

**THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER
OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP OF BNAPS**

Number 72

May/June 98

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

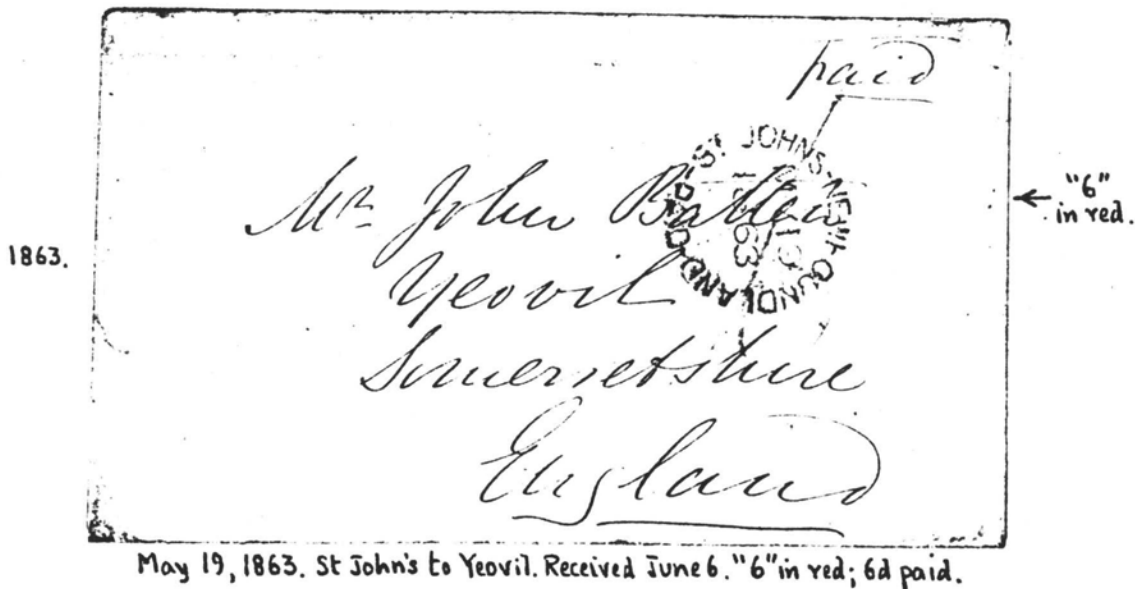
Hi, welcome to the 72nd edition of our Newsletter.

The weather here in St. John's has been terrific this past week so my collecting efforts have slowed just a wee bit! There have been quite a few auctions with some decent Newfoundland material in them these past few weeks. I hope everyone has been finding an item or two to bid on, and add to their collection. I hope everyone has a good summer and a great vacation.

The Post Office Act of May 12, 1856, was an Act to regulate the Inland Posts of the Colony. The rates were 3d per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz within the Colony; printed matter 2d per oz; Packet postage letters overseas 6d per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz of which 5d went to the U.K. P.O.

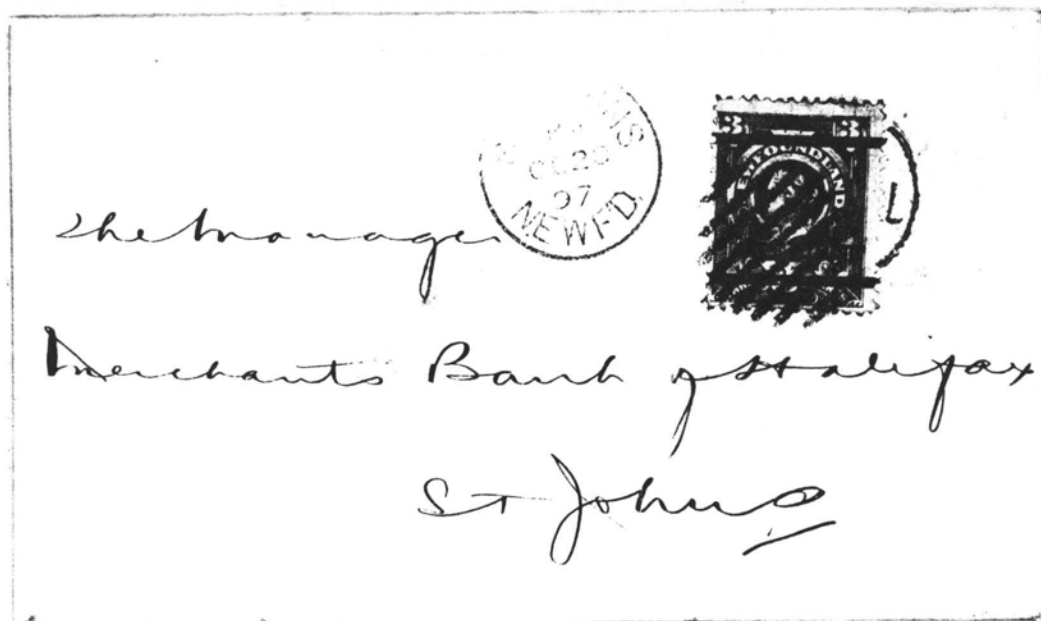
Although the first "pence" stamps were issued on January 1st, 1857, their use was not obligatory until several years later.

