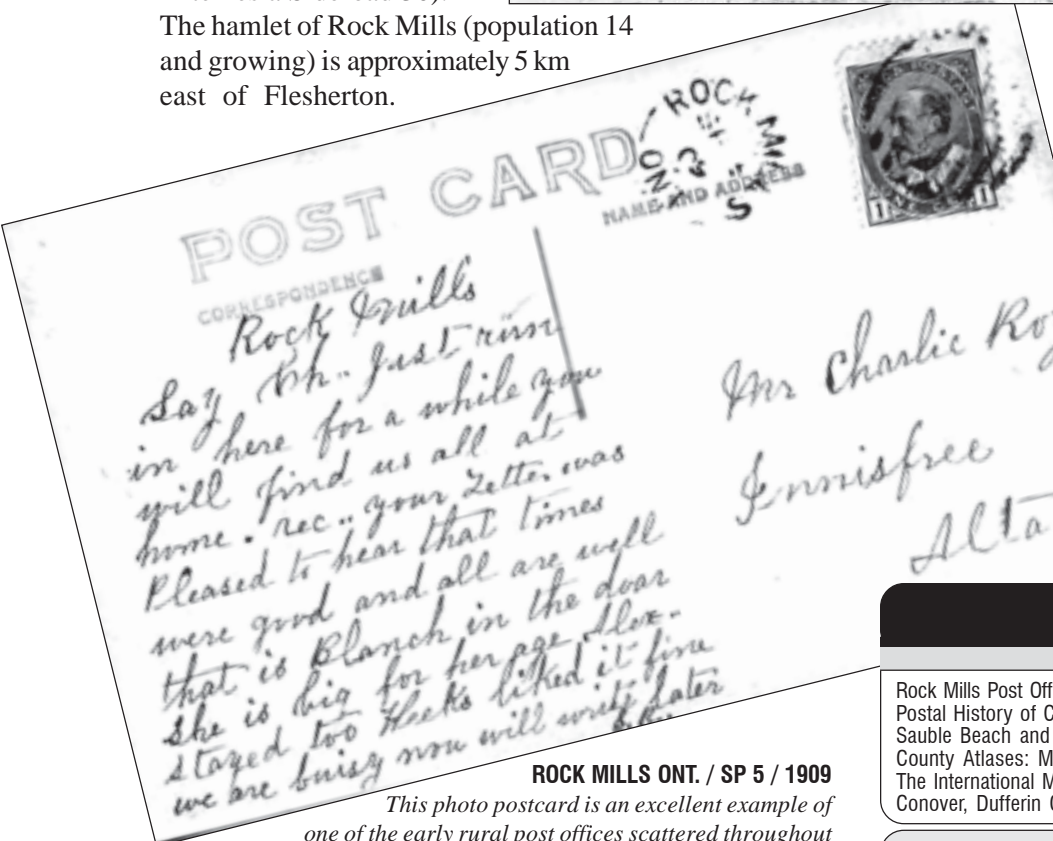# ROCK MILLS POST OFFICE
Artemesia Township
GREY COUNTY

*by **John Rossiter** [ref. 096]*

The **ROCK MILLS** Post Office opened on Oct. 1, 1907 and was located on the SW corner of Lot 30, Con. 7, Artemesia Township (at what is now the corner of Grey County Rd. 4 and Artemesia Sideroad 30). The hamlet of Rock Mills (population 14 and growing) is approximately 5 km east of Flesherton.

The office remained open for eleven years and it seems likely that only one hammer was used during this time – a split ring hammer measuring 19½ mm. The earliest strike I have is ROCK MILLS ONT. dated Sept. 5, 1909 (this is earlier than listed in Bruce Graham's *Broken Circle Postmarks*) and it is on a post card mailed to Innisfree, Alberta, addressed to Mr. Charles Roy with a picture of the Rock Mills Post office on the reverse. From the correspondence on the card it appears that the senders daughter is standing in the Post

ROCK MILLS ONT. / SP 5 / 1909
This photo postcard is an excellent example of one of the early rural post offices scattered throughout the area. Photography had comes into its own and it was easy enough to produce cards like this in small quantities.

CONTENTS – ISSUE № 14

Office doorway. The post office sign is above the door.

Mrs. Sarah Roy was the first Postmistress and remained so for 7 years.

Two later strikes are dated March 2, 1912 on a seed company cover to Hamilton and the other May 2, 1913 on a post card to Dundalk, Ontario.

A picture of the old Rock Mills Post Office as it is today shows the building with few changes, the woodshed on the south side has been removed and the doorway moved. Trees of course have grown up around the building but it is still readily identifiable. It is however abandoned and a "No Trespassing" sign has been tacked on the building.

Over the years there were three Postmasters:
[1] Mrs. Sarah A. Roy, appointed October 1, 1907, resigned August 1914;
[2] Mr. R. Phillips, appointed September 30, 1914, resigned August 28, 1915; [3] Mr. James Park, appointed September 12, 1915, resigned October 14, 1918.

The closure of this office, along with hundreds of others, was caused by the implementation of Rural Mail Delivery. It is of course possible that this office was relocated to homes nearby when new postmaster appointments were made, if so I'm sure they would have been closeby because Rock Mills is and was a very small hamlet.

