



BRITISH COLUMBIA POSTAL HISTORY NEWSLETTER

Volume 26 Number 4

Whole number 104

December 2017



A 2-cent Admiral postal card to Victoria, dated Oct 4, 1915, at Woden River, paying the 1-cent postcard rate plus 1 cent war tax. No backstamps.

Pictured above may be only the second known strike from the remote agricultural settlement of Woden River on the Queen Charlotte Islands.

The 1915 card, recently purchased on eBay, seems quite legitimate. It was written by Mabel N McKenzie who, according to the *Northern British Columbia Index and Guide* (1916, p 140), was the school teacher there. The handwritten message on the back of her card even mentions that she is somewhat underemployed in her teaching (see next page for card text).

The *Northern BC Index* additionally lists only the names of 13 male residents for the settlement, so its total population would have been quite small. Nevertheless, according to the BC History of Education website (<https://www2.viu.ca/homeroom/>), a rural school

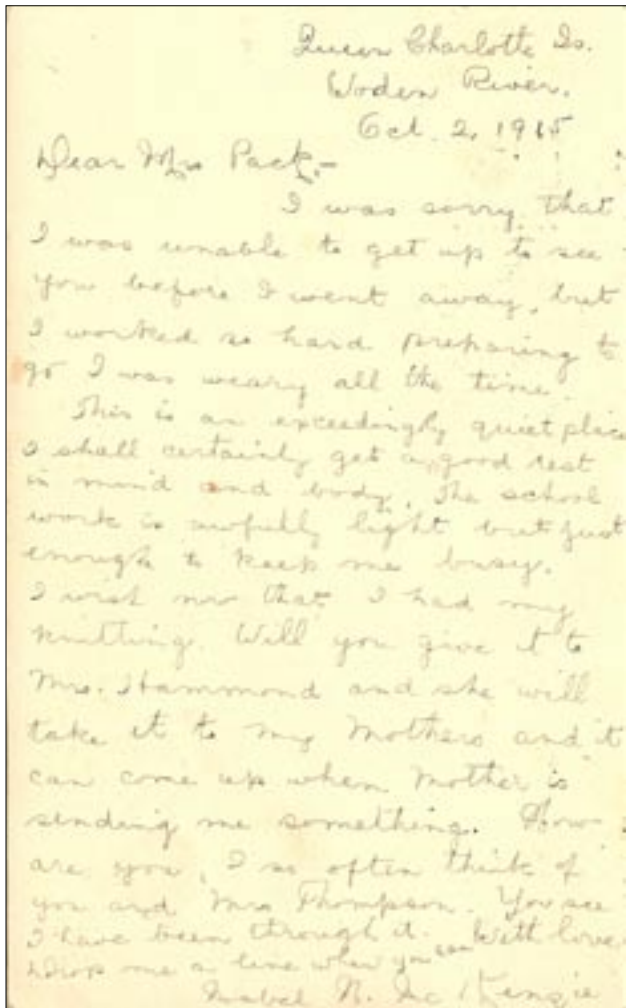
was opened at Woden River in 1913.

Tracy Cooper reported the first strike from this remote post office in the January 2005 *BC Postal History Newsletter* (No 52, p 1). Andrew Scott's 2011 article, "Early Postal History of BC's Haida Gwaii" (*PHSC Journal*, No 144, pp 5-18), indicates that still only one postal marking had by then been reported. The Woden River post office, located five kilometres from Masset on Graham Island, was in operation between November 1913 and November 1917 and had a revenue of around \$120 in total over its four years of service. C C Grange (1913-16) and Mrs A A McCrea (1916-17) are listed as the postmasters.

Who knows what markings may yet turn up from this and other scarce BC post offices? — David Piercey

In this issue:

- | | | | |
|---|--------|---------------------------------------|--------|
| • Favourite cover: Woden River, 1915 | p 1027 | • From the files of Alex Price | p 1035 |
| • A colonial BC philatelic bibliography | p 1029 | • World travel on a two-cent stamp | p 1037 |
| • Early mail for the "Princess Royal" | p 1034 | • Alys McKey Bryant: pioneer aviatrix | p 1039 |
| | | • Recent BC post offices and markings | p 1042 |



(from previous page) Dear Mrs Pack:

I was sorry that I was unable to get up to see you before I went away, but I worked so hard preparing to go I was weary all the time.

This is an exceedingly quiet place. I shall certainly get a good rest in mind and body. The school work is awfully light but just enough to keep me busy. I wish now that I had my knitting. Will you give it to Mrs Hammond and she will take it to my Mothers

and it can come up when Mother is sending me something. How are you. I so often think of you and Mrs Thompson. You see I have been through it. Drop me a line when you can.

With love, Mabel N McKenzie.

From our readers

Study group member Dave Klus responded to Jim White's letter in the last issue (page 1012), and recommended that Jim get his postmaster to order form #40-077-165 (04-10), illustrated below, which identifies philatelic mail and allows for hand-canceling in the "normal, old-fashioned way." Dave uses the form at Cobble Hill on all his outgoing mail.



William Topping 1928-2017

We are very sorry to announce the death of Bill Topping on Oct 21, 2017. Bill was a prominent philatelist, especially in the field of BC postal history, and a long-time former editor of this publication. A full obituary will appear in the next issue.

The *British Columbia Postal History Newsletter* is published quarterly by the BC Postal History Study Group, an affiliate of the British North America Philatelic Society (BNAPS).

