Penetangore KINCARDINE
Postal History from 1851 to 1900

[REF. 245]

John Rossiter

VIEW OF KINCARDINE HARBOR IN 1878   p. 460

In March of 1848 two men landed from a small schooner at the mouth of the Penetangore River. They were Allan Cameron and William Withers. These two men were instrumental in the founding of the community of Penetangore. Mr. Cameron built a log cabin which became a hotel and Mr. Withers built a dam and saw mill which opened in 1849. By the winter of 1848-1849 seven families had located in the little settlement. A survey of the community was made by A. P. Brough in 1849.

On January 1, 1850 the Queen's Bush was divided into counties and the counties were divided into townships. Penetangore was

Allan Cameron

William Withers

now located within the Township of Kincardine in the County of Bruce. Both the township and the county were named after James Bruce, 8th Earl of Elgin and 12th Earl of Kincardine.

Mr. Francis Walker, who arrived in Penetangore drove from Goderich on the ice along the lake shore, in a horse-drawn cutter in the spring of 1850. He brought with him his wife Jane and their seven sons. Mr. Walker built the Walker House Hotel that same year, overlooking the Penetangore River. The growth of this village was rapid as the first school opened in 1851 in a rented frame building with 66 students. Church services were held as

early as 1849 in a log house. Sometime later at the Knox church the services were held in two languages, English and Gaelic.

David McKendrick had opened a small store and on June 6, 1851 was appointed postmaster. The post office was named Kincardine, however the village retained the name Penetangore until it was incorporated in 1858. This was the first post office within Kincardine Township.

The Bruce County Genealogical Society records that by 1857 there were only 499 families (2837 people) in all of Bruce County. That same year a census was taken by Wm. Withers and E. G. Fowler to see if the population of "Penetangore" was sufficient to apply for incorporation as a village. The census contained 837 names and Penetangore was officially incorporated as the Village of Kincardine. By January of 1875 the population had grown to the extent that Kincardine had now attained "Town" status.

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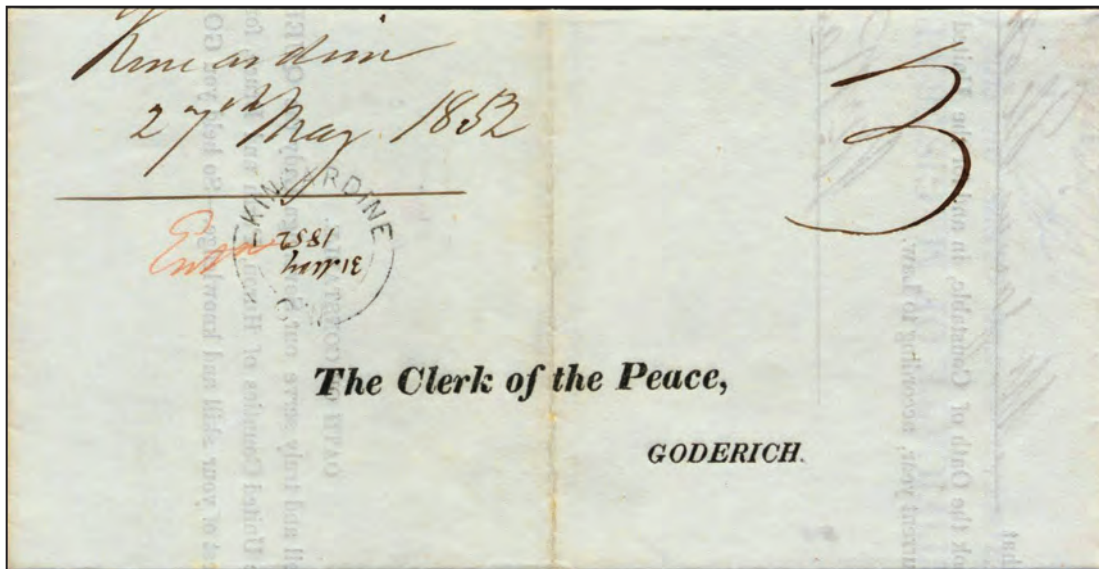
The First Datestamp – C.W.

Fig. 1 - **KINCARDINE C.W.** / **31 May** / **1852**

A "Certificate of Magistrate" from William Rastall, J.P., mailed to "The Clerk of the Peace" at Goderich, U.C., certifying that James Elliott has taken the Oath of Constable for the United Counties of Huron, Perth and Bruce for the current year 1852.

This Kincardine C.W. postmark is their first hammer, and this is the earliest known strike. The cover is back-stamped Goderich U.C., June 1, 1852.

RATE: 3 pence in black (unpaid – recipient to pay postage).

Fig. 2 – **KINCARDINE C.W.** / **FEB. 24, 1853**

This "Money Letter" was written by William Blair in February 1853 to Alex McNabb the Crown Land Agent at Southampton, C.W., and enclosed £20 as the first installment to purchase Lots 25, 26 and 27, Lake Shore, Huron Township, a total of 397 acres on behalf of William Blair, George Blair and William Blair Junior. (There is also a reference to "Apple Cutters or Cuttings to purchase.)

RATE: Paid 6 pence postage, the rate for letters up to 1 oz.

