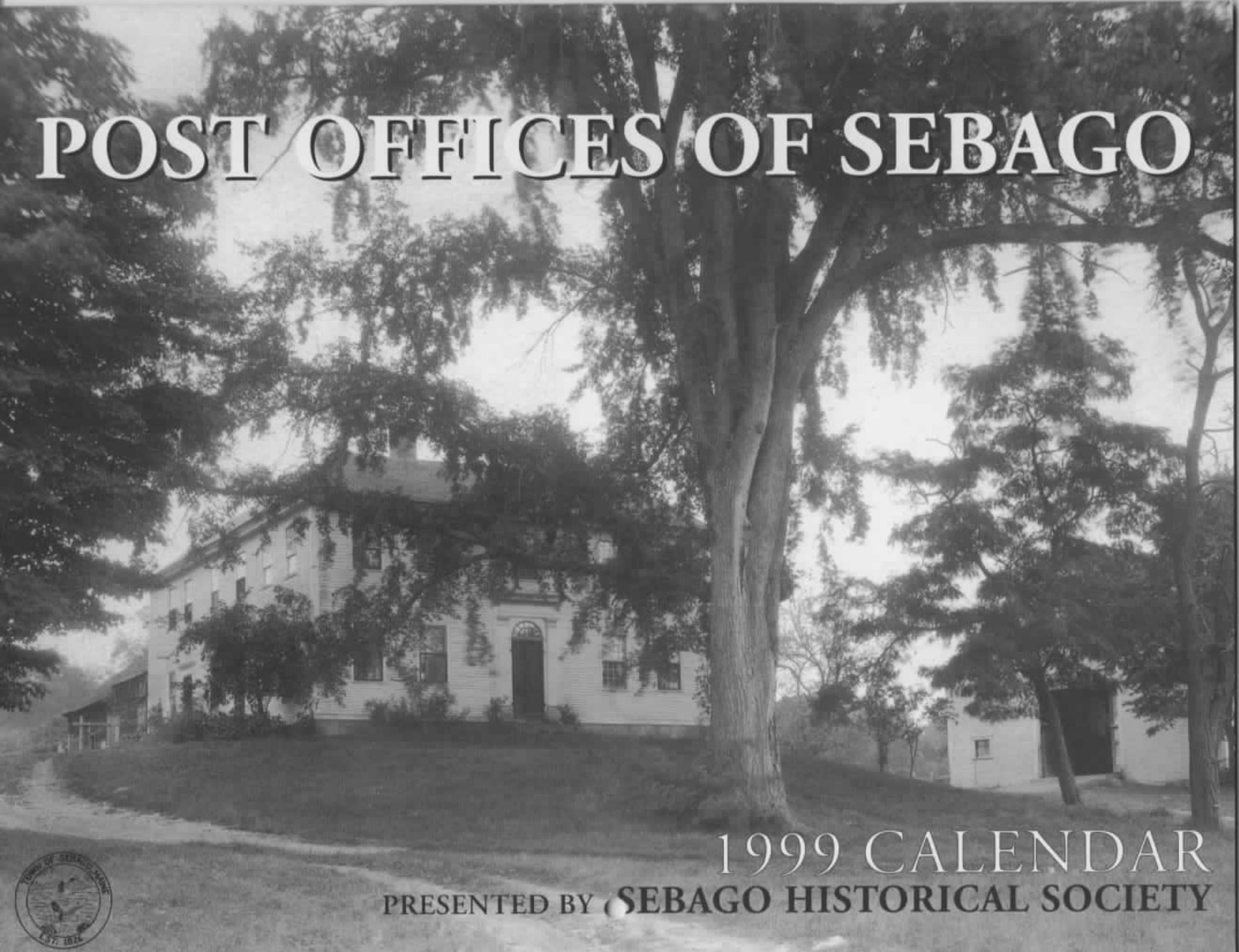


POST OFFICES OF SEBAGO



1999 CALENDAR

PRESENTED BY SEBAGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY



The Sebago Historical Society introduces its calendar for 1999

Post Offices & Mail Carriers of Sebago

We wish to thank everyone who helped make this calendar possible.

