

# Dakota Collector

A Research Journal of North and South Dakota Postal History

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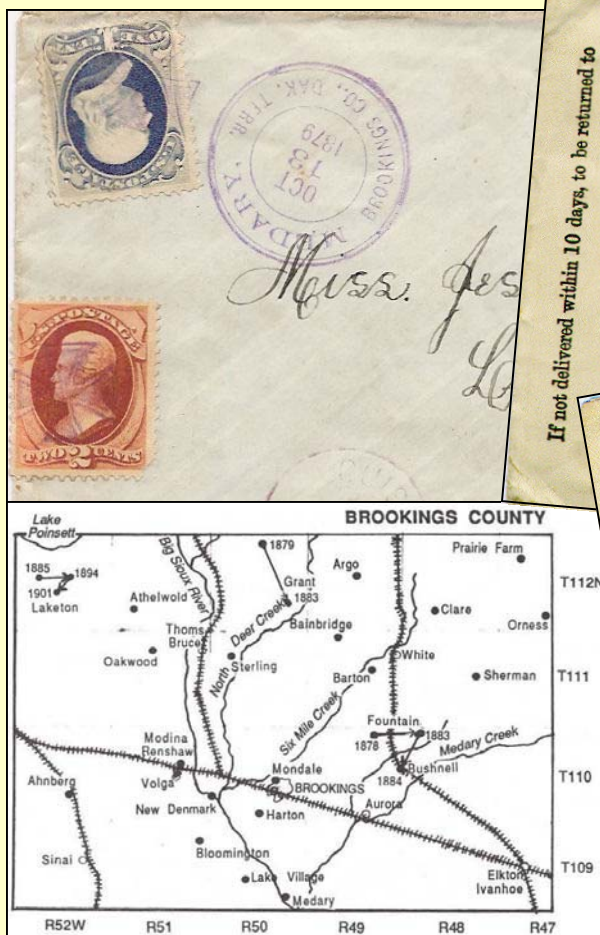
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(members only)

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### A special THANKS to all contributors

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Cover page is now page 1  
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## Editorial Comments

### from the President

Submitted by Ken Stach

We hope you enjoy the new format and new look of the *Dakota Collector*. We will continue to strive to improve our publication, so any/all comments are not only welcome...but encouraged! Please let us know what you think at the addresses shown on page 2.

The cost of producing in this quality now exceeds our projected income from regular dues. **Please keep in mind that any contributions are tax deductible!!! Please send your check of support to our Treasurer, at the address listed on page 2. Thanks!**

### from the Secretary/Treasurer/Editor

Submitted by Gary Anderson

In this issue we have Brookings County from South Dakota as well as a "Contents of the Postcard" article by one of our members, Joe Adamski. Also please check out the ads on page 19 which include information about our Website and information on the Gordon Twedt Memorial Award, which we are having again this year. Remember you can write about any aspect of postal history on North or South Dakota. It can be your favorite cover, group of covers, or just about anything. Last year we only had one article submitted by Duane Edwards Sr. Let's see if we can do better this year and have several articles!

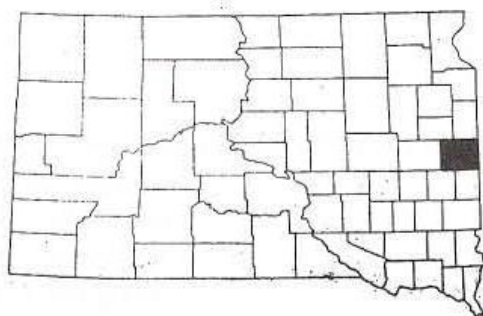
<b>Financial Statement for 2007 - Dakota Postal History Society</b>			
<i>Prepared by Gary Anderson - DPHS Secretary/Treasurer - June, 2007</i>			
<u>Balance Sheet Item</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Asset or Income</u>	<u>Liability or Expense</u>
<b>Beginning Checking Account Balance - Jan 1, 2007</b>	<b>\$ 2,959.16</b>		
<u>Income Related Transactions:</u>			
Income from Regular & Sustaining Members Dues		\$ 1,120.00	
Income from Lifetime Memberships @ \$250		\$250.00	
Long-Term Expense Associated w/New Lifetime Memberships			\$250.00
<b>Total Net Income</b>		<b>\$ 1,370.00</b>	
<u>Expenses Related Transactions:</u>			
Printing, Postage, Envelopes for 4 Issues of Dakota Collector			\$ 874.56
<b>Total Expenditures</b>			<b>\$ 874.56</b>
<b>Ending Checking Account Cash Balance - Dec 31, 2007</b>	<b>\$ 3,454.60</b>		
<u>Cash Reconciliation:</u>			
Certificate of Deposit (to cover lifetime memberships)	\$ 2,177.42		
Checking Account Balance as of Dec 31, 2007	\$ 3,454.60		
<b>Total Cash Assets</b>	<b>\$ 5,632.02</b>		
<b>Net Assets as of Dec 31, 2007 (Total Assets minus the Long-Term Liability of the 9 Life-Time Memberships at \$250.00 each = \$2250.00)</b>	<b>\$ 3,382.02</b>		
<b>Membership Summary:</b>			
Regular Memberships (23 last year)	30		
Sustaining Memberships (31 last year)	31		
Life Memberships (8 last year)	9		
Free Copies to APS, Hist. Societies, Linn's, etc. (8 last year)	8		
Total Distribution (70 last year)	78		



# A Study of Brookings County, South Dakota

By Gary Anderson and Ken Stach

Brookings County in extreme east-central South Dakota was one of the first counties in Dakota Territory, being created in 1862 and formally organized on Jan 21, 1871. It is bordered on the east by the state of Minnesota, on the north by both Deuel and Hamlin Counties, on the west by Kingsbury County, and on the south by the counties of Lake and Moody.

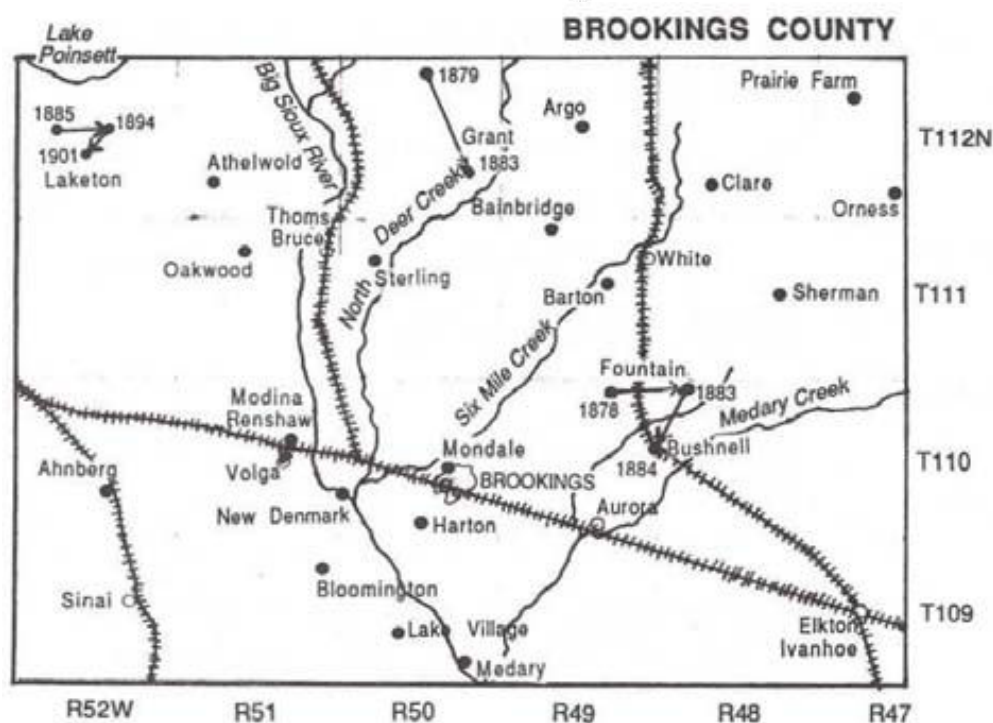


charge of the interests of the Western Town Company. At that time, Sioux Falls consisted of a few rude cabins in an Indian-inhabited wilderness and had a population of 16 colonists, ten representing the Western Town Company and six the Dakota Land Company.

