Crey County [REF. 287] The Postal Services of Zero Township

latterly the Township of St. Uncent

Gus Knierim, John Rossiter

In 1819, the area, in what was then known as the Home District, was laid out into township blocks by Gabriel Lount. This included the two westernmost townships of Zero and Alta, bordering onto the London District. The survey also permitted the establishment of a broad structure of local government based on the English system of counties, towns, and townships.

It took another 15 years before Charles Rankin was appointed to survey the lands in Alta and Zero Townships. Most lots were 200 acres in size with the exception of the broken front lots bordering on Nottawasaga Bay. The townships were renamed Collingwood and St. Vincent shortly after the completion of the survey. Settlers came to the area via Holland Landing and down the Holland River into Lake Simcoe and Shanty Bay. From there they traveled by land to the Nottawasaga River into Georgian Bay and along the thickly wooded shore. There were no roads.

The area was part of the Simcoe District organized in 1843 as the first tentative local government. It covered the large area from Lake Simcoe to Georgian Bay. Grey County was established in 1852, with its head-quarters at Sydenham (Owen Sound), and separated from the Counties of Simcoe and Wellington in 1854.

Settlers arrived shortly after the completion of the

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survey and with it the community of St. Vincent, named in honour of the Earl of St. Vincent was founded at the mouth of the Bighead River.

A non-accounting post office was granted to the community and opened on July 6, 1841, with William Stephenson appointed as postmaster. Beside his duties as postmaster, William Stephenson was also an innkeeper, public notary, and commissioner on the Queen's Bench. The post office operated out of Stephenson's *Georgian Inn*. St. Vincent post office has the honour of being the first in what is now Grey County.

CONTENTS – ISSUE Nº 58 REF NO. PAGE Grey County: The Postal Services of Zero Township, latterly the Township of St. Vincent [Gus Knierim, John Rossiter] ... 287 707 Current Postal Operations in Orangeville [George Power, J. Knierim] ... 288 716 The Post Office at Lovering, Matchedash Twp. [Gus Knierim] ... 289 718 No Registered Mail Today ... Portal, April 15, 1895 ... 290 720



To get the mail, Stephenson had to make the 100-km trip to Barrie at a time when no roads existed. Not until 1846 was the Old Mail Road constructed, following earlier trails, to connect Barrie to St. Vincent Township, terminating at Griersville.

William Stephenson served as St. Vincent's postmaster until his death in June 8, 1859. His successor was David L. Layton who was appointed July 1, 1859.

First post offices were often named after the township in which they were located and this was the situation in St. Vincent. As the population grew many more post offices were established in the Township and it was deemed fit to rename St. Vincent and the community it represented to the name of Meaford, after Meaford Hall in Staffordshire England, the seat of the Earl of St. Vincent. The Community changed its name in the late 1850s, however the name of the post office was not changed until May 1, 1865. It was in David Layton's sixth year of being postmaster. He continued in service until his death in 1895.

St. Vincent/Meaford grew substantially during the 1850s and 1860s. Population of St. Vincent Township in 1861 was estimated at 2,993, half of whom resided in Meaford. In 1861 the post office was upgraded to full accounting status allowing it to sell money orders. The

1865 Report of the Postmaster General states that St. Vincent issued 222 money orders valued at \$10,080.79. In the same report we learn that 37 money orders valued at \$1,407.35 were redeemed.

From the 1859 and 1860 Reports of the Postmaster General it can be discerned that the community was indeed a busy place. Capt. W. H. Smith, who had arrived on Georgian Bay in 1855 provided frequent shipping services between Owen Sound, Meaford and Collingwood stopping in Meaford 6 times per week during the shipping season. Georgian Bay freezes over during the winter months, so it was necessary to also provide services over a land route.

Bringing the mail to St. Vincent and the Georgian Bay communities of Owen Sound and Collingwood was a lucrative business. In 1859 Smith was paid \$1,483.25 to provide daily (except Sunday) service to Meaford for a period of 2 months and 4 days. In 1860 the contract was for \$1,360 for the season, and by 1865 the cost had risen to \$2,287.50 for providing 183 trips, at a frequency of 6 times per week.

The post office was a busy place using four different postmark daters between 1842 and 1865.

