DUFFERIN COUNTY'S [REF. 202]

Erasmus

1895 – 1913

changes name to

Wesley

1913 – 1919

George Power, Don Stewart

Fig. 1 – *East Luther Township, County of Dufferin.*
COURTESY – Eric Manchee, *Ontario Post Office Atlas.*

Erasmus was a farming community located in the northwest corner of the Township East Luther, 10 miles north of Grand Valley. With a population of 75 in 1899 that had doubled by 1908, the community was able to support a tin shop, sawmill, and a large apiary. East Luther (Fig. 1), the smallest of the Dufferin County townships, was first surveyed in 1837, however the survey was not completed until 1855 due to swampy conditions of the land.

East Luther became part of Dufferin County in 1883 two years after Dufferin County was formed in 1881. For some years the closest post office was Conn to the northwest. Settlers were forced to walk at least 10 miles to send or receive mail. Erasmus post office opened on November 11, 1895 with George Wood as its first postmaster. The post office was located in George Wood's house located on Lot 20, Concession 12 in East Luther Township. This building is still standing and is now a private residence.

Records show that this lot was still Crown land in 1880 with Henry Hills being the first owner. George Wood was an early settler in the area and bought this property in 1886.

Fig. 2 – *The Erasmus Post Office*

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Fig. 2 shows a photo of the post office. This building was also used when the post office changed its name to Wesley[1].

There is only one known hammer for Erasmus. I can not find a proof strike. Here is an example of a registered cover from Erasmus. This cover was mailed to William Rennie in Toronto April 15, 1898 (Fig. 3).

George Wood who kept the Erasmus post office had bees. This advertising cover is an excellent example promoting his award-winning honey. (Fig. 4)
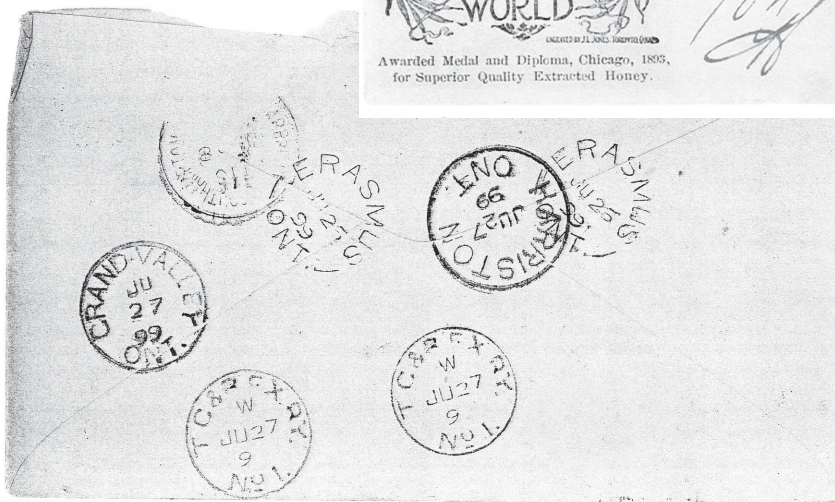
This story of the name change from Erasmus to Wesley comes from the *Grand Valley Star and Vidette*.

"SEPTEMBER 17, 1903.

On account of the similarity of the names Eramosa and Erasmus causing confusion in the delivery of the mail matter, it has been decided by the Post Office Department to change the name of this office. It being the more recently established. All persons interested are requested to meet at the office on Tuesday evening August 25th to decide on a new name.

SEPTEMBER 24, 1903.

In our last budget we stated that it had been decided to change the name of this post office. The name selected from a list of forty, was "Wesley". Notice has been received that the Post Office Department has accepted the name,
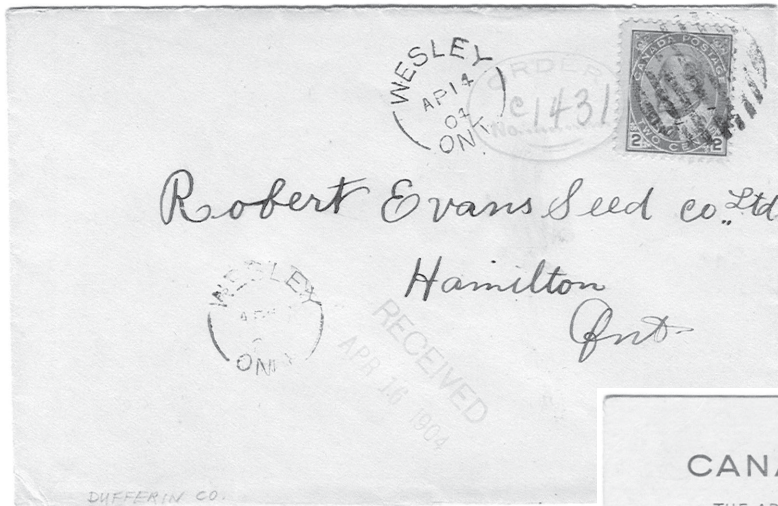
Fig. 5 –
WESLEY ONT. / AP 14 / 1904
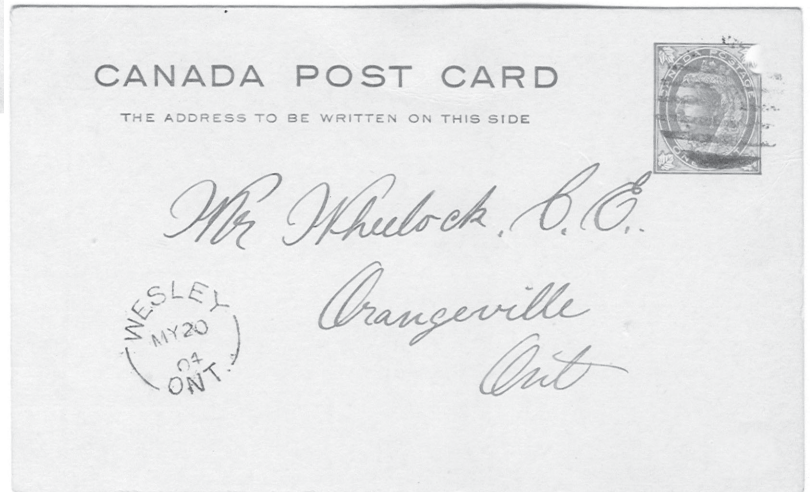*Letter to Robt. Evans Seed Co. Ltd.*
COURTESY – George Power

Fig. 6 –
WESLEY ONT. / MY 20 / 1904
COURTESY – George Power

the change to take effect on October 1, 1903. All persons interested will take notice that on and after October 1st, Erasmus will be "no more," it being supplanted by "Wesley ."

OCTOBER 8, 1903

This neighbourhood for post office purposes, is now known as Wesley, but it will probably be some time before other places cease calling over the telephone wire, 'Hello, is that Erasmus'."

Shown are an early Wesley cover and card. There is only one hammer for Wesley. No proof strike has been recorded. When George Wood died in 1913. Mrs. George (Mary) Wood took over the

postmaster duties on July 21, 1913 until the post office closed August 31, 1919 upon the inauguration of rural mail delivery. Mail is now serviced from Grand Valley (RR #2).

Little remains of Erasmus (Wesley) except the old school and a few houses. ✉

REFERENCES
1) Manchee, Eric; *Ontario Post Office Atlas*, (2003).
2) Graham, Esther; *One Hundred Years Along the Upper Grand, 1881-1981: A History of East Luther Township*, (1981), pg 39 and 40.
3) *Grand Valley Star and Vidette*.
4) Steve Brown and Wayne Townsend, Dufferin County Museum and Archives.

Please share your Knowledge

WE NEED CONTRIBUTORS TO MAKE THIS NEWSLETTER A SUCCESS
All of us would say THANK YOU!

POST OFFICE BUILDINGS ON POST CARDS
Nº 16 in a Series

<div align="center">

══ Robt. C. Smith ══

[REF. 203]
</div>

Robt. C. Smith

This undivided-back UPU Type A postcard showing the "General Store, Post and Telegraph Office, Leith, Ont." with a floral motif was addressed to Owen Sound and mailed in Leith on July 11, 1907. It was postmarked with a very weak impression of the 19.5 mm LEITH / ONT. broken circle, and has an OWEN SOUND / ONT. c.d.s. receiving mark of the same day.

The post office at Leith was established in Sydenham Township, Grey County on April 1, 1853 under postmaster William Wyllie, and remained in operation August, 1994. When this card was mailed Leith's sixth postmaster, Arthur Cameron, was in office; he occupied that position for the 48 years from 1893 to 1941. It is interesting to note that six different members of the Cameron family filled the postmaster's position continuously from 1875 until 1948.

A cover with a *Leith* manuscript postmark dated May 21, 1853 is recorded David Handelman's *Canadian Manuscript Town Postmarks*. Shown here is a previously unreported double broken circle issued shortly after the opening of the post office. Bruce Graham also lists two different single broken
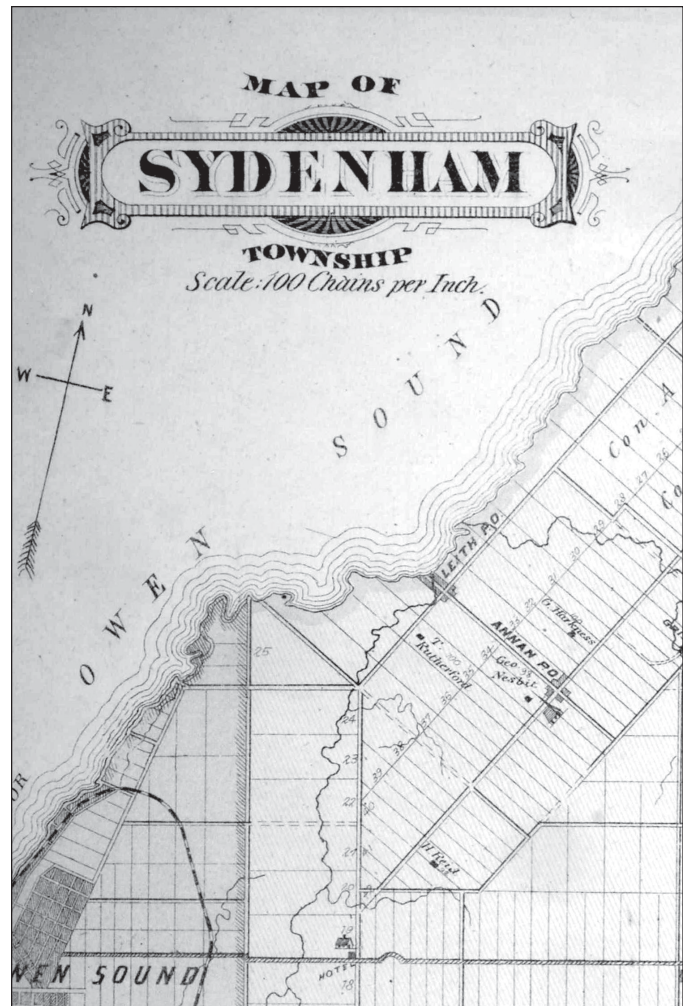
A portion of the map of Sydenham Township showing both Leith and neighbouring Annan.

