

# **JOURNAL OF ALBERTA POSTAL HISTORY**

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# **POSTAL HISTORY OF THE TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILWAY BETWEEN REDCLIFF AND BASSANO, ALBERTA**

by Dale Speirs

The Canadian Pacific Railway built their transcontinental track across what is now southern Alberta during 1883. The railroad is still important today but is now paralleled by the Trans-Canada Highway, which handles all the passenger traffic and non-bulk freight. The natural terrain is semi-desert, thinly populated. However, irrigation projects developed along many sections of the railroad, enabling a much higher population density than otherwise. The trackside settlements of Brooks and Bassano in particular prospered because they were the headwaters of the irrigation systems.

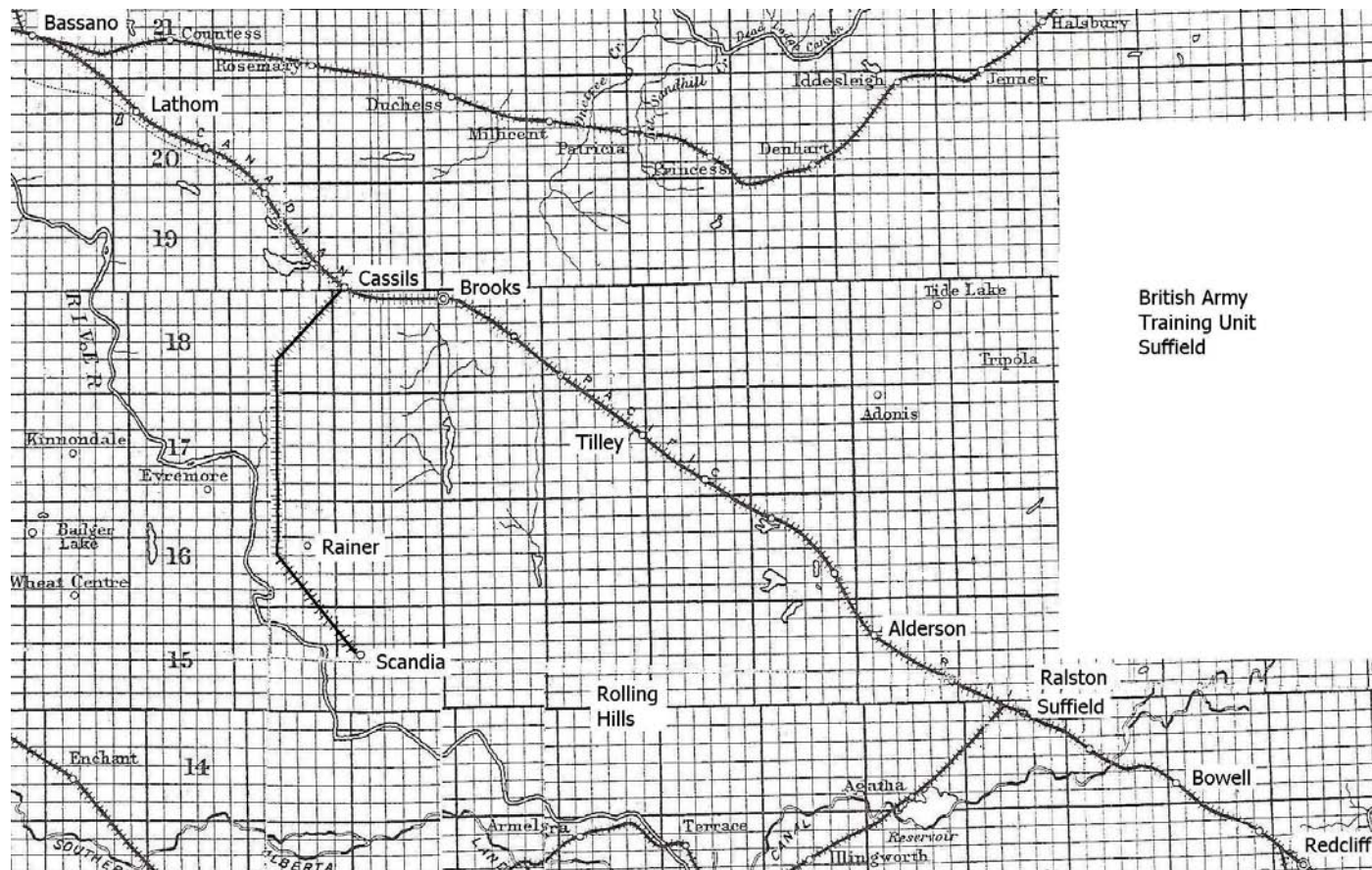
The post offices along the railroad from the Saskatchewan border westward to Redcliff have been documented in previous issues of JAPH. Counting from the border westward, JAPH # 29 discussed Walsh, Irvine, and Pashley. JAPH #15 mentioned Dunmore. JAPH #31 covered Medicine Hat and Redcliff.

Unless otherwise stated, the post office dates and postmaster names come from the National Library of Canada website [1].

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This map shows the pioneer post offices along the transcontinental railroad, modified from a 1919 map. The small squares are sections, a mile on each side. Homesteaders were granted quarter-sections.



Google satellite map of 2023, showing the present-day district. The green areas are irrigation land. The right third is the Suffield base.



## **Bowell.**

Bowell was originally Flag Stop #2 in the railway division, then named after Canadian Prime Minister Sir MacKenzie Bowell. The townsite was platted in 1906 on the homestead of Walter Woolven. The post office was slightly older, opening on 1905-12-01 with Walter's wife Fanny as postmaster. The post office was located in the Woolven general store [3].

