

Synopsis - The Postal Markings of Guysborough, N.S. 1838-1937

Treatment:

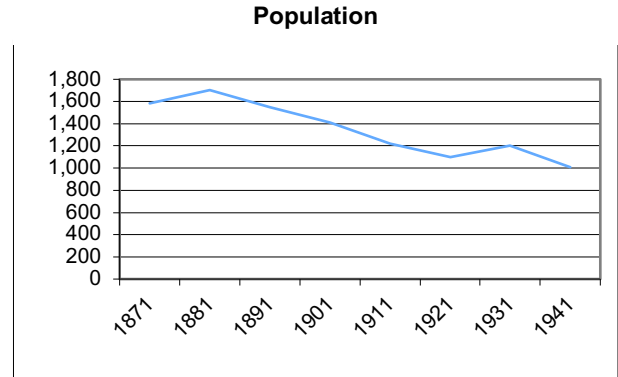
The exhibit shows examples of the different postal markings used at the Guysborough, Nova Scotia post office chronologically by type. The date range covered in the exhibit includes the earliest marking used in the way office established in 1825 and continues to the introduction of the MOOD and MOTO markings which were the last markings to be introduced until the late 1950s.

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| i. Oval Way Office Mark | vi. Split Ring Postmark | xi. Registration Cancel - Large R |
| ii. Paid Postmark | vii. Too Late Transit Mark | xii. Registration Cancel - Rectangle |
| iii. Double Circle Crown Postmark | viii. Circular Date Stamps | xiii. Money Order Office Dater mark |
| iv. Double Split Ring | ix. Special Delivery | xiv. Money Order Transfer Office mark |
| v. Three Pence Rate Mark | x. Duplex Cancel | |

Importance:

Guysborough is typical of many Nova Scotian communities thus a study of the markings gives insight into the postal history of the province in general. In addition, some of the less common markings (Oval, Paid, Crown) are important in the development of postal markings in the province as a whole. J.J. MacDonald reported that between 1843 and 1849 an average of 51 letters were mailed per week in Guysborough. This compares with 1,368 in Halifax, 149 in Sydney and 127 in Yarmouth per week.

The United Empire Loyalists first settled Guysborough in the 1760s. Through the 1800s, Guysborough grew as the mercantile and government centre for agricultural and fishing communities in eastern Guysborough County; however, with no railway line serving the area the entire county saw limited growth and, eventually, population decline.



Knowledge, Study and Research:

The exhibitor has been collecting postal history from Guysborough for over 35 years. There is no single source for the postal markings of Guysborough so information about the post office and the markings was gleaned from a number of different sources including an interview with a former postmaster. A study of 7 different CDSs used between 1890 and 1934 details the minute differences among these markings.

Rarity:

The way office mark, the earliest known postal marking, is reported being used from 1838 to 1840 by MacDonald. The exhibitor is aware of a strike from 1837 while an 1838 strike is shown. The double crown circle mark and the two 3 hand stamps are reported as having five or fewer copies in private hands (MacDonald, 288). The second 3 marking is later than previously reported copies. Fewer than twenty-five examples of the Paid mark are reported. Markings missing from the exhibit are rate markings which the exhibitor has not seen except in books and which MacDonald reports with five or fewer in private hands. The MOOD and MOTO markings are shown properly used in Government Annuities Passbooks.

References:

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