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cont'd from page 95

followed by J. E. Cooper (May 1, 1891 until September 7, 1893); Thomas McGrath (January 1, 1894 until June 16, 1910) and finally John L. Ritchie (July 25, 1910 until October 31, 1913), at which time the office closed.

Bruce Graham reports in his listing two A1 hammers for Saurin.



No other hammers appear to have been used at the Saurin office.

It would be interesting to speculate on the routing this cover took. The postmarks indicate that from Saurin it



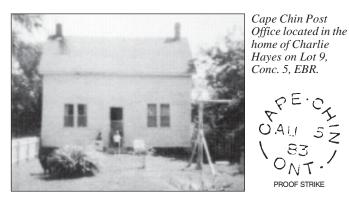
to the south of Dyers Bay in the Bruce Peninsula we L have the former farming community of Cape Chin. I say former because there remains very little of the hamlet on the East Road up the peninsula. Getting the mail to Cape Chin was a challenge as the following story found in Proud People: The Lindsay Township History Book reveals. This excellent book was compiled by the Lindsay Township Historical Society in 1987. It is available through the Inter-Library Loan or may be purchased from the Township Office.

"Robert Currie was the first mail carrier from Lion's Head to Dyers Bay, starting in 1883 and making his early trips on foot. The very first delivery consisted of four letters and three newspapers. He later made his rounds by horse and saddle. Still later, as roads improved, he travelled by horse and buggy to Cape Chin North, which had a post office in the home of William Weatherhead, then by horseback to Dyers Bay.

"The winter trips were the most difficult in the 30 years Robert Currie carried the mail. He always travelled with a shovel and axe in winter - the first to dig himself out of snowbanks, the second to cut firewood if he was stranded. It could take as long as four days to make the round trip from Lion's Head to Dyers Bay. After he retired, the route was taken over by his son-in-law Charles Caudle who carried the mail until 1931. With improved roads he could make the round trip by car in five hours in summer, 10 hours in winter. Chas. Tyndall

went south on the North Simcoe Branch Rwy. However, it does not show the routing from the Railway to Craighurst. Perhaps this is a question that one of our readers could answer.

This cover and discussion of Saurin also triggers another question. Saurin as a community had a post office for some 31 years. Bob Smith locates the office in Flos Township as does Eric Manchee in his atlas project, which locates Saurin just west of Elmvale on what is now Hwy. 92 at the point where it crosses the North Simcoe Branch Rwy. line. However, in 1998 a highway sign for Saurin was seen on the County Road 6 to Perkinsfield 0.4 km north of the point where Hwy. 27 turns eastward towards Waverley. A phone call to members Dave Hanes and Bob Prince brings forth the information that the Saurin Post Office was located on the northeast corner of Lot 6, Concession 10 of Flos Township. On the map on page 95 this new location has been marked with the shaded dot (•). We invite readers to bring forth further information as to the life of this post office.



and his sons took over the route from 1931 until 1947.

"The mail stage also carried passengers. Settlers often sent fresh produce south by stage in return for sugar and other staples on the next stage north. The Cape Chin post office passed through many hands over the years, ending up with Charlie Hayes during the 1930s and 1940s before being closed in 1946."

Cape Chin's post office opened May 1, 1883, closed May 8, 1920 and reopened October 1, 1921. It closed July 31, 1946 when rural mail delivery was established for that area. In the last 20 years the post office and township clerk's office were located in the home of Charlie Hayes, postmaster at Cape Chin, 1927-1946.

The following served the post office at Cape Chin:

Alexander Currie, May 1. 1883 until Jan. 2. 1891 William Weatherhead, July 14 1891 until Feb. 10, 1920 (closed) Angus Donald McArthur, Oct. 1, 1921 until Nov. 26, 1923 Charles M. Hayes, Oct. 15, 1927 until 1946 (closed) Cape Chin, Ont. ORIGINAL NO. Now R.M.D., RR#4, Lions Head.

PROOF STRIKE October, 1925

There are no other proof strikes recorded





### John Rossiter

[ref. 078]

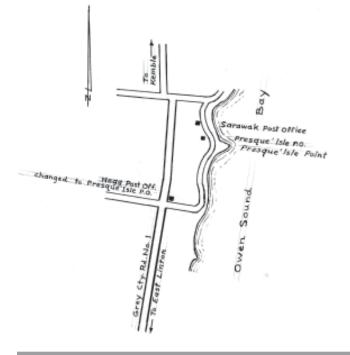
The Township of Sarawak, located along the west shore of Owen Sound Bay is Ontario's smallest township. It has had only five post office locations within its borders. Two of those five locations were Sarawak and Presque'Isle (they were very close to each other but they were at different locations). The third location was on County Road #1 – the Hogg/Presque'Isle Post Office

(same location). The two remaining locations were at Brookholm and East Linton.

