

# The Northerner

Number 73

June-July 2009

Newsletter of the Northern Canada Study Group  
NWT Yukon Labrador Early Manitoba, Northern Ontario, & BC  
A Study Group of the Postal History Society of Canada

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**Museum News.** Kevin O'Reilly's six-frame exhibit on the 1929 Mackenzie Valley Air Mails is on display at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (the NWT museum in Yellowknife) from now until October on temporary loan as part of a special exhibit for these flights.

**Whitehorse Airport.** Anita Sprankle wrote that they drove to Alaska last year and spent some time in Whitehorse. While there, she took this picture at the Whitehorse Airport. This was their fourth driving trip to Alaska—quite a journey given that they start in eastern Pennsylvania. They always spend some time in Whitehorse, as they like the city and it is a good place to replenish supplies.

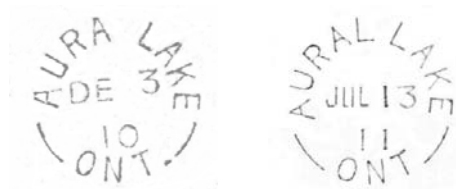


CP Air had quite a connection to Whitehorse. Their early air service to the Yukon led to ferry work to Russia during WW II, and eventually to their trans-Pacific route to Japan.

**Item 1682. Cochrane Distict: Aura Lake and Schumacher.**

Member 19 sent in these scans. The Aura Lake post office was established on December 1, 1910 in Tisdale Township in the Cochrane District of Northern Ontario, primarily as a result of the rich gold strikes in the area. The only postmaster while it operated under that name was one Dayton Ostrosser. The post office, the second building from the right in the unused postcard shown below (with a prominent POST OFFICE sign clearly visible), was located on Main Street. Its first broken circle postmarking device was proofed on December 3, 1910, recorded in use from December 28, 1911 to January 23, 1912.

The town of Aura Lake was partially destroyed in the disastrous South Porcupine fire of July 11, 1911, and a second broken circle, an error device reading AURAL LAKE / ONT., was proofed on July 13, 1911. This error postmark has not been recorded postally used. Perhaps the original broken circle was found only slightly damaged in the fire after its replacement was ordered.



The name of the Aura Lake post office was changed to Schumacher on March 1, 1912. This office remains in operation in 2009. The undated Main Street, Schumacher Ont. view on the next page shows a post office sign on the building (perhaps the same building?) between the two utility poles.





Main Street, Schumacher, Ontario

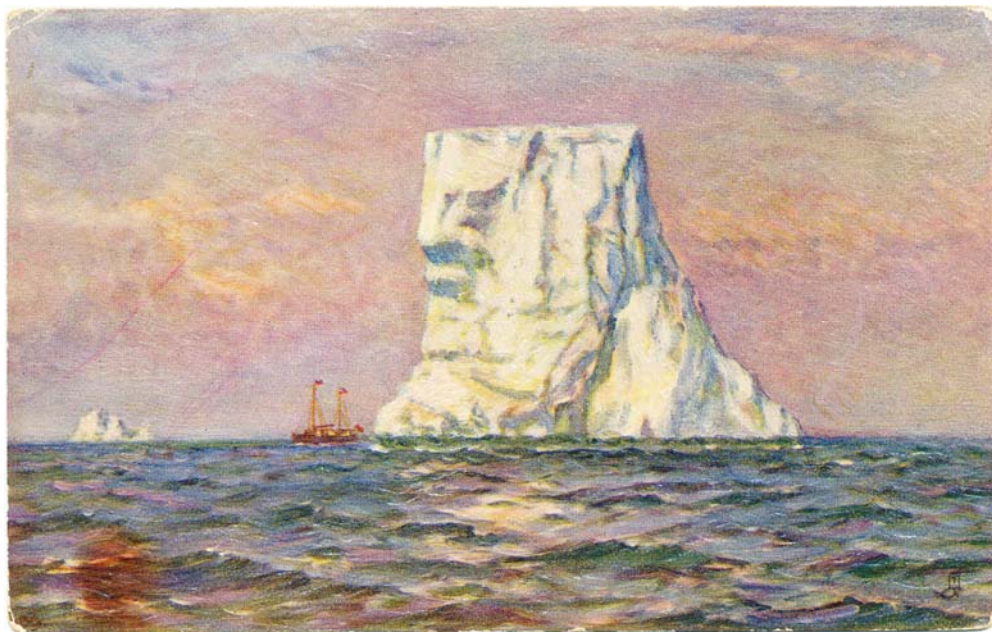
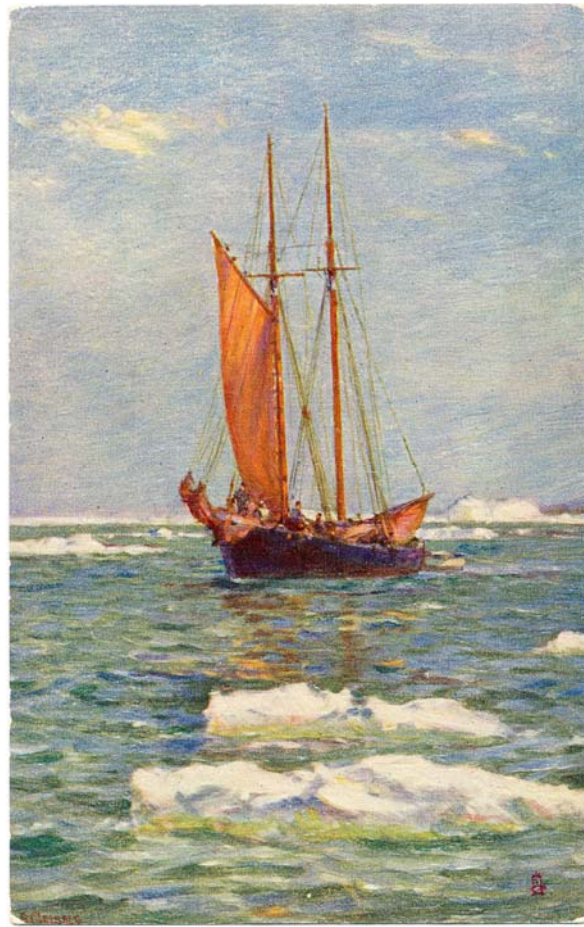
**Item 1683. Three Northern Tuck Cards.**

Member 62 visited Victoria recently and brought these three Tuck picture post cards. The first is an Oilette in the Wide World Series, "The Arctic Regions." It was mailed in New Brunswick in February 1913.



The Humbolt Glacier, North Greenland.  
300 feet high, 60 miles long. Discovered and named by Dr. E.K. Kane, 1853.

The other two Tuck's Post Cards (unused) are from Labrador, and do not have the Oilette label. The upper card is labelled "Down North on the Labrador. One of the sturdy fishing craft." The lower card is titled "A Contribution from Greenland." "Although beautiful, these visitors to the Labrador Coast are too often a menace to vessels."

