

Norway in America

Map source: Martin Ulvestad:
"Norge i Amerika med kart" (1901).



The scope of the exhibit

is through a postmark study to document post office names in USA with Norwegian origin: Norwegian place-names, named after or named by Norwegian immigrants, or other relationship to Norway.

Development and structure

The exhibit is structured chronologically with the combined development of the USA and the Norwegian immigration. Within each main section the post offices are presented by year of establishment.

Importance

Admittedly the philatelic importance of each of these small post offices is minor. However, the sheer abundance of them shows that the Norwegian contribution to the development of the postal network in the U.S. was significant, and in particular so in the Mid-West.

Presentation

The presentation is also part of the development of the exhibit. For each place name is given a brief explanation of the name and its connection to Norway. Information of the post office is given, and the particulars of the postal items are described.

Recent development

This is a new exhibit, never shown before.

1. Early influence and early immigration

5

There was Norwegian emigration to the U.S.A. already in the 1600's. Many sailors on Dutch vessels came from Norway, and Norwegians took part in the Dutch colonization of New Amsterdam, later re-named New York.

There are also examples of post office names relating to Norway without any identified connection to immigration.

2. Organized immigration commences; Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa

14

Organized emigration from Norway started in 1825 with 52 Quakers and dissidents. They, and others who followed, were firstly established in western New York. Many travelled onwards to Illinois, Iowa or to Wisconsin which was a center for Norwegian-Americans up to the Civil War 1861-1865.

3. Minnesota opens up

28

Norwegian settlers ventured further westwards from the mid-1850's to Iowa and in particular to Minnesota.

4. Homesteading in the Dakotas

20

Dakota was opened to settlers from 1863, and many Norwegians were established here from the 1870's onwards.

5. Exploring higher and wider horizons

12

Norwegian settlements also developed in Michigan, Montana, Washington, Alaska and Texas, and to a smaller degree also scattered over most of the United States.

Total

80

Main sources

- Richard W. Helbock: *United States Post Offices, vol I-VIII* (1999-2007)
- Warren Upham: *Minnesota Place Names* (3rd edition 2001)
- Douglas A. Wick: *North Dakota Place Names* (1988)
- Martin Ulvestad: "Norge i Amerika med kart" (1901)
- The exhibitor's own research, published in *Norvegiana-Nytt* and on the internet www.slettebo.no/posthistorie/norvegiana.htm

Early influence and early immigration

1700's – Norway was closely allied to Holland. The early Norwegian immigrants came across in Dutch ships and settled in the Dutch colony known as New Netherland. A few Norway-related post office names are documented.

1800's – the earliest considerable group of Norwegian immigrants who in 1825 arrived on the sloop "Restauration" settled in Kendall, Orleans County, New York. No Norwegian post office names are documented here.

Norway were together with Denmark in the West Indies, and post offices named after the Danish-Norwegian Royal family are found in today's U.S. Virgin Islands.

Norway, ME, 1801-date

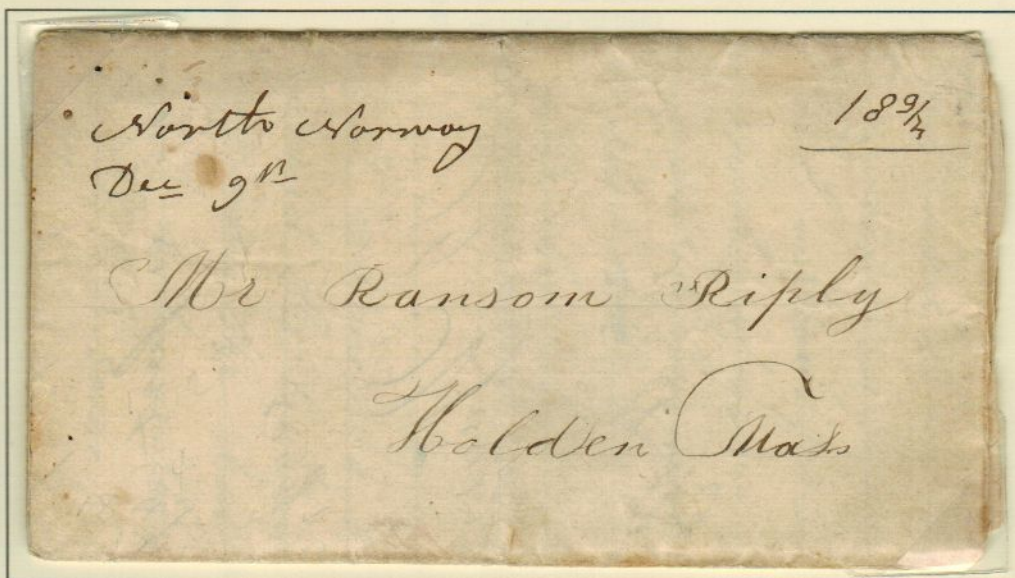
Norway is a town in Oxford County, Maine. It was settled after 1786 and incorporated in 1797, as Norway. The town had petitioned to be named Norage, which is Native American for falls. It is interesting to note that Denmark and Sweden are nearby towns and are established shortly after Norway, ME. The population was 5,014 at the 2010 census. The Norway, ME post office was established 1801 and it is still in operation.



Letter dated Jan 13, 1846 with circular datestamp "NORWAY Me JAN 14", to Easton, Pennsylvania. 10c postage per ½ ounce for domestic letters for distances above 300 miles 1 July 1845 - 30 June 1851.

Forwarded to Bound Brook, NJ, corrected to neighbouring Plainfield, NJ with additional 5c (total postage 15c) and circular datestamp "EASTON Pa FEB 1".

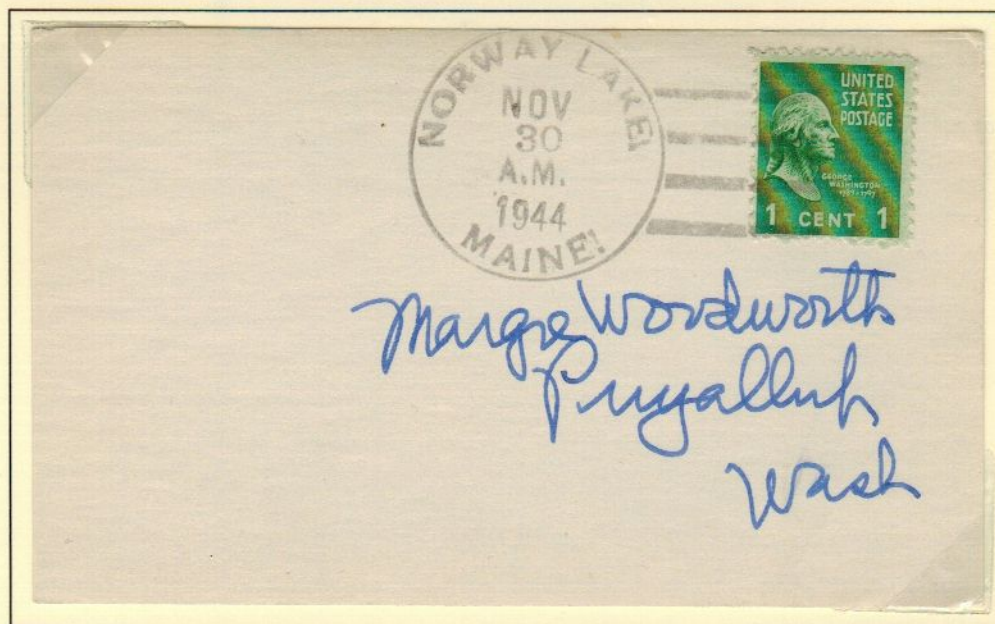
North Norway is located on the northern outskirts of Norway which is a town in Oxford County, Maine. The North Norway, ME post office operated 1824-1868, was re-opened same year and finally closed in 1901.



Manuscript "North Norway Dec 9th" on letter to Holden, Mass., contents dated Norway, Nov 30, 1842. Postage annotation "18 $\frac{3}{4}$ ".
Rate 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ c per oz. for domestic letters for distances 151 to 400 miles, from 1827 to 30 June 1845.

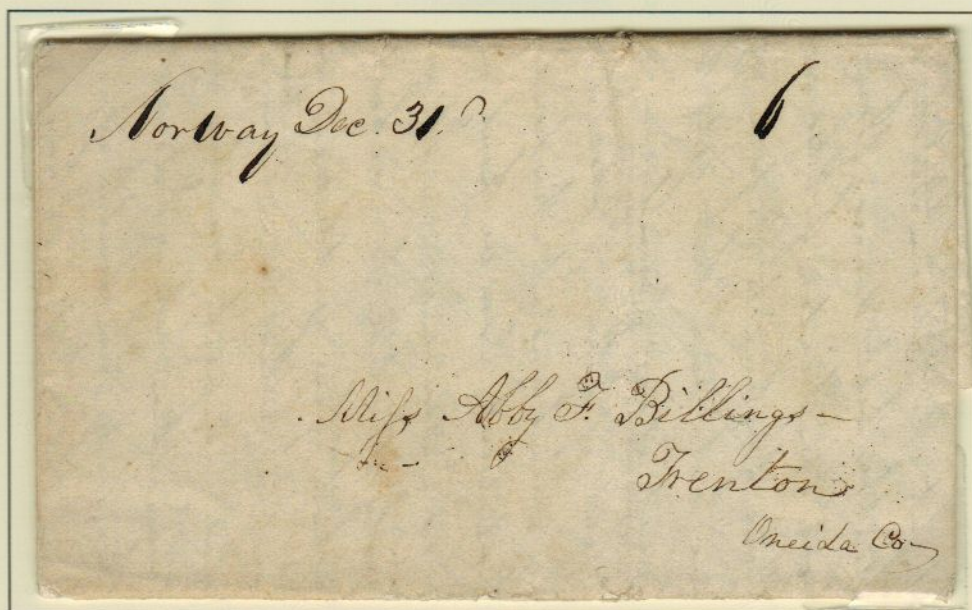
Norway Lake, ME, 1881-1944

Located in the Oxford Hills of Maine, Norway Lake is the common name for Lake Pennesseewassee which has been used for both recreation and in support of local industry in Norway, Maine (Oxford County). The Norway Lake, ME post office operated 1881-1944.



Duplex handstamp "NORWAY LAKE, MAINE NOV 30 1944" on postcard to Washington, last day of operation. 1c for domestic postcards from 1 Jul 1928 to 31 Dec 1951.

Norway is a town in Herkimer County, New York. Norway was formed in 1792 immediately after the creation of Herkimer County. The reason for the name is unknown. In 1825, the town's population was 1,168, and only 762 at the 2010 census. The Norway, NY post office operated 1813-1929.



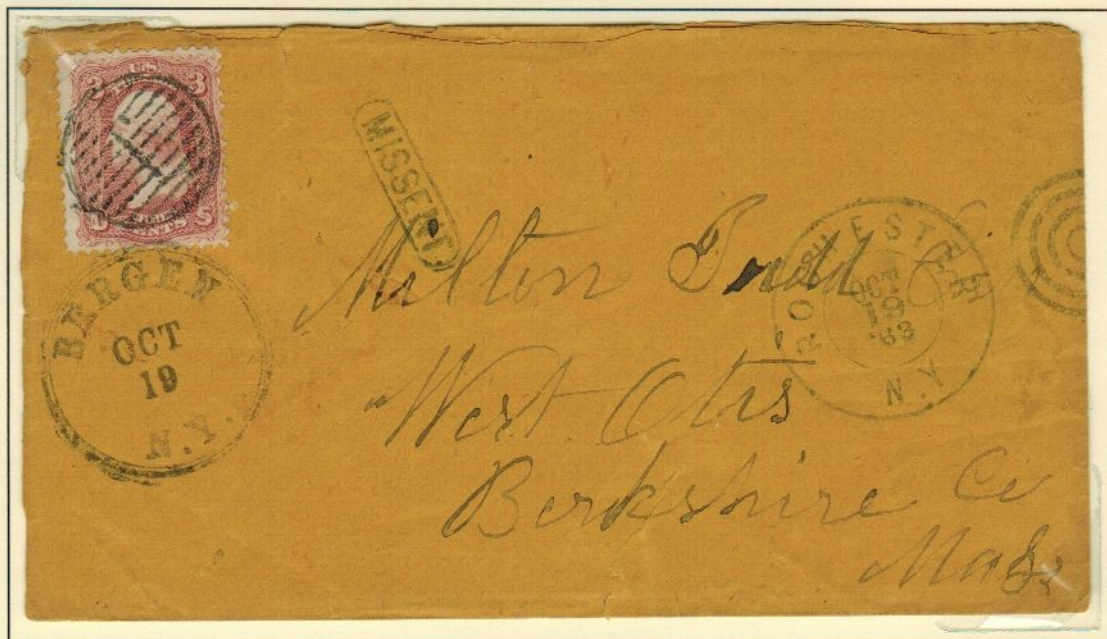
Manuscript "Norway Dec 31" on letter dated 1829 to Trenton, Oneida County, NY.

Manuscript "6" denotes postage.

6c postage rate per ½ oz for domestic letters for distances up to 30 miles, from 1827 to 30 June 1845.

Bergen, NY, 1814-date

Bergen is a town in Genesee County, New York. The community was named for the city in Norway. The Bergen, NY post office opened in 1814 with Colonel W. H. Ward being the first postmaster. The post office is still in operation. The population was 3,120 at the 2010 census.



Postmark "BERGEN N.Y. OCT 19" and circled gridiron killer on letter to West Otis, Berkshire Co., Mass. Boxed line cachet "MISSENT" and postmarked "ROCHESTER N.Y OCT 19 '63".

3c per ½ ounce for letters within USA (regardless of distance) from 1 Jul 1863 to 1 Oct 1883.

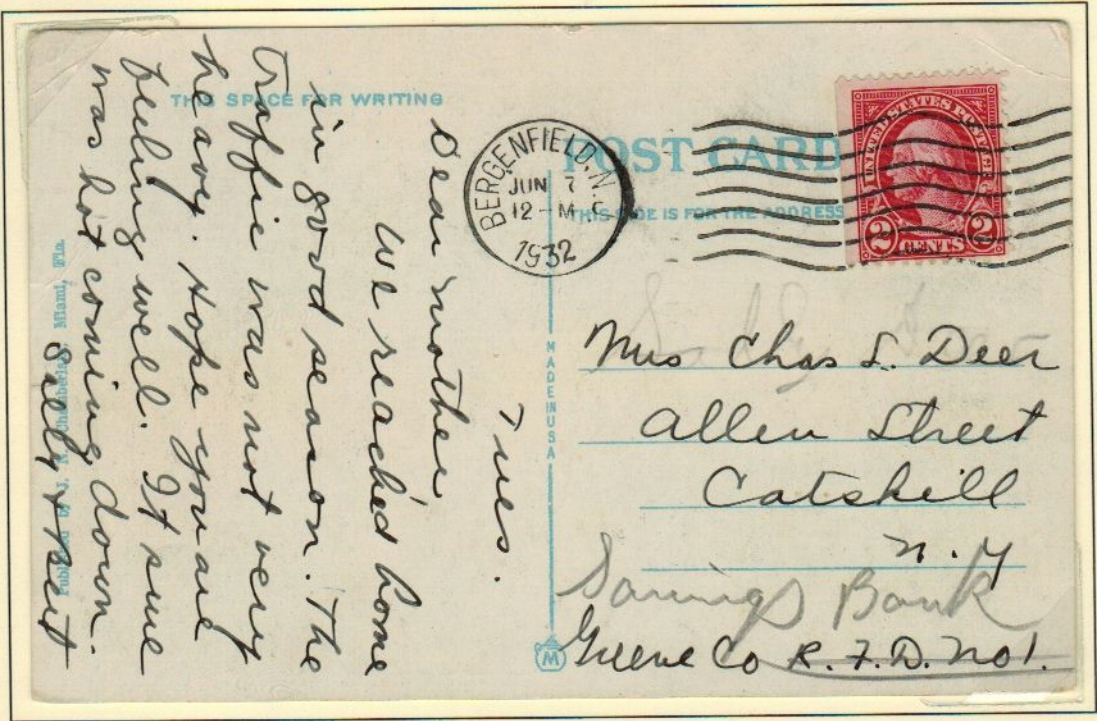
Bergen Township was a township that existed in the U.S. state of New Jersey, from 1661 to 1862, first as part of New Netherland, then as part Bergen County, and later as part of Hudson County. The origin of the name of Bergen, NJ is debated. Several sources attribute the name to Bergen, Norway. Others say that the name is derived from one of the earliest settlers of New Amsterdam (now New York City), Hans Hansen Bergen, a native of Norway, who arrived in New Netherland in 1633. The Bergen, NJ post office operated 1833-1853 and 1865-1873.



Postmark "BERGEN N.J. SEP 23" unusual fancy killer "PAID 3c" on letter to New York, unknown year (postage stamp issued 1870). 3c postage rate per ½ ounce for domestic letters from 1 July 1863 to 30 Sep 1883.

Bergenfield, NJ, 1833-date

Bergenfield is a borough in Bergen County, NJ, with population 26,764 as of the 2010 US Census. Initially called Bergen Fields, the borough was named for its location in Bergen County. The Bergen part of the name has the same origin as Bergen, NJ. The Bergenfield, NJ post office opened in 1833 and it is still in operation.



Machine cancel "BERGENFIELD N.J. JUN 7 1932" on postcard to Catskill, NY. Overfranked for the 1c domestic postcard rate 1919-1952.

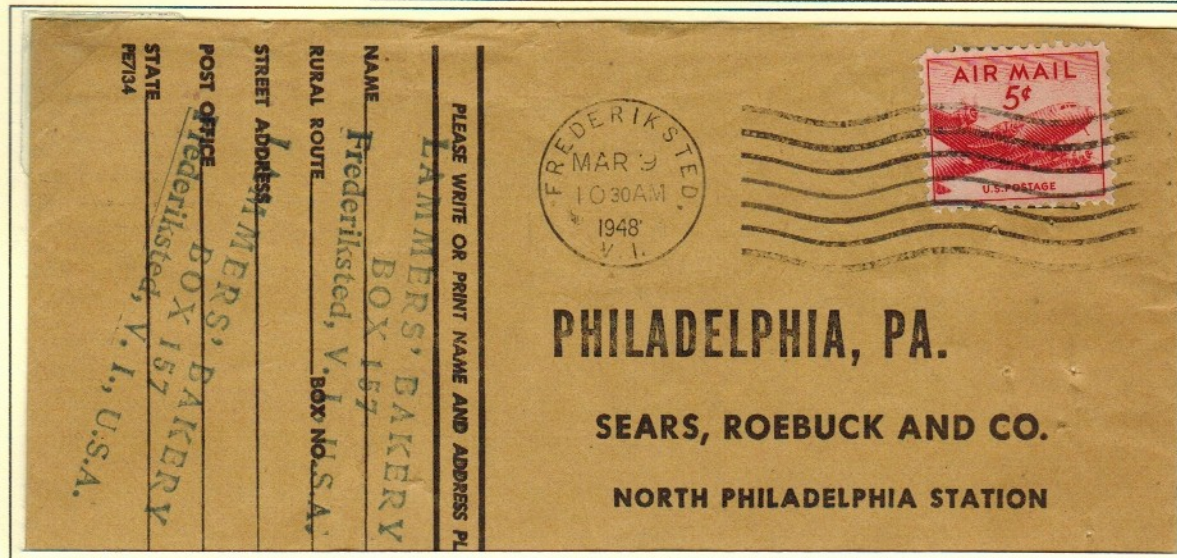
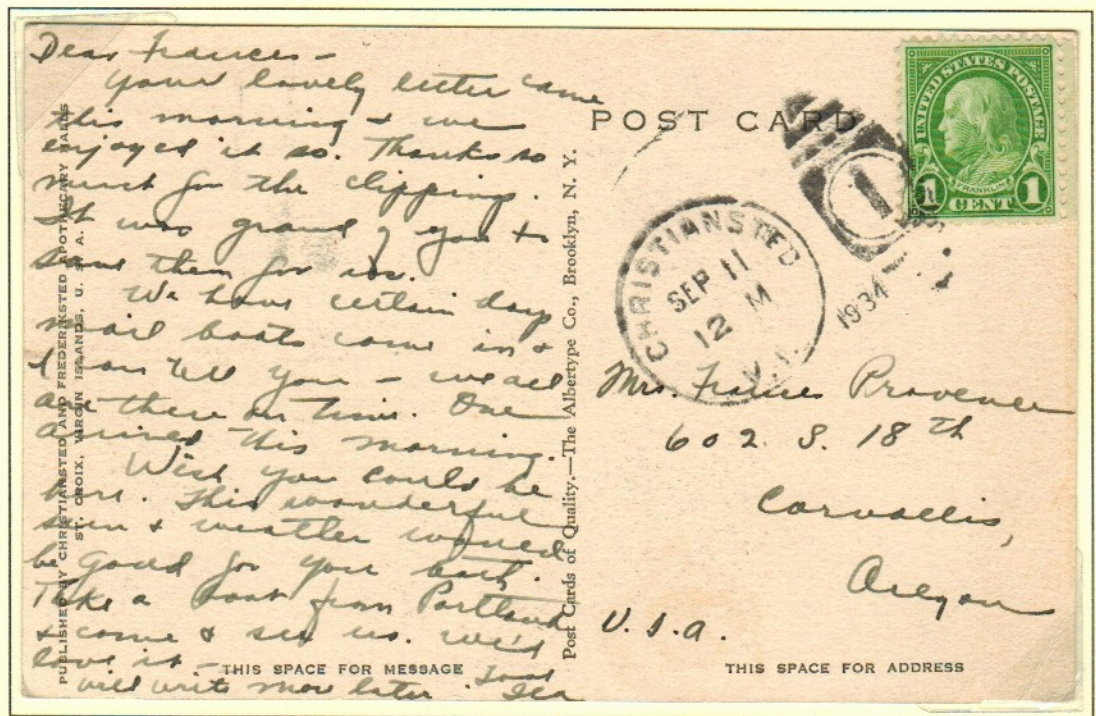
The United States purchased the Danish West Indies from the Danish in 1917 and renamed them U.S. Virgin Islands.

Christiansted, VI (1856-) 1917-date

Christiansted is named in honor of King Christian VI of Denmark-Norway.

The post office operated from 1 April 1856.

Postcard sent from "CHRISTIANSTED V.I. SEP 11, 1934" to Corvallis, OR. 1c for domestic postcards from 1 Jul 1928 to 31 Dec 1951.



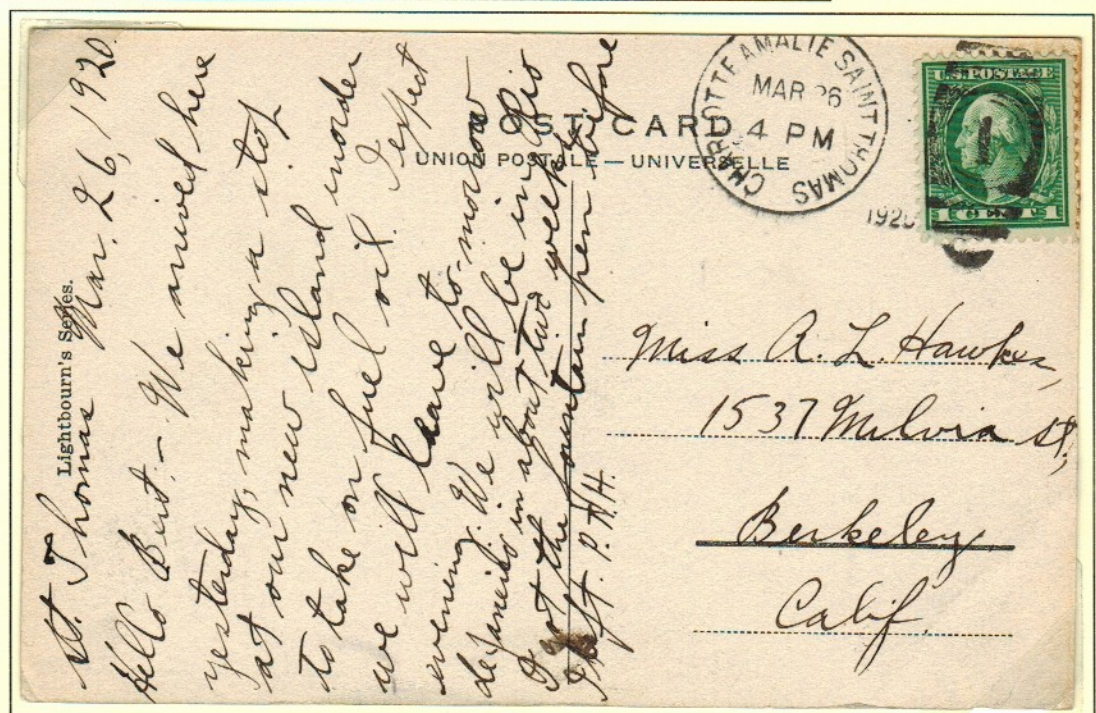
Frederiksted, VI, (1856-) 1917-date

Frederiksted is named in honor of King Frederik V of Denmark-Norway. The P.O. operated from 1 April 1856. Air mail letter from "FREDERIKSTED V.I., MAR 9, 1948" to Philadelphia, PA. 5c/oz for domestic air mail 1 Oct 1946 to 31 Dec 1948.

Charlotte Amalie, VI, 1917-1921, 1936-date

Charlotte Amalie is named after Queen Charlotte Amalie, married to King Christian V of Denmark-Norway. The post office operated from 1 April 1856 under the name St. Thomas, changed to Charlotte Amalie in 1917, back to St. Thomas 1921, and again to Charlotte Amalie from 1936.

Postcard from "CHARLOTTE AMALIE, SAINT THOMAS MAR 26, 1920" to Berkeley, CA. 1c for domestic postcards from 1 Jul 1919 to 14 Apr 1925.



Organized immigration commences; Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa

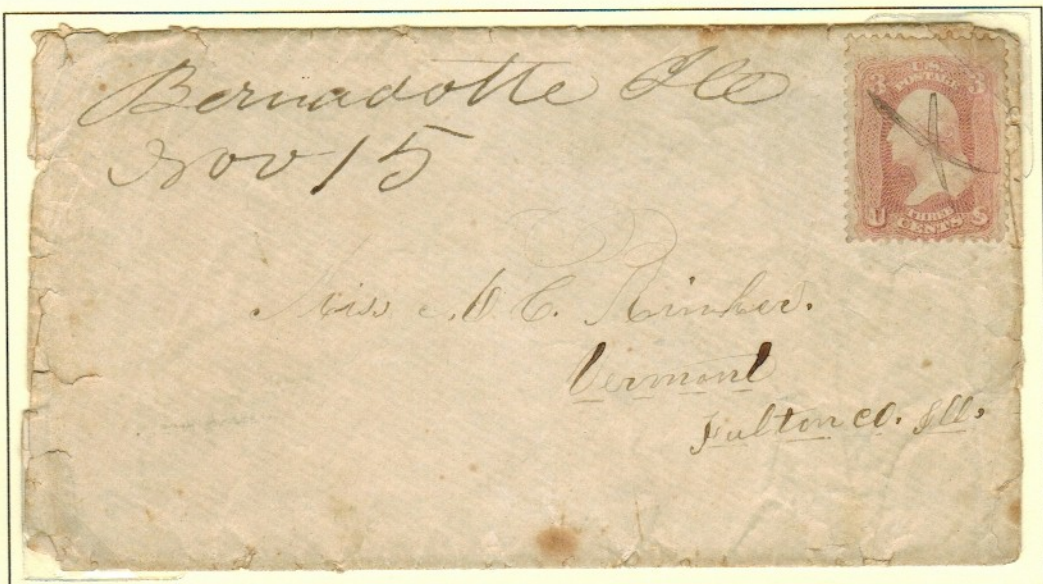
Illinois – The Sloopers go West

The earliest considerable group of Norwegian immigrants who in 1825 arrived on the sloop "Restauration" settled in Kendall, Orleans County, New York. No Norwegian post office names are documented here.

The trend of Norwegian settlement in the United States was to turn, within a decade after 1825, almost entirely toward the regions west of Lake Michigan. Most of the sloopers migrated to Illinois in 1836 as a prelude to the main Norwegian settlement in America.

Bernadotte, IL, 1837-1905

Bernadotte is an unincorporated community located in Fulton County, Illinois. Until the early 1940s, the town had a population of about four hundred people, and well under one hundred today. When a post office was established here in 1833 it was known as Bennington. The reason remains a mystery, but Bennington was re-named Bernadotte in 1837. Bernadotte is the family name of the then Norwegian-Swedish royal family. The post office was discontinued in 1905.



Manuscript postmark "Bernadotte Ill Nov 15" on letter to Vermont, IL.
Pen ink cross on the postage stamp. Unknown year, postage stamp issued 1861.

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Norway, IL, 1846-1906

Norway is an unincorporated community in LaSalle County, Illinois, founded by Cleng Peerson in 1834 in the area known as the Fox River Settlement. The village was the early centre of Norwegian immigration.

The Mount Knickerbocker post office was established 1843, and changed name to Norway 1846. It closed 1906.

Today Norway is the site of the State of Illinois Norwegian Settlers Memorial.



"NORWAY IL SEPT 19" cds and target killer on letter to Geneseo, IL. On reverse transit "SHERIDAN IL SEP 19" and receiving "GENESEOS ILL. SEP 20". 3c per ½ ounce for domestic letters 8 June 1872 to 30 Sep. 1883.

