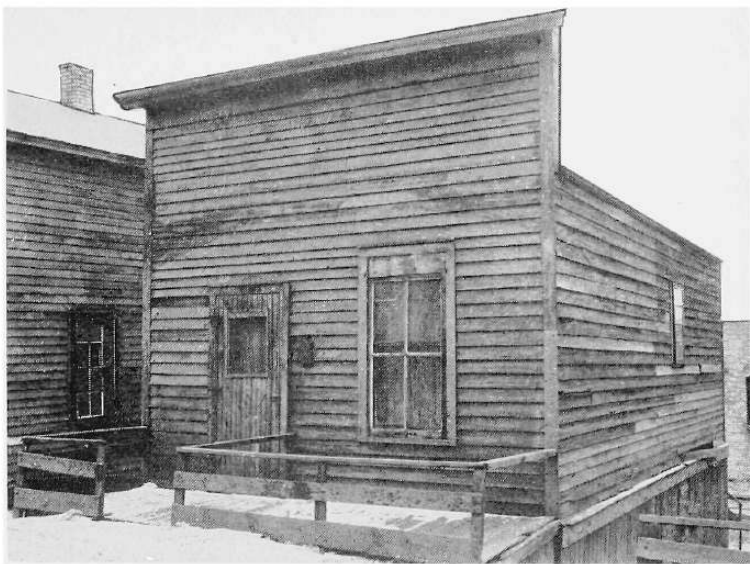


DULUTH'S
first
post office



The
EVOLUTION
of the DULUTH POST OFFICE

ARTHUR HECHT

THE RECORDS of the United States Post Office Department, to be found in the National Archives and the bureau of post-office operations, indicate that a hundred and sixty-five post offices have existed at one time or another in St. Louis County since it was established on March 3, 1855. Of these, ninety-five were discontinued, six were never in operation, although established by the postmaster general, and three were relocated in Roseau, Carlton, and Itasca counties. In June, 1954, sixty-one of the original hundred and sixty-five offices were still in existence.

The oldest St. Louis County post office still existing is that established on July 6, 1857, in Duluth. It became a presidential office shortly before July 13, 1870. The

names of the postmasters who have served at Duluth and the dates of their appointments follow:

Joshua B. Culver, July 6, 1857
William Epler, November 25, 1859
Sidney Luce, August 23, 1860
Robert E. Jefferson, July 2, 1861
Gilbert Falconer, March 13, 1862
Thomas Foster, April 13, 1868
Richard F. Marvin, January 17, 1870
Luke Marvin, September 9, 1875
Luke Arthur Marvin, April 21, 1880
Joseph E. Knowlton, February 8, 1882
John Flynn, September 28, 1885
Julius D. Howard, April 19, 1890
Theodore M. Helinski, April 23, 1894
Elijah L. Fisher, March 31, 1898
Guy A. Eaton, May 29, 1906
Arthur P. Cook, June 2, 1910
William E. McEwen, May 19, 1914
William F. Henry (acting), December 16,
1918
Thomas Considine, March 2, 1920
Glen J. Merritt, July 1, 1933

Mr. Merritt is still postmaster at Duluth.

MR. HECHT has been connected with the National Archives in Washington, D.C., as an archivist for ten years. During the past six he has worked with postal records, servicing them, compiling postal histories, and making special studies of postal service.

Between May 13, 1856, and December 31, 1943, sixteen towns adjacent to Duluth maintained their own post-office establishments before they were discontinued and made either branches or stations of the Duluth post office. From the records of the Post Office Department now in the custody of the National Archives the following interesting items of information about these offices have been gleaned.

ARNOLD was established on May 26, 1898, with Frank G. Sandstedt as postmaster. He was the only one to serve in that capacity. The office was discontinued on May 31, 1907.

CANOSIA was established on June 15, 1889, when John Hogan was appointed postmaster. The office was discontinued on July 29, 1889; re-established on June 24, 1891; and discontinued on March 31, 1919.

CLIFTON was established on March 4, 1879, with Edward W. Wakelin as postmaster. He served until the office was discontinued on September 22, 1879.

FOND DU LAC was established on December 2, 1857, with William Q. Allen as postmaster. The office was discontinued on April 13, 1864; re-established on June 17, 1864; and discontinued on September 30, 1938.

FRENCH RIVER was established on March 14, 1911. Mathew J. Jackson was the only postmaster. The office was discontinued on April 30, 1938.

LAKEVIEW was established on November 30, 1889, with George Hawkesworth as postmaster. The office was discontinued on March 31, 1902.

LAKEWOOD was established on January 3, 1901, when Benjamin F. Roberts was appointed postmaster. The office was discontinued on March 30, 1935.

NEA was established on May 10, 1898. Anton Hjelm was the only postmaster to serve this office, which was discontinued on June 30, 1909.

NEW DULUTH was established on April 15, 1891, when Kendal W. Woodward was appointed postmaster. The office was discontinued on March 31, 1914.

ONEOTA was established on May 13, 1856, with Edmund F. Ely, a missionary working among the Indians, as postmaster. The office was discontinued on December 13, 1893.

POLAND was established on April 25, 1895, and Martin Miller was its only postmaster. The office was discontinued on August 31, 1900.

PROCTOR was established as Proctor Knott on June 2, 1894, when Sherman G. Huyck was appointed postmaster. The name of the office was changed to Proctor on January 15, 1904, and the office was discontinued on December 31, 1943.

SHORT LINE PARK was established on January 8, 1889. Willis H. Everett was its only postmaster. The office was discontinued on May 26, 1890, and thereafter its mail was sent to Smithville.

SMITHVILLE was established on July 31, 1888, with Victor A. Dash as postmaster. The office was discontinued on April 30, 1918.

SPATTEN was established on September 8, 1903, with Edwin Johnson as postmaster. The office was discontinued on November 30, 1905.

WEST DULUTH was established on May 21, 1889, when George J. Mallory was appointed postmaster. The office was discontinued on August 31, 1900.

In addition to the foregoing material about the Duluth post office, the postal records in the National Archives, which date from 1789 to 1930, include information about Minnesota star-mail routes before 1866, railroad routes, and rural free delivery services, as well as scattered reports from postmasters giving changes in post-office site locations. These records, and those relating to the establishment, discontinuance, and re-establishment of individual post offices, to changes of the names of post offices, and to postmasters' names and the dates of their appointments provide a wealth of detailed information of interest and value to genealogists, philatelists, historians, economists, geographers, and social scientists.



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