



The Grey, Bruce, Dufferin & Simcoe POSTAL HISTORY STUDY GROUP

No. 17 • Vol. 4, No. 1

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NOVEMBER 2000

Season's Greetings

from



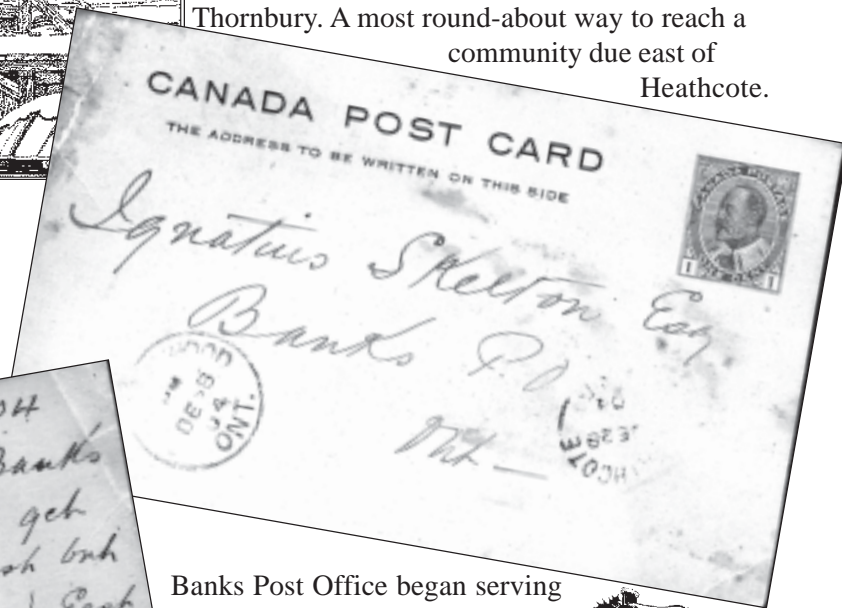
HEATHCOTE

[REF. III]



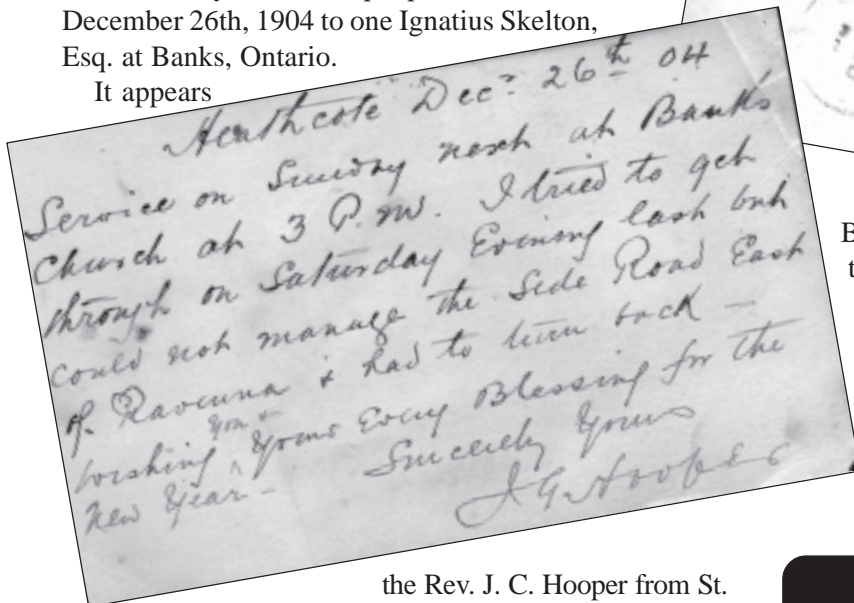
poles and the road to Banks was blocked for several days. Although just a mere 15 minute drive to Heathcote by horse and buggy it would have taken much longer. The *Illustrated History of Collingwood Township* states that St. Stephen's Anglican Church at Banks was closed in 1900. Does this card perhaps indicate otherwise?

The cancels on this card indicate that the routing from Heathcote to Banks was via Collingwood and most likely via Clarksburg or Thornbury. A most round-about way to reach a community due east of Heathcote.



A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all the members of our Study Group. Our greetings come to you by way of Heathcote in the Beaver Valley from a simple post card written December 26th, 1904 to one Ignatius Skelton, Esq. at Banks, Ontario.

