



BRITISH COLUMBIA POSTAL HISTORY NEWSLETTER

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The favourite cover for this issue was supplied by Pete Jacobi. A cover can be classified as a “favourite” for numerous reasons, including routing, markings, postage used, how it was obtained, etc. Looking through various journals that have at one time or another included a “Favourite Cover” selection, any of these reasons have been presented. So, what makes this cover a candidate for favourite? The routing is straightforward from Three Forks to Kaslo, having entered the postal service at Sandon where it received a very nice Sandon split-ring cancellation. The only other marking is a large oval “R” to indicate that it was registered mail and a couple of small queens provide the necessary postage, all quite unremarkable. This cover makes the grade of favourite for its historical relevance. It was part of the “Drewry Find” that has been described previously by Gray Scrimgeour (PHSC Vo. 131, Sept 2007, pp2-43). The Drewry brothers played significant roles in the development of mining in the Kootenays. This particular cover is addressed to W.S. Drewry who was a land surveyor and at the time of this cover of November 1896 is known to have been surveying in the Kootenay region of B.C. Whether your interest is the evolution of mining in B.C. or determining the routes taken by mail, which at the time was often a combination of railways and steamships, this cover like many in the Drewry correspondence has great appeal to many a postal historian.

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William Head Follow-up

Following Tracy's article about the William Head facility as a Chinese Repatriation Camp at the end of the first world war we received a question about the dates in that article. It was indicated that the facility was dismantled in 2020. This date was a bit misleading and caused some confusion. The facility was decommissioned as a repatriation facility in 1920. However, it was not physically decommissioned at that time but rather it remained standing and became William Head minimum security correctional facility in 1959 and while there have been continued calls for it to be closed completely, it continues to function.

Special Issue Invitation

Once again, we would like to have a special issue with a wide range of topics and many study group members involved so we are requesting that everyone send us a favourite cover with a few lines of discussion as to why it is a favourite. To put a slightly different slant on this exercise, we would like the focus to be on a favourite BC cancel. Why is it a favourite – a location with meaning, the only one known, part of a great story, what have you? Your writing does not have to be extensive, just a few lines of even poor grammar will be turned into a meaningful commentary and you will be part of an award-winning newsletter! Please have submissions in to the editor by April.



BRITISH COLUMBIA COLONY

This scarce, stampless, double cross border, 1860 mourning cover from Quebec to New Westminster sold in Hugo Deshayes's auction for \$650.00. It is endorsed Via New York and by California. It was carried by Great Western Railway and via Montreal (b/s), then travelled overland from New York to San Francisco and then by steamer into the colony, arriving Jan 9, 1861. Total journey time was 63 days. The Crayon 5 denotes the charge for a letter into the colony.

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Free digital newsletters can be downloaded as PDF files at <https://bnaps.org/hhl/n-bcr.htm> (for all issues). Issues 89 to present are in full colour; earlier newsletters are in b&w only. File size is approximately 1.5 to 3 Mb/issue.

The Tale of Two Cities

by Mark Oakley

Not to be confused with the novel of Charles Dickens, published in 1859 this is the story of the connection between Ganges, Saltspring Island and Nanaimo, taking place at a similar time in history.

This work is the continuing research of the Manson Family of Nanaimo, BC. exploring the connection between two families, the Manson Family of Nanaimo, and the Mouat Family of Saltspring Island.

STARTING POINT

My original research centered on the BC town cancel of Metlakatla, a small Tsimshian village located 7 km northwest of Prince Rupert. The name derives from Tsimshian word Maaxłakxaala meaning "saltwater pass." Traditionally, this site has been the collective winter village of the "Nine Tribes" of the lower Skeena River, which since 1834 have been mostly based at Lax Kw'alaams, (Port Simpson).

As a child, I grew up in Prince Rupert (1960) and a friend of my father operated the water taxi service to Metlakatla. He told stories of winter sea conditions and harrowing trips to Metlakatla to wide eyed children. By chance I discovered the Windsor Castle 1935 cancel shown in Figure 1 some 20 years ago and it reminded me of those stories and thus commenced my research into Metlakatla (postal) history.

Figure 1. Canada #215 issued May 4, 1935 with Jul 1935 Metlakatla Split-ring cancel.



"On May 6, 1935, King George V celebrated the 25th anniversary of his accession to the throne in 1910. To commemorate this Silver Jubilee, Canada joined with the other countries of the Commonwealth to honour the sovereign, himself a keen philatelist, by the issue of 6 special postage stamps.

On this stamp, a view of Windsor Castle, one of the residences of the British sovereign. The 1st castle was built by William I, but the present edifice dates back to the 14th century. The grounds cover 12 acres including a park and the beautiful lake illustrated in the stamp."

<https://www.stampsandcanada.com/stamps-prices-canada-stamp.php?postage=windsor-castle&denomination=10-cents&stamp=181&cat=1>

My research on Metlakatla resulted in the discovery of a cover with a Metlakatla cancel addressed to Mrs. L. Manson, Nanaimo, BC (Fig. 2). At the onset of my research, I received the assistance of Tim Woodland and Andrew Scott, BNAPS Pacific Northwest members with an interest in BC Postal History.

THE MANSON CORRESPONDENCE

This story is a continuing effort of my study of "The Manson Correspondence" of BC. The Manson Correspondence is a collection of postal covers originating throughout BC addressed to Mrs. L. Manson, Nanaimo, BC. between 1910 – 1914.

The Manson correspondence from locations throughout BC tells the story of an early BC pioneering family and the development and early history of BC.

My original research on the Metlakatla cover (Fig. 2) was to learn about the sender. Metlakatla in 1912 would have been a very small and isolated area and it seemed unusual that such a "delicate" and beautiful penmanship would originate from such a desolate place. In research, commonly referred to as "the rabbit hole".



Figure 2. Cover from Metlakatla to Mrs. Manson, dated Nov 5, 1912.

MANSON FAMILY GENEAOLOGY

Mrs. Manson was the wife of Mr. Laurence Manson, an immigrant from the Shetland islands, Scotland.

"Laurence Manson was born in Setter (near Sandwick) on the Shetland Islands on November 12, 1854. His father, John Manson (b. 1831), was a farmer. Laurence attended parish school until age 15 when he was apprenticed to a grocery business in Edinburgh, Scotland. Due to ill health, he returned to the Shetlands where he obtained a position on an Ordinance survey. After a year, he resigned and sailed to Canada on the steamship "Manitoban" encouraged by his brother, Michael, (b. 1857) the first of the Manson family to settle in Canada in 1875. Laurence arrived in Nanaimo on June 14, 1877 and found work as a weighman with the Vancouver Coal Company. On November 27, 1880, he married another Scottish immigrant Catherine J.B. Duncan. (Fig. 3) At this time, he also bought the store on Haliburton Street from his brother Michael but hired someone to manage it. In 1888, he quit the coal company to work full time at the store. Laurence continued there for over 40 years."