COURTESY OF McGill University, Rare Books Division (Grey County – Ontario Map Ref #17); Grey supplement in *Illustrated Atlas of the Dominion of Canada.* Toronto : H. Belden & Co., 1880. [elf G1148 G7 H3 1880]

The reader may also refer to the Grey County Map, *Ontario Post Office Atlas,* shown in the *Georgian Courier* #36, p.372
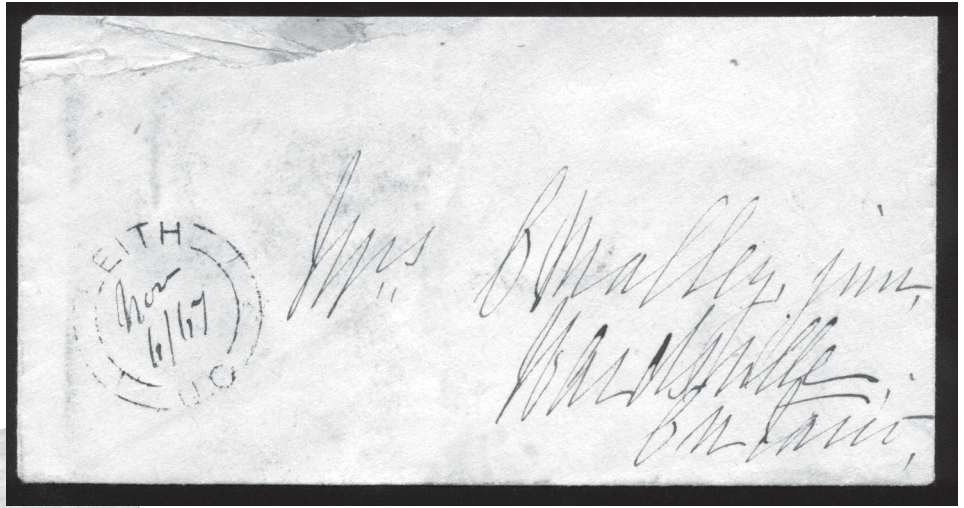

GENERAL STORE, POST AND TELEGRAPH OFFICE, LEITH, ONT.
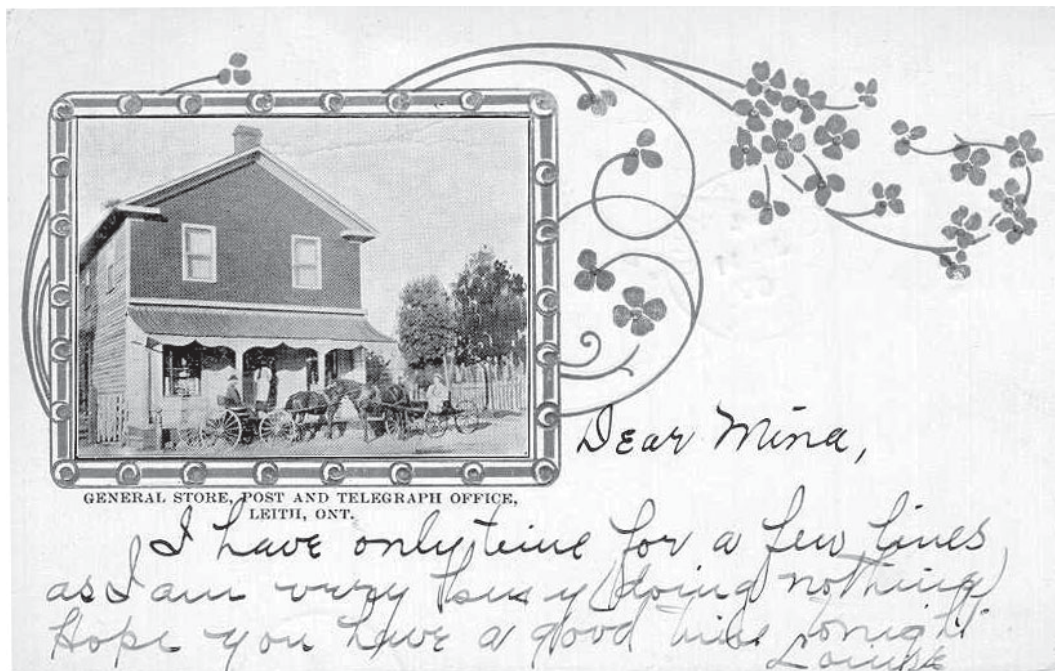
LEITH / ONT. / JU 11 / 1907
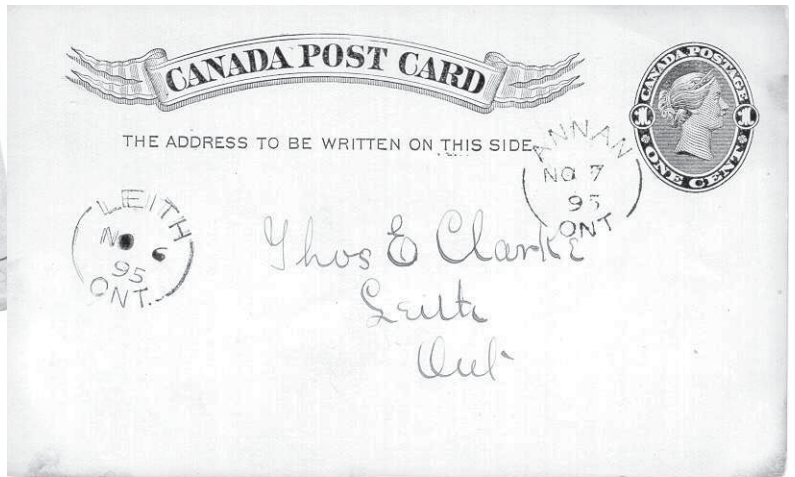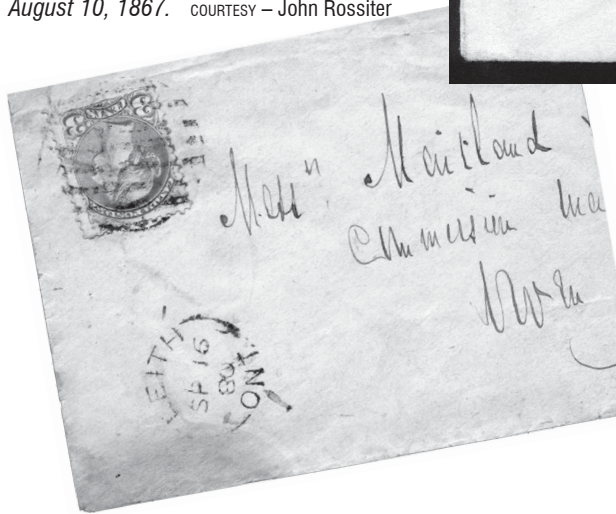*A busy scene in front of the Leith General Store & Post Office.*

LEITH / U.C / Nov / 6/67
*This letter to Mrs. O'Malley at Wardville,
Ontario was struck with the elusive
25.0 mm B2sx hammer, manuscript dated*
COURTESY – John Rossiter

LEITH / ONT. / SP 6 / 1880
*This partial cover shows the first known
A1 broken circle hammer that was proofed
August 10, 1867.* COURTESY – John Rossiter

LEITH / ONT. / NO 6 / 1895
*A post card from neighbouring Annan to
Leith appeared to reach its destination faster
than a bullet. Since card was written on a
Thursday (November 7) we can only assume
that Postmaster Arthur Cameron forgot to
change the date in his hammer.*

The Postmasters of Leith

NAME OF POSTMASTER	APPOINTMENT	VACANCY	REASON
William Wyllie	1853-04-01	1856-10-02	RESIGNATION
James Ross, Sr.	1856-12-01	1871-02	DEATH
James Ross, Jr.	1871-04-01	1875-02-16	RESIGNATION
Arthur B. Cameron	1875-04-01	1887-01-20	DEATH
Miss Emma Cameron	1887-07-01	1893-02-18	RESIGNATION
Arthur Cameron	1893-07-01	1941-11-17	DEATH
Richard Cameron	1941-11-29		ACTING
Richard Cameron	1941-12-22	1947-11-13	DEATH
George Oliver Cameron	1947-11-19		ACTING
Clarence Oliver Cameron	1948-07-09		ACTING
Clarence Oliver Cameron	1948-08-19	1948-09-22	RESIGNATION
William Veitch Fisher	1948-10-07		ACTING
William Veitch Fisher	1949-01-21	1949-03-07	RESIGNATION
William Richard Rust D'Eye	1949-03-19		ACTING
William Richard Rust D'Eye	1949-05-18	1955	
Mrs. Mary Viola Knott	1955-01-26		ACTING
Mrs. Mary Viola Knott	1955-08-16		
Mrs. Phyliss E. McCallan	1970-11-23		
Mrs. Gwendoline F. Adams	1973-05-12		TEMPORARY
Mrs. Gwendoline F. Adams	1973-07-16	1977-09-30	
Vivian E. McCrossan	1977-10-01	1977-12-02	TEMPORARY
Vivian E. McCrossan	1977-12-02		
Mrs. Joan Letourneau	1984-10-01		TEMPORARY
Mrs. Joan Letourneau			

circles from this office, the earlier of them having been proofed on August 10, 1867. In addition, a full-circle datestamp was proofed on July 19, 1948.

