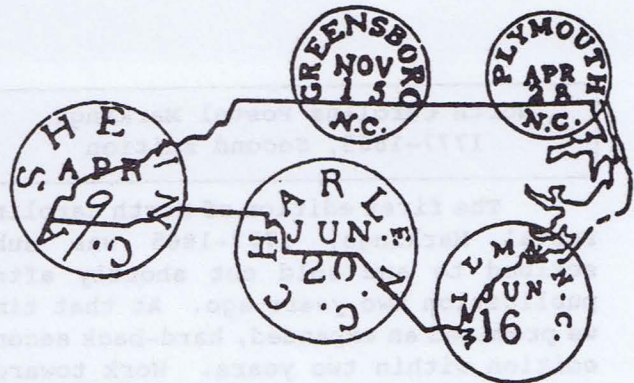


# NCPHS Newsletter



The Journal of the North Carolina Postal History Society

Volume 9, No.3

Summer 1990

Whole 33

YADKINVILLE, N.C. SEP 5

Joseph Davis  
Harris County Ind  
Harris Ind



A

NEWLY

DISCOVERED

NORTH CAROLINA

STRAIGHT LINE CANCEL

"YADKINVILLE, N.C. SEP 5" (1860)





North Carolina Postal Markings,  
1777-1865, Second Edition

The first edition of North Carolina Postal Markings, 1777-1865 was subscribed to and sold out shortly after publication two years ago. At that time we promised an expanded, hard-back second edition within two years. Work towards that goal progressed slowly but steadily. The pace of fresh material arriving has been in trickles and spurts, but it has not ceased.

It is time to devise a cut-off point or date, but how is this to be done without creating a need to start a third edition? Is it more desirable to get the second edition into print than to have a more complete work?

The NCPHS Society is still a young organization. We are not getting bored with what we are doing, and God willing, we never will. Therefore, we feel that more delay will inconvenience few, and will produce a more desirable product.

This decision produces opportunity. Only a few steadfast individuals have continued to furnish us with photocopies of their latest acquisitions. Most of the members have made considerable acquisitions in the last two years, and

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some of you were not members when the first editions was published, and your N.C. covers were not photocopied and included. That is the opportunity. Please send me your material for inclusion in the second edition. Send it to:  
Vernon Stroupe  
PO Box 8879  
Asheville, NC 28814



NCPHS Newsletter

The NCPHS Newsletter is the official journal of the North Carolina Postal History Society. It is published quarterly in January, April, July, and October.

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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## Quantities of the 1¢, 3¢ and 12¢ Issues Delivered to North Carolina in July 1851

by  
Thomas Richardson and Kenneth Schoolmeester

This listing is the Post Offices, and total amount of stamps delivered to North Carolina in July 1851, according to Pat's Paragraphs[1]. Throughout the United States four hundred seventy four post offices received 5,452,500 of the 3¢ 1851 stamps during that month. Earlier dates than the one's listed are possible, because travellers took stamps with them from town to town. The authors believe that this listing actually reflects only the July shipments - not the shipments in June 1851, which were made to various post offices to be sure they had a supply of the 3¢ for the first day of sale on July 1st 1851. As proof of this theory we would like to point out that there are first day covers known from at least 22 different post offices. The listing from Pat's Paragraphs shows only two possible first day cities; Baltimore, Md. and Washington, D.C.[2] In Carroll Chase's book a similar list is given of the first shipments. Dr. Chase has an equal doubt of the list, "While writing up the 1847 issue I strongly suspected that the list as given in this book of consignments of the '47 stamps was either incorrect or incomplete, and I fear that the same thing is true of the early 1851 consignments." [3]

A letter from Leo, N.C., in the possession of one of the authors, states that the writer purchased 30 stamps on July 1st (1851). With the relative proximity of Leo to Plymouth, Edenton and Raleigh, we assume the purchase was made at one of these three post offices.

Please report all July and August 1851 covers with 1¢, 3¢ and 12¢ 1851 issues to the authors. A photocopy of the cover and contents would be best.

