

Lake Huron

[REF. 279]

DRUMWOND ISLAND

1815 - 1828

W. Bruce Graham

rummond Island was the most westerly of the Manitoulin chain of islands in Lake Huron. It was occupied by the British after the war of 1812. In 1815 the British Military left U.S.-occupied Mackinac Island, and established a fort and settlement with several hundred persons, military regulars, civilians, including fur traders and employees of the Northwest Company, in the southwest part of Drummond Island. The Treaty of Ghent, ending the War of 1812, prescribed the boundary between the United States and British North America which would be the natural ship channel through the Great Lakes and through to the lakehead of Lake Superior. The natural channel passes to the east of Drummond Island, thus making it U.S. territory. The British disagreed wanting to keep this strategic point in their control. An international survey in 1822 reaffirmed the boundary making the island U.S. territory. The British and the civilians finally withdrew in 1828.

A notice in the Fort Erie newspaper of March 15, 1816 reads "Schooners *General Brock* and *Elizabeth* will be ready for the lakes as soon as navigation season opens – to accommodate passengers and goods from Fort Erie to Amherstburg to Drummond Island, St. Joseph's on Lake Huron, [passengers] will please call at Fort Erie."

Until the relocation, the British remained in control. Communications proved to be very inadequate. Mail was sent from Kingston to Drummond Island via York (now Toronto) to Amherstburg by courier every four months. The Amherstburg postmaster had to forward the mail by any ship travelling north. In a letter written in 1816 to the Military Secretary it mentioned that a letter took nine months to reach Drummond Island. Mail came by way of an American schooner, either at a U.S. postal rate of 25 cents (single letter sheet, 400 miles or more) or at a ship captain's fee charge. In 1818 there were between fifty and sixty letters sent to Drummond Island in a six-month period (see Fig. 2).

Kingston Gazette, July 1, 1817

Lt. Governor's Office, York, June 2, 1817 His Excellency, has been pleased to appoint, David Mitchell to be the Collector of Customs at Drummond Island, Lake Huron.

Kingston, June 20, 1817

By proclamation of His Excellency the Lt. Governor – Drummond Island is established as a Port of Entry and Clearance from and after the 18th day of June 1817.

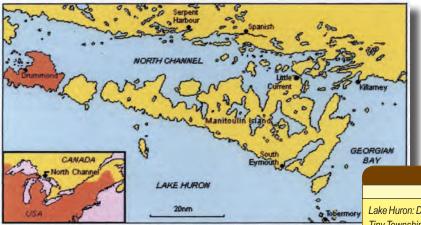


Fig. 1 – Map showing the location of Drummond Island at the head of Lake Huron.

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Drummond Island became the point of entry where customs duties were collected on goods entering British North America on northern Lake Huron. This strengthened British control on the island.

To facilitate delivery of important mail, especially during the winter, two express services were established. The Government Express (military) and the Indian Express proved reliable and capable of delivering mail from Drummond Island to York (now Toronto) in four to five weeks. They operated year round until 1828.

