MULMUR TOWNSHIP
1851 - 2001
150th Anniversary

MANSFIELD
Post Office, c.1900.
courtesy of
JUNE GILBERT *collection*
DUFFERIN COUNTY MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

MULMUR JA 1 1851 U.C.

George Power   [REF. 133]

The part of Upper Canada that was to become Mulmur Township 150 years ago was first surveyed in 1822. Sparse settlement of the area followed and on July 6, 1841 the first post office was established in the southeast corner, just west of Rosemont, of what became Mulmur Township. It predated the township of the same name by almost ten years. Mulmur Township in Simcoe County was officially organized as such on January 1, 1851.

At this time, and for another thirty years, this area was still very much part of Simcoe County. Dufferin County did not come into existence until January 24, 1881 when the Townships of Mono and Mulmur (formerly part of Simcoe County), and the Township Melancthon (previously Grey County) and the Townships of East Garafraxa and Amaranth (Wellington County) as

Early Postal Routes of Dufferin County.
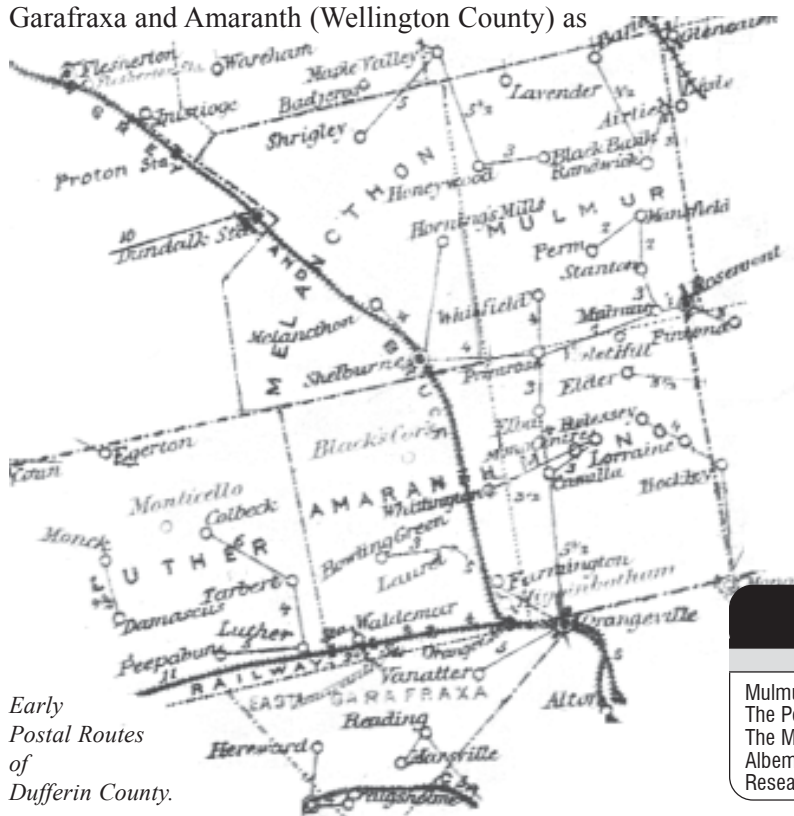
Mulmur Township
POST OFFICES
in order of Date of Establishment

Mulmur	July 6, 1841	Aug. 1, 1914
Whitfield	Dec. 1, 1854	Dec. 31, 1914
Mansfield	Oct. 1, 1858	*open*
Banda	June 1, 1860	Oct. 1, 1915
Lavender	June 1, 1860	Oct., 1921
Rosemont	July 1, 1861	*open*
Honeywood	July 1, 1865	c. 1994
Stanton	July 1, 1867	Aug. 31, 1915
Black Bank	Dec. 1, 1868	Dec. 31, 1914
Airlie	July 1, 1869	April 30, 1914
Perm	Aug. 1, 1872	Sep. 1, 1915
Randwick	Jan. 1, 1874	Sep. 30, 1915
Violet Hill	Oct. 1, 1878	July 31, 1917
Kilgorie	April 1, 1881	Dec. 31, 1914
Scarlet Hill	July 1, 1882	Nov. 30, 1889
Ruskview	July 1, 1883	Dec. 31, 1916
Earnscliffe	Aug. 1, 1891	Sep. 1, 1915
Terra Nova	Sep. 1, 1891	Oct. 31, 1967

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WHITFIELD
DE 3
89
ONT.

MANSFIELD.
AM
SEP 25
1930
ONT.

RANDA
AP 29
11
ONT.

