

Yarmouth Postal History

Cumberland County, Maine

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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>.

Yarmouth constituted the eastern part of North Yarmouth until 1849. It seceded on August 8 and was incorporated as an independent town.

Briefly, there were seven post offices in Yarmouth:

1. [Cousins Island](#) Post Office opened on 6 February 1885 and closed on 31 October 1958. This was a summer office only.
2. [Littlejohn Island](#) Post Office opened on 29 June 1910 and closed on 31 October 1958. This was a summer office only.
3. [North Yarmouth \(1\)](#) Post Office opened on 12 June 1792 and closed on 22 January 1852. The name was changed to Yarmouth Post Office. The town was North Yarmouth before 8 August 1849.
4. [Upper Yarmouth](#) Post Office opened on 10 August 1826 and closed on 6 June 1853.
5. [Yarmouth](#) Post Office (formerly North Yarmouth Post Office) opened on 22 June 1852 and is still operational.
6. [Yarmouthville](#) Post Office opened on 21 April 1882 and closed on 29 February 1928.
7. [Yarmouth Sta. No. 1](#) Post Office opened on 11 October 1999 and closed in September 2013. It was located at Andy's Handy Store, 367 Main St. Yarmouth. Postmarks used were "CPU-1" and "CUP-1".



In 1903, there were three post offices in Yarmouth: Cousins Island, Yarmouth, and Yarmouthville. Source: Post Route Map of the State of Maine 1903. Map reproduction courtesy of Norman B. Leventhal Map and Education Center, Boston Public Library.

<https://collections.leventhalmap.org/search/commonwealth:cj82km77v>



In 1914, there were four post offices in Yarmouth: Cousins Island, Littlejohn Island, Yarmouth, and Yarmouthville. Source: Post Route Map of the State of Maine, 1914. Digital image in possession of Maine Philatelic Society:

<http://www.mainephilatelic.org/PostRouteMaps/MainePostRouteMap1914.pdf>

Cousins Island

6 February 1885:

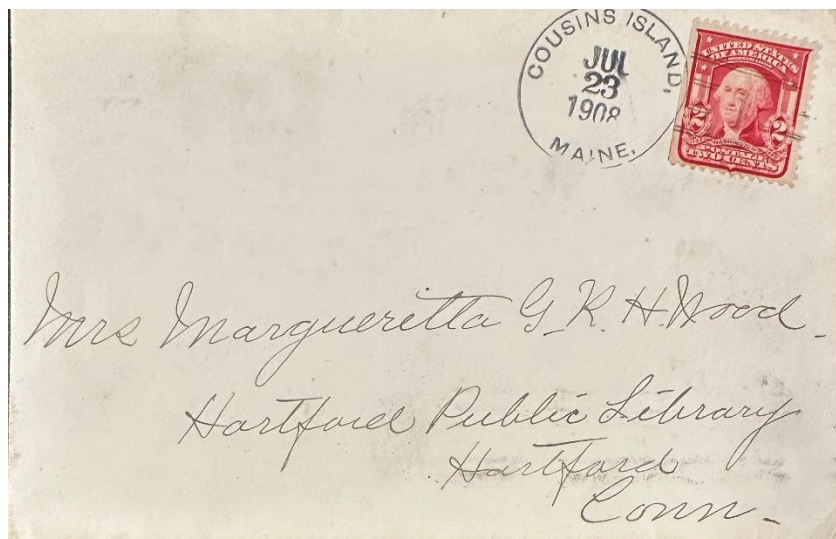
Cousins Island Post Office opened as a summer office.

6 February 1885:

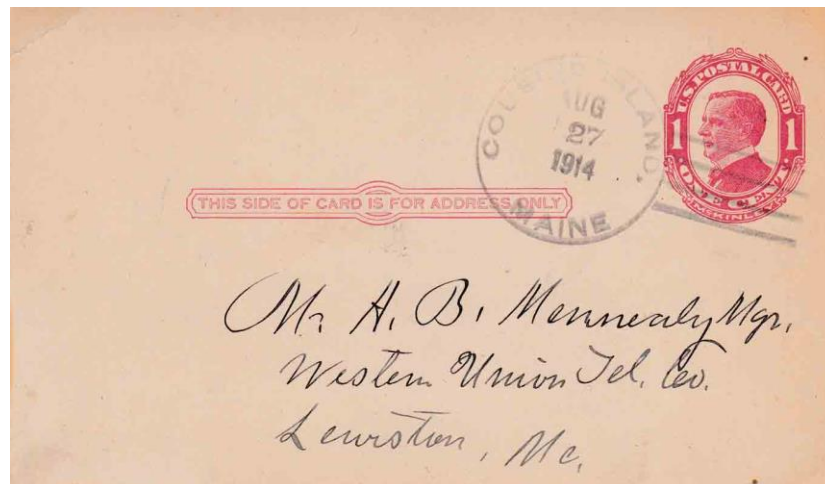
Sarah Shackford became the Postmaster of the Cousins Island Post Office.

