



Tracking Owney

This is a comprehensive list of all of the places where [Owney](#) is known to have traveled in his years as the unofficial mascot of the Railway Mail Service (1888-1897). This list was compiled using newspaper articles written about Owney's travels, tags and other items he was given during his travels, with the help of historical railroad maps and the assistance of local historical societies around the United States. Due to the lack of written records for many of Owney's travels, it is impossible to confirm every location and date in his story. This list has been organized to reflect that.

The *Tracking Owney* list is organized and color coded (see key below) by the strength of information confirming the dog's travel date and location. First, by dates that are positively confirmed with a specific date and location; secondly by locations that have been narrowed to a month; and finally, those that can only be traced to sometime within a specific year. At the end of this document is a list of locations for which dates have not yet been confirmed. If you have additional information about any of these or other locations to which Owney traveled during his lifetime, please contact the [National Postal Museum](#). Locations that were confirmed through objects in the collection of the National Postal Museum are underlined linked to pages which contain more information about the objects themselves as well as how they relate to Owney's story.

Color Key: **Black** = location and date confirmed
 Purple = location and approximate month/year confirmed
 Blue = location and approximate year confirmed—these are listed below the confirmed locations/dates for each year

1888

[Albany, New York](#)

1889

March 27 - **Fort Wayne, Illinois**
August 18 - **Brattleboro, Vermont**

[Portland, Maine? \(Before 1892\)](#)
[Rio Grande, New Mexico? \(Before 1892\)](#)

1890

September 2-5 - **Des Moines, Iowa**

[Portland, Maine? \(Before 1892\)](#)
[Rio Grande, New Mexico? \(Before 1892\)](#)
[Ogden, Utah \(Before 1893\)](#)
[Butte, Montana \(Before 1893\)](#)
[Hawthorne, Nevada \(Before 1893\)](#)
[Dayton, Nevada \(Before 1893\)](#)
[Cheyenne, Wyoming \(prior to 1893\)](#)

1891

January 6 - **Norwich, Connecticut**
Plymouth, Massachusetts?
Palmer, Massachusetts?

March 12 - **Fort Dodge, Iowa**

July 5 - **Middletown, Iowa**
Bridgeport, Connecticut?

August 15 - **Denver, Colorado**

Maysville, Kentucky
Brooklyn, New York
Portland, Maine? (Before 1892)
Ogden, Utah (Before 1893)
Butte, Montana (Before 1893)
Hawthorne, Nevada (Before 1893)
Dayton, Nevada (Before 1893)
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (Before 1892)
Cheyenne, Wyoming (prior to 1893)

1892

March 30 - **Weatherford, Texas**

Fort Worth, Texas

April 8 - **Atlanta, Georgia**

April 9 - **Nashville, Tennessee**

April 12 - **Texarkana, Arkansas**

April 19 - **Baltimore, Maryland**

April 27 - **Boston, Massachusetts**
Albany, New York
→To New York, New York?

May 21 - **Beverly, Massachusetts**

June 5 - **Syracuse, New York**

July 6 - **New York, New York**

July 7 - **New Haven, Connecticut**
Washington DC (December)
New Orleans, Louisiana (winter)

Pittsfield, Massachusetts
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
San Antonio, Texas
Buffalo, New York (RNC Convention?)
Ogden, Utah (Before 1893)
Butte, Montana (Before 1893)
Hawthorne, Nevada (Before 1893)
Dayton, Nevada (Before 1893)
Waco, Texas (winter, if at all)
Cheyenne, Wyoming (prior to 1893)

1893

March 30 - **Canton, Mississippi**

Mobile, Alabama

March 31 - **New Orleans, Louisiana**

April 8 - **Omaha, Nebraska**

[Black Hills, South Dakota](#)

April 12 - **Cheyenne, Wyoming**
April 12 - **San Francisco, California**
April 16 - **Portland, Oregon**
April 21 - **Los Angeles, California**
April 24 - **Santa Ana, California**
May 8 - **San Francisco, California**
May 16 - **Duluth, Minnesota**
May 23-24 - **Council Bluffs, Iowa**
May 24 - **Buffalo, New York**
October 15 - **Seattle, Washington**
October 27 - **Spokane, Washington**
November 11 - **Detroit, Michigan**
November 24 - **Albuquerque, New Mexico**
[St. Paul, Minnesota \(November\)](#)
December 8 - **Chicago, Illinois**
December 20 - **Lynn, Massachusetts**

[Canada](#)

[Milwaukee, Wisconsin](#)
[Chicago Illinois \(World's Fair?\)](#)
[Waco, Texas](#)

1894

March 20 - **Sioux City, Iowa**
March 22 - **Council Bluffs, Iowa**
May 3 - **Kansas City, Missouri**
May 13 - **St. Louis, Missouri**
June 5 - **Clinton, Massachusetts**
June 20 - **Lancaster, New Hampshire**
June 22 - **Charlestown, Massachusetts**
June 27 - **Juneau, Alaska**
July 15 - **Taylor, Texas**
July 20 - **Knoxville, Tennessee**
July 29 - **New Orleans, Louisiana**
August 4 - **Birmingham, Alabama**
August 20 - **Leadville, Colorado**
[Birmingham, Alabama \(September\)](#)
September 5 - **Omaha, Nebraska**
September 6 - **Cincinnati, Ohio**
September 12 - **Globe, Arizona**
September 13 - **Hinton, West Virginia**
October 11 - **Cincinnati, Ohio**
October 12 - **Worcester, Massachusetts**
-Norwich, Connecticut
[Providence, Rhode Island \(November\)](#)
[New London, Connecticut \(November—Thanksgiving\)](#)
[Jacksonville, Florida \(November\)](#)
November 16 - **Jersey City, New Jersey**
November 17 - **Plainfield, New Jersey**
Thanksgiving - **New London, Connecticut**

