



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

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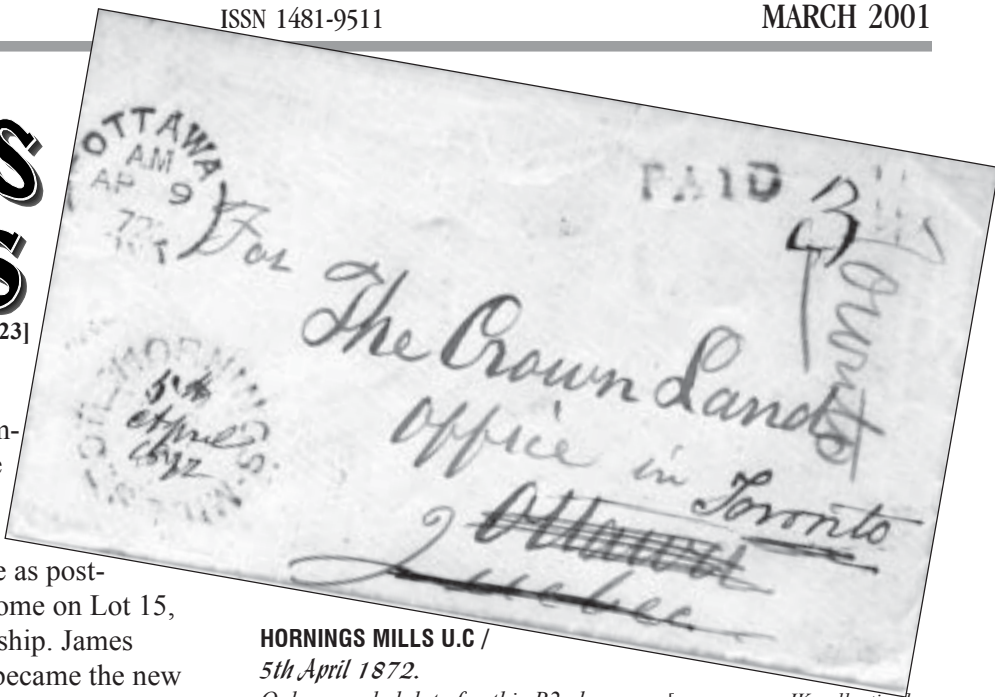
MARCH 2001

DUFFERIN COUNTY'S **HORNING'S MILLS**

George Power

[REF. 123]

Named after Lewis Horning who founded the community in the summer of 1832 near the headwaters of the Pine River in Dufferin County. The settlement received its first post office on August 6, 1851 with James McGhee as postmaster. The office was located in his home on Lot 15, O.S., Concession 2, Melancthon Township. James McGhee died in 1860 and Paul Jarvis became the new



HORNINGS MILLS U.C /

5th April 1872.

Only recorded date for this B2x hammer. [COURTESY OF JK collection]



The first Horning Mill's post office, 1851-1860, used by postmaster James McGhee. [PHOTO COURTESY: Dufferin County Museum]

appointee on November 1, 1860. The post office was moved, as was the custom, to the store operated by Paul Jarvis on Lot 13, O.S., Concession 2. Paul Jarvis resigned his position April 25, 1866.

Wm. Airth was appointed as the next postmaster in May 28, 1866. He died in January, 1880 and was succeeded by his son, Leslie Airth, on February 17, 1880 [National Archives Postal Records show this date as January 1, 1880]. The post office at this time was located on property owned by Wm Airth, on Lot 14, O.S., Concession 2. This building later became known

as the Reid Block, and was located on the east side of the road in the centre of the village just north of the creek. Leslie Airth resigned as postmaster February 6, 1883.

John Matthews was named his successor October 1, 1883. He remained in the post until February 6, 1888. Local sources show the appointment of John Matthews as October 1, 1885. On June 1, 1888 Alex McKinney assumed the postmastership. He resigned August 11, 1890. Both Matthews and McKinney operated the post office out of the same location as Wm. and Leslie Airth as mentioned above.

On October 31, 1890, W. L. Roberts became postmaster and had the office transferred to his store directly across the street. The store was later owned by Ira Eby. The post office continued to function there until August 5, 1905, when James Thomas was appointed postmaster.

CONTENTS – ISSUE Nº 19

	REF NO.	PAGE
Dufferin County's Horning's Mills: [G. Power]	123	175
Post Office Buildings on Post Cards: Maple Valley [R.C. Smith]	124	178
The Old Mail Road – A Response [J. Rossiter]	R119	180
Saying Good-bye & Hello to a Post Office: Thornbury [G. Knierim]	125	182
Life of a Rural Route Contractor [Kathy Tedford]	126	183
Postal Atlas: Grey, Bruce, Dufferin & Simcoe [E. Manchee]	127	183
Grey County Notes: Flesherton Double Broken Circle [G. Knierim]	128	184

This postcard photo shows Mr. Thomas standing in front of the post office, with horse and cart of mail courier, John Webster.



From HORNING'S MILLS ONT. / MY 10 / 1909 via ROSEMONT ONT. / MY 10 / 1909 to STANTON ONT. / MY 10 / 1909 This post card from Horning's Mills merely crossed the border into Mulmur Township where it was documented with two further cancels. The front of this card shows the first Horning's Mills Post Office as shown on the previous page.

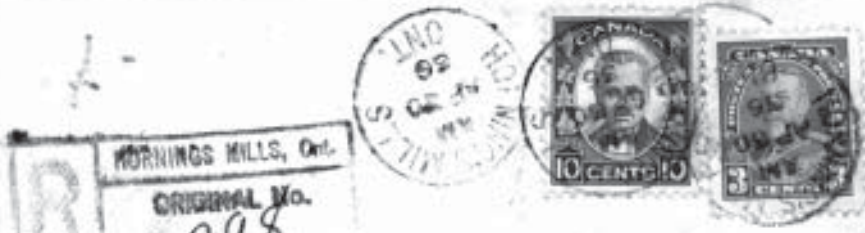


HORNING'S MILLS ONT. / AP 5 / 1915

A little light-hearted humour from a correspondent in Shelburne to a friend in Horning's Mills.



