

THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER
OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP OF BNAPS

Number 66

May/June, 1997

EDITOR'S NOTES

Hi, welcome to our 66th edition of the Newfie Newsletter. The weather seems to be getting better here in St. John's. All of the Newfoundland Study Group members here are anxiously awaiting the BNAPEX Exhibition in August.

The executive for the show have everything under control. The Hotel rooms are all booked, exhibit frames almost full and the registration packages have all been mailed. It looks like a super time will be had by all at the end of August.

NEW MEMBER

John P. Wynns, P.O. Box 1057, Inyokern, CA, 93527, U.S.A.

MOFFAT, G. Palmer, 86, of Tucson, died March 31, 1997. Survivors include his wife of 60 years, Marion; daughter, Gail Hudson of Honolulu, Hawaii; son, George (Donna) of Tucson; son, John (Karen) of Bellingham, Washington; and five Moffat grandchildren; Dr. Robert (Heather), William, Diane, Daniel and Kenneth. Mr. Moffat was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY. He graduated from Princeton University and entered his father's insurance business. He served in the Army in the European Theater in World War II, retiring as a Lt. Col. He resumed his career as an insurance broker in New York, NY, after the war, settling with his family in Scarsdale, NY, where he lived from 1948 until his retirement in 1975. At that time he and Marion moved to Tucson. He was an avid philatelist, donated countless hours to the Postal History Foundation, and a dedicated fan of University of Arizona Sports. Above all, he was a loving and devoted husband, father and grandfather, known by all to be a gentleman. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Donations may be made to the Postal History Foundation, P.O. Box 10725, Tucson, 85717 or the Ashcraft-Clark Music Fund at Christ Church United Methodist, 655 N. Craycroft, Tucson 85710. Arrangements by ARIZONA MORTUARY.

On behalf of the Newfoundland Study Group I extend sympathy to the family of Palmer and Marion Moffat. Palmer was a long time member of our study group and authored many short notes and articles for our Newfie Newsletter. Many of our group will remember his wife Marion who, with Palmer, attended many BNAPS Conventions. Our deepest sympathy is extended to their children Gail, George, John, and their families on their loss.

MOFFAT, Marion S., 86, of Tucson, died April 16, 1997. Survivors include her daughter, Gail Hudson of Honolulu, Hawaii; sons, George P. III (Donna) of Tucson and John (Karen) of Bellingham, Washington; and five Moffat grandchildren, Dr. Robert (Heather), William, Diane, Daniel and Kenneth. Her devoted husband of 60 years, Palmer, predeceased her on March 31, 1997. She was born in Pilley's Island, Newfoundland and raised in Yonkers, New York. She graduated from Mount Holyoke College and worked as a Registered Nurse in New York, NY, before raising their children. She and Palmer moved to Scarsdale, NY in 1948, where she was an active member of the Scarsdale Congregational Church and Scarsdale Women's Club for many years. She and Palmer retired to Tucson in 1975. She loved traveling, crossword puzzles, needlepoint and being with her family. A Joint Memorial Service will be held for her and Palmer on Tuesday, June 3, 1997 at 2:00 p.m., at the First Congregational Church in Tucson. Donations may be made to Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075. Arrangements by ARIZONA MORTUARY.

SUPPORT OUR DEALER MEMBERS

*R.J. McGillvary, STANLEY STAMPS, 1096 Richard's Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, V6B 3E1
J.C. Michaud, Box 31248, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3K 5Y1
Jon Jameison, Saskatoon Stamp Centre, P.O. Box 1879, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7K 3S2
Ed Wener, INDIGO, P.O. Box 89, Orewa, Hibiscus Coast, New Zealand*

*Chairman & Editor: John Butt, 264 Hamilton Avenue, St. John's, NF, A1E 1J7
Treasurer: Martin Goebel, 79 Highland Drive, St. John's, NF, A1A 3C3*

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THE 1919 "SUDAN" CARIBOU BOOKLET--REVISITED

--Dean Mario

It is often said that once something gets into print, it is very difficult to challenge. Such may be the case with the authenticity of the 1919 Caribou "Booklet" with apparent Sudanese postal connections. The booklet was illustrated in the Newfie Newsletter, No. 52 (Jan./Feb. 1995, pp. 9-10) for members' reference. I hope that members will ponder some of the conclusions within this short article and decide for themselves the true "identity" of this most interesting item.