			n Commandant of York ost Office					
1818	3							_
Jan'y	12	:	To one letter received	1	-		-	10
N.		:	To amount of postage on latter taken by					
			the Commandant on Drummond Island	1	-	16	-5	10
	17	*	To two letters received 10, 1s8d	#	-	2	-	6
п	24	:	To Ditto 10, 10	*	-	1	-	8
		:	To two Ditto forwarded 2s6d, 4s6d	:	-	7	-	0
	31	:	2 Ditto received	1	-	1	-	11
Feb'y	7	:	4 Ditto received 10, 3s7d, 3s7d, 6s	4	-	14	-	0
	14	:	To two Ditto 1s8d, 5s	:	-	6	-	8
"	21	1	To one Ditto	41	-	1	-	1%
4	21	:	To one Ditto forwarded	#	-	9	-	0
	28	:	To two Ditto received 6s, 12s	4	-	18	-	0
Mar.	7	:	To four Ditto received 2s, 2s6d, 8d, 6s8d	20	-	14	-	10
	7	:	To two Ditto received 4s7d, 10s	1	-	14	-	7
	14	:	To two Ditto received 1s8d, 2s6d	4	-	4	-	2
	21	:	To five Ditto received 3 @ 10d & 2 @ 6d	1	-	7	-	6
	23	-	To one Ditto forwarded 3s6d	2.	-	3	-	6
	28		To two Ditto received	1	-	3	+	4
April	3	:	To two Ditto received @ 3s7d	:	-	7	-	2
0	6	2.	To one Ditto received	:	-	1	-	0
	11		To one Ditto received	2	-		-	10
#	18	:	To three Ditto received 10d, 10s, 1s2d	:	-	2	-	10
11	21	:	To one Ditto 4s2s	1:	-	4	-	2
*	27	:	To three Ditto received 10d, 10d, 1s8d	:	-	3	-	4
May	2	:	To one Ditto received	:	-	1	-	4
	3	:	To one Ditto received	:	-	3	-	4
	9	#	To two Ditto received 10d, 4s2d	:	-	5	-	0
Curre	ncy			: 7	-	16	-	5%
Post a 12th t B. No	o M	lette ay 9 Capt	he above Postage has been incurred for the rs forwarded to Drummond Island from Jan'y. th inclusive. ain 70th at York					

Fig. 2 – Account of Postage.

 Drummond Island, a Pawn between Britain and the United States.

Detroit Gazette, June 23, 1820.

From Detroit to Fort Gratiot, at the entrance to Lake Huron, 80 miles, thence to Mackinac, 250 miles, to Drummond Island 45 miles, fare \$20.00 – Drummond Island is a great resort for the Indians, in possessoion of the British.

Passage from Boston to Mackinac may be made in 15 days.

A stampless letter datelined "Drummond Island 13th October 1821" and annotated "per favour of Capt. R. Nelson" was addressed to the postmaster at Sandwich (now Windsor). The letter was carried free on post office business (see Fig. 3 and 4, opposite).

The contents of the letter acknowledging the receipt of an inventory for letters for postage amounting to 9/7 (9 shillings and 7 pence) was sent by W. Simpson, the local H.B.C. agent.

The British removed their military forces from Drummond Island on November 16, 1828 to Penetanguishene.

The first known wreck on Georgian Bay took place when the Drummond Island garrison was transferred to Penetanguishene. They chartered the schooner Alice Hackett. She carried a detachment of soldiers, livestock and household goods. Among the passengers was a tavern keeper with thirteen barrels of whiskey. The captain and his crew along with many of the soldiers became intoxicated. A storm arose during the night and the ship was driven on a rock, later known as "Horse Island", near the southern tip of Manitoulin Island. The passengers and crew made it safely to shore, along with one horse, a fine carriage, food, and the thirteen barrels of whiskey. The vessel and the rest of the cargo were a total loss. A cannon broke loose and plunged through the bottom, completing the wreck. The horse and carriage remained on the island for years thus giving the island its name "Horse Island" (Fitzwilliam Island). A large sailboat came to rescue them and bring them to Penetanguishene. (It is suggested that the vessel *Alice Hackett* didn't exist and the vessel that wrecked was the Buffalo schooner Victor. The influx of 250 additional inhabitants at Penetanguishene resulted in the establishment of a post office at Penetanguishene the following year.

