



The Grey, Bruce, Dufferin & Simcoe

POSTAL HISTORY STUDY GROUP

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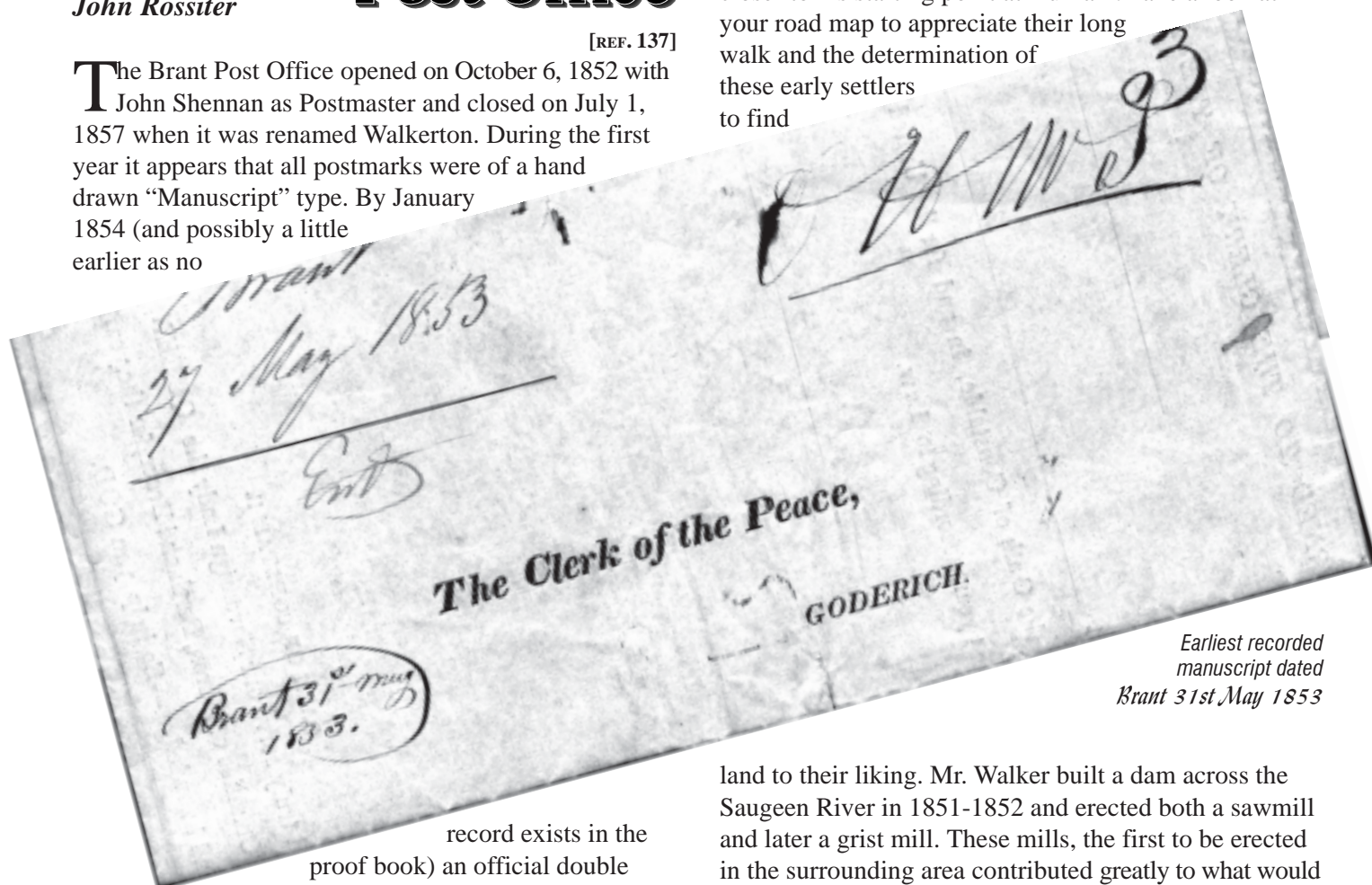
WALKERTON POST OFFICE 150th Anniversary The BRANT Post Office

John Rossiter

[REF. 137]

The Brant Post Office opened on October 6, 1852 with John Shennan as Postmaster and closed on July 1, 1857 when it was renamed Walkerton. During the first year it appears that all postmarks were of a hand drawn "Manuscript" type. By January 1854 (and possibly a little earlier as no

the mouth of the Saugeen (Southampton). From there they continued on to Kincardine. Not finding a suitable mill site, although his friends had found land which suited them in Greenock, he then travelled easterly to where the Saugeen River crossed the blazed path of what was to become the Durham Road. It was here that he found the mill site he wanted, ironically quite a bit closer to his starting point at Durham. Take a look at your road map to appreciate their long walk and the determination of these early settlers to find



