

1968-2018 "DSC" IS FIFTY YEARS OLD AND STILL GOING STRONG!

From 1st August, I will be making some "lifestyle changes".

MAIL ORDER: As this is already over 80% of our business, it will continue as at present, so most clients will notice little change. Keep an eye on our listings on *Trademe*, and add **Dunedinstamps** to your "Favourites". Check out our website for latest offers and news.

SHOP: As you know, we are one of the last full-service stamp shops left in NZ, and even in Australasia. With the industry ideal for mail-order, most dealers now operate from offices, or from their homes. We value our shop clientele, but I can't fit 80 hours work into a 40 hour week! Four days a week are needed for mail orders and stock processing – I still have a "Stamp Mountain" to work through.

So, from 1st August 2018, the shop and display area will only be open on Wednesdays, from 10am until 4.30pm.

We will continue to have available the usual extensive range of stamps, albums & accessories, and masses of collections, box & cover lots, etc. Look forward to seeing you.

Other times may be available by appointment only, but these will be very limited. Email dunedinstamps@gmail.com, or phone, to arrange a time. We are still buying, so recommend arranging a suitable time in advance if a bulky collection is involved.

Unfortunately, in addition to these changes, David will be leaving to go back to Oamaru after being with me for over 21 years. I wish him well in the future, and thank him for his valuable service over the years.

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POST OFFICES IN OTAGO & SOUTHLAND OF A BYGONE ERA

Fortrose Southland

Farming township near the lagoon at the mouth of the Mataura River at Toetoes, Southland District, on the Southern Scenic Route. From 1834 to 1836, Whalers lived at a station in the Fortrose area and the first surveys for a town - slightly to the west of Fortrose's present location - gave it the name of Russeltown. According to A H Reed's Place Names of New Zealand, Fortrose was named after the royal burgh of Moray Firth, Highlands district, eastern Scotland.

The early settlement at the Toetoes Mouth provided employment for John MacIntosh who acted as a ferryman answering calls from the far side of the estuary to bring foot travellers over or taking persons across from Fortrose.

In 1857 the Otago Provincial Council spent 104 pounds three shillings establishing a ferry house, the boat and buying the land etc. The charges were: From sunrise till one hour after sunset, each person 2 shillings; horse, mule or ass 2 shillings; sheep, goat or hog, in numbers under 20, 4 pence each but in numbers over 20, 2 pence each; goods one shilling per hundred weight.

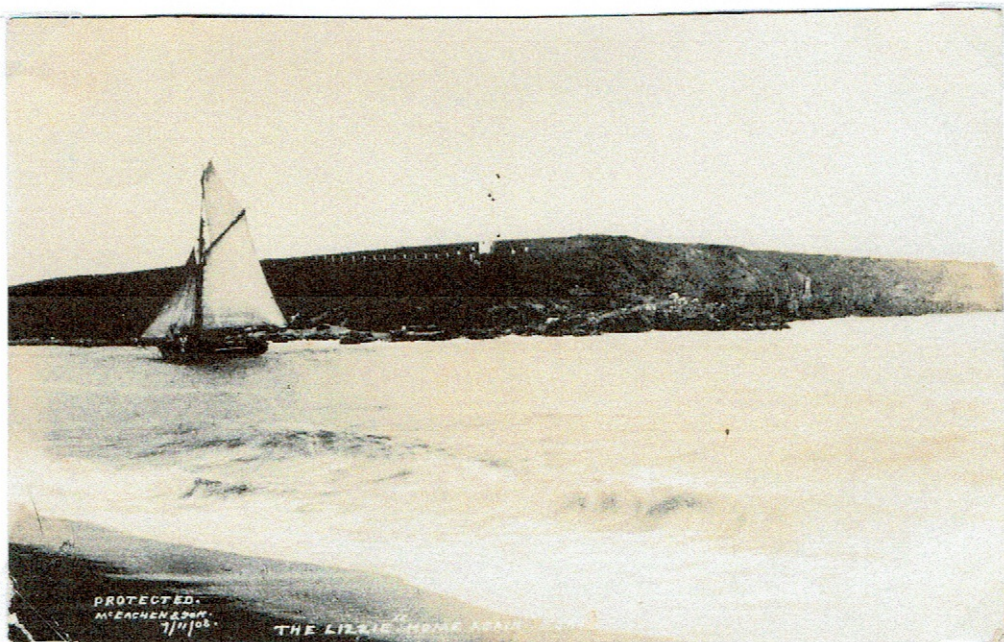
There was no charge for Government employees, including mail carriers but after dark, all charges were one and a half times daylight charges.