It appears



the Rev. J. C. Hooper from St. Augustine's Parish Church (Anglican) at Heathcote was unable to make his way through to Banks via Ravenna due to the inclement weather of the day. Times have changed somewhat with much less snow in the last decade of 1990s. However as recent as 1981-1982 the snow on that road reached almost to the top of the telephone

Banks Post Office began serving the community in 1876, whereas Heathcote under its earlier name of Euphrasia began serving the township in 1848. Both offices now are closed.

In the spirit of Christmas I wish everyone the very best.

Gus Knierim, editor.



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R. McLean Purdy's [REF. 112]
Eugenia
 Artemesia Township
 GREY COUNTY

Contributed by the members of the GBD&S Study Group

The previous two installments of the Eugenia story focussed on the 1800s and the early part of the 1900s. Bruce Graham lists four A1 split ring hammers but it is believed that his second and third hammer are really one and the same excepting that the date line is sometimes shown as a cork. The "fourth" 20.5-mm A1 hammer is known to have been in use from October 1, 1907 until at least December 14, 1941.

A 24.5-mm cds hammer was proofed July 17, 1941. Recorded dates of this hammer range from May 18, 1948 until Jan. 4, 1961. Many post offices



Eugenia Falls, the big attraction for this community, has drawn many people from far and wide. In the first half of the 20th century Eugenia catered to many tourists. This real photo card was mailed from **EUGENIA ONT./OC 1/1907** to Paris Ont. via Flesherton. This is a new early date of the fourth "round U" hammer as listed by Bruce Graham.

Post Card courtesy of JOHN SPANHOUSE

received a modern cds hammer with condensed lettering. Although Eugenia post office remained open until September 30, 1969 no modern cds hammer has been seen or proofed.

The story of the various hammers can not end here without asking some questions. Eugenia was an accounting office having received the number **2862**. To date no MOOD, MOTO nor MOON strike has been seen. Surely there must have been some. Likewise no proof strike nor real example of a registration box has appeared. Again there must be examples of these in various collections.

It seems that the postal history of Eugenia mirrors the

history of the village itself. The late part of the 19th century was made prominent through the likes of Postmaster Purdy. The beginning of the 20th century was probably the most prominent period in the life of the village in that it had several stores that served a much larger population than it has today. The Hydro Electric Power Commission established a major generating station on the Beaver River in 1913 that produced power for all of Grey County. Lake Eugenia was a result of this project which in turn drew cottagers to the lakeside. Today the village slumbers in the Grey Highlands without the prominence and service that the post office provided.



A registered letter from Owen Sound to the Eugenia P.O. in the Municipality of Artemesia. Backstamped with an arrival mark at **EUGENIA ONT. / MY 14 / 1948.** Cover courtesy of JOHN SPANHOUSE



EUGENIA ONT. / JAN 4 / 1961
Courtesy of JOHN SPANHOUSE



EUGENIA ONT. / OC 21 / 1953
Courtesy of JOHN SPANHOUSE

We would be amiss if we did not mention a franchise that may have been established. The Canada Post list of offices for Grey County (p. 12, Issue N° 2) lists a franchise **EUGENIA (FLESHERTON) RO B**, located at RR#4, County Rd. 13, Flesherton. The office supposedly was established March 14, 1990. The POCN for this office was **011460**. No cancel has been seen. It is not known when it closed. Currently the area is served by RR#4 Flesherton.

This brings to an end the story of Eugenia where

there is less known about the modern history than of the times long ago. With some diligent searches the missing pieces of the puzzle will be found.