This article deals only with the post offices named Sarawak, Presque'Isle and Hogg. Sarawak Township also has a special meaning for me for it was in Sarawak that my grandfather settled when he first came to Canada about 1888.

The first post office was named Sarawak and opened on October 10, 1863 with Benjamin Jones as postmaster. It was located along the west shore of Owen Sound Bay near <u>Presque' Isle Point.</u> I can find one reference that states that as early as 1862 William Scales brought the mail

from Owen Sound to Presque'Isle on foot once a week. Mr. Scales must have been one tough man because that



would be a distance of 15 km travelling over rugged terrain. Later George Taylor brought the mail out on horseback and that too must have been hard going especially in the winter. Mr. Jones, the Sarawak postmaster was succeeded by John MacKenzie on April 1, 1865.

John MacKenzie and his family were prominent businessmen in the area and for many years a MacKenzie family member was the local postmaster. John MacKenzie was a busy man building a store, dock and warehouse and other improvements to the area. Steamships carrying goods to and from Owen Sound



A registered letter from Postmaster John McKenzie, cancelled SARAWAK C.W 6 Dec 71, and sent to Department of Crown Lands, Toronto. Postage 3 cents

required large quantities of wood to fire their boilers. Mr. MacKenzie and his partner Mr. Back saw that these ships obtained all the wood that they needed. The wood was cut in the forests of Sarawak and Keppel Townships and brought out in the winter by sleigh to the dock at Presque'Isle. In 1874 MacKenzie and Black employed as many as 75 men and 20 teams to cut and haul cordwood for the steamers. Records show that in the summer of that same year 348 vessels stopped at Presque'Isle for wood, also taking on grain and other produce.

The first illustration is a Registered cover mailed to the Dept. of Crown Lands in Toronto, struck with a "PAID 3" hammer and a SARAWAK C.W. 20-mm split ring hammer, script dated 6 Dec. 71. There is a partial Owen Sound strike on the back.

The second cover illustrated is also mailed to the Crown Lands Office in Toronto. It is struck with a "PAID 3" hammer and a SARAWAK ONT. 201/2-mm split ring hammer dated SP 15, 1874 and backstamped Owen Sound and Toronto.

MackENZIE & BLACK DEALERS IN RESSED HAY Cerlwood, and illing, Mining & Steamboat Supplies, PRESQUE ISLE, Barawak P.C., Ont.

Notice the corner card on this registered letter from SARAWAK ONT. / SP 15 74. Within a year the change will have been made from Sarawak to Presque Isle.

Mr. MacKenzie built a new combination home and store nearby (but still along the shore) and the family moved to this new location and, of course, the post office moved with it. On May 1, 1875 the post office name was changed to Presque'Isle (John MacKenzie continued on as postmaster).

The third cover dated SP 14, 1875 (another Crown Lands destination) shows the Presque'Isle Ont. 20<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-mm split ring hammer.

The following it a quote from the book *Sarawak Saga 1973* by R. M. MacLeod, printed by Richardson, Bond & Wright in Owen Sound, "John MacKenzie operated a general store and harness shop as well as being postmaster. He also had a hay pressing business and in 1883 and 1884 Mr. MacKenzie exported over 2000 tons of hay to the Old Country. He supplied cattle and other provisions for the opening of Western Canada (the Dawson route from Fort William to Winnipeg)".

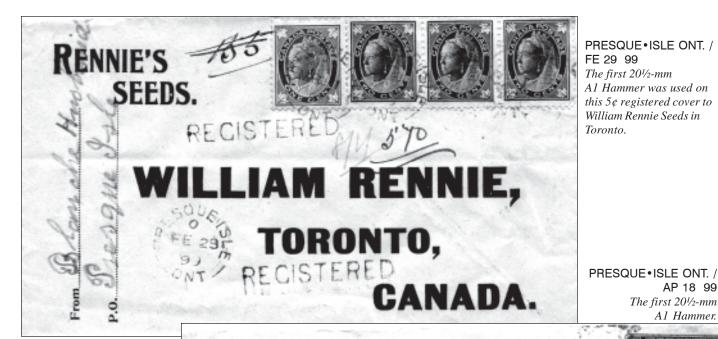
The fourth and fifth covers duplicate the third Presque' Isle split ring hammer. The fourth to William Rennie dated AP 13, 1899 shows a corner card – John

MacKenzie, Township Clerk. The fifth cover is Registered and was mailed by Blanche Husband also to the Rennie Seed Co. on FE 29, 1899. (Mr. William E. Husband was postmaster of Presque'Isle from February 1, 1893 until October 12, 1897.)

