

19TH Century Brandon Post Office Postmarks

A postal history exhibit

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SYNOPSIS

19TH Century Brandon Post Office Postmarks

Brandon, Manitoba, was one of the greatest benefactors of the construction of the CPR west from Winnipeg. From a small settlement, dependent on other towns for postal service, it was transformed over-night to a railway divisional point with post office, land titles office and a thriving commercial and cultural center.

This exhibit illustrates examples of the postal marks used at Brandon. The period is from the 19th Century. This period includes the first several marks used at the main post office.

The exhibit is organized by decades.

- 1881-1890 [split-ring, CDS, duplex]
- 1891-1899 [CDS, squared circle]

The first hammer used at Brandon was a split-ring hammer modified from one originally made for Brandon, NWT, but was never used at the Brandon post office. I have analyzed the two and suggested some changes that were made during the modification.

A number of CDS hammers followed, including one that is not in the proof books and not previously reported. This exhibit is the first description of that hammer. The exhibit also includes one of two known examples of the reported Unofficial Duplex (DUN-3). As a result of advice from Gray Scrimgeour, and my additional analyses, the mark has been changed from DUN to DUU.

The squared circle hammer receives due attention. Students of this postmark have identified rare occurrences of time marks. Two such are included – both of them considered to be only the second reported. The better-known 1898 flaw is also described.

This exhibit received a Silver at the 2003 Edmonton Spring National a Vermeil (small-gold) at the 2004 Winnipeg Stamp Club Show and a Vermeil at CALTAPEX, 2005. There was a comment that it required the N.W.T. hammer, but that hammer was never used at Brandon post office. The exhibit was updated between each of those shows.

Acknowledgment is gratefully expressed for advice provided by Gray Scrimgeour, Don Fraser, Jack Gordon and Stephane Cloutier.

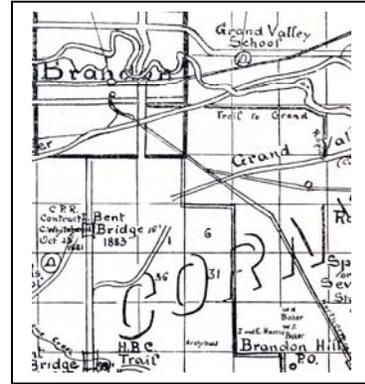
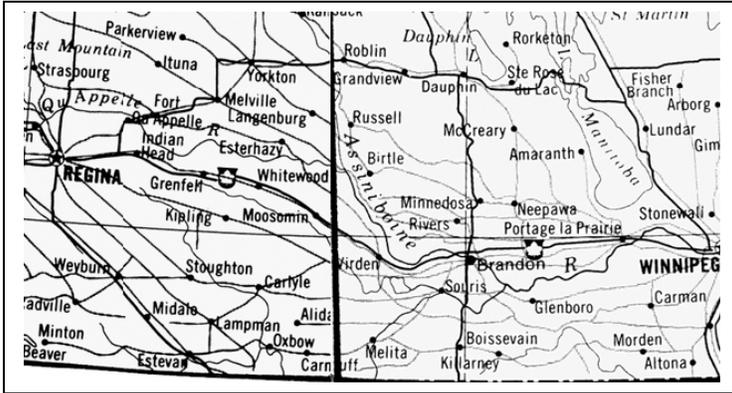
Numerous proof books and catalogues (not listed) were used for reference purposes.

Robert K. Lane
2005

1881 - 1889

19TH Century Brandon Post Office Postmarks

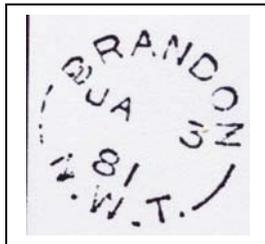
This exhibit illustrates examples of the postal marks used at the Brandon post office (open Aug. 1, 1881 to present) and by railway post office routes to and from Brandon. The period is the 19th Century.



Brandon's first proofed hammer was Brandon, NWT; a hammer that was later altered to Brandon, Man. Two uses (both Feb. 5, 1881) of the NWT hammer have been reported. Because the Brandon Post Office was not yet opened, it is possible that those uses were at Brandon Hills Post Office (Nov. 1, 1880 to Nov. 14, 1914) [map], or even at Grand Valley (Oct. 1, 1879 to Jan. 1, 1883), which lost CPR divisional point status to Brandon.

Before Brandon had its own post office, the mail would go to Brandon Hills, where it was picked up (e.g. in June, 1881) and left in a Brandon hardware store for residents to find.

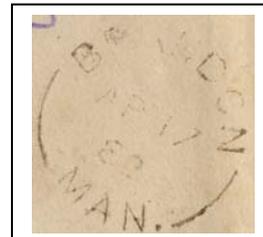
- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| • Brandon (NWT) hammer proof: | Jan. 3, 1881 |
| • Brandon (NWT) reported use: | Feb. 5, 1881 |
| • Brandon, NWT. becomes Brandon, Man.: | July 1, 1881 |
| • Brandon (NWT) hammer altered to Brandon (MAN) //////////////// | |
| • Brandon Post Office opened: | Aug. 1, 1881 |
| • Altered hammer used until next hammer | //////////////////// |
| • First proofed Brandon (MAN) hammer: | Mar. 6, 1882 |



