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Andrew Scott 1947 - 2025

Former Newsletter Editor and

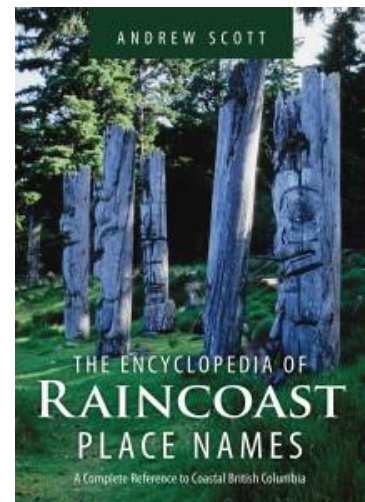
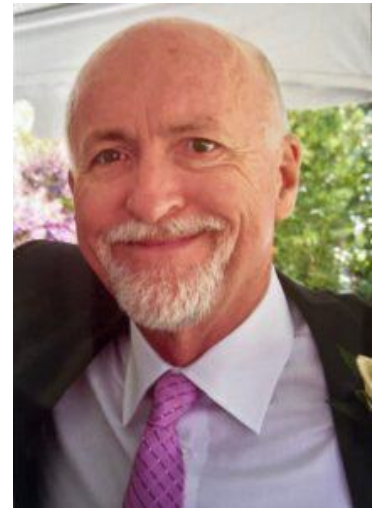
Well-known BC Postal Historian Passes Away

From April 2014 until Sept 2021, Andrew Scott was the editor of this newsletter. He established a new style and layout format for the newsletter that is still in use today. He also contributed many articles to the newsletter, drawing on his extensive knowledge of British Columbia Postal History. We will all miss his contributions.

Andrew also published a number of books, as Tracy Cooper outlines in his obituary for Andrew that is included on the following page. Note that the article to which Tracy refers was published in Western Living magazine and republished in BCPHN #122, June 2022.

One of Andrew's many books, of which many BC Postal historians make frequent use, is The Encyclopedia of Raincoast Place Names, the cover of which is shown in the adjoining figure.

For more details about Andrew please read Tracy's obituary on the next page and the link that appears at the bottom of this page.



<https://bcbooklook.com/andrew-scott-nov-26-1947-jun-29-2025/>

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Andrew Scott (1947-2025)

Author, Editor, Traveler, Philatelist, Friend

It is with great sadness that I am writing this small piece about my good friend, Andrew Scott. To say that Andrew lived life to the fullest would be an understatement. He was a world traveler, with his wife Katherine, doing deep dives into the local culture in exotic places such as the Broken Islands, Indonesia, Panama, Eastern Europe and Botswana to name just a few.

He was a prolific writer having written over 1000 magazine and newspaper articles under his byline for most of his working and retirement career. My first literary experience with Andrew was reading the 'Eco-Tourist' in the Georgia Straight and Western Living Magazine, where he both author and editor. Andrew was also a well published book writer having written numerous titles including 'Under the Bright Sky', 'The Promise of Paradise', "The Encyclopedia of Raincoast Place Names" (which the Times Colonist called "one of the most important books about British Columbia published this century" and the British Columbia Encyclopedia, and which remains one of my important reference books in my library and finally the 'Secret Coastline', Volumes 1 and 2.

On top of all of this Andrew was an accomplished BC postal historian. His main area of interest was the west coast of British Columbia, particularly the Sunshine Coast, and the Queen Charlotte Islands. His QCI/Haida Gwaii collection was second to none and included numerous one of a kind rarities and is well worth a second read in the PHSC Journal Winter of 2011 issue. This issue by the way was one of the co-winners of the PHSC Stan Shantz award for best article in the PHSC Journal for 2012.

I have known Andrew for over 40 years and I recall with fondness how we met for the very first time sitting besides each other at a bourse, looking at covers at Dick Lamb's table and discussing various aspects of BC Postal History that we were both interested in. Andrew's article in Western Living magazine titled "Mail Bonding" is in my mind the best article every written about the social component of postal history collecting, and describes Andrew and I sitting side by side, looking at postcards at a bourse.

"I came across a rural scene: handsome, twin-gabled farmhouse, awnings over the windows, an entrance pathway with trellis over it. On the back was a conventional New Year's greeting to someone's British Columbia relatives. Then my heart skipped a beat. The card had been mailed from Musgrave's Landing B.C. in December 1923: there was a clear, readable postmark. Grinning hugely, I showed the card to my friend Tracy. His face fell, though he quickly gathered himself together and congratulated me. One person's good fortune is somebody else's near miss, I realized. We had been checking out this weekend stamp show together, and if he'd been sitting on the other side of the box, this would have been his lucky day. But Mercury, the messenger god, capricious patron of luck and wealth, of travelers and thieves, had smiled upon me, and my heart exulted."

Every serious collector knows that feeling and no one has said it better.

"Andrew, I will miss you and my life is better for having known you. It was my privilege to have called you my friend." *by Tracy Cooper*

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Free digital newsletters as well as search instructions can be downloaded as PDF files at <https://bnaps.org/hhl/n-bcr.htm> (for all issues). Issues 89 to present are in full colour; earlier newsletters are in b&w only. Supplements to the newsletter are also found here..

An Early Soldier's Letter - India to New Westminster

by Tracy Cooper

This rather ratty cover is an extremely scarce example of a Soldier's Rate letter from British India to the Colony of British Columbia, written in 1866. The cover, with accompanying letter, was obtained from the McCleery family correspondence, one of the earliest pioneer families in Vancouver, B.C.



Figure 1. Front and back of cover from British India to British Columbia in 1866.

The McCleery brothers, Samuel and Fitzgerald, were born in Cork Ireland and left their homeland on Feb 26, 1862, to try their luck in the new founded colony of British Columbia. After two months at sea, they arrived in New Westminster on May 1, 1862. After striking out in the Cariboo gold fields, they returned to the lower mainland to work on a farm owned by their uncle, Hugh M. Roberts on Sea Island. The brothers pre-empted 240 acres of land on the north shore of the Fraser River (the area that is now the McCleery golf course in Vancouver) in Sept 1862 and a further 40 acres in Districts 315 and 316.

George Evans was a schoolmate chum of Fitzgerald McCleery and appears to be a regular correspondent with him. The accompanying letter describes the life of a soldier in British India and reminisces of their time together at school.

The 12th Bengal Cavalry, of which George Evans was a member, was a military regiment of the British India Army which existed from 1857 to 1921.

The soldiers rate letter was addressed to Mr, Fitzgerald McCleery care of Hugh. M. Roberts of Richmond View (now known as Richmond), New Westminster, British Columbia from Mr. George Evans, No 944



Figure George Evans, a schoolmate of Fitzgerald McCleery, was a Sargent of Instruction of Muscay in India.

Sergeant in Her Majesty's 2nd Battalion, 12th Regiment located at Seetapour, Oudh, Bengal, British India. (Seetapour has been known by many names over the years including Sitapur, Chatyapur and Chitiapur).

