

The Headsville Post Office—

A Presentation to Philatelic Society of Lancaster County

by Ron Breznay

July 26, 2023





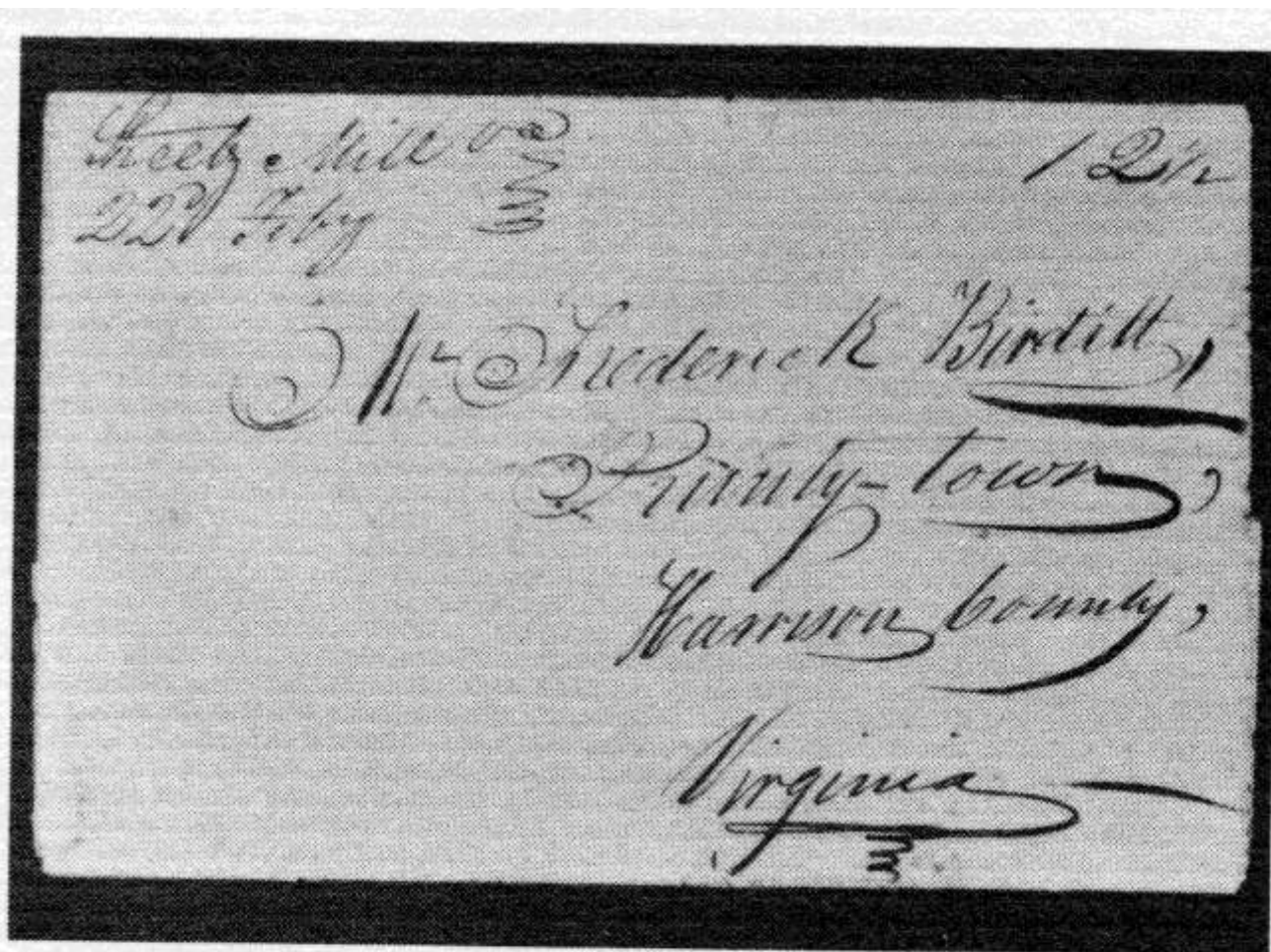
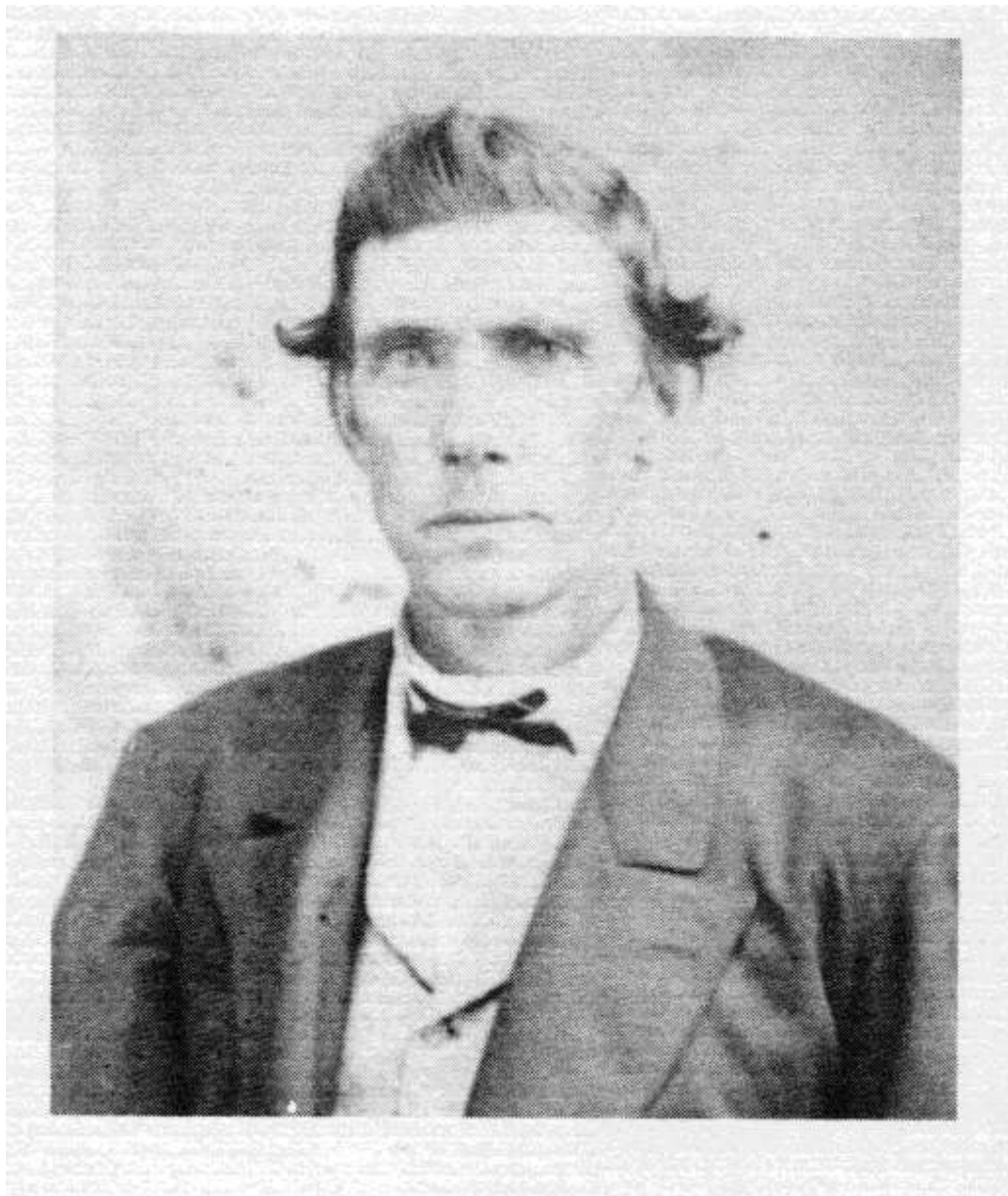


Fig. 15. Twelve-and-a-half-cents' postage was due on this letter sent from Sheetz's Mill.



Fig. 16. *This letter was sent to Sheetz's Mill with prepaid postage, a stamp with a profile of George Washington issued between 1851 and 1856.*



IN
THE
SMITHSONIAN

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF
HISTORY AND TECHNOLOGY



American Post Offices

CARL SCHEELE
CURATOR,
DIVISION OF POSTAL HISTORY

G370J
.P859
S315a
1977
c.1



Fig. 11. The map shows the main post roads in 1834.



Figs. 12 & 13. This country store-post office (top) was built in 1861 by Henry Head (bottom) in Sheetz's Mill, Virginia. The post office was renamed Headville in 1868, and in 1971 the structure was removed to the lobby of the Smithsonian's National Museum of History and Technology where it again functions as a post office.



routes—the most important of which went to Pittsburgh (1788); Canajoharie, New York, and Danville, Kentucky (1792); Cincinnati (1794); Detroit and Augusta, Georgia (1803); St. Louis and New Orleans (1804)—reflecting the westward development of the new country (fig. 11). But postriders still carried much of the mail over poor roads, letter postage remained high and based on distance zones and numbers of sheets, and patrons called at post offices to send and receive letters. Parcels still were not accepted.

Slowly, though, significant changes were introduced. With the opening of new lands to settlement and the need to maintain dependable and frequent communication with settlers west and south of the Appalachian Mountains, it was recognized that the commercial, governmental, and social unity of the new nation could best be secured by a well-organized mail service.

The opening of the Cumberland Road in 1817 provided the nation with a highway with a ballasted roadbed, which improved mail transportation to the inland states by coach. The government was less successful in building other interstate highways, but postmasters occasionally used their authority to withhold improved mail service until local communities upgraded the post roads. Steamboat lines plying inland waterways were declared "post roads" in 1823 and railroads, which were to be the most important carriers of intercity mail until the mid-20th century, were so designated in 1838.