The last Horning's Mills post office used during the tenure of Robt. Kerr Lambert, the Siddalls and the Lighthearts.



Mr. Edward Nixon,
~~Corbetton R.R. #14,~~
 Ontario.
Proton

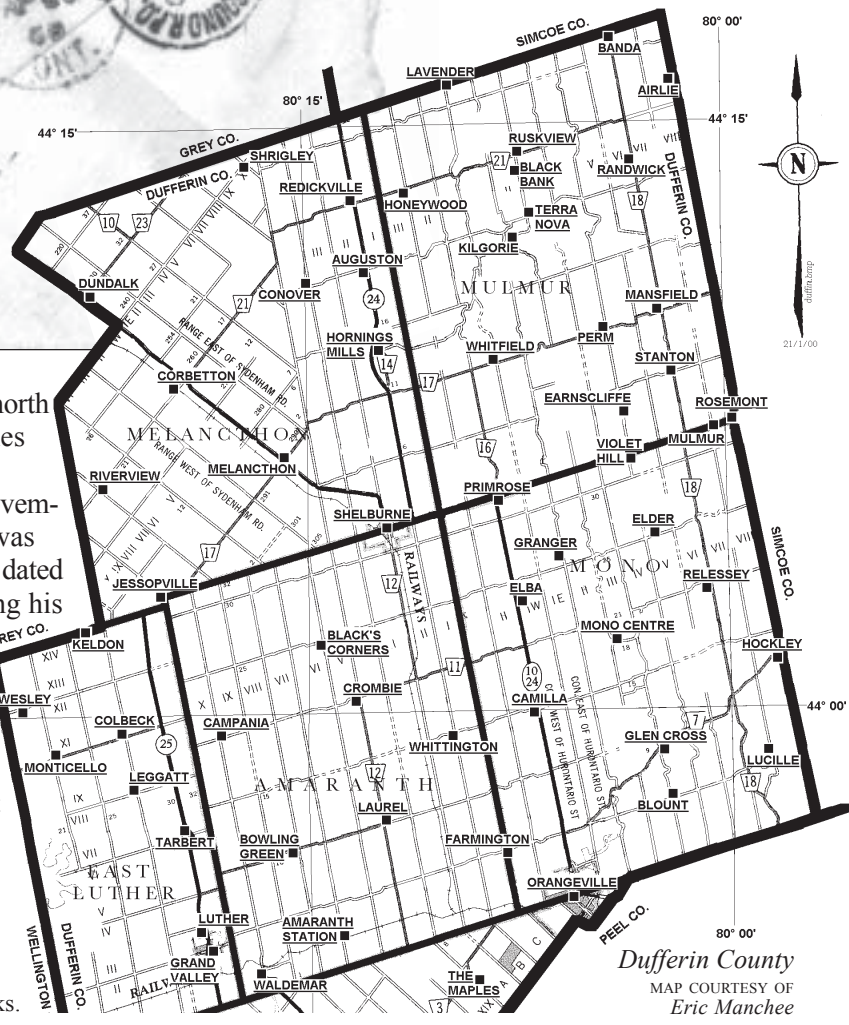


A rather tattered cover from Horning's Mills to Corbetton and redirected to Proton. The amazing thing is that it left Horning's Mills April 30, 1936 was placed on the Toronto & Owen Sound R.P.O. N° 3 [Train 705, 706, and 707], dropped at Corbetton and rerouted to Proton all in the same day.

He operated the post office in a small building just north of the present one, to which he later moved it. James Thomas resigned September 5, 1928.

Mr. Robert Kerr Lambert became postmaster November 29, 1928. He resigned December 2, 1946 and was followed by Norman Siddal whose period of office dated from March 21, 1947 until July 28, 1948. Following his death, his wife, Eva Siddall, was appointed postmistress and carried on until May 16, 1966, when Mr. and Mrs. Emerson Lightheart commenced their postal duties at Horning's Mills. They took possession of Mrs. Siddal's residence (and post office) July 1, 1966. Emerson Lightheart retired September 14, 1982. Mrs. Aileen Lightheart became temporary postmistress until the office closed March 4, 1983.

REFERENCES:
 County of Dufferin Museum
 Ella Emerick, Hornings Mills Women's Institute Record Books.



POST OFFICE BUILDINGS ON POST CARDS

Nº 10 in a Series

Maple Valley

Robt. C. Smith

[REF. 124]

The building shown on this postcard has signs reading MAPLE VALLEY and POST OFFICE immediately over the porch. The card is unused, but appears to be from the first decade of the 20th century, the “golden era” of postcards. The postmaster at this office from 1899 to 1925 was one W. D. Taylor, and this is presumably his store.

This post office was opened on December 6, 1851 in Osprey Township, Grey County, under the name *Osprey*, near the Grey-Simcoe county line; its name was changed to Maple Valley on August 1, 1868, and it was permanently closed on March 31, 1925.