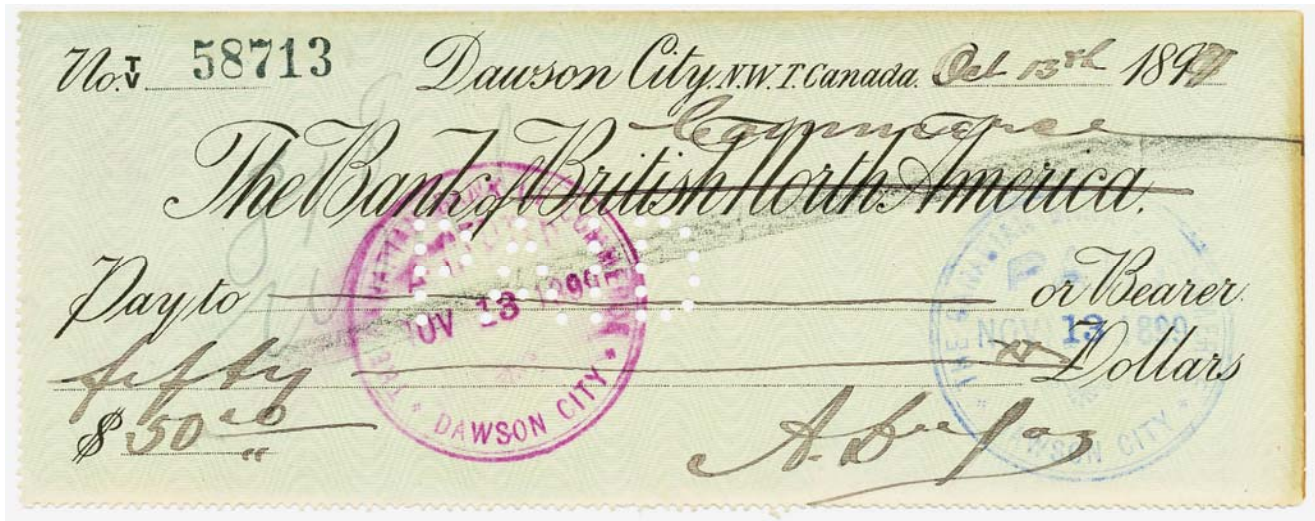


**Item 1684. Dawson Cheques – 1898 and 1899.**

Member #12 has visited Victoria, too. He brought these cheques written on banks in Dawson during the gold rush. The upper cheque is a Canadian Bank of Commerce cheque, Dawson City Branch, dated December 16<sup>th</sup>, 1898. It was issued by Alex J. Prudhomme to William Curtis, and was cashed on December 21<sup>st</sup> at the same bank branch.



The second cheque also is from Bank of Commerce, but was written on a cheque blank of the Bank of British North America, Dawson City, N.W.T. Canada. The Bank of British North America merged with the Bank of Montreal (BMO) in 1918. This cheque was written to Bearer on October 13, 1899 and was cashed in Dawson by S.B. Wentt on November 13, 1899 at the Commerce.



**Item 1685. Dawson Post Office Cards.**

These scans are also from Member 12. The upper card is a real photo from Elite Studio showing "Standing in Line at Dawson Post Office 1898." It is an AZO card (squares). This card was not printed during the gold rush, but probably in the 1930s or 1940s (AZO square paper was used from 1924 to 1949). There were several photographic studios called 'Elite' in BC and Alaska. Was this the photographer or the name of the company printing the card later?



A second post office view from Dawson is a Valentine-printed card published by Zaccarelli's Book Store, #403,521 (851). It was mailed in Dawson on January 23, 1913 to Douglas, Isle of Man and bears a 1¢ Admiral stamp. It was shortpaid a cent, and rated T/10 in pencil and then 1d due in Britain.



**Item 1686. White Horse, Y.T. Post Card – 1908.**

This undivided view of White Horse, an Albertype card published by P.E. Kern of Skagway, was mailed to Duncan, BC at White Horse on June 10, 1908. It's not a particularly rare card, but it has an unusual feature—the length of the message written on the view side. "Am still here but expect to leave on Thursday. No large steamers going down river so transferred to a smaller one paying \$15.00. Anything rather than stay another 10 days. We will probably be about 5 days going down. That is if we land on second bar. The town is swarming with people & big steamers. Have people sleeping on them. No more accommodation in the city. Baby has been a little sick, but better today. With love, B."



**Item 1687. Indian Head, N.W.T.**

Here's Member 12's registered cover from Indian Head, N.W.T. (Assiniboia). It was mailed May 27, 1903 to Toronto, where it was received on June 1<sup>st</sup>. It has a very nice Bank of Hamilton corner card.



**Item 1688. Regina Registered – 1903.**

This large registered cover was mailed to Medicine Hat, Assiniboia at Regina, Assiniboia on May 15, 1903 (03 inverted). Postage and the registration fee were paid with a 7¢ Numeral. As with most of the surviving Dominion Lands Office covers, it was not called for (June 15) and was returned to Regina (June 16). The back has a strike of RPO W-87 (No. 5) dated W/MY 16.



**Item 1689. Prince Albert Registered – 1903.**

Member 12's registered envelope from Prince Albert, Saskatchewan is also a returned Dominion Lands cover. It was mailed to Regina on October 5, 1903. On November 27, it was sent back to Prince Albert. The Prince Albert office was using 7¢ Edward stamps, not Numerals.





**Item 1690. Bankhead, Alberta.**

Here is a scan of an unused real photo ("Victor" Postal) of the Cascade Hotel, Bankhead, Alberta. Bankhead was a small mining community in Banff National Park, near Banff. The mine, which supplied the CPR with coal, closed in 1919. The CPR planned Bankhead as a model town.



There was a post office at Bankhead from August 1, 1904 to April 15, 1924. D.C. Bayne was postmaster for the first three years. Here's a post card from Pittsburgh to Bankhead (October 23, 1905). There's a Banff postmark (same day) on the view side.

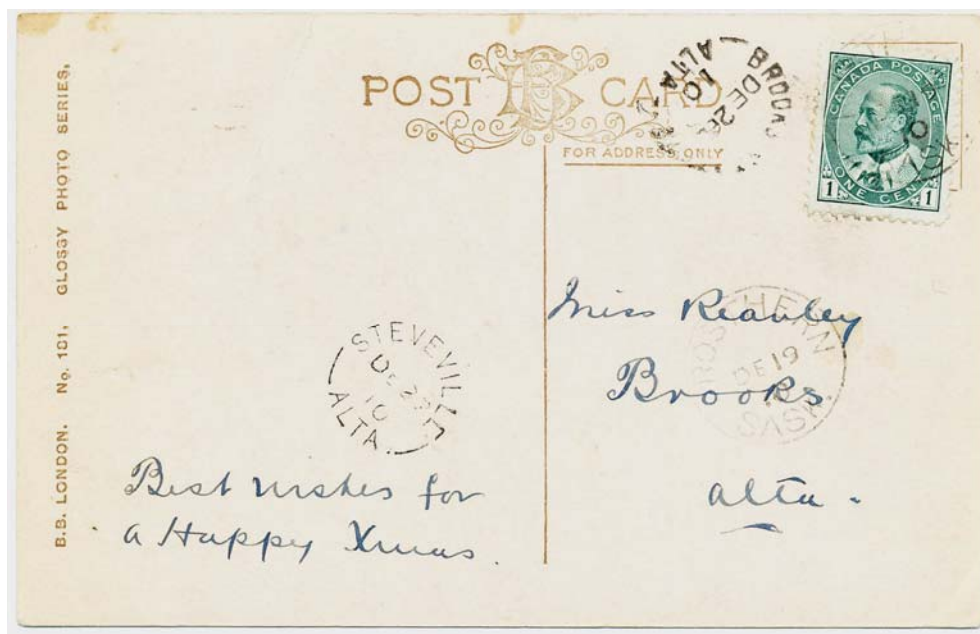


**Item 1691. Steveston, Alberta.**

Here is another item from Member 12, a real photo (AZO triangles) of Steveston, Alberta—near Brooks. Steveston had a post office from August 15, 1910 to December 31, 1916. The second postmaster (1912 to 1916) is listed as E.D. Coulter. The post card was published by 'Coulter.' Egbert Ogle 'Bert' Coulter operated a store in Steveston from 1911 to 1916, when he volunteered for war service. The postmastership card says 'E.D. Coulter' resigned May 2, 1916. I suspect that the person who wrote the postmastership card made an error in spelling the postmaster's name.



