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HANOYER of Saugeen country

PART II

by *James E. Kraemer*, F.R.P.S.C.

On February 2, 1914 Public Works Canada awarded a contract to W. E. Anderson & W. F. Beith to construct a public building 38 x 48 feet, to house the Post Office and Canada Customs. The post office moved into the new building located at 501 9th Avenue on October 5, 1914. The tower clock at the post office was supplied by John Smith & Sons, England, but was not installed until 1915. Over the years post office assistants were noted for their many years of service. Miss Pearl M. Dreier received her appointment in 1920. Miss Agnes Irene Lynn was first employed as an assistant on October 9, 1919 when she was 16 years old. Harold Orlando Helwig was sworn in effective July 1, 1920. He left the post office in 1922 but returned in 1925. Roy \$14,889 Hertzberger was an assistant during 1925-1926. Assistants received \$712.00 to \$900.00 in salaries annually. The or



\$14,889.36. Box rentals accounted for \$562.54. The postmaster received a salary of \$4,065.00 plus commissions.

The only altercation at the post office during the 18 years that Charles Coppinger was postmaster occurred in 1930. A high profile politician from out of town attempted to mail printed circulars for ½¢ each. (The ½¢ rate was for printed matter mailed by a local resident to local addresses. If the mail was from out of town the rate was 1¢ per circular.)

The post office was managed superbly. In 1933 Mr. Coppinger received a special postal award, the Gibson trophy, for operating the best and most efficient post office in Ontario. On the morning of January 16, 1934, Mr. Coppinger tripped while going downstairs in his home and was fatally injured. He died three days later at

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PROOF STRIKES

Three circular date stamps were put into circulation early in the 20th century.

the age of 61. The post office was transferred to his wife Mrs. Bird Luella Coppinger, in an acting capacity on January 17, 1934. The assistant in charge was 54-year-old Dennies Mills. A son, Thomas S. Coppinger also assisted. A competition for postmaster was held with nineteen candidates seeking the position. The successful candidate was James Scott Blake.

Mr. Blake was born in Galashiels, Scotland on June 7, 1887. He immigrated to Canada in 1910. After working for the T. Eaton Co. Ltd. for many years, interrupted by 3½ years overseas service in W.W. I with Toronto's 48th Highlanders. He was appointed Hanover's 6th post-

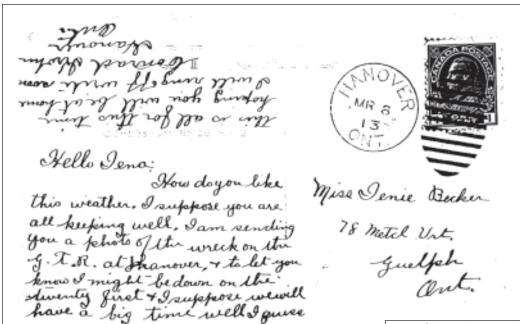
master effective May 31, 1934. Mrs. Bird Coppinger assumed the assistant's position. There were 2 full-time and 4 part-time assistants at the post office. Mrs. Coppinger joined the post office staff in 1908 and married Charles Coppinger in 1910.

Revenue increased yearly reaching \$16,486.30 in 1938-1939. By 1944-1946 revenue was \$23,996.24. Over the next five years revenue remained fairly static but by 1952-1953 it reached the \$30,000.00 plateau.

The post office employees at Hanover in 1953 were Harold O. Helwig and B. Kueneman, employed since 1940 and Miss J. Beryl Lorenz who had joined the post office in 1941. It was noted that the Hanover post office had 710 lock boxes (all rented), and that 350 families were served at the General Delivery wicket. The Department received complaints that only one clerk was on duty at times. As a result, postal officials from the office in Toronto carried out a review. (Hanover was in the Toronto District). The review showed that the post office was understaffed. Authority was immediately given to add one part-time clerk for five hours per day.

Two months later this was changed and authorization was given to add a full-time clerk.

