

THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER



NEWSLETTER OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP OF BNAPS

Number 159

April/June 2015

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REQUEST FROM DAVID PIERCEY

David Piercey has two upcoming articles to appear in *BNA Topics*, one on the "St. John's Central" Post Office, and one on the "St. John's East" Post Office. As he is continuing to research the various branch post offices established in St. John's, he would appreciate receiving scans of any covers collectors might have for any of the branch post offices. In particular, he would like to determine if any covers are known for "St. John's Central" and "St. John's East" in late 1892 through 1893. Scans of other early covers for "South Side St. John's", "River Head St. John's", "Monkstown St. John's" and "Duckworth Street St. John's" would also be appreciated. He would also like to know if anyone else is actively conducting archival research on any of these branch post offices. He can be reached at dpiercey@telus.net.

NEW MEMBERS TO THE NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP

We have welcomed the following new members to our Study Group since March 2014.

Timothy J. Comas - Westminster, MD
Ira S. Moskowitz - Alexandria, VA
John Walsh - St. John's, NL
David Weisgerber - Frederick, MD
Donald Wood - North Bay, ON

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The Perfin Corner by Barry Senior



Position 1



Position 2



Position 3



Position 4



Position 5



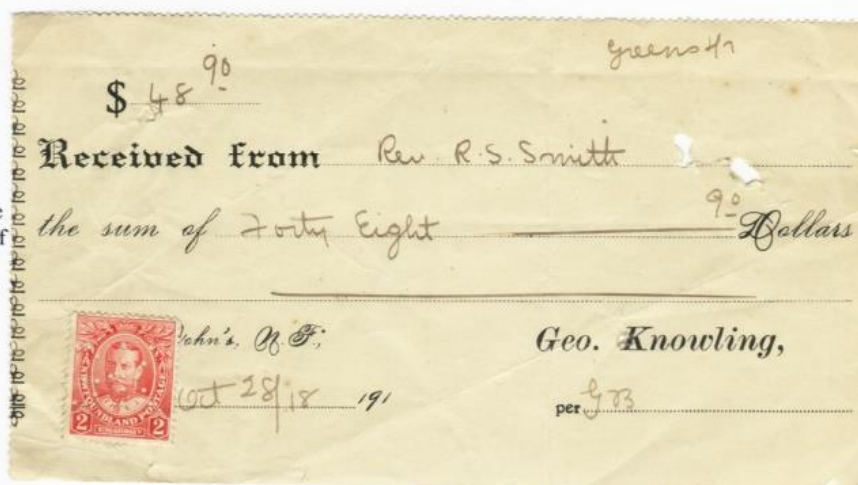
Position 6

Positions 2, 4 and 6 are Discovery Copies



Position 7

A two cent value used to pay the 2 cent Revenue Tax fee on an exchange of more than \$10.00. This is the only recorded fiscal usage.



Earliest date Dec. 24, 1914

Used on a Mourning cover to pay the 2 cent Letter Rate to Canada. This is likely a legitimate usage since the Knowling and Ayre families were both prominent in St Johns social and business circles. A letter or card of condolence would have been sent from family to family in event of a death.



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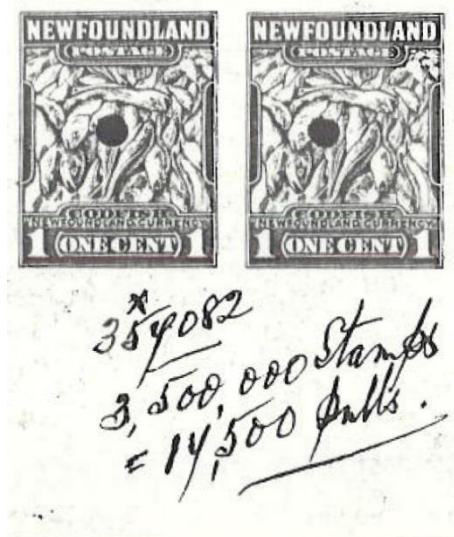
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More Proof of Printed Sheet Size for the 1942 Second
Resources Lower Values by A.B. Thompson

... a reply to Walsh (NN 157:15), and Stillions and Walsh (NN 158:2).