The earlier LEITH / ONT. broken circle, dated NO 6 / 95, is shown as a receiving mark on a postal card addressed to Leith which reads,

> *Thursday.*
> *Will be down to-night with the dog and gun if weather is good. Would like to put the dog into the swamp at Leith.*

It was postmarked with an ANNAN / ONT broken circle dated NO 7 / 95. These dates are inconsistent, and must mean only that Leith post-master Arthur Cameron forgot to change the day slug in his broken circle dater, since November 7, 1895 was a Thursday. ✉

THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE LEITH, ONTARIO
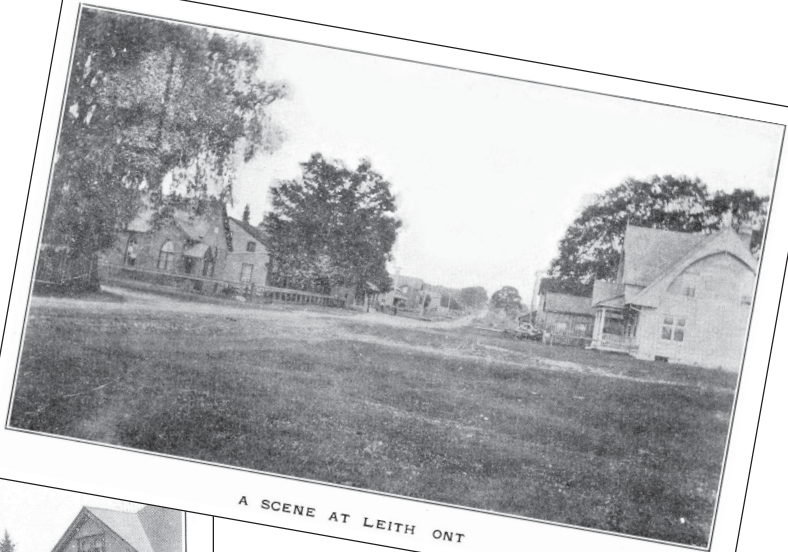
A SCENE AT LEITH ONT

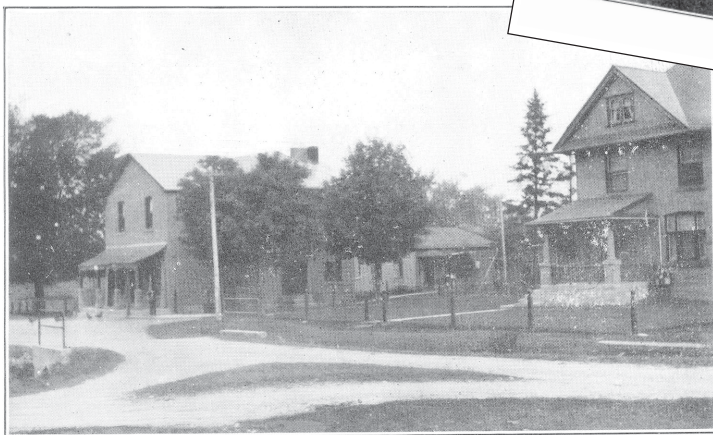A SCENE AT LEITH, ONTARIO

An enterprising photographer produced a series of pictorial post cards for the village, some of which are shown here. How many different types exist is a question that needs to be explored. Perhaps our readers may have others that they might share with our group.

COURTESY OF John Rossiter *and* Gus Knierim
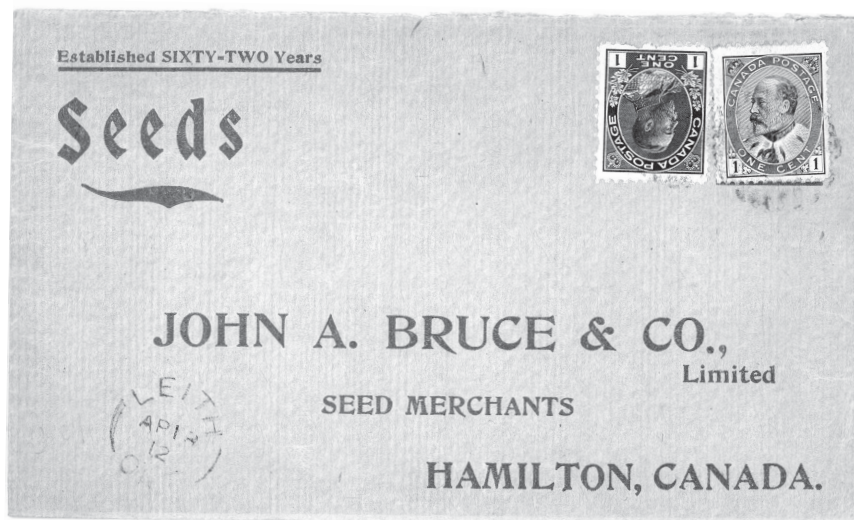
LEITH / ONT. / AP 18 / 1912
This is the second known broken circle hammer that was used at Leith.
It had a 19.5-mm diamter with 10.0, 8.5 mm arcs. COURTESY OF Gus Knierim

LEITH / ONT. / JUL 24 / 1931
COURTESY OF John Rossiter

LEITH / ONT. / JUL 12 / 1933
COURTESY OF John Rossiter
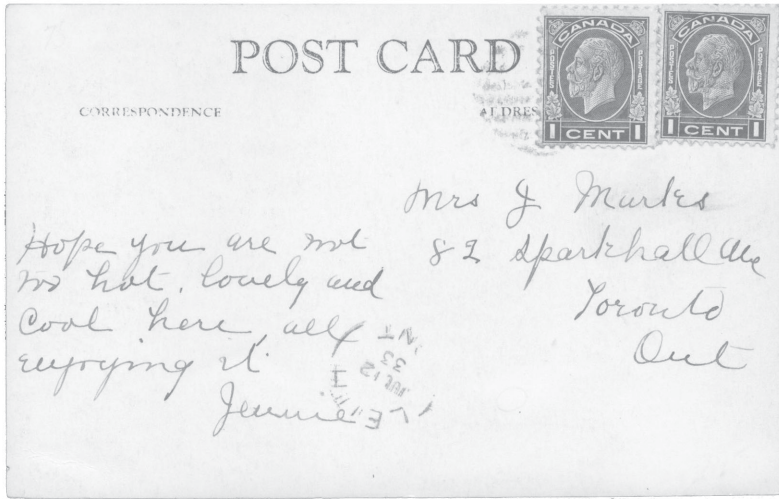
LEITH / ONT. / FE 19 / 1941
The strike on this piece could possibly be the latest known strike of the second broken circle hammer. COURTESY OF Gus Knierim
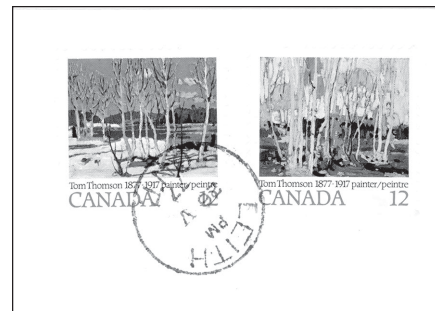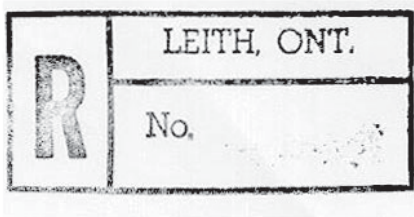
On July 19, 1948 a 23-mm circular datestamp was proofed and put into use.

Here on the occasion of the issue of the Tom Thomson issue of May 26, 1977, an enterprising collector had the above cover datestamped at the Leith post office as a "local" first day cover. The official centre of issue of course was Ottawa.
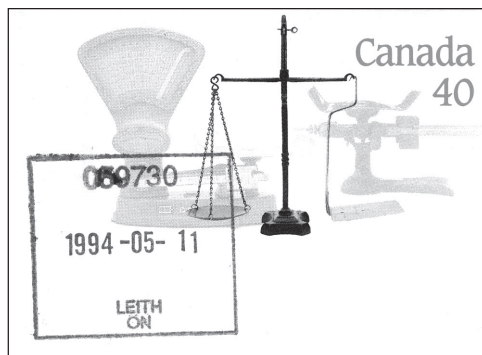
059730 / 1994 -05- 11 / LEITH / ON.
This is the last datestamp that was in use at Leith. The post office closed August 1994.

COURTESY OF Gus Knierim

The Final Years at Leith

Gus Knierim

Little Leith on the shores of Owen Sound has quite a postal history to boast about. It was the 17th post office in Grey County and only the third in Sydenham Township after Owen's Sound and Woodford. It served the community for 141 years before it finally closed its doors in August, 1994.

Never a large office, it held non-accounting (#80378) status until at least 1966. As a non-accounting office, prior to 1966, the Leith post office was authorized to issue and pay postal notes, however, they were not authorized to sell money orders.

Sometime between 1966 and 1973 the office was upgraded to an accounting office (#3005). Early in the 1970s it was assigned the postal code N0H 1V0. On April 1, 1973, along with the rest of the country it received its computerized office number (POCON 391697). This small post office declared total revenue of $687.00 for the 1973 financial year compared to Annan's $1,594.00.

