

# Synopsis

## The Way Mails of New Brunswick 1800-1880

This exhibit illustrates the expansion of postal services into some of the more remote areas of New Brunswick through a system of "Way Offices".

The PMG Reports of NB for the years 1843, 1856, 1861 and 1866 highlight this expansion:

1843	20 Post Offices		28 Way Offices
1856	38 Post Offices		208 Way Offices
1861	41 Post Offices	302	<del>274</del> Way Offices
1866	<del>48</del> Post Offices		<del>392</del> Way Offices
	43		392

The Canadian PMG Report of 1880 shows a total of 742 Post Offices and Way Offices in New Brunswick.

Settlement on the Upper Saint John River was strongly encouraged by the government. The winter mails from England landed in Halifax and all mails for Upper and Lower Canada passed through New Brunswick. Couriers leaving Fredericton carried 100lb loads on foot with little or no shelter until Temiscouata (now in Quebec). The War of 1812 and the Aroostock War, 1838-39 put mail routes at risk due to their proximity to the border with Maine. More settlers allowed a local militia to be formed, roads to be built and some shelter for the couriers. This influx of settlers needed postal service and this need was met with a series of Way Offices.

This exhibit also shows the Way Office Keepers and Mail Couriers (when known) at the time of the cover shown. Salaries and revenue are also shown for some small volume Way Offices.

Due to the low volume, covers to or from most Way Offices are scarce. The covers in this exhibit have been collected over a 25 year span and the latest new Way Office "find" was over a year ago. Over 90% of the covers shown illustrate Way Offices for which three or fewer examples are known with many being unique. This is the largest exhibit of Way Mail and Offices ever assembled.

Primary documents consulted by the exhibitor in the course of his research include:

- The complete PMG Reports of New Brunswick 1856-1866
- Canadian PMG Reports 1867-1895
- Quebec Gazette issues from 1764-1851
- Canadian Postal archives on-line resource
- Fonds MG 44B from the Canadian Postal Archives (approx 20,00 pages)
- NB House of Assembly minutes

Jephcott, Greene and Young (listing 408 Way Offices) and George McManus (listing 502 Way Offices) were also consulted. The exhibitor's research has expanded the list so that it now includes a total of just over 700 Way Offices of which I have examples of 43%. ~~AFTER OVER 25 YEARS OF~~  
DNCI COLLECTING

This exhibit is arranged by County, flowing roughly from West to East and North to South, with the Way Mail or Way Offices arranged generally by opening date from earliest to latest within each county.