Waiting for the Mail at **AMARANTH STATION** Amaranth Twp. Dufferin County

by George E. Prior

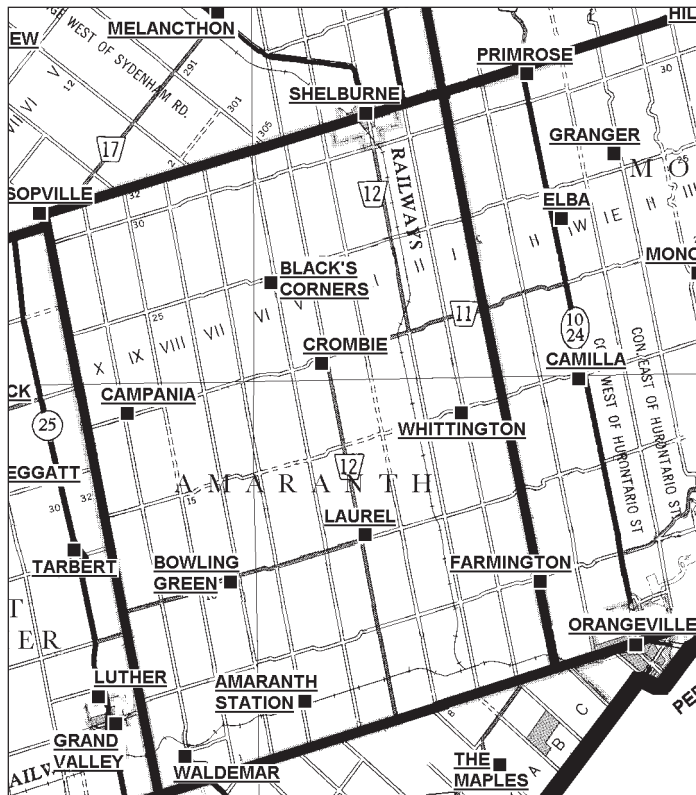
[REF. 000]

Amaranth Station Post Office was located on the 7th Line of Amaranth, just north of highway 9. At one time there was a thriving community. It boasted of a grain buyer (Clarke & Co.), general store, a live stock dealer, a Justice of the Peace and a post office.

The station was just a small structure mainly used by the section gang that maintained the Canadian Pacific Railway line. This train originated in Orangeville and went to Teeswater and returned the same day. The train numbers were 753 North and 756 South. The mail was put off going up about 12 noon and picked up on the return about 5:30 p.m. The bag of mail quite often was dropped without stopping if no passengers were going up the line and picked up by way of a sling on a pole. In this manor the train did not have to stop. Betty Crawshaw (daughter of the last postmistress) informed me that at the last there was only mail delivery once a day. The railway stopped running the mail and passenger car in the 1951.

It is interesting to note that this little Amaranth flag stop (which has since been hauled away to a farm and used there for a variety of uses) was sanctuary for section men eating dinner, travellers waiting for a train and vagrants on their way through.

The post office named Amaranth Station opened its



Amaranth Township. Map courtesy of ERIC MANCHEE.

doors on May 1, 1874 with postmaster Archibald Lamb. He resigned from the position effective May 10, 1882.

The following were his successors:

William McPherson	1883, Jan. 3 until 1884, June 30
James Armstrong	July 1, 1884 until Jan. 18, 1888
Joseph Lacon	June 1, 1888 until Jan. 15, 1894
John S. Lacon	Oct. 1, 1894 until March 27, 1900
Gustavus A. Groskwith	July 1, 1890 until Nov. 22, 1912

AMARANTH • STATION ONT. AP 5 1917

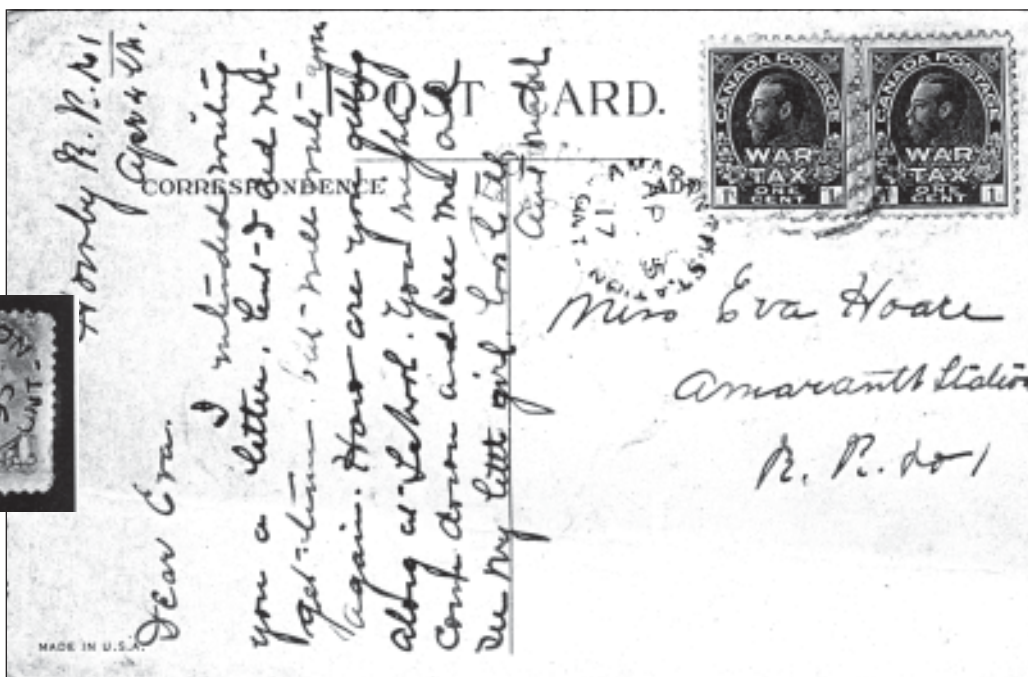
This card was sent from Hornby to Amaranth Station in Dufferin County

