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NINETEENTH CENTURY POST OFFICES OF BAKER COUNTY, OREGON

By Richard W. Helbock

Baker County was created September 22, 1862, from the eastern portion of Wasco County. At the time of its creation, the county extended along the entire eastern border of Oregon from Washington to California. The county was named for Edward Dickinson Baker, who was elected to the United States Senate from Oregon in 1860 and was killed the following year while serving as a major-general at the Battle of Balls Bluff. A mining boom was the initial impetus for growth in Baker County, and many of the early communities were created as mining camps and supply towns. What follows is a chronological listing of the post offices of Baker County, together with a brief historical and locational trace of each.

AUBURN. Established November 1, 1862. Auburn post office, the first in northeastern Oregon, served the community which sprouted up around the site of the Griffin Creek gold strike of October 1861. The name may have come from Auburn, New York, by way of the California mining camp of the same name. Auburn, now completely deserted, was located about eight miles south of Baker. The post office was discontinued October 2, 1903; papers to McEwen.

POCAHONTAS. Established August 4, 1863. Pocahontas was a short-lived post office that functioned in a small settlement located at the base of the Blue Mountains a few miles northwest of Baker. The community at one time claimed an express office, a hotel and a blacksmith shop. It was not a mining camp, but a way station for travelers journeying through the Baker Valley. Pocahontas post office was discontinued June 24, 1864.

EXPRESS RANCH. Established April 21, 1865. Express Ranch was so-called because it functioned as a stopping place for stage coaches during the gold rush. The office was located some distance southeast of Baker on the Overland Stage Route, near the present day community of Durkee. On July 2, 1879, the name of this office was changed to Weatherby.

BAKER CITY. Established June 27, 1866. Baker City quickly grew into the major supply center for the mining camps of the area. It succeeded Auburn as the county seat in 1866. By the time the mining boom had come to an end, ranching and agriculture had become firmly established in the Powder River Valley and Baker was well entrenched as the main market center. The population of the town was 1,258 in 1880, and five years later the first railroad arrived to insure the continued economic well-being of the town. On February 1, 1911, the name of the post office was shortened to Baker.

WHITE HORSE. Established February 13, 1867. White Horse post office is a mystery. The famous White Horse Ranch of Harney County was probably not yet founded, so it is unlikely the two names applied to the same place. McArthur speculates in OREGON PLACE NAMES that the office may have been named for the White Horse Company, a group of Nevada miners who entered eastern Oregon in 1862. No locational information is available, and the office was discontinued August 6, 1867. There is a strong possibility that it never really operated.

FAREWELL BEND. Established March 19, 1867. Farewell Bend post office was located near the place on the Snake River where westbound immigrants left that stream to pass through the hills to the present site of Huntington on the Burnt River. The location of this short-lived office may actually have been in what is now Malheur County. No precise location is known. The Farewell Bend post office was discontinued November 19, 1867.

PLEASANT VALLEY (1). Established September 28, 1868. The first Baker County post office to bear this name was very short-lived, and in fact may never have come into actual operation. It seems likely that the office was located near the post office of the same name established in 1890. If so, it was about 13 miles southeast of Baker City on the Oregon Trail. Pleasant Valley was discontinued December 11, 1868.

RYE VALLEY. Established September 27, 1869. Rye Valley was named for the native grain which proved so valuable to the miners and immigrants in early day Oregon. The post office was located on a tributary of Dixie Creek in the south central part of Baker County. Service was interrupted briefly from February 15 to April 13, 1871; again from October 7, 1873, to October 22, 1878; and again briefly from May 6 to June 15, 1880. The Rye Valley post office was finally discontinued September 14, 1935, and its papers were transferred to Durkee.

WINGVILLE. Established June 23, 1871. Wingville post office served an early day mining community located about eight miles west of Baker near the base of the Blue Mountains. Many of its citizens were from the South, and they were sometimes derisively referred to as "the left wing of Price's army" (after Major-General Sterling Price of the Confederate Army). The Wingville post office was discontinued July 22, 1879.

GEM. Established August 7, 1871. Gem post office was initially listed in Union County, but that area was later added to Baker County. The post office was named for a local mine which operated near Bald Mountain not far from Eagle Creek in the extreme northern part of Baker County as it is presently constituted. The name of the post office was changed to Sparta on October 29, 1872.

AUGUSTA. Established August 10, 1871. This office is reported by McArthur to have been named for Miss Augusta Parkwood, the community's first unmarried resident. The short-lived office was located on Eagle Creek in the northeastern section of the county. Augusta was discontinued October 11, 1872.

CLARKSVILLE. Established September 27, 1871. This office was named for Clark Creek and was located about three miles south of where that stream flows into Burnt River. Clark Creek is said to have been named for a miner who shot himself along its bank during the early 1860's. Clarksville post office was discontinued October 3, 1884.

PRICHARD. Established May 24, 1872. Prichard post office was given the family name of an early local resident. The office was located in the lower Powder River Valley, about 15 miles northeast of Baker. It remained in service for less than four years, being discontinued February 23, 1876.

SPARTA. Established October 29, 1872, by change of name from GEM. Sparta was named for the town of that name in Illinois, which was the former home of William H. Packwood,

a prominent local settler and the former postmaster of FAREWELL BEND. An 1881 map shows Sparta located on east of Eagle Creek about 35 miles from Baker on the stage road. Sparta post office was discontinued September 30, 1952; papers to Keating.

MARYSVILLE. Established March 28, 1873. Marysville post office served a mining community on Conner Creek near that streams junction with the Snake River, and thus not far from the Oregon-Idaho border. The settlement may have been named for Marysville, California, as a number of miners from that area eventually came to Oregon. The name of this post office was changed to Conner Creek on July 2, 1877.

SUMTER. Established June 24, 1874. Sumter post office was named for Fort Sumter, South Carolina, apparently because an early resident found a spherical rock which reminded him of a cannon ball, and the South Carolina fort had received wide attention during the recently past Civil War. This office was first listed in Grant County, but transferred to the Baker County list after only three months. It is believed to have operated in the same locality later served by the SUMPTER post office. Sumter post office was discontinued October 1, 1878.

PARKERSVILLE. Established August 1, 1874. This office was named for a couple named Parker who operated a stage station on the old mail road from Austin to McEwen and Auburn. The station and post office were located near the headwaters of Burnt River, about four miles from the Baker-Grant County line. Parkersville post office was discontinued June 29, 1876.

CONNER CREEK. Established July 2, 1877, by change of name from MARYSVILLE. This name change merely called attention to the geographical situation of the office, but the name was changed once again on May 11, 1887, when the stream was formalized as CONNOR CREEK.