*South Dakota Geographic Names*, by Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve (2) relates a great story about Judge Brookings. Early in February, 1858 while on a trip in the interests of his company, Brookings fell from his horse into Split Rock River. It was about seven o'clock in the evening, and with the temperature hovering around 30 below zero his only chance was to run for his life. All through the night he struggled desperately on, and finally reached Sioux Falls

at nine o'clock the next morning, utterly exhausted and badly frozen. Gangrene set in, and as a last desperate resort young Dr. Phillips decided to amputate both legs below the knees. Lying on a rude bunk in his floorless cabin and without the aid of anesthetic, Brookings had his feet removed with a large butcher knife and a small saw. He not only survived the experience but entirely regained his health and took an active part in the development of the Territory.

Doane Robinson's *Encyclopedia of South Dakota* (3) provides additional detail on the county, "first settled by Franklin J. DeWitt at Medary, 1857; abandoned, 1858; modern settlement Nels O. Trygstad, at Medary, 1869....Medary continued as the county seat until 1879, when construction of the Northwestern railroad was followed by the birth of the towns along that line. A county seat fight that year, unopposed by Medary, but joined in by Aurora, Brookings and Volga, resulted in favor of Brookings."

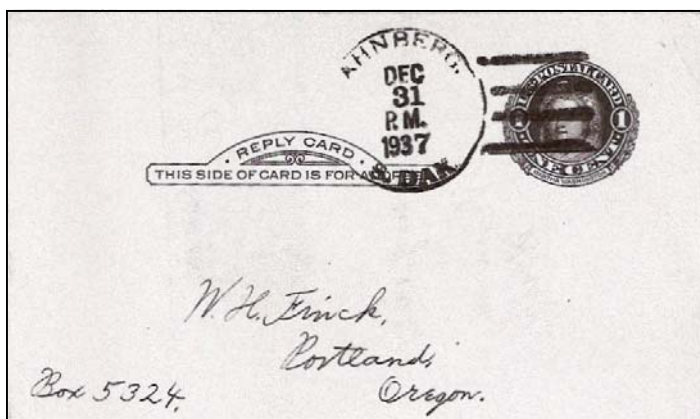


The book *South Dakota Post Offices* (1) notes that the county was named for Judge Wilmot W. Brookings, one of the earliest Minnehaha County pioneers. Born at Woodwich, Maine, he graduated from Bowdoin College, studied law, and was admitted to the bar in 1857. He came to Sioux Falls in August of that year and was immediately given

charge of the interests of the Western Town Company. At that time, Sioux Falls consisted of a few rude cabins in an Indian-inhabited wilderness and had a population of 16 colonists, ten representing the Western Town Company and six the Dakota Land Company.

### Ahnberg (1920-1937)

Ahnberg was established on Dec 7, 1920 with Andrew B. Raad as first postmaster. It was discontinued Dec 31, 1937 with mail to Arlington. The proposed name for the office was "Como". According to Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve, in her book *South Dakota Geographic Names*, Ahnberg "was five miles southeast of Arlington, and was formerly called Como and is still referred to occasionally by that name. Reasons for the two names, however, are unknown."<sup>(2)</sup>



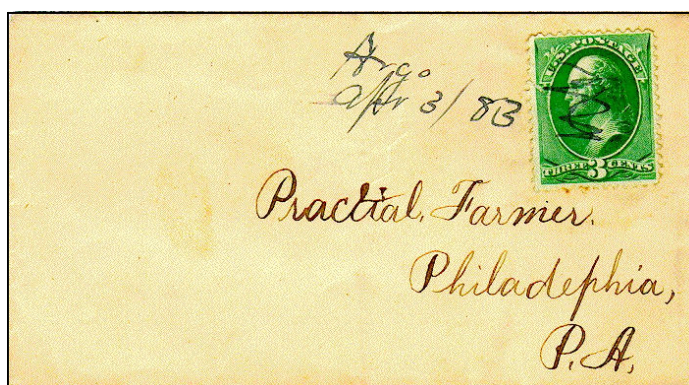
*Ahnberg, S. Dak. (Dec 31, 1937) last day of office postmark on postcard of philatelic use*

### Argo (1880-1903)

The post office at Argo was opened May 9, 1880 with George Headley as its first postmaster. The office was discontinued Feb 28, 1903 with mail being routed to Toronto. No reference could be located as to why the office was named Argo.

#### Postmaster Compensation:

George Headley	1881	\$10.51
George Headley	1883	\$25.18
George Headley	1885	\$28.01
George Headley	1887	\$12.37
George Headley	1889	\$14.64
George Headley	1891	\$13.12
Samuel Skarloken	1893	\$7.35
Samuel Skarloken	1895	\$8.39
Samuel Skarloken	1897	\$8.37
Samuel Skarloken	1899	\$9.12
Samuel Skarloken	1901	\$13.90



*Argo (Dakota Territory), Apr 3/83 manuscript postmark*

### Athel Wold (1892-1901) - NKC

The post office at Athel Wold was established on Mar. 25, 1892 with Erick Erickson as first postmaster. The post office was discontinued on Sep. 14, 1901 with mail to Bruce. Proposed name was Tetonka. No reference could be found as to why the office was named Athel Wold.

#### Postmaster Compensation:

Erick Erickson	1893	\$19.94
Erick Erickson	1895	\$34.18
Erick Erickson	1897	\$32.26
Erick Erickson	1899	\$27.93
Erick Erickson	1901	\$25.65

### Aurora (1880-Open)

The post office at Aurora was established on Jan. 7, 1880 with Byron J. Kelsey as first postmaster. It is still an operating post office. According to Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve, in her book, *South Dakota Geographic Names*, there were two explanations for the naming of Aurora. The first and most likely version is that it was named by Mrs. W. R. Stowe of the near-by town of Brookings for her former home, Aurora, Illinois, which in turn was named for Aurora, New York. The other explanation is that at the time of the founding of the town in 1880 the pioneer settlers, feeling this was to be the dawn of a new day for them, named the town Aurora because it is the name of the Roman goddess of the dawn<sup>(2)</sup>.



Postmaster Compensation:

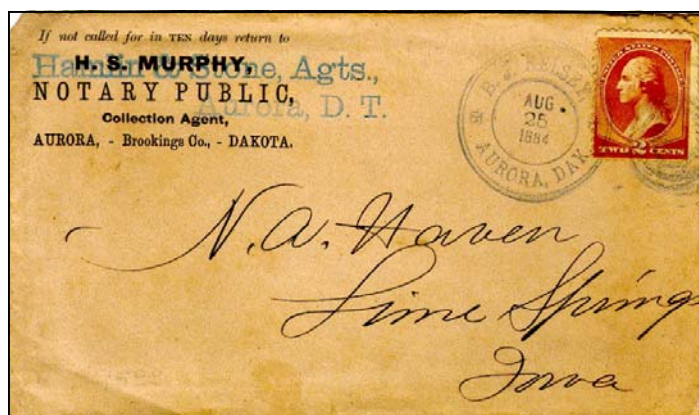
Byron J. Kelsey	1881	\$266.53
Byron J. Kelsey	1883	\$436.53
Albertus B. Baker	1885	\$507.70
Albertus B. Baker	1887	\$481.35
Henry A. McBride	1889	\$485.28
Almer E. West	1891	\$386.21
Fred T. Baker	1893	\$411.17
Fred T. Baker	1895	\$385.27
Homer Rexford	1897	\$565.70
Homer Rexford	1899	\$454.21
George H. Larrabee	1901	\$448.10
George H. Larrabee	1903	\$519.04
George H. Larrabee	1905	\$530.28
George H. Larrabee	1907	\$521.00
George H. Larrabee	1909	\$582.00
George H. Larrabee	1911	\$580.00

Bainbridge (1879-1884)

The post office at Bainbridge was established on Dec. 10, 1879 with Miles White as first postmaster. It was discontinued on Aug. 18, 1884 with mail to Barton. Proposed name was Medway. No reference was found as to why the office was named Bainbridge.