The post office was replaced by a franchise (#022691) named "Leith/Owen Sound RPO 6" on October 1, 1990. This system of organization was short-lived and lasted only until July 29, 1991 (the official closing date) and was replaced by Leith RO (#59730) on May 13, 1991. The retail outlet at 1035 East Bayshore Rd. finally closed its postal operation in August of 1994 when operations were replaced by a community mail box. In its last year

Member of Parliament, The Hon. Ovid Jackson, assisted by two Canada Post dignitaries from the London office, unveiled the framed print of the 1997 52¢ Christmas stamp showing the stained glass window of Leith United Church.
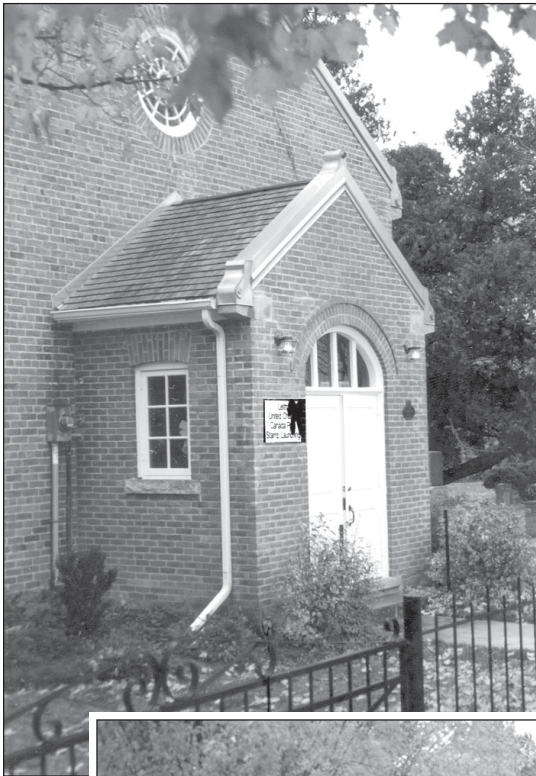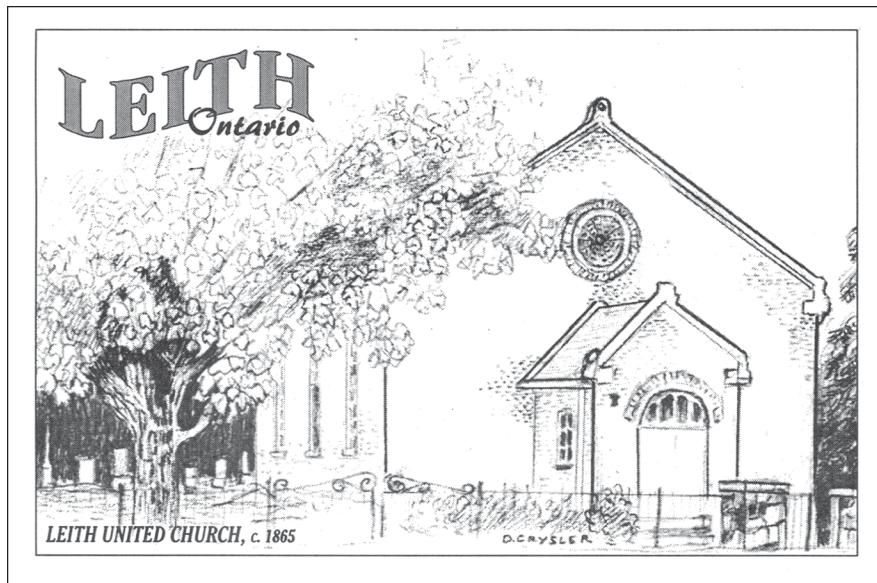

Leith United Church, in whose cemetery painter Tom Thomson is buried, was the site of the Stamp Launch. Sign beside the front door proclaims:
**Leith
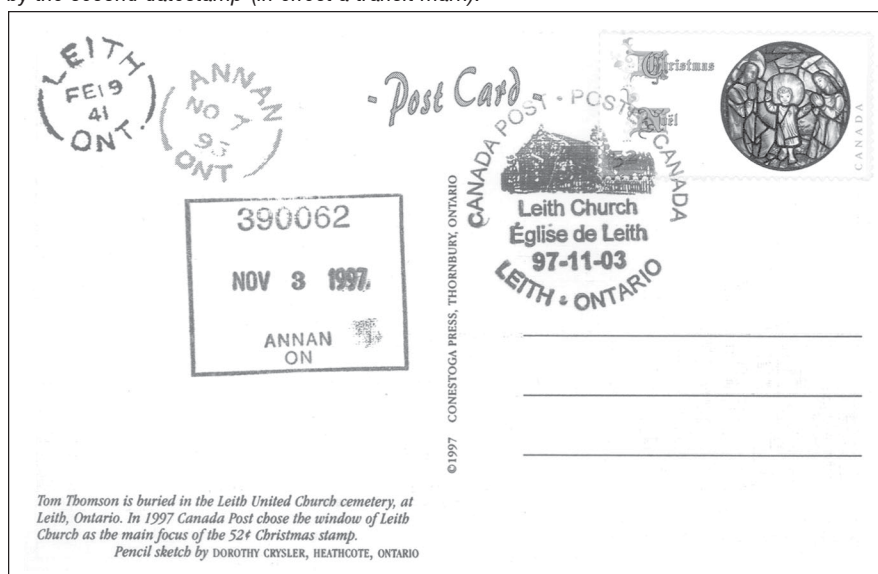United Church
Canada Post
Stamp Launching**

The church was filled with many interested onlookers on this late fall day.

LEITH *Ontario*

LEITH UNITED CHURCH, c. 1865   D. CRYSLER

Post Card

390062

NOV 3 1997.

ANNAN
ON

Leith Church
Église de Leith
97-11-03
LEITH • ONTARIO

© 1997   CONESTOGA PRESS, THORNBURY, ONTARIO

Tom Thomson is buried in the Leith United Church cemetery, at Leith, Ontario. In 1997 Canada Post chose the window of Leith Church as the main focus of the 52¢ Christmas stamp.
Pencil sketch by DOROTHY CRYSLER, HEATHCOTE, ONTARIO

cemetery the Group of Seven painter Tom Thomson is buried, as the site to launch that year's 52¢ Christmas stamp. As a central feature the stamp depicted the stained glass window at the church.

The church was filled to capacity on this late autumn day mainly with local historians plus a few collectors. The mini-launch was coordinated through the regional office at London with the help of the local Canada Post retail representative. The Hon. Ovid Jackson, MP, unveiled the stamp with the help of Canada Post dignitaries from the London. In attendance were also Sydenham Township reeve and Grey County's warden. The launch took on the air of a very festive occasion and the local population was obviously proud that their little community had been chosen not only for the basis of a stamp design but also for the occasion of this launch.

As a further initiative Canada Post also sold locally produced post cards and an imprinted № 10 postal stationery envelope. A special day of issue datestamp was used for the occasion. How-

of operation the householder count for Leith was 100. Thereafter counter service was offered at neighbouring Annan post office. Today even the store has closed.

A Mini-Stamp Launch

Almost as an anti-climax, Leith got one more kick at the can on November 3, 1997 when Canada Post chose the Leith United Church, in whose

CANADA 45 POSTAGE / CANADA POSTES 45

FROM/DE
LEITH *Ontario*
N0H 1V0

LEITH UNITED CHURCH, c. 1865

TO / À

POSTAL CODE / CODE POSTAL

FROM/DE
ANNAN *Ontario*
N0H 1B0

LEITH UNITED CHURCH, c. 1865

The 45¢ Nº 10 Bluebird envelope was imprinted with the Leith Church cachet for the occasion. Since Leith no longer had a post office and postal services were provided through Annan, the envelope had the Annan imprint which however was unacceptable.

ever, any item that was to be mailed needed to go through Annan post office.

The Nº 10 envelopes that were ordered had an imprint of the Leith United Church as well as the legend "Annan Ontario N0H 2P0". However, that was not acceptable to the local gentry and the envelopes were quickly reprinted with the same image but a change in wording to "Leith Ontario N0H 1V0" just in time for the launch.

The original Annan Nº enelope had a print run of 150. The Leith envelope had an initial printing of 325 and was reprinted in 1999 using the 46¢ "Great Crested Flycatcher Nº 10 envelope. That second printing consisted of a print run of 163.

The occasion also called for a special post card to commemorate the event. This card, based on a design by local artist Dorothy Crysler of Heathcote is shown on the previous page. The Leith United Church Restoration Committee received the balance of the cards of the first printing (150) and has reprinted the card for a total press run of 650. ✉

Map of HOPE BAY *and* HOPE NESS

PROOF STRIKES

HOPE·BAY
I JY 26
78
ONT
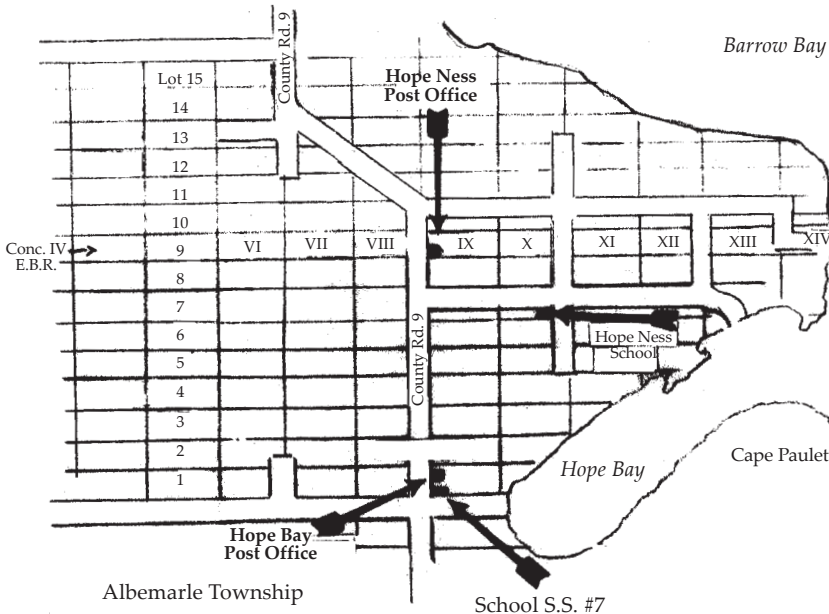
Type A1 – 22 mm
arcs 8.0

HOPE-NESS
AU 20
81
ONT.