Odin, IL, 1858-date

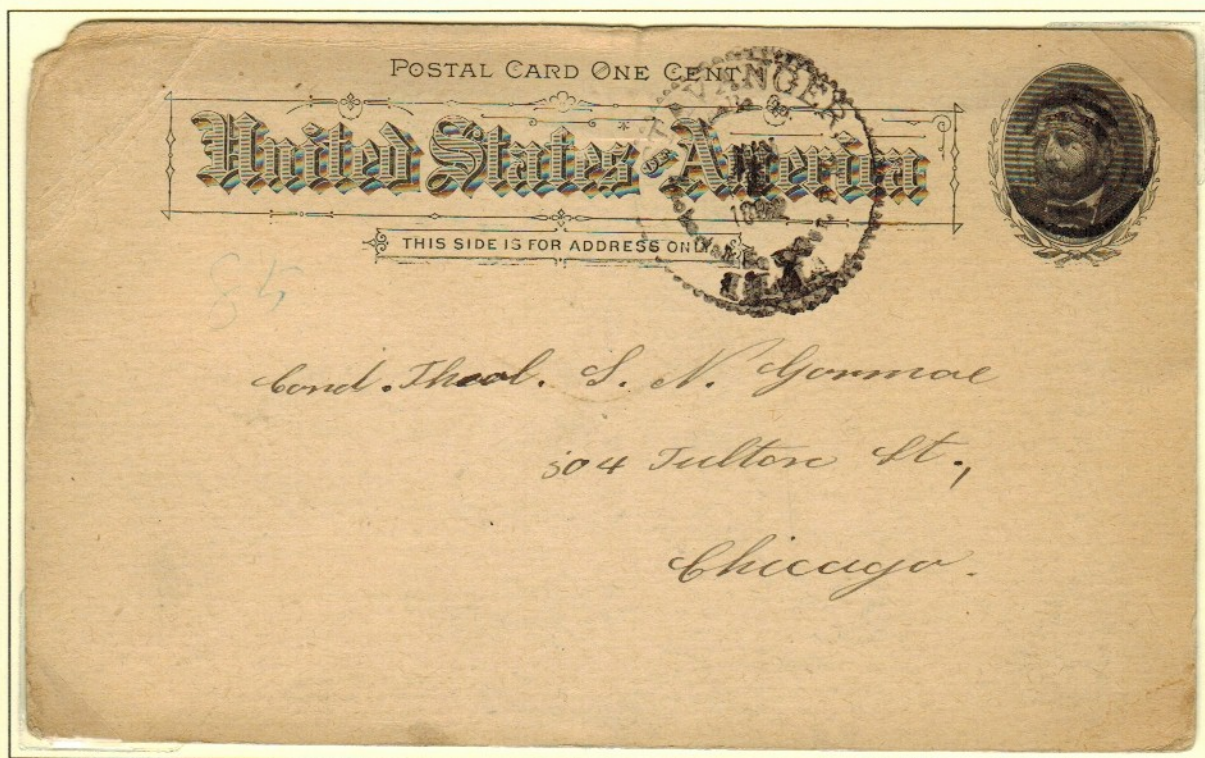
Odin is a village in Marion County, Illinois. The population was 1,122 at the 2000 census. It was named for Odin, the principal god of Norse mythology. There were Scandinavian settlers in the area. The Odin, IL post office opened in 1858 and it is still in operation.



Manuscript postmark "Odin Ill Dec 14 / 58" on letter to Morris Town, NJ., pen ink cancellation on the postage stamp. 3c per ½ oz for domestic letters distances up to 3,000 miles from 1 Jul 1851 to 1 Jul 1863.

2 Organized immigration commences; Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa Stavanger, IL, 1887-1903

Stavanger is an unincorporated community in LaSalle County, Illinois. It was named for Stavanger, Norway. The Stavanger, IL post office opened in 1887 with Zachariah Severson postmaster, and it closed 1903.



Sawtooth cds "STAVANGER ILL. La Salle Co. Zachariah Severson, P.M. JUN 2 1892" and 4-ring target killer on postal card to Minneapolis MN. 1c for domestic postal cards from 12 May 1873 to 1 Nov 1917.

Helmar, IL, 1894-1912

Helmar is an unincorporated populated place in Kendall County, Illinois. The village of Helmar was platted 1899. It was first called North Prairie, but due to duplicate name, a vote was taken and it was decided to name the village Helmar, in honor of Hjalmar Anderson, a Norwegian immigrant. The Helmar, IL post office operated 1894-1912.



Six-bar double-ring postmark "HELMAR ILLS. 1911" on postcard sent locally. 1c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 Jul 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

Pioneering Wisconsin

Within four years of the migration of the sloopers from New York to Illinois, Norwegian settlement had turned definitely into Wisconsin following the direction of the larger westward movement of American population. By 1850 there were 9,467 Norwegians in Wisconsin, and by 1860 they numbered 29,557, and by 1870 they numbered 59,619. The Norwegians have been, from the first, the most numerous of the three Scandinavian groups in Wisconsin.

Scandinavia, WI, 1856-date

Scandinavia is a town in Waupaca County, Wisconsin. The population was 328 at the 2010 census. Its first settlers came in 1853, only two years after the first white had settled in Waupaca, and the name was selected the same year.

The many Norwegian settlers wanted a Norwegian name, but since there were two Danes and a Swede in the community they agreed it might be all right to pick a more inclusive name, such as Scandinavia, and thus let the rest of the communities roundabout know their ethnic background. The Scandinavia, WI post office opened in 1856 and it is still in operation.

"SCANDINAVIA, WIS. APR 12 1909", 4-bar handstamp on postcard sent locally.

1c for domestic postcards from 1 Jul 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

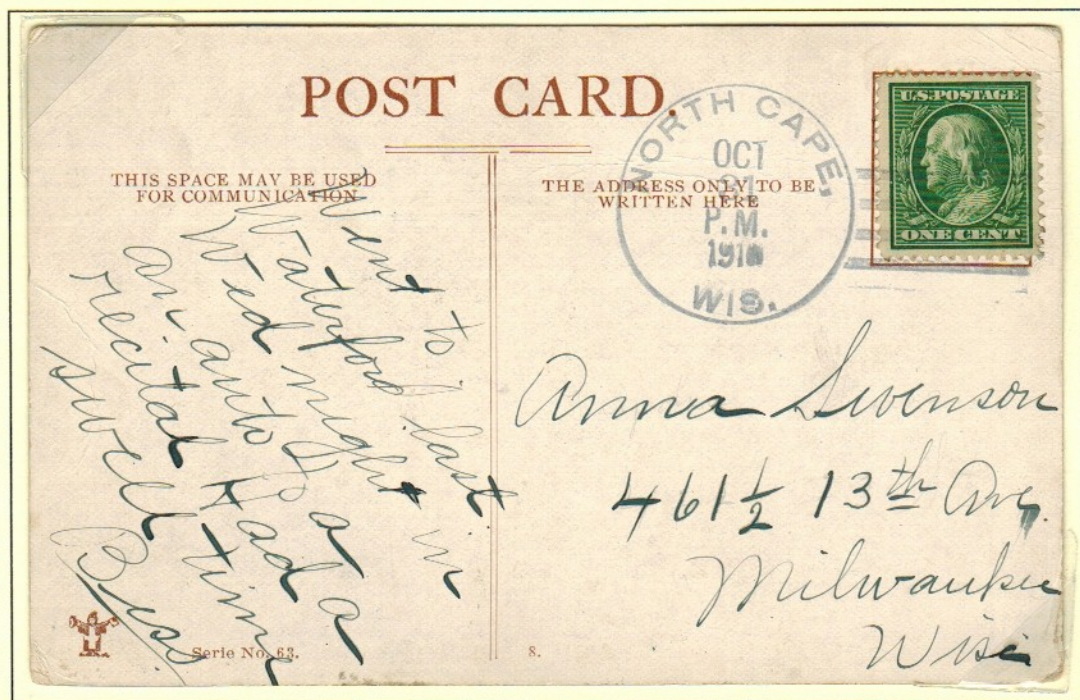


North Cape, WI, 1858-1917

North Cape is an unincorporated community in Racine County, Wisconsin. Mons Knudson Aadland came from Norway on bark "Ægir" in 1837, and settled in Racine county in 1840, buying a farm of a hundred and sixty acres on section thirty in Baymond Township. This part of the settlement came to be known as North Cape, named after the famous landmark in northern Norway. The North Cape, WI post office operated 1858-1917.

4-bar handstamp "NORTH CAPE, WIS. OCT 31 1910" on postcard to Milwaukee, WI.

1c for domestic postcards from 1 Jul 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.



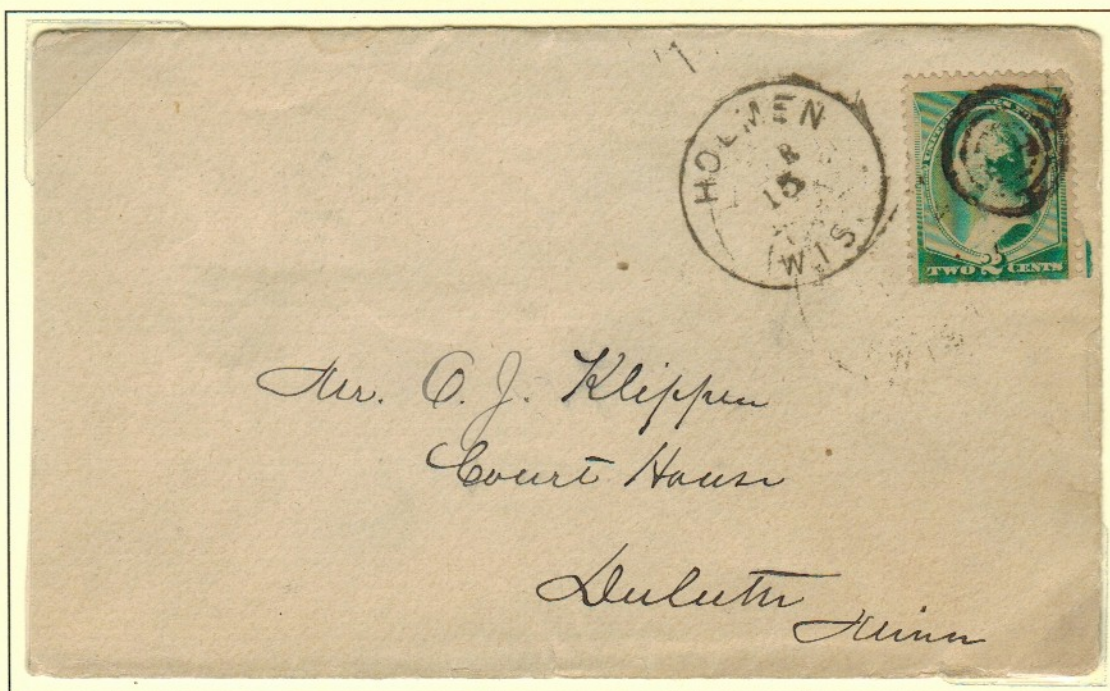
Norway Ridge is an unincorporated community located in the town of Scott, Monroe County, Wisconsin. It was named by Norwegian settlers. The Norway Ridge, WI post office operated 1874-1917.



4-bar handstamp "NORWAY RIDGE, WIS. SEP 6 1910" on postcard to Wisconsin.
1c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 Jul 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

Holmen, WI, 1875-date

Holmen is a village in La Crosse County, Wisconsin. The population was 9,005 as of the 2010 census. Holmen was settled by Norwegian immigrants in 1862 and was incorporated as a village in 1946. The first postmaster was Carl August Sjolander, dealer in general stock, born in Løyten, Norway 1851 and came to America in 1865. The Holmen, WI post office opened in 1875 and it is still in operation.



Circular datestamp "HOLMEN, WIS. MAR 15 1890" on letter to Duluth, MN.
2c postage rate per ounce for domestic letters from 1 Jul 1885 to 1 Nov 1917.

Eidsvold is an unincorporated community in the town of Thorp, Clark County, Wisconsin. Named for the location where the Constitution of Norway was signed in 1814. The Eidsvold, WI post office was established in 1884 and closed 1906.



Circular datestamp "EIDSVOLD WIS. OCT 31 1892" on postal card to Eau Claire, WI.
1c postage rate for domestic postal cards from 12 May 1873 to 1 Nov 1917.

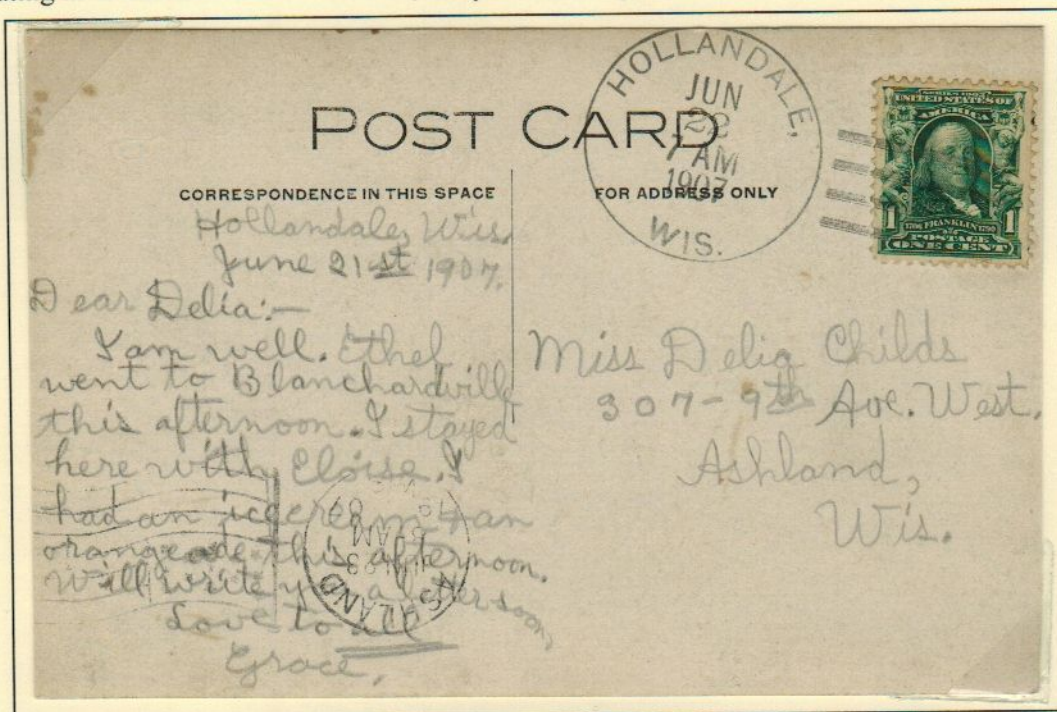
Strum, WI, 1885-date

Strum is a village in Trempealeau County, Wisconsin, along the Buffalo River. The population was 1,114 at the 2010 census. Strum and Unity Township were first settled by New Englanders and then in the 1860s Norwegians moved in. Strum is named in honor of Louis Strum of Eau Claire. He was born 1851 in Central Norway, his Norwegian name being Strøm, and he came to Wisconsin via Quebec in 1869. The Strum, WI post office was established in 1885 with storekeeper Ole Kittleson first postmaster, and it is still in operation.



Circular datestamp "STRUM WIS. APR 10 1911" and cork killer on Strum viewcard to Eleva, WI.
1c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 Jul 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

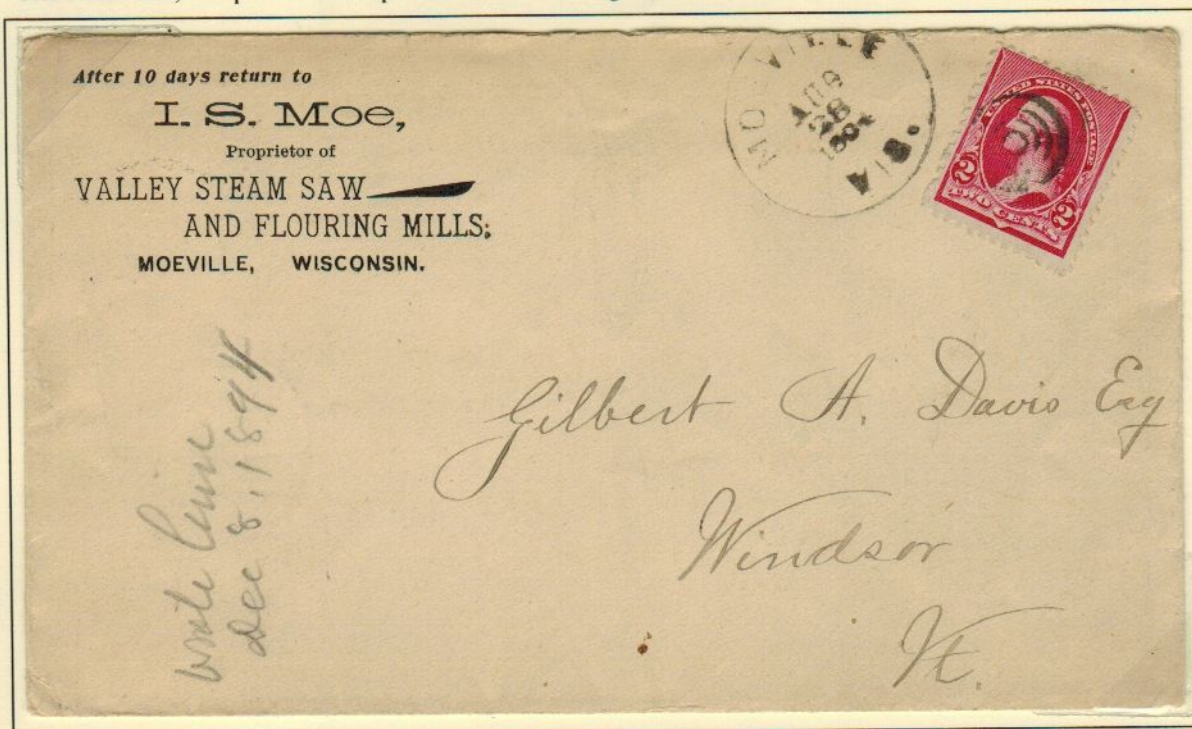
Hollandale is a village in Iowa County, Wisconsin. The population was 288 at the 2010 census. It is named for farmer, merchant and stock dealer Bjorn Sjursson "Ben" Holland, born 1841 in Etnesjøen, Norway. In 1846 his parents came to America, bringing with them nine children, locating in Wisconsin. The Hollandale, WI post office opened in 1890 and it is still in operation.



4-bar handstamp "HOLLANDALE, WIS. JUN 22 1907" on postcard to Evanston, IL.
1c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 Jul 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

Moeville, WI, 1891-1902

Moeville is an unincorporated community located in the towns of Trenton and Trimble, in Pierce County, Wisconsin. It was named for Ingvar S. Moe who came from Norway in 1883, purchased timber land here and opened a saw mill and built a feed mill and flour mill as well. The Moeville, WI post office opened 1890 with Ingvar S. Moe first postmaster, and it closed 1902.



Circular datestamp "MOEVILLE, WIS. AUG 28 1894" on cover to Windsor, VT.
2c postage rate per ounce for domestic letters from 1 Jul 1885 to 1 Nov 1917.

2 Organized immigration commences; Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa Klevenville, WI, 1891-1952

Klevenville is an unincorporated community located in the town of Springdale, Dane County, Wisconsin. The community was named for first postmaster, carpenter and storekeeper Iver Kleven who settled here in 1869. He was born in Norway around 1835. The Klevenville, WI post office operated 1891-1952.



4-bar postmark "KLEVENVILLE, WIS. DEC 24 1917" on Christmas card to Mount Horeb, WI. 2c postage rate for domestic postcards from 2 Dec 1917 to 30 June 1919 (WW I emergency rate increase).

Rosholt, WI, 1893-date

Rosholt is a village in Portage County, Wisconsin. The population was 506 at the 2010 census. It is named for John Gilbert (J.G.) Rosholt who built the first sawmill in town. He was son of Jacob and Johanna Rosholt, who came to Wisconsin from Røsholt near Kongsberg, Norway. The Rosholt, WI post office opened in 1893 and it is still in operation.



Circular datestamp "ROSHOLT WIS. APR 7 1894" and target killer on postal envelope to La Crosse, WI. 2c per ounce for domestic letters from 1 July 1885 to 1 Nov 1917.

On to Iowa

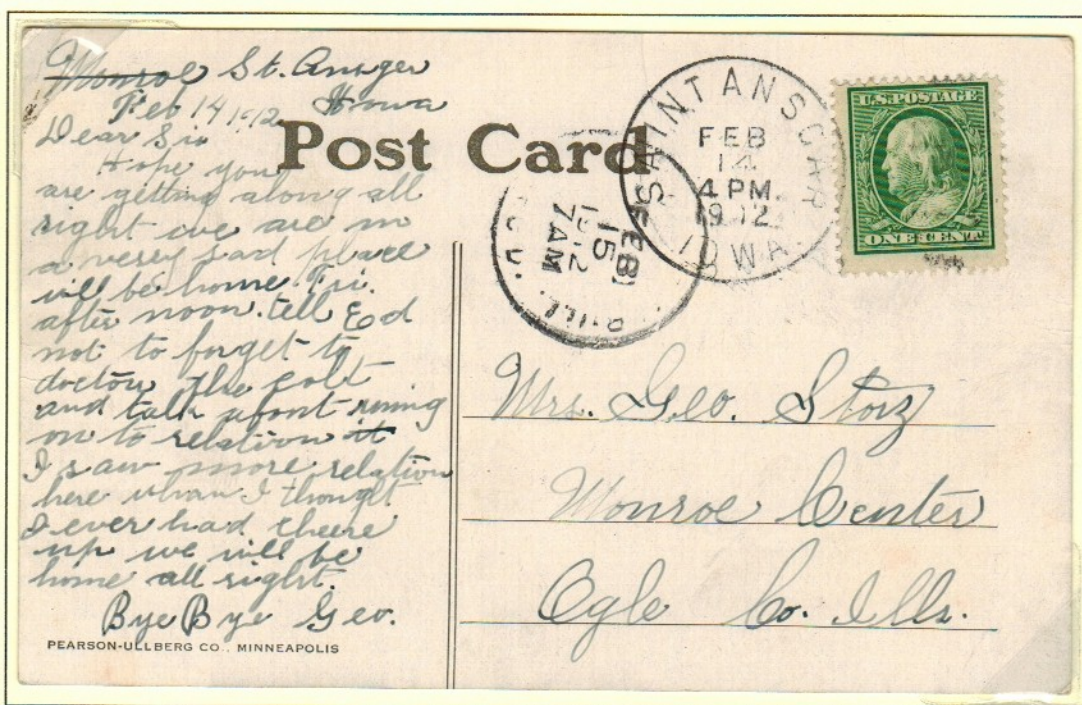
By 1839 Hans Barlien and William Tesman chose land in Lee County, Iowa Territory. The migration of settlers to the so-called Sugar Creek settlement followed. In 1840 twenty-one Norwegians resided in this vicinity. The main stream of Norwegian migration was following paths far to the north of Sugar Creek, and many from the first Iowa settlement of Norwegians ultimately rejoined their fellows in northern Iowa, Minnesota, and other vicinities.

Saint Ansgar, IA, 1855-date

St. Ansgar is a city in Mitchell County, Iowa. The population was 1,107 at the 2010 census. St. Ansgar is named for the patron saint of Scandinavia, a French Benedictine monk who Christianized much of Denmark, Sweden and northern Germany between 830 and 865 A.D. The Saint Ansgar, IA post office opened 1855 and it is still in operation.

Duplex cancel "SAINT ANSGAR, IOWA FEB 14 1912" on postcard to Monroe Center, IL.

1c postage for domestic postcards 1 Jul 1898 - 1 Nov 1917.



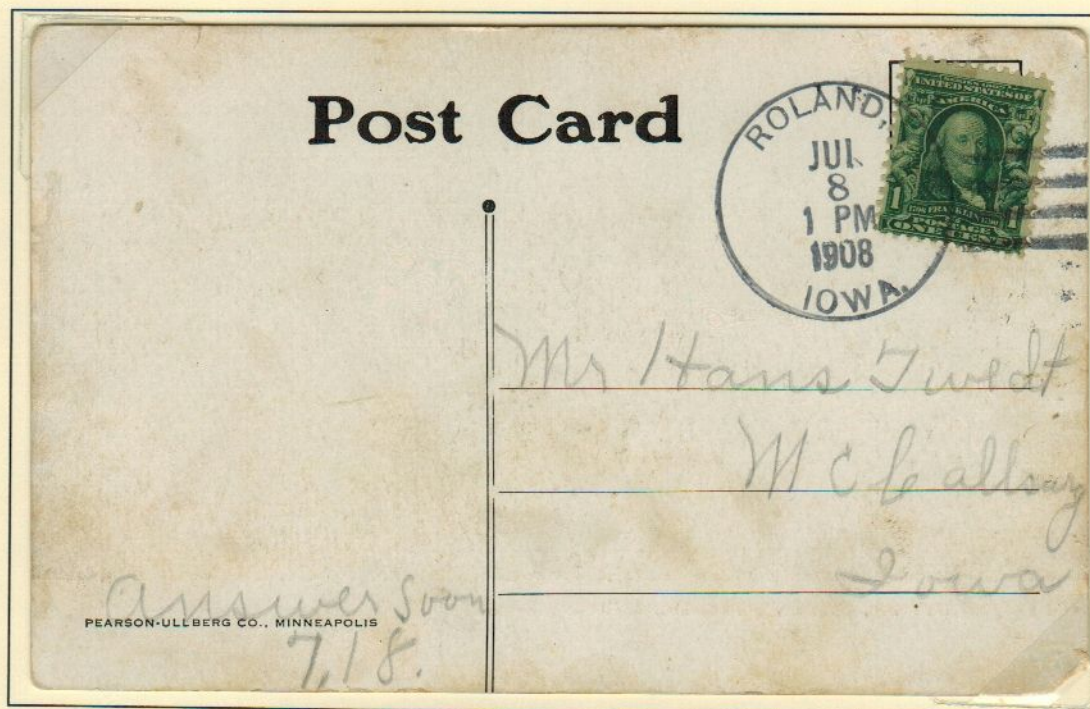
Saint Ansgar R.F.D., IA, from 1904



Saint Ansgar is the site of First Lutheran Church of St. Ansgar, a pioneer Norwegian Lutheran Church founded in December 1853 by Rev. Claus Lauritz Clausen, who was commissioned by the Lutheran Church of Norway to form congregations for Norwegian immigrants in Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota.

Rural Free Delivery from St. Ansgar, IA started in 1904. Pencil manuscript cancellation on local postcard dated Jan 08. 1c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 Jul 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

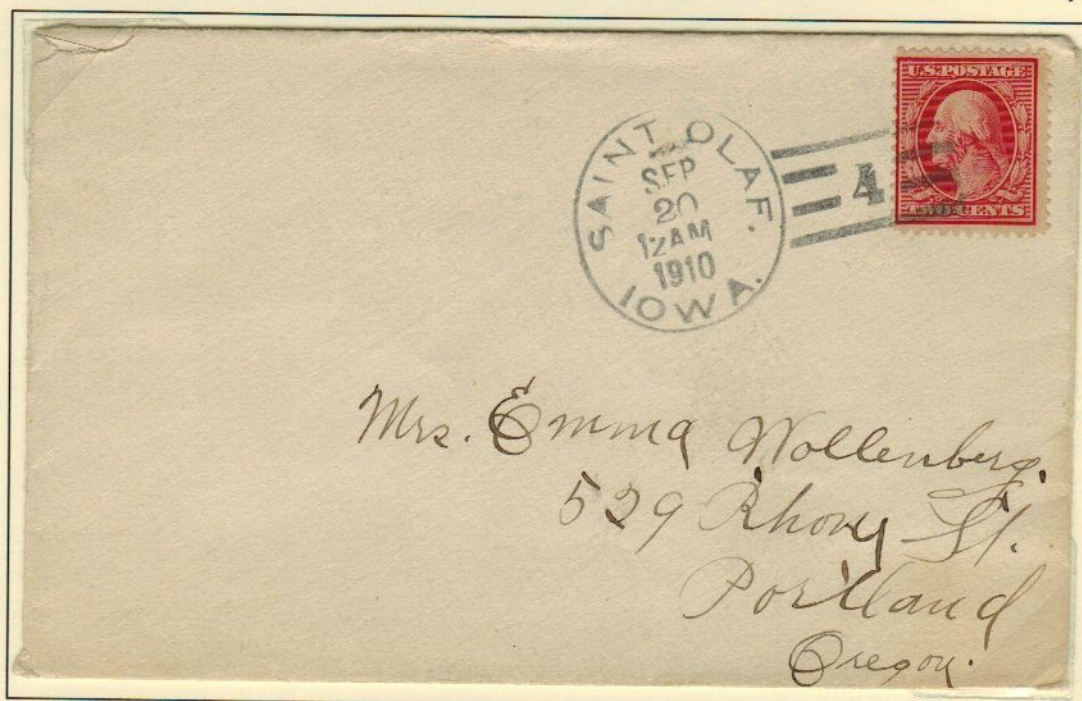
Roland is a city in Story County, Iowa. The population was 1,284 at the 2010 census. Norwegian immigrants settled here in the 1850's. Norwegian-born first postmaster John Everson proposed the name Roland, easy to pronounce in both English and Norwegian, and easy to spell. The name originates from the Norwegian ballad "Roland and King Magnus". The city was incorporated in 1891. The Roland, IA post office opened 1870 and it is still in operation.



