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A SOCIO-POSTAL [REF. 165]
HISTORY OF
MUMICIPALITY OF
NORTHERN
BRUCE PENINSULA

by James E. Kraemer, FRPSC, FRPSL

Part II

LINDSAY TOWNSHIP

On January 1, 1999 Lindsay Township became part of the Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula. The other members of the new municipality are St. Edmunds Township, Eastnor Township and the town of Lion's Head.

In 1903 Lindsay Township separated from the United

Townships of St. Edmunds and Lindsay and set up its own government. Lord Bury named the township in honour of his mother's family, Lindsay. (Earl Lindsay's family name is of great antiquity dating back to the 12th century to Sir Walter de Lindesia. They held the great mountain district of Crawford in Clydesdale, Scotland for many, many years.)

J. S. Dennis, P.L.S., and H. C. Boulton, P.L.S., made a township survey in 1857. The

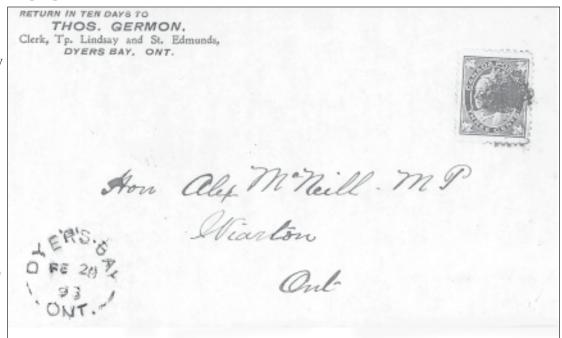
township contains 105½ square miles (273 square kilometres).

The first settler, Abraham West came into the township in the late 1860s. The 1871 census showed a population of twenty. By 1866 it was noted that there were 303 inhabitants. The townships first land was sold in 1870. The purchasers were lumber dealers who cut off the timber and then abandoned the land. By 1879 all but one sawmill had disappeared. Since few areas in the township were fit for cultivation, farming was not very successful. In 1901 the county evaluators stated that the township possessed "very little good land". Farming reached its most progressive period in the 1930's and then declined. Today (2002) there are only about 12 progressive farms left in the township.

The largest lake in Lindsay Township is Miller Lake. Some of the larger lakes are Gillies, Brittain, Argue, Ira and Otter. The future will no doubt see tourism develop into the township's most promising industry. The fisher-

DYER'S BAY • ONT. / FE 28 / 1898

A letter from Thos. Germon, Township Clerk, addressed to the MP Alex McNeill at Wiarton.



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A Socio-Postal History of the Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula – Lindsay Twp., Dyers Bay, Cape Chin [J. Kraemer] 165 295 Questions about a Letter from New Lowell [Gus Knierim] 166 303 man finds many opportunities to ply his sport in the many streams and lakes.

Five post offices have been established in Lindsay Township. The first Stokes Bay, on September 8, 1878, followed by Dyers Bay in 1881, Cape Chin in 1883, Miller Lake in 1888 and Brinkman's Corners in 1899. Miller Lake is the only post office still operating (2002).

The village of Stokes Bay is in Eastnor Township. But when the post office was established it was located over a mile north of the village, on Lot 5, Concession 2, WBR, in Lindsay Township. The first postmaster William Lyons located the office in his residence. In 1884 Stokes Bay post office moved into the village in Eastnor Township. (The author has included the postal history of Stokes Bay under Eastnor Township.)

DYERS BAY

Picturesque Dyers Bay on the eastern side of Lindsay Township on the shore of Georgian Bay is about 33 miles (53 kilometres) northwest of Wiarton. Samuel de Champlain apparently saw the Bruce peninsula in 1616 but did not make a sketch of the area until 1632. Sanson's map of 1656 indicates that the lost Jesuit mission of St. Simon and St. Jude was in the vicinity of Dyers Bay. Father Du Creux in 1660 reaffirms the site of the mission in a geographic sketch. It is possible that the remains of the lost mission may some day be discovered in the vicinity of Dyers Bay.