Annual subscription fee for printed and mailed newsletters (four issues) is \$15, in Cdn or US funds. Individual print issues sell for \$2.50 each, post paid.

Dues are payable to the editor: Andrew Scott
5143 Radcliffe Rd, Sechelt, BC, Canada V0N 3A2

Editor: Andrew Scott
email: andrewscott@dccnet.com

Associate Editor: Tracy Cooper
email: tracycooper100@shaw.ca

Study Group Chair: Tim Woodland
email: twoodland@telus.net

Newsletter submissions may be sent to the editors at the addresses above.

Free digital newsletters can be downloaded as PDF files at the following websites: for issues 1 to 59, go to www.bnaps.org/hhl/n-bcr.htm; for later numbers, visit https://spideroak.com/browse/share/Andrew_Scott/Backissues. Issues 89 to present are in full colour; earlier newsletters are in b&w. File size is approximately 2 Mb / issue.

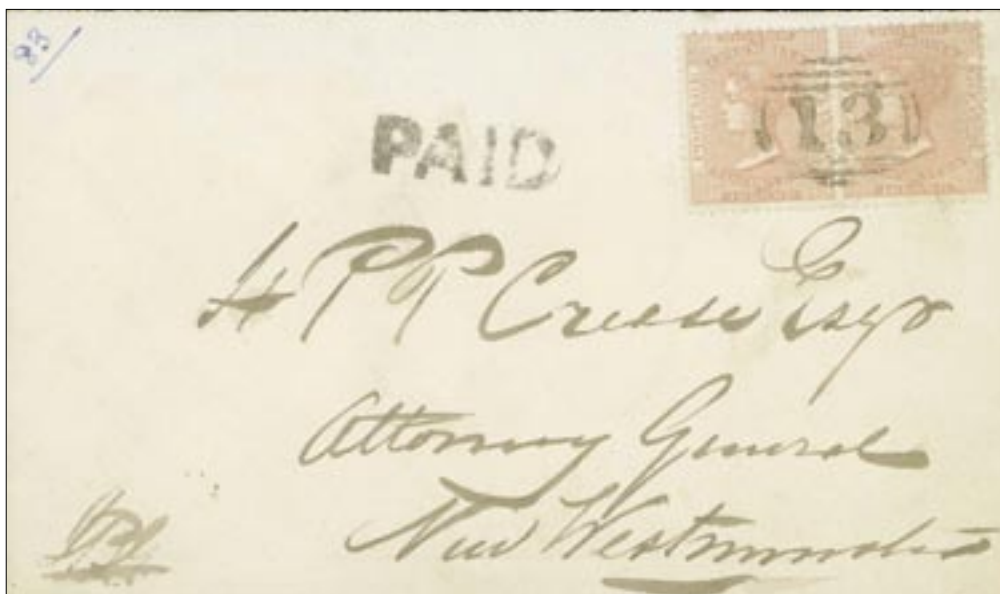
A philatelic colonial bibliography for BC and VI

by *Yohann Tanguay*

Many thanks to the staff of Eastern Auctions Ltd, who assembled this comprehensive bibliography for British Columbia's (and Vancouver Island's) colonial stamps and postal history. Thanks also to Eastern for the accompanying images, taken from the Oct 16, 2014, auction catalogue for the Jack Wallace sale.

Auction catalogues

Brassler/Nickle, BNA stamps and covers, Firby, Jan 16, 1996 (BC section Lots 751-914)
 Burrus, Maurice, Robson Lowe Ltd, BNA sale, Apr 2, 1963 (BC section Lots 1-51)
 Carnegie Institute Part I, Robert Siegel, May 20, 1981 (BC section Lots 175-225)
 Carr, Dr R V C, Firby, Jan 15, 2000 (Lots 1-250)
 Ferrary, Philipp La Renotière von, M G Gilbert, Paris, 1921-1925. Sale IV (Lots 174-181), Sale VI (Lots 228-232), Sale XIV (Lots 158-161, 330)
 Fleming, Tom, British Columbia & Vancouver Island, Spink, June 7, 2007 (Lots 2666-2782)
 Francis, Eric Carwardine, Robson Lowe, Ltd, London, June 9, 1976 (Lots 1407-1430)
 Greene, Vincent G, Sissons, Sale 353, July 10, 1975 (BC section Lots 462-500)
 Harris, Marjory Helen, Sissons, Sale 212, Oct 24, 1962 (Lots 1-137)
 Hennok, Jim (Numeral Cancels), Eastern Auctions Ltd, Oct 28, 2005 (Lots 177-280)
 Jarrett, Fred, Sissons, Sale 183, Nov 24, 1960 (Lots 933-998)
 Johnstone, Stuart, Sissons, Sale 311, Apr 19, 1972 (Lots 564-777)
 Kemp, C G (BC section), Robson Lowe Ltd, London, Feb 7, 1968 (Lots 1001-1030)
 Kutz, Kenneth, H R Harmer Inc, Dec 11, 1997 (Lots 450-521; many lots are designated "ex Kutz")
 Louise Boyd Dale and Alfred F Lichtenstein Collections, H R Harmer LLC, May 11, 2004 (Lots 1-370)
 Mackie, C W, H R Harmer Ltd, London, Apr 9, 1962 (BC section Lots 1-58)
 Pike, James, Specialized Collection of British Columbia & Vancouver Island, Harmers of San Francisco Inc, June 3, 1980 (Lots 2001-2189)
 Reford, Lewis (BC section), Part One, Harmer, Rooke & Co Inc, Feb 28, 1950 (Lots 1-60)
 Robertson, John (BC section), Matthew Bennett, Apr 23, 2004 (Lots 259-298)
 "November" Collection of BNA, Christie's Robson Lowe, Feb 2, 1994 (BC section Lots 200-229)
 Van Straten, Dr Leon (BC section), Robson Lowe Ltd, London, Feb 1965 (Lots 1-33)
 Wallace, Jack, Eastern Auctions Ltd, Oct 16, 2014 (Lots 340-632)
 Wellburn, Gerald (Main Collection), Eaton & Sons, Oct 6, 1988 (Lots 1000-1373)



