



Sources of Historical Information on Post Offices, Postal Employees, Mail Routes, and Mail Contractors

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Contents

Sources Chronologically	1
Sources by Subject	2
Sources Alphabetically	2
Record Locations	11
Further Sources	12
Incomplete Sources	15

The United States Postal Service® traces its origin to July 26, 1775, when the Second Continental Congress appointed Benjamin Franklin the postmaster general of the United Colonies, predecessor to the United States. Originally called the Post Office or General Post Office, it became known as the Post Office Department by the 1830s, and in 1872, Congress specifically established it as an executive department. *The Postal Reorganization Act of 1970* transformed the Post Office Department into the United States Postal Service, an independent establishment of the executive branch. The Postal Service™ officially began operations as an independent agency on July 1, 1971.

Historians, postmasters, genealogists, and others who want to learn more about the history of their communities will discover valuable sources of historical information on Post Office™ facilities, postal employees, mail routes, and mail contractors in this publication. This publication lists sources chronologically, then discusses them by subject, and then describes them in alphabetical order. Links to digital copies of sources (if available) are provided in the descriptions. Record locations, further sources of information, and common questions for which there are no comprehensive sources of information are discussed on the final pages.

Sources Chronologically

1700s–present	Newspapers
1700s–1960	City directories
1700s–1960s	Post route maps
1775–1778	Benjamin Franklin’s ledger
1782–1799	<i>Ledgers of the General Post Office</i>
1789–1818	<i>Record of First Returns Received from Postmasters</i>
1789–1952	<i>Letters Sent by the Postmaster General</i>
1789–present	<i>Annual Report of the Postmaster General</i>
1789–1970	U.S. Congressional Serial Set
1789–1883	U.S. Statutes at Large
1790–1950	Census records
1793–1800	<i>Letters Sent by the First Assistant Postmaster General</i>
1803–2004	Lists, tables, and directories of Post Offices
1814–1960	Contract route registers
1814–1971	<i>Record of Appointment of Postmasters</i>
1816–1911	<i>Official Register of the United States</i>
1835–1953	<i>Orders of the Postmaster General (“Journals”)</i>
1837–1950	Site location reports of Post Offices
1861–1865	Confederate Post Office Department records
1863–ca. 1900	<i>Record Cards of Letter Carriers Separated from the Postal Service</i>
1874–1954	<i>United States Official Postal Guide</i>
1880–present	<i>Postal Bulletin (Daily Bulletin prior to 1919)</i>
1890s–1986	Record cards of postmaster appointments
1896–1970s	Rural delivery route cards
1900–1938	Rural delivery route maps
1901–1934	Rural delivery records
ca. 1901–present	Pay and personnel records
1986–present	Postmaster Finder

Sources by Subject

Post Offices and Employees

Post Offices operated in all fifty states before statehood — see “First U.S. Post Offices by State” at <https://about.usps.com/who/profile/history/pdf/first-post-offices.pdf>. For an overview of sources of information on Post Offices in the American colonies before July 1775, see “First U.S. Post Offices: Research Challenges and Sources of Information” at <https://about.usps.com/who/profile/history/pdf/first-post-offices-sources.pdf>.

For information on Post Offices and postmasters from 1775 to 1814, major sources include the following:

- *Record of First Returns Received from Postmasters.*
- *Letters Sent by the Postmaster General.*
- *Letters Sent by the First Assistant Postmaster General.*
- Benjamin Franklin’s ledger.
- Newspapers.

After 1814, the primary source of information on Post Offices and postmasters is the *Record of Appointment of Postmasters*.

For concise listings of Post Offices by state and alphabetically, see the lists, tables, and directories of Post Offices, as well as the *United States Official Postal Guide* and *Official Register of the United States*.

For postmaster salary information and lists of other Post Office employees, refer to the *Official Register of the United States*.

Pay and personnel records may be available for employees whose service ended after about 1901.

Site location reports of Post Offices provide geographic and other information on specific Post Offices.

Mail Routes, Contractors, and Letter Carriers

For information on mail transportation contracts and contractors before 1814, sources include the following:

- *Letters Sent by the Postmaster General.*
- *Letters Sent by the First Assistant Postmaster General.*
- Newspapers.

Contract route registers are available beginning in 1814.

The biennial *Official Register of the United States* lists names and compensation of mail transportation contractors from 1816 to 1911.

Rural delivery route cards provide rural route establishment dates, as well as the names, dates of service, and salaries of rural carriers from 1896 to the 1970s.

The historian of the United States Postal Service has compiled tables showing first rural delivery routes established, by state and Post Office, through 1904. These tables are available at <https://about.usps.com/who/profile/history/first-rural-routes.htm>.

Names and salaries of rural and city letter carriers are listed in the biennial *Official Register of the United States* through 1911.

Dates of service of city letter carriers whose service ended before about 1900 are available in *Record Cards of Letter Carriers Separated from the Postal Service, 1863–1899*.

Pay and personnel records may be available for rural and city letter carriers whose service ended after about 1901.

Sources Alphabetically

Annual Report of the Postmaster General, 1789–present

Early editions of the *Annual Report* (title varies slightly) offer only brief summaries of a few pages each on mail service nationwide, but by the 1840s the report begins to include statistical tables on everything from missent mail (by state) to international money orders issued (by state). Also featured are the following:

- The lengths of mail routes and modes of conveyance, by state (1836–1913).
- Railroad and steamboat contracts (beginning in 1843 and 1845, respectively).
- The number of Post Offices by state (1847–1970).
- Receipts/expenses by state (1851–1970).
- Statistics on city delivery (1873–1971).

- Establishment dates of rural free delivery, by Post Office (1897–1901).

More detailed financial statistics are often available on the largest U.S. Post Offices — for example, receipts, expenses, and money allowed for clerk hire and rent, light, and fuel. The 1970 *Annual Report* has a statistical overview of the history of the Post Office Department from 1789 to 1970. In 1971, the report reverts to a limited format, with statistics available for the most part on only a national basis.

Digital copies of many editions of the *Annual Report* are available online through HathiTrust at <https://babel.hathitrust.org>, Google Books at <https://books.google.com>, and the Internet Archive at <https://archive.org>. Mike Ludeman’s “Portal to the Annual Reports of the Postmaster General,” hosted by the Stamp Smarter website at <https://stampsmarter.org/learning/PostalPortal.html>, provides links to many online editions.

Benjamin Franklin's Ledger, 1775–1778

Benjamin Franklin received the appointment as the first postmaster general under the Continental Congress on July 26, 1775. He and his successor, Richard Bache, kept a ledger of the quarterly accounts of the General Post Office from 1775 to 1778. This ledger includes sums paid to and received from Post Offices — serving as a useful list of early Post Offices — with postmaster names sometimes noted.

A copy of the ledger, titled *The Ledger of Doctor Benjamin Franklin, Postmaster General, 1776*, is available online through HathiTrust at <https://babel.hathitrust.org>, Google Books at <https://books.google.com>, and the Internet Archive at <https://archive.org>.

Census Records, 1790–1950

Federal census records are available for every 10 years from 1790 through 1950, though most of the 1890 records were destroyed by fire. Records before 1850 contain little information beyond the name of the head of household. Beginning in 1850, the records list every household member by name, along with their age, occupation, and other information. The records are arranged by state and county, then by township or enumeration district, and then by household in the order visited by census takers. For more information, see <https://www.archives.gov/research/census>.