The hamlet was a catchpost operation. Trains did not stop unless flagged further up the track. The train would slow down as it passed the Bowell station and the railway mail clerk would throw a mailbag onto the platform. The bag of outgoing mail was snatched off a trackside post by a mechanism on the postal car.

In 1911, the Woolvens separated. Walter went to the coast. Fanny moved up the track to Suffield to start a new store, then later to Alderson. They sold the store and post office to Edward P.M. Butler. For some reason the exact date of transfer is missing from postal records but it was in 1911. The Butler family were originally from England. The drylands were not for them, so Edward resigned on 1921-05-12 and returned to England [3].

On the next page is a view of Bowell's main street during the Butler tenure [3]. The store and post office are at left.





George M. Margach bought the store and post office but left the district soon after. George H. Lemon took over as postmaster on 1923-04-04. A long drought began that would last two decades, which crippled farmers and store trade in the district. Lemon sold out on 1927-04-15 and the family moved away.



George Kerr, an Irish immigrant, bought the store and post office. He stayed until 1939-04-13 before taking his family back to Ireland. At left is a postmark proof strike dated during Kerr's tenure.

Seeley Alonzo Olsen was the next postmaster. His family had homesteaded in the district in 1908. After serving in World War One, he worked for the CPR and then bought the store and post office from Kerr. He retired on 1950-07-13 and moved to Medicine Hat.

The brothers Martin and Eric Waslie bought the store. Martin was postmaster until 1958-04-21. The brothers were bachelors and didn't need much to live on, which was just as well because Bowell was in terminal decline. Redcliff was now only a half-hour drive on the Trans-Canada Highway and Medicine Hat a few more minutes beyond. Martin closed up shop on 1958-04-21 after Eric died.

The final postmaster was Mrs Juanita Wilma Desjarlais. She and her husband Robert bought a small building, an abandoned teacherage, and moved it to the side of their house for conversion into a post office. She was a young mum with four children and another on the way when she resigned on 1961-08-24.

No replacement could be found for such a small post office, so it was permanently closed. Bowell's population had peaked to 50 residents decades before and by the early 1990s was down to a dozen [3]



## Suffield.

This railroad siding was named after Baron Suffield, an English nobleman who invested in the CPR [2]. Homesteading around Suffield began in 1910. The land north of the tracks was and still is desert. So were the lands south of the tracks but they were amenable to irrigation, which affected the distribution of settlers.



Suffield Station post office opened on 1910-06-15 with Mrs K. Roberts as the first postmaster. At upper left is the proof strike of the first postmark.

The village initially prospered because of land speculation by irrigation companies but by 1917 all the projects collapsed, taking down the village as well, which never really recovered [4]. The long drought of the 1920s and 1930s that afflicted southeastern Alberta decreased the population of the district from 2,386 to 645. Between 1913 and 1930 a railroad spur line was built south from Suffield, which helped the economy somewhat. The post offices of that spur line were discussed in JAPH #32.

Roberts gave up the post office on 1917-01-01. There was an interregnum until W.F. Higgins became postmaster on 1918-07-23. He survived by living on a variety of small government jobs simultaneously. When he was postmaster, he was also County Reeve, school board director, telephone exchange operator, and other agent jobs. He died in office on 1928-07-21 and was briefly succeeded by Miss N. Welch.



The next postmaster was John Dougall McCallum, who served from 1928-12-08 until his death on 1932-03-16. His widow Edith Ellen took over until her death on 1938-09-08. During her tenure the post office name was officially shortened to Suffield on 1933-06-01, according to Canada Post records. However the locals had already shortened the name, as evidenced by a 1923 postmark proof strike showing only the name Suffield, seen at lower left.

Edith's daughter Margaret Ellen succeeded her as a McCallum spinster. She married and on 1939-11-30 her name was revised on the postal lists as Mrs Margaret Ellen Scott. She resigned on 1946-06-10. Her husband Donald Roland Scott was the next postmaster until 1948-02-16.

Suffield lost settlers but became the supply depot for the British Army from 1942 to 1947. The desert north of the tracks was expropriated by the Canadian government for military training and was commonly called the British Block. The few remaining settlers were happy to sell out and try their luck elsewhere [4]. Some of the British troops training in the Block spent money in Suffield. The business trade, such as transportation and quartermaster supply, also helped keep Suffield alive.

Robert McKillop McGraw took over as postmaster from Scott. The British Army withdrew in 1947 but the Canadian government recognized the value of the Block and converted it into military experimental research. McGraw resigned the postmastership on 1948-06-10 and passed the position to his wife Viola Lorna. She stayed on as postmaster until 1967-11-16. Her husband went to work in the new village of Ralston a few kilometres north of Suffield, within walking distance. More about that further on.

The final postmaster of Suffield was Mrs Elizabeth Parnell until the post office closed permanently on 1969-11-28. During this time the post office was competing with the Ralston post office. On the flatlands, the two post offices were almost within sight of each other.

## Ralston.

The village was founded in 1947 and named after the Minister of Defence J.L. Ralston [2]. After the British Army left, the Canadian government established a military research group and the area became known as the Suffield Block. This was a Canada-NATO joint operation for chemical and explosive warfare [4].

The new village's post office opened on 1949-09-15. Robert McGraw was the first postmaster, transferring from Suffield and leaving that post office to his wife Viola. It would be interesting to know if any other married couples were postmasters simultaneously at two different post offices. The post office was originally in a stand-alone building but soon moved into a combination store and government services building [5]. Robert retired on 1957-03-13 and was succeeded by Mrs Grace Ellen Westcott until her death on 1961-02-07.

Two placeholders came and went before Mrs Nellie Fairhurst became postmaster on 1962-07-01. In 1971 the British Army returned on a long-term lease for tank training. The Block is now known as BATUS (British Army Training Unit Suffield). Below is a postmark from 1989.



