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George Prior

[REF. 148]

The Orangeville Sun, September 22, 1886

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE IMPOSING STRUCTURE

How \$20.000.00 was extended in furnishing our citizens with increased postal accommodation

RANGEVILLE, despite the act of some rowdyism that have disgraced it during the past twelve months, is still a progressive town. We have many new public buildings, the new Court House, County Jail, Public and High School as well as a new Town Hall.

A new post office, it was thought, would create interest to our town. True we do not have manufacturing industries in Orangeville but yet as we are a comparatively a young town we will soon be supplied with all the agricultural and mechanical facilities of which other centres are justly proud.

Of all the new buildings, public and private, that have been created in town in the past few years, none have excited the interest and attracted attention with our people as much as the new post office on West Broadway. From the time the construction of the building was first proposed, three years ago, up to the present date the liveliest interest has been taken in the question of additional postal accommodation for Orangeville. The first event of importance in connection with this branch of Orangeville's march to prosperity was the voting on the site, which took place in July, 1883. Two sites were proposed - one was on Broadway where the present building now stands and the other was on Second Street in the North Ward. The choice was fixed on the West Broadway site which was undoubtedly the wisest choice, and the ballots showed the majority of 63 votes in its favour.

Time went on, the plans were prepared and submitted to the Government, tenders were called and finally in



the spring of 1885 the contract for the construction of the building was awarded to Mr. M. G. Pigott of Hamilton, for the sum of \$13,500.00. The construction started in May, 1885.

THE CONTRACT

The Sun reporter visited the building on Saturday, and was very courteously and kindly received by inspector in charge, Robert Hewitt.

The building from the exterior presents a very imposing appearance. While not extremely large, it is yet of respectable size and its richly coloured and fine finish presents a striking contrast to the observer, when com-

| CONTENTS – ISSUE № 26 | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | REF NO | . PAGE |
| The New Post Office at Orangeville – 1885 [George Prior] Collingwood Harbor ??? [Gus Knierim] Clavering, Keppel Twp., Grey County) [James E. Kraemer] The Many Faces of the Elmwood Post Office [A. Misch] | 148 151 149 150 | 245 248 249 252 |



THE MAIN BUILDING

... is 41 feet in length, facing Broadway, by 28 feet wide. The rear addition, developed exclusively to the distribution and service of the mail, is 24 x 26, and like the main building is composed almost entirety of stone. The height of the main building from the side walk to the cornice is 37 feet, with a basement below that of 9 feet in depth.

wholly of the latter. The walls measure nearly three feet

thick and it's solidly embedded in cement.

There are two main entrances to the interior, the one in the western and the other on the eastern side of the front portion of the building.

SCULPTURE AND ART

The finest specimens of art that occupy the space and serve as an ornament over the doors are the work of Mr. Holborne of Toronto. The design of the one over the western entrance is the four leaves of Dufferin, with the background composed of maple leaves and artistic ornaments, and the whole surmounted by a crown and shield. The eastern entrance is finished in a somewhat similar

manner, with the exception that oak leaves with acorns attached take the place of the maple leaf and the letters "VR" are engraved on the shield. The doors themselves are supplied with brass letter and paper drops and finished in oil.

On the entrance the main building by the western door the reporter found himself in an inside vestibule, from which two nicely finished doors, with the words "in" and "out" engraved thereon, led the visitor into a general delivery department of the post office.

THE BOXES NUMBER 400

And they are indeed neat and convenient, each being supplied with a lock and key and each bearing the letters of our country, "D.C." Besides these there are thirty elegant drawers, which will provide a great confidence for those receiving an unusual quantity of mail matter. There is one general delivery for those of our citizens who do not have boxes, it was thought that this will be sufficient. The walls of this portion of the building are of a white finish, the ceiling alone being white. This part of the work was performed by Mr. Jos. Riddel, of Orangeville. Seven fine gas chandeliers are used in lighting of this department.

Another door leads the visitor into the Registered Letter and Money Order Department. And still another door directs them into the Postmaster's private office. The third door leads to that part of the rear addition to be devoted exclusively to the employees of the office. The fittings throughout this portion of the building are the best and received the special recommendation of both the architect and the inspector.

The eastern entrance to the building also leads to the post office department while a winding stair directs the steps of the man of business to the . . .

CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT

... and the caretaker's rooms, situated on the second story. This portion of the building as well as the third flat - the latter used for storage purpose only is finished in much the same manner by the P.O. Department, is heated by the same method and the same pipes and derives its artificial light from the same source. Everything in the upper three flats is furnished in the most modern and approved style and reflects credit an all concerned. The next portion of the building visited was . . .

THE BASEMENT

... in which is situated the coal house, furnace room, gas department and the heating apparatus. The furnace was supplied by Messrs. McGuire and Bird of Toronto, at a cost of \$900.00. This apparatus is very complete, and at a recent test made by Inspector Hewitt, heated the building in about 10 minutes. The pipes lead from the furnace

to all parts of the building, and through these the hot water is kept continually circulating. The gas apparatus was furnished by Mr. Jos. Phillips of Toronto at a cost of \$475.00. The building is supplied with 33 jets, all of which can be supplied with gas from the pumps in the basement. Seven of the chandeliers are in the P.O. Department, and two very beautiful lamps light the hall. The entire building is, with out exaggeration, one of the finest . . .

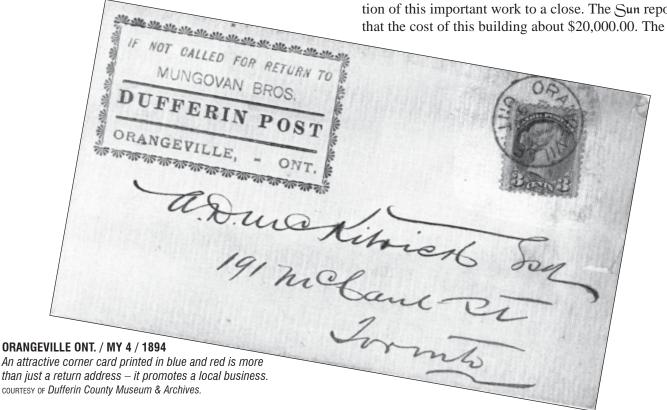
SPECIMENS OF ARCHITECTURE

... to be seen in any other town of Orangeville-size in Ontario. Messrs. Kennedy & Sons of Guelph, were contractors for the masonry; the carpentry work so tastefully performed was awarded to Mr. D. McDonald of this town; the painting was well and artistically done by Mr. W. H. Robinson, now a resident of Toronto but formerly of Orangeville, and the iron and tin work came from the shop of Mr. John Shaw, of this town. The building was almost entirely the work of local men, although the plans and specifications were prepared by a well known architecture Messrs, F. J. Rastrick & Sons of Hamilton, with Mr. Thos. Fuller, of Ottawa, as chief architect.

A NEAT FENCE

... with a stone front and low gate surrounds the grounds and adds much to the beauty and finish of the building. It is painted a dark brown colour, and in keeping with the surroundings.

Want of space compels us to bring our brief description of this important work to a close. The Sun reports



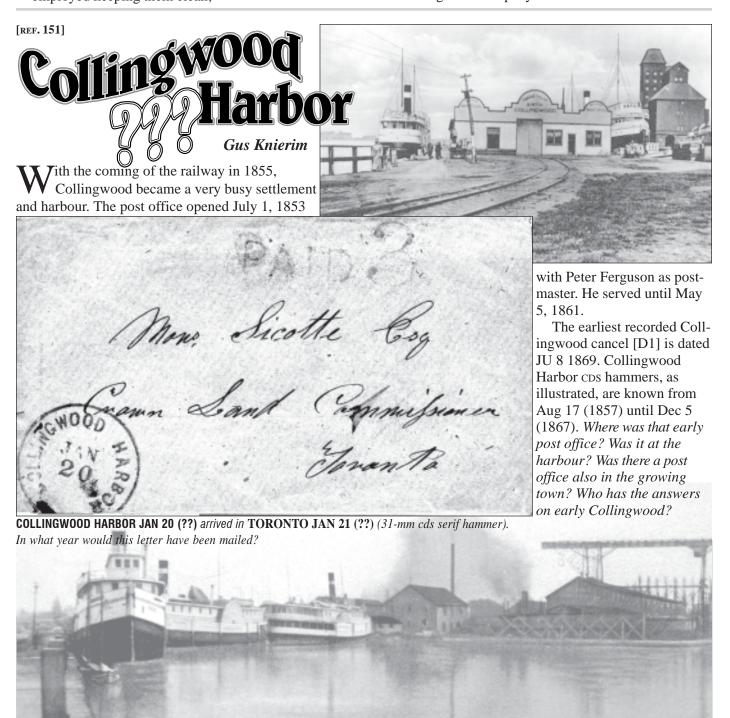
building is a substantial one and one which will last for years to come.

