THE VILLAGE OF GREENOCK

The village of Greenock, like other villages in the Township, also has an interesting story regarding its name. As the settlement developed around the fifth sideroad. different businesses appeared, one being a hotel owned by Mr. H. Montgomery. Mr. Montgomery named his place of business the "Enniskillen Hotel" as he was a native of Enniskillen, Ireland. The name caught on and although the Post Office was called Greenock, the settlement retained its original name for many years.

The government, either lacking in ambition or not wanting to become involved in contraversay over names, simply named each "first" Post Office for the name of the township in which it was located.

The first mail was received at Greenock Post Office on October 9, 1852, with John B. Ritchie as Postmaster until 1867 when he resigned. Hugh Montgomery followed until 1872, Henry Touchbourn was next for one year then William Grundy looked after the mail until 1880 when Samuel Hawthorne served until his death in 1922. Hilton Hawthorne then became Postmaster. He resigned in 1947. At this time Gordon Esplen became Postmaster to 1950, followed by Magnus Rettinger to 1952. When Charles Nolan bought the village store, he served as Postmaster until the office closed in 1969. At that time the people in the area received their mail from Walkerton. R.R.#3.

From the beginning of postal service the mail came by carrier from Durham to Kincardine, a distance of 45 miles travelled once a week, each way, on foot. After a year or so the route was divided and two carriers met at the Greenock Post Office. Eventually daily mail came through and other locations were connected into the route, with Walkerton being the central point.

Over a period of years there seems to have been several hotels in this village. Old records show that as early as 1859 Mr. Montgomery and Raphael Chatreau acquired tavern licenses. About 1860 Hans Hawthorne and Thomas Allen of the Greenock Tavern were licensed, and in November, 1863, McConnell's Tavern was also licensed.

As time went on these hotels seemed to change hands, fold up or even convert to some other kind of business. The Hawthorne Hotel was run by John Hergott in 1865, the Greenock by the Yaeck family and the Enniskillen by Wm. Montgomery.