LA POSTA

76

FORT YUKON, ALASKA (Harper's 1869)

V. 7, N. 4

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IN THIS ISSUE

POSTMARK TYPES OF ALASKA TERRITORY: AN EMPIRICAL CLASSIFICATION,
PART III (cont.), FOUR BARS AND VARIATIONS

By Richard W. Helbock

D. The Wide-spaced 4-bars of 1911.

Nearly all of the 76 Alaskan post offices which were estab-
lished between 1910 and 1919 were initially issued a four-bar
postmark device which differed markedly from those used during
the 1903-1909 period. The most noticeable feature of this new
postmark type was the fact that its killer bars were spaced much
farther apart than any previous type. Measuring from the top of
the uppermost bar to the bottom of the lowest bar, the 1911 4-bar
killer averaged 19-20mm. compared to 13-14mm. for the 1907 and
1909 types. In addition to wide-spaced bars this new type was
characterized by squared letters with prominent punctuation after
the office name, and the spacing of the word, "ALASKA" such that
it covered 95° plus or minus 5° of arc at the bottom of the dial.
Figure 12 illustrates two representative examples of this 1911
type postmark. Note that the Metlakatla example has no period
after "ALASKA." It would be possible to subdivide this type into
two classes: those that had punctuation following "ALASKA", and
those that did not. But since all other features appear to be
the same for both classes, and punctuation tended to wear down or
become indistinguishable in some strikes, it was decided to re-
present both classes as a single type.
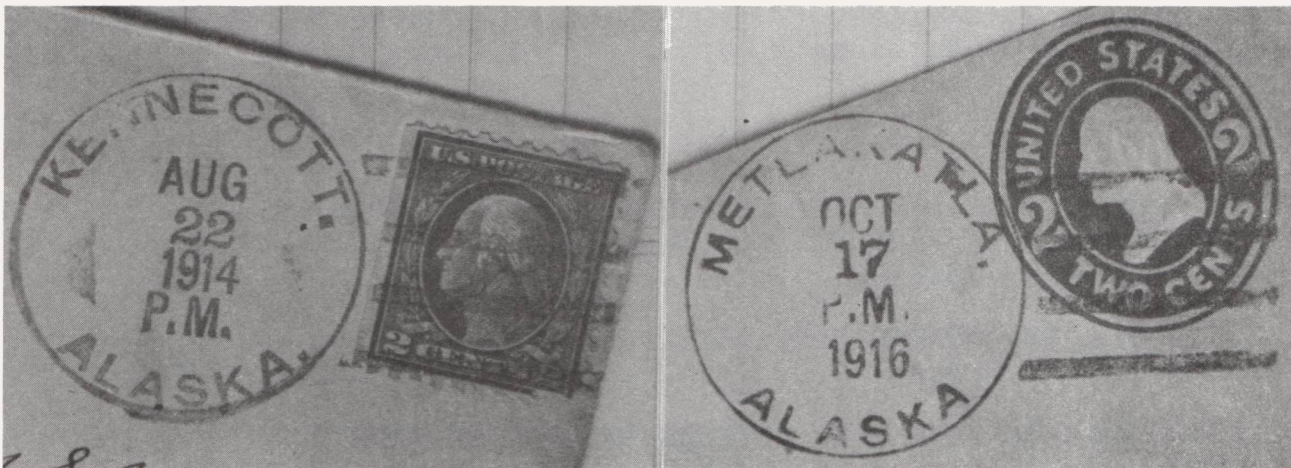
(Enlarged about 35%)

Figure 12. The wide-spaced 4-bar of 1911.

Distribution of this device was wide-spread. Thus far a
total of 61 different offices are known to have used a wide-
spaced four bar of 1911. Since data is rather incomplete from
this early period of Alaska's postal history, the number may be

2

expected to increase as more discoveries are reported. The 61 offices known to have used this postmark type are listed in Table 11 along with the known range of use for each office. It is interesting to note that Anchorage was among the offices using this type of postmark. The earliest examples of Anchorage postmarks are of this type, although the device was replaced at a fairly early date (at least as early as November 1915) by a more durable steel hand cancel.

TABLE 11

POST OFFICES KNOWN TO HAVE USED THE WIDE-SPACED FOUR BAR OF 1911

Post Office	Town Type No.	Established	Known Dates of Use Earliest	Latest
Amalga	2	1905	29Jul26	
Anchorage	1	1914	9Jun15	15Jun15
Andreafsky	1	1913	12Jul17	24Jan20
Aniak	1	1914	24Aug15	19Feb16
Chatham	2	1906	24Aug24	2May30
Chena	3	1903	20Mar16	18Sep16
Chena	4	1903	17Jul17	6Sep17
Chicken	1	1903	5Sep29	25Oct36
Chignik	2	1901	27Jul13	11Jun18
Chitina	1	1910	7Dec12	6Dec19
Chomley	2	1900	21Apr13	15
Circle	3	1896	14Dec11	
Council	2	1900	1Aug29	
Craig	1	1912	16Aug13	16Feb20
Dan Creek	1	1911	14Aug26	18Jul31
Dillingham	1	1904	15Aug29	
Dolomi	3	1900	28Sep15	22Apr24
Eagle	4	1898	4Apr22	
Flat	1	1912	30Mar22	
Fort Yukon	2	1898	16Jul16	2Jul24
Fortuna Ledge	1	1915	10Jul17	21Sep17
Golovin	1	1899	22Sep30	
Holy Cross	1	1912	11Jun16	25Sep20
Iditarod	1	1910	12Nov10*	14Feb12
Jack Wade	1	1900	7Jun12	17Sep16
Kassan	3	1900	5Nov11	12Jul13
Kenai	2	1899	21Sep20	
Kennecott	1	1908	22Aug14	21Jul21
Killisnoo	4	1882	10Jul20	
King Cove	1	1914	27May20	
Knik	2	1904	15Jul14	6Sep14

TABLE 11 (Cont.)

