

A Note About Wadsley Post Office

by Philip E. Robinson, FRPSL
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In his article *Wadsley Village Posts* (*Yorkshire's Post*, Vol. 12, No. 9, Autumn 1990) the late Ronald Ward wrote that Wadsley first acquired a letter box in 1860. A post office opened at Wadsley (as distinct from Wadsley Bridge) in 1878, the first named postmaster for Wadsley being George Needham who was appointed on 28th April 1878.

The post office, now long demolished, was situated at what locals called "The Hillock", an area on Worrall Road just above its junction with Wadsley Lane. My friend Major C.P. Kaye, a local historian and artist, has made many drawings of Wadsley as it was in the late 19th

century, one of them being of the post office - which is reproduced here with his permission (Figure 1).

Wadsley post office was evidently closed after the Wisewood council estate was built, as a new row of shops was also built on Rural Lane, including a sub-post office, which was and is still known as Wisewood. The name of Wadsley therefore disappeared from postmarks, though it was never common. Ronald Ward's article reproduces the proof book example of a 30mm. postmark, inscribed simply WADSLEY (Figure 2a), and a 1909 example on a loose stamp that was in Ronald Ward's collection.



Figure 1 – Wadsley Post Office in the 19th Century. Reproduced with permission of the artist C.P. Kaye.

I remember Ronald telling me that covers are scarce. Thanks to the kindness of Major Kaye I am able to reproduce here an example of the Wadsley postmark from a postcard (Figure 2b). The year is not clear but may be 1909. A clue to the postmark's scarcity may lie in this postcard, which was sent locally to

Wisewood, and has a Hillsborough postmark. Perhaps it was only local mail that was cancelled at Wadsley, all other mail being forwarded to the Sheffield main office for cancelling.

Does anyone have more examples of the Wadsley postmark?

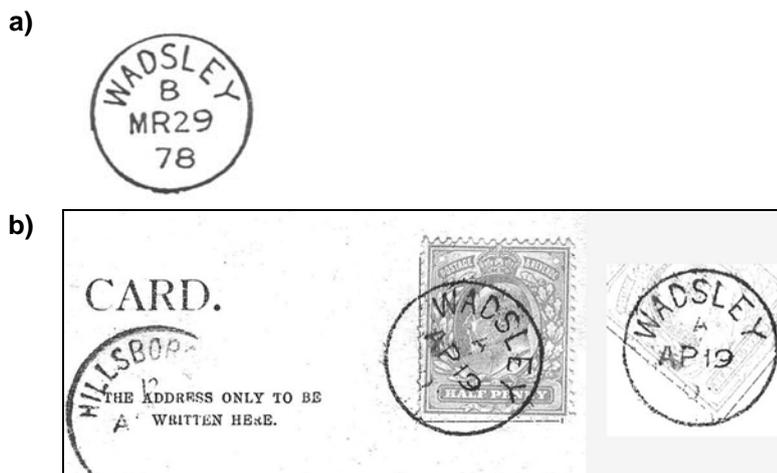


Figure 2 – Examples of the Wadsley Postmark: a) the proof book example, 1878, from Ronald Ward's article; and b) possibly from 1909.

You can find more articles on Sheffield's postal history at our web site.

The Sheffield Philatelic Society meets at 7.15 pm on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month (except August) at the Central United Reformed Church, 60 Norfolk Street, Sheffield, S1 2JB.

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