

MAIL CALL

by Brad Bettenhausen

The first post office believed to have served our area (southwest Cook County) was established in Blue Island in 1839 by Norman Rexford.

In 1843, Stephen Rexford (a brother) established a post office in the northwest corner of what was to become Bremen Township under the name Bachelor's Grove (probably originally Batchelder's Grove) after the neighboring woods. We believe that this post office was probably located in the southwest quarter of Section 7 (approximately 151st Street & Harlem Avenue). By 1848, with continued settlement of the area, another post office was established by Cyrus B. Ingham to be known as Cooper's Grove. This office also took its name from the neighboring woods which covered a large part of Sections 20, 21, 28 and 29 of the township. (Note: What is now known as Cooper's Grove in Country Club Hills is nearly three miles from these woods!) It is believed that this office was initially located in the northeast quarter of Section 20 (now part of Forest Preserve National Golf Course). In 1850, when the citizens of the county voted on adopting the township form of government, both post offices changed their names to reflect the new name selected for their township. Bachelor's Grove, being the older post office, adopted "Bremen" as its new name. Cooper's Grove, being the newer, chose "New Bremen". As was the practice at the time, the post office usually was located in the home or business of the postmaster and would move whenever the postmaster moved.

A. T. Andreas' 1884 *History of Cook County* recounts the tale of one such change that occurred in 1854 with the New Bremen (Cooper's Grove) post office:

"...John F. Cague had the post office at his house. Dr. (Moses R.) Ballard wanted the office moved to the station (the railroad station in the Village of Bremen), and to compensate Mr. Cague for the loss of his position as Postmaster, paid him \$10 to consent to its removal to (the Village of) Bremen. Mr. Cague relates that when the matter went to Congress, he received a letter from Hon. John Wentworth, who was then a member of that body, informing him that unless he was perfectly willing to have the office removed, it could stay where it was. Mr. Cague replied in effect that he had no objections to its removal, and accordingly the change was made, and Dr.

Ballard became the Postmaster - the first in the Village."

Once the post office was moved to the village, the post office name "New Bremen" became synonymous with the village and was informally adopted as the common name for the relatively new community (ca 1853).

Louis

In 1890, at the request of Postmaster Henry Vogt (Sr.), the New Bremen post office again changed its name to Tinley Park presumably in honor of the community's first station agent, Samuel Tinley, Sr. (He worked at the station for over twenty-five years.)

The following list of local post offices and postmasters was extracted by Brad Bettenhausen, 16620 Fulton Terrace, Tinley Park, Illinois 60477, as he was doing research for the above article. He would love to hear from anyone who has information on any of the individuals or post offices listed.

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Bachelors Grove Post Office

Cook County, Illinois

			Post
Stephen Rexford	Postmaster	15 Dec 1843	
George W. Mynard	Postmaster	10 Aug 1846	Post
Samuel Everden	Postmaster	10 Jun 1847	
Changed to Bremen on 30 May 1850			
Samuel Everden	Postmaster	30 May 1850	
Changed to Bachelers Grove on 1 Aug 1855			
Robert Patrick	Postmaster	1 Aug 1855	
Peter L. Downey	Postmaster	23 Apr 1857	

Post

Post

Discontinued on 26 Nov 1858

First appointment entry was marked "Special" in the records indicating a special source of mail supply.

Herman
Robert
Lewis
Albert
Charles
Louis
Willie
John C
Albert

Orland Post Office
Cook County, Illinois

Harrison St Clair	Postmaster	11 Jan 1851
Calvin M. Ingraham	Postmaster	20 Oct 1851
George Cox	Postmaster	23 Mar 1855
J. B. Dickson	Postmaster	10 Aug 1861
Horace N. Dickson	Postmaster	2 Dec 1861
Fergus Dickson	Postmaster	7 May 1867
William H. Lee	Postmaster	12 Nov 1867
James M. Parsons	Postmaster	13 Apr 1874
Henry Laun	Postmaster	25 Jan 1881
William Kott	Postmaster	8 Mar 1886
George Weber	Postmaster	24 May 1889
William Kott	Postmaster	1 Aug 1893
John M. Kott	Postmaster	4 Aug 1897
John F. Schmadeke	Postmaster	3 Aug 1915

Changed to Orland Park effective 15 Mar 1927

John F. Schmadeke	Postmaster	3 Aug 1915
John H. Anders	Acting Postmaster	1 Jul 1932
Amiel J. Toelle	Acting Postmaster	19 Apr 1933
Amiel J. Toelle	Postmaster	16 Jan 1935
Mrs. Grace E. Toelle	Acting Postmaster	15 Sep 1946
James C. Davidson	Postmaster	18 Oct 1949
Mrs. Evelyn W. Kramer	Acting Postmaster	4 Dec 1964
Mrs. Evelyn W. Kramer	Postmaster	26 Jul 1965

Post Office authorized to issue money orders on 3 Feb 1898.

