



The Grey, Bruce, Dufferin & Simcoe POSTAL HISTORY STUDY GROUP

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ARTEMESIA [REF. 175]

Flesherton

Postal Affairs
until 1900

John Rossiter

The Artemesia Post Office was the first of ten post offices established in Artemesia Town-ship. Two of these offices changed their names. The Artemesia office was renamed Flesherton and the Flesherton Station office was renamed Ceylon.

In 1849, couriers on horseback brought in the first

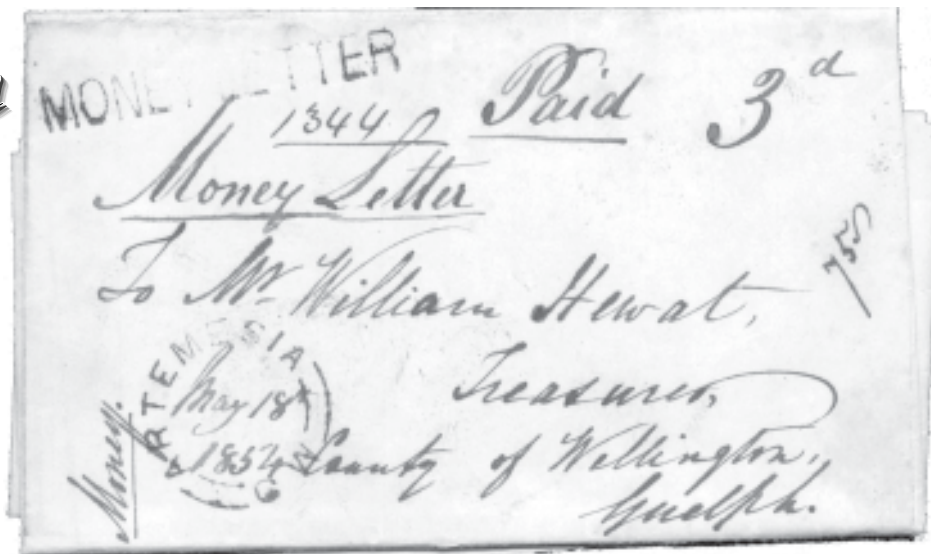
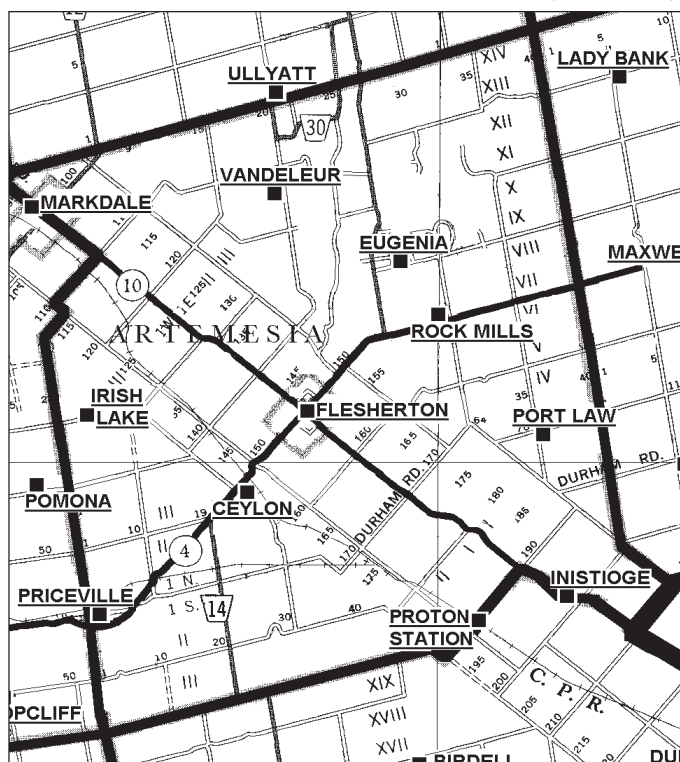


Fig. 1 – ARTEMESIA C.W / May 18 / 1854.
Money Letter from the Treasurer of Artemesia Twp.
to the Treasurer of Wellington County, Guelph.

Artemesia Township is located in the southeastern part of Grey County.

COURTESY – Ontario Post Office Atlas



mail from Melancthon to the surrounding area, that eventually became Flesherton.

The survey of Artemesia Township was completed between 1849 and 1851. It was during these years that the Toronto and Sydenham Road (Hwy. 10) and the Durham Road (Cty Rd. 4) were laid out crisscrossing the township. On July 1, 1851 a post office named Artemesia was established at the intersection of these two roads with John Sproule as Postmaster. Prior to the establishment of the Artemesia post office many settlers would only receive their mail once in several months, as many used the post office at Orangeville – 30 miles distant. The following letter (Ref. “A History of the County of Grey”) was written by a settler’s daughter to

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her friend in Toronto, and explains the importance of the opening of this post office to the local settlers:

“Now at least I can write you knowing my letter will be posted. I have written you dozens of letters before, but none were ever posted. It is over thirty miles to Orangeville, less the other way, but a terrible road. But now just think, Artemesia has an office where two roads cross, and only five miles from here. I am going to walk down and post your letter myself. I am not much afraid of bears, even if I should meet one. I saw one the other day, and it was so busy picking berries at the other end of the patch I was in, that it never noticed me. It was the funniest thing to see it standing on its hind legs pulling the berries off the bushes with its paws. I was close enough to see berry juice on its whiskers.”

The earliest Artemesia cover recorded by W. Bruce Graham is dated March 16, 1852 and is a double split ring hammer, script dated, 25mm in diameter. The Artemesia cover shown here as Fig. 1, is the same hammer dated May 18, 1854. This cover is a “Money Letter” enclosing £4 1s 1d mailed by Richard Campbell, Treasurer, Township of Artemesia to William Stewart, Treasurer, County of Wellington. The postage rate of 3



Fig. 1a

pence covered letters weighing up to ½ oz. There was no additional charge for a “Money Letter”. The 5 Cents Beaver stamp shown in Fig. 1a, is dated Jan. 10, 1866 and was cancelled 21 days before the office was renamed Flesherton. It is cancelled with an

Artemesia single split ring hammer – 20mm in diameter.

In 1851 W. K. Fleisher, Reeve of the Township of Artemesia, realized that with the new post office at the intersection of these two important roads, a prosperous village could be built. Mr. Fleisher owned land at this location and laid out a portion of his land as village lots.

The location became known as “Flesher’s Corners” though the post office name remained “Artemesia”. At this time some growth had already taken place, as records show a flour mill and blacksmith shop, both owned by Roger Leon, two churches, two taverns and a physician.

The old *Belden Atlas* records that Roger Lever built the first grist mill on the Beaver River a mile below “Flesher’s Corners”. The roads in the 1850’s and early 1860’s were in such a primitive state that it took Mr. Lever nine days with three yoke of oxen and five men, to transport the mill stone from the Stayner station on the Northern Railway to its resting place at the mill.