P.S. – The *Belden Atlas* of 1880 lists 5 families in Huron Township named Blair. George Blair owning 385 acres.
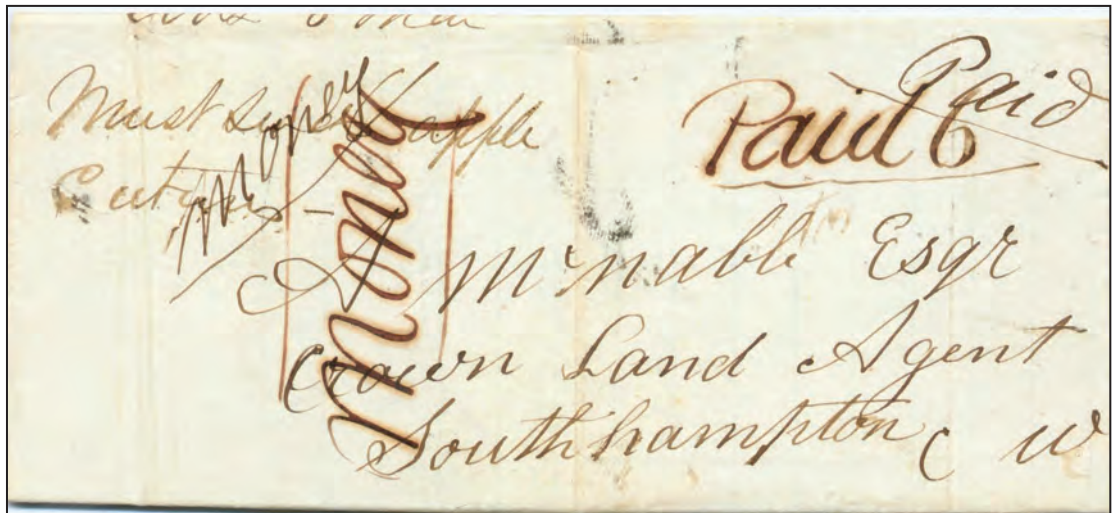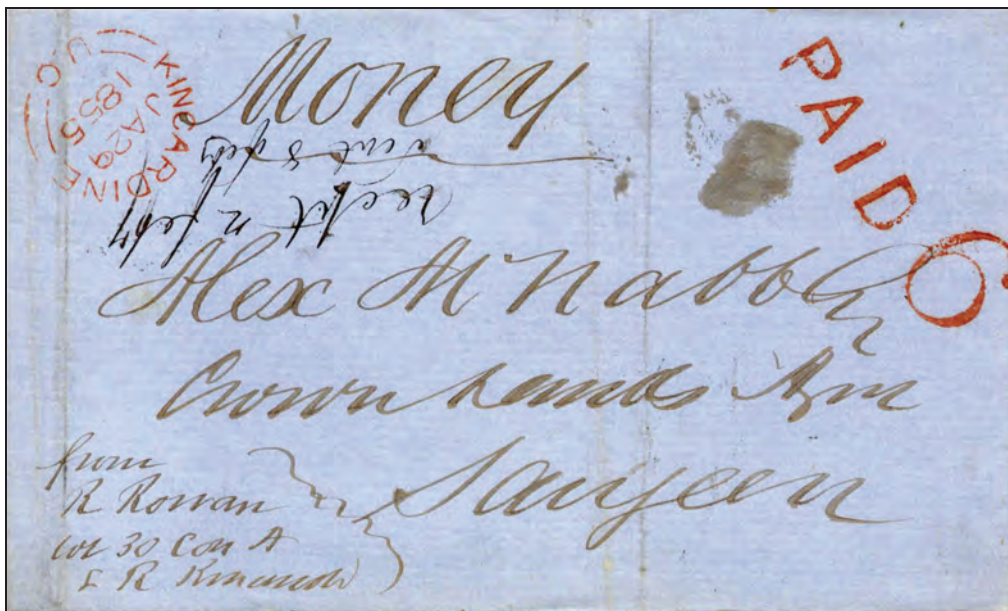

POSTMASTERS AT KINCARDINE POST OFFICE
❧ *1851 - 1900* ☙

David McKendrick: 1851, June 6 – 1857, January 13
Matthew McKendrick: 1857, February 1 – 1892, January 12
Robert Baird: 1892, April 1 – 1907, August 18

The Second Datestamp – U.C.

Fig. 3 - KINCARDINE U.C. / JAN. 29, 1855

This Money Letter was written by R. Rowan in January 1855 to Alex McNabb C.L.A., at Saugeen, and also enclosed cash regarding a land purchase.

RATE: This Money Letter was struck with the red PAID 6 pence hammer as it was a double weight cover between ½ and 1 oz. in weight. At this time there was no additional charge above the postal rate for a "Money Letter". Backstamped – faint Saugeen, U.C. Feb. 2, 1855.

Bruce Graham records an earlier cover dated October 9, 1854.

The "Money Letter" system ended in April 30, 1855 and on May 1, 1855 the new system of "Registration" was put into place. A registration fee of 1 penny was charged on domestic letters.

Fig. 4 – KINCARDINE U.C. / FEB. 25, 1856

This Registered Letter, also mailed in February 1856 to Alex McNabb, was an attempt to purchase land previously settled by others. The sender enclosed £12/10 shillings. He was unsuccessful in his attempt as there is a note (upside down) on the face of the cover stating "Land sold to actual settlers".

RATE: This registered letter was struck with a PAID 3 hammer and then revalued at 6 pence (double rate) as the letter weighed between ½ and 1 oz. There are no backstamps.

David McKendrick, Kincardine's first postmaster had retired on January 13, 1857. He was replaced by Matthew McKendrick whose official appointment was February 1, 1857.

