

The Georgian Courier

THE GREY, BRUCE, DUFFERIN & SIMCOE POSTAL HISTORY STUDY GROUP

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Getting the Mail to

[REF. 270]

WAREHAM

On the Route from Proton Station, Inistioque, Port Law and Wareham

Gus Knierim, John Rossiter

The small farming community of Wareham, named after its English namesake, is located in the southwest part of Grey County's Osprey Township. Initially three ranges on each side of the Centre Line were set aside in 50-acre plots to be given as free grants from the Crown to entice settlement in the area. The Dundalk area was settled in the 1850s, followed by Inistioque in the 1860s, and very shortly thereafter by settlers arriving at Wareham.

In the immediate vicinity of what became Sideroad 5 and the Durham Road, a townsite was surveyed allowing for the establishment of a grist mill, a sawmill, general store, post office, and church, by 1888. In the following decade the enterprising folks of this community added a flour mill, shingle and lumber mill, blacksmith, shoemaker, cheese factory, limestone kilns, brickyard and a

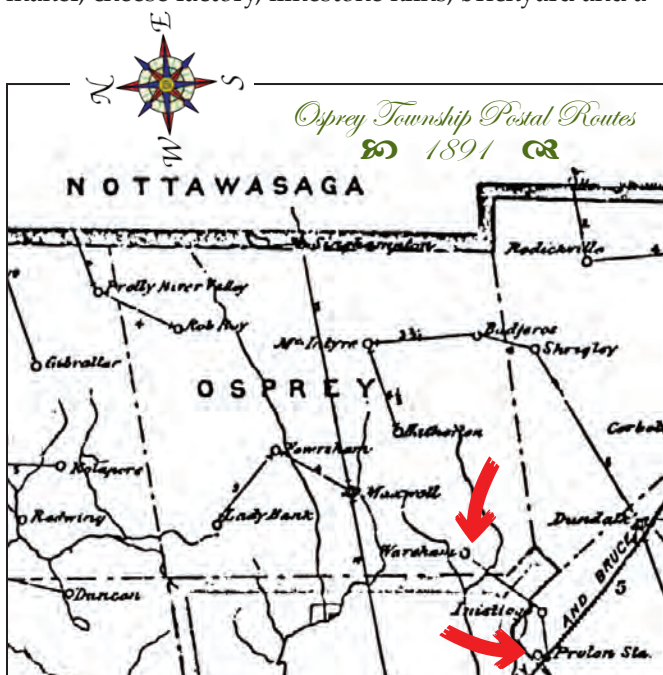
cemetery. The nearby Saugeen River at this point in history was able to provide the power for all of this activity.

Initially the mail was picked up at Maxwell by the Wareham postmaster. This is confirmed by the 1872 *Report of the Postmaster General*, which states that Postmaster George Wright serviced the 5-mile route twice a week for which he was paid \$45.00 per annum. Mr. Wright was the second postmaster at Wareham, having followed Edwin Battrick who was in charge from July 1, 1868 until September 30, 1869. Mr. Wright served for almost twenty years commencing his duties September 1, 1869 and serving until 1888. The 1887 *RPMG* shows that a John M. Burke was contracted to retrieve the mail from Maxwell twice a week. Wareham post office was a small non-accounting post office declaring revenue of \$40.41 in the year ending June 30, 1887. The postmaster was paid just \$12.00 per annum.

On August 1, 1889, James Strachan was appointed postmaster. He served until August 7, 1891.

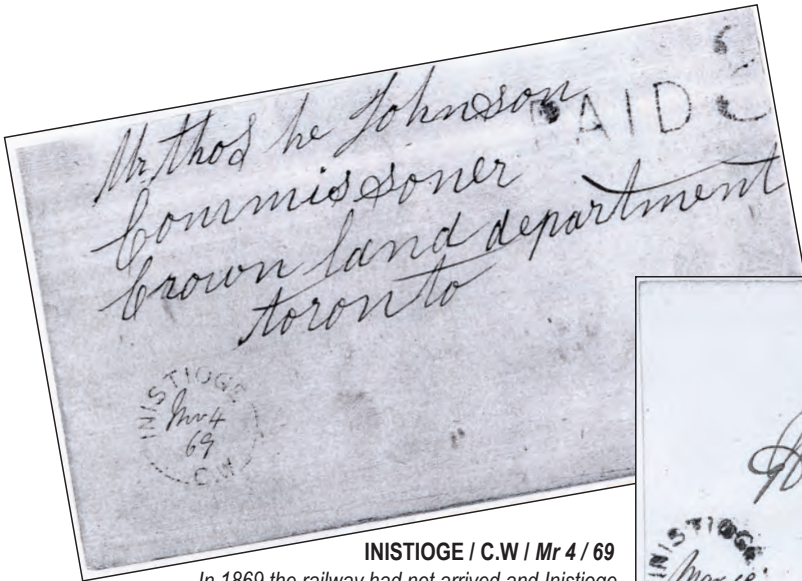
John M. Burk and Mrs. John Roome built and operated the general store on the northwest corner in Wareham. This store was also to host the post office for the next 23 years. Initially John M. Burk was appointed as postmaster on January 1, 1892, in addition to being the contractor to retrieve the mail from Proton Station, a 7-mile route. The route was served three times a week for which Mr. Burk was paid \$140.00 per annum according to the 1890 *RPMG*. John Burk served as postmaster until resigning February 1, 1894.

On July 1, 1894, Mrs. Mary Roome, partner of John Burk in the operation of the general store, was appointed postmaster. She served until the post office was closed August 31, 1913.



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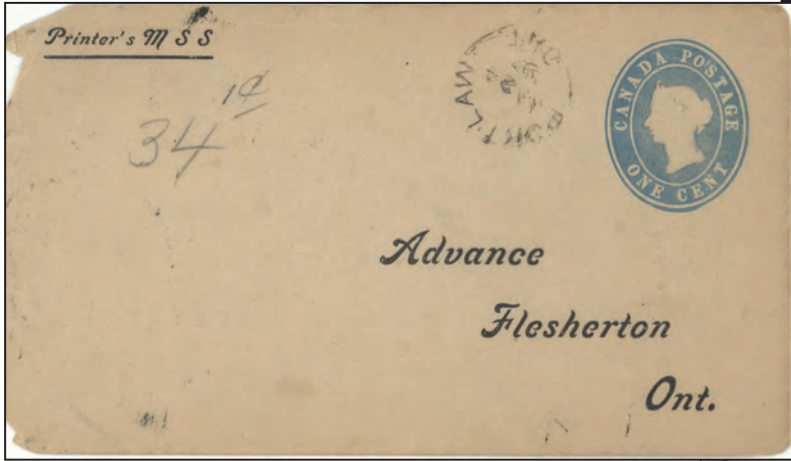
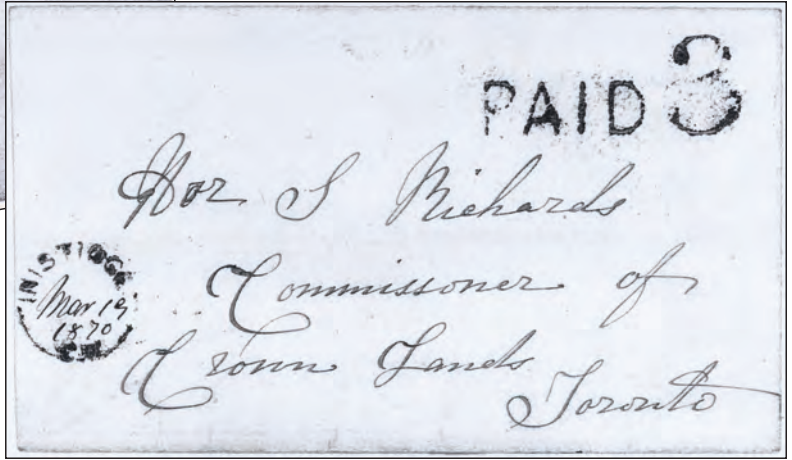
INISTIOGE / C.W / Mr 4 / 69

In 1869 the railway had not arrived and Inistioge mail was often routed via Collingwood. In the early 1870s the railway arrived and mail now went south to Orangeville.

