

Dead Post Office

Lake Village, New Hampshire

by Donald J. Bourassa

I discovered this interesting cover. It was sent from a now dead post office. The destination is also compelling.

Lake Village, located in Belknap County, New Hampshire, had its own post office from 1843 until 1891.

In 1844 it was recorded that the area contained only 70 houses. Of those, only eight or ten were of two stories; the other buildings being mostly plain cottages.

Several of them were hardly more than shanties of two rooms, only half-finished at that, and would not be considered comfortable dwellings in the winter season. Lake Village had Lake Winnepesaukee to the north, and Opechee Bay to the south.

The town eventually became part of nearby Lakeport, NH. Lakeport lies approximately 1.5 miles north of downtown Laconia, NH.



The 1883 issued two cent stamp of Washington paid the domestic rate at the time.

And now the destination. This small cover was sent to Franklin Falls, NH.

The Franklin Falls area was occupied by the Penacook tribe of the Abenaki people at the time of European settlement of New England in the 17th century.

Colonial settlement of the area did not begin until the late 1740s. The area did not experience significant growth until the arrival of the railroad in 1846.

In 1864 Walter Aiken, inventor of a knitting machine, established a factory in the area that is now part of the Franklin Industrial Company site.

Franklin Falls is now known as a historic district in the town of Franklin.

USPS states that over 8,000 post offices have closed since the 1960s.

Editor's note: Closed post offices abound in the United States. Orlando's original post office is one of them, it was the Jernigan post office and trading post on the shores of Lake Holden. The Jernigan family were the first white settlers in Orange (Mosquito) county and their farm was 2 miles from Fort Gatlin.

Miami/Deland 1945 Air Mail Special Delivery Cover Things That You Can Find By Francis Ferguson



I have not a clue where I picked up this odd little cover. My attraction may have been initially because of the use of a somewhat miscut (minor) Prexy coil and the 8 cent Transport stamp. The other interesting thing is the Air Mail Special Delivery designation with the appropriate use of the straight-line purple hand stamp. The postage of six 3-cent stamps along with the single 8 cent Transport brings the total to 26 cents in postage. An



attempt to locate any information on the receiver of the letter – Miss Jean Murphy who apparently was a student at Stetson University in DeLand, FL, produced no hits. Additional broader searches uncovered nothing of value as the name is just too common. The cover was mailed on May 21, 1945, at 8:30am and apparently arrived in Deland the same day (this is a guess as the CDC is inconclusive) at 8:30pm. There are no markings to indicate a failed delivery attempt which normally would have been noted on the cover to allow the setup for a subsequent redelivery attempt. The strange use of the single 3 cent Prexy coil over the back flap is rather odd in my experience.

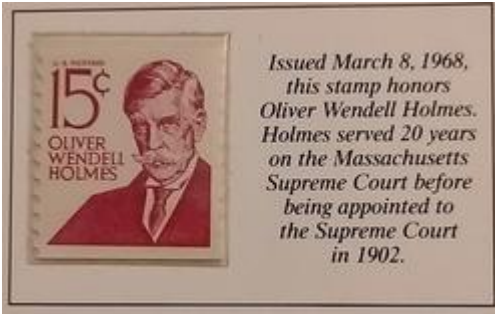
A search on the sending address as written on the back of envelope revealed a large Spanish revival home built in 1937 – is currently assessed at \$2.3 million dollars. Further attempts to find out the name of the owner in 1945 ran into a dead end as the online records only go back to 11.01.1988.

What interesting cover do you have lying around?

Questionable eBay, #42

Beyond Words

Francis Ferguson



The listing reads: “**U S Stamps Mint Condition fifteen cent 15 Wendell Holmes Special Issue Card Rare**”. Description is in all bold as if it is really special. Starting bid of \$24.75 or best offer. Shipping cost is \$6.00 and no returns are accepted.

The stamp is not identified however it appears to be Scott #1305E encased in what could be a highly destructive Crystal Mount – if I am to guess.

The seller has been around since the Fall of 2021 and has 69 recorded feedbacks with a stellar rating of 93.2% -- selling an assortment of clothing, luggage, car parts, dolls – and an occasional “philatelic” item.

There is absolutely no philatelic value in this item for sale. Just because it is on a “card” with a description does not give it any pedigree. The value is fifteen cents – as postage.

This is another example of the philatelic pollution found online that continues to proliferate endlessly. Judge Holmes would have been mortified!

What do you think?