If any members can add any information regarding this office please write our editor (it would be nice to see a registered cover).
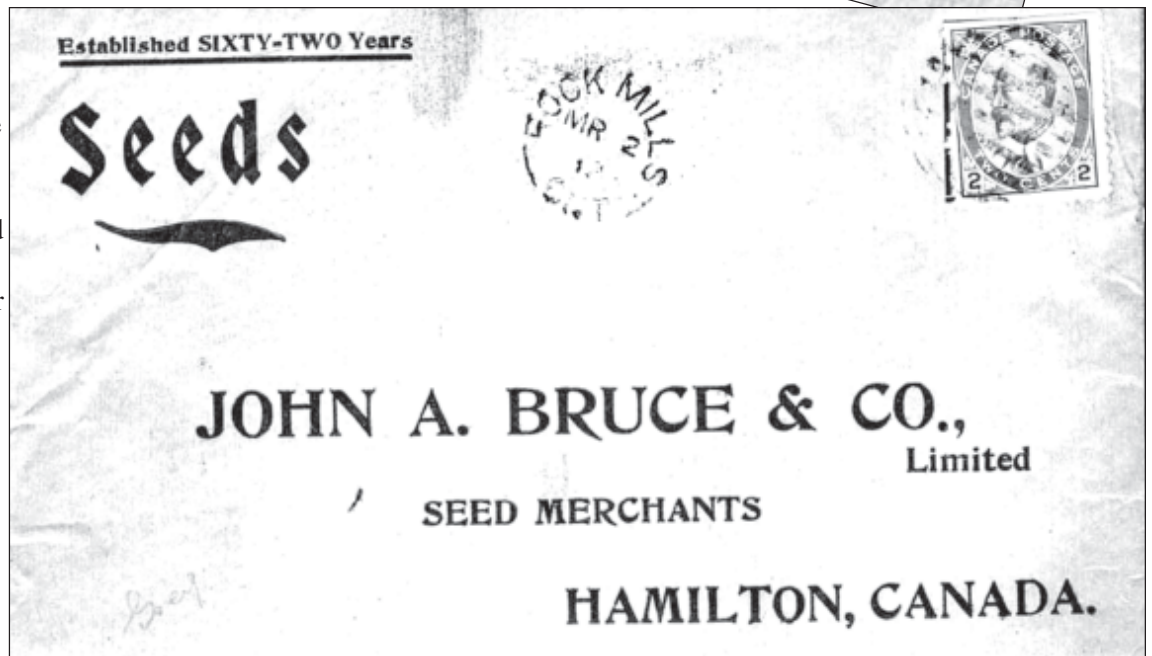
My thanks to Bob Vogel for his help in preparing this brief write-up. ✉

The Rock Mills post office as it appears today in the winter of 2000.
Population 14 and growing! Where there is hope there is a way.

ROCK MILLS ONT.
MY 2 / 1913

ROCK MILLS ONT.
MR 2 / 1912
Rock Mills' only hammer –
19.5-mm A1 *with 5.0 mm arcs*
[proofed OC 3 1907].

THE POSTAL HISTORY
of Camp Borden
by Dave Hanes
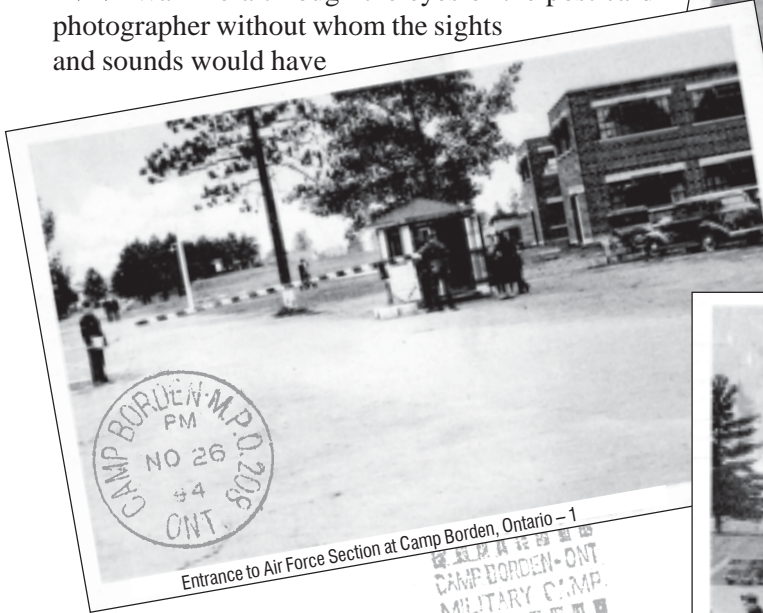
PART XII   **[REF. 097]**

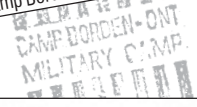THE CONTINUING POSTAL HISTORY OF CAMP BORDEN BEGUN IN ISSUE N° 3

We take another look at Camp Borden's World War II era through the eyes of the post card photographer without whom the sights and sounds would have

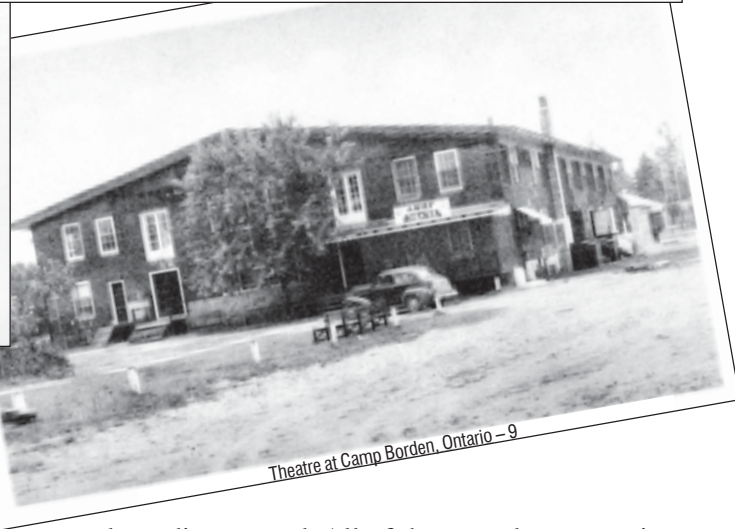Knights of Columbus Canteen at Camp Borden, Ontario – 10

