



# The Georgian Courier

THE GREY, BRUCE, DUFFERIN & SIMCOE POSTAL HISTORY STUDY GROUP

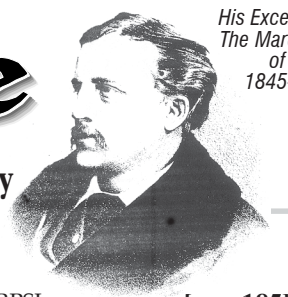
No. 36 • Vol. 7, No. 2

ISSN 1481-9511

February 2005



## A SOCIO-POSTAL HISTORY OF Lorne Bruce County



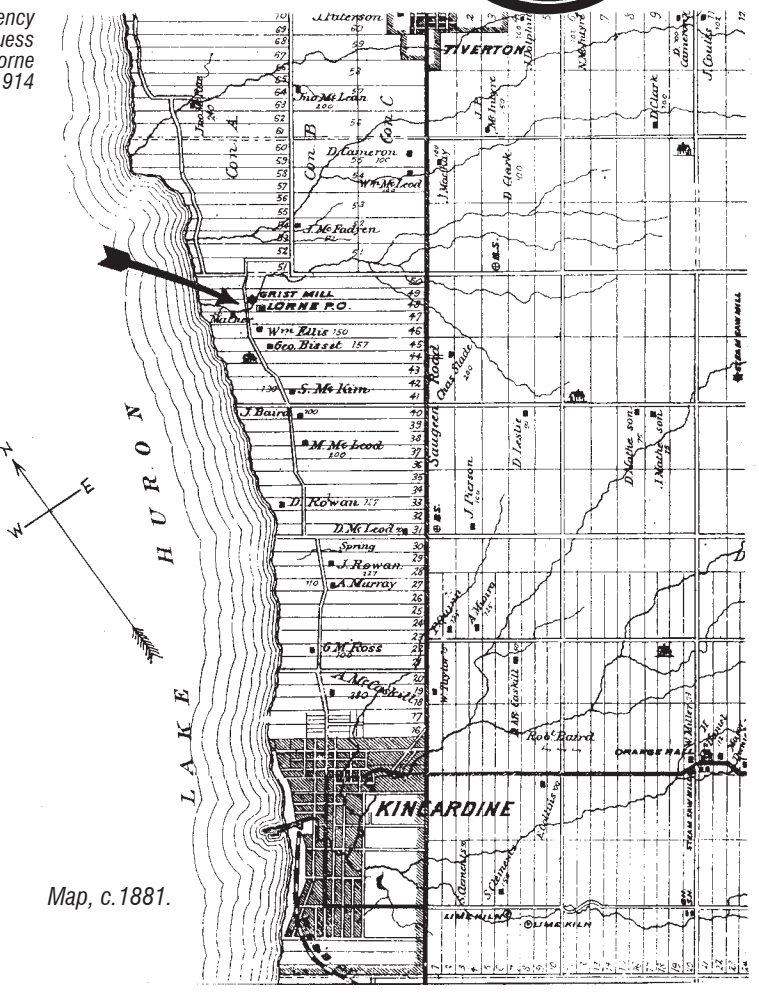
His Excellency The Marquess of Lorne 1845-1914

James E. Kraemer, FRPSC, FRPSL [REF. 185]

When the Rev. William Fraser, a native of Inverness Shire, Scotland arrived in Kincardine in 1851 he settled on a farm adjoining the town. By the end of the same year he moved north to Lot 48, Concession "A" and erected a sawmill. An entrepreneur and a minister, the Rev. Fraser took up ownership of the West part of Lot 47. The following year (1852) he became the owner of the East parts of Lots 47 and 48. He soon erected a dwelling on his property and two years later (1854) built a grist mill. The Rev. William Fraser, a Baptist minister, was the only clergyman in the area licensed to perform marriages.

During the 1860s the Rev. Fraser arranged to have mail for settlers in the area dropped off at his home. In essence he became an unofficial master of the posts. The place became known as Lorne in honour of His Excellency, The Marquess of Lorne, who was Governor-General of Canada from 1878 until he resigned in the fall of 1883. The Marquess, John Douglas Sutherland Campbell was the 9<sup>th</sup> Duke of Argyle, a title he inherited when he was born on August 6, 1845. On March 21, 1871 he married Princess Louise Caroline, a daughter of Queen Victoria. They did not have a family. The Marquess died on May 2, 1914 in Cowles, England.

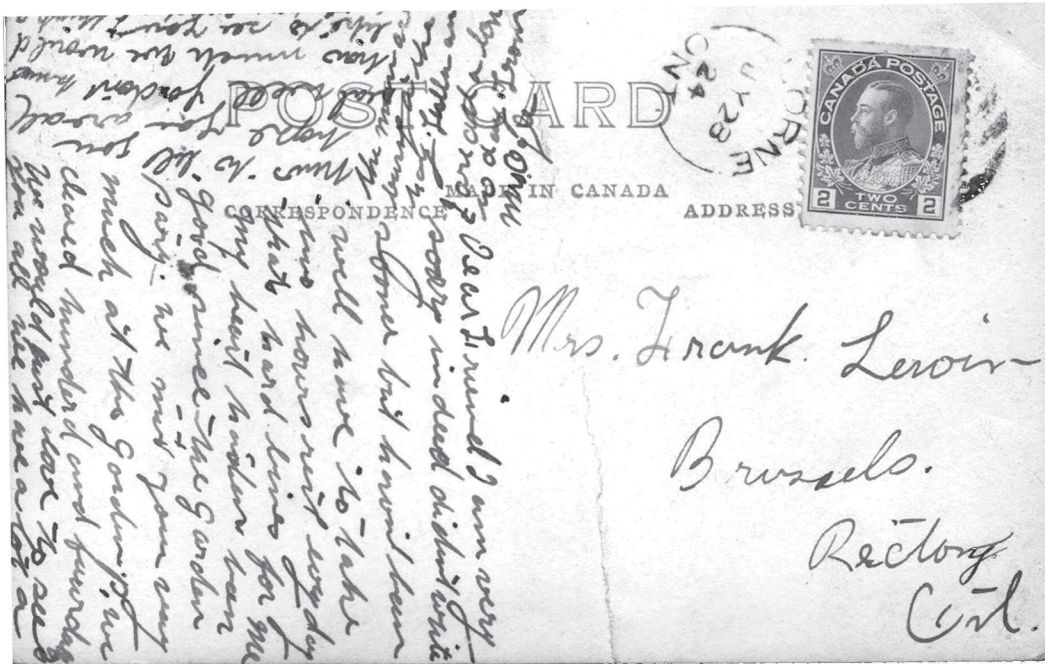
In 1868 the Rev. Wm. Fraser sold the W. Pt. of Lot 48 to James Jack. Mr. Jack is also shown in 1868/69 as the owner of the W. Pt. of Lot 47. James Jack who was born in Lanarkshire, Scotland in 1811 was 60 years old when he asked postal authorities to establish a post office in the hamlet of Lorne. His request was approved and James Jack was appointed postmaster of Lorne on June 1, 1871.



Map, c. 1881.

James Jack, (1811–1894), was the son of William Jack and Mary Hood. James married his first cousin Jean (Jane) Hood in 1829. In 1870, a year before his appointment as postmaster Mr. Jack sold

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**LORNE ONT. / JY 28 / 24**  
 A post card sent to Brussels  
 in Huron County.  
 COURTESY OF John Rossiter.



According to Bruce Graham's Ontario Broken Circles, Lorne used one 21.0 mm broken circle hammer (arcs 10.5, 11.0) with a recorded date of March 24, 1911. The cover shown here has been struck with a 19.5 mm (arcs 9.5, 9.0) hammer, making this a second broken circle hammer for this community.

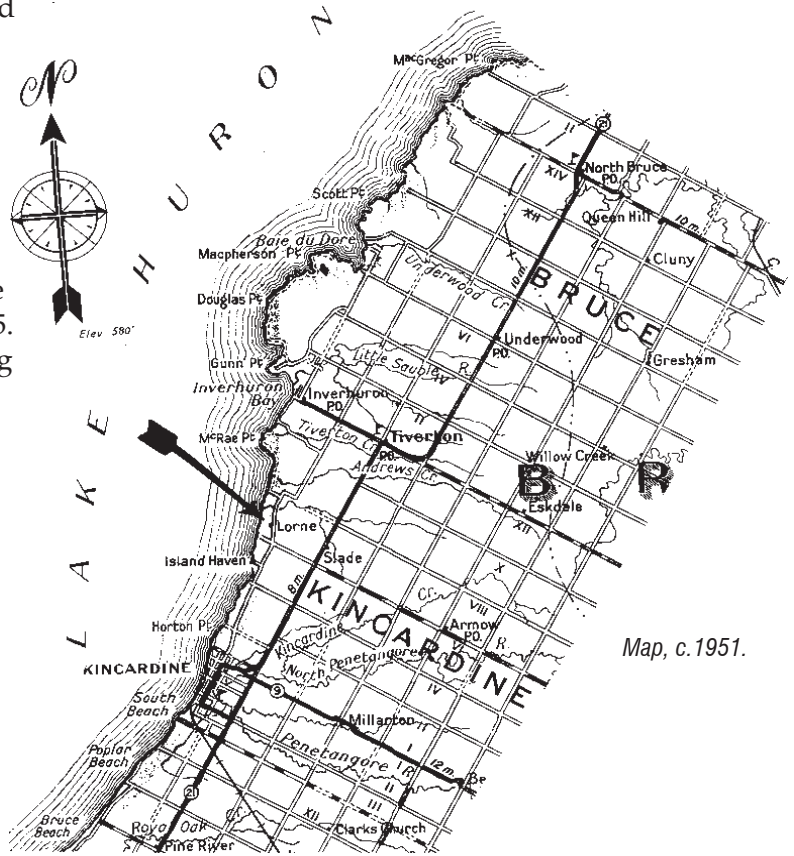
part of his property to his son-in-law, John Mather, (1835–1915), who had married his daughter Margaret Jack, (1834–1917). James Jack sold the rest of his property in 1881 to Alec Campbell. Mr. Jack who was in his 75<sup>th</sup> year resigned as postmaster on October 8, 1885. He died in 1894.

In 1877 Angus McKay, Sr. (1841–1905), and his wife Margaret nee McDonald (1851–1942), came to the Lorne area in order to take over the mail from George Sutherland. Mr. Sutherland had purchased the mill in 1868 from Joseph Garner. Mr. McKay was appointed Lorne's second postmaster on December 1, 1885. He served for over 20 years until his death on August 4, 1925 while still in office. In 1899 the McKay's are listed as living on the W½ of Lot 5, Concession 7.

Margaret McKay who had been looking after the post office as her husband's assistant for some time was appointed postmaster on August 6, 1905. She operated the post office for 18 years, resigning October 3, 1923. The McKay's did not have any

children. Margaret died in 1942 when she was 91 years old.

In 1921 James A. Robinson and his wife, the former Hannah McLeod came from Concession 9 with their six children, all of whom had been born in Huron County. They settled on Lots 52 and 53, Concession "A". Mr. Robinson was named postmaster on December 6, 1923. The post office was located in the Robinson home. James Robinson



Map, c.1951.