### 1¢ 1851-First Month of Issue

Post Office	Supply Date	Total
Edenton	July 18	1,000
Greensborough	July 28	1,000
Raleigh	July 24	2,000
Wilmington	July 20	2,000
Windsor	July 25	500

### 3¢ 1851-First Month of Issue

Edenton	July 18	3,000
Fayetteville	July 12	2,000
Greensborough	July 28	5,000
Hillsborough	July 28	5,000
Jefferson	July 28	2,000
Lenoir	July ?	1,000
Morgantown	July 31	3,000
Plymouth	July 21	3,000
Raleigh	July 8	10,000
Salem	July 26	3,000
Salisbury	July 28	3,000
Tarborough	July 21	3,000
Wilkesboro	July 28	2,000
Williamston	July 26	3,000
Wilmington	July 20	10,000
Windsor	July 25	3,000

### 12¢ 1851-First month of Issue

Chapel Hill	July 21	100
Raleigh	July 24	100
Windsor	July 24	100

### References

- [1] Perry, Elliott, Pat's Paragraphs, Bureau Issues Associations, Inc., Takoma Park, MD 20912, p 85.
- [2] ibid, p 87-91
- [3] Chase, Carroll, The 3¢ Stamp of the United States 1851-57 Issue, Quarterman Publications, Inc., Lawrence Mass. 01843, p 38-39.



## PEEPS INTO THE PAST

by

Robert J. Stets

### Background to our story:

1. On May 8, 1794, an Act of Congress "to establish the Post-office and Post-roads within the United States" (the Post Office Law) was approved, which, among many other things, established a Post Road: "From Hillsborough, by Person Courthouse, Caswell Courthouse and Rockingham Courthouse to Germanton" (later extended to Bethania).

2. On February 25, 1795, Charles Moore was appointed Post Master at Person Court House.

3. Sometime later in 1795 or early 1796, Charles Moore moved to Mount Tirzah and was appointed Post Master there, as indicated by a letter to him in February 1796.

4. Charles Moore waited in vain for the mail contractor to deliver mail to him at Mount Tirzah, finally complaining to the Post Master General, who, in April 1796, wrote to the mail contractor, asking him to deliver the mail at Mount Tirzah. After waiting for almost a year (patient, wasn't he?) Post Master Charles Moore again complained to the Post Master General. The Postmaster General then sent the following letters:

General Post Office  
May 18, 1797

Charles Moore, Esq.

Sir,

I should have replied sooner to your former representation respecting Mr. Winston's conduct in not calling at Mount Tirzah with the Mail, but on referring to his Contract, I find it is left optional with him whether he goes by Person or Mount Tirzah and I could not make the Schedule otherwise, as Person Court House is named in the law.

I find that as long ago as the 12th of April, 1796, I informed Mr. Winston that there was no occasion for his sending the Mail by Person Court House and

requested him to take the road by Mount Tirzah for the accommodation of the Inhabitants in that Neighborhood(sic) - Mr. Winston, however, has shewn(sic) no disposition to accommodate the Public on this occasion and unfortunately I cannot compel him to call at Mount Tirzah though I am convinced it is the most proper place for an office and ought to have been designated in the route from Hillsborough to Bethania.

I beg you, sir, you will be so good as to explain this business to your Neighbours(sic) that I may be exonerated from all censure. If the route from Hillsborough to Bethania is not as accommodating as it might have been, the fault is not mine, nor can I apply a remedy for it. I will make another application to Mr. Winston on the subject, let the result of it be what it may, but more than this I cannot do. What difference does it make in the Ride whether Mr. Winston goes by Mount Tirzah? I am informed it is the shortest route but to induce him to gratify you with calling regularly at Mount Tirzah with the Mail, I have offered him an additional compensation at the rate of Thirty Dollars a year during the remainder of his Contract.

I am, &c (Joseph Habersham)

General Post Office  
May 18, 1797

Mr. Thomas Winston  
Sir,

I requested you in my letter of 12th of April to direct your rider to leave the mail at Mount Tirzah instead of passing by Person Court House, where there is no office, nor any Neighbourhood to be accommodated with the Mail.

I find that it is left optional with you to go by Person or Mount Tirzah, but independent of my request, I should have supposed that you would have taken that Route with a view of gratifying your Neighbours at Mount Tirzah and I hope you will still direct your Rider to call at that place regularly with the Mail as the difference in the ride whether he goes by



you will leave the Mail regularly at Mount Tirzah.