Photographs and records are as accurate as we can determine.

Calendar Committee —Lucretia Douglas, June Allen, Diana Letellier and Joyce Viles

Early Carriers of Sebago

Jacob Howe was the first mail carrier to travel through what was later Sebago, from 1800 - 1802, then extended his route to Waterford and made weekly runs on horseback with a mail pouch and two saddle bags containing papers to be delivered along the route, notably the Portland Gazette and Eastern Argus. He was armed with a trumpet he blew just before he reached a house or Post Office to speed up delivery. Letter postage was 25¢ for a distance of 400 miles (or over), 6-1/4 ¢ for under 30 miles, and newspapers 1¢ each (per copy). It is unclear who the mail carriers were from 1812 to 1912.



PHOTOS

- 1 Herbert Brown
- 2 Alison Martin
- 3 Howard Grover
- 4 Elmer and May Martin
- 5 Diana Letellier
- 6 Jody Blanchet and Ruth Douglas
- 7 Raymond Wood



COVER PHOTO:

Home of William Fitch, the first Postmaster of Sebago, which was used as a Post Office from 1829 to 1840.

**To order calendars
call 207-787-2709.**



Mail Carriers

Note: From 1812 to 1912 it is unclear who the mail carriers were.

SEBAGO

Charles Fitch
Edwin Brown
Herbert Brown
Al Martin, 1928-36
Howard Grover, 1936-42
Al Martin, 1942-57
Elmer and May Martin, 1957-66
Diana Libby, 1966-74
Ruth Douglas, 1974-present

CONVENE

When the Convene Post Office shut down in 1955, mail came from West Baldwin Post Office. The carriers were Elwood Milliken, Lawrence Hoyt, Harry Sanborn, Donald Cross and Ruth Douglas.

NORTH SEBAGO

Sumner Shaw
Gordon Shaw
Charles Shaw
Albert Anderson
Raymond and Grace Wood
Jimmy Wood
Ruth Douglas, present carrier

HILLSIDE

Lewis A. Dolloff, First star route carrier with horse and sleigh from Perleys Mills to Bridgton and Saco N.G. Railroad. His wife Maude was the first person to use a car, Model-T, to deliver mail.

John Sargent

then Carlton Dolloff

Harry Irish, hauled mail from Bridgton after the narrow gauge railroad shut down and also carried mail from South Bridgton until both offices closed.

SEBAGO POST OFFICE

was established January 17,
1829 and discontinued
September 19, 1912 when it
was moved to the home of
Mary A. Babb, Postmaster
until 1940.

POSTMASTERS

1829 William Fitch
1840 Robert McDonald
1842 William Fitch, Jr.
1845 William Bickford
1848 John E. McDonald
1849 William Wingate
1853 Joseph Ridlon (6 mos.)
1853 John E. McDonald
1856 Joseph Ridlon
1857 John D. Martin
1861 Luther H. Fitch
1867 Simon Davis
1869 Luther H. Fitch
1885 Edwin L. Poor
1889 Mrs. Eunice B. Fitch
1893 Edwin L. Poor



Second Post Office in Sebago

The Principal's House — Second Post Office of Sebago was built by William Fitch. (1930 photo) Photo at left was taken in 1998.



Edwin Poor's Store and Sebago Center's Third Post Office

*which later became
Fred Meserve's Store.
It is no longer standing.*



EAST SEBAGO POST OFFICE

The first Post Office in East Sebago was in 1876. Fitch's Store burned in 1864, rebuilt the same year and burned again in 1919.

