

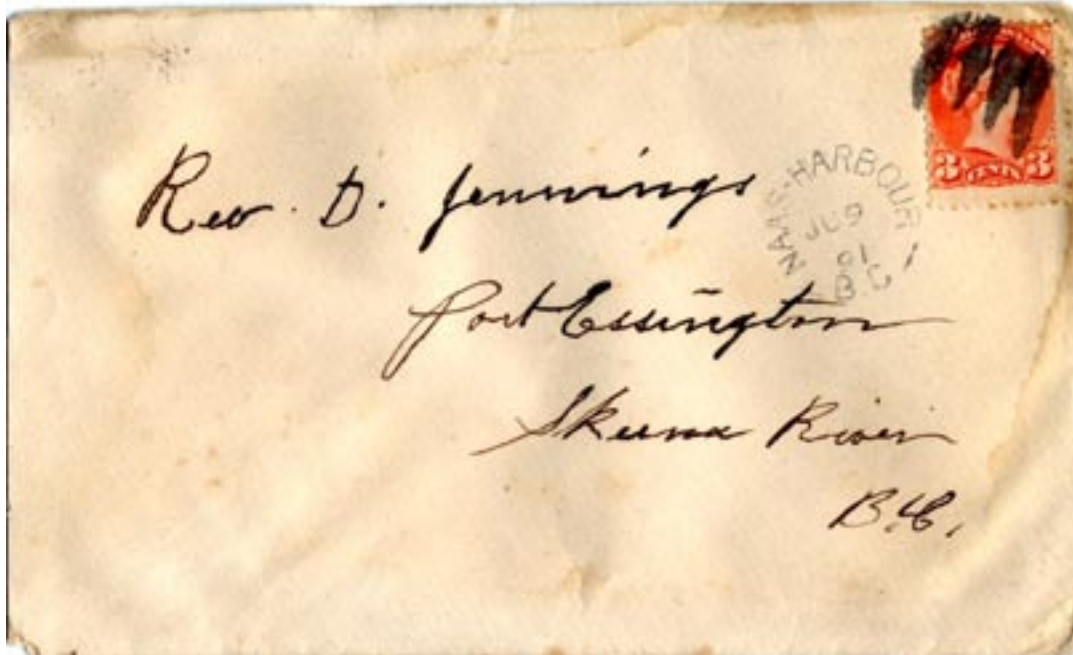


# BRITISH COLUMBIA POSTAL HISTORY NEWSLETTER

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March 2021



*Three-cent domestic rate cover from Naas Harbour dated June 9, 1891, with a primitive cork cancel. Victoria circular backstamp dated June 17, 1891.*

This issue's "favourite" cover is an early Small Queen item from BC's far northern coast. Naas Harbour post office was located at the Nass Harbour Cannery (also known as McLellan's Cannery, after James Alexander McLellan, its owner), on the south shore of Nass Bay near the mouth of the Nass River. It was the first post office in the region, opening on Feb 22, 1890, and closing on Sept 30, 1929. The Nass area was one of BC's most productive salmon fisheries in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

The cover was addressed to Rev Dennis Jennings, a Methodist missionary at Port Essington on the Skeena River, only a 100 km or so cruise south of Nass Bay. So how, you may ask, did it end up at Victoria, 1,100 kilometres to the southeast, nine days later?

The cover illustrates the shortcomings of the

post office when it came to delivering mail to and between remote communities in the province's sparsely populated north. Several companies offered steamship service on the BC coast in the 1890s, and Nass Bay and Port Essington were regular ports of call. The post office department, however, offered such low payment for carrying the mails that the ships often stopped at a port only if they had other business there. It appears that the vessel carrying our cover had no compelling reason to stop at the Skeena River on its way south, so the Port Essington mail travelled all the way to Victoria, where it awaited the next northern sailing, turning a 100-km delivery distance into one of at least 2,100 km.

The post office eventually improved payments for carrying mail on the north BC coast. — *Andrew Scott*

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## Readers write

The article on Sea Island's post office and air force base (pp 1183-34, #113, March 2020) was of interest to a number of study group members. One reader with a strong interest in military history was able to correct the squadron designations suggested in the article. No 147 (BR) was an abbreviation for "Bomber-Reconnaissance," not "British," while No 166 (Comm) stood for "Communications," not "Commonwealth."

Dean Mario commented on the article on page 4 of *BNA Topics* (Vol 77, No 4, Oct-Dec 2020). He was able to add more background about Ian Thompson Machum, and about his brother, Donald Blair Machum, who was also killed in action in WWII. The Machum family was from Halifax, and Ian Machum was buried there, at Camp Hill Cemetery. Dean speculated that the cover might have originated at Halifax, but because censor/examiner numbers 151 to 199 were, according to Peter Burrows's *British Empire Civil Censorship Devices, WW II, Section 7*, located at Vancouver, a DR/C. 183 marking is more likely to be of West Coast origin.

## Correction

In the last issue of the newsletter, in the article about the coastal steamship *Iroquois* (pp 1232-33, #116, Dec 2020), we stated that the ship had a steel hull. The wreck photograph, however, clearly shows a wooden hull, as one of our eagle-eyed readers pointed out.

Several vessels named "Iroquois" worked in the Pacific Northwest in the 20th century. The 63-metre, US-owned SS *Iroquois*, built in 1901 for passenger service on the Great Lakes, had a steel hull. The ship was sold to Puget Sound Navigation in 1907 and attempted, unsuccessfully, to compete with the CPR on the Victoria/Seattle route. It underwent several refits, had several owners (including Black Ball Transport) and ended up processing crabs in Alaska.

## Research request

We are asking study group members to help us complete a compilation of Union Steamship illustrated envelopes used by the company over the period of its existence. A variety of such envelopes with different dates, designs, origins and destinations have been identified, and we wish to confirm periods of use for the different designs. The intention is to eventually have the completed compilation published in book form. Credit for any contributions will be given unless you indicate that anonymity is preferred. Please send scans of any such envelopes in your possession to Morris Beattie at [mbeattie48@shaw.ca](mailto:mbeattie48@shaw.ca).