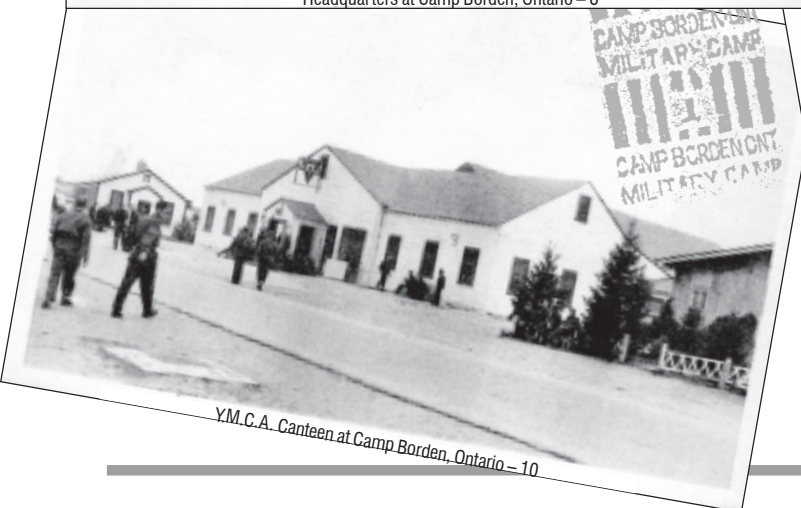Entrance to Air Force Section at Camp Borden, Ontario – 1

Hospital at Camp Borden, Ontario – 6

Headquarters at Camp Borden, Ontario – 8

Theatre at Camp Borden, Ontario – 9

Y.M.C.A. Canteen at Camp Borden, Ontario – 10

long disappeared. All of these cards are a series produced by the Photogelatine Engraving Co. Limited, Ottawa. Many of these cards would have been sent home to parents and girlfriends from the guys in training and more than often enough were processed by Camp Borden's Military Post Offices. All cards were scanned at 75%.

BRUCE COUNTY'S
SAUBLE BEACH
and its Post Offices

James Kraemer [REF. 098]

The Sawmill at Sauble Falls, 1875.

Where the white sands of Sauble meet the clear blue waters of Lake Huron

Sauble Beach is a very popular vacation area in Amabel Township, Bruce County, Ontario on the east shores of Lake Huron, just north of Southampton and west of Hepworth. The beach stretches from where the Sauble River empties into Lake Huron southward for a distance of seven miles. The long sandy bay with its wide sandy beach is a paradise for vacationers particularly those with families. Thousands of cottages and homes have been constructed in the area. Today the Sauble is a four-season resort for tourists, adventurers, fishermen, boaters, campers, snowmobilers, cross-country ski enthusiasts, hunters and those who just like to lie in the sun.

When the early settlers arrived, they found that immense forests covered the area. By a treaty, signed on October 13, 1854 with the Saugeen Indian Council, Amabel Township took over the land including most of Sauble Beach. Lumbermen moved in and began cutting


1883 Post Office map of the Bruce Peninsula showing postal routes.

timber for shipment to markets in the south. The site for the first sawmill in the area was on the Sauble river, then known as the Sable river. It was sold by public auction in 1856. Within a few years a sawmill was built on the river just below where the falls are today. From here lumber went down the river a few miles to Lake Huron where it was loaded on ships going to Kincardine, Sarnia and the U.S.A. It was at the falls where the hamlet of Sable River took shape.

The French word, *Aux Sables,* or *Sable,* means sand. Early French explorers often used the word in singular or plural form to describe a river that terminated in sand beaches or sand dunes. The name Sable, now Sauble, is very descriptive of the river which empties into the lake through vast amounts of sand. The French inhabitants always pronounced the word, *"Sable"* using a broad *"a"* sound.

By 1867 Sable River had a large sawmill known as, THE SABLE MILL COMPANY, owned by seven partners including John McKenzie who came from Dundas, Ontario, to act as General Manager. A general store, a large boarding house, and a blacksmith shop were soon built. At one time over 80 men were employed by the mill. With a growing number of inhabitants there was a need for a post office. Residents had to go to Wiarton by foot and by boat for their mail, a distance of 12 miles or 20 kilometres.

