

Norway in America

The purpose of the exhibit is to document post office names in North America with Norwegian or Norse origin.

The scope is to investigate the origin of the post office names in the United States and Canada, and to include post offices with name originating from Norwegian placenames, named after, or named by Norwegian immigrants, or with other documented relationship to Norway.



Martin Ulvestad: "Norge i Amerika med kart" (1901). The red color shows "Norway in America".

This PH 2C exhibit is structured chronologically with the combined development of North America and the Norwegian immigration. Within each main section the post offices are presented by year of establishment.

1. Early influence and early immigration

7

There was Norwegian emigration to America already in the 1600s. 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 early post office names related to Norway without any identified connection to immigration.

2. Organized immigration commences; Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa

16

Organized emigration from Norway started 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

24

Norwegian settlers ventured further westwards from the mid-1850s, to Minnesota, "the Glorious new Scandinavia".

4. Homesteading in the Dakotas

16

Dakota was opened to settlers from 1863, and many land-hungry Norwegian immigrants were established here from the 1870s onwards.

5. Exploring higher and wider horizons

16

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

Canada offered opportunities - Norwegian settlements also grew in Canada. Norwegian Canadians are found throughout the entire country but with a concentration on the prairies of Western Canada.

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: *Nordmændene i Amerika; deres Historie og Rekord* (1907)

Own research: published in *Norvegiana-Nytt*, *Norvegiana Nyhetsbrev* and in particular my website (with Dag Henriksbø):

Norway in America, Post office names in USA and Canada with Norwegian origin www.slettebo.no/norway-in-america (from 2021)



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 – A few Norway-related post office names are found, without documented connection to immigration. The earliest considerable group of Norwegian immigrants who in 1825 arrived on the sloop *Restauration* settled in Kendall, Orleans County, New York, but without naming post offices there.

Norway was 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 Co., 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.

This the earliest reported U.S. post office with name related to Norway.



Letter dated Jan 13, 1846 with circular datestamp "NORWAY Me JAN 14", to Easton, Pennsylvania.

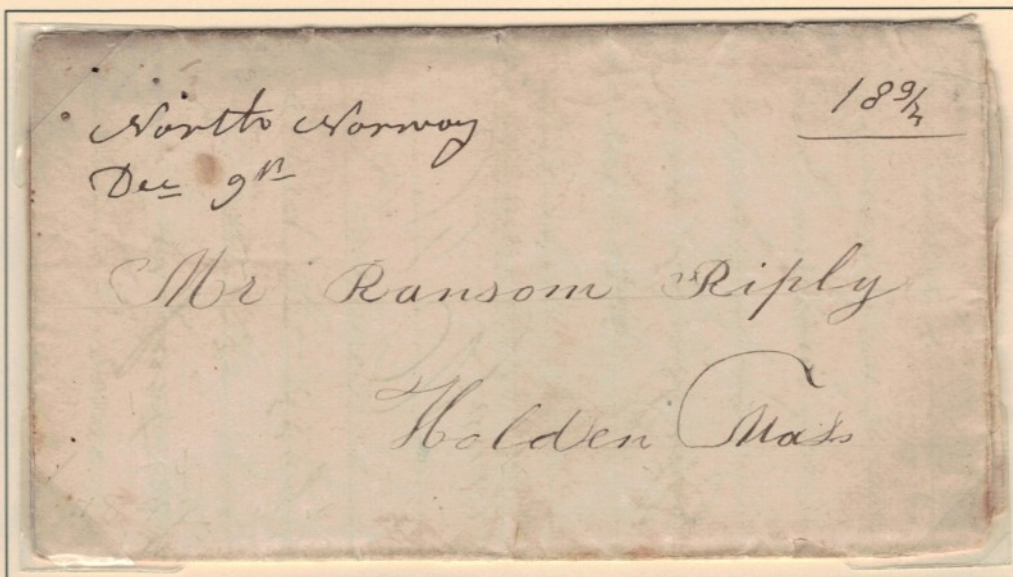
10¢ per ½ ounce for domestic letters for distances above 300 miles 1 July 1845 - 30 June 1851.

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

1 Early influence and early immigration

North Norway, ME, 1824-1901

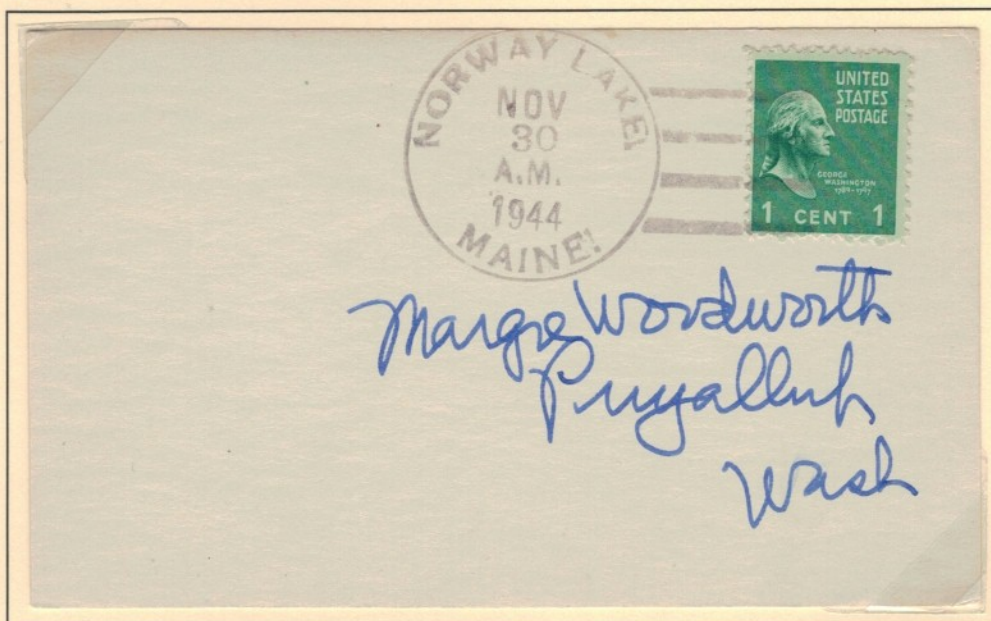
North Norway is located on the northern outskirts of Norway which is a town in Oxford Co., ME. The North Norway, ME post office operated from 1824 to 1868, was re-opened same year and finally closed 1901 with mail to Norway. See Norway, ME for the origin of the place name.



Manuscript "North Norway Dec 9th" on letter to Holden, Mass., contents dated Norway, Nov 30, 1842. Postage annotation "18 $\frac{3}{4}$ ".
18 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢ per oz. for domestic letters for distances 151-400 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, ME (Oxford Co.). The Norway Lake, ME post office opened 1881. See Norway, ME for the origin of the place name. Closed 1944 with mail to Norway.

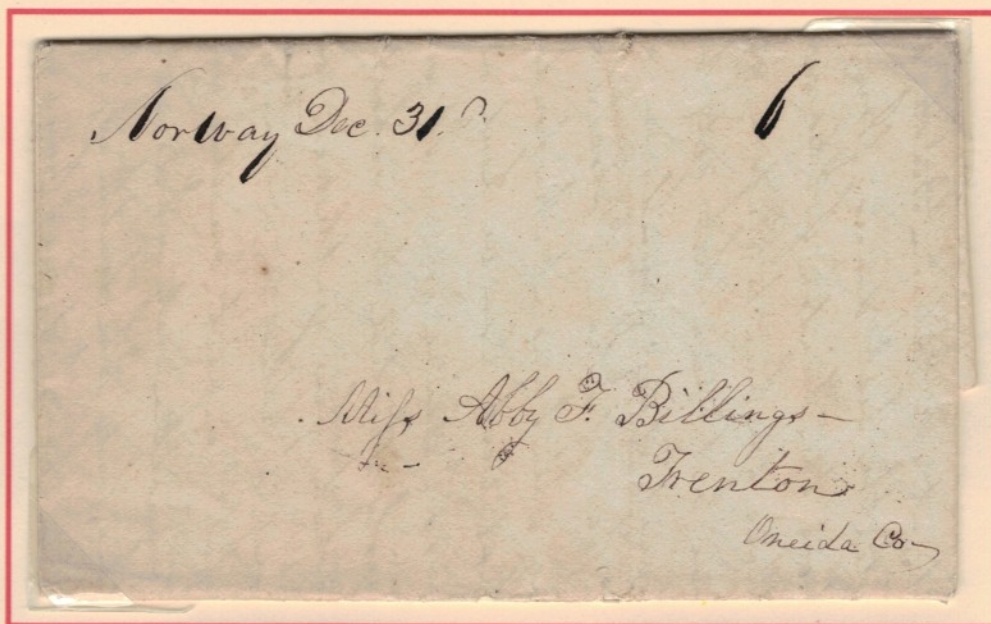


Duplex handstamp "NORWAY LAKE, MAINE NOV 30 1944" on postcard to Puyallup, WA, last day of operation. 1¢ for domestic postcards from 1 Jul 1928 to 31 Dec 1951.

1 Early influence and early immigration

Norway, NY, 1813-1929

Norway is a town in Herkimer Co., NY. Norway was formed 1792 immediately after the creation of Herkimer Co. The reason for the name is unknown. In 1825, the town's population was 1,168, down to 762 in the 2010 census. The Norway, NY post office was established 1813. It closed 1929 with mail to Newport.



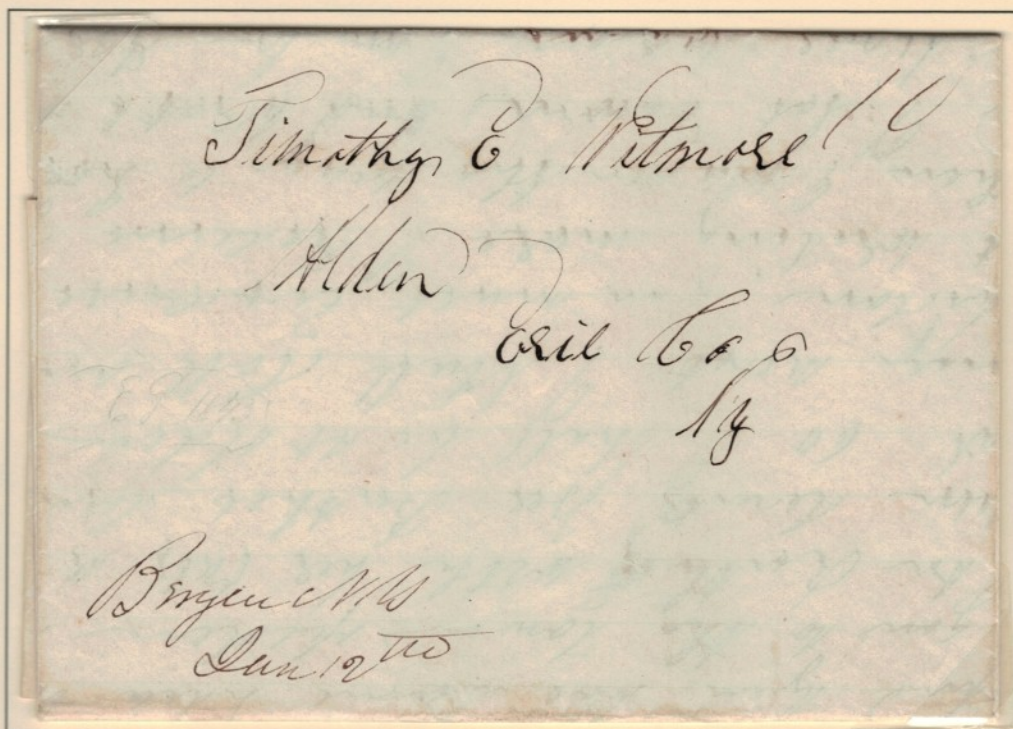
Manuscript "Norway Dec 31" on letter dated 1829 to Trenton, Oneida Co., NY.

Manuscript "6" denotes postage.

6¢ 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 Co., NY. 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.



Manuscript "Bergen NY Jan 12th" on letter dated 1843 to Alden, Erie Co., NY.

Manuscript "10" denotes postage.

10¢/oz for domestic letters for distances 30-80 miles, from 1827 to 30 June 1845.

North Bergen, NY is a hamlet in northwest corner of the town of Bergen in Genesee Co., NY. The name has the same origin as Bergen, NY. The North Bergen, NY post office was established 1833. It was discontinued 1903, superseded by rural delivery from Bergen.


What vast sums are wasted in producing poverty, wretchedness, sickness, death, crime and damned souls. Who does not waste, on an average, more than one cent a day on gluttony, tea, coffee, tobacco, cigars, opium, liquors, extravagance in dress, furniture, lodge fees, bad reading, fashionable murder, church jabs, &c., &c.? Friend, church-member, how do you spend God's money? Why, and of what do you deny yourself? Which costs you most, Christ or needless self indulgence? GOD KEEPS HONEST BOOKS.

Blindman's Envelopes, two sizes, four colors, plain, 40 cents a hundred. Tracts, 50 cents a hundred. Fifty Envelopes, one-half plain, one-half printed, for 25 cents. Small sample, 10 cents. Also, Blindman's Tracts, written in the dark, and other tracts, two to eight pages, 30 cents to \$1.00 a hundred. Help the blind; do good. Envelopes and Tracts sent post-paid on receipt of price. Address the Blind Man, ALMIRON SMITH, Box 5. PLANK ROAD P. O., N. Y.

What One Cent to One Dollar, saved or wasted, will amount to in from Ten to Twenty years at 10 per cent. compound interest, minus cents.

Daily Amount.	Amount 10 years.	Amount 20 years.	Amount 30 years.	Amount 40 years.	Amount 50 years.
\$.01	\$ 58.	\$ 209.	\$ 615.	\$ 1614.	\$ 43
.05	291.	1045.	3076.	8061.	217
.10	582.	2091.	6153.	16142.	434
.50	2909.	10450.	30763.	80612.	2174
1.00	5817.	20900.	61525.	161425.	43425.

Rechn. 4/11



*Mr Walter D. Gale
Houseville
Lewis Co
New York.*

Circular datestamp "NORTH BERGEN NY DEC 12" and target killer on letter to Houseville, NY, unknown year (postage stamp issued 1870).

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

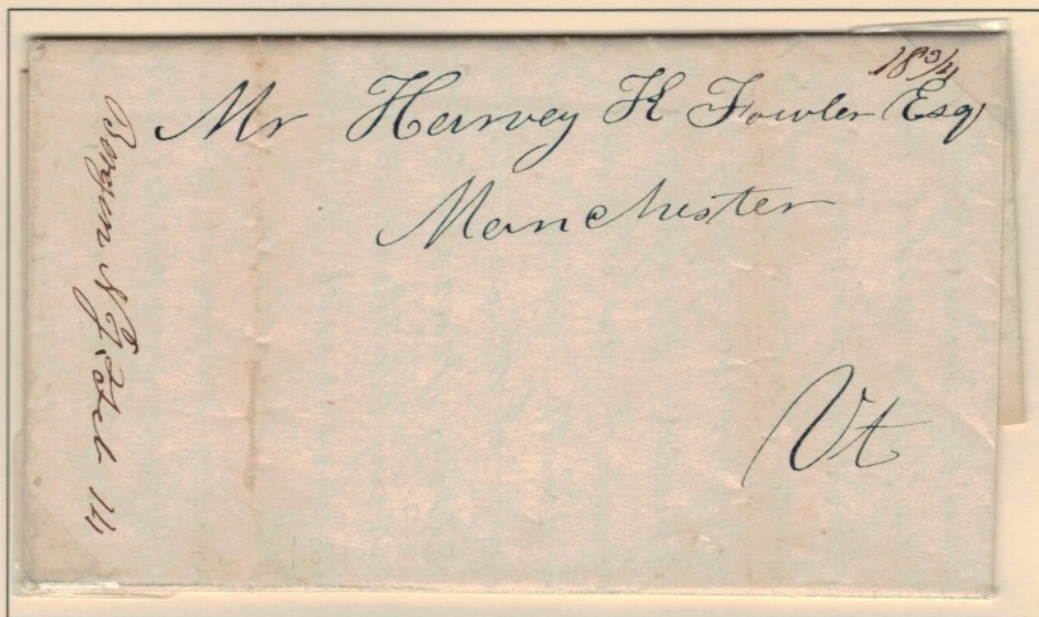
West Bergen, NY, 1841-1931

West Bergen is a hamlet near the western town line of the town of Bergen in Genesee County, NY. The name has the same origin as Bergen, NY. The West Bergen, NY post office opened 1841 and closed 1931 with mail to Bergen.



Manuscript postmark "WEST BERGEN NY / MAY 1862" on cover to Darien, NY. 3¢ per ½ oz for domestic letters for distances less than 3000 miles 1 July 1851 to 1 Jul 1863.

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



The first Bergen, NJ post office: Manuscript "Bergen NJ Feb 14" on letter to Manchester, VT, dated Bergen Heights, North Bergen, NJ Feb 13, 1843. Manuscript "18 $\frac{3}{4}$ " denotes postage. 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢/oz for domestic letters for distances 151-400 miles, from 1827 to 30 June 1845.

Bergenfield, NJ, 1833-date

Bergenfield is a borough in Bergen Co., 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 1833 and it is still in operation.



Machine cancel "BERGENFIELD N.J. JUN 7 1932" on postcard to Catskill, NY. 1¢ overfranked for the 1¢ domestic postcard rate 1928-1952.

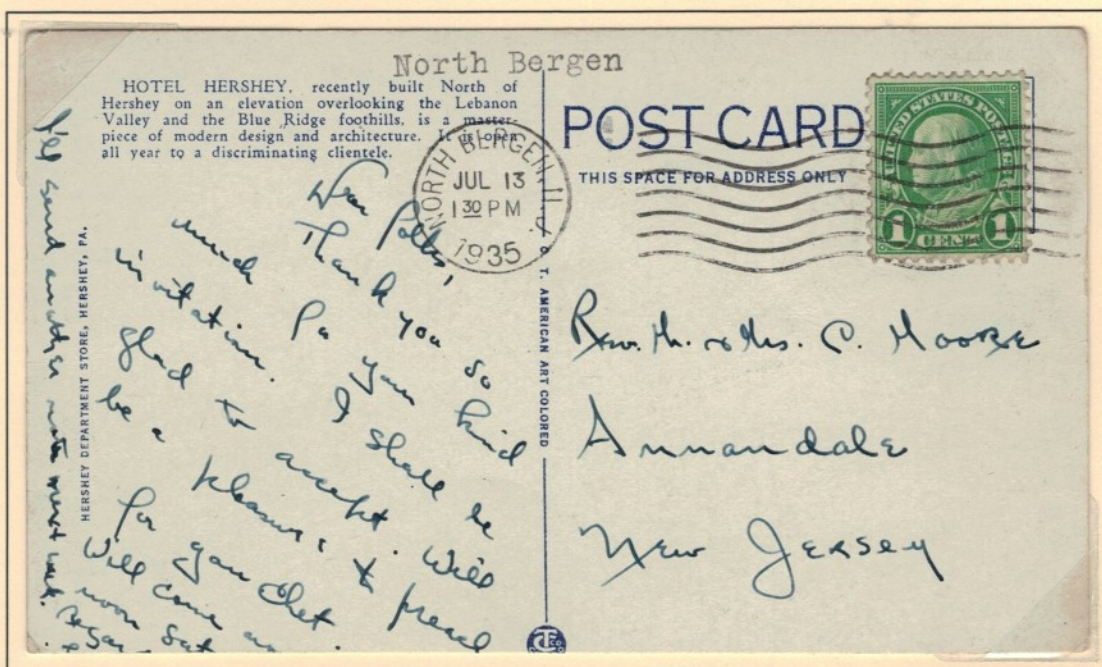
Bergen Point is a point of land located on the north side of Kill van Kull at Newark Bay. The Bergen part of the name has the same origin as Bergen, NJ. Though now part of Hudson Co., the area was part of Bergen Co. from its creation 1683 until Hudson Co. was created 1840. The post office operated 1849-1889.



Postmark "BERGEN POINT N.J. MAR 26 1888" and cork killer on mourning cover to Holderness, NH.
2¢ per ounce for domestic letters from 1 July 1885 to 1 Nov 1917.

North Bergen, NJ, 1914-date

North Bergen is a township in Hudson Co., NJ, incorporated 1833. The name has the same origin as Bergen, NJ. The New Durham p.o. opened 1846, name-change to North Bergen Branch, Wehawken from 1914, and branch of West New York from 1925. Independent post office from 1936, and still in operation. The population was 60,773 in 2010.



Machine cancel "NORTH BERGEN N.J. JUL 13 1935" on postcard to Annandale, NJ.
1¢ for domestic postcards from 1 July 1919 to 31 dec 1951.

1 Early influence and early immigration

Danish West Indies / United States Virgin Islands

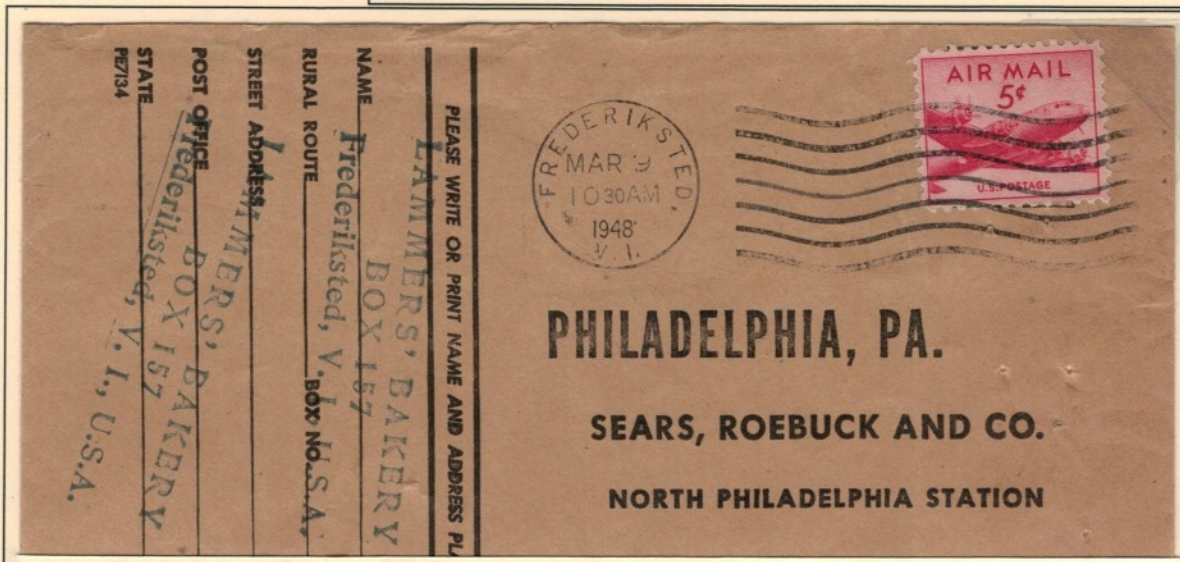
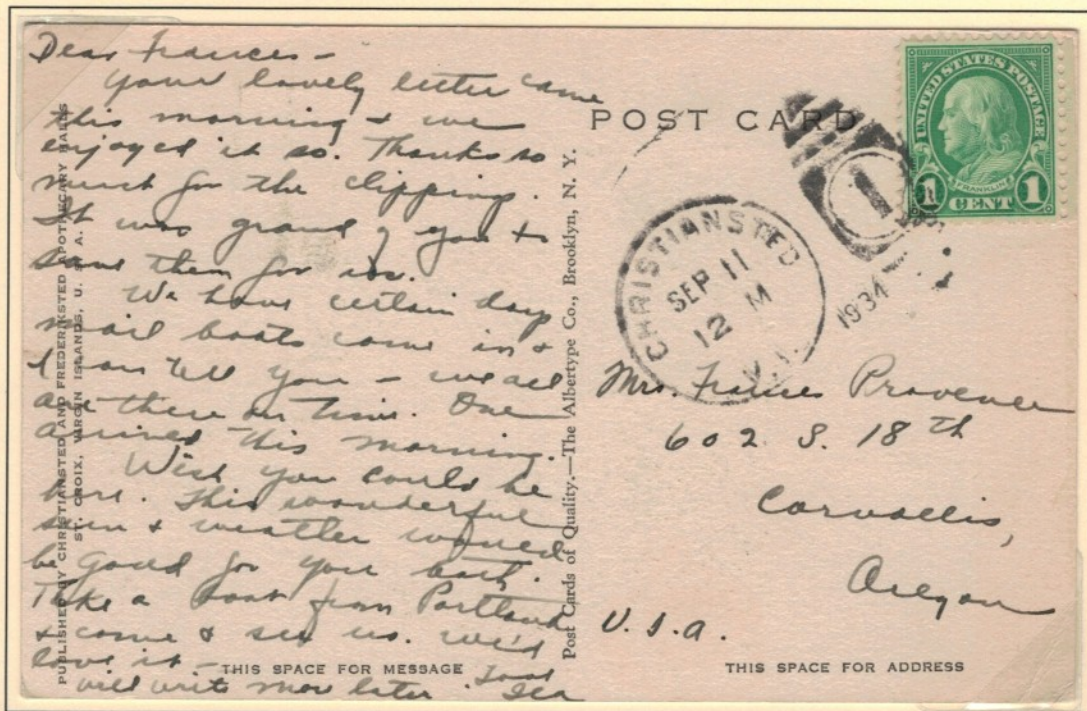
The United States purchased the Danish West Indies from Denmark 1917 and renamed them U.S. Virgin Islands.

Christiansted, VI (1856-) 1917-date

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

The p.o. operated from 1856. Postcard sent from "CHRISTIANSTED V.I. SEP 11, 1934" to Corvallis, OR.

1¢ for domestic postcards from 1 July 1928 to 31 Dec 1951.



Frederiksted, VI, (1856-) 1917-date

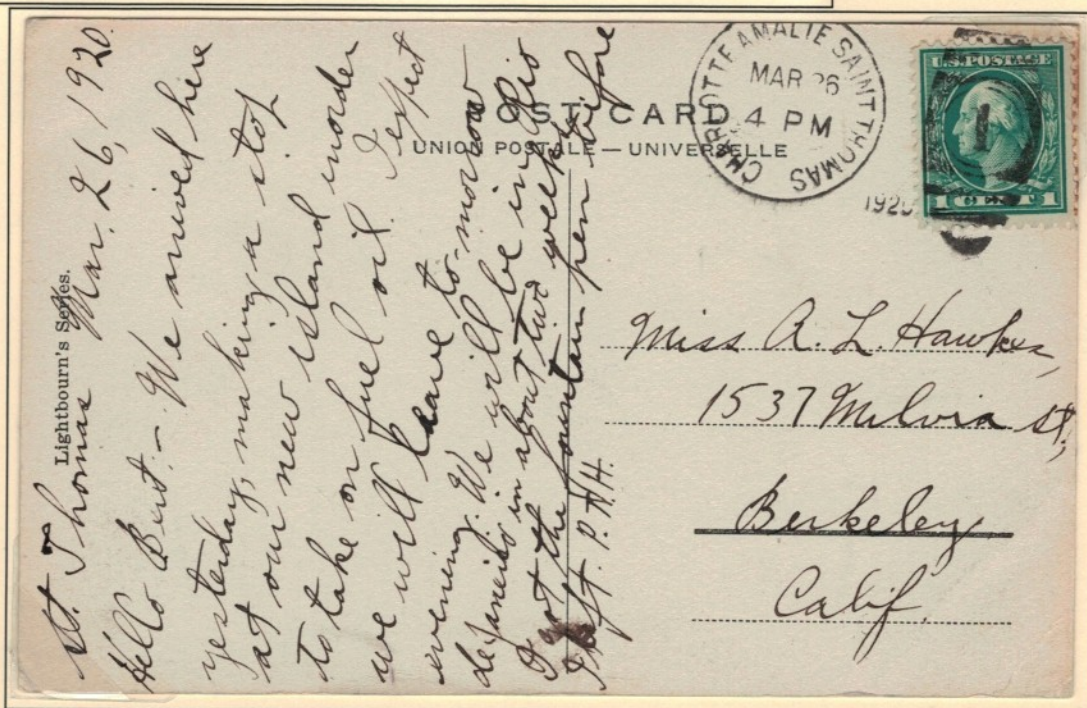
Frederiksted is named in honor of King Frederik V of Denmark - Norway. The post office operated from 1856. Air mail letter from "FREDERIKSTED V.I., MAR 9, 1948" to Philadelphia, PA. 5¢/oz for domestic air mail 1 Oct 1946 to 31 Dec 1948.

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 1856 under the name Saint Thomas, changed to Charlotte Amalie 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.

1¢ for domestic postcards 1 July 1919 - 14 April 1925.