Although information on the booklet was solicited from the membership at the time of publication, no response was forthcoming. Unfortunately the original owner of the booklet has passed away and the writer does not know where this item is at present. Given some research, and having failed to find any concrete information on the booklet's original intent, I can offer an hypothesis that this item is indeed bogus and an illegitimate concoction. I am basing this opinion solely on an imagined purpose for the booklet. Some evidence for members follow.

Firstly, there was no apparent need for this booklet to be issued from a military standpoint. Newfoundland (and British) servicemen and women sending mail from August 28, 1914 to August 24, 1920 to the U.K., the Colonies, or the Dominions (including Newfoundland), could do so free (for letters 4oz and under).¹ If Newfoundlanders were ever in the Sudan on military service and used the civilian post office there, Sudanese stamps would surely have been used. It is doubtful that any foreign stamps, including those from Newfoundland in this booklet, would have been accepted as proper payment for postage.

Certainly anomalies exist during this period. In the BNAPS Canadian Military Mail Study Group Newsletter (Issue 47, January 1982, p. 405) there is illustrated a small piece with a single 1897 5¢ Mining stamp cancelled with a British Base Army Post Office "Z" postmark. It is dated November 2, 1915. The location of this military post office was the Old Bourse Building in Alexandria, Egypt. There is a legitimate argument for this item. A member of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, or perhaps a Newfoundlander within the Royal Navy, may have had this souvenir cancelled as a reminder of his or her stay or visit in the area. ~~One does wonder why an obsolete stamp from 1897 was so postmarked but because the item is on piece, rather than a full cover, we probably will never know the full story.~~

There may be another possibility surrounding this booklet to give it some credibility. In the Newfie Newsletter (No.35, May/June 1991, p. 4) an interesting remark may be related to this unusual booklet. In "Trail of the Caribou: From the Collection of Robert H. Pratt" by C.A. Stillions, it is noted that:

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An interesting offer was made September 25th [1918], when De La Rue submitted six books of twenty 1¢ stamps, made by cutting a sheet of stamps in a manner undisclosed. The covers and interleaves were indicated as being from waste material. As with the coils, nothing further is heard and none of the examples remain. [My italics]

Despite the fact that the "Sudan" Caribou booklet has four panes (3 x 2) of the 1¢ stamps (24 instead of 20), might this booklet be one of the samples issued by De La Rue and sent to postal officials for approval? Note the "waste material" notation. Is it possible that this "waste" could have been from the Sudan Post Office (Sudanese stamps were also printed by the De La Rue firm)? Company representatives could have "made-up" a booklet of stamps using whatever they had at hand for a sample to show Newfoundland officials.

Perhaps the above is also wild speculation on the writer's part but it would help to explain the booklet's parentage and possible legitimacy. It certainly does not, given all of the evidence, have any military connections that I can determine. It is one of the interesting oddities within Newfoundland philately. Members' opinions and observations are certainly solicited and I'm certain that the Editor would be pleased to hear others' thoughts on the above.

¹History of British Army Postal Service, Vol.II (1903-1927),
E.B. Proud (Dereham, Norfolk: Proud-Bailey Co. Ltd., n.d.), p. 10.

Dear John: Another short note. In the Newsletter (No. 41, March-April 1993, p.8) member Robert Soper gave us a wonderful article on a pre-Rev. Butler dealer, a Mr. Nils Ohman or N. Ohman. In perusing an old auction catalogue, I came upon the following notation and listing:

CAVENDISH SALE NO. 427, lot 832 contained an: "1890 wrapper from Russia to N. Ohman, a St.John's stamp dealer and also head of the Late Letter Office".

Could members confirm the latter? Was Ohman a postal official as well as being an early Newfld. stamp dealer? ~~Certainly as a stamp dealer, and a person in the Postal Department, this would explain the unusual mail Ohman received from foreign collectors. This, I hope, will add a few new items of information regarding Nils Ohman.~~

