

BNA

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HISTORY of the ARMY POSTAL SERVICES in CANADA

By IAN C. MORGAN (page 142)



Fig. 2. Example of the Colonial Bishop's marking found on early covers.

Official Publication of the
British North America Philatelic Society

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HISTORY of the ARMY POSTAL SERVICES in CANADA

By IAN C. MORGAN

Camp at Montreal 15th Sept. 1760

My Dear

Just before we set out on our intended expedition I wrote you enclosing my fourth bill of exchange on our new Agent Mr. Mackey for one hundred pounds ster. since which that part of the Army I belong to find all the French strong places by Lake Champlain and arriv'd here the 5th Inst. just at the critical time the Genl. Amherst & Murray, appear'd with their Armies when the Officers thought proper to give up their Colonie by capitulation; that at last, thank God there is an end put to our labours in this part of the world, it is to be presumed, that in less than six months our Regiment will know their destination; your most affect. Servant

Arch: Gordon

Fig. 1. Earliest Recorded Cover from Montreal under British Regime.

INTRODUCTION

This series on the History of the Army Postal Services in Canada is offered in the hope that it will promote interest in a new side-line of philatelic venture, and as a tribute to those in the Canadian Postal Corps who have served their country and fellow servicemen so well.

I do not pretend that this series is anywhere near complete in all details, but I have attempted to record all information obtainable up to this time of going to print.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I wish to thank those many collectors who have so faithfully helped me to obtain data, and I also wish to express my sincere thanks to Lt. Col. John Sullivan of the Post Office Department and head of the Canadian Postal Corps, for the great assistance he and those under him have given me.

I also wish to acknowledge information gleaned from Fred Jarrett's book on B.N.A., from Dr. Holmes' B.N.A. Catalogue, from Mr. Smith's "History of the Post Office in British North America", from Stephen Rich's "Philately of the Anglo-Boer War", from Robson Lowe's "Handstruck Postage Stamps of the British Empire", and from the many philatelic periodicals that I have read from time to time.

I hope and ask that collectors of B.N.A. will continue to send in their information for publication in future issues of *BNA TOPICS*.

CHAPTER I.

THE FRENCH REGIME TO 1759

Very little seems to be known about the history of the postal services in Canada during the French Regime, and as far as the author can ascertain, no special arrangements were made for the forwarding of military mails which probably travelled by Special Courier.

As early as 1707, there was a Courier Service between Quebec and Montreal, via Three Rivers, for the conveyance of official dispatches. In 1723, the only charge on letters for France was for that portion of the journey from Rochelle to Paris, for which a charge of seven sous (about seven cents) was made; the sea voyage being free.

In 1734, a post road was opened between Montreal and Quebec with post houses every ten miles along the route. The charge for a letter from Quebec to Montreal was ten sous, and from Three Rivers to either Quebec or Montreal was five sous, with proportionate amounts for shorter distances.

CHAPTER II.

THE BRITISH REGIME. 1759-1770.

The British Regime can be considered as starting with the capture of Quebec by the forces under the command of General Wolfe on the 18th September, 1759; followed a year later by the surrender of Montreal on the 8th September, 1760.

The earliest military cover seen by the author are from a correspondent, Major Archibald Gordon, serving with the 27th Enneskillen Regiment of Foote during the campaign against Montreal and Eastern Canada. The letters were written from Crown Point, Fort Ticonderoga, Montreal, etc., the principal one being from Camp Montreal on the 14th September, 1760. (*Fig. 1.*) Nearly all the letters were addressed to his wife and daughter in Ireland and several of the letters received impressions of the Colonial Bishop's marking (*Fig. 2.*); the postal rate being 1/9d.

Post offices were opened at Montreal, Three Rivers and Quebec with a monthly service between Montreal and New York. The postal rate was 6d per hundred miles.