I must say that I “believe” in C.A. Stillions thoughts that extraneous perforation holes provide little to no evidence of multiple pane printing. I can only provide “good” evidence to show that the lower values of the 1942 Second Resource issue were printed using plates with two panes of 100 stamps. The bottom of the Waterlow archival sheets were photocopied by John Jamieson (Saskatoon Stamp Centre) in the early 1980s. The last printings of the 1c, 3c, 4c, and 5c values have inscriptions similar to that shown in the left-hand figure. Division shows that each pull produced 200 stamps, proving that there were two panes of 100 stamps per plate. Ayshford (1978) only records such inscriptions for the 3c, 4c and 5c values (the 2c has no inscription), and notes that all the lower values were printed with two panes. Other printings and values also have inscriptions as shown in the right-hand figure, but division shows that each pull produced only 100 stamps and so each plate had only a single pane.



It is interesting to note that Waterlow used the term “pulls” for rotary press printed stamps. The probably reason is that Waterlow printed these stamps to rectangular sheets and not on the web (i.e. continuous printing to long rolls of paper) and this is why inverted watermarks are seen. Waterlow printed to gummed paper, unlike Perkins Bacon, so reversed watermarks do not occur as this would have meant printing to the gummed side producing unusable stamps (NN 137:7-8).

Though not mentioned in Walsh’s articles, it is worth noting that the 1929 Publicity issue was printed by Perkins Bacon to sheets of 100 stamps, as detailed in a surviving letter (NN 30:4).

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Rev. Butler and the Orphan (Part 2) by Bruce Robertson

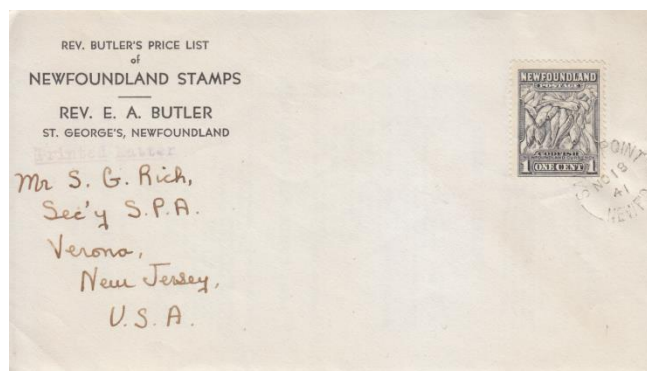


Fig 4. Butler's Price List Corner Card Cover with a split-ring Sandy Point/NFLD cancel of 19 Nov. 1941. Hand written address not in Rev Butler's hand. The addressee, Stephen G. Rich, was a well known American philatelist and 4th President (1935-1939) of the West Essex Philatelic Society, Verona New Jersey[iv] (Author's collection)

An orphan assistant.

I can, however, point to evidence that for some time in the mid-1930s, Rev. Butler had non-family assistance from one Clyde Hynes, who when writing in 1938, described himself as having been a “ward at the Church of England Orphanage” until, at the age of sixteen, Rev. Butler gave him a job as his “secretary”. Clyde did general duties around the house for the Reverend, “as well as doing his stamp business, of which I am particularly fond of” [v]. This information comes from a ‘pen-pal’ letter written by Clyde on a recommendation by Rev. Butler, to a prospective pen-pal, Verdi Leighton in South Portland, Maine. Clyde has used Butler's stamped return address on the back of the envelope.



Fig 5. [above and below] Cover and content from Clyde C Hynes to a prospective pen-pal in South Portland, Maine U.S.A. Indistinct Sandy Point cancels fof March 15, 1938. (Author's collection)

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Rev. Butler and the Orphan (Part 2) - continued

letter as transcribed by
editor MEB

Sandy Point,
St. George's,
March 14th /38.

Sandy Point,
St. George's,
March 14th /38.

Dear Friend:-

Your letter was given to me by Rev. Butler. And as I am fond of writing letters was glad of the opportunity of securing a pen pal.

First, though I want to introduce myself- I am a boy of eighteen years old, have passed Grade X at school. Was reared up at the Church of England Orphanage. At sixteen Rev. Butler gave me a job as his secretary. I do the work around the house as well as doing his stamp business, of which I am particularly fond of.

I guess you would like to know a little about the place I live in. Well! Sandy Point is not very large; about four miles long and a mile and a half at the widest place. There are about three or four hundred people living here; most of ^{them} here are fisherman; a few of them are dealing with the lumber business.

Dear Friend:-

Your letter was given to me by Rev. Butler. And as I am fond of writing letters was glad of the opportunity of securing a pen pal.

First, though, I want to introduce myself- I am a boy of eighteen years old, have passed Grade X at school. Was reared up at the Church of England Orphanage. At sixteen Rev. Butler gave me a job as his secretary. I do the work around the house as well as doing his stamp business, of which I am particularly fond of.

