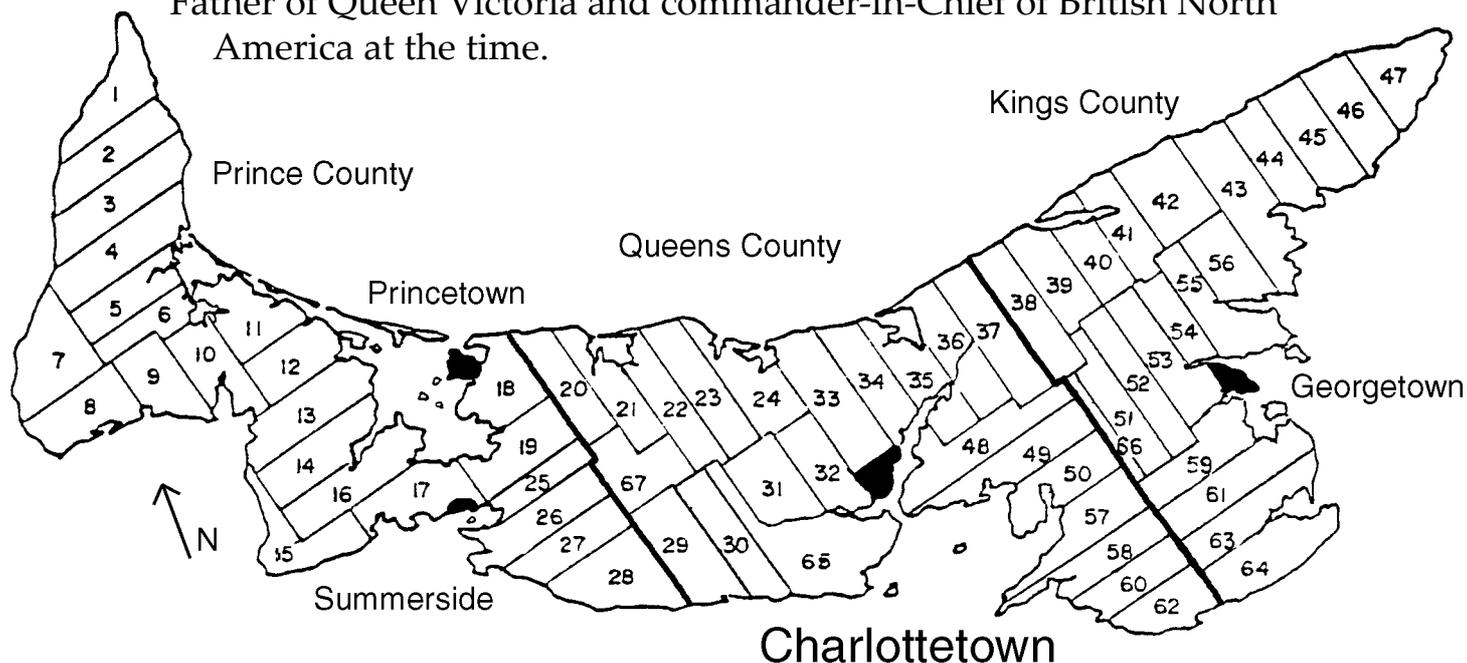




Britain took control of Isle St. Jean from the French in 1763, renaming it St. John. It became a colony separate from Nova Scotia in 1769. In 1767 The British crown had distributed the island in 67 lots, of about 20, 000 acres each, to those who it wished to reward or recompense. These Lots have had a large influence on the history of the Island and are frequently used as part of a postal address.

On February 1st 1799 Royal assent was given to the bill changing the Island's name to Prince Edward Island in honour of Prince Edward, Duke of Kent, Father of Queen Victoria and commander-in-Chief of British North America at the time.



Postal History

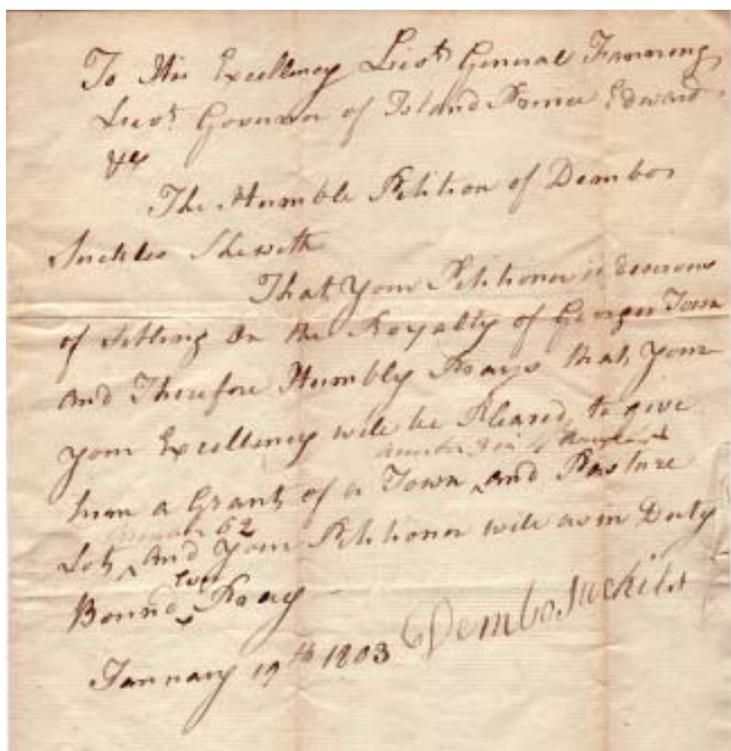
For many years there was only one post office on the Island and that was in the capital, Charlottetown. In November 1827 a courier system was started with the creation of about 10 other post offices where mail could be collected and deposited. There were three courier routes, Western, Eastern and Southern. Over the years the number of post offices grew and the frequency of deliveries and collections increased from weekly in summer, fortnightly in winter, to daily to some of the more populous centres. When Prince Edward Island entered the Canadian Confederation on July 1 1873 there were 168 post offices but still, essentially, three postal courier routes.

Rates of postage

The basic rate was two pence for a single sheet changing in 1844 to two pence for items below half an ounce. Newspapers one halfpenny. Stamps were first issued on January 1st 1861 when the rates of postage were published as 2 pence per half ounce. Newspapers were free. There was a special rate of one penny for unsealed advertisements and similar material and the same rate applied to letters to and from members of the armed forces below the rank of commissioned officer. Books and periodicals were two pence per ounce up to six ounces then three pence per ounce. Registration was six pence extra for most of the period. After the introduction of decimal currency on January 1st 1872 the internal rate was three cents per half ounce, registration four cents extra, printed circulars etc. one cent and books one cent per ounce. It should be noted that the currency of the Island was usually devalued when compared to sterling or that of the rest of British North America.



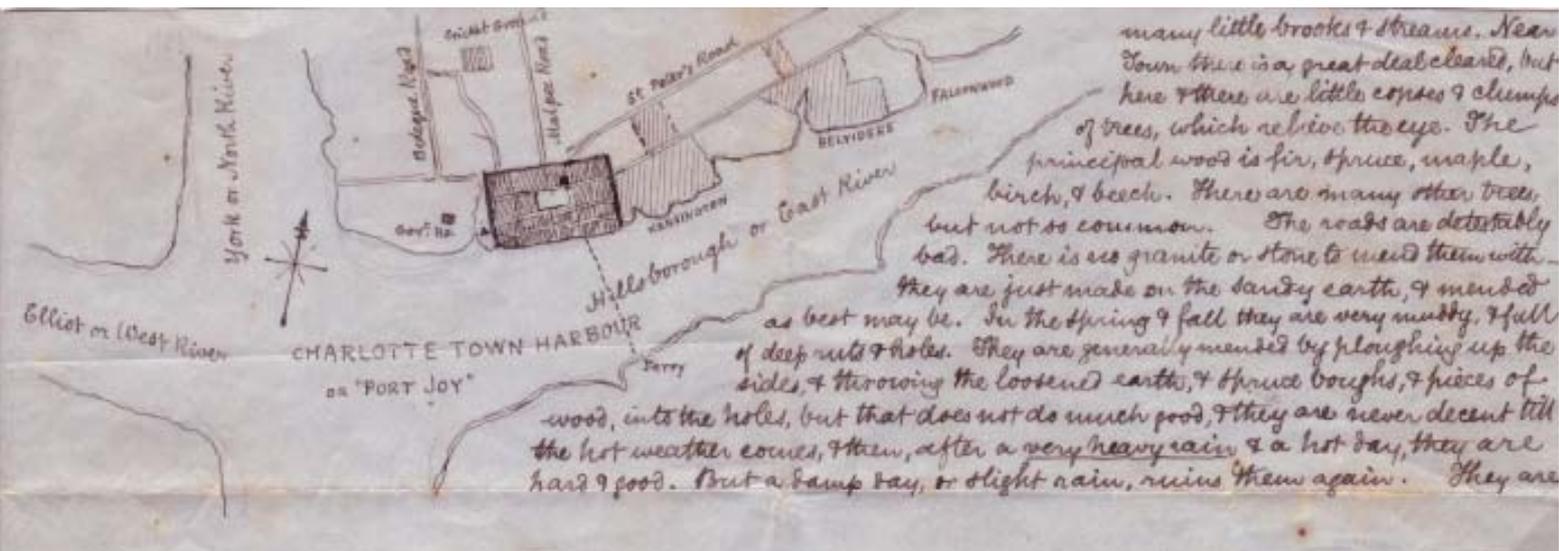
Favour letter from Dembo Suckles to Lt. Governor Fanning. 19 January 1803. Dembo (or Dimbo) Suckles was brought to the Island as a slave in about 1785, he married Lt. Governor Fanning's servant Polly in December 1802. In 1803 he was granted his land as petitioned below. Having earned his own, and his wife's, freedom he went on to be a successful farmer. He died in 1845 at the estimated age of 84 owning over 100 acres. (Ref. *Black Islanders* by Jim Hornby, Charlottetown 1991)



Reduced contents of the letter in which Dembo Suckles petitions for land in the town of Georgetown and a pasture in Lot 52. Full transcription on back of sheet.



Lieutenant Governor
Edmund Fanning



Until 1827 there was only one post office on the Island and that was in the capital Charlottetown. In 1850 there were still fewer than 30 post offices in the Island. Most of the mail was going outside the Island as most people would meet other Islanders often enough when they took their goods to market or someone else would “favour” their letters for them.

This letter is typical of many back to Britain with family news and details of the Island. It contains an interesting sketch map of Charlottetown and a sketch few of its buildings as they were in 1850. An early version of x marks our hotel!



Folded letter from Charlottetown to Berwick on Tweed. Postmark P5 for Saturday November 23 1850, carried by CUNARD “Cambria”, Halifax Nov. 29 arrived Liverpool Dec. 11. Charged 1/- Sterling to be paid by recipient. This rate, between any place in B.N.A. (except the west coast) to any place in the UK (by British or U.S. packets), came into effect by Treasury Warrant dated April 3 1849 and was in effect until March 23 1854. During this short period this transatlantic rate went from 1/- 2d P.E.I. currency to 1/- 6d currency as being equivalent to 1/- Sterling. From Alexander Beazeley to his cousin, part of contents on back of sheet.



Nearly all the mail passed through Charlottetown, with a reasonable proportion of official and business mail within the confines of the capital.

Two pence, half ounce, internal Island rate. Marked in black to be paid by recipient, Charles Palmer was a member of the Island legislature. Clear example of P5 for Tuesday, December 22 1847. Two pence was the internal Island rate from 1827 initially the single sheet rate and from 1844 per half ounce until the change to 3 cents in 1872.



Prepaid internal Island rate shown in red also marked paid with P10 in red, a mark used only at Charlottetown. From the Attorney General's office. P 5 on reverse for Tuesday, July 31 1849. Would have been carried by Thomas Crabb, the Western route carrier at that time to St. Eleanors, leaving Charlottetown the next day.

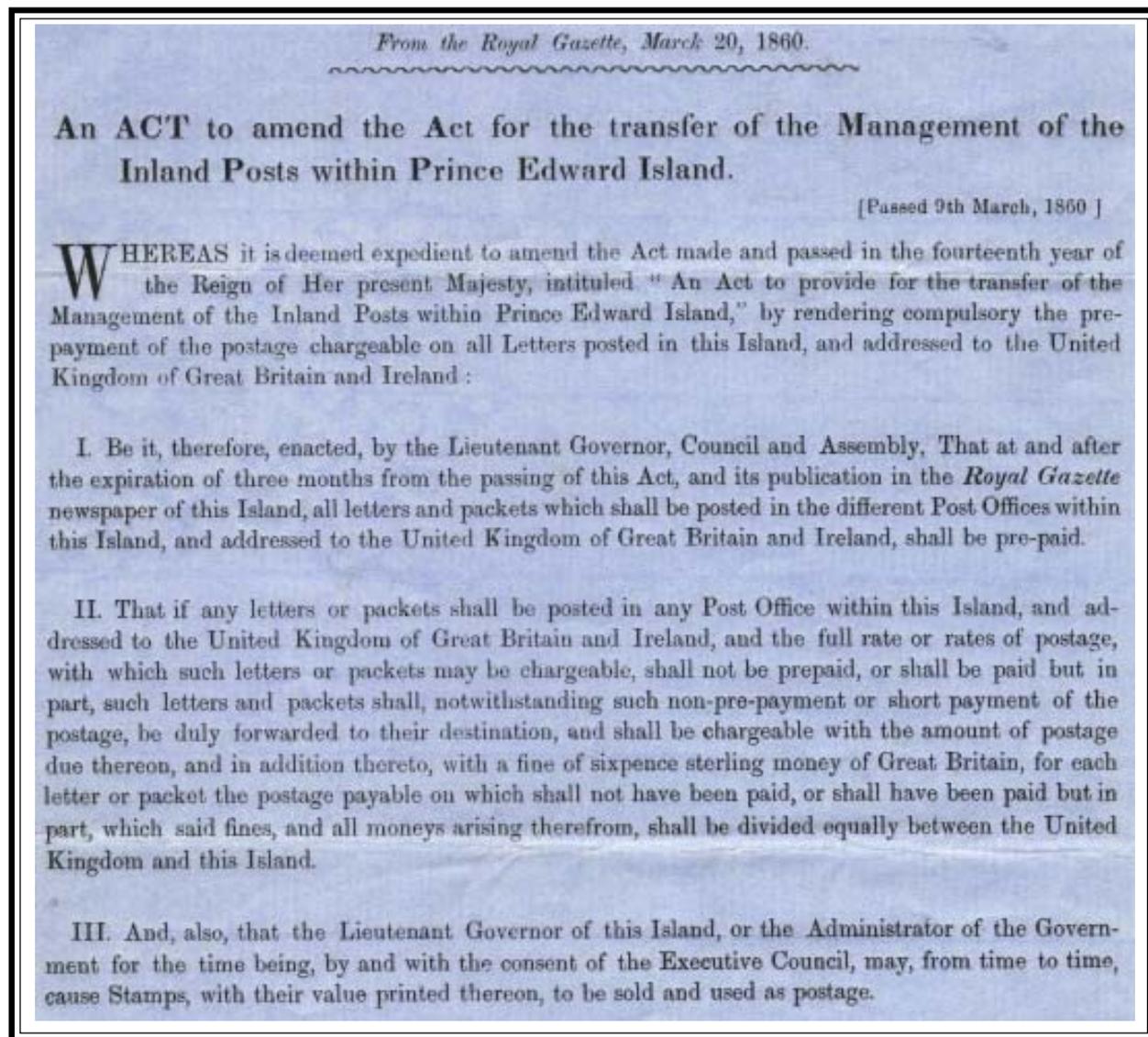


P10
1845 - 64



The Introduction of The Compulsory Prepayment of Postage and Postage Stamps

9 March 1860 Act Requiring the Prepayment of Inland and Transatlantic Postage



It was required that all changes to postal rates be published in *The Royal Gazette* Newspaper, printed and published in Charlottetown. This change also gave three months notice.

Clause 1 requires the prepayment of postage to the UK.

Clause 2 gives the fine as 6d for failure to completely prepay the whole rate.

Clause 3 Prepares for the issue of postage stamps which took place on 1 January 1861.

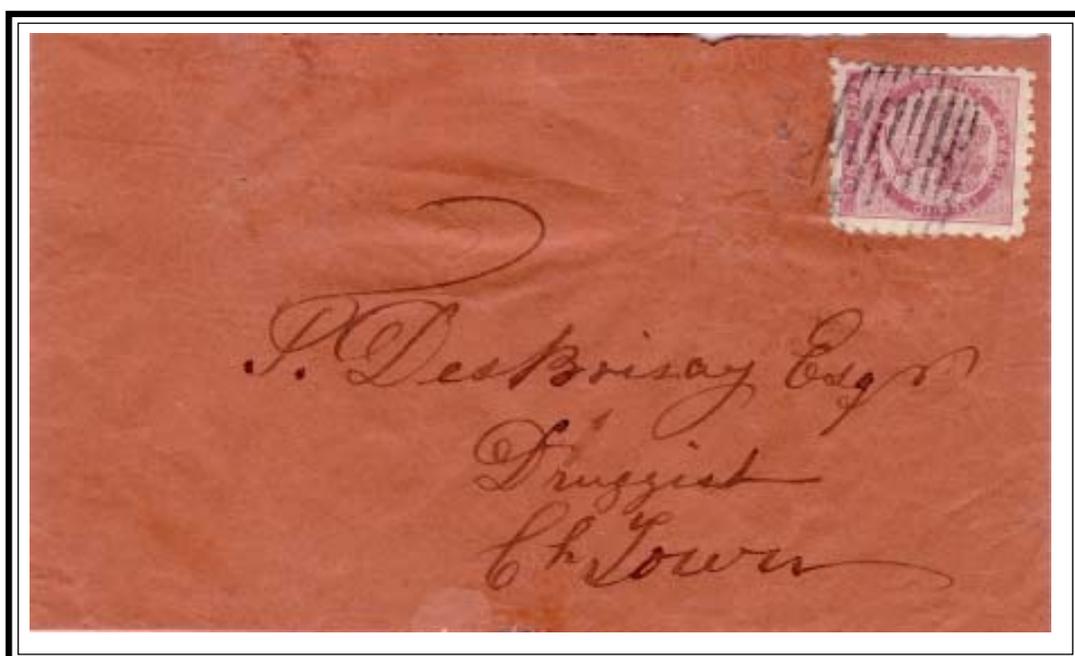


On January 1st 1861 P.E.I. finally issued postage stamps for the first time. More than 10 years later than neighbouring New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

Cover to Charlottetown from Nova Scotia with P5 receiver on reverse for Thursday, August 17 1854. James Desbrisay was an importer with a general store at 127 Queen Street.

Cover with P7 on reverse for Wednesday, April 15 1863 showing first issue, perf. 9, 2d rose paying the internal Island rate. Stamp tied with 8 line grid P136. Both marks used in Charlottetown.

Theophilus Debrisay was a druggist operating from "Apothecaries Hall" at 150 Queen Street.



Cover showing use of the first issue, perf. 9, 2d rose to pay the internal Island rate. Stamp tied with 10 line grid P134, probably applied in Charlottetown. St. Eleanor's mark P49 on reverse for June 5 1863 and repeated faintly on front just across corner of stamp. P7 receiver on reverse also for Friday, June 5.

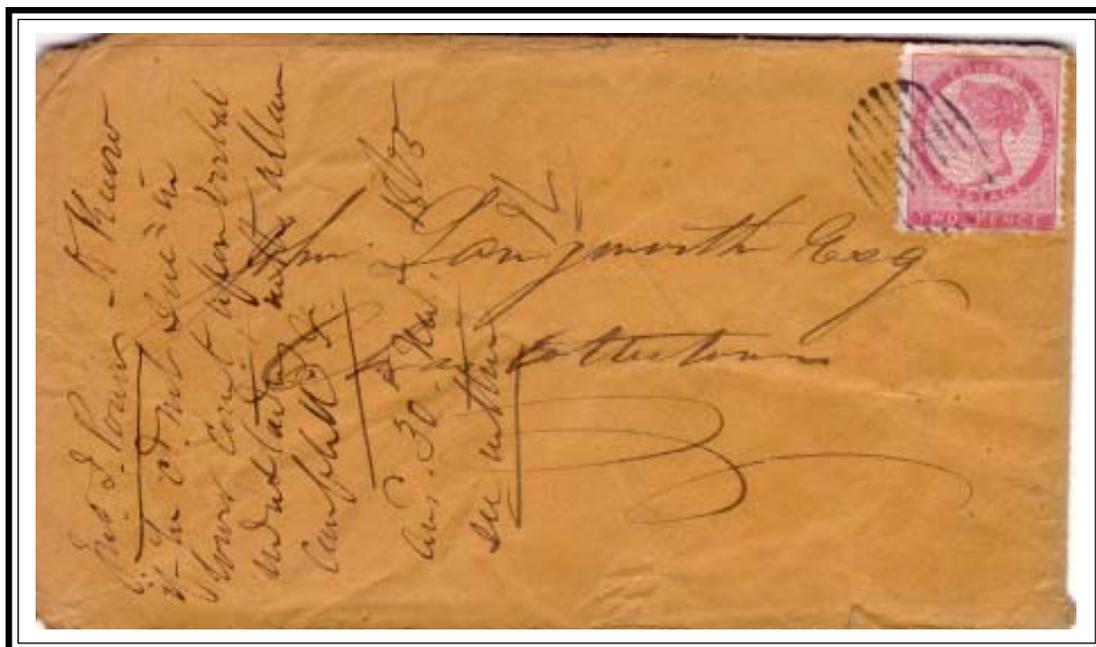
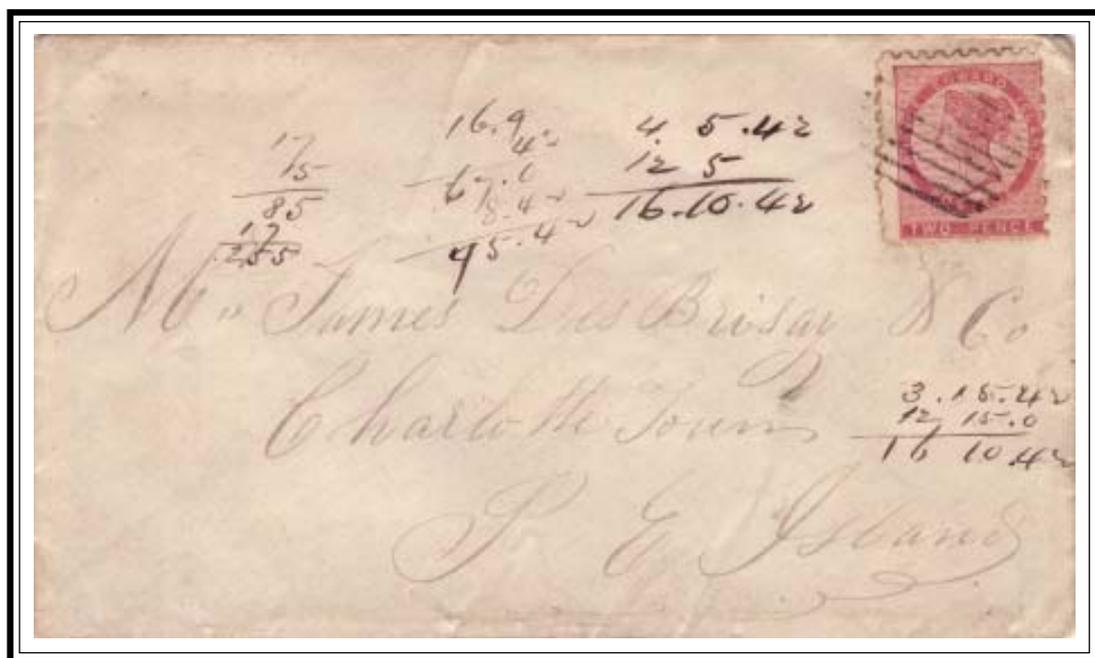


Small cover with P7 on reverse for Saturday, 23 July 1864 showing penultimate recorded use of first issue, perf. 9, 2d rose. Stamp tied with 8 line grid P136. Both marks used in Charlottetown.