Type A1 – 22 mm
arcs 7.5, 7.0

Hope Bay's first halfway house, 1876, Lot 7, Conc. 8, E.B.R., Eastnor Township, was built by Wm. Collwell

EASTNOR TOWNSHIP

The *Georgian Courier* continues its journey through the former Eastnor Township, now part of the Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula.

Hope Bay / Hopeness

Hope Bay is a beautiful bay on the west shore of Georgian Bay just south of Cape Dundas. The shore along the bay is lined with limestone cliffs rising to great heights. Above the cliffs are potholes three feet to ten feet in diameter and of varying depths. They are known as, "Indian Wells".

The bay was named after Sir William Johnston Hope, First Lord of the Admiralty in 1807, and who died in 1831. Some historians believe that Hope Bay was named after Col. Henry Hope, a member of the Legislative Council. This is unlikely since Bayfield and Owen who named most of the waters around the Bruce Peninsula favoured British Admiralty's prominent members.

The post office was named Hope Bay after the nearby bay. It was established on June 1, 1878 in the home of Joseph Waugh the newly appointed postmaster who lived on Lot 9, Concession 9. Joseph Waugh is thought to have been the first settler in Eastnor Township arriving there in 1866. He was born in Enniskillen, Ireland in 1839. Shortly after arriving in Canada he met and married Mary Schermerhorn, (1842–1914), of Wallace Township, Perth County. In 1880 a growing community was taking form on County Road 9, just over the Albemarle Township border in Eastnor Township. James Muirhead who lived on Lot 1, Concession 9, Albemarle repeatedly urged the postal authorities to move the Hope Bay post office to his area in order to better serve the local community of over 50 inhabitants. The post office department proposed renaming the Hope Bay post office. The settlers in the Concession 9 area objected to losing the name of their post office. A compromise between the post office patrons and the post office department was reached whereby the name of the

Hope Bay post office would be changed to Hope Ness. In Scotland "Ness" means a Point.

On September 1, 1881 the Hope Bay post office became Hope Ness and a new Hope Bay post office opened further south. Joseph Waugh remained postmaster for eight more years before resigning on September 26, 1889. The Hope Ness post office officially closed on October 31,1889.

Mr. Waugh was 84 years old when he passed away in 1923.

Hope Bay

A new Hope Bay post office was established on September 1, 1881. It was located in the residence of James and Mary Muirhead on Lot 1, Concession 9 in Albemarle Township. Mr. Muirhead, a butcher by trade, was appointed postmaster. He had the post office for seven years, until 1888, when he resigned. John Hewton succeeded him. On November 1, 1889 the post office opened in Mr. Hewton's home on Lot 1, Concession 8 in Albemarle Township. John and his twin brother James were born in Armagh, Ireland on November 28, 1829. John immigrated to Quebec and later moved to Ontario in 1878, settling in Hope Bay. His wife the former Lydia P. Webb acted as his post office assistant. In April 1894, John Hewton moved further north to Lot 2, Concession 9 in Eastnor and resigned as postmaster.

Joseph W. Freckelton became Hope Bay's next postmaster on June 20, 1894. Although he served as postmaster for twelve years and had property in both Albemarle and Eastnor, very little is known about this family. Note, that the post office records at National Archives in Ottawa show a Joseph Frichton as postmaster from 1907 to 1909. No trace of a Joseph Frichton as a property owner or otherwise can be found by the author. There is evidence that indicates Mr. Freckelton was the postmaster. Most likely an error in transcribing information to the postal records occurred at headquarters where junior clerks were given these tasks.

John Slack who owned a well-kept farm on Lot 2, Concession 8 in Eastnor Township was appointed postmaster on February 1, 1907. The post office moved to his residence. John was married to Miss Punchard, a schoolteacher at S.S. #7, Eastnor. They sold the farm in August 1909 and moved to Western Canada.

The postal authorities selected Alexander H. Hepburn to be Hope Bay's 5th postmaster. On the day of his official appointment September 13, 1909, office to his residence. Alex. Hepburn and his wife Caroline, nee Belson, farmed on Lot 1, Concession 9,

*Alexander H. Hepburn,
Hope Bay Postmaster
1909–1946*

*Post Card mailed from
MAR / ONT. /JUL 26 / 11
and received at HOPE BAY
the same day.*
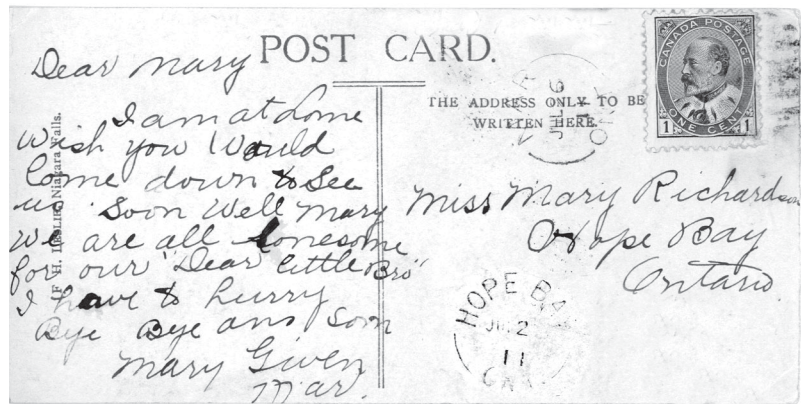
in Eastnor. He was born in Minto Township in 1871. A practical veterinary he worked throughout the Bruce Peninsula doctoring animals and was a well-known personality. Mr. Hepburn was active in municipal politics, serving on the Eastnor Council for 17 years. He was also a school trustee and was postmaster for 37 years. Mrs. Hepburn operated the Gillies Telephone Exchange from her home for 17 years. Listed as a postmaster's assistant she also did most of the work connected with the post office. Alex. Hepburn sold his farm to Robert Brough, resigned as postmaster and moved into retirement in Wiarton. Mr. Hepburn passed away in 1956 and his wife Caroline in 1960.

Margaret Mae Brough, Robert's wife was appointed acting postmaster on December 5, 1946 and confirmed in office on April 17, 1947. Mrs. Brough was the former Margaret Mae Rouse. The post office remained at the same location in the former Hepburn residence on Lot 1, Concession 9, Eastnor. The postal inspector's report of March 15, 1948 described the Hope Bay post office as a "non-accounting office, Group 1, 79996, in a frame residence with asbestos siding built in 1898". Mail was dispatched at 10:30 a.m. and received **at** 4:30

p.m. The postmaster's salary was $120.00 per annum plus $12.00 rent allowance. Revenue for the previous year was $68.55. The postmaster's salary increased to $132.00 in 1950, to $144.00 in 1951 and $160.00 in 1953. From 1947 to 1853 revenue remained fairly static at $45.00 to $50.00 annually.

The postal authorities decided to close the Hope Bay post office on February 4, 1954 with patrons to receive their mail via rural route. When objections were raised the Post Office Department decided to keep the office open and take a survey. The survey was carried out on May 9, 1954. It determined that there were only seven patrons being served by the post office. As a result the post office was closed on

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• A **NEW** Discovery! **Hope Bay (1)** became **Hope Ness** on July 1, 1881. **Hope Bay (2)** was opened September 1, 1881. Hope Bay (1) supposedly used the 22.0-mm Type A1 hammer shown on p. 414. Shown in the inset is a MR 21 1892 strike of a 21.0-mm Hope Bay hammer which has not been recorded. Unless the image in Paul Hughes' proof books is incorrect, then this is definitely a new hammer for Hope Bay (2). COURTESY OF Robt. C. Smith

Hope Bay Post Office (1909–1954), Lot 1, Conc. 9, E.B.R., Eastnor Township. Postmaster Alexander H. Hepburn and his wife with Beryl Harvey.
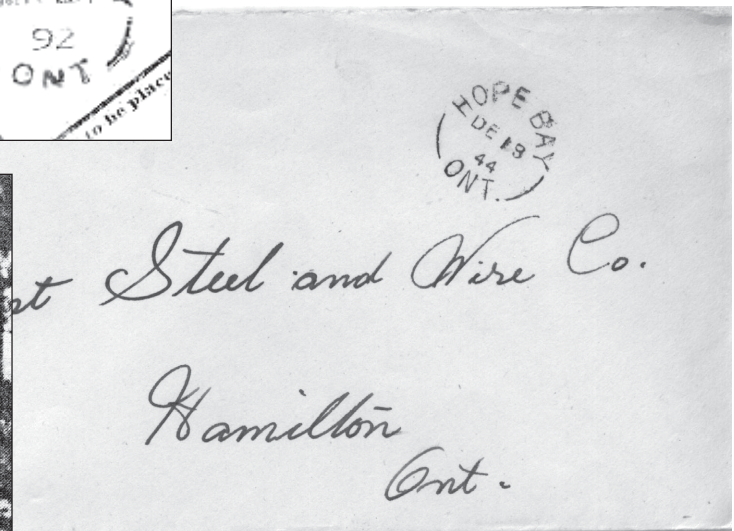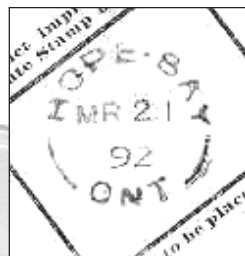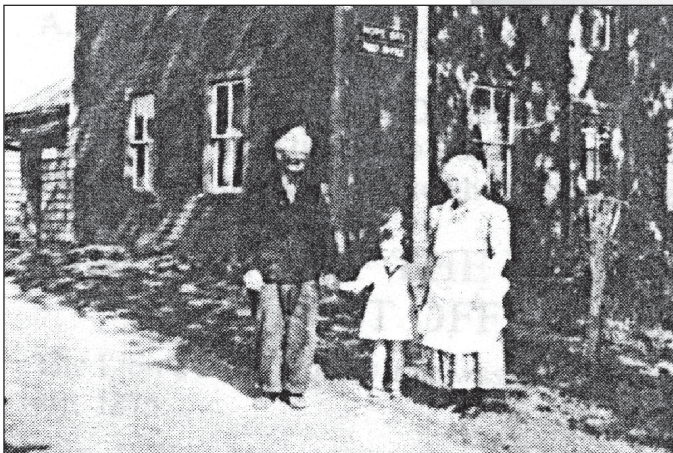
Stampless letter mailed from HOPE BAY / ONT. / DE 18 / 44 to Hamilton, Ontario. It is the latest recorded strike of the Hope Bay broken circle hammer.
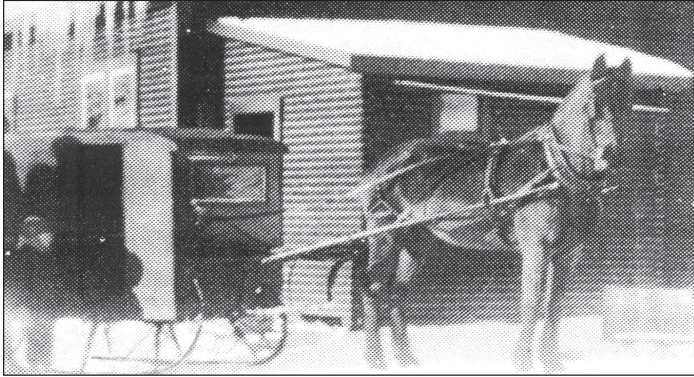
PROOF STRIKE
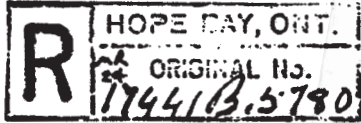
Gordon Hepburn, mail courier, and his enclosed cutter served the patrons of RR6 Wiarton. The route was established May 1, 1931.