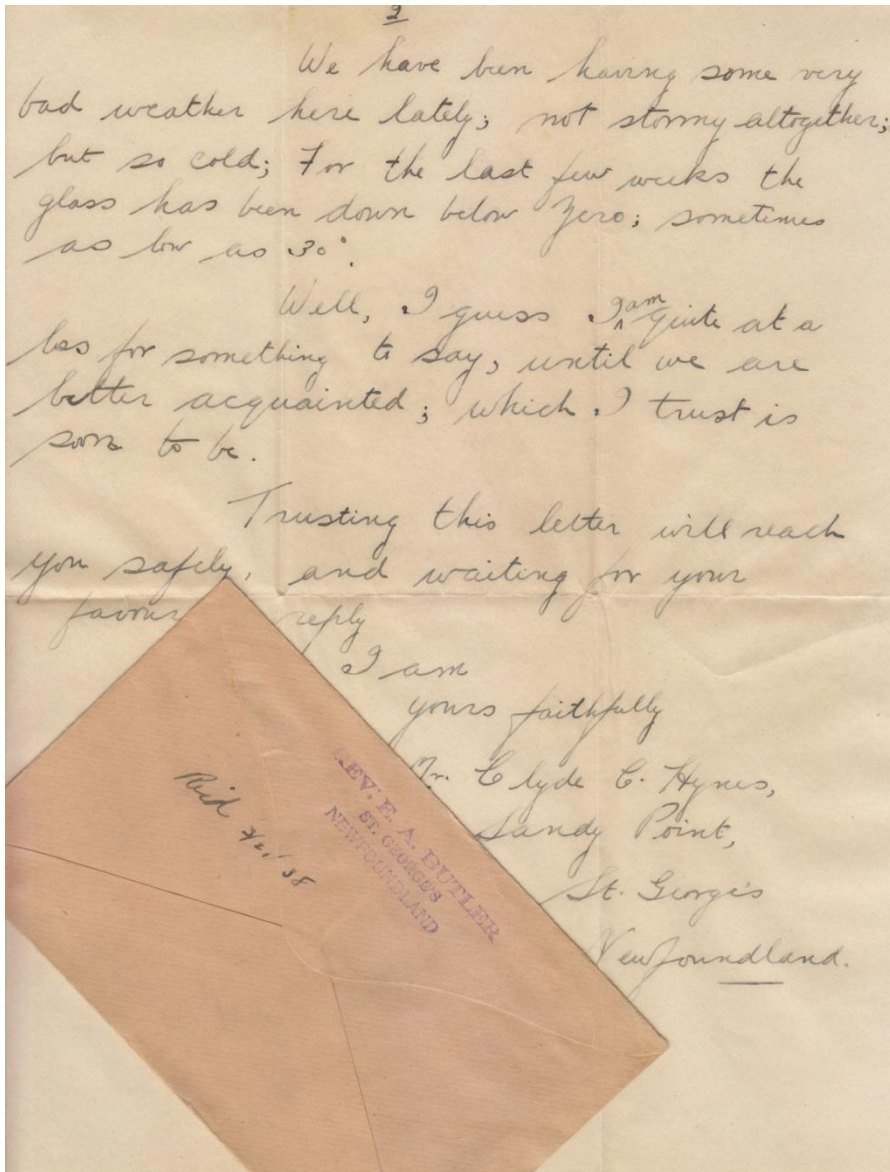
I guess you would like to know a little about the place I live in. Well! Sandy Point is not very large; about four miles long and a mile and a half at the widest place. There are about three or four Hundred people living here, most of them here are fisherman (*sic*); a few of them are dealing with the lumber business.

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Rev. Butler and the Orphan (Part 2) - continued



We have been having some very bad weather here lately; not stormy altogether; but so cold; (sic) For the last few weeks the glass has been down below zero; sometimes as low as -30° .

Well I guess I am quite at a los (sic) for something to say, until we are better acquainted; which I trust is soon to be.

Trusting this letter will reach you safely, and waiting for your favourable reply

I am yours faithfully

Mr. Clyde C. Hynes
Sandy Point,
Saint George's
Newfoundland

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Rev. Butler and the Orphan (Part 2) - conclusion

Today's sharp-eyed collector of Butler covers might well spot Clyde's writing on some of their collection – shown here below (Fig. 6) is an example.