Thomas Kirkpatrick Esqr
Barrister &c

3

PAID

Kingston

LAVENDER
DE 9
90
ONT.

ROSEMONT
SP 5
03
ONT.

HONEYWOOD
AU 15
77
ONT

STANTON
DE 3
77
ONT

PERM
DE 28
09
ONT

AIRLIE
MY 12
76
ONT.

BLACK·BANK
AU 29
77
ONT

VIOLET·HILL
NO 29
78
ONT

RANDWICK
MR 16
04
ONT.

well as the Town of Orangeville were severed from their previous alliances and joined to form the County of Dufferin. East Luther was not admitted to Dufferin County until 1883.

Hurontario Street had reached Orangeville in 1830 but did not cut through into Mulmur until many years later. The Prince of Wales Road from Orangeville to Primrose was not completed until 1860. Early settlement was sparse and there was no need for a second post office until late 1854 when an office was established at Whitfield. Following the establishment of the Mansfield office in the fall of 1858, we see rapid expansion throughout the area. The rugged terrain of Mulmur Township dictated that postal routes entered the township from neighbouring townships rather than crossing the township from ship from north to south.
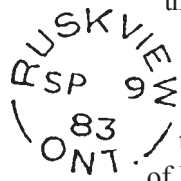
Following the establishment of Dufferin as a county in 1881, a further five offices were established between 1881 and 1891. However, Scarlet Hill was only open for 7 years and a

KILGORIE
MY 2
81
ONT.

SCARLET·HILL
SP 20
82
ONT.

RUSKVIEW
SP 9
83
ONT.

EARNSCLIFFE
SP 5
91
ONT.

TERRA NOVA
FE 25
23
ONT.

further 12 offices were closed in 1914-1917 because of the advent of rural mail delivery. Out of 18 offices that at one time or another existed in Mulmur Township only three remained open into the 1990s and only 2 saw the Millennium – Mansfield and Rosemont. Both of these offices are now retail outlets (grade 44 franchises).

To celebrate the 150th Anniversary a special envelope and date stamp were designed through the efforts of George Power and the Dufferin County Museum. ✉

The general store and post office at Honeywood.
photo courtesy of DUFFERIN COUNTY MUSEUM & ARCHIVES.
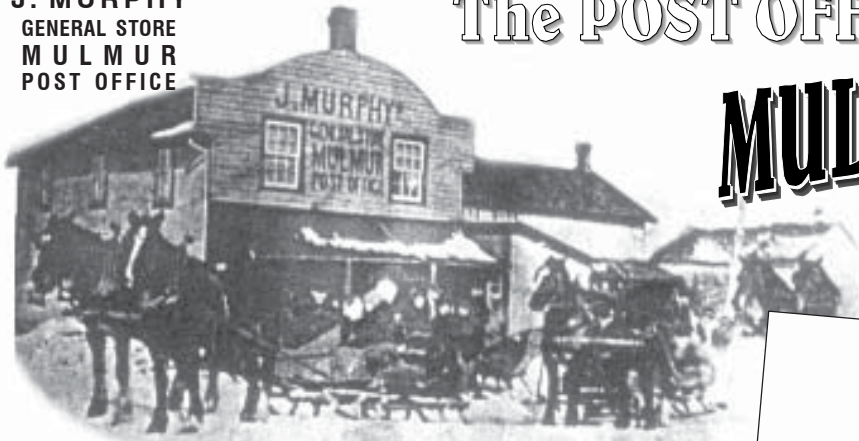
The POST OFFICE at MULMUR CORNERS

The original of this Document of Indenture and appointment of John Little as postmaster at Mulmur was found in the Dufferin County Museum & Archives.

George Power   [REF. 134]

with contributions of stories by **Kathleen Little,** daughter of W. J. Little; and **Ida (Cummings) Douglas**, daughter of Rosemont store keeper, George Cummings; and the **Dufferin County Museum & Archives.**

The first settlers to the area came on foot up the Humber Valley from Muddy York. Among them was Capt. John Little and his wife Mary, who settled in the bush on Lot 1, Conc. 7 of Mulmur Township, a Crown grant of 200 acres. This farm has been in the family for 177 years and is located on what is now known as Hwy. 89. This was in January, 1824 just shortly after the completion of the survey of the area in 1822, and long before Mulmur began its association with Simcoe County and Dufferin County, which was not to be formed for another 57 years.

In a short few years more settlers arrived and a small village started on the corner of Mr. Little's farm and across the road. The village consisted of Mr. McBride's General Store, a hotel, a millinery and dress shop, and a shoemaker. The village even sported a board sidewalk.