Earliest recorded
manuscript dated
Brant 31st May 1853

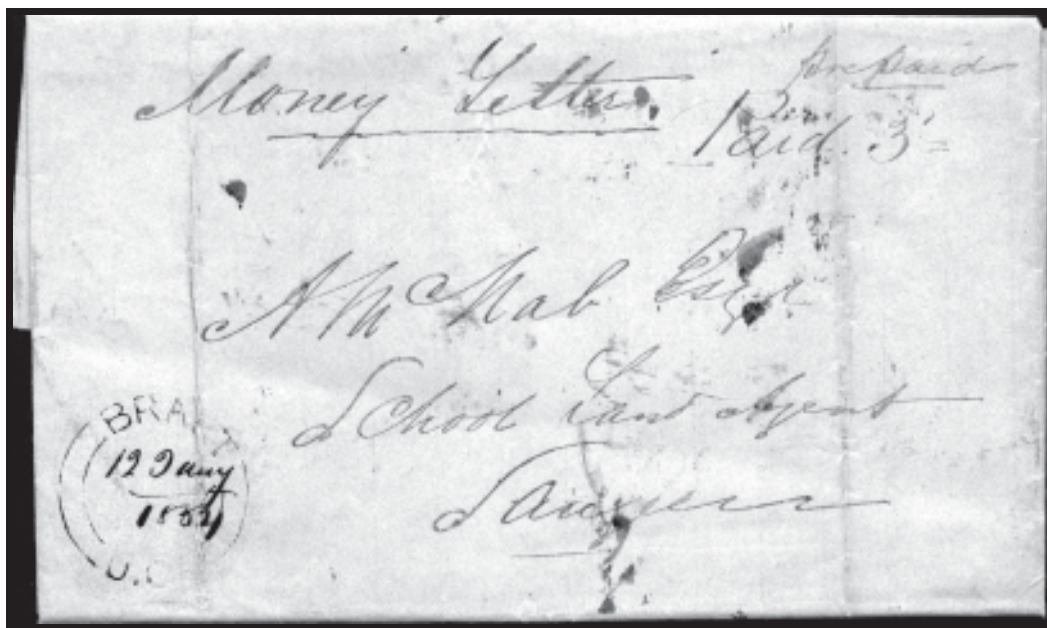
record exists in the proof book) an official double broken circle postmark was in use.

Among the first settlers of Brant was Joseph Walker who came on May 12, 1850. Mr. Walker was a miller and not interested in farming as were many early settlers. In the spring of 1850 seeking a mill site, he along with three friends, John McLean, William McIntosh and Archibald Fraser left Durham and walked to Owen Sound and then by a route referred to as the "Gimby Trail" to

land to their liking. Mr. Walker built a dam across the Saugeen River in 1851-1852 and erected both a sawmill and later a grist mill. These mills, the first to be erected in the surrounding area contributed greatly to what would

CONTENTS – ISSUE Nº 24

	REF NO.	PAGE
150th Anniversary of Walkerton/Brant Post Office [J. Rossiter]	137	225
The Renaming of Blacks Corners / Crombie [George Power]	138	228
St. Vincent's Summer Office at Kiawanna Beach [G. Knierim]	139	231
A Watchumacallit (Owen Sound) [B. Vogel]	140	232
Ontario Postal Update [G. Knierim]	141	232
Wabashene Discovered [B. McCabe]	142	234



The 25-mm B2x handstamp was used on this cover making this the earliest recorded sample.

BRANT U.C 12 Jan 1854

route two Post Offices – Brant and Greenock were opened. Mr. Shennan (P.O. records show the spelling as Shennon) was appointed the Brant Postmaster on October 6, 1852. The Brant Post Office taking the name of the township which at that time was a common

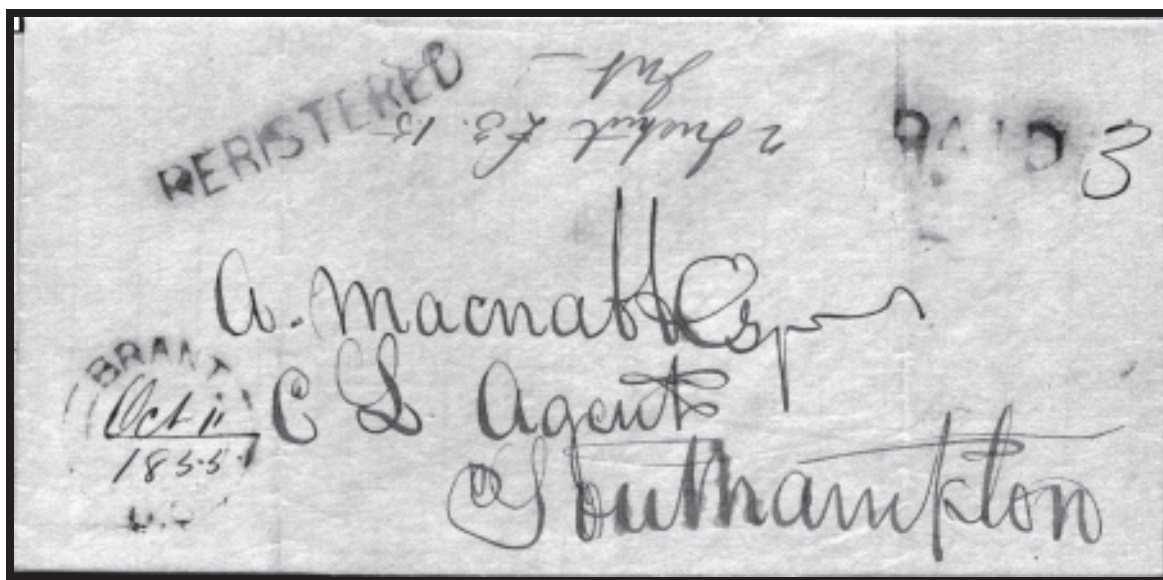
eventually become the Town of Walkerton appropriately named after Joseph Walker. At certain locations the earliest settlers of Brant were given “free grants” of land. Conditions were attached to these “free grants” one of which was the construction of a log house not to be less than 18 x 24 ft. Mr. Walker’s house became a stopover where settlers could stay on their way to “take up” and clear the bush lots they had purchased.