I am &c (Joseph Habersham)

Background for the next story:

On the 1796 Post Road map, (a copy of which appeared on the first page of the Fall 1989 NCPHS Newsletter) the Yadkin River is shown well to the east of Montgomery C.H. On an 1804 Post Road map, a correction has been made and the Yadkin is shown passing just to the west of that place. Tindallsville also appears on the 1804 map, just west of the Yadkin, a few miles from Montgomery C.H. on the road to Salisbury.

General Post Office  
June 19, 1798

Alexander McArthur  
Sir,

It appears that the Post office at Montgomery Court House is very inconveniently situated as crossing and recrossing the (Yadkin) River is frequently attending with difficulty and tends to retard the Progress of the Mail.

I have therefore determined, especially as I am informed you wish to resign your appointment, to remove the Office to Tindallsville and have appointed Mr. Cambell(sic) the Deputy Post Master of that place to whom you will be pleased to deliver the enclosed Letter with such Letters as are remaining on hand, the Maps of the United States Roads and any other articles of Post Office property that may be in your Possession - be pleased to transmit your accounts.

I am &c (Joseph Habersham)

June 19, 1798. Appointed Mr. Campbell(sic) Deputy Post Master at Tindallsville, North Carolina to succeed A. Arthur at Montgomery Court House which Office is discontinued.

I DON'T WANT IT, YOU CAN HAVE IT!

General Post Office  
September 11, 1798

Mr. Clement Lancier  
Sir,

Mr. Picket, who was appointed Post Master at Wadesborough informs me that as he could not conveniently undertake the business, he had delivered the Papers of

the Office and Bond which I sent him to be executed, into your hands and recommends you to hold the appointment.....

I am, Sir, &c (Joseph Habersham)

A POST OFFICE BY ANY OTHER NAME . . .

General Post Office  
November 13, 1797

Abner Whitney  
Sir,

I now enclose you a Commission as Post Master at New Lebanon (N.C.). It appears to me that Pasquotank River Bridge, from its situation as to the Post Road and being a Port of Entry should have been the place named in the Law instead of New Lebanon. In compliance with the Law, it will be necessary to hold the Office under the name of New Lebanon and if there should be any objection to Pasquotank River Bridge for the situation of the Post Office, it can be removed to New Lebanon.

I am &c, (Joseph Habersham)

HOW DO YOU SPELL THAT NAME?

General Post Office  
June 15, 1798

Maj. Robert Williams Jun.  
Sir,

It is represented to me that the establishment of an office on the Route from Hillsborough to Martinsville at David McGahey's(sic) will be an accommodation to the people of that Neighbourhood(sic). In consequence of which I have established an Office at that place and have appointed Mr. David McGahey(sic) Post Master.

On the recommendation of the Post Master at Halifax I send the Letter containing Mr. McGahey's(sic) appointment to you and must request the favor of you to have the blank Bond and Oaths properly executed by him and when they are returned, I will send him a Commission.

I am &c, (Joseph Habersham)

June 15, 1798. Appointed Mr. David McGahey(sic) Deputy Post Master Guilford County N.Ca.

You can pick your own spelling of that Postmaster's name! On an 1804 Post Road map, the only location shown between Hillsborough and Martinsville is identified as "Allemance".

NCPHS



## ST. LEWIS, N.C.

By Scott and Amy Troutman

Shown in the figure is a cover from St. Lewis, North Carolina with a beautiful star cancel on a Scott U313 envelope. This is a scarce cancel as St. Lewis only had a post office from July 14, 1886 to January 30, 1904. This post office was only in operation 18 years. The town is just east of Wilson in Edgecombe County.

What bothered us was, "Who was St. Lewis?" A check of "The Avenel Dictionary of Saints" indicates that there never was nor has there ever been a St. Lewis known to the Catholic church. This led us to searches of libraries in three states, including the Post Office Library in Washington, D.C. As best we have been able to determine from our research, what we have here is a rare case of a self made saint.

