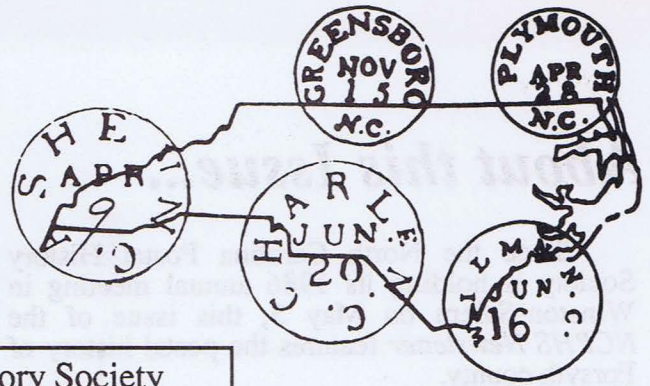


NCPHS Newsletter

The Journal of the North Carolina Postal History Society



Volume 5, No. 2

April, 1986

Whole No. 17



Forsyth County Featured ...

Articles begin on page 3.

About this Issue...

Since the North Carolina Postal History Society is holding its 1986 annual meeting in Winston-Salem on May 3, this issue of the *NCPHS Newsletter* features the postal history of Forsyth county.

In this issue there is great article by Tony Crumbley about the history of the Salem post office during one period of its existence, an article reprinted from the *Twin City Sentinel* on the history of the Winston-Salem post office, and a nice display of Forsyth county covers from several collections. The editors enjoyed creating this issue. If you like this format of concentrating on one city or county in an issue, let them know. It might happen again.

A special thank you goes to Betty Shirley of the North Carolina Room, Forsyth County Public Library for her help in creating this issue.

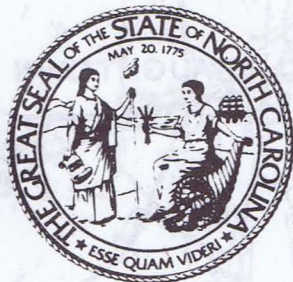
Don't forget the annual meeting on May 3. You will find all the details about it on page 6. We hope to have a large turn-out for this event. Come on out and get together with your fellow collectors for the business meeting. Then stay to view some nice North Carolina exhibits and swap covers or stories.

See you in Winston-Salem!

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Cover: A section of a 1948 Rural Free Delivery Route Map produced by the Post Office Department showing Winston-Salem and surrounding area. Circled numbers indicate RFD routes. From the Post Office Site Location Reports, Record Group 28, Records of the Post Office Department, National Archives.



NCPHS Newsletter

The *NCPHS Newsletter* is the official journal of the North Carolina Postal History Society. It is published quarterly.

Membership in the society is \$10 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the Treasurer. Submissions for the Newsletter or inquiries may be addressed to the Editors.

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O.A. Keehln's Salem Post Office

by
Tony L. Crumbley
P.O. Box 219, Newell, N.C. 28126

The postal history of Salem is full of exciting events and markings. From its meager beginning as the postal facility for the Moravian colony in 1792, through the Civil War, to the present time as Winston-Salem, Salem presents us with interesting collecting possibilities.

Perhaps one of the most colorful collecting periods of Salem is the beginning of the Civil War. Under the guidance of postmaster Orestes Aeneas Keehln, Salem produced many interesting covers for today's collectors including the highly desirable Confederate postmaster provisionals, Scott numbers 73UX1 through 73UX4. Figure 1 shows Scott number 73UX3.

Until the recent article by Brian Green and this author, published by the Philatelic Foundation in *Opinions II*, little has been published on the Salem provisionals and their reprints.

Thanks to the persistence of Postmaster Keehln to retain postal records, we are allowed a glimpse at the materials needed for operation of a post office of 1861. Shortly after Confederate Postmaster General John H. Reagan took office,

he requested from each southern postmaster an inventory of all postal property in their possession. Responding to this request, Postmaster Keehln completed an inventory of his office on June 1, 1861 and forwarded the list to the chief of the Appointment Bureau in Richmond. Postmaster Keehln retained a duplicate copy of this report which is in the author's collection. The transcript of the complete inventory of the Salem post office on June 1, 1861 follows:

P.O. Salem Forsythe Co. No. Car.
July 8, 1861

Chief of The Appointment Bureau
Post Office Department, Richmond, Va.

Sir, I take great pleasure, In accordance with Post Master Reagan's Instruction to Append below, an inventory of all Mail Bags, Locks and Keys, & all other property belonging to or connected with the Postal Service which remained in this office on June 1, 1861.

Respectfully
Your Obt. Servant
O.A. Keehln P.M.

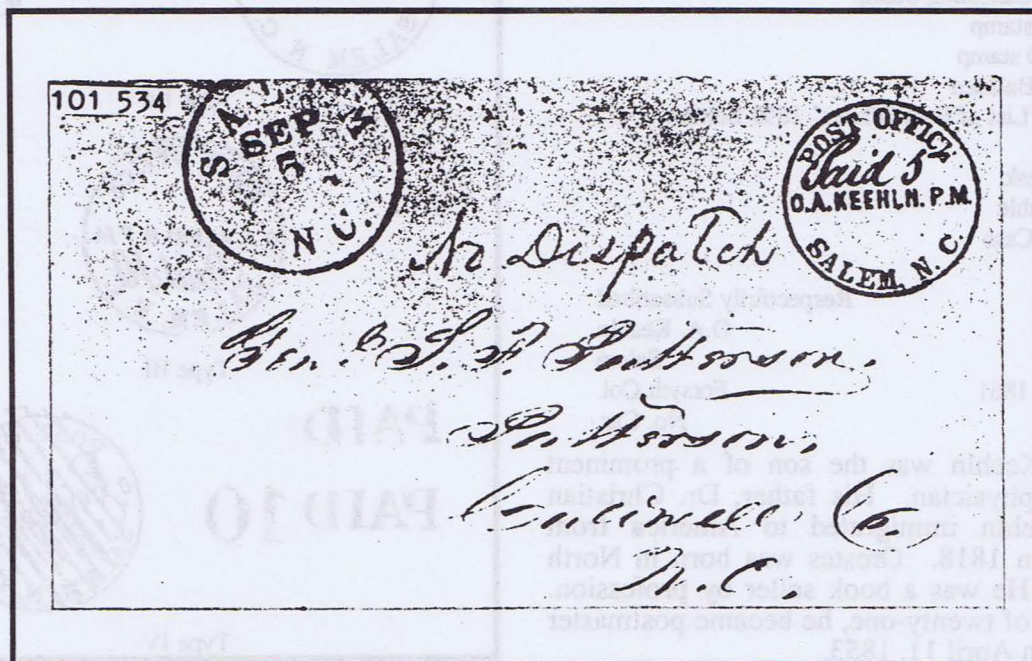


Figure 1. Salem Provisional, Sept 5, 1861. Scott number 73UX3.