On May 31, 1842 – 11 months after the opening of the post office – a 29-mm manuscript dated double broken

St Vincent January 9th/43

Honle Sir

Having been Seven Years here, and in compliance with a Petition granted me in 1834. I have settled the Township as far as lay in My Powers according to my Grant, and would have it all completed had it not been for the State of the Roads and the Trouble and annoyance I have received at the Government Office. In support of this you may see my complaints in a Letter signed by many respectable Inhabitants of this Place in the last Governor's time which the Surveyor-General in Sep' 1841 informed me was laid before the Council. I have been expecting an answer to that Letter, which I hope your Excellency will cause to be taken into consideration. Because several Lots settled and Located by me has been Deeded away, to my Settler and my Damage to Individuals who were never here and Several More which I have settled when I went to the office with the Individuals to get the Deeds, were refused them. Some of these Lots are at this time being Deeded to others - I may mention Hiram Bonds, which is I am informed is Deeded to John Doherty, who has never lived here. i may also mention Lots 38, 8 Conn on which large improvements were made, also 2 Houses and 2 Barns also 41 on 12 Con" also 24, 25, 29, 30 on 9th Conn. Deeds have been refused me and given to Individuals who have never been in the Township. I wish your Excellency to cause an answer to be sent me as to my

right of those Places, with a Copy of My Petition wrote by Jos. Talbot Aug 1834. Because there are many more Settlers who are making many improvements relying upon the Government fulfilling the terms of My Grant. I have put up a Grist Mill, Saw Mill & on which very lot also the Deed has been refused me. 1 pray your Excellency will cause no more Deeds to be issued upon the Land granted me untill there is a proper investigation into my Grievance. I wish to be informed whether I must attend Personally or by writing signed by the Occupiers here as to the Truth of my assertions, and get the affairs properly rectified to prevent false [Severances] to get Lots which I am prepared ItoI prove has been done and have the Parties punished for so doing.

1 Remain

Your Excell^y Humble and Ob^t Ser^t Price Mallory

N.B. Oliver and Smith has told me they have got the Deeds out on Lot 25, 9th Conn falsely they knowing other Letters to be in Possession of the Same and is still at work on it.

Price Mallory
St Vincent 9/30 Jany 1843.
Requests answer to his petition and demonstrates against ill treatment. lands originally promised to him are now being deeded to other parties.

circle date stamp (B2sx) was proofed. It has been reported used between 1843 and 1853. If there are letters or documents to be found prior to this date they would most likely be dated and marked in manuscript by Postmaster Stephenson.

Around 1850 postal volume had increased to a point where a 25-mm typeset-dated double broken circle device was commissioned. It is known used between 1850 and 1859.



ST VINCENT U.C. / 12 / Jany / 1843

Price Mallory's letter the the Rt. Honourable Sir C. Bagot, Governor General, Kingston. The letter is the earliest recorded document from St. Vincent as well as the County of Grey.

David Layton, Postmaster, July 1, 1859 until June 19, 1895; Councillor, 1851-1859 Reeve, 1855. A Berri-produced dater measuring 22 mm (arcs 9.0 mm) was ordered December 12, 1859. The postmark is identified easily by the C.W at the base indicating Canada West. Strikes from this instrument are known used between 1862 and 1864. Unfortunately we do not have a scan or copy to show at this time.

A bit of an enigma is a 21.5 mm (arcs 9.0 and 10 mm) with the U.C designation type A2 postmark that has been reported used between 1861 and 1865. Was it or-

dered from Berri in England? Which came first, the U.C or the C.W postmark?

The Town of Meaford grew. David Layton, postmaster in the early 1860s, remained in that position until his death on June 19, 1895. \square

ST VINCENT U.C. / 7 / Nov / 46

Letter from Owen Sound appears to have entered the postal system at St. Vincent. Owen Sound post office opened July 6, 1846. Perhaps at this point it was more reliable to mail documents from St. Vincent.



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Custom House, Port of Owen Sound, 6 November 1846

Richard Carney, Collector of Customs at the Port of Owen Sound, fulfilled a number of duties in the new settlement. He was Inn Keeper, Customs Agent, Mayor, and Sheriff. This letter predates the earliest known posted letter (December 22, 1846) from the port by a few weeks.



A letter from
Ruth last week - all well.

ST VINCENT U.C. / 7 / June / 52

Money Letter from St. Vincent to one
Miss Adaline Purdy, Richmond Hill, C.W.
COURTESY, John Rossiter.

Jesse says if Jess has not left when this arrives, you may tell him to stop and see Ewart, successor to Halliwell on "that business".
... will find on the opposite page. Cut it off.