5 September 1896:

Nancy H. Hamilton became the Postmaster of the Cousins Island Post Office.



23 July 1908: The distorted circular postmark is 26.5 x 30 mm in shape with a Doane 2/1 killer. A similar distorted postmark and killer dated 17 July 1908 is known.



27 August 1914:
The circular postmark is 31 mm in diameter with a four-bar A/1 killer.

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10 December 1921:

Mrs. Edith D. Rent became the Postmaster of the Cousins Island Post Office.

1 May 1934:

Miss Margaret D. Rent became the Acting Postmaster of the Cousins Island Post Office.

12 July 1934:

Miss Margaret D. Rent became the Postmaster of the Cousins Island Post Office.

15 May 1938:

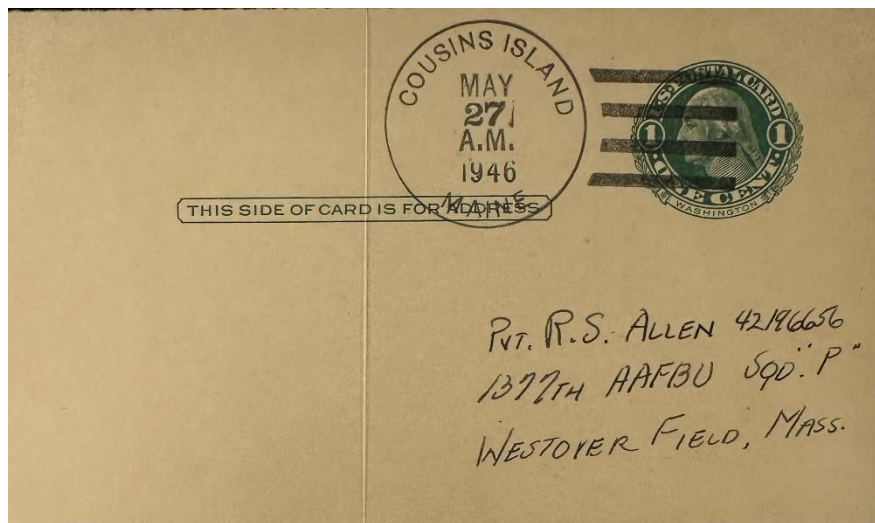
Miss Gladys P. Hamilton became the Acting Postmaster of the Cousins Island Post Office.

1 October 1938:

Miss Gladys P. Hamilton became the Postmaster of the Cousins Island Post Office.

25 September 1943:

Mrs. Caroline Talbot became the Postmaster of the Cousins Island Post Office.



27 May 1946:

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



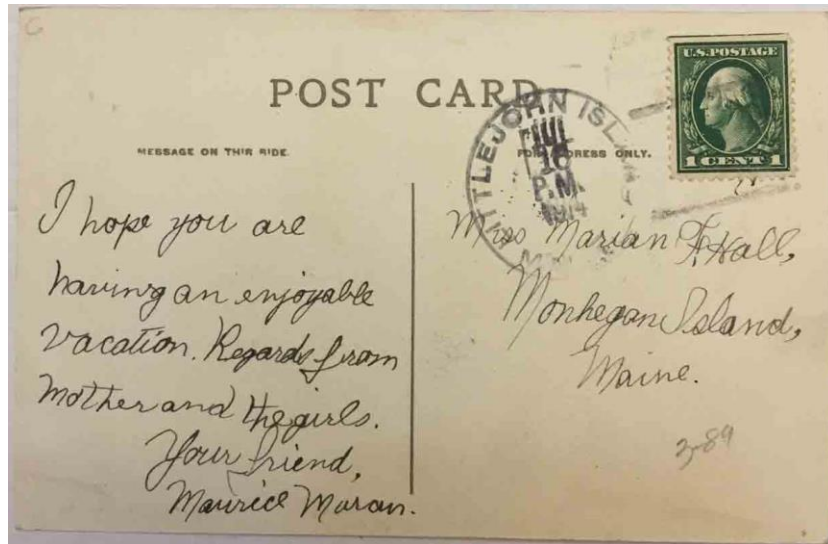
Circa 1940:
Cousins Island Post Office. Photo Credit Vintage Maine Photos

31 October 1958:
Cousins Island Post Office closed.

Littlejohn Island

29 June 1910:
Littlejohn Island Post Office opened on 29 June 1910 as a summer office.

29 June 1910:
Calvin S. Sawyer became the Postmaster of the Littlejohn Island Post Office.



10 July 1914:

The slightly distorted circular postmark is 31 mm in diameter with an unknown killer.