Organized immigration commences; Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa

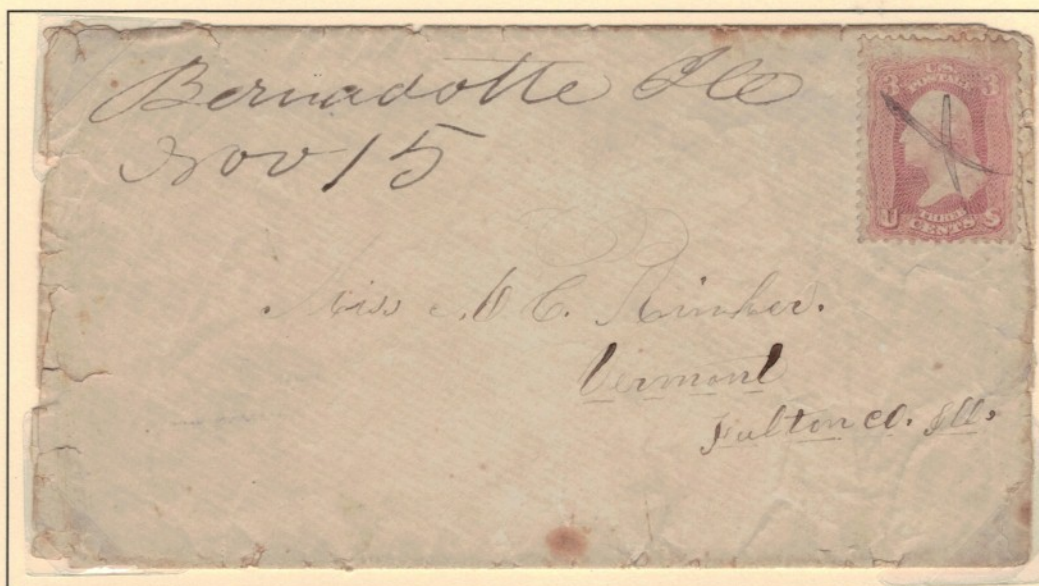
Illinois – The Sloopers go West

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 a community located in Fulton Co., IL. When a post office was established here 1833 it was known as Bennington. The reason is not known, but in 1837 Bennington was re-named Bernadotte. Bernadotte is the family name of the then Norwegian-Swedish royal family. The post office was discontinued in 1905, superseded by rural delivery from Ipava. Until the early 1940s, the town had a population of about four hundred people, and well under one hundred today.



Manuscript postmark "Bernadotte Ill Nov 15" on letter to Vermont, IL. Pen ink cross on the postage stamp. Unknown year, postage stamp issued 1861, and likely from one of these periods:
 3¢ per ½ ounce for domestic letters for distances <3000 miles from 1 April 1855 to 30 June 1863.
 3¢ per ½ ounce for domestic letters (regardless of distance) from 1 July 1863 to 1 Oct 1883.

Norway is an unincorporated community in LaSalle Co., IL, founded 1834 by Cleng Peerson 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, superseded by rural delivery from Sheridan. 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". The postage rate was 3¢ per ½ ounce for domestic letters 8 June 1872 to 30 Sep. 1883.

Odin, IL, 1858-date

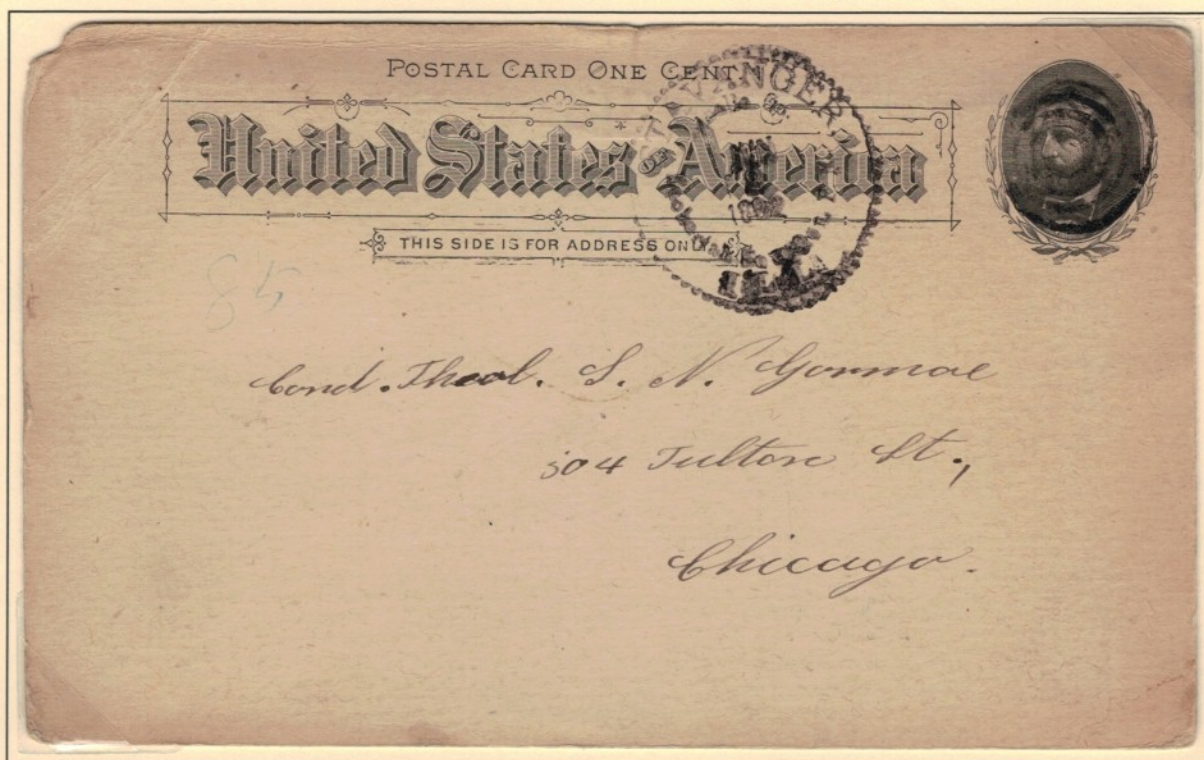
Odin is a village in Marion Co., IL. It was named for Odin, the principal god of Norse mythology. There were Scandinavian settlers in the area. The Odin, IL post office opened in 1858 and it is still in operation. The population was 1,122 at the 2000 census.



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

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

Stavanger is an unincorporated community in LaSalle Co., IL. It was named for Stavanger, Norway. The Stavanger, IL post office opened 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. 1¢ for domestic postal cards from 12 May 1873 to 1 Nov 1917.

Helmar, IL, 1894-1912

Helmar is a populated place in Kendall Co., IL. 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. 1¢ for domestic postcards from 1 Jul 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

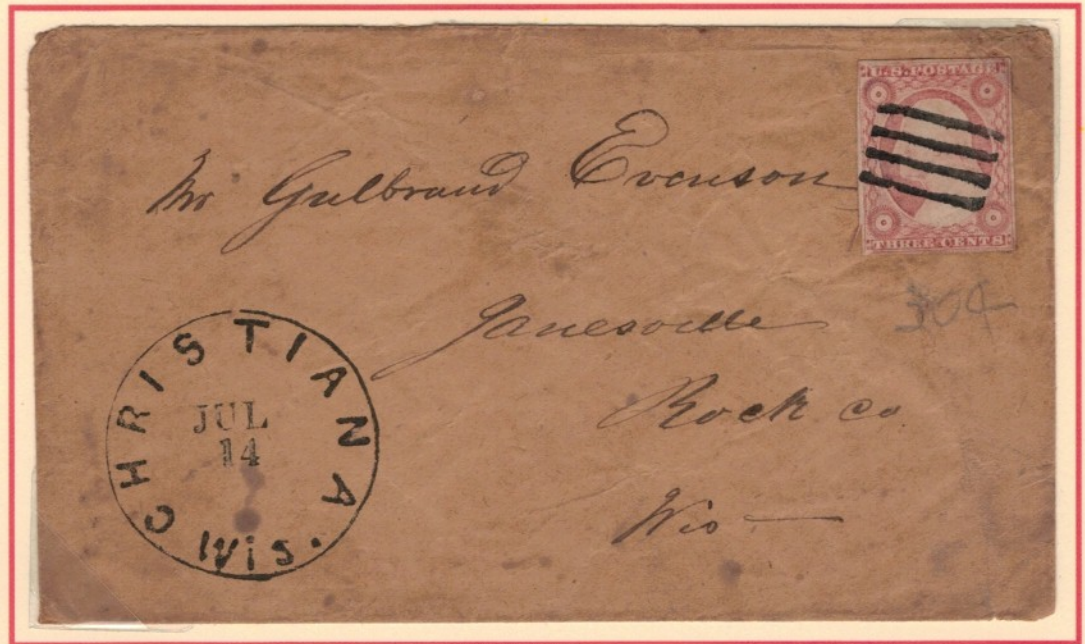
2b Organized immigration commences; Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa

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, up to 29,557 by 1860, and by 1870 they numbered 59,619. The Norwegians have been, from the first, the most numerous of the three Scandinavian groups in Wisconsin.

Christiana, WI, 1846-1885

Christiania, township and post office in Dane Co., WI. The post office opened 1846, named by Gunnul Olson Vindæg in honor of Christiania (now Oslo), the capital of Norway, his native land. William M. Mayhew first postmaster. Changed name to Rockdale 1885, rural station of Cambridge 1955.



“CHRISTIANA, WIS. JUL 14”
 cds on letter to Janesville, WI.
 Unknown year, postage stamp
 issued 1851.
 3¢ per ½ oz for distances up to
 3000 miles from 1 July 1851 to
 1 July 1863.

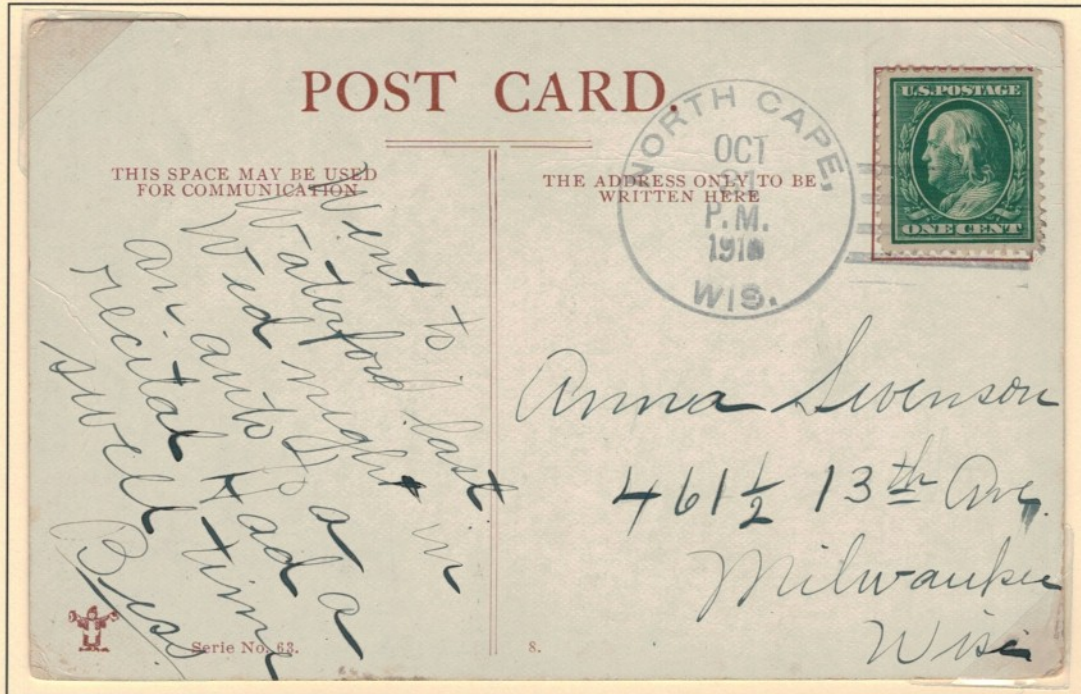
Scandinavia, WI, 1856-date

Scandinavia, town in Waupaca Co., WI. Its first settlers came 1853, only two years after the first white had settled in Waupeca, 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. The Scandinavia, WI post office opened 1856 and it is still in operation. The population was 328 at the 2010 census.



“SCANDINAVIA, WIS. APR
12 1909”, 4-bar handstamp on
postcard sent locally.
1¢ for domestic postcards from
1 Jul 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

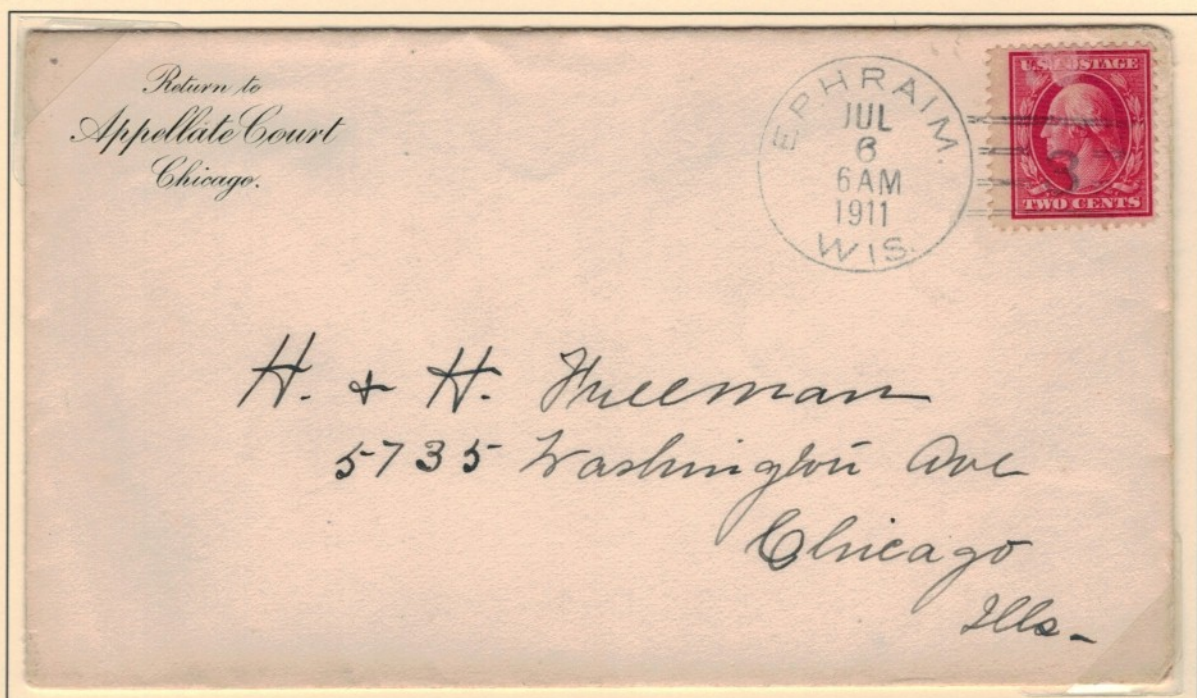
North Cape is a community in Baymond Twp., Racine Co., WI. Mons Knudson Aadland came 1837 from Norway on bark *Ægir*, and settled 1840 in Racine county, buying a farm of 160 acres. This part of the settlement became known as North Cape, named after the famous landmark in northern Norway. The North Cape, WI post office was established 1858 with Knut Adland postmaster. Discontinued 1917, superseded by Rural Delivery from Franksville.



4-bar handstamp "NORTH CAPE, WIS. OCT 31 1910" on postcard to Milwaukee, WI.
1¢ for domestic postcards from 1 Jul 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

Ephraim, WI, 1861-date

Ephraim is a village in Gibraltar Twp., Door Co., WI. It was founded by Norwegian Moravians led by the Rev. Andreas (Andrew) Iverson. Iverson suggested several biblical names, from which the congregation chose Ephraim, which appears in both the Old and New Testament, and has been associated with 'fruitful'. The Ephraim, WI post office opened 1861 with Hans P. Jacobs as postmaster and it is still in operation.



Doane handstamp (type 2, no. 3) "EPHRAIM, WIS. JUL 6 1911" on cover to Chicago, IL.
2¢/oz for domestic letters from 1 Jul 1885 to 1 Nov 1917.

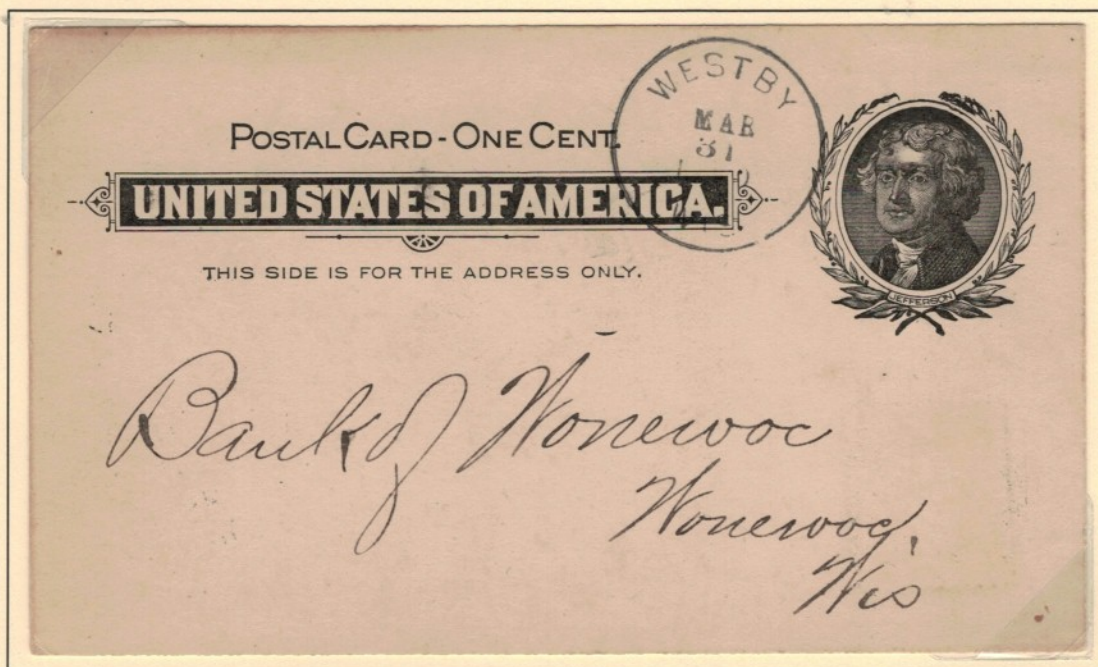
Holmen is a village in Holland Twp., La Crosse Co., WI. Norwegian immigrants settled this area in 1862, first called Frederickstown and later Cricken. The post office was established 1875 as Holmen, with Carl August Sjolander postmaster, dealer in general stock, born in Løyten, Norway 1851 and came 1865 to America. The name "Holmen" is a Norwegian word and translates to islet (a small island). Another source says it is named for a Mr. Holmen who in 1851 was one of a group that surveyed the territory and later became state senator on Indiana. The p.o. is still in operation.



Circular datestamp "HOLMEN, WIS. MAR 15 1890" and 4-ring killer on letter to Duluth, MN. 2¢ per ounce for domestic letters from 1 Jul 1885 to 1 Nov 1917.

Westby, WI, 1879-date

Westby, city in Christiana Twp., Vernon Co., WI. Norwegian immigrants settled 1848 in the area. In 1867, Ole T. Westby (born 1840 Norway) built a general store here. In 1879 the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad completed its branch line from Sparta to Viroqua, chose this site for a station and named it for Ole T. Westby. The village was incorporated 1896 and became a city 1920. The Westby, WI post office opened 1879 with Iver A. Johnson postmaster and it is still in operation. The current population of Westby is still mostly Norwegian and counted 2,200 at the 2010 census.

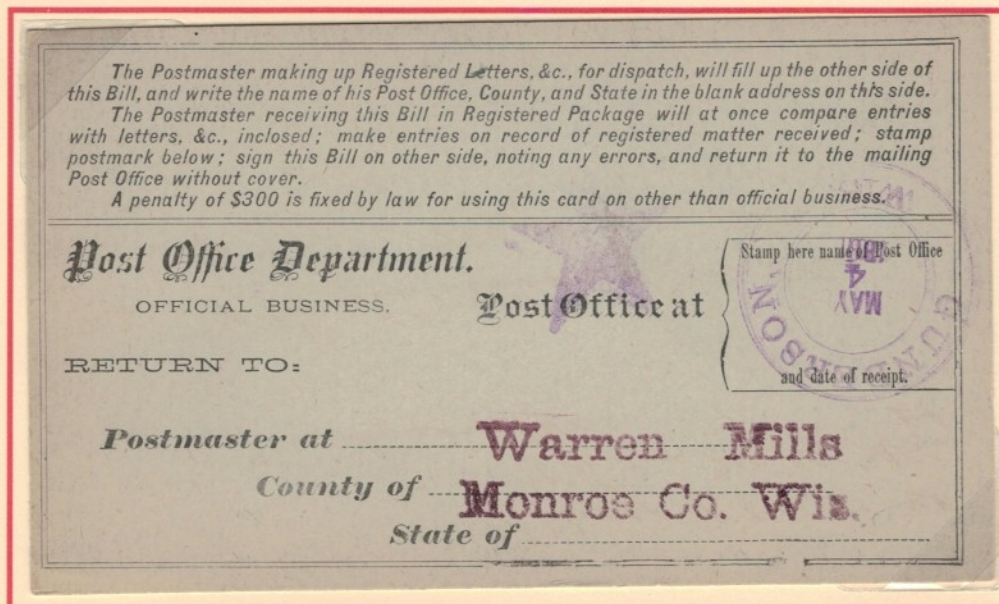


Circular datestamp "WESTBY WIS. MAR 31 1900" on postal card to Woneewoc, WI. 1¢ for domestic postal cards from 12 May 1873 to 1 Nov 1917.

2b Organized immigration commences; Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa

Gunderson, WI R.P.O. 1880-1882

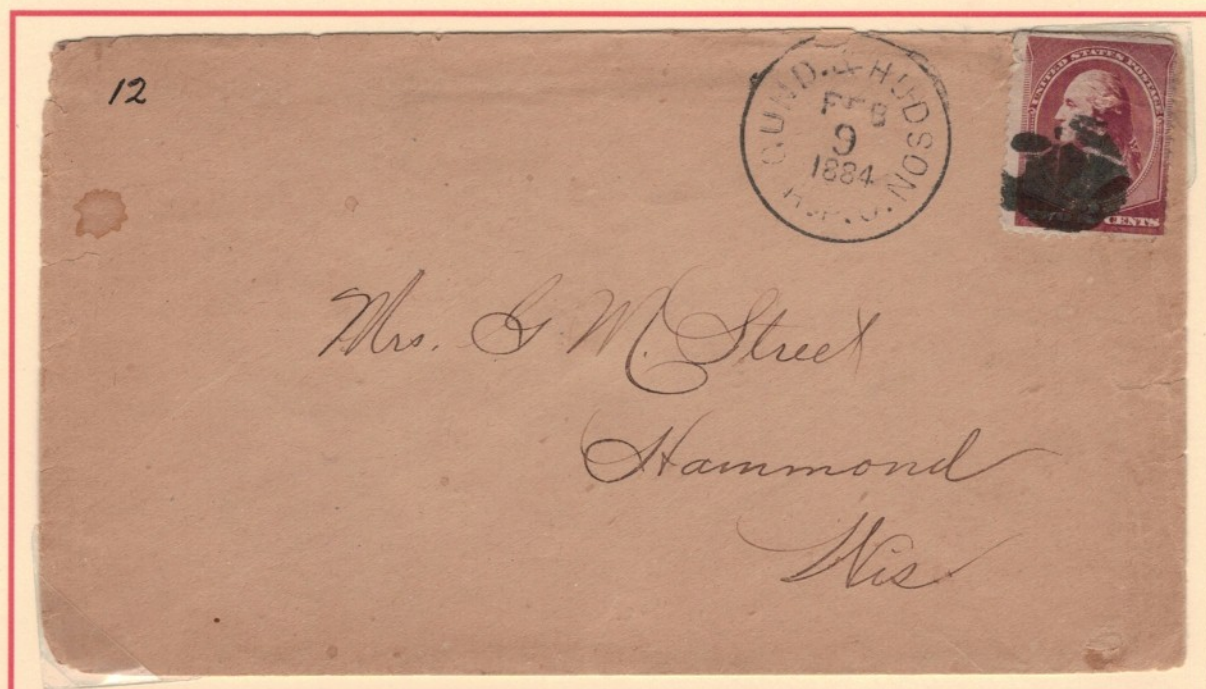
Gunderson was a post office in Cable Twp., Bayfield Co., WI., established 1880 and named for Lars L. Gunderson, representative to Wisconsin State Legislature, born 1850 in Brandval near Kongsvinger, Norway. Name-change to Cable 1882, closed 1883, re-established 1884 and still in service.



Two-ring cds "GUNDERSON, WIS. 4 MAY 1881" and star killer on registry bill card from Warren Mills.

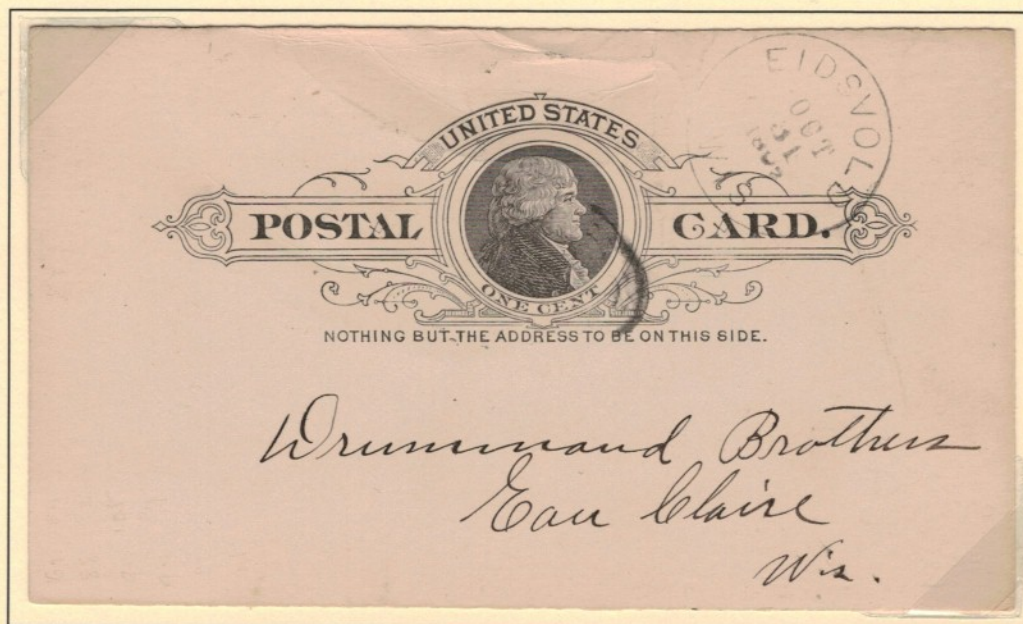
Gunderson & Hudson, WI R.P.O. 1882-(1884)

The railway from Hudson to the booming city of Cable was completed 1880 and a railway post office operated on the 121 miles line. It was established 4 Sep 1882 as Gunderson & Hudson R.P.O. and name-change already from 26 Oct 1882 to Cable & Hudson R.P.O. The Gund. & Hudson R.P.O. postmark was used at least until 1884 when the R.P.O. was extended to Bayfield-Hudson.



Circular datestamp "GUND. & HUDSON R.P.O. FEB 9 1884" and cork killer on letter to Hammond, WI. 2¢ per ½ ounce for domestic letters from 1 Oct 1883 to 1 July 1885.

Eidsvold is a community in Thorp Twp., Clark Co., WI. Named for Eidsvoll, Norway where the Constitution of Norway was signed in 1814. The Eidsvold, WI post office was established 1884 with Jacob Bye postmaster. Closed 1903, re-established 1905 and 1906 superseded by R.D. from Stanley.



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

Strum, WI, 1885-date

Strum is a village in Trempealeau Co., WI, along the Buffalo River. The area was first settled by New Englanders and the place was called Tilden. Then in the 1860s Norwegians moved in. Strum is named in honor of Louis Strum of Eau Claire. He was born 1848 in Alvdal, Norway, his Norwegian name being Lars Ellefsen Strømmen, and he came 1869 to Wisconsin via Quebec. The Strum, WI post office was established 1885 with storekeeper Ole Kittleson first postmaster, and it is still in operation. The population was 1,114 at the 2010 census.



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

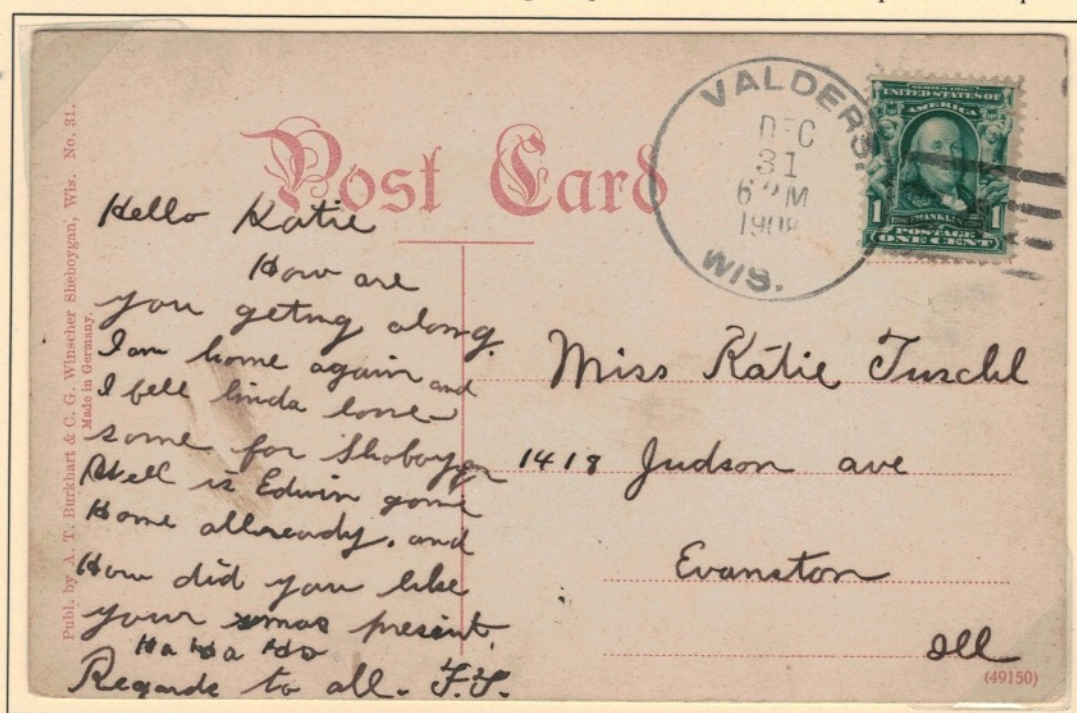
Rosholt is a village in Alban Twp., Portage Co., WI, named for John Gilbert Rosholt who built the first sawmill in town. He was son of Jacob and Johanna Rosholt, who came to Wisconsin from Røsholt near Kongsberg, Norway. The Rosholt, WI post office opened 1893 with Jens P. Hausen as postmaster. It is still in operation. Population 506 at the 2010 census.