Cover with last recorded use of single perf. 9, 2d stamp. P 134 ties stamp.



Clear P5 from reverse for Wednesday 17 August 1864.



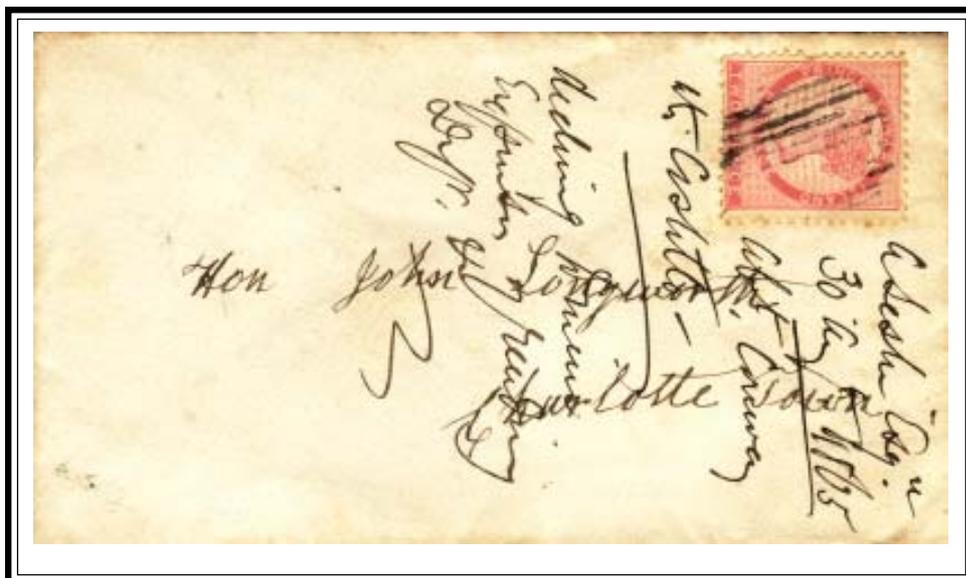
Cover with relatively early use of third issue, perf. 11³/₄, 2d rose. First issued late 1863 or early 1864. Annotated Thursday 30 November 1865. Stamp tied with P134, 10 line grid.



Cover dated Saturday, July 29 1865, P5 on reverse. Stamp tied with two strikes of P134 ten line grid.

A selection of typical local rate covers bearing third issue perf. 11¾, 2d rose stamps on cover.

Cover with P5 on reverse for Wednesday, August 30 1865 and P134 on stamp.



Cover with P5 on reverse for Tuesday, November 21 1865 and P137 eight line grid on stamp.



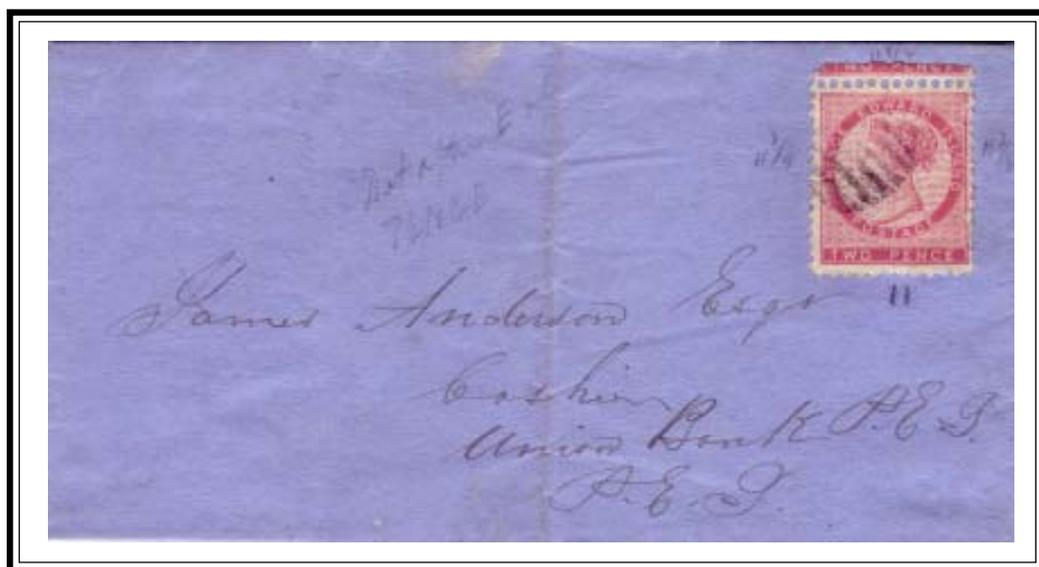
Cover dated Wednesday,
October 4 1865, P5 on
reverse. Stamp tied with
strike of P137 eight line
grid. Minor printing flaw
under the first E of Pence.



A selection of typical local
rate covers each bearing
varieties of the third issue
perf. 11 $\frac{3}{4}$, 2d rose.

Cover with P5 on reverse for
Monday, February 19 1866.
Stamp with compound
perforation bottom perf. 11.

Cover with P5 on
reverse for Monday,
December 31 1866.
Stamp with compound
perforation, bottom
perf. 11.

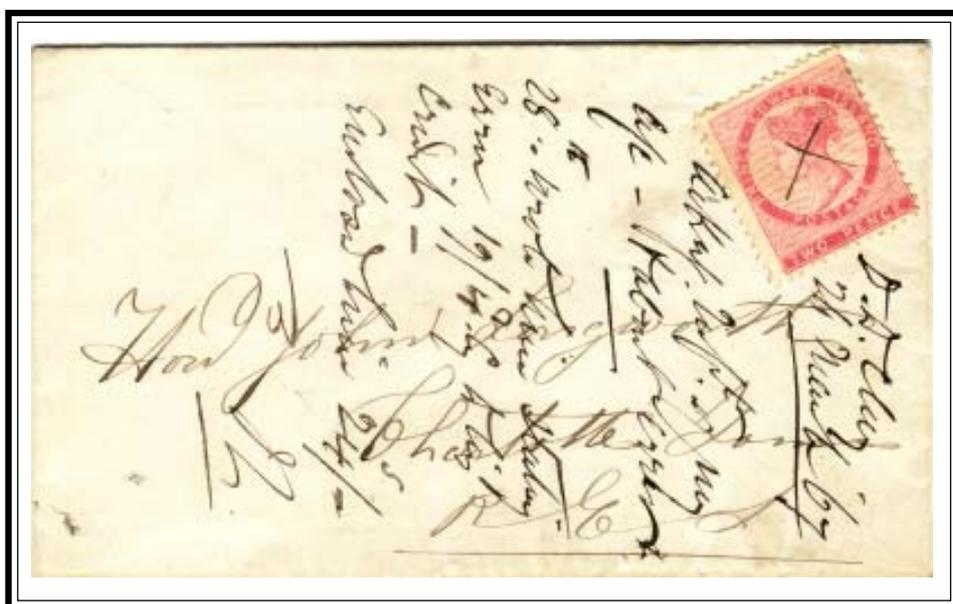
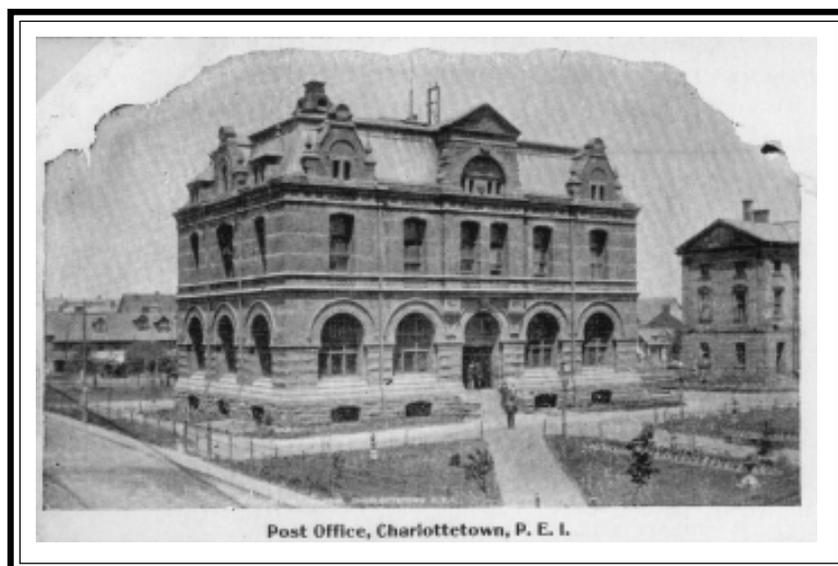




Mourning cover dated Monday, August 6 1866, two strikes of P5 on reverse. Third issue, perf. $11\frac{3}{4}$, 2d rose stamp tied with strike of P134 ten line grid.



Postcard showing the Charlottetown post office that was built to replace the building destroyed by fire in 1884. During this fire nearly all the records relating to preconfederation postal matters were lost. The information represented by covers such as these helps to work backwards towards issue dates and similar information.



Cover with P5 on reverse for Wednesday, March 27 1867. Third issue, perf. $11\frac{3}{4}$, 2d rose stamp cancelled with pen cross.

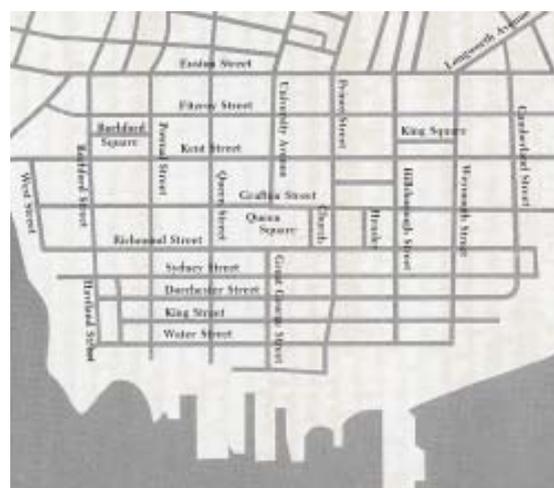


Double rate cover paid using two of the more usual two pence rose, perforated approximately 11.75. Yellow paper suggests first printing of the third issue, late 1863. Lehr P6 on reverse for Tuesday May 5 1868. Stamps tied to cover or each other with P114. Mail from the Western route arrived in Charlottetown on a Tuesday evening. The back of the cover (see scan at right) bears the government crest and it is more likely that this cover was posted and collected at the Charlottetown post office.



There is a large number of covers surviving addressed to **The Honourable John Longworth**. He held many roles in the P.E.I. Government. Member of the Executive Council and member of the House of Assembly. As an attorney his office was in Great George Street. His residence was on the road now called Longworth Avenue. The

Longworth family were engaged in many businesses and owned much property in the Island.



Map of the old part of Charlottetown showing many of the roads mentioned on these sheets.



P6

Cover dated 1868, P6 on reverse. Stamp tied with two strikes of P134 ten line grid.

From 1866 to 1869 P6 was the common postmark used in Charlottetown.

Cover with P6 on reverse dated December 29 1868. Stamp tied with pen cancel.



Cover with 4d black paying double internal rate. Unknown Charlottetown mark with serifs on P.E.I. for March 24 1868.

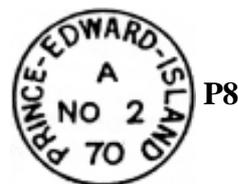


The 4d stamp was probably not issued until 1869 and this cover has possibly been assembled from genuine parts and had a forged postmark added.



Covers showing increasing use of P114 to cancel stamps and the introduction of P8 (1869 -72).

Cover dated March 19 1869. Compound perforation on 2d stamp. Top and bottom perf. 11¾, sides perf. 11. P6 on reverse.



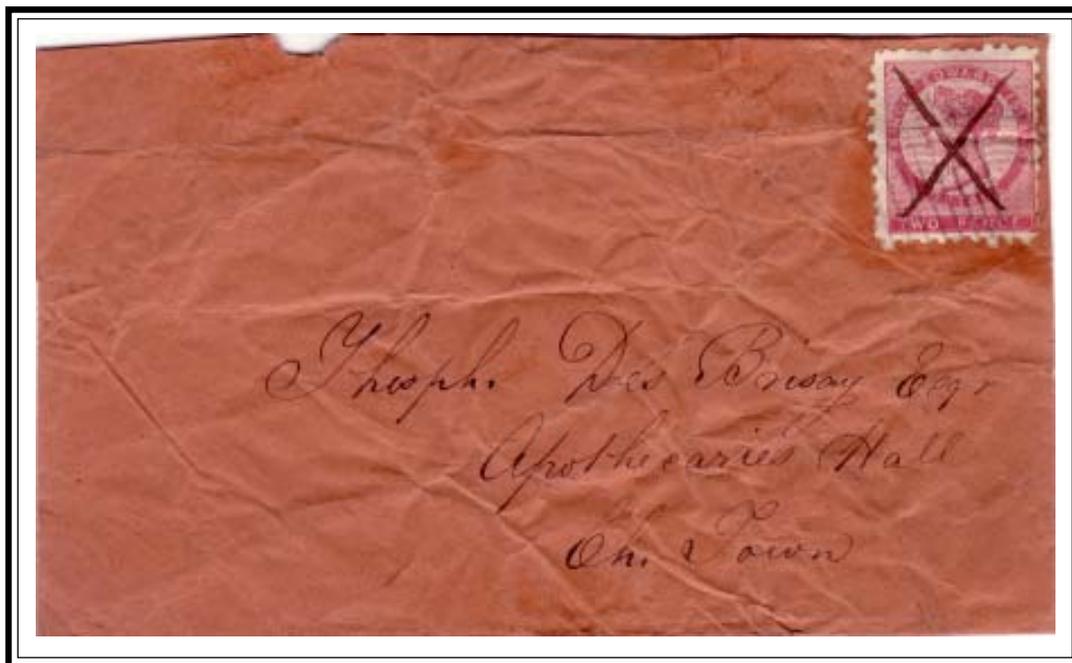
Cover with P8 on reverse for Thursday, August 26 1869. 2d rose perf. 11¾ tied with P114.

P114



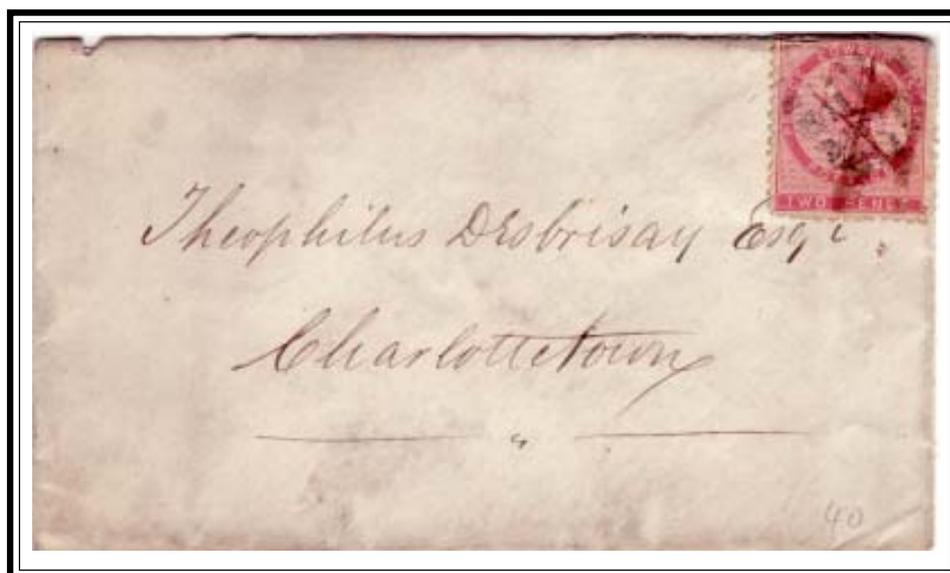
Cover with P6 on reverse for Tuesday, May 11 1869. Damaged 2d rose perf. 11¾ tied with P114.





Two pence deep rose perf. 9 on cover with P7 on reverse for Saturday, August 1, 1863. Stamp pen cancelled and with 8 line grid P 136.

Two covers to Theophilus Desbrisay who during his career was Mayor of Charlottetown. Shown here together to allow comparison of the perf. 9 of the earliest printing and the perf. $11\frac{3}{4}$ of the later printings. The pen cancellations almost certainly indicate the covers were posted at small post offices without their own cancelling devices. Both the Eastern and Southern route mails arrived in Charlottetown on a Saturday. So it is not possible to suggest probable origin.



Two pence rose perf $11\frac{3}{4}$ on cover with P8 for Saturday, October 22, 1870 on reverse. Stamp pen cancelled and with "cork" P144



Unusual 3d rate for an internal Island cover. The only cover recorded to St. Peter's Island; P5 for Wednesday 14 August 1867. Three pence is the rate to the other Canadian Provinces but as this item probably travelled on the Charlotteown to Pictou ferry making a special stop at St. Peter's Island it may have been charged the same rate as the other mail on the boat.

Excelsior Printing Office.
GEO. BRENNER,
 Printer,
 Book-binder,
 STERDOTTYPY,
 AND
BLANK BOOK
 Manufacturer.
GEO. BRENNER,
 Importer of and Dealer in
BOOKS,
 Stationery, Music,
 ARTISTS MATERIALS,
 Fancy Goods, &c.
 PRINCE STREET,
 Charlottetown, P. E. I.

Open here **CARDS OF LEADING MERCHANTS OF CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I.** with knife.

W. B. WATSON, Chemist & Druggist, Importer & Dealer in Chemical Preparations, Genuine Medicines and Perfumery. No. 14, Queen Street.			
'CITY HARDWARE STORE' Bourke, Gillan & Co., Importers & Dealers in Hard- ware, Fishermen's supplies, Cordage, Agricultural Tools, Ac., Ac. Queen Street.	J. W. FALCONER, Importer of Cloths, Dry Goods, &c. Clothes made to order by Cutlers.	OWEN CONNOLLY, Importer & Dealer in West India Goods, Tea, Groceries, and Liquors, Cures of Pock, Ham and Bacon. Queen Street.	MCNEACHERN & CO., WINE MERCHANTS, "Italian Washhouse," Queen Street.
A. MCKENZIE, Wholesale & Retail CONFECTIONER, Queen Street.	LONDON HOUSE, G. & S. DAVIES, Importers of British, Foreign, and American Merchandise, Wholesale and Retail.	JAMES DESBETZAY, General Importer of London, Manchester, Scotch, Canadian, & American Dry Goods, Boots and Shoes, Hats, Caps, &c. &c. QUEEN STREET.	ARTEMAS LORD, (Sobagor & W. W. Lord & Co.) Head Lord's Wharf, General Importer of Ship Chand- lery, Hardware, Glass, China and Earthenware.
WILLIAM MCGILL, COMMISSION MERCHANT, QUEEN STREET.			
ISAAC C. HALL, COMMISSION MERCHANT Packer and Inspector of Fish, and Dealer in Fish of all kinds, and Fishing Outfits. Lower Queen St., near Wharf.	P. W. FRYDMAN, Commission Merchant, Exchange Buildings, COR. QUEEN & WATER STREETS.	HENRY A. HARVIE, Wholesale and Retail Dealer in Books, Stationery, Sewing Toys, Fancy Goods, &c. Commission Merchant and General Agent. Queen Street.	HIGGS & HUNT, Commission Merchants, UPPER WATER STREET.
CITY STOVE STORE, DODD & ROGERS, Dealers in STOVES, HARDWARE, and GARDENERS. Queen St.	GEORGE BRENNER, Printer, Bookbinder, STEREOTYPY. Bookseller, Stationer, &c. Prince St. BLANK BOOKS of every description made to order.	W. & A. BROWN, GENERAL IMPORTERS, British Warehouse, Queen Square.	WILLIAM DODD, AUCTIONEER "Commission Merchant," QUEEN STREET.
W. A. WEEKS & Co., Importers of Staple and Fancy Dry Goods, and General Warehousemen, QUEEN STREET.			

Printed advertisements on front and back of a 3d interprovincial cover to Sydney, Cape Breton for Friday 18 August 1871. Showing the prominent merchants in Charlottetown at this time. The 3d blue stamp is cancelled with a rare example of the only known pre-confederation duplex mark P83 with P86.



P86



Small cover with P8 on reverse for Monday, April 18 1870. Third issue, perf. 11 $\frac{3}{4}$, 2d rose stamp. The Monday arrival date would suggest the Western route via Tryon or this might be a cover sent within Charlottetown.

Reverse of a cover bearing third issue, perf. 11 $\frac{3}{4}$, 2d rose stamp, showing two large postmarks. Summerside P50 for July 5 and P.E.I. P7 for Wednesday July 6 1864. The Wednesday arrival day and the Summerside postmark would suggest the Western route via Tryon.



Cover with P8 on reverse for Thursday, July 14, 1870. Third issue, perf. 11 $\frac{3}{4}$, 2d rose stamp cancelled with pen cross and P114. The Thursday arrival date would suggest the Western route via Tryon or this might be a cover sent within Charlottetown.

Three more covers to John Longworth in Charlottetown all probably brought by the Western courier route.



