Hampshire County West Virginia Post Offices

Part 2

By Len McMaster

Previously I discussed a little of the history of Hampshire County, described the source of the data and the conventions used in the listings, and began the listing of the post offices from Augusta through Green Valley Depot. The introduction is repeated here.

Introduction

Several people have previously cataloged the Hampshire County West Virginia post offices, generally as part of a larger effort to list all the post offices of West Virginia. Examples include Helbock's United States Post Offices[1] and Small's The Post Offices of West Virginia, 1792-1977[2]. Confusing this study is that Hampshire County was initially split off from Virginia with the establishment of many early post offices appearing in studies of Virginia post offices such as Abelson's *Virginia Postmasters and Post Offices, 1789-1832* [3] and Hall's "Virginia Post Offices, 1798-1859"[4]; and that Hampshire County was itself eventually split into all or parts of five West Virginia counties, including its present day boundaries. Two other lists warrant mentioning: Forte's comprehensive list of post offices on his postal history website[5] and Lisbeth's study of Virginia Postal

Markings Colonial -1865, which, while not comprehensive, has the advantage of including postal markings as well as early postmasters[6].

Thus I have attempted to identify the approximate location and dates of operation of the post offices established in Hampshire County, explaining, where possible, the discrepancies or possible confusion that exists in the other listings. Because of the length of the material, it has been broken up into three parts. This part will include the balance of the Hampshire county post office descriptions starting with Hainesville, and the third part will include descriptions of the post offices in Mineral County today that were established in Hampshire County before Mineral County was split off, and tables of all the post offices established in Hampshire County.

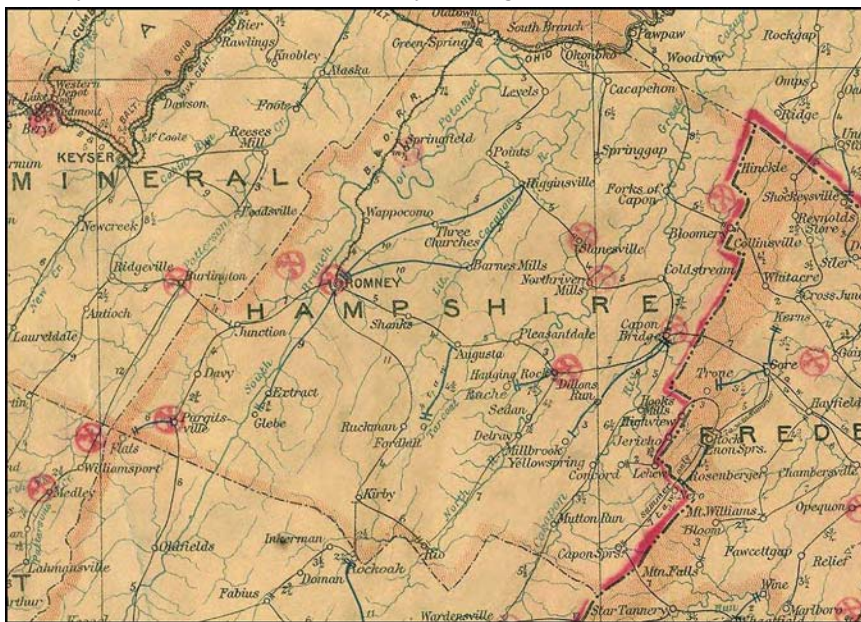## Individual Post Office Location and History of Name Changes

Hainesville (Haines Store)

Hainesville was located near the crossroads of Old Martinsburg Road (County Route 45/9) and Kedron Road (County Route 45/11) southwest of Slanesville. The post office was established February 11, 1878 with James Haines serving as the first postmaster, and was discontinued April 9, 1895 with the mail routed to Barnes Mill.

Hanging Rock

Hanging Rock was located in north-central Hampshire County on the Northwestern Turnpike (U.S. Route 50) near the intersection with North River Road (State Route 29S) between Capon Bridge and Augusta. The post office was established October 11, 1819, discontinued from July 9, 1866 until re-established July 27, 1870, and finally discontinued May 31, 1958 with the mail routed to Augusta.