On April 1, 1875 Sable River post office was established. Wilson Stewart, part owner of the sawmill since 1872, was appointed postmaster. A post office at Oliphant, six miles north of Sable River was established on the same day as the Sable River office. Since there was a Sable post office in Middlesex County, established in 1860 and a Sable River post office in Shelbourne County, Nova Scotia established, in 1851 the Post Office Department advised the postmaster that the name would have to be changed in order to avoid confusion. The local settlers and community officials were also unhappy
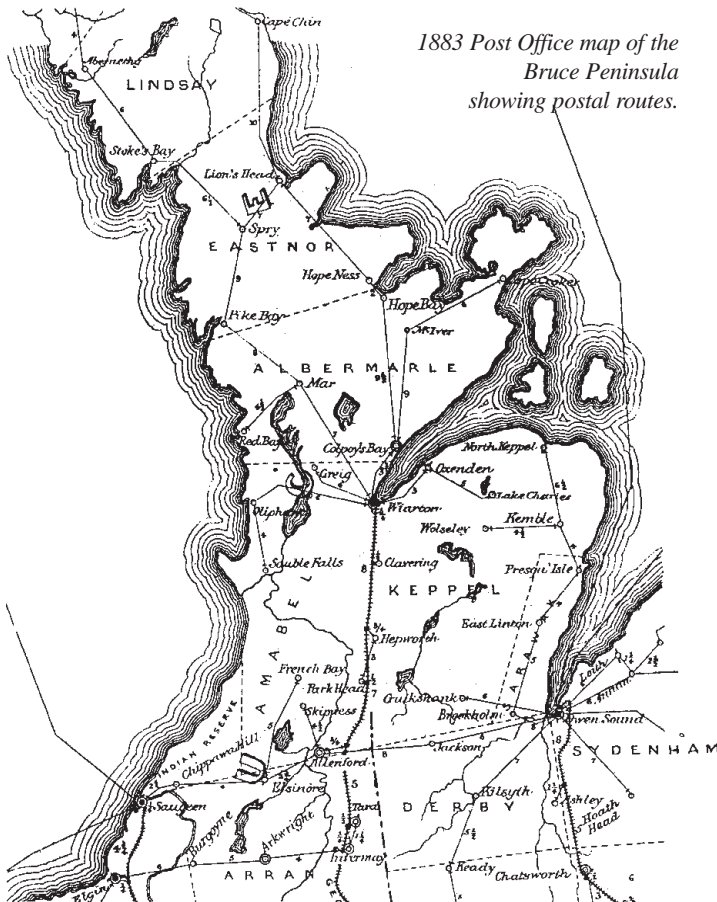
that new settlers and visitors unfamiliar to the area generally pronounced *"Sable"* with a sharp *"a"* while all the local inhabitants pronounced it as in the French language with a broad *"a"*. Norman McLean who was soon to become the new postmaster suggested that the name be changed to Sauble Falls. Since this left no doubt about the desired pronunciation and was also more descriptive of the communities location. Local officials and post office officials agreed to the change. The name changed officially on December 1, 1881 and soon the altered spelling for the river, Sauble River, came into general use.

Norman McLean, along with his brothers, Lachlan and Hugh, took over the sawmill in 1880 and operated it under the name, THE MCLEAN BROTHERS. Norman McLean was appointed the first postmaster of Sauble Falls under its new name. His official appointment was dated April 1, 1882.

It was during this time that a 40-foot long little steamer, *The Water Witch*, was purchased and re-christened, *Maid of the Mist*. The little steamer purchased in 1883 was used to tow logs from Boat Lake and Spry Lake via the Pike and Rankin rivers to the Sauble Falls mill. The McLean's also used two other smaller vessels for the same purpose. They were, *The Maggie McLean* and the tug, *Phenix*. In 1886 the mill was sold to William Durell. McLean resigned his postmastership effective September 22, 1886. In late 1889 Norman McLean and his wife, Lizzie, the former Mary Louise Busby moved to

Sauble Falls, 1890. Sauble Falls Mill, owned by the McLean Brothers, and the tug, Phenix. *courtesy of* BRUCE COUNTY MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

Vancouver, B.C.

During the period 1887 through 1890 the mail was dispensed by the mail contractor J. Hutchison with the help of Mr. Durell and others. Eventually the Post Office Department appointed Sidney Lawrence postmaster effective May 1, 1891. The author believes that Mr. Lawrence was the proprietor of the Sauble Falls General Store. William Gerrie and two Perry brothers, Arthur and John, purchased the mill on December 28, 1889. The mill was renamed, THE SAUBLE FALLS LUMBER COMPANY. On May 28, 1894 Mr. Gerrie was appointed postmaster.

Hugh J. Wicker was postmaster for little more than three months in 1900-1901 before he resigned. James Clatworthy, a cooper, operated a stave mill at Sauble Falls from 1896 to 1902. Known as CLATWORTHY AND MOTHERSELL, the stave mill produced a 100 barrels a day which were used mostly for shipping fish to southern markets. Clatworthy served as Postmaster from August 1, 1901 until he resigned on December 24, 1903.

Nathaniel Duxworthy Seaman purchased the mill in 1904 and operated it under the name, N. D. SEAMAN AND SONS. Mr. Seaman was the postmaster for nearly twelve years from August 1, 1904 until the post office was temporarily closed on June 26, 1916. The Sauble Falls post office was closed permanently on November 30, 1916 when Rural Free Mail delivery was inaugurated. The rural mail courier started at Wiarton and reached Sauble Falls via Oliphant.
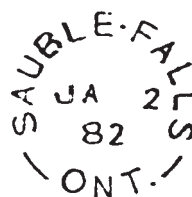

PROOF STRIKE
21.5-mm
A1 hammer

Bruce Graham reports an earlier A1 hammer known used December 18, 1876 at Sable River. *Illustration needed.-Ed.*

Official records show that Sable River was an accounting office and reverted to a non-accounting office when the post office name was changed to Sauble Falls in 1881. Revenue generally indicates the extent of activity in a community. Although not large, Sauble Falls did considerably more business than other small area post offices. Yearly revenue was as follows:
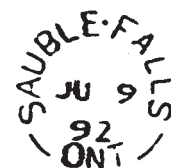
YEAR	P.O. REVENUE	POSTMASTER'S REMUMERATION
1876	$20.56	$10.00
1881	$24.18	$15.00
1895	$84.06	$24.00
1901	$57.98	$30.00
1909	$62.07	$35.00
1911	$100.12	$50.00

From 1911 until its closing post office revenue continued at approximately $100.00 per annum.