FIRST POSTMASTERS

John Fitch,

Jan. 31, 1876-May 18, 1915

LaGrove M. Sanborn,

May 18, 1915-May 3, 1933

Eva Sanborn,

May 3, 1933-Aug. 27, 1947

Laurence Fitch,

Aug. 27, 1947-Mar. 1, 1948

Gordon Sanborn,

1948-1980



Fitch's Store, 1907



Laurence Fitch

Fitch's Store, 1927

Luther H. Fitch of Groton, Massachusetts married Rebecca William Fitch's daughter in 1829, built the sawmill and house in East Sebago that is now the Sebago Elementary School. His son John was the first postmaster and great uncle of Laurence, who was postmaster for about a year at the site of the Fitch's Store that closed in 1997 and is now vacant. This building is in the National Register of Historic Places.



POSTMASTERS

(From 1980)

1980 Joanne Foster
 Aug. 1984 Lynn Micklon
 Feb. 1985 Warren R. Cutter
 Mar. 1991 Mary Pelkey
 June 1991 Charles Norse
 Oct. 1991 David Roy
 Feb. 1992 David Chessey
 June 1992 Phil Foster
 Oct. 1992 Sue Cloutier
 Dec. 1992 Amber Dearborn
 Mar. 1993 Wayne Boyden
 Aug. 1993 Cynthia Rogers
 Dec. 1993 Patty Brown
 June 1995 Stan Libby



Stanley Libby,
Present Postmaster

East Sebago Post Office, 1980 - Present

Joanne Foster became Postmaster in 1980 and the present Post Office was opened for use. Both she and Rachel Burnell served their patrons until the fall of 1984 when Rachel retired and Joanne was promoted to the Standish Post Office.

Lynn Micklon was Officer-in Charge from August 1984 until December 1984 when Donna Gacetta became Officer-in Charge until February 1985.

Warren R. Cutter was appointed to the East Sebago Post Office on February 17, 1985. Warren left the office in 1991 and substitutes have continued to come and go since then. The list (upper right) names these people and the dates they began service in East Sebago.



Rachel Burnell, Clerk in Charge, accepting moose painting from Abbe E. Decker.



*First North Sebago Post Office
and Stagecoach*

North Sebago Post Office

Before the Post Office was established in Loren Bachelder's store in 1884 the mail was delivered by volunteers on horseback once or twice a week. One of the volunteers was Nathaniel Fickett who delivered it to the Allen place, now the area of the Yankee Doodle Camps. In 1889 Sumner Shaw was postmaster at the Round Table Lodge until George W. McKenney was appointed in 1901. The office moved to his home, now the home of Betty Sawyer, where it remained until 1910 when Alice Bachelder became postmaster.

North Sebago Post Office from 1901 to 1910. Postmaster George W. McKenney shown on porch.



*First Post Office
as it appears today
—a storage shed
behind Bill and
Yvonne Nasons.*





North Sebago Post Office 1910-1972

The store and home of Walter and Alice Bacheldor was the North Sebago Post Office for 23 years after her appointment as postmaster in 1910 (to 1933). She is shown fourth from the left behind mail carrier Ed Jewett seated in his car. Others in picture (left to right), Ethel Wooley, Helen Nason Dyer and Edith Taylor. Walter and Alice were the first people to sell gas in North Sebago. The building was torn down in 1978.

Bertha Ward was appointed postmaster July 1, 1933. For a short time the Post Office was operated out of the Round Table Lodge and Shaws Store until she moved the office into her new home, now owned by Mrs. Chester (Persis) Cutting. Mrs. Ward died January 17, 1964 after 31 years of service and her clerk Mrs. Irma Bacheldor became acting postmaster, then the status of the North Sebago Post Office was changed from 4th class to a rural contract station out of East Sebago. Mrs. Bacheldor became first clerk in charge and the office moved to her home until Lillian Nason took over in 1972.



One of the earliest pictures of the Post Office at Alice Bacheldors, C. M. White in buggy.



Bertha Ward's home where Post Office was for 31 years.

May 25, 1998

Dear Diana,

When the Jewetts, Ed and son George were driving the mail from East Baldwin to East Sebago (and beyond) they started a business which was a God send to the town. For a small sum they took passengers to and from the train on the mail stage. Our family had no transportation and neither did anyone else so it meant everything to be able to get to Portland. We were not isolated!