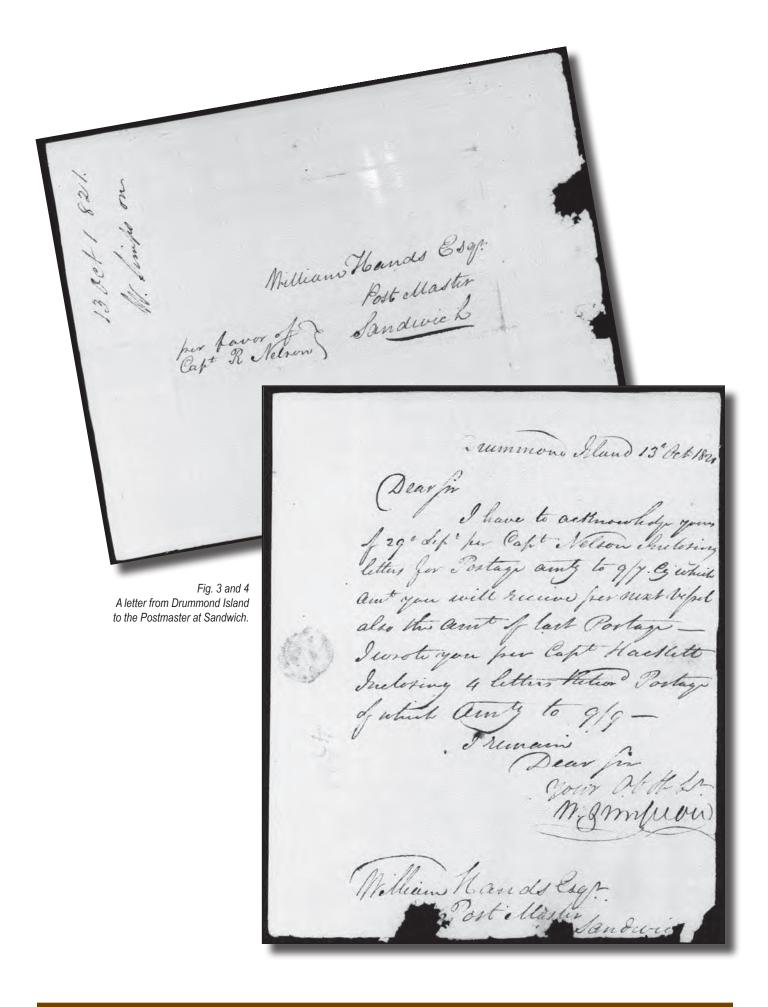
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

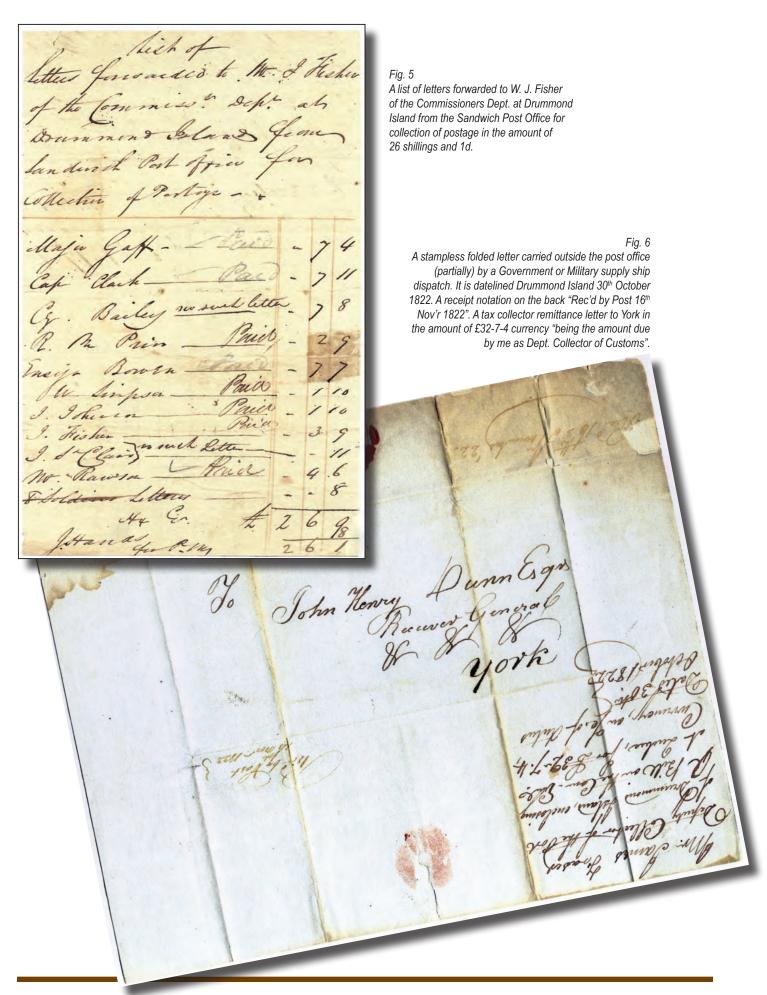
- 1. "Drummond Island, a Pawn between Britain and the United States", Caledonia (the author wishes to remain anonymous). Opusculum 11. An Anthology of Philatelic and Historical Papers, RSPC Philatelic Research Foundation, 1995.
- 2. Newspaper clippings. Marine History of the Great Lakes website, www.maritimehistoryofthegreatlakes.ca



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!





