



# The Nova Scotia Post

The Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club

April 2021  
Volume 50, Issue 498

## UP and COMING

**Regularly planned activities have been cancelled, as have many philatelic shows in the near future as a result of the pandemic. We will update as we learn more.**

NS Stamp Club Meetings –TBA  
Moncton Stamp Fair - Cancelled

Friends of Philately - Cancelled

Check out the status of other shows at

[www.rpsc.org/shows.html](http://www.rpsc.org/shows.html) or  
[www.csdonline.com/shows](http://www.csdonline.com/shows)

**Stay Home! Stay Safe!**

## A COVID LETTER

by Russ Sampson

(Editor's note: This is a genuine piece of correspondence between Russ and our esteemed President, Jim Graham. Thanks to both for sharing this. We've had some other comments on the speed (or lack thereof) of the mails during the pandemic, but this analysis is truly eye-opening.)

Jim:

Phew! I'm glad it got there. 18-days, that sounds speedy in comparison to mail sent in the 18th Century when the overland mail travelled via horse drawn wagons or lone horses, or even by foot. However ... here is something really, REALLY interesting. Brace yourself.

I put your Dartmouth address into Google Maps and the address of my post office - then asked it to calculate a route. By land, it is 1,186 kilometers and 11 hours 38 minutes expected driving time.

Now the average speed of my posted cheque is the distance divided by the time. So, 1,186 km divided by (18-days times 24-hours/day) 432-hours is equal to an average speed of 2.74 kph or 1.70 mph. What could travel that slow you may ask?

The average walking speed of a horse is about 4 mph or 6.5 kph. So, the cheque travelled - on average - about 60% *slower* than a walking horse. Let's say the horse and rider travelled for 10-hours a day and rested for 14-hours - that sounds about right. They would then cover 65 kilometer per day. Now multiply that by 18 days and you get ... 1,170 kilometers ... almost exactly the distance from my post office to your home.

So, there it is! Your cheque went by horse. The logic is irrefutable.

But just hold on a minute ... according to historical accounts, during the 17th Century in America the postal packets carried by horses would travel on average about 100-miles (160 km) per day, using overnight riders, relay stations with fresh horses and riders (Longfellow, R. "Highway History - Transportation in American Postal System").

From this it appears obvious that our 21st Century postal system has taken many steps backwards and is either no longer using the 17th Century 24-hour horse-back relay system, or is no longer using horses. I know from research that the movement of modern mail occurs 24-hours a day, 7-days a week. So, it appears even more obvious that the postal system is now using something considerably slower than horses. I have looked into this. My best guess is cats.

Russell (Russ) D. Sampson

Treasurer  
BNAPS Perfin Study Group

Mansfield Center, Connecticut



Early days yet for this feature- no one sent anything for inclusion. So we'll take off the word limit and the number of annual insertions. We'll also expand- some members have expressed an interest in knowing what others collect: if you want to share your collecting interests here and include a collector profile, we'll do it. For example:

Marty Zelenietz- I collect Israel, Papua New Guinea and predecessors, Israel 1948 Interim postal history, Australia used in Papua & New Guinea 1945-1953, and concentrate on stamps of birds that I've seen in the wild (used preferred, but mint souvenir sheets and stationery included).



## DEAD LETTER OFFICE HANDSTAMPS #60

by Gary Steele



50x31mm  
Double Oval, bold outside rim  
'S.' with period above date

Patterns do emerge with postal history covers even though most covers are unique in nature. Similar to the cover shown in my Article #15 this cover was sent to Africa, forwarded from Africa to the Returned Letter Office in London, England and finally to the Dead Letter Office in Ottawa, Canada. But I don't want to get ahead of myself.

On August 26, 1916, in the heart of the First World War, an Admiral stamp was most likely



to have been applied to this envelope to Belleville, Cape Town, South Africa. A large boxed handstamp was applied where the postage stamp used to be as **Timbre-poste perdu / en transit. Postage Stamp lost / in transit.**

With no success of delivery to Capt. Arthur Purney, manuscript indicating to be addressed to the *5th SA Infantry Brigade or 2nd SA Infantry Brigade, East African Exped Force to Kilindini B E A (British East Africa).*

Sometime later in 1917 a boxed handstamp on the front **RETURNED TO POST OFFICE / BY MILITARY AUTHORITIES / AS UNDELIVERABLE / R. L. S., L. P. S.** thus sent to the **RETURNED LETTER OFFICE JOHANNESBURG 29 May 17** per double circle handstamp.