PROOF STRIKE
24.5-mm
A1 hammer
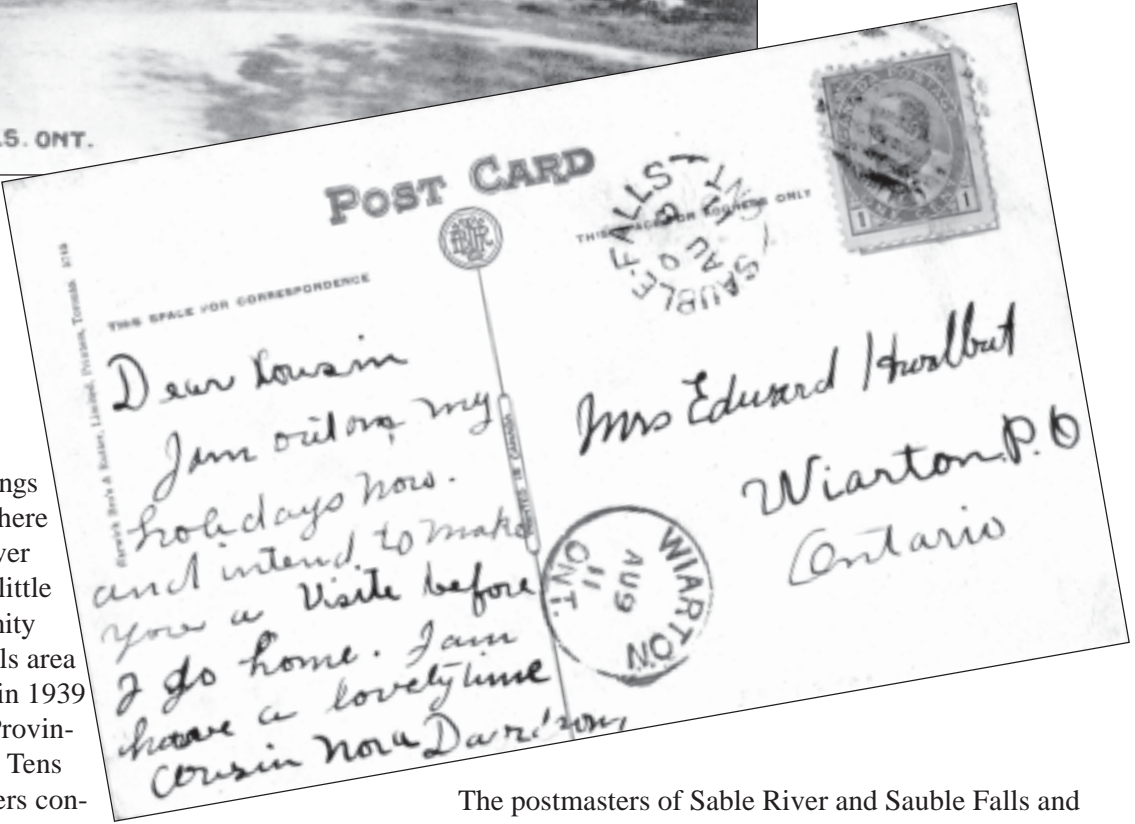[arcs 5.0, 4.0]

PROOF STRIKE
21.5-mm
A1 hammer
[arcs 4.0, 4.5]

As the lumber business started to decline the falls water power was harnessed and became a source for hydro electric power. The SAUBLE FALLS LIGHT AND POWER CO. sold power to the town of Wiarton in 1928 but became insolvent during the depression. In 1937 the mill was destroyed by fire. The little steamer, *Water*

Witch, sank at its moorings in the Rankin River where its hull disintegrated over the years. Today very little of the original community exists. The Sauble Falls area which was reforested in 1939 became Sauble Falls Provincial Park in July 1960. Tens of thousands of campers concede that it is now one of the most beautiful provincial parks in Ontario.

The mail couriers listed below brought the mail to Sable River and later Sauble Falls from Wiarton via Oliphant.

The first two couriers were respectively the first and second postmasters of Oliphant.

MAIL COURIERS	TO	FROM	TRIPS/ WK.	PER ANNUM
W. McCutcheon	Apr. 1, 1875	Mar. 31, 1876	1	–
J. Hutchison	Apr. 1, 1876	–	1	$80.00
J. H. Trout	–	June 30, 1883	1	$52.00
I. Post	July 1, 1883	–	1	$78.80
H. Crandon	–	–	2	$119.00
L. Hyatt	–	–	2	$130.00
J. Morris	–	–	2	$100.00
S. Hyatt	–	Mar. 31, 1907	–	–
M. S. Johnston	Apr. 1, 1907	Mar. 31, 1910	–	–
J. McVannel	Apr. 1, 1910	Nov. 30, 1916	–	–

The postmasters of Sable River and Sauble Falls and their periods of service.

SABLE RIVER

Post Office Established:	April 1, 1875		
Wilson Stewart	April 1, 1875	Mar. 31, 1879	Resigned
Changed to Sauble Falls	Dec. 1, 1881		

SAUBLE FALLS

Norman McLean	April 1, 1882	Sep. 22, 1886	Resigned
Sidney Lawrence	May 1, 1891	Jan. 12, 1894	Resigned
William Gerrie	May 28, 1894	Aug. 28, 1900	Resigned
Hugh J. Wicker	Oct. 1, 1900	Jan. 17, 1901	Resigned
James Clatworthy	Aug. 1, 1901	Dec. 24, 1903	Resigned
Nathaniel Duxbury Seaman	Aug. 1, 1904	June 26, 1916	Resigned
Post Office closed temporarily:	June 26, 1916		
Post Office Closed permanently:	Nov. 30, 1916	Rural Mail est.	

French Bay Post Office (November, 1881 to Match, 1916). Side door is entrance to post office located at Lot 16, Concession C, Amabel Township. Photo taken in 1980.