4-bar handstamp "ROLAND, IOWA. JUL 8 1908" on postcard to McCallburg, IA.
1c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 Jul 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

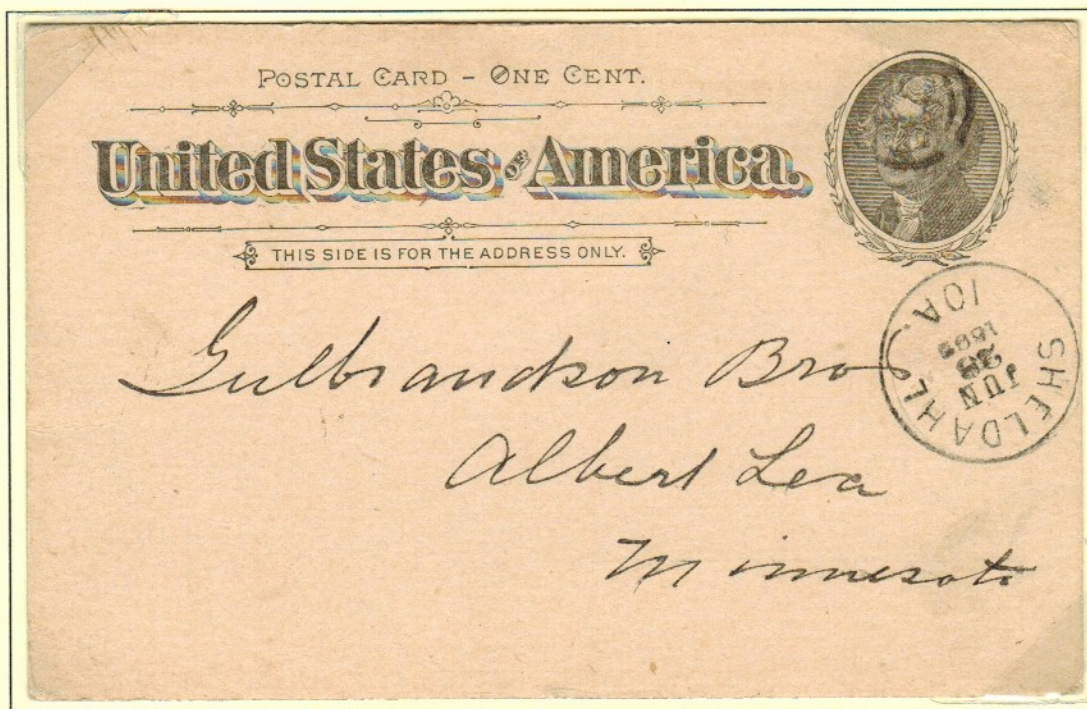
Saint Olaf, IA, 1874-date

St. Olaf is a city in Clayton County, Iowa. The population was 108 at the 2010 census. St. Olaf was founded in 1872, and it was incorporated as a town in 1900. It was named by Norwegian settlers for Olaf II Haraldsson (995-1030), later known as St. Olaf, King of Norway from 1015 to 1028. The Saint Olaf, IA post office opened 1874 with Henry H Storm first postmaster, and is still in operation.



Doane handstamp (Type 3, No. 4) "SAINT OLAF, IOWA. SEP 20 1910" on postcard to Portland, OR.
2c per ounce for domestic letters from 1 Jul 1885 to 1 Nov 1917.

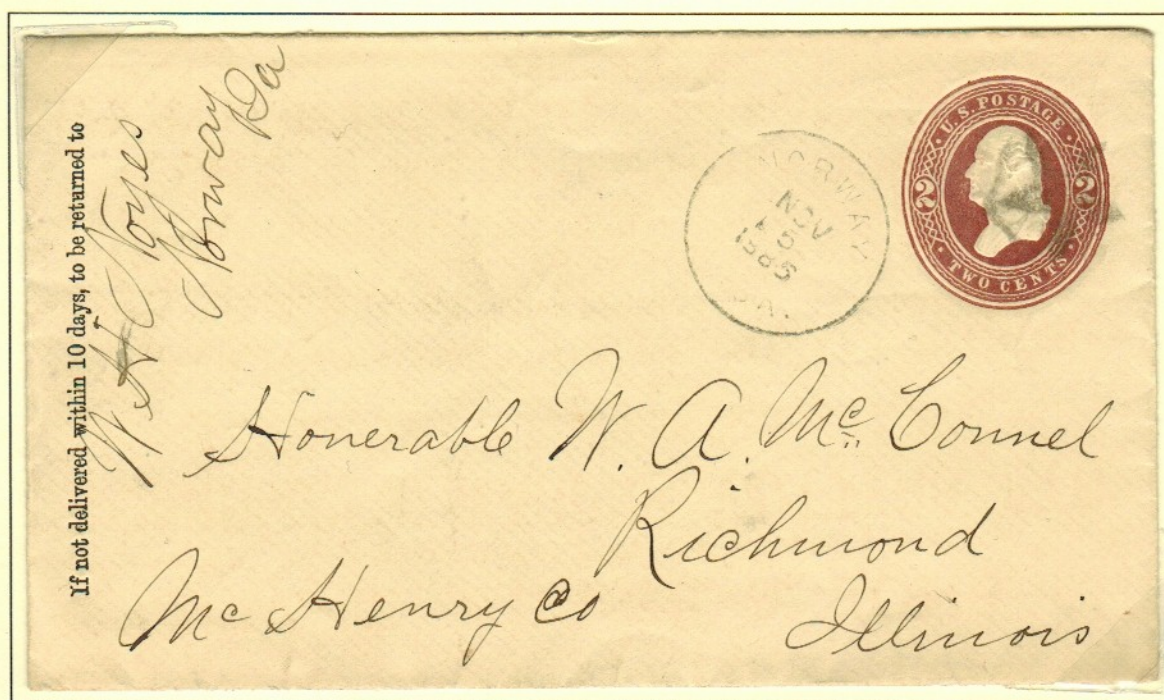
Sheldahl is a city in Polk, Boone, and Story counties, Iowa. The population was 319 at the 2010 census. The area was settled by 120 Norwegian immigrants from Lisbon, Illinois on June 7, 1855; including Osmond and Anna Sheldahl from Etne and five of their children. It was incorporated as a city in 1882. The Sheldahl, IA post office opened 1874 with Oley Nelson first postmaster, and it is still in operation.



Circular datestamp "SHELD AHL, IOA. JUN 28 1895" and target killer on postal card to Albert Lea, MN.
1c postage rate for domestic postal cards from 12 May 1873 to 1 Nov 1917.

Norway, IA, 1880-date

Norway is a city in Benton County, Iowa. The population was 545 at the 2010 census. Norway was platted in 1863 by Osman Tuttle (born Osmund Endreson Totland in Hjelmeland, Norway). Tuttle donated five acres of ground to the railway company with the condition that the new town should bear the name of his native country. The Norway, IA post office opened 1880, and it is still in operation.



Circular datestamp and star killer "NORWAY IOWA NOV 5 1885" on postal envelope to Richmond, IL.
2c postage rate per ounce for domestic letters from 1 July 1885 to 1 Nov 1917.

Quandahl is a ghost town in Allamakee County, Iowa. Nels J. and Julia Quandahl arrived in the early 1870s in the small community in Waterloo township; they came from Kvanndal, Norway. Nels bought the country store, and under his management, it became one of the best businesses in the area. When Nels became postmaster, the community was named Quandahl. The Quandahl, IA post office opened 1877, and it closed in 1906. The entire village was auctioned in 1966.



Circular datestamp "QUANDAHL IOA. FEB 27 1884" and target killer on uprated postal envelope to Norway. 5c postage rate per 15g for foreign letters from 1 July 1875 to 30 Jun 1892.

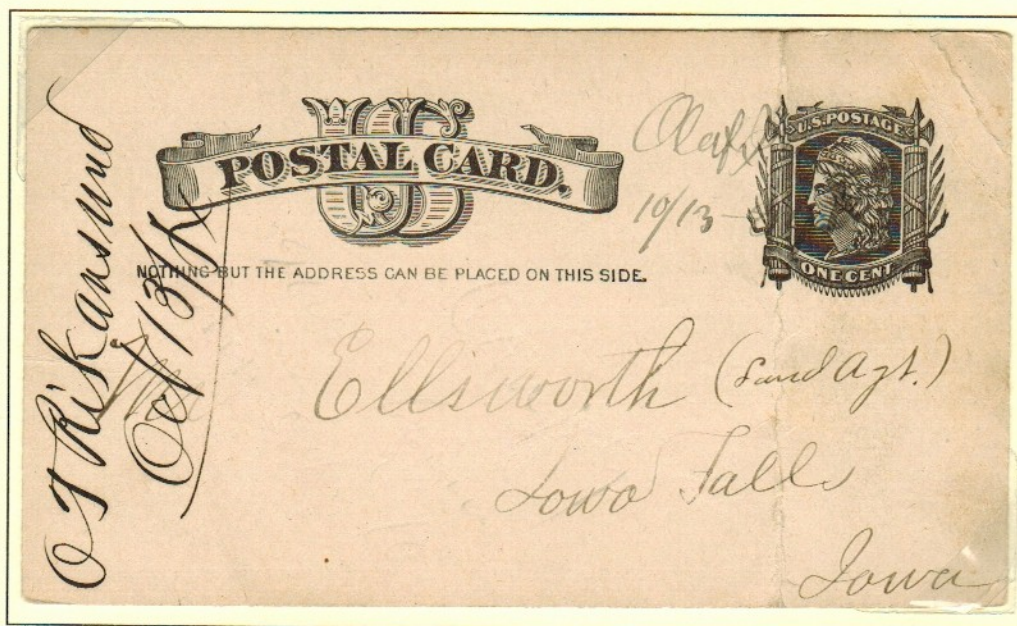
Saude, IA, 1877-1915

In 1854, a Norwegian settlement had been established in Utica Township, Chickasaw County, Iowa, at what was then known as the Little Turkey River Settlement, and later to be named Saude by the Norwegian settlers. They came to this area in ox-drawn prairie schooners. Most of the settlers were born in Telemark, Norway, and Saude in Telemark is today called Sauherad. The Saude, IA post office operated 1877-1915.



Circular datestamp "SAUDE IOWA. JUL 22 1900" on letter sent locally. 1c postage rate per ounce for local letters at non-carrier post offices from 1 Jul 1885 to 1 Nov 1917.

Olaf was a community in Wright County, Iowa. Norwegian immigrants settled here from 1869, and Olaf is a Norwegian name. The Olaf, IA post office opened 1888 with James Johnson first postmaster, and it closed 1902.



Manuscript "Olaf, Iowa 10/13-84 X" on postal card to Iowa Falls, IA.
1c for domestic postal cards from 12 May 1873 to 1 Nov 1917.

Olaf, IA, 1903-1911

The Olaf, IA post office was re-established 14 months later, in 1903, with Michael Niemeyer postmaster, and it finally closed in 1911.



Circular datestamp "OLAF IOWA JUN 9 1906" and target killer on postal envelope to Onalaska, WI.
2c per ounce for domestic letters from 1 Jul 1885 to 1 Nov 1917.

Mona is an unincorporated community in Mitchell County, Iowa. The population was 34 at the 2010 Census. The Mona post office opened 1862, and changed name to Hustad in 1895, with Jesse P. Farley postmaster. Hustad was named for Peter K. Everson, born Hustad, Hemsedal, Norway. The Hustad, IA post office closed in 1911, replaced by rural delivery.

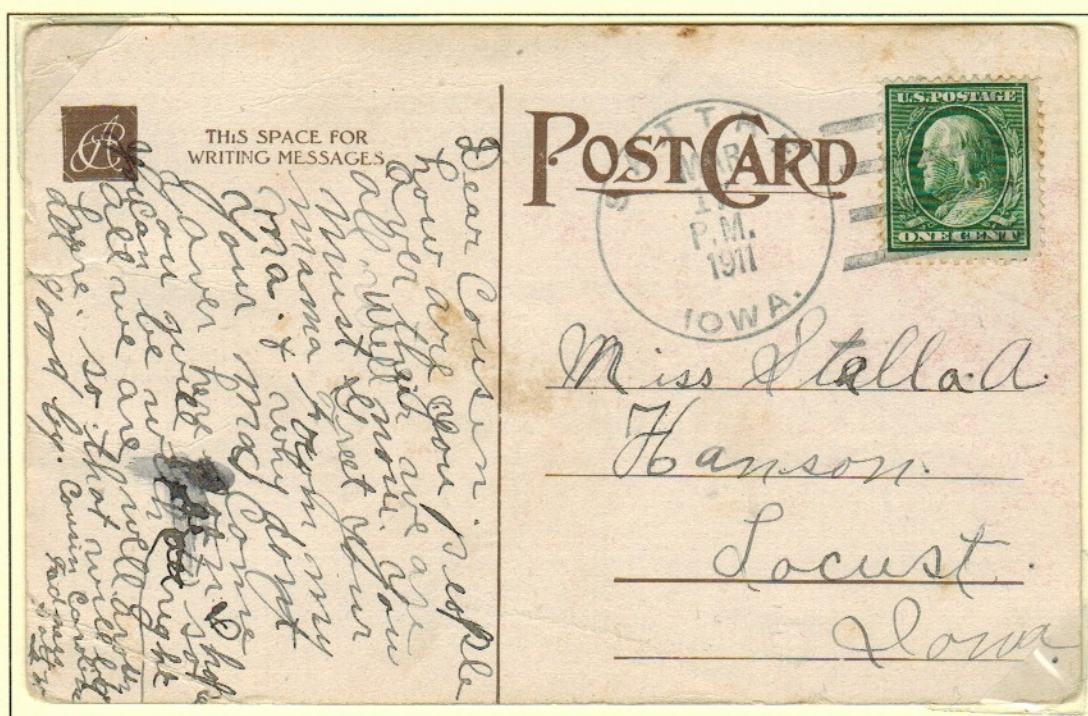


Doane handstamp "HUSTAD, IOWA. JUL 8 1907" on postcard to Ossage, IA.

1c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

Sattre, IA, 1895-1914

Sattre was a populated place in Winneshiek County, Iowa. A general store exists here today. The place was named for Ole Sattre, born Sætre, Voss, Norway. The Sattre, IA post office opened 1895 with Erik H. Forde as first postmaster, and it closed 1914 when replaced by rural delivery.



4-bar handstamp "SATTRE, IOWA. MAR 17 1911" on postcard to Locust, IA.

1c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

Minnesota opens up

A Glorious New Scandinavia

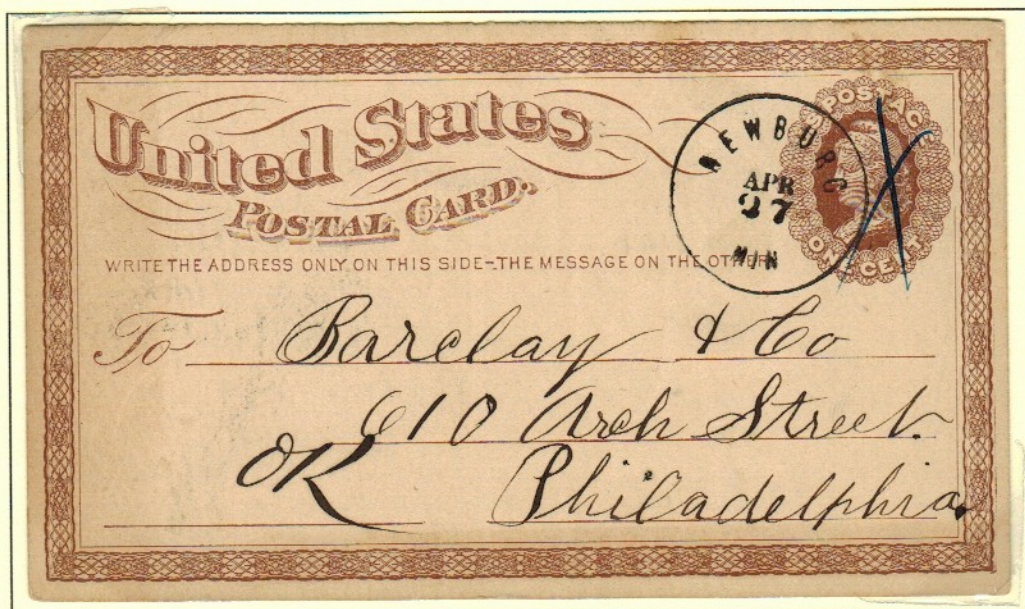
Norwegians settled in Minnesota largely in the third quarter of the nineteenth century. First period from 1850-1865. Second period from 1866 to the middle seventies. Numerous stories could be told about the settlements, hardships, Indian treaties, railroads, and progress when the Civil War ended.

"What a glorious new Scandinavia might not Minnesota become!... Here the Norwegian would find his rapid rivers... The climate, the situation, the character of the scenery agrees with our people better than that of any other American States..."
(quote from the celebrated Swedish novelist Fredrika Bremer, who visited Minnesota in 1850)

Newburg, MN, 1855-1902

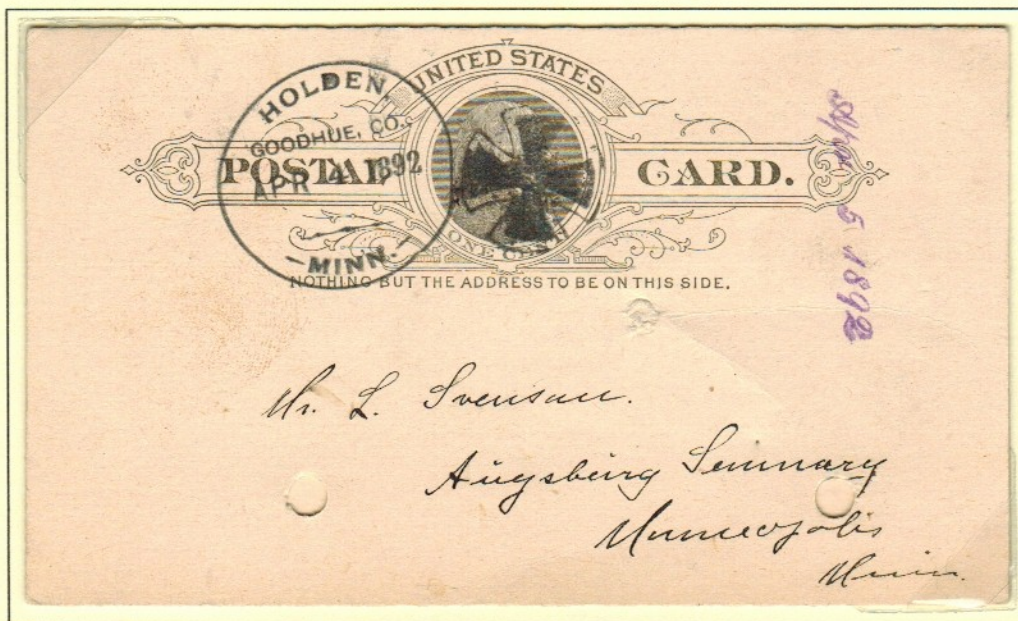
Newburg is an unincorporated community and a township in Fillmore County, Minnesota. Newburg was first settled in 1851, founded and named in 1853 by Hans Valder, a native of Norway, who with others came to this place from LaSalle County, IL. As of the census of 2000, there were 444 people residing in the township. The Newburg, MN post office operated 1855-1902. The spelling Newburgh is also reported.

Newburg, MN is the oldest Minnesota post office with documented name of Norwegian origin.



Circular datestamp "NEWBURG, MIN. APR 27" and pen ink cross on postal card to Philadelphia, PA. Unknown year, the postal card was issued 1873. 1c postage for domestic postal cards 12 May 1873 - 1 Nov 1917.

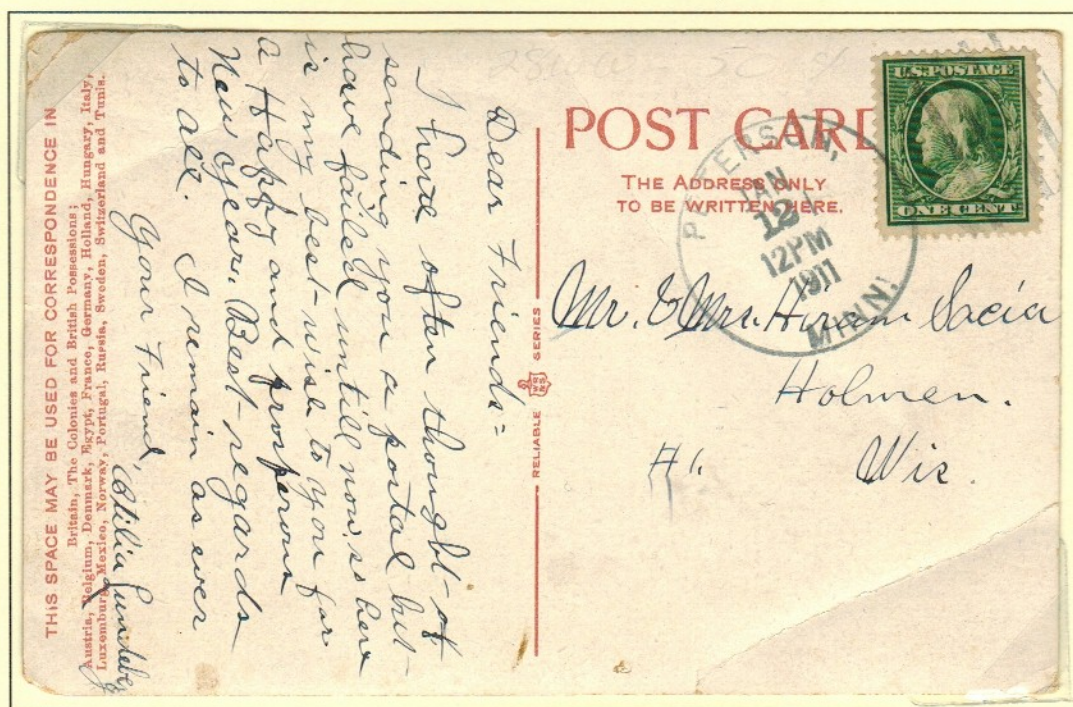
Holden is a township in Goodhue County, Minnesota, United States. The population was 457 at the 2000 census. Holden was settled in 1854-55, organized in 1858 and it was named by Norwegian settlers. The first post office operated March to June 1860 on George Nichol's farm; the second post office began in 1867 in Thomas E. Lajord's general store, closing in 1903.



Datestamp "HOLDEN, -MINN.- APR 4 1892" and fancy star killer on postcard to Minneapolis, MN.
1c rate for domestic postal cards from 12 May 1873 to 1 Nov 1917.

Peterson, MN, 1855-1862, 1870-date

Peterson is a city in Fillmore County, Minnesota. The population was 199 at the 2010 census. It is named for Peter Peterson Haslerud, who settled here in 1853. He was born in Norway 1828, came to the US in 1843 and died 1880. The first post office, 1855-62, with Knud Peterson postmaster, transferred to Windom. The current post office opened 1870 with Even A. Hjelle pm, and it is still in operation.



4-bar handstamp "PETERSON, MINN. Jan 12 1911", note vertical bars, on postcard to Holmen, WI.
1c rate for domestic postcards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

Arendahl is a township in Fillmore County, Minnesota. The population was 333 at the 2000 census. First settled in 1854, named by Isaac Jackson, a Norwegian immigrant, who had lived 12 years in Dane County, WI, and came to this township in 1856, the name being for the seaport city of Arendal on the southeastern coast of Norway. The Arendahl, MN post office operated 1860-1905.



Circular datestamp "ARENDAHL, MINN. AUG 15" and target killer on letter to Peterson, MN. Unknown year, postage stamp issued 1870. 3c postage rate per ½ ounce for domestic letters from 1 July 1863 to 30 Sep 1883.

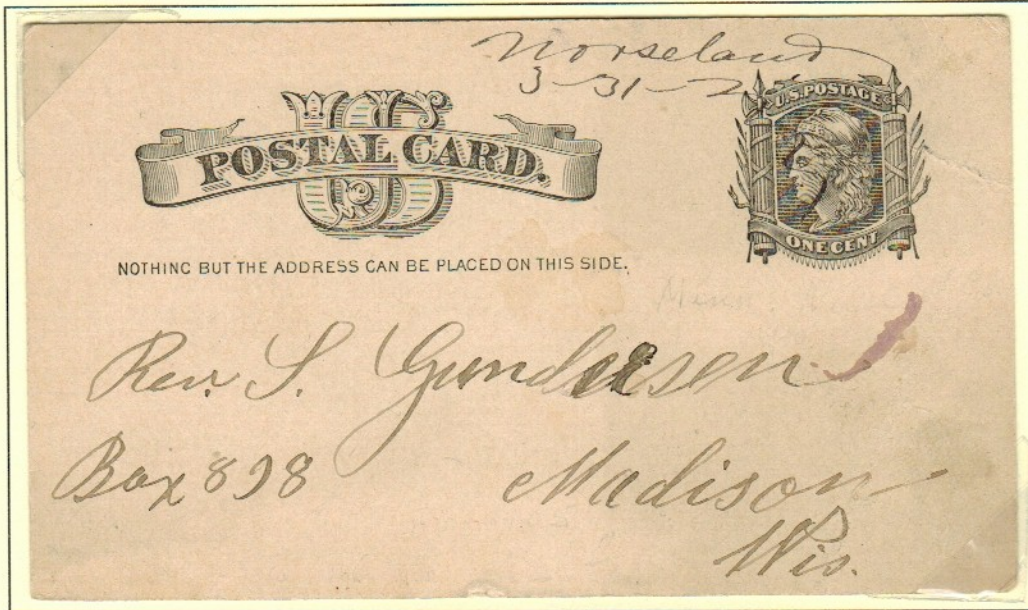
Bratsberg, MN, 1862-1907

Bratsberg is an unincorporated community in Fillmore County, MN, a hamlet in the southeast corner of section 10. It bears the name of a district in southern Norway. The farming community began about 1859. Its first post office, 1862, was in Ole Johnson's shanty one-half mile north of the hamlet, later moving to the Bratsberg Store, with Ole Hendrickson as postmaster; the post office changed to a rural branch in 1907, closing in 1909.



Circular datestamp and target killer "BRATSBERG, MINN. NOV 5" on postal envelope to Preston, MN. Unknown year, c. 1870s. 3c rate for domestic letters from 1 July 1851 to 1 Nov 1917.

Norseland is an unincorporated community in Lake Prairie Township, Nicollet County, Minnesota. Norwegian immigrants gave it name. It was first organized in 1854 when a small Methodist congregation came. In 1858 a Norwegian Lutheran church was formed, and a community developed with stores, a creamery, and a post office which operated 1865-1905.



Manuscript "Norseland 3-31-3" (31 March 1883) on postal card to Madison, WI.
1c rate for domestic postal cards from 12 May 1873 to 1 Nov 1917.

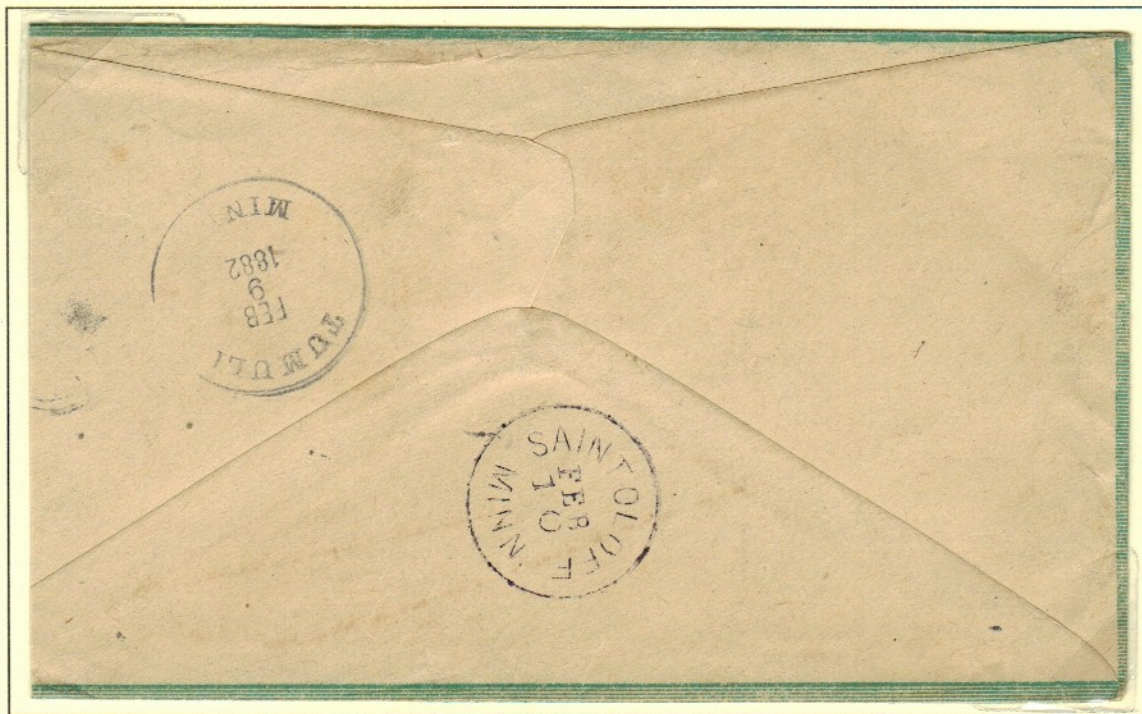
Norway Lake, MN, 1865-1914

Norway Lake is a township in Kandiyohi County, Minnesota. The population was 284 at the 2000 census. The township was organized in 1866, and named for its lake. A large share of the early settlers near the lake being natives of Norway caused the name to be selected. The Norway Lake, MN post office operated 1867-1914.



Circular datestamp "NORWAY LAKE MINN. JAN 7" and target killer on registered uprated postal envelope to Madison, WI. Pencil annotation "87 7/1" indicates that it is from 1887. 3c postage rate per ½ ounce for domestic letters 1 July 1863 - 30 Sep 1883, 10c reg. fee 1 July 1875 - 31 Dec 1892.

St. Olaf is a township in Otter Tail County, Minnesota. The population was 332 at the 2000 census. It was at first called Oxford, but was renamed 1870, in honor of St. Olaf, born 995, king of Norway 1015-30, who consolidated the kingdom and aided the establishment of Christianity but was killed in a battle with his rebellious subjects on 29 July, 1030. He is the patron saint of Norway. The post office name was spelled St. Oloff 1870-1894, and St. Olaf 1894-1904.