The cover was endorsed as a Soldier's Letter by the Major Commanding Officer of Her Majesty's 2B, 12th Regiment, in strict accordance with postal regulations.

The routing was as follows:

Dispatched: SEP 13/65 Seetapore (British India)
 Transit: SEP 16/65 LUCKNOW (British India)
 Transit: SEP 20/65 BOMBAY (British India now known as Mumbai)
 Transit: OCT 28/65 LONDON/PAID
 Received: JAN 4/66 manuscript

This is likely the very earliest recorded cover to Richmond, and the fact that we have documentation of both the sender and receiver at this early date is unusual.



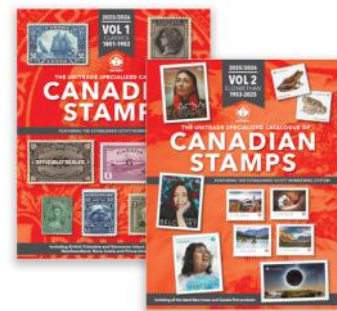
Figure In April 1863, Fitzgerald and Samuel McCleery built the first house in what is now Vancouver. This photo shows the larger farmhouse that replaced the original small cottage in 1872.

EDITORIAL

In this newsletter we provide an assortment of articles for your interest. They all started off as a cover that was then developed into a story. Some were submitted as well-researched write-ups and others just as the cover, which was then explored. We have a small group of writers that come through for each issue.

The point being? The cupboard is bare and we need some of our other readers to step up and join the group in an active way. It is not hard, just send us a cover with a few notes of why you like it, or, if you have researched it, send us your write up. Others in the group will love reading what you have to show, especially if you collect BC material from areas that we do not commonly cover.

Be enthusiastic! You undoubtedly collect some great items. Let us see them to share with others.



New Unitrade Catalogue of Canadian Stamps

This year's catalogue is printed with a natural split between the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II issues. Along with the most up-to-date Canada Post stamps, there are also many new photos, new discoveries, new listings and well over 1,400 price changes across the over 800-page, 2-volume catalogue.

The North West Mounted Police in British Columbia

by Brian Copeland

In 1873 the Canadian government established the North West Mounted Police (NWMP) to serve in the Northwest Territories (i.e. Western Canada outside of B.C. and Manitoba). The NWMP played a significant role in the early development of Alberta, Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, and the Yukon. British Columbia was outside of its jurisdiction. It had a provincial police force with origins in the colonial period. There were, however, rare occasions when the NWMP was active in B.C. Covers illustrating two such cases are included here.¹

The NWMP was responsible for policing along the CPR during railway construction on the prairies, and continued with these duties as construction moved westward from the prairies over the mountains and into B.C. Sam Steele was placed in charge.² The basis for the jurisdiction of the NWMP was the Public Works Peace Preservation Act of 1869 that was applied to a band of land of up to 20 miles on either side of the railway.³ Figure 1 shows a cover sent to Sam Steele while he was responsible for policing along the eastern part of the construction route of the CPR in B.C.



Figure 1. Cover sent to Sam Steele, End of Track, Canadian Pacific Railway, British Columbia. Received Sept. 18, 1885. (Courtesy of Tracy Cooper)

The cover was sent to "End of Track" on the CPR. The End of Track post office was established on Oct. 1, 1884. The post office was in a rail car and moved west as track was laid.⁴ At the time the cover was received, the End of Track was between Illecillewaet and Albert Canyon (east of Revelstoke).⁵

Sam Steele also played a key role in the establishment of the first NWMP post in British Columbia at what became Fort Steele. In the spring of 1887, the B.C. government asked the North West Mounted Police to intervene to resolve a dispute between settlers and the Ktunaxa First Nation in the Kootenay area. The Ktunaxa (also known as Kutenai), led by Chief Isadore, were very unhappy that the B.C. government had transferred key parts of their traditional territory (including what is now the city of Cranbrook) to settlers. Reserves had been established, which in their view were too small and excluded desirable land. The Ktunaxa were also aware that land allocations imposed by the British Columbia government were less generous than those worked out by the Canadian government east of the Rockies.⁶ The Ktunaxa protested what they viewed as unjust treatment, and some of the local settlers viewed the protests as threatening. The situation further deteriorated after a B.C. provincial police officer arrested a Ktunaxa man named Kapula for the murder of two prospectors. Chief Isadore led an armed group that freed him from jail. It was at that point that Sam Steele was sent to establish a NWMP detachment.

Steele and his division of 75 NWMP officers arrived by train in Golden, B.C. on June 28, 1887. They then travelled south to Wild Horse Creek. Steele chose a spot for his headquarters near where Wild Horse Creek met the Kootenay River. He leased the land for the nominal sum of \$1 from Robert Leslie Thomas Galbraith, whose brother John had established a town in the area.⁷ The town was known as Galbraith's Ferry because it was the location of a ferry crossing over the Kootenay River. Figure 2 shows a cover sent to Robert Galbraith in early 1889 from Fort MacLeod, Alberta (another NWMP post). Galbraith had been a member of the Legislative Assembly from 1877 to 1886 and later became a Justice of the Peace and an Indian Agent.

Figure 2. Cover from Fort MacLeod (spelled McLeod in the hammer) sent to Robert Galbraith on Jan. 30, 1889. At that time, Galbraith was in Victoria.



Figure 3. Cover to Constable Camies sent from Winchester, England in March 2, 1888. Received at Golden on March 18.

One of the constables in Steele's detachment was Ernest Joseph Camies (1867-1935). He was born in Winchester England, emigrated to Canada, and joined the NWMP in 1885. In June of 1886 he was assigned to Fort MacLeod, and he was part of the contingent that went to the Kootenay District.⁸ Figure 3 shows a cover from Winchester sent to Constable Camies on March 2, 1888. The address is "D. Division, N. W. M. Police, Kootenai District, via Golden City, British Columbia." Steele established a mail service from his detachment using riders to take the mail to and from the south end of Windermere Lake (then known as Upper Columbia Lake). A boat took mail between Windermere Lake and Golden.⁹

Camies had a girlfriend (Elizabeth Preston) in England. Figure 4 shows a cover from Camies sent to Miss Preston in Winchester.¹⁰ It was posted at Golden on July 8, 1887. This was just over a week after the NWMP officers had arrived by train at Golden. The Golden post office had opened on April 1, 1887.