The Post Office Department records and the early North Carolina records are in disagreement over who was the first postmaster of St. Lewis. The North Carolina Gazeteer indicates that the first postmaster was one John I. Lewis. Indeed, we think that he was! John Lewis apparently operated a general store in

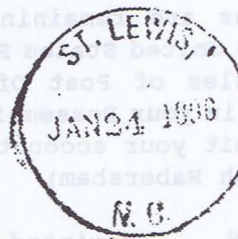
the area. As often happened, people would drop off mail at the store, which he would deposit in the post office when he made a trip into Wilson for supplies. The store also served as a drop off point for post riders, who would drop off mail for people in the area.

As was fairly common, a town grew up and eventually needed a name. Somewhere it seems that John Lewis had acquired the nickname, St. Lewis. Maybe he thought a lot of himself, or maybe it was given in spite, to mock a grouchy disposition. Where it came from, we will never know, all that we do know is that it stuck.

And so, in often used custom, they chose the name of the store owner for that of the town. Anderson's Store and Marines, North Carolina are two other towns named by this method (Marines was a family name and had nothing to do with the military service).

The Post Office Department lists John E. Cobb as the first postmaster of St. Lewis, and he probably was the first one commissioned to do the job. Cobb

*Robt Pitt  
St Lewis  
me*



*Missrs. Jos. Shumaker & Co*

*Hamilton*

*Ohio*

*ans*



opened a number of post offices in the Edgecombe County area, including the very short lived Nice, N.C. (June 31, 1886 to August 17, 1880). A note in the "North Carolina Post Office Catalog", by Johnson and Perkinson, indicates that Nice was never opened. In our reading of the Post Office microfiche there was as notation "Never Around", indicating that Cobb worked out of St. Lewis and visited

Nice on infrequent occasions.

It may come as a great shock to the followers of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton that she is not the first American saint, being cannonized in 1975, rather she was beaten out by 89 years by a man immortalized as a saint through the name of a town, without ever having been cannanzed. We suggest that he should be made the patron saint of discontinued post offices.

NCPHS

## FIRST NORTH CAROLINA POST OFFICE SITE SURVEY SUBMITTED

By Vernon S. Stroupe

It is fitting that Past President and professional archeologist Ruth Wetmore should submit the first site survey of North Carolina post offices. The form submitted is reproduced on pages 9 and 10 as an illustration of the information needed on these forms. A small quantity of the site survey forms have been supplied to each NCPHS member with this issue.

The purpose of this survey is to record the old post offices and post office sites before they dissappear.

There are some parts of the site form that may not be obvious to us lay persons who do not have a background in archeology or any of the related sciences. Let's examine the form as Wetmore has used it.

1. The county name is pretty easy, but no township is listed because Transylvania is not divided into townships.
2. The post office name is Deavers. It had only one name, unlike many post offices that we will encounter.
3. The location is listed by stating the highway (road or street) that it faces and approximate distance from nearest inter-section.
4. Site owner and address is listed for a source of historical information.
5. The date of post office at this site can be taken from Johnson & Perkinson, POD microfilm, or from local knowledge.
6. Present site use is self-explanatory.
7. Local history/remarks is any information that you may know or can find.

8. Wetmore then selected a convenient scale for her sketch of the site. She chose 1 inch =  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile. The grid lines are one inch apart for your convenience. Next, she indicated North by the arrow and "N". She drew in the cross roads, side roads, trailer park and the Deaver House. The highways are numbered; the Federal highways have a shield, while the State highways are shown by the diamond. At the periphery of the drawing, Ruth indicated where the highways go. Her sketch is much neater than most of us can do, but remember, she is a pro at this stuff!

9. On the reverse is a section for listing the postmasters. Please list as many as you can find using the same resources as mentioned previously.

9. Any published record of the post office during its use in this period of time is extremely useful to future researchers.

10. Attach a photograph of the building if available. I carry a Poloroid camera for this purpose. Ruth was able to attach a fine pen-and-ink sketch of the building.

Please submit two copies of the survey; one for our central repository and one for NCPHS files. The central repository has not been identified as yet and site surveys are needed to demonstrate the need for the site and the type of information which will be in the files.

Until further notice, send your surveys to me:

Vernon S. Stroupe  
PO Box 8879  
Asheville, NC 28814



# NORTH CAROLINA POST OFFICE SITE SURVEY

County Transylvania

Township \_\_\_\_\_

Post Office Name (1) Deavers From 19 Apr. 1878 To 9 Jun. 1890

(2) \_\_\_\_\_ From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_

(3) \_\_\_\_\_ From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_

Location William Deavor (Deaver) House, on Hwy. 280, 1500 ft. N of junction  
of Hwy 280 with Hwys 64 and 276, on west side of road.