With the advance of Americans westward, mails were extended to Texas (1846) and Salt Lake City and San Francisco (1849). By 1850 the nation was served by 18,417 post offices exchanging mail by railroad, steamboat, coach, horse, and man. Ten years later post offices numbered 28,498, receipts reached \$8,518,067, and expenditures climbed to \$14,874,604, setting a deficit pattern which has rarely been reversed. The importance of the post office in the national life was recognized when President Andrew Jackson included the postmaster general in his cabinet in 1829, a position which was retained until 1970 when the Post Office Department became a semiprivate agency.

As the country grew, post offices came to be located not only in printing or newspaper shops but in private homes, hotels, lawyers' and doctors' offices, and country stores which provided the new settlers with essential goods, such as seeds and clothing.

Typical of thousands of crossroads post offices which served a largely agrarian populace on the eve of the Civil War, Henry Head's combination post office and general store at Sheetz's Mill in Hampshire County, Virginia, served a very small community which had had postal service since 1813 (figs. 12, 13, and 14).

Head became postmaster in 1855 but, as a result of changing political fortunes, surrendered the postmastership four different times and re-acquired it three times, retiring in 1880. In those years postmasterships were rewards distributed by the parties winning national elections, a practice introduced by President Andrew Jackson. Although only one postmaster had served Sheetz's Mill between 1813 and 1829, 18 different appointments were made between 1829 and 1909. Appointments to small offices were largely prevented by the civil service reform of 1908.

Head witnessed many postal improvements in his lifetime. He was a









Headsville Postmasters

Name	Date Appointed
Henry Head	March 5, 1868
Isaac H. Carskadon	November 10, 1869
Nathan Wilson	August 22, 1870
Henry Head	March 21, 1871
Joseph W. Shoemaker	July 9, 1880
George T. Carskadon	February 12, 1881
John W. Powell	October 25, 1881
Mrs. Mollie W. Carskadon	March 26, 1883
Mary E. Fink	December 16, 1895
William B. Daugherty	February 3, 1898
Thomas B. Doman	May 19, 1898
Franklin Haines	March 9, 1909

Then the post office was moved to John E. Staggs' store.

John E. Staggs	March 18, 1914
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Staggs was postmaster until the post office was discontinued on December 31, 1951.

(No. 40.)

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,

TOPOGRAPHER

CONTRACT OFFICE,

WASHINGTON, *Apr. 23^d*, 1868.

SIR:

To enable the Topographer of this Department to determine, with as much accuracy as possible, the relative positions of Post Offices, so that they may be correctly delineated on its maps, the Postmaster General requests you to fill up the spaces and answer the questions below, and return the same, verified by your signature and dated, under cover to this office.

Respectfully, &c.

Second Assistant Postmaster General.

To POSTMASTER AT

*Headsville
Mineral Co. N. Va.*The (P. O. Dept.) name of my office is *Headsville**Its local name is *Sheetz Mill*

It is situated in

Indian Run

Township,

County of

Mineral

State of

*West Virginia*The name of the most prominent river near it is *South Branch*The name of the nearest creek is *Pattersons Creek*This office is *8* ~~miles~~ *m* said river on the *west* side of it, and is*on* ~~the~~ *nearest* creek, on the *west* side of it.The name of the nearest office on route No. *Special Route*, and its distance is _____ miles, by the traveled road, in a _____ direction from this my office.

The name of the nearest office on the same route on the other side is _____ and its distance is _____ miles in a _____ direction from this my office.

The name of the nearest office off the route is *New Creek*, and its distance by the most direct road is *9* miles in a *W* ~~west~~ direction from this my office.

State, under this, the names of all other offices near your office in different directions from it, and their distances from it by the most direct roads.

*New Creek P.O. 9 1/2 W Romney 8 9 miles Frankfort 11 m
North Ridgeville 10 miles west*

*If the town, village, or site of the Post Office, be known locally by another name than that of the Post Office, state that other name here, that it may be identified on any published map of the State (or Territory), if appearing thereon.

†A diagram of the township (or, where the land is not so divided, a sketch map) showing the precise location of your office, together with the adjoining Post Offices, towns or villages, the roads, railroads, and larger streams or creeks, in addition to the above verbal description, will be useful, and is desired.

A correct map of the locality and adjacent country might be furnished by your County Surveyor, but this must be without expense to the Post Office Department; it being, however, for the general interest and advantage of the community to have the Post Offices correctly located on the maps, it may be expected that this will be cheerfully furnished on proper application.

State (on margin of this sheet) whether there is on file at your county seat (court-house), or in the hands of your County Surveyor, a map of the county.

State also the present Surveyor's name and Post Office address.

(Signature of Postmaster.)

Samy Head PM

(Date.)

April 28th 1868

There is no Map of this County at the 16 m
nor in the hands of the Surveyor

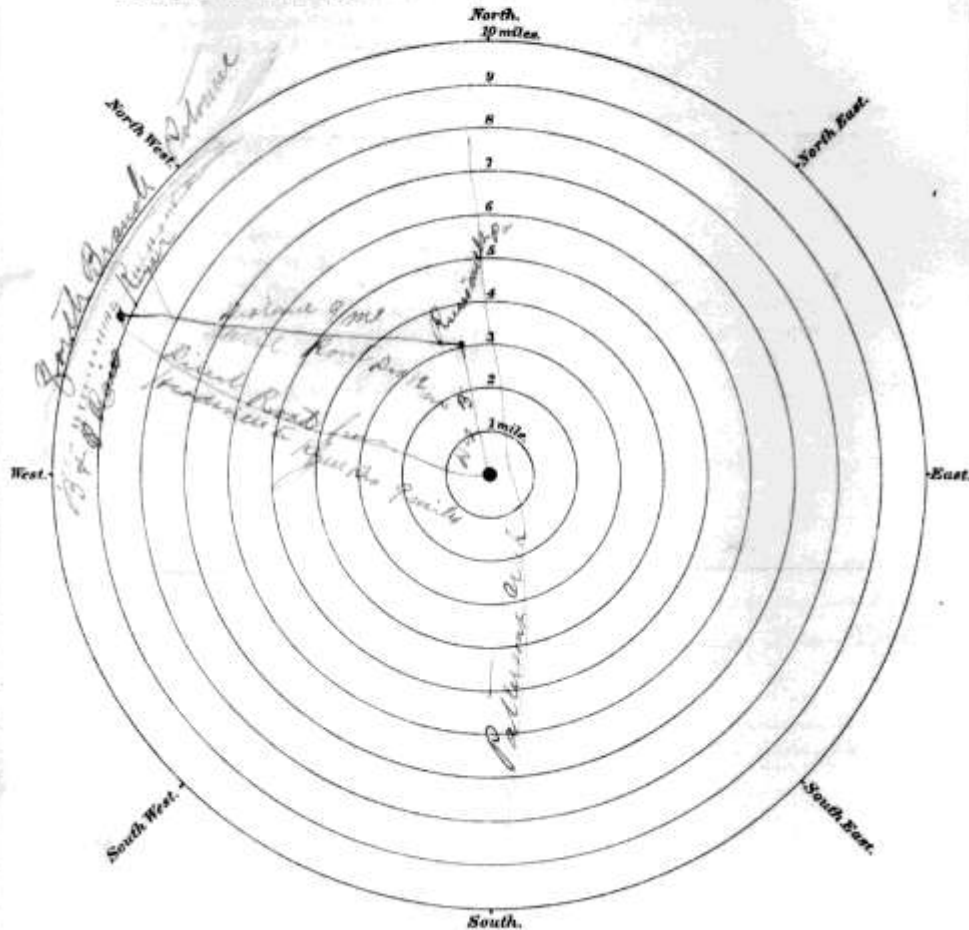
DIAGRAM, EXPLANATION, AND INSTRUCTIONS.

The dot in the center of the 1-mile circle represents the site of your office.

The surrounding offices should be carefully located by placing dots on or between the mile circles at the exact distance, and in the right direction from the proposed one, and their names plainly written.

If it should be necessary to designate an office which is over 10 miles from the proposed one, place the dot outside of the 10-mile circle, write the name of such office, and state its distance from the proposed one.

Draw distinctly the railways, roads, rivers, and creeks.



Post Office Department,

TOPOGRAPHER'S OFFICE,

Washington, D. C., Oct 27, 1898,

Sir:

To enable the Topographer of this Department to determine, with as much accuracy as possible, the relative positions of Post Offices, so that they may be correctly delineated on its maps, the Postmaster General requests you carefully to answer the questions below, and furnish the diagram on the other side, returning the same as soon as possible, verified by your signature and dated, under cover to the Topographer's Office, Post Office Department.

Respectfully, etc.,

Topographer P. O. Dept.

TO POSTMASTER AT

Headsville,

Mineral Co.,

W. Va.

The (P. O. Dept.) name of my Office is

Headsville

If the town, village, or site of the Post Office be known by another name than that of the Post Office, state that other name here: ☒ Headsville

My Office is situated in South part of Clinton Township, or in quarter of Tract No. Clinton Township, County of Mineral

State of W. Va.

The name of the most prominent river near it is North Branch Potomac

The name of the nearest creek is Reynolds Creek

My Office is 2 miles from said river, on the East side of it, and is situated 2 miles from said nearest creek, on the East side of it.

My Office is on Mail Route No. 16680

My Office is a Special Office supplied from Reynolds 2 miles distant.

The name of the nearest Office on my route is Reynolds Mills, and its distance is 2 miles, by the traveled road, in a North direction from this, my Office.

The name of the nearest Office, on the same route, on the other side, is Reynolds, and its distance is 2 miles in a North direction from this, my Office.

The name of the nearest Office off the route is Burlington, and its distance by the most direct road is 2.5 miles in a South direction from this, my Office.

My Office is at a distance of 2 from the track of the P. O. Railroad, on the East Side side of the railroad.

My Office is 4 miles, air-line distance, from nearest point of my County boundary.