In 1795, Great Britain passed an Act of Parliament granting Soldiers and Sailors, stationed anywhere in the world, the privilege of mailing letters at the rate of 1d, providing such letters were not in excess of $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. each. Commissioned officers paid the full postal rates but at a later date, in some stations, officers were granted a 6d rate. The illustration, *Fig. 4.* is that of the postal label attached to letters that did not comply with the postal regulations governing weight. (*See also Fig. 3.*)

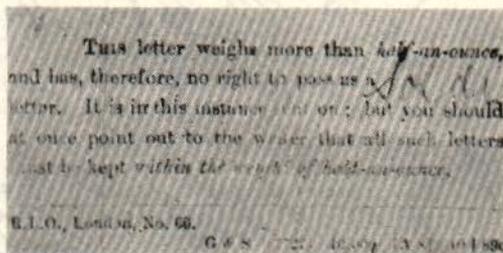


Fig. 4. Post Office Label attached to overweight Soldier's letters.



Fig. 3 Markings on Letter Not According to Act of 1795.

From 1812 on, Canadians serving with the Imperial Forces on Active Service were granted the same mailing privileges. The illustration, Fig 5, is a typical example of one of these covers.

The first postage stamp prepared for use of the Army was the $\frac{1}{2}$ d Rose of 1858, but the author has never seen or heard of a cover bearing the $\frac{1}{2}$ d stamp to prepay the postage.

In 1859 the currency changed from Stirling to Dollars and Cents, and the 1c Rose was issued at that time. Later, a 2c Rose was issued to fill the needs of the Army and drop letter rates. Covers prepaid with the 2c Rose are far from common, but quite a number prepaid with two singles, or a pair, of the 1c Rose have been found. Illustration No. 6 is a good example of a cover prepaid with the 2c Rose.



Fig. 5. Example of early cover from Canadian serving with Imperial Forces.

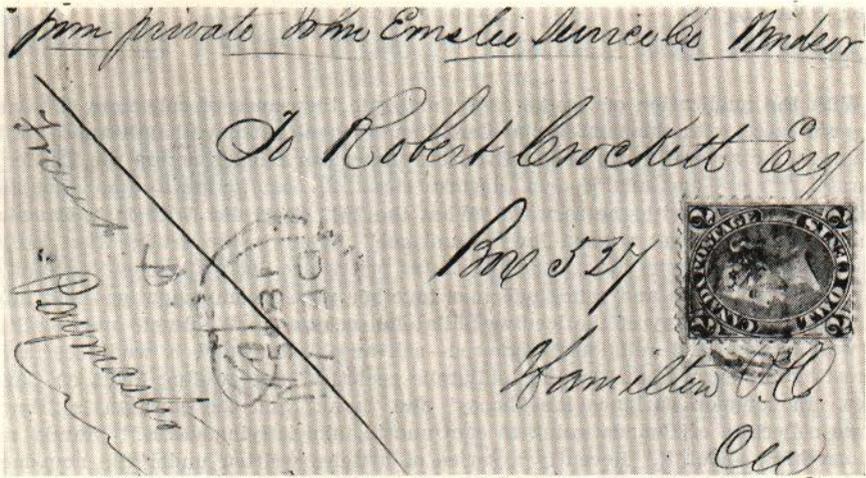


Fig. 6. Early cover with 2c Rose posted from Windsor, C. W.

On January 1st, 1865, the Post Office Department authorized the 2c rate for members of the Volunteer Militia recruited to guard the frontier. This circular read as follows:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
Quebec, 1st January, 1865

Department Circular No. 60.