Sometime between May 1917 in Johannesburg to Jan 1918 the letter (well worn by this time) arrived at the Returned Letter Office in London, was opened, examined, and then sealed with three labels. Note the boxed handstamp over the



### The Nova Scotia Post

is a publication of the  
Nova Scotia Stamp Club  
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

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[webnews@nsstampclub.ca](mailto:webnews@nsstampclub.ca)

Nova Scotia Stamp Club meets at 7:30 p.m. on every second Tuesday of the month (except July and August) at the Nova Scotia Museum, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax, N.S. The club publishes a monthly newsletter (except summer) which is released on the first week of the month.

Membership is C\$15 per person (C\$20 US, C\$25 International) or C\$22.50 per couple.

Send **new membership applications**  
and **renewal payments** to...

NS Stamp Club c/o Jeff Parks  
102 Birch Bear Run, Lewis Lake, NS B3Z 4B8

Officially Sealed Label. Finally, after finding its way to the Ottawa DLO JAN 18, 1918 it is assumed to have been returned seventeen months later to the sender in Winnipeg, Man.



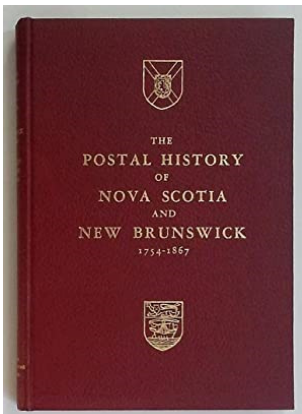


## CLARE JEPHCOTT 1900-1968

by Michael Peach

One of the main books about the postal history of Nova Scotia, *The Postal History of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick 1754-1867*, was published in 1964 and won top award for literature in Vienna in 1965. One of the authors was C. M. Jephcott.

Clarence "Clare" Mansell Jephcott was a distinguished chemist and philatelist. He retired in 1963 from his position as Director of the Ontario Air Pollution Control Board. He had studied at the University of Toronto, being



awarded the Ph.D. degree in 1927. In the prewar period he was a Research Associate in the Department of Physiology at the University of Toronto, and while on leave in London he worked with Sir Robert Robinson, 1947 Chemistry Nobel Laureate. During his professional career in 1946 he was elected President of the Civil Service Association of

Ontario.

Philately was in the family, his father Alfred Jephcott had one of the finest collections in Canada. It was sold in 1935 by Harmer, Rooke and Co., London. Clare presumably inherited the residue. He added several items and the collection when exhibited by his widow Isabel at the 1970 London International Philympia was awarded a gold medal with a special award. The collection had been passed down to his wife Isabelle, when Clare died in 1968. He had been proposed for membership in the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, but he died before this had been processed.

During his time in philately he was President of BNAPS 1963-4. He served on many juries, Capex 1951, Fipex, New York 1956, London 1960 and Melbourne 1963. He was a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Societies of London and Canada.

His collection of the Admiral issue, probably the finest ever formed, was sold by Maresch in June 1990.

## NEW ISSUE

Crab Apple Blossoms

Released:  
March 1 2021



## RENFREW MACHINERY CO. MAILING TO ARICHAT 1918

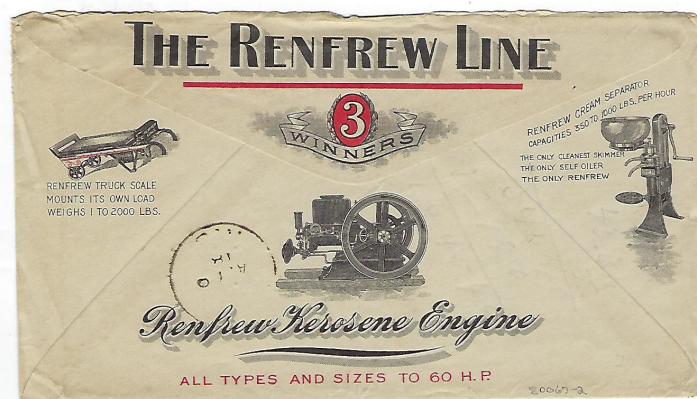
by Tom Reyman

As a collector of early Nova Scotia covers, I have found many covers that contain commercial advertising imprints on the envelopes. These so-called corner cards are not only informative and interesting in themselves but they also tell the story of what products and services the companies are offering to the recipient. These covers also provide a view of what the Nova Scotians of that time needed to improve their lives through the products offered.

One of the most spectacular corner covers I have in my collection is the one featured here. The Renfrew Machinery Company of Sussex, New Brunswick spared no expense to make sure they had envelopes and stationery that fully illustrated the products they were selling to existing or potential customers. The main product of this company apparently was the "world's greatest separator" used to separate cream from milk products. This 1918 mailing to Arichat, Cape Breton targeted people living in a semi-rural area who would likely find a separator a very useful addition to their daily lives.