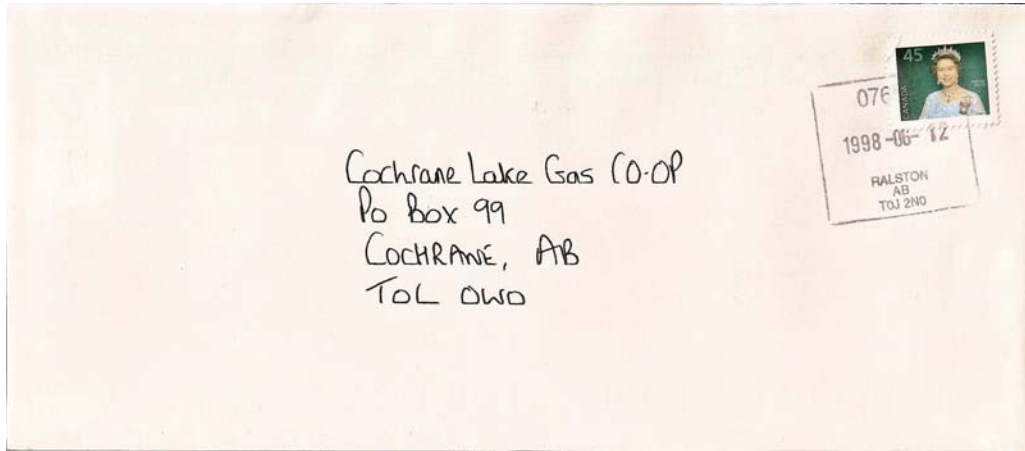
At this point, Canada Post records cut off due to privacy laws. Hughes recorded four more postmasters, dates not given, until the post office was closed on 1989-10-18, when it became a retail postal outlet (RePO) [6]. The photograph below was taken on 1989-05-23 just before the post office closed and became a RePO. The woman is the author's mother Betty Speirs.



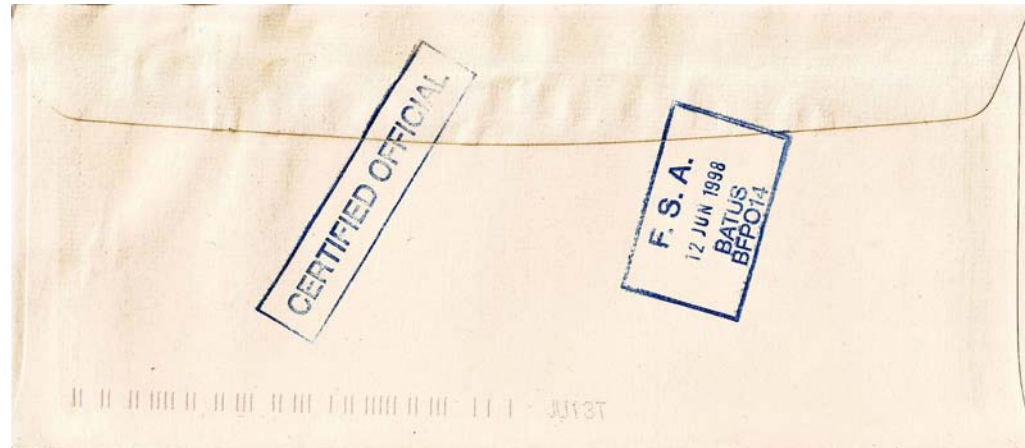
The RePO moved to the Canex, a military exchange general store for its personnel. The village had about 250 residents. The photo below is a 2019 Google Street View of the Canex building.



British troops undoubtedly had their own mail system. Examples of use through the Ralston RePO are shown here.



Front



Reverse



Finance Dept  
BATUS  
PO Box 5000  
Medicine Hat, AB  
T1A 8K7

Green Drop  
1230 Meridan Road NE  
Calgary, AB  
T2A 2N9



CERTIFIED OFFICIAL

Front

Enlargement of embossing on flap



REGIMENTAL  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
OFFICE  
27 SEP 1999  
BATUS  
BFPD 14



Reverse

SE28T

## **Langevin.**

This began as a railroad siding named after Sir Hector Langevin, a federal politician who strongly touted southeastern Alberta as prime farmland [7]. The Langevin post office was on the north side of the tracks. O. Belanger was the first postmaster but he only stayed a few months from 1904-02-01 until 1904-05-30. He resigned and there was an interregnum until 1905-11-25 when Lawrence Enright became postmaster. He served until 1906-10-31.

The post office remained vacant until it was permanently closed on 1907-07-31. The problem was that the post office was premature by about five years. The great rush of homesteaders didn't begin until 1909.

## **Carlstadt / Alderson.**

Resettlement of the Langevin siding began in 1909, this time on the south side of the tracks across from the former Langevin townsite. The Carlstadt settlement was obviously a German name, possibly a city now part of Dusseldorf or perhaps a personal name. No one knows for certain. Within two years the village had more than 160 inhabitants. The economy was supported almost entirely by land speculation [7]. The homestead land and village lots were churned at ever increasing prices but there was little agriculture to underpin the volume of trade.

The Carlstadt post office opened on 1909-08-23 with Wemyss M. Cotter as the first postmaster and served until his death on 1935-11-16. During World War One, anti-German sentiment was such that the post office name was changed on 1915-07-01 to Alderson, after a Canadian war hero commanding in Europe [2]. At left is the proof strike of the postmark.



Wemyss's wife Charlotte was the local Registrar of Vital Statistics and wrote a gossip column for a Medicine Hat newspaper. Villagers and homesteaders widely believed she read postcards in the post office to garner material for her column.

