

APS UNIT 28

www.esphs.org
Meets twice annually

Membership info: George McGowan
P. O. Box 482, E. Schodack, NY 12063-0482
geolotus2003@nycap.rr.com, 518-479-4396



EMPIRE STATE
POSTAL HISTORY
SOCIETY



SMALL TOWNS PROVIDE MANY INTERESTING ITEMS

By Glenn A. Estus

Many small towns provide postal historians with a multitude of interesting items. The Town of Newcomb in Essex County is no exception. Situated in the heart of the Adirondack Mountains, the Newcomb post office was established on April 8, 1863 and in continuous operation since. The township is located in the southwestern section of Essex County having been formed in 1828 from what was then parts of Moriah and Minerva townships. When Newcomb was at its peak in population in 1950 there were only 1,212 residents. Today the population is about 500.

This small post office used three interesting cancellations at the beginning of the 20th century.

In 1914 the post office certainly kept different hours than today. Notice the hour designation in the unusual magenta hand cancel. It is difficult to read, but the stamp was cancelled at "6 AM."

In 1921 the post office used a black hand cancel that read "NEWCOMB, N.Y. / M.O.B." M.O.B. stands for "Money Order Business."

Many small post offices of that era used hand stamps that tried to imitate machine cancels of the larger post offices. Newcomb was no exception as evidenced by the 1924 hand cancel. There is a similar hand cancel with eight bars used in 1922.

Some readers may have postcards and postal cards from small New York towns during this era. Don't neglect to turn them over and check out the cancellations.

Backdrop from Google Earth; Gerald Wiley Collection postcard