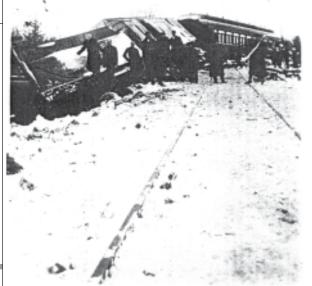
James S. Blake decided to retire and sent his resigna-tion to the post office department to be effective June 5, 1953. A competition for postmaster was advertised with the successful candidate being Robert O. Alexander of Owen Sound. The post office was transferred to Mr. Alexander on June 5, 1953. After a period of evaluation the new post-



Hanover, March 8, 1913 – This post card showing GTR train mishap at Hanover on March 5, 1913. The card was cancelled with the new Duplex hammer which had been proofed just ten days prior at the same time that the fifth A1 hammer was introduced. The domestic and U.S. post card rate in effect at the time was 1¢. This rate had been in use since June 1871 and was not changed until April 15, 1915.





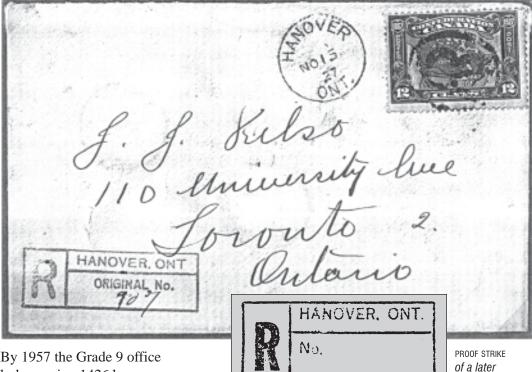


A registered letter to Toronto was charged the 2¢ domestic rate + 10¢ registration fee. This registration rate was in effect August 1, 1924 to April 1, 1951.

postmaster realized that the Hanover post office was understaffed. On April 23, 1954 he asked for additional help. The Department authorized the addition of a postal clerk, Grade 1, part-time, at 81¢ per hour. At the same time, September 1, 1954, a 5-day, 40-hour

workweek was authorized. By 1957 the Grade 9 office had a postmaster and five clerks serving 1426 householders, (up from 1075 in 1953), 710 lock box holders serving 1000 patrons plus 600 served by general delivery. The Federal Department of Public Works noted that the post office building on Lot 10 and part Lot 9 had been built in 1914 and was now (1959), 46 years old. The post office located at 501 9th Avenue, had become too small and crowded resulting in inefficiencies. As a result Public Works Canada on October 13, 1959 in their capital budget set aside funds in Category "B", for improved accommodations. A month later in November the post office asked that the addition to the Hanover post office be classified "A" giving the project a higher priority. They pointed out that Hanover was the transfer point for six highway services. There were 1536 householders and three rural routes serving 313 patrons.

Post office revenue increased steadily from \$36,700 in 1957 to \$44,600.00 in 1960. The population in 1960 reached 4000. In that year the post office employed 7 full time employees and 3 rural route carriers. In May



1960 the post office Department asked Public Works to provide an addition or erect a new federal building. Five months later in October 1960, Public Works decided to proceed with site procurement. They acquired Lot 32 and Lot 33 almost directly opposite 9th Avenue. The size of the property was 132 feet x 165 feet deep. On February 4, 1960, Treasury Board approved a new federal building for Hanover.

Robert Oliver Alexander who had served as post-



Post card photos of an earlier period in the life of Hanover – seen here is Main Street on the left and Main Street West above.





PROOF STRIKES





registration box.

Duplex hammers were a popular cancelling device at the Hanover Post Office as the five varieties indicate.





PROOF STRIKE of the last of five duplex hammers that served Hanover.