The first settler, Mr. A. Munshaw had built a tavern and hotel as early as 1849. Soon another tavern and a sawmill were also built. Some years later following improvements and gravelling of the roads, more growth took place with the building of a carding mill, a blacksmiths shop, stores, a pump factory, churches and a school. In 1864 Mr. Munshaw built another hotel known as Munshaw House just north of the original site. The mail came daily from Collingwood and Durham and twice a week from Chatsworth and Orangeville. With this added growth Flesher’s Corners became Flesherton and on February 1, 1866 the post office name was changed from Artemesia to Flesherton..

In the early 1870’s the Toronto, Grey & Bruce Railway by-passed the Village of Flesherton by approx. a mile and a half at what was to become Flesherton Station (now Ceylon). This location served as Flesherton’s railway station for many years. Please refer to the accompanying article describing the early Flesherton Station / Ceylon Post Office.

Fig. 4 shows the Flesherton, Ont. split ring hammer proofed on Nov. 6, 1880 (21.5 mm dia.) This is reproduced from the proof book. This hammer was in

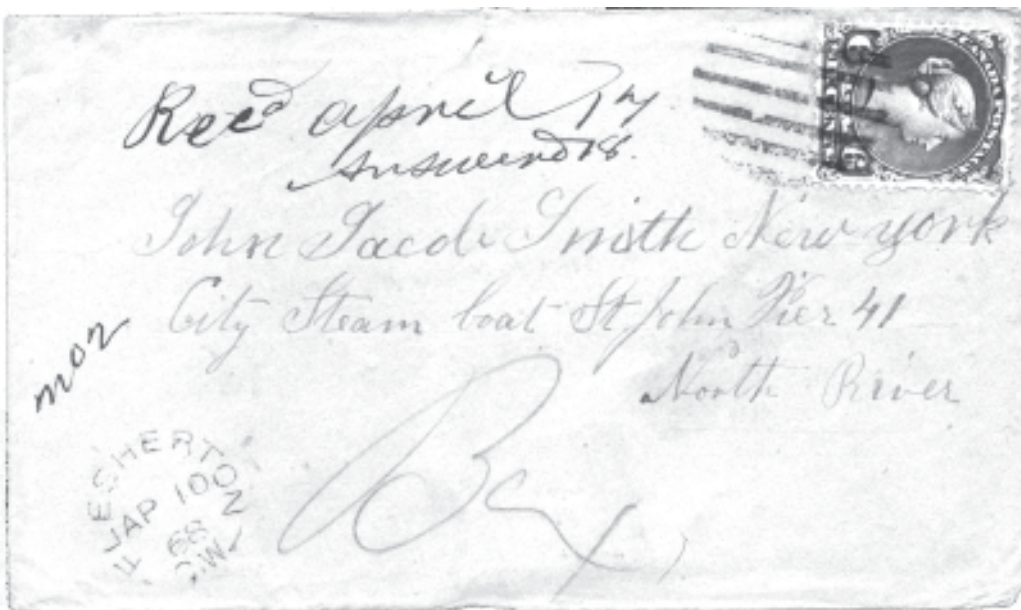


Fig. 2 shows a 6¢ “Large Queen” cover mailed from Flesherton, C.W., on April 10, 1868 to New York. (The hammer was proofed on May 25, 1866) This is the earliest cover known showing the Flesherton, C.W. split ring hammer, 21 mm diameter. I find this an interesting cover as the 6¢ L.Q. stamp was issued on April 1, 1868 to pay the rate to the U.S., and therefore an early use of this stamp. The address also intrigues me – “John Jacob Smith, New York City Steam Boat, St. John Pier 41, North River.”

RECEIVED
-DE 26
1868
OW

To Mr Joseph Servill

Dear Sir

Dear Sir

Since Mr Septimus food is now with me and informs me he has made ^{several} provisional arrangements with you touching the redemption of the Lots mortgaged by his son William to you but before sending to William in the States, the instrument that will convey his Equity of Redemption to Septimus I thought it advisable to have a distinct agreement in details and for that purpose now write to you.

Postmaster W. K. Flesher utilized the office's datestamp to date this letter (December 26, 1868) to Mr. Joseph Servill regarding the redemption of a mortgage. It seems that Mr. Flesher would like to have a distinct agreement in detail regarding the mortgage on a lot he owns.

The mortgage - \$300 amortized over six years at 8% simple interest.

I understand that the mortgage is for \$300. and that you have kindly consented to liquidate by charging interest for the time about 6 years more at 8% eight per cent per annum -
 This will be principal 300.
 6 years at 8% on 300 144
 Total - \$444

then Septimus is to pay you the sum of \$400 say 400 dollars. You release the present mortgage and take a fresh one securing the payment of the \$400 in 4 equal annual installments of \$100 with interest on each such installment at the rate aforesaid. If you so order

that the arrangement will be kindly with accepted on this statement and Septimus does to me of course if Septimus does not within two months carry out the arrangement it ceases to be binding on you
 Yours truly
 W. K. Flesher

Address W. K. Flesher
 Fleasher's P.O.
 Gray out

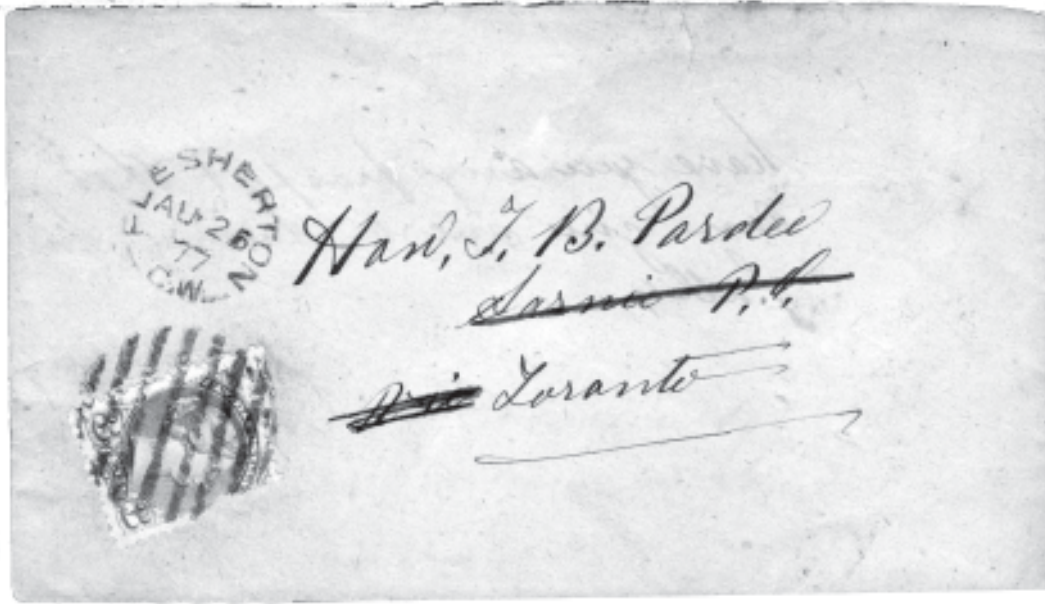


Fig. 3 shows a late use of this same hammer on a 3¢ S.Q. cover dated Aug. 25, 1877 mailed to Toronto. Bruce Graham records an even later use of this hammer, dated Dec. 14, 1882 (as the C.W. hammer was replaced in 1880 with an ONT. hammer, obviously the Flesherton office continued to use both hammers for some time).

use for some time and was likely not replaced until 1887 or 1888. There was a bonus in researching this article for the newsletter. I was sure I had a cover with this strike and now find out I do not. The search begins. Bruce Graham records an early cover dated Mar. 29, 1881 and a late use cover dated Nov. 20, 1885.