AMARANTH • STATION ONT. DE 28 1895

Earliest known use of the first split ring hammer.

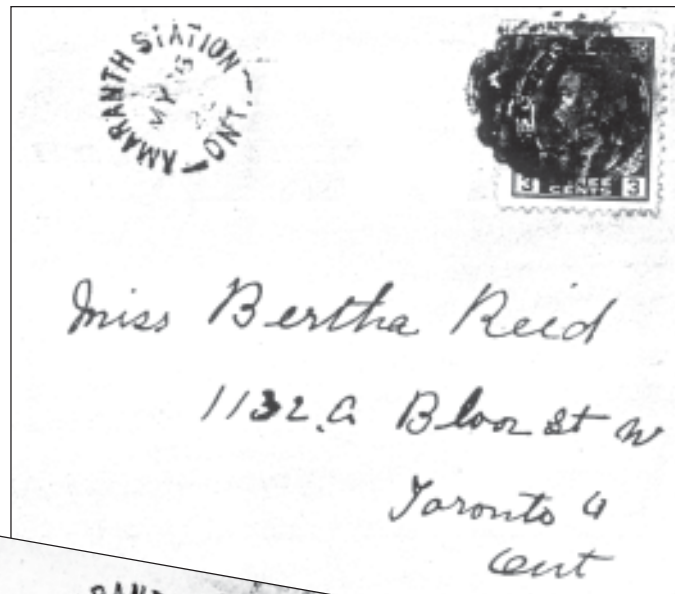
Since the post office was opened in 1874, some 21 years earlier, there is a chance of an earlier hammer.

Post Card and 1895 strike courtesy of DON STEWART.



J. S. Lacon Jan. 27, 1913 until Oct. 18, 1925
 Mrs. Mary A. Crawshaw Dec. 1, 1925 until Sep. 4, 1950
 (Note: Betty McLaren nee Crawshaw sworn in as holiday relief 1949)

The Post Office was in the back part of the farm house of the Crawshaws. It was from here that the postmistress conducted the Royal Mail business. The function consisted of the careful accounting of funds, and the sorting all incoming and outgoing mail. This was done in order to have the mail bags ready to be put on the Mail Car at Amaranth station for transfer at Orangeville for Toronto. They had to separate the Orangeville mail and the Owen Sound mail as well as the Toronto mail, ready for



**AMARANTH STATION
 ONT.
 MY 6
 1926**

*The second split ring hammer for AMARANTH STATION
 Cover courtesy of MARION PRIOR'S archives.*



**AMARANTH STATION
 ONT.
 JUN 7
 1922**

*Earliest known use of the second split ring hammer.
 Post Card courtesy of DON STEWART.*

the evening and morning train through Orangeville. The train numbers were 705, 706 and 607 and 608. The Amaranth Post Office had the responsibility of delivering the 16 mile rural mail to the farms. This was done in summer, winter and all kinds of weather – six days a week. It is interesting here to note that when I asked Betty if something stood out in her memory of the Post Office she gave this reply. “[Her] dad did not like it when in the winter months the people left the outgoing mail for him to take back to the office. The custom was to leave 3 one cent coins on top of the mail for postage but quite often in the winter time the money would fall to the ground which was then covered with snow and often was not retrievable or he had to dig through the snow to