There are two serious gaps in my collection that effect this brief write-up. On November 4, 1904 the Presque'Isle post office was relocated away from the bay, and inland to the main road between Owen Sound and Kemble on what is now County Road #1 and re-named Hogg Post Office (locally called Hogg's Corners). Mr. Thomas Hogg was postmaster. This office named Hogg was open for less than 3 years from November 4, 1904 to May 31, 1907. I do <u>not</u> have a "Hogg" postmark and in fact have never seen one. The office remained at the Hogg location but reverted to its former name of Presque'Isle on June 1, 1907 with Mr. Hogg continuing on as postmaster. The office remained open until January 5, 1929. I also do <u>not</u> have a late date Presque'Isle postmark. The Presque'Isle office was closed following the organization of the rural route delivery and because of its relatively close proximity to the Kemble and East Linton post offices.

As late as 1973, the MacKenzie home and property which had been purchased by The Rotary Club was used as a dining hall for the Rotary Youth Camp. Today the

PRESQUE•ISLE ONT. / SP 14 75 Just 41/2 months after the name change. The Honoreb page 99



the home has been demolished and the Rotary Club has built an impressive new Youth Camp on the shore of Owen Sound Bay where once the steamers anchored off-shore waiting to load up with cordwood. However, the old building housing the Hogg/Presque'Isle post office still exists at what was once Hogg's Corners on the southwest corner of Grey Road 1 at Lot 35 Concession 3 of Sarawak Township.

IF NOT GALLED FOR IN TEN GAVE IOHN MacKENZIE TOWNSHIP GLERK PRESQUE ISLE P. O. CO. GREY, ONT.

If anyone has a Sarawak postmark from the 1860s or been lucky enough to locate a Hogg postmark please report to our editor. There should also be some late use Presque'Isle covers out there. Good hunting.

My thanks to Bob Prince, Lew

Metzger and Bob Vogel for their help in preparing this article.

NOTE: There are at least three different spellings for Presque'Isle in various texts and maps. I have used the post office hammer spelling for this article.

### CREDITS

- 1) Ontario Post Offices by Robert C. Smith
- 2) Sarawak Saga 1973 by R. M. MacLeod
- 3) A New History of Grey County by T. Arthur Davidson





Hom Rennie Es Seedsman Yosonto

AP 18 99

JOVISO

The HOGG P.O. Some die and some get a second chance at life. A renovated Hogg post office lost its verandah and changed its windows but is unmistakably the same in 1999.

Thomas Hogg, second from left, with his family on the verandah of the Hogg P.O. Post Office sign is just to the right of the centre post. Courtesy of Sarawak Saga 1973 by R. M. MacLeod



by Robert C. Smith

The two-storey building shown on this photocard houses the Creemore post office on the left, and on the right the Merchant's Bank of Canada. The sign in the window of the former reads "Post Office / Money Order / Savings Bank."

The post office at Creemore, in Nottawasaga Township, Simcoe County was established under the name

Creemore Mills on August 6, 1951, just after Canada took control of its Post Office. The name was shortened to Creemore around 1862. Its first postmaster was one W. Webster, who was quickly succeeded by E. Webster, in office until December 1862. Creemore is still listed in the 1998 Postal Code Directory, but under the title "Post Office Boxes & Routes" – are the boxes "superboxes," or are they in a postal outlet?

This card was postmarked with a CREEMORE / ONT. circular datestamp

on January 16, 1905, when Mrs. Sarah Gillespie, the sixth and longest serving (1898 to 1936) postmaster was in office. This postmark had been proofed on August 9, 1890.

Frank Campbell lists a double broken circle for Creemore Mills, which he had observed in use from 1853 to 1859. Bruce Graham reports four different broken circles used at Creemore, one with manuscript date known only on June 18, 1867. The second one, of 20½ mm diameter, has been recorded between April 10, 1879 and Decem-

ber 14, 1887. Only the third of these broken circles, a 21-mm device, has a known proof date (September 9, 1890), and it has been seen only with a May 5, 1896 date. The fourth broken circle, of diameter 20 mm, has been



21.0 mm A1 hammer SP 9 1890



The post office at Creemore (c. 1905) is seen on the left in this photo.