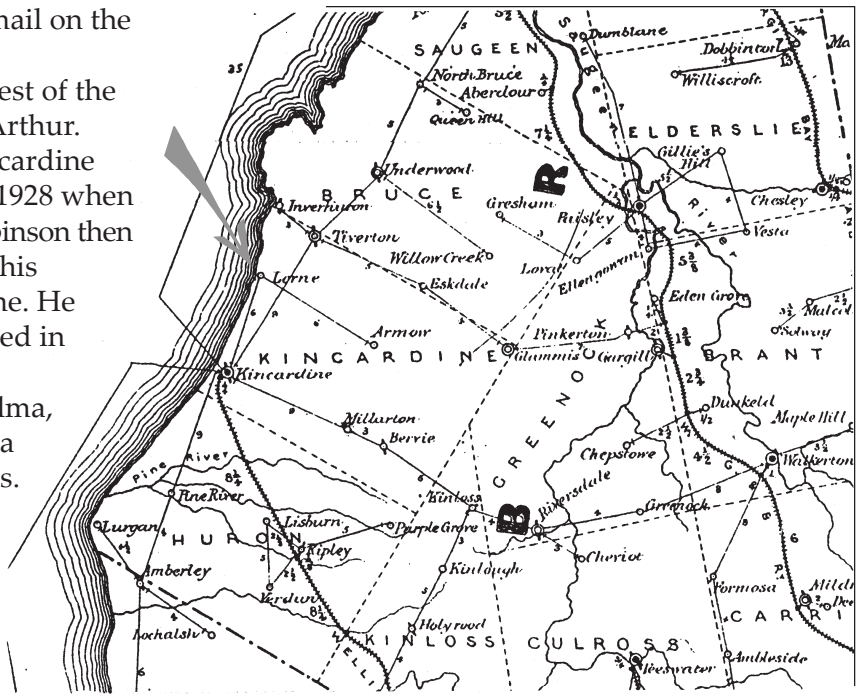
Jessie and Orville Robinson.

was awarded the contract to deliver the mail on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> lines.

Orville, (1906–1972), the second youngest of the six Robinson children married Jessie McArthur. Orville was the mail courier between Kincardine and Lorne from 1921 until December 17, 1928 when the post office at Lorne closed. Orville Robinson then moved to Kincardine in order to continue his courier route known as R.R. #5, Kincardine. He continued as the courier until 1971. He died in 1972.

The Robinson's youngest daughter, Wilma, married Harry Chapman. They operated a variety store in Kincardine for many years. They retired to Lorne (Beach) but in a short time moved back to Kincardine. Their son John R. Chapman of Kincardine is a member of our study group.

The Lorne post office closed permanently on December 17, 1928. Rural Mail Delivery via R.R. # 5, Kincardine, thereafter served the area. ☒



1883 Canada Post Office Department courier map indicating that the mail went from Kincardine to Lorne ( 6 miles), and then a further 6 miles to Armour.

### THE POSTMASTERS OF LORNE

<i>Post Office established:</i>	June 1, 1871	
James Jack	June 1, 1871 until Oct. 8, 1885	RESIGNED
Angus Mckay	Dec. 1, 1885 until Aug. 4, 1905	DIED
Mrs. Margaret McKay	Aug. 6, 1905 until Oct. 3, 1923	RESIGNED
James A. Robinson	Dec. 6, 1923 until Dec. 17, 1928	CLOSED
<i>Post Office closed:</i>	Dec. 17, 1928	

#### REFERENCES:

1. *Toil, Tears & Triumph – A History of Kincardine Township* (1990), Wanita Hollands Fletcher, editor, pg 326, 364, 368.
2. *Illustrated Atlas of the County of Bruce*, 1881, Belden.
3. *Kincardine 1848–1948*, 1984, John C. Reynolds, editor.
4. *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, Vol. XIV, 1911–920, pg 177, University of Toronto Press.
5. Library and Archives Canada, Archivia Net, Ottawa, Ontario.

## A new discovery at LAFONTAINE, *Simcoe County*

Dave Hanes

[REF. 186]

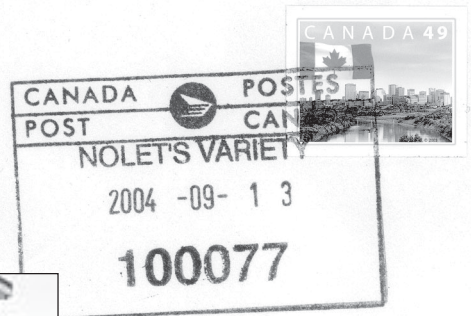
The Tiny Township community of Lafontaine has been without a post office presence since rural mail delivery replaced the office on April 30, 1931. A post office had served this community since February 1, 1856.

A parcel pick-up franchise was established by Canada Post sometime in 2001 and had gone unnoticed by our postal historians. The operation is located in Noelets Village Variety on the main street of Lafontaine.

The datestamp has seen little use and will be hard to place since none of the important indicators are present. There is no community name, no province, and no postal code. ☒



Noelets Village Variety, Lafontaine, is the home of Canada Post franchise 100077.



Lafontaine School.

# The Post Office

[REF. 187]

# at Crossland

1874 – 1961  
Flos Township  
SIMCOE COUNTY



*Crossland General Store & Post Office.*

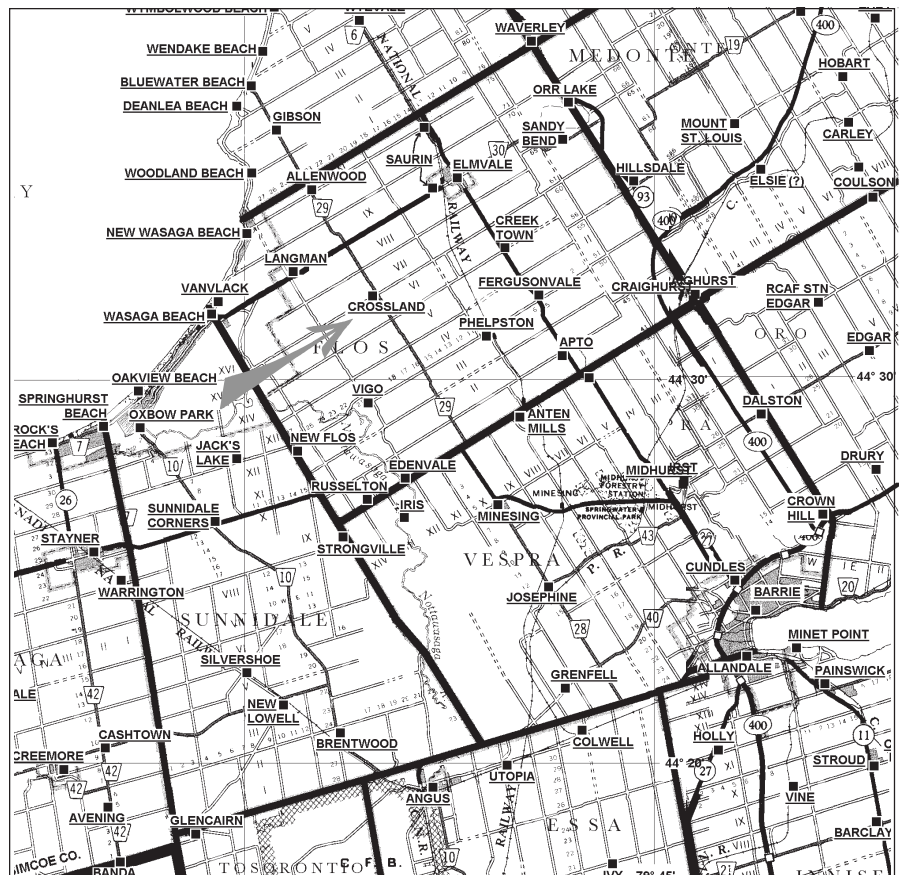
This story about Crossland serves a two-fold purpose. It is a wonderful story about a Simcoe County community and its post office and general store. Just as important it can be used a teaching tool to show the value of modern technology and the internet. Many of our members have risen to the challenge and have become connected to the web. How many of us use that tool to go beyond e-mails and connecting to Ebay looking for a favourite cover. Using a search tool such as the Google™ toolbar, this article was found by typing in <Simcoe County “post office”> to come up with this story. So simple to find out just a bit more about a cover that has been waiting for a write-up in your collection. I encourage all that are yearning for a bit more information to give it a try!

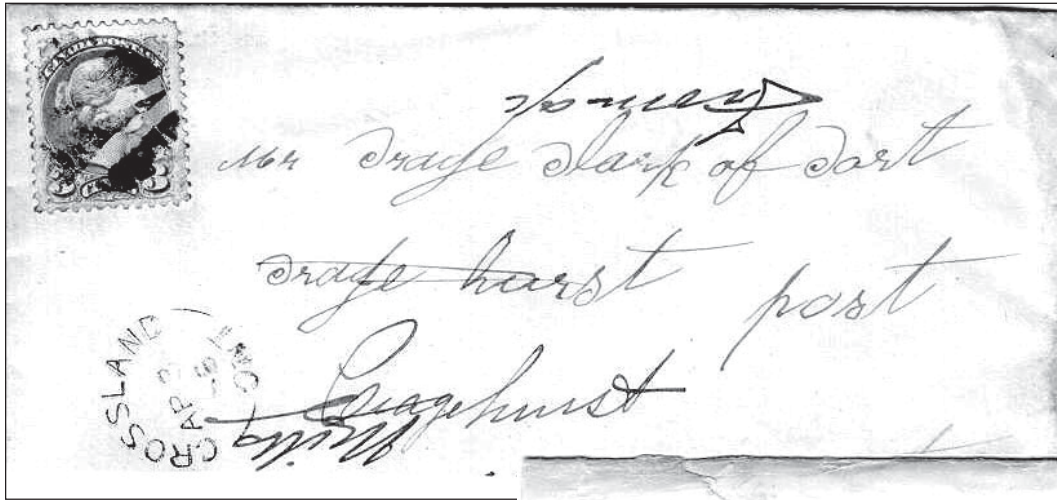
The Crossland General Store is located on the southwest corner of Crossland Road (Simcoe County Road 29) and Flos Road Seven West. Its prominent location encroaching onto the cross-roads is typical of the many general stores which were once a common feature of the rural Ontario landscape.

Built in 1874, the General Store was originally constructed on the northeast corner, being the North Part of Lot 15, Concession 6. This “A” frame wood structure was erected by Henry Crossland for his wife Martha Webster and their family. The hamlet of Crossland bears the name of Henry Crossland even though he only remained in the community for a dozen years or so. In 1904, Mr. T. Martin moved the building to the southwest corner for the new owner Mr. W. E. Graham. That same year a house was added immediately to the south west of the store together with a large framed garage.

The Crossland General Store acted as the centre of the community for many years. In addition to the usual assortment of dry goods, the store also served as the local post office, gas station and gathering place for local news and information. As well, the store also served as a stopping off

point for travellers heading to the beaches of Georgian Bay. Next door to the store was Dow’s and later Allen’s blacksmith shop. With one stop to the southwest corner, travellers could do their shopping, barter any goods they might have, pick up their mail, fill their tank with gas, get their horses shod and their wagon’s fixed and catch up on neighbourhood information with a good dose of political debate as well.





**CROSSLAND ONT. / AP 8 / 88**  
 Earliest recorded cover from this tiny Simcoe County settlement. The cancelling device is the 20.5 A1 broken circle hammer with 6.0, 5.5 mm arcs.

COURTESY – Robt. C. Smith

**CROSSLAND ONT. / MR 28 / 11**  
 struck with the second broken circle hammer – 21.0 mm A1 hammer with 4.5 mm arcs.

COURTESY – Robt. C. Smith

The original house tragically burned in 1914 and was replaced with a large 3 story structure which remained attached to the general store. Undamaged material salvaged from the first house was incorporated into the interior of the store. The store was added on to and bricked during the 1930s.

### Postmasters and Owners

Being a postmaster in rural Ontario in the 1800s and early 1900s was a position of distinction. What follows is a list of owners and operators of the Crossland General Store and Post Office – “The People’s Store”.

**William Henry Crossland** (October 1874–April 1887) was the first postmaster in the community that still bears his name. Built the building originally on the southeast corner of Concession Road 7 (Flos) and then Sideroad 15 (now Crossland Road-County Road 29). The building was a two-storey wood frame structure and Crossland’s descendants claim he lived on the second floor.