Fig. 5 shows the small Flesherton, Ont. split ring hammer (18.5 mm dia.) There is no record in the proof book of the issue date for this hammer. B. Graham's earliest recorded cover is Feb. 16, 1888 and the latest Jan. 30, 1894 so this registered cover is an even later date Feb. 19, 1894.

Fig.'s 6 and 7 show the Flesherton Squared Circle Hammer – this hammer was proofed on April 23, 1894 and the earliest recorded strike is 7 days later on Apr. 30, 1894. The earliest strike I

have is dated Nov. 5, 1897 on a 3¢ S.Q. cover (there is a faint George Mitchell, Banker, Flesherton, Ont. corner card). Mr. Mitchell had started a private bank in 1888 which eventually became a C.I.B.C. branch. The second cover with the 2¢ map stamp was mailed from Flesherton Jan. 4, 1899 to Owen Sound. The cover was missent to Markdale where the MISSENT – TO hammer was applied and the cover forwarded on to Owen Sound.

Fig. 8, shows the last of the Flesherton, Ont. Split Ring Hammers (21 mm dia. with oval 0's) used as a transit marking on a Rock Mills, Ont. post card dated June 25, 1908. This card shows the oval 0's reasonably clearly. It is unlikely but possible that this hammer was proofed before 1900 and if so strikes could exist in the late 1890's. B. Graham's earliest recorded strike is Mar. 27, 1902 and the latest Apr. 2, 1909.

Flesherton's growth continued in the late 1800's, a



Fig. 5 – A late use of the 18.5mm split ring hammer on a Registered letter to the Star Card Company at Knowlton, Quebec.



Fig. 6 – Inter-bank correspondence was postmarked with the Flesherton Squared Circle hammer.

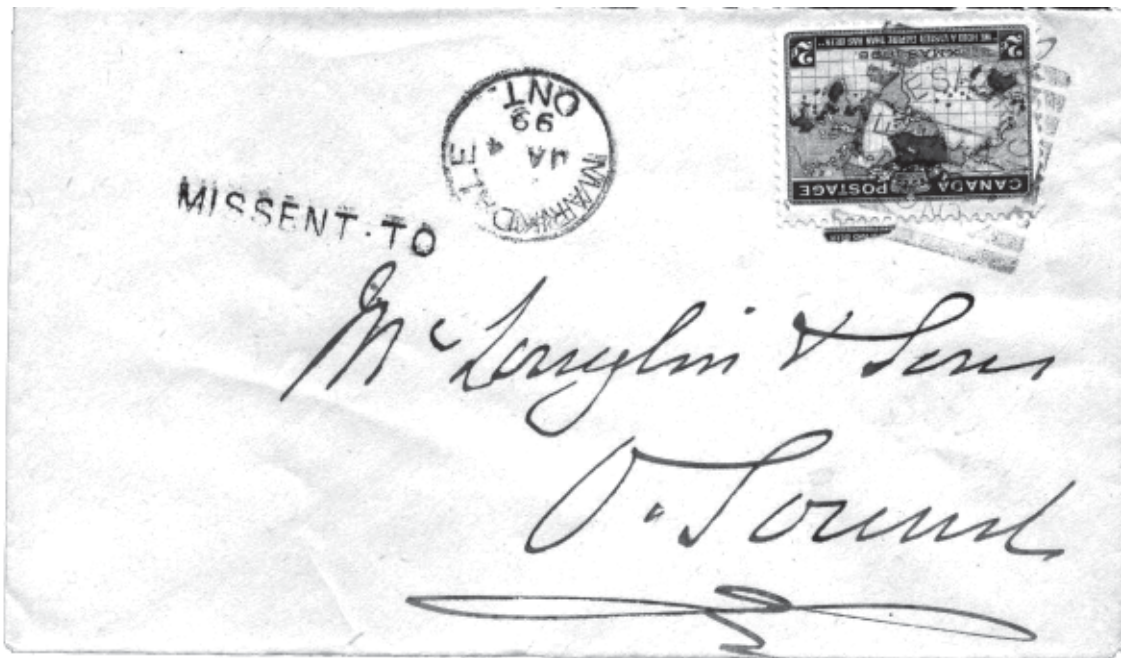
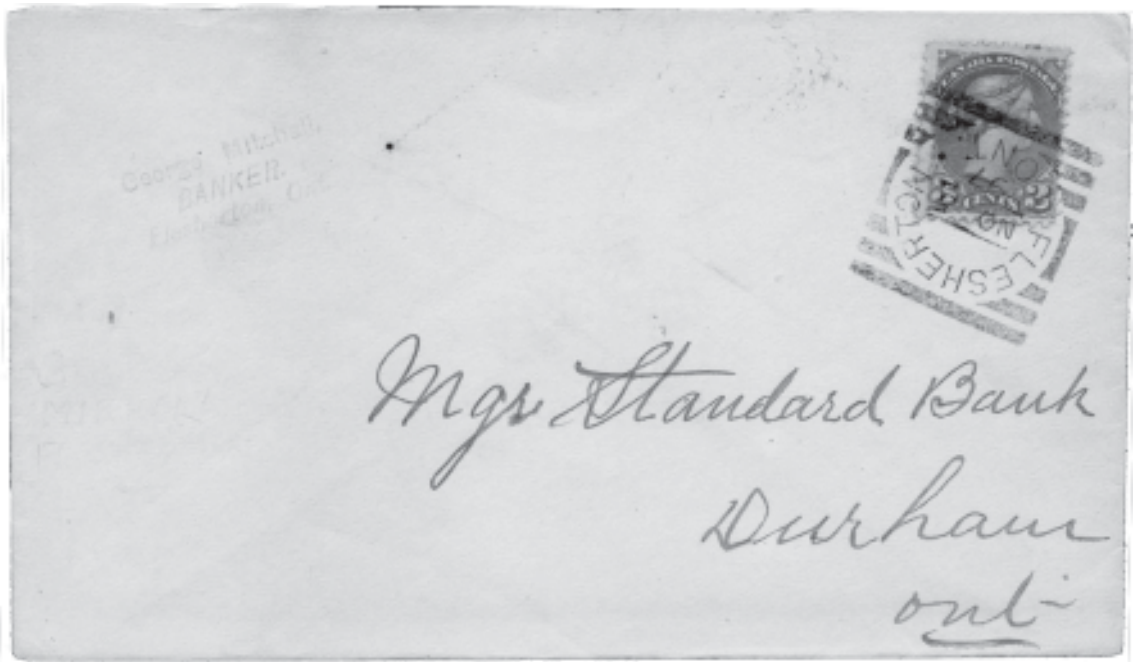


Fig. 7 – Even in those early days mail could be lost. This letter ended up in Markdale rather than its intended destination of Owen Sound.

newspaper was started, more stores opened and churches were built. Flesherton was officially incorporated as a village in 1912, and of course its postal history continues to this day.

