



**EMPIRE STATE  
POSTAL HISTORY  
SOCIETY**

**APS UNIT 28**

[www.esphs.org](http://www.esphs.org)  
Meets twice annually

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## SUBDIVIDED OUT OF EXISTENCE

*By Alfred Carroccia*

The Town of Willink, New York had its origins with the Holland Land Company which purchased the western two-thirds of the western New York land tract. The purchase included Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, and parts of Monroe and Livingston counties west of Rochester.

Willink was part of then Genesee County, Niagara County, and, ultimately, the southern half of Erie County. As new towns were formed, Willink eventually was subdivided out of existence. An 1865 atlas for Erie County shows Willink as a hamlet located in the Town of Aurora roughly on the site now in the Village of East Aurora.

Kay and Smith report the Willink post office being established on February 13, 1854 with Orin Thompson, a resident of the Village of East Aurora, as its first postmaster. It closed on June 30, 1913 and absorbed into the East Aurora Post Office.

### TO AND FROM WILLINK

The first cover posted from Willink is addressed to Rochester, with the corner indicating it was sent from Henry C. Jewett & Co. in Buffalo. It was cancelled on April 21, 1883 in Willink with an octagonal cancel. Henry Jewett was a merchant and proprietor of Henry C. Jewett & Co. in Buffalo. Jewett was also a successful horse breeder who had an enormous horse farm in the town of Aurora that eclipsed part of Willink.

The second item is a post card addressed to a woman living in East Aurora. It received a Colden RFD hand cancel, but was undeliverable as the address was not on the Colden route. Hence the "Willink, NY" handstamp over the address after it was determined this person lived there. It was then cancelled on September 2, 1913 with a Willink receiving cancellation. Note the September month slug is inverted. ■