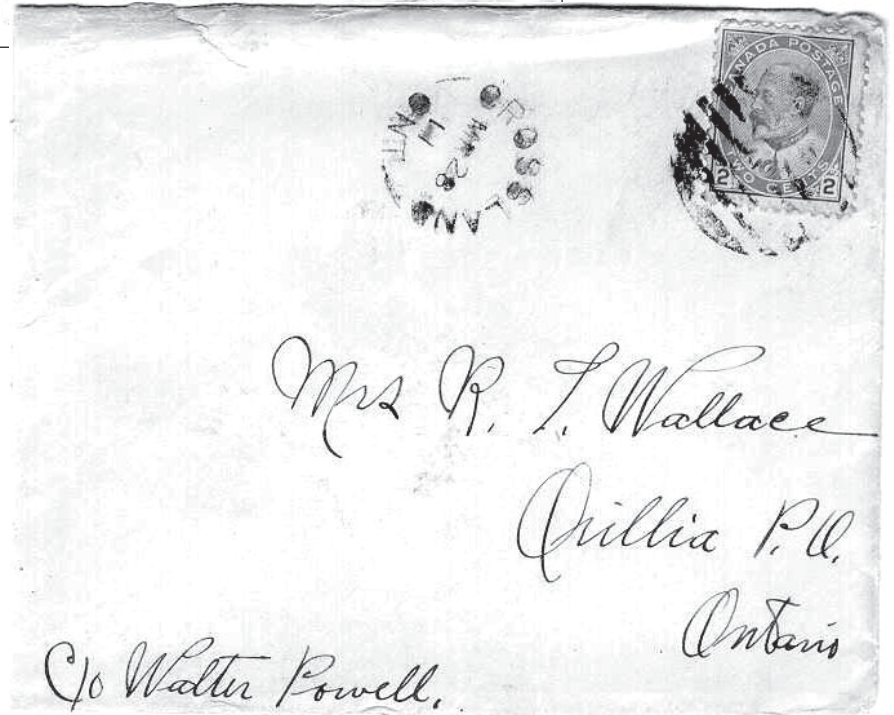
**Jeremiah Mahony** (June 1887–December 1893). There is evidence Mahony lived in the first farm south of the crossroads, later lived in for many years by Joe and Viola Strath. One daughter named Praxedes attended the Crossland School.

**Patrick Ryther** (February 1894–December 1897). There is little information available on postmaster Ryther.

**James Dow** (June 1899 – November 1903), opened a store, office and implement shed. He was also known to have done some blacksmithing out of the implement shed.

**W. E. Graham** (March 1904–February 1906) moved the store and buildings from the southeast corner of Concession Road 7 to the southwest corner with the assistance of Mr. T. Martin.

**Silas Locke Anderson** (October 1907–July 1910) bought



the building from W. E. Graham soon after Graham had married Silas’ sister Minnie. Anderson, unmarried at the time, ran the store with his sister Kate and gave it the name “The Peoples Store”. After marrying Isabelle Pater-son in 1909, Anderson sold the store to George E. Roe and moved to Toronto to open a general store at Runny- mede and Dundas in Toronto’s west end.

**George E. Roe** (July 1910–December 1911)

**George W. Martin** (January 1912–December 1912)

**Silas Locke Anderson** (April 1913–July 1961).

Anderson returned to Crossland in 1913 and met

#### SOURCE

All credit for this story must go to the Township of Springwater, formerly the Townships of Flos and Vespra.

The municipality’s website may be found at

<http://www.springwater.ca>

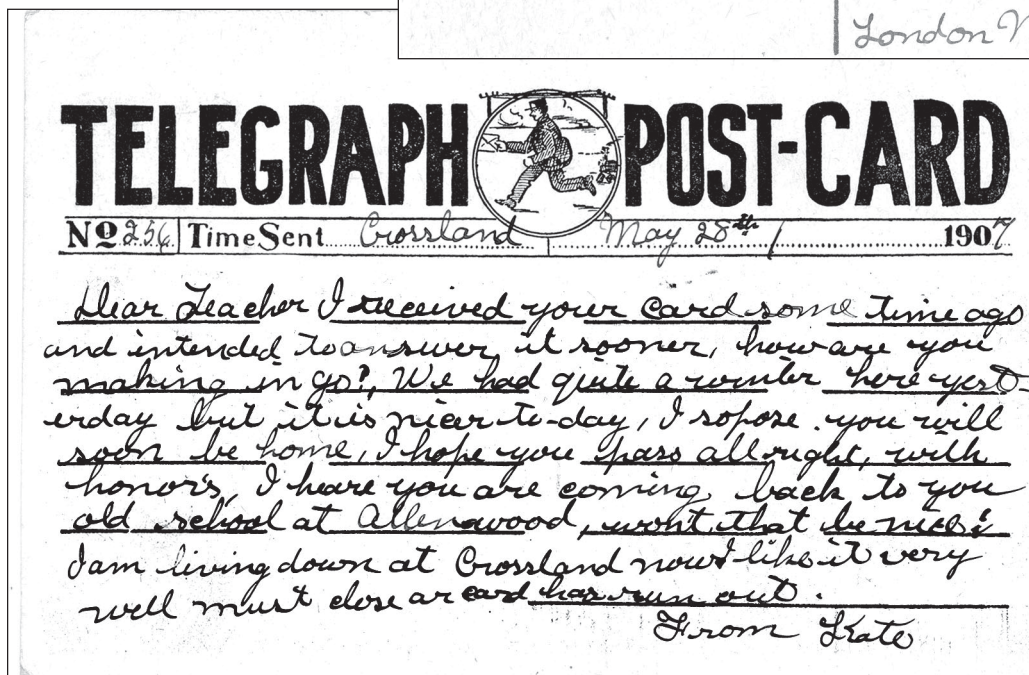
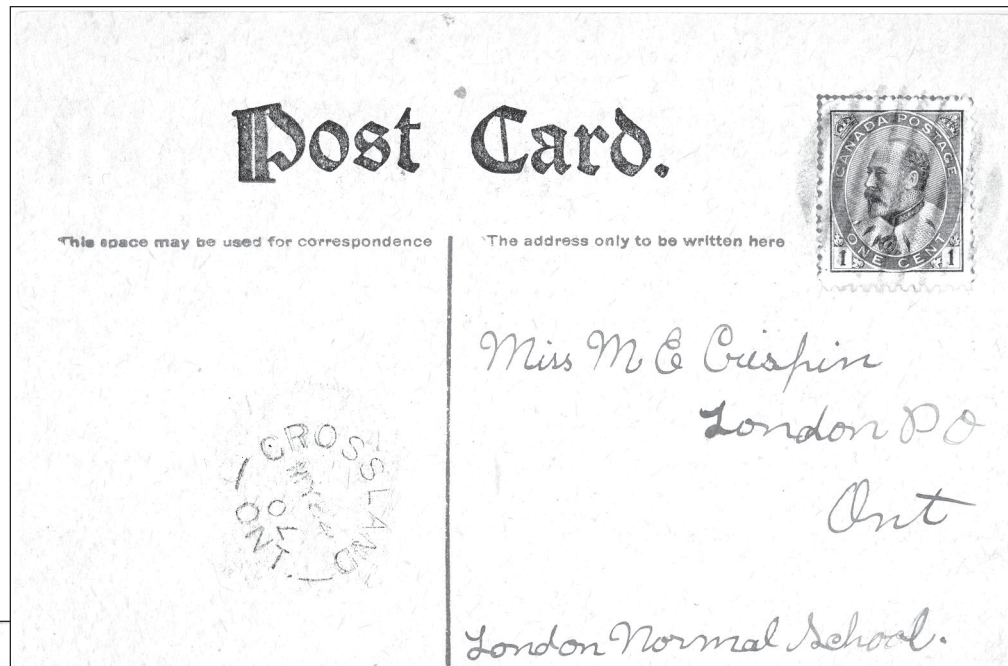
and the article, with further details may be found at

<[http://www.springwater.ca/The\\_Crossland\\_Store.cfm](http://www.springwater.ca/The_Crossland_Store.cfm)>

We thank the Township for sharing with us this wonderful information. Writer of the web article is unknown.

CROSSLAND / ONT. / MY 28 / 70

This would be the earliest recorded date for the second hammer. Note the inverted "02" for the year, instead of "07".



with immediate tragedy. After giving birth to a stillborn child, Isabelle and Silas gave birth to George Grenville Anderson. They lived in a house immediately behind and attached to the store. In 1914, the house burned, severely injuring Isabelle and baby George. Baby George died within 3 days and Isabelle was left terribly scarred for the rest of her life.

Crossland Post Office closed in 1961 and Anderson continued to operate "The Peoples Store" until 1974 when a closing out auction sale was held in March of that year. The Simcoe County Museum secured the contents of the store and recreated it as part of their Main Street display. Silas Anderson passed away in February of 1975.

The current owner, Greig Stewart, acquired the property in November of 1989. For a brief time in the 1970s and 1980s, the store functioned as an antique store.

The Crossland General Store is one of only a few remaining in both Springwater and the County of Simcoe.

### Postmarking Devices

Bruce Graham reports two broken circle hammers for this office. A 20.5 mm A1 hammer with arcs measuring 6.0, 5.5 mm was in use in the latter part of the 1800s and was replaced by a 21.0 mm A1 hammer with 4.5 mm arcs. This second hammer may be easily identified by its condensed "0" in CROSSLAND ONT. No other markings have been spotted by the editor. Should any of our members have seen a registration box, MOOD, MOTO, or MOON postmark please share that information with our readership. ☒

A QUESTION ABOUT

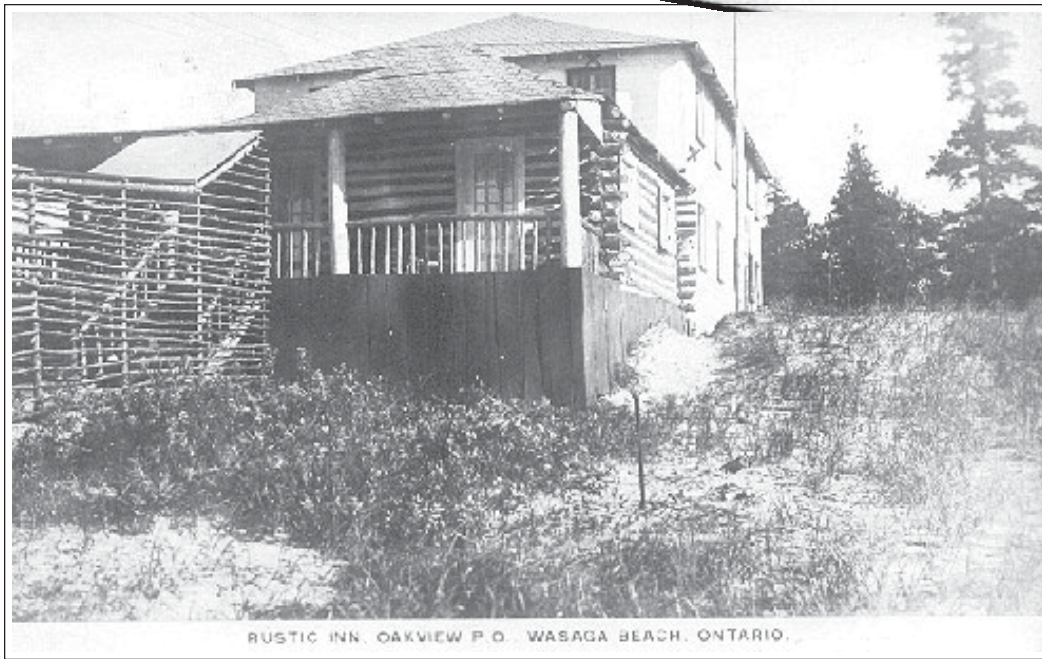
# Oakview Beach

Post Office  
SUNNIDALE TOWNSHIP  
SIMCOE COUNTY

[REF. 188]

Ed Maynard of the Collingwood-Georgian Bay Coin & Stamp Club sent us an e-mail inquiring about the Rustic Inn at Oakview Beach.