This was the first of the century. I was born in 1904 and used this convenience for many years.

Best Wishes,
Marion S. Lockwood



North Sebago Post Office, 1972-1997

When Irma Bacheldor turned 70 in 1974, she had to retire, according to law, and Lillian Nason made a successful bid for the contract rural station. The Post Office was moved to her home near Camp O-AT-KA, where it operated from 1972 to 1997. 1997 was a difficult year for Lillian as she retired from the Post Office and lost her husband at almost the same time.

The eighty-one rented boxes, plus other customers, were moved to the East Sebago office that became the Sebago Post Office, where every resident of the Town of Sebago receives their mail. Much of it is delivered by the present contract mail carrier, Ruth A. Douglas.

Lillian Nason, mail clerk in charge





Elm Cottage

Sebago Ridge Post Office

In 1912, Mary A. Babb took over the postmaster's position from Edwin Poor, and the location was transferred from Poor's store in Sebago Center, to Elm Cottage on Sebago Ridge. The Post Office was operated from the home of her parents, James C. and Ann Douglass Babb, for about a year. In 1913 Mary had a home built across the street and the Post Office was moved and remained there until her mandatory retirement at the age of seventy. (photo at right) It has been said that after twenty seven continuous years, the morning of her 70th birthday on May 18, 1940, the postal workers were at her home and collected the outgoing mail. From that day,

the mail was handled from Douglas Hill.

The James Babb house is now owned by Joanne Chesney and Mary's home is the residence of Jonathan and Lauris Champagne.



Mary Babb's home and Post Office



Last day cancellation.



Webrow Post Office



*James Chadbourn,
Postmaster, 1933*

*Grace Snow
working on mail*



Douglas Hill Post Office

The first Post Office on Douglas Hill was opened on April 2, 1901. It was named Webrow, as Douglas and Dyke Mountains together were called this. It was located on Douglas Inn property and Edward Douglas served as postmaster. The following year the name was changed from Webrow to Douglas Hill Post Office. Years later the building was moved and it is now the home of Sherrill and Sylvia Douglass on the Robinson Hill Road.



Douglas Hill Post Office today, summer house of Edith and Sherman Cole, Postmaster Grace Snow's youngest daughter.

James L. Chadbourne became postmaster in 1929 with the Post Office in his home. He served until his death in 1935. At this time his daughter, Grace C. Snow, became acting postmaster. In 1936 she received her appointment as postmaster, working from Chadbourne Farm until 1937 when it was moved to her home below the farm. Grace served here until her mandatory retirement in January 1972, at the age of seventy. The Douglas Hill Post Office was then discontinued and addresses then became East Baldwin. Grace's home is now owned by her daughter and son-in-law, Edith and Sherman Cole.



*left to right,
Postmaster Grace Snow,
son Jimmy Snow and
daughter Louise Snow.*

Convene Post Office

The first Convene Post Office was established in 1892 with Charles Davis as postmaster. The office was in his home at the corner of Convene and Hog Fat Hill Roads. In 1909 this position was held by Jefferson P. Richardson and we believe the location to have been in his home which is now the property of Camp Winaco. Nellie Sanborn became postmaster in 1910 and worked from her home. David and Eileen Hague now have a home on this site. In 1913 the first Convene Post Office was used again. The home now being owned by Charles and Florence Haley with Florence receiving the appointment. This is presently the property of the Sprague family. Twin Lake House became the Post Office in 1920 with Charles Hunt as postmaster. The Narrow Gauge Railroad had a mail station a short distance from there which serviced the Convene area. Twin Lake House burned in 1940 and Kenneth and Dorothy Douglas have built a home there. In 1936 Herbert Brown became the last postmaster for the Convene area of Sebago. The office was at his home until it was closed in 1955. His daughter Marie and her husband Clarence Crawford now live there.