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# Colonial British Columbia and Vancouver Island postal rates to foreign destinations

by Tracy Cooper

I recently reread Steven Walske's article, "Postal Rates on Mail from British Columbia and Vancouver Island via San Francisco 1858-1870," published in the *Western Express Chronicle*,<sup>1</sup> and this inspired me to again tackle a long dormant article on the foreign mail rates from the colonies of British Columbia and Vancouver Island. Information on this subject has not, to my knowledge, been previously published.

Alfred Stanley Deaville's seminal 1928 book, *The Colonial Postal Systems and Postage Stamps of Vancouver Island and British Columbia 1849-1871*,<sup>2</sup> has often been cited by researchers as the definitive work on the subject. Mr Deaville, however—given the vast amount of official and unofficial correspondence the subject generated between the colony's appointed officials and the Colonial Office in London—was humble enough to describe his work as "a sketch of the origin and early development of the postal service."

Deaville noted little about postal rates to foreign destinations, other than the United States and England, except for one foreign postage rate table in effect from Vancouver Island and British Columbia in 1860<sup>3</sup> and an abbreviated excerpt of the rates in effect in 1865.<sup>4</sup> For the 1860 table Deaville noted that "these are simply the United States foreign rates charged at the time plus the 5-cent or 2½d Colonial postage fee on each half ounce or under." The original 1860 "published table" had an interesting footnote indicating that the noted rates did not include the United States postage as published by the San Francisco post office department.



Cover from Yale to Italy, October 1862. Cash (35c) accompanied letter to New Westminster, where US stamps were affixed. Cover went overland to New York and then by French mail to Italy. It was two cents overpaid; a red ink number "23" lies under one of the US stamps (which were moved to show the BC stamps). Scan courtesy of Bob Forster.

Walske notes these rates on his "composite rate periods" for the first period (Nov 1858-July 1862) as 3¢ under three thousand miles and 10¢ over three thousand miles.<sup>5</sup>

For the colonists in this period, calculating the postage rates for almost any foreign destination must have been a source of considerable consternation. Not only was the service at best unreliable, but the conversion from sterling to cents within two distinct but totally interconnected colonies complicated the calculations even more. The colony of Vancouver Island converted to decimal currency on Jan 1, 1863 (the *Currency Act, 1862*<sup>6</sup> and the *Stamp Act*<sup>7</sup>), while the colony of British Columbia did not convert until Jan 1, 1866, when 3d became equal to 6¼¢. The rate for a letter from Richfield in the Cariboo to Spain in 1865, for example, would have been an almost impossible task for one of the period's largely unpaid colonial postmasters to calculate. To assist postal patrons and postmasters, it appears that foreign rates of postage were largely based on whatever information could be obtained from other countries, such as the United States or England, and then adapted by local officials.

On March 24, 1865, Henry Wooten responded to an inquiry by Interior resident John A Mara asking about the rates of postage to foreign destinations. Mr Wooten provided the following table:<sup>8</sup>



Foreign Colonial rates continued

To	Rate
New Westminster	5¢ per ½ oz.
California	8¢ per ½ oz (including Colonial postage of 5¢)
Canada & BNA	15¢
United States	15¢
Great Britain & Ireland	30¢
Italy	30¢
Austria, Germany & Prussia	35¢
France	40¢
Norway, Sweden & Denmark	45¢

In June 1865 the validity of the rates of postage being charged from Vancouver Island to foreign destinations was questioned by Acting Colonial Secretary Henry Wakeford. Deaville called the response from Victoria postmaster (and former harbourmaster) Henry Wooten "sufficiently startling," but in retrospect Wooten's comments seem only reasonable:

"Sir, - I have the honour to inform you for the information of the Governor His Excellency that there are no Rules or Regulations under which this Department is conducted, nor have I received any but verbal instructions as Postmaster. (The former postmaster was John L Buckley, acting for John D'Ewes, who was on leave). I further state that I know of no authority by which the different rates of postage are fixed and levied. With the exception of the enclosed extract from the Colonial Secretary's letter (appointing and instructing Henry Wooten) the only instructions I received with regard to the rates of postage were those charged by the officiating Postmaster when I took charge."

Henry Wooten,  
Vancouver Island, Post Office  
June 7, 1865<sup>9</sup>

There was obvious confusion by Wooten about the official rates. For example, the rate from British Columbia to California, as published by Warren Spalding on March 1, 1865, was ten cents plus the colonial postage. Deducting the colonial postage from the above table would have made the rate from Victoria to California only three cents. No wonder Colonial Secretary Wakeford was questioning how the letter rates to foreign destinations were being set.

Composite Rate Periods: Mail Leaving BC & VI, 1858-1870							
The combination of the US, BC and VI rate structures results in six composite rate periods for mail leaving BC and VI to foreign destinations, as shown in Table 1.							
Dates	First 11/58-7/62	Second 7/62-8/63	Third 8/63-6/64	Fourth(A) 7/64-12/65	Fourth(B) 1/66-3/67	Fifth 4/67-1/68	Sixth 2/68-7/70
Regulations	11/58 VI 4/55 US	7/62 BC 4/55 US	7/62 BC 7/63 US	6/64 BC 7/64 US	6/64 BC 7/64 US	4/67 BC 7/64 US	4/67 BC 1/68 US-GB
Colonial Postage From:							
VI	2½d	2½d/5¢	5¢	5¢	5¢	5¢	5¢
BC Delta	2½d	2½d	2½d	3d	6½¢	5¢	5¢
BC Intermediate	2½d	5d	5d	9d	18½¢	12½¢	12½¢
BC Up-country	2½d	12d	12d	9d	18½¢	12½¢	12½¢
BC Caribou	n/a	24d	24d	9d	18½¢	25¢	25¢
US Postage to:							
US(<3K miles)	3¢	3¢	3¢	10¢	10¢	10¢	10¢
US(>3K miles)	10¢	10¢	3¢	10¢	10¢	10¢	10¢
Canada West	15¢	15¢	15¢	10¢(1)	10¢	10¢	(3)
Nova Scotia	15¢	15¢	15¢	15¢	15¢	15¢	(3)
New Brunswick	15¢	15¢	15¢	10¢(2)	10¢	10¢	(3)
Great Britain	29¢	29¢	24¢	24¢	24¢	24¢	(4)