(Signature of Postmaster)

(Date)



Figure 23 1882 Headsville postmark



Mr. Charles Babb,
Homer,
Ill.



Made in Germany. A. C. Rosseman & Co., New York. Photo copyrighted.

What became of
you - the other one?
I am looking for
that letter. It is
missing here. Get on
the next one down.
Get busy soon.
Your little boy.
J. A.

Post Card

HEADS
FEB
10
P.M.
190



Miss Liza Marshall
Williamsport
West Virginia



John C. Hager
POSTMASTER



William H. Behrens
P. O. Box 544
Brodhead, Wis.

Post Office Department
FOURTH ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL

Washington May 17 1928

Postmaster, Headsville,
Mineral County,
West Virginia.

In order that the site of your post office may be accurately represented upon the post-route maps, it is requested that you carefully answer the questions below and furnish a sketch, according to instructions on opposite side of paper, which should be returned to this Division as soon as possible.

FOURTH ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL.

The name of my post office is

Headsville,

If the town, village, or site of the post office be known by another name than that of the post office, state that other name here:

No other name

My post office is situated in the W part of Headsville Township,

or in quarter of tract Section 12 Township,

County of Mineral State of West Va

The name of the nearest river is Smith branch and the post-office building is at a distance of 1/2 mile on the N side of it.

The name of the nearest creek is Pedersons Creek and the post-office building is at a distance of 1/2 mile on the W side of it.

The name of the nearest office on my route is Recess Mills and its distance is 3 miles, by the traveled road, in a NE direction from this, my office.

The name of the nearest office on my route, on the other side, is Kegonsa, W Va and its distance is 9 1/2 miles, in a NW direction from this, my office.

The name of the nearest office on R.F.D. 5th King Road route is Burlington, W Va and its distance is 6 1/2 miles, by the traveled road, in a W direction from this, my office.

The post-office building is on the W side of the BB & O Railroad, and at a distance of 9 1/2 miles from the track.

The railroad station name is Kegonsa, W Va My post office is 70 air-line distance, from the nearest point of my county boundary.

Postmaster:

Date: May 17/28

Post Office Department
FOURTH ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL
Washington

RETURN TO
DIVISION OF TOPOGRAPHY

Postmaster,
HEADSVILLE,

MAY - 8 1942

W. VA.

The following information is required in order that your post office may be shown in its proper location on postal maps. Please complete this form immediately and return it without delay with the map or sketch described on the reverse side. A letter of reply is not necessary.

FOURTH ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL.

1. Street address of post office _____ County Mineral
2. Township _____ (If location is described by section, township, and range, fill in line 3.)
3. _____ quarter of section _____ Township _____ N. or S. _____ Range _____ E. or W. _____
4. Nearest adjoining county _____ How far: Shortest air distance? _____ By road? _____
5. Nearest U. S. or State highway 5 1/2 m Direction from P. O. South West Distance _____
6. Name of nearest railroad station Kogan Name of railroad B. & O. R.R.
7. Distance by road to railroad station 9 1/2 Direction from post office West
8. Shortest air distance to nearest tracks _____ Direction from post office _____
9. Streams or bodies of water nearest to your office:

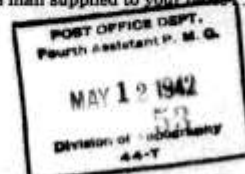
Name	Direction from post office	Distance

10. Post offices nearest to your office (one in each general direction):

Name	County	Direction from your office	Distance by road
<u>Keyser</u>	<u>Mineral</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>9 1/2 miles</u>
<u>Burlington</u>	<u>Mineral</u>	<u>South West</u>	<u>5 1/2 m</u>
<u>North West</u>	<u>Mineral</u>	<u>North East</u>	<u>11 1/2 m</u>
<u>Junction</u>	<u>Hamshire</u>	<u>South East</u>	<u>7 1/2 m</u>

11. How is mail supplied to your office?

Rural (Railroad, star route, rural route, etc.)
 From where Kogan, W. Va.
and Burlington, W. Va.
and Junction, W. Va.



(Date) MAY 8 1942

(Signed) D. G. Thayer Postmaster.

Post office Headsville, W. Va.

(OVER)