INISTIOGE / C.W / Mar 19 / 1870

COURTESY - John Rossiter collection.

PROTON STATION to WAREHAM
 and all points between - Inistioge, Port Law
 served tri-weekly
 CONTRACTOR
John Roome



PORT LAW / ONT. / JA 24 / 98
 It is not beyond imagination but this envelope could have carried the copy for an advertisement in the January 27, 1898, edition of the *Flesherton Advance* (shown here). Note the Proton Station transit strike and the *Flesherton* receiver, indicating that mail was routed via Proton Station.

Flesherton Advance, January 27, 1898.
 COURTESY OF Grey Highlands Public Library

Flesherton Advance.
 "TRUTH BEFORE FAVOR" - "PRINCIPLED NOT MEN."
 Flesherton, Ont., Thursday, January 27, 1898
 W. H. BENTON, PROPRIETOR

F. T. Hill & Co. - **F. T. Hill & Co.** **GOOD Seasonable Goods**

Shopping Alteration Sale

Increased business compels us to enlarge our store. In a few weeks the carpenters will be here, removing partitions, putting in modern shelving, counters, tables, new windows, etc., and will make to values, we have all along store in the county, ership and meant to keep it. Before making these improvements we find it necessary to clear out ALL WINTER GOODS, and this is how we will do it.

Watch Repairing a Specialty.
W. A. ARMSTRONG.

Thursday, Jan. 20th
 Continuing for two weeks we shall sell reliable, up-to-date goods at such prices as these:

Ladies' Blouses \$1.00 to \$2.00	Boys' O'Coats \$1.00 to \$2.00	Mens' O'Coats \$1.00 to \$2.00	Men's Top Shirts \$1.00 to \$2.00	Men's Underwear \$1.00 to \$2.00
Fur Caps \$1.00 to \$2.00	Men's Fur Caps \$1.00 to \$2.00	Men's Fur Caps \$1.00 to \$2.00	Men's Fur Caps \$1.00 to \$2.00	Men's Fur Caps \$1.00 to \$2.00
Fur Caps \$1.00 to \$2.00	Fur Caps \$1.00 to \$2.00	Fur Caps \$1.00 to \$2.00	Fur Caps \$1.00 to \$2.00	Fur Caps \$1.00 to \$2.00
Mantles \$1.00 to \$2.00	Dress Goods \$1.00 to \$2.00	Groceries \$1.00 to \$2.00	Fine Shoes \$1.00 to \$2.00	Crockery \$1.00 to \$2.00

1250 YARDS 60 PLYNELLER special during this sale at 4c

F. T. HILL & CO.

WAREHAM / ONT. / MR 8 / 99

A request for information or an order for seed to Wm. Rennie Seed Co., Toronto. Initially the postal route would have been Wareham to Maxwell and then on to Collingwood, however since the 1890s the route was redirected to go from Wareham to Proton Station, where it connected with the newly-built Canada Pacific line to Owen Sound.



PROOF STRIKE
WAREHAM / ONT.
SP 19 / 87
 20.0-mm broken circle
 (arcs 7.0, 6.0)

This is the only reported postmark for Wareham, however since the post office opened July 1, 1868, there will most likely be at least one other yet to be discovered postmark – possibly even more.

At some point in the 1890s, Mary Roome's husband John, became the contractor to retrieve the mail from Proton Station via Inistioge and Port Law. On April 1, 1896, a post office was opened at Port Law just a short



distance northwest of Wareham. The route was now 9½ miles in length. According to the 1903 RPMG, Mr. John Roome was paid \$156.00 per annum and this rate remained in effect right through to 1912.

The post office at Wareham was closed August 31, 1913, at which time Rural Mail Delivery was instituted.

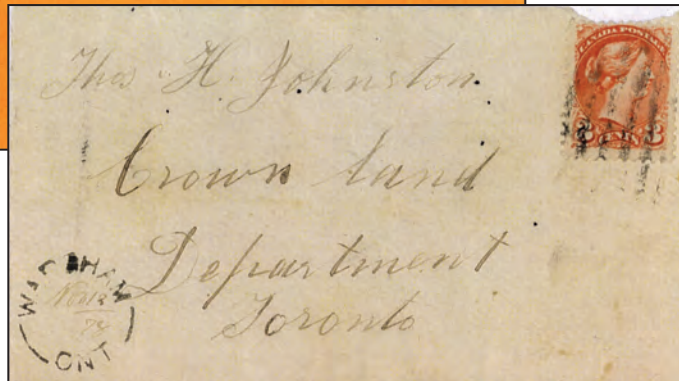
Mr. John Roome continued in his service as contractor for RR3 Proton Station. ☒

REFERENCES

- Report of the Postmaster General for the years 1872, 1873, 1887, 1890, 1903, and 1912.
- Jean Brownridge, Glenda Davison, Barbara Turner, Margaret Turner, Peace, Plenty and Progress: A History of Osprey Township. 1975.



WAREHAM / ONT /
Nov 12 / 72 COURTESY –
 John Rossiter collection.



WAREHAM / ONT / Nov 13 / 78

These two covers represent the earliest and latest known use of the manuscript dated 20.0-mm (arcs 8.0, 8.0) type A1 broken circle postmark. COURTESY – John Rossiter collection.



EDITOR'S NOTE:

Members participation required to make this newsletter a viable proposition. All contributions, no matter how small, will add value to the research. It's the small things that count!

The
ONTARIO POST OFFICE
Atlas

Eric Manchee
 – 2003 –

\$30.00
 (+ shipping)

- 116 maps
- all Ontario Counties and Districts south of Highway 17, including Manitoulin Island
- heavy-weight quality paper
- printed on one side only
- bound in quality D-ring presentation binder

from the Editor

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The Town of SAUGEEN SHORES

On the Lake Huron Shoreline

The Late James E. Kraemer, FRPSC, FRPSL

[This quite comprehensive postal history of the post office at Saugeen/Southampton is a continuation of the article published in the Georgian Courier No. 52, November 2013, p.623]

Objibwa Indians, who were great fur traders, occupied the area in the mid-1600s. In the spring of 1660 the Ojibwa and their allies defeated the Iroquois in a fierce battle at the mouth of the Saugeen and on the river flats east of the present day bridge. Hundreds of Indian braves on both sides perished.

After 1818 pioneer families, fur traders, missionaries and land seekers moved into the area. The famous painter of Indian life in Canada, Paul Kane (1810-1874), visited the Indians of Saugeen in 1846. His oil painting, *Indian Encampment on Lake Huron*, at the mouth of the Saugeen river is housed in the Toronto Art Gallery. Canada Post on August 11, 1971 issued a 7¢ postage stamp (Scott No. 553) portraying Kane's painting.