Table 1. All rates per ½ ounce, except for VI colonial postage, which was not weight-based; "d" signifies pence. The difference between A and B in the Fourth Period is currency, since BC converted to cents on January 1, 1866. Notes: (1) This rate became effective on February 17, 1864, but was not adopted in BC and VI until July 1864. (2) This rate became effective on August 1, 1864. (3) Rate uncertain; see text. (4) Fully-paid rate of 25¢, payable in colonial postage stamps; no US postage required.

*Foreign Colonial rates continued*

The only discrepancy I have found in Walske's "composite rate periods" (above) concerns the US postal rates on mail to BNA/Canada (in the fourth and fifth periods, July 1864 to January 1868). These rates show an anomalous mail rate to Nova Scotia of 15¢ (plus the colonial postage) that appears to have never been enforced in Vancouver Island or in the combined colony of British Columbia. This rate would likely have been moot where the mail travelled in closed bag through the United States.

Finally, Walske noted that there is some uncertainty about the rate between BC and Canada West, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in the sixth rate period from Feb 1868 to July 1870. Documentation from the period shows the rate in this time frame as 15¢, which includes the five-cent colonial postage rate.

The attached table shows documented foreign mail rates, which can vary widely from year to year. No attempt has been made to research the genesis of these rates. Many may be based on the applicable US rates of the time; others may just be mistakes in postal interpretation. What was clear from the *Colonial Despatches*, however, was the clear reluctance of the Colonial Office in London to standardize routes and rates from its numerous far-flung colonies around the globe—especially British Columbia and Vancouver Island. The need for set rates and expectations of service was abundantly apparent, and ultimately resulted in the establishment of the Universal Postal Union in 1875.

British Columbia postal history, especially in the colonial period, continues to be fertile ground for researchers. The British Columbia Archives holds a vast treasure trove of information, much not looked at since Deaville wrote his foundational publication in 1928.

**Resources**

- Colonial despatches of Vancouver Island and British Columbia 1846-1871. British Columbia Archives  
*Government Gazette* for the colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia. Published by Authority.  
*Government Gazette*. Vancouver Island. Published by Authority. Various years  
*Government Gazette*. British Columbia. New Westminster. Various years  
 Victoria Directories. 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup>. 1860 -1874  
 Alfred Stanley Deaville, *The Colonial Postal Systems and Postage Stamps of Vancouver Island and British Columbia 1849-1871* (Victoria, BC: Charles Banfield, 1928)  
 Steven R. Walske, *Postal Rates on Mail from British Columbia and Vancouver Island via the United States 1858-1870*, *The Chronicle*, No 212, Vol 58, No 4, pp 289-297, November 2006

**Endnotes/Bibliography**

Steven Walske, "Postal Rates on Mail from British Columbia and Vancouver Island via the United States 1858-1870," *Western Express Chronicle*, No 212, Vol 58, No 4, pp 289-297, November 2006

<sup>2</sup> Alfred Stanley Deaville, *The Colonial Postage Systems and Postage Stamps of Vancouver Island and British Columbia 1849-1871*, printed by Authority of the Legislative Assembly, Victoria, BC, Charles F Banfield, 1928

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, p 75

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, p 102

<sup>5</sup> Walske, p 291

<sup>6</sup> *An Act to Establish a Decimal System of Accounts in the Colony of Vancouver Island and its Dependencies -12<sup>th</sup> Dec 1862* (author's collection)

<sup>7</sup> *An Act to declare the denominations to be used in the various Stamps issued under the Stamp Act 1862 -27<sup>th</sup> February 1863* (author's collection). See pages 1240 and 1245.

<sup>8</sup> I have been unable to verify the existence of this table in the official records.

<sup>9</sup> Henry Wooten, *The Colonial Despatches of Vancouver Island and British Columbia 1849-1871*, Ju 7/65 325 P 492. British Columbia Archives.

**General Post Office.**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE.**

THE NEW POSTAL CONVENTION between the United Kingdom and the United States, being now in force, Letters, Papers, and other Mail matter from this Colony must for the future be fully prepaid in the Postage Stamps of the Colony.

The rates at present, for the following places, will be as under, from the final dispatching Office:

	Letters, per 1/2 oz.	Papers, each.	Books and Trade Patterns.
Great Britain .....	5c	4c	5c per 4 ounces
Canada .....	15c	2c	4c "
United States .....	15c	2c	4c "
Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland } .....	15c	2c	4c "

Rates to other Countries the same as usual for the present.

No Book packet may contain anything which is sealed or otherwise closed against inspection, nor must there be any Letter, nor any communication of the nature of a Letter, whether separate or otherwise, unless the whole of such Letter or communication be printed; but entries merely stating from whom, or to whom the packet is sent, shall not be regarded as a Letter.

No Book packet must exceed Two Feet in length, or One Foot in width or depth.

By Command,  
ARTHUR T. BUSHBY,  
Acting Postmaster General.

General Post Office,  
New Westminster, 11th January, 1868.

*Foreign Colonial rates continued*

# AN ACT

## To Establish a Decimal System of Accounts in the Colony of Vancouver Island and its Dependencies.

**W**HEREAS, it is expedient to facilitate the monetary transactions of the Colony of Vancouver Island and its Dependencies by the adoption of a Decimal System of Accounts :

Be it therefore enacted by the Governor on Her Majesty's behalf, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly of Vancouver Island and its Dependencies, as follows :

I. That on and after the first day of January, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty-three, the Public Accounts shall be kept in Dollars and Cents ; and all accounts to be rendered to the Government, or to any Public Office or Department in the said Colony, by any Officer or Functionary, or by any person receiving aid from the Colony, or being otherwise accountable to the Government thereof, shall be so rendered in dollars and cents.