Note that there was also a community called Hanging Rocks in the northwest part of the County on State Route 28 between Springfield and Romney, near Wappocomo. Even the Post Office Department was confused by the similarity, be-

Map 4 1906 Post route map of the state of Virginia and West Virginia (indicating sites of Civil War battles), Postmaster General, Library of Congress Geography and Map Division <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.ndlpcoop/ glva01.lva00167>

Figure 7 *1848 Hanging Rock manuscript postmark (courtesy of Wayne Farley)*

cause they sent the Hanging Rock postmaster a "site location" form dated September 6, 1870 along with a map of the area between Springfield and Romney, asking him to mark the location of the post office "on the attached tracing"[7].

Hannums Mills (Mills, Lafollettsville, Nero)

Established January 18, 1876 and discontinued January 17, 1877, the post office was re-established as Lafollettsville and later Nero. See Nero for more detail.

Higginsville

Higginsville was located in north-central Hampshire County on Springfield Grade Road (County Route 3) near the intersection with Little Cacapon North Road (County Route 50/9) between Slanesville and Points. The post office was established April 26, 1850[8] and discontinued from July 9, 1866 until re-established December 27, 1871. The post office was finally discontinued June 30, 1948 with the mail routed to Points.

High View

High View is located on the eastern border with Virginia on Carpers Pike (State Route 259) near the intersection with Fred Oates/Christian Church Road (County Route 23/5). The post office was established as part of Frederick County, Virginia June 22, 1839 and changed to Hampshire County in August 31, 1893, thirty years after West Virginia became a state. It was discontinued May 31, 1959 with the mail routed to Gore, but re-established September 14, 1963, and continues as a working post office today, zip code 26808.

Hooks Mills (Hook's Mill)

Hooks Mills was located in the southeast part of the County on Cacapon River Road (County Route 14) near the intersection with Hooks Mill Road (County Route

13/3) between Capon Bridge and Yellow Spring. The post office was established December 6, 1854 and discontinued from July 9, 1866 until re-established October 13, 1879. The post office was finally discontinued April 30, 1950 with the mail routed to Yellow Spring.

Hoy

Hoy was located in the central part of the County near the intersection of Offutts Road (County Route 45/8) and Hoy Road (County Route 45/13) southwest of Slanesville and northwest of Hanging Rock. The post office was established June 5, 1906 and discontinued April 30, 1958 with the mail routed to Slanesville.

Intermont (Mutton Run)

Intermont was located in the southeast corner of the County along the Cacapon River on Capers Pike (State Route 259) south of Capon Lake. The post office was originally established as Mutton Run October 13, 1879. In the early 20th century the Winchester and Western Railroad was built by the Intermountain Construction Co. from Winchester, Virginia southwest along the eastern border of Hampshire County to Wardensville in Hardy County, and on June 11, 1915 the name of the post office was changed to Intermont. The Intermont post office (zip code 26842) continued operation until it was discontinued January 29, 1972 with the mail routed to Wardensville.

Jericho

Jericho was located on the eastern border with Virginia on Carpers Pike (State Route 259), between High View and Lehew. The post office was established November 6, 1897 and discontinued September 30, 1913 with the mail routed to High View.

Figure 8 *Jericho 1901 postmark (courtesy of Wayne Farley)*

Jersey Mountain (Three Churches)

Established September 30, 1879, the name was changed to Three Churches January 20, 1887. See Three Churches for more detail.

Junction (Moorefield Junction)

Junction was located in the western part of the County along Mill Creek at the intersection of the Northwestern Turnpike (U.S. Route 50) and (U.S. Highway 220/State Route 28), west of Romney, North of Rada. It appears that the post office was originally established as Junction November 13, 1866 and discontinued September 4, 1868. The post office was re-established as Moorefield Junction August 12, 1874, discontinued on September 18, 1876 and re-established April 19, 1: 77. On December 11, 1890 the name was changed to Junction. A POD "site location" form dated September 1, 1891 states the name as "Junction, late Moorefield Junction"[7]. The post office continued operation as Junction (zip code 26824) until service was suspended January 30, 1997. The post office was finally discontinued October 1, 2005 with the mail routed to Purgitsville.