When it was known as Osprey, a double broken circle device reading OSPREY / U.C

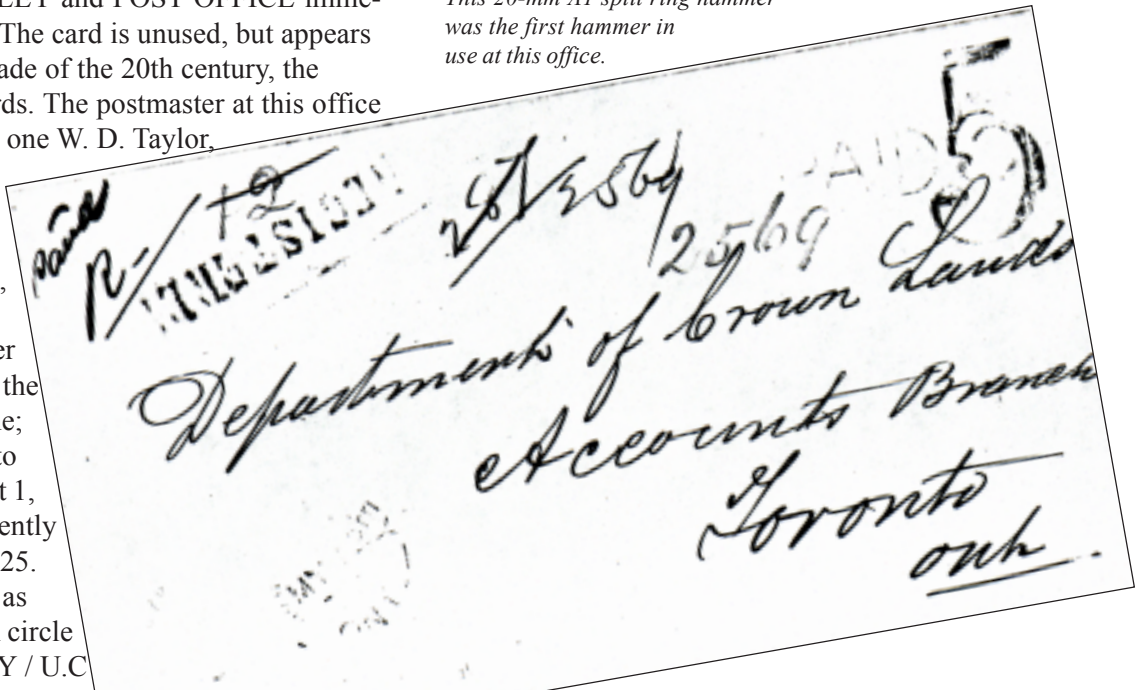
MAPLE VALLEY ONT. / DE 19 / 1924.

This 21-mm A1 split ring hammer was the third hammer in use at this office.



MAPLE VALLEY ONT. / MY 12 / 1874.

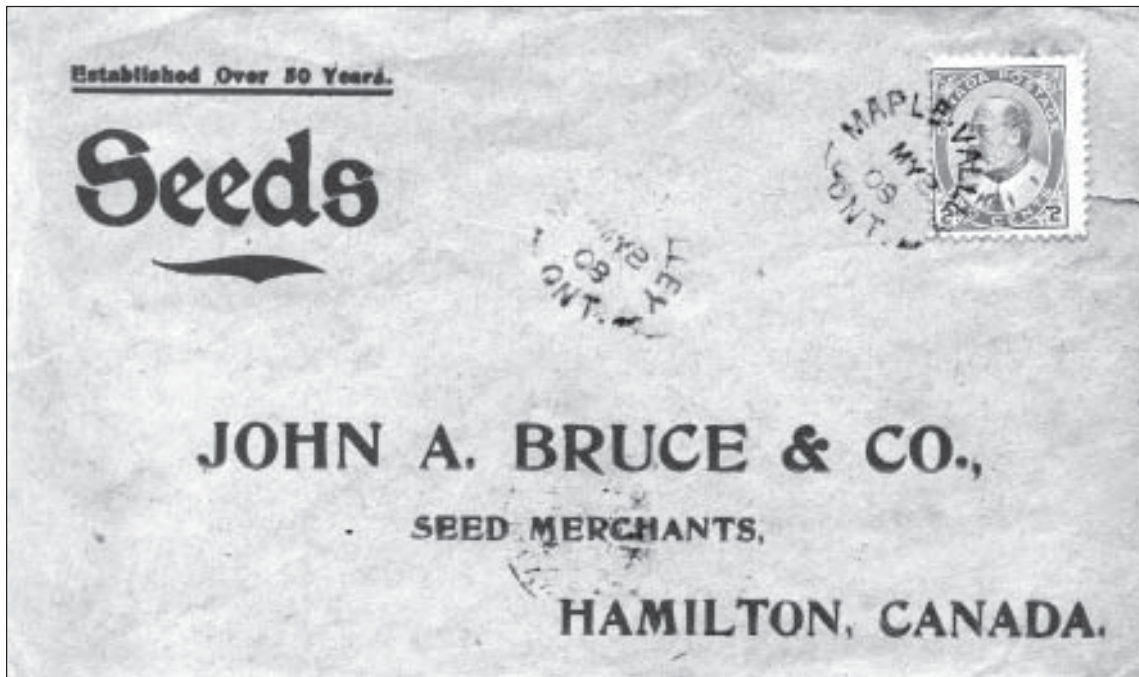
This 20-mm A1 split ring hammer was the first hammer in use at this office.



The post office at the home and store of W. D. Taylor. In 1884 Mr. Taylor had purchased the store property from Henry White and commenced a business of servicing pumps and windmills, as well as digging wells. He became postmaster in 1899.

with provision for manuscript dating was used; Campbell records it in use between 1852 and 1860. Three single broken circle postmarks are known for Maple Valley, the first without a period after ONT, and of diameters 20-mm (1874-75), 20½-mm (1908-23), and a 21-mm device proofed on December 19, 1924. These appear to have

been the only postmarking devices used at this office, since no circular datestamps, duplexes, nor MOTOs for Maple Valley appear in the proof impression books.



