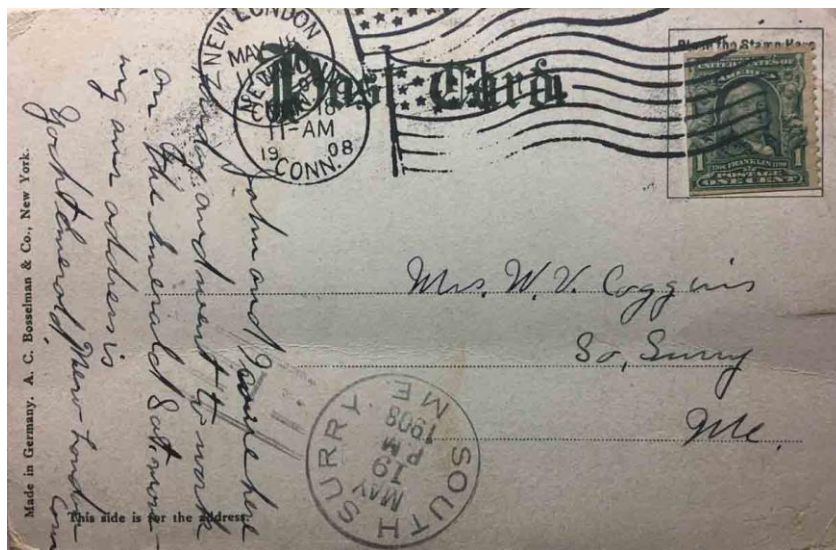


3 April 1903:

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

31 March 1903:

Rosie A. Coggins became the Postmaster of the South Surry (2) Post Office.



19 May 1908:

The received circular postmark is 30 mm in diameter with a Doane 2/1 killer. Two similar postmarks and killers used as received postmarks dated 18 October 1907 and 19 May 1908 are known. Two similar postmarks and killers used as a canceling postmarks dated 6 September 1909 and 14 December 1910 are known. Also known, is a cut square dated 20 September 1905.

15 June 1911:

South Surry (2) Post Office closed with service from Surry.

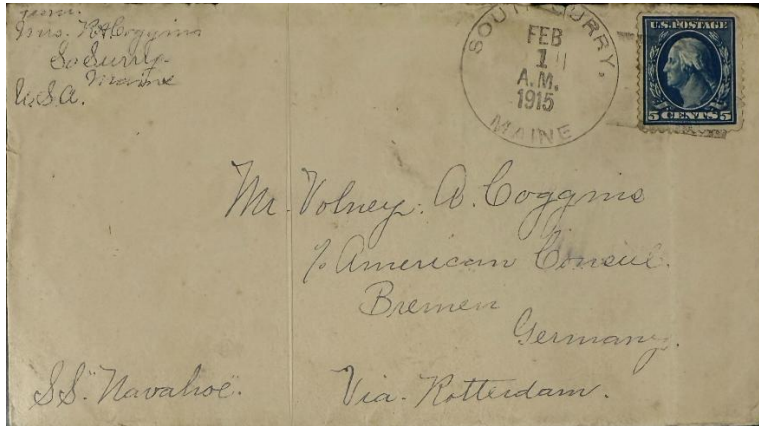
South Surry (2)

21 October 1912:

South Surry (2) Post Office re-opened.

21 October 1912:

Edman M. Curtis became the Postmaster of the South Surry (2) Post Office.



1 February 1915:

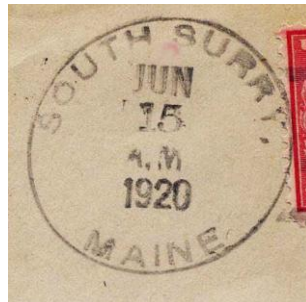
The circular postmark is 32 mm in diameter with a B killer.

10 April 1917:

Lyman L. Curtis became the Postmaster of the South Surry (2) Post Office.

23 April 1918:

Rosie A. Coggins became the Postmaster of the South Surry (2) Post Office.