On July 1, 1859 Canada's postage rates were converted from the pence to the decimal system. Thereafter the rate for a ½ oz. domestic letter became 5 cents if paid by the sender or 7 cents if sent unpaid.
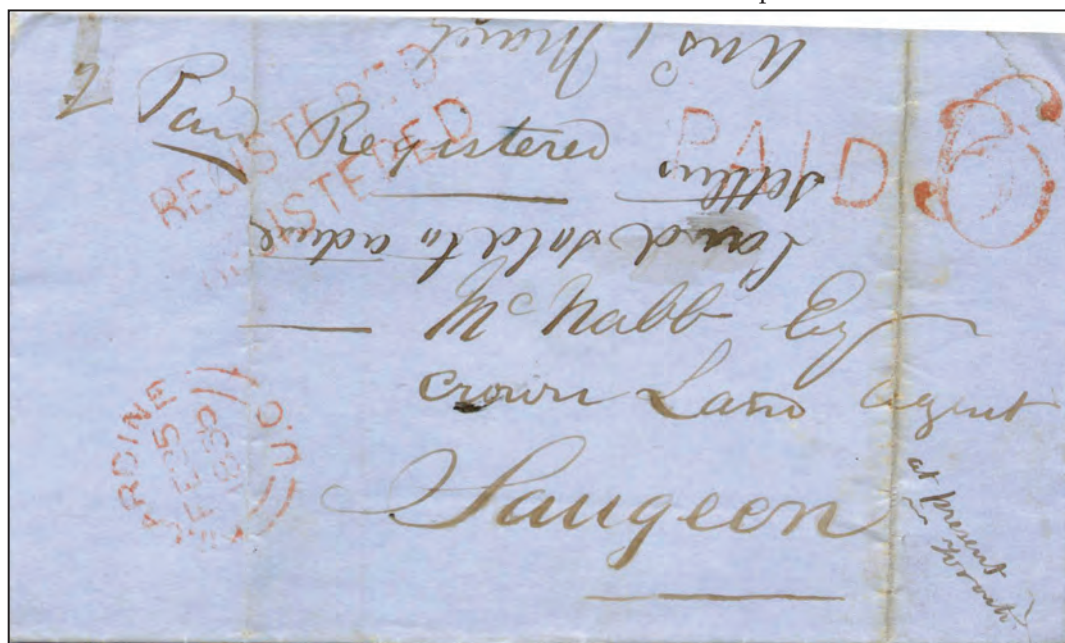
Fig. 5 –
KINCARDINE U.C. / DE 10 / 1859

This letter weighing up to ½ oz. was struck with a PAID 5 hammer and mailed on December 10, 1859, by the former postmaster David McKendrick, and once again to Alex McNabb. Backstamped with a faint Saugeen U.C strike December 12, 1859.
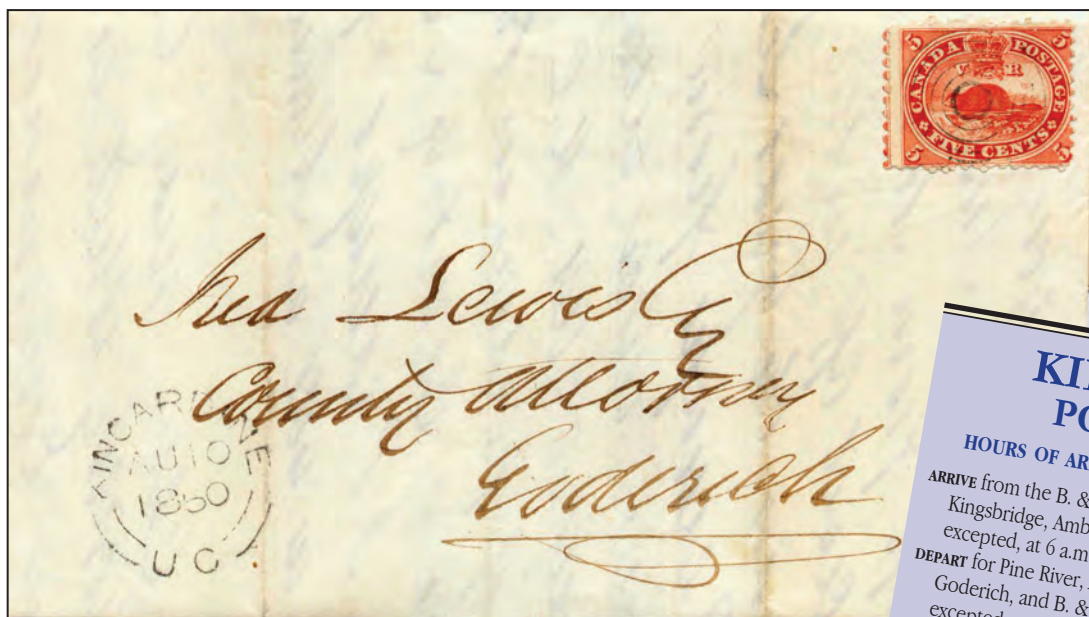
Fig. 6 – **KINCARDINE U.C / AU 10 / 1860**

This letter also weighed up to ½ oz. paid with a 5¢ stamp mailed August 10, 1860 to Goderich, U.C., and backstamped with a Goderich U.C / AU 11 /1860 postmark.

On April 1, 1868 the postage rate for a single-weight domestic letter (up to ½ oz.) was reduced from 5¢ to 3¢ if prepaid and from 7¢ to 5¢ if sent unpaid.