Wemyss died on the job, having met the train and loaded an unusually heavy mail. Back at the post office, he began unloading the mail bags and fell dead at the door from a heart attack [7]. After her husband died, Charlotte was briefly postmaster, then another equally brief placeholder.

Frank Leslie Steed became postmaster on 1936-03-23. He moved the post office into his general store and service station which were on the north side of the tracks, in the original Langevin townsite. The Trans-Canada Highway was built along the north side of the tracks. Traffic would not detour over the tracks, so the new location had a better chance of getting customers.

By then the long drought and the Great Depression were depopulating southeastern Alberta. The Alderson village council was dissolved on 1936-01-31 and the county took charge. From that point onward, Alderson began a long decline to the point today where nothing remains except a few foundations overgrown by tall grass [7]. Steed was able to eke out a small living from passing traffic and the post office. He gave up on 1948-06-09.

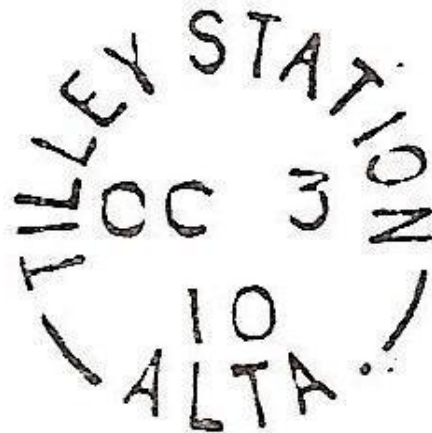
After a brief placeholder came and went, the penultimate postmaster was LeRoy Edgar Reade. He held the job from 1948-09-02 until 1951-07-31. The final postmaster was Mrs Lucy Etta James until 1951-09-29 when the post office closed permanently.

## Tilley.

This village was named after Malcolm Tilley, a CPR director [2]. As with several other post offices along the transcontinental railroad, this one opened with the name Tilley Station. For many years the mail delivery was by the catchpost system. The first postmaster of Tilley Station when it opened on 1910-10-01 was George Lowry. The post office was in his general store, which prospered until World War One shut down the economy and construction of irrigation canals ceased.

Lowry resigned on 1914-05-19 and Mrs K. L'Huillier took over for a short spell. Miss Josie Barker was the actual operator of the post office for both postmasters. L'Huillier left on 1915-12-27 and was followed by two placeholders until the post office closed on 1918-03-20. Mail service thereafter was from Brooks at the next siding west on the railroad.

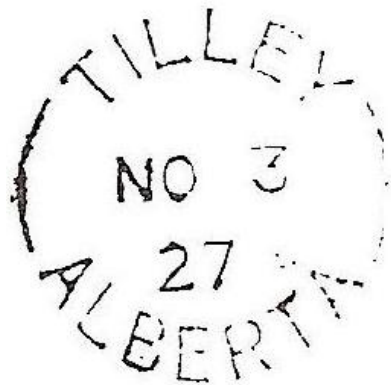
The village of Tilley was almost completely abandoned at the time. The Tilley Station post office re-opened on 1923-06-01 in a derelict hotel. George H. Maunsell was postmaster. Most of the postal business was parcels, particularly from Sears or Eatons. Maunsell resented the heavy lifting and was known to complain frequently [8]. Below are proof strikes of the postmarks.



The post office was in the hotel lobby and Maunsell had a room beside it for his living quarters. The rest of the 3-storey building was empty, although Maunsell often offered space to transients. The hard times of the Great Depression got to him. He attempted suicide in the post office but was rescued in time. He then resigned as postmaster on 1931-03-11, left the district and was never heard of again [8].

Rural mail delivery began in the 1930s. The first courier was a Mr Griffin, who liked to keep warm on his route with alcoholic refreshments. On Christmas Eve one year he felt it was a shame that some people didn't get mail, so he divided his load into equal allotments and distributed them regardless of address on the package.

Einar Anderson took over as postmaster and moved the post office into his store. The empty village was slowly resettled and the population increased. Michael Joseph Dunne became postmaster on 1940-04-30 until he retired on 1967-02-17. On 1948-04-01 the post office became Semi-Staff, which offered employees certain benefits such as pensions.



The name of the post office officially changed to Tilley on 1956-01-09. As was obvious from the postmark proof strike at left, the name had been shortened years ago by all concerned but never gazetted by the Ottawa bureaucracy until decades later.

Gerald John Schissler became postmaster on 1967-02-18, continuing to work in the Dunne building. He transferred on 1972-07-31 to the Lake Louise post office.

His assistant Mrs Norine Saubak replaced him as Tilley postmaster. She had been a postal clerk since 1967. Canada Post records cut off after this date due to privacy laws but in a 1980 local history book it was mentioned that she was still postmaster. Hughes recorded one more postmaster named W. Stenger before the post office was closed on 1992-11-18 and converted into a RePO. The village then took over the post office [6].

By the 1950s, nearby Brooks began winning the economic war along the track and is today a city of 15,000. Tilley's growth stagnated but it survived as a dormitory community to Brooks, only a 15-minute drive away on the Trans-Canada Highway.

This photo shows Betty Speirs at the Tilley post office in 1989 before it was converted into a RePO.





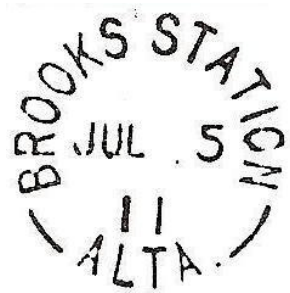


On 2013-08-31, the village of Tilley was dissolved and became an unincorporated hamlet within the County of Newell [9]. The RePO then moved to the Tilley General Store where it still was as of March 2024, shown here from Google Street View.