The business sector of Hanover with the post office tower just appearing on the left. Below is shown the new post office at 501 9th Ave.

master for 8 years died on May 30, 1961. The post office was transferred to Gordon William Allen on June 2, 1961. Mr. Allen had been with the post office since 1961 and was progressively promoted. On September 15, 1961 preliminary drawings for a 7,050 square foot building were

completed. Cost was estimated at \$102,000.00 but this was increased to \$135,000.00. Tenders were called on June 6, 1962. The contract for Hanover's new federal building was awarded to Melvin Frederick Wedow, (Mel Wedow Construction), for \$134,890.00.

Work was to be completed within eight months. The old buildings on the site were demolished on September 28, 1962, and the post office moved into its new quarters on June 8, 1962. Postal service started on June 10th. The staff who moved to the new Federal Building with Mr. Allen were: Harold Heibein, Ken Calder, Howard Helwig, Len Karl, Frank Sachs and Lorne Rekhop.

The town of Hanover experienced a rapid growth during the 1960's. By 1966 the population reached 4,665. The post office served 1,500 householders while general delivery and rural route patrons numbered 475 and 377 respectively. Revenue for 1969-1970 reached





PROOF STRIKES

A larger office — an Hanover by rural standards could be considered larger — require many date stamps in it s life. Here are two more circular date proofs.

\$85,455,31. In May 1970 postal authorities acknowledged that additional postal facilities were required. On July 15, 1970 the post office was raised to a Grade 7 category. At this time there were 7 male employees and 2 part-time employees. In February 1969 Leonard G. Karl and in January 1970 Clarence E. Byers had been appointed postal clerks, Class 3.

Postal authorities decided to inaugurate Letter Carrier service in Hanover and defer enlarging accommodations until the letter carrier service had started. In answer to an advertisement the post office received 85 applications for the position of letter carrier. Letter carrier service was inaugurated on September 27. 1971. Alterations to the post office building proceeded immediately and were completed on March 14. 1972.

In the 1950-1970 period mail distribution in the Hanover area was well organized. Hanover began serving as a hub when the Highway Mail Service was set up.

A Hanover-Southampton Highway Mail Service route, replaced the mail service to Southampton on June 22, 1959. The route was discontinued on July 31, 1964 but was re-instated on January 5, 1965 as the Walkerton-Southampton H.M.S. The contractor on the Hanover-Southampton route was Leslie Armstrong. His contract called for 6 trips per week rated at 42.7 miles. Chester

Cunningham was the contractor for H.M.S. between Hanover and Kincardine a distance of 35.5 miles. The service that started on April 30, 1962 was discontinued on July 31, 1964 with the last trip taking place on October 2, 1964.

The mail from Hanover's street letterboxes was collected and conveyed to the post office by Arthur C. Diebel. He was the contractor from October 1, 1956 until March 1, 1959 when a new tender was called. Robert C. Baetz was awarded the new contract.

Eighteen trips per week of 2.53 miles each were scheduled. This was reduced to 7 trips per week on October 5, 1964. Mr. Baetz resigned effective September 30,1972. Arthur C. Diebel was awarded the contract to pick up and deliver the mail between the Hanover post office and the C.N.R. station. The contract rated the distance as 893 yards and called for 24 trips per week.

Robert C. Baetz succeeded Mr. Diebel on March 1, 1959. The service was discontinued on June 20, 1959. Hanover, Rural Route 1 was 20.1 miles with 137 patrons in 1961. Dennis A. Jones who received the contract on June 1, 1955 gave up the route at the end of 1956.