... With the the opposite page. Once to off



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!*

ST VINCENT U.C. / AU 5 / 1859

Letter to Presbyterian missionary, John Eadie, at Artemesia, Grey County. Cover is franked with 5¢ Beaver which had just been issued in July 1859. Take note of the handsome manuscript "paid" marking in the upper left corner of the cover.

Postmarked with a 25-mm type B2 which has been reported used between 1850 and August 5, 1859.

COURTESY, John Rossiter.



LIFE OF REV. DR. BURNS

The number of persons in this township who claim membership with us, or were ready to give in their names as applicants, was about forty, and there seemed to be among those several pious and intelligent men who might be set spart as elders over them. On submitting this matter to the Presbytery they were so much satisfied in regard to it as to authorize an application to Messrs. Cameron and Grant, of Sullivan and Owen Sound, though within the bounds of the Presbytery of Hamilton, to give their assistance in organizing a congregation, electing elders, and dispensing the ordinance of the Lord's Supper amongst them. All this has been done, and Artemesia now holds the rank of a recognized congregation. By a union with some of the adjoining districts a pastoral charge might be formed, but it must remain at present as a missionary station. It is a considerably older settlement than Osprey, but both the one and the other afford painful specimens of what meets a Canadian missionary wherever he goes--the evil that inevitably arises from the neglect of the Presbyterian Church to look after her scattered members early, and to throw over them the shield of a kind guardisnship.

"Our excellent young missionary, Mr. Eadie," by his information and tact, aided me much in my visit to Artemesia, and it has been the result of my experience in this as in former instances, that our Presbyterian 'succession,' in the way of guides and friendly helps knows no interruption—no gaps—for just when about to part with Mr. Eadie and other friends here, Mr. Andrew Elliot, an intelligent and pious elder in the neighbouring township of Sullivan arrived with his substantial two-horse waggon, to conduct me to his own newly-erected mansion in Sullivan, which his family had taken possession of the day before, and of which I happened thus to be the first visitor ab extra. This intelligent gentleman had come lately from Perth, C.W., whither his excellent father-in-law, Mr. Halliday, and other friends had come in 1815, when Government chartered vessels and sent out the first settlers to 'this Canada.' These worthy representatives of the first disturbers of the wolves and bears of the forest, I had the pleasure of meeting with a few weeks after, when Mrs. Burns and I paid a visit to Mr. Duucan at Perth, on occasion of the dispensation of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. It is exceedingly interesting to converse with fresh and hale octogenarians in Canada; to hear the story of their chequered scenes in the bush, the obstacles they had to overcome, and the success with which Jehovah has blessed them.

A part page with reference to John Eadie as found in The Life and Times of the Rev. R. Burns, D.D., Toronto. Authored by Robert Ferrier Burns, it was published by James Campbell & Son, Toronto, 1872.



ST-VINCENT U.C. / DE 17 / 61 Letter to Toronto charged at the rate of 5¢. COURTESY, John Rossiter.

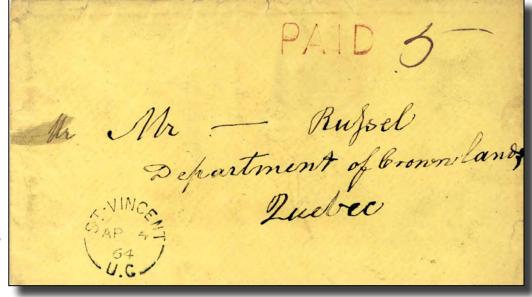
S^T-VINCENT U.C. / DE 9 / 62

Letter to Chicago charged at the rate of 10¢ and franked with the 10¢ Consort stamp issued in 1859. COURTESY, John Rossiter.

Two Broken Circle Daters

On December 12, 1859 a broken circle dater with C.W at the base was ordered from Berri. Two covers have been reported, JA 18 /62 and DE 28 / 64, and are listed in Bruce Graham's Ontario Broken Circle Postmarks. Unfortunately no image is available to confirm this. If, indeed, there are two different daters (C.W. and U.C.) then they appear to have been used simultaneously.





ST-VINCENT U.C. AP 4 / 64 Letter to Quebec charged and paid at the rate of 5¢.