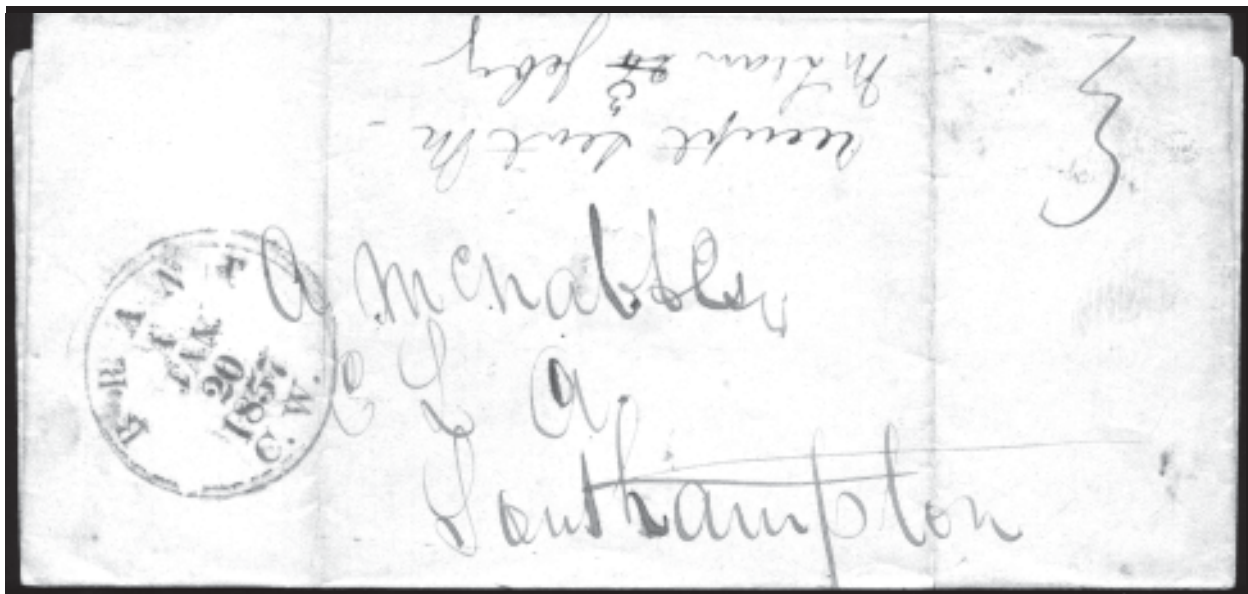
At first the early settlers had to travel to Durham for their supplies but by 1851 Messrs. Jardine & Valentine had erected a store at what was to become the Brant Settlement. Shortly after another store was opened on “Willoughby’s Hill” east of the river by John Shennan. The census of 1852 indicated an increase in the population of some Bruce County townships. Based on this data the government established a mail route extending from Durham west to Kincardine. On this new mail

practice. The Greenock Post Office also opened on this same day so Brant and Greenock were tied for third place as new post offices in Bruce County. Two previous offices had opened in the County – Kincardine’s office was the first to open on June 6, 1851 and a month later the Saugene office opened on July 6, 1851.

Mr. Shennan being unfamiliar with the duties required of a postmaster hired Malcolm McLean (at that time a clerk at Jardine & Valentine’s store) and who had some post office experience to look after the first mail out of the Brant office. After about a year Mr. Shennan resigned as Postmaster and Malcolm McLean was appointed the Postmaster on November 15, 1853 and held that job for over 52 years until his death sometime prior to July, 1909 long after the name had changed to Walkerton. Malcolm McLean must have been one of the longest serving postmasters in Canada. In addition he

A registered cover using the misspelled RERISTERED handstamp dated BRANT U.C Oct 11 1855





BRANT
C.W.
A
JAN
20
1857

This large 34-mm hanstamp was used at Brant as early as 1857.

acted in the early years as the local deputy for Crown Land Agent Alex McNabb. Mr. McLean was also elected Walkerton's mayor in 1879. (For the record Mr. Shennan opened a Post Office in 1856 in a settlement named Balaclava, in the Township of Carrick. However, the Post Office was named Glenlyon).

The cover on page 225 shows the earliest example recorded to date of a hand drawn "Manuscript" Brant U.C. postmark dated May 31, 1853. These hand drawn postmarks were used by a large number of post offices prior to the arrival of an official postmark at newly opened post offices. This cover addressed to "The Clerk of the Peace" at Goderich certifies that James Benson has taken the Oath of Constable for the United Counties of Huron and Bruce. The cover has been rated "3" pence in black ink and then shown as O.H.M.S. indicating the cover could be sent free on Government business. There are no backstamps.