Census records have been digitized by Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org, making it possible to search for individuals by name only. Access to Ancestry.com is available by subscription, and is free-of-charge at National Archives facilities and many public libraries; FamilySearch.org is a free site.

City Directories, 1700s–1960

City directories were printed in several of the largest U.S. cities by the end of the 1700s. By 1861, directories were printed in more than 80 cities. These directories often contain detailed city maps and list businesses, public and private institutions, and residents and their addresses. Occupation and race of residents are often noted in 19th-century directories. City directories sometimes contain a separate section on the Post Office, listing the address and the name of the postmaster, other employees, office hours, the schedule of mail arrival and departure, and other information.

Directories from 1861 to 1960 have been reproduced by Primary Source Microfilm as *City Directories of the United States* and may be available from your local library through inter-library loan. Digital copies of many U.S. city directories are also available online through Ancestry.com by subscription, and many public libraries offer them free-of-charge. Copies of some directories are

POSTOFFICE.

Federal Building, K ne. cor. 7th.
Hours: 8 a. m. to 5 p. m., and general delivery, 8 a. m. to 7 p. m. Sundays, 12 to 1 p. m. Money Order department, 9 a. m. to 5 p. m., and from 6 to 9 p. m. for issuing and registration. Registering department, 8 a. m. to 6 p. m.

Official Roster.

Postmaster R. M. Richardson, Asst. Postmaster G. M. Treichler, Superintendent of Delivery Wm. Rider, Mailing Clerk J. P. Bascom, Registry Clerks, James Longshore, Jr., Henry O. Tubbs and C. W. Stewart; General Delivery Clerk, Charles S. Pepper; Stamp and Box Clerk, Edgar H. Rivett; Money Order Clerks, Mrs. Alice Campbell, Victor A. Fuchs and A. F. Webb; Distributors, W. F. Brown, J. A. Considine, J. E. Steward and C. A. Lambert; Postoffice Inspector, J. I. Driscoll, Federal Bldg.; Carriers: T. W. White, G. B. Eldred, C. A. Dufour, C. E. Hill, L. T. Miller, C. F. J. Pearson, J. W. Toomey, F. H. Toomey, M. Butler, E. F. Gibson, M. J. Troy, P. B. McIntyre, R.

Office Hours.

The general postoffice is open for the reception of mail from 5 o'clock a. m. to 11 o'clock p. m., and for general business from 8 a. m. to 7 p. m., except Sundays. Cashier's office from 8:30 a. m. to 5 p. m. For the transaction of registry business from 8 a. m. to 9 p. m., and for money order business from 9 a. m. to 9 p. m., except Sundays.

The carrier stations are open for general business from 7:30 a. m. to 7 p. m.

The numbered stations in drug stores, etc., are open for business at all hours of the day and evening, including Sundays.

On Sundays and holidays the main office and stations are open for general business one hour—from 12 m. to 1 p. m.—during which the carriers are in waiting to pass out any mail called for by their patrons.

Collections of mail from street boxes are made from one to twelve times daily, according to location of the boxes.

Outgoing mails close one hour before departure of train from the railroad station.

A 1908 city directory for Sacramento, California, includes nearly five pages of information relating to the city's Post Office, including the excerpts shown above of a roster of employees and the office's operating hours.

available through HathiTrust at <https://babel.hathitrust.org>, Google Books at <https://books.google.com>, and the Internet Archive at <https://archive.org>. Libraries, historical societies and state archives also may have copies of local city directories. A list of directories beginning with 1861 is available at <https://guides.loc.gov/united-states-city-telephone-directories/city-directories>.

Confederate Post Office Department Records, 1861–1865

Surviving records of the Confederate Post Office Department are located at the National Archives and at the Library of Congress.

Confederate records at the National Archives are part of the War Department Collection of Confederate Records, Record Group 109. The Post Office material in this collection has been digitized and is online at <https://catalog.archives.gov>. It includes the following information:

- A list of Post Office establishments, discontinuances, and name changes in the Confederate states beginning in 1861 (undated).
- A register of accounts, 1864 to 1865, for Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas, listing name of Post Office, county/state, and receipts.
- Confederate records on mail contracts and routes in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

Records at the Library of Congress include the following:

- An Appointment Bureau list of Post Offices in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas, 1861 to 1865, noting establishments, discontinuances, and name changes, along with names of postmasters and appointment dates.
- A register of accounts for the quarter ending March 31, 1862, for Arkansas, Florida, Tennessee, and Texas (includes Post Office and postmaster name and financial information on the office — sometimes incomplete).
- An Appointment Bureau list, 1861 to 1865, of postmasters appointed in Arkansas, Indian Territory, Louisiana, and Texas (provides dates of appointment, bond and commission of the postmaster, the name and reason for leaving of the previous postmaster, the county of location, sureties' names, and miscellaneous remarks).
- Journal and Orders of the postmaster general (contains lists of hundreds of postmaster appointments in the summer of 1861).
- Appointment Bureau letters sent, 1861 to 1865, partially indexed through November 4, 1863.

- Letters sent by the Contract Bureau, 1861 to 1864, mainly to contractors and postmasters, which are indexed by recipient or Post Office name and provide details on mail service.
- Confederate records on mail contracts and routes in the states of Mississippi and Virginia.

Confederate postal records at the Library of Congress are in the Manuscript Division as part of the Records of the Confederate States of America. Many of these records are accessible at <https://findingaids.loc.gov>: search for “Confederate States,” and select “Confederate States of America Records” > “Contents List” > “Post Office Department, 1861–1865.” Mike Ludeman’s “Portals to Confederate Post Office Publications,” hosted by the Stamp Smarter website at <https://stampsmarter.org/learning/PostalPortal.html>, provide links to many of the records in both these collections.

Contract Route Registers, 1814–1960

Registers of contract routes (also called “star routes”) from 1814 to 1817, in 1824, from 1828 to 1870 (or circa 1882, for particular states), and from circa 1914 to 1960 (years vary by state) usually list names of stops along routes, names of bidders for the contracts, frequency of service, distances involved, and modes of transportation. They generally do not show the names of subcontractors or carriers employed by the contractors. In some time periods, there are indexes to mail routes by Post Office.

Contract route registers are located at the National Archives as part of the Records of the Post Office Department, Record Group 28.

Mileage	Statement of Route	Schedule
	Post Office Department FOURTH ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL DIVISION OF RURAL MAILS	
	General Advertisement October 27, 1917.—Term July 1, 1918, to June 30, 1922	
	State: Colorado	County: Morgan
		Route No. 65112
	Bond, \$ 1,500	Advertised mileage: 28.40
		equal to Round trips a week: three
18.50	Snyder Antelope Springs (n.o.) 4/8	(Motor vehicle to be used when road and weather conditions permit) Lv Snyder Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at 7:00 am Ar Stoneham by 12:00 pm Lv Stoneham Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at 1:00 pm Ar Snyder by 5:00 pm
11.30	Stoneham 1/003 Returning to Snyder	Aftertime: No bid Isaac E. Alderson \$1500 Readvertised Feb. 20, 1918. W. L. DRAWD Readvertised March 15, 1918. Contractor required to sell stamp supplies, etc.
27.00	Snyder	Isaac E. Alderson, \$1599 Aftertime: Logan Skiles \$1250. Readvertised MAY 22 1918 Charles T. Cook \$1316. 1250. Accepted Logan Skiles 1172.98 118.00 1,282.98
equal to 28.40 = 6.75 = 26.65 = 2.50 = 29.15		

171

Contract route registers contain details about routes, schedules, and the names of contractors. This record from 1918 describes Route 65112, Snyder to Stoneham, Colorado.