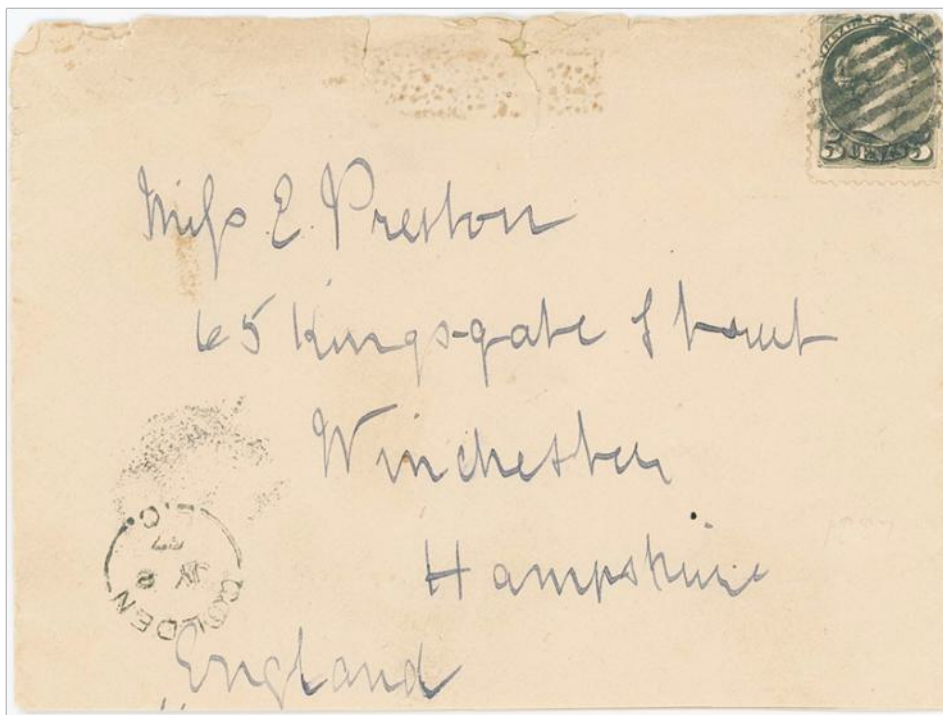


Figure 4. Cover from Constable Camies sent from Golden on July 8, 1887 to Elizabeth Preston in Winchester, England.

After setting up his headquarters, Steele investigated the murder case against the Ktunaxa man, Kapula. Chief Isadore was present and had surrendered Kapula to the NWMP. Steele determined that there was no evidence against Kapula, dismissed the murder charges and freed the accused.

Dealing with the tensions over the appropriation of Ktunaxa land was more difficult, because the role of the NWMP was limited to convincing the Ktunaxa people to accept the land allocation decisions made by the B.C. government, regardless of their fairness. In the end, Steele was successful in diffusing tensions, in part because of the show of force by the NWMP, but also through efforts to gain the trust of both sides in the conflict including some gestures such as having his men build an irrigation ditch to the reserve land.¹¹

By the summer of 1888, Steele was ordered to return to Fort MacLeod. Steele and his men left on August 7, 1888. Rather than retracing their steps back up north to the railway at Golden, they went over the mountains on horseback. They arrived at Fort MacLeod on August 16.

Figure 5 shows a cover from Elizabeth Preston to Constable Camies in Fort MacLeod. After returning to Fort MacLeod, Constable Camies was given leave so that he could go to England and get married. He married Elizabeth Preston on December 27, 1888. She stayed in England until he (with the help of some fellow NWMP members) built a house for them. She joined him in Fort MacLeod in July 1889, about 4 months after this cover was sent.

There was no post office at Galbraith's Ferry while Steele and his men were there. A proposal for a post office had been submitted and plans to set up an office were in the works. A name had to be settled upon. The area had come to be known as Fort Steele and there was much support in the community for that name. Figure 6 shows a rare cover addressed to Sam Steele at Fort Steele (via Golden City) before the post office was open.

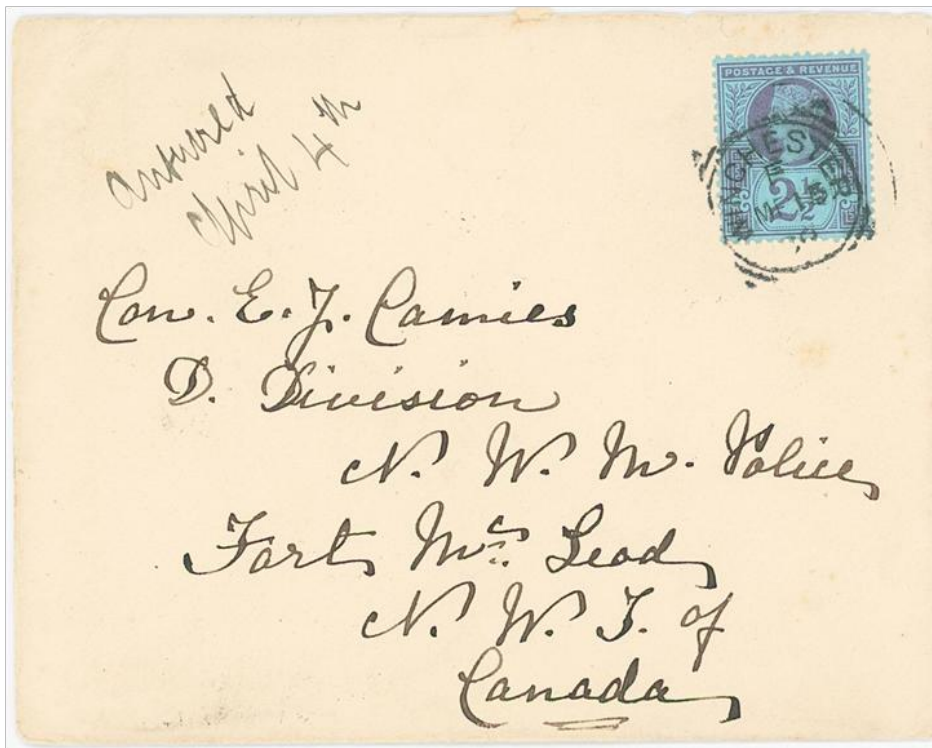


Figure 5. Cover to Constable Camies in Fort MacLeod sent from Winchester, England in March 15, 1889.

