

POSTAL HISTORY OF CAPE MAY COUNTY, NJ

By Mary E. Law

From the Pages of *NJPH*
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Secretary@NJPostalHistory.org



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POSTAL HISTORY OF UPPER TOWNSHIP IN CAPE MAY COUNTY, NJ by Mary Law

Cape May County was first organized in 1692 and its limits definitely determined in 1710. In 1723, it was divided into three precincts: Upper, Middle and Lower. Of these, Upper was the largest precinct and was incorporated in 1798. But 18 years later, in 1826, Upper was divided into Dennis and Upper Precincts, and thereafter, these four precincts were called townships.

In Upper Township, there are many of what could be called villages, although prior to the American Revolution only four are noted: Goldin's Point (now Beesley's Point), Littleworth (now Petersburg), Williamsburg (now Tuckahoe, which is the only Indian name remaining in either the township or the county), and there was also Ludlam's Beach (some of which became Strathmere, a part of Upper Township, in 1912).

BEESLEY'S POINT: Beginning at the northernmost part of Upper Township and Cape May County was Goldin's Point. It was known by this name from 1691 to 1717, then as Willet's Point until 1750, Stite's Point until 1851. Thomas Beesley was a life-long resident and member of both the Legislative Assembly and Council, and introduced a bill in the Legislature to change Stite's Point to Beesley's Point. In 1851, the new name was officially registered at Trenton.

Beesley also gets the credit for securing a post office under that name on March 3, 1851, with Joseph Chatten as the first postmaster. Others who were postmasters at the Beesley's Point post office included: Joseph Baner, February 7, 1872; James A. Chattin, March 6, 1884; James C. Ross, October 10, 1887; and Frank S. Ashmead, June 17, 1889. This post office remained in existence until March 15, 1934 when it was abolished during the first Roosevelt administration.

MARMORA: This town could be called a "spin-off" of Beesley's Point, and is located on plantations owned by early settlers. Real estate developments in the 1920's were the beginnings of Marmora, although after the Civil War, growth in the area was more rapid and it was thought another post office was needed. A name was needed for this new office and the story, true or not, is that the name was given by a sea captain who had sailed to the Sea of Marmora (which connects the Mediterranean and Black Seas - and is spelled Marmara). Regardless, the Marmora post office was opened on June 21, 1890 in the general store owned by the first postmaster, Joseph H. Corson.

He served for four years, then was succeeded by Stephen Young on December 22, 1894, Young was postmaster for four years, but Corson again became postmaster on December 24, 1898. Edgar A. Stratton purchased the general store after Corson's death and moved the building to a new location. He became the third person to serve as postmaster, a position he held for 34 years. As one entered the store, the post office was located to the left with a rack of little boxes that one could see through, silently announcing that there was mail awaiting you. Later, these boxes were protected by combination locks. The box renter could operate these and the assistance of the mail clerk was not needed. Most of the stamps were the one and two cent varieties.

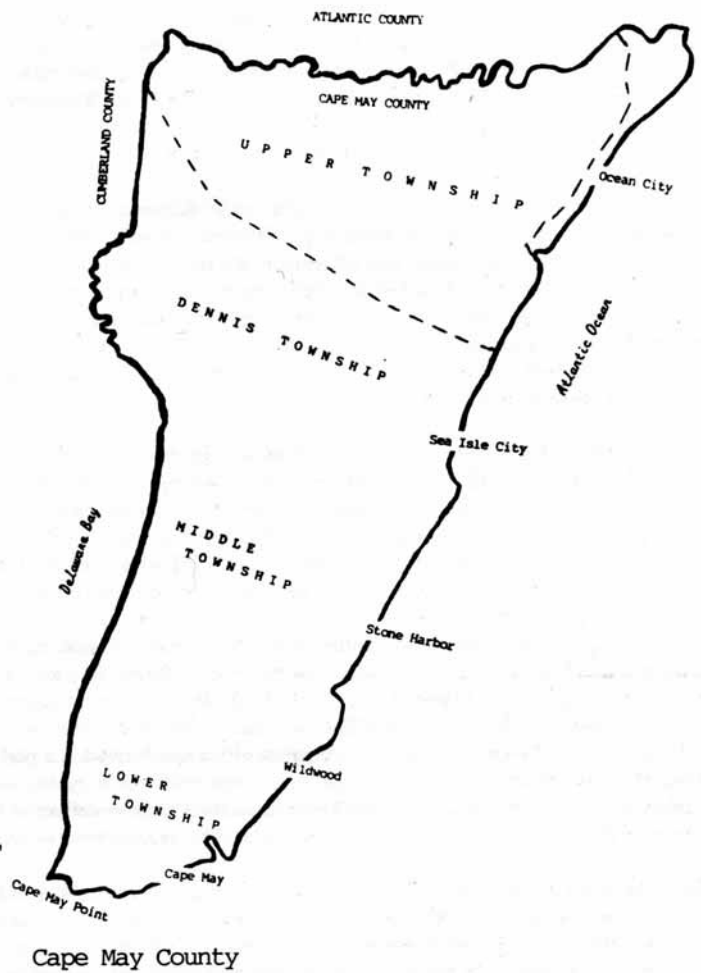
This building, which had been built prior to 1890, remained in the same location for the next 75 years. The next two postmasters were Wilma Clayton - 1941 to 1947 and Melvin Pashley - 1947 to 1949. On July 1, 1949, Edward C. Getty not only became the sixth postmaster of Marmora, but also purchased the general store. Eventually the store and post office were separated when a new brick building was erected on the east side of Route 9 and intersecting with Tuckahoe Rd. The official opening was on July 1, 1966. This was across the street from the general store and Getty continued his postal career there until his retirement. The postmaster position remained vacant for (possibly) two years, after which, on November 29, 1980, Albert Bowers was assigned as the new postmaster.

Meanwhile, the historic general store was sold, continued as such for some years, but then was torn down and a Convenience Market established. And so the end of another era had come. The building, which had physically combined two old general stores and housed the Marmora post office for so many years, was gone.

During his time as postmaster, Stratton apparently ran a mail route, and also Henry Clouting; both used a horse and wagon, although in deep snow, just the horse was used. A stage driver, Harris Corson, delivered the mail for a number of years, finally purchasing a Model T Ford to cover the route. Other persons who delivered the mail out of Marmora as Star Route drivers were Burt Costigan and Al Lawson. The Post Office Department decided to change to Rural Route Delivery. On March 28, 1973, the first official Rural Route mail delivery began with Mary E. (Kane) Law as the rural carrier. The towns of Beesley's Point, Marmora, and a large part of Palermo were the delivery area.

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In the late 1800's, Marmora could truly be called a post office town, as it was the principle reason for its existence as a village. In the 1960's, Marmora was still considered a small town, even though an Atlantic Electric Company generating plant (B.L. England Station) was located on the Great Egg Bay. When the casinos opened in nearby Atlantic City, the housing industry exploded. The fact that Upper Township had one of the lowest real estate tax rates in the state was an added attraction. By the late 1970's, the town's growth pattern was established; during the 1980's, Marmora had become one more suburban town out of many. It's Zip Code today is 08223.

The Marmora post office also grew, not in its building but in its workload. One rural carrier could no longer handle the delivery job alone, and one clerk could no longer handle the mail sorting and window service alone. More personnel were added until, by the time the original rural carrier, Law, retired in November, 1991, there were a total of three rural carriers along with sub carriers, two "full-time" clerks with a sub clerk, and the postmaster.

PALERMO: On December 11, 1872, the Palermo post office was established with James S. Willets as its first postmaster. Others serving as postmasters at Palermo and their appointment dates were: Luther Corson, September, 1878; Eleanor W. Corson, March, 1887; Amos T. Gandy, April, 1887; Sally Young, July 1889; and Seth W. Corson, October, 1893. The actual history and location of the Palermo post office seems to be "lost". However, we know that it was eventually merged with the Marmora post office, probably prior to the beginning of the 20th century. [*Ed Kay and Smith show a disestablishment date of March 15, 1934 with removal to Ocean City.*]

SEAVILLE: Direction wise, the town of Seaville is south of Palermo and this village had the earliest postal operations in the area. The Seaville post office opened on June 9, 1849 (the year of the famed gold rush), with John Gandy as its first postmaster. There were five postmaster appointments in the short span of 40 years. In addition to Gandy: John Jones, June 29, 1863; Ellis H. Marshall, October 18, 1867; Thomas C. Sharp, November 25, 1885; and (again) Ellis H. Marshall, July 23, 1889. There is a possibility that others served as postmaster but it is definitely known that Brinton Jacob Corson was the last postmaster of Seaville. During his tenure, the post office was located on the east side of Route 9, in a house which was built and occupied by him. The services of a post office were continued in the Seaville village until October 15, 1915, when it was joined to that of Ocean View.

OCEAN VIEW: Ocean View is the town just south of Seaville and, although it is not a physical part of Upper Township, the post office does serve persons living in certain sections of Upper Township. The Ocean View post office was established on May 6, 1830 with William Doolittle in the office. On December 1, 1895, as part of the Post Office Department's rationalization of office names, it became Oceanview (with Clifton Smith in the office). During Albert Way's postmastership, the name reverted to Ocean View on December 1, 1905. Ocean View's Zip Code is 08230. Recent postmasters at Ocean View have been Shaun O'Hara, who left to serve with the Postal Inspection Service, and Louis DeNafo, the current postmaster.

The recent history of Ocean View parallels that of Marmora. When Rural Route Delivery was established in 1973 in Marmora, it also applied to Ocean View. Because the rural route delivery area was in Upper Township, their growth was equal to or exceeded that of Marmora. As of 1991, Ocean View has the same number of employees as Marmora. One big difference between those two post offices was that Ocean View obtained a new, large facility when Marmora was unable to do so. During Albert Way's service, the post office was located in a part of his home. A different location was needed when Mr. Way retired.

In addition to delivering mail in Ocean View, these rural carriers deliver in the Upper Township communities of Seaville, parts of Palermo, and Greenfield. Of Greenfield, there is no known early postal history.

STRATHMERE: East of the town of Seaville is a part of Upper Township that is located along the Atlantic Ocean with its northern tip at Corson's Inlet. John and Peter Corson were the first to sail into the inlet where they established homes. The land on the south side of the inlet became known as Corson's Inlet. This town, along with a small community, Whale Beach, both became Strathmere in 1912. The Strathmere post office, established on January 17, 1912 with George R. McCullough as first postmaster, has always been located in someone's home. It is the kind of post office which has no mail delivery routes and so the people must come there to pick up the mail. This makes for an interesting place for people to meet and learn what is happening around town. Because of its location on the beach and ocean, it is primarily considered a resort area.

Some of the postmasters who have served in Strathmere were Minnie Corson, Katherine McCullough, George Kurtz, and Margaret Wittkamp. In 1988, after Wittkamp retired, Richard Irion was appointed to that position. In April, 1992, Wes Wright became the postmaster.

PETERSBURG: Traveling in a west/northwest direction from any of the towns or post offices already mentioned, you will arrive at Petersburg in the central part of Upper Township. According to legend, an early settler, testing his brothers' land, told him it was of little worth. So the name Littleworth lasted until a century later when Peter Corson became the first postmaster (February 8, 1849) and the town was named Petersburg, after him.

"The Corner Store" was first established in 1834, Peter Corson became the proprietor, and it was here that the first Petersburg post office was located. Later, the store was moved to a different location and is still being used as a dwelling. There was also another store, built in 1825; the post office was located in this store several times over the years.

On October 13, 1893, again as part of the Post Office Department's rationalization program, the "h" was eliminated from Petersburg (as well as all other such post offices in the United States -- only Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania was successful in recapturing the "h"), during Harrison J. Corson's tenure.

Besides Peter Corson, other persons who saw duty at the Petersburg post office included: James Smith, Eliza Smith (his widow), Sara VanGilder, and Ida Detro. In 1936, Detro became postmaster and when she retired, the Petersburg post office was discontinued (July 31, 1959) with Petersburg becoming Rural Route No. 2 out of the Woodbine Post Office.

WOODBINE: The *Woodbine post office*, which moved into a new facility on May 26, 1977, is another post office that is located outside of Upper Township but which deliver mail to those residents living in Upper Township. Besides delivering in their own town, the rural carriers at Woodbine, with four rural routes, service the Upper Township communities of Petersburg, Marshallville, and Tuckahoe. Woodbine was established on December 29, 1891 with Wilbur E. Young in the office. Today, it's Zip Code is 08270 and Don Heckman is in charge.

TUCKAHOE: Tuckahoe is located northwest of Petersburg Once called Williamsburg, it is one of the older villages of Upper Township. A map in the "Historical and Biographical Atlas of the New Jersey Coast" by T.F. Rose, dated 1878, shows the town of Tuckahoe divided by the Tuckahoe River into north and south Tuckahoe, with an alternate designation of Williamsburg for the area south of the river. The name Williamsburg appears to have been used locally, an attempt to honor the first postmaster, John Williams, who was appointed effective January 14, 1828.

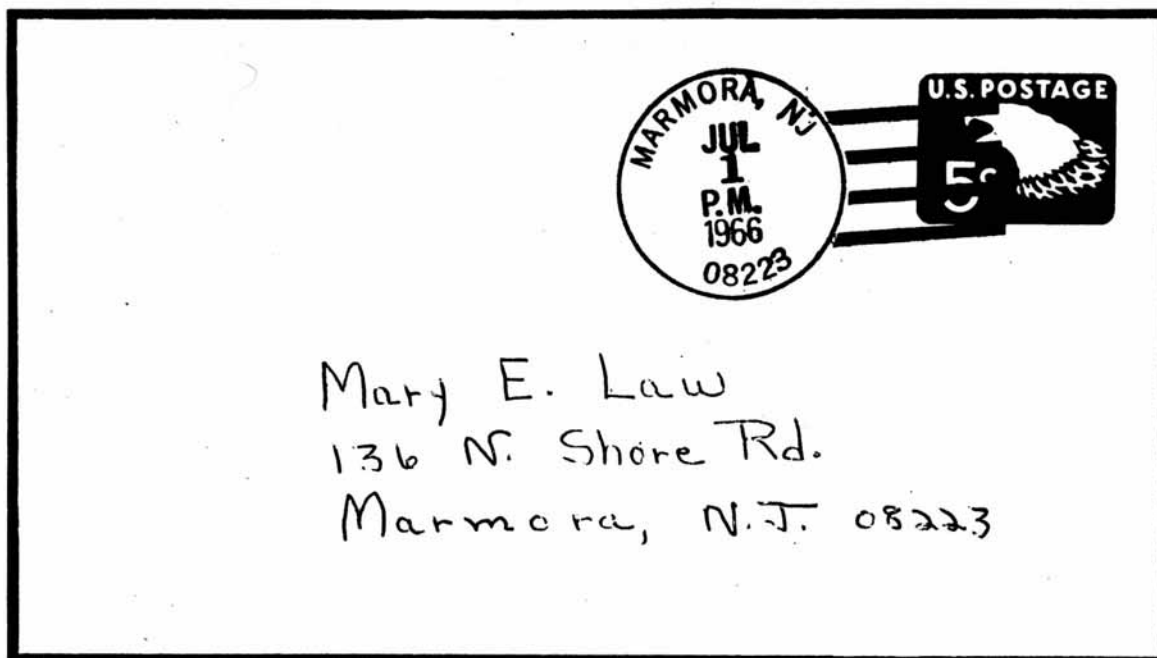
However, it seems doubtful that the name Williamsburg ever achieved any lasting official status since it is not listed in a register of cities, towns and post offices of New Jersey, published in 1880. Can anybody imagine, today, citizens trying to name a post office for any reason? *[Ed.: Yes. The residents of Evesham township in Camden County have been trying to effect a change from Voorhees, unsuccessfully, for over a decade.]*

The postal history here is sketchy, although it is known that Thomas Seeley was postmaster from 1875 to 1883. Today the postmaster in Tuckahoe is Gordon Thomson who is a retired Navy veteran, in addition to his many years with the Postal Service. Although this post office is in a fairly modern facility, it does not have any mail routes and so the people of the area must go to the post office to pick up their mail.

MARSHALLVILLE and STEELMANTOWN: These two villages are located in the most western part of Upper Township. Although they are historical places, the only postal history is that there was a very large store in Marshallville in the 1814 - 1820 period. The store was the heart of the fast growing community and housed the Marshallville post office *[Ed.: Kay and Smith show no post office at Marshallville, so this is new information.]*

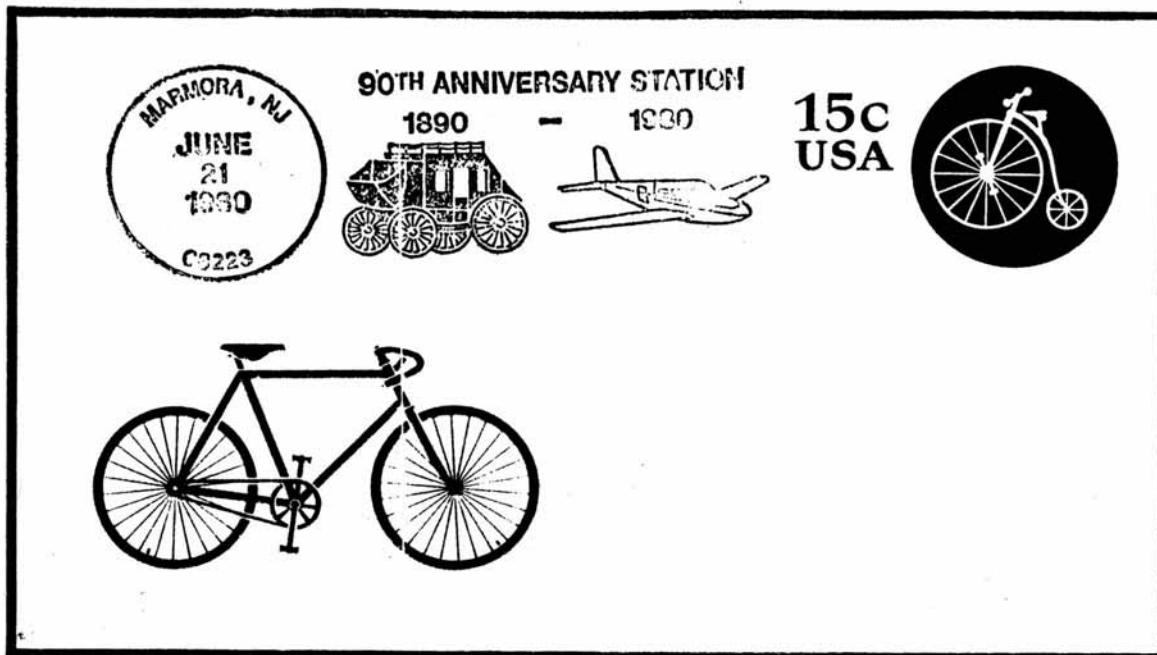
CONCLUSION: Many of the villages in Upper Township once had a post office, and thus made contributions to postal history. But now, with the centralizing of them by the U. S. Postal Service, there are just three physically within the limits of Upper Township to serve the postal needs of its more than 10,000 residents: Marmora, Strathmere and Tuckahoe. There are two additional post offices outside the township that deliver mail to Upper Township residents: Ocean View and Woodbine.

would like to thank the Historical Society of Upper Township for their permission in "History of Upper Township and Its Villages", to be used in this article.

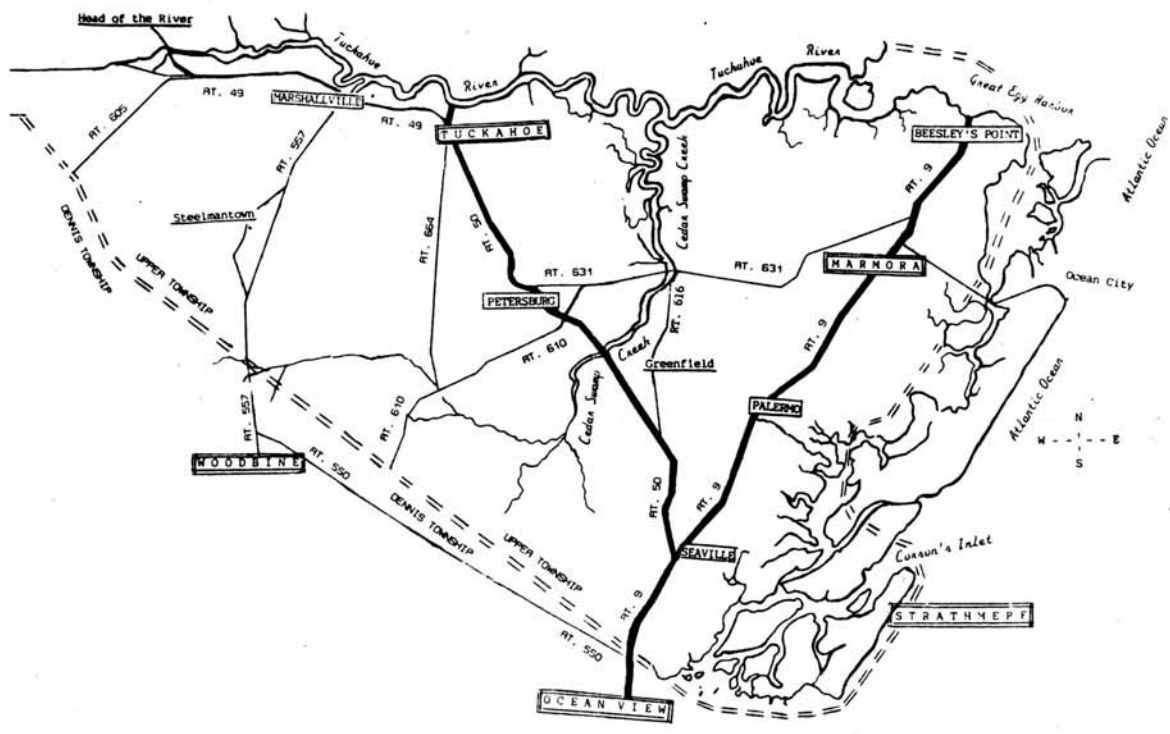


Mary E. Law
136 N. Shore Rd.
Marmora, N.J. 08223

Opening of new post office in Marmora, NJ on July 1, 1966



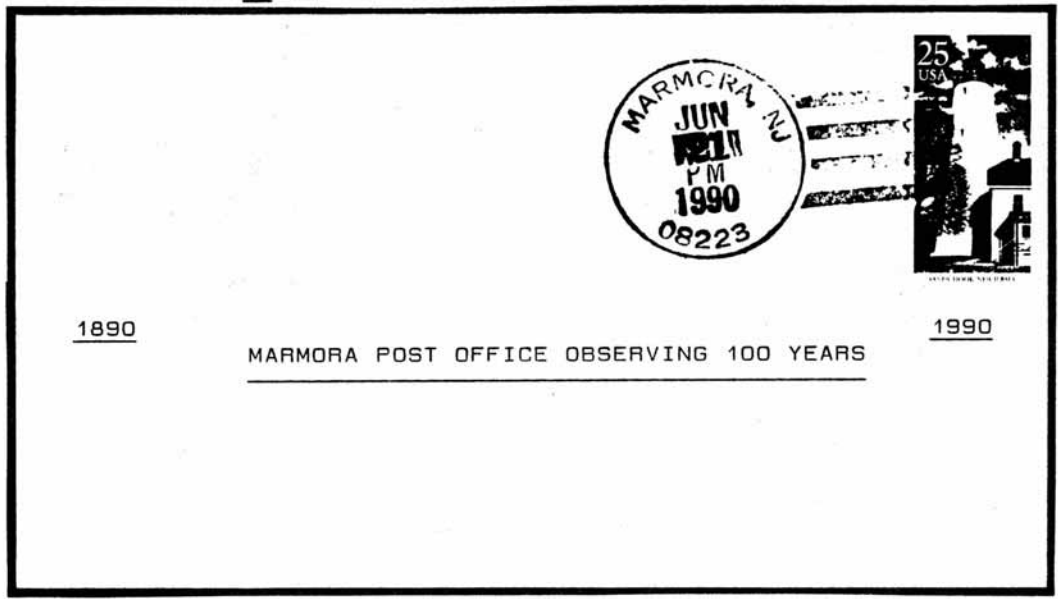
90th Anniversary of Marmora post office - Shaun O'Hara, Postmaster



Upper Township

CODE:

- ONE LINE OUTLINE - TOWNS WITH PAST POSTAL HISTORY
- TWO LINE OUTLINE - TOWNS WITH PAST AND PRESENT POSTAL HISTORY
- UNDERLINED - TOWNS WITH NO POSTAL HISTORY





OBSERVING 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

TOWNSHIP OF UPPER
CAPE MAY COUNTY
RESOLUTION
RESOLUTION NO. 68-6-1990
RE: COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE MARMORA POST OFFICE.

M A R M O R A

P O S T

O F F I C E

1 8 9 0 - 1 9 9 0

WHEREAS, on June 21, 1990, the United States Post Office at Marmora, New Jersey marked one hundred (100) years of service to the community; and

WHEREAS, the Marmora Post Office was first established on June 21, 1890 and Joseph H. Corson was appointed as the first Postmaster; and

WHEREAS, the Marmora Post Office has been in continuous service for one hundred (100) years, meeting the needs of the citizens of this community; and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting and proper to commemorate this occasion.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Upper, in the County of Cape May and State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Township of Upper hereby officially commemorates the one hundredth (100th) anniversary of the Marmora Post Office and further commemorates one hundred (100) years of continuous, dedicated and efficient service to the citizens of this community.

2. A copy of this Resolution, attesting to this action by the Township Committee, and signed by the Mayor and Township Clerk and sealed with the seal of the Township of Upper, shall be presented to Albert P. Bowers, Postmaster.

GIVEN UNDER my hand and sealed with the official seal of the Township of Upper this 25th day of June, 1990.

TOWNSHIP OF UPPER

BY: Louis Diluzio
LOUIS DILUZIO, Mayor

ATTEST:

Barbara A. Camp
BARBARA A. CAMP, R.M.C., Twp. Clerk



March 24, 1993

Editor, NJPH

I enjoyed the article by Mary Law "Postal history of Upper Township in Cape May County NJ", but I would like to point out a few apparent errors, based on information I obtained from the National Archives and published in my book "Post offices and postmasters of Cape May County, New Jersey, 1802 - 1970", and also on additional information supplied to me by John L. Kay in 1975:

Beesleys Point - an earlier post office opened July 6, 1822 under name of Beesleys, discontinued June 12, 1829.