Paul Kane, painter 1810-1871

Saugeen

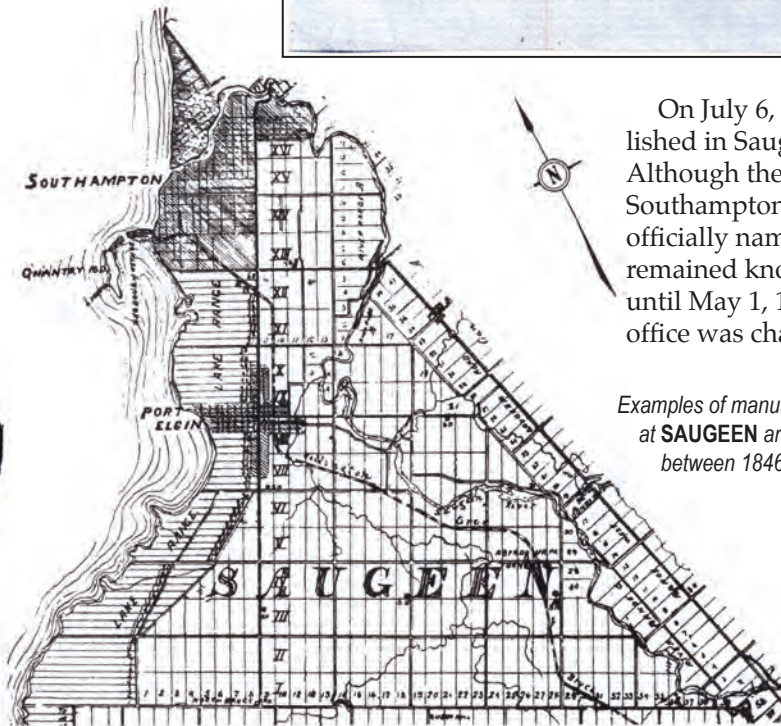
People have been attracted to the mouth of the Saugeen river for many generations. The area was first known to the early settlers as "The Mouth". The first known inhabitants were Indians from the Laurentian culture. They occupied the area about 4,500 years ago and were followed by other Indian tribes. The Petuns who were tobacco growers lived here in the 17th century. They were destroyed by the Iroquois during the 1600s. The

SAUGEEN / U.C / AP 5 / 1855

Stampless letter, charged at 3d, and sent to the Crown Lands Department at Quebec.

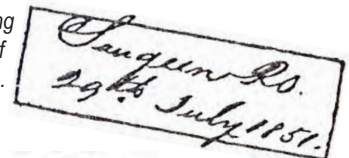


The SAUGEEN C.W B2x postmark has been reported as used between 1852 and 1861.



On July 6, 1851 the first post office was established in Saugeen Township at Saugeen Village. Although the community changed its name to Southampton on this date, postal authorities officially named the post office, "Saugeen". It remained known as Saugeen for almost 40 years until May 1, 1890 when the name of the post office was changed to Southampton.

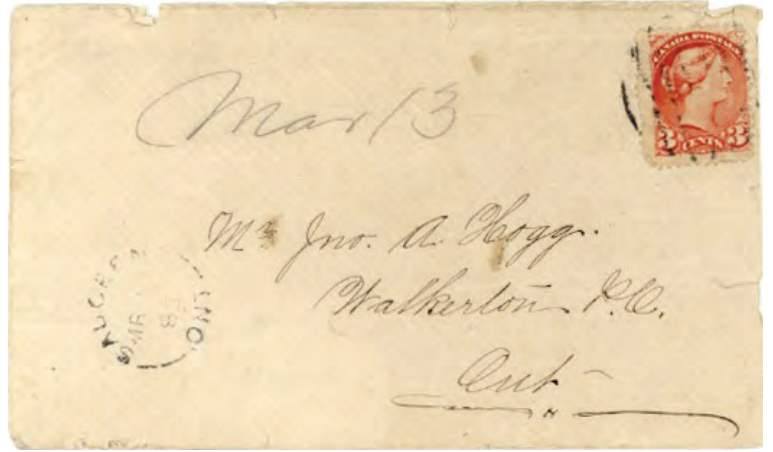
Examples of manuscript dating at SAUGEEN are known of between 1846 and 1851.



PROOF STRIKE
SAUGEEN ONT
JA 2 / 1877
21.0 mm
arcs 8.5, 8.5 mm

SAUGEEN / ONT / MR ?? / 85

Letter addressed to Mr. Jno. A Hogg, Walkerton P.O., Ont. was datestamped with the Saugeen's only broken circle datestamp. Saugeen was officially renamed "Southampton", May 1, 1890.



PROOF STRIKE
SOUTHAMPTON ONT
 FE 9 / 90
 24.5-mm CDS

Southampton

Oldest port on the Bruce coast

Southampton was incorporated as a village on July 24, 1858. The Lieutenant Governor of Ontario proclaimed the village as the Town of Southampton on December 26, 1904.

The post office in 1851 was located in a building on the same site as today's post office. Mr. Robert Reid, who operated a general store was appointed the first postmaster. The Honourable James Harvey Price, the Commissioner of Crown Lands, named the place Southampton after the great port of Southampton in Hampshire, England.

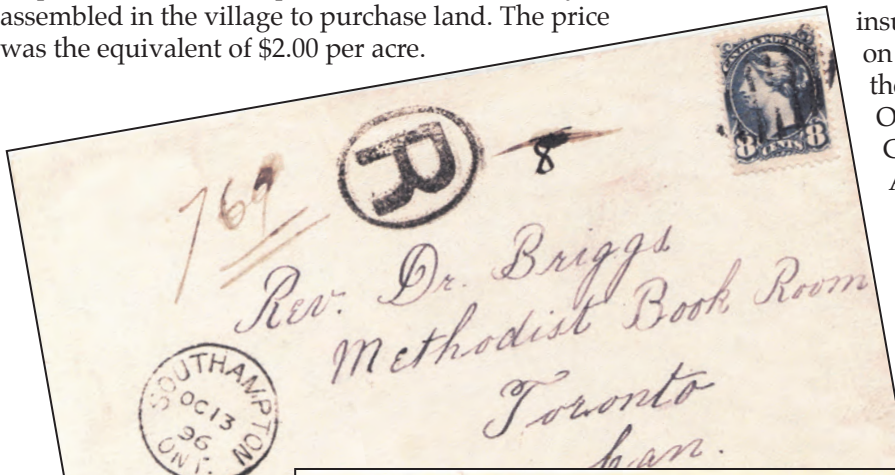
September 27, 1854 was a "red-letter-day" in Southampton, two thousand plus settlers and land buyers had assembled in the village to purchase land. The price was the equivalent of \$2.00 per acre.

When the post office money order system was introduced in 1855, Saugeen (Southampton) was one of the 160 post offices in Canada authorized to issue money orders.

Mr. Reid was elected Reeve of Saugeen Township in 1855, succeeding Alec McNabb, the first reeve. Mr. Reid became so involved in local affairs and business that he was unable to look after the post office properly. As a result, he was dismissed from office on April 22, 1857 for what was described as irregularities. This was the year (1857), that the first provisional County Council of Bruce County met in Saugeen (Southampton).