## Brooks.

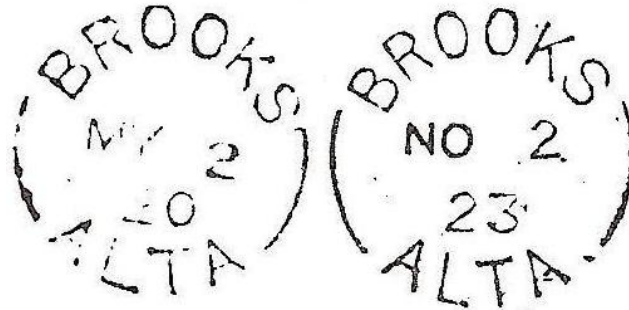
The post office was named after Noel Edgall Brooks, an engineer with the CPR. Ernest M. Crooker and his wife Hanna were the first residents. He had been a cowboy but tired of life on the range. With his wife he opened a general store and stopping house into which the post office was added [10].



The post office opened on 1904-12-01 under the name Brooks Station, with Ernest as the first postmaster. Ernest resigned on 1907-06-13 when he sold out to William J. Ball. The Crookers bought a fruit farm in the British Columbia interior. Ball sold the store and discontinued his postmastership on 1909-10-06.

The new owner was Alexander Gordon, who built a new store nearby. He didn't operate the post office himself but delegated the duties to the store manager J. Hudson Binns. At left is a proof strike of the postmark during his tenure. On 1913-04-07, Binns was dismissed as postmaster for political partisanship [1]. In those days the postmasters served at the whim of the party in power. He was replaced by Charles Louis Bambrick, who presumably belonged to the correct caucus.

Bambrick served as postmaster until 1927-04-21. During his tenure the official name of the post office was shortened on 1920-06-01 to Brooks [1]. Below are two postmark proof strikes.



The next postmaster was Charles Henry Plummer, who died in office on 1940-05-27. Miss Christina Elizabeth Dunsmore was the next postmaster until 1951-05-22, when she transferred to another post office. During her time the post office staff were raised to regular employees on 1949-04-01.

Frederick Herbert Sanderson was the next postmaster. The 1959 Brooks circular date postmarks on this parcel tag are from his tenure.

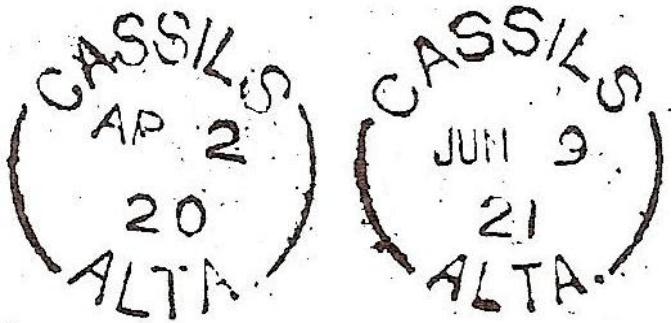


Douglas William Hutchinson then took over on 1966-06-28, at which point Canada Post records cut off due to privacy laws.

As of March 2024, Brooks still had the general post office as well as a RePO in a Shoppers Drug Mart. The two postmarks below are from the general post office. Brooks has developed into a city of 15,000 due to being the headquarters of the irrigation district, a packing plant supplied by surrounding ranchers, and centralized provincial government operations.



## Cassils.



The railroad siding was named in 1883 after Charles Cassils, a pioneer rancher in Alberta. In the heart of the drylands, the post office was rather late in opening. On 1921-05-15, blacksmith Edgar H. Smith became the first postmaster.

He also had a general store in which the post office was located. His wife May actually operated the post office. [13].

At left are proof strikes of the first postmarks. Smith stayed until 1925-05-29, when he sold out to the Ruckman family, who then had the post office for the rest of its existence.

Cassils would have shriveled away but by the late 1920s the irrigation schemes had boosted the local economy. Further helping was the construction of a spur line from the CPR transcontinental at Cassils southward to Rainier and Scandia, to be mentioned further on [11].

Mrs Winnifred M. Ruckman took over as the second postmaster until 1930-08-30. She resigned and was succeeded by Dorus Emery Ruckman, probably her husband. He died in office on 1950-05-02. Winnifred returned as postmaster until 1954-06-10 when she retired. The final postmaster was Mrs Rosanne M. Ruckman, probably a daughter-in-law.

By that time good roads had killed the spur line and diverted traffic to Brooks or Bassano. The Cassils post office permanently closed on 1954-08-05. Mail service thereafter was a rural route from Brooks.

## Lathom.



This railroad siding was named after the Earl of Lathom, who was a CPR director and invested in cattle ranches in the area [2]. The Lathom post office opened on 1912-06-15 with A.J. Wetmiller as the first postmaster. The proof strike of the first postmark is shown at upper left.

The siding was not a scheduled stop, so the mails were exchanged by the catchpost system. Wetmiller resigned on 1917-02-16. Three placeholders came and went over the next two years until Mrs Maud Catherine Wurster took over on 1919-09-24 and served until 1939-07-27.

Catherine and her husband Moskeim had bought the store and post office from the previous owner. In 1926 the building burned down but the operation was rebuilt [12]. Everything was lost in the post office, which necessitated a new postmark, the proof strike of which is shown at lower left.



The Wursters eventually sold out to the Merithews. The wife Georgia Veryl became postmaster until 1945-06-03. By that time the hamlet, the store, and the post office were in their final days.

Catherine Wurster returned as the last postmaster from 1945-06-30 in an acting position. The writing was on the wall and exactly one year later on 1946-06-30 the post office closed permanently. Lathom was only a few kilometres from Bassano, both by rail and on the Trans-Canada Highway. Bassano became the headquarters of the irrigation district when a major dam was built there, giving that town an advantage over surrounding hamlets.