KINCARDINE POST OFFICE
HOURS OF ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF MAILS

ARRIVE from the B. & L. H. Railway, Goderich, Port Albert, Kingsbridge, Amberly, and Pine River, every day, Sundays excepted, at 6 a.m.
DEPART for Pine River, Amberly, Kingsbridge, Port Albert, Goderich, and B. & L. H. Railway every day, Sundays excepted, at 3 p.m. *Mails closed at half-past 2 p.m.*

ARRIVE from Durham, Allan Park, Hanover, Walkerton, Greenock, Riversdale, Kinloss and Bervie every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, at 2 p.m.
DEPART for Bervie, Kinloss, Riversdale, Greenock, Walkerton, Hanover, Allan Park and Durham, every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9 a.m. *Mails closed at half-past 8 a.m.*

ARRIVE from Saugeen, Normanton, North Bruce, Underwood, and Tiverton, every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at 1 p.m.
DEPART for Tiverton, Underwood, North Bruce, Normanton, and Saugeen, every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, at 8 a.m. *Mails close at 7 a.m.*

ARRIVE from Reekie every Tuesday and Saturday at 11 a.m.
DEPART for Reekie every Tuesday and Saturday at noon.

ARRIVE from Lisburn every Saturday at 11 a.m.
DEPART for Lisburn every Saturday at noon.

— County of Bruce, 1867 Directory

Fig. 7 –
**KINCARDINE U.C /
FE 6 / 1871**

This registered letter exceeded ½ oz., but was less than 1 oz. and therefore was charged 6¢ postage.

The 2¢ registration fee would have been paid in cash. Mailed to Toronto, there are no backstamps.
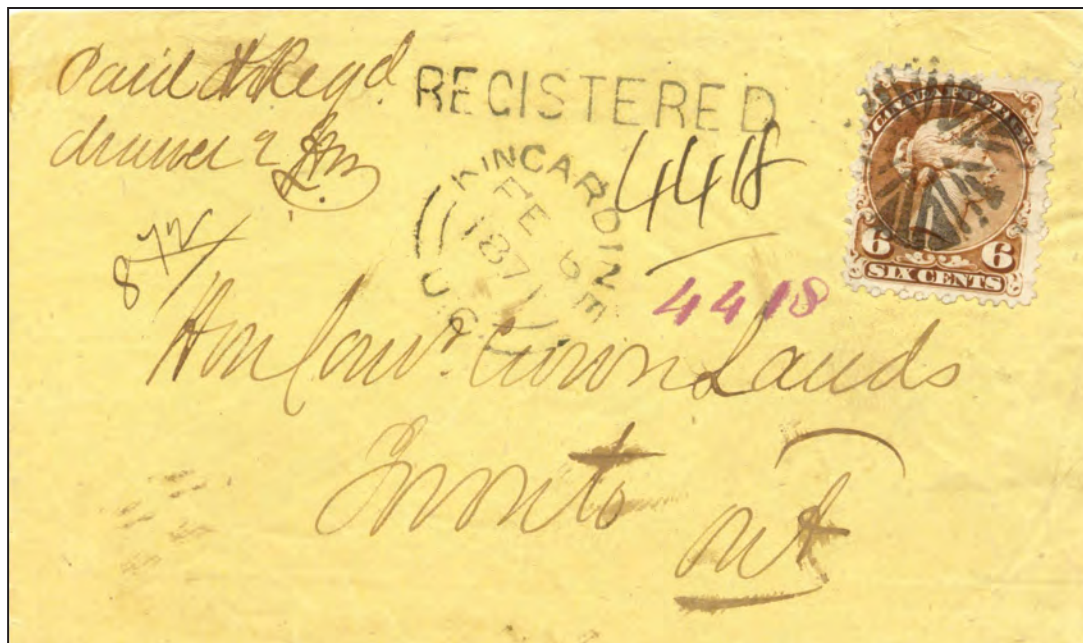
The Third Datestamp – *Broken Circle* ONT

A new "broken circle" KINCARDINE, ONT postmark was proofed on April 3, 1876. The earliest recorded date is June 13, 1876 and the latest October 4, 1886.

The registered letter stamps were issued on November 15, 1875. The 2¢ value paid the registration fee within Canada. The 5¢ value paid the registration fee to the U.S. and the 8¢ value paid the registration fee to the U.K.
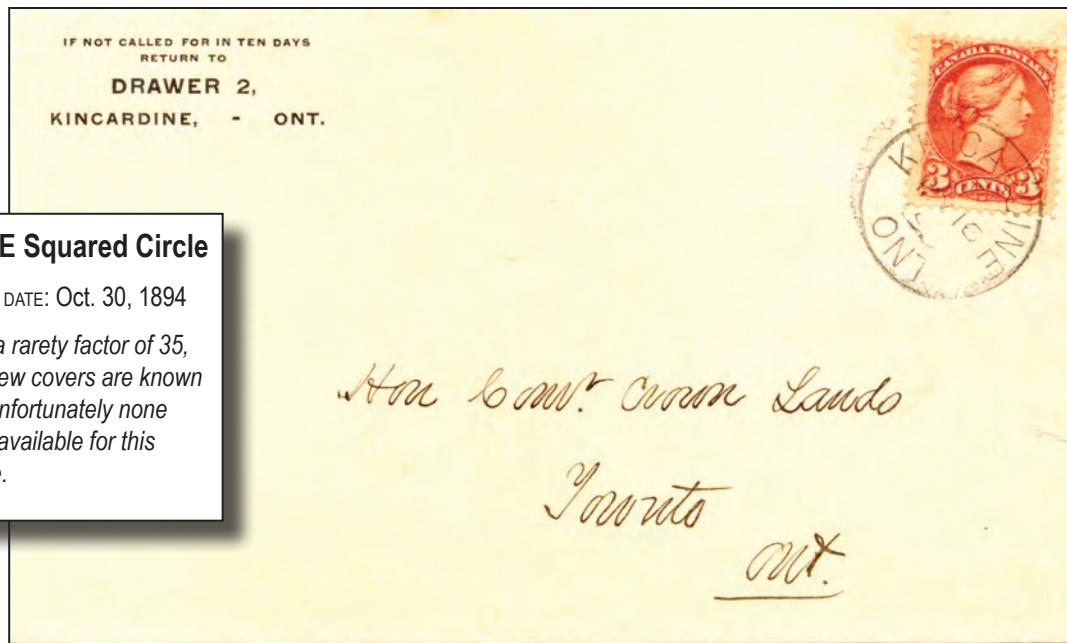
Fig. 8 – **KINCARDINE, ONT / DE 26 / 1877**