6 August 1923:

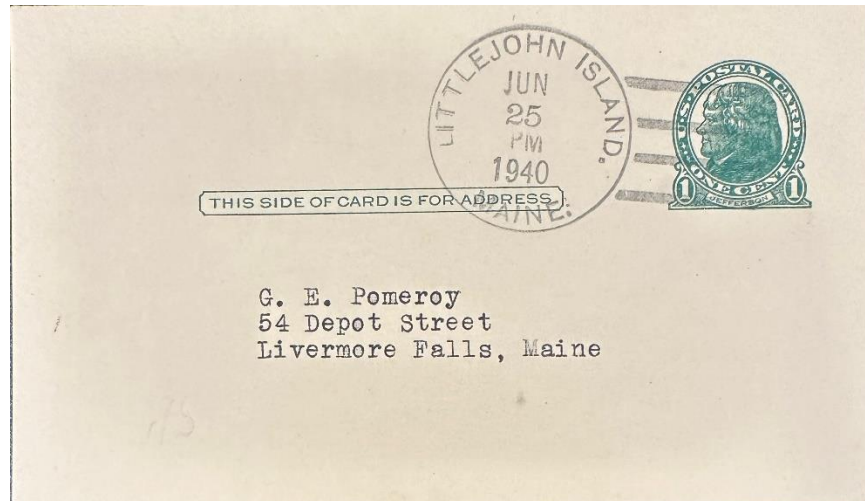
The circular postmark is 32 mm in diameter with a four-bar A/3 killer

21 August 1918:

Helen Prescott became the Postmaster of the Littlejohn Island Post Office.

18 June 1923:

Mrs. Kate H. Prescott became the Postmaster of the Littlejohn Island Post Office.



25 June 1940:

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

28 July 1940:

Mrs. Alice P. Jones became the Postmaster of the Littlejohn Island Post Office.

17 October 1958:

Littlejohn Island Post Office closed effective on 31 October 1958 with service from Yarmouth.

North Yarmouth (1) (Note: There were two post offices in Maine named North Yarmouth at different times and locations. The (1) is just a notation. It does not appear in the postmarks and is only used by postal historians and collectors to differentiate between the different post offices.)

12 June 1792:

North Yarmouth (1) Post Office opened. (The town was North Yarmouth before 8 August 1849)

12 June 1792:

Paine Elwell became the Postmaster of the North Yarmouth (1) Post Office.

1 May 1801:

Samuel Philip Russell became the Postmaster of the North Yarmouth (1) Post Office.

30 September 1803:

Edward Russel became the Postmaster of the North Yarmouth (1) Post Office.

18 November 1803:

David Drinkwater became the Postmaster of the North Yarmouth (1) Post Office.

15 April 1806:

John Hale became the Postmaster of the North Yarmouth (1) Post Office.

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

17 April 1816:

Daniel Mitchell became the Postmaster of the North Yarmouth (1) Post Office.

11 November 1834:

James C. Hill became the Postmaster of the North Yarmouth (1) Post Office.

21 February 1842:

Jacob G. Loring became the Postmaster of the North Yarmouth (1) Post Office.

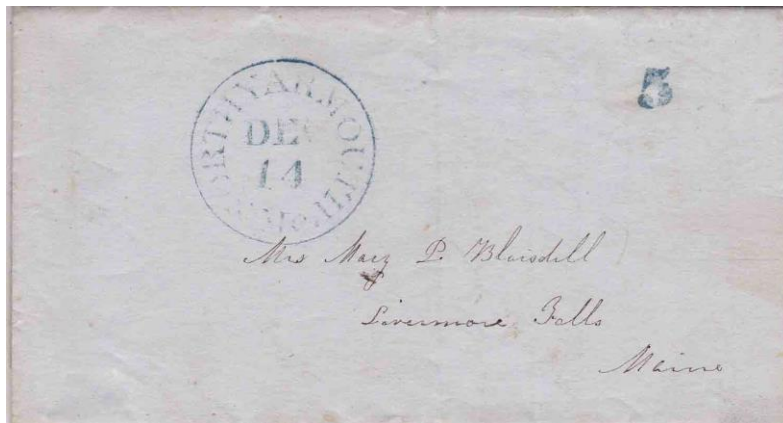
29 July 1845:

Reuben Cutter became the Postmaster of the North Yarmouth (1) Post Office.



