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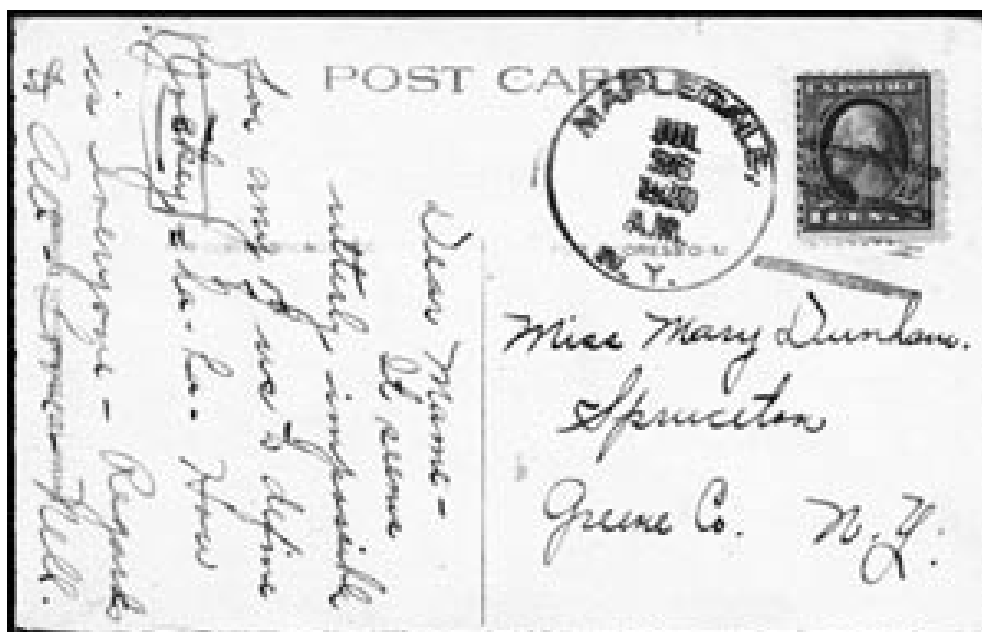


**EMPIRE STATE
POSTAL HISTORY
SOCIETY**

Ulster County DPO

By Maris Tirums

Postal history collectors are familiar with the acronym DPO, short for “discontinued post office.” Just as the name implies, a DPO is a post office that once existed, but no longer does. The reasons why DPOs have been created are many and varied.



4-bar handstamp postmark MAPLEDALE JUL 26 1920 A.M. N.Y.

Probably the largest single historic factor for the creation of DPOs was the introduction and expansion of rural free delivery service in the 1890s. Whereas people who lived in rural areas were compelled to go to a post office to collect their mail before RFD came along, the rural post office lost much of its importance once mail was delivered directly to their homes.

In modern times, DPOs have been created as transportation and roadway systems improved and through cost cutting by the postal administration. If a post office does not do enough business to justify its existence, out it goes, and another DPO is created.

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