In 1725 the geographer de Léry drew a map of the area showing an Indian village on the site that is today, Dyers Bay. The village was shown as, "Papinachois", meaning, "Funny Men". The Indian village disappeared and eventually the community that took shape became known as Dyers Bay. It took its name from the bay that had been named Dyer Bay by Admiral Henry Wolsey Bayfield, R.N., in 1816 when he did a marine survey of the Bruce Peninsula. (He had been promoted to an Admiral in 1816.) He named the bay in honour of John Jones Dyer, Chief Clerk of the Admiralty.





Boating the mail across the flooded Dyers Bay flats (1940s).

Postmark is a proof strike of the first A1 hammer used at Dyers Bay.

COURTESY OF Proud People: The Lindsay Township History Book, 1987.

Among the first settlers to arrive in 1880 was Alexander T. Simpson. The road from Lion's Head to Dyers Bay was completed the same year. One year later in 1881 Mr. Simpson contacted the postal authorities in Ottawa and requested that a post office, the first in the township, be established. The Post Office Department agreed and named the post office Dyers Bay not Dyer Bay. Mr. Simpson was appointed postmaster when the post office was established on December 1, 1881. He was appointed Township Pound Keeper in 1883 and in 1885 Chairman of the School Board. Mr. Simpson left the area quite abruptly in the fall of 1888 without notifying the postal authorities. The Department appointed Thomas Tyndall as postmaster on December 8, 1888. He served on the Township Council from 1889 until 1891. Mr. Tyndall moved the post office into the general store operated by his son William. Thomas Tyndall and his wife Mary, nee Christian, had moved to Dyers Bay from Barrow Bay in 1887. Originally they lived in Palmerston and moved to Barrow Bay where they farmed 200 acres. Thomas Tyndall faithfully served the public for

almost 21 years. He passed away while still in office on May 9, 1909.

Thomas Tyndall's two other sons, John (Jack) and Arthur, had assisted their father at the post office for some time. Arthur Tyndall succeeded his father and was appointed postmaster on July 5, 1909. Almost 14 months later

Loading lumber at Dyers Bay. Logging and the accompanying sawmills were big business at the beginning of the 1900s.

COURTESY OF Proud People: The Lindsay Township History Book, 1987.





Dyer's Bay second A1 hammer clearly shows the apostrophe.

Dyer's Bay store c. 1900. Wm. Tyndall on left was postmaster from 1912 until 1915. Eileen Tyndall is the little girl standing with the open doorway behind her. She became postmaster in 1934.

COURTESY OF Proud People: The Lindsay Township History Book, 1987.

John and Arthur purchased the general store from their brother William. Believing that he did not have sufficient time to attend to post office matters, Arthur Tyndall resigned as postmaster.

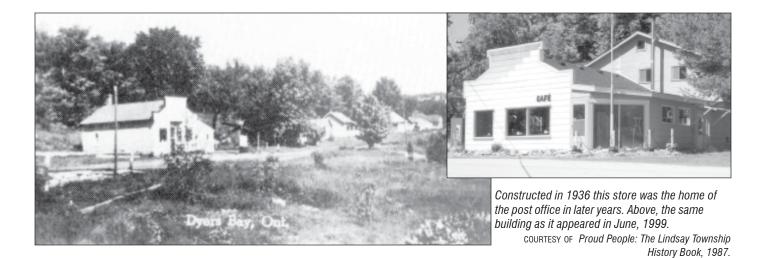
The new postmaster, Andrew Livingstone moved the post office to his residence about 1½ miles from the shore. He served as postmaster from September 24, 1910 until July 13, 1912. Mr. Livingstone served for almost two years before giving notice that he was resigning effective July 13, 1912. The post office moved back to the Tyndall store. This time William H. Tyndall, who formerly owned the store, was appointed postmaster. William resigned in May 1915 and his son Arthur R. Tyndall was appointed to succeed him. Arthur's sister-in-law, Mrs. John Tyndall was named as his assistant. In 1929 Miss Eileen Tyndall, Arthur's 18-

year-old daughter, was sworn in as an assistant. She was destined to stay with the post office for the next 14 years, until 1943. In the early 1930's Arthur's brother John also served as an assistant for several years.