HOPE BAY / ONT. / JA 14 / 52
This 23.0-mm cds hammer was proof July 28, 1948

July 2, 1954. Wiarton Rural Route 6 was rearranged in order to serve the Hope Bay patrons. The Brough's sold their property to Morris and Audrey Wilkins and moved to Colpoys Bay.

One of the chief tourist attractions in Hope Bay is the, "Frog and Nightgown" craft shop formerly, "The Purple Turtle". Logging the main industry in the early days, which gave way to fishing, has now developed into tourism.

Hope Ness caves are found on the north shore of Hope Bay. Most of the film, "Quest for Fire", was filmed at this location.

Wiarton R.R. 6 (Wiarton-Hope Bay)

When mail contractors started using the Centre Road, Wiarton to Lion's Head, the daily mail stage using the East road was no longer feasible and ceased operations.

In order to serve the patrons at Hope Bay, Barrow Bay and Colpoy's Bay, R.R. 6 was re-organized and a new R.R. 6 contract was arranged. This new Rural Route 6 was established on May 1, 1931. The contract called for daily service, six days a week between Wiarton and Hope Bay.

Gordon F. Hepburn was awarded the contract at $425.00 per annum. On November 23, 1934 the contract was amended and renewed at $825.00 plus an additional $425.00 to cover spur routes that were added. Mr. Hepburn used a Ford car, which he purchased in 1931. Mr. Hepburn used this car for the next 12 years until he retired in 1943.

During the winter months he used a horse and enclosed cutter as seen above.

Andrew Butchart was awarded the new contract and provided good service until Andrew Thompson of Hope Bay took over the contract.

THE POSTMASTERS of HOPE BAY and their periods of service

Post office established	Sept. 1, 1881
James Muirhead	Sept. 1, 1881 until Jan. 13, 1888 RESIGNATION
John Rewton	Nov. 1, 1889 until April 7, 1894 RESIGNATION
Joseph W. Freckelton	June 20, 1894 until May 9, 1906 RESIGNATION
John Slack	Feb. 1, 1907 until Aug. 9, 1909 RESIGNATION
Alexander H. Hepburn	Sep. 13, 1909 until Nov. 19, 1946 RESIGNATION
Mrs. Margaret Mae Brough	Dec. 5, 1946 ACTING
Mrs. Margaret Mae Brough	Apr. 17, 1947 until July 2, 1954 RESIGNATION
Post office closed	July 2, 1954

Non-accounting Office No. **79996**

Barrow Bay

The combination of beauty and peacefulness describes Barrow Bay with its picturesque, "Little Lake", and the nearby shores of Georgian Bay. It derives its name from the bay, which was named by Admiral Henry Wolsey Bayfield, R.N. The Admiral carried out a marine survey of the waters surrounding the Bruce Peninsula in 1815–1816 and wished to honour Sir John Barrow, Second Secretary to the British Admiralty from 1807 to 1845.

The earliest attempt to establish a manufacturing industry in Eastnor Township was in 1894 when Patrick "Judge" de Jean built a sawmill at Barrow Bay, 29 kilometers north of Wiarton. In 1883 a steam sawmill was built and in 1892 the Barrow Bay Lumber Company built a large roller-process

Patrick "Judge" de Jean with horse and gig in front of the General Store and Post Office located at the Barrow Bay Lumber Co., c.1895.

Barrow Bay Lumber Co. Ltd. offices and Barrow Bay post office, c.1900. The post office was located in the back of the General Store on the right side from 1889 until 1969.

grist mill. The Barrow Bay store is one of the oldest frame buildings in the Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula. It was built on Part Lot 18, Concession 6 in 1889 by the Barrow Bay Lumber Company. While the building was under construction the company asked the Post Office authorities to establish a post office and offered to provide space for it in the new building.

The Barrow Bay post office was established on March 1, 1890. A company officer, Oscar Church was appointed postmaster. The post office was located in the back of the store, in the north corner. It was destined to remain at this location for almost 80 years until it closed in November, 1969.

The lumber company sold the business in 1897 to Seamen, Hunter and Crawford. On June 30, 1897 the post office was transferred to James Hunter, one of the partners in the company. The Barrow Bay Lumber Company was a very successful enterprise. In 1899 they were producing 500 railway ties every day. The lumber company changed ownership in 1901 to Captain William Tyson, and again in 1906 to John Manley. Jack Lane managed the business during this period until 1907 when it was purchased by William Hewton and Roy Greig. Meanwhile Mr. Hunter became a non-resident and was therefore no longer eligible for office. He was dismissed from the office of postmaster on February 26, 1906.

William Thomas Hewton was born in Port Neuf, Quebec. He moved to Hope Bay with his parents when he was 16. In 1889 he married Mary Angeline Waugh. They moved to Barrow Bay in 1904. William Hewton became Barrow Bay's third postmaster on April 1, 1907. Eight years later in July 1915, Mr. Hewton resigned and the post office was transferred to his partner, Roy Greig. Mr. Greig had purchased the business and taken over management of both the store and post office.

Roy Greig, a son of John Kennedy Greig Sr., and Jessie Butchart was confirmed postmaster on October 6, 1915. He had worked for both Tyson and Lane since 1904
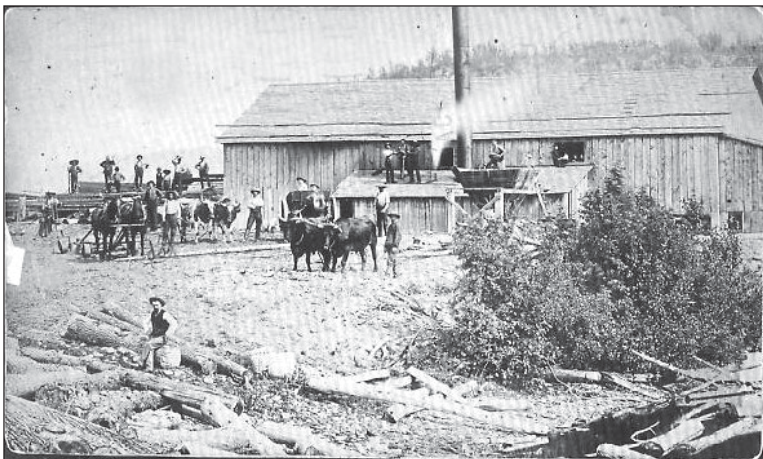
*The sawmill at Barrow Bay as seen on an early post card.*

BARROW•BAY / ONT / AU 8 / 94
Registered cover paying 8¢ rate – 3¢ per oz. first class plus 5¢ registration. This rate was in use from May 8, 1889 until December 31, 1898. On its way to Montreal the cover received transit strikes at Wiarton (August 8), Stratford & Wiarton R.P.O. No. 1 (August 9), Toronto (August 9), and receiver at Montreal (August 9) – quite the overnight journey in 1894!


before joining with William Hewton to purchase the business in 1907. Roy Greig was born at Hope Ness in 1888. He married Katherine Graham in Wiarton in May 1912. (Their son Brent married Cathy Nairn, the postmaster of Lion's Head, in 1980.) The Greig's sold the business to William Samuel Crozier of London, Ontario in 1921. Mr. Crozier operated the business for just over two years before selling it to Albert Hewton, a son of William Hewton, a former postmaster.

