

# ◆ CASS COUNTY CLIPPINGS ◆

Volume 1, Issue 1

January 17, 2000

## CYPHERS POST OFFICE 1909-1933

Andrew Watt became Cypher's first postmaster on Oct. 14, 1909. Mr. Watt and his mail-order bride located the post office in a corner of a small tarpaper building which also served as a general store. In 1912, when Mrs. Watt could take no more of the "pioneer life", she left and the postoffice was without a bookkeeper.

Harry and Hugh Norton, brothers, arrived near Cyphers in the spring of 1912 to clear a road and get buildings ready for the family which was to come that fall. The Watts store was the only store close by where they could buy provisions. Mr. Watt asked Harry to take over the books. Since the only salary for the postmaster was a percentage of the stamps that were sold, there was no salary for the bookkeeper either. Harry continued keeping books for the postoffice, until he drowned in December of 1914.

Mr. Watt sold the store and turned over the post office on July 31, 1914 to Stanley Harwood and his partner, Howard Postlwaite. Albert Wood became postmaster on August 17, 1915. Hugh Norton purchased the business and became postmaster on March 10,



*Miss Mary Ann Norton of Cyphers received this post card on December 29, 1926 at 6:00 p.m. Cyphers is classified as a "ghost town" and faded from existence in 1933.*

## EDUCATIONAL TRUNKS FOR SCHOOLS

The historical society would like to put together a trunk on early schools that would travel to the different classrooms throughout our county. We would love to receive your suggestions as to what would go into this trunk. Our plans are to have a generic trunk with artifacts, information, and photos which students

would use to see how children of our early settlers learned the three R's. If you have any artifacts particular to your area, we would appreciate the opportunity to reproduce these for the trunk. It would be wonderful to show children how schools in their area were taught. If you would like to be involved in the preparation of the trunk, please call (218) 547-7251 Mondays or Tuesdays. We would like to have this trunk ready for the fall of 2000.

A PUBLICATION OF THE  
CASS COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY,  
PO Box 547, WALKER,  
MN 56484  
218-547-7251  
MUSEUM DIRECTOR:  
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SANDY PAULY  
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OLIVER OPHEIM  
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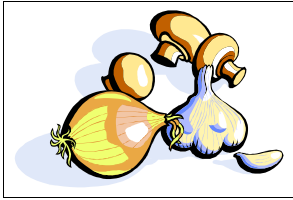
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