Inventory

- 4 Reams Wrapping Paper
- 2 lbs. 10 oz. Hemp Twine
- 6 lbs. White Cotton Twine
- 1 1/2 lbs. Sealing Wax
- 84 Sheets Registered letter Bills 3 on a sheet
- 1400 sheets Signature Post Bills 6 on a sheet
- 4 sheets Accounts Currant 1 on a sheet
- 20 sheets Short Monthly Mail Registers 2 on a sheet
- 10 sheets Long Monthly Mail Registers 4 on a sheet
- 20 Sheets Weekly Mail Registers 4 on a sheet
- 24 sheets Accounts of Registered Letters Received
- 27 sheets Account of Registered Letters Sent
- 17 sheets Account of Prepaid Printed Matter
- 20 sheets Account of Regular News Paper
- 134 sheets of Mail Sent
- 163 sheets of Mail Received for delivery
- 5 Registered Letter Receipt Books
- 3 Iron Mail Keys
- 1 Brass Mail Key
- 3 Brass Mail Locks
- 25 Iron Mail Locks
- 9 Canvas Newspaper Mail Bags
- 3 Horse Mail Bags
- 14 Canvas Mail Pouches
- 1 Iron Office Stamp and Fixtures
- 1 Iron Paid 3 Stamp
- 1 Iron Free Stamp
- 1 Iron Paid Stamp
- 1 Iron Post Office Bureau Stamp
- 1 Wood Canceling Stamp
- 1 Iron 5 stamp
- 1 Iron 10 stamp
- 1 Letter Balance
- 1 Book "List of Post Offices" 1859 Edition
- 1 Book
- 1 Old Desk
- 1 Old Table
- 1 Letter Case

Respectfully Subscribed
O.A. Keehln
Salem
Forsyth Col.
No. Car.

June 1, 1861

O.A. Keehln was the son of a prominent Moravian physician. His father, Dr. Christian David Keehln immigrated to America from Germany in 1818. Orestes was born in North Carolina. He was a book seller by profession. At the age of twenty-one, he became postmaster of Salem on April 11, 1853.

The site of his original 1853 office is not certain. In 1856, he was granted a lease from the Moravian council to a room formerly occupied by the Young Men's Missionary Society. The rent was \$25.00 per year. He also leased the room next door for \$20.00 per year. Perhaps this was his bookshop. According to John Larson, historian of Old Salem, this was on the east side of Main Street, just north of Academy Street between the Winkler Bakery and the Boys School. Today no structures stand on this site.

Orestes continued his postal duties throughout the war and afterwards until June 24, 1865. During this time, Salem had a population of approximately 3,000. The Salem post office continued to operate as such until 1899 when it merged with Winston to become Winston-Salem.