According to *Bruce Graham's* study of the Split Ring hammers, **AMARANTH STATION** had two different A1 hammers. The first was a 19-mm hammer with 1.5-mm arcs. Earliest and latest use of this hammer are shown within this article. The second A1 hammer was proofed FE 26 1919 and was 19.5-mm in diameter with 3.0-mm arcs. Again earliest and latest known usage are shown herewith.

find it. Some time he was unable to retrieve the coins.” Mrs. Crawshaw retired September 4, 1950 and the office was officially closed the following spring on March 9, 1951. The train tracks, too, are gone and now there remain only memories.

**AMARANTH STATION
 ONT.
 MY 26
 1945**

*Latest known use of the second split ring hammer.
 Courtesy of DON STEWART.*



REFERENCES
 [1] Postal Archives, National Archives of Canada
 [2] Elizabeth Anne Kelling, *The Roots of Amaranth*, Boston Mills Press
 [3] Personal interview with Betty (Crawshaw) McLaren.
 [4] W. Bruce Graham, *Ontario Broken Circles*, 1999
 [5] Assisted by George Power with material from the Don Stewart Collection.

BRUCE COUNTY'S SAUBLE BEACH and its Post Offices

PART IV

James Kraemer

[REF. 114]

FRENCH BAY (SAUBLE BEACH SOUTH)

The first cottages south of the Hepworth-Sauble Road were built in 1926. Slowly at first and then gaining momentum the number of cottages kept increasing. After 1945 cottages sprung up at an accelerated pace. It was not long before cottages were built all the way to French Bay at the southern end of Sauble Beach.

Edward Doyle, a WW II naval veteran from Burlington, Ontario, could see an opportunity. He built and opened a general store on the lake shore, two miles south of the Hepworth-Sauble Road. Doyle carefully chose a site a few yards north of a historic spot on Second Ave. South marked by a 10-foot square plot enclosed by a white picket fence.



Inside is a painted sign identifying the site as the grave of Bima-Dashka.

In the early 19th century it was a custom among the Indians to raid villages for

wives and booty. Some Chippewas from Bruce County carried out such a raid in the Niagara area. When the band returned they brought a very young white child with them. She had been stolen from her home while the parents were working in a field. The Indians named her Bima-Dashka which in Ojibway means, "living water". (The grave sign has incorrectly interpreted the name to mean, "laughing water"). As the child grew up she became the wife of a young Indian who became Chief Metta-wanash. She became known as the "White Princess".

Many years later the parents of Bima-Dashka found her but she declined their offer to go back to Niagara. She had several children but while still quite young took sick and died. Her grief stricken husband wrapped her body in birch bark and buried her in the little family cemetery on a ridge of soil that looked out over the "living water" of Lake Huron.

On August 26, 1947 Edward and Margaret Doyle submitted a petition of 74 names of cottage owners and visitors from the south end of Sauble Beach, to Post Office Authorities asking that a post office be established. J. W. Stewart of London, Ontario, the Post Office District Inspector suggested that the post office was not needed and that the request should be denied. Mr. Doyle wrote again to the Post Office Department on April 19, 1948 asking for a post office to be established in his store, known as "The Rustic Inn". He suggested that the post office should be named French Bay, a name associated with the area. A few days later Mr. Carl E. Whicher, MP of Colpoy's Bay wrote to Postmaster General, the Honourable E. G. Bertram in support of a post office. Although the District Inspector again recommended that no post office be established, the department asked that an investigation be carried out and a report be submitted promptly concerning the proposal. Mr. Stewart, the District Inspector reported on June 21, 1948 and now recommended that a post office, to be named French Bay be established at the Rustic Inn, on lots 25 and 26, Concession "E" on the lake shore of the Saugeen Indian Reservation. A post office survey made by A. W. Poole a Postal Inspector from London, Ontario indicated that there were 39 cottage owners in the area of the proposed post office. He stated that a new road was being built into the area and 60 additional cottages were expected to be built.

While it was decided that due to the rapid build-up, a summer post office should be established, but the Department was uncertain about the suitability of the name French Bay. They contacted the Geographic Board of Canada who advised that marine maps as well as their own maps indicated that the area was known as Frenchman' Bay or Frenchman Point. The Post Office Department replied that local people called the area French Bay and that a former post office in the area was known as

The Trading Post, 1977.
Sauble Beach South Store & Post Office,
May 16, 1950 until March 5, 1974.