Post Office	Town Type No.	Established	Known Dates of Use Earliest	Latest
Kodiak	4	1869	13Jul23	
Kokrines	1	1907	6Dec11	16Sep17
Long	1	1913	26May15	19Aug15
Loring	3	1885	15Apr14	12Nov24
McCarthy	1	1912	6Oct21	5Jul22
McGrath	1	1913	23Mar19	
Metlakatla	2	1904	17Oct16	
Mile Seven	1	1917	7Aug19	6Jun27
Miller House	1	1908	10Oct29	21Dec43**
Nenana	1	1908	29Jun16	29Aug17
Nulato	2	1901	12Jun16	16Sep17
Rampart	5	1898	27Jul16	30Jan41
Ruby	2	1911	8Jul17	16Sep17
Saint Michael	8	1897	14Nov12	26Sep17
Solomon	2	1900	20Nov17	
Strelna	1	1912	9Sep20	
Sulzer	1	1901	23Jan13	13May18
Sumdum	2	1897	12Nov24	
Sunrise	1	1899	7Nov14	7Apr15
Talkeetna	1	1916	12Jul20	
Thane	1	1914	2Jan15	16Oct15
Tigara	1	1909	19Nov31	18Sep38
Tofty	1	1908	19Jan17	
Tolovana	1	1904	28Jul16	5Sep17
Taku Harbor	1	1912	24Mar14	27May43
Unalakleet	2	1901	24May28	22Jul29
Unga	2	1894	1Oct16	3May18
Uyak	2	1900	4Feb17	18Jul18
Windham	1	1903	4Sep23	
Yukokakat	1	1910	2Aug16	

Notes: Town/Type/No. refers to type numbers assigned in Helbock,
Postmarks of Territorial Alaska.

* Earliest known use of this postmark type.

** Latest known use of this postmark type.

Source: Helbock, Postmarks of Territorial Alaska, 1976.

The earliest known use of a wide-spaced 4-bar postmark type occurred in Iditarod in November 1910. Iditarod post office was established April 23, 1910. At least that is the date given for

the appointment of the first Idatarod postmaster. It seems likely
that the first postmark came into use at Iditarod during the late
summer or early fall of 1910.

Some of these wide-spaced types of 1911 saw very long use.
The Taku Harbor post office, established in 1912, was still using
the same postmark in 1943. The office was discontinued in 1945,
and it may still have been using a 1911-type device when it shut
its doors. No other postmark types have been recorded from Taku
Harbor. The Miller House post office used a 1911-type device on
December 21, 1943. This is the latest documented use of a device
of this type. Useage during the 1920's was common, and many post
offices continued use into the 1930's.

Of the offices listed above the only variant from the gene-
ral description of type characteristics occurred at Mile Seven.
The Mile Seven postmark differs from normal for the type in that
"ALASKA" covers only 75° of arc. Since the office was not estab-
lished until 1917, the device it received came very late in the
period for 1911-type postmarks. This may account for its variance.

E. The S.E. and S.W. 4-bars of 1920.

What is perhaps the most interesting of all 4-bar types used
in Alaska was introduced to a few post offices beginning in 1920.
This postmark type brought a radical change in design to the 4-bar
style, and, while the type itself was short-lived and apparently
experimental, some of its features were to carried-on to other
4-bar types which followed.

It would be particularly useful to have Post Office Depart-
ment documentation in discussing the genesis of this particular
postmark type. Unfortunately, to the best of my knowledge, such
documentation regarding the design of postmarks does not exist so
we must proceed again building our castle on a floor of assump-
tions. First off, we all know that Alaska is a very big place. We
also know that there have never been county divisions in Alaska as
we find in the other United States. Post office assignments, cen-
sus organization, and other sub-state(territorial) organization
has tended to be based upon judicial districts. At the same time
there has been at least informal attempts to refer to regions of
Alaska. The "Southeast" is a particularly popular regionalization.

Beginning in 1919 the Post Office Department began listing
information regarding status changes for Alaska post offices in
the Postal Bulletin according to a regional abbreviation. The
first such listing reads,

"Sumdum, S. E. Name and site changed to Point Astley, 9
miles N. E. eff. 9-23-1919 Henry J. Ahrenstedt re-app."

This entry is dated 25 September 1919, and during the next two
years most Postal Bulletin references to Alaskan post offices
carry a regional abbreviation. The abbreviations are: S.E. for
southeast; S.W. for southwest; C. for central; N. for north; S.
for south; and N.W. for northwest. Others are possible, but those
are the only ones listed.

During the two year period in which regional abbreviations are used a total of 12 post offices were established and re-established in Alaska. These offices are listed below in Table 12 along with their appropriate dates and the regional abbreviations from the Postal Bulletin.

TABLE 12

POST OFFICES ESTABLISHED AND RE-ESTABLISHED,
9/25/1919 - 8/23/1921

Post Office, Regn'l. Abbr.		Established	First Postmaster
Point Astley, (S.E.)*		23 Sep 1919	Henry J. Ahrenstedt
Akiak, S.W.	Re-est	24 Jul 1920	Earle M. Forrest
Speel River, S.E.		30 Jun 1920	Eugene P. Kennedy
Sumdum, S.E.	Re-est	25 Mar 1920	Henry Van Hoivels
Wacker, S.E.		10 Aug 1920	Eugene Wacker
Saint Timothys, C.		1 Nov 1920	John A. Singleton
Cape Fanshaw, S.E.		13 Jan 1921	George Ramstead
Klukwan, S.E.		17 Dec 1920	John D. Ward
Portlock, S.		13 Jan 1921	Peter H. Ongstad
False Pass, S.W.		25 May 1921	William L. Brown
Beaver, 4th Dist.		26 Jan 1921	Charles W. Schultz
Kwiguk, N.W.		25 Sep 1921	Nettie S. Jacobsgaard

* Presumably S.E., although no specific abbreviation is indicated for Point Astley.