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

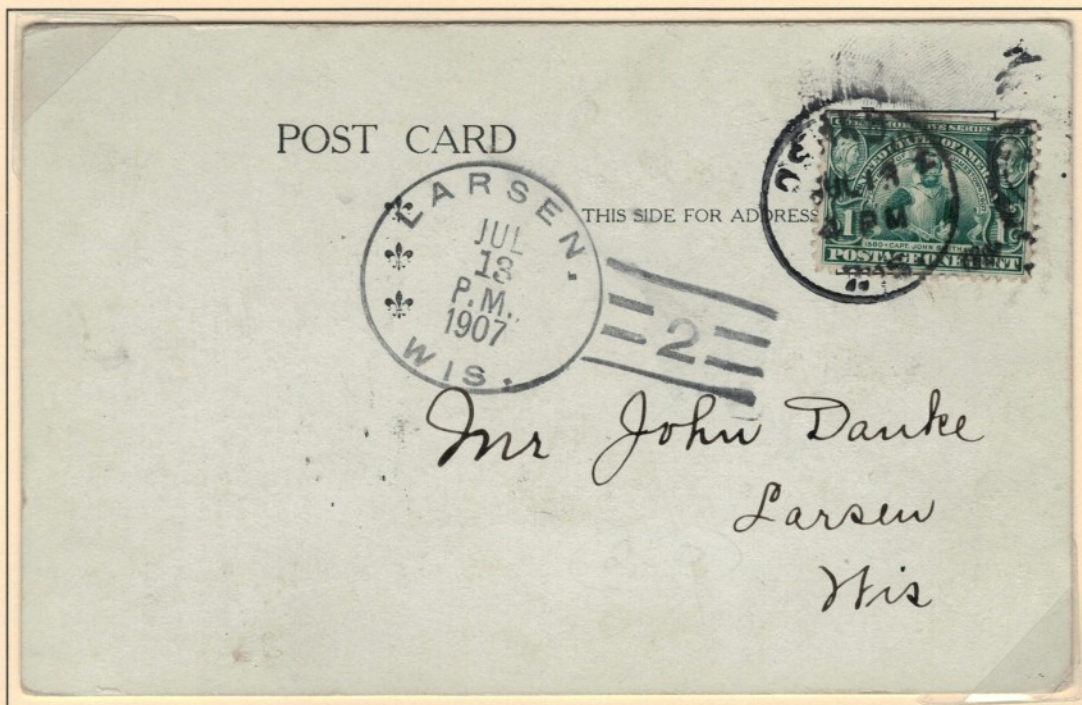
Valders, WI, 1897-date

Valders is a village in Cato Twp., Manitowoc Co., WI, settled from 1840 to 1860 by immigrants from the Valdres mountainous region of Norway, and many of the immigrants came from the valleys of Vestre Slidre and Øystre Slidre. Valders did not really develop as a village until the arrival of the railroad in 1896, the traditional year of its founding. The Valders, WI post office opened 1897 with Otto G. Berge as postmaster. It is still in operation. Population 962 in 2010.



Doane handstamp (type 3, no. 4) "VALDERS, WIS. DEC 31 1908" on postcard to Evanston, IL. 1¢ for domestic postcards from 1 Jul 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

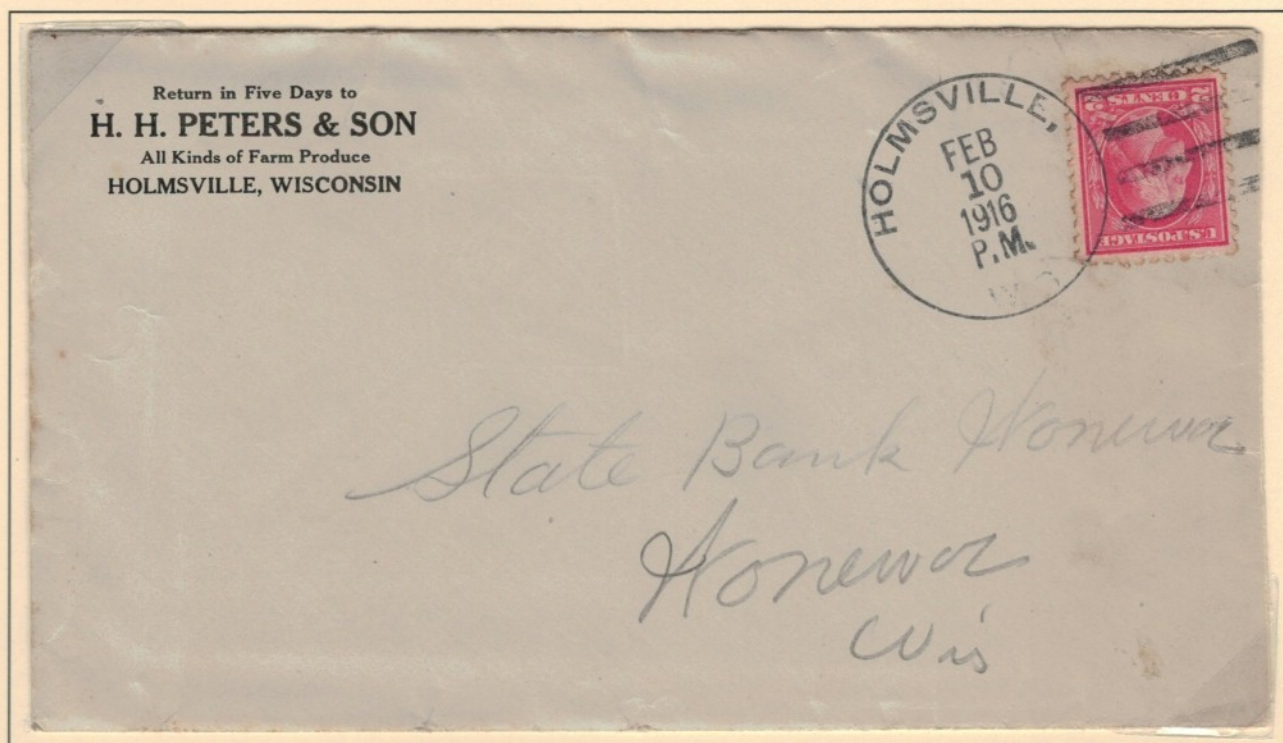
Larsen is a community in Clayton Twp., Winnebago Co., WI. Originally called Lee's Crossing as the land was owned by Halvor Lee. The Chicago and North Western Railroad crossed the highway here and established a flag stop. About 1888 Philip Larsen (born Norway 1834) built a small grocery store, and the name was changed to Larsen. The Larsen, WI post office opened 1898 with Lars C. Nelson first postmaster, and it is still in operation.



Doane handstamp (type 3, no. 2) "LARSEN, WIS. JUL 13 1907" as receiving postmark on postcard from Oshkosh, WI. 1¢ for domestic postcards from 1 Jul 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

Holmsville, WI, 1915-1927

Holmsville, Strongs Prairie Twp., Adams Co., WI. Christian C. Holm, recently arrived from Norway, laid out the community of Holmsville. The post office opened 1915 with Leon Gross postmaster. Name-change to Dellwood 1927, converted to rural branch 1966 and later to a CPO.



4-bar handstamp "HOLMSVILLE, WIS. FEB 10 1916" on letter to Wonevok, WI. 1¢ for domestic postcards from 1 Jul 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

On to Iowa

By 1839 Hans Barlien and William Tesman chose land in Lee Co., Iowa Territory. The migration of settlers from Norway to the so-called Sugar Creek settlement followed. 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. In the 1850s the number of Norwegians coming to Iowa increased dramatically.

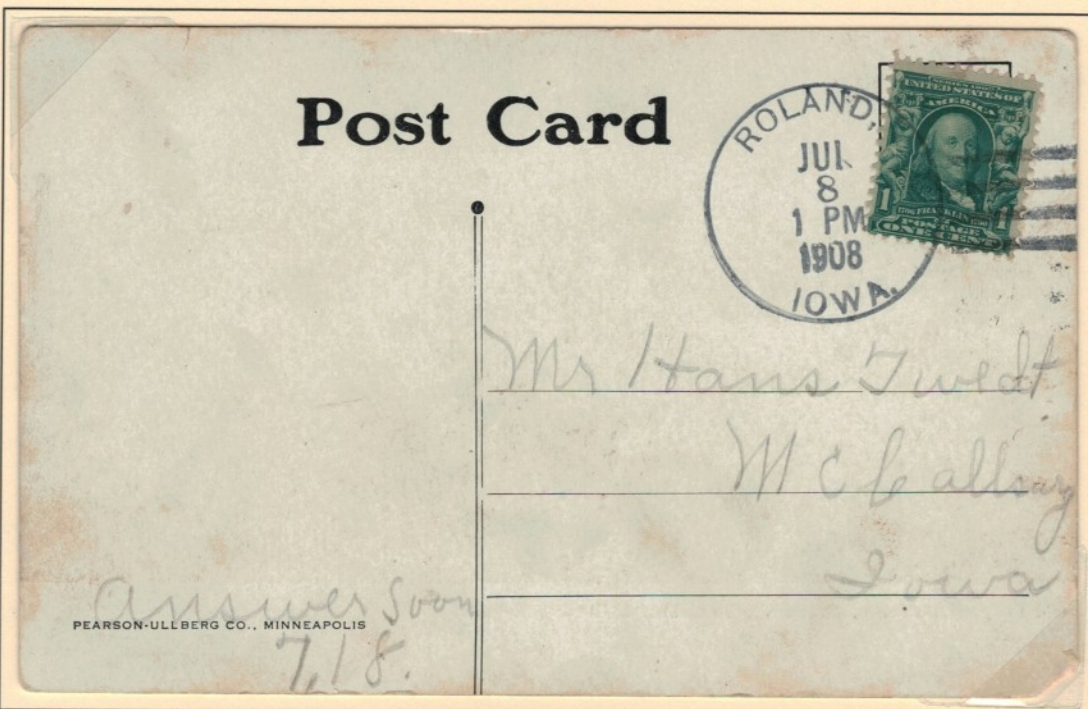
Saint Ansgar, IA, 1855-date

St. Ansgar is a city in Mitchell Co., IA., named for the patron saint of Scandinavia and the site of a pioneer Norwegian Lutheran Church founded 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. The population was 1,107 at the 2010 census. The St. Ansgar, IA post office opened 1855 and it is still in operation.

"SAINT ANSGAR, IOWA FEB 14 1912" duplex cancel on postcard to Monroe Center, IL. 1¢ for domestic postcards 1 Jul 1898 - 1 Nov 1917.



Roland, IA, 1870-date



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

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

Saint Olaf is a city in Clayton Co., IA. St. Olaf was founded in 1872, and incorporated 1900 as a town. It was named by Norwegian settlers for Olaf II Haraldson (995-1030), later known as St. Olaf, King of Norway 1015-30 who consolidated the kingdom and aided the establishment of Christianity. He is the patron saint of Norway. The Saint Olaf, IA post office opened 1874 with Henry H. Storm first postmaster and is still in operation. The population was 108 at the 2010 census.



Doane handstamp (type 3, no. 4) "SAINT OLAF, IOWA. SEP 20 1910" on postcard to Portland, OR.
2¢ per ounce for domestic letters 1 July 1885 to 1 Nov 1917.

Sheldahl, IA, 1874-date

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



Circular datestamp "SHELD AHL, IOA. JAN 12 1884" and target killer on letter to Earlville, IL.
2¢ per ½ oz for domestic letters 1 Oct 1883 to 30 June 1885.

Quandahl is a ghost town in Waterloo Twp., Allamakee Co., IA. Nels J. and Julia Quandahl arrived in the early 1870s; 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 24 July 1877, temporarily closed 31 Aug to 18 Sep 1877, and closed in 1906, superseded by rural delivery from Worcester. The entire village was auctioned in 1966.



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

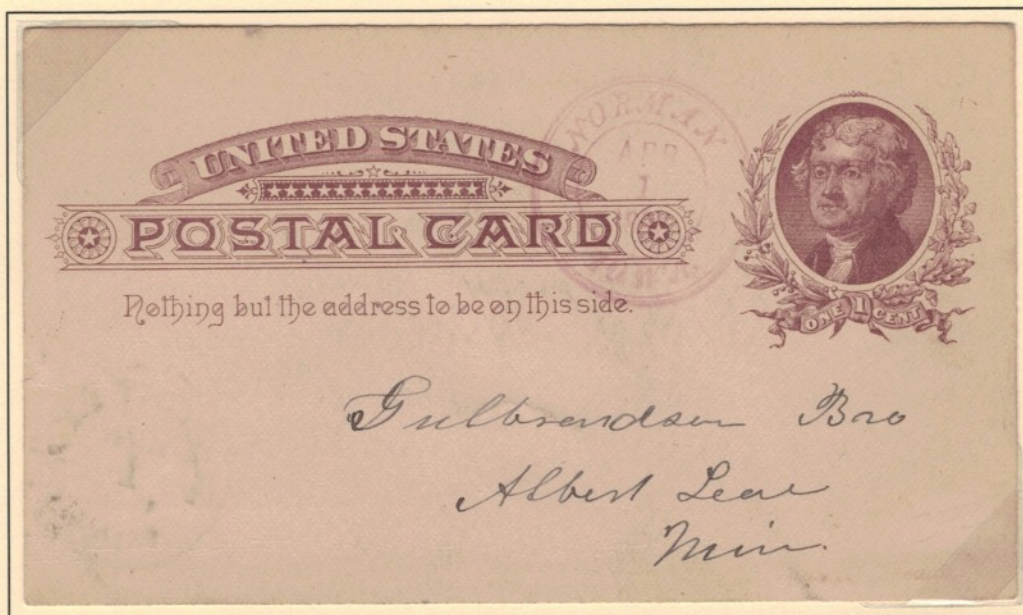
Saude, IA, 1877-1915

In 1854, a Norwegian settlement had been established in Utica Twp., Chickasaw Co., IA, 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 opened 1877 and closed 1915, superseded by rural delivery from Lowler.



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

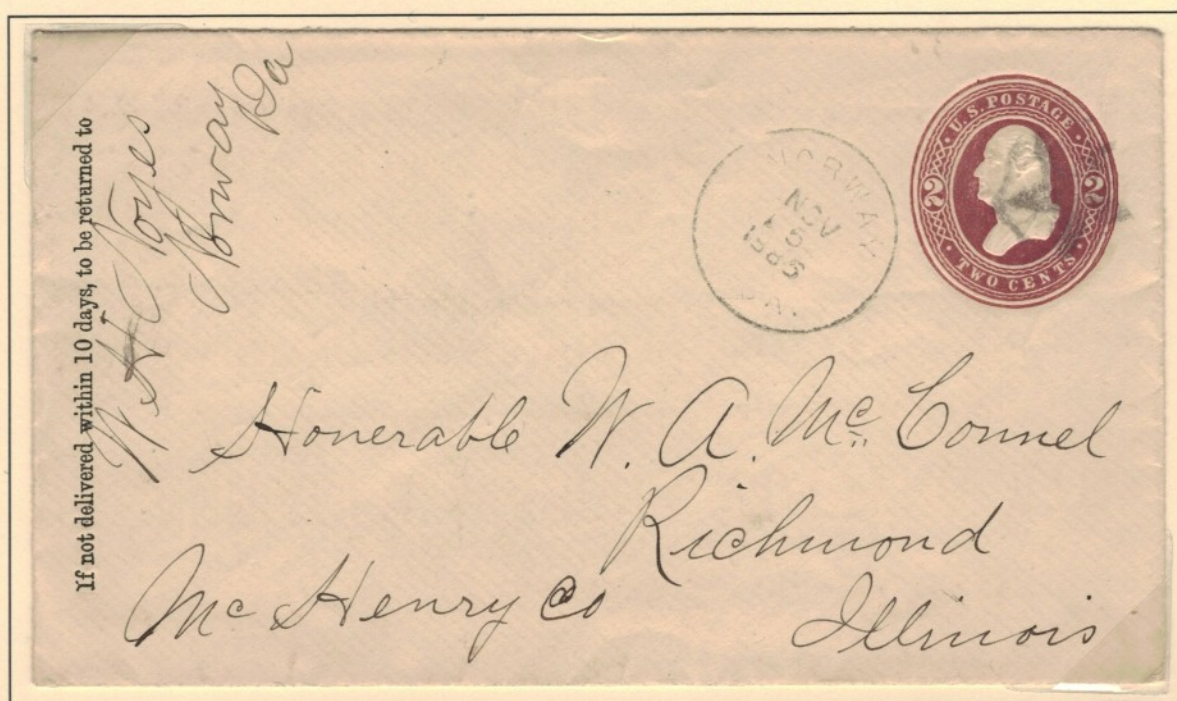
Norman, Norway Twp., Winnebago Co., IA, a small Norwegian community and named for its township. The post office opened 1880 with Ole Scar as postmaster. Scarville, IA further west in this township was named for him. The post office closed 1914, superseded by rural delivery from Emmons.



Two-ring datestamp "NORMAN, IOWA APR 1 1886" on postal card to Albert Lea, MN.
1¢ for domestic postal cards 12 May 1873 to 1 Nov 1917.

Norway, IA, 1880-date

Norway is a city in Benton Co., IA. Norway was platted 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 post office opened 1863 as Florence, changed name 1880 to Norway with Byron B. McQuinn as postmaster, and it is still in operation. The population was 545 at the 2010 census.



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

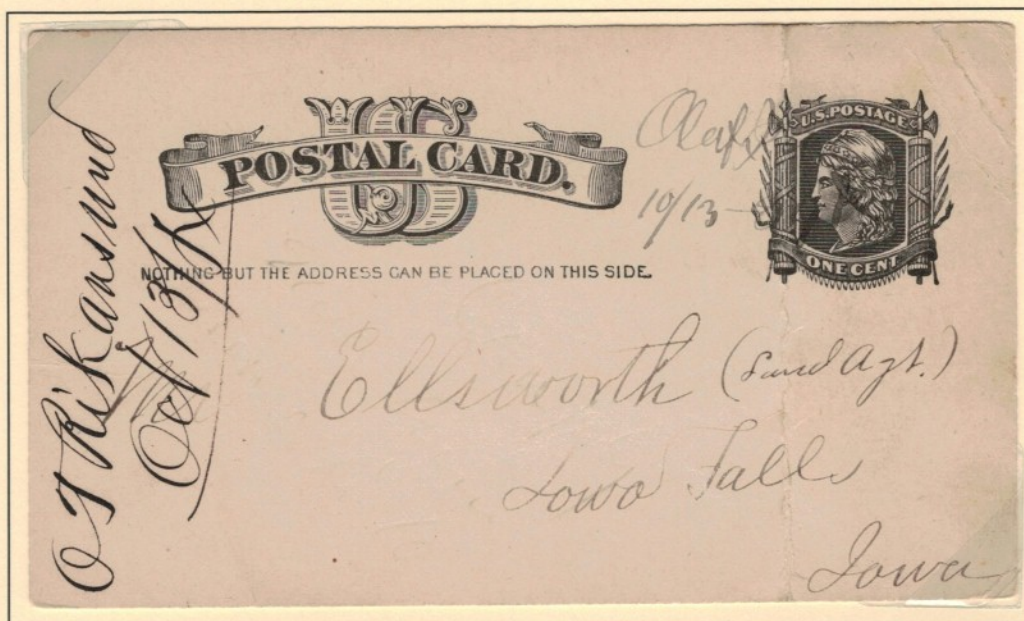
Thor is a city in Humboldt Co., IA. The farming community was originally built up chiefly by Scandinavian immigrants. Settlement of the township started 1869 with the filing of a claim by Ole Willicksen, who was a native of Stavanger, Norway. It was named after the deity Thor in Old Norse mythology. The post office was established as Verbeck 1880 with Stewart Olson postmaster, he was born in Norway. Name-change to Thor was reported 1882, and it is still in operation. The population was 186 at the 2010 census.



Duplex handstamp "THOR IOWA MAR 13 1913" on postcard to Dolliver, IA.
1¢ for domestic postcards 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

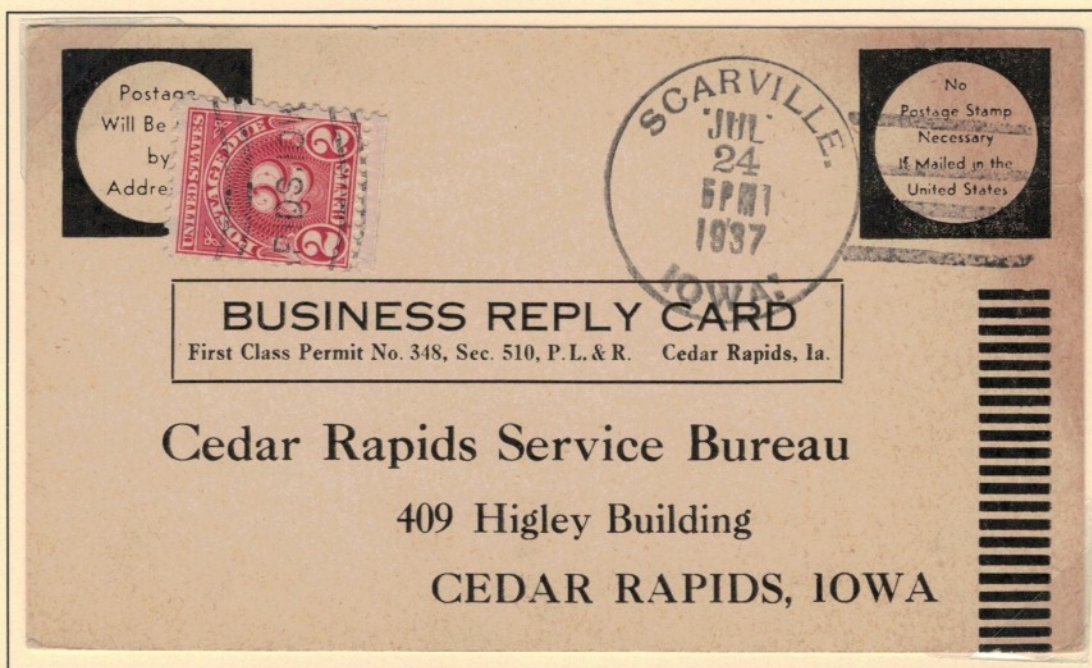
Olaf, IA, 1883-1902 and 1903-1911

Olaf was a community in Wright Co., IA. 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. Re-established 14 months later, in 1903, with Michael Niemeyer postmaster, and it finally closed 1911, superseded by rural delivery from Belmond.



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

Scarville is a city in Winnebago Co., IA. Scarville was platted in 1899 and incorporated as a city in 1904. It was named for Ole Skar, a local landowner, he was from Sør-Aurdal, Norway and came to the USA 1866. The Scarville, IA post office opened 1899 with Thomas J. Folken as postmaster, and it is still in operation. The population was 72 at the 2010 census.



4-bar handstamp "SCARVILLE, IOWA. JUL 24 1937" on business reply card to Cedar Rapids, IA.
2¢ postage due paid by addressee; double the 1¢ rate for domestic postcards 15 April 1925 to 31 Dec 1951.

Scandia, IA, 1910-1918

Scandia was a Rural Station under Madrid p.o., in Boone Co., IA, established 1910. Scandia is both short for Scandinavia, and it has the same root as Skåne, Sweden. Skåne (Scania in English) has the same etymology as Scandinavia. The Madrid p.o. was established 1856 as Swede Point and renamed Madrid in 1882. The Carpenter brothers owned Scandia Coal Company which operated several coal mines in the area. The rural station closed 1918.



4-bar handstamp "MADRID (SCANDIA RURAL STA.), IOWA. DEC 27 1912" on postcard to McClelland, IA.
1¢ for domestic postcards 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. The first period was from 1850 to 1865, and the second period from 1866 to the mid-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..."

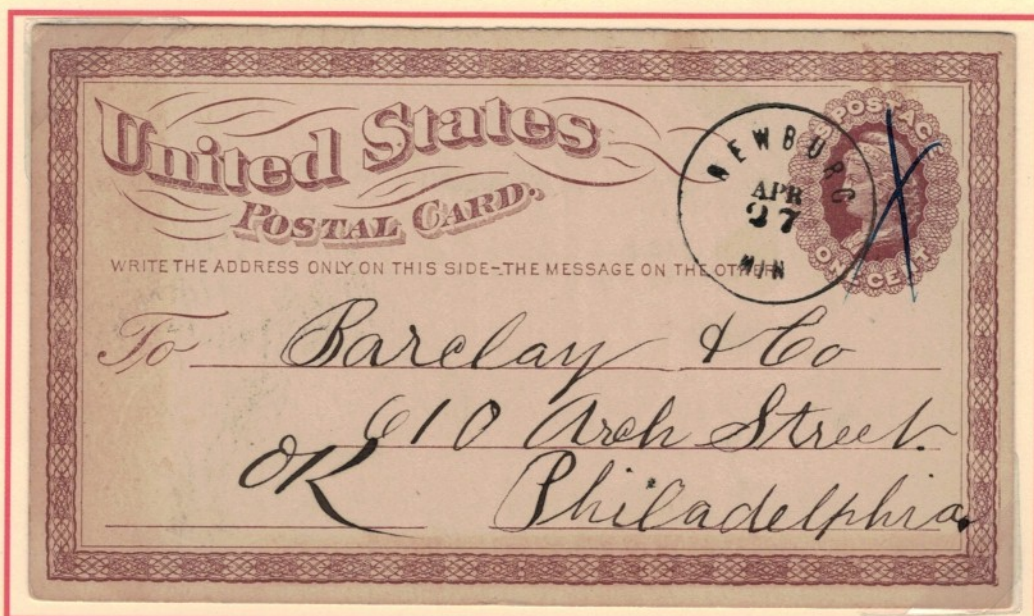
(quote from celebrated Swedish novelist Fredrika Bremer, who visited Minnesota 1850).

Minnesota is the state with by far the highest number of Norway-related post office names.

Newburg / Newburgh / Newburg, MN, 1855-1902

Newburg is a community and township in Fillmore Co., MN. Newburg was first settled 1851, founded and named 1853 by Hans Valder, a native of Norway, who with others came to this place from LaSalle Co., IL. The Newburg, MN post office was established 1855 with Hans Valder as postmaster, changed to Newburgh 1859 and back to Newburg 1895. Discontinued 1902, superseded by rural delivery from Mabel. As of the census of 2000, there were 444 people residing in the township.

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. 1¢ for domestic postal cards 12 May 1873 - 1 Nov 1917.

Peterson is a city in Rushford Twp., Fillmore Co., MN. Named for Peter Peterson Haslerud, who settled here 1853. He was born in Norway 1828, came to the US 1843 and died 1880. The first post office opened 1855, with Knud Peterson postmaster, transferred 1862 to Windom and closed 1865. The current post office opened 1870 with Even A. Hjelle postmaster, and it is still in operation. The population was 199 at the 2010 census.



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

Norway, MN, 1857-1902

Norway, a village and trading centre in Wanamingo Twp., Goodhue Co., MN. The post office opened 1857 with Ole Olson postmaster. Discontinued 1902 with mail to Kenyon. The site was never platted, and no trace of the community remains.



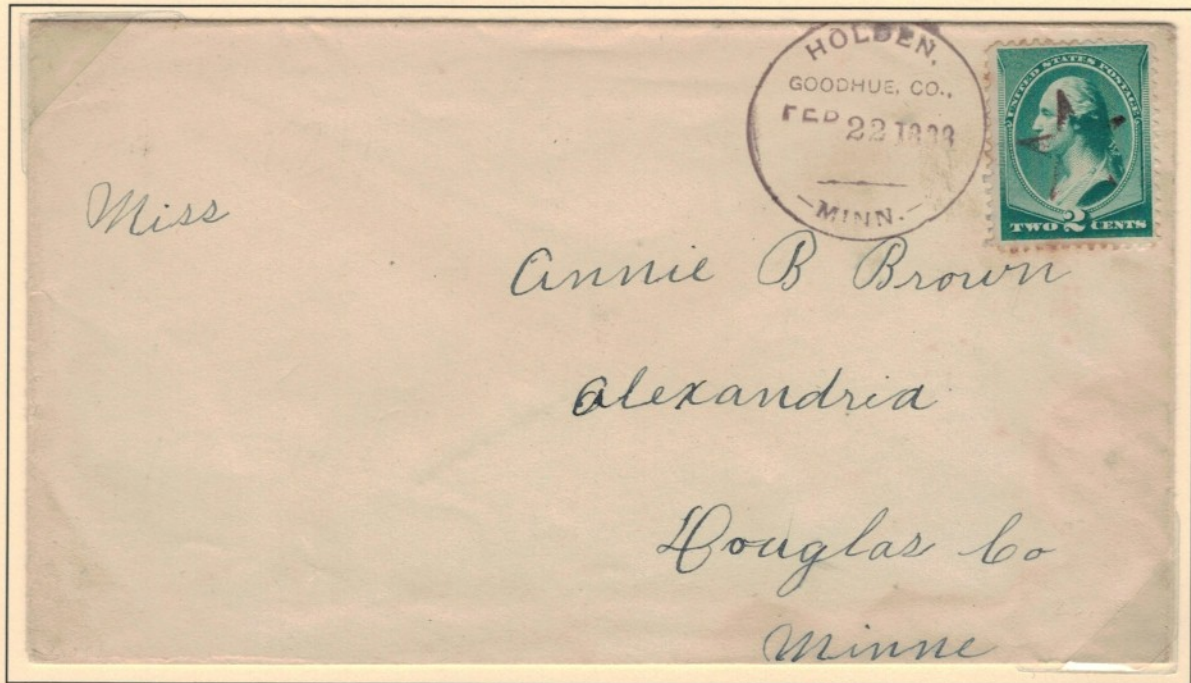
From one Norway to another in 1868

Datestamp "Norway, Minn. Nov 20" (1868) on cover to Wigerdal, Norway. New York '6' handstamp, carried by HAPAG Line Germania from New York Dec 1, to Hamburg arriving Dec 15, red boxed "HAMBURG 15 12 68 FRANCO" transit, red 2 ½ Sgr crayon, "STAVANGER 26 12 1868" transit. 1867 U.S. – North German Union Convention, direct mail rate 10¢ to Hamburg and 2 ½ Silbergroschen (6¢) transit to Norway, total 16¢ correct rate, valid from Jan 1, 1868 until the 1875 General Postal Union.