Willard Cressman looked after the route from January 1, 1957 until April 1, 1957 when Ernest C. Brigham was

Post Office document showing the transfer of office from Robert O. Alexander to Gordon W. Allen. Note the use of the straight-line office number.

| | ANADA Post |
|--|--|
| TRANSFER OF POST OFFICE AT | /ER, ONT. Office Number of dis bureau 1377 |
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| from (Mr.) XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX | Si le bucous est de hanav- & frauçoise, pointer lei af |
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| à (M.) (ši**) (ši**) | |
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| | |
| R. O. Alexander (Deces: | sed) |
| (Mr.) (Mr.) (Mr.) (Mr.) (Mr.) (Mr.) | the retiring Postmas multre de poste sorte |
| | May 31st 61 |
| or the legal representative in case of death) is entitled to salary to ou le représentant légal en cas de décès), a droit oux appointements jusq | |
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HANOVER, ONT. Hanover OFFICE HOURS Post Office's hours of This Office is OPEN DAILY, except operation Sunday from 8.30 A.M. until 6.00 P.M. were obviously influenced by railway schedules. MAILS MAILS FOR DESPATCH ARE CLOSED 2 + 0.8. 172 (SOUTH) FOR GARLSBUHE at 7.00 AM For P+ O.S. 173 (NORTH) at 11.30 AM For p+ 0.5. 174 (SOUTH) at 12.00 NOON FOR TORONTO RAME (COUSE) at 3.00 pm FOY Pt DS 175 (NORTH) at 8.00 Pm at 9.35 p.m. For MAILS ARE DUE TO ARRIVE NTO AME From Pt O.S. 173 (KERTH) From p. + O.S. LTH (SOUTH) From p + 0.5 175 (MERTH) 10.00 PM. From. From. LETTERS FOR REGISTRATION MUST BE POSTED HALF AN HOUR PREVIOUS TO THE TIME FOR CLOSING THE MAILS Date APR 14 1954 83B-5,600-30-8-37 B. D. Alefande

awarded a contract. On July 1, 1969, RR#2 was amalgamated with RR#1. The result was an increase in mileage to 49 miles. RR#2's 75 patrons were added to those served by RR#1. Richard Price Jones who was the contractor for RR#2 since January 1, 1956 gave up the contract in 1967. Laverne Baker was the new contractor beginning November 1, 1967. His contract ended on June 30, 1969 when RR#2 amalgamated with RR#1.

Ernest George Jones began delivering the mail on August 29, 1956 on RR#3. He remained in service, 6 days per week for more than 18 years over this 24.4-mile route His last day was September 30, 1974. In 1969 RR#3, had 114 patrons.

Hanover RR#4 came into existence on April 3, 1970. The 16.3 mile route was formerly Carlsruhe RR#1. Walter Joseph Bucholtz served as courier from April 3, 1970 until June 30, 1972.

Hanover's three rural routes, RR#1, RR#2 and RR#4 were transferred to London District effective January 1, 1970. The contract for clearing the street letterboxes in Hanover was also transferred to the London District on January 1, 1970.

Gordon Allen was an efficient postmaster active in community affairs. He was a Rotarian, a member of the

Some Money Order Office instruments in use at the Hanover Post Office





HANOVER JAN 29 1836 ONT. PROOF STRIKES

of two Money Order Town

Office datestamps

HANOVER. MAR 14 1947 ONT.

3137 3137 3137

The single-line Money Order Office Numbers were seldom used to cancel postage, instead they found their use on official documents as shown on the previous page.



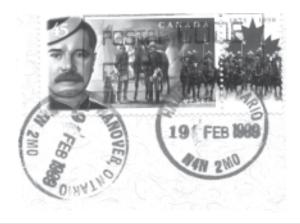
Two proof strikes of possibly the same hammer



Canadian Legion and sang in a barber shop quartette. In 1977 Mr. Allen became ill and had to go on sick leave. Lorne Rekhop took over the duties as a temporary acting postmaster.

On January 15, 1979 the Hanover Post Office was raised to a staff office, Grade 7. The organizational number for the post office, which was **3137**, was changed to **392014**, in area code 330100. On the same date William Allen was placed on permanent disability, David Wilson of Paris, Ontario was appointed postmaster. Mr. Wilson was the postmaster for seven years when he received a major promotion. He transferred to a larger office, Port Elgin as Postmaster on September 8, 1986. His successor was Wallace (Wally) Stewart. Mr. Stewart served two years and then retired in September 1988.