The first official postmark was the double broken circle (25 mm) – BRANT, U.C. script dated January 12, 1854. This example is a "Money Letter" addressed to Alex McNabb, School Land Agent at Saugeen. Mr. McNabb was the local agent for Crown & School Lands for the County Of Bruce. (Refer to R-045 Issue No. 6, page 46 for more information on Mr. McNabb). The sender Archibald McLean paid the 3 Pence postage rate for a ½ oz. letter in effect since April 1, 1851. There was no additional charge for the "Money Letter" designation. The letter contained £5 as a first instalment on two lots along Concession 3 south of the Durham Road, Brant Township on behalf of Archibald Smith. This letter certainly travelled what today seems around about route as it is backstamped Bentinck, (now Durham) January 13, 1854, Owens Sound, January 14, 1854 and the Saugeen receiving postmark January 16, 1854.

Another cover using the same double broken circle postmark – BRANT U.C. and script dated October 11, 1855 was sent registered to Alex McNabb. By this time the Brant P.O. had received a PAID hammer as indicated by the PAID 3 pence for postage. An additional 1 Penny would be charged for Registration. The interesting error on this cover is the misspelling – "RERISTERED" on the original hammer provided by the Post Office. Mr. H. Lussey, a noted postal historian, states that "this faulty device was replaced no later than January 21, 1857 as a corrected strike appears on a cover bearing that date." This cover enclosed £4 in payment for property bought on instalment.

A new hammer was issued: a large circular 34-mm datestamp (the earliest recorded by Bruce Graham is January 14, 1857). The example shown was mailed six days later – BRANT C.W. Jan. 20, 1857 and once again to Alex McNabb. The 3 Pence postage was UNPAID, the recipient to pay the postage. Datestamps of this type show the letter "A", "B", "C", or "D" just above the date. I'm not sure what this "letter" signifies. Is this a time period? I would appreciate knowing the answer so please write our editor if you can help out. This cover is backstamped Saugeen, U.C. Jan. 24, 1857.

In summary these four covers show that the Brant Post Office although small and open for less than 5 years had some interesting postal history.

A thank you to Bob Vogel for his help confirming Post Office information. ☒

REFERENCES:

- (1) *The History of the County of Bruce* by Norman Robertson, originally published in 1906 and republished twice.
- (2) *Ontario Post Offices* by Robert C. Smith
- (3) *Ontario Broken Circle Postmarks* by Bruce Graham
- (4) *Canadian Manuscript Town Postmarks* by David Handelman & Jacques Poiras

The renaming of BLACK'S CORNERS / CROMBIE

George Power

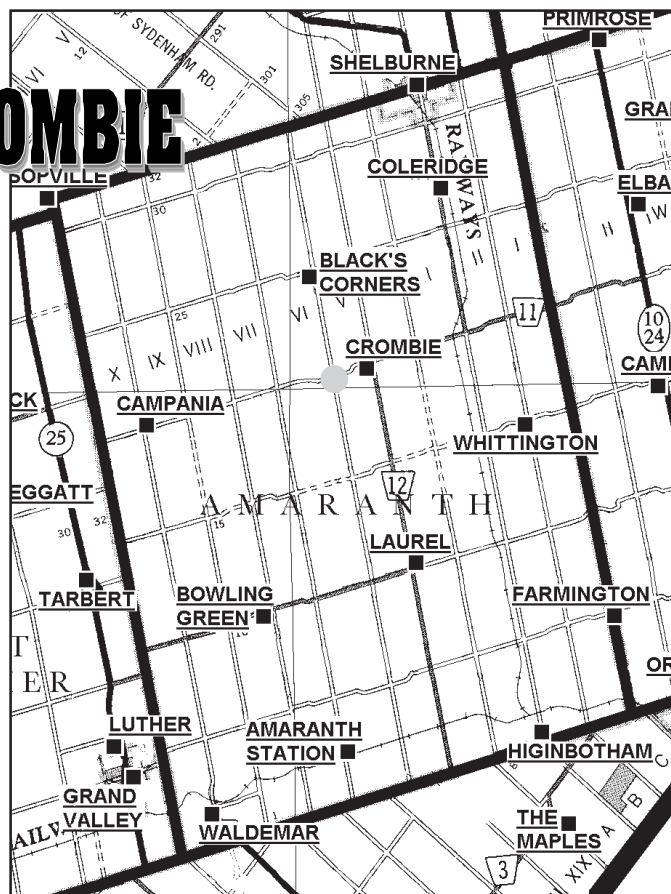
The saga of this community takes place in Amaranth Township of Dufferin County where the farming community of Black's Corners was established around Lot 20 between the 5th and 6th Concession. The post office was established September 1, 1877 with Samuel Black as its first postmaster. As was often the case the post office was named after the postmaster or at the suggestion of the postmaster.

Samuel Black, who lived on the E½ Lot 21, Concession 6 served only for three years until October 6, 1880. This location is marked on the map by the grey dot (●) and is the corrected placement for Black's Corners.

