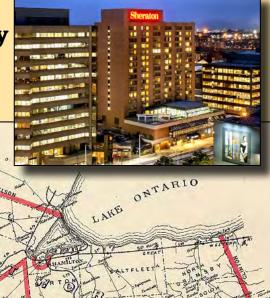


PHSC Journal

ISSN 0714-8305

Summer 2016

1st Annual Postal History Society of Canada Symposium



Postal History of York Mails and Dispatches of

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The event will be centred around the Sheraton Hamilton Hotel, Thursday July 20 to Sunday July 23.

Possible historical sites include Fort York, the Hamilton Warplane Heritage Museum as well as the VGG Philatelic Research Foundation and Harry Sutherland Philatelic Library.

Dates and events to be confirmed. See the PHSC website for details as they emerge or contact info.symposium@postalhistorycanada.net



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Message from the President

Stéphane Cloutier



The process of changeover for the Secretary-Treasurer is still ongoing, but I am confident it will be implemented in time for the upcoming membership renewal period. Please help your new Secretary and the Society by renew-

ing on time, and even better, why not renew for a few years at a time!

Sadly, our Editor Michael Rixon has asked to step down from his position. His decision was a difficult one, but firm. We thus will be discussing the next steps for the production of future *Journals*. If you or anyone you know would like to take on the job of Editor, please let me know. As you are aware, Editor is one of the most important jobs in a Society like ours, and we desperately need to fill the position as soon as possible.

This year, we have decided to hold our Annual General Meeting at our PHSC Symposium in Hamilton in July. If you would like to attend (and I hope you will), please read information on this important event on page 52 in this issue.

The British North America Philatelic Society recently presented the Ritch Toop Military Literature Award to Brian Plain, Gray Scrimgeour and Robert Toombs, editors of *A Guide to Canadian Military Postal History*, 1636-1970 for this monograph, published by PHSC. Members are reminded that they may read and download this book free from the PHSC web site.

Our online postmark database projects are going well, and we plan on adding squared circles, orbs, 2 and 4-ring numerals to the website in the next few months. Stay tuned, we will announce this in the "what's new" area of our website.

Do you have an exhibit you'd like to share with the members? Please remember that our website has an area designed to show off members' hard work. Exhibits are often shown at a show and then dismantled and forgotten – this permits you to save your exhibit, and share it with others for years to come. All we need is a PDF copy of the exhibit, usually one frame per file. Contact myself or Rob, our webmaster if you need help scanning or sending us your works of art.



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U.S. Foreign Air Mail Route No. 2

Gray Scrimgeour



Figure 1. Photograph taken October 15, 1920 showing (left to right) Eddie Hubbard, George Gardiner (Victoria Assistant Postmaster) and Harry Bishop (Victoria Postmaster). The Empress Hotel is in the background. Victoria City Archives 98104-23-6848.

A United States air mail route played an important role in British Columbia's postal history. The primary role of US Foreign Air Mail Route No. 2 (FAM-2) was to expedite mail service between Seattle and trans-Pacific ships arriving at and leaving from Victoria^{1,2}. *The (US) Postal Bulletin* announced the inauguration of this route with this memorandum³:

Seaplane Service, Seattle, Wash., to Victoria, British Columbia. October 2, 1920.

A contract has been awarded to Edward Hubbard for seaplane ser-

vice between Seattle, Wash., and Victoria, British Columbia, in close connection at Victoria with outgoing and incoming trans-Pacific mail steamers, but not exceeding an average of 10 round trips a month, from October 15, 1920, to June 30, 1921, for the transportation of not to exceed 600 pounds of mail a single trip each way, the contractor to receive the mails at the foot of Roanoke Street and deliver them at Lake Union at Seattle and to receive and deliver the

mails from and to the steamship at Victoria.

FAM-2 operated from October 15, 1920 until June 26, 1937. The effectiveness of FAM-2 was one reason why—by 1922—much US mail to the Orient was going through Seattle, not San Francisco. The initial contractor was Hubbard Air Transport, and the pilot was Eddie Hubbard. The first flight on FAM-2 brought the Seattle mail (about 300 pounds) to Victoria for the 5 p.m. sailing of the OSK's westbound *Africa Maru*⁴. Fig. 1 is a photograph of Hubbard with Victoria postal officials at the wharf when he

brought the first air mail from Seattle. Fig. 2 shows a philatelic cover carried on this first flight. There was no extra charge for air mail service for letters carried on FAM-2. Hubbard remained overnight in Victoria, and on October 16 took to Seattle US mail carried north from Australasia in the *Tahiti*.

This air service allowed outbound mail brought to Seattle by the morning train and any Seattle letters mailed during the morning to reach a ship departing from Victoria. Hubbard's plane could carry up to 600 pounds of mail (about 60,000 to 70,000 letters). If the eastbound mail exceeded 600

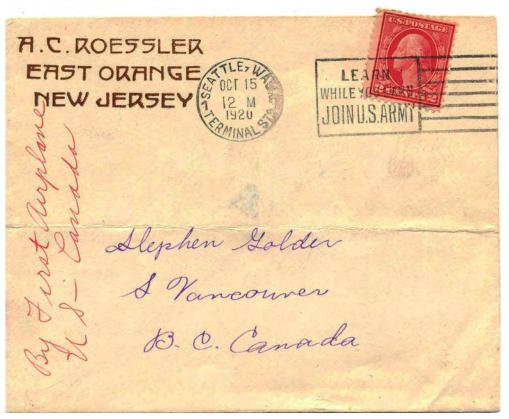


Figure 2. Cover (ex Wellburn) to South Vancouver, B.C. from Seattle (October 15, 1920) with the endorsement "By First Airplane US-Canada".

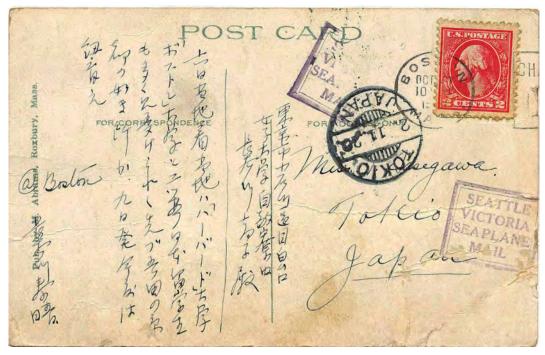


Figure 3. Picture post card from Boston to Japan flown from Seattle to Victoria during the first eight days of operation of FAM-2 (probably on October 22, on a flight that carried mail for the Empress of Asia).

pounds, the following priority applied: first, mail for Seattle, then in order mail for Portland, San Francisco, Chicago, and finally New York. Mail in excess of 600 pounds went by the regular coastal steamship. When there was space, some locally-posted mail was carried.

A picture post card to Tokio, Japan is presented in Fig. 3. The card was mailed in Boston on October 10, 1920 and received November 2nd. It bears two strikes in purple of a four-line boxed handstamp reading SEATTLE / VICTORIA / SEAPLANE / MAIL that was applied at the Seattle post office. Hubbard made a flight to Victoria on October 22, apparently carrying this card. This card was taken across the Pacific in the *Empress of Asia*, which departed from Victoria

on October 22^{nd} and arrived at Yokohama on November 2^{nd} .

Up to December 7, 1920, Hubbard had successfully met every incoming or outgoing steamship that carried US mail⁵. Hubbard's contract was renewed for one year as of July 1, 1921⁶. Up to 10 round trips between Seattle and Victoria were authorized per month, at a rate of \$200 per trip. On March 29, 1923, the mail plane from Victoria to Seattle crashed moments after take off and the 584 pounds of mail got wet; none was lost, though⁷.

Hubbard's 1923 contract expired on June 30. In May 1923, the US Postmaster General asked for bids for the annual contract for FAM-2 service (up to 12 round trips per month, with up to 600 pounds of mail per

trip). The Alaska Airways Corporation, with two H2SL planes and Anscel C. Eckmann and N.C. Atkins as pilots, was the successful bidder for the next year⁸.

On June 30, his last scheduled day on the route, Hubbard arrived in Victoria with US mail for Australia for the *Makura*. However, the *Makura* had already departed from Victoria. The postmaster radioed to the ship to wait for Hubbard, and Hubbard caught up to her about 10 miles from Victoria and delivered the mail⁹.

Hubbard took over the service again on December 19, 1923. He was asked to fly the route again after the seaplanes of the competing company suffered frequent accidents¹⁰. Hubbard was again awarded the contract, starting July 1, 1924¹¹.