6d Letter Rate to U.K.



DOUGLAS CAMPBELL'S "GOLDEN OLDIES"

Editor: John Butt, 264 Hamilton Avenue, St. John's, NF, A1E 1J7
in Goebel, 79 Highland Drive, St. John's, NF, A1A 3C3



INTERESTING 1897 COVER

Here is a Xerox of an interesting cover sent me by Randall Martin. It is a 1897 provisional (Scott #75, NSSC #69a) on a St. John's cover of October 20, 1897, the second day the provisionals were available at the G.P.O. It is superimposed over the **PAID ALL** handstamp which had been in use since September 24, 1897 during the 1¢ stamp shortage. Why were *both* the handstamp and the provisional used to pay the 1¢ local rate?

I have an *almost* identical cover in my collection - same writer, same addressee, same postmark, with the provisional (cancelled three times!) but not on top of the handstamp. The stamp on my cover is NSSC #69, by the way, not the 17mm narrower bar variety on Martin's cover. The 17mm variety is from positions 1-10 on the blocks of 50, while the more common #69 is from positions 11-40.

There was a stampede of speculators on the first day of sale of the provisionals

CONT'D

on October 19, 1920, so that by the afternoon, only five were sold to each customer. We know that by the 21st, the provisionals could not be bought at the window. There is no record of the handstamp being used on October 19th but it was used again on the 20th. My theory has been that sufficient provisionals were on sale on the 19th to forego usage of the handstamp but not so by the 20th.

I expect someone was creating postal souvenirs, and that Martin's cover was the first of the batch, mine following, and maybe others. The customer wanted the covers franked with the provisionals, *not the handstamp in use since September!* When he handed his covers to the clerk, the clerk used the **PAID ALL** handstamp on the first cover - the customer complained, and the (superfluous) provisional was added. The clerk got it right on subsequent covers. Any other theories?

Norris (Bob) Dyer

POST OFFICE.

Post Master, WILLIAM L. SOLOMON.

HER MAJESTY'S MAILS for the North American Colonies and the United States are conveyed in Steam Packets, (hereafter named), which sail from Liverpool for *Halifax* and *Boston* twice in each of the months of *April, May, June, July, August, September, October, and November*, and once in those of *December, January, February, and March*. The Mails are made up in London on the 3d and 18th of the former named months, and on the 3d of the latter, (except when those days fall on a Sunday, then on the Monday), and the Steamers start from Liverpool on the day following, immediately on the arrival of the Mails.

On the average the outward passage occupies about *twelve*, and the homeward *ten* days. The average course of the Post between England and this Colony is from 40 to 42 days.

		<i>Time of Departure.</i>
<i>Britannia,</i>	Captain JOHN HEWITT,	5th November.
<i>Caledonia,</i>	" E. G. LOTT,	19th "
<i>Acadia,</i>	" WM. HARRISON,	4th December.
<i>Cambria,</i>	" C. H. E. JUDKINS,	4th January.
<i>Hibernia,</i>	" ALEX. RYRIE,	4th February.

The charge for Passage (including Provisions, ~~except~~ *Wines, &c.*) to Boston or Halifax, is 38 guineas. Steward's Fee; 4 guinea.