Site of the first and fourth Convene Post Office



Donald Sanborn, grandson of Nellie, in front of Sanborn home.

The Brown's home with James Crawford by sign.



Twin Lake House

Hillside Post Office

There were two boarding houses and three girls camps in the Hillside area and the neighborhood felt the need for a Post Office. They petitioned the Postal Department and in 1897 Howard Irish became the first postmaster with the office in his home. In 1913 his wife Lucy took over this position and held it until her retirement in 1945. During her tenure Howard and Lucy moved to the house next door and the Post Office was operated from there. The Narrow Gauge Railroad was a great help to this area because it meant faster mail service. The mail was dropped off at the Hancock Pond Station and there were usually two mails a day.

The first Post Office burned in 1974. Howard and Lucy's son Harry lived on this property until his death in 1997. The second location is now the home of Norman and Sarah Littlefield.

In 1945, Lucy's daughter-in-law Helen Irish was named postmaster. The office moved to her home on the Taylor Road where it remained until closing in 1955. Helen and Franklin still live there.



First Hillside Post Office

The second Post Office with Lucy holding grandson Ronnie.



Last day cancellation.



Ronald Irish in front of the last Post Office.

POST OFFICE

DOUGLAS HILL ME 04023

Sebago Post Office Mementos in Sebago Historical Society

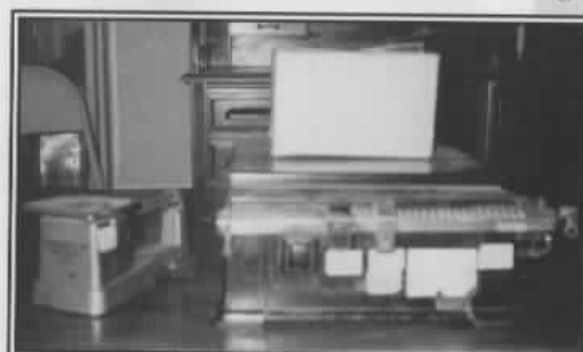
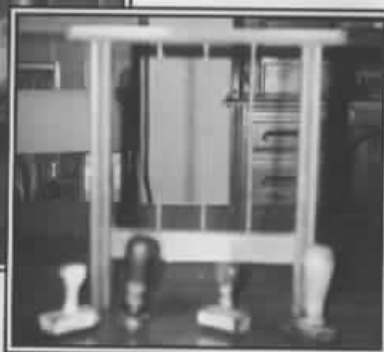
Sebago Historical Society has been very fortunate to receive donations of historical items pertaining to Sebago Post Offices.

When the North Sebago office closed in 1997, the postal sections were given to the society. It is now set up in the Historical Building exactly as it was at North Sebago. The service window and first set of boxes came from Alice Bachelder's Post Office, later being used by Bertha Ward where additional boxes were added. Bertha's daughter, Barbara Shaw, donated these. A third section was given by the Postal Department.

The desk shown here was used at Sebago Ridge by Mary Babb for her postal work during the years 1913-1940. Her grand nephew, Raymond Babb, Jr. donated this. Marilyn Babb Dolloff, Mary's grand niece gave the last day cancellation which is pictured during the month of August.