On several occasions, Hubbard made more than one round trip in a single day. For example, so much US air mail (26 bags, 1 ton) arrived in the *President McKinley* on February 17, 1924 that Hubbard made 3 trips from Victoria to Seattle¹². When 38 bags of US air mail arrived in the *Shidzuoka Maru* on March 19, 1924, Hubbard made 2 trips. His busiest day to date was on April 29, 1926, when he made four round trips from Seattle with a total of 1,800 pounds (45 sacks) of mail received in Victoria from the *Alabama Maru*, *Talthybius*, *President Jackson*, and *Aorangi* (2)¹³.

On October 26, 1926, the mail plane crashed into a garden and house in Victoria¹⁴. The pilot, Gerald Smith (substituting for Hubbard), suffered a broken ankle and a few cuts. The mail was salvaged and taken to Seattle in an afternoon coastal steamer.

From December 1926 to February 15, 1927, flights from Seattle with mail for outbound liners were discontinued because of the hazard of darkness¹⁵. Inbound liners were

still met. If the ships arrived at night, the airplane stayed overnight in Victoria and left for Seattle at daybreak the next day.

Hubbard did not bid for the contract that started July 1, 1927; it was awarded to Northwest Air Services, Inc. The following year, Vern Gorst and Percy Barnes formed a partnership that obtained the contract¹⁶. The Barnes and Gorst Air Line Inc. mail contract was extended to 1934. Barnes and Gorst formed the Seattle-Victoria Air Mail Inc. in 1933 and this company held the contract until service ceased in 1937.

A lot of contrived covers or cards were carried by FAM-2—many mailed by dealer A.E. Roessler of East Orange, New Jersey. An example is shown in Fig. 4, a cover to Roe(ssler) mailed in Victoria on November 2, 1925. This cover bears a strike of the large circular mark applied at the Victoria post office to some mail carried by FAM-2. The *Empress of Asia* had arrived from Asia on November 2nd.

A second contrived US-bound item is in Fig. 5. This postal stationery card was mailed to Texas in Victoria on February 15, 1927. It is endorsed "VIA SEAPLANE MAIL" and bears a pale strike of the VIA / SEA / PLANE large circle. The message is simply "First flight, 1927, from Victoria, B.C. to Seattle, Wash." The *President Grant* departed from Victoria for Japan on February 15th.

Next are two covers mailed from the United States. Fig. 6 illustrates a cover mailed in Seattle on June 26, 1928 and carried to Victoria by FAM-2, as indicated by the four-line SEAPLANE handstamp at the lower left of the cover. After being held in General Delivery, the cover was forwarded to the addressee in California on July 27th.

A cover addressed by typewriter to General Delivery in Victoria is shown in Fig.



Fig. 4. Philatelically-inspired cover from Victoria (November 2, 1925) bearing an impression of the VIA / SEA / PLANE circular mark applied at the Victoria post office for mail carried by FAM-2. The cover also bears a strike of Roessler's four-line FAM 2 handstamp.

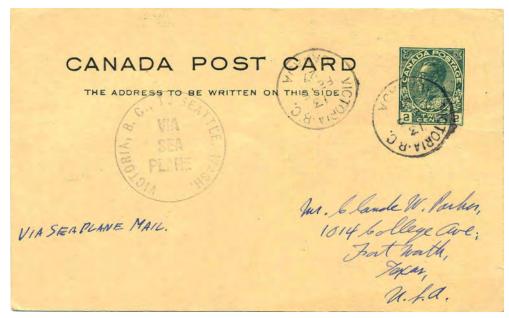


Fig. 5. Postal card from Victoria to Texas carried by FAM-2 in February 1927.



Figure 6. A cover mailed at Seattle on June 25, 1928 to Victoria "via air mail". It was held at General Delivery in Victoria until July 27, then forwarded to California.

7. It was mailed in Seattle on June 29, 1929 and received in Victoria the same day. Note the strike of the four-line SEAPLANE stamp applied in Seattle. Both the *President Jefferson* and the *Iyo Maru* departed from Victoria on June 29. I was disappointed when I found a second, identical cover to the same addressee, and had to relegate this cover to the "contrived" category.

Although many contrived covers exist from FAM-2, few commercial covers have been recorded. Here are two examples. Fig. 8 illustrates a large cover carried in the *S.S. Empress of Russia* to Victoria. The *Empress of Russia* arrived in Victoria from Asia on July 20, 1928—the date of the postmark. The cover bears a previously unreported three-line handstamp reading SILK DOCUMENTS / VIA AIRCRAFT SERVICE / FROM

VICTORIA TO SEATTLE (probably applied in Japan). It is franked with 16 sen in Japanese postage to pay for carriage of a double-weight letter (up to 50g).

Fig. 9 is a large cover mailed at Yokohama in 1930 (there is no day in the date stamp). It is endorsed S.S. "Ixion", Via Aircraft from Victoria, Via Airmail from Seattle to New York, and SILK DOCUMENTS. This cover was apparently carried to Victoria in the Blue Funnel steamer *Ixion*, which made four trips east across the Pacific in 1930. It was flown to Seattle in the FAM-2 airplane, and then flown east from Seattle. Its commercial papers were sent at the printed matter rate by surface to Victoria and then at the letter rate by US air mail¹⁷. According to the crayon marks, this cover and its contents were charged a printed matter rate of 60 sen



Figure 7. FAM-2 cover from Seattle (June 29, 1929) to Victoria.



Figure 8. Large cover from the Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation, Yokohama to a bank in New York postmarked with the Victoria Paquebot marking on July 20, 1928.



Figure 9. Heavyweight business cover from Yokohama to New Jersey, endorsed both for the S.S. Ixion and for "Aircraft from Victoria."

for 150 grams and an air mail rate of 1.08 yen (or 108 sen) for up to 7 ounces. Neither the postage charges (1.68 yen total) nor the payment (1.60 yen) was correct. The metric weight of 150 grams should have been converted to 6 oz (not 7 oz) for 88 sen air mail postage, and a total of 1.48 yen total postage. The cover appears to be overpaid by 12 sen, probably because that was as close as the bank had available in stamps.

The last flight on FAM-2 was on June 26, 1937. Fig. 10 shows a postal stationery card from Seattle to Manila carried on this flight. The message side of the card says, "Sent by last trip of the SEATTLE-VICTORIA AIR-MAIL SERVICE". This side of the card bears a clipping from a Seattle newspaper with the announcement of this flight and its connection with the *Empress of Russia*. On April 21, 1937, the US trans-Pacific Clipper mail route (FAM-14) was extended from Manila to Hong Kong². Establishment of this long-distance air mail service to Asia probably led to the discontinuation of FAM-2. The late or supplementary mail service from Seattle

to Vancouver¹⁸ partially replaced FAM-2 for a short time. The history of the first US foreign air mail route¹⁹ spans only 17 years but it shows how the route met its specialized goal of facilitating US trans-Pacific mail transit through Victoria.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Tony Wawrukiewicz for help in interpretation of the rate for the 1930 cover from Japan.

^{1.} J. Brown, *Hubbard: the Forgotten Boeing Aviator*, Peanut Butter Publishing, Vancouver (1996) Chapter 13.

^{2.} American Air Mail Catalogue, Fifth Edition, Volume 4.

^{3.} *The Postal Bulletin*, Vol. XLI, Washington (Tuesday, October 5, 1920) No. 12376.

^{4.} Victoria *Times*, October 13, 15, and 16, 1920; Victoria *Colonist*, October 16, 1920.

^{5.} Victoria *Times*, December 8, 1920.

^{6.} Victoria Colonist, June 29, 1921.

^{7.} Victoria Colonist, March 30, 1923.

^{8.} Victoria Colonist, June 26, 1923.



Figure 10. Postal card to Manila, Philippine Islands commemorating the last FAM-2 flight. It was mailed in Seattle on June 26, 1937 and reached Manila on August 23, 1937 in the Empress of Russia. At Manila, it was readdressed to Bayside, New York.

15

- 9. Victoria Colonist, July 1, 1923.
- 10. Victoria Colonist, December 20, 1923.
- 11. Victoria Colonist, April 27, 1924.
- 12. Victoria Colonist, February 19, 1924.
- 13. Victoria Colonist, April 30, 1926.
- 14. Victoria Colonist, October 27, 1926.
- 15. Victoria Colonist, November 20, 1926.
- 16. E. White and P.L. Smith, Wings Across the Water. Victoria's Flying Heritage, 1871–1971, Harbour Publishing, Victoria (2005); Victoria Colonist, May 22, 1928.

- 17. A.S. Wawrukiewicz and H.W. Beecher, *U.S. International Postal Rates*, *1872-1996*, Cama Publishing Co., Portland OR (1996).
- 18. K.G. Scrimgeour, "Seattle's Trans-Pacific Late Mails", *PHSC Journal*, No. 115 (September 2003) pp. 4–6; L. Pisczkewicz, *United States Supplementary Mail*, United States Stamp Society (2009).
- 19. Service on FAM-4, Key West–Havana (the second US Foreign Air Mail Route) was inaugurated on November 1, 1920.



