

**Marshall County, Letters Left at the Post Office in Plymouth, Indiana,
February and April 1856**

Transcribed by Ruth Dorrel

Introduction by Rachel M. Popma

Before the Civil War, the U.S. Postal Service delivered mail only from one post office to another. Therefore, except in the few locations where personal delivery was available for an additional fee, citizens were required to collect their mail at their local post office. An 1863 Act of Congress provided for the establishment of the direct delivery system we know today, although the service was at first limited to cities in which the income from local postage could cover its cost. Rural areas and small towns did not receive free direct delivery until 1902.¹

For those living in outlying areas and those who simply were busy with other concerns, stopping regularly at the post office to check for mail was not always possible or convenient. The lack of a forwarding service also meant that mail often was left behind when people moved from one place to another. As a result, local postmasters commonly prepared lists of “left letters” to inform recipients of mail waiting for collection. Newspapers periodically published these notices as a public service.

The following notices of left letters were prepared by Plymouth, Indiana, postmaster J. F. Van Valkenburgh and published in the *Marshall County Democrat* in February and April 1856. Each notice requested that “Persons calling for any of the above, will please say ‘Advertised’ and name date of list.”

Notes

1. U.S. Postal Service, *The United States Postal Service: An American History, 1775–2006* (pp. 20, 24), <http://www.usps.com/cpim/ftp/pubs/pub100.pdf> (accessed October 31, 2007).

List of Letters, February 21, 1856

Alliman, Miss Ann M.	Fink, Wm. S.	
Biglacer, Miss Meelue	Gibbs, Geo. C.	Parker, Mary A.
Burn, David	Guar, Damoe	Peckham, Jemima
Baker, Hiram	Getlinger, Frederick	Peckham, John C.
Burch, J. D.		Plumer, R. M.
Burns, Abraham	Hollinger, Jacob	Plummer, John W., 2
Burns, Danile	Haskins, John	Pleak, John
Baylor, George	Hussey, Amanda	Pittinger, Mr.
Boyer, Daniel	Hofman, John	Patterson, S. R.
Bowens, Bazel	Hessner, Wm.	Poast, Joh
Balington, Wm.	Hensreb, Jacob	
Bowen, Jeremiah	Hull, C. P.	Roudebush, D.
Brower, Henry	Huffer, Geo.	Romig, John
Bridgman, Wm. Rev.		Renkart, Widdow
	Jenkins, James	Reed, Edwin
Cushing, J. C.	Jones, Geo.	Rapp, Mary
Clark, William	Johnson, John D.	Ruggle, Geo.
Crow, Lewis, 2	Ible [sic], Julia	Rardon, Owen
Carney, David		Rusill, Samuel
Clark, Wm.	Kessler, Elize	Roads, John A.
Cavender, Edward	Kephart, Rhoda	Reprogle, John
Clayton, Ephraim	Kepler, John	Renkart, Henry
Carroll, David		
Connell, Patrick	Lewis, Wm. F., 2	Smith, Jonathan
Crimin, Timothy	Lewis, Harriet	Sultenwright, Benjamin
Campbell, J. T.	Long, Sarah	Seymour, Hart
Collar, Harrison		Sharp, Stephen
Champlin, J. T.	McFarland, Robert	Smallwood, Samuel, 2
Curtis, James	Moss, M.	Scott, John
Cinwell, Rebecky	McQueltean, Christian	Stock, Geo.
	McQueltean, W. M.	Staley, Stephen
Decomb, Miller & Co.	Morris, Elihu	Stuart, James F.
Dodridge, J.	May, Frank	Snoden, John
Ducomb, Rachel A.	Miller, Benjamin, 2	Shore, C. P.
Drake, Nathaniel	Mann, Frederick	Sherder, Jesse
Dunlap, Alexander	Moore, Ephraim	Stiles, Dr. J. W.
Demont, George A.	Miller, Martha L.	Sult, Canrod
Demmit, James	Mooney, John E.	Smith, Mary Jane
	Myles, Clara	
Earl, Elisha	Marsh, Henry	Tuttle, Sylvina
	Morris, William	Turner, John H.
Friess, Peter		
Fink, A. N.	Nugant, Robert	Utter, Abram

Washburn, P. M. D.
Wood, Elihu
Wort, Dr. A.
Wallace, Nicholas
Wilson, Mr.

Welch, Mary A.
Wade, Wm.
Welsh, Wm.
Watkins, Christopher
Wesley, David

Walker, Rosanna L.
Wood, Barney
Wade, H.
Watson, Ann C.
Woods, Mrs. T. A.