Oakview Beach first received postal services from an office named O'Sullivan (1) which was opened on August 14, 1916 with Mrs. Idelois



Cook as postmaster. Before she resigned from that position the name of the office was changed to Oakview Beach. The renamed summer office provided postal service under the leadership of nine postmasters for some sixty years, and only closing in the mid-1980s.

The above post card is entitled "Rustic Inn, Oakview P.O., Wasaga Beach, Ontario." Does this caption reflect that the post office was located at the Rustic Inn or was it simply the address of the Rustic Inn? Your help is required in solving that riddle.

### Postmasters at Oakview Beach

Mrs. Idelois Cook	1916-08-14 until 1926-05-26	RESIGNATION
Charles Eugene Bennett	1926-07-09 until 1944-11-09	DEATH
Mrs. Marjorie W. Bennett	1945-06-01 until 1955-03-04	RESIGNATION
William John Dry	1955-06-01 until 1956-01-30	RESIGNATION
Mrs. Audrey Sheerwood	1956-06-01 until ?	RESIGNATION
Keith Sheerwood	1956-06-29	ACTING
Mrs. Edith Dunk	1956-08-10	ACTING
William Glen Lewis	1957-06-01 until 1965-09-15	REPLACEMENT
Mrs. Irene Lewis	1966-06-01	

Thank You

CANADA POSTES  
POST CANADA  
CPC OWEN SOUND LOCAL AREA

a proud sponsor and supporter of the  
GREY, BRUCE, DUFFERIN & SIMCOE  
Postal History Study Group

From anywhere . . . to anyone

throughout Grey & Bruce Counties

and the surrounding area

**EXPRESSPOST**



# POST OFFICE BUILDINGS ON POST CARDS

Nº 16 in a Series

# Massie

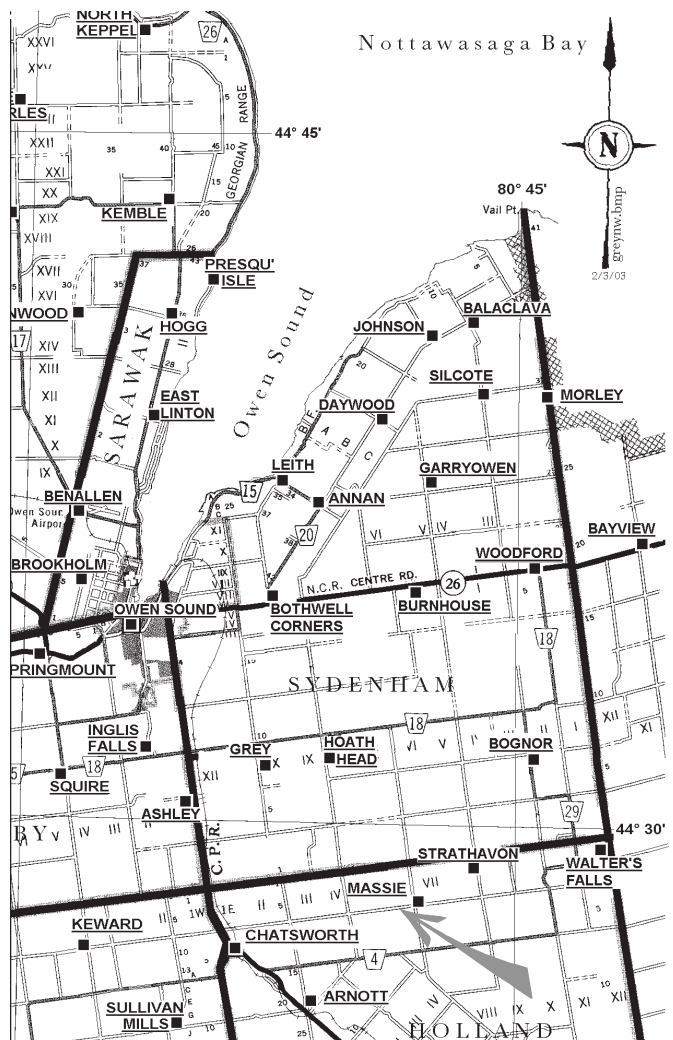
Robt. C. Smith

[REF. 189]

This unused lithographed postcard, printed by The Art Novelty Company, Strathroy, shows the "Store & P.O., Massie, Ont." The card appears to date from the early years of the twentieth century. Unfortunately, none of the signs on the store are readable.

The Massie post office was established on April 1, 1864 in Holland Township, Grey County, under postmaster Alexander Massie, in office until his resignation in 1870. A total of nine postmasters served the community up to the time of the inauguration of Rural Mail Delivery in that part of Grey County, when the post office was closed permanently on August 1, 1914. Since this card is not dated, it is not possible to assign a proprietor to the store shown. W. D. Dunnington served as postmaster from 1902 to 1906, David Kelly for three months in 1906, and Robert Ceaser from January 1907 until the office was closed in 1914.

Bruce Graham lists three broken circle postmarks used at Massie. The first is a Berri device with C.W at its base; it was ordered on April 28, 1864, shortly after the opening of the post office, and so was undoubtedly the first postmarking device used at the Massie post office. No impressions of this marking are shown in Graham. An strike of the second, proofed on July 23, 1890 is shown on a 3¢ stamp of the Maple Leaf issue dated AP 1 / 98, and dates from the 1897–1901 period of office of postmaster John Chatham. The 1911 broken circle receiving postmark, whose date of manufacture is



not known, shown here on the picture side of a card from nearby Berkeley, dates from Robert Ceaser's term in office.



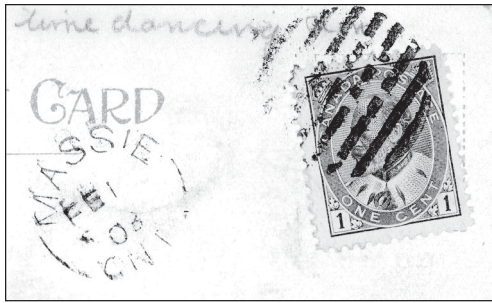
Stores & P. O., Massie, Ont.



**MASSIE ONT.**  
**AP 1 / 98**  
 Second A1 hammer  
 21.5 mm  
 arcs 10.5, 11.5  
 PROOFED  
 JY 23 1890

Store and Post Office, c.1906.





**MASSIE ONT. / FE 1 / 08**

Third A1 hammer  
20.0mm, arcs 8.0mm  
Earliest recorded use.

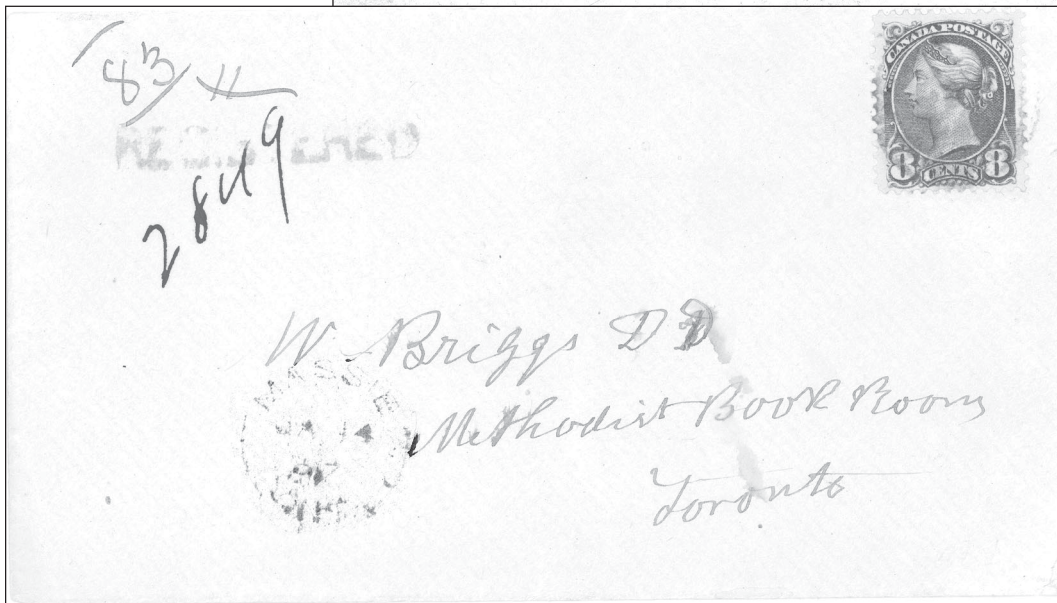
**MASSIE ONT. / JU 27 / 11**

Third broken circle hammer.  
Are those Grey County moose  
at pasture?



**MASSIE ONT. / JA 14 / 97**

A registered letter from Massie  
to Toronto, via Chatsworth.  
Same day delivery  
108 years ago!



## The Massie Stores and Post Office

Massie in the last decade of the 19th Century, with an approximate population of 100 in 1887, could boast about having considerable commercial activity. The community had a grocer, miller, blacksmith, wagon maker, a boot and shoe maker, a general store whose proprietor was the postmaster, and a livestock dealer.

Early in the 1800s, when settlers were hewing homes

for themselves from the bush, there was a need for stores. Mr. and Mrs. James Hewitt, who owned six hundred acres of Concession 7, built a log building on the north-west corner of Lot 1 for this purpose. However the store never became a reality, and this one hundred acres was sold to Robert McKessock and his wife, Eliza Jane Price, and they resided in the log building.

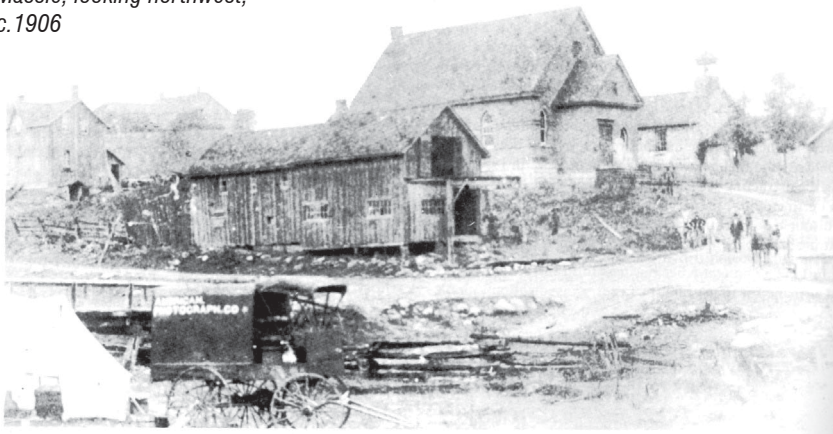
Eventually there were two stores in Massie. One was located on Lot 4, Concession 7, just south of the river, across the road from the mill house. Owners of the store, as far as can be ascertained were: Foster and Higgison, Pilgrim Brothers, George and William Coleman, Alex Massie, May and Mercer, and Joshua Milligan who was the final owner. He also had the post office from 1873 until 1885. . . .

The other store was first opened by Joseph Partridge on the south half of Lot 2, Concession 6, the farm being owned by his son George. He bought property on the southwest corner of Lot 3, Concession 7 from James Hewitt in May 1876, being part of the acreage taken from the Crown in 1873, by Mr. Hewitt. Here Mr. Partridge built a store and operated it until 1898. During his tenure, in 1885, the post office was moved from Mr.

Milligan's store to his, where it remained until the coming of rural mail delivery. Ellen A. Chatham took possession of the store in November 1898 and she and John operated it until it was sold to William Dunnington in September 1902. David Kelly operated the store from May, 1906 until it was purchased by Robert Ceaser in October, 1906. Mr. Ceaser was the last postmaster for Massie post office. While Mr. Ceaser was storekeeper, he purchased the Temperance Hall and engaged Dick Scott, a contractor, to move it down the hill, and across the river to the northwest corner of his property. He converted it to a large general store, razing the original store but retaining the adjoining house. In the 1920s, Mr. Ceaser had a gasoline pump installed to accommodate the increasing popularity of automobiles among his customers, after having sold gasoline from barrels.

