



BNA TOPICS

Official Journal
of the
British North America
Philatelic Society

Volume 25, No. 5, Whole No. 266

May, 1968

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BNAPEX '68

25th ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION — OCTOBER 9-13, 1968

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NO COMPETITION — ONE 8-PAGE FRAME PER EXHIBIT IN THE CLASSES BELOW

PRE-CONFEDERATION SECTION

1. B.C. & Van. I.—Express Covers
2. B.C. & Van. I.—Stamps & Covers
3. New Brunswick—Express Mail
4. New Brunswick—Pence, Stamps & Covers
5. New Brunswick—Cents, Stamps & Covers
6. Newfoundland—Pence—Stamps & Covers
7. Newfoundland—Cents (19th Cent.)
8. Newfoundland—20th Cent.
9. Nova Scotia—Pence, Stamps & Covers
10. Nova Scotia—Cents, Stamps & Covers
11. Pr. Ed. Isl.—Pence—Stamps & Covers
12. Pr. Ed. Isl.—Cents—Stamps & Covers
13. Canada—3d. Beaver
14. Canada—6d. Consort
15. Canada—Other Pence
16. Canada—1c 1859
17. Canada—5c 1859
18. Canada—10c 1859
19. Canada—Other 1859

DOM. OF CANADA—POSTAGE SECTION

20. Large Queen—Num. Cancels
21. Large Queen
22. 3c Small Queen
23. Small Queen (other)
24. Small Queen Cancels
25. Widow Weeds
26. Essays of 1893
27. Diamond Jubilee
28. Leafs—Incl. 2c O/P
29. Numerals—Incl. 2c O/P
30. Map
31. King Edward—Regular
32. King Edward—Imperfs.
33. Quebec Tercentenary
34. Admirals—Regular
35. Admirals—Engine Turn Study
36. Admirals—Part Perfs. & Imperfs.
37. Admirals—Surcharges
38. Admirals—Study of the 50c Plates
39. War Tax
40. 1927-28 Commemoratives
41. 1928 Regular Issue
42. 1930-31 Regular Issue
43. 1932 Issues
44. 1933-34 Commem. Issues
45. 1935 Silver Jubilee
46. 1935 Regular Issue
47. 1937-39 Regular Issue
48. Royal Visit
49. War Issues
50. George VI—Post War
51. Queen Elizabeth
52. Special Delivery
53. Postage Due
54. Registration
55. Imperf. Tete-Beche Bklt. Panes
56. Early Booklets
57. Booklet Pane—Plate Nos.
58. Coil Issues—Provisionals
59. Coil Issues—Regular
60. Official Seals—Can. & Newfoundland

AIRMAIL SECTION

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62. C2 & C4
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66. S/O. Airs—PA & E
67. S/O Airs—Western
68. S/O. Airs—Commercial
69. S/O. Airs—Elliott & E. Fairchild
70. S/O. Airs—Other
71. Scadta
72. Newfoundland Airmails to 1933
73. Newfoundland Airmails 1933 on
74. Aerograms
75. "Courtesy" Mail

POSTAL STATIONERY SECTION

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77. Canada Envelopes
78. Canada Post Cards—UPU Cards
79. Canada R.R. Cards
80. Canada Padposts
81. Canada P.B. & Wrappers
82. Canada "Hechler"
83. Canada Reply (Double Cards)
84. Newfoundland—Cards & Reply Card
85. Newfoundland—Envelopes or P.B.

PROOF, ESSAYS & SPECIMENS

86. Newfoundland
87. N.B. & N.S.
88. Canada—Pence
89. Canada—1859's
90. Canada—Large Queen
91. Canada—Small Queen
92. Canada—Jubilee, Leaf & Numerals
93. Canada—Edwards, Que.
94. Canada—Admirals
95. Canada—Other 20th Cent.

OFFICIALS & PERFIN SECTION

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| 97. 4 Hole Officials | 99. "G" |
| 100. Other S/O Perfins | |

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102. Pre-Stamp—Ship Markings
103. Pre-Stamp—Misc.
104. 1851 and Later Stampless
105. Early Territorial Covers (pre-1905)
106. Yukon Territorial Covers
107. 19th Cent. Military Covers
108. 20th Cent. Military Covers
109. Advertising—5c Beavers
110. Advertising—Multicolored
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113. Patriotics—(U.S. used in Canada)
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115. "Interrupted" Mail

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119. Saskatchewan—1st & 2nd Printing
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131. Bill Stamps
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133. Supreme Court—"In Prize"
134. Inspection & Custom Duty
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136. War Savings & Thrift—Other
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138. Excise & Surcharges
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BNA TOPICS



OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

VOLUME 25 / NUMBER 5 / WHOLE NUMBER 266 / MAY, 1968

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Secretary's Report

April 1, 1968

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- 2349 Connell, W. Ford, M.D., 11 Arch Street, Kingston, Ontario
2350 McFarland, David T., Btry B, 2d Bn, 71st Arty, San Francisco, California 96207
2351 Paterson, J. L., M.D., Box 307, Edmonton, Alberta
2352 Reeve, Erle, 1300 Reaume Road, LaSalle, Ontario
2353 Relf, George, 8209-120th Street, North Surrey, British Columbia
2354 Veldhuis, Ben, 154 King Street East, Dundas, Ontario
2355 Whittaker, Jack, 250 Panet Road, St. Boniface 6, Manitoba
2356 Wright, J. George, 5188 Cliff Drive, Ladner, British Columbia
2357 Young, Charles W., 46 Highland Avenue, Belleville, Ontario
2358 Zelonka, Ron A., 84 Runnymede Road, Apt. 403, Kingston, Ontario

LIFE MEMBER

- L1768 GOODALL, Jack D., 13068-124 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta

APPLICATIONS PENDING

- Barnes, Hubert L., Box 348, Buchans, Newfoundland
Cunningham, G. J., 1137 Royal York Road, Apt. 109C, Islington, Ontario
Provost, Leon, Ste. A—441 Marion Street, St. Boniface 6, Manitoba
Thompson, Frank S., 261 Wentworth Street, Winnipeg 9, Manitoba
Webber, Gary E., 564 Rosehill Avenue, Nanaimo, British Columbia

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

(Objections must be filed with the Secretary within 15 days after month of publication)

- ARCHER, Douglas B., 3437—6th Street S.W., Calgary 6, Alta. (C-X) CAN, NFD. PROV—19th and 20th century mint and used postage. 1st Day covers. Plate Blocks. Coils. O.H.M.S.-G. Mint booklet panes. Mint Airmails and semi-officials. Postal Stationery entires. Constant plate varieties. Proposed by A. W. Stewart, No. 1087. Seconded by S. C. Nickle, No. L1727.
CHAPLIN, G. Eleanor, M.D., 65 Pepler Ave., Toronto 6, Ont. (C) CAN—Postal history of London. Proposed by C. M. Jephcott, No. 82. Seconded by V. G. Greene, No. L40.
DECKER, Alexander C., Brooklyn, Queens Co., N.S. (C) Proposed by A. R. Dixon, No. 2178.
JEPHCOTT, Mrs. Isobel, 323 Rosemary Rd., Toronto 10, Ontario (C) Proposed by V. G. Greene, No. L40. Seconded by H. W. Lussey, No. 167.
SHANE, Helen, 2607 S. Federal Hgy., Boynton Beach, Fla. 33435 (C) Proposed by G. Wegg, No. 308. Seconded by R. A. Chaplin, No. 1710.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

(Notice of change MUST be sent to the Secretary)

- 1213 Baulch, Bert L., 3065 Jaguar Valley Drive, Apt. 21, Mississauga, Ontario
1760 Lackner, Robert J., 18658 Parkland Drive, Shaker Heights, Ohio 44122
2027 Mozian, Gregory, 147 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036
1022 Porter, L. Tupper, P.O. Box 58, St. Andrew's East, Quebec

RESIGNATIONS RECEIVED

- 1440 Smythies, E. A., Castle Morris, Tralee, Ireland
2038 Thomason, Hugh M., 1353 State Street, Bowling Green, Ky. 42101

RESIGNATIONS ACCEPTED

- Ford, Kenneth S. Scheid, William T.
Matte, Raymond Ward, Murray J.

MAIL RETURNED

(Information to present address will be appreciated)

- L117 Nouss, Henry O., P.O. Box 219, Pompano Beach, Fla.
1999 Marshall, F. A., Ste 4—4070 Retallack, Regina, Sask.
1250 Umbreit, George M., No. 5 Larchwood Court, Newton, Iowa 50208

MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, March 1, 1968	1025	
NEW MEMBERS, April 1, 1968	10	1035
RESIGNATIONS, April 1, 1968		4
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, April 1, 1968		1031

OFFICIAL NOTICE
ELECTIONS
ARTICLE IV — OFFICERS

Section 3. ELECTIONS: A President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary shall be so elected by ballot biennially in the even-numbered years. Three (3) members to the Board of Governors shall be so elected each year for a term of three (3) years. All elected officers shall assume and perform the duties of their office on the first day of January in the year immediately following their election. All retiring officers shall continue in office until their successor shall have qualified and assumed the duties of the office.

