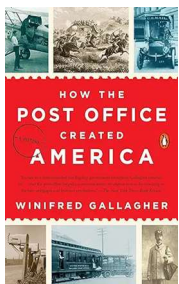




Last month we held our annual swap meet where we bought/sold/traded and gave away items that were collecting dust.

This month, we'll have a session of **"Stamp Bingo"** with Tom Willer calling out the numbers?? with "awesome" prizes to be passed out to the winners.

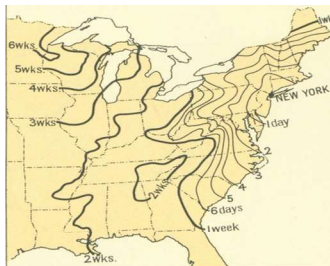


This weekend I started reading the book ***“HOW THE POST OFFICE CREATED AMERICA - A HISTORY – by WINIFRED GALLAGHER”*** that I downloaded from AMAZON. What I'll pass on right now, is sections of the authors introduction through the Civil War period.

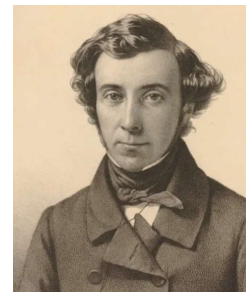
Later – might put together a presentation or two if members are interested.— DAS

**It may answer the question: Why the Post Office Matters – the book** is nothing less than the story of America. Of the nation's founding institutions, it is the least appreciated or studied, and yet for a very long time it was the U.S. government's major endeavor. Indeed, it was that government in the experience of most citizens. As radical an experiment as America it- self, the post was the incubator of our uniquely lively, disputatious culture of innovative ideas and uncensored opinions. With astonishing speed, it established the United States as the world's information and communications superpower.

After the Revolution, America needed a central nervous system to circulate news throughout the new body politic. Like mail service, knowledge of public affairs had always been limited to an elite, but George Washington, James Madison, and especially Dr. Benjamin Rush (a terrible physician but a wonderful political philosopher) were determined to provide the people of their democratic republic with both. Their novel, uniquely American post didn't just carry letters for the few. It also subsidized the delivery of newspapers to the entire population, which created an informed electorate, spurred the fledgling market economy, and bound thirteen fractious erstwhile colonies into the United States. For more than two centuries, the founders' grandly envisaged postal commons has endured as one of the few American institutions, public or private, in which we, the people, are treated as equals.

**Postal Delivery Time – 1830s**

The America of the Early Republic desperately needed physical as well as political and economic development. The government quickly mapped this terra incognita with post routes that connected towns centered on post offices; it also subsidized the nascent transportation industry, then dominated by the stagecoach, by paying its owners to carry the mail. By 1831, French political philosopher and mail coach passenger **Alexis de Tocqueville** wondered over America's unparalleled communications system, which brought the latest national and foreign news even to the Michigan outback.




### Alexis de Tocqueville

By the time of Tocqueville's visit, the founders' ideal of nonpartisan politics had faded, and the post they created to unite opinionated Americans could divide them as well. President Andrew

Jackson, a slaveholder, fumed when abolitionists used the network to send their unsolicited publications to Charleston, South Carolina, where irate locals committed a federal crime by burning the mail—a conflagration that illuminated slavery as a national rather than merely regional issue. Yet Jackson himself scandalously politicized the post with his "spoils system," which allowed the party that won the White House to hire its supporters for postal jobs wrested from the defeated rival's ranks—a gold mine of patronage that cemented and sustained the country's two-party system for the next 140 years.

The post played a crucial role in one of the nineteenth century's crowning achievements: turning the Atlantic-oriented United States into a Pacific nation as well. The transcontinental telegraph and railroad of the 1860s usually get the credit, but they followed in the tracks of a post that was already responding to the needs of history's greatest overland migration. (Most settlers got their mail at post offices in general stores, much like the one served by the young postmaster Abraham Lincoln on the Illinois frontier.) The post subsidized the Overland Mail Company's western stagecoaches but only paid the Pony Express to carry mail at the end of its short life, when the private service helped to keep distant California slavery-free and connected to the rest of the Union.