Source: Postal Bulletin, 25 September 1919 through 23 August 1921.

Now for the postmarks. From five of the 12 post offices listed in Table 12, the first postmark type recorded in use after the date of establishment or re-establishment incorporates the initials "S.E. or S.W." These postmarks constitute the type, and a most unusual type it is (Figure 13).

(Enlarged about 35%)
Figure 13. The S.E. 4-bar of 1920.

The dominant feature of the type is of course the use of
a regional abbreviation following the office name, but there are
some other features which were new to 4-bars. The first use of
Roman, or serifed, letters in a 4-bar occurred with this type.
The spacing of "ALASKA" to cover exactly 90° of arc similarly
made its debut with this postmark type. Killer bar spacing was
wide (about 20mm. top to bottom) as in the case of the 1911-type.
These features are constant for five of the six known "S.E./S.W."
type examples, but there is a sixth example which cuts against
the grain. The first False Pass postmark matched the general
type description to a tee. Letters were Roman, "ALASKA" covered
90° of arc, and killer bars were wide-spaced. There is only one
example known to date, and it is dated 18 June 1923. Presumably
others will turn-up with 1921, 1922, 1923, and perhaps 1924 dates.
But in 1923 or 1924 False Pass acquired a new device. It still
read, "FALSE PASS, S.W." but it differed in other ways. Letters
were block and reminiscent of the squared 1911-type. "ALASKA"
covered 100° of arc, again similar to the 1911-type. Finally,
the killer bars were close set, measuring only 14mm. from top to
bottom. Again only a single example is known, and it is dated
23 May 1924. Table 13 lists the known "S.E./S.W." type postmarks.

TABLE 13

POST OFFICES KNOWN TO HAVE USED THE "S.E./S.W." 4-BAR OF 1920

Post Office	Regn'l. Abbr.	Known Dates of Use Earliest	Latest	Town Type No.
Akiak	S.W.	9Jun24		1
Cape Fanshaw	S.E.	20Apr24	6Jan27	1
False Pass	S.W.	18Jun23		1
False Pass	S.W.	23May24		2
Speel River	S.E.	3Nov26		1
Wacker	S.E.	24	13Dec26	1

Source: Helbock, Postmarks of Territorial Alaska, 1976.

Based upon the little bit of evidence available from the
above listed postmarks and the information available from the
Postal Bulletins, it now seems possible to clear-up most of the
mystery surrounding the elusive "S.E./S.W." postmarks of Alaska.
First, postmarks of this type were transitional or experimental.
They incorporated some new features which were to be used in later
types such as Roman letters and a 90° "ALASKA." Second, their
distribution was very limited. No more than 12 offices received
postmarks of this type, and the actual number is probably smaller.
Looking again at Table 12 we can pare the list down somewhat.

Point Astley is a possible. No postmarks are yet known from that office, although the Postal Bulletin did not specifically mention "S.E." in the notice. Sumdum is another possible. When it was re-established in 1920 the original office had been out of service for about 6 months. A new postmaster was appointed so he may well have received a new postmark device. It is also possible however that the old postmaster simply passed on the old Sumdum postmark to the new postmaster. Given the fact that the earliest Sumdum postmark known after this re-establishment is a wide-spaced 4-bar of 1911 with a date of 12 November 1924, my guess is that Sumdum was never issued a "S.E." type.

Saint Timothys and Portlock are possibles, but seem unlikely given their single letter initials. Saint Timothys was closed in 1927 before a later re-establishment, and no postmarks are known from the 1920-1927 period of operation. The first Portlock postmark recorded is dated 8 July 1937, but it is of a type introduced during the early 1920's so it could well have been Portlock's first postmark.

Klukwan seems a definite probable. The office operated only until 1923, but was later re-established in 1939. There are no examples known from this 1920-1923 period, but if and when they turn-up it seems likely they will read, "KLUKWAN, S.E. ALASKA." It does not appear likely that Beaver ever used an initial bearing postmark. First of all, the office appeared in the Postal Bulletin with a 4th District designation. Second, a Beaver postmark of 29 May 1923 is known, and it is not of this type.

Kwiguk would appear to be the other probable. The office was discontinued in 1924 and later re-established in 1932. Once again no postmarks are known from this 1921-1924 period, but it would seem reasonable to believe they read, "KWIGUK, N.W. ALASKA."

Looking once again at the probable distribution of this postmark type, there are five offices known to have used such a device, two more where use is suspected but not confirmed, and five others where use is possible but not likely. The mystery of what and how widely used would appear to be abated if not solved, but a large question mark still surrounds the reason for such a type to be used in the first place.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

ARIZONA - NEW MEXICO TERRITORIAL POSTMASTERS

By Thomas K. Todsen

It has been interesting to look through lists of New Mexico
territorial postmasters to find those who had served at the most
locations and then try to track-down information on them (e.g.,
Benno Rosenfeld, La Posta, Vol.5,No.2). In order to seek further
indications of the wanderings on the Southwestern frontier, the
Arizona and New Mexico postmaster listings were cross-checked.
This is a report of the results.

There are three ways by which it could appear that the post-
master had changed locations. First, he could have stayed in one
place, but the state designation changed. This was the case with
Mark Aldrich, appointed postmaster of Tucson, New Mexico, and of
Tucson, Arizona - the only instance incidentally. Then there was
the case where the post office moved, and the postmaster just went
along with it. Once again, we have a single example with Charles
H. Dane accompanying the Terminus, Arizona, post office railcar
from Casa Grande, Arizona, to Deming, New Mexico, with the building
of the Southern Pacific. The railcar eventually became Deming's
first post office and the name was changed from Terminus to Deming.
Finally, there were many cases where the postmaster moved back and
forth across territorial boundaries to become postmaster at differ-
ent post offices.