The Post Office at McDougall Chute, Bowman Township, District of Cochrane

Gus Knierim

McDougall Chute, was an unincorporated place located 296 km north of North Bay. Originally a fur trading post, its name was changed to Matheson Station in 1911 in honour of the Ontario provincial treasurer. Located on the Temiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway, later the Ontario Northland, it initially served as a supply centre for the surrounding lumbering and agricultural communities. It is widely known for the devastating fire of 1916 that officially claimed 233 lives, although the loss was probably much greater.

The search for gold in the great Porcupine Gold Rush brought many prospectors and settlers to the area. Silas Gibson had settled in the area establishing a thriving business serving the trade.

There was a need for postal services and a post office was granted to the community, opening July 1, 1907 with Silas Gibson appointed as postmaster. Initially it was a nonaccounting office with reduced postal facilities. However, on June 1, 1908, the office was upgraded to full accounting status allowing it to sell and redeem money orders, etc.

With the financial year ending March 31, 1908, this non-accounting office did a large volume of business, declaring revenue of \$1,109.67 out of which the postmaster received a substantial salary of \$522.00. He also was paid an allowance of \$37.50 for rent, light, and heat. These financial results surpassed those of many full accounting offices.

The 1909 Report of the Postmaster General give the results for McDougall Chute as a full accounting office. The results are amazing:

- Gross Revenue: \$2,212.05
- Money Orders issued: 745 (\$22,396.61)
- Money Orders redeemed: 62 (\$1,590.19)
- Total of Postal Notes paid: \$453.99

The postmaster received a commission above his salary for the above transactions.

In those days, McDougall Chute was still a very remote community and the mail was fetched and delivered from and to Englehart, a distance of 66 miles. Postmaster Silas Gibson was contracted to make that journey three times per week. He performed that duty until April 15, 1908 at which time the new Temiskaming & Northern Ontario Railroad had reached the community of McDougall Chute. Thereafter it was a mere ½-mile trip to the railway station on a daily (except Sunday) basis. Postmaster Gibson continued this service until August 14, 1908. Following his resignation from the mail contract, the service was provided by M. Leclaire, who performed the duty for 4 months and 17 days. Capt. M. Smith picked up the contract starting Jan. 1, 1909.

The mail business continued to grow and Silas Gibson was not able to cope with the workload. He resigned from his postmaster's duties on Nov. 25, 1908.

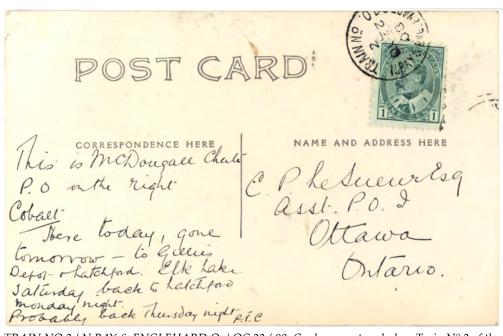
Daniel Johnson became the new postmaster as of Jan. 8, 1909. Capt. Smith continued with the contract of meeting the



McDOUGALL CHUTE / ONT / JUN 2 / 08 The 20.0-mm broken circle postmark with arcs measuring 3.5 mm was the only known device used at that office. There are no proof strikes on record, but the postmark has been reported used between September 21, 1907 and March 22, 1910.



Post card showing McDougall Chutes at low water time was produced by the Pugh Mfg. Co., Toronto. It was mailed by "AB" to David Keys Jr., Toronto.



TRAIN NO 2 / N.BAY & ENGLEHARD O. / OC 22 / 08; Card was postmarked on Train N° 2 of the North Bay & Englehard R.P.O. The rail line had reached McDougall Chute earlier in 1908. ex-Robt. C. Smith collection



A sepia-toned post card showing the business section of McDougall Chute (Matheson). The store on the right is Silas Gibson's place of business . It is also the post office.



McDOUGALL CHUTE / ONT / MR 22 / 10; Post card was mailed overseas to Wygmael (Brabant), Belgium, where it was postmarked with a clear receiving mark showing that it arrived on April 4, 1910.



Card depicts a winter scene of the Main Street, Matheson. The card was produced for Phillips & Wrinch, Limited, Toronto.

It was a tough haul in the winter to get the mail from Englehart or to take it to Porcupine. Island Falls Smooth Rock mail striple Cochrane South Porcupi **Timmins**

trains at the station, while Daniel Johnson, the new postmaster, also held the contract to haul the mail to and from Porcupine, a distance of 35 miles. Johnson continued this route until December 21, 1910, at which time the railroad reached Porcupine.

The significance of McDougall Chute, soon to become Matheson Station, declined considerably once the Porcupine area achieved its own postal services and post offices. The 1912 Report of the Postmaster General illustrates that point in its revenue

report for Matheson Station, which declares gross revenue of \$986.61 for the year ending March 31, 1912. On the other hand, Porcupine showed gross revenue of \$5,846.76 – not bad for an office that started out in a tent just two years earlier.

On September 1, 1911, McDougall Chute was renamed Matheson Station. Daniel Johnson continued as postmaster until being dismissed for political partisanship on February 27, 1912.

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Postal Beginnings at St. Andrews, Quebec

Cimon Morin



Figure 1. View of St. Andrews from Abbott's Hill, Lower Canada, October 1844 [Regional Museum of Argenteuil]

The post office at St. Andrews opened on June 15, 1819¹ following the establishment by Philemon Wright of the postal route in the Outaouais linking Montreal and Hull. Helped by Thomas Peck, who already had the contract for carrying the mails between Montreal and Quebec, a contract was signed for carrying the mail from the Outaouais to Lachenaye to meet the mail stage from Quebec to Montreal. The post offices at St. Eustache, Grenville, and Hull were opened on the same date.

The St. Andrews post office took the name of the village right from the start. An office called St. Andrews was opened in 1830 in the Cornwall District in Upper

Canada. These two offices were the frequent source of confusion, and the designation L.C. and U.C. was used of necessity in order to distinguish between them. In 1842 St. Andrews (L.C.) became St. Andrews, Ottawa because it was in the Ottawa Postal District. Finally, in 1849, it was decided to name these two offices St. Andrews East in Canada East (Quebec) and St. Andrews West in Canada West (Ontario).

Name of office	Period		
St. Andrews	1819 06 15 to 1842		
St. Andrews, Ottawa	1842 to 1849		
St. Andrews East	1849 to 1978		

Guy Richards

Guy Richards was born in Norwich, Connecticut on November 8, 1787. He moved to Montreal as a young man and became a merchant, hoping to sell textiles to the army during the War of 1812, but he went bankrupt when the war ended suddenly. He became acquainted with a Miss Graham who was visiting Montreal from Massachusetts, and they married. They



Figure 2. Signature of postmaster Guy Richards [LAC, MG24-D8, vol. 7, p. 2009]

moved to St. Andrews, where he bought the house belonging to Theodore Davis, which he enlarged and used for his business, notably as a lumber dealer. In 1827 he moved to a brick-clad store (currently occupied by M. La Fond?). He died on September 21, 1839².

Postmaster	Period		
Guy Richards	June 15, 1879 to sometime between April 5, 1830 and April 5, 1831		
William Grimes Blanchard	Sometime between April 5, 1830 and April 5, 1831 to March 27, 1847		
Henry Frederick Augustus McAr- thur	March 27, 1847 to 1853		



Figure 3. Letter from postmaster Guy Richards dated May 1, 1820, sent under his free frank and initialed G.R., to Charles Symmes in Hull [LAC, MG24-D8, vol. 6, no. 138]

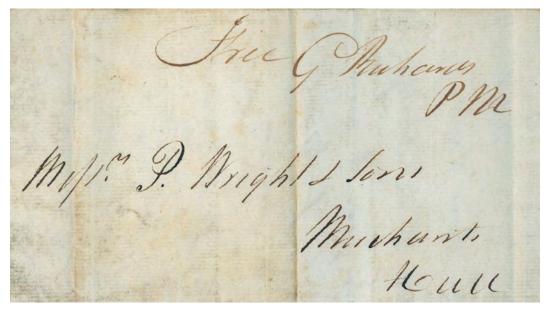


Figure 4. Letter from postmaster Guy Richards dated on January 6, 1824 sent under his free frank signed G. Richards PM [LAC, MG24-D8, vol. 12, no. 443]

Early St. Andrews postal markings						
Imareus 25th Febry. 24	DR 19 Octor	REWS.ON Relept A 2 3/43 E 45:LC-				
1829	1830-1842	1843-1848				
LAC, MG24-D8, vol. 18, no. 729	LAC, Walker, 1992-311	Campbell, p. 145				
S 1848 W A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A	MY22 E 0 1849 0	PHID				
1847-1849	1849-1866	1843-1849				
Unknown source	Proof (1)	LAC, RG4-C1, vol. 100, no. 1190				

¹ With indicia "A" or "I" or nothing under the year.



