

Hatchley Post Office. Brant County Ont

May 1<sup>st</sup> 1906.

To the Deputy Post Master General  
of the Dominion of Canada

Ottawa (Ont.)

Dear Sir,  
In compliance  
with the circular  
sent by you  
to this office  
a few weeks  
ago

RECEIVED  
MAY 3 1906  
23288

Since Mr Benjamin Powell the Post  
Master at this point suggested to  
the undersigned - (who has been a  
continuous resident near Hatchley  
since June 1845 - and who is a son  
of Mr Ferris Yates mentioned in this  
communication, as the owner of Lot  
West. half of Lot number nineteen  
concession twelve, of Burford Township  
(100 acres) - that he would jot down  
a few notes - reminiscences or annals  
relating to the early history of this  
locality and the personalities who  
happened to be prominent here about  
in the Pioneer days.

- Hatchley Post Office is situated on  
a fifth of an acre lot, Bought by Mr B.  
Powell in 1879, from Mr Ferris Yates the  
then owner of Lot W $\frac{1}{2}$  of 19. Con 12, Burford Township  
County Brant, - the Yates Title Deed show that  
the lot 19 - was bought by them from the Widow  
on an individual who had performed  
military service under the British flag  
during the War of 1812-13. But



2. Be - a squatter named Robt Smith  
having made some improvements  
on said lot by partly clearing and  
fencing about eight acres, Mr Jervis  
Gates - who had emigrated from  
Staffordshire, England, in the spring  
of the year 1845 - bought out Mr Robt  
Smiths, (who was said to be from the Township  
of Esquesing,) - Rights, - and with his <sup>Wife & Mother</sup>  
wife & Mother and Family of five growing  
up boys, and one daughter, moved on  
to the lot, after paying cash-down the  
sum of six hundred dollars for the clear  
deed of the property from the above mentioned  
Widow, who at the time lived in Wentworth  
County, (or her attorney)

Mr Jervis Gates, lived, improved  
planted - built - and laboured on the  
farm until nearly the end of his life  
which occurred in the year 1883.

Hatchley Station is rather picture-  
-esquely situated on an eminence commanding  
a view of the fertile surrounding country  
and has a commodious siding, Semaphores  
- etc, & a small comfortable station house  
- Bell Telephone connections, and is much  
used as a shipping point for Lumber -  
- cordwood, Cattle & general Farm produce  
trains stop daily for mails, and Express  
matter, making connections between the  
"air" line at Tilsburg & the G.T. main line  
at Brantford -



3.

and the local business is evidently  
= increasing

at the date of Mr Ferris Yates's settle-  
the land surrounding was almost in  
a state of priveral forest, although  
in the Township next westward from Burford,  
there existed a Community of Quakers  
who, - we were informed had come into Canada  
mostly from the State of New York, between  
the Years 1820 to 1830; - these, had made  
considerable clearings, - yet the dense  
Forests around <sup>(the</sup> Hatchley (of the future,) in  
the year 1845, - harboured numbers of wild  
and ferocious quadrupeds, = Wolves = bears =  
Lynxes = Foxes = porcupines, - had to be  
guarded against, - as some of these  
unwelcome beasts occasionally made  
nocturnal visits to the edge of the Clear-  
ings, or to the vicinity of the log Barns, and  
destroyed calves - pigs - sheep or poultry. -  
Wolves were usually most demonst-  
rative about the season of Maple sugar  
making, coming forth with hideous  
howls during the night-time, from their  
"rendezvous" in a ~~adjacent~~ Cedar Swamp,  
2 or 3 miles distant; - wild-deer were  
also numerous, and came regularly to browse  
by night on the buds of the trees freshly  
chopped down by the wood cutters.



4 and, despite of the fact that cash  
bounties were paid by the municipalities  
for the extermination of the wolves  
these pests continued their annoyances  
untill about the year 1850. and  
the last bear to make an 'historical  
record visited a barnyard situated  
near to where stands now the Hatchley  
Post office) - two nights in one week, and  
carrying off, as its prey, a sheep on  
each visit. (this occurred in April 1853.

— Wild Turkeys roamed in the adjoining  
Forest, and came forth with their hatching  
young broods, to the stubble-fields in  
the autumn, — it is recorded that the  
last wild Turkey shot about here  
was in October 1854. —

— a few Otters frequented the streams  
and preyed upon the sunfish (Perch) and  
catfish, which then abounded; — the last  
otter heard of about here, was shot by a  
neighbour of the present writer, in the year  
1862. — the last wild deer killed in this  
vicinity that there was any reliable record  
of, was shot in 1862 — a Lynx was shot  
in the woods near Hatchley in April 1897.