15 June 1920:

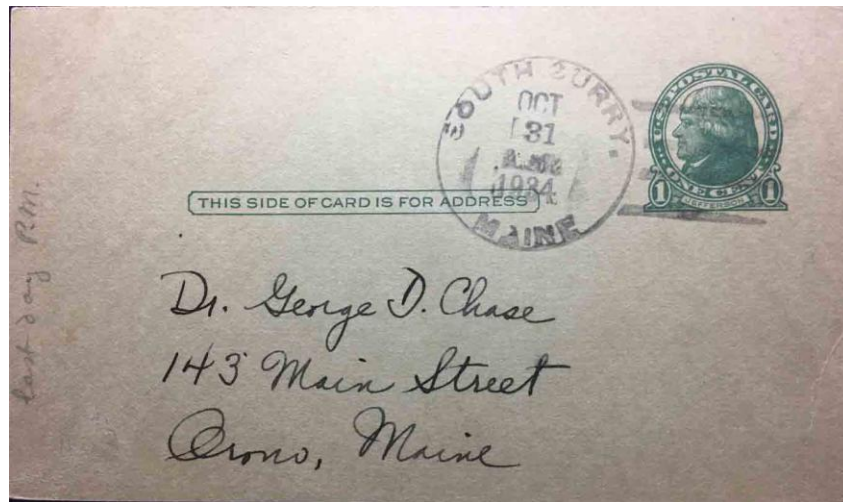
The misshapen postmark is 33 X 32 mm with a four-bar B killer.

5 February 1926:

Clifford C. Coggins became the Acting Postmaster of the South Surry Post Office.

7 May 1926:

Clifford C. Coggins became the Postmaster of the South Surry Post Office.



31 October 1934:

The misshapen circular postmark is 33 X 32 mm with a four-bar B killer. Note: last day of operation.

6 October 1934:

South Surry (2) Post Office was discontinued effective 31 October 1934 with service from Surry.

Surry

15 June 1812:

Surry Post Office opened.

15 June 1812:

Edward C. Jarvis became the Postmaster of the Surry Post Office.

8 December 1845:

Robert Long became the Postmaster of the Surry Post Office.

22 April 1853:

Thomas C. Sargent became the Postmaster of the Surry Post Office.

23 December 1853:

James W. Davis became the Postmaster of the Surry Post Office.



8 June ????

The circular postmark is 26 mm in diameter.

2 June 1856:

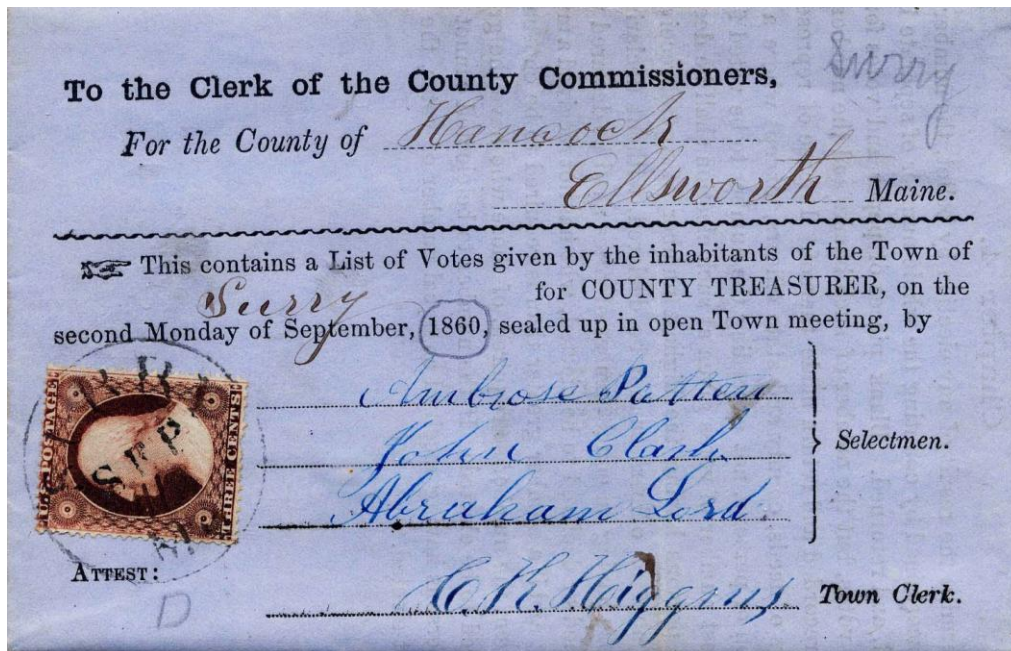
John T. Morse became the Postmaster of the Surry Post Office.