Figure 5. Letter from H. Gates sent free of postage to P. Wright (for Ruggles Wright, Hull postmaster). The letter has a manuscript mark "St. Andrews 25^{th} February 29" and a manuscript "Free" [LAC, MG24-D8, vol. 18, no. 729]

William Grimes Blanchard

MY VI3 Cancherd PM

Figure 7. Signature of postmaster W. G. Blanchard [LAC, RG4-B52, vol. 3, pt 1, no. 44]

For the Commission of Enquiry into the Post Office³, W. G. Blanchard stated that his net salary for the year ending in July 1840

had been £14 10d, which is to say 20% of the revenues received at his office, and that he also had a clerk who worked for his business. He stated that he sent and received about 200 free-franked letters in addition to 500 newspapers per year, and that the post office was located in his residence.

W. G. Blanchard was Justice of the Peace at St. Andrews. He was already at an advanced age when he decided to leave his



Figure 6. The earliest known letter from St. Andrews bearing the small serifed broken-circle handstamp (1829 order) dated March 19, 1830 [Bruce Field collection]



Figure 8. Letter from postmaster W. G. Blanchard dated on March 1, 1841, sent under free frank and struck with the small 1829-type broken circle in black ink [LAC, RG4-B52, vol. 3, pt 1, no. 44]

duties as postmaster, wishing to establish himself in the United States as soon as possible; this was the reason for his request for leave addressed to T. A. Stayner in March of 1847. He informed Stayner that his sonin-law Frederick McArthur had been his assistant for the preceding four or five years, and recommended him as his replacement. Furthermore, William Henry Scott, (1799-1851), Deputy for Deux-Montagnes and provincial Member of Parliament, wrote a letter in support of McArthur⁴.

Henry Frederick Augustus McArthur

Despite the recommendations of Blanchard and Deputy Scott, several criticisms were voiced by village inhabitants concerning this possible nomination. With the support of Daniel de Hertel, County Registrar, they favoured the nomination of Thomas Meikle, a St. Andrews merchant. Thomas Meikle was born in Glasgow and had emigrated several years previously. It was he who became St. Andrews' postmaster in 1853; he and his father perished in the conflagration of the steamboat *Montreal* on June 26, 1857. In 1847, however, Deputy Scott had precedence over Daniel de Hertel, and the Provincial Secretary recommended H. F. A. McArthur as postmaster. The nomination was effective from March 18, 1848 with the approval of the British Postmaster General⁵. It can however be inferred that he was in office from March 27, 1847, since he had assisted his father-in-law in these duties for several years. At that time the postmaster's salary was £25 per annum.

AT WM Askens

Figure 10. Signature of postmaster H.F.A. McArthur [LAC, RG4-C1, vol. 195, report 1944]

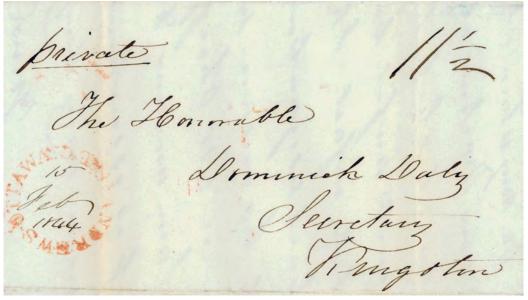


Figure 9. Letter mailed at St. Andrews dated on February 15, 1844 using the serifed double broken circle reading $S^TANDREWS-OTTAWA / L.C.$ [LAC, RG4-C1, vol. 95, no. 1126]



Figure 11. Letter from St. Andrews East dated on August 6, 1849 using the sans-serif double broken circle S^T ANDREWS / C.E [LAC, RG4-C1, vol. 262, no. 3110]

St. Andrews - Average number of letters received per week ⁶								
1842	1843	1844	1845	1846	1847	1848	Moyenne	
49	58	57	56	58	60	81	60	

1 LAC, MG44B, vol. 2, p. 201; vol. 3, p. 610. 2 Thomas, Cyrus, *History of the County of Argenteuil*, *Que. From the Earliest Settlement to the Present*, Lachute, Argenteuil Historical Association,

1981.

3 LAC, RG4-B52, vol. 3, pt 1, nos 36 & 44.

4 LAC, RG4-C1, vol. 183, Report 762.

5 LAC, MG44B, vol. 54, pp 251-252.

6 LAC, MG44B. Various statistical reports found in vols 14 (1842) to 58 (1848).



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Postal History of the Turkey Track, Alberta

Dale Speirs

Continued from Issue 164

Burdett

The Burdett railroad siding was named after Georgina, the Baroness Burdett-Coutts, who was one of the major investors in the Turkey Track. Enough settlers collected around the siding such that on March 16, 1908, a post office could be opened. Harold O'Connor was the first postmaster but he didn't stay long and moved out of the district before the year was over, relinquishing his appointment on December 19th of that year.

Alexander Hamilton took over and became a long-serving postmaster until October 1931. He homesteaded nearby but as soon as he had proven his claim (gotten title by cultivating the land and building a house and barn) he rented it out and moved into town to work his trade as a blacksmith. The post office was in a two-storey building and he and his family lived above it. He is seen in Figure 17, and the post office in Figure 18 as it looked in 1911, the white building in the foreground. A proof strike of one of the postmarks he used is shown in Figure 19.

Hamilton's wife Sarah and later his daughter Jean were the postal clerks. They basically ran the post office because Alexander was the village Mayor for eighteen years and a school trustee in addition to operating his smithy. The post office burned down in 1928 but another building was moved in to replace it¹³.

Harry James Washford, who kept the local hotel, took over briefly as postmaster but resigned in 1933 due to overwork. He was

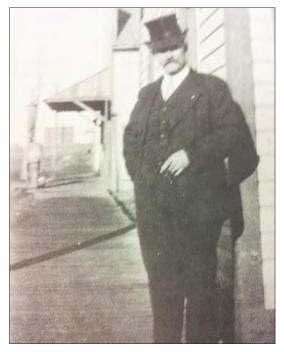


Figure 17. Alex Hamilton.

succeeded by Frank W. Bertram who stayed until 1944. He had homesteaded south of Burdett in Sheep Tail Coulee before taking on the post office. The post office burned down again in late 1943 and this probably contributed to his leaving. He then moved to British Columbia where he worked in the navy dockyards.

Next up was Sidney Alfred Palmer, born and raised on a homestead in nearby Grassy Lake. He served during WW2 in the tank corps. After being invalided, he returned home and became postmaster. He also farmed on the old family homestead, did carpentry and renovations, and worked



Figure 18. Burdett post office (the white building) in 1911



Figure 19. Proof of the Burdett CDS.

as a mechanic. He gave up the post office in 1952 due to poor health. After a brief place-holder, Mrs. Rachel J. Wilson became post-master. She and her first husband farmed near the village. When he died in September 1951, Rachel turned the farm over to her son and moved into the village to take over the post office. She subsequently remarried and gave up her position in 1953.

Her successor was Dorothy Lee Dyer, who was to serve until retirement in 1976. She managed to raise four children while running the post office, while her husband worked for the Alberta Wheat Pool. Helen Sinclair then took over, but Canada Post privacy rules cut in after this. Sometime during the last few decades the post office moved into the village hall. Figure 20 shows the post office in 1989, still in the same location as of 2014 with only a new sign. Betty Speirs can be seen dropping a letter into a mail slot that was created by cutting out part of the windowsill; the slot was still the same in 2014. Figure 21 shows Burdett's pictorial postmark, advertising its only claim to fame, the first use of centre-pivot irrigation in Canada.

Grassy Lake

The Grassy Lake post office name is a translation of the Siksika name for the area, a reference to the grasslands that cover the



Figure 20. Photo of the Burdett post office, 1989.



Figure 21. Pictorial postmark used at Burdett in 2004.

district. Adam Galger opened the post office on August 15, 1902 in the CPR shack at the siding where he was the section man for the railway. He stayed until 1906, after which he was replaced by Harry Austin Briggs. In those days, post offices were political patronage positions. After the Tories came to power in 1911, Briggs was bumped out of office on June 25, 1912, and replaced by Parker Carruthers, who voted the right way.

