

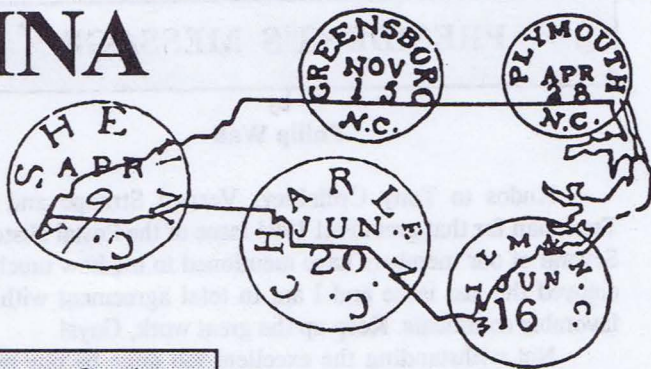
NORTH CAROLINA POSTAL HISTORIAN

The Journal of the North Carolina Postal History Society

Volume 14, No. 1

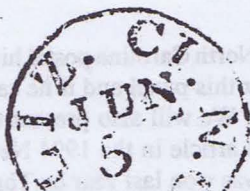
Winter 1995

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James C. Johnston Esq

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by
Philip Wall

Kudos to Tony Crumbley, Vernon Stroupe and Scott Troutman for that great Fall 1994 issue of the Postal Historian! Several of our members have mentioned to me how much they enjoyed the last issue and I am in total agreement with their favorable comments. Keep up the great work, Guys!

Notwithstanding the excellent job done by our regular writers, we still need articles from new authors. Two somewhat different topics that a new writer could cover are (1) a book review on Bob Sets new book, *Post Offices and Postmasters of the U.S., 1782-1811*, and (2) an analysis of the North Carolina section of the Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc. sale held December 13/14, 1994. (See page 3, ed.) This sale included the largest holding of North Carolina postal history material ever offered at public auction. Volunteers for either project please contact one of our editors.

Mark your calendars to be in Winston-Salem on Saturday, May 20, 1995. Our annual meeting will be held that day at Winpex '95. The Winston-Salem group always puts on a first class show. They would welcome your exhibit. Contact Mrs. Miriam C. Bumgarner, 2448 Maplewood Ave., Winston-Salem, N.C. 27103 for exhibit application forms and general information about the show.

Have you paid your dues for 1995? If not, get that check for \$10 in the mail today to Tom Richardson at his address shown below.

In an effort to get more interest in attending our annual meeting, we are having an educational program this year. We plan to have a panel of three knowledgeable philatelists discuss

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various aspects of North Carolina postal history. Vernon Stroupe has agreed to chair this panel and if he calls you to participate, please say "Yes". We will also present the A.Earl Weatherly Award for the best article in the 1994 Newsletter/Postal Historian. This award was won last year by Tony Crumbley.



North Carolina Postal Historian

The North Carolina Postal Historian 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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NORTH CAROLINA MATERIAL REALIZES OVER \$34,000 IN SIEGEL AUCTION

by
Darrell Ertzberger

Christmas may have come early in 1994 for collectors of 18th and 19th century North Carolina covers when a large number of outstanding covers were offered in Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries' sale 764 on December 13 and 14, 1994 in New York.

At least eighty-five lots of primarily North Carolina covers were included in the sale. Many of the stampless covers in the auction bore markings that were previously unknown or not reported outside of institutional collections. A large portion of these were from what the auction house called "A Southern Institution's Archives." It is rumored that this was University of North Carolina.

Prices realized for the North Carolina material were, on average, 120% above the auction house's high estimates. While most lots sold for well above the estimate, there were bargains, particularly in the Confederate lots, where several went for only a fraction of the estimate. All prices cited here do not include the 10% buyers premium. The form used is price realized/high estimate (e.g., 250/200; the hammer price was 250, the high estimate was 200).

Eighteenth century North Carolina covers are scarce, but this sale included one of the most extensive offerings ever seen of this material, 12 lots. These sold for one and a half times the high estimate on average. Some the outstanding covers offered were a 1777 Cornelius Harnett Free Frank (as delegate to the Continental Congress) (500/250), a 1790 John Steele free frank (as member of the first Congress) (375/150); and two 1798 Raleigh manuscript covers (290/150).