first hammer (NWT):
proof date: **JA 3 81**



altered to MAN, this
scanned example:
NO 21 81

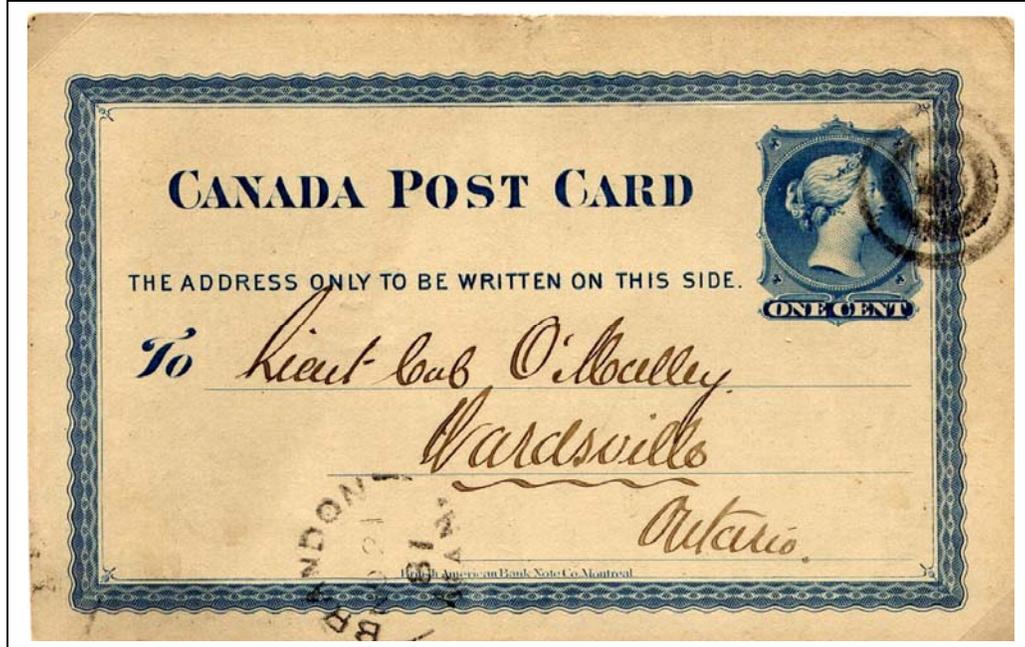


first proofed MAN
hammer; scanned
example: **AP 17 82**

1881 - 1889

[Some hammers are not included in proof books (NIPB)]

Early examples of the split-ring hammer (SR-1, NIPB) that was altered from NWT to MAN :
Changes include alterations to the arc and a few letters on the left side.



NO 21, 1881 (within 4 months of the Post Office opening)
Insurance company post card to Lieut. O'Malley from colleague visiting Brandon.



NO 22, 1881 (within 4 months of the Post Office opening)
Also showing the 3 ring killer (about 20 mm) used at the Brandon Post Office then.

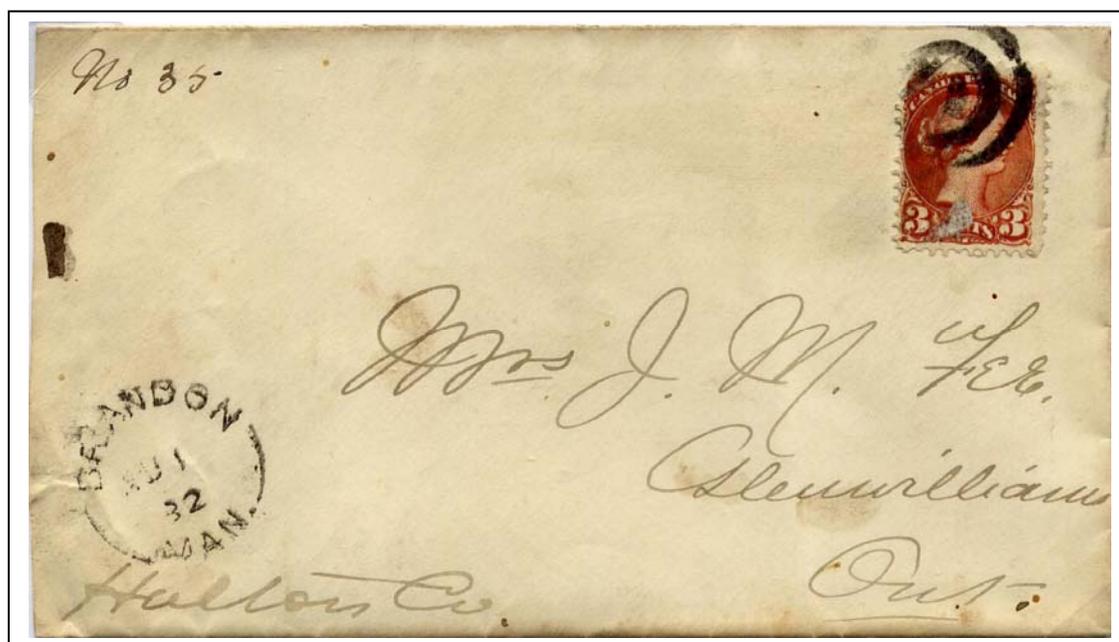
Brandon, Manitoba, Canada

1881 - 1889

The first Brandon postmark in the Proof Book
Split-ring SR-2; Proof Date: **MAR 6 82** (diam. 23+ mm)



AP 17 82 (within 6 weeks of the proof date); larger killer (about 24 mm)



AU 1 82 late date for SR-2
Another of the FEE correspondence between Glen Williams, Ont. and the Brandon-Souris area.

Brandon, Manitoba, Canada

1881 - 1889

The first Brandon full-circle hammer, CDS-1; Proof Date: **AU 16 82**



CDS – 1 **AU 30, 1882** (with time mark); 2 weeks after proof date (possibly ERD).
The indicia time mark “AM/PM” was used very early in the history of this hammer.



CDS – 1 **OC 10 83** (without time mark).
The absence of a time mark is much more common.