Carruthers had come out west in 1903 as a CPR telegrapher for the CPR siding at Grassy Lake. In 1908 he took up a homestead nearby, where he lived until shortly before his death in 1955. He served until 1916 as postmaster but the workload was too much because of other businesses and he resigned. William Salvage then became postmaster until 1929, when death took him. Figure 22 is a proof strike of a broken circle postmark used during Salvage's tenure.

Hugh J. Scott briefly served as post master until 1931 when he was removed from office due to political partisanship. This seems rather late for federal fiddling such as occurred en masse across Canada after the 1911 election. The Social Credit party was



Figure 22. Proof strike (1924) of a Grassy Lake broken circle.

rising during the Great Depression or it may have been that Scott took politics too seriously and offended someone by meddling in the mails. Scott had homesteaded in the area in 1912. Between the two world wars he also worked as a real estate agent¹³.

Sylvester Smeltzer, a local schoolteacher and homesteader, took over the post office until 1932. Between the workload of all his occupations and poor health, he did not stay long in the job; he died in 1934. Alexander

(Sandy) McPhee was the longest serving postmaster, taking over from Smeltzer and staying until 1964, when he retired owing to old age. He had come out west in 1902, farmed near Bow Island, worked at Taber, and then finally moved to Grassy Lake in 1928. There he had a pool hall and barber shop, while his wife Mabel owned a general store in her own right. He was postmaster but the post office was in her store¹⁴.

After they retired, Clarence Friesen became postmaster. Figure 23 is a photo of the store/post office in 1989. An addition was built onto the end sometime later and this entrance became the middle part of the wall. The post office remained in the general store but was reclassified to a postal outlet on September 26, 1991, when Canada Post began its purge of rural offices. Ownership



Figure 23. Grassy Lake post office in 1989.

of the store and post office has changed hands several times since then, but as of 2014 it was still surviving. Much of Grassy Lake is vacant lots but there are enough villagers to keep a few local businesses going. The store/post office also has the advantage of being on Highway 3, which runs through the centre of the hamlet alongside the railroad track.

Purple Springs

The place name Purple Springs comes from a nearby spring that is surrounded in season by masses of blooming purple vetch, a native wildflower. C.E. Whitney



Figure 24. First Purple Springs postmark.

opened the post office on May 15, 1909, in his general store. Figure 24 shows the proof strike of the first postmark. Whitney vacated the postmastership in 1913 and it went to Miss Sara McMillan until 1916. Mrs. Eva Hudson was the next postmaster, serving until 1920 when the store was sold. Thereafter the store/post office seemed to change hands about once a decade, Frank Raymond Wright being the postmaster until 1930, followed by George Hamilton Savage until 1943. From there the post office moved to a lumber yard owned by David William Treece, who kept it until 1947, when it then moved back to the store 14.

The store/post office regularly changed hands over the next few decades as the village declined into a hamlet and the population shrank. The post office closed permanently on July 31, 1986, but was revived as a postal outlet on May 29, 1990 in a store. Again there was a steady turnover of store owners and postal station contractors. The postal outlet closed sometime in the early 2000s. Like the rest of the Turkey Track, drought was an ongoing problem and the hamlet dwindled, especially after the construction of Highway 3 made the bigger town of Taber a short drive away and a better place to do one's shopping. There are about 10 houses left. It didn't help that while one street of the hamlet just barely touches the highway at a corner, the rest of the hamlet angles away from the highway with no accessible business frontage to attract travelers.

Taber

There are several explanations for the name Taber, all but one requiring a spelling error. It supposedly honours a missionary named Tabor somewhere in the Middle East, no first name ever given, or Mount Tabor in northern Israel. The most logical name is that it comes from "tabernacle", especially when compared with nearby Elcan (see below). This area is part of the Mormon diaspora from Utah, and still prospers as a town based on irrigated vegetable farming and processing.

The Taber townsite was the homestead of James S. Hull, who arrived in 1903 from Utah. He and his brothers took up claims around a railroad siding known as Tank 77. Hull opened up a general store to supply railway section men and homesteaders. Settlers were pouring in and Hull soon built a 10-room hotel. He prospered and became the first postmaster on August 1, 1904. Figure 25 shows him about this time, looking a rather dashing young man. Despite being of great wealth in a growing town with a bright future, he became homesick for Utah



Figure 25. Taber postmaster James Hull.

and left Alberta for good in 1906. Figure 26 shows the post office just before he left. It is the second building from the right, with a curved sign that reads "Post Office", although it may not be legible in print. The Taber Trading building at right is where the post office moved to after Hull left.

After a brief placeholder came and went, Hibbert Parsons Munro, also known as Herbert, took over as postmaster in 1907 and held the position until his death on August 3, 1929. He and his wife Mabel Leslie Munro (her maiden name by coincidence) came out west from Ontario via a short stay in Manitoba. He was an accountant and she taught school. Hibbert originally worked parttime as postmaster with a counter in the Taber Trading Co. store where he was the bookkeeper. A fire destroyed the building and its contents in 1909. In the aftermath, Canadian Post Office officials decided that



Figure 26. Taber post office in 1906.



Figure 27. Taber post office in 1989.

mail volumes were heavy enough to justify a full-time postmaster and a purpose-built building, so Hibbert took the job full time.

Taber was a major distribution point for the surrounding rural post offices, and being on the railroad created extra business. In 1929, Hibbert went back east to visit his brother and suddenly died there. His widow Mabel was given preference as the new postmaster since she had six children to support. She stayed until 1944, when she retired and was replaced by her son Donald Leslie Munro. He served until 1947, completing four decades of service by the same family¹⁴.

The postmastership passed on to John Middleton Kinniburgh. He was born in Tennessee of Scottish parents who then moved to Taber in 1899 along with numerous other Kinniburghs. He grew up on a homestead near Taber. John served until 1951 and was followed by two short-time postmasters. N.M. Loree took over as postmaster on August 21, 1952, and put in a couple of decades,

retiring in 1971. During his tenure, the post office moved into a new building in 1955, where it still is today. Figure 27 shows the building as it was in 1989, with Betty Speirs standing in front. The covers she obtained had the Klussendorf cancel seen in Figure 28.

L.C. Layton took over as postmaster but at this stage privacy laws kick in. He has been succeeded by several postmasters. The main post office was supplemented when a retail outlet opened in Value Drugs on April 2, 1990, which by 2014 operated as Johnson's Drugs, although the outlet name is Midtown Taber. Figure 29 shows the postmark. Taber is well established today as a major centre of



Figure 28. Taber Klussendorf cancel.

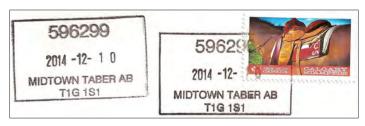


Figure 29. Midtown Taber postmark.

irrigation farming and petroleum servicing.

Elcan

This locality was about 2 km north of the railway track at Barnwell and the only one not on a siding. The name is the last five letters of "tabernacle" spelled backwards. Why the Mormons didn't just use "Nacle" is puzzling as it would have made a much better fit with nearby Taber. Elcan was also known as Coal City but never had a post office under that name. The village's economy was originally based on numerous small coal mines in the area. After World War One. major coal mines went into full production around Drumheller and Lethbridge. Elcan could not compete and gradually its mines shut down, killing the settlement^{14,15}. Had it been on the railroad, it might well have survived, if only as a hamlet, but Barnwell usurped it. It also had the disadvantage of being halfway between Taber and Barnwell, and good roads made it easier to shop in either of those towns.

Elijah Williams was an Englishman who came out west in 1907. He opened a general store at Elcan and was the first postmaster from April 1, 1910 until 1916. The mail was received via Barnwell. Figure 30 shows the proof strike of the first postmark.

Williams then moved to Barnwell, where he ran a general store and eventually their post office. David A. Bell was the second postmaster until the post office permanently



Figure 30. Elcan broken circle proof, 1910.

closed on September 30, 1924, and became a rural route out of Barnwell. The Elcan townsite was a ghost town by then. Williams returned a few years later, bought up the entire townsite, demolished most of the buildings, and converted the location into a farmstead. So died Elcan.

Barnwell

This siding was originally named Woodpecker after an island in the Oldman River north of it, which was a translation of the Siksika name for the many such birds on the island. The area was colonized by the Mormon diaspora out of Utah and is today mostly irrigation farming. The Mormon settlers renamed it Bountiful Ditch for a year because of the success of their first irrigation project, but when the post office opened it was named after Richard Barnwell, a CPR agent on the Turkey Track.