The exact date of the first usage of the

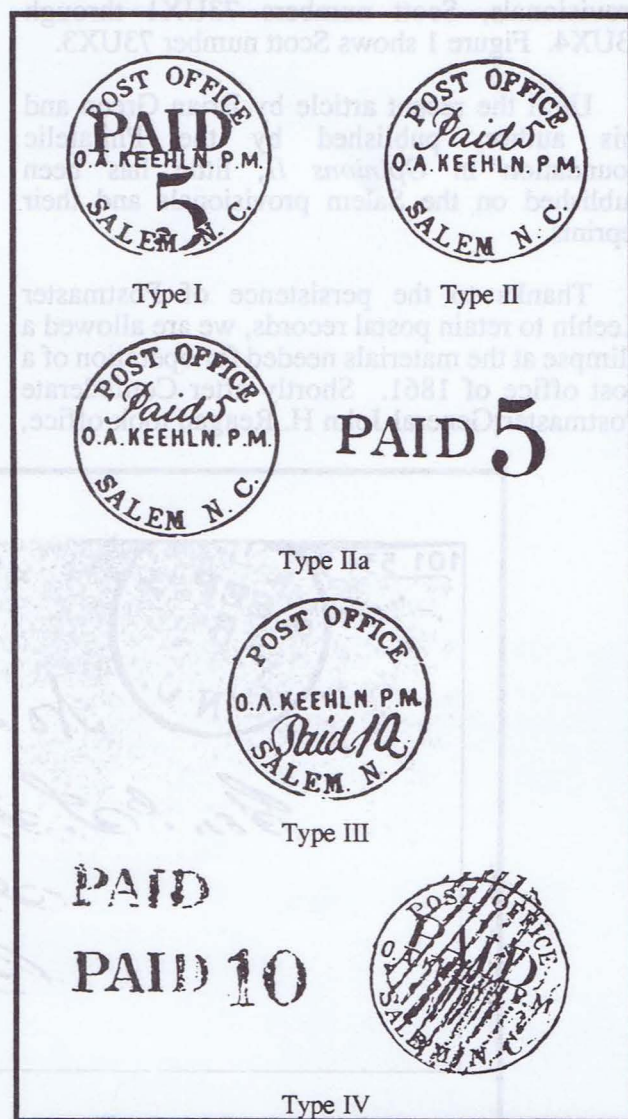


Figure 2. Five Types of Provisionals

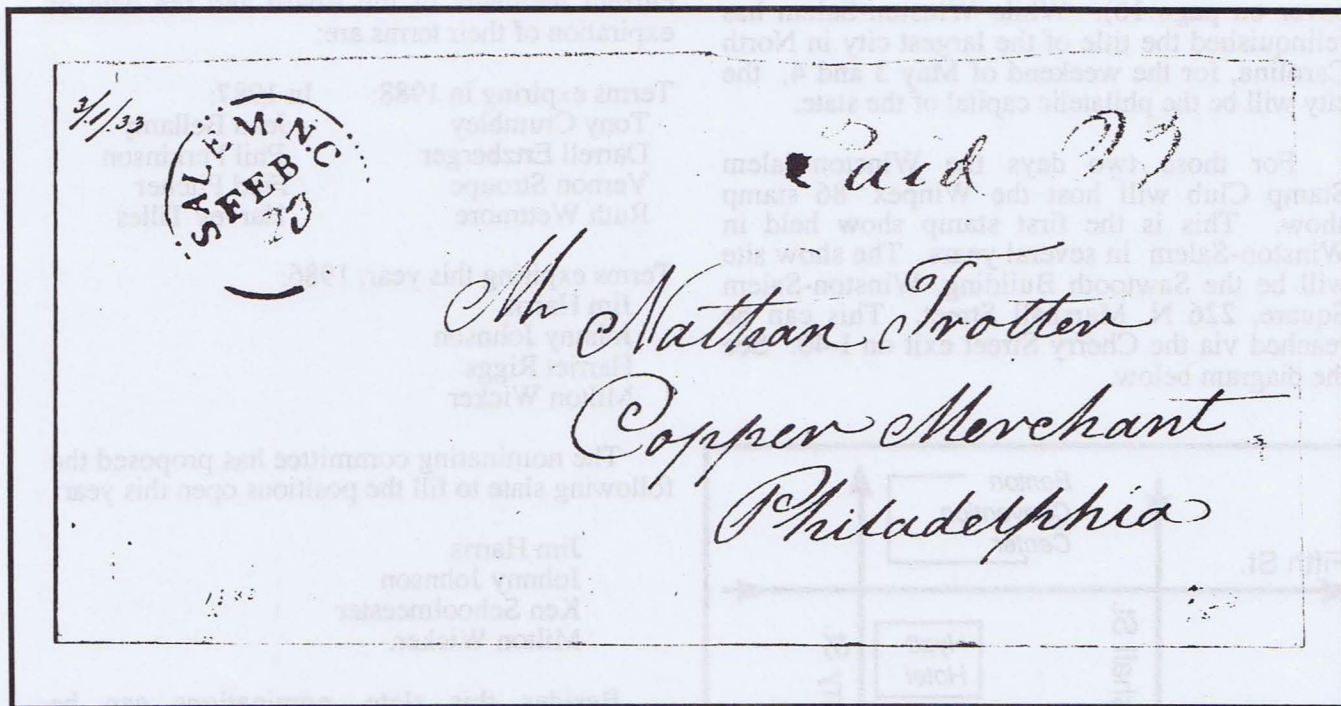
provisional marking will most likely never be known as most existing covers are without enclosures and the year date does not appear on the covers. A study of the existing covers indicates that the earliest usage was August, 1861 and the last use was November, 1862. Five types of provisionals are known. They are shown in Figure 2. These covers are not common. Only 28 Salem provisionals are known to have survived. By type, the numbers known today are: Type I, 6 covers; Type II, 17 covers; Type IIa, 3 covers; Type III, one cover; and Type IV, also one cover.

Many reprints of this provisional exist today. The son of Postmaster Keehl offered 1,400 reprints to a prominent dealer for \$125 in 1936. The reprints can be distinguished from

the originals and therefore do not pose a threat for the collector. The characteristics of the reprints and the genuine provisionals are covered in considerable detail in the Philatelic Foundation's article. Serious collectors should refer to this article for more information.

After considerable study the author feels extreme caution should be used with any Salem provisional where the control marking is not located in the upper right hand corner. Apparently these covers are forgeries made from pre-war handstamp paid covers.

In order to continue the study of these covers, the author would appreciate hearing from anyone with copies of genuine Salem provisionals in their collection. **NCPHS**



A Recent Discovery

by

Tony L. Crumbley

P.O. Box 219, Newell, N.C. 28126

Of the more than 200 reported stampless handstamp North Carolina covers, only six are considered "fancy". The above pictured Salem cover has just been brought onto the market, adding not only a new stampless marking, but an additional fancy marking. This red broken circle marking measures 27 mm in diameter. The rate marking reads "Paid 25" in manuscript. The date is February 23, 1833.

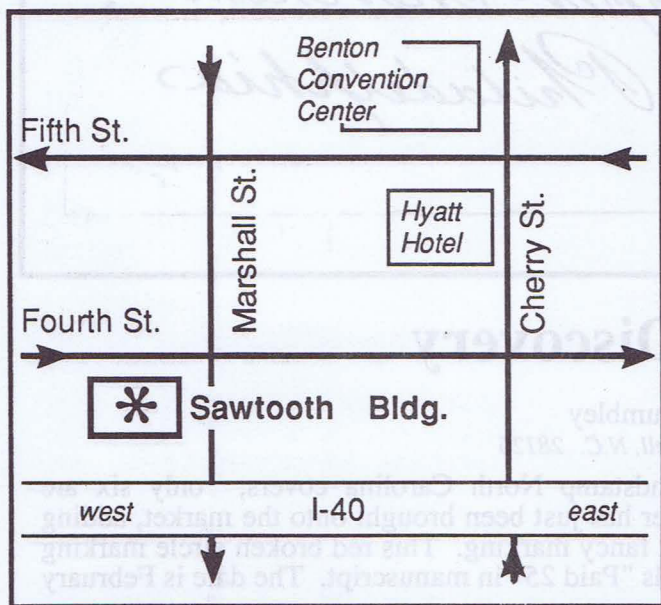
The author would like to hear from anyone who has similar covers in their collection or who have seen other similar covers. **NCPHS**

NCPHS Annual Meeting Is May 3 in Winston-Salem



In the 1920's Wachovia Bank & Trust used this emblem on its stationery to promote the bank's hometown (it's on the back of the bottom cover on page 16). While Winston-Salem has relinquished the title of the largest city in North Carolina, for the weekend of May 3 and 4, the city will be the philatelic capital of the state.

For those two days the Winston-Salem Stamp Club will host the Winpex '86 stamp show. This is the first stamp show held in Winston-Salem in several years. The show site will be the Sawtooth Building, Winston-Salem Square, 226 N. Marshall Street. This can be reached via the Cherry Street exit on I-40. See the diagram below.



Map to Winston-Salem's Winpex '86

The North Carolina Postal History Society will hold its annual meeting at the show on Saturday, May 3, at 11:00. Several items of business will be discussed. The society will hear a report on our application to become a non-profit organization. There will be a discussion of a new project to compile and publish the North Carolina stampless markings. A site for the next fall semi-annual meeting will be selected.