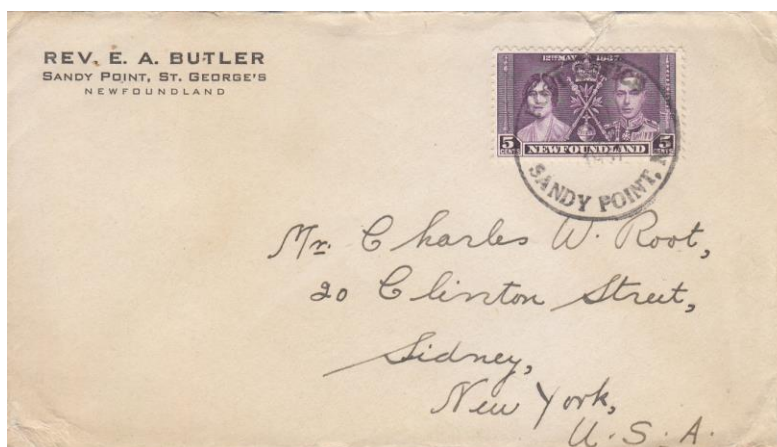


Fig 6. Butler corner card cover cancelled with a circular Post Office/Sandy Point NF. Cancel of 1937, addressed in the hand of Clyde Hynes to Sidney, New York. (Author's collection)

End note:

Any consideration of Rev Butler's stamp dealing business needs to keep in mind the rugged nature of everyday life in Newfoundland's 'outport' settlements such as Sandy Point in the 20th century. Perhaps even more evocative when looking at Butler's covers, is the fact that Sandy Point exists no more – the result of economic forces and severe weather which severed the island from the mainland. Even the term 'ghost town' is too grand for all that remains today: a graveyard, some scattered overgrown building foundations and an unused lighthouse. Reader may wish to know more about the Rev. E A Butler and his life at Sandy Point. The reader is referred to Bob Dyer's seminal articles: 'The Man from Sandy Point' BNA Topics, Vol 64, No 3, Jul-Sep 2007 and No 4 Oct-Dec 2007 and 'Reverend E.A. Butler – further Notes' The Newfie Newsletter No 134 Jan-March 2009.

[iv] Stephen R Rich's Presidency of the West Essex Philatelic Society and his membership of the S.P.A. (Society of Philatelic Americans) was confirmed by Bob Parkin, current President of the West Essex Philatelic Society in email correspondence with the author

[v] Letter op.cit. Clyde says in his 1938 letter that he is 18 yrs old, and that Rev Butler had given him the position when he was sixteen – suggesting Clyde had been in the orphanage in 1936 – he certainly does not appear as living with the Butler's in the 1935 census. Clyde refers to being a ward "up at the Church of England Orphanage". I can find no reference to such an orphanage at Sandy Point

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Is this a Late Letter Cover? By David Piercey

The illustrated Newfoundland cover (fig. 1) was posted, using two five-cents BABNC stamps, April 20, 1895, from St. John's to Moncton, NB. The cover has two postmarks - the **St. John's** circular date stamp of April 20, and a receiving **Moncton** circular date stamp of April 23, 1895 (on back). There are no other postal markings.

The cover is sealed on the back with a "Bank of Montreal St. John's Newfoundland" wax seal, and has been folded along the vertical dimension, turning a larger (#10) envelop into a smaller envelop to the dimensions shown in the illustration. The stamps both have similar centering, suggesting they came from adjacent positions on the same pane of stamps. One stamp slightly overlaps the other from when they were attached to the envelope.