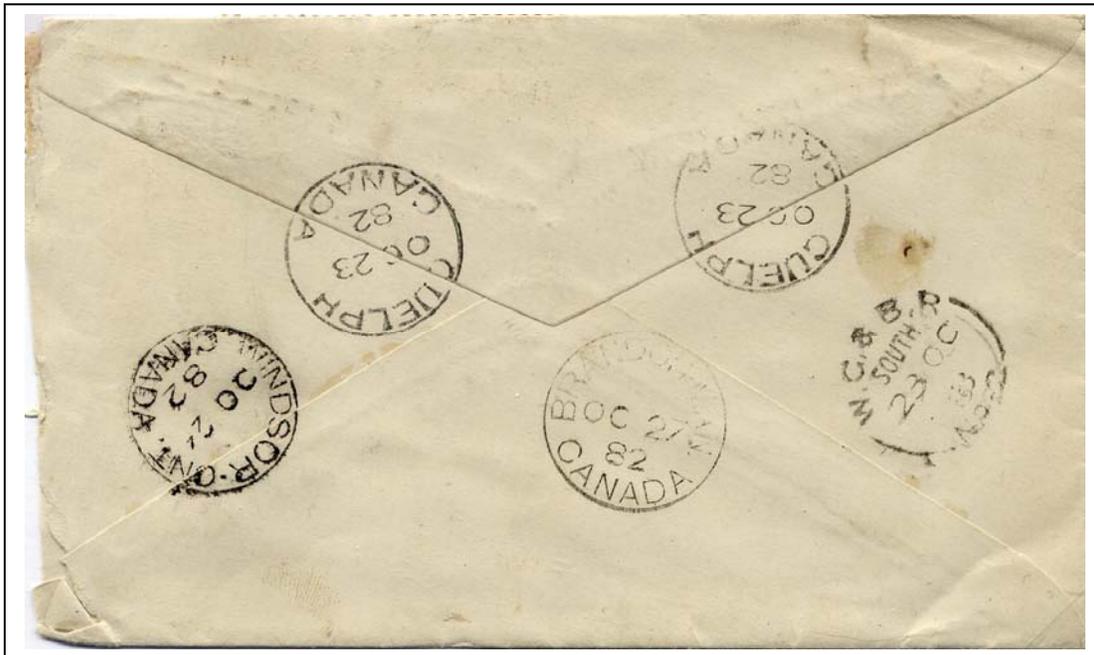
Brandon, Manitoba, Canada

1881 - 1889

Very early registered mail to the Brandon Post Office, showing the CDS-1 as a receiving postmark.



Front of registered cover (scan, reduced to 75%) from Guelph to Brandon, **OC 23 82**, fancy cancel.

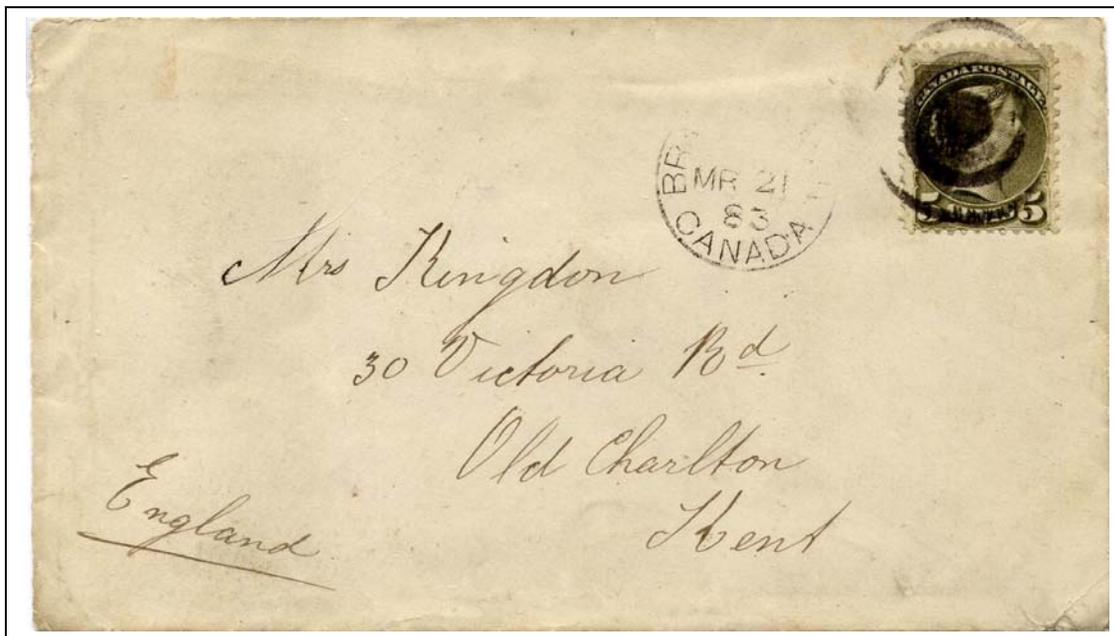


Back of cover, with transit marks of RPO RR-185, RF=390, **W.G.&B.R. / No.**, 23 OC 82, SOUTH; Windsor, OC 24 82 (inverted OC); and **CDS-1** Brandon receiver, OC 27 82. During 1882, the Wellington, Grey and Bruce Rwy became part of the Grand Trunk system.

