



Places Named after Kars

By Greg Balagian

Interestingly, Greg's article was sent to me at the time we were going to publish an article about 10th capital of Armenia, Kars. It is a great addition to the main article about the city - editor.

One of my various philatelic interests is research on postmarks of places with names related to animals and Armenia. While going through place names in Canada I came across four places named Kars, Lower Kars, and Karsdale.

Kars, Ontario, was originally named Wellington Village. In 1857, to distinguish it from another settlement called Wellington in Prince Edward County, as mail intended for one often went to the other, the village was renamed Kars to commemorate the Canadian-born General William Fenwick Williams who had undertaken

the siege of the town of Kars for the Ottoman Empire against the Russian Empire. By 1866, Kars was a post village with a population of two hundred of the North Gower township, on the Rideau River, one mile from the line of the Ottawa and Prescott Railway. It contained four general stores, and one steam sawmill, established by A. J. Eastman, in 1852, which had the capacity of turning out three million feet of sawed lumber per annum; a brewery owned by A. J. Eastman & Co., with a production capacity of forty barrels per week; a tannery, two wagon shops, a cooperage, a school, a hotel, two churches - Church of England, and the Wesleyan Methodist church.

The Rideau River is part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site Rideau Canal. Kars is along the

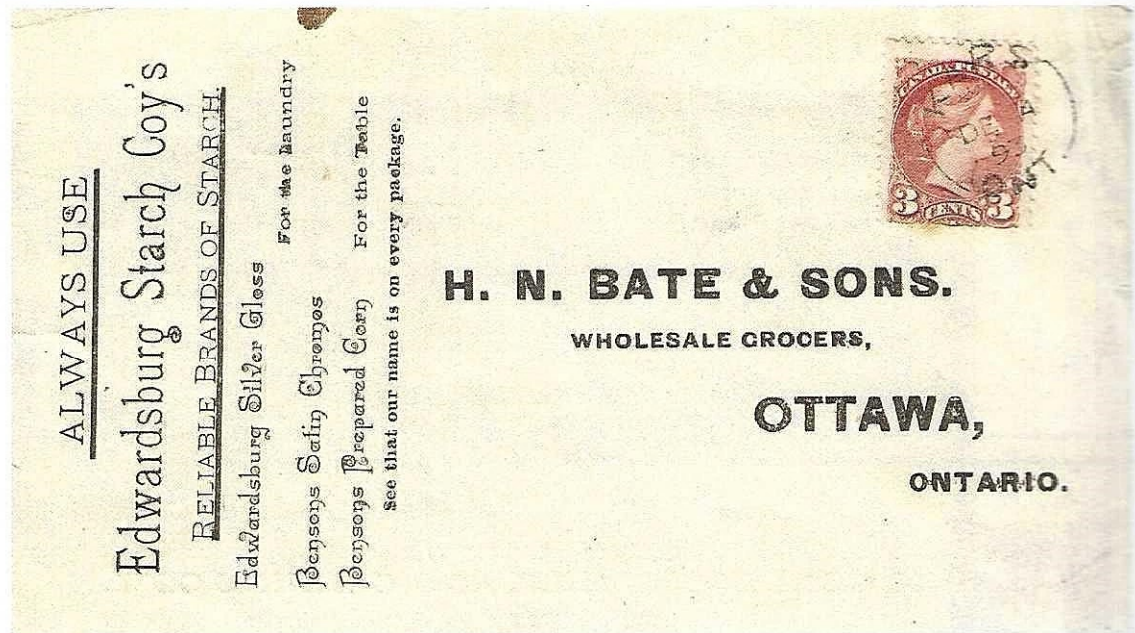


Fig. 1 - Karss, Canada

longest uninterrupted section of the River between locks at Long Island in Manotick and Burritts Rapids. As a small community, most residents work in the city of Ottawa. But the village has an automotive garage and formerly had a general store with post office which permanently closed January 1, 2018.

General Sir William Fenwick Williams, 1st Baronet of Kars (1800 – 1883) was a Nova Scotian military leader for the British during the Victorian era. He is remembered for his defense of the town of Kars during the Crimean War for which he received the Civil Knight Grand Cross Star of The Order of the Bath. Many other honors were bestowed upon Williams, and in 1865–1867, he was appointed

the first Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, where he was born. Williams with other British officers inspired the poorly equipped Turkish soldiers to repel Russian attacks by General Nikolai Muraviov-Amurskiy on the besieged town for three months, causing 6,000 Russian casualties. They were forced to surrender due to starvation, disease, and shortage of ammunition. However, they surrendered on their own terms, with

Parishes, and in 1877 the islands in Belleisle Bay were added to Kars.

Karsdale is a community in the Canadian province of Nova Scotia, located in Annapolis County. It is situated on the west bank of the Annapolis Basin. The community similarly to the Kars, Ontario is named after Sir William Williams, 1st Baronet of Kars.

In my collection I have postmarks of Kars,

Ontario, Lower Kars, New Brunswick, and Karsdale, Nova Scotia. I am still trying to find a postmark of Kars, New Brunswick and hopefully I will be able to find it soon.

In an additional note there was a Post Office named Kars, in Tama County, Iowa in the United States between 1877 and 1880. It was a mail distribution point in the store owned by Enos Thomas who also served as the postmaster. Mail was received twice a week from



Fig. 2 - Lower Kars Postmark.

the officers being allowed to retain their swords. Williams was imprisoned in Ryazan, but he was treated very well and released at the end of the Crimean War in 1856. Before returning home he was introduced to Tsar Alexander II.

The second place in Canada named Kars is in New Brunswick. It is a rural community in Kings County which is a part of the Kars Parish. Actually, there are two communities – Kars and Lower Kars in the Parish with separate post offices. Kars Parish served by two cable ferries. The Belleisle Bay Ferry connects Kars year round to Long Point and the Evandale Ferry connects Kars year round to Evandale. The community is named after the Siege of Kars, last major operation of the Crimean War. Kars was erected in 1860 from combining Greenwich and Springfield



Fig. 3 - Karsdale Postmark.

Toledo. Unfortunately, there is no information why this post office was named Kars, and I was unable to obtain any material with the postmark, as it is extremely rare.