James E. Staggs

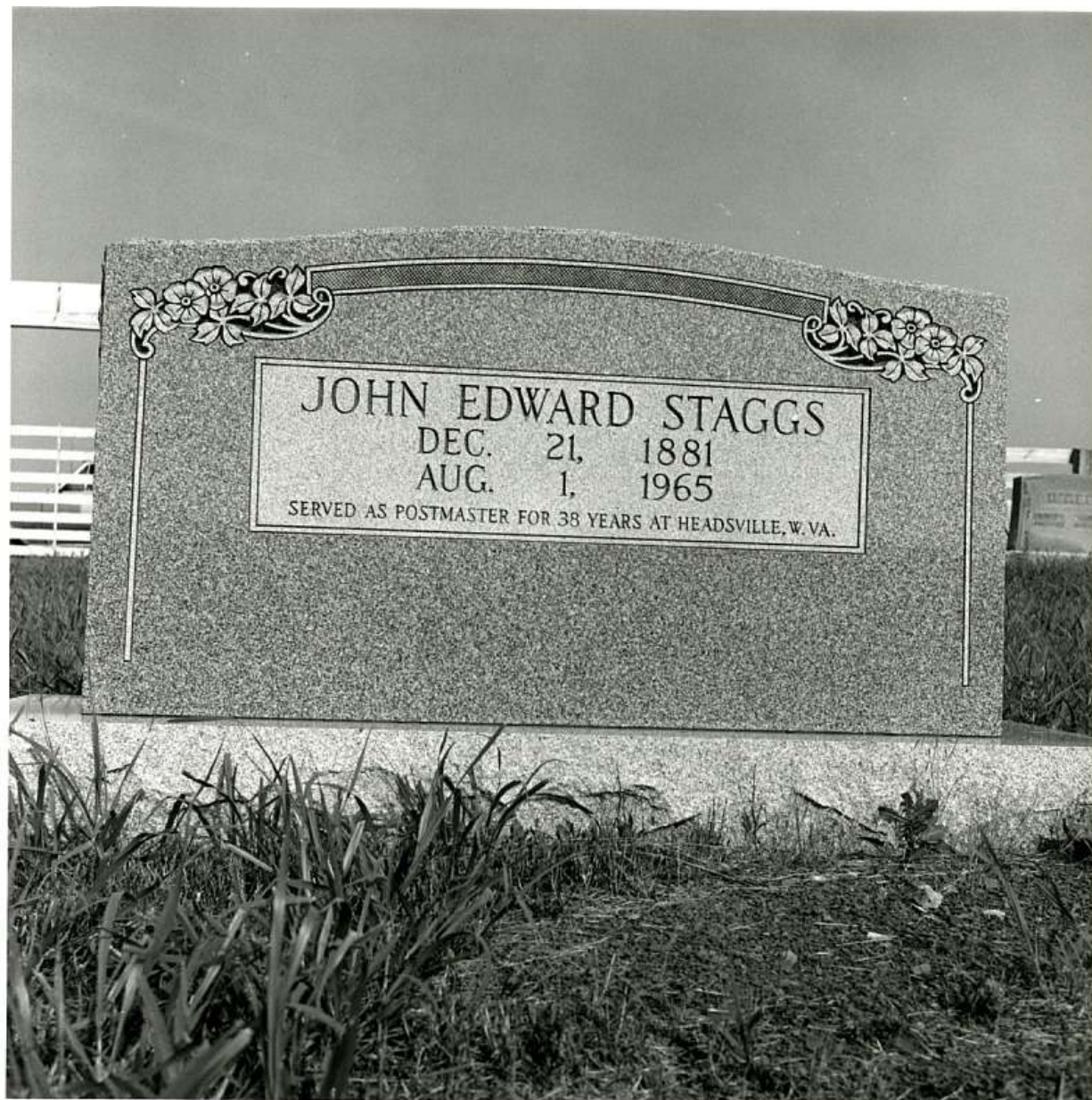
Postmaster

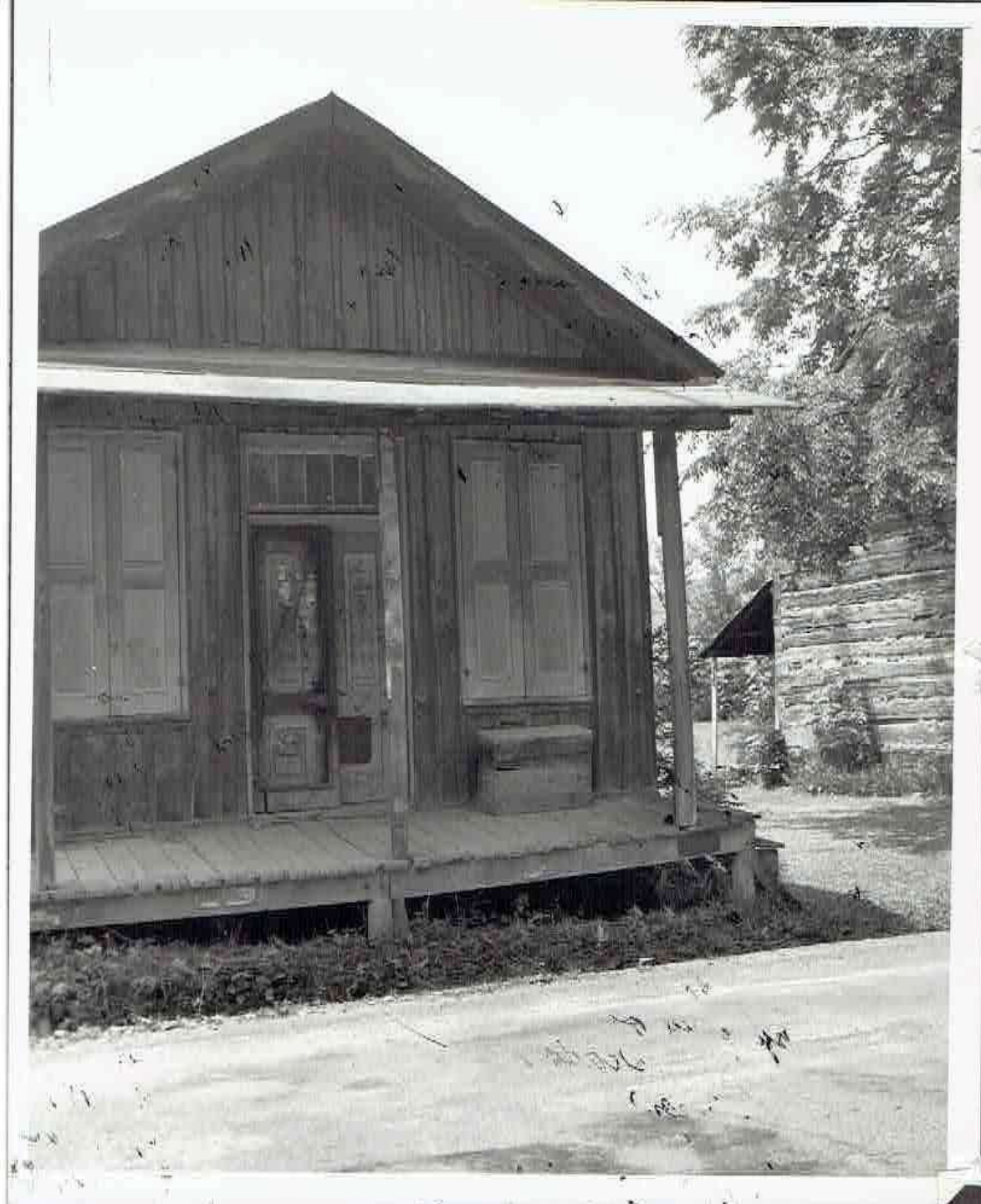
HEADSVILLE, W. VA.

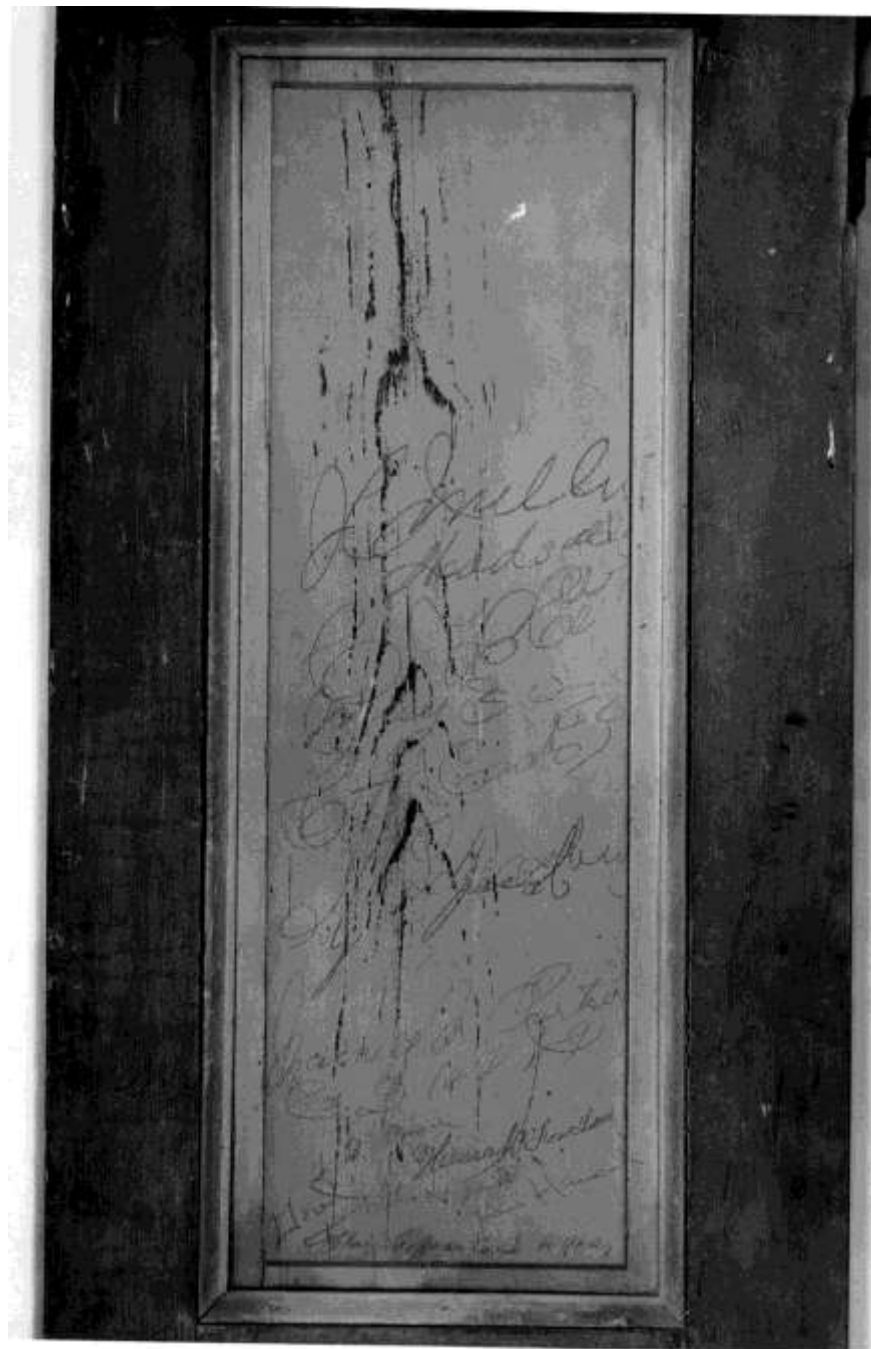


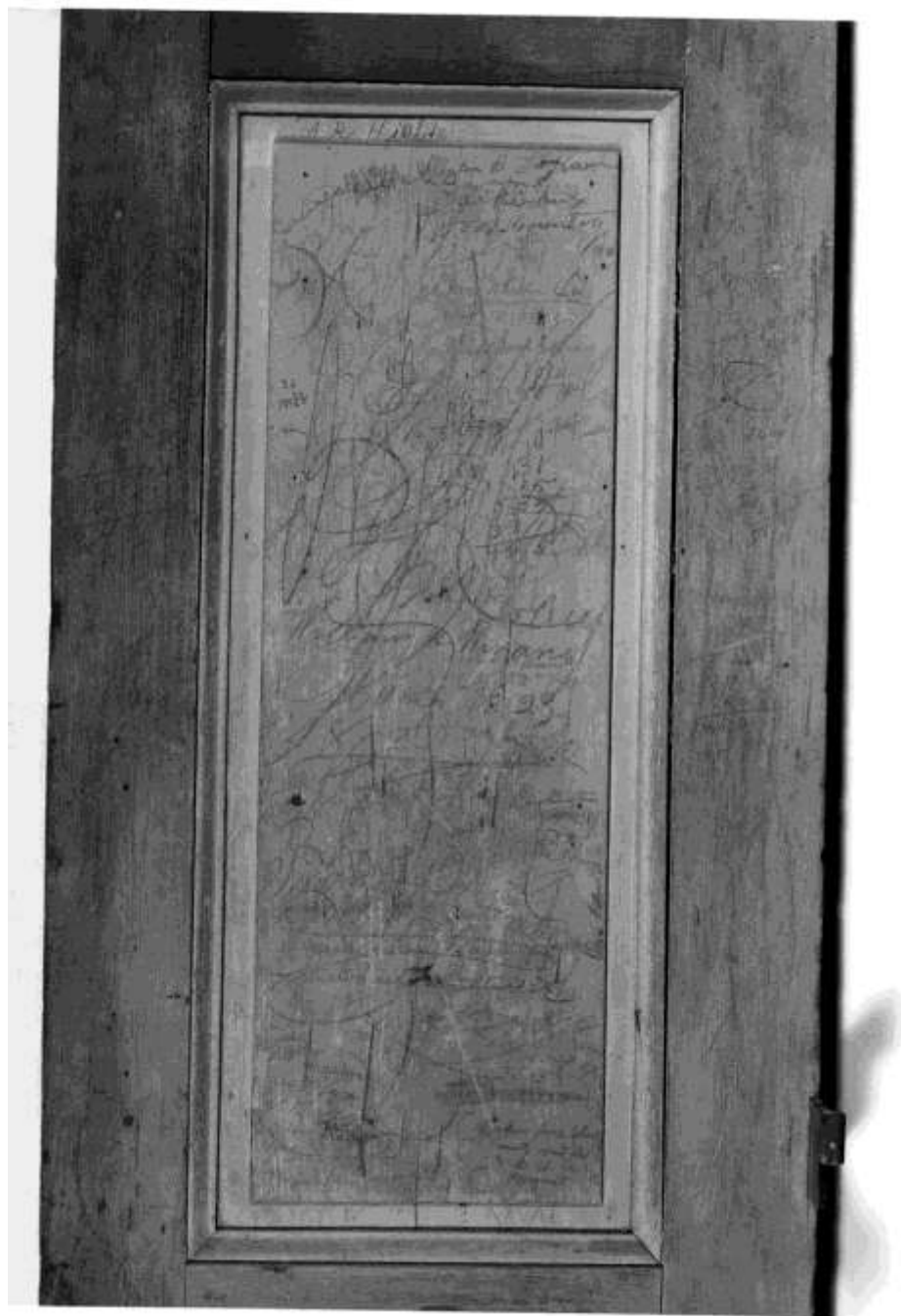
THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