Nominations for the offices to be elected may be filed with the Secretary by any Regional Group of the Society or by any five (5) members in good standing in time, at least, for publication in the issue of BNA TOPICS scheduled for release ninety (90) days before the opening of the Convention and Annual Meeting of such election year. At least one hundred fifty (150) days before the opening date of such election year Convention and Annual Meeting, the President shall appoint five (5) members of the Society to serve and function as a Nominating Committee whose prime purpose shall be to prepare and present a slate of candidates for the elective offices to be voted, which slate shall be published in the issue of BNA TOPICS scheduled for release one hundred and twenty (120) days before the opening date of the Convention and Annual Meeting of such election year. No member shall be so nominated unless he shall have first assented to his nomination to his proponent, and his proponent, in nominating him, shall state such assent has already been received. Each nomination made shall be published in BNA TOPICS at least ninety (90) days prior to the election date.

BNAPS
REGIONAL
GROUPS

Philadelphia—Meets the first Thursday of each month at 7934 Pickering Street, Philadelphia, Pa. *Temagami*—Meet every summer. Alfred P. Cook, Coy Glen Road, Ithaca, New York. *Vancouver*—1st three Wednesdays of each month at 8 p.m.; Dickinson Room, Stry Credit Union Bldg., 144 E. 7th Ave., Vancouver. *Winnipeg*—Meets on a Monday in each month to be decided upon at previous meeting. Harold Wilding, 135 Traill Ave., Winnipeg 12, Man. *Edmonton*—Meets twice a year in May and October in a public place, time and date to be announced. Out of town visitors to communicate with Secretary F. N. Harris, 11013-129 Street. *Twin City*—Meets at members' homes on second Thursday of each month. J. C. Cornelius, 2407 Lake Place, Minneapolis, Minn. *Calgary*—Meets second and fourth Tuesday at 8 p.m., Murray Devlin, 1030-12th Ave. S.W., Calgary, Alberta.

THE Editor's MAILBAG

706 POST OFFICES CLOSE

From Vancouver Sun, April 6, 1968
Submitted by A. G. Anderson, L997

OTTAWA (CP) — Rural post offices are being closed down by the hundreds across Canada both as an economy measure and as a means of giving better service.

Village and rural residents who once picked up their mail at private homes where such post offices were located are now served by couriers who not only bring the mail to the door but also sell stamps, pick up parcels and act as one-man post offices.

The post office department said Tuesday it has closed down 706 rural offices since September, 1965. Another 500 or so will sell their last stamp within the next few years.

The program has made the most headway in Quebec where 171 post offices have been closed. Ontario is next with 133.

Other closings to date: Newfoundland 31, Nova Scotia 82, New Brunswick 49, Prince Edward Island 9, Manitoba 37, Saskatchewan 73, Alberta 66, British Columbia 52, Northwest Territories 1, Yukon 2.

Most offices being closed are called revenue-producing post offices by Ottawa headquarters because they are graded and the postmasters' salaries depend upon the money they take in.

Revenue is computed by the number of stamps sold. In many cases this amounted to only a few dollars' worth yearly.

In all cases, the postmaster's salary is at least \$100 more than the revenue produced by his office.

Postmasters in such areas are appointed by authority of the minister. The change from postmasters to couriers wipes out a big field for political patronage.

Couriers are named after public tenders are called.

Dear sir:

I have recently come across a small queen surcharge which I have been unable to identify.

I have one copy each of a 1c, 2c and 3c small queen each surcharged C.F. The 1c is cancelled at Paris, squared circle D/JA/?/95, the 2c has an unreadable c.d.s. and the 3c has a Paris sq. circ. cancel D/?U 28/94.

Holmes list Manitoba Law stamps surcharged C.F. meaning Consolidated Revenue Fund, and C.F. was also used as a surcharge on Upper Canada Law stamps but in both cases before the sq. circ. period.

Can anyone report similar material or tell me what this is all about? One suggestion was that someone might have surcharged used stamps but examination with a very strong glass shows that the ink of the surcharge overlies the ink of the printed letters.

Sincerely,

R. M. DOULL, BNAPS No. 1899

THE POST OFFICE TO W. R. CURTIS

Dear sir:

Thank you for your letter of 10th March and your interest in First Day of Issue covers.

The following is the information you require:

1967	
11th January—5c Centennial	163,799
8th February—1c to \$1.00	353,802
28th April—5c Expo	179,242
24th May—5c Women's Franchise	78,400
30th June—5c Royal Visit	116,774
19th June—5c Pan Am Games	125,544
31st Aug.—5c 50th Anniversary of Canadian Press	83,578
15th Sept.—5c Gov. Gen. Vanier ..	90,287
28th Sept.—5c Centennial of Toronto	89,351
11th October—3c and 5c Christmas 1968	134,173
15th February—5c Gray Jay	100,400

Yours sincerely,

A. Mullen for M. Lysack
Director of Accounting

Dear sir:

Under the heading of THE EDITOR'S MAILBAG, I would appreciate your adding at your convenience, my "thank you's" to a few I have enumerated, who have assisted me in my procurement of BNA Topics and other material for disposal to the benefit of our Society.

I am naming a few who have gone out of their way to make my duties easier:

John H. M. Young, Jack Levine, Louis Armson, Fay Odell, John E. Young (Toronto), Bob Pratt, Joseph Meyer, F. W. L. Keane, Walter Chadbourne, James T. Culhane and Stewart S. Kenyon.

There have been many others who have assisted me with their extra copies of BNA Topics, and while their names have not been included, I appreciate their kindly thought just the same, since I am limited to space.

Sincerely,

C. Russell McNeil

£100,000 STAMP COLLECTION TO BE AUCTIONED BY GIBBONS

The world's finest collection of Newfoundland postage stamps, valued at \$100,000, is to be offered at a Stanley Gibbons Auction.

Formed by the late Sidney J. Harris, a wealthy Hampshire gentleman-farmer and well-known businessman, this famous collection has won Gold Medals at several international stamp exhibitions.

World-wide interest is anticipated when the sale takes place next autumn.

STAMPED ENVELOPES

Future supplies of 3c stamped envelopes will bear a precancelled postage stamp impression. Under the new selling prices which become effective on the 1st April, sales of 3c stamped envelopes are to be restricted to box lots of 500 envelopes. Unlike 4c and 5c envelopes, the 3c envelopes will not contain an inside printed design since they are used primarily for printed matter mailings.

THE "LOUISE BOYD DALE" COLLECTION

Appraisal and Sale by Harmers

Mr. Bernard D. Harmer, President of H. R. Harmer, Inc., of New York, the International Auctioneers, announced today that they have received instructions from the Executors of the Estate of the late Louise Boyd Dale, to appraise the philatelic property and to sell by unreserved auction those portions that are to be dispersed under the provisions of the Will.

Vast Collection

The extent of the property will not be fully known until the appraisal is concluded. It incorporates those sections that the late Alfred F. Lichtenstein assembled and bequeathed to his daughter in 1947, and the extensive specialized sections that Mrs. Dale brought together during her lifetime.

The combined studies of these two eminent philatelists form one of the largest and most valuable collections ever amassed—a collection probably unmatched in the World today.

Philatelists who have seen Mrs. Dale's exhibits at International Stamp Exhibitions will well recall some of the extraordinary pieces that were displayed.



World's Greatest Philatelic Item

Among so many spectacular gems the greatest is unquestionably the magnificent Mauritius cover bearing two superlative copies of the Post Office 1p orange, generally considered the World's greatest philatelic piece, and one which may be described as unique. Such an item today can well be worth \$150,000 to \$200,000.

Auction Plans

Asked to comment on what sections of

the collection were to be sold, Mr. Harmer stated that at the conclusion of the appraisal, an illustrated brochure would be distributed by Harmers detailing auction dates together with a report of the contents of the forthcoming sales. It is expected that the brochure will be issued around June and it is anticipated that the sales will commence in the early months of the 1968-1969 Season.

The Chairman of the Board wishes to thank the membership on behalf of Mrs. Isobel Jephcott for their sympathy and floral tribute for the late Clare Jephcott.

BNAPEX '68

Write to your Chairman

EDWARD A. RICHARDSON

114 Royal Drive, League City, Texas 77573

CHANGE OF ADDRESS — NOTICE TO PUBLISHER

All changes of address MUST be sent to the SECRETARY. Please do not send to any other officer of BNAPS. Sending the change to the Editor or Circulation Editor will cause delays.