LETTERS TO AND FROM THE VOLUNTEER MILITIA EMPLOYED ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

To the Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates serving with the Companies of Volunteer Militia called out by His Excellency, the Governor General, for Active Service on the Frontier, will, as regards Letters addressed to or sent by them WITHIN THE PROVINCE OF CANADA, be extended the privilege enjoyed by the same ranks in Her Majesty's regular troops, and under the same conditions, as follows:

1. Each Letter must be prepaid Two Cents at time of posting.
2. The Letter must not exceed $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. in weight.
3. The Letter must refer solely to the private affairs of the Volunteer.
4. The Name of the Volunteer and his rank, whether Private or Non-Commissioned Officer, and the name of the Company in which he is serving, must be specified in the direction of the Letter, whether sent to or by the Volunteer, in the case of a Letter sent BY a Volunteer, the Officer commanding the Post where he is stationed must sign his name and rank as Commanding Officer on the Letter.
5. A Letter to a Volunteer Militia-man on Active Service, to pass at the prepaid Two Cent Rate should be addressed as follows—(example)
6. A Letter from a Volunteer Militia-man on Active Service, to pass at the Two Cent Rate must be addressed as follows—(example)
7. Letters to and from Officers are not entitled to this privilege.

If in the case of any Letter, the above described conditions are not fully complied with, or if the Letter in any way fails to come within the class of Letters admissible to the privilege, viz:—if the Letter be not prepaid Two Cents,—if it weighs more than $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.,—if it be addressed to any place beyond the Province or has not been posted in Canada, or if it is not addressed in the required form so as to show the name and rank of the Volunteer, or fail to have the Commanding Officer's signature when sent by a Volunteer,—such letter is to be treated and rated like any ordinary letter.

Registered letters must be prepaid the Registration charge in addition to the Two Cent Rate.

The privilege will not extend to Newspapers, Books or parcels, nor to any matter sent by Post other than letters.

Any fraud or abuse, in respect to the privilege hereby granted to Volunteer Militia-men on Active Service, will render the perpetrator liable to serious consequences.

W. P. HOWLAND,
Postmaster General

Editor, *BNA TOPICS*

Dear Sir:

With the publication of Scott's 1947 Catalogue thousands of collectors of "Canada" are again faced with the semi-farcial Canadian listings that have handicapped philately in Canada for several years past. Even our American friends across the Border commiserate with us—one auction firm, Herman Herst, Jr., captioning its Canadian listings of November Sales, with the forward "What the 1947 Scott did *NOT* do to Canada is a crime; they should get a good lawyer and sue" What is the grudge that Scott has against Canada? Their "Encyclopedia" states prices are determined by "Careful study of available wholesale and retail offerings together with recommendations and information submitted by many of the leading philatelic societies". Wholesale and retail prices are well known, and religiously ignored—ask any dealer—and it would certainly be interesting to learn what "leading philatelic societies" are guiding Scott on Canadian issues. In common parlance it's "hoey" and "bunk" and the question is "How long are we collectors of Canada going to continue to take it lying down?" Surely we can do something about it. Recently a series of articles written under the nom-de-plume "Click" appeared in *BNA TOPICS*. They were scathing and pungent, yet withal a careful, thoughtful and constructive analysis and criticism of Scott's "Canada". For all the result it has had it might well have been just "a voice crying in the wilderness"—"water on a duck's back".

Our hopes went soaring high when it was announced that Mr. Harmer had joined the staff of Scott Publications, Inc., for we felt that Canada would at last, get a square deal. True his advent might well have been too late to affect the 1947 Catalogue just off the press, and we still have not lost faith in his desire to see fair play. But it should not be left at that. The Canadian Philatelic Society, The British North America Philatelic Society and all other philatelic societies particularly interested should muster and use every particle of influence they possess to urge in the proper quarter a better deal for Canada. *They owe it as a service to their members.* I suggest, too, that the Canadian Stamp Dealers Association throw their weight into a movement having the same objective. *They owe it to their clients.* At first sight it would appear to be too big a problem for the rank and file to handle effectively but we can at least, individually and collectively, bring pressure to bear on our societies and dealers to tackle the job and endeavor to get somewhere. *We owe it to ourselves and above all we owe it to Philately in Canada.* To be of much real use to the serious Canadian collector, Scott's whole Canada section should be drastically revised, with parts wholly re-written, and prices should be brought into line with the market. If we are to use Scott's "Encyclopedia" as our guide and mentor—and general usage of the North American Continent seems to make it inevitable—let us insist upon something we can rely upon as reasonably accurate. I feel that only some cooperative effort such as I have outlined can achieve the end in view.