Appearance of the same name in both lists is no guarantee
that the individuals are the same. For example, Thomas Hughes
could hardly have been postmaster of Albuquerque from July 1882 to
August 1885, and simultaneously of Casa Blanco-Crittenden, Arizona,
from June 1873 to September 1884. Likewise, James H. Knight would
have had a problem being at Nutt, NM, and at Oatman, Ariz., at the
same time. However, one wonders about H. T. Trick, shown as post-
master at Houck, Arizona, from 1909 to June 1910, and at Manuelito,
New Mexico, from December 1909 into statehood. The two towns were
only about 17 miles apart on the A.T. & S.F., so maybe he really
was both!

Some of the moving was rather obviously related to the rail-
roads. The postmaster probably having been the station agent at
small shipping or section points. Such would seem to be the case
with Walter E. Weaver, who moved from Aztec, Arizona, to Lanark,
New Mexico, both on the Southern Pacific. Also apparently con-
nected with the Southern Pacific were Frank E. Callisch (Separ, NM,
to Dragoon, AZ); Benjamin M. Lee (Wellton, AZ, to Lanark, NM);
Jesse C. McConnell (Sentinel, AZ, to Cambray, NM); Lewis H. Pritch-
ett (Sentinel, AZ, to Adem, NM); and Frank A. Stone (Strauss, NM,
to Arizola, AZ). Similarly, with the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa
Fe might have been Charles L. Flynn (Cranes, NM, to Winslow, AZ);
Henry Reed (Fort Wrangle, NM, to Holbrook, AZ); George C. West
(Cranes, NM, to Junction, AZ); and James H. Wilson (Manuelito, NM,
to Holbrook, AZ).

There were a couple of individuals who must have been in the general mercantile business or owned ranches near the territorial border. Max A. Bahlke of Whittum, AZ, survived the name change to Blue, moved a few miles downstream to Benton, AZ, (until it was discontinued), and then went just across the line to Alma, NM. In the same area at about the same time, Charles B. Martin was at Luna, NM, then moved to Blue, AZ, and then went back to Luna again.

A possible quadruple office-holder was John F. Holder, who was initially postmaster at Ruidoso, NM, then at Angora, AZ, where he served as the first postmaster, next he was at Gisela, AZ, and finally at Sheldon, AZ. But to me one of the most interesting of our peripatetic postmasters was Thomas F. White. White was postmaster at Frontera, New Mexico (17 April 1851 - 12 March 1852), but the office was actually in Texas just above El Paso. Later White became postmaster at Fort Buchanan, New Mexico (24 March 1859 - 21 October 1860), an office which was shortly to be re-designated Fort Buchanan, Arizona. Ah, the shifting sands of time!

ARIZONA - NEW MEXICO TERRITORIAL POSTMASTERS

Postmaster Post Offices	Dates Office Held	Notes
Balke, Max A.		
Alma, NM	5 Dec 1907 - Statehood	
Benton, AZ	10 Oct 1903 - 31 Oct 1907	Discontinued
Blue, AZ	3 Nov 1898 - 16 Jul 1900	
Whittum, AZ	11 Sep 1897 - 3 Nov 1898	Ch. to Blue
Boon, Howard C.		
Shakespeare, NM	27 Feb 1884 - 8 Dec 1885	Discontinued
Duncan, AZ	5 Dec 1888 - 28 Nov 1891	
Callisch, Frank E.		
Separ, NM	18 Sep 1882 - 18 Jun 1883	
Dragoon, AZ	27 Jun 1883 - 18 Sep 1884	Discontinued
Chaves, Severo (?)		
San Ignacio, NM	14 Aug 1908 - 15 Sep 1910	Discontinued
Tule, AZ	7 Sep 1898 - 13 Feb 1901	
Dane, Charles H.		
Terminus, AZ	31 Jul 1879 - 11 Apr 1881	1st @ Casa Grande
Deming, NM	11 Apr 1881 - 5 Feb 1883	
DeVore, Emma		
Fort Defiance, AZ	28 Apr 1893 - 23 Jul 1894	
Tohatchi, NM	1 Oct 1898 - 22 Aug 1902	
Divelbess, Louis (Lewis) E.		
Liberty, NM	26 May 1882 - 28 Jan 1884	
Holbrook, AZ	27 Oct 1897 - 12 Oct 1908	

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Flynn, Charles L.
    Cranes, NM              14 May 1886 - 13 Dec 1886
    Winslow, AZ            30 Mar 1895 - 15 Apr 1898

Gonzales, Jeremiah
    Salt Lake, NM           7 Nov 1905 - 22 Jan 1910
    St. Johns, AZ         30 Oct 1899 - 19 Apr 1902

Henderson, Thomas L.
    Bluewater, NM         26 Sep 1895 - 23 Oct 1899
    Fort Grant, AZ        22 Oct 1891 - 11 May 1894

Heyn(e), Frederick W.
    Mitchell, NM          18 Mar 1893 -  9 Apr 1895
    Rucker, AZ            16 Sep 1896 - 19 Aug 1898

Holder, John F.
    Ruidoso, NM           29 Jul 1893 - 17 Aug 1895
    Angora, AZ           25 Jun 1900 - 18 Jun 1902
    Gisela, AZ           22 Dec 1902 - 31 Jul 1906   Discontinued
    Sheldon, AZ          27 Aug 1908 - 16 Dec 1909