Postmaster Compensation:

Miles White	1881	\$10.01
Miles White	1883	\$16.76



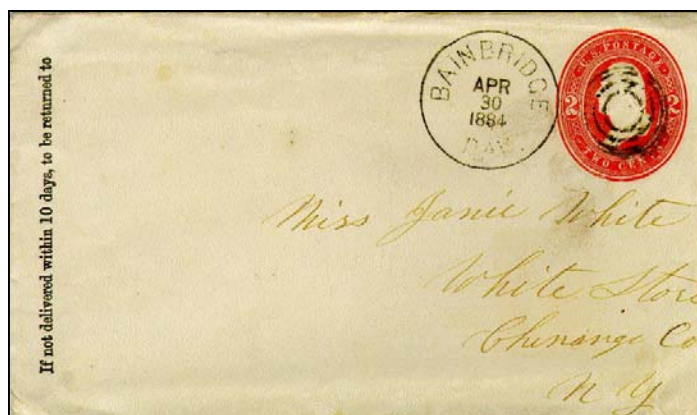
*B. J. Kelsey, Aurora, Dak. Aug 25, 1884 postmark with postmaster's name in dial*



*Aurora, Dak. Aug 27, 1888 standard 27mm plain circle postmark*



*Bainbridge, Dak. 3-24-1880 manuscript postmark on cover to New York*



*Bainbridge, Dak. Apr 30, 1884 standard 27mm plain circle postmark on cover from same correspondence*

**Barton (1880-1886)**

The post office at Barton was established on Feb. 12, 1880 with William Dricken as first postmaster. On May 25, 1886 the post office name was changed to White. No reference was found as to why the office was named Barton.

**Postmaster Compensation:**

William Dricken	1881	\$11.14
William Dricken	1883	\$19.99
William Dricken	1885	\$194.31



*Barton, Dak. Mar 27, 1885 standard 27mm plain circle postmark on cover to New York from same correspondence as the two Bainbridge covers illustrated on the previous page (after closure of the Bainbridge office)*

**Bloomington (1878-1880) - NKC**

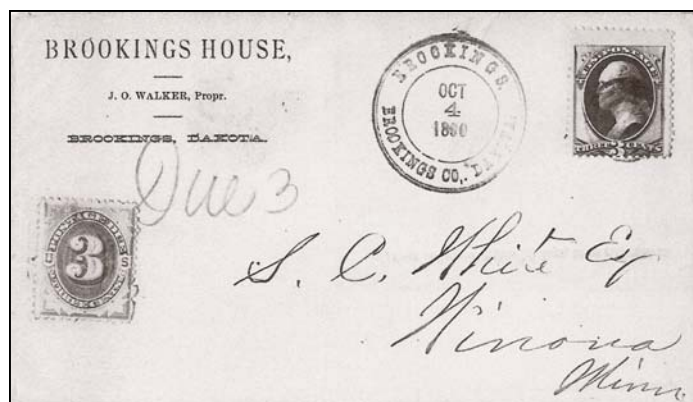
The post office at Bloomington was established on Dec. 4, 1878 with Ingebregt Mikkelsen as first postmaster. The post office was discontinued on Feb. 9, 1880 with mail to Volga. No other information is found on this office.

**Brookings (1879-Open)**

The post office was established on Dec. 5, 1879 with George W. Hopp as first postmaster. It is still an operating post office. According to Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve, in her book, *South Dakota Geographic Names*, Brookings was first called Ada but when the town was platted in 1879 the name was changed to honor Judge Wilmot W. Brookings, one of the outstanding pioneers of the state. The new name was suggested by an early settler, W. H. Skinner. The town became a combination of Ada, Medary and Fountain; for soon after Brookings was founded the other towns were abandoned and their buildings were moved to the new site<sup>(2)</sup>.

**Postmaster Compensation:**

George W. Hopp	1881	\$643.18
Peter C Johnson	1883	\$961.11
George W. Hopp	1885	\$1100.00
Charles W. Hastings	1887	\$1300.00
Charles E. Aiken	1889	\$1400.00
William H. Skinner	1891	\$1500.00
William H. Skinner	1893	\$1600.00
Joshua Downing	1895	\$1600.00
Joshua Downing	1897	\$1500.00
Joshua Downing	1899	\$1600.00
Reuben Matson	1901	\$1800.00
Reuben Matson	1903	\$2200.00
Charles F. Allen	1905	\$2200.00
Charles F. Allen	1907	\$2300.00
George N. Breed	1909	\$2400.00
George N. Breed	1911	\$2600.00

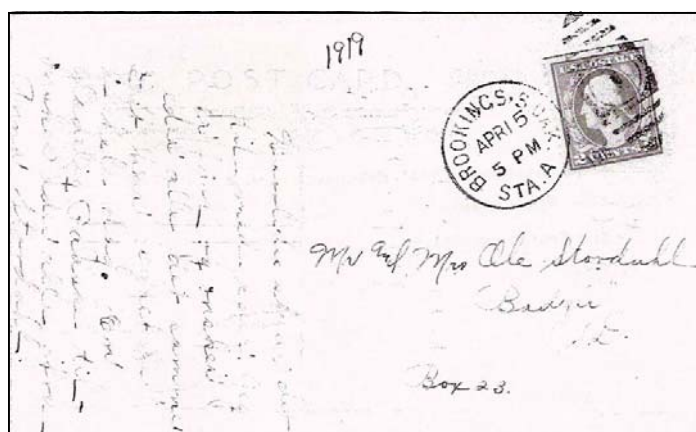


*Brookings, Brookings Co., Dak.ota Oct 4, 1880 double ring county postmark*

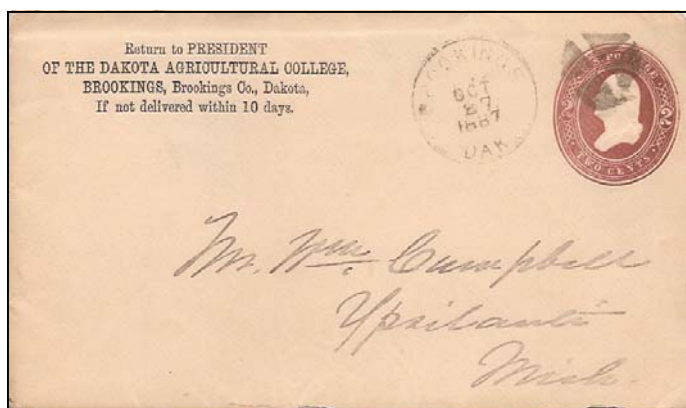




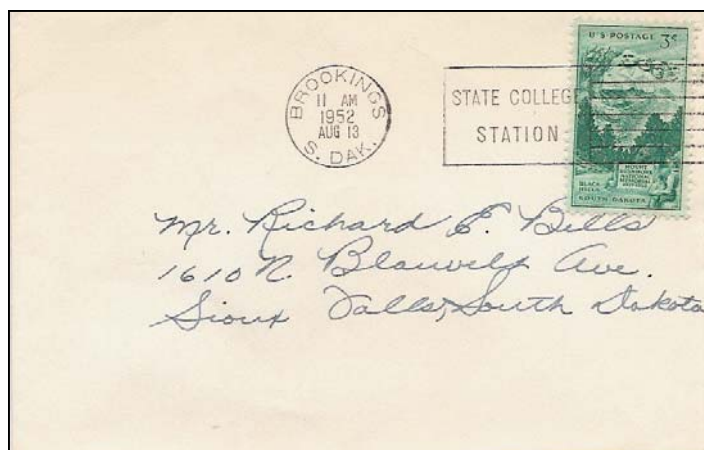
Brookings, Dakota Aug 6, 1882 double ring postmark with date in straight line and scarab killer



Brookings, S. Dak. Sta. A. Apr 15, 1919 college station postmark noted by "Sta. A."