(fig. 1) Letter mailed April 20, 1895, from St. John's to Moncton, NB

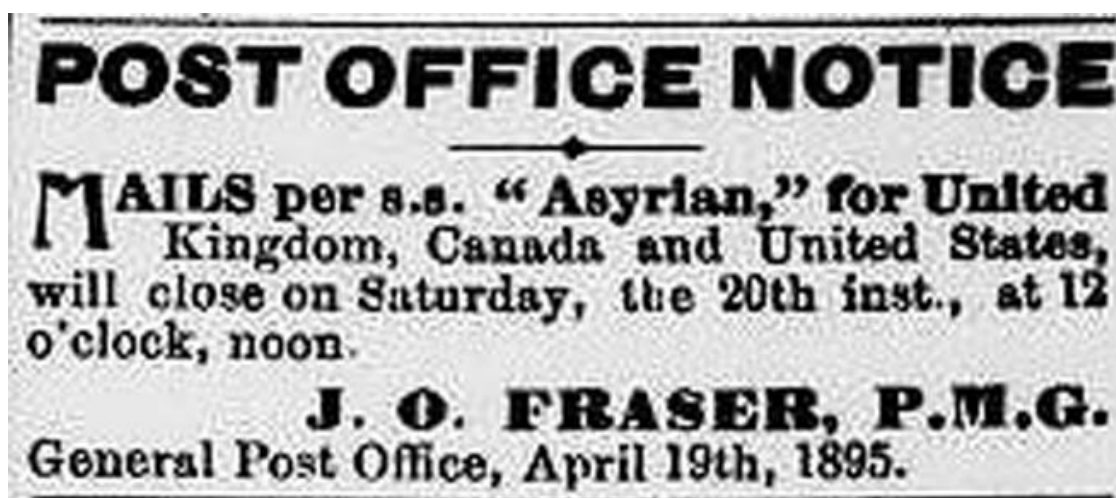
I hypothesize this cover was posted paying the late letter fee for mail posted after the closing of the mails on Saturday April 20. The Post Office Notice (fig. 2) from the daily newspaper, the *Evening Telegram* of Friday, April 19, 1895, indicates that the mails out on April 20 by SS *Assyrian* were to close at 12:00 noon on the 20th. Further investigation in subsequent newspaper stories confirms that the *Assyrian* sailed Saturday afternoon from St. John's, arriving to Halifax at 11:30 am Monday morning after a passage of 45 hours. All routine occurrences for such mails, and there were no other mails dispatched to North America until April 23 (by SS *Grand Lake* to Halifax), the day of the Moncton receiving postmark.

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Is this a Late Letter Cover? - continued



(fig. 2) The Post Office Notice from the daily newspaper, the *Evening Telegram* of Friday, April 19, 1895

The late fee for the period is proscribed in the *Postal Act* of 1891. Section 22 states: “Letters posted after the hour stated for closing any mail will be subject to double postage....”

As the mails were to close at 12:00 noon that day, and as the time mark on the postmark indicates the letter was processed in the PM of that day, it is possible to infer that the letter was mailed in the early afternoon, and after the regular closure of the Assyrian’s mails. If that is the case, the post office clerk may simply have decided to apply the “double postage” rule and, seeing the letter was paid with one five cent stamp, expected another five cents to make up the expected late fee. What mitigates against this hypothesis, however, is the use of 5-cents stamps to pay the rate to Canada.

The rate to Canada became three cents per ounce on July 1, 1893. Why the branch of the Bank of Montreal in St. John’s would not be regularly cognizant of this rate to its home country calls into question why such 5-cents stamps were instead used in this instance. And, while it is easy enough to speculate that an office boy charged with the mails might have made such a mistake when being told by a harried postal clerk that he had to apply double postage, such speculation does not provide a definitive answer. Nor does it seem the cover paid a “triple weight” weight (i.e., nine cents plus one cent overpayment), as the cover shows no obvious stretching or other evidence of distress from having held a weighty enclosure.

Late letter covers are difficult to identify, as they may masquerade in our collections as double weight or oddly overpaid covers. Postal markings to indicate payment of a late fee are apparently unknown. Only through knowledge of sailing dates, times for closing of the mails, and the particular late fee applicable at the time, can they be occasionally identified.

The opinion of other collectors on this cover would be welcomed. I can be reached at dpiercey@telus.net.

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A Postcard to a POW from Newfoundland during WWI

By Klaus Wehlt

When I read the BNA Topics no. 71 about World War I, I remembered that I have a postcard to a Newfoundland prisoner of war in my collection. This small article is the result of my research on that card.

The postcard from Newfoundland is a 2c postal stationery card, 1911 issue (Unitrade UX10), with a portrait of Queen Mary (fig. 1). This card was written on 12 March 1918 in Bauline, Newfoundland by Ambrose LeGrow to his son Reuben (Pte. Reuben LeGrow, No. 1972), who was in a German prisoner of war camp. The postcard bears the split-ring cancellation from Bauline dated March 13, 1918. On the reverse there is the St. John's slogan cancellation "Food will win the war, don't waste it" from March 14, 1918 (fig. 2). The card was addressed to the POW-camp in Limburg and re-addressed to the POW-camp in Schneidemühl (today Pila in Poland)



Fig. 1

Who was this young man who volunteered for the Royal Newfoundland Regiment during World War I? Did he endure the horrors of war, the hardships of captivity and the Spanish Flu, which claimed about 50 million lives worldwide and at the end of the War survive, able to return to his family?