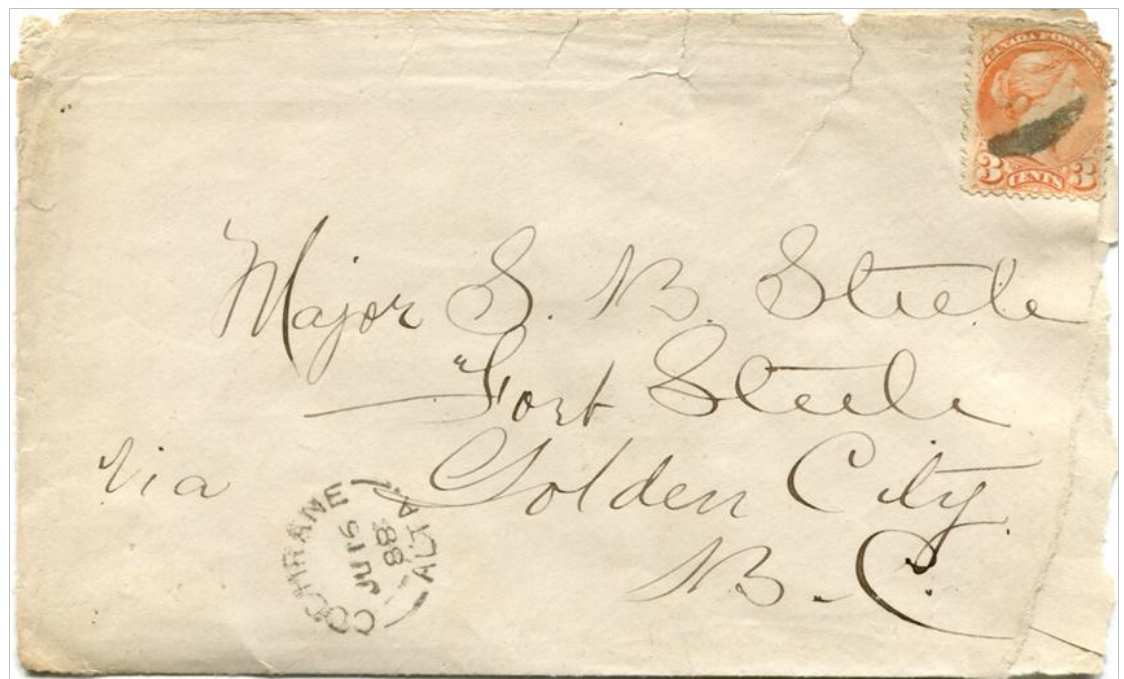


Figure 6. Cover sent from Cochrane, Alta. on June 16, 1888 to Sam Steele at Fort Steele via Golden City, B.C. Arrived at Golden on June 17.

The original proposal was to name the post office Fort Steele, but Sam Steele objected. On Jan. 21, 1888, he wrote a letter to the Post Office Inspector saying, "As I am the person after whom it is to be called I am naturally the one most deeply interested and therefore request that the motion be not completed with as I strongly object to anything of the kind."¹² The Post Office Inspector, E.H. Fletcher, took note of the request and proposed the name "Kootenay Ferry"¹³ However, it was noted that the proposed new name could cause confusion with "Kootenay City" in Idaho, and so Fletcher eventually recommended that the name be changed back to "Fort Steele" as it was the name in general usage and would meet with local approval.¹⁴ The Post Office opened on Sept. 1, 1888 as Fort Steele. Figure 7 shows a cover from this office dated 1900.



Figure 7. Registered cover from Fort Steele to Rennie Seeds in Toronto sent March 14, 1900.

After the railway came through Cranbrook, Fort Steele began to fade as businesses relocated closer to the railway. Fort Steele is now a National Historic Site, in recognition of the rare presence of the NWMP in the early development of B.C.

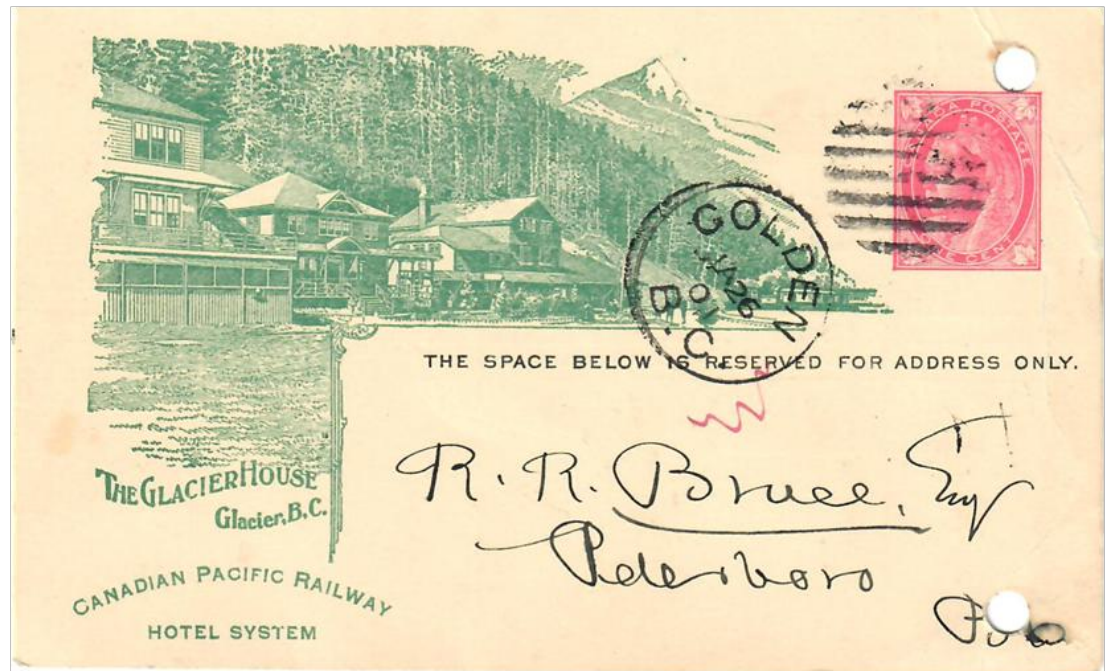
Notes

1. In addition to the cases discussed here, the NWMP's responsibility for policing in the Yukon during the gold rush had spillovers into BC. The NWMP policed the Atlin goldfields before it was confirmed they were in BC (Bilsland, W. W., and Willard E. Ireland, Atlin, 1898-1910: The story of a gold boom, Atlin Centennial Committee, 1971; p. 43). And in 1897, Inspector Moodie of the NWMP was commissioned to explore the feasibility of a trail from Edmonton to the Yukon that went through B.C. See David Mills, "Documenting and Interpreting the History and Significance of the North West Mounted Police Peace-Yukon Historic Trails," 2008. An early account of the NWMP in BC is Sage, Walter N. "The North-West Mounted Police and British Columbia." *Pacific Historical Review* (1949): 345-361.
2. For a recent biography of Sam Steele, see Rod MacLeod, *Sam Steele, A Biography*, University of Alberta Press, 2019.
3. Binnie, Susan, and Barry Wright. "Maintaining Order on the Pacific Railway: The Peace Preservation Act, 1869-85." In *Canadian State Trials, Volume III: Political Trials and Security Measures, 1840-1914*, pp. 204-256. University of Toronto Press, 2009.
4. Price, H. Alexander, "The RPO Cowcatcher: End of Track and the C.P. Mail Company," *BNA Topics* Vol 44, #5, Whole #421 (Sep/Oct 1987), p. 12-17.
5. Lavallée, Omer. *Van Horne's Road: An illustrated account of the construction and first years of operation of the Canadian Pacific transcontinental railway*, Railfare Enterprises, 1974; p. 209.
6. See Robin Fisher, *Contact and Conflict: Indian-European Relations in British Columbia, 1774-1890*. UBC Press, (2nd Edition, 1992), and MacLeod's biography of Sam Steele referenced above.
7. Steele, S.B., *Forty Years in Canada*, Toronto: McClelland, Goodchild, Stewart, Ltd. 1918.
8. Hall, Ric. "Force: The Generations," Veterans Association Vancouver Division, Royal Canadian Mounted Police.
9. Steele, S.B., *Forty Years in Canada*.
10. Several other covers from this correspondence have survived, including covers to Miss Preston from Battleford, Swift Current, Regina, Lethbridge, and Fort MacLeod. The covers shown here were in the Stewart Kenyon collection. See Hennok Auction Sale 59-60, Dec. 1990, Lots 299 and 300.
11. Fisher, Robin, "Isadore," *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*. See also Fisher's book *Conflict and Contact* and MacLeod's biography of Sam Steele, both referenced above.
12. Cooper, Tracy, *British Columbia Post Office Revenues 1871-1921*, Privately published (1999); p. 258.
13. Cooper (1999; p. 257)
14. Cooper (1999; p. 258)