The reverse of the cover contains illustrations of even more products that the company vended – kerosene engines ("up to 60 Horsepower") and a hand truck and scale combination.

This is truly a wonderful commercial advertising cover and one I am pleased to have in my collection.





## CLUB NEWS

The Club held a successful in-person meeting (our first since November) on 20 March at Christ Church Hall. 29 members attended. After a short business meeting (main points- we are financially sound, and have added ten new members in the last year), we had a short Show-and-Tell (thanks to Sean and Dennis for presenting) and the usual draw - new member Ralph Harpell broke all records and won an amazing four times!

Former president Keith MacKay then gave a fascinating presentation titled "One Thing Leads to Another," in which he showed how collecting interests morphed and grew from ornate corner cards depicting Halifax business buildings, to the business stationery of those building proprietors, to sight drafts (cheques) using similar engravings of those businesses, to advertising addressed to those businesses, ending up with a look at the development and use of the War Tax Stamps used to send that advertising (I think I got it all)!

Both before and after the meeting, members used the swap and exchange tables to conduct business, and the meeting concluded with an auction. Thanks go to all who attended, helped set up and dismantle the venue, and participated in numerous ways.

Protocols permitting, we will have another in-person meeting in middle to late April. Notification will be sent out via email or phone call once the date is set, after the Executive meeting in early April. The Valley Stamp Club is also holding in-person meetings the first Saturday of every month. For more information, contact Ann Miller at drannlmiller@gmail.com.

We want to acknowledge the donation of an old stamp collection from Murray Hartwell. The collection will be used to benefit the Club and young collectors.

We have a new member, Dave Ferns, NSSC #1103, of Dayspring NS. Dave collects Great Britain. Welcome to the club.

Despite the pandemic and only having met a few times since last March, we have increased our numbers by 11 new members since May 2020. We currently stand at about 100 members.

## A SEASONAL TOUCH

by Dennis Bedley

Here is an Easter Card mailed from Snow Flake Manitoba to Tatehurst P.Q., a small community 135 kms east of Ottawa in the Province of Quebec. The postage used was a 2-cent carmine Admiral, first issued in 1911 and listed as Scott #106. The card was cancelled with a split ring SNOW FLAKE MAN. cancel dated AP 4 17 (April 4 1917). Easter that year was April 8, 1917 so I am not sure it got delivered prior to Easter. Snow Flake is a very small community which fell on hard times when the railway pulled out in 1981. Most places closed, including the school in 1992. The Legion closed in 1986 and the war memorial built in 1961 was moved to another community in 2006.

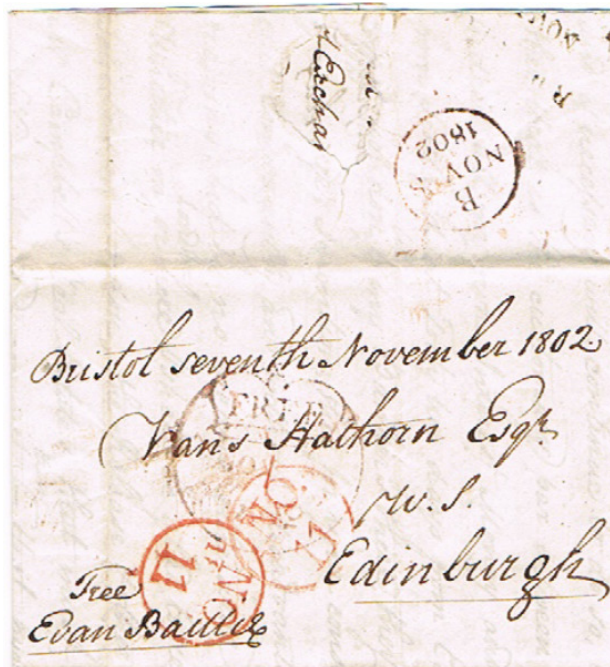


## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

by Elizabeth Sodero

Evan Baillie was elected as MP for Bristol in 1802. He was a West Indies merchant and plantation owner involved in the slave trade. He employed over 2000 slaves and was a vocal anti-abolitionist.

He was born at Dochfour, Scotland. It was reputed that he witnessed the Battle of Culloden (1746) from a hill on the estate when he was five years old. He eventually retired from Bristol to Dochfour, where he died at age ninety-five.



This 1802 (the year Baillie was elected MP) cover bears an oxidized 'FREE' available to certain public officials until 1840. Addressed to Vans Hathorn Esq., lawyer and 'writer to the signet, a judicial officer.

The self-folded letter refers to financial arrangements for Baillie's newly married ward, Miss Campbell, and the disposal of property at St. Vincent owned by her father.