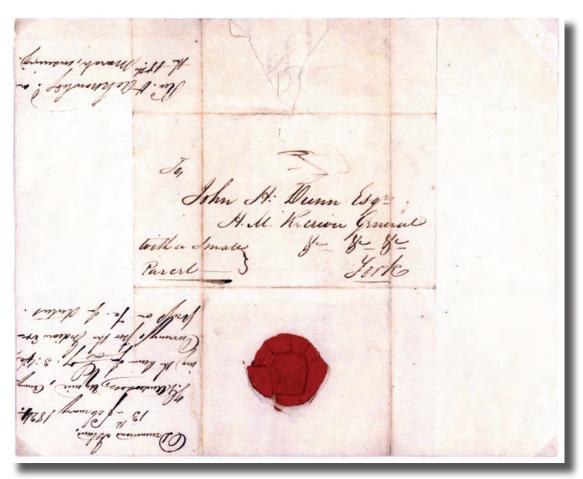


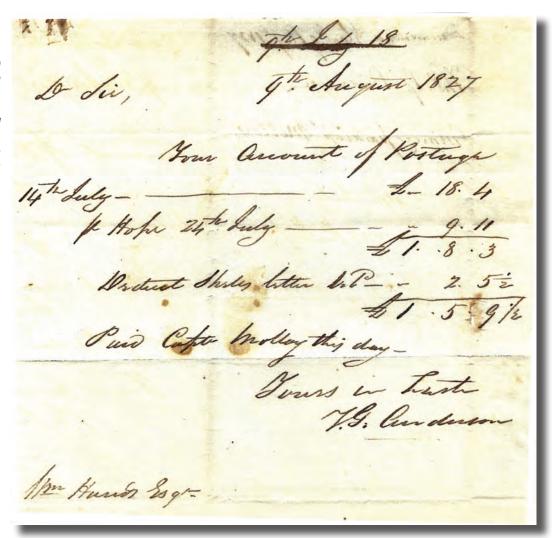
Fig. 7 Indian Courier Mail – Letter from Drummond Island to York, datelined Customs Office, Feb. 13, 1824, carried by an Indian courier.

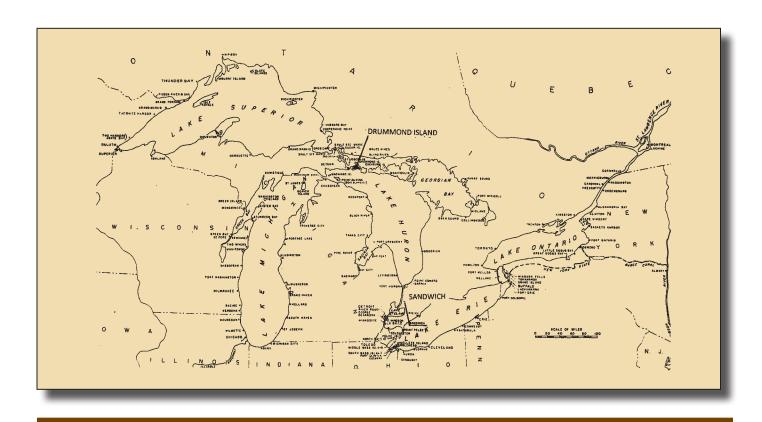
- COURTESY Bill Longley Auctions



Fig. 8
A stampless single folded letter (in French) datelined "lle Drummond 8 Octr 1825" to Sandwich. Manuscript endorsed "in favour of Capt. Mackintoche". The letter was carried free on post office business from Drummond Island.