Brandon, Manitoba, Canada

1881 - 1889

The Brandon "Unofficial Duplex" **DUN-3**



MR 21 83 this is the example shown in the Duplex Catalogue as being one of two recorded copies of DUN-3



Comparison of scans of examples of Brandon covers, showing various distances between dater and killer (including SR-2 examples, CDS-1 examples and the DUN-3)

The CDS in the example above is CDS-1
and the mark has now been re-classified as "unconfirmed" (DUU)

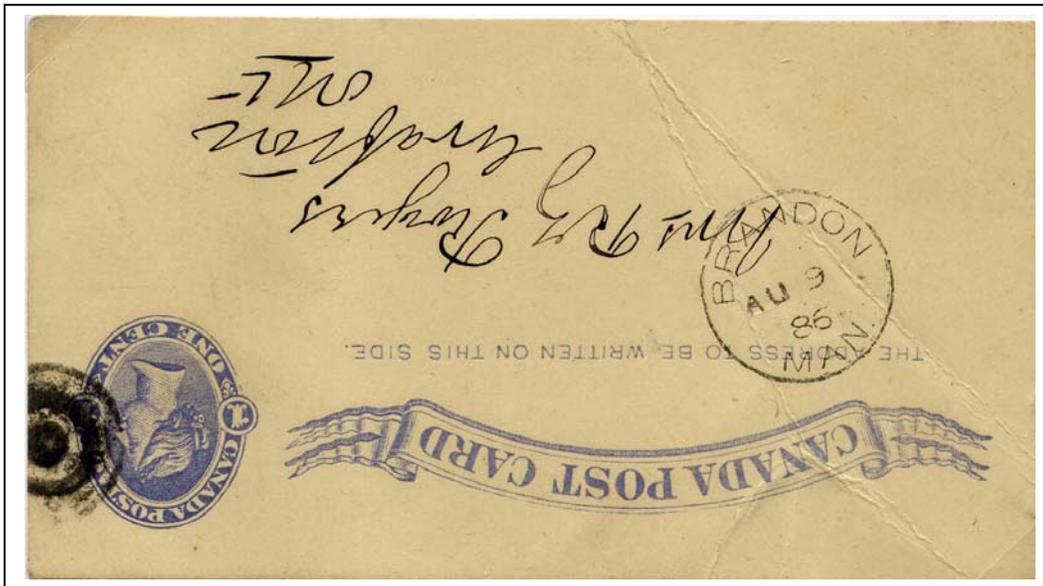
Brandon, Manitoba, Canada

1881 - 1889

CDS – 2 (**NIPB**) This mark differs from CDS-1 by showing BRANDON, MAN. rather than BRANDON, MAN. CANADA. It differs from the later CDS-3 in that the letter “R” has a wider horizontal line, the letter “O” is more round; and the orientation of the lettering is entirely different (readily seen with overlay comparison). It was used long after CDS-3 was issued.



Scans L-R: CDS-2 prior to CDS-3 proof, CDS-3 proof, CDS-2 after CDS-3 issued

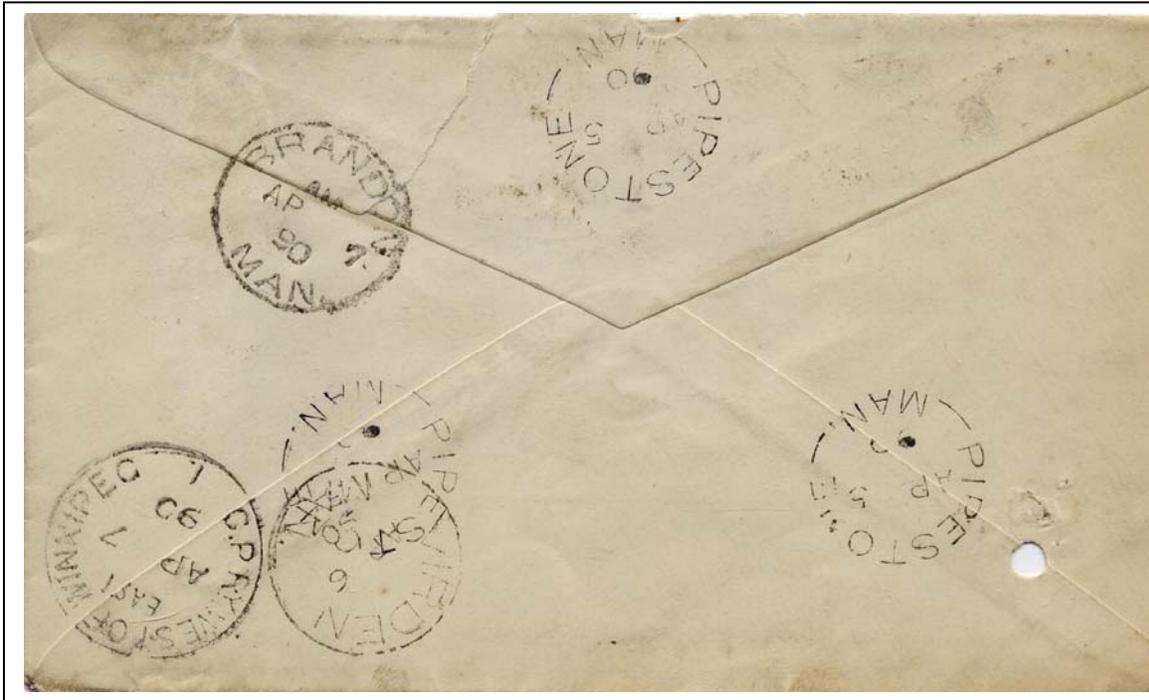


Early use, no AM/PM indicia : **AU 9 86** post card written in Millford, Manitoba sent by buggy to Brandon for mailing.

1881 - 1889



Registered cover from Pipestone to Dominion Lands Agency, Brandon.
Scan (reduced to 75%) of front of cover shown below.

