

Covington Postoffice, Opened in 1815, Now Boasts 50 Carriers and 34 Clerks

The Covington Federal Building, which houses the federal offices, court and the Covington Postoffice, has the unique distinction of being one of two federal structures built for less money than had been appropriated by Congress. The other was the Federal Building in Davenport, Ia. It is said that the United States Treasury authorities were genuinely surprised when the surplus money was returned to them. It was built in 1876.

The Covington Postoffice was established on October 2, 1815, two months after the town of Covington had been established, which was not incorporated into a city until February 24, 1934. The location of the Postoffice for sixty-five years seems to have been changed by each incumbent until it was finally located in the Federal Building.

The Postmasters and terms of office, with dates of appointment, are as follows:

Henry M. Buckner, October 3, 1815; Robert Perry, September 18, 1817; A. G. Gano, May 18, 1820; Guy W. Wright, January 17, 1823; James G. Arnold, August 4, 1824; Alexander Connelly, April 8, 1826; Hamilton Martin, May 18, 1841; Arthur Crutchfield, June 29, 1845; Benjamin Young, November 27, 1849; James A. Kelly, April 16, 1853; William D. Holt, January 14, 1854; Hamilton Cummings, March 6, 1862; Jesse R. Grant (father of President U. S. Grant), February 16, 1866; Mrs. Sultana S. Farrel, January 8, 1873; James G. Mitchie, April 26, 1882; Peter Nodler, May 18, 1886; T. W. Hardeman, June 1, 1890; Napoleon

H. Carlisle, November 1, 1893; C. H. Reynolds, December 1, 1897; W. H. H. Bowen, September 1, 1910; Orie S. Ware, September 1, 1914; G. A. Seiler, July 1, 1921; Hal Ricketts, July 22, 1929.

Sandford Easton, special agent was in charge of the office from January 24, 1872, for several months when Mrs. Farrel was appointed a special agent, and so acted until her appointment as Postmistress on January 8, 1873.

The letter carrier system was established on July 1, 1873, with a force of four carriers—Joseph Berberick, N. H. Grant, O. J. Wiggins and Jeremiah Reed. Berberick and Gaunt died about twenty years ago and Wiggins and Reed died many years ago. Berberick was carrier before the system was established while delivering newspapers and collecting fees from his patrons.

The Postoffice underwent a phenomenal increase in revenue under the administration of the late Postmaster O. H. Reynolds, when in the first eight of his thirteen years in office the revenue increased from \$29,000 to \$150,000 annually. This was due largely to the many mail order houses in the city at that time and to the Yankee thrift of the Postmaster, who was born in Maine.

Alexander Connelly, sixth Postmaster, served fifteen years in the office, the longest term of any incumbent.

Postmaster Ricketts now has a force of fifty carriers and thirty-four clerks. The business transacted by the office is increasing each year and last year totaled \$215,000.