He remained the genial storekeeper until the store and

Massie, looking northwest, c. 1906



Mr. Joshua Milligan, storekeeper and postmaster at Massie. c. 1885.

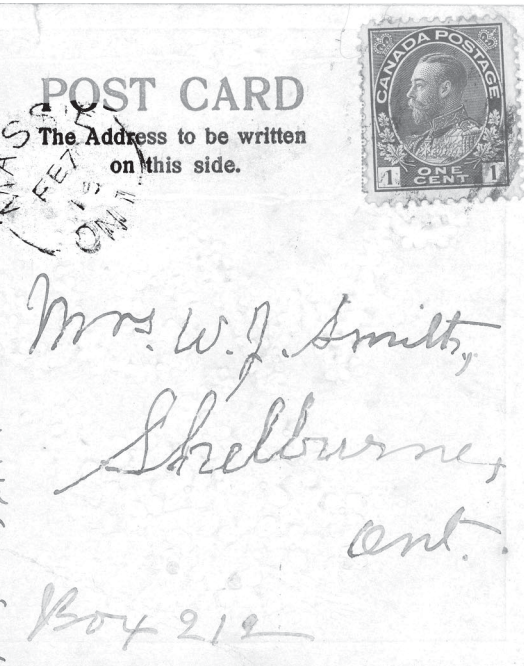
COURTESY OF Mrs. H. Milligan.

**MASSIE ONT. / FE 7 / 13**

*Latest recorded use of the third Massie broken circle hammer.*

*uncle and grandma  
and I don't forget my own girl  
This side may have a message written upon  
it for inland Postage, but the right hand side  
must be reserved for address and stamp only.*

*Feb 7 - 1913 Massie  
my Precious girl I  
got your card we  
are well Messitt  
is very busy he has  
to go to Bratsworth  
circuit for Sunday  
next Mr. Ours comes  
here for sweetly service  
it has been very cold  
and stormy I trust you  
all keep well come just  
when you can Dear girl  
hope you don't put it off to  
long and be feeling like about  
it I would hardly love for each  
other*



the three-eighths acre lot were sold in November 1931 to his son-in-law, William Morrow. While Mr. Ceaser, and later Mr. and Mrs. Morrow, carried on the business, it was known as one of the best country stores in the area. A full line of groceries, cured meats, confectionery, hardware, paints, household linens, clothing, gift ideas, was kept. A flour house, built on the north side by Mr. Morrow, held flour and feed. Located directly across the road from the public school, it was a great place for the children to spend their cherished pennies. It was also a gathering place for the residents to meet and swap stories. The store continued to operate with various owners until final closure in 1970. ☒

*Thank you to The Historical Society of Holland Township who published much of the story of the "Massie Stores and Post Office" in The Paths that Led to Holland (1983).*

**A CHALLENGE TO OUR MEMBERS ABOUT**  
**Bruce County Mail Service**  
*in the mid-1800s*

[REF. 190]

The Bruce County Museum at Southampton is planning on a special exhibit focusing on postal service in Bruce County in the period around Confederation. The exhibit is currently still in the design stage, and the plan is to use this information as part of the study on Pioneer Life in Bruce County. Good postal service was of greatest importance and the exhibit wants to impress upon the visitors how different the world was before the age of instant communication.

Specifically what we are looking for is how long it would take the mail to get to Bruce County and how long it would take the mail to travel through Bruce County before about 1880. Any information about delivery methods and delivery routes would be good to. As a starting point we may use the post offices in Kincardine, Walkerton, Southampton, Wiarton and Stoke's Bay as the destinations for mail within the County, as this gives a good range of locations the mail would have to reach in Bruce (sort of 4 corners and the Peninsula).

When we are looking at origin points for mail, we are looking for major locations in Canada (such as

Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, maybe some locations in the West and the Maritimes) and major world cities (like Boston, New York, Detroit, London, Paris, Berlin).

Also, any information on the role of the mail in those times could be useful too. I think it would really surprise many of our visitors to realize that a many business transactions that now would occur in a few minutes over the internet once took months to accomplish through the mail.

Any information on how mail delivery in Bruce has evolved over time might have a use as well. I can't make any guarantees, but if the exhibit designers find a particular piece of information useful to creating the visitor experience we are aiming for, I am sure they will not hesitate to use it.

*Jeff Farrar*

Bruce County Museum & Archives  
 P.O. Box 180, Southampton, ON N0H 2L0  
 TEL: 1-866-318-8889; FAX: 519-797-2191  
 www.brucemuseum.ca

*We have much of this information at our disposal. Who will step up to the plate and discuss this project with Jeff Farrar?*

[REF. 191]  
**Lion's Head**  
 ADDENDUM

Lion's Head harbour.



COURTESY James E. Kraemer



The present building of the Lion's Head post office was opened on July 24, 1964. W. J. "Wally" Petter was postmaster at the time. To the right of the new building is the previous post office, and still further to the right is blacksmith/welding shop that served the village. It is still the building in use. ☒

# THE POSTAL HISTORY

# of Sunnidale Township

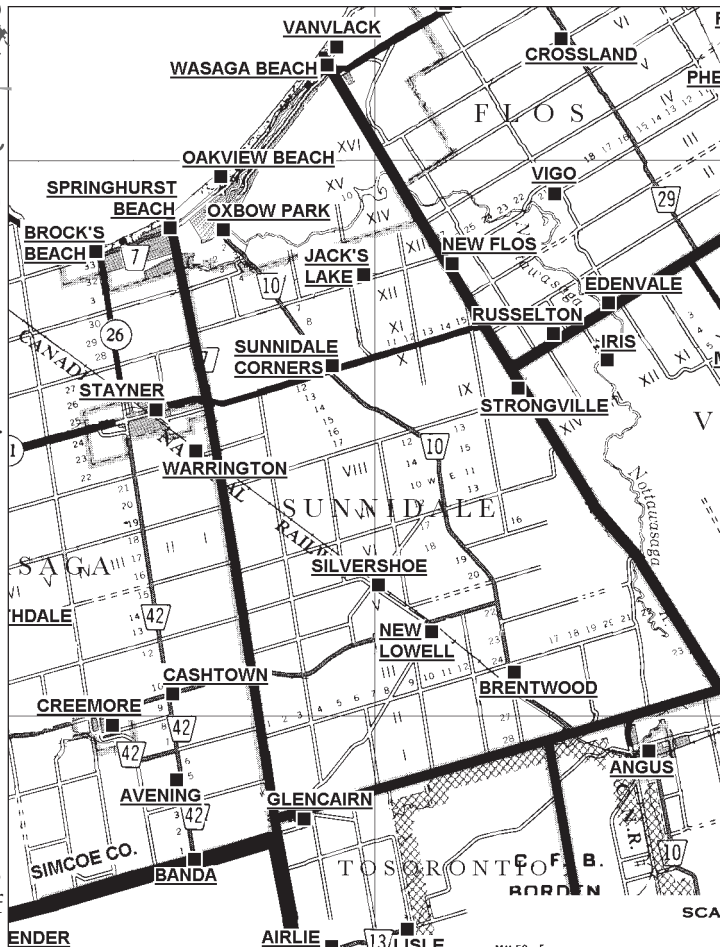
Bob McCabe

Sunnidale Township is in the northwestern part of Simcoe County. It is located between Nottawasaga Township on the west, and Flos, and Vespra on the east. On the south of the township lie Essa and Tosorontio. To the north is Nottawasaga Bay, which is part of Georgian Bay.

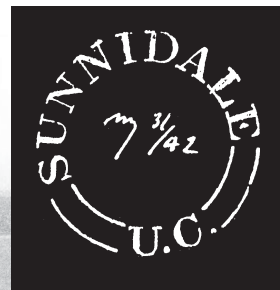
The first post office in Sunnidale Township to open was naturally, at Sunnidale. It opened on July 6, 1841, and remained open until October 1, 1879. The first postmaster of Sunnidale was a Mr. Alex Gillespie who was postmaster for over 30 years, from July 6, 1841 until 1877. A second postmaster, H. Pretty was appointed and served for 9 months until the post office closed on September 20, 1878. It appears that with the change of postmaster the locale of the post office also changed.

A second Sunnidale office opened on December 1, 1880, and remained open until July 1, 1904, when it was renamed Strongville. Located on the northeast corner of Lot 12, Concession 10 the post office remained active until it closed on January 31, 1917.

When the Sunnidale office reopened on December 1, 1880, Mr. James McCreavey was the postmaster, his resignation on August 22, 1887, led to James Thompson being appointed postmaster from November 1, 1887 until he resigned October 15, 1890.



PROOF STRIKE  
SUNNIDALE U.C.  
May 31 / 42  
29-mm B2sx  
known used  
c. 1842-1861



A busy weekend at the Beach in the late 1920s.

James Griffin was the next postmaster who was sworn into office January 1, 1891, and served until August 28, 1895, and then the office was taken over by David Armstrong from November 18, 1895, until August 27, 1900.

The last postmaster of Sunnidale was Robert Strong who on February 1, 1901 assumed the post. When the post office was renamed to Strongville to avoid confusion with the nearby Sunnidale Corners, he was the first postmaster of the new office until 1906. It was the Post Office Department's policy at the time that the postmaster was required to be a resident of the community he served. In 1906 Robert Strong no longer fulfilled that requirement and he was replaced by Mrs. Melinda Strong who served from August 19, 1906 until January 12, 1910, when she resigned the post.

Mr. William Howie was the last postmaster of Strongville. His term was July 25, 1910 until the office closed January 31, 1917 upon the introduction of rural mail delivery.

During the time of the Sunnidale post office openings a number of cancelling devices were used. The first was **SUNNIDALE / U.C.** that was proofed on My 31 / 1842; it was a Double Broken Circle hammer of type B2sx, measuring 29 mm in diameter. Copies are known from 1841 to 1861. (The proof date may be in error).