POSTMASTERS at ARTEMESIA

- John Sproule – July 6, 1851 to Jan. 1857
- John Flesher – Feb. 1, 1857 to Aug. 8, 1857
- James P. Fowler – April 1, 1858 to Sept. 1865
- W. K. Flesher – Oct. 1, 1865 to Jan. 31, 1866

POSTMASTERS at FLESHERTON

- W.K. Flesher – Jan. 31, 1866 to July 8, 1867
- Andrew McSorley – July 1, 1867 to Nov. 21, 1868
- W.K. Flesher – March 1, 1869 to July 20, 1872
- Robert J. Sproule – Nov. 1, 1872 to Dec. 20, 1909

Share your knowledge with other collectors of this Study Group by putting pen to hand and writing a small article for your *GBD&S Newsletter!*




Fig. 8 – A post card from Rock Mills to Seaforth received a transit strike at FLESHERTON ONT. / JUN 25 / 08



CREDITS

- 1) *Ontario Post Offices* by Robert C. Smith
- 2) *Grey County Broken Circle Postmarks* by W. Bruce Graham
- 3) *A History of the County of Grey* by E. L. Marsh 4)
- A New History of Grey County* by T. Arthur Davidson 5)
- Reprint of the *Belden Atlas for Grey & Bruce Counties of 1880*
Cummings Publishers, Stratford, Ont.

MILLER LAKE *is on the move ...*

[REF. 179]



Since 1979 Mrs. Grace Liverance has been the postmaster at Miller Lake. During her tenure the post office operated out of a part of her home as shown in our accompanying photo. This past summer the time

had come to retire. The result is that Miller Lake has a new postmaster and a new location.

Our article about Miller Lake which appeared in Issue 32-33 will not be complete without adding this new information.

One of our members will surely be passed that new location. Stop by and find out who the new postmaster is. Better yet take a photo of the new post office and mail us a picture so that we can share it with our other members.



Thank You



a proud sponsor and supporter of the GREY, BRUCE, DUFFERIN & SIMCOE Postal History Study Group

From anywhere . . . to anyone
in **FLESHERTON** and the
surrounding area . . .



A SOCIO-POSTAL
HISTORY OF
Municipality of
NORTHERN
BRUCE PENINSULA

[REF. 176]

by *James E. Kraemer*, FRPSC, FRPSL

Part IV

STOKES BAY

Stokes Bay is located on the shore of Lake Huron behind Lyle Island. When the town plot of Hardwick failed to materialize the survey of 1857 was rescinded in 1889 and the, “would be town,” reverted back to farm-land. Lumber mills and commercial fishing made Stokes Bay one of the most progressive communities in the Bruce Peninsula.

Artifacts found in the area indicate that at one time an Indian village existed here. The hamlet that subsequently formed was known as Big River. As the settlement grew the inhabitants decided to seek the establishment of a post office. The Post Office Department informed them that they must first choose a name. The citizens organized a public meeting and decided that since the first white man to sail into the area was Captain John Storke the hamlets name should be Storkes Bay. When the post office was established in 1878 an error by the postal authorities resulted in the “r” being dropped. The result was the hamlet became Stokes Bay.

The Stokes Bay post office was established on September 8, 1878 with Mr. William Lyons as postmaster. It

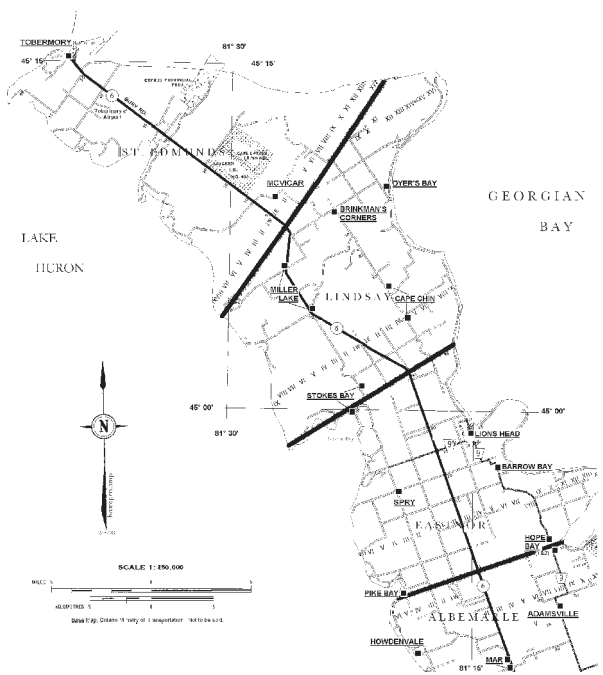
was located just north of the hamlet in the postmaster’s residence on Lot 5, Concession 2, W.B.R., just beyond the township border in Lindsay Township. As a result it became the first post office to be established in the Township of Lindsay. No longer did the residents have to go to Lions Head for their mail, a distance of about 8 miles (13 kilometres). On August 20, 1881 Mr. Lyons left home on the pretext that he was going to Lions Head on business. About a mile from his residence he went into the bush and took his life. Mrs. Lyons carried on with the postmaster’s duties until April 11, 1883 when she resigned.

The hamlet of Stokes Bay had a cooper shop (barrel making), a sawmill and a blacksmith shop. The hotel was built in 1882 when the government built a road up the west shore to Stokes Bay. John Shute built the first general store in 1883. He offered to house the post office in his store which was a more convenient location for its patrons. The post office moved down the road into Mr. Shute’s store in Eastnor Township. Mr. Shute was appointed postmaster. The telegraph office was also located in Mr. Shute’s store.

During the hundred years after its establishment in 1878 the post office would change its location and postmasters more than twenty times. (In 1984 it was noted that Mr. Shute’s store had been located on “a vacant lot east of Ada Scott’s home”.) Mr. Shute was postmaster for almost nine years. As business increased postal inspectors felt he lacked sufficient business experience to operate a post office properly. It was decided to change the post office to a new location. Mr.