Four terms of the Society's Board of Directors expire this year. New directors will be elected to fill these three-year positions. The current members of the Board and the date of expiration of their terms are:

Terms expiring in 1988:

Tony Crumbley
Darrell Ertzberger
Vernon Stroupe
Ruth Wetmore

In 1987:

Jean Bellamy
Phil Perkinson
Fred Pitcher
Harvey Tilles

Terms expiring this year, 1986:

Jim Harris
Johnny Johnson
Harriet Riggs
Milton Wicker

The nominating committee has proposed the following slate to fill the positions open this year:

Jim Harris
Johnny Johnson
Ken Schoolmeester
Milton Wicker.

Besides this slate, nominations can be introduced from the floor at the meeting. The new board will meet immediately after the general meeting to select officers for the coming year.

All members and anyone else interested in the Society are encouraged to attend the meeting and visit the Winpex '86 show. Also exhibits of North Carolina postal history are needed. If enough are entered, the A. Earl Weatherly award will be given. It is not too late to get in an exhibit. A prospectus can be obtained from Harvey Tilles, P.O. Box 5466, High Point, N.C. 27262.

NCPHS

Twin City Postal System Began in Salem in 1792

by
Mary C. Wiley

[This article originally appeared in Winston-Salem's Twin City Sentinel on May 4, 1953. Some parts have been edited for the sake of brevity.-Ed.]

Entirely without the seeking of the Brethren, postal service was established for the first time in Old Salem in July, 1792, according to Wachovia Memorabilia for that year.

Prior to that time the Brethren of Old Salem had to depend upon passing strangers for their incoming mail or upon friends returning from Pennsylvania.

Their out-going mail had to be carried by wagon to Petersburg or Cross Creek or Charleston and from these points conveyed by slow sail boat to Pennsylvania or Europe.

A Salem diarist, in a summary of the outstanding events of July, 1792, wrote:

We must also mention with thankfulness that according to a resolution of the Congress of the United States the long-wished-for arrangement for postal service was completed and put into operation. We were glad that a postman, riding from Halifax to Salisbury, would pass through Salem.

Our Br. Gottlieb Schober (Shober) was appointed postmaster and we made first use of the post to send letters to Pennsylvania and hope by it also to keep in touch with the political news.

On Aug. 20, 1792, the diarist wrote:

For the first time we had the pleasure of receiving letters from Europe and Pennsylvania by the post-rider, who will now come every 14 days.

However the post rider did not come every 14 days, for as the diarist records, time and again he was delayed by rough roads, winter rains and snow storms.

In 1805 upon the opening of the great post-road from Washington to New Orleans, the Brethren of Old Salem made an effort to have the road pass directly through Salem.

They commissioned Postmaster Schober to

communicate with the Postmaster General, Gideon Granger, and also with their congressional representative, Colonel Joseph Winston, pointing out the profit that would come to the post should the road be led through Salem through the many passengers in North Carolina and other states who had daughters in the Boarding School for Females in Salem.

Nothing came of this effort for better mail facilities in the community nor of an effort made four years later when Dr. Couzin of Washington, who had charge of the post on the road was visiting Salem.

In 1809 a petition was sent to the Postmaster General asking that two posts a week be established in Salem; this petition did not receive a favorable reply. However, some years later Salem was given two posts a week and in 1820 under a new schedule the town was allowed three posts instead of two.

This fact is brought out in the April 24, 1820, entry in Salem Diary and in a footnote Dr. Adelaide Fries quotes an advertisement in the *Raleigh Register* of June 9, 1820 of "a new mail stage leaving Halifax Courthouse, Virginia each Saturday morning at 4 a.m. passing through Milton, Caswell Courthouse, Lenox Castle, Greensboro, Salem and Lexington and reaching Salisbury at 2 a.m."

The only reference in the Records of the Moravians to the postal service of Old Salem is the appointment in July 1792, of Gottlieb Schober (Shober) as first postmaster and the request February 2, 1803, of Schober that the proper steps be taken for the appointment of his son Nathaniel Schober to take his place as postmaster of the Moravian village.

[The Salem post office] was discontinued and consolidated with Winston-Salem on June 30, 1899.

A post office was established at Winston, Forsyth County, North Carolina, on February 28, 1851. It was discontinued on July 26, 1869, and re-established on February 9, 1871. Its name was changed to Winston-Salem on June 15, 1899.

Listed below are the names of the postmasters who served at Salem and Winston-Salem and the date of the appointment of each as shown in the records of the Post Office Department now in the National Archives and in

records still maintained by the Department:

(The dates following the first four names on the list give the date of the first report or return from the Deputy Postmaster to the Postmaster General, rather than the date of appointment.).

Gottlieb Shober, Oct. 1, 1792; Christopher Rich, Jan. 1, 1797; Gottlieb Shober, July 1, 1800; Nathaniel Shober, April 1, 1805; Gottlieb Shober, Sept. 9, 1810; Emanuel Schober, Jan. 8, 1833; Sanford B. Sheelts, July 29, 1846; Charles E. Kluge, June 1, 1852; Orestes A. Keehln, April 11, 1853; Augustus T. Zevely, June 24, 1865; Henry W. Shore, May 18, 1869; Henry L. Shore, March 17, 1882; Jacob Blickendeffer, Nov. 3, 1882; Thomas Douthet, July 22, 1885; Henry L. Shore, Aug. 2, 1889; Robert W. Belo, Dec. 21, 1893; William P. Ormsby, Jan. 14, 1898.

(Finding in Records of the Moravians no mention of the second name on the above list of Salem postmasters, Christopher Rich, we are inclined to think that the man who sent in the returns of the office must have been Christoph Reich, who in the 1790's was associated with Gottlieb Schober in his tin shop).

These are the men who have served as the postmasters of Winston and then of Winston-Salem:

John P. Vest, Feb. 28, 1851; Matthew R. Banner, Sept. 17, 1853; Peter A. Wilson, June 16, 1854; James Collins, Sept. 10, 1856; James A. White, Sept. 23, 1857; Hizekiah (Hezekiah) Thomas, Jan. 14, 1858; Nelson S. Cook, Sept. 4, 1865; Samuel A. Thomas, Sept. 25, 1865; Moses V. Faircloth, June 15, 1866; N.W. Nading, May 18, 1869; Jacob Tice (Tise), June 29, 1869; William W. Albea, Feb. 9, 1871.