Pythagoras Lodge A.F. & A.M. #137 GRC

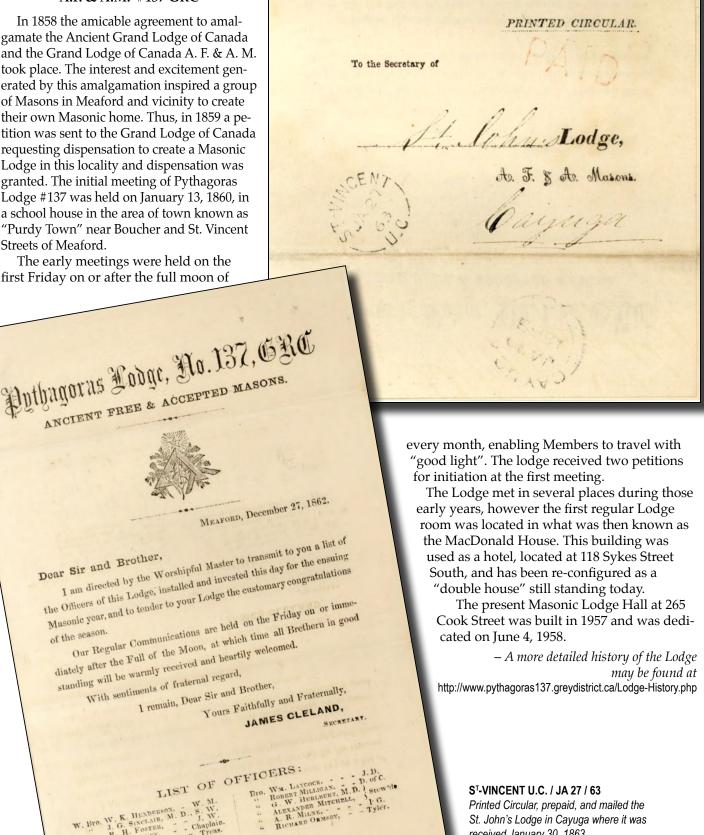
In 1858 the amicable agreement to amalgamate the Ancient Grand Lodge of Canada and the Grand Lodge of Canada A. F. & A. M. took place. The interest and excitement generated by this amalgamation inspired a group of Masons in Meaford and vicinity to create their own Masonic home. Thus, in 1859 a petition was sent to the Grand Lodge of Canada requesting dispensation to create a Masonic Lodge in this locality and dispensation was granted. The initial meeting of Pythagoras Lodge #137 was held on January 13, 1860, in a school house in the area of town known as "Purdy Town" near Boucher and St. Vincent Streets of Meaford.

The early meetings were held on the first Friday on or after the full moon of

Dear Sir and Brother,

With sentiments of fraternal regard,

of the season.



Printed Circular, prepaid, and mailed the St. John's Lodge in Cayuga where it was received January 30, 1863.

ST-VINCENT U.C. / JA 27 / 63

Current Postal Operations in [REF. 288]

George Power, J. Knierim

urrently in 2015 the Town of Orangeville is served by a corporate post office located at 216 Broadway, as well as two franchises. There is also a Distribution Centre with no retail services, located at 74 Centennial Road, Orangeville.





1254 Anniversary DUFFERIN COUNTY 1881 - 2006 DEC 3 0 2005 334448 ORANGEVILLE, O **L9W 2L0**

The Orangeville Banner, the local newspaper published this photo post card in the 1950s. Shown here is the old post office and fire hall.

The present-day Orangeville post office at 216 Broadway.

The Orangeville Distribution Centre at 74 Centennial Road, Orangeville.

SUPERMITT IDENT

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ORANGEVILL

L9W 1L0



The Orangeville Distribution Centre or Postal Unit does indeed have an RC number. It is 05340. It is just not shown on these date stamps.

ORANGEVILLE POSTAL UNIT 74 CENTENNIAL POAD 2001 -09- 1 4 ORANGEMILLE, ON LOW 1LO

> Orangeville Springbrook RO 102517, located at 489 Broadway, RR2 Orangeville, is hosted by Shoppers Drug Mart #1340. The franchisee is Daniel De Maria. The postal outlet was opened April 23, 2007. This franchise may be considered as an expansion of the postal services in Orangeville. The retail outlet did not replace any previously open outlets.

SHOPPERS DRUG MARTI

The Orangeville Springbrook RO #102517, hosted by a Shoppers Drug Mart at 489 Broadway, Orangeville. The franchise made use of a Wing type postmark in 2010.

Franchise #342416 was located in the f-Stop Camera Shop located in the Orangeville Mall, 150 First Ave., Orangeville.

It ceased operations in the fall of 2015.



Just very recently a new Shoppers Drug Mart #0703 opened in the Orangeville Mall at 150 First Ave. This area of town had been served since the 1990s by the postal outlet hosted by f-Stop Camera Shop (#342416). Early this fall the postal outlet was replaced by the above-mentioned outlet hosted by SDM #703. Its RC number is 105016. The franchise operator is Maen Mashnuk.