FRENCH BAY

By 1880 settlers living near the south end of Sauble Beach were in need of a post office. The closest post office was in Elsinore, five miles further south. One of the early settlers was Henry Shannon who received a land grant in 1860 at French Bay, adjacent to the south end of Sauble Beach, close to the Saugeen Indian Reserve.

Henry was born in Germany in 1848 and came to Canada with his parents Frederick and Caroline, along with a sister, Louisa, in 1857. The name was originally Senhen but was changed to Shannon shortly after the family emigrated. The Shannon's found that the land was too stony for farming and soon moved about five kilometres east to Lot 16, Concession C. They erected a log home on the south-east corner of the lot and later built a frame house. Henry whose full name was Henry William Kasper Christian Senhen, (Shannon), married Rachel Blenkin in 1878. They inherited the family farm and moved into the frame house. Henry immediately made application for a post office to be located at the side entrance of the family home.

On November 1, 1881, French Bay post office opened at this location. Henry Shannon was appointed postmaster and was awarded the mail courier's contract as well. The contract called for one trip a week, French Bay to Elsinore and return. For this service Mr. Shannon received $30.00 per annum increasing to $40.00 per annum in 1885. Neighbours came to Mr. Shannon's home to pick up their mail. Revenue for French Bay post office from 1881 to 1900 averaged approximately $11.00 per annum increasing to $26.00 in 1909 and then decreasing thereafter to $12.00 in 1917. During this period the postmaster received $10.00 per annum for his services increasing to $12.00 in 1895, $25.00 in 1905, $35.00 in 1909 and $50.00 in 1915. It was in 1905 when Mr. Shannon's mail contract was changed and his mail route went to Allenford and return.

On April 1, 1916 rural mail delivery came to French Bay via RR#1, Allenford. As a result the French Bay post office closed. Henry Shannon had served for almost 37 years. Henry Shannon died in 1941.

Richard (Dick) Buckton purchased the frame house and farm. When the author visited the home in the 1980s Richard's son, Norman Buckton, was living there. Mail service was still via RR#1, Allenford. A mail slot where mail was received and other appendages associated with a post office were still visible. [*continued in Issue Nº 15*]

PROOF STRIKE
23.5-mm
A1 hammer
[arcs 8.0, 7.0]
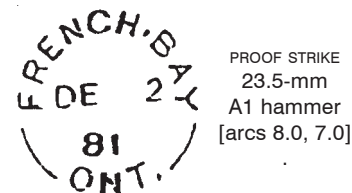
FRENCH BAY

Post Office established	Nov. 1, 1881		
Henry Shannon	Nov. 1, 1881	Mar. 31, 1918	PO closed
Rural Mail established :	April 1, 1918		

[REF. 099]

County Atlases

and other
important research tools
for the dedicated philatelist

"Between 1874 and 1881, approximately forty county atlases were published in Canada, covering counties in the Maritimes, Ontario and Quebec. Thirty-two of these atlases were produced for Ontario by the following five companies: H. Belden & Co. (17); H.R. Page & Co. (8); Walker & Miles (5); J.H. Meacham & Co. (1); H. Parsell (1). Two types of county atlases exist for Ontario, those which covered a single county or multiple adjacent counties, and those which were published as supplements to Dominion of Canada atlases. In total, 40 Ontario counties were covered by these 32 atlases.

Each of the county atlases consisted of a historical text, town-ship and town maps, portraits, views and patrons' directory / business cards. But more important, names of residents were marked on the lots of the township maps in these county atlases. Unfortunately only the names of subscribers were recorded on the township maps for the Dominion of Canada supplements. All of these atlases were sold by subscription. Prominent county residents paid an additional sum to have biographical sketches, portraits and views of their residences or businesses included in the atlases."

McGill University in Montreal had been digitizing these atlases and putting them on the worldwide web. Our four counties are to be completed by April 200. A number of Eastern Ontario counties have been completed. You will find them at *http://imago.library.mcgill.ca/CountyAtlas*

It is worth your time to check them out!

And while we are at it, in case you have missed it in BNAPS *Topics* or the PHSC *Journal,* the National Archives postal records may be reached at *www.archives.ca* and go to the Online Research Tool: **ArchiviaNet**. What a find to those of us that are out in the back 40 and removed from the centre of the universe. One just has to say, "What was life before the Internet!" I know, we write letters but as some of you are aware, it may be a very slow process.

The INTERNATIONAL MACHINE *of* **Orillia**

by *Bob Vogel*   [ref. 100]

Geoff Newman from Perth, Ontario and myself are in the process of updating David Sessions' 1982 handbook with known early and late dates from all the sixty some odd offices across Canada. If you would like to participate in this study please contact the writer.

REFERENCES:
[1] *The Early Rapid Cancelling Machines of Canada,* By David F. Sessions 1982.
[2] *A Checklist of Flag Machine Cancels,* BNAPS Flag Cancellation Study Group Postcard showing Slogan Flag Cancel, Robert Prince Collection.

During 1902 the International Postal Supply Company of New York was awarded the contract to supply Canadian Post Offices with machines to cancel the mail. These machines, in the larger offices would eliminate the need for having one postal clerk face the mail while another cancelled.

The Canadian Post Office ordered a number of machines in 1902, with nine offices using them by the end of the year. By 1907 at least thirty office were equipped, Orillia being one of them.

During the 12-year period of use, two different hubs, one obliterator and one slogan cancels were used in this office.

The International Postal Supply Co. lost out on most of their contract in 1919 and the Orillia machine was replaced by one from the Columbia Ielfield Company.