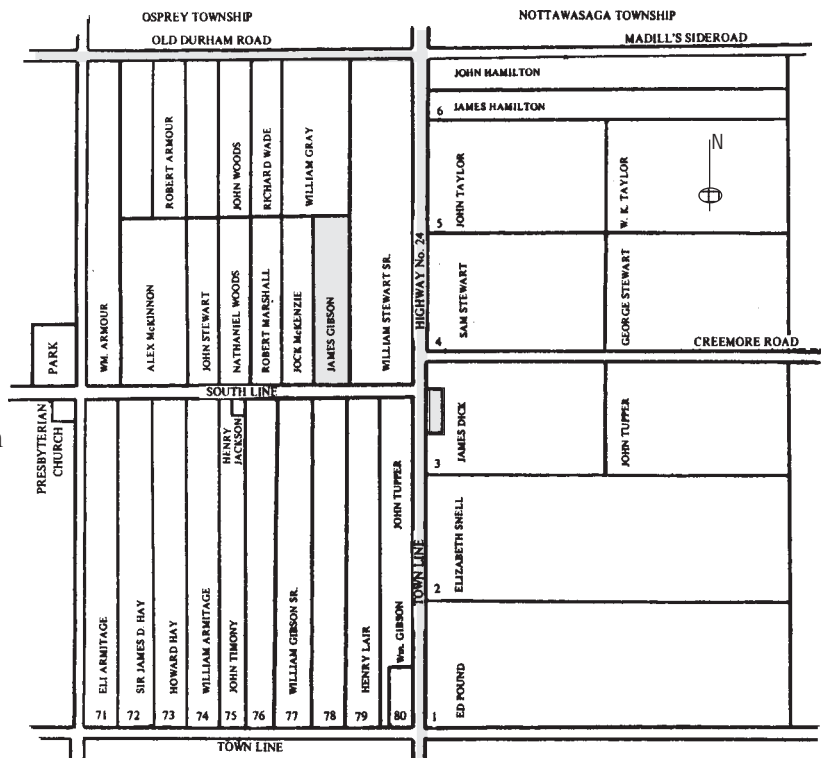
MAPLE VALLEY ONT. / MY 8 / 1908.

The second 20.5-mm A1 split ring hammer cancels this piece of commercial mail to the Seed Merchant, John A. Bruce & Co. at Hamilton. This piece of mail shows a Creemore cancel on the back as a transit mark indicating that it probably went by rail from Creemore to Hamilton.

Maple Valley

At its peak this community was a busy place supporting a general store, shoemaker, blacksmith, carpenter, post office and a business servicing pumps, wells and windmills. James Dick, the postmaster at the time of the name change in 1868, was originally from the village of Maple in Vaughan Township. He built a log house and started a store on the east side of Hwy. 24 thus necessitating the name change. It was decided to name it Maple Valley after Mr. Dick's former home.

Following the closure of the post office on March 31, 1925, postal service was provided by rural delivery from Creemore in Simcoe County. This route became RR#4 Creemore.



POSTMASTERS AT OSPREY POST OFFICE

Joseph Gibson	Dec. 6, 1851
Andrew Yuill	PM in 1853
James Gibson	PM in 1855 until Mar. 24, 1859 [resigned]
Archelaus Tupper	Aug. 1, 1859 until Oct. 2, 1863 [resigned]
James Gibson	April 1, 1864 until Mar. 4, 1867 [resigned]
James Dick	Nov. 1, 1867

POSTMASTERS AT OSPREY POST OFFICE

James Dick	Nov. 1, 1867 until 1880 [resigned]
Edward M. Kone	April 1, 1881 until Aug. 21, 1883 [resigned]
Thomas White	Oct. 1, 1883 until 1884 [absconded]
Benjamin Bowerman	July 1, 1884 until Nov. 25, 1895 [resigned]
James McKenzie	May 27, 1896 until 1898 [Death]
Mrs. S.A. McKenzie	April 1, 1898- until Jan. 16, 1899 [resigned]
W.D. Taylor	April 1, 1899 until Mar. 31, 1925 [Closed]

Maple Valley and District, 1865. Note that all land east of Hwy. 24 is in Nottawasaga Twp. (Simcoe) and west of Hwy. 24 is in Osprey (Grey). Until 1867 the post office was named **Osprey** and was in that township. On November 1, 1867 James Dick became postmaster and the post office was moved into Nottawasaga Township and renamed **Maple Valley** on August 1, 1868. Post office locations are indicated with shaded lots.

Map courtesy of Township of Osprey, Peace, Plenty and Progress:
A History of Osprey Township.

FROM BARRIE
The Old Mail Road
TO OWENS SOUND

[REF. R-119]

A Response by *John Rossiter*

The following is in reply to your request for comments and/or corrections to the "Table of Dates regarding OWEN SOUND cancelling devices", in James Kraemer's excellent article on *The Old Mail Road*.

I am limiting my comments to the covers in my own collection from 1847 to 1856 as well as making liberal use of W. Bruce Graham's listing of *Grey County Split Circle Postmarks*. I consider Bruce Graham's listing an accurate sequence of postmark usage.

1. The First Owen Sound Markings – Bruce Graham makes reference to an Owen Sound "hand drawn circle" postmark dated Dec. 22, 1846. This is confirmed by David Handelman and Jacques Poitras in their book *Canadian Manuscript Town Postmarks* who also note another hand drawn manuscript marking dated March 16, 1847. If memory serves me right an 1846 cover with a hand drawn marking was sold through a Maresch sale many years ago. I suppose it is possible that one or two other "hand drawn markings" exist in someone's collection or a shoebox in the attic but obviously they are scarce items. As I do not know the owners of these hand drawn markings we cannot reproduce them here. The question remains – was the spelling **OWEN SOUND**, **OWEN'S SOUND** or **OWENS - SOUND**?

I believe a "typo" has crept in on page 170 in Mr. Kraemer's article in the third paragraph, which states "For the first six years the post office used a cancellation device reading, **OWEN SOUND**" (without the "S" after OWEN).

2. This is not the case. The first **OWENS - SOUND** postmark (and I am referring to a hammer type not a hand drawn marking) as noted in the fourth paragraph of Mr. Kraemer's article was proofed on May 18, 1847 (see Bruce Graham's listing B2x) and was spelled **OWENS - SOUND** (with a dash). I have a cover showing this postmark, script dated

11 Decr 47 [fig. 1]. A second cover also script dated 25 Nov. 1848 [fig. 1a] uses the same postmark and is a much better strike. This first postmark was probably used for less than two years.