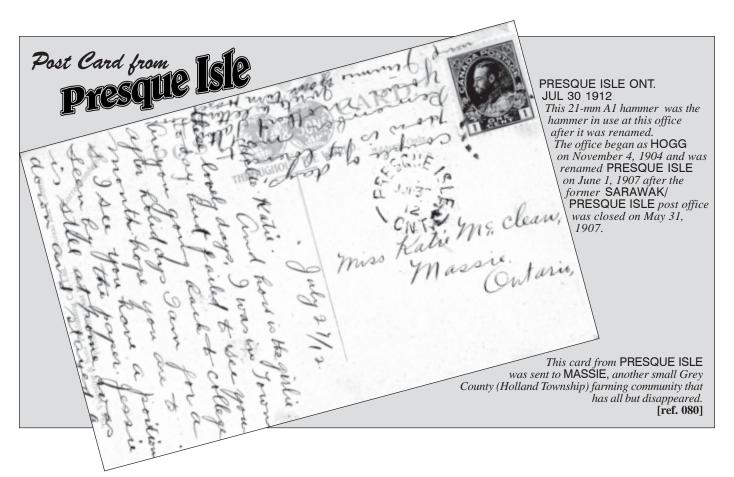


observed in use from April 15, 1899 to March 13, 1909.

Two Creemore circular datestamps in addition to the one used on this card also appear in the proof impression books, one dated March 15, 1944 and the other what appears to be May 21, 1962.

Bob Lee's listing shows Creemore duplexes proofed on February 19, 1912 (type B11) and January 14, 1936 (type O7).





# The DUPLEX HAMMERS of Grey, Bruce, Dufferin & Simcoe Counties

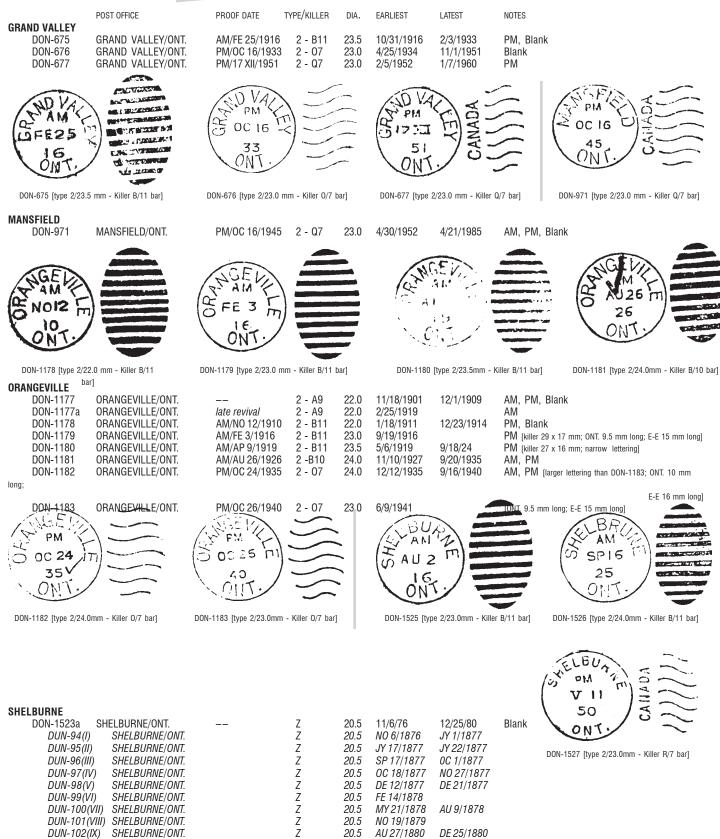
As a project for our whole study group, I would like to suggest that we take a new look at the DUPLEX Hammers that were used within the confines of our four counties.

With the help of member Bob McCabe we have an outline of these hammers. I suspect that not unlike the **BROKEN CIRCLE** hammers that we recently studied within the pages of our newsletter here, too, we may well find

many hitherto unreported dates or even instruments. I challenge each one of you to look at your covers and report new information to this newsletter. Together we may build our pool of knowledge.

The regional listings are based on Robt. Lee's book, *Catalogue of Canadian Duplex Cancellations*. Thank you, Bob, for sending in these reports. Without further ado this issue will look at Dufferin County.





2 - A9

2 - A9

2 - B11

2 - B11

2 - B11

2 - R7

late revival

recut

AM/AU 2/1916

AM/SP 16/1925

PM/V 11/1950

23.0

23.0

23.0

24.0

24.0

23.0

12/22/1906

11/20/1919

5/1/1920

7/15/1950

7/2/1914

8/7/1924

3/25/1926

11/30/1932

6/2/1955

AM, PM

AM, PM

PM

DON-1524

DON-1525

DON-1526

DON-1526a

DON-1527

DON-1524a

SHELBURNE/ONT

SHELBURNE/ONT.