Palermo - the Editor's note agrees with my information (discontinued March 15, 1934) but I believe the mail was transferred to Ocean View, rather than to Ocean City. There were 4 postmasters after Seth Corson.

Ocean View - The post office opened May 6, 1872 rather than 1830, also I have no record of Clifton Smith as a postmaster - Belle Coleman was appointed Sept. 2, 1893 and served until Aug. 4, 1897.

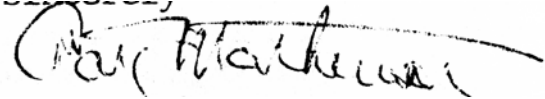
Strathmere - I have no record of Katherine Mc Cullough as a postmaster.

Tuckahoe - There have been 18 postmasters over the years, 3 different "Williams" in the pre-1850 period.

Marshallville - There is no record of a Cape May County post office under this name. Prior to 1878 Marshallville was located approximately on the Caplay-Cumberland County line, and the 1872 Beers map shows the main inter-section to be in Cumberland County.

It would be well for the above to be included in a future issue of NJPH for the information of our members.

Sincerely,



Craig Mathewson

cc Mary Law

NOTE: The above letter to the editor, is in reference to the first part of this series by Mary Law, on the postal history of Cape May County, that appeared in the March 1993 issue of this Journal, Whole # 102 on pages 38 through 44.

September 1993

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POSTAL HISTORY OF CAPE MAY COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

Part 2 of an Article by Mary Law

Prior to the establishment of a postal delivery service, Cape May County's whaler yeoman picked up their mail in Philadelphia. They collected mail that could have been held for substantial periods; there exist post office newspaper advertisements directed to county residents, informing them that mail was being held. Private carriage of the mail was frequently resorted to, with horseback riders or ships likely transport means; stagecoach service to Cape May seems to postdate the American Revolution.

POSTAL HISTORY OF DENNIS TOWNSHIP.

DENNIS CREEK: Although this area, in the 1700s, was variously known as Cedar Creek, Sluice Creek, and Dennis Creek, the opening here of the first U.S. post office in Cape May made Dennis Creek the officially accepted name. The Dennis Creek post office was established on October 9, 1802.

At the time, Dennis Creek was still a part of Upper Township, but 24 years later, the New Jersey Assembly created Dennis Township from the southern half of Upper. This placed Dennis Creek in Dennis Township.

During its 52-year history, Dennis Creek had five postmasters beginning with Jeremiah Johnson, followed by James Diverty, Jacob Smith, and Jacob Souder. On January 12, 1854, while John L. Chance was postmaster, the name was changed to Dennisville post office.

DENNISVILLE: More than 18 postmaster appointments followed John L. Chance at Dennisville.

The Dennisville post office is presently housed in a building that finally opened in April 1991, not without some difficulties. During Roseanna Robinson's tenure as postmaster, her home served as the post office. Upon her retirement on January 1, 1987, the South Dennis post office assumed responsibility for delivering the Dennisville mail. In 1988, The U.S. Postal Service purchased the Dennis Township public works garage, which they then completely renovated into a modern postal facility. Despite new furnishings, a fresh coat of paint, a sign, a flag pole in front, and plenty of parking, the facility remained unused to the early Spring 1991; the Postal Service had not assigned a postmaster and it is difficult to run a post office without a postmaster.

According to the present postmaster, Frank Germana, only persistent pressure from local residents led to the facility's opening. Germana was appointed on December 28, 1991, nearly five years after Mrs. Robinson's retirement.

SOUTH SEAVILLE: Located near the center of Dennis Township, South Seaville was established with the advent of the railroad. It became the railhead for large amounts of wood for the iron foundries and glass furnaces in other parts of the state. As business increases, so did population, and the demand for postal services.

The South Seaville post office opened on September 7, 1867 with Remington Corson as postmaster. He served in this capacity from 1867 to 1881, and again from 1889 to 1893. In the 125 years since establishment, this post office has had 14 postmasters and many different locations in homes and stores. In the early years, the Corson and Westcott families seemed to supply most of the postmasters, sometimes more than once. By the 1920s, other names became evident: Warren Laricks in 1928, Harold Morely in 1942, Mary Thorpe/Ratcliffe with two separate terms, and Samuel VanSant in 1963. The current postmaster is Joan Sorenson.

The South Seaville mail stages served Townsend's Inlet (now Clermont and Swainton) and the Shore Road towns of Seaville, Palermo, Marmora, and Beesley's Point.

OCEAN VIEW: On May 6, 1872 the Post Office Department established the Ocean View post office with William Doolittle as postmaster. With changing department policies about one or two-word post office names, this office's name became Oceanview in 1895 and Ocean View again in 1905.

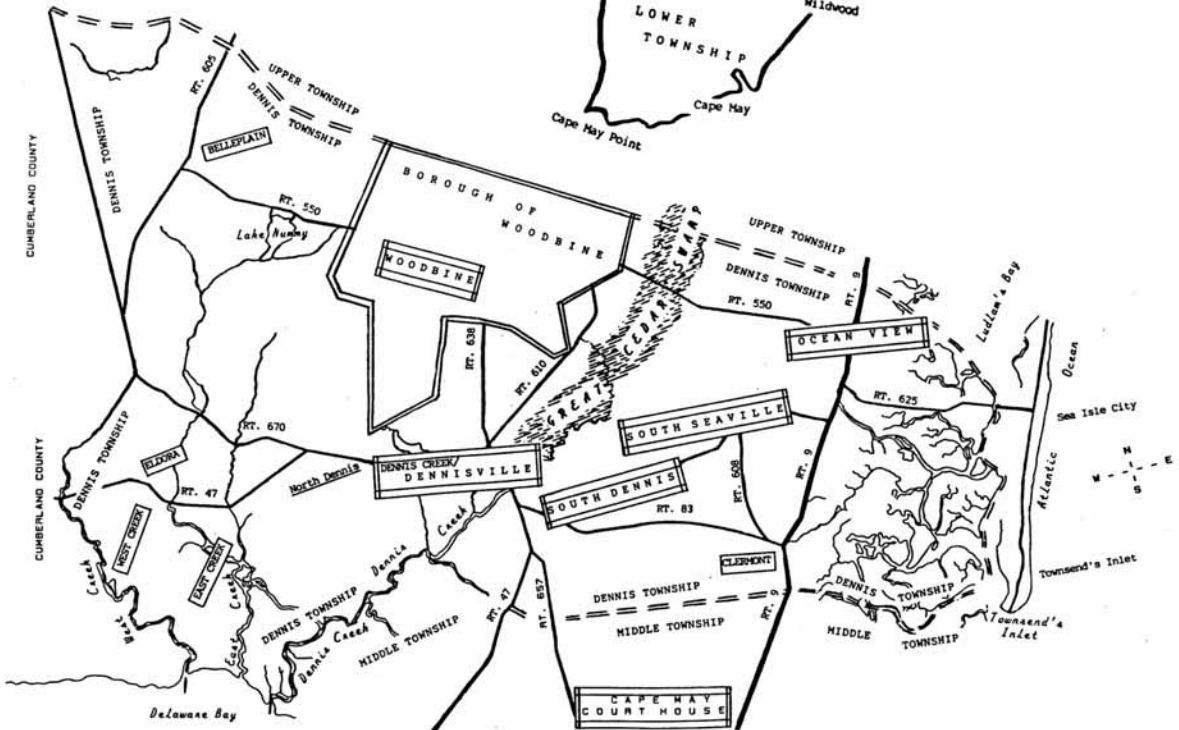
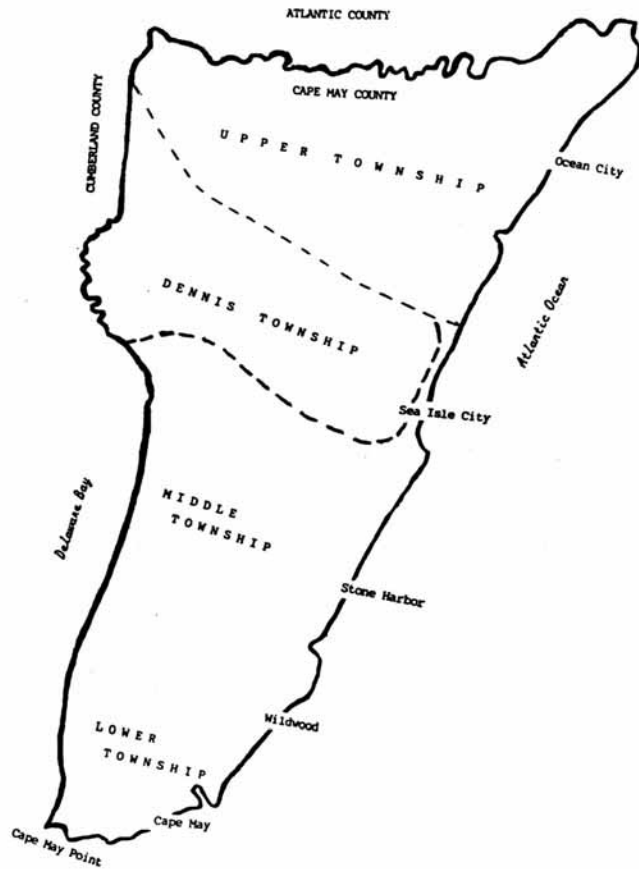
As with most other rural post offices, Ocean View was housed in a country store that became the local social center and meeting place. In the mid 1980s, this post office moved into a new building located on the main highway through town.

DENNIS TOWNSHIP
Cape May County
New Jersey

TWO LINE OUTLINE:
 Post Offices with
 past & present history

ONE LINE OUTLINE:
 Post Offices with
 past history

UNDERLINE:
 Towns with no
 postal history



Prior to 1863, the (old) Rising Sun Inn at the Woodbine Road served as a stage stop between Philadelphia and Cape May. With the opening of the railroad to Cape May and its capture of the mail contracts, the stagecoaches were gradually abandoned.

After Doolittle, the following postmasters have served:

| | |
|---------------------|------|
| Stephen T. Coleman | 1885 |
| Shagmar C. Townsend | 1889 |
| Belle S. Coleman | 1893 |
| Albert Way | 1897 |
| Elizabeth Way | 1919 |
| Joseph L. Donahue | 1924 |
| Susie G. Downam | 1926 |
| Janet C. Adams | 1943 |
| Rhoda B. Downam | 1946 |
| Evelyn H. Way | 1954 |
| Shaun O'Hara | 1980 |
| Howard Gendem | 1987 |
| Louis DeNafo | 1988 |

At various times the Ocean View post office has absorbed other postal entities. Mail and postal duties were transferred to Ocean View from Seaville (Upper Township) in 1915, and Palermo (Upper Township) in 1934. For additional information on Ocean View while in Upper Township, refer to the previous installment of this article.

SOUTH DENNIS: With Robert Hutchison as the first postmaster, the South Dennis post office opened on February 24, 1873. Seven years later, South Dennis was called "a post village separated from Dennisville by the Dennis Creek."

Two other Hutchisons have served as postmasters: Rhoda L. and Mortimer T., although Mortimer served only 20 days and was replaced by Margaret C. Carl in 1891.

Six postmasters have served South Dennis in the 20th century: Josephine Douglas, George Stenecker, Otis McKaig, Leslie Stiles, Ruth Visick/Quillian, and Charles Minahan.

CLERMONT: On February 4, 1886 the Clermont post office was opened with Chester J. Todd as the first postmaster. Only two other postmasters served here: Martha Y. Kates and Zebulon T. Kates. The office closed on January 31, 1916 with the mail transferred to the Cape May Court House post office in Middle Township.

EAST CREEK: A post office was established at East Creek on April 22, 1842, when John Wilson assumed the postmastership; he held the position until his death on December 23, 1875. Bell P. Wilson took over on January 5, 1876. Three years later, on January 23, 1879, Asbury Goff became the last postmaster of East Creek.

In 1880, East Creek was listed as "a post village on the creek of the same name, four miles southwest of Woodbine with a population of 151."

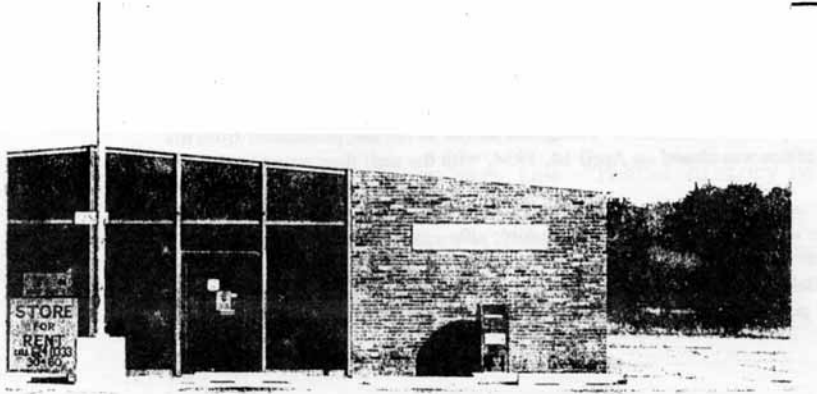
For a short time, East Creek became Eastcreek, again during that period of POD name-consolidation, but this was insignificant as the post office was discontinued on October 31, 1899 and the mail transferred to Eldora.

WEST CREEK: The West Creek post office was on the stage route that carried the mail from the Belleplain railroad station via West Creek to the Delmont post office. The contract to carry the mail was let by competitive bidding. The state made two round trips daily and carried both mail and passengers.

In addition to his duties with the mail, the West Creek postmaster, like many of his counterparts, met many of his neighbors' needs by supplying newspapers, many patent medicines, and all kinds of tobacco products.

The "original" post office building was about 14 by 20 feet with a bare interior, although benches were provided as resting places for the neighbors who gathered there for the evening mail and to discuss the problems of the day.

Since Ocean County also had a West Creek post office, the Post Office Department requested, then changed the Cape May County West Creek to Eldora.



OCEAN VIEW NJ post office



SOUTH SEAVILLE NJ post office



The smallest post office, located in SOUTH DENNIS NJ prior to its discontinuance in 1987. Plans to move it to a local museum never materialized and it was eventually demolished.

ELDORA: The Eldora post office opened on April 9, 1892, with Howard Goff as postmaster. He served at Eldora until 1894 when Isaac W. Lawson assumed the position. Carlos M. Broughton served as the last postmaster from his appointment on January 11, 1902. The office was closed on April 14, 1934, with the mail then going to the Woodbine post office.

Belle Plain: Prior to 1890, a post office was established at this community, although its name is uncertain. At the time, it was located in Cumberland County, but with boundary changes, the town became part of Dennis Township in 1890. _

According to one account, the Belleplain post office was established on December 12th of that year with Albert T. Peacock as postmaster. Other postmasters were:

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| George Blinn | 1893 |
| Lilburn M. Hess | 1897 |
| Rutherford B. Hess | 1903 |
| Howard G. Somers | 1908 |
| Rollen B. Mason | 1915 |

On April 18, 1921, the Post Office Department recorded a name change to Belle Plain post office, although on state maps, it is still a single word. At the time of the "name changing," Howard G. Somers began his second term as postmaster. He probably remained in office until the post office was discontinued on December 31, 1934. Mail was transferred to the Woodbine post office.

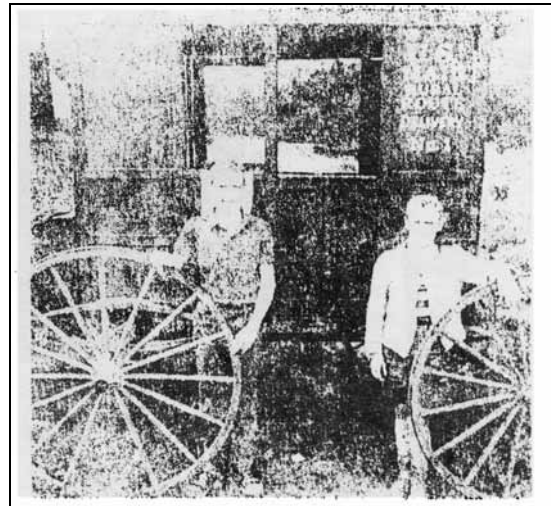
Some of these post offices in the villages and towns of Dennis Township no longer show up on the "post office map." The U.S. Postal Service, in modernizing its service to each community, has only four post offices physically within Dennis Township: Ocean View, Dennisville, South Seaville, and South Dennis. An additional two outside the township deliver mail to its residents: Woodbine and Cape May Court House.

References:

Craig Mathewson, Jr., *Post Offices & Postmasters of Cape May County, New Jersey (1802-1970)*
_____, private communications providing updates to the above.
Cape May County Magazine of History and Genealogy, various issues.
Bill Robinson, *Township Times* newspaper

To be continued

Two modern-day children pose beside an old-fashioned rural route delivery wagon



POSTAL HISTORY OF CAPE MAY COUNTY, NJ ...continued By Mary Law

Early transportation of the mails to and from Cape May County was accomplished by stagecoach lines having their origin in Camden, NJ, and also serving the southern counties of Gloucester, Salem and Cumberland, as well as portions of Camden and Atlantic counties. The earliest records found show a stage mail route was established in 1804, and ran from Woodbury in Gloucester County through Bridgeton, Millville and Port Elizabeth in Cumberland County to Cape May. Benaiah Parvine and his son, of Bridgeton, were the first to carry mail on this route.

To better serve the public, post offices in Cape May County have recently extended their Saturday window hours, thus giving the public four hours (8:30am -12:30) to conduct week-end business.

CHAPTER III: POSTAL HISTORY OF MIDDLE TOWNSHIP

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE: This second Cape May County post office was established here in the county seat on January 1, 1803. Jeremiah Hand was appointed as the first postmaster and it is believed that this post office was located in his home in a front room. The location was here in Cape May Court House where the branch of Sturdy Savings and Loan Association is currently standing, on State Highway 9 and Hand Avenue.

Since its opening, 23 postmasters have been in charge of this post office; there were three who served two non-consecutive terms: James Hildreth, Charles Nichols and Horace Richardson. One of these men, Charles Nichols, was appointed in 1885 by President Grover Cleveland but served only until 1889 when he was elected sheriff. Four years later, in 1893, he was back to his former position as postmaster. Postmaster Howard Gendron has been in charge of the Cape May Court House post office since his appointment in 1990; This year (1993) marks 190 years that C.M.C.H. has been performing its postal functions.

In his story, "Uncle Sam's Mail and Me", written in 1954, Everett B. Townsend, Sr., tells of his experiences as the first rural mail carrier at the Cape May Court House Post Office:

It was 1916 when once again I started carrying the mail. A civil service examination was announced for a rural mail route to be established out of Cape May Court House. Forty-three took the exam from whom I was chosen to be the first appointed rural mail carrier. I bought my first automobile -- a model T Ford which we named Nancy, and modifications were made to it. The route was 42 miles in length and there was not a foot of paved road.

Townsend then describes all the winter routines needed and used to keep the car on its appointed path. At the Court House post office, he sorted the mail in the rotation of its delivery. The route encompassed South Seaville, South Dennis, Goshen, Dias Creek, Upper Green Creek, terminating at the northernmost road to Wildwood, then north back to Court House. He had a "deputy" who rode with him during the rougher winter months, and was paid a flat salary with all equipment and other expenses born by the rural carrier. Townsend carried the mail for three years but, following an exceptionally bad winter, he put an advertisement in the Rural Carriers' newspaper seeking a trade to a clerkship. This nearly went through but then he decided he no longer wanted to be Uncle Sam's messenger, and he delivered the mail for the last time on September 15, 1918. Townsend concludes his story with the thought that if he had had paved roads, milder winters, automobile turn key starting, heaters and right-hand drive, he might have lasted longer. In 1953, the Cape May Court House Post Office observed its 150th anniversary with a big celebration. Nation-wide coverage was given to this affair, and, of course, was written about locally. This story concerns itself with local reports. From an article by Clare Campbell in The Cape May County Magazine of History and Genealogy:

Cape May County residents had the thrill of a lifetime on January 5th when the old stagecoach and many colonial costumes were dusted off in celebration of the Cape May Court House post office's 150th birthday. Karl Dickinson, custodian of the local museum, and Colonel E. O. Howell, postmaster, dreamed up the (entire affair). They, and the entire staff of the post office, (along with) many friends of the Historical Society, staged a re-enactment of the first mail delivery to the county seat...done in a most convincing and authentic manner.

June 8, 1915.

Hon. Isaac Bacharach,
House of Representatives.

My Dear Mr. Bacharach:

I am in receipt of your communication of the 7th instant, requesting that favorable consideration be given the question of improving the mail service in Cape May County, New Jersey, in connection with which you state that you have had some correspondence with the Department.

In reply I beg to state that this Bureau is unable to identify the service in question, but if you will kindly state whether star or rural service is desired and the office or offices from which the service would operate I shall be glad to give the matter careful consideration.

Sincerely yours,



A. B. [unclear]
Fourth Assistant Postmaster General.

These papers most probably concerned and preceded the appointment of Everett Townsend, Sr. (whose R.F.D. story is told here.)

1915.

Cape May Court House, New Jersey.

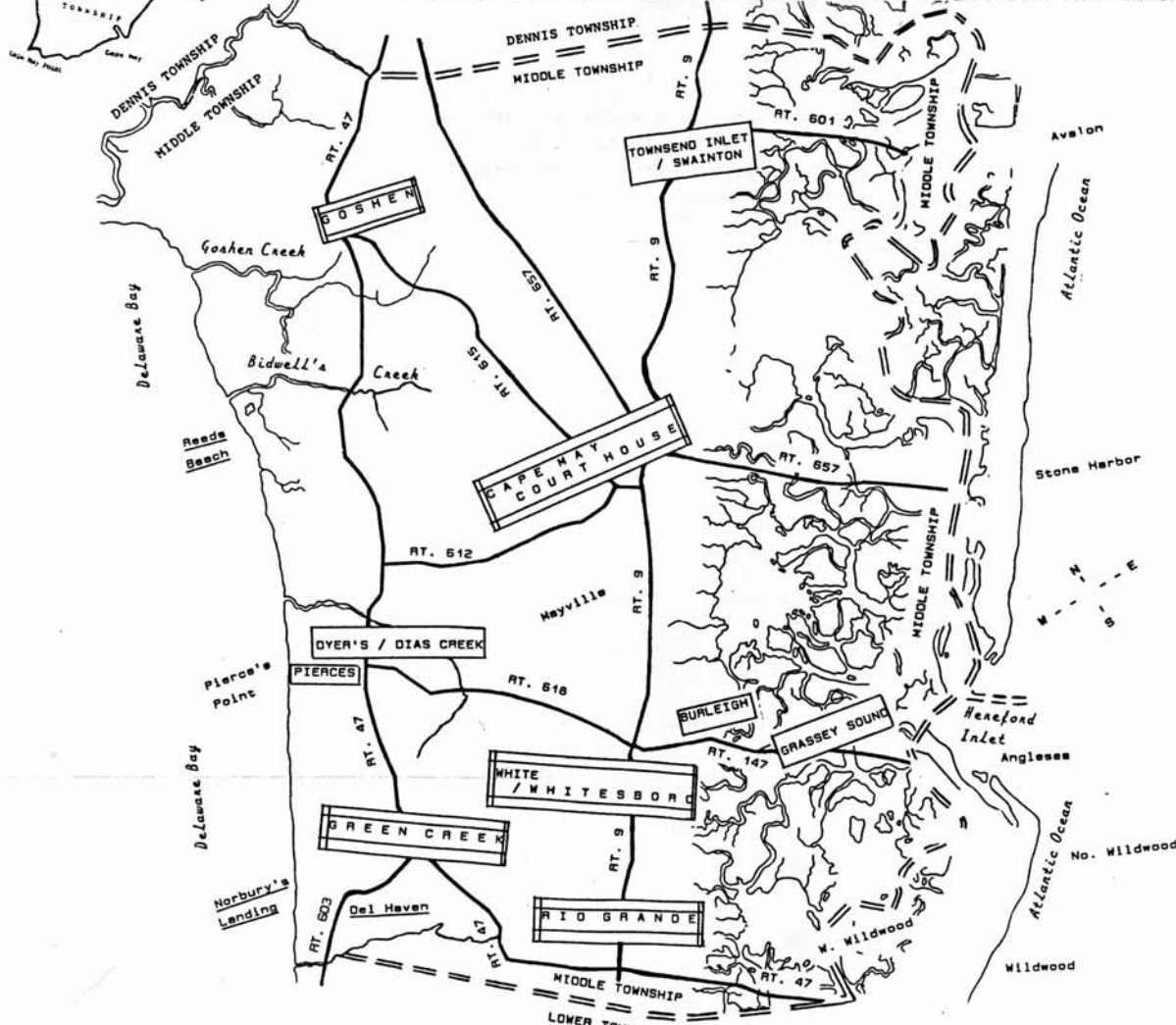
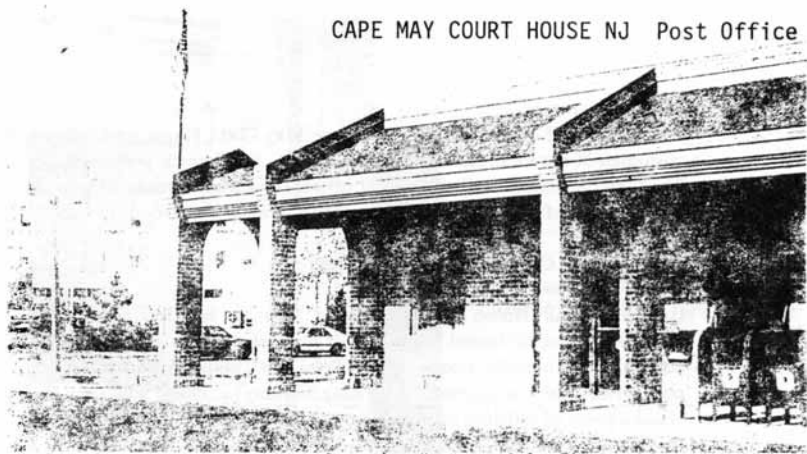
You are directed to immediately return to this Office the petition of James B. Hand and other residents of Mayville, Burleigh, His Grande, and Green Creek, New Jersey, for the establishment of a rural route to extend west and southwest from Cape May Court House which was returned to you without action sometime ago, it having been decided to refer the matter to a representative of the Department for investigation.