Howell, Andrew (?)
    Springer, NM          26 Sep 1876 - 16 Apr 1877
                           2 Feb 1885 -  4 Jan 1887
    Ute Creek, NM         18 Jun 1880 - 26 May 1881
    Tonto, AZ            17 Oct 1891 - 30 Jan 1902   Discontinued

Kellner, Ernest F. (?)
    Fort Selden, NM        2 Jul 1875 - 24 Apr 1877   Discontinued
    Wheatfield, AZ        20 Oct 1880 - 17 Mar 1881   Discontinued

Lee, Benjamin M.
    Lanark, NM            23 May 1907 - 19 Mar 1909
    Wellton, AZ           4 Aug 1904 -  6 Mar 1907

Levy, Manuel G. (?)
    Fairview, NM           8 Sep 1887 - 28 Nov 1888
    Ajo, AZ              30 Oct 1902 - 14 Dec 1907

Levy, Thomas J.
    Richmond, NM           6 Feb 1878 - 20 Nov 1879
    Duncan, AZ            7 Jan 1883 -  5 Aug 1884

Martin, Charles B.
    Luna, NM               4 Jun 1892 - 10 Apr 1897
                          10 Jul 1909 - Statehood
    Blue, AZ             16 Jul 1900 - 15 Jun 1907

McConnell, Jesse C.
    Cambray, NM            9 Apr 1893 - 23 Dec 1896
    Sentinel, AZ         22 Apr 1891 - 28 Apr 1893
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Pritchett, Lewis H.
    Aden, NM                  8 Jun 1911 - Statehood
    Sentinel, AZ             29 Nov 1905 - 12 Jan 1906

Reed, Henry
    Fort Wingate, NM         15 Jul 1874 -  3 Jun 1878
    Holbrook, AZ              9 Sep 1889 - 21 Aug 1890

Rogers, William H. (?)
    Sulphur, NM              22 Dec 1902 - 31 Oct 1904    Discontinued
    Stockton, AZ             5 Dec 1889 - 11 Jul 1892     Discontinued

Scheele, Christof (Christophe)(?)
    Corrales, NM             14 Nov 1887 -  2 Jul 1891
    St. Johns, AZ            31 Jan 1912 - Statehood

Shelton, William T.
    Shiprock, NM             31 Aug 1904 - Statehood
    Supai, AZ                30 Oct 1902 - 17 Dec 1903

Stone, Frank A.
    Strauss, NM               3 May 1894 -  8 Jan 1897
    Arizola, AZ              23 May 1901 - 28 Jan 1902

Weaver, Walter E.
    Lanark, NM               17 Mar 1909 - 12 Aug 1910
    Aztec, AZ                21 Mar 1902 - 29 Dec 1906

West, George C. (?)
    Cranes, NM               27 Oct 1884 -  8 Dec 1885
    Junction, AZ              7 Jun 1895 - 26 Nov 1897
                             14 Oct 1899 - 13 Mar 1902

White, Thomas F.
    Frontera, NM(Texas)      17 Apr 1851 - 12 Mar 1852    Discontinued
    Fort Buchanan, NM(AZ)    24 Mar 1859 - 21 Oct 1860    Discontinued

Wilson, James H.
    Manuelito, NM             3 Feb 1882 - 29 May 1882
    Holbrook, AZ             18 Sep 1882 - 26 Mar 1883
                             21 Aug 1890 -  9 May 1893

Witty, Edward L.
    Chapelle, NM             29 Nov 1902 - 29 Aug 1903
    Aztec, AZ                27 Mar 1908 -  6 Jan 1909
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Note: (?) following postmaster's name indicates some question as
      to whether the listed name refers to the same man.

NINETEENTH CENTURY POST OFFICES OF GILLIAM COUNTY, OREGON

By Richard W. Helbock

Gilliam County is located in northcentral Oregon and covers an area of 1211 square miles. The county is sparsely populated and there are no major towns. Gilliam County was created by the Oregon State Legislature February 25, 1885. The county's name honors Colonel Cornelius Gilliam who commanded troops of the Oregon provisional government in an 1847-48 campaign against the Cayuse Indians after the Whitman Massacre.

The postal history of Gilliam County began long before the county was erected. Scotts, the first post office in the area, was established in 1867, and 16 of the county's 25 19th century post offices saw service before 1885. This article presents a brief historical sketch of each of Gilliam County's 25 pioneer post offices. The offices are presented in chronological order according the the appointment date of their first postmaster.

SCOTTS. Established February 4, 1867. Scotts post office, named for a local pioneer settler, was located on the John Day River's east bank a few miles north of the mouth of Rock Creek. The office was operated in conjunction with Leonard's Bridge, a toll way over the John Day, and Daniel Leonard served as the first postmaster. The office was in section 11, township 1 north, range 19 east.

19th Century Postmaster Appointments: Daniel G. Leonard, Feb. 4, 1867; Edward L. Grimes, Feb. 13, 1870; Daniel G. Leonard, Dec. 27, 1870.

Status: The site of this office was moved and its name was changed to Rockville on November 26, 1878.

ROCK CREEK. Established June 3, 1872. The Rock Creek post office was a short-lived facility which was named for the stream which traverses Gilliam County from southeast to northwest. This office was undoubtedly located on or near the stream, but its exact location is not known.

19th Century Postmaster Appointments: Alexander Smith, June 3, 1872; James R. Alfrey, July 1, 1873.

Status: The Rock Creek post office was discontinued March 11, 1874. There is no available evidence that suggests this office was in the same locality as the Rockcreek post office established in 1906.

OLEX. Established October 27, 1874. The post office name was intended to have honored Alex Smith, a pioneer local resident (and possibly the same Alex Smith who was the first Rock Creek postmaster) but authorities in Washington misinterpreted the name as Olex, and so it remained. The Olex post office was located on Rock Creek at the mouth of Juniper Canyon in section 10, township 1 south, range 21 east.