PROOF STRIKE
22 mm diameter
arcs 6.5, 5.5 mm



The Warton-Pike Bay-Stokes Bay Stage , c.1918



PROOF STRIKE
21 mm diameter
arcs 3.5, 3.0 mm



Post Card to Brooklyn, N.Y., mailed from Stokes Bay, July 8, 1902 cancelled with the 2nd Broken Circle hammer which was proofed January 9, 1891. This hammer has a diameter of 21 mm with arcs measuring 3.5 and 3.0 mm respectively.

COURTESY: John Rossiter



A Registered letter to The Cossitt Bros. Co. of Brockville, mailed from Stokes Bay, March 8, 1902.

COURTESY: John Rossiter



Shute gave up the post office on January 19, 1903. A year later he moved to Western Canada.

The new postmaster, Alexander Smith, was officially appointed on July 1, 1903. He moved the post office to his residence. His daughters, Ruth and Lillian Smith, became post office assistants. The home was destroyed by fire in 1919, three years after Mr. Smith's resignation on April 12, 1916. A new house was built on the same location and was known as, "Spruce Farms".

The new postmaster, John McLennan, moved the post office on July 1, 1916 to his home known as, "The Yellow House", just east of the T.Y. Dealy store. The store was owned and operated by McLennan. Early in 1919 McLennan sold the store to Malcolm and Murdock McIver and gave up the post office with the understanding that the

McIver's would make application for the post office to be located in their store. Malcolm McIver was appointed postmaster on March 27, 1919. Unfortunately fire destroyed the store and post office on September 25, 1919. McIver resigned as postmaster on September 26, 1919.

Charles McDonald had recently opened a new store. (Jeannes Restaurant was located on the same site in 1948.) McDonald was born in Lindsay Township, a son of Malcolm Charles McDonald, and was married to Elizabeth (Lizzie), nee Lang, a school teacher in the area. The McDonald's found that operating the store and post office took up too much of their time and resigned effective November 5, 1920. Malcolm McIver and his wife took over the store and post office. Mrs. McIver was sworn in as an assistant. Almost a year and a half



STOKES BAY ONT. / SP 18 / 34
 This photo post card shows a store in Stokes Bay. There is no signage on the building indicating the proprietor nor whether there was a post office located within the facilities. There are strong resemblances between this building and the photo below perhaps suggesting that this was the post office from 1927 until 1932.

COURTESY: Gus Knierim

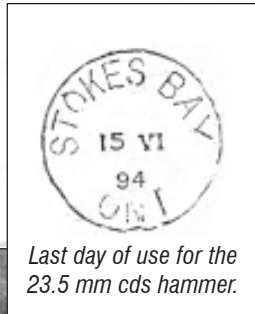


The Copper Kettle, 593 Stokes Bay Road, was the home of the post office from 1927 until 1932. Compare the window placement and the entrance to the store with the above card mailed in 1934.

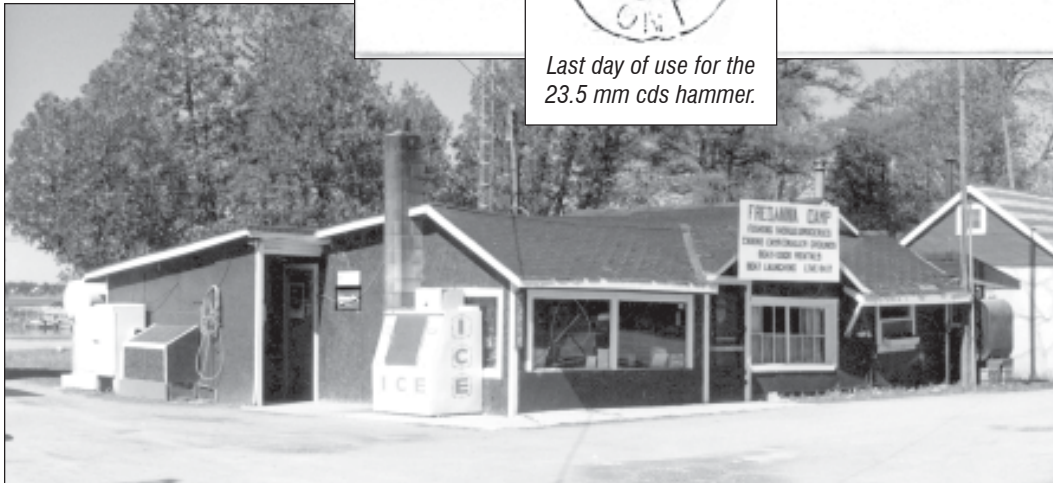


Money Order for \$33.75 was issued at **STOKES BAY ONT. / MY 17 / 29**; cancelled with the 4th Broken Circle hammer (19.5 mm diameter, arcs 6.0, 6.5 mm). This hammer was proofed June 26, 1919.

COURTESY: John Rossiter



Last day of use for the 23.5 mm cds hammer.



The 23.5 mm cds hammer was probably proofed in 1937. The impression in "Proof Strikes of Canada" is very unclear.

In 1990 the post office resided at "Fredanna Camp" with Frederick Forbes as postmaster. It remained here until 1994.

later Mr. McIver resigned. He had sold the store to Mr. and Mrs. James T. Rouse of Miller Lake. Mr. Rouse was appointed postmaster on December 15, 1922.

On April 27, 1925 Mr. Rouse resigned and recommended that Malcolm Smith who purchased his business be appointed Postmaster. The Rouse's moved to Balaclava, Ontario. The Post Office Department offered the Postmaster's position to Malcolm J. Smith and appointed him Acting Postmaster on May 23, 1925. Two months later Malcolm Smith advised the authorities that he could not accept the postmaster's position at the salary offered. (Total post office revenue at Stokes Bay for 1924 was \$126.62.) Smith advised that John L. Barbour, Boarding House operator or Mr. Alexander Smith, former postmaster at Stokes Bay and now the contractor for the mail service between Wiarton and Stokes Bay, might be interested.

Alexander Smith took over the post office on a temporary basis on September 10, 1925. Mrs. Jean Smith, the postmaster's wife was appointed his assistant. Gerald Smith, a son was appointed a part-time assistant. The post office moved 300 yards north, to its former location, from 1903-1916, in Lindsay Township to the home of Mr. Smith. On March 18, 1926 Alex Smith gave the Department three months notice that he was resigning and wished to have the post office removed from his residence. It was generally believed that Smith resigned because his mail contract was not renewed and went to tender. On March 29, 1926, Alex Smith withdrew his resignation. The District Post Office Superintendent was asked to check if Mr. Smith would enter into a contract for summer service between Wiarton and Stokes Bay at a rate not exceeding \$400.00 per annum. Although Smith had hoped for \$450.00 per

annum he agreed to the contract. Lillian and Gerald Smith, the postmaster's children were listed as postmaster's assistants. On September 20, 1926 Smith again resigned giving three months notice. He was conveying up to six extra bags of mail per trip to Stokes Bay for the summer service established between Stokes Bay and Tobermory via Miller Lake. He received no extra remuneration and could not carry as many passengers as normal. Investigation determined that Mr. Smith was not complaining. His son and daughter had left home and he was unable to handle the workload.