**NEWFOUNDLAND
ALMANAC,**

FOR THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

1845,

BEING THE EIGHTH YEAR OF HER MAJESTY'S REIGN.

COMPILED BY JOSEPH TEMPLEMAN.
[OF THE COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE.]

*COMPLIMENT OF THE
G. FRANCIS ROWE LIBRARY*

PAID ALL & 1897 PROVISIONALS USAGE DATES

(Updated 5-23-98)

PAID ALL

Sept. 24, 27, 29

**Oct. 1, 2, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 20, 21
24, 30**

Nov. 3, 4, 13, 16, 26, 27

Dec. 4

22 dates on cover

Earliest is September 24th

PROVISIONALS

Sept. -----

**Oct. 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25
27, 29, 30**

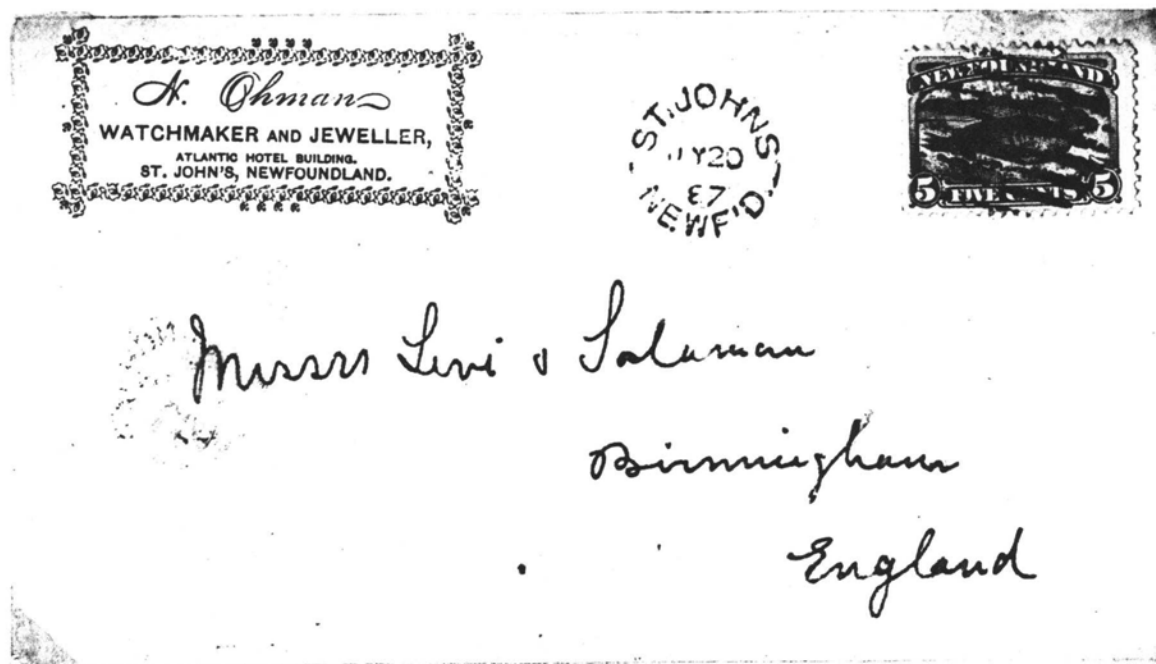
**Nov. 1, 2, 5, 8, 10, 11
12, 13, 22, 23, 24, 25,
27, 29, 30**

Dec. 3, 4

26 dates on cover

**Earliest Type I is Oct. 19th
Type II is Oct. 19th
Type III is Oct. 22nd**

**any new finds - please send dates to Norris (Bob) Dyer, 1708
Granada Court, Petaluma, CA 94954
(E-mail is nrdyer@worldnet.att.net)**



Rated 5c common seal of 1880-82 Issue, cancelled
with 9 barred oval obliterator.

Postmarked: St.JOHN'S / NEWF'D JY 20 87



62 Graiglwyd Road
Cockett
Swansea
United Kingdom
SA2 0XA

In response to Dean Mario's query about Nils Ohman of St.John's I would comment as follows.