Ledgers of the General Post Office, 1782–1799

The *Ledgers of the General Post Office* contain the quarterly accounts of the General Post Office. These accounts include mail contractor names, their routes, and sums paid, and an alphabetical listing of Post Offices, including the postmaster's name, letter and newspaper postage collected and the postmaster's commissions on the same, and sums paid for ship letters.

The *Ledgers of the General Post Office* are located at the National Archives as part of the Records of the Post Office Department, Record Group 28.

Letters Sent by the First Assistant Postmaster General, 1793–1800

The letters sent by the first assistant postmaster general from October 27, 1793, to March 27, 1800, are arranged chronologically in three volumes with an index of names of addressees. The letters primarily relate to the financial accounts of postmasters and mail contractors, but they also concern mail transportation, postmaster appointments, and other matters.

The *Letters Sent by the First Assistant Postmaster General* are located at the National Archives as part of the Records of the Post Office Department, Record Group 28. These volumes have been digitized by the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society and are accessible through its website at <https://www.uspcs.org/resource-center/government-documents/1st-asst-postmaster-general-letter-books-1793-1800>. Digital editions of these volumes indexed by Mike Ludeman are available on the Stamp Smarter website at <https://stampsmarter.org/learning/PMGLedgers.html>.

Letters Sent by the Postmaster General, 1789–1952

The earliest letters sent by the postmaster general — between October 3, 1789, and December 31, 1836 — are arranged chronologically in 50 volumes with an index of names of addressees. The letters reference specific Post Offices, postmasters, and mail contracts, and discuss mail transportation, postal laws and regulations, and budgetary matters, among other things.

The *Letters Sent by the Postmaster General* are located at the National Archives as part of the Records of the Post Office Department, Record Group 28. These volumes have been reproduced as National Archives Microfilm Publication M601, *Letters Sent by the Postmaster General, 1789–1836*, which is available for purchase from the National Archives and may be available from your local library through inter-library loan. The microfilm has been digitized by the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society and is accessible through its website at <https://www.uspcs.org/resource-center/government-documents/postmaster-general-letter-books-1789-1836>.

Links on that page also provide access to copies of letters sent by the postmaster general from 1837 to March 2, 1869. Digital editions of the earliest letters sent, indexed by Mike Ludeman, are available on the Stamp Smarter website at <https://stampsmarter.org/learning/PMGLedgers.html>.

Lists, Tables, and Directories of Post Offices, 1803–2004

Lists, tables, and directories of Post Offices are available for nearly half of the years from 1803 to 1870, and then annually from 1955 to 2004. (For the intervening period, see the *United States Official Postal Guide*.) Although there is some variation by year, the earliest lists typically provide an alphabetical listing of Post Office names, along with the name of the postmaster, county, and state. The distances from the Post Office to the state and national capitals are also sometimes noted. The 1831 *Table of Post Offices in the United States* provides the first listing of Post Offices by county, which is regularly featured beginning in 1859. Directories of Post Offices from 1955 to 2004 list Post Offices, as well as stations and branches, alphabetically and by state and county, and they also provide the class of the Post Office (before 1975) as well as names of postal units discontinued in the preceding year. They do not show names of postmasters. Beginning in 1957, numbers of boxes served by Post Offices are listed. City delivery statistics are available beginning in 1979, when the *Directory of Post Offices* combined with the *National ZIP Code Directory* to form a new title, the *National ZIP Code and Post Office Directory*. This was last issued in 2004 as the *National Five-Digit ZIP Code and Post Office Directory*.

Copies of some of these publications are available through HathiTrust at <https://babel.hathitrust.org>, Google Books at <https://books.google.com>, and the Internet Archive at <https://archive.org>. Mike Ludeman's "Portal to the Early Postal Guides," hosted by the Stamp Smarter website at <https://stampsmarter.org/learning/PostalPortal.html>, provides links to many of the online editions. Select editions may also be available from your local library through inter-library loan.

Newspapers, 1700s–present

Newspapers often contain announcements of changes to mail service, Post Offices, and postmasters. Sometimes, newspapers also contain descriptions of mail routes.

Thousands of historic newspapers have been reproduced in searchable electronic databases such as Newspapers.com™, ProQuest Historical Newspapers™, and Readex's Early American Newspapers, and the databases are available online by subscription and at many research libraries. The Library of Congress' Chronicling America website at <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov> provides free online access to more than 3,500 titles from 1777 to 1963. Many useful lists of digitized newspaper collections are available online, including at <https://www.loc.gov/rr/news/oltitles.html> and <https://guides.lib.purdue.edu/digitalUSnewspapers>.

Official Register of the United States, 1816–1911

The *Official Register of the United States* lists Post Offices and postal employees and their financial compensation in 1816, and in odd-numbered years from 1817 to 1911. (Before 1879, the title was *Register of Officers and Agents, Civil, Military, and Naval in the Service of the United States*.) The earliest editions of the *Official Register* list Headquarters employees, postmasters, Post Office clerks, and mail contractors. Route agents and mail messengers are first listed in 1855. Railway Mail Service employees and city letter carriers are listed beginning in 1867, and rural carriers beginning in 1899. From 1877 to 1905, the *Official Register* is indexed by employee name. From 1879 to 1911, this title was published in a 2-volume set with postal employees listed in volume 2. Starting in 1913, the *Official Register* lists only top staff, primarily at postal Headquarters.

Digital copies of many editions of the *Official Register* are available online through HathiTrust at <https://babel.hathitrust.org>, Google Books at <https://books.google.com>, and the Internet Archive at <https://archive.org>. Mike Ludeman's "Portal to the Official Registers," hosted by the Stamp Smarter website at <https://stampsmarter.org/learning/PostalPortal.html>, provides links to many online editions. Most of the 1863–1911 volumes have also been digitized by Ancestry.com, making it possible to search for individuals by name only. Access to Ancestry.com is available by subscription, and many public libraries offer it free-of-charge.

Orders of the Postmaster General ("Journals"), 1835–1953

The *Orders of the Postmaster General*, also referred to as the *Journals*, are arranged chronologically in bound volumes covering the period from July 7, 1835, to March 5, 1953. Noted in these volumes are Post Office establishments, discontinuances, and name and site changes, as well as information on mail routes, contractors, and carriers. Also noted, upon their dates of appointment, are the names of postmasters appointed to Post Offices, as well as the names and reasons for leaving of the previously appointed postmasters ("moved away," "resigned," "declined position," etc.). Although these volumes are not indexed, they can help verify pre-1880 information found in the *Record of Appointment of Postmasters*. (To verify post-1880 information, the *Postal Bulletin* is easier to access and use.) The *Journals* are also helpful in identifying individuals who were appointed to the position of postmaster but did not take office.

The *Journals* are located at the National Archives as part of the Records of the Post Office Department, Record Group 28. Copies of the *Journals* from October 19, 1848, to March 8, 1853, have been digitized by the U.S. Philatelic

Classics Society and are accessible through its website at <https://www.uspccs.org/resource-center/government-documents/postmaster-general-order-books>.

Pay and Personnel Records, circa 1901–present

Although personnel files — called "Official Personnel Folders" (OPFs) — were not created for postal employees until 1948 or later, information on the service of some employees before 1948 is available from other sources, such as Post Office payroll records. Note: Historically, most employees at smaller Post Offices were employed directly by the postmaster, so federal personnel records were not kept for them. Also, personnel records were not kept for individuals who carried mail on a contractual basis.