Please refer to this letter when returning the petition.

Fourth Assistant.



CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE NJ Post Office



From *The Cape May County Gazette* newspaper:

Cape May Court House's first postmaster, County Clerk Jeremiah Hand met the south bound stage when it stopped at the court house and took the mail from a Washington delegate, who brought greetings from President Thomas Jefferson. Hand then went to his desk (in the post office) and was approached by King Nummy, a (chief) with the Lenni-Lenape Indians. The king gave Hand a piece of sailcloth on which were drawings protesting to the President that white men were stealing the Indians' clam and oyster grounds. When Hand refused wampum for the post, King Nummy included a couple of arrow heads, and the communication was accepted for mailing.

The stage driver and his assistant drove up to the old court house in a red stagecoach drawn by a pair of horses. Passengers, dressed in 19th century finery, included King Nummy and his squaw (Mr. and Mrs. Henry Spaulding); the Washington delegate (Col. E.O. Howell); Postmaster Jeremiah Hand (Karl Dickenson); and post office employees (Mrs. Thomas Wright and Preston Fisher). The postmaster and the chief then staged their mock argument at the desk of the first postmaster, which was fixed up with a newspaper, sheriff's sale poster, quill, spectacles, a candle, letters and letter opener of the early 1800's. It was noted that the event offered a never-to-be-forgotten history lesson to younger people who, up to then, thought of history as just something "long ago and far away."

As a part of the post office anniversary celebration, some related items were on display at the Cape May County Museum. Along with some stamp collections, there was a special display of several old letters dating from 1820 to 1851. The letters, mailed before stamps were used, were in their original jackets, and among other places, bear postmarks of Dennis Creek in Cape May County, and New Jersey communities such as Perth Amboy, Trenton, Salem, Pemberton and Haddonfield.

GOSHEN: A creek in this area had received its Biblical name, Goshen Creek, and as the community grew, it took the name of the nearby stream. Situated between South Dennis and Dias Creek, Goshen received a post office, the fifth in Cape May County, on June 5, 1818, with Richard Thompson as the first postmaster. The Philadelphia to Cape Island mail stagecoach stopped in Goshen in 1843. Seven more postmasters were in charge of the Goshen post office before it was discontinued on October 9, 1852. It was re-established six months later on April 2, 1853 with John W. Swain as postmaster.

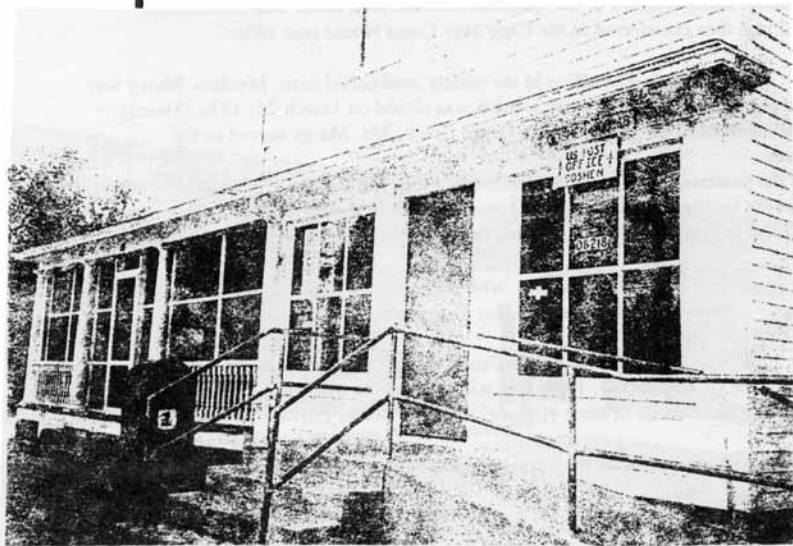
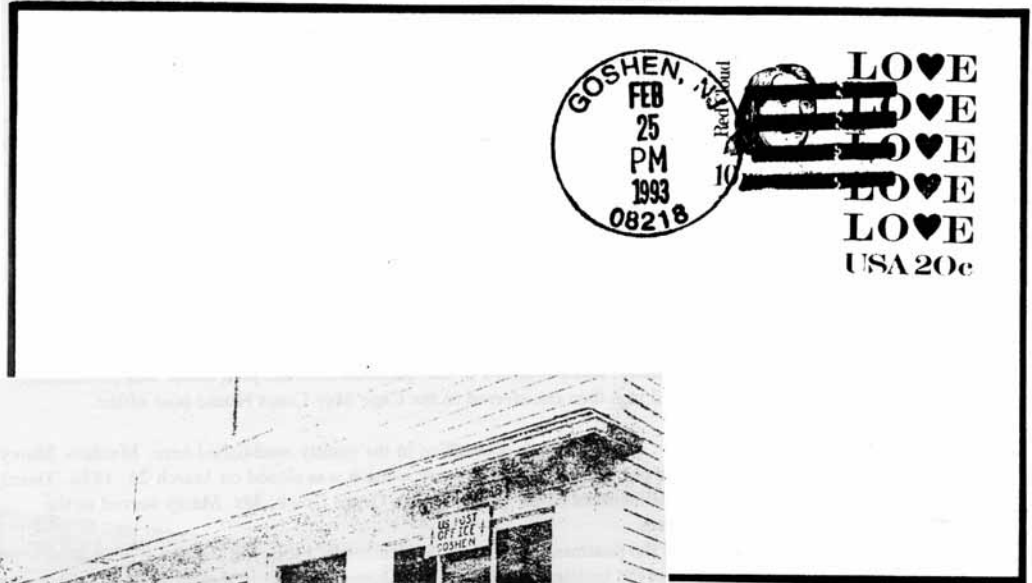
Nelson Smith served the town as postmaster for the longest period. He not only sorted the mail, sold stamps, and accommodated his neighbors in this position, but also had enough interest in his town and the post office to secure the complete records and compile them. However, some of this may have been lost when the post office/store burned down in 1920. The current post office building was erected in 1922.

Nelson Smith's service as postmaster encompassed 39 years and seven months beginning on July 30, 1909, and ending early in 1949. As they say "it's in the blood". Nelson Smith's father, Griffin Smith, served as the postmaster at the old store from 1865 to 1870; Nelson's daughter, Ida, held the position for seven years beginning in 1960; and then his granddaughter, Ida Rebecca Valleley was appointed in April of 1967 and is the current postmaster.

The next longest length of service was accomplished by Anna H. Grace, who had the post office for 16 years, from 1889 to 1905. She is more than likely a relative of Goshen's "most famous son", Eugene Grace, a president of Bethlehem Steel; his home in Goshen is used now as a parsonage.



Ida Rebecca Valleley,
current GOSHEN Postmaster



GOSHEN NJ
Post Office

DYER'S CREEK, DIAS CREEK: The Dyer's Creek post office opened on March 30, 1824, with Stillwell Hildreth as the first postmaster. This town was on one of the main stagecoach routes from Philadelphia, and an article in *The Bridgeton Observer* listed Dias Creek as one of the principle settlements in the county. It turns out that Postmaster Hildreth, by a letter he wrote to Joseph Watson, the mayor of Philadelphia, left us a story, interesting but sad, of the dangers encountered on the streets of that city. The account, taken from a story by Craig Mathewson, Jr., who is in possession of the letter and envelope used by Hildreth, describes how he was attacked as he made his way on foot from an evening theater performance to the ferry that crossed the Delaware River to New Jersey. Hildreth wrote:

... I proceeded on some distance, but before I got to Chestnut St. I heard a man coming up behind me slipping very quick, and just as I was going to turn round I (received) the blow and at the same time cryed out murder, and the ruffen made his escape. ... The people in the house where I was knocked down came to my assistance and the watchman conveyed me to the ferry.

... I did not loose any money by them, the injury which they done me in consequence of the blow is very grate. I have been very sick for some time past, 6 weeks I may say I have been very ill and am now confined to my room. ... I am in hopes now by being careful to be restored to my former health again.

In his letter to the Mayor, Hildreth gave a fairly detailed description of three men who he thought had been the culprits. He concluded by saying, "I am very much obliged to you in making the enquiry respecting the ruffians ... nothing would be more gratifying to me than to hear they are detected. "

The post office at Dyer's Creek operated for only five years until it was closed on May 16, 1829, while John Ogden, Jr. was postmaster. When it was re established on September 9, 1850, as the Dias Creek post office, Charles K. Holmes was the postmaster, and served for 20 years.

Although Alexander Springer began his postmaster duties in 1870, he was replaced four years later by Thomas Learning. In 1886, Lizzie Erickson took over the position. Her brother Ephraim had left for the Klondike, and she was operating his store that also included the post office. But in 1889, Learning again became the Dias Creek postmaster. When Ephraim returned, he built a new store on the corner of the Dias Creek Road and the Delsea Drive. On August 26, 1893, he became the eighth postmaster but after four years, Howard Douglass took over the post office and remained there for the next 18 years. In 1915, Ephraim Errickson once again became the Dias Creek postmaster, and continued in that position until the post office was permanently closed on August 30, 1924. The mail was then transferred to the Cape May Court House post office.

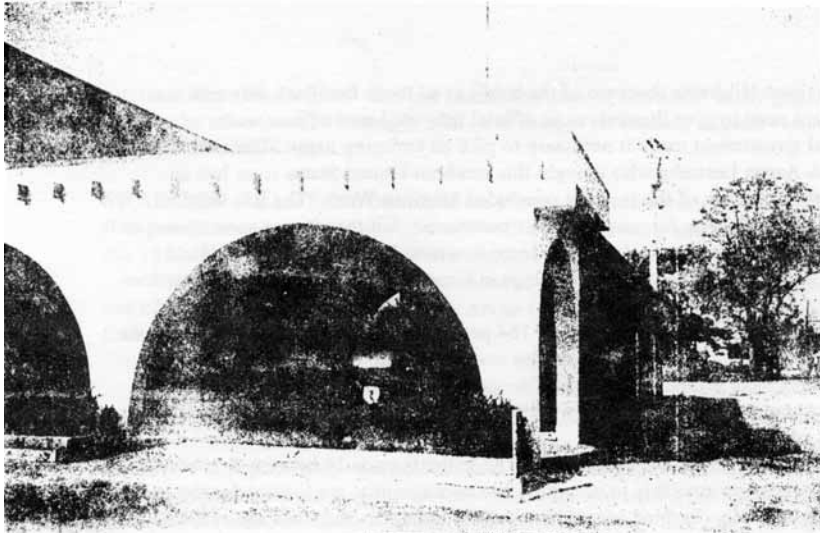
GREEN CREEK: August 27, 1829, saw the eighth post office in the county established here. Matthew Marcy was chosen to keep the office and he was postmaster for seven years when it was closed on March 26, 1836. Twenty-one years later, following the re-establishment of the post office in Green Creek, Mr. Marcy served as the postmaster for an additional four years.

Seth Miller was appointed as the postmaster when, on September 9, 1850, the Green Creek post office was re-established. It was at this time that the spelling was changed to Greenecreek but in the early 1900's, the name once again became Green Creek. So far, 15 postmasters have served this post office including four Millers: Seth, Aaron, James and Seth, Jr.

The postmaster with the longest service was Seth Miller, Jr. with 40 years. He was appointed on March 17, 1899 during the Theodore Roosevelt administration. The Cape May County Gazette January 12, 1940 announced that he would retire January 31, 1940.

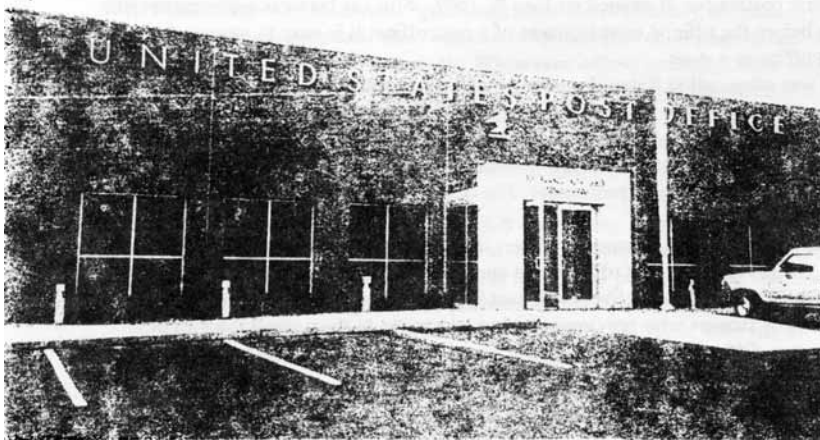
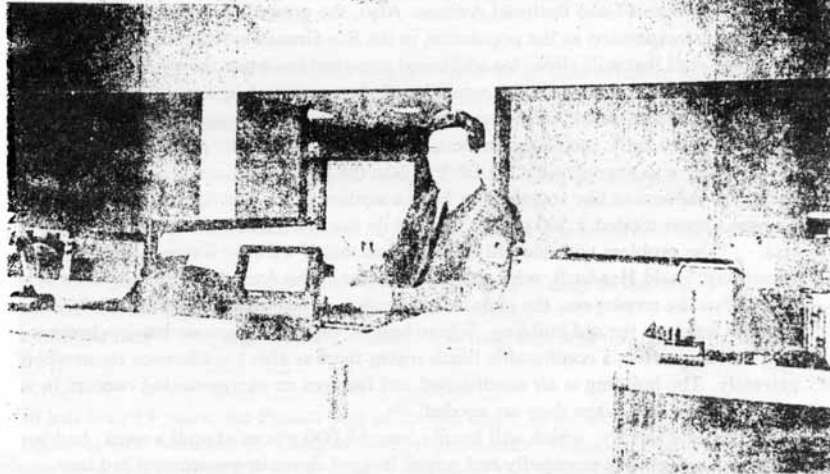
September 9, 1993 marks the 150th anniversary of the Green Creek post office. Charlotte M. McPeake is the new postmaster, having been appointed on January 23, 1993. She will continue to direct the postal needs of this rural community that is located at the cross-roads of State Highway 510 and Delsea Drive.

RIO GRANDE: This community was an appropriate spot for a stagecoach terminus in the early 1700's.



RIO GRANDE NJ
Old Post Office

Enjoying the luxury of the new RIO GRANDE post office, Clerk Tom King awaits his next customer.



RIO GRANDE NJ
New Post Office

Sometimes called Learnings and sometimes Hildreths (because of the holdings of those families), this area was actually nameless. People felt no urgent need to give themselves an official title until post offices were established. This branch of the federal government made it necessary to pick an enduring name. The community was named Rio Grande by the seventh Aaron Learning who thought this southern United States river had an attractive sound (and perhaps due to the influence of the recently concluded Mexican War). The Rio Grande post office opened here on February 15, 1849, with Jeremiah Hand as postmaster, but then it was soon closed on September 9, 1850. With its reopening on September 6, 1856, the name was now Riogrande and Mr. Hand continued as the postmaster. (There were no more post office openings in Cape May County until after the close of the Civil War.)

An 1880 description of Rio Grande called it a post hamlet of 184 persons on the West Jersey Railroad, six and a half miles north, northeast of Cape May. By 1905, the spelling reverted to Rio Grande Post Office.

Thus far, a total of 14 postmasters have served this office. The present postmaster, Harry Headrick, has served in both the old building in the shopping mall, and the new building opened on October 17, 1992. It is not only Cape May County's newest post office but also its largest.

It offers many advantages to the public and to the employees. The lobby is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and special parcel post lockers are available to accommodate packages that are too big for the regular post office boxes. The building is totally disabled-accessible. Vehicle entrances and exits are available from both Route 47 and Railroad Avenue. Also, the grounds have been attractively landscaped. The design provides for expansion as the population in the Rio Grande area continues to grow. A side of the building has a knockout wall that will allow for additional construction when the need arises. The \$1.8 million facility at the corner of Railroad Avenue and Route 47 will share some of its space with the Villas post office.

The Villas branch will remain open for purchase of stamps, and for those who have post office boxes there, but most of the staff, including carriers, will be stationed at the new building.

No one is happier with the facility than the postmaster and his staff of four carriers and two clerks. For them, the move was like transferring from a sardine can to the Astrodome. Their old building in the Village Shoppe Center totaled 1,500 square feet, while the new building is more than nine times as large at 14,000 square feet. "The problem with the old building was that if we ever wanted something we had to move something to get something," said Headrick, who was a supervisor at the Atco post office when a new building was erected there.

For the employees, the main workshop has a total area of between 10,000 and 11,000 square feet, seven times as much as the old building. Where before, the employees ate lunch wherever they could find space, the new building offers a comfortable lunch room; there is also a conference room where Headrick may talk privately. The building is air conditioned and features an energy-saving concept in which the lights go on automatically only when they are needed.

The new facility, which will handle over 16,000 pieces of mail a week, had been in the planning stages since 1980, but the project reportedly had gotten bogged down in government red tape.

TOWNSEND INLET: A post office was established in this community where Swainton and Clermont are now located. With William Stites as the first postmaster, it opened on June 9, 1849. Stites is listed as a postmaster of Townsend, during 1826-27, 22 years before the official establishment of a post office; it is easy to assume that Stites, in the earlier years, had a post office in a store.

The nearby town of Clermont was often called Kates Corner because a Mrs. Kates had a small store with a post office in her home; in some accounts, she is even listed as the first postmaster of Clermont.

Getting back to Townsend Inlet, the second postmaster was Chauncey Brower. He held the position from 1861 to 1867 and was succeeded by William Hewitt who remained postmaster for five years. Talitha Brower, who operated the post office in her general store, was the next postmaster. She began in 1872 and she kept these duties for ten years.

On April 13, 1896, forty seven years and eight postmasters later, the Townsend Inlet post office name was changed to the Swainton post office. In 1896, while post office name changing was occurring in Cape May County, in other parts of the United States, Rural Free Delivery was just beginning (see March 1993 NJPH). This would bring home delivery to thousands of farmers who previously had to take a trip to the nearest town to pick up their mail and parcels. There were two different post offices whose names were nearly the same: Townsend Inlet and Townsend's Inlet. The one mentioned above (Townsend Inlet) is now served by Cape May Court House; the other one (Townsend's Inlet) was located on Ludlam's Beach (which, until recently, served as a station of Sea Isle City).

SWAINTON: Luther Swain continued his postmaster duties from the Townsend Inlet post office and became the first postmaster of the Swainton post office. He later served a separate three year postmaster term. On August 30, 1919, the Swainton post office was discontinued and the mail transferred to Cape May Court House. Everett B. Townsend, Sr., in 1954, wrote some stories about the area of Middle Township where he grew up. In one of them, "Some Random Thoughts About Clermont, Its Places and People", his reminisces partly concern his first experience with the post office.

The area which is now Swainton and Clermont was originally called Townsend's Inlet and a post office by that name was operated by Taliltha Brower in her general store. It was located at the corner of Shore Road and Brooks Avenue, and in 1954 it was an antique shop. As houses became more numerous, it was decided to establish two post offices. Swain Station was the next stop on the West Jersey Railroad south of South Seaville. The road from the Shore Road to Goshen passed the station. At the Shore Road end of the road, on the east side, was the home of the first Swainton postmaster, George Eldridge. The house has since burned and was owned by Anhalt at the time of its destruction.

As a boy, (c. 1890) I carried the mail sack on my back from Swain Station to the post office in the morning and called for it in the afternoon. At the station, I attached it to a crane near the tracks where the express, without stopping, swung out an arm and snatched the bag into the mail car.

As described above under Cape May Court House, Townsend also served as a rural mail carrier.

BURLEIGH: As early as 1695, this community was known as Gravelly Run. Later, it was known as Mayville, which was a hamlet near Cape May Court House. On May 13, 1886, a post office was established here with Deborah Carey as the first postmaster. Two other postmasters served the Burleigh post office prior to its closing on August 31, 1909. They were Maggie McPherson and Garner T. Hand. The mail then was transferred to the White post office.

PIERCES: With a life history of less than 19 years, the Pierces post office can easily be overlooked. But there was one and it was established on August 6, 1897 with Joseph Camp as the first postmaster. The second (and last) postmaster, Harry I. Fisher, began his duties on May 22, 1914, and the closing of this post office came on January 30, 1916. Mail was transferred to Cape May Court House.

WHITESBORO: The Henry W. Spauldings were the first family to settle in this community, probably in the first year of the 20th century; their son, Theodore, was the first child born here. A post office was established here on August 11, 1903, and was known as the White post office, in honor of the founder of the community, former Congressman George White. The first postmaster was Henry W. Spaulding. During his tenure, on October 26, 1909, it was changed to the Whitesboro post office. Besides Spaulding, eight other persons have served as postmasters at Whitesboro. Presently, it is located in the center of town directly on State Highway # 9 in the home of the present postmaster, Jeanette Richardson.

GRASSEY SOUND: This Middle Township community eventually lost its post office to the Borough of Wildwood but there was a Grassey Sound post office for 25 years. It was established on January 11, 1910 with William T. Royds as the first postmaster. In less than a year and a half, beginning in May of 1920, three persons served as postmasters until the office was discontinued on August 15, 1922.

Grassey Sound was re-established again on July 21, 1924, with Ida M. Schmiech as postmaster. But this post office was evidently "not-to-be" as it was closed on May 31, 1935, three years after Charles Norton, Jr., was appointed postmaster in 1932. The mail was then transferred to the Wildwood post office, a Borough of Cape May County.

REFERENCES:

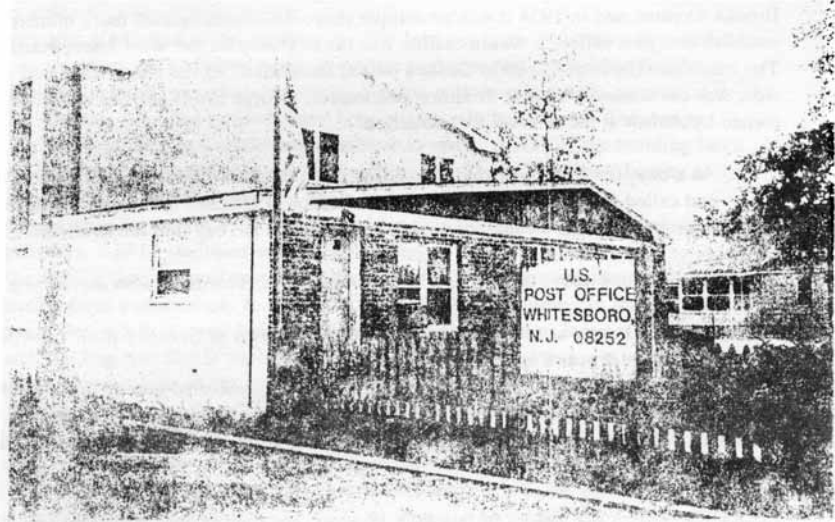
Craig Mathewson, Jr., *Post Offices & Postmasters of Cape May County, New Jersey (1802-1970)*, "A Favorite Cover" and *Postal Highlights & Sidelights of Cape May County, NJ*

BILL ROBINSON, "Cape May County Datelines"

GEORGE BOYER & John P. CUNNINGHAM, "Cape May County Story" *Cape May County Magazine of History and Genealogy*

c 1993 Mary Law

**Whiteboro NJ
Post Office**



**GREEN CREEK NJ
Post Office**

MORE ON UPPER TOWNSHIP, CAPE MAY COUNTY POSTAL HISTORY
Mary E. Law

One of the advantages of publishing postal history information in NJPH is that it will stimulate our members to provide additional data and corrections in a timely manner. Craig Matthewson offered some of this after publication of the Upper Township part of the Cape May postal history. These updates are also valuable for the corrections that they give to Kay and Smith [K&S].

For **PALERMO**, on page 40, Craig noted that the transfer was to Ocean View, not Ocean City as published by K&S. The date of establishment of Ocean View and the first postmaster is that given in K&S and was an editorial addition; the first mention that I have been able to discover of Ocean View was 1872. Albert Way, as postmaster, was an error: the postmaster's name was Evelyn Way.

Shaun O'Hara was listed as postmaster in the caption for the 90th anniversary cover; he should be noted as officer-in-charge.

The History of Upper Township & Its Villages [UT&V] gives us Katherine McCullough as postmaster of Strathmere. The official list of postmasters does not include McCullough.

While K&S carry Marshallville as Cape May County, Craig pointed out that there is no record of a Cape May post office under this name. Prior to 1878, Marshallville was located approximately on the Cape May - Cumberland counties boundary; the 1872 Beers maps shows the main intersection in Cumberland County. The information on Marshallville was taken from UT&V. I called the author, who had said in her story "There are records of a ... and a country store which contained a post office." The author's son explained that there were no official records as to an official post office but there was a general store from which mail was dispensed. He has in his possession the (piece) used for that purpose and labeled alphabetically.

I discussed the possibility of Marshallville getting mail sent over by the Tuckahoe post office; it could be. Also, many ships traveling the Tuckahoe River could have dropped off merchandise and mail.

As far as the boundary lines are concerned, it seems that the dividing line was the Tuckahoe River and Mill Creek, which would have put some stores in Cumberland County. However, once the boundary line changed, Marshallville became part of Cape May County and Upper Township. As such, it is of historical interest to Cape May and Upper Township.

I have concluded that if an author/reporter makes no claim that all this is official, then it becomes just an interesting (perhaps even significant) historical story.

POSTAL HISTORY OF CAPE MAY COUNTY, NJ by Mary Law

The earliest county courts were held in Lower Township as early as 1693, only one year after Cape May County was organized. During the Revolutionary War, a Cape May Committee was formed to report by express the movements of the British fleet to the Board of War of the Continental Congress and the Council of Safety in the port of Philadelphia. The reason for the formation of the Cape May Committee was for the protection of the Delaware Bay and the Delaware River. At this time, along the New Jersey shores of the Delaware Bay lived the residents of Lower Precinct (which, in 1798, was incorporated as a township). The first village in Lower Township was Town Bank; that site is now hundreds of feet out and under the Delaware Bay.

The early 1800's saw the establishment of several post offices in Cape May County with two of them in Lower Township: Cape Island in 1804 and Cold Spring in 1809. Prior to this time, the mails were carried by private parties.