A humorous post card showing the 5-digit non-accounting MOON handstamp as well as the 23.0-mm cds.

**82047
SAUBLE BEACH SOUTH
VII 4 1968
ONT.**

French Bay. The Honourable Colin Gibson, Secretary of State wrote to the Postmaster General on December 3, 1948 stating that the Geographic Board of Canada approved the name French Bay.

The French Bay post office was established on June 23, 1949 with Edward Doyle as postmaster. It was a seasonal non-accounting office N° 79440. Since the French Bay date stamp had not arrived an Emergency date stamp supplied by the London District was put into use. Margaret Doyle, the postmaster's wife, was sworn in as assistant. On July 1, 1949 the new road through the reservation from French Bay to Southampton was officially opened. In January 1950 George Croshaw, President of the Sauble Beach Board of Trade, asked the Post Office Department to change the name from French Bay to Sauble Beach South in order to more properly reflect its location. The Department suggested that confusion might develop over the similarity of names with Sauble Beach and Sauble Beach North and perhaps all three post offices should be renamed. Donald B. Blue, MP, Ripley, Ontario and W. E. Pearson, the District Postal Inspector recommended that the names as suggested by the Board of Trade should be adopted. On March 17, 1950 the Post Office Department agreed to proceed with the name change as requested. Although the post office opened for the summer season on June 15, 1950 the name Sauble Beach South and its new Non-accounting No. 82047 were not officially effective until June 16th. In



An aerial view of Stony Point, located at the south entrance of Sauble Beach, Ontario. Card 9747R, produced by Prismaflex Color Wilson, Dryden, Ont. and distributed by Bert Knechtel, Sauble Beach.

renamed the business "Dobson's Store". Mr. Dobson was appointed postmaster and his wife Marion was sworn in as his assistant. The Dobson's operated the post office for 10 years. Revenue increased from \$208.22 in 1954 to \$743.06 in 1964. The postmaster's salary which was \$183.45 and \$231.30 in 1950 and 1954 respectively increased to \$1050.00 in 1964. A rental allowance of \$16.00 was paid annually until the end of the 1956 summer season.

Gordon Dobson died suddenly on December 6, 1964. He was in his 57th year. His wife Marion Dobson was appointed Postmaster on May 19, 1965. Mrs. Edna Ruttle was sworn in as her assistant. In the early 1970s Mrs. Richard Buckton acted as assistant to Mrs. Dobson. After serving 9 years Mrs. Dobson wrote to the Department on March 5, 1974 advising that due to ill health she had sold the business to Edward H. Ives of Owen Sound, Ontario. She offered her resignation and recommended that Mr. Ives be appointed postmaster.

Edward Isles was appointed postmaster on June 12, 1974. He renamed the business, "The Trading Post". Mr. Isles operated the Rustic Inn for five years and then sold the store to Michael Joseph of Owen Sound. Mr. Joseph was appointed postmaster when the summer season started on June 15, 1979. His daughter Kim

1953 Mr. Doyle's sister-in-law, Mrs. Lillian Doyle, acted as assistant.

Mr. Gordon Dobson from the Hamilton area purchased the business from Mr. Doyle in May 1954. Doyle resigned as postmaster and Dobson



served as his assistant for the 1979 season. The following year, his wife acted as his assistant.

It was not until 1967 that post office revenue almost reached \$700. In 1971 revenue was \$909.11. In 1975 revenue took an upswing and by 1979 it reached \$1,200. On February 11, 1980 the Department re-classified the post office to Group 4 and decided to pay the postmaster a rent allowance.

Unlike the other two Sauble post offices who received their mail via RR#2 Hepworth daily mail service to Sauble Beach South was via RR#1 Hepworth. In April, 1980 Mrs. Marion Dobson who had been the postmaster's assistant and the postmaster for a total of 20 years passed away in her 71st year.

The Sauble Beach South post office closed after the summer season on September 16, 1985. It did not reopen in 1986 and was considered closed. The postmasters of French Bay and Sauble Beach South as well as their periods of service are as follows.