Next Show							Next Meeting						
August 25							July 25						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
		30	31	1	2	3		1	2	3	4	5	6
		6	7	8	9	10	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31	28	29	30	31			

**Next Meeting:**

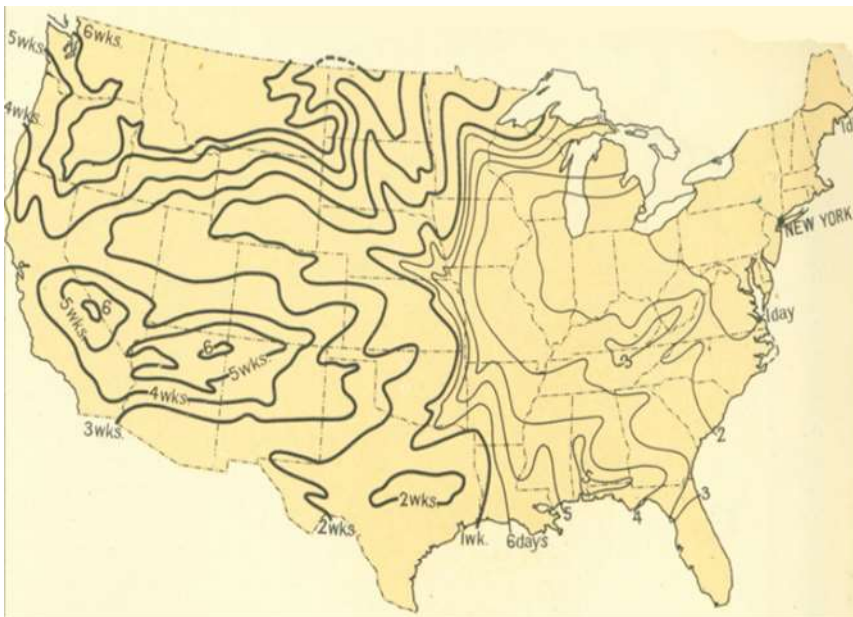
**2:00-PM on Tuesday, 22 July 2025**

**Grayslake Historical Society — Any Changes  
will be posted on: [lcpshome.org](http://lcpshome.org)**



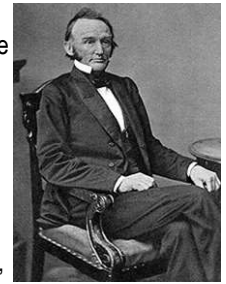
## Tom Willer - Presidents

**Officers:** Bill Schultz – Vice President  
Dave Sadler – Secretary  
Gary Olson – Treasurer



Postal Delivery Time - 1860

Like America itself, the post was transformed by the Civil War. When the Confederacy stole its entire southern network, Montgomery Blair, Lincoln's brilliant postmaster general, used the savings from the discontinued operations to pay for expensive new services, including Free City Delivery, which brought mail to urban doorsteps, and the postal money order system, which initially enabled Union soldiers to send their salaries back home safely. The post had been the first, and was for a very long time the only, institution to give jobs to disenfranchised women that offered them rare entrée into public life. Most had been small- town postmasters, but Blair went further, hiring women for prestigious positions as clerks even at the department's august headquarters in Washington, D.C. The post had long been prohibited from using enslaved workers, lest they learn from publications circulated in the mail that all men were created equal. ...



Montgomery Blair

Most histories of the United States focus on military, political, and socioeconomic matters, but *"How the Post Office Created America"* tells the nation's story from the perspective of its *communications network*. Restoring the record of how the post made us the people we are is important, both for this misunderstood, underappreciated institution and for the insights into the country's past and current affairs that it provides. After all, recurrent themes in the post's story—including the respective merits of public service and private enterprise, the limits of federal power and states' rights, the complex relationships between government and business, the fruits of bipartisanship, the value of national infrastructure, and the country's regional and political polarization—echo through the history of the United States to this day. The post deserves the effort to remember, because just as the founders had envisioned, it created America. — last paragraph of intro ...

### July Issues:



32 page Prestige Booklet - \$20.95



23 July



23 July