20 September 1856:

James W. Davis became the Postmaster of the Surry Post Office.

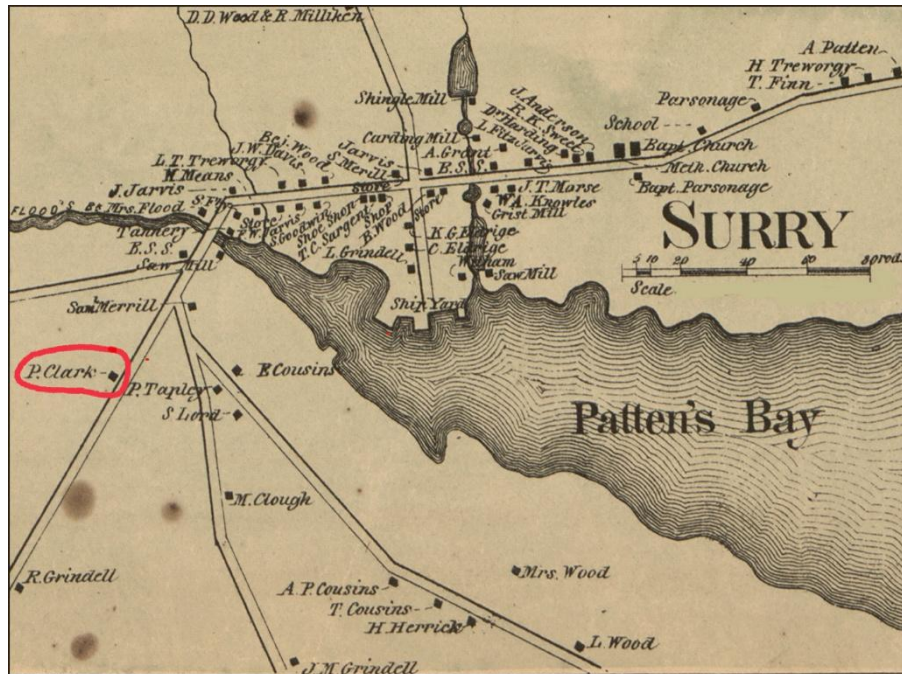
23 March 1857:

Miss Almira Clark became the Postmaster of the Surry Post Office.



11 September 1860:

The circular postmark is 32 mm in diameter.



Miss Almira Clark, appointed postmaster in 1857 while in her late twenties, was the daughter of farmers Paul and Mary Clark. It appears that the Surry Post Office may have been located at the Clark farm, marked in red on this map from 1860.

Map detail from the Topographical Map of Hancock County, Maine, by H. F. Walling, 1860.