Thomas Lee, forwarder, commission merchant, and insurance agent was appointed postmaster on July 1, 1857. James Calder was appointed the first reeve of the village on July 24, 1858. One of the first four councilors, Mr. J. T. Conaway was a former postmaster of West Arran, now Burgoyne.

The railway reached Southampton in 1872 and the mail began to arrive by rail on a daily schedule. This continued for almost 85 years, until 1956, when the service was discontinued and mail delivery was by truck. A fire destroyed most of the village, including the post



SOUTHAMPTON / ONT. / OC 13 / 96

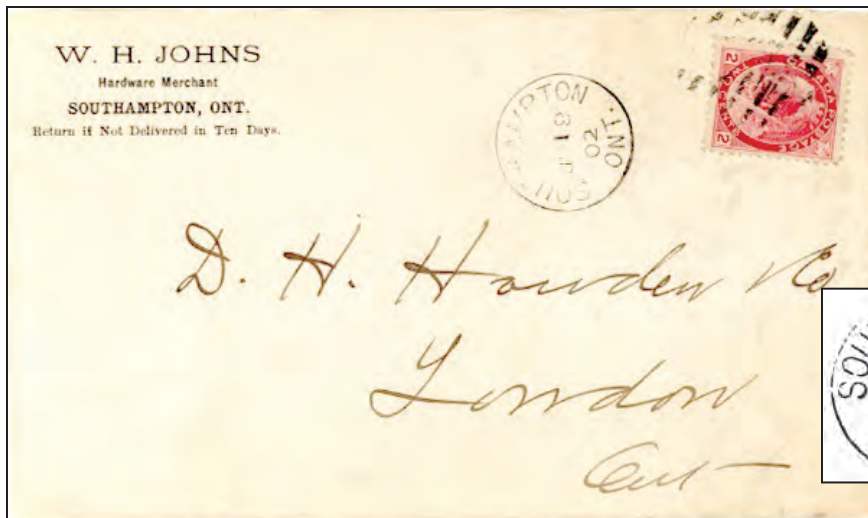
Registered letter addressed to Rev. Dr. Briggs, Methodist Book Room, Toronto, Can., rated at 3¢ + 5¢ registration fee, and paid with a 8¢ Small Queen.

SOUTHAMPTON / ONT. / DE 29 / 996

Mailed by a well-established Western Ontario tannery to the St. Jacobs Glue Co., St. Jacobs, Ont. The letter rate had been reduced to 2¢ on January 1, 1899.

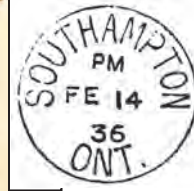


From 1872 until 1956 much of Southampton's mail arrived and departed by daily trains, and would have received an R.P.O. postmark.



SOUTHAMPTON / ONT. / JU 18 / 02

Southampton's hardware merchant, W. H. Johns, was the sender of this letter to a hardware supply firm in London, Ont. where it was received the following day. Note the inverted "8" in the datestamp.

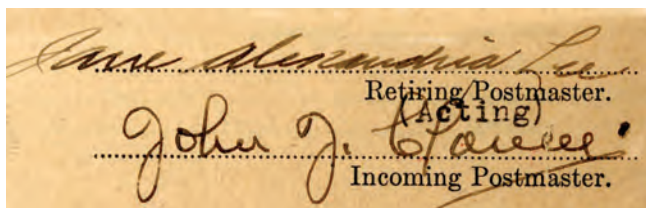


PROOF STRIKE
SOUTHAMPTON ONT.
 PM / FE 14 / 36
 23-mm CDS

office in 1886. The post office was located on the north side of High Street, east of Albert Street. Following the fire, the post office relocated on the south side of High Street, south of Albert Street. The name Saugeen as a Port of Entry was changed to Southampton in 1895. Mr. Lee passed away, while still in office, on November 28, 1901. He had served as postmaster for almost 44 years.

The postmaster's wife Mary E. Lee who continued to operate the post office, became postmaster on May 1, 1901. Mrs. Lee was postmaster for almost 14 years. During her tenure Lt. Col. A. E. Belcher was elected Southampton's first mayor in December, 1904. Mary E. Lee passed away while still in office on September 17, 1914. She was succeeded by her son Frederick Henry Lee who was postmaster for over 20 years. He also died while still in office on the morning of March 21, 1935, in the Owen Sound General and Marine Hospital. He was 64 years old.

Post Office records show that Jane Alexandria Lee, the late postmaster's wife, was sworn in as a postmaster's assistant on December 16, 1925.



Post office revenue for the fiscal year 1933-1934 amounted to \$4,204.76. The postmaster received a salary of \$2,065.74 for the same period. Jane E. Lee was appointed Acting Postmaster on March 27, 1935 to serve until a new postmaster could be appointed. The position was advertised with applications to be received by April 30, 1935. Four applications were received: Mrs. Jane A. Lee, Byron Greig of Lions Head, James T. Farley, and John Joseph Clancy. Mr. Clancy, a returned soldier was selected. Mr. Farley, who was also a returned soldier, received a high rating, but it was felt that his disability was too severe.

The appointment of Mr. Clancy was put on hold on July 3, 1935 due to local representations that were not favourable. Southampton Mayor Robert McVittie forwarded a 600-signature petition representing 75% of the qualified voters on behalf of Mrs Lee. But, Mrs. Lee was not a veteran, and veterans received a preference. On August 27, 1935 the Civil Service Commission reaffirmed the selection of Mr. Clancy. Although the federal government under the Honourable R. B. Bennett was Conservative, this riding was represented by Mr. W. R. Tomlinson, a Liberal. Both he and Senator J. J. Donnelly of Pinkerton supported Mr. Clancy. Mr. Clancy was unable to purchase the post office building from Mrs. Lee, the owner, and asked that his appointment be deferred for a few weeks. On December 30, 1935 Mr. Clancy purchased Mrs. Lee's property and equipment. Mr. Clancy who was a W.W. I disability pensioner was appointed postmaster on January 3, 1936. When Mr. Clancy received his appointment the service of a faithful and loyal postmaster, Mrs. Jane Lee, came to an end.

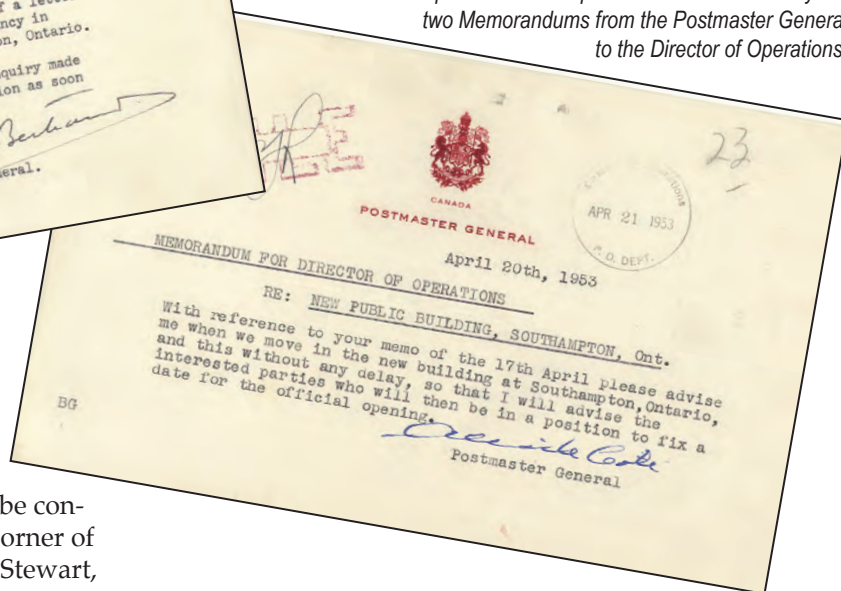
Mr. Clancy's first task as postmaster was to replace three postal employees who had resigned. The new assistants were Miss Doris Calder and Miss Violet Remus. Post office revenue increased from \$4,588.96 in 1937-1938 to \$6,633.72 in 1940-1941. In 1941 Mr. Clancy took a leave of absence from May 2 to May 14, in order to marry and go on a honeymoon.