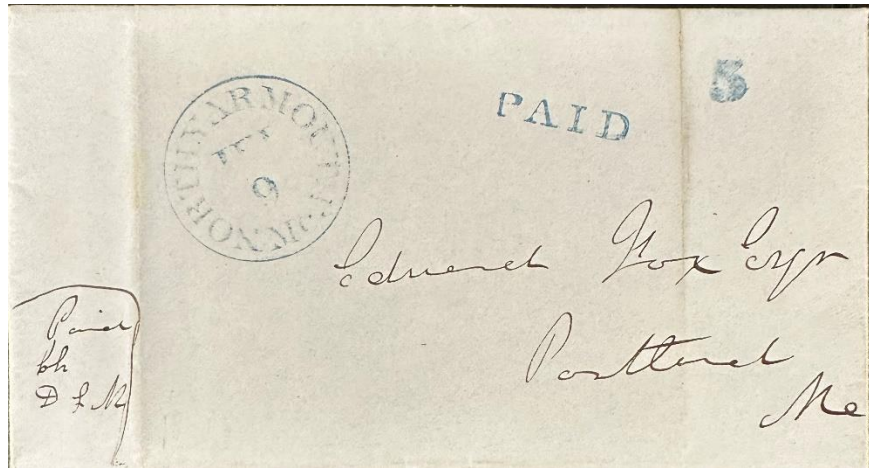
9 December 1846:

The circular postmark is 30 mm in diameter with a hand-stamped 10 killer.



11 December 1846:

The circular postmark is 30 mm in diameter with a hand-stamped 5 killer.



9 July 1848:

The circular postmark is 30 mm in diameter with a hand-stamped PAID and 5 killers. Similar postmarks and killers dated 1 May 1848 and 19 August 1849 are known.



29 June 1848:

The circular postmark is 30 mm in diameter with a hand-stamped 5 killer. Similar postmarks and killers dated 17 April 1850 and 2 March unknown year are known.

8 August 1849:

Part of North Yarmouth became Yarmouth.

1 October 1849:

Edward G. Buxton became the Postmaster of the North Yarmouth (1) Post Office.

22 January 1852:

North Yarmouth (1) Post Office closed, and the name was changed to Yarmouth Post Office.

Upper Yarmouth

10 August 1826:

Upper Yarmouth Post Office opened.

10 August 1826:

Jabez Cushman became the Postmaster of the Upper Yarmouth Post Office.

6 June 1853:

The Upper Yarmouth Post Office closed.

Yarmouth

22 June 1852:

Yarmouth Post Office (formerly North Yarmouth Post Office) opened.

1 October 1849:

Edward G. Buxton became the Postmaster of the North Yarmouth (1) Post Office and remained Postmaster when the Post Office was renamed Yarmouth Post Office on 22 June 1852.



Date not known, but probably early 1850s, presumably on or after 22 June 1852. The North Yarmouth circular date stamp, 30mm in diameter, has been repurposed for Yarmouth by crossing out "NORTH."

30 March 1853:

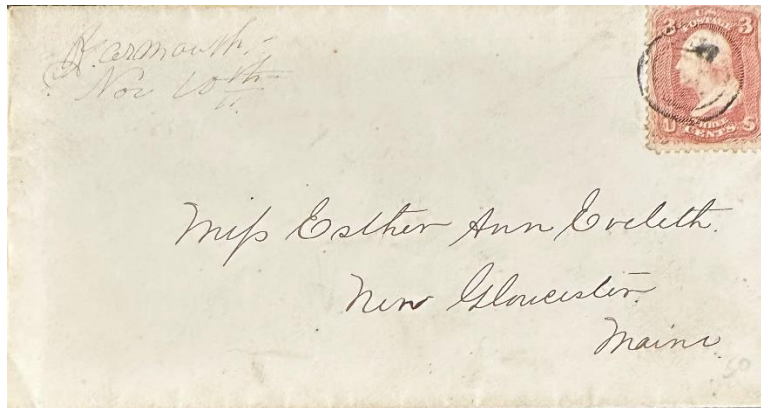
Reuben Cutter became the Postmaster of the Yarmouth Post Office.

15 May 1861:

Otis B. Pratt became the Postmaster of the Yarmouth Post Office.

2 November 1866:

Nicholas Drinkwater became the Postmaster of the Yarmouth Post Office.