A registered letter mailed from Kincardine, Ontario to Toronto paid 3¢ postage and 2¢ registration fee. Backstamped with a poor strike of Walkerton and Toronto, Ontario, December 27, 1877 (PM)

Built into the bank of the Penetangore River in 1881, the Kincardine lighthouse serviced a busy fishing and local salt shipping industry.

The Fourth Datestamp – Full Circle ONT.

A new "Full Circle" KINCARDINE, ONT. postmark was proofed on April 17, 1889. I have no record of the earliest recorded date.

Matthew McKendrick had continued on as Kincardine's postmaster until his death on January 1, 1892. On April 1, 1892 Robert Baird was appointed postmaster continuing on into the 1900s.

REGISTRATION FEE CHANGE IN 1889

The fee for a registered letter was increased from 2¢ to 5¢. Registered letter stamps could still be used to make up the required amount of registration, but so could regular postage stamps to make up the postage plus registration charges.

Fig. 9 – KINCARDINE ONT. MY 16 / 1896

Letter mailed from Kincardine, Ontario, paying the 3¢ postage to Toronto, Ontario. Backstamped Toronto, Ont. May 18, 1896 (15).

Fig. 10 – KINCARDINE ONT. / DE 15 / 1897

Registered letter mailed from Kincardine, Ontario to Waterville, Maine, U.S.A. paying 3¢ postage and the 5¢ registration fee. There are six backstamps on this letter, three different railway mail car hammers, then Hamilton, Montreal & Portland, Maine, arriving on December 18, 1897. Pretty good service.

These are the four Kincardine datestamps I am aware of used during the 1800s.

REFERENCES

Robertson, Norman. *The History of the County of Bruce.*

The *Belden Atlas* of 1880.

W. Bruce Graham. *Ontario Broken Circle Datestamps.*
J. Paul Hughes. *Full Circle Proof Strikes of Ontario*, Vol. IX.

Horrace W. Harrison. *Canada's Registry System: 1827-1911.*

Government of Canada, Library and Archives, Information & Services Division.

James E. Kraemer, FRPSC, FRPSL
1918 – 2012

Jim passed away peacefully in the company of his beloved wife, Fern, at his residence at the Ravines Retirement Home on Saturday, June 30, 2012. Jim was the proud father of James, Vaughn and Darrell as well as loving Poppa to Jameson, and Pop to Jason and Brianna. He was the eldest of eleven siblings and is survived by his two sisters, Elizabeth and Mary Ann, and his brother Hugh.

Jim shared his life-long passion for philately and postal history with many of his friends and was most generous of his time in writing articles for many philatelic journals. Belonging to all of the major philatelic societies, he was a founding member of the Grey, Bruce, Dufferin & Simcoe Postal History Study Group. His well-researched articles graced just about every issue of the GBD&S newsletter. He was instrumental in giving our newsletter its present name of *Georgian Courier*. His articles were, and are, so popular that they have attracted a number of local historians. Jim's wish had been to publish a book on the postal history of Bruce County. He chose instead to use the pages of the *Georgian Courier* to fulfill that dream. All of us are thankful for that generous gift.

Jim will be missed not only by his family, but by all of his philatelic friends throughout the country.

On behalf of all members of the GBD&S Study Group I wish to pass on our sympathies and thanks. We have lost a friend.

Justus Knierim

The Settlement at KEY HARBOUR

[REF. 247]

Parry Sound District

Gus Knierim

Postmaster Pete Murray sitting at the counter in his store and post office awaiting neighbours to pick up mail and perhaps purchase a small item.

In the early days this little community was very dependent on what activity took place in the harbour and what the train brought in or took out. Although some lived at the harbour most folks came in from Key Junction where a school served the young families. Because of this situation there was no need for a post office and such service did not come about until summer tourist traffic warranted it. Key Harbour never rose above the status of a summer office operating as such from July 27, 1937 until November 19, 1960. The post office was set up as a non-accounting office with the organizational number 80231.

In those 23 years two postmasters served that office. Peter Steven Murray was appointed to the position at the time of opening. He served until his retirement on July 23, 1956.