JACK LEVINE • 511 Peyton St., Apt. C, Raleigh, N.C. 27610

Report from the Library

STEWART S. KENYON, 15205-74 Ave., Edmonton, Alberta

The response to our program of raising funds for binding of miscellaneous material in the Library has proved most encouraging. Mr. G. F. Hansen's donation of booklets of stamps to the Sales Circuit has so far provided the fund with \$29.00.

The cost of binding one book which is estimated at \$3.00 has been donated by the following: Mr. W. P. Taylor, Mr. G. S. Wegg, Dr. R. A. Chaplin, Mr. A. G. Anderson, Mr. E. A. Harris and Mr. A. McMillan. This brings our total to date to \$67.00 which is enabling us to arrange for the binding of 23 volumes. At the outset, we are concentrating on re-binding some books which are in such condition that we are unable to send them out to members. We are also binding the past several volumes of such periodicals as our own "B.N.A. Topics" and "Maple Leaves".

Our sincere thanks are extended to the above members for their generosity and it is hoped that many more members will follow their lead and send along the \$3.00 for one book-binding job.

Miscellaneous and odd items of interest that we have been in the habit of publishing in this column are being curtailed for a few months while we take up the space with the more important program of re-listing the many books, pamphlets and articles which are contained in the Library. It is our intention to list as much as possible each month until completed. Members will undoubtedly agree that this program will prove of great benefit to all and is of prime importance.

As your Librarian, I would like to say "thanks" for the many kind remarks in connection with the Library included with the requests for material. I hope it is realized that I do not have too much time for extra correspondence when I answer the requests but the remarks do not go unnoticed and I am pleased that my efforts are assisting other members with their hobby. Keep the requests coming in and I will do my best to send whatever you need. We have a fine Library—let's all make use of it and continue to build it up!

DONATIONS TO THE LIBRARY

- Mr. D. Amos
Canada Official Postal Guide—1936-7, 1944-5, 1947 (part I), 1952-3 (part I), 1955.
Saskatchewan Distribution List—1931
Manitoba and Sask. Distribution List—1935, 1939, 1941, 1943
Alberta, B.C. and Yukon Distribution List—1937
Ontario Distribution List—1937, 1945, 1949
3 copies—Schedule of Mail Trains and Water Services
Waghorn's Guide—1939, 1944
Ontario Place Guide—1951
Canadian Official Railway Guide—May 1946.
- Mr. C. Russell McNeil
Scott's Dollar B.N.A. Stamp Catalogue—1954 edition
Lyman's B.N.A. Retail Catalogue—1965 edition
Robert G. Lowe Price List—1952 edition
Supplement to Canada Official Postal Guide: August 1964
Canadian Official Railway Guide with Airlines—April 1963 edition
Robson Lowe Auction Catalogue (C. G. Kemp Sale—Feb. 7, 1968)
- Mr. M. B. Dicketts
Canada Edition of "Stamp Collecting Weekly"
- Mr. R. J. Woolley, Chairman,
BNAPS Handbook Committee
"A History of Canadian R.P.O.'s" by L. F. Gillam
- Mr. C. F. Black
45 copies—Canada Post Office New Issue Announcements
- Mr. Walter T. Day
2 Issues—B.N.A. Topics (volume No. 5)
- Dr. J. A. Folinsbee
5 Miscellaneous Catalogues
- Mr. Warren F. Haley
5 issues—"B.N.A. Topics"
2 issues—"Canadian Philatelist"
4 issues—"American Revenuer"
- Mr. H. Reiche
2 issues—"The Postmark"

LIST OF BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, ETC. IN BNAPS LIBRARY

Section C — Postal History Classification 1 — Canada

- F-24—Early Postal Relations Between Canada and the United States by R. A. Hedley, 4 p., ill., art.
- F-274—United States-Canada Early Trans-Border Postage Payments by G. C. Slawson, 1964, 2 p., ill., art.
- F-61—Notes on the Postal History of Canada by W. E. D. Halliday, 12 p., ill., pamph.
- B2-7—The History of the Post Office in British North America: 1639-1870 by W. Smith, 1920, 356 p., cloth.
- F-201—Canada's Postal Evolution Prior to 1851 by P. J. Hurst, 1950, 2 p., art.
- A1-10—Canada Postal History by F. W. Campbell, 1958, 165 p., ill., accro.
- F-237—Canada: Notes on Postal Rates 1897 to 1951 by F. W. L. Keane, 7 p., art.
- F-307—Old Covers in Public Archives by F. W. Campbell, 1956, 1 p., ill., art.
- F-307—Old Covers in Public Archives by F. W. Campbell, 1956, 1 p., ill., art.
- F-6—The Halifax Post Office, by C. B. Ferguson, 1958, 8 p., art.
- A1-21—The Postal History of the Yukon Territory by R. G. Woodall, 1964, 147 p., ill., paper.
- F-88—The Queenston Post Office—Upper Canada by P. C. Band, 4 p., art.
- C2-3—Bytown and Ottawa District Postal History by W. E. D. Halliday, 1957, 3 p., art.
- F-212—The Postal History of Red River, British North America by M. Campbell, 1951, 14 p., ill., art.
- A1-11—Post Offices 1876 to 1907 in Alberta, Assiniboia and Saskatchewan by F. W. Campbell, 1962, 20 p., ill., accro.
- A1-13—Canada Post Offices 1755-1895 by F. W. Campbell, 1958, 187 p., ill., accro.
- A1-12—Canada Postmark List to 1875 by F. W. Campbell, 1958, 80 p., ill., accro.
- F-35—The Post Offices of British Columbia by G. H. Melvin, 45 p., paper.
- C3-15—Place Names of Prince Edward Island with Meanings by Geographic Board of Canada, 1925, 55 p., paper.
- C3-16—Place Names of Manitoba, by Geographic Board of Canada, 1933, 95 p., paper.
- F-96—Northern Ontario Post Offices to 1895 by F. W. Campbell, 1948, 8 p., ill., art.
- F-306 — Canada's Northwest Territory Markings by F. W. Campbell, 1957, 2 p., ill., art.
- A1-14—Word Ends to 1895 by F. W. Campbell, 1958, 27 p., accro.
- C2-38—Place Names of Alberta by Geographical Board of Canada, 1928, 138 p., with map, paper.

Classification 2 — General

- F-176—Instruction to British Postmasters by J. M. Stevenson, 1950, 2 p., art.
- F-154—Postal History in Colonial Maryland by R. R. Tingley, 1950, 3 p., art.

Buffalo Chips

Editor: C. T. WALKER, BNAPS 1725, 14350 Ravine Drive, Edmonton, Alberta

BUFFALO CHIPS

This may be more "Chips" than "Buffalo" to a lot of us—but might also be of passing interest to some of us. Anyway, no one has sent in—or handed in—anything else.

It will be noticed that each of the heads on the Edmonton machine cancellers, as shown on the chart below, is slightly different in that though one of them has a complete outer circle, the other four has each a break in the circle and that the break is in a different place in the circle. The break is consistent in placement day by day and each break indicates a different machine. Despite enquiries at the Edmonton post of-

fice—and everyone there was most cooperative—no one was able to explain why the variances or to guess as to any significance thereto.

Incidentally, there are only four machines normally in use at Edmonton and one of the Post Office men actually drew impressions of the shown ones except that the one with the break to the south was missing. He explained that they had borrowed an extra machine for the Christmas rush and it had been returned before I had called to see them. That explains the five varieties that are shown. The maintenance men have an extra head for Edmonton in stock for use in case of damage to the other ones.

(Continued on page 131)

Fred Jarrett, R.D.P., F.R.P.S.L.

Honoured on 80th Birthday

Canada's Grand Old Man of Philately, Fred Jarrett, BNAPS No. 283 was honoured on his 80th birthday at a party given jointly by Editor John Young and Past President Vincent Greene on March 26th, 1968 at Keegunoo, the home of Mr. Young.

Forty-two of his personal friends, including philatelists, attended the presentation of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada medal given by the President, Harry Sutherland. Several distinguished guests came to the party such as members Dr. Henry D. Hicks, President of Dalhousie University, Halifax; Sam Nickle of Calgary; Charles P.

deVolpi of Montreal and Alfred Cook of Ithaca, New York.

Gifts were received from our former President Clarence Westhaver and from our Governor Robert Pratt, BNAPS and others.

Telegrams and cables were received from Gerry Wellburn, Robson Lowe, Mick Michael, Bill Lea and the Appleknockers Group in Ithaca and others.

Articles and pictures appeared in the Toronto Globe and Mail, The Telegram and Toronto Life. Stamps and other philatelic magazines picked up the story.



Jim Sissons (right) presenting gift to Fred Jarrett (second left). Vinnie Greene (left) John Young and Sam Nickle (centre) look on.

