

Post Office



Rhodes Post Office in 1980.

At this time our town was known as Edenville. Weekly mail was first established from Marietta in 1857 with Issac Sanford as the first postmaster, which was dispersed from the hotel he owned. About 1860 a mail route was established from Des Moines with the young man on horseback arriving in Edenville on Wednesday, continuing on to Marietta. Along with personal letters his mail sack contained copies of the Weekly Iowa State Register. It is unclear how long Sanford was postmaster as the first one on record in the National Archives is recorded as Joseph Lacey, being appointed June 22, 1865, with the post office being in the drugstore he owned and operated. Edmond M. Ford was appointed December 21, 1868 holding this position until George Curry was appointed on October 3, 1870. F.E. Klise was appointed on September 25, 1872, holding this position for one year, with Alfred White being appointed July 7, 1873.

In 1878, the post office was moved to the White General Store, the present site of the Robert Duff home. James D. Morgan, appointed October 27, 1882, held this position for less than a month when James A. Morgan was appointed on November 13, 1882, this being the last of the postmasters from Edenville.

On August 3, 1883, Edenville became known as Rhodes in the Postal System and Morgan was known as the first postmaster of Rhodes. On May 15, 1897 Thomas Watts was appointed and served three years, when John L. Satterfield was appointed on July 30, 1900. Under Satterfield, Miss Lelia Rhodes was appointed Assistant Postmaster on August 29, 1901, a position she held until 1945. Also in this period Grace

Strickler served as a clerk. On October 20, 1906, Carrie Satterfield was appointed postmaster and served for eight years.

George W. Marsh deserves the credit for being the first petitioner for Rural Free Delivery. The first rural carrier serving our rural routes being William Gillman who served in this capacity for 14 years. Lena H. Hildreth was appointed postmaster on September 15, 1914, serving for five years. It was at this time the post office was located on the east side of Main Street in the Robinson Hardware building. Leo E. Perry was appointed April 19, 1919, serving for 10 years. It was during this time Donald Luing became rural mail carrier serving for 28 years, being remembered especially by the children waiting for his peppermint candies.

Frank Bentley was appointed January 12, 1929, serving five years in this capacity when Arthur Roberts was appointed on January 1, 1934, a position he held until 1945 when he retired. At this time the post office was in the building (now a vacant lot) next to the present post office.

Gayle Snedecor was appointed on January 27, 1945. He held this position for one short year when business interest interfered and he resigned. During this period the post office was moved to the Masonic Building.

On July 1, 1946 Luther F. Hix was named Acting Postmaster and held that position for three years. Isabelle Mallicoat served as clerk under Luther.

On May 1, 1949 Harry Eddy was named Acting Postmaster with Bertha Eddy serving as his clerk. He received his appointment on October 1, 1949, serving until his retirement. It was during this time the post office was moved to its present location, the west side of Main Street. Mr. Anderson from Algona was rural carrier for one short year before transferring.

In 1950 Harold Howell transferred from Marshalltown to Rhodes and has continuously served as rural carrier except for a short period in 1968 when Dale Figgins carried from June to December. This being the consolidation of R.F.D. #2 out of State Center with the Rhodes Route. Harold came back in January of 1969 and is still the present carrier. Jeanne Shearer was clerk at this time, resigning in 1972, to take a position in Marshalltown.

On September 30, 1968 Bertha Eddy received her appointment and served for one year until her retirement. James A. Hale was appointed Acting Postmaster on January 17, 1969. Elizabeth Thill became a clerk in August of 1969. James received his appointment as Postmaster on April 3, 1971 and served in that capacity until retiring in 1977. On July 15, 1977 Elizabeth Dannen was named Officer In Charge. Sandra Overman is the current clerk. Elizabeth received her appointment as Postmaster on January 13, 1979 and still serves as the present postmaster.