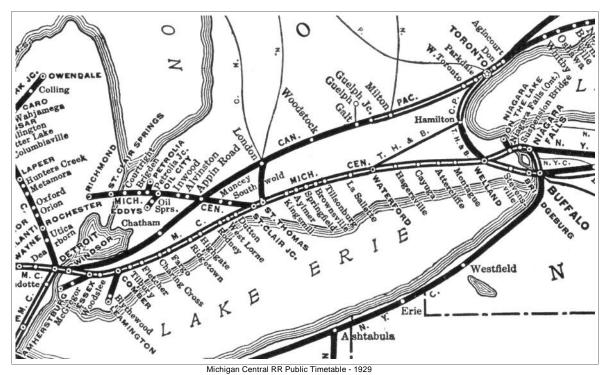
Volume 32 - No. 5 Whole No. 172 May-June, 2004



The M.C.R.R. (double track main line, Windsor-Fort Erie) and G.T.R. (single track line, Port Dover-Hamilton) crossing diamond and tower at Hagersville, Ontario, circa 1920. The M.C.R.R. station is at the right and the G.T.R. station is in the background.

This issue is devoted to the postmarks used on the **Canada Southern Railway** including its successor operators, the **Michigan Central Railroad** and **New York Central Railroad**, from the beginning of R.P.O. service on the lines in 1874 to the end of service in 1952.



Secretary's Report from Chris Anstead

**Earle L. Covert** has changed his address to P.O. Box 1190, Raymond AB, T0K 2S0. And welcome back to Texas (from Australia and Japan) to our globetrotter, **Rick Parama**!

The 229 mile long Canada Southern Railway line, between Fort Erie and Amherstburg, was opened for traffic on November 15, 1873. At the same time, a 67 mile long branch, known as the **St. Clair Branch,** was also opened from St. Clair Junction (west of St. Thomas) to Courtright, on the St. Clair River. In 1875, through purchase of the Erie & Niagara Railway (Niagara to Fort Erie), access was gained to Niagara Falls.

In 1883, a line from Essex to Windsor was constructed and became part of the main line while the section between Essex and Amherstburg became secondary.

In 1904, the system was leased to the **Michigan Central Railroad** and in 1929 this lease was transferred to the **New York Central Railroad**.

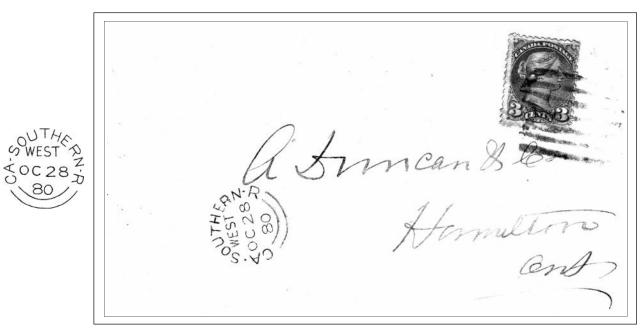
The first cancellation used on the railway is known from 1874 until 1886, with either an EAST or WEST direction indicium.





RR-15 CA - SOUTHERN - R EAST, JY 11, 74

This early example is struck in red. The Buffalo transit stamp on the front is dated the following day at 10 AM. There is no arrival backstamp.