The following postmaster was James Graham who became the longest serving postmaster of this community having served from April 1, 1881 until September 1, 1903. Under his tenure the post office moved one concession east to the location where Crombie is marked on the map (E½ Lot 20, Concession 5).

Graham was succeeded by George Young on March 1, 1904. Postmaster Young moved the post office once again west one concession to the W½ of Lot 21, Concession 5. His tenure was short-lived as he resigned from the position February 25, 1925.

John Crombie became the new postmaster May 20, 1905 and who kept the post office at the same location as George Young. We do not know but might assume that the post office was at this time connected to a



MAP COURTESY OF Eric Manchee, *Atlas of Post Offices in the Counties of Grey, Bruce, Dufferin & Simcoe*.

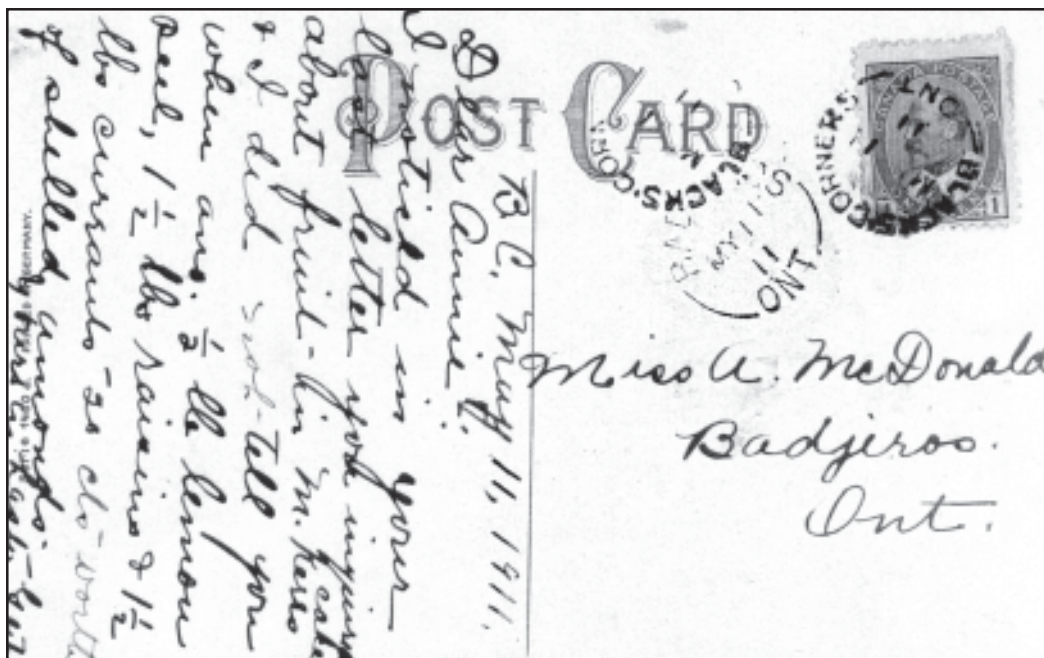
general store of some sort. John Crombie resigned in 1909.

George Beatty Moore became Black's Corners last postmaster accepting the appointment October 28, 1910. He also kept the post office at the previous location. On February 1, 1912, with Beatty Moore as postmaster

the post office was renamed Crombie. It remained at the same location W½ Lot 21 Concession 5. Beatty Moore's term of office ended April 30, 1913 with the closure of the Crombie post office. Rural mail delivery had come to the area and there was no longer a need for the local post office.



A post card from
BLACKS • CORNERS ONT.
DE 27 / 1910 to
SHRIGLEY ONT. / DE 28 / 1910
and redirected to Badgeros in Grey County.
The Black's Corners 21-mm A1 is the only
known hammer from this community.
courtesy of WAYNE TOWNSEND, DUFFERIN COUNTY
MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES



BLACKS • CORNERS ONT.
MY 11 / 1911 to
BADJEROS ONT. / MY 11 / 1911
 All of the Black's Corners 21-mm A1 strikes shown in this article are later than the previously recorded late date.
 courtesy of WAYNE TOWNSEND, DUFFERIN COUNTY MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES



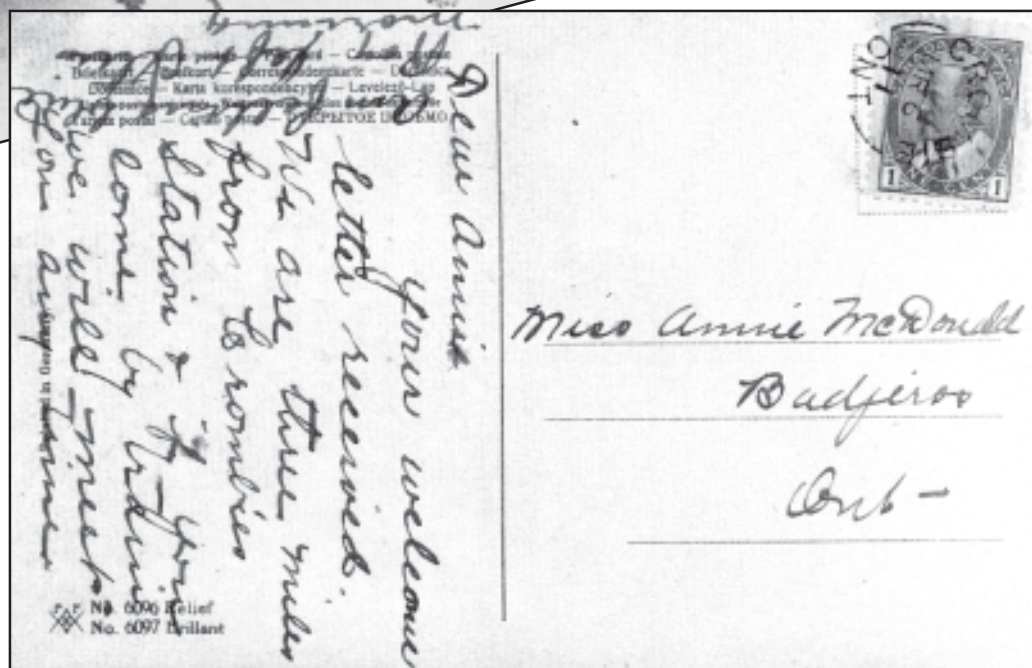
This Black's Corners post card was mailed from the Crombie Post Office March 6, 1912 (1912).
 courtesy of WAYNE TOWNSEND, DUFFERIN COUNTY MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

CROMBIE ONT.
MR 6 / 1911 to
BADJEROS ONT.

Although the strike clearly reads 1911 this card most likely should have been dated stamped 1912.

Black's Corners post office was not renamed to Crombie until February 1, 1912. This 20-mm A1 hammer was not proofed until February 15, 1912.

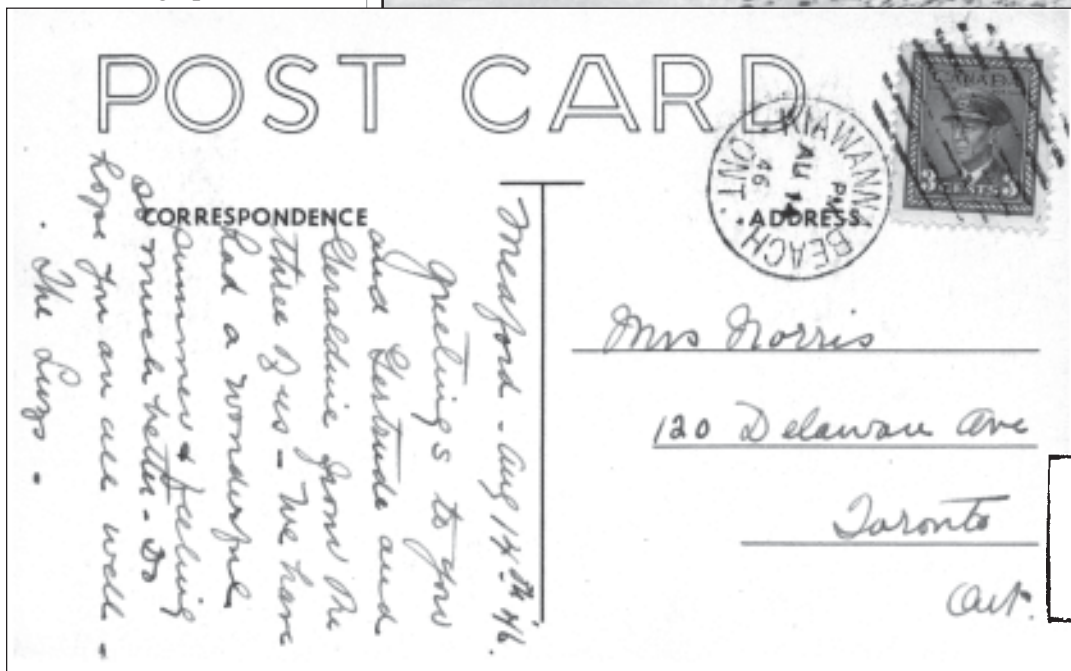
courtesy of WAYNE TOWNSEND, DUFFERIN COUNTY MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES



St Vincent's Summer Office at KIAWANNA BEACH

Gus Knierim

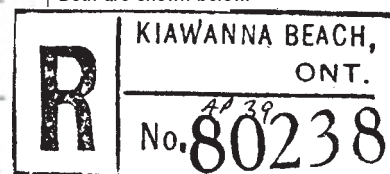
Located in a private building on Lot 26 between Concession 7 and the water front of Georgian Bay just north-west of Meaford, this summer office opened June 15, 1939 and finally closed September 15, 1971. Kiawanna Beach was a non-accounting office (80238) being open each



KIAWANNA BEACH, ONT.
PM / AU 14 / 1946

This locally produced, letterpress printed post card was sent by a vacationer to some friends in Toronto. It has been cancelled with a 24-mm cds date-stamp and a separate "killer" to deface the stamp.

Proof books also record a Registration Box that was proofed in April 1939 as well as a single-line non-acct office number - 80238. Both are shown below.



summer between June 15 and September 15.

In its thirty years of operation Kiawanna Beach was served by six postmasters.