Mr. Stewart was succeeded in October, 1988 by Diane McNichol. In June, 1990 Ms Stewart was appointed postmaster at Listowel, Ontario. David Wilson, the postmaster at Port Elgin, was appointed postmaster at Hanover, effective July 1, 1990. Mr. Wilson had previously served at Hanover as postmaster from 1979 to 1986. In September 1992, Mr. Wilson



received a promotion and was appointed to the post office staff at Owen Sound, Ontario. In 1990-1992 Canada Post Corporation began phasing out the postmasters position in the larger (staff) offices where the employees sorted and delivered the mail as well as serving customers. These employees were represented by (C.U.P.W.), the Canadian Union of Postal Workers. A new position, a Lead Hand, was created. This position was represented by C.U.P.W. and reported to a Retail Representative. The Retail Representative supervised upwards of 20 offices of all types, staff, semi-staff, revenue and private sector outlets. The Hanover post office is classed as a Staff Office, Grade 7.

Joyce Gonder was appointed the first lead hand in 1990. She served until 1996 when Gloria Koebel became the lead hand. In August 2001, Debra Cassidy was named lead hand and still serves in that position.

Hanover's main post office at 501 9th Avenue, N4N 2M0 became a Letter Carrier Depot (CSC) on January 18, 1993. It was given the organizational number **093874.**

From September, 1992 until the fall of 2000 three Retail Representatives had supervised the Hanover Post Office. They were David Bourne, Ed Rebel and Douglas Townsand. In the fall of 2000, Local Area Managers replaced



Retail Representatives in the supervisory function. These managers have responsibilities for the supervision of a much larger number of offices. Super-intendents perform, however, some of the supervisory work in certain offices.

Diane McNichol, who had been postmaster at Hanover from 1988-1990, was appointed in September 1992, Superintendent of Operations for both Hanover and Listowel post offices. Ms McNichol reports to Douglas Doward, the Local Area Manager for the Stratford area.

Hanover's Postal Outlets

Hanover Sub #1 post office was established on June 15, 1987 at the Hanover Book and Music Store located at 224 7th Avenue (N4N 2H0). Its organizational number was 404837. Robert Peckham was in charge. This office was phased out on September 16, 1988 and replaced by a Postal Agency at the Hanover Memorial Hospital, 90 7th Avenue (N4N 1N1). This postal agency still functions today (2002).

Retail Postal Outlet #2, organizational number **408859**, opened at *Mac's Convenience Store*, 211 10th Street (N4N 1N0) on October 1, 1988. It closed on October 31, 1990.

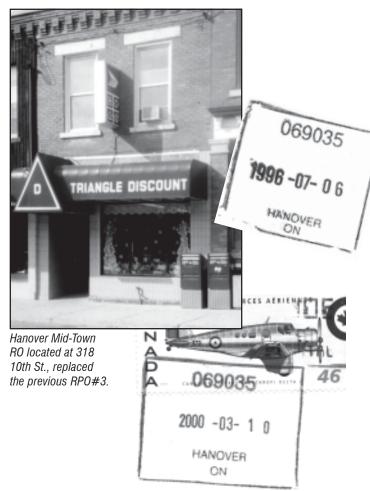
Retail Postal Outlet #3, organizational number **053627,** at *Holst Stationery*, 305 10th Street, (N4N 1P0) opened on December 31, 1991. It closed on April 1, 1992.

A new business, Triangle Discount at 318 10th Street replaced it on May 26, 1992. The Hanover Mid-town RO organization number is **069035**.

A **Hanover East** postal outlet opened on August 26, 1992 at Books Plus, located at 679B 10th Street, N4N 1M0. The organizational number was **084360**. This retail outlet closed on July 25, 1998.



