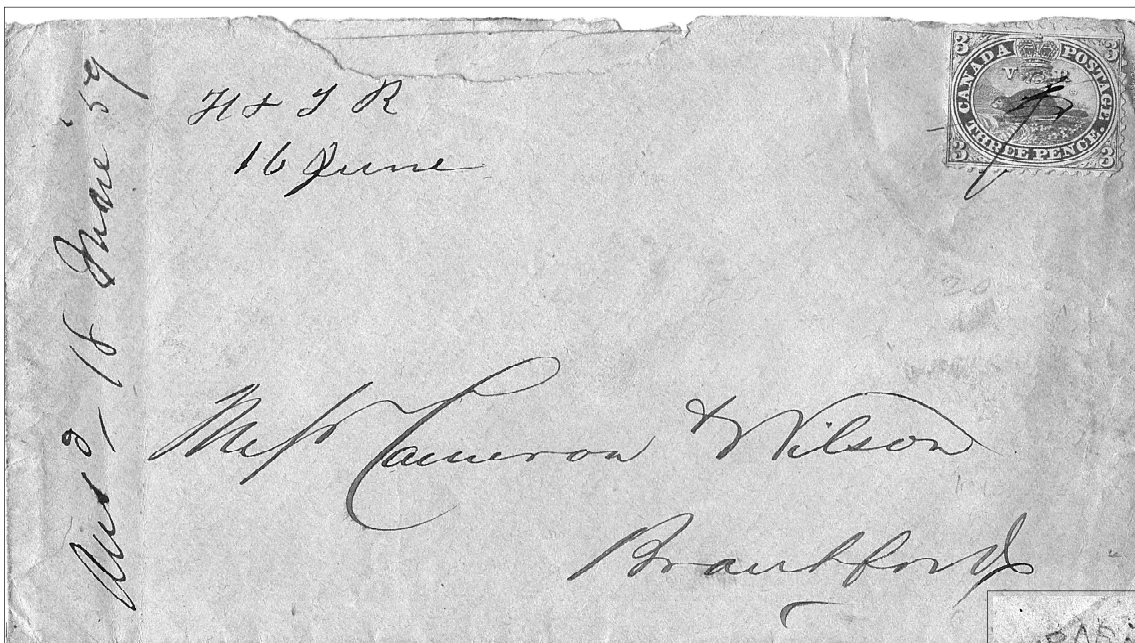
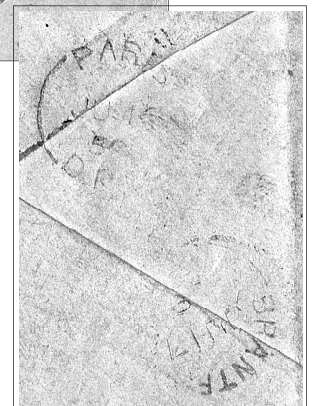


A Very Early Railway Post Office Manuscript Postmark Discovery from Hugo Deshayé



The **Great Western Railway** completed construction of a 39 mile branch from Hamilton to Toronto on December 3, 1855. This branch connected Toronto with the Niagara Falls-Hamilton-Paris-London-Windsor main line of the Great Western Railway at Hamilton.

There are only two recorded examples of the first postmark used on the branch, **ON-206**, HAM. & TOR. R. WAY. P. O. / CONDUCTOR No. 1. , which span the period between January 25, 1856 and September 7, 1859.



This 3d perforated Beaver cover was posted on the Toronto to Hamilton mail car, somewhere between Toronto and Hamilton on June 16, 1859 and the clerk used a **manuscript postmark**, "**H & J R / 16 June**" and pen cancelled the stamp. At Hamilton, the cover was transferred to a westbound train to London. At Paris, the Paris Distributing Post Office cancelled it with **SN-44.5**, PARIS / _ D.P.O. _ , JU 16, 59 and transferred it to an eastbound **Buffalo & Lake Huron Railway** train to Brantford. There is a Brantford receiving backstamp dated June 17.