<https://www.memorybc.ca/laurence-manson-fonds>

"The first of the Manson family to seek his fortune here was Michael. He settled in Nanaimo in about 1875 and did well. In a letter to his brother, Laurence, later to be our father, he told how it was no problem to get work. His work was driving locomotives, he said, hauling coal from the Chase River Mine to the loading wharf at Nanaimo. He was being pressed to work double shifts and more helpers were needed. He said that living conditions here were so much better than in Shetland. In Nanaimo, he said, he could have meat in his meals as often as twice a day, whereas once a week was a luxury in Shetland. He said that he owned a lot on Haliburton Street, with a home built on it, which he could share, and there was a well with a bountiful supply of good water. So, Michael said come. There is nothing in Shetland for you to compare with this. Our father decided to come, and he arrived in Nanaimo in 1877. Since the CPR was not built at that time, it was necessary, after arriving in New York, to travel by train to San Francisco and from there by boat to Victoria, which was a Hudson Bay trading post. The only way to travel from Victoria to Nanaimo was by boat, which he did upon his first opportunity. My Dad's first job was with a coal company, where he had oversight of the work at the pithead. Chinese were employed there handling the moving of coal-cars." https://www.nanaimoarchives.ca/transcripts-and-recordings/historical-society-transcripts/view-transcript/view_express_entity/53

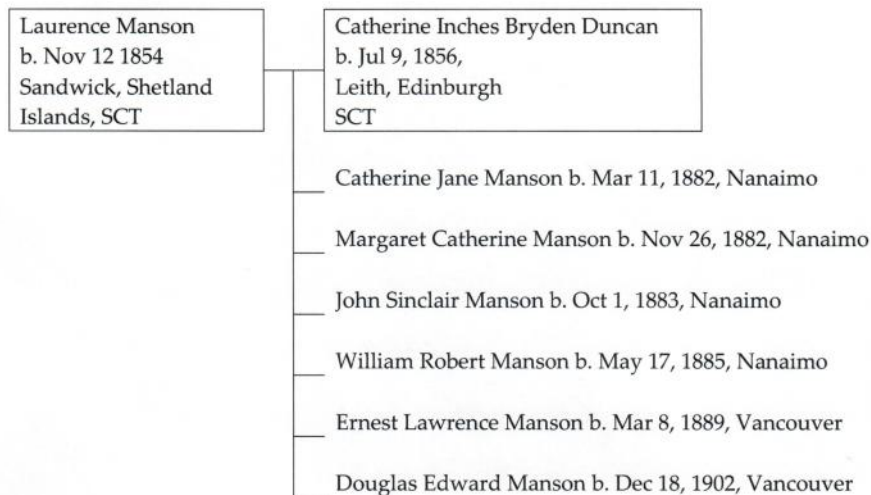


Figure 3. Family tree of Laurence Manson and Catherine Duncan.

Continuing correspondence from Metlakatla included the OMHS cover shown in Figure 4. Research related to this cover revealed that Laurence's daughter, Catherine Jane Manson (b. 1882) (Fig. 3) had moved to the North coast and married the Government Indian Agent Charles Clifton Perry. Perry had replaced Michael Manson (b.1867), cousin to Laurence, (fig. 5,6) who became the second mayor of Pince Rupert.

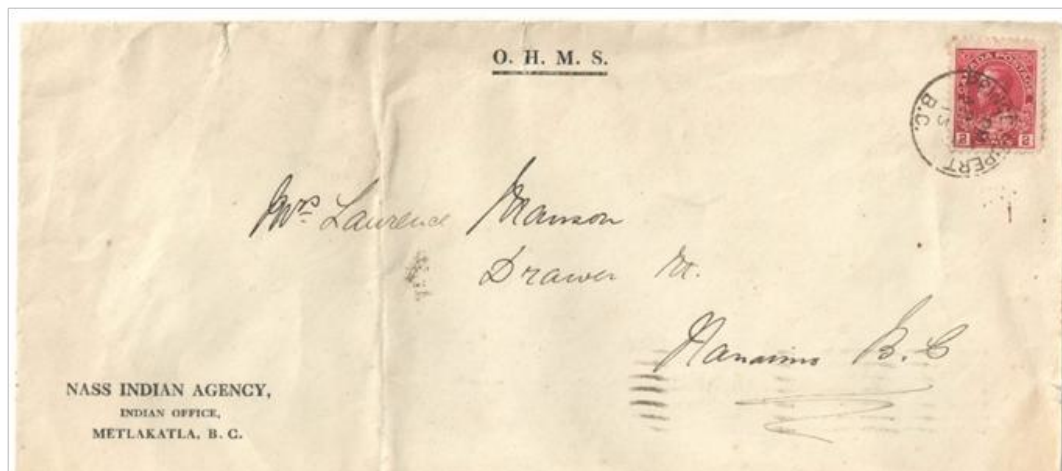


Figure 4. OHMS cover from Matlakatla wrongly used for personal mail, addressed to Mrs. Manson.

William Manson b.1794 Barbara Tulloch b.1802

Michael 1826

Barbara 1828

John Bruce 1831

*Father of Laurence Manson b.1854

Robina Bruce 1831

William 1835

*Father of Jane Manson b.1859

Robert 1837

Elizabeth 1842

Figure 5. Relationship between Manson family members, a generation before Laurence Manson.

William Manson b. Jan 1835 Setter, SHT, SCT	Janet Ramsay b. Apr 11, 1834, Scarpness, Sandwich SHT, SCT
	Jane b. Sept 24, 1859, Setter SHI SCT * Married Thomas Moaut
	Barbara b. Mar 14, 1862, Setter SHI SCT
	Margaret b. Nov 8, 1864, Setter SHI SCT
	William b. Jul 4, 1867, Setter SHI SCT * Mayor Nanaimo 1901-04, Mayor Prince Rupert 1911

Figure 6. Children derived from William Manson (b. 1835), cousin of Laurence Manson.

SALTSPRING ISLAND CONNECTION

As I continued my research, I received a cover from Morris Beattie, BNAPS PNW Member, addressed to Nanaimo from Ganges, BC. (Fig. 7) Again, the question arose: who on Saltspring would be writing Mrs. Manson in Nanaimo? I speculated that it might be another of the Manson daughters. (This turned out to be an incorrect assumption).

As the Manson family expanded their role around various parts of BC including Cortez Island, Dewdney, and Nanaimo, a second family from the Shetland Islands emigrated and settled on Saltspring Island February 1885.



Figure 7. Cover mailed from Ganges on Saltspring Island addressed to Mrs. Manson.

Thomas W. Mouat, a stonemason from Cullister, Sandwich, Shetland Islands emigrated with his wife, Jane, and settled in BC. His wife was Jane Manson, (b. 1859) also of the Shetland Islands. Her father, William Manson (b. 1835) was an uncle to Laurence Manson (b. 1854) of Nanaimo.

Jane was the daughter of William Manson b. 1835. (Fig. 6) William Manson was brother to John Bruce (b. 1831) John Bruce was father to Laurence (b.1854). Certainly, a tangled web.

I speculate that discussions within the Manson family of the opportunities in early BC encouraged the Mouat family to move to BC.

Thomas Mouat and Jane Manson arrived in Nanaimo in 1884 and stayed a short time working at the Manson store. Shortly thereafter they learned of a farm for sale on Saltspring at St Mary's Lake owned by Mr. and Mrs. Copeland. The farm was productive, and the produce was shipped to the Nanaimo store for sale. As the farm and family developed Mrs. Jane Mouat (Manson) (Fig. 8) and son Gilbert eventually purchased a dry goods store from Malcolm and Purvis in 1907. William's untimely death at age 45 placed Jane as the head of household. (I suspect, based on the success of the Manson's store in Nanaimo, that purchasing their own entity was a logical next step.)