3. The second **OWENS - SOUND** postmark according to J. Paul Hughes, *Proof Strikes of Canada* was proofed on May 22, 1849. This date also agrees with Mr. Kraemer's article, (B. Graham's listing B2). The earliest cover in my collection is dated JY 1, 1850 [fig. 2]. This postmark was used for approximately 6½ years (in period) before being replaced in 1856 with the newer large circle postmark – **OWEN SOUND**.

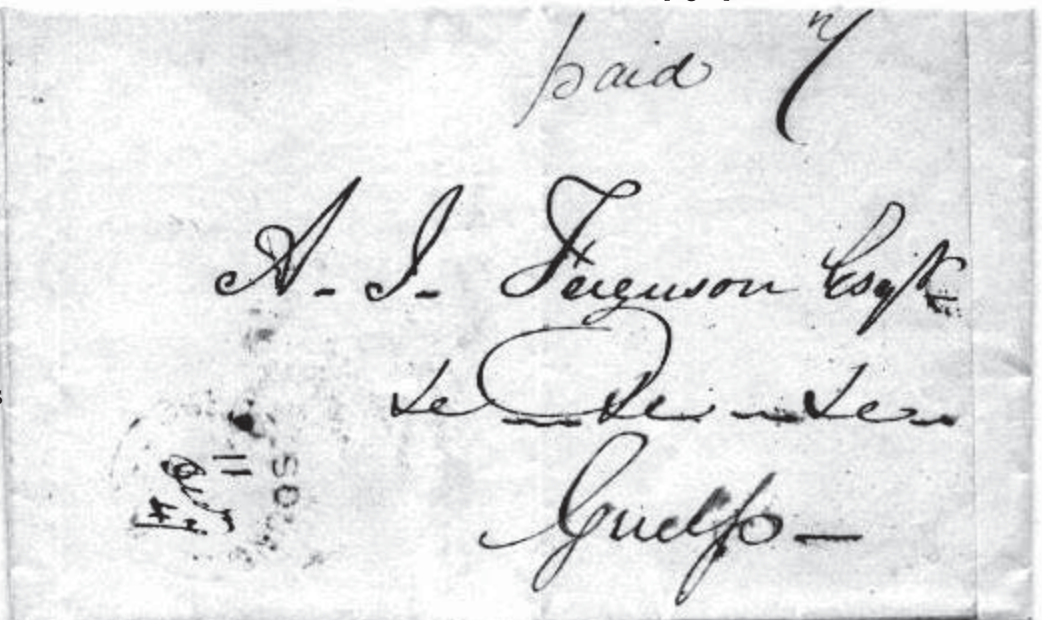
These two postmarks are quite similar, both are 25.5 mm in size and both are struck in red ink. The main difference is the script dating in the earlier marking and the size of the arcs in the double split circle. The arcs are much smaller in the second postmark (notice how the "O" in OWEN is much closer to the "C.W.")

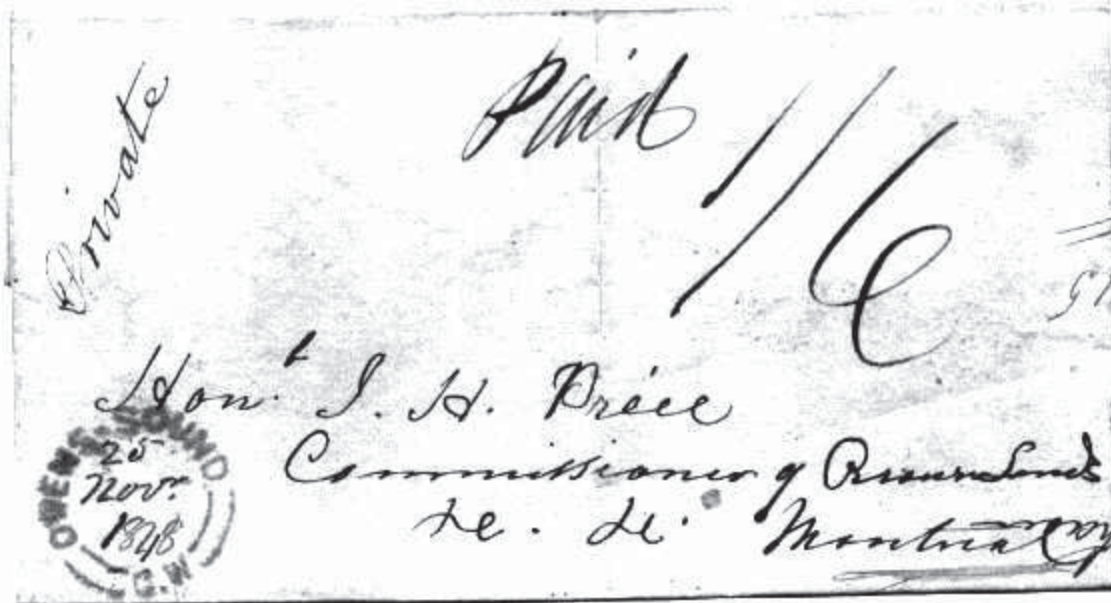
I am interested in seeing an example of the cancelling device identified in J. Kraemer's article as **OWEN'S SOUND** (1853-). Bruce Graham does not list such a postmark nor have I seen one to date. If any of our members have a cover with a cancel showing OWEN'S with an apostrophe I hope they will submit a photocopy for publication. Does this postmark exist?