PINE VALLEY. Established June 27, 1878. Pine Valley post office served a dispersed agricultural community in the Pine Creek Valley. The location of the office shifted, as did many early day offices, with the availability of a postmaster. In general, it was located in extreme eastern Baker County in the vicinity of present-day Pine. The name of the post office was changed to PINE on June 1, 1892.

NEW BRIDGE. Established July 22, 1878. New Bridge post office was originally located on the bank of Eagle Creek near the site of an important pioneer bridge on the road between Sparta and Pine Valley. New Bridge was about four miles above the junction of Eagle Creek and Powder River. The post office was discontinued September 8, 1967.

PEDRO. Established April 21, 1879. The Pedro post office was named for the Pedro Mine, situated on Pedro Mountain in the southeastern part of Baker County. The mine was reportedly named by a group of Portuguese miners who worked there in the early days. Pedro post office was discontinued June 20, 1879.

WEATHERBY. Established July 2, 1879, by change of name from EXPRESS RANCH. The name of this office was changed as it was moved about 10 miles southeast along Burnt River to the home of Andrew J. Weatherby. Weatherby became postmaster at EXPRESS RANCH on February

13, 1879, and he remained postmaster at Weatherby until 1888. He was succeeded by his wife, Sarah, who served an additional two years. The Weatherby post office was discontinued January 30, 1920; papers to Durkee.

KEATING. Established December 30, 1880. This community and its post office were named for Thomas "Uncle Tom" Keating, a prominent early settler who owned much of the adjacent land. He also served as the second postmaster of the office. The community has continued to survive until the present, and is located on the Powder River about 12 miles northeast of Baker. ZIP Code! 97847.

HUNTINGTON. Established June 5, 1882. Huntington was named for James M. Huntington and his brother who settled the area. At first, Huntington served as a stage stop, but when the Oregon Short Line was built through in 1885, the town became an important rail station. The post office and the community are both still active. ZIP Code! 97907.

JAMESTOWN. Established June 5, 1882. This office was named after its first postmaster, James B. Sams. Jamestown was located along Big Creek, about four miles above its mouth. Service was interrupted from November 17, 1884 to November 11, 1885, and the office was discontinued June 21, 1886.

BRIDGEPORT. Established April 2, 1883. Bridgeport was the southern terminus of a toll road which was built from Baker City to the mines of the upper Burnt River Valley. At this site, a bridge was built across Burnt River to improve access to the Clark Creek mines. The community became a supply center for the mining district, and its post office survived until August 11, 1967, when it was converted to a rural station of Baker. It is currently operating as a CPO of Baker.

SUMPTER. Established December 13, 1883. Sumpter post office was established at or near the site of the earlier SUMTER office. The reason for the change in spelling is unknown, but apparently there was some disagreement as to what the place should be called. Some early maps give the name as "Ft. Sumter". Sumpter served as the main supply point for the mines in the Cracker Creek area, and was situated on the stage road at the junction of Cracker Creek and Powder River. The office continues to operate. ZIP Code! 97877.

BRITTEN. Established September 25, 1884. Britten post office bore the family name of its first and only postmaster, Elizabeth E. Britten. The office was located on the stage road, midway between Sumpter and Auburn, where the road crossed Deer Creek. Britten post office was discontinued May 9, 1893; papers to McEwen.

EXPRESS. Established November 26, 1884. The removal of the earlier EXPRESS RANCH post office left this locality without an office, and so a new office was applied for and obtained. Express post office was located near the junction of Durkee Creek and Burnt River, and once the railroad arrived it too became a station on the Oregon Short Line. The name of this office was changed to Durkee on February 26, 1902.

HAINES. Established November 26, 1884. Haines was named for "Judge" I. D. Haines, who owned the land upon which the settlement was founded. The office is located in the northwestern part of Baker County, about 11 miles from Baker along the railroad. The post office continues to operate. ZIP Code! 97833.

CORNUCOPIA. Established December 7, 1885. This office served a mining community which took its name from Cornucopia, Nevada, from whence came several of its early residents. Cornucopia post office was located in Pine Valley on the southern slopes of the Wallowa Mountains. The post office was discontinued June 30, 1942; papers to Carson.

HEREFORD. Established March 7, 1887. This community was reportedly named for a Hereford bull which was led through the settlement about the time it was formed. The residents were interested in cattle, and Hereford seemed an acceptable name. The post office has survived until the present day, and is located in the southern part of the county on Burnt River about 11 miles east of Unity Lake. ZIP Code: 97837.

CONNOR CREEK. Established May 11, 1887, by change of name from CONNER CREEK. This name change was apparently more of a correction of a clerical error. The postmarks used at the office had read "CONNOR CREEK" for quite a few years, but the official records listed the name as Conner Creek until this change was posted. Connor Creek post office was discontinued March 31, 1911, with papers to Huntington.

SANGER. Established August 17, 1887. Sanger was named for the owner of a nearby mining property. It was located in a mining district near upper Eagle Creek, and situated on the Union and Cornucopia Wagon Road about eight miles north of Sparta. Sanger post office was discontinued August 19, 1907; mail to Erwin.

HALFWAY. Established October 3, 1887. Halfway post office was apparently so named because at the time it was established it was about halfway between Pine Valley and Cornucopia on the old wagon road. The office later moved a few miles down Pine Creek, to be situated only two or three miles northwest of Pine Valley. Halfway post office continues to operate; ZIP Code: 97834.

HANOVER. Established November 3, 1888. The derivation of the name of this office is not known, but it may have been for a local settler or perhaps a transference from Europe. The post office was located on Cracker Creek and it served the mining district scattered in the hills about five miles north of Sumpter. The name of the office was changed to CRACKER on February 2, 1889.

CRACKER. Established February 2, 1889, by change of name from HANOVER. When Parham I. Hunstock became postmaster of Hanover, he changed the name of his office to call attention to its location along Cracker Creek. Cracker post office did not survive long. It was discontinued September 28, 1891, with papers to Sumpter.

PLEASANT VALLEY (2). Established March 21, 1890. The second Pleasant Valley post office was located about 13 miles southeast of Baker City on the Union Pacific Railroad (formerly Oregon Short Line). Thomas Moore was the first postmaster, and when he left office on July 1, 1895, service was suspended for several months until a new postmaster could be found. The Pleasant Valley post office operated until 1961.

PIX. Established August 27, 1890. Pix post office primarily served the Pyx Mine in the Blue Mountains near the Baker-Grant County line. William Parker was the only Pix postmaster, and it seems likely that the office was near the former PARKERSVILLE office, about 10 miles southwest of Sumpter. The Pix post office was discontinued June 11, 1895,

but its actual existence is questioned for it was not listed among Oregon post offices in either the 1891 or 1893 OFFICIAL REGISTERS.