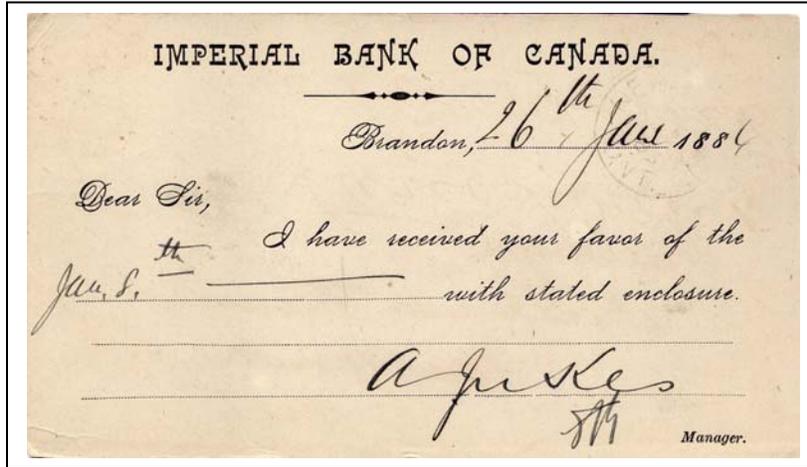


Later use of CDS-2, **AP 7 90**, AM indicia : as a receiver mark, also showing RPO RR-28a

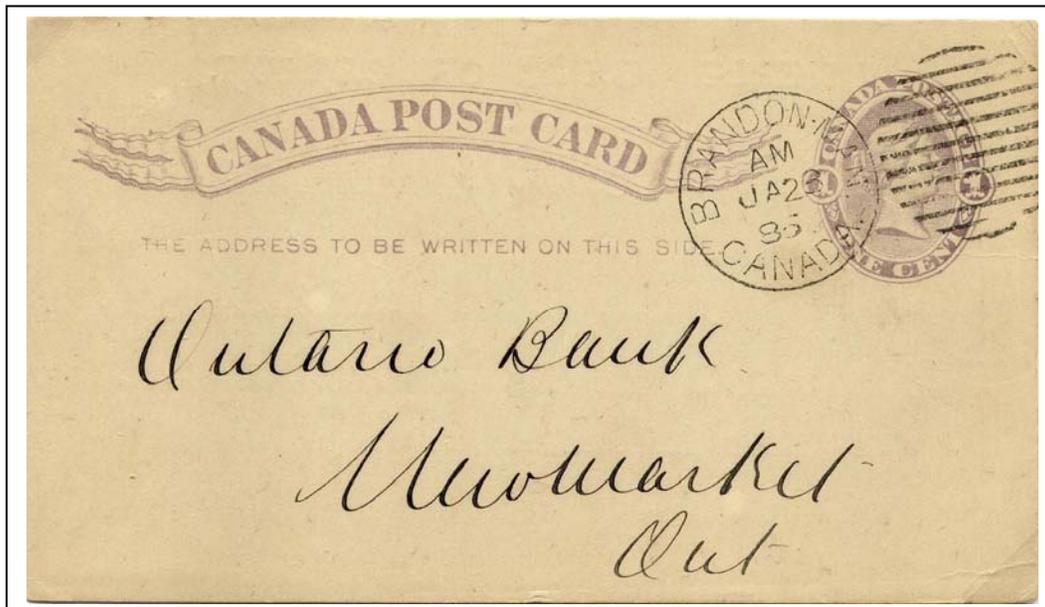
Brandon, Manitoba, Canada

1881 - 1889

During this period, Brandon began usage of a duplex hammer DMB-31 (NIPB).



Scan (reduced to 75%) of back of post card shown below. Imperial Bank of Canada card signed by the first manager of that bank in Brandon, A. Jukes.



DMB-31 JA 28 86 early use of this Brandon duplex.

Brandon, Manitoba, Canada

1881 - 1889

The other CDS hammers introduced during this period:



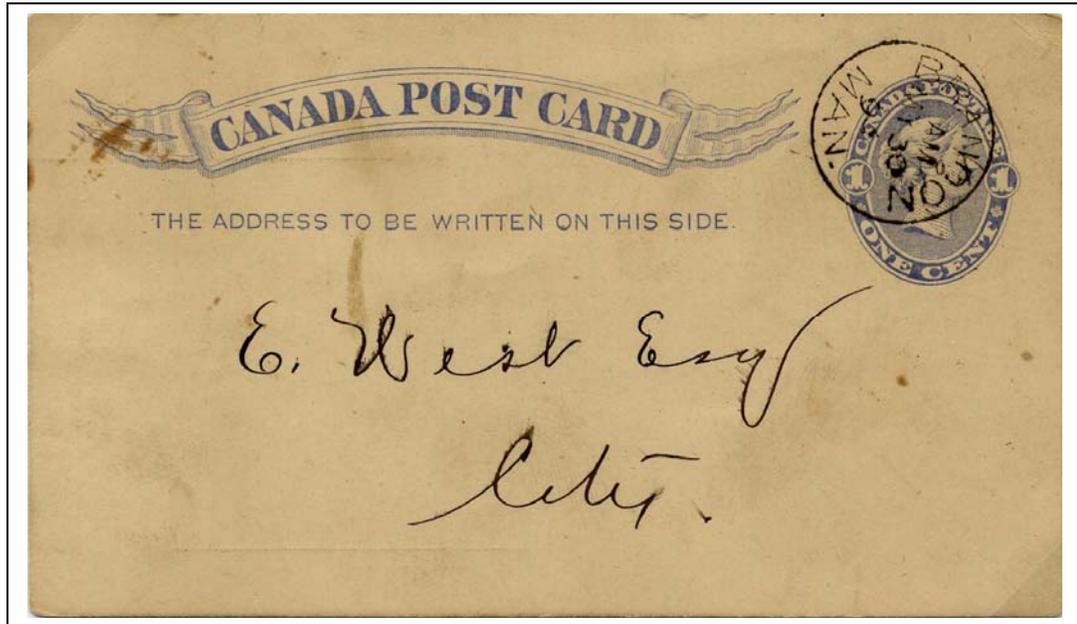
Image from proofs book, termed (LtoR) CDS - 3, - 4, - 5
CDS-4 might never have been used