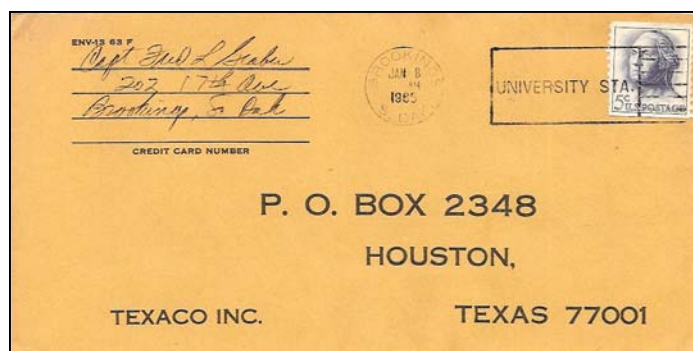
Brookings, Dak. Oct 27, 1887 standard 27mm plain circle postmark on cover with "Dakota Agricultural College" corner card



Brookings, S. Dak. Aug 13, 1952 with "State College Station" killer on cover



Brookings, S. Dak. Aug 1, 1893 postmark on 2c Columbian entire



Brookings, S. Dak. Jan 8, 1965 with "University Sta." killer on commercial cover



## Bruce (1883-Open)

The post office name was changed from Thoms to Bruce on Nov. 5, 1883 with Edward F. Reynolds as first postmaster. It is still an operating post office. According to Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve, in her book, *South Dakota Geographic Names*, Bruce was first called Lee when it was founded in 1881, but was renamed in 1883 for the son of one of the early North Western railroad officials

A second derivation is that it was named for B.K. Bruce, a well-known Negro statesman and friend of Roscoe Conkling, who was United States Senator from New York when the town was founded<sup>(2)</sup>.

### Postmaster Compensation:

Andrew H. Kinyon	1885	\$190.36
Andrew H. Kinyon	1887	\$187.67
Andrew H. Kinyon	1889	\$211.67
Andrew H. Kinyon	1891	\$225.24
Beck Erickson	1893	\$253.94
Beck Erickson	1895	\$247.95
Mrs. Jennie A. Eves	1897	\$299.78
Mrs. Jennie A. Eves	1899	\$351.15
Mrs. Jennie A. Eves	1901	\$385.96
Mrs. Jennie A. Eves	1903	\$486.34
Mrs. Jennie A. Eves	1905	\$508.81
Dio Omodt	1907	\$626.00
Dio Omodt	1909	\$752.00
Dio Omodt	1911	\$700.00



*Bruce, Dak. 11/28 (1883) manuscript marking on cover posted shortly after the rate reduction from 3c to 2c on Oct 1, 1883*



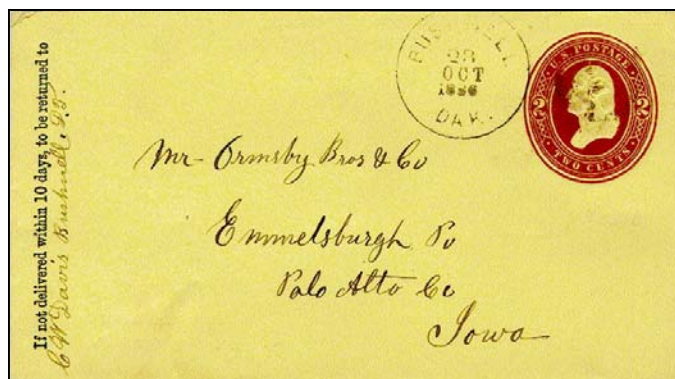
*Bruce, Dak. Mar 6, 1888 standard 27mm plain circle postmark on cover to Montana Territory*

## Bushnell (1885-1972)

The post office name was changed from Fountain to Bushnell on Jan. 26, 1885 with Alex W. Davis as first postmaster. This post office was changed to a rural branch of Brookings between 1972 and 1974. According to Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve, in her book, *South Dakota Geographic Names*, Bushnell was named for Frank E. Bushnell, owner of the land on which the depot was erected. The town was founded in 1904.<sup>(2)</sup>

### Postmaster Compensation:

Alex W. Davis	1885	\$14.98
Alex W. Davis	1887	\$130.57
John H. Bushnell	1889	\$142.59
John H. Bushnell	1891	\$175.28
John H. Bushnell	1893	\$174.58
John H. Bushnell	1895	\$157.02
John H. Bushnell	1897	\$171.59
John H. Bushnell	1899	\$182.55
Thomas A. Gray	1901	\$189.91
Thomas A. Gray	1903	\$209.08
Thomas A. Gray	1905	\$223.28
Edith M. Hendricks	1907	\$339.00
Horace C. Knapp	1909	\$416.00
Joseph H. James	1911	\$560.00



*Bushnell Dak. Oct 23, 1886 postmark*

## Clare (1883-1885) - NKC

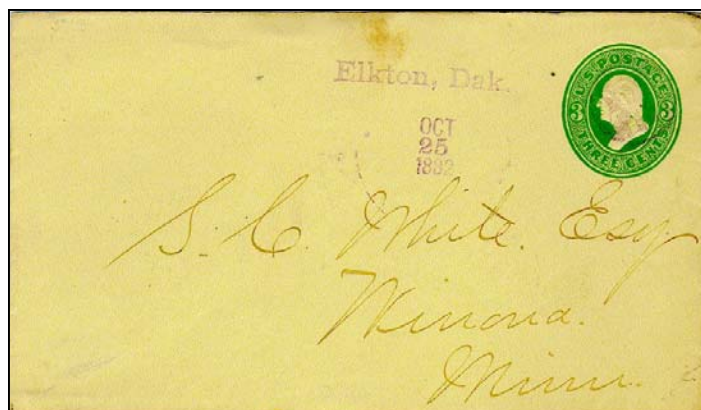
The post office at Clare was established on May 17, 1883 with Clarence E. West as first postmaster. The post office was discontinued on Jan. 12, 1885 with mail to Barton. No other information was found on this office.

## Elkton (1882-Open)

The post office name was changed from Ivanhoe to Elkton on Jul. 21, 1882 with Andrew W. Blanchard as first postmaster. This is still an operating post office. According to Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve, in her book, *South Dakota Geographic Names*, Elkton was platted in 1880 by the Rock Island Railroad Company and named for Elkton, Maryland, the former home of the official of the line.<sup>(2)</sup>

### Postmaster Compensation:

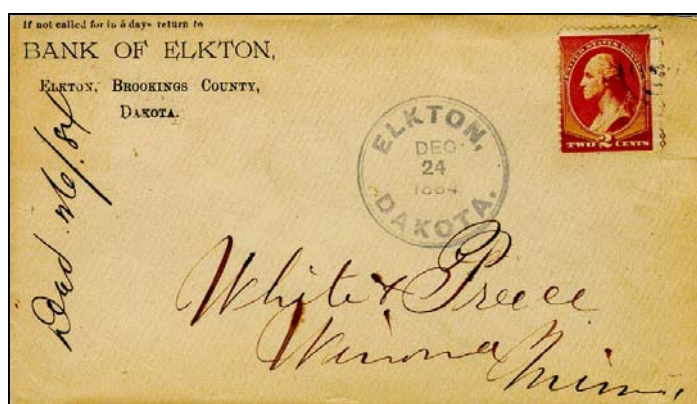
Andrew W. Blanchard	1883	\$333.02
William H. Cornell	1885	\$574.16
Henry A. Brown	1887	\$607.61
Hugh S. Murphy	1889	\$637.72
Hugh S. Murphy	1891	\$743.43
Henry A. Brown	1893	\$951.12
Henry A. Brown	1895	\$797.43
Henry A. Brown	1897	\$965.72
Allen Smith	1899	\$1000.00
Henry Heintz	1901	\$1000.00
Henry Heintz	1903	\$1100.00
Henry Heintz	1905	\$1200.00
Henry Heintz	1907	\$1300.00
Henry Heintz	1909	\$1400.00
Henry Heintz	1911	\$1500.00



