

**CHAPTER 14
POST OFFICES**

Benjamin Franklin was appointed the first Postmaster General under the Continental Congress on July 26, 1775. Daniel Meeker was the first post master in Hubbardton in 1811.

Seneca Root was the postmaster at East Hubbardton for 15 years. The location of his Post Office is shown in Beer's 1869 Atlas of Rutland County south of the Baptist Church on the east side of Monument Hill Road..

There was a post office in "Horton's Store" in Hortonville in the mid 1800s. The "Nimble Sixpence", owned by Will F Kellogg in Hortonville, was listed as a Store and Post Office in the 1869 Atlas.

In 1799 post offices began to be established, and letters were carried in the mail. Postage of a single letter, any distance less than 40 miles was 10 cents --- grading up to 25 cents if over 500 miles. If there were two pieces, ever so small, double those rates was charged.

<u>East Hubbardton</u>	<u>Appointed</u>	<u>Hubbardton*</u>	<u>Appointed</u>	<u>Hortonville</u>	<u>Appointed</u>
		Daniel Meeker	01/05/1811		
		Ebenezer Dewey	06/20/1822		
		Ebenezer Martin	12/29/1831		
		Samuel J Payne	07/31/1833		
		Frederick Scofield	05/18/1838		
		Richard H Walker	05/25/1848		
		Rodney Whipple	03/24/1852		
Seneca Root	5/16/1855	Nathan G Barker	04/06/1855	Noble Jennings	12/29/1858
Francis Murthur	5/10/1870	William Bansier	04/18/1856	Cyrus Jennings	08/03/1859
Alexander Ostrander	3/13/1872	Marshall Howland	07/02/1861	Wilber F Kellogg	01/21/1867
Zebulon Jones	11/25/1872	John F Johnson	04/15/1867	Loren Easton	09/18/1871
		Caleb Howland	09/07/1868	Discontinued	09/28/1875
		John F Johnson	11/20/1871	Cyrus Jennings	10/25/1875
Seneca Root	04/16/1883	Byron D Gibbs	10/13/1879	Myron J Nelson	09/20/1876
Francis Murthur	05/13/1887	Jeremiah Giddings	10/11/1880	Daniel Narramore	04/23/1877
Anna M Murthur	09/09/1892	Elsie E Giddings	11/09/1886	William Jennings	10/03/1894
Hattie C Calvin	01/08/1896	Martin J Webster	12/24/1887	Celestia F Sayer	12/12/1894
Discontinued	12/14/1907	Mahlon A Hunter	01/10/1890	Daniel Narramore	01/11/1899
Mail to Castleton		Edgar J Ganson	03/02/1895	Kate W Narramore	11/02/1912
		Mahlon A Hunter	12/20/1900	Discontinued	01/31/1913
		Sylvester A Smith	07/20/1906	Mail to Orwell#	
		Martha J Smith	11/15/1916		
		Ada S Hunt	11/27/1918		
		William T Corey	07/08/1925		
		George E Goodwin	12/12/1941		
		George E Goodwin	03/11/1942		
		Agnes E Goodwin	10/11/1972		
		Discontinued**	04/26/1974		

*** Spelled Hubbertstown until about 1828, and Hubbardston until the mid 1830s.**

**** But converted to a "community post office until George Goodwin's death in 1986.**

#Summer people use the Hortonia store as their address. The Orwell Post Office delivers mail there.

Hamilton Child, in his 1881 Gazetteer, mentions three hamlets with post offices:

Hubbardton (p.o.) is a small hamlet, located near the center of the town, at the head of Lake Bomoseen. It contains one saw mill, one blacksmith shop, one basket factory, and about twelve dwellings.

East Hubbardton (p.o.) is a small hamlet, located in a beautiful ravine in the south-eastern part of the township, near Mount Zion. It contains one church and eight dwellings. The Hubbardton Battle Monument is also located here, upon a rise of ground just above the place. It was erected by the inhabitants in commemoration of the battle of Hubbardton.

Hortonville (p.o.) is another small hamlet, located in the north-west corner of the town. It contains one store, one grist mill, one butter-tub factory, cider mill, blacksmith shop, about fifteen dwellings, and seventy inhabitants. It has several very beautiful residences, one of which is Cyrus Jennings, a very influential citizen of the town.

Byron Delos Gibbs (4/25/1850-3/14/1927) became the first Gibbs to live in Hubbardton in 1862. He built a showcase house on Monument Hill Road. He was postmaster in Hubbardton in 1879. One of his sons, Claude Leance Gibbs (1877-1953) lived on Main Street in Castleton. About 1912, Claude got a government job carrying the mail on the rugged 30 mile Hubbardton mail route, a secure occupation, especially during the Depression.

When Claude first started carrying the mail, he drove two horses. His son Stan, was made an official substitute mail carrier. On the worst winter days, the East Hubbardton Road was plowed only enough to allow passage for Claude's sleigh. Neighbors along the route waited and, if their mailman had not arrived by a certain time, they went out to find him and dig him out of the deep snow. To make it easier, Stan walked the loop road below the East Hubbardton Cemetery and would meet his father farther along the mail route.

People along the route who needed to buy stamps put out change in metal trays. On days when the weather was well below zero, these containers would freeze to Stan's hand when he scooped out the silver.