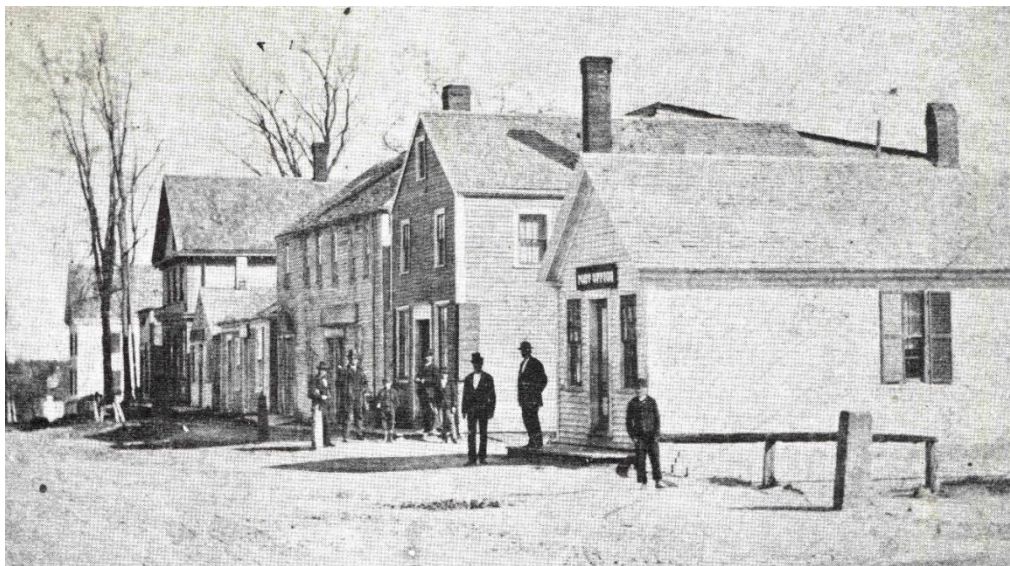


10 November 1867:

Manuscript postmark with a four-circle target killer.

8 December 1866:

Miss Lucy V. Groves became the Postmaster of the Yarmouth Post Office.



Yarmouth Post Office in 1866. Photographer unknown. Photo from the collection of Maine Philatelic Society.

<http://www.mainephilatelic.org/mps>

26 January 1888:

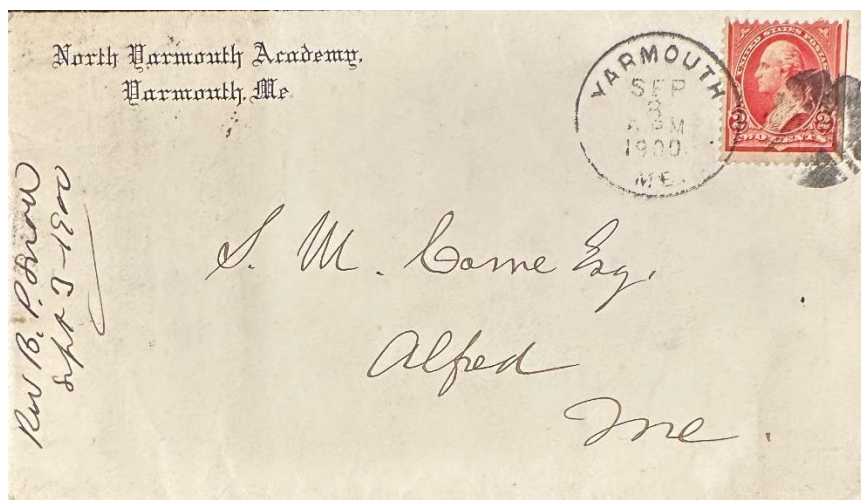
Miss Mary Cutter became the Postmaster of the Yarmouth Post Office.

3 February 1888:

Miss Lucy Q. Cutter became the Postmaster of the Yarmouth Post Office.

22 September 1897:

Melville C. Merrill became the Postmaster of the Yarmouth Post Office.



8 September 1900:

The circular postmark is 28.5 mm in diameter with a cork killer.

8 July 1910:

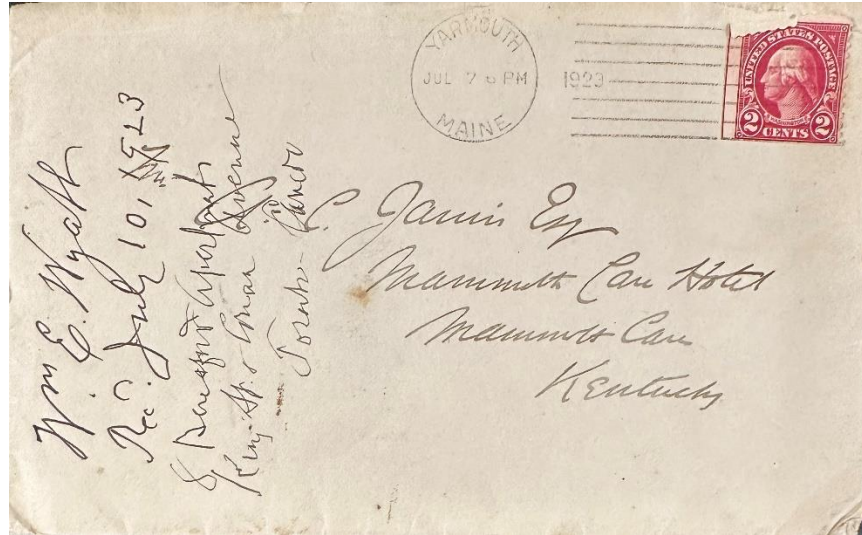
Frank H. Drinkwater became the Postmaster of the Yarmouth Post Office.