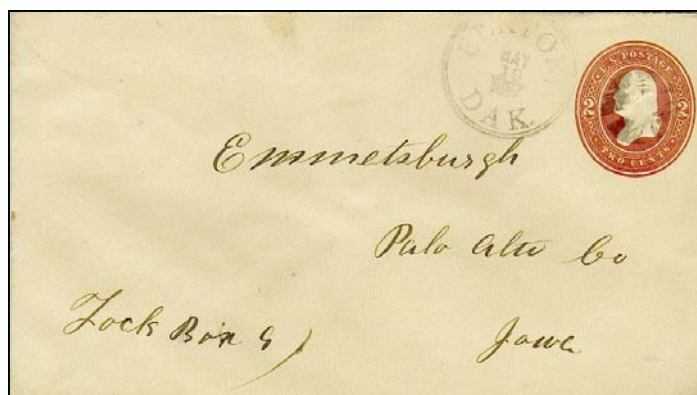
Elkton, Dak. Oct 25, 1882 straight line postmark used in conjunction with modified Ivanhoe circular handstamp



Elkton, Dak. Feb 7, 1883 postmark with lower case letters in town name on registered cover



Elkton, Dakota Dec 24, 1884 postmark with Dakota spelled out in full



Elkton, Dak. May 19, 1887 postmark with serified lettering



**Flandreau (1871-1873)**

This post office was established on Jul. 11, 1871 with David Faribault as first postmaster. The post office was moved from Brookings County to Moody County in 1873. According to Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve, in her book, *South Dakota Geographic Names*, Flandreau was named to honor Judge Charles E. Frandrau of St. Paul, Minnesota. An "e" has since been inserted in the name. It was settled in 1857 but the following year the inhabitants were driven out by the Indians. It was resettled in 1859 by 25 families of civilized Sioux Indians, and in 1869 they were joined by 15 additional families. It was next settled by whites in 1872.<sup>(2)</sup>

**Postmaster Compensation:**

David Faribault	1871	\$12.00
L.E. Gibbs	1873	\$12.00



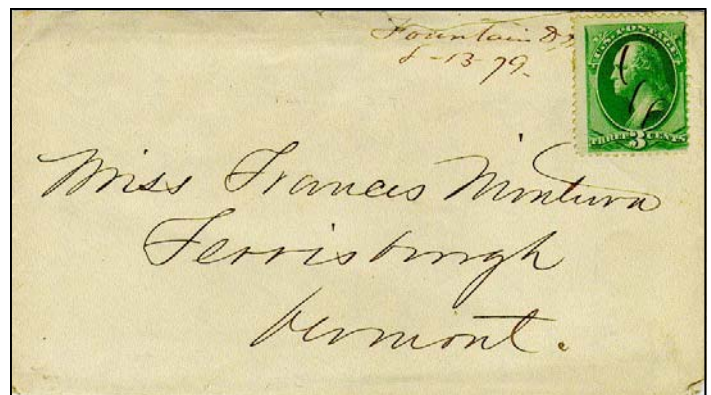
*Flandreau, D.T. Nov 25, 73 manuscript postmark on cover. The Flandreau post office was moved from Brookings County to Moody County in 1873, likely making this a usage from the latter county.*

**Fountain (1878-1885)**

The post office was established on Jul. 30, 1878 with Chauncey A. Kelsey as first postmaster. The post office name was changed to Bushnell on Jan. 26, 1885. Fountain was named such because of the several springs or "fountains" that were present.<sup>(4)</sup>

**Postmaster Compensation:**

John H. Carroll	1879	\$75.67
Alexander W. Davis	1881	\$19.91
Alexander W. Davis	1883	\$23.76



*Fountain, D. T. 8-13 79 manuscript postmark on cover with pen cancels on stamp*



*Fountain, Dak. Jan 3, 188x standard 27mm plain circle postmark on cut piece of government postal card. This is the only reported example of a handstamp from Fountain, unfortunately a cut piece in the archives of the Postmark Collector's Club.*

**Grant (1879/1900) - NKC**

The post office at Grant was established on Jun. 10, 1879 with Easton O. Rice as first postmaster. The post office was discontinued on Dec. 14, 1885 with mail to Bruce. It was re-established on Jun. 30, 1890 and discontinued for good on Jul. 31, 1900 with mail to Argo. No reference could be found as to why it was named Grant.

**Postmaster Compensation:**

Easton O. Rice	1881	\$31.92
Easton O. Rice	1883	\$108.60
Easton O. Rice	1885	\$190.61
Elijah Ladd	1893	\$7.74
Elijah Ladd	1895	\$7.93
Elijah Ladd	1897	\$12.41
Elijah Ladd	1899	\$10.58

**Harton (1877-1878) - NKC**

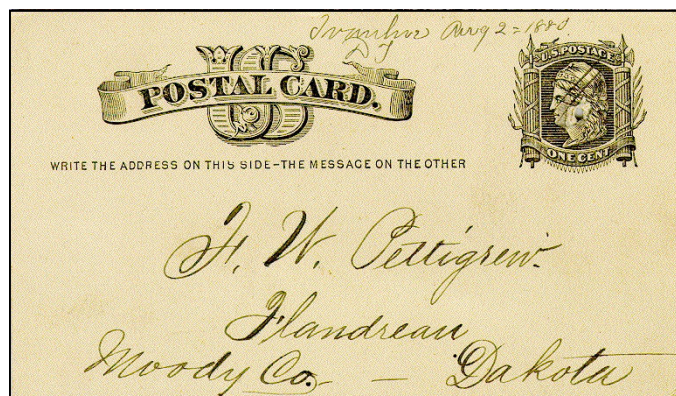
The post office at Harton was established on Jun. 20, 1877 with Olaus Pederson as first postmaster. The post office was discontinued on Dec. 2, 1878 with mail to Medary. No other information was found on this office.

**Ivanhoe (1880-1882)**

The post office at Ivanhoe was established on Jun 16, 1880 with Andrew W. Blanchard as first postmaster. The name was changed to Elkton on Jul. 21, 1882. No reference could be found as to why it was named Ivanhoe.

**Postmaster Compensation:**

Andrew W. Blanchard	1881	\$118.83
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*Ivanhoe, D.T. Aug 2 1880 manuscript*



*Ivanhoe, Dak. Sep 1, 1882 postmark on cover. This device was later modified ("Ivanhoe" removed) and used with an Elkton straight line marking to reflect the new name of the office.*

**Lake Village (1873-1880) - NKC**

The post office was established on Aug. 19, 1873 with William H. Packard as first postmaster. The post office was discontinued on Feb 9, 1880 with mail to Medary. No reference could be found as to why it was named Lake Village.

**Postmaster Compensation:**

William H. Packard	1873	\$12.00
William H. Packard	1875	\$18.76
Lars Engelson	1877	\$28.04
Mrs. Mary Engelson	1879	\$44.90

**Laketon (1886-1901) - NKC**

The post office at Laketon was established on Jan. 25, 1886 with Warren W. Pay as first postmaster. The post office was discontinued on Feb 9, 1901 with mail to Arlington. No reference could be found as to why it was named Laketon.

**Postmaster Compensation:**

Warren W. Pay	1887	\$21.48
Warren W. Pay	1889	\$69.36
Warren W. Pay	1891	\$59.98
Warren W. Pay	1893	\$84.68
Warren W. Pay	1895	\$39.88
Warren W. Pay	1897	\$64.71
Warren W. Pay	1899	\$59.50
Israel C. Trasta	1901	\$59.31



**Medary (1872-1883)**

The post office at Medary was established on Feb. 8, 1872 with Martin Trygstad as first postmaster. The post office was discontinued on Jan. 31, 1883 with mail to Brookings. The town was named for Samuel A. Medary, who was governor of Minnesota from April, 1857 to May, 1858.<sup>(4)</sup>

**Postmaster Compensation:**

Charles H. Stearns	1873	\$12.00
Charles H. Stearns	1875	\$33.06
Charles H. Stearns	1877	\$24.78
James Natesta	1879	\$193.37
James Natesta	1881	\$113.45



*Medary, Dak. Dec 31 (1876) postmark on registered rate cover to Minnesota*



*Medary, Brookings Co., Dak. Terr. Oct 13, 1879 county postmark in purple*

**Modina (1878-1879) - NKC**

The post office at Modina was established on Sep. 20, 1878 with Stewart Randy as first postmaster. The post office name was changed to Renshaw on Feb. 3, 1879. No other information was found on this office.

