

When 'Ireland Island' became 'Inland Island'



The Ireland Island Post Office in the 1880s, courtesy of National Museum of Bermuda, Godsiff Album.

In the late 1830s The Royal Navy established a Post Office at Ireland Island for the exclusive use of Navy personnel. In 1845 it was taken over by the G.P.O. in London who in 1879 provided a cancellation handstamp inscribed 'INLAND ISLAND'. Ten years later it was replaced with a new 'IRELAND ISLAND' handstamp. The post office was now available to the general public.



A scarce example of the 'INLAND ISLAND' postmark on a letter sent in July 1888 to West Bend, Wisconsin.

When Undelivered Mail was advertised in the Royal Gazette



Starting around 1916 undelivered mail was advertised weekly in the 'Royal Gazette and Colonist Daily'. Sent on April 11th, 1916, from Hamilton to Mrs. Susan Nott in Pembroke, is the earliest recorded example with the sender, Mrs. G.E. Graff, rather anxious that Mrs. Susan North pick up her laundry as it 'has been ready since last Thursday'. Let's hope that Mrs. North read the newspaper! It was one of about 200 items advertised in the Royal Gazette on April 22nd. Being stamped with the Passed Censor Bermuda handstamp, this

postal card is also an interesting example of local mail being censored during World War I. In more recent times such undelivered mail is simply returned to the sender with a CANNOT BE FOUND marking and eventually dealt with at the Dead Letter Office.

P. S. Louis, Hulda S. S. Marsh, Katherine McCann, Mary E. Meyer, Wm. M. Mitchell, Mrs. John W. Mills, N. J. Morga, Mrs. J. N. Moody, Emily H. Morford, Mrs. E. J. Munro, D. J. Myers, National War Fund, Inn Nokomis Mrs. Susan Nott, Mr. Ormorrell, Jas. P. L. Outerbridge, Alice Owen, Mr. A. Page, W. J. Parker, Mr. Physpero, Howard Play, Leonard Phillips, James Phillips, Mrs. John H. Potter, L. Punsep, N. H. Raymond, Robert Randall, Mrs. W. H. Reynolds, Bert J. Reynlds, Cecil Richardson, L. Richardson, Peter Richardson, E. Richardson, Mr. C. Rogers, William Robinson, Miss Rose, Mrs. J. A. Rangy, M. W. Robinson, F. E. Roberts,

*From the front page
of the Royal Gazette
and Colonist Daily
published on April
22nd, 1916.*

Is this the smallest Censored Cover?

At 2-1/8" x 1-7/8" this could well be the smallest cover ever censored. It contained the birth announcement of Mary Ware Baker and was sent to 'Uncle George' in Florida. Obviously enclosed in an outer envelope, it should perhaps be considered a 'Censored Enclosure'.



When I exhibited Censorship covers at one of the Bermupex exhibitions in the 1970s, I was surprised when a lady looking at my exhibit suddenly exclaimed 'That's MY birth announcement!'. She was obviously more surprised than me, seeing it some 50 years after it was sent to her Uncle George in Florida.