A section of individual stampless covers offered many choice pieces. The finest North Carolina item offered was a Milton cancel with 4 straight lines of text inside a circle. This sold for the outstanding price of \$2,700; the estimate was only \$450. Several early straight line cancels were offered: two 1808 Murfreesboro covers (1250/250 and 650/150), an early Smithfield (425/250), and two 1804 Tarborough covers - one very fine (2100/500) and one only fine (500/400). One lot of four covers that included a unreported Charlotte CDS with a double outer rim plus an inner circle and unrecorded Fayetteville "Paid" in a sunburst went for \$500, versus a high estimate of \$350.

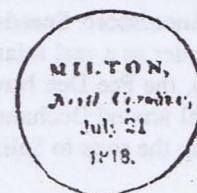
These were followed by an offering of 8 lots of ship and inland waterway covers. Virtually all sold above the estimate. An 1836 manuscript endorsement "Via Norfolk RR & Stm Bt. from Blackwater." with an origin manuscript cancel of Blakely Depot sold for \$220; estimate \$125.

Twenty-one lots offered groups of 19th century covers by town. Many fine examples were included in these lots and several went for bargain prices. On average they realized 95% of the high estimate. Some of the highlights were 16 Fayetteville covers, 1799 to 1863 (400/350) and 12 Milton covers with all different style datestamps (350/250). Some nice lots sold well below the estimate, particularly 5 different Kinston covers, 1830-45 (40/150) and 4 fine to very fine Warrenton covers (65/150). Two large lots of manuscript cancels were offered, one of 22 covers (950/800) and one with 30 (1000/1000). A lot containing the balance of the archives collection, over 300 covers, sold for \$5,500 versus an estimate of \$4,000. With the 10% buyers fee that's only a shade over \$20 a cover.

Prices for six lots of classic North Carolina railroad covers were strong. Highlights here were a N. Carolina R.R. cds on a free frank cover (325/250), the only recorded example of the Petersburg & Roanoke R.R. cds (Petersburg, Va. to Weldon, N.C.) on 1847 5c stamp (#1) (625/500), and a lot of 10 covers with different markings from Wilmington & Raleigh route agents (325/350).

Sixteen lots of North Carolina items were scattered through an offering of Confederate covers. Prices for these were nowhere near as strong as the earlier lots; the average hammer price was only 67% of the high estimate. Some of the interesting items here were a handstamp paid of Charlotte with a 5 in a circle and an embossed corner card of the Charlotte Female Institute (20/150), a Salem provisional cover with tears into the markings (200/1000), a lot of 9 handstamp paid from several towns (260/250), and an incoming blockade cover (Liverpool to Richmond) with Wilmington markings (800/2500).

Overall prices sales for the early North Carolina material were strong, undoubtedly due to the high caliber of the material. Many treasures and seldom-seen items were offered in this sale. Auctions with this many excellent North Carolina pieces do not occur often. Collectors who neglected to bid in this one may not see material like this offered again for some time.



Unique four-line Milton cds of Jul 21, 1818, was auctioned for \$2,700 plus 10% fee, making its cost to the owner of \$2,970!

SNEEDSBORO, ANSON COUNTY

A Colorful Inland Port City by Tony L. Crumbley

In researching the up-coming postmaster and post office book of North Carolina, an interesting problem occurred in Anson County. It was found that Sneedsborough, or Sneedsboro, and Tindalsville listed the same postmaster for a short period of time in their early years. It was discovered that Sneedsboro was indicated in official records as being in both Anson and Richmond Counties.

While trying to solve this question, the author discovered a very colorful historic era in North Carolina history.

In 1750 Anson County was formed from Bladen. In 1783 Anson C.H. was the first town chartered. (changed to Wadesborough in 1798) In 1794 it became the first post office in the newly formed county. The second town established in the county was Sneedsboro, chartered in 1795, and granted the second post office in 1799.

Sneedsboro was chartered on land southeast of Wadesboro near the South Carolina border. The site belonged to Richard Edgeworth of Edgeworth Town, Ireland, and was part of his plantation along the Pee Dee River called Aston. Darby's Universal Gazetteer refers to Sneedsboro as a post town on the right bank of the Yadkin River immediately above the South Carolina boundary. The Yadkin River becomes the Pee Dee River as it crosses the South Carolina border. The 1850 Thomas, Cowperthwait & Co. map of North Carolina places the community on the Anson side of the Pee Dee River.