**Mondale (1879-1879) - NKC**

The post office at Mondale was established on Apr. 14, 1879 with Ever Peterson as first postmaster. The post office was discontinued on Oct. 17, 1879 with mail to Fountain. No other information was found on this office.

**New Denmark (1878-1879) - NKC**

The post office was established on Dec. 19, 1878 with Henry Bohlke as first postmaster. The post office was discontinued on Oct. 14, 1879 with mail to Lake Village. No reference could be found as to why it was named New Denmark.

**Postmaster Compensation:**

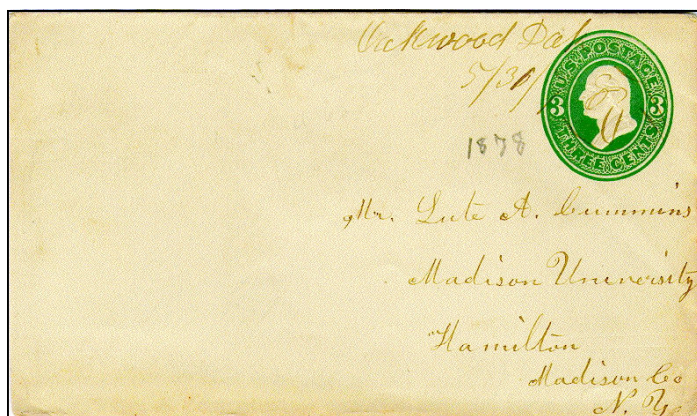
Henry Bohlke	1879	\$8.37
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**Oakwood (1874-1894)**

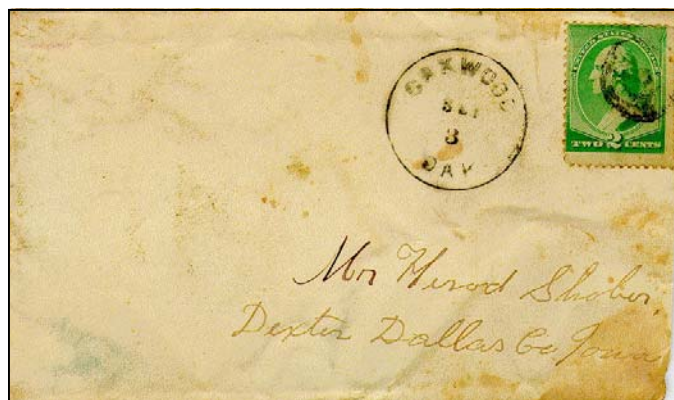
The post office at Oakwood was established on Nov. 20, 1874 with Byron E. Pay as the first postmaster. The post office was discontinued on Aug. 14, 1894 with mail to Bruce. No reference could be found as to why it was named Oakwood.

**Postmaster Compensation:**

Byron E. Pay	1875	\$5.49
James S. Cummins	1877	\$19.27
Joshua Downing	1879	\$131.28
Joshua Downing	1881	\$167.24
Charles H. Atkinson	1883	\$156.50
James S. Cummins	1885	\$87.30
David Crandall	1887	\$68.20
David Crandall	1889	\$39.02
Ralph P. Devan	1891	\$78.92
Ralph P. Devan	1893	\$55.11



*Oakwood, Dak. 5/31/78 manuscript postmark*



*Oakwood, Dak, Sep 3 (1890) standard 27mm plain circle postmark. Typical of Oakwood postmarks, this one is very poorly struck.*

### Orsness (1896-1901) - NKC

The post office at Orsness was established on Jul. 25, 1896 with Jacob E. Johnson as first postmaster. The post office was discontinued on Jul. 31, 1901 with mail to White. No reference could be found as to why it was named Orsness.

#### Postmaster Compensation:

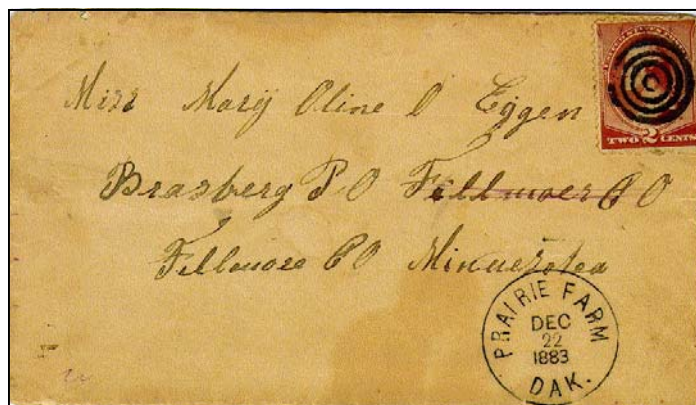
Jacob E. Johnson	1897	\$9.25
Esther Johnson	1899	\$22.99
Esther Johnson	1901	\$18.47

### Prairie Farm (1876-1901)

The post office at Prairie Farm was established on Jan. 4, 1876 with Henry Peterson as first postmaster. The post office was discontinued on Jul. 31, 1901 with mail to Henricks, Minnesota. Discontinuance order of Feb. 15, 1897 was rescinded. No reference could be found as to why it was named Prairie Farm.

#### Postmaster Compensation:

Henry Peterson	1877	\$15.92
Henry Peterson	1879	\$32.13
Henry Peterson	1881	\$38.71
Edward Rasmusen	1883	\$49.75
Edward Rasmusen	1885	\$52.20
Edward Rasmusen	1887	\$37.70
Henry Peterson	1889	\$32.75
Henry Peterson	1891	\$51.92
Henry Peterson	1893	\$43.72
Henry Peterson	1895	\$34.73
Henry Peterson	1897	\$42.09
Henry Peterson	1899	\$46.33
Henry Peterson	1901	\$50.64



*Prairie Farm, Dak., Dec 22 1883 standard 27mm plain circle postmark*



*Prairie Farm, S. Dak. Mar 19, 1896 statehood postmark on cover (only corner illustrated)*

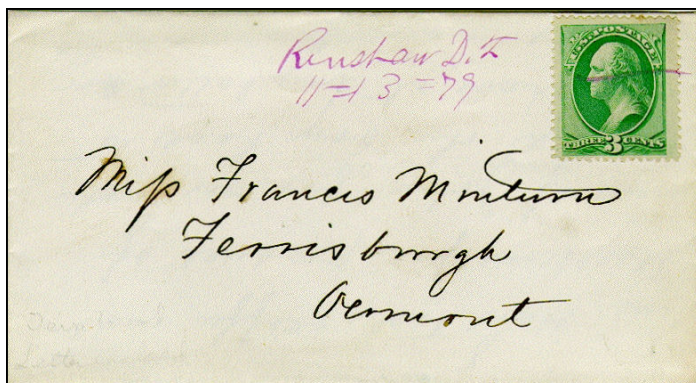


**Renshaw (1879-1879)**

The post office name was changed from Modina to Renshaw on Feb. 3, 1879 with Erick Nelson as first postmaster. The post office name was changed from Renshaw to Volga on Dec. 2, 1879. Renshaw was named for Joseph Renshaw Brown, a prominent Minnesota Territory politician in 1857.<sup>(4)</sup>

**Postmaster Compensation:**

Erick Nelson	1879	\$6.82
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*Renshaw D.T. 11=13=79 manuscript postmark with odd use of equals signs in between month-date-year*

**Sherman (1878-1884) - NKC**

The post office at Sherman was established on Jan. 16, 1878 with Joseph K. Miller as first postmaster. The post office was discontinued on Nov. 25, 1884 with mail to Barton. No reference could be found as to why it was named Sherman.