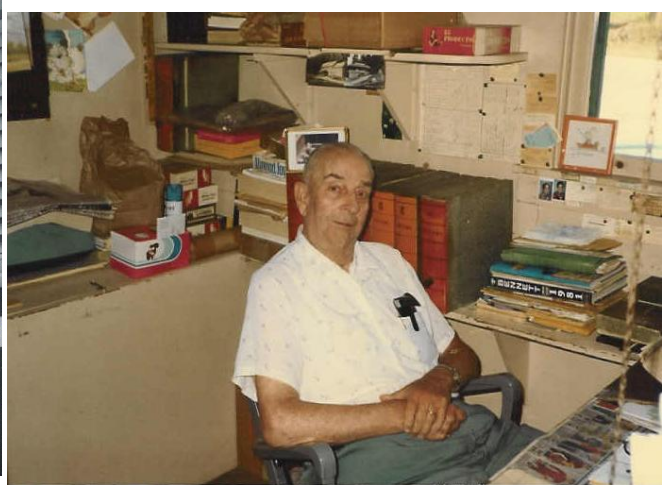
When Claude replaced his horses with an automobile, he drove over the snow with tire chains. On the rough winter roads, the chains would break and the links would rattle and flap. Claude would ask his sons Stan and Gerald, "Aren't you going to fix that chain?" And later: "Did you fix it?" But when it was 35 below with the wind whipping along Eaton Hill, and the route ahead was nearly a tunnel through the deep snow, the answer from the sons was silence.



**Goodwin's Store/Post Office
(Addition at right added later)**



George and Agnes Goodwin 1964



George Goodwin was the proprietor of Goodwin's Store (later called The Red Suspenders and then Eagle Rock Country Store) on the west side of Rt. 30 on the east side of Lake Beebe. He was born October 19, 1902, appointed "acting" postmaster of Hubbardton on December 12, 1941 and served until his death at age 83 on August 30, 1986. His wife Agnes, was the "officer in charge" until she died on June 1, 1974. George served for many years as a Selectman in Hubbardton and was on the School Board. This post office was closed in 1986 and postal service is now provided to Hubbardton by five post offices:

<u>ZipCode</u>	<u>PO Name</u>	<u>PO Location</u>	<u>Area Covered in Hubbardton</u>
05732	Bomoseen	Castleton	State Rt. 30
05733	Brandon	Brandon	NE
05743	Fair Haven	Fair Haven	SW
05735	Castleton	Castleton	SE
05760	Orwell	Orwell	NW
05749	Hubbardton	Goodwin's Store	Closed

**HISTORY OF POSTAL RATES (FROM BILL LIZOTTE)
WASHINGTON COUNTY, VERMONT STAMP CLUB:**

Postage Rates on regular First Class Mail during the classic stampless period.

The Postal Act of 1799 (March 2nd) (Zone Rates for single letters)(double letters = double postage)

Not over 40 miles....	8 cents
40 to 90 miles....	10 cents
90 to 150 miles....	12 ½ cents
150 to 300 miles....	17 cents
300 to 500 miles....	20 cents
Over 500 miles....	25 cents

The Postal Act of 1814 (effective February 1, 1815) "War Rates"

Postage for the above rates became 12 cents, 15 cents, 18 and ¾ cents, 2½ cents, 30 cents and 3½ cents respectively, increased by fifty percent (50%).

The Postal Act of Feb 1, 1816 (effective March 31st, 1816) "Restored Rates"

Postage returned to the 1799 rates, in effect for only thirty one days
Examples of covers showing these rates are generally quite rare.

The Postal Act of April 9, 1816 (effective May 1, 1816)

Not over 30 miles....	6 cents
30 to 80 miles....	10 cents
80 to 150 miles....	12 ½ cents
150 to 400 miles....	18 ½ cents
Over 400 miles....	25 cents

The Postal Act of 1825 (March 3) (effective May 1, 1825)

The Zone Rate for 150 to 400 miles increased to 18 ¾ cents (slight change to fit currency — 18 and three quarters cents equal to one and a half reales)

The Postal Act of 1845 (March 3) (effective July 1, 1845)(charged by weight, envelopes accepted)

Not over 300 miles....	5 cents
Over 300 miles....	10 cents

The Postal Act of 1851 (March 3) (effective July 1, 1851)

Prepaid, and not exceeding 3,000 miles....	3 cents
Letters sent collect....	5 cents
Greater distances (California)....	6 and 10 cents

The Postal Act of 1855 (March 3) (effective April 1, 1855)

Compulsory Pre-payment of postage on domestic mail

Excepting specific classes of mail, the use of adhesive postage stamps was required on all domestic mail after December 31, 1855. The most obvious exceptions are free franked mail of Postmasters, official PO business, and mail to and from members of Congress. The "Stampless" period of American Postal History is essentially ended on January 1, 1856.

Postage Rates for a First Class letter remained at three cents from 1855 until October 1, 1883, when it declined to two cents. The two cent rate remained in effect until 1933, when it returned to three cents (except during the First World War, when it was increased by one cent to help fund the war effort).

1855 (April 1) three cents
1883 (October 1) two cents

Briefly during 1918-19, there was an increase of one cent to assist in the cost of the First World War.

1933	three cents
1958	four cents
1963	five cents
1968	six cents
1971	eight cents
1974	ten cents
1976	thirteen cents
1978	fifteen cents
1981	eighteen cents (less than one year)
1981	twenty cents
1985	22 cents
1988	25 cents
1991	29 cents
1996?	32 cents
1999	33 cents
2000	34 cents
2001	37 cents