Here's a greeting card mailed at Rosthern, Saskatchewan on December 19, 1910 and sent to an addressee in Brooks, postmarked at Brooks Station on December 26, and sent on to Steveston on December 27.



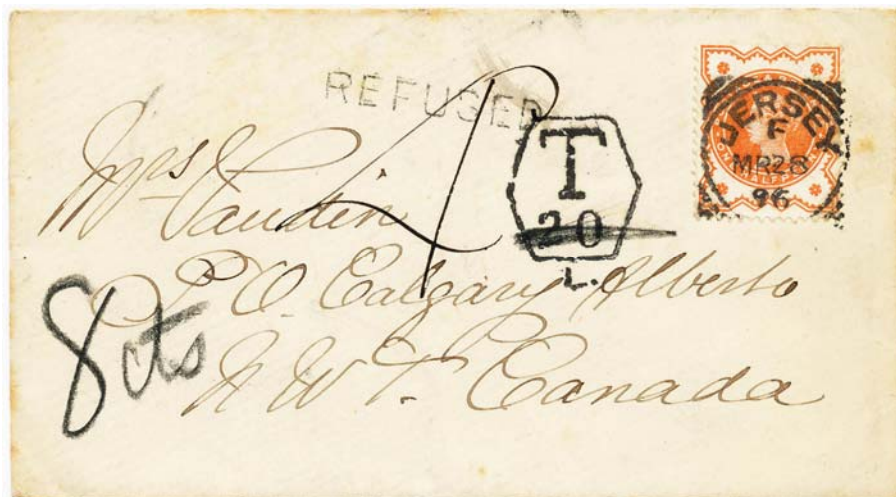
**Item 1692. Cardston Parade.**

Here's a view card showing the Old Timers Division of Pioneer Parade at Cardston, Alberta, July 26<sup>th</sup>, 1905. It is a hand-tinted collotype published by the Atlas Society of New York, and printed in Germany. It was mailed in Cardston in July 1906.



**Item 1693. Jersey to Calgary, N.W.T. - 1896.**

This cover to Calgary was mailed at Jersey on March 28, 1896 paid with only a ½d stamp (the printed-matter rate). Apparently it was sealed, and therefore shortpaid 2d. The deficiency was doubled to 4d, 20 centimes, or 8 cents. The addressee REFUSED the letter, so it was sent to the Dead Letter Office in Ottawa (May 13 in, May 20 out).



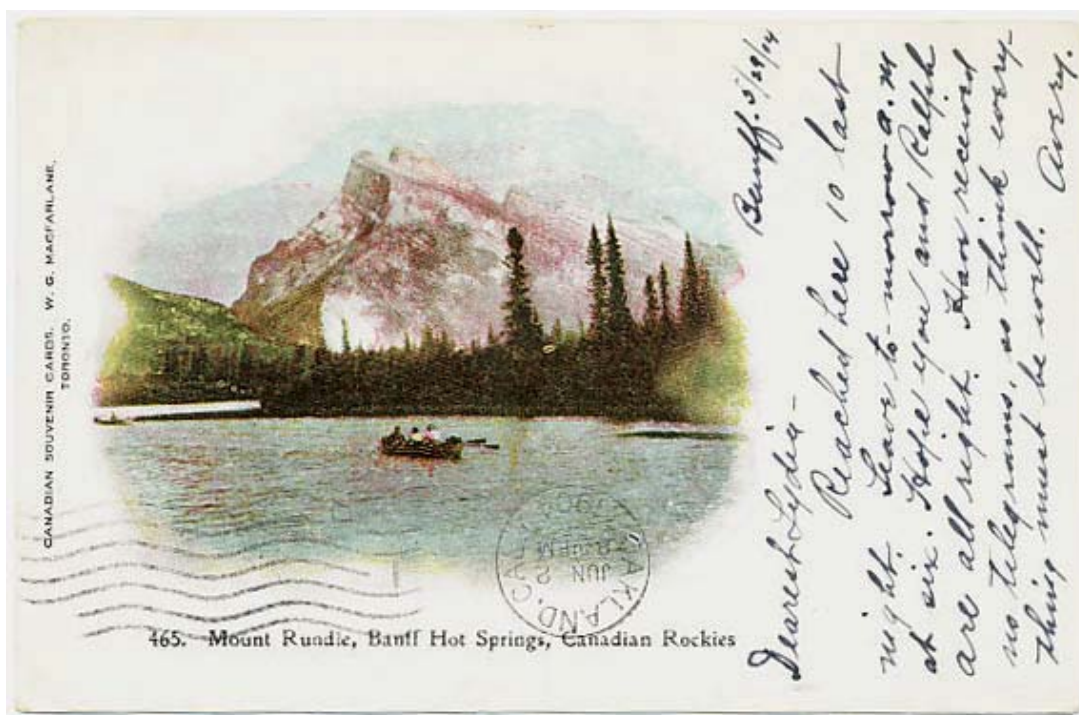
**Item 1694. To Bowden, Alberta - 1904.**

This British view card from Manchester (July 20, 1904) was mailed to Bowden, Alberta—south of Red Deer, where it was readdressed to Edmonton on August 8, 1904. It's another shortpaid item, short ½d (doubled to 5 centimes or 2¢). Bowden's PO opened on December 1, 1892.



**Item 1695. Mount Rundle - 1904.**

This W.G. Macfarlane litho card of Mount Rundle was mailed at Banff on May 29, 1904 (cds cancel) to Oakland, California (received June 2).



**Item 1696. Mail to the Casca.**

This cover sent by Member #3 is from Los Angeles, addressed to a passenger on board the steamer *Casca* as seen from the docketing at upper left. This reads "5 Casca / north 6/21," indicating the river boat probably left Whitehorse on June 21, 1941. There are no Whitehorse markings but this is an interesting example of how mail addressed to passengers was handled.



**Item 1697. Commemorative Postmarks for Yellowknife.**

Member #3 sent this information about Yellowknife's new commemorative postmarks. This cover shows a Canada Post commemorative cancel for the 75th anniversary of Yellowknife. Three of the special cancels were made for Canada Post by Sterling Marking Products Inc. of Ottawa, as shown on the invoice for these items (next page).