Peter Murray came to Key Harbour in 1921 doing commercial fishing, trapping, guiding, and later on when there were coal boats he worked on them as a signalman. He did this until the coal traffic ended in
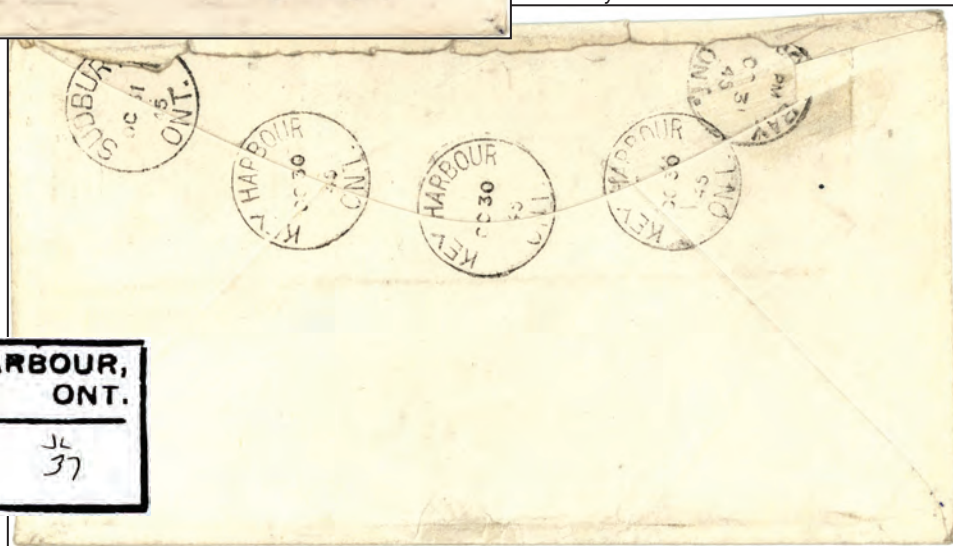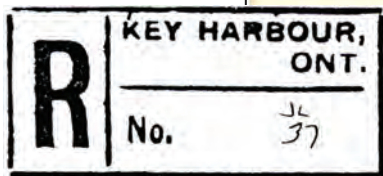

KEY HARBOUR / ONT. / OC 30 / 45
A registered letter to C. H. Hewitt, Returning Officer, Ration Administration, North Bay, Ont. According to regulation it received a transfer postmark at Sudbury and a receiving mark at North Bay.

Proof strike as shown in Robt. A. Lee's Proof Strikes of Canada
Type CDS – 24 mm

PROOF STRIKE

Registration Box 48 x 21 mm July, 1937

Murray's store and post office, c.1960.
Seen here is Larry Secord, a local resident.

the time of opening. He served until his retirement on 1938. The Hazzard's operated the first and only store at Key Harbour. In 1937 they decided to close their shop giving Peter Murray an opportunity to try his skill at operating a small store. He did this with a passion and became quite a personality in the life of the community. He was fortunate when the Post Office Department decided on a summer post office in the community and chose him as the first postmaster. Upon retirement in 1956 he sold his little business to George and Agnes Trott. Mrs. Agnes Virginia Trott was appointed as the second and last postmaster on May 1, 1957. The little store operated until 1978. However, the post office was closed November 19, 1960 when postal service was replaced by a new rural mail route, RR1 Britt.

KEY HARBOUR / ONT. / JUL 18 / 47
A letter from the Georgian Bay Fishing Club, Key Junction, Ont., to the Outboard Marine & Mfg. Co., at Peterboro, Ontario. The letter was mailed at Key Harbour just prior to the closing of the Key Junction post office.

KEY HARBOUR / ONT. / JUL 20 / 59
Post card mailed from Key Harbour one year prior to its final closing.

The "generic" post card produced by the Canadian Post Card Co., Toronto 3, was imprinted, using the letterpress process, with the message "Greetings from Key Harbour Lodge, Key Harbour, Ont., Canada." The lodge, catering to the fisherman, is still very much in business in the year 2012.

Postmistress
Agnes Virginia Trott,
1957-1960.
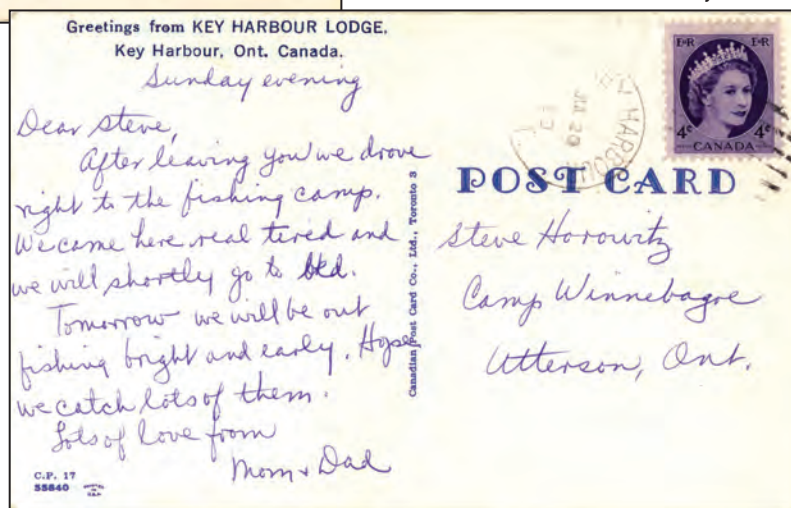
Key Harbour Lodge, Key Harbour, Ontario.