19th Century Postmaster Appointments: James H. Butler, Oct. 27, 1874; Charles A. Schutz, Dec. 30, 1879; Ella C. Shutz, Aug. 12, 1880; Henry D. Randall, July 3, 1882; Jerome W. Thomas, Jan. 3, 1887; Henry D. Randall, Dec. 29, 1891; Lonner O. Ralston, Aug. 2, 1893; William L. Tobey, Jan. 5, 1899.

Status: The Olex post office was converted to a rural station of the Arlington post office on October 31, 1959. It still functions as such.

LONE ROCK. Established November 8, 1875. The Lone Rock post office was named for a large rock which stands about 100 feet high and measures some 60 feet in diameter. This rock is located not far from the central part of the community. The post office was located in the southeastern corner of Gilliam County on Lone Rock Creek in section 36, township 5 south, range 23 east.

19th Century Postmaster Appointments: Robert G. Robinson, Nov. 8, 1875; Jay P. Lucas, Sept. 6, 1883; Edward C. Nerren, Dec. 4, 1884; Robert G. Robinson, Jan. 30, 1885; Abraham Wing, Oct. 25, 1886; Albert Henshaw, April 26, 1887; Abraham Wing, Oct. 30, 1889; Juhn B. Goff, Dec. 31, 1890; Edward Cofner, May 15, 1893; Martha Hogan, Oct. 4, 1894; Perry L. Ham, Sept. 28, 1898.

Status: The spelling of Lone Rock was changed to LONEROCK on October 4, 1894. The Lonerock post office was discontinued July 5, 1963

ROCKVILLE. Established November 26, 1878, by change of name from Scotts. After 4 years of relatively light postal business, the Scotts post office was moved some 3 miles east up Rock Creek, and its name was changed to Rockville. The Rockville post office was located in section 7, township 1 north, range 20 east.

19th Century Postmaster Appointments: Thomas S. Lang, Nov. 26, 1878; Albert N. Varney, Jan. 8, 1883.

Status: The Rockville post office was discontinued August 2, 1889, with papers to Blalock.

WILLOWS. Established December 17, 1878. The Willows post office was named descriptively, for willow trees are a common feature of many central Oregon stream valleys. This office was located at or near the mouth of Willow Creek in the northeast corner of the county.

19th Century Postmaster Appointments: Joseph W. Smith, Dec. 17, 1878; Daniel P. Phippey, March 13, 1882; James A. Vawter, Jan. 26, 1895; Charles T. White, April 13, 1898.

Status: The Willows post office was not in service for about 10 years from June 29, 1885 to Jan. 29, 1895, and again from July 12, 1895 to April 13, 1898. The office was finally discontinued on October 15, 1942.

BLALOCK. Established January 11, 1881. This post office was named in honor of Dr. Nelson G. Blalock, a pioneer Walla Walla resident who was active in horticulture work along the Columbia River. The

Blalock post office was on the south bank of the Columbia River
at the mouth of Blalock Canyon in section 31, township 3 north,
range 20 east.
    19th Century Postmaster Appointments: Burrell W. Griffin,
Jan. 11, 1881; James E. Sindel, Sept. 10, 1884; Walter H. Mariner,
Oct. 12, 1887; William J. Mariner, April 13, 1889.
    Status: The Blalock post office was discontinued Dec: 31,
1959.

FLETTVILLE. Established November 4, 1881. The Flettville post
office was named for George W. Flett, a pioneer settler on Rock
Creek in the eastern part of Gilliam County. This office was
situated along Rock Creek a few miles northeast of the community
of Gwendolen, and in the central part of township 2 south, range
22 east.
    19th Century Postmaster Appointments: George W. Flett,
Nov. 4, 1881.
    Status: The Flettville post office was discontinued on
February 25, 1884, mail to Olex.

ALKALI. Established November 7, 1881. The Alkali post office was
named for the canyon at whose mouth it was located. This name is
quite common in arid regions of the West, and was doubtlessly ap-
plied in this case because the canyon does not support a permanent
stream. Water found in this canyon would likely be heavy with
dissolved alkaline salts. Alkali post office was located on the
south bank of the Columbia River in section 21, township 3 north,
range 21 east.
    19th Century Postmaster Appointments: Elijah W. Rhea, Nov.
7, 1881; Edwin B. Comfort, April 22, 1883; Thomas L. Bradbury,
July 23, 1885.
    Status: On December 31, 1885, the name of this post office
was changed to Arlington.

FLETTS. Established May 5, 1884. This post office was the second
in the county to be named for George W. Flett, and it was located
in the same general vicinity as the Flettville office. The actual
location changed with the availability of postmasters, but it was
usually in the vicinity of section 15, township 2 south, range 22
east.
    19th Century Postmaster Appointments: Orlando O. Rowland,
May 5, 1884; David F. Stricklin, Sept. 28, 1885; Henry M. Pitman,
Dec. 31, 1885; David F. Stricklin, Nov. 9, 1886.
    Status: The Fletts post office was discontinued September 12,
1888, papers to Legality.

OASIS. Established May 5, 1884. The Oasis post office bore a
descriptive name. This office was located in Eightmile Canyon in
the northeastern portion of Gilliam County. A large spring in the
canyon provided enough water to support a small farm of irrigated
alfalfa, but the farm was literally an oasis in the surrounding
arid land.

19th Century Postmaster Appointments: Thomas Fairhurst,
May 5, 1884.
     Status: The Oasis post office was discontinued November 3,
1886, with mail to Arlington.