342416 / 2003 -08- 13 /
ORANGEVILLE / ON
An earlier type of RC postmark
was in use in 2003 at the f-Stop
Camera Shop retail postal outlet.

Please note that all postmarks and illustrations are at 75% in this article.

[REF. 289] The Post Office at Matchedash Township, Simcoe County

Gus Knierim

overing was the first settlement of what had been surveyed as Matchedash Township. It was so sparsely settled that the administration of the township was based in Orillia Township to the south.

William Drew Lovering, born June 5, 1824, in St. Enoder, Cornwall, England, was one of those very early pioneers to make Matchedash Township his home. He immigrated to Canada in 1842 and shortly thereafter took up farming in Matchedash Township.

At the age of 53, he was appointed postmaster at the newly established post office in his home on Lot 6, Concession 1, in what had become known as the Lovering settlement. As was so often the case the Post Office Department would name a newly established post office by taking the postmaster's family name. The year was 1877.

Postmaster Lovering served until



Postmaster W. D. Lovering

June 5, 1886. The Orillia Packet (Sept. 10, 1886) reported that "Mr. W. D. Lovering has resigned the postmastership here, on account of not being able to attend to it. Mr. E. W. Kitchen has been appointed in his stead", effective October 1, 1886. The paper further reported that "the post-office was removed from Mr. W. D. Lovering's to Mr. E. W. Kitchen's on Saturday of last

Mr. Edmund Wilson Kitchen, born June 15, 1839 in Kentmere, Westmorland, England, served as Lovering's longest-serving postmaster. He died in office on October 12, 1917. As well as fulfilling the duties of the postmaster Mr. Kitchen was also the clerk of the Matchedash Township and the Justice of the Peace. He and his wife Marey, raised a family of 5 children. The youngest daughter, Maggie, born March 18, 1881, assumed the responsibilities of postmaster following her father's death.

Location of the post office during the time of W. D. Lovering – Lot 6, Concession 1.



Miss Maggie Kitchen served from November 23, 1917 until the following spring, resigning on March 2, 1918. She died in 1956 having served for many years of Great Lakes ships.

Miss Hattie M. Leach followed Miss Kitchen in the post office serving for just under one year. By this time postal business in the office had diminished considerably since the inauguration of the rural route, RR1 Coldwater, on April 1, 1916.

Last to serve in the post office at Lovering was Jacob R. Gill. During his tenure of 11 months the post office was located at his residence, Lot 6, Conc. 2. Mr. Gill had an interesting past prior to coming to take on the post office duties. Besides farming in Matchedash Township he had tried his luck at prospecting in the Porcupine Gold Rush in 1912-1914.

Routing the Mail to Lovering

Mail for Lovering was always routed through Coldwater. Initially it may have been the postmaster at Lovering that fetched the mail from Coldwater, however by 1886, the Report of the Postmaster General indicates that S. Eplett was the contractor for the 6-mile Coldwater-Lovering route, which he served twice a week at a cost to the Post Office Department of \$90.00 per annum.

Samuel Drew Eplett, born January 3, 1845, was the postmaster at Coldwater. The Orillia Packet, (August 20, 1880) reports that "Mr. S. D. Eplett has disposed of his grist mill to Messrs. Lovering and Sheppard, who intend to put in immediately improved machinery, with a view to greatly increase the present capacity. Mr. Eplett, who fills the positions of postmaster, express agent, telegraph operator and station master at Coldwater, finding that he had not the necessary time to devote to the steadily increasing demand in the milling business, deemed it prudent to dispose of the property". Samuel Eplett was a busy man. He served as postmaster at Coldwater from June 1, 1871 until December 26, 1931 at which time he died.

In the 1890s the frequency of service on the route was increased to three times per week and it may be at the time of the change that William Henry Lovering became

In 1910 the post office at Lovering was located on the premises of the E. W. Kitchen homestead. COURTESY OF WWW.GEOCITIES.WS < Matchedash Township homesteads>



week".



LOVERING / ONT / JU 14 / 11

A post card message between sisters.
The Balkwill family were farming in
Matchedash Township near Lovering.



PROOF STRI

Type A1 Broken Circle 21.0-mm Diameter Arcs 8.5, 7.0 mm proofed April 9, 1877

Dear Sis,
Will you please send the gingham skirt.
You want to be sure to come to the picnic
You want to be sure to come to the picnic
up here. There is a meeting tonight to see
whenever it is going to come off for sure.
whenever it is going to come it so you will
Don't keep bad hours before it so you will
look sleepy. Write some day soon.

the contractor. The 1900 *RPMG* shows that W. H. Lovering served the 6-mile route at a cost of \$130.00 per year. He carried that contract until the end of 1908.