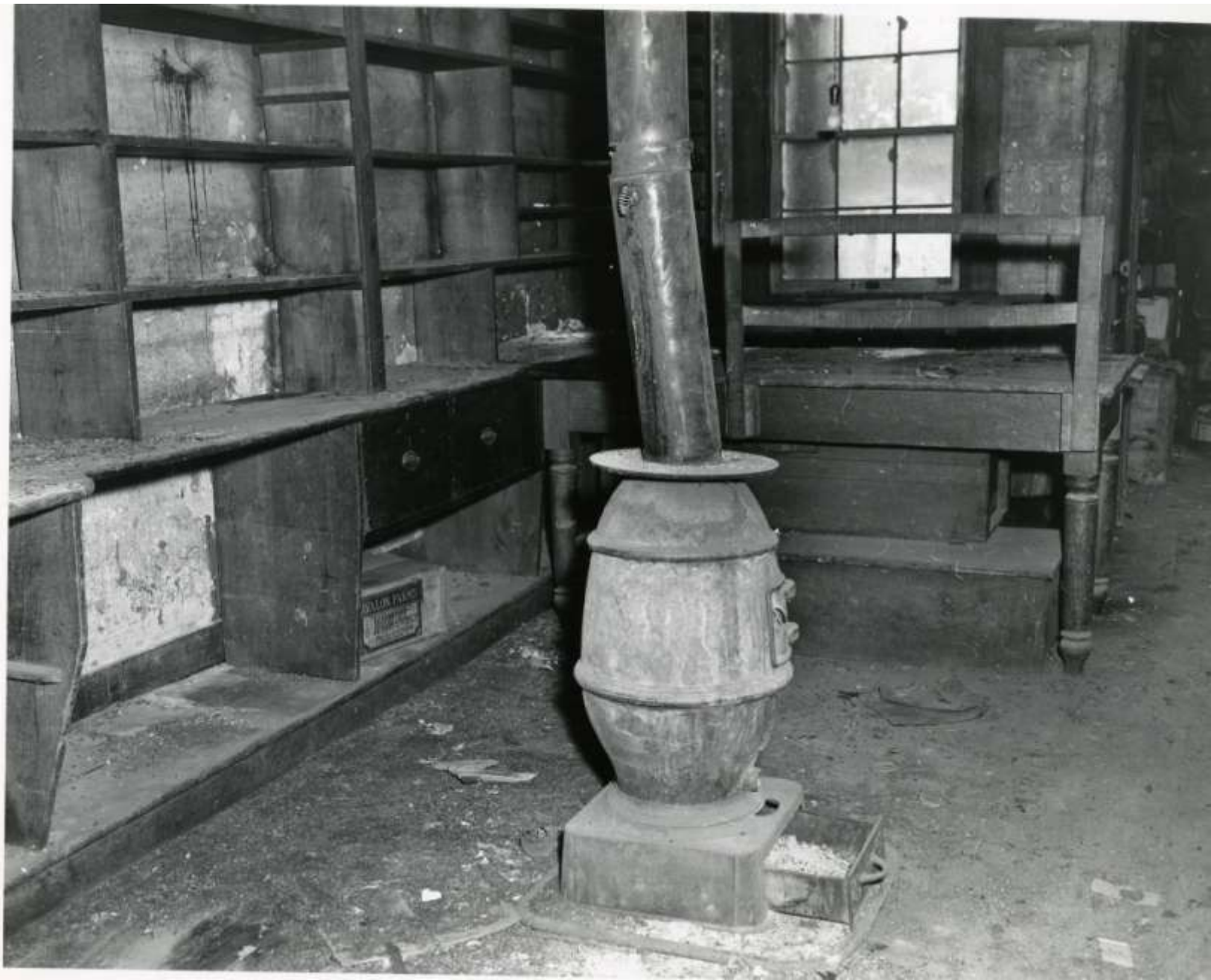
MERLYN ARNOLD,
ONAWAY, MICHIGAN,
U. S. A.





