

Celebrating 250 Years of the United States Postal Service

National Postal Museum



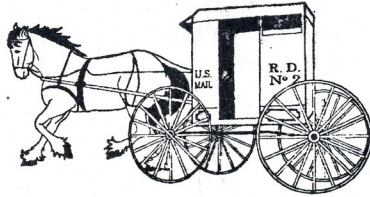
Ben Franklin

Ben Franklin

First Postmaster General

July 26, 1775 - November 7, 1776

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Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show Station
Reno, NV 89501

July 26, 2025

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Celebrating 250 Years of the United States Postal System



1782-1837



1837-1970



1970-1993



1993-Present

On July 26, 1775, Benjamin Franklin was appointed by the Second Continental Congress as the first Postmaster General of the United States Post Office. He served in the position until November 7, 1776.

Prior to that appointment, Franklin had been appointed as the Philadelphia Postmaster in 1737. In 1753, Franklin and William Hunter became joint Postmasters General for the Crown. Franklin was dismissed as Postmaster General for the Crown in 1774 for being too sympathetic to the colonies.



The Post Office Department was created in 1792 with the passage of the Postal Service Act and elevated to a cabinet-level department in 1872. The Post Office Department became the United States Postal Service, an independent agency, under the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970.