## **Bassano.**

The townsite was named after the Marquis de Bassano of Italy, a major shareholder in the CPR [2]. When a major irrigation dam was built nearby, the settlement's future was assured. As of 2024, the population was just over 1,200.

The Bassano post office opened on 1903-12-15 in the general store of Robert H. Struthers, the first postmaster. In 1907 he sold the store but retained the post office, moving it into a small building beside the store. The post office was thereafter always in its own building [12]. Struthers resigned on 1908-12-23 and the postmastership passed to Alexander A. MacGregor (or McGregor; the spelling varies in the records). He quit on 1909-12-01 and went homesteading nearby.



After a placeholder came and went, George Herbert Travis served as postmaster from 1912-02-13 until his death on 1930-06-29 of stomach cancer. At left is the proof strike of a postmark ordered for his duties.

During Travis' tenure the Canadian Post Office built a new post office, completed in 1915 and used until 1988. On the next page is a photo of that building [12].



William John Redmond had been Travis' assistant and succeeded him as postmaster [12]. During Redmond's tenure the post office became Semi-Staff on 1948-04-01, which entitled the posties to certain benefits such as a pension. Redmond also died in office, on 1957-02-02, and was temporarily succeeded by his widow Alice Rosetta.

Joseph Vincent Uebell became postmaster on 1957-07-16 and retired on 1975-05-09. Gordon E. Bedford was the next postmaster, who had previously been a postal clerk at Calgary since 1957. In 1988 the post office moved into a new building. Canada Post records cut off at this point due to privacy laws, but a local history reported that on 1989-09-18 Bedford retired as postmaster [12]. From there, Teresa Dyck served until 1992-05-28, then Bev Matoba to at least 2005, the publication date of the local history [12].

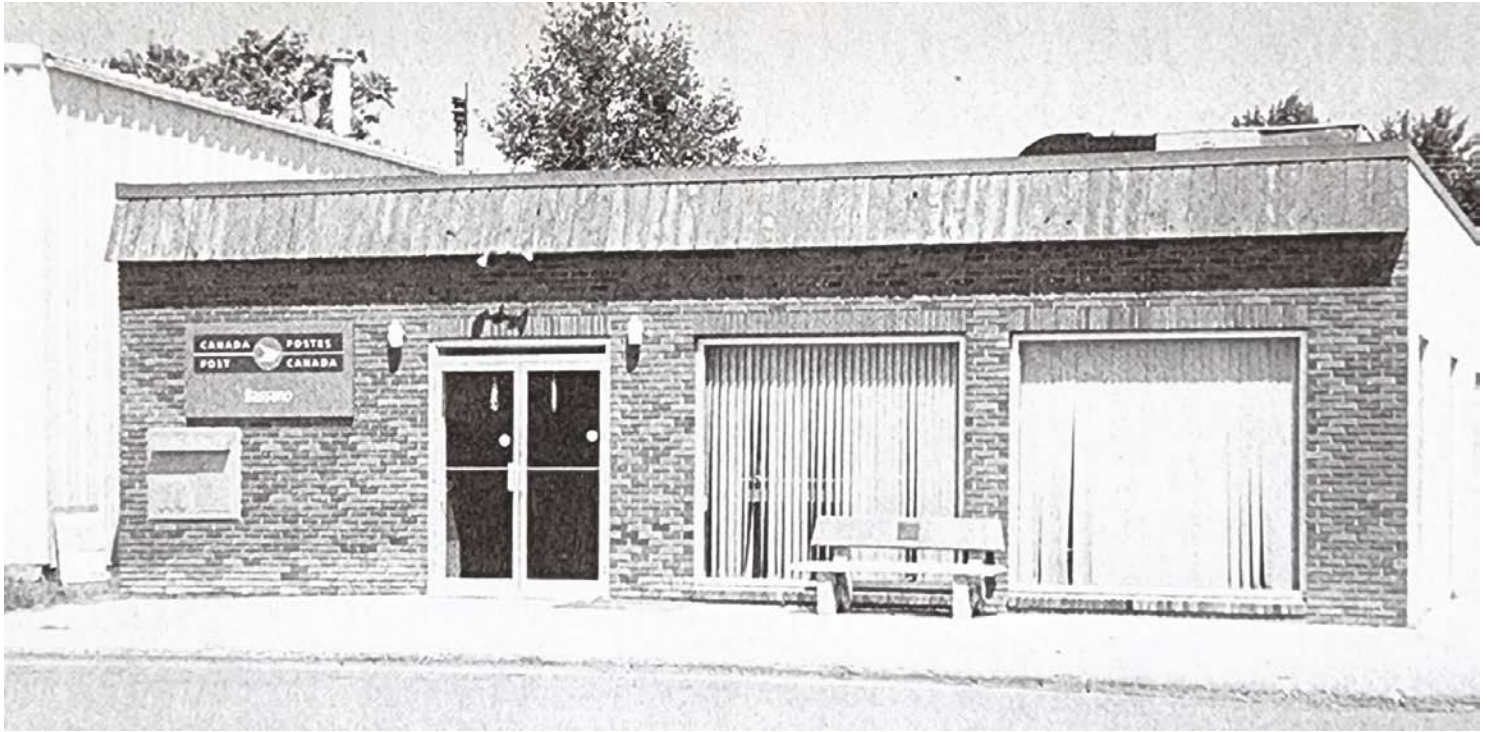
On the next page is a 1989 photo of the new post office, with Betty Speirs standing in front. The building has changed little since then and looks much the same in 2024. Below is a machine cancel of that time.







A view from 2004 of the post office [12].





Two varieties of Bassano postmarks.