Kirby

Kirby was located in south-central Hampshire County along Grassy Lick Run, southeast of Romney near the crossroads of Grassy Lick Road (County Route 10) and Rock Oak Road (County Route 10/6). The post office was established May 27, 1884 with Lucinda Kirby serving as the first postmaster, and continued operation until service was suspended **October 2, 1992**. The post office (zip code 26729) was finally discontinued August 8, 1998 with the mail routed to Rio.

Lafollettsville (Lafollet's Ville, Hannums Mills, Nero)

Established August 13, 1877 and discontinued July 20, 1894, this post office was originally known as Hannums Mills and later became Nero. See Nero for more detail.

Lehew (Dove Hill)

Lehew was located in the eastern part of the County on Carpers Pike (State Route 259) near the intersection with H.G Brill Road (County Route 23/4) between High View and Yellow Spring.

A POD "site location" form dated April 16, 1887 proposes a post office at "Dove Hill, West Va" to be called Reid, which was rejected in favor of Lehew[7]. The post office (zip code 26843) was established December 24, 1887 and discontinued September 9, 1984 with the mail routed to Yellow Spring.

Levels (Levels Cross Roads)

Levels is located in the north-central part of the County northeast of Points at the intersection of Jersey Mountain Road (County Route 5), Frenches Station Road (County Route 5/7), Bright's Hollow Road (County Route 5/5), and Little Cacapon-Levels Road (County Route 3/3). The post office was originally established as Levels Cross Roads September 25, 1871, which

Figure 9 Levels Family Store and post office today (courtesy of David McMaster)

Figure 10 1900 Levels postmark

was discontinued July 12, 1880. The post office was re-established as Levels January 20, 1890 and was discontinued from March 14, 1894 until re-established November 17, 1897. The post office continues as a working post office today, zip code 25431.

Levels Cross Roads (Levels)

Established September 25, 1871 and discontinued July 12, 1880, the post office was re-established as Levels. See Levels for more detail.

Little Cape Capon (Little Cape Capot, Little Cacapon)

Little Cacapon was located in the northern part of the County at the mouth of the Little Cacapon River on the Potomac, near the intersection of Okonoko – Little Capon Road (County Route 2/7) and Spring Gap – Neals Run Road (County Route 2), east of Okonoko and north of Cacapehon. The post office was established as Little Cape Capon January 19, 1815. According to Axelson[3] the post office was discontinued in April 1824. The post office was re-established September 28, 1829 until finally discontinued October 26, 1835. The name of the community was changed to Little Cacapon circa 1894.

Loom

Loom was located in eastern Hampshire County on the Northwestern Turnpike (U.S. Route 50) at the intersection with Timber Mountain Road (County Route 50/22) between Capon Bridge and Hanging Rock. A POD "site location" form dated May 25, 1916 suggests the proposed post office name was "Central" for "Central Church", which was rejected in favor of Loom, and would be located at Lupton's Store[7]. The post office was established as Loom January 22, 1917 and discontinued February 28, 1943 with the mail routed to Capon Bridge.

Mill Brook (Millbrook)

Established August 13, 1877, the name was changed to Millbrook January 3, 1896. See Millbrook for more detail.

Millbrook (Mill Brook)

Millbrook was located in the southeastern part of the County on Dillons Run Road (County Route 50/25) near where it crosses Dillons Run northwest of Yellow Spring. The post office was originally established as Mill Brook August 13, 1877. On January 3, 1896 the name was changed to Millbrook and the post office was discontinued August 31, 1954 with the mail being routed to Capon Bridge. The post office "Record and Postal Account Book" signed by postmaster P.F. Swisher indicates the name was Mill Brook from 1892-1895, while the same record book signed by postmaster Newton M. Smalts indicates the name was Millbrook in 1896[9], consistent with the postmaster appointment records.

The two spellings are listed separately by Small[2]; but Helbock lists only Millbrook, noting that "post offices that experience a name change from a two word to a one word format are typically listed only under the form that was in use for the longest period of time"[1].

Figure 11 Millbrook 1954 postmark (courtesy of Wayne Farley)

Moorefield Junction (Junction)

Established August 12, 1874 , the post office was previously known as Junction, and on December 11, 1890 the name was changed back to Junction. See Junction for more detail.

Mutton Run (Intermont)

Established October 13, 1879 the name was changed to Intermont June 11, 1915. See Intermont for more detail.