Public accounts  
to be kept in  
Dollars and  
Cents.

II. The Pound Sterling shall be held to be equivalent to Four Dollars and Eighty-five Cents, and the aliquot parts of a Pound shall be of a proportionate value.

Equivalent  
Money of Ac-  
count

III. Any Sterling Coin of the weight and fineness prescribed by law for the coins of the United Kingdom, shall pass current and be a legal tender for sums in Dollars and Cents, equal, according to the proportionate value aforesaid, to their sterling value.

Sterling Coins.

Foreign Colonial rates continued

**Colonial postage rates from Vancouver Island and British Columbia, 1860 to July 20, 1871**

<b>Countries</b>	<b>1860<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>1864<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>1865<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>1868<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>1869<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>1871<sup>6</sup></b>
<b><u>Acapulco</u></b>						
Not over ½ oz		20¢	10¢			
Payment	Compulsory	Comp				
Papers		2¢	2¢			
<b><u>Aspinwal</u></b>						
Not over ½ oz	20¢	20¢	10¢	15c	25¢	25¢
Payment	Comp	Comp	Comp	Com	Comp	Comp
Papers		2¢	2¢			
<b><u>Australia via England</u></b>			<b><u>via Southhampton</u></b>			
Not over ½ oz	48¢	38¢	33¢			
Payment	Comp	Comp	Comp			
Papers		6¢	6¢			
		<b><u>via Marseilles</u></b>				
Not over ¼ oz		45¢				
Payment		Comp				
Papers		8¢				
		<b><u>via San Francisco by sailing ship</u></b>				
Not over ½ oz		10¢	10¢			
Payment		Comp	Comp			
Papers		2¢	2¢			
		<b><u>via Panama</u></b>				
Not over ½ oz			30¢	40¢	25¢	25¢
Payment			Comp	Comp	Comp	Comp
<b><u>Austria</u></b>						
Not over ½ oz	40¢	35¢	28¢	35¢	35¢	25¢
Payment	Optional	Comp	Opt	Opt	Opt	Opt
Papers		6¢	6¢			
<b><u>Belgium via France</u></b>						
Not over ¼ oz	26¢	21¢	21¢	26¢		
Not over ½ oz	47¢		42¢	47¢	35¢	25¢
Payment	Opt	Comp	Opt	Opt	Opt	Opt
Papers		2¢				
<b><u>BNA Provinces</u></b>				<b><u>Canada (excluding PEI and NFLD)</u></b>		
Not over ½ oz	20¢	15¢	10¢	15¢	15¢	15¢
Payment	Opt	Comp	Comp	Opt	Opt	Opt
Papers		2c	2¢	2¢		
Book and Trade Patterns 4 ounces					4c	
<b><u>California</u></b>						
Not over ½ oz		10¢	2¢			
Payment		Comp	Comp			
Papers		2c	2¢			
<b><u>Cape of Good Hope</u></b>						
Not over ½ oz	43¢	38¢	45¢	50¢	50¢	50¢
Payment	Comp	Comp	Comp	Comp	Comp	Comp
Papers		2¢	4¢			
		<b><u>via Marseilles</u></b>				
Not over ½ oz			53¢			
Payment			Comp			
<b><u>Ceylon via England</u></b>			<b><u>via Southampton</u></b>			
Not over ½ oz		26¢	33¢			
Payment		Comp	Comp			
Papers		6c	6¢			
		<b><u>via Marseilles</u></b>				

*Foreign Colonial rates continued*

<b>Countries</b>	<b>1860</b>	<b>1864</b>	<b>1865</b>	<b>1868</b>	<b>1869</b>	<b>1871</b>
Not over ½ oz			45¢			
Payment			Comp			
Papers			8¢			
<b><u>Chili (Chile)</u></b>						
Not over ½ oz	39¢	34¢	34¢	39¢	50¢	40¢
Payment	Comp	Comp	Comp	Comp	Comp	Comp
Papers		6c	6¢			
<b><u>Constantinople</u></b>			<b><u>per Prussian closed mail</u></b>			
Not over ½ oz			38¢			
Payment			Comp			
Papers			6¢			
			<b><u>per French mail</u></b>			
Not over ½ oz			60¢			
Payment			Comp			
Papers			2¢			
<b><u>Cuba</u></b>						
Not over ½ oz	25¢	20¢	10¢	40¢	40¢	25¢
Payment	Comp	Comp	Comp	Comp	Comp	Comp
Papers		2¢	2¢			
<b><u>China by private ship from San Francisco</u></b>						
Not over ½ oz	15¢			25¢	25¢	25¢
Payment	comp			Comp	Comp	Comp
<b><u>Denmark</u></b>			<b><u>per Prussian closed mail</u></b>			
Not over ½ oz	45¢	40¢	33¢	40¢	40¢	25¢
Payment	Opt	Comp	Opt	Opt	Opt	Comp
Papers		6¢	6¢			
<b><u>East Indies</u></b>		<b><u>by Prussian mail via Trieste</u></b>				
Not over ½ oz		42¢	68¢			
Payment		Comp	Comp			
Papers		10¢	13¢			
<b><u>Egypt</u></b>			<b><u>British mail via Southampton</u></b>			
Not over ½ oz			33¢			
Payment			Comp			
Papers			6¢			
			<b><u>British mail via Marseilles</u></b>			
Not over ½ oz			45¢			
Payment			Comp			
Papers			8¢			
<b><u>France</u></b>						
Not over ¼ oz	25¢	20¢	15¢	20¢	20¢	...
Not over ½ oz	50¢		30¢	40¢	40¢	25¢
Payment	Opt	Opt	Opt	Opt	Opt	Comp
Papers		2¢	2¢			
<b><u>German States</u></b>						
Not over ½ oz	40¢	35¢	28¢	35¢	35¢	25¢
Payment	Opt	Opt	Opt	Opt	Opt	Comp
Papers		6¢	6¢			
<b><u>Gibraltar via France</u></b>						
Not over ¼ oz		26¢	21¢			
Not over ½ oz			42¢			
Payment		Comp	Comp			
Papers		2¢	4¢			
<b><u>Great Britain and Ireland</u></b>						
Not over ½ oz	34¢	24¢	24¢	25¢	25¢	25¢
Payment	Opt	Opt	Opt	Comp	Comp	Comp



