

BNAPEX September 2018 – Exhibit Synopsis

Title of exhibit: The Early Postal History of Northwestern Ontario

Purpose of exhibit: to illustrate with covers and cards the origins of postal services in what is now the northwestern part of the province of Ontario.

Exhibit plan:

Frame 1: before postal routes - the fur trade era

Frame 2: the first mail routes

Frame 3: the first post offices

Frame 4: the transcontinental railway

Summary: The time period covered in this exhibit is the 1820's to the 1890's, and the geographic area covered is primarily the current Ontario districts of Algoma, Thunder Bay, Kenora and Rainy River. This area was Canada's northwestern frontier at the time; mail services were developed in the mid- to late 1800's in preparation for the colonization of western Canada by an all-Canadian route.

Noteworthy items in this exhibit:

- Several early folded letters from missionaries and Hudson Bay Company employees, with relevant quotations from the letters and brief historical information on the writers;
- Some of the earliest known cancellations from the first post offices.

The significance of many of the postal history items is listed in **bold type**, and references are listed on the individual exhibit pages.