Marion McChesney was appointed a postmaster's assistant in 1941. On September 1, 1942 Shirley Isabel Sutherland was appointed a post office assistant. Three years later Ruth McIvor and Jean E. Piper were appointed assistants on September 21, 1944, and October 20, 1944 respectively. Mr. Clancy's nephew James Joseph Clancy was employed as an assistant to the postmaster on May 1, 1947.

Ellis Millard, the Mayor of Southampton visited the Honourable Ernest Bertrand, Postmaster General in Ottawa on April 18, 1946 for a discussion concerning a new post office for Southampton. As a result of Mayor Millard's visit and further investigations, Mr. Bertrand contacted the Department of Public Works on February



The process of constructing the new federal building in Southampton was a slow process as can be seen by the two Memorandums from the Postmaster General to the Director of Operations.



11, 1947 recommending that a new post office be constructed on a proposed site on the north-east corner of Lot 5 at Grosvenor and High Streets. Mr. J. W. Stewart, Acting District Inspector for the Post Office Department, London, Ontario, reported that the Southampton post office had been located in a store for over 50 years and was in very poor condition. He mentioned that the population numbered 1,655 plus 2,500 summer residents. Annual revenue was over \$10,000.00. There were 167 lock boxes and a need for an additional 400 more. A rural route served 48 patrons.

Public Works Canada paid \$30.00 a month for the ground floor space that the post office occupied in a building on South High Street. The rental fee became effective on April 1, 1948. Previous to this date the postmaster paid the monthly rent to Mrs. Jane Lee, the building owner and former postmaster who had moved to Goderich, Ontario. The postmaster also paid \$240.00 per annum for cleaning the premises.

Post office business was increasing steadily. As a result postal authorities recommended that effective April 1, 1948, the postmaster should have two full-time assistants. The status of the post office was raised to Group 32. Jean Elizabeth Piper, employed since October 1944, resigned as postmaster's assistant on April 30, 1949.

An increase in the number of summer tourists coming into the area increased the work load at the post office. To meet the increased demands the Post Office Department authorized the hiring of an additional assistant for the summer of 1949 and for succeeding years. Summer was considered to be from June 15 to August 31st. The Southampton post office became a Semi-Staff office on June 15, 1949. Mr. E. Carson was employed for the 1949 and the 1950 summer months. Donald Campbell had the position in 1951 followed by William E. Coon in the summer of 1952.

John Joseph Clancy was 67 years old when he decided to retire effective February 9, 1950. This was also the year that Ontario Hydro Electric began construction of a Nuclear Generating Station at Douglas Point, 14 miles south of Southampton.

James Joseph Clancy was appointed Acting Postmaster on March 9, 1950. The Post Office Department released a flyer on April 25, 1950, asking for applicants interested in the postmaster's position at a salary of \$2,280.00 to \$2,580.00 per annum. Two candidates were examined on May 29, 1950. John Sinclair withdrew his application during the examination. John J. Clancy, the other candidate, successfully passed the examination. He was appointed Postmaster effective March 9, 1951.

In 1952 two of the postmaster's assistants resigned: Doris M. Hunt who served from May 2, 1949 to June 30, 1952, and Robert J. Huber who served from September 1, 1949 to September 21, 1952.

The post office was regrouped from Group 32 to Group 33 on April 1, 1953.

The postmaster's salary remained at \$3,060.00 per annum. Ronald William Schmidt was the summer assistant in 1953. Miss Beatrice Smith, part-time assistant since November 10, 1950 and Mrs. Louise Gillies, part-time assistant since September 5, 1951, resigned their positions on May 1, 1953.

A building site, at the corner of Grosvenor and High Streets, for a post office and customs office had been acquired by Public Works in 1914. Many requests by the town and the town's citizens for a new post office were made to the postal authorities over the succeeding years to no avail. Mayor Ellis Millard, in a letter dated April

10, 1946, to the Post Office Department requested a postal facility pointing out that the post office occupied the first floor of a dilapidated store building at 165 High Street for 77 years.

The Federal Department of Public Works set aside \$25,000.00 in its supplementary estimates of June 28, 1950 toward a new public building in Southampton. Public Works carried over this amount in its 1951-1952 budget. Plans for the new building were completed and forwarded to the authorities on August 8, 1951. Tenders were called on November 10, 1951 with a closing date of December 12, 1951. On January 24, 1952 the building contract was awarded to John D. Trumbley Company of Kincardine, Ontario, for \$166,100.00 to construct a new public building. The new building was to be ready for occupancy in January 1953, but work, particularly the sub trades progressed very slowly. It was eight months later on September 13, 1953 that the post office moved into the new building. The post office opened to the public at 8:30 a.m. on September 14, 1953.

George E. Streeter, followed by Mrs. Lorraine Reinhardt, shared the summer assistant's position in 1955. It is noted in the postmaster's report for 1955 that mail arrived at Southampton terminus of the London-Southampton R.P.O. on train No. 179 at 11:10 p.m. and left Southampton via train No. 178 at 5:50 a.m.

Post office revenue continued to expand. For the fiscal year 1951-1952 revenue was \$11,443.66. In 1958-1959 revenue was \$14,421.26. As a result of this steady growth staff changes and the need for additional staff became evident. Mrs. Dorothy Brookes joined the post office on January 14, 1957 as a part-time assistant. Mrs. Phyllis Chatterton was employed as an additional part-time assistant on January 16, 1957. Mrs. Doris Manley became the summer assistant in 1959 and continued in this position in 1960 and 1961.

Mrs. Louise Gilles, Senior Assistant who joined the post office staff on September 5, 1951 retired on July 1,



Southampton post office was in the planning stage for many years. It was built in 1952-1953 and officially opened to the public on September 14, 1953.

1965. Joseph Daniel Trafelet who joined the post office on May 26, 1953 was appointed assistant postmaster on June 16, 1957. He was promoted to Senior Assistant Postmaster on April 1, 1965. Mrs Edith Aldous who had started as part-time assistant on June 18, 1966 retired on June 28, 1970. Mrs. Ida Mary Trelford, nee Piper (sister to Jean Elizabeth Piper), was appointed assistant postmaster on May 31, 1965. Mary Isabel Morton employed since February 19, 1945 resigned in 1969. The Southampton post office was reclassified from Group 7 to Group 11 on August 1, 1970. The postmaster's salary was increased to \$4,320.00 per annum. The post office was reclassified again on March 1, 1971 to Grade 6 under a new grading system and remains at that status to the present day. Please refer to box for a more extensive explanation of the grading system. Mr. J. Graham is noted as a part-time assistant in 1974.