Unfortunately a fire destroyed McBride's store who chose to rebuilt in Rosemont. Another store was built

Here follows the transcript of the above document. One wonders how many postal employees of the present age are hired with such ceremony and dignity.

THOMAS ALLAN STAYNER, Esquire, Deputy Post-Master General of British North America.

To all to whom these presents shall come: Greeting.

Know Ye, that by virtue of the power and authority to me given, I, THOMAS ALLEN STAYNER, having received good testimony of the Fidelity and Loyalty to Her Majesty of *John Little* and his ability and sufficiency to execute the Office and Duties required of a Deputy Post-Master, and reposing great trust and confidence in him, do by these presents nominate, authorise, and appoint him the said *John Little* to be my lawful and sufficient Deputy, to execute the Office of Deputy-Postmaster of *Mulmur in the Home District, Province of Canada* during my pleasure; and to have, hold, use, exercise, and enjoy the said Office, with all and every the Rights, Privileges, Benefits and Advantages to the same belonging, under
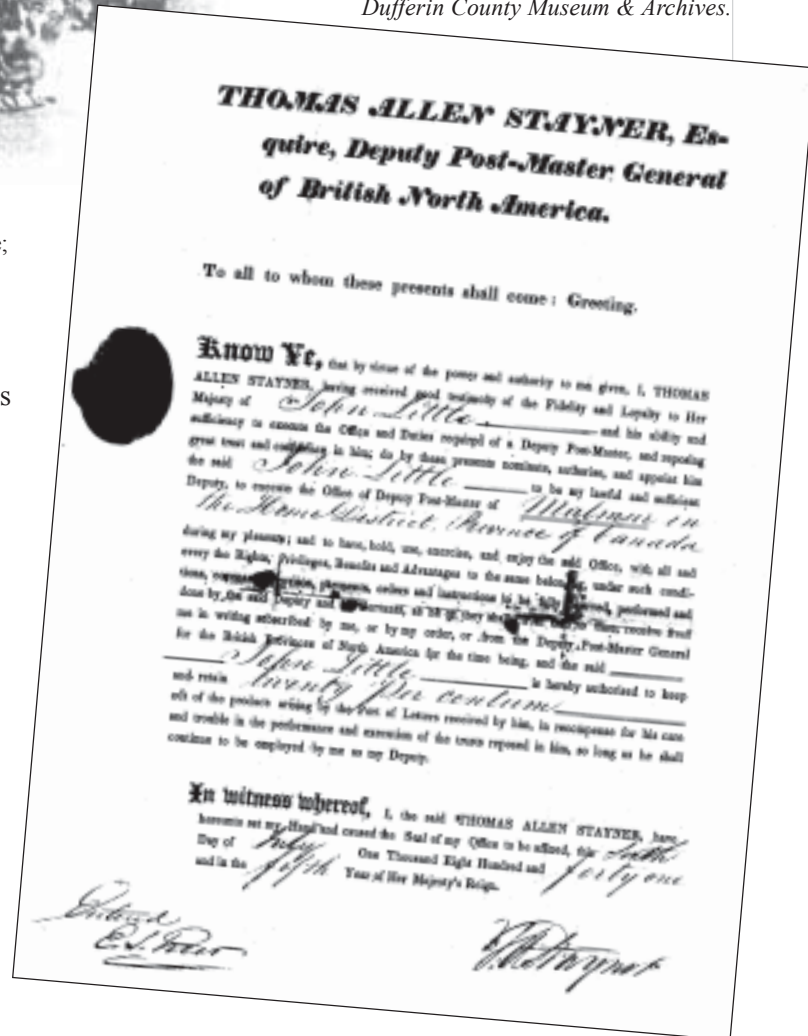
such conditions, covenants, provisos, payments, orders and instructions to be fully observed, performed and done by the said Deputy and His Servants, as he or they shall from time to time, receive from me in writing subscribed by me, or by my order, or from the Deputy Post-Master Generalfor the British Provinces of North America for the time being, and the said *John Little* is hereby authorised to keep and retain *twenty per centum* out of the produce arising by the Port of Letters received by him, in recompense for his care and trouble in the performance and execution of the trusts reposed to him, so long as he shall continue to be employed by me as my Deputy.

In witness whereof, I, the said THOMAS ALLEN STAYNER, have hereunto set my Hand and caused the Seal of my Office to be affixed, this *sixth* Day of *July,* One Thousand Eight Hundred and *forty-one* and in the fifth Year of Her Majesty's reign.

Entered

E.S. Peter [?]   *T.A. Stayner*

on the southwest corner of Lot 1, Conc. 8.