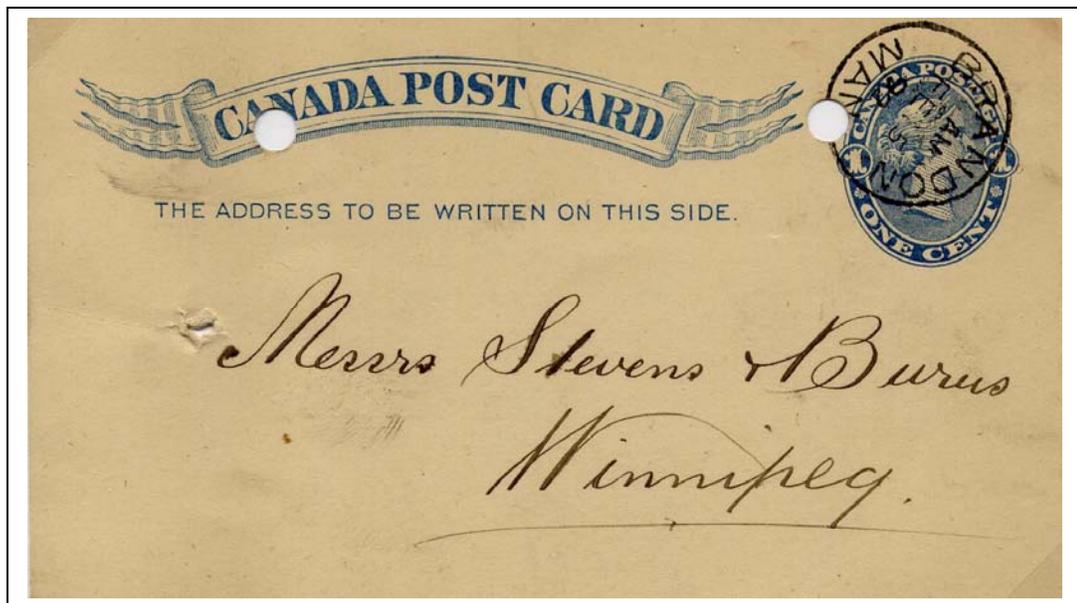
CDS - 3 **JA 24 93**, no time mark

Brandon, Manitoba, Canada

1881 - 1889



CDS - 3 **MY 30 93** AM time mark.
Meeting reminder for local Canadian Order of Foresters



CDS-5 **FE 15 92** AM time mark.

Brandon, Manitoba, Canada

1881 - 1889

During this decade, Brandon was not served by any Railway Post Office runs that began or ended at Brandon. However, Brandon was well served by the RPOs of the C.P.R. main line, the **C.P.Ry WEST OF WINNIPEG** series (RR-27 – RR-30).

City of Brandon, Man., *Jan 24* 1884

Mr. *S. S. Cummins*

Weg

To the Mayor and Council of the City of Brandon :

To Assessment on Lot No.	<i>15-76 B 24 4 2 24 82</i>	\$ <i>248</i>
	<i>3/6 B 37 " "</i>	\$ <i>380</i>
" " Personal Property	<i>Interest</i>	\$ <i>6.28</i>
" " Statute	<i>15-76 B 24 4 2 24 82</i>	\$ <i>6.96</i>
	<i>3/6 B 37 " "</i>	\$ <i>5.74</i>
	<i>Notice Postage</i>	\$ <i>8.72</i>
		\$ <i>20.96</i>

PS

Sir, - I hereby demand payment of your assessed taxes for the year 1884, now due the Corporation of the City of Brandon; and if not remitted within twenty days from this date, proceedings will be taken to collect the same according to law.

D. M. McMILLAN, COLLECTOR.

Scan (reduced to 75%) of back of the card shown below; tax assessment information from the City of Brandon, January 1884, sent to Winnipeg on the C.P.R. main line.

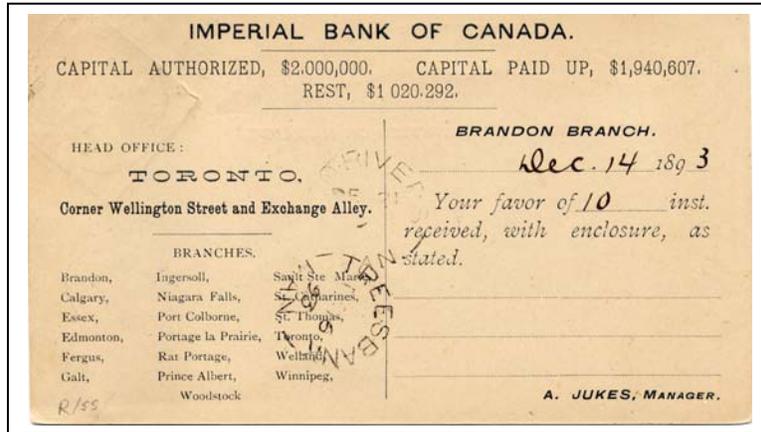


RR-28b (small hammer) C.P.Ry WEST OF WINNIPEG / No., **JA 26 84**, EAST, hammer # 3