Pay and personnel records of former postal employees are located at the National Personnel Records Center.

Postal Bulletin, March 1880–present

The *Postal Bulletin* (titled *Daily Bulletin of Orders Affecting the Postal Service* before 1919) lists postmaster names and dates of commission until 1942. Acting postmasters are listed from 1884 to 1942. Star (contract) route establishments, discontinuances, and schedule changes are listed from 1880 to 1942, and rural route establishments, discontinuances, and changes are listed from 1898 to about 1934. The *Postal Bulletin* also gives Post Office establishment and discontinuance dates, as well as information on Post Office name and site changes. Beginning in 1907, the *Postal Bulletin* also provides establishment and discontinuance dates of Post Office stations and branches.

DAILY BULLETIN

ORDERS AFFECTING THE POSTAL SERVICE.

VOL. XIV. POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 1893. NO. 3924

<p>The Postal Bulletin. PUBLISHED FOR THE OFFICE OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL BY JAMES R. WHITE, GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT.</p> <p>THROUGH REGISTERED POUCHES. The following is a list of the names of the postmasters appointed to the offices of the Post Office Department, Office of General Delivery, U. S. M. S., Washington, D. C., Jan. 13, 1893.</p> <p>CHANGING THE DATES OF APPOINTMENT. The following is a list of the names of the postmasters appointed to the offices of the Post Office Department, Office of General Delivery, U. S. M. S., Washington, D. C., Jan. 13, 1893.</p> <p>INNER REGISTERED SACK EXCHANGE. The following is a list of the names of the postmasters appointed to the offices of the Post Office Department, Office of General Delivery, U. S. M. S., Washington, D. C., Jan. 13, 1893.</p> <p>BRASS LOCK EXCHANGES. The following is a list of the names of the postmasters appointed to the offices of the Post Office Department, Office of General Delivery, U. S. M. S., Washington, D. C., Jan. 13, 1893.</p>	<p>POST OFFICES DISCONTINUED. The following is a list of the names of the post offices discontinued on Jan. 13, 1893.</p> <p>POST OFFICES NAME CHANGED. The following is a list of the names of the post offices whose names have been changed on Jan. 13, 1893.</p> <p>POST OFFICE SITE CHANGED. The following is a list of the names of the post offices whose sites have been changed on Jan. 13, 1893.</p>	<p>STAR SERVICE ESTABLISHED. The following is a list of the names of the star routes established on Jan. 13, 1893.</p> <p>STAR SERVICE CHANGES. The following is a list of the names of the star routes whose schedules have been changed on Jan. 13, 1893.</p>	<p>POSTMASTERS COMMISSIONED. The following is a list of the names of the postmasters commissioned on Jan. 13, 1893.</p> <p>POST OFFICE NAME CHANGED. The following is a list of the names of the post offices whose names have been changed on Jan. 13, 1893.</p> <p>POST OFFICE SITE CHANGED. The following is a list of the names of the post offices whose sites have been changed on Jan. 13, 1893.</p>
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OTHER MATTER: Exchange daily, 10¢ per copy. Single copies 5¢. Yearly, \$5.00. For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C.

The *Postal Bulletin*, called the *Daily Bulletin of Orders Affecting the Postal Service* before 1919, lists Post Office establishments and changes, postmaster appointments, and other changes to mail service.

Issues from 1880 to 2016 have been digitized by the U.S. Postal Bulletin Consortium and are accessible and searchable through its website at <http://www.uspostalbulletins.com>. Issues since 2001 are available on the Postal Service's website at <https://about.usps.com/resources/postal-bulletin.htm>.

Postmaster Finder, 1986–present

Postmaster Finder is a database maintained by the historian of the United States Postal Service. It provides the establishment and discontinuance dates of Post Offices and the names and appointment dates of postmasters, acting postmasters, and officers-in-charge who served in between two different postmasters. Post Office name and county changes are also recorded. Since its creation in 1986, Postmaster Finder has been the sole national repository of postmaster names and appointment dates by Post Office. Names of earlier postmasters are gradually being added to the database; complete lists of postmasters are currently available for about 30 percent of active Post Offices.

Postmaster Finder is available on the Postal Service's website at <https://about.usps.com/who/profile/history/postmaster-finder.htm>.

Post Route Maps, 1700s–1960s

Post route maps of counties, states, or regions show the mail transportation routes that connected Post Offices. The frequency of service and the distance between offices are also sometimes noted.

Some post route maps are located in the Cartographic and Architectural Section of the National Archives at College Park, Maryland, and also in the Geography and Map Division of the Library of Congress. Select digitized versions are available through their respective online catalogs, <https://catalog.archives.gov> and <https://www.loc.gov>. The library of the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum has post route maps for every U.S. state for 1933 and 1934, and the USPS historian has route maps for most states from the 1940s and 1950s. Some post route maps are also located in local collections — for example, in state or university archives/libraries and at local historical societies. Mike Ludeman's "Portal to Postal Route Maps," hosted by the Stamp Smarter website at <https://stampsmarter.org/learning/PostalPortal.html>, provides links to some online editions.

Record Cards of Letter Carriers Separated from the Postal Service, 1863–ca. 1900

The record cards of letter carriers whose service ended by about 1900 are index cards filed alphabetically by state, Post Office, and the name of the letter carrier. The cards give the carrier's appointment date and the date and reason for his separation from service, such as "resigned," "transferred," "died," or "removed." Causes for removal

are sometimes noted. Although the cards generally are from before 1900, some cards through 1902 and even later are available.

The record cards are located at the National Archives as part of the Records of the Post Office Department, Record Group 28. The cards have been reproduced as National Archives Microfilm Publication M1846, *Record Cards of Letter Carriers Separated from the Postal Service, 1863-1899* (3 rolls). They are available for purchase from the National Archives and might be available from your local library through inter-library loan.

Record Cards of Postmaster Appointments, 1890s–1986

The record cards of postmaster appointments (PS Forms 1094, 1095, and 1084) are index cards of postmaster and acting postmaster appointments and officer-in-charge installations at Post Offices from the late 1890s through 1986, filed alphabetically by state and Post Office. Post Office establishment and discontinuance information is also provided, along with dates when a Post Office was advanced to or relegated from the presidential class. (The president appointed postmasters at the largest offices from 1836 to 1970.) These records are often the sole source of information on postmaster appointments at Post Offices from 1971 to 1986, although before 1971 they largely duplicate information found in the *Record of Appointment of Postmasters*.

The record cards before about 1971 are located at the National Archives as part of the Records of the Post Office Department, Record Group 28. Cards after 1971 are located in the office of the historian of the United States Postal Service.

POST OFFICE		ORO GRANDE		STATE		CALIFORNIA		92368	
NAME		DATE OF APPOINTMENT		ASSUMED CHARGE AS POSTMASTER		REMARKS			
		Acting Postmaster	Postmaster						
Mrs. Hazel M. Robinson		9-25-42	3-22-43	6-30-45		4th cl.			
OFFICE ADVANCED TO PRESIDENTIAL July 1, 1945.									
Mrs. Hazel M. Robinson			11-9-45	11-9-45		Mn. chg. Mrs. E. 5/9/49			
Mrs. Katie B. Smith		3-31-54	1-20-55	6-30-55		Mand. ret. 9/30/69			
Mrs. Clella Langley		9/30/69	Acct. trans. to career postal employee as Officer-in-charge.			3/6/71 Opt Ret 12-1-76			
Mrs. Clella I. Langley DeShields									
Ms Mary L. Ives, PO Clerk, OIC		12-1-76		Promoted VALley CA 5-6-78					
David J. Phillips		8-13-77							
Roberta Griffin, Window CLK,		OIC 5-4-78							
William A. Muller		1-13-79							

Record cards of postmaster appointments, like this one for Oro Grande, California, provide names and dates of appointees and other information on Post Offices.