Wallace sale, lot #385. With original letter datelined "Quesnellemouth, December 16 1864." Mailed during the provisional period when the 2½-pence stamp had been revalued at 3 pence. Realized \$3,500 (+15%).

BC colonial bibliography continued

- Wellburn, Gerald (some of the lots originate from his collection), Eaton & Sons, Oct 15, 1989 (Lots 693-736)
 Wellburn, Gerald (some of the lots originate from his collection), Eaton & Sons, Sep 29, 1990 (Lots 720-807)
 Wellburn, Gerald (large percentage of the lots are from his collection), Eaton & Sons, Oct 23, 1993 (Lots 608-869)
 Wellburn, Gerald, Robert Siegel, Sep 29, 1994 (Lots 2290-2376; includes incoming mail to British Columbia)
 Wellburn, Gerald, Eaton & Sons, June 16, 1995 (Lots 494-567)
 "Westchester" (BC section), H R Harmer, Inc, New York, Dec 4, 1962 (Lots 305-347)
 Wilkinson, Warren, British Columbia Post-Confederation Express Mails, Firby, Jan 24, 2004 (Lots 2169-2205A)
 Williamson, Sir George, Robson Lowe Ltd, London, Mar 9, 1971 (Lots 32-63)
 Unknown provenance, British North America, Harmer, Rooke & Co, June 28, 1944 (BC section Lots 1201-1249)
 Unknown provenance (Express Covers; the Meussdorffer Correspondence Find), Samuel C Paige, Dec 9, 1960 (Lots 295-327)
 Unknown provenance (British Columbia), Robson Lowe Ltd, Jan 29, 1964 (BC section Lots 888-902)
 Unknown provenance, British Columbia, Stanley Gibbons Auctions Ltd, July 7, 1966 (Lots 1-84)
 Unknown provenance, British North America, Harmers of New York, Inc, Feb 26, 1980 (BC section Lots 1-83)
 Important British Columbia, Eastern Auctions, June 23, 2012 (BC section Lots 74-106)



Wallace sale, lot #386. #13 Quesnellemouth grid cancel. Dated Feb 20, 1867. Realized \$950 (+15%).

Articles

- Bacon, Edward D, "The Stamps of British Columbia and Vancouver Island; Resuscitation of the Two Pence Half Penny, Imperforate," *London Philatelist*, 1920, Vol 29, No 339, pp 50-53
 Bacon, Edward D, "Essays and Proofs of the British Columbia Three Pence Stamp of 1865," *London Philatelist*, 1930, Vol 39, No 459, pp 62-65
 Bacon, Edward D, "Notes on the Stamps of British Columbia and Vancouver Island," *London Philatelist*, 1934, Vol 43, No 516, pp 254-259
 Bainbridge, G P, "British Columbia and Vancouver Island. Notes on the Postal History and Postal Issues," *Philatelic Magazine*, Vol 23, Feb 2, 1929, pp 98-100 and Vol 23, Mar 2, 1929, pp 187-190, 192
 Bainbridge, G P, "Fur Traders ... Explorers ... Gold Miners 'The Builders of the West,'" Part 1, *BNA Topics*, July-Aug 1958, No 159, pp 172-176; Part 2, *BNA Topics*, Sep 1958, No 160, pp 197-202
 D'Alessandris, David, "Canadian Interprovincial Mail via the United States," *The Chronicle*, Nov 2013
 Drew, John, "Ballou's Pioneer Fraser River Express 1858-1863," *Western Express*, Dec 2005
 Forster, Dale, "Paid, Unpaid, Collect and Free Markings on BC & VI Covers," *PHSC Journal*, No 107, Sep 2001, pp 49-57
 Forster, Dale, "British Columbia: Dietz & Nelson Express Labels," *PHSC Journal*, No 120, Dec 2004, pp 2-7
 Forster, Dale, "Registration in Colonial British Columbia and Vancouver Island," *PHSC Journal*, No 123, Sep 2005, pp 39-47