It is expected to open to the public soon at an early date.

NOTE FOR THE REPORTER'S PENCIL

- The gas fittings cost \$1,500.00;
- The floor of the office two coats of paint;
- The Customs Department two medium size rooms;
- Chief Wilkins to be caretaker at \$400.00 per annum.
- There is 3,300 feet of hot water pipe and 500 feet of gas pipe;
- The gas jets are brass, and the old chief will be busily employed keeping them clean;

- The local carpenters E. A. Downey and William McGill;
- A fine view of the town may be seen from the roof;
- A flag staff graces the center of the roof and when furnished with a flag will add considerable beauty to the building;
- Furnishings in the post office department are in every way complete. Stamps, presses, pigeon holes and all things pessary to a prompt distribution of the mail;
- A large ten barrel tank is on the roof in the third story. It is filled with water by a powerful pumping apparatus in the basement. This is supplied by R. M. McDugall & Company of Galt.



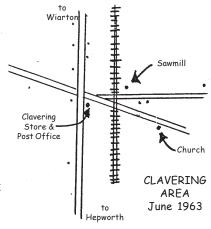
this heavily forested area. They came in 1855. More settlers arrived in the vicinity over the next few years. Eventually there were enough families that it was felt a post office was desirable and would be of great benefit to the settlers.

John Shackleton owned property on Lot 2, Concession 20, midway between Wiarton and Clavering. He opened a small general store on his property and petitioned the Post Office Department asking them to establish a post office in his store. The post office agreed and established Clavering's first post office on February 1, 1868. John Shackleton was appointed postmaster. Near the end of 1868 Mr. Shackleton sold his property and moved to Colpoy's Bay. One year later he was appointed postmaster of Colpoy's Bay. He was well known as a land dealer, an entrepreneur and a politician. In 1878 John Shackleton became the first reeve of the newly formed singular township of Albemarle.

The honour of naming the community belongs to Henry Christopher Cammidge who suggested the name Clavering after his birthplace in County Essex, England. Mr. Shackleton's successor was Chandler Baldwin who was named postmaster an February 1, 1869, exactly one year after John Shackleton's appointment. Baldwin lived in a log house on Lot 1, Concession 19. He had agreed to keep the post office in his home on a temporary basis

and resigned on November 26, 1870.

Henry Christopher Cammidge, a well known local resident, and an excellent shoemaker became Clavering's third postmaster on November 1, 1871. It was four years earlier that Mr. Cammidge had proposed the name



Clavering for the hamlet. Mr. Cammidge kept the post office at White's Siding on the county line at the 17th corner, one-and-a-quarter miles north of the village. Mr. Cammidge was postmaster for nine years, resigning on February 23, 1880. Robert Alexander was appointed postmaster on October 1, 1880. Bob Alexander started the first village store. He was also the village undertaker. He also started a sawmill located in the "V" just east of the county road. William G. Simmie purchased the sawmill and operated it for a number of years. Some years later in 1900, Simmie would become Clavering's postmaster. Alexander kept the post office for almost a year when he resigned and was succeeded by M. D. Devitt on November 1, 1881.

Mr. Devitt was the postmaster for six years before his resignation on December 22, 1887. Four other citizens followed as postmasters all serving for relatively short periods. R. W. Nickle was postmaster for ten months followed by George E. Nerbergall who remained for almost four years. Benjamin (Ben) Nickle was postmaster for just over twenty-two months. M. J. Rourke became the ninth postmaster of Clavering on February 1, 1896 and remained in office until 1900.