Cover to John Longworth from Lot 4. P8 on reverse for Friday, October 22 1869. heavy P139 7 line grid on stamp.

Part of the reverse of a cover to John Longworth in Charlottetown showing the earliest recorded strike of P8 for Tuesday, August 10 1869. Third issue, perf. $11\frac{3}{4}$, 2d rose stamp.



Cover with P6 on reverse for Tuesday, February 18 1868. Almost certainly a forgery. The address is given in unusual detail, the postmark is one not seen until the issue of cents stamps and the rate should be 2d.



Cover with P80 on reverse for Saturday, January 29, 1870. Third issue, compound perforation 2d rose stamp. Top edge perf 11. Stamp damaged and tied with P140, 8 thick line grid.



Reverse of a cover bearing third issue, perf. $11\frac{3}{4}$, 2d rose stamp, to show postmarks. The most common Prince Edward Island postmark, P5 (140 recorded strikes) and the rarer St. Eleanors mark P49 (20 recorded strikes). Both strikes for Friday, June 23, 1865.

Cover with P80 on reverse for Friday, November 24 1871. The penultimate known use of the third issue, perf. $11\frac{3}{4}$, 2d rose stamp. Poor Summerside P50 and stamp tied with P134 10 line killer.



P80





Cover with unique cork cancel. Two pence rose perf. 11.75 tied with the only reported copy of this sunray mark (type 823 Day and Smythies) on a P.E.I. stamp. Postmarked P8 for Wednesday August 2 1871 on back. The mails from both the Southern and Eastern routes arrived in Charlottetown on a Wednesday.

Dodd Rogers and Co. was a large hardware store at 137 Queen Street. Wholesale dealers in stores and groceries. The Honourable Thomas Dodd was a member of the Island Legislature. Benjamin Rogers eventually took over the whole store from the Dodd family. This postcard from the 1920s shows the store under Rogers ownership.



Cents issue cover
Three cents perf. 12.5 with three different postmarks on stamp; a fine line grid, a heavy line grid and a cork triangle P128. P80 Charlottetown mark on reverse for Saturday February 15th 1873. As Charlottetown grew it became necessary to give more detail in the address - compare with the earlier cover above.



Cover with faint, rare, boxwood cancel on fifth issue 3 cent red stamp, possibly for Cardigan Bridge. P8 on reverse for Friday, July 19, 1872.

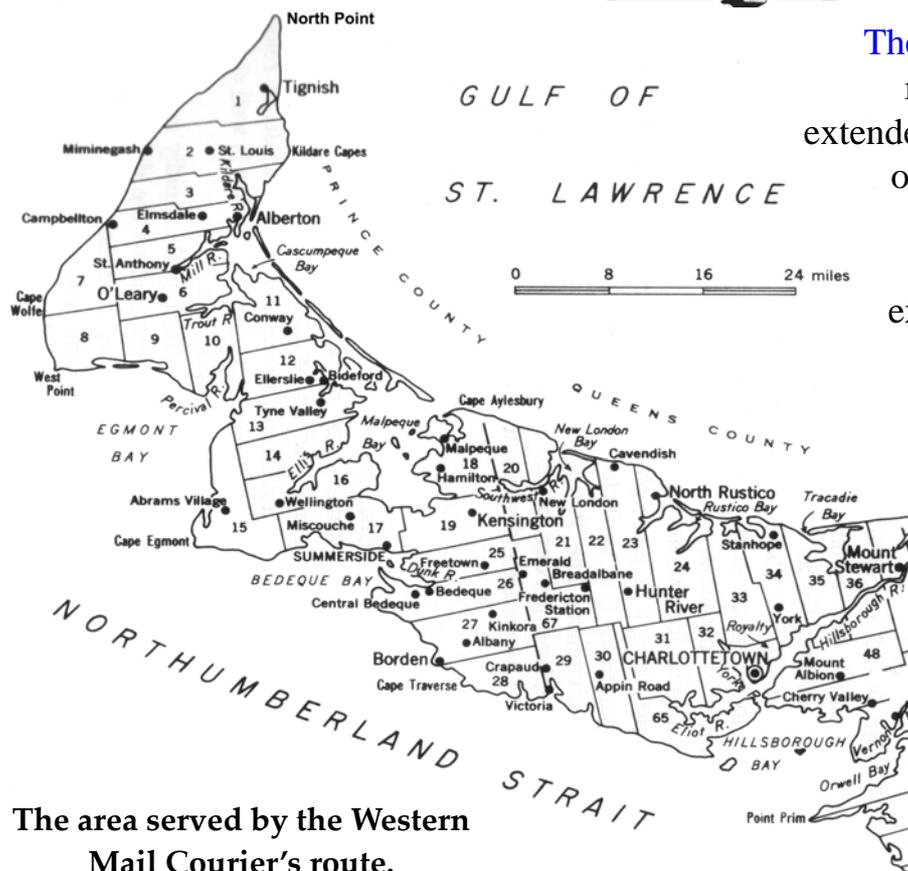


Internal rate cover with fifth issue 3 cent red stamp. Unusual strike of Charlottetown P80 without date. Dated Wednesday, October 16 1872.

The three cent internal Island rate was only in effect from January 1 1872 to June 30 1873. Only about 65 such covers are recorded.

Internal rate cover with fifth issue 3 cent red stamp. Stamp tied with two strikes of P130 "cork" five pointed star killer. P80 on reverse for Friday, November 8, 1872.





The area served by the Western Mail Courier's route.

The Western Route was essentially two routes. The longer, which eventually extended to Tignish, leaving Charlottetown on Mondays and Thursday mornings; returning on Tuesday and Friday evenings. This followed both coasts except the part covered by the second route. The shorter passed along the southern coast as far as Bedeque leaving on Tuesdays and Fridays returning on Mondays and Thursdays. During the later years deliveries became faster and more frequent. Deliveries to Summerside becoming daily during the time of the Cents issue. Each route was slightly different on the two trips. Some post offices receiving two visits a week and some only one.

Letters Carried "By Favour"

The earliest known internal letter. 21st July 1790



Entire letter from Mr. Patterson in Charlottetown to Mr. Hooper in Bedeque. Long before any postal delivery service was created such mail would have been carried either through the rough forest paths or by boat or canoe round the coast by whoever was going that way or, as in this case, as a letter of introduction by those named in the letter (contents transcribed on reverse of sheet).



Reverse of Sheet

Charlotte Town 21st July 1790

Dear Sir,

This will be delivered to you by Mr. Woolmer who, with Mr. Jacob Duckendorf and Simon Elliot are returning home after having received my proposals for selling or letting lots 19, 15 and part of lot 17¹ which they seem satisfied with and are determined accordingly to become your neighbours- I therefore request you will be so kind as to have those lands shown to them as far as may be desired by them and any trouble or expense which may attend it, my brother or myself will satisfy.

You will be able to give them a full and true account of the soil and produce as no person is better acquainted with both than yourself. If they want any assistance or aid of provision to forward them to Bay (Fortune?) be so good as to let them both or either and I will be answerable. I am sure you will excuse any trouble I give you on account of these gentlemen from your desire of procuring good neighbours and forwarding the general good of this Island. My brother is not yet arrived but I expect him hourly.

Give my best compliments to Mr. Robins and Believe me sir, your friend and honourable servant,

Mr. Patterson

If you or any friends near you have any letters to send to any friends to the southward, I shall sail for New York in a week or ten days.

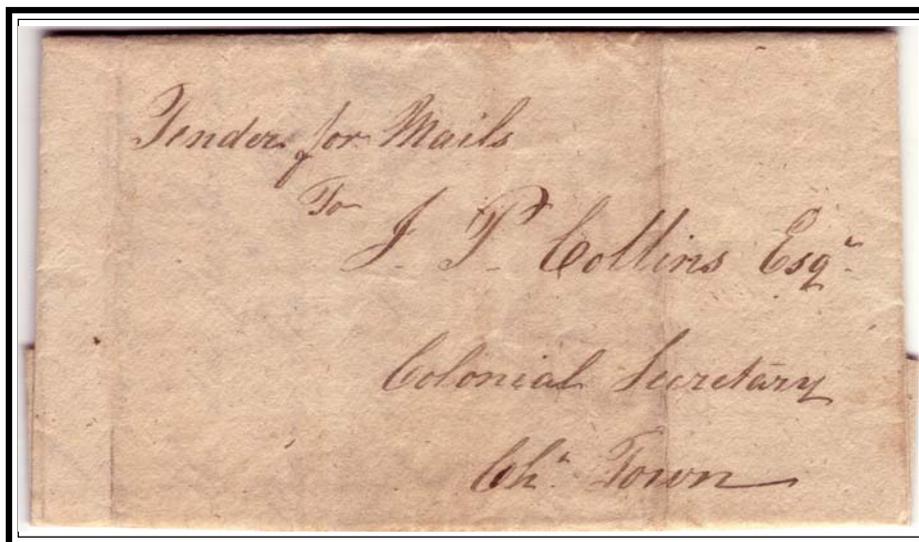
Notes

1. In 1767 the Island was parcelled up into Lots. Lot numbers were drawn and given to those who the crown wished to reward. Most Lot owners never did fulfil the duties they accepted with ownership of the Lot. Lot numbers were, and are, used as part of the postal address in many parts of the Island.



Letters Carried “By Favour”

Letter to The Colonial Secretary 21st October 1832. Tender for the carriage of mails.



Entire letter tendering for the contract to convey the mails across the Northumberland Strait in winter.

The contents read as follows:

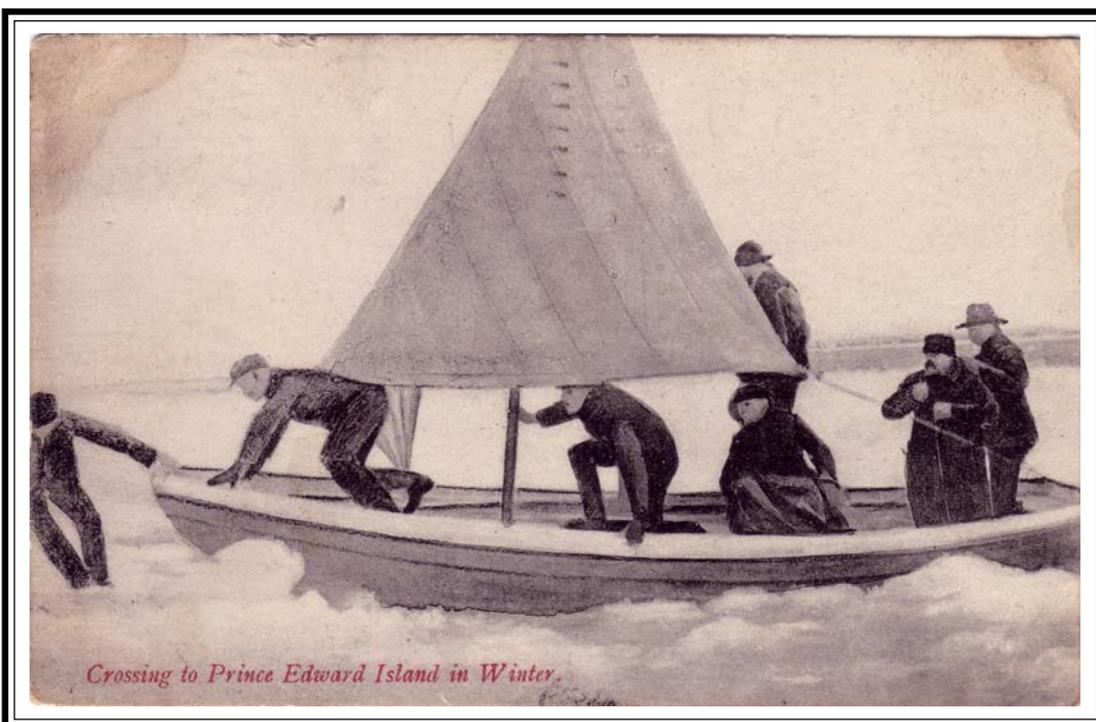
Tryon River October 1st 1832

Sir,

We the undersigned to hereby undertake to convey the mails during the winter months to and from Cape Tormentine and Cape Traverse and to forward the return mails to Charlotte Town at the rate of three pounds nineteen shillings per trip.

We also engage to go once a week to be provided with two ice boats (our motive for having two ice boats is should a heavy fall of snow occur we would require one far lighter than the other) and one sufficient boat to cross should there be no ice in the Gulf; also three able-bodied men to remain at Cape Traverse after the outward mails are received until we succeed in crossing the Strait. For the due performance of which William Scantelberry and John McDonald both of Charlotte Town will be given as security.

John Lord Junior
Charles Lord



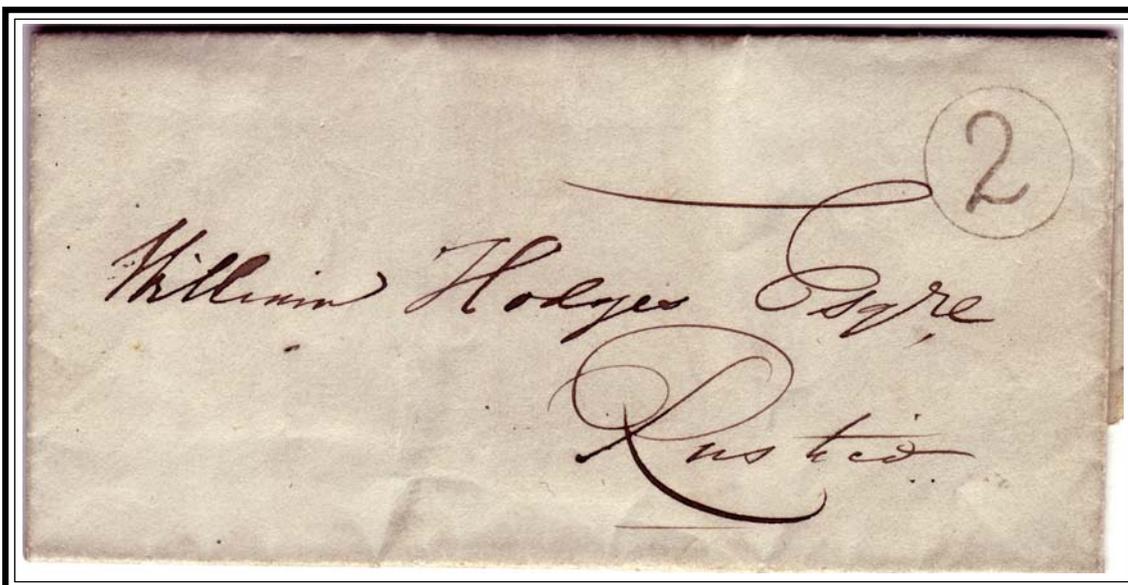
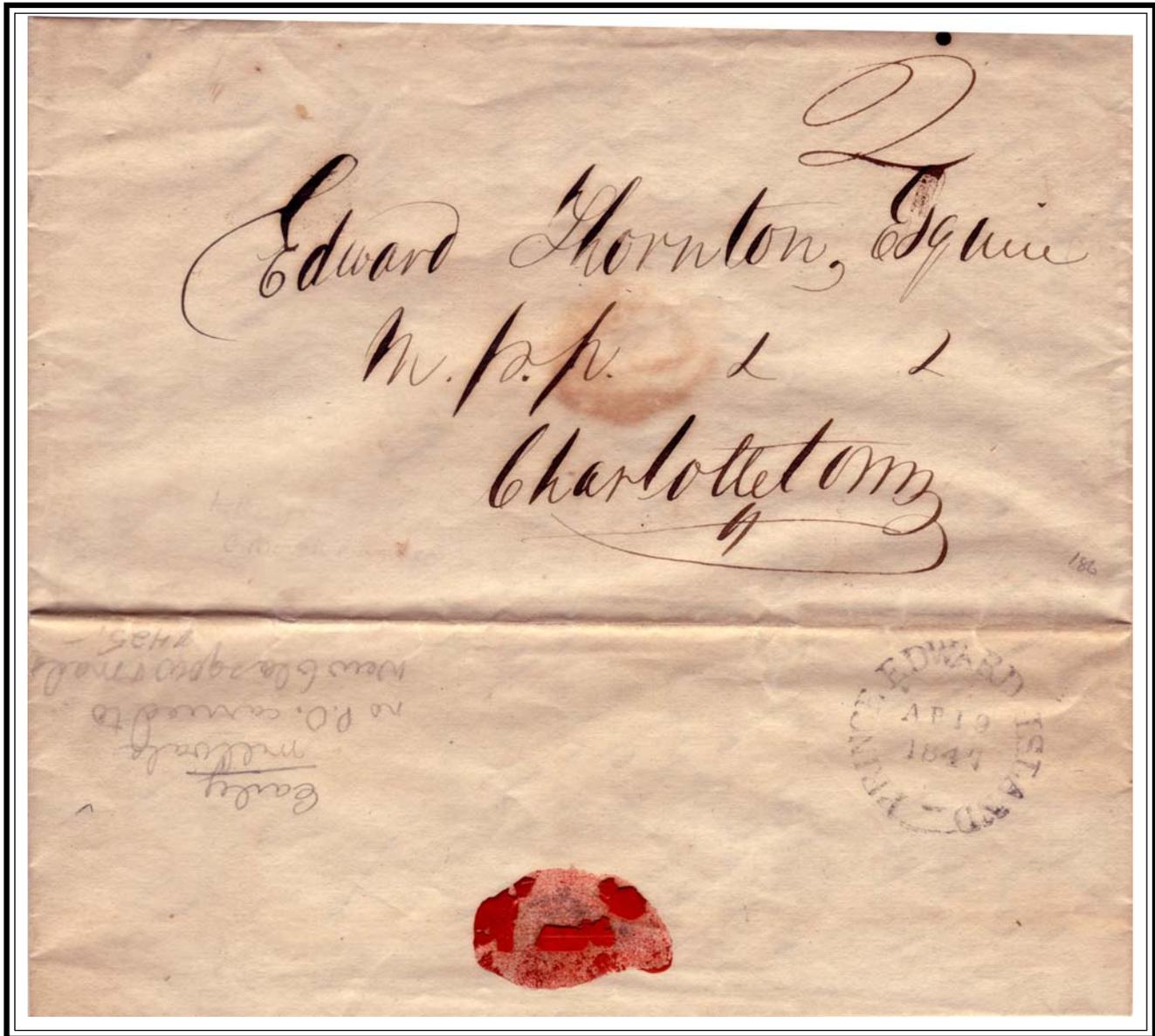
Postcard from 1907 showing one of the famous PEI iceboats.



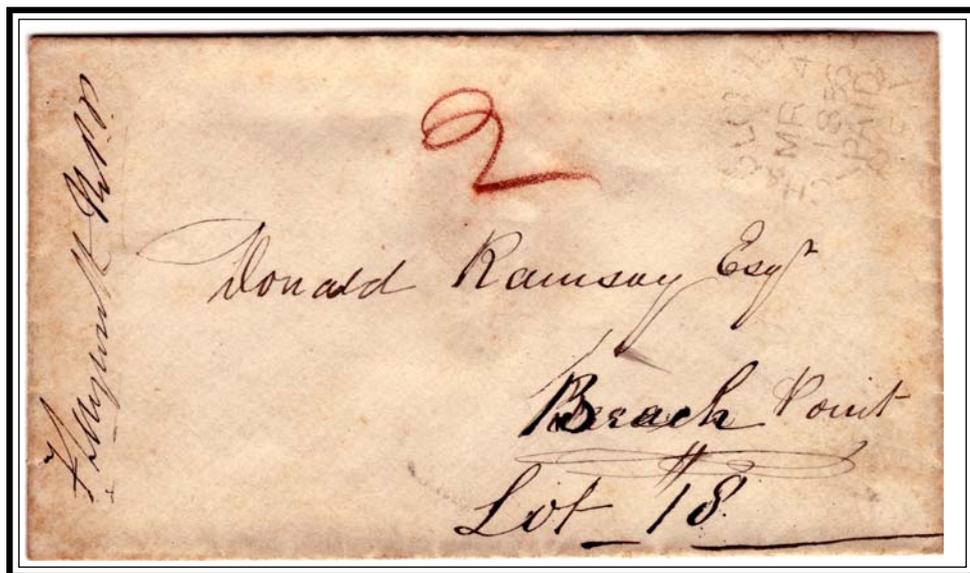
Letters Carried Postage Due

As was typical before 1861 the postage was paid for by the recipient.

An entire letter rated 2 in black ink - 2d currency to pay. Addressed from Millvale, nearest post office New Glasgow. Lehr P5 on reverse for Monday 19 April 1847.



Lehr P107 (one of 15 recorded) a 2 in circle in black ink to show postage due. On entire from Charlottetown to Rustico. Lehr P5 on reverse for Tuesday 20 December 1853.