BC colonial bibliography continued

- Harris, Marjory Helen, "The Postal History of British Columbia and Vancouver Island," *BNA Topics*, July-Aug 1958, No 159, pp 169-171
- Hitt, Henry C, "British Columbia and Vancouver Island," *Collectors Club of New York*, Jan 1924, Vol 3, No 1, pp 1-5
- Hitt, Henry C and Gerald E Wellburn, "Barnard's Cariboo Express In the Colony of British Columbia, 1860-1871 and Later Expresses of F J Barnard," *The Stamp Specialist* (Black Book), 1945, pp 3-32
- Jackson, W Turrentine, "Banking, Mail and Express Service in British North America: The Role of Wells, Fargo and Company on Vancouver Island and British Columbia," *Pacific Northwest Quarterly*, Oct 1985, pp 137-147
- King, Donald A, "The Stamps of British Columbia and Vancouver Island, with a Reference List," *Stanley Gibbons*, 1895, Vol 6, No 62, pp 23-25, and Vol 6, No 63, pp 41-42
- Lea, W E, "Gold Rush Covers of British Columbia," *London Philatelist*, 1961, Vol 70, No 820, pp 61-66 and Volume 70, No 821, pp 90-96
- Lichtenstein, Alfred F, "A Wild Postal History, that of British Columbia and Vancouver Island Colonies," paper read before Royal Philatelic Society, London, Apr 23, 1931, revisions by Henry C Hitt, *London Philatelist*, 1938, Vol 47, No 560, pp 208-213 and Vol 47, No 561, pp 239-241
- Lowe, Robson, "Vancouver Island Forgeries," *BNA Topics*, July-Aug 1958, No 159, pp 178-179



Wallace sale, lot #455. Victoria to Canada West, dated June 8, 1863, at San Francisco, paying 15-cent rate from California to Canada. Blue oval frank paid Vancouver Island tax. Realized \$850 (+15%).

- Pike, James, "A Postal History of British Columbia and Vancouver Island," *BNA Topics* Mar-Apr 1983, No 394, pp 12-21
- Richardson, Ed, "Covers Classics of British Columbia," *BNA Topics*, Dec 1958, No 163, pp 295-299
- Rosenthal, Max, "Cariboo Gold Rush Mails," *BNA Topics*, No 360, July-Aug 1977, pp 21-24
- Steinhart, A, J Wallace and G Scrimgeour, "The Kenneth Correspondence: Pre-Gold Rush Mail to Vancouver Island," *PHSC Journal*, pp 52-57
- Strange, Arnold M, "Outline of Postal History—British Columbia and Vancouver Island," *The Philatelist*, Vol 14, No 5, 1948, pp 108-111, and Vol 14, No 6, 1948, pp 141-145
- Wallace, Jack, "The Story of the British Columbia & Vancouver Island Postage Stamp," *Canadian Philatelist*, Mar-Apr 2001, p 68
- Wallace, Jack and Dale Forster, "Vancouver Island's Customs Seal," *Western Express*, Mar 2003, No 207, pp 20-24, also in *PHSC Journal*, No 112, Dec 2002, pp 30-34
- Walske, Steven C, "Postal Rates on Mail from British Columbia and Vancouver Island, 1858-1870," *The Chronicle*, Nov 2006
- Walske, Steven C, "Mail from Williams Creek via San Francisco, 1864-1868," *The Chronicle*, May 2008

BC colonial bibliography continued

- Wellburn, Gerald E and R Nairne, "Wells, Fargo & Co Express in Vancouver Island and British Columbia," *Popular Stamps*, June 1945, pp 5-7, 20 and July-Aug, 1945, pp 5-6, 23.
- Wellburn, Gerald E, "Dietz & Nelson's British Columbia & Victoria Express," *Popular Stamps*, Nov 1945, Vol 8, No 10, pp 5-6, 9.
- Wellburn, Gerald E, "More About BC Expresses," *Popular Stamps*, Dec 1945, Vol 8, No 11, pp 5-6
- Wellburn, Gerald E, "Ballou's Fraser River Express," *Popular Stamps*, Jan 1946, Vol 8, No 12, pp 5-7
- Wellburn, Gerald E, "Gerow & Johnson's British Columbia Express," *Popular Stamps*, Feb 1946, Vol 9, No 1, pp 5-7
- Wellburn, Gerald E, "Jaffray's Fraser River Express," *Popular Stamps*, Mar 1946, Vol 9, No 2, pp 15-17
- Wellburn, Gerald E, "Kent & Smith, Fraser and Thompson River Express," *Popular Stamps*, May 1946, Vol 9, No 4, pp 5-8
- Wellburn, Gerald E, "The Beginning of Postal Service in British Columbia," *Popular Stamps*, Sep 1946, Vol 9, No 8, pp 6-8
- Wellburn, Gerald E, "Early Use United States Stamps in British Columbia," *Popular Stamps*, Dec 1946, Vol 9, No 11, pages 5-8
- Wellburn, Gerald E, "Victoria Post Office Handstruck Stamp of 1859," *Popular Stamps*, Mar 1947, Vol 10, No 2, pp 5-7
- Wellburn, Gerald E, "The Handstruck Postage Stamps of British Columbia and Vancouver Island," *BNA Topics*, Jan 1950, No 65, Vol 7, No 1, pp 4-10 and Feb 1950, No 66, Vol 7, No 2, pp 28-33



Wallace sale, lot #462. 25-cent rate cover, dated July 14, 1863, from Toronto to New Westminster (rate in effect Jan 1, 1862, to June 30, 1864). Realized \$700 (+15%).