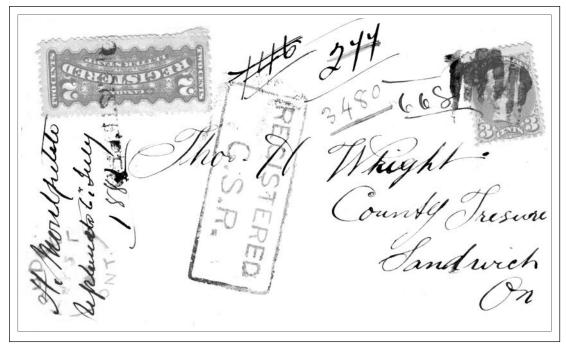
RR-15

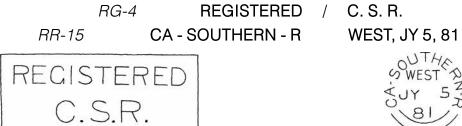
CA - SOUTHERN - R

WEST, OC 28, 80

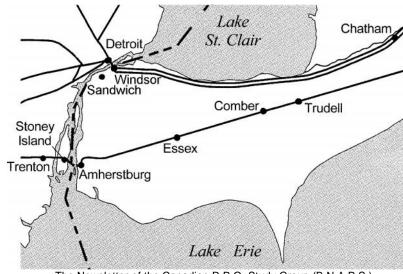
Arrival backstamp - HAMILTON, CANADA, OC 28, 80

The first of two registered postmarks used on the main line of the Canada Southern Railway is reported used from August 4, 1875 until September 15, 1893.



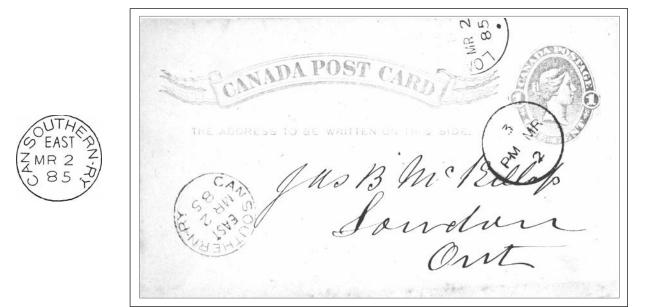


This cover originated at TRUDELL, ONT, JY 5, 81 (*Essex County, Tilbury West Township, 1862-1888*). It was transported by road to COMBER, ONT., JY 5, 81 (*purple transit backstamp*), where it was transferred aboard the railway mail car. On board the railway post office, it was stamped front and back with the rectangular registration postmark and backstamped with the circular date stamp. It was probably taken off the train at Essex or Amherstburg and travelled by road to WINDSOR, ONT., AM, JY 6, 81. The Sandwich receiving backstamp is illegible.



The Newsletter of the Canadian R.P.O. Study Group (B.N.A.P.S.)

The second circular date stamp postmark used on the main line of this railway was proof struck on April 6, 1879. It is known used from 1881 until November 26, 1888, with either an EAST or WEST direction indicium.



RR-16 CAN SOUTHERN - RY EAST, MR 2, 85

This postcard originated at Rodney and arrived in London the same day.



RR-16 CAN SOUTHERN - RY WEST, NO 26, 88 The Springfield, Illinois receiving backstamp is dated the following day at 5 PM.



### Canada Southern Railway - St. Clair Branch

The first postmark used on the St. Clair Branch was proofed October 25, 1878. It is recorded from early 1879 until 1887. No direction or time indicia are known.



This post card was posted aboard the train at Alvinston, arriving in St. Thomas the same day, as confirmed by the receiving backstamp.



RR-141 SI - CLAIR BRANCH / C. S. RAILWAY NO 7, 81

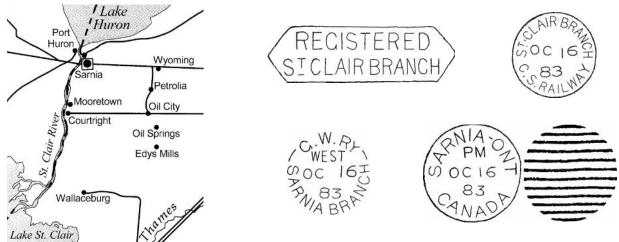


This registered cover originated at Oil Springs and travelled by road to Oil City, where it was transferred to the C. S. Ry. train to Petrolia. In Petrolia, it was transferred to the G.W.Ry. train for Sarnia. After arrival in Sarnia, it was transported by road to Mooretown. There is no arrival backstamp.

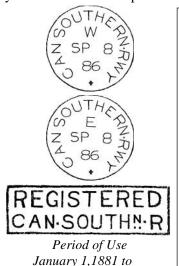
RG-33 REGISTERED / SI CLAIR BRANCH
RR-141 SI - CLAIR BRANCH / C. S. RAILWAY OC 16. 83

The registration postmark used on the branch is recorded from November 27, 1878 until November 22, 1883.