4. The third postmark in my collection (and the third listed by a Bruce Graham) is the large circular date-stamp (34 mm). I do not have a proof date for this postmark. The earliest cover in my collection is **OWEN SOUND, C.W.** dated **8 JUL 1856**. This was the first postmark to drop the "S" from OWEN [fig. 3]

I certainly agree that the second **OWENS - SOUND** postmark continued to be used long after 1856 (out of

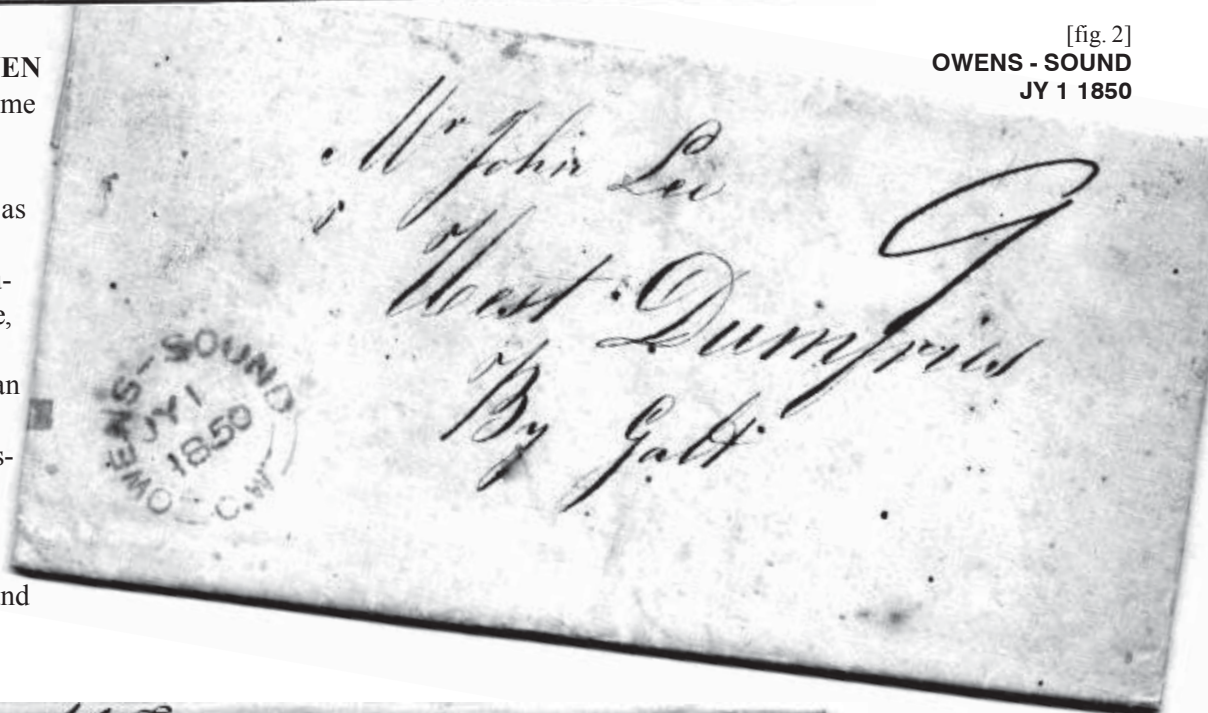
[fig. 1] **OWENS - SOUND** 11 Decr 47



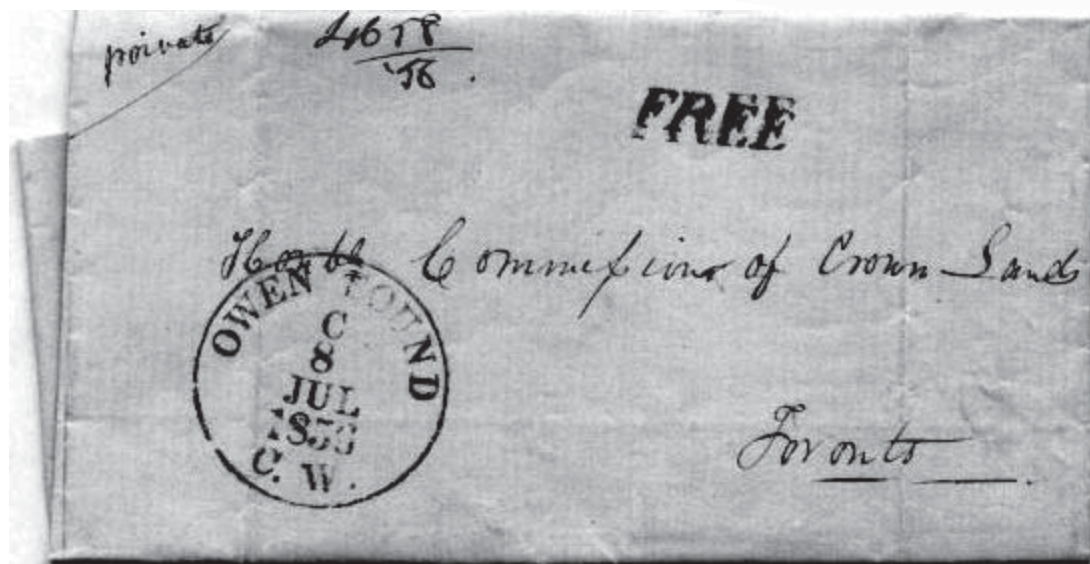


[fig. 1a]
OWENS - SOUND
 25 Nov 1848

period) when the **OWEN SOUND** postmark came into use. I have an **OWENS - SOUND** marking dated as late as June 8, 1865. With the exception of the manuscript markings (scarce, scarce, scarce) and the possible existence of an **OWEN'S SOUND** postmark with an apostrophe, I believe these to be examples of the first three postmarks used at the Owen Sound Post Office.