The town's establishment was tied up with Archibald Murphy's internal improvement program for the state. Murphy, a lawyer from Hillsboro, dreamed of a progressive reform movement in North Carolina in 1815. It was his belief that a great inland port would arise on the Pee Dee, and he sought to make Sneedsboro a rival to Fayetteville on the Cape Fear River.

At this time, the Pee Dee was navigable from Buchanan Shoals southwestward by Cheraw to the ocean. The promoters of the new town built a canal from the river westward one mile up Huckleberry Creek to Sneedsboro. Sneedsboro became a thriving business and social center as a real inland port. Because of the success of Sneedsboro, the Pee Dee Navigation Company was formed to build a canal around Buchanan Shoals, then around Blewett Falls and on up the river to Salisbury.

The fate of Anson's proposed port was bound in a web of circumstances. Arrogant North Carolina farmers wanted to spade the canal with slave labor, rather than use the professional knowledge of a European engineer. The river at that point, with its rocky shoals could not be made navigable. The internal improvement program failed due to bad financing, lack of skill and too little technical knowledge.

Although Murphey's dreams were never realized, old accounts speak of signs of laid out streets and lots which remained for many years and of the ruins of the uncompleted canal and locks.

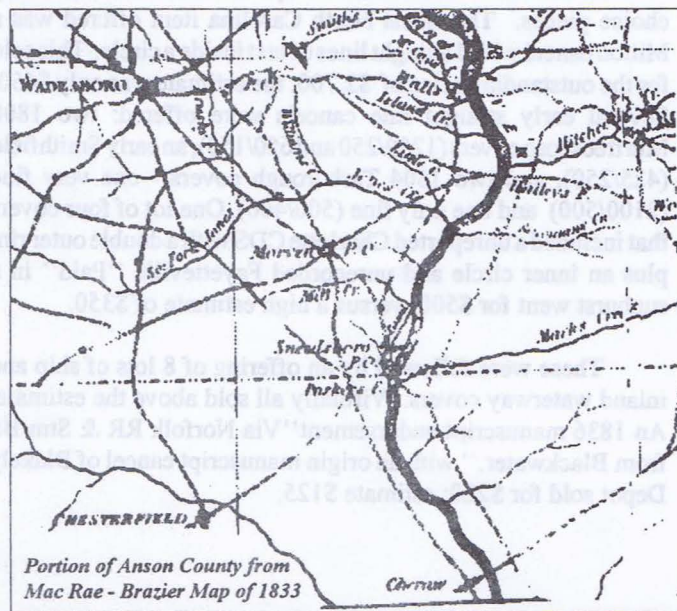
Sneedsboro flourished for some years afterwards. A local tavern became a noted social center, hosting such notables as Peggy Shippen, wife of Benedict Arnold, and Theodosia Burr, daughter of Aaron Burr, third Vice-President of the United States who killed Alexander Hamilton in a duel.

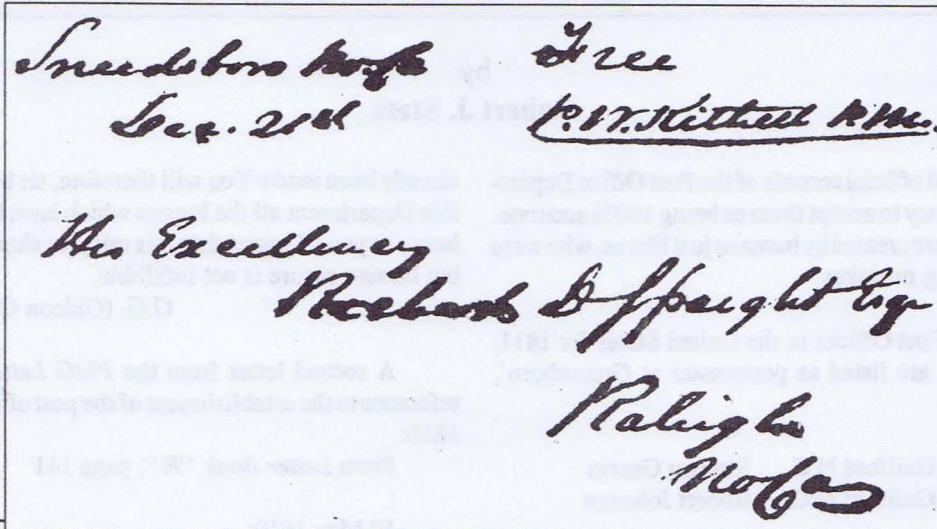
In 1817 a typhoid epidemic hit Sneedsboro and in 1830 an epidemic of diphtheria completed its destruction. In 1845 the post office was discontinued, having been in service for over 45 years.

