

GLENS FALLS AIR MAIL ENVELOPE: FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

OVERVIEW OF THE OBJECT

Repository:	Crandall Public Library. Folklife Center Glens Falls, NY.
Creator:	United States Postal Service
Title:	Glens Falls Airmail Envelope: First Day of Issue
Dates:	May 19, 1938
Quantity:	1 folder
Identification:	Art & Artifact: Artifact

HISTORICAL NOTE

Airmail service in the United States started 20 years before the date of this envelope: May 15, 1918. The U.S. Postal Service took over air mail in August of that year. By 1926, however, frustrated with coping with maintenance expenses and lost pilots, the Postal Service moved to contracting with private companies for the delivery of mail. Privatization led to competition and increased services. Local municipalities began to build the infrastructure needed to receive mail and re-fuel planes. This growth arrived in Glens Falls in May of 1938.

The Glens Falls Airport, then located on Aviation Road where the Queensbury Central School campus now stands, was named for Floyd Bennett. Bennett, a World War I aviator and Medal of Honor winner, was born in nearby Warrensburg, NY, in 1890, and is regarded as a local hero. Airfields in many other locales are also named for Bennett. The current Warren County airport, now in a different location, is still called the Floyd Bennet Memorial Air Field.

Ralph Marshall was a clerk at the Variety Stand at 110 Main Street, South Glens Falls. He and his wife, Leona, lived at 209 Main Street.

INDEX TERMS

Topics:	Postal history Airmail Airports
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Places: Glens Falls, Warren, NY
South Glens Falls, Saratoga, NY

Important People: Floyd Bennet 1890 – 1926
Ralph Marshall

Form/Genre: Postal memorabilia

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation: Glens Falls Airmail Envelope: First Day of Issue
Folklife Center
Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY.

Accession Information: Donated by Peter Benoit
February 27, 2018
Queensbury, NY 12804

Processing Information: Arranged and described by Erica Wolfe Burke, Feb.2018

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE OBJECT

One air mail envelope, 6 ½ by 3 ¾ inches. The envelope has red and blue hash marks along the edges. It is embellished in the lower left corner with a blue on white sketch, derived from the John Broadhead Crandell painting "The Bridge at Glenn's 1792" (in the collection of the Folklife Center). The sketch on the envelope is labeled "First bridge Across Hudson River at Glens Falls, N.Y. About 1792." Below that is the following:

UNITED STATES AIR MAIL

First Flight, May 19, 1938

Dedication of Glens Falls Airport

Floyd Bennett Field

Glens Falls, New York

In the upper right corner is a U.S. Postage Air Mail 6cent stamp. It shows an eagle and shield in carmine, on a white ground, in a blue frame.



The round cancellation mark on the front says Glens Falls, N.Y. May 19 2-PM 1938.
Two round cancellations on the back say Albany N.Y. May 19 3:30 PM 1938.

The envelope is addressed to Mr. Ralph Marshall, 209 Main St. So. Glens Falls, N.Y.