- Office Service Records, File 38-75
- 3. Public Archives of canada, Postmasters Annual Returns & Letter Files, RG-3
- 4. Town of Hanover Homecoming Program (1994)
- 5. Canada Post Corporation, Huron Division (Communications), London, ON.
- 6. Peter Kritz, Saugeen Stamp Club
- 7. Hanover 2001, Information & Tourist Guide.



The Postmasters of Hanover

Post Office established: September 6, 1856

Abraham Zachariah Gottwals (Sep. 1, 1856 - Dec. 31, 1870) - Resigned Peter Campbell (Jan. 1, 1870 - May 15, 1872) - Resigned Thomas S. Coppinger (May 23, 1872 - Jan. 3, 1912) - Died in Office Charles Coppinger (Jan. 15, 1912 - Jan. 19, 1934) - Died in Office Mrs. Chas (Bird Luella) Coppinger (Jan. 17, 1934 - May 30, 1934) - Act. James Scott Blake (June 2, 1934 - June 5, 1953) - Resigned Robert O. Alexander (June 5, 1953 - May 30, 1961) - Died in Office Gordon Wm. Allen (June 2, 1961 - Jan. 15, 1979) - Disability leave David Wilson (Jan. 15, 1979 - Sep. 8, 1986) - Promotion Wallace (Wallie) Stewart (Sep. 8, 1986 - Sep. 1988) - Retirement Diane McNichol (Oct. 1988 - June, 1990) - Promotion David Wilson (July 1, 1990 - Sep. 1992) - Promotion

Postmaster's position phased out - September, 1992 Diane McNichol (Sep. 1992) – Appointed Superintendent of Operations



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From anywhere . . . to anyone in HANOVER and the

surrounding area . . .





An opportunity is on the horizon where this Study Group may wish to become a little more visible. In the past our group's main focus has been the newsletter and I do not see that really changing. We have also had some very informal gatherings at regional stamp shows in Owen Sound as well as in Barrie as we will this month at their 41st Annual Show and Bourse.

As most of us are aware the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada will have their annual show next year in Hanover, Ontario hosted by the Saugeen Stamp Club. The offer has been made to us to have a meeting space available and/or a table for a display. The Postal History Society of Canada will also have a table at that show and we could be very friendly neighbours sharing a very common bond (they after all are sponsors of this study group).

To make this all happen I need to hear from you, the members, without whom this study group would not exist. First of all, DO YOU WISH TO HAVE A MEET-ING? Second, DO YOU WISH TO HAVE A TABLE/DISPLAY? Third, ARE YOU WILLING TO CONTRIBUTE SOME TIME TO STAFF THE TABLE? The show is for three days and would require staffing on Friday (10-5); Saturday (10-5); and Sunday (10-4). Obviously, no staff – no display. Please let me know your wishes and how much time you are willing to contribute to take this opportunity to make it happen. With 65 members in our group this could be a real possibility.

EDITORAL Commentary

[REF. 156]

Gus Knierim

Another volume and another year have come to an end. Our Study Group has grown to 65 members and we are still getting inquiries – all of this in an era when the hobby appears to be shrinking in numbers, or perhaps that is just an illusion.

We are always looking for more articles. The ideal is enough material to fill about 3-4 pages, beyond that I will split the article between two or three issues. I thank

those that have supported us with material and encourage those that have not tried there hand at it. I promise you that your interest in postal history will multiply and will reward you with great satisfaction.

For most members this is renewal time. So if your code ends with "-28", please take a moment to renew your subscription. It is not very rewarding for the editor to have to write renewal reminders, I would rather spend the

1000 CENTS

For many of our members **DUES are DUE.** "-28"

The newsletter is produced at cost. Please renew promptly.

Thank you

time on philatelic research. But in case some of you have wondered, our policy is to send two issues beyond the expiry date – and that is it.

Please take note of the announcement of the **Barrie Stamp Club's 41st Annual Exhibition and Bourse.** It is an excellent show to meet other postal historians and because of that I invite all to attend our informal CHAT SESSION around 2:30 in the afternoon on October 26th.