Circular datestamp "SAINT OLOFF MINN. FEB 10" (1882) as receiving postmark on cover from Portland, ME to St. Olaf, MN. 1c/2oz for domestic printed matter from 1 Feb 1875 to 1 Apr 1932.

Saint Olaf, MN, 1894-1904

The post office changed spelling from Saint Oloff to Saint Olaf in 1894. It closed 1904.
Named for the patron saint of Norway (see above).



Circular datestamp "SAINT OLAF MINN. FEB 4 1898" on postal card to St. Paul, MN.
1c rate for domestic postal cards from 12 May 1873 to 1 Nov 1917.

Benson is a city in Swift County, Minnesota. The population was 3,240 at the 2010 census. The name was adopted in honor of Ben H. Benson, who was born in Norway in 1846, came to the USA in 1861, and settled in this township in 1869, engaging in mercantile business. The Benson, MN post office opened in 1870 with Louis Metdal first postmaster, and it is still in operation.

Circular datestamp "BENSON, MINN. AUG 29 1888" on registered uprated postal envelope to Trenton, NJ. Both datestamp and killer are of gear type. 3c postage rate per ½ ounce for domestic letters 1 July 1885 - 1 Nov 1917, 10c reg. fee 1 July 1875 - 31 Dec 1892.



Benson & Huron R.P.O., 1888-1950

A railway post office operated on the stretch between Benson, MN and Huron, SD from 1888 to 1950. This was part of the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railway, and from 1890 part of the Great Northern Railway. See above for the origin of the Benson name.



Duplex datestamp "BENSON & HURON R.P.O. APR 22 1908" postcard to Clear Lake, SD. Receiving postmark 26 April. 1c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

Tordenskjold is a township in Otter Tail County, Minnesota. The population was 550 at the 2000 census. The name is after Vice-Admiral Peter Tordenskjold, born in Trondheim, Norway, a Danish-Norwegian naval hero during the Great Northern War. The Tordenskjold, MN post office opened 1870 with first postmaster Kelmer Hoff, and it closed in 1904.



Manuscript "TORDENSKJOLD Dec 13" on uprated postal envelope to Norway. Unknown year, envelope issued 1874, stamps issued 1873, and no clue from the postage rate: 5c was valid postage for single weight foreign letters until 1953.

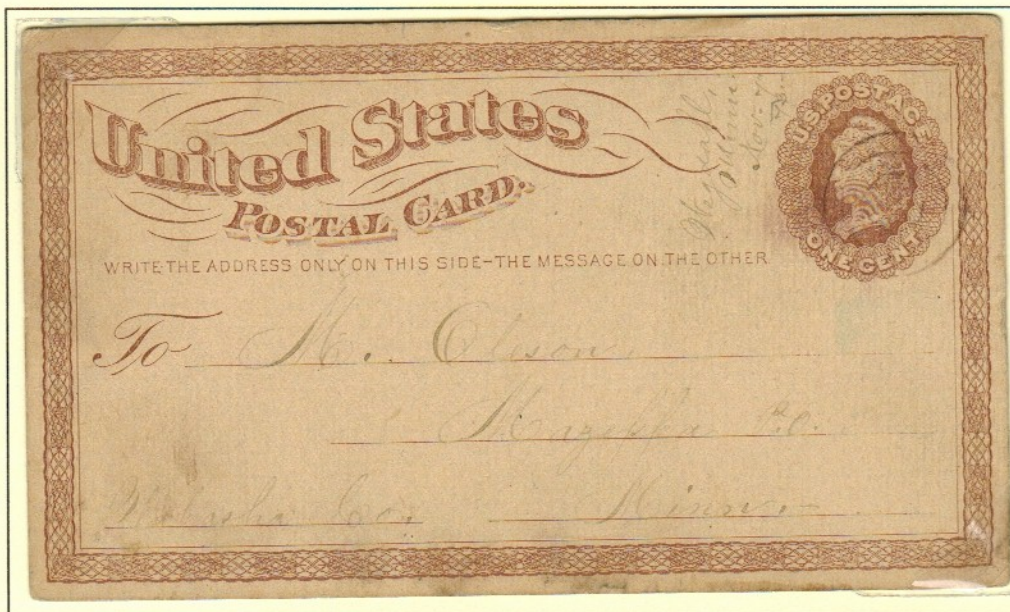
Langhei, MN, 1871-1904

Langhei is a township in Pope County, Minnesota. Langhei is a Norwegian name meaning "long highland", a name which fits well with the landscape in the area. The population was 217 at the 2000 census. The Langhei, MN post office opened in 1871 with Gunder Thoraldson first postmaster, and it closed in 1904.



Circular datestamp "LANGHEI MINN. 1904 29 JUN" and target killer on postal card to St. Paul, MN. The card was sent via Starbuck, MN. 1c postage rate for domestic postal cards from 12 May 1873 to 1 Nov 1917.

Wegdahl is an unincorporated community in Chippewa County, Minnesota. The village began as Myers for the Myers Creamery but was changed to Wegdahl when the post office was established in 1871 at postmaster Hemming Arntzen Weghdahl's general store, where it remained until discontinued in 1957, becoming a rural route until 1959. Hemming Wegdahl was born in Stjørdal, Norway and came to the United States in 1867.



Manuscript "Wegdahl, Minn. Nov. 7 73." and target killer on postal card to Mazeppa, MN. The message is written in Norwegian. 1c postage rate for domestic postal cards from 12 May 1873 to 1 Nov 1917.

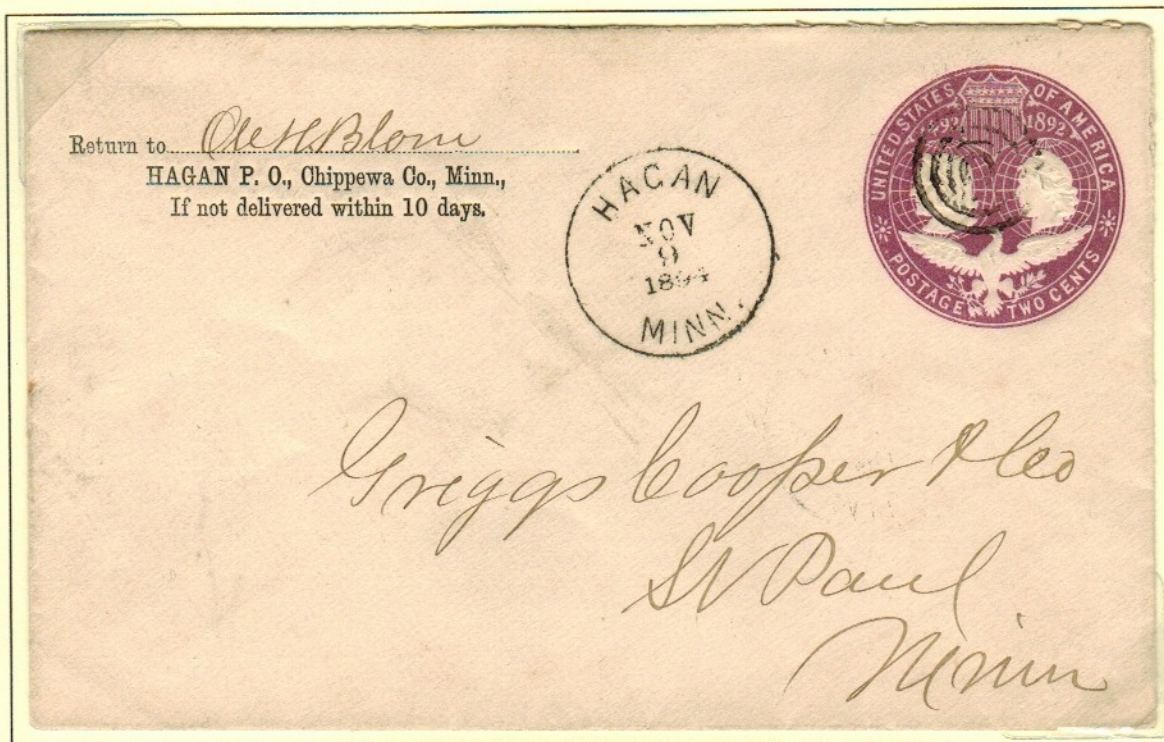
Aspelund, MN, 1872-1905

Aspelund was a farming village in Wanamingo Township, Goodhue County, Minnesota, founded by veterinarian and first postmaster Dr. Christian Hveem, its post office operating 1872-1905. The name given is the Norwegian designation for the grove of aspen or poplar trees near to the village. Dr. Hveem was born in Norway, 1835.



Blue circular datestamp "ASPELUND MINNESOTA SEP 30 1891" and gridiron killer on letter to Ada, MN. 2c postage rate per ounce for domestic letters from 1 July 1885 to 1 Nov 1917. The letter text is written in Norwegian.

Hagan, settlement in Big Bend Township, Chippewa County, Minnesota. Hagan was first settled in 1869 and is named for brothers Ole K. and Nels K. Hagen from Røldal, Norway. The postal department misspelled their name when Nels Knutson Hagen became first postmaster in 1872. The Hagan, MN post office operated until 1907.



Circular datestamp "HAGAN MINN. NOV 9 1894" and target killer on letter to St. Paul, MN.
2c postage rate per ounce for domestic letters from 1 July 1885 to 1 Nov 1917.

Norland, MN, 1873-1878

Nordland is a township in Lyon County, Minnesota. As of the 2000 census, the township population was 251. Nordland Township was organized in 1873, and named for the county in Norway, the native country of a large share of the early settlers. First postmaster was railroad section boss Harvey D. Frink, and the Norland, MN post office operated only 1873-1878. The spelling Nordland is also seen.



Manuscript postmark "Norland 4/28 -76" on postal envelope to Winona, MN. Pen ink cross on the stamp imprint.
3c postage rate per ½ ounce for domestic letters from 1 July 1863 to 30 Sep 1883.

Urness is a township in Douglas County, Minnesota. The population was 266 at the 2000 census. Urness Township was first settled in 1862-63, established as a township called Red Rock in 1869. In 1871, the name was changed to Urness, in memory of a certain district in Norway. Two of its pioneer farmers, Andrew J. and Ole J. Urness, coming in 1865, were immigrants from that district. Newton Olson was first postmaster. The Urness, MN post office operated 1877-1904.



Circular datestamp "URNESS MINN. OCT 17" (1893) and target killer on letter to Beverly, MA. On reverse postmarks "BRANDON MINN. REC'D. OCT 17 1893" and "BEVERLY MASS. REC'D. OCT 20 1893". 2c postage rate per ounce for domestic letters from 1 July 1885 to 1 Nov 1917.

Nerstrand, MN, 1877-date

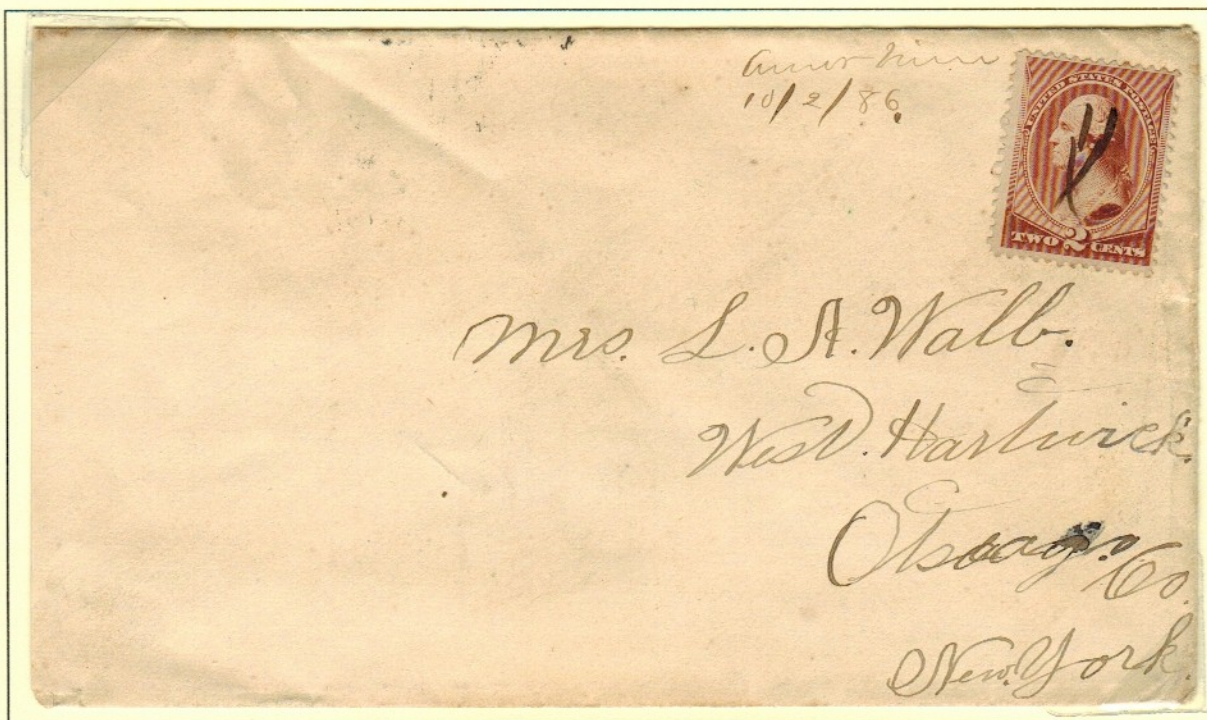
Nerstrand is a city in Rice County, Minnesota. The population was 295 at the 2010 census. Osmund Osmundson settled here in 1856, built a store in 1877, and in 1883 he platted the town, naming it after his home location of Nedstrand in Tysvær, Norway.

The Nerstrand, MN post office opened 1877 with Augén H. Brokke first postmaster and it is still in operation.



Violet circular datestamp "NERSTRAND MINN. NOV 23 1880" and target killer on letter to Faribault, MN. 3c/oz for domestic letters from 1 Jul 1863 to 30 Sep 1883.

Amor is a township in Otter Tail County, Minnesota. Norwegian settlers applied for the post office name Cupid which was declined, and then Amor was selected. Cupid was the god of love in the ancient Roman mythology, and Amor is Latin for love. The Amor, MN post office operated 1878-1906.



Manuscript "Amor, Minn. 10 / 2 / 86" on letter to West Hartwick, NY.
2c postage rate per ounce for domestic letters from 1 July 1885 to 1 Nov 1917.

Hendrum, MN, 1878-date

Hendrum is a city in Norman County, Minnesota. The population was 307 as of the 2010 census. It is named for Hindrum in Leksvik, Nord-Trøndelag, Norway, where several of the settlers came from. The Hendrum, MN post office opened 1878 with Johannes Hagen first postmaster and it is still in operation.



Circular datestamp "HENDRUM MINN. FEB 18 1907" and cork killer with negative cross on postcard to Perley, MN.
1c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

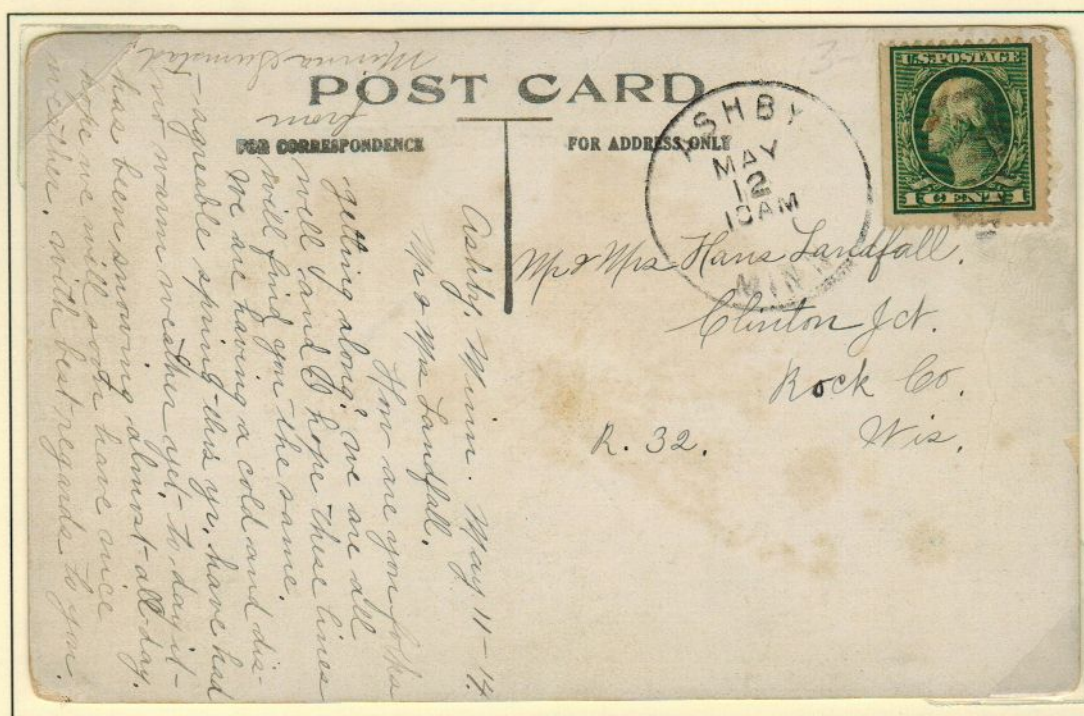
Rollag is an unincorporated community in Clay County, Minnesota. It is named for Rollag municipality in Numedal, Norway. The Rollag, MN post office opened 1880 with Christopher Nelson first postmaster and it closed in 1929.



Circular datestamp "ROLLAG MINN. MAY 30 1895" and gridiron killer on postal card to St. Paul, MN.
1c postage rate for domestic postal cards from 12 May 1873 to 1 Nov 1917.

Ashby, MN, 1880-date

Ashby is a city in Grant County, Minnesota. The population was 446 at the 2010 census. Ashby was platted in 1879, and named for Gunder Ash, an early Norwegian settler. The Ashby, MN post office opened 1880 with Knute H. Melby first postmaster and it is still in operation.



4-bar handstamp "ASHBY MINN. MAY 12" on 1914 postcard to Clinton Junction, WI.
1c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

Odin is a city in Watonwan County, Minnesota. The population was 106 at the 2010 census. Odin was the principal god in Norse mythology. The Odin, MN post office opened 1880 with Peter Newgard first postmaster and it is still in operation.



4-bar handstamp "ODIN, MINN. APR 20 1908" on postcard to New Kamilche, WA.
1c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

Neby, MN, 1881-1903

Neby was a village in Tynsid Township, Polk County, Minnesota. Tynsid Township was organized in 1879, and named after Tynset, Norway. In Norway, Neby is a farm in Tynset. The Neby, MN post office operated 1881-1903 with Maria Saugstad first postmaster.



Circular datestamp "NEBY MINN. JAN 17 1898" and cork killer on postal card to St. Paul, MN.
1c postage rate for domestic postal cards from 12 May 1873 to 1 Nov 1917.

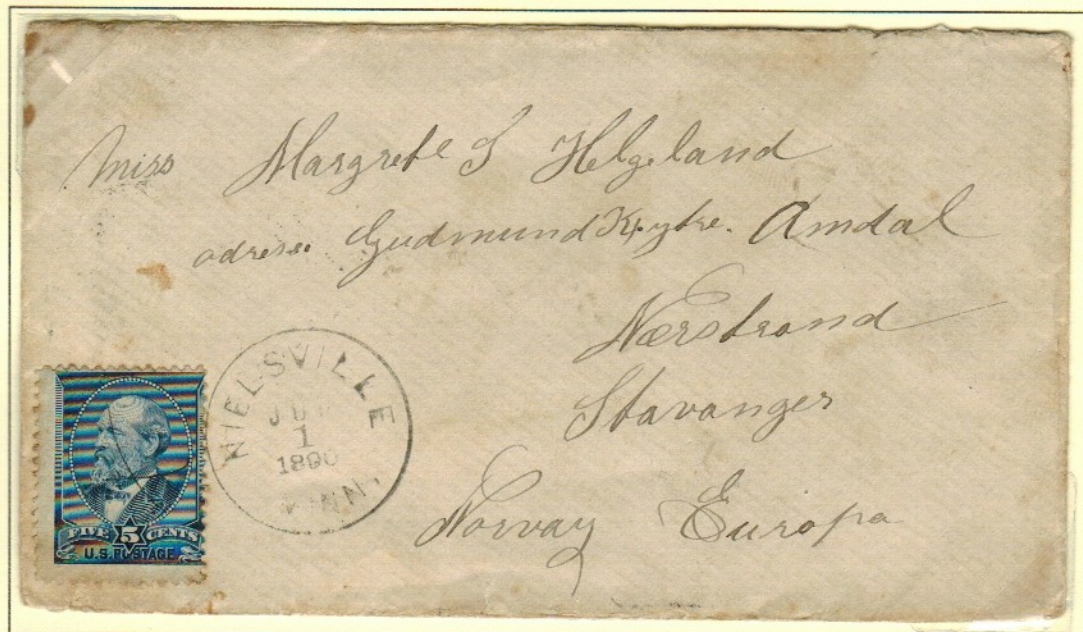
Foldahl is a township in Marshall County, Minnesota. The population was 94 at the 2000 census. It was organized in 1883, named for Folldal in Østerdalen, Norway, the country from which most of the settlers in this township came. The Foldal, MN post office operated 1883-1913 with Adolph Willer first postmaster.



Doane handstamp (Type 3, No. 1) "FOLDAL, MINN. NOV 27 1911" on postcard to Seattle, WA.
1c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

Nielsville, MN, 1883-date

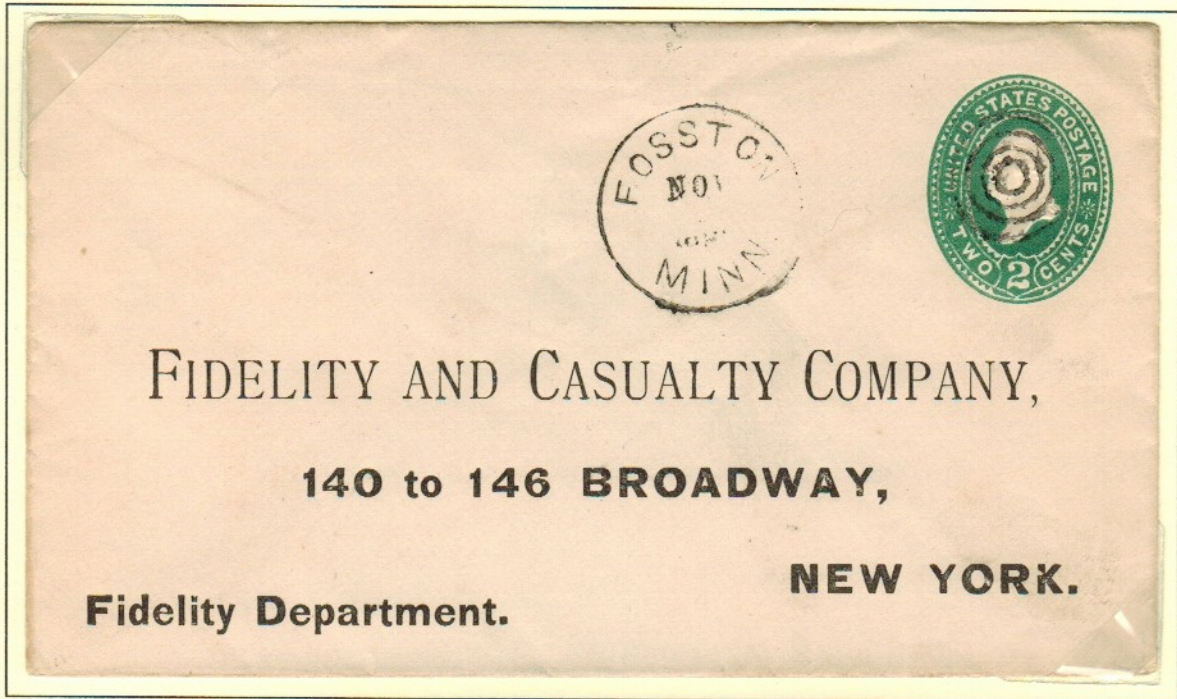
Nielsville is a city in Polk County, Minnesota. It was named for Nels O. Paulsrud, who first settled in the area in 1872. Paulsrud came from Norway in 1869, his name originally being Nils Olson. The population was 90 at the 2010 census. The Nielsville, MN post office opened 1883 with Andrew Thompson first postmaster and it is still in operation.



Precancel with
incorrect spelling
NEILSVILLE
MINN

Cds. "NIELSVILLE, MINN.
JUL 1 1890" and pen ink
cross on cover to Norway.
5c per 15g for foreign letters
1 July 1875 – 30 June 1892.

Fosston is a city in Polk County, Minnesota. The population was 1,527 at the 2010 census. Fosston was incorporated 1883, and was named for Louis Foss (1849–1920), who was an immigrant from the village Nyttingnes in Sogn & Fjordane county, Norway. The Fosston, MN post office opened 1883 with Louis Foss first postmaster and it is still in operation.



Circular datestamp "FOSSTON MINN. NOV 1 1891" and target killer on postal envelope to New York, NY.
2c postage rate per ounce for domestic letters from 1 July 1885 to 1 Nov 1917.

Sletten, MN, 1884-1891

Sletten is a township in Polk County, Minnesota. The population was 140 at the 2000 census. It was named for Paul C. Sletten, a land agent, born 1841 in Norway. The Sletten, MN post office was established 1884 with Julius Nelson first postmaster. It was discontinued in 1891.



Circular datestamp "SLETTEN MINN. FEB 20 1888" and cork killer on cover to Norway.
Postage rate 5c per 15g for foreign letters from 1 July 1875 to 30 Jun 1892.

Halstad is a city in Norman County, Minnesota. The population was 597 at the 2010 census. The city was named for Ole Halstad, a Norwegian settler. The Halstad, MN post office opened 1884 with storekeeper Erik K. Brandt first postmaster and it is still in operation.



Duplex handstamp "HALSTAD MINN JUL 30 1908" on postcard to Culbertson, MT.
1c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

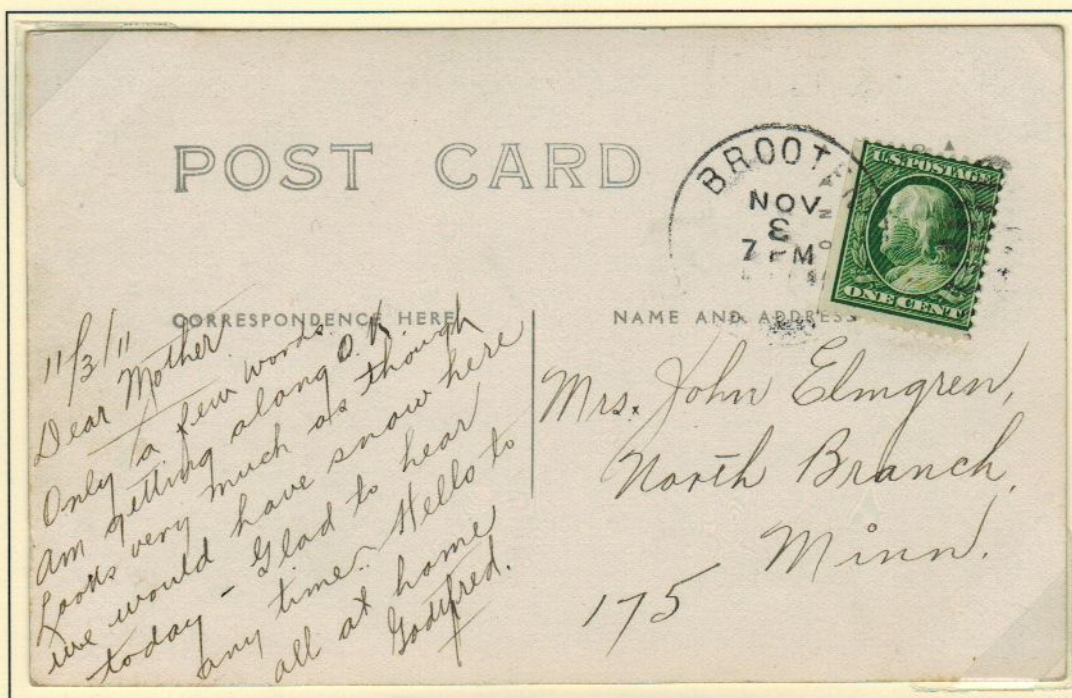
Teien, MN, 1882-1903

Teien, a post office in Teien Township, Kittson County, Minnesota. It was named for Andreas C. Teien who was born about 1857 in Drammen, Norway. The Teien, MN post office opened 1882 with Augusta Westman first postmaster, and it closed 1903.



Circular datestamp "TEIEN MINN. DEC 1 1896" and target killer on registered cover to New York, NY.
6c overpaid for the 10c rate: 2c/oz for domestic letters and 8c registry from 1 Jan 1893 to 1 Nov 1909.

Brooten is a city in Stearns and Pope counties, Minnesota. The population was 743 at the 2010 census. Brooten was laid out in 1886, and named for settler Reier O. Liabraaten, born 1840 in Flå, Hallingdal, Norway. The Brooten, MN post office opened 1886 with Embrick E. Knudson first postmaster and it is still in operation.