In 1909, W. C. Richardson took over the now expanded route covering 7½ miles which included a stop at the Lawson post office. Service continued at 3 times per week until March 31, 1911. Thereafter it appears that service was provided daily except Sunday. Mr. Richardson continued until May 6, 1912 at which time Finlay McCuaig, postmaster at Mount Stephen, took over the duties. The 1914 *RPMG* states that the route now covered 8½ miles, service still being provided daily except Sunday.

On April 1, 1916, Rural Mail Delivery was introduced. **RR1 Coldwater**, a route 20¾ miles in length provided service between **Coldwater-Lawson-Lovering-Mount Stephen**. The contractor was Finlay McCuaig who served the route until July 31, 1916. Thereafter E. I. Middleton had the honours of serving the patrons on RR1 Coldwater.

On May 20, 1922, the Lovering post office was closed. The last postmaster, Jacob R. Gill, had resigned two years earlier and according to *The Orillia Packet* (May 25, 1922) "Mr. J. R. Gill has given up the post office here. The Lovering mail will be left at Lawson [post office] until other arrangements can be made".





During its 45 years of service to the public at Lovering the post office used but a single broken circle postmarking dater proofed April 9, 1877. The 21.0 mm (arcs 8.5 and 7.0 mm) instrument has been reported used between the years 1892 and 1920.

Considering that Lovering was a very small farming community, this non-accounting post office declared revenue of \$48.56 (out of which the postmaster received a salary of \$20.00) in 1886. By 1921 the *RPMG* shows revenue of \$231.70, which was substantial for the size of Lovering.

The Lovering settlement on the North River peaked in activity around 1900 at which time the population was approximately 150 (MGT) and supported a general store, four sawmills and two churches (Episcopal and Methodist).

REFERENCES

Report of the Postmaster General for the years 1886, 1887, 1890, 1900-1917 http://www.gwennyalogy.org/ps14/ps14_339.htm

No Registered Mail Today ... Portal, April 15, 1895

n this day Postmaster William T. Stewart at Portal, Greenock Township, found it necessary to so notify the postmaster at Pinkerton that he had no registered mail to send. The Post Office Department was quite rigorous in the handling of registered mail. For the purpose of notifying the transit office, in this case Pinkerton, the P.O.D. had prepared specific forms. "Letter Bills," form 22B, were to be used by postmasters for this specific communication.

Post Office regulations stated that a "Letter Bill must be enclosed with every mail despatched". This specific Letter Bill form was printed July 26, 1894 in a quantity of 2 million copies. To be correctly used it had to be date stamped by the despatching office as well as by the receiving office. It also need to be signed by the postmaster or despatching clerk. In this instance, H. J. Stewart, the postmaster's assistant signed the form on behalf Postmaster William Stewart.

Portal was a small rural non-accounting office in Greenock Township opening on May 1, 1894. William T. Stewart was its only postmaster. The 1912 *Report of the Postmaster General* shows revenue of 32.50 with the postmaster receiving a salary of \$35.00. The office closed January 31, 1914 upon the introduction of Rural Mail Delivery service.

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ONTARIO POSTAL HISTORY

• QV to QE2 •

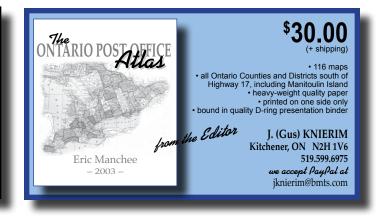
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The Georgian Courier and its predecessor, the G.B.D. & S. Newsletter, are the printed forum of the Grey, Bruce, Dufferin & Simcoe Postal History Study Group, affiliated with the Postal History Society of Canada. We attempt to publish 4 times a year: February, May, August, and November, but there are times when this is not possible.

We offer three categories of Membership: [1] **Electronic Membership** costs \$7.50 per year (4 issues). An electronic pdf version of the newsletter in full colour (no printed copy) will be emailed to members; [2] **Regular Membership** costs \$15.00 per year (4 issues). Members will received a printed black & white newsletter in the mail; [3] **Premium membership** costs \$20.00 per year (4 issues). Members will receive a laser-printed full-colour newsletter in the mail. Current membership rates are based on production and mailing costs.

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