



**EMPIRE STATE
POSTAL HISTORY
SOCIETY**

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PINE CAMP MILITARY RESERVATION

By Gerald F. Wiley

In 1908, the first year of its operation, the post office at Pine Camp, N.Y., located near Watertown in Jefferson County, was open for only a short time. Established on June 1, it was discontinued on July 18. The first encampment at that site took place in June and July of that year. About 8,000 regular Army soldiers and National Guardsmen took part under the command of Maj. Gen. Frederick Dent Grant, son of President Ulysses S. Grant.

The post office was reestablished in 1910, discontinued in 1914, reopened briefly in 1917, and operated again from 1941 to 1944. Since 1974, the military reservation has been called Fort Drum. That name appears in the postmarks of the post office currently operating there.

When Pine Camp was expanded in 1941, more than 500 families and several small communities were displaced. One post office was affected. When postmaster Merton J. Hoover closed his store and post office on Sept. 30, 1941, postal service at Sterlingville, which had been initiated in 1839, came to an end.



ALPHA AND OMEGA — A post office was established at Pine Camp (now Fort Drum) in June 1908. Expansion of the military base in 1941 forced the eviction of several small communities, which included the post office at Sterlingville.

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