After a postmastership that lasted for over 19 years Arthur Tyndall decided to take life easier and resigned. He sold his half interest in the store to Edward Hill. His daughter Eileen Beatrice Tyndall, who now had 5 years post office experience was appointed to the position of postmaster on November 5, 1934. In October 1936 the Tyndall brothers, John and Arthur sold their general store to Clayton Brinkman and his brother-in-law Edward Hill. Eileen Tyndall submitted her resignation. Mr. Brinkman applied for the post office and received his appointment as postmaster on December 19, 1936. Almost one year later Brinkman, in a letter to the Department dated

DYER S • BAY ONT. NO 3 / 1927 The altered second A1 hammer, known used as early as January 5, 1915, shows the gap left by the removal of the apostrophe.





November 16, 1937 offered his resignation. Official records show that his salary for the fiscal year 1937-8 was \$130.38. It is apparent that the 26-year-old Brinkman did not forfeit too much when he gave up the post office. He sold his interest in the store to Ed Hill.

The post office was transferred to Brinkman's former partner, Edward Hill on January 15, 1938. Mr. Hill's wife Erma (nee Brinkman) was sworn in as his assistant.

The discipline rigidly exercised by the Post Office Department is exemplified in an amusing incident that happened during Mr. Hill's term of office. On May 5, 1940 Mr. Hill reported that he had lost his mail bag key.

MISSENT.TO INSURED PARCEL

INSUFFICIENTLY No.

PREPAID

NOT-CALLED-FOR

RETURNED-TO

INSURED PARCEL

Colis Assuré

No.

DYER'S BAY, Ont

ORIGINAL No.

He wrote, "The key was kept on a hook on the post office wall. The waste paper box was under the key. I did not miss the key until I had emptied the ashes. The ashes are emptied into the lake." Postmaster Hill was fined \$1.00 and charged 20¢ for a new key. Miss Eileen Tyndall, a former postmistress continued to work in the store and serve as an assistant to the postmaster.

On September 9, 1943 Edward Hill notified the Department that he had sold the store and house to Mr. Croft R. Garnham of Brantford and offered his resignation. By 1942-1943 revenue reached \$223.48 with the postmasters remuneration for the year being \$231.30.

Mr. Garnham made application for the post office but since he did not have residence qualifications he received a temporary appointment as postmaster on May 11, 1944. Mrs. Nettie Pearl Garnham, the postmaster's wife, as well as Miss Eileen Tyndall were named as the postmaster's assistants. On August 15, 1944, Postmaster Garnham was confirmed in office. Croft Garnham was very active in local affairs. He acted as a guide, managed an ice house and helped bring hydro to the bay in 1948. He also owned and operated The Lakeview Inn across the road from his store. Less than two years after he was confirmed in office. Mr. Garnham sold the store to Miss Dorothy Hunter and Mrs. Ola Cannon, Garnham offered his resignation and Dorothy Hunter made an application for the postmaster's position.

The postal authorities carried out a study of the postal service in the area during April 1946. It noted that Charles Tyndall was the courier who brought the mail under contract to Dyers Bay via Brinkman's Corners and Cape Chin. As a result of the study the Department decided to establish a new



Clayton Brinkman and Ed Hill with their delivery truck. Both served as postmasters of this community.

COURTESY OF Proud People: The Lindsay Township History Book, 1987.

service on January 1, 1947 known as RR #1 Miller Lake. The new contract was awarded to Charles Tyndall at \$660.00 per annum plus \$300.00 winter travel bonus. The mail was to be carried from Miller Lake to Dyers Bay via Brickman's Corners. The latter post office was only 3.7 miles from Dyers Bay and due to its limited usefulness, (revenue in 1945-1946 was only \$78.53.) was being closed. Twenty-one families were patrons of the Dyers Bay post office. They would be served by the new rural route during the period that the Dyers Bay post office was inoperative. Henceforth Dyers Bay would be a summer office only.