- Wellburn, Gerald E, "British Columbia and Vancouver Island," *CAPEX 1951 Official Catalogue*, Toronto, pp 51-53
- Wellburn, Gerald E, "Collecting Vancouver Island Pre-Canada," *Covers*, Aug 1958, pp 19-23
- Wulff, R, "British Columbia Postal History," *BNA Topics*, Sep 1958, No 160, pp 208-209

Reference works

- Bancoft, Hubert Howe (non-philatelic), *History of British Columbia 1792-1887*, 1887, 792 pp, preface
- Berthold, Dr Victor, *Handbook of the Wells, Fargo & Co's Handstamps and Franks*, Scott Stamp & Coin Co, softcover, 1926
- Carr, Dr R V C, *British Columbia Express Covers from 1858 to 1900*, BNAPS Exhibit No 3, Feb 1997, spiralbound, 100 pp
- Deville, Alfred Stanley, *The Colonial Postal Systems and Postage Stamps of Vancouver Island and British Columbia 1849-1871*, Memoir No 8, Archives of British Columbia, numbered edition of 500, 1928, 210 pp. Reprinted by Quarterman Publications, 1979
- Kutz, Kenneth, *Gold Fever*, Gold Fever Publishing, 1987, hardcover, 400 pp

BC colonial bibliography continued

- Kutz, Kenneth, *Untold Wealth – Canada's Mineral Heritage*, Gold Fever Publishing, 1999, hardbound
- Lowe, Robson, *The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps*, Volume 5—North America, 1973, 760 pp
(chapter on British Columbia and Vancouver Island, pp 547-583)
- Mayne, Richard Charles (non-philatelic), *Four Years in British Columbia and Vancouver Island*, John Murray, 1862, 468 pp
- Melvin, George, *The Post Offices of British Columbia 1858-1970*, Wayside Press Ltd, 1972, 189 pp (1976 supplement, 62 pp)
- Mosher, Bruce H, *Catalog of Private Express Labels and Stamps*, 2002, self-published, cardcover, 209 pp
- Poole, Bertram W H, *The Postage Stamps of British Columbia and Vancouver Island*, No 31, Mekeel's, 14 pp
- Pugh, Kenneth W, *Reference Manual of BNA Fakes, Forgeries and Counterfeits*. BC section to be found in Release No. 1/9, 1977-1980.
- Wallace, Jack M, *British Columbia and Vancouver Island*, BNAPS Exhibit Series #52, Nov 2008, 144 pp
- Wallace, Jack M, *British Columbia and Vancouver Island – The Numeral Cancellations*, BNAPS Exhibit Series #52 – Supplement, January 2011, pp S1-S30
- The Postage Stamps & Postal History of Colonial Vancouver Island & British Columbia 1849-1871, the Gerald Wellburn Collection*, 1987, hardcover, 164 pp
- Wilkinson, Warren, *British Columbia & Vancouver Island Postal History: Colonial Period 1858-1871*, BNAPS Exhibit Series #37, Sep 2005, spiralbound, 152 pp

Wallace sale, lot #521. Three US 3-cent Wells Fargo covers cut and pasted together to make up the triple letter and express rate from San Francisco to Victoria. Dated Oct 24, 1868. Ex-Wellburn. Realized \$2,900 (+15%).



An 1855 cover with a coal-mining connection

by Morris Beattie

The *Princess Royal* was a barque built in 1853 for the purpose of shipping spars from Fort Rupert to England. It was built at a cost of £10,200 by Money Wigram & Sons, of Blackwall, and was of oak and teak construction and 44 metres (145 ft) in length. The vessel made numerous voyages to Victoria as well as to Burrard Inlet over the period from 1854 to 1885.

In 1854 a group of Staffordshire coal miners travelled from England to Esquimalt on the *Princess Royal's* maiden voyage. They were under contract to the Hudson's Bay Co to work in the coal mines at Nanaimo. Coal, destined to become a significant economic resource in BC and the source of much wealth for Robert Dunsmuir, was first extracted in 1849 along the shores of Winthuyzen Inlet, also known as Nanymo Bay.



The 2-shilling 4-pence rate was paid with two 1sh embossed issues of 1847-1854 and one red 4p surface-printed issue of 1855-1857. The letter received a London marking dated Oct 30.

The long trip, which left England on June 3, 1854, and arrived at Esquimalt on Nov 23, was a hard and miserable one; several passengers died. The miners left the ship at Esquimalt and completed their journey to Colville Town, as Nanaimo was known at that time, aboard the vessels *Beaver* and *Recovery*, arriving Nov 27. In 1855, the *Princess Royal* was again sailing to Victoria when this folded letter, dated Oct 27, was sent from England by Thomas Flett to his brother and addressed as follows:

Mr Robert Flett Carpenter
On Board the "Princess Royal"
Of London Capt Wishart
Vancouver's Island
West Coast of America

David Wishart was captain of the vessel over the period 1854-55, completing two sailings to Vancouver Island. Previously he had been captain of the *Norman Morison*, which sailed to the west coast carrying numerous immigrants, including Dr J S Helmcken. Of the younger passengers on the 1854 sailing, several were still alive as late as 1939.

The letter itself is a dreary effort wherein Thomas repeatedly refers to his own poor state of health and the activities of two other brothers who apparently were also at sea.

Reference: "The First and Last Days of the *Princess Royal*," *British Columbia Historical Quarterly* (1939), Vol 3, No 1, pp 15-24

From the files of Alex Price: Granville and Drynoch

by Tracy Cooper

Many of you have heard of Alex Price, a superb BC postal historian who died a few years ago and was a good friend of mine. Over the course of 25 years he became my philatelic mentor and we exchanged many a letter on subjects of mutual interest. I am privileged to be able to share Alex's stories with you through the pages of the newsletter. This letter had me doubled over in laughter—amazed and horrified all at the same time.