**Ottawa Division**  
 851 Bank St.  
 Ottawa, ON K1S 3W2  
 Tel: 613-234-8077  
 Fax: 613-234-6256

Sold to / Vendu à

▶ **CANADA POST CORPORATION**  
 655-2701 RIVERSIDE DR.  
 DOMESTIC DISBURSEMENTS  
 OTTAWA ON K1A 1L5

**Invoice # de Facture 4761240**

Invoice Date / Date de Facture <b>28 MAY 2009</b>	Date Shipped / Expédié <b>28 MAY 2009</b>	Contact / Agent <b>ELAINE DAVID</b>
Order # de Commande <b>4301283497</b>	Date rec'd / Date reçue <b>27 MAY 2009</b>	Telephone / Téléphone <b>613-734-7284</b>
Customer # Client <b>CAN22222 (C)</b>	MIKE SISSON 16	Fax

**Invoice Questions / Questions de Facture:**

E-mail: customercare@sterling.ca Toll Free / Sans Frais 1-800-265-5957

**Ship to / Expédié à**

**CANADA POST CORPORATION**  
 33 YELLOWKNIFE AIRPORT ROAD  
 PAT IRELAND  
 YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 1C0

B.N. 87167 7571 RT

Terms / Termes <b>1% 15 PROX,NET30.</b>	PST Exemption / Exemption TVP <b>NO LICENCE</b>	F.O.B / F.A.B.	Ship Via / Expédiez Via <b>EXPRESS POS-1681365500144170</b>
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Tax / Taxe R1 - GST, HST, QST Extra, Others are Zero Rated or Exempt / R1 - TPS, TVH, TVQ en plus, les autres sont Taux Zero ou Exempt

Part No No de Produit	Description	Order Commande	Shipped Expédié	Price Prix	U/M	Status Statut	Tax* Taxe	Amount Montant	GST TPS
CP4009	Pictorial Cancel Stamp/Cachet d'oblitéra RE: YELLOWKNIFE, NT IMAGE:HOUSE *ART FILE SUBMITTED*	3	3	\$21.79	EA	0	R1	\$65.37	\$3.27

Sub-Total / Sous-Total **\$65.37** **\$3.27**  
 Rush Delivery Charge

Taxes GST / TPS **\$3.27**

<b>\$67.99</b> Total amount due if received before Montant total dû si reçu avant	<b>12 JUN 2009</b>	<b>Invoice Total / Total de Facture</b>	<b>\$68.64</b>
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\*\*\* FORM # 0527039 \*\*\*



Head Office / Bureau de Chef:

**Sterling Marking Products Inc.**  
 349 Ridout St. N., P.O. Box 5055  
 London, ON, Canada N6A 5S4  
 T. 519-434-5785 F. 519-434-9516

GST / TPS # 87167 7571  
 QST / TVQ # 1020763465  
 HST / TVH # 87167 7571  
 PST / TVP # 5516-9939

www.sterling.ca

Tous les coûts engagés dans la collection de votre compte seront votre responsabilité comme convenu dans la commande et l'acceptation du produit plus des frais de paiement tardif de 2%, cumulés par mois (26.84% par an).  
 All costs incurred in the collection of your account are your responsibility as agreed in the ordering and accepting of product plus late charges of 2% compounded monthly (26.84% per annum).



**Hamilton** 905-527-1733 **Kitchener** 519-571-0882 **London** 519-434-5785 **Ottawa** 613-234-8077 **Toronto** 416-425-4140 **Vancouver** 604-321-3282 **Windsor** 519-253-7211

**INVOICE**

The company's website contains the following short history:

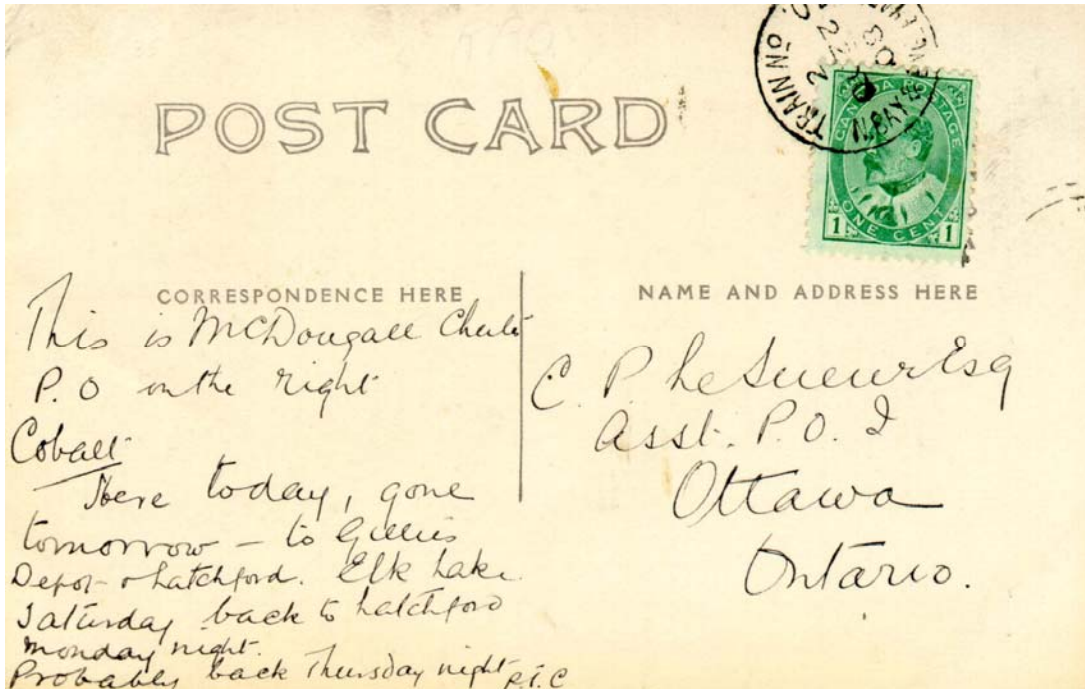
"Sterling Marking Products Inc. was founded in 1945 by Warren R. Schram and operates its head office and main production facility out of London, Ontario, Canada. Directly employing 197 people, Sterling offers a wide variety of products and services ranging from rubber stamps, pre-inked stamps, industrial marking equipment, engraving sign commercial artwork, and flexographic printing plates to printing and publishing. Today, Sterling offers a diversified product line from 7 locations across Ontario and Quebec, Canada [including Ottawa]. We have a broad Dealer network and sell to a worldwide customer base. Sterling is an innovative Canadian company with a strong, healthy customer service orientation."

Therefore, Sterling Marking Products, who made date stamps and other markings for the Canada Post Office Department in the 1970s, is apparently making at least some of the commemorative cancels now being used. The first day of use of the Yellowknife commemorative cancel was June 3, 2009 from the main post office. There are two devices there and a third at a nearby franchise outlet at a Shopper's Drug Mart, which began using its cancel on June 5, 2009. These devices will likely be used until the end of 2009.