CHAPTER IV: POSTAL HISTORY OF LOWER TOWNSHIP

CAPE ISLAND: Even though Cape May (formerly Cape Island) is no longer an island, early maps show that it really was. It was bounded by the ocean, Cape Island Creek, an inlet at Cold Spring and another inlet that was filled in long ago. It was on this island, on January 30, 1804, that the third post office in Cape May County was opened. Ellis Hughes was named as the postmaster of the Cape Island post office. It was located in Hughes' hotel and Cape Island was part of Lower Township at the time. Perhaps this post office is the first and only one ever moved because of the encroachment of the sea. Hughes' establishment in 1804 was reported to be 334 feet from the water but in 1829, the sea was only 64 feet away. At that time, Hughes moved the hotel back from the beach. Even though an 1851 charter created Cape May (Cape Island) into a city, the name of the post office was not changed until 1869. Until the time of the name change, twelve persons served as postmasters of Cape Island. Most of the Cape Island postmasters were involved in businesses such as construction, newspapers, hotel owners, and a doctor/pharmacy partnership. In politics, many were elected as the mayor of Cape Island. Two of the postmasters, Samuel R. Magonagle and Joseph S. Leach, were particularly interesting. Magonagle was appointed as postmaster on December 5, 1859 by President James Buchanan. He remained in that office until June 26, 1863 when President Abraham Lincoln gave the postmaster appointment to Leach. But Leach resigned in 1866 because of views antagonistic to President Andrew Johnson's policies. Magonagle and Leach's lives "paralleled" not only as postmasters but as owners of the "Ocean Wave", Cape May County's first newspaper that began on Cape Island in 1855. Leach bought it from the original owner (Colonel Johnson) and edited and published it until 1863. He then sold it to Magonagle who was its editor and publisher until his death in 1869. Besides Hughes, Magonagle and Leach, other postmasters at Cape Island included: Alexander MacKenzie, Joseph Hughes, Jonas Miller, James Clark (two different terms), George Hughes, John Stites, Samuel Marcy and Joseph Ware. In 1867, a Sunday mail train began between Camden and Cape Island, in addition to the daily morning and afternoon runs already bringing people and mail to the Cape. Not everybody approved of the Sunday mail train and one person wrote to the "Ocean Wave" newspaper:

The train is called the mail train, but (it is) more properly the rowdy train. How accommodating the railroad company is becoming just now to deliver our mail in Cape May. During the past year, the mail has reached Cape Island part of the time about 9 o'clock P.M., and at the (other) stations a little earlier, but several times not at all the whole day or at night; but now, though there is telegraph communication between Cape Island and Philadelphia, through which any important matter can be sent, there must be a Sunday mail train to Cape Island. This is only a pretext for Sabbath breakers and those whose sympathies are with the wrong instead of the right...

On January 15, 1869, the name of the post office was changed to Cape May Post Office, thus making Joseph Ware the last Cape Island postmaster and, at the same time, the first postmaster of Cape May. (For additional information on the Cape May post office, see Chapter Five: "Postal History of the Cities and Boroughs".)

COLD SPRING: It is easy to guess how this town got its name. A spring of the finest ice cold water (which was a rarity for the area) was located there. Native Americans passed the information on to the settlers who built a water mill at the site in 1699. When the railroad came through, it passed close to the spring which became contaminated and was eventually closed in. Today, above the spring, is a semi-enclosed structure with benches, sure to become a tourist attraction for this now quiet town.

Cold Spring was designated a post office, the fourth in Cape May County, on October 1, 1809, when Aaron Eldredge was appointed postmaster. During the next 86 years, persons who served in the postmaster position included Daniel Hughes, Ezekiel Stevens, Joseph Eldredge (two terms), Richard Edmunds, John Russell, Harry Marcy, Joseph C. Eldredge and Furman Barnett. Richard Edmunds was a typical example of an 1800's postmaster. He also held positions as a Cape May County sheriff, an assemblyman, and as a recorder of Cape May City. Evidently, politics and postmaster appointments were related back then.

During Barnett's term, on December 1, 1895, the spelling of the post office was changed to Coldspring. This spelling continued through the terms of Barnett and Irvin Eldredge. Then when Henry J. Fleischlauer became the postmaster in 1903, the name was changed back to the Cold Spring post office. The last postmaster at Cold Spring was Frank Eldredge. An interesting note concerning the Eldredge family: Aaron was the first postmaster, if Joseph and Joseph C. were the same person, he held the position for a total of 16 years, Irvin was also a postmaster and the last Eldredge postmaster, Frank, served the longest - 26 years. (BUT, none of the Eldredge's served at the Eldredge post office during its short existence.) In the late 1800's, after the South Jersey Railroad Company completed a line from Tuckahoe to Cape Island, the trains passed through Cold Spring but didn't stop except on signal, and mail trains picked up and dropped off the mail.

The Cold Spring post office was discontinued on March 31, 1934, at which time the mail was transferred to the Cape May post office.

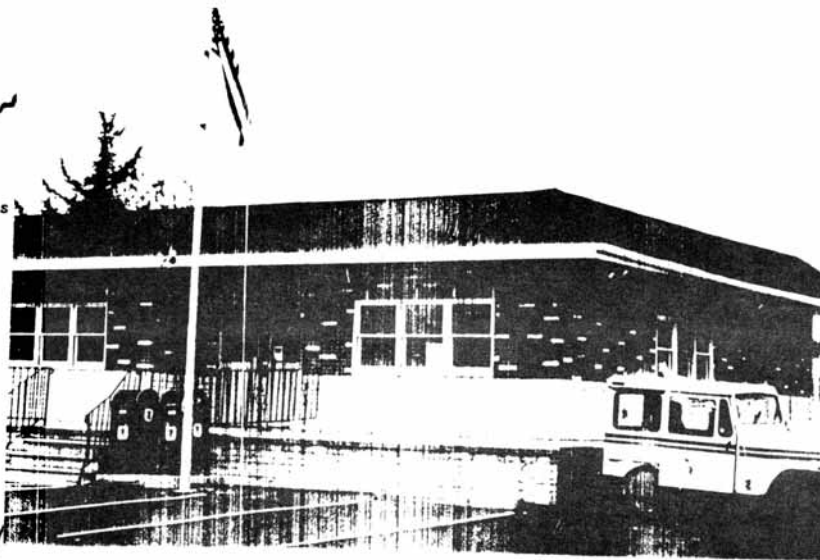
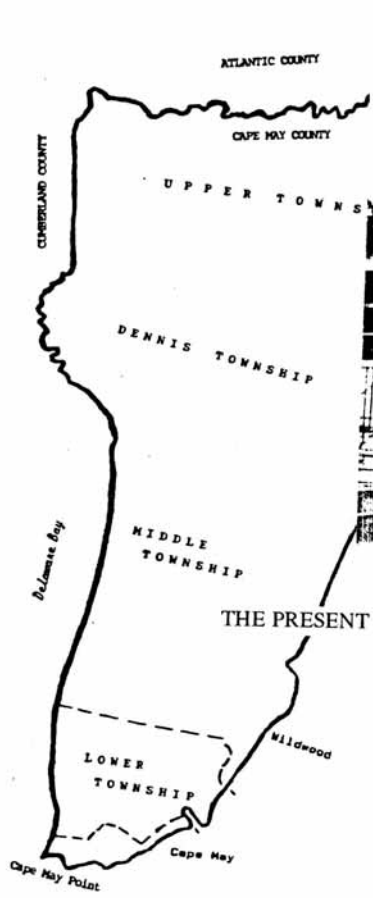
FISHING CREEK: Naming towns after the creeks already named in certain areas was a common practice in Cape May County, and Fishing Creek was no exception. It was named for the creek near the settlement that flowed into the Delaware Bay. Although its boundaries have changed over the years, in 1844, it was located six miles southwest of the county seat in Cape May Court House, and was an agricultural village.

The Fishing Creek post office opened on June 20, 1818, becoming the sixth post office in Cape May County. Robert Edmonds was the first postmaster, followed by Jonathan Cummings and Reuben Foster. By 1834 when Robert Foster became postmaster, Fishing Creek had become another stop of the mail stagecoach route. Others who were postmasters included Leonard Cummings, Aaron Snyder, Washington Hemingway, Herbert Shaw and Freeman Yearicks. This post office was discontinued on April 30, 1918 - just 51 days short of 100 years!

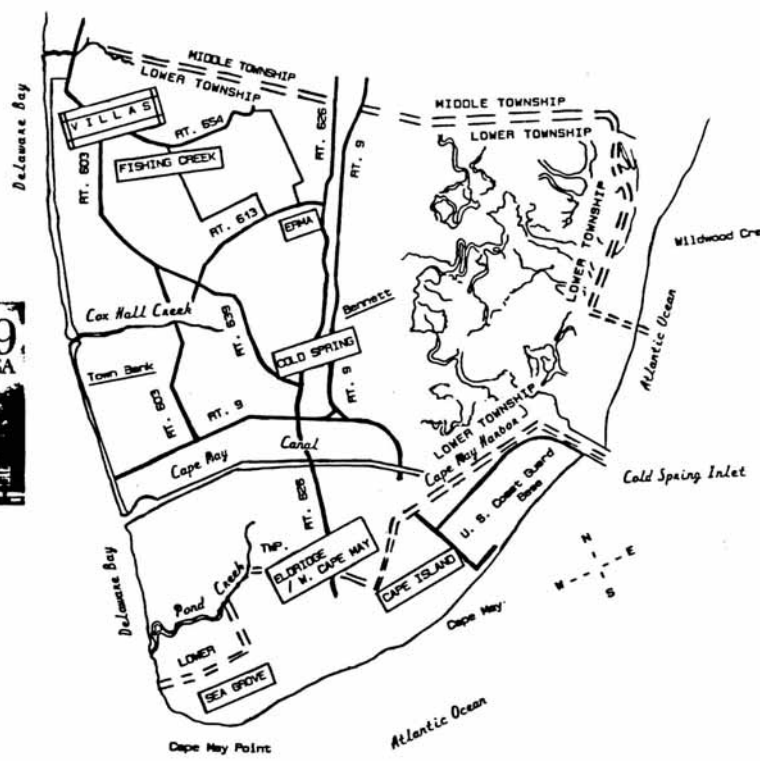
VILLAS: A 200 acre farm, located in Fishing Creek and owned by William Bates, was sold in 1863. When the farm area was developed, it was first called Wildwood Villas. Although this had been a rural section of Fishing Creek, it became a busy community and, eventually overshadowing its parent town, was renamed Villas.

The decision was made to re-establish a post office in the Fishing Creek area but to be located in Villas. On September 18, 1931, with Harry R. Murray in charge, the Villas post office opened. Besides Murray, eight more postmasters have served this post office. They are: Blanche Erricson, Margaret Smith, Thomas Carey, John Linnington, Jr., Joseph Langley, Joseph Moore, William Whitaker and Gerald Griffin, Jr.

Some of the personnel at this post office are now using the facilities at the Rio Grande post office in Middle Township. Villas' zip code is 08251.



THE PRESENT VILLAS POST OFFICE, and A POSTMARK OF SAME.



SEA GROVE: The first settlers in this area, as early as 1712, called it Stites' Beach. However, in the 1870's it was named Sea Grove by two men, Alexander Whildon and John Wanamaker (who later became a Postmaster General). It was to be a resort for people of their religious persuasion (Presbyterian). There is very little left of the original Sea Grove. Fires destroyed hotels and buildings, and the sea claimed many homes and land. On March 27, 1876, the Sea Grove post office was established with Alexander Springer as the first postmaster. Nearly two years later, on August 8, 1878, the name of the office was changed and became the Cape May Point post office.

ERMA: In 1706, Richard Swain bought land in this area and built the first house. The number of Swains living here became quite numerous and the settlement was often referred to as Swaintown. It wasn't named Erma until 1893. On March 3, 1893, Reuben T. Johnson was the postmaster when the Erma post office was established; he was still the postmaster on December 15, 1921, when it was discontinued. The mail was then transferred to the Cape May post office.

There is a story circulated concerning the naming of the Erma post office. It changes a little with each telling, but the basic story remains: When the Cape May and Millville Railroad was completed, John Bennett was operating a store near the crossing (this area being known as Bennett's Crossing). Mr. Bennett later sold the store and business to Jeremiah Johnson who ran the business until his death. His son, Reuben, inherited the store, expanded the business until he had a most complete department store. Reuben Johnson became the postmaster with the post office in his store. He had the honor of naming the post office and he chose to name it (and the town) after Erma Bennett, the daughter of the original store owner. This made Erma the only post office/town in Cape May County named after a female.

ELDREDGE: Thirty-four years before the post office opened, there was a gold beating industry in this area. It was begun in 1864 by the Hastings & Sons Company. After the factory in Philadelphia reduced the gold bars to thin ribbons, it was cut into one inch squares and shipped to New Jersey for the long and tedious final processing. When finished, the beaten gold was used as edging on book leaves or china, and for gold lettering on book covers.

The Eldredge post office was opened on August 2, 1898; the name was changed to the West Cape May post office on November 8, 1909; and was discontinued on March 31, 1920, with the mail transferred to the Cape May post office. Three postmasters served Eldredge and West Cape May: Horace E. Swain, Thomas S. Sayre and Mark C. Frymire.

NORTH CAPE MAY: In the mid-1960's, a post office branch to the Cape May post office was opened in this community which borders on the original settlement of Town Bank. It is located in the North Cape May Shopping Center, and has five delivery routes. Even though North Cape May is located in Lower Township, the main post office is located in the separate city of Cape May. They share the same zip code: 08204: This "confusion" could be the reason for a message printed recently in the *Cape May County Herald* newspaper from an unidentified resident of Cape May Beach:

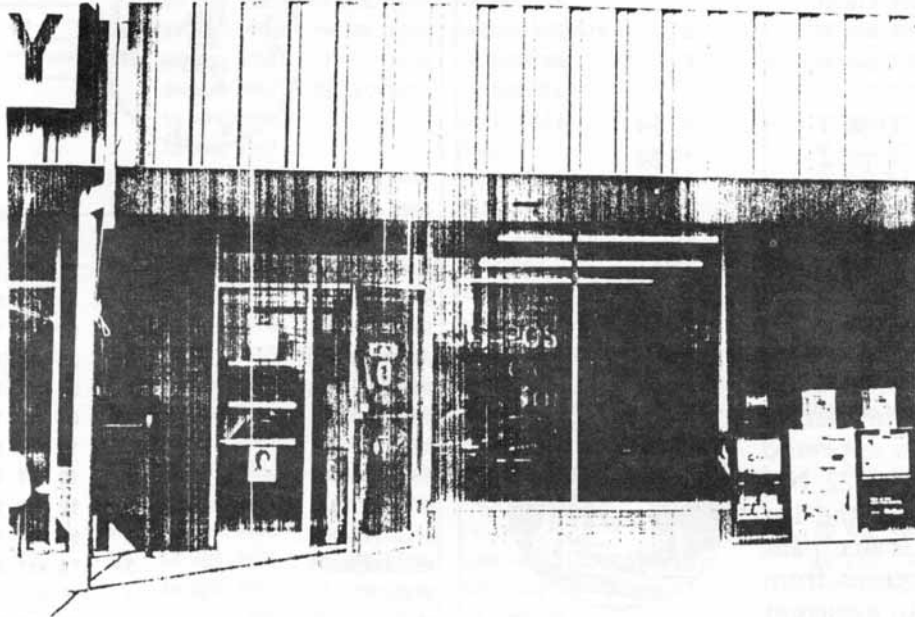
I am encouraged by the local post offices and their willingness to listen to the citizens they serve. Perhaps this will be the beginning for the entire township (Lower) to be under one zip code...

Could the answer to the above "question" come from the Postal Service Customer Advisory Council below? Recently, the U. S. Postal Service has organized a Customer Advisory Council. In Cape May County, the four original members had their first meeting with Gene Rorher, postmaster of Cape May. They were Steven Sheftz of Town Bank in Lower Township, Stephen Peckiconis and Robert Schneider of Cape May, and Kerry Fitzpatrick of West Cape May. Following the initial meeting, Sheftz reported that the Advisory Council is an idea started by the new Postmaster General, Marvin Runyon. The ultimate goal is to provide better service to postal patrons. During the tour of the Cape May post Office, Postmaster Rorher offered examples of what exactly can interfere with mail delivery. One example was when people put the name of a condo for an address; this really messes things up. Since so much of the system is mechanized and uses I.D. codes, it can reject mail

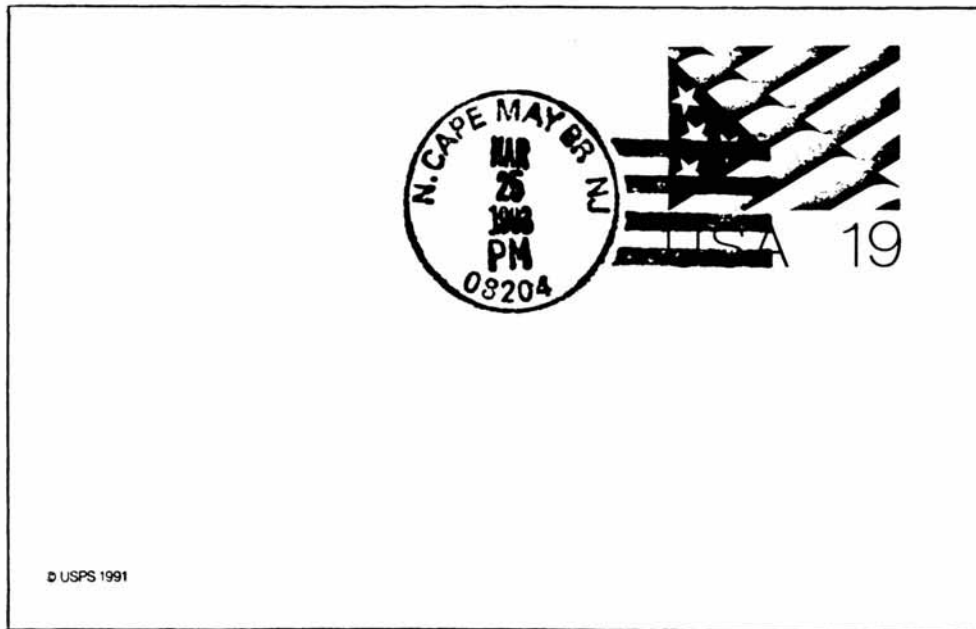
that is not properly addressed. This system also rejects words written across the bottom of an envelope such as "attention so-and-so" Because the consumer is not familiar with such intricacies, the job of the Advisory Council will be to form a link between the post office and the community. The members will talk to people in the area and find out what some of the more pressing problems are. They will then be raising questions and finding methods to improve on service at every level. The goal nationwide is to have all first class mail delivered by 4 p.m. the day it is received at the station of destination.

Even though Lower Township has the largest population in CMC, there are only two post offices serving the postal needs: the branch at North Cape May and the post office in Villas. Just recently, when the new facility at Rio Grande opened, the carriers at Villas moved there "to take advantage of a post office with plenty of room" - but the Rio Grande post office is located in Middle Township. At various times through the years, there have been seven post offices in Lower Township but in all instances except the Villas post office, they have had mail transferred, discontinued or that part of Lower Township has become a city and lost its unique township character.

REFERENCES: *Post Offices and Postmasters of Cape May County, NJ, 1802-1970* by Craig Mathewson, Jr. *The Cape May County Magazine of History & Genealogy*
The Herald Newspaper of Cape May County
History of Cape May County by Lewis Townsend Stevens
Cape May County Story by George Boyer



THE NORTH CAPE MAY BRANCH POST OFFICE and ITS CANCELLATION



POSTAL HISTORY OF CAPE MAY COUNTY, NEW JERSEY by Mary Law

As far back as 1772, the sending, transporting, and receiving of mail was a "risky" business. Some notes concerning this from the April 8th issue of the *Pennsylvania Gazette* were:... "a genteel stage wagon ... with two sets of horses will set out ... letters and passengers for Cape May will receive attention." Also, a number of letters awaited picking up at the post office in Philadelphia, some for well-known persons in Cape May and Upper Cape May.

In the next century, a claim was made that the mail service was irregular, with attempts being made to get two and sometimes three mails a week. The mails were all carried by the stage lines. The *Cape May Ocean Wave* of April 16, 1857, tells of the delays and the need of a daily mail in the following article:

We need a daily mail. That we have no direct mail communication between Cape Island and Cape May Court House, our county seat, but once a week, is a fact known to all. A letter written here on Wednesday may go direct to the Court House on Thursday, and an answer be returned on Saturday, by the Bridgeton mail; but at any other time in the week our letters must be sent up by the Bayside mail on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays to Tuckahoe, and there stopped until the next down mail to the Court House, thus performing a journey of nearly fifty miles, while the distance is only thirteen miles direct from here to the Court House.

Between the census of 1840 (5324 persons) and the census of 1860 (7130 persons), there was an increase of 1806 persons residing in Cape May County. It was obvious that the postal needs of these families needed to be addressed. Also, in 1860, Cape May (County) was passing from one epoch into another. Among other things, the old stage coach was soon to give way to the railroad train; since 1850, the price of land in the county had nearly doubled; and the conflict of affairs that ended with the War of the Rebellion was becoming intense.

CHAPTER V: POSTAL HISTORY OF BOROUGH/CITIES

All of the post offices in the Ocean/Beach communities are either boroughs (the smallest unit of municipal government in New Jersey) or cities, plus there is one inland borough, and thus do not come under any of the townships of Cape May County; that is why they are listed separately.

WOODBINE: Around the time of the Civil War, Mrs. William S. Townsend, who lived in Dennisville, gave the name of Woodbine to this area. It commemorates the abundance of that wild flower which grew here.

In 1880 it was described as a hamlet on the West Jersey railroad, 16 miles southeast of Millville. By 1892, the town was being settled in a way that no other Cape May County area had been settled. It was the fulfillment of Baron DeHirsch's dream to develop a Jewish refugee resettlement project. Sixty-two farms of 30 acres each were laid out for refugees who had fled Russian persecution. The new colonists bought farms, complete with farmhouse, outbuildings, and stock, for \$1200. each. Within a year of its founding, Woodbine had 700 inhabitants.

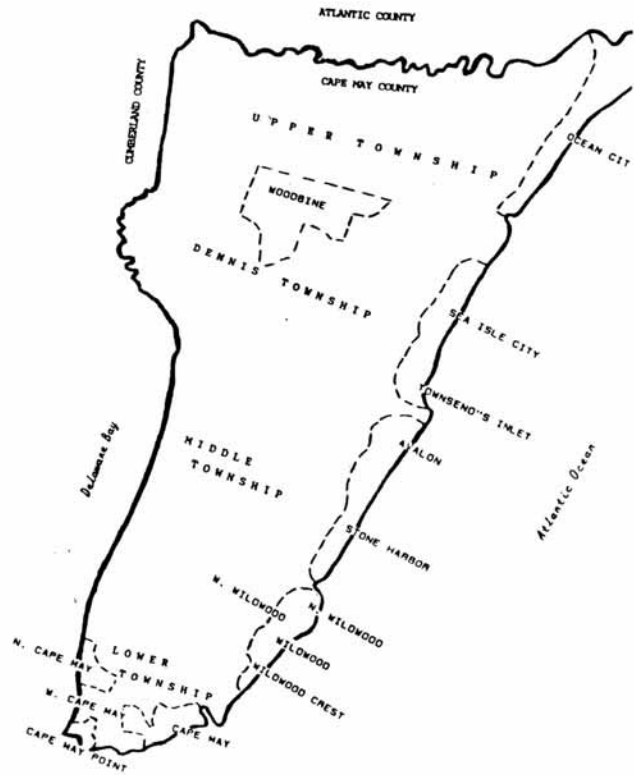
This is the only inland borough in Cape May County. It was once a part of Dennis Township but the New Jersey Legislature incorporated Woodbine as a borough on March 3, 1903. Hersh L. Sobsovitch was the first mayor.

The Woodbine post office opened on December 29, 1891, with Wilbur E. Young as the first postmaster. A total of ten individuals have held the postmastership since establishment of the office. Their names and year of appointment are:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| John W. Young (1892) | Milton Katz (1933) |
| Herman Rosenfeld (1894) | Irma Goodman (1935) |
| Jacob Feldman (1895 and 1923) | Clara (Katz) Spindel (1937) |
| Leo Danerhirsh (1914) | Maynard C. Rosenfeld (1948) |



Mail Sleigh in New England Museum



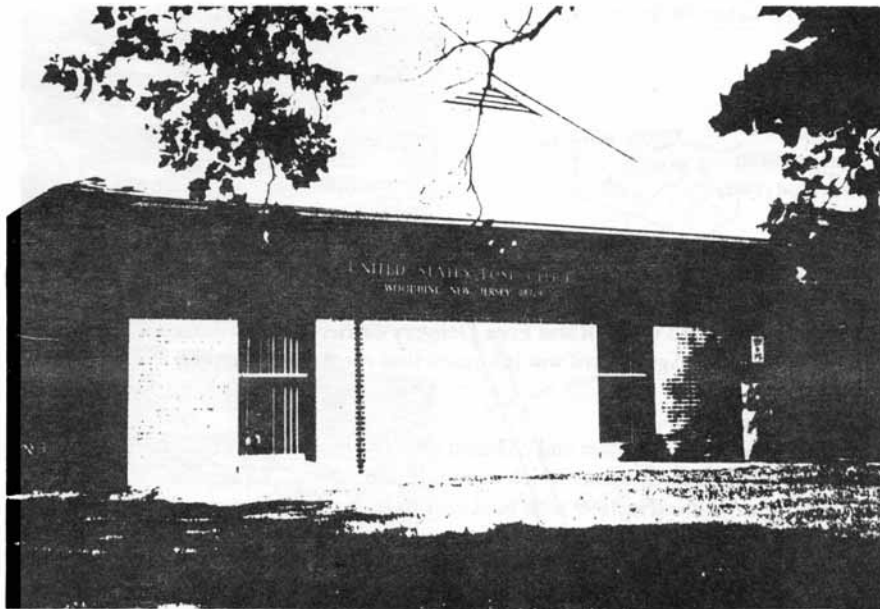
Boroughs/Cities of Cape May County



Cape May Post Office, 1992

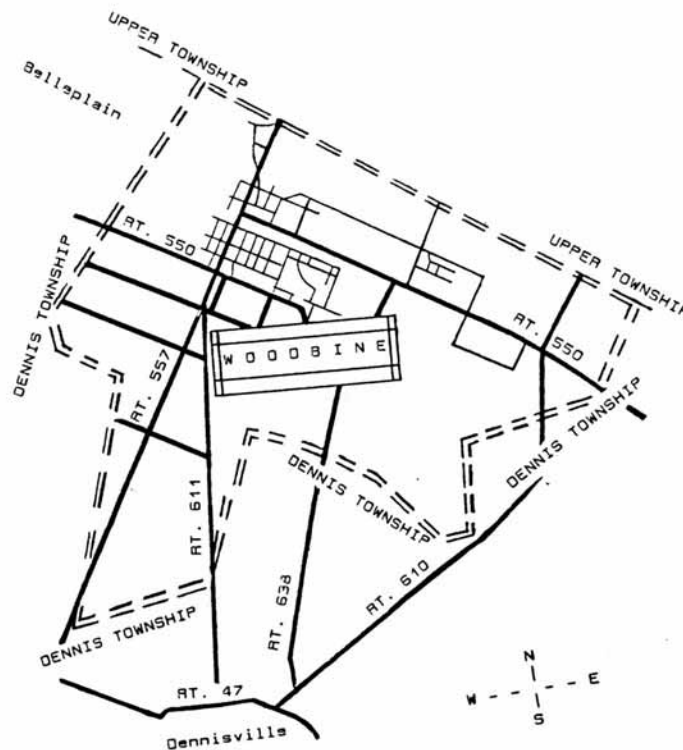
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WOODBINE post office - 1992

BOROUGH OF WOODBINE



TWO LINE OUTLINE: Post Office with Past & Present History

The present postmaster, Donald Heckman, was appointed on September 15, 1973. Four years later, a new facility was built to further improve the postal services for this community. It opened on May 26, 1977.