1 October 1910:

Yarmouth became a Presidential Post Office.

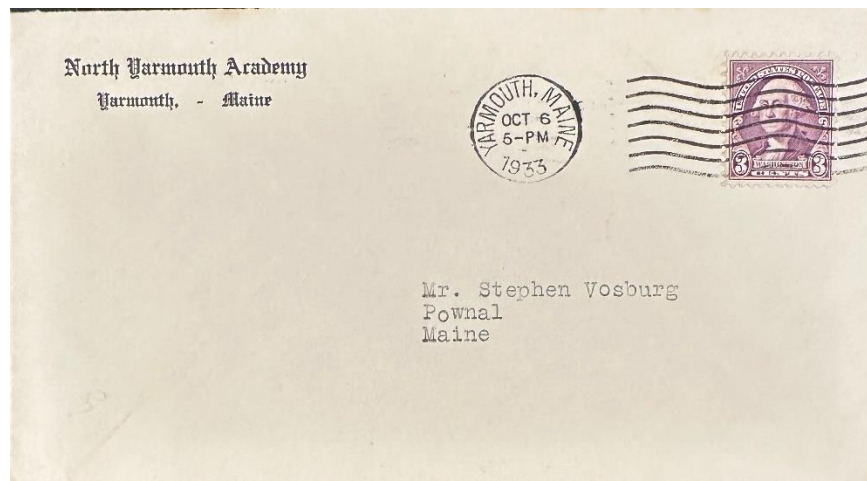
27 April 1914:

Frank O. Wellcome became the Postmaster of the Yarmouth Post Office.



7 July 1923:

The circular postmark is 24 mm in diameter with a Time Cummins Machine killer.

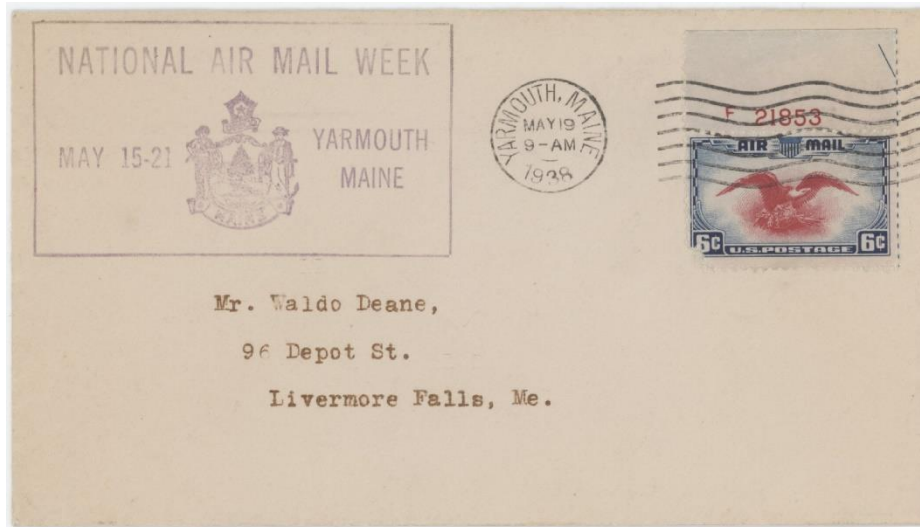


6 October 1933:

The circular postmark is 21.5 mm in diameter with an International Machine killer.

1 February 1936:

Ernest C. Libby became the Acting Postmaster of the Yarmouth Post Office.



19 May 1938:

National Air Mail Week cover. The circular postmark is 20 mm in diameter with an International Machine killer.



4 December 1939: The circular postmark is 26.5 mm in diameter with a six-bar triplex/1 killer. A similar postmark and killer dated 5 August 1950 is known.

4 April 1941:

Ernest C. Libby became the Postmaster of the Yarmouth Post Office.