**Postmaster Compensation:**

John H. Hendricks	1879	\$18.29
John H. Hendricks	1881	\$61.52
Uriah D. Palmer	1883	\$82.66

**Sinai (1891/Open)**

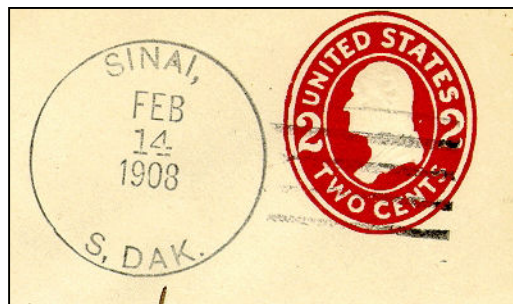
The post office at Sinai was established on Jan. 27, 1891 with Nicholas O. Bursvold as the first postmaster. The post office was discontinued on Sep. 30, 1901 with mail to Arlington. The post office was re-established on Apr. 23, 1907 and is still an operating post office. According to Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve, in her book, *South Dakota Geographic Names*, Sinai was founded in 1907. The town and the township received their names from the nearby Lake Sinai.<sup>(2)</sup>

**Postmaster Compensation:**

Nicholas O. Bursvold	1891	\$1.39
Nicholas O. Bursvold	1893	\$23.29
Nicholas O. Bursvold	1895	\$25.41
Julius C. Halvorson	1897	\$25.45
Julius C. Halvorson	1899	\$43.44
Anton Bursvold	1901	\$75.21
Nicholas O. Bursvold	1909	\$252.00
Nicholas O. Bursvold	1911	\$280.00



*Sinai, S. Dak. Mar 1, 1896 standard 27mm plain circle postmark on cover (only corner illustrated)*



*Sinai, S. Dak. Feb 14, 1908 standard 32mm 4-bar postmark on cover (only corner illustrated)*

### Sterling (1880-1880) - NKC

The post office at Sterling was established on Jan. 20, 1880 with Charles A. Batsel as first postmaster. The post office was discontinued on Jun. 14, 1880 with mail to Oakwood. No other information was found on this office.

### Thoms (1883-1883) - NKC

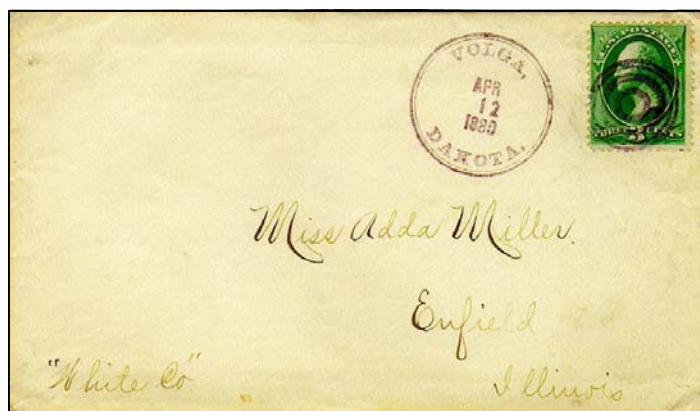
The post office at Thoms was established on Jul. 24, 1883 with Edward Lee as the first postmaster. The post office name was changed to Bruce on Nov. 5, 1883. No other information was found on this office.

### Volga (1879-Open)

The post office name was changed from Renshaw to Volga on Dec. 2, 1879 with Erick Nelson as the first postmaster. Volga is still an operating post office. According to Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve, in her book, *South Dakota Geographic Names*, Volga was named, according to *The Volga Tribune* golden jubilee edition, August 22, 1929, for the Volga River in Russia by North Western railroad officials, either for the purpose of attracting Russian settlers to the new town or because the Missouri River, commonly called the "Big Muddy," was the railroad company's goal and Volga means "Great River." Another explanation advanced by the newspaper is the some railroad official named it for the town and river of that name in eastern Iowa. It was platted in 1879-80.<sup>(2)</sup>

#### Postmaster Compensation:

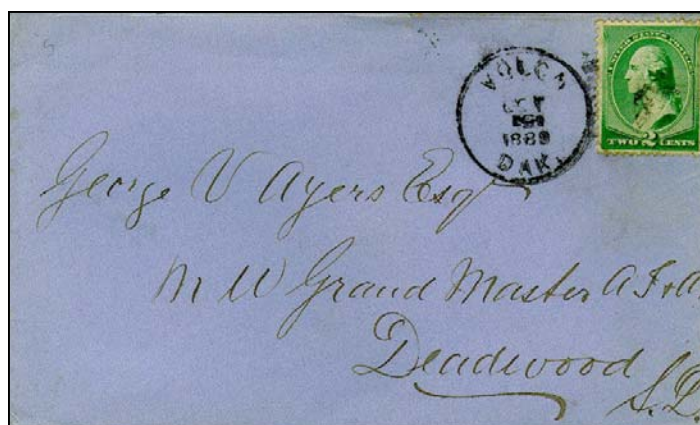
Jacob Brown	1881	\$640.15
Jacob Brown	1883	\$660.37
Charles Keith	1885	\$691.23
Charles Keith	1887	\$662.59
Louis Johnson	1889	\$698.17
Louis Johnson	1891	\$704.41
Thomas E. Smith	1893	\$789.31
Julia M. Smith	1895	\$668.97
Julia M. Smith	1897	\$669.52
Ole A. Stumley	1899	\$751.44
Ole A. Stumley	1901	\$834.89
Ole A. Stumley	1903	\$996.44
Ole A. Stumley	1905	\$1000.00
Ole A. Stumley	1907	\$1100.00
Ole A. Stumley	1909	\$1200.00
Ole A. Stumley	1911	\$1300.00



*Volga, Dakota. Apr 12 1880 postmark from very early in the office's opening.*



*Volga, Dak. T. Sep 9, 1884 standard 27mm plain circle postmark...except for the fact that this is one of the only known postmarks to have used the "Dak. T." abbreviation*



*Volga, Dak. Oct 5, 1889 standard 27 mm plain circle postmark on blue cover to Deadwood "S.D." in anticipation of statehood less than a month later*



### West End (1873-1873) - NKC

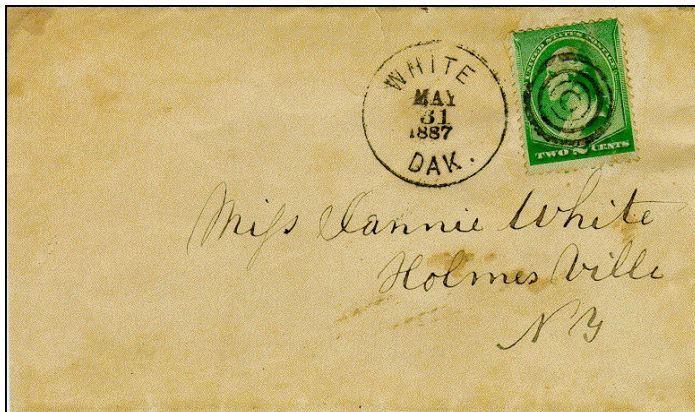
The post office was established on Jan. 31, 1873 with Frederic W. Pettigrew as first postmaster. The post office was discontinued on Jul. 31, 1873 with mail to Flandreau. This area is now located in Moody County but at the time of operation of this post office it was in Brookings County. In 1872 there was a village of one store, two dwellings & a church, total patrons 200. No other information was found on this office.