Fig. 9
A letter only with docketing on the reverse upon receipt, "Drummond Island 9 Aug. 1827, though. G. Anderson money paid Capt. Malloy".
It was a remittance of postage due from July 14 to August 9 in the amount of £1-5-9½. "Paid Capt. Malloy this day".





Drummond Sland 12 th November 182 William Hand, by Spin Pour for Cap' Pattow I duly rein! as also Seas Band, apples for my aut the change for the your Sake that you sen would not take it back and the pior put o any article, especially that, in the Setuation now placed which no doubt you much have hear very bad - I have dele Cap! Patton the feren pound Siplew Stillings and P. Cy being the Lefs 34 my Coming a dedicted and also

Fig. 10
A portion of a letter from Drummond Island to William Hands, 12th November 1828.
A message of way office closure, four days before cessation to the U.S.A.
"Yours per Capt. Patton I duly received 2 barrels of apples and a barrel of onions for yours". "I have delivered Capt. patton the sum being the amount of your postage account". The letter was sent by W. J. Simpson, Hudson Bay Company agent.

They Township THUNDER BEACH

Simcoe County
[REF, 278]

Richard Ruggle, Gus Knierim

Thunder Beach was, and is, a summer destination in Simcoe County's Tiny Township which stretches along the eastern shoreline of Georgian Bay. Initially the area was opened up by loggers and early settlers that tried their hand at logging and farming. Today, most economic activity is focused on tourism.

To serve the influx of the summer vacationers to the area the Post Office Department opened a non-accounting summer office #82334 on July 8, 1932, with Philias Beaupré serving as postmistress. She remained in that position until resigning June 21, 1937. According to Larry Whitby and Michael Millar's *List of Post Offices in the County of Simcoe*, the new post office at Thunder beach was located on the north-east corner of Lot 19, Concession 16.

On July 3, 1937 Napoleon Leo Dubeau was appointed as the new postmaster. In the financial year ending March 31, 1939 Thunder Beach declared revenue of \$186. This would have been the 1938 summer season. The post office operated out of Dubeau's small store and most vacationers will remember him as Thunder Beach's longest serving postmaster. He was only 26 years old at the time of his appointment. He resigned September 14 at the end of the 1968 season.

Most years the post office opened around the middle of June and closed in the middle of September. In the mid-1940s mail was received at Thunder Beach daily at 9 a.m. It was distributed from Penetanguishene via Laurin. Later on in the 1970s the distribution point was Orillia.

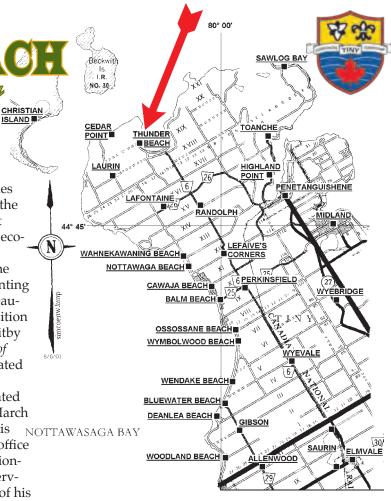
The following year, Anne J. Smith, commenced her duties as postmaster on June 16. Records are incomplete as to her years of service other than to say that she was followed by Margaret Deschamps as the last postmistress.

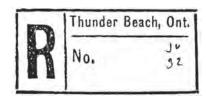
In the mid-1970s, Thunder Beach post office, now organized under the number 336963, showed substantial revenue of \$1,252 for the year 1974-1975. It was still a non-accounting summer office.

No official post office closing date has been recorded, however a cover in the collection of Richard Ruggle shows a date of August 13, 1985. This may well be the final season of operation for this summer post office as Canada Post decided to close most summer offices in the mid-1980s.