This store was a typical general store purveying and traded in all the necessary goods of the day. The post office was located at the back of the store. The mailman would take most of the mail on his daily route with the balance being picked up by local residents.

John Little, being an educated man, performed many duties in this small community. Besides being a lawyer, called upon by newcomers, to help them lay out farms, as well as settling disputes, became the community's first postmaster on July 6, 1841. He served in that capacity until his death in 1866. William Little was appointed on January 1, 1867 and served for 5 years until February 27, 1872. John Murphy took over the store in which the post office was located and was appointed the third and final postmaster on April 1, 1872. He served until August 1, 1914 at which time local service was provided by Rural Mail Delivery out of Rosemont. In 73 years Mulmur was served by only three postmasters.

In conclusion we should add that only two different postal hammers have ever been reported. A double split ring was proofed May 31, 1842 and its only reported use is shown on page 196 of this newsletter. The next hammer is a split ring A1 instrument that has been reported used between 1900 and 1913. Surely in this very large gap of dates there is yet to be discovered another cancelling device. ✉

The Modern Side of
POSTAL HISTORY
## is in the Making . . .

Gus Knierim [REF. 135]

A very friendly image is being portrayed by the various post offices in the Grey-Bruce region of our province.

Having heard for many years the dire complaints of collectors that cancelling was not a fine art mastered by the corporation nor by some of its employees a new image is being provided. In the counties of Grey and Bruce the following offices have recently received new cancelling instruments: Clarksburg, Dundalk, Mildmay, Port Elgin, Ravenna, Southampton, Tara, Thornbury, Tobermory, and Wiarton.

All instruments are in two colours – red date, balance in blue. All contain the official RC number. There are some other notable points to be made. The Tara postmark is the newest, largest and only two-colour A1 split ring cancelling device ever made. Considering that the design first came about in the late 1850's that could be considered quite a history. Tara's first postmark proofed in November 1862 was a 20 mm instrument. This one measures a mere 35½ mm. All instruments were produced for Canada Post in cooperation with Conestoga Press, Thornbury.

Next time you are down to one of these offices pick up a card or pre-stamped envelope and get the latest from Canada Post. ✉
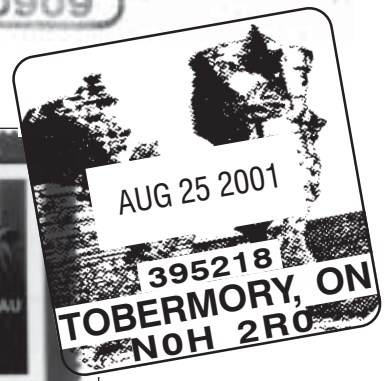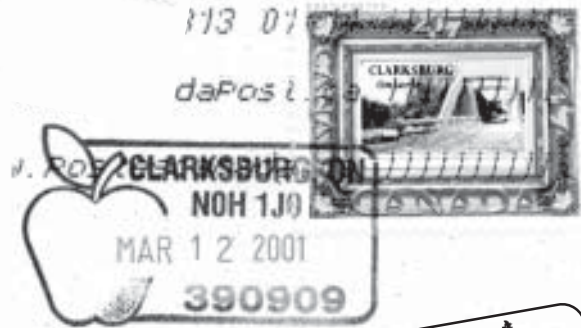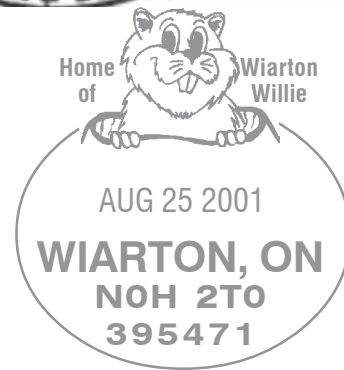
Albemarle Township
BRUCE COUNTY

James E. Kraemer, *F.R.P.S.C.*   [REF. 136]

The Township of Albemarle in Bruce County has an area of 302 Square kilometres, (116.59 Sq. miles or 59,830 acres), making it the largest township in Bruce County. Its population in 1975 was 782. The best agriculture land is in the central section – the western part being generally low and swampy while the eastern part is stony. In the early 1900s lumbering was the chief industry but today it is tourism. Several large lakes provide sport fishing. The more important lakes are, Berford, Sky, Isaac, Beattie and Big Mud Lake. There are three main streams in the township – the Albemarle River, the Rankin River, and Sucker Creek.

George Gould, P.L.S., surveyed the southern part of the township in 1855. The northern part was surveyed in 1856 by J. S. Dennis, P.L.S., and H, C. Boulton, P.L.S. In late 1856 John Wood and Samuel Atkinson arrived as the township's first settlers.