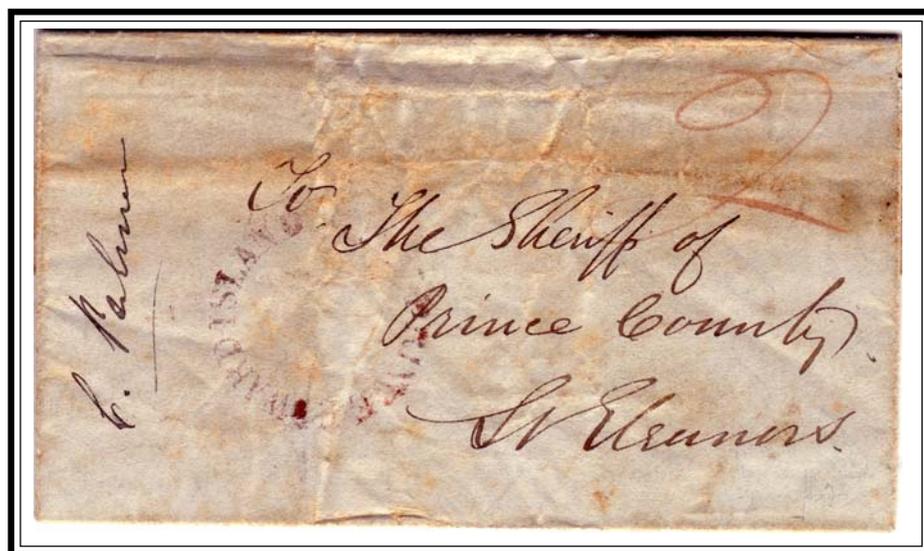
P24

Prepaid cover to Beech Point dated Tuesday 4 March 1856. 2 in red and P24 PAID mark



P10

Prepaid entire to St. Eleanors dated Wednesday 5 September 1849 (P5 on reverse). 2 in red and P10 PAID mark

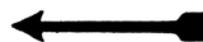
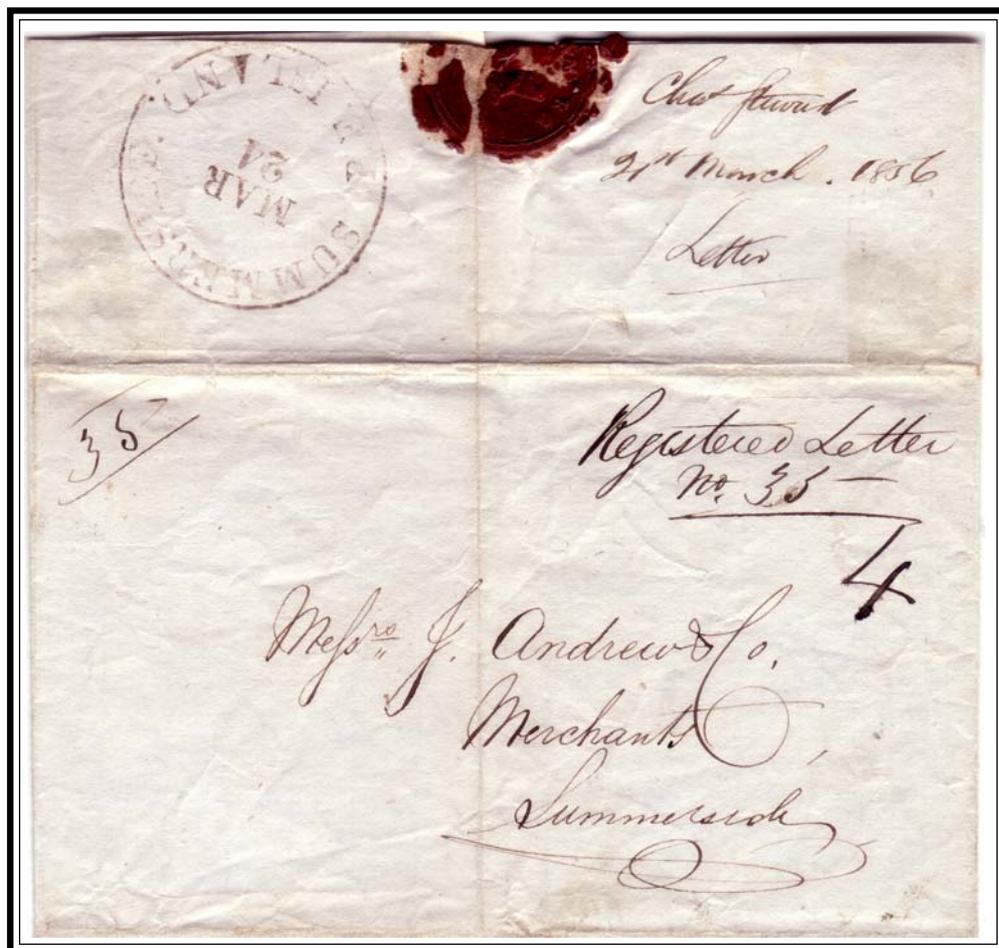


Entire to Summerside from Kildare. Poor St Eleanor's transit mark (P49) on reverse for Thursday 25 October 1855. 2 pence to pay shown by unique use of black 2 handstamp. This cover and handstamp recorded by Murray but not by Lehr.



Registered Letter

A very rare example (only two recorded) of a prestamp registered (money) letter. Annotated Friday 21 March 1856 Large Summerside receiver (Lehr P50) for Monday 24 March. Nothing has been recorded about the procedures for handling registered mail on PEI before 1861. By comparison with New Brunswick (ref. Robson Lowe) such letters if sent unpaid were charged double fee. The four in black may refer to this with a further 6d for registration also due, a total of 10d to be paid.



Tignish PAID
handstamp (Lehr P36),
five recorded strikes

Internally dated entire from Nail Pond 6 February 1860. Rare P36 Tignish PAID mark, 2 manuscript in red and manuscript Paid all indicating prepayment of the 2d internal rate. Charlottetown receiving mark (Lehr P5) for Thursday 16 February 1860 on reverse.



On January 1st 1861 postage stamps were introduced in the colony 2d, 3d and 6d all perforated 9. With their introduction came the requirement to prepay postage on internal mail. The two pence rose stamp was intended to cover the half ounce internal Island rate. The small perforation holes and large distance between them made the stamps difficult to separate cleanly and this perforation was not used on later issues.

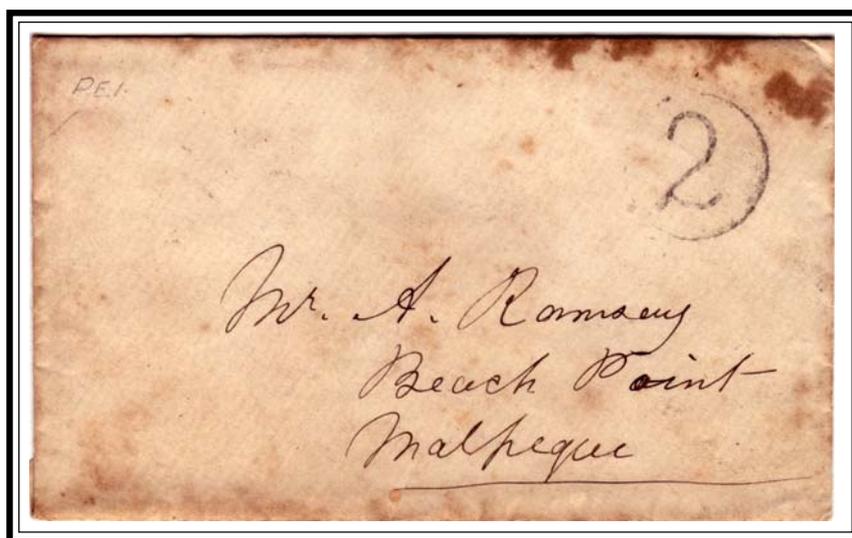


Scan of unique P5 from reverse of this cover with a 0 beneath the year.

Cover to Malpeque showing early use of the new stamp. This cover is specifically mentioned by James Lehr in his book as it has an unique form of P5 on reverse for Friday, March 22 1861. P 137 eight line grid on stamp.

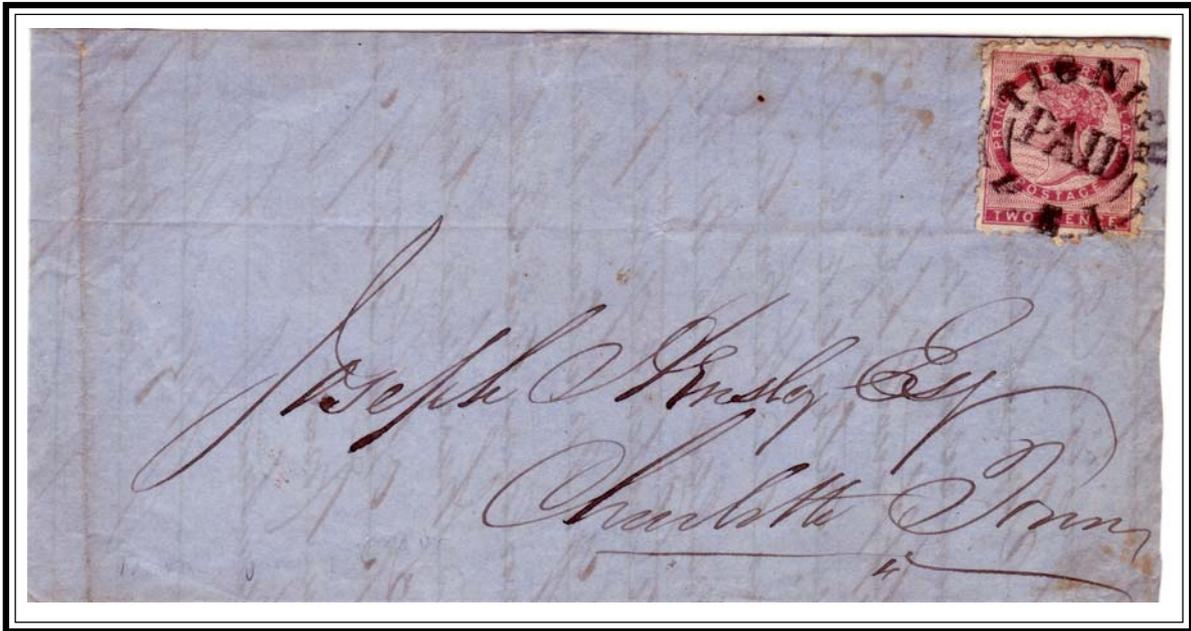
2

2 in circle rate mark
2d to pay (Lehr P36),
15 recorded strikes



This cover, also to Malpeque, is also specifically mentioned by James Lehr in his book as an unusual and late use of P107 after it should have been rendered obsolete by the introduction of postage stamps. Lehr

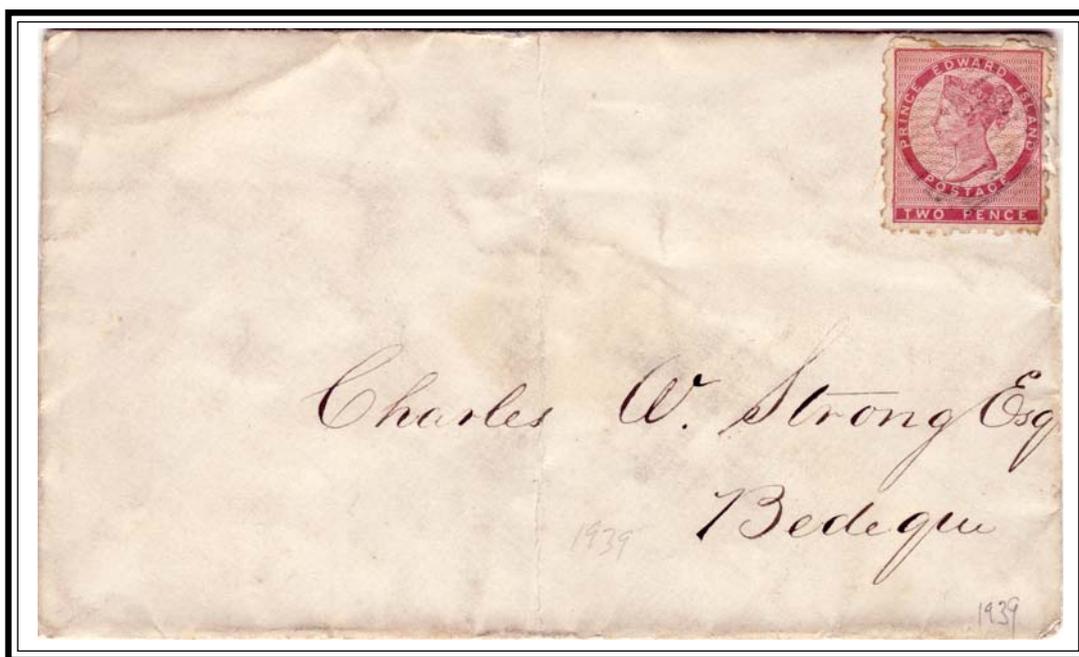
P5 on the reverse gives a date of Thursday, April 18 1861, after the issue of stamps and hence the requirement to prepay the postage. The 2 in black indicates 2d to pay by the recipient but at this time this should have been a 4d charge as a fine for postage due. Maybe no stamps were available or the fine was overlooked for some reason.



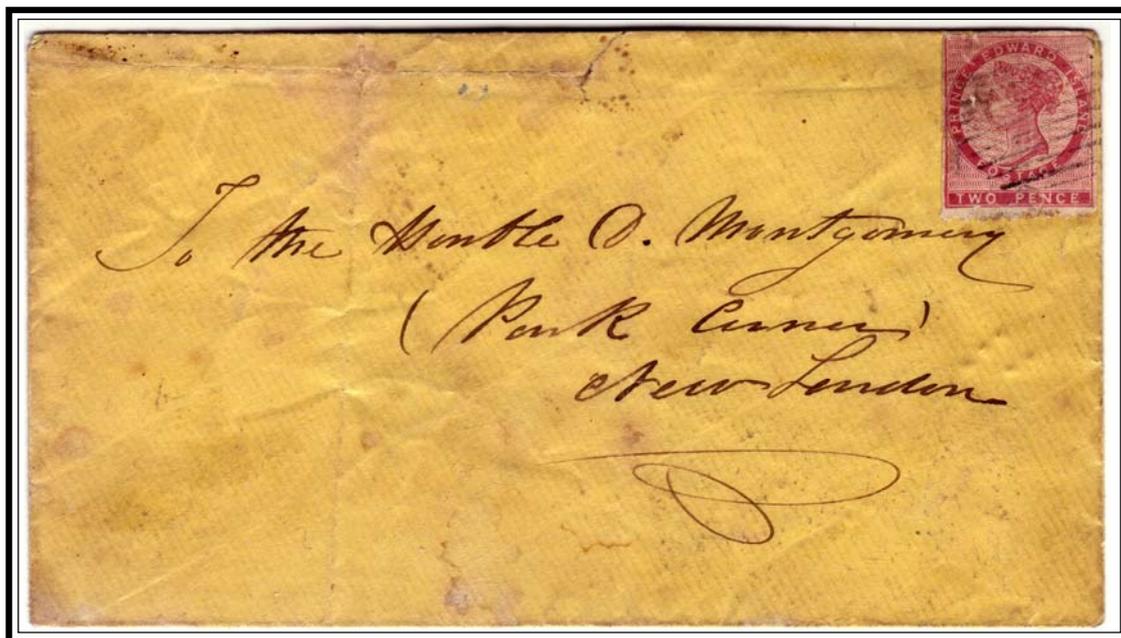
Front with clear strike of the rare P36 Tignish PAID mark used to cancel first issue 2d perf. 9 stamp. Four of the five known strikes of this paid mark are incorrectly used to cancel stamps.



Reduced small cover to Port Hill. 2d perf. 9 stamp tied with Lehr P137 eight line grid. Lehr P7 on reverse for Saturday 14 May 1864



Cover to Bedeque showing typical use of Perf. 9 stamp backstamped (P7) in Charlottetown Tuesday June 16 1863. The letter would not have left Charlottetown until the following Thursday morning.

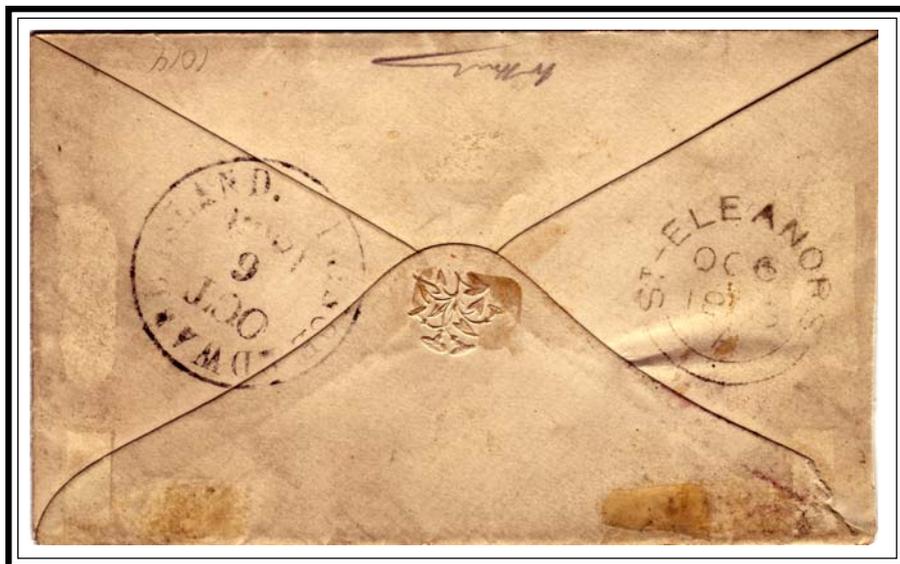


Donald Montgomery

Cover to Donald Montgomery at Park Corner postmarked in Charlottetown (Lehr P7) on reverse for Wednesday 25 February 1863. The courier would have left Charlottetown the following morning. The perf. 9 stamp appears to have come from a sheet not perforated vertically as both sides are cut, perforation errors are relatively common, stamp tied by grid cancel (P134).

The Honourable Donald Montgomery (1807-1892) was a significant figure representing the Island in the Canadian Senate. He is also well known as the grandfather of the Island's most famous Author, Lucy Maud Montgomery who wrote "Anne of Green Gables". One history of the area states that his home, Park Corner, was one of the places where the western mail courier was fed and spent the night on his route.

Cover with contents from New London showing characteristic 5 line pen cancel on a two pence perf. 9 stamp. The letter is dated Thursday 31 October 1861. Charlottetown receiver Lehr P5 (over 300 recorded strikes) for Friday 1 November 1861 on reverse



Reverse of a similar 2d perf. 9 cover from St Eleanors to Charlottetown showing Prince Edward Island in Circle, Lehr P7 (over 90 recorded strikes) and double arc St Eleanors mark, Lehr P49 (over 20 recorded strikes). Both dated Tuesday 6 October 1863. Stamp tied with 10 line grid Lehr P134.

Folded letter from Lot 8 showing pen cancel of a small post office on a two pence perf. 9 stamp and a P7 Charlottetown receiver for Friday 1 April 1864. The letter is dated 26th March. The courier would have left Charlottetown on Monday 28 March collecting the post from Lot 8 post office and returning to Charlottetown in the evening of Friday 1 April.



William Crundall was chief cashier of the Bank of Prince Edward Island from 1856 until his death in 1877. After he died the bank went into rapid decline before failing in 1882.



All three items on this sheet demonstrate the poor stamp separation caused by the widely spaced small holes of the perf. 9 machine.



Entire from Charlottetown to Summerside. Lehr P7 on reverse dated Tuesday 28 October 1862. Stamp tied with 8 line grid Lehr P136.



Entire from Charlottetown to Summerside. Lehr P7 on reverse dated Wednesday 3 December 1862. The courier would have left Charlottetown the following morning. Stamp tied with 8 line grid Lehr P136.

Entire from Charlottetown to Summerside. Lehr P7 on reverse dated Wednesday 19 August 1863. The courier would have left Charlottetown the following morning. Stamp tied with 8 line grid Lehr P136.



Robert T. Holman (1833-1906) was a well known general store owner on Water Street in Summerside. When he died he had built up quite a commercial empire with a wide range of interests.

One Penny Printed Circular Rate



Cover postmarked in Charlottetown (P7) on reverse for Friday 4 March 1864. The courier would have left Charlottetown the following Monday. This is one of only two recorded single uses of a 1d stamp perforated 11 used for the correct purpose of covering the reduced rate for printed circulars.

There was only one printing that used the perf. 11 machine all subsequent pence issues were primarily perforated 11¾, 19 single use examples of these are recorded. The most common use of the 1d stamps was in pairs to pay the internal Island rate (see below)



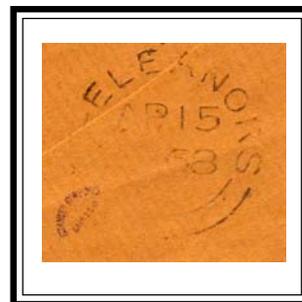
Vertical pair of 1d orange brown perf. 11¾ on cover to Grand River, Lot 16. Postmarked in Charlottetown (P6) for Monday 30 December 1868. There are several known covers to Mr. McLellan at different locations he moved to wherever a new ship was being built.



Town Marks Proofed 1848



Prince-Town P48 (13 recorded strikes) on reverse of cover to John Longworth. Both P48 and Charlottetown P5 receiver dated Tuesday 28 August 1866. P134 grid ties two pence stamp perforated a nominal $11\frac{3}{4}$.



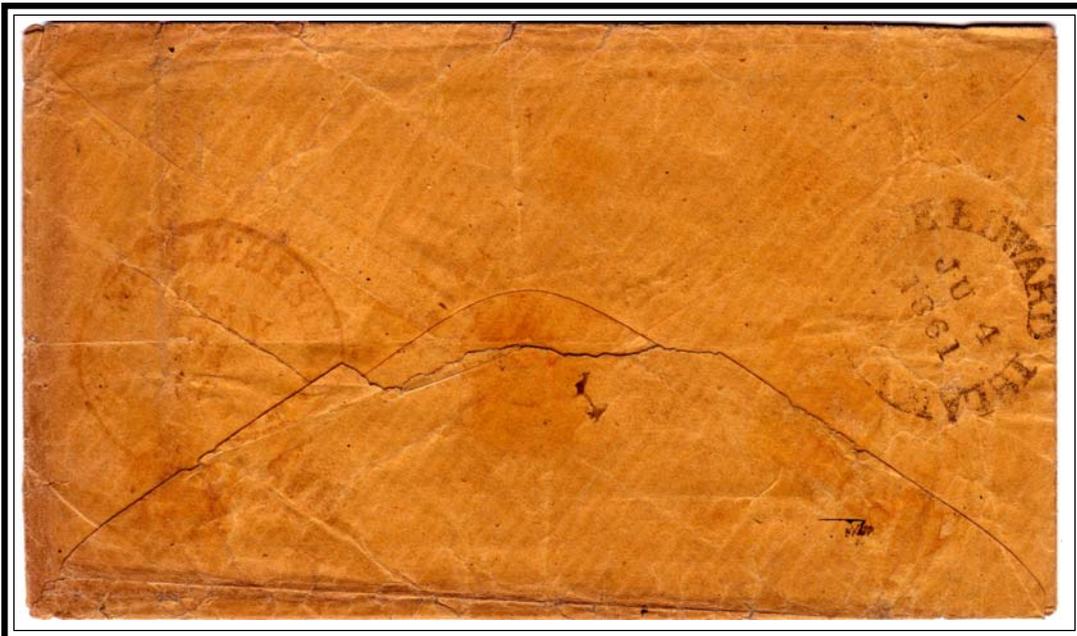
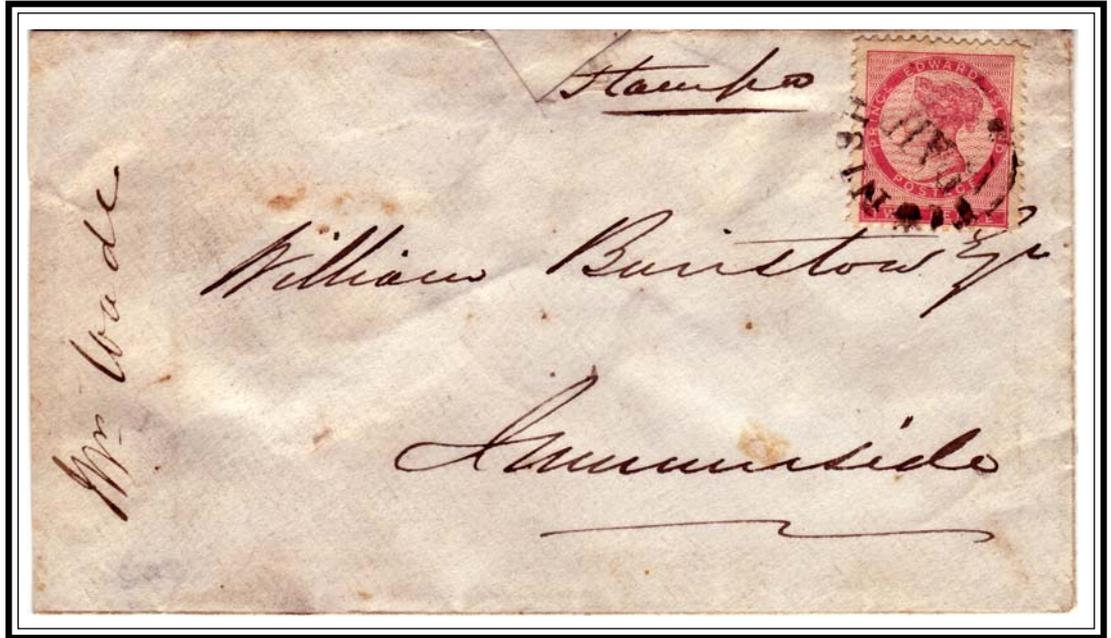
St Eleanors P49 (over 20 recorded strikes) on reverse of cover to John Robertson in Charlottetown dated Wednesday 15 April 1868. P134 grid ties two pence stamp perforated a nominal $11\frac{3}{4}$.