Site Owner Transylvania Co. Historical Society

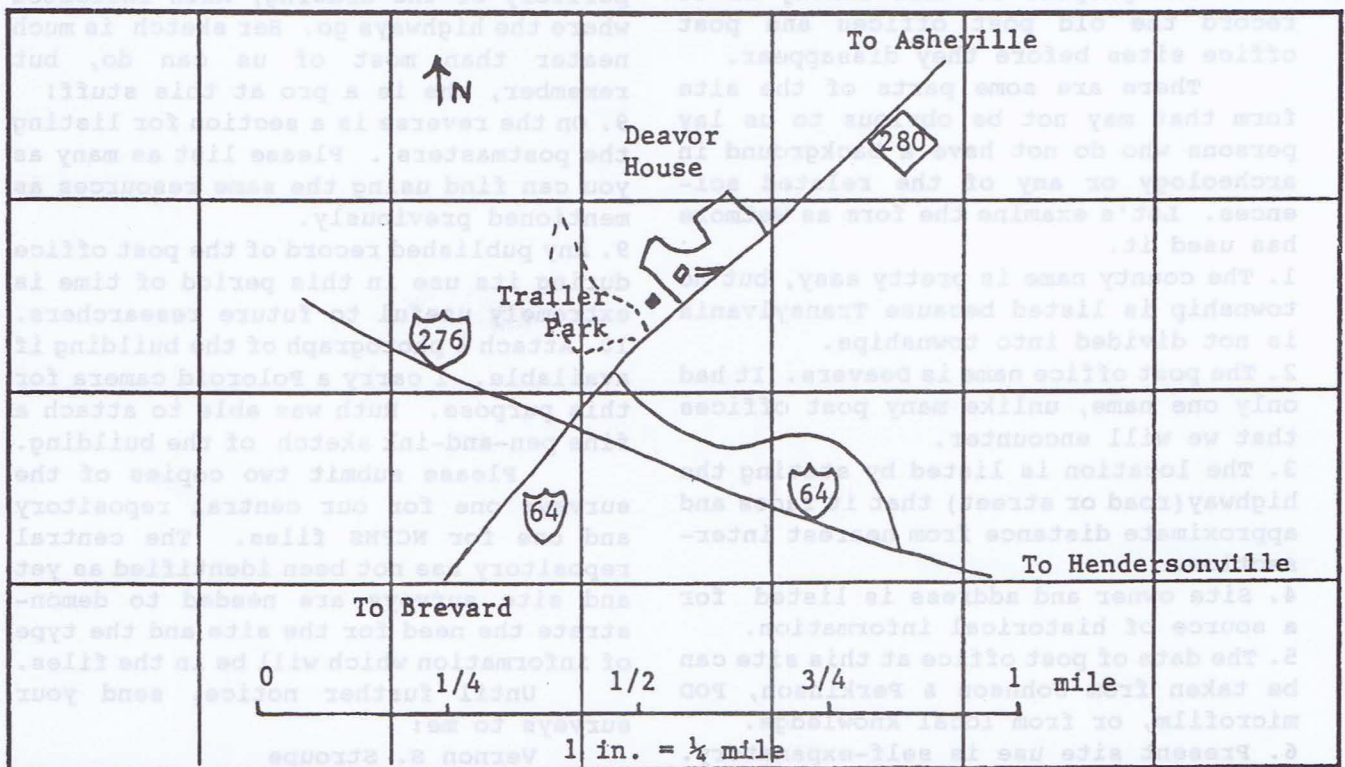
Site Owner Address P.O. Box 2061, Brevard, NC 28712

Date PO at this site 19 Apr. 1878 Disc. 9 Jun. 1890

Present site use Restoration underway for Historical House Museum

Local History/Remarks A National Register of Historic places site, nominated  
as oldest frame house west of the Blue Ridge; mailbag lock found in house.

Sketch Map



(Show relationship to nearby sites, access roads, streams, and major landmarks. Use State or County road numbers.) Indicate direction and scale.