Record of Appointment of Postmasters, 1814–1971

The *Record of Appointment of Postmasters* consists of ledgers of postmaster appointments by Post Office from 1814 to September 30, 1971. The records before 1832 are arranged alphabetically on a national basis, by Post Office name and state. County names are listed beginning in 1824. After 1832, the records are arranged by state or territory, then by county, and then alphabetically by Post Office. The records show the names of Post Offices, the dates of their establishment and discontinuance, any name changes, and the names and appointment dates of postmasters. Surety information is sometimes provided before 1844. Beginning in the 1840s, presidential appointments are noted. Money order offices are noted beginning in the 1860s. After about 1870, the records show the names of Post Offices to which mail from discontinued offices was sent. Names of acting postmasters are listed beginning in the 1910s. See also the description of this record at <https://www.archives.gov/research/post-offices>.

The postmaster appointment ledgers are located at the National Archives as part of the Records of the Post Office Department, Record Group 28. They have been reproduced as National Archives Microfilm Publication M1131, *Record of Appointment of Postmasters, October 1789–1832* (Rolls 2, 3, and 4), and M841, *Record of Appointment of Postmasters, 1832–September 30, 1971* (145 rolls). They are available for purchase from the National Archives and might be available from your local library through inter-library loan. The microfilm has also been digitized; records from 1814 to 1832 are accessible through the National Archives' website at <https://www.archives.gov/research/post-offices>. The records from 1832 to 1971 have been digitized by Ancestry.com, which is accessible by subscription and is free-of-charge at National Archives facilities and at many public libraries.



An excerpt from Record of Appointment of Postmasters shows postmasters appointed in Sangamon County, Illinois, in the early 1800s — including Abraham Lincoln at New Salem on May 7, 1833.

Record of First Returns Received from Postmasters, 1789–1818

The *Record of First Returns Received from Postmasters* is a volume containing names of postmasters at Post Offices from October 1789 to July 1818, along with the dates of their first financial returns. Since postmasters were required to submit quarterly financial statements, their first financial returns generally postdated their appointment by several months, although delays in submitting accounts were not uncommon. This volume is especially useful since records of postmaster appointments before 1814 were destroyed by a fire at postal Headquarters in 1836. (It is sometimes possible to find pre-1814 appointment dates for postmasters by searching for them in the index to the *Letters Sent by the Postmaster General* in the months preceding their first return date.)

This record is located at the National Archives as part of the Records of the Post Office Department, Record Group 28. It has been reproduced as Roll 1 of National Archives Microfilm Publication M1131, *Record of Appointment of Postmasters, October 1789–1832*, which has been digitized by the National Archives and is accessible through its website at <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/75493318>.

Rural Delivery Records, 1901–1934

Among the records of the Division of Rural Mails from 1901 to 1917 and from 1930 to 1934 are correspondence, reports, and supporting documents (sometimes including maps and petitions) regarding proposed rural route establishments and changes, filed by state and county. The Division records also include correspondence, filed by state and Post Office, from 1909 to 1929 and from 1930 to 1932. Inspection reports, referenced in the above files and arranged by state and report number, contain further details on proposed route changes, such as discussions of local topography, existing mail service, and customers served.

The records of the Division of Rural Mails are located at the National Archives as part of the Records of the Post Office Department, Record Group 28.

Rural Delivery Route Cards, 1896–1970s

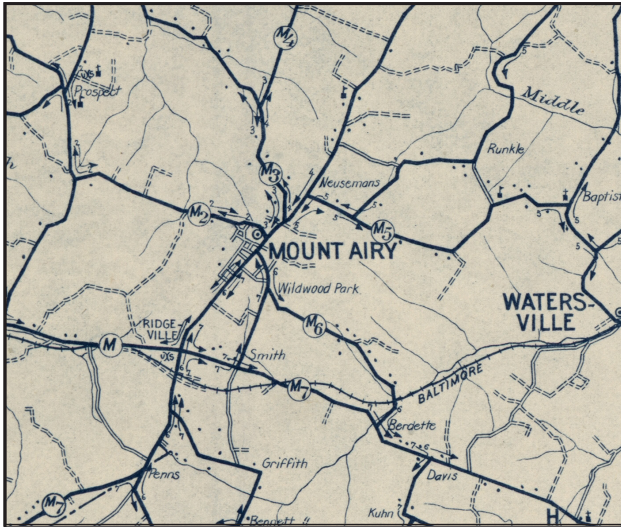
Rural delivery route cards, filed by Post Office, list route lengths, establishment dates, and the names, dates of service, and salaries of rural carriers.

Rural delivery route cards are located at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri.

Rural Delivery Route Maps, 1900–1938

Rural delivery route maps generally show the route of travel of rural delivery routes in a particular county or Post Office delivery area. These maps often show the locations of houses, schools, churches, and roads. Mailbox numbers are not listed, although patron names are sometimes noted.

Some rural delivery route maps are located in the Cartographic and Architectural Section of the National Archives at College Park, Maryland, and also in the Geography and Map Division of the Library of Congress. A few digitized versions are available through their respective online catalogs, at <https://catalog.archives.gov> and <https://www.loc.gov>. Some maps are also located in local collections — for example, in state or university archives/libraries and at local historical societies. Mike Ludeman’s “Portal to Postal Route Maps,” hosted by the Stamp Smarter website at <https://stampsmarter.org/learning/PostalPortal.html>, provides links to some online editions.



A portion of a 1911 rural delivery route map of Carroll County, Maryland, shows local rural routes, including lines and directions of travel and rural route numbers, but not box numbers. Small dots represent houses.

Site Location Reports of Post Offices, 1837–1950

The reports of site locations are forms completed and submitted by postmasters, mostly from 1845 until 1945, giving the location of their Post Office and other geographical information. The reports typically show locations in relation to nearby Post Offices and mail transportation routes, and some reports include hand-drawn maps of the vicinity of the office — see the example on page 10. Reports submitted for proposed Post Offices, referred to as “applications” to establish a Post Office, also list the number of patrons the Post Office would serve. See also the description of this record at <https://www.archives.gov/research/post-offices>.

These reports are located at the National Archives as part of the Records of the Post Office Department, Record Group 28. They have been reproduced as National Archives Microfilm Publication M1126, *Post Office Department Reports of Site Locations, 1837–1950* (683 rolls), which has been digitized by the National Archives and is accessible through its website at <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/608210>; click on Search within this series.

United States Official Postal Guide, 1874–1954

The *United States Official Postal Guide* provides alphabetical lists of Post Offices nationwide, by state, and by state and county. Monthly supplements to the Guide show the latest Post Office establishments, discontinuances, and name and county changes.

The *United States Official Postal Guide* has been digitized and is available on the Stamp Smarter website at https://stampsmarter.org/learning/Home_USPOD.html. Some editions are also available online through HathiTrust at <https://babel.hathitrust.org>, Google Books at <https://books.google.com>, and the Internet Archive at <https://archive.org>.