List of Letters, April 1, 1856 [3 April 1856]

Arnoh, John S.
Anderson, Dan

Bascon, Mrs. A. N.
Brownlee, Hugh, 2
Bacon, George W.
Bancherd, John
Baker, John P.
Bailey, Levi
Birch, Sarah M.
Borner, D'l. J.
Brewer, Clarisa
Boice, W. D.
Broadbent, Dan
Bonenitz, John E.
Bankerd, John
Beeper, Geo. P.
Barns, Sarah E.
Brooks, Christian
Burch, Warren
Bridgman, Rev. W.
Belangee, Mary, 2
Burch, Mary J.
Berothen, Owen
Bowen, Jeremiah
Brewer, Newton C.
Bowler, John
Brewer, Henry

Chapman, John
Cavender, E., 3
Conner, John
Carroll, David
Calliatt, Mons Victor
Cronin, J.
Campbell, J. S., 2
Calliad, T. B.
Clingerman, Jesse

Combs, Jas.
Chambers, Mary A.
Clifford, Tim
Curtis, Jas.
Clarke, W. W.

Ducome, Phillip
Dorman, John F.
Dewey, Wm. D.
Dauson, John
Deetee, Abraham
Dea, Michael
Duff, Jas.
Donaghue, Levi
Dauson, Nel

Ellis, A.
Eckels, Wm.
Engel, Cath.
Ells, Lameln
Eisenhorner, John

Furguson, C. P.
Fish, Sam
Ford, Marget
Farrer, Jas.
France, Nat
Fruit, Geo.
Fisher, Su
Fettingale, P.
Fisher, Mollie
Francis, Nat
Fisher, John
Fetters, D. W.
Fisher, French
Flory, Geo.

Griffin, John, 2

Grover, Doc
Greer, Moses
Garner, Shelby
Garver, John

Hendel, John
Hendrix, John
Hollenback, John
Hadgin, Nat
Hormer, Eliz.
Hull, Jesse
Hill, Sam
Hamilton, M. C.
Hendix, C. N.
Hogan, Helen
Hastings, Mary

Jones, Jas.
Johnson, F. F.
Jarard, Minard
Jones, Ephraim L.

Kalley, Henry
Kuhns, Samuel
Kreighhome

Lewis, Jacob
Lonsch, Christian
Linch, mrs.
Lewis, Hannah
Larno, Levi
Lewis, Geo., 2
Lewis, Ester Ann
Lallemant, Mortty
Lewis, Ezekiel
Lewis, Rachel
Leonard, miss C. A.
Larue, David

Loudon, John	Oaks, Chester	Stump. Soloman
Linsey, John		Smith, Chas.
Lamson, David	Post, John	Shea, Jas.
Lansou, Geo.	Poples, Mary	Shea, Pat
	Patterson, Sarah A.	Staley, mrs. Jane
Marbles, miss Malinda	Piper, Sam	Sullivan, Tim
McChesney, Tam	Parkes, Jas. A.	Shoemaker, Mary R.
Macun, Audren	Peirson, E. G.	Shibbs, Nathan
McDonald, & Fiscer	Pickerel, Chastine	
McDonald, D. A.	Pontius, Susan	Truex, Levi
McCormic, Geo.	Peckham, John	Trobridge, Jac.
McWilson, Wash		Taber, Semanthie
Myers, miss Har.	Quinlen, Thom.	
McMillen, Jas.		Vohlen, Dav.
Marsham, miss Mary	Rice, John	Vankirk, John
Maxon, Orin	Rupe, Jas.	
Mylers, J. W., 2	Ruggles, Geo.	Wallace, Edwin
Mead, James	Rodgers, E. B.	Watson, Jas.
Mann, William	Russel, Thom.	Williams, David
Marsh, Hen.	Rodenbarger, John	Wickizer, Jo.
Morgan, Pat	Ransford, Wm. H.	Wright, N. D.
McClure, Jac.	Robins, Jac. S.	Wooster, F. S.
McBrown, care of	Roberts, Rich.	Williams, Patience
McQuinsten, Chris	Reed, Sarah	Walter, Pette
Mohan, John	Reed, Warren	Whitey, John
McChesney, John		Warner, Henry, 2
	Shiclame, Nath.	
Nehors, Leonard	Secrist, Wm.	Young, John
Norris, H. R.	St. John, Chas., 2	Yocker, Valentine
Nichols, Leonard	Sullivan, Hen.	
Nash, Sylvester	Shaffer, Hen., 2	Zimmerman, Kanrod
	Schroeder, Robt	

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