A type A2 hammer,

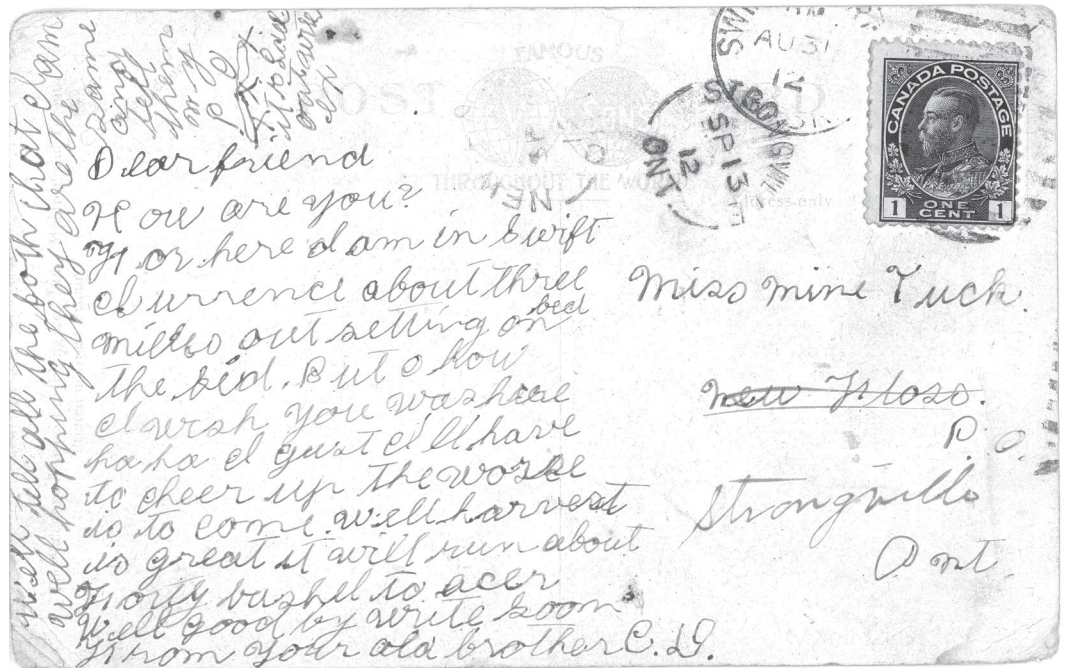


PROOF STRIKE  
**SUNNIDALE U.C.**  
**JA 26 / 81**

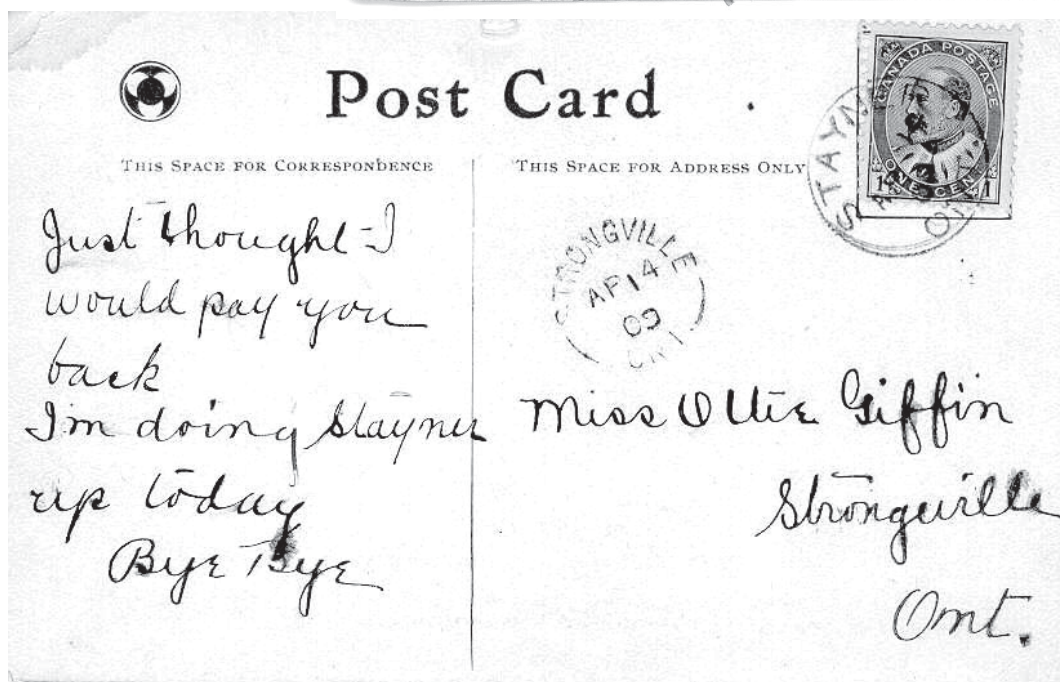
21-mm A1; arcs 7.0, 6.0  
- no reported strikes -

20.0 mm diameter, **SUNNIDALE / C.W** with an unknown proof date was also in use; the first reported copy was struck on DE 14/68, and was in use until 1874, and possibly later, until the office closed in 1879.

A third hammer, **SUNNIDALE / ONT.** was proofed on JA 26 / 81; it was a type A1 hammer, 21.0 mm diameter with arcs of 7.0, and 6.0 mm respectively, but to date no reported copies are available.



COURTESY - Gus Knierim



Two post cards addressed to recipients in Strongville. The above card was mailed from Swift Current, Saskatchewan, to **NEW FLOS** and redirected to **STRONGVILLE**, September 13, 1912 - a new late date for the New Flos office.

The lower card was mailed at nearby **STAYNER** and arrived at **STRONGVILLE** April 14, 1909 - presently the earliest date recorded.

COURTESY - Robt. C. Smith

## STRONGVILLE

**STRONGVILLE / ONT.** type A1, 20.5 mm diameter with arcs of 8.0, and 7.0 mm each side, with an unknown proof date, with a reported early date of OC 25 / 07, and latest date of AU 9 / 15.

There is no indication of any other franking devices ever being used in these offices.

## SUNNIDALE STATION / NEW LOWELL

On April 1, 1856, an office was opened at Sunnidale Station, Lot 8, Concession 5, and remained open for two years, when it was renamed New Lowell, which coincidentally is one of the two remaining open post offices in what was Sunnidale Township. The other open office being Wasaga Beach.

Peter Paton was the only postmaster of Sunnidale Station (1), from its opening April 1, 1856, until its closing April 1, 1858; he then became the postmaster of the newly-opened New Lowell post office where he remained postmaster until his death March 30, 1890. The New Lowell office was located on Lot 10, Concession 4.

Although the Sunnidale Station (1) post office was open for only 2 years, no reported cancelling devices were used, and the only reported manuscript franking is dated August 8, 1857.

A number of subsequent postmasters occupied the chair in New Lowell, briefly they were:

William Switzer, June 1, 1890, until his death on May 7, 1897.

James A. Mather, June 1, 1897 until his death March 13, 1915.

J. K. Switzer, May 19, 1915 until his death on September 9, 1923, followed by Mrs. Annie Switzer February 8, 1924 until her resignation on July 8, 1924. Whereupon Mr. William Mather was appointed on October 18, 1924 and served until he died on April 19, 1944.

Miss Helen Prosser was an acting postmistress from April 25, 1944 until replaced June 30, 1944 by George Hunt Duff, who served until January 15, 1965.

Judson George MacKay served for 2½ years from January 16, 1965 until his resignation of September 5, 1967.

Gurney Luther Ferrier was appointed acting postmaster September 16, 1967. The situation became permanent on February 14, 1968. He resigned June 4, 1973.

Edmund W. Longley became the new postmaster on June 4, 1973.

The postmaster files on record at the National Archives indicate that John Ross was postmaster at New Lowell as of April 1, 1858. Local historical records do not support this, but instead show that Mr. Ross served as postmaster at nearby Silvershoe, from April 1, 1858 until his resignation on March 25, 1863. This appointment is supported by the postmaster files.

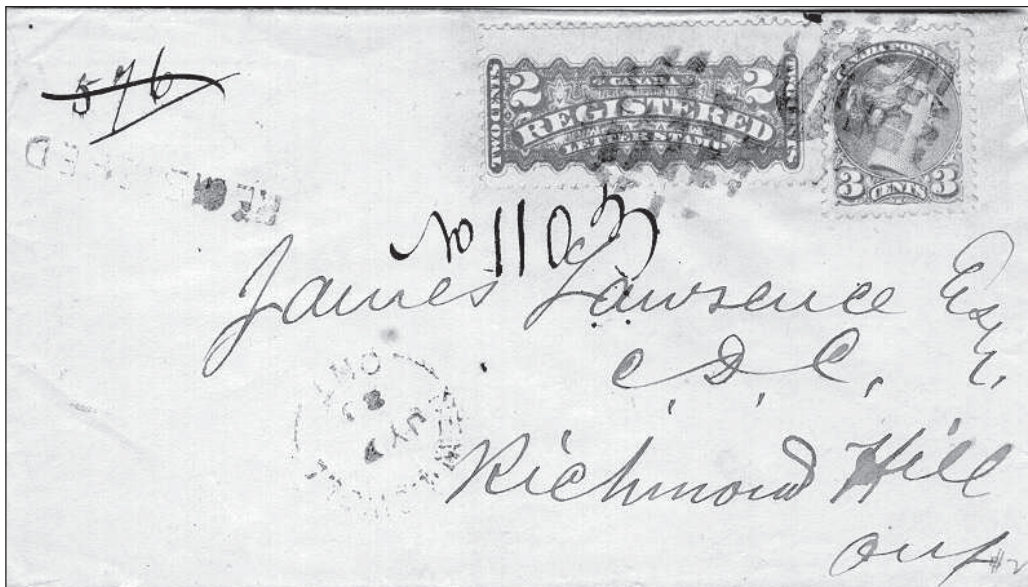
Three Split or Broken Circle hammers were used in New Lowell along with a number of Full Circle hammers over the years.

A **NEW•LOWELL/UC.** type A2 hammer, 20.0 mm diameter, was the first. An early strike is dated in 1858 and the latest reported strike is AU 28/65.

Next came a hammer that was proofed **JU 6/77, NEW•LOWELL/ONT.** type A1 hammer, 22 mm diameter with 7.0 mm arcs of which one reported copy is known (see below), and finally **NEW•LOWELL/ONT.** type A1

hammer with a 20.5 mm diameter and 6.0 mm arcs with larger letters than the previous hammer was proofed **JY 9/88.** Reported copies include **JA 28 / 91** (earliest), and **AP 13 / 96** (latest).

A number of Full Circle hammers have been used in New Lowell over the years of its existence. An unknown proof date hammer (25-mm diameter) used **AP 21 / 04** is possibly the earliest of many. A proofed date of **AM / AU 19 / 22, NEW LOWELL/ONT.** follows. It is 23.5 mm diameter, and was used until a new hammer was proofed **PM/20 IV/ 51,** followed by **PM / 9 XI / 62,** 22.5 mm diameter. This latest hammer was still in use in the year 2000.



### NEW•LOWELL / ONT. JY 7 / 83

A registered cover to Richmond Hill struck with the 22-mm A1 that was proofed JU 6 / 77 – the earliest date recorded for this hammer.