Ohman was a watchmaker and jeweller, located at the Atlantic Hotel Building during the 1880's. At some time during the 80's he also became a stamp dealer. In 1889, along with two partners, he established the Newfoundland Stamp Company. operating out of the same premises.

For many years Ohman had a close relationship with Post Office Officials and in fact, his two partners in the stamp company were employed by the Post Office.

It was in 1887 when Ohman's name was first linked with the Post Office. The Almanac of that year shows that a Late Letter Office had been opened at Mr Ohman's store. The Postmaster General's report for 1887 also showed that Ohman had been paid \$50 for a full years service at the Late Letter Office. Ohman continued to serve in this capacity until his services were terminated on March 31 1889.

The function of the Late Letter Office was to accept letters for Great Britain, Canada and U.S.A. up to 15 minutes before the departure of the mail steamer. Use of this facility incurred a double rate charge for the first postage step only. Much of the above information can be found in Pratt's book of 19th Century Postal History of Newfoundland.

As a follow-up to the above I enclose a copy of a commercial cover posted by Ohman to the firm of Levi and Salaman of Birmingham, England who were also in the jewellery and watchmaking business. It is postmarked St.John's July 20 1887 and has a Birmingham receiver of July 28 1887. This took just 8 days from posting to get to its destination. Might this have been due in part to Ohman's position in charge of the Late Letter Office? I speculate that he took advantage of his position and mailed the letter at the last minute, using the Late Letter Office facility but not paying the late fee. You will note that the cover has only been paid at the 5c rate.

As a relatively new member of the Study Group I do not have a copy of the article referred to by Dean in Newsletter No.41. Should anyone care to send me a photocopy of issue 41 I would be extremely grateful and willing to reimburse costs involved.

Very best regards

Colm

Colin Lewis

*COLIN:
I WILL SEND YOU A COPY.
John.*

"PHILATELIC COVERS"

In the last Newfie Newsletter, John Butt expressed concern about labeling proper rate covers as "philatelic" undoubtedly in reference to my article on the 2¢ on 30¢ inverted surcharge on an October 3, 1920 cover. I do not believe my observations were incorrect but do apologize for the *dumb* mistake in the title - "2¢ on 35¢" rather than "2¢ on 30¢"!

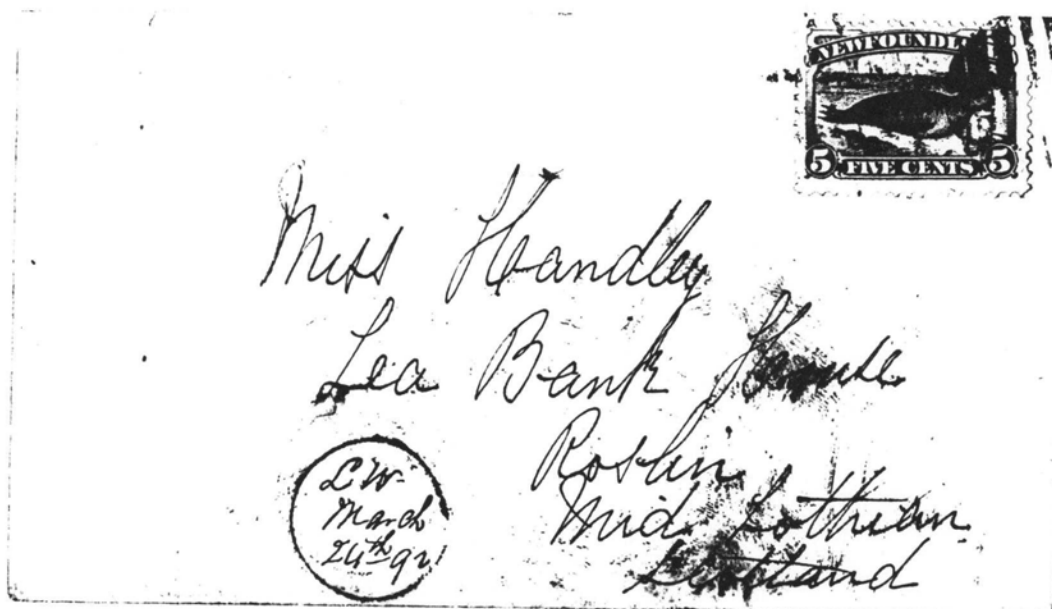
I specialize in Newfoundland overprints/surcharges, and many of my best covers were obviously philatelically inspired. These include: Scott #76 (NSSC #70) on first day cover to famous collector, P.G. Tessier, another first day from dealer R.C. Rose to himself with Scott #127 (NSSC #125), as well as Scott #128 (NSSC #122) to J.H. Hamilton, St. George (next time you see a #128 on first day cover, the overwhelming odds are that it is addressed to Hamilton!).