[fig. 2]
OWENS - SOUND
 JY 1 1850



[fig. 3]
OWEN SOUND C.W.
 C
 8 JUL 1856

Saying good-bye and hello to a post office in **THORNBURY**

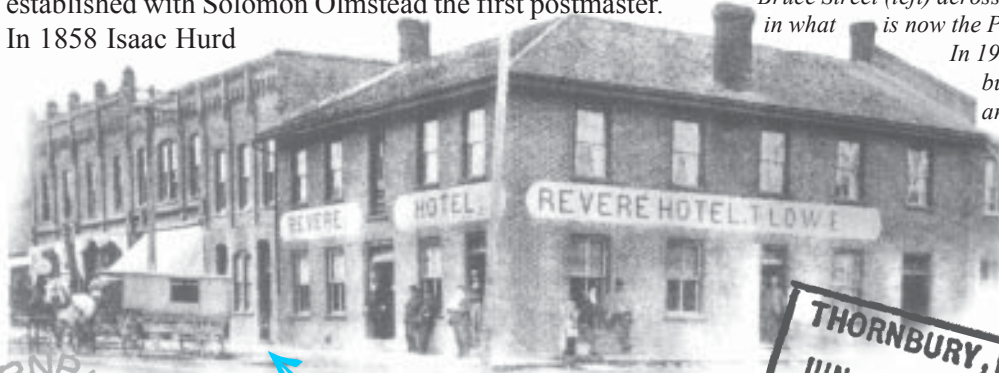
Gus Knierim

It all began with the arrival of Solomon Olmstead in 1848 who came to visit a friend, Isaac N. Hurd, in nearby St. Vincent Township. Hurd convinced Olmstead that Thornbury presented an excellent opportunity for a mill. In very little time he was established and the town grew up around this mill site. On November 1, 1853 a post office was established with Solomon Olmstead the first postmaster. In 1858 Isaac Hurd

Post office is said to have been located in the old bank building on the northeast corner of Bruce and Arthur Streets as pointed out above.

For much of the first part of the 1900s and until the post office moved into its present building in 1958 the post office was located on Bruce Street (left) across from the current site in what is now the Pagoda Restaurant.

In 1958 the current post office (below) was built by the Department of Public Works and has been the home of the post office since that time. The needs of the office have outgrown the size of the facility with the result that the post office will move to much larger quarters at 4 Arthur Street on April 30, 2001.



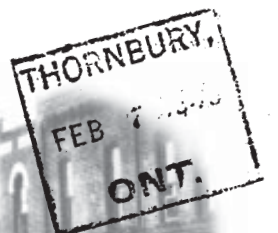
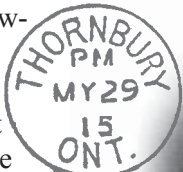
had moved from St. Vincent to Thornbury where he succeeded Solomon Olmstead as postmaster. By 1858 the population had grown to 150. None of the local books can locate the site of the post office. However, Solomon Olmstead lived on Mill Street just north of Hwy. 26 and east of the Beaver River. In the late 1850s he operated a hotel on the mill property and which was located on Hwy. 26 east of the River. One might assume that the early post office was located in that vicinity.

Thomas McKenny succeeded Isaac Hurd in 1868 and remained as postmaster until 1924, at which time Reginald Chas. Ferguson assumed the position until his retirement in 1950. Elizabeth

May Smith became Thornbury's next postmaster and held the position in the years 1950-1951. She was followed by Orville Wm. Fiddis in 1951 and who served until his retirement in 1985 at which time the present postmaster, Barry Heffer came to this office from Clarksburg.



Reflecting the security of the town, Thornbury has been served by only 7 postmasters in 148 years of postal service.



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Life of a RURAL ROUTE CONTRACTOR

Kathy Tedford

[Kathy Telford, a rural route contractor out of the present-day Tara Post Office shares with us memories of her father and grandfather as they delivered mail in the Bruce and Grey Counties.]

"He was a Farmer and owned land near Lockerby until the depression forced them off the land in search of a new home. He moved his family to Woodford on Hallowe'en Night, October 31, 1929 where they lived until the 1940s.

He also delivered mail around the Woodford area with my father Carman Hoath and my Uncle Perry Hoath helping him. They related stories of delivering mail in the bad winter's with snow drifts up to the horse's chest, wading on to deliver the mail without fail. My Grandfather and Father told me of stormy days when the horse would stop and look around at them, almost pleading to go home. My father said many times he would pull into the Woodford Church Shed and clean the snow and ice off the horse's face and then try to carry on. He remembered one particularly bad day when he was not sure where he was so he felt sorry for the horse so he let the horse take Dad home without finishing the route. When he returned home he found out that his Dad (My Grandfather, George) had finished his portion of the route and was just getting back. I guess he was more experienced with the weather.

He had the occasional disaster and had an injured

horse that could not carry on. The story of a Horse named Pat that worked on the route with Grampa dropped dead on route. Grampa had to borrow a horse from the farmer near by and harnessed up the horse and finished up the route. My grandmother would scold him about trading horse's so often. I imagine this work would have been very hard on the horse's but she didn't know why he was always getting a new one. He had to make a buggy with runners that dropped



The enclosed photograph is a post card of my

Paternal Grandfather, George W. Hoath, as he delivered mail with his horse and buggy around 1910-1919 near Paisley, Ontario.

down, when the wheels would not work in loose snow.

When they switched to a car one they used was a 1928 Olds (Willys).

This winter of 2000-2001 has been a challenge for Rural Route Drivers. I quite often think of the stories I heard as a child about delivering the mail. Now as I drive around my route in my warm car I think of my ancestors and the struggle they had to get the mail delivered."

[Ed. Note: On behalf of our membership I thank you for sharing this real life story of a rural carrier in Grey and Bruce Counties.]

ATLAS of POST OFFICES in the Counties of GREY, BRUCE DUFFERIN & SIMCOE

\$4.00

(SHIPPING INCL.)

ISBN 0-919615-33-3

The **ATLAS** which was first announced in our last newsletter has now become a reality. After several weeks of negotiating with Ontario's Ministry of Transport as well as the Queen's Printer we now have been licenced to produce these 15 maps for the four counties. The Atlas will consist of

- fifteen maps covering the four counties;
- an index map for Grey-Bruce;
- an index map for Simcoe
- title page as well as a card cover

The cost for the Atlas will be \$4.00 each which includes production cost, shipping, and a licence fee to the Ontario Government.