Dec 5, 1995

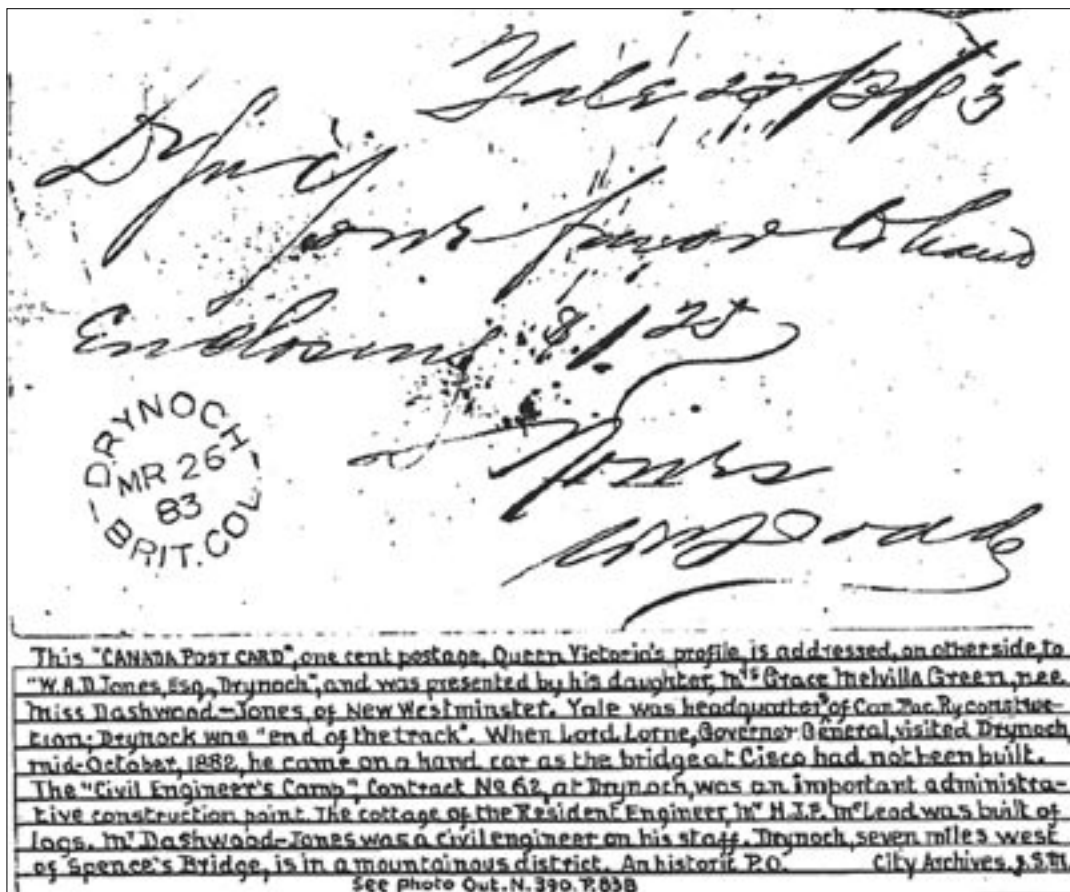
Some stories you may not want to hear, or maybe you will. Drynoch and Granville. Years ago I rooted around in the City of Vancouver Archives in its earlier locations for postal history and so on. The archives at that time were under the direction of Major J S Matthews, for whom the description "character" is wholly inadequate. He was an independent, tough, outspoken retired major from WWI, a small man, but dedicated to the preservation of Vancouver history. He worked endless hours, seven days a week, at almost no salary, with a staff of one for years. Later it was increased. They were terrified of him, as were members of City Council. There were attempts to get rid of him, not successful.



The cover above contained a letter from the steamship inspector at Victoria to engineer James Clarke on the steamship Gem at New Westminster. Clarke was not at New Westminster, nor was he at Granville, where it was discovered that he could be contacted on the steamship Ada at Victoria. The cover was re-addressed to Victoria and a 3-cent stamp added and obliterated with a Granville cork.

Granville and Drynoch continued

I got along quite well with him, but only because I could put on an act. When I presented myself to him with a request to see material, I stood to attention and addressed him as "yes sir" and "no sir," in other words, made him believe that I was his regimental sergeant major. The result was that he dug out things for me to see that others never saw. In addition, in a famous battle on the Somme, 1915, I believe he was wounded at a place called Regina Trench, and a young private by the name of Alex Macdonald dragged him clear. This private was my uncle, and Matthews eulogized him and deferred to me. The story, I think, is a bit far fetched, but far be it for me to downgrade it. So he dragged out a file to do with Granville, and I was startled to see a mangled envelope with much postal history on it — Granville, Burrard Inlet, and so on, 1878. A fantastic item. I only looked at it and dreamed. Months later, I had a birthday. Prior to that, I mentioned the cover to my father, who had much contact with early Vancouver people of influence and who knew the Major — and, of course, was Alex Macdonald's brother-in-law. On the dinner table, on my birthday, was a plain envelope marked only "in trust to H A Price," and the cover was in it. I looked at my father and all he said was "don't ask." And I never did. I enclose a laser print of my album page. A couple of things about the cover: I have the letter that was in it. Also, the cover shows "On Her Majesty's Service" but required postage. Why another stamp on a redirect?