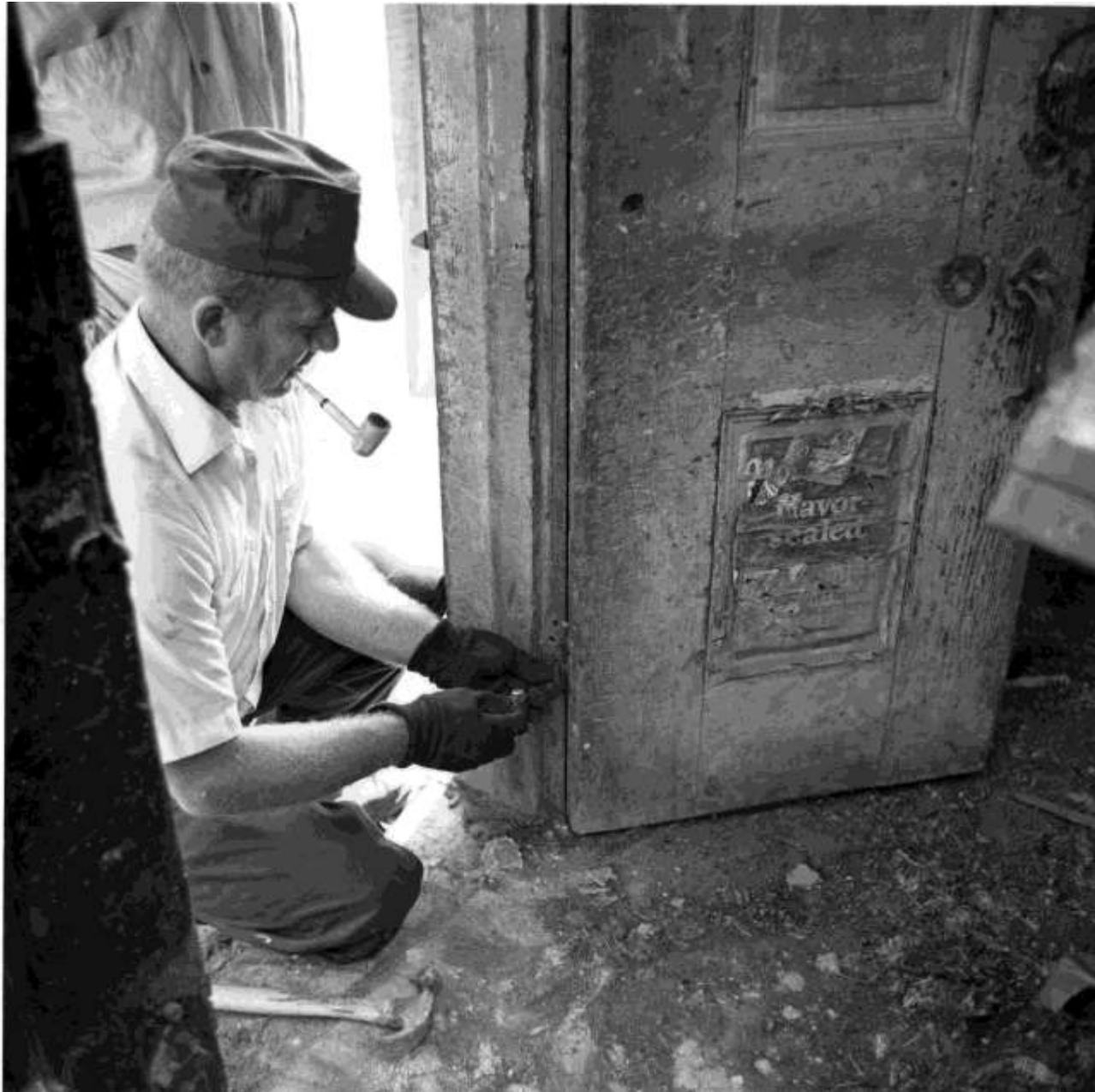


















SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
Washington, D.C. 20560

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

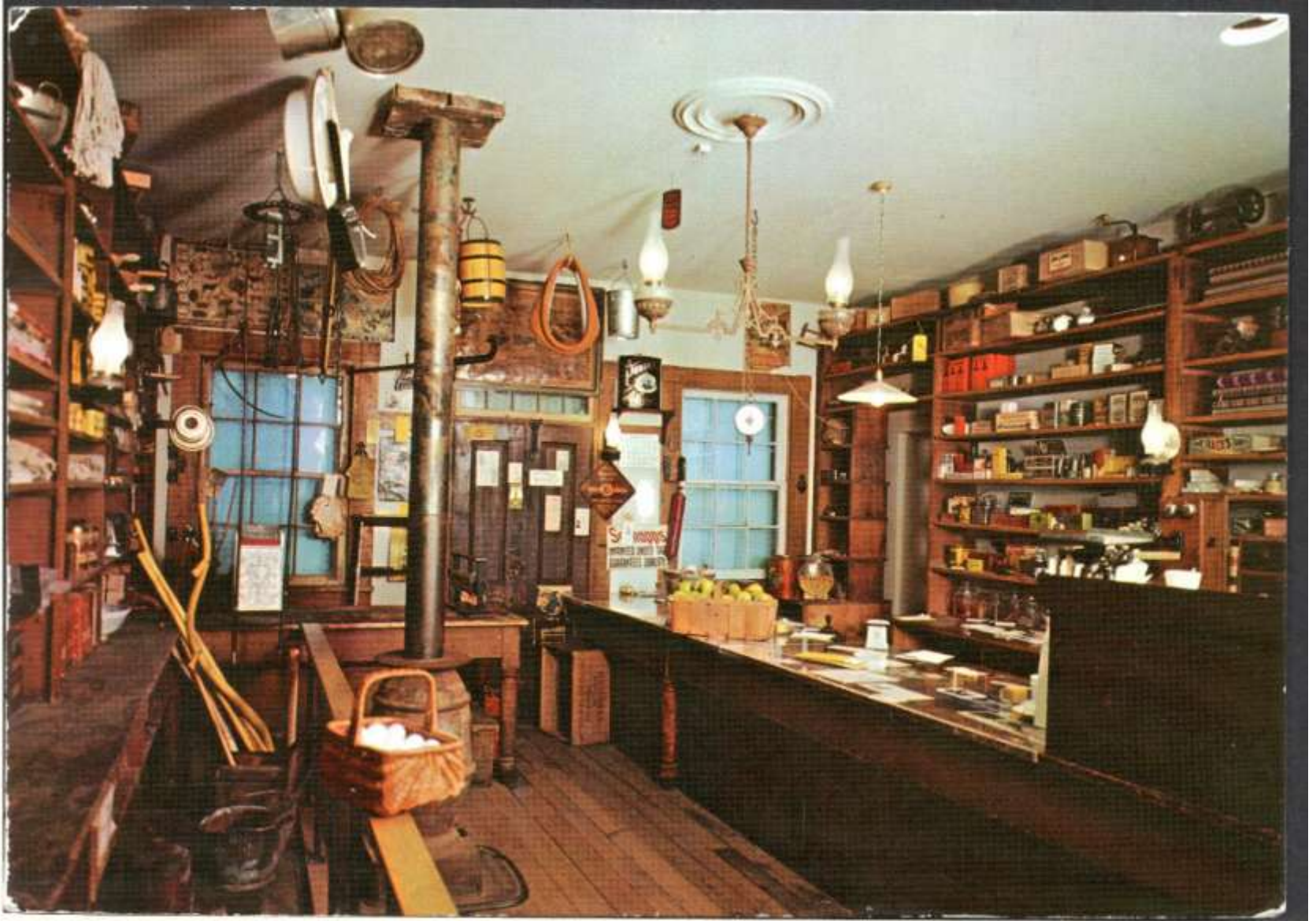


*The Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and
the Director of The National Museum of History and
Technology together with Postmaster General Winton M.
Blount cordially invite you to the dedication of the
nineteenth century Headsville, West Virginia, post
office to be held in the Auditorium of The National
Museum of History and Technology at 2:00 p.m. Monday,
September 27, 1971. Please present this invitation.
Please reply
by the enclosed card*

*Constitution Avenue
at 14th Street, Northwest*









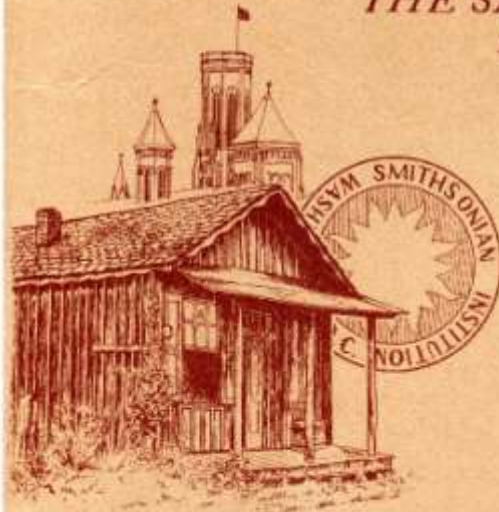






*Old Post Office
Is Reborn*
see pg. 21

125th Anniversary of
**THE SMITHSONIAN
INSTITUTION**



DEDICATION of the
**19th CENTURY
HEADSVILLE,
WEST VIRGINIA
POST OFFICE**

THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

The Smithsonian Institution on September 26 and 27 celebrates the 125th anniversary of its founding with ceremonies on the National Mall and the dedication of a century-old post office in The National Museum of History and Technology.

The dedication of the old post office, brought from Headsville, West Virginia, manifests a close relationship which has existed to the mutual benefit of the Smithsonian and the Postal Service since 1911. In that year the National Postage Stamp and Postal History Collections were established at the Smithsonian from materials of the old Post Office Department's postal museum. The Post Office Department in 1946 also issued a stamp commemorating the Smithsonian's 100th anniversary.

The country store post office, being opened today, was originally constructed by Henry Head, a store-keeper who was Postmaster of a small West Virginia community for most of the time from 1855 to 1880. First known as Sheets's Mills, Hampshire County, Virginia, the hamlet received its first postal service in 1813.

Mr. Head, after beginning his second term as postmaster, is believed to have constructed the building in the early 1860s. The name of the post office was officially changed to Headsville, Mineral County, West Virginia, on March 5, 1868, and the Head store continued to provide postal service until shortly before 1909.

The post office has been relocated within the National Museum of History and Technology, and designated as the Washington, D.C., Smithsonian Station. It will be staffed by members of the United States Postal Service, who will provide card and letter mail services, and sell stamps and other philatelic items.

The historical significance of this "living exhibit" is readily apparent. The Postal Service is the single institution which has reached virtually every American's doorstep throughout more than two centuries. The most common post office in America—the most numerous and widespread—has been the country store post office.



Winton M. Blount

DEDICATION CEREMONY
HEADSVILLE, WEST VIRGINIA, POST OFFICE
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND TECHNOLOGY
WASHINGTON, D.C.—SEPTEMBER 27, 1971

<i>Presentation of Colors</i>	<i>3rd United States Infantry (The Old Guard)</i>
<i>Welcome</i>	<i>Daniel J. Boorstin Director, The National Museum of History and Technology</i>
<i>Remarks</i>	<i>S. Dillon Ripley, Secretary, Smithsonian Institution</i>
<i>Dedicatory Address and Presentation of Flag</i>	<i>Postmaster General Winton M. Blount</i>
<i>National Anthem</i>	<i>A Section of the U.S. Navy Honor Band</i>

INTERNATIONAL POSTAL SUPPLY COMPANY

WASHINGTON, D.C. SMITHSONIAN STA.

1971 - 1989

Bob Payne

INTERNATIONAL HD-2 - HAND-DRIVEN MACHINE FLAG CANCELS

FLAG 1 - DIAL 1	THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY and TECHNOLOGY	1971 1214 - 1973 1116
FLAG 1 - DIAL 2	THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY and TECHNOLOGY	1974 0107 - 1977 1021
FLAG 1 - DIAL 2 *	THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY and TECHNOLOGY	1981 0424 - - - -
FLAG 2 - DIAL 2	THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY	1982 0827 - 1989 0814

* Second Period of use 3 ½ years after the First Period use.

WASHINGTON, D.C. SMITHSONIAN STA. HANDSTAMP FLAGS

FLAG 1 - 1st Period	THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY and TECHNOLOGY	1971 0927 - 1973 0102
FLAG 2	THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY and TECHNOLOGY (in stripes) OPENING HALL OF STAMPS AND THE MAILS	1972 1117 - 1973 0228
FLAG 3	100 YEARS HAENLEIN TO APOLLO	1972 1213 - 1973 0228
FLAG 1 - 2nd Period	THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY and TECHNOLOGY	1974 0214 - 1981 0330
FLAG 4 A over Y	THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERIC "A" N HISTOR "Y"	1981 1201 - 1983 0322
FLAG 5 C over Y	THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERI "C" AN HISTOR "Y"	1986 0227 - 1989 1024

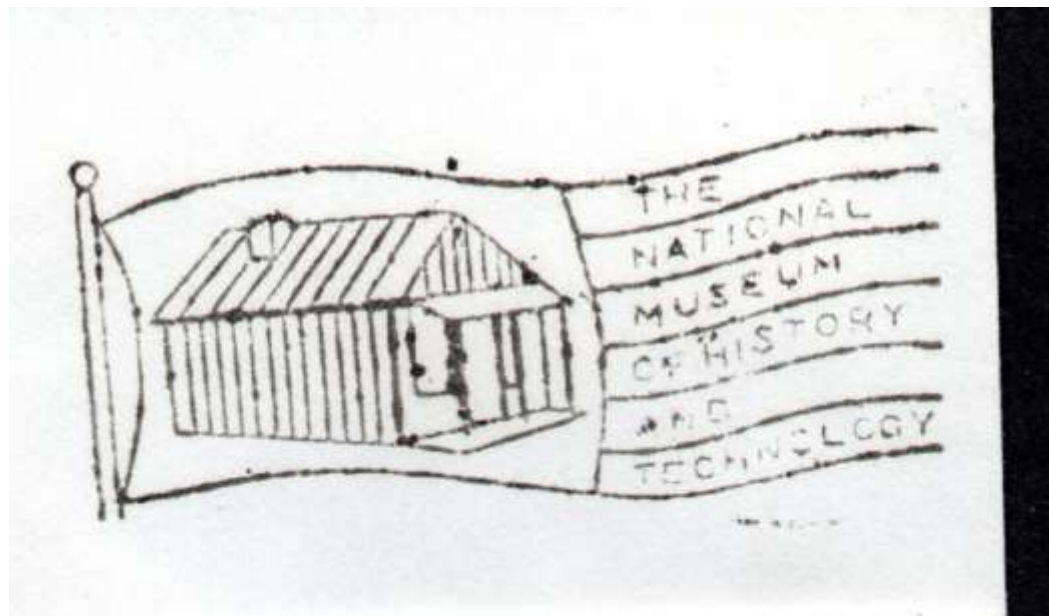
This is an interesting story of an old, dilapidated International Postal Supply Co. HD-2 Model No. 170 hand driven machine that was found stored in the Topeka, Kansas Post Office. The Museum's curator, Carl H. Scheele, had the machine shipped to Washington in August 1971 where with dedicated work the machine was restored for use once again. After its restoration, the hand driven machine was installed in the century old Headsville, West Virginia General Store and Post Office that had been closed since 1914 was left intact with all of its merchandise. The century old store was re-erected, board by board, near the main entrance of the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C.