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A Postcard to a POW from Newfoundland during WWI

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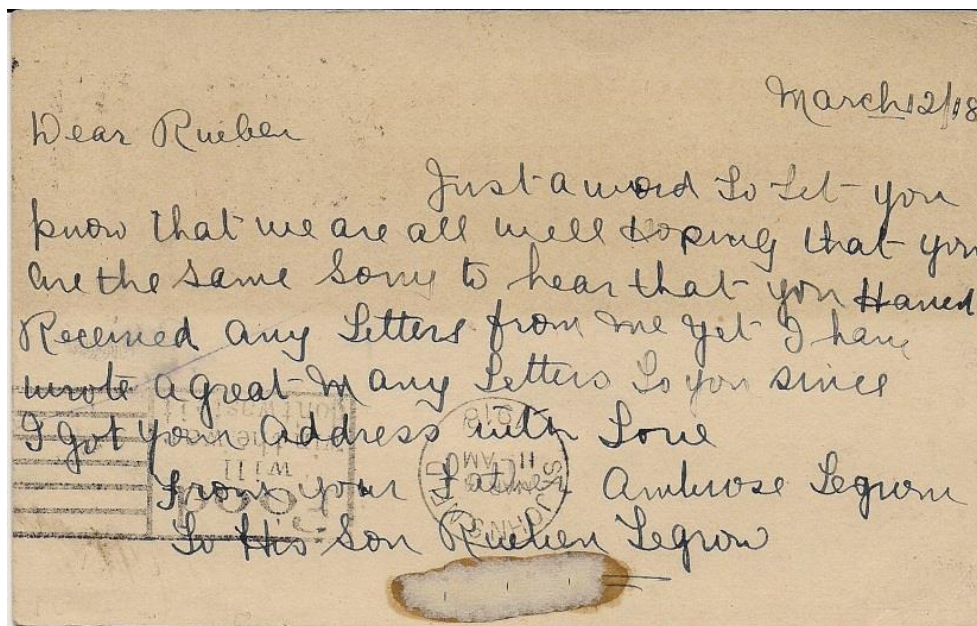


Fig. 2

Private (Pte) Reuben LeGrow from Bauline, regimental number 1972, enlisted on November 5, 1915, at the age of 26 years. He was captured April 14, 1917, and repatriated (released and returned to home) December 12, 1918¹.

Therefore Reuben LeGrow was captured on the day of the battle of Monchy-le-Preux, a battle where the Newfoundland Regiment was involved. A total of 460 Newfoundlanders fell or were taken prisoner by the Germans at this battle. I do not want to imagine what happened to the soldiers on both sides during that night².



This young man from Newfoundland went to war in 1915 as a 26-year-old man. In 1917 at the age of 28 he was taken prisoner after the terrible battles and in 1918 as a 29-year-old he returned to Newfoundland. He died very young in 1931 at the age of only 42 years. He is buried in Bauline³.

1. Newfoundland Great War Heritage Project/ www.rnflr.ca
2. <http://www.rnflr.ca/history.aspx?item=147>
3. <http://ngb.chebucto.org/Cemetery/legrow-...sje-p0179.shtml>

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Newfoundland Interesting Slanting Surcharge Stamps

By John Walsh FRPSC

In the Newfie Newsletter 158, January-March 2015 an interesting article by Jean-Claude Vasseur appears. Vasseur does demonstrate/show that overprinting surcharges is a somewhat haphazard operation to get the overprint exactly parallel on to the medium. Speed would be the operative word in those times of doing those overprints as the item was needed yesterday; finesse would be somewhat lacking.

NSSC 66d



NSSC AM 3e



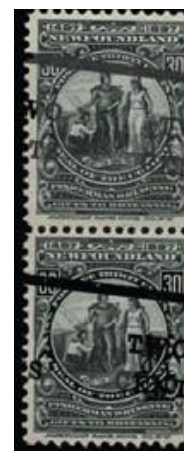
NSSC AM 4a

The article discusses some Newfoundland stamps having slanting surcharges. It bears parts of a discussion by V.G. Green expertizers/certifiers and dealers who at that time in 2014 were trying to put specifications on the sloping/slanting degrees as seen on the slanting overprints as pertaining to DO-X stamps. The reason for that discussion: many if not all auction houses/dealers and collectors were trying to enhance the perceived value of their DO-X stamps. Many Newfoundland DO-X stamps exist in the marketplace as mint items and as sheetlets of four where some slight overprint sloping maybe observed. All seemed to want advantages of the Scott/Unitrade C 12i slanting surcharge. It has no image shown. They now somewhat quantify it by stating as a sub-note 'must be noticeably slanted'. There is still no image shown.