James Francis Johnson Sr was the first postmaster of Barnwell, opening the post office on April 1, 1909 in his general store. He and his brothers had arrived in the district from Utah in 1902 and claimed adjacent homesteads. Figure 31 shows the proof strike of the first postmark. He gave up the post office in 1910 due to pressures of his businesses, farming, and with his wife raising eighteen children. On top of that, the Johnsons moved back and forth each year between Barnwell and Provo, Utah. 15 He must have been a busy man indeed!

The next postmaster was Harry C. Beckner, who had the post office in his general store. He resigned in 1917 when he and his wife moved to Carstairs and bought a store



Figure 31. Proof of the first Barnwell postmark.

with better prospects. Three postmasters came and went over the next few years, including Elijah Williams from Elcan, before Donald Yuill took over the post office on June 23, 1923.

Yuill was a Scotsman who arrived in the Taber area in 1910. He worked briefly in the Elcan coal mines, then leased the Vickery general store and became postmaster. Figure 32 shows him standing in front of his store/ post office in 1925. The post office, although located in the store, was a separate operation. When Vickery sold the store in 1939, Yuill moved the post office into a building across from the CPR station. He retired in 1948 and was succeeded by his son John Petrie Yuill, who had been the postal clerk for his father. John gave up the post office in 1952 when he bought a ranch north of Brooks.

Reed Wesley Jensen then took over the post office full-time and put in two decades.



Figure 32. Donald Yuill at Barnwell, 1925.

He was succeeded in 1974 by his daughter Mrs. Verla Edwards. She only stayed a few months and on May 2, 1974, her sister-in-law Mrs. Shirley Clements took over. She was still postmaster until the late 1980s when the local history books cut off, and privacy laws block any further listings by Canada Post. Sometime during the tenure of the Jensen family the post office moved into the building it is still in today. Figure 33 shows Betty Speirs at the Branwell post office in 1989. The building has since been painted white but otherwise looks the same as of 2014. Figure 34 is a recent postmark of Barnwell.

Chin

The post office name comes from a nearby butte said to look like a chin, although the Siksika name translates as "beard". William



Figure 33. The Barnwell post office in 1989.



Figure 34. A recent Barnwell postmark.

H. Lust and his family came from Minnesota. In addition to homesteading, he built a store at the townsite and opened the post office on July 15, 1910. Figure 35 shows the proof strike of the first postmark. Lust didn't stay long as a merchant, selling the store and post office to John Haibeck and going back to farming full-time. Haibeck became post-

master on June 1, 1911, and was the longest serving, staying until May 9, 1944.

Charles Doram then bought the store and post office in partnership with his brother William, with Charlie taking the postmastership. The brothers had a chance to buy



Figure 35. Proof of the first Chin postmark.

a hotel in Vauxhall, about 40 km north of Taber. They sold the store to Maurice Judd Couillard, who became postmaster in 1949. He didn't last long and in 1950 resigned the postmastership and sold the store¹⁶.

Chin was declining by this time, caught between the two bigger towns of Barnwell and Coaldale, which took away much of the trade as good roads were built through the district, particularly Highway 3. There were seven more postmasters who came and went in less than a decade before the post office permanently closed on April 12, 1960. The official reason was "Closed owing to the lack of a postmaster". Chin is in the heart of large-scale irrigation farms. Highway 3 bypassed it a short distance to the south of the Turkey Track but the hamlet is on the north side of the track on a side road where few have a reason to travel. There were about a dozen houses and several small businesses and warehouses as of 2014.

Coaldale

The post office name is self-evident and refers to the primary industry of the area. The village was founded by Harry A. Suggitt, who was also the first postmaster. He was an Englishman who first settled in Iowa and then organized a colonization company for what became the Coaldale district. The main emphasis was on irrigation and sheep. Suggitt was postmaster only briefly, from the post office opening on September 1, 1907 until his resignation on April 28, 1908, as he had too many businesses plus his homestead to look after. He suffered financial losses after WW1 and in 1925 left the area¹⁶.

After a brief placeholder came and went, Fred J. Colaren took over the post office on July 21, 1910, when he bought the general store. He stayed until 1917, selling out to the Baldry family. Robert J. Baldry was the next postmaster until 1935. By that time he was wearing many hats as a school trustee, Justice of the Peace, and Mayor of Coaldale. The Baldry family kept running the store but R.J.'s son, Robert Ernest (Bob) took over the post office as a separate operation. He had previously worked in the Lethbridge post office before WW1 and later as a postal clerk for his father. Bob died suddenly on January 30, 1952, and was temporarily replaced by his clerk Miss Ellen Riley. Figure

36 shows a batch of proof strikes of duplex postmarks used by the Coaldale office.

Elmer John Wiens took over as postmaster. He had served in WW2 and then became the Alberta Wheat Pool agent for the area. His service at the Coaldale post office ended



Figure 36. Duplex postmarks used at Coaldale.

in 1966 when he transferred to the Lethbridge post office a short drive west. John Henry Clarke took over, then Ferdinand F. Glass from 1972, at which point Canada Post records cut off due to privacy laws. Sometime during the late 1960s or 1970s, the post office moved into a new building. Figure 37 shows the building in 1988. The only difference I could see in 2014 was that the roof trim is now painted blue and red in Canada Post colours instead of brown, with new signage. Figure 38 is the pictorial cancel still in use, which refers to a local bird sanctu-

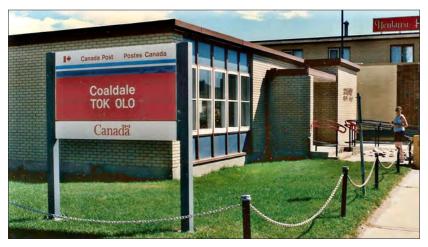


Figure 37. Coaldale post office in 1988.



Figure 38. Pictorial postmark used in Coaldale in 2005.

ary. Coaldale is surviving and with modern paved highways is close enough to the big city of Lethbridge to be considered a suburb.

Epilogue

As a rough rule, the advent of a paved highway paralleling the Turkey Track thinned out the crop of post offices the way an irrigation farmer thins his crop so that the larger spacing allows the remaining plants to grow. The surviving post offices are spaced far enough from each other to allow the villages or towns to survive. Without a doubt, the main economic engine of the Turkey Track today is centre-pivot irrigation, which provides a better return on investment than dryland wheat or ranching. Had the Mormons not colonized the area with irrigation farms, the land would be like the southeastern corner of Alberta, almost completely uninhabited.

^{13.} Various authors (1981) *Burdett Prairie Trails*. Burdett History Book Committee, Alberta. Pages 12–13, 117, 159–160, 186–187, 240–241, 416–417, 453, 465–466, 542, 575.

^{14.} Various authors (1977) *From Tank 77 to Taber Today*. Taber Historical Committee, Alberta. Pages 197–200, 243, 287–288, 301–304, 474–475, 521–527.

^{15.} Various authors (1985) *Our People in a Land of Green and Gold*. Barnwell-Cranford History Book Committee, Alberta. Pages 44–50, 247, 281–283, 296–297, 400–402, 421–422, 639–642.

^{16.} Various authors (1983) *Coaldale: Gem of the West.* Coaldale Historical Society. Pages 391–396, 425–426, 453, 875–877, 939–940.

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In this and the following issues of the Journal we will be looking at the Acknowledgement of Receipt Forms and how they are to be handled by postal employees. These were the rules as they were followed in 1948 by the Post Office Department of Canada.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT FORMS

- 304. **Use of Acknowledgement of Receipt Forms.** An Acknowledgement of Receipt Form (39B), commonly called an A.R. form, is used for the purpose of proving the actual delivery of a registered article.
- 305. **When Issued at Time of Mailing.** When an A.R. form is issued at time of mailing of a registered article the charge is 10 cents and the procedure to be followed is:
- (a) the sender of the registered article is to be requested to fill in on the right-hand half of the A.R. form 39B the address to which the form is to be returned (or if more convenient this may be done by the Postmaster);
- (b) a 10 cent postage stamp is to be affixed to form 39B and cancelled with a legible impression of the office date stamp;
- (c) registration receipt (form 50B) is to be stamped "A.R.";
- (d) the letters "A.R." are to be written opposite the entry in the registration record book;
- (e) the address side of the registered article is to be stamped "A.R.";
 - (f) the particulars called for on left-hand

- half of form 39B are to be filled in by the Postmaster:
- (g) form 39B is to be securely fastened to the registered article and despatched with it; and
- (h) the letters "A.R." are to be written in the second column of the registered letter bill opposite the entry of the registered article.
- 306. When Issued Subsequent to Despatch to Places in Canada or the United States the charge is 20 cents and the procedure to be followed is:
- (a) the sender of the registered article is to be requested to produce his registration receipt (form 50B);
- (b) he is then to be given form 39B to fill in on the right-hand half of the address to which the form is to be returned (or if more convenient this may be done by the Postmaster);
- (c) a 20 cent postage stamp is to be affixed to form 39B and cancelled with a legible impression of the office date stamp;
- (d) the letters "A.R." and the date on which the A.R. form is being issued are to be written on the registration receipt (form 50B) which is then to be given to the sender;
- (e) the registration record is to be searched to ascertain when the article was despatched, and the letters "A.R." together with the date on which the A.R. form is issued written opposite the entry in the book;
- (f) the particulars (including the full address of the registered article) called for on the left-hand half of form 39B are to be filled in by the Postmaster; and
- (g) a memorandum setting forth particulars of dispatch of the registered article is to be attached to form 39B which is then to

be forwarded under cover by ordinary mail direct to the office of address for completion.