*Foreign Colonial rates continued*

<b>Countries</b>	<b>1860</b>	<b>1864</b>	<b>1865</b>	<b>1868</b>	<b>1869</b>	<b>1871</b>
<i>Papers</i>		2¢	2¢	4¢		
<i>Book and Trade Patterns</i>				8¢		
<b><u>Greece</u></b>		<b><u>per-Prussian closed mail</u></b>				
<i>Not over ½ oz</i>	47¢	42¢	42¢			
<i>Payment</i>	<i>Opt</i>	<i>Comp</i>	<i>Opt</i>			
<i>Papers</i>		6¢	6¢			
				<b><u>by French mail</u></b>		
<i>Not over ½ oz</i>				65¢	65¢	65¢
<i>Payment</i>				<i>Opt</i>	<i>Comp</i>	<i>Comp</i>
<b><u>Hamburg</u></b>						
<i>Not over 1/2¢</i>			28¢			
<i>Payment</i>			<i>Opt</i>			
<i>Papers</i>			6¢			
<b><u>Holland via France</u></b>						
<i>Not over ¼ oz</i>	31¢	26¢	21¢	26¢		
<i>Not over ½ oz</i>	57¢		42¢	47¢	35¢	25¢
<i>Payment</i>	<i>Opt</i>	<i>Comp</i>	<i>Opt</i>	<i>Opt</i>	<i>Opt</i>	<i>Opt</i>
<i>Papers</i>		2¢	2¢			
<b><u>Honduras</u></b>						
<i>Not over ½ oz</i>			34¢			
<i>Payment</i>			<i>Comp</i>			
<i>Papers</i>			6¢			
<b><u>Hong Kong</u></b>		<b><u>via Southampton</u></b>				
<i>Not over ½ oz</i>		26¢	45¢			
<i>Payment</i>		<i>Comp</i>	<i>Comp</i>			
<i>Papers</i>		6¢	6¢			
				<b><u>via San Francisco per ship</u></b>		
<i>Not over ½ oz</i>			10¢			
<i>Payment</i>			<i>Comp</i>			
<i>Papers</i>			2¢			
<b><u>Madeira</u></b>				<b><u>via England</u></b>		
<i>Not over ½ oz</i>			37¢			
<i>Payment</i>			<i>Comp</i>			
<i>Papers</i>			4¢			
<b><u>Mexico</u></b>						
<i>Not over ½ oz</i>	25¢	20¢	10¢	15¢	25¢	15¢
<i>Payment</i>	<i>Comp</i>	<i>Comp</i>	<i>Comp</i>	<i>Comp</i>	<i>Comp</i>	<i>Comp</i>
<i>Papers</i>		2¢	2¢			
<b><u>Naples</u></b>				<b><u>per Prussian closed mail</u></b>		
<i>Not over ½ oz</i>			28¢			
<i>Payment</i>			<i>Comp</i>			
<i>Papers</i>			6¢			
<b><u>Natal</u></b>						
<i>Not over ½ oz</i>			45¢			
<i>Payment</i>			<i>Comp</i>			
<i>Papers</i>			4¢			
				<b><u>per Marseilles British mail</u></b>		
<i>Not over ½ oz</i>			53¢			
<i>Payment</i>			<i>Comp.</i>			
<b><u>Norway</u></b>				<b><u>per Prussian closed mail</u></b>		
<i>Not over ½ oz</i>	56¢	51¢	44¢	43¢	43¢	40¢
<i>Payment</i>	<i>Opt</i>	<i>Comp</i>	<i>Opt</i>	<i>Opt</i>	<i>Opt</i>	<i>Opt</i>
<i>Papers</i>		6¢	6¢			
<b><u>Oregon</u></b>						
<i>Not over ½ oz</i>		10¢	10¢			

*Foreign Colonial rates continued*

Countries	1860	1864	1865	1868	1869	1871
Payment		Comp	Comp			
Papers		2¢	2¢			
<b><u>Panama</u></b>						
Not over ½ oz	25¢	20¢	10¢	15¢	25¢	25¢
Payment	Comp	Comp	Comp	Comp	Comp	Comp
Papers		2¢	2¢			
<b><u>Peru</u></b>						
Not over ½ oz	32¢	27¢	22¢	30¢	50¢	40¢
Payment	Comp.	Comp	Comp	Comp	Comp	Comp
Papers		6¢	6¢			
<b><u>Poland</u></b>						
Not over ½ oz	47¢	42¢	<u>per Prussian closed mail</u>			25¢
Payment	Opt	Comp	35¢	40¢	40¢	Opt
Papers		6¢	Opt	Opt	Opt	Opt
<b><u>Portugal</u></b>						
Not over ½ oz	68¢	63¢	<u>via England</u>			50¢
Payment	Comp	Comp	33¢	50¢	50¢	Comp
Papers		4¢	Comp	Comp	Comp	Comp
<b>Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland</b>						
Not over ½ oz				15¢		
Payment				Comp		
Papers				2¢		
Book and Trade Patterns				4¢		
<b><u>Prussia</u></b>						
Not over ½ oz	40¢	35¢	28¢	35¢	35¢	25¢
Payment	Opt	Comp	Opt	Opt	Opt	Opt
Papers		6¢	6¢			
<b><u>Russia</u></b>						
Not over ½ oz	48¢	<u>per Prussian closed mail</u>				35¢
Payment	Opt	43¢	35¢	40¢	40¢	Opt
Papers		Comp	Opt	Opt	Opt	Opt
<b><u>Sandwich Islands</u></b>						
Not over ½ oz	15¢	10¢	<u>via San Francisco</u>			25¢
Payment	Comp	Comp	10¢	25¢	25¢	Comp
Papers		2¢	Comp	Comp	Comp	Comp
<b><u>Sardinian States</u></b>						
Not over ½ oz			<u>per Prussian closed mail</u>			
Payment			40¢			
Papers			Comp			
<b><u>Spain via France</u></b>						
Not over ¼ oz	48¢	43¢		26¢	26¢	26¢
Not over ½ oz			42¢	47¢	47¢	47¢
Payment	Comp	Comp	Comp	Comp	Comp	Comp
Papers		2¢	2¢			
<b><u>Sweden</u></b>						
Not over ½ oz	52¢	47¢	<u>per Prussian closed mail</u>			40¢
Payment	Opt	Comp	40¢	40¢	40¢	Opt
Papers		3¢	Comp	Opt	Opt	Opt
<b><u>Switzerland</u></b>						
Not over ½ oz	45¢		<u>per Prussian closed mail</u>			
Payment	Opt		33¢			
Papers			Comp			
			6¢			
			<u>per French mail</u>			
Not over ½ oz			50¢	50¢		40¢
Payment			Opt	Opt		Opt