Post Office mentioned in *Postal Bulletin* 21 Feb 1900, 7 Dec 1903, and 5 Mar 1908.

Blue Island Post Office
Cook County, Illinois

Norman Rexford	Postmaster	5 Dec 1839
Stephen Rexford	Postmaster	27 Mar 1848
Henry Robinson	Postmaster	19 Jun 1849

Changed to Worth 9 Apr 1850

Henry Robinson	Postmaster	9 Apr 1850
Chandler D. Robinson	Postmaster	9 Oct 1852
Stephen Rexford	Postmaster	7 Jun 1853
Ferdinand Schapper	Postmaster	7 Jan 1854
Changed to Blue Island		10 Jan 1860

Ferdinand Schapper	Postmaster	10 Jan 1860
Henry H. Massey	Postmaster	28 May 1861
Henry B. Robinson	Postmaster	8 Oct 1866
Cyrus B. Sammons	Postmaster	29 Apr 1869
Hart Massey	Postmaster	16 Jan 1870
Cyrus B. Sammons	Postmaster	18 Apr 1871
William S. Kile	Postmaster	29 Sep 1873
William A. Andrew	Postmaster	2 Jan 1878
Joseph W. Harmon	Postmaster	28 Jan 1878
Frederick G. Diefenbach	Postmaster	16 Mar 1881
Emil Boehl	Postmaster	13 Jul 1885
Frederick G. Diefenbach	Postmaster	24 Apr 1889
Emil Boehl	Postmaster	20 Oct 1893
Fred C. Kile	Postmaster	12 Oct 1897
John A. Lentz	Postmaster	18 Feb 1914
Frithjof T.E. Kallum	Postmaster	13 Dec 1922
Carl A. Helwig	Acting P.M.	14 Jun 1929
Carl A. Helwig	Postmaster	16 Apr 1930
Floyd J. Smith	Acting P.M.	1 Jan 1932
Jay F. Smith	Postmaster	7 Jul 1932
Anthony J. Lagod	Acting P.M.	16 Jul 1937
Anthony J. Lagod	Postmaster	28 Jun 1939
John Q. McDonald	Acting P.M.	1 Oct 1945
Dan J. Boyd	Acting P.M.	1 Jun 1946
Daniel J. Boyd	Postmaster	17 Mar 1949
Donald W. Fraser	Acting P.M.	31 Mar 1952
Donald W. Fraser	Postmaster	1 Mar 1954

c 1903,

Rexford Post Office

Cook County, Illinois

Thomas N. Inglehart	Postmaster	20 Feb 1866
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Discontinued on 15 Oct 1866.

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Oak Forest Post Office

Cook County, Illinois

William Dale	Postmaster	21 Nov 1912
Franklin S. Lyman	Postmaster	29 Dec 1916
Robert E. Tschenlin	Postmaster	15 Aug 1935
Leonard E. Fulton	Acting P.M.	11 Jan 1939
James E. Jesk	Postmaster	29 Jun 1942
Mrs. Martha Ramsey	Acting P.M.	31 Mar 1945
Bruno S. Jozwiak	Acting P.M.	6 Oct 1967
Albert E. Valisouskis	Acting P.M.	28 Jun 1968
Mrs. Francis F. Godin	Postmaster	15 May 1971

Worth Post Office

Cook County, Illinois

John Ostarmann	Postmaster	11 Oct 1880
Edward P. Bishop	Postmaster	22 Dec 1882
Carl B. Bishop	Postmaster	10 Jun 1910
John H. Little	Acting P.M.	27 Feb 1923
John H. Little	Postmaster	6 Oct 1923
Charles C. Tobey	Acting P.M.	31 Mar 1926
Charles C. Tobey	Postmaster	8 Oct 1926
Donald T. Hanyzewski	Acting P.M.	22 Dec 1953
Donald T. Hanski	(name changed)	1 Feb 1954
Donald T. Hanski	Postmaster	27 May 1954
Ardelle R. Hanski	Acting P.M.	4 Oct 1957
Ardelle R. Hanski	Postmaster	22 May 1958
Mrs. Ardelle H. O'Leary	(name changed)	26 Jun 1963

Post office was authorized to issue money orders on 23 Jan 1902.