CONDON. Established July 10, 1884. Condon was named for Harvey
C. Condon, of the Arlington firm of Condon and Cornish which sold
lots in the townsite. Condon eventually outstripped Arlington in
terms of population and economic growth and became the county seat
which it remains to this day. The Condon post office is located
in section 10, township 4 south, range 21 east.
     19th Century Postmaster Appointments: David B. Trimble,
July 10, 1884; Linus W. Darling, Sept. 11, 1889; Herbert Halstead,
July 3, 1890; Linus W. Darling, April 22, 1893; John Lyons, April 6,
1897; John F. Reisacher, Nov. 18, 1897.
     Status: The Condon post office is currently operating; ZIP
Code - 97823.

MAYVILLE. Established October 3, 1884. It has been reported by
Lewis A. McArthur that this office was named in conjunction with
some incident which occurred as the office was established. The
details of the incident are not given, but there is speculation
that the name may reflect the month in which a petition for the
post office was submitted. The Mayville post office was located
in the extreme southern part of Gilliam County on the upper reaches
of North Fork Butte Creek in section 4, township 6 south, range 21
east.
     19th Century Postmaster Appointments: Samuel J. Thornton,
Oct. 3, 1884; Louis C. Trask, Nov. 9, 1886; George C. Rippey,
June 30, 1892; Ella N. Rinehart, Aug. 30, 1894; Ella N. Angell,
April 20, 1899.
     Status: The Mayville post office was converted to a rural
station of the Fossil post office on May 31, 1958, and is currently
operating as such.

CLEM. Established November 24, 1884. The Clem post office was
named for Clemens A. Danneman, an early settler in Gilliam County
who owned a ranch and provided accomodations for travelers. This
office was located near the Condon spur of the Union Pacific in
Scott Canyon, and in section 4, township 2 south, range 21 east.
     19th Century Postmaster Appointments: Clemens A. Danneman,
Nov. 24, 1884; James Larch, April 17, 1897.
     Status: The Clem post office was not in service briefly from
May 5, 1896, until April 17, 1897. The office was discontinued on
March 31, 1937.

LEGALITY. Established November 24, 1884. The Legality post off-
ice was a short-lived facility located on or near Rock Creek a
few miles south of Olex. The story behind the unusual name has
unfortunately not survived the passage of time.

19th Century Postmaster Appointments: Henry J. Knott, Nov.
24, 1884; Calvin A. Vining, Sept. 17, 1885; Benjamin T. Snell,
Nov. 1, 1886.
   Status: The Legality post office was discontinued July 9,
1888, papers to Olex.

BAIRD. Established December 8, 1884. This post office was named
for James C. Baird, its first and only postmaster. The Baird post
office is reported to have been located at the point where travel-
lers from the east along the Oregon Trail reached Alkali Canyon.
This would place the office a few miles south of the present-day
community of Arlington.
   19th Century Postmaster Appointments: James C. Baird, Dec.
8, 1884.
   Status: The Baird post office was discontinued February 8,
1886, papers to Arlington.

ARLINGTON. Established December 31, 1885, by change of name from
Alkali. The citizens of Alkali, seeking a better image for their
young town which had just become the county seat of newly erected
Gilliam County, decided that Arlington, after the former home of
General Robert E. Lee, had a more pleasing ring to it. A number
of townsfolk had come from the southern United States, and this
may have had some influence upon the choice. Arlington was lo-
cated in the same place as Alkali for over 80 years, but construc-
tion of the John Day Dam during the 1960's forced the community
to relocate on higher ground.
   19th Century Postmaster Appointments: Thomas L. Bradbury,
Dec. 31, 1885; Frank T. Hurlburt, April 17, 1886; James M. Keeney,
May 16, 1888; Joseph H. Keeney, Nov. 28, 1888; John G. Ardrey,
Oct. 16, 1889; William O. Zeigler, Sept. 11, 1890; Charles W.
Shurte, April 20, 1894; James M. Johns, June 25, 1897; Elijah B.
Frum, March 6, 1899.
   Status: The Arlington post office is currently operating;
ZIP Code - 97812.

IDEA. Established February 5, 1886. The reported intention of
the man who petitioned for this office was to name it for the wife
of a local settler. The settler's wife was named Ida, and somehow
a mix-up occurred with the result of a post office named Idea. The
Idea post office was located about 6 miles east of Condon in sec-
tion 10, township 4 south, range 22 east near Sixmile Creek.
   19th Century Postmaster Appointments: James W. Hyatt, Feb.
5, 1886; Royce James, May 4, 1889.
   Status: The Idea post office was discontinued July 26, 1889,
papers to Gooseberry.

MATNEY. Established December 4, 1886. The Matney post office was
probably named for a prominent local settler, but details are not
available. This office was located about 4 miles southeast of
Condon near East Fork Thirtymile Creek.

19th Century Postmaster Appointments: Godfrey Schilling, Dec. 4, 1886.
Status: The Matney post office was discontinued April 20, 1892, papers to Condon.

VINTON. Established September 26, 1888. Information concerning either the location or the origin of the name of this short-lived post office has not been discovered. It is possible that the Vinton post office was located in territory which was later to become Wheeler County.
19th Century Postmaster Appointments: James S. Wheeler, Sept. 26, 1888.
Status: The Vinton post office was discontinued November 18, 1889.

SHELBY. Established October 22, 1888. The Shelby post office served approximately the same locality as was earlier served by the Flettville and Fletts post offices. This office, probably named for a local settler, was located on Rock Creek about seven miles south of Olex.
19th Century Postmaster Appointments: Malvina Anderson, Oct. 22, 1888; Lucius W. Paul, June 20, 1889; William B. Flett, June 13, 1890.
Status: The Shelby post office was discontinued May 24, 1893, with papers to Olex.