In a chronology list of 1875 there appears an item: "Ferry proclaimed at Toi Tois (Mataura Mouth) April 23, 1857". (note different spelling!)

The location of Fortrose at the Mataura River Mouth meant it was developed as a port to service the local region. In 1875, a 200ft (61m) long jetty was built. March 1880 saw the completion of the Goods Shed (demolished 1969). July 1881 the Government sanctioned the erection of a signal staff, semaphore and a pilot's residence at Fortrose.

Upwards of 5,000 sacks of grain and nearly 300 bales of wool were dispatched from the port in 1880, over and above all other exports, as well as all inward cargo, so it was felt that the port was increasing in importance.

Captain Matheson, who had been Master of the "Pioneer" for many years, was appointed the Harbourmaster. He was well known to the Fortrose people and of course, knew the harbour well. His salary was at first 50 pound per year, but raised to 90 pound in the second year. However the economy of Fortrose declined after the Tokanui Branch Railway was opened to Waimahaka in 1899 and then to Tokanui in 1911, as the railway much quicker transportation for freight to Invercargill.



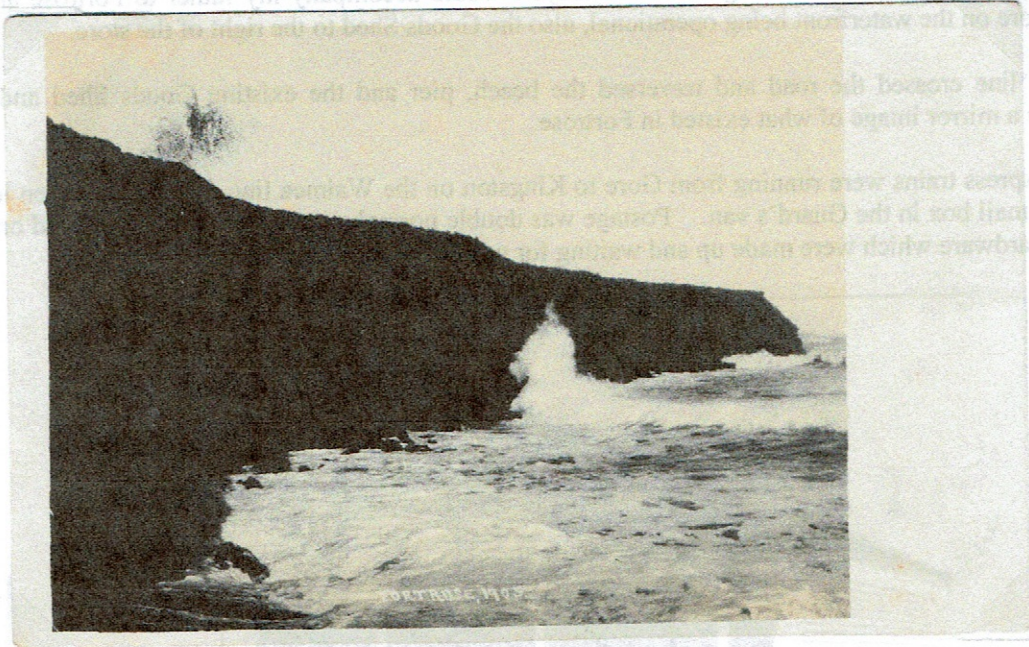
Postcard of "Lizzie" Cutter (later became a ketch), 25.60 tons. Built on Stewart Island 1883 by Barker & James, Bluff. Messrs Todd & Company, Invercargill owned it until it was bought by Kura Huwata (Louisa Kenny Picton 1891). Registration was closed in 1924 when it was broken up.

Postcard to:-
Mrs L.G. Morris
Waitoa
Auckland

Posted Waikawa Valley 2/1/11
"A" Class 7 Postmark
1/2d 1909 King Edward VII

Dear Kate

Just a P.C. to thank you for your looked for letter. We have sold the farm and are leaving here in Feb, so write before then, for goodness sake. Wishing you both the Seasons Compliments. With love from Belle.



Postcard to:-
Miss Strongman
Dairy Factory
Mokoreta

Posted Waikawa Valley 5/5/09
"A" Class 7 Postmark
1/2d 1900 Mount Cook

Dear Kate

Please send weight of both cheese and Father will send cheque. I forgot the weight of the first one. Am looking forward to coming down soon. With best love from Belle.

Post Office and Postal Services

The Post Office at Fortrose was officially opened on 1 January 1873 in the General Store of George Hunt Attwood, who was appointed Postmaster. This was known as a non-permanent office which is one run on an agency basis, usually in conjunction with a general store or other similar business, and was known to be a "Permanent Office" when it was run by persons employed by the Post Office as permanent members of the staff.