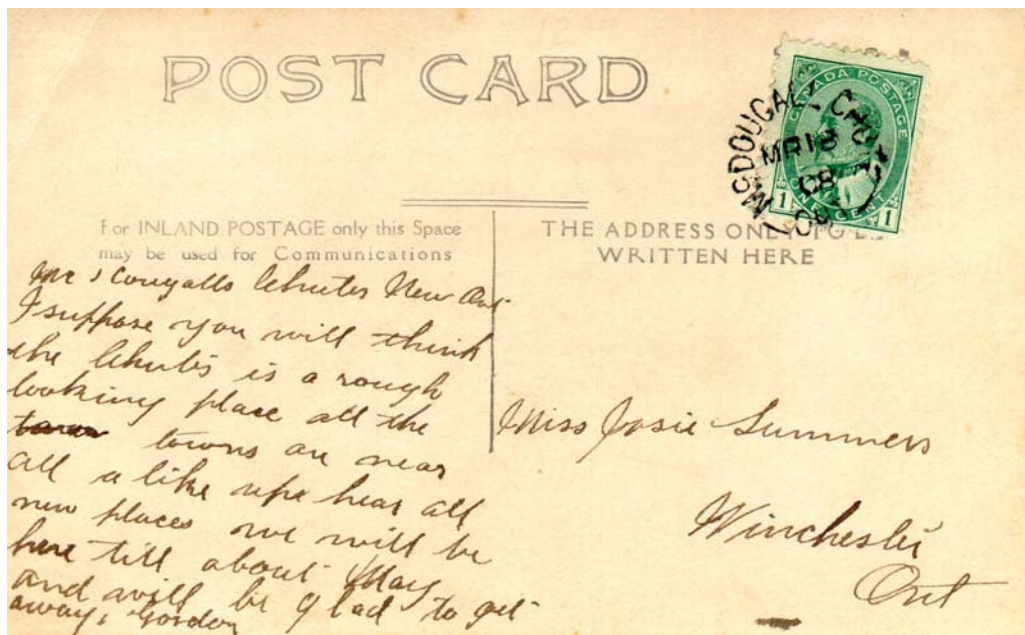
**Item 1698. McDougall Chute, Ontario.**

Here is some more northern Ontario material from Member 19. The McDougall Chute post office was established in Bowman Township, in the Cochrane District of Northern Ontario on a line of the CNR, on July 1, 1907, with Silas Gibson as its first postmaster. The Gibson and Stirling store appears at the right on this sepia-toned real photo card, whose sign includes a barely-visible POST OFFICE at the left of its bottom line. The reverse of the card (next page), with a TRAIN No / N. BAY & ENGLEHART R.P.O. [Ludlow O-189] dated 2/OC 22/08 postmark, reads in part "This is McDougall Chute P.O on the right." The card was addressed to C. P. LeSueur Esq, Asst P.O.I. (Post Office Inspector) in Ottawa, and was undoubtedly sent by a junior postal official travelling on official business.





There is no recorded proof impression of the McDUGALL CHUTE/ONT broken circle postmark. The back (below) and front of a card with a strike of this device dated March 8, 1908 (p. 2305) appear in the next two illustrations. The fact that the street scene is in McDougall Chute is confirmed by other photographs. Gibson was replaced by Daniel Johnson as postmaster on January 8, 1909. On September 1, 1911 the name of the office was changed to Matheson Station, and again on May 16, 1949 to Matheson, still in operation in 2009.







McDougall Chute, Ontario

**Item 1699. Moosonee, Ontario.**

Member 19, who collects PO cards for Ontario, also sent in this item. The Moosonee post office was established on April 23, 1932 in Moose Township on the Moose River, in the Cochrane District of Northern Ontario near James Bay, under postmaster H. E. Heggart. It was the terminus of the Ontario Northland Railway (the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway until 1946, now CNR). This not uncommon postcard of the Moosonee post office is unused, but has the look of a 1930s-era card.



The first two Moosonee postmarks were both circular datestamps, proof impressions of which are shown here.



**Item 1700. Porquis Junction, Ontario.**

Member #19 sent this material on another northern Ontario town. The post office that became Porquis Junction was opened on March 1, 1911 under the name Iroquois Falls in Clergue Township, in the Cochrane District of Northern Ontario. It became Porquis Junction on February 1, 1914, some six months before the office now known as Iroquois Falls was opened in nearby Teefy Township. The first postmaster, J. M. Bourke, served for only a few months in 1911 before the second postmaster, W. J. Stothers took over. He was in office from 1911 to 1919; his general store and post office are shown on the accompanying sepia photocard. Proof impressions of two early Porquis Junction postmarks are also shown below. The Porquis Junction post office is still in operation in 2009.



**Item 1701. Fort Resolution Sawmill.**

Member #8 supplied this picture post card showing the Roman Catholic sawmill at Fort Resolution, NWT.



The card was written (in French) at Fort McMurray, Alberta on January 26, 1930 by Jean L. Coudert (1895-1965). Coudert was an Oblate missionary from France. According to the *Dictionnaire Biographique des Oblats du Canada*, he served in Canada's north from 1923 to 1965—at Fort Resolution from 1923 to 1926, at Fort Smith from 1926 to 1929, and at Fort Chipewyan from 1929 to 1936. He then went to Smithers, BC. He was in Whitehorse from 1942 to 1965.

The message on the card says:

I just arrived here by plane. I covered 350 kilometers in less than 2 hours through snow and fog. Br.... It was not warm. I am heading for Edmonton, the nearest City to receive care, in hopes of returning by Easter back to my mission thanks to the airplanes. Thank you for your cards and greetings to all my old friends. On the other side, our sawmill at Resolution."

The message and the card suggest that Coudert was serving at Fort Resolution in 1930.

**Item 1702. RCMP Patrol Leaving Fort McMurray.** This is a Sutherland Pharmacy card.



**Item 1703. Hay River Post Cards.**

Here are two printed picture post cards from Hay River. The upper card is an HBC card bearing the printed message, "Hay River. The date of establishment of this Hudson's Bay Company post is not known, though it probably dates from 1860-1870. It is situated at the mouth of the Hay River on Great Slave Lake."



The lower card does not have a post-card back. It shows the Boarding School at Hay River.



**Item 1704. Two Cards from Fort Simpson.**

The upper card is an HBC, Edmonton real photo (No. 190) of the Hospital at Fort Simpson. Of more interest, though, is the airplane. See the name "Rene" on its side. Imperial Oil purchased two Junkers planes, the *Rene* and the *Vic*, to help in their work at Fort Norman. The two planes started north from Edmonton on March 24, 1921, but they were both damaged when they reached Fort Simpson. *Vic* needed a new propeller; *Rene* was damaged more severely.



The second Fort Simpson real photo card is No. 8 in the Valentine Winnipeg series. "Fort Simpson, McKenzie River. The large house was built in 1823 by the Franklin Expedition."