Regards, as always,


Dean Mario

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bs. St Johns
PM / No 17 / 98
full circle

and -- N & W. RAILWAY T.P.O.
A / No 17 / 98
broken circle

dated Nov 9 - Tilt Case a back
light Tilt Case on face →
dated No 10
broken circle



bs. St Johns
JY 20
88
NEWF'D
broken circle

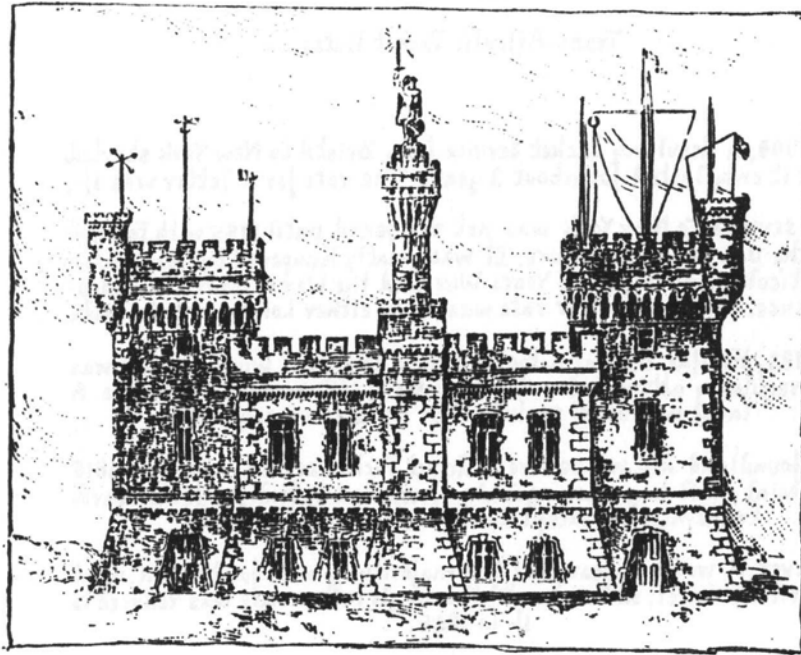
dated 12 July - Flat 25.
in Pleasant Bay
Broken circle in
JY 18 / 1888



Manuscript 'T', '2' and '5'

There may be ordinary but I found them recently.
The markings no doubt have something to do with
the rate to Halifax not being met by the 1-cent card.

A BIRTHDAY FORGOTTEN?



THE ORIGINAL CABOT TOWER

On June 22, 1897 – Archbishop Michael Francis Howley, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of St. John's, Newfoundland as Chair of the 400th Anniversary Organizing Committee laid the cornerstone for what is now one of the most popular tourist attractions in the province, the Cabot Tower. The present structure differs considerably from the original design. The original concept was designed by Archbishop Howley. As shown in the drawing above the central tower was to be adorned with a figure representing John Cabot pointing a globe with his left hand while in the right he held aloft a cross staff bearing an electric light, which was to be visible to mariners far out at sea. (Source: ARCASJ (106.5.6) St. John's, Newfoundland.)

*Excerpts from an article in the March 1997 "Monitor"
by Brother J.B. Darcy*

The ceremonies began with a parade of the various societies from the town centre accompanied by all the bands that could be mustered to the site of the proposed Cabot Tower at the top of Signal Hill. Arriving at the site there were speeches galore, the main oration given by Bishop Howley. Under the cornerstone were placed samples of the Cabot and Jubilee stamps, local newspapers and a Latin inscription composed by the Bishop, then the cornerstone was lowered into place. Gun salutes followed from four warships in the harbour plus the guns at Fort Townshend and a ringing of the joy bells from the Cathedral. The present structure comprises only one quarter of the original design.

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Newfoundland

1711-1845.

Trans-Atlantic Packet Rates.

In 1709, a desultory Packet Service from Bristol to New York started, but it only lasted for about 2 years. The rate for a letter was 1/-.