{ it was a noticeable fact that after the  
expulsion of the wolves that peculiar  
quadruped known as the "Skunk" (*Mephitis*  
*Mephitis*) invaded the locality and in a few  
years after 1855. occurred in annoying numbers,  
the natural history books aver that  
Mr Mephitis is regarded as a "bonne-  
-boischi" by Bre. Wolf, many



5. Mr. Ferris Yates name of this farm  
whereon is the present Railway Station &  
Post Office, etc. - "Hatchley" - in remembrance  
of a Farm whereon he was brought up  
in the County of Stafford, England, (mainly):  
the English "Hatchley", was a fertile Farm  
of about 60 acres Tenanted by Mr Ferris Yates  
uncle, for nearly 40 years, and this farm was  
in close vicinity to the Landed Estate of Edward  
Butler Esq, M. P. for North Staffordshire,  
during the thirties of last century, (say 1832 to 40)  
Edward Butler's Residence was known as  
"Dillhorn Hall," and was a beautiful mansion.

- When, - soon after the Brantford and  
Tilsonburg Branch Rlwy came into use  
in the year 1876 - and Hatchley became a  
Station, a Mr Benjamin Powell who is from  
Cannock Staffordshire, (near to Birmingham) England,  
Bought a plot of Land from Mr Ferris Yates (the  
above mentioned), and erected a Frame Building  
and started business therein as a General Storekeeper  
and soon afterwards a petition signed by about  
a hundred inhabitants of the vicinity and recom-  
- ended to the attention of the proper Authorities at Ottawa  
by Mr Alfred Watts of Brantford, as well as by the  
Brantford Township Councillors, and soon the request or  
petition for a Post Office here, was granted (Hon John  
C. Connor being Post Master General at that time)  
and the Post Office (if one is not mistaken) was opened  
in the year 1880 (or 81.) - and Mr Ben<sup>m</sup> Powell was  
chosen as Post master, and has continued to serve  
the public here in that capacity without complaints  
ever since: - a few details anent some of the  
early residents of this vicinity who perhaps  
might be deemed worthy of remembrance  
by the population who have succeeded them,  
may occupy brief notice on page 6.



20  
more some other  
at request of Mr. Yates  
Buyer's purchase  
one of the Earliest Settlers near here was  
Mr. Wm Kingsford who in 1833 or 4 took up  
200 acres of wild land Lot 23 (we think) on  
the 11 con (Burford) which he bought we believe  
from the Canada Company. \* Mr. K. & family  
(the rumour ran) "had seen better days" and with  
his large family, mainly girls, - had been accustomed  
to some of the Amenities of life, not then available  
in the Canadian Backwoods. Mr. K. brought out  
with him the remnants of a good Library and at  
least one of his oldest daughters had literary  
taste, and some intellectual ability, as was soon  
evinced by effusions from her pen, finding  
admittance to the pages of "the Literary Garland"  
which one has been assured, was the first  
attempt at Magazine Circulation inaugurating  
in Canada West. - The Literary Garland was  
printed and published at Montreal, by Messrs  
Lovell and Gibson, - from about the year  
1839 to 1846. - the Motto of the Magazine was,  
"a Fragrant wreath composed of Native Flowers"  
"Plucked from the Wilds of Nature's <sup>wide</sup> Domain"  
we have near at hand venerable Coppis of the issues for  
some of the months of 1845; one copy (the Dec. one) gives an  
index for the articles published that year. Miss Maria K.  
was the name of the Burford Contributor. The subjects  
treated of, were similar to the Topics referred to in  
Mrs Susannah Moodie's "Life in the Canadian Backwoods"  
- another family whose Annals would be worthy of some  
notice, were the Robinsons who settled on Lots 22 & 18 con,  
and on Lot 21. con 11. Mr. Jas Robinson of County Wexford Ireland  
was the patriarch of the Robins, and one of his sons  
named William studied as an Architect at G. pronto, 1847 to  
say 1851. or so, and became in after years City Engineer of  
London Ont. & we were informed superintended the construction  
of the City Water works Victoria. <sup>reservoir Springs</sup>  
of he did we think in Oct 1894 & is buried in  
the Robins family plot near Feathery  
\* Mr. Kingsford & family came from Kent, England  
and had been a Great Miller near Canterbury  
Wm Yates eldest son of Jarvis Yates, Farmer Hatchby <sup>1906</sup> <sup>185-</sup>