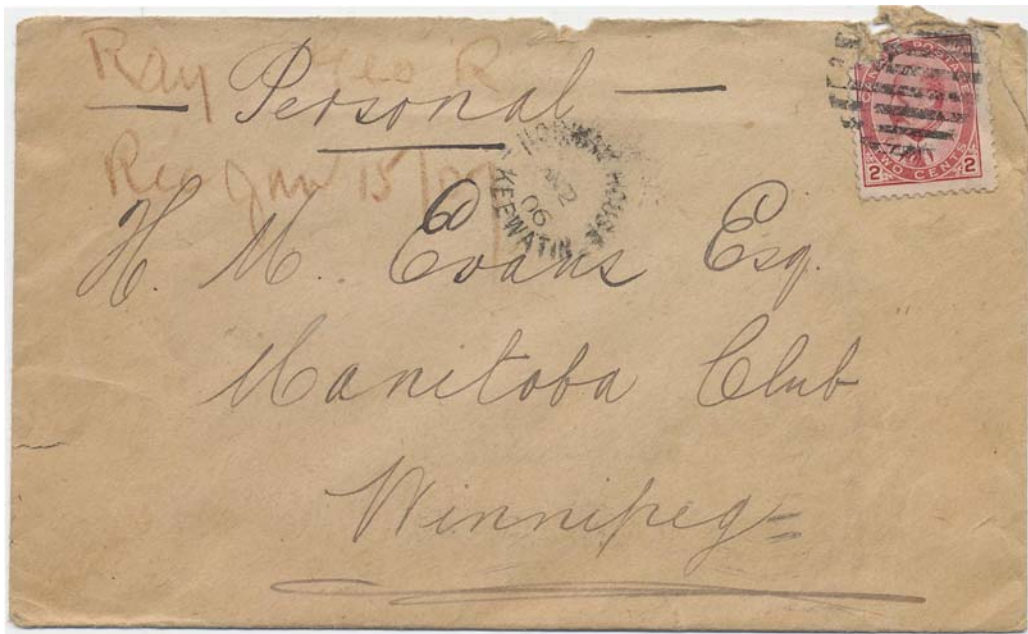


### Response to Item 1668. Northern Manitoba Mail.

Member #8 has found 10 more letters from the Evans correspondence with NORWAY HOUSE, KEEWATIN postmarks. The Norway House postmarks span the period from January 1907 to December 31, 1908. Two January 2, 1906 postmarks (below) are not the EKUs for this post office—they are errors for January 2, 1907, as verified by the letters and the backstamps.

The earliest letter (by postmark) of this group of 10 covers was written on HBC letterhead at York Factory on December 12<sup>th</sup> 1906 by Geo. R. Ray (whom we met last issue). The cover is addressed to H.M. Evans at Winnipeg, and its originating postmark was applied at Norway House on January 2 (1907). There is a transit mark applied at Winnipeg Beach, Man. on January 15<sup>th</sup>, and a machine receiving mark at Winnipeg (January 17<sup>th</sup>).

Ray writes: "The packet leaves on Saturday [December 15], all being well. I am sending the bear paws. They will be sent per parcel post from Norway House." He also talks about having difficulty getting *Kasba* published.



Chronologically, the second letter in this series (also postmarked January 2<sup>nd</sup>) was written by Rev. C.G. Fox at Split Lake on December 20, 1906. Fox was mentioned in a letter described on page 2274. Split Lake is between Thompson and Gillam, Manitoba—a lake in the Nelson River, which empties at York Factory. In 1906, Split Lake was a non-post office point in the District of Keewatin.

Fox writes:

... I had a very rough trip coming down. In fact I thought we should have to spend the fall at N. House. However my man & I just managed to get down before it set fast.

Since I came back I have been very busy planing boards, visiting Indian camps & dispensing medicine. We have measles down here & this kept me busy but I am thankful to say we had very few deaths.

While circling the mission house I took a tumble of(f) the scaffold & hurt my back so I have been laid up for a couple of weeks but am now able to walk around but have to be very careful. Most of the Indians are here for Xmas & we have services every day which are well attended.

The police are very nice fellows but "awfully green" excuse slang. I think they will have a rough time getting to Churchill. They are expecting Sergt Smith every day but he has not arrived yet & they are not sure when he will "blow in." The snow is very deep & that may account for his non-arrival.

The cover is addressed to Evans in Winnipeg. It also it postmarked at Norway House with the January 2, 1906 error date. The only backstamp on the cover was applied at Winnipeg Beach on January 15, 1907.



In order of postmark date, the next cover is postmarked at Norway House on January 29, 1907. The year date has been corrected. Previously, there was another January 29, 1907 letter from Churchill (p. 2269). On p. 2268, there is a cover bearing an error date: January 16, 1906 (for 1907), so the year error lasted at least two weeks.

The cover has two backstamps: Icelandic River, Manitoba February 9, 1907 and Gimli, Man. February 12, 1907. These are the same as on the cover of F.C. Sevier's letter from Churchill, written December 31, 1906 (p. 2269).

The letter was actually written before the previous two above. D.H. Learmonth wrote the letter at Fort Churchill on November 21, 1906.

Dear Mr. Evans,

Having promised to let you know how things were doing here I will now do so, but I am afraid you will scarcely realize how greatly you are honoured in my keeping that promise.

It is scarcely necessary I suppose to tell you that Major Moodie with a detachment of the Mounted Police arrived here on the first of September and established a station close to the Fort! In regards to the decision of the

Government to reserve the lands on each side of the River for ten miles up and two back you will certainly know much more than we do. Old Beech has already had notice to move next Spring (His opinion of Major Moodie is not improved.)

I think the long Fall is only the natural sequence of the long Spring. (You saw the ice in the Bay when you arrived) and is likely to be followed by a Spring as late as, if not later than, last. I am not merely hazarding an opinion for the Meteorological records fully bear out the theory.

Your house is just as you left even to the notice on the door. The men were busy helping the police to discharge whenever we could spare them. I have reminded the 'boss' of it several times and will see that it is done the first chance in the Spring.

We had splendid sport amongst the deer this Fall. They came quite close to the Post and were not too tame or at least not so tame as the previous year. I am sure you would have enjoyed it immensely. You would have been able to get some splendid photographs. Indeed I am sure one would have got better sport with the camera than with the rifle. I heard you were lucky enough to get a Polar bear. I have not yet seen one.



David Houston Learmonth (1886-1961) entered the service of the HBC on June 1, 1904. He was apprentice clerk at York Factory for a year, then at Churchill for two years. He served at many northern Canada locations. He retired from the company in November 1948. [Information from the *Biographical Sheets* of the Hudson's Bay Company Archives online at [www.gov.mb.ca](http://www.gov.mb.ca) ]



Letter #4 in this series was written on February 5, 1907 at York Factory by Mrs. C.C. (Islay M.) Sinclair. The date it was posted at Norway House is not decipherable. It reached Winnipeg via Gimli (February 23, and was redirected to Edmonton on March 1. Mrs. Sinclair thanks Evans for sending her a calendar for Christmas, and for some photographs of her family.

A scan of the cover is shown below. The domestic postage was paid with two 1¢ Edward stamps. Mrs. Sinclair sealed the envelope with a wax seal having the S crest.



The next letter has four photographs with it. It originated at another non-PO location in Keewatin, Pepekwaooce. According to the Glenbow Museum web site, this HBC post was located 300 km west of God's Lake. The writer was Charles C. Parker, and the three-page letter is on HBC letterhead. The letter was written February 21, 1907, and it entered the mail stream at Norway House on March 11, 1907. It went to Winnipeg via Gimli (March 23), and on March 26 was redirected to PO Box 765, Edmonton.