Richard Stanley Godfrey served from June 15, 1939 until January, 1945 at which time he resigned. No name is recorded for the summer of 1945 although the office appears to have been open. Richard Elliott assumed the position of postmaster June 15, 1946. He resigned June 5, 1951. Wallace Graham White became acting postmaster

June 15, 1951 and was appointed to the position July 10, 1951. He resigned December 9, 1952. David W.

Vandoesburg assumed the position June 15, 1953. He died Aug. 10, 1956 and his wife, Agnes Vandoesburg, was appointed acting postmaster August 29, 1956 for the rest of the season. Robert James Tupman became acting postmaster June 15, 1957 and postmaster September 3, 1958. His term of office ended with closure of the office September 15, 1971. ☐

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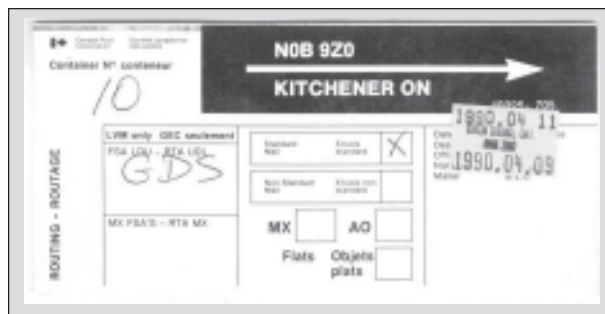
in MEAFORD and the
surrounding area . . .

EXPRESSPOST



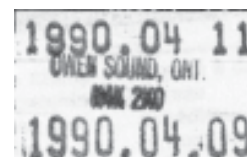
A Whatchumacallit ?

by Bob Vogel



Sound.

Can any reader offer the
Study Group a better explanation
or more information
on this?



ONTARIO POSTAL UPDATE

Gus Kuierim

In 1986 member Robert C. Smith brought out two valued reference books that are most familiar to postal historians right across the province. The book that of course is being referred to is *Ontario Post Offices, vol. I and II*. Vol. II of this reference work lists all post offices by County and District giving the name of the post office, the township in which it is located and all pertinent such as opening and closing dates. The books deal with all offices and sub-offices from the beginning until 1986.

Much has taken place in the last 15 years in the organization of Canada Post. Foremost perhaps to philatelists is the establishment of a system of franchises. These of course can be identified by the six-digit POCON or RC# number found in the cancel. Sometimes some other notation such as RPO or GMO, etc., can also be found.

Some collectors have a desire to track these offices as we discovered that all new systems are never devoid of problems. In the case of the franchised operations many lasted only for a matter of weeks while others have remained with us since the beginnings in the late 1980's.

This article is a means of announcing that postal updates for various counties and districts have been undertaken. These lists show to the best of available information all franchises that have been opened and closed, etc. Rather than using 1986 as the beginning date it was decided to go back to April 1, 1973 (the introduction of

the current POCON-RC# numbering system) and include all offices open at that time as indicated in Robt. C. Smith's reference book. Backdating it allowed us to follow the closure of many sub-offices and their conversion into retail postal outlets. The lists are illustrated where possible with illustrations of post offices as well as postmarks in use with emphasis on the franchised operations.

The core data from which these lists were prepared and altered are the 1993 lists as published in the first four issues of this newsletter. The reader will realize the vast amount of new data that has been added. For example the original Dufferin County list was one page in size whereas the new list is 4 pages.

The lists are too large to include in our newsletter as regular articles, nor are they of interest to those specializing in the Queen Victoria era of 100 years ago. However, they are available at cost, to those philatelists interested in this modern postal history. The cost is 10¢ per page plus postage.

The following counties and districts of Ontario are ready:

- [1] **DUFFERIN COUNTY** [4 pages]
- [2] **HALIBURTON COUNTY** [0 pages]
- [3] **MANITOULIN DISTRICT** [0 pages]
- [4] **NIPISSING DISTRICT** [0 pages]

Bruce, Grey and Simcoe counties will be ready later this year. Future additions will be announced in our ads on the last page of the newsletter.

A sample page from the Dufferin County Update is seen on the opposite page. ✉

Dufferin County ONTARIO POSTAL UPDATE

The original Canada Post list was dated February 10, 1993. This listing has been amended over the years and backdated to 1973 to show all offices that received the six-digit POCON number. All offices in **BOLD print** are open at time of this printing. The householder count refers to the number of drop-off points for each office. It is the number used for "Ad Mail" – all those pieces of printing that you never asked for but got just the same. This number is an excellent source to evaluate the size of the operation and the scarcity of postmarks.

This list is also an excellent addendum to Robt. C. Smith's, *Ontario Post Offices: By County and District* which covered post offices until 1986. All "OPEN" offices recorded in this work are listed herewith plus any new offices. For earlier offices check Robt. C. Smith's book.

Note: Line 1 includes the RC# (POCON) and office name; **BOLD** lines are open offices at the time of printing of this list (see bottom left of page 1 for printing date).

Line 2 includes the Money Order Office Number (moon) which was in use until 1973. 4-digit numbers indicate an accounting office; whereas five-digit numbers were given to non-accounting offices. All offices are considered accounting unless stated otherwise.