Albert Hewton was born in Hope Bay in 1901. He married Julia Graham of North Keppel in 1921. Julia had worked for Mr. Crozier as the postmaster's assistant. Two of Albert's brother Herbert's daughters, Eunice (Mrs. Gordon White), and Vera (Mrs. Emary Memeray) assisted him in the store and post office. Within two months Albert Hewton sold the business to his brother Herbert John Hewton.
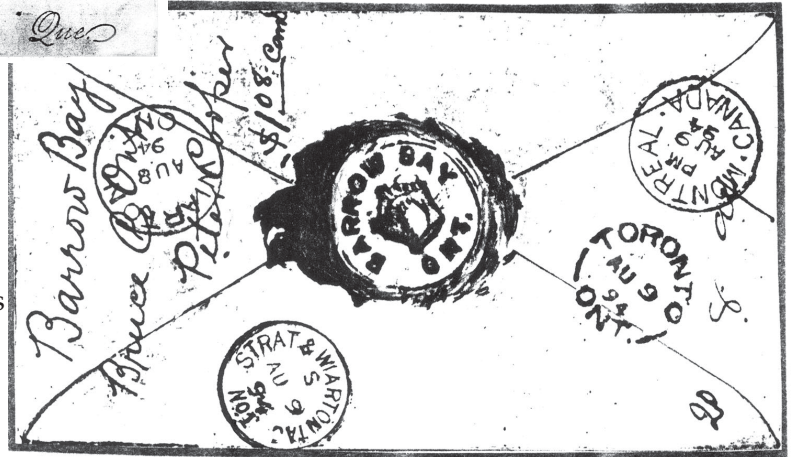
Herbert John Hewton was born in March 1893. When a young man he went to Western Canada but after a few years returned to Barrow Bay. He enlisted in the 160th Bruce Battalion and served overseas during W.W. I, with "C" Company, 1st Canadian Engineers. After he returned home he met and married Leona Webb in 1921. Herbert was appointed postmaster of Barrow Bay on July 17, 1924.
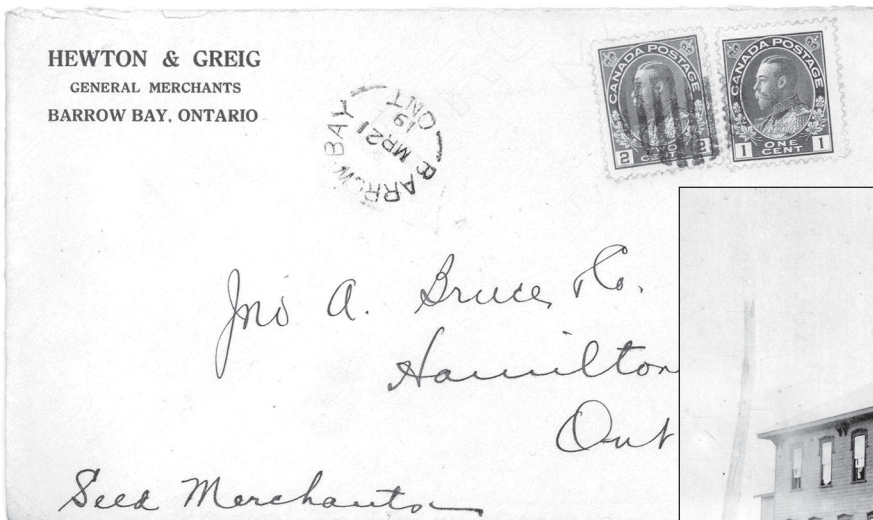
BARROW•BAY / ONT / MR 21 / 19
The General Merchants, Hewton & Greig, of Barrow Bay had their corner card imprinted on this envelope. Besides being merchants, Roy Greig was also the postmaster at this post office.

The Barrow Bay Hotel was destroyed by fire in 1911. The hotel was located opposite the lumber company offices.

It was during the early 1920s that Barrow Bay became known as an angler's ideal fishing area. Cottages were built and local residents promoted tourism, advertising the area as a "Fisherman's Paradise". In 1935 Herbert took his younger brother Hector into the business as a partner. The firm was known as, "Hewton Brothers".

In June 1937, after 13 years in business, Herbert sold his share in the company to his younger brother, Hector Walter Hewton and resigned as postmaster. During W.W. II Herbert served in the Veterans Guard of Canada. He died on December 14, 1974. James Malcolm, M.P. wrote to the Postmaster General recommending that Hector Hewton be appointed postmaster at Barrow Bay.

Hector Hewton was officially appointed postmaster on July 24,1937. He was born in Barrow Bay on October 30, 1909. His wife was Ethel Caudle, a daughter of Charles Caudle and Elizabeth (Lizzie) Currie. Ethel had been working at the post office since 1935. Revenue for Barrow Bay post office in 1938–1939 was $118.30. The postmaster's assistants at this time were his wife Ethel Hewton, Hilda Bray and Edgar Caudle. In 1941 Hector Hewton asked postal authorities for a special leave of absence from April 15 to December 15 in order to sail on the Great Lakes. He pointed out that his wife Ethel could manage the post office and was well experienced. Permission was granted and his wife took charge of the post office. On August 29, 1941 Hector Hewton returned to duty. One year later on August 20, 1942 the postmaster was granted military leave in order to join the Canadian Navy. The post office was transferred to Ethel Hewton and she was appointed

Acting Postmaster. Miss Jemima Mackie was sworn in as an assistant in 1941.

Ethel Hewton spent almost three weeks in hospital during November 1942. On February 1, 1943 she was suddenly taken ill and was removed to hospital in Toronto for major surgery. She was able to resume her post office duties on March 15, 1943. Revenue was $124.94 for 1941–1942. By February 1944 things seemed to be going from bad to worse. Ethel was not too well, the children were sick and Hector (still in the navy) had a mastoid operation in Newfoundland. As a result Ethel Hewton asked that consideration be given to withdrawing money order service and reducing the post office to a non-accounting status. On September 30, 1944 Barrow Bay became non-accounting office No. 78248. In early October 1944 the Hewton's sold the business including the post office to William Henry Elgin Lemcke. Ethel Hewton and Hector, who had returned from military service, tendered their resignations to postal authorities and within a few months moved to Toronto, Ontario.

Elgin Lemcke's wife, Bernice Jean, applied for the postmaster's position on October 18, 1944. On December 6, 1944 Mrs. Bernice Lemcke was appointed postmaster and Miss Helen Caudle her assistant, Elgin Lemcke was a son of William

Barrow Bay's sole cancellation hammer – a broken circle type A1 (21.0 mm, arcs 5.5, 6.5) was proofed August 2, 1890. It has been reported in use from August 8, 1894 until April 17, 1969.
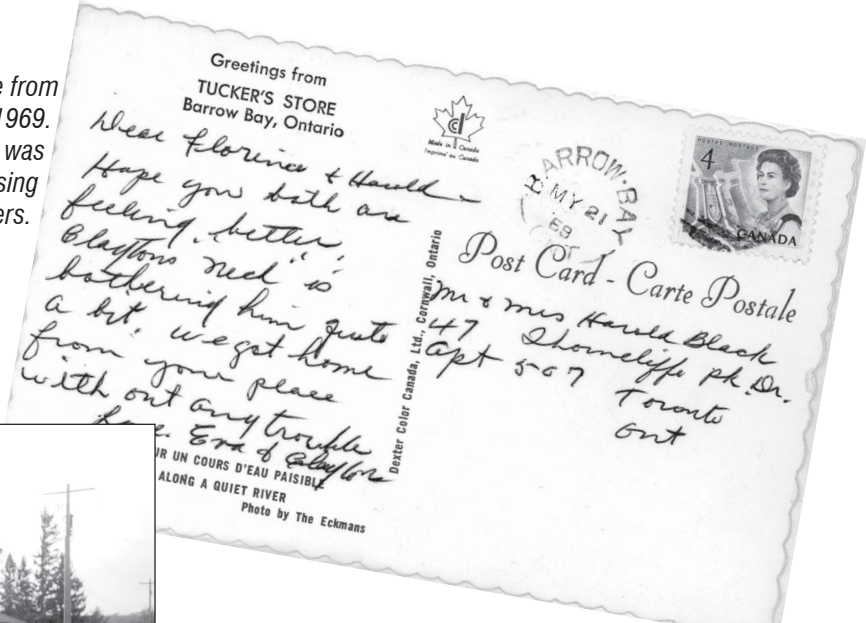
Reg. box proofed February 1926.
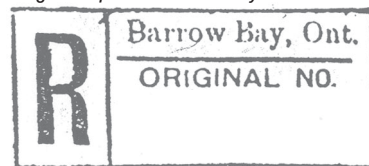
BARROW • BAY / ONT / J Y 6 / 39
This old photo card of Barrow Bay was mailed in July 1939, judging by the manuscript corrected date in the broken circle hammer.

The Tucker family operated the store and post office from 1946 until closure of the post office in November 1969. A generic post card "Fishing along a quiet river" was imprinted for the Tucker store to be sold to passing tourists or cottagers.

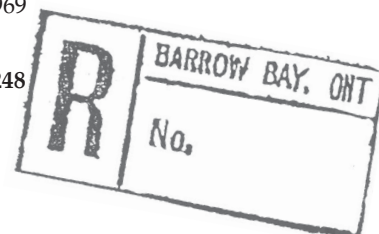The Barrow Bay Lumber Co. offices and general store are now the home of an artist's gallery.

Lemcke and Sarah Hoath. He had spent two years in the military with the 1st Engineers. Although post office revenue increased slightly to $233.54, in 1943–1944, the Lemcke's decided to sell the business and purchase a farm.

The new owner of the business, Mrs. Mary Margaret Tucker, was appointed Acting Postmaster on October 16, 1946. Her husband Verdun Charles Tucker was sworn in as her assistant. Mary Tucker was confirmed postmaster on January 17, 1947. Verdun Tucker was the son of Charles Tucker and Sarah Fries. Mary Tucker was the former Mary Margaret Bray.

The postal inspector's report dated March 12,1948 stated that Barrow Bay post office served 22 householders. The mail for Barrow Bay was delivered by R.R. 3, Lions Head. Post office assistants were shown as Miss Helen Caudle and Verdun Tucker. In 1951 Miss Helen Duke joined Helen Caudle as an assistant. Mary Tucker the postmaster died on December 14, 1964. Her husband Verdun Charles Tucker was named Acting postmaster. Barrow Bay, a Grade 2, non-accounting office, had revenue of $394.00 for 1963–1964. The postmaster received a salary of $430.00. Mr. Tucker was confirmed postmaster on March 1, 1965. Alan George Eichenberger negotiated the purchase of the store and post office in May 1967 and applied for the postmasters job. The sale was never finalized. The District Director of the Post Office Department in a report dated April 22, 1969

recommended that the Barrow Bay post office be closed and that group boxes serve the patrons. It was noted that the postmaster's salary was now $800.00 , revenue had declined to $330.00 and only 15 families were being served.