Post Office mentioned in *Postal Bulletin* 7 Mar 1895, 24 May 1900, and 3 Apr 1906.

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Mattison Post Office

Cook County, Illinois

Charles Ohlendorf	Postmaster	29 Nov 1856
August Harken	Postmaster	30 Mar 1864
Simon Miller	Postmaster	5 Feb 1866
Gottfried Schmitz	Postmaster	24 Jul 1864
Jonathan Marsh	Postmaster	13 Dec 1864
Edwin Marsh	Postmaster	24 Dec 1877
Henry Briggeman	Postmaster	26 Mar 1879
Charles Ohlendorf	Postmaster	28 May 1889
Nicholas Fortmiller	Postmaster	18 Nov 1893

Changed to Matteson on 8 Dec 1906

Nicholas Fortmiller	Postmaster	8 Dec 1906
George H. Fortmiller	Postmaster	30 Jan 1915
Mrs. Mayme F. Brooke	Postmaster	19 Mar 1923
Raymond C. Letourneau	Postmaster	1 May 1949
Warren K. Fraser	Acting Postmaster	16 Aug 1951
Raymond C. Letourneau	Postmaster	*

*Returned to duty from military leave - date not indicated.

Cooper's Grove/New Bremen/Tinley Park Office

Cook County, Illinois

Cyrus B. Ingham	Postmaster	15 May 1848
A. T. Ingham	Postmaster	19 Feb 1849
John Cague	Postmaster	9 Apr 1850

Changed to New Bremen on May 30, 1850

John Cague	Postmaster	30 May 1850
Moses R. Ballard	Postmaster	20 Jun 1854
Alfred Swan	Postmaster	3 Mar 1857
James Kiddle	Postmaster	14 Sep 1858
J. F. Ruedger	Postmaster	18 Oct 1860
Henry Von Berge	Postmaster	14 Jan 1862
John Thorworth	Postmaster	20 Nov 1865
Joseph Johnston	Postmaster	13 Feb 1867
Christian Andres	Postmaster	18 Jan 1868
Justus Weber	Postmaster	22 Jun 1869
Christian Andres	Postmaster	7 Mar 1871

NEWSPAPER EXTRACTS

THE COLEHOUR JOURNAL
Thursday, September 21, 1893
BLUE ISLAND

Messrs. Tom Clark, Bert and Orval Green, Paul Schmidt, Nick Lusson, A. Hoff and C. P. Zacher took a ride on their wheels to Washington park and return last Sunday afternoon.

Mr. Sharp and Miss Francis Cardes were the guests of Miss Val Zacher Sunday last.

Mr. O. C. Benter is nursing a sore knee from a fall off his safety last Wednesday evening.

Last Thursday afternoon Mr. Paul Schmidt, while out for a pleasure ride on his safety, came in contact with Lusson Bros. wagon. The safety suffered intensely, the wagon being much the stronger.

SUBURBAN NEWSPAPER CO.'S RECORD
Saturday, May 31, 1890
NEW BREMEN (NOW TINLEY PARK)

Died, at his residence in Bremen. John Miller, aged 63 years. He suffered many years with the worst form of asthma. He leaves a loving wife and many relatives to mourn their loss. They never had any children.

Dr. Farber, of Blue Island, is still visiting his patient here, Miss Lizzie Andrews. She is able to walk around her room. She will be able to get out doors this week, the doctor thinks.

Mr. Henry Vogt has ill luck with his two colts. They seemed not to be healthy when foaled, and died last week. He has only two mares. It would be impossible for them to have ten colts as was stated in last week's issue.

Dr. M. E. and C. E. Padotezckie gave a reception May 28th at their resident on Linden Ave. Their parlors were beautifully decorated with wild crab apple and hay flowers, tulips and lilacs being in profusion.

Mrs. W. Walburn of Cincinnati, Ohio, is visiting her cousin, Dr. Mary E. Padotezckie. They will soon settle in Chicago.

Editor's Note: I checked the May 24th issue and did not find any mention of Henry Vogt as noted above!

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