Available for download from <https://www.loc.gov/item/2011588006/>

4 October 1861:

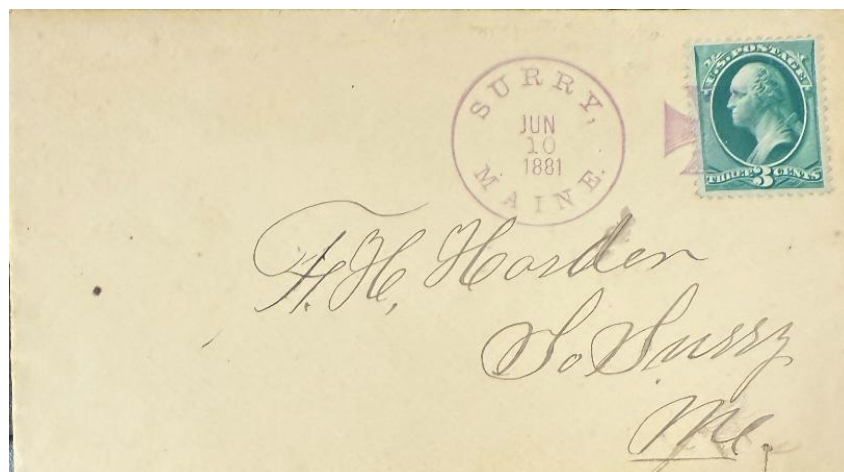
John M. Merrill became the Postmaster of the Surry Post Office.

21 September 1874:

Franklin W. Morgan became the Postmaster of the Surry Post Office.



In 1881, at the time of this map, Franklin W. Morgan was the postmaster, and the Post Office was located with his store, in the center of the village as marked in red. Map detail taken from the Atlas of Hancock County, Maine, 1881, by George N. Colby. Available for download from https://digitalmaine.com/atlas_hancock_1881/21/



10 June 1881:

The circular postmark is 28.5 mm in diameter with a fancy Maltese Cross killer.
A similar postmark and killer dated 31 May 1881 is known.

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

12 July 1893:

Charles B. Wood became the Postmaster of the Surry Post Office.

7 June 1897:

Franklin W. Morgan became the Postmaster of the Surry Post Office.



12 March 1899:

The circular postmark is 28 mm in diameter.

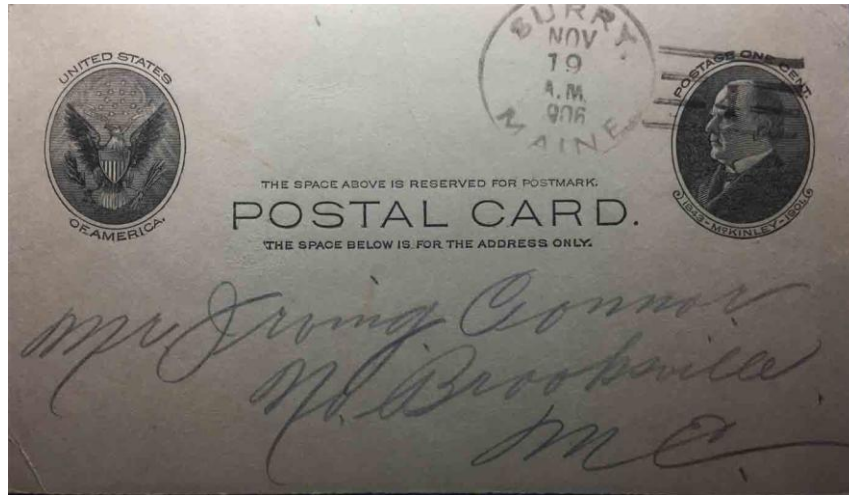


Circa 1900:

Surry Post Office (on the right) – Photo Credit Maine Philatelic Society Collection

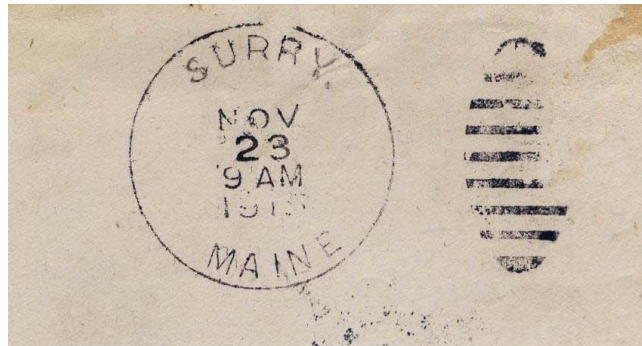
9 July 1900:

Dyer J. Curtis became the Postmaster of the Surry Post Office.



19 November 1906:

The circular postmark is 29 mm in diameter with a Doane 2/1 killer. A similar postmark and killer on a cut square dated 22 November 1904 is known.