SUPPORT YOUR SOCIETY, PROPOSE A MEMBER

The British Posts in the Americas

By J. Grant Glassco, F.R.P.S.L., BNAPS No. 1127

An informal talk given by the Philatelic Specialists Society of Canada. Recorded by Douglas Patrick. Published in American Philatelic Congress Yearbook 1967. With permission.

The title "The British Posts in the Americas" is meant to embrace not only the postal history of the present British Possessions in America, but also the American Colonies before the War of Independence.

The term postal history, is to me a slightly ambiguous one. I think it has connotations that the historical aspect is of equal, or even greater importance than the philatelic one. The use of the term, insofar as it relates to collecting, denotes specimens bearing postal markings of one sort or another. Thus, an early letter may be full of historical interest, but without manuscript or handstruck postal markings, it is not to me a collectable item. This of course narrows down the field, as prior to about 1740 there were no postal markings in the Americas. We have, therefore, little more than 100 years in the collectable pre-adhesive period.

This period in Canada has several characteristics which distinguish it from the adhesive period. It is really quite a clear cut distinction which consists of the following: (1) throughout this period only, postal charges varied with the distance involved; (2) in Canada from 1765 to 1851 the sterling rates were unchanged, although the currency equivalents varied; (3) and the supreme authority throughout was the General Post Office in London. In fact, the handing over of control of the post to colonial governments in 1850 was settled policy of the G.P.O. In the West Indies, it was only the refusal of Jamaica to take over their posts that delayed the turning over of all the West Indian posts by about ten years. That incidentally, explains the use of Great Britain stamps in the West Indies between 1858 and 1860, when the transfer was finally effected.

When you look at the whole spectrum of collectable Canadian items you have first, under the British Post Office, a period running from 1763 to 1850, with the adhesives appearing coincident with the assumption of control by the Canadian Post Office in 1851, and with it the abandonment of the distance factor as a rating charge.

I propose to divide this manuscript into two sections, the first dealing with the activities of the British Post Office in the Americas in general, and, the second dealing more particularly with what we now call British North America.

The first record I think of any postal activity in the Americas is of the opening of a Post Office in Jamaica in 1671. I don't know how long it lasted but it seems to have disappeared. In the West Indies, as in continental North America, the Queen Anne Act of 1710 really ushered in the development of a real postal system.

From 1710 for about 40 years very little happened in North America. A number of post offices were opened but it was a slow development, and the American postal system did not really come alive until Benjamin Franklin was appointed Deputy Postmaster General for America in 1753. As you all know, he went on after the War of Independence to become the first Postmaster General of the United States. He had a long career and maintained throughout a very active interest in the development of the postal system under both flags.

Canadian postal history has its real starting point following the fall of Quebec. The Seven Years' War ended in 1763 with the Treaty of Paris, by which France ceded its possessions in Canada to Great Britain. That was the signal for Benjamin Franklin to extend his postal system, and in the same year the first post offices in Canada were opened at Quebec, Three Rivers, and Montreal. They were linked with the existing system at New York through an intermediate office at Albany.

It should be noted that in 1763 the post office in Halifax was already nine years old. This town had its own packet service as a port of call of the Falmouth-Boston packet; it had a garrison of British troops and a growing body of merchants; but it had no connection with New France. Its contact with the American colonies, as with Canada after the fall of Quebec, was by water.

In the American colonies in 1763, there existed a string of 41 post offices along the Atlantic seaboard, from Falmouth (now Portland, Maine) in the north, to Norfolk, Vir-

ginia, in the south. Shortly thereafter, this Atlantic line was extended south through Charleston, Savannah, and down to the English colonies in Florida. The system was cut in two with Charleston made the head of the southern postal district and New York the capital of the northern district. At the same time the South ceased to be dependent on the New York packet service to Europe. Up to 1765 all trans-Atlantic mail travelled by the Boston or New York packet and went overland up and down the coast, but the British in that year established a packet service to Charleston and another to the West Indies.



Illustration 1. A unique cover, St. Vincent to St. Augustine, East Florida. This is part of the Barrie correspondence between a surgeon serving with British forces in St. Vincent in their action against the Caribs. The cover bears the following transit markings: manuscript "Windward Islands"; single line "Jamaica"; the only recorded single line "Pensacola"; and a double line "Charles Town". The address includes the direction "per the way of Carolina or Georgia". There was no other way!

The courier service, which was the principal means of moving mail up and down the coast, was a very primitive sort of arrangement at first, and even by 1765 it was very slow, and the trip involved a good deal of hardship. Sparse settlement, tough terrain, hostile Indians and the absence of roads rendered the life of the courier a difficult one. When the courier service was extended south from Charleston to St. Augustine, it became even more difficult. The final British post office in Florida was of course Pensacola. This town lies right on the border of Alabama on the Gulf of Mexico. It is 1200 miles by sea from Charleston, and more than 600 miles overland from St. Augustine. No attempt appears to have been made to run a courier service between these English colonies.

It is interesting, and I think perhaps some of us forget, that the same Treaty of Paris which ceded French Canada to the British crown also ceded the French possessions in Florida, which then became the Provinces of East Florida and West Florida. St. Augustine and Pensacola were thus garrisoned by English troops and became a part of the North American system of the British Post Office. (See Illustration 1).

The subject of the rating of letters requires a few words of explanation. The basic rates were established in a very preliminary way by the 1710 Act, but an amendment in 1765 established the sterling rates which continued in force unchanged right down till 1850. What changed frequently however, were the currency equivalents of sterling. The earliest covers we know tend to be rated in troy and this seems to mystify many because it is written in an unfamiliar way. But troy is nothing but an absolute equivalent to sterling, at the rate of 3 pence per pennyweight. There are 24 grains to a pennyweight so that for each penny of postage the equivalent was eight grains. (See Illustration 2).

The question may be asked, why was troy measure used for rating mail? The answer lies in the fact that the local currency always stood at a discount from sterling. Thus the use of shillings and pence, unless marked either "sterling" or "currency" could be ambiguous and confusing, but by expressing the sterling rate in troy, no such confusion could occur. The currency equivalents of sterling were not only changed from time to time but, being the subject of local colonial ordinance, they varied from colony to colony. This renders extremely difficult the translation of rate markings, particularly as they finally came to be expressed in currency alone.



Illustration 2. A 1769 letter, Quebec to Montreal, rated 2 pennyweight, 16 grains, equal to 8d sterling or 11d currency.

While the first postal markings to appear were rate markings, it was not long before postmasters started to indicate also the point of origin of letters. The earliest of these markings

were in manuscript and consisted mainly of merely initials indicating the town e.g., "NP" for Newburyport. In Canada these manuscript initials were used not only by postmasters at point of origin, but were sometimes applied to covers handed to the couriers between post offices. In such cases the marking was applied by the postmaster at the first office the letter touched. An example of this is seen on a cover with a manuscript "R.O." (Riviere Ouelle, the point of origin) inscribed by the postmaster at Quebec, the destination.

Following these manuscript town markings, we have the first handstamps appearing from the larger offices—invariably straight line markings with, in some cases, abbreviations of the town name, e.g., "WmsBURG". (See Illustration 3).



Illustration 3. Cover from Williamsburg, Virginia, to Rhode Island, 1765, showing striking straight line "WmsBURG"; New York transit double line; and Bishop mark.

bishop marks appeared about the same time as did straight line town markings usually as transit or arrival marks. Known bishop marks used in North America are New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Albany, Charleston, Savannah, and Quebec, and some of these are extremely rare. (See Illustration). It is possible that still others may be identified. Much later, in the 19th century, appeared the crowned circles used in North America. These were uniform British markings used all over the world. They were really postage stamps and were the first marking to denote the payment of postage. They were used not only in British possessions but in British consular office and mail agencies in various foreign countries, notably South America.

In North America crowned circles have been found used from Quebec, St. Margaret's Bay (N.S.), Amherst (N.S.), St. John's (Nfld.) and New York, The Post Office book shows that they were also prepared for Charleston, Mobile, New Orleans, St. Michael's, Maryland, and Savannah, but no examples of their use have come to light.

The developments of the posts in Canada were, as previously noted, stimulated by the activities of Benjamin Franklin, but the deputy he appointed in Quebec in 1763, Hugh Finlay, also had a very great influence. Originally Finlay was responsible not only for Canada, but also the northern district of New York. Following the War of Independence, he continued as the senior officer in Canada of the British post office and his fruitful career came to an end in 1799 when he was found short in his accounts and dismissed.

Up until 1788 there was no real connection between the Canadian postal system and that which had developed independently in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Starting with the opening of the post office in Halifax in 1754, there were several self-styled and almost self-appointed postmasters in the early days of St. John, but Halifax seemed to

operate in a more regular fashion. In the year 1788, however, the General Post Office formally handed to Hugh Finlay the responsibility for postal services in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island. This coincided with the opening of the overland link between Canada and the Maritime colonies, which Finlay had promoted. (See Figure 5 on page 124.)