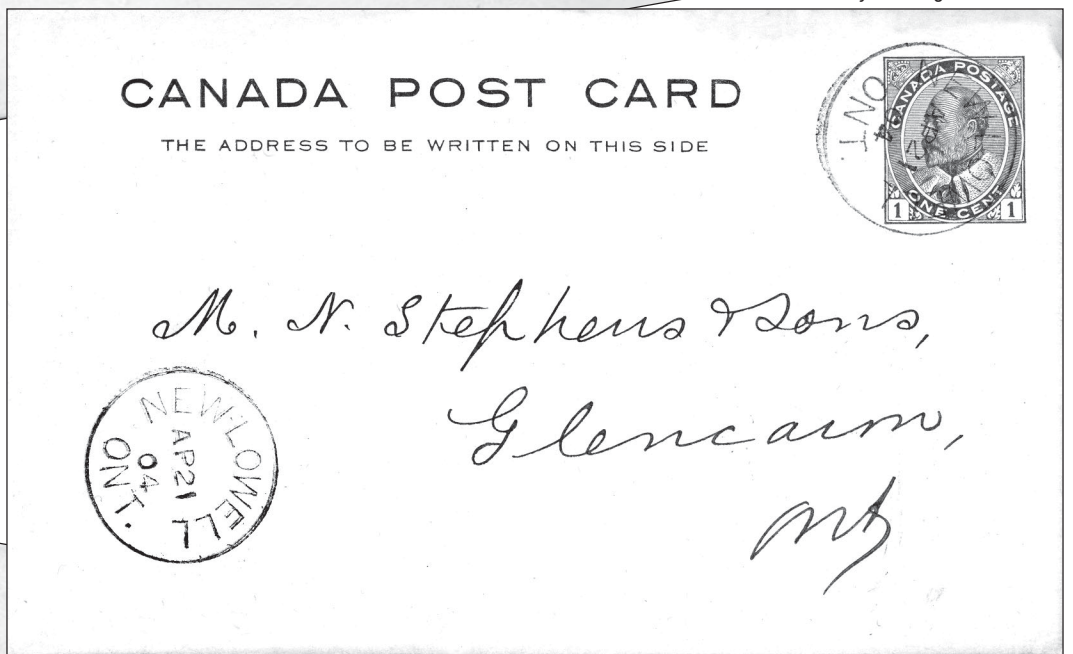
COURTESY – Robt. C. Smith



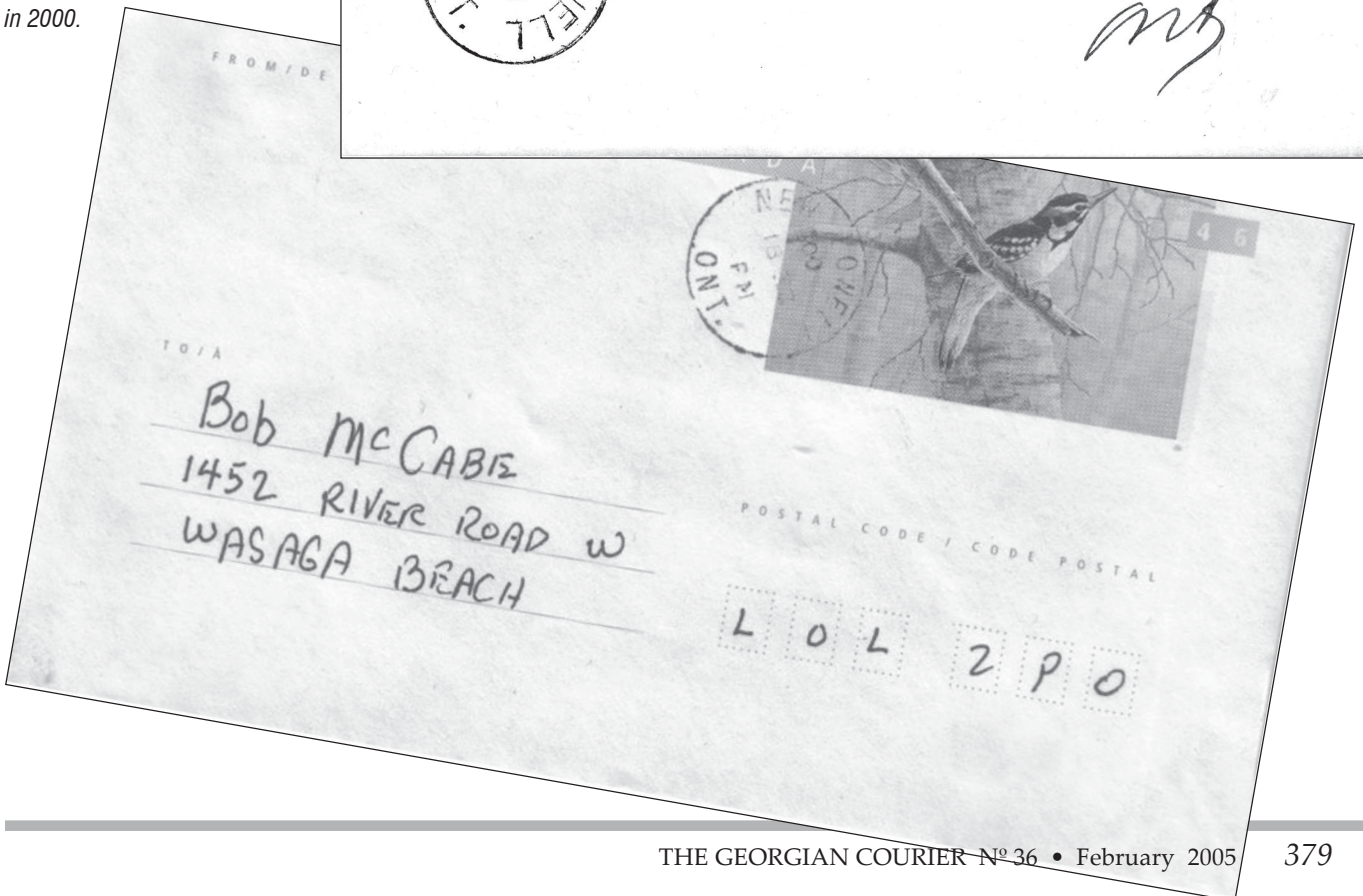
**NEW • LOWELL / ONT. / JU 4 / 94**  
 One of the many cards addressed to the Stephens & Sons firm in Glencairn where it correctly received a same-date receiver. Note the firms "PAID" datestamp struck in red.



**NEW LOWELL / ONT. / AP21 / 04**  
 25-mm cds (proof date unknown)  
 This Stephens & Sons card also received a same-date receiver, however the year-slug reads "40".



**NEW LOWELL / ONT. / 00 / 16 XI / PM**  
 Proofed September 9, 1962, this cds hammer was still in use in 2000.



**PROOF STRIKES OF A NUMBER OF  
NEW LOWELL CDS HAMMERS**



PROOF DATE  
AU 19 / 22  
23.5-mm CDS



PROOF DATE  
26 IV / 51  
22.5-mm CDS



PROOF DATE  
9 XI / 62  
22.5-mm CDS

**SUNNIDALE STATION / SILVERSHOE**

When the original Sunnidale Station closed on April 1, 1858, two offices opened that day, one at the aforementioned New Lowell, and a new Sunnidale Station office that remained open until October 1, 1862, when it was renamed Silvershoe, which remained open until August 29, 1868.

John Ross was appointed postmaster and served in that capacity from April 1, 1858 until March 25, 1863. He was followed by John J. Ross who served for seven months from May 1 until December 5, 1863. James A. Mather was the last postmaster at Silvershoe. His term of office was from January 1, 1864 until closure on August 29, 1868. This post office was located at Lot 8 Concession 5 of the township.

It is reported that **SUNNIDALE • STATION / U.C** utilized a 20.0 mm type A2 broken circle hammer that is reported used c.1859 and SP 25 1860.

No reports have been made for Silvershoe but one may assume that this office used a type A2 broken circle hammer during its six years of operation.

**BRENTWOOD**

Brentwood post office was opened on May 1, 1864, and was closed November 30, 1926. The office was closed on the commencement of New Lowell Rural Route #2 service. Brentwood is located on present-day Simcoe County Road 10, just northwest of Angus. In the early days the post office was located at the northwest corner of Lot 25, Concession 2.

Brentwood was served by nine postmasters during its sixty-two years of operation.

First postmaster was Louis E. Dubois (May 1, 1864 until November 19, 1873). Upon resignation he was succeeded by James Graham (January 1, 1874 until May 22, 1875) who held the post for just over a year. John O'Donnell served the community for twenty-six years from July 1, 1875 until October 26, 1901.

S. C. Warner was next in line with his appointment on December 1, 1901. He died in 1920 while still being in the employ of the Post Office Department. Mrs. Sarah M. Warner, presumably his wife, fulfilled his term serving from January 11, 1921 until March 4, 1921. A new postmaster was appointed on April 15, 1921 by the name of William Winters. His career was short-lived as he resigned the following year on November 20, 1922. Another short-term appoint followed when William J. Gozzard accepted the position on February 10, 1923. He resigned the following year on October 27, 1924.

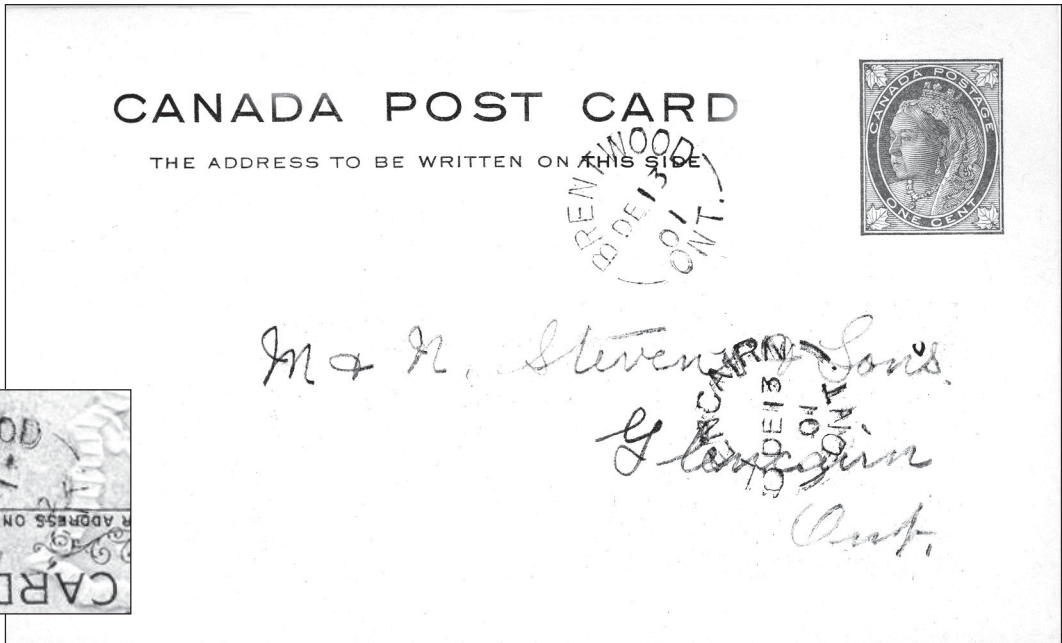
J. H. Mitchell was appointed postmaster on November 21, 1924 and held the post until his resignation on June 21, 1926. The writing was on the wall when Michael Daly assumed the postmastership on September 6, 1926. On October 8, 1926 the post office was closed and postal service was now offered through rural mail delivery.

In its lifetime Brentwood could boast about three different broken circle datestamps. Its first hammer was a 20.5 mm type A2 hammer with 9.0 and 9.5 mm arcs. Its earliest known use was NO 2 1870 and latest reported sighting is MY ? 1883.

A second hammer was proofed on MR 8 1890. This instrument is a 20.5 mm type A1 with 6.0 mm arcs. Earliest recorded use is AP 29 / 95 and latest known use is SP 13 1912. Finally there was a very short-lived hammer. It was proofed on JY 2 1926 just three months before closure. It is a 22.0 mm type A1 hammer with 8.0 and 8.5 mm arcs. There are no reported sightings.

**BRENTWOOD / ONT. / DE 13 / 01 – 20.5-mm type A1** COURTESY – Gus Knierim

**BRENTWOOD / ONT.  
/ SP 13 / 12**  
The latest known  
use of the second  
20.5-mm type A1  
hammer.





# SUNNIDALE CORNERS

Sunnidale Corners is also on county Road 10, about 7 miles northwest of Brentwood, at the junction of Highway 26, the main road link between the town of Stayner on the west and the City of Barrie which is further east. The post office in Sunnidale Corners on the northeast corner of Lot 12, Concession 10, opened July 1, 1881, and closed January 31, 1917.

John S. Dixon was the first postmaster and served until February 21, 1889. Upon his resignation he was followed by John Matthews who served from May 1, 1889 until January 31, 1917. After this closure postal service was provided through rural mail delivery.

According to Bruce Graham's *Ontario Broken Circles* Sunnidale Corners utilized two different type A1 hammers. The first one was proofed AU 20 1881 and had a 22 mm diameter with arcs measuring 3.0 and 2.0 mm. There are no reported finds.



## SUNNIDALE • CORNERS /

ONT. / MY 14 / 06

The second type A1 with a

BATTEAU / ONT. /

MY 15 / 06 receiver from

this neighbouring community in

Nottawasaga Township. It is the earliest

report for the Batteau type A1 hammer.