Parker writes:

As you can see by the heading I am back again to my old place. You see the Hudson's Bay Co's contract is a somewhat one sided affair, so that when the man whom I had trained to run this place did something which I had never taught him to do, (he died), they "asked" me to resume charge. I was at Norway House for New Year's and while there they requested me to take Mr. Godsell [Philip H, Godsell] back with me to Pepekwoocce and by running God's Lake accounts at Pepekwoocce endeavor to teach him the Company's books as well as break him in to the ways of the country. I felt sorry for the boy at first but I don't think he minds it as much as I expected. Of course I have things somewhat more comfortable than last year. Stoves in place of mud fireplaces make a great improvement. Then again we are company to each other and I also hear my own language spoken once in a while, which is much better than last year.

I little expected ever to see this place again but I have decided that the only way to make sure I am bidding it a last farewell is to leave the Company's loving embrace and not stop until I see Winnipeg. I hope to be on my way there by next June...

Now I know you are wondering what those photos look like which I promised you and I am ashamed of myself that you have not received them. I am sorry to acknowledge that my own carelessness alone is to blame for the fact that I have no "Velox" whatever for printing purposes. I really thought all the time that I had lots of it. I have plenty of Solio but a miserable toner and the photos resulting are so poor that I thought I had better ask you to wait a while longer until I could do something respectable to send you. [There are four photos taken at Norway House, each with a caption on the reverse. Parker ends the letter with the comment, "The enclosed snaps are all I have printed and no paper." The photos are shown on p. 2315.]

I am afraid that our friend Alston's \$5000.00 job has fallen through perhaps to the unknown benefit of the unknown company. Now mind Alston is a jolly good host, but oh! that pudding. Perhaps he has written you that the affectionate cat had long since been a meal for his sled dogs. Poor pussy...

Our winters out here are very quiet. In fact it has well been called a land of Quietude. Yes and mile upon mile of Solitude divide us from the busy outer world and all its advantages.

Here is a drawing of the Hudson's Bay post at Pepekwoocce. Parker and Godsell were at a very isolated and small location.

Sketch of the HBC post at Pepekwoocce drawn in May 1907 by Philip H. Godsell. The wooden buildings of the outpost are covered with snow.

From the web site of the Glenbow Museum.



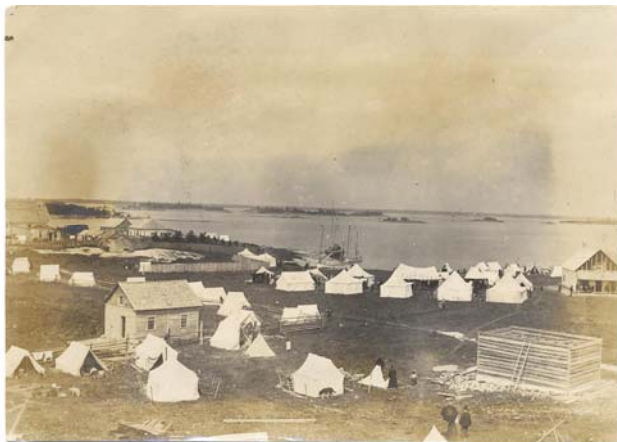
Here are the four photographs that Parker sent to Evans. Three of them are 3¼" x 4¼"; one is smaller. For over 100 years old, they have survived quite well.



Three boats unloading cargoes of furs at Norway House.



York boat coming to docks at Norway House.

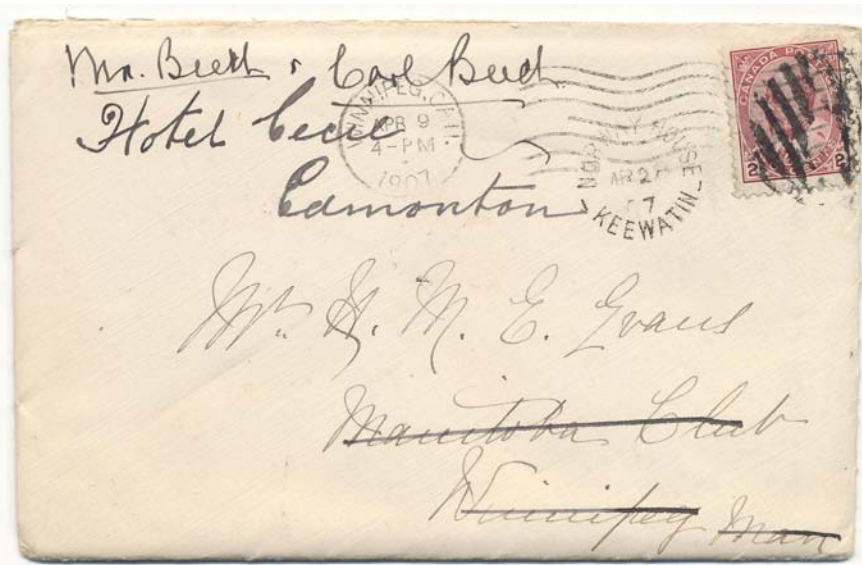


Treaty grounds Norway House taken from roof of Indian Agent's house summer of 1905.



Docks at Norway House. C.C.S. and son on left side.

The next envelope (shown at the top of the next page) was mailed at Norway House on March 28, 1907, passed through Gimli on April 6, and was redirected at Winnipeg on April 9 (it reached Edmonton on April 12). It contains two letters written at Churchill on February 12, 1907. The first was written by Mrs. Beech. She thanks Evans for photos taken at Churchill. Her husband had been to Winnipeg, and probably had seen Evans there. The second letter was written by her son Carl, who comments that reindeer and partridge hunting is good. "Go over to the Fort occasionally but trap & shoot mostly. Them photos of our dump are swell. Also the Norway House ones, tell you what you are a lucky boy getting a polar. I seen lots of tracks but didn't bump into any, but hope to next month, when they start coming around."



This envelope contains two letters from Churchill. Both are dated February 12, 1907. The cover was postmarked at NORWAY HOUSE, KEEWATIN on March 28, 1907.

The next letter is in an envelope from which the stamp has been torn off. The short letter was written at God's Lake Post on July 2, 1907 by P.H. Godsell. It entered the mail stream at Norway House on July 23, 1907, reached Selkirk on July 25, and Winnipeg on July 25. On July 30, it was readdressed to Edmonton (August 1) and there redirected to Lac Ste. Anne (August 5). Godsell says he arrived at God's Lake from Pepekwtattooce by canoe a fortnight ago.



The R-in-oval registration mark at the right is unusual. It is 40 mm vertically. On page 70, Horace Harrison (*Canada's Registry System: 1827-1911*) shows Lethbridge, Alberta (39 mm) and Brampton, Ontario (41 mm), but both of these have a slightly different shape for the R.



The cover shown above contains a three-page letter on HBC letterhead, written August 5, 1907 at Fort Churchill by G.B. Boucher. It was mailed at Norway House on September 10. Other postmarks are Selkirk (September 13), Edmonton (September 15 and 17), and Lac Ste. Anne (September 23).

Boucher congratulates Evans on his promotion. Boucher is going to Ungava to be in charge. He is being replaced by Alston. "I never saw such a miserable cold summer as we are having, think old chap of ice floating up & down the river on July 28<sup>th</sup> & heavy enough to take away part of our launch at the whaling." "Old Beech is still here, I have absolutely no use for him..." He puts Carl down as harmless. "At Ungava, I only get one mail a year & I will indeed be disappointed if it comes in without at least a line from you. Address me care of the Hudson's Bay Company Montreal."