Hope to see you there! Gus Knierim, editor

Barrie Waterfront – It is train time at the GTR Station. The large building with tower in the background is the Barrie Post Office as seen on an old Valentine postcard (113737)





Dan McInnis; Gus Knierim Bruce County

How big is small when it comes to establishing the size of a hamlet? That is certainly a question that could be asked when researching the hamlet of Outram in the northeast corner of Brant Township. A post office was established November 1, 1864 with David Smith appointed as the first postmaster. According to the Postmaster files at the National Archives the position was considered vacant as of October 2, 1870. One must assume that no replacement was found and David Smith was reappointed February 28, 1871. Mr. Smith remained as postmas-



Paid Foronto P.a.

A letter to the Hon. T. B. Pardee, Toronto P.O. It is backstamped at Toronto and at the House of Assembly, Ontario.

Interesting to note that underneath the manuscript "March" is a faint FE date slug. It appears that the MR slug was either lost or misplaced.

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ter until June 13, 1876.

According to the 1867 County of Bruce Directory published by J. W. Rooklidge, Outram was of no significance as it did not warrant an entry in the directory other than mentioning that the community had a post office.

David Smith, postmaster, was a landowner occupying Lot 26 and 26 in Concession 13 of Brant Township. This coincides with the location of Outram on Eric Manchee's map.

Robert Lamont succeeded David Smith as postmaster presumably in 1876. However, because of the inability to furnish bonds he had to vacate the position and the post office was permanently closed March 31, 1877. The directory does not list him as a landowner. A Joseph

Lamont is listed as landowner of Lot 24, Concession 9. At this

time we do not know the relationship, if any, that existed between Robert and Joseph.

The Outram 20-mm A2 hammer was proofed September 30, 1864. No known examples of this hammer are listed in Bruce Graham's, *Ontario Broken Circles* handbook. We thank member Dan McInnis, for supplying the cover shown here which appears to be the only known example.



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

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ONTARIO POSTAL UPDATES

available from the Editor for the following Counties and Districts

- BRUCE COUNTY (8 pgs) . . . 80¢ + postage
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Postage: (min. 96¢ - up to 14 pages)

Combine reports and save on postage - shipped flat



EXHIBITION & DEALERS' BOURSE



Saturday October 26, 2002

10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

in THE TRILLIUM ROOM

The Event Centre (Barrie Fairgrounds)

Essa Road, Barrie, Ontario [Take Exit 94 from Highway 400 North]

Free Admission • 18 Dealers

2:30 p.m. – Meeting of the GBD&S Study Group

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This newsletter is the printed forum of the Grey, Bruce, Dufferin & Simcoe Postal History Study Group affiliated with the Postal History Society of Canada. It is currently published 6 times a year: January, March, May, July, September and November. Copy deadline is 3 weeks before the 1st of the above-mentioned months.

Membership costs \$10 per year (6 issues) and is payable to the editor J. (Gus) Knierim

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BARRIE DISTRICT STAMP CLUB – Club meets on the SECOND WEDNESDAY of the month, 7:30 p.m., at 101 Ardagh Road, Barrie.

CONTACT Marjorie Coakwell, (705) 323-9072

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**, (705) 429-4094; or **Horst Bolik** (705) 429-4061

KINCARDINE STAMP CLUB — Club meets on the FIRST WEDNES-DAY 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 WEDNES-DAY** of the month, 7:00 p.m., at St. George's Anglican Church, 149 4th Ave. East, Owen Sound.

CONTACT Robert Ford, (519) 376-4788

SAUGEEN STAMP CLUB – Club meets on the **FIRST TUESDAY** of the month, 7:30 p.m., at the Hanover Library, 451 10th Ave., Hanover. *Peter Kritz*, (519) 364-4752; *Jim Measures* (519) 327-8265

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Your help is appreciated . . .

Michael Millar, FRPSC,

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