PROOF STRIKE
Type A1
THUNDER BEACH ONT.
JUN 30 / 1932
20.5 mm
arcs 4.5, 5.0 mm







PROOF STRIKE Reg. Box Thunder Beach, Ont. JUN / 1932 47 x 21.5 mm

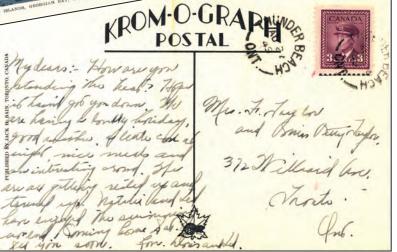
Photo post card showing the post office at Thunder Beach. COURTESY Robt. C. Smith collection



The Marchildon Family opened the Thunder Beach Inn in June 1934 on the east side of Thunder Beach.

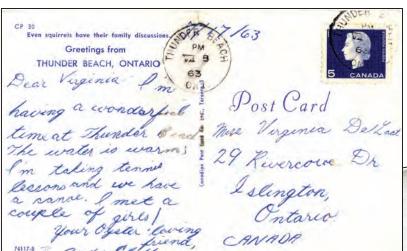
It could accommodate 55 guests.





THUNDER BEACH / ONT. / AU 24 / 49

This post card showing a steamer among the 30,000 islands of Georgian Bay was published by Jack H. Bain of Toronto. The broken circle date stamp was proofed in 1932 and it has been reported used between 1936 and 1956.



THUNDER BEACH / ONT. / PM / VII 5 / 63

Post card written July 17, 1963 [7/17/63] and date stamped at the post office twelve days earlier. We have a vacationer that has either totally lost track of time, or a postmaster that does not have time to change the date stamp.

THUNDER BEACH / ONT. / 13 VIII / 85

Letter possibly date stamped in the last month of operation.
COURTESY Richard Ruggle.







PROOF STRIKE
Type CDS
THUNDER BEACH ONT.
PM / 30 X / 1957
23.5 mm

REDWARD

NICOLA S

NOTE 1250 NICOLA S

Vancouver BC

Vancouver 2E6

The Postmarks of
WALKERTON
1857 - 1900

John Rossiter

s noted in the previous article* the Brant Post Office opened on October 6, 1852. The name changed to Walkerton on July 1, 1857 (I am using post office records as some historic records differ). This was the third post office to be established within the County of Bruce after offices at Kincardine (June 6, 1851) and Saugeen (Southampton, July 6, 1851).

Walkerton is the county seat for Bruce County and is governed by the Municipality of Brockton. The town is named after Joseph Walker who came to the area on May 12, 1850. The contest for which municipality would become the county town started in March, 1857 and involved along with Walkerton, Paisley and Kincardine. Finally after a great deal of politicking Parliament passed an act on September 15, 1865 declaring Walkerton to be the county town for Bruce.

With financial assistance from local farmers Mr. Walker constructed a sawmill and a grist mill in 1853. Other industries followed – a tannery, an oatmeal mill and a planning mill along with a woolen factory. By the 1860s and into the 1870s many other industries started, one of the larger was built by Mr. O. G. Anderson. Originally a

stave mill, it became a furniture factory employing 125 workers. Eventually this company moved to Woodstock. By the 1890s more industries started, some failed, some succeeded and others relocated to larger towns.

With reference to Bruce Graham's listing of *Ontario Broken Circle* postmarks we have the following:

No. 1 – July 6, 1857 (Double Broken Circle)

The first postmark for Walkerton U.C. was a double broken ring 25 mm hammer ordered from Berri on July 6, 1857. This cover (Fig. 1) is the earliest reporting to date (January 24, 1859) paying 3 pence postage plus 1 pence in cash (the registration fee) and is mailed to the Honourable P. M. Vanhoughnett [sic], Commissioner of Crown Lands, Toronto, Canada West.

Fig. 1 Registered letter from WALKERTON / U.C / JA 24 / 1859 to Toronto.



*The G.B.D. & Simcoe Newsletter, No. 24, Vol. 5, No. 2, Jan. 2002, "Walkerton Post Office 150th Anniversary" (The Brant Post Office).

