

POSTMASTERS OF CORAM

by Thomas R. Bayles

(From the June 20, 1957 PATCHOGUE ADVANCE)

The First Post Office in Coram was opened in 1826 with Richard Smith as postmaster, followed in 1831 by the appointment of Seth B. Worth as postmaster.

Evidently some of the Coram people did not like this arrangement. Following is a petition the original of which I have turned over to the Coram Library, dated December 14, 1834, and addressed to the Postmaster General.

This petition was signed by a number of the old families of Coram, including Elisha Overton, Brewster Terry, Samuel Davis, Lester Davis, Oscar Swezey, John B. Overton, Samuel F. Norton and several others. Evidently it did not carry much weight with the Postmaster General, for according to the records, Richard

W. Smith was appointed postmaster in December 1834, and continued to hold the office until 1849, when Lewis R. Overton was appointed. Richard W. Smith was again appointed in 1853, and it was not until 1856 that Lester Davis was appointed. James M. Oakley was appointed in 1861, and in 1864 Richard W. Smith, Jr. was appointed and held the office until 1870 when William H. Osborn became postmaster.

Emma L. Norton was appointed in January 1886, and held the office until 1915, when Thomas B. Smith was appointed. Emma L. Norton had it again from June 28, 1915 to November 1916, when Alvah F. Dake took over the office. On February 21, 1918, Joseph Rovagna was appointed and he and his wife held the office until Jacob Baczensky was appointed in 1928. Leo B. Burns was appointed in 1930 and held the office until the present incumbent; Mrs. Myrtle Fingar took over in 1937 [see link below for more information on Myrtle Fingar].

http://longwood.k12.ny.us/community/longwood_journey/hamlets/coram/myrtle_fingar_-_postmaster_of_coram_for_thirty_yea

Editor's Note - Sep 10, 2021: According to a 'fact sheet' dated September 9, 1984, from the Coram Post Office a copy of which was sent to us by Mildred Zimmermann, historian for the Davis Town Meeting House Society, Inc., the Coram Post Office has a contrary belief on the date of first opening and who the first postmaster was:

"The Coram Post Office was established one hundred and ninety years ago on September 25, 1794 with Goldsmith Davis appointed as the first Postmaster. The post office was located in private homes or stores owned by the Postmasters until 1970. At that time the office moved to the Pathmark Shopping Center [Coram Plaza Shopping Center] until we moved to our present location in October, 1973." – Coram Post Office, Sep 9, 1984