Duplex handstamp "BROOTEN, MINN. NOV 3 1911" on Brooten viewcard to North Branch, MN.
1c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

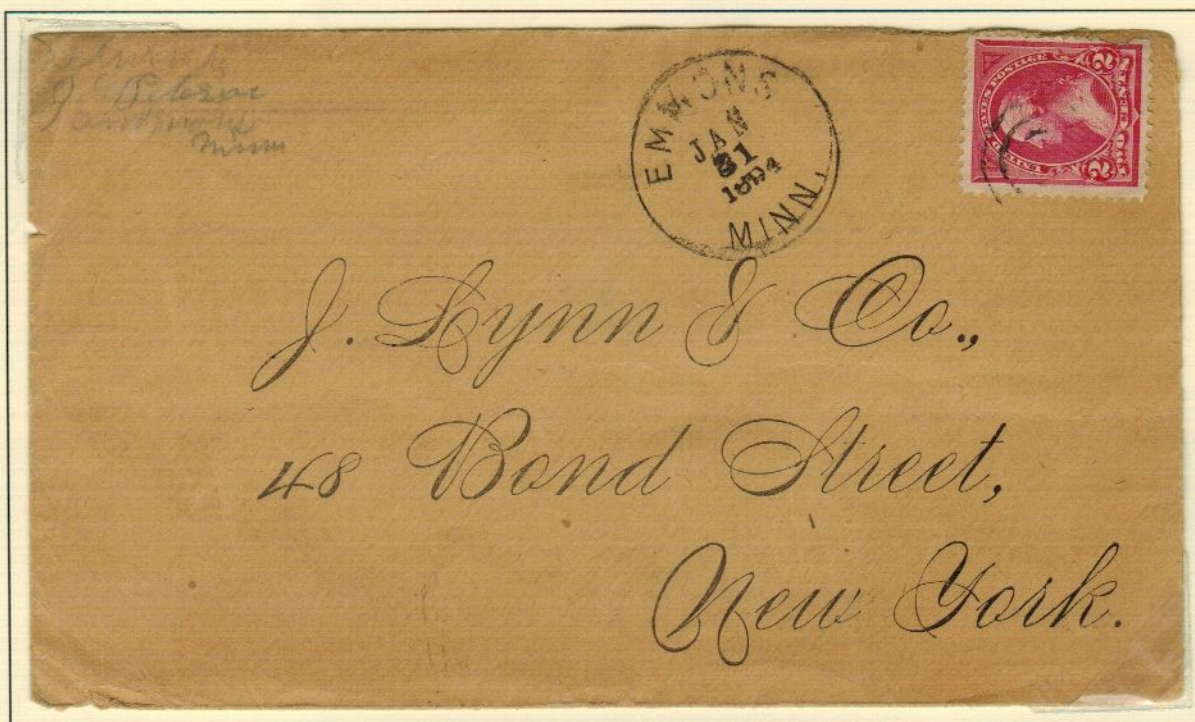
Moose Lake & Brooten R.P.O., 1911-1948

A railway post office operated 1911-1948 on the stretch between Moose Lake, MN and Brooten, MN. This was part of the Minneapolis, Saint Paul & Sault Ste Marie Railway. See above for the origin of the Brooten name.



Duplex handstamp "MOOSE LK. & BROOTEN R.P.O. DEC 7 1931" on postal envelope to Duluth, MN.
2c postage rate per ounce for domestic letters from 1 July 1919 to 5 July 1932.

Emmons is a city in Freeborn County, Minnesota. The population was 391 in the 2010 census. Emmons was incorporated in 1899, and named for Henry G. Emmons who settled here in 1856. He was born 1828 in Eggedal, Buskerud, Norway and came to the United States in 1850. Emmons is an Americanization of his Norwegian family name Aamen. The Emmons, MN post office opened 1889 with George H. Emmons first postmaster and it is still in operation.



Circular datestamp "EMMONS MINN. JAN 31 1894" on letter to New York, NY.
2c postage rate per ounce for domestic letters from 1 July 1885 to 1 Nov 1917.

Ihlen, MN, 1889-date

Ihlen is a city in Pipestone County, Minnesota. The population was 63 at the 2010 census. It was named in honor of Carl Ihlen from Norway, on whose land it was originally platted in 1888.

The Ihlen, MN post office opened 1889 with Carl Ihlen first postmaster and it is still in operation.

Violet handstamped flag "IHLEN, MINN. APR 7 1908" on postcard to Brookings, SD.

1c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.



Syre is an unincorporated community in Norman County, Minnesota. It was named for homesteader Swen Syre, born 1834 in Norway as Sven Sire. The Syre, MN post office operated 1891-1936 with Carl Berg first postmaster.



Circular datestamp "SYRE, MINN. NOV 20 1895" and target killer on uprated registered letter to Minneapolis, MN. 2c postage rate per ounce for domestic letters 1 July 1885 – 1 Nov 1917, 8c registration fee 1 Jan 1883 – 30 Sep 1909.

Lerdal, MN, 1892-1903

Lerdal was a village in Freeborn County, Minnesota. The community was named for the homeplace of first postmaster Jens O. Share, from Skjær, Lærdal, Norway. The Lerdal, MN post office operated 1892-1903.



Circular datestamp "LERDAL MINN. MAY 29 1900" and target killer on letter to New Richland, MN. 2c postage rate per ounce for domestic letters from 1 July 1885 to 1 Nov 1917.

Northland is a township in Saint Louis County, Minnesota. The population was 169 at the 2010 census. It was named for Norway, the native land of many of its settlers. The Northland, MN post office operated 1892-1908 with first postmaster John Votvedt (born Vaatveit, from Norway).



Circular datestamp "NORTHLAND MINN. JAN 8 1904" on postal card to Birkholz, MN.
1c postage rate for domestic postal cards from 12 May 1873 to 1 Nov 1917.

Flak, MN, 1894-1926

Flak, village in Crow Wing County, Minnesota. The community was named for first postmaster Peter Alberts, born 1849 as Peder Lorntsen Flak, Klinga near Namsos, Norway. The Flak, MN post office operated 1894-1926.



4-bar handstamp "FLAK, MINN. JUL 14 1911" on postcard to Minneapolis, MN.
1c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

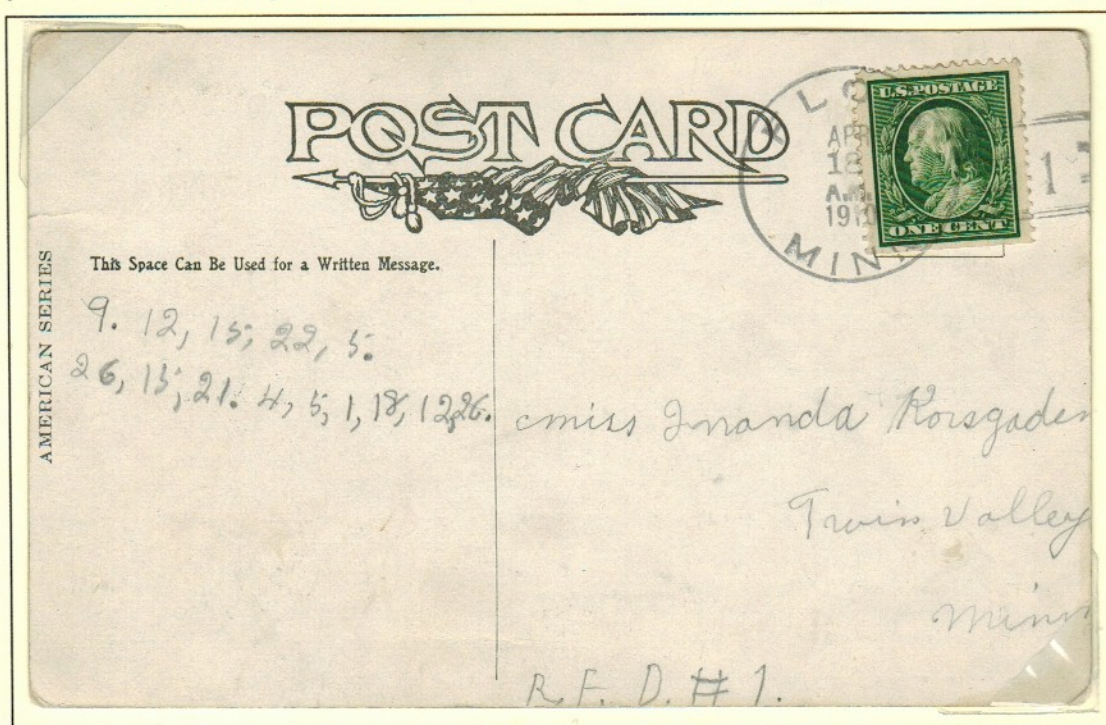
Dovray is a township in Murray County, Minnesota. It was named for the village Dovre and for Dovrefjeld, a high mountainous plateau of Norway, this name being given by Nels S. Taarud, the county treasurer. Ten years earlier, in 1869, a township of Kandiyohi County received the name Dovre, having the same derivation, for which reason the spelling was changed here, while retaining nearly the original pronunciation. The post office began as Ben Franklin and was transferred here in 1895. It closed 2011.



4-bar handstamp "DOVRAY, MINN. SEP 22 1919" on registered postal envelope to Great Falls, IL. 1c overpaid for the 12 c rate: 2c/oz for domestic letters and 10c registry from 1 Jul 1919 to 14 Apr 1925.

Flom, MN, 1895-date

Flom is a township in Norman County, Minnesota. The population was 226 at the 2000 census. It was named for Erik Flom, an early settler, born 1860 in Iowa to Norwegian immigrant parents. The Flom, MN post office opened 1895 with first postmaster Henry Vehle (from Voss, Norway), and it is still in operation.



Doane handstamp (Type 2, No. 1) "FLOM, MINN. APR 12 1910" on postcard to Twin Valley, MN. 1c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

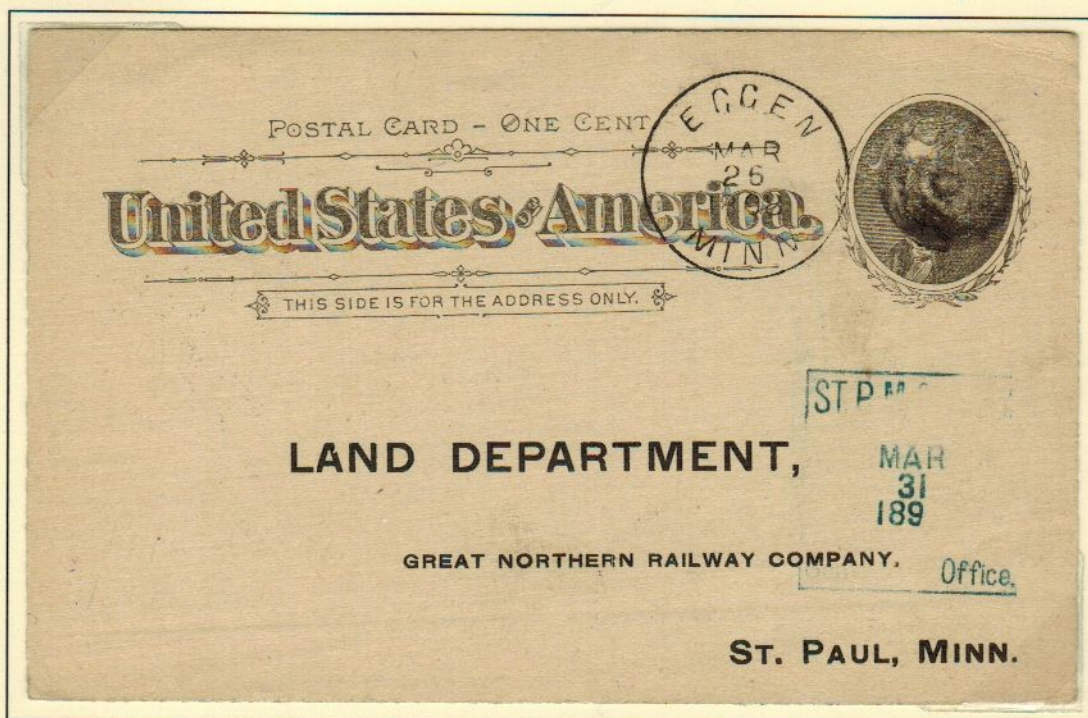
Duxby was a country post office in Roseau County, Minnesota. It was named by Norwegian settlers, the name being a combination of dux (ducks) and the Norwegian word "by" for town, for the many ducks on the river there. The first Duxby, MN post office was established 1897 with Charles Peterson first postmaster, closed 1918, re-opened 1919 with Thore G. Hegstad postmaster, and finally closed in 1938.



4-bar handstamp "DUXBY, MINN. OCT 21 1913" on postcard to Rolette, ND.
1c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

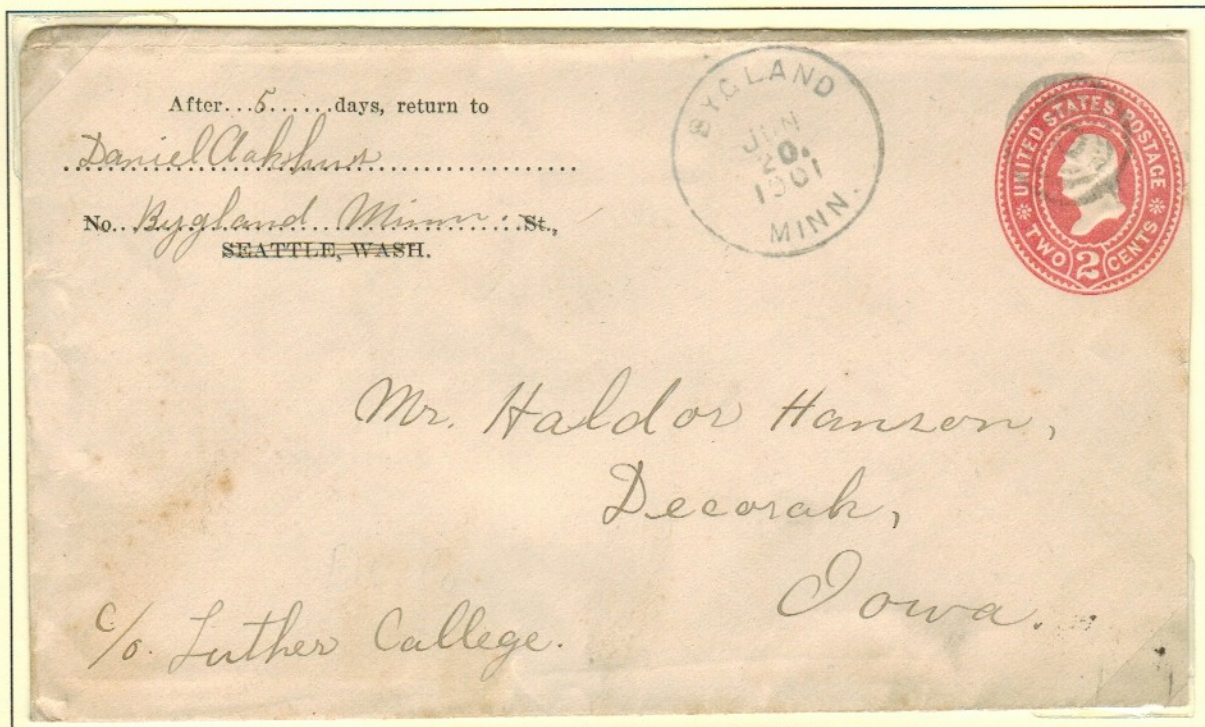
Eggen, MN, 1897-1901

Eggen was a country post office in Pope County, Minnesota. It was named for postmaster Ole Eggen, born 1857 in Norway. The Eggen, MN post office operated from 1897 to 1901 when it was superseded by rural free delivery.



Circular datestamp "EGGEN, MINN. MAR 25 1898" and target killer on postal card to St. Paul, MN.
1c postage rate for domestic postal cards from 12 May 1873 to 1 Nov 1917.

Bygland is a township in Polk County, Minnesota. It was organized in 1877, was named for a village in southern Norway, whence several of its pioneer settlers came. The village was established when Sveinung K. Flaot built the Bygland Store in 1897. Flaot was born in Norway in 1871, came to the United States 1889, and died 1953. The post office operated 1897-1906, with Flaot as postmaster 1897-1903.



Cds "BYGLAND, MINN. JUN 20 1901" and target killer on cover to Decorah, IA.
2c/oz postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 July 1885 to 1 Nov 1917.

Espetvet, MN, 1897-1910

Espetvet was a post office in Chester Township, Polk County, Minnesota. Espetveit is a Norwegian farm name. The post office was located in Espetvet Store & PO, with James H. Espetvet p.m., and operated 1897-1910.



Cds "ESPETVET, MINN. FEB 7 1910" as transit postmark on postcard from Crookston, MN to Griebrok, MN.
1c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

Rosby, a station of the Great Northern and Soo railways and a farm post office in Helga Township, Hubbard County, Minnesota. It was named for Ole Rosby, a Norwegian farmer. The Rosby, MN post office opened 1900 with Theodore Jesten pm and it closed 1909.



Circular datestamp "ROSBY, MINN. NOV 18 1908" and target killer on postcard to Hendrum, MN.
1c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

Albion, MN, 1900-1996

Albion is an unincorporated community in Saint Louis County, Minnesota. It was named by its many settlers from Norway. The Albion, MN post office opened 1900 with Frank A. Trolander postmaster, and it closed 1996.



Circular datestamp "ALBORN, MINN. JUL 8 1903" and target killer on registered letter to East Highgate, VT.
2c/oz for domestic letters 1 July 1885 – 1 Nov 1917, 8c registration fee 1 Jan 1893 – 31 Oct 1909.

Gonvick is a city in Clearwater County, Minnesota, United States. The population was 282 at the 2010 census. The city was named for pioneer settler Martin Gonvick, born 1868 in Iowa to Norwegian immigrant parents. The Gonvick, MN post office opened 1900 with Nels Fredensberg postmaster, and it is still in operation.



Circular datestamp "GONVICK, MINN. FEB 17 1904" and target killer on letter to Grand Forks, ND.
2c postage rate per ounce for domestic letters from 1 July 1885 to 1 Nov 1917.

Tronnes, MN, 1901-1910

Tronnes was a community in Pliny Township, Aitkin County, Minnesota. It was named for the home in Norway of Peter and Grace Anderson, who came to the area about 1900, and operated the post office in their house, 1901-1910.



4-bar handstamp "TRONNES, MINN. FEB 14 1910" on Valentine card to McGrath, MN.
1c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

Clementson is an unincorporated community in Lake of the Woods County, Minnesota. It was named for Helleck Clementson, born 1859 in Minnesota to Norwegian immigrant parents. His brother Ole Clementson was first postmaster. The Clementson, MN post office was established 1901, and it was converted to a rural station of Baudette in 1964.



4-bar handstamp "CLEMANTSON, MINN. NOV 24 1908" on postcard to Maynard, MN.
1c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

Jacobson, MN, 1901-date

Jacobson is an unincorporated community in Ball Bluff Township, Aitkin County, Minnesota. Formerly a logging town known as "Mississippi Landing," it is named after Paul Jacobson, who served as the first postmaster. He was born in Norway around 1870. The post office was established 1901 and it is still in operation.



4-bar handstamp "JACOBSON, MINN. JUN 8 1941" on cover to Brainerd, MN.
3c/oz for domestic letters from 6 Jul 1932 to 30 Jun 1958.

Weme, a hamlet in Clearwater County, Minnesota. It was named for merchant and postmaster Hans O. Weme, born in Wisconsin 1868 to Norwegian immigrant parents. The Weme, MN post office operated from 1902 to 1912.



4-bar handstamp "WEME, MINN. MAY 11 1910" on postcard to Thorhult, MN.
1c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

Jonstad, MN, 1902-1914

Jonstad was a country post office in Marshall County, Minnesota. It was named for postmaster John Larsen, born 1844 in Norway as Johannes Larsen Jonstad. The Jonstad, MN post office operated 1902-1914.



Circular datestamp "JONSTAD, MINN. JAN 20 1905" and target killer on letter to Askeröd, Sweden.
5c postage rate per ½ ounce for foreign first class letters from 1 July 1892 to 30 Sep 1907.

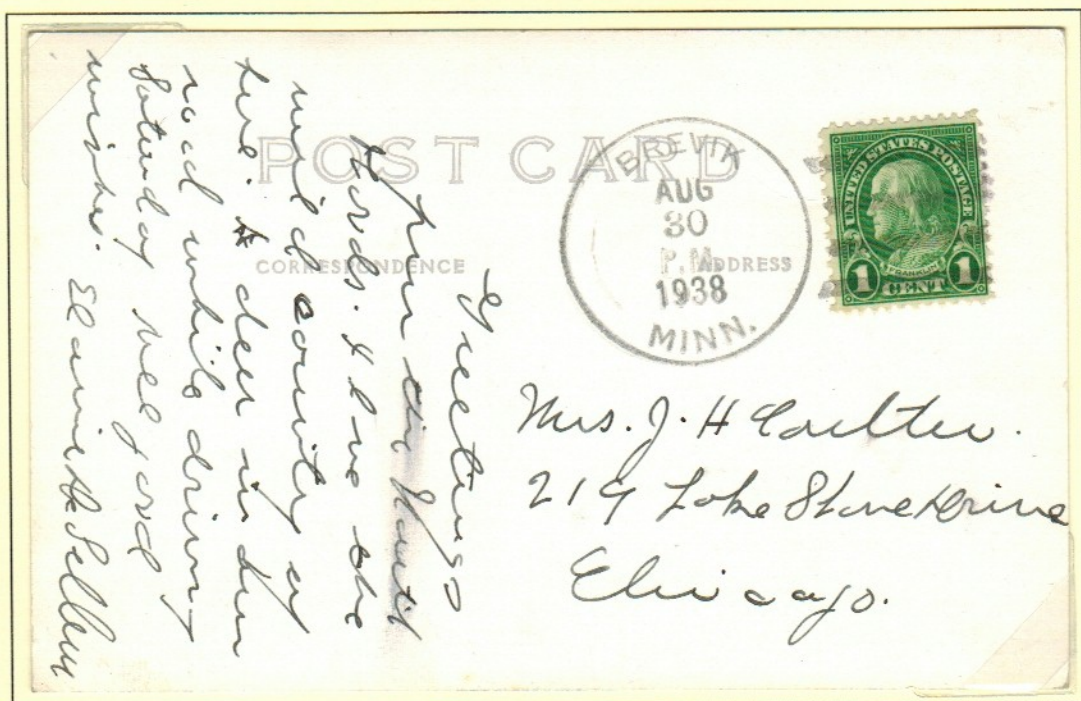
Oklee is a city in Red Lake County, Minnesota. The population was 435 at the 2010 census. The city derives its name from Ole K. Lee, the original owner of the town site, born 1859 in Minnesota to Norwegian immigrant parents. The Oklee, MN post office opened 1912 with Louis Doucet postmaster, and it is still in operation.



Duplex handstamp "OKLEE, MINN. MAR 8 1938" on registered letter with return receipt to Madison, WI.
21c correct postage composed of: 3c postage rate per ounce for domestic letters from 6 July 1932 to 31 July 1958,
15c registration fee and 3c fee for domestic return receipt from 15 April 1925 to 36 March 1944.

Brevik, MN, 1914-1954

Brevik, a post office in Boy Lake Township, Cass County, Minnesota. It was named for its first postmaster Ole Brevik, born 1854 in Norway. The Brevik, MN post office operated 1914-1954. Brevik, MN is the youngest Minnesota post office with documented name of Norwegian origin.



4-bar handstamp "Brevik, MINN. AUG 30 1938" on postcard to Chicago, IL.
1c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 July 1928 to 31 Dec 1951.

Homesteading in the Dakotas

North Dakota

The first Norwegians arrived in the Dakotas as early as 1859, shortly after the treaty with the Yankton Sioux was signed on July 10, 1859. It took another ten years before the greater influx of Norwegians took place. They settled mainly in the eastern and northern parts of the state, but today they're found everywhere in the state.

Far to the north, the Red River region became heavily populated by Norwegians, and the valley of its tributary, the Sheyenne Valley, became, as one pioneer put it, "solidly Norwegian".

One in three of all North Dakotans is of Norwegian heritage, which is the highest among all U.S. states.

Walhalla, ND, 1871-date

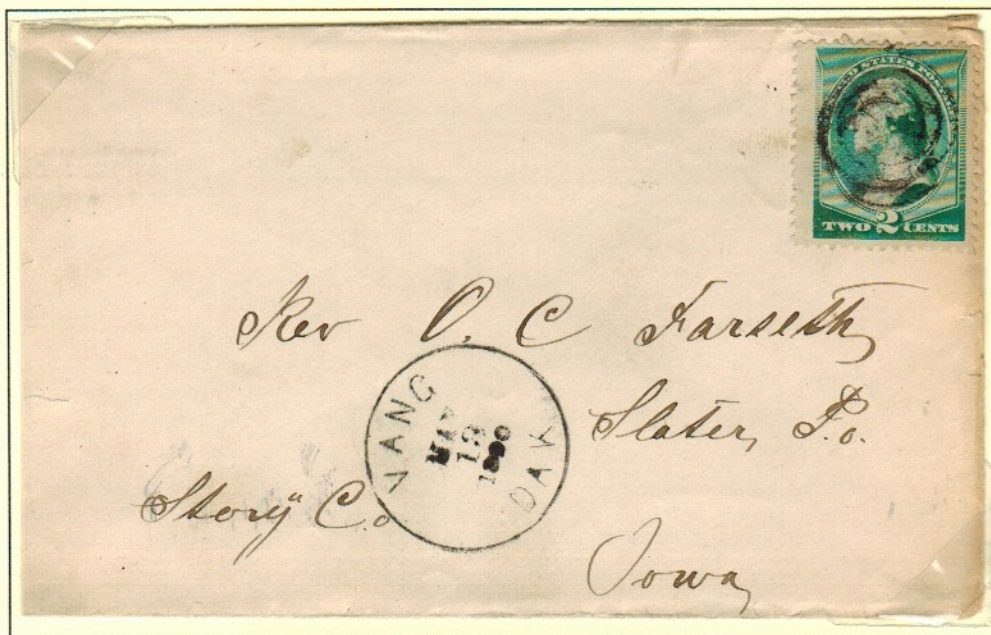
Founded in the 1840's as Saint Joseph, the name was changed to Walhalla in 1871 when George W. Reed was postmaster. The name is an Anglicized version of Valhalla, the home of the gods in Norse mythology, and was suggested to note the beauty of the area. A peak population of 1,471 was reached in 1970.

Walhalla, ND is the oldest North Dakota post office with documented name of Norwegian or Norse origin.



Postcard from Hitchin (U.K.), OC 22, 1904 to Walhalla, ND, re-directed to Crystal, ND.
 "WALHALLA N.DAK. NOV 4 1904" duplex handstamp and cds "CRYSTAL N.D. RECD. NOV 5 1904".

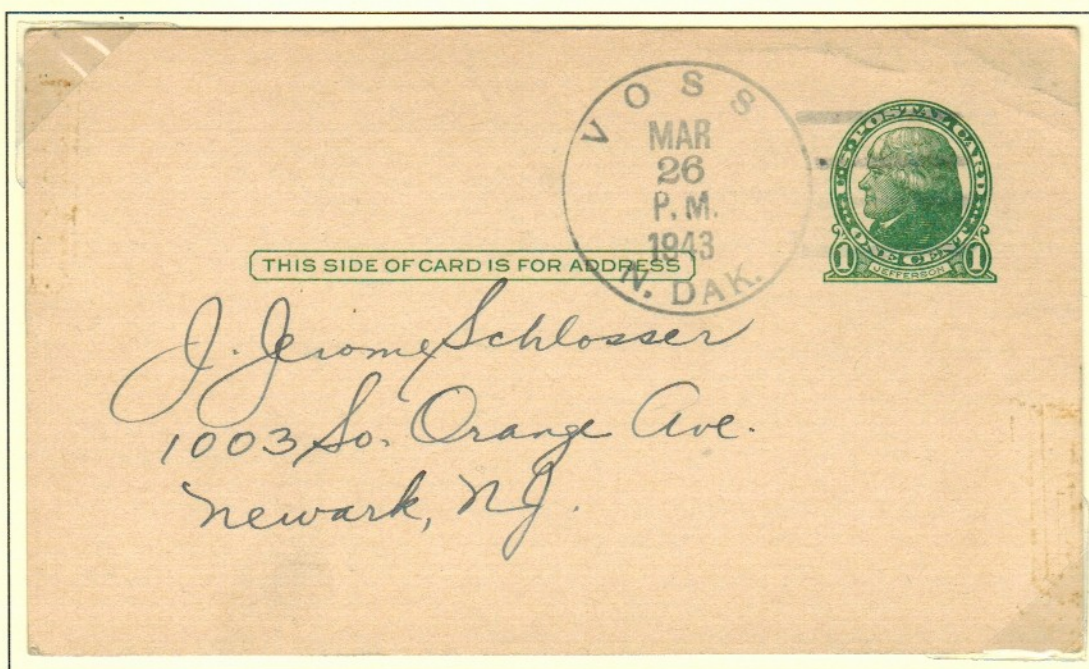
Vang, pioneer settlement in Cavalier County, North Dakota. The post office was established 1887 with John Dahlvang as Postmaster, who coined its name from his own. A population of 25 was reported in 1890, a peak of 30 residents were counted in 1920, and 15 citizens were reported as late as 1940, but the post office closed 1935, and the town disappeared from maps in the 1960's.



Circular datestamp and target killer "VANG DAK. MAY 13 1890" on letter to Slater, IA.
2c postage rate per ounce for domestic letters from 1 July 1885 to 1 Nov 1917.

Voss, ND, 1888-1983

Voss is an unincorporated community in Walsh County, North Dakota. It was founded by homesteader Andrew P. Herom who named it for Voss, Norway. Two blocks were platted in 1892, but the village failed to ever report a population greater than 60. The Voss, ND post office operated 1888-1983 with Frank E. Vorachek first postmaster.



4-bar handstamp "VOSS N. DAK. MAR 26 1943" on postal card to Newark, NJ.
1c rate for domestic postal cards from 1 July 1919 to 31 Dec 1951.

Galchutt is an unincorporated community in Richland County, North Dakota. It was named for Hans Galchutt, a Norwegian who came here in 1882 and built a store, warehouse, and an elevator. The post office was established 1891 with Mr. Galchutt as Postmaster. A population of about 100 has been recorded here for most of the twentieth century. The post office closed in 1978.