REFERENCES

- William A. Campbell, *Northeastern Georgian Bay and its People, 1984.*
- http://www.ontarioabandonedplaces.com/keyjunction/keyjunction.asp
- http://www.ghosttownpix.com/ontario/towns/keyjct.html

Ye Olde General Store
is the host business for this postal franchise in Midhurst, Ontario, just north of Barrie.
Shown here are current photos of the building and the interior of the post office. It is a rural franchise (type 44), that superseded the Barrie sub-office on March 6, 1989

[REF. 248]

MIDHURST –
from Revenue Office to Postal Franchise

Dave Hanes

Back in 1825, three gentlemen, George Oliver, John and Thomas Mair, applied for and were given free grants of land, for Lot 12, Conc. 4, and in 1826 for Lot 13, Conc. 3, Vespra Township, Simcoe County. At this location, Oliver and the two Mairs, built and operated a sawmill and a grist mill, by utilizing the water power of a creek, in that area. A community began to develop around these mills. Blacksmith shops, churches and a school were built. The community was known as Oliver's Mills until 1863, when the post office was opened – not as Oliver's Mills, but as MIDHURST. It appears to be named after a small town in England, the name given by the postal authorities of the day.

Little is known of the first post office, as to its location. The present post office is located in *Ye Olde General Store* located at on the south-west corner of a T-intersection of Doran Road and Finlay Mill Road, Springwater Township. (This part of the former Vespra Township was renamed Springwater Township in the 1994 amalgamation.)

The Post Office file for Midhurst shows the office opened on July 1, 1863; and contains the names of the various postmasters, their period of service, up to and including 1982. Postal records indicate that the office opened as a non-accounting office and kept that status until shortly after 1912, at which time it was upgraded

to an accounting office No. 3632. It was once again downgraded to non-accounting status No. 80779 in the early 1930s and remained at that until the financial year 1960-61 at which time it returned to accounting status with the previous number (3632). On April 1, 1973 it was renumbered to 333581 and kept that number until closing on January 31, 1988. For all those years it was a revenue office with the exception of the last few years in the 1980s when it was classified as a semi-staff office.

On February 1, 1988 it was downgraded to sub-office status (Midhurst / Barrie RPO 326380. It remained at this level until March 6, 1989. At this point the franchise era began with the establishment of the Midhurst RO 329959 (retail outlet). On July 14, 2005 this retail outlet
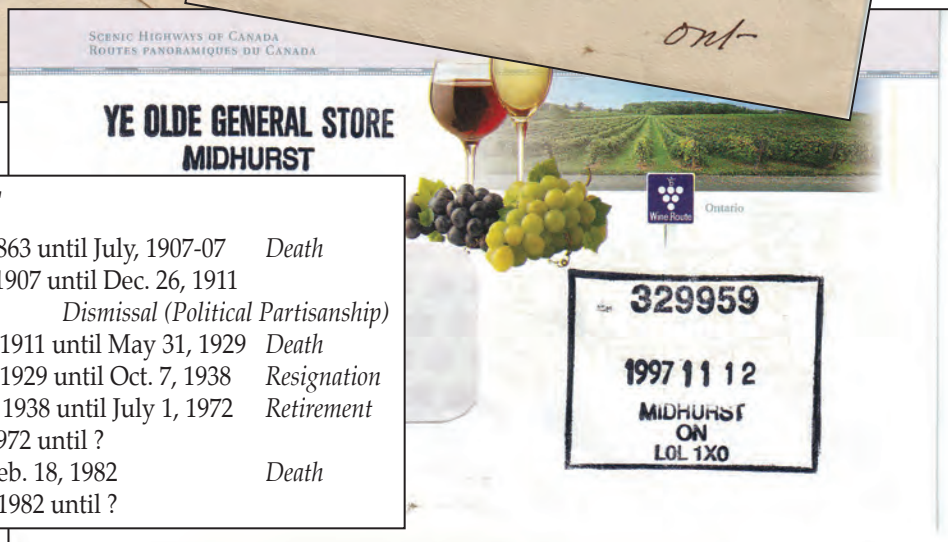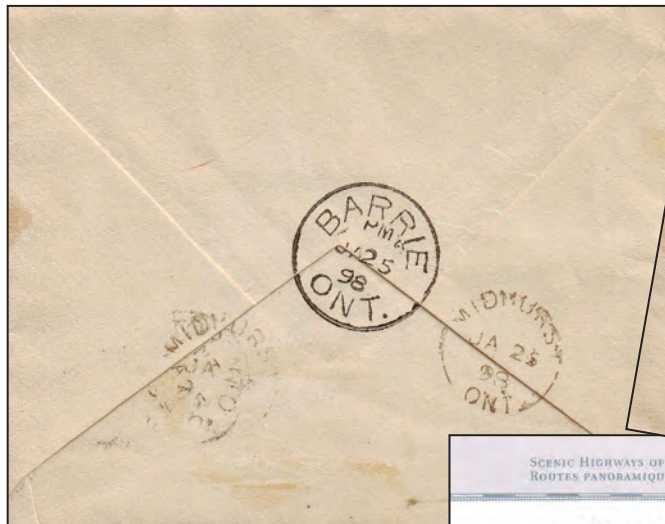
Postmasters at MIDHURST

George Sneath	July 1, 1863 until July, 1907-07	*Death*
John M. Sneath	Aug. 1, 1907 until Dec. 26, 1911	
	Dismissal (Political Partisanship)	
W. W. Boyce	Dec. 31, 1911 until May 31, 1929	*Death*
Samuel Chas. Emmanuel Day	Dec. 10, 1929 until Oct. 7, 1938	*Resignation*
Morley Schandlen	Nov. 16, 1938 until July 1, 1972	*Retirement*
Minnie M. Schandlen	July 1, 1972 until ?	
W. Radlowski	? until Feb. 18, 1982	*Death*
Mrs. B. R. Radlowski	Feb. 18, 1982 until ?	