Wrapper from St. Eleanors showing use of later issue two pence stamp perforated a nominal $11\frac{3}{4}$. This stamp has a compound perforation, the right hand side being perforated exactly 11. The perf. 11 machine was used to fill in rows missed by the main perforating machine. Grid cancel (P134) ties stamp to wrapper. Charlottetown receiver (P5) for Tuesday 22 January 1867 and P49 St Eleanors mark for same date.



Cover to Summerside with the very rare, P36, TIGNISH PAID town mark on 2d rose perf. 11¾. Summerside receiver for September 13 on reverse. One of the few covers that travelled from one part of the courier's route to another without passing through Charlottetown.



Reverse of cover bearing perf. 9 2d rose postmarked Summerside May 31 to Charlottetown. Unusual P50 with Month on top of date, some indication that the year was included and in red ink. P5 Charlottetown receiver for Tuesday 4 June 1861. The Western route courier returned to Charlottetown on Tuesdays.

Another very unusual cover with an extra 4d paid with the use of a pair of imperf. 2d rose stamps. Possibly one ounce overweight? St. Eleanor's postmark, P49, for Monday 6 February 1865 on reverse. Charlottetown P7 receiver for the following day on front and reverse. 8 line killer ties 2d rose perf 11¾ stamp. ●





Two pence rose perf. 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ with compound perforation, bottom edge perf. 11, on cover to De Sable. Worn P7, with double ring, on reverse for Friday 10 February 1865. Would not have left Charlottetown until the following Monday. Stamp tied with P114.

Two pence rose perf. 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ on cover to Indian River, an unusual destination. Charlottetown P114 on stamp and P5 for Thursday 9 May 1867 on reverse.



Two pence rose perf. 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ on cover to Hamilton, Lot 18. Charlottetown P8 for Thursday, April 21 1870 and P114 ties stamp. Hamilton only opened a post office during this year and this is the only recorded PEI cover addressed there.



Earliest Known Duplex of the Maritime Provinces



Two pence rose perf. 11¼ on damaged cover to Summerside, P50 receiver for 9 September on reverse. Charlottetown Duplex mark P83 (17 recorded strikes) with obliterator P86 (3 recorded strikes, 2 on this sheet) for Friday 8 September 1871.



P 83



84



85



86



87

None of the oblitors P84 - P87 are known used without P83 and at a fixed distance from P83. Unusual on internal Island covers.



Another example of P83 for Wednesday 30 August 1871 used with P87 on the reverse of a cover to John Yeo in Port Hill. P114 Charlottetown mark ties two pence rose perf. 11¼ stamp.

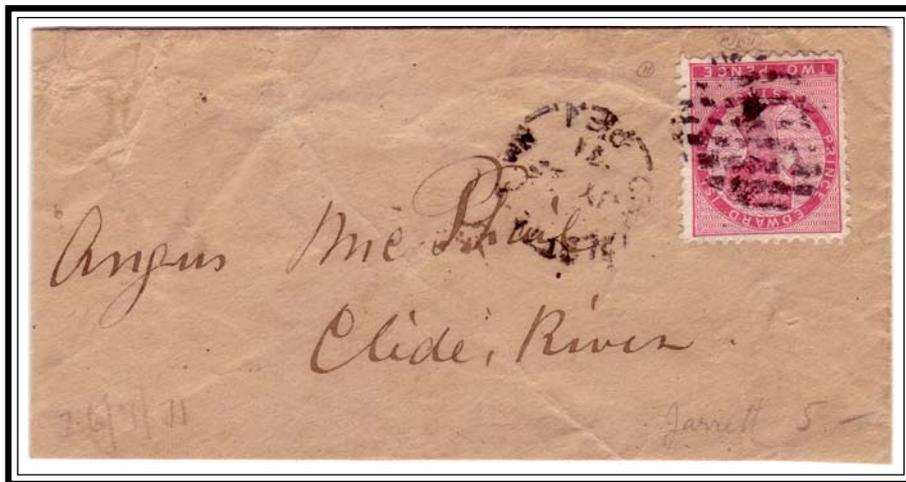
One of the clearest strikes of P6 (Over 130 recorded strikes) from the reverse of a cover to Miss Jane Bain, York



River. Dated Friday 19 June 1868. Known used in Charlottetown 1865 to 1870 with one odd use in 1872.



P146
12 recorded strikes



Cork obliterator P146 ties two pence perf. 11¼ stamp to a cover to Clide River. Charlottetown P80 for Sunday 16 July 1871. There are no marks on the reverse.



The Cents Issue

1 January 1872 to 30 June 1873



3 cent red tied to cover with cork cancel, Lehr P127 (six recorded strikes) and posted at Summerside on 27 May (poor imprint of Summerside P50 on front). Charlottetown P80 receiver on reverse for Wednesday 28 May 1873. By this time deliveries were daily.

Alley and Davies, Solicitors. George Alley became a Judge and the partnership was dissolved shortly after the date of this cover.



An unusual cover 1d orange brown, used 11 months after the issue of cents stamps. Stamp tied to cover with cork cancel (Lehr P127) otherwise only used on the cents stamps. Why this was allowed at Charlottetown and why 1d rather than 2d will probably remain a mystery. Charlottetown P80 for Tuesday 26 November 1872. Summerside P50 on reverse for 27 November.



Internal rate cover 3 cent stamp tied with indistinct cork cancel to a cover to Campletown in Lot 7. There was another Campletown elsewhere on the Island. Postmarked Saturday 21 June 1873 from Charlottetown (P80). There are no postal markings on the back but an annotation suggesting it may not have been delivered until 26 June In 1873 the mail left Charlottetown every Wednesday and Saturday for the far West of the Island.

John A. Matheson merchant and dealer in fishing outfits. Born in 1844 on P.E.I., for a short time he was postmaster of the Lot 4 post office. This post office was variously known as Lot 4, Lot 7 and Campletown.



Unusual internal rate cover showing one of the eight known uses of a one cent and a two cent stamp to make up the internal rate of three cents. The two cent stamp did not cover any specific rate so is not found in singles on cover. Tied with one of two recorded strikes of cork cancel Lehr P124, from Charlottetown (P80 July 1872) to Alberton.

The Honourable Richard B. Reid. Member of the Legislative Council and Merchant in Alberton. He was born in Newfoundland.



Full Ring “Boxwood” Town Cancels

Two additions to those listed by Lehr



3 cent stamp cancelled with four ring cork, Lehr 121 (8 recorded strikes) also with unique North Tryon boxwood cancel.
Charlottetown P80 transit for Monday 3 February 1873. ●



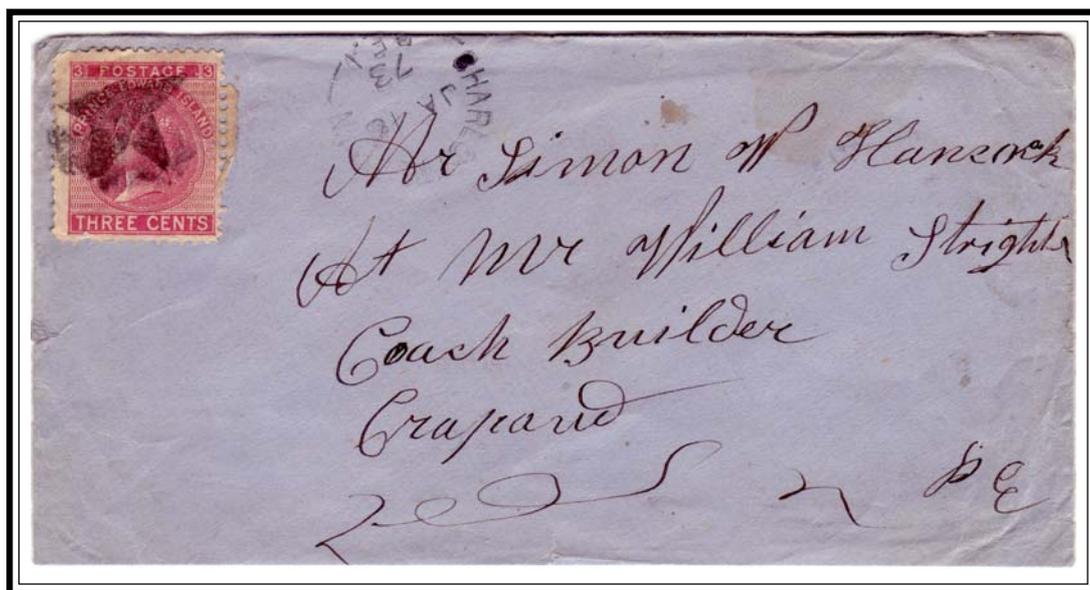
3 cent stamp tied with four ring cork, Lehr 121 (8 recorded strikes) also with unique Princetown Road boxwood cancel.
Charlottetown P80 receiver for Friday 21 February 1873.



3 cent stamp tied with indistinct cork cancel to a cover to Summerside.

Postmarked Monday 17 June 1872 from Charlottetown (P80).

Summerside P50 on reverse for 18 June. Partly cut off annotation suggests this cover was carried on the daily steamer.



3 cent stamp tied with Lehr P130 cork cancel (12 recorded strikes) to a cover to Crapaud. Postmarked Thursday 16 January 1873 from Charlottetown (P80).

3 cent stamp tied with Lehr P126 cork cancel (4 recorded strikes) to a cover to Middleton. Postmarked Wednesday 23 April 1873 from Charlottetown (P80).



3 cent stamp tied with indistinct barred cancel to a cover to Lot 4. From Summerside, P50 for 21 June. There are no further marks on the reverse.



3 cent stamp tied with Lehr P134 10 line barred cancel to a cover to Lot 4. From Summerside, P50 for 30 June. There are no further marks on the reverse.

3 cent stamp tied with P145 to a front to Alberton. From Charlottetown, P80 for Saturday 4 October 1873, showing the use of preconfederation postmarks after PEI joined Canada.



P145

(two recorded strikes)

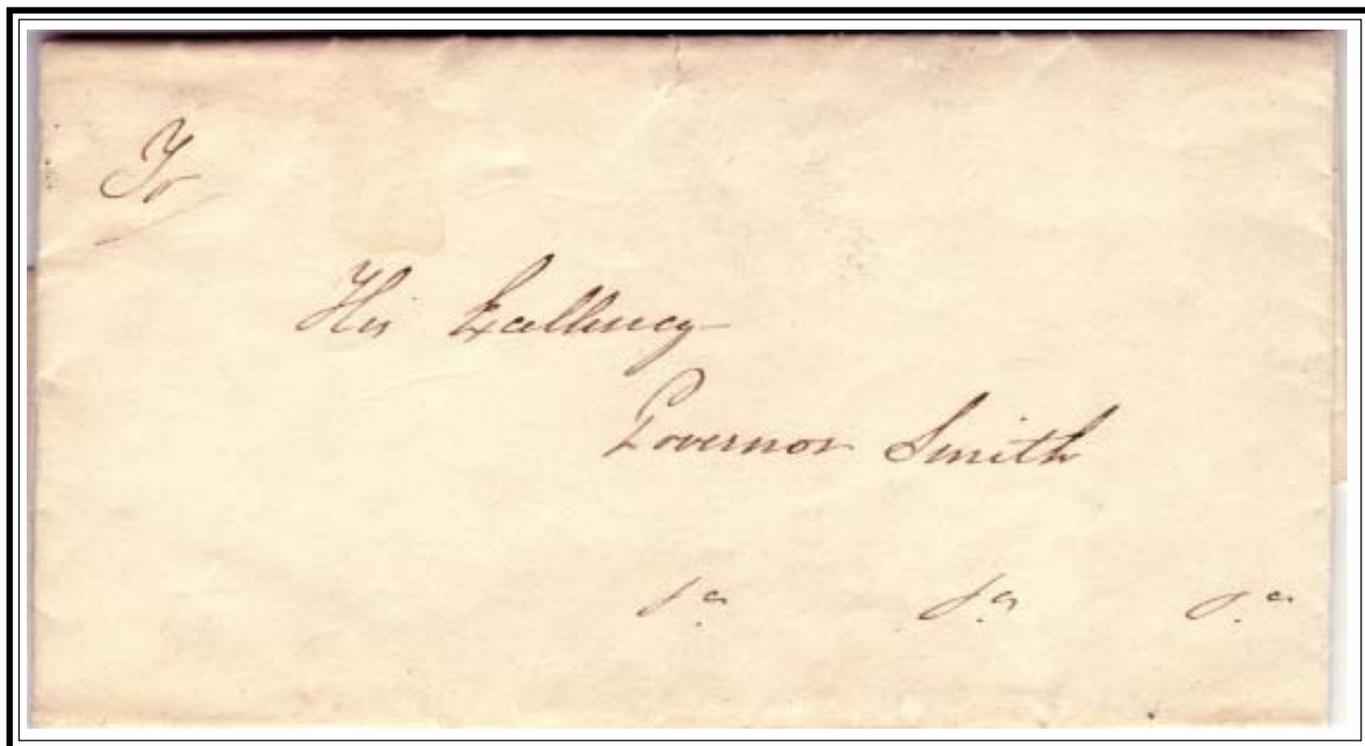




The [Eastern Route](#) initially followed the north coast of the Island eastwards from Charlottetown as far as St. Margaret's (half way between St. Peter's bay and East Point) but, as the number of post offices increased, eventually followed the coast to East Point, turning south through Souris and Bridgetown and then back to the Capital. For most of the period of interest the mail closed at Charlottetown on Monday and Thursday at 7 pm and the courier returned with the Eastern mails on Wednesday and Saturday. This route served the smallest population and has produced fewer examples of postal history.

Letter Carried "By Favour"

In the early days of the colony most people relied on neighbours to carry their mail when going to town, repaying the favour when they themselves went. Prior to 7 November 1827 there was no internal mail system and this was the only method available.



Letter to Governor Smith from Lieut. Colin MacDonald of the 72nd Regt. Requesting a grant of a parcel of land in Lot 55. Internally dated 12 March 1822. Contents on back of sheet.



Reverse of Sheet

Prince Edward Island 12th March 1822

Sir,

Having been informed that the Lot or Township No 55 in this Island had reverted to the Crown and will be granted in small tracts to such persons as Government may consider deserving thereof. I have therefore taken the liberty of enclosing your Excellency a memorial from myself Praying a Grant of Part of said Township and I doubt not that your Excellency will be pleased to forward the same with such recommendation as you shall seem most proper. I have the Honour to be

Your Excellency's
most obedient

Humble Servant

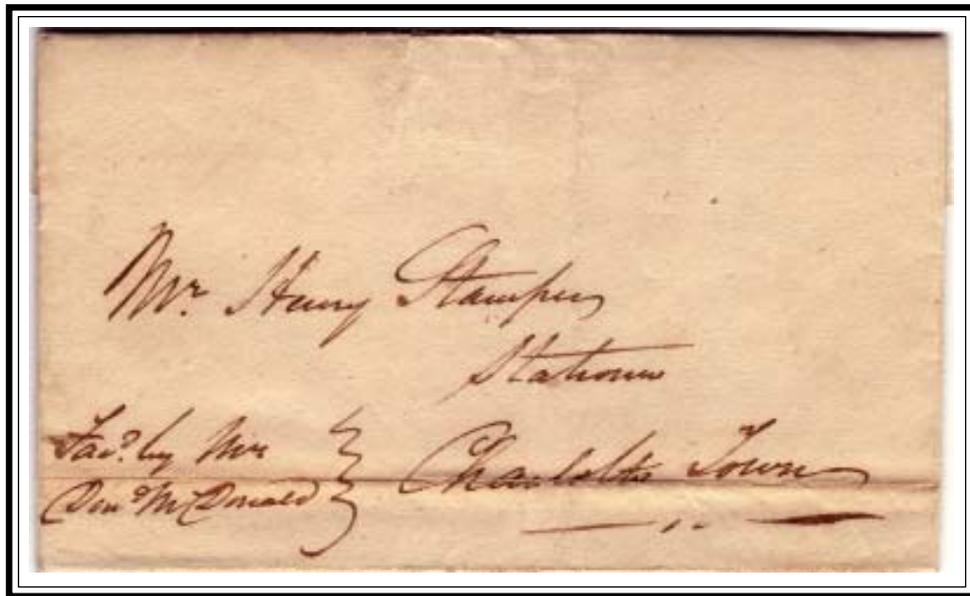
John MacDonald

Lieut., A. Roy 72nd Regt.

To
His Excellency
Governor Smith



The Honourable Charles Douglas Smith
Governor from 5 August 1812 to 19 April 1824.
The fourth Governor of Prince Edward Island since the
creation of the Colony in 1763.



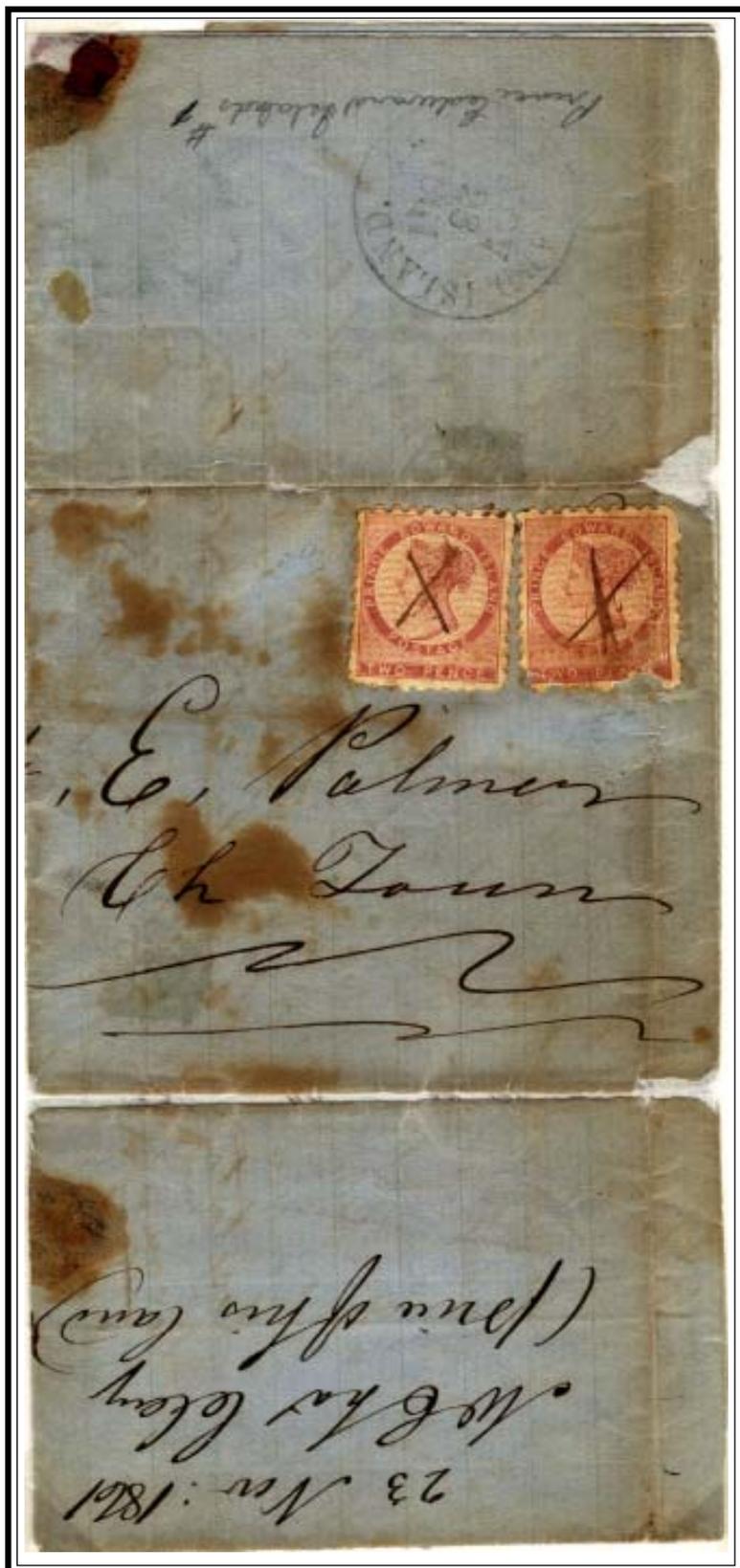
Entire to Henry Stamper in Charlottetown from Peter McCallum, headed Head of St. Peter's Bay, 7th March 1843. Favoured by Donald McDonald.



Cover to Naufrage Lot 43 (a rare destination). First issue 2d rose perf. 9 cancelled with pen cross. Lehr P5 on reverse for Friday 20 September 1861.