POSTMASTERS

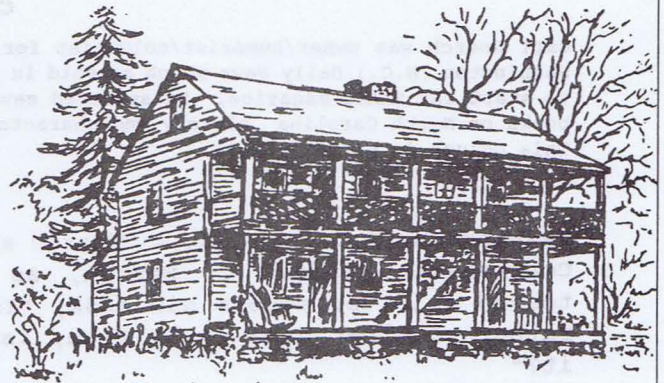
OCCUPATION

PRIMARY SITE USE

Deaver, Hattie M.

?

Domestic dwelling



Deavor House  
circa 1832

Mape  
J. L. 1900

PUBLISHED RECORD

McCrory, Mary Jane

1984 Transylvania Beginnings: A History. Southern Historical Press, Inc.,  
Basley, SC.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form

1979 William Deavor House

observer Ruth Y. Wetmore

Recording Date 2 April 1990



## MANY TAR HEEL POSTOFFICES HAVE BEEN GIVEN ODD NAMES

by  
Carl Goerch

Carl Goerch was owner/humorist/columnist for the Washington (N.C.) Daily News which he sold in 1931 to start THE STATE magazine. He authored several books on North Carolina history and characters. This column is circa 1921-31.

Washington, N.C., Oct. 11. - "That," said Congressman Lindsay C. Warren, as he tossed a letter across his desk, "Is a rather peculiar name for a town, isn't it?"

I picked up the envelope and observed the postmark. It was from Spot, North Carolina.

"Where's Spot?" I demanded.

"It's a little settlement in Currituck county," he explained. "Some mighty fine folks live in that section.

"Why did they name it Spot?" I inquired.

"How the world would I know?" he exclaimed, rather impatiently. "If you want to find out, why don't you go up there and ask them?"

"It isn't worth the trip," I replied. Besides, there are a good many stranger names for towns in North Carolina than Spot."

"Such as - " he prompted, suggestively.

"How about Day Book, up in Yancey county?" I asked.

He admitted that Day Book was just about as unusual as Spot. "But the most unusual name of all," he continued was City, up in the western part of the state. It was just a little cross-roads settlement and don't know why they named it City but that's what they called it. A whole lot of folks, when they write to somebody who lives in the same town, frequently address the envelope, 'John Smith, City'. A goodly portion of those letters were sent to City, North Carolina, and it created all kinds of confusion. Finally the postal authorities stepped in and made City change its name to something else. I don't know what the place is call-

ed now, but it's City no longer."

"Somebody told me a couple of months ago that he had received a letter from a friend in Maggie, North Carolina," I commented. That's some name for a town, isn't it?"

"No more unusual than Mamie or Bertha," he retorted. "Both of them are in Currituck county, too. If you don't believe me, there's a U.S. Postal Guide up there on the shelf behind you. Look'em up."

I picked up the volume and discovered that, among other things it contained a list of all the postoffices in the country. There are 1,448 in North Carolina alone. Wilkes county tops the list with 66, while Pasquotank is down at the bottom with only two. And so far as unusual names are concerned, Spot, City, Maggie, Mamie and Bertha aren't even in it.

The state is peppered with girls' names. In addition to the ones mentioned above, I found Amantha Mabel, Thelma, Amy, Lola, Amelia, Inez and a number of others. The men, it seems, were a little bit more modest in lending their names to communities. However, I did manage to find Joe, in Madison county, and Rufus, in Caldwell.

Day Book, in Yancey, may be a rather unusual name, but Mitchell county evidently was determined that Yancey shouldn't get ahead of it. So if you'll look on the map, you'll notice that there's a community in Mitchell named Ledger. I hunted all through the list of names for a Bank Book, but was unable to find it.

North Carolina is indeed a diversified state. If you want Friendship, you'll find it in Guilford county; if you wish to live a life of ease, go to Comfort, in Jones; if you seek Devotion, you'll be able to find it in Surry, and if you are desirous of coming in contact with Prosperity, you'll discover it in Moore.



Somebody up in Burke county, evidently was in a gladsome mood one day, for there is a postoffice up there named Joy. Isn't that just too sweet for anything! And then, to offset that spirit of gladness, a droopy-mouthed pessimist came along and named a neighboring settlement Worry. You'll find them both in Burke county - Joy and Worry.

This sort of controversial feeling apparently existed in some other counties as well, for in Surry county somebody took a notion to name a town Bottom. A few miles away, in the same county, is the community of Brim.

Up in distant Cherokee county, some fellow with love for stylish apparel named his community Vests. That's a classy name for you; more interesting than Lindsay Warren's Spot and Mamie. So unique too. The guy who picked out that name ought to have been awarded a medal, or something. But he wasn't permitted to rest upon his laurels for any great length of time, for another chap, down in Harnett county, gave his neighborhood the name of Coats. Coats put it all over Vests. But those folks up in Cherokee don't permit themselves to be defeated so easily. They are a determined lot and they're ingenious too. Just as soon as the opportunity came to establish another postoffice, they named it Suit.

Don't think I'm lying: If you find it hard to believe all this, go to the postoffice and get a postal guide of your own. You'll find Suit and Vests listed in Cherokee county and you'll find Coats in Harnett. Not only that, but if you'll turn over the page to Wilkes county, you'll find Shoe proudly listed there. And if you think that's the last straw, your're sadly mistaken, because there's another Straw, also in Wilkes county.

Put that in your pipe and smoke it. If you haven't got a pipe, you can go to Randolph county and find one. It's located a short distance from Asheboro and is a very attractive little rural community.

Furthermore, you'll find the truth not only in this article, but if you happen to travel through Chatham county, you'll find Truth there, too. It's only a couple miles from Siler City.

Folks take pride in a great many

things, and what not. Down in Craven county it seems that there was a prominent farmer who had a marked dislike for women and who steadfastly refused to succumb to their wiles. So proud was he of this achievement that he named his community Bachelor. Not to be outdone, an aged spinster up in Catawba county fixed it up with the postal authorities to name her little village Maiden. And there they are to this day: Maiden in Catawba and Bachelor in Craven. A long way apart, and absolutely no chance of ever getting them together. You see, what they really lack is passion, and that's in neither Catawba nor Craven counties: it's in Polk.

There are plenty of nuts in North Carolina. A survey of the list of towns in the state discloses the following names: Walnut, Hickory, Chinaquapin and Beech. There's a Barber in Rowan county, but if you want to find a Beard, you'll have to travel all the way to Cumberland county. And even then you might be out of luck, because Luck is located in Madison county.

Yes, sir; the postal guide is an interesting book. While I was sitting in Lindsay's office, perusing its pages he was hard at work, figuring on something or other. Finally he shoved the papers to one side and muttered, "Well, that's a relief!"

I rapidly turned the pages of the guide, ran my finger down one of the, and proudly announced: "Mitchell county!"

"What about Mitchell county?" he wanted to know.

"You'll find Relief there," I told him. But it seems that he had lost the trend of my thoughts.

"What's this, a riddle of some kind?" he demanded.

Once more I scanned the guide. "Camden county!" I yelled triumphantly.

He looked slightly bewildered.

"There's a town by the name of Riddle in Camden county," I explained.

He acted sort of peeved. "Cut out that blamed foolishness, or I'll throw this paperweight at you," he warned me.

"It wouldn't hurt me," I told him.

"Why, what would you do?" he wanted to know.

"Duck!" I shouted. "It's in Dare county."



Not only is there a Duck in Dare, but there's a Hawk in Mitchell, a Trout and a Fig in Ashe, and Toast in Surry, If your're interested in royalty, you'll find a King in Stokes, a Queen in Montgomery and an Earl in Cleveland. There are all sorts of trees - Poplar, Four Oaks, Ashe and numerous varieties of Pines and Cedars. It's all set forth in

the guide.

And lest I should forget it, there's a Guide in Columbus county. That caps the climax, doesn't it?

Climax is in Guilford county. How the dickens do you wind up an article like this? Somebody ought to brain me with a tomahawk. You can find it in Sampson county.



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