U.S. Congressional Serial Set, 1789–1970

From about 1817 to 1890, the *Serial Set* contains records of mail contract routes (also called “star routes”). Reports show the termini of the routes, the names of the contractors selected, and other information. General indexes to the *Serial Set* provide the years and volume numbers of mail route records, but few references to specific mail routes. Later volumes of the *Serial Set* provide information on other aspects of the Postal Service.

The *Serial Set* has been digitized, and the 19th-century volumes are available online free-of-charge through HathiTrust at <https://babel.hathitrust.org>. Subscription databases like LexisNexis®, ProQuest, and Readex offer both access and multiple search options. Mike Ludeman’s Portal and index to Post Office records in the *Serial Set* are available on the Stamp Smarter website at <https://stampsmarter.org/learning/PostalPortal.html> and are useful finding aids.

U.S. Statutes at Large, 1789–1883

From 1792 through 1883, the *Statutes* list post roads established and discontinued by Congress, and note stops on the routes. While there is a general index by subject (“post roads”), there is no index by Post Office.

The *U.S. Statutes at Large* are available online free-of-charge through the Library of Congress at <https://www.loc.gov/collections/united-states-statutes-at-large/about-this-collection/index.php> and HathiTrust at <https://babel.hathitrust.org>. The *Statutes* are also available online through the subscription database HeinOnline at <https://heinonline.org>, which offers multiple search options.

A site location report typically shows a Post Office location in relation to nearby Post Offices. Some reports include hand-drawn maps of the vicinity of the office.

L. D. D. J. 1868

(No. 40.) POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
TOPOGRAPHER CONTRACT OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, April 30, 1868

SIR: To enable the Topographer of this Department to determine, with as much accuracy as possible, the relative positions of Post Offices, so that they may be correctly delineated on its maps, the Postmaster General requests you to fill up the spaces and answer the questions below, and return the same, verified by your signature and date, under cover to this office.

Respectfully, etc., *Samuel M. Bellman*
Second Assistant Postmaster General.

To POSTMASTER AT *Berkeley Springs*
Morgan Co. W Va

The (P. O. Dept.) name of my office is *Berkeley Springs*
*Its local name is *Bath*
It is situated in *Bath* Township,
County of *Morgan* State of *West Virginia*

The name of the most prominent river near it is *Potomac*
The name of the nearest creek is *Sleepy Creek*
This office is *2 3/4* miles from said river on the *South* side of it, and is
4 1/2 miles from said nearest creek, on the *North* side of it.
The name of the nearest office on route No. *4247* is *Mounda*, and its
distance is *Eight* miles, by the traveled road, in a *Southern* direction from this my office.
The name of the nearest office on the same route on the other side is *Balldan*
and its distance is *Twelve* miles in a *Southern* direction from this my office.
The name of the nearest office off the route is *Blomery*, and its
distance by the most direct road is *22* miles in a *S.W.* direction from this my office.

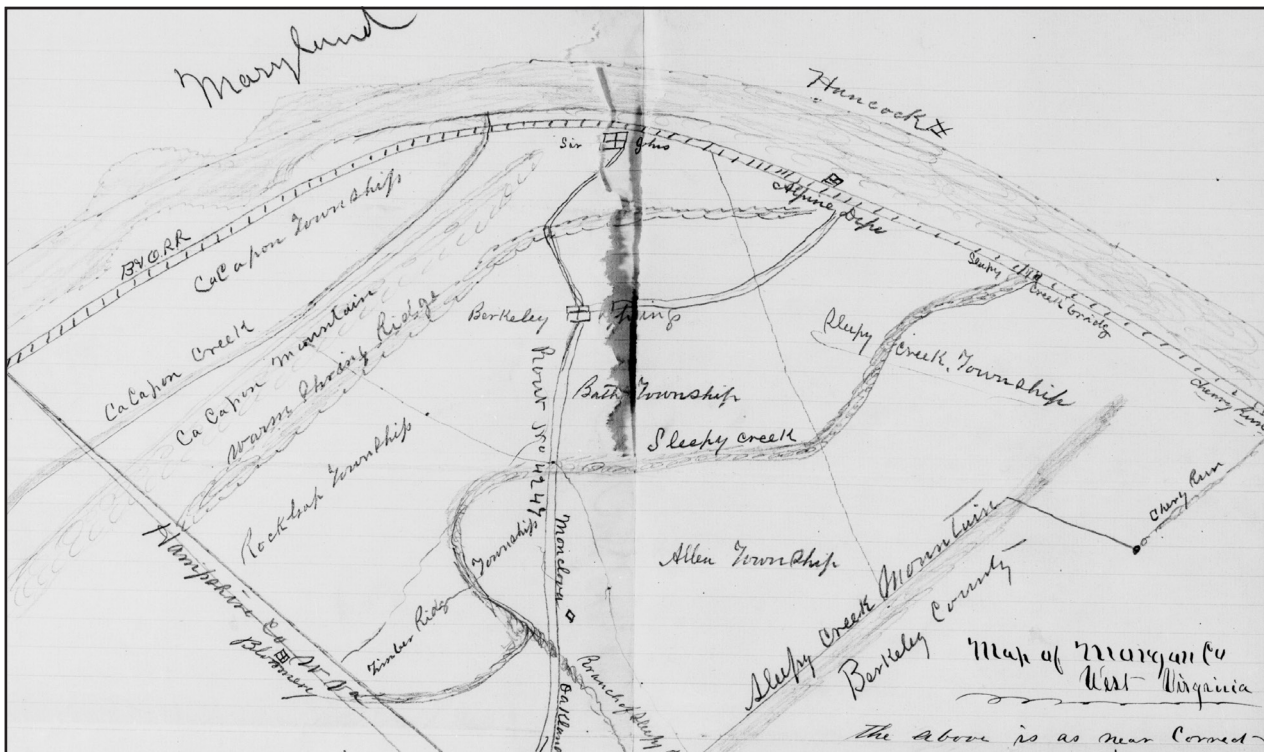
State, under this, the names of all other offices near your office in different directions from it, and
their distances from it by the most direct roads.

<i>Wagon Run</i>	<i>2 1/2</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Sing-hus Run</i>	<i>2 3/4</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Alpine Ridge</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>South</i>

*If the town, village, or site of the Post Office, be known locally by another name than that of the Post Office, state that other name here, that it may be identified on any published map of the State (or Territory), if appearing thereon.
†If a division of the township (or, where the land is not so divided, a sketch map) showing the precise location of your office, together with the adjoining Post Offices, towns or villages, the roads, railroads, and larger streams or creeks, in addition to the above verbal description, will be useful, and is desired.
A correct map of the locality and adjacent country might be furnished by your County Surveyor, but this must be without expense to the Post Office Department; if being, however, for the general interest and advantage of the community to have the Post Office correctly located on the maps, it may be expected that this will be cheerfully furnished on proper application.
State (on margin of this sheet) whether there is on file at your county seat (court-house), or in the hands of your County Surveyor, a map of the county.
State also the present Surveyor's name and Post Office address.

Return an exact copy of the State law defining your county boundary.

(Signature of Postmaster) *Ann M Mead*
Ann M Mead
(Date) *Apr 27*



Site location reports describe Post Office locations in relation to neighboring offices and transportation routes. This report from Berkeley Springs, West Virginia, includes a hand-drawn map submitted by Postmaster Ann Mead in 1868.

Record Locations

Historian

United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, DC 20260-0012
<https://about.usps.com/who/profile/history/>

Copies of many of the publications described in this booklet are available in the Postal Service's Library, which is managed by the historian and is open to the public by appointment. The historian can also provide guidance in researching specific aspects of postal history. Upon request, the historian's staff can provide information on Post Offices and former postal employees. For further information, write to the above address or email phistory@usps.gov.