4-bar handstamp "GALCHUTT DAK. SEP 23 1929" on special delivery letter to Herrick, IL.

2c postage rate per ounce for domestic letters from 1 July 1919 to 5 July 1932,

10c domestic special delivery fee from 1 Oct 1885 to 31 Oct 1944, total 12c correct rate.

Norton, ND, 1892-1932

Norton is a township in Walsh County, North Dakota. The Norton, ND post office opened 1892 with Per E. Peterson as postmaster. The name from 1883 is an Anglicized compromise name after the Norwegian settlers could not decide on Nordford or Nordland. A population of 15 was reported in 1920. The post office closed 1932.



Doane handstamp (Type 3, No 2) "NORTON N.DAK. JUL 12 1909" on postcard to Churches Ferry, ND.

1c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

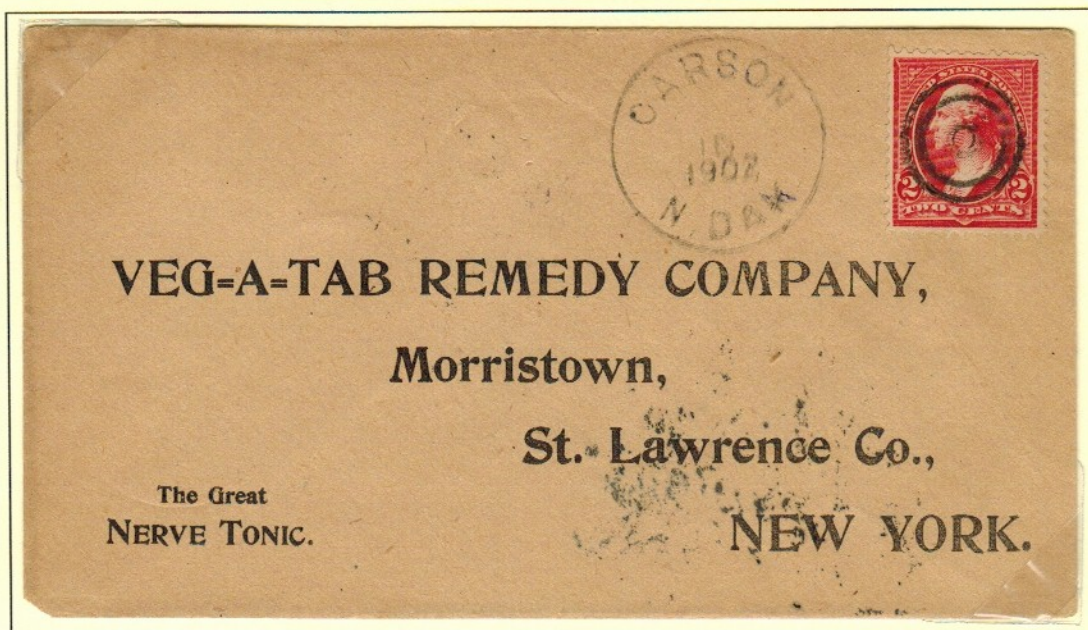
Grelland was a farm post office in Vang township, Ward County, North Dakota. It was named for Grelland in Botne near Holmestrand, Norway. First postmaster Johan W. Rode was born in Norway 1870 and emigrated from Grelland, Botne via Holmestrand 1887. The Grelland, ND post office was established 1902 and closed 1918 with mail to Drady.



4-bar handstamp "GRELLAND N.DAK. AUG 13 1914" on postcard to Starbuck, MN.
1c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

Carson, ND, 1902-date

Rural post office in Carson Township, Grant County, North Dakota. The selected name was coined from the names of local settler Frank CARter, and brothers Simon and David PederSON, the two latter having Norwegian parents. Carson became the county seat when Grant County organized in 1916. A peak population of 501 was reached in 1960. The post office opened 1902 with David Pederson as postmaster and it is still in operation.



Cds "CARSON N.DAK. (OCT) 15 1902" and target killer on postcard to Morristown, NY.
2c postage rate per ounce for domestic letters from 1 July 1885 to 1 Nov 1917.

Mohall is a city in Renville County, North Dakota. The population was 783 at the 2010 census. Mohall was founded in 1901 by Martin O. Hall, a businessman and newspaperman from Duluth, Minnesota, born 1843 in Romsdalen, Norway. The city was originally named Hall but was changed to Mohall in 1902, both names after M. O. Hall who also was postmaster. The post office opened 1902 and it still in operation.



4-bar handstamp "MOHALL N.DAK. MAR 31 1908" on postcard to Madison, MN.
1c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

Lansford, ND, 1903-date

Lansford is a city in Bottineau County, North Dakota. A peak population of 456 was reached in 1910, with a decline to 245 at the 2010 census. It was founded in 1902 as Cordon, but the name was changed to Lansford in 1903 by townsite owner Martin Olson, who named it for his home location of Lansfjord, Norway. The post office was established 1903 with Clarence C. Banks as Postmaster and it is still in operation.



Duplex handstamp "LANSFORD N.DAK. MAR 19 1918" on postcard to Santa Fe, CA, re-directed to Bushton, KS.
2c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 Nov 1917 to 30 June 1919 (WWI emergency rate increase).

Columbus is a city in Burke County, North Dakota. The population was 133 at the 2010 census. Columbus was founded in 1906. **Both this town and nearby Larson were named for Columbus Larson**, born approx. 1855 in Wisconsin to Norwegian immigrant parents, making it possibly the only town so named that was not named for Christopher Columbus. The Columbus, ND post office opened in 1903 with Columbus Larson first postmaster and it is still in operation.



4-bar handstamp "COLUMBUS, N.DAK. SEP 9 1912" on postcard to Twin Valley, MN.
1c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

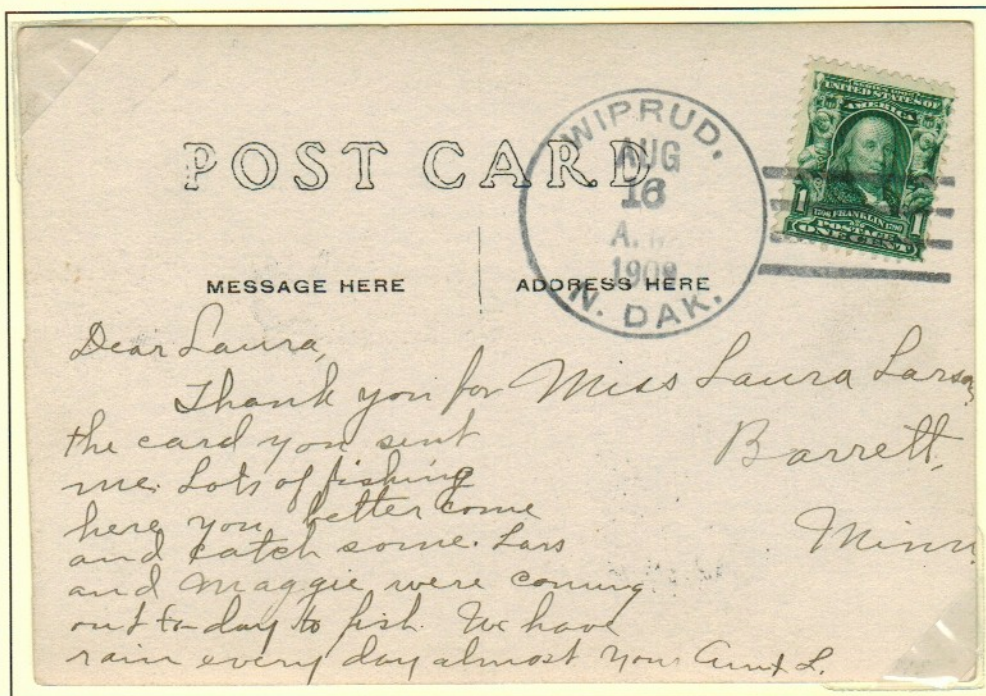
Larson, ND, 1907-1980

Larson is a former city in Burke County, North Dakota. The population was 12 at the 2010 census. Larson was founded in 1907. **Both this town and nearby Columbus were named for Columbus Larson**, born approx. 1855 in Wisconsin to Norwegian immigrant parents. The post office operated 1907-1980 with Herman E. de Villiers first postmaster.



4-bar handstamp "LARSON, N.DAK. AUG 13 1914" on postal card to St. Paul, MN.
1c postage rate for domestic postal cards from 12 May 1873 to 1 Nov 1917.

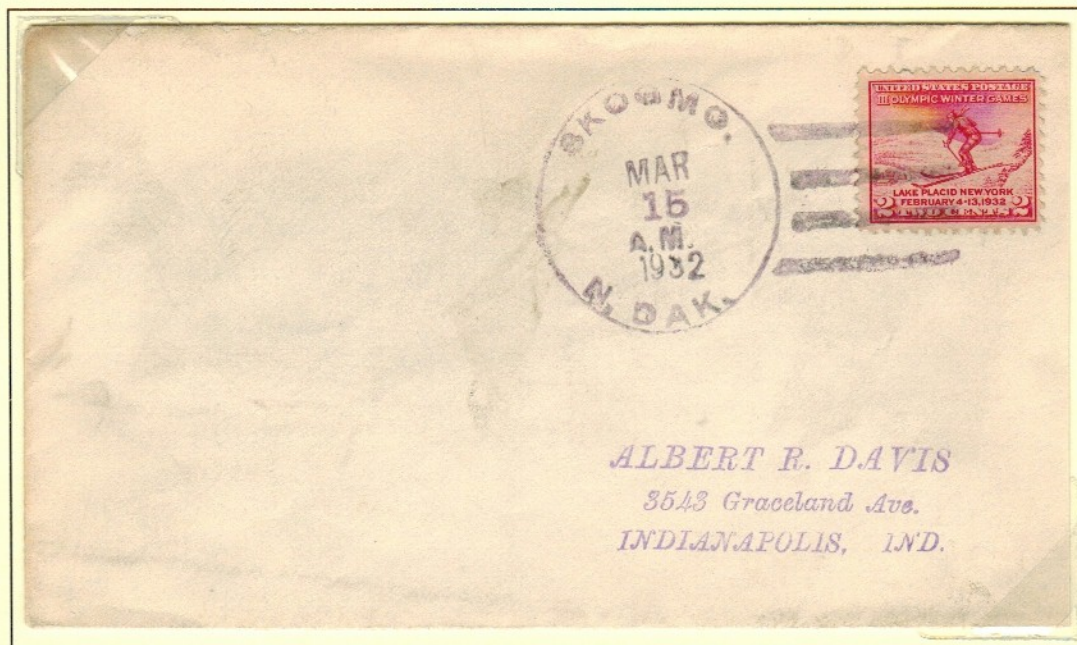
Wiprud is a township in McLean County, North Dakota. This rural post office was established 1904 as Casey. In 1904 the post office was taken over by Stener T. Wiprud, a native of Norway, who with his brother operated a country store at this site. They changed the name of the post office to Wiprud, and operated it until 1914.



4-bar handstamp "WIPRUD, N.DAK. AUG 16 1909" on Wiprud viewcard to Barrett, MN.
1c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

Skogmo, ND, 1904-1932

Skogmo is a community in Sheridan County, North Dakota. It was named for storekeeper John T. Skogmo, who was first postmaster. His Norwegian name was Johannes Teodor Skogmo (1879-1927), from Skogmo, Overhalla, Nord-Trøndelag. The Skogmo, ND post office was in operation 1904-1932.



4-bar handstamp "SKOGMO N.DAK. MAR 15 1932" on letter to Indianapolis, IN.
2c postage rate per ounce for domestic letters from 1 July 1919 to 5 July 1932.

Burnstad is a community in Logan County, North Dakota. A population of 200 was claimed in 1930, but the count has been under 100 since the 1940s. The community was named for Christ P. Burnstad who donated the land for the townsite. Christen Per Bjørnstad left Norway at age 17 and lived in Minnesota and South Dakota before settling in North Dakota in 1905. He was known as the "Logan County Cattle Baron of North Dakota" and owned 54 sections of land in the region. The Burnstad, ND post office operated 1907-1979, with Nellie Smith first postmaster.



4-bar handstamp "BURNSTAD, N.DAK. JUN 11 1910" on postcard to Racine, MN.
1c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

Skermo, ND, 1908-1914

Skermo was a farm post office in Divide County, North Dakota. It was authorized 1908 as Norum with Ole J. Skjermo as postmaster, who named it for Norum, Sogn og Fjordane, Norway, but the order was rescinded. He came from Skjermoen, Surnadal, Norway. It was reestablished same year as Skermo, and named for the postmaster, with the "j" omitted in an attempt to Anglicize the name. The post office was located on the northwest shore of Skjermo Lake, also named for the postmaster, and closed April 30, 1914 with mail to Alkabo.



4-bar handstamp "SKERMO, N.DAK. NOV 27 1911" on registered cover to Decorah, IA. It was sent by the postmaster Ole J. Skjermo. 2c/oz for domestic letters and 8c registration fee from 1 Jan 1893 to 30 Oct 1909.

Viking, a Great Northern Railroad station in Norway Township, Burns County, North Dakota. It was named for the Norse Vikings. The Viking, ND post office opened 1907 with Frank Schroeder postmaster. The name was unpopular with the local settlers, most of whom were Germans, so in 1913 the name was changed to Hamburg.



4-bar handstamp "VIKING N.DAK. JUN 5 1911" on postcard to Blooming Prairie, MN.
1c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

Langberg, ND, 1910-1919

Langberg is a township in Bowman County, North Dakota. It was named for Trygve Langberg, a pioneer settler originally from Norway. The Langberg, ND post office operated 1910-1919 with first postmaster Suzie Cook Parks.



4-bar handstamp "LANGBERG, N.DAK. NOV 20 1917" on postcard to Marion, IA.
2c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 Nov 1917 to 30 June 1919 (WWI emergency rate increase).

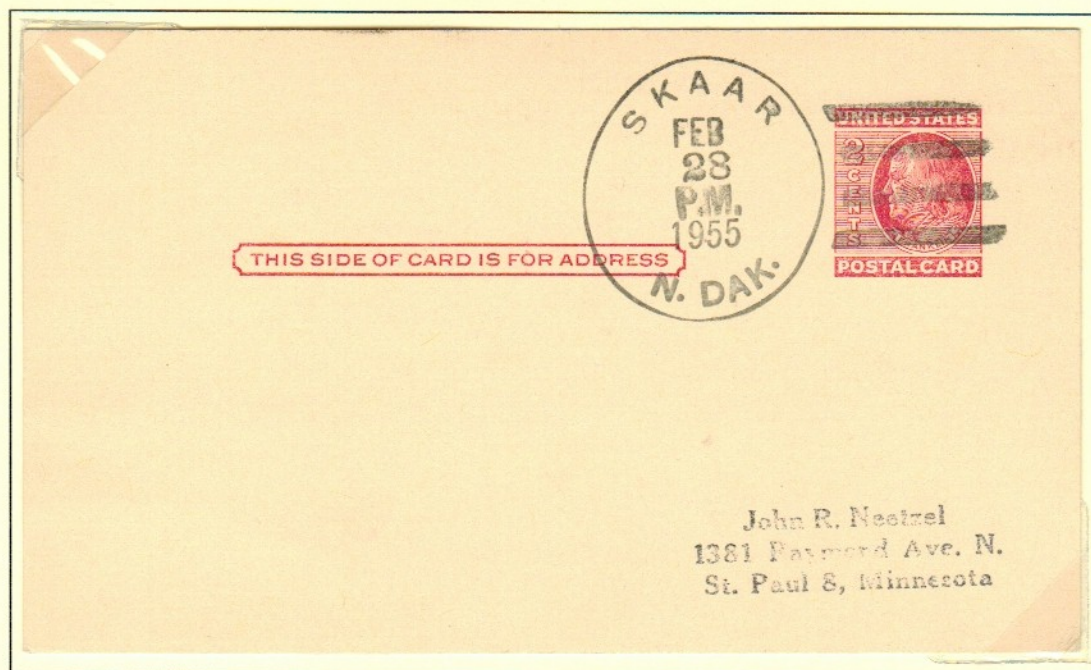
Heimdal is a census-designated place and unincorporated community in Wells County, North Dakota. A peak population of 148 was reached in 1960, decreasing to 27 as of the 2010 census. It was named for Heimdall, the watchman for the gods and guardian of the gate Bifrost at the rainbow bridge in Norse mythology. The Heimdal, ND post office operated 1910-1919 with first postmaster Ole H. Backen.



4-bar handstamp "HEIMDAL N.DAK. JAN 4 1917" on letter to Minneapolis, MN.
2c postage rate per ounce for domestic letters from 1 July 1885 to 1 Nov 1917.

Skaar, ND, 1912-1955

Skaar is an unincorporated community in Loyal Township, McKenzie County, North Dakota. It was named for local rancher Edward Skaar, born in Norway 1878 and came to the USA 1897. A population of 30 was reported in 1920. The Skaar, ND post office opened 1912 with Nancy Clements postmaster and closed 1955 with mail to Sidney, MT.



4-bar handstamp "SKAAR N.DAK. FEB 28 1955" on postcard to St. Paul, MN.
2c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 Jan 1952 to 31 July 1958.

Dahlen is a census-designated place and an unincorporated community in Nelson County, North Dakota. The township and this community were named for Elling N. Dahlen from Norway, who had settled here with his eight sons in 1881. A population of 200 was reported in 1920, down to 75 in 1960. The Dahlen, ND post office operated 1913-1983 with first postmaster George B. "Byron" Frost.



4-bar handstamp "DAHLEN N.DAK. FEB 14 1917" on letter to Minneapolis, MN.
2c postage rate per ounce for domestic letters from 1 July 1885 to 1 Nov 1917.

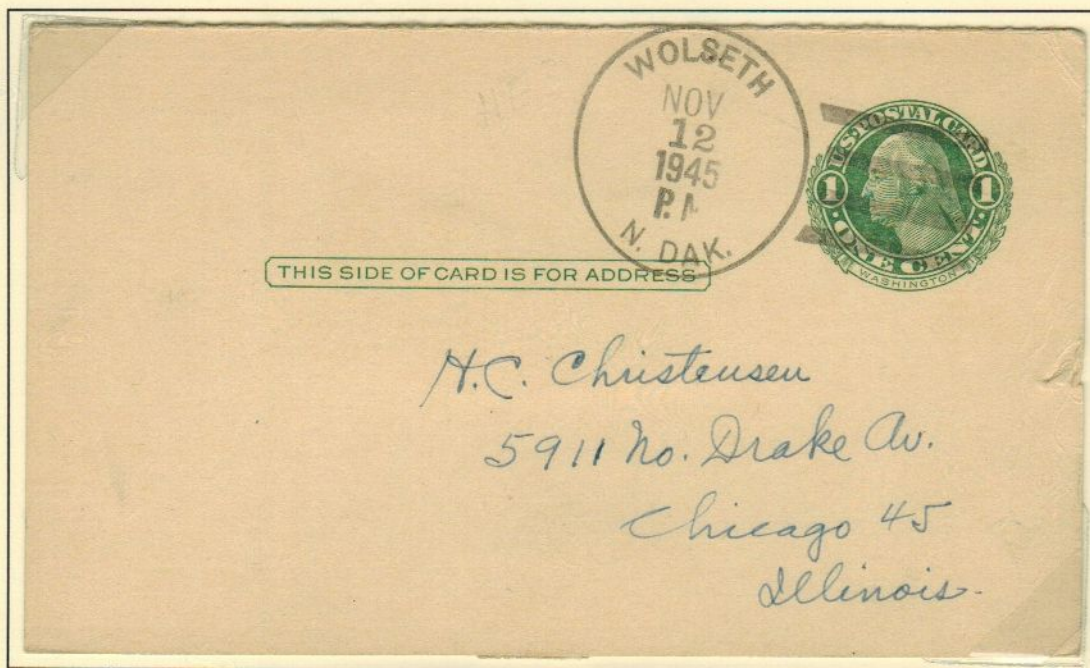
Kongsberg, ND, 1916-1958

Kongsberg, North Dakota is a tiny near-ghost town in McHenry County, North Dakota. This village was founded in 1900 as Olivia on the Soo Line Railroad. When the post office was established 1916 with Rudolf Christiansen as postmaster, the name was changed to Kongsberg at the suggestion of local elevator manager I. L. Berg, taking the name from his hometown in Norway. The population never exceeded 50, and the post office closed 1958 with mail to Voltaire.



4-bar handstamp "KONGSBERG N.DAK. AUG 13 1948" on postcard to Toledo, OH.
1c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 July 1928 to 31 Dec 1951.

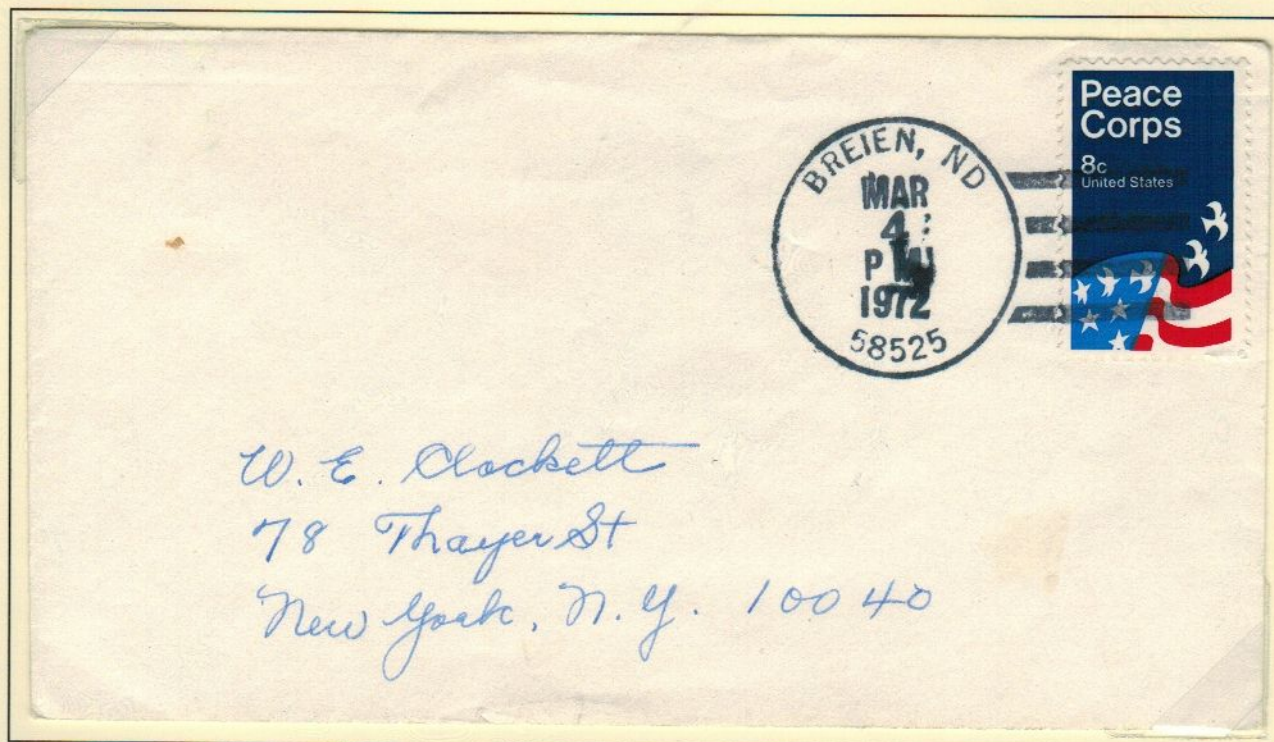
Wolseth is a Great Northern Railroad station in Ward County, North Dakota. It was founded in 1915 and named for Gunder T. Wolseth (1872-1950), who came to Minnesota in 1893 from Norway, and moved here in 1902. He donated the land for the townsite. A small village began, but the 1920 population of 25 was never exceeded. The Wolseth, ND post office operated 1915-1972 with William R. White postmaster.



4-bar handstamp "WOLSETH N.DAK. NOV 12 1945" on postcard to Chicago, IL.
1c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 July 1928 to 31 Dec 1951.

Breien, ND, 1916-1985

Breien is an unincorporated community in Morton County, North Dakota. This Northern Pacific Railroad station was founded as Parkin in 1915. The post office was established 1916 with Ellen J. Ring as Postmaster, but it was renamed Breien by town founder Edward Jacobson, the local elevator manager, for one of his Norwegian relatives. The population never exceeded 40, and the post office closed 1985.



4-bar handstamp "BREIEN ND MAR 4 1972" on letter to New York, NY.
8c postage rate per ounce for domestic letters from 16 May 1971 to 1 March 1974.

South Dakota

Rapidly increasing number of land-hungry Norwegian migrants of the seventies and eighties came to the apparently endless reaches of the Dakota prairies. According to the 1860 Census there were 129 Norwegians in South Dakota. That changed fast; in 1880 one-tenth of the population was Norwegian, and in 1889 one-third of the population were Norwegians.

4 Homesteading in the Dakotas

Ola, SD, 1881-1917

Ola is an unincorporated community in Brule County, South Dakota. The population was 13 according to the 2010 census. When a post office was to be established, Mrs. Cyrus H. Clark suggested that it be called Ola, because there were so many Swedes and Norwegians with this name in the settlement. The Ola, SD post office operated 1881-1917 with Cyrus H. Clark first postmaster.

Doane handstamp (t2/#1)
"OLA, S.DAK. MAY 25 1911"

1c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.



Hetland, SD, 1888-2002



Hetland is a town in Kingsbury County, South Dakota. The population was 46 in 2010. Founded 1879 and named for John M. Hetland from Norway, the first homesteader in that section. He had been murdered the year before on his way from Sioux Falls to his homestead. The Hetland, SD post office operated 1888-2002 with Isaac H. West first postmaster.

C.d.s. with target killer "HETLAND S.DAK. OCT 2 1894" on letter to Lake Preston, SD.

2c postage rate per ounce for domestic letters from 1 July 1885 to 1 Nov 1917.

Sinai is a town in Brookings County, South Dakota. The population was 120 at the 2010 census. The town and the township received their names from the nearby Lake Sinai which got its name from Norwegian settlers. The first Sinai, SD post office operated 1891-1901 with Norwegian Nicholas O. Bursvold as postmaster. The post office re-opened in 1907, again with Nicholas O. Bursvold as postmaster, and it is still in operation.



4-bar handstamp "SINAI S.D.A.K. AUG 17 1911" on postcard to Minnesota, re-directed to North Dakota. 1c postage rate for domestic postal and post cards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

Veblen, SD, 1893-date

Veblen is a city in Marshall County, South Dakota. The population was 531 at the 2010 census. Veblen was incorporated in 1900 and was named for Ed Veblen, the youngest son of Norwegian immigrant parents. The Veblen, SD post office opened 1893 with Michael J. Hawley first postmaster and it is still in operation.



4-bar handstamp "VEBLEN S.D.A.K. MAR 21 1908" on postcard to Geneseo, ND. 1c postage rate for domestic postal and post cards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

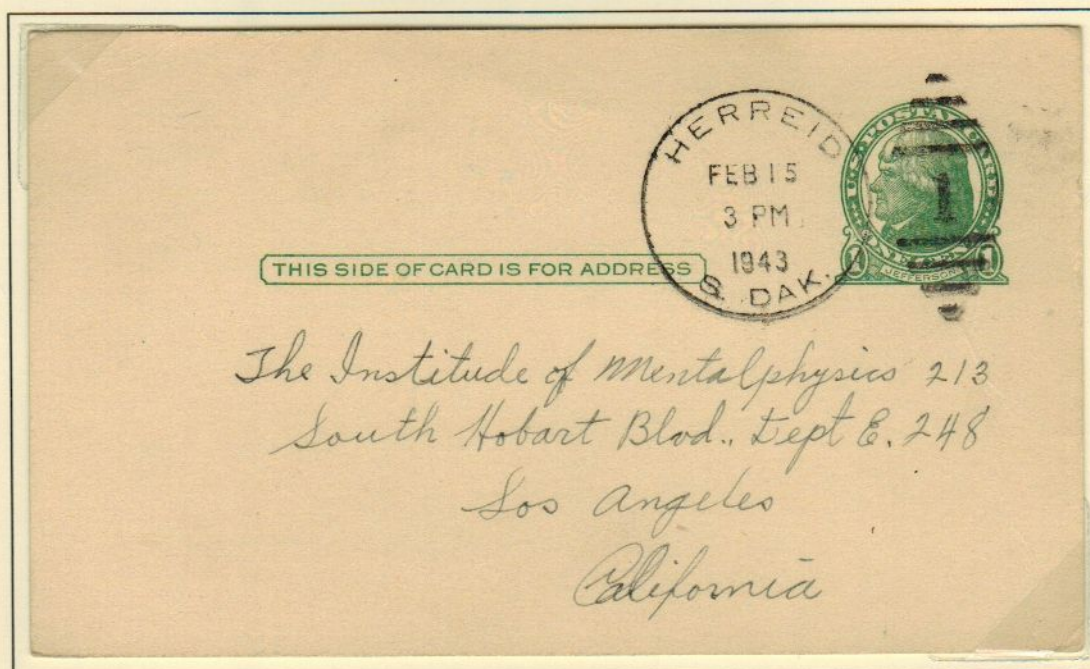
Seim was a small community in Perkins County, South Dakota. It was named for pioneer settler Hans Hansen Seim (1845-1896), born in Granvin, Norway. The Seim, SD post office operated 1896-1918 with Christ Skretteberg first postmaster.