*Foreign Colonial rates continued*

Countries	1860	1864	1865	1868	1869	1871
<b>West Indies</b>			<b>British mail</b>			
Not over ½ oz	30¢	20¢	10¢		25¢	25¢
Payment	Comp	Comp	Comp		Opt	Opt
Papers		2¢	2¢			
<b>West Indies</b>			<b>not British except Cuba</b>			
Not over ½ oz			34¢	40¢	40¢	40¢
Payment			Comp	Comp	Comp	Comp
Papers			6c			
<b>Washington Territory</b>						
Not over ½ oz		10¢	10¢			
Payment		Comp	Comp			
Papers		2¢	2c			

**Endnotes**

<sup>1</sup> The above rates include the Colonial postage of 5 cents on every half ounce; and where it is marked optional, it has reference only to the United States Postage. (These rates applied to Vancouver Island only, but since the only effective mail service was through this colony, the rates applied to British Columbia as well, provided that the colonial postage of 2½d was paid.)

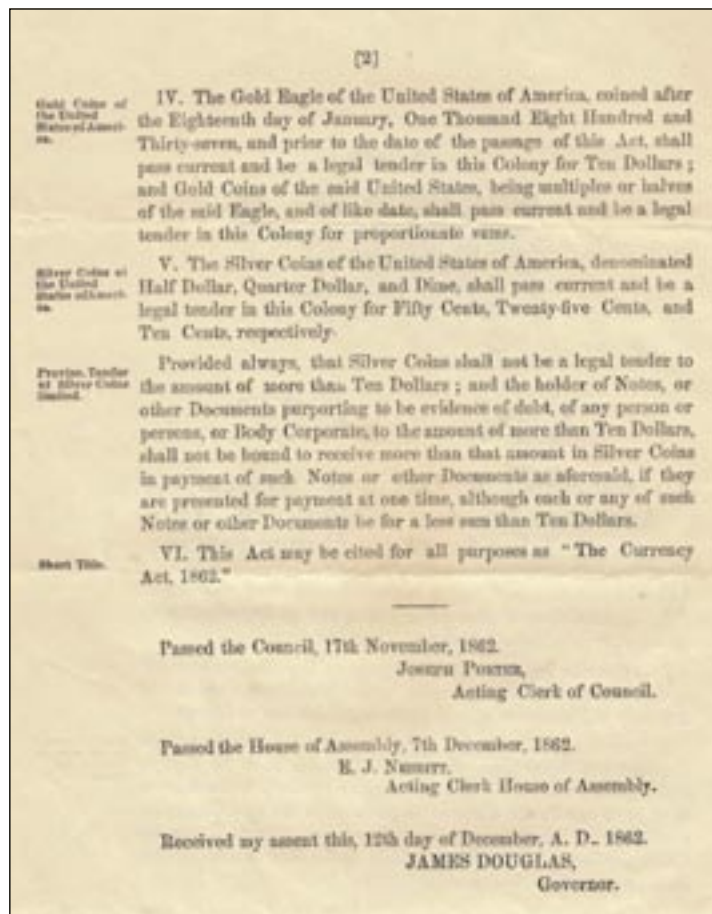
<sup>2</sup> Published by the General Post Office, New Westminster, Warren R Spalding, Postmaster General, effective Sept 17, 1864. In all cases, in addition to the above rates, the Colonial postage is to be added.

<sup>3</sup> Published by the General Post Office, New Westminster, Warren Spalding, Postmaster General, effective March 1, 1865. Pre-payment of newspapers, etc, compulsory in every case. In addition to the published rates the Colonial postage is to be added.

<sup>4</sup> Including Colonial charge of 5 cents. In every case Colonial postage must be paid. Effective Jan 17, 1868.

<sup>5</sup> Including Colonial charge of 5 cents. In every case Colonial postage must be paid.

<sup>6</sup> Including Colonial charge of 5 cents. Some of these amounts are less at Canadian rates.