Now to the horror story, again involving Major Matthews. About the same period, I was interested in early timetables and so on, and the Major said he had some material in a file with the first CPR Division timetable thereon. He dragged out the file and let me look through it, and I found what I wanted and he made me a copy. But lo and behold, out fell a postcard, mailed from Yale to Drynoch, March 26, 1883, received Drynoch March 26, 1883. Gorgeous receiving strike. I was entranced. I talked to the Major about it and he asked me if I would like a photo of it and I said "yes." Some weeks later the photo arrived, and I looked at it carefully and couldn't believe my eyes. I went to the archives and asked the secretary, a nice lady, about the postcard. She remembered it and got it out. I asked her, why? She said the Major thought it would photograph much better if he inked in the strike with India ink, which he did!!!!!! I damn near fainted on the spot. He had done a write-up for the card as shown on the attached print. Do you know of another Drynoch???

The current owner of the fabulous Granville cover wishes to remain anonymous, and of course I have never seen another Drynoch cover. This is one of my favourite Alex Price exchanges. If readers like this type of article, let us know and I will dig out more correspondence "from the files of Alex Price."

Travelling the world on a two-cent stamp

by Tracy Cooper



Seaman's letter
from Esquimalt,
dated Oct 20,
1902, paying
the 2-cent per
half-ounce
Empire rate.
Routing
explained
in article.



One of the more interesting items I've acquired recently is this very well-travelled seaman's cover from "HEC, Seaman, HMS *Grafton*, Pacific," posted at Esquimalt and addressed to "Lnce Corp Chatfield, No 1 Compy, Royal West Kent Reg, Hong Kong." The cover went on a most unusual journey, travelling two-thirds of the way around the world in an attempt to catch up with the addressee.

HMS *Grafton* was an Edgar-class cruiser, launched in 1892 and posted to the Pacific Station in Esquimalt from 1902 to 1905. In December 1901 it was ordered to relieve HMS *Warspite* as flagship on the Pacific Command and arrived at Esquimalt in January 1902 with a complement of 571 officers and crew. The Dec 1, 1902, *Victoria Colonist* noted: "The British Warship *Grafton*, flagship of the Pacific Station, sailed for Panama and points along the south American Coast."

Seaman's letter continued

The addressee was Walter Chatfield, who may have been a relative. The cover's routing was extraordinary, and all for the 2-cent Empire rate. The following markings serve as testament to its journey.

ESQUIMALT/B.C.	(posted)	OC 20/02
VICTORIA/B.C.	(transit)	OC 20/02
TACOMA, WASH/1902	(transit)	OC 22/9:30 AM

(This cover likely left on a Northern Pacific steamship, the *Glenogle*, which departed Tacoma on Oct 23, an earlier date than the CPR ships leaving for the Orient from Victoria, and took approximately 30 days to reach Hong Kong.)*

VICTORIA/HONG KONG	(arrival)	9 AM/NOV 23/02
--------------------	-----------	----------------

Redirected to China but crossed out
Redirected to Meerut, India

MEERUT	(arrival)	DE 02/6 PM
TUTIOORIN	(transit)	9 DE/02
MEERUT	(transit)	14 DE/02

Redirected to Ceylon and address clarified as the 2nd Royal West Kent Reg

COLOMBO	(arrival)	11:30 AM 12 26/03 (Dec 26)
---------	-----------	----------------------------

Redirected to Malta

VALLETTA/MALTA	(arrival)	6 AM 3 JA
DISINFECTED/AR??TO-M	(transit)	3 JAN/03 (at the Malta disinfection station)
SHORNCLIFFE	(arrival)	K IX A/JA 8/03

At some point along the route the UPU handstamp RÉEXPÉDIÉ was applied.

The cover's final destination was the large army base near Cheriton in Kent, home of the Royal West Kent Regiment and of Walter Chatfield. It is unclear if Walter ever received this cover.

The cover is toned, likely owing to the disinfection process at Malta, which still used sulphur as the primary sterilizing ingredient at this time.

*Thanks to Gray Scrimgeour for his assistance on the sailing dates and times.



Map showing the route taken by this cover.

Alys McKey Bryant, 1880-1954: iron-nerved aviatrix

by Glenna Metchette



After her flight over Minoru Park, Alys McKey Bryant signed postcards. These are now very scarce. Thanks to All Nations Stamp & Coin for the image above. The card sold at the special "Canada 150" auction, July 1, 2017, for \$462 (lot #119).

On July 31, 1913, Alys McKey Bryant made a historic flight at Minoru Racetrack in Richmond, BC, thrilling spectators including the Prince of Wales and his younger brother, the Duke of York. The boys were visiting Vancouver during their ten-month world tour of the British dominions on HMS *New Zealand*. Alys, a US citizen, was the first woman pilot to fly in the dominion of Canada.

Alys McKey took up flying in 1912 when she answered a newspaper ad looking for a young lady to do exhibition flying for the Bennett Aero Company. By the time the company brought its star aviators—Alys McKey and Johnny Bryant—to Vancouver's Minoru Park the following year, they had fallen in love and married. Few people at the time knew they were married, as Miss McKey flew under her own name, already made famous by daring flights in the US. Vancouver newspapers reported that Bryant and the "clever aviatrix" McKey would give exhibitions of expert flying.