James Clancy was approaching 61 years of age in 1982. He had served as postmaster for 31 years and decided that it was time to retire. He retired on April 22, 1982. Daniel Joseph Trafelet, the postmaster's senior assistant was appointed postmaster on a temporary basis until a new postmaster could be selected. The successful candidate was Mrs. Virginia E. J. Bailey, nee Berlet. She was appointed postmaster on August 4, 1982. Ida May Trelford was promoted to assistant postmaster.



Southampton Anniversary – Southampton postmaster, Jim Clancy (left) was presented with a combination clock and barometer as a gift to mark his 30th anniversary as postmaster of the Southampton post office. Also in the photo are Larry O'Rourke (his brother-in-law), and assistants Maisie Trelford, Madge Trelford, and Marg Graham.

COURTESY Canada Post Performance, Vol. 13, No. 3, June/July 1981, Southwestern Ontario District News.

The Ontario section of a 1984 post office report entitled "Householder Figures for Non-Letter Carrier Offices", showed the following:

	RESIDENCE	BUSINESS	TOTAL
Southampton Post Office	1333	198	1533
Southampton R.R. 1	<u>86</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>86</u>
	1419	198	1617

After serving the post office for over 30 years, including 14 years as postmaster at Southampton, Mrs. Bailey intended to retire at the end of August 2006. As a result Mr. Larry Morton of the Clarksburg post office was given a special assignment in November 2005. He was appointed Acting Postmaster in Southampton to serve until the appointment of a new postmaster.

When Mrs. Bailey retired on August 29, 2006 many accolades were received expressing thanks for the courteous, efficient manner in operating the post office.

Janise Gail Ashton, post office assistant, was appointed Acting Postmaster on March 27, 2006. Gail Ashton was a post office employee since June 2000. On January 1, 2007 she was confirmed postmaster. Her senior assistant is Nancy Norwood. There are also three part-time assistants: Wendy Esplen, Vicki Ness and Vicki Colonino.

As of July 2007 Southampton post office had 1740 lock-boxes. In addition there were 30 general delivery patrons. Southampton does not have letter carrier service. In 1993 a street letter box was located at Stedman's Department Store, 195 High Street, and a "Call-For" site was established in the store. In November 2005 both the street letter box and the "Call-For" site were relocated to Harrigan's Red & White store, 189 High Street. The proprietor is Mary Ellen Harrigan. A "Call-For" site is for oversized mail items that will not fit into the rural mail box. The mail carrier leaves a card in the rural mail box advising that the parcel may be picked up at the "Call-For" location.

As noted earlier in this article, mail began to arrive in Southampton by rail in 1872 when the railroad reached the village. The postmaster, Thomas Lee, was the first



Harrigan's Red & White Food Town is a Canada Post "call-for" site for picking up parcels. It is located at 189 High Street, Southampton. Opened in November 2005 the franchise's operational number is 101514.

contractor to convey be mail between be post office and the railway station. His contract called for 12 trips per week for which he received \$50.00 per annum. Each trip was rated at 1/3 of a mile. Mr. Lee's contract was renewed until 1882 when the remuneration was increased to \$60.00 per annum. The number of trips were increased to 24 per week effective March 9, 1884. The new contract was for \$160.00 per annum.

John Cook, mailman for 22 years, drove this mule out of Southampton on Rural Route 1.



Upon retirement after delivering mail for 38 years, Duncan McVittie (left) was presented with a plaque by Roger Desnoyers, manager Owen Sound area.

A very fragile birch bark cover and letter posted at Southampton November 7, 1908 and cancelled with the 24.5-mm 1890 datestamp.

The letter was received by the recipient on November 9, 1908 in Ignace, Ontario (Kenora District).



When rural mail delivery was established in 1911, Southampton R.R. 1 provided service to Chippawa Hill and West Arran (now Burgoyne) post offices. Lionel Tranter was the courier. He gave up the contract during W.W. II in order to join the army. Among the succeeding couriers was John Cook who occasionally used a mule on the mail route instead of a horse. Some years later James Cook, a nephew, took over the contract. John Cook was the mail contractor for 22 years. He was succeeded by Duncan McVittie in 1968. Mr. McVittie retired 38 years later on December 3, 2006.

Martha Therres was awarded the new contract. Her route, Southampton R.R. No. 1, serves 555 patrons compared to 78 in 1968.

Postal Operations

In the initial days of the Southampton post office, the office was equipped with a single 24.5-mm cds dater which saw use as late as 1936. This instrument was proofed on February 9, 1890. (See page 642 for proofstrike)

On February 14, 1936, a new 23-mm cds was introduced which saw use until the early 1950s. It is interesting to note that Southampton never received a duplex postmark. This would be attributed to the fact that until 1953 Southampton's status was that of a revenue office.



October 6, 1953, was the date that a modern cds was proofed. This was only the third postmark for Southampton.

With just three recorded postmarks there is plenty of room for further discoveries, unless money order rubber datestamps were drawn into service to cancel the mail.

Those datestamps generally considered as money order datestamps appeared to be in plentiful supply.

On February 1, 1928 a 23-mm MOOD datestamp was issued as shown here used on January 3, 1936.



Then on January 21, 1936 a new rectangular MOTO (29 x 22 mm) was brought into service, only to be replaced by a 30 x 26 mm MOTO on June 21, 1949. Again at some



SOUTHAMPTON / ONT. / PM / 22 IX / 69
An internal memo datestamped with Southampton's "modern-style" 23-mm cds, which was proofed October 6, 1953.



A variety of rubber stamps indicating post office and money order office number to be used on official documents.

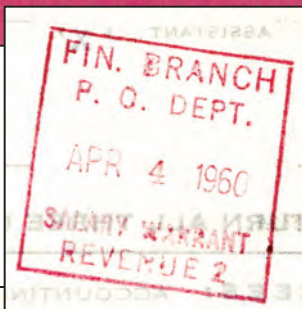


The postage rate was increased to 6¢ (for the 1st oz.) on November 1, 1968. This letter mailed in June 1970, was underpaid by 1¢ and therefore incurred a 2¢ postage due penalty – double the deficiency. Southampton post office collected the 2¢, and it was paid with a 2¢ definitive from the Centennial issue, postmarked with a Southampton MOON datestamp on June 18, 1970.

PROOF STRIKE
SOUTHAMPTON ONT.
PM / 6 X / 53
23-mm CDS



These two "authorizations" giving the post office permission to deduct Canadian Postmasters' Association (C.P.A.) membership fees were forwarded to the Financial Branch of the Post Office Department.

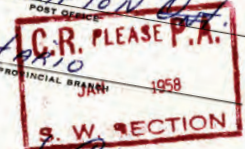


AUTHORITY FOR THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT TO DEDUCT CANADIAN POSTMASTERS' ASSOCIATION FEES FROM POST OFFICE SALARY

I, the undersigned, hereby authorize the Post Office Department to deduct from my salary my membership fees in the Canadian Postmasters' Association amounting to 40¢ cents per (X) month, () quarter, effective JANUARY - 1954. Said authority to remain in force until I cancel it through the Canadian Postmasters' Association.



4380 (4)
Southampton, Ont.



POSTMASTER (X)
ASSISTANT ()
CHANGED BY 6
DATE 4-2-54
CHECKED BY G.M.
DATE 5-7-11
KINDLY PRINT NAME
JAMES J. CLANCY
SIGNATURE
James J. Clancy

FEES:

ACCOUNTING POST OFFICE	40 CENTS MONTHLY
ASSISTANT	20 CENTS MONTHLY
NON-ACCOUNTING POST OFFICE	60 CENTS QUARTERLY

AUTHORITY FOR THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT TO DEDUCT CANADIAN POSTMASTERS' ASSOCIATION FEES FROM POST OFFICE SALARY

I, the undersigned, hereby authorize the Post Office Department to deduct from my salary my membership fees in the Canadian Postmasters' Association amounting to 20 cents per (x) month, () quarter, effective 195. Said authority to remain in force until I cancel it through the Canadian Postmasters' Association.