Library of Congress

101 Independence Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20540-0002
<https://www.loc.gov>

The Library's Manuscript Division houses some records of the Confederate Post Office Department. The Geography and Map Division has early post route maps. For further information, write to the Library of Congress or visit its website.

National Archives and Records Administration

National Archives at Washington, DC
700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001

National Archives at College Park, MD
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001
<https://www.archives.gov>

The Records of the Post Office Department, Record Group 28, and the War Department Collection of Confederate Records, Record Group 109, are located at the National Archives at Washington, DC. Cartographic and architectural records are housed at the National Archives at College Park, Maryland. Many of the records most useful to researchers have been reproduced on microfilm and are available from the National Archives and its regional branches, and they may be available from your local library through inter-library loan. For further information, write to the National Archives or visit its website.

National Personnel Records Center

National Archives and Records Administration
ATTN: Archival Programs
Post Office Box 38757
St. Louis, MO 63138-0757
<https://www.archives.gov/st-louis/opf>

The National Personnel Records Center has personnel records for many postal employees whose service ended after 1910. Information on the service of employees before that time may be available from other records at the center, such as payroll records and roster cards. Researchers should provide as much identifying information as possible about the former employee and his or her place and dates of employment. The center also houses rural route cards, filed by Post Office, which provide details on rural routes and carriers before 1971. Note: To request the personnel records of an employee whose service ended after 1951, write to the National Personnel Records Center, Annex; 1411 Boulder Boulevard; Valmeyer, IL 62295-2603. For more information, visit <https://www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center/civilian-non-archival>.

Further Sources

Detailed descriptions of many of the postal records in the collection of the National Archives and Records Administration are available in Preliminary Inventory Number 168: *Records of the Post Office Department*, prepared by the National Archives and available online through HathiTrust at <https://babel.hathitrust.org>. Additional descriptions are available on the National Archives' website at <https://www.archives.gov/>

The Stamp Smarter website provides access to many digitized historic postal publications, including the *United States Official Postal Guide*, at https://stampsmarter.org/learning/Home_USPOD.html.

For lists of Post Offices and postmasters by state before 1811, see Robert J. Stets' *Postmasters & Postoffices of the United States, 1782–1811* (Lake Oswego, Oregon: La Posta Publications, 1994).

Many private researchers have compiled books on Post Offices by state, including the books listed below. Your local library might be able to help locate additional information on local postal history. Lists of postal history resources by state and locality are also available on the Stamp Smarter website at <https://stampsmarter.org/learning/linkportal.html>. Jim Forte's Postal History website offers bibliographies by state at <https://www.postalhistory.com/State/index.htm> and a Post Office look-up tool at https://www.postalhistory.com/Post_Offices/index.htm.

Alabama Helbeck, Richard W. *United States Post Offices, Volume VIII – The Southeast*. Scappoose, Oregon: La Posta Publications, 2007.

Alaska Helbeck, Richard W. *United States Post Offices, Volume I – The West*. Lake Oswego, Oregon: La Posta Publications, 1998.

Arizona Theobald, John, and Lillian Theobald. *Arizona Territory: Post Offices and Postmasters*. Phoenix, Arizona: Arizona Historical Foundation, 1961.

Arkansas Patera, Alan H., and John S. Gallagher. *Checklist of Arkansas Post Offices*. Burtonsville, Maryland: The Depot, 1983.

California Salley, Harold E. *History of California Post Offices, 1849–1976*. La Mesa, California: Postal History Associates, Inc., 1977.

Colorado Bauer, William H., James L. Ozment, and John H. Willard. *Colorado Postal History: the post offices*. Crete, Nebraska: J-B Publishing Co., 1971.

Connecticut Warmesley, Arthur J. *Connecticut Post Offices and Postmarks*. Portland, Connecticut: self-published, 1977.

Delaware Smith, Chester M. Jr., and John L. Kay. *The Postal History of Maryland, the Delmarva Peninsula, and the District of Columbia: The Post Offices and First Postmasters from 1775 to 1984*. Burtonsville, Maryland: The Depot, 1984.

District of Columbia Smith, Chester M. Jr., and John L. Kay. *The Postal History of Maryland, the Delmarva Peninsula, and the District of Columbia: The Post Offices and First Postmasters from 1775 to 1984*. Burtonsville, Maryland: The Depot, 1984.

Florida Bradbury, Alford G., and E. Story Hallock. *A Chronology of Florida Post Offices*. [Vero Beach, Florida]: The Florida Federation of Stamp Clubs, 1962.

Georgia Helbeck, Richard W. *United States Post Offices, Volume VIII – The Southeast*. Scappoose, Oregon: La Posta Publications, 2007.

Idaho Patera, Alan H., and John S. Gallagher. *A Checklist Of Idaho Post Offices*. Burtonsville, Maryland: The Depot, 1984.

Illinois Helbeck, Richard W. *United States Post Offices, Volume III – The Upper Midwest*. Lake Oswego, Oregon: La Posta Publications, 1999.

Indiana Baker, J. David. *The Postal History of Indiana*. Louisville, Kentucky: Philatelic Bibliopole, 1976.

Iowa Patera, Alan H., and John S. Gallagher. *Iowa Post Offices, 1833–1986*. Lake Oswego, Oregon: The Depot, 1986.

Kansas Baughman, Robert W. *Kansas Post Offices, May 29, 1828–August 3, 1961*. Topeka, Kansas: Kansas Postal History Society, 1961. Information from this book is available at www.kshs.org; search for post offices.

Kentucky Patera, Alan H., and John S. Gallagher. *A Checklist of Kentucky Post Offices*. Lake Grove, Oregon: The Depot, 1989.

Louisiana Germann, John J. *Louisiana Post Offices*. Lake Grove, Oregon: The Depot, 1990.

Maine Dow, Sterling T. *Maine Postal History and Postmarks*. Portland, Maine: Severn- Wylie-Jewett Co., 1943.

Maryland Smith, Chester M. Jr., and John L. Kay. *The Postal History of Maryland, the Delmarva Peninsula, and the District of Columbia: The Post Offices and First Postmasters from 1775 to 1984*. Burtonsville, Maryland: The Depot, 1984.

Massachusetts Merolla, Lawrence M., and Frank M. Crowther. *The Post Offices of Massachusetts*. North Abington, Massachusetts: Massachusetts Postal Research Society, 1981.

Michigan Ellis, David M. *Michigan Postal History: The Post Offices, 1805–1986*. Lake Grove, Oregon: The Depot, 1993.

Minnesota Patera, Alan H., and John S. Gallagher. *The Post Offices of Minnesota*. Burtonsville, Maryland: The Depot, 1978.

Missouri Schultz, Robert G. *Missouri Post Offices, 1804–1981*. St. Louis, Missouri: American Philatelic Society, 1982.

Montana Lutz, Dennis J. *Montana Post Offices & Postmasters*. Minot, North Dakota: publisher unknown, 1986.

Nevada Frickstad, Walter N., and Edward W. Thrall. *A Century of Nevada Post Offices 1852–1957*. Oakland, California: Philatelic Research Society, 1958.

New Hampshire Smith, Chester M. Jr., and John L. Kay. *The Postal History of New Hampshire: The Post Offices and First Postmasters from 1775 to 1985*. Lake Grove, Oregon: The Depot, 1986.