In 1909, Gilbert's older brother, William, joined the firm and in 1911 the new store was constructed. Later the youngest brother Gavin joined the firm.

Mouat's Trading Co Ltd is still a successful family-owned business on Saltspring managed by the descendents of Thomas William Mouat. <https://mouatstrading.com/>

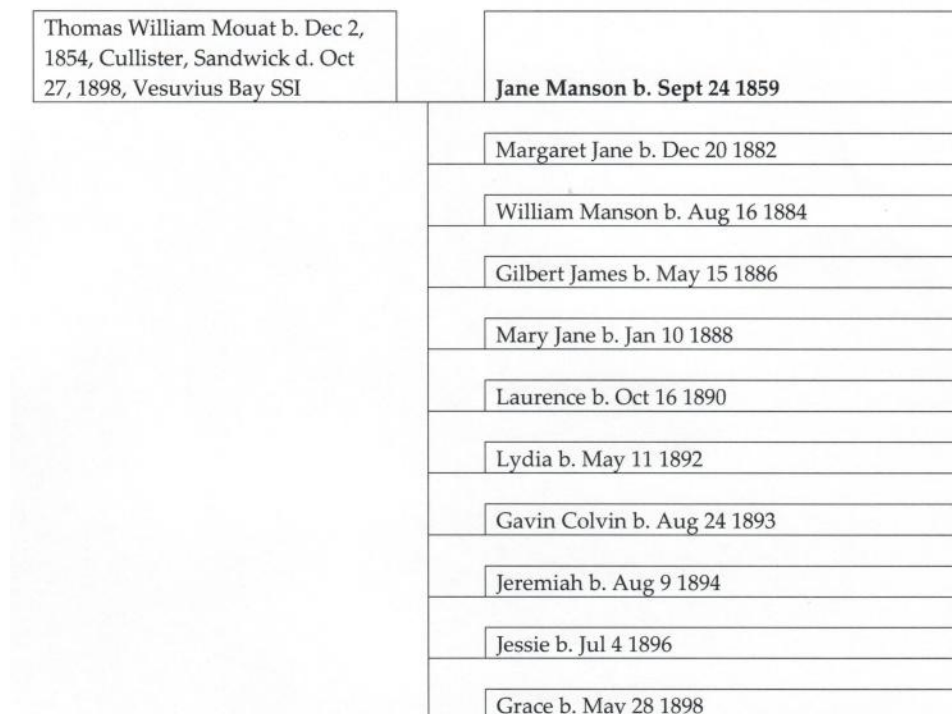


Figure 8. Descendents of Jane Mouat (nee Manson).

CONTINUING RESEARCH

As various pieces of Manson correspondence surface, further connections will be discovered throughout BC, two examples being shown in Figures 9 and 10 on the next page.

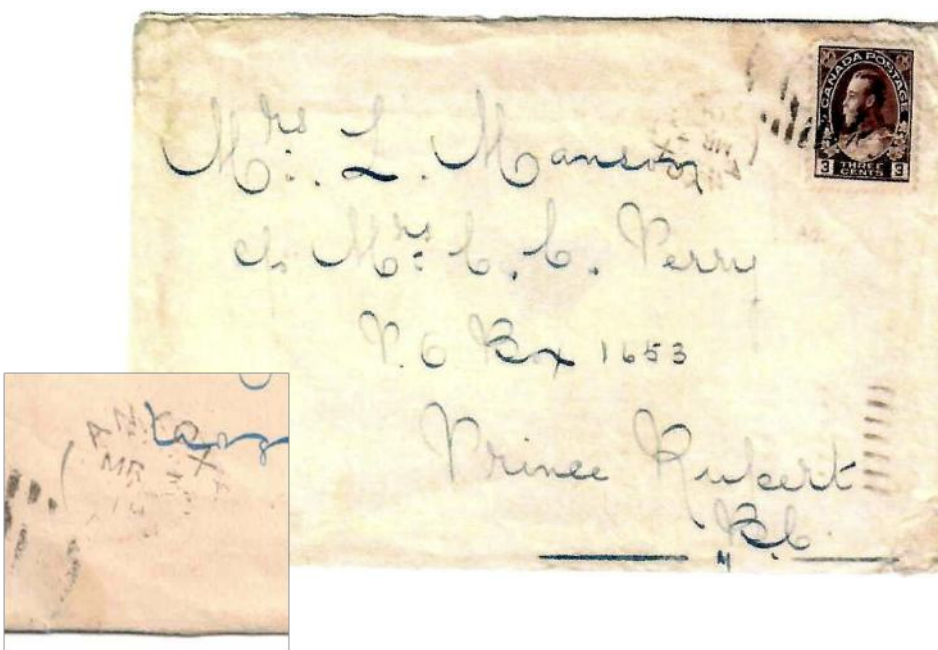


Figure 9. Cover to Mrs. Manson from Anyox, BC (100 km NE of Prince Rupert).



Figure 10. Cover to Salt Spring Island from Port Essington BC (30 kms SE Prince Rupert).

Guidelines for Submissions

We are grateful for every item that group members send us as the newsletter should be of interest to everyone. We receive articles and covers etc. in various formats. In order to make life easier for your editor, following are a couple of requests. Please send the text as a Word document and the figures separately as jpegs. It is OK to have the figures within the text to indicate an approximate location but send them separately as well so that they can be optimized for the newsletter. Many thanks!

Address Changes

Please remember to let your editor know if you change your email address and for those still opting for paper copies, your mailing address. Every issue seems to trigger a returned newsletter or two for an unknown recipient.

NORTH SAANICH to Kauai, HAWAII: an eBay find.

By Tracy Cooper

Mail from British Columbia to Hawaii during the Victorian period is very scarce. The example shown in Figure 1 is the first report of a wrapper from British Columbia to the Hawaiian Island. It was mailed from North Saanich, B.C., located as shown in Figure 2, and addressed to Mr. T.A. Ker to the incredibly tiny community of Kealia on the Island of Kauai. The name Kealia means 'salt encrusted' and in 1890 this tiny native Hawaiian fishing village likely had very few non-native inhabitants at the time.

This W3 wrapper was uprated with a 1¢ small queen and both the stamp and wrapper were cancelled by a blob cork. The Jan 1890 Canada Official Postal Guide notes that this wrapper would have been mailed at the UPU printed matter rate at 1¢ per 2 ounces of weight or 2¢ for a newspaper or periodical under 4 ounces.

The wrapper has North Saanich split ring despatch cancel dated JU 26/90 and this office had a revenue of only \$50.22 for the fiscal year 1889-1890 (Figure 3).

The astounding fact about this recent and rare BC Postal History acquisition was that it was purchased on eBay for under \$10! It was likely ignored by viewers as the wrapper was poorly described as just a cover front. Of course, the letter rate to Hawaii in this period was 5¢ and even a casual look would have revealed its true nature.



Figure 1. Wrapper dated June 26, 1890 from British Columbia to Hawaiian Island.