This situation continued until 1816 when the posts in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island were returned to the control of the postmaster in Halifax, who answered directly to

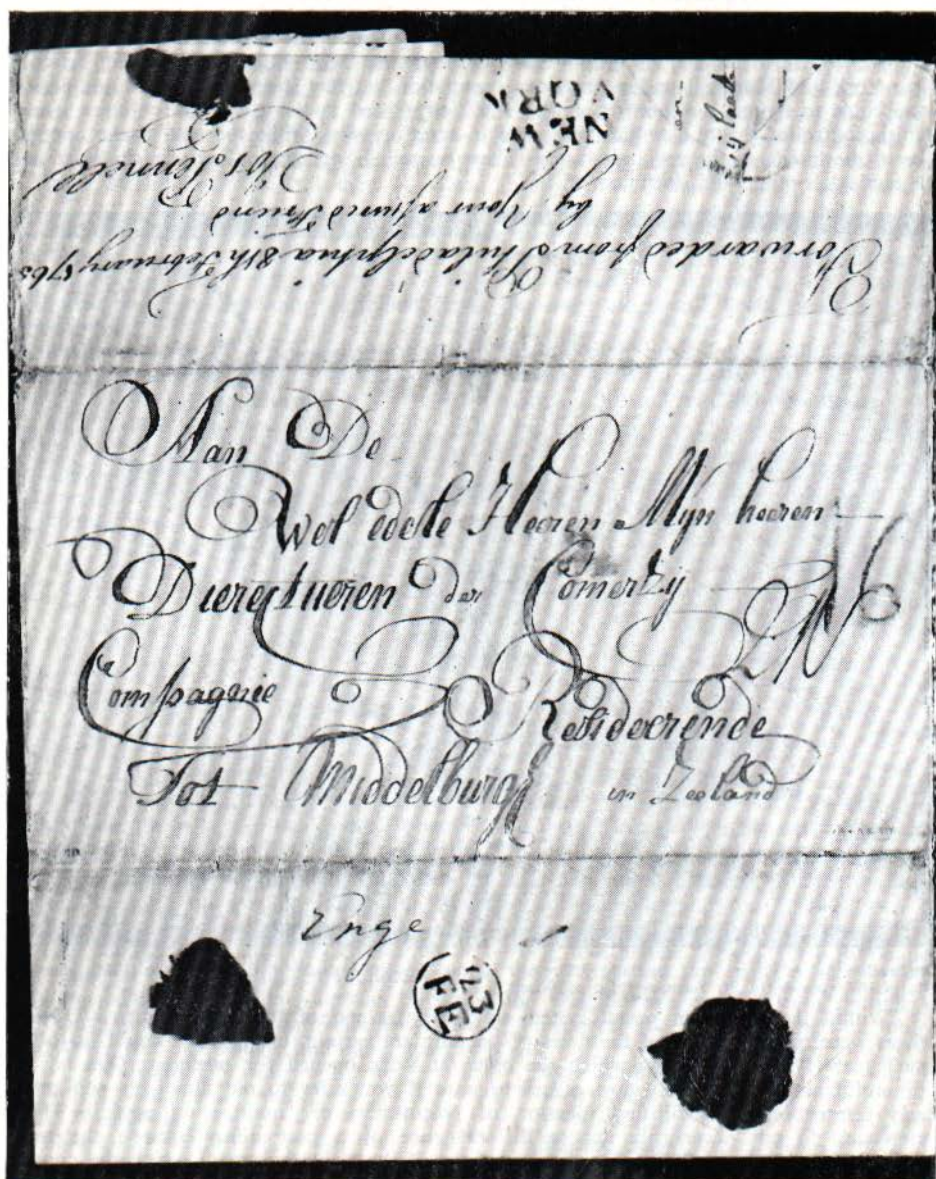


Illustration 4. A 1764 cover from Curacao to Middleburgh, Zeeland. Travelled by ship to Philadelphia where it received a manuscript forwarding endorsement. By courier it moved to New York, receiving a single line New York, and Bishop mark; thence overseas by New York—Falmouth packet.

London. The New Brunswick posts continued to be subject to Canadian control until 1828 in which year control of that system was transferred from the Canadian postmaster general to the Halifax postmaster. In this turnover, I suppose for reasons of convenience, control over the New Brunswick post offices in the upper end of the St. John River valley remained with Canada.

As may be imagined, the War of Independence had a very disrupting effect upon the posts in Canada. We sometimes forget that the Americans invaded Canada, occupied Montreal, and unsuccessfully laid siege to Quebec. In anticipation of the success of this invasion, the revolutionary authorities in New York established special inter-city rates between New York, Montreal, Three Rivers, and Quebec. These rates were theoretically in force from November 1775 to March 1776. Some mail must have moved between New York and Montreal under American occupation but few if any, covers of this period have come to light. A somewhat similar situation existed in the American colonies where British controlled postal activities continued in certain towns, while the rest of the country was in the hands of the revolutionaries. These so-called "occupation" covers do exist and the subject is quite well documented.

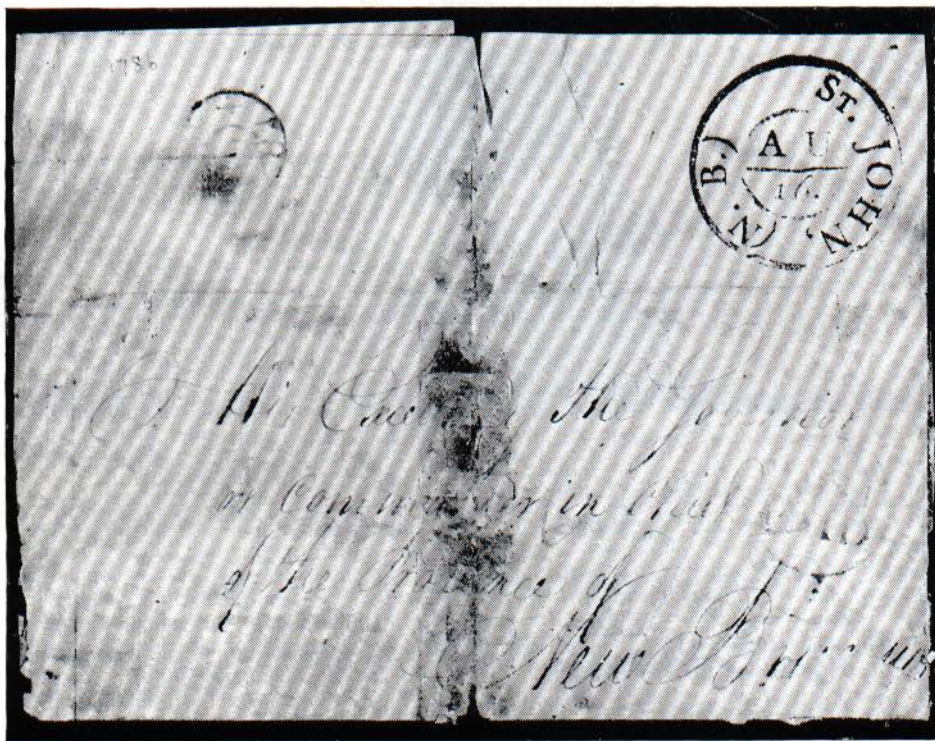


Illustration 5. A cover from England addressed to the Governor of New Brunswick in 1786, showing one of the very early St. John circular markings.

Within the Canadian postal system up until the end of the 18th century, 13 post offices were opened. Most of the dates of opening are certain, but there is doubt as to the exact year (1798 or 1799) in which the office at York opened for business. One has to be careful about these early post offices because if you refer to old almanacs and other early references, you will find mention of postmasters or "maitres de poste." These references do not necessarily denote the existence of a post office because the term applied, particularly in Quebec, to the proprietor of the stable or inn at which the courier changed horses. The so-called "postmaster" was under contract to provide fresh horses as required but had no responsibility whatever for the mails themselves.

The sequence of the opening of the real post offices is interesting. Following the

original offices opened at Quebec, Three Rivers, and Montreal in 1763, Berthier was opened in 1771, followed in about 1779 by a rather curious one at Baie de Chaleur. This town is now New Carlisle, half way down the east coast of the Gaspé Peninsula. Its original settlement was largely Scottish, including disbanded soldiers of Wolfe's regiments who had been given land grants following the battle of the Plains of Abraham. When this post office opened, it appears to have been served entirely by water, as there is no record of an overland connection between it and the courier service from Quebec, which left the St. Lawrence River at Rivière du Loup to cross the Madawaska portage into the head waters of the St. John River and on down to Fredericton.