UNITY. Established September 9, 1891. Unity post office was situated along the Union Pacific about seven miles southeast of Pleasant Valley. The reason for the choice of name is unknown, although a transference from one of the many other Unitys in the United States appears likely. Unity survives to this day; ZIP Code: 97884.

PINE. Established June 1, 1892, by change of name from PINE VALLEY. The Pine post office operated until August 31, 1958. Mail service to the area being taken over by Halfway.

ERWIN. Established July 13, 1892. Erwin post office was named for John Erwin, a well known local stockman and pioneer resident of the lower Powder River Valley. The office was located on the south bank of Powder River, about 4 miles west of Keating. On November 15, 1910, Erwin post office was discontinued; mail to Keating.

EUREKA. Established September 9, 1892. Eureka post office was a short-lived affair which was probably named for the Eureka Mine on upper Cracker Creek. The office was apparently located quite near the former CRACKER post office. Kit Carson Smith was the only Eureka postmaster, and his office was discontinued February 27, 1894; papers to Sumpter.

TRACY. Established December 5, 1892. Little has been discovered about the short-lived Tracy post office. It was probably in central Baker County, but its exact location and the reason for its name are a mystery. Sidney J. Fore was the only postmaster. The Tracy post office was discontinued March 12, 1894; papers to Baker City.

McEWEN. Established January 14, 1893. Thomas McEwen was a pioneer settler in the Sumpter Valley, and this office was named in his honor. McEwen post office was five or six miles southeast of Sumpter near the Powder River. It was discontinued July 22, 1943; mail to Sumpter.

CARSON. Established July 26, 1893. Carson post office was named for Tom Corson, who settled on a tributary of Pine Creek about 1870. Corson's neighbors pronounced his name "Carson", and when a post office was obtained they named it the way they said it. This office served the area along Pine Creek between Cornucopia and Halfway. Lucretia Hoopingarner was the first postmaster. Carson post office was discontinued March 31, 1952; mail to Halfway.

CLIFFORD. Established March 10, 1894. Clifford post office was located at a stage station on the road between Baker City and Canyon City in Grant County, and on the upper reaches of Burnt River. The station was owned by Marsh Young, and he named the post office in honor of his long-time friend, Judge Morton D. Clifford. Clifford post office was discontinued August 21, 1901; papers to Sumpter.

BOURNE. Established March 2, 1895. This office was named for Jonathan Bourne, Jr., who was interested in mining activities in the area, and later served as U. S. senator from Oregon. The Bourne post office was located north of Sumpter in the same mining district earlier served by CRACKER and EUREKA. The office was not in service from

September 30, 1918, to September 9, 1920, and was discontinued May 31, 1927; mail to Sumpter.

JETT. Established July 13, 1895. Jett post office was named for the family of its first and only postmaster, Mary F. Jett. The office was located along the railroad and Burnt River, near the place where Dixie Creek enters the river. On March 1, 1901, Jett post office was discontinued; papers to Lime.

EAGLETON. Established April 22, 1896. Eagleton post office was located along one of the forks of Eagle Creek, about five miles northeast of Sanger. The office served a mining settlement, and took its name from the stream. Eagleton was discontinued February 17, 1902; mail to Sanger.

FLICKBAR. Established May 3, 1897. This post office was located on the west bank of the Snake River just north of Quicksand Creek. An early prospector named Flick had done some placer mining on a bar in the Snake here, and the name of the office was derived from that. The Post Office Department was going through a period when it encouraged one word names for post offices, or the name of this office probably would have been Flick Bar. The Flickbar post office was discontinued April 10, 1899; mail to Connor Creek.

OLDEN. Authorized May 4, 1897, with Coe M. Blue as postmaster, but rescinded by an order dated March 14, 1898.

PLANO. Established July 28, 1897. Lewis McArthur suggests that the name of this office was inspired by a piece of farm machinery from the Plano line. The office certainly operated in a farming area, being located in the Burnt River Valley between Durkee and Weatherby. Plano post office was discontinued October 12, 1899; mail to Express.

RICHLAND. Established September 23, 1897. Richland was named by W. R. Usher, who platted the community, for the rich character of the local soil. The office, which still operates, is located on Eagle Creek, not far from its junction with Powder River. ZIP Code: 97870.

CULLOM. Established February 7, 1898. This post office was named for John H. Cullom, its first and only postmaster. The exact location of Cullom post office is not known, but it was most likely in the Burnt River Valley in the vicinity of Durkee. Cullom post office was discontinued September 10, 1898; mail to Express.

GEISER. Established July 15, 1898. This office, which served a mining camp, was named for Albert Geiser who owned the nearby Bonanza Mine. Geiser post office was located near the headwaters of North Fork Burnt River near the Baker-Grant County line. Edward Geiser was the first postmaster. The office was discontinued June 15, 1909; papers to Greenhorn.

COPPERFIELD. Established July 26, 1899. The short-lived Copperfield post office served yet another mining settlement, and was named for the copper ore mined nearby. Situated on the west bank of Snake River, near the mouth of Pine Creek, the Copperfield post office operated less than two years. It was discontinued May 15, 1901; mail to Pine.

LIME. Established September 7, 1899. Lime post office was so named in order to call attention to the primary source of employment in the community; a mill which processed local limestone. Lime was located along the Union Pacific Railroad about six miles north of Huntington. The mill still operates, but the Lime post office was discontinued in 1963.



EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Welcome to the first issue of this, our 12th volume of LA POSTA. Readers have undoubtedly noticed a slightly different "look" to the type style of the lead article and will note a similar "look" to the article by Dan Meschter. Unless there are strenuous protests against this new type face, or other problems not currently foreseen, LA POSTA readers will be seeing more articles printed this way in future issues. The new look results from the print style of a Centronics 737 printer, which is connected to my recently acquired TRS-80 microcomputer. I'll admit that the combination of "Old West" postal history research with microcomputers sounds a little odd, but the wordprocessing abilities of the new microcomputers are hard to beat. Since I'm new at this and still have an awful lot to learn about the capabilities and operations of my system, I am phasing the TRS-80 into LA POSTA production rather slowly. It is already possible for me to type an article into the memory of my computer, which can then be reformed or structured into the format I prefer electronically, and finally printed out in camera-ready copy for offsetting and stored electronically on tape for future use. It is a pretty remarkable system, and unless there are objections by you good folks, it will be used more frequently in future LA POSTAs.