Postcard from Williamsboro, NC to Seim, SD. Re-addressed to Lemmon, SD and 4-bar handstamp "SEIM S.DAK. JAN 19 1909". 1c postage rate for domestic postal and post cards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

Herreid, SD, 1901-date

Herreid is a city in Campbell County, South Dakota. The population was 438 at the 2010 census. Herreid was laid out in 1901, and named after Charles N. Herreid, fourth Governor of South Dakota. Charles Herreid was born in Madison, Wisconsin to Norwegian immigrant parents, the name is from Hereid in Hardanger, Norway. The Herreid, SD post office opened 1901 with Charles H. Mewing first postmaster and it is still in operation.



Duplex handstamp "HERREID S.DAK. FEB 15 1943" on postal card to Los Angeles, CA. 1c postage rate for domestic postal cards from 1 July 1919 to 31 Dec 1951.

Hilmoe, township in Lyman County, South Dakota. The settlement became known as "Little Norway". At the instigation of Jorgen J. Boe and Nels Fosness, the church, school, post office, general store and township were given the name of "Hilmoe" as a tribute to the patriarch of the community, Peter J. Hilmoe who had arrived here from Norway in 1883. The Hilmoe, SD post office operated 1904-1913 with Jorgen J. Boe first postmaster.



Doane handstamp (type 2, no. 1) "HILMOE S.DAK. DEC 30 1909" on postcard to Hudson, SD.
1c postage rate for domestic postal and post cards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

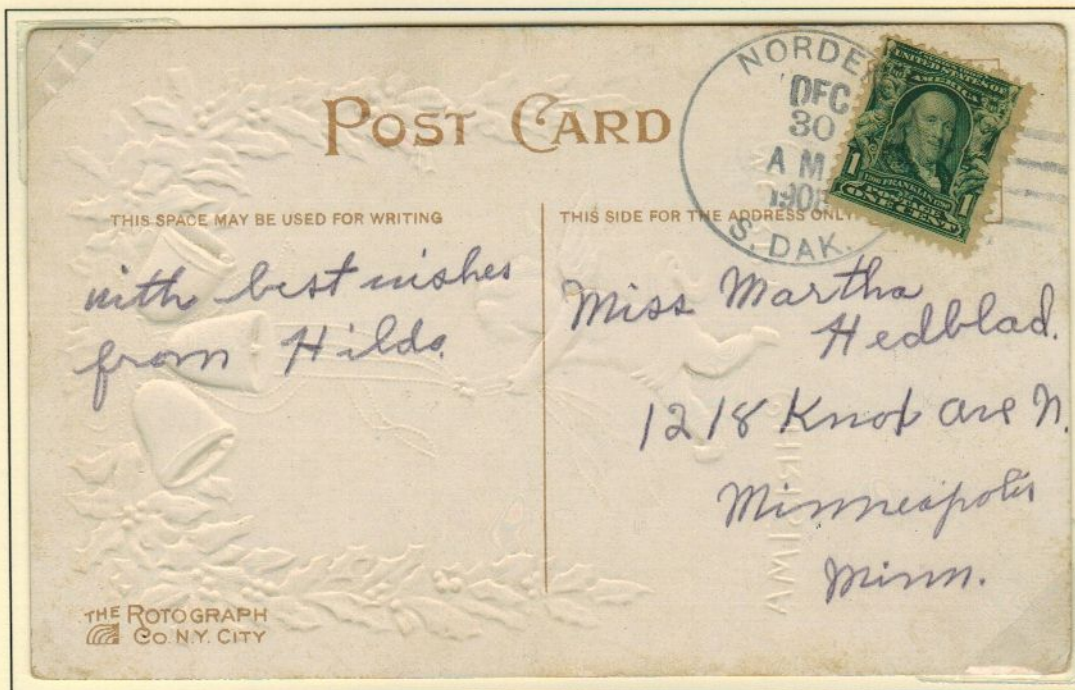
Nitteberg, SD, 1907-1913

Nitteberg, community in Haakon County, South Dakota. It was named for the family of settler Stener Jacobson Nitteberg who was born 1828 in Nitteberg in Gjerdrum, Norway. The Nitteberg, SD post office operated 1907-1913 with John S. Nitteberg first postmaster.



4-bar handstamp "NITTEBERG S.DAK. DEC 17 1909" on postcard to Castlewood, SD.
1c postage rate for domestic postal and post cards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.
The postcard seems to have been written by the postmaster.

The Dolph post office was established 1895 with Gustav A. S. Arneson postmaster. It changed name from Dolph to Norden in 1907 with Andrew N. Johnson postmaster. Norden drew its name from the nearby Lake Norden. The lake was called Lake Nord (North) by early Scandinavian settlers and the name was later changed to its present form. Again in 1912 the post office changed name to Lake Norden.



4-bar handstamp "NORDEN S.DAK. DEC 30 1908" on postcard to Minneapolis, MN.
1c postage rate for domestic postal and post cards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

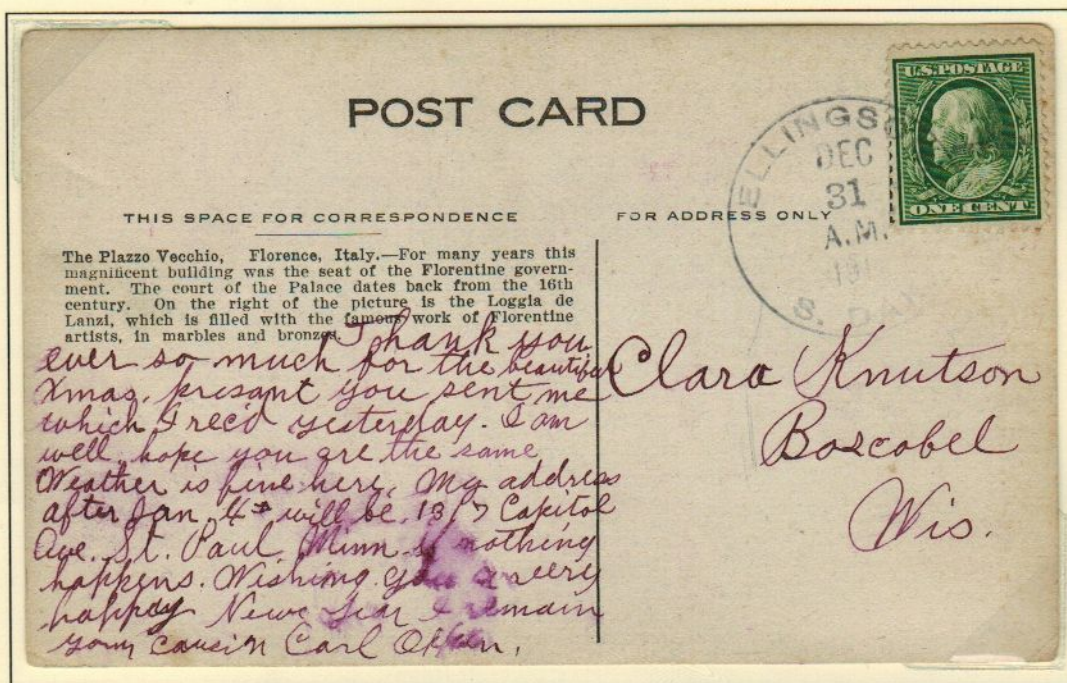
Lake Norden, SD, 1912-date

The Norden post office changed name Lake Norden in 1912, still with Andrew N. Johnson postmaster. See above for the origin of the place name. The post office is still in operation.



4-bar handstamp "LAKE NORDEN S.DAK. AUG 4 1913" on postcard to Bragent, SD.
1c postage rate for domestic postal and post cards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.
The message is written in old-fashioned Norwegian.

Ellingson is a ghost town in Perkins County, South Dakota. It was named for postmaster Andrew C. Ellingson, born 1886 in Iowa to Norwegian immigrant parents. The Ellingson, SD post office operated 1908-1954.



4-bar handstamp "ELLINGSON, S.DAK. DEC 31 1911" on postcard to Boscobel, WI.
1c postage rate for domestic postal and post cards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

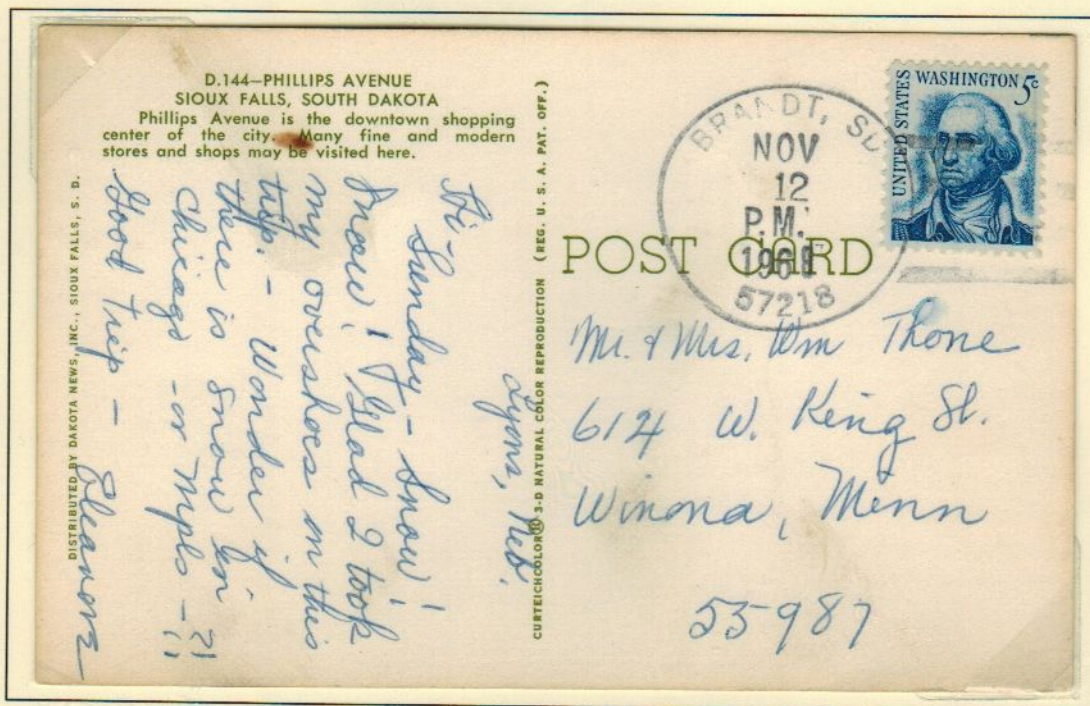
Sorum, SD, 1910-1963

Sorum is an unincorporated community in Perkins County, South Dakota. Sorum was laid out in 1908, and named in honor of Christian 'Chris' Sorum, a local merchant, born 1882 in Norway. The Sorum, SD post office opened 1910 with Christian Sorum first postmaster. In 1963 the post office was replaced by a Rural Station under Bison SD.



4-bar handstamp "SORUM S.DAK. NOV 1 1912" on letter to Wisconsin.
2c postage rate per ounce for domestic letters from 1 July 1885 to 1 Nov 1917.

Brandt is a town in Deuel County, South Dakota. The population was 107 at the 2010 census. It was named for Realf Ottesen Brandt (1859-1927) an American Lutheran minister who was born in Rock River, Wisconsin, both parents being immigrants from Norway. His father came from Løken, Slidre and his mother from Sande, Vestfold. Realf Brandt's ancestors came to Norway from Denmark in the early 1700's. The Brandt, SD post office opened in 1887 and it is still in operation.



4-bar handstamp "BRANDT, SD NOV 12 1968" on postcard to Winona.
5c postage rate for domestic postcards from 7 Jan 1968 to 15 May 1971.

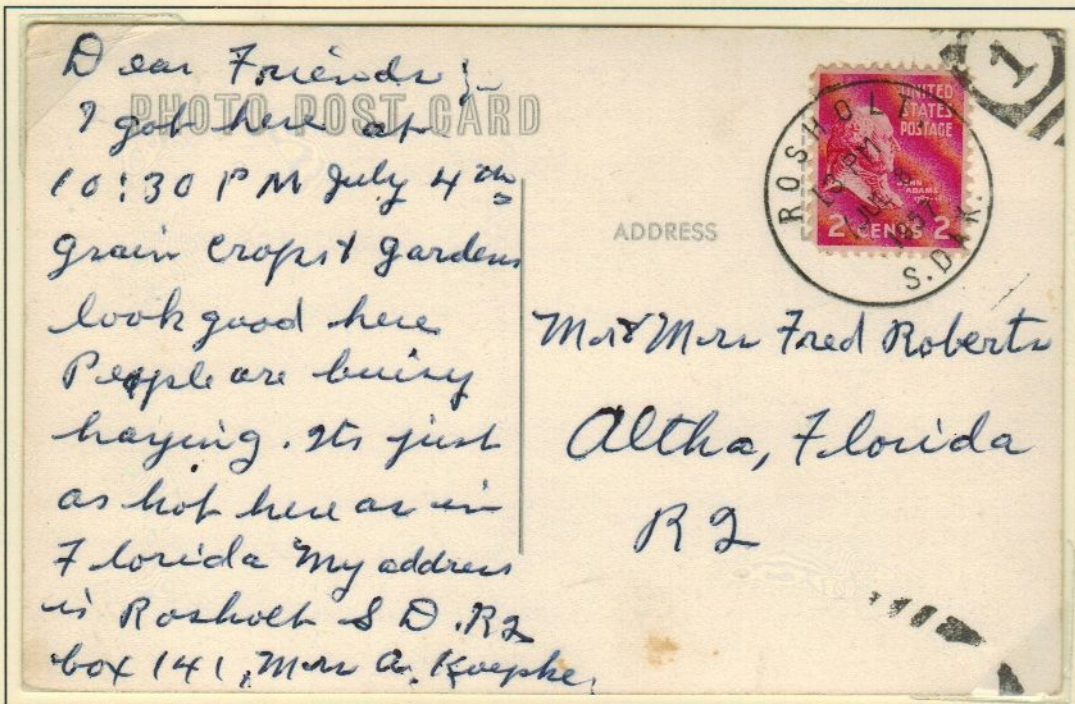
Gill, SD, 1912-1945

Gill is a ghost town in Harding County, South Dakota. The town derived its name from postmaster Carl Mortenson Gilberg, immigrant from Fåberg, Norway. The Gill, SD post office operated 1912-1945.



4-bar handstamp "GILL, S.DAK. JUN 30 1945", last day of operation, on postcard to Hayward, WI.
1c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 July 1928 to 31 Dec 1951.

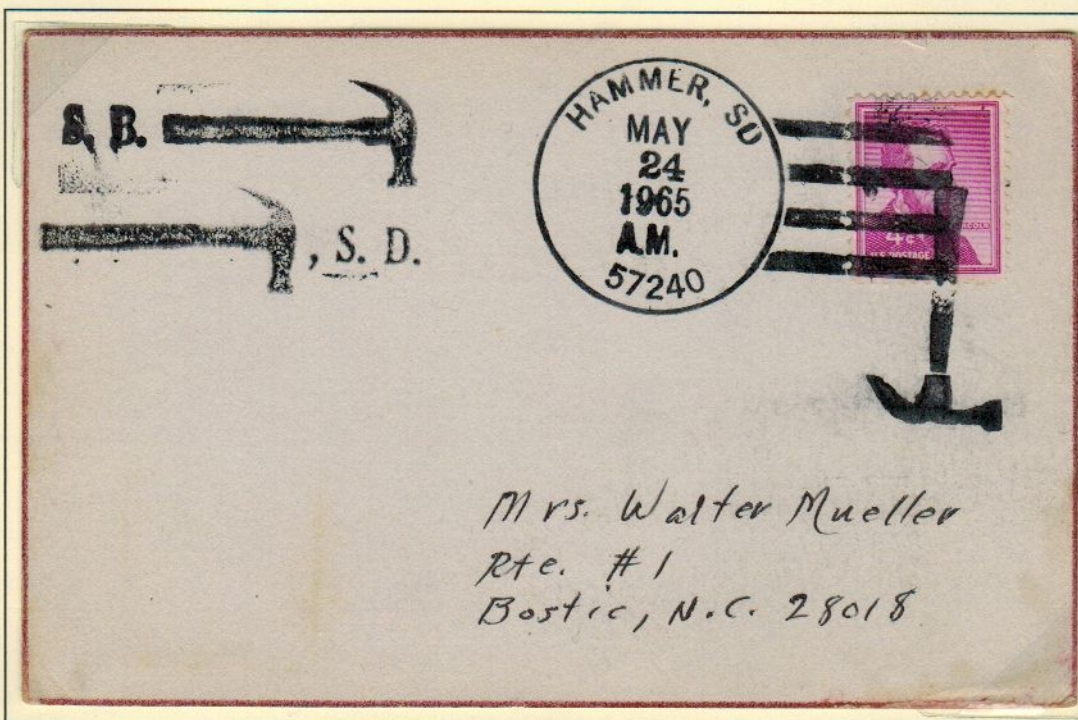
Rosholt is a town in Roberts County, South Dakota. The population was 423 at the 2010 census. Rosholt was laid out in 1913, and named in honor of Julius Rosholt, who was credited with bringing the railroad to town. He was born in USA to immigrant parents from Laurdal, Norway. The Rosholt, SD post office opened in 1913 and it is still in operation.



Numerical duplex handstamp "ROSHOLT, S.DAK. JUL 8 1957" postcard to Altha, FL.
2c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 Jan 1952 to 31 July 1958.

Hammer, SD, 1915-1973

Hammer is an unincorporated community in Roberts County, South Dakota. It was named after the Norwegian immigrants Gunder and Iver Hammer, the original owners of the town site. The Hammer, SD post office operated 1915-1973.



4-bar handstamp "HAMMER, SD MAY 24 1965" and hammer fancy cancel on postcard to Bostic, NC.
4c postage rate for domestic postcards from 7 Jan 1963 to 6 Jan 1968.

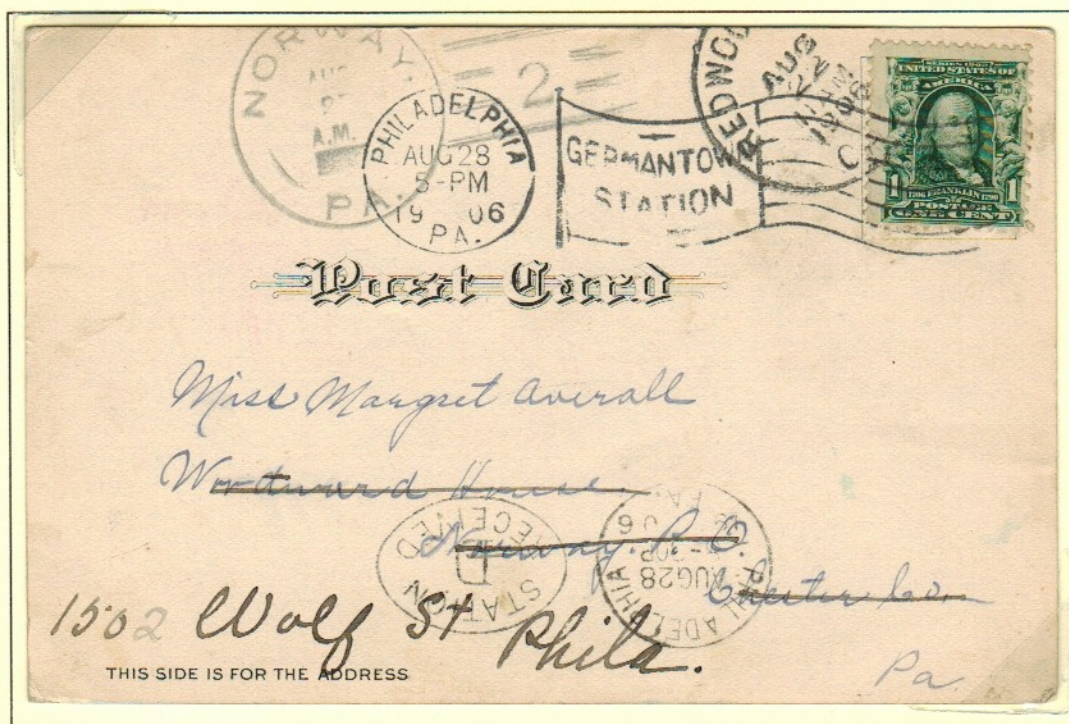
Islands of Norwegian influence and settlement

Some of the Norwegian smaller settlements were scattered throughout the United States and were separate from the main body of where Norwegians settled. There were many Norwegian immigrants in Michigan, Montana and Washington, and to a smaller degree also scattered over most of the United States.

Immigrants sought opportunities for employment in farming, fishing, mining, construction, ocean and lake transportation, lumbering – any accustomed occupations.

Norway, PA, 1871-1906

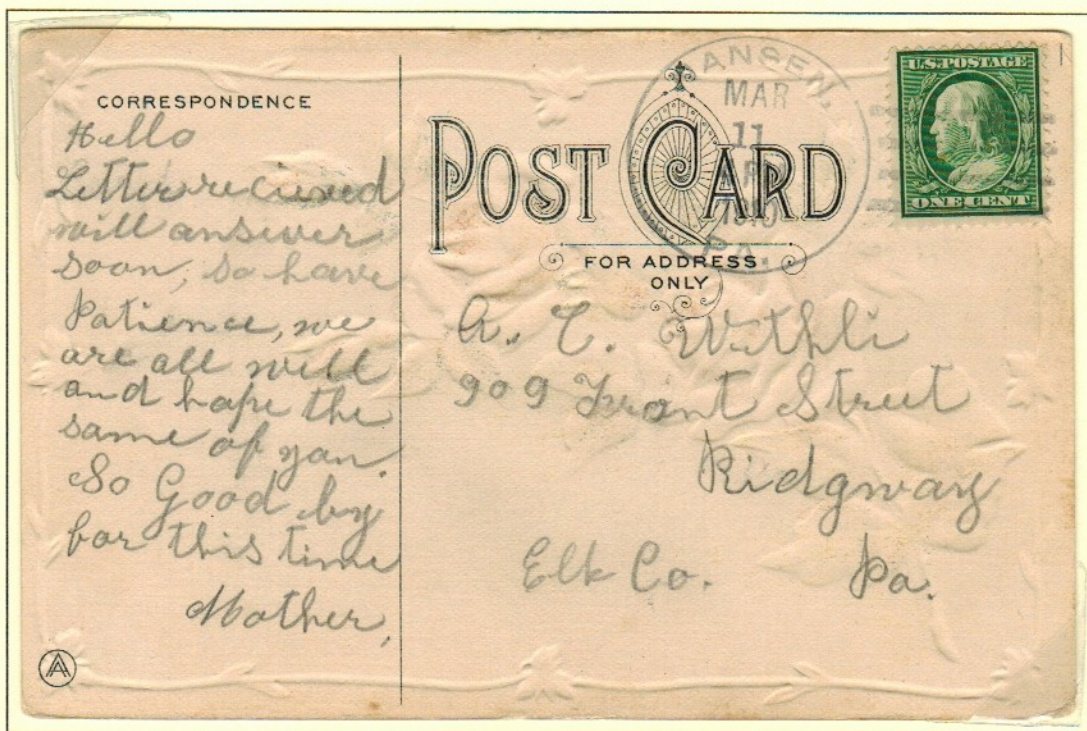
Norway was a community in Chester County, Pennsylvania. Named for Norway, but the background for the place-name is uncertain. The Norway, PA post office operated 1871-1906.



Postcard from "REDWOOD CITY AUG 22 1906" to Norway, PA. Re-directed to Phila. PA and Doane (Type 2, No. 2) postmark "NORWAY, PA. AUG 27 1906". Also "PHILADELPHIA PA. AUG 28 1906" flag cancel and received cancel.

1c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

Nansen was a community in Elk County, Pennsylvania. It was named for Norwegian polar explorer Fridtjof Nansen. The year before, Dr. Nansen became a world-class celebrity when being miraculously rescued after three years in the Arctic ice. The Nansen, PA post office operated from 1897 to 1911 with John W. Miller first postmaster.



4-bar handstamp "NANSEN, WASH. NOV 22 1910" on postcard to Ridgway, PA.
1c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

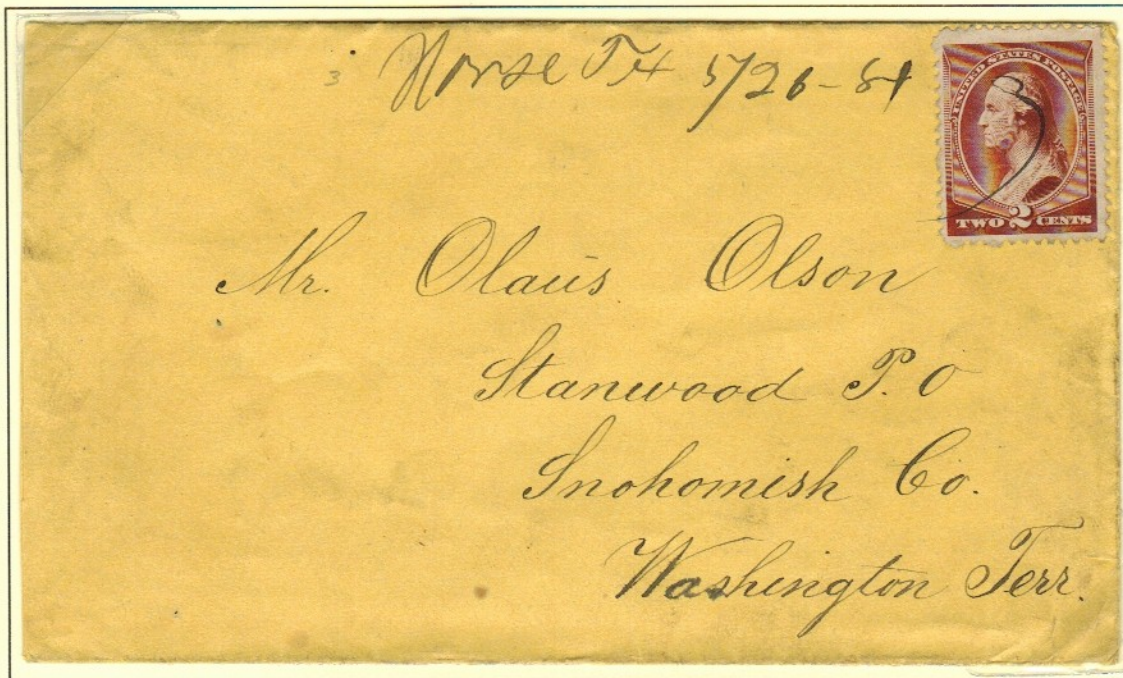
Odin, PA, 1884-1909

Odin was a community in Potter County, Pennsylvania. The village was named after Odin, the principal god in Norse mythology. The post office opened 1884 with Edward Fournes postmaster and it closed 1909.



Manuscript postmark "Odin Pa March 23 86" on cover to Osceola, PA., pen ink cancellation on the postage stamp. 2c per ounce for domestic letters from 1 Jul 1885 to 1 Nov 1917.

Norse, TX was a community in Bosque County, Texas. It was named and founded by Norwegian immigrant Ole Canuteson (1832 -1920), who had come to Bosque County in 1854 with a small group of his countrymen led by Cleng Peerson, known as the father of Norwegian immigration. The Norse, TX post office operated 1880-1929 with Ole R. Laugen first postmaster.



Manuscript postmark "Norse Tex 5/26-84" on letter to Vermont, IL.
2 c per ½ ounce for domestic letters from 1 October 1883 to 30 June 1885.

Normanna, TX, 1894-date

Normanna is a community in Bee County, Texas. In 1893 a Norwegian colony moved into the area and settled two miles east of Walton. The settlement is still called the Colony. A Walton post office was established in 1894, but another Texas town already had the name, so the town became Normanna, a Norwegian name meaning "far north, or one from the far north.". The population was 113 at the 2010 census. The Normanna, TX post office is still in operation.



4-bar handstamp "NORMANNA, TEX. ??? 15 1909" on postcard to Somerville, TN.
1c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

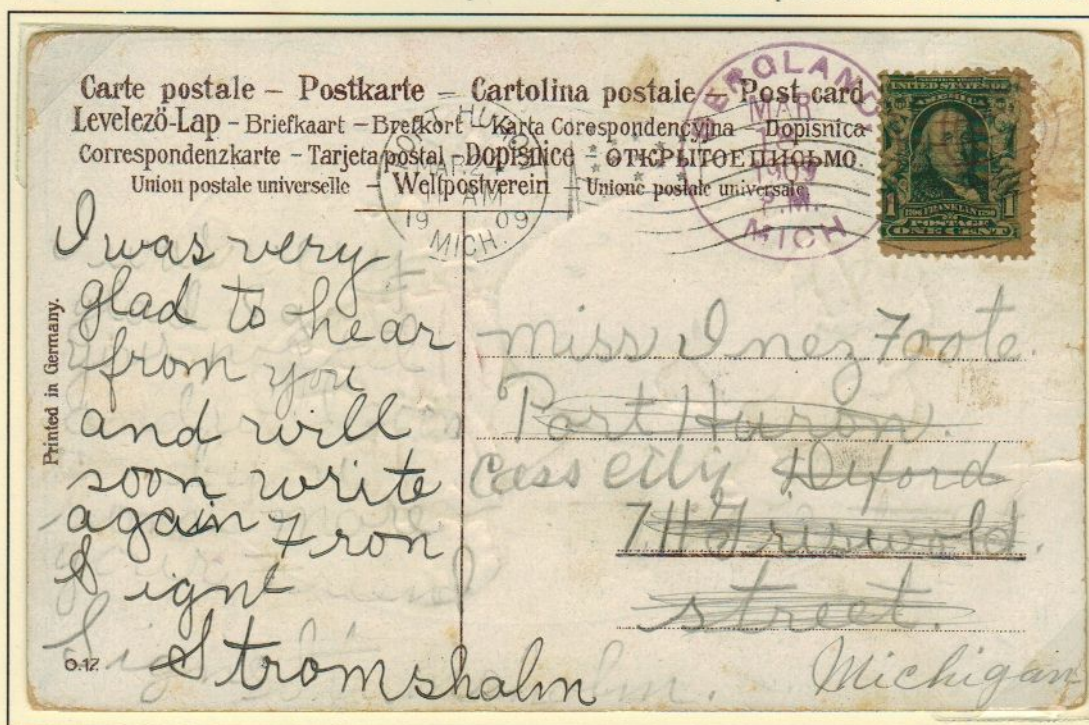
Leer is an unincorporated community in Alpena County, Michigan. Norwegian settlement here began in 1878, the area, known initially as Sunken Lake, was eventually renamed Leer, an homage to the area from which many of the community's founders emigrated, Lier, Buskerud, Norway. The Leer, MI post office opened 1891 with John Alfsen first postmaster and it is still in operation.