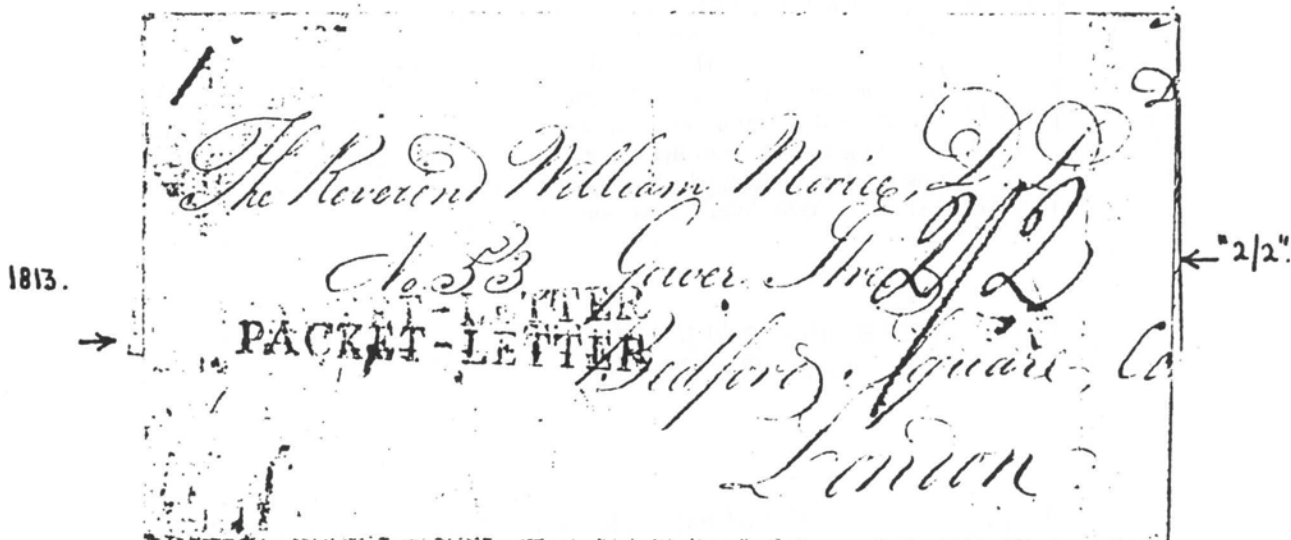
The service to New York was not re-opened until 1756 with Falmouth as the U.K. port of departure. It was greatly hampered by enemy action, particularly during the 7 Years War and the War of American Independence. The single letter rate was 1/- to either London or to Falmouth.

In 1782, Halifax became a Packet port, although a winter service was not regularly attempted until the War of 1812 made it imperative. A large number of packets were lost due to enemy action.

Newfoundland did not receive a direct Packet service, but after 1815 a special mail-bag was regularly forwarded to Halifax for onward transmission, except during the worst of the winter.

However, it would appear that the majority of mail for the U.K. went by Private vessel, at least until the single letter rate was reduced to 1/- in 1845.

St John's-London.



December 24, 1813. St John's to London, via Halifax. Received
February 14, 1814. Packet rate 2/2d paid.

Single Letter Rates.

Dates.	London.	Falmouth.
1711-1797.	1s 0d	1s 0d
1797-1805.	1s 8d	1s 0d
1805-1813.	2s 0d	1s 1d
1813-1837.	2s 2d	1s 2d
1837-1845.	2s 3d	1s 3d

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Newfoundland

1821-50.

Conception Bay Courier Charges.

1821.

Courier →

received the 17th May 1821
from C. Cogins Esq. J.P.
Mr. Matthew Pearson
Harbor Grace
Per Barth. Fitzpatrick

Earliest
recorded
example.

May 16, 1821. Briggs to Harbor Grace, per courier Barth. Fitzpatrick.

The normal procedure during this period was to send the mail overland from St John's to Portugal Cove, from whence it was carried by packet boats (q.v.) or couriers to the settlements in Conception Bay. Little is known of the early delivery charges. Rate markings were only rarely used before 1850, the 1823 letter below being an exception. After 1835, vouchers indicated a charge for a single letter was 1/- in the winter months and 6d in the summer, when conditions were more favourable.

1823.

1823

P. C. Leggett
Secretary
Government Office
St. John's

3

October 11, 1823. Harbor Grace to St John's, via Broad Cove. The "3" in manuscript in two places would indicate a charge of 3d from Harbor Grace to Broad Cove, where action by the local constable was required and a further charge of 3d to cover the remainder of the journey from Broad Cove to St John's.

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NUTAK

Lat. Long.: 57° 28' N 61° 52' W

Population: 122 (1956)

Origin of Name:

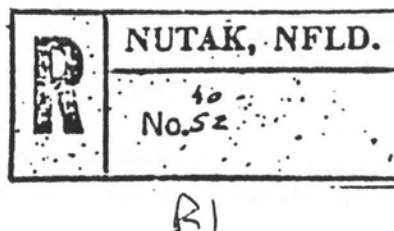
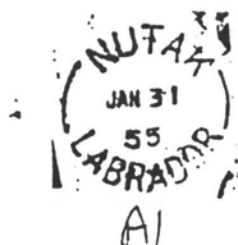
Opened: 1937 [Walsh and Butt]

before 1948, year-round office, no money order service

Apr. 1, 1949 Non-accounting MOON 54182

Closed: Aug. 30, 1956

TYPE	COLOUR	PROOF DATE	EARLIEST	LATEST
A1			Aug. 19, 1945	Jan. 31, 1955
R1		Nov. ?, 1952		



OCCASIONAL HARBOUR

Lat. Long.: 52° 39' N 55° 49' W

Population: 32 (1965)

Origin of Name:

Opened: 1911 [Walsh and Butt]

before 1948, summer office, no money order service

Closed: March 31, 1949

No postal markings known.