Next came, between 1780 and 1789, the opening of offices along the route from Montreal, up the St. Lawrence and through Lake Ontario to Niagara and eventually to Detroit and Michilimackinac. The last two towns were very definite parts of the Canadian postal system. In fact it wasn't until 1796 that these two offices passed out of the control of the British post office. This route up the lakes to Michilimackinac was, of course, the only route to the west. Missionaries and fur-traders in the north-west received their mail through Michilimackinac and then by canoe through Lake Superior, over the Lake of the Woods portage, into Lake Winnipeg, and from there to the north and west.

I have already referred to the second principal route—the overland connection between Canada and the Maritime Provinces, which was established in 1788. The inauguration of this service, which was scouted by Finlay, was marked by extreme hardship. In the first instance it was, of course, a winter route, the water alternative being available in the summer.

I have not dealt in detail with the development of post offices in the Maritime Provinces. However, development in this area did proceed during the latter part of the 18th century, and by 1800 there were 10 post offices opened in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.*

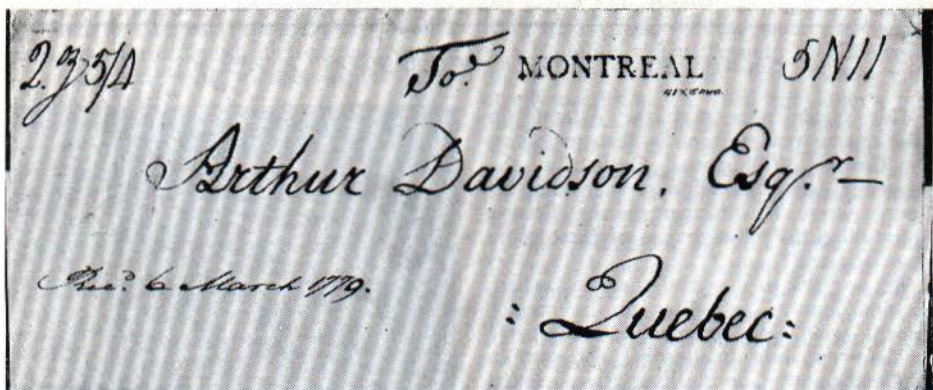


Illustration 6. A 1779 cover from Montreal to Quebec bearing a straight line "Montreal". The cover is rated 2 ounces, calling for 5/4 sterling shown at top left. The currency equivalent, 5/11 appears at top right.

Coming now to the question of Canadian rates and rating practices, I have prepared a table showing the sterling rates and their currency equivalents in six different periods between 1765 and 1850. Without an exact knowledge of the dates and dimensions of the various changes in the currency equivalent of sterling, it is almost impossible to rationalize the rating of covers during the stampless period.

The rate markings on Canadian covers in the 18th century were in troy, sterling or currency, or in various combinations of them. In general the marking practices follow the table given hereunder, but there are exceptions.

Period	Rate Markings in
1765-1771	Troy alone
1771-March 1774	Troy and currency
March 1774-April 1777	Sterling only
April to November 1777	Currency only
Nov. 1777 to June 1781	Currency and Sterling
After June 1781	Currency only

*See *The Postal History of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, 1754-1867* by Jephcott, Greene and Young.

As I have indicated, the rates (constant in sterling but varying in currency equivalent), throughout the pre-adhesive period were based on distance and applied to a "single" letter, meaning at first, a single sheet of paper, and later, from 1844 on, a letter weighing not more than one half ounce. These "single" rates were subject to multiplication for more sheets or more weight, as follows:

Sheet Basis 1763-1843

Single sheet of paper	.....	Single or basic rate
Two sheets	.....	Two rates
Three sheets	.....	Three rates
Four sheets	.....	Four rates
Letter weighing an ounce	.....	Four rates

Note: Enclosures counted as sheets.

See Illustration 6.

Weight Basis 1844-1850

Weighing not over ½ oz.	.....	Single rate
Between ½ oz. and 1 oz.	.....	Two rates
Between 1 oz. and 2 ozs.	.....	Four rates
Between 2 ozs. and 3 ozs.	.....	Six rates
Between 3 ozs. and 4 ozs.	.....	Eight rates
Each additional oz. or fraction thereof	.....	Two rates

In conclusion, I should like to acknowledge my indebtedness to the authors of "The Postal History of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick". Their work is a real contribution to the study of the early posts and it is to be hoped that we may before long have an equally authoritative and attractive publication dealing with the development of the posts in the colony of Canada.

More Sketches of BNAPSers

DR. ROBERT V. C. CARR, 117 Robin Hood Way, Sherwood Forest, Youngstown, Ohio

No. 118 SIR GEORGE A. WILLIAMSON BNAPS 1072

This sketch goes over the Atlantic to meet one of our eminent Scottish members, Sir George Williamson. Ordinarily, the member's age is passed over but when Sir George wrote, he informed me that he was "—reaching the allotted span of three score years and ten".

We go back to the "Kaiser's War" where we find him as an officer in the regular Indian Army. An unfortunate motorcycle accident put him in hospital for over a year and he went on inactive service. From the service, Sir George went to the University of Aberdeen and having graduated from there in law, he went into the family law firm. He has been managing investment trusts ever since and with a combination of public and political services to his country, was granted a knighthood in the Coronation Honors List in 1953. Sir George did not inform your writer of his "public services" but one would imagine they were extensive to have received this great honor.

As to the matter of his stamp collecting, this has been a lifetime hobby. He started in India as a boy but became an ardent and serious collector after World War II. This came about by encouraging two young daughters to collect but he was the one who really got the bad bite!



He still has his collection of British penny blacks and the first issue 2d blues but now is confined to BNA material. His interests are scattered but he has made a serious
(Continued on page 132)

York and Toronto Postal Affairs, 1809 - 1879

by Max Rosenthal

Until William Allan, a leading merchant of York, became postmaster in 1807, no canceller seems to have been used there. In the Solomon Jones Papers, Ontario Archives, is a letter from W. Halton, Secretary to the Lieutenant-Governor, sent to Jonathon Jones, Johnstown District, as February 4, 1809, postmarked with a straight line YORK, with FEB 8 09

There is a letter from Allan in the Crown Lands Papers on postal business. On June 17, 1817 he wrote to Surveyor-General Thomas Ridout: "Previous to making up my quarterly accounts for the General Post Office, I have to request will you inform me whether I am now to receive payment for the postage account due from your office since 21 January, and which was enclosed in my last quarter's account and remittance by mail to General Post Office. If not, I must take credit for it, and account for by so doing, according to the Deputy Postmaster-General."

A letter from the Reverend John Strachan to John Macaulay, Kingston, is postmarked with a straight line YORK, APR 8 19. Sometimes the postmark was written in by hand, as in many other post offices. A letter written by Surveyor-General Ridout to Joel Stone, Gananoque, on October 10, 1828, has the manuscript postmark "York, U.C., Oct. 16, 1828." It is in red.

That year James Scott Howard succeeded Allan as postmaster of York. Howard had come to Canada in 1819. He seems to have been appointed to Allan's post office staff shortly after his arrival in York. In 1828 he became postmaster.

In the Macaulay Papers, Ontario Archives, are letters sent to John Macaulay, postmaster of Kingston, from York which bear the various postmarks used there. A letter from William Allan, sent on January 1, 1829, still has the straight line YORK, with JAN and "1" written after. The year was omitted. A letter from G. H. Markland, sent March 23, 1829, already is cancelled with a double circle enclosing YORK, U.C., in italic letters, with the date set in type within. It is in a red color. A letter from Allan sent February 8, 1830, is the latest example of this postmark, but it is in black.

A letter sent by Allan on May 17 is cancelled with a marking used only in the few larger post offices, a single circle enclosing YORK, UP-CAN, with the date set in equally large type. It always appears in red.

In March 1834 the Town of York became incorporated as the City of Toronto. It took a few months for a new postmaster to be provided. The latest example of the old single circle York postmark is on a letter from Robert Stanton, sent August 26, 1834. The year was never indicated on this type of marking. A letter written by Stanton on September 4 is postmarked with a very large double circle enclosing CITY OF TORONTO, U.C., with SE 6, 1834 in equally large type within. It is in red, but most later examples are in black.

It was necessary to distinguish it as the City of Toronto, because there was already a post office called Toronto at Cooksville, in Toronto Township, Peel County. To avoid confusion, in 1836 the latter's post office name was changed to Cooksville. According to Frank Campbell, the old York canceller was shipped to a new post office in the village of York. It is on the Grand River, near Caledonia.