A Favourite Postcard

by Morris Beattie

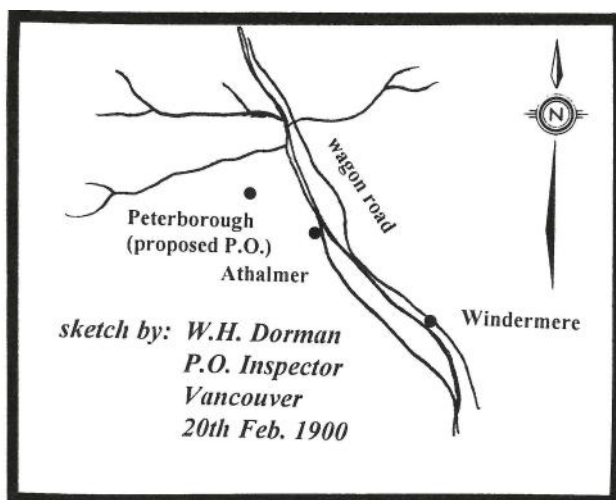
Figure 1. A postcard dated 1900 to Peterboro (sic), B.C.



At first glance, this is a fairly common CPR view card (CPR 7) showing Glacier House with the train going left and "Canadian Pacific Railway" in an arc. Mostly, we see these Freight Advice cards being sent from Montreal or other eastern locations. This one first caught my attention due to the fact that it was sent in 1901 from Golden, B.C. of all places. Why from there? From there on, the interest just increased. Firstly, it was addressed to R.R. Bruce who would go on to become the 13th Lieutenant Governor of B.C. from 1926 until 1931. Why was a railway office at Golden sending a freight advice for a shipment that the reverse of the card indicates to have originated in Nelson to Mr. Roberts?

Secondly, it was addressed to Peterboro (sic), B.C. There is no such place, correct? Surely it meant Peterborough in Ontario. There is no such location in B.C. now but in 1901 there was until the following year when Peterborough, BC was renamed as Wilmer, as it is known today.

It is a favourite card as it raised all these questions resulting in an investigation which had all the elements that this postal historian thrives on: postal history, railway history, mining history. A more complete story follows.



On Feb 20th, 1900, post office inspector W.H. Dorman proposed a post office with the name of "Peterborough" to be located 3.5 miles southeast of Athlmer in the Windermere valley. The post office was established on May 1 of that year with W.S Santo as postmaster. The justification for a post office at this location was that there were "a number of mines being developed in the vicinity of the proposed office".

Figure 2. Location of Peterborough, B.C post office. (Tracy Cooper - British Columbia Post Office Revenues 1871 - 1921)

The inspector was correct about mine development in the area as, by the late 1800s, the dominant mine in the area was the Delphine Mine located 28 km west of Invermere. This mine produced 170 tons of hand-sorted ore that was shipped to the smelter in Trail. The content of this ore included 614 kg silver, 3,025 kg copper and 46,000 kg lead. The success of this mining venture attracted attention from would-be mine developers, anxious to duplicate the success. Apparently, they followed the old adage "the best place to find a mine is near an existing mine". In the case of the Windermere valley, this wisdom bore out with additional mining discoveries being made in short order, resulting in a silver rush in the region.

While the silver rush in the region was at its height, in 1902 the community changed its name. Apparently, having a small town called Peterborough in B.C. while at the same time having a larger town also called Peterborough in Ontario was cause for confusion in the Canadian postal system, so the postmistresses in Peterborough, B.C. was asked to come up with a new name for her community. The two-year existence of the post office leads to covers bearing a Peterborough, B.C. cancel being extremely rare with the example shown in Figure 3 being one of only two covers of which we are aware.



Figure 3. A rare cover with a Peterborough, B.C. cancel dated 1900.
(Courtesy of Tracy Cooper)

At that time, everything, including the mail, came upriver from Golden on paddlewheel steamers. The mail got unloaded at Athalmer, which was called Salmon Flats then, and the postman would pick it up and bring it up to Peterborough. The postman's name was Wilmer, so they would write "Wilmer" on all the mail going to Peterborough. So, the postmistress decided just to rename the town Wilmer. This post office survived until March 1969.

Not all was shiny in the region in 1902 however. The "Nelson Daily Miner" newspaper on March 18, 1902 carried a story headlined "Poor Mail Service, People of Windermere are Agitating to Have It Improved". The desire was to improve the mail service between the C.P.R. main line to the north and Cranbrook on the Crow's Nest Pass railway to the south. The discontent was apparently part of a larger issue resulting from the discontinuation of the Fort Steele stage line connecting Peterborough and the Windermere district with south east Kootenay, resulting in excessively long and cumbersome travel times to and from the region.

Which bring us back to the card shown as a favourite in this newsletter. The advice shown in Figure 4, to Mr. Bruce, was for a shipment from Nelson, an important mining supply centre at the time, for a pump, a handle, some hose and other items that a mine development could require. Robert Bruce, Figure 5, was a Scottish-born engineer who came to Canada to work for the Canadian Pacific Railway before settling in BC in 1885 to become involved in mine development, eventually including that of the Paradise Mine (1).

Freight Advice. *R. R. Bruce* FORM 13.
3-10-'00

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY.

Golden Station, *Jan 25* 190*1*

The undermentioned Goods having arrived at this station to your address, you will please remove them as early as possible, as they remain here entirely at owner's risk (from any cause whatever) and expense.

J. Smell Freight Agent.

FROM	No. of Way-Bill	No. and Description of Packages.	Paid on	Weight in lbs.	Total.
<i>Nelson</i>	<i>1168</i>	<i>1 Pump 1 Chaudiere 1 pipe hose 2 Bde pipe</i>		<i>420</i>	<i>1119</i>

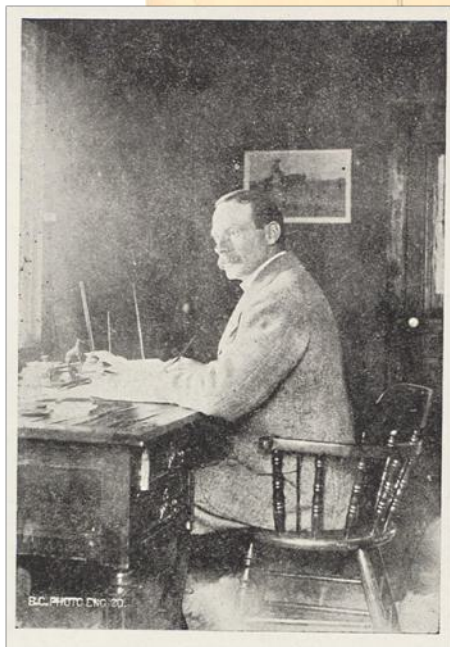


Figure 4. Back of postcard shown in Figure 1.

