

Rev. Nathaniel Cole by Gordon Smith



Figure 1: The Reverend Nathaniel Cole

As a collector of the postal history of Port Hood and Port Hood Island in Nova Scotia, I have come across a number of interesting envelopes that have a connection to the Rev. Nathaniel Cole (see Figure 1). Rev. Cole, who was the United Church minister in Port Hood, NS from 1940 until 1944 was a creator of philatelic (postage stamp and mail related) items.

Figure 2 is a reproduction of the famous (at least in Canadian stamp collecting circles) Port Hood Provisional covers of 1899 “addressed” to his daughter in Port Hood.

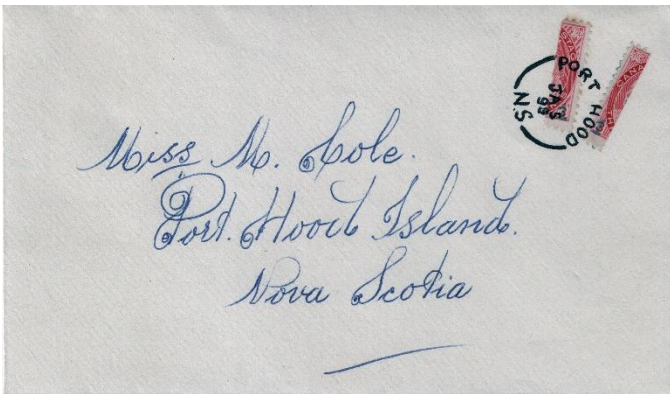


Figure 2: Fake Port Hood Provisional Envelope

Figure 3 is a pre-printed envelope mailed from Port Hood Island to Rev. Cole on July 1, 1942, the first day of issue of the 13¢ Ram Tank stamp.

Curious about the Rev. Cole as the creator of these covers, wondering where else he may have served as a minister and created other philatelic covers, I reached out to the United Church Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council and Regional Council 15 Archives in Sackville, NB. The



Figure 3: First Day Cover of 13¢ Ram Tank stamp

archives were a wealth of information, providing me with his obituary, an obituary of his son who died in 1944, Rev. Cole’s Attestation Paper related to his services in World War I, and various sources listing the charges in which he served.

From these sources, as well as other information I received from the Chestico Museum and internet searches, I learned that Nathaniel Cole was born in Victoria, Carbonear, Newfoundland on 22 November 1888. He went to Public School in Victoria and the Carbonear Grammar School. He was received on trial as a Methodist minister in Britannia Cove NL in 1911, Carmanville NL in 1912, and Glovertown NL in 1913. He then attended Victoria College in Toronto.

Rev. Cole was an early volunteer to the Canadian Armed Forces in World War One and served with the 9th Field Ambulance in France and Belgium from 1916 to 1918. He was active in all the battles on the Western Front in which the Canadian Expeditionary Forces were engaged.

Upon return from the war, he was ordained in Trinity (Carbonear?) NL in 1919 and served in the church in: Trinity NL until 1920; New Aberdeen NS from 1920 to 1921; La Have NS from 1922 to 1926; Springhill NS from 1927 to 1929; Onslow NS from 1930 to 1931; Red Bank NB from 1932 to 1935; Granville Ferry NS from 1936 to 1939; Port Hood from 1940 to 1943; Renfrew ON from 1944 to 1946; Rawdon ON from 1946 to 1947 and Hastings ON from 1948 to 1954.

He retired from active ministry in 1954 but continued as an assistant minister in Windsor and conducted home, hospital and shut-in visits until 1967. In 1968, he retired to London ON where he passed away on September 7, 1977.

Reverend Cole married Gertrude May Pike of Carbonear on 23 August 1919 in St. John's NL. Gertrude was the daughter of Segar Pike, the local sailmaker and prior to the marriages Mary was a teacher.

Rev. Cole and his wife had one daughter Margaret Iris (see addressee in Figure 2), who married Reverend Major Harold Robbins of the Queen's Own Rifles.

They also had two sons. One son, Lloyd, died in in hospital Halifax in 1942.



Figure 4: Cpl. Clarence Cole

Their other son, Clarence Nathan Cole (see Figure 4) died on July 6, 1944, in Goose Bay, Labrador while on active duty with the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War Two. Corporal Cole was a passenger in a Lockheed PV-1 Ventura aircraft (See Figure 5) that was on a training mission from Dartmouth NS to Chatham (Miramichi) NB with

an intermediate stop in Goose Bay. Just after lift-off, while in its initial climb, the aircraft experienced an engine failure that caused the plane to stall and crash in flames, killing all five aircrew and six passengers. Clarence was given a military burial on July 8, in Goose Bay in the presence of his wife, Edith (Huntington) who had come from her home in Sydney, NS to be in attendance and his parents who had travelled from Port Hood. Before his death, Clarence was active in lay activities in the church, and known for his work with young people and for his fine singing voice.



Figure 5: Lockheed PV-1 Ventura

An article in the Windsor Star newspaper (Ontario) from January 23, 1965, about Rev. Cole mentions only travel as his hobby and that his travels took him to Bermuda and the Arctic. It also indicates that he wrote for a number of outdoor publications and the Halifax Chronicle newspaper.

Rev. Cole's interest in the Arctic is illustrated by another letter addressed to him in Port Hood in his own handwriting from the Eastern Arctic Patrol Royal Mail Ship Nascopie on August 18, 1944. Postal history collectors would often send self-addressed envelopes to special places to receive unusual postmarks.