OFFICE NUMBER: 4380
DATE STAMP: 4380 SOUTHAMPTON FEB 25 1960 ONT.

SOUTHAMPTON POST OFFICE
ONTARIO PROVINCIAL BRANCH

POSTMASTER () ASSISTANT (X) LOUISE GILLIES KINDLY PRINT NAME
SIGNATURE: Louise Gillies

RETURN ALL THREE COPIES. ONE SIGNATURE TO ONE FORM.

FEES:

ACCOUNTING POST OFFICE	40 CENTS MONTHLY
ASSISTANT	20 CENTS MONTHLY
NON-ACCOUNTING POST OFFICE	60 CENTS QUARTERLY

CHANGED BY act.
DATE 4-24-60
CHECKED BY mm
DATE 5-4-60

point in time around 1960, the first Money Order Office Number (MOON) datestamp was introduced incorporating the office number. It appears that about every ten years a new rubber datestamp is required, because the above magenta postage due cover shows yet another MOON dater.

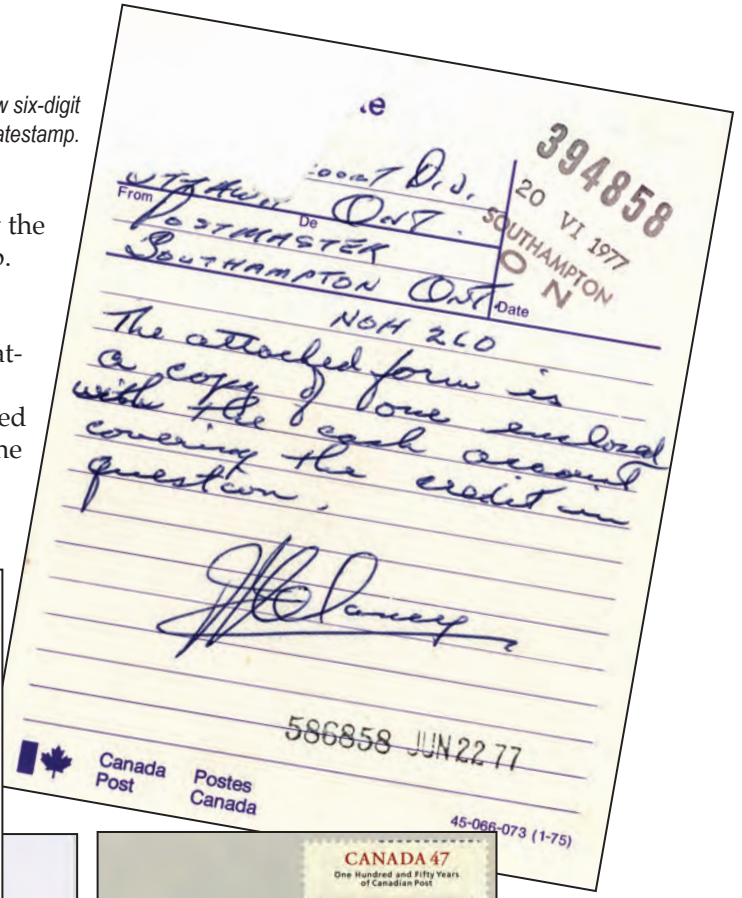
On April 1, 1973, post offices were renumbered into a new computerized numbering system. As every other post office, Southampton received a new number 394858.

An internal memo dated stamped with the new six-digit unframed POCON datestamp.

Needless to say, many new datestamps were required. Initially the design was standardized and featured an unframed datestamp. Later, the design focused on a framed style.

On October 16, 1981, the Canada Post Act came into effect, bringing an end to the federal Post Office Department and creating a new Crown corporation.

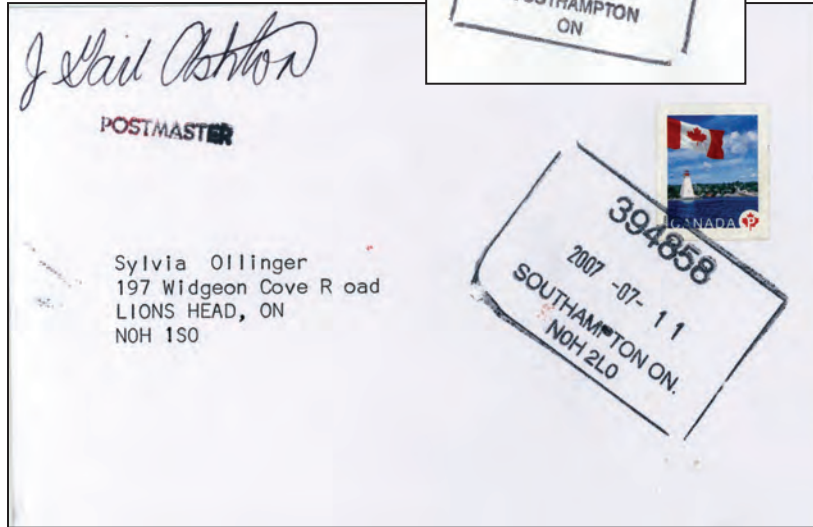
The change in many ways is reflected in the non-standardized design of datestamps. Modern postmarking devices can take the form of many shapes and sizes as can be seen by several examples shown here. Many more are to be discovered.