Charles Towle has sent me the draft of his eagerly anticipated study of New Mexico RPO routes and markings. The draft runs 71 pages, and rather than serializing it we would like to present the complete study in one volume. Accordingly, the second and third numbers of the current volume will be combined as the NM RPO study. This will reduce the number of separate issues you receive this volume, but will increase the total number of pages in the volume.

RICHARD W. HELBOCK, EDITOR, 424 McClure Road, LAS CRUCES, NM 88001

NINETEENTH CENTURY OREGON POSTMARKS: BAKER COUNTY, OREGON (Part XVII of the 19th CENTURY OREGON POSTMARK CATALOG)

By Charles A. Whittlesey

Postmarks have been recorded from 22 of the 56 offices which are believed to have operated in Baker County during the 19th century. In most cases the offices which are not yet represented functioned only a few years or less. The 22 documented post offices are represented by 75 different postmarks. Naturally, Baker City leads the listing with 17 different types known from the 19th century. Five types are known from Huntington and four each from Auburn, Sparta and Weatherby have been recorded.

Persons who can add new postmarks to those listed below, or can report 19th century postmarks from any of the offices appearing in earlier articles of this series, are asked to contact either the author or of LA POSTA's editor.

BAKER COUNTY NINETEENTH CENTURY POSTMARKS

TOWN TYPE NO.	POSTMARK CODE	EARLIEST DATE	LATEST DATE	EXAMPLES KNOWN	KILLER TYPE	NOTES
AUBURN (1862-1903)						
1.	MSS.	12FEB63		1	MSS(1)	
2.	C31BA1BBM30	26MAR63	68?	5	MSS	
3.	C1EA1BB424.5	20MAR77?		1		
4.	C1EN1BBR27.5	12JAN89		1		
BAKER CITY (1866-1911)						
1.	MSS.	5NOV66	11OCT68	3	MSS	
2.	C1EA1BBR26.5	13NOV72		1	TARGET	
3.	C1EA1BBR25.5	30AUG73	17NOV74	4	TARGET	
4.	C1EA1BBR26	1NOV76	25JUN83	2	CORK	
5.	C1JN1B27.5	19NOV82	19MAY83	3	TARGET	
6.	C41JN1B31	4FEB85	30JAN86	3	TARGET	
7.	C21JN1B33	28MAR87	29JUL88	7	TARGET	(2)
8.	C31JN1B30	13AUG88	4MAR92	4	WH./FORTUNE	(2)(3)
9.	C31JN1B30	20MAR90	21JUN90	5	TARGET	
10.	C1JN1RRB29	26AUG90	28DEC90	4	STAR-IN-STAR	
11.	C1JN1RRB33	13MAR91	25NOV91	5	STAR-IN-STAR	
12.	C1EN1B28.5	23MAR92	1MAY92	2	BARS IN OVAL	
13.	C1C1S1RBB28.5	26JUL92	31OCT92	3	TARGET	
14.	C1JT1B28.5	16APR93	16JUN94	3	CORK	
15.	F. REG BOX40X27	7MAY95	2AUG97	7		(4)
16.	C1ET1B28	3DEC96		1	CORK	
17.	C1ET8B25	6MAY98		1	"1" IN BAR/OVAL	
CARSON (1893-1952)						
1.	C1EN1BBR27.5	27JAN96		1	TARGET	
CLARKSVILLE (1871-1884)						
1.	C1EA1BBR24	17OCT78		1	CORK	
2.	C1EA1BM27	23AUG83		1		
CLIFFORD (1894-1901)						
1.	C1EN1B27.5	29NOV98		1	TARGET	
CONNER CREEK (1877-1887)						
1.	C41JS1RRB35	7MAY83		1	TARGET	(5)
2.	C1KN1B27.5	22OCT86		1	TARGET	(6)
CONNOR CREEK (1887-1911)						
1.	OV1JIS1B42X26	14MAY90		1	CORK	(7)
2.	C1JN1BBR27.5	2AUG98		1		
CORNUCOPIA (1885-1942)						
1.	C1EN1BBR27.5	31OCT92	8NOV97	3	TARGET	

BAKER COUNTY NINETEENTH CENTURY POSTMARKS

TOWN TYPE NO.	POSTMARK CODE	EARLIEST DATE	LATEST DATE	EXAMPLES KNOWN	KILLER TYPE	NOTES
EAGLETON (1896-1902)						
1.	C1JN1B32	23DEC96	19AUG98	3	TARGET	
ERWIN (1892-1910)						
1.	C1JN1BBR27.5	16APR94		1	TARGET	
2.	MSS.	12DEC96		1		
EXPRESS (1884-1902)						
1.	C1EN1BBR26.5	16JUN86		1	TARGET	
2.	C1EN1BBR27.5	25OCT89		1		
3.	C1EN1B27.5	20JAN98	11AUG99	6	TARGET	
EXPRESS RANCH (1865-1879)						
1.	MSS.	6MAR67	26APR69	3	MSS.	
FLICKBAR (1897-1899)						
1.	C1EN1B28	2AUG98		1	TARGET	
HAINES (1884-DATE)						
1.	C1EN1BBR27	27FEB95		1	TARGET	
2.	C1EN1B28	8MAY98		1		
HALFWAY (1887-DATE)						
1.	C1EN1BBR28	7MAR88		1	TARGET	
2.	C1EN1BBR27	23OCT90		1	TARGET	
3.	C1EN1B27.5	9NOV97		1		
HUNTINGTON (1882-DATE)						
1.	OV22J1S1RR938X22	17SEP82	26FEB84	4	CORK	
2.	C1JS1B31	25NOV85	24DEC88	6	BARS IN OVAL	
3.	C1JS1B32.5	26NOV89	20MAR90	2	TARGET	(8)
4.	REG BOX 44X30	10MAY93		1		(8)
5.	C1JT1B28.5	6SEP94		1	NEG."H" CORK	
JETT (1895-1901)						
1.	C1EN1B28	14FEB98		1	TARGET	
KEATING (1880-DATE)						
1.	C1EN1BBR27.5	15NOV89	13MAY96	2		
MARYSVILLE (1873-1877)						
1.	MSS.	75			MSS	
MC EWEN (1893-1943)						
1.	C31JN1BBR29	17NOV94	19NOV94	2	TARGET	(8)
2.	C1?N1B28	95?		1	CORK	