- 307. When Issued Subsequent to Despatch to Great Britain or Other Countries (except the United States) a copy of the full address of the registered article in block letters is to be obtained from the sender and attached to A.R. form 39B which is to be forwarded under cover to the District Inspector by ordinary mail. Otherwise the procedure to be followed is the same as given in subclauses (a) to (f) of section 306.
- 308. **Treatment at Office of Delivery. –** When an A.R. form originating in Canada or elsewhere is received with the registered article to which it relates, the procedure outlined below is to be followed:
- (a) the letters "A.R." are to be placed opposite the corresponding entry in the registration record book;
- (b) at the time of delivery of the registered article the date of delivery is to be filled in on the A.R. form and the signature of the addressee, or his recognized representative obtained in the space provided, in addition to obtaining his signature on the registration record book;
- (c) if delivery is made to the recognized representative of the addressee, both the addressee's name and the signature of his representative must be written on the A.R. form;
- (d) the Postmaster will date stamp and sign the A.R. form in the spaces provided and promptly return it to the sender by ordinary mail; and
- (e) a note is to be made in the registration record book that the A.R. form has been returned and the date of return to the sender, thus: "Returned (and the date)".
- 309. A.R. Forms Originating in Canada or the United States Received Subsequent to Delivery are treated as follows:

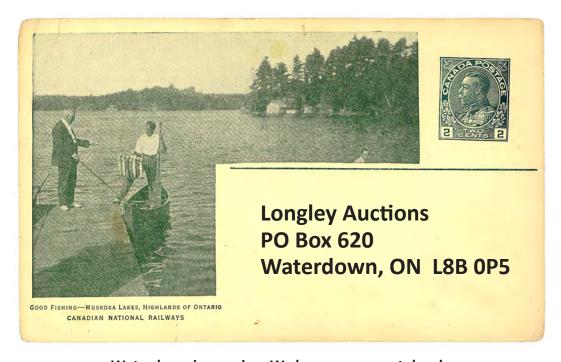
- (a) the registration record book is searched to ascertain date of delivery and who signed for the registered article to which the A.R. form relates;
- (b) the letters "A.R." and date are placed opposite the entry in the registration record;
- (c) the date of delivery is filled in on A.R. form;
- (d) the entry and signature for the registered article are shown to the addressee (or his recognized representative) the next time he calls at the post office, and he is required to sign the A.R. form;
- (e) if the delivery had been made to the recognized representative of the addressee, both the addressee's name and the signature of his representative must be written on the A.R. form;
- (f) the A.R. form is then date stamped and signed by the Postmaster and promptly returned to the sender by ordinary mail; and
- (g) a note is then made in the registration record as to the date of return of the A.R. form, thus "Returned (and the date)".
- 310. A.R. Forms from Great Britain and Other Countries Received Subsequent to Delivery. If an A.R. form issued in Great Britain or any other country (except the United States) subsequent to the despatch of the relative registered article is received direct from the country of origin it is to be completed see sub-sections (a) to (e) section 309 and returned direct to the country of origin by ordinary mail, the relative enquiry form attached thereto being discarded.

If the Postmaster has no record of the registered article and the addressee denies receipt, the A.R. form and attached enquiry form are to be forwarded to the District Inspector.

If such A.R. forms are received through the District Inspector they are to be completed and returned to that officer.

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As you may have heard, we'll be holding the Inaugural Postal History Society of Canada Symposium this summer at the Sheraton Hamilton Hotel from July 20-23. We'd like to take this opportunity to give you a sneak preview of what's in store, and as space at many of the events will be limited, offer you an opportunity for early registration. You'll find Symposium registration forms and exhibitor application forms on our website at: http://www.postalhistorycanada.net/php/ Symposium/.which may be filled in electronically. Printed forms are included with this issue of the *Journal*.

Overview* Thursday, July 20

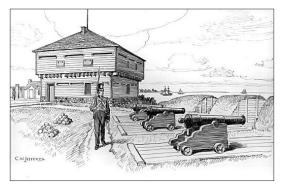
The Symposium kicks off with a tour at the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation - including The Harry Sutherland Philatelic Library and a demo of the VSC 6000 Video Spectral Comparator, an interesting "high-tech" tool used in the process of expertising stamps and covers. All the events on the first day



VSC 6000 Video Spectral Comparator at the Greene Foundation.

This Summer July 20-23, 2017

take place in Toronto and there will be optional transportation by coach available from the Sheraton Hamilton Hotel.



In the afternoon, we'll head out to *Old* Fort York, where Charles Livermore will lead a discussion on the Postal History of York, as Toronto was originally known. Following Charles' presentation, we'll take a guided tour of the fort and then sit down for a catered dinner. Following the meal, David Hobden will give a talk on the Mails and *Dispatches of the War of 1812.*

Friday, July 21

On Friday, we'll start the day at the Sheraton with a presentation on the Postal History of the Western District by Rob Leigh. We'll then carpool to the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum where we will enjoy a meal together followed by a tour of the museum. In the afternoon, Dr. Robert Galway will speak to us about The Development of Air Transport in Canada and the Evolution of Pioneer Airmail: The First Decade (1919-1928).



Lancaster MkX at the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum.

Saturday, July 22

The Exhibition and Bourse opens Saturday Morning at 10 AM. There will be 15 dealers and a 120-frame National Level Exhibition featuring BNA Postal History exclusively – including military, transportation and postal stationery postal histories. Both multi-frame and single-frame exhibits may be entered.

After lunch, Gray Scrimgeour will give a talk on the Postal History of the Lower Mainland of British Columbia followed by Gary Steele's presentation on Post Office Departmental Postal Markings.

In the evening, we'll gather onboard the HMCS Haida for an Awards Banquet BBQ.

Sunday, July 23

The Exhibition and Bourse continue on this, the final day of the Symposium. The day starts out with the PHSC Annual General Meeting at 8:30. At 10:30 Ed Kroft will give a talk on Canada-Palestine Postal History: 1890-1948.

The HMCS Haida, "Fightingest Ship in the Royal Canadian Navy" and veteran of the D-Day landings in Normandy

A Closer Look

Let's meet the presenters and find out a little more about their presentations.

Charles Livermore: *Toronto – a Philatelic Adventure* Thursday, July 20, 3:30 PM

Whether it's post offices, perfins, permits, RPOs, legislative marks, military philately etc. – you can't collect it all from all of Canada, but you can collect a lot of it by limiting their attachment to Toronto. But if you think it's easy or less



expensive – think of Toronto as an iceberg – most of what is collectible isn't even seen from the surface. At times I feel a bit like the Titanic. Let me tell you some stories that keep me collecting Toronto...





David Hobden: Toronto - Mails and Dis*patches of the War of 1812* Thursday, July 20: 8:00 pm



David's presentation will review both the civil postal and military dispatch systems of Canada during the War of 1812, and the sometimes tenuous relationship between the

two. Especially noted will be the dispatch systems of Upper Canada west of York, Lower Canada south of Montreal and the varied methods of handling both military and civilian mails during the conflict.

The handling of American mails during periods of occupation of the Canadas, and of British mails during periods of occupation of the USA will also be discussed.



Rob Leigh: The Development of Postal Services in the Western District of Upper Canada Friday, July 21: 10:00 am



When Upper Canada was created in 1792, it was divided into a number of districts, with the lines being redrawn in 1800. The Western District comprised the area that became known as Essex, Kent and Lambton counties.

The District was strategically important in its location relative to the upper Great Lakes and the American frontier. I will trace the development of postal services in these farthest reaches of Upper Canada from its beginning to its dissolution around 1850. This period saw slow expansion, from its early settlements along the Detroit River (principally Sandwich and Amherstburgh), to development along the Talbot Road, the settlements along the Lake Erie shore and the Thames River, to the later settlements along the St. Clair River. With these settlements came demands for reliable com-



munications, and I will show examples of the postal markings used at each of the established post offices.