Albemarle Township was named in honour of George Thomas Keppel , the 6th Earl of Albemarle (1799-1891). It was united with Arran and Amabel Townships in 1857. Arran left the group on January 1, 1861. Amabel and Albemarle remained united until 1869 when the union was dissolved. Eastnor Township became united with Albemarle in the same year. In 1872 the townships of Lindsay and St. Edmunds joined the union. Albemarle became a singular township on June 6, 1877.

While Albemarle has a number of hamlets, it has never had a village or a railway. The first post office established in the township was Colpoys Bay on July 1, 1863. When Howdenvale post office was established on July 1, 1913 it became the townships eighth active post office. Four of these post offices were closed between 1915 and 1917 as rural free delivery was set up. They were McIver, Purple Valley, Adamsville and Colpoys Bay. As the population decreased and stabilized and transportation improved three more post offices were closed. Cape Croker closed in 1931 followed by Red Bay and Howdenvale in 1969. Today Mar is the only post office in the township. One rural route, RR#1 operates from Mar.

The census of 1861 showed a population of 54. By 1901 there were 1962 inhabitants. The population census of 1967 indicated that there were 553 people of all ages plus 1336 summer residents.

The Township of Albemarle has had eight post offices. Today, (2000), only the post office at Mar remains open. The post offices of Albemarle in the order of their establishment are as follows:

1. Colpoy's Bay   1863 until 1917
2. Mar   1870 – *open*
3. Cape Croker   1873 until 1931
4. McIver   1878 until 1915
5. Red Bay   1881 until 1969
6. Purple Valley 1884 until 1916
7. Adamsville   1888 until 1916
8. Howdenvale   1913 until 1969

ADAIR

When Albemarle was surveyed a town plot named Adair was laid out in 1855 on Hope Bay in the north east corner of the township. Part of the town plot was laid out over the township border into Eastnor Township. Adair contained 2,025 acres. Great expectations were held that a large town would develop. As time went on it became apparent that the scheme was a failure. The Bruce County Council finally asked the Department of Indian Lands to resurvey the area and sell the lands as farm lots. The town plots and park areas were offered for sale in Owen Sound in October 1880. Over the next seven years, less than 200 acres were cleared. As a result the area