NSSC 161c



NSSC 122 c



Walsh was asked for his input because of the listing found in Walsh NSSC 2014, AM13a, a dramatic slanting surcharge. The image is shown at the bottom of the next page. An image for the regular listing is also shown and when looked at carefully it will be seen that the overall normal appearance of this overprint is, 'slanting slightly'. Walsh NSSC's input into that discussion was to leave its listing as is and with the image shown. It is obvious to all that ***'dramatic slanting is not slanting slightly'***. The Walsh NSSC catalogue makes a point of listing the most intriguing slanting overprinted items BECAUSE it has been found that collectors like to own such items, oft called ownership desirability, to enhance their collections.

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Newfoundland interesting slanting surcharge stamps

- continued



NSSC 194 g * 194 i - 194 h * 194 j



NSSC 122c slanting surcharge
NSSC 122d missing surcharge

The nine items illustrated, as listed in Walsh NSSC, are presented to demonstrate how the printing of overprints can get so noticeably misaligned and create a “want to own that” desire in collectors. Whether a collector acts on that “want to own desirable attractant” will always be the collector’s choice. Some can’t resist!



NSSC AM 13a (dramatic slanting example criteria)



NSSC AM 13 “Slanting Slightly” example

Newfoundland “Tilley” Covers

by Malcolm Back

I have a number of Philatelic covers in my collection addressed to one Lt. Colonel R. Tilley S.A., using various addresses including Montreal, P.Q., Kent, England, and S.A. Headquarters, 12 Springdale Street, St. John’s Newfoundland. Lt. Col. R. Tilley was an officer in the Salvation Army (S.A.) and a native Newfoundlander. He was obviously also a stamp collector in his spare time. He served on the Board of Governors of Memorial University College from 1936 – 1941, resigning due to ill health. He was also Divisional Commander of the Salvation Army in Newfoundland. Research on Lt. Col. Tilley turned up the following items.

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Newfoundland "Tilley" Covers

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Memorial University College, Report of the President for the Year 1936-37

The College bade a respectful farewell to Lt. Col. T. A. Burton, S.A., who retired from the Board of Governors, having left this country for service in Canada, and now welcomes his successor Lt. Col. R. Tilley, S.A., and hopes that Mrs. Tilley and he may find life pleasant in their native land.

Memorial University College, Report of the President for the Year, 1940-41

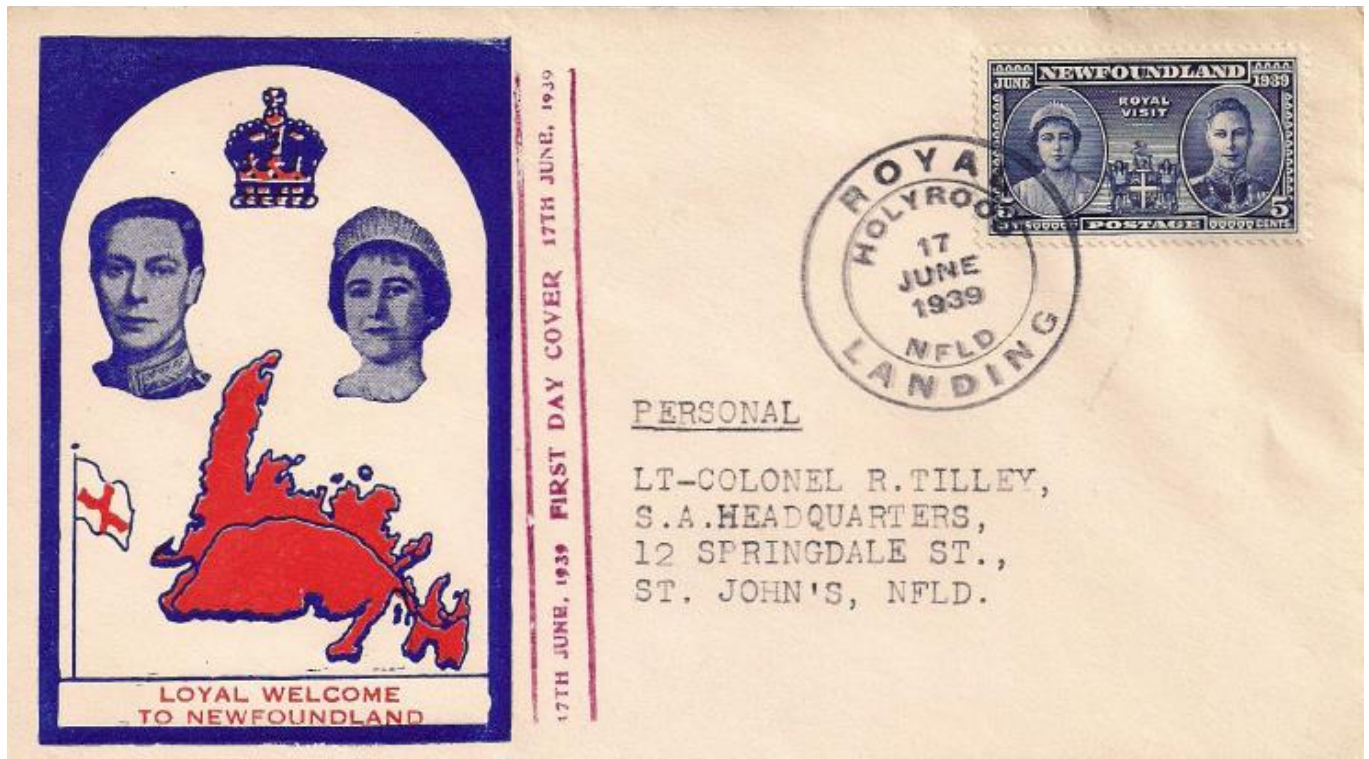
The prolonged illness of Lt.-Col. R. Tilley, S.A., has evoked our sincere sympathy.