Although Alex Smith would not recommend Malcolm J. Smith for postmaster or contractor for the courier router, James Malcolm, M.P. of Kincardine recommended him. On February 18, 1927 the post office and the postal route were transferred to Malcolm J. (Mac) Smith. Alex Smith's daughter, Lillian was sworn in as a post office assistant. Malcolm Smith moved the post office to his store on Lot 30, Concession 3, where the *Copper Kettle* is now located. His wife Jeanne Florence Smith was appointed an assistant and actually operated the post office. Shortages in 1931 resulted in the Post Office Department asking Malcolm Smith to resign. He resigned on July 6, 1927 and his wife Jeanne Florence Smith was immediately appointed postmaster. Still unhappy with the management of the post office the Department terminated Mrs. Smith's position.

George Eber Burley was appointed postmaster, Grade 2, on May 5, 1932. His daughter, Mabel Burley, was appointed his assistant. In August 1937 Miss Johanna Burley and Mrs. Mabel Smith are noted as being assistants. Revenue for 1934 -1940 remained static at around \$200.00 per annum. Burley operated the post

office from his home on Lot 39, Concession 3, W.B.R., across from the general store, about 80 rods east of its former location. It was the former Martindale Home that subsequently was destroyed by fire. W. R. Tomlinson of Port Elgin and Member of Parliament for Bruce accused the postmaster of being partisan during elections and asked the Postmaster-General, the Honourable C. G. Power, P.C., to dismiss him. (It was a common occurrence in those days for Members of Parliament to get rid of postmasters appointed before they were elected in order to make room for the appointment of their political friends. With Canada Post a Crown Corporation political patronage appears to have virtually disappeared.) In the case of Mr. Burley the Post Office Department took no action. Burley whose health was deteriorating resigned and recommended Mrs. Mabel Marguretta Smith for the postmaster's position. She was officially appointed on May 7, 1941. Mrs. Smith operated the post office from her home across from the Presbyterian Church. Her husband Ivor Smith was her assistant. After a year Mrs. Smith became quite ill and resigned. W. R. Tomlinson, M.P., recommended John McLay, but his wife Sarah Ann McLay applied for the position. The post office was transferred to Mrs. Sarah Ann (Annie) McLay on August 21, 1942. Her assistants were John McLay and Miss Marion McLay. The post office moved to Annie McLay's house on the shore, next to Bob Golden's restaurant. The post office was served by RR#2, Lions Head, and was supervised by the Owen Sound postmaster.

May 5, 1952 was the day that Stokes Bay experienced, "The Big Seiche". The post office was located beside the bridge. Mrs. McLay, the postmaster noticed that the

lake water rose dramatically flooding lawns and gardens. Suddenly the water receded leaving the river dry. A short time later the lake water rushed inland flooding the area and causing much damage. The water was so deep that Mrs. McLay took the post office stamps, cash box and money upstairs.

Ten weeks after "The Big Seiche", on July 23, 1952 Mrs. McLay resigned. She had been postmaster for ten years. Mrs. McLay moved to her cottage opposite the school. Her husband Jack McLay died on April 14, 1979. Annie passed away on August 25, 1990. Miss Lillian May Smith was appointed acting postmaster on November 6, 1952 and confirmed postmaster on September 25, 1953. The post office moved to the Beauty Parlour operated by Miss Smith in her home. Lillian Smith resigned on March 5, 1955

When Valerie Lynne Liverance became postmaster in 1994, the post office moved from Fredanna Camp to the Stokes Bay General Store. This is the current location of the post office.



This post card from the Tamarac Island Inn was cancelled with a modern "Wing" datstamp which was first used March 4, 2002.

Tamarac Island Inn
Stokes Bay, Ontario
Canada N0H 2M0
(519) 592-5810

July 28/2003
Enjoyed a wonderful
white fish dinner at
the Inn
John



Home with
55 Whittemar Rd.
Ottawa, Ont. K1L 8J9



\$1345.00 per annum. In August 1960 the post office was a Grade 9 office. Wilma and her husband, George kept the post office in their home, which was located on the site of the old T.Y. Dealy store. Mrs. McLay resigned on March 19, 1968.

George Carson Vaughn was appointed Acting Postmaster on May 22, 1968. A review of the post office resulted in it being classified a Grade 8 office. The postmaster's remuneration was \$1,800.00 per annum plus \$200.00 rental allowance. George and Alice Vaughn of St. Thomas, Ontario had purchased the Kenny Smith Cabins on the shore in 1946. They remodelled one cabin into a small store where they sold groceries and fishing supplies. They installed gasoline pumps and completed a canal to the shore. The business was known as Vaughn's Fishing Camp. In 1972 Mr. Vaughn sold the business to Fred and Anna Forbes and purchased, "Hidden Hills Farm".

Frederick Forbes was a son of Selby Forbes of Lindsay Township. Forbes renamed the business, "Fredanna". He was appointed Acting Postmaster pending the outcome of a competition to staff the postmaster's position. Eventually Mr. Forbes was selected and confirmed postmaster on June 26, 1972. His wife Anna was appointed his assistant. Mr. Forbes

in order to marry Mr. Clyde Aker. The Post Office Department almost immediately reappointed her postmaster as Lillian May Aker. Mrs. Aker submitted her resignation in August 1957.

The new Acting Postmaster, Mrs. Wilma Lorraine McLay received her appointment on October 6, 1957. When she was confirmed postmaster on January 15, 1959, the status of the post office was raised from Group 5 to Group 6. From November 1958 until August 1960 the postmaster's salary increased from \$770.00 to



Stokes Bay has had its share of "pocon" datestamps. Not all have yet been discovered or recorded.

salary when he was confirmed postmaster was \$2,020.00 plus \$160.00 rental allowance. Revenue in 1973 was \$1,043.00,

Mr. and Mrs. Forbes operated the post office and their business from 9 Tamarac Island Road. The Stokes Bay Marina is now located at this sight. After 22 years in business at the same address Mr. Forbes resigned as postmaster in May 1994. He cited ill health as the reason.

Mrs. Valerie Lynne Liverance, nee McLay, succeeded Mr. Forbes as postmaster. She and her husband Timothy operated the general store located at 13 Stokes River Road and moved the post office to this address. In May 1998 the store, including the post office, was sold to Victor and Joan Giefert. Two years later the Giefert's sold out to Robert and Michelle Smith of Hamilton, Ontario. Robert Allan Smith was named postmaster on July 4, 2002. His wife Michelle, nee Inger, became his assistant.