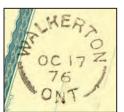


Fig. 2 One cent post card addressed to Hanover, Ontario, and postmarked WALKERTON / U.C / AP 1 / 1876

Bruce Graham notes a late recording of the U.C. hammer of February 23, 1876. This can now be revised to reflect a later strike of April 1, 1876 on a 1¢ Canada Post Card.

No. 2 – 1876 (Broken Circle)

A new 22.5 mm broken circle hammer WALKERTON, ONT. was issued (sometime after April 1, 1876 and prior



to October 18, 1876) as the strike in my collection is dated October 17, 1876. This is also on a 1¢ Canada Post Card. This 22.5 mm broken circle postmark continued to be used at least as late as November 24, 1880.

No. 3 – October 9, 1879 (Full Circle CDS)

Paul Hughes' Full Circle Proof Strikes of Ontario also records a "WALKERTON-ONT. / CANADA" 22mm

hammer dated October 9, 1879. This is a very difficult postmark to find on or off cover. [Some years ago I passed up purchasing a very "ratty" cover struck with this hammer. I now regret it.]



Fig. 3 One cent post card addressed to Toronto, and postmarked WALKERTON / ONT / AU 3 / 85

No. 4 – October 6, 1883 (Full Circle CDS)

The second full circle hammer (23 mm) was proofed on October 6, 1883 and is shown below (Fig. 3) on a Canada Post Card dated August 3, 1885.

The third and fourth Full Circle daters were both issued in 1892 and only 5 months apart.

I must admit I am suspicious when two (identical ?) hammers are issued so close together.

The only slight difference I can detect from the proof book is that the February 23rd dater measures 24 mm and





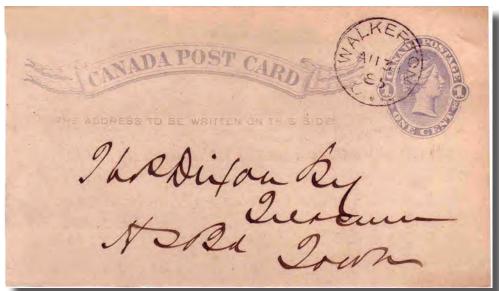




Fig. 4
F. E. Hancock, exporter of hardwood ashes, mailed this letter to Boston,
Mass. It is postmarked WALKERTON / ONT / JA 23 / 99

the August 2nd postmark measures 23.5 mm. [Is this just over inking or was the third cds date stamp damaged and replaced by the fourth cds dater?) Any comments?

No. 5 – February 23, 1892 (Full Circle CDS)

The third full circle hammer (24 mm) was proofed February 23, 1892, WALKERTON /ONT. and is shown here on a commercial cover with the 2¢ map stamp dated January 23, 1899 (Fig. 4).

No. 6 – August 2, 1892 (Full Circle CDS)

The fourth full circle hammer (23.5 mm) was proofed August 2, 1892, WALKERTON / ONT. and is shown here on a registered commercial cover with 2¢ postage and 5¢ registration fee dated March 8, 1899 (Fig 5).

No. 7 – November 19, 1900 (Duplex)

This cover, a 1¢ postal stationery envelope with added postage, has been struck with the first Walkerton Duplex cancel, 21.5 mm A9 killer (DON-1900) dated November 19, 1900. This is the earliest strike.

This concludes Walkerton's postmarks that I am aware of up to 1900. Please inform editor of any errors, additions, or omissions to this listing. \square

REFERENCES

- W. Bruce Graham, Ontario Broken Circle Datestamps
- J. Paul Hughes, Full Circle Datestamps
- J. Paul Hughes, Split Circle Proof Strikes of Ontario
- Library and Archives Canada
- http://en.Wikepedia.org/wiki/Walkerton, Ontario

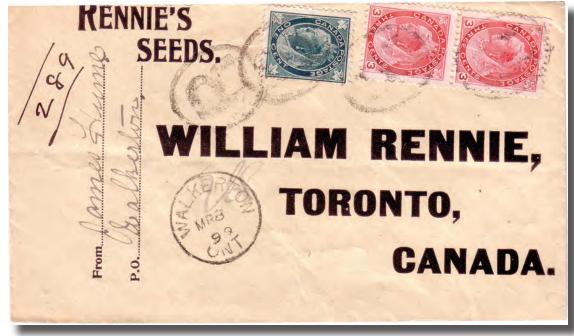


Fig. 5
A Rennie self-addressed
envelope is postmarked
WALKERTON / ONT /
MR 8 / 99.
It is struck with the fourth
full circle dater.