Also W.A. Walker, June 17, 1875; J.F. Hellen, Feb. 24, 1883; W.A. Walker, Sept. 26, 1883; Samuel H. Smith, July 22, 1885; William H. Wheeler, Aug. 2, 1889; Edgar H. Wilson, Dec. 21, 1893; Philip H. Lybrook, Jan. 14, 1898; Charles A. Reynolds, Feb. 7, 1901; R.S. Galloway, May 29, 1913; N.S. Cranford, Dec. 1, 1920; John T. Benbow, Jan. 5, 1922; Paul A. Bennett, Feb. 12, 1924; William B. Booe, January 15, 1930 (Still serving) [*remember this was written in 1953.-Ed.*].

One hundred and two years ago Winston's first postmaster, John P. Vest, passed out the mail from a small cupboard in the back of Harmon Miller's store "on the Square."

In the gloomy days following "the surrender," the government, finding the Winston office not self-sustaining, was ready to move it to Salem when Nathaniel Webster Nading volunteered his services for the accomodation of his fellow-citizens and served as postmaster without remuneration. NCPHS

Asheville Show Set for May 17-18

The Asheville Stamp Club will sponsor Ashepex '86 on May 17 and 18 in Asheville, N.C. This annual stamp show will be held at the National Guard Armory on Brevard Road (NC Hwy 191). The Armory can be reached via the Brevard Road exit off I-240 or the Highway 191/West Asheville exit off I-40 west. Show hours are 10 to 5 on both Saturday and Sunday. Frames for exhibits are available. A prospectus or more information can be obtained from Exhibit Chairman, P.O. Box 8317, Asheville, N.C. 28814.

Newspaper Articles on N.C. Post Offices Wanted

The *NCPHS Newsletter* can always use current articles about North Carolina post offices or postal service. If your local paper runs a story on those topics, please clip it and send it to Editor Darrell Ertzberger at the address on page 2. Be sure to indicate the name of the newspaper and the date the story was run. The *Newsletter* may reprint these articles so that all our members may benefit. We want to know when new offices open, old ones close or move, or other current postal happenings. Of course, any historical articles are always welcome too.

Since none of us can subscribe to all the papers in the state, help out your fellow postal historians by sharing the information in your area.



Forsyth County Covers 1841 - 1986

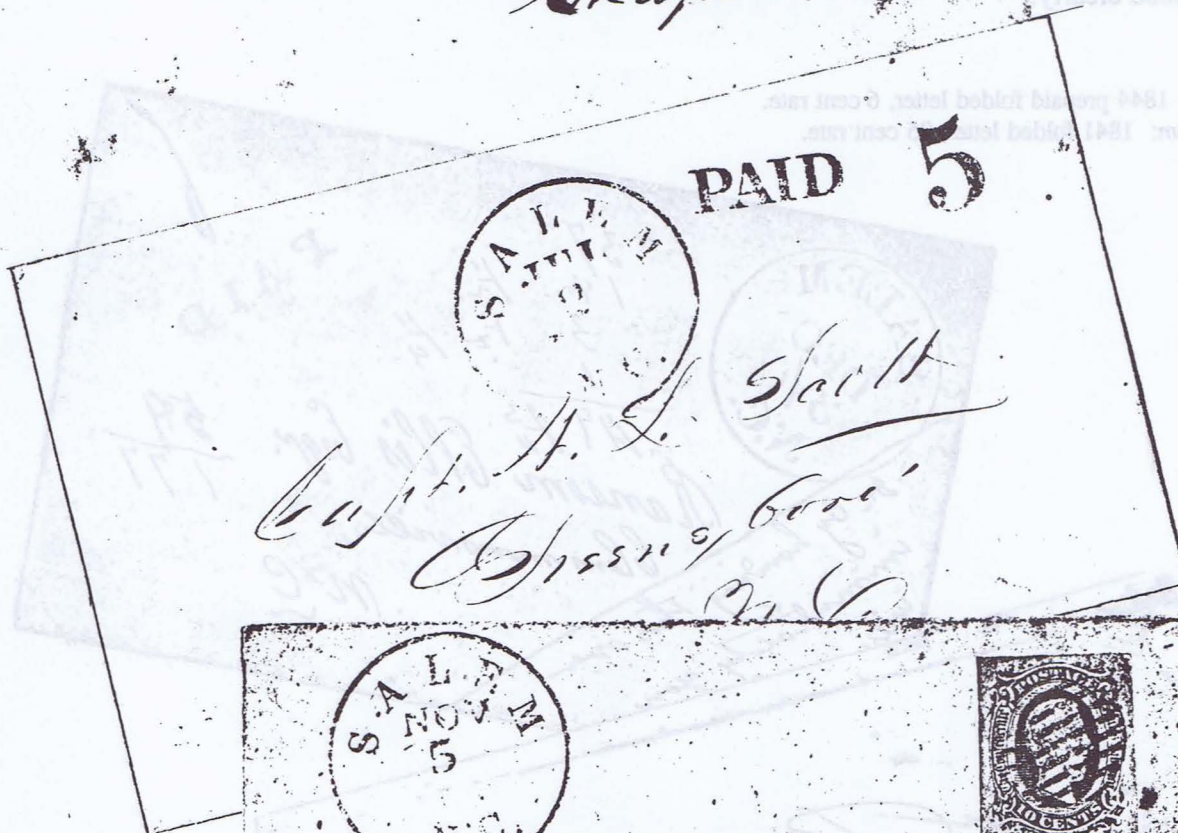
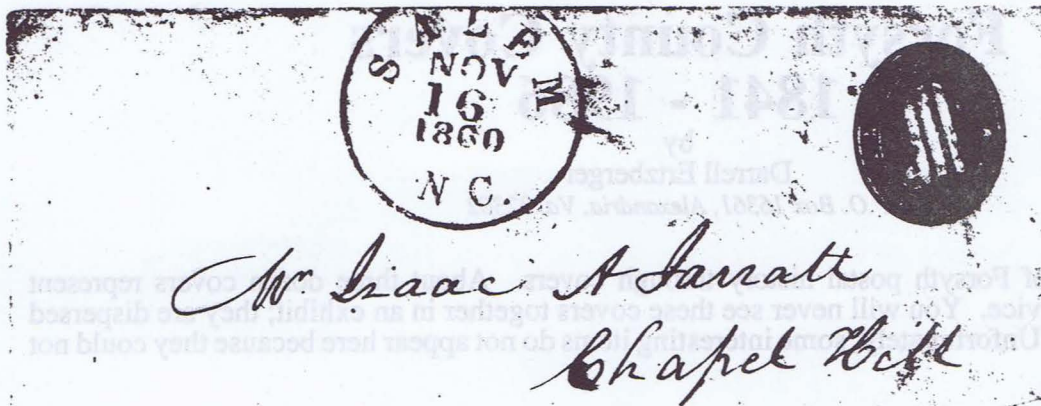
by
Darrell Ertzberger
P.O. Box 16361, Alexandria, Va. 22302

This is quick survey of Forsyth postal history through covers. About three dozen covers represent 145 years of postal service. You will never see these covers together in an exhibit; they are dispersed in several collections. Unfortunately, some interesting items do not appear here because they could not be reproduced clearly.