During the time that Leo Danerhirsh was postmaster, there was an active rural mail route. In answer to an inquiry on February 5, 1916 as to which Rural Free Delivery carriers in New Jersey started their routes on or about 11 a.m., the Department of Agriculture was informed that rural route number 1 in Woodbine departed at 10:45 a.m. (and by car.)

The borough of Woodbine has grown and changed over the years, as has the post office. It has been the recipient of mail transfers from nearby towns which lost their post offices. Examples include Dennis Townships' East Creek (which closed in 1899 with mail sent to Eldora); Eldora and Belleplain, both of which closed in 1934; and Upper Townships' Petersburg, which closed in 1959. The mail from these towns was officially transferred to the Woodbine post office and is still handled by them.

The mail delivery area of the Woodbine post office includes the Upper Township communities of Petersburg, Steelmantown, Tuckahoe and Marshallville. They also deliver mail to towns in Dennis Township, Woodbine, and Corbin City. This large delivery area explains the reason why Woodbine's four rural carriers deliver mail in two of Cape May County's townships: Upper and Dennis; and also in portions of three counties: Cape May, Cumberland and Atlantic. Woodbine's zip code is 08270. (For additional information on the Woodbine Post Office, see Chapter One: "Postal History of Upper Township.")

PECK'S BEACH

OCEAN CITY: Ocean City grew from the strongly prohibitionist Methodist summer resort started on Peck's Beach in 1879 by three minister brothers. The Ocean City post office was established at this seashore community on March 2, 1881 with the Rev. William H. Burrell as the postmaster. It was not an easy task to get the mail through to this town. An 1881 report of the Ocean City Association contained information received concerning the attempt to obtain a post office. Also reported was the request for securing a direct mail route from Philadelphia to Ocean City. But this became a long, controversial matter, and when the post office was established, the stage line between Pleasantville and Somers Point carried the mail; whereas, the Board thought that the Pleasantville-Somers Point spur of the railway should carry it.

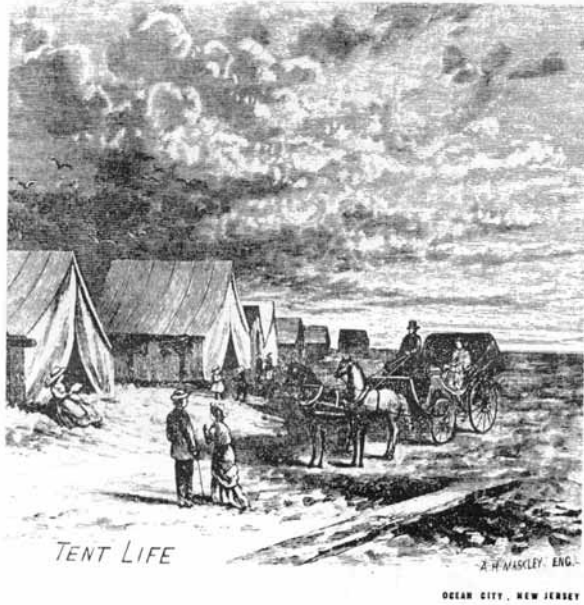
It may be that Ocean City's mail was carried by stage until the railway from Sea Isle City was constructed in 1884, three years after the opening, of the Ocean City post office. In a 16-page history of Ocean City, written in 1899 by the first postmaster, William Burrell, he tells of his "hardships with the mail," saying that he frequently carried the mail himself to Sea Isle City and back.

An interesting part of local postal history: a first occurred between Ocean City and Stone Harbor on August 7, 1912! Marshall Reid flew what was called a hydroplane from Stone Harbor to Ocean City, picking up and delivering U. S. Mail pouches. The 29-minute flight was said to have given the mail a 12-hour head start over the normal dispatch time out of Stone Harbor. But it was erroneously reported, and accepted by the citizens, that the first air mail flight in the United States had taken

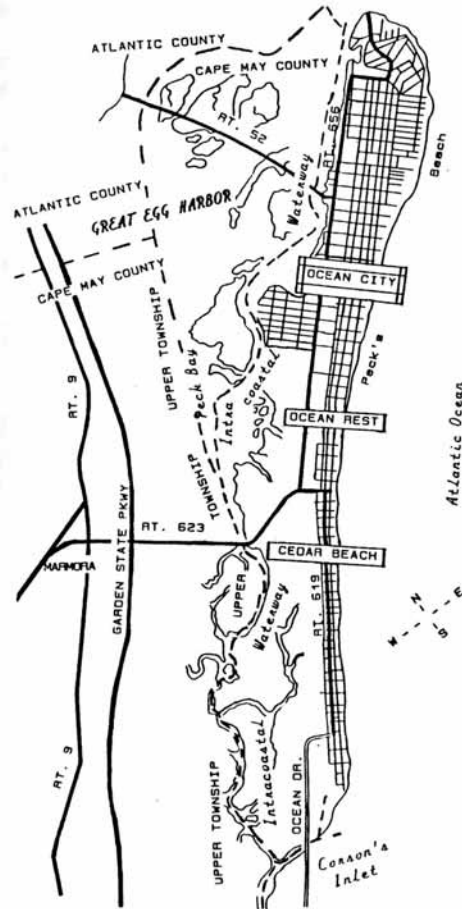
place; in reality, it was the first air mail flight in New Jersey. According to Harold Lee, author of "The Fact That Isn't", even the Post Office Department had accepted the story as fact, and authorized a re-enactment of the flight on the 25th anniversary in 1937. Lee claims that Edward Keogh, in his book entitled Saga of the U.S. Air Mail Service, gives the distinction of the first air mail flight to Long Island, New York, and wrote a very descriptive report on it.

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CITY OF OCEAN CITY (Peck's Beach)



OCEAN CITY post office - 1992



TWO LINE OUTLINE: Post Offices with Past & Present History
 ONE LINE OUTLINE: Post Offices with Past History

Keogh also reported:

A few other similar experiments were made.... and the Post Office Department, recognizing the possibility of developing the airplane into a practicable means of aerial transportation, made recommendation to Congress early in 1912 for an appropriation of \$50,000 with which to start an experimental service, but Congress refused. But, in 1916, funds were made available....

Based on this authoritative knowledge, "it thus appears that Ocean City did serve a useful purpose in a public relations sense by helping to build up the pressure on Congress to vote money for something (which) proved feasible.

In addition to the first postmaster, William Burrell, thirteen postmasters have served at the Ocean City post office. Their names and appointment years are:

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| R. Howard Thorn (1887 and 1893) | George Greis (1934) |
| R. Curtis Robinson (1889) | Leroy Jeffries (1935) |
| Edward Sutton (1901 and 1923) | Theodore Adams (1954) |
| Benjamin Smith (1914) | C. Wesley Barclay (1961) |
| Everton Corson (1928) | Michael Dattilo (1970) |
| J. Reeves Hildreth (1930) | Basil Randazzo (1981) |
| George Greis (1934) | James Fusco (1988). |

Four years before he became Ocean City's third postmaster, R. Curtis Robinson purchased the fourth weekly newspaper in Cape May County, the Ocean City Sentinel. Ownership was a partnership with W. H. Fenton but later Robinson became the sole owner. He had been widely employed with various newspapers prior to this time

OCEAN REST: Was it possible that nearly 12 years after a post office had been established in Ocean City that the population had increased enough to warrant an additional post office on Peck's Beach? Nevertheless, the Ocean Rest post office was opened on January 28, 1893, and discontinued on September 28, 1893. The first postmaster, William L. Smith, served only eight months. It was then re-established on May 19, 1897, and Clifton Smith was the postmaster for eight months.

He was succeeded by the original postmaster, William L. Smith, on January 13, 1898. Five years later, on June 30, 1903, this post office was discontinued with the mail going to the main Ocean City post office. This post office location was at the site of what is now the Christian Brothers Catholic Summer School on Asbury Avenue.

CEDAR BEACH: Once again, Ocean City had two post offices; this one was in existence for only three years. The Cedar Beach post office opened at a location on the south end of Peck's Beach on June 13, 1900, with Richard G. Yocum as the first postmaster. It was discontinued on May 30, 1903, with Jacob H. Gaul as its last postmaster. Postal business was then conducted from the Ocean City post office.

LUDLAM'S BEACH

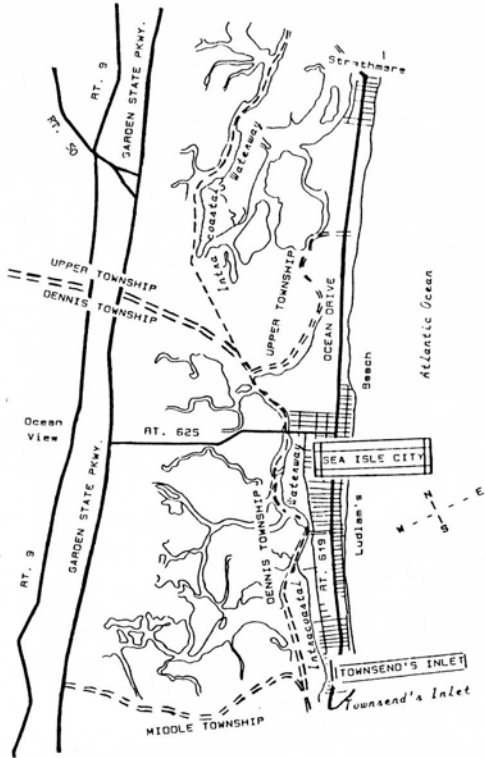
SEA ISLE CITY: This island was known to King Nummy's tribe of Lenni Lenape Indians as "Happy Hunting Grounds." By 1692 it was owned by Joseph Ludlam, which is why it is generally called Ludlam's Beach. The strip of land ran from what is now Corson's Inlet to Townsend's Inlet, and for many years was part of Dennis Township. It was known as Ludlam's Island and was stocked with cattle.

Around 1880, Sea Isle City was laid out by Charles K. Landis, the founder of Vineland and Hamonton, to include the whole of Ludlam's Beach. By 1882, the town had an established post office. George Whitney was the postmaster when the Sea Isle City post office opened on June 20. It was located at the southwest corner of what is now 44th Street and Landis Avenue. A brief description of this landmark site is in the

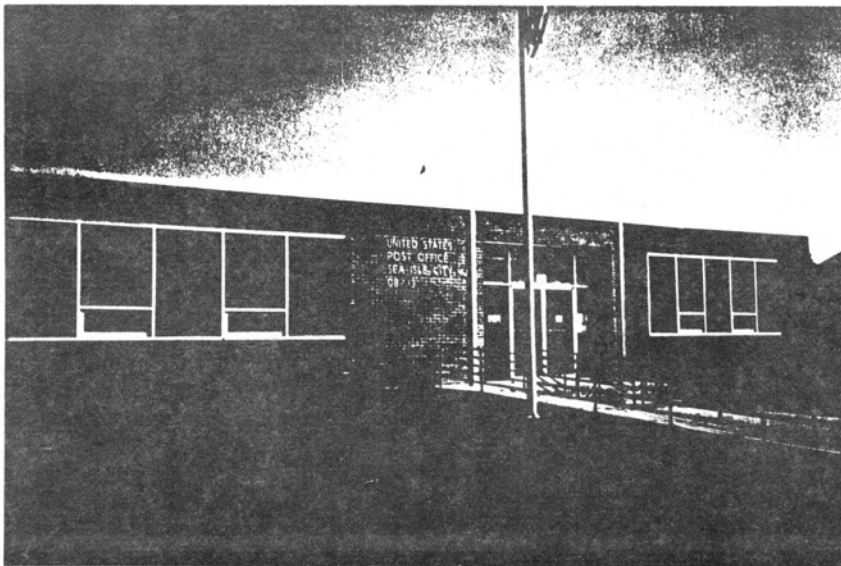
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CITY OF SEA ISLE CITY and TOWNSEND'S INLET (Ludlam's Beach)



SEA ISLE CITY post office - 1992



March 1994

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city's (1982) souvenir Centennial Book:

One hundred years ago, when Sea Isle City first began, the post office was located there (44th & Landis); it was on some of the highest land on the island which kept the building from being destroyed during heavy storms.

The city grew and the post office was moved to a more accessible location. In its place, The Three Sisters, a small Italian meat market, grocery store and pizza parlor was built. In 1972, the building was bought by Mike and Edith Romano and became Romano's Restaurant.

In 1993, it is a real estate office.

Besides the first postmaster, 16 other persons served as postmasters and three as acting postmasters. Their names and year of appointment are:

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| John Morris (1883) | Thomas Ludlam, Jr. (1915) |
| William Bryant (1885) | Richard Rosenbaum (1927) |
| J. Monroe Chester (1889) | Ira Hess (1932) |
| J.P. Delaney (1893) | Thomas Whittington (1934) |
| Lewis Steinmeyer (1894) | Elmer Reed (1953) |
| Lewis Chester (1898) | Dolores Sweetman (1973) |
| Edward Duncan (1901) | Robert Piacentino (1991). |
| James Chapman (1905 and 1922) | Richard Menta (1993) |
| Thomas Ludlam, Jr. (1915) | |

Acting postmasters have included Charles Camp (1920); later followed by what seems to have been a "power play" (all within three months) for the dubious job of being an acting postmaster: Mary Lamanna (September 1926), Gustave Mornhiweg (October, 1926), and (again) Mary Lamanna (December 1926). All acting postmasters were gone by January 22, 1927 when Richard Rosenbaum took office.

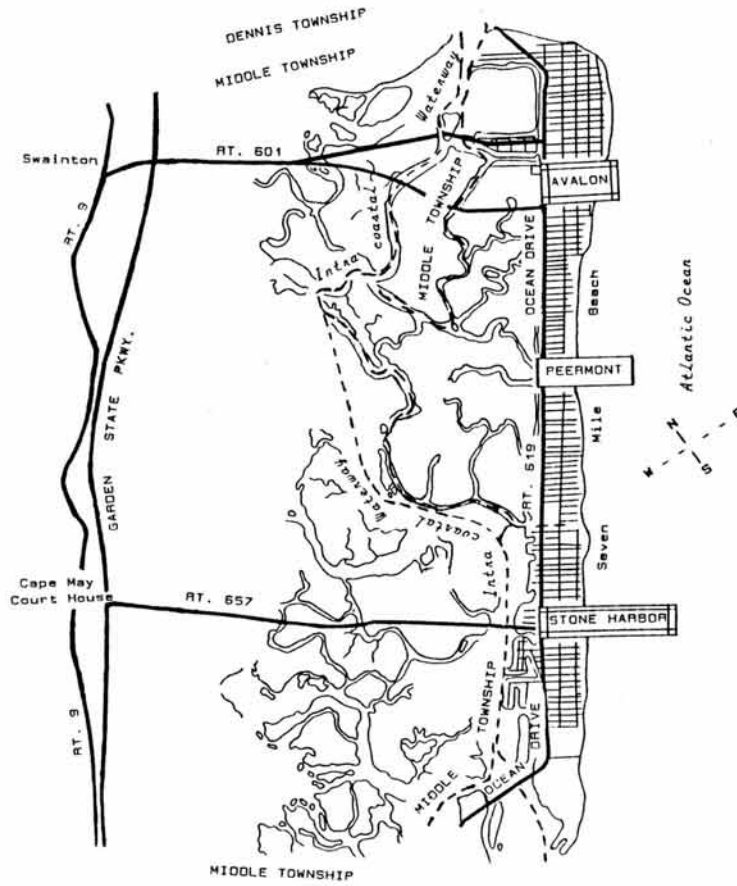
Postmaster Thomas Ludlam, Jr., probably was related to the pioneer family who first owned this land of Ludlam's Island/Beach in 1692. Although Ludlam held the postmaster position for only five years, his name helps to connect history to his father, Thomas Ludlam, Sr. The father was the mayor of Sea Isle City in 1884-1896 and again in 1899-1906, along with being a Chosen Freeholder (a member of the county governing body). He was instrumental in the development of the town. He was also the editor of the Cape May County Times that he later bought; he remained as editor until he sold it in 1907. During this time, he was the postmaster and a teacher in the barrier island community of Dennisville.

J. P. Delaney, a short-term postmaster (September, 1893 to March, 1894) was also one of the first proprietors of The Lafayette. This was an early hotel here and was located on Landis Avenue between what is now Kennedy Boulevard and 42nd Street. Lewis Steinmeyer, who succeeded Delaney and became the sixth postmaster of Sea Isle City (1894), was also its mayor from 1910 to 1913.

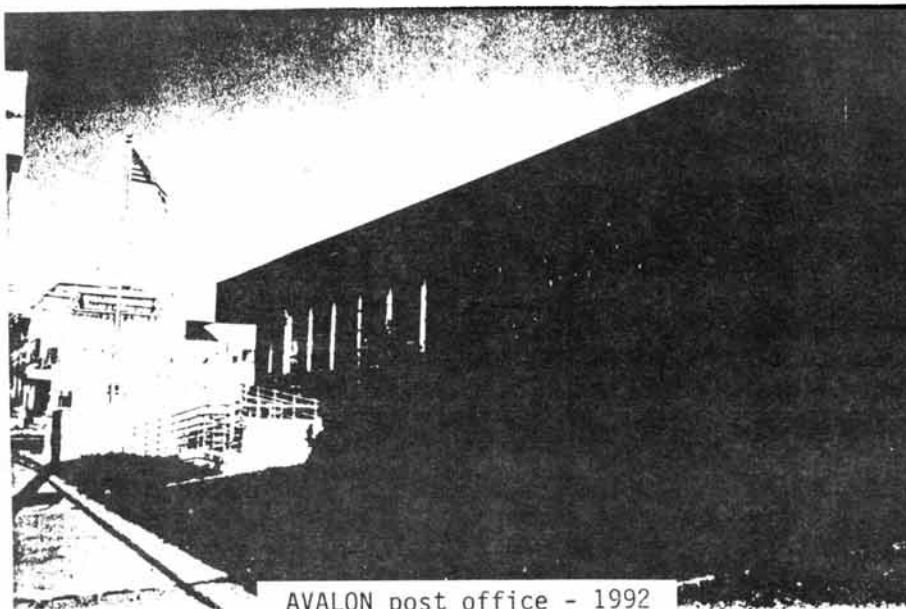
Postal delivery was established on June 16, 1924. Louis Lamanna was the first mailman, and for several years, the only one. (Note: it was a person with the same last name who was acting postmaster on two occasions in 1926.)

A modern post office building was erected in 1959 on the corner of Kennedy Boulevard and Central Avenue. Elmer Reed had been postmaster since 1953, and continued in this position at the new post office.

BOROUGH OF AVALON & STONE HARBOR (Seven Mile Beach)



TWO LINE OUTLINE: Post Offices with Past & Present History
 ONE LINE OUTLINE: Post Offices with Past History



AVALON post office - 1992

March 1994

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TOWNSEND'S INLET: Located on Ludlam's Beach, establishment of the Townsend's Inlet Post Office occurred on August 10, 1904, with John M. Evoy as the first postmaster. Joseph Fisher was appointed the postmaster in 1907 but remained only 20 months. William Shellem was the proprietor of the Inlet Store which was built in-1908. He became the postmaster of Townsend's Inlet on the last day of that year and stayed as the postmaster until his death in 1932. According to postal records, Shellem retained this office until 1964 which would be a span of 64 years and would discount the previous statement here that he died in 1932. Is it possible that a relative with the same name was the postmaster from 1932 until 1964?

Regardless, on April 24, 1964, Dolores Sweetman became the postmaster at Townsend's Inlet which was located at 8515 Landis Avenue. Then on December 31, 1970, this post office was changed to a station of the post office in Sea Isle City, sharing the same zip code. (Officially, it was a Class 5 Finance Station.)

After 80 years of service, the Townsend's Inlet post office was closed in 1988 and the residents and visitors of this small community are now covered completely by the Sea Isle City post office.

**** CLARIFICATION:** there were two different Townsend's Inlet post offices. The one described above; the other one was (actually Townsend Inlet) in Middle Township, had its name changed to Swainton, was discontinued and the area is now served by the post office in Cape May Court House.

AVALON: Avalon is a part of Seven Mile Beach and is located east of the town of Swainton on the mainland. It was founded by the Seven Mile Beach Company in 1887, and four years later, in 1891, a borough was created. The West Jersey Railroad received its right of way to operate through Avalon in 1889. Thomas Bray was the first mayor, and by 1895 the population was 105. Only one year after Avalon was founded, the Post Office Department established the Avalon post office. It opened on July 9, 1888 with George W. Smith serving as the first postmaster during his brief residence in this community. Smith had been a captain in the Civil War.

The next two postmasters served only one year each: Platt Brower was appointed in 1892, James F. Corson in 1893, and in 1894, Walter A. Smith took over the job and served for 40 years. The next five postmasters and their year of appointment were:

- Minnie I. McKeen (1934)
- Hiram S. McKeen (1938)
- Olga M. Halstadt (1951)
- Edward C. Lawrence (1951)
- Elmer S. Holmes, Jr. (1956)

Following the retirement of Holmes, the Avalon post office was without a postmaster for a few years. In the interim between Postmaster Holmes' retirement and the postmaster appointment in 1993, approximately 14 Officer-in-Charge assignments provided this post office with some leadership. On January 9, 1993, Donald K. Grosse of Green Creek, NJ, received the appointment. Grosse began his postal career in June, 1957 as a letter carrier in Wildwood.

PEERMONT: Seven Mile Beach was the location of the Peermont post office, and it existed for 27 years. On May 29, 1907, the opening took place with Mary E. Mahan as the first postmaster. In 1919, M.E.M. Shuttleworth became the postmaster, and she served until May 30, 1934, when this post office was discontinued with mail being transferred to the Avalon post office.

STONE HARBOR: A post office was set up here (Stoneharbor) on July 3, 1894, with Hiram W. Godfrey as postmaster and that service was received from Avalon. Three more postmasters served: Lin R. Beecher, George F. Rummel and Smith S. Hand. Then, on January 15, 1900, it was discontinued. But five months later, on June 19, 1900, it was re-established with John McCormack as postmaster. On December 1, 1931, the spelling became two words and the Stone Harbor Post Office was permanently established. In 1912, Marshall Reid returned to Stone Harbor with a mail pouch during the hydroplane flight mentioned under Ocean City.

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Post offices in New Jersey from which rural carriers start on service of their routes about 11 A. M.

o0o

| Post office | Route | Leave | |
|---------------|-------|-------|---------------|
| Bridgeville | 1 | 11 | (1st portion) |
| Chester | 1 | 11.30 | |
| Delaware | 1 | 11.15 | |
| Delaware | 2 | 11.30 | |
| Flanders | 1 | 11 | |
| German Valley | 1 | 10.45 | (2nd portion) |
| Great Meadows | 1 | 11 | |
| Lafayette | 1 | 11.15 | (Auto) |
| Newfoundland | 2 | 11 | |
| Newton | 1 | 11.15 | |
| Newton | 2 | 11.15 | |
| Newton | 3 | 11.15 | |
| Newton | 4 | 11 | |
| Oakland | 1 | 10.45 | |
| Oakridge | 1 | 11.30 | |
| Pittstown | 1 | 11 | (2nd trip) |
| Pittstown | 2 | 12 | (2nd trip) |
| Port Murray | 1 | 10.45 | |
| Tuckahoe | 1 | 11.15 | |
| Tuckerton | 1 | 11.45 | |
| Vienna | 1 | 11 | |
| Washington | 2 | 11 | |
| Woodbine | 1 | 10.45 | (Auto) |

Note--Where a route is divided that portion served at 11 o'clock or later is shown. In the two cases marked (Auto) the carrier leaves the post office earlier than shown when serving his route by horse drawn vehicle

Report of Rural Route departing time.



Stone Harbor post office

FIVE MILE BEACH

ANGLESEA: This new town on the north end of Five Mile Beach, opened a post office on November 19, 1883, with William A. Thompkins as postmaster. The name was originally recorded as Anglesia but one month after opening the post office, it was officially changed to Anglesea. Eleven postmasters served the post office at Anglesea. The turn-over for this position was frequent and Jason Buck held it the longest: four years in his first term, and 18 years in his second. All the others served from one to four years. Also, two acting postmasters took charge before a regular postmaster was appointed, all in 1918. Besides the first postmaster, others and their appointment years are:

Sarah D. Tompkins (1886)
John J. Sturmer, Jr. (1887)
Jason Buck (1889) and (1897)
John Taylor (1893)
Lorenzo B. Shivers (1915)
Mary E. Miller, acting, (1918)
Martha P. Corson, acting, (1918)
Robert Bright (1918)
Harry C. Wheaton (1920)
Joseph H. Long (1921)

The Anglesea post office remained for 41 years but on June 30, 1924, it was discontinued and the mail was transferred to the Wildwood post office.