Carl Beech in Fort Churchill wrote the following letter to Evans at Edmonton on August 7, 1907. The cover is dated September 24 1907 at Norway House, September 28 at Selkirk, and October 1 at Edmonton.



Beech says that this is the first packet out since he received mail from Evans. "Very backward summer indeed river broke up June 22<sup>nd</sup>, we had a severe storm of snow after May 24 had as much come then as in anytime in winter."

Mr. Boucher is going to be sent to "Ungava" by this boat when she arrives from England. Mr. Alston coming here from Oxford House. Learmonth I think goes to York, will know definitely when Mr. MacTavish arrives. Looking for him any day now.

Polar bears very numerous this year. Haven't seen any myself tho. Huckies got 8 down at the old fort and seen 12 coming from York and got 4 of them. Summer here now but not nearly so warm as last year thermometer seldom going above 65 and dropping to freezing point quite often at night. Our garden is progressing nicely never the less, having had radishes fresh yesterday. We also have lettuce & peas up but our corn skiddooed acct. frost...

The last "Norway House" letter in this group was written at Churchill on October 23, 1908 by F.C. Sevier [I incorrectly read his name as Swier on p. 2269 and on p. 2273. On p. 2273, I did manage to get his wife's surname correct.] Rev. F.C Sevier went to re-establish the Anglican mission at Churchill in 1904. He later was at Sioux Lookout. He died suddenly in February 1943.

The cover of this letter shows that it was mailed at Norway House on December 31, 1908, addressed to Evans at the Manitoba Club in Winnipeg. It passed through both Icelandic River and Gimli on January 12, 1909. It also has a Winnipeg backstamp dated January 15 at 2 PM. It was redirected to Edmonton as requested by the "Please forward" endorsement.



Sevier writes:

Major & Mrs. Moodie are going out in Nov; hence this packet. Old Beech & Carl are still at the old concern on the other side. I believe the old man also intends to go out this winter. Three surveyors have been busy at streets & c all summer & are still wandering around... Alston has been busy pulling down old buildings & erecting new ones, decidedly improving the place.

...weather of late very wet. We are longing for the snow to come, it has not been so late as this since I came. Longing also for an opportunity of obtaining fresh meat which has been very scarce hitherto.

We expect a visit from our Bishop during the coming summer, after which we hope to get away on furlough & all being well we should be in England at this time next year.

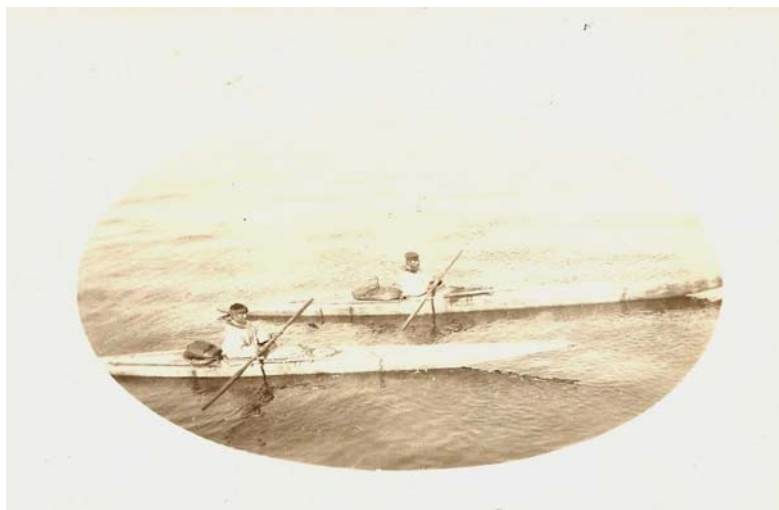
This letter also included a two-page mimeographed letter from Sevier. It summarizes his activities for the past year. I'll include it in the next issue of *The Northerner*.

**Item 1705. Two 1916 Post Cards from a *Nascopie* Voyage.**

Member #3 sent these scans of photoview cards from eBay from the same seller. The top card (a Cyko card) has in pencil on the back "'Nascopie' 1916/Esquimaux on board./Cape Dorsett./Hudsons Strait." The first trip by the ship to the north took place in 1912. It left for the north in 1916 on August 12 and returned on November 12 to and from St. John's, Newfoundland. There is no indication of the identity of the photographer.



The second card—presumably from the same *Nascopie* trip—shows natives in their kayaks. The photo paper is generic.

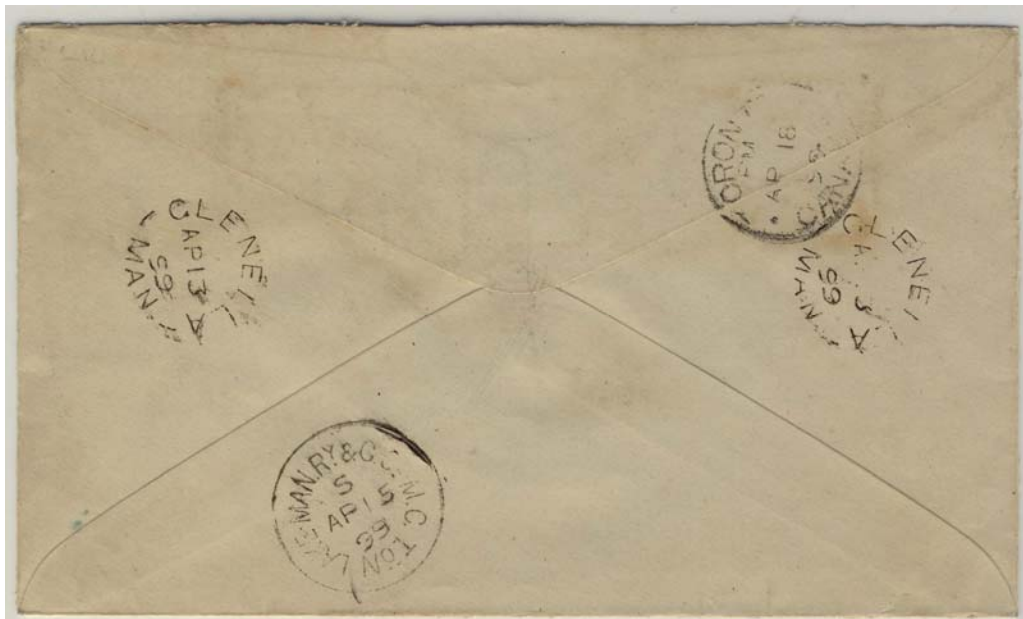


**Item 1706. Glenella, Manitoba Registered Cover – 1899.**

I'll end this issue with scans from Member # 33 of a registered cover mailed at Glenella, Manitoba (about 30 miles northeast of Neepawa) on April 13, 1899. The pair of 1898 Map stamps adds a lot to this cover. This is an early cover from Glenella, where the post office opened on September 1, 1898.



Notice the clear strike of the RPO RR-97, LAKE MAN Ry & C .Co. M.C./No. 1 dated S/AP 15/1899.



That concludes Issue #73 of *The Northerner*. There's been good support, despite this being prepared in the summer. I have material to work on during the next two months, including an album of early Yukon photographs. But don't forget to send your scans or photocopies of newly acquired covers!