2



5



6



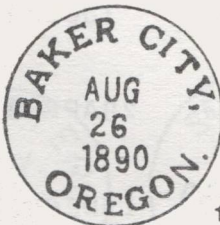
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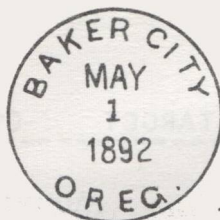
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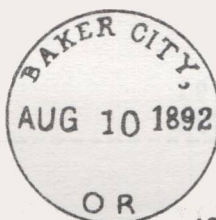
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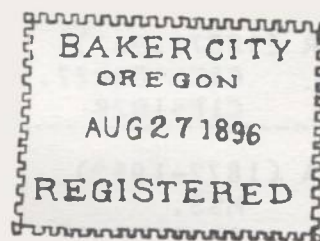
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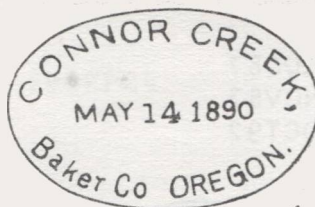
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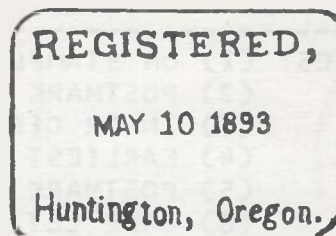
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4

BAKER COUNTY NINETEENTH CENTURY POSTMARKS

TOWN TYPE NO.	POSTMARK CODE	EARLIEST DATE	LATEST DATE	EXAMPLES KNOWN	KILLER TYPE	NOTES
NEW BRIDGE (1878-1967)						
1.	C21JN1B27.5	12JUL85	12FEB86	2		
2.	C1EN1BBR26.5	4MAR87	25SEP90	4	TARGET	
3.	C1EN1BBR27.5	27JAN93	1FEB95	3	TARGET	
PINE (1892-1958)						
1.	C1EN1BBR27.5	10OCT92	7JUL99	7	CORK	
PINE VALLEY (1878-1892)						
1.	C1EN1B27	12JAN87	29APR90	4	TARGET	
PLEASANT VALLEY (1890-1961)						
1.	C1EN1B28	6NOV97	19DEC97	2	TARGET	
RYE VALLEY (1869-1935)						
1.	C21EN1RRB27.5	20MAY84	28MAY86	4	TARGET	
2.	C1ES1B28	28FEB97		1		
SANGER (1887-1907)						
1.	C1EN1BBR27.5	31OCT91		1		
2.	C1ES1B28	28DEC91		1	TARGET	(8)
SPARTA (1872-1952)						
1.	MSS.	1APR73		1	MSS	
2.	C1JS1RRB31	13MAR89	12SEP89	2	TARGET	
3.	C1JN1BBR27.5	4FEB95	25JUN95	2		
4.	C1EN1B27.5	26MAR96		1		
SUMPTER (1883-DATE)						
1.	MSS.	22AUG87		1	MSS	
2.	C1JN1B28	23NOV87		1	MALTESE CROSS	(2)
3.	C1ES1B32	6OCT92		1		(2)
WEATHERBY (1879-1920)						
1.	C1EN1B27	11NOV85	?NOV86	2	TARGET	
2.	C1CIN1RRB33	27JUN89	5AUG89	6	STAR-IN-CIRC.	
3.	C1JN1BBR27.5	28SEP94	14DEC97	3	TARGET	
4.	C1JN1B27.5	24AUG98		1	TARGET	

- NOTES: (1) ON STAMPLESS COVER W/"PAID 10 CTS" IN MSS.
 (2) POSTMARK IN BLUIISH INK.
 (3) INNER CIRCLE 19.5 MM; 1892 EXAMPLE SHOWS MUCH WEAR.
 (4) EARLIEST IN BLUE; LATEST IN PURPLE.
 (5) POSTMARK READS "CONNOR CREEK".
 (6) CODE LETTER "K" STANDS FOR ABBREVIATION "ORG".
 (7) POSTMARK IN PURPLE; CORK KILLER IN BLACK.
 (8) POSTMARK IN PURPLE INK.



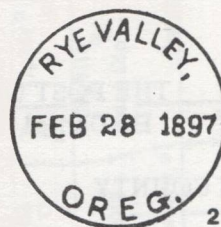
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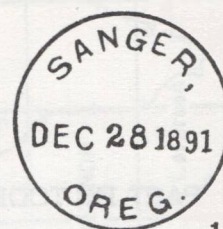
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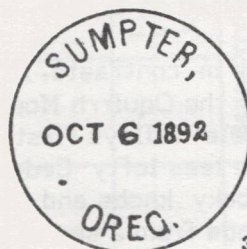
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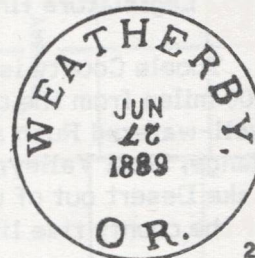
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ADDENDA:

TOWN

TYPE

NO.

POSTMARK CODE

EARLIEST
DATE

LATEST
DATE

EXAMPLES
KNOWN

KILLER
TYPE

NOTES

BRIDGEPORT (1883-DATE)

1.

C41JNIB31

20SEP84



1

THE POST OFFICES OF UTAH
By Daniel Y. Meschter

PART IX: TOOELE COUNTY

Tooele County was one of the first seven counties erected by the State of Deseret in 1850. A year earlier, a group of settlers had crossed the Oquirrh Mountains seeking pasture for their stock. They named the valley they found "Tule" for the abundant reeds they found there, especially along the shores of Rush Lake. First spelled "Tuilla", the 1852 Legislature finally settled on Tooele, which became the name of the first town.

Tooele County is a study in contrasts. It is big. It is 75 miles wide and stretches 100 miles from the crest of the Oquirrh Mountains to Nevada. The east half embraces the well-watered Rush and Tooele valleys first west of the Oquirrh Mountains, the Stansbury Range, Skull Valley, and the less lofty Cedar Mountains. The west half is the Great Salt Lake Desert out of which rocky knobs and the Deep Creek Mountains in the southwest corner of the county rise like islands from a sea of sand and salt.