DATA COURTESY OF *Michael Millar.*

was closed because of an ownership change, and a new contract was signed with new owners. This change brought about the current number 101720.

Only two types of early cancels, are known by the writer. They consist of a "broken circle" (no proof date recorded) and a full circle CDS proofed February 21, 1930.

The writer visited the current post office and obtained photographs showing the outside of the building, the postal wicket and the mail boxes, inside the store.

The writer's interest in Midhurst lays in the current POCON-type postmark, covering the period from 1985 up to modern day. At times, three different styles of POCONs were in use at the same time. The practice of emptying the mail box and date-stamping all the letters, prior to forwarding the mail, happened each day. Thus, the rubber daters wore quickly and were replaced frequently. On one of the replacements, an error occurred. The proper POCON number was 329959, instead what was supplied was 032959 (error). It was in use from July 8 until September 3, 2002.

The following are a sample of the various POCONs used over the years.

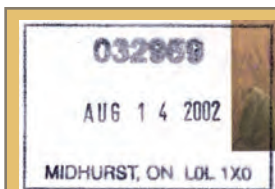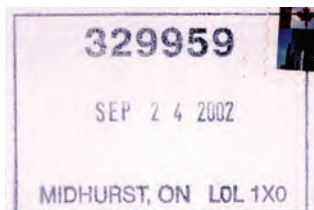*Two POCON postmarks used during the semi-staff era which ended January 31, 1988.* <<

The only known postmark used at Midhurst when it was a sub-office, 1988-1989. >>

*A selection of known POCON datestamps from the first Midhurst Retail Outlet, 1989-2005* <<

MIDHURST –
from Revenue Office to Postal Franchise

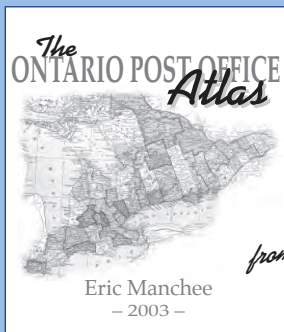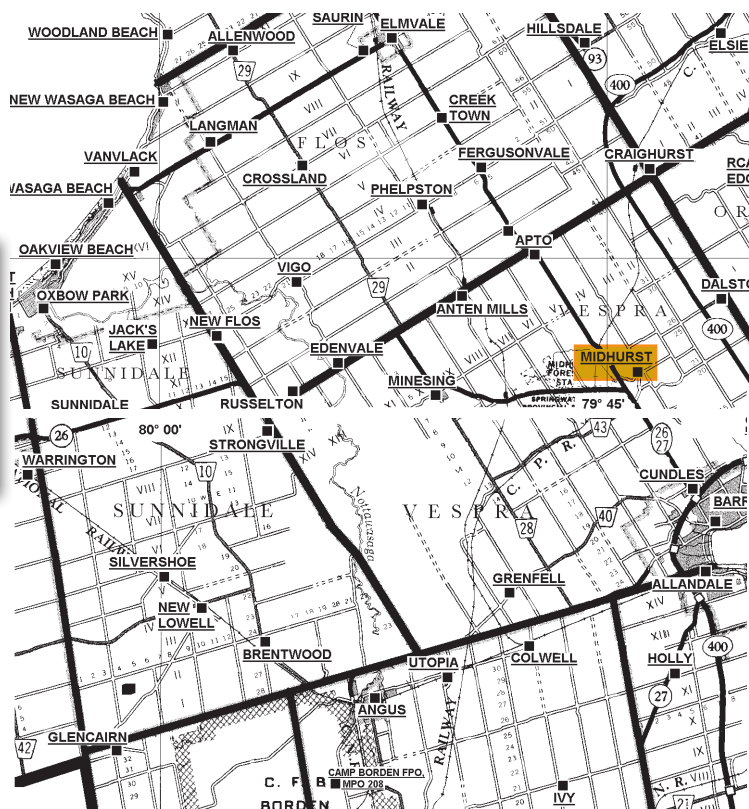CANADA POST POSTES CANADA
329959
2001 -07- 0 5
POST OFFICE / BUREAU DE POSTE
MIDHURST, ON
L0L 1X0

329959
SEP 2 4 2002
MIDHURST, ON L0L 1X0

10 . 720
JUL 2 8 2005
...HURST, ON L0L1X0

032869
AUG 1 4 2002
MIDHURST, ON L0L 1X0

Datestamp with the incorrect RC number

This datestamp was in use at the franchise from July 8 until September 3, 2002.

101720
DEC 1 7 2010
MIDHURST, ON L0L 1X0
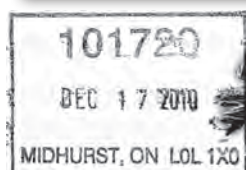
This is a surprising number of datestamps for a franchise, especially so since they are charged directly for all supplies.

GBD&S NEWSLETTER
THE GEORGIAN COURIER

Back Issues, Binders, and Bound Volumes

Periodically there is an interest in back issues. We should point out that all issues are available at $2.50 each. We also have available white D-ring display binders with appropriate inserts for the front cover and the spine, title pages, and index separators for each volume. Binder 1 will hold all issues from 1-34 inclusive (Vol. 1-6); Binder 2 will hold issues starting at 35 with room to expand for the coming years. The binders, including inserts, index separators with tabs, cost $6.00 each plus shipping.

Presently a complete set of back issues (1-44) with binders costs $85.00, shipping included. Available from the editor (see address below).