On the 23rd of February 1874, Charles Braswell was appointed postmaster of a new Sneedsboro in Anson County. In 1883 its name was changed to McFarlan, which is currently located one mile due west of old Sneedsboro.

Today only the old grave yard, a few bricks from the chimney of the old tavern and one cover remain of the colorful community in Anson County. Perhaps in some archive other covers exists, maybe even some carried by barge down the Pee Dee to Charleston.

As for the conflict with the postmaster at Tindalsville, it is yet to be solved. Perhaps by the time the Post Office and Postmasters books are published, it will be answered. Anyone out there willing to help solve some of these problems should contact the editors, as many such problems are likely to arise while this project is undertaken.





A folded letter in the N.C. Legislative Papers addressed to former Governor Richard Spaight (1792-1795) from Sneedboro. It is free franked by Postmaster Pleasant W. Kittrell, who served Sneedboro from Dec. 20, 1829 until July 24, 1837. This is the only recorded cover from Sneedboro. Source: N.C. State Archives.

COLONIAL PERIOD TO BE INCLUDED IN N.C. POST OFFICES AND POSTMASTERS

by
Vernon S. Stroupe

Recent discussions with the editors concerning the beginning and ending dates of the huge work in progress, *Post Offices and Postmasters of N.C., 1778-1862*, (see *Postal Historian*, Vol. 13, No. 3, Summer 1994) has resulted in changing the date period from '1778-1862' to 'Colonial to USPS'.

It had been the intent of the editors to cover the time frame of the earliest recorded North Carolina cover to the beginning of the U.S. Postal Service. Comparatively little material is available of the postal system of the Colonial period, but the editors concede the need to record what little is available.

Editor Ruth Wetmore, who has finished her first task, has graciously agreed to edit the Colonial section. Ruth requests your help by sending her photocopies of all Colonial period covers for inclusion in her study. The following literature is available to

her and she would appreciate your inputs of other sources:

- (1) *The Posted Letter in Colonial & Revolutionary America - 1626 to 1790*, Alex ter Braake
- (2) *The Hugh Finlay Journal*, USPCS
- (3) *Postal Markings*, Konwiser
- (4) *The Journal of Ebenezer Hazard in N.C., 1777 and 1778*, Johnston.
- (5) *Earliest Known (N.C.) Usage* - Crumley.
- (6) *The Post Office During the Confederation* - Calvet Hahn.

Ruth's address is Mrs. Ruth Y. Wetmore, 110 Tree Haven, Brevard, N.C. 28712.

WHY WERE THERE TWO POSTMASTERS AT GREENSBORO IN 1811?

by
Robert J. Stets

In examining old official records of the Post Office Department, we have a tendency to accept them as being 100% accurate. Unfortunately, they were created by humans just like us, who were also capable of making mistakes.

In the Table of Post Offices in the United States for 1811, two different persons are listed as postmaster at Greensboro', N.C.

Greensboro' Guilford N.C.	Simeon Gearin
Greensboro' Guilford N.C.	Robert Johnson

Why two postmasters? While reading through the *Letter Books of the Postmaster General*, the reason for the double listing was revealed, showing how errors can creep into official records.

From *Letter Book "R"*, page 279: 18 Jan'y 1811

Simeon Gearin Greensbro' Guildford Cy N Ca

I have received a letter from Robert Johnson Esq^r PM at Greensboro' NC^a by which I find that there has been a mistake committed owing to an oversight in the Clerk employed in that Department of this Office. Mr. Johnson was appointed PM at the aforesaid place on the petition of Robert Lindsey & 15 others on the 14th August last. Mr. Cochran representative in Congress on 12th Oct^r last recommended the establishment of the office & your appointment as PM which was done by the Clerk, it not occurring to him at the time, that the appointment of Mr. Johnson had

already been made-You will therefore, sir be pleased to return to this Department all the Papers which have been forwarded from hence to you.- I regret that this mistake should have taken place, but human nature is not infallible.