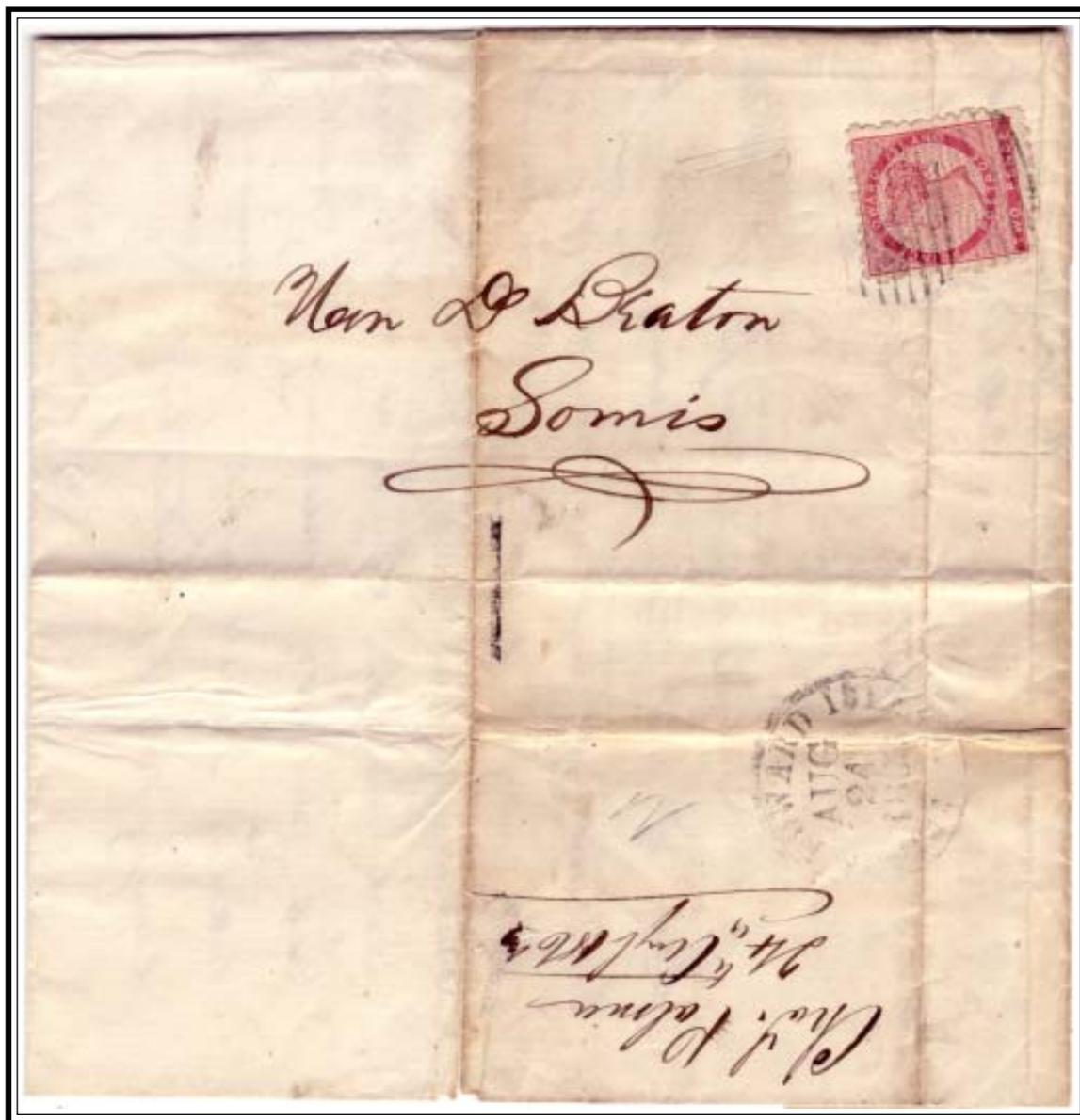
Folded letter from Charles Clay with two 2d rose perf. 9 stamps of the first issue with the earliest recorded use of P7 November 28 1861. Clearly showing that this Island postmark, used in Charlottetown, started with a single outer ring. As it became worn in use this outer ring split into two and later became segmented, last use was in 1870. Compare with the example below on the reverse of a cover from 1865 showing the double ring.



Double rate, one ounce, folded letter to The Honourable Edward Palmer in Charlottetown. Edward Palmer was a solicitor and member of the Island's legislature. Dr. Clay owned the Mill above Bridgetown in Lot 55. Pen cancellation on first issue perf. 9 stamps indicates posted at small post office without its own cancelling instrument. Many small Island post offices were simply a desk in a general store or someone's front room. Only four double rate covers paid for with two first issue 2d stamps



P7



Two pence rose, perf. 9 tied to folded letter by 8 line grid (P136). Posted Monday August 24 1863 (P7) in Charlottetown to catch the closing of the mails that evening to Souris.

Hon. Donald Beaton was one of the key characters that turned a small settlement into an important Island town. Born at East point in 1816. A merchant who moved the family business to Souris in the 1840s. He was engaged in shipbuilding and owned and operated several ships. Donald Beaton was a Liberal member of the House of Assembly. He died in 1865. This letter is from Charles Palmer chasing up a debt on behalf of a client.



Part of a Folded letter to Lot 41. The receiving post office would have been Head of St. Peter's Bay. First issue 2d rose perf. 9 Tied with 8 line killer P136.
From Theophilus Debrisay in Charlottetown.



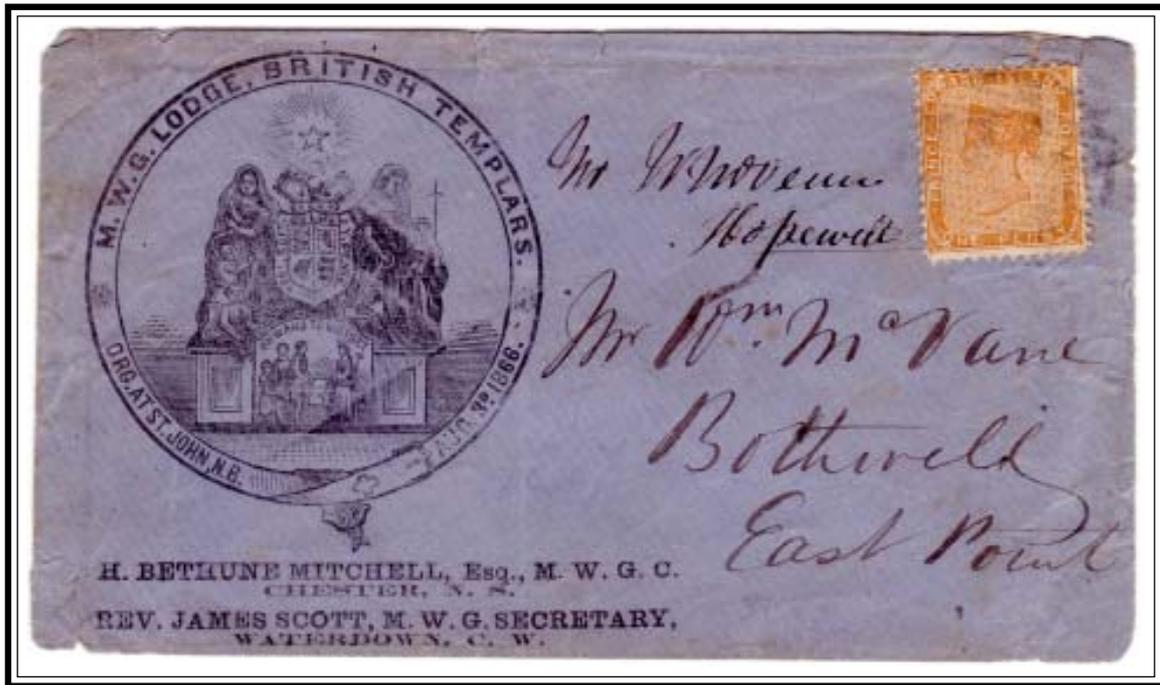
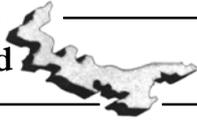
Cover to Bay Fortune. First issue 2d rose perf. 9 Tied with 8 line killer P136.
P7 on reverse for Thursday, April 7 1864. Posted to catch the mail in Charlottetown which closed at 7.00 p.m. on Thursday for the Eastern route.



Internal rate made up with two perf. 11 one pence stamps. This cover shows a more uncommon way of paying the internal rate. The second issue of stamps was of 1d and 9d stamps only and was the only issue perforated exactly 11. The single pence rate was for printed circulars and the mail of those on active service, no known examples of the latter survive. This is one of only 13 known covers with two such stamps. Pen cancelled with a characteristic Souris "S" (P115). Received Charlottetown Saturday October 8 1864 (P7 on reverse). Grids tying stamps to cover probably applied in Charlottetown (P137).



Postcard showing Souris as it was about 1900.



Internal one pence rate for preprinted circulars. An unusual early advertising cover. An order of the Freemasons calling themselves Knights Templar were established in North America in 1859. The enclosed circular presumably referred to the activities of the lodge. The stamp is perforated $11\frac{3}{4}$ from the more common third issue but there are still only about 20 such covers with a single one penny stamp recorded.



Internal one pence rate for preprinted circulars. The contents however, are a handwritten copy of some accounts and a note of how much is owing. It is quite possible that this was a wrapper for, or a blank part of a preprinted circular that the recipient has later reused for rough calculations. The stamp is perforated $11\frac{3}{4}$ from the more common third issue Lehr P5 for Sunday 5 January 1868. Stamp tied with unlisted thick line 9 or 10 line grid in red ink.



Cover to James Moynagh, a baker and boarding house proprietor in Souris. Horizontal pair of third issue 1d orange brown perf. 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ used to pay the internal Island rate. Stamps tied with 8 line grid P140. P6 for Thursday 21 January 1869 applied in Charlottetown. The mail for the Eastern route closed in Charlottetown at 7pm on a Thursday.



One of over 50 recorded covers with two third issue 1d orange brown perf. 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ used to pay the internal Island rate. Stamps pen cancelled from small post office. Passed through Charlottetown Friday 23 August 1867, P5 on reverse. The only mail to arrive in Charlottetown on a Friday was from the Western route. We may deduce that this item to East Point was posted at a small post office somewhere on the Western route, stayed in Charlottetown over the weekend as the next Eastern route courier left the capital on Monday, probably delivering this item on Tuesday.



Cover to George Lawson, third issue two pence rose perf. 11¾ tied to cover to Stanhope with Charlottetown P114. P5 on reverse for Saturday, March 3 1866.



Example of P5 on reverse of a cover dated October 12 1866. Usually on the reverse of covers this is the most common P.E.I. preconfederation postmark.



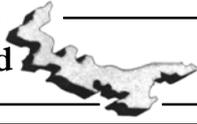
Cover to William Sanderson misdirected to Souris and redirected to Georgetown. Third issue two pence rose perf. 11¾ with P139, 7 line killer, clear P6 for Monday, November 25, 1867. The Eastern mails closed on Monday and Thursday evenings.



Cover to Souris East, third issue two pence rose perf. 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ tied with heavily inked cork probably P 144. P8 for Monday 12 December 1870 applied in Charlottetown.



Cover to Ronald McDonald, third issue two pence rose perf. 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ tied to cover by indistinct grid cancel to Souris. P6 on reverse for Tuesday 6 April 1869. A faintly amusing cover in that PEI produces a large quantity of potatoes each year which are sold to McDonalds.



Cover to Charlottetown, third issue two pence rose perf. 11¾ with Souris P116 pen cancel. P7 for Saturday 22 October 1864 applied in Charlottetown on reverse.

Two unusual Souris pen cancels.
Four impressions recorded of each



P115



P116

Cover to Souris, third issue two pence rose perf. 11¾ tied with P115 pen cancel. P6 for Saturday 24 July 1869 applied in Charlottetown on reverse.



Cover addressed to Malcolm McLeod attorney, in partnership with Charles Palmer. Arrived in Charlottetown Wednesday, 3 February 1869 (P6 on reverse). The mail was due from the Eastern route every Wednesday and Saturday. The sending post office is identified from the characteristic Souris pen cancel, P115 on third issue two pence rose perf. 11¾.

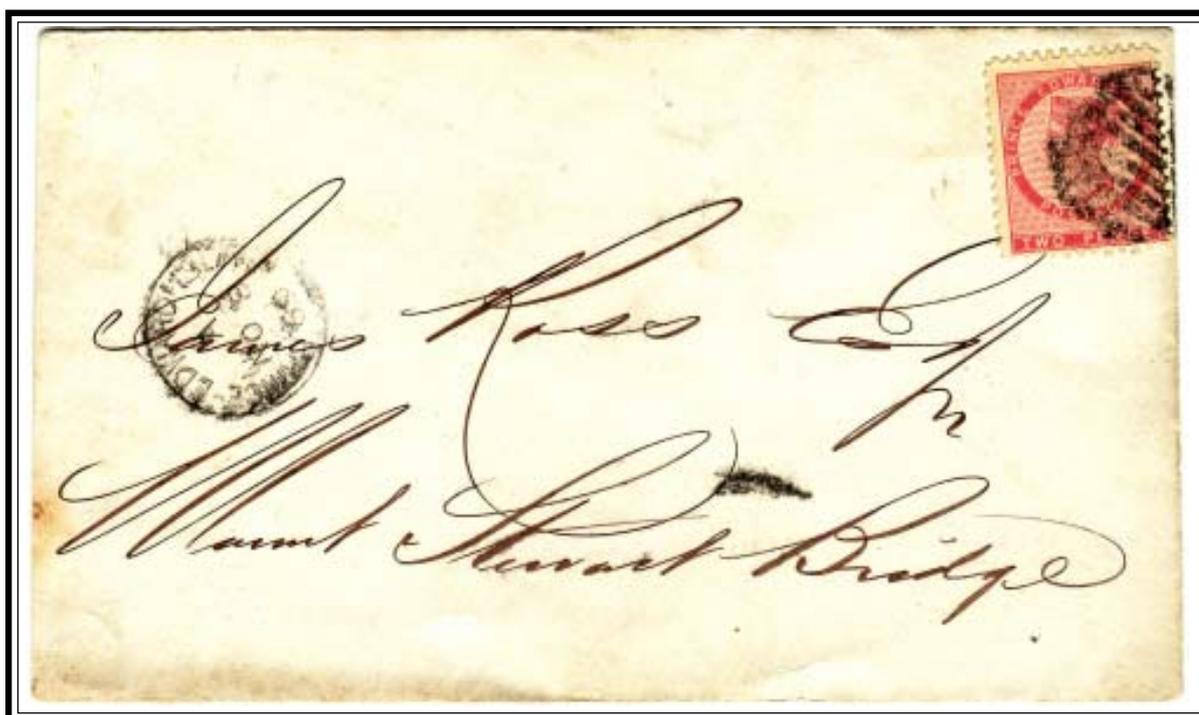


Charlottetown
P114 on stamp.
Clear P6 for
Wednesday 30
September 1868.
The mails closed at
7.00 p.m. the
following day.

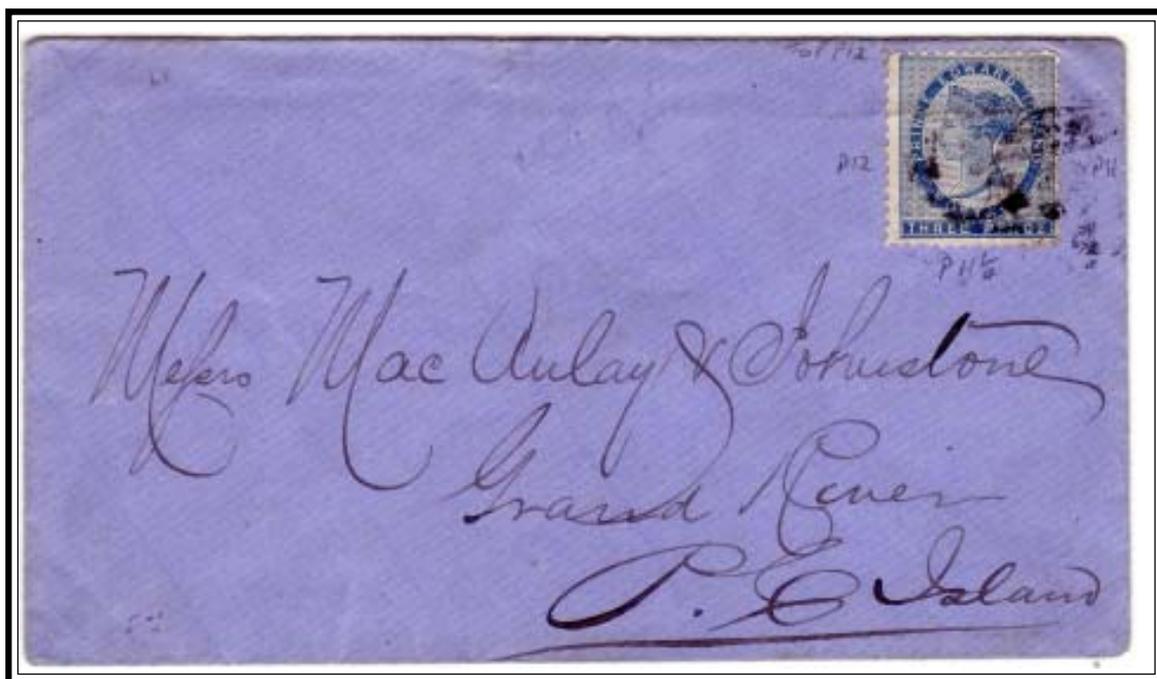
Unusual mark from the
senders Carvell Brothers
in Charlottetown on a
cover with P6 for
Thursday 3 October 1867
on reverse



Three covers to James
Ross in Mount Stewart.
All with third issue two pence
rose perf. 11³/₄.

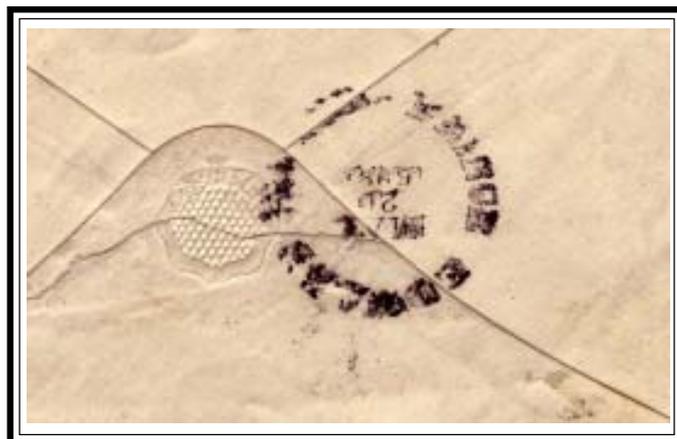


Charlottetown
P8 for Saturday
8 November
1869. Stamp tied
with 8 line grid
P140.



Three pence blue compound perforation ($11\frac{3}{4}$ except right hand edge perf. 11) on cover to Grand River P5 for Thursday, 22 November 1866 on reverse. Why a 3d stamp was used for an internal rate cover is not clear but the stamp is well tied with P114.

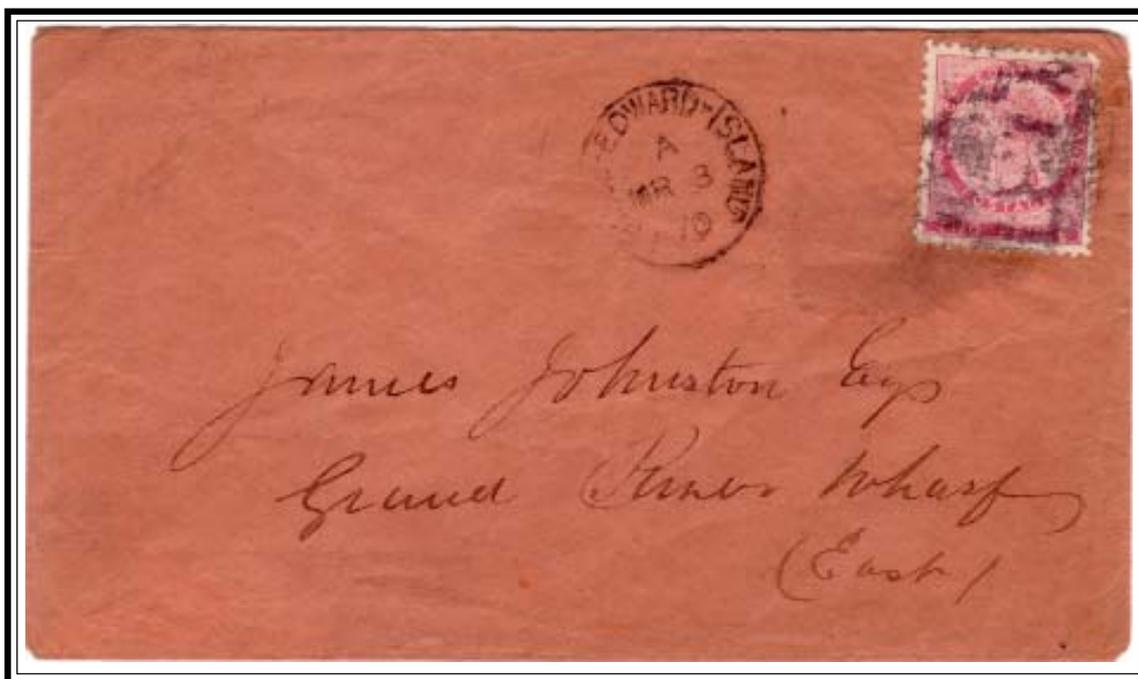
Part of reverse of a cover from Mr. Stone in Souris to John Longworth in Charlottetown. To show unusual P6 receiver with year plug inverted. Saturday, March 20 1869, the Eastern route courier arrived in Charlottetown on a Saturday. Two pence rose Perf. $11\frac{3}{4}$ tied with 7 thick line killer, P139, on front.



Two pence rose perf. $11\frac{3}{4}$ on cover to Grand River Wharf with clear P6 for Wednesday 17 June 1868 on reverse. Stamp is tied with 8 line grid, P140.



Registered cover to Grand River Wharf. Charlottetown P6 for Thursday, 21 January 1869 also 8 line killer P140 tying both stamps. Fewer than 10 P.E.I. registered covers are recorded with the 6d registration rate which was in effect until 1871 showing the most examples. There are no further marks on the reverse.