Neals Run (Neal Run, Cacapehon)

Neals Run was located in the north-central part of the County on Spring Gap – Neals Run Road (County Route 2) near the intersection with Baptist Church - Powers Hollow Road (County Route 2/5) south of Little Cacapon. While the post office was originally established as Cacapehon May 8, 1901, POD "site location" form dated March 26, 1901 proposes "Wico" as the post office name. On the reverse it lists the proposed names in order of preference as "Bethel", "Wico", "Peach", and "Cacapehon"[7]. On April 15, 1925 the name was changed to Neals Run, and was discontinued May 31, 1942 with the mail routed to Okonoko.

Nero (Hannums Mills, Lafollettsville, Mills)

Nero was located in the southeast part of the County along Loman Branch on Back Creek Road (County Route 23/3) north of Capon Springs. Nero is shown on a 1933 map of the county[10] and shown on a January 6, 1923 POD "site location" report/diagram as being approximately three (straight-line) miles east of Concord, on the Winchester & Western Railroad line were it crosses Loman Branch, 2 miles south of Shiloh Station[7]. Because of the similarity of locations on different maps and descriptions in their POD "site location" forms, I believe the post office for this community was originally established as Hannums Mills and later Lafollettsville before becoming Nero.

Hannums Mills was established January 18, 1876. A POD "site location" form dated January 6, 1876 submitted in conjunction with the application for a new post office along the route between Capon Springs and Winchester, Virginia notes that the mail was carried only during "watering season … June 15th to Oct 1st (referring to the visitors to Capon Springs for the reported medicinal benefits of its mineral water). Apparently the post office was approved only for the "watering season," because a subsequent POD "site location" form dated September 20, 1976 appears to have been submitted requesting the continuation of service beyond October 1, 1876 as part of the route between Capon Springs and Capon Bridge[7]. While extended for a few months, the Hannums Mills post office was discontinued January 17, 1877.

The post office was re-established as Lafollettsville August 13, 1877 with a POD "site location" form dated March 25, 1878 indicating the "Lafollett's Ville" post office was four miles (by the most direct road) southeast of the Concord post office[7]. Lafollettsville, while not shown on current maps, is found on several late

19th century maps in the southeast corner of the County along the border with Virginia southeast of Lehew. In their 1897 history of Hampshire County Maxwell and Swisher note that Lafollettsville lay 19½ miles southeast of Romney and nearby Lehew lay 19 miles southeast of Romney (the distance described as a straight line from Romney and the directions[11]. The Lafollettsville post office was discontinued July 20, 1894.

A POD "site location" form dated May 2, 1904 proposes the re-establishment of a post office at "Mills, W. Va." to be called Mills, which was rejected in favor of Nero[7]. The post office was thus re-established as Nero in June 15, 1904, which continued operation until it was discontinued December 15, 1926 with the mail routed to Gore, Virginia.

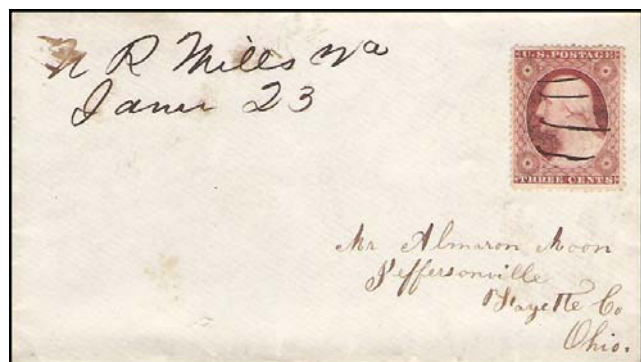**North River** (Northriver Mills)

Established March 13, 1821, the name was changed to North River Mills May 11, 1822, and later to Northriver Mills. See Northriver Mills for more detail.

North River Meeting House (Rio)

Established February 11, 1826 and discontinued August 22, 1866, the post office was later re-established as Rio. See Rio for more detail.

North River Mills (Northriver Mills)

Established May 11, 1822, the post office was previously known as North River, and on December 5, 1895 the name was changed to Northriver Mills. See Northriver Mills for more detail.