William G. Simmie operated a sawmill in Keppel Township manufacturing hard and softwood lumber. He was appointed Clavering's tenth postmaster on July 1, 1900, and began a service that was to last for 27 years. On March 9, 1927, Postmaster Simmie passed away. His postal assistant George Perkins immediately took over the post office responsibilities. George Perkins was the store's owner having purchased it in 1920 from his brother Duncan Perkins. W. P. Telford, M.P. wrote a letter to the Hon. J. P. Veniot, Postmaster General of Canada recommending that George Perkins be given the appointment. Mr. Perkins received his appointment



CAVERING ONT. / FE 1 / 1895

This 21-mm A1 hammer was Clavering's second split ring device and was proofed on February 28, 1891.

The message portrays the life of the logger of the times and the price of wood in the depressed times of the 1890s.

FEI CONT Geo & Laylor Control on Station

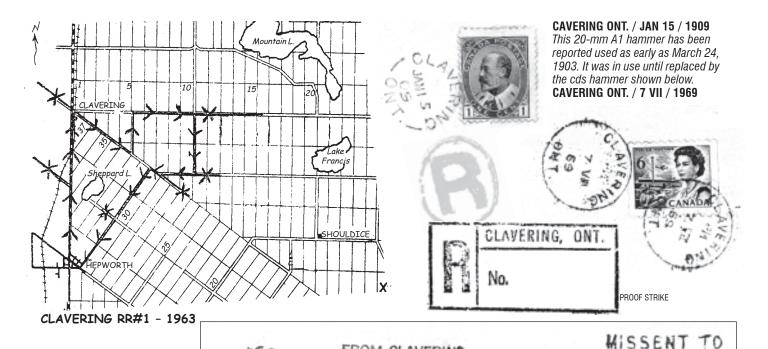
CANADA POST CARD

effective May 4, 1927. His wife Mrs. Alice Perkins, who was the mail contractor for Clavering RR#1 and their daughter Mildred were sworn in as post office assistants. George Perkins remained postmaster for 14 years. Revenue for the post office remained fairly static. For the fiscal year 1926-1927 revenue was \$156.50. In 1939-1940 it was \$135.14 The postmaster's remuneration for 1939-1940 was \$106.00.

Early in 1941 Mr. Perkins decided to sell the business (general store and post office). Although he received several offers, Mr. Perkins changed his mind and sold the business to his son, Carmon George Perkins, and resigned as postmaster. On May 15, 1941 the Clavering Post Office was transferred to Carmon Perkins. His father who had been the previous postmaster became his assistant. Mildred Irene Perkins, Carmon's sister, was also sworn in as an assistant. Carmon Perkins died on May 9, 1958. Although he had served as postmaster for 17 years he was only 46 years old. His wife Norma was appointed acting postmaster. Assistants sworn in were June Heathers and Thomas Perkins, a son. By this time the post office was in Group 4. Annual revenue had increased to just under \$500.00. The postmaster's salary was \$660.00 per annum. In addition, Mrs. Norma Perkins took over the couriers duties for Clavering RR#1 at \$1342.78 per annum. She also had the contract for the Wiarton-Owen Sound Motor Vehicle Mail Service at \$1244.00 per annum. In early January 1961 Mrs. Perkins was advised by the Ontario Highway Department that they would be taking over the store and post office for highway purposes. However, in early December of the same year Mrs. Perkins was informed that plans had changed and her property was no longer required.

Could you take any more
of the wood than the 2
cars at the him dollars
or what could you kay
for all brakle I could
ship you about 50 could
whip you about 50 could
of almost all brakle if
of almost all brakle if
you raise a little on the
your raise a little on the
your raise a little on the
price would like to here
from you by return of
mail and of light your buty
will shift the wood way will your buty
will shift the wood way will your buty
will shift the wood way will your buty
as soon as endings

Mrs. Norma Anne Perkins remarried on December 7, 1962 becoming the wife of Rexford Cruickshank. She was immediately reappointed postmaster under her married name. Assisting her with her postal duties was Mrs. Lloyd Rathwell. During the next 5 to 6 years revenue remained over \$500.00 per annum. On March 1, 1968 the post office was reclassified from Group 5 to Group 6. The following year (1969), as part of the post office Department's new policy to close smaller post offices, a survey of the Clavering Post Office was ordered. It was pointed out that although the post office was 16 miles from Owen Sound it was only 3½ miles from Hepworth and 4 miles from Wiarton. The 41 patrons On Clavering RR#1 were served at an annual cost of \$1,770.00. If closed RR#1 Clavering could start



from Hepworth. The new rural route from Hepworth would be 22.3 miles long and would be known as Hepworth RR#3. The 18 patrons of the Clavering Post Office would be served by the new rural route.