30 June 1946:

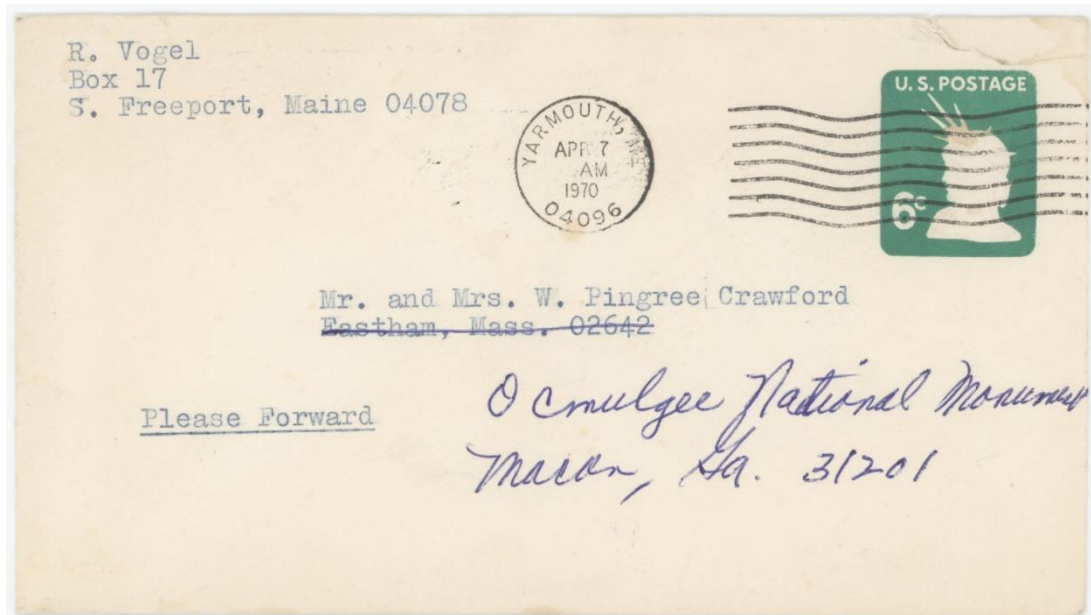
Edwin C. Brown became the Acting Postmaster of the Yarmouth Post Office.

23 June 1948:

Edwin C. Brown became the Postmaster of the Yarmouth Post Office.



Yarmouth Post Office in 1959. From the collection of the Maine Philatelic Society.



7 April 1970

. Perhaps postmarked with the same canceling machine but with a new hub showing the Yarmouth Zip Code.

31 May 1971:

Addison W. Smith became the Officer-In-Charge of the Yarmouth Post Office.

15 October 1971:

Andrew R. Gedaro became the Officer-In-Charge of the Yarmouth Post Office.

4 March 1972:

Andrew R. Gedaro became the Postmaster of the Yarmouth Post Office.

31 December 1976:

Anne Marie became the Officer-In-Charge of the Yarmouth Post Office.

21 May 1977:

George H. St. Pierre became the Postmaster of the Yarmouth Post Office.

5 January 1988:

Elaine P. Whitmore became the Officer-In-Charge of the Yarmouth Post Office.

9 April 1988:

Daniel J. Perry became the Postmaster of the Yarmouth Post Office.

7 July 1999:

Doris Baker became the Officer-In-Charge of the Yarmouth Post Office.

18 December 1999:

Randy L. Hitchcock became the Postmaster of the Yarmouth Post Office.

3 July 2007:

James H. Thornton Jr. became the Officer-In-Charge of the Yarmouth Post Office.

10 November 2007:

James H. Thornton Jr. became the Postmaster of the Yarmouth Post Office.

19 September 2008:

Theophilus Smith became the Officer-In-Charge of the Yarmouth Post Office.



14 October 2008: Double circular date stamp, 30mm in diameter

27 February 2010:

Thomas A. Lachance became the Postmaster of the Yarmouth Post Office.

17 November 2012:

Thomas W. Robinson became the Postmaster of the Yarmouth Post Office.

7 September 2013:

James E. Fitzsimmons became the Postmaster of the Yarmouth Post Office.

12 July 2017:

Donald B. Mendell III became the Officer-In-Charge of the Yarmouth Post Office.

23 December 2017:

Donald B. Mendell III became the Postmaster of the Yarmouth Post Office.



9 October 2022:

Yarmouth Post Office – Photo Credit Jim Husson

14 October 2024:

Yarmouth Post Office is still operational at 36 Forest Drive, Yarmouth, Maine 04096. GPS 43° 48' 17" N 70° 11' 06" W.

Yarmouth Sta. No.1

11 October 1999:

Yarmouth Sta. No. 1 Post Office opened. It was located at Andy's Handy Store, 367 Main St.



Andy's Handy Store, 21 April 2008. The Post Office sign is barely visible in the window, behind the bench. Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Handy Andy%27s, Yarmouth, Maine.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Handy_Andy%27s,_Yarmouth,_Maine.jpg)

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

Postmarks used were "CPU-1" and "CUP-1".



15 June 2000: Double circular date stamps, 30 mm in diameter

September 2013:

Yarmouth Sta. No.1 Post Office closed.

Yarmouthville

21 April 1882:

Yarmouthville Post Office opened.