Figure 5. Robert Bruce at work.

The operation of this mine, like many in the district, faced great challenges due to the remote location. The shipment of mine output to the smelters was a challenging and lengthy process (2) that severely impacted the profitability and hence the viability of these mines. Bruce advocated actively for improved access to the region including lobbying the provincial and federal governments for a highway to connect the valley with the east. Bruce's determination to see the highway finished was rewarded in 1923 when the Banff-Windermere Highway was completed; meanwhile, the Kootenay Central Railroad had begun operating a regularly scheduled train service between Golden and Cranbrook in 1915. (3)

Eventually, the effect of working with lead also impacted Bruce's health and he spent time away from the operation (4). He maintained ownership of the mine until 1929 when he became Lieutenant-Governor. The mine subsequently had sporadic periods of operation until 1974, for a period being operated by Sheep Creek Gold Mines Ltd. Over its life, the mine was a very small producer but one that had a definite impact on developments in the Windermere Valley.

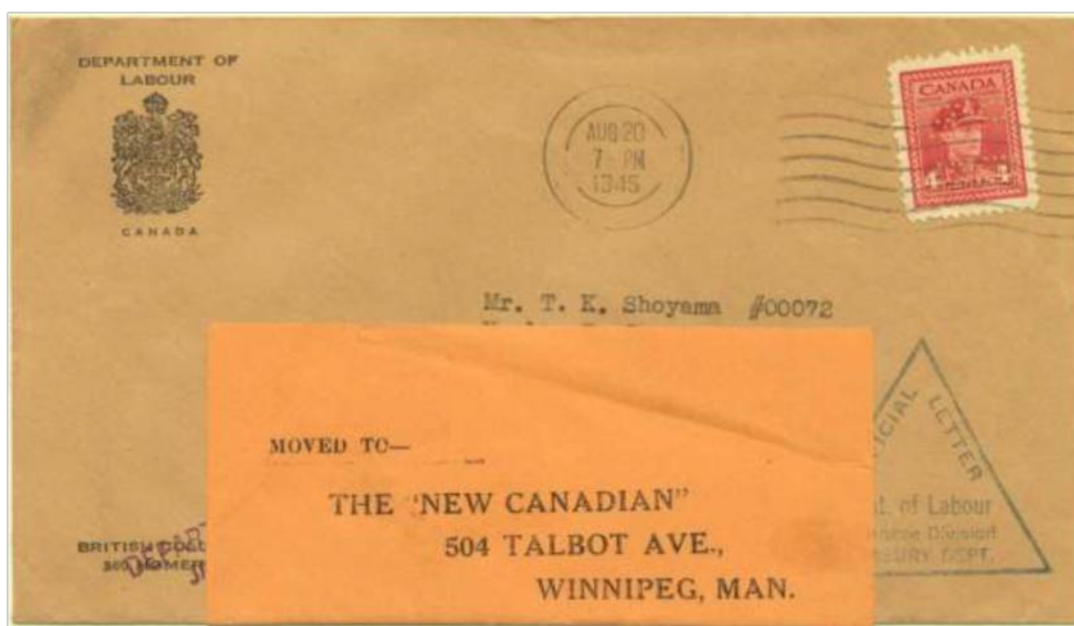
References:

1. Nicholson, C.F., The So-Called Sand Carbonates at the Paradise Mine, Windermere District, The Mining Record, Vol 8, No 10, pp 319-320, October 1901.
2. <https://tobycreekadventures.com/history-of-the-paradise-mine/development-of-the-paradise-mine/>
3. <https://www.cvchamber.ca/valley-history/>
4. <https://inthewindermere.home.blog/2021/03/17/paradise-1/>

Landscapes of Injustice and Postal History

by Gray Scrimgeour

Accompanying this newsletter, for digital subscribers we have included Gray's 124-page book regarding the sad tale of Japanese relocation during World War II, as Monograph No. 10. The cover from the front of the book and some of Gray's words about the book follow.



"This is a short book describing the postal history and the social history of the internment of Japanese Canadians during World War II. After the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese forces and war being declared between Canada and Japan, the Canadian government removed people of Japanese origin (over 20,000 people) from coastal British Columbia.

All people of Japanese origin living within 100 miles of the west coast were moved out of this protected area. This affected about 95% of those people in Canada with Japanese ancestry. The two largest concentrations were in downtown Vancouver and in the fishing village of Steveston. When the restrictions were lifted in 1949, the Japanese Canadians had no homes and no historic Japanese-Canadian neighbourhoods to return to. Some had been sent to Japan in 1946.

This book is organized chronologically. For example, it starts with examples of pre-World War II Japanese Canadian mail. Next is a discussion of the roles played by the various Canadian government agencies after war with Japan was declared in December 1941. Then I describe application of the many governmental edicts by discussing road-work camps, internment in prisoner-of-war camps, voluntary migrations, and forced internment at 6 interior-British Columbia communities. The importance of the newspaper The New Canadian is emphasized. Finally, there is discussion of post-war movement."



On the following page are included three figures showing postcards of three of the internment camps.

These were supplied by Tracy Cooper, whose grandfather was a watchman at these camps.



Figure 1. Bay Farm



Figure 2. Popoff.

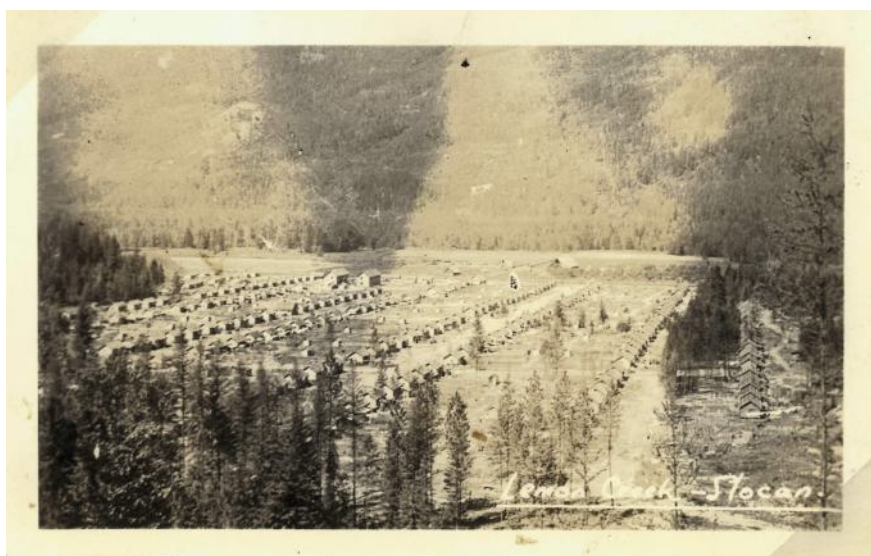


Figure 3. Lemon Creek

Cover Stories

By Morris Beattie

I believe the saying goes that "you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear". In the case of postal history, that saying does not hold true, it all depends on what you are searching for. As Tracy put it, "every cover has a story attached to it". Take the cover supplied by study group member Neil Whaley and shown in Figure 1 as an example. It is grungy, has writing all over it, has somewhat fuzzy cancellations and yet became the subject of considerable interest.