The Clavering Post Office was closed permanently on January 7, 1970. The reason given by the Department was, "due to limited usefulness." At the time that the post office closed, the postmaster's salary was \$1440.00 annually plus an annual rental of \$160.00. When

the post office closed, Mrs. Cruickshank sold the store. To-day (2000) the building is occupied by the Clavering Book Shop. It is served by Hepworth RR#2.

FROM CLAVERING NOT CALLED FOR INSURED PARCEL Colin Aparre CLAVERING ON ACCOUNT OF THE FAILURE OF MANY POSTMASTERS TO REPLY TO SPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OR THE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE, THIS OPPORTUNITY IS TAKEN TO POINT OUT TO THE POSTMASTER, THE FACT THAT FAILURE TO REPLY OR DELAY IN REPLYING ALMOST ALWAYS CAUSES CONSIDERABLE INCONVENIENCE TO THE DEPARTMENT AS WELL AS TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND IRREGULARITIES OF THIS KIND ARE THEREFORE CONSIDERED BY THE DEPARTMENT AS BEING OF A SERIOUS NATURE.

One of the requirements of a postal inspection was to make a proof of all instruments present in the office. This inspection is dated January 31, 1930 and was signed by postmaster G. A. Perkins.

CLAVERING

The postmasters and their periods of service:

Post office established Feb. 1, 1868

John Shackleton Feb. 1. 1868 until Nov. 21, 1868 RESIGNED Feb. 1, 1869 until Nov. 26, 1870 RESIGNED Chandler Baldwin Henry Christopher Cammidge Nov. 1, 1871 until Feb. 23, 1880 RES. Oct. 1, 1880 until Sep. 15, 1881 RESIGNED Robert Alexander M. D. Devitt Nov. 1, 1881 until Dec. 22, 1887 RESIGNED

R. W. Nickle Jan. 1, 1888 until Oct. 11, 1889 RESIGNED George E. Nerbergall Jan. 25, 1890 until Sep. 30, 1893 RESIGNED Benjamin (Ben) Nickle Jan. 1, 1894 until Nov. 16, 1895 RESIGNED M. J. Rourke Feb. 1, 1896 until May 16, 1900 RESIGNED July 1, 1900 until Mar. 9, 1927 DEATH William G. Simmie

George Alfred Perkins Mar. 10, 1927 ACTING

George Alfred Perkins May 4, 1927 until April 3, 1941 RESIGNED Carmon George Perkins May 15, 1941 until May 9, 1958 DEATH

Mrs. Norma Anne Perkins May 10, 1958 ACTING

Mrs. Norma Anne Perkins June 10, 1958 until Dec. 7, 1963 MARRIAGE Mrs. Norma Anne Cruickshank Dec. 8, 1963 until Jan. 7, 1970

Post office closed: Jan. 7, 1970 Non-accounting office number 78764

Postal Code N0H 1P0. Served by RR#2, Hepworth

The Many Faces Post Office

Alice Misch, Assistant Postmaster, Elmwood Post Office

C eptember 1, 1864 John Dirstein became the first postmaster in the Bruce County community of Elmwood. The Post Office was in his home, now belonging to Jeff Galloway, 7 Queen



Elmwood Post Office was located in this building on Queen Street West in 1864.

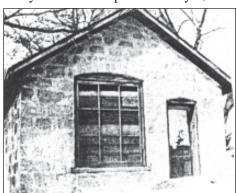
Street West. John Dierstein resigned February 15, 1873.

Prior to having a post office, Durham was the nearest office and any mail for the Elmwood district was received from Guelph once a week by horseback from Durham. With the opening of the Elmwood Post Office, service was begun between Elmwood and Hanover, with Hanover receiving mail from Durham. Elmwood was served by means of this route and mail was brought from Hanover once a week by horse and vehicle. The contractor was W. Smith.

On July 1, 1873 John Reinhardt replaced Mr. Dirstein as postmaster. He served until January 1, 1889.

In 1881 the first locomotive steamed through Elmwood and from that time until 1959, the village received mail by train. In June 1959, train service was discontinued and mail service has been by trucked in since that date.