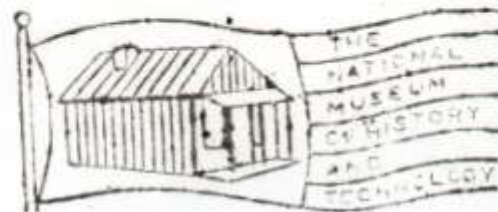
The installation of the machine was delayed due to the time needed to engrave the cancelling die which was done for the Postal Service by Pitney-Bowes. The artist that prepared the drawings and final art work for both the rubber handstamp and metal die was Chris H. Reinocke, an illustrator on the staff of the Office of Exhibits, for the Museum. The finished die created for the International Model HD-2 machine featured a 23 mm. circular dial with *WASHINGTON, D.C.* curved along the top rim with *SMITHSONIAN STA.* curved along the bottom rim. In the boxed portion of the flag die, a drawing of Headsville Post Office appears with *THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND TECHNOLOGY* inscribed between the 7 wavy lines.

The memories of the clerks who first operated the Model HD-2 hand driven machine do not clearly remember the earliest use but they agree it was between December 14th and December 17, 1971. While collectors look for the 1971 use, we have not encountered its use until 1972. Generally, the machine impressions are poor because of its worn parts and cannot be adjusted to perfection.

Carl H. Scheele reports that "during the period from January 1, 1972 to March 20, 1972, a daily average of 250 hand cancellations and 75 machine cancellations have been made. Since March 20, the Museum and Post Office attendance has increased and is still climbing."







Christmas pair —The sacred...

FROM ANDREA della ROBBIA'S "MADONNA AND CHILD WITH CHERUBIM" TERRA COTTA SCULPTURE WHICH HANGS IN THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART, WASHINGTON, DC, WHERE THE FIRST DAY OF ISSUE CEREMONY WAS HELD EARLIER TODAY

THE 15TH-CENTURY ARTIST WAS THE NEPHEW OF AND SUCCESSOR TO LUCA della ROBBIA OF FLORENCE, ITALY, WHO PERFECTED THE TECHNIQUE OF GLAZING TERRA COTTA TO MAKE THE GRACEFUL WHITE FIGURES FOR WHICH THE della ROBBIA NAME IS BEST KNOWN

THE STYLE PERMITS A WIDER USE OF COLORS AND IS CONSIDERED PRIMARILY DECORATIVE IN PURPOSE. THE della ROBBIA WORKSHOP WAS ACTIVE WELL INTO THE 16TH CENTURY

...and the secular



A M E R I C A !

A NATION WITH A

GOVERNMENT

THAT IS GOOD AND HONEST

AND DECENT AND COMPETENT

AND COMPASSIONATE

AND AS FILLED WITH LOVE

AS ARE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

LOVE IT - OR - LEAVE IT !





19th CENTURY COUNTRY STORE-POST OFFICE EXHIBIT
Former post office, Headsville, West Virginia (c.1861-1914)
The National Museum of History and Technology, Washington, D.C.





100th Anniversary of Mail Order



HALL OF STAMPS AND THE MAILS ★ NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND TECHNOLOGY
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION ★ WASHINGTON, D.C.



THE AMERICAN MUSEUM-HAYDEN PLANETARIUM
NEW YORK



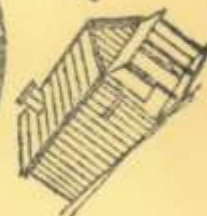
VOTE
**YES**

November 2, 1982



VOTE
NO

November 2, 1982



Unofficial First Day Cover

from the
GENERAL STORE
and discontinued
POST OFFICE

formerly of
HEADSVILLE, WV

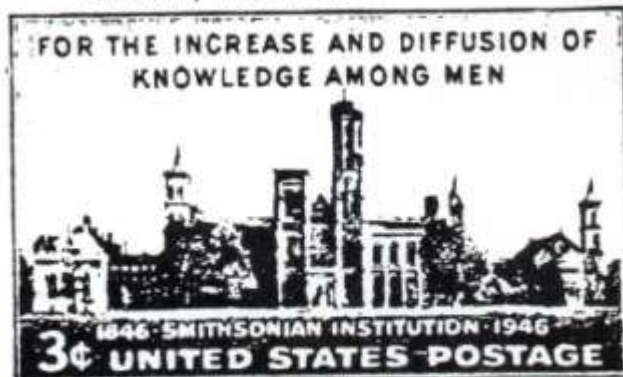
now but one of
the more than
70 million objects
carefully maintained



CHRISTMAS



Botticelli, National Gallery



AL-SA
s/p 1



Domestic Rate



© USPS 1981



International Postal Supply Company HD2 Hand Crank Cancellation





100th Anniversary of Mail Order



U.S.
8c

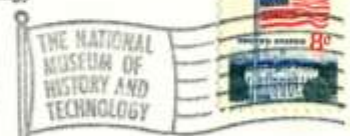
The effect of the Post Office's new parcel post service on the mail order business was immediately apparent in the sales figures of the two great Chicago mail order houses. In just eight years, from 1912 to 1920, Ward's annual sales increased from \$35,000,000 to more than \$101,000,000 or nearly triple the amount it had taken the company forty years to achieve, and this rate of growth was matched almost exactly by Ward's great competitor.

But these gains were not to be repeated in the next decade. The rise of the automobile in the 1920's expanded the farmer's trading area, increased the number of stores with which he might trade, and freed him from his old dependence on his local merchants and the mail order stores as well. Forced to adjust to the new conditions, both Ward's and Sears added retail businesses to their mail order enterprises in the 1920's. This marked the end of one era of the mail order business in America and the rise of another in which mail order houses drifted more and more into the specialty trade.

In various ways, the United States Post Office subsidized the mail order business as it did the newspaper and magazine publishers, the stagecoach, steamship, and railroad lines, and the politicians. But also in various ways the mail order business returned to the American people more than it cost them in postal deficits. For the mail order business stimulated demands for the abundant new goods being produced by the nation's expanding industries; it offered an efficient and novel way of marketing those goods; it expanded the home market; and it brought to an isolated people, who could not otherwise have shared in the great technological advances being made, many of the creature comforts available to those who lived in the cities.



Headsville Post Office
The National Museum of History and Technology



hall of stamps and the mails

THE
NATIONAL
MUSEUM
OF
HISTORY
AND
TECHNOLOGY

Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.



Shown below are interior and exterior views of the Smithsonian Sta. Post Office. This exhibit, formerly the Headsville, West Virginia country store-post office (c. 1861-1914), inspired the design of the "100th Anniversary of Mail Order" stamp.





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*National Museum
of History
and Technology,
Washington, D.C.*

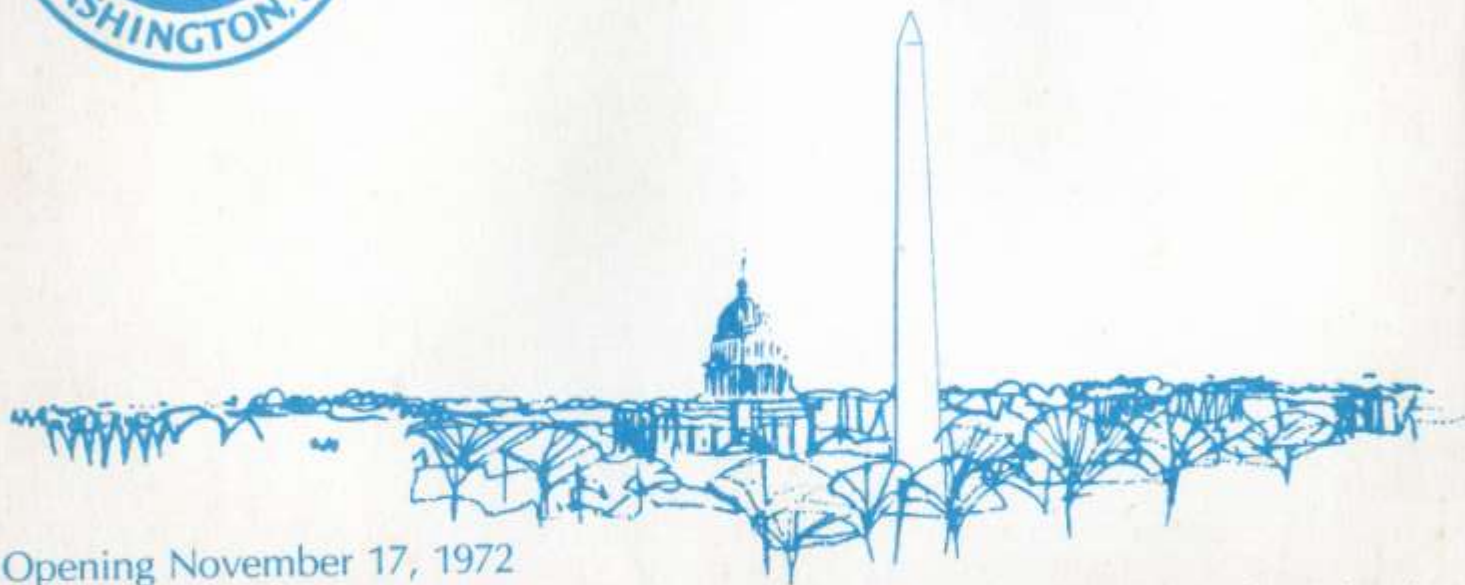


FIRST DAY OF ISSUE





FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



Opening November 17, 1972

Hall of Stamps and the Mails — The National Museum of History and Technology



100th Anniversary of Mail Order



HALL OF STAMPS AND THE MAILS ★ NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND TECHNOLOGY
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION ★ WASHINGTON, D.C.

PROGRAM

Philatelic Dedicatory Lecture Series

125 Years of American Philately

By Dr. Robert L. D. Davidson



U.S. Postal Service Commemorative Stamp
Recognizing Stamp Collecting
First Day of Issue: New York, N.Y., November 17, 1972

The National Museum of History and Technology
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D.C.
November 17, 1972



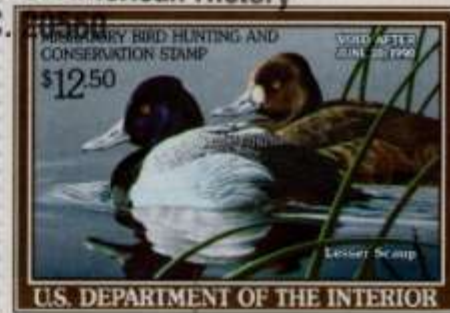
1989 Duck Stamp First Day of Issue

A sociable duck of pond and bay, the
Lesser Scaup gathers in large flocks.