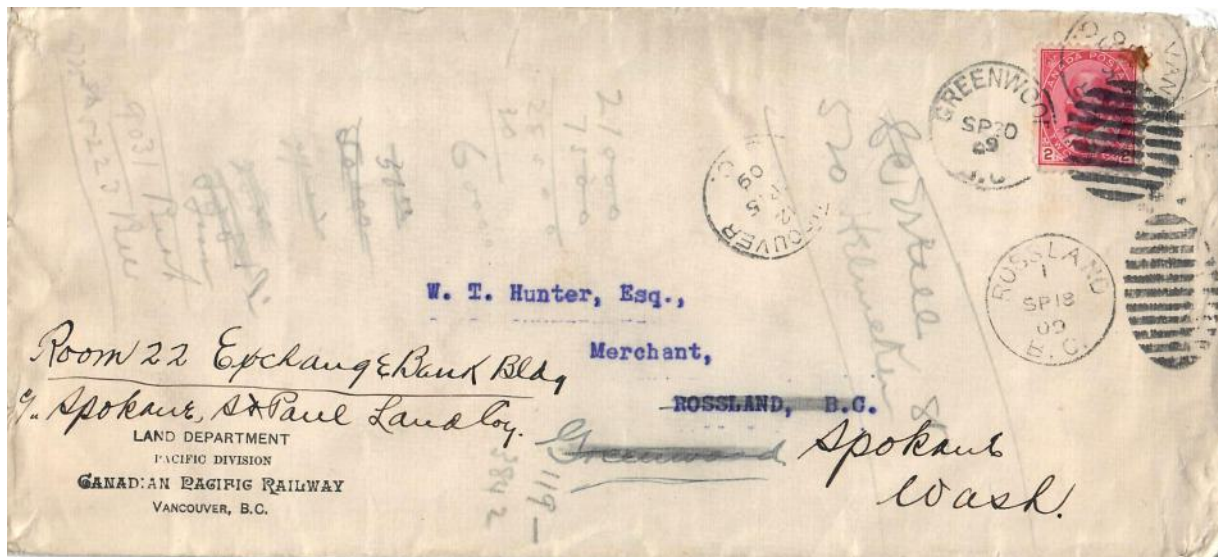


Figure 1. A cover used to develop a social philatelic story.

The cover was mailed by the CPR's land department in Vancouver in September of 1909, addressed to a Mr. W.T.Hunter in Rossland. It arrived in Rossland on Sept 17 and was redirected from Rossland to Greenwood on Sept 18, receiving a Rossland duplex cancel DBC-324, reported in use from May 1909 until April 1919. At Greenwood, it was determined that Mr. Hunter was also not there and the cover was further forwarded to Spokane, Washington, receiving a Greenwood duplex cancel DBC-153 dated Sept 20, 1909, reported in use from August 1900 until June 1919. There are no further markings to indicate whether delivery was eventually successful.

At this point, the cover becomes the subject of a social philatelic study. Who was W.T. Hunter, why was he believed to be in any of these locations and why was the CPR land department sending mail to him?

Robert and James Hunter opened the Hunter Brothers Limited Mercantile Firm in Rossland in the spring of 1895.

During a time when most businesses were small and more specialized, the Hunter Brothers was diversified, catering to housewives, miners, and businesses alike. As Rossland's largest mercantile establishment, Hunter Brothers dealt in groceries, hardware, drygoods, and clothing until the 1950's when the store was sold to the T. Eaton Co.

The Boundary Creek Times on January 28, 1899 indicated that the Hunter Brothers and Mr. Kendrick had joined forces to open a large general store in Greenwood. James and Robert Hunter and Albert Kendrick formed Hunter-Kendrick Company, Limited and started business in Greenwood on February 28th, 1899. W.T.(William), James and Robert Hunter were brothers. Prior to coming to B.C. William was a merchant in Wheatlands, North Dakota.

William bought out Albert Kendrick and took over as manager of the company's Greenwood store during 1901. Figure 2 shows the Hunter Kendricks building in Greenwood about 1910.



Figure 2. The Hunter Kendrick building in Greenwood, ca 1910.

The Boundary Creek Times, dated October 29, 1909 states the following:

"W.T.Hunter, the head of the well-known firm, the Hunter- Kendrick company, general merchants, of Greenwood, has gone to Vancouver, to engage in a manufacturing business in that city, and we hope, to make many millions in the next few years. Mr. Hunter came to Greenwood in the early days, and showed his zeal and faith in the mines by erecting a most substantial two storey brick block on our main street, and establishing a most up-to-date general merchandise business. W. T., as he was popularly known, also invested large sums of money in land in this district, and in mining property and development of the same. Recently Mr. Hunter disposed of his dry goods and grocery business, and the Hunter-Kendrick Co., now under the management of J. Saunders, is purely a hardware firm, with an excellent stock and fine display of all manner of hardware and mining necessities. Mr. Hunter will be greatly missed. His was a most congenial personality, and while we are sorry to see the head of a leading firm move away, it was generally conceded that there was not large enough scope here for his able executive ability. We feel sure that Vancouver will be the gainer by the enterprise of Mr. Hunter, and wish him, and his, every possible success and good fortune. The Empress Manufacturing Co., of Vancouver, with which Mr. Hunter has now associated himself, will receive a new impetus, and will become a most prominent business concern in the years to come. Mrs. Hunter and the boys will also be greatly missed. Their big house on Kimberly avenue already looks very empty and lonesome."

The final question is "why was the CPR land department sending mail to Mr. Hunter"? During August 1906, William bought large tracts of Columbia & Western Railway land grants from the C.P.R. so presumably this correspondence relates to those acquisitions.

The less than beautiful cover has provided a rich chronicle of early BC business activity and is a great illustration of the sort of story that any cover can tell us.

References:

<https://www.greenwoodmuseum.com/>

Victorian Attitudes and the Curious Case of Alfred Postill

by Tracy Cooper

I recently acquired a cover from one of my favourite BC Victorian towns, namely Okanagon. The Okanagon Post Office was located at the present-day location of O'Keefe Ranch located 5 miles northwest of Vernon. The cover interested me because it was registered to the USA, paying the 8c registered letter rate with a 3 cent SQ cancelled with the distinctive period 16 ray cork and a 5 cent RLS. The fact that the cover was slightly cut-down at the right did not deter me, but what mostly interested me was that cover was complete with its letter.