In 1889 the Post Office was moved to John Ringel's Harness Shop, which is now the home of the Saugeen Credit Union. Postmaster James S. Laurie served from February 1, 1889 until his death March 27, 1907. He was followed by his daughter Mary Scott Laurie who officially assumed the position May 1, 1907. She resigned



Elmwood Post Office, 1915

from the post office June 27, 1914.

About 1915 the post office was moved to a little stone building which stood south of the Queen's Hotel. Eli

Mielhausen was Postmaster from August 15, 1914 until his resignation January 5, 1918. His daughter Alma assisted him until 1918.

On April 3, 1918 John Storrar became Postmaster until his death July 11, 1930. His wife Sara succeeded him on November 8 and held the posting until July 28, 1939. During Mr. Storrar's term, the post office was moved to the building north of the Queen's Hotel (10 Main St. South) now owned by Stuart Lamont. The post office was moved to this building some time before 1930 and remained there until March 28, 1998, approximately seventy years in one location.

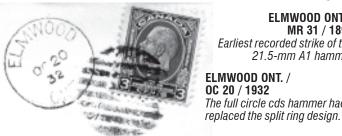
On September 22, 1939 Andrew Milne became the acting postmaster. This appointment became permanent on March 14, 1940. He was assisted by his wife until they retired September 30, 1964. He was Elmwood's longest serving postmaster. They owned the building and lived in the back portion.

On October 27, 1964 Stuart Lamont became Elmwood's ninth postmaster. He was assisted by his wife Phylis until he retired August 6, 1982.

Isabel Zimmerman was appointed postmistress in August, 1982 and Phylis Lamont remained as assistant until August, 1990. Alice Misch became assistant August, 1990 until present. Isabel Zimmerman retired September 27, 1997.

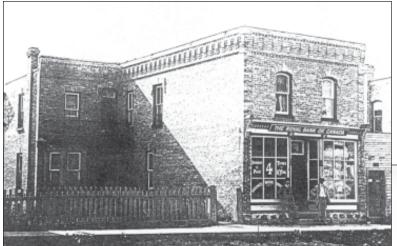
Terry Weber was postmaster from July, 1998 until February, 2001. Laurie Paylor was appointed postmaster November, 2001. ⊠





ELMWOOD ONT. / MR 31 / 1892 Earliest recorded strike of the 21.5-mm A1 hammer

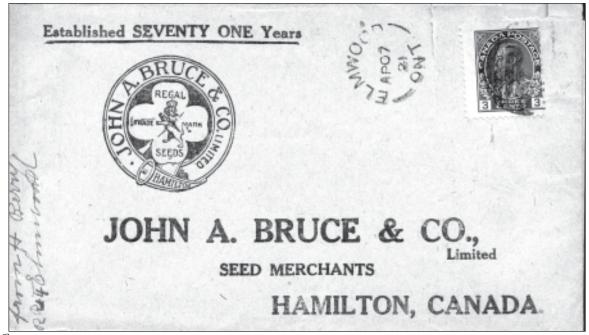
ELMWOOD ONT. / OC 20 / 1932 The full circle cds hammer had



The photo of the Royal Bank, 19 Main Street, was taken about 1895. The Post Office moved into this building sometime between 1918 and 1930. This building had also been used by Knowleson Grocery & Feed as well as having been the home of a bake shop. When Stuart lamont, Elmwood's ninth postmaster, bought the building in 1964, the bake oven was still on the back of the house. The Elmwood Post Office occupied this building for approximately seventy years of its life.

The Elmwood Post Office has been located in this building at 2 Main Street since 1998. In its past it had been a dry goods store operated by Iky Lorenz around the early 1900's. The Royal Bank of Canada owned the building until 1988 when it was sold to Donald and Deloris Curry. The Currie's operated an antique business from this location, living upstairs and renting part of the facility back to the Royal Bank. In December, 1997 the Royal Bank closed its once-a-week banking operation and in January 1998 John Schaer became the new owner. He renovated the facility and once again Canada Post followed the Royal Bank in becoming a tenant in a former bank.

ELMWOOD ONT. / AP 071 / 1921 Latest recorded strike of the 21-mm A1 hammer.





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Michael Millar, FRPSC,

292 Shanty Bay Road, Barrie, ON L4M 1E6 EMAIL: mmillar@cois.on.ca or phone (705) 726-5019

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from the Editor

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