21 April 1882:

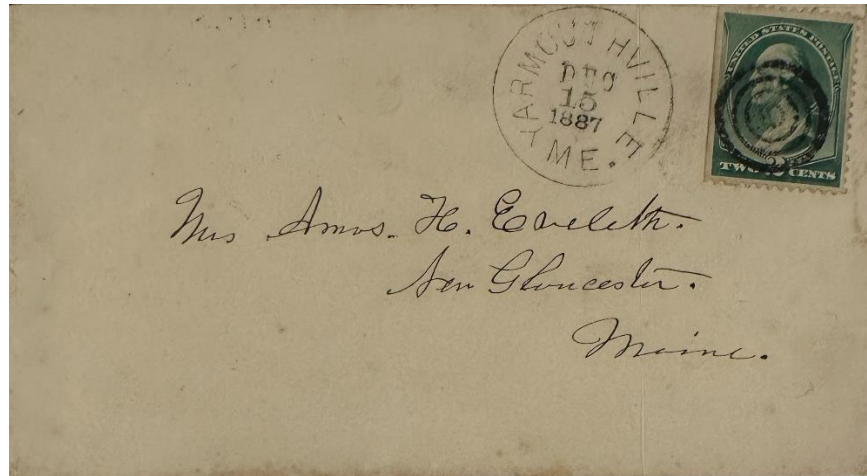
Louise M. Haskell became the Postmaster of the Yarmouthville Post Office.

17 June 1884:

Richard Harding became the Postmaster of the Yarmouthville Post Office.

21 September 1886:

Joseph Raynes became the Postmaster of the Yarmouthville Post Office.



15 December 1887:

The circular postmark is 28 mm in diameter with a four-circle target killer. A similar postmark and killer dated 25 October 1890 is known.

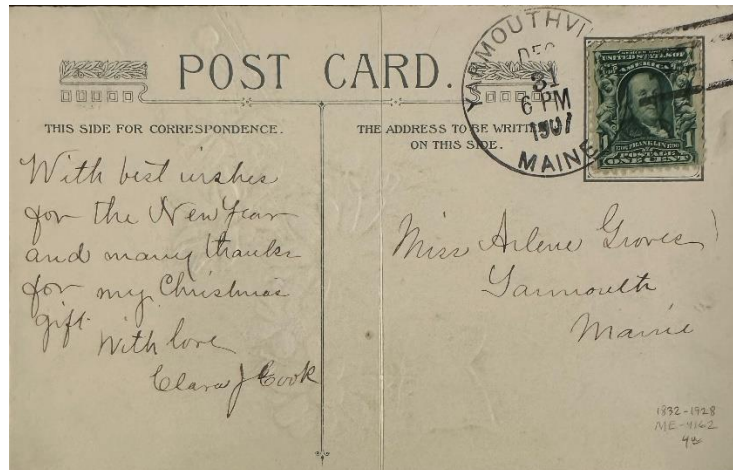
(29 May 1889)

(Mrs. Hannah E. Hodsdon) appointment rescinded



28 March 1900:

The circular postmark is 29 mm in diameter with a cork smudge killer.



31 December 1907:

The circular postmark is 32 mm with a four-bar A/1 killer. A similar postmark (with a distorted circle) and killer dated 12 August 1915 is known.

10 December 1913:

Beecher T. Lane became the Postmaster of the Yarmouthville Post Office.

25 July 1918:

Anna T. Pratt became the Postmaster of the Yarmouthville Post Office.

1 April 1920:

Yarmouthville Post Office became a Presidential Post Office.

14 October 1922:

Anna T. Pratt's name changed, by marriage, to Anna T. Douglas.

29 February 1928:

Yarmouthville Post Office closed with mail service from Yarmouth Post Office.

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).

Thank you for the contributions to this page by the Strout Family, Roland Simard, Jim Husson, and Kelvin Kindahl.

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

Sources:

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Maine Philatelic Society Gateway to Maine Postal History

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

The Post Offices of Maine 2022, Maine Philatelic Society:

<http://www.mainephilatelic.org/books/TPOOM>

National Archives Catalog: Postmaster Appointments for Cumberland County, Maine

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/78746483>

Postmaster Finder by City:

<https://about.usps.com/who/profile/history/postmaster-finder/postmasters-by-city.htm>

The Digitized U. S. Postal Bulletins and Postal Laws and Regulations [1880-2016]

<http://www.uspostalbulletins.com/>

Additional material, including links to official records of postmaster appointments, can be found at Research Resources on Maine Postal History:

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

Postmarks

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

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Yarmouth [map] from Atlas of Cumberland County, Maine 1871

https://digitalmaine.com/atlas_cumberland_1871/43/

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yarmouth,_Maine

"Yarmouth," article in Maine: An Encyclopedia

<https://maineanencyclopedia.com/yarmouth/>

Counties, Cities, Towns and Plantations of Maine: A Handbook of Incorporations, Dissolutions, and Boundary Changes. Maine State Archives. https://digitalmaine.com/arc_publications/11/