The postmaster at York acted for the Deputy Postmaster General in controlling appointments and affairs of the smaller post offices around Toronto. On September 18, 1837 postmaster Howard wrote to Surveyor-General J. Macaulay:

"Having entertained some doubts as to the propriety of expending the postage on the letter to Beverly, and in keeping with your note of the 15th inst., I referred it to Mr. Berczy, and as he takes a similar view with yours (though he thinks I was correct in sending it to the post office), I now credit your account 11d and shall send despatch the letter in question to Sheffield P.O. in the western Beverly."

Charles Berczy was the Postal Inspector for the Western District.

The first mayor of the new city of Toronto had been William Lyon Mackenzie. Towards the end of 1837 postmaster Howard was suspected of being in sympathy with Mackenzie's attempt to overthrow the government, undoubtedly unjustly, and he was removed by Lieutenant-Governor Sir

Francis Bond Head from his position.

The postmastership of Toronto was given to Charles Berczy. The latest example of the extra large City of Toronto postmark in the Street Papers, Ontario Archives, appears on a letter sent by John Cameron April 13, 1842 to Samuel Street, Niagara Falls. A letter sent by Smith and Crooks on August 30, 1842 to Street is postmarked with the medium-sized double circle, broken by Toronto, U.C., which was used at many post offices in that decade. In the Baldwin Papers, Toronto Reference Library, is a letter to Robert Baldwin written by Berczy on November 25 1850 about mailing to Grenada, in the British West Indies:

"On receipt of your note of 22nd inst.—I again wrote to the postmaster of Lewiston and now enclose you his answer—as regards the first route he remitted by, I do not advise sending by it, the latter via Cuba appears to be the one by which you will send and obtain your correspondence the more promptly. I particularly mentioned that it was to the Island of Grenada you wish to write—but he does not mention it in his note. I suppose from their nearness that all the islands are served by the banana boats."

Berczy was postmaster of Toronto until 1852. On January 21 of that year Postmaster-General James Morris wrote from Quebec to Joseph Lesslie, Toronto: "I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 12th inst. applying for the postmastership of Toronto, and in answer beg to say that I will not fail, at the proper time, to lay your application before His Excellency the Governor-General in council."

Lesslie had already held other public appointments, such as Commissioner of Roads, so he was well known in political circles. On April 16, 1852 Morris sent him the official form appointing Lesslie postmaster of Toronto. This, and the letters quoted here, are to be found in the Lesslie Papers, Toronto Reference Library. Lesslie replied on April 27:

"I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 16th inst. informing me that His Excellency the Governor-General has been pleased to appoint me Deputy Postmaster of Toronto, and requesting me to furnish you with the names, professions and places of abode of two or more responsible persons as my sureties to be bound with me in the sum of 3,000 pounds currency for the faithful discharge of my duty.

"In compliance with your request, I beg to inform you, that William McMaster of the city of Toronto, merchant—David Paterson of the city of Toronto, merchant—and James Lesslie of the city of Toronto, merchant, have kindly consented to act as my sureties and will be prepared to execute the necessary bonds when received.

"I beg also to inform you that I will commence my attendance at the office tomorrow (Wednesday) and I will be prepared to receive the transfer of the office as the 6th May next ensuing, as in your letter.

"Trusting that I shall prove myself worthy of the confidence of the Government and give satisfaction to the public in the situation assigned to me" was Lesslie's conclusion to the letter.

Lesslie was to hold the post for over a quarter of a century, a period of great expansion in postal business and the number of post offices. On February 11, 1879, the Toronto Globe, a Liberal newspaper and critic of Sir John A. MacDonald's Conservative government editorialized:

"People are speculating as to who is likely to succeed Mr. Lesslie in the Toronto postmastership. It would be far more pertinent to enquire the reason of Mr. Lesslie's superannuation. That he has been superannuated to make a place for some friend of the Government seems on all sides to be taken for granted. We pointed out some time ago, when rumors of Mr. Lesslie's superannuation were in the air, that Sir John MacDonald's weak point had always been that he was too ready to do questionable things to please his friends. This opening of the Toronto postmastership seems to be another instance of the same old weakness. It is admitted on all hands that Mr. Lesslie has been a most efficient postmaster. No one has a complaint to make against him. He has managed the affairs of his office well and faithfully for a great many years, and there is nothing to indicate that he is not competent to manage them quite as faithfully and quite as efficiently now as at any time. Yet he has been removed. On the face of it, his removal looks very much like a job. If a politician be put in his place it will furnish the best indirect proof that Mr. Lesslie was pushed out to make way for him. This may be all very well so far as the Government and its friends are concerned, but it will not meet with the approval of fair-minded people. Besides the moral question, there is a financial

(Continued on page 132)

Thriving Communities Left Ghost Villages By Western Ontario's Rural - to - Urban Shift

By Stan Shantz, The Free Press

Every 10 years, census figures emphasize that Canada's population is flocking from rural townships to cities and towns. Communities once thriving and bustling have stagnated into placid backwaters or disappeared entirely.

Middlesex County is no exception, and the record of changing post office facilities provides proof of the rural-to-urban shift. At one time more than 125 post offices in London.

Even at Confederation, Middlesex had nearly twice as many as are now in operation. One started serving the public that very date. It was at Mount Carmel on the Middlesex-Huron town line and when it opened its name was Cranford, a name abandoned seven months later in favor of a less euphonious designation, Offa. It was not until 1889 that Mount Carmel was adopted.

Mount Carmel, nee Offa, nee Cranford, hasn't disappeared, even though it has dwindled in size as have most Middlesex rural centres.

Perhaps a community's name has nothing to do with its survival but it seems feminine names have been a jinx for Middlesex villages. Four carried such names, Katesville, Adelaide, Evelyn and Rebecca. All have long since lost the bloom of girlhood.

Katesville was first to succumb. This village, on Concession 1, Metcalfe Township, west of Strathroy, has disappeared into the rural landscape. It was established during the first flush of immigration to the area in the 1830s. Its post office was opened in 1837. It had its own church. The community predated Strathroy and for years was an area trading centre. But coming of the railway which passed through Strathroy doomed Katesville. By 1857 its population had dropped to 150 while Strathroy had grown to 400. By 1869 it had declined to such an extent its post office was closed.

Today tobacco kilns occupy the former church yard. One house at the river's edge is all that remains. A small furniture and woodworking shop started in recent years under the name Katesville Woodworking Co. is the only readily recognized indication of the location.

Adelaide remains with its township hall and old churches dating back to the days when it was a bustling community. Its post office was set up in 1832, with only Delaware and London acquiring post offices earlier. Wardsville, then known as Mosa, received its post office the same year.

As late as 1898 Adelaide's population totalled 100. At that time it had a hotel, blacksmith shop, general store, grocery, sawmill and grist mill. Today the blacksmith shop has been replaced with a service station-garage-lunch counter. The other business establishments are gone but in their place there is a builder's office.

At the other side of the county, Evelyn and Rebecca, in old phraseology, are doing poorly. In 1867 Evelyn was still enjoying the thrill of having become a post office point, the office having been opened March 1, 1867 with George Henshaw as postmaster. Mail arrived six times weekly, and in 1884 Henry Bray was paid \$335.80 a year to make the 13-mile trip and return to London every day. The post office wasn't paying its way. Total revenue from sale of stamps was \$87.14 and the postmaster's salary was \$49.50 a year. The cost of transporting the mail from London to the village produced a generous entry on the red side of the ledger.

But the deficit didn't apply to the other businesses in the thriving community. In 1894, when its population was 50 it had a sawmill, brickyard, two general stores, a cheese factory and two blacksmith shops. Today there is nothing commercial at the location, Concession 6, West Nissouri, and the sideroad between lots 5 and 6. A church and one residence are all that give this ghost village any substance.

Rebecca, at the same lot line location on Concession 2, the edge of London Airport, is equally feeble. In 1894 its business life was represented by a sawmill, general store, butcher shop, mason contractor, hotel and cheese factory. Even as late as 1898 three of the businesses were still in operation.

It was set up as a post office point Nov. 1, 1881, with John Henderson, general store operator, as postmaster. His salary was \$10 a year and his sale of stamps totalled only \$38.37 in 1884.

Evelyn and Rebecca post offices were closed in 1914 when rural mail delivery spread across the country. It was this development in post office service which sounded the death knell of more than 90 post offices in operation at that time.

Closing of the post office was a factor in the decline of the rural hamlets prior to the First World War. With post offices closed, daily or semi-weekly visits to the general store which usually housed the post office discontinued and the storekeeper's revenue started to drop. Coming of the automobile hastened the decline with post-Second World War development of groceries and shopping centres providing the coup de grace for the country store.

Passing of the rural post office and country store brought a change in rural life. These places had been gathering points for residents of an area on days when mail arrived. There was time to exchange family news and gossip around the old pot-bellied stove while waiting for the mail courier.

Amiens has disappeared from the Middlesex scene. Even in its heyday it was an elusive place. Maps of various periods show five different locations.