PROOFSTRIKE
394858
x 4 1982
SOUTHAMPTON
ON
NOH 2LO

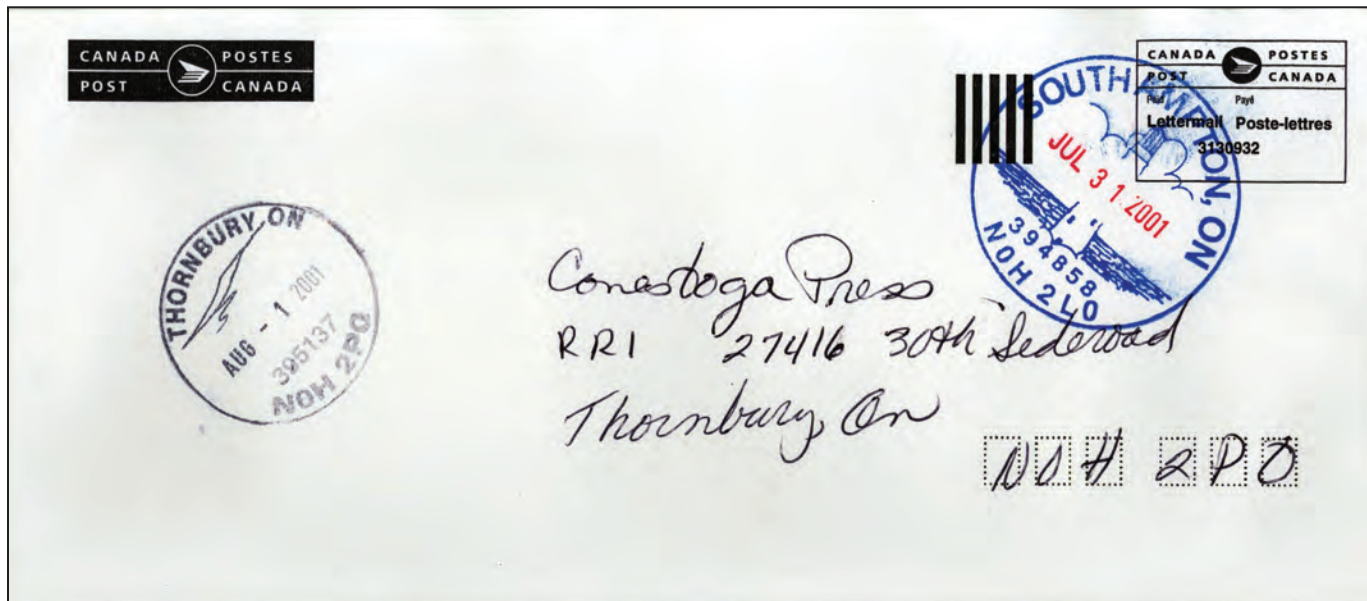


A variety of POCON datestamps – many more could possibly exist.



The postmark to the left shows the postal code error of NOH 2LO.

Pictorial postmark produced for Southampton post office featuring the lighthouse. Datestamps were produced by Conestoga Press for CPC.



As a promotional tool to give the post office a more friendly appearance, the Canada Post adopted pictorial datestamps for many of its offices – Southampton was no exception.

Southampton's first pictorial datestamp was introduced in June 2001. The postal code was shown with a capital "O" rather than a "0". The datestamp was replaced with a corrected version as shown below. Ten years later it needed to be replaced due to wear and tear and a somewhat smaller design came into use.

When the money order datestamps were introduced they had a very specific role to play, and it was not to cancel or postmark mail. However in the 1950s, postal employees really found the rubber datestamps easier to use and often used the money order daters to postmark mail. Once the new computerized numbering system came into being in 1973, datestamps were used at the retail counter or specific stations without any specific purpose other than to date mail.

Other postal markings that are sought after by collectors are registered mail markings. Prior to the current issue of labels, registered mail received a boxed "R" stamp in which the item number was placed. We show here-with several of the "R" boxes from Southampton. ☒

THE POSTMASTERS OF SAUGEEN / SOUTHAMPTON *and their periods of service*

SAUGEEN Post office established July 6, 1851
 Robert Reid July 6, 1851 until April 22, 1857 dismissed
 Thomas Lee July 1, 1857 until April 30, 1890
Post Office name changed to Southampton

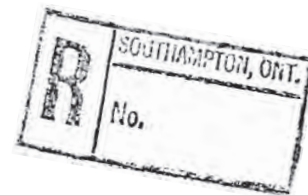
SOUTHAMPTON

Thomas Lee	May 1, 1890 until Feb. 20, 1901 DEATH
Mrs. Mary E. Lee	May 1, 1901 until Sep. 17, 1914 DEATH
Frederick Henry Lee	Oct. 5, 1914 until Mar. 21, 1935 DEATH
Mrs. Jane Alexandria Lee	Mar. 27, 1935 until Jan. 2, 1936 ACTING
John Joseph Clancy	Jan. 3, 1936 until Feb. 9, 1950 retirement
James Joseph Clancy	Mar. 9, 1950 until March 8, 1951 ACTING
James Joseph Clancy	Mar. 9, 1951 until April 22, 1982 retirement
Joseph Daniel Trafelet	April 23, 1982 until Aug. 3, 1982 temporary
Mrs. Virginia E. J. Bailey	Aug. 4, 1982 until Dec. 1, 1982 maternity
Joseph Daniel Trafelet	Dec. 2, 1982 until June 18, 1982 temporary
Mrs. Virginia E. J. Bailey	June 20, 1983 until Feb. 28, 1985 maternity
Mrs. Barbara Westgate	Mar. 4, 1985 until Sep. 19, 1985 temporary
Mrs. Virginia E. J. Bailey	Sep. 20, 1985 until Dec. 24, 1984 ACTING
Joseph Daniel Trafelet	Dec. 27, 1985 until Mar. 31, 1986 ACTING
Mrs. Virginia E. J. Bailey	April 1, 1986 until Aug. 29, 2006 retirement
Larry Morton	Nov. 7, 2005 until April 17, 2006 ACTING
Janise Gail Ashton	Mar. 27, 2006 until Dec. 31, 2006 ACTING
Janise Gail Ashton	Jan. 1, 2007
Nancy Norwood	Sept. 2, 2008 until July 18, 2010 ACTING
Nancy Norwood	July 19, 2010

Money Order Office No. 4380
 Computer Office No. 394858 (established April 1, 1973)
 Post Office Postal Code N0H 2L0



Two, of a number of different registration boxes. The one to the left was used in the 1920-1935 period, while the one below is c.1950.



Chantry Island lighthouse and keeper's quarters, Southampton.

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Letter from The Parry Sound River Improvement Co. to
Hon. A. D. Hardy, Commissioner, Crown Lands, Toronto

[REF. 272]

The Parry Sound River Improvement Co.

Bruce Graham

An interesting corner card for the Parry Sound River Improvement Company mailed at Parry Sound on June 26, 1895.

Two Parry Sound lumber companies joined forces to form The Parry Sound River Improvement Company to manage the flow on the Seguin River. In the 1870s, contractors Samuel and John Armstrong of McKellar built most of the dams on the spring freshets throughout the watershed. This made the most out of the annual spring stream flows which were used as conveyor belts to float the annual harvest of pine logs down to the bay.

The lumbermen and farmers all arrived about the same time and got along well. Farmers grew food for the men and horses in the lumber camps, the lumber camps offered off-season employment for the farmers.

But friction arose over the damming of some of the streams. The areas best farmland bordered on these streams and the dammed up water flooded onto their clearings. They looked to someone to bill for damages.

First among the settlers on the Seguin watershed to seek compensation was Francis "Frank" Ferris, postmaster at Lorimer Lake, who, in 1877 alleged that the lumberman's dam installed by the Armstrong brothers between Lorimer Lake and McKellar, was turning his homestead into "a nursery for disease, toads and insects". He billed the Armstrongs and the Guelph Lumber Company jointly for damages in the amount of \$20.00. The Armstrongs paid up but not the lumber company. Ferris vs the lumber company became an ongoing feud.



As more settlers came in the mid 1880s and settled along the Broadbent branch of the Seguin, they banded together to seek damages. They sued the Parry Sound Lumber Company and the Midland & North Shore Company (successor to the Guelph Lumber Company) for damages to clearings, bush, buildings and fences. Frank Ferris tacked on another claim of his own, demanding \$1,096.00, including \$250.00 for "nuisance and disturbance" a figure that likely took into account a brief jail sentence he received several years earlier for allegedly breaking open the dam on Lorimer Lake that had troubled him for all the years he lived on Lorimer Lake.

The settlers basic claim was that the lumbermen were putting them out of business, the lumbermen countered insinuating that the farmers wanted compensation for minor damage done to their spring crops. The outcome is unknown.

The disputes finally ended years later in June 1921, some annoyed landowner, not Frank Ferris, who died some 17 years earlier, dynamited the Lorimer Lake dam.

REFERENCE:

Parry Sound Northern Star, Wednesday, May 23, 2007. "Settlers and Loggers at Loggerheads over Water" by John Macafie.

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