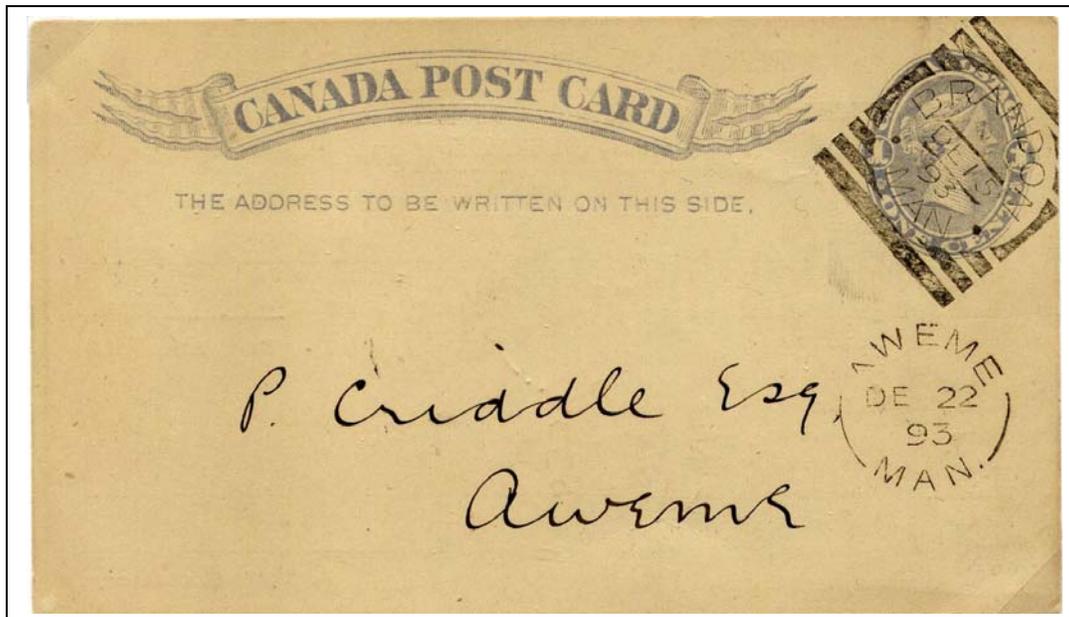
1890 - 1899

1890 – 1899 :

During this decade, the Brandon post office was issued the Squared Circle postmark, proofed **AU 21 93**.

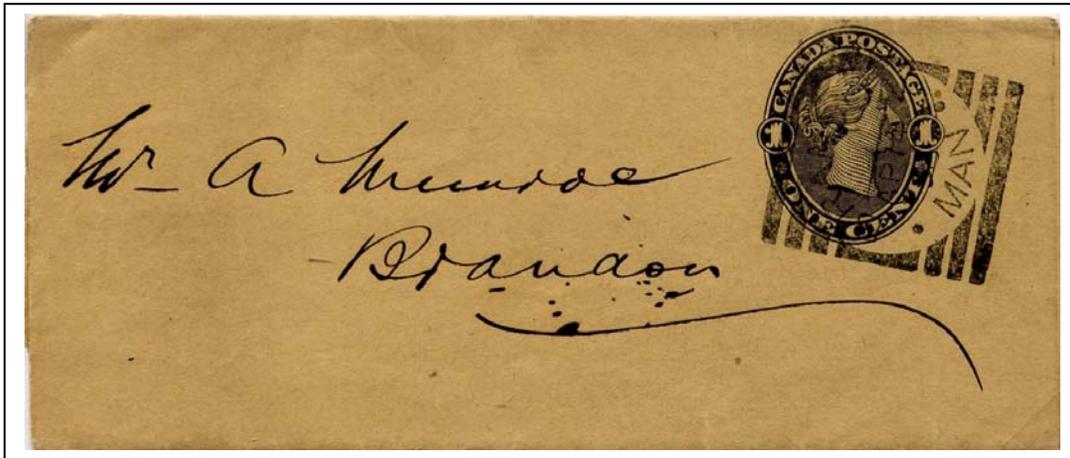


Scan (75%) of back of card from Imperial Bank of Canada, Brandon, showing Two Rivers (1883-1897) and Treesbank, Man. A. Jukes is still shown as manager.



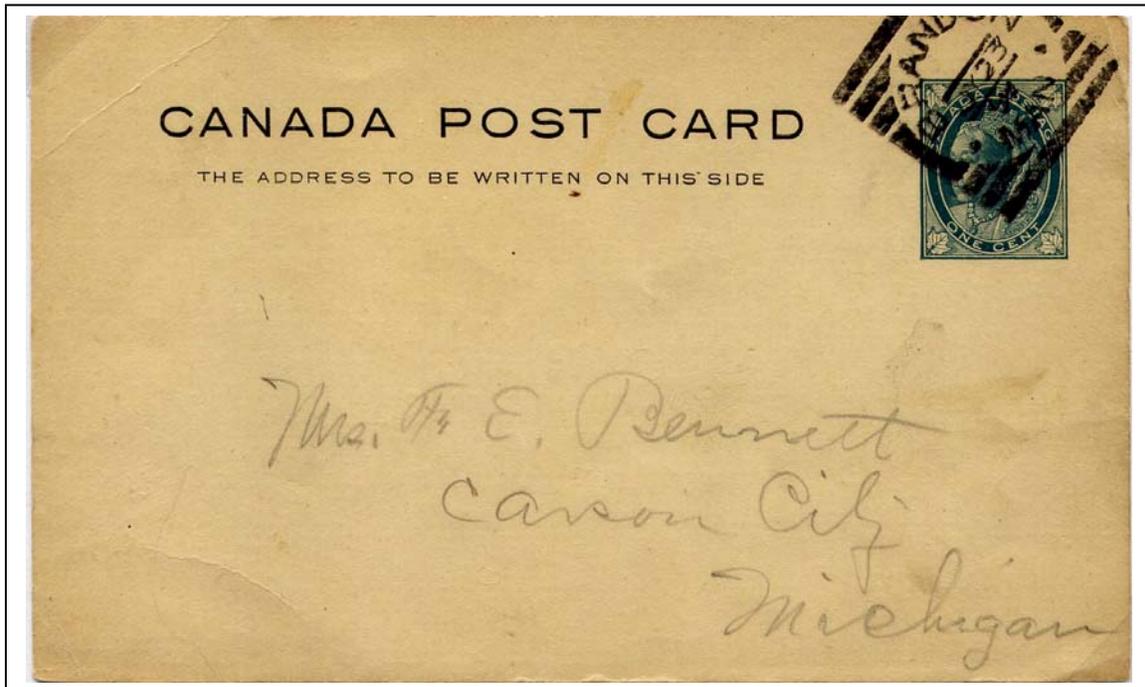
Early example **DE 22, 1893** : to Percy Criddle, Aweme, Man. (1884-1917), who fought to have a post office at Aweme so he would not have to cross the Assiniboine R. by hand on a cable to get the mail at Treesbank when the river was impassable.