3 Minnesota opens up

Holden, MN, 1860 and 1867-1903

Holden is a township in Goodhue Co., MN, settled 1854-55, organized 1858 and named by Norwegian settlers. The first post office operated March to June 1860 on George Nichol's farm; the second post office began 1867 in Thomas E. Lajord's general store, closing 1903, superseded by R.D. from Nerstrand. The population was 457 in 2000.



Datestamp "HOLDEN, GOODHUE CO. -MINN.- FEB 22 1888" and fancy star killer on cover to Alexandria, MN.
Postage rate 2¢/oz for domestic letters 1 July 1885 to 1 Nov 1917.

Arendahl, MN, 1860-1905

Arendahl is a township in Fillmore Co., MN. First settled 1854 and named by its first postmaster Isaac Jackson, a Norwegian immigrant who had lived 12 years in Dane Co., WI, and came to this township 1856, the name being for the seaport city of Arendal on the southern coast of Norway. The Arendahl, MN post office operated from 1860 until closing 1905, superseded by R.D. from Rushford. The township population was 333 at the 2000 census.



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

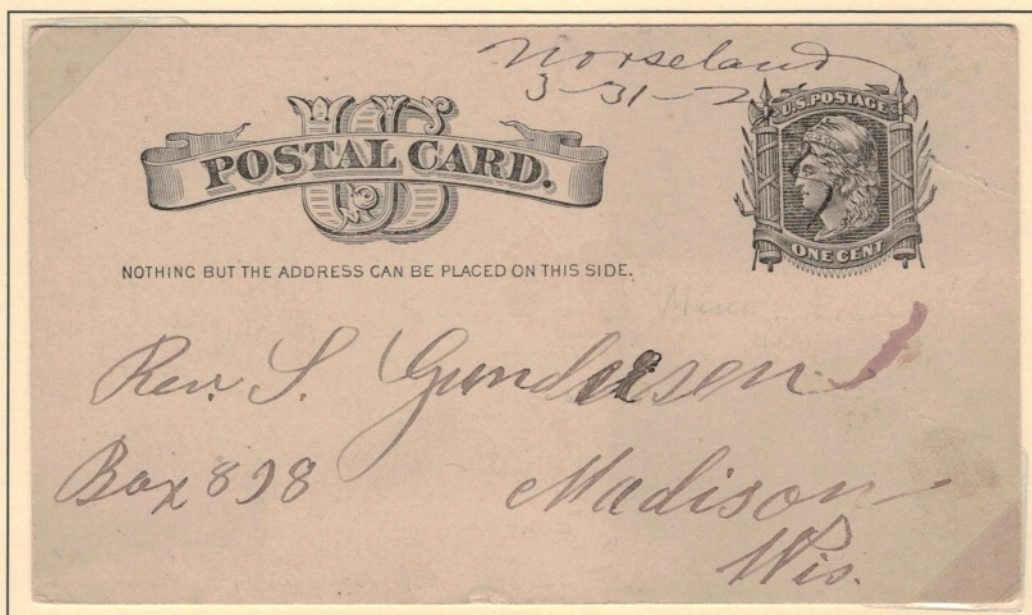
Bratsberg is a community in Norway Twp., Fillmore Co., MN. It bears the name of a district in southern Norway. The farming community began about 1859. The post office was established 1862 in Ole Johnson's shanty, later moving to the Bratsberg Store, with Ole Hendrickson postmaster; the post office changed to a rural station of Rushford 1907, closing 1909.



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

Norseland, MN, 1865-1905

Norseland is a community in Lake Prairie Twp., Nicollet Co., MN. Norwegian immigrants gave it name. It was first organized 1854 when a small Methodist congregation came to the area. In 1858 a Norwegian Lutheran church was formed, and a community developed with stores, a creamery, and a post office which operated from 1865 until superseded 1905 by rural delivery from Saint Peter.



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

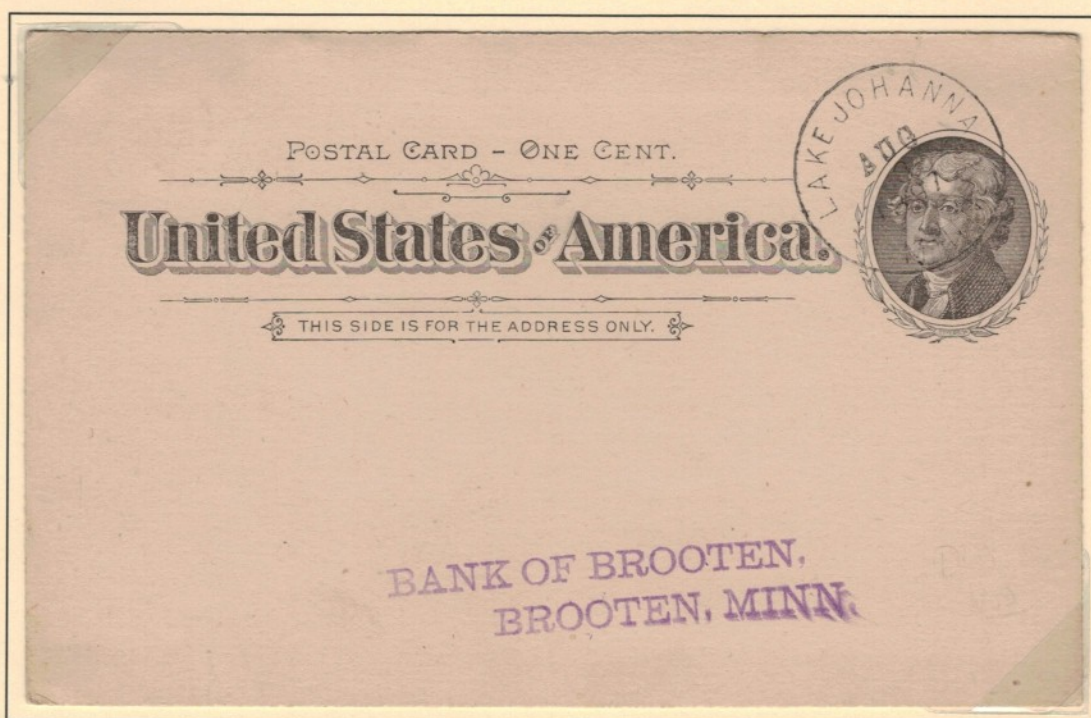
Norway Lake is a township in Monongalia Co., MN and transferred to Kandiyohi Co. in 1871. The township was organized 1866 and named for its lake. A large share of the early settlers near the lake being natives of Norway caused the name to be selected. The Norway Lake, MN post office was established 1867 and discontinued 1914, superseded by rural delivery from New London. The township population was 284 at the 2000 census.



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. 3¢ per ½ ounce for domestic letters 1 July 1863 - 30 Sep 1883, 10¢ reg. fee 1 July 1875 - 31 Dec 1892.

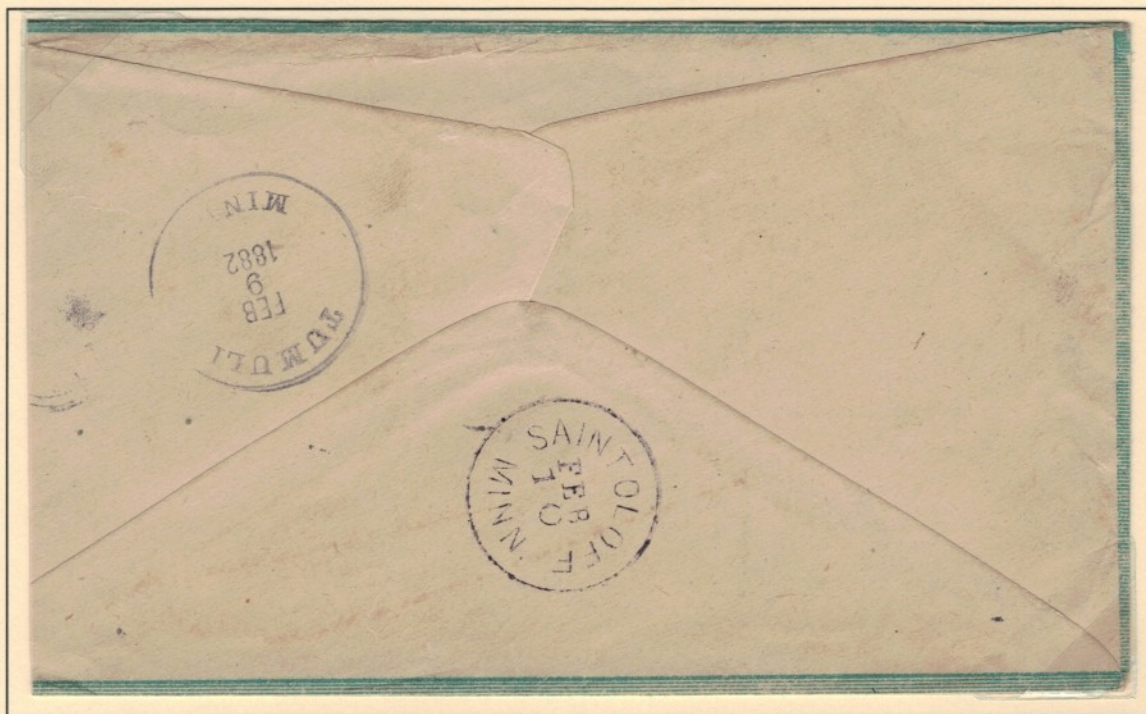
Lake Johanna, MN, 1868-1903

Lake Johanna, township in Pope Co., MN was named by Norwegian settlers. The post office was established 1868 and discontinued 1903 with mail to Brooten.



Cds "LAKE JOHANNA AUG 3 1897" on postal card to Brooten, MN. 1¢ for domestic postal cards from 12 May 1873 to 1 Nov 1917.

St. Olaf is a township in Otter Tail Co., MN. It was at first called Oxford, but was renamed 1870 in honor of Olaf II Haraldsson (995-1030), later known as Saint Olaf, King of Norway 1015-30 who consolidated the kingdom and aided the establishment of Christianity. He is the patron saint of Norway. The post office opened as Saint Oloff 1870 with John Baardson as postmaster, spelling changed 1894 to Saint Olaf (see below).



Circular datestamp "SAINT OLOFF MINN. FEB 10" (1882) as receiving postmark on cover from Portland, ME to St. Olaf, MN. 1¢/2oz for domestic printed matter 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, and it closed 1904, superseded by rural delivery from Dalton. The township population was 332 at the 2000 census. See above for the origin of the name.



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

Tordenskjold is a township in Otter Tail Co., MN. The name is after Vice-Admiral Peter Wessel Tordenskjold, born in Trondheim, Norway, a Danish-Norwegian naval hero during the Great Northern War. The Tordenskjold, MN post office opened 1870 with Helmer A. Hoff (b. Norway 1838) as postmaster. Superseded 1904 by rural delivery from Dalton. The township population was 550 at the 2000 census.



Manuscript "Tordenskjold Dec 13 Minn." on uprated postal envelope to Norway.

5¢ for single weight foreign first class letters 1 July 1875 to 31 Oct 1953.

Unknown year, probably late 1870's: the envelope was issued 1874 and the stamps in 1873.

Sunburgh / Sunburg, MN, 1871-date

Sunburg is a city in Norway Lake Twp., Kandiyohi Co., MN. The post office was established 1871 as Sunburgh with Ole Eliason as postmaster, changing 1894 to the present form. The name was suggested by John Sandvigen, a rural mail carrier, firstly for a locality in Norway, secondly for a strait between two lakes near postmaster Ole Eliason's home, "sund" meaning "strait" in Norwegian. The post office is still in operation.



Cds "SUNBURGH MINN. JAN 4 1889" and target killer on cover to Sand Creek, WI.

2¢/oz for domestic letters 1 July 1885 to 1 Nov 1917.

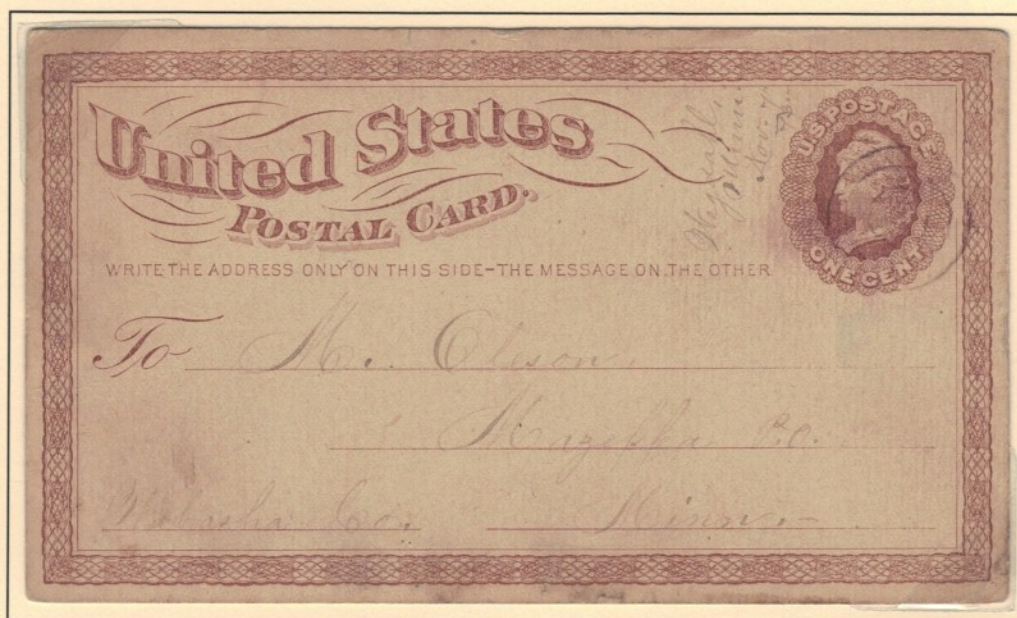
Langhei is a township in Pope Co., MN. Langhei is a Norwegian name roughly translating to “long highland”, a name which fits well with the landscape in the area. The Langhei, MN post office opened 1871 with Gunder Thoraldson first postmaster, and closed 1904, superseded by rural delivery from Starbuck. The township population was 217 at the 2000 census.



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

Wegdahl, MN, 1871-1957

Wegdahl is a community in Chippewa Co., MN. The village began as Myers for the Myers Creamery but changed to Wegdahl when the post office was established 1871 at postmaster Hemming Arntzen Weghdahl’s general store, where it remained until discontinued 1957, becoming a rural station of Montevideo until 1959. Hemming Wegdahl was born in Stjördal, Norway and came 1867 to the United States.



Manuscript “Wegdahl, Minn. Nov. 7 73.” and target killer on postal card to Mazeppa, MN. The message is written in Norwegian. 1¢ for domestic postal cards 12 May 1873 to 1 Nov 1917.

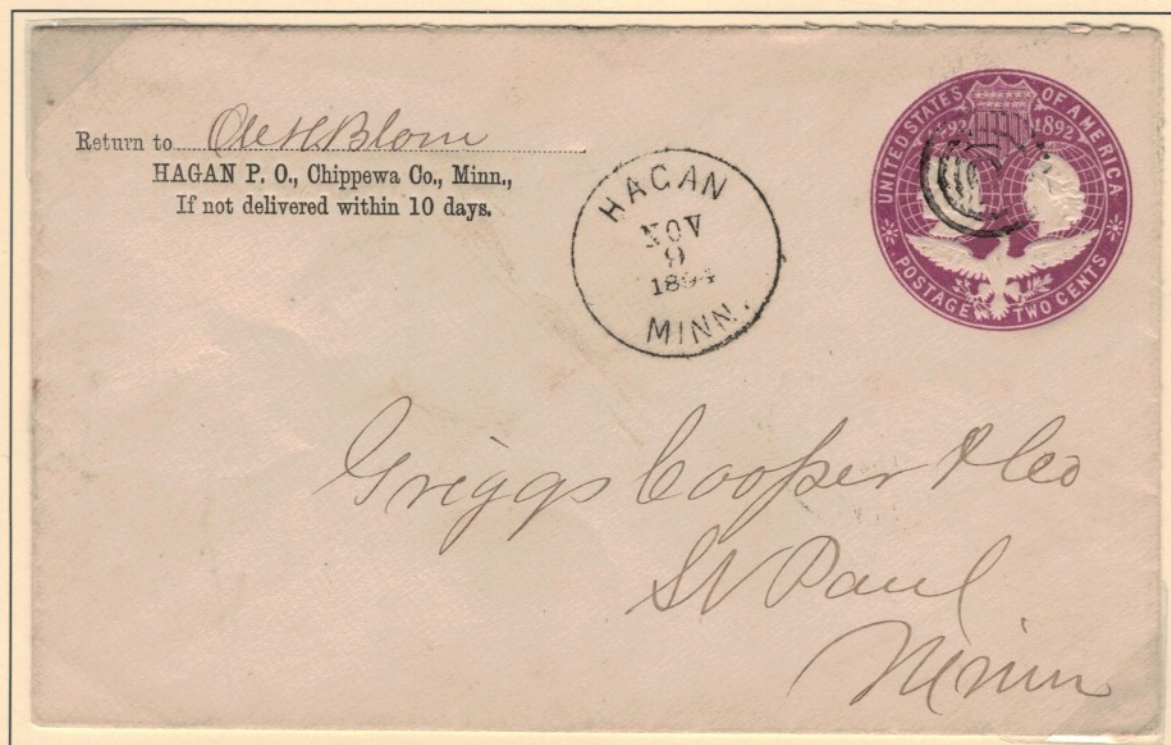
Aspelund was a farming village in Wanamingo Twp., Goodhue Co., MN, founded by veterinarian and first postmaster Dr. Christian Hveem, its post office operating from 1872. The name given is the Norwegian designation for the grove of aspen or poplar trees near to the village. Dr. Hveem was born 1835 in Norway. Aspelund had a station of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad. The post office was superseded 1905 by rural delivery from Kenyon.



Blue circular datestamp "ASPELUND, MINNESOTA SEP 30 1891" and gridiron killer on letter to Ada, MN. The letter text is written in Norwegian. 2¢/oz for domestic letters 1 July 1885 to 1 Nov 1917.

Hagan, MN, 1872-1907

Hagan, settlement in Big Bend Twp., Chippewa Co., MN. Hagan was first settled 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. 2¢/oz for domestic letters 1 July 1885 to 1 Nov 1917.

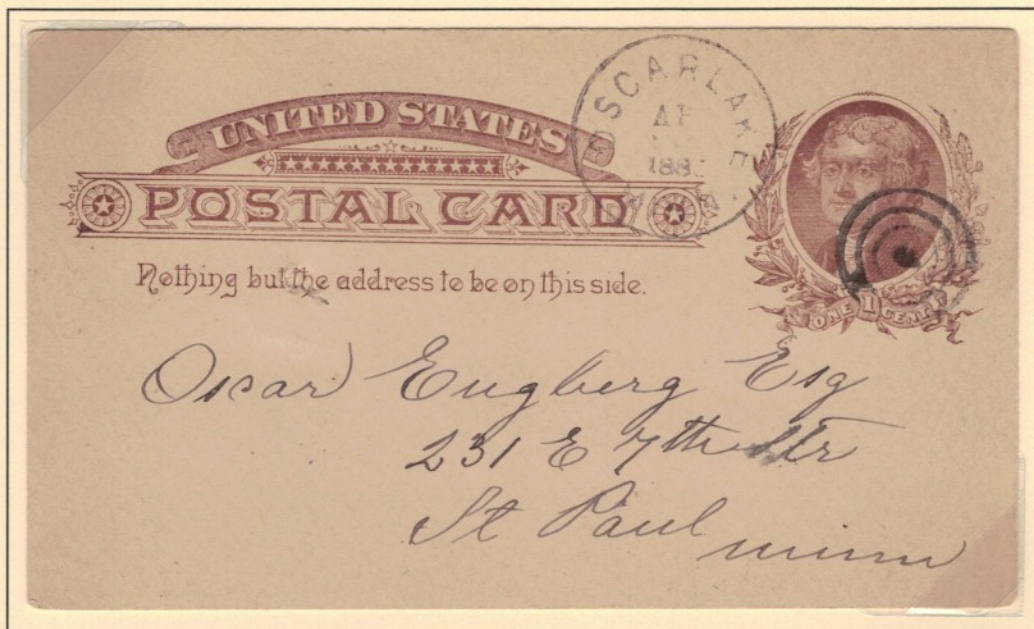
First known locally as Pumpa, so designated by early Norwegian settlers because of the railroad water pump, and then called Upper Yellow Medicine Crossing for its location. It was platted 1876 as Nordland village by the Winona and St. Peter Railroad; located in Eidsvold Twp. When the post office was established 1878 it was given the name Norland (Nordland is also seen), with railroad section boss Harvey D. Frink, postmaster, at his homestead store. Name-change to Minneota 1878 and the post office is still in operation.



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

Oscar Lake, MN, 1874-1887

Oscar Lake was a post office in Holmes City Twp., Douglas Co., MN. It was named for Oscar I, the king of Norway and Sweden from 1844 to 1859. The Oscar Lake post office operated from 1874. Discontinued 1887 with mail to Farwell.



Datestamp "OSCAR LAKE MINN. AP 23 1886" and target killer on postal card to St. Paul, MN.
1¢ for domestic postal cards 12 May 1873 to 1 Nov 1917.

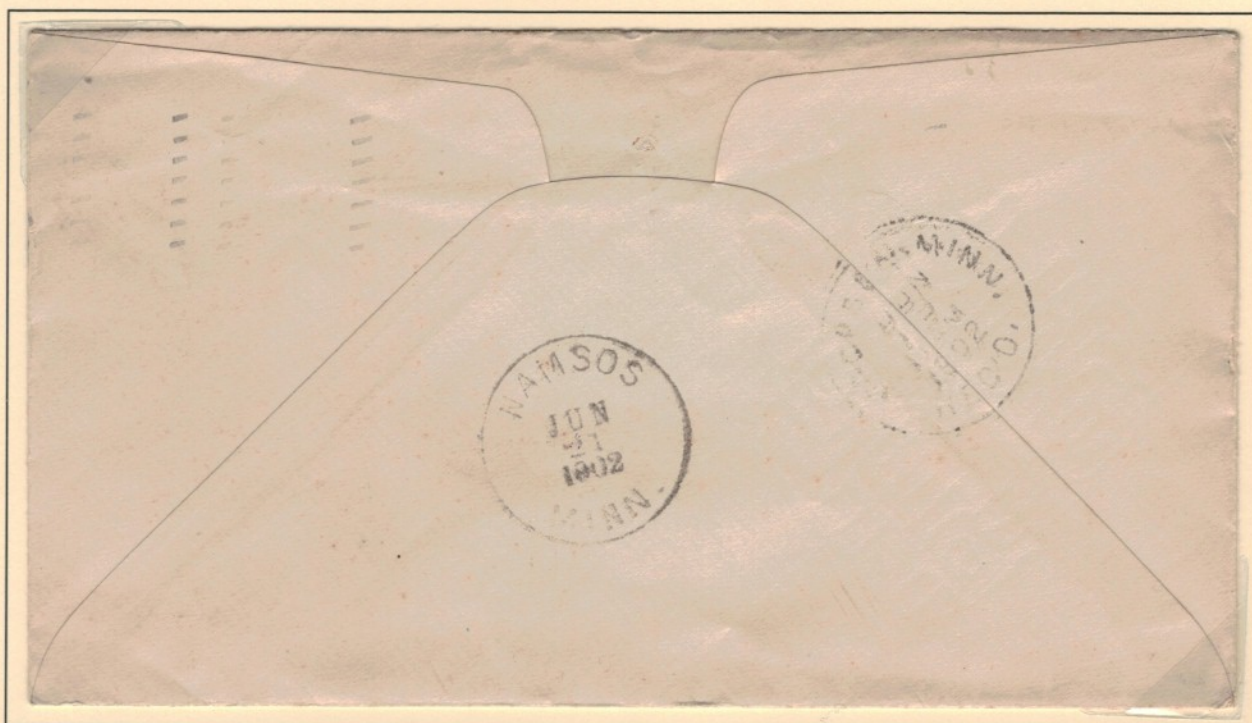
Eidsvold was a farmers' post office in Holden Twp., Goodhue Co., MN, named for Eidsvoll, Norway where the Constitution of Norway was signed 1814. It was established 1875 with Hans Christensen as postmaster, and closed 1888 with mail to Norway, MN.



Datestamp "EIDSVOLD MINN. MAY 10" and pen lines on registered uprated postal envelope to Chicago, IL. 3¢ per ½ ounce for domestic letters plus 10¢ registry, total 19¢ for weight 1-1½ ounces from 1 July 1875 to 30 Sep 1883. The left 3¢ stamp is folded over the cover top edge.

Namsos, MN, 1875-1904

Namsos, a village in Kimball Twp., Jackson Co., MN. It is named for the town of Namsos in Trøndelag, Norway. The Namsos, MN post office was established 1875 with Carl Frovarts as postmaster. Namsos was a station of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad. The post office closed 1904, superseded by rural delivery from Alpha.

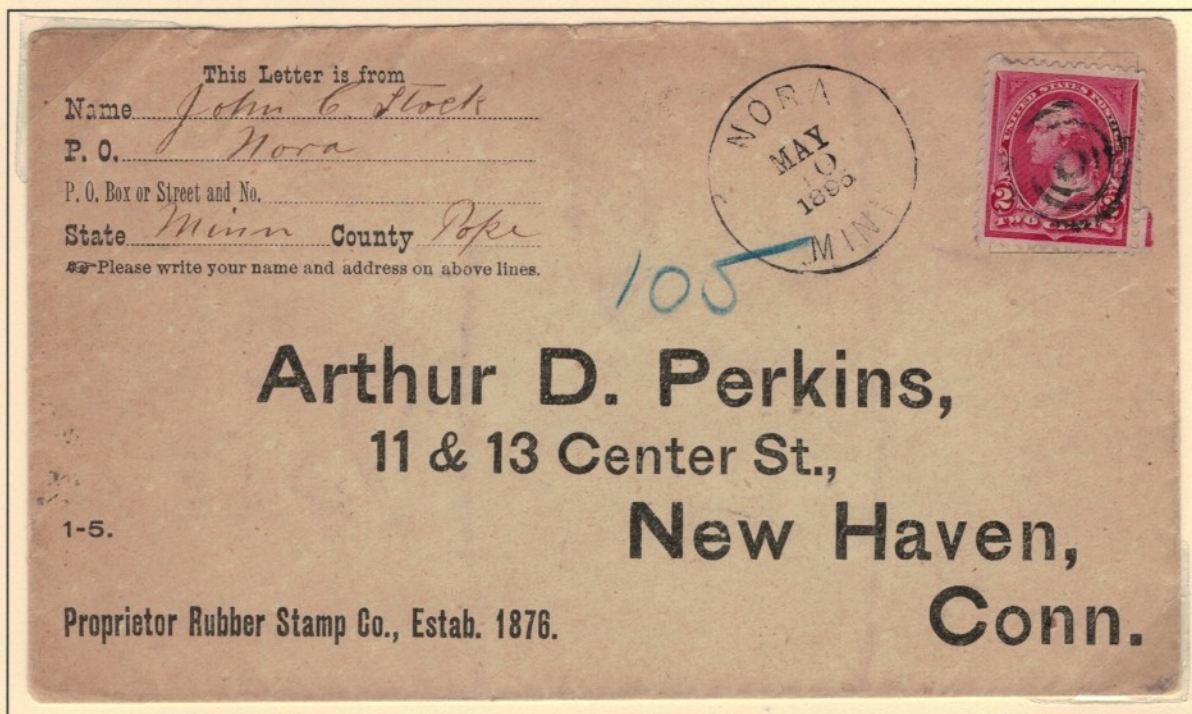


Circular datestamp "NAMSOS MINN, JUN 21 1902" as receiving postmark on 1c postal envelope from St. Paul, MN. 1¢ per 2 ounces for domestic third-class mail 1 May 1879 to 15 April 1925.

Nora is a township in Pope Co., MN. The name Nora is reputed to have been derived from Norway, the native country of many of its settlers.

The Nora, MN post office was established 1876 with Frederick Calmeyer as postmaster.

Discontinued 1903 and superseded by rural delivery from Farwell.



Cds. "NORA MINN. MAY 10 1895" and target killer on letter to New Haven, CT.
2¢/oz for domestic letters 1 Jul 1885 to 1 Nov 1917.

Urness, MN, 1877-1904

Urness is a township in Douglas Co., MN, 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 village of Urness had two stores, a creamery, and the Good Templers Hall; the post office opened 1877 in the postmaster's home. It closed 1904, superseded by rural delivery from Brandon. The population was 266 in 2000.