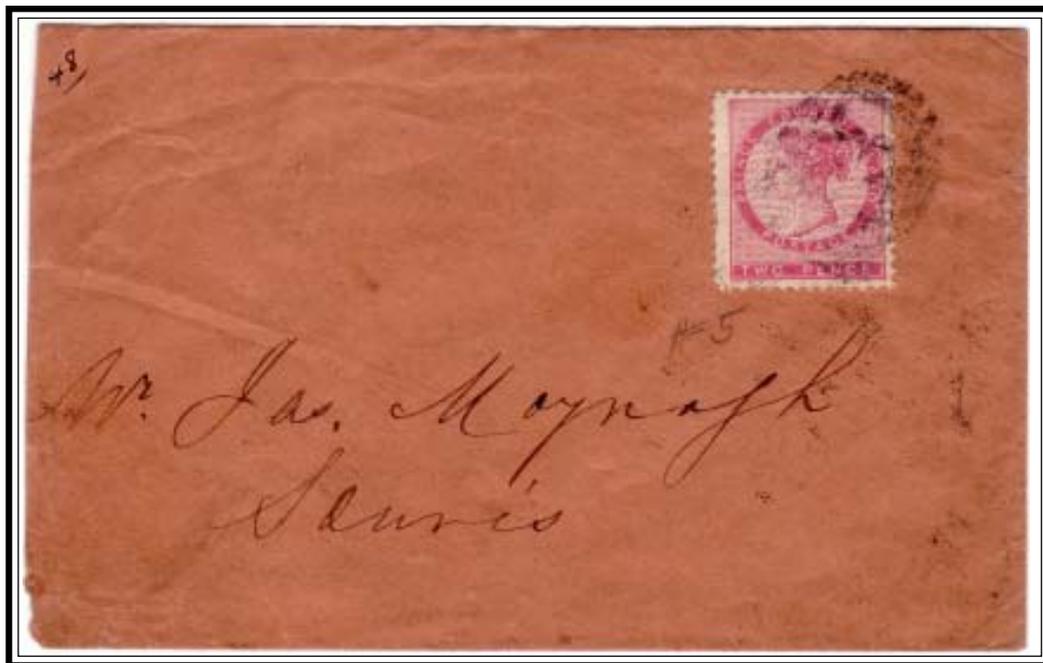
Two pence rose perf. 11³/₄ on cover to the same recipient at Grand River Wharf. Charlottetown P8 for Thursday 3 March 1870 also Charlottetown P114 on stamp. There was another Grand River on the Western route and this is probably why East was added to the address. There are no further marks on the reverse.



Three covers to James Moynagh in Souris.

All with third issue two pence rose perf. 11¾. Each posted to catch the Thursday 7 pm closing of the mails

Charlottetown P5 on reverse of wrapper for Thursday 7 June 1866. 7 bar killer P139 ties compound perf. stamp lower edge is perf. 11.



Charlottetown P5 on reverse of cover for Thursday 31 January 1867. Charlottetown 13 in barred oval P114 ties stamp.

Charlottetown P6 for Thursday 23 January 1868. Eight bar killer P137 ties stamp



Souris is named from the French for mouse after the plagues of mice which devastated the harvests of the early settlers.



The two pence stamp is from the third issue perforated $11\frac{3}{4}$, the lower edge is perforated 11. Postmarked on back with P5 for Wednesday 4 July 1866, in Charlottetown. The mail closed at Charlottetown the following evening. The letter probably arrived on the Friday.

Cover from Georgetown, indicated on reverse by P47, and Charlottetown transit PEI P8 both for Tuesday 28 February 1871. Two pence perf. $11\frac{3}{4}$ stamp tied with ten bar cancel P134.



Charlottetown P80 for Thursday 7 December 1871 ties perf. $11\frac{3}{4}$, 2d rose to a cover to a shipbuilder in Rollo Bay. The name of the Rollo Bay postmistress is given as Miss McDougall. This post is listed as vacant in the Island almanac for 1871, although R. McDougall is listed for 1872.





Cover to Mr. Nathan Davison, a school teacher. This cover would also suggest that he had taken up cycling with enthusiasm. Third issue two pence rose perf. 11¾ tied to cover to Bay Fortune with Charlottetown P114. Poor P7 on reverse for 1864. The annotations seem to relate to the cycling club or tour.



Cover to Bothwell, Lot 47, East Point. Third issue two pence rose perf. 11¾ tied to cover to Bay Fortune with Charlottetown P114. P8 applied in Charlottetown for Friday 17 December 1869. There are no postal markings on the reverse.



Two pence rose perf. 11¾
on cover to Head of
St. Peter's Bay.
Charlottetown P80 for
Thursday 16 March
1871 on cover also
unusual, recently
identified, cork killer,
P147, ties stamp to cover.

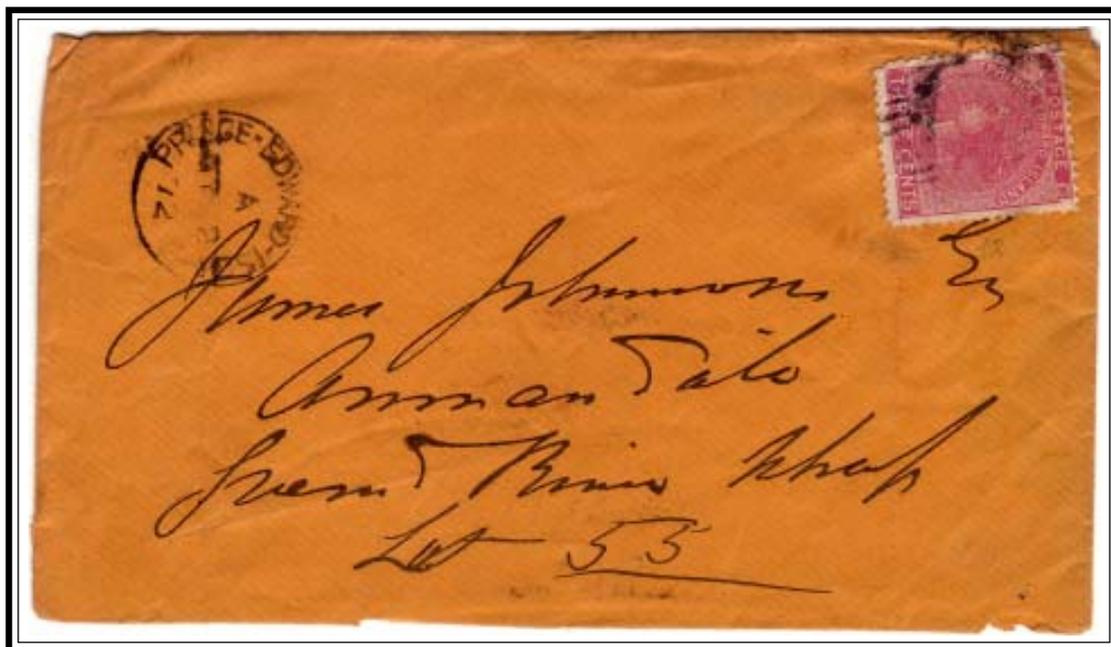


Two pence rose perf.
11¾ on cover to Souris
East. Unusually clear
strike of P8, used in
Charlottetown, for
Thursday 2 February
1871 also recently
identified cork killer
with 10 cut lines,
P147, ties stamp.

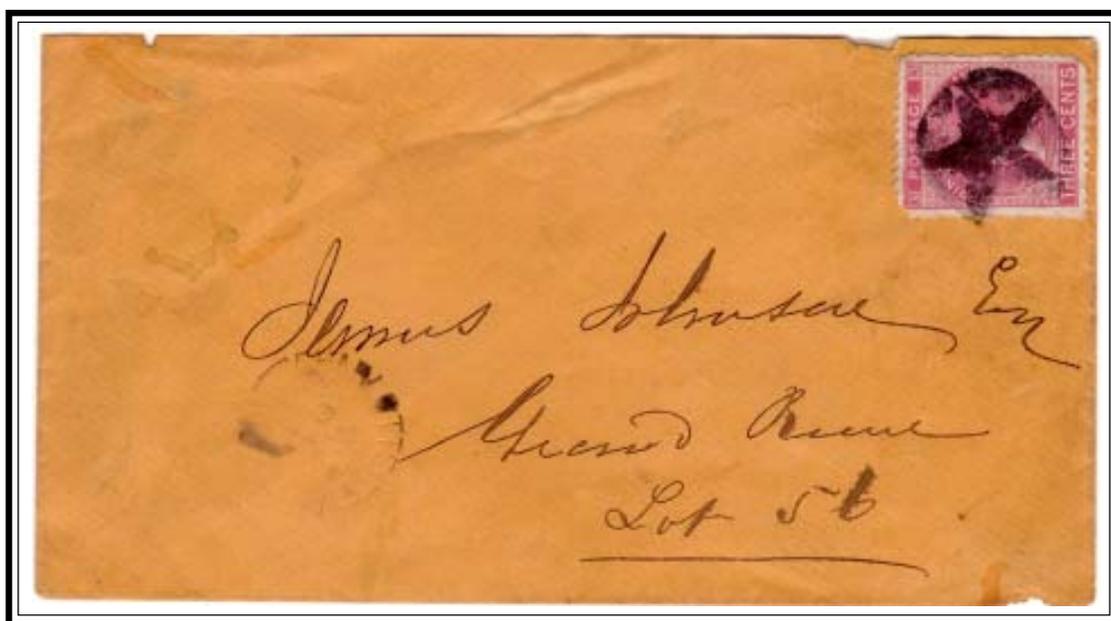
Two pence rose perf. 11¾ on
cover to Grand River Wharf.
Charlottetown P80 for
Monday 10 July 1871 also rare
cork killer P146 on stamp.



Both recorded copies of
cork cancel P147 with 10
cut lines are shown on
this sheet



Cover from Charlottetown to Grand River Wharf. P8 for Thursday 2 May 1872 applied in Charlottetown. Three cent stamp tied with smudged cancel. The cents issue was only in use for 18 months and cents issue internal covers are rarer than even the early perf. 9 two pence issue.



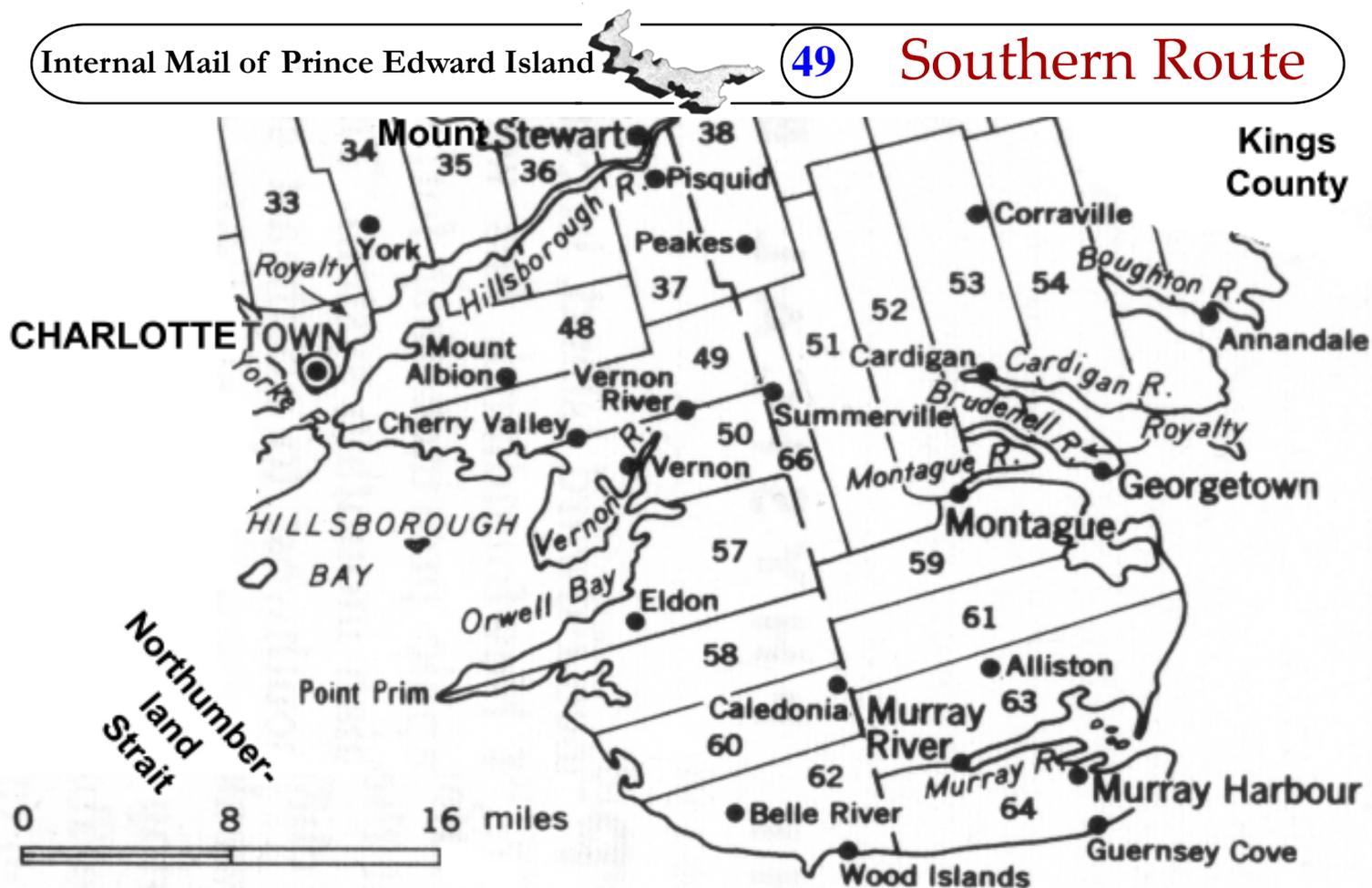
Cover to Grand River with Charlottetown P80 for Monday 4 November 1872. Three cent stamp tied with cork star fancy cancel P130. This sheet shows two covers to the same recipient with variations in the address. This is either due to the ownership of more than one property or the fact that the mail would be collected and the recipient would be known and so the rest of the address did not need to be precise.



Miss-sent cover to John McLean. Originally sent from Charlottetown on Thursday 24 November 1872 (P80 on front) to East Point, where Alex Beaton was the postmaster. Redirected to Souris East after being returned to Charlottetown, P80 on reverse for Saturday 7 December 1872. The letter would not have left before the following Monday. Three cent stamp tied with double strike of “cork” star fancy cancel (P130)



Early postcard giving some idea of the size of the Souris community.



The Southern Route essentially followed the coastline of the southeastern part of the Island. As the interior of this part of the Island became settled so the route became more complex. The mails closed at Charlottetown on Tuesday and Friday at 9 am for most of this period. The routes on the two days being slightly different. Some communities being on both and others only being visited by the courier once a week. Which communities rated two visits a week changed with the years. New communities starting with one visit a week, graduating to two a few years later. The couriers returned to Charlottetown every Wednesday and Saturday.



Preprinted list of Fenceviewers and Constables for King's County for 1845 (contents on reverse of sheet) with "On Service" prepaid internal Island rate shown in red also marked paid with P9, small PAID in circle unusually in red. Clear P 5 on reverse for Tuesday 1 April 1845.



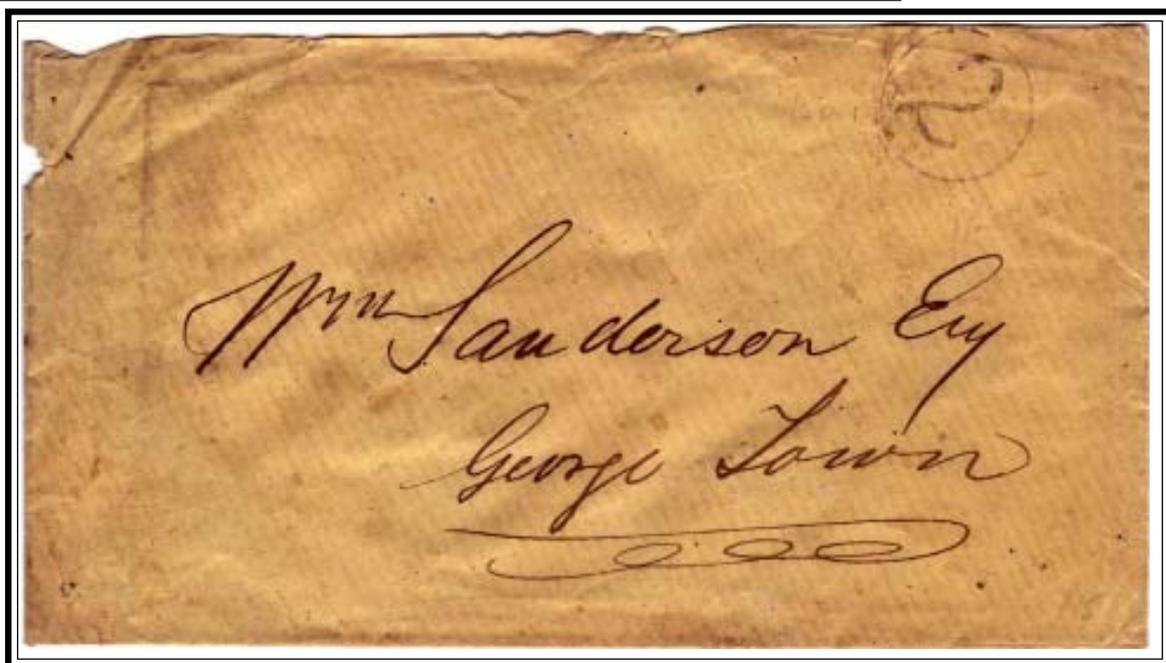
Two pence rate prepaid (in red) on wrapper through Charlottetown to Georgetown. P10 Prince Edward Island Paid mark in red also Charlottetown P5 for Friday 2 April 1852. The Western route mail arrived in Charlottetown on a Friday. Georgetown P47 receiver for Tuesday 6 April. The next Southern route delivery did not leave Charlottetown until the Tuesday. Although marked "With Speed" this wrapper took as long as any other mail on the same journey.

Two pence rate prepaid (in red) on entire with P24, Charlottetown Paid mark in red on front for Friday 21 August 1857, P5 for same date on reverse and faint Georgetown receiver, P47, also for August 21, unusually in red. The Southern route also had a Friday delivery in Georgetown.





Entire with 2d to pay in black ink. Earliest recorded use of P107; 2 in circle rate mark. P5 on reverse for Saturday 5 June 1852 with Georgetown receiver, P47, for Tuesday 8 June in brown. Two pence was the half ounce internal Island rate.



Cover with 2d to pay P107 in black ink. Poor P5 on reverse for Saturday 30 June 1860 with faint Georgetown receiver, P47, in brown presumably for the following Tuesday.



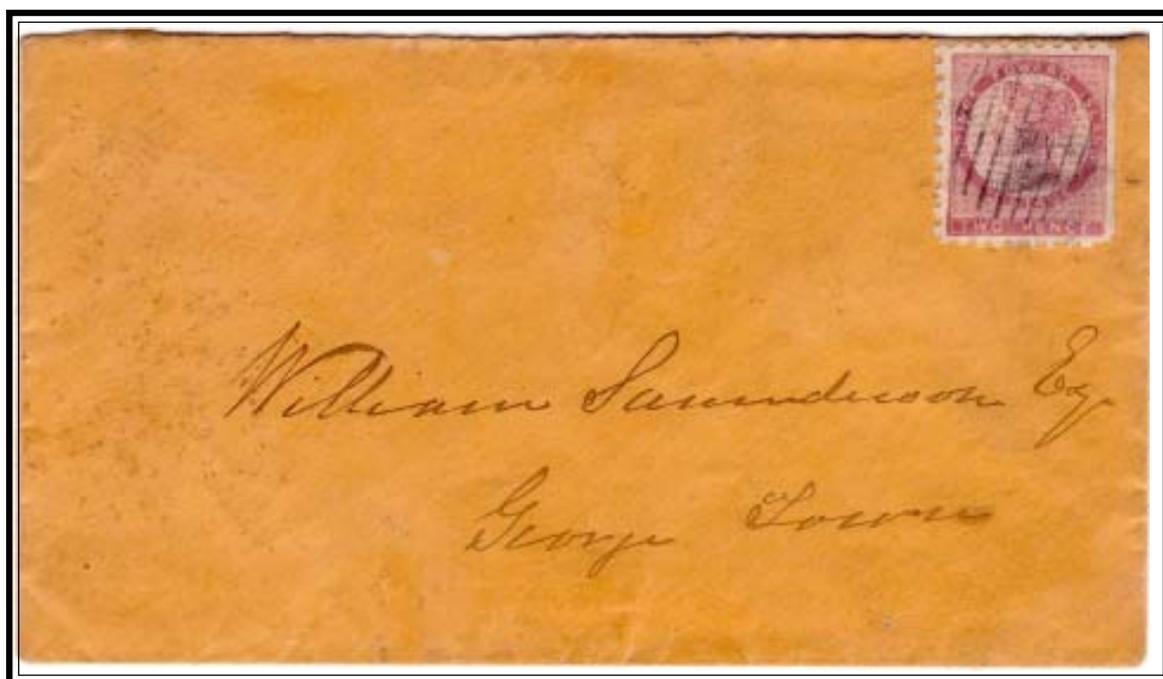
Cover with 2d to pay P107 in black ink. P5 on reverse for Tuesday, September 25 1860 with Georgetown receiver, P47, for same date in brown.