AJAX. Established December 26, 1888. This office is reported to have been named for the steamer Ajax, which brought a local settler to Oregon from California. The Ajax post office was located between Ferry and Devils canyons in section 20, township 2 south, range 19 east.
19th Century Postmaster Appointments: Mrs. Arabella Thrasher, Dec. 26, 1888; Mrs. Ellen Palmer, March 18, 1890.
Status: The Ajax post office was not in service between December 6, 1895 and January 30, 1910. This office was finally discontinued December 28, 1920, with papers to Condon.

CROY. Established April 17, 1890. The Croy post office was located in the northwestern part of Gilliam County on or near Rock Creek, and probably not far from the site of the old Scotts post office. The origin of the name is not known.
19th Century Postmaster Appointments: William Irvine, April 17, 1890; John J. Bash, Sept. 19, 1898.
Status: The Croy post office was discontinued January 30, 1911, papers to Rockcreek.

IGO. Established February 19, 1891. The Igo post office was named for John Igo, an early settler. This office was located in Ferry Canyon about 7 miles northwest of Condon in the southern part of township 3 south, range 20 east.

19th Century Postmaster Appointments: James G. Fix, Feb. 19, 1891.

Status: The Igo post office was discontinued December 17, 1892, papers to Condon.

GUMBO. A post office named Gumbo was authorized October 18, 1892, with Zachariah J. Martin to be the first postmaster, but the order was rescinded on November 15, 1892, before the office could begin actual operations.

POSTMASTER COMPENSATION ($), GILLIAM COUNTY POST OFFICES, 1869-1901

Post Office	69	71	73	75	77	79	81	83	85	87	89	91	93	95	97	99	1901
Scotts	16	20	47	NL	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rock Creek	--	--	12	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Olex	--	--	--	5	38	21	56	47	1*	2*	2*	2*	3*	3*	4*	3*	3*
Lone Rock	--	--	--	NL	33	49	1*	1*	99	2*	2*	2*	2*	2*	2*	2*	2*
Rockville	--	--	--	--	--	47	64	75	39	51	40	--	--	--	--	--	--
Willows	--	--	--	--	--	0	3	26	NL	--	--	--	--	12	--	89	40
Blalock	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	2*	2*	3*	1*	97	88	1*	98	1*	2*
Flettville	--	--	--	--	--	--	NL	10	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Alkali	--	--	--	--	--	--	NL	3*	6*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Fletts	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	72	34	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Oasis	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Condon	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	33	2*	3*	4*	5*	6*	5*	7*	7*
Mayville	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	2*	2*	2*	2*	2*	2*	1*	2*
Clem	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5	39	59	46	43	65	0	87	1*
Legality	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	8	34	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Baird	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Arlington	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	8*	1K	8*	8*	9*	9*	1K	1K
Idea	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	34	33	--	--	--	--	--	--
Matney	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	10	50	50	--	--	--	--	--
Vinton	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	NL	--	--	--	--	--	--
Shelby	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	23	11	NL	--	--	--	--
Ajax	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5	18	23	16	--	--	--
Croy	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	9	10	19	32	18	14
Igo	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	--	--	--	--	--

Notes: NL means that the office was not listed for that year.
* means 100 rounded to the nearest hundred.
K means 1000 rounded to the nearest thousand.
All dollar amounts below $100 are expressed in whole dollars.

Source: Official Register, 1869 - 1901.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

First, an announcement! Ernie Peyton sends word that Nevada Postal History, the 1973 (first edition) by Robert P. Harris is currently available from Stanley W. Paher, Box 15444, Las Vegas, Nevada 89114. The price is $8.50 postpaid. Mr. Paher has acquired the remaining stock of this most useful book, which lists Nevada post offices from 1861 to 1972.

While on the subject of postal history literature availability, I might mention that I have on hand about 8 copies of Mel Ricks' 1965 Directory of Alaska Postoffices and Postmasters. These are the last remaining copies of this widely cited guide to Alaskan post offices, and I will sell them on a first-come-first-served basis for $4.50 postpaid. Also I will be happy to sell any and all a copy of my 136 page Postmarks of Alaska Territory for $15 postpaid.

Enough commercials! As this is written in early August it is still too early to report the results of the reader preference survey. A few returns have come in, but too few thus far. Next issue a full report will appear.

This issue - our 40th - contains far too much Helbock! Don't get me wrong, I like to write, but I am too familiar with the talent of many of you like Whittlesey, and Rupert, and Meschter, and Harris, and Bauer, and many many others, to kid myself into thinking that I'm doing any kind of service by filling these pages with Helbock. Now, look friends, its autumn. The leaves are beginning to fall. The rainy season is about to start in the Pacific Northwest. Snow is not far off for you in the East and Northern Rockies. And those of us in the South and Southwest will soon enjoy the crisp fall weather. Why not make a little resolution to help out your ol' pal Bill with a little article for La Posta? I promise it will give you enormous satisfaction when into your mailbox comes an issue with a nice little postal history research piece under your very own name. Please give my humble request your serious consideration.

Now for some previews of things to come. Don Smith of Eugene is busy on a classification and listing of Oregon RFD cancels. If you can help him out, please do. Frank Norris of Tucson is beginning work on a study of Mojave Desert post offices, once again if you can help please write Frank at 4013 E. Bellevue, Tucson, AZ 85712. Tom Todsen is working on a short study of Estey City, New Mexico, an interesting ghost town that lies forgotten within the boundaries of White Sands Missile Range. I am thinking of taking on a Utah postal history project, and looking for people who would like to help. Utah represents one of the biggest unknowns in Western postal history. No post office listings, no postmark studies (aside from Chase and Cabeen), no county studies; not much of anything about Utah. I'm not a Utah collector myself, but it bothers me to see that big question mark hanging there amidst all the fine work on Colorado, and Arizona, and Nevada, and even a little on Idaho. How about it? Any volun- teers for a Utah project?
RICHARD W. HELBOCK, EDITOR, 1635 MARIPOSA DR., LAS CRUCES, NM 88001