

CHELLINGTON POST OFFICE, 1902-1916

In November 1901, Mr George Williams wrote to Mr JC Watson, MP, asking him to make an effort on behalf of the Trungley Farmers and Settlers Association, to have the Temora/Trungley mail service extended to Mr Mangelsdorf's, on the Morangarell mail road, 16 miles from Temora.

Mr W Maguire, inspector for the postal department, felt that the request was reasonable, as eight settlers would benefit. He recommended that the extension be granted, and the receiving office at Mr W Semmler's at Duck Creek be removed to Mr F Mangelsdorf's at Chellington.

The Trungley Hall receiving office closed May 8, 1902, and the Chellington one opened the next day. Mr Mangelsdorf was appointed receiving office keeper (ROK) at an allowance of £5 per annum.

Mr Mangelsdorf died June 7, 1904. His daughter, Ida, carried on as ROK until August 1905, followed by her sister, Emma Wislang, who took over the position for two years.

Mrs Anna Brus, whose premises were on the mail line and within a short distance of the existing receiving office (on Mr O'Keefe's "Gladstone", 15 miles from Temora), took over as ROK from October 2, 1907. At the time, there were 19 householders using the Chellington receiving office, receiving an average of 78 letters and 63 newspapers weekly.

Over three mail days during January 1910, Mrs Brus received 153 letters, 6 parcels and 137 newspapers, and sent 47 letters, 1 parcel and 3 newspapers. In February, the inspector said that this warranted the establishment of a non-official post office, and he recommended that Mrs Brus be paid £10 per annum to provide a room for postal work and act as post mistress. She commenced duties March 26, 1910.

By June 1913, the allowance for Mrs Brus had increased to £17/5/- per annum. During 1913, 3,935 letters were posted at the Chellington Post Office, and there were 416 mail days.

Mrs Brus tendered her resignation in January 1914, as she was leaving the district. Mrs Louisa Hartwig came to live in the same place and took over as post mistress, January 21, 1914. She tendered her resignation in March 1916.

The post office closed in April 1916, and those concerned were asked to arrange for boxes to be erected at convenient points along the mail route.



"Chellington", 1905 - post office building to the left of the homestead