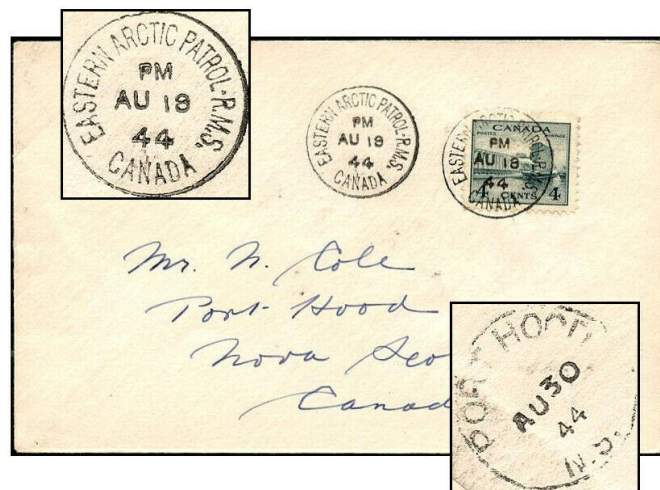


Figure 6: Envelope to Rev. Cole from RMS Nascopie, August 18, 1944

To date, this is all the information I can find on the Rev. Nathaniel Cole. If you have other information on him or his family, especially on anything about his time in Port Hood or more envelopes that he created in Port Hood or elsewhere, please let me

know. I can be reached at gs@postalthistory.ca, or 11 Elliot St., Dartmouth NS, B2Y 2X6.

References:

Figure 1: "Meet the Clergy", The Windsor Star, 23 January 1965. Windsor, Ontario. Page 10. Retrieved from <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/39089786/the-windsor-star/?xid=637> on 19 March 2021.

Figures 2 and 3: Collection of the author

Figure 4: John Gillies – personal collection

Figure 5: U.S. Navy. United States Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Digital ID fsa.8e01506. Retrieved from <http://loc.gov/pictures/resource/fsa.8e01506/> on 31 March 2021.

Figure 6: Canada Eastern Arctic Patrol Aug 1944 to Port Hood. Retrieved from http://ebay.com/itm/233874611155?ul_noapp=true on 28 January 2021.

Various articles provided by the Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters/Region 15 Regional Councils Archives of The United Church of Canada, retrieved from B-31 Biographical file of Nathaniel Cole including:

→ B-31 Clarence Cole.pdf, "Cpl. Clarence N. Cole, A Tribute", The United Churchman, 2 August 1944, page 14.

→ B-31 Nathaniel Cole, Cyclopedia of Methodism.pdf

→ B-31 Nathaniel Cole obituary 1977.pdf

Walkington Guide. United Church Ministers, 1925-1980, A - M. Compiled by Douglas Walkington. United Church of Canada Archives. Toronto. No date. Retrieved from https://drive.google.com/file/d/19fYPqEm8QYEZFYUMnPa_gzWPPvWnYxF_/view?usp=sharing on 7 April, 2021.

Cole's World War One Personnel Record, retrieved from <https://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/.item/?op=pdf&app=CEF&id=B1853-S001> on 2 April 2021.

Details of Clarence Cole's death found in Goose Bay, Bureau of Aircraft Accidents Archive, Crash of a Lockheed PV-1 Ventura in Goose Bay: 11 Killed. Retrieved from <https://www.baaa-acro.com/city/goose-bay?page=3> on 29 March 2021.

Miscellanea

For the second year running the organizing committee for Chestico Days has made the decision to cancel the Chestico Days 2021 Summer Festival. Provincial health regulations and restrictions of the past few weeks have informed our decision.

Congratulations to Chestico Society member, Mary Janet MacDonald, who has a cookbook, titled Tunes and Wooden Spoons, being published on 15 October, 2021, by MacIntyre-Purcell Co. of Lunenburg. It will be available for pick-up at her home and also at major bookstores in Canada, as well as on-line through the publisher.

Mary Janet MacDonald is one of 20 Nova Scotians awarded the Dr. Robert Strang Community Hero Award. Doctors Nova Scotia partnered with Nova Scotia Health and IWK Health to offer this award "to those who have inspired others, raised spirits or helped people cope during the Covid 19 pandemic." Mary Janet has been so honoured for her Tunes and Wooden Spoons Facebook show which brought inspiration and comfort to her more than 50,000 followers. Congratulations Mary Janet.

Check your Port Hood mail! Thanks to the efforts of Gordon Smith, Port Hood has a new Beach Capital of Cape Breton postmark!

The Chestico Museum was honoured to participate in the H.M.S Hood Association's *Shine a Light* event that commemorated the 80th anniversary of the loss of the *Hood*. We commemorated Midshipman Thomas Norman Kemp Beard who was the only Nova Scotian crewmember aboard the *Hood*.

Tartan Blanket Tickets / Membership Renewal

Two books of tickets on a Chestico Tartan Blanket are enclosed with this newsletter. We ask each member to sell and return the money to Chestico Museum, P.O. Box 144, Port Hood, NS, B0E 2W0. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5.

If your membership is due for renewal, you will find a renewal form enclosed with this newsletter. Please complete and return to the same address by August 31. Thank You!

Chestico News

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The Chestico News is published by the Chestico Historical Society three times a year – Spring/Summer, Fall and Winter. Enquiries and submissions may be sent to: John Gillies, Editor, Chestico Museum & Historical Society, PO Box 37, Port Hood, Nova Scotia, B0E 2W0, or email the museum at chesticomuseum@ns.aliantzinc.ca



Jim St. Clair, CBC Information Morning's Ian McNeil and Susan Mallette at the Chestico Museum

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