THE POSTMASTERS OF STOKES BAY and THEIR PERIODS OF SERVICE

Post Office established	Sept. 1, 1878	
William Lyons	Sept. 1, 1878 until Aug. 20, 1881	death
Mrs. William Lyons	Sept. 1881 until April 11, 1883	resignation
John Shute	July 1, 1884 until Jan. 19, 1903	lack of bus. exp.
Alexander Smith	July, 1903 until April 12, 1916	resignation
John McLennan	July 1, 1916 until Feb., 1919	resignation
Malcolm McIver	Mar. 27, 1919 until Sep. 26, 1919	resignation
Charles McDonald	Dec. 2, 1919 until Nov. 5, 1920	resignation
Malcolm McIver	Jan. 31, 1921 until Aug. 5, 1922	resignation
James T. Rouse	Dec. 15, 1922 until April 7, 1925	resignation
Malcolm J. Smith	May 23, 1925	acting
Alex Smith	Sep. 10, 1925 until Sep. 20, 1926	resignation
Malcolm J. Smith	Feb. 18, 1927 until July 6, 1931	forced resign.
Mrs. Jean Florence Smith	July 6, 1931 until Feb. 18, 1932	relieved of duties
George Eber Burley	May 5, 1932 until Feb. 26, 1941	resignation
Mrs. Mabel Marguretta Smith	May 7, 1941 - May 19, 1942	resignation
Mrs. Sarah Ann McLay	Aug. 21, 1942 until July 23, 1952	resignation
Miss Lillian May Smith	Nov. 6, 1952	acting
Miss Lillian May Smith	Sep. 25, 1953 - March 5, 1955	resign. (marriage)
Mrs. Lillian May Aker	Mar. 31, 1955 until Aug. 9, 1957	resignation
Mrs Wilma Lorraine McLay	Oct. 6, 1957	acting
Mrs. Wilma Lorraine McLay	Jan. 15, 1959 until Mar. 19, 1968	resignation
George Carson Vaughn	May 22, 1968	acting
George Carson Vaughn	July 2, 1968 until June 23, 1972	resignation
Frederick F. Forbes	June 26, 1972 until May, 1994	resignation
Mrs. Valerie Lynne Liverance	May, 1994 until Mar. 27, 1998	resignation
Mrs. Joan Giefert	Mar. 28, 1998 until July 3, 2002	resignation
Robert Allen Smith	July 4, 2002	
Non-Acct. Office Number	55142	
Money Order Office Number	4442	
Pocon	395005	
Postal Code	N0H 2M0	

EDITOR'S PAGE . . . [REF. 177]

it's important - you better read it!

The time has come to rethink, redesign, and refocus the *Newsletter* of the **Grey, Bruce, Dufferin & Simcoe Postal History Study Group**. Beginning with the next issue our *Newsletter* will carry a new name. You will have to wait until issue 35 to find out what that will be. We have had enough of being L'il Abner's *Etaoin Shrdlu* and so we decided to let our new format be reflected in a new name. Hope that you will like the change.

This past year our schedule has become rather erratic and we wish to address that situation by changing our publishing frequency.

In the past 33 issues we published 6 newsletters per calendar year containing a total of 60 pages. Henceforth we would like to adopt a format of 16-20 pages



(similar to this issue) and publish 4 times per year. That would give us between 64-80 pages.

Our subscription rate/membership fee will remain at \$12.00 for the coming year (Vol. 7). *However, I can not assume that you want to continue so must therefore ask you to renew promptly to indicate your intention.* For most of you this issue concludes your membership year. You will have a renewal slip included. For those subscriptions that do not expire at this time you will also have a note which will show when you need to renew. Issue 35 will only be mailed to those that have indicated their desire to continue and to those that are paid up.

We will continue to offer an allotment of space for each club to report on its activities which will include an ad for the club's annual show. To facilitate this we ask that each club appoint a member that will correspond with the Editor in relaying any pertinent information regarding your club and the community which it serves. Ideally we would also have reported to us any local postal changes that took place in your community. New postal staff, new services, new facilities, or changes in franchises.

The hopes of creating this club liasion is that other collectors in our region will become more aware of what is going on. Rather than operating in a vacuum we might become more enlightened within our beloved pastime.

Editorially, the editor would also like to create some changes. To encourage a more participation, a

. . . continued on page 340

POST OFFICE BUILDINGS ON POST CARDS

Nº 14 in a Series

Lefroy

Robt. C. Smith

[REF. 178]

the Arch issue dated OC 13 / 32; it does not appear in the proof impression books. The LEFROY / ONT. 23½ mm c.d.s. which was proofed on March 20, 1933 is shown on a George VI stationery envelope dated SP 1 / 53.

The modern photograph of the Lefroy post office was taken on June 1, 1990.

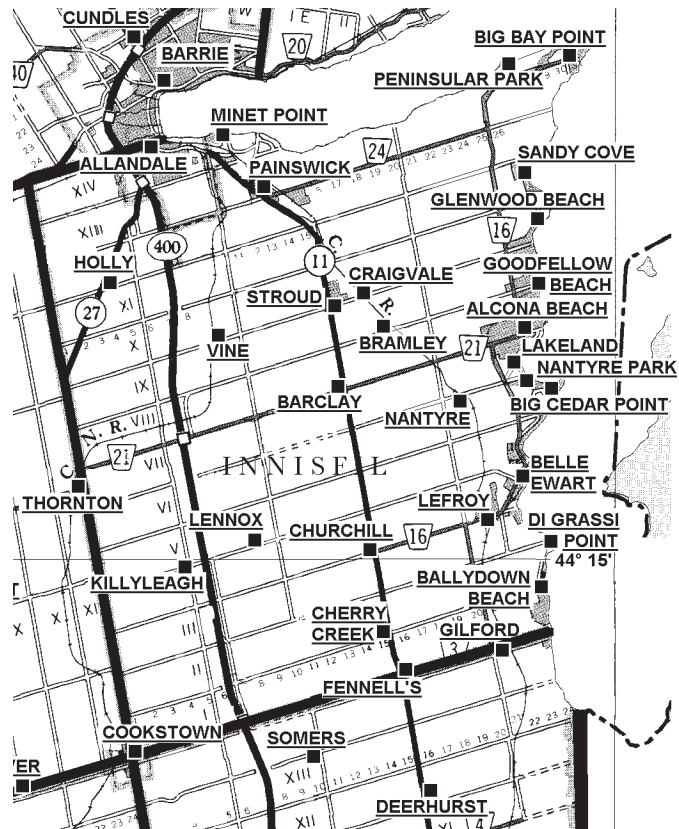
The post office at Lefroy was established on the 1st of April 1854 in southern Innisfil Township, near Lake Simcoe. The first postmaster, who remained in office for almost 24 years, was one David Davidson.

This photo postcard, labelled simply "STREET IN LEFROY," shows a dog surveying his kingdom, which includes a number of residences and, at the left, a store with a small but readable POST OFFICE sign on it. A crossing of the Grand Trunk (formerly the Hamilton & North Western, then the Northern) Railway appears immediately ahead.