23 November 1915:

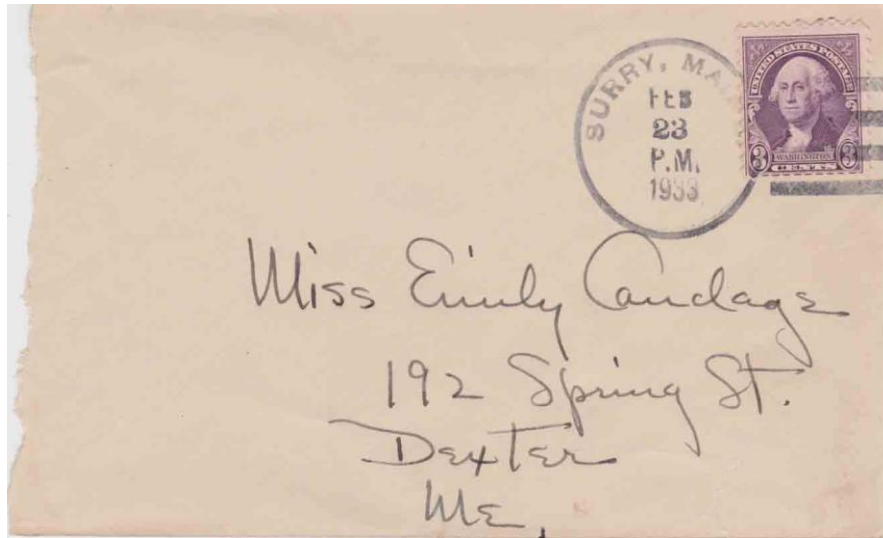
The circular postmark is 30 mm in diameter with an oval nine-bar duplex killer.

2 December 1929:

Florence L. Leighton became the Acting Postmaster of the Surry Post Office.

12 April 1930:

Frank Lee Whitney became the Postmaster of the Surry Post Office.



23 February 1933:

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

Similar postmarks and killers dated 20 February 1937 and 8 June 1942 are known.

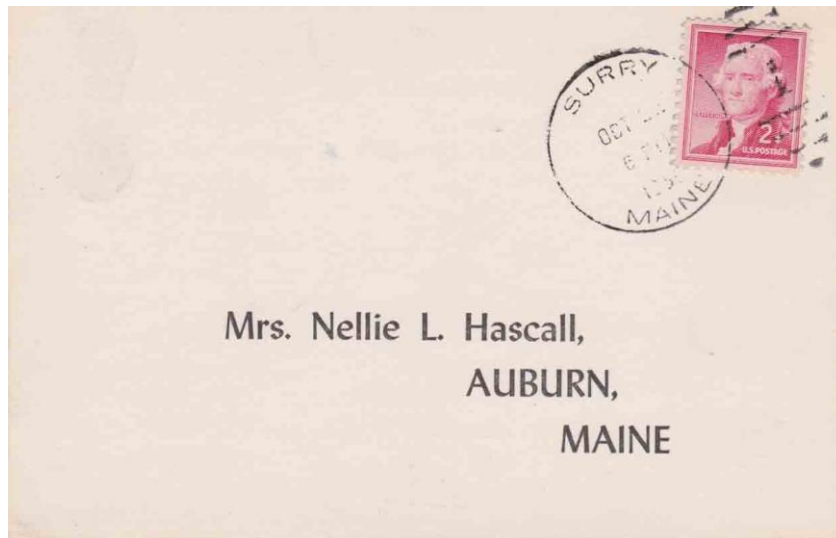
1 July 1944:

Surry Post Office became a Presidential Post Office.



Circa 1945:

Surry Post Office (on the right). Photo Credit – Maine Philatelic Society Collection and Old Maine Images.



8 December 1958:

The circular postmark is 30 mm in diameter with an elliptical duplex/1 killer.
A similar postmark and killer dated 1 March 1951 is known.

22 March 1957:

Richard W. Dolliver became the Acting Postmaster of the Surry Post Office.

