

EARLY POST OFFICES OF THE WIARTON AREA

In 1854 the Saugeen or Bruce Peninsula was sold by the Indians to the white man. Bounded on the south by a line from the Indian village of Newash, where the Pottawattamie River flows into Owen Sound bay, to the Indian village of Saugeen, where the river of that name flows into Lake Huron, in this surrender several small reserves were exempt, among them a strip at Owen Sound, which was to become Sarawak Township in 1857 and a tract of land at Colpoy's Bay.

In 1861 the Colpoy's Bay Indian Reserve was surrendered. All of the lands in Grey County north of Derby Township and east of the present Highway 6 to Owen Sound water, except for the Sarawak portion, formed Keppel Township. In 1855 Charles Rankin surveyed it, as well as Amabel Township in Bruce County, west of Highway 6. He included a diagonal road from west of Owen Sound which is now the county road through Shallow Lake to Hepworth.

As early as 1857 there were settlements on the Big Bay shore, that broad bay which curves into the shore east of Colpoy's Bay was west of the Owen Sound bay. Gradually a little village made its appearance, the post office established there in 1863 at the corner of the Lake Shore Road and sideroad 39(?) being called North Keppel. The same year appeared a post office farther west at Oxenden at the corner of the 11th sideroad and what is now the county road from Wiarton. The mail went from Owen Sound every Tuesday through Sarawak post office, North Keppel and Oxenden to Colpoy's Bay, a village north of the water of the same name.

The first post office serving Amabel Township appeared in 1865. It was Elsinore, at the corner of the road at lot 40 and the south side of the present Highway 21-which actually put just within Arran Township.

Amabel's, largest village, Hepworth began to take form in the middle 1860's. The original owner of the land William Piew proposed laying out a town plot. He asked the Methodist Reverend Mr. Greene to suggest a name. Greene asked him shy he did not name his town Epworth, after the birthplace of John Wesley Piew. Being an Englishman, he pronounced the name as if it had an initial H. Since they were unaware of this error the name stuck. In 1866 a post office was opened, actually on the east or