Miss Dorothy Loretta Hunter was officially appointed Acting Postmaster on October 17, 1946. Mrs. Ola

Cannon was sworn in as her assistant. Both Miss Hunter and Mrs. Cannon who had renamed the store, "Hunter and Cannon General Store", had acted as post office assistants since April. Dyers Bay post office closed on December 31, 1946. The Post Office Department noted that there were seven year-round residents plus 55 summer cottages and advised the residents that the post office would reopen on June 16, 1947 as a Summer Office, closing each year at the end of September. Miss Hunter was re-appointed as the Postmaster. During August and September 1947 Miss Hunter and the District Postal Inspector, J. W. Stewart pleaded with the Department for a postal facility that would operate yearround. They pointed out that Cabot Head lighthouse depended on Dyers Bay post office. The Department rejected all requests but finally two years later in 1949, extended summer service from May 1 to September 30th.

In a letter dated December 16, 1950 Miss Hunter and her assistant Mrs. Cannon advised the Department that they had sold the store to Lawrence Lynch and were tendering their resignations. A few days later Mr. Lynch made application for the post office. Mr. D. B. Blue, the local Member of Parliament. recommended that the post office be in the general store and that Mr. Lynch be appointed postmaster. The store had been constructed in 1936. The post office reopened for the summer season with Mr. Lynch as postmaster on May 1, 1951. Revenue for the previous year (1950), was \$167.89. The postmaster's salary was \$175.00 plus \$13.43 rent allowance. Mails were exchanged with RR #1 Miller Lake. The postmaster at Lion's Head supervised the Dyers Bay office. Miss Lottie M. Lynch, the postmaster's sister

IMPRESSIONS OF ALL STAMPS TO BE

RETURNED TO
NOT CALLED FOR

INSURED PARCEL

INSURED PARCEL

PREPAID

The annual postmaster's inspection was also a time to make an impression of all hand stamps that were in use in the office. On the far left we have the report of October 9, 1929, and to the right a similar report dated October 16, 1946.

was named his assistant. Lawrence Lynch was a carpenter and served for some time as a trustee on the School Board.

On May 1, 1958 mail distribution for Dyers Bay during the summer months was via Wiarton, Hamilton and Owen Sound R.P.O. #173. Two years later starting May 2, 1960 distribution was via Guelph and Wiarton Hi-way Service. In October 1964 the Canadian Permanent Commission on Geographic Names of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys (Ottawa), asked the Post Office Department if there would be any objections in changing the name from Dyers Bay to Dyer Bay. Mrs. Freida Meyer, Lindsay Township Clerk, the local authority, requested that the name not be changed.

After 15 years of excellent service, Mr. Lynch in a letter to J. A. Flaherty, District Director, London, Ontario, dated April 18, 1966 advised that he had sold the store and post office to Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Bartley. When the post office re-opened for the summer on May 2, 1966 it was transferred to Mrs. Annie H. Bartley on a temporary basis. During the decade 1949-1959 postal revenue remained at slightly less than \$200.00 per annum. Classification was in Group 4 and latterly in Group 5. Mrs. Bartley's appointment became permanent on June 27, 1966. The number of summer transient patrons served in 1966 were between 75 and 100. The postmaster's salary in 1966 was \$435.00. Due to the increase in sales the post office was reclassified to Group 3 on September 9, 1968. The postmaster's salary also increased to \$900.00 per annum. Over the following decade revenue increased, reaching \$542.45 in 1978. The post office went from Group 3 to Group 2 and Group 1, as it was reclassified. The postmaster's salary increased accordingly to \$1,440.00 per annum, to \$1,660.00 per annum.

Mrs. Bartley had been the postmaster for ten years when she sold the business to Kenneth and Jean Ramsay, and resigned as postmaster. Mr. Ramsay was appointed postmaster on May 24, 1977. While Ken Ramsay was officially the postmaster, his wife who was sworn in as his assistant, did practically all the work entailed with the postal service.

Ken and Jean Ramsay, who had purchased the Lakeview Inn in 1974, closed the store in 1984. The post office, a summer office, was permanently closed on April 1, 1986. Residents started to be served by rural route from Miller Lake.

DYER'S BAY or **DYERS BAY** that is the question. The Lindsay Township History Book calls it Dyers Bay without the apostrophe. The second A1 hammer was issued with the apostrophe, but soon afterwards the apostrophe was excised. The registration box shown in the article has the apostrophe. Ontario Highway maps have shown it as Dyer Bay as well as Dyers Bay.