29 March 1958:

Daniel H. McGraw became the Acting Postmaster of the Surry Post Office.

16 July 1958:

Daniel H. McGraw became the Postmaster of the Surry Post Office.

30 March 1984:

Arline J. Black became the Officer-In-Charge of the Surry Post Office.

21 July 1984:

Silvia E. Wight became the Postmaster of the Surry Post Office.

11 May 1988:

Tom F. Whitney became the Officer-In-Charge of the Surry Post Office.

24 September 1988:

Richard W. Carr became the Postmaster of the Surry Post Office.



Circa 1990:
Surry Post Office - unknown photo credit.

24 September 1992:

Claire A. Manyak became the Officer-In-Charge of the Surry Post Office.

7 August 1993:

Alfred L. Black became the Postmaster of the Surry Post Office.

17 July 1997:

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

30 August 1997:

Robbie Paul Bullof became the Postmaster of the Surry Post Office.

22 September 1999:

Claire Manyak became the Officer-In-Charge of the Surry Post Office.

7 November 1999:

Daniel P. Sullivan Jr. became the Officer-In-Charge of the Surry Post Office.

2 December 2000:

Daniel P. Sullivan Jr. became the Postmaster of the Surry Post Office.



21 June 2006:

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

30 July 2012:

Claire Manyak became the Officer-In-Charge of the Surry Post Office.

6 October 2012:

Susan T. Perez became the Postmaster of the Surry Post Office.

5 February 2013:

Sarah Nelson became the Officer-In-Charge of the Surry Post Office.

9 August 2014:

Debra A. Doyle became the Postmaster of the Surry Post Office.

9 October 2019:

Sarah Nelson became the Officer-In-Charge of the Surry Post Office.

15 February 2020:

Carla L. Osier became the Postmaster of the Surry Post Office.



21 July 2020:
Surry Post Office. Photo Credit – Jim Husson

21 March 2025:

Surry Post Office is still operational at 1197 Surry Road. Surry, Maine 04684. GPS: 44°29'48" N x 68°29'42" 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, the [Willett Thompson Collection at the National Museum of the Post Mark Collectors Club](#), and Jim Husson.

Thank you to the Waterville Stamp Club (<https://thewatervillestampclub.com>) for helping ensure this project's continuity.

>>>continued>>>

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: <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/78746582>. This link is correctly labelled as Hancock County, but contains only a few pages. The next link, *which is incorrectly labelled as Penobscot County on the website*, actually has most of the appointments for Hancock County. <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/78746587>.

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 Surry

East Surry: <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/68415820?objectPage=501> and the following five pages

Saunders: <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/68415820?objectPage=836> and the following page

South Surry: <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/68415820?objectPage=900> and the following six pages

Surry: <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/68415820?objectPage=930> and the following five 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 Surry History

Bonsey, Osmond. **Surry, Maine: an informal history**. 1957. Digitized version available for download from the Digital Maine Repository: <https://digitalmaine.com/books/92/>

Chadbourne, Ava Harriet. "Surry," pp.100-1 in **Maine place names and the peopling of its towns**. 1955.

Pages showing Surry, from the Internet Archive:

<https://archive.org/details/mainemplacenamesp00chad/page/100/mode/2up>

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

Colby, George N. ***Atlas of Hancock County, Maine***. S. F. Colby & Co., 1881. Digitised versions of pages showing the Town of Surry 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/

Surry by the Bay. Project of Maine Memory Network/Maine Historical Society.
<https://surry.mainememory.net/page/3378/display.html>

Surry Historical Society. <https://surryhistoricalsociety.com/>

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

Surry was split among four different sheets in the original USGS topographic map quadrangles:

Orland 1900

https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/ht-bin/tv_browse.pl?id=334e28f3ddae6ca692344dd58cc37db6

Ellsworth 1911

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

Blue Hill 1902

https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/ht-bin/tv_browse.pl?id=c7a7d087f439119c4422fb25093e8da9

Mount Desert 1904

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

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. We are happy to hear from you at postalhistorymaine@gmail.com

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.