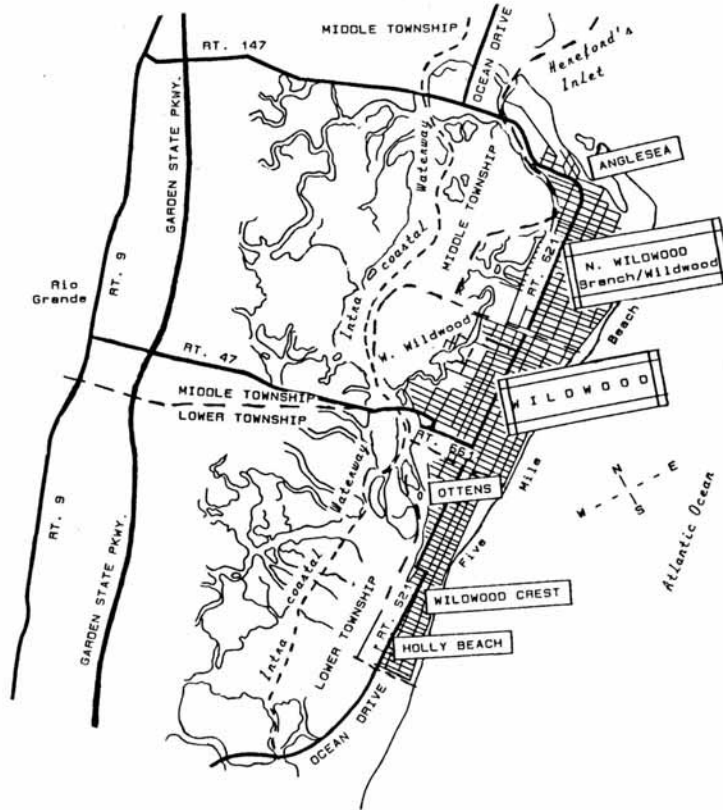
Anglesea was officially incorporated as a borough on June 5, 1885 with the name changed to the borough of North Wildwood on May 23, 1906. It was incorporated as a city on April 2, 1917, and is today an active resort city. Although a North Wildwood post office had served as a station to the main office in Wildwood, the designation was changed to a branch on May 15, 1961. For the last 20 years, the North Wildwood branch has been located at Taylor's Variety Store on New Jersey Avenue, and shares the same zip code as Wildwood.

HOLLY BEACH: Although a lighthouse was built near Turtle Gut Inlet in 1874, the southern portion of Five Mile Beach continued without direction until 1880. At that time, Aaron Andrews of Vineland, NJ, founded the Holly Beach Improvement Company and bought a tract of land for the purpose of developing a small community. By 1885, Holly Beach was made a borough. With the growth of this community, the Holly Beach post office was established there on November 26, 1883, and Jennie L. Osborn was named the first postmaster and served for nearly 10 years.

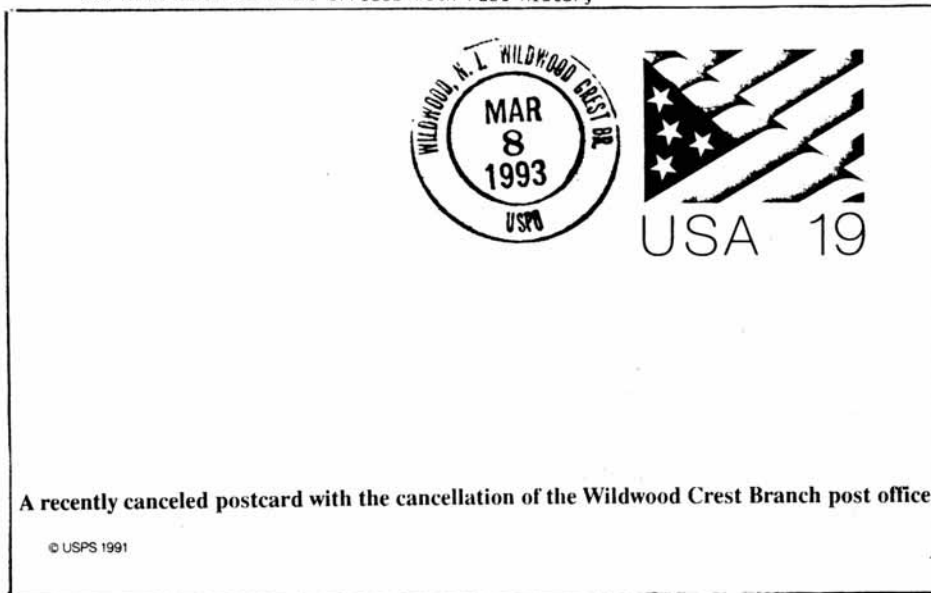
This was another post office which endured a name "change." In 1895, two years after Frank E. Smith was appointed as postmaster, it became Hollybeach. It remained so until 1905 when it again became Holly Beach, and was designated as Station 1 to Wildwood. Besides Osborn and Smith, only three other individuals served as postmasters here: William E. Forcum (1897), Frederick C. Meyer (1901), and Israel T. Woolson (1911). Thirty years after its opening, on April 30, 1913, the Holly Beach post office was discontinued, and the mail was transferred to Wildwood.

WILDWOOD CREST: Meanwhile, another post office had been established on Five Mile Beach, just north of Holly Beach. The Wildwood Crest post office opened on July 23, 1909, with Leslie Hallen as the first and last postmaster, serving only a little less than four years. It was discontinued on April 30, 1913, the same date that saw the closing of Holly Beach. The mail was transferred to the Wildwood post office. But that is not the end of mail service in Wildwood Crest. For the past 20 years, there has been a branch of the Wildwood post office located here, For 15 years, it was located in Anderson's Variety Store on New Jersey Avenue; and for the last five years, just down the street at 6011, in Sincerely Yours Card Shop. The Wildwood Crest branch shares the same zip code as Wildwood.

THE CITIES & BOROUGHES OF "THE WILDWOODS" (Five Mile Beach)

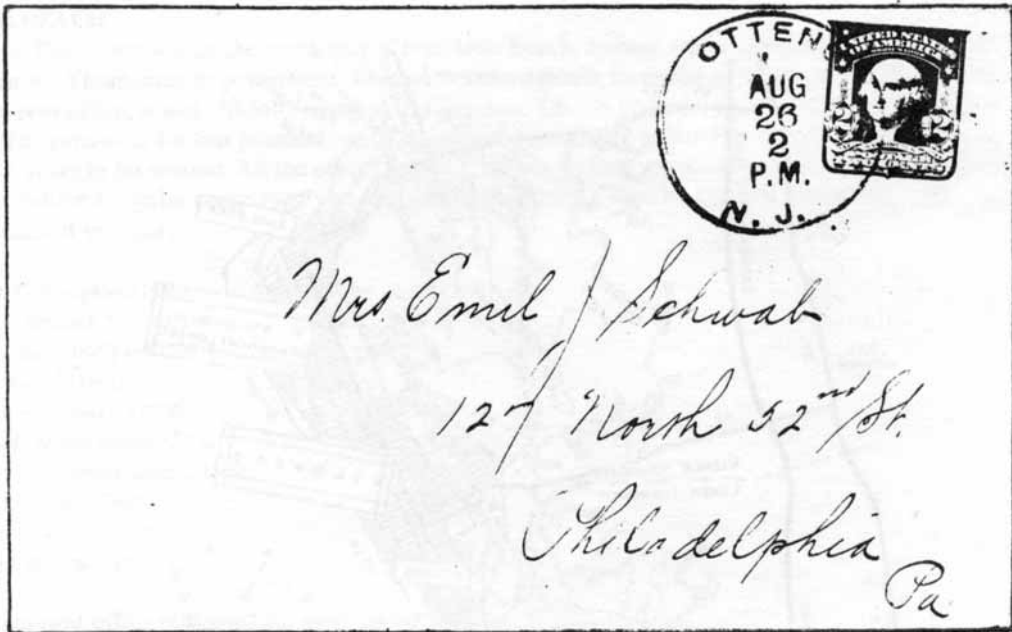


TWO LINE OUTLINE: Post Offices with Past & Present History
 ONE LINE OUTLINE: Post Offices with Past History

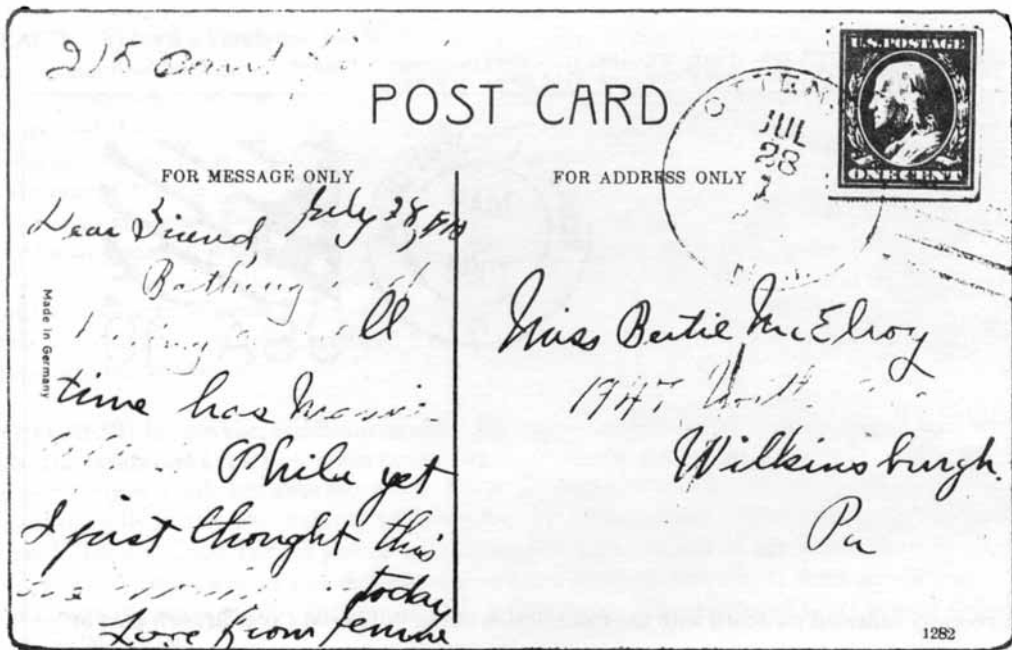


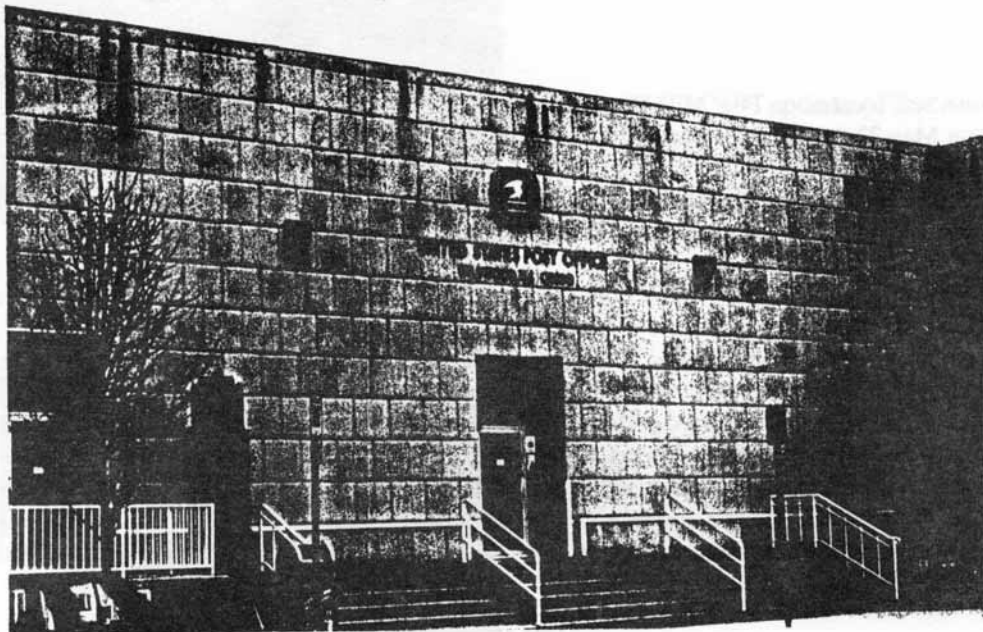
March 1994

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Two canceled envelopes from the Ottens Post Office:
c1905 doane 3 1906-13 and 1910 4-bar 1906-13 PC





WILDWOOD post office - 1992



Al Campbell

MAIL, IRISH STYLE — Wildwood Postal Clerk Jane Norton of Court House, right, adds an Irish flair to the handling of mail and selling of stamps to customer Roxane Krivitski of North Wildwood on March 17, St. Patrick's Day. Postmaster Shirley Columbo said it's done to get to know customers, and to show them their importance to the Postal Service. Norton was one of three clerks who wore special green to mark the day.

OTTENS: This town was located on Five Mile Beach also, just south of Wildwood. The Ottens post office was established there on May 22, 1906, with Joseph P. Boon as the first postmaster but served only one year. This post office lasted a brief seven years with four postmasters serving. They were, in addition to Boon: Amos S. Leek (1907), Joseph W. Marsh (1909), and Horace R. Leidig (1911). As it turned out, Leidig was the last postmaster at Ottens because it was discontinued on April 30, 1913 with the mail being sent to Wildwood.

WILDWOOD: This town was founded by Philip Pontius Baker of Vineland, state senator from Cumberland County, in 1890. It is located on the center part of Five Mile Beach and about six miles northeast of Cape May City. Although there was much activity and business ventures here in the late 1800's, it wasn't until the January 1, 1912 consolidation of two improvement companies that Wildwood actually began its direction as a first rate resort. Long before the building of the boardwalk and piers, and the coming of railroad services, the Wildwood post office had already been set up. It had been established on September 14, 1889, with Reuben W. Ryan serving as postmaster. This first post office was in the general store built by the Baker Brothers who hired Mr. Ryan to be in charge of the store. He was young, energetic and successful. As Wildwood grew, he not only received the postmaster appointment but also became influential in many enterprises. Other persons who were postmasters at Wildwood include:

Henry W. Marts (1898)
William B. Livezey (1900)
J. A. Harris (1910)
George N. Smith (1914)
James A. Harris (1923)
Patrick J. Shortt (1934)
Joseph C. Bransfield (1947)
Larry Fitzpatrick (1976)

The present postmaster, Shirley Columbo, received the appointment on February 4, 1984.

It is interesting how unofficial "notes" concerning the mail are found in various books. The following is an example: separated from Wildwood by an inlet, the community of West Wildwood became its own borough in 1920. Although there is no official record of any postal history here, in the book Tales of the Jersey Cape, there is mention that mail service was started in 1921. Could this have meant that since West Wildwood had just been taken from Middle Township and became a borough, they were then entitled to service from the Wildwood post office? The Wildwood post office is a large first class facility serving the postal needs of the Five Mile Beach residents and tourists who look at the island, not as many small communities, but as a whole, as "The Wildwoods." The zip code for Wildwood is 08260.

THE CAPE MAY'S

CAPE MAY: The Cape May post office received its name when the third post office in Cape May County, Cape Island, had its name changed to Cape May. The original post office had opened in 1804, was in the hotel of Ellis Hughes and he was the first postmaster. Almost exactly 65 years later, the name change occurred with Joseph Ware continuing as the postmaster. Some of the postmasters have been:

Jonathan Garrison (1871)
Joseph Hughes (1882)
Waters Miller (1886)
Frederick Melvin (1886)
Furman Richardson (1889 and 1898)
John Thompson (1894)
Walter Learning (1901)
William Williams (1904)
James Taylor (1907).

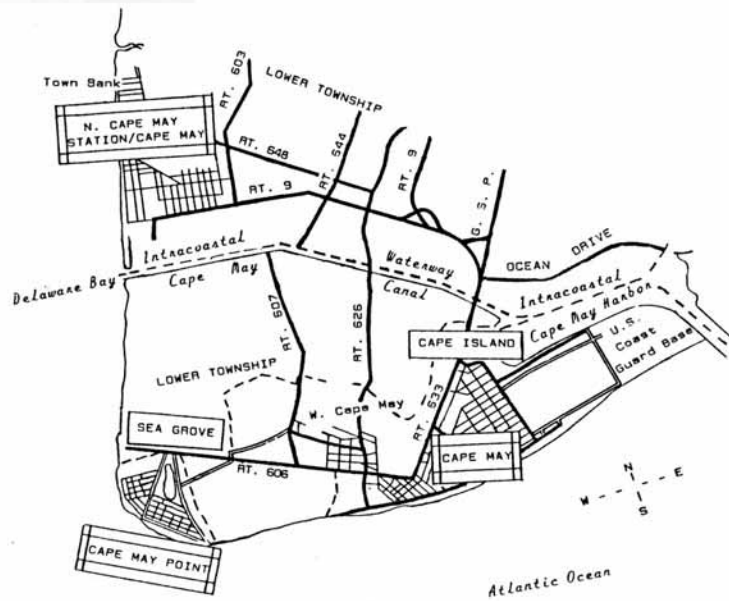
March 1994

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CAPE MAY POINT post office - 1992

"THE CAPE MAY'S" (Southernmost area of C.N.C.)



TWO LINE OUTLINE: Post Offices with Past & Present History
 ONE LINE OUTLINE: Post Offices with Past History

A 1907 issue of the Cape May Herald announced the nomination of Postmaster James E. Taylor of Cape May for a full term of four years which was confirmed by the U. S. Senate. The article said, "Postmaster Taylor has served since June when he was appointed to succeed William F. Williams, resigned." The rest of the postmasters at Cape May are:

Sol Needles (1916)
Frank Cassidy (1925)
Jere Chambers (1933)
Lemuel Miller, Jr. (1936)
Irene Pharo (1952)
Thomas Stevens (1954)
Robert Greenfield (1965)
Also Harvey Williams and Herbert Anger

Robert "Gene" Rohrer was appointed in 1989 and is the present postmaster. The Cape May post office, besides serving the City of Cape May, also has two branches: North Cape May and the U. S. Coast Guard Base.

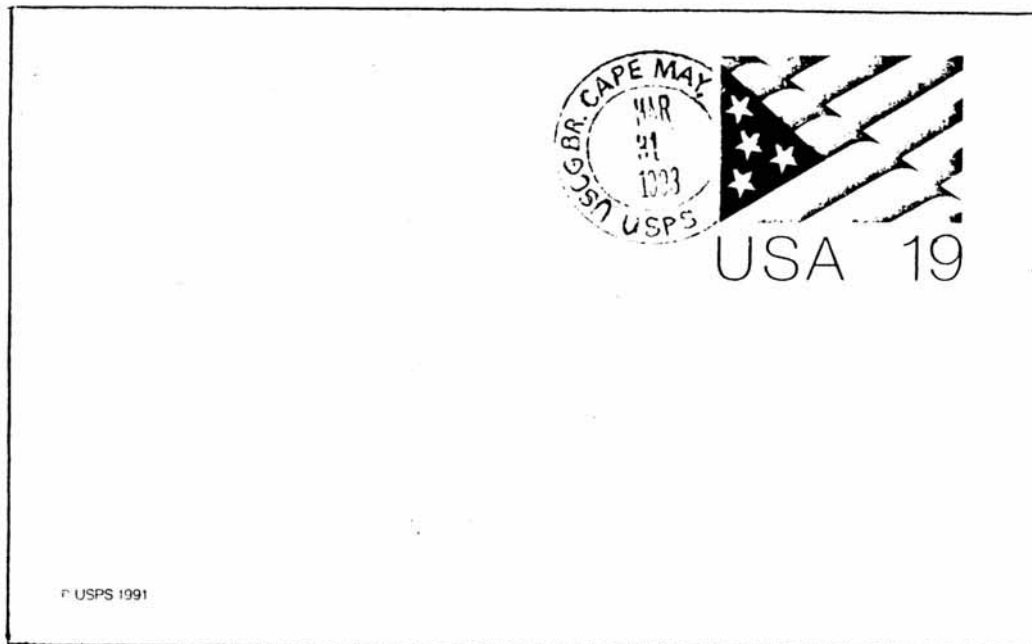
NORTH CAPE MAY: This is a branch office of the Cape May post office and is located in a small shopping center. This community borders on the original Cape May County settlement of Town Bank. North Cape May is a part of Lower Township and the main post office in Cape May is a separate city but both share the same zip code: 08204. The North Cape May post office began on September 12, 1966, and helps to serve the postal needs of Lower Township which has only one other post office.

COAST GUARD BASE: If you follow Munro Boulevard, after passing through the guarded gates, you will see the Base Post Office, the fourth building on the right. Although this branch has limited hours, each day a clerk from the Cape May post office arrives to not only distribute the mail but to sell stamps and money orders to the base personnel, and to take (picked up) mail back to the main office. The road you follow which goes past the post office and through the middle of the base, was named in honor of Signalman First Class Douglas Munro. He was the only Coast Guard person to receive the Medal of Honor, and was killed in World War II.

CAPE MAY POINT: The 157 foot lighthouse at Cape May Point is considered the finest landmark in the area and has been a silent sentinel for 134 years. Many of the 400,000 visitors since 1988 have climbed the 199 steps to the top. The historical structure is in the process of undergoing renovations which will include new paint on the cylindrical building, restoration of the light by replacing the lantern and rebuilding the roof. The Cape May Point lighthouse first began shining its light in 1859, seventeen years before the Sea Grove post office was established here in 1876 with Alexander Springer as the first postmaster. He continued as postmaster when the Sea Grove post office became the Cape May Point post office-- two years later in 1878.

Lewis Townsend Stevens, in his "THE HISTORY OF CAPE MAY COUNTY, NJ", chapter XXVIII: Distinguished Visitors, tells this story:

Soon after Cape May Point was established, John Wanamaker, of Philadelphia, bought property there and erected a summer home. When President Benjamin Harrison was inaugurated, he appointed Mr. Wanamaker his Postmaster General and they became warm friends. In June, 1889, Mrs. Harrison and the family were guests at the Wanamaker cottage for a few weeks, and liking Cape May well, so expressed herself. The President also paid one visit. During the winter of 1889 90, friends of the President built a handsome \$10,000 summer cottage, and through -Postmaster General Wanamaker presented the house, deed and keys to Mrs. Harrison. The reason why this little story is told here is that there is another story about Postmaster General John Wanamaker that perhaps not many people know about. He was the first to champion Rural Free (Mail) Delivery. As a Cape May Point summer resident, PMG Wanamaker is the slim connection between that town and this story about the Post Office Department and Rural Free Delivery.



**Hand-cancelled post card which reads (with date): USCG BR.CAPE
MAY USPS**



Photo of the Coast Guard Base Post Office.

Before Rural Free Delivery became a permanent institution, Postmaster General John Wanamaker, appointed in 1889, was the FIRST to champion the idea of rural delivery. But it was a long fight! Study authorizations, small appropriations, and later, another PMG's refusal to consider rural delivery of mail, all delayed the beginning of RFD. Even though Wanamaker experimented with RFD in 46 communities, receiving favorable comments from farmers, townspeople and postmasters, by the winter of 1891, and with no action taken, it was still under discussion all over America. PMG Wanamaker continued to express his views as to why RFD should be made not only permanent but should be extended. He said, "Rural Free Delivery brings new life, importance and dignity to the locality", and, "I confidently look forward to the time when the extension of Rural Free Delivery comes to the smaller towns ... and cover the country districts with a letter carrier service." The permanent establishment and extension of RFD, however, did not come about while Wanamaker was Postmaster General.

Although the 52nd Congress finally passed a Bill in March, 1893, appropriating \$10,000 to be used in carrying the mail to the farms. It seemed that RFD was off to a good start but a new Postmaster General, William Bissell, simply rejected the idea. Again, in 1895, Bissell refused Congress' \$20,000 for additional RFD experimenting, and he shortly thereafter resigned as PMG. William Wilson, as the next Postmaster General, chose his hometown of Charles Town, West Virginia, to begin a free mail delivery experiment for the farmers. In total, he selected 44 routes in 29 states which proved the success of the experiment, and the usefulness of the new service. So, in 1896, Rural Free (Mail) Delivery was born.

Although Cape May County rural mail carriers had not much need of such a conveyance, this photo shows the vehicle used by rural mail carriers in "snow-hound" areas. This mail sleigh is in a museum in New England. At the Cape May Point post office, Ammon Wright was the postmaster when rural free mail delivery was established nation-wide, although it was during his second term. He had been appointed the second postmaster in 1885 but was replaced by John Reeves in 1889. Wright then served from 1893 until 1897 when the position became the job of Edward Springer. Other postmasters at Cape May Point have been:

Charles Markley (1915)
Alexander Haldeman (1925)
Frank Hughes (1936)
Francis Grew (1940)
Mrs. Ray Gercw (1941)
Katherine Tyrrell (1961)
Peter Ballare (1963)
Rachel Hill (1964).

Following the retirement of Ms. Hill, an Officer-in-Charge assignment in 1992 went to Bonnie Kozak whose regular job is as a postal clerk in Cape May Court House. She not only sold stamps and distributed mail but her friendliness turned what the Cape May Point postal patrons called a bleak place to pick up mail into a community gathering spot. Radio news, music, a pot of coffee, and a jar of jelly beans helped. Kozak became so popular that more than 240 of the 250 year-round residents signed petitions urging that Kozak be appointed postmaster, and were sent to Postmaster General Marvin Runyon. The mayor of Cape May Point told her that as an elected official, he envied such a percentage of support. Even the U. S. Congressman for this district was unable to help. All of which caused, following the appointment of the postmaster, a local newspaper to headline their article "POPULAR DOESN'T MEAN (JELLY) BEANS WHEN IT COMES TO THE POSTAL SERVICE." The reason for Kozak being passed over? A present U.S.P.S. policy that "no clerk be appointed until all the managers (who were displaced in management cutbacks) were placed." Kozak has gone back to her old job, and the new postmaster, Joseph Damato (1993), a postal supervisor from Cherry Hill, NJ, has now taken over his duties.

