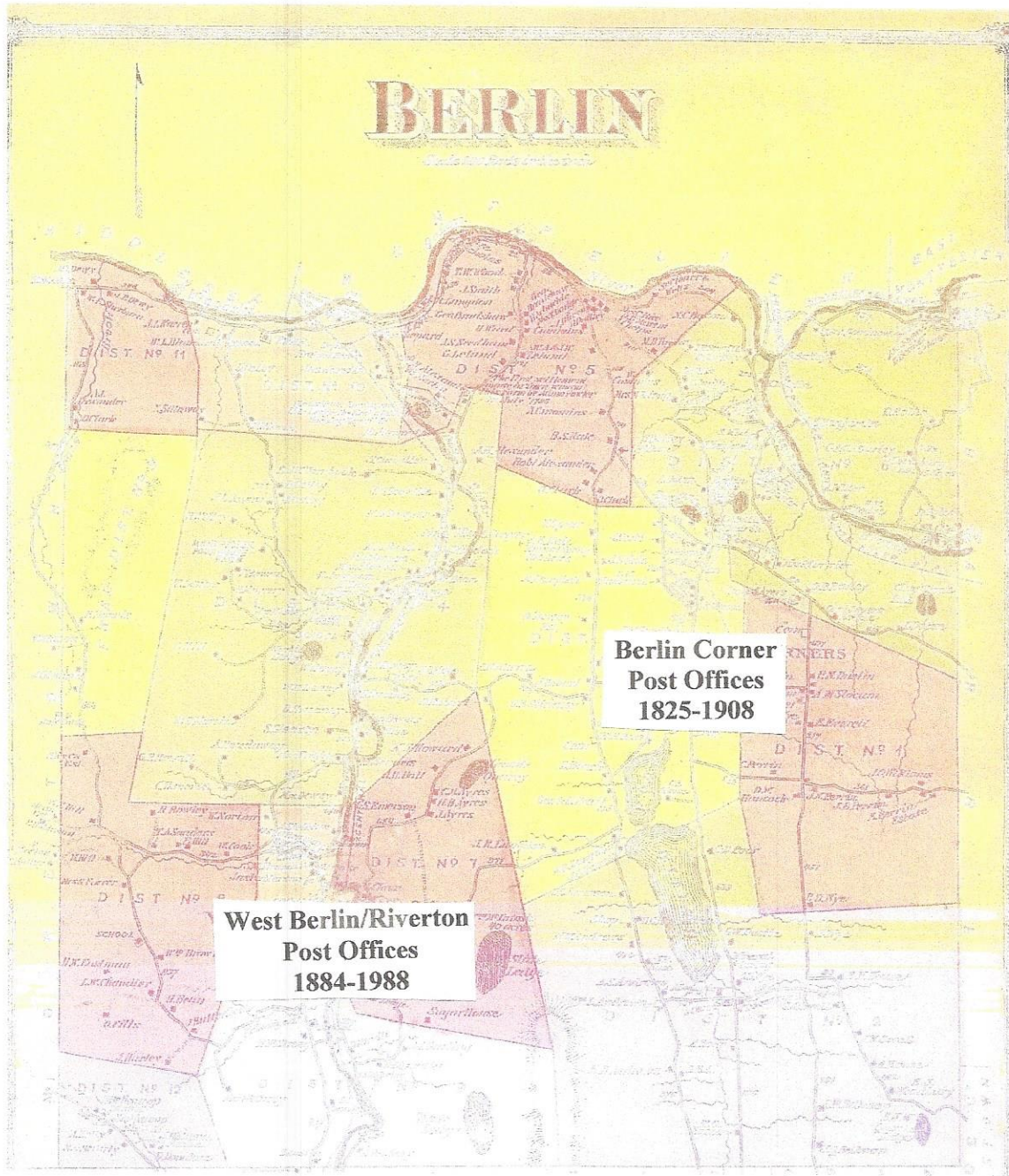


**History of
Berlin Vermont Post Offices**

**Berlin Corner 1825 - 1908
West Berlin/Riverton 1884 - 1988**

**Berlin was chartered in 1763
and was organized in 1791**

Researched by Norbert D. Rhinerson
March 28, 2014 revision



Beers 1873 Map

Berlin Corner

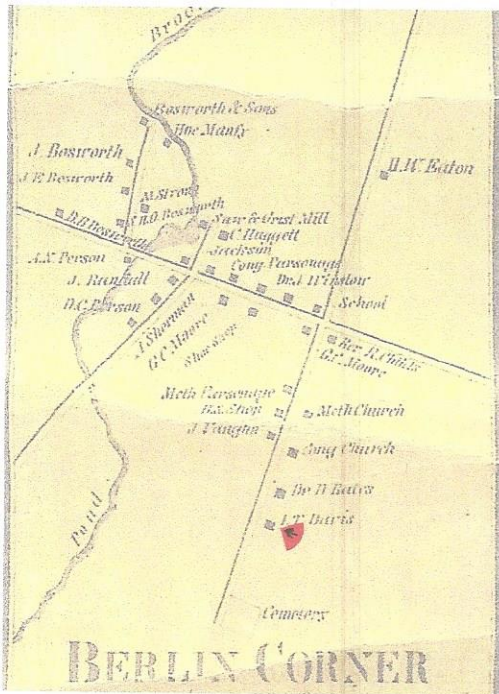
1825 - 1908

6 Postmasters



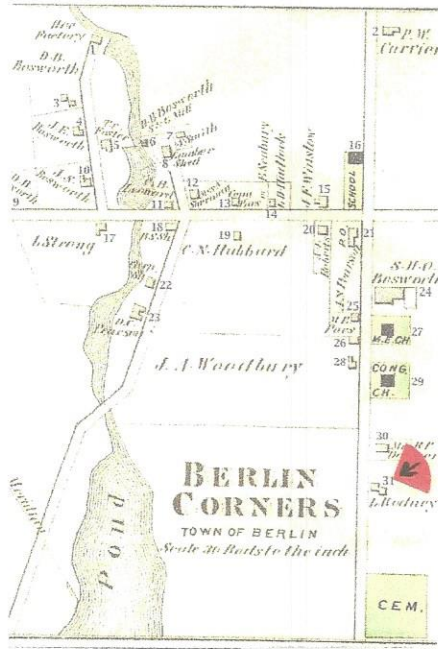
The first Post Office in Berlin was at Israel Dewey's house. Israel Dewey was the first of Berlins six postmasters and served from March 26, 1825 to March 19, 1850. According to the "Place to Pass Through. Berlin Vermont 1820-1991" this house was built in 1800 and Berlins first store and tavern operated by Jonas Parker.

Israel Dewey's home was on land that is now part of the Berlin Corners Cemetery



October 25, 1847
 Folded letter signed by
 Israel Dewey
 Postmasters who did
 not have annual
 compensation over
 \$200 could send letters
 for free.