ORILLIA, ONT. CAN.
AUG 26
12³⁰ PM
1907
This card shows earliest known use for this cancel.
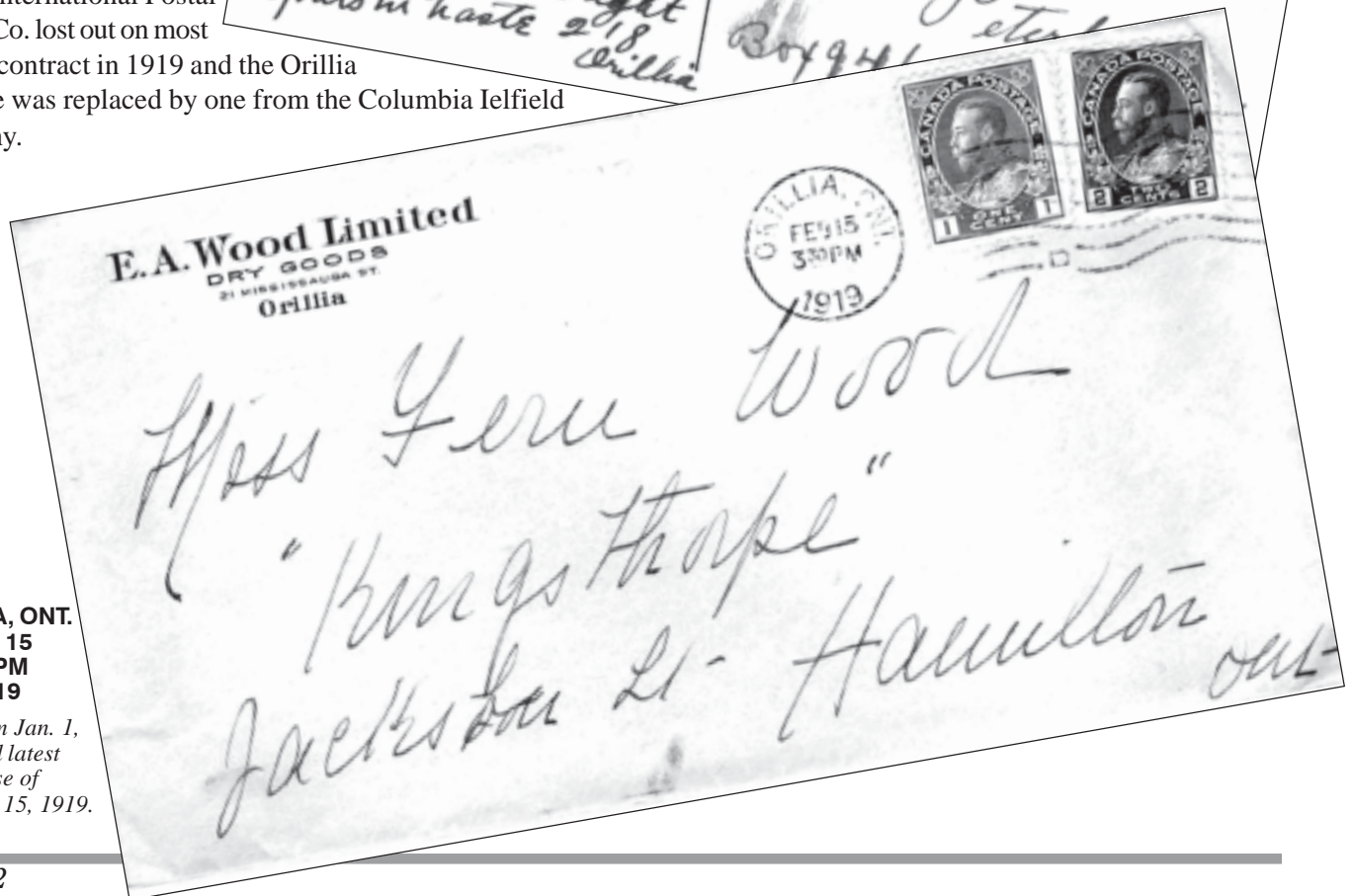
ORILLIA, ONT.
FEB 15
3³⁰ PM
1919

Used from Jan. 1, 1908 until latest known use of February 15, 1919.

ORILLIA, ONT.
MAY 16
9- PM
1917

$25⁰⁰ FOR 21⁵⁰
HOW?
ASK YOUR BANK
OR POSTMASTER

Slogan Flag Cancel 28-2,
Coutts # T-630
In use from April 2, 1917
until May 30, 1917.

Handwritten text on postcard:

60 Colborne St. Orillia

Dear Bill,—
Glad to hear from you again. I will look out for that letter. There are over 200 cases of typhoid fever in town caused by the milk. Well, I have left school and am working at the mack-inaw factory. My address was almost right. S. Bartlett