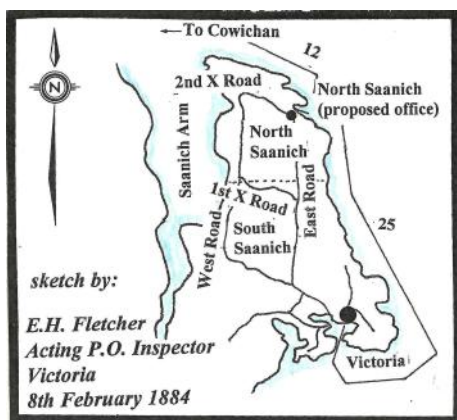


Figure 2. Location of North Saanich post office.

For the Period Ending:	Revenue	Postmaster Salary:
1884-05-01		P.O. Reopened
	\$76.15	\$18.33 ⁽¹⁾
Money Order Office from April 1, 1885 ⁽²⁾		
1885-06-30		
	\$74.90	\$35.00
1886-06-30		
	\$96.33	\$40.00
1887-06-30		
	\$103.70	\$40.00
1888-06-30		
	\$125.00	\$52.00
1889-06-30		
Non Accounting P.O. from Jan. 2, 1890 ⁽³⁾		
	\$50.22	\$26.00
1890-06-30		
	\$74.00	\$42.00
1891-06-30		
	\$112.72	\$36.00
1892-06-30		
	\$46.33	\$44.00
1893-06-30		
	\$55.00	\$24.00
1894-06-30		
	\$69.22	\$24.00
1895-06-30		

Figure 3. Revenues for North Saanich post office 1885 to 1895.

Coal Mining and the Post Offices at Independent and Lantzville

By Brian Copeland

Lantzville, B.C. is a quiet seaside community north of Nanaimo just east of the entrance to Nanoose Bay. There is little remaining physical evidence of its past as a coal mining town, other than some pilings on the beach at the foot of Jacks Road – remnants of a long gone wharf for loading coal. Coal mining led to the opening (and closing) of the first two post offices in the area: Independent and Lantzville.

Two of the earliest settlers in what is now Lantzville were Robert Wiles and William Jack.¹ Wiles and his daughter Jane settled on District Lot 54G in 1868 and a couple of years later, Jack settled on the neighbouring parcel, District lot 27G (see the map in Figure 1). In 1874, Jack married Wiles' young daughter, Jane. They had four children and at some point after that, Jane left Jack, although she remained legally married to him until his death.

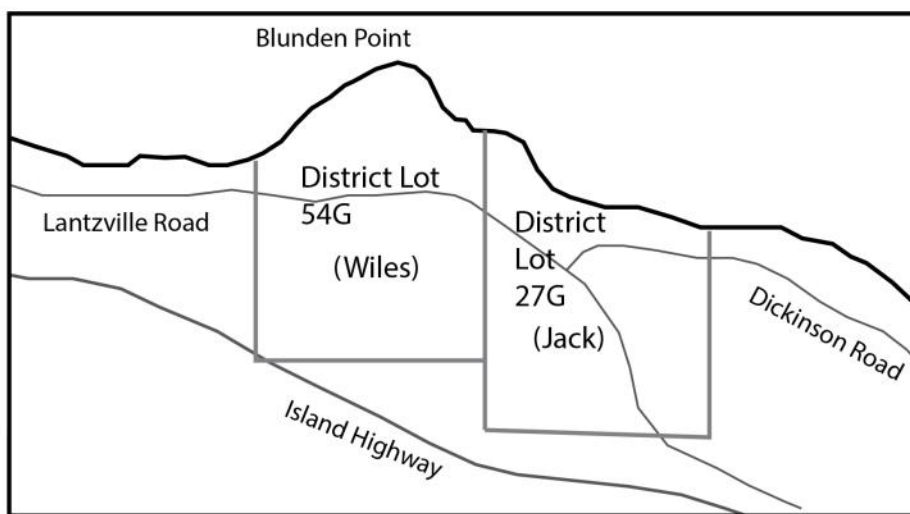


Figure 1. Map showing early District Lots in Lantzville. The roads did not exist then - they are shown here to help locate the properties. Adapted from a map in Lynn Reeve's book.¹

Robert Wiles died in early 1903. After Wiles died, William Jack discovered coal on Wiles' land. Because Jack was still legally married to Wiles' daughter, he had access to Wiles' land. And because Wiles and Jack had pre-empted their land well before the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway land grant, they owned the mineral rights.

Jack formed a partnership with Mr. Eastman of Tacoma who provided financing. An article in the *Victoria Daily Colonist* [Dec. 27, 1906] says that Jack and Eastman "have organized the Independent North Wellington Colliery Company" to exploit a seam of coal underlying the Jack property at Nanoose Bay. The article notes that work on sinking the mine shaft would start the following week and that wharves would be constructed and a town laid out.

A small community developed near the mine and a post office with the name Independent opened on May 1, 1908. Mrs. Mary Jane Dixon was postmistress. Her husband John Dixon was a farmer.² The 1909 edition of the *Directory of Vancouver Island and Adjacent Islands* has an entry for Independent, which it describes as a post office near the entrance of Nanoose Bay, 5 miles northwest of Nanaimo. "There is a coal mine in the vicinity, although farming is the principal occupation." Just over 20 residents (11 of them farmers) are listed along with the "Independent Mine, Jack & Eastman, proprietors; C.C. Stephens, manager."

The mine did not operate for long. The only mention of the mine in B.C.'s Annual Report of the Minister of Mines is in the report for the year ending Dec. 31, 1908, which says (on p. 221):

"Near the entrance of Nanoose Bay, a short distance north of Nanaimo ... an attempt is being made to open an old property formerly known as "Jack's Mine." Very large wharves are under construction; a large amount of work has been done about this mine, and some coal and fire-clay were shipped, but during the

greater part of the year the property has been at a standstill, and last time I was there nothing was being done at this mine."

Lynn Reeve in her history of Lantzville¹ reports that a scow carrying a load of coal destined for Texada Island capsized in a storm and the load was lost. Shortly after that, the mine shut down. William Jack died on Dec 2, 1908.