The Postmasters of Dyers Bay

Post Office established	Dec. 1, 1881	
Alexander T. Simpson	Dec. 1, 1881 until Nov., 1888	LEFT AREA
Thomas Tyndall	Dec. 8, 1888 until May 9, 1909	DIED
Arthur Tyndall	July 5, 1909 until Aug. 22, 1910	RESIGNED
Andrew Livingstone	Sep. 24, 1910 until July 13, 1912	RESIGNED
William H Tyndall	Sep. 12, 1912 until May 13, 1915	RESIGNED
Arthur R Tyndall	July 14, 1915 until Sep. 6, 1934	RESIGNED
Miss Eileen Beatrice Tyndall	Nov. 5, 1934 until Oct. 7, 1936	RESIGNED
Clayton Brinkman	Dec. 19, 1936 until Jan. 14, 1938	RESIGNED
Edward Hill	Jan. 15, 1938 until May 10, 1944	RESIGNED
Croft Robert Garnham	May 11, 1944	ACTING
Croft Robert Garnham	Aug. 15, 1944 until Oct. 16, 1946	RESIGNED
Miss Dorothy Loretta Hunter	Oct. 17, 1946 until Dec. 31, 1946	CLOSED
Post Office closed	December 31, 1946	

DYERS BA Y (Summer Office)

Post Office reopened	June 16, 1947	
Miss Dorothy Loretta Hunter	June 6, 1947 until Dec. 15, 1950	RESIGNED
Lawrence Lynch	May 1, 1951 until April 20, 1966	RESIGNED
Mrs. Annie H. Bartley	May 2, 1966	ACTING
Mrs. Annie H. Bartley	June 27, 1966 until Sep. 30, 1976	RESIGNED
Kenneth Ramsay	May 24, 1977 until Aug. 31, 1985	CLOSED
Post Office closed	April 1, 1986	

Non Accounting post office: **79145**

Computer office N° **396001** (Estab. April 1, 1973)

Postal Code: N0H 1M0

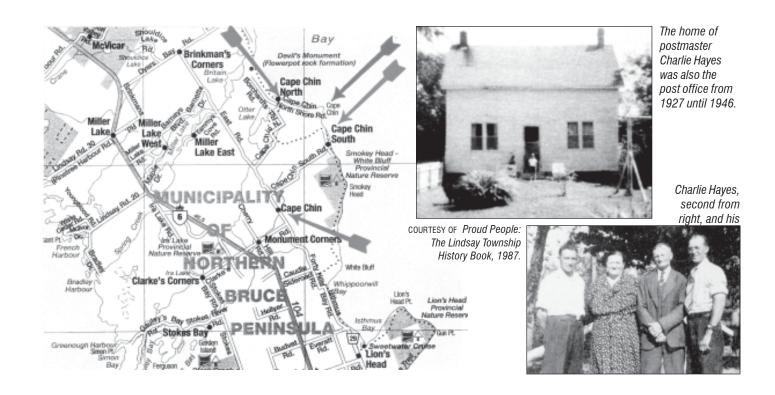
CAPE CHIN

Cape Chin is a cape located on the east side of Lindsay Township jutting into Georgian Bay at the southern tip of Dyer Bay. The Cape Chin post office was established in Alexander Currie's home on Lot 15, Concession 4, EBR on May 1, 1883. Mr. Currie was appointed the first postmaster at Cape Chin. He was active in municipal affairs. Besides being a township pioneer, he was the township's treasurer, (1884-1893), and its first tax collector. Alex Currie served as a Councillor for two years, 1900-1901.

With the opening of the Cape Chin post office a new courier contract to carry the mail from Lion's Head to Dyers Bay via Cape Chin was awarded to Robert Currie, a brother to Cape Chin's postmaster, Alexander Currie. Bob Currie first carried the mail on foot, later using a horse and saddle. As the roads improved in the 1890s he was able to use a horse and buggy on the two-day round trip. Alexander Currie resigned as postmaster on January 2, 1891 and was succeeded by William Weatherhead. This was the beginning of a long dedicated postal service. Mr. Weatherhead moved the post office to his residence.

Bob Currie was the Lion's Head-Dyers Bay mail courier for 30 years. In 1913 he decided it was time to quit. The route was taken over by his son-in-law, Charles Caudle. After serving almost 29 years as postmaster Mr. Weatherhead resigned on February 10, 1930. The Post Office department declared the post office officially closed on May 8, 1920.