OKAK

Lat. Long.: 57° 33' N 61° 58' W

Population: 14 (1935)

Origin of Name:

Opened: 1915 [Walsh and Butt]

Closed: 1926 [Walsh and Butt]

No postal markings known.

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A1



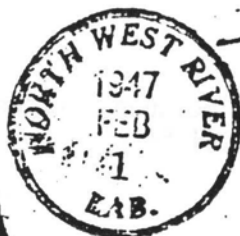
B1



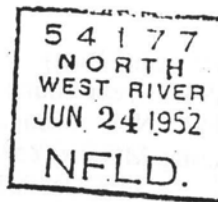
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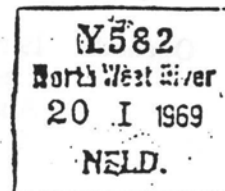
G1



H1



M1

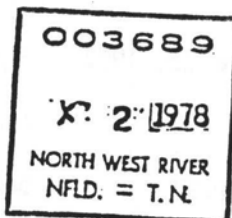


N2

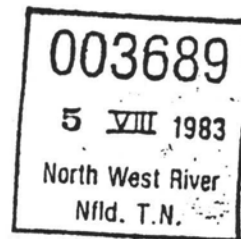
003689

N WEST RIVER
N F

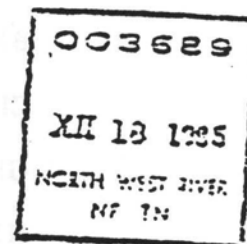
P1



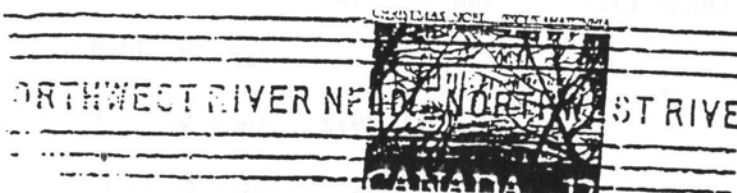
P2



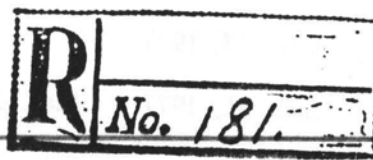
P3



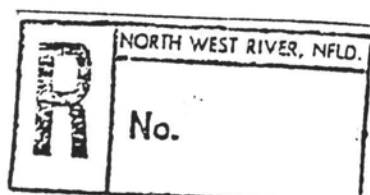
P4



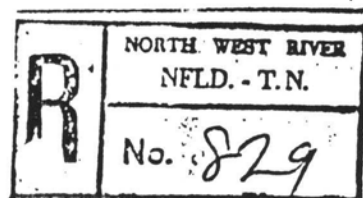
L1



R1



R2



R3

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NORTH WEST RIVER

Lat. Long.: 53° 32' N 60° 08' W

Population: 835 (1966)

Origin of Name:

Opened: 1911 [Walsh and Butt]

before 1948, year-round office, no money order service

Apr. 1, 1949 Non-accounting MOON 54177

? Accounting MOON Y582

POCON 003689

Postal Code: A0P 1M0

TYPE	COLOUR	PROOF DATE	EARLIEST	LATEST
A1			?, 1913	May 10, 1946
B1		June 25, 1952	Apr. 24, 1953	Mar. 26, 1960
C1			Mar. 5, 1969	May 20, 1980
G1		?, 1982	Mar. 23, 1982	***
H1a	Deep Reddish Violet		Feb. 1, 1947	
H1			July 9, 1947	Aug. 22, 1947
N1a	Deep Lilac	June 24, 1952	Apr. 21, 1954	
N2			Jan. 20, 1969	
P1		Mar. 13, 1973	June 9, 1975	Jan. 20, 1978
P2		Oct. 2, 1978	May 8, 1981	
P3			Aug. 5, 1983	
P4		Dec. 18, 1985		
L1		Jan. 31, 1977	Mar. 28, 1978	Mar. 23, 1982
R1a	Deep Reddish Violet		Feb. 1, 1947	
R2			Mar. 28, 1978	May 8, 1981
R3			Mar. 23, 1982	