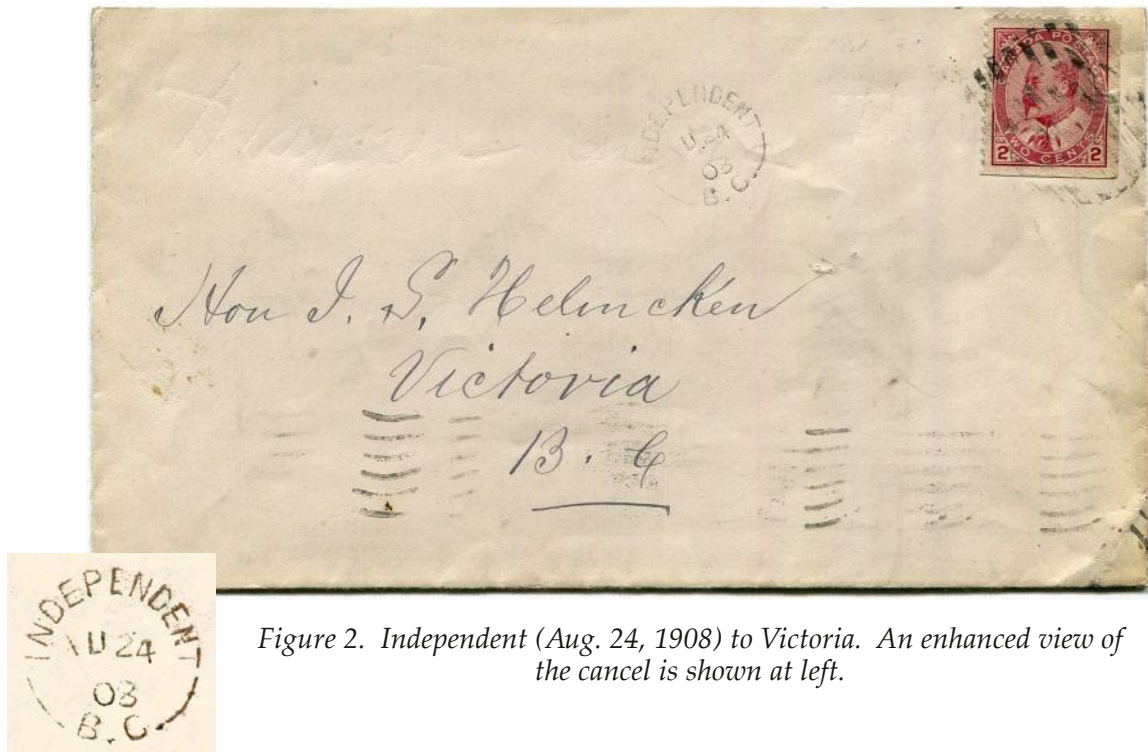


Figure 2. Independent (Aug. 24, 1908) to Victoria. An enhanced view of the cancel is shown at left.

The post office closed on March 31, 1909, not too long after the mine shut down. Total postal revenue during the 11 months of operation was just \$17.50.³ It is amazing that any covers have survived but two have been recorded, both part of the Helmcken correspondence. Figure 2 shows one of the covers, posted at Independent on Aug. 24, 1908 to Victoria. The postmark is light so an enhanced scan is shown.

John Grant, who had previously developed the Jingle Pot Mine in Nanaimo, bought some of William Jack's land (probably from his estate) on lot 27G to the east of where Jack's mine had been. By July 1916, Grant's Mine had been established and the Nanoose Colliery Company was mining coal. The mine was productive and is mentioned in the Annual Report of the Minister of Mines from 1916 to 1926. By 1919, an influx of capital was needed and an investor named Fraser Lantz became involved. The company was reorganized as Nanoose-Wellington Collieries with Lantz as Managing Director. The town was named Lantzville after him. By 1921 there were 248 employees, and a community was developing, but there was not yet a post office. The two nearest post offices were in Wellington (about 5 miles to the southeast) and at the sawmill at Red Gap on the shore of Nanoose Bay about 5 miles to the west.

The Lantzville post office finally opened on May 1, 1923. It was located in a store run by Alexander and Josephine Gusola, with Alexander Gusola as the first postmaster. Gusola resigned in November 1923 and John Patterson became postmaster.

The post office was short-lived. The mine closed in mid-1926. It was purchased by Canadian Collieries (Dunsmuir) Ltd., but all they did was dismantle the plant and file a notice of abandonment on Oct. 2, 1926.⁴ The post office closed on Sept. 30, 1926. During the 3 and a half years of operation, postal revenue totaled \$1600.98.⁵ Surviving covers are elusive – Tracy Cooper reports that 3 or fewer are known to exist. Figure 3 shows a cover front from 1924 sent to Burnaby. The proof strike of the split circle hammer (April 9, 1923) is also shown.

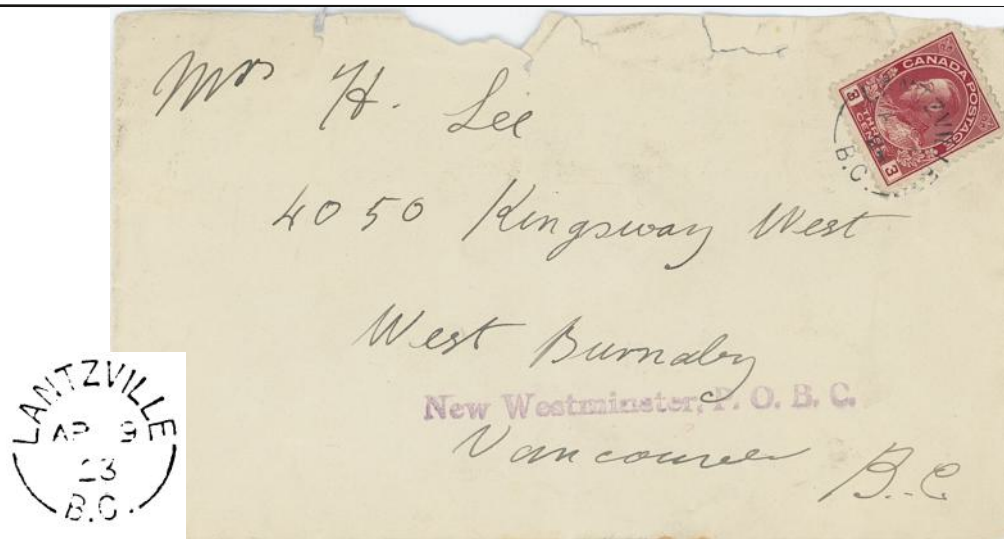


Figure 3. Lantzville (1924) to West Burnaby. Redirected to New Westminster. A proof strike of the hammer is

Some mining continued in Lantzville. Henry Shepherd organized Lantzville Collieries and began mining on part of the old Wiles property where William Jack had originally established a mine. The mine was never very productive, but it operated on a small scale for about 16 years, with coal shipped out on the E&N Railway.⁶

Lantzville developed as a residential community and a post office eventually reopened on July 3, 1945 in a corner of a store operated by Charles Singleton. The store was sold a couple of times over the next couple of years. James Russell was postmaster in 1946 and by Nov. 1947, Edna and Oliver Costin ran the store, with Oliver as postmaster. He continued as postmaster for many years.⁷ Figure 4 shows a cover from this second period for the post office. The CDS hammer was proofed June 5, 1945.

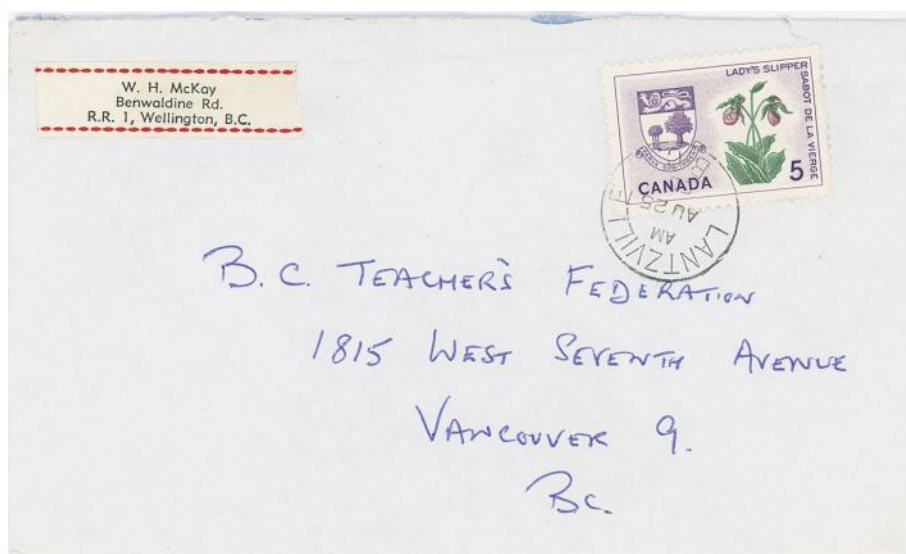


Figure 4. Lantzville (Aug. 25, 1966) to Vancouver.