Miss McKey proved herself both daring and resourceful during a 16-minute flight in her rebuilt Curtiss biplane, performing clever aerial revolutions, setting an altitude record of 670 metres (2,200 ft) and making a

Alys McKey Bryant continued

faultless landing. Johnny Bryant shut off his motor at 760 metres (2,500 ft), dived steeply until he was within 30 metres (100 ft) of the ground, then landed without restarting his engine—innovative flying for that early period. Their biplane was a finely tuned mass of wire, bamboo, struts and spruce, covered by stretched and doped fabric.



Photo courtesy National Air & Space Museum Archives, Smithsonian



The cachet above reads "MASS MANEUVER AND AERIAL REVIEW/450 Army and Navy Planes/San Diego/California/July 28 1932//To honor/National Editorial Assoc/Xth Olympiad Officials/Welcome, Amelia Earhart!" Alys McKey attended and flew at this great massing of aerial flight, one of the largest displays of its kind ever formed, which celebrated the opening of the Olympic Games at Los Angeles. Following the air review, Amelia Earhart, the only woman to twice fly the Atlantic Ocean, dedicated a new terminal and administration building at Lindbergh Field and unveiled a plaque to Charles Lindbergh, in whose honour the field was named. The July 28, 1932, datestamp reads U.S. LIGHT TARGET NO. 1, 1X35. The "target" was originally the USS Stoddert, a four-stack, flush-deck destroyer launched in 1919 and much later used for naval gunnery practice and seaborne weapons testing.

Alys McKey Bryant continued

Plans had been made for an aerial performance over Victoria during the water carnival the following week, so the machine was taken apart and shipped to the Island. Miss McKey flew first on August 5 in gusty weather; she had difficulty keeping the machine on an even keel and said later that those were the worst conditions she had ever been up in. At Cadboro Bay, Bryant removed the wheels and fitted a seaplane float to the biplane. Once again in the air, he headed directly for downtown Victoria, where 20,000 pairs of eyes were anxiously scanning the sky. The throng burst into cheering that swelled from street to street when Bryant landed near the inner harbour.

The next day, as Alys watched Johnny's flight over the city, she saw the plane dive steeply, faster and faster. It crashed into the roof of the Lee Dye Building at the corner of Cormorant Street and Theatre Alley. Johnny died instantly, leaving a widowed bride of but ten short weeks. He was the only pre-war flying victim in Canada. The accident plunged Alys into a grief shared by all of Victoria.

Losing her husband did not shake Alys's zeal for adventure, however, and she became the first woman in the world to become a professional deep-sea diver. Even an encounter with a shark did not defeat her courage. She also trained pilots for military service in WW1 and used her technical expertise to work as an aircraft mechanic.



Commemorative 25th anniversary cover of Bryant's historic flight, dated July 31, 1938, at Vancouver, paying the 6-cent-per-ounce airmail rate to the US.

In a 1938 "letter of appreciation" to "that friendly group of Canadian neighbours, the Philatelists of Vancouver, BC," Alys wrote: "I wish to express my sincere gratitude for the Air Mail cachet with which you commemorate the 25th anniversary of the first flight made in Canada by a woman During the 25 years that have slipped away, I have never lost my interest in aviation. Although WINGS have given me everything—and have taken from me—everything but my own life—my love for them has never diminished and now my one thought—one prayer—is that WINGS may be used—NOT for destruction, but for making more friendly and understanding relations between the nations of the earth"

Sources:

"Alys McKey," 30 Mar, 1913, National Air & Space Museum Archives, Smithsonian
 Burwood, John, *A Historic Flight at Minoru*, Richmond Public Archives
 Ellis, Frank H, *British Columbia Historical Quarterly*, October 1939
Vancouver Sun, "Shatters Altitude Record At Minoru," August 1, 1913, p 10
20th Century Aviation Magazine

More recent BC post offices and cancellations

Here's a list of the latest BC post office openings and changes, as described on the Canada Post website. Included are several earlier offices that should have appeared in previous reports (see Issue #101, p 994; #95, p 894; #92, p 841; and #85, p 755). The early reported dates (ERDs) are those noted by the editor, who would be pleased to hear of earlier dates or receive scans of unreported markings.

105032	Golden Kicking Horse	V0A 0A0	ERD: 15/OC/15
105033	Revelstoke RPO	V0E 3S0	ERD: 07/JA/16
105048	Armstrong RPO	V0E 1B0	ERD: 09/OC/15
105049	Enderby RPO	V0E 1V0	ERD: 05/OC/15
105060	Langley	V3A 4B0	Did not open
105247	Langley Willoughby	V2Y 0L0	ERD: 18/SE/17
105261	Port Alberni 10th Avenue	V9Y 4W0	ERD: 27/SE/17
105268	Burnaby Deer Lake	V5E 2T0	ERD: 18/NO/17
105272	Victoria University Heights	V8N 3E0	ERD: 22/AP/17
105278	Vancouver Champlain Square	V5S 3T0	ERD: 18/NO/17
105304	Trail Bay (Sechelt)	V0N 3A0	ERD: 24/AU/17
105335	Prince George Blackburn	V2N 2H0	Unreported
105336	North Vancouver Metropolitan	V7M 1E0	Unreported
105345	Vancouver Kingsway/Knight	V5V 3E0	ERD: 18/NO/17
105364	Langley	V3A 5N0	Unreported