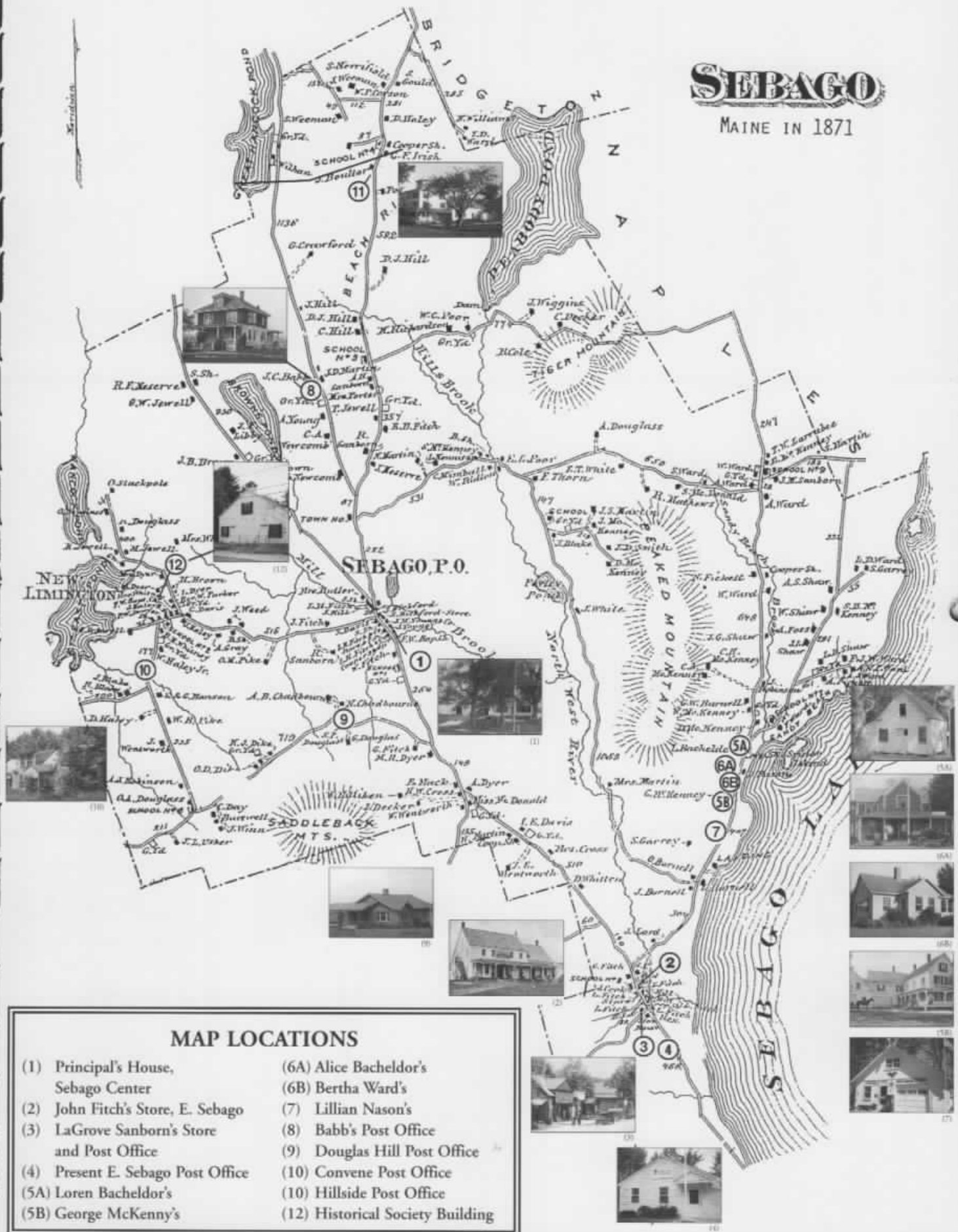
The heirs of Grace C. Snow gave the original Post Office sign of Douglas Hill. This same sign was used at all three of the Douglas Hill locations from 1901-1972. When zip codes were introduced, Grace's husband Mark painted on the numbers.

Postal scales and rubber stamps were given by the Postal Department. We invite you to visit our postal display.



SEBAGO

MAINE IN 1871



MAP LOCATIONS

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| (1) Principal's House, Sebago Center | (6A) Alice Bachelord's |
| (2) John Fitch's Store, E. Sebago | (6B) Bertha Ward's |
| (3) LaGrove Sanborn's Store and Post Office | (7) Lillian Nason's |
| (4) Present E. Sebago Post Office | (8) Babb's Post Office |
| (5A) Loren Bachelord's | (9) Douglas Hill Post Office |
| (5B) George McKenny's | (10) Convene Post Office |
| | (10) Hillside Post Office |
| | (12) Historical Society Building |