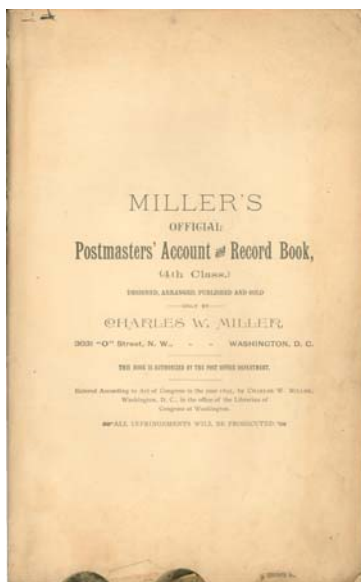


# Milford (Iowa) Post Office Documents

## Finding Guide

Prepared by  
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Postmasters' Account and Record Book, 4th Class, 1895-1897



American Philatelic Research Library  
100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823  
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July 28, 2011

**Title:** Milford (Iowa) Post Office Documents

**Dates:** 1891-1916

**Physical Description:** 12 items; 1 box

**Abstract:** These documents and forms came from the Milford (Iowa) Post Office. They reflect the daily operations of the post office.

**Background:** Milford is located just south of Okoboji Lake, in Dickinson County, in northwestern Iowa; it was first settled in 1866 and expanded in 1869 around the site of a flour mill. The original town site was moved three-quarters of a mile northwest in 1882 to improve access to the railroad. Milford was incorporated as a municipality in 1892. The population in 1980 was 2,076; in 1990, 2,170; in 2000, 2,474; and in 2010, 2,898.

The Milford Post Office was established May 4, 1870, and remains in service (ZIP 51351). Milford was a Fourth Class office, then a Third Class Office, then a Presidential Office in July 1900.

The Milford postmasters were: (\* indicates those appearing in this set of documents)

1870, Ira Seymour Foster (1846-1891)  
1870 – 1872, L.A. Litel [Louis? Lewis?]  
1872 – 1881, William Francis Carlton (1847-1925)  
1881 – 1885, I.S. Foster  
1885 – 1889, Eugene A. Case (1859-1946)  
1889 – 1893, Robert Burns Nicol (\*) (1831-1916)  
1893 – 1897, Austin Case (\*) (1833-1911, father of E.A. Case)  
1897 – 1909, Reuben F. Price (\*) (1858-1922)  
1909 – 1913, Eugene E. Heldridge (\*) (1870-1963)  
1913 – 1921, John Jacob Herbster (\*) (1859-1921)  
etc.

**Subjects:**

Post Offices  
Money Orders  
United States – Iowa – Milford

**Call Number:** APRL Archives

**Provenance:** George W. Brett, 1912-2005. Brett was one of the premier students of US stamp production; in 1997 he retired to his home town of Spirit Lake, Iowa, which is nine miles north of Milford. Acquired by Roger Brody from the GW Brett Library in 2011, and donated by Brody to the American Philatelic Research Library.

**Preferred Citation:** Milford (Iowa) Post Office Documents, American Philatelic Research Library, Bellefonte, PA.

**References:**

<http://www.usstamps.org/brett.html>, biography of George W. Brett, United States Stamp Society.

<http://arago.si.edu/index.asp?con=1&cmd=1&mode=2&tid=2040914>, biography of George W. Brett, Smithsonian National Postal Museum.

[http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu/findingguides/George\\_Brett\\_Collection\\_Finding\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu/findingguides/George_Brett_Collection_Finding_Guide.pdf), George W. Brett Papers and Documents, Finding Guide, Smithsonian National Postal Museum, 2010.

Inez E. Kirkpatrick, **Tavern Days in the Hawkeye State**, Sioux City, Iowa, 1987.

Alan H. Patera and John S. Gallagher, **Iowa Post Offices, 1833-1986**, The Depot, Lake Oswego, OR, 1986.

Guy Reed Ramsey, **Postmarked Iowa, A List of Discontinued and Renamed Post Offices**, J-B Publishing Co., Crete, Nebraska, 1976.

Roderick A. Smith, **A History of Dickinson County, Iowa**, Kenyon Printing & Mfg. Co., Des Moines, Iowa, 1902.

<http://www.archive.org/details/historyofdickins00smit>

<http://www.archive.org/details/historyofdickins01smit>

<http://books.google.com/books?id=dYQUAAAAYAAJ>

Newspapers published in Dickinson County, Iowa, especially The Milford Mail, 1886-1957. By subscription from Ancestry.com, WorldVitalRecords.com, and perhaps elsewhere. Free access courtesy of the Milford Memorial Library,

<http://dickinsoncounty.newspaperarchive.com/> with access instructions at

<http://www.milford.lib.ia.us/do-research/dickconewsonline>

## **Inventory:**

**Record and Postal Account Book, Class 4.** For Fourth Class Postmasters, printed and bound forms for monthly and quarterly reports. 14 " × 10 ½ ", board covers.

R.B. Nicol, postmaster, Oct. 1892 – Aug. 1893.