The cover was endorsed as coming from ALFRED POSTILL, B.COLUMBIA, 'Waiting for Consultation', with a dispatch marking, OKANAGON/B.C. split ring OC 17/79 and addressed to the PEABODY MEDICAL INSTITUTE in Boston, Massachusetts. The cover was routed through NEW WESTMINSTER/B.C. with a split ring dated OC 24/75, VICTORIA, B.C. CANADA with a split ring dated T/OC 25/79, and a REGISTERED/PORTLAND OREGON fancy elongated rectangle in purple dated OCT 31, 1879. There is no Boston receiver. Early Okanagon covers from the 1870's are relatively scarce, however as this Post Office serviced a wide area of the Okanagan, the revenue for the 1879-1880 fiscal year was \$135.01.

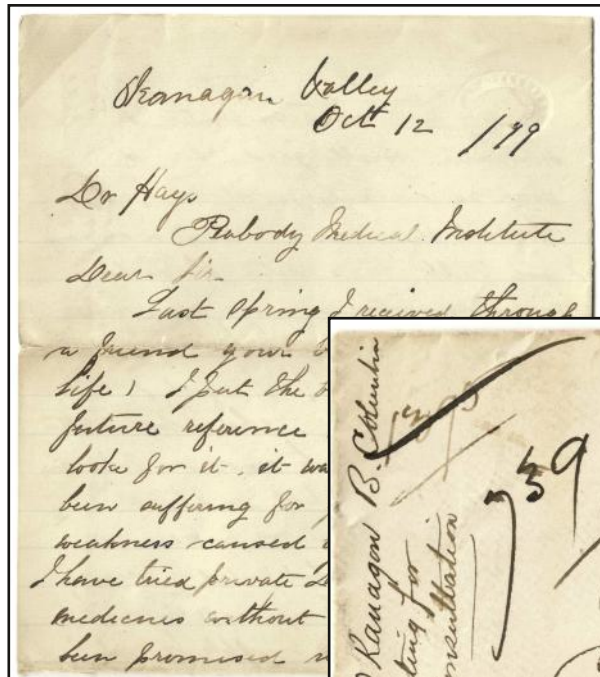


Figure 1. Cover and reduced contents of Postill letter.



What was most interesting about this cover was the address and the accompanying letter. I recalled reading the excellent article on the Peabody Institute published in the July/Aug 2021 issue of the Canadian Philatelist, by Lane Robson. Lane relates that the Peabody Institute was founded by Albert Hamilton Hayes M.D. during the 1860's in Boston, Massachusetts. Hayes had some 'unconventional and anachronistic concepts'...and believed that certain drugs of time such as 'belladonna, choral, bromide of potassium, aconite, and even tea' were misused. Hayes published his findings and medical philosophies in the *Science of Life, or Self Preservation* which became widely popular and well-known during the period. Lane notes 'The institute was clearly a for-profit enterprise. In a note to a perspective client'... wrote.. 'Dear Sir, If you

wisht my opinion you must send \$5 my consultation fee, and a thorough description of yourself and case. I can then judge whether you can be helped.'

Alfred Postill, son of Okanagan Pioneer, Edward Postill was born in 1852 (not 1848 as stated in some documentation) in England and died an early death in 1897 at the age of 45, being buried in the Postill Cemetary at Ellison. Alfred married later in life to Eleanor Jamieson and was joined in matrimony at New Westminster in 1890. These facts will be shown to be relevant in the attached letter below. The Postill ranch, called the Eldorado Ranch was originally homesteaded by Edward Postill and greatly expanded over the years by the Postill family, eventually totalling over 5000 acres in total. While the Postill family is well known as Okanagan pioneers, Alfred rose to fame as the first Okanagan member of the British Columbia Fruit Growers Association, had a vision to make the Okanagan Valley being a huge fruit growing area.

The enclosed cover to the Peabody Institute was registered as it included the \$5 consultation fee required by Dr. Hayes. The rather despondent and desperate letter from Alfred illustrates the backward Victorian attitudes regarding sex and shame, rarely even mentioned during these repressive times:

Okanagan Valley

Oct. 12/79

Dr Hayes

Peabody Medical Institute

Dear Sir

Last spring I received through a friend your book Science and Life. I put the book away for future reference & when I again looked for it, it was gone. I have been suffering for years from seminal weakness caused by masturbation. I have tried private Doctors & advertised medicines, without success & have been promised relief so often and so often been disappointed at that times I lose all hope. I feel certain that had I the means to come to Boston I could be cured as it is I will state my case as clearly as I can although with the greatest feeling of shame. I am 27 years old (confirming the birthdate of 1852) & a settler on a ranch or farm, of rather light complexion, contracted the habit of self abuse at 14 years old & have practised it more or less until 21 years old since then have fallen a few times. I have a continual ringing in the right ear and at times in the left, foul breath especially when I awake in the morning, teeth very much decayed, the under eyelids are dark colored & at times are not so dark as others & have glazed appearance. I feel ashamed to look a person in the face, and do not care to make new acquaintances, at times have crooked bars floating before my vision, and there are times when I cannot decide & am irresolute, should I catch cold or my breast get uncovered at night I have darting pains apparently through the lungs. There are times when my knees become weak & I have a weak miserable feeling under the penis & testicles when I sit down, These sensations do not last long or come often. I do not think the circulation of the blood is good, am troubled with cold feet & suffer from cold weather. When using a tool that keeps the fingers in a straight position they have a tendency to remain so. I noticed this lately. I have an immersion once in from 1 to 3 weeks, there is no regular time sometimes oftener. I lose semen at stool & when I awake in the morning I notice semen when I urinate I seem to suffer loss at times. I seem to suffer loss at times I have a pain in the small of my back generally after an immersion. My weight is about 134, height 5 feet 10 inches. I do not drink liquor or use tobacco, am not married. My food consists of bread, potatoes, & garden vegetables, principally mutton in summer with a little fish & bacon, beef is the only meat used in winter. In summer small garden fruits such as currants, gooseberries, raspberries, rhubarb etc. As a beverage in summer I use milk, tea, & water, the milk makes me costive. In winter use tea & coffee. I have told you all I can think of at present and I hope from what I have written you may be able to send me some medicine to cure me. The last Dr I tried said he could cure me for \$25.00. I sent the money but failed to receive medicine he sent by express & it was lost. He then sent another supply by mail charging for this also & after using part of the stuff, the remainder I threw away & have felt worse since then. I enclose fee of \$5.00. Kindly reply in (enclosed) envelope addressed to yours in distress.

*Alfred Postill
Okanagan, British Columbia, Canada*

PS Please state terms with postage prepaid as the express here is not reliable.

One can only conclude that Alfred rose above the shame and married at the age of 38 but his underlying health conditions likely were related to his early death. Alfred Postill accomplished a lot in his short life and his life accomplishment is a testament to rising above body shame so prevalent in the Victorian period.