It was established as a post office in 1837. One map shows it at Concession 9 of Lobo and the Lobo-Adelaide townline. An 1862 map locates it at the 10th of Lobo and the Sarnia gravel road (now Highway 22). Another shows it at Concession of Lobo and the Adelaide-Lobo townline. A map published in 1882 locates it at present day Hickory Corners. When it was closed in 1913 the post office was well within Adelaide Township on present Highway 22 at its intersection with the township road between Lots 27 and 28.

In 1894 its population was 40. In 1884 its post office stamp sales totalled \$19.07 and the postmaster was paid \$10 a year. Mail was carried to it three times weekly from Lobo, with J. W. Edwards making the 12½ mile trip for a wage of \$150 a year.

Only readily-recognizable remains of another ghost village is a sign on a barn on Highway 4, north of Clandeboye. It reads "Adare." A church on the opposite side of the highway is all that remains. Its post office was opened June 1, 1854, under the name Biddulph and this was changed to Adare in 1857. It was closed Dec. 1887. In 1884 stamp sales amounted to \$32.81 while the postmaster's salary was \$16.

Elginfield, well known today as the junc-

tion point for Highways 4 and 7, was a busy village even before Confederation. In 1857 it received daily mail service. Its population was listed as 50. Three stores were in operation, plus a tavernkeeper, tailor, shoemaker, two blacksmiths. Two clergymen were residents. By 1894 it had grown to 150.

Elginfield seems to have declined seriously between 1894 and 1898 as a listing in that year has its population as only 25 with business enterprises reduced to a brickyard, sawmill, hotel and general store.

Its post office which opened in 1849 with William Franks as postmaster, was closed March 1, 1914.

At the extreme west corner of Middlesex, Cashmere was a business centre of some importance. Its post office was opened in 1847 with Edward N. Heal as postmaster. In 1884 stamp sales amounted to \$77.44 with the postmaster drawing a salary of \$34. In 1894 its population was 50. It was located south of present Highway 2 just east of the Kent-Middlesex boundary. Virtually nothing remains. It still has a general store and church yard, with several homes adjoining. But in 1894 when its population totalled 100 it had a general store, blacksmith shop, veterinarian's office and sawmill. Its post office was opened in 1864 with William Macklin as postmaster. Closing came Nov. 30, 1913.

Moray, three miles north of Parkhill where Highway 81 intersects a county road, has nothing left to indicate it was ever a village, yet in 1894 it had a population of 100. By 1898 population had dropped to 20. It continued as a post office point until Nov. 30, 1913. The post office had been opened in 1864.

So the story goes. Falkirk, post office name for the village of Carlisle is another example of decline after boom. At one time Carlisle and its neighboring village of Siddalsville, near where East Williams, Lobo and London Townships abut, had a population estimated at 1,000. Its post office was in operation from 1854 until May 1, 1914.

Springbank which has never had any link with London's Springbank Park, was a thriving community in East Williams Township. Only two buildings remain, the former general store, now used as a residence and the vacant public school. Its post office was in operation from 1864 to 1941.

Vanneck was once a busy little village at the intersection of the present county road from Ilderton to Coldstream and the Lobo-London townline. In 1894 it boasted

two builders, shoemaker, apiarist, blacksmith shop and general store. Its population was 200. Its post office did not arrive until 1870 and it was closed in 1941. J. W. Robson was the one and only postmaster to serve the community.

Kilmartin on the townline between Ekfrid and Mosa Townships has only a large church to show for its former village status, although it had a post office operating from 1861 until 1911.

St. Ives post office in West Nissouri served the community from 1857 until 1912 and in 1894 had a listed population of 100.

Strathburn on Highway 2, south of Glencoe had a flour mill, three brickyards, general store, hotel and population of 50 in 1894. Its post office operated from 1852 until 1913. Today it is only a highway intersection with a service station.

Sylvan on Highway 7 in West Williams Township had a postmaster, Robert Burns, when it opened in 1854. In 1894, the village had a population of 80 with a general store and two blacksmith shops. Today it has a combination store and service station.

Telfer is the name of a London Township ghost. It is shown as having a population of 120 in 1894 with a general store, blacksmith shop and "general agent". Its post office operated from 1857 until June 30, 1913. It was located west of the Denfield sideroad on Concession 8.

Some villages like Bryanston, Birr, Denfield, Lobo, Nairn, Putnam, Tempo and Kilworth have shown indications of doing a comeback as dormitory communities for London's industrial expansion.

Outside of Middlesex the story is the same. Elgin once bristled with little villages. There was Crinan, Cowal, Payne's Mills, West Magdala, Calton, Mount Salem, Lyons, Corinth and others. Lambton had Wisbeach, Jura, Birram, Errol, Aberarder, Cairo, Ossian and Sykeston. In Huron familiar names were Harpley, Shipka, Elimville, Farquhar, Blake, Constance and Cran-

brook. Old maps still show their location but it's hard to recognize them physically.

Oxford had Pasadena, Bennington, Braemer, Golspie, Foldens, Verschoyle and Banner to mention a few.

Like the song, "Where have all the flowers gone," the answer comes back, "Graveyards everyone."

DISTRICT POSTMARKS OF THE PAST

Put London postal clerks back 100 years in the "time tunnel" and they would hardly know their sorting case.

Today Middlesex County has 33 post offices. In 1867 there were 65 and some still in existence would be recognized by their names of a century ago.

Names on the 1867 sorting case were as follows:

Adare, Adelaide, Amiens, **Arva**, Avon, Ballymote, **Belmont**, Birr, Bowood, Brinsley, Bryanston, Byron, Cashmere, Coldstream.

Denfield, Derwent, Devizes, Duncrief, Elginfield, Evelyn, Falkirk, Fernhill and Gladstone.

Hyde Park Corner (now **Hyde Park**), Katesville, Keyser, Kilmartin, **Lambeth**, Lobo, McGillivray (now **Clandeboye**), Moray, **Mount Brydges**, Cranford (Offa 1868-81, later Mount Carmel.)

Muncey, Nairn, Napier, Nilestown, Fish Creek (later Prospect Hill), **Putnam**, St. Ives, Sable, Springbank, Strathburn, Sylvan.

Tempo, Telfer, Longwood, (Wendigo Whalen, **Delaware**, Dorchester Station (now 1881-7, now **Melbourne**), West McGillivray, **Dorchester**), **Glencoe**, **Harrietsville**, Kilworth, **London**, **Newbury**, **Strathroy**, Williams, Wyton, **Thorndale**, **Ailsa Craig**, Park Hill (now **Parkhill**), **Wardsville**.

The present day sorting table has the names listed in heavy type plus these:

Mossley, Belton, Ilderton, Glanworth, Christina, Komoka, Lucan, Granton, Middlemiss, Appin, Walers, Kerwood, plus London's sub post offices.

BUFFALO CHIPS (Continued from page 117)



I have tried to get a set of five all of the same date but this is something for me to

continue on as I have not been successful yet. It may be somewhat difficult to get

an even dated set judging by the scorn that seems to apply to machine cancels.

I have not noticed any variances in other larger centers that must be using more than

SKETCHES (Continued from page 126)
study of the plate flaws of the 3d and 4d of Prince Edward Island.

At the date of writing this, it was noted that Sir George would soon be speaking to the Royal Philatelic Society of London in the near future. He has also most graciously sent photos of his studies to your author who is most pleased to have them.

Besides being a member of our society, Sir George is a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of London.

YORK (Continued from page 128)
question. It is stated that the salary is to be increased to \$4,000, and that Mr. Lesslie's superannuation allowance is to be \$2,500 per annum. There are not many persons, we fancy, who will begrudge an old public servant like Mr. Lesslie, who has served the public honestly for 20 odd years, ever so goodly an allowance as \$2,500 a year. But there are many who will look upon it as disgraceful that the country should be put to this additional expense simply that a place may be found for some needy friend of the Government."

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one machine. Can anyone explain—or give a good suggestion—as to why Edmonton should be so distinctive? Philatelically that is—we all know of its many distinctions in other ways.

lic Society of London, (having just been elected to its Council), a member of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, and the past president of the Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain.

It has been a pleasure to have corresponded with Sir George on this biographical sketch and one has the feeling that he would be a delightful gentleman to meet and know.

It was not long before the Globe knew the name of Lesslie's successor:

"The Dominion Government is dangling the position of postmaster of Toronto before the eyes of certain unruly members in its following, for the purpose of ensuring their unflinching support, but the members on the Government benches had better be informed at once that the appointment has already been given to Mr. T. C. Patteson, ex-proprietor of the Mail, who has the commission in his pocket, to be enforced immediately after the start of the session."

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103	7.25	6.00	J5	.90	.60
116	3.50		J10	4.50	.85
130	1.80	.15	O-25	13.00	12.00
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