Sgt. Wm Jones; 763,053,
Aldershot Camp,
Nova Scotia.
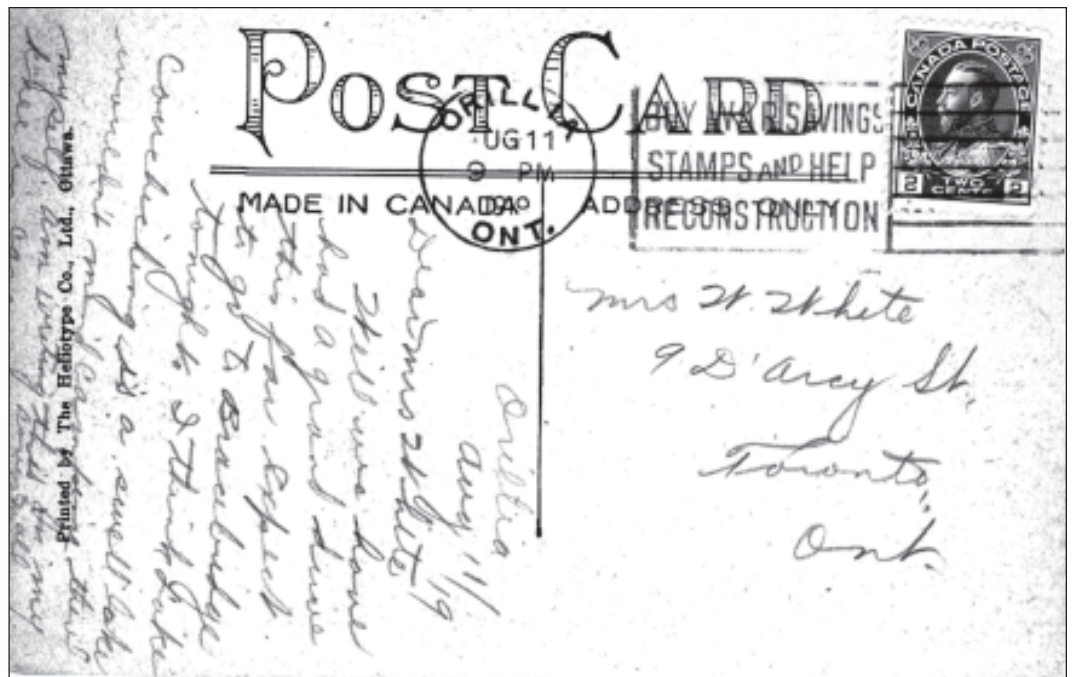
ORILLIA
AUG 11
9- PM
1919
ONT.

BUY WAR SAV-
INGS
STAMPS AND HELP

RECONSTRUCTION

The replacement for the
International Postal Supply Co.
machine came from the
Columbia Ielfield Company
in 1919
Earliest known use
August 11, 1919.

mrs W. White
9 D'arcy St.
Toronto,
Ont.

CONOVER
Dufferin County
Melancthon Twp.

[REF. 101]

Gus Knierim

The post office at Conover in Melancthon Twp. was a short-lived operation that came relatively late onto the scene. The original post office was located two roads west of what is now Hwy. 24 (Conc. 4, Lot 21) and was opened on October 20, 1900. With the introduction of rural mail delivery the office was closed on Jan. 31, 1914. Henceforth service was provided by RR#3, Shelburne. R. W. Fewster was the lone postmaster for those fourteen years. No proof strikes of any type of cancelling device for this office are on file. Bruce Graham lists a 21.0-mm A1 hammer that has been seen in use between April 23, 1907 and November 3, 1909.

However, the story does not end here for on July 1, 1990, Canada Post established a retail outlet on the east side of Hwy. 24 just north of Hornings Mills and named it **CONOVER (SHELBURNE) RO** (Postal Code L0N 1S0)**.** Officially it was located at RR#3 Shelburne and received the POCON **410306.** This operation lasted until September 18, 1992.

In this short period of use two different POCONS were in use as illustrated here.

It is also interesting to note that the **Honeywood RO** used the same POCON number just a year earlier before Conover opened. Both offices are served from Shelburne.
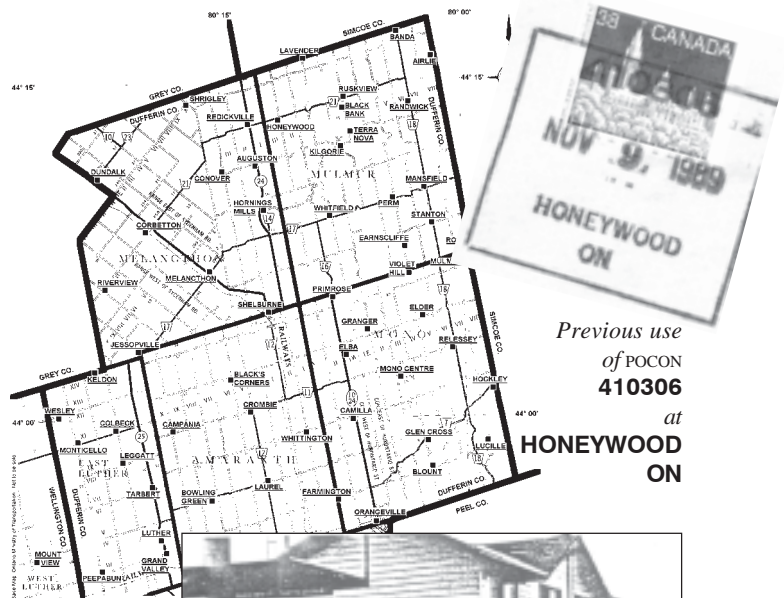
Previous use of POCON
410306
at
HONEYWOOD ON

Map courtesy of
ERIC MANCHEE

The original mispelled POCON
410306
SHERBURNE ON
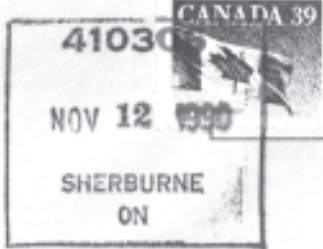
The corrected POCON
410306
CONOVER / ONTARIO
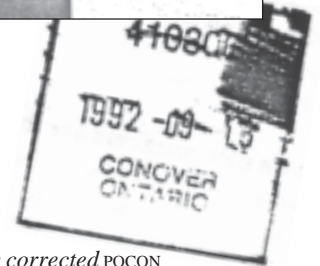
For those that did not know . . . The Post Office on page 119 was not recognized by anyone. It is still open and is none other than . . . **FEVERSHAM** at the headwaters of the Beaver River.