Yours truly,

W. T. WHITE

[Ed. Note—Mr. White offers a sound and constructive plan whereby the Canada (and B.N.A.) section of the Scott Catalogue can and will receive proper presentation. Let BNAPS invite interested societies, collector and dealer, to appoint one or two of their members to a Joint Catalogue Committee. Each represented Society will solicit suggestions for corrections to the Catalogue and all such suggestions shall be referred to the Catalogue Committee for review toward inclusion or correction to the Catalogue. This Committee shall function solely for the purposes outlined and to cooperate with the Scott Publications, Inc. in helping to present the Canada (and B.N.A.) sections of their Catalogue.]

BRINGING NEWS ABOUT PEOPLE AND STAMPS

By REV. JOHN S. BAIN

Gather around BNAPSters and I will relate a true story. It was getting late one evening in dear old Toronto town and Mr. Pepper, proprietor of the Uptown Stamp Shop, was ready to call it a day when the door opened and in walked a stranger. He was a young man and he looked about at the various stamp displays. Seeming to receive encouragement from them, he asked, "Do you buy stamps?" Mr. Pepper gave the usual answer, "It depends what stamps you have to sell." After fumbling in his pocket, he brought out some Canadian stamps; nothing much in general, except *ONE* item. There lay a used block of four of Canada's 3d beaver, *perforated*, Scott #12! Mr. Pepper picked it up, looked it over, consulted Scott's catalogue, and made an offer of \$50 for it. Needless to say, the young man gladly accepted the offer. Mr. Pepper, however, asked him to wait and he would phone Mr. G, a prominent Canadian collector, who was around the corner at a bridge game. Mr. G. came right over, saw the item and offered the young man \$100. Mr. Pepper graciously stepped aside and the deal was made. Mr. G. paid Mr. Pepper \$25 commission and everybody was happy. After the purchase, the block was shown to Mr. J., another prominent Canadian collector, who finally bought it for \$800 plus, in a deal. To further add to the story, the young man said he had soaked the block off the envelope and threw it away!! That, dear BNAPSters, is your Christmas story. Pleasant philatelic dreams.

BNAPS

Current stamps of Canada that have been reported as varieties are the \$1 value of the new issue with a printing flaw in the upper right frame; also the 20c of the same issue with a spot of color extending from the top of the frame outside the stamp. The 17c Airmail, Special Delivery, Canada, Scott #CE2, is reported by Aubrey Kelson, veteran Canadian stamp dealer, on thin paper with the ink showing through the back.

BNAPS

That was a nice page for publicity written with a capital "C" for Canada by Associate Editor of *BNA TOPICS*, Richard P. Hedley, appearing in the new magazine, *Philately*. Speaking of Mr. Hedley reminds me that it might be a good plan for BNAPS to arrange to have its 1947 Year Book arrive to coincide with the CIPEX Show. Mr. Hedley, you

will remember, did that swell editing job on our '46 book.

BNAPS

BNAPS Bachelor Boys, Bill and Dan Meyerson, won themselves the Charles McDonough Medal for best B.N.A. at the SEPAD Show in October, and their showing in that show also was awarded the 'Gold Medal' for best British Empire.

J. Alex Parks just missed 'Best of the Show' at the STAMPEX Show in Newark a week before. He had to be satisfied with only the 'Best British'.

BNAPS

A mistake in Boggs' book on Canada in the caption under Fig. 12, page 66. The cover illustrated does not show "Box 70 J. C. & Co." but "Box J. B. & Co." This was John Birks & Co., successors to John Carter & Co. I have covers from the 'Seth Low' correspondence, and have checked on it.