Albemarle Township and its Post Offices and hamlets.
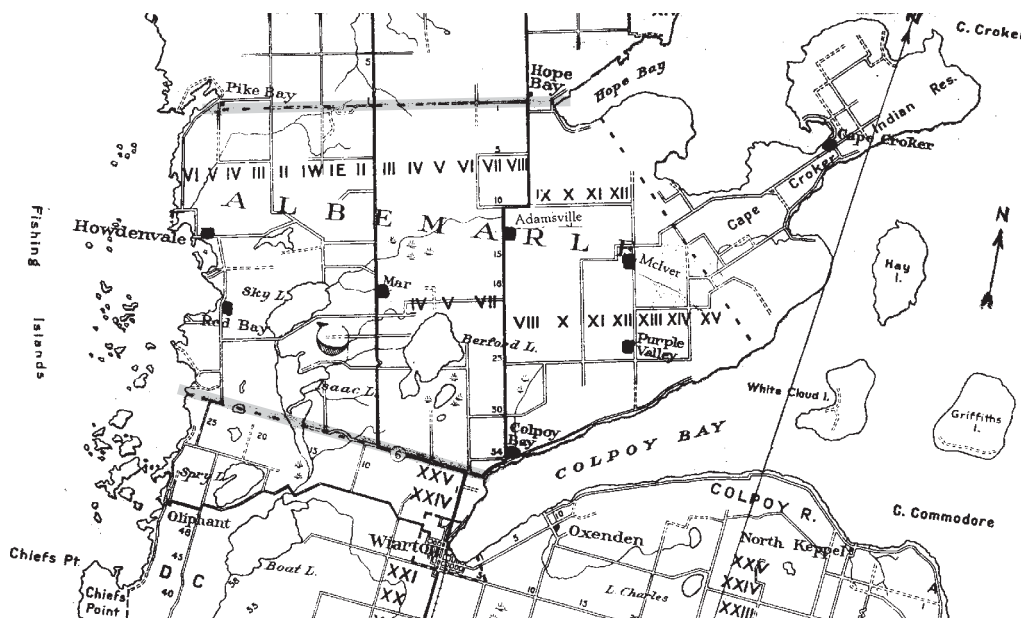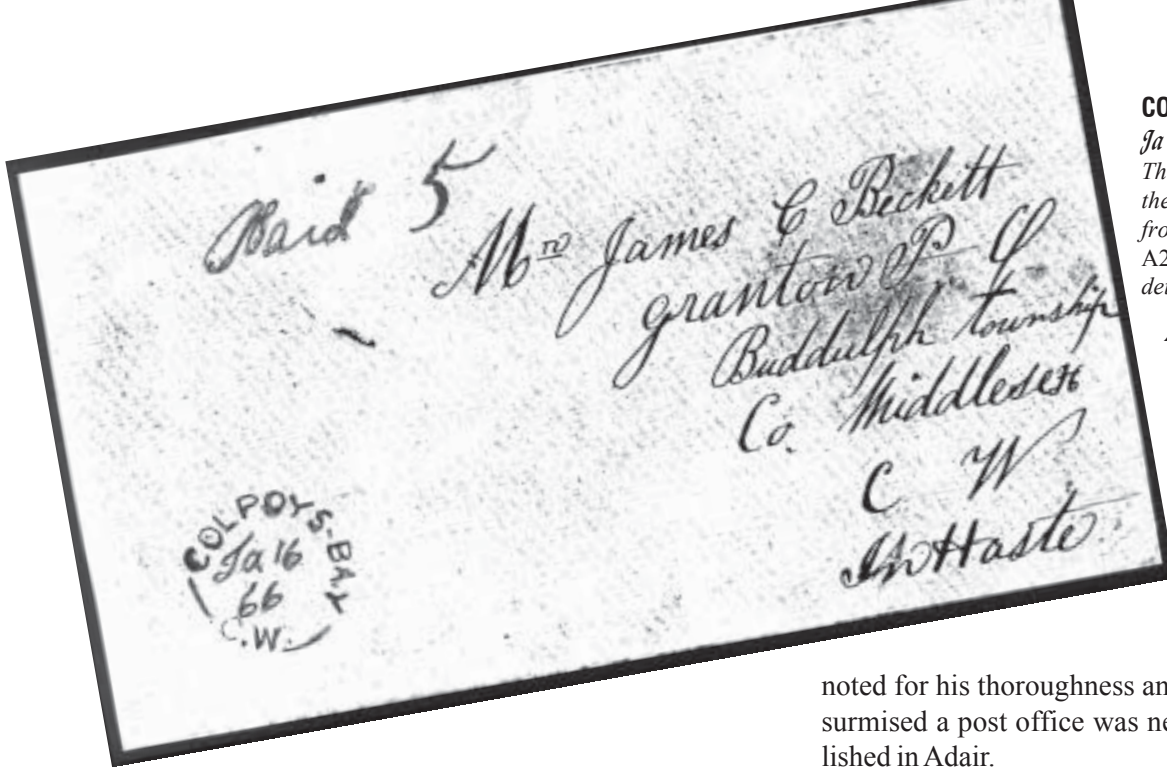
noted for his thoroughness and precision. As can be surmised a post office was never asked for or established in Adair.

was re-surveyed again in 1887 and divided into farm lands.

The origin of the name Adair is uncertain but it is generally believed that the name was selected by officials in the Land Survey Office in honour of John Adair (1654-1722), a Scottish surveyor and map maker. Adair was

COLPOY'S BAY

The community of Colpoy's Bay is built on the west side of scenic Colpoy's Bay a beautiful inlet on Georgian Bay that leads into Wiarton. A map of 1792 by John Graves Simcoe, the first Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada, (1791-1796), shows the place as Sturgeon Bay. It was not a popular name and was ignored by the Ojibwa Indians who settled here fifty years later, shortly before 1845. The Indians called the place, *"Wub-shusk-weequaid".* Colpoy's Bay was named by Admiral Henry Wolsey Bayfield, (1795-1885), during his survey of Lake Huron and Georgian Bay. He wished to honour Sir John Colpoy, an Admiral in the British Royal Navy.