COURTESY - Robt. C. Smith

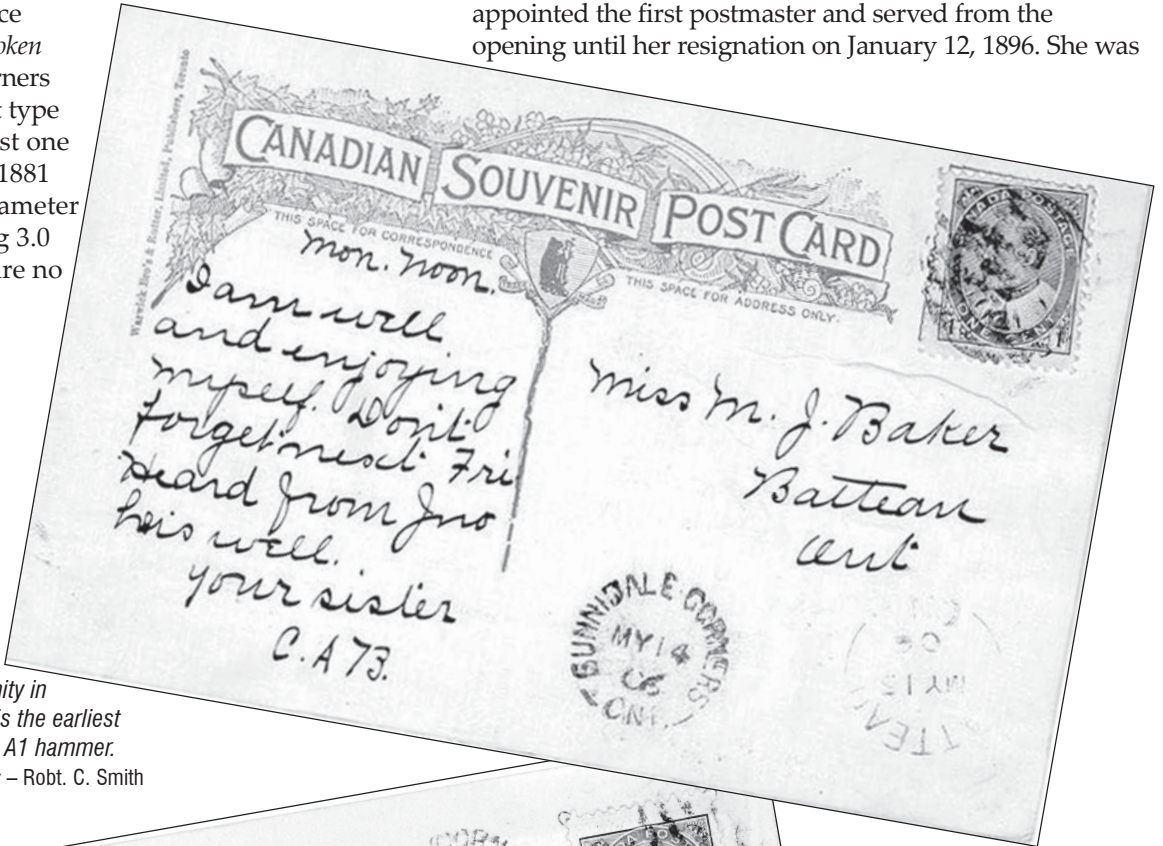
It was replaced with a smaller second hammer measuring 20.5 mm and having arcs of 2.5 and 3.0 mm. This instrument has an early report of November 25, 1891 and a late report of December 31, 1913.



# JACKS LAKE

Jacks Lake Post Office opened June 1, 1893, and was situated south of what is now Wasaga Beach on the southwest corner of Lot 6E, Concession 13. The office closed June 30, 1930.

The community was served by three postmasters during the life of the post office. Susannah Coulson was appointed the first postmaster and served from the opening until her resignation on January 12, 1896. She was



## SUNNIDALE • CORNERS /

ONT. / MR 31 / 11

The second type A1 with a

NEW LOWELL / ONT. /

AP 1 / 11 receiver.

COURTESY - Gus Knierim

followed by George Garrod who may have served for just one year, May 1, 1896 until June 28, 1897 according to the Postmaster files at the National Archives. We then see an unexplained gap because the next postmaster, John Pickering, was not appointed until April 1, 1902. He served until June 7, 1930, at which time the post office was closed and postal service was provided by RR#1 Stayner.

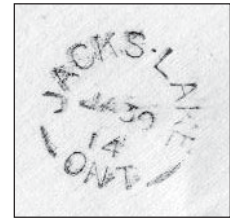
Bob Smith's *Ontario Post Offices*, does not indicate a closure, nor reopening between the years of 1893 and 1930. The *Canadian Official Postal Guide* lists George Garrod as postmaster in 1897 until 1902. However, in the 1897 Guide it is printed in a roman-style font, whereas in the years 1898–1903 his name is italicized. The mystery remains for the Guide does not explain the reason for the italics. Is it possible that Mr. Garrod was only the acting postmaster in the italicized years? Or was he officially the postmaster but absent from duty and someone else was fulfilling the role of the postmaster? Perhaps one of our members can explain.

The settlement was originally known as "Jacques" Lake. The name was that of an aged Indian, John Jacques, who lived on the shores of the lake for many years. The name was adopted for the post office by an informal vote of the people according to the notation in David Williams', *The Origin of the Names of the Post offices of Simcoe County*

Bruce Graham in *Ontario Broken Circles*, reports only one type A1 hammer (20.5 mm, arcs 4.5) being used at Jack's Lake. No other instruments have surfaced.



JACKS • LAKE  
ONT.  
an early strike  
OC 7 / 95  
and the latest  
reported strike  
JA 14 / 30



## HECTOR / WASAGA BEACH

We now arrive at that community that stretches for a number of kilometres along the golden sands of Nottawasaga Bay. The town has developed from a small rather isolated community of Hector, with a very late arrival of a post office in 1912, to a large resort area. In the meantime there were a number of post offices serving the public in various parts of "The Beach". We will leave that part of the story until the next issue of the *Georgian Courier*. ☒

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- [2] Robt. C. Smith, extensive unpublished updates to Bruce Graham's *Ontario Broken Circles* [to p.194]
- [3] Library and Archives Canada, *Post Offices and Postmaster files*, <http://www.collectionscanada.ca>
- [4] Larry Whitby, Michael Millar, *List of the Post Offices in the County of Simcoe, 1830 to 1967*
- [5] David Williams, *The Origin of the Names of the Post Offices of Simcoe County*, 1906.
- [6] David Handelman, Jacques Poitras, *Canadian Manuscript Town Postmarks*, 1999.
- [7] J. Paul Hughes, *Proof Strikes of Canada*, 1991.
- [8] Eric Manchec, *The Ontario Post Office Atlas*.

# Miller Lake NEWS

[REF. 193]

As mentioned in Issue 34 (ref. 179), Miller Lake has a new postmaster and also a new location. The new home is really the old



Mrs. Judy McIlveen, was appointed postmaster at Miller Lake on June 28, 2004.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF James E. Kraemer

homestead as the post office is once again located in the same building that it occupied in the 1950s. Thanks go out to Jim Kraemer for capturing the moment. ☒

# Moving the Mail in a timely fashion

[REF. 194]

Gus Knierim

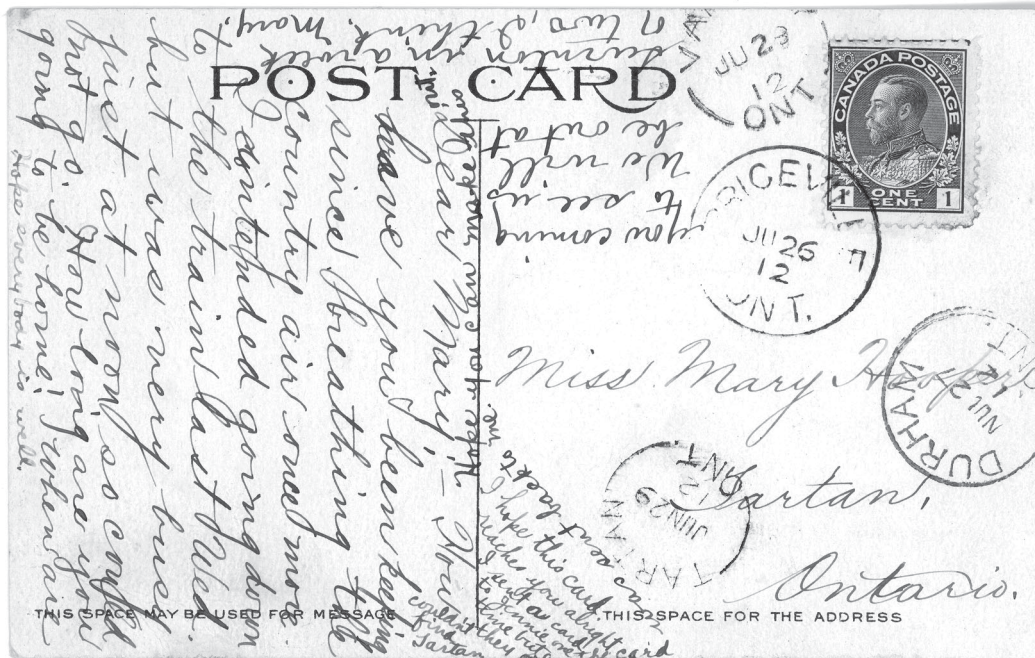
With this issue of the *Georgian Courier* we include a map of postal routes dated July 1, 1878 in the County of Grey that is courtesy of PHSC member Betti Michael, Port Robinson. We thank her for that!

We also show a portion of the Grey County map from Eric Manchée's *The Ontario Post Office Atlas* that specifically show the four communities at which this post card was handled: Priceville, Durham, Varney and finally delivery in Tartan!

With four clear postmarks on the post card and some excellent maps the reader is able to trace the complete movement of this piece of mail. We often have the unwarranted misconception that mail moved much quicker a century ago than it does today. That is not always true for then as now, the complexity of postal routing has a great impact on the time it takes to deliver the mail. We can only assume that the volume was minimal and that the logical point was to receive the mail from Varney rather than Bunessan. There are 7 post offices southeast of Priceville. All were small farming settlements; two of them had closed in the 1890s – Merritt and Greenside. The other five all received mail via rural mail delivery after 1913, thus closing these

small post offices. When dealing with these very small offices we can also not make the assumption that there was daily mail delivery – one should almost assume that it was not the case.

Times have changed, at least in the area served by our study group. Today most of the small communities are served by rural route carrier on a daily basis coming from a larger post office. In the specific area that is covered by this post card we have post offices at Priceville, Durham, and Holstein – all of which are bases for rural route carriers delivering the mail to the surrounding farming community. ☒

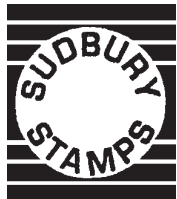


**The Mail must go through . . . 10 miles in 4 days . . . in June!**

- PRICEVILLE / ONT. / JU 26 / 12
- DURHAM / ONT. / JUN 27 / 12
- VARNEY / ONT. / JU 28 / 12
- TARTAN / ONT. / JUN 29 / 12

The Varney strike is a type A1 (20.0 mm; arcs 7.5, 8.0) known used as early as JA 26 1896 and as late as NO 28 1967

The Tartan strike is a type A1 (20.0 mm; arcs 11.0) and is the only known strike of this small office that was open for only 2½ years from May 1, 1910 until Dec. 31, 1912.



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12-36

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The "Georgian Courier" is the printed forum of the **Grey, Bruce, Dufferin & Simcoe Postal History Study Group** affiliated with the **Postal History Society of Canada**. It is currently published 4 times a year: February, May, August, and November. Copy deadline is 3 weeks before the 1st day of the above-mentioned months.

Membership costs \$12 per year (4 issues) and is payable to the editor

**J. (Gus) Knierim**

RR1, 027416 30<sup>th</sup> Sideroad  
Thornbury, Ontario N0H 2P0

PHONE/FAX: (519) 599-6975

E-MAIL: knierim@bmts.com

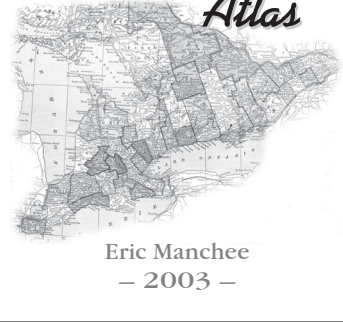
Like the well-known European Auto ad . . .

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Share your knowledge with other collectors of this Study Group by putting pen to hand and writing a small article for your GBD&S *Georgian Courier!*

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– 2003 –

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