Figure 12 *North River Mills manuscript postmark circa 1860 (courtesy of Wayne Farley)*

Northriver Mills (North River, North River Mills)

Northriver Mills was located in central Hampshire County on Springfield Grade Road (County Route 15) between Slanesville and Capon Bridge near the intersection with North River Road (County Route 4/2).

The post office was originally established as North River March 13, 1821. The name was changed to North River Mills May 11, 1822, and then again to Northriver Mills December 5, 1895. The post office (zip code 26744) continued operation until it was discontinued September 30, 1972 with the mail routed to Capon Bridge.

North River is not listed by Small[2], but is listed by Helbock[1] with the same operation dates. The two spellings, North River Mills and Northriver Mills, are listed separately by Small; but Helbock only lists Northriver Mills, noting that "post offices that experience a name change from a two word to a one word format are typically listed only under the form that was in use for the longest period of time" [1].

Offutt's (Offutt's Store)

Offutt's is not listed by Helbock[1] or Small[2]. However, Axelson[3] lists its existence from October 1804 to 1829, and Hall[4] lists its existence from 1817 to 1829. I found it listed in the 1817, 1819, 1822, 1825, and 1827 Post Office Department Lists of Post Offices, but not in the 1805, 1808 or 1811 Post Office Department Lists of Post Offices, which at first seems more consistent with Hall's listing of operation. However, I also found it listed in the Record of Appointment of Postmasters, Oct. 1789-1832[12] **with James Offutt appointed postmaster October 31, 1814, such that I believe Axelson's 1804 date of establishment is a typo and that the post office was established October 31, 1814, which would then be consistent with all the data. According to both Axelson and Hall the post office was discontinued in 1829. I also found a James Offutt listed as a head of household in Hampshire County in the 1810 and 1820 census**[13].

Maud Pugh in her book Capon Valley, Its Pioneers and their Descendants 1698-1940 mentions both James Offutt and the second postmaster, Nathaniel Offutt, and notes that the Offutt estate was near Slanesville[14]. The 1822 and 1825 Post Office Department Lists of Post Offices indicate it was located a distance of 93 miles west of Washington, DC and 180 miles northwest of Richmond. Similar to the argument discussed for Dunn's Store, it appears to have been located in the eastern part of Hampshire County by comparison with the distances listed to other Hampshire County post offices. Thus I believe the post office was located southwest of Slanesville, likely along what is now Offutt School Road (County Route 45/8). Its location

Figure 13 1868 Okonoko manuscript postmark

in this general area is supported by Nathaniel Offutt serving as postmaster of the nearby Cold Stream post office from 1834-1857[15] after the Offutt's post office was discontinued.

Okonoko (Cacaponville)

Okonoko was located in the northern part of the County along the Potomac River on Okonoko – Little Capon Road (County Route 2/7) near the intersection with Levels – Okonoko Road (County Route 5/6) west of Little Cacapon. Originally known as Cacaponville, because of its proximity to the mouth of the Little Cacapon River, the post office was established as Cacaponville March 18, 1843. On June 6, 1853 the name was changed to Okonoko, and was discontinued from July 1, 1867 until re-established March 31, 1868. The post office continued operation until being discontinued October 31, 1958 with the mail routed to Paw Paw, Morgan Co.

Pancake

Pancake was located in southwest Hampshire County on Pancake Road (County Route 8/2), northeast of Purgitsville, once connecting to South Branch River Road (County Route 8) across the South Branch Potomac River. The post office was established May 10, 1911 with Fred Pancake serving as the first postmaster, and operated until it was discontinued May 31, 1912 with the mail routed to Glebe.

Pleasant Dale

Pleasant Dale was located in central Hampshire County on the Northwestern Turnpike (U.S. Route 50) near the intersection with Dunmore Ridge Road (County Route50/18) between Capon Bridge and Augusta. The post office was established February 3, 1848 and operated until it was discontinued December 30, 1964 with the mail routed to Augusta.

Figure 14 Purgitsville manuscript postmark circa 1865.

Points

Points is located in the north-central part of the County on Jersey Mountain Road (County Route 5) near the intersection with Springfield Grade Road (County Route 3) between Levels and Three Churches. The post office was established December 8, 1897 and continues as a working post office today, zip code 25437.