1890 - 1899



Squared Circle on wrapper used locally: **AP 14 98** The "8" shows clearly.

This hammer has been thoroughly studied by specialists, who have noted a problem with the "8" in later months of year 98. Two examples: on the right, **OC 20 9?**; far right, scan of confirmed example below.



Card dated **July 23 '98** in written text, showing **JY 23 9?** in cancel. (enlarged scan above).

Brandon, Manitoba, Canada

1890 - 1899

During its period of use, it has been suggested by researchers that the Brandon squared circle was **not** used for registered mail. An example supporting this is shown. The CDS used here is the remaining CDS issued in the previous decade, CDS-4.

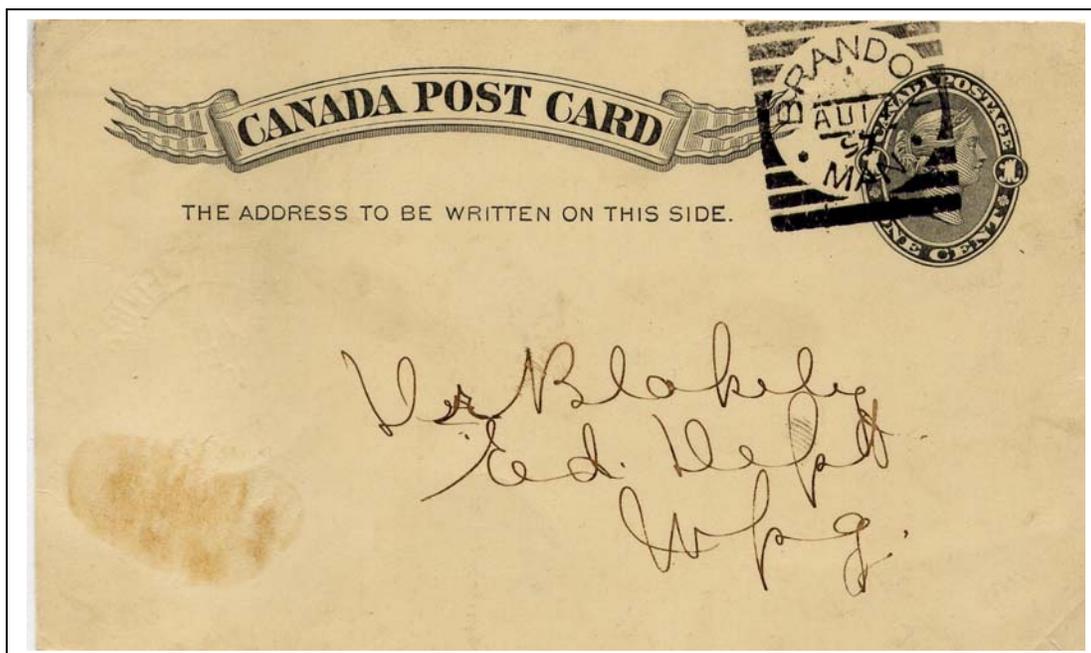


Registered cover from Brandon to Toronto, CDS-4, dated **OC 16 97**, during the period of use of the Brandon squared circle hammer (1893-1900).

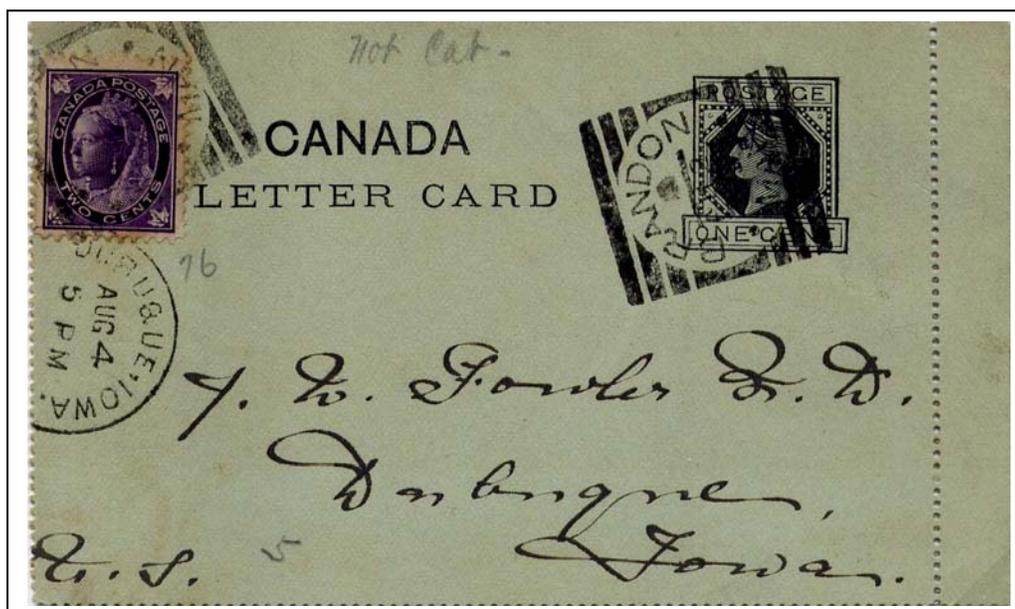
Brandon, Manitoba, Canada

1890 - 1899

The BNAPS Squared Circle handbook (Moffatt and Hansen) notes that time marks (1 and smudged 3) were reported for Brandon.



Post card from Brandon to Winnipeg, AU 11 97, shows the damaged "1" time mark.
[thought to be the second reported example]



Letter card from Brandon to Iowa, AU 2 98, shows the smudged "3" time mark.
[thought to be the second reported example]

Brandon, Manitoba, Canada