Notes

1. For an excellent local history, see Lynn Reeve, *Lantzville: The First Hundred Years*, Lantzville Historical Society (2007). Some of the early history recounted here (especially regarding Robert Wiles and William Jack) is based on her book. That book discusses the Lantzville post office, but not the Independent post office.
2. Canada Census, 1901 and 1911.
3. Tracy Cooper, *British Columbia Post Office Revenues, 1871-1921*.
4. Annual Report of the Minister of Mines, 1926.
5. Annual Reports of the Postmaster General (1924-27).
6. Annual Report of the Minister of Mines, various years from 1928 and later.
7. See Reeve (2007), and the Library and Archives Canada post office database.

Postal History of the Powell River Region – Part 6

The Texada Island Offices – Part 6-B

By Morris Beattie

Part 6-A of the study of the Texada Island offices in issue #126, (June 2023) summarized the history of the Van Anda post office. In this article, we review the history of the other two Texada offices: Blubber Bay and Gillies Bay.

While there was significant logging, including the supply of lumber for houses being constructed at Powell River, and the development and operation of several metal mines in the area, the story of Blubber Bay and Gillies Bay ultimately became the story of limestone and derived lime products. Early in the development history, marble mining was undertaken at Sturt Bay (also known as Marble Bay) but the quality of the marble did not stand up to expectations.

Figure 1. Early view of lime works at Blubber Bay.

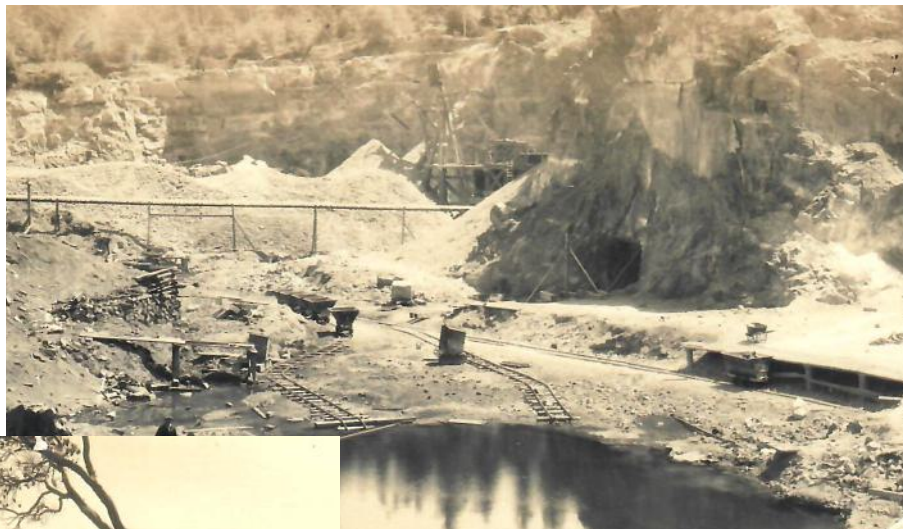


Figure 2. Early view of Pacific Lime facilities at Blubber Bay with ships being loaded.

Blubber Bay

The name of Blubber Bay derived from early whaling activities with whales being dragged onshore and their blubber being rendered into oil. The first kiln for lime production was established at Blubber Bay in 1887. By 1907, Pacific Lime Co. was formed and by 1910 had set up additional kilns at Blubber Bay for “burning” limestone to form lime which was then slaked to form quicklime for cement and concrete manufacture. Lime for cement production was supplied from the north end of Texada to Tod Inlet on Vancouver Island in 1929 when the local supply there dwindled. Lime was also supplied to San Francisco and various locations for agricultural uses as well as to Powell River for use in paper production.

Limestone production has been an ongoing economic driver on the island for over 100 years. In the early years it was supplied to the Granby Smelter at Anyox for smelting purposes; by 1916 limestone shipments to Anyox amounted to 3,000 tons per month.

The Blubber Bay post office opened on Dec 15, 1911. In 1909, Bill Young had a contract to carry the incoming mail from Van Anda to Blubber Bay twice a week. Various ships carried mail and supplies to Texada. As an example, the M.V. Chelohsin is known to have sailed the route from 1911 until 1949.

The postmaster position at Blubber Bay during the early years was very fluid with each postmaster lasting about one year (10 postmasters in 15 years) until 1926 when Bill Pughe assumed the position, which he then held until February 1948. Another noteworthy period was from April 1948 until February 1951 when Pacific Lime Company is listed as having been the postmaster. The postal markings recorded for the Blubber Bay office are summarized in Table 1, showing the periods of use that we have established to date. Readers are encouraged to submit any extensions of these dates. Examples of the hammer types are shown below and on the following pages.

Table 1. Postal Markings used at Blubber Bay.

Hammer Type	Features	ERD	LRD	Remarks
A	Split ring	19/02/1926	14/07/1977	Proofed 11/12/1911
B	Large letter CDS, 23mm Ø	27/04/1949	27/03/1969	Proofed 30/04/1948
C	Small letter CDS 23mm Ø	25/09/1968	15/07/2003	Proofed 1968
Mo1 (MOTO)	23mm box, comma after name, small letter BC	14/04/1939		Proofed 16/11/1937
Mo2	25mm box, no comma, larger BC			Proofed 06/08/1948
Mo3	25mm box, comma, larger BC	19/05/1952	05/11/1960	Proofed 15/09/1948
M	MOON 9066	15/11/1965	25/10/1971	Sagar type 10
P	POCON 640638	2003	1996	P&A style



Figure 3. Cover mailed at Blubber Bay Nov 4, 1931, to Vancouver, receiving Blubber Bay split-ring marking Type A.



Figure 4. Blubber Bay split-ring marking dated Dec 6, 1935, on piece.



Figure 5. Pacific Lime Company corner card mailed from Blubber Bay to Vancouver on April 11, 1945, receiving Blubber Bay split-ring cancel.