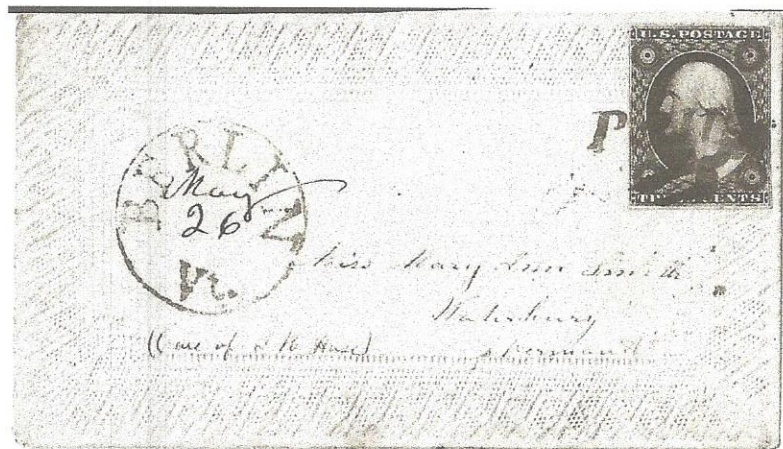




Isaac Davis was Berlin's second postmaster serving from March 20, 1850 until February 19, 1854 in the same location after Israel Dewey moved to Lunenburg



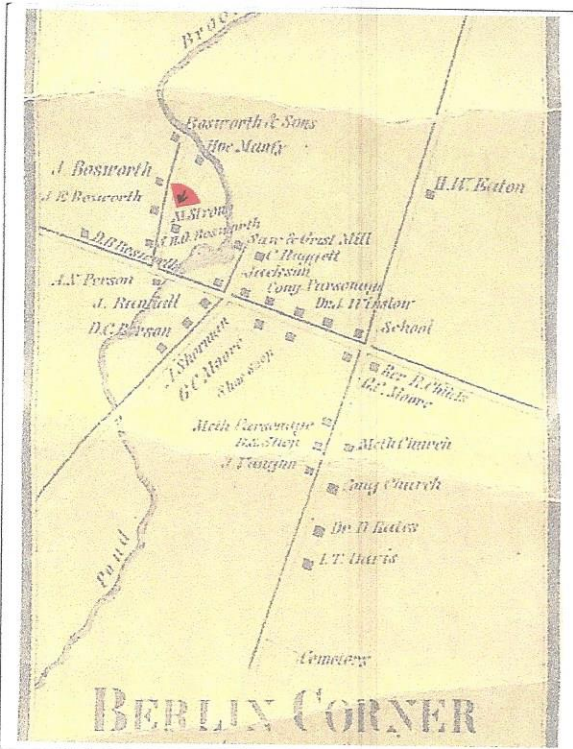
The post office continued to be in the same house as it was from 1825 to 1850



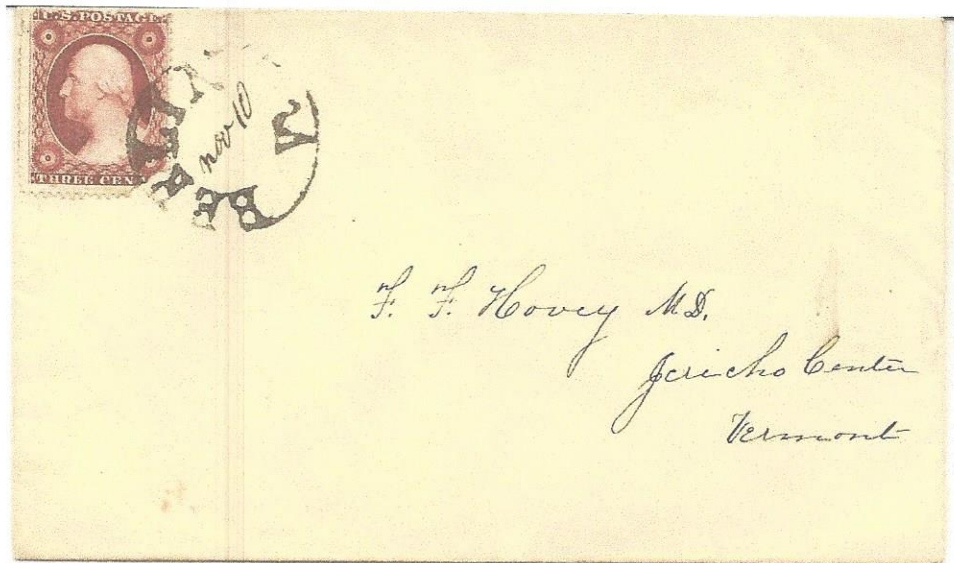
Picture of cover owned by Stan Sumner

No year date but stamp was issued after Isaac Davis became the postmaster so it was cancelled during the time he was postmaster.

Moses Strong was Berlins third postmaster serving from February 20, 1854 to October 8, 1858
Now the postoffice is on Bosworth Road

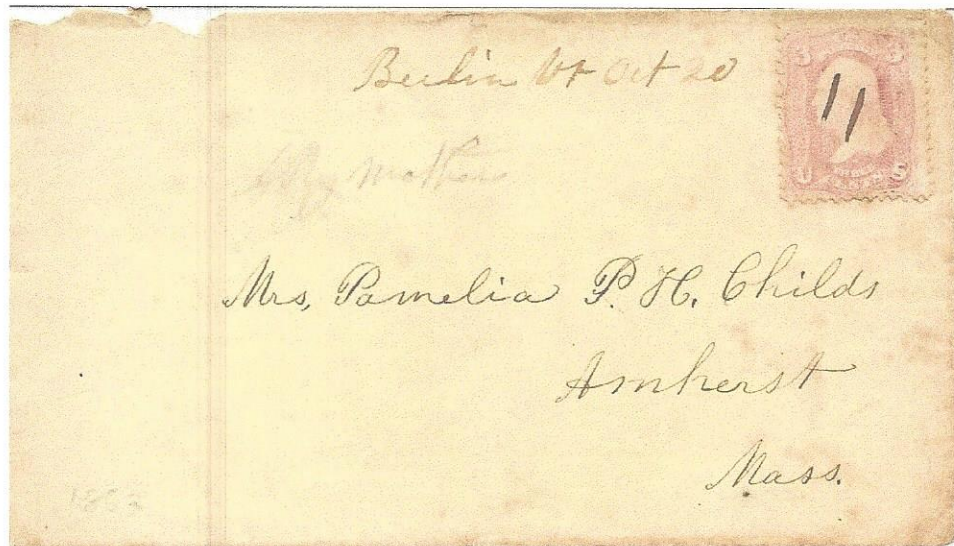
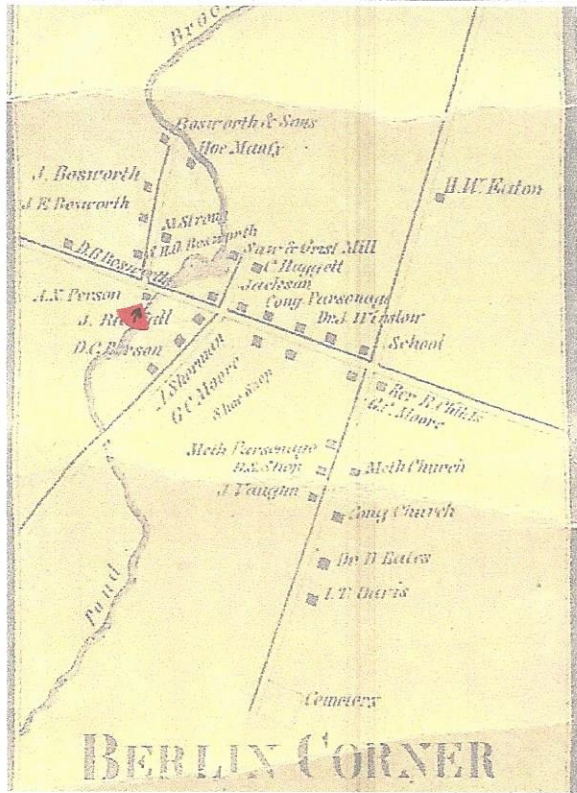


This is the back of the house and the mill is on the right.