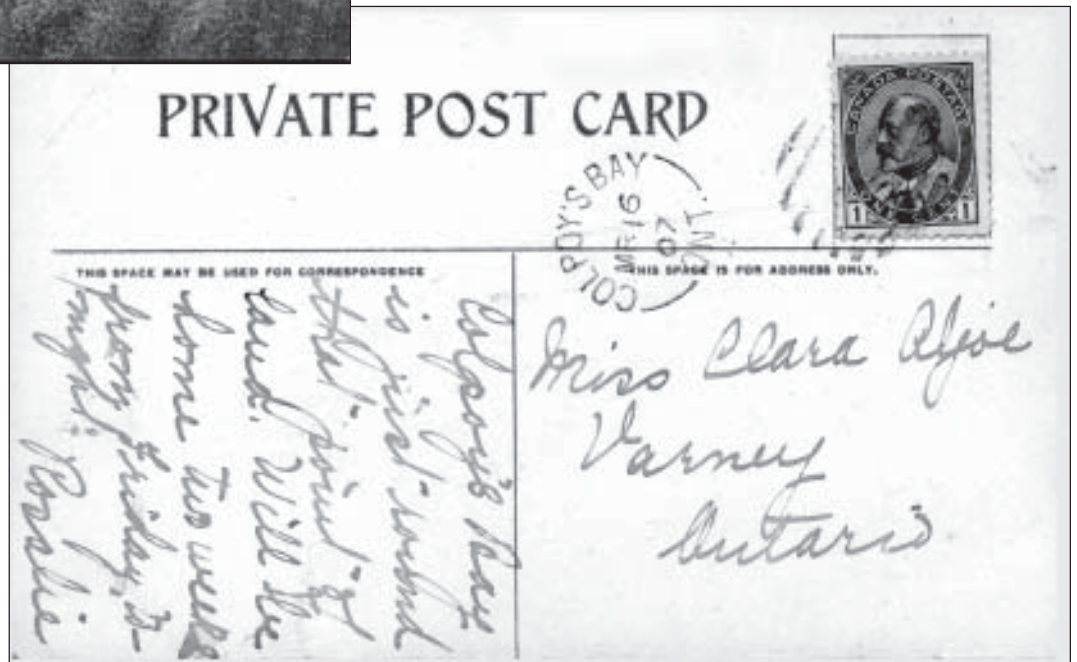Lovell's Canadian Directory of 1871 described the

COLPOY'S BAY ONT.
MR 16 / 1907
This postcard is cancelled with the 21.0-mm (arcs 7.5) A1 hammer used at Colpoy's Bay.
"Wiarton looking North"
The message on the card says it all:

Colpoy's Bay is just around that point of land . . .

small village of about fifty inhabitants as being, "25 miles from Owen Sound and 70 miles from Collingwood with mail delivery four times weekly." By this time Colpoy's Bay had a steam grist mill, water powered saw mills and a landing for steamboats that travelled from Owen Sound to Colpoy's Bay. Being only three miles north east of Wiarton the community, over the past twenty years, has attracted many owners of summer cottages and retirement homes.

Prior to 1920 lumber was the leading industry. The large sawmill owned by C. E. Whicher was destroyed by fire in 1909. It was rebuilt within a few weeks. The Rev. Ludwick Kribs, a Congregationalist minister built the first sawmill and grist mill in 1859. Rev. Kribs became the first reeve of the united townships of Amabel and Albemarle in 1860.

Ludwick Kribs became the first postmaster of Colpoy's Bay on July 1, 1863. This was the first post office in Albemarle Township. The citizens of Wiarton had to wait another five years before they would have a post office. During the intervening years the residents of Wiarton received their mail from the Colpoy's Bay post

office during the navigation season and from the Oxenden post office in Kemble Township, Grey County during the winter months.

In 1863, the year that Colpoy's Bay post office was established, a weekly mail service over land was started between Colpoy's Bay and Owen Sound. William Scales was the first courier. Other couriers, sequentially, were a Mr. Johnstone, James Beattie, Archie Carnahan, Albert Gowley, R. Tupper, William Dove and Russell Robinson. The service ended in 1876 when a stage coach service was introduced.

Rev. Ludwick Kribs resigned as postmaster in 1869 after six years service. John Shackleton, hotel keeper, was appointed postmaster on December 1, 1869. Shackleton was a well known lumberman and business entrepreneur. He had lived in Clavering, south of

COLPOY'S BAY
"Jane Miller" sank in Colpoy's Bay, 25 Nov. 1881.

BRUCE CO. MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

The "Jane Miller" *disappeared in Colpoy's Bay while on her way to Wiarton with the loss of all 28 on board. One of the many area ship sinkings.*

Wiarton, where he had been the first postmaster. He moved to Colpoy's Bay in early 1869. Prior to 1876 Colpoy's Bay was served by a little steamer, *"The Hero"*, which made three trips a week between Colpoy's Bay and Owen Sound. John Shackleton operated the stage coach service between Colpoy's Bay and Owen Sound. Josiah Crawford drove the stage for him three days a week from 1876 to 1879. In 1878 Mr. Shackleton was named the first reeve of the newly formed singular Township of Albemarle. His many interests left little time for the post office. This and the unreliability of the postmaster's assistants led to Mr. Shackleton's dismissal by postal authorities in late 1880. By this time the population of Colpoy's Bay had reached approximately fifty. The Post Office Department was anxious to provide a continuity of service and promptly appointed William D. Bell as postmaster effective January 6, 1881.

