

(As given by Mrs.E.T.Younghusband at an Institute Meeting, September, 1959).

Last spring when Gerald Gow gave up driving the mail it touched off a lot of controversy about mail and mail-driving--when who drove--how long--etc.and gave me the idea for this paper. For such information as I have gathered I am indebted to Mrs.Vernon Ferry, Mr.Anthony Monaghan, Mr.K.A.Greene, Mr.Henry McQuatt, my husband and a few words here and there from others. I am also indebted to Mr.George Kennedy for the use of his 1879 History of Carleton County.

The first record I found regarding mail distribution was in this old history in the section on Torbolton: " Henry McLaren, the fifth man to settle in Torbolton in 1824 was drowned two years later by the upsetting of his canoe when he was returning from March where there was, this early, a post-office established, and whither he had been to receive a letter from his mother in Scotland." Beside this item was a picture entitled, " The first post-office in March, 1835--Thomas Read, Postmaster." From this we can infer that one of the first settlers of March, Lieut.Thomas Read, who settled on land between what is now Wilson's and Finhey's, must have been in charge of March post-office in 1826. To bear this out some of you Institute members have told me of a picnic you had when Bessie and Jessie Wilson took you in past their place along the River-front to the site of the first post-office in March. Mail to this probably came by water until roads were built back into the centre of the township.

Captain Street was the next Postmaster and a story is told of ten dollars disappearing on which Captain Street at once called a meeting of his neighbours to clear his honour. The result of the meeting was that they declared him without blemish. By 1879 Mr.W.H.Berry was Postmaster and the office was now named North March (probably following establishment of South March). He was succeeded by Billy Williams (where Wilsons are now) and in 1912-14 by Vernon Ferry.

You will be interested in this comment in the 1879 History: " There seems to be a patriotism, as it were, among the people of March Township, which induces them to call everything by the name of March. The Township is March, one post-office is South March the other is North March, the only village of any size is March Corners--we presume when the requirements of the people demand the establishment of other post-offices, they will be named East March, West March, etc." (Another one was named Marchunst.) In 1878 there was daily mail to and from Ottawa to South March. This post-office had been established a great many years before with a Mr.Goodman, one of the oldest settlers in the vicinity, as the first Postmaster. He is mentioned as a township officer in 1842. Mrs.Berry remembers when David McMurtry built the big stone house on the north corner at South March and kept the post-office there. He was the Postmaster when the 1879 History was written.

Mr. Phil Orchard is remembered by many as the mail-courier who, for many years brought