FRENCH BAY

Edward Doyle
FRENCH BAY
Postmaster

Post Office established: June 23, 1949
 Edward Doyle June 23, 1949 until June 16, 1950
 Post Office name changed to **Sauble Beach South** (June 16, 1950)
 Non-Acct Post Office: N° 79440 (June 23, 1949 until Sept. 16, 1949)

SAUBLE BEACH SOUTH

Edward Doyle June 16, 1950 until June 2, 1954 [RESIGNED]
 David Gordon Dobson June 15, 1954 [ACTING]
 David Gordon Dobson July 8, 1954 until Dec. 6, 1964 [DEATH]
 Mrs. Marion Laurine Dobson May 19, 1965 until March 5, 1974 [R]
 Edward H. Iles June 12, 1974 until June 14, 1979 [RESIGNED]
 Michael Luigi Joseph June 15, 1979 until June 16, 1985
 Post Office closed: June 16, 1985
 Non-Acct Post Office: N° 82047 (June 16, 1950)
 P.O. Computer Office: N° 396214
 Post Office Postal Code: N0H 2J0

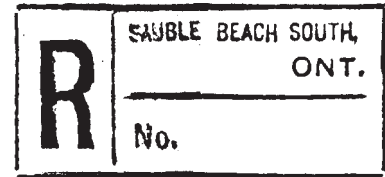


82047

396214
 SAUBLE BEACH
 14 IX 1985
 SOUTH
 ON

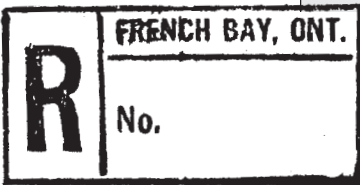
M. L. Dobson
SAUBLE BEACH SOUTH
 Postmaster

Last day of use CDS and
 POCON instruments.
 Note that the month is
 inverted in the CDS hammer



FRENCH BAY
 proof strikes

79440



**PLEASE RETURN
 COVER TO POSTMASTER
 FOR ENQUIRY**

**INSURED PARCEL
 Colis Assuré**
 No.....

*Cancellation Devices
 in use at
 SAUBLE BEACH SOUTH
 August 19, 1952*

RETURNED TO

NOT CALLED FOR

INSUFFICIENTLY PREPAID



GREY COUNTY *A BRIEF DIGEST OF CURRENT POSTAL HAPPENINGS* [REF. 115]
Notes
 by Roving Reporter Gus Knierim

Friday, October 6, 2000 was a big day at Thornbury Post Office. It is not very often that an office receives a new cancelling instrument, but on that day Thornbury re-

ceived three new instruments which immediately were put into use. All three handstamps contain the same basic information of town name, province, office number and postal code. What makes them different is that they also contain an outline of the Blue Mountain Escarpment – a most prominent geological feature of the area that no visitor can miss. Now Canada Post brings the Escarpment to your own home. Write to the editor and he will reply getting it cancelled with a new hammer. *Did I say it might be round, oval or rectangular, or even in 2-colours?*

THE POSTAL HISTORY

of Camp Borden

by Dave Hanes

PART XIV

[REF. 116]

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

This month our Camp Borden column will look at three pieces of underpaid mail, one of which leaves an unanswered question that maybe one of our members could answer.