It would have been a more direct route to send the letter to Courtright and then by road to Mooretown. Perhaps the train schedules were such that this longer distance routing was faster.



The third circular date stamp to be used on the railway and the last bearing the railway name, was proof struck on June 9, 1886. The two transit backstamps on this cover are the earliest recorded use; the latest use is April 11, 1887. The second registered postmark used on the line also appears as a backstamp. The cover originated at HAMILTON, CANADA, SP 7, 86 and arrived at SPRINGFORD, ONT., SP 8, 86, as confirmed by the arrival backstamp.



November 9, 1890



RR-17 CAN SOUTHERN - RWY / . W, SP 8, 86 E, SP 8, 86 RG-3 REGISTERED / CAN - SOUTHN - R





Proof Date May 9, 1887 Period of Use 1887-1897 Indicia E, W



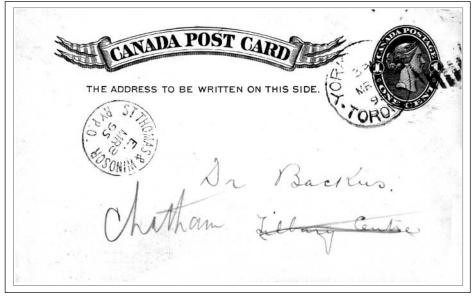
Proof Date May 9, 1887 Period of Use 1887-1898 Indicia E, W

O-312 SI THOMAS & WINDSOR / RY P. O. E., MR 2, 89 REGISTERED / CAN - SOUTH  $^{\mathbb{N}}$  - R

O-308 SI THOMAS & FORT ERIE / RY. P. O. E., MR 2, 89

This cover originated at AMHERSTBURG, ONT., MR 01, 89, where it was transferred aboard the east-bound Windsor-St. Thomas mail car. At St. Thomas, it was transferred to the eastbound St. Thomas-Fort Erie mail car, having travelled the entire length of the main line in Canada. It was backstamped in transit at Buffalo, the same day and on arrival in New York, the following day.

## Canada Southern Railway - Michigan Central Railroad





Proof Date unknown Period of Use 1888 - 1909 Indicia E, W

O-312A SI THOMAS & WINOSOR / RY P.O. E., MR 8, 95

This post card, addressed to Tilbury Centre, originated in Toronto on March 6. It was backstamped at Tilbury on March 8 and was redirected to Chatham. It received the R.P.O. postmark in transit and was backstamped on arrival at Chatham on March 9.



O-310 Proof Date - unknown Period - 1897 to 1907 Indicia - E, W



O-311 Proof Dates - 1909/06/19, 1920/11/02 Period - 1909 to 1948 Indicia - E, W, 2, 3, 5, 11, 12, 23, 127, 134



O-312C
Backstamp on favour cover, struck in red



O-67 Proof Date - Unknown Period - 1898 to 1901 Indicia - E, W



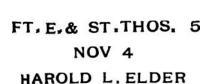
0-37
Proof Dates - unknown, 1915/05/03



O-38 Proof Date - 1928/02/02 Period - 1928 to 1931 Indicia - 2, 5, 25



O-70 Proof Date - undated Period - 1931 to 1951 Indicia - 2, 3, 5, 365, 366



Period - 1901 to 1927

Indicia - E, W, 31

O-67B

Backstamp on a favour cover with the
O-70 illustrated at the left, on the front
of the cover, showing year to be 1942



O-67A Proof Date - 1951/08/28 Period - 1951 to 1952

## Canada Southern Railway - Michigan Central Railroad St. Clair Branch

The first postmark naming the two terminals of the branch run, saw its first use in 1887. There are two interesting varieties, catalogued as **O-306Aa** and **O-306Ab**, in which the names of the postal clerks are included in the indicia set of the otherwise normal **O-306** hammer. Only a single example of each is recorded. O-306Ab has the clerk name COYNE and is dated April 23, 1906. Apparently this short lived experiment by the two clerks was impractical or was quickly discouraged by postal inspectors.