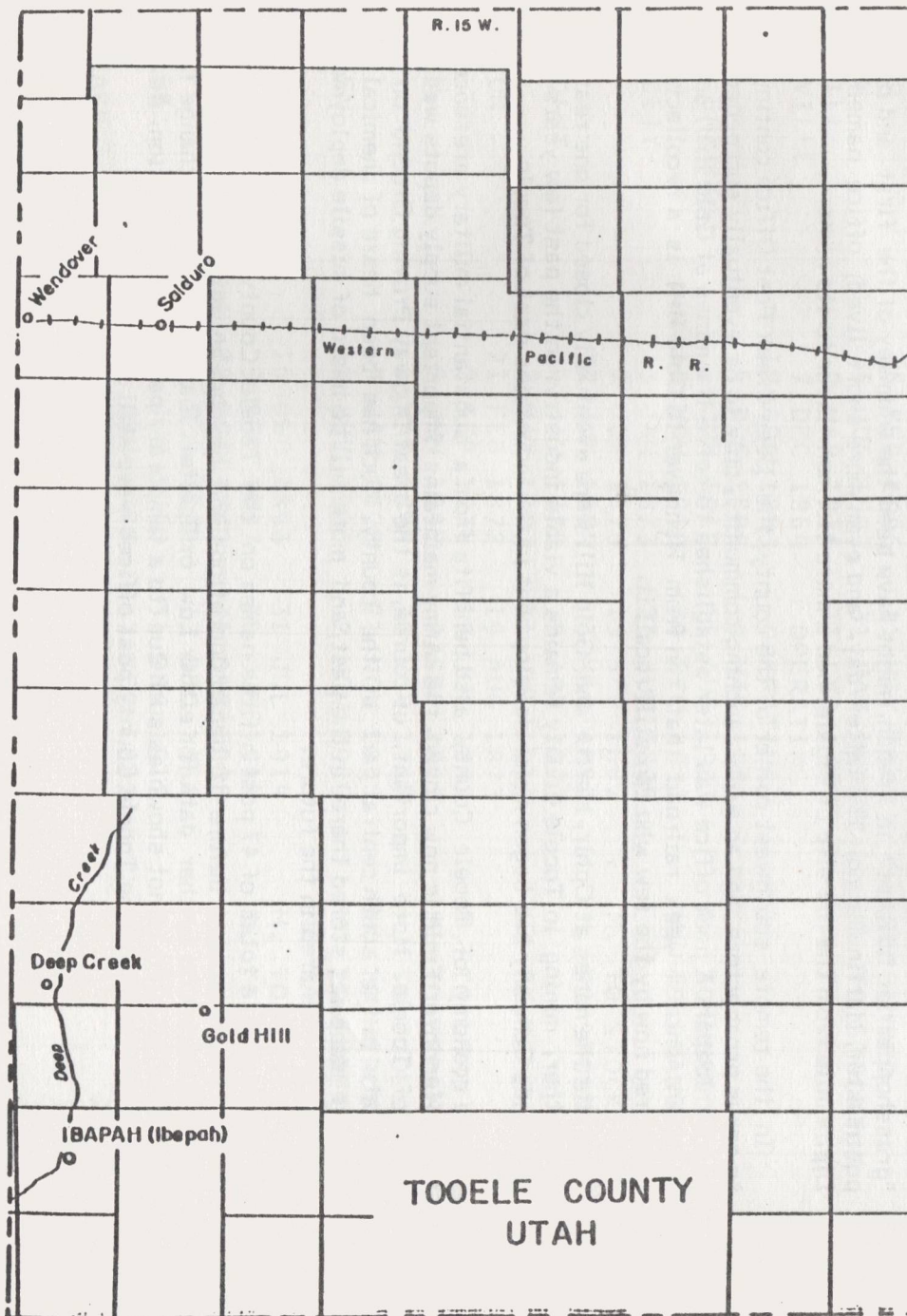
Much of it is inhospitable. The Donner Party followed Hasting's infamous cutoff around the south end of the Great Salt Lake in 1846 and made a mad dash northeasterly across the salt flats, suffering incredible hardships with neither water nor grass for six days and nights.

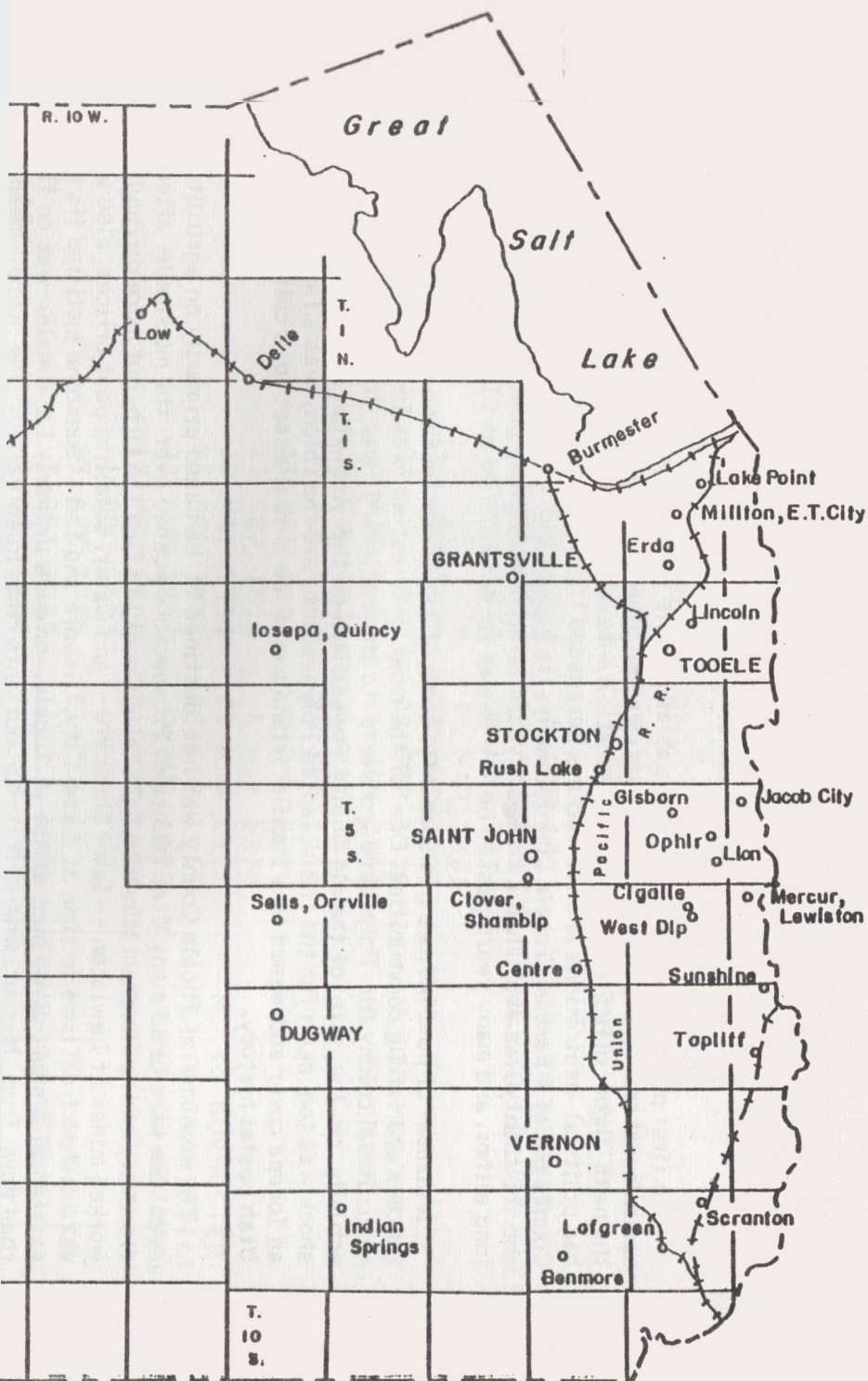
A decade later, emigrants, mail carriers, and the Pony Express followed the Overland Trail across Five Mile Pass and southwesterly past Vernon and Indian Springs into Juab County before turning northwesterly again across Deep Creek and into Nevada. The only post office established along the trail was Deep Creek, less than a year before the completion of the trans-continental railroad made the Overland Trail obsolete.

