

are in black and PAID 6 is in red. It is back stamped in red Chippawa December 6th, two days after the Hamilton date. It is also interesting to note that though stamps came into use in 1851 the old method of paying postage was still allowed. The MONEY LETTER covers are often described as the fore-runners of the registered mail. They did not always contain money. Registration of letters commenced according to the P.M.G.'s report for the year 1856, in May 1855, but covers dated as early as December 1854 bear the "Registered" marking.

One more deviation and then I shall get down to business. Fig. 14 dated 1st Sept. 1857 is back stamped in blue at Brantford the following day. The Hamilton cancellation is black and the paid 3 in red. This is another fateful year for Hamilton. The railroad had come to Hamilton and held great promise for the City, then on the 12th of March 1857 the passenger train from Toronto went through the bridge over the Desjardins Canal with great loss of life, breaking through the ice on the canal making rescue almost impossible.

The same year the bubble broke with the financial crash in the United States. It was soon felt in Canada and the City heavily in debt and many out of work was unable to collect its taxes. By 1861 the City was issuing script. The railways were losing money and things were in a bad way. However the City struggled through and by the middle sixties it was getting back to somewhat normal.

It is just a little hard to know where to start and how to break the subject down. Perhaps it would be best to start with early cancellations. I do not intend to deal with them in detail or by illustrations as Mr. Frank W. Campbell, in his monumental work, on cancellations of Canada, has covered the phase very fully. In Holmes (1960) you will find them illustrated very well.

### EARLY CANCELLATIONS

In 1791 by the Canada Act, Canada was divided into Upper Canada (roughly what is now Ontario) and Lower Canada (now Quebec). As I said previously the first known postmark of Hamilton is 1829, (By Campbell). The postmark is black or red with the center in manuscript. Please remember unless specifically stated otherwise I am now writing of Hamilton postmarks only. U.C. was first used in 1831

and continued in use to some extent till 1867. C.W. (Canada West) was first used in 1846 and continued to be used to some extent till 1875. ONT. (Ontario) was first used in 1868 shortly after Confederation. There has been no straight line found for Hamilton.

There is a STEAM BOAT cancellation in 1839 believed to have been applied in Hamilton. There is another type of STEAM-BOAT-LETTER used from 1846 to 1856, numbered 1 to 6.

There is a PAID AT HAMILTON used between 1849 and 1851, seen only in black. The next division I have called pre-stamp covers, being covers before stamps came into use in 1851. Covers after that date I designate as stampless, where no stamps have been used.

### PRE-STAMP COVERS

This section would of course include all covers such as figures 1 to 3 and 6 to 10 inclusive. The prepayment of postage by adhesive stamps did not become mandatory until 1875.

I think I should say a further word about the postmark on fig. 3. I have it in black, red and blue. Blue seems to have been used only in 1843 while black and red carried on as late as 1845.

Another cancellation that comes in this period is shown on fig. 10 in red but I have also seen it in black and in the year 1851 in blue. The earliest use of the designation C.W. I have seen is 20th May 1846. During this period the rates are in manuscript with occasionally the word paid stamped on the cover.

(To be continued)

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*(Continued from page 156)*

an example of the 1/. orange, Scott #15, in superb condition that never stopped going until it reached \$2800 against an assessed valuation of \$1680. A complete sheet of 20 of the 6½d., rose, Scott #21, with papermakers watermark changed hands at \$294 while a sheet of the 8d., Scott #22, without the watermark went at \$224. Then a cover from the "Tucker" find franked with a copy of the 4d. scarlet and the 3d. green, Scott #3, to show the 6½d. penny rate to Baltimore didn't stop until it reached \$1330. Whilst another cover from the same correspondence with only the 4d. scarlet brought \$1260.