On 29 April 1881 the "S.S. Tararua" became stranded upon a shelf of the Waipapa reef resulting in the loss of life of 151 persons.

The exact date of the installation of a telephone in Fortrose is unknown, however the residents used the great tragedy of the shipwreck of the "S.S. Tararua" as a firm lever for this service.

On 16 September 1892 Miss Isa Clifford arrived from Clinton to be the first Postmistress of the newly built, Fortrose Post Office. The building was so new when Miss Clifford arrived that Parker, the local painter was still putting the finishing touches to it. When he painted the wording, he put the 's' the wrong way round in the word 'Post'. This did not satisfy the new Postmistress and she insisted he remove the offending back to front 's' and repaint it. She lived alone in quarters (a flat by today's standards) in the same little building, which remained in the main street until it was destroyed by fire in 191 when used as a crib.

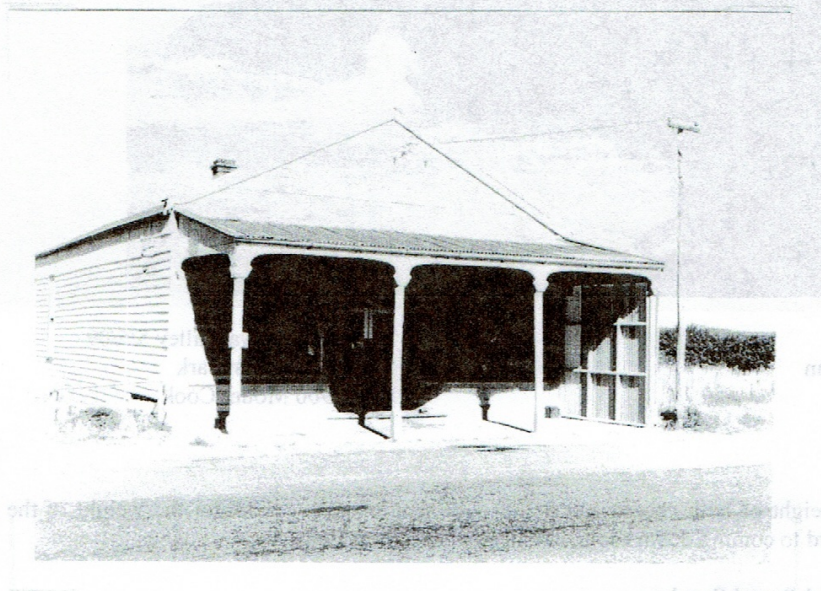
Mrs Flora Millard, widow of Leonard Millard, killed in WW1, was appointed Postmistress on 1 December 1920. Mrs Millard was fastidious with her housework and general office duties and when one old chap who used to regularly buy money orders to post away, brought his coins wrapped in a none too clean cloth that obviously served as a handkerchief as well, Mrs Millard would take the coins and give them a thorough soapy rub around before placing them in the office till. She lived in the small quarters at the Post Office during her

term as Postmistress, a kitchen, living room and one bedroom. There was no bathroom, no sink or running water! Her younger sister Gladys often came to stay with her and remembers the bath tub in front of the range fire and comments "There were no froth bubbles to dive under if someone called unexpectedly"! Fortrose had no few telephones at the time so Gladys often got the job of riding out to deliver telegrams. There was a delivery fee of 3 pence to be earned if the telegram had to be carried for further than one mile.

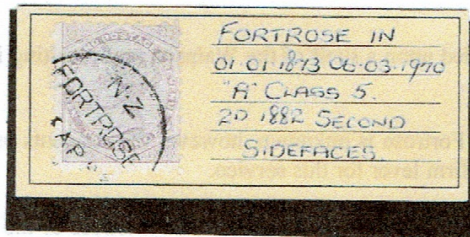
My Father was a Builder at Balfour and accepted some work in Fortrose for a relative of a family friend. This led to a number of jobs in the area as the farmers at the time were receiving very good money for their wool clip due to the Korean War. During school holidays I would accompany my father to Fortrose and I can recall this store on the waterfront being operational, also the Goods Shed to the right of the store.

The railway line crossed the road and traversed the beach, pier and the existing Goods Shed and pier at Glenorchy is a mirror image of what existed in Fortrose.

When the Express trains were running from Gore to Kingston on the Waimea line, I would be given letters to post using a mail box in the Guard's van. Postage was double normal rate. The letters contained orders for timber and hardware which were made up and waiting for my Father in Gore on Monday morning.



Fortrose Store and Post Office 1971
Post Offices and various Stores 01/01/1873 - 06/03/1970



Robert Herron

Bibliography:

The History of Fortrose - Joan Macintosh

Wikipedia

Department of Conservation