Circular datestamp "URNES MINN. OCT 17" (1893) and target killer on letter to Beverley, MA.
2¢/oz for domestic letters 1 July 1885 to 1 Nov 1917.

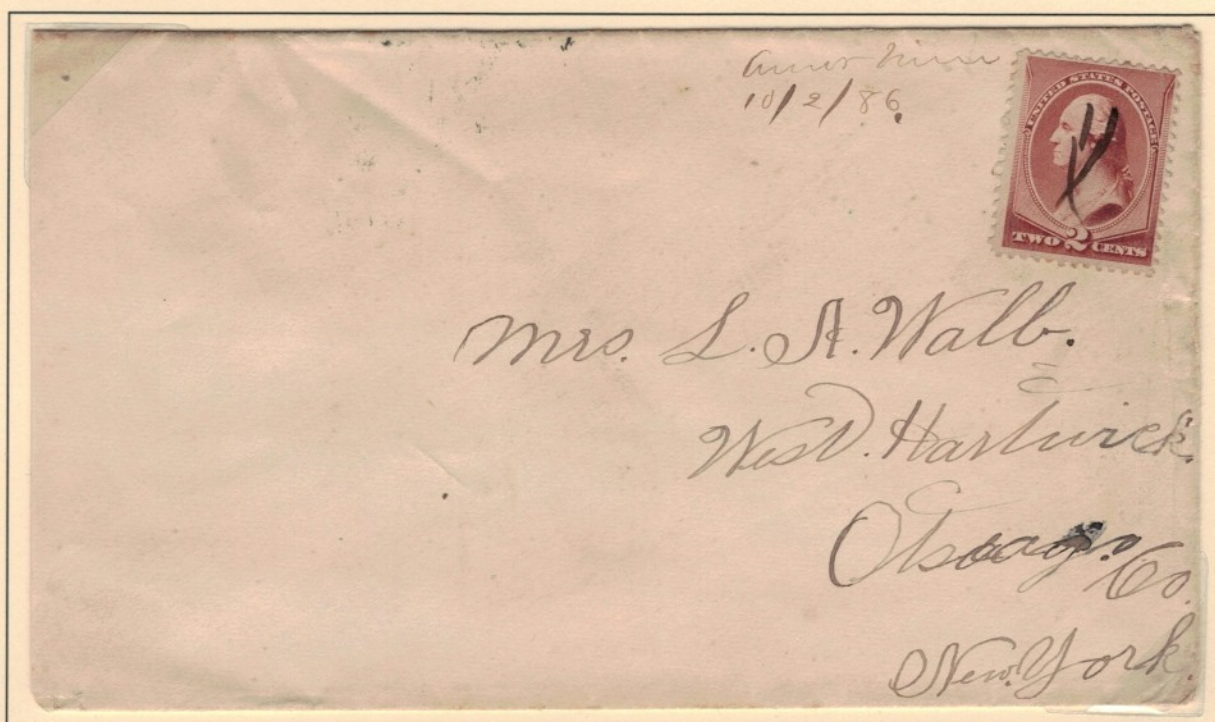
Nerstrand is a city in Wheeling Twp., Rice Co., MN, settled in 1855, named by Osmund Osmundson who was born in Norway 1826, came to the United States 1850 and to Nerstrand 1856, built a store 1877, and in 1883 he platted the town, which was incorporated 1897, naming it after his home of Nedstrand in Tysvær, Norway. Osmundson served as a County commissioner and in the legislature, 1872-73, and died 1914. The post office began 1877 with Augén H. Brokke as postmaster in his store. It is still in operation. The population was 295 at the 2010 census.



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

Amor, MN, 1878-1906

Amor is a township in Otter Tail Co., MN. 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 post office was established 1878 and closed 1906, superseded by rural delivery from Battle Lake.



Manuscript "Amor, Minn. 10 / 2 / 86" on letter to West Hartwick, NY. 2¢/oz for domestic letters 1 July 1885 to 1 Nov 1917.

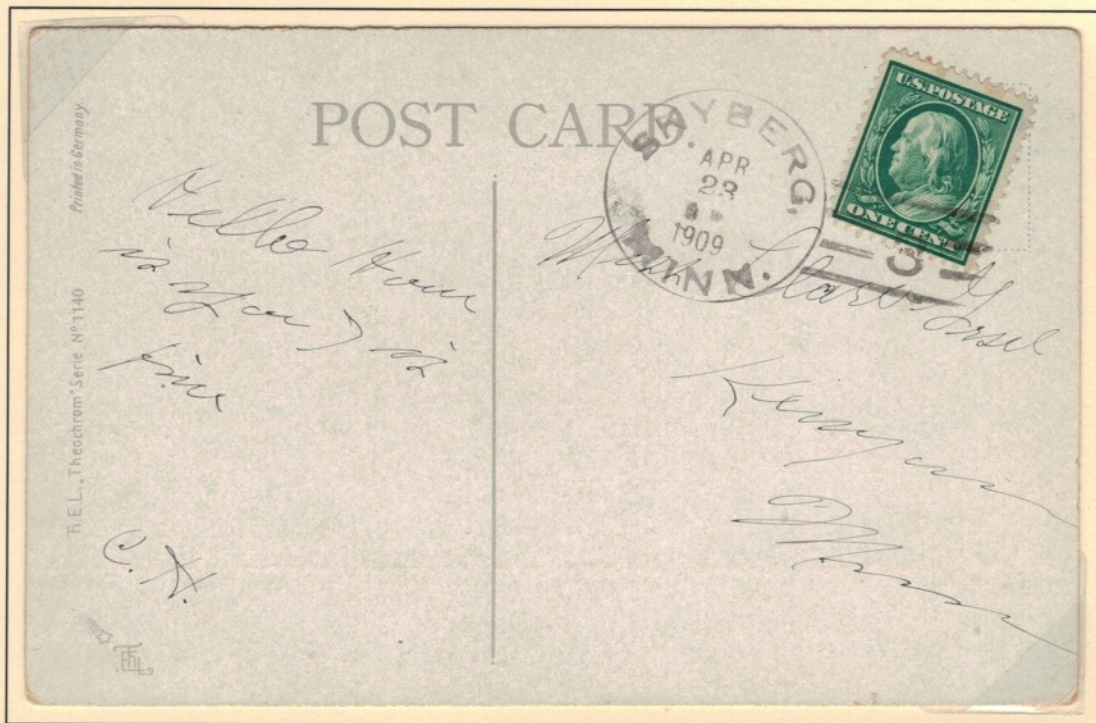
3 Minnesota opens up

Skyberg, MN, 1879-1951

Skyberg is a community in Goodhue Co., MN, named for Simon O. Skyberg, a Norwegian immigrant, who with Dr. Ole Abelson opened a general store in 1877, Abelson being first postmaster at the store when the post office opened 1879. Skyberg had a station of the Chicago Great Western Railroad from 1885. The community diminished after the 1920s and the post office was discontinued 1951 with mail to Kenyon.

Doane handstamp (type 3, no. 3) "SKYBERG MINN. APR 23 1909" on postcard to Kenyon, MN.

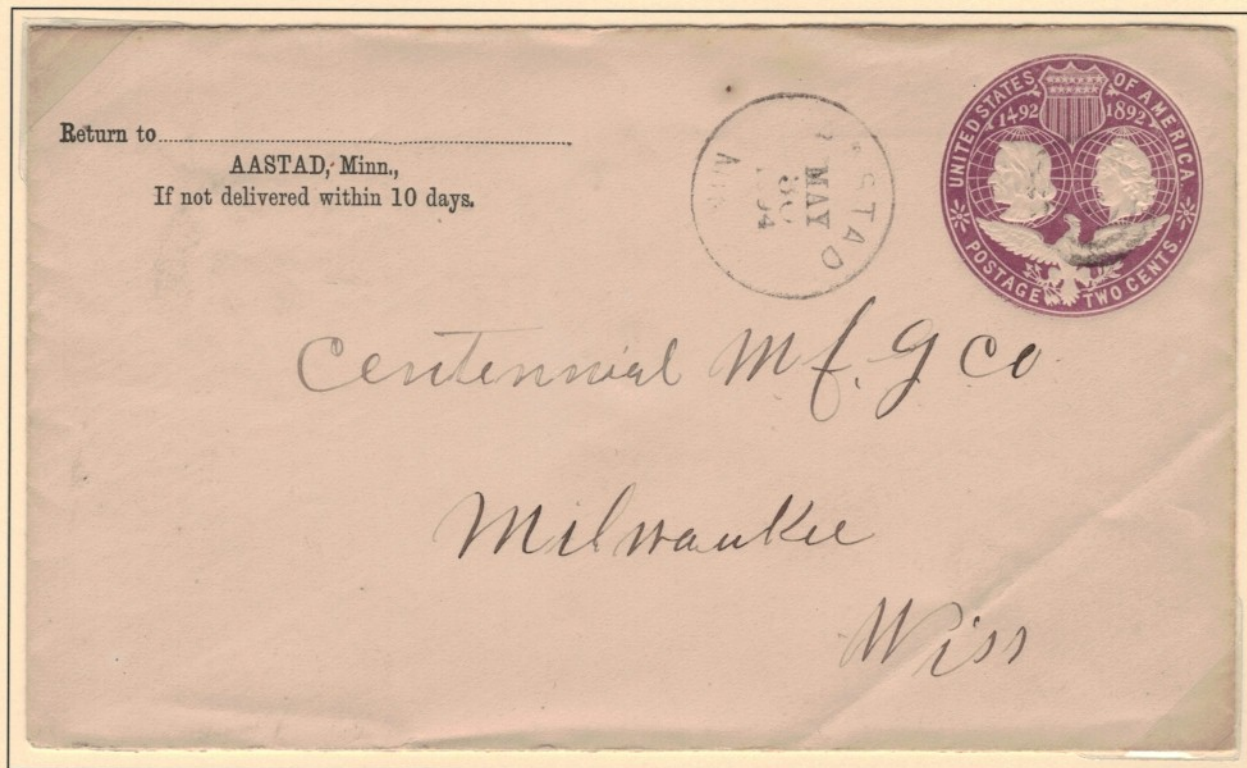
1¢ for domestic postcards
1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.



Aastad, MN, 1880-1881 and 1881-1905

Aastad, a village and township across county lines in Otter Tail Co. / Grant Co., MN, named for settler and blacksmith Guttorm 'Gilbert' Aastad, b. 1826 at Aastad, Vestre Slidre, Norway. The first Aastad, MN post office opened 1880 in Otter Tail Co., with Knudt D. Erickson postmaster, and changed name and moved to Lillemon in Grant Co. 1881.

The second Aastad, MN post office opened 1881, same place as the first p.o., again with storeowner Knudt D. Erickson postmaster, and closed 1905 with mail to Fergus Falls.



Circular datestamp "AASTAD MINN. MAY 30 1894" and target killer on postal envelope to Milwaukee, WI.
2c/oz for domestic letters 1 July 1885 to 1 Nov 1917.

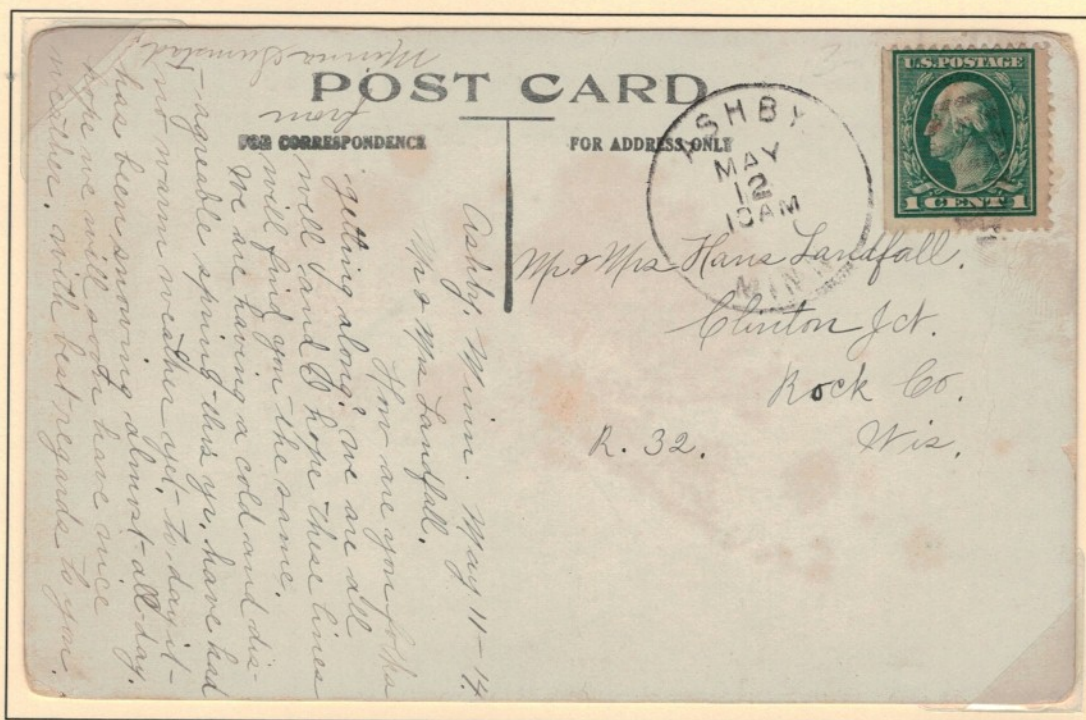
Rollag is a community in Clay Co., MN. It is named for Rollag municipality in Numedal, Norway. The Rollag, MN post office opened 1880 with Christopher Nelson first postmaster and it closed 1929 with mail to Hawley.



Cds "ROLLAG MINN. MAY 30 1895" and gridiron killer on postal card to St. Paul, MN.
1¢ for domestic postal cards 12 May 1873 to 1 Nov 1917.

Ashby, MN, 1880-date

Ashby is a city in Grant Co., MN. Ashby was platted in 1879, and named for Gunder Ash, an early Norwegian settler who lived east of the village site. The village was developed on land owned by Simon Larson; the post office began operating in 1880 with Knute H. Melby first postmaster and it is still in operation. Ashby R.F.D. was established 1904. The population was 446 at the 2010 census.



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

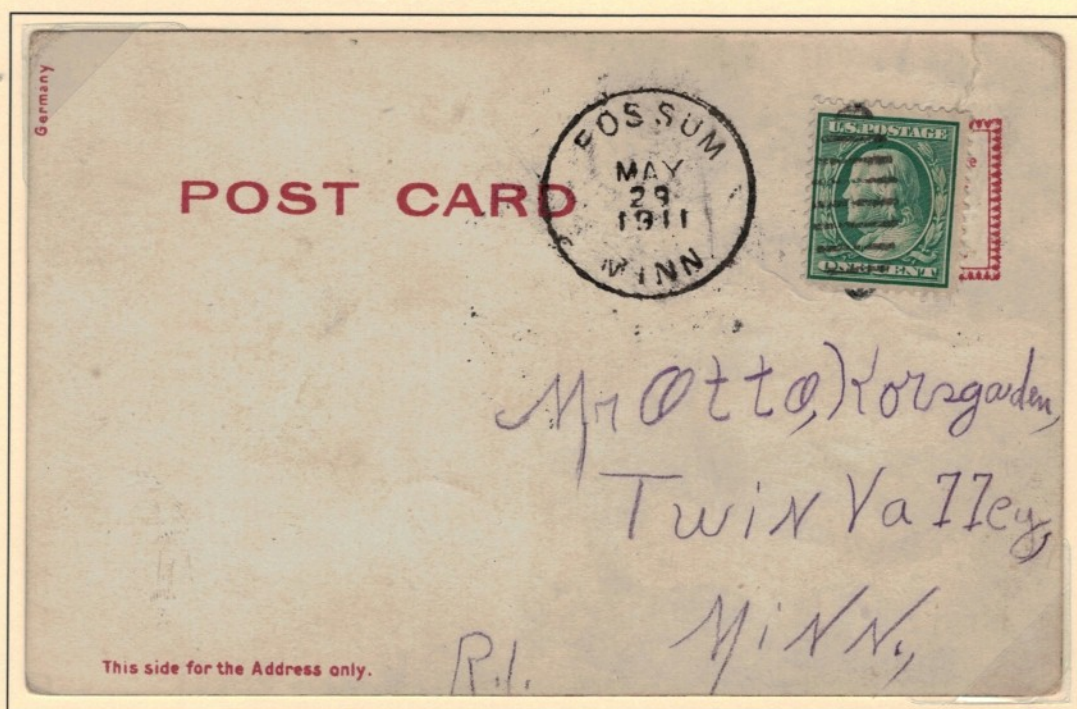
Rindal, a post office in Garden Twp., Polk Co., MN, named for Ole Rindal from Fåberg, Norway. The Rindal, MN post office opened 1882 with Bent Anderson first postmaster, and it closed 1905, superseded by rural delivery from Fertile. Spelling Rindahl was possibly also used.



Cds "RINDAL MINN. JAN 21 1888" and target killer on registered cover to Red Lake Falls, MN. 2¢/oz domestic letter rate and 10¢ registry, 1 July 1885 to 30 Sep 1907.

Fossum, MN, 1882-1911

Fossum is a township in Norman Co., MN. It was organized 1881, named after Fossum, in Southern Norway. The Postal Bulletin reported the name as Fossom, MN when it was established 1882, but it is uncertain if this ever was the correct spelling. Anton (Anthan) Johnson was its first postmaster, the post office was first located in his general store, the first building on the site. Closed 1911, superseded by rural delivery from Twin Valley. Population 187 in 2000.



Duplex handstamp "FOSSUM MINN. MAY 29 1911" on postcard to Twin Valley, MN. 1¢ for domestic postcards 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

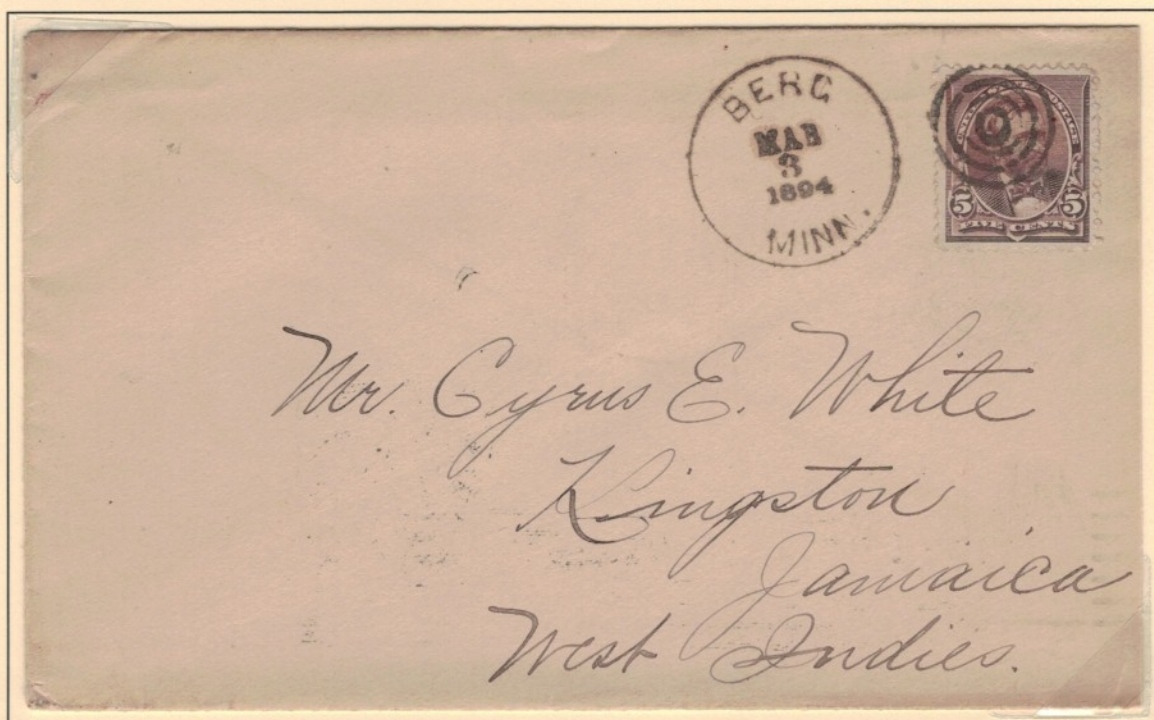
Steen is a city in Clinton Twp., Rock Co., MN. Steen was platted in 1888 and named for brothers John P. Steen and Ole P. Steen, Norwegian homesteaders who gave land for the townsite. The community was settled primarily by German immigrants; it was called Virginia for a number of years, a name given to its railway station. Its post office was established as Steen in 1888, with Christian Clemmetson first postmaster in his furniture store. Closed 2011.



Duplex handstamp "STEEN, MINN. MAR 5 1912" on postcard to Wellsburg, IA.
1¢ for domestic postcards 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

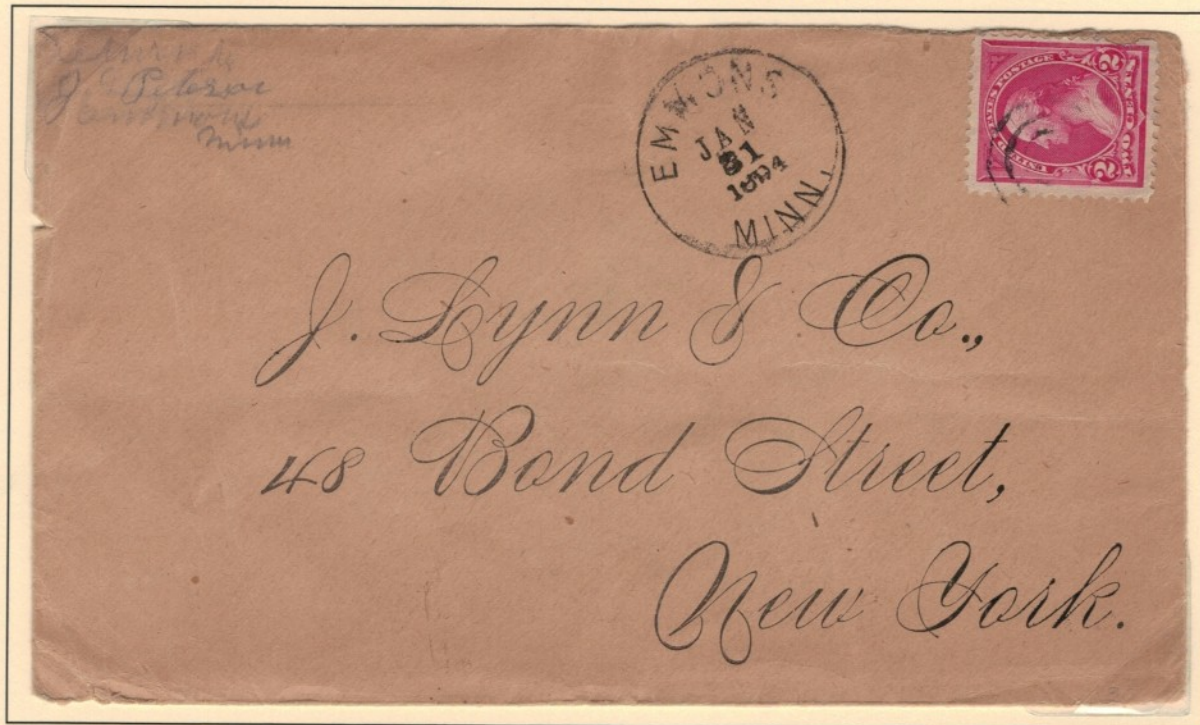
Berg, MN, 1888-2011

Berg, post office in Webster Twp., Rice Co., MN, established 1889 with Carl Hendrickson postmaster, on land originally owned by a settler named Berg, who opened a general store on his farm. Several brothers Berg took homestead in Webster Twp. and the post office was named for one or more of these: Peder, Lars, Ole, Daniel, Johannes, all sons of Ole Larsen Rotneberget from Grue, Hedmark, Norway. Discontinued 1901, superseded by rural delivery from Northfield.



Cds "BERG MINN. MAR 3 1894" and target killer on cover to Jamaica.
5c per ½oz for foreign first-class letters 1 July 1892 to 30 Sep 1907.

Emmons is a city in Nunda Twp., Freeborn Co., MN. Emmons was named for Henry G. Emmons who settled here 1856. He was born 1828 in Eggedal, Buskerud, Norway and came 1850 to the United States. Emmons is an Americanization of his Norwegian family name Aamen. In 1880 his sons started a store on the present site of the village. The village had a station of the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad. The Emmons, MN post office opened 1889 with George H. Emmons first postmaster and it is still in operation. The population was 391 in the 2010 census.



Circular datestamp "EMMONS MINN. JAN 31 1894" and target killer on letter to New York, NY.
2¢/oz for domestic letters 1 July 1885 to 1 Nov 1917.

Viking, MN, 1890-date

Viking is a city in Marshall Co., MN, named after the Norse Vikings by Rev. Hans P. Hansen, a Norwegian Lutheran pastor in Warren, MN. The Viking, MN post office opened 1890 with Tobias Hanson postmaster and it is still in operation. The community developed with the railroad; there were three elevators and several small businesses. Population 104 in 2010.



4-bar handstamp "VIKING, MINN. SEP 26 1910" on postcard to Waldorf, MN.
1¢ for domestic postcards 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

Kalmer, a country post office in Shelly Twp., Norman Co., MN, established 1891 with John K. Ueland as postmaster. It was named for Kalmer Ueland, the postmaster's nephew. The Ueland (Ualand) name is from Lund, Rogaland, Norway. Discontinued 1900 with mail to Shelly.



Circular datestamp "KALMER MINN. APR 14 1894" on postal envelope to Chicago, IL.
2¢/oz for domestic first-class letters 1 July 1885 to 1 Nov 1917.

Vineland, MN, 1891-1921

Vineland is a community in Mille Lacs Co., MN. The community was named for the early Norse settlement of Vinland. The Vineland, MN post office opened 1891 with David H. Robbins first postmaster. Name-change to Wigwam Bay from 1921 and discontinued 1929. The population was 1,001 at the 2010 census.



4-bar handstamp "VINELAND, MINN. DEC 24 1919" on postcard sent locally.
1¢ for domestic postcards 1 July 1919 to 14 April 1925.

Syre is a community in Home Lake Twp., Norman Co., MN. It was named for homesteader Swen Syre, born 1834 in Norway as Sven Sire. The Syre, MN post office opened 1891 with Carl Berg first postmaster. The site also had a general store, an elevator, a creamery, a lumberyard, and a station of the Northern Pacific Railroad. The post office closed 1936 with mail to Twin Valley.



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

Lerdal, MN, 1892-1903

Lerdal was a village in Riceland Twp., Freeborn Co., MN. The community was named for the place of origin of first postmaster Jens O. Share, from Skjær, Lærdal, Norway. The Lerdal, MN post office opened 1892 and closed 1908, superseded by rural delivery from Hayward.



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

Flak, village in Maple Grove Twp., Crow Wing Co., MN. The community was named for first postmaster Peter Alberts, born 1849 as Peder Lorntsen Flak, Klinga near Namsos, Norway. The Flak, MN post office was established 1894 and closed 1926 with mail to Brainerd.



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

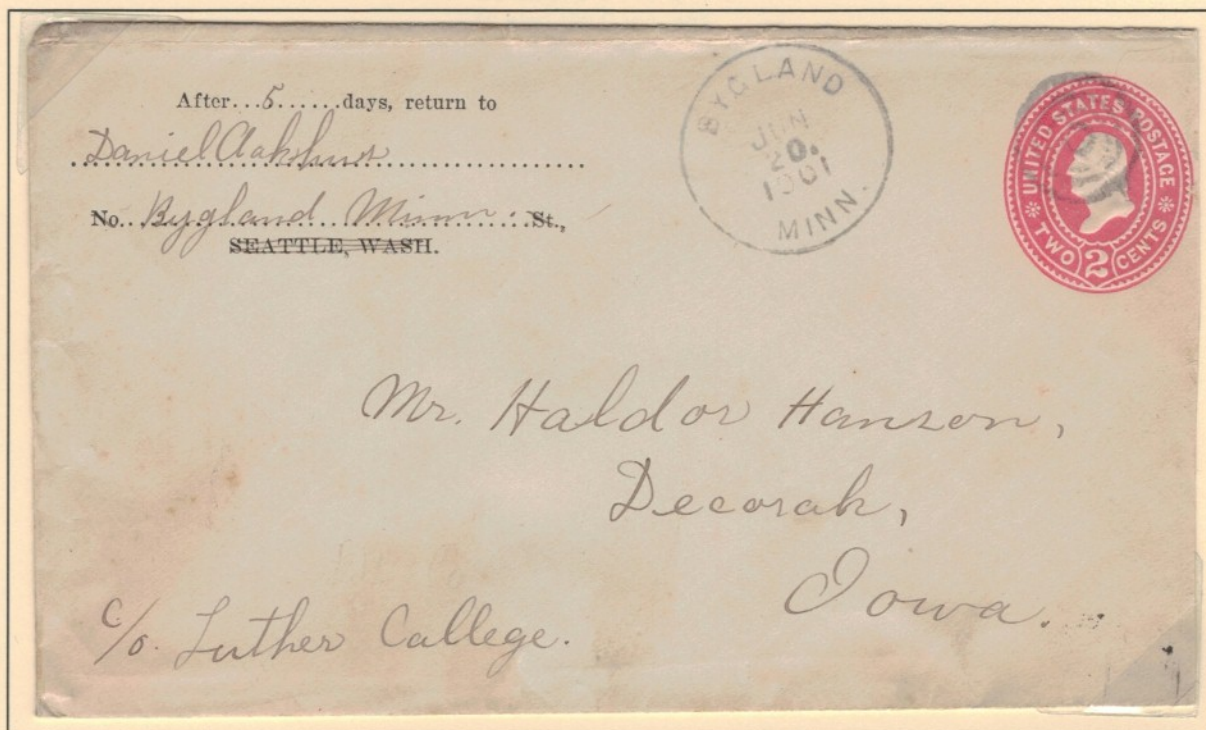
Solem, MN, 1895-1898

Solem, township in Nicollet Co., MN, settled 1866 and established as a township 1870. The township takes its name from Soleim, Naustdal, Førde, Sogn & Fjordane, from where many of the pioneers came. The post office opened 1895 with Bertel Karstad as postmaster. Closed 1898 with mail to Brighton.