Purgitsville (Burgitsville, Pargatsville, Purgittsville, Taylor)

Purgitsville is located in the southwest corner of the County on U.S. Route 220 (State Route 28) near the intersection with Huffman Road (County Route 220/3 between Rada and Moorefield (Hardy County). The post office was established September 17, 1851 with William S. Purgit serving as the first postmaster. Mrs. Nancy J Taylor became the postmaster September 16, 1885 and on August 21, 1886 the name was changed to Taylor. The name was changed back to Purgitsville May 18, 1889 when Mrs. Taylor was replaced by Martha Purgit, and continues as a working post office today, zip code 26852.

Rada (Davy)

Rada was located in the southwest part of the County along Mill Creek on U.S. Route 220 (State Route 28) near the intersection with Rada Road (County Route 220/7) between Junction and Purgitsville. The post office was originally established August 20, 1902 as Davy, but the name was changed to Rada January 24, 1911, which continued

operation until discontinued March 31, 1948 with the mail routed to Purgitsville. Rada B. Davy served as the first postmaster from 1902 to 1912, providing the origin of both names.

Rio (North Branch Meeting House, North River Meeting House)

Rio is located in the south-central part of the County along the North River just north of Hardy County on Delray Road (State Route 29) at the intersection with Ford Hill Road (County Route 53). Originally know as North Branch Meeting House[16,17,18], the North River Meeting House post office was established February 11, 1826 and discontinued August 22, 1866. A POD "site location" form dated November 19, 1881 proposes a new post office with the name "Oxford", which was rejected and Rio selected[7].The Rio post office was thus established December 27, 1881 and continues as a working post office today, zip code 26755.

Romney (Ronmey)

Romney is located in western Hampshire County along the South Branch River on the Northwestern Turnpike (U.S. Route 50) near the intersection with State Route 28. The Romney post office, the first in West Virginia, was likely established in late 1795 or early 1796, since the often cited date of establishment, April 1, 1796, is actually the "date of first return" noted in the postmaster appointment records. The post office was discontinued for a short period from June 3, 1861 until re-established December 16, 1861. It continues operation as a working post office today, zip code 26757.

Figure 15 Romney postmark circa 1845.

Figure 16 1857 Romney postmark.

Ruckman

Ruckman was located in south-central Hampshire County at the intersections of Ash Ruckman Road (County Route 7/4), J.C. Ruckman Road (County Route 12/6) and Edgar Loy Road (County 7/7) south of Augusta and northeast of Kirby. The post office was established May 31, 1883 with James Ruckman serving as the first postmaster, and was discontinued September 15, 1947 with the mail routed to Shanks.

Sector (Glebe Station)

Sector was located southwest of Romney along the west bank of the South Branch River on Fleming-Sector Road (County Route 8/3) across the river from Glebe. In the early 20th century it was known as Glebe Station for its operation of a station on the South Branch Valley Railroad across the river from Glebe. The post office was established October 27, 1917 and discontinued December 15, 1936 with the mail routed to Romney.

Sedan

Sedan was located in south-central Hampshire County in the North River Valley on Delray Road (State Route 29) near the intersection with Sedan School Road (county Route 11/1) between Hanging Rock and Delray. The post office was established January 9, 1871 and discontinued November 15, 1929 with the mail routed to Delray.

Shanks

Shanks is located in central Hampshire County along the Northwestern Turnpike (U.S. Route 50) at the intersection with Allen Hill Road (County Route 50/7) be-

tween Augusta and Romney. The post office was established December 22, 1897 with Abraham Shank serving as the first postmaster, and continues as a working post office today, zip code 26761.

Sherrard's Store (Bloomery)

Established December 28, 1814, the name was changed to Bloomery May 13, 1852. See Bloomery for more detail.

Slanesville (Slane's Cross Roads)

Slanesville is located in the north-central part of the County along Bloomery Pike (State Route 29) near the intersection with Springfield Grade Road (County Route 3) west of Bloomery. The post office was established September 4, 1857 and continues as a working post office today, zip code 25444.

Smith's Gap (Delray)

Established February 17, 1848, the name was changed to Delray May 13, 1886. See Delray for more detail.