O-306 Proof Date - 1887/06/09 Period - 1887 to 1919 Indicia - E, W, NE?



*O-306Aa Only Date - 1906/02/19* 



O-305 Proof Date - 1919/08/09 Period - 1919 to 1926 Indicia - E, W



O-308A Proof Date - 1927/07/30 Period - 1928 to 1935 Indicia - 101



O-307 Proof Date - 1925/01/29 Period - 1930 to 1940 Indicia - 101, 102, 103, 104, 106



O-306B Proof Date - 1938/02/24 Period - 1938 to 1940 Indicia - 101, 106





Lionel Gillam suggested that **O-36A**, the Bridgeburg (Fort Erie) - London R.P.O. may have been a M.C.R.R. run but timetable references indicate that trains 218 and 219 were **Canadian National Railways** trains, which operated between London and Fort Erie via Brantford.

# Michigan Central Railroad

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r Detroit (Cent. Time)	283.5		7.20	9.30			3.10		2.00	3.15	5.30				6.00	8.35	10.35	9.30		12.10		6.10	7.10		4
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Michigan Central Public Timetable - 1929

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Michigan Central RR Public Timetable - 1929

#### The Caboose

**Warren Bosch** reports the following for our **O-357 hammer study** on page 1804; he has O-357, Hammer II, 16/AP 20/48, a new LRD for the hammer and O-357, hammer III, 10/25 X/64, confirming train 10 for hammer III.

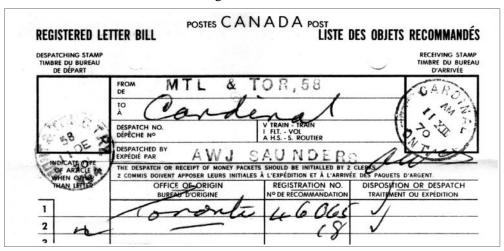
**Jim Felton** reports **O-361**, **hammer 2** with a new train #67 for the hammer and listing. Jim also reports a new late date for the scarce **MA-136**, 603, V, 25, 62. In addition, Jim's example of **W-7A**, **hammer 2**, 59, OC 29, 55 is probably the ERD for the listing and hammer since it is only 11 days after the proof date.



**Jon Cable** sends a scan of a beautiful strike of **O-256**, hammer **6**, dated 1915/11/03 which is likely the LRD for the hammer and the listing.

**Bill Robinson** corrects our information on **TS-184p**, Heart's Content, reported in the previous issue. Bill showed a 1931 example in his TS listing of 2000, as the only date. Murray Smith's 1923/12/19 report will be shown as the new ERD, reporter 313.

Following up Jon Cable's report on page 1817, Bill also notes that there are 3 hammers for listing **O-121**; **hammer I** (24.5 mm diameter), reported from 1898/01/17 until about 1906, **hammer II** (23 mm diameter), reported from about 1906 until 1911/02/03 and **hammer III** (23.5 mm diameter), reported from 1912/12/12 until 1915/08/03. Direction markings for each hammer are not recorded.



Your editor expressed skepticism about listing **Q-172** being one handstamp after showing an example submitted by **Jon Cable**. **Bill Robinson** sends this earlier date with precisely the same alignment and spacing between the two lines, demonstrating that it was indeed, one device and not two.

In the previous issue, your editor showed a favour cover with MA-106, hammer IX, dated August 14, 1956 and with a rubber stamped cachet, stating that this was, "Last Day of Postal Service on this Train, August 14, 1956, TRAIN NO. 98". Bill Robinson reports MA-106, hammer X dated 1958/11/07 and MA-106, hammer XI dated 1958/09/23 and 1959/03/05, all with train 98. From this information, it is obvious that the cachet is incorrect. I believe that the error may have been inspired by the change from heavy weight rolling stock to rail diesel car equipment for the run at the time, causing the creator of the cover to assume that R.P.O. service would be ending.

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