Top: 1844 prepaid folded letter, 6 cent rate.
Bottom: 1841 folded letter, 25 cent rate.



Markings on both covers are blue. Salem was in Stokes county at this time. Forsyth was created in 1849.



Salem before and during the Civil War.

Top: 1860 3 cent star die envelope.

Middle: Handstamped five cent paid.

Bottom: Confederate cover with 10 cent Jefferson Davis stamp.

Salem in the 1870's and 1880's.

Top: 1883 star killer mailed to Philadelphia and forwarded from there.

Middle: Reversed US in circle killer of 1870's.

Bottom: 1870's mourning cover.



Winston nc
May 9



Mrs Gelpheine E. Mendenhall
James Town
N.C.

Winston nc
March 25

Paids



W. B. Bunting Esq.



See accompanying letter in N.
Davidson College
Huntington, W. Va.
1862

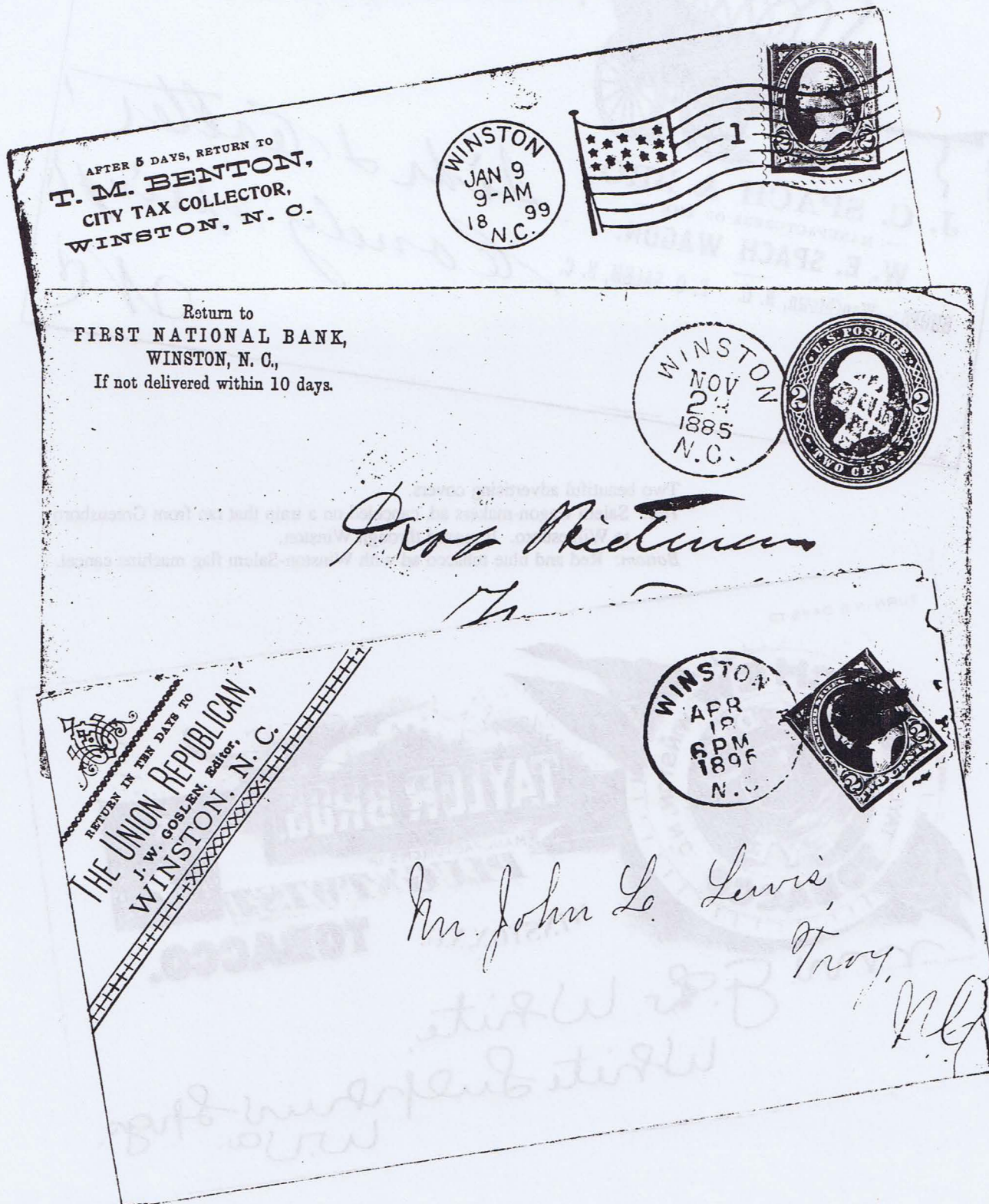
Winston's post office was established in 1851.

Top: Pre-war manuscript cancel.

Middle: 1862 Confederate paid manuscript on old US envelope.

Bottom: Large circular date stamp with 5 in circle killer from 1870's.

Top: Scarce Winston flag machine cancel. Used only 1898-99.
 Middle & Bottom: 2 different circular date stamps with cork
 killers. One from 1885 the other from 1896.