William D. Bell operated a successful general store on village lots 5 and 7. After becoming postmaster in 1881 Mr. Bell took on the job of telegraph operator in 1882. Both the post office and telegraph office were in his store. His wife Ann Elizabeth served as his post office assistant. William Bell sold his store and home in March, 1886 to Charles Whicher. He resigned as post-master and recommended that the post office be transferred to his brother, John Harvey Bell.

John Harvey Bell built a hall known as, *"Bells Hall"*, in 1885 beside his home which was on village lot 57. When he was appointed postmaster of Colpoy's Bay on May 1, 1886 he established the post office in Bells Hall. His wife was the former Hermione Whicher. They had their living quarters above the hall. In 1906 John Bell resigned and his daughter Elizabeth Bell became post-master on July 12, 1906. Elizabeth moved to Paris, Ontario in 1916 and resigned.

Reginald L. Frame was appointed the new postmaster. His wife looked after the post office business for him. When rural mail delivery was established the next year, the post office closed.

COLPOY'S BAY

Post office established: July 1, 1863
Rev. Ludwick Kribs   July 1, 1863 until Aug. 23, 1869 [RESIGNED]
John Shackleton   Dec. 1, 1869 until Dec. 12, 1880 [RESIGNED]
William D. Bell   Jan. 6, 1881 until Mar. 11, 1886 [RESIGNED]
John Bell   May 1, 1886 until June 26, 1906 [RESIGNED]
Elizabeth Bell   July 12, 1906 until May 16, 1916 [RESIGNED]
R. L. Frame   July 4, 1916 until Jan. 5, 1917 [RESIGNED]
Post office closed: Apr. 7, 1917

**COLPOY'S BAY
ONT.
DE 9 / 1908**

With the opening of the Post Office at Colpoys Bay on July 1, 1863 the first mail was cancelled with manuscript markings. Bruce Graham reports in "Ontario Broken Circles" *that a manuscript marking dated 1863 08 31 exists.*

The next hammer then must be the A2 C.W. *hammer shown on page 199. This was followed by a 21.0-mm (3.0-mm arcs)* A1 *hammer proofed September 29, 1880.*

Some time later another A1 *hammer (20.5-mm with 8 and 7-mm arcs came into use. This hammer is*

on page 200 addressed to the Guelph Packing Co. Two more broken circle hammers came into being. The next one was a 21.0-mm, 7.5-mm arcs with oval "0" *as shown above.*

The last A1 *hammer in this series was proofed March 13, 1916 and is an instrument measuring 20.0-mm in diameter and having 6.5-mm arcs.*

Over its life this small Bruce Peninsula village post office saw the use of 5 broken circle instruments before it closed its doors on April 7, 1917.

RESEARCHING THE MODERN POSTAL SCENE [REF. 137]

Gus Knierim

In the first four issues of this Newsletter we published a list of current post offices in the four counties. This list was based on a 1993 (Feb.) Canada Post data base listing all offices then open or recently closed. We are well aware of the fact that those early 1990's were years when much change took place at Canada Post. It was the era when many post offices were closed or converted into franchised retail outlets. These four lists, as well as, similar lists for all of Ontario and much of Canada, have been enhanced by adding opening dates, closing dates (where known), RC numbers as well as the previous moon numbers. Not only that but interest postal photographs of actual offices as well as cancellations have been added to give more interest to the list. Furthermore the lists document change of ownership in franchises by virtue of the fact that the RC numbers change (pocon's). The significant fact is that there are operations within our four counties that had a life-span of less than a month – many just lasted a few months perhaps a year. The cancellation handstamps that are associated with these operations are much scarcer than most steel hammers since rubber stamps, as much as one can care for them, have a very definite life-span, not to mention that much of the mail does not receive a local handstamp but rather is cancelled at the regional sortation plants.

It is a modern postal history project that is done under the auspices of the M.O.O.S.E. study group which deals with such things as the moon, pocon and rc numbers. The project is too large to be published in a newsletter format. For example, Dufferin County, first published on page 34 of this Newsletter, has grown from 1 page to 2½ pages. Simcoe County would take more than a whole newsletter.

I invite collectors in this group to partake of this modern challenge. The cost of postage will get you any of the lists that you wish. We look forward to collectors of similar interest to share their findings and keep this data base up to date. ✉