## The Spur Line.

The area south of Cassils and Brooks had dryland settlers during the first decade of the 1900s. The main influx of homesteaders came in the late 1920s as the CPR developed irrigation systems. In 1927, a spur line was built from the transcontinental railroad at Cassils, heading south to Rainier and then terminating at Scandia. However, mail service to those two post offices was overland from Brooks using wagons in the early days and later motor vehicles.

## Rainier.



The district was settled by Americans from Washington State, who named the hamlet after the town and volcano in that state [2]. As the population built up, Robert R. Stoner built a general store, within which the Rainier post office opened on 1921-05-01 with himself as the first postmaster.

At left is the proof strike of the first postmark. Stoner had no intention of being a storekeeper for long, so once the business was up and running he sold it to the Evans family [11].

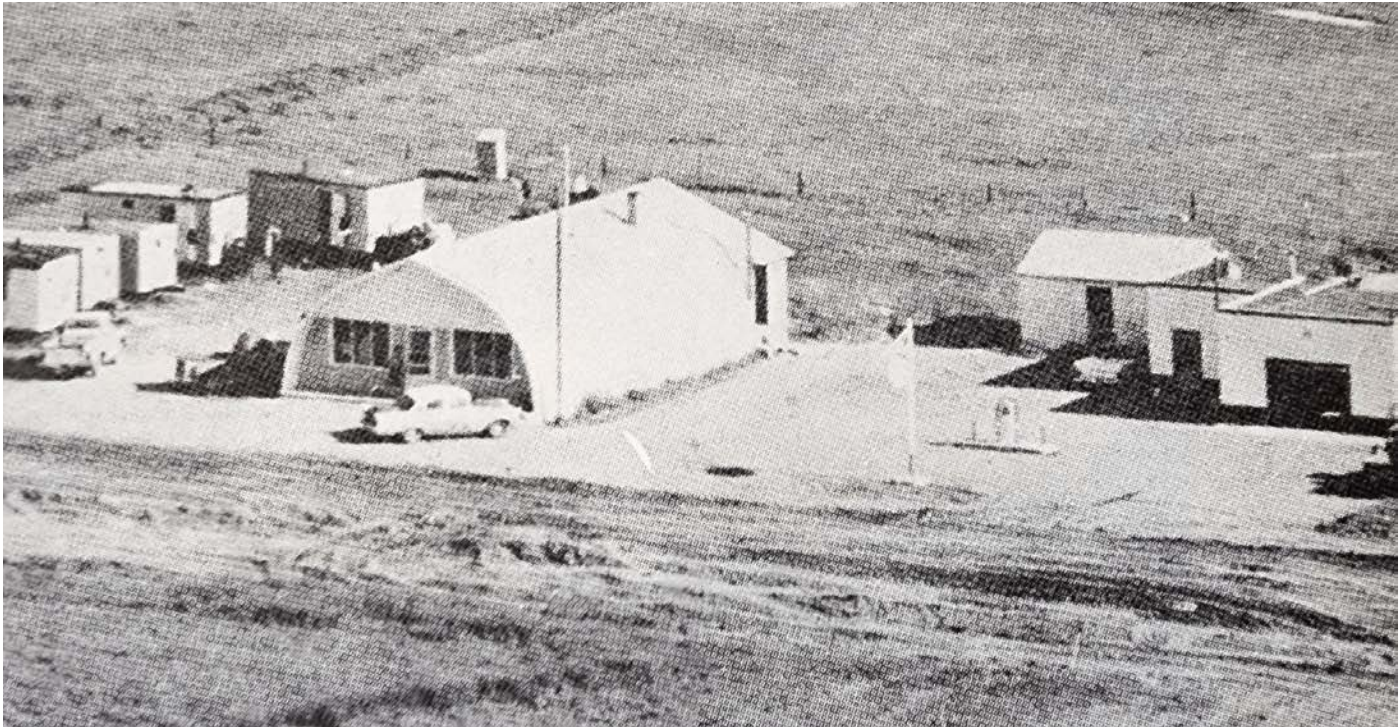
The next postmaster was W. Alfred Evans, who served from 1922-11-27 until 1933-04-28. The Evans were originally from Washington State and, tiring of the long drought, sold out to the Wardle family.

Joseph Wardle became the new postmaster and served until 1945-06-27. He modernized the store and post office with electricity. Living quarters were built on the back. The photo on the next page shows the store/post office/living quarters sometime before 1953.



The Wardles sold out to the Bieber family from Medicine Hat. Fredrick John Bieber served until 1953-03-31 as postmaster. The Biebers sold the store but the post office was separated and moved into the electric shop of Carl Anson Finley. He was postmaster until 1972-10-17. The original Bieber store sans post office burned down in late 1953 and the owner gave up.

Therefore the Finleys then added a general store to their shop [11]. After Carl retired as postmaster, his wife Pauline took over as postmaster until 1974-12-31. The photo below shows their buildings circa 1974.



The store and post office were sold to Bernice and John Kuefler. She took over as postmaster, at which point Canada Post records cut off due to privacy laws. She was listed as still in office in 1998 by Hughes [6]. The photo below shows Betty Speirs at the Rainier post office in 1989.





The post office closed sometime between 2005 (see postmark below) and 2023. Unfortunately the records on the Internet are ephemeral and I was unable to determine exactly when the post office closed. As of 2023, the population in Rainier was down to 22 people.



## Scandia.



This settlement was mostly by Swedish and Norwegian homesteaders, hence the name referring to Scandinavia [2]. Although there were ranchers much earlier, the population didn't grow until the irrigation system began operating just after World War One. The Scandia post office opened on 1924-01-01 in the house of the first postmaster John L. Johnson. At left is the proof strike of the first postmark.