Circular datestamp "SOLEM MINN. APR 3 1897" on uprated registered postal envelope to Minneapolis, MN.
2¢/oz domestic letter rate and 8¢ registry from 1 Jan 1893 to 31 Oct 1907.

Bygland village and township in Polk Co., MN. It was organized 1877, named for a village in southern Norway, from where several of its pioneer settlers came. The village was established when Sveinung K. Flaatt built the Bygland Store in 1897. Flaatt was born 1871 in Norway, came to the United States 1889, and died 1953. The post office operated from 1897 with Flaatt first postmaster. Closed 1906, superseded by rural delivery from Fisher.



Cds "BYGLAND, MINN. JUN 20 1901" and target killer on cover to Decorah, IA.
2¢/oz for domestic letters 1 July 1885 to 1 Nov 1917.

Espetvet, MN, 1897-1910

Espetvet was a post office in Chester Twp., Polk Co., MN. Espetveit is a Norwegian farm name. The post office opened 1897 and was located in Espetvet Store & PO, with James H. Espetvet p.m. It closed 1910 with mail to Griebrok.



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

3 Minnesota opens up

Inger, MN, 1912-1955

Inger, township in Itasca Co., MN, named for a pioneer settler's Norwegian grandmother. The Inger, MN p.o. opened 1912 with William J. Gibbs as postmaster. Replaced 1954 by a rural station under Deer River post office only to be closed 1955.



4-bar handstamp "INGER, MINN. JUN 8 1953" on postcard to Sterling, IL.
2¢ for domestic postcards
1 Jan 1952 to 31 July 1958.

Oklee, MN, 1912-date

Oklee is a city in Lambert Twp., Red Lake Co., MN. 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 Soo Line came in 1909, and the townsite was platted by Tri-State Land Company, who purchased the land from Lee that year. The Oklee, MN post office opened 1912 with Louis Doucet postmaster, and it is still in operation. The population was 435 at the 2010 census.



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

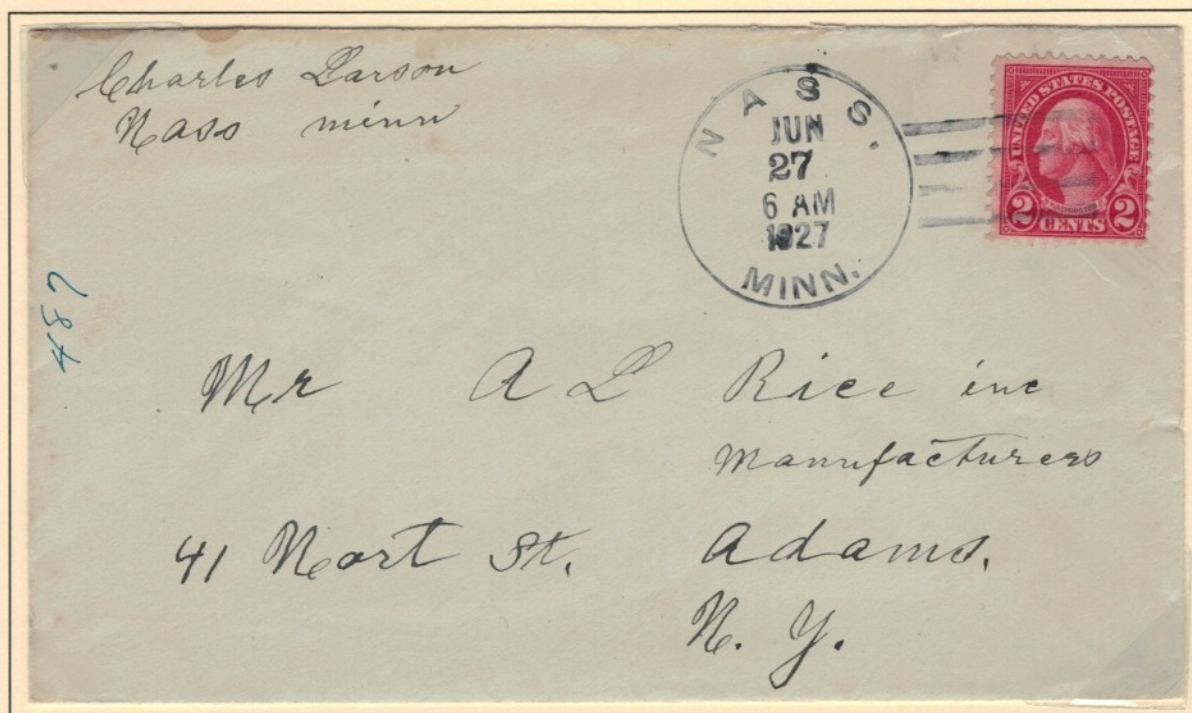
Conrad, post office in America Twp., Roseau Co., MN, established 1913 with Mary Anderson, wife of Conrad Anderson, postmaster. It was named for Conrad Anderson, born in North Dakota to Norwegian father and mother born in Iowa to Norwegian immigrant parents. Discontinued 1934 with mail to Salol.



4-bar handstamp "CONRAD, MINN. MAY 23 1932" on registered uprated postal envelope to Yerkes, PA. 2¢/oz for domestic letters and 15¢ registry, 15 Apr 1925 to 5 Jul 1932.

Nass, MN, 1913-1938

Nass, a post office in Carpenter Twp., Itasca Co., MN, established 1908 as Celina in St. Louis Co., and moved and changed name 1913 to Nass when John Gilbertson was postmaster (b. 1880 Arnafjord, Sogn, Norway). It was named for Nese which is a village in Arnafjord in Vik Municipality in Vestland county, Norway. Nass, MN is spelled Ness in various literature, but the post office was probably Nass all the time. Discontinued 1938 with mail to Togo.



4-bar handstamp "NASS, MINN. JUN 27 1927" on cover to Adams, NY. 2¢/oz for domestic letters 1 Jul 1919 to 5 Jul 1932.

Homesteading in the Dakotas

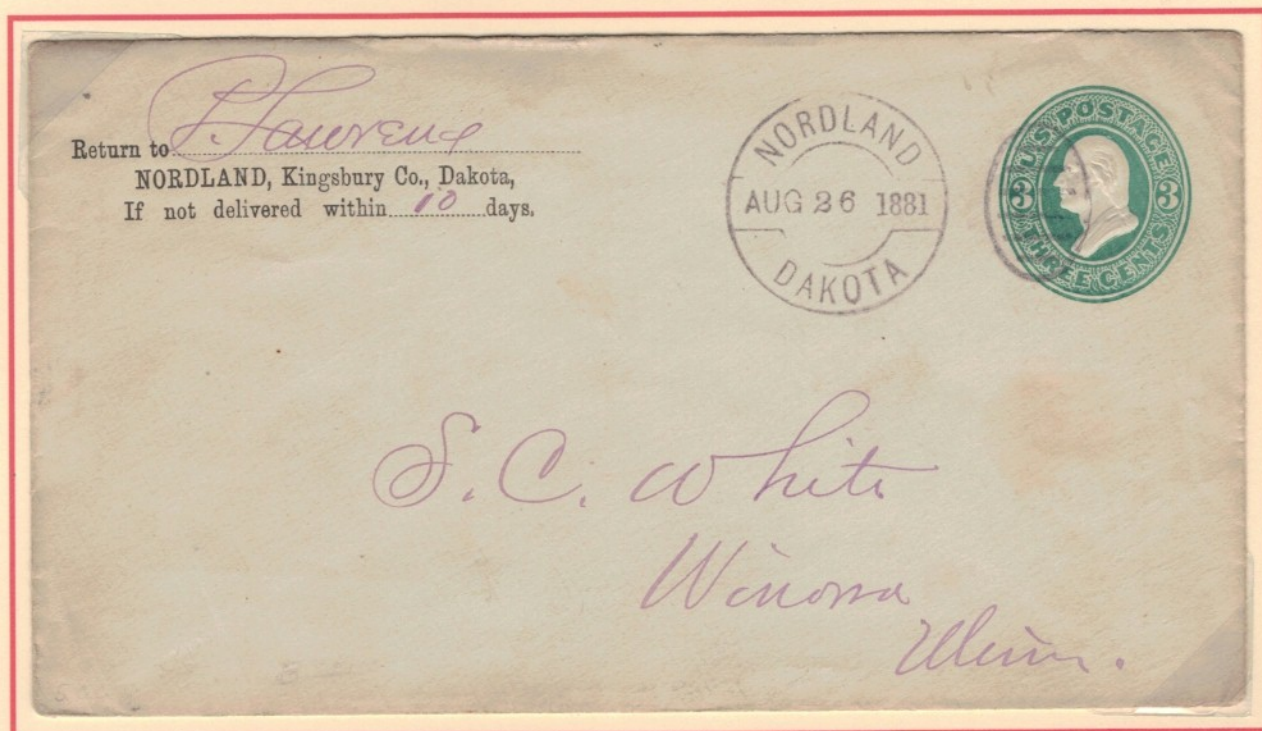
South Dakota

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.

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.

Nordland, SD, 1880-1884

Nordland, post office in Kingsbury Co., SD. Established 1880 with Philip Lawrence as postmaster. It was called Nordland because most of the early residents were from Scandinavia. Name-change to Denver 1884, to Arlington 1885 and it is still in operation.



Duplex postmark "NORDLAND DAKOTA AUG 26 1881" on letter to Winona, MN.

3¢ per ½ oz 1 July 1863 to 30 Sep 1883.

Ola is a community in Brule Co., SD. When a post office was to be established, Mrs. Cyrus H. Clark suggested that it be called Ola, because there were so many Norwegians and Swedes with this name in the settlement. The Ola, SD post office was established 1881 with Cyrus H. Clark first postmaster. It closed 1917 with mail to Bijou Hills. Population 13 in 2010.



Doane handstamp (type 2, no. 1) "OLA, S.DAK. MAY 25 1911" on postcard to Holbrook, NE.
1¢ for domestic postcards 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

Brandt, SD, 1887-date

Brandt is a town in Deuel Co., SD, named for Realf Ottesen Brandt (1859-1927) an American Lutheran minister who was born in Rock River, WI, both parents being immigrants from Norway. His father came from Løken, Slidre and his mother from Sande, Vestfold. The Brandt, SD post office opened 1887 with Andrew Helgeson postmaster and it is still in operation. The population peaked at 299 in 1920, down to 107 in 2010.



Duplex handstamp "BRANDT S.D. DEC 8 1908" on postcard to Norway.
2¢ for foreign postcards 1 July 1898 to 30 Sep 1925.

Hetland is a town in Kingsbury Co., SD. 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. The population peaked at 250 in 1930, down to 46 in 2010.



Cds "HETLAND S.DAK. OCT 2 1894" with target killer on letter to Lake Preston, SD.
2¢/oz for domestic letters 1 July 1885 to 1 Nov 1917.

Sinai, SD, 1891-1901 and 1907-date



Sinai is a town in Brookings Co., SD. The town and the township received their names from the nearby Lake Sinai which got its name from Norwegian settlers Martin Trygstad and Sven Sneve. 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. The population peaked at 217 in 1930, down to 120 at the 2010 census.

4-bar handstamp "SINAI S.DAK. AUG 17 1911" on postcard to Comfrey, MN, re-directed to Arlington, ND. 1¢ for domestic postcards 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

Vig, post office in Norway Twp., Roberts Co., SD. Named for Peder Gunval Vig (born 1838, Vik, Skudenes, Norway). Established 1902 with Alfred W Thompson as postmaster. Discontinued 1914 with mail to Veblen.



4-bar handstamp "VIG, S.DAK. JUL 12 1912" on postcard to Evansville, MN.
1¢ for domestic postcards 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

Hilmoe, SD, 1904-1913

Hilmoe, township in Lyman Co., SD. 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 from 1904 with Jorgen J. Boe as the only postmaster, discontinued 1913 with mail to Presho.



Doane handstamp (type 2, no. 1) "HILMOE S.DAK. DEC 30 1909" on postcard to Hudson, SD.
1¢ for domestic postcards 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

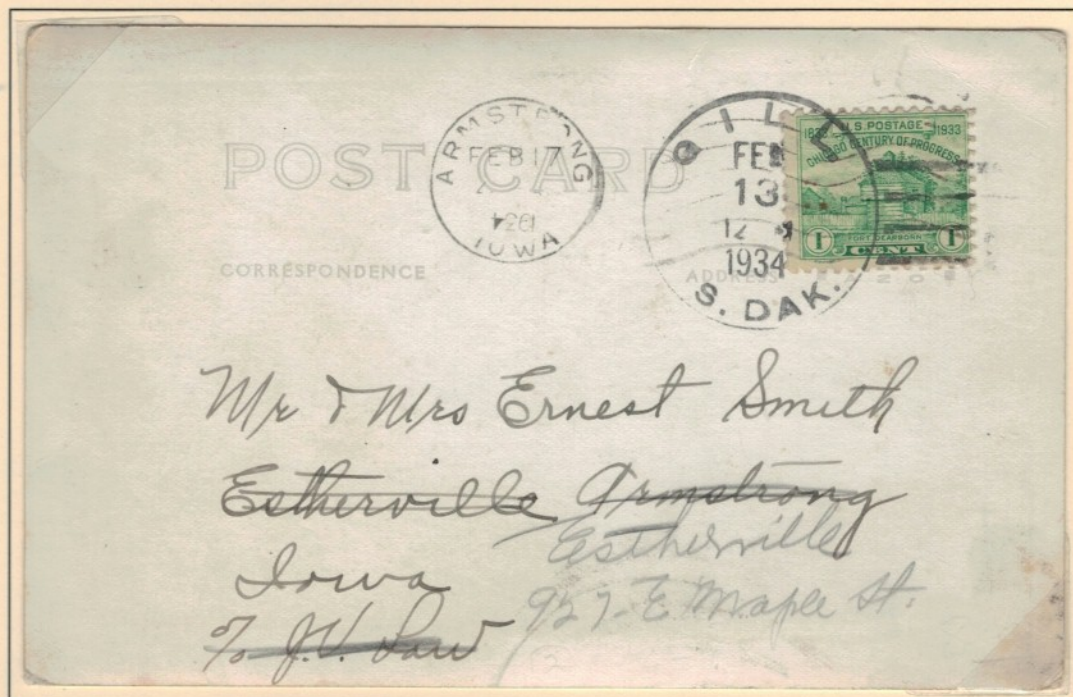
Sorum is a community in Perkins Co., SD. Sorum was laid out in 1908, and named in honor of Christian 'Chris' Sorum, a local merchant, born 1882 in Norway. The proposed name for the post office was Perkins, but Sorum was selected, and it opened 1910 with Christian Sorum as postmaster. In 1963 the post office was replaced by a Rural Station under Bison SD, discontinued unknown year (prior to 1987).



4-bar handstamp "SORUM S.DAK. NOV 1 1912" on letter to Wisconsin.
2¢/oz for domestic letters 1 July 1885 to 1 Nov 1917.

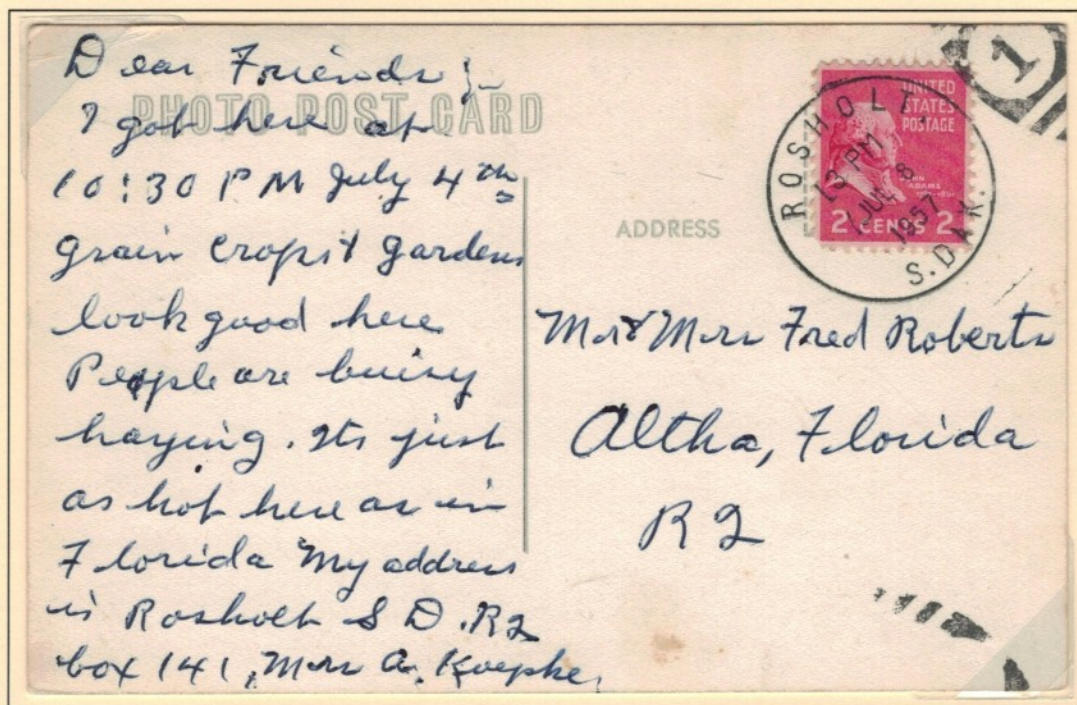
Gill, SD, 1912-1945

Gill is a ghost town in Harding Co., SD. The town derived its name from postmaster Carl Mortenson Gilberg, immigrant from Fåberg, Norway. The Gill, SD post office opened 1912 and closed 1945 with mail to Sorum.



4-bar handstamp "GILL, S.DAK. FEB 13 1934" on postcard to Armstrong, IA,
machine cancel "ARMSTRONG, IOWA FEB 17 1934" and re-directed to Estherville, IA.
1¢ for domestic postcards 1 July 1928 to 31 Dec 1951.

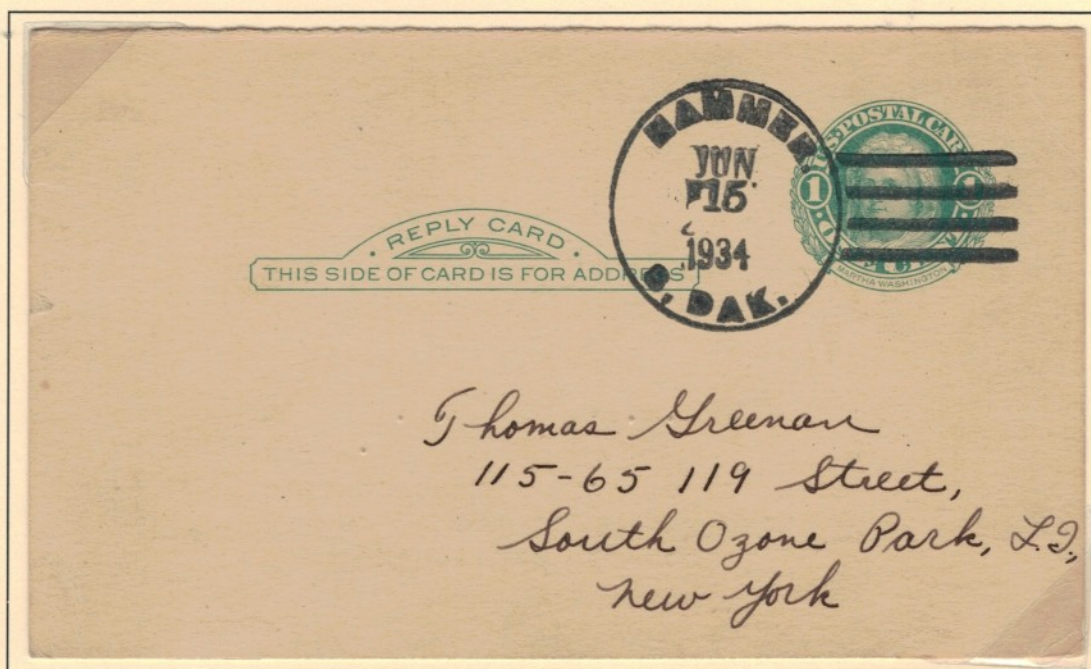
Rosholt is a town in Roberts Co., SD. Rosholt was laid out in 1913, and named in honor of Julius Rosholt, who was credited with bringing the railroad to town. He was born in USA to immigrant parents from Laurdal, Norway. The Crawford post office was established 1894 with Louis Bjorklund as postmaster. Name-change 1913 to Rosholt with Warren E. Henderson as postmaster and it is still in operation. The population was 423 at the 2010 census.



Numerals duplex handstamp "ROSHOLT, S.DAK. JUL 8 1957" postcard to Altha, FL.
2¢ for domestic postcards 1 Jan 1952 to 31 July 1958.

Hammer, SD, 1915-1973

Hammer is a community in Roberts Co., SD. It was named after the Norwegian immigrants Gunder and Iver Hammer, the original owners of the town site. The Hammer, SD post office was established 1915 with Alexander O. Johnsen as postmaster. The post office closed 1973 with mail to New Effington. The population was 76 in 2010.



4-bar handstamp "HAMMER, SD JUN 15 1934" on postal card to New York.
1¢ for domestic postal cards 1 July 1919 to 31 Dec 1951.

North Dakota

The Norwegians settled mainly in the eastern and northern part 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

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

Founded in the 1840's as Saint Joseph, the name was changed to Walhalla in 1871. The name is an Anglicized version of Valhalla, the hall of slain warriors in Norse mythology, and was suggested to note the beauty of the area. The post office is still in operation.

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". 1p overseas surface rate for postcards 1 Oct 1891 to 12 Jun 1921.



Walhalla & Grafton R.P.O., ND, 1910-1918

The Great Northern Railroad extended 1898 its branch line from Grafton, ND to Walhalla, ND.

A Railway Post Office operated on the 64 miles stretch between Walhalla and Grafton from 1910 to 1918.

Another R.P.O. operated between Walhalla and Grand Forks before and after this period, including Walhalla to Grafton.

C.d.s. "WALHALLA & GRAFTON MAR 8 1911" on cover to Saskatoon, Sask.

Postage to Canada same as domestic, 1¢ for postcards 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.



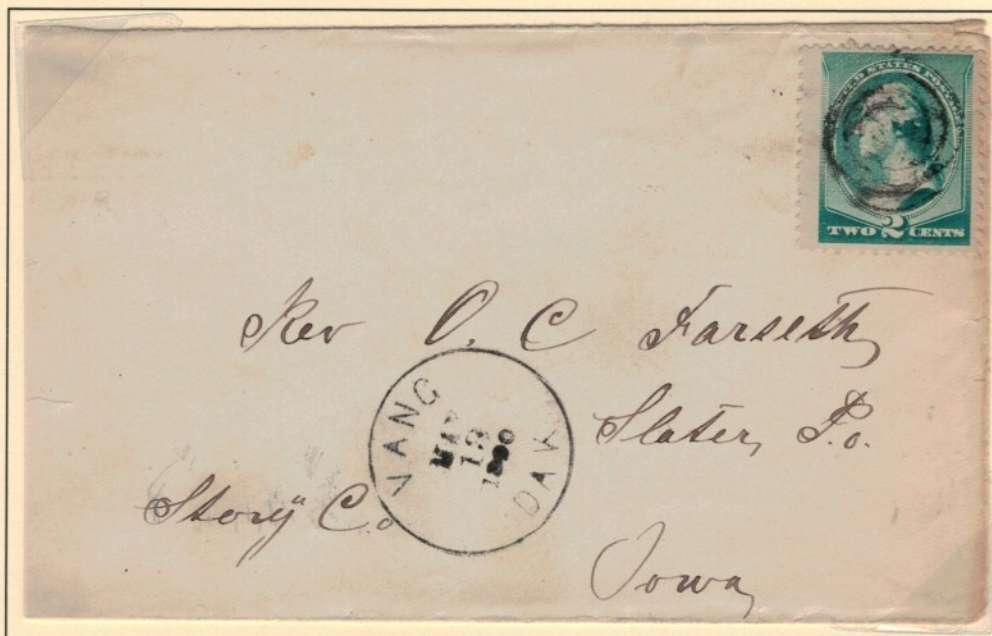
Mona was a rural settlement founded in the early 1880s in Loam Twp., Cavalier Co., ND. The post office was established 1883 with John J. Wood as postmaster, who named it for Mona Jacobson, the daughter of area pioneer Ole Jacobson who was born 1843 in Norway. A population of 20 was reported in 1890, and a count of 10 was made in 1920; the post office closed 1935 with mail to Langdon.



Circular datestamp "MONA N.D. SEP 28 1909" and target killer on postcard to Eureka, IL.
1¢ for domestic postcards 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

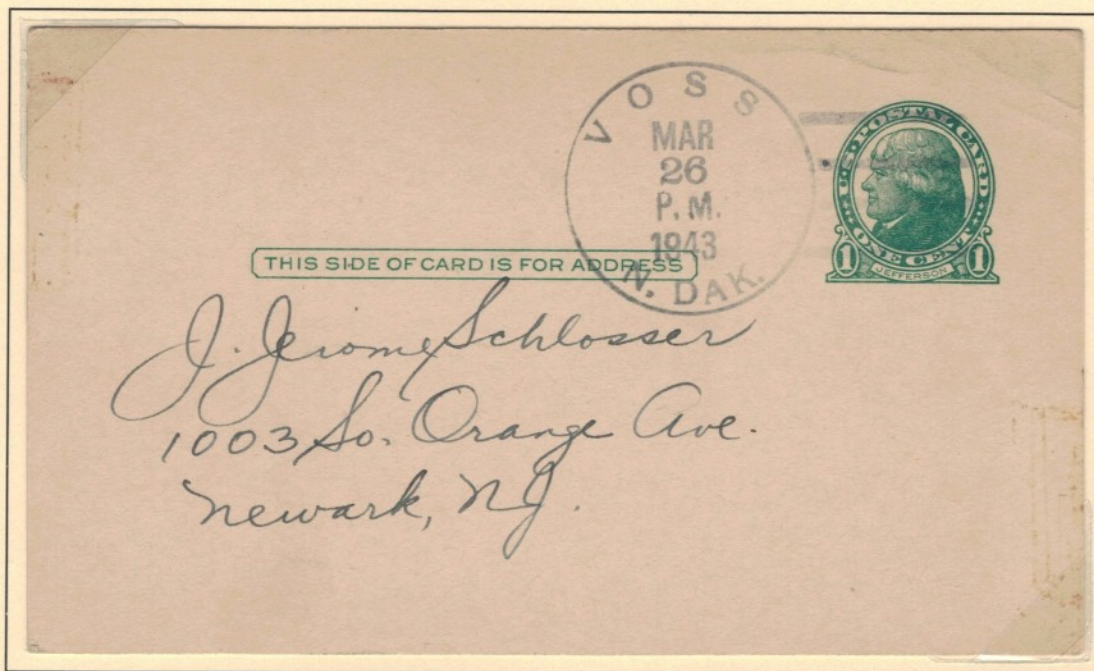
Vang, ND, 1887-1935

Vang, pioneer settlement in Hope Twp., Cavalier Co., ND. 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 1960s.



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

Voss is a community in Walsh Centre Twp., Walsh Co., ND. 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 opened 1888 with Frank E. Vorachek postmaster. The post office closed 1983 with mail to Minto.



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

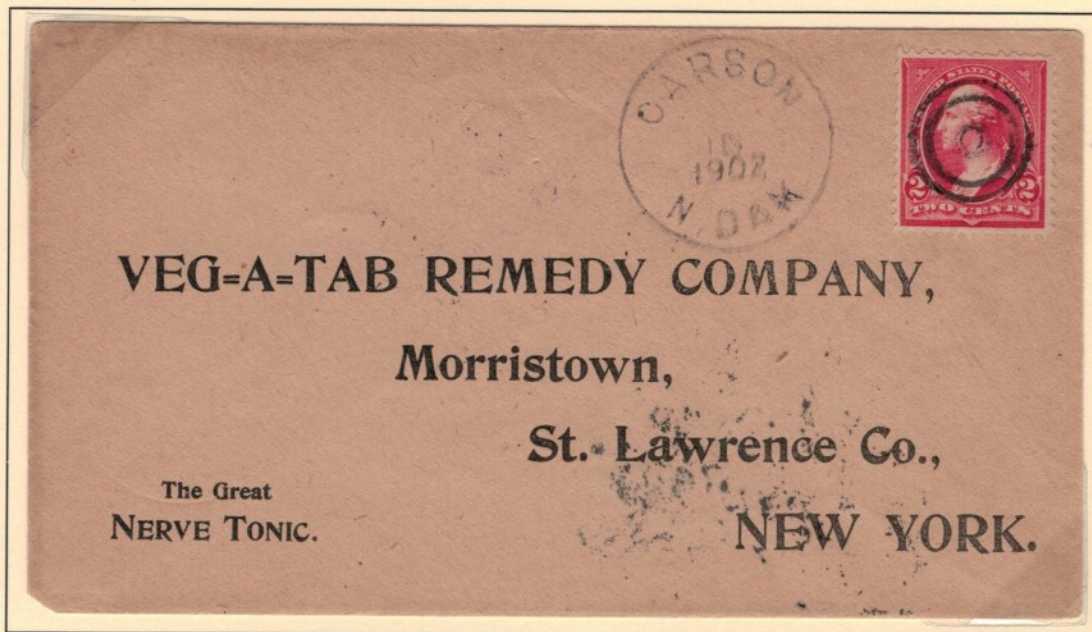
Galchutt, ND, 1891-1978

Galchutt is a community in Abercrombie Twp., Richland Co., ND. It was named for Hans Galchutt, a Norwegian who came here 1882 and built a store, warehouse, and an elevator. The post office was established 1891 with Mr. Galchutt 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.
2¢ postage rate per ounce for domestic letters from 1 July 1919 to 5 July 1932 and
10¢ domestic special delivery fee from 1 Oct 1885 to 31 Oct 1944, total 12c correct rate.

Carson, township and rural post office in Grant Co., ND. 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 Co. 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.
2¢/oz for domestic letters 1 July 1885 to 1 Nov 1917.

Mohall, ND, 1902-date

Mohall is a city and county seat in Renville Co., ND. This Great Northern Railroad townsite was founded 1901 by Martin O. Hall, a businessman and newspaperman from Duluth, MN, 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. The population was 783 at the 2010 census.



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

Lansford, a Great Northern Railroad townsite in Bottineau Co., ND. 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 in Norway. Others say it was named for a Great Northern Railroad construction foreman at the site. The post office was established 1903 with Clarence C. Banks postmaster. It incorporated as a village 1904 and became a city 1907 with J. G. Walstad mayor. In 1905 it became a two-railroad town with the arrival of the Soo Line Railroad. A peak population of 456 was reached in 1910, with a decline to 294 in 1980. The post office is still in operation.



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

Columbus, ND, 1903-date

Columbus, city in Burke Co., ND. Columbus was founded 1906, 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 1903 with Columbus Larson postmaster and it is still in operation. The population was 133 in 2010. Nearby Larson, ND (below) is also named for Columbus Larson, as well as Comrey, AB, Canada.



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

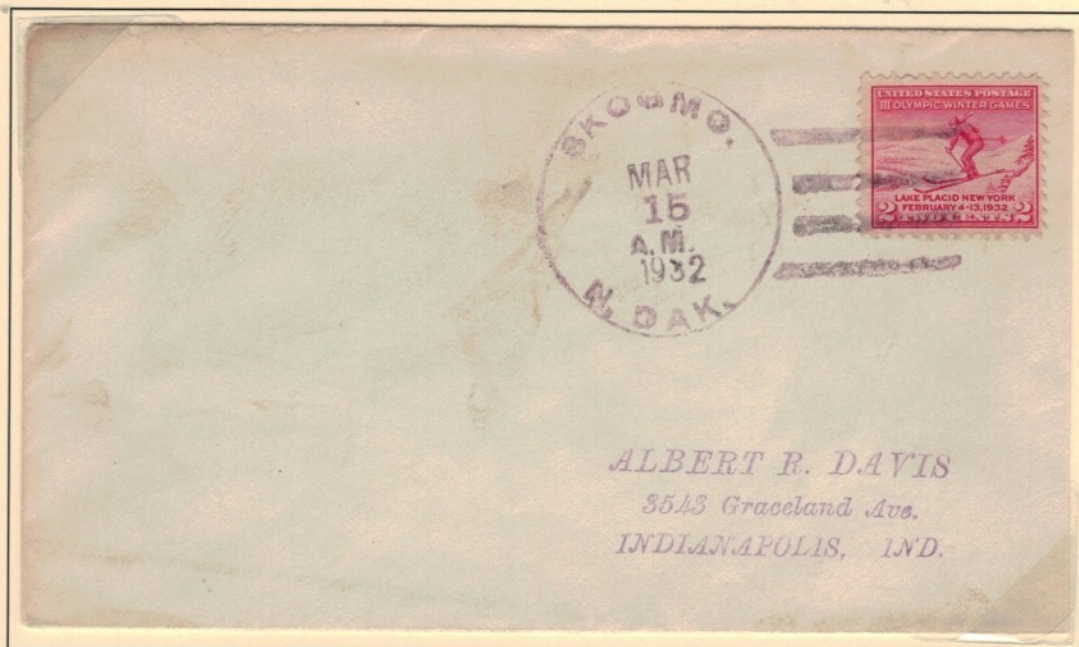
Wiprud is a township in McLean Co., ND. This rural post office was established 1902 as Casey. In 1904 the post office was taken over by Stener T. Wiprud, a native of Norway, who with his brother operated a country store at this site. They changed the name of the post office to Wiprud and operated it until 1914 when mail went to Turtle Lake.



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

Skogmo, ND, 1904-1932

Skogmo was a community in Cransville Twp., Sheridan Co., ND. 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 from 1904, and closed 1932 with mail to Kieborn. The store run by Harold O. Ostrom was destroyed by fire about 1940, when the population of the town was just 6. Skogmo became a ghost town, and the site is now a plowed field with no traces of the former settlement to be found.



4-bar handstamp "SKOGMO N.DAK. MAR 15 1932" on letter to Indianapolis, IN.
2¢/oz for domestic letters 1 July 1919 to 5 July 1932.

Burnstad is a community in Red Lake Twp., Logan Co., ND, a Soo Line Railroad townsite named for Christ P. Burnstad who donated the townsite land. Christen Per Bjørnstad left Norway at age 17 and lived in Minnesota and South Dakota before settling 1905 in North Dakota. He was known as the *Logan Co. 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. A population of 200 was claimed in 1930, but the count has been under 100 since the 1940s.



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

Larson, ND, 1907-1980

Larson is a former city in Burke Co., ND, founded 1907 and named for Columbus Larson, born approx. 1855 in Wisconsin to Norwegian immigrant parents. The post office operated 1907-1980 with Herman E. de Villiers as first postmaster. The population was 12 at the 2010 census. Nearby Columbus, ND is also named for Columbus Larson, as well as Comrey, Alberta, Canada.



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

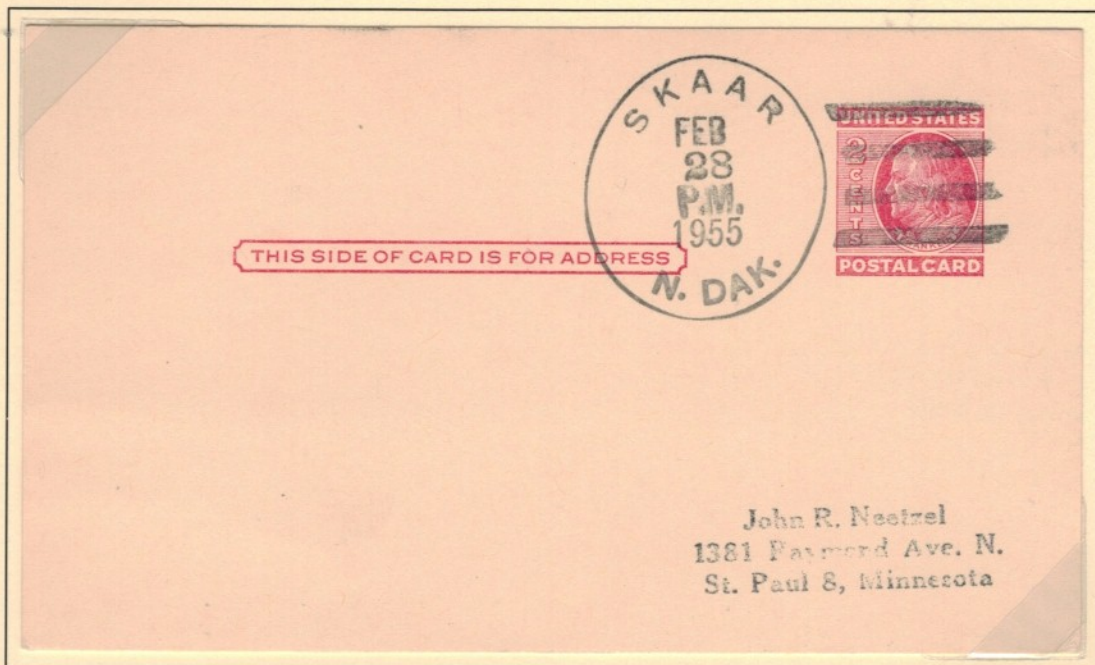
Heimdal is a community in Heimdal Twp., Wells Co., ND. This Great Northern Railroad station was founded 1912 on the newly-built Surrey cutoff line. It was named for Heimdall, the watchman for the gods and guardian of the gate Bifrost at the rainbow bridge in Norse mythology. The Heimdal, ND post office operated 1910-1919 with first postmaster Ole H. Backen. A peak population of 148 was reached in 1960, decreasing to 27 as of the 2010 census.



4-bar handstamp "HEIMDAL N.DAK. JAN 4 1917" on letter to Minneapolis, MN.
2¢/oz for domestic letters 1 July 1885 to 1 Nov 1917.

Skaar, ND, 1912-1955

Skaar is a community in Loyal Twp., McKenzie Co., ND. 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.
2¢ for domestic postcards 1 Jan 1952 to 31 July 1958.

Dahlen is a community in Nelson Co., ND. This Soo Line Railroad townsite and township were named for Elling N. Dahlen from Norway, who had settled here with his eight sons in 1881. The Dahlen, ND post office operated 1913-1983 with first postmaster George B. "Byron" Frost. A population of 200 was reported in 1920, down to 75 in 1960.



4-bar handstamp "DAHLEN N.DAK. FEB 14 1917" on letter to Minneapolis, MN.
2¢/oz for domestic letters 1 July 1885 to 1 Nov 1917.

Kongsberg, ND, 1916-1958

Kongsberg is a tiny near-ghost town in Olivia Twp., McHenry Co., ND. 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. DEC 20 1919" on postcard to Toledo, OH.
1¢ for domestic postcards 1 July 1919 to 14 Apr 1925.

Exploring higher and wider Horizons

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 Co., PA. Obviously named for Norway, but the reason is not found. The Norway, PA post office operated from 1871 until changing name to Rosedale 1906, closed 1967.

Cds "NORWAY PA JUN 7" (1873) on letter to Philadelphia, PA.

3¢ per ½ ounce 1 Jul 1863 to 30 Sep 1883.

Odin, PA, 1884-1909



Odin was a community in Potter Co., PA. The village was named after Odin, the principal god in Norse mythology. The post office opened 1884 with Edward Fournes postmaster. It closed 1909, superseded by rural delivery from Coudersport.

Manuscript postmark "Odin Pa March 23 86" on cover to Osceola, PA., pen ink cancellation on the postage stamp.

2¢/oz for domestic letters 1 Jul 1885 to 1 Nov 1917.

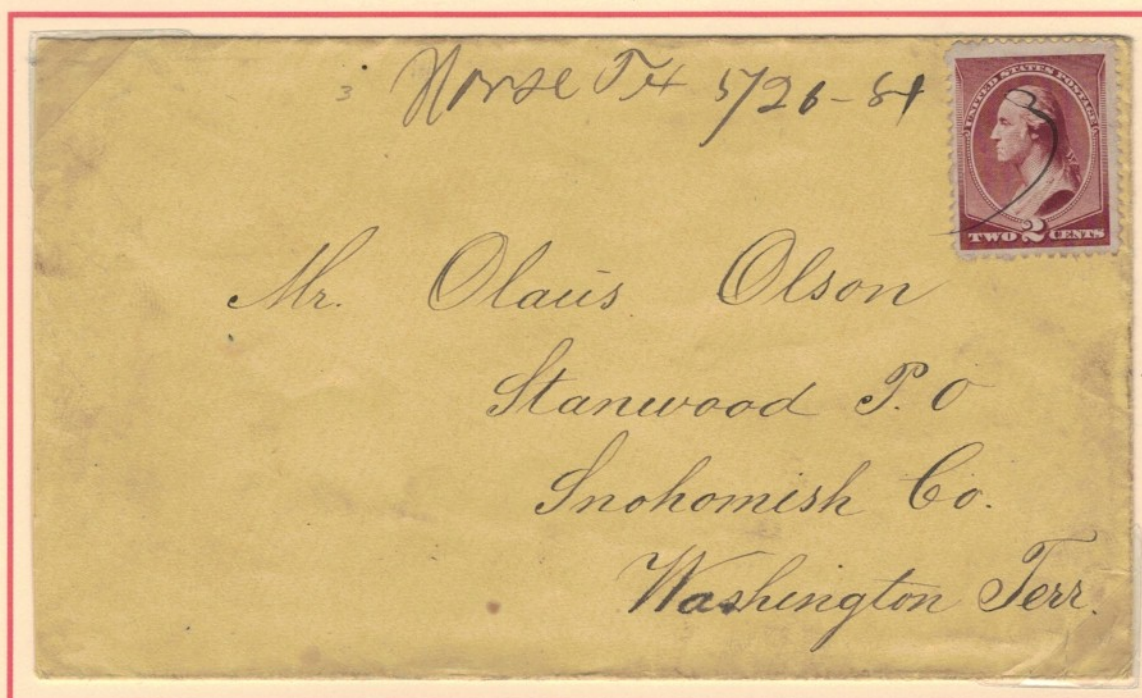
Prairieville, city in Kaufman Co., TX, established by Johan Reiersen (born Vestre Moland, Norway) and a portion of The Texas Norwegian Colony who transmigrated here from Henderson County in 1848. A post office was granted in 1854 and continued, with one short-lived closing, until 1954 – closing on its centennial, with mail to Mabank.



Cds "PRAIRIEVILLE TEX. JUL 10 1879" and target killer on letter to Stavanger, Norway.
5¢ per 15 grams for letters to UPU countries, 1 July 1875 to 1 Oct 1907.

Norse, TX, 1880-1929

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



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

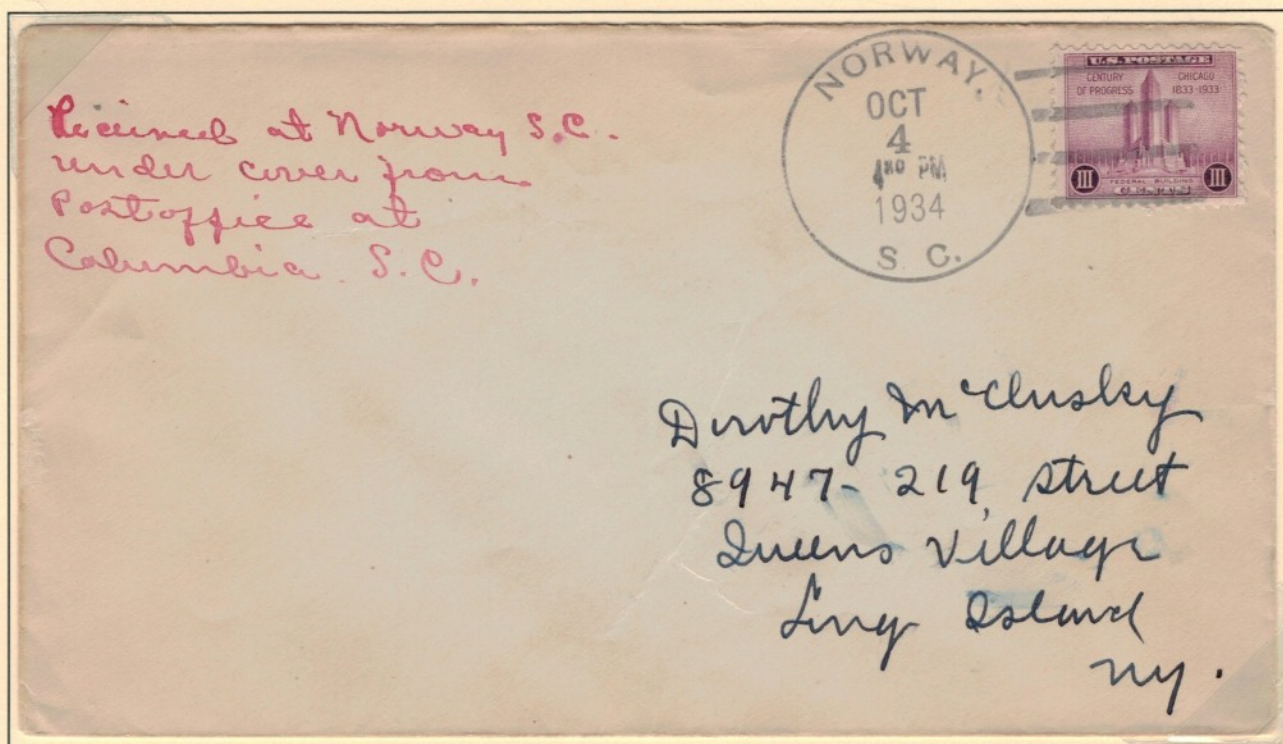
Walhalla is a mountain city in Oconee Co., SC. The name Walhalla comes from Valhalla, the hall of slain warriors in Norse mythology. The Walhalla, SC, post office opened 1853 and it is still in operation. The population was 3,801 at the 2000 census.



Manuscript postmark "Walhalla S.C. July 28" (1850's) on postal envelope to Pickens C.H., SC. 3¢ per ½ oz for domestic letters for distances up to 3000 miles from 1 Jul 1851 to 30 Jun 1862.

Norway, SC, 1892-date

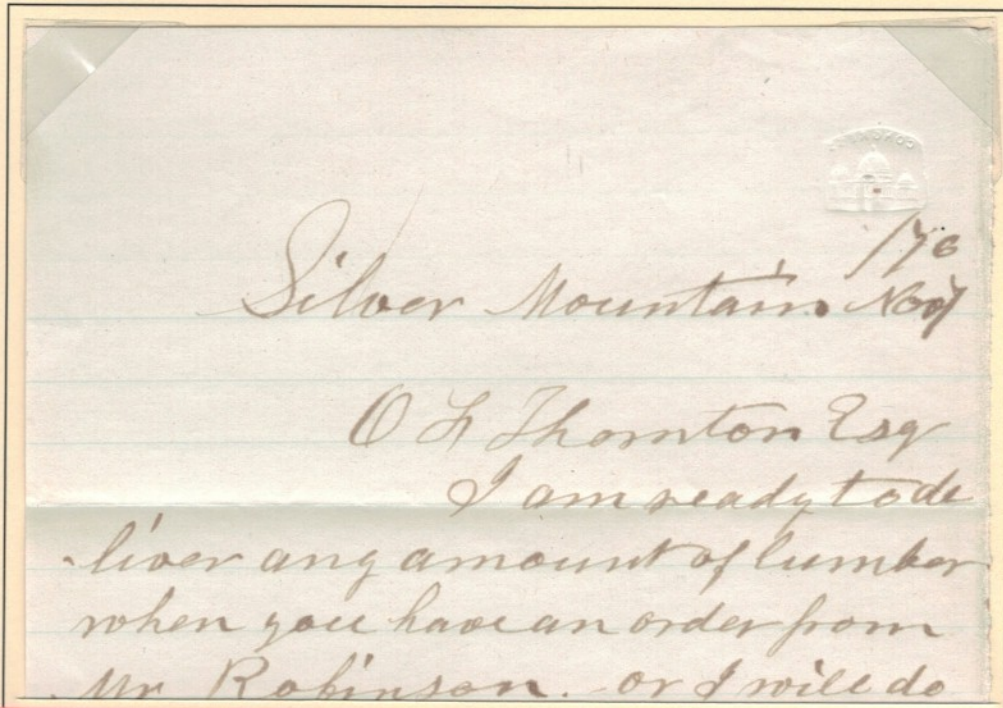
Norway, post office in Orangeburg Co., SC. Established as Stella, and changed name 1892 to Norway with Zachariah H. Kinard taking over as postmaster. The name change was suggested by the railway company. It is still in operation.



4-bar postmark "NORWAY, S.C. OCT 4 1934" on letter to Long Island, NY. 5¢/oz for domestic letters 6 July 1932 to 31 July 1958.

Rich silver deposits were discovered in Alpine Co., CA early in 1863; a mining town was established by Scandinavian miners and called Kongsberg after the silver mining town in Norway. The post office was established 1863 with the Germanized name Konigsberg and erroneously reported to be located in Washoe Co., NV. This was quickly corrected to Amador Co., CA and from 1864 it was in Alpine Co., CA. It soon became clear that there was more speculation than silver in the mines and most people left. The post office closed for two months in the summer of 1864 and changed name 1865 to Silver Mountain. Closed 1883 with mail to Silver Creek.

John 'Snowshoe' Thompson (Jon Torsteinson Rui from Tinn, Norway) carried mail between Silver Mountain, CA and Genoa, NV from July 1870 to June 1874. He was famous for using skis and having carried mail across the Sierra Nevada mountains in the winters 1856-1859.



Circular datestamp "SILVER MOUNTAIN CALIF. NOV" and killer postmark on postal envelope to Monitor, CA. Contents dated Nov 7 70, received Nov. 9th, 1870.
3¢ per ½ ounce for domestic letters 1 Jul 1865 to 30 Sep. 1883.

This letter was carried by John 'Snowshoe' Thompson in the route from Silver Mountain, CA.

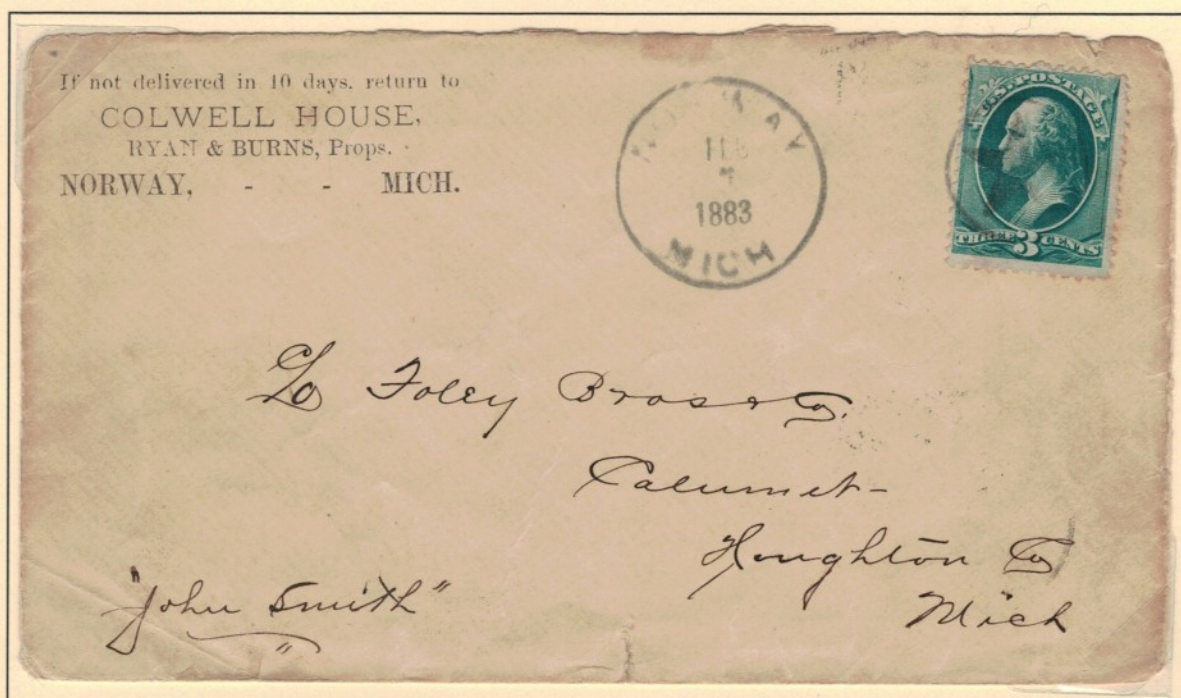
Otto, post office in Oceana Co., MI. Named for Otto Brady, born 1839 in Norway, the family name was Breda from Skoger near Drammen. He settled here 1850 with his three brothers. The Otto, MI post office opened 1864 with Elnathan J. Reed postmaster, was renamed Reed for him 1868, but was transferred to and renamed Ferry 1871, closed 1959.



Manuscript postmark "Otto Mich May 25 1867" on letter to Auburn, IN.
3¢ per ½ oz for domestic letters 1 July 1863 to 30 Sept 1883.

Norway, MI, 1879-date

Norway is a city in Dickinson Co., Upper Peninsula, MI (prior to 1891 belonging to Menominee Co.). The city was named from a forest of Norway pines near the original town site. Red pine, *Pinus resinosa*, is also known as *Norway pine*. It is indigenous to North America, not Norway, but may have gotten this common name due to confusion with *Norway spruce* by original English colonists. Anton Odell platted this village in 1879, and same year the Ingolsdorf p.o. opened with Charles E. Knowlton postmaster. Later same year, the post office name was changed to Norway, and it is still in operation. The population was 2,845 at the 2010 census.



Circular datestamp and star-in-circle killer "NORWAY MICH FEB 1 1883" on letter to Calumet, MI.
3¢ per ½ oz for domestic letters 1 July 1863 to 30 Sept 1883.

POST CARD

FOR CORRESPONDENCE

FOR ADDRESS ONLY

1913

U.S. POSTAGE
1 CENT

Helio Henggeck;-
Congratulations
to him is Bill
coming down?
What is it a
diamond or a
ruby, anyway?
Write me at Seattle
Kanas. - So phia

Helio Jacobson
Montrose
So Dak.

MADE IN U.S.A.

S 430

East Norway, KS, 1871-1894

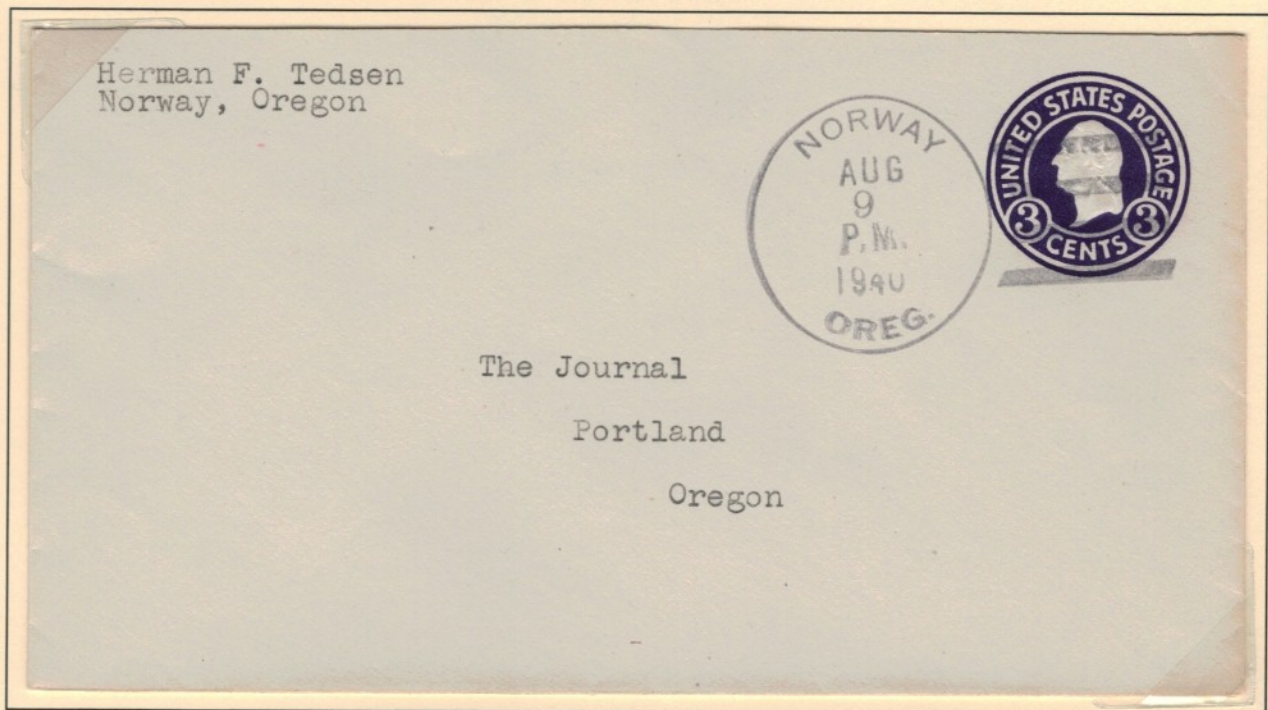
44000
44050
4400—
4840—
A. A. Campbell Esq.
Severance
Kansas

EAST WORM
DE
8
1879

THREE CENTS

Cds "EAST NORWAY KANS DEC 8 1879" on letter to Severance, KS.
3¢ per ½ oz for domestic letters 1 July 1863 to 30 Sept 1883.