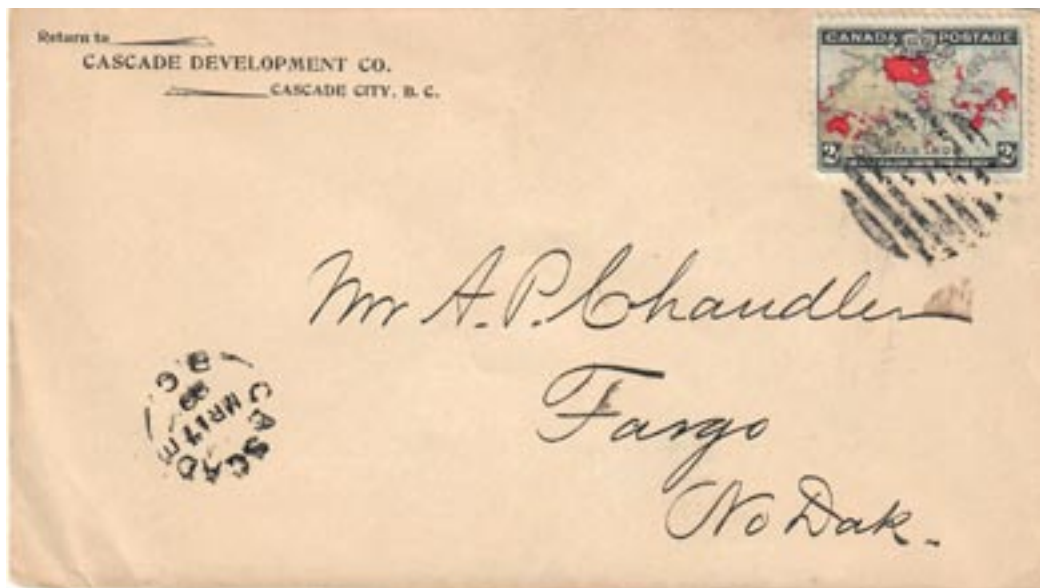
*Page two of An Act to Establish a Decimal System of Accounts in the Colony of Vancouver Island and its Dependencies. See also pages 1237, 1239 and 1245. Document courtesy the author.*

# Cascade City: a CPR construction boom town

by Morris Beattie

On August 12, 1899, when the first Columbia & Western train rolled into Cascade across the 488-metre timber bridge spanning the Kettle River, the railway was already owned by Canadian Pacific. It had been acquired in February of 1898 as part of a transaction that also gave CPR ownership of the smelting facilities at Trail. Cascade, or Cascade City as it was known at the time, had an interesting history, and its newspaper, the *Cascade Record*, had chronicled much of the economic activity in the region.

By the late 1880s, prospectors had flooded into the Boundary District in search of mineral wealth. A businessman by the name of Aaron Chandler, from North Dakota, anticipated rapid development in the area. By 1889 he was acquiring land for a future subdivision. In January 1895, a plan for a townsite named Cascade City, located about 20 km east of Grand Forks, was registered in Kamloops. Also by 1895, the future town, being located adjacent to the US border, became a customs outpost. In 1897 Chandler incorporated the Cascade Development Co in Spokane to "carry out the business of miners," which is interesting, as the only business that the company ever seems to have engaged in was real-estate development. Cascade employed George Stocker as the local agent, and as the opportunity arose he sold off lots to willing buyers.



In 1898 the Cascade Water, Power & Light Co was formed to provide power to Grand Forks, Phoenix and Greenwood from a dam on the Kettle River. At the time, it was anticipated that a smelter would be built at Cascade, and there was great optimism for the economic development of the town, which by now had a number of hotels and brothels. In the spring of 1899 the Granby Consolidated Mining & Smelting Co announced that it would in fact build its smelter at Grand Forks, and as the CPR had its own smelter at Trail, the prospects for an additional smelter at Cascade quickly diminished. The town had flourished while being used by the CPR as a base for expansion through the Boundary country, but as construction was completed the future of the town faded. Bad luck also played a part in the town's demise, as about six weeks after the arrival of the railway, on Sept 30, 1899, a fire swept through Cascade. A second fire, in 1901, further deflated the remaining residents.

A post office at Cascade opened on Oct 11, 1897, with August Cameron as postmaster. It became an accounting office on July 1, 1899. Post office revenues rapidly declined from their 1898/1899 peak, at which time Cascade had a population of about 1,000, and remained at a constant but unremarkable level for several decades as the population fell to 75 residents then gradually recovered to about 150. The post office burned again in 1947 but was rebuilt and continued to function until June 30, 1973, at which time it was amalgamated with the nearby Christina Lake post office. The CPR train station at Cascade closed in 1968.

The cover above was sent from Chandler's development company at Cascade to Chandler in North Dakota. It received a split-ring Cascade cancel dated March 17, 1899, and the two-cent 1898 map stamp was obliterated with an eight-bar killer. The backstamp is dated March 20, 1899, just three days after it was posted. There are no other transit markings to indicate the route the cover travelled.



# The solitary resident of Echo Island

by Brian Copeland

There have always been pockets of settlement on the BC coast too small to support a post office. Covers to or from such places are always interesting. The Echo Island covers illustrated here are intriguing not only because there was no post office, but also because the location of the island was a mystery.



Figure 1. Victoria (Oct 6, 1917) to Echo Island, "by Retreat Cove." Backstamps: Kuper Island split-ring Oct 9 and Oct 11, Chemainus (CDS) Oct 8 and Oct 11, Retreat Cove Oct 12 (purple ink).

Figure 1 shows a cover sent from Victoria on Oct 6, 1917, to "Echo Island, by Retreat Cove, BC." It went via Chemainus to Kuper Island, where it was received Oct 9. Two days later it was sent from Kuper Island via Chemainus to Retreat Cove, where an Oct 12 split-circle receiving mark was applied.

Figure 2 shows a cover from Echo Island, Retreat Cove, BC, to Duesseldorf. It was posted on Kuper Island on Nov 24, 1923. The sender was A H Morgan, who was also the recipient of the cover in Figure 1.

There are a couple of small geographic features named the Echo Islands midway between Port Hardy and the mainland of BC. And there is an Echo Island in Harrison Lake. Neither of these is anywhere near Retreat Cove. Echo Island does not appear on any of the several maps I have seen showing the features near Kuper and Galiano islands. Andrew Scott's comprehensive *Encyclopedia of Raincoast Place Names* does not have a listing for Echo Island. There is an entry for Echo Island in the *Directory of Vancouver Island and Adjacent Islands for 1909*. It does not list any residents, but says that it is "Between N Galiano Island and Mainland." There are no islands between North Galiano and the Mainland, so it likely meant "Vancouver Island" instead of "Mainland." Andrew checked with a local historian on Galiano Island, and in the end the conclusion reached was that it was probably an unofficial local name. But for which island?