South Branch (Forks of Potomac, Frenches Station, South Branch Depot)

South Branch was located in the northern part of the County near the confluence of the South Branch and Potomac Rivers on Frenches Station Road (County Route 5/7). The post office was originally established as Forks of Potomac July 11, 1851. The post office name was changed to South Branch Depot Decem-

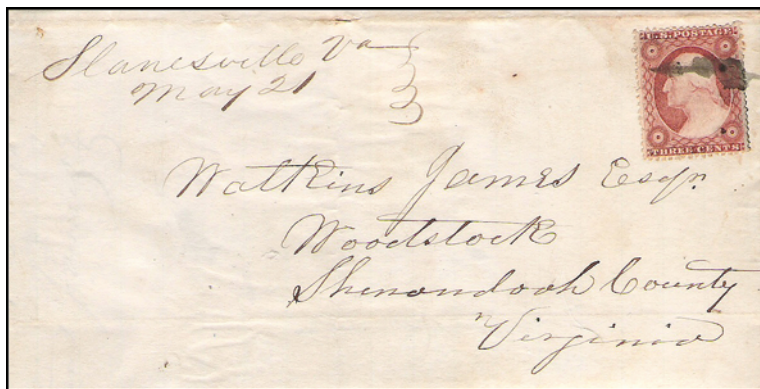*Figure 17 Shanks post office today (courtesy of David McMaster).*

Figure 18 1859 Slanesville manuscript postmark (courtesy of Wayne Farley)

ber 20, 1865, and May 23, 1903 changed again to South Branch, which it remained until being discontinued June 30, 1950 with the mail routed to Levels.

South Branch Depot (Forks of Potomac, South Branch)

Established December 20, 1865, the post office was previously known as Forks of Potomac, and on May 23, 1903 the name was changed to South Branch. See South Branch for more detail.

Spring Gap

Spring Gap is located in the north-central part of the County on Spring Gap – Neals Run Road (County Route 2) between Cacapehon (Neals Run) and Slanesville. A POD "site location" form dated April 21, 1890 proposes the new post office be called Spring Gap or Muncy[7]. The post office was established as Spring Gap July 17, 1890 and discontinued June 30, 1953 with the mail routed to Paw Paw, Morgan Co.

Springfield

Springfield is located in the northwest part of the County on State Route 28 near the intersection with Springfield - Green Spring Road (County Route 1) and Springfield Grade Road (County Route 3) between Donaldson and Wapocomo, north of Romney. The post office was established September 20, 1800 and was discontinued August 23, 1864 until re-established July 3, 1865. It continues as a working post office today, zip code 26763.
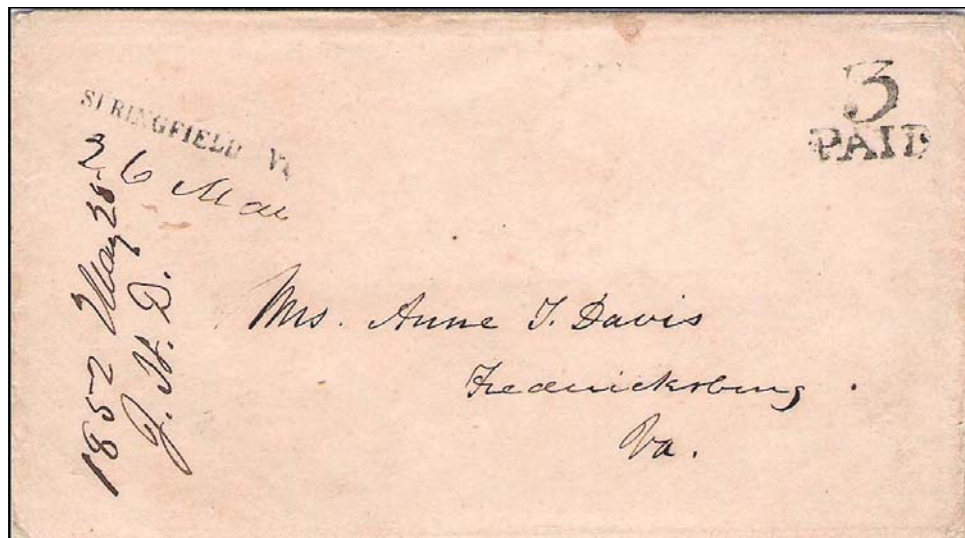
Stony

Stony is located in the southwest part of the County south of Romney along the Little Cacapon North Fork on Grassy Lick Road (County Route 10) near the intersection with Bethel Church Road (County Route 10/2). A POD "site location" form dated March 24, 1900 proposes the new post office be called Lee, which was rejected and replaced with Stony[7]. The post office was thus established as Stony April 27, 1900 and discontinued April 14, 1904 with the mail routed to Romney.

