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No. 908

R. W. Barker

19 May 1877

**Re: proposed
change in sites
of Peterson and
Carnarvon P.O.s**

F281 PMG

The R?gent
approves of the
suggestions made
in this report HGH

11 July 1877

No. 908

Post Office Inspector's Office

Kingston, Ont., 19th May 1877

Sir,

Referring to the accompanying papers, sent to me for report, in which a change in the respective sites of the Peterson and Carnarvon Post office is recommended I beg respectfully to say that I have recently been in the vicinity of the places alluded to, and have given my careful attention to the subject, and have to state as follows, viz:

The Peterson office was situated at what is known as the "Junction", - corners formed by a junction of the "Peterson" with the "Bobcaygeon" Roads, some seven miles north of Minden, but on the 21st March last the building in which the Post office was kept was totally destroyed by fire, and there being then no one living at the Corners to take care of it, the office was, in accordance with my instructions, closed. The Carnarvon office is about three miles east of the Corners, on the Peterson Road. The two offices were supplied with a weekly mail from Minden at a cost of \$90 a year.

The people who made use of the Peterson office were some thirty or more families who reside north of the Junction, and scattered about some lakes in the vicinity called "Bushconk Lake", "Halls Lake" who in going up and down the road to and from Minden had to pass via the Junction. These people are now actually without a convenient Post office, and have to do their postal business at Minden, where they trade. The difficulty, however, in re-opening the office is to find any person to take charge of it. No person resides at the Corners, as the land in the

vicinity is too barren to be of any use, and the nearest competent person living there is a Mr. James Toy referred to in the papers, but he lives nearly a mile north of the Junction, and an office at his place would only accommodate about ten families who live north of the Junction, as those living about the lakes would not be likely to go to an office there as they would have to travel nearly one mile in and out when visiting it; they would be more likely to go on to Minden, where they do their trading. An office south of the Junction would be of very little service, as very few persons live between that point and Minden. Mr. Jarvis, the Postmaster at Peterson, informed me that he intended to build again on the old site, and until he, or someone else, does so, I do not see that the Peterson office can very well be re-opened.

The Carnarvon office is intended to accommodate the settlers in the vicinity and those living in the Maple Lake settlement, (the papers respecting the establishment of an office at Maple Lake are returned herewith) but in consequence of part of the road between Maple Lake and Carnarvon being impassable except during winter the settlers do not pass via Carnarvon, but when going to and returning from Minden pass over a road which crosses the Peterson Road at a place called Brown's Corner which was put into first rate order last year by the Government; the Peterson road being thus virtually abandoned, at least that part of it between Brown's Corner and the Junction. Quite a number of settlers live about Maple Lake, which is eighteen miles distant from Minden, and these have asked for a Post office at the residence of Mr. James Melville, but as all the settlers have to pass Brown's Corner when going in and out, it is my opinion that that would be the most convenient site for an office. Mr. Andrew Brown would, I am informed, accept the appointment of Postmaster if offered to him, and he is, I am also informed, capable of taking proper care of an office.

If an office is placed at Brown's Corner there will be no further need for the Carnarvon office, as less than half a dozen families would be left to do their Postal business there, and it would be better to either close that office or remove it to Mr. Brown's. The Postmaster at Carnarvon died about three years ago and his widow had taken charge of the office ever since, together with the mail service to and from Minden. She has married again and is now Mrs. Damion. No

appointment appears to have been made to the Carnarvon office since the death of Mr. Moore.

By making the change above proposed the Carnarvon and Minden weekly mail service can be discontinued, and the office at Brown's can be supplied by extending the existing weekly mail service from Horse shoe Bridge, six miles, at a cost of about \$40 a year would be effected as the service of Carnarvon now costs \$90 a year.

The arrangements above mentioned are I believe the best that could be made at present, and I beg to recommend them to your favourable consideration.

The annexed sketch will explain the position of the places above referred to.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obd't serv't

R. W. Barker

P.O. Inspector

The Honorable

The Postmaster General

Ottawa