New Jersey Kay, John L., and Chester M. Smith Jr. *New Jersey Postal History*. Lawrence, Massachusetts: Quarterman Publications Inc., 1977.

New Mexico Helbock, Richard W. *A Checklist of New Mexico Post Offices, 1849–1988*. Lake Oswego, Oregon: La Posta Publications, 1989.

New York Kay, John L., and Chester M. Smith Jr. *New York Postal History: The Post Offices and First Postmasters from 1775 to 1980*. State College, Pennsylvania: American Philatelic Society, 1982.

North Carolina Stroupe, Vernon S., et al. *Post Offices and Postmasters of North Carolina, Colonial to USPS* (four volumes). Charlotte, North Carolina: North Carolina Postal History Society, 1996. Updates to this book are available at <http://www.ncpostalhistory.com/resources/north-carolina-postmark-catalog-update/>.

North Dakota Patera, Alan H., and John S. Gallagher. *North Dakota Post Offices, 1850–1982*. Burtonsville, Maryland: The Depot, 1982.

Ohio Gallagher, John S., and Alan H. Patera. *The Post Offices of Ohio*. Burtonsville, Maryland: The Depot, 1979.

Oklahoma/Indian Territory Helbock, Richard W. *Oklahoma Post Offices*. Lake Oswego, Oregon: La Posta Publications, 1987.

Oregon Helbock, Richard W. *Oregon Post Offices, 1847–1982*. Lake Oswego, Oregon: Raven Press, 1985.

Pennsylvania Kay, John L., and Chester M. Smith Jr. *Pennsylvania Postal History*. Lawrence, Massachusetts: Quarterman Publications, Inc., 1976.

Rhode Island Merolla, Lawrence M., Frank M. Crowther, and Arthur B. Jackson. *Rhode Island Postal History: the post offices*. Providence, Rhode Island: Rhode Island Postal History Society, 1977.

South Carolina Helbock, Richard W. *United States Post Offices, Volume VIII — The Southeast*. Scappoose, Oregon: La Posta Publications, 2007.

South Dakota Patera, Alan H., John S. Gallagher, and Kenneth W. Stach. *South Dakota Post Offices*. Lake Grove, Oregon: The Depot, 1990.

Tennessee Frazier, D. R. *Tennessee Post Offices and Postmaster Appointments 1789–1984*. Dover, Tennessee: self-published, 1984.

Texas Wheat, Jim. *Postmasters and Post Offices of Texas, 1846–1930*. [Garland, Texas]: self-published, ca. 1974. Information from this book is available at www.rootsweb.com/~txpost/postmasters.html. See also *Texas Post Offices by County*, by John J. Germann and Myron R. Janzen. CD-ROM [2010].

Utah Gallagher, John S. *The Post Offices of Utah*. Burtonsville, Maryland: The Depot, 1977.

Vermont Slawson, George C., Arthur W. Bingham, and Sprague W. Drenan. *The Postal History of Vermont*. New York, New York: Collectors Club, 1969.

Virginia Helbock, Richard W. *United States Post Offices, Volume VI — The Mid-Atlantic*. Scappoose, Oregon: La Posta Publications, 2004.

Washington Boardman, Tim, and Richard W. Helbock. *Washington Post Offices*. Lake Oswego, Oregon: La Posta Publications, 1986.

West Virginia Helbock, Richard W. *United States Post Offices, Volume VI — The Mid-Atlantic*. Scappoose, Oregon: La Posta Publications, 2004.

Wisconsin Hale, James B. *Wisconsin Post Office Handbook*. Madison, Wisconsin: Wisconsin Postal History Society, 1988.

Wyoming Helbock, Richard W. *A Checklist of Wyoming Post Offices, 1850–1988*. Lake Oswego, Oregon: La Posta Publications, 1989.

Incomplete Sources

What's the origin of my Post Office's name?

Post Office names were typically suggested by prospective patrons; there are no postal records that explain their origin. If available, the site location report submitted for a proposed Post Office, sometimes called the “application” to establish the Office, may show names that were rejected (see “Site Location Reports of Post Offices”). For further information, see “What’s in a (Post Office) Name?” at <https://about.usps.com/who/profile/history/pdf/post-office-names.pdf>.

Are there records on the buildings previously occupied by Post Offices?

There are no federal records on the buildings occupied by most early Post Offices. Until the early 1900s, most Post Office quarters were provided by the postmaster at no charge to the Post Office Department. Often, the Post Office was located in the postmaster’s home or other place of business, such as a general store. It might be possible to research the property of former postmasters by looking through tax or real estate records at the local county courthouse. Local contemporary newspapers might also discuss Post Office locations. In towns and cities, city directories and telephone directories might list street addresses of postal facilities. Sanborn maps might also help determine locations in select years (see <https://www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps>). A small percentage of Post Offices — fewer than 1 percent before 1910 — were located in government-owned buildings. Construction records and early photographs of federal buildings may be available in the Cartographic and Architectural Section of the National Archives and Records Administration in College Park, Maryland. (See <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/450> or email carto@nara.gov.)

What is the current location of my ancestor's rural address?

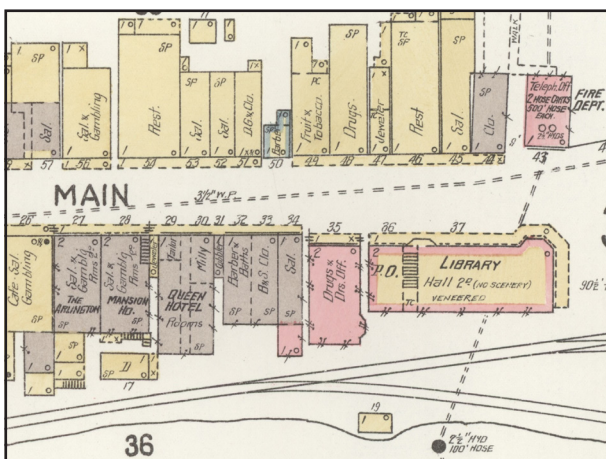
The Post Office Department did not preserve records of the locations of particular rural route addresses. Rural delivery route maps, if available, show routes of travel and sometimes patron locations (see “Rural Delivery Route Maps”). It is sometimes possible to locate property previously owned by individuals by searching through tax and real estate records at the local county courthouse.

What are the names of the mail carriers who transported mail between Post Offices?

Mail carriers typically worked for contractors or sub-contractors who held 4-year “star route” contracts. Although names of contractors are recorded in federal records (see “Contract Route Registers” and *Official Register of the United States*), the names of contractors’ employees are not recorded. Names of mail carriers may appear in local newspapers, perhaps in connection with mail delays or hazards encountered. Local historical societies or libraries may be able to suggest other possible sources of information.

Is there a record of all Post Office employees?

Although there are records on many types of postal employees — including postmasters, city letter carriers, rural carriers, and clerks at large Post Offices — records on all employees are not available. Until 1942, clerks who worked at third- and fourth-class offices (nearly 90 percent of all offices in 1940) were considered employees of the postmaster, not the Post Office Department; there are no federal records on their service.



1901



1904

Buildings occupied by Post Offices are noted on Sanborn Map Company fire insurance maps in the collection of the Library of Congress. Sanborn maps are available for thousands of towns and cities, mostly from the 1880s to the 1950s. Shown above are details of maps for Bisbee, Arizona, noting the Post Office located next to the library on Main Street in 1901 (left), the building designated as 36), and on Brewery Avenue above a meat market in 1904 (right), the building designated as 42).