### White (1886-Open)

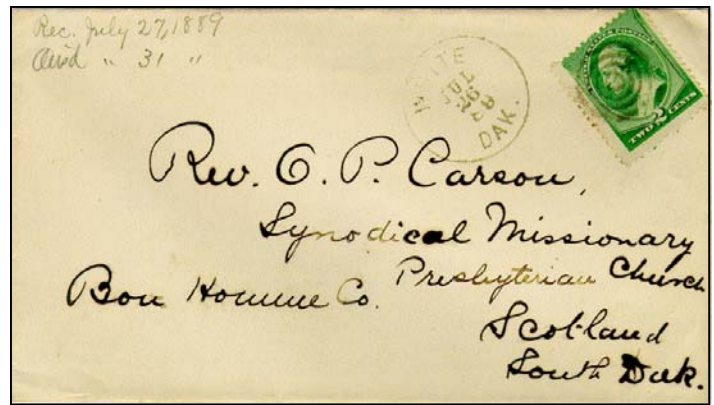
The post office name was changed from Barton to White on May 24, 1886 with Henry E. Hendricks as first postmaster. This is still an operating post office. According to Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve, in her book, *South Dakota Geographic Names*, White was named for W.H White, a pioneer who owned the town site. It was platted in 1884.<sup>(2)</sup>

#### Postmaster Compensation:

Henry E. Hendricks	1887	\$388.07
David A. Jamison	1889	\$428.55
David A. Jamison	1891	\$452.94
James M. Farrell	1893	\$695.48
James M. Farrell	1895	\$591.99
George H. Chase	1897	\$674.88
George H. Chase	1899	\$822.25
George H. Chase	1901	\$786.49
Sumner E. Wood	1903	\$907.25
Sumner E. Wood	1905	\$927.48
Sumner E. Wood	1907	\$996.00
Sumner E. Wood	1909	\$1100.00
Sumner E. Wood	1911	\$1100.00



White, Dak. May 31, 1887 standard 27mm plain circle postmark



White, Dak. Jul 26 89 standard 27mm plain circle postmark...except that the year is designated by only the last two digits of the date



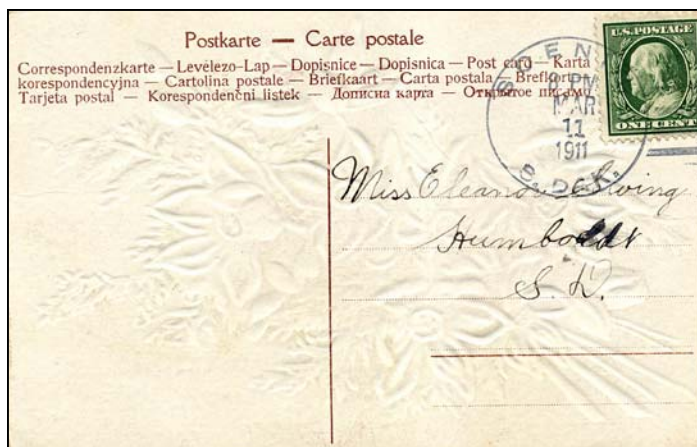
White, S. Dak. Oct 13 1894 statehood postmark on cover (only corner illustrated)

#### References:

- 1.) Patera, Alan H., John S. Gallagher and Kenneth W. Stach, *Post Offices of South Dakota*, 1990, The Depot, Lake Grove, OR, 400 pages.
- 2.) Sneve, Virginia Driving Hawk, *South Dakota Geographic Names*, 1973, Brevet Press, Sioux Falls, SD, 639 pages.
- 3.) Robinson, Doane, *Encyclopedia of South Dakota*, 1925, Will A. Beach Printing Co., Sioux Falls, SD, 1003 pages.
- 4.) Brookings County History Book Committee, *Brookings County History Book*, 1989, Pine Hill Press, Freeman, SD, 829 pages.

## Contents of the Postcard

By Joe Adamski



The featured postcard with a MAR 11, 1911, 4 bar cancel from Scenic, S. DAK is addressed to Miss Eleanor Irving, Humboldt, S.D. The postcard itself contains no written message. A flower still life appears on the picture side of the postcard, and this side also contains an affixed, small envelope, which is labeled "A Note From Scenic, South Dakota." Fortunately, the original note has remained in the envelope for nearly 100 years and is clearly legible for such tiny writing.



Scenic S.D.  
Mch 9, 1911

Dear Friends,

Well I suppose you will be somewhat surprised when you get this note. I don't know if I should have sent it to you or not, but I can't help it. I have just got to send it.

Jess told me you had left about a week after that time I after I came after you, but heard later you had not left for 3 or 4 weeks later.

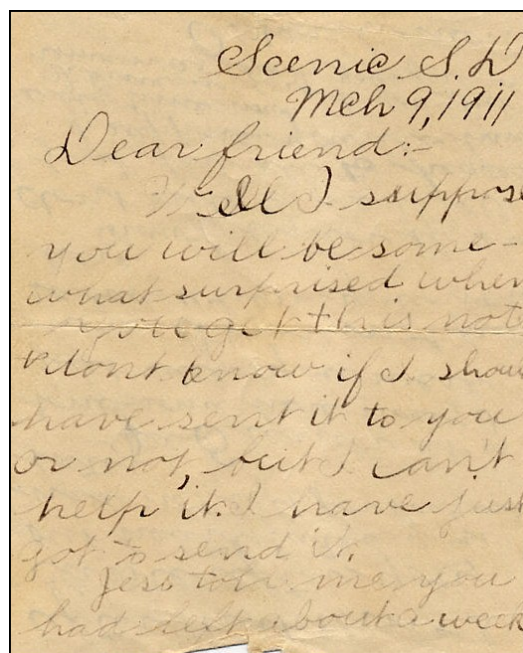
Gee Eleanor it is lone-some here now. I just wish you were here. It was not half so bad when you were here.

Now Eleanor if you don't write to me I will just fly all to pieces.

I suppose you are having a big time now.

I have not forgot you but remain as before, your friend

Arthur Anderson



Arthur Anderson is listed as a resident of Scenic, Pennington County, South Dakota, in the 1910 census. Born in 1883, Arthur would have been 27-28 years old at the time he sent the postcard. I could find no record of Eleanor Irving in the 1910 census for Humboldt, Minnehaha County, South Dakota. The contents of the postcard demonstrate Arthur's affection for Eleanor, but only further research will reveal if their relationship continued.



## **DPHS Website Information**

The Dakota Postal History Society now has its own website. You can visit it at:

<http://www.dakotapostalhistorysociety.org>

The website contains information on the Society's purpose, a history how it got started, and some of the best of the past issues of the *Dakota Collector* in PDF format. These back issues can be viewed with Adobe Acrobat Reader and printed in full color. The website also has as a printable application blank for the Society as well as links to other websites that might be of interest, including the Dakota Postal History Society Groups on My Space and eBay that are monitored by Board Member Walter Anderson.

Please give the website a look. Any and all comments are welcome!

Gary Anderson

## **The Arizona-New Mexico ROAD RUNNER quarterly newsletter**

**Announce that their 21 Volume CD  
is now available to collectors of Arizona  
& New Mexico covers, expresses, &  
letters from Volume 1—Volume 21  
(1986-2006)**

**At just \$10 including shipping and handling  
from:**

**Al Ring  
7686 E. Camino Amistoso  
Tucson, AZ 85750**

Al Ring is a noted author of *Ruby, Arizona, Mining, Mayhem, and Murder* and other books and has a history web site [a.ringbrothershistory.com](http://a.ringbrothershistory.com), scanned all of the known copies of the Road Runner newsletter to the end of 2006 for this CD.

(NOTE: You will need Acrobat Reader to read this disk)

## **Wanted**

**Postal History items related to  
Pembina County ND. I am trying  
to assemble a group for exhibit  
and am just starting out. I espe-  
cially need Territorials and Ad-  
vertising Covers, but all items are  
considered.**

**Randy Nilson  
P.O. Box 740561  
Arvada, CO. 80006  
Email—[jopiper338@aol.com](mailto:jopiper338@aol.com)  
Member — APS, GPS, TRSG,  
MPHS, SCC and DPHS.**

## **Announcing**

### **“The Gordon Twedt Memorial Award for an Article on Dakota Postal History”**

Open to anyone who is a member of the Society. Any research pertaining to the postal history of the Dakotas, North or South. Deadline is December 31, 2008. Send articles to Dakota Collector, P.O. Box 600039 St. Paul, MN. 55106. The judges of this contest will be Gary Anderson, Doug Wick and Ken Stach. The winner will have their article published in the *Dakota Collector* and receive a \$100 cash prize. It was decided at the annual meeting in 2004 in Sioux Falls that this award would be continued and come out of the club treasury since it was such a success. All previous winners have donated their prize back to the Society. We hope that this will continue to be a successful contest.