Cape Chin post office reopened on October 1, 1921



with Angus Donald McArthur named postmaster. Mr. McArthur being a returned overseas soldier received preferential treatment when he was selected for the postmaster's position. He had served with the 7th Battalion Engineers and was wounded at Arras, France in July 1918. After serving as postmaster for just over two years Mr. McArthur resigned on November 26, 1923. The post office remained officially closed for the next four years with various citizens acting unofficially as mail custodians. Patrons received their mail via the Lions Head-Dyers Bay postal service.

The Cape Chin post office reopened on October 15, 1927 with Charles Malachi Hayes as postmaster, Mr. Hayes and his wife Eliza, his postal assistant, were both very active in municipal and community affairs. Charles Hayes was township clerk from 1927 until his death in 1960. He received many accolades for his long service. Both the post office and the township clerk's office were in Mr. Hayes residence on Lot 9, Concession 5, EBR.

The hamlet of Cape Chin is located on the road that runs from Lion's Head to Brinkman's Corners. It is over 10 miles as the crow flies from the cape on Georgian Bay that bears the name Cape Chin. North of the Cape Chin hamlet two roads run to the bay on either side of the cape, the South Road to Cape Chin South and the North Road to Cape Chin North. Both communities consist of cottage and summer home residents. Neither has ever had a post office.

During Mr. Hayes postmastership, Charles Caudle, the mail courier since 1913, retired in 1931. By this time he could make the round trip in 5 hours by automobile compared to two days by horse and buggy in 1913. Charles Tyndall and his sons operated a mail stage between Lion's Head and Dyers Bay starting in 1931. They carried the mail plus passengers and produce. Their contract to convey the mail ended on July 31, 1946

when rural mail delivery was established.

The postal authorities felt that the Cape Chin post office provided too limited a service and that



THANK YOU

CANADA POSTES

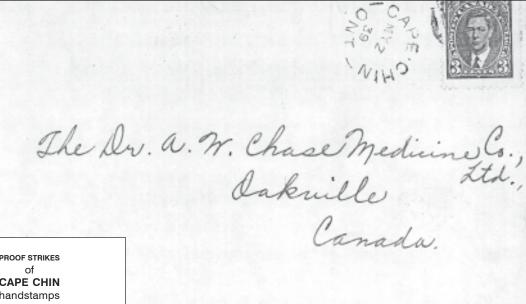
POST CANADA

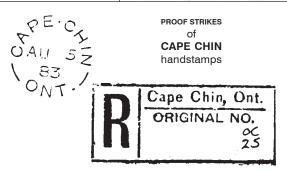
CPC OWEN SOUND LOCAL AREA

a proud sponsor and supporter of the GREY, BRUCE, DUFFERIN & SIMCOE Postal History Study Group From anywhere . . . to anyone
in LIONS HEAD and the

surrounding area . . .







its patrons could be better served by the rural mail courier, The Cape Chin post office closed on July 30, 1946. The next day Lion's Head RR #4 started service to the area. Mr. Hayes had served for more than nineteen years – a remarkable record. Sixteen years later, in 1962, a son Alfred Howard Hayes was appointed postmaster at Miller Lake, Ontario.

The origin of the name Cape Chin seems obscure. One old timer said that the cape resembled a man's chin and hence the name. Until a better explanation is discovered this will have to suffice for the present. Today the original setting of Cape Chin is considered a remote section of the township. The area is known as the Forty Hills.

St. Margaret's Chapel, built in 1927, is the significant landmark of the area. Built of stone, it is modelled after St. Margaret's Anglican Church in England. The pretty church now serves as a chapel visited by the many tourists who come to the area each year.

The Postmasters of Cape Chin

Post office established	May 1, 1883	
Alexander Currie	May 1, 1883 until Jan. 2, 1891	RESIGNED
William Weatherhead	July 14, 1891 until Feb. 10, 1920	RESIGNED
Post office closed	May 8. 1920	
Post office reopened	Oct. 1, 1921	
Angus Donald McArthur	Oct. 1, 1921 until Nov. 26,1923	RESIGNED
Post office inoperative	Nov. 27, 1923 until Oct. 14, 1927	
Charles M. Hayes	Oct. 15, 1927 until July 31, 1946	CLOSED
Post office closed	July 31, 1946	



St. Margaret's Chapel at Cape Chin.