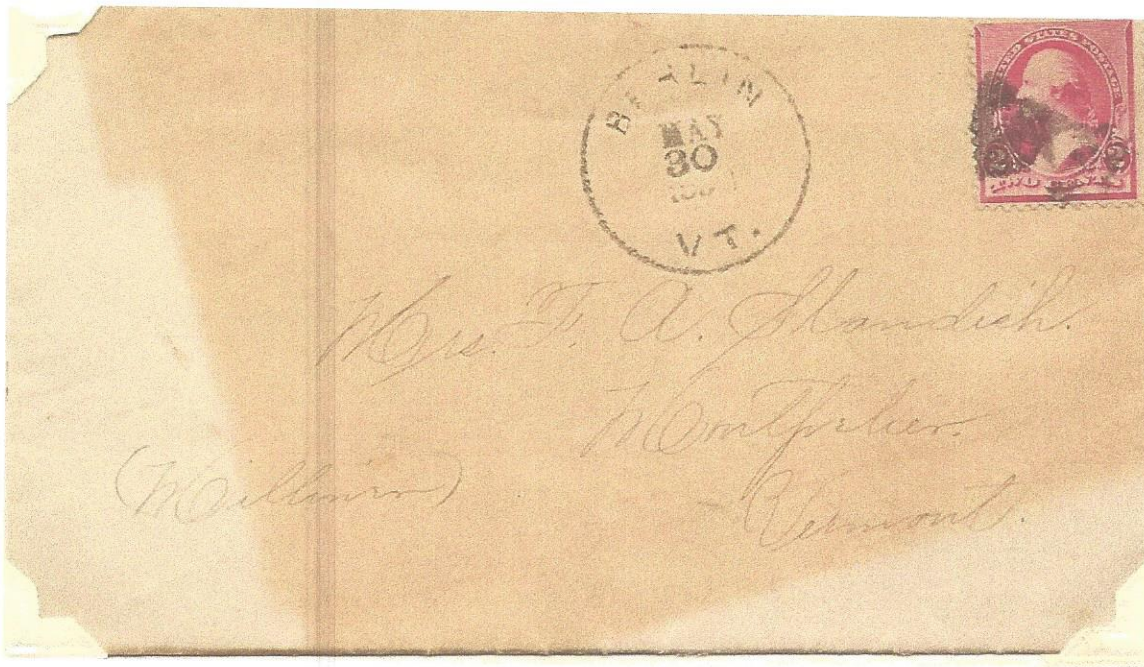
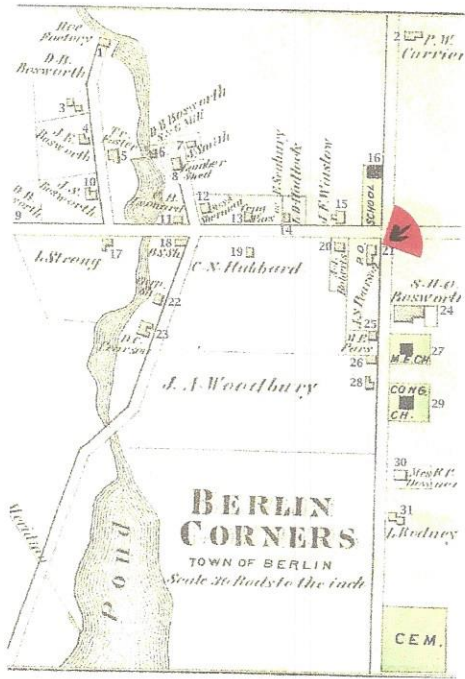
Cancelled by Moses Strong on November 10, 1857

Artemus Pearson was Berlin's fourth postmaster serving from October 9, 1858 to April 6, 1893. On the 1858 Walling Map he is shown to be living in this location, which is now Crosstown Road.



Cancelled on October 20, 1863 by Artemus Pearson

Second location for Artemus Pearson's postoffice was at the four corner shown here on the 1873 Beers Map

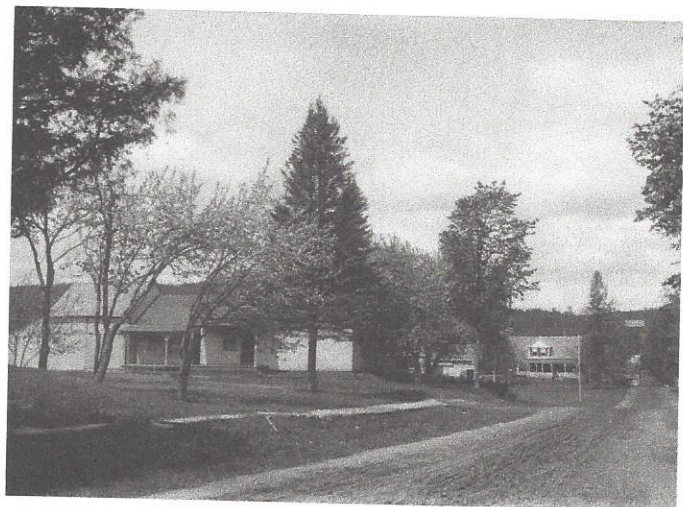
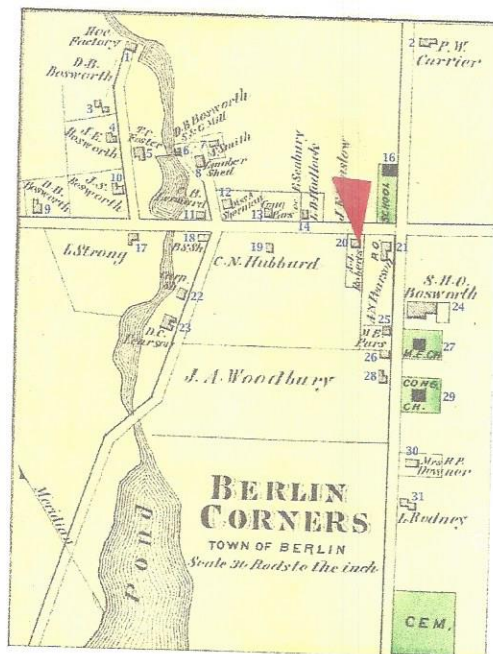


Cancelled on May 30, 1891 by Artemus Pearson at the Corner location

Emiline F. Bailey was Berlin's fifth postmaster and served from April 7, 1893 til February 12, 1901.

Richard Nye wrote in "A Place to Pass Through, Berlin Vermont that Andrew Bailey was postmaster in 1897. Emeline is buried in the Berlin Corner Cemetery and was born November 28, 1838 and died May 20, 1932. Andrew may have filled in for Emeline but never was recorded as being a Berlin postmaster in the US Postal Records. Husband Andrew died on March 12, 1898. We are not sure of this location of this postoffice/home. We know the Baileys lived in the area as we have census records that show the Baileys lived in the proximity of others in the Corners area.

Everything we have read says the post office was in the home the Pludes now live in, and while the property search does not show a Bailey in this time frame we will assume for the present that was where it was.

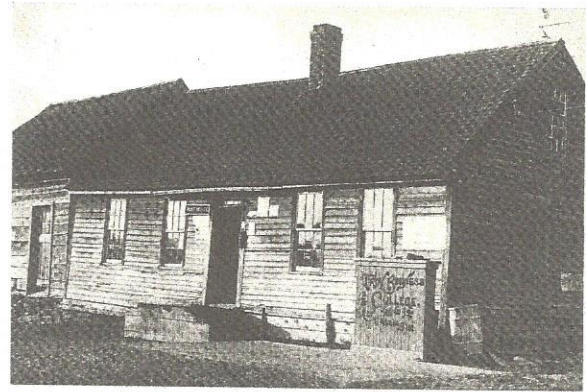
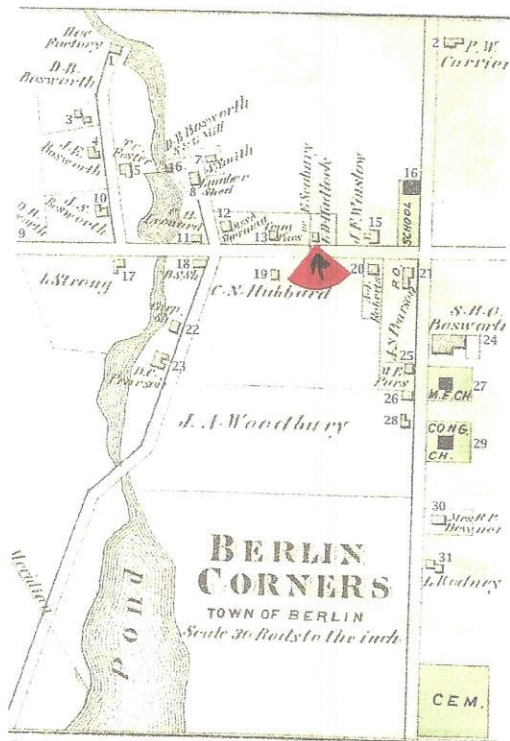


. Cancelled September 14, 1894 while Emilene Bailey was postmaster



Charles Kimball was Berlins sixth and last postmaster serving from February 13, 1901 until June 15, 1908

This building was in front of the flat topped building where the post office and store moved to after the original postoffice was torn down.



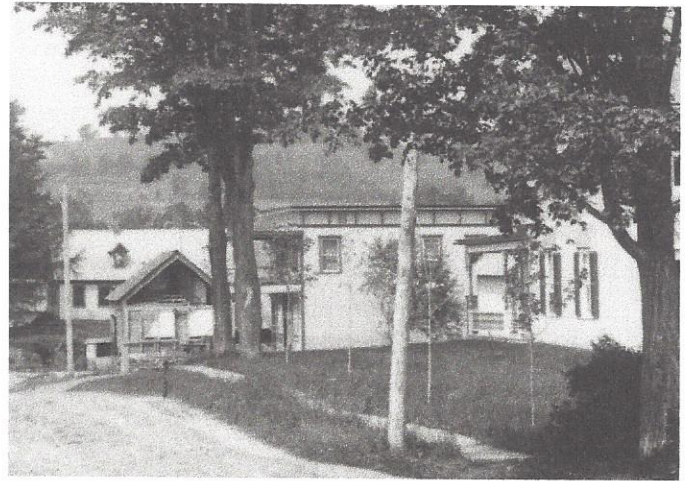
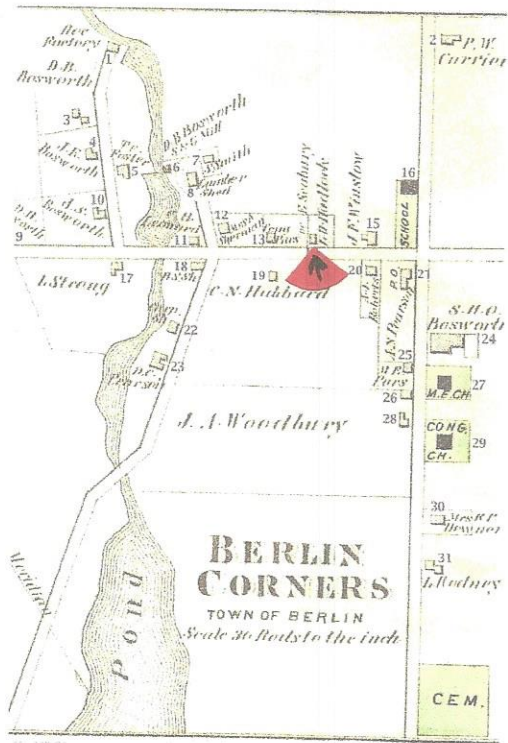
THE BERLIN POST OFFICE - 1901

(Back of the photo appears to read "Charles Kimball, Postmaster, Berlin, Vermont")

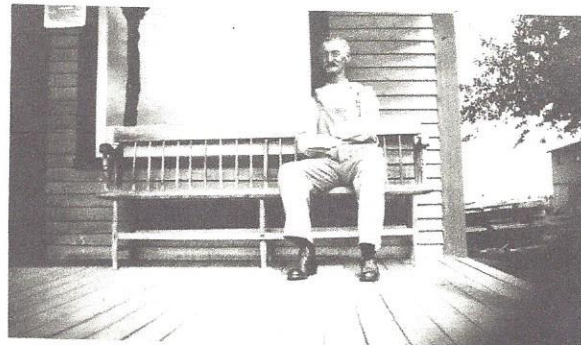
Picture inside the store was taken on December 12, 1901 and the caption under it read "Charles

Kimball dealer in groceries, nails, flour, meal and feed at Berlin Corner for more than 40 years until 1921.

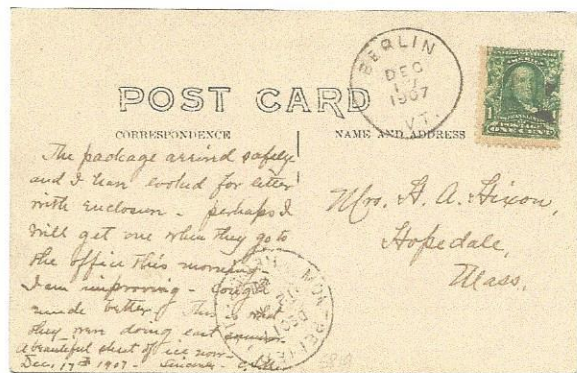
Charles Kimball moved the store and postoffice to the flat topped house when it was built after the one pictured here as being partially torn down. We believe this was either in 1904 or 1905.



Flat topped house second from right, part of the previous postoffice is still there.



Charles Kimball sitting on Porch

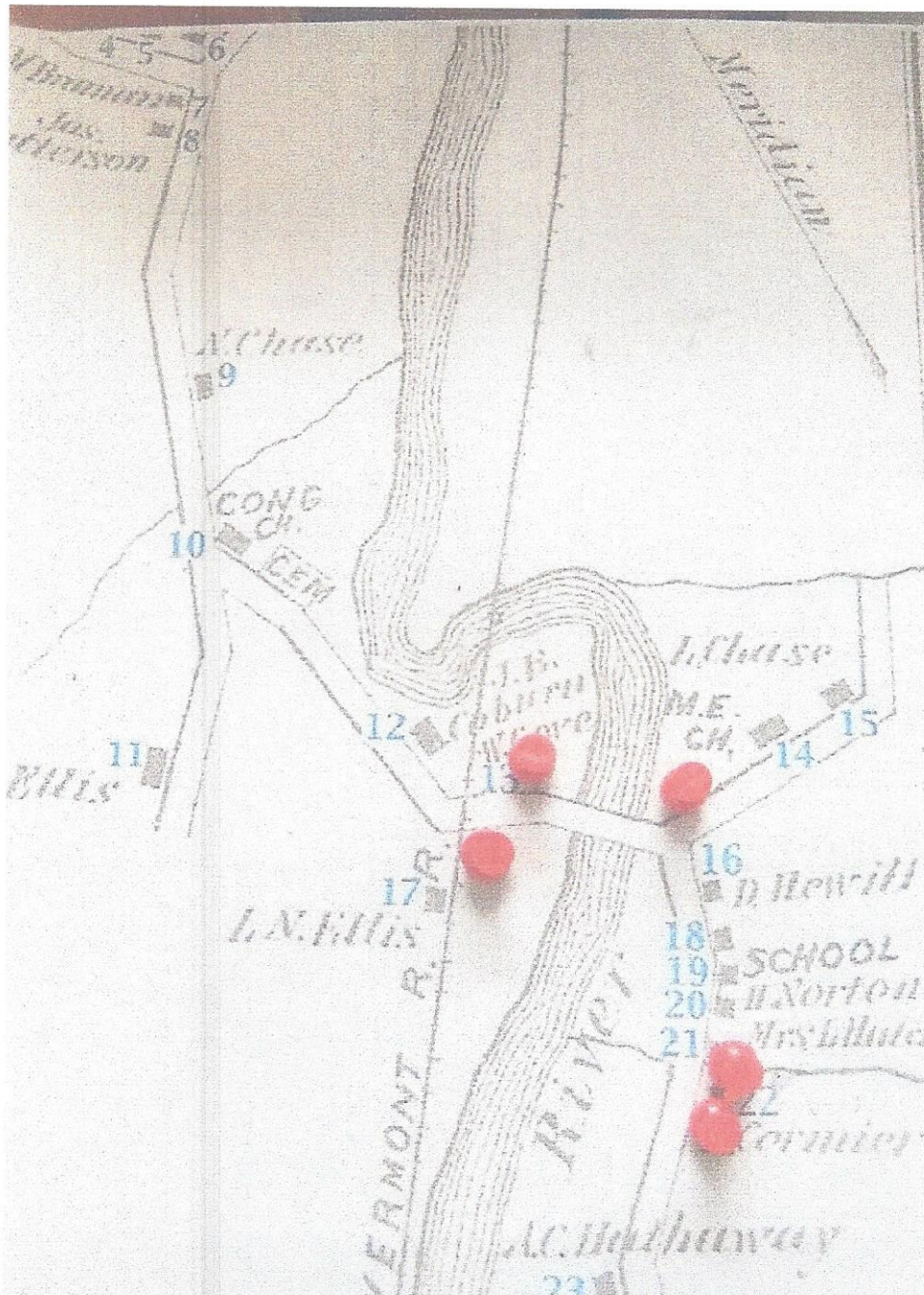


Cancelled on December 17, 1907 while Charles Kimball was postmaster with Berlin Pond Picture on back. The Berlin Corner Post Office was officially closed on June 15, 1908.

West Berlin/Riverton

1884-1988

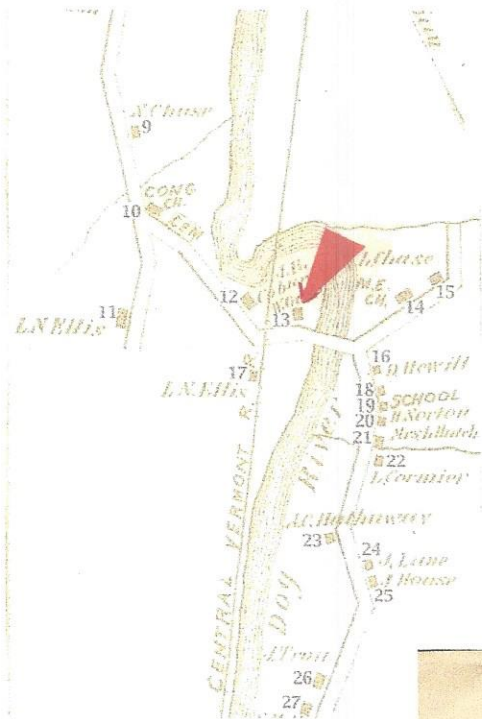
16 Postmasters and Officers in Charge



Winthrop Gove August 19, 1884 to February 13, 1887

Winthrop Gove died on February 8, 1906 at age 79 and is buried in the West Berlin Cemery, grave 115..

See page 89 of the "Place to Pass Through" where there is a Winthrop Gove mentioned in the story of West Berlin written by Arthur Wentworth Hewitt..



13 W. Gove where the post office probably was.
Now the location of the Granite Plant

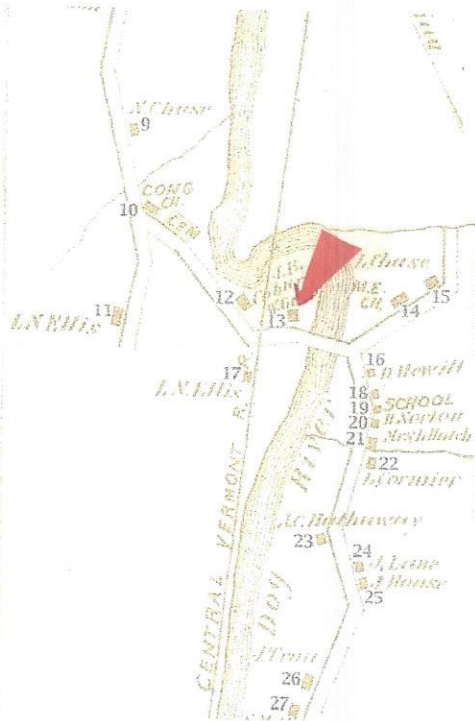


Envelope cancelled by Winthrop Gove on November 18, 1886

Ludlow O. Barker March 1, 1887 to September 5, 1888

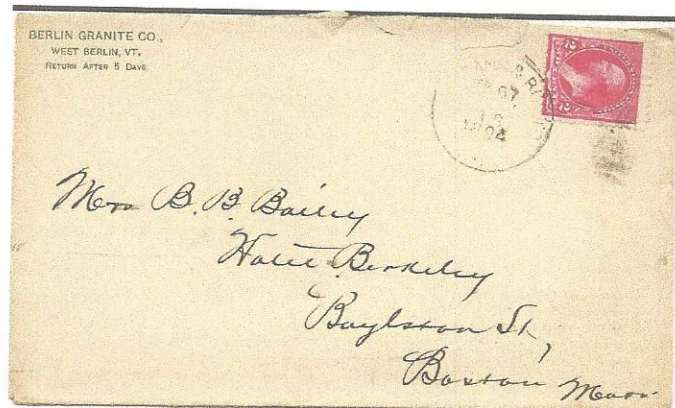
On Page 86 of a "Place to Pass Through" it talks about a Barker house having been moved across the street to accommodate the Berlin Granite Company which later became the Davis Granite Works

This most likely will be the same location where Winthrop Gove had his postoffice..



The Gazateer of Washington County (1783-1889) lists Ludlow O Barker as a stockholder and foreman at the Berlin Granite Company.

We have a business envelope for the Berlin Granite Company dated 1894.



Mrs Lucy A Stiles September 6, 1888 to September 4, 1895



Was received in New York in November 9 (Back) but was signed by Mrs Stiles while she was postmaster. It was a registered letter that required 10c postage instead of 2c. That is why it has a receiving date.

Hiram B. Ayers September 5, 1895 to February 5, 1905

Vermont Standard March 30, 1899

The store and post office at West Berlin, of which H.B. Ayers is the owner and postmaster was burned to the ground about 1:30 Friday Night March 17. The origin of the fire is unknown. Nothing was saved from the building but a few mail sacks. The building was a story and a half structure, the upstairs of the store was unfinished.

1900 Census, Berlin, VT

Ayers, Hiram Oct. 1841, age 58, b. VT, head, occ.—merchant

Mary J. Dec. 1842, age 57 b. NH, wife

Della J. Mar. 1878, age 22, daughter

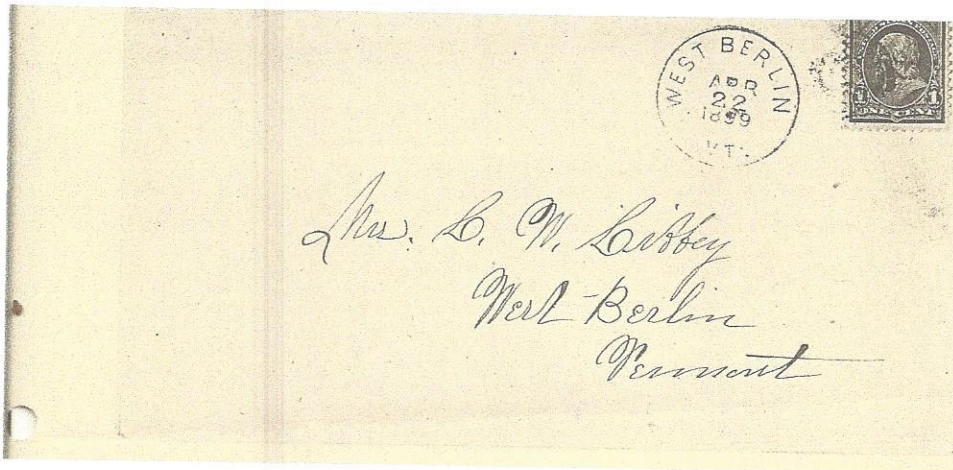
Ella M. Dec. 1854, age 45, cousin, single, b. NH, occ.—assistant postmaster

There is a Hiram B. Ayers in the West Berlin Cemetery Born Oct 12, 1839 Died January 5, 1906
Grave no 232

Electronic Library:

984037. Hiram B. Ayers. Postmaster, 1901, West Berlin, VT.

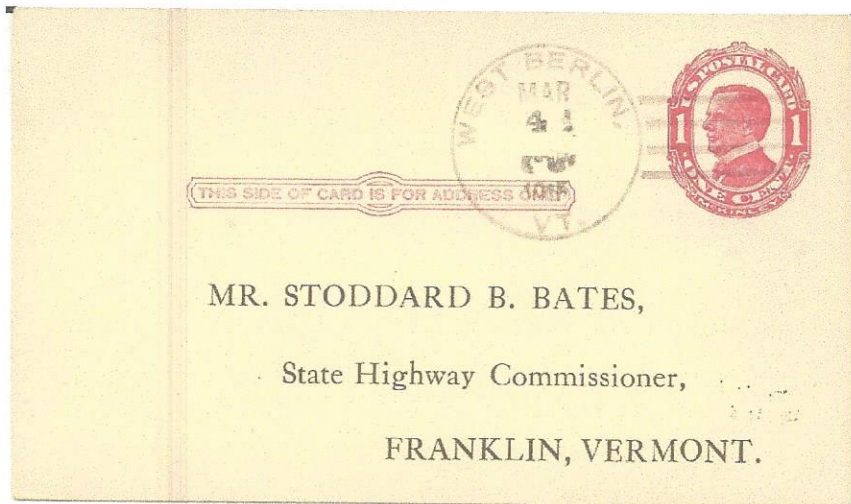
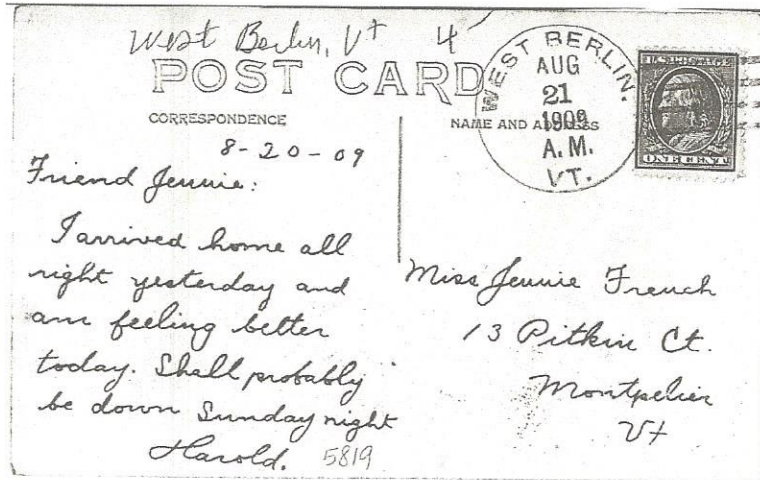
April 22, 1899 cover



We will have to find the location of this store and also whether it was rebuilt.
The Riverton Store structure was built in 1950
Ayers Street might be the place to look. Ayers Street at that time was Route 14.

Ella M. Ayers February 6, 1905 to November 20, 1913

1910 Census, Berlin, VT
Ayers, Mary J. 69 widow Wife of Hiram
Ella M. 53 sister to head, occ—postmaster
Ella M was a cousin of the previous postmaster, Hiram B Ayers



Cassius H. Robinson November 21, 1913 to April 9, 1918

ROBINSON CASSIUS H. (Hannah M.), general store West Berlin, h do see adv

Excerpted from the 1914 Montpelier City Directory
It says they can be contacted by both phones which
must mean the store was in or near the
Railroad Station.

C. H. ROBINSON

General Merchandise

A Select Stock of Staple Dry Goods.
Groceries, Shoes, Hardware, Etc.,
Bradley's Phosphates, Roofing Ma-
terials, Drugs and Proprietary Med-
icines.

West Berlin, - Vermont
R. R. Station, Riverton
Both Phones



Cassius and Hannah Robinson and son Frank about 1916.



The Railroad Station is right front in the above picture and immediately behind it is the L.W. Porter Building, the first floor is to be used for the sale of general merchandise and the second floor a hall for general use. This article was in the Vermont Watchman and State Journal dated October 19, 1892. The entire article is on the next page. The Ayers store burned to the ground on March 17, 1899 so this store could not have been the location of the post office until after that time. We could also assume that this was the post office location until June 11, 1937 when Elinore Coonrod became the Riverton Postmaster at a different location. There were different postmasters during that time but for now we will assume the post office continued to be in the Porter Building.

Vermont Watchman and State Journal article dated
October 19, 1892

West Berlin.

The new two-story house on the corner of School street and Emerson avenue has been bought by L. W. Porter, who will make it his family residence.

G. S. Emerson, manager of the Emerson Building Association, is taking active steps toward the erection of a building to be used as a blacksmith shop.

It has been suggested that the laying of the corner-stone for the new hall building at the corner of Granite street be made a part of the Columbus day programme, and that the building be known as Columbus Hall.

The grading for the new building on the corner of Main and Granite streets is completed, and the erection of the building is to be commenced at once. The first floor will be used by L. W. Porter for the sale of general merchandise, and it is purposed to finish the second floor into a hall for general use.

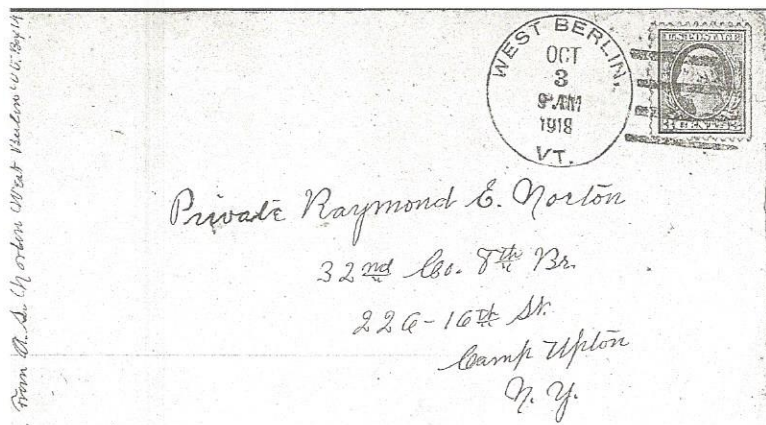
The scholars in district No. 4, moved by that spirit of patriotism which was a leading characteristic of the heroes of '76, have demonstrated the truthfulness of the old maxim that "blood will tell," by raising the money among themselves to purchase a flag, and, with the assistance of the teacher, Miss May Crandall, have arranged a programme for Columbus day.

Edward Handy of Wareham, Mass., was a guest of Wilbur Brown last week. Mrs. Daniel Brown, who has been visiting in Massachusetts for several weeks, has returned. Edward Redmond has gone to England. He is expected to return in the spring, bringing his family with him.

*VERMONT WATCHMAN & STATE JOURNAL
OCT 19, 1892*

Alice Magowen April 10, 1916 to August 21, 1918
On August 22, 1918 West Berlin became Riverton

Alice Magowen August 22, 1918 to March 8, 1920 A
continuation of her service with the name change to
Riverton



The West Berlin Cancel was still being used well after the name
changed to Riverton

Frederick W. Davis March 9, 1920 to April 26, 1932

Frederick was the son of Frederick J Davis who we believe was the
owner of the Davis Granite Works

Mrs Eva M. Davis April 27, 1932 to March 19, 1937

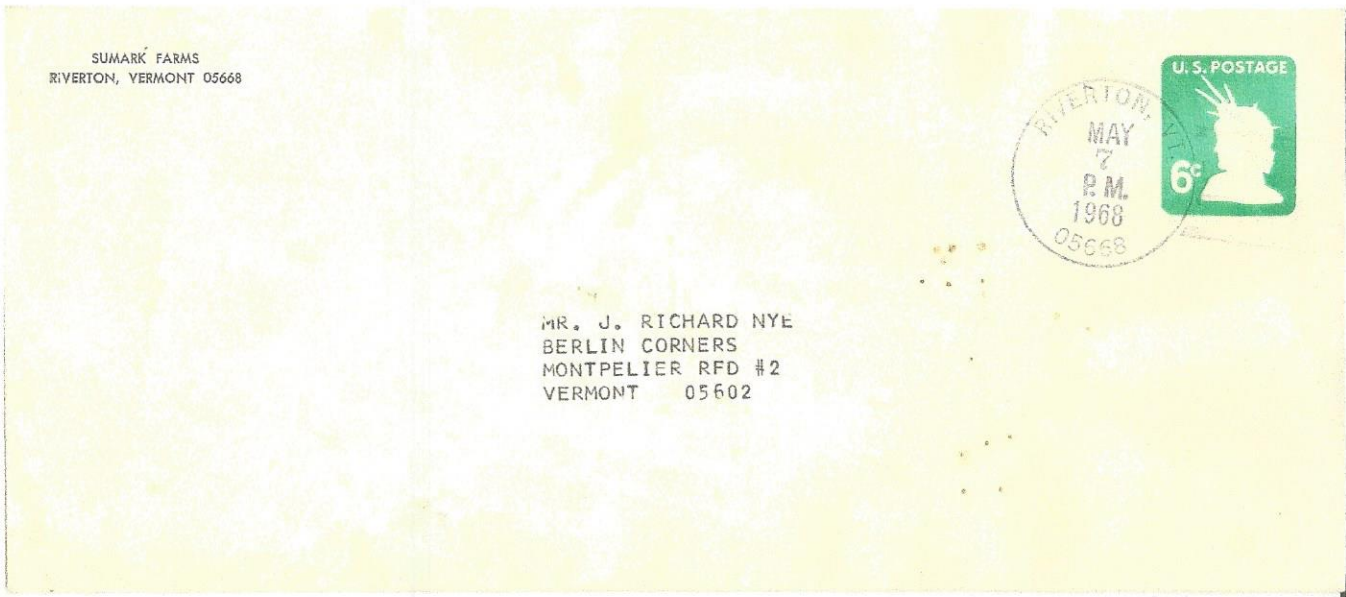
Eva appears to be the wife of Frederick J Davis

Lawrence J. Collins Acting Postmaster March 20, 1937 to June 10,
1937

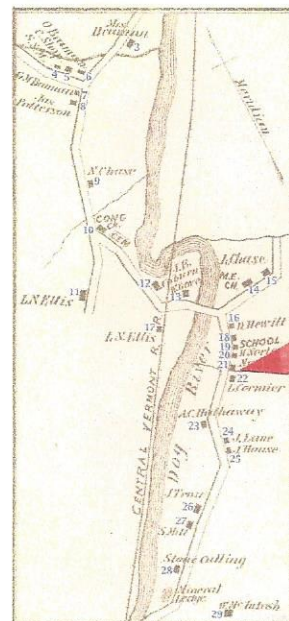
Born in 1915 in Northfield
Listed as being a mechanic and repairman of Motor Vehicles

Mrs Lillian B. Croteau Acting Postmaster December 31, 1953 February 3, 1954
This is at odds with other records but am checking when the previous postmaster,
Coonrod died

Mrs Lillian Croteau was postmaster from February 4, 1954 to January 7, 1971
The postoffice was in her house on Hwy 12 at School Street,



This is the house where
Mrs. Croteau had her
postoffice. It is at the
intersection of Hwy 12
and School Street.