My standards are whether a cover is paid at the correct rate for the destination, and importantly, in the case of provisionals, postmarked within the shortage period. I think John's are probably the same, but if it weren't for philatelists and their friends, we would not have so many of the scarce covers that now exist. Any cover franked with all three of the 1897 1¢ provisionals was undoubtedly a philatelic construct, otherwise the odds against such "good luck" are something like 1,000 to 1. If philatelic inspiration (or motivation) leads to philatelic products, then these items can rightly be deemed "philatelic", in my opinion. That does not bother me at all *if covers such as these otherwise meet my standards*.

As far as the 2¢ on 30¢ inverted cover to Curtis is concerned postmarked on *Sunday*, October 3, 1920, I am now leaning to a theory that the cover (and its companion) were actually postmarked on October 4th with a canceller that had not been updated at the St. John's East sub post office.

I am sorry if my use of "philatelic" bothered anyone when used in regard to a postally correct cover. I meant the term to refer to an item I think was created solely because some people (philatelists) collect stamps and/or postal history.

Bob Dyer



DEAR JOHN,

PLEASE PARDON THE USE OF FOOLSCAP - AT MY AGE THE USE OF LINES IS A BIG HELP. ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND FORE & AFT XEROXS OF A COVER THAT HAS PUZZLED ME IN ALL THE 10+ YRS. THAT I HAVE OWNED IT. SEVERAL YRS. AGO IT WAS ONE OF A BATCH THAT I TENTATIVELY OFFERED TO A FEW DEALERS, ALLAN STEINHART AMONGST THEM. NO ONE BITING IT RETURNED TO 'STOCK', BUT STILL AS AN UNKNOWN ITEM. THEN THE OTHER DAY WHILST BROWSING IN 'PRATT'S '19TH CENTURY POSTAL HISTORY' - THERE IT WAS - AS AN 'ODDIE' ON A PAGE (26V) OF PRITCHARD & ANDREWS 'NORMAL' PROOFS. COL. PRATT DOES NOT COMMENT IN ANY WAY ON THIS ODDBALL BUT THEN HE WAS DEALING WITH THE BIG PICTURE!

DOUBTLESS I SHOULD HAVE PICKED UP ON THE 'LITTLE BAY' BACK-STAMP & SCANNED THE VARIOUS 'LITTLE BAY' WAY & POST OFFICES LISTED ON PAGES 726 & 7. PERHAPS THEN A LIGHT WOULD HAVE DAWNED! ANYWAY I SUBMIT THIS FAIRLY UNUSUAL CANCEL FOR YOUR POSSIBLE USE IN THE 'NEWSLETTER'. FURTHER QUESTIONS THAT MIGHT ARISE INCLUDE:- WHAT WAS MINED AT LITTLE BAY OR VICINITY?

COULD THIS COVER ORIGINATE WITH A CREW MEMBER OF A SHIP LOADING ORE THERE?