[Plymouth, Massachusetts](#)

[San Francisco, California](#)
[Council Bluffs, Iowa](#)
[Waco, Texas \(before July, if at all\)](#)
[Houston, Texas \(after 1893\)](#)

1895

January 1 **Springfield, Massachusetts**
January 15-22 - **Boston, Massachusetts**
[San Diego, California \(January\)](#)
February 2-3 **Cleveland, Ohio**
[San Antonio, Texas \(before Corpus Christi?\)](#)
February 16 **Corpus Christi, Texas**
March 29 **New York, New York**
[Canada \(March\)](#)
June 16 **Winona, Minnesota**
June 17 **Mankato, Minnesota**
June 24 **Pontiac, Illinois**
June 25 **Minneapolis, Minnesota**
June 27 **Winnipeg, Manitoba**
[Watertown, South Dakota \(June\)](#)
[Alaska \(July\)](#)
August 14 **Puyallup, Washington**
August 19 **Tacoma, Washington**
October 3 **Yokohama**
October 8 **Port Phillip**
October 9 **Kobe, Japan**
October 19 **Maji**
October 26 **Shanghai**
October 31 **Foochow**
November 30 **Suez Canal**
December 13 **Port Michaels**
[Calcutta, India](#)
December 24 **New York, New York**
[Chicago, Illinois \(en route to Tacoma?\)](#)
December 30 **Tacoma, Washington**

[Malta](#)
[Gibraltar](#)
[Mediterranean](#)
[Rock Island, Illinois](#)
[San Antonio, Texas](#)
[Houston, Texas \(after 1893\)](#)
[Grand Rapids, Michigan](#)

1896

[Tacoma, Washington \(New Year\)](#)
January 6 **Brooklyn, New York**
[Jackson, Mississippi \(before New Orleans\)](#)
January 12 **New Orleans, Louisiana**
January 14 **New York, New York**
January 26 **Malone, New York**

January 31 **Dubuque, Iowa**
February 1 **Sioux City, Iowa**
February 9 **Cedar Rapids, Iowa**
February 15 **Long Pine, Nebraska**
February 27 **Milwaukee, Wisconsin**
 Winona, Minnesota (February)
 St. Paul, Minnesota (February)
March 6 **Chicago, Illinois**
March 7 **Rome, New York**
 Spokane Falls, Washington (before Boston)
March 19 **Boston, Massachusetts**
April 1 **Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts**
April 4 **Worcester, Massachusetts**
 - Nashua, New Hampshire
April 14 **Portland, Maine**
 Waterbury, Connecticut (March/April)
 Blackstone, Massachusetts (March/April)
 Providence Massachusetts (March/April)
May 2 **Tilton, New Hampshire**
May 5 **Lancaster, New Hampshire**
June 7 **New York, New York**
June 30 **Brooklyn, New York**
June 11 **Rochdale, Massachusetts**
August 4 **Brattleboro, Vermont**
August 24 **East Brookfield, Massachusetts**
September 9 – **St. Albans, Vermont**
September 29 **Grand Rapids, Michigan**
December 6-11 **Grand Rapids, Michigan**

Bay City, Michigan
Brattleboro, Vermont
Boston, Massachusetts
Houston, Texas (after 1893)

1897

February 3 **Ogdensburg, New York**
February 9 **Louisville, Kentucky**
February 10 **Lexington, Kentucky**
March 16 **San Francisco, California**
March 17 **Scotland, South Dakota**
March 27 **Kansas City, Missouri**
April 16 **Cleveland, Ohio**
 Chicago, Illinois (April)
May 13 **St. Louis, Missouri**
May 24 **St. Louis, Missouri**
June 12 **Toledo, Ohio**

These following locations have been confirmed, but the dates remain a mystery. In some cases, locations that have confirmed dates in the above chronology are also part of this list because Owney was known to make multiple stops at many cities. If you are aware of any information about Owney pertaining to these or other locations, please contact the [museum](#).

ALABAMA

Mobile

ARIZONA

Tucson

ARKANSAS

Bald Knob

CALIFORNIA

Sacramento

San Francisco (additional visits)

COLORADO

Deadwood City

DAKOTA TERRITORY

Running Water

FLORIDA

Key West

ILLINOIS

Mitchell (twice)

Ottawa

Pontiac

Rock Island

INDIANA

LaPorte

Muncie

INDIAN TERRITORY

Muskogee

IOWA

Van Horn

Waverly Iowa

KANSAS

Wichita

KENTUKY

Louisville

Paris

MASSACUSETTS

Dracut

Grafton

MICHIGAN

Grand Rapids

Jackson

Kalamazoo

MINNESOTA

Duluth

St. Peter

MISSISSIPPI

Jacksonville

MISSOURI

St. Louis

MONTANA

Butte

Helena

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Manchester

NEW MEXICO

Gallup

OHIO

Logan Ohio

OREGON

Portland

PENNSYLVANIA

Corry

Erie

SOUTH DAKOTA

Scotland

TENNESSEE

Memphis

Nashville

TEXAS

El Paso

Galveston

WASHINGTON

Sumas

WISCONSIN

Lancaster

CANADA
Modille
Montreal
Winnipeg



This list was compiled in 2009 by Rachel Barclay, curatorial intern for the National Postal Museum.