June 30, 1989



Duck Stamp Station
National Museum of American History
Washington, D.C.



GREETINGS FROM WASHINGTON D.C.

#43966—State, War and Navy Department

Located next door to the White House, the Old Executive Office Building was built to house the growing staffs of the State, War and Navy departments. It was built from 1871-1888 and is considered one of the best examples of French Second Empire architecture in the United States.



Hello and goodbye from
the Headsville, WV post
office at the National
Museum of American History.



National Postal Museum
2 Massachusetts Ave. NE
Washington, DC 20002

1971-2006



Smithsonian Institution

TSW

2007.2011.1

The Headsville Post Office Project



For the past thirty-five years the Headsville Post Office served as an exhibit at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, showcasing its dual role as a country store and rural mail center. This treasure from our nation's past is now the cornerstone of the next phase of the APS Ten-Year, \$10 Million Campaign for Philately.

The APS has proposed relocating the nineteenth-century West Virginia post office and general store — which operated from the early 1860s until 1914



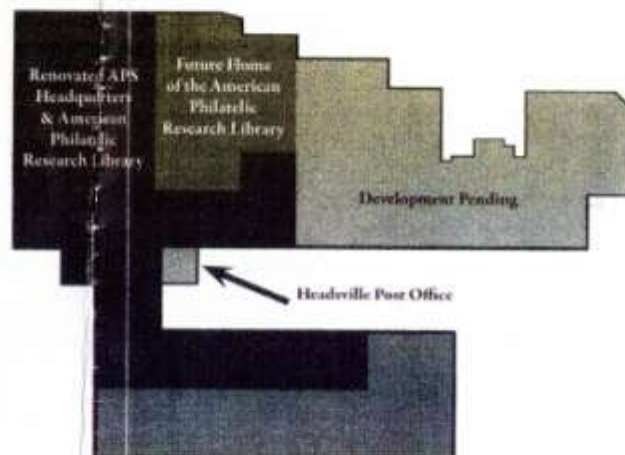
The building's interior as it was featured on the 1972 eight-cent stamp issued to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Mail Order Industry.

A crier commemorating the opening of the Headsville Post Office Exhibit at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History featured a drawing of the post office.



19th CENTURY COUNTRY STORE-POST OFFICE KENNETH
Former post office, Headsville, West Virginia (c. 1861-1914)
The National Museum of History and Technology, Washington, D.C.

The American Philatelic Center



— to the American Philatelic Center in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania.

Sharp-eyed stamp collectors should find the building familiar — its interior was featured on the 1972 8-cent stamp issued to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Mail Order Industry. Many of the store's original fixtures — letter sorting cases and cabinets, counters, tables, and etc. — will also be on display in its new location.

Under the proposed relocation plan, the Headsville Post Office will find a new home just off an open-air patio in a structure specifically built to showcase the tiny building, as well as to preserve

This covers celebrates the dedication and installation of the post office at the museum.

it. When visitors enter the store, they will take a step back in time to the Civil War-era and rediscover the role the postal service played in our nation's growth. The post office served as a Union establishment during the war.

When the post office was built, probably in the early 1860s Henry Head was postmaster. It was located in what was then known as Sheetz's Mills, Hampshire County, Virginia. It was renamed Headsville, Mineral County, West Virginia, in 1868.

The Headsville Post Office not only will become an attraction for visitors of all ages, it also is planned to be used as a public contract postal facility for the American Philatelic Society.

The Headsville Project is consistent with the educational mission of APS. Your support is vital to bring this historic landmark to the American Philatelic Center.

Our goal is to raise \$350,000 which will cover the costs of constructing an environment-friendly structure and relocating the 540-square foot board-and-batten structure and its furnishings.

General Store-Post Office
dedicated at installation in
U.S. National Museum

SEPTEMBER 27, 1971

National Museum of History and Technology
WASHINGTON, D.C.

LOFTUS-WOOD - D.C.



The Smithsonian deserves our thanks for rescuing the post office and now for loaning it to the APS so that the public can continue to enjoy a small part of our nation's heritage.

*Enhance the future of the hobby.
Help us relocate one historic
landmark to another!*

**For more information on how you can help
move one historic landmark to another**

Contact: Peter C. Mastrangelo or Ken Martin
American Philatelic Society

100 Match Factory Place • Bellefonte, PA 16823

Phone: 814-933-3803

E-Mail: pcm@stamps.org • kpmartin@stamps.org

Website: www.stamps.org





Gordon & Mary Morison



*Commemorating a Life
Shared Together in Stamps
October 20, 2007*



Bellefonte, PA 16823

Dedication Station

Gordon & Mary Morison Pavilion



Dedicating the Gordon & Mary Morison Pavilion



New Home of the Headsville, West Virginia,
Post Office & General Store on loan from
the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History,
Kenneth E. Behring Center



Bellefonte, PA 1682

Dedication Station

Gordon & Mary Morison Pavilion



Stephen Reinhard
[Signature]
Gordon C. Morison

Nancy King

*The Gordon & Mary
Morison Pavilion*



Dedication Ceremony
October 20, 2007

American Philatelic Center • Bellefonte, Pennsylvania

Gordon & Mary Morison

A stamp collector since he was 16, Gordon C. Morison conceived the idea of the World Series of Philately, culminating in the selection of an annual Champion of Champions for the finest philatelic exhibit each year, when he chaired the 1968 American Philatelic Society convention in Rochester, New York. That competition is now in its 40th year.

Hired to direct and develop the philatelic program in 1971, one of Gordon's major efforts in the 1970s was to promote youth philately, launching Benjamin Franklin Stamp Clubs in schools throughout the country.



Gordon served the USPS for twenty-two years — the last fourteen of them as Assistant Postmaster General. Since retiring in 1992, he has worked as a consultant, traveling to thirty-five countries and also served as Executive Director of the WASHINGTON 2006 World Philatelic Exhibition, which welcomed 80,000 collectors from throughout the globe to our nation's capital. In addition, he is a life member of the APS, and served as an APS director or vice president for a total of eight years.

Gordon specializes in the postal stationery of Iceland, and the postal history of Bradford County, Pennsylvania, where he was born and raised. In 2003, his Iceland postal card exhibit won the NORDIA Grand Prix Nationale in Reykjavik. The U.S. Philatelic Classics Society recognized Gordon as its 2006 Distinguished Philatelist, citing his "exceptional contributions to the organization and promotion of philatelic exhibitions, and his sustained and far-reaching philatelic service within the U.S. Postal Service and as a member and officer of the American Philatelic Society."

Mary V. Morison was Gordon's wife for forty-eight years accompanying him to many philatelic events and postal ceremonies.

While Gordon could not persuade his children, Keith and Linda, to collect stamps, Mary couldn't resist, and became a very active collector. She urged the APS to establish a spouse membership, refusing to join until it was established. Her persistence paid off, and she became one of the first spouse members of the Society.

A charter member of the AFDCS, she later served as its executive secretary, and for many years compiled the annual index for *First Days* magazine. She wrote a beginner's stamp column for *Linn's Stamp News*. She also was a member of the ATA, the Europa Study Unit, the Potomac Philatelic Society and other organizations. Her principal collecting interests were first day covers and manned space flight postal cancellations and related stamps, but also collected stamps showing various topics such as owls, European unity, fairy tales, and fire.

Mary was a 1954 graduate of Syracuse University, where she had met her husband-to-be. They were married the same year. After graduation, she worked in the library of the *Rochester Times-Union* newspaper, and also wrote a stamp column that appeared in its Weekend section. She left the newspaper to rear the couple's two children.

After coming to Washington, DC, in 1971, Mary served as a volunteer for more than five years at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History in its stamp department, which later became part of the National Postal Museum. She passed away on June 21, 2002.

The Gordon & Mary
Morison Pavilion

Dedication Ceremony

⌘ Presenting the Colors ⌘

Boy Scout Troop 34

⌘ Welcome & Introductions ⌘

Peter Mastrangelo, APS Executive Director

⌘ Comments ⌘

Charles J. Peterson, APRL Secretary

Janet Klug, APS Immediate Past President

⌘ Keynote Speaker ⌘

Benjamin Bailar

United States Postmaster General, 1975-78

⌘ Presentation to Gordon Morison ⌘

⌘ "Coil" Cutting ⌘

⌘ Closing ⌘

Reception following the Dedication in the Offices of Hugh Wood, Inc.





The Morison Family, prior to the ceremony.

Gordon Morison cuts the ceremonial coil to open the Gordon and Mary Morison Pavilion as Ken Martin, APS Deputy Executive Director and Benjamin Bailar, former Postmaster General look on.



Open for Business!

at the American Philatelic Center



New Home of the Headsville, West Virginia, Post Office & General Store on loan from the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, Kenneth E. Behring Center



LOUIS COMFORT TIFFANY

July 18, 2016

This was mailed from
the Headsville P.O., which
is now at the American
Philatelic Center.

100th Anniversary of Mail Order



A Mavis Pudding Picturecard

The Headsville, West Virginia country-store post office was built by Henry Head about 1861. The building served as a post office until about 1908. It was reconstructed within the National Museum of History and Technology and opened as a postal station on September 27, 1971.

National Museum of History and Technology
Smithsonian Institution

91755-C

Ron Breznay

18 Cist St.

Hanover Township, PA 18706



The Headsville, W.Va.
Post Office at the
American Philatelic Center



Ron Breznay
18 Cist St.
Hanover Township, PA 18706