NLGenWeb Newspaper Transcriptions Daily News Year End Review - Events of the Year at Home and Abroad 1941

May 5, 1941 Brigadier Joseph Acton is to succeed Lieut.-Col. Tilley as Divisional Commander Salvation Army in Newfoundland. Col. Tilley is resigning owing to ill-health.

Memorial University College, Report of the President for the Year, 1941-42

It was with much sorrow that the College learned of the death of Lt.-Col. R. Tilley, S.A., a former member of the Board of Governors. A man of fine quality of heart and mind.



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Favourite Covers - More To Pay

by Doug Hannan

Figure 1 is a local St. John's cover which should have had a 1 cent stamp but only a 1/2 cent Dog was applied. The post office caught this and applied the "MORE TO PAY" hand stamp and the large "1" indicating that the letter was 1/2 cent short paid and the double deficiency payment of 1 cent was due. I would think that this cover with the large "1" would likely be unique.



Figure 1

Figure 2 is a cover from St John's in 1850 cancelled with "ST JOHN'S NEWFOUNDLAND/PAID" in red ink along with a large red ink "4" to Quebec. There is a 1/8 to collect marking in black and a MORE-TO-PAY" hand stamp. I am not an expert in this time period but my guess is that it may not have been applied in St John's.

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Favourite Covers - More To Pay

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Figure 2

Figure 3 is a transit mark from Halifax and receiver in Quebec.

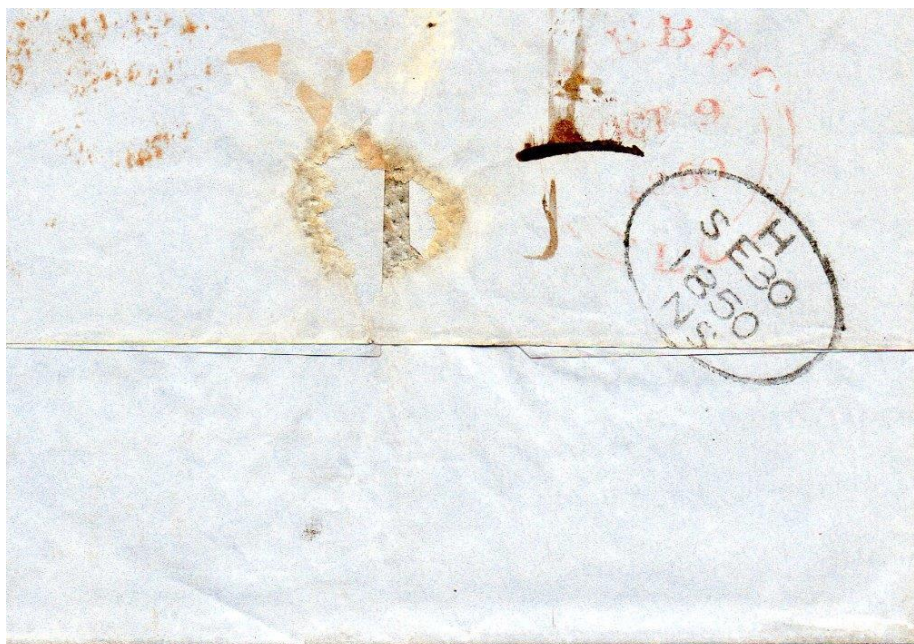


Figure 3