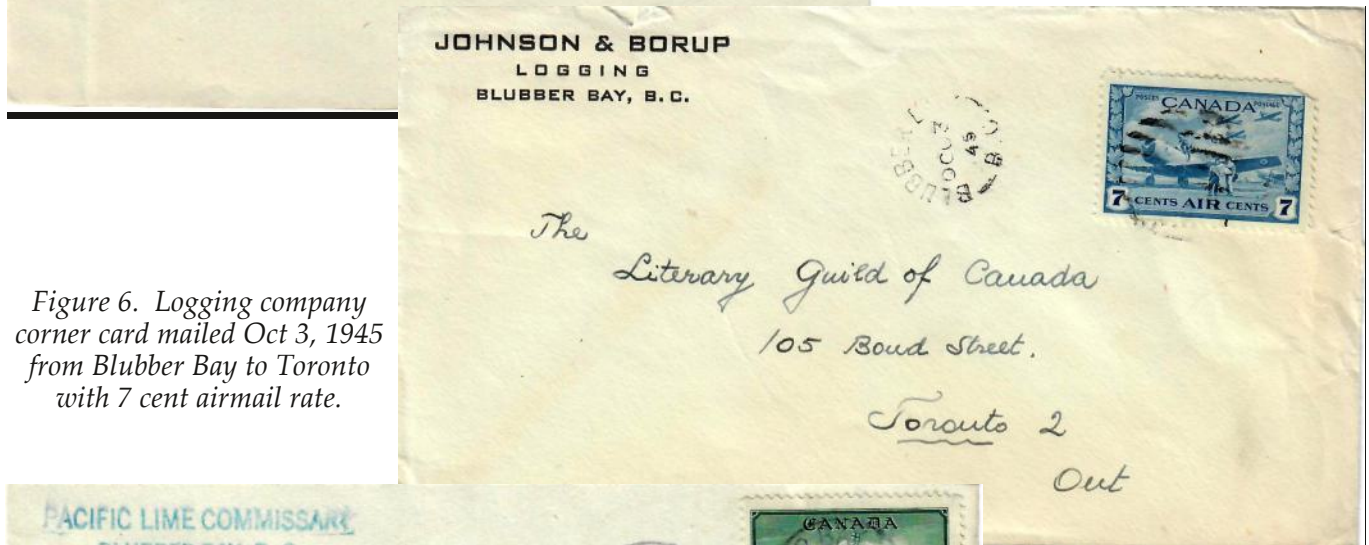


Figure 6. Logging company corner card mailed Oct 3, 1945 from Blubber Bay to Toronto with 7 cent airmail rate.

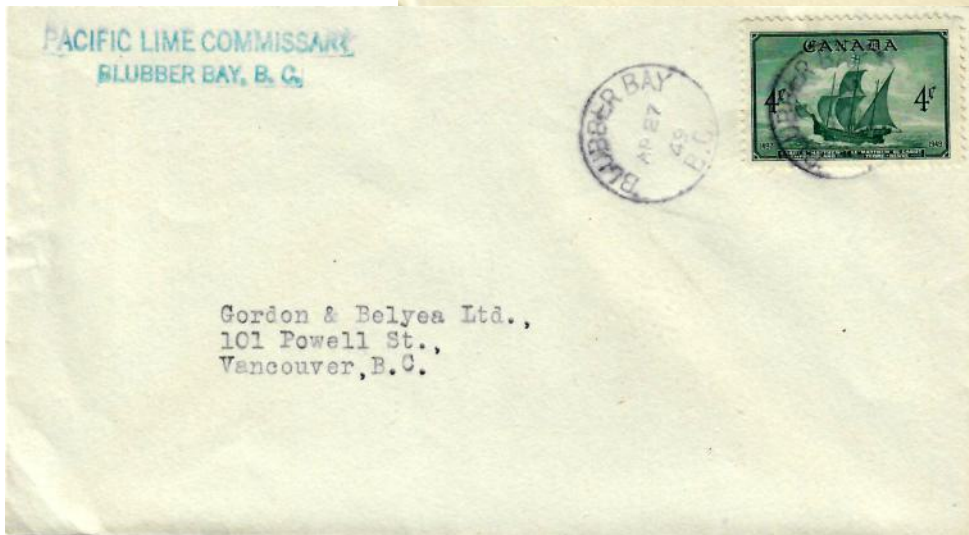


Figure 7. Cover from the Pacific Lime Commissary mailed to Vancouver April 27, 1949, receiving type B, large letter CDS. This cancel was proofed in 1948.

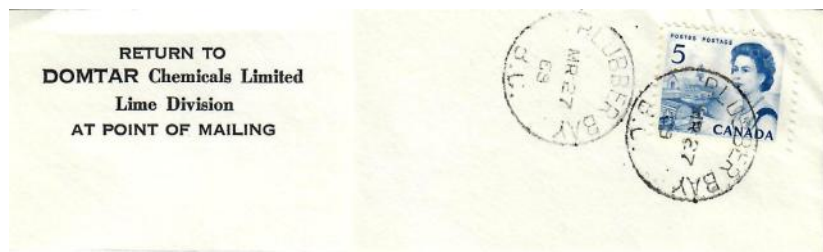


Figure 8. Two examples on-piece of large letter CDS, dated Jan 3, 1961 and Mar 27, 1968.

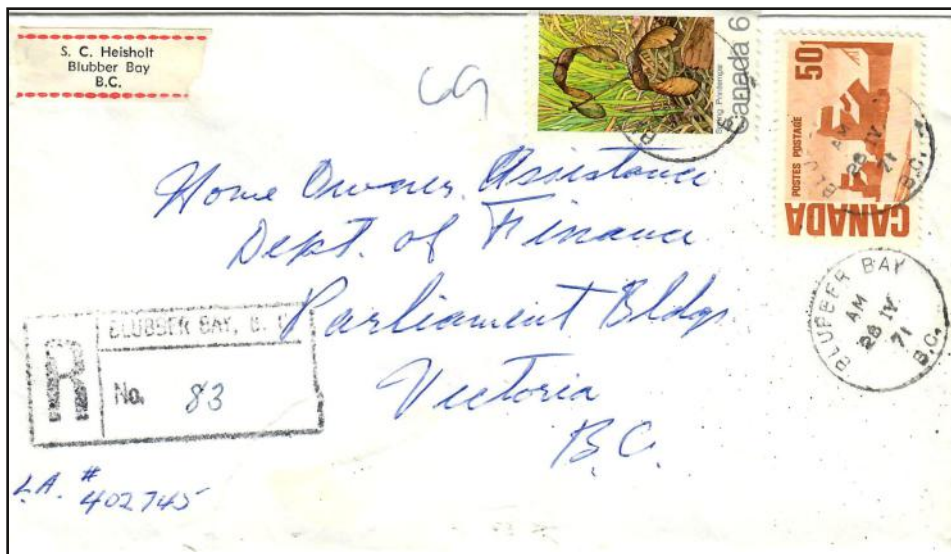


Figure 9. Small letter, Type C, CDS on registered cover to Victoria, dated Mar 28, 1971.

Figure 10. Type C marking on piece.

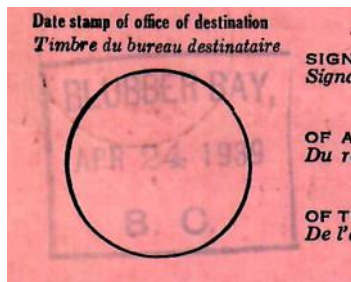
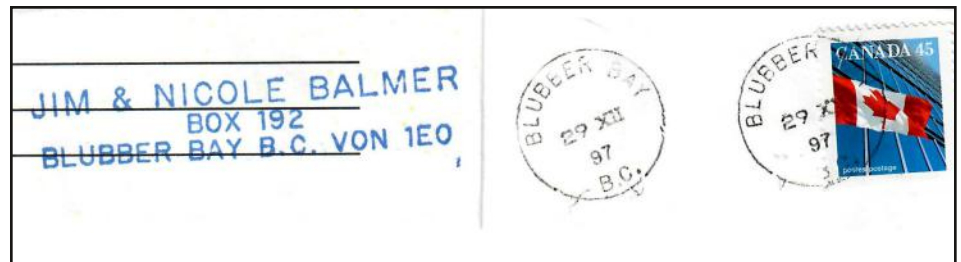


Figure 11. MOTO Type 1

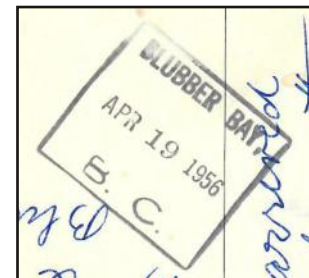


Figure 12. MOTO Type 3 markings used as receiver mark on post cards.