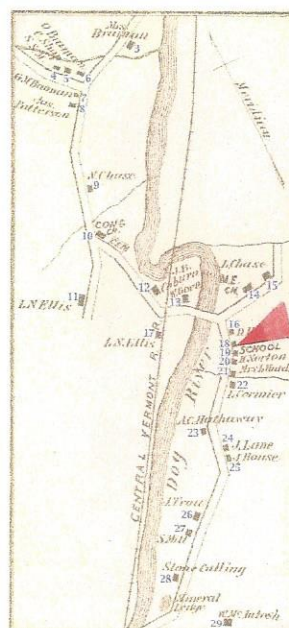


Mrs Elizabeth A. Bevins Officer in Charge January 8, 1971 to July 30, 1971
Mrs Elizabeth A Bevins was postmaster from July 31, 1971 til August 4, 1984
when she died in office

Elizabeth Richardson was helping her when Mrs Bevins died.

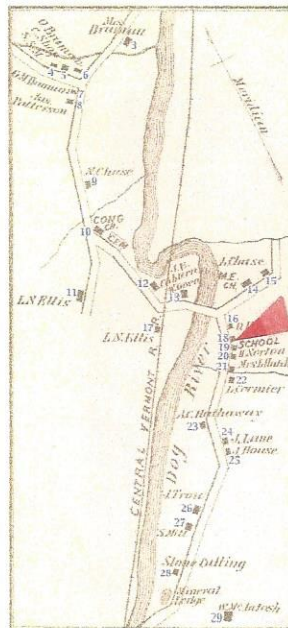
When Mrs Bevins died, they also mistakenly listed Mrs Richardson as having
also died so the post office could not pay her directly as she was supposed to be
deceased. The Northfield post office managed somehow to pay her.

Picture of her house



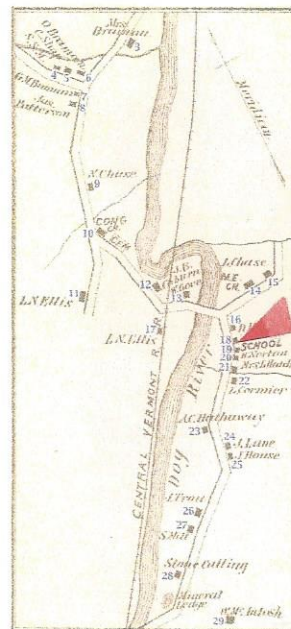
Mrs Elizabeth Richardson Office in Charge August 10, 1984 don't know the last date

Mrs Richardson ran the postoffice in Mrs Bevins house but could not continue very long as she was caring for Mrs Boyan an this took most of her time. Norb Rhinerson and Richard Turner interviewed her on Oct 1 at her home and recorded the conversation.



Dana Barber is listed as an officer in charge but we have no dates. Dana Barber was employed by the Northfield Post Office and he had Mrs Barbara Feltch operate the postoffice until it was closed on February 19, 1988. The postoffice continued to be in Mrs Bevins house.

The post office was officially closed on February 19, 1988 at 9:30 AM



Letter to Riverton Postal Customers Announcing the Closing of the Post Office



**United States
Postal Service**

Postal Customers
Riverton, VT 05668

Postal Customers,

In January of 1987 the final determination to close the Riverton Post Office was posted.

The Riverton Post Office will close its operation at 9:30 am on February 19, 1988.

Beginning on February 20, 1988, current box holders may pick up their mail at the Northfield Falls Post Office between the hours of 8:00 to 11:00 am and 1:30 to 5:30 pm Monday through Friday and 8:00 to 11:00 am on Saturdays.

During the spring or early summer of 1988, installation of neighborhood delivery & collection boxes and parcel lockers will take place.

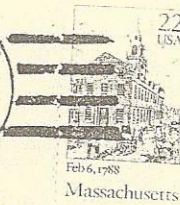
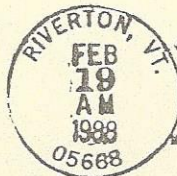
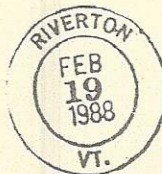
The proposed site for this installation remains in the parking area of the general store in Riverton.

All residents of Riverton who are receiving extended general delivery service at the Northfield Falls Post Office will be notified when that installation will actually take place.

We hope this transition will take place with a minimum of inconvenience for you.

Sincerely,

John B. Balaban
for Michael J. Shinay
Postmaster
Burlington, VT 05401-9996



The Neighborhood Delivery Center was installed and was presumably operating on February 20, 1988 the day after the Riverton PO was closed. It continues to be used.



West Berlin/Riverton Postmasters

Name	Title	Date Appointed
West Berlin		
Winthrop Grove (Gove)	Postmaster	August 19, 1884
Arthur I. Hewitt	Postmaster	February 14, 1887
Ludlow C. Barker	Postmaster	March 1, 1997
Mrs Lucy A Stiles	Postmaster	September 6, 1888
Hiram B. Ayers	Postmaster	September 5, 1895
Ella M Ayers	Postmaster	February 6, 1905
Cassius H. Robinson	Postmaster	November 21, 1913
Alice M. Magowen	Postmaster	April 10, 1918
Riverton Name changed to Riverton on August 22, 1919		
Alice Magowen	Postmaster	August 22, 1918
Frederick W. Davis	Postmaster	March 9, 1920
Mrs. Eva M, Davis	Postmaster	April 27, 1932
Lawrence J. Collins	Acting Postmaster	March 20, 1937
Mrs Elinor S. Coonrod	Postmaster	June 11, 1937
Mrs Lillian B. Croteau	Postmaster	January 9, 1954
Following infor from Piazza, Abajian Slightly at odds with previous info		
Lillian B. Croteau (Mrs)	Acting Postmaster	12/31/1953
Lillian B. Croteau (Mrs)	Postmaster	02/04/1954
Elizabeth A. Bevins (Mrs)	Officer-In-Charge	01/08/1971
Elizabeth A. Bevins (Mrs)	Postmaster	07/31/1971 Died in office August 4, 1984
Elizabeth Richardson	Officer-In-Charge	08/10/1984 for a short time
Dana Barber	Officer-In-Charge who worked for the Northfield PO who hired Barbara Feltch to continue operating the post office in Mrs Bevins house till the PO closed.	
Post Office was closed on February 19, 1984 and became a Neighborhood Delivery Center		