SHELBURNE/ONT

SHELBRUNE/ONT

SHELBURNE/ONT

SHELBURNE/ONT

PM [DON-1526 recut with corrected spelling] Blank



Your Stamp Club Announcement is *free* for the asking!

BARRIE DISTRICT STAMP CLUB - Club meets on the SECOND WEDNESDAY of the month, 7:30 p.m., at Parkview Centre, 189 Blake St., Barrie. CONTACT Lew Metzger, (705) 721-8354

COLLINGWOOD COIN & STAMP CLUB - Club meets on the THIRD WEDNESDAY & FOURTH TUESDAY of the month, 7:00 p.m., at the Library, Second & Maple Sts., Collingwood. Fourth Tuesday is CONTACT Stephen Morris the regular night.

KINCARDINE STAMP CLUB - Club meets on the FIRST WEDNES-DAY of the month, 7:00 p.m., at Anglican Church, 415 Russell St., CONTACT John Cortan, (519) 395-5817 Kincardine.

OWEN SOUND STAMP CLUB - Club meets on the THIRD WEDNES-DAY of the month, 7:00 p.m., at St. George's Anglican Church, 149 4th Ave. East, Owen Sound.

CONTACT Robert Gord, (519) 376-4788

SAUGEEN STAMP CLUB - Club meets on the FIRST TUESDAY of the month, 7:30 p.m., at the Hanover Library, 451 10th Ave., Hanover. Peter Kritz, (519) 364-4752; Jim Measures (519) 327-8265

JOIN A CLUB – SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE



**MEMBERSHIP DUES** are due . if the number in your mailing label ends with . . . [000-11]

Thanks for prompt renewals

When your newsletter arrives with a 3M Post-It note on which there is the dreaded Postage Due handstamp, then it is time to renew! \$10 for six issues per year.



Please do it promptly and save the editor the agony of writing another note. Thanks

This newsletter 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 6 times a year: January, March, May, July, September and November. Copy deadline is 3 weeks before the 1st of the above-mentioned months.

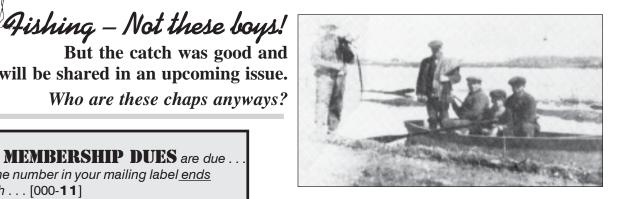
Membership costs \$10 per year (6 issues) and is payable to the editor J. (Gus) Knierim RR1, Thornbury, Ontario N0H 2P0 PHONE/FAX: (519) 599-6975 E-MAIL: knierim@bmts.com

## ADS – A Question to ponder!

The Editor has received an inquiry from a member who also happens to be a dealer whether we would accept dealer ads and what would be the cost. In thinking this over, I feel it would be acceptable with the following conditions.

- [a] Advertising dealer must be a member of the study group.
- [b] Ad must pertain to postal history material for our four counties. Therefore, no general advertising.
- [c] Size of ad to be no more than 1 column x  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. in depth.
- Cost would be a total of \$15 per 6 issues (year), [d] and would run consecutively; or \$5 per single ad; payable at time of placing ad.

Currently we have a membership of 45 and I feel the rates are reasonable to cover the cost. I request input from the membership. If I do not hear anything I will assume that this meets with your approval - IT IS YOUR NEWSLETTER AND YOUR OPINIONS **ARE VALUED!** [REF. 000]



#### VANY NDDA

ADS WILL APPEAR FOR 3 CONSECUTIVE ISSUES. • REPEATS MAY BE REQUESTED

SMALL DOUBLE BROKEN CIRCLES (20 and 22mm) wanted on cover or piece. [Nº 8-10] Bruce Graham, 886 Purcell Cres., Kingston, Ont. K7P 1B9

WANTED, HANOVER ONTARIO COVERS from all eras. Modern are particularily desirable, Willing to purchase or trade. Contact [Nº 10-12]

Peter Kritz, R.R.#3 Hanover, Ont. N4N 3B9 email: pkritz@greynet.net, or call (519) 364-4752 evgs. Æ

**POST OFFICES** – To help illustrate our newsletter, the editor requires *post cards* or *photos* from *all eras* of the post offices in our study area. Especially difficult to find are the smaller offices that were found in stores or homes. The picture should have some identifying mark. Good photocopies, or scans printed or on disk, or use e-mail [96 dpi .jpeg file], are acceptable. Contact

Gus Knierim, R.R.#1 Thornbury, Ont. NOH 2P0 email: knierim@bmts.com [Nº 10-12]