Dr. Robert Galway: The Development of Air Transport in Canada and the Evolution of Pioneer Airmail: The First Decade (1919-1928) Friday, July 21: 4:00 pm



Dr.Galway (L) with hand on spinner, May 2016

Dr. Galway will present an overview of the history of Canadian Aviation with a focus on the pivotal events that contributed to the development of Air Transport in Canada in the first decade following the end of WW 1.

The presentation will include an overview of Semi-Official Air Mail in Canada for that period. However, it will exclude those aviation entities residing in Western Canada.

Specifically included will be an indepth discussion of the pivotal contributions made to the evolution of Air Mail in Canada by:

- Laurentide Air Service
- Northern Air Service
- Jack V. Elliot Airways
- Elliot- Fairchild Air Service & Fairchild Air Transport
- Patricia Airways & Exploration
- Patricia Airways
- Western Canada Airways up to 1928

Gray Scrimgeour: The Lower Mainland of British Columbia Saturday, July 22: 1:30 pm



Mail service for the Lower Mainland of B.C. did not start developing until the Fraser River gold rush in 1858. The Hudson's Bay Company had established a fort at Langley in 1827, and this loca-

tion was provisionally chosen as B.C.'s capital in 1858. In February 1859, Col. Richard Moody selected a new site for the capital, downstream from Fort Langley on the north side of the Fraser River. This became the city of New Westminster. New Westminster became a distribution centre for both the Lower Mainland and the interior mines. In 1869, a post office named Burrard Inlet was opened at a hotel 10 miles from New Westminster. Granville and Moodyville opened nearby as sawmill towns. Granville grew, and became Vancouver (western terminal of the CPR) in 1886. Moodyville became North Vancouver.



Gary Steele: Canada Post Departmental Handstamps Saturday, July 22: 3:30 pm



This presentation covers the handstamps created for various departments within Canada Post. Many of these departments are small with only a few handstamps, however, several hundred can be found for other areas. Over 140 major departments have been identified with subsections for many. All forms of mail matter and many internal documents can contain handstamps related to this study.

Not all departments are included that are basically in all or a majority of Canadian Post Offices. These may include handstamps for Assistant Postmaster, Exhibition, General Delivery, Money Order, Letter Carrier, Postal Station, RPO, Dead Letter Office, Parcel Post, Receiving branch, PO Savings Bank, Customs, and Registration etc.

However, there could be Supervisors, Managers or special sections within some of these departments mentioned that are included.

The period of study starts pre-Confederation and runs to 1975 when a majority become bilingual and used mainly internally rather than on mail matter.

Ed Kroft: Canada-Palestine Postal History: 1890-1948 Sunday, July 23: 10:30 am



This presentation will review the postal relations between Canada and various postal authorities operating in the Holy Land prior to December 31, 1948. Specifically, this presenta-

tion will examine rates, routes and markings pertaining to mail travelling between Canada and the Holy Land. Examples of various types of Canadian and foreign mail will be shown.





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Click RESEARCH on the top menu and then click REFERENCES on the sub-menu. There are numerous official reports and lists to aid your philatelic research. And while you're there, check out the exhibits and articles as well.

PRECANCELS

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Secretary's Report

Scott Traquair



New Applicants

The Membership Committee has approved the following applications for membership in the Society, and unless the Secretary receives valid objections in writing within sixty (60) days of the publica-

tion date of this issue, membership will be granted to the persons listed below in accordance with the constitution, a copy of which is available from the Secretary. If correspondence with the applicant is desired, sealed correspondence may be sent under cover to the Secretary, who will forward it, provided the applicable Canadian postage is included. Members are encouraged to send changes of address or changes in e-mail address, to the Secretary.

1617 Milton Lowe

1618 John Hewson

1619 Ingo Nessel

1620 Aaron Gulliver

1621 John Carey

1622 Richard Cromwell

1623 Graham Searle

1624 Laurent Belisle

1625 Tom Malicki

New Members

The 2 applicants published in *Journal* #165 have been admitted to full membership status, having met all admission requirements.



The Vincent Greene Philatelic Research Found. and the Philatelic Specialists Society have established a Study Group to research the Ontario Inter-University Transit System (IUTS) since its inception in September, 1967.

We need data about the periods of use for postal labels and other markings on items carried by the IUTS (examples above). We wish to purchase or examine any IUTS covers, especially those dated or with enclosures. If you have any relevant items, please contact the Foundation at: library@greenefoundation.ca subject: IUTS





Coming Events

Robert Timberg

Is your Club holding a Show or Event?

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Send details to:
Rob Timberg at timberg@bell.net

May 6-7, 2017 – Ottawa, Ontario ORAPEX National Philatelic Exhibition (N) including Annual General Meeting of the PHSC (Saturday, May 6)

RA Centre, 2451 Riverside Drive, Ottawa Show Hours: Saturday 10 AM - 6 PM; Sunday 10 AM - 4 PM

Information: http://www.ottawaphilatelicsoci-

ety.org/contact-us/

Website: http://www.ottawaphilatelicsociety.

org/shows/ or www.orapex.ca

May 25-28, 2017 – Boucherville, Québec The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada (RPSC) Annual Convention, Royal 2017 Royale (N)

Hotel Mortagne, 1228 rue Nobel, Boucherville

Show Hours: Thursday 4 PM – 9 PM; Friday 10 AM – 5 PM; Saturday 10 AM - 10 PM;

Sunday 8:30 AM - 4 PM

Information: (Pierre Leclerc) solodon@

videotron.ca

Website: http://www.royale2017.com/and http://www.royale2017.com/index.

php?lg=1&c=1

June 3, 2017 – Montréal, Québec Montreal Postcard & Old Paper Show/ Le Salon de la carte postale et du vieux papier de Montréal (R)

Collège Jean-de-Brébeuf, 3200 Côte-Ste-Catherine, Montréal

Show Hours: Saturday 9 AM - 4 PM

Website: http://www.cartespostalesauquebec.

com/activites.aspx

July 20-23, 2017 – Hamilton, Ontario Postal History Society of Canada (PHSC) Symposium 2017 (N)

Sheraton Hamilton, 116 King Street W, Hamilton

Symposium Hours: Thursday 1 PM – 8 PM; Friday 10 AM – 5:30 PM; Saturday 10 AM -5 PM; Sunday 10 AM - 5 PM

Information: http://www.postalhistorycanada.

net/php/Symposium/

Website: http://www.postalhistorycanada.

net/php/Symposium/

September 1-3, 2017 – Calgary, Alberta British North America Philatelic Society (BNAPS) Annual Convention, BNAPEX 2017 / CALTAPEX (N)

Calgary Hyatt Regency, 700 Centre Street SE, Calgary

Show Hours: Friday 9:45 AM – 5 PM; Saturday 9:30 AM - 5 PM; Sunday 10 AM - 3 PM Information: (Hugh Delaney and Murray Bialek, Co-Chairmen) bnapexchairman@bnaps.org

Website: http://bnaps.org/bnapex2017/index.

<u>htm</u>



Coming Events (continued)

October 14-15, 2017 – London, Ontario CANPEX 2016 National Philatelic Exhibition (N)

The Hellenic Community Centre, 133 Southdale Road West, London

Show Hours: Saturday 10 AM - 5 PM; Sun-

day 10 AM - 4 PM

Information: (John Sheffield) info@canpex.ca

Website: http://www.canpex.ca/

October 28-29, 2017 – Mississauga, Ontario

National Postage Stamp and Coin Show

Hilton Mississauga/Meadowvale, 6750 Mississauga Road, Mississauga

Show Hours: Saturday 10 AM - 5 PM; Sunday 10 AM - 4 PM

Information: (Mike Walsh) mwalsh@trajan.ca Website: http://stampandcoinshow.com/



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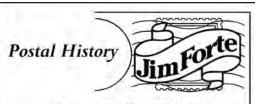
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Our 2017 Convention will be in Grantown-on–Spey in Highland Scotland from October 4^{th} to 8^{th} .

www.canadianpsgb.org.uk



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AT LARGE: Dr. Gray Scrimgeour • EMAIL: gray@scrimgeour.ca

Gus Knierim • EMAIL: jknierim@bmts.com

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Changes of address, undeliverable copies, and subscription orders are to be sent to the Secretary-Treasurer at the above address; return postage guaranteed.

Recent back issues are available from Gus Knierim: 113-140 may be obtained for \$3 each; subsequent issues for \$8.75 each. A one-time example may be purchased by non-members for \$8.75 postpaid.

Membership applications should be mailed to the Secretary.

ARTICLES: Anyone interested in reprinting articles published in the *Journal* must contact the Editor for details. The Publisher, the Society, its Directors, and its Members assume no responsibility for statements made by authors of articles in the *Journal*.

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