G.G. (Gideon Granger, PMG)

A second letter from the *PMG Letter Books* provides a reference to the establishment of the post office at Greensboro' in 1810:

From *Letter Book "R"*, page 141

:

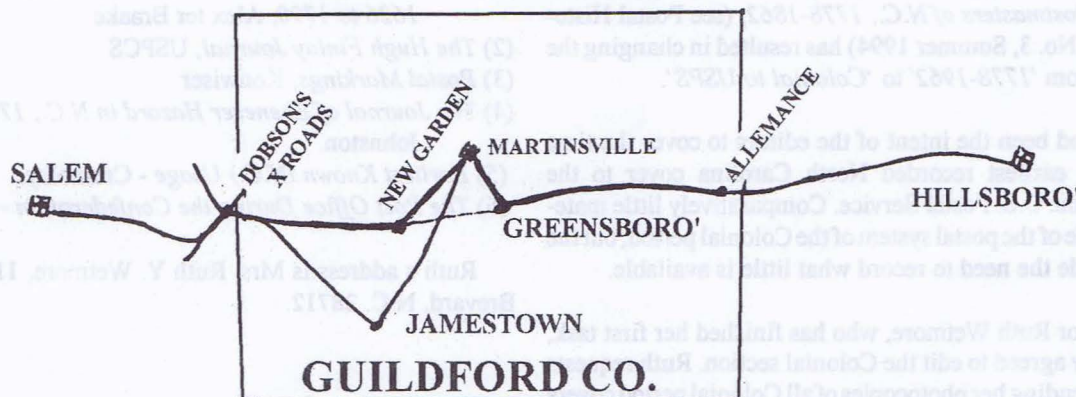
10 May 1810:

Robert Wallace (mail contractor) Percivalls, Va.

I have established a P.O. at Greensboro' in the County of Guilford (sic) - at which place I will thank you to instruct your rider to call regularly with the Mail, both in going to and returning from Hillsboro' - I have established an office at Jamestown near Martinville at which place you will direct your rider to call with the Mail on his return from Salem & Dobsons (omitting New Garden) he will call at all other offices on the route, New Garden & Jamestown excepted, as usual

G.G. (Gideon Granger, PMG)

Note the spelling of "Guildford Co.". This same spelling is found on the MacRae-Brazier map of 1833.



Route of the post rider from Hillsboro' to Salem, ca. 1811, based on the MacRae-Brazier Map of 1833.

BASIC HOW -TO PROGRAM TO BE GIVEN AT WINPEX

The following letter was received by Postal Historian Editor Tony Crumbley who replied and passed it to President Phil Wall for his information.

Dear Tony,

This letter is to advise you that I would like to be a more active member of the N.C. Postal History Society, but I am never informed of a meeting except when I read in the NCPHS (Postal Historian) that there will be a meeting at Charpex or someplace similar. There is the business of electing officers or Board of Directors, etc. Nothing else of interest that I know of, please advise me if I am wrong.

I know a postmaster who might be interested in joining the NCPHS but when I was asked what we did at the meetings, I actually had to say, "Nothing that I knew of that was interesting, and that people came and told of the projects they were working on ...we could read about it in the Postal Historian or you can buy the book when it is published. Nobody showed us what they actually did."

In the Fall 1994 issue of the N.C. Postal Historian there is an article "Buyer Beware" about fake Greensboro Confederate covers. I would like to have a meeting where thefake and the real were shown...

The only reason I continue to be a member is that I like to get the Postal Historian....But as for trying to get new members...I really can't get enthused.

Marian B. Harter

President Phil Walls reply:

Dear Mrs. Harter,

...In good years we have only 9 or 10 (members) at the meetings, most of which are directors....In the past we have had several non-business meetings but ...very few people attended.

I have thought through your letter and have decided that the most feasible way of trying to breathe new life into the society is to have a program at the annual meeting. Vernon Stroupe has agreed to chair a committee of three knowledgeable collectors who will discuss one of their special interests. It can be on any topic...

Phil Wall

REQUEST FOR PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS

The panel presentation of North Carolina Postal History is a good idea -- if our members attend, and if we know what you want to hear.