4-bar handstamp "LEER, MICH.. DEC 17 1910" on postcard to Carsonville, MI.
1c postage rate for domestic postal and post cards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

Bergland, MI, 1903-date

Bergland is an unincorporated community in Ontonagon County, Michigan. The 2000 population was 550. The village was founded and named by Gunlek A. Bergland who built a sawmill here in 1900. Gunnleik Aslaksson was born 1847 on the Byggland farm in Morgedal, Norway. He came to America in 1869 and changed his name to Bergland. The Bergland, MI post office opened 1903 with storekeeper Peter A. Johnson first postmaster and it is still in operation.



Handstamp with target "BERGLAND MICH MAR 18 1909" on postcard to Port Huron, MI, re-directed to Cass City. 1c postage rate for domestic postal and post cards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

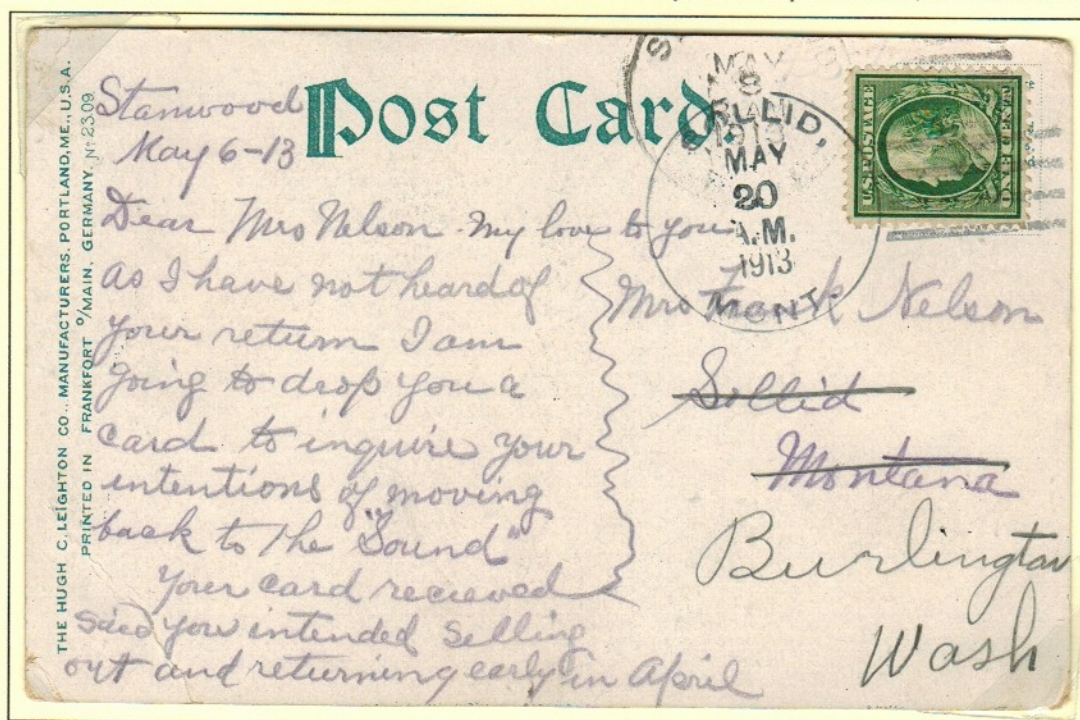
Java is a ghost town in Richland County, Montana. It was named for its first postmaster Anton Jevnager, born 1874 in Norway, who owned a grocery and hardware store in the community when its post office was established 1907. The Java, MT post office closed 1913.



4-bar handstamp "JAVA MONT. MAR 19 1910" on postcard to Newlon, MT.
1c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

Sollid, MT, 1909-1917

Sollid, a small community in Pondera County, Montana. It was named for Norwegian-born land locator Sam Sollid. The Sollid, MT post office opened 1909 with Anton A. Dyrud first postmaster, and it closed 1917.



Postcard from Stanwood, WA to Sollid, MT, re-directed to Burlington, WA and 4-bar handstamp "SOLLID MONT. MAY 20 1913". 1c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

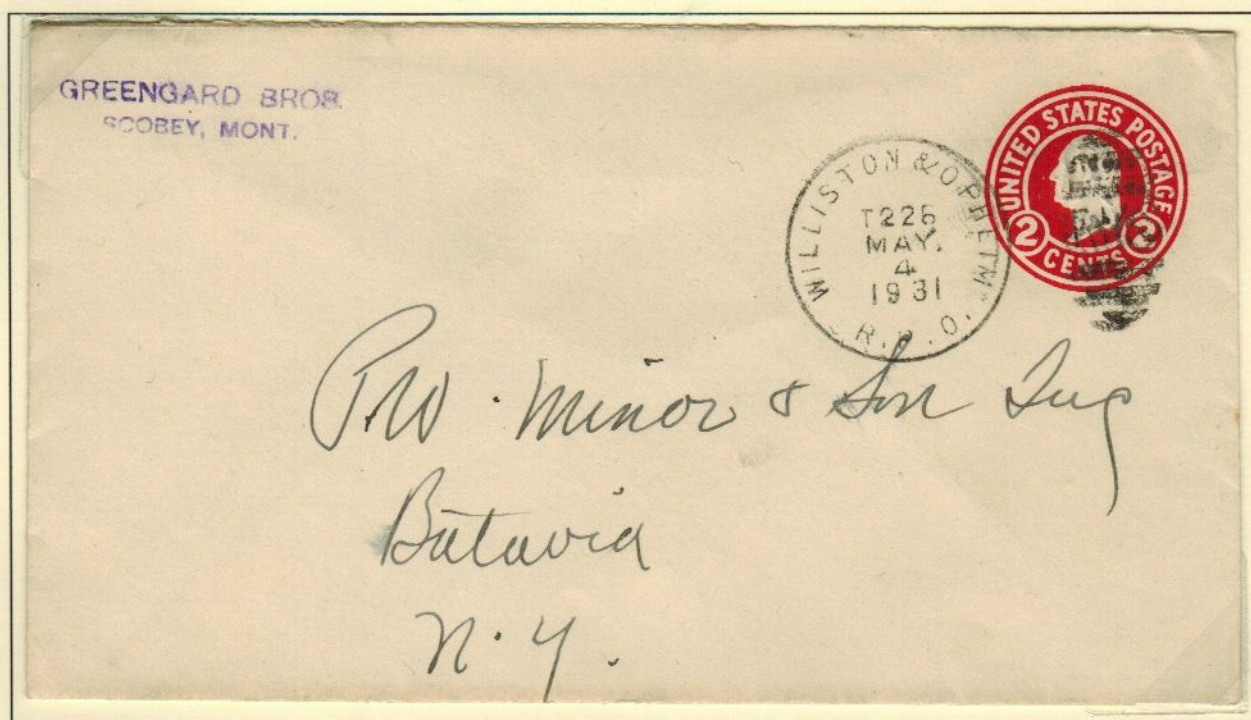
Opheim is a town in Valley County, Montana. The population was 85 at the 2010 census. It is named for Norwegian homesteaders Alfred and John Opheim, who began in 1910 with construction of the family's sod house. The place grew during the homestead boom, and Opheim went from a single dwelling to a community that supported a bank, several mercantile stores, a bakery, a lumberyard, and a saloon. The Opheim, MT post office opened 1910 with John P. Opheim postmaster and it is still in operation.



4-bar handstamp "OPHEIM MONT. AUG 14 1915" on postcard to Astoria, SD.
1c postage rate for domestic postal and post cards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

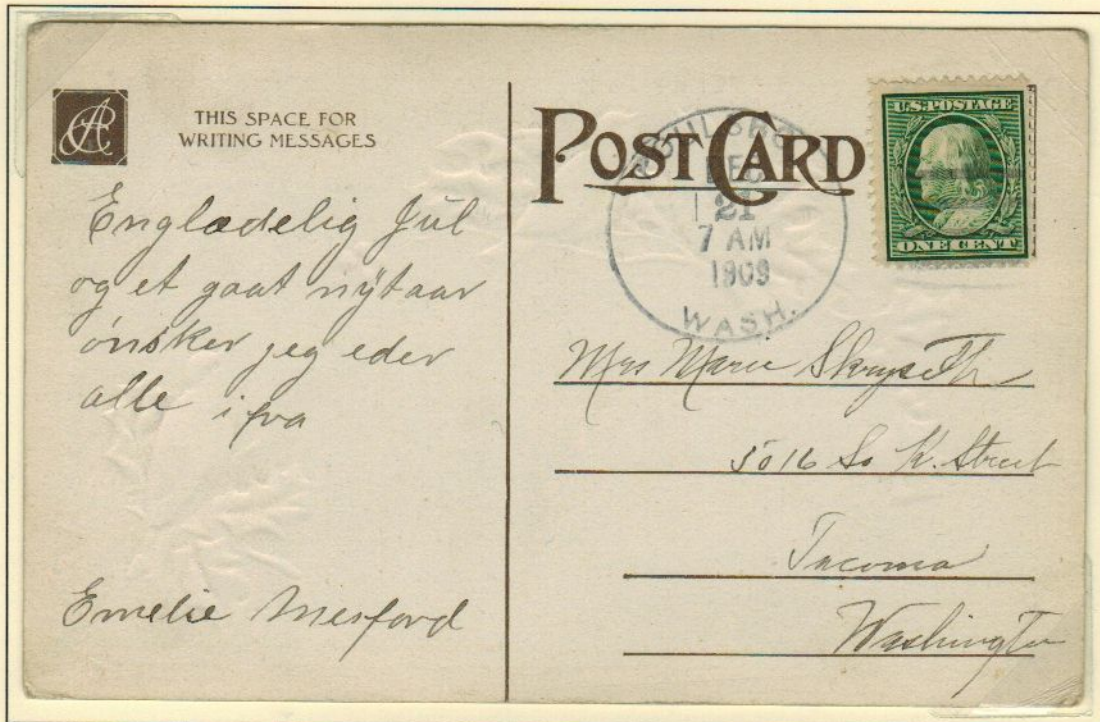
Williston & Opheim R.P.O., 1929-1933 and 1948-1949

A railway post office operated on the stretch between Williston, ND and Opheim, MT 1929-1933 and again 1948-1949. This is part of the Great Northern Railway. See above for origin of the Opheim name.



Duplex handstamp "WILLISTON & OPHEIM R.P.O. MAY 4 1931" on postal envelope to Batavia, NY.
2c postage rate per 1 ounce for domestic letters from 1 July 1919 to 5 July 1932.

Poulsbo is a city in Kitsap County, Washington. Founded by Norwegian immigrant Jorgen Eliason in 1883 and settled by a large number of Norwegian and other Scandinavian immigrants because of its similarities to their native countries. In 1886, Iver B. Moe, one of the early Norwegian settlers, suggested that the town and post office should be named Poulsbo after the Norwegian village where Moe spent his early years. The Poulsbo, WA post office opened 1886 with Iver B. Moe postmaster, and it is still in operation.



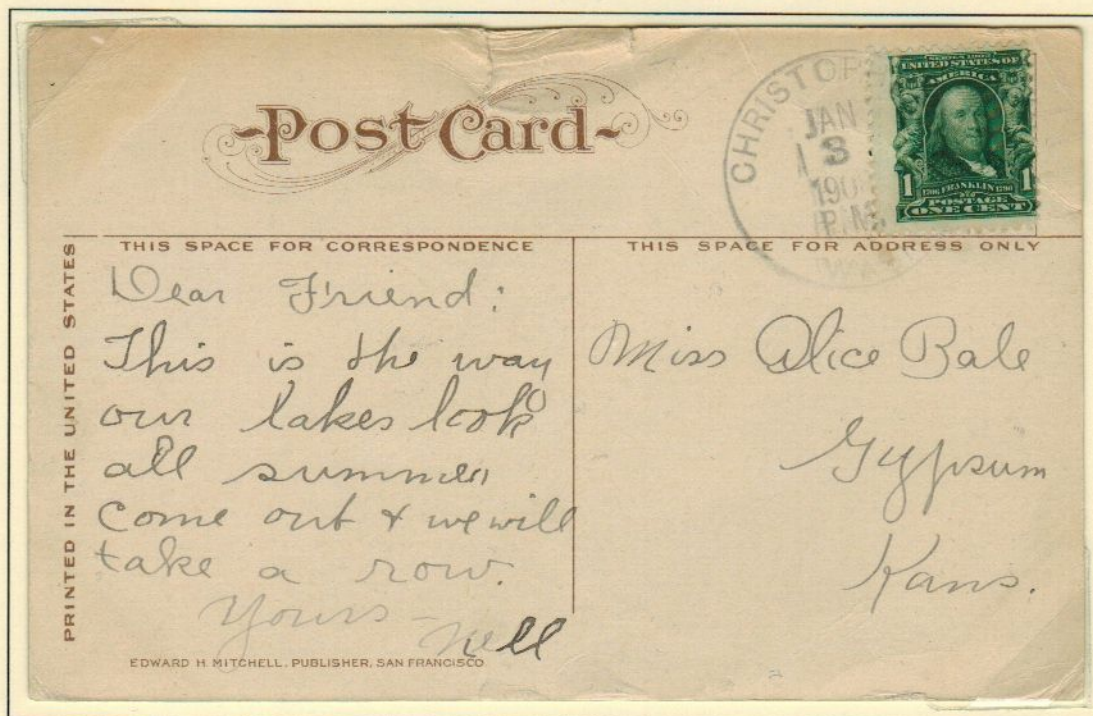
4-bar handstamp "POULSBO, WASH. DEC 21 1909" on postcard to Tacoma, WA.

1c postage rate for domestic postal and post cards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

The Christmas greeting is written in Norwegian.

Christopher, WA, 1887-1917

Christopher was a community in King County, Washington. It was named for postmaster Thomas Christopher from Norway. Christopher is located 20 miles south of Seattle within the future city limits of Auburn. The Christopher, WA post office operated 1887-1917.



4-bar handstamp "CHRISTOPHER, WASH. JAN 3 1908" on postcard to Gypsum, KS.

1c postage rate for domestic postal and post cards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

Everson is a city in Whatcom County, Washington. The population was 2,481 at the 2010 census. Everson was named for a local pioneer, Ever Everson, born 1842 in Norway. Everson was officially incorporated in 1929. The Everson, WA post office opened 1891 with Iver B. Moe postmaster, and it is still in operation.



4-bar handstamp "EVERSON, WASH. NOV 22 1910" on postcard to Darien, WI.
1c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

Homevalley, WA, 1892-1919, 1922-1959

Home Valley is an unincorporated community in Skamania County, Washington. The name is a translation of the deity Heimdal from old Norse mythology. The Homevalley, WA post office (spelling in one word) opened 1892 with John Kannikeberg postmaster. It closed 1919. In 1922 it was re-established as Home Valley, WA (spelling in two words), and closed finally in 1959.



4-bar handstamp "HOMEVALLEY, WASH. JUN 4 1908" on postcard to Portland, OR. The message is written in old-fashioned Norwegian. 1c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

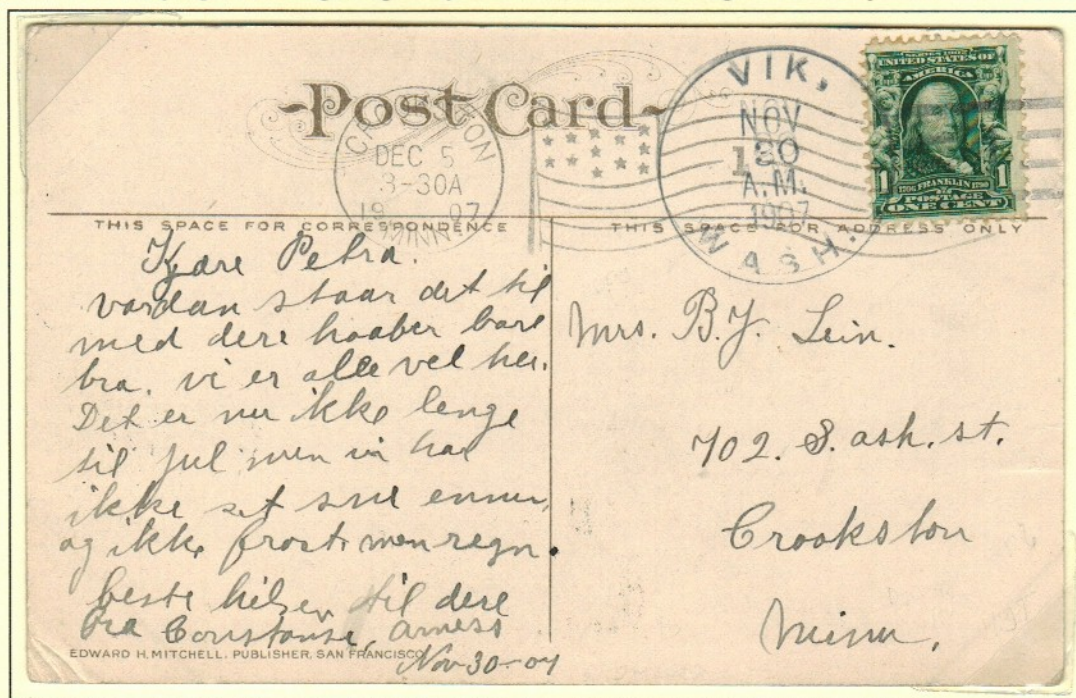
Nordland is an unincorporated community on Marrowstone Island, Jefferson County, Washington. The community derives its name from Peter Nordby, the original owner of the town site. The Nordland Township was plotted in 1889, and soon after the area was settled by families newly immigrated from Norway. The attraction to the area was the similarity of the land to the Norwegian fjords, the abundance of fish, and the cannery which once existed two miles north of Nordland. Most of the descendants of the families still live on the island. The Nordland, WA post office opened 1898 with Carl Norman postmaster, and it is still in operation.



Cds "NORDLAND, WASH. MAR 22 1910" and target killer on postcard to Langley, WA.
1c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

Vik, WA, 1906-1909

Vik, a small community in Wahkiakum County, Washington. It was named for Vik i Helgeland, Norway. The post office was established 1906 with Carrie (Karen) Bjorge postmaster, the wife of Ole Adolf Waldemar Bjørge Rønning, originally from Ølsås, Vik i Helgeland. The post office closed 1909.



4-bar handstamp "VIK, WASH. NOV 20 1907" on postcard to Crookston, MN. The message is written in Norwegian. 1c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

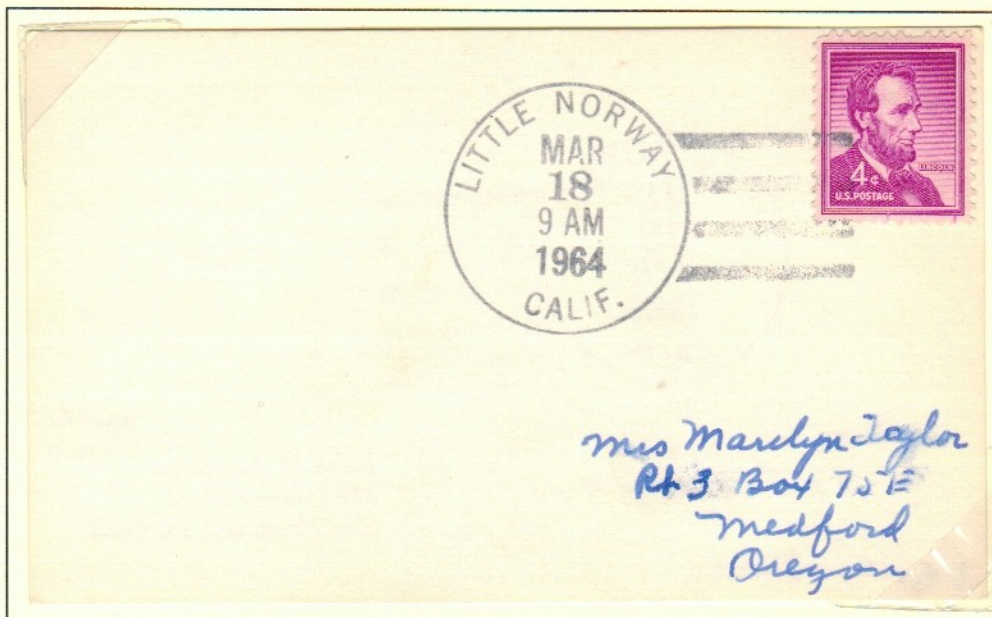
Sandberg is the name of a post office and small surrounding community that was attached to The Sandberg Lodge (originally Sandberg's Summit Hotel), located on the Ridge Route highway in the Sierra Pelona Mountains of Southern California. It is named for Harald Sandberg, a native of Norway, who settled in the Antelope Valley with his brother, Albert, in 1882. The Sandberg, CA post office operated 1918-1944 with Harald Sandberg first postmaster.



Violet 4-bar handstamp "SANDBERG CAL. JUL 27 1921" on postcard to Sacramento, CA.
1c postage rate for domestic letters from 1 July 1919 to 14 April 1925.

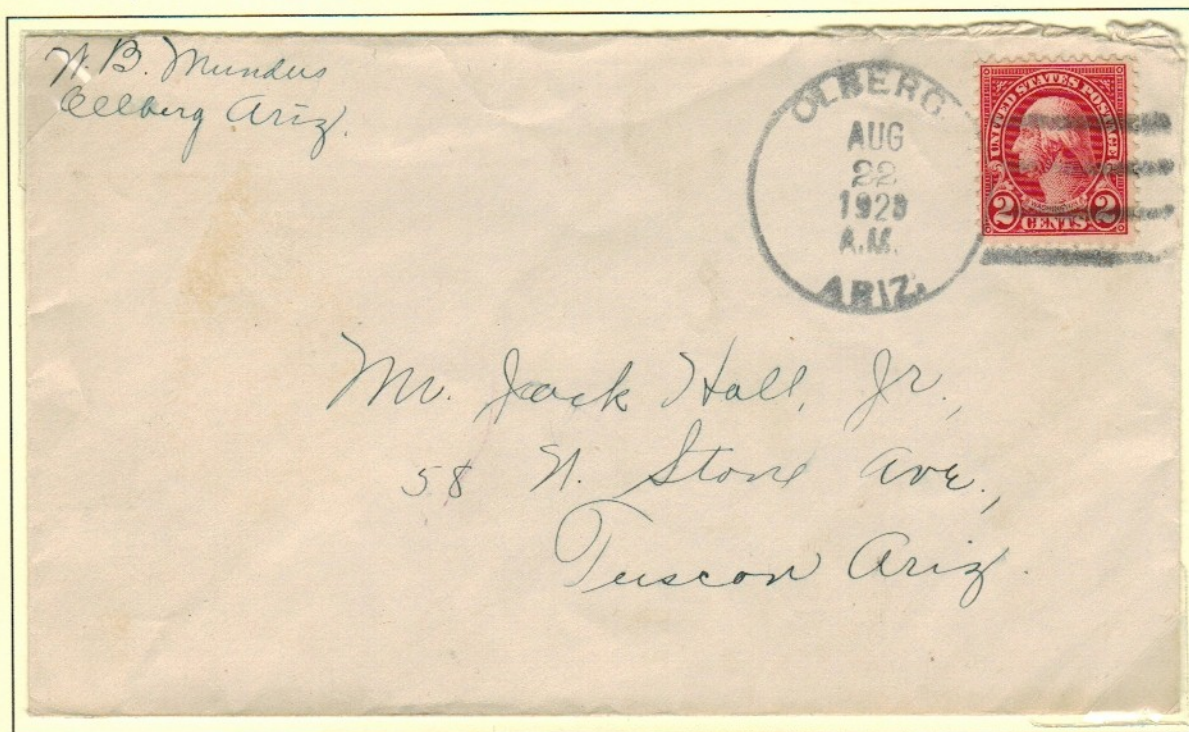
Little Norway, CA, 1961-1986

Little Norway (formerly Phillips Station and Vade) is a small unincorporated community in El Dorado County, California. The Little Norway, CA post office operated from 1961 to 1986.



4-bar postmark "LITTLE NORWAY CALIF. MAR 18 1964" on postcard to Medford, OR.
4c postage for domestic postcards from 7 Jan 1963 to 6 Jan 1968.

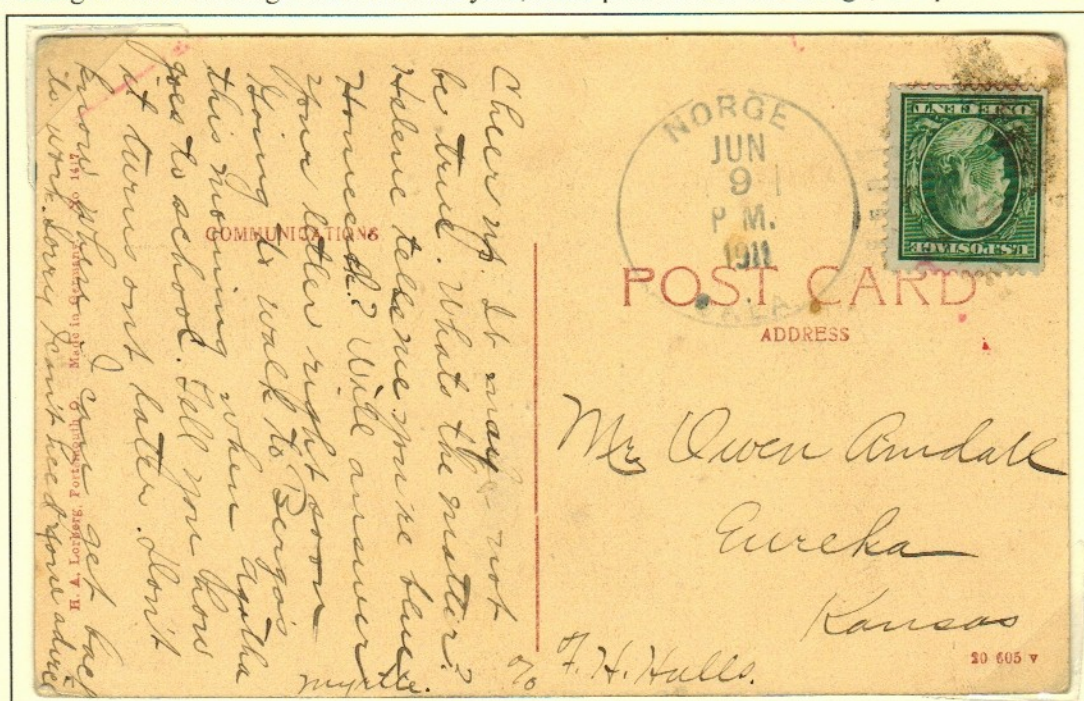
Olberg is a populated place situated in Pinal County, Arizona.[2] The settlement was founded in 1903, and named after Colonel C.R. Olberg, the chief engineer of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and as such supervised the construction of the Coolidge Dam which was built by the BIA. Charles R Olberg was born 1875 in Minnesota, his father being a Norwegian immigrant and the Olberg name originating from Norway. The Olberg, AZ post office operated 1927-1938 with Joseph O. Willett first postmaster.



4-bar handstamp "OLBERG ARIZ. AUG 22 1923" on letter to Tucson, AZ.
2c/oz for domestic letters from 1 Jul 1919 to 5 Jul 1932.

Norge, OK, 1908-1954

Norge is a town in Grady County, Oklahoma, United States. The population was 82 at the 2000 census. Norge means Norway (in Norwegian). A post office with name Norden was established here in 1908, with Anfin Erslund postmaster. It changed name to Norge later the same year, same postmaster. The Norge, OK post office closed in 1954.



4-bar handstamp "NORGE, OKLA. JUN 9 1911" on postcard to Eureka, KS.
1c postage rate for domestic postcards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

Petersburg is a census-designated place within Petersburg Borough on Mitkof Island in southeast Alaska. In 2009 the population was 2,824. In the nineteenth century, Peter Buschmann, a Norwegian immigrant, settled here, building a cannery, sawmill, docks and early structures. The settlement was named Petersburg after him, and it flourished as a fishing port. The Petersburg, AK post office opened 1900 with Christian H. Buschmann first postmaster, and is still in operation.



4-bar handstamp "PETERSBURG, ALASKA DEC 17 1911" on postcard to Erskine, MN. 1c for domestic postcards from 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917. The Christmas greeting is written in Norwegian.

Brevig Mission, AK, 1963-date

Brevig Mission is a city in Nome Census Area, Alaska. The population was 388 at the 2010 census. A Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Mission was constructed at the present site in 1900, and the village is named after the Rev. Tollef Larson Brevig, who came here from Norway in 1894 as pastor and teacher. The Brevig Mission, AK post office opened 1963 and it is still in operation.



Precancels "BREVIG MISSION AK", vinyl handstamp PSS style 845 (town 2 mm block caps, state 2.5 mm block caps).

Brevig Mission is located in western Alaska, about as far west towards Russia as possible, and demonstrates well that Norwegian immigration really reached all over the United States.

The 1924 Immigration Act limited the annual number of immigrants who could be admitted from any country to 2% of the number of people from that country who were already living in the United States as of the 1890 census. Norwegian Immigration to America has declined from this time.