

Collecting Dead Post Offices - The Art of Investigative Journalism

A single cover gives the opportunity to answer all the important questions. Who, What, Where, When and How can all be researched to present a time capsule in paper form. People and places from towns whose time may have passed and where the USPS has moved on are brought back to life. The town may have been lost to commercial or developmental tides but the postal history lives on. Below are some examples to highlight these questions; all from DPOs in Ohio.



Left - WHO: Wm J Leake Esq. was a Lawyer for the Richmond, Fredericksburg, and Potomac Railroads. It can be assumed this letter was rail business as the RR went through Burton City and serviced a large factory prior to its burning down and the town falling out of prominence. Post Office dates 1872-1918.

Right - WHAT: An invitation to Mr. Faulten Albut to attend Miss Thorn's surprise birthday party in 1903. Posted only 3 days before the event. Short notice even then I would think. Both the Prout and Avery POs are closed. 1905 and 1967 respectively.



Below - WHERE: Texas, Ohio. The office operated in Henry County, Ohio (in red) 1846 -1903. The Brooklyn, NY address was in the Cobble Hill neighborhood, upscale at the time.



Above - How: How can be many things, but this post card to A C Hawkins is simply how business got done in 1898. It is a request for the Hawkins poultry catalog. There hasn't always been an internet to order one's chickens !

Right - When: Welshfield operated Feb 23, 1838 to Dec 30, 1958. However, due to the Washington stamp from 1861-62 the cover can be identified as being from the pre-civil war era.