2

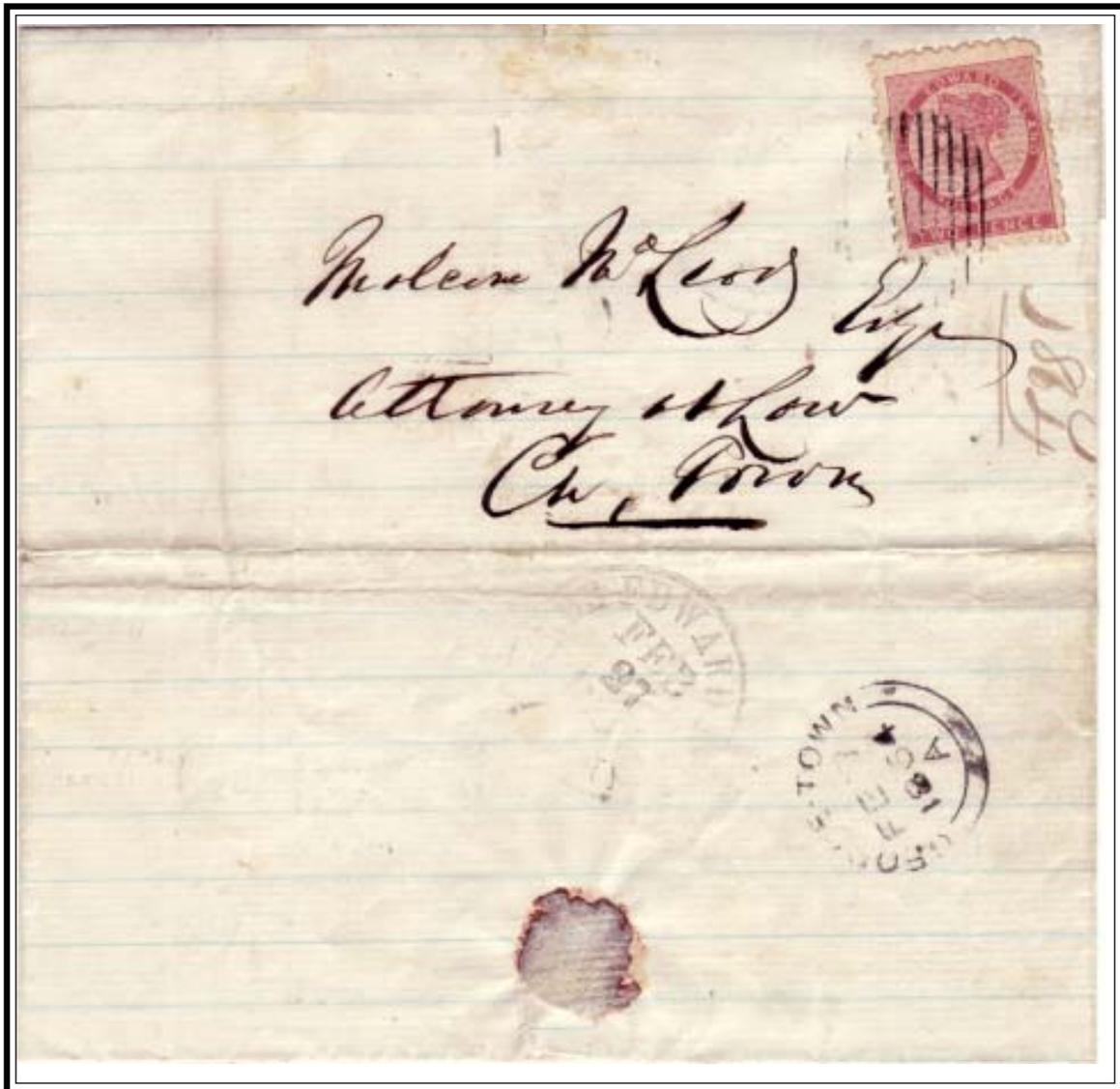
Lehr P107 2d to pay, 16 recorded strikes. Not needed after introduction of stamps in 1861 but occasionally used to indicate 2d fine on later covers.



Cover from Summerside to Vernon River via Charlottetown. Cover sent from Summerside Tuesday, September 23 (P50 on reverse) taken by the Western route courier to Charlottetown arriving in the evening of the same day (P7 on reverse gives year as 1862). Would have left Charlottetown on Friday probably arriving in Vernon River on Friday or Saturday. First issue perf. 9 two pence rose tied with 10 line grid, P134.



Cover to Georgetown. Postmarked Monday, December 28, 1863, P7 on back applied in Charlottetown. The mail would have left the following day. Faint Georgetown receiver P47 also on reverse. The perf. 9 stamp shows evidence of being cut from the sheet as someone had lost faith in the ineffective perforations. Killer on stamp probably P134.



Wrapper from J. Wightman in Georgetown to Charlottetown. P47 Georgetown mark for Saturday 27 February 1864. Charlottetown receiver P7 for same date. First issue perf. 9 two pence rose tied with 10 line grid, P134. The mail from the Southern route arrived in Charlottetown on Wednesdays and Saturdays



Lehr P47 Georgetown mark, over 60 recorded strikes. Known used from 1848 into the post-confederation period.



Cover to Point Prim probably sent from a small post office as the stamps were initially cancelled with pen crosses. Many of the smaller post offices were simply a desk in a store or someone's home and were not issued with cancelling instruments. Postmarked on reverse with P5 for Tuesday 29 May 1866 this suggests the Western route as this is the only route bringing mail into Charlottetown on a Tuesday. Pair of one pence stamps tied with 8 line grid, P137.

Three covers showing the use of two one pence perf. 11¾ stamps to pay the internal island rate.

Front of a cover to Montague Bridge. Postmarked with P6 and dated with a mark from Carvell Brothers in Charlottetown for Thursday 12 March 1868. Pair of one penny stamps tied with 8 line grid, P140.



Cover to Cherry Valley. Postmarked on reverse with P5 for Saturday 13 July 1867. The letter would not have left Charlottetown until the following Tuesday probably arriving on the Wednesday. Pair of one penny stamps tied with 13 in grid P114.



Cover to Belfast with two pence internal Island rate covered with a horizontal pair of 1d orange brown perf. 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ stamps. Stamps tied with P140. P6 for Tuesday 7 April 1868.



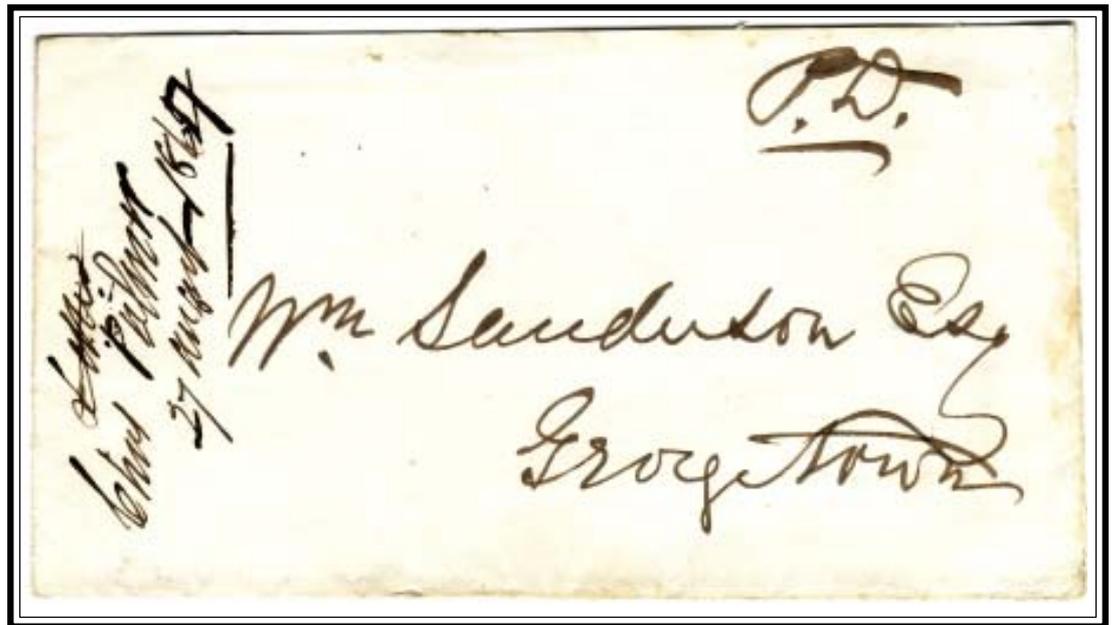
Double rate, one ounce, cover to Wood Islands, with vertical pair of compound perforation 2d rose, perf. 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ except right hand side of stamps which is perf. 11. Tied with P134, 8 line barred killer. Partial P7 on reverse probably for Monday 19 September 1864.



Cover to Montague Bridge with internal Island rate covered with a horizontal pair of 1d orange brown perf. 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ stamps. Stamps tied with Charlottetown P114. P5 on reverse for Saturday, August 30, 1867.



“Free” Post Office (endorsed P.O.) cover to Georgetown. P7 for Friday 26 August 1864 and Georgetown P47 receiver on reverse for the same date.



“Free” cover to Georgetown from Judge Hensley, the Attorney General. P6 for Wednesday 13 January 1869. Georgetown P47 receiver on reverse for January 15. Contents transcribed on reverse of sheet.

“One Service” cover to Georgetown endorsed “Post Office”. P5 for Monday 8 July 1867 and Georgetown P47 receiver on reverse for following day. There is no clear reason for the 3d stamp which does not apply to any known internal rate it may have been added later to “improve” the cover.





Reverse of Sheet

Charlottetown
11th January 1869

William Davidson Esq

Dear Sir

Will you please let me know by return mail what (if any) Bills of Sale are on file in your office from Honble Joseph Wightman. Give me dates, amounts received – names of parties to whom given – and the particulars of the property assigned – You need not refer to a Bill of Sale given some years ago by W Wightman to help J.E. Kenny as I know all about that having taken it myself. Please let me know at the same time your fee for this search that I may charge it to my clients the cheors Co. Black who make the enquiry. Please to keep secret the fact of my having enquired as it is a professional matter in the city.

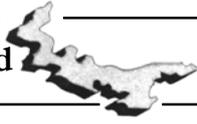
Yours Truly

Joseph Hensley

We are all much grieved at Ar J Owen's death. He was very much liked as a public officer JH

Envelope addressed to William Sanderson Esq., George Town

Transcribers' note: the underlined words cannot be easily read and may well be incorrectly transcribed.



“Free” On Service cover endorsed Post Office to Georgetown. P6 on front for Saturday 6 March 1869 Georgetown P47 receiver on reverse for following Tuesday.



“Free” On Service cover endorsed Post Office to Georgetown. P8 on front for Monday 14 March 1870. Georgetown P47 receiver on reverse for March 15.

William Sanderson ran a legal practice in Georgetown and held many official legal posts. He was a significant member of the Georgetown community. A large number of covers addressed to him are known.

Two pence rose perf. $11\frac{3}{4}$ on cover to Georgetown annotated from Charlottetown, May 25, 1864 (Wednesday) and schooner Cordelia, Captain Hopkins. Stamp neatly tied with unknown 12 line killer, no other post marks. Maybe could not wait for Friday so taken by the Cordelia to Georgetown and left for collection at the post office for collection where the killer was applied.



Cover to Flat River, compound perforation two pence rose (perf. $11\frac{3}{4}$ except bottom edge perf. 11) tied with 10 line killer P134. From Summerside, P50 for August 13, Charlottetown P5 for Tuesday 14 August 1866. The Western mails arrived Tuesday evening but the Southern mail had departed earlier that morning. Would have left Charlottetown on the Friday.

Cover marked "Haste" to Georgetown, two pence rose perf. $11\frac{3}{4}$ 8 line killer, P140 on stamp. Clear Charlottetown P6 for Tuesday 26 November 1867.

Interesting address to the "Schooner Waif". Georgetown receiver P47 for the same day on reverse.





Reverse of a cover to William Wightman showing clear George Town receiver, P47. Charlottetown P114 ties two pence rose perf. 11¾ stamp. P8 for Tuesday 12 July 1870.

Cover to Wood Islands Charlottetown P114 on two pence rose perf. 11¾ stamp. P80 for Monday 20 March 1871.



Cover to Belfast. Cork cancel P144 ties two pence rose perf. 11¾ stamp. Charlottetown P80 for Thursday 26 January 1871.



Cover to Cardigan Ferry (now Newport). 8 line killer, P140, ties two pence rose perf. 11³/₄ stamp. Prince Edward Island P6 for Monday 16 November 1868.

Cover to Sturgeon which passed through Charlottetown on Monday 17 October 1870, P8 on front. The two pence perf. 11³/₄ stamp is tied with 13 in grid (P114).

Samuel Mutch merchant at Sturgeon.

The initials on the second line of the address have been something of a puzzle. The cover is annotated to suggest it came from **Donald Montgomery** of Park Corner.

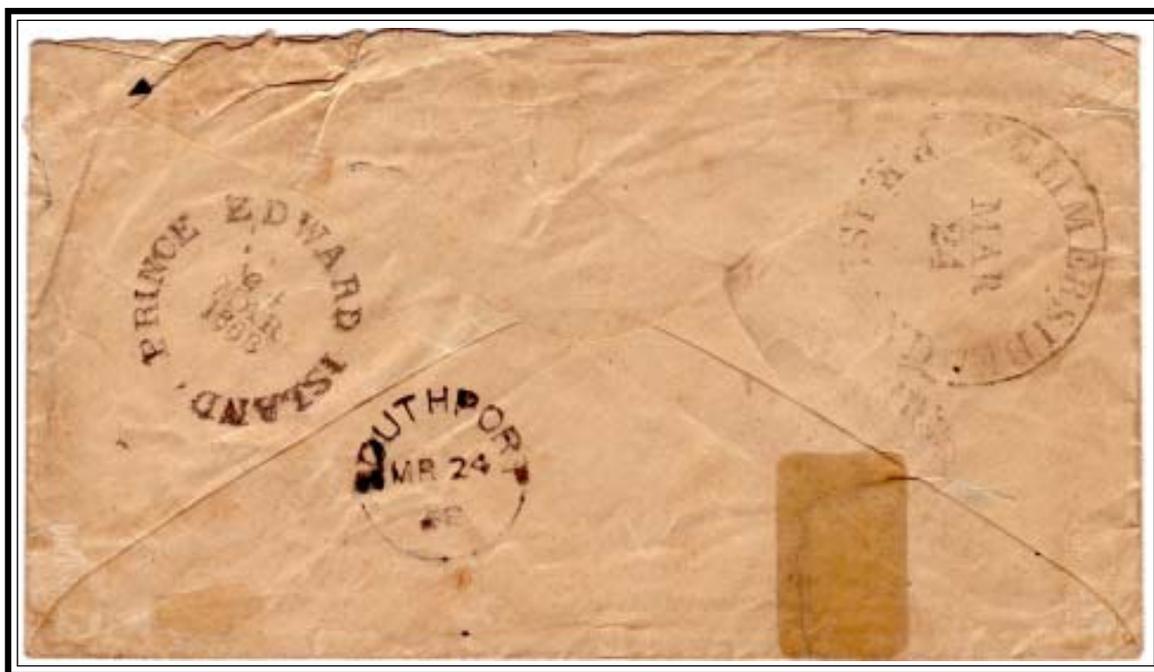


Cover to Vernon River, Lot 30. Summerside P50, unusually with month on top of date, for April 29. 10 line killer, P134, ties two pence rose perf. 11³/₄ stamp. Charlottetown P80 for Saturday 29 April 1871 on reverse.





Cover with rare postmark. Most of a cover with Southport receiver for Tuesday, August 25, 1868. One of four known examples of P91 two of which are on this sheet. The two pence perf. 11¾ stamp is tied with heavy barred killer, P140. No indication of where the cover was posted, there are no other postmarks on the reverse.



Reverse of another cover to the same recipient with the rare Southport cancel. Summerside P50, P6 Charlottetown transit mark and Southport P91 receiver all for Tuesday 24 March 1868. The two pence perf. 11¾ stamp is tied with heavy 8 line barred killer, P140 and thin line 10 bar killer P134. The Western mails from Summerside were due in Charlottetown on a Tuesday evening but the Southern mails should have closed at 9 a.m. that morning. Perhaps one was early and the other late which allowed this letter to make the whole journey in a single day.



Rare internal rate cover to Murray Harbour North. Bisected four pence stamp with the unusual perforation of $1\frac{1}{4}$ used to pay two pence rate. The only issue officially allowed to be bisected was the first perf. 9 issue as not all values were included. The practice had become established and although not needed, or strictly allowed, continued until confederation. Cover posted in Charlottetown Friday 22 April 1870, P8. Presumably posted to catch the closing of the mails which now left at 9 a.m. Stamp tied with 7 line heavy grid, P139.



Four pence black perf. $1\frac{3}{4}$ bisected to pay internal rate tied with indistinct killer. Charlottetown P80 for Thursday 26 October 1871. Georgetown P47 receiver for the following day on reverse. The dates are correct both for the stamp and the mail route, however the mark tying the stamp is not clearly recognisable. This cover is certainly genuine in part, and may be completely so.



Cover from Charlottetown to Wood Island to the Misses McKenzie and Crawford. P5, on reverse for Thursday 21 June 1866. 8 line killer, P137, ties two pence rose perf. 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ stamp.



Cover to Point Prim, Belfast. Unusually clear strike of 10 line cancel P134 ties two pence rose perf. 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ stamp. P6 for Friday 11 October 1867 on reverse.

Cover from Summerside, P50 for March 30, through Charlottetown, P8 on reverse for April 1, to Georgetown, P47 for Tuesday 5 April 1870. 10 line killer, P134, ties two pence rose perf. 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ stamp. The Western mails posted on a Wednesday in Summerside arrived in Charlottetown on Friday. The next delivery on the Southern route did not leave until Tuesday.





Cover to Montague Bridge, indistinct killer ties three cent rose to early corner advertising cover. Charlottetown P80 for Monday 16 September 1872. Very poor identical P80 on reverse.

P46 a very rare Belfast mark. Three recorded examples of which this is the earliest; on the reverse of a two pence cover to Mr Neil Campbell, Alberton, Cascumpeque. Sent Tuesday 20 March 1866. Belfast P.O. at Eldon on map.



Cover to Belfast indistinct killer ties three cent rose. P80 for Saturday 16 March 1872. There are no other marks on the reverse.



Cover from Georgetown to Montague Bridge, unusually this cover probably did not pass through Charlottetown. Postmarked Georgetown Friday 9 February 9 1872, P47 on reverse. Ten line grid, P134, probably a Georgetown mark ties 3 cent red.

Cover to Montague Bridge sent from Charlottetown Tuesday 5 November 1872, P80 on front. "Cork" star, P130, on 3 cent red. The cents issue was only in use for 18 months and there are only 60 recorded examples of 3 cent covers, other cents issue stamps on cover are even rarer.

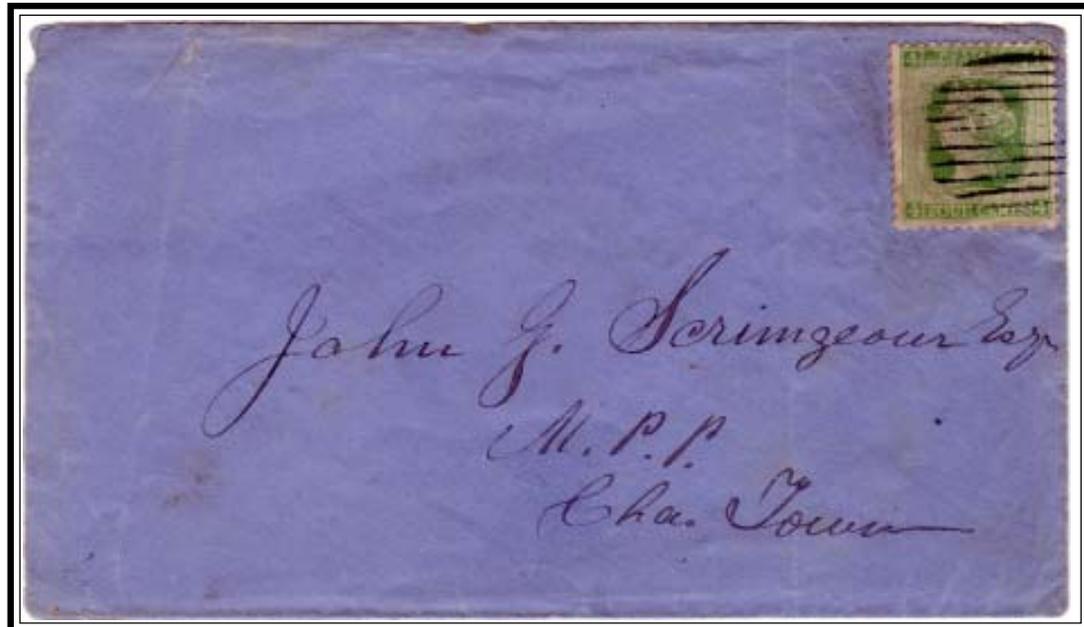


Reverse of cover to show unique Cherry Valley P58 "Boxwood" cancel for Tuesday 27 February 1873. Charlottetown P80 for Wednesday 26 February 1873. 3 cent stamp tied with pen cross and rare P128 "Cork" triangle. Probably put into the mails at a small post office on the Eastern route. Addressed to William Irving, Cherry Valley. (Ex Cusworth)



Front of cover from Charlottetown to Avondale, now Pisquid. One of 9 recorded covers with 3 one cent stamps covering the internal rate. Charlottetown P80 for Thursday 20 June 1872. Stamps tied by P134 barred killer.

Very unusual cover to Charlottetown from Georgetown. Georgetown P47 on reverse for Wednesday 22 May 1872. Why a four cent stamp was used to pay a three cent rate is not clear but everything else about this cover seems in order and the stamp is neatly tied with P134 barred killer.



Cover sent from Charlottetown to Wood Islands. Charlottetown P80 on front for Thursday 13 March 1873. 3 cent stamp tied with "cork" triangle P128. One of two known strikes of P71 Wood Islands boxwood cancel for March 14 on reverse. Scan from back of cover shown at 150%.





One of two known covers with a bisected 2 cent stamp. The two cent stamp did not apply to any postage rate and is always found in combination. Posted in Georgetown Monday 24 May 1872, P47 on reverse. It was then sent to Charlottetown, received May 27, P80. This was possibly Mr. Wightman seeking approval for the “illegal” use of a bisected stamp. As it was addressed to himself and he was the town postmaster he probably felt ill placed to judge. The thick circular mark on the stamps, P119 is rare, 3 recorded strikes, and was possibly used by the postmaster general to approve questionable items. The cover finally returned to Mr. Wightman a week after it was posted in his own post office second P47 on front.



Lehr P127

6 recorded strikes
only found on cents
issue stamps.



Advertising cover Charlottetown to Georgetown. Fifth issue 3 cent stamp tied with cut triangle cork, P127. Posted Charlottetown Monday 26 May 1873. The mail travelled daily from Charlottetown to Georgetown by 1873.



One of three recorded internal, cents issue, registered covers. The internal rate was 3 cents and the registration rate 4 cents. This cover was probably posted at a small community post office (stamps cancelled with pen crosses). The registration number 2 is written sideways to the left of the address suggesting this was not an office that handled much registered mail. The letter passed through Charlottetown on Friday 6 June 1873, P80 on reverse on its way to Georgetown where it probably arrived the next day. David Gordon was a merchant who kept the store at the corner of Kent and Grafton Streets.

Typical 3 cent rate cover. Fifth issue 3 cent stamp tied with star fancy cancel, P130, on cover to Pownal. Charlottetown mark, P80, for Thursday 7 November 1872.



References: James C. Lehr "The Postage Stamps and Cancellations of Prince Edward Island 1814 - 1873" Published by the Unitrade Press, Toronto 1987.

David Hunter "The Island Register" <http://www.islandregister.com/>