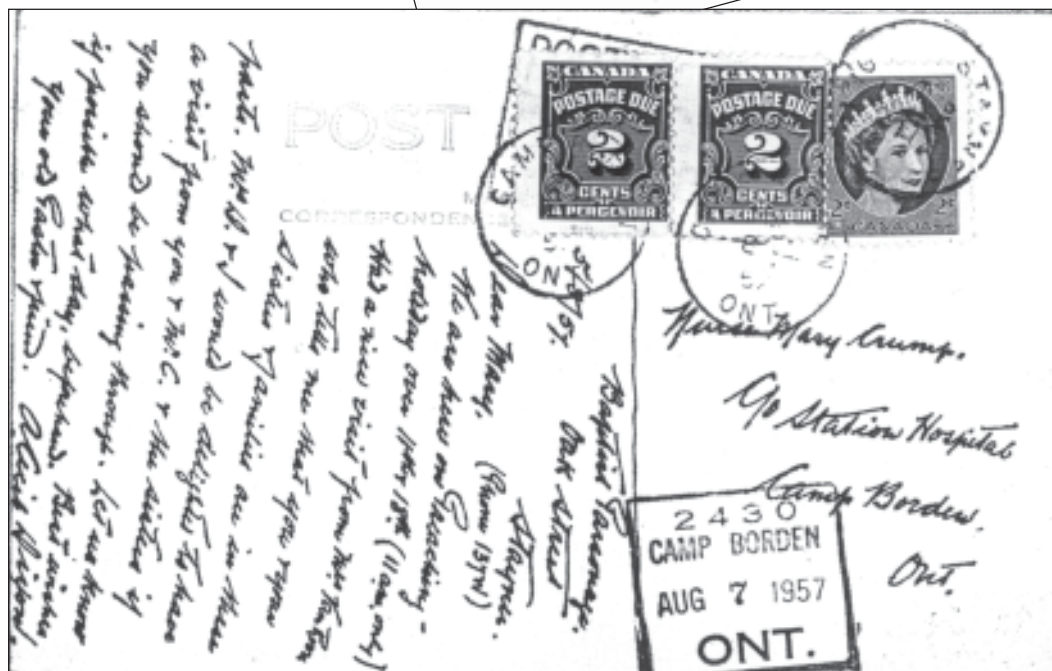
The cover to the right was mailed in Kingston to the Officers' Mess at Vimy Barracks at the 3¢ drop letter rate. Apparently the post office ruled that Vimy Barracks was not



within the confines of the City of Kingston and thus the letter should be mailed at the domestic rate which was 4¢. A 1¢ deficiency should call for 2¢ postage due. **Why was this letter only charged 1¢ postage due?**

The second example, a post card mailed from Stayner to Camp Borden warranted 4¢ postage and was underpaid by 2¢. The postage due charge of 4¢ would be correct.

The War Amp letter, mailed at Camp Borden September 9, 1957 required 5¢ postage. Lack of stamps created



a 10¢ postage due penalty. The covers are also noteworthy in that two of them were cancelled with money order date stamps.

[continued in Issue N° 18]



DUFFERIN Notes

A BRIEF DIGEST OF
CURRENT POSTAL
HAPPENINGS

[REF. 117]

by Roving Reporter George Power

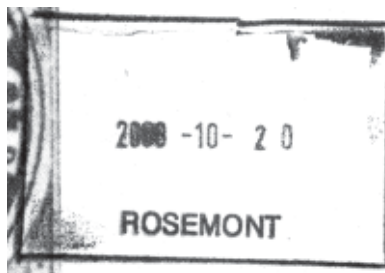


*Rosemont
General
Store &
Post Office
(059420),
August, 1994
photo
courtesy of GUS
KNIERIM*

There have been some changes in the hamlet of Rosemont located on the boundary of Dufferin and Simcoe County. The corporate post office (335045) era ended July 30, 1991. Then a franchise operation (059854) with the name of **Rosemont/Shelburne RPO 3** operated from April 29, 1991 until May 22, 1991. This in turn was restructured to become the **Rosemont RO (059420)** which operated from May 22, 1991 until September 29, 2000. At the end of September, 2000 the *Rosemont General Store & Post Office* were sold to new owners requiring a further change in resource centre numbers. The **Rosemont Postal Outlet (452001)** began functioning using the cancelling device from the previous operation by having its number excised. This was shortly replaced



by two hand stamps as shown here. This came about because the first new one came in with the wrong postal code (**LON 1B0**) and was immediately reordered showing the correct postal code (**LON 1R0**).



Excitement at a village post office – three cancelling instruments in five weeks.

Polaris Stamps

- good stock of covers and cancels of counties
- active buyer of good philatelic material

DAN McINNIS

Box 2063, Stn A, Sudbury, ON P3A 4R8

TEL: (705) 566-0293 E-MAIL: dan.mcinnis@sympatico.ca



12-17

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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.

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If you are in our Region why not visit a STAMP CLUB

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 the regular night.* CONTACT *Stephen Morris*

DURHAM STAMP CLUB – Club meets on the **FIRST THURSDAY** of the month, 7:00 p.m., at Public Library, 240 Garafraxa St. N., Durham. CONTACT *John Fredrickson*, (519) 369-6026

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

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

CONTACT *Robert Ford*, (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