Line 3 of each entry includes: [1] opening date; [2] closing date; [3] house holder count; [4] service provided by GD (gen. del'y), LB (lock boxes), SS (community group boxes), LC (letter carrier).

Line 4 are anecdotal notes (italicized). Many franchised operations existed only for a few weeks or months.

This is a work in progress. Please report ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS, CHANGES to Gus Knierim, RR#1, 027416 30th Sideroad, Thornbury, Ontario N0H 2P0. TEL. (519) 599-6975. EMAIL knierim@bmts.com

HOUSEHOLDER COUNT [HC] is taken from the *June 2000 Issue of Householder Counts for Rural Delivery*, Canada Post Corporation.

R.C. #

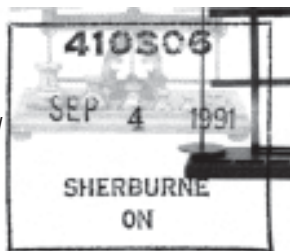
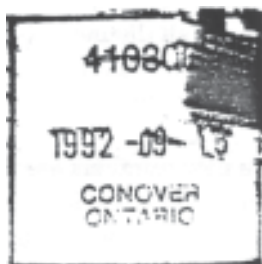
Conover Post Office

410306 – This RO on Hwy. 24 north of Shelburne lasted for only 26 months [Sep. 1991]



CONOVER
CONOVER, ON
1900 10 20, 1914 01 31 [closed]

410306 CONOVER (SHELBURNE) RO
RR#3, SHELBURNE, ON LON 1S0
1990 07 01, 1992 09 18 [closed]
(Note: This RC# was previously utilized at Honeywood, possibly indicating the same owners)



410306
SEP 4 1991
SHELBURNE
ON

This handstamp with the misspelled **SHELBURNE** was utilized by the Conover RO until replaced by one shown to the left.

Grand Valley Post Office
331937 at 9 Mill Street,
Grand Valley [c. 1995]



331937 GRAND VALLEY
3054 9 MILL ST,
GRAND VALLEY, ON LON 1G0
1885 08 01, open [HC 1628 / GD; LB; incl. 4 RRs]

410179 GRAND VALLEY RO
23 MAIN ST BOX 414, GRAND VALLEY, ON LON 1G0
1989 06 01, 1990 03 14 [replaced by 012122]

012122 GRAND VALLEY RO
24 WESTSIDE MAIN STREET,
GRAND VALLEY, ON LON 1G0
1990 03 12, 1992 08 31 [closed]



012122
AUG 4 1992
GRAND VALLEY
ON

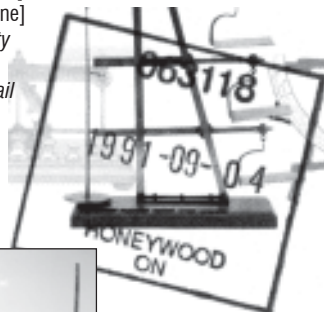
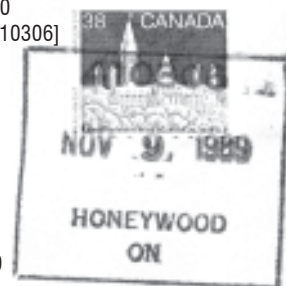
This RO was located in the Becker Store on the west side of Main Street

332585 HONEYWOOD
3198 COUNTY ROAD 21, HONEYWOOD, ON LON 1H0
1865 07 01, 1991 07 16 [replaced by 409774]

409774 HONEYWOOD/SHELBURNE RPO 2
HONEYWOOD, ON LON 1H0
1989 06 01, 1989 07 24 [replaced by 410306]

410306 HONEYWOOD RO
HONEYWOOD, ON LON 1H0
19??, ?? [replaced by 063118]
(In operation 1989 11 09; this number transferred to Conover franchise)

063118 HONEYWOOD RO
P.O. BOX 2, HONEYWOOD, ON LON 1H0
1991 06 17, ?? [Closed c. 1994*]
[HC 113 on 1 RR out of Shelburne]
(Note: *This is now a Community Mailbox Installation serviced by Rural Route Contractor – no retail postal outlet serves this community)



Honeywood Post Office
063118 was located at the Honey Mart General Store. This building has been the home of the post office for the past 50 years at least. [Sep. 1991]

WABASHENE Discovered

[REF. 142]

The eagle eyes of member Bob McCabe recently spotted this Wa(u)bashene item on **ebay**. Alas, poor Bob was unsuccessful in acquiring this gem.



Scanned image may not be correctly sized!

Wabashene in Tay Twp. of Simcoe County had its first post office January 1, 1868. Sometime in the 1870's the name was corrected to the current spelling of Waubashene. This A1 hammer unmistakably is Wabashene and appears to be dated SP 8 1875.

This find will fill a void in Bruce Graham's extensive coverage on the *Ontario Broken Circle* hammers. ✉

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22-27

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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 **SECOND WEDNESDAY** of the month, 7:00 p.m., at the Wasaga Beach Library and the **FOURTH WEDNESDAY** of each month at the Collingwood Library, Second & Maple Sts., Collingwood.

CONTACT *Stephen Morris*

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

SAUGEEEN 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