The card was posted in Sutton West on April 10, 1908. By that time John G. Douse, the sixth postmaster at Lefroy, was in office; he remained in that position for a remarkable 37 years and 6 months, from 1889 until his death in 1926.

The office had a number of broken-circle postmarks, including a LEFROY ONT. / CANADA mark proofed on August 20, 1879 and recut on March 3, 1890, no reports of which appear in Bruce Graham's book. A 25 mm LEFROY / ONT. circular datestamp was proofed during Mr. Douse's term of office on February 20, 1890, and is shown on a 2¢ Numeral cover of AP 15 / 99. The 20½ mm LEFROY / ONT. broken circle device which followed has been seen from FE 2 / 06 to DE 26 / 32, and is illustrated here on a postal stationery envelope of

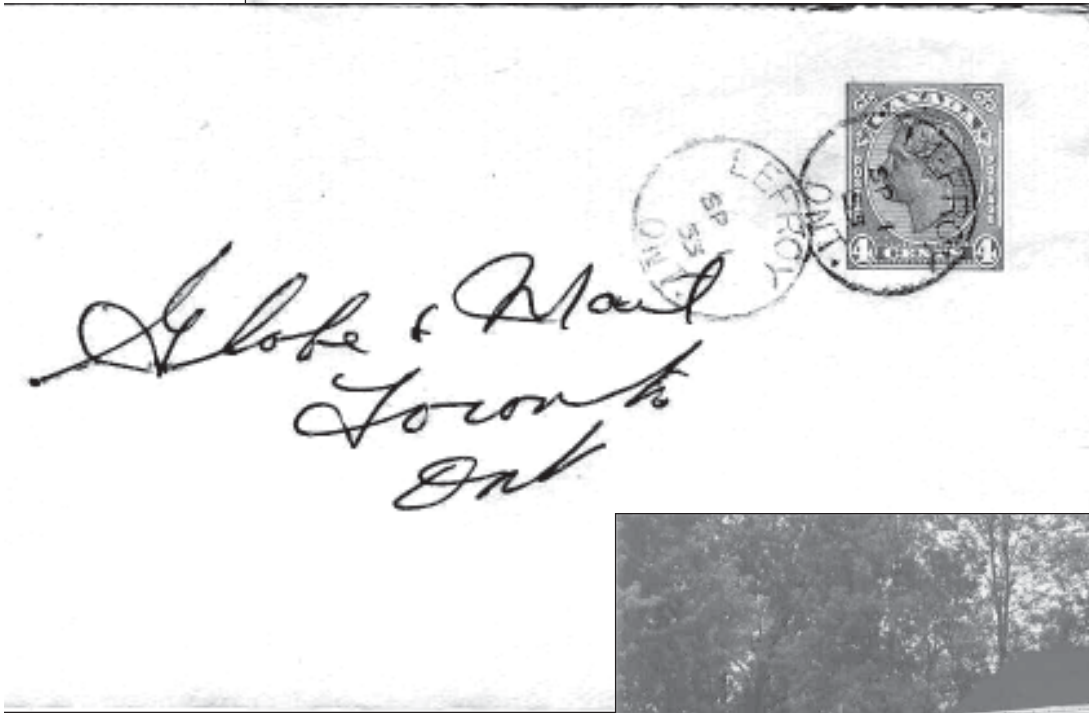


PROOF STRIKES
22½ mm diameter

Although similar, the differences suggest that these are two different hammers.
No postal use is recorded in Bruce Graham's book.



PROOF STRIKE
22 mm diameter
arcs 6.5, 5.5 mm



PROOF STRIKE
22 mm diameter
arcs 6.5, 5.5 mm

The Lefroy Post Office in the 1990s

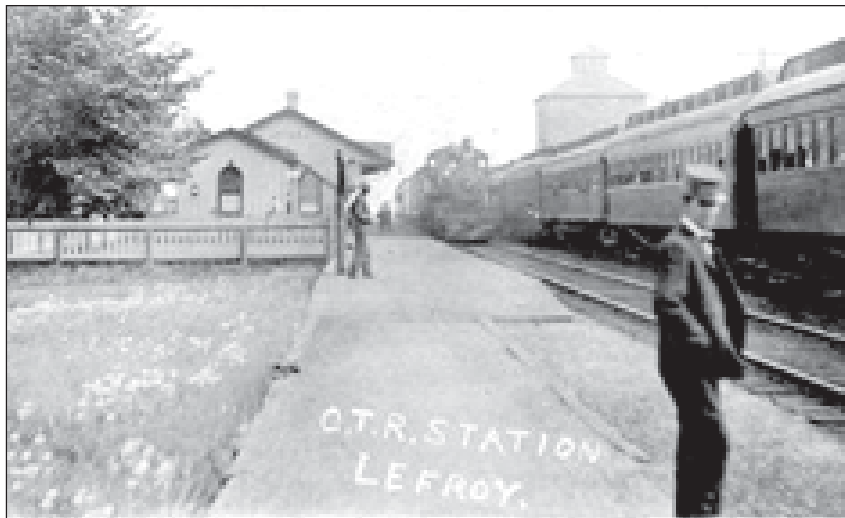


Post Office, Lefroy, Ont.

Lefroy

ADDENDUM

As we see by the photo of the Lefroy Post Office in the 1990s, this installation has survived into the modern era. Presently it is located at 1317 Killarney Beach Rd., Lefroy, LOL 1W0. It is now part of the reorganized Town of Innisfil. Back in the 1940s it received the MOON 3436 and then on April 1, 1973 its POCON became the still current number 333204.



Almost as deserted as the street scene on the previous page – the GTR Station at Lefroy.

Although it has a fairly stable history there are few recorded postmarks, and even fewer proof strikes. Where are all of the MOTO, MOON and POCON date-stamps? Where are the registration boxes?

The first POCON and a later version, beside a modern-day CDS hammer.



EDITOR'S PAGE *cont'd ... from p. 337*

more active group, we would like to try an approach where each author of a feature article published is rewarded by having their subscription extended by one issue. That's a \$3.00 value! Write four articles and you will have a free one-year subscription (\$12.00). This will begin with Issue No. 35.

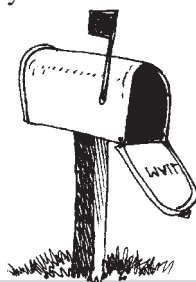
The above change is to encourage more of you to participate in what has been a pretty exciting past six years that we have published.

Now, if you have some bright ideas, or you would like to see a change in direction, then you will just

have to sit down and write the Editor a note or an email (knierim@bmts.com).

Enjoy the issue! Hope to hear from you or meet some of you at the local shows!

Gus Knierim



*Next issue will be NOVEMBER
and then February, May, August, November...*

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for issues #1-34 / VOL. I-VI

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