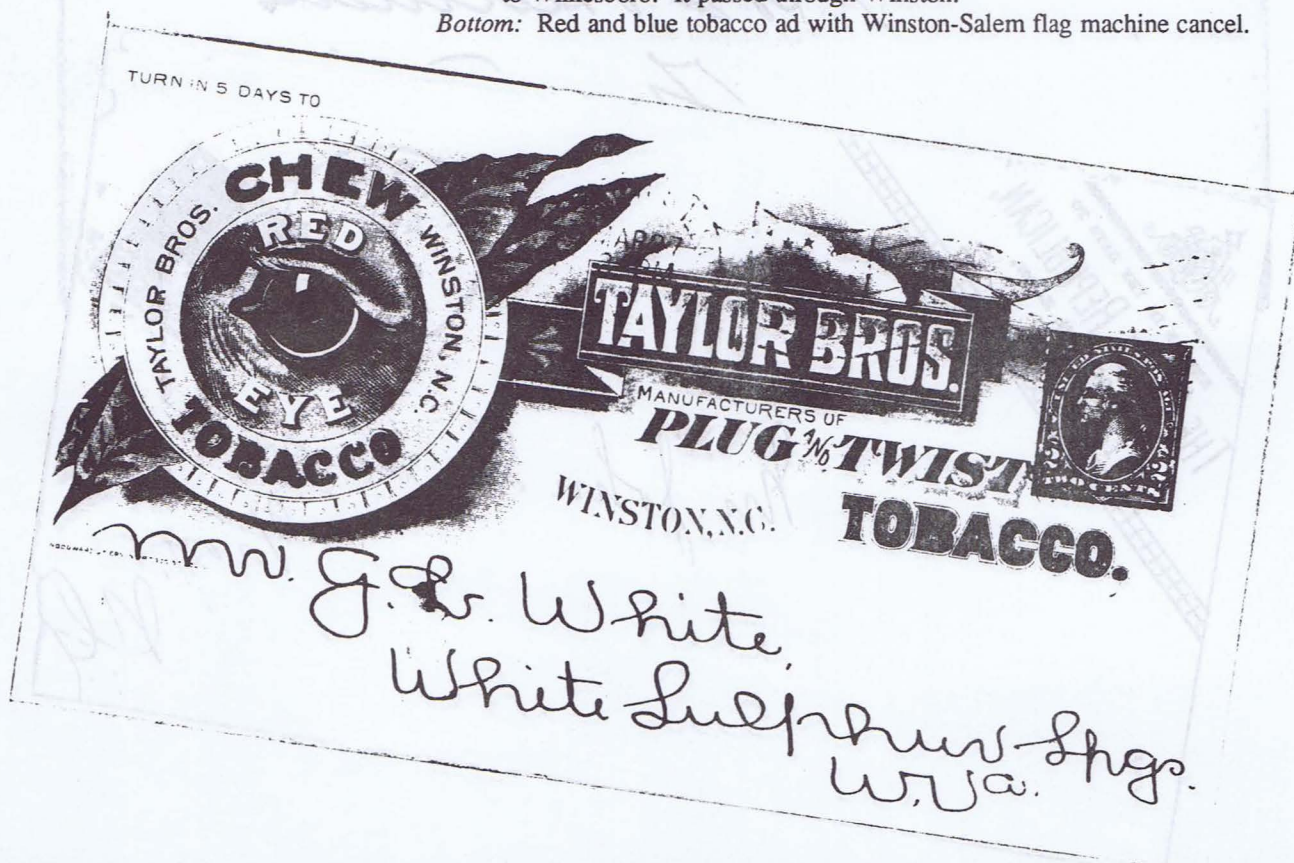




Two beautiful advertising covers.

Top: Salem wagon-makers ad, canceled on a train that ran from Greensboro to Wilkesboro. It passed through Winston.

Bottom: Red and blue tobacco ad with Winston-Salem flag machine cancel.



POSTMASTER: Advertise
this Letter for 15 Days
before returning to Liipfer
Scales Company, Winston-
Salem, N. C.



Unclaimed

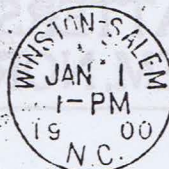
POSTAL CARD

THE SPACE BELOW IS FOR THE ADDRESS ONLY.

Dr. C. A. Shaw,
State Laboratory of Hygiene



After 5 days, return to
 GLENN & MANLY,
 WINSTON, N. C.



Mr. R. D. Gilmer,
 Waynesville,

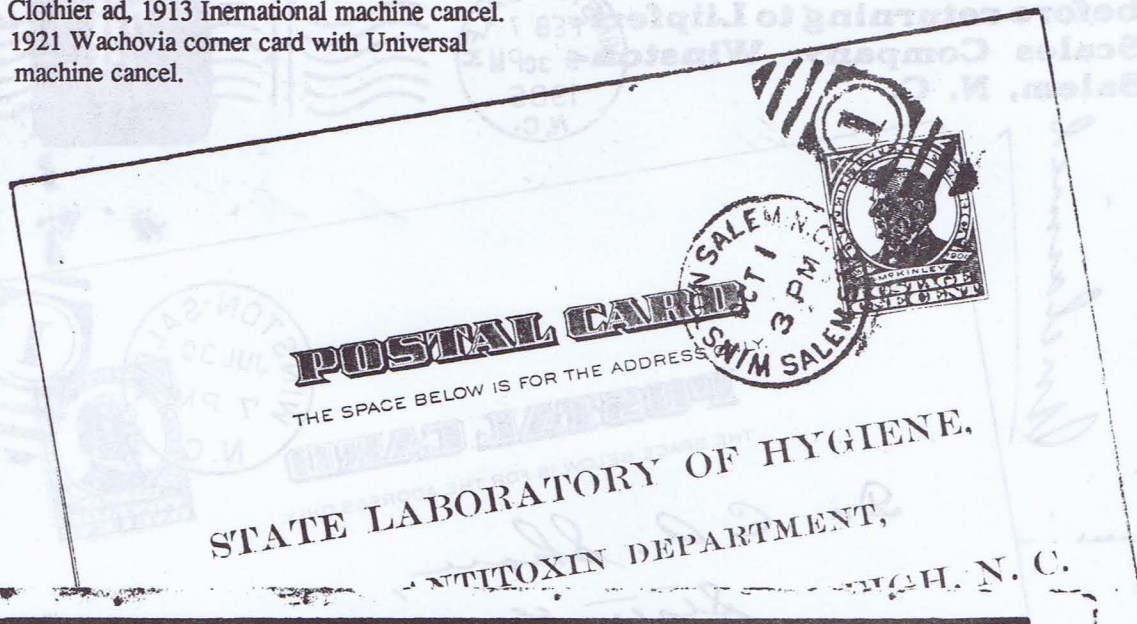
N. C.

The Winston and Salem offices were consolidated June 30, 1899.
 Top: 1905 Columbia machine cancel.
 Middle: Standard duplex cancel, 1909.
 Bottom: American flag machine cancel, note date: January 1, 1900!

Top: Salem Station duplex, 1912.

Middle: Clothier ad, 1913 International machine cancel.

Bottom: 1921 Wachovia corner card with Universal machine cancel.



