

POSTAL HISTORY

As settlers moved westward across the country, there was always an enterprising individual who would open a store to provide for needs of people in a particular area, and often a post office would be found there.

Over the years, three post offices have existed in Liberty Township. The first one, at Illinois Grove, was established in 1857. This settlement, in Section 6, consisted of a number of businesses and homes. The post office was located in the hotel.

The postmasters at Illinois Grove are listed below, with the date of appointment following each name.

Israel H. Lockwood, September 14, 1857

Augustus M. Roberts, December 8, 1858

John S. Abbott, May 6, 1865

George E. Clark, March 29, 1867

Eligah Cox, October 14, 1870

John Q. Abbott, November 18, 1872

Everet E. Farber, April 20, 1877

James L. Turner, November 9, 1877

David A. Tooker, May 26, 1879

A. W. Squires, July 12, 1880

Changed to Zearing, December 20, 1881

The second post office was started in 1869 at Bevins Grove, in the eastern part of Sections 22 and 27. It was intended to be a town, and many lots were laid out, but the town never materialized. Abram E. Cram, who lived in the area, had the distinction of being the first and last postmaster at Bevins Grove, as well as the first postmaster at Saint Anthony.

Listed below are the postmasters at Bevins Grove:

Abram E. Cram, January 12, 1869

William E. Starr, December 23, 1873

Benjamin F. Maple, August 21, 1874

(Discontinued October 10, 1876, reestablished November 13, 1876)



Mrs. Mary Beach

Abram E. Cram, November 13, 1876

Changed to Saint Anthony, February 1, 1882

The post office at Saint Anthony celebrates its centennial in 1982, coinciding with the 100th anniversary of the platting of the town.

In 1973, Saint Anthony nearly lost its fourth class post office when the government inspector declared the building unfit for use. The people in the area sent petitions to their congressmen and the President and promised the inspector who met with them that they would provide a suitable building.

In 1973-74, a new building was erected, solely by donations of both money and labor, and it now houses the post office and the city hall.

The postmasters who have served in Saint Anthony are listed below. Several have served only as acting postmaster.

Abram E. Cram, February 1, 1882

George L. Whittemore, July 30, 1885

Margaret Stockwell, March 23, 1889

Alexander Robertson, April 15, 1893

David H. Buck, May 13, 1897

John S. Hixson, December 24, 1907

Winnifred C. Gannon, September 14, 1914

G. Louis LaPlant, February 6, 1918

Myrta McCormack, August 16, 1922

Mrs. Mildred Bryant, February 17, 1923

Mary White, March 7, 1930

John R. Mackin Jr., June 16, 1937

Mrs. Mary J. Beach, September 23, 1948

Mrs. Katherine N. Bowman, July 31, 1962

M. B. Bowman, January 1969

Minnie Pfrang, March 1969

Georgia Nordstrom, September 1969

Clarice Davis, March 11, 1978

—Minnie Pfrang and Karlene Kingery