Let me hear from you, who might attend the panel program, as to what topics would you like to know about? Also, let me know what you are working on, so that the discussion can help you.

Vernon Stroupe

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NORTH CAROLINA POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY AT WINPEX'95

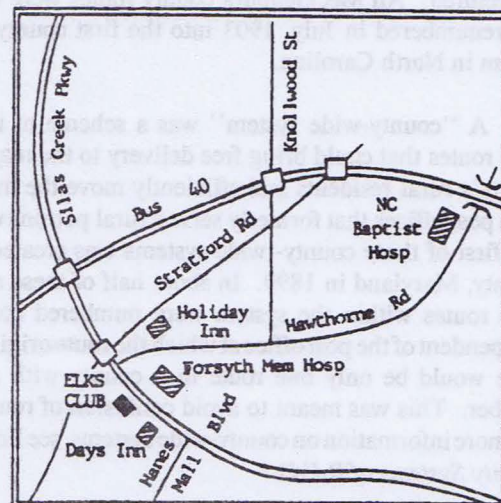
50 FRAME EXHIBIT

LOCATION: ELKS LODGE
3340 SILAS CREEK PARKWAY

TIME: MAY 20: 10 am - 6 pm
MAY 21: 10 am - 4 pm

CONTACT: TOM MAYES
3632 ROBINHOOD ROAD
WINSTON-SALEM, NC 27106
(910) 768-8286

15 S.E. REGION DEALERS



The First County-wide RFD System in North Carolina: Mecklenburg County

by
Darrell Ertzberger

Rural Free Delivery (RFD) came to Mecklenburg County on July 16, 1900, when Charlotte Route 1 was created. This route and Wilmington Route 1 were the third and fourth routes in the state; both started the same day. Charlotte's first route started at the post office downtown, went southeast on Fourth Street to Caswell Road (just past Elizabeth College). It cut across to Providence Road and followed it to Sharon Lane where it turned southwest. It turned east on Fairview Road (site of Southpark Shopping Center now), crossed Providence and continued east on Sardis Road until turning north on Randolph Road. The route then went northeast on Sharon Amity (then called Pineville Road), crossed the Seaboard rail line and turned northwest on Monroe Road. It then went back to the post office by way of Seventh Street.

For two years this was the only rural route in the county. On May 5, 1902, seven more routes were established: Charlotte 2 through 5, Pineville 1, and Huntersville 1 and 2.

Starting about August, 1900, the Post Office Department began issuing small canceling devices to rural carriers. Carriers were to cancel all mail that they picked up on their routes. These devices were supplied to all existing and new routes, until July, 1903. So all of the eight Mecklenburg routes created before July, 1903 should have received cancelers. However, at this date, there are only two reported examples of these cancels, both from the oldest route, Charlotte 1 (see Figure 1). Where are examples of the other Mecklenburg county RFD cancelers?

Based on information in the records of the Post Office Department, maps in the Library of Congress, and observations from covers that exist, the reason for this lack of cancelers can be conjectured: All Mecklenburg county routes were reorganized and renumbered in July, 1903 into the first county-wide RFD system in North Carolina.

A "county-wide system" was a scheme of interlocking RFD routes that could bring free delivery to the majority of the county's rural residents and efficiently move the mail. Fourth class post offices that formerly served rural patrons were closed. The first of these county-wide systems was created in Carroll County, Maryland in 1899. In about half of these systems, the RFD routes within the system were numbered consecutively, independent of the post office at which the route originated. Thus there would be only one route in a county with a particular number. This was meant to avoid confusion of route numbers. For more information on county-wide systems, see Edith Doane's *County Systems of R.F.D.*

In late 1902, a Post Office Department special agent arrived in Mecklenburg to begin surveying the county and laying out routes for a county-wide RFD system. This agent's report, apparently filed in early 1903, is now in the National Archives.

In this report he proposed great changes in the postal service of Mecklenburg County. First, he recommended the creation of a county-wide RFD system of 23 routes consisting of the 8 existing plus 15 new ones. Furthermore, the 8 existing routes were to be restructured, re-routed and renumbered. These routes were to be based in five offices: Charlotte, Derita, Pineville, Matthews, and Huntersville. The existing postal service provided by small offices in the rural areas would be swept away with the closure of 29 post offices in Mecklenburg and one in Union county. He recommended that the Sandifer post office on the Seaboard Railroad, be closed and replaced with a Paw Creek Rural Station, which would be under the Charlotte post office. One of the new RFD routes would originate at this proposed rural station. He expected that these recommendations would be implemented by March, 1903. Table 1 summarizes his recommendations.

For unknown reasons, the changes were not in place by March. But the plan was implemented mid-July, 1903. All of the recommendations were carried out except one. The Sandifer office was not closed and replaced by a Paw Creek Rural Station. Sandifer remained open and became the base for Route 10, which would have been called Charlotte 10 under the agent's proposals. The actual route scheme established on July 15, 1903 is shown in Table 2.

Unfortunately for North Carolina cancel collectors, the Post Office Department stopped issuing RFD cancelers in July, 1903. It appears that all the renumbered and new routes in Mecklenburg did not receive cancelers. Had the system started as originally intended in March, they would have. It also seems logical that the cancelers in use on the old routes were discarded because they had the old route numbers in their killer bars. Since it was no longer policy to supply these cancelers, replacements were never issued. Cancelers issued to the seven 1902 routes (Charlotte 2 through 5, Pineville 1, and Huntersville 1 and 2) were only used for about 13 months (May, 1902 to June, 1903), at most. Charlotte 1 could have used a cancelling device almost three years, August, 1900 until July, 1903. It is possible that the carriers worked their routes for some period before receiving their devices.

Table 1. Proposed New and Renumbered Routes, March, 1903		
Charlotte		
Route 1	to	Route 1
(est 7 July 1900)		
Route 2	to	Route 5
(est 5 May 1902)		
Route 3	to	Route 6
(est 5 May 1902)		
Route 4	to	Route 7
(est 5 May 1902)		
Route 5	to	Route 3
(est 5 May 1902)		
New Routes 2, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12		
Derita		
New Routes 13, 14		
Pineville		
Route 1	to	Route 15
(est 5 May 1902)		
New Route 16		
Matthews		
New Routes 17, 18, 19		
Huntersville		
Route 1	to	Route 21
(est 5 May 1902)		
Route 2	to	Route 20
(est 5 May 1902)		
New Routes 22, 23		

Even if cancelers were in use for the entire period possible, the amount of mail canceled could have only be a few hundred pieces. All eight of the Mecklenburg routes combined probably only served a few hundred families. There would only be a small amount of outgoing mail. Furthermore, RFD routes were a new concept for rural residents and many may have been slow to use the service. On top of that, many of North Carolina's rural residents were not literate, or given to letter writing. All of these factors probably contributed to the lack of surviving examples of Mecklenburg RFD cancels.

There is evidence of the new and renumbered county-wide system routes in the return addresses of covers. Figure 2 shows covers with return addresses or corner cards which have "high numbered" routes of the Mecklenburg county-wide system.

After July, 1903, the county-wide system was expanded with the addition of Davidson Routes 24 and 25 (October 1, 1904), Matthews 26 (October 1, 1904), and Matthews 27 and 28

Table 2. Mecklenburg RFD Routes on July 15, 1903	
Charlotte	
1 (former Route 1)	
2	
3 (former Route 6)	
4	
5 (former Route 2)	
6 (former Route 3)	
7 (former Route 4)	
8	
9	
Sandifer (later Paw Creek)	
10	
Charlotte	
11	
12	
Derita	
13	
14	
Pineville	
15 (former Route 1)	
16	
Matthews	
17	
18	
19	
Huntersville	
20 (former Route 2)	
21 (former Route 1)	
22	
23	

Table 3. Routes Added Afer July, 1903	
Davidson	
24 (1 Oct 1904)	
25 (1 Oct 1904)	
Matthews	
26 (1 Oct 1904)	
27 (15 Feb 1905)	
28 (15 Feb 1905)	
Charlotte	
29 (after 1905)	
Newell	
1 (1 Sept 1904)	
Allen	
1 (after 1905)	