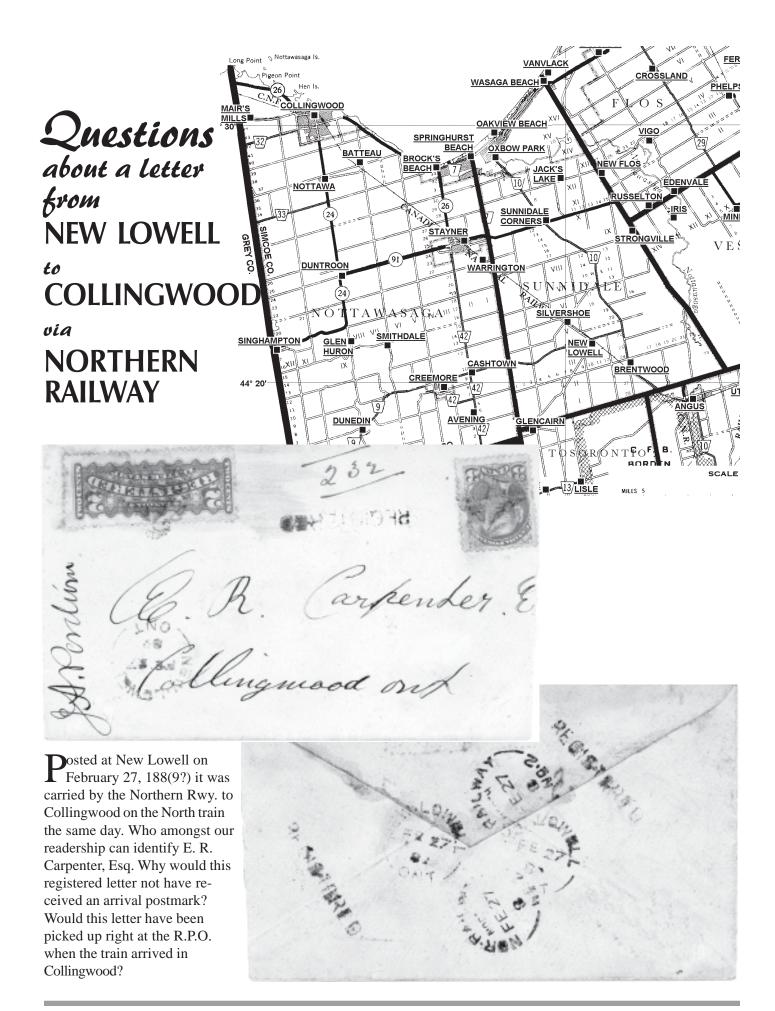
Proud People:

The Lindsay Township History Book

compiled by the Lindsay Township Historical Society in 1987 and edited by Allan Bartley

is an excellent social commentary and local history for this area of the Bruce Peninsula.

IT MAY BE BORROWED FROM YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY THROUGH THE INTER-LIBRARY LOAN SYSTEM.







This issue of the **GBD&S** *Newsletter* is being mailed from the village of Bognor in the Grey Highlands using a newly issued Bognor promotional pre-stamped envelope!

New IMPORTANT DISCOVERY reported in the PHSC Journal 113

The March issue of the PHSC *Journal* has a detailed and illustrated report on this new discovery. The village of **CLARKSBURG** has had a post office since 1862. Previously the earliest known covers date back to only 1869. Not only have we an early date of June 25, 1863, but also a totally new hammer – a Scrimgeour A5x.

For collectors of Ontario postal history the PHSC *Journal* runs a regular column of new and significant finds . . .

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Newsletter *is in need* of some shorter articles, illustrations

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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-GEORGIAN BAY COIN & STAMP CLUB – Club meets on the **SECOND WEDNESDAY** of the month, 7:00 p.m., at the Wasaga Beach Library and the **FOURTH TUESDAY** 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

JOIN A CLUB - SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE