

POSTAL HISTORY OF CLARENDON

By DAVID POTTER

The first post office in Clarendon was established on the South Flats March 9, 1816. The first postmaster was Caleb Hall, who operated the business for many years along with his store. Early postal rates were very high, and based on the number of miles a piece of mail was carried:

Miles	Cents	Miles	Cents
30	6c	151-400	18½c
30-80	10c	over 400	25c
81-150	12½c		

Other postmasters at various times on the Flats were: N. M. Powers; T. K. Horton; I. S. Hall; Mary Powers; W. T. Stockwell; Philetus Clark; Cora Miner; Mrs. J. C. Perkins. The Flats post office closed February 15, 1934.

East Clarendon post office opened October 8, 1831 and was discontinued January 15, 1935. Its first postmaster was Calvin Crossman. Others were: Ruel Parker; Newman Weeks; H. Kingsley; John Spencer; James Eddy; Deborah Grover; and Ruby Ross.

Clarendon Springs post office operated from July 12, 1837 to November 15, 1901. Postmasters there were: Henry Hitchcock, Tom McLaughlin, Andrew Moore, D. B. Barlow, M. S. Baker, and Harriet Everest.

North Clarendon post office opened January 13, 1851 and is still operating. Henry Brown was the first postmaster. Others that followed were: E. B. Holden, E. D. Aldrich, H. Wardwell, A. C. Hayward, S. Mason, F. B. Kingsley, Annie Kingsley, W. A. Plumley, Bessie Lane, W. G. Herrick, Francis Dennis, and James McDonough.

Chippenhook had a post office for a brief period from July 15, 1869 to August 28, 1871. Its postmark was titled "Chippenhook Springs" and is now one of the rarest prizes for Vermont postal cover collectors. E. R. Campbell was its postmaster.

Chippenhook postoffice reopened January 3, 1889 and operated until September 15, 1905 when Rural Free Delivery was instituted in the area. Its location was in the house across from Keyes'. Lester Congdon was postmaster.

- SOURCES: (1) Postal History of Vermont, by G. Slawson, A. Bingham, S. Drenan, 1969.
(2) Walton's Gazeteer of Vermont and Vt. Yearbook (1823-1975)