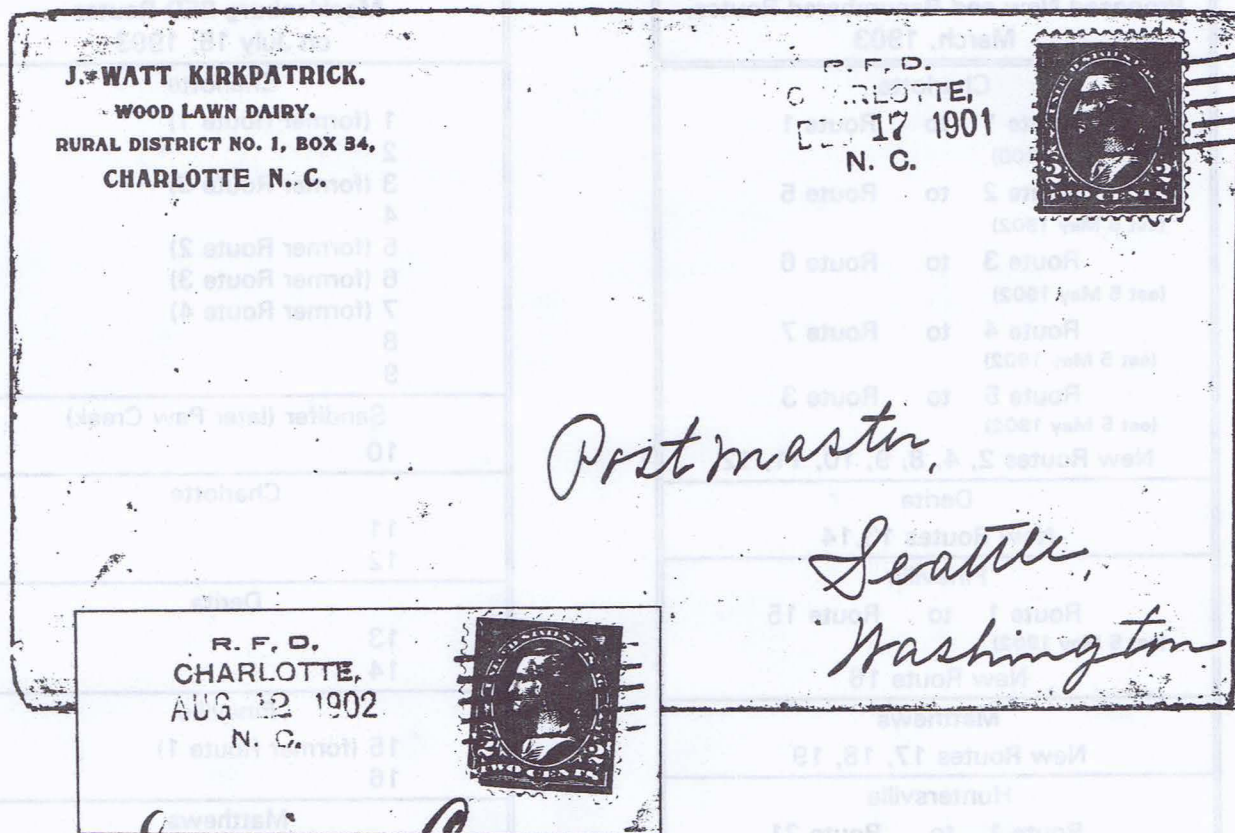


Figure 1. Two reported examples of Charlotte Route 1 cancels. One is on cover, the other on piece. Route number can be seen in killer bars.

After 1905, two more routes were added, Charlotte 29 and Allen 1. Like Newell Route 1, the Allen route did not conform to the county-wide numbering scheme. The additions to the system are summarized in Table 3. The Sandifer post office changed its name to Paw Creek on January 7, 1909, but its route retained the old number and became Paw Creek Route 10.

The county-wide route numbering system apparently was used until the early 1920s. The author has seen no evidence of it after that time. In the late 1920s and early 1930s, RFD routes were completely revamped since road conditions had improved and routes could be serviced from automobiles instead of horse and buggy. That reorganization eliminated many routes and combined others. It probably removed any vestiges of old routes of the county-wide system.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

THE EDITORS
OF THE
POST OFFICES AND POSTMASTERS OF
NORTH CAROLINA, COLONIAL TO USPS,
NEED CLEAR PHOTOCOPIES
OF
MANUSCRIPT AND HANDSTAMP
POSTMARKS
PRIOR TO 1900
WHICH ARE IN YOUR COLLECTION.

PLEASE SEND THEM TO:
VERNON STROUPE
PO BOX 8879
ASHEVILLE, N.C. 28814