Austin Case, postmaster, Aug. 1893 – July 1895.

Assorted receipts and forms are loose in the book, or tipped-in at the end: receipt stubs from the U.S. Stamped Envelope Agency, or for delivery of postage stamps, official-use envelopes, postal notes, postal cards, stamped envelopes; postmaster's personal note paper.

**Cash Book for the Post Office. (Form N).** For the money order system. 13 ¼ " × 8 ¾ ", bound.

R.B. Nicol, postmaster, Dec. 1891 – Aug. 7, 1893.

Austin Case, postmaster, Aug. 7, 1893 – Sep. 1, 1894.

Daily entries, cash on hand, money orders sold (number, total value), fees collected, money orders received and paid. One loose receipt, U.S. Stamped Envelope Agency.

**Miller's Official Postmasters' Account and Record Book, 4<sup>th</sup> Class.** 12 ½ " × 8 ", bound.

Austin Case, postmaster, July 1895 – June 1897.

R.F. Price, postmaster, July 1897 – June 1899.

Quarterly reports, sales of stamps, postal cards, stamped envelopes, box rentals; unclaimed letters (sent to Dead Letter Office, Washington, DC). List of P.O. box renters, Jan. 1896 – June 1899. A few loose forms, receipts, etc.

**Miller's Official Postmasters' Account and Record Book, 4<sup>th</sup> Class.** 13 ¼ " × 8 ½ ", bound.

The front cover is stamped "Form 1558 ½".

R.F. Price, postmaster, July 1899 – June 1902.

Quarterly reports, list of box renters, etc.

**Form No. 1545, [Miller's] Official Postmasters' Account and Record Book, 3<sup>rd</sup> Class.** 13 ½ " × 8 ½ ", bound. First Revised Edition, July 10, 1900.

R.F. Price, postmaster, July 1900 – June 1902.

Monthly statements, stamps on hand, receipts, etc. Quarterly statements are printed in the book, but no entries were made.

*Same*, Third Revised Edition, February 1902.

R.F. Price, postmaster.

Monthly statements, July 1902 – June 1904. Lists of unclaimed matter, Sep. 1902 – Dec. 1904.

*Same*, Revised Edition, Jan. 1904.

R.F. Price, postmaster.

Inventories of stamps, cards, envelopes on hand. Monthly statements, July 1904 – June 1906.

Quarterly accounts, Oct. 1905 – June 1906. Lists of unclaimed matter, Jan. 1905 – Aug. 1906.

*Same*, Revised Edition, July 1906.

R.F. Price, postmaster.

E.E. Heldridge, postmaster.

Monthly statements, July 1906 – June 1908. Quarterly statements, Sep. 1906 – June 1908. Lists of unclaimed matter, Aug. 1906 – June 1908.

A series of deposit receipts, Oct. 1909 – Sep. 1913 (19), funds sent to P.O., Des Moines, Iowa; these should be with the next two books in the series.

**Official Postmasters' Account and Record Book for Presidential Offices.** [for a Third Class office]

R.F. Price, postmaster, July 1908 – March 31, 1909.

E.E. Heldridge, postmaster, April 1, 1909 – June 1910.

Daily sale of stamps. Monthly statements, July 1908 – June 1910. Quarterly statements. Lists of unclaimed matter, July 1908 – June 1910.

**No. 1545, Official Postmasters' Account and Record Book for Presidential Offices.** [for a Third Class office] Edition of Oct. 1909.

E.E. Heldridge, postmaster.

Monthly statements, July 1910 – June 1912. Quarterly statements. Lists of unclaimed matter. Various additional forms, including a memorandum regarding sales of stamps (1911), and an inspection report (Jan. 1912, listing six irregularities).

(There should be another volume for the period July 1912 – April 1914, but it is not in this collection.)

*Same*, Edition of Nov. 1913.

J.J. Herbster, postmaster.

Monthly reports, April 1914 – March 1916. Quarterly reports. Lists of unclaimed matter.

**Postmark (Circular Date Stamp) Record Book.**

15 ½ " x 10 ". 79 pages with postmarks (generally 10 rows of 6, 3 each pmk, but often more), 4 blank pages. Stapled, but the top sheet is loose and the staples are loose and rusting.

Two postmarks were in use, for outgoing and incoming mail:

MILFORD / IOWA.

MILFORD, IOWA. / REC'D.

each with the month, date, time and year in the center

When the time and date was changed, a record was made in this book.

15 July 1909 through 20 March 1912.

**Additional Notes:**

Fiscal Year, July 1 – June 30.

Not all parts of the report books were entered; we only noted those parts with hand entries.

See also, "Notes From Early Milford Settler Tell of '83 Annual Postmaster Pay", W.F. Carlton, The Milford Mail and Terril Record, Thursday, July 18, 1963 [accessed via WorldVitalRecords.com]. Carlton, the postmaster from 1872 to 1881, describes his term in office, and says, "I have copies of three reports to the post office department."