Brigham Young promoted railroads as essential to the economic growth of Utah. The Utah and Nevada started construction west from Salt Lake City in 1872, and got as far as Stockton by way of Lake Point, E. T. City, Erda and Tooele before work was abandoned for a time. The Utah and Western started at Lehi in Utah County and crossed Five Mile Pass to reach the Tintic Mines in Juab County to the south about 1878. It was only later that the post offices at Topliff and Scranton were opened along its route.

The Western Pacific eventually was extended westerly across the county into Nevada and on to California by way of Burmester, Delle, Low, Salduro and Wendover. The Utah and Nevada line, under the control of the Union Pacific by this time, also was extended from Stockton to the Tintic Mines by way of Lofgreen, and the old route over Five Mile Pass was abandoned in favor of this easier, if longer, route.

With the advent of the automobile, the pioneer transcontinental, or Lincoln Highway, paralleled the Western Pacific tracks past the Bonneville Speedway near Wendover where Malcolm Campbell and others set historic land speed records in the 1930's. Finally, Wendover Field was an Army Airforce Base during World War II that will always be remembered as the place where the crew of the Enola Gay trained for its mission over Hiroshima in 1945.





The first post office in the county was at Tooele and it served an early Mormon agricultural community. Growth, however, was so slow that it was another 12 years before the next three offices were established at Grantsville, E. T. City and Shambip. Shambip had political aspirations and its backers persuaded the 1856 Legislature to erect Shambip County out of a part of Tooele County. Sadly, its growth did not match its aspirations, and the county was abolished a mere six years later. The Shambip post office did not last long either, and many years passed before it was re-established as Clover.

A number of post offices in the county, some of uncertain location, served scattered ranches and farmig communities. One of the most interesting was Iosepa. Iosepa was an agricultural colony for Polynesian converts to Mormonism. It was located near, if not actually on, the site of the old Quincy Post Office on the Knowlton Ranch. The culture shock was too much for the transplanted Polynesians, and the colony was a failure. Still, an Iosepa cover addressed to a Pacific island would be a real asset to a collection of Utah postal history.

The economy of Tooele County was not destined to be based primarily on agriculture as in the case of so many Utah counties. Prospectors pushed over the mountains after the discovery of the Bingham Mines in Salt Lake County to find the rich, but more difficultly worked mines at Lewiston -- later Mercur -- and Ophir. Satellite post offices also were established from time to time at Jacob City, Gisborn and Lion. Sunshine justified its own existence. A short-lived post office at Cigale, or more properly La Cigale, was on the road down from Mercur where it broke out into the Rush Valley. The name, meaning "grasshopper" or "cricket" in French, might have been the whimsey of the first and only postmaster, Martin Garmo. The latter-day, and even more short-lived, office named West Dip, a mile from the old site of Cigale, had a more Mormon flavor to its name.

In the remote southwest corner of the county, the Deep Creek Post Office continued to serve prospectors and an early ranching community, only to be eventually succeeded by nearby Ibapah. A post office was later established to serve the mines at Gold Hill, and a one-man, once-a-week railroad that ran from Wendover to Gold Hill is a recollection treasured now by the few who can still recall it.

While the mines at Ophir, Mercur and Gold Hill were eventually closed for one reason or another, mining in Tooele County remains a viable industry. In the past few years the Anaconda Company has begun major development in the mountains east of Tooele.

The economy of Tooele County also benefits from a substantial military presence. While Wendover Field is now closed, the Army maintains important supply depots west and south of Tooele. More important, of course, is the great Dugway Proving Ground on the salt flats in the south central part of the county. Much has been heard of chemical warfare supplies stored there in the past, and more will be heard of missile deployment throughout this area in the future.

There are a total of 47 post offices names on the Tooele County list. Of these, Fleiner was rescinded before it began operations and beyond an initial listing, the record contains no further data for either Low or Spelter. Ibapah was a name change from Ibepah, although it is not shown as such due to a temporary period of inoperation. As of last report, eight of the Tooele County post offices were still in operation.

