

Continued: First Post Office at Westmeath

the name, "LaPasse" des outardes. In 1906 the post office name was changed to LaPasse.

Stafford township lying west of the north half of Westmeath township, had its first post office named Stafford. It was established in 1852 on the eastern boundary road, north of the 6th sideroad. Its postmaster was a farmer, Robert Childerhose. Mail came in bi-weekly.

The first post office upstream from Pembroke, was at Point Alexander and was opened in 1853 and was situated in Rolph township. Only ten miles west of Pembroke, Petawawa post office opened in 1859, where the Petawawa River empties into the Ottawa River.

As with many of the localities west of Pembroke, lumbering was the main industry but early in the 1900's, a military camp was established northwest of the village and in 1916, Petawawa Camp post office opened.

Deux Rivieres in Clara township, had a post office in 1866, on the mail route to Mattawa. From Des Joachims there was no conveyance except by canoe in summer and during the winter by sleighs. The postmaster was Robert Ranson, proprietor of the Albion Hotel. In 1870, Head township was established, Rockcliffe, later the name changed to Stonecliffe, was a sub-post office of Deux Rivieres. Mail came weekly and the postmaster, W. J. McIntyre was an agent for lumber merchants.

The only post office in Pembroke township, outside of Pembroke itself, was Alba, on the southern boundary road at Greenwood. It opened as Alexander Station in 1893, in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Whitmore. She was postmistress for 17 years. The mail bag was tossed from the train at Government Road crossing a mile northwest and brought to Alba by a mail carrier who continued on to Perretton.

The Perretton post office was established much earlier in 1872. The mail came via the road from Ottawa through Beachburg to Pembroke. After the Alba post office opened in 1893, the first mail carrier was Richard Chaffey. James Russell and Mrs. John Smith also acted as mail carriers. They had to continue with mail to Chaffey's Post Office in Perretton.

The mail service to this route on the Canadian Pacific Railway terminated April 29, 1957. Another link in postal communication was established. The contract for bringing the mail by large vans from Ottawa to the towns of the Ottawa Valley as far west as Pembroke, was awarded to B. W. Ross of Beachburg.

Compiled by Evelyn Moore Price
Taken from the Pembroke Observer, Dec. 1979