The **standard** format will be **punched** for a three-ring binder. If you wish unpunched pages please say so when your send in your \$4. It will be mailed flat in 9 x 12 env.

Look at your address label to see when your membership expires and maybe save yourself a stamp and renew at the same time.

GREY Notes

**A BRIEF DIGEST OF
CURRENT POSTAL
HAPPENINGS**
[REF. 128]

by Roving Reporter Gus Knierim

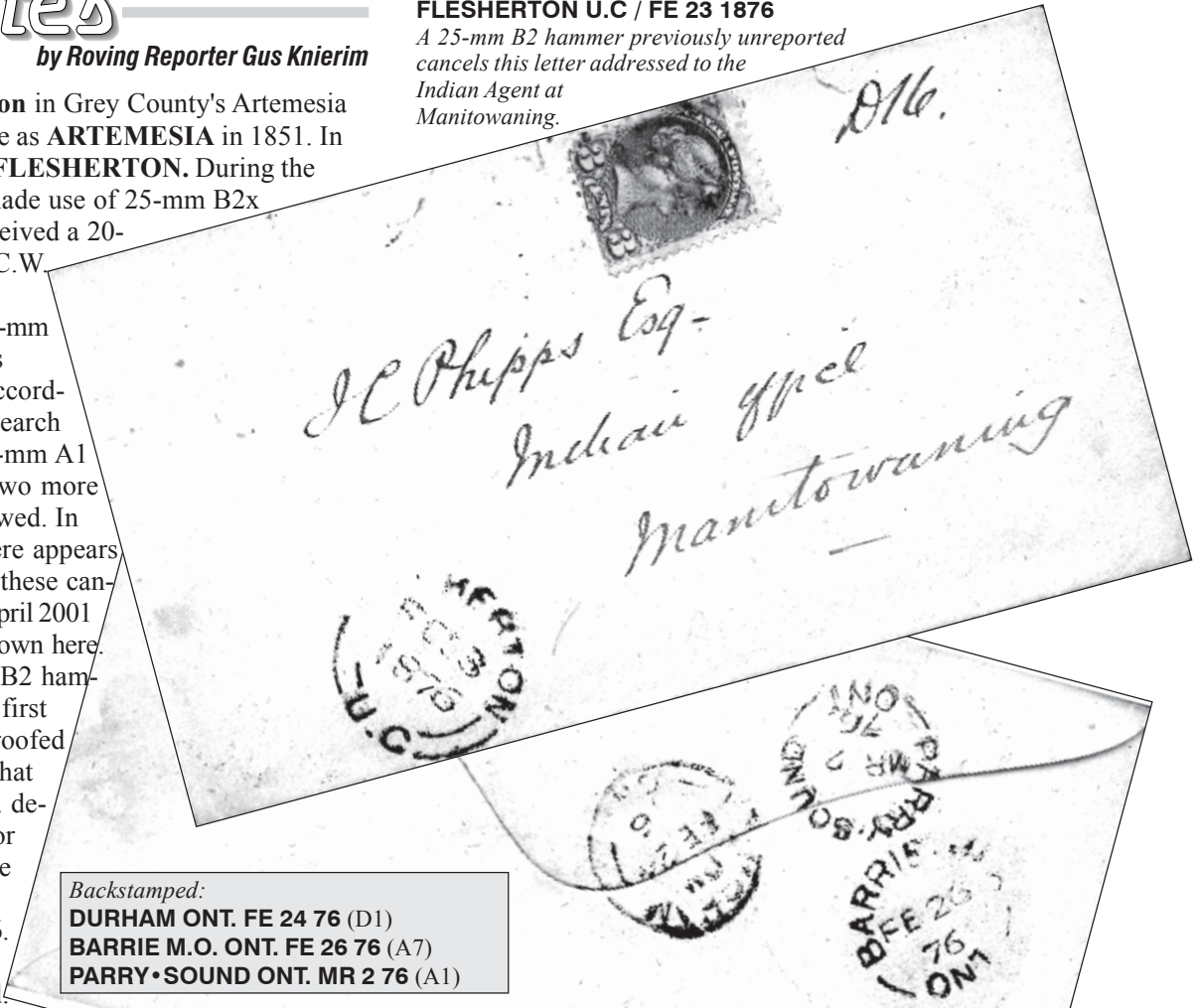
Comments, explanations, etc. on this discovery would be appreciated by the editor.

FLESHERTON U.C / FE 23 1876

A 25-mm B2 hammer previously unreported cancels this letter addressed to the Indian Agent at Manitowaning.

The village of **Flesherton** in Grey County's Artemesia Township began its life as **ARTEMESIA** in 1851. In 1866 its name changed to **FLESHERTON**. During the 15 years as Artemesia it made use of 25-mm B2x hammer and in 1866 it received a 20-mm A2 hammer with the C.W. provincial designation.

Flesherton received a 21-mm A2 C.W. hammer that was proofed May 25, 1866. According to Bruce Graham's research this was followed by 20.5-mm A1 (Ont.) hammer in 1880. Two more A1 split ring cancels followed. In the sequence of events there appears to be no gap in the use of these cancelling devices and yet in April 2001 comes to light the cover shown here. It is struck with a 25-mm B2 hammer that must predate the first Flesherton C.W hammer proofed in May 1866. Could it be that this hammer with the U.C. designation was made in error and not used until for some reason or other it came to light at this late date in 1876. No other cover with this hammer has been reported.



Backstamped:
DURHAM ONT. FE 24 76 (D1)
BARRIE M.O. ONT. FE 26 76 (A7)
PARRY-SOUND ONT. MR 2 76 (A1)

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12-29

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