UTAH POST OFFICES

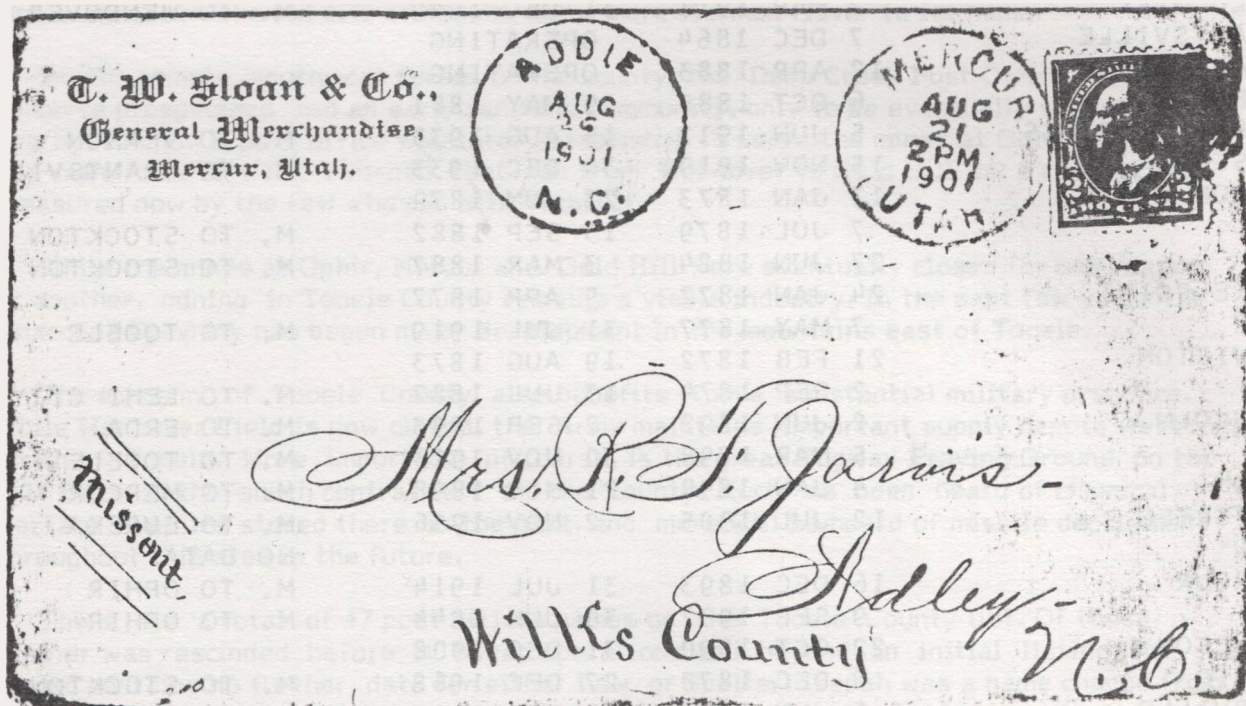
TOOELE COUNTY

<u>POST OFFICE</u>	<u>ESTABLISHED</u>	<u>DISCONTINUED</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
BENMORE	13 MAR 1915	15 JAN 1935	M. TO VERNON
BURMESTER	10 JUN 1916	30 SEP 1933	M. TO GRANTSVILLE
CANNON	3 MAR 1873	10 MAY 1873	
	20 JUL 1876	15 MAR 1881	
CENTRE	24 JUN 1874	31 AUG 1913	M. TO VERNON
CIGALE	29 JUN 1898	29 SEP 1900	M. TO MERCUR
CLOVER	2 APR 1901	15 JAN 1943	M. TO SAINT JOHN
COLUMBIA	24 JUN 1874	16 MAY 1876	
DEEP CREEK	27 AUG 1868	24 APR 1869	
	11 MAR 1873	7 JUL 1874	
	11 SEP 1874	6 MAY 1875	
DELLE	12 MAY 1911	15 MAR 1917	M. TO BURMESTER
	24 FEB 1931	28 FEB 1955	M. TO GRANTSVILLE
DUGWAY	27 JUN 1891	8 JUL 1895	NEVER IN OPERATION
	17 FEB 1904	31 DEC 1904	M. TO CLOVER
	1 DEC 1953	OPERATING	
ERDA	23 APR 1880	31 DEC 1913	M. TO SALT LAKE CY.
EREKSON	2 OCT 1909	31 OCT 1911	M. TO VERNON
E. T. CITY	7 DEC 1864	20 JUN 1866	
FLEINER	16 FEB 1906	11 MAY 1906	RESCINDED
GISBORN	15 JUL 1902	31 MAY 1927	M. TO STOCKTON
GOLD HILL	2 MAR 1911	31 DEC 1949	M. TO WENDOVER
GRANTSVILLE	7 DEC 1864	OPERATING	
IBAPAH	12 APR 1883	OPERATING	
IBEPAH	6 OCT 1880	9 MAY 1881	
INDIAN SPRINGS	5 JUN 1912	15 AUG 1933	M. TO VERNON
IOSEPA	15 NOV 1910	30 DEC 1933	M. TO GRANTSVILLE
JACOB CITY	13 JAN 1873	23 JUN 1879	
	7 JUL 1879	15 SEP 1882	M. TO STOCKTON
	27 JUN 1884	3 MAR 1887	M. TO STOCKTON
LAKE POINT	24 JAN 1872	5 APR 1877	
	7 MAY 1877	31 JUL 1919	M. TO TOOELE
LEWISTON	21 FEB 1872	19 AUG 1873	
	2 SEP 1874	13 JUL 1882	M. TO LEHI CITY
LINCOLN	2 JUN 1892	2 SEP 1893	M. TO ERDA
	5 MAR 1898	30 NOV 1913	M. TO TOOELE
LION	4 JAN 1898	21 NOV 1898	M. TO MERCUR
LOFGREEN	12 JUL 1905	2 NOV 1956	M. TO EUREKA
LOW			NO DATA
MERCUR	16 DEC 1893	31 JUL 1914	M. TO OPHIR
	9 SEP 1937	30 JUN 1944	M. TO OPHIR
MILLTON	22 OCT 1890	31 DEC 1908	
OPHIR	8 DEC 1870	27 DEC 1968	M. TO STOCKTON
ORRVILLE	5 JUN 1912	31 DEC 1912	M. TO CLOVER
QUINCY	17 JUN 1880	7 SEP 1882	M. TO GRANTSVILLE
RUSH LAKE	24 FEB 1876	24 APR 1882	

UTAH POST OFFICES

TOOELE COUNTY

<u>POST OFFICE</u>	<u>ESTABLISHED</u>	<u>DISCONTINUED</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
SAINT JOHN	24 APR 1872	8 JUL 1872	
	16 NOV 1874	OPERATING	
SALDURO	23 OCT 1915	30 NOV 1929	M. TO WENDOVER
SCRANTON	26 MAR 1906	15 MAY 1907	M. TO EUREKA
	10 JAN 1913	15 APR 1915	M. TO LOFGREEN
SELLS	22 MAY 1915	15 DEC 1923	M. TO IOSEPA
SHAMBIP	7 DEC 1864	19 FEB 1868	
SPELTER	13 MAY 1916		NO FURTHER DATA
STOCKTON	27 APR 1865	OPERATING	
SUNSHINE	6 FEB 1896	15 AUG 1910	M. TO FAIRFIELD
TOOELE	19 OCT 1852	14 OCT 1859	
	2 MAR 1861	10 MAR 1863	
	7 DEC 1864	OPERATING	
TOPLIFF	5 NOV 1904	2 FEB 1905	RESCINDED
	4 DEC 1905	30 JUN 1936	M. TO CEDAR VALLEY
VERNON	24 JUN 1874	OPERATING	
WENDOVER	1 JUN 1910	31 JAN 1943	M. TO WENDOVER FIELD BR. OF SALT LAKE CY
	1 NOV 1947	OPERATING	
WEST DIP	26 AUG 1912	31 DEC 1912	M. TO MERCUR



COVER POSTMARKED MERCUR, UTAH, AUG 21, 1901, W/MERCHANT'S CORNER CARD