Barrow Bay post office closed permanently on November 7, 1969. Beginning November 8, 1969 customers were served by R.R. 3, Lions Head. A petition dated May 5, 1970, signed by 133 cottage and property owners was sent to the post office authorities asking that the Barrow Bay post office be re-opened. They stated that service from Lions Head was inadequate and that much mail was being returned. Postal authorities ignored **the** request. ✉

POSTMASTERS OF BARROW BAY
and their periods of service

Post Office established	March 1,1890
Oscar Church	Mar. 1, 1890 until Mar. 13, 1897 RESIGNATION
James Hunter	June 30, 1897 until Feb. 26, 1906 DISMISSAL
	NON-RESIDENT
William Th. Rewton	Apr. 1, 1907 until July 2, 1915 RESIGNATION
Roy Greig	Oct. 6, 1915 until July 13, 1921 RESIGNATION
William Sam. Crozier	Sep. 8, 1921 until Nov. 26, 1923 RESIGNATION
Albert Hewton	Jan. 31, 1924 until Apr. 14, 1924 RESIGNATION
Herbert John Hewton	July 17,1924 until June 19, 1937 RESIGNATION
Hector Walt. Hewton	July 24, 1937 until Aug. 20, 1942 RESIGNATION
Mrs. Ethel Hewton	Aug. 20, 1942 until Oct. 6, 1944 ACTING
Hector Walt. Hewton	July 24, 1937 until Oct. 6, 1944 RESIGNATION (ON MILITARY LEAVE 1942–1944)
Mrs. Bernice J. Lemcke	Dec. 6, 1944 until Aug. 1, 1946 RESIGNATION
Mrs. Mary Marg. Tucker	Oct. 16, 1946 ACTING
Mrs. Mary Marg. Tucker	Jan. 17, 1947 until Dec. 14, 1964 DEATH
Verdun Chas. Tucker	Dec.15, 1964 ACTING
Verdun Chas. Tucker	Mar. 1, 1965 until Nov. 7, 1969 *P.O. closed*
Post Office closed	Nov. 7, 1969

Money Order Office No. **2164**

Non-Accounting Office No. **78248**

78248

R BARROW BAY, ONT No.

More on the Community of Dalston

[REF. R-195]

The Dalston General Store, Springwater Township – July, 2005.

COURTESY – Mike Millar

Mike Millar reports in with the following information about the General Store and former post office at of Dalston that Bob Smith highlighted in last issue's "Post Offices on Post Cards" column.

Yes this is the Dalston Store. I went out this morning and took a couple of pictures at approximately 10:30 am. The view in the post card and the photo is looking north up the Penetanguishene Road, now Simcoe County Road 93 (formerly Provincial Highway 93 before the infrastructure down-loading). The road on the right is the Old Barrie Road, Simcoe County Road 11 and the road on the left goes over to Midhurst. As you can see the store has not changed a great deal from the post card. It has new vinyl siding, but still fills the function that it always had of being a county cross-roads general store. As far as I know it still does a thriving business.

The routing for the post card from Coulson would have been down to Oro Station, train to Barrie and then the mail contractor who served Crown Hill, Dalston, Craighurst and Hillsdale. So taking one day from despatch to receipt would be normal as there was no direct service between the two places. While Coulson is on what is now the Horseshoe Valley Road – Simcoe County Road 22 – at that time is was just the Oro-Medonte townline and it did not go through between the first and fourth lines of Oro and Medonte Townships. There was a winding way down through the valley in summer, but it was impassible in the winter. So there was no mail routing from Coulson to Craighurst. I think at this point in time the mail to and from Edgar was left at Dalston for the Edgar postmaster to come over the Old Barrie Road.

Dalston Store (and Post Office while it was open) has always been on this location at the SE corner of Lot 26, Concession 1 of Vespra (now Springwater) Township. The proper description of the Midhurst Road/Old Barrie Road is the 25-26 Sideroad of both Vespra and Oro Townships. While the Penetanguishene Road was the townline between a number of townships all the way from Kempenfelt Bay to Penetanguishene (Vespra-Oro, Flos-Medonte, Tiny-Tay – with four corners at Craighurst and Waverley) it was never known as anything but the Penetanguishene Road, the military road serveyed by Tiger Dunlop of the Canada Company to connect Kempenfelt Bay with the Military Garrison of the Upper Lakes at Penetang. Bob is correct about the service – R.R. 1 Barrie, one of the oldest rural routes in Ontario. ✉

A Mysterious Discovery
in
HAWKESTONE

Gus Knierim

This little gem was recently discovered on eBay. It is a well-used broken circle datestamp for the Simcoe County community of Hawkestone.

The Hawkestone office was first opened June 1, 1856 and named HAWKSTONE. This mis-spelling was corrected sometime in the 1870's and has been operating under the name of HAWKESTONE since then.

Bruce Graham reports in *Ontario Broken Circles* the use of a Type B2 datestamp measuring 25 mm in diameter with an EKD of 17 MY 1867.

The next recorded istrument is a Type A4 which was proofed JA 6 1880 and has the corrected spelling. We have no recorded strikes.

On DE 15 1894 a new Type A1 postmark was proofed. Its specifics are 20.5 mm diameter, arcs 3.0 mm. It has been recorded used as early as MY14 1898 and as late as MR 31 1928. However, the discovered dater does not fit these dimensions.
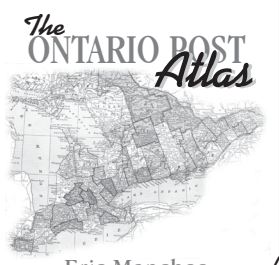
No cds type hammers were proofed. On the other hand Hawkestone did have two different Duplex hammers in use. The first, DON-769 was a 23 mm Type II B11 that was proofed 1913-09-06 and has been known used as early as 1914-08-20 and as late at 1922-07-12. It was again used from 1932-04-23 until 1951-09-19. This hammer was replaced by a 23 mm Type II S7 (proofed 1953-05-29. It also was used for quite a lengthy period. Recorded dates are as early as 1955-02-28 and as late as 1978-05-09.

Now for the mystery. The new broken circle hammer that was discovered on ebay measures 20.0 mm in diameter and has arcs measuring 5.0 and 7.0 mm respectively. This obviously is a new discovery. Unfortunately it did not come with a date nor with sample strikes. Who can shed light on when this datestamp was used. There are obviously some gaps in the timeline of the datestamps mentioned. How long was the Type A4 dater used. Is it possible that this newfound dater falls between the A4 and the the Type A1 proofed in 1894? Or was it perhaps used concurrenly with the duplex hammers. ✉

FOR SALE

Surplus Local History Books of
GREY, BRUCE, HURON, PERTH, WELLINGTON and WATERLOO COUNTIES

1 *West Garafraxa Township – 1867-1967* by Jean F. Hutcheson, (1967). 6"x 9", 65 pp., softcover **$3.50**

2 *Alma, Our Heritage – A history of Alma and District* (Wellington County) by Mabel Trask and Committee, (1984). 8½" x 11", 190 pp., soft bound **$15.00**

3 *Guelph – the Origin of Street Names*, by Ross W. Irwin, (1998), 8¼" x 11", 58 pp., soft cover **$6.00**

4 *Arthur – A History of the Arthur Area* by ODonnell and Coffey, (1971), 8½" x 11", 64 pp., soft cover **$6.00**

5 *Hamilton, on Firsts* by Bailey and Carter, (1973) 9½" x 11", 75 pp., soft cover **$6.00**

6 *Nichol Township, a History of , Pillars and Patches along the Pathways* by David M. Beattie, (1984), 8½" x 11", 210 pp., hard bound **$15.00**

7 *Erin – Main street: a Pictorial Hisory of Erin Village* by Jean Dennison and Committee, (1980), 7" x 11", 64 pp. , soft cover **$5.00**

8 *Petersburgh, Ontario* (Waterloo County) by G.Borden, (1965), 6" x 9", 12 pp, soft cover **$4.00**

9 *Huron County, From Forests to Thriving Hamlets* by Isabelle Campbell, (1968), 6" x 9", 87 pp., soft cover **$10.00**

10 *Waterloo County, A Guide by Waterloo Trust & Savings*, (1962) 5" x 7", 47 pp, soft cover **$2.00**

11 *Sullivan Township, A history of, 1850–1975* by the Historical Society, 6" x 9", 416 pp, Hard bound. **$10.00**

12 *McKillop, A history of* (Huron County) by Mrs. Joseph Grummett, (1967), 6" x 9", 140 pp. , soft cover. **$8.00**

13 *Ashfield & West Wawanosh area, A history, Bush Trails & and Present Tales* by Dungannon Women's Institute, (1984), 6" x 9",

495 pp, soft bound **$12.00**

14 *Wiarton and District, A History of* by Sims and Preston, (1951), 6" X 9", 87 pp, soft cover. **$5.00**

15 Five booklets, *Manitouwadge, Porcupine, Kirkland Lake, Cobalt* and *Red Bay* by Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, 15 pp each, (1972), 9" x 11", soft cover **$6.00**

16 *Orangeville Facts Book*, by Development Committee, (1980s), 12 pp, soft cover **$2.00**

17 *Waterloo County Court House dedication*, by the County, (1965), 9" x 11", 8 pp, Soft cover **$2.00**

18 *Lorne Park, A Village within a City* by Committee (1980), 9" x 11", 103 pp., card cover **$6.00**

19 *Erin Township and Village : 1842–1967*, by Historical Committee, (1967), 6" x 9", 158 pp., card cover **$8.00**

20 *Moose Jaw* (SK), by Chamber of Commerce, (1980), 6" x 9", 14 pp, card cover **$3.00**

21 *Black Creek Pioneer Village* by Dorothy Duncan. (1966), 6" x 9", 32 pp., card cover **$3.00**

22 *Huron County Historical Notes,* Vol. 1 to 6, 1965–1970, 8½" x 11", hard bound in green buckram **$10.00**

23 *Huron County Historical Notes,* Vol. 7 to 12, 1971–1976, hard bound in green buckram. **$10.00**

24 *Huron County Historical Notes,* Vol. 13 to 19, 1977–1983 hard bound in green buckram. **$10.00**

Please note
POSTAGE (SHIPPING) NOT INCLUDED

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