Taylor (Purgitsville)

Established August 21, 1886, the post office was previously known as Purgitsville, and on May 18, 1889 the name was changed back to Purgitsville. See Purgitsville for more detail.

Three Churches (Jersey Mountain)

Three Churches was located in the north-central part of the County north of Romney on Jersey Mountain Road (County Route 5) near the intersection with Three Churches Hollow Road (County Route 5/4). The post office was originally established as Jersey Mountain September 30, 1879. On January 20, 1887 the name was changed to Three Churches for the three historic white wooden churches located there: Mount Bethel Church, Mount Bethel Primitive Baptist Church, and Branch Mountain United Methodist Church, which still stand today. The post office was discontinued April 30, 1941 with the mail routed to Romney until re-established August 18, 1947. Service was suspended December 3, 1993 and finally discontinued February 1, 1997 with the mail routed to Romney.

Figure 19 Springfield, Va 1852 manuscript postmark (courtesy of Wayne Farley)

Figure 20 1886 Taylor postmark

Jay Lounsbury in his book on "Discontinued and Re-named Post Offices in the ZIP Era," distinguishes what he refers to as the "administrative" closing date that appears in Post Office Department records from the "actual" closing date, which may differ from the administrative closing by days to years. In an attempt to increase the accuracy of post office closings, Lounsbury attempted to contact "current and former Postmasters and knowing local residents." Thus Lounsbury lists the closing of Three Churches "during 1989," as opposed to the "service suspended" date of December 3, 1993 listed by the Post Office Department.[19] [This was the only discrepancy in closing dates noted by Lounsbury for post offices in Hampshire County.]

Valley

Valley was located northwest of Romney on the South Branch Valley Railroad line off Depot Valley Road near the intersection with Souix Lane in what is now the city of Romney. The post office was established May 19, 1928 and a February 6, 1928 POD "location form" suggests the post office would be located at the Valley railroad station only 1 ¼ miles northeast of the Vanderlip post office (located in the Vanderlip railroad station). The post office was discontinued June 15, 1937 with the mail routed to Romney.

Vanderlip (West Romney)

Vanderlip was located in the western part of the County along the South Branch Valley Railroad on the Northwestern Turnpike (U.S. Route 50) west of Romney near the intersection with Foxes Hollow Road (County Route 50/4). The post office was established April 26, 1915, and a January 16, 1915 POD "site location" form

suggests the post office would be located at the Vanderlip railroad station. A 1942 POD "site location" form suggests the station name had been changed to West Romney, and is shown on some maps as West Romney Station. The post office was discontinued May 31, 1952 with the mail routed to Romney.

Wappocomo (Wapocomo, The Rocks)

Wappocomo, the Indian name for the South Branch of the Potomac, was located in the western part of the County on State Route 28 between Springfield and Romney near the intersection with Poland Road (County Route 28/2). A POD "site location" form dated May 11, 1891 proposes the new post office be called High Rocks, which was rejected and replaced with Wappocomo[7]. Thus the post office was established as Wappocomo June 1, 1891 and discontinued January 31, 1921 with the mail routed to Romney.

Figure 21 1898 Wappocomo postmark

Yellow Spring

Yellow Spring is located in southeast Hampshire County on State Route 259 at the intersection with Capon River Road (County Route 14) between Lehew and Intermont, south of High View. The post office was established June 22, 1839. It was discontinued October 4, 1866 until re-established July 7, 1868 and continues as a working post office today, zip code 26865.

References

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2. Small, Richard E., 1998. *The Post Offices of West Virginia, 1792-1977*

3. Axelson, Edith F., 1991, Virginia Postmasters and Post Offices, 1789-1832, pp. 85-88, Iberian Publishing Company, Athens, Ga.

4. Hall, Virginius Cornick, Jr., 1973, Virginia Post Offices, 1798-1859, *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, January, Vol.81, No.1, pp. 49-97

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