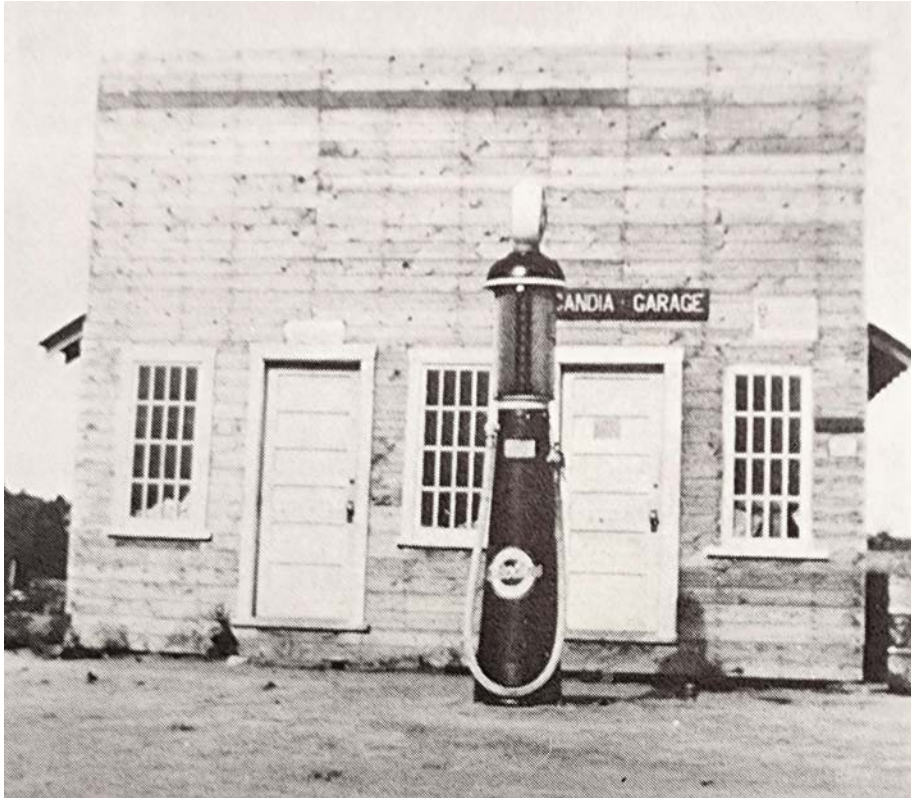
The railroad didn't reach Scandia until after 1927, so initially mail service was by wagon to and from Brooks. Whenever Johnson went into town for groceries, he took along the mails and brought back a sack [14]. He served until 1928-11-06 as postmaster. When the railroad reached Scandia, the terminus of the spur line, mail service sped up considerably.

The photo on the next page shows the Johnsons standing in front of their house. The annex on the side was the post office.





After Johnson, the post office shifted to a general store and Miss Julia Nora Anderson became the second postmaster. She married the storekeeper David Velte. Her name was modified in the postmasters list to Mrs Julia Nora Velte. The store burned down during her tenure but the post office was rebuilt as an attachment on their farmhouse [14]. She resigned on 1931-03-03 when the Velte family moved to the USA.



Raymond Oliver Ledene was the next postmaster. He moved the post office into his service station. The photo shows the building in 1933. Above the righthand window is the post office sign, very much faded.

In order to farm full time, Ledene later sold the business and post office to Harold David Bloomquist, who on 1935-09-30 became postmaster. The photo on the next page shows the post office during his tenure.

After his death on 1960-04-13, his widow Agnes became postmaster. Canada Post records cut off after this date due to privacy laws but a local history indicated that in 1978 she was still postmaster [14].





The post office moved again, as shown by this 1989 photo with Betty Speirs. As of 2024, the post office was in the Gas Co-op building.



Some Scandia postmarks of recent times.



## Rolling Hills.

The name of this district is descriptive [2]. The settlement is one of the youngest in southeastern Alberta but better described as re-settlement. Prior to 1937 there were ranches and dryland farms but the long drought of the 1920s and 1930s almost completely emptied the land. The Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration began an irrigation and re-colonization scheme in 1937. By 1939 there were enough new settlers to justify opening the Rolling Hills post office [15].



Before that, mail was brought from Scandia to a general store where it was laid out on a long table until called for [15]. The store changed hands and one of the new owners, Robert McGowan Williamson, became the first postmaster of Rolling Hills on 1939-09-15. At left is the proof strike of the first postmark. Mail was delivered by truck from Brooks weekly, then daily as the roads improved and the population increased.

The store was sold to the Bieber family and on 1948-10-30, Edward Bieber became the second postmaster. No doubt he was related to the postal Biebers in nearby Rainier. On 1951-11-01 the post office only was transferred to returned veteran Milton Glew Shuttleworth. His health failed and he died in office on 1952-03-22. His widow Vera Eileen took over as postmaster. She remarried and on 1953-12-02 her name was re-entered on the postmasters list as Mrs Vera Eileen Nygaard. She resigned on 1954-03-19 when she and her husband went farming full time.

The post office moved to the store of Ralph Samuel Kristianson where he was postmaster until 1956-05-02. From there the post office went back to Bieber's Store, where Edward once again served as postmaster briefly until the Wilson family took over.

Floyd Eugene (Mike) Wilson was postmaster from 1956-07-04 until his wife Bernice took over on 1969-01-14. She retired on 1974-08-21 and handed the postmastership to her daughter Anne. Canada Post records cut off at this point due to privacy laws but a local history reported that in 1989 Anne was still on the job [15].



Betty Speirs at the Rolling Hills post office in 1989, an annex of the Wilson house.



A 1988 postmark.



The Rolling Hills post office in 2023, from Google Street View.



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