The location of Echo Island was finally revealed by tracking down the sender and receiver of these covers: Annemarie Helene Menger-Morgan. She appears in the 1911 census as Morgan, Mgr Annemarie H. Her entry in the census is between the listings for the Secretary Islands and Reid Island. A note in the margin possibly says "Hall Island," but is indistinct. It turns out, however, that Echo Island is indeed Hall Island.

The list of Crown Land grants for 1912 (*Report of the BC Minister of Lands, 1913*) indicates that a grant was issued to Annemarie Helene Menger Morgan for Lot 27 in the Cowichan District. The *BC Assessment* website indicates that District Lot 27, Land District 16 (Cowichan), is "Hall Island, also known as Echo Island." This is the only official listing I have run across that notes the island's alternative name.

*Echo Island continued*

Hall Island is a small, 20-hectare (50-acre) island south of Reid Island, between the northern part of Galiano Island and Kuper (or Penelakut) Island. Hall Island never had a post office. The Retreat Cove post office, southeast of Hall Island, was open from 1904 until 1923, when it was renamed North Galiano. The post



Figure 2. Cover to Duesseldorf from Echo Island, Retreat Cove. Posted at Kuper Island on Nov 24, 1923, and received at Duesseldorf on Dec 12, 1923.

office was originally located at Retreat Cove, and at some point (possibly before the name change) it moved north on Galiano to Shaw's Landing (named for the postmaster, John Shaw). Postal revenue at Retreat Cove was never high, ranging from \$25 to \$50 per year until 1916, after which it rose to the \$60-70 range. The other post office near Hall Island was at Kuper Island. Both covers in *Figures 1* and *2* passed through that office. Kuper, site of an Indian residential school, opened in 1892 and had more activity than the Retreat Cove office. It is now known as Penelakut Island and is owned by the Penelakut First Nation people. In 1946, the post office moved to neighbouring Thetis Island.

Annemarie Menger Morgan was born on Aug 16, 1865, in Berlin, Germany, and arrived in Canada in 1898. In the 1911 census she is listed as a widow. Her maiden name was probably Menger; the cover to

*Echo Island continued*

Germany in *Figure 2* is addressed to Mr and Mrs Menger. She was in Victoria in the early 1900s. An ad in the *Daily Colonist* on Sept 11, 1901, advertises her services as a private tutor in "French, Latin, German and English, Art History, Wood and Leather Burning." She lists as references Mrs James Dunsmuir and Mrs Fred Pemberton. Both were prominent citizens; James Dunsmuir was premier of BC at the time. In 1902 she was teaching at the Alexandria Royal College of Music and Art in Victoria. There are also references in the *Colonist* to her living at Montague Harbour on Galiano in 1908 and in Marigold (north of Victoria) in 1920 and 1922. In 1920 she advertised 70 hectares (176 acres) of land for sale in Sooke. According to Bill Wolferstan, author of the *Cruising Guide to BC*, Morgan also owned Mowgli Island, just south of Hall Island, at one point.



Figure 3. A third cover, above, from this correspondence recently surfaced. It was sent from Victoria on Sept 18, 1918, and passed through Retreat Cove post office on September 19 (backstamp in purple ink).

She apparently lived alone on Hall. In 1930 she was the subject of a newspaper article originally written by Knowles Blair in the *Toronto Star Weekly*. I found versions of it in the *Glengarry News* (Dec 26, 1930), the *Oakland Tribune* (Dec 14, 1930) and the *Victoria Times* (Sept 9, 1933). The headline of the *Victoria Times* article is "Lady of Echo Island leads isolated hermit existence off BC coast." The *Glengarry News* refers to her as a "Mysterious Duchess." Elsewhere Echo Island is called "the Isle of Echoes."

The reporter met with Sticks Allison, lighthouse keeper at Porlier Pass on the northern tip of Galiano Island. Allison spoke of meeting Mrs Menger Morgan around 1907. She came to shore in a rowboat and said she was looking for an uninhabited island to live on. He was skeptical, but suggested Hall Island. The reporter also met her on her island. She told him she had renamed it "Echo Island," and that she had a house built by carpenters from the mainland. She would not tell him about her past, but mentioned that she had agents in England who managed her affairs. Other people he talked to knew little. After going to school in Brussels and Paris, she married a Welshman named Morgan around 1890 and moved to England and had a son. By 1898 she was in Victoria with her son. She told the reporter she had sent her son to a college in Europe when she moved to her island. She died on Feb 5, 1940, in Ganges.



# SS Comox & Jervis Inlet logging camp service

by Tim Woodland

This SS *Comox* steamship marking is not recorded in Bill Topping's 2010 *Catalogue of Western Canadian Ship Way Letter Cancellations*. It comes from the Don Shorting collection. The *Comox*, assembled in Vancouver in 1891, was the first steel ship constructed in British Columbia. Only 34 metres in length and 100 tons gross, it could handle 150 tons of cargo or 200 deck passengers. It had berths for 40 people and a top speed of 12 knots.

The *Comox* was the first Union Steamship Co vessel assigned to upcoast logging camp service. Jervis Inlet, north of Pender Harbour, was a hotbed of early logging activity feeding Vancouver-area sawmills. As early as 1889, the *Victoria Daily Colonist* reported, "on Jervis Inlet, Mr Dineen is working a camp for the Moodyville Sawmill Co." A number of railway logging shows operated in Jervis Inlet in the early 1900s.

Straightline (RF C) and plain oval (RF E-5) markings are known for the *Comox* from 1904-09. The ship was sold in 1919.



July 7, 1911, steamship marking; July 8 Irvine's Landing receiving datestamp.