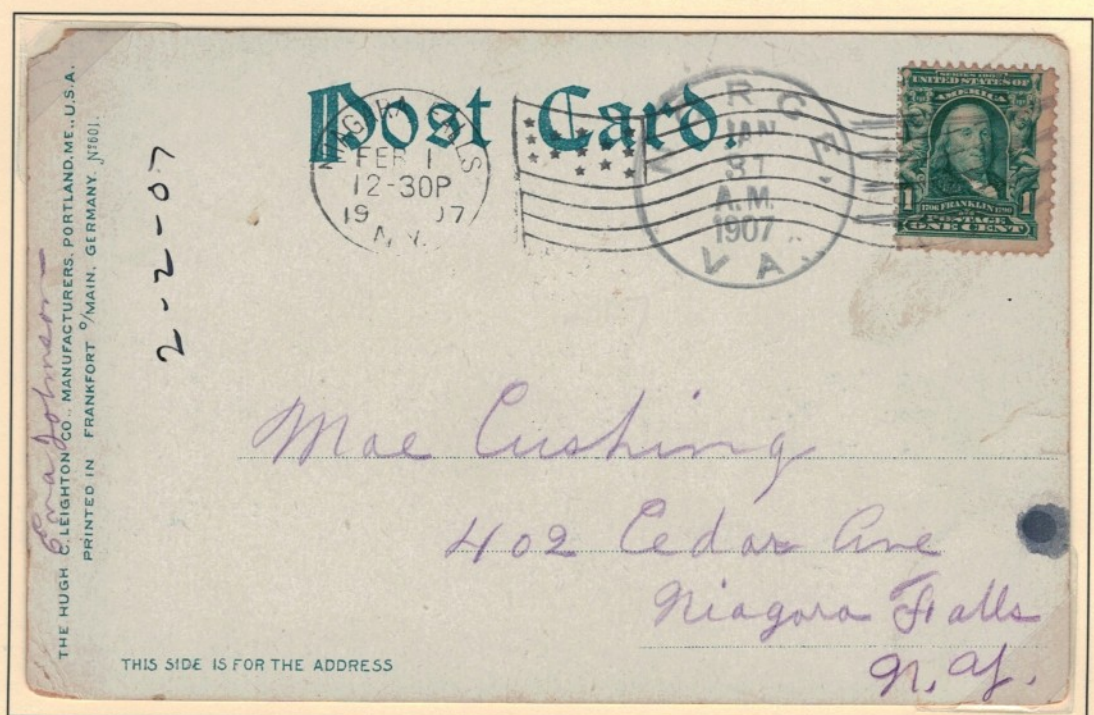
Norway is a community in Coos Co., OR. The locale got its name from Olaf Reed and Oden Nelson, Norwegians who settled there in the 1870s. Reed and Nelson started a general store in 1873. Reed was a former sea captain and like his brothers Edward and Hans, he also worked as a shipbuilder. Norway's post office was established 1876. There was also a Norway station on the Southern Pacific Coos Bay Line. The post office closed 2009 with mail to Myrtle Point.



4-bar handstamp "NORWAY OREG. AUG 9 1940" on cover to Portland, OR.
3¢/oz postage rate for domestic letters 6 July 1932 to 30 Jun 1958.

Norge, VA, 1904-date

Norge, community in James City Co., VA. "Norge" is the Norwegian spelling of "Norway". Norge was formally established 1904 in western James City Co. by Norwegian-Americans and other Scandinavians, with persons resettling from other places in North America joined by new immigrants. Land at Norge was reasonably priced and offered rich farmland in a gentler climate than that of the northern and Midwestern states, where some of the immigrants had originally settled upon coming to America. A post office was established 1904 with John H. Nesseth postmaster, and it is still in operation.



Doane postmark (type 2, no. 1) "NORGE, VA. JAN 31 1907" on postcard to Niagara Falls, NY. 1¢ for domestic postcards 1 Jul 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

Gunderson, silver mine town in Silver Bow Co., MT. Established 1883 and named for Louis Gunderson, postmaster. He was born in Chicago, IL to Norwegian immigrant parents. The post office changed name to Meaderville 1903, and from 1908 a branch of Butte, MT.



Cover from "GUNDERSON MONT. DEC 17 1889" to Jersey City (NJ). Insufficiently addressed, advertised and held for better directions before being forwarded to dead letter office.
2¢/oz postage rate for domestic letters 1 July 1885 to 1 Nov 1917.

Java, MT, 1907-1913

Java is a ghost town in Richland Co., MT. 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 with mail to Mondak.



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

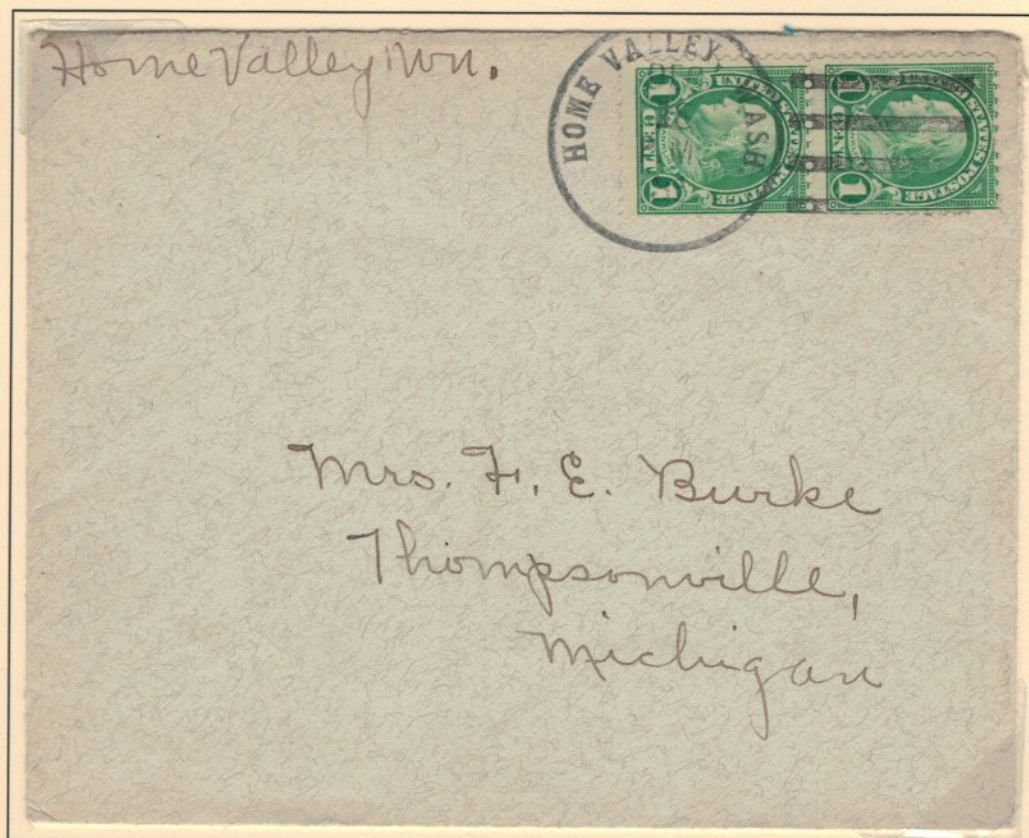
Home Valley is a community in Skamania Co., WA. The name is a translation of the deity Heimdal from old Norse mythology. The name Heim Dal was applied for, but Homevalley (spelling in one word) was approved when the post office opened 1892 with John Kanikkeberg as postmaster (born 1851 at Kannikeberg, Øystese, Hardanger, Norway). It closed 1919 with mail to Carson.



4-bar handstamp "HOME VALLEY, WASH. JUN 4 1908" on postcard to Portland, OR.
The message is written in old-fashioned Norwegian. 1¢ for domestic postcards 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

Home Valley, WA, 1922-1959

The post office was re-established 1922 as Home Valley, WA (in two words), and closed finally 1959 with mail to Stevenson.



4-bar handstamp "HOME VALLEY, WASH. DEC 18 1931" on cover to Thompsonville, MI.
2¢/oz for domestic letters 1 July 1919 to 5 July 1932.



First settled circa 1883, Oslo was established by some of Indian River Co.'s first pioneers, which included the Helseth, Gifford, and Hallstrom families. The area was given the name Oslo by the Helseth family, named for Oslo, which prior to 1925 was the Old Town of Kristiania, the capital of Norway.

The post office opened 1898 with Ole O. Helseth postmaster. It closed 1919 with mail to Vero.

2-ring handstamp "OSLO, FLA. JAN 6 1912" on postcard to Belvidere, VT.
1¢ for domestic postcards 12 May 1873 to 31 Dec 1951.

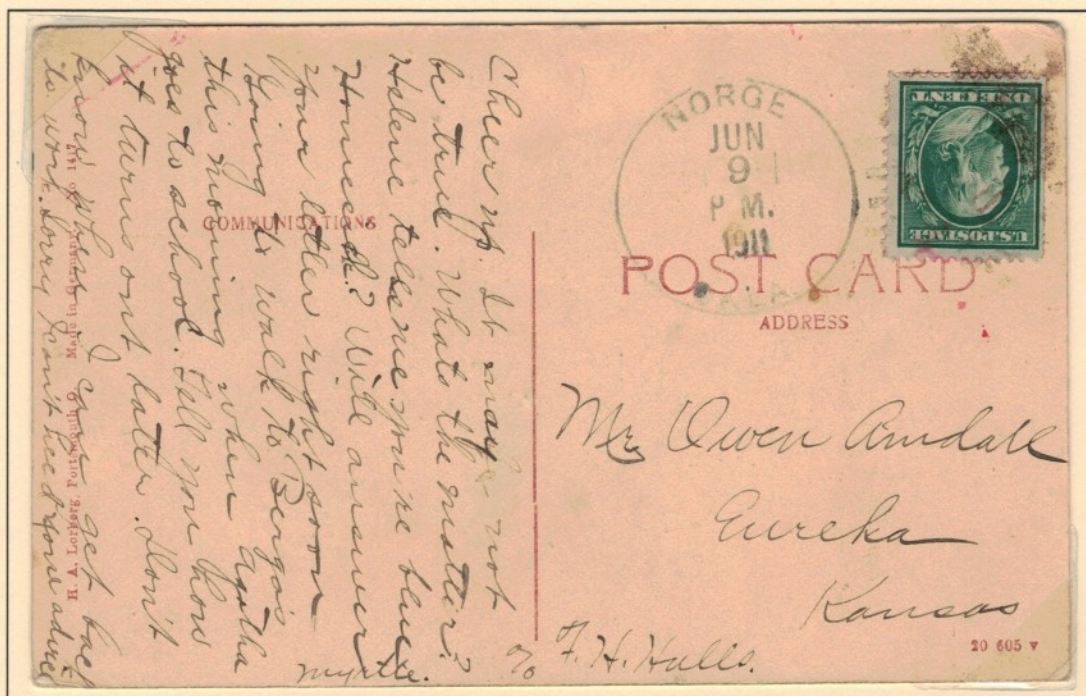
Viking, FL, 1898-1919

The Viking village in Saint Lucie Co. was first settled 1892 by a major B. Daniels who established a pineapple plantation. Soon the majority who lived here were from Scandinavia. A post office was in operation from 1898 with Andrew Ericksen postmaster, and name-change to Indrio from 1919, closed 1933. Named for the Norse Vikings.



4-bar handstamp "VIKING, FLA. JUN 9 1910" on letter to Ravenswood, WV.
2¢/oz for domestic letters 1 Jul 1885 to 1 Nov 1917.

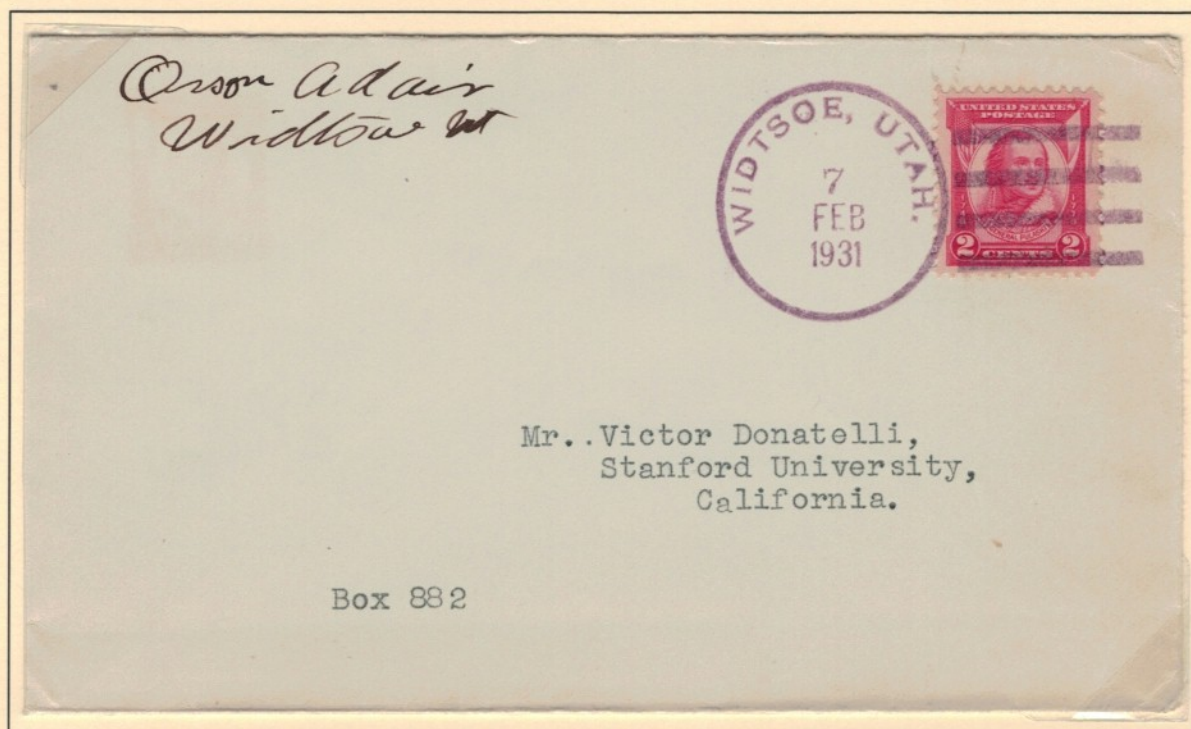
Norge is a town in Grady Co., OK. *Norge* is the Norwegian spelling of *Norway*. A post office with name Norden was established here 1908, with Anfin Ermland postmaster. It changed name to Norge later the same year, same postmaster. The Norge, OK post office closed in 1954. The population was 82 at the 2000 census.



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

Widtsøe, UT, 1917-1937

Widtsøe, post office in Garfield Co., UT. Named for John A. Widtsøe, author, scientist and academic, born 1872 on the island of Frøya in Sør-Trøndelag, Norway. The post office opened 1917 with Carel H. Mangum postmaster, and it was discontinued 1937 with mail to Escalante.



4-bar handstamp "WIDTSOE, UTAH. 7 FEB 1931" on letter to Stanford University, CA.
2¢/oz for domestic letters 1 July 1919 to 5 July 1932.

Petersburg is a community within Petersburg Borough on Mitkof Island in southern Alaska. 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. In 2009 the population was 2,824.



4-bar handstamp "PETERSBURG, ALASKA DEC 17 1911" on postcard to Erskin, MN.

The Christmas greeting is written in Norwegian.

1¢ for domestic postcards 1 July 1898 to 1 Nov 1917.

Dahl, AK, 1905-1913

Dahl was a mining community on the Seward Peninsula, some 120km north of Nome, AK, and most probably named for miner Conrad (Konrad) Dahl, born 1863 Trondheim, Norway. He emigrated 1882, lived in Tacoma, WA where he worked in the mining industry and after some time joined the gold rush in Alaska. Dahl and Dahl Creek are small gold mines nearby. A post office was established 1905 with John A. White as postmaster. It was discontinued 1913 with mail to Shelton.



Doane handstamp (type 3, no. 1) "DAHL, ALASKA MAR 23 1909" on cover to Chicago, IL.

2¢/oz for domestic letters 1 July 1885 to 1 Nov 1917.

Canada offered opportunities

A few Norwegian immigrants came to Canada in the colonial period. Gradually, Norwegian settlements grew in Canada, and immigrants made their way across the border after a stay in the U.S. Midwest. Significant Norwegian immigration took place from the mid-1880s to 1930. The prairies were the hub of the Norwegian settlement in Canada.

Norway House, MB, 1904-date

Norway House, a community north of Lake Winnipeg in Selkirk, Manitoba. In 1816, Lord Selkirk sent out a band of Norwegians who had been hired to build a road from York Factory to Lake Winnipeg and a series of supply posts. They were ex-prisoners-of-war, sailors who had been captured by the British during the blockade on supply lines between Norway and Denmark. They built Norway House which became an important establishment of the Hudson's Bay Company for most of the 19th century, serving as a major depot.

The post office was established 1904. It is still in operation. The population is around 5,000.

Norway House was in District of Keewatin until 1912 when the area was adjoined to the Province of Manitoba.

"NORWAY HOUSE, KEEWATIN 08 SP 6" cds on postcard to U.S.A.

1¢ post card rate domestic and to the United States from 1 June 1871 (for postal cards issued by the department).

"Private post cards" were permitted from 1 Jan 1895, and the rate was valid until 14 April 1915.

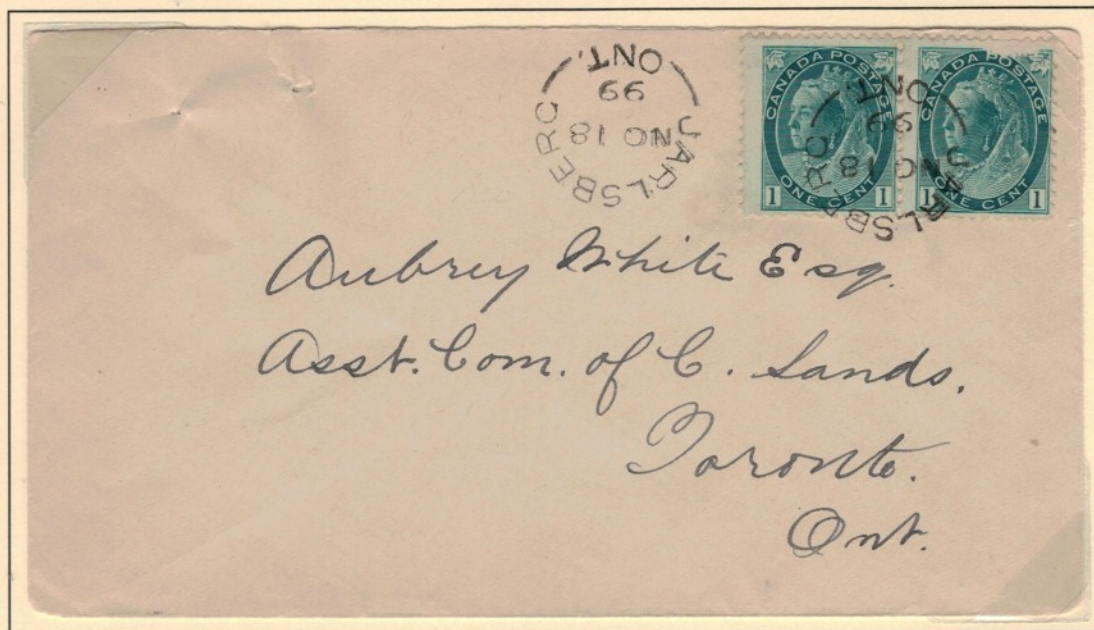


Jarlsberg, ON, 1880-1969

Jarlsberg, community in Parry Sound - Muskoka, ON. Norwegian settlers came here in the 1860s. Jarlsberg had a Norwegian congregation. The post office was established 1880 with Michael Johnson as postmaster. Closed 1969.

"JARLSBERG, ONT. NO 18 99", on letter to Toronto, ON.

Postage rate 2¢/oz for domestic letters 1 Jan 1899 to 14 April 1915.



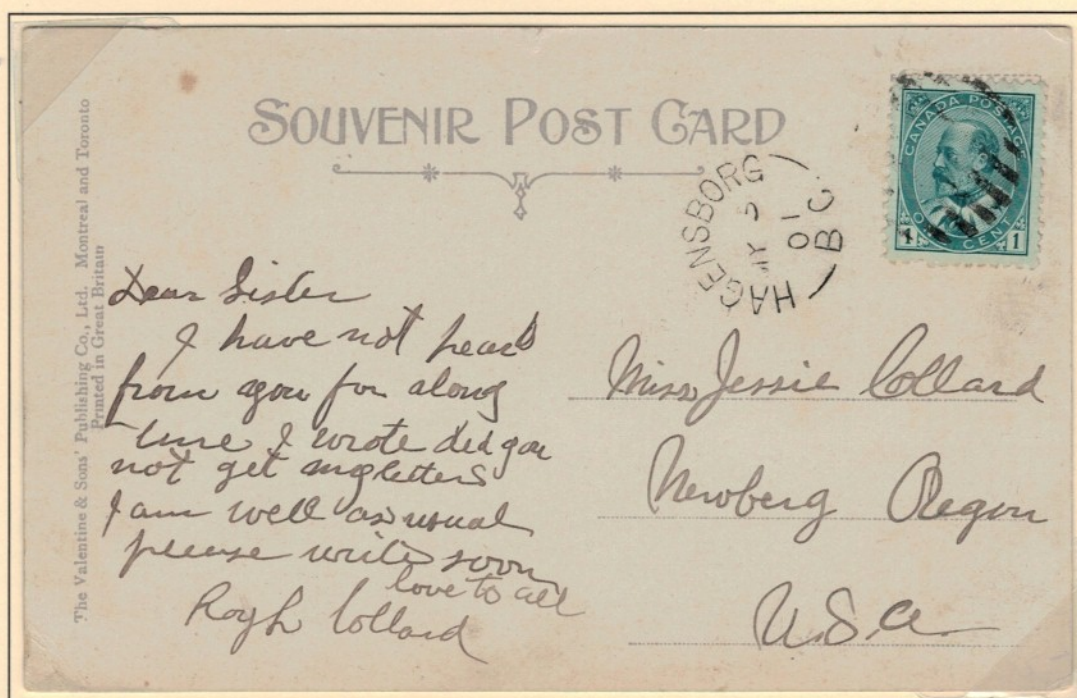
Norway Bay, post office in Pontiac, Quebec. Established 1902 with Reverend J.A. MacFarlane as postmaster. Obviously named for Norway, but the reason is not found. Summer post office for at least part of its operational life. Closed 1971.



"NORWAY BAY QUE. DE 12 42", on postcard to Cummings Bridge, ON.
1¢ for domestic postcards 1 Jan 1895 to 14 Apr 1915.

Hagensborg, BC, 1900-date

Hagensborg, town in Coast Chilcotin, Skeena, British Columbia. In 1894, some 100 Norwegian colonists journeyed from Minnesota to the Bella Coola Valley and founded a settlement first called Kristiania, then Hagensborg, named for Hagen Christensen, an early Norwegian settler. The post office started as Bella Coola 1895 with Thore Thorson as postmaster, and in 1900 changed name to Hagensborg. Still in operation. Its census population in 2006 was 248.



"HAGENSBOG, B.C. MY 5 01", on postcard to U.S.A.
1¢ for postcards to U.S.A. 1 Jan 1895 to 14 Apr 1915.

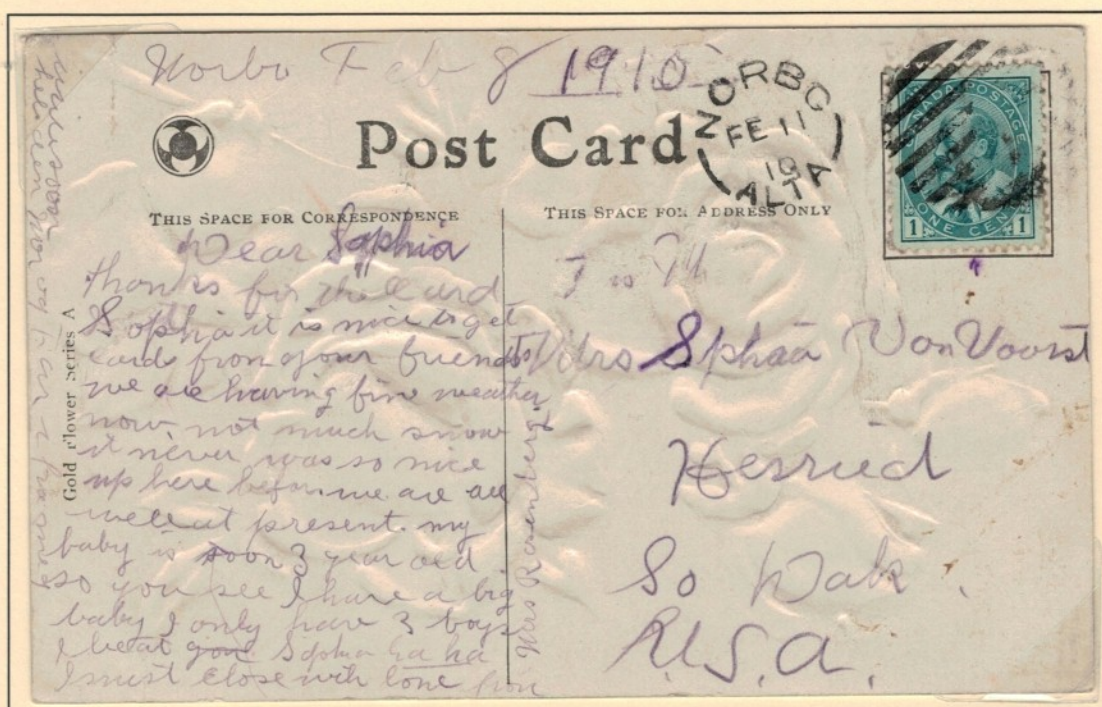
Viking, town in Battle River, Camrose, Alberta. Sivert Hafso and Ole Sorenson from Norway were early settlers. The post office was established 1907 with Basil Hilliker postmaster. Named for the Norse Vikings. Still in operation.



“VIKING ALBERTA 6 II 50”, on air letter to England.
10¢ for air letters to United Kingdom from February 1946 to 30 June 1953.

Norbo, AB, 1908-1911

Norbo, post office in Athabasca, AB. The name Norbo was chosen by the Scandinavians who settled the area and was derived from *Nor* (Nord), meaning ‘North’, and *bo*, meaning ‘to live’. The post office was established 1908 with H.J. (Hjalmar) Bjorge postmaster. He was born 1876 in Minnesota to Norwegian immigrant parents. Closed 1911.



“NORBO ALTA FE 11 10”, on postcard to Herreid, SD, U.S.A.
1¢ for postcards to the United States from 1 Jan 1875 to 15 Apr 1915.

5 Exploring higher and wider horizons – furthest North , furthest South Isachsen, NU, 1956-date

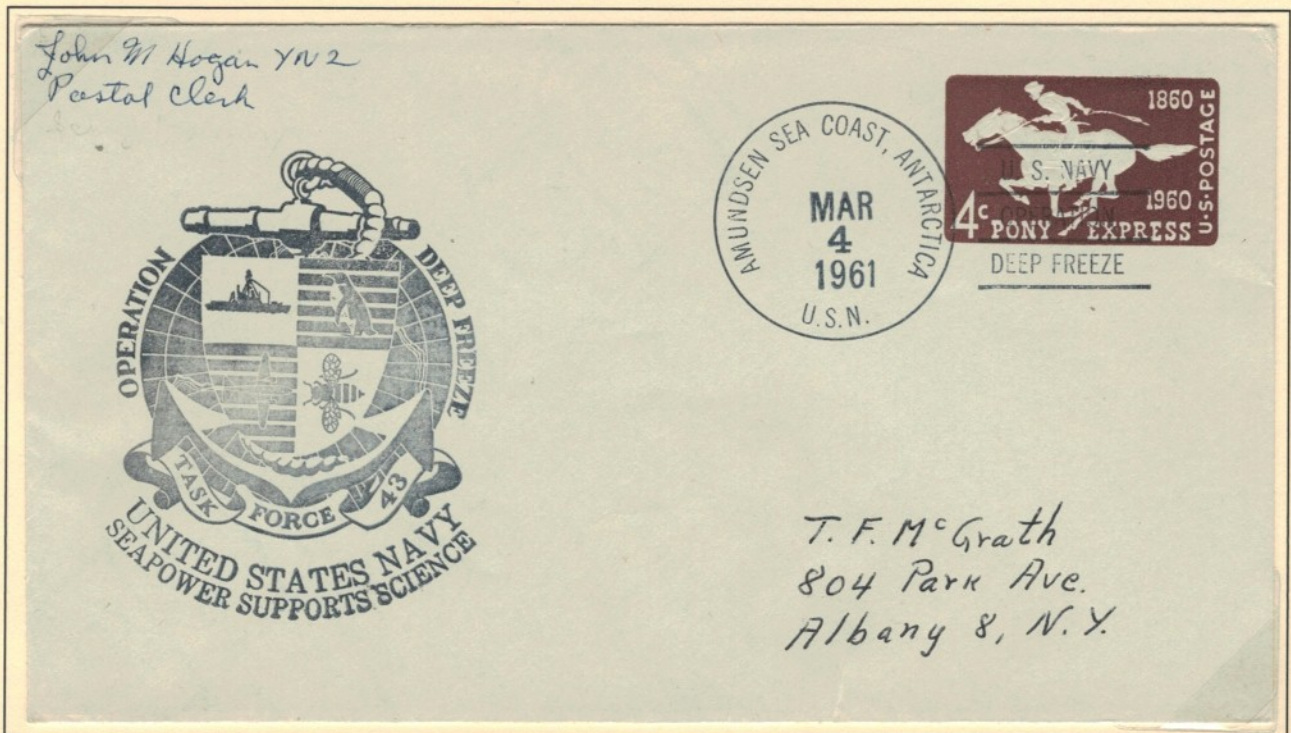
Isachsen, weather station on Ellef Ringnes Island, in the territory of Nunavut. This remote Arctic research-weather station is named after the Norwegian explorer of the Arctic, Gunnar Isachsen. The post office was established 1948 with Cecil William Farrow as postmaster, making it **the northernmost location in this survey of American Norway-connected post offices**. The post office closed 1978 when the station closed due to its high cost of operation.



“ISACHSEN N.W.T. X 18 60”, on letter to England. 5¢/oz for letters to U.K., 1 Apr 1954 to 31 Oct 1968.

Amundsen Sea Coast, Antarctica, 1961

A one-day post office in the Amundsen Sea was established on March 4, 1961 on board the *USS Glacier* and *USS Staten Island* which took part in Operation Deep-Freeze, a U.S. mission to Antarctica. It was named for Norwegian polar explorer Roald Amundsen; **the southernmost North American Norway-related post office**.



“AMUNDSEN SEA COAST, ANTARCTICA MAR 4 1961”, on postal envelope to Albany, NY.
4¢/oz for domestic letters 1 Aug 1958 to 6 Jan 1963.

These northernmost and southernmost outposts of the United States and Canada represent the end of this exhibit.