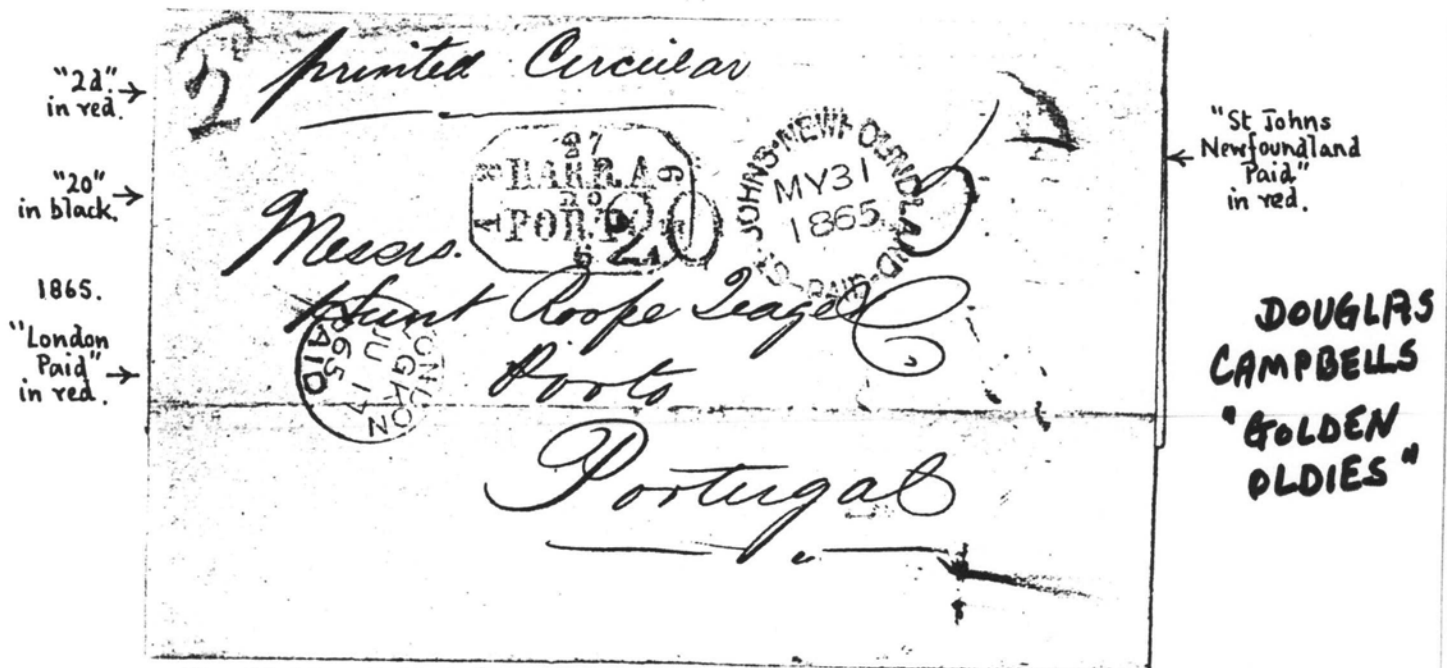
DOES ANY SCOTSMAN OUT THERE KNOW ABOUT 'ROSSLYN'. (NO LONGER LISTED IN A HIGHWAYS ATLAS), WHEREAS 'ROSLIN' STILL EXISTS BUT IS A VERY SMALL DOT S.E. OF EDINBURGH, HARDLY WORTHY OF SUCH A FINE CANCEL.

SORRY ABOUT THAT - I TEND TO WORRY THESE ODD ITEMS TO DEATH. I SHOULD HAVE PICKED UP SMALLWOOD'S 'HISTORY' YEARS AGO. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.
REGARDS TO DON & MRS. WILSON.

SINCERELY,
Rev. Battersby

1857-65.

2d Printed Matter Rate to U.K.



May 31, 1865. St John's to Oporto, via London, June 17. "2d" in red; 2d paid. "20" in black; 20 centavos to pay on receipt. St John's and London "Paid" stamps.

SANDY ISLANDS

Lat. Long.: 53° 20' N 55° 47' W

Population:

Origin of Name:

Opened: 1899 [Pratt] [Horatio W. Pike, postmaster]

1905 [Walsh and Butt]

before 1948, summer office, no money order service

Closed: Mar. 31, 1949

Reopened: 1970? Non-Accounting MOON

Closed: ?

TYPE	COLOUR	PROOF DATE	EARLIEST	LATEST
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C1		June 27, 1970		
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C1

SCRAMMY

Lat. Long.: 52° 42' N 55° 50' W

Population:

Origin of Name:

Opened: 1888 [Walsh and Butt]

1890 (Way Office) [Almanac] [W. Collingwood, waymaster]

1892 (Post Office) Labrador North [Almanac] [W.

Collingwood, waymaster]

1893-1894 (Post Office) [Pratt] [William Collingwood,
postmaster]

Closed: 1931 [Walsh and Butt]

No postal markings known.