Fig. 5
Uprated postal stationery
envelope mailed to
Thorold and postmarked
at WALKERTON / ONT /
NO 19 / 00 with
Walkerton Duplex
DON-1900

Grey County

[REF. 282]

ABBRDDDD

Bentinck Township

Gus Knierim

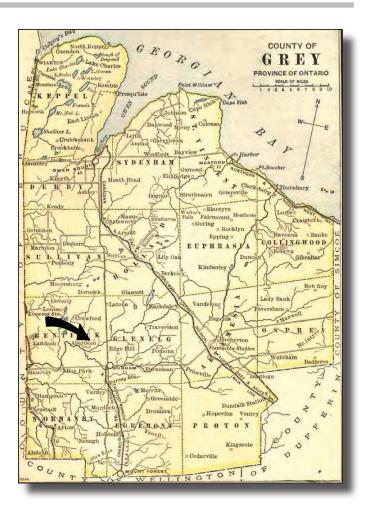
berdeen, a small farming settlement in Grey County's Bentinck Township was first settled around 1845. A mill was built in 1851 when Milton C. Schofield harnessed the waters of the Rocky Saugeen. The settlement that grew up around the mill was known as Schofield's Mill. As the community grew a school was added at a cost of \$9.00 with most labour and material donated by the locals. In 1879, James Crawford bought the mill and surrounding land and named the village after his birthplace, Aberdeen in Scotland.

By 1881 the community had grown to the point that postal services were required and a non-accounting post office was established on November 1, 1881, with James Crawford appointed as postmaster. He continued in his duties until resigning January 31, 1903.

The village achieved its peak in the mid-1890s when the source of lumber for the mill began to decline.

The Report of the Postmaster General for the year ending June 30, 1903 shows revenue of \$40.00 out of which the postmaster received a salary of \$30.00. L. Elvidge brought the mail from Durham to Aberdeen three times a week. The route was 11 miles in length and included the settlement at Edge Hill.

Crawford was succeeded by John W. Smith on March 16, 1903 serving the post office until his death on March



1, 1911. His wife, Janet Smith, was officially appointed on March 20, 1911 and served until closure of the post office at the time when rural mail delivery was estab-



ABERDEEN / ONT / AP 12 / 11

An Easter card from a friend in Mulock was mailed to Miss Mary Morton at Aberdeen.
The card was mailed April 11 from Mulock, received a transit strike at Durham the following day, and was received at Aberdeen later the same day – April 12, 1911.



PROOF STRIKE Type A1 ABERDEEN ONT. DE 2 / 1881 23.0 mm arcs 9.5, 8.5 mm

lished in the area on July 15, 1918. At the time of closure revenue for this office was just \$51.90 for the year ending March 31, 1918. Both John W. Smith and Janet Clark Smith are buried in the Rocky Saugeen Cemetery.

The post office had opened on November 1, 1881. However, at the time of opening no postmarking device was available. On December 2, 1881, a 23.0 mm (arcs 9.5, 8.5 mm) broken circle datestamp was proofed

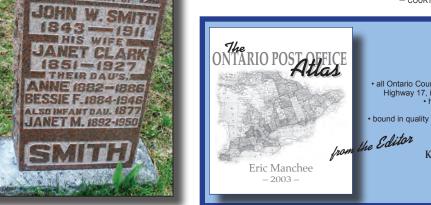
and put into service. It continued in use until closure of the post office. Reported used between 1896 and 1911, examples of this postmark are not common.

The final resting place of Postmaster John W. Smith and his wife Janet Clark, in the Rocky Saugeen Cemetery, Conc. 1, Lot 14, Bentinck Township (Highway 6).



Little remains of the once-thriving village of Aberdeen.

— courtesy of Jon Radojkovic



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