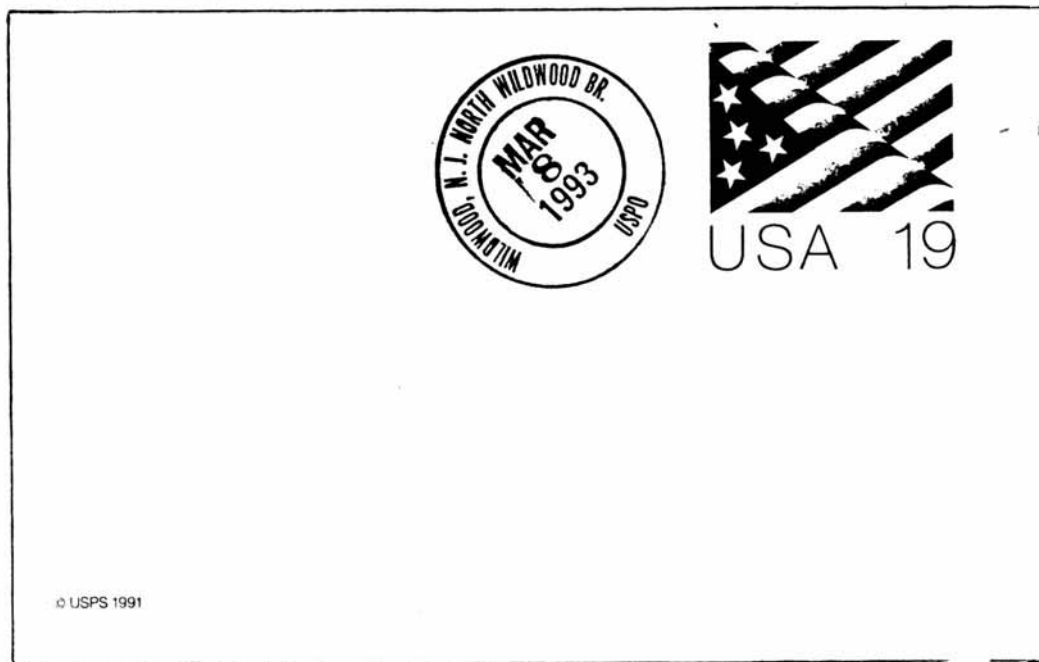
UPDATE: There are now eight post offices and three branches located within the cities and boroughs of Cape May County (the fourth branch in North Cape May is in Lower Township) serving the postal needs of its many residents. At various times through the years, the Post Office Department opened and closed seven other post offices on these island communities.

The U. S. Postal Service seems to be "loosening up" a little, or should it be called "getting smart?" During the spring and summer of this year (1993), orders were received at ALL post offices directing each to hold an open house for postal customers at which time they should be shown around even the formerly inaccessible parts of the post office. The intent of this is to improve public relations! Extended Saturday hours have also been ordered to better accommodate the public, along with the setting up of Postal Advisory Councils in various districts, made up of persons interested in the modernizing of the Postal Service.

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References:

- Post Offices and Postmasters of Cape May County, NJ, 1802-1970* by Craig Mathewson, Jr.
- History of Cape May County* by Lewis Townsend Stevens
- Tales of the Jersey Cape* by CMC Chamber of Commerce Bicentennial Commission
- Cape May County Magazine of History & Genealogy*
- The Official (souvenir) Book of The Sea Isle City Centennial* by The Centennial Committee
- Rural Free Delivery Celebrates 85 Years of Love-In-Action* by Ruthann Saenger (1981)



Postcard showing a recent North Wildwood (Branch) post office cancellation.

[The following list of postmasters and post offices was presented in the pages of *NJPH* in order by township. It has been changed here to alphabetical order, to make it easier to find a particular post office. Township [or borough or city] has been indicated however. This list is available in .xls format by contacting the New Jersey Postal History Society at NJPostalHistory@aol.com .]

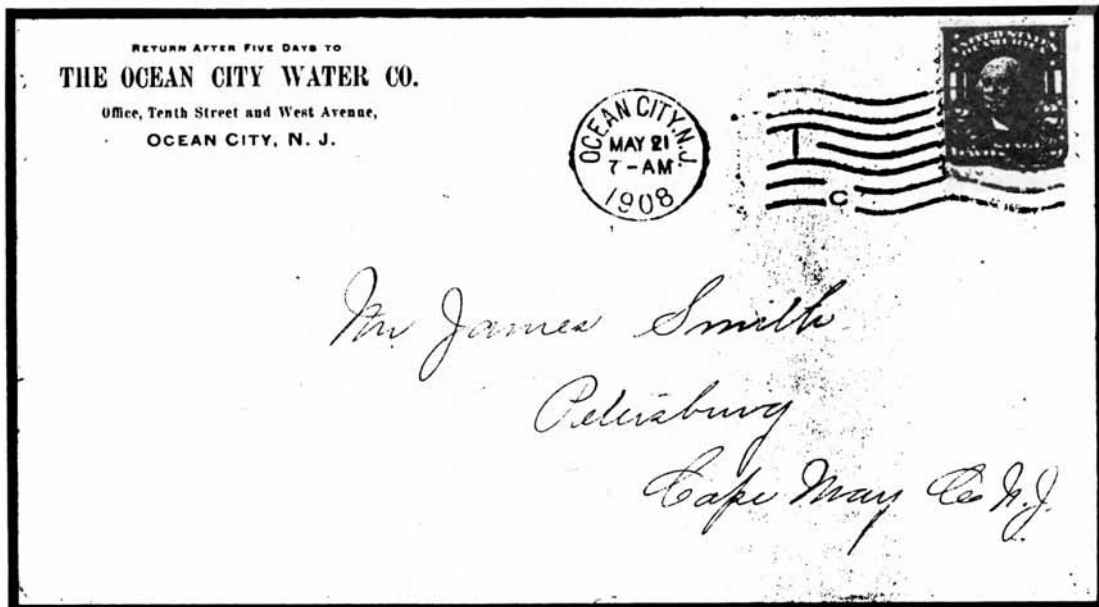
REFERENCES:

Postmasters and Post Offices of Cape May County, 1802 - 1970 by Craig Mathewson, Jr.
United States Postal Service Library, courtesy of Megaera Harris, historian.

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Dedication of the Marmora Post Office (7-22-66) - left to right: U.S. Senator Thomas McGrath, Postmaster Edward Getty, clerks Mary Law and Nancy Bianchini.



| Post Offices of Cape May County | Twp, Boro, City | DPO or Active [C] | Date est. - YYYY MM DD | Notes | Postmaster |
|---------------------------------|------------------|---|------------------------|--|------------------------|
| ANGLESEA | Five Mile Beach | X | 1893-11-19 | 1893-11-19 | William A. Tompkins |
| | | | | 1886-02-01 | Sarah D. Tompkins |
| | | | | 1887-07-05 | John Sturmer |
| | | | | 1889-06-17 | Jason Buck |
| | | | | 1893-07-14 | John Taylor |
| | | | | 1897-07-26 | Jason Buck |
| | | | | 1915-04-17 | Lorenzo B. Shivers |
| | | | | 1918-06-01 | Mary E. Miller (Act.) |
| | | | | 1918-08-09 | Martha Corson (Act.) |
| | | | | 1918-10-24 | Robert Bright |
| | | | | 1920-01-28 | Harry C. Wheaton |
| 1921-04-06 | Joseph H. Long | | | | |
| | | Discontinued 1924-06-30; mail transferred to Wildwood | | | |
| AVALON [08202] | Seven Mile Beach | C | 1888-07-09 | 1888-07-09 | George W. Smith |
| | | | | 1892-10-08 | Platt Brower |
| | | | | 1893-10-24 | James F. Corson |
| | | | | 1894-12-05 | Walter A. Smith |
| | | | | 1934-07-07 | Minnie I. McKeen |
| | | | | 1938-02-01 | Hiram S. McKeen |
| | | | | 1951-10-23 | Olga Halstadt (Act.) |
| | | | | 1951-12-03 | Edward Lawrence (Act.) |
| | | | | 1956-04-16 | Elmer S. Holmes, Jr. |
| 1993-01-09 | Donald K. Grosse | | | | |
| BEESELEY | Upper | X | 1822-07-06 | 1822-07-06 | Jarvis Brewster |
| | | | | 1824-03-29 | Samuel Orum |
| | | | | Discontinued 1829-06-12, re-established as Beesley's Point | |
| BEESELEY'S POINT | Upper | X | 1851-03-03 | 1851-03-03 | Joseph D. Chattin |
| | | | | 1872-02-07 | Joseph Bauer |
| | | | | 1884-03-06 | James A. Chattin |
| | | | | 1887-10-10 | James C. Ross |
| | | | | 1889-06-17 | Frank S. Ashmead |
| | | | | Discontinued 1934-03-15, mail to Ocean City | |
| BELLE PLAIN | Dennis | X | 1890-12-12 | Located in Cumberland Co. before 1890 | |
| | | | | 1890-12-12 | Albert T. Peacock |
| | | | | 1893-05-31 | George W. Blinn |
| | | | | 1897-06-11 | Lilburn M. Hess |
| | | | | 1903-06-27 | Rutherford B. Hess |
| | | | | 1908-06-11 | Howard G. Somers |
| | | | | 1915-01-06 | Rollen B. Mason |
| BELLEPLAIN | Dennis | X | 1921-04-18 | Changed to Belleplain 1921-04-18 | |
| | | | | 1921-04-18 | Howard G. Somers |
| | | | | Discontinued 1934-12-31, transferred to Woodbine | |

| Post Offices of Cape May County | Twp, Boro, City | DPO or Active [C] | Date est. - YYYY MM DD | Notes | Postmaster |
|---------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------------|--|----------------------|
| BURLEIGH | Middle | X | 1886-05-13 | 1886-05-13 | Deborah Carey |
| | | | | 1895-11-27 | Maggie McPherson |
| | | | | 1900-12-04 | Garner T. Hand |
| | | | | Discontinued 1909-08-31, mail transferred to White | |
| CAPE ISLAND | Lower | X | 1804-01-30 | 1804-01-30 | Ellis Hughes |
| | | | | 1820-03-08 | Alexander MacKenzie |
| | | | | 1833-04-04 | Joseph B. Hughes |
| | | | | 1835-06-18 | Jonas Miller |
| | | | | 1845-07-07 | James Clark |
| | | | | 1849-05-09 | George W. Hughes |
| | | | | 1851-07-28 | John K. F. Stites |
| | | | | 1853-01-20 | Samuel S. Marcy |
| | | | | 1857-03-13 | James Clark |
| | | | | 1859-12-05 | Samuel R. Magonagle |
| | | | | 1863-06-26 | Joseph S. Leach |
| | | | | 1866-07-10 | Joseph Ware |
| | | | | Changed on 1869-01-15 to Cape May | |
| CAPE MAY [08204] | City | C | 1889-01-15 | Changed from Cape Island | |
| | | | | 1869-01-15 | Joseph Ware |
| | | | | 1871-02-02 | Jonathan S. Garrison |
| | | | | 1882-02-08 | Joseph E. Hughes |
| | | | | 1886-03-12 | Waters B. Miller |
| | | | | 1886-04-16 | Frederick J. Melvin |
| | | | | 1889-04-16 | Furman L. Richardson |
| | | | | 1894-04-07 | John W. Thompson |
| | | | | 1898-05-05 | Furman L. Richardson |
| | | | | 1901-01-16 | Walter S. Learning |
| | | | | 1904-07-30 | William F. Williams |
| | | | | 1907-05-10 | James E. Taylor |
| | | | | 1916-05-17 | Sol Needles |
| | | | | 1925-02-28 | Frank W. Cassidy |
| | | | | 1933-06-19 | Jeremiah E. Chambers |
| | | | | 1936-03-13 | Lemuel E. Miller, Jr |
| | | | | 1952-06-03 | Irene Pharo (Act.) |
| | | | | 1954-03-01 | Thomas A. Stevens |
| | | | | 1965-07-12 | Robert E. Greenfield |
| | | | | 1975-10-25 | Harvey Williams |
| 1984-05-26 | Herbert Anger | | | | |
| 1989-11-18 | Robert E. Rohrer | | | | |
| CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE | Middle | C | 01-01-1803 | 1803-01-01 | Jeremiah Hand |
| | | | | 1804-07-01 | Jonathan Jarman |
| | | | | 1810-02-15 | Nathaniel Holmes |
| | | | | 1829-08-27 | Joseph Fifield |
| | | | | 1838-10-18 | James Hildreth |
| | | | | 1841-08-18 | Mark A. Carroll |
| | | | | 1844-03-07 | John M. Hand |
| | | | | 1846-11-12 | James Hildreth |
| | | | | 1847-04-19 | Elijah Townsend, Jr. |
| | | | | 1853-07-15 | John Farrow |
| | | | | 1858-04-16 | Nicholas A. Wenzell |
| | | | | 1860-09-10 | James McCartney |
| | | | | 1885-09-21 | Charles E. Nichols |
| | | | | 1889-04-17 | Harry S. Douglass |
| | | | | 1893-12-09 | Charles E. Nichols |

| Post Offices of Cape May County | Twp, Boro, City | DPO or Active [C] | Date est. - YYYY MM DD | Notes | Postmaster |
|---------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| | | | | 1898-01-15 | Horace E. Richardson |
| | | | | 1914-03-10 | Edward C. Wheaton |
| | | | | 1923-02-10 | Horace E. Richardson |
| | | | | 1933-06-26 | Jacob Garrison |
| | | | | 1946-07-31 | Edmund O. Howell |
| | | | | 1953-12-31 | Preston Fisher |
| | | | | 1955-06-30 | George W. Douglass |
| | | | | 1961-09-20 | John W. Wright |
| | | | | 1973-12-08 | Harvey Williams |
| | | | | 1976-07-03 | Norman Van Meter |
| | | | | 1990-03-10 | Howard Gendron |
| CAPE MAY POINT [08210] | Lower | C | 1878-08-08 | Changed from Sea Grove | |
| | | | | 1878-08-08 | Alexander W. Springer |
| | | | | 1885-09-21 | Ammon Wright |
| | | | | 1889-05-25 | John N. Reeves |
| | | | | 1893-07-17 | Ammon Wright |
| | | | | 1897-08-02 | Edward W. Springer |
| | | | | 1915-03-19 | Charles Markley |
| | | | | 1925-11-05 | Alexander W. Haldeman |
| | | | | 1936-06-11 | Frank W. Hughes |
| | | | | 1940-03-21 | Francis Adams Gerew |
| | | | | 1941-11-15 | Mrs. Ray W. Gerew |
| | | | | 1961-10-31 | Katherine A. Tyrrell |
| | | | | 1963-11-01 | Peter Ballare |
| | | | | 1964-05-01 | Rachel B. Hill |
| | | | | 1973-06-02 | Jeannette L. Maurer |
| 1975-11-22 | Elaine D. Riebel | | | | |
| 1993-04-03 | Joseph Damato | | | | |
| CEDAR BEACH | Peck Beach | X | 1990-06-13 | 1900-06-13 | Richard G. Yocum |
| | | | | 1902-08-01 | Jacob H. Gaul |
| | | | | Discontinued 1903-05-30; transferred to Ocean Rest | |
| | | | | | |
| CLERMONT | Dennis | X | 1886-02-04 | 1886-02-04 | Chester J. Todd |
| | | | | 1889-01-16 | Martha Y. Kates |
| | | | | 1909-08-17 | Zebulon T. Kates |
| | | | | Discontinued 1916-01-33, mail transferred to Cape May Court House | |
| | | | | | |
| COLD SPRING | Lower | X | 1802-09-07 1809-10-01 | Unofficial date | |
| | | | | National Archives date | Aaron Eldredge |
| | | | | 1813-09-08 | Daniel Hughes |
| | | | | 1815-10-10 | Ezekiel Stevens |
| | | | | 1849-06-15 | Joseph Eldredge |
| | | | | 1855-02-21 | Richard D. Edmunds |
| | | | | 1861-07-13 | Joseph Eldredge |
| | | | | 1877-12-07 | John M. Russell |
| | | | | 1885-11-13 | Harry B. Marcy |
| | | | | 1889-10-24 | Joseph C. Eldredge |
| | | | | 1893-10-09 | Furman Barnett |
| | | | | 1900-05-24 | Irvin H. Eldredge |
| | | | | 1903-12-22 | Henry J. Fleischlauer |
| | | | | 1908-04-14 | Frank H. Eldredge |
| | | | | Discontinued 1934-03-31; mail transferred to Cape May | |

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|---|----------------------|-------------------|---|---|---------------------|
| DENNIS CREEK DENNISVILLE [08214] | Dennis | X | 1802-10-09 | 1802-10-09 | Jeremiah Johnson |
| | | | | 1816-02-05 | James Diverty |
| | | | | 1829-06-19 | Jacob G. Smith |
| | | | | 1840-01-14 | Jacob Souder |
| | | | | 1848-01-20 | John L. Chance |
| | Dennis | C | 1854-01-12 | Name changed 1854-01-12 to Dennisville | |
| | | | | 1854-01-12 | John L. Chance |
| | | | | 1861-05-30 | Richard Crawford |
| | | | | 1869-03-26 | Francis Williams |
| | | | | 1874-01-19 | Eleazer Crawford |
| | | | | 1880-07-26 | John W. Young |
| | | | | 1886-04-23 | Jonas Shaw |
| | | | | 1886-05-26 | Thomas Ludlam |
| | | | | 1890-10-09 | Herbert M. Carroll |
| | | | | 1894-10-13 | Thomas Ludlam |
| | | | | 1896-10-09 | Franklin Earnest |
| | | | | 1901-08-29 | Herbert M. Carroll |
| | | | | 1914-12-21 | Harry W. Fidler |
| | | | | 1920-10-14 | Mary S. Fidler |
| | | | | 1939-09-19 | Walter W. Hughes |
| 1940-04-01 | Otto J. Precht | | | | |
| 1943-12-31 | Anne B. Tripet | | | | |
| 1950-02-09 | Roseanna M. Robinson | | | | |
| 1991-12-28 | Frank Germana | | | | |
| DYERS CREEK/ DIAS | Middle | X | 1824-03-30 | 1824-03-30 | Stillwell Hildreth |
| | | | | 1828-07-28 | John Ogden, Jr. |
| | | | 1850-09-09 | Discontinued 1829-05-16 | |
| | | | | Re-established 1850-09-09 | |
| | | | | 1850-09-09 | Charles K. Holmes |
| | | | | 1870-09-12 | Alexander Springer |
| | | | | 1874-11-05 | Thomas Learning |
| | | | | 1886-01-11 | Lizzie A. Erickson |
| | | | | 1889-08-16 | Thomas H. Leaming |
| | | | | 1893-08-26 | Ephraim S. Erricson |
| | | | | 1897-09-15 | Howard Douglass |
| | | | 1915-12-23 | Ephraim S. Erricson | |
| | | | Discontinued 1924-08-30, Mail transferred to Cape May Court House | | |
| EAST CREEK | Dennis | X | 1842-04-22 | 1842-04-22 | John Wilson |
| | | | | 1876-01-05 | Bell P. Wilson |
| | | | | 1879-01-23 | Asburg Goff |
| | | | | Discontinued 1899-10-31, mail transferred to Eldora | |
| ELDORA | Dennis | X | 1892-04-09 | 1892-04-09 | Howard Goff |
| | | | | 1892-01-09 | Isaac W. Lawson |
| | | | | 1902-01-11 | Carlos M. Broughton |
| | | | | Discontinued 1934-04-14, mail transferred to Woodbine | |
| ELDRIDGE | Lower | X | 1898-08-02 | 1898-08-02 | Horace E. Swain |
| | | | | Name changed 1909-11-08 to West Cape May | |

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|---|----------------------|-------------------|------------------------|--|-------------------------|-----------------|
| ERMA | Lower | X | 1893-03-03 | 1893-03-03 | Reuben T. Johnson | |
| | | | | Discontinued 1923-12-15; mail transferred to Cape May | | |
| FISHING CREEK | Lower | X | 1818-06-20 | 1818-06-20 | Robert Edmunds | |
| | | | | 1822-04-16 | Jonathan Cummings | |
| | | | | 1825-05-20 | Reuben Foster | |
| | | | | 1834-04-03 | Robert E. Foster | |
| | | | | 1838-10-18 | Leonard Cummings | |
| | | | | 1886-12-06 | Aaron H. Snyder | |
| | | | | 1887-02-15 | Washington Hemingway | |
| | | | | 1908-05-11 | Herbert Sf Shaw | |
| | | | | 1910-12-01 | Freeman E. Yearicks | |
| | | | | Discontinued 1918-04-30; re-established 1931-09-18 as Villas | | |
| GOSHEN [08218] | Middle | C | 1818-06-05 | 1818-06-05 | Richard Thompson, Jr. | |
| | | | | 1820-09-18 | James Maguire | |
| | | | | 1829-10-10 | Bernard Murphy | |
| | | | | 1834-03-29 | Mackey Williams | |
| | | | | 1836-03-05 | James Waters | |
| | | | | 1837-03-24 | Thomas Wible | |
| | | | | 1840-07-11 | James Maguire | |
| | | | | 1845-07-07 | Edward Price | |
| | | | | Discontinued 1852-10-09 | | |
| | | | | 1853-04-02 | Restablished 1853-04-02 | |
| | | | | | 1853-04-02 | John W. Swain |
| | | | | | 1856-02-18 | Moses S. Dalbey |
| | | | | | 1861-07-13 | James Wiley |
| | | | 1865-01-30 | | Griffin Smith | |
| | | | 1870-05-10 | | Benjamin Oliphant | |
| | | | 1870-12-14 | | Smith Champion | |
| | | | 1872-01-25 | | Robert P. Thompson | |
| | | | 1885-11-25 | | Edward J. Mixner | |
| | | | 1889-04-13 | | Anna H. Grace | |
| | | | 1905-05-13 | | Andrew J. Tomlin | |
| | | | 1906-01-10 | | Sarah C. Tomlin | |
| | | | 1909-07-30 | Nelson T. Smith | | |
| | | | 1949-02-28 | Harriet C. Shaw | | |
| | | | 1959-05-22 | Robert A. Pedano | | |
| | | | 1960-01-08 | Ida E. Smith | | |
| 1967-04-13 | Ida Rebecca Volleley | | | | | |
| GRASSEY SOUND | Middle | X | 1910-01-11 | 1910-01-11 | William T. Royds | |
| | | | | 1920-05-18 | Marie K. Lee | |
| | | | | 1921-06-15 | Maud Mayor | |
| | | | | 1921-12-02 | George A. Weber | |
| | | | | Discontinued 1922-08-15 | | |
| | | | | Re-establ. 1924-07-21 | | |
| | | | | 1924-07-21 | Ida M. Schmiech | |
| | | | | 1932-07-11 | Charles Norton, Jr. | |
| Discontinued 1935-05-31; mail transferred to Wildwood | | | | | | |

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|---------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------------------|---|------------------------|--|
| GREEN CREEK [08219] | Middle | C | 1829-08-27 | 1829-08-27 | Matthew Marcy | |
| | | | | 1850-09-09 | Seth Miller | |
| | | | | 1854-01-12 | John T. Price | |
| | | | | 1855-05-14 | James W. Johnson | |
| | | | | 1857-06-15 | Matthew Marcy | |
| | | | | 1861-10-03 | William Hildreth | |
| | | | | 1863-06-09 | Aaron Miller | |
| | | | | 1870-06-22 | James J. Miller | |
| | | | | 1886-02-12 | Henry Schellinger, Jr. | |
| | | | | 1899-03-15 | Seth Miller, Jr. | |
| | | | | 1940-01-31 | Edna Norbury | |
| | | | | 1956-10-31 | Geraldine C. Hickman | |
| | | | | Name changed to Ludlam; changed back 1978? | | |
| | | | | 1978-04-22 | Howard G. Gendron | |
| | | | | 1983-02-05 | Louis DeNafo | |
| 1989-03-25 | Linda Lee Reeves | | | | | |
| 1993-01-23 | Charlotte M. McPeake | | | | | |
| HOLLY BEACH | Five Mile Beach | X | 1883-11-26 | 1883-11-26 | Jennie Osborn | |
| | | | | 1893-09-05 | Frank E. Smith | |
| | | | | 1897-11-30 | William E. Forcum | |
| | | | | 1901-11-16 | Frederick C. Meyer | |
| | | | | 1911-12-12 | Israel T. Woolson | |
| | | | | Discontinued 1913-04-30; mail transferred to Wildwood | | |
| MARMORA [08223] | Upper | C | 1890-06-21 | 1890-06-21 | Joseph H. Carson | |
| | | | | 1894-12-22 | Stephen H. Young | |
| | | | | 1898-12-24 | Joseph H. Carson | |
| | | | | 1907-11-11 | Edgar A. Stratton | |
| | | | | 1941-12-01 | Wilma B. Clayton | |
| | | | | 1947-11-10 | Melvin L. Pashley | |
| | | | | 1949-07-01 | Edward C. Getty | |
| | | | | 1980-11-29 | Albert P. Bowers | |
| OCEAN CITY [08226] | Peck Beach | C | 1881-03-02 | 1881-03-02 | William H. Burrell | |
| | | | | 1887-10-15 | R. Howard Thorn | |
| | | | | 1889-04-25 | R. Curtis Robinson | |
| | | | | 1893-09-16 | R. Howard Thorn | |
| | | | | 1901-02-22 | Edward Sutton | |
| | | | | 1914-03-10 | Benjamin F. Smith | |
| | | | | 1923-03-01 | Edward M. Sutton | |
| | | | | 1928-06-01 | Everton A. Corson | |
| | | | | 1930-07-16 | J. Reeves Hildreth | |
| | | | | 1934-04-07 | George R. Greis (Act.) | |
| | | | | 1935-06-26 | Leroy Jeffries | |
| | | | | 1954-04-30 | Theodore L. Adams | |
| | | | | 1961-04-28 | C. Wesley Barclay | |
| | | | | 1971-03-06 | Michael Dattilo | |
| | | | | 1981-04-04 | Basil Randazzo | |
| 1988-09-10 | James W. Fusco | | | | | |

| Post Offices of Cape May County | Twp, Boro, City | DPO or Active [C] | Date est. - YYYY MM DD | Notes | Postmaster |
|--|------------------|-------------------|------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| OCEAN REST | Peck Beach | X | 1893-01-28 | 1893- 01-28 | William L. Smith |
| | | | | Discontinued 1893-10-14 | |
| | | | | Re-establ. 1897-05-19 | |
| | | | | 1897-05-19 | Clifton Smith |
| | | | | 1898-01-13 | William L. Smith |
| | | | | Discontinued 1903-06-30; transferred to Ocean City | |
| OCEAN VIEW [08230] | Dennis | C | 1872-05-06 | 1872-05-06 | William Doolittle |
| | | | | 1885-11-25 | Stephen T. Coleman |
| | | | | 1889-08-16 | Shagmar C. Townsend |
| | | | | 1893-09-02 | Belle S. Coleman |
| | | | | 1897-08-04 | Albert Way |
| | | | | 1919-05-14 | Elizabeth V. Way |
| | | | | 1924-03-18 | Joseph L. Donohue |
| | | | | 1926-08-24 | Susie G. Downam |
| | | | | 1943-10-01 | Janet C. Adams |
| | | | | 1946-03-31 | Rhoda B. Downam |
| | | | | 1954-03-31 | Evelyn H. Way |
| | | | | 1981-02-07 | Shaun O'Hara |
| | | | | 1982-08-21 | Howard Gendron |
| 1988-10-08 | Louis DeNafo | | | | |
| OTTENS | Five Mile Beach | X | 1906-05-22 | 1906-05-22 | Joseph P. Boon |
| | | | | 1907-12-02 | Amos S. Leek |
| | | | | 1909-02-05 | Joseph W. Marsh |
| | | | | 1911-02-16 | Horace R. Leidig |
| | | | | Discontinued 1913-04-30; mail transferred to Wildwood | |
| PALERMO | Upper | X | 1872-12-11 | 1872-12-11 | James S. Willets |
| | | | | 1878-09-30 | Luther Corson |
| | | | | 1887-03-29 | Eleanor W. Corson |
| | | | | 1887-04-05 | Amos T. Gandy |
| | | | | 1889-05-25 | Sallie P. Young |
| | | | | 1893-08-31 | Seth W. Corson |
| | | | | 1897-09-14 | Jesse S. Corson |
| | | | | 1914-05-22 | Curtis Corson |
| | | | | 1931-01-07 | David F. Gaul |
| Discontinued 1934-03-15, transferred to Ocean View | | | | | |
| PEERMONT | Seven Mile Beach | X | 1907-05-29 | 1907-05-29 | Mary E. Mahan |
| | | | | 1919-10-03 | M. E. M. Shuttleworth |
| | | | | Discontinued 1934-05-30; transferred to Avalon | |
| | | | | | |
| PETERSBURGH | Upper | | 1849-02-08 | 1849-02-08 | Peter Corson |
| | | | | 1849-06-26 | Stephen Young |
| | | | | 1853-08-16 | Lewis L. Dunn |
| | | | | 1856-02-19 | Stephen Young |
| | | | | 1856-04-14 | Peter Corson |
| | | | | 1865-06-22 | Thaddeus Van Gilder |
| | | | | 1881-02-07 | Hannah Van Gilder |
| | | | | 1882-02-13 | William R. Van Gilder |
| | | | | 1885-08-03 | Harrison J. Corson |
| | | | | 1889-04-15 | William R. Van Gilder |
| Name changed to Petersburg | | | | | |