Figure 13. MOON

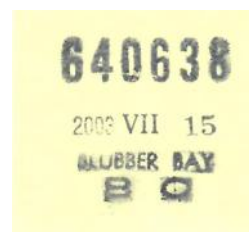


Figure 14. Blubber Bay POCON

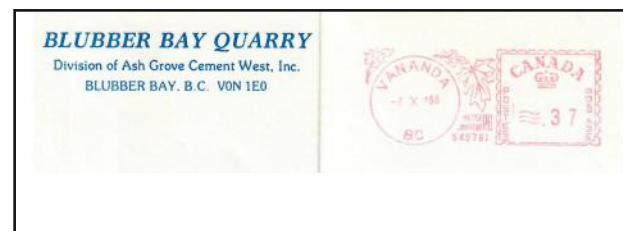


Figure 15. Machine cancel from Blubber Bay Quarry, mailed at Van Anda.

Gillies Bay

Metal mining continued on the west coast of Texada until 1976 when Texada Mines Ltd shut down their operations. Limestone is now extracted from the area surrounding the former mine. Ownership of the limestone operations has varied over the years and included Domtar, Lafarge and currently Texada Quarrying Ltd (TQL), the largest limestone producer on the West Coast.



Figure 16. Aerial view of the limestone quarry at Gillies Bay.

Although the earliest mining activity on Texada Island was near Gillies Bay, the post office here was the last office to open on the island on March 15, 1914, at which time a contract to move the mail from Gillies Bay to Van Anda was started. The revenues for the Gillies Bay office were very low (less than \$50 per year) during the early years and mail from this period is scarce. The post office reports for 1916 show postmaster McElroy being paid \$196.87 for the year to carry the mail from Gillies Bay to Van Anda twice per week. The earliest example of a cancel from this office, shown on-piece as Figure 17, that we have discovered is dated Dec 1, 1923. The office closed Sept 15, 1931, when mail delivery was handled by means of a rural route, and subsequently re-opened in 1964. Over the period from 1914 through 1931, the post office was at the farm of P.H. McElroy who served as postmaster throughout this period. The post office had several subsequent locations, moving to the Gillies Bay store, shown in Figure 17, in 1982.

Table 2. Postal Markings used at Gillies Bay.

Hammer Type	Features	ERD	LRD	Remarks
A1	Split-ring	1/12/1923	1/12/1923	Proofed 14/04/1914
C1	AM at top, year at bottom	1964	1991	Also, for 1926 on piece
C2	Year at top, AM at bottom	1985		
M	MOON 9279, type 10	08/07/1964	31/01/1973	
P1	POCON 642711, rectangular with postal code	10/10/1976	21/09/1991	P&A style
P2	No postal code, square	27/09/1985	07/08/1986	
P3	Postal code VON 1W0, square	20/09/1996	23/04/1998	
P4	As P3 but rectangular	15/07/2003	21/1/2005	



Figure 17. Photo of Gillies Bay General store with post office sign in lower right.

Examples of the various markings from Gillies Bay listed in Table 2 are shown below. On Dec 15, 2010, the Gillies Bay General Store was given number 103962. Two examples of these markings are also shown.

The Gillies Bay post office closed permanently on Dec. 21, 2023 and resident now collect their mail in community mailboxes located on Paton Road near the intersection of Gillies Bay Road.

<https://www.prpeak.com/in-the-community/post-office-on-texada-island-closes-permanently-8079280>



Figure 18. Gillies Bay split-ring cancel dated Dec 1, 1923 on-piece.



Figure 19. Type C1 cancel dated Feb 6, 1994 on piece .



Figure 21. Type C2 cancel on-piece.

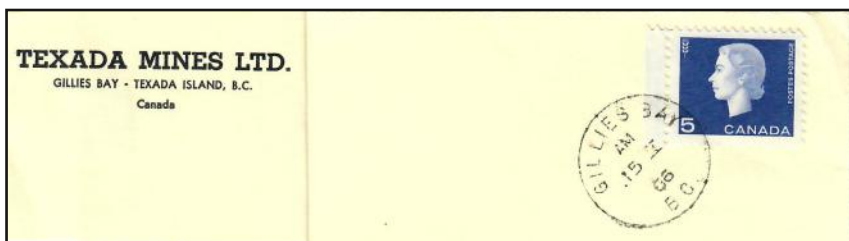


Figure 20. Type C1 cancels on-piece from Texada Mines Ltd dated Feb 15, 1966.

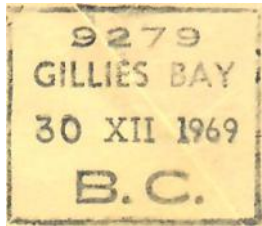


Figure 22. Gillies Bay
MOON cancel.

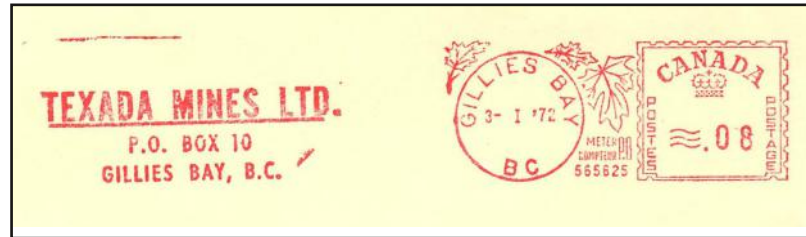


Figure 23. Machine cancel from
Texada Mines at Gillies Bay.

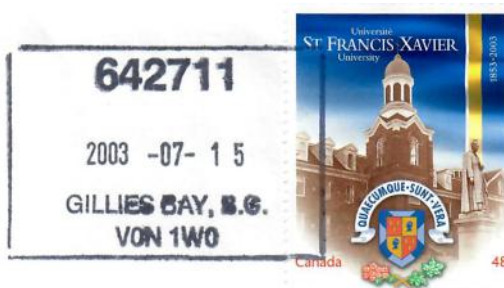


Figure 24. POCON P1.



Figure 24. POCON P2.

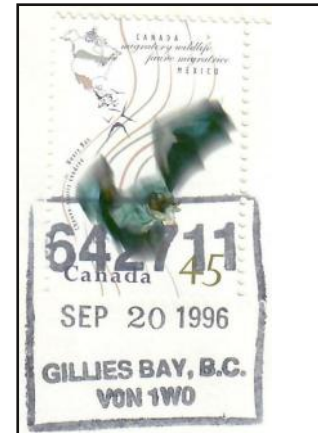


Figure 24. POCON P3.



Figure 27. Two markings showing post office number
103962.