N. L. CRANFORD & COMPANY
CLOTHIERS, HATTERS & FURNISHERS
WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA



After 5 days, return to
WACHOVIA BANK & TRUST CO.,
Cor. 3d & Main Sts.,
WINSTON-SALEM, N. C.



Cochran & Broughton,
Troy, N. C.



WARREN TREICHLER AGENCY
 NEW and RENEWAL
 MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS
 FOGELSVILLE, PA., U.S.A.



**VIA
 AIR MAIL**
 Envelopes of this
 design approved by
 P. O. D. for exclu-
 sive use in Air Mail



A. C. Ral
High Point
N.C.

First flights.
 Top: 1948 C.A.M. 87, Piedmont Airlines.
 Bottom: 1928 C.A.M. 19, Pitcairn Aviation.

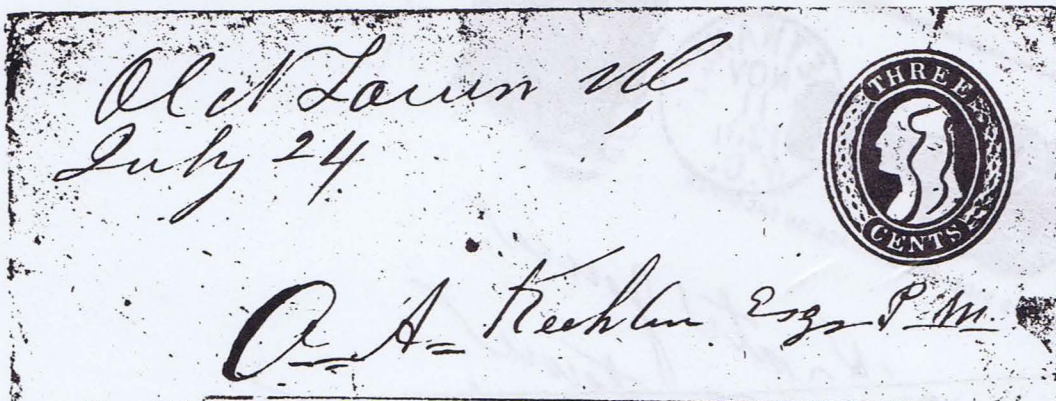


Rural Free Delivery cancels.

Top to bottom: 1908 Clemmons route 1 manuscript, 1903 Tobaccoville route 1,

1903 Winston-Salem route 3, 1903 Winston-Salem route 4.

Has anyone seen cancels from Winston-Salem routes 1 or 2?

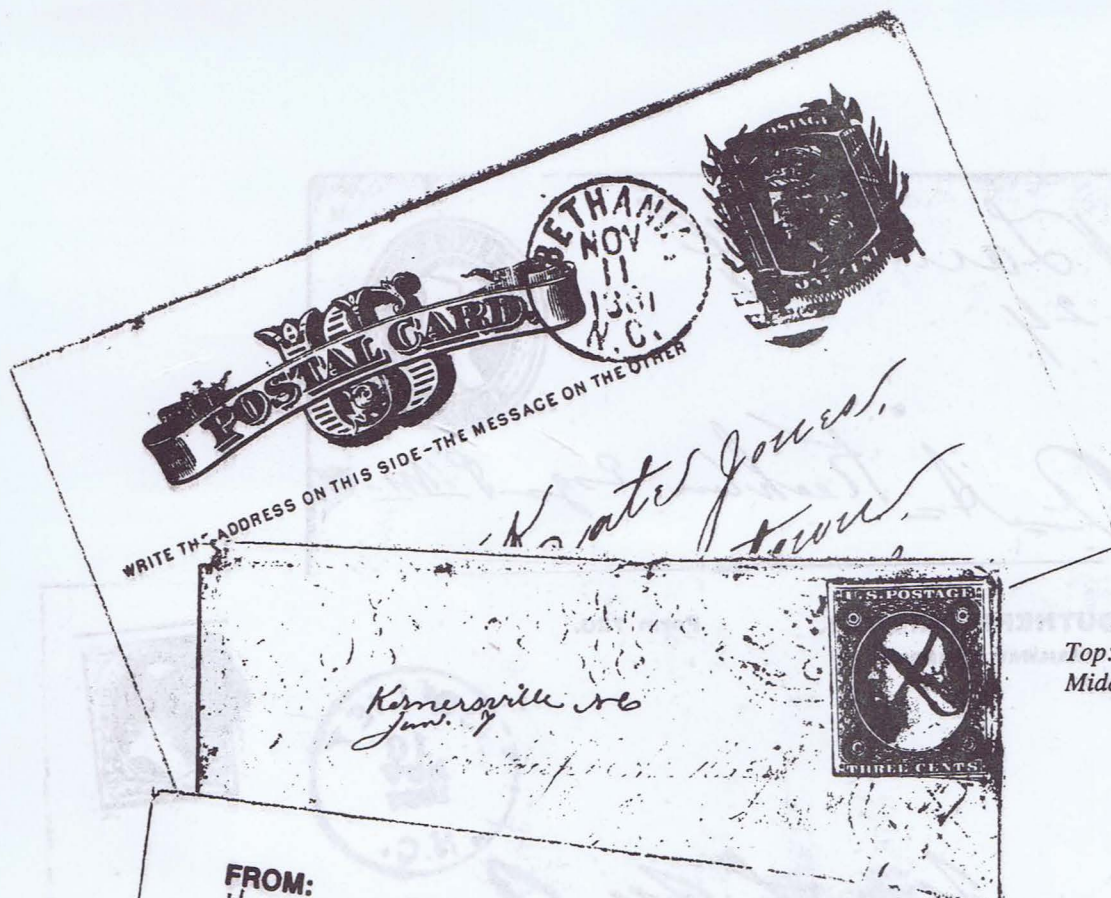


Other Forsyth offices.

Top: Pre-war Old Town envelope, addressed to postmaster of Salem

Middle: 1898 Joliet cover with railroad corner card

Bottom: 1886 manuscript cancel from Salem Chapel



Top: 1881 Bethania duplex.
Middle: Ladies cover with
Kernersville manuscript
cancel.

Bottom: Here's what we have come to today. The majority of Forsyth county's mail no longer carries a cancel from the originating office. Most mail is canceled at the Greensboro Management Sectional Center, as was this 1986 cover from Pfafftown.

Many thanks to Tony Crumbley, Ken Schoolmeester, Harvey Tilles, and Alan Vestal for supplying photocopies of covers from their collections.