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|---------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| PETERSBURG | Upper | X | 1893-10-13 | 1893-10-13 | Harrison J. Corson |
| | | | | 1899-04-04 | Lillian F. Young |
| | | | | 1908-07-07 | Eva S. Van Gilder |
| | | | | 1913-09-27 | Thomas B. Matthews |
| | | | | 1914-12-02 | Ethel M. Carter |
| | | | | 1915-08-05 | Fred S. Carter |
| | | | | 1922-05-01 | James S. Smith (Act.) |
| | | | | 1922-11-14 | Eliza D. Smith |
| | | | | 1935-09-15 | Ida Detro |
| | | | | Discontinued 1959-07-31, transferred to Woodbine | |
| PIERCES | Middle | X | 1897-08-06 | 1897-08-06 | Joseph Camp |
| | | | | 1914-05-22 | Harry I. Fisher |
| | | | | Discontinued 1916-01-31, mail transferred to Cape May Court House | |
| | | | | | |
| RIO GRANDE [08242] | Middle | C | 1849-02-18 | 1849-02-18 | Jeremiah Hand |
| | | | | Discontinued 1850-09-09 | |
| | | | | Re-established 1856-09-06 | |
| | | | | 1867-10-18 | William K. Palmer |
| | | | | 1873-06-24 | Joseph H. Richardson |
| | | | | 1885-08-03 | Ichabod C. Compton |
| | | | | 1886-12-06 | Howard C. Buck |
| | | | | 1893-07-17 | Frederick B. Neale |
| | | | | 1893-08-31 | Franklin P. Neal |
| | | | | 1897-07-12 | David C. Goff |
| | | | | 1913-01-17 | Frank Downs |
| | | | | 1931-12-14 | Lottie Downs |
| | | | | 1943-08-01 | Elizabeth E. Church |
| | | | | 1947-07-31 | Leona I. Sewell |
| | | | | 1973-04-28 | Russell Winsett |
| | | | | 1976-11-06 | James Fusco (Act.) |
| | | | | 1987-04-25 | Dean P. Smith |
| | | | | 1989-11-18 | Gerald Griffin, (Act.) |
| 1991-06-15 | Harry Headrick | | | | |
| SEA GROVE | Lower | X | 1876-03-27 | 1876-03-27 | Alexander W. Springer |
| | | | | Changed 1878-08-08 to Cape May Point | |
| | | | | | |
| SEA ISLE CITY [08243] | Ludlam Beach | X | 1882-06-20 | 1882-06-20 | George Whitney |
| | | | | 1883-08-29 | John S. Morris |
| | | | | 1885-09-15 | William R. Bryant |
| | | | | 1889-04-16 | J. Monroe Chester |
| | | | | 1893-09-19 | J. P. Delaney |
| | | | | 1894-03-31 | Lewis Steinmeyer |
| | | | | 1898-10-01 | Lewis S. Chester |
| | | | | 1901-12-28 | Edward H. Duncan |
| | | | | 1905-10-14 | James T. Chapman |
| | | | | 1915-03-05 | Thomas E. Ludlam, Jr. |
| | | | | 1920-09-27 | Charles Camp (Act.) |
| | | | | 1922-12-04 | James T. Chapman |
| | | | | 1926-09-30 | Mary Lamanna (Act.) |
| | | | | 1926-10-13 | Gustave Mornhiweg (Act.) |
| | | | | 1926-12-31 | Mary Lamanna (Act.) |
| | | | | 1927-01-22 | Richard W. Rosenbaum |
| 1932-11-28 | Ira P. Hess | | | | |

| Post Offices of Cape May County | Twp, Boro, City | DPO or Active [C] | Date est. - YYYY MM DD | Notes | Postmaster |
|---------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| | | | | 1934-06-07 | Thomas Whittington |
| | | | | 1953-10-12 | Elmer B. Reed |
| | | | | 1973-04-28 | Dolores Sweetman |
| | | | | 1991-06-01 | Robert Piacentino |
| | | | | 1993-03-05 | Richard Menta |
| SEAVILLE | Upper | X | 1849-07-09 | 1849-07-09 | John Gandy |
| | | | | 1863-07-29 | John Jones |
| | | | | 1867-07-26 | Thomas R. Gandy |
| | | | | 1867-10-18 | Ellis H. Marshall |
| | | | | 1885-11-25 | Thomas C. Sharp |
| | | | | 1889-07-23 | Ellis H. Marshall |
| | | | | 1906-07-13 | Ludlam M. Lee |
| | | | | 1909-02-13 | Brinton J. Corson |
| | | | | Discontinued 1915-10-15, mail to Ocean View | |
| SOUTH DENNIS [08245] | Dennis | C | 1873-02-24 | 1873-02-24 | Robert Hutchinson |
| | | | | 1877-07-13 | Rhoda L. Hutchinson |
| | | | | 1891-10-10 | Mortimer T. Hutchinson |
| | | | | 1891-10-30 | Margaret C. Carl |
| | | | | 1901-12-10 | Josephine Douglass |
| | | | | 1927-05-01 | George T. Stenecker |
| | | | | 1953-02-14 | Otis N. McKaig |
| | | | | 1953-12-02 | Leslie A. Stiles |
| | | | | 1960-08-16 | Ruth M. Visick |
| | | | | 1971-09-04 | Ruth (Visick) Quinlan |
| | | | | 1979-12-01 | Charles A. Minahan |
| SOUTH SEAVILLE [08246] | Dennis | C | | 1867-09-07 | Remington Corson |
| | | | | 1881-12-06 | Baker Corson |
| | | | | 1885-09-21 | Edwin F. Westcott |
| | | | | 1889-05-11 | Remington Corson |
| | | | | 1892-01-14 | Charles Way |
| | | | | 1892-10-22 | Remington Corson |
| | | | | 1894-04-28 | Edwin F. Wescott |
| | | | | 1897-03-21 | Marietta Westcott |
| | | | | 1900-05-14 | Michael Swing |
| | | | | 1902-11-24 | Arlington B. Corson |
| | | | | 1907-04-23 | Newell S. Corson |
| | | | | 1928-04-21 | Warren J. Laricks |
| | | | | 1942-05-09 | Harold E. Morley |
| | | | | 1944-02-03 | Mary M. Thorp |
| | | | | (name changed to Ratcliffe) | |
| | | | | 1953-06-16 | Fred E. Houston |
| | | | | 1963-03-29 | Mary M. Ratcliffe |
| | | | | 1963-11-08 | Samuel A. Van Sant |
| | | | | 1969-04-25 | Joan Whittington (Act.) |
| | | | | (name changed to Sorenson) | |
| STONE HARBOR [08247] | Seven Mile Beach | C | 1894-07-03 | 1894-07-03 | Hiram W. Godfrey |
| | | | | 1895-05-25 | Lin R. Beecher |
| | | | | 1895-08-03 | George Rummel |
| | | | | 1896-12-26 | Smith S. Hand |
| | | | | 1899-01-06 | George J. Rummel |
| | | | | 1900-06-19 | John McCormack |
| | | | | 1906-05-21 | Mary E. McCormick |
| | | | | 1907-07-23 | George J. Rummel |
| | | | | 1910-12-14 | George Freshell |

| Post Offices of Cape May County | Twp, Boro, City | DPO or Active [C] | Date est. - YYYY MM DD | Notes | Postmaster |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| | | | | 1917-01-31 | William J. Christian |
| | | | | 1921-11-15 | Oliver F. Ferree |
| | | | | 1929-03-31 | George Martin |
| | | | | 1934-01-16 | Edward J. Lennon |
| | | | | 1963-06-19 | Alvin Garrison (Act.) |
| | | | | 1964-04-10 | M. Stuart Atwood |
| | | | | 1973-04-28 | Robert Rittenhouse |
| | | | | 1988-06-18 | Howard Gendron |
| | | | | 1990-08-11 | Anthony Previti |
| | | | | | |
| STRATHMERE [08248] | Upper | C | 1912-01-17 | 1912-01-17 | George R. McCullough |
| | | | | 1935-04-06 | Minnie G. Corson |
| | | | | 1945-05-01 | George Kurtz |
| | | | | 1945-12-01 | Harlan P. Wittkamp |
| | | | | 1956-05-03 | Margaret Wittkamp |
| | | | | 1988-03-26 | Richard Irion |
| | | | | 1992-04-18 | Wesley Wright |
| | | | | | |
| SWAINTON | Middle | X | 1896-04-13 | 1896-04-13 | Luther M. Swain |
| | | | | 1899-01-10 | John Sayre |
| | | | | 1904-04-05 | Amos T. Brower |
| | | | | 1915-03-10 | Luther M. Swain |
| | | | | 1918-07-20 | Margaret B. Temple |
| | | | | Discontinued 1919-08-30, mail transferred to Cape May Court House | |
| | | | | | |
| TOWNSEND INLET | Middle | X | 1826-04-10 | Unofficial date | |
| | | | | 1826-04-10 | William Stites |
| | | | | Discontinued 1827-02-27, re-established: | |
| | | | 1849-06-09 | 1849-06-09 | William L. Stites |
| | | | | 1861-04-09 | Chauncey M. Brower |
| | | | | 1867-08-19 | William Hewitt |
| | | | | 1872-04-12 | Talitha Brower |
| | | | | 1882-06-22 | Racliff Morris |
| | | | | 1885-09-18 | Isaac Swain, Jr. |
| | | | | 1889-08-16 | George Eldridge |
| | | | | 1893-08-26 | Luther M. Swain |
| | | | | Changed on 1896-04-13 to Swainton | |
| | | | | | |
| TOWNSEND'S INLET | Ludlam Beach | X | 1904-08-10 | 1904-08-10 | John M. Evoy |
| | | | | 1907-04-17 | Joseph H. Fisher |
| | | | | 1908-12-31 | William J. Shellam |
| | | | | 1964-04-24 | Dolores Sweetman |
| | | | | Became a station of Sea Isle City | |
| | | | | | |
| TUCKAHOE [08250] | Upper | C | 1828-01-14 | 1828-01-14 | John Williams |
| | | | | 1835-05-11 | Edward Middleton |
| | | | | 1836-07-15 | Mackey Williams |
| | | | | 1844-04-02 | Martin Madden |
| | | | | 1846-03-20 | Hosea F. Madden |
| | | | | 1848-04-21 | Thomas Williams |
| | | | | 1853-07-15 | Lewis L. Dunn |
| | | | | 1853-08-16 | Ephraim Westcott |
| | | | | 1858-01-30 | Elijah Ireland |
| | | | | 1859-02-08 | William I. Royal |
| | | | | 1864-05-09 | Peter Turner |

| Post Offices of Cape May County | Twp, Boro, City | DPO or Active [C] | Date est. - YYYY MM DD | Notes | Postmaster |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------|---|------------------------|
| | | | | 1875-06-04 | Thomas M. Seely |
| | | | | 1883-08-29 | Charles H. Blizzard |
| | | | | 1885-08-03 | William B. Brown |
| | | | | 1889-05-11 | Thomas M. Seely |
| | | | | 1893-07-26 | Otis Madden |
| | | | | 1897-01-13 | Jennie Madden |
| | | | | 1934-06-15 | Mary R. Warren |
| | | | | 1963-01-31 | Gordon M. Thomson |
| VILLAS [08251] | Lower | X | 1931-09-18 | Changed from Fishing Creek 1931-09-18 | Harry R. Murray |
| | | | | 1939-10-23 | Blanche F. Erricson |
| | | | | 1954-05-31 | Margaret Smith (Act.) |
| | | | | 1955-08-02 | Thomas J. Carey |
| | | | | 1966-08-12 | John Linnington. Jr. |
| | | | | 1967-12-20 | Joseph Langley |
| | | | | 1979-09-08 | Joseph Moore |
| | | | | 1983-10-15 | William H. Whitaker |
| | | | | 1991-03-23 | Gerald M. Griffin, Jr. |
| WEST CAPE MAY | Lower | X | 1909-11-08 | Changed 1909-11-08 from Eldredge | Horace E. Swain |
| | | | | 1910-12-24 | Thomas S. Sayre |
| | | | | 1915-07-21 | Mark C. Frymire |
| | | | | Discontinued 1920-03-31; mail transferred to Cape May | |
| WHITE | Middle | X | 1903-08-11 | 1903-08-11 | Henry W. Spaulding |
| WHITESBORO [08252] | Middle | C | 1909-10-26 | Changed on 1909-10-26 to Whitesboro | |
| | | | | 1909-10-26 | Henry W. Spaulding |
| | | | | 1918-01-02 | Christine P. Mayo |
| | | | | 1923-07-18 | Elinor L. Jones |
| | | | | 1929-08-15 | Oliver Moore |
| | | | | 1933-05-02 | George W. Jones |
| | | | | 1945-12-15 | Marie Campbell |
| | | | | 1963-12-30 | Alberta Martin (Act.) |
| | | | | 1964-02-14 | Frances Clark (Act.) |
| | | | | 1966-09-02 | Jeanette Richardson |
| WILDWOOD [08260] | Five Mile Beach | C | 1889-09-14 | 1889-09-14 | Reuben W. Ryan |
| | | | | 1898-01-27 | Henry W. Marts |
| | | | | 1900-12-15 | William B. Livezey |
| | | | | 1910-02-21 | J. A. Harris |
| | | | | 1914-05-08 | George N. Smith |
| | | | | 1923-03-01 | James A. Harris |
| | | | | 1934-02-05 | Patrick J. Shortt |
| | | | | 1947-02-28 | Joseph C. Bransfield |
| | | | | 1976-11-04 | Larry Fitzpatrick |
| | | | | 1984-01-21 | Shirley Columba |
| WILDWOOD CREST | Five Mile Beach | X | 1909-07-23 | 1909-07-23 | Leslie Hallen |
| | | | | Discontinued 1913-04-30; mail transferred to Wildwood | |

| Post Offices of Cape May County | Twp, Boro, City | DPO or Active [C] | Date est. - YYYY MM DD | Notes | Postmaster |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| WOODBINE [08270] | City | C | 1891-12-29 | 1891-12-29 | Wilbur E. Young |
| | | | | 1892-11-11 | John W. Young |
| | | | | 1894-03-02 | Herman Rosenfeld |
| | | | | 1895-11-23 | Jacob Feldman |
| | | | | 1914-03-10 | Leo M. Danerhirsh |
| | | | | 1923-03-01 | Jacob Feldman |
| | | | | 1933-12-25 | Milton Katz |
| | | | | 1935-06-04 | Irma Goodman |
| | | | | 1937-12-11 | Clara Katz |
| | | | | Name changed to Spindel | |
| | | | | 1948-01-28 | Maynard C. Rosenfeld |
| | | | | 1973-09-15 | Donald Heckman |

REFERENCES:

Postmasters and Post Offices of Cape May County, 1802 - 1970 by Craig Mathewson, Jr.
United States Postal Service Library, courtesy of Megaera Harris, historian.

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Dear Craig,

Thank you for pointing out those parts of my article (in the March '93 issue) which need to be corrected. I have already entered the corrections and/or additions into my computer so that when I do the FULL story in booklet form, all my information will be right. (See attached page.)

One correction which I discovered myself but which nobody else corrected was naming Albert Way as postmaster of Ocean View. When I wrote that part, I was using my memory of how things were. Before the retirement of Mr. and Mrs. Way, and I was employed in the Marmora P.O., I remember my postmaster talking on the phone to Mr. Way about many postal matters, not usually to Mrs. Way, and so I just assumed that he was the postmaster. So, once again, I am glad to have the use of your list. (Error by writer.)

Also, on page 42 of the JOURNAL, under an envelope commemorating the 90th anniversary of Marmora P.O. it says Shaun O'Hara, Postmaster. That is wrong, O'Hara was the Officer-in-Charge not the P.M. (Error by JOURNAL.)

I have already submitted two more chapters to the NJPHS JOURNAL. They are on Dennis Township and Middle Township. Although I hope there are no errors, there is always the chance of some. If there are, please feel free to contact me and tell me.

Sincerely, Mary E. Law

Dear Brad:

Another P.S.:

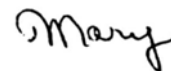
In the Dennis Township story, one of the postmasters of Ocean View P. O. was incorrectly listed as Gendem; it should have Gerdron.

Also, under Eldora P.O., Isaac Lawson is actually Dawson. It is spelled with an L in Mathewson's book, and so is probably listed that way in the Archives too; and I sent my story to the Journal using that spelling.

But later research (mine) shows that this postmaster was also the Eldora Methodist church minister, and his name was Isaac Dawson

I don't remember exactly where I found that information but when I come across it again, if you want, I could give it to you as a reference for correcting his name.

(I do not believe that the Archives is always the last answer any more than I believe that it was the Post Office Department who continually changed two-word post offices to one-word or vice versa -- such as from Ocean View to Oceanview or from Belleplain to Belle Plain; my opinion is that whatever way the postmaster spelled it, the POD accepted it.)



May 1994

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NJPH

Cape May County

CORRECTIONS TO "POSTAL HISTORY OF UPPER TOWNSHIP" by Mary Law:

Beesley's Point - an earlier post office opened July 6, 1822 under the name of Beesleys, disc. June 12, 1829.
I obtained that info from you after I had submitted thin story to the Journal.

Palermo - the Editor's note agrees with my info (discontinued March 15, 1934) but I believe the mail was transferred to Ocean View, rather than to Ocean City. There were four postmasters after Seth Corson.
This section was a direct quota from "History of U.T. & Its Villages". I did not have the additional info prior to submission to Journal.

Ocean View - The post office opened May 6, 1872 rather than 1830, also I have no record of Clifton Smith as a postmaster - Belle Coleman was appointed Sept. 2, 1893 and served until Aug. 4, 1897.
My submitted story said "The Ocean View Post Office was established in 1872, thereby taking... etc. I purposely left out details because Ocean View is not in U.T. and would be covered better in the Dennis Township chapter.

Strathmere - I have no record of Katherine McCullough as a postmaster.
This was taken from "History of U.T. & Its Villages". Again, I had not put a date of establishment because I didn't have that info at the time.

Tuckahoe - There have been 18 postmasters over the years, 3 different "Williams" in the pre-1850 period.
Here I had put 19 postmasters because I counted Thomas Seely two times (He had two different terms).

Marshallville - There is no record of a CMC post office under this name. Prior to 1878 Marshallville was located approximately on the Cape May-Cumberland County line, and the 1872 Beers map shows the main intersection to be in Cumberland Co.

ALTHOUGH THE WRITER STANDS CORRECTED ON THE MARSHALLVILLE INFO, SHE DOES HAVE A DIFFERENT VIEW:

Info taken from "History of U.T. & Its Villages" - quote: "There are records of a ...and a country store which contained a post office." unquote. This writer spoke with quoted person's son and he explained that there are no records am to an official post office but there was a general store from which mail was dispensed. He has in him possession the sorting case used for that purpose, and labeled alphabetically.

Discussed the possibility of Marshallville getting mail sent over by Tuckahoe P.O. - it could be; also, many ships traveling the Tuckahoe River could have dropped off merchandise and mail.

As far as boundary lines are concerned, it seems that the dividing line was the Tuckahoe River and Mill Creek which would have put some stores in Cumberland Co. BUT, once the boundary line changed, Marshallville became part of CMC and Upper Township. As such, it is of historical interest to CMC and U.T.

This writer's conclusion: if (an author/reporter) makes no claim that all this is official, it than becomes just an interesting (perhaps even significant) historical story.

136 N. Shore Rd.
Marmora NJ 08223

Dec. 28, 1993

Dear Brad,

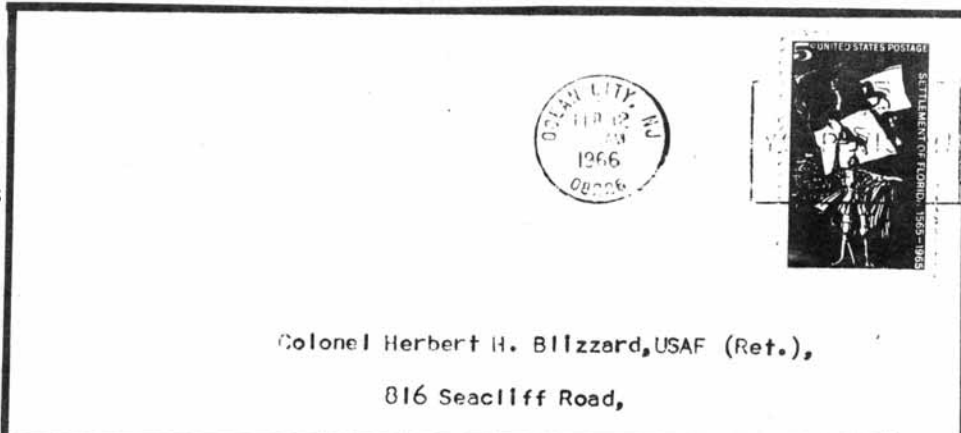
Here I am, late as usual. I had intentions of writing much sooner to thank you and the NJPHS for selecting my story as the best article published in 1993. I was completely surprised by this honor but also happy and encouraged by it. Thank you!

Best wishes for 1994.

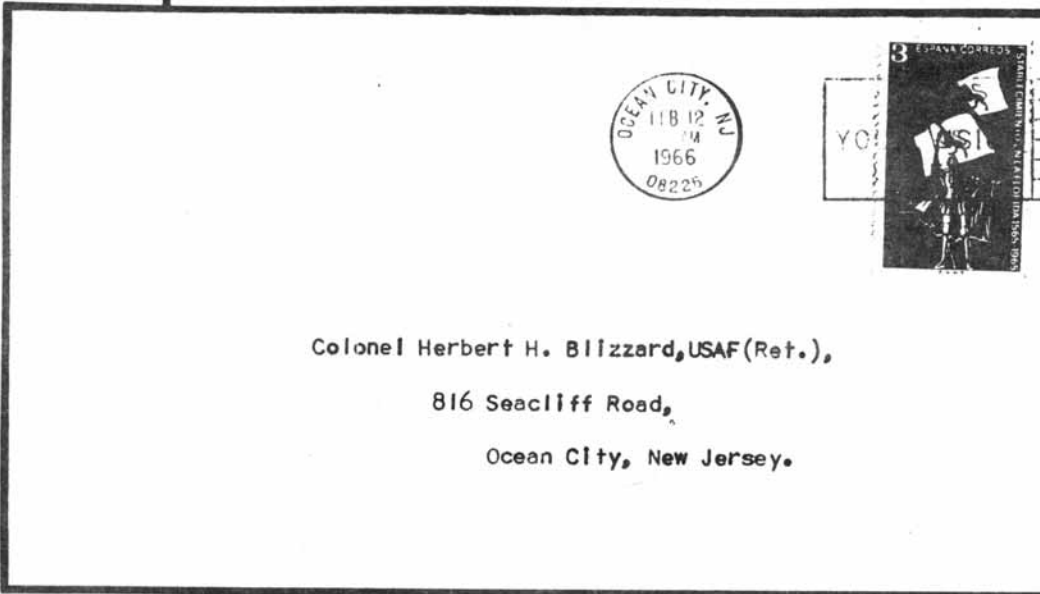
Sincerely,

Mary

Settlement
of Florida
400th Aniv.
US 5¢
&
Spain 3ptas
both
used
and
accepted
as US
postage



Colonel Herbert H. Blizzard, USAF (Ret.),
816 Seaciff Road,



Colonel Herbert H. Blizzard, USAF (Ret.),
816 Seaciff Road,
Ocean City, New Jersey.