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BNAPster H. A. Goodrick of British Guiana is a son-in-law of Mr. L. Vernon Vaughan, one of the early possessors of the famous British Guiana rarity.

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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

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 316 Cryderman, M. W., Box 93, Dauphin, Manitoba, Canada
 317 Day, Lloyd R., 18 Lorne Street, Huntsville, Ontario, Canada
 318 Romaine, Theo. K., P. O. Box 1a, Fairfield, California
 319 Walsh, Rev. David J., Stuyvesant, New York

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

- Fraser, J. A., Box 173, Galt, Ont., Canada (C) Canada, Newfoundland, U.S.A. By C. Armstrong, No. 120.
 Guess, Arthur L., 474 Hillsdale Ave. East, Toronto, Ont., Canada (C) Precancels. By R. P. Hedley, No. 164.
 Loew, Edgar, 126 East 70th St., New York, N. Y. (CX) CAN, NFD, PRE—All phases, except precancels, revenues & stationery. By J. Levine, No. 1.
 Schober, Joseph E., 8 Miller Ave., Cambridge 40, Mass. (C) CAN, NFD, PRE—Mint postage, blks., proofs & essays. CAN—19th used, A'mails.
 Cook, Alfred P., 21 Fowler St., No. Bellmore, L. I., N. Y. (CX) CAN—1897 Jubilee to date; mint & used postage, a'mails, blks., bklets., cancell., coils, plt. nos., varieties. By J. Levine, No. 1.
 Rothermel, Louis E., 2143 Myra St., Jacksonville 4, Fla. (C) Canada, unused. By J. N. Sissons, No. 17.

ADDITIONS TO EXCHANGERS

- Abbott, A. H., Beaver Lodge, Alberta, Canada (X) CAN, NFD, PRE—Mint & used postage. CAN—Used postage prior to '97, coils, A'mails.
 Romaine, Theo. K., P. O. Box 1a, Fairfield, Calif. (CX) CAN, NFD—Mint & used postage, bklets., coils, A'mails. CAN—covers. PRE—used postage.
 Valentine, F. P., Box 258, Noroton, Conn. (CX) CAN, NFD, PRE—used postage.



SALES DEPARTMENT NEWS

H. R. MEYERS, *Sales Manager*

101 West 60th Street N. Y. 23, N. Y.

Mr. Ralph Leuf, 4754 N. Carlisle St., Philadelphia 41, Pa., has been appointed Sales Manager for the Philadelphia area. This will enable members in that city and nearby areas to view Circuits without the necessity of re-mailing them, thus saving time, trouble and money. Get in touch with Mr. Leuf and he will tell you when and where the books will be on display.

To Ralph go my best wishes for success. I know him to be a capable fellow who will be able to handle the job. His service to the Philadelphia area will prove a boon to members there. Many thanks for accepting the post.

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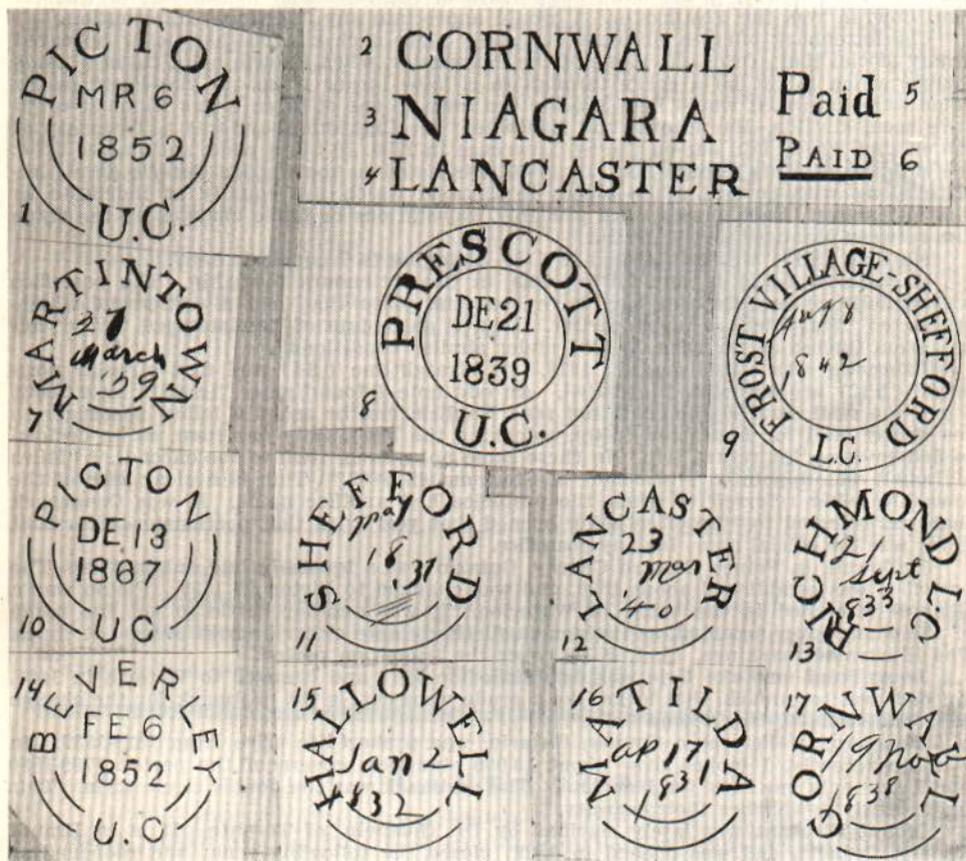
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EARLY POSTAL HISTORY OF CANADA

BY FRANK W. CAMPBELL



The new book on Canada by Winthrop S. Boggs contains the best listings of early post offices in Canada, and especially for 1840. This particular one was a resume by the heads in an attempt to improve the services. I have the original letter that was mailed to the head of the Eastern District (at Cornwall) with a general request for suggested improvements. The 1840 report is a veritable bible inasmuch as it lists origins of postoffices back to 1828 for Upper and Lower Canada.

On page 566 of his book, Mr. Boggs notes 15 offices with various queries surrounding them.

About a year ago, I secured the office records and some covers from the Eastern District between 1825 - 1850, and several of these offices can be traced in my manuscripts.

Augusta in Grenville County was established in 1789 and changed to Prescott about 1815; probably a short interval as a closed office. An attempt to change the name to Fort Wellington lasted for part of 1816-17, after which it was changed back to Prescott. The illustrated (#8) double circle Prescott townmark is outstanding, since a hundred or more towns used this style in the 1830's but only four other places had it type dated; the rest were pen dated. The actual site of the first Augusta post office is still a problem, according to an article I read in some material from our Library.

Bastard was established in 1820, changed to Beverley in 1831, and again changed to Delta in 1857. The #14 marking herewith illustrated is the only one I have seen of the three different names. Beverley is noted in Boggs' book as being established prior to 1828. It is important to remember that oftimes the changed name is not too quickly

accepted in all atlases or almanacs or even postoffice literature, and considerable study is at times required to arrive at the facts.

Caldwell Manor was a short-time postoffice in Quebec during 1820-21. The exact location is not known to me but it was south of the river and to the east of Quebec. Wm. Bowran was the Postmaster. I would appreciate any additional information.

Charlottenburg offers a problem, especially since such a name has never appeared in any official list. Often the name of the Postmaster, when known, helps tie in a name change which might be carry through to a later larger place. If the Postmaster's name were known, it would help allocate the town to one of three towns which it could have been, Matilda, Martintown and Lancaster; for Charlottenburg was a Township of the original group laid out on the St. Lawrence in 1783, 10 miles wide, and named after the children of King George III. In 1789, it is listed in the *Quebec Gazette* as a post-office along with several other places in Ontario which are equally as indefinite as Charlottenburg. Such places were probably way-stations or horse changes on the stage line between Montreal and Kingston.

Matilda (#16) was established in 1789, changing to Iroquois in 1857.

Martintown (#7) is, and always was, in Charlottenburg township. The postoffice was established in 1824 and may have been the place that had a settlement which originated "Way" letters much earlier. I have photostats of handstamped "Way" letters from Quebec as far back as 1794 under similar conditions.

Lancaster was established in 1818. Its straightline (#4) and first circular postmark (#12) are herewith illustrated. An odd note I found says, "In 1818 on a scow, I met the mail carrier who could not read English, and he asked a fellow passenger to see if any mail for Lancaster (after unlocking the bag). Only one item, so he decided to deliver it on his return trip. In these same notes is an item to the effect that "Miles McDonell was appointed postmaster of Stormont in 1803." This is a clear case of the township being referred to when the postoffice had another name. It was Osnabruck that was referred to—the office being opened that year with that postmaster—Stormont never was the official name for any postoffice.

Hallowell, in Prince Edward County, Ontario was a township laid out in 1784. The postoffice was established about 1820, and was changed to Picton in 1839. Picton was a General who died in the battle of Waterloo. It was another battle to get the name of the change-over accepted, as listings conflictingly note either or both names, at times. The illustrated markings, 15, 1, & 10, cover the transition period.

Long Point on Lake Erie was established in 1817 and changed to Vittoria in 1821. An odd oval townmark, that looks like a crude wood-cut, is the postmark for the change over, and reads "Vittoria-Long Point".

Monahan, in Peterboro County, Ontario, was a short-life office from 1829-1832. In Toronto recently, I looked over about 10,000 stampless covers of the period 1789-1880 and I saw only one copy for Monahan. The postmark was the double circle style. This undoubtedly establishes their scarcity.

Mount Pleasant was lately clarified by Dr. Goodwin, of Toronto. It is in Brandt County, Ontario, and was opened in 1823; closed the following year; and reopened as Mohawk in 1837. Another Mount Pleasant in Durham County, opened in 1851, was a confusing problem.

Newark was an unofficial name associated with Niagara. Niagara was established in 1789 and has also unofficially been called Fort George and West Niagara. At present, it is called Niagara-on-the-Lake. The two illustrated "Paid" markings are found on letters for 1798 with #5, and 1818-24 with #6. Handstruck "Paid" are rare for Canada in that period.

Newcastle, noted in Boggs' book, was established in 1814 and was closed during 1821-44, thus missing the 1840 list.

New Johnston, or New Johnstown, was the original name of Cornwall and the post-office, when opened in 1789, was called Cornwall. Its first two markings are illustrated, #2, 17. The straightline seldom is very clear. Cornwall was originally laid out in 1786 as Johnstown. Guy Carleton Wood was the postmaster at Cornwall for over 50 years.

Pointe Olivier, in Fouville, Quebec, was established in 1826 and changed to St. Mathias in 1829. I lately received the information from Mr. Lefebvre in Quebec, and also noted in my photostatic copy of the Quebec Almanac of 1829, that both places are listed on the same page with the same postmaster.

Shefford (#11) in Quebec was established in 1825 and changed to Frost Village in 1836, but the name must have been the subject of debate as indicated by the compounding of the names in the illustration #9.

Shipton was established in 1817 and changed to Richmond in 1820. A straightline Shipton postmark is known and for a time was thought to be the English Shipton.

The "L. C." at the end of #13 is to distinguish it from the Ontario town of the same name and period.

Yarmouth, 1829-37, was in Elgin County, Ontario. Many offices are noted as closing during this period. Many postoffices were closed as a result of the Rebellion of 1837 and mails were interrupted so much that markings for this period are somewhat scarce. A double circle marking for Yarmouth exists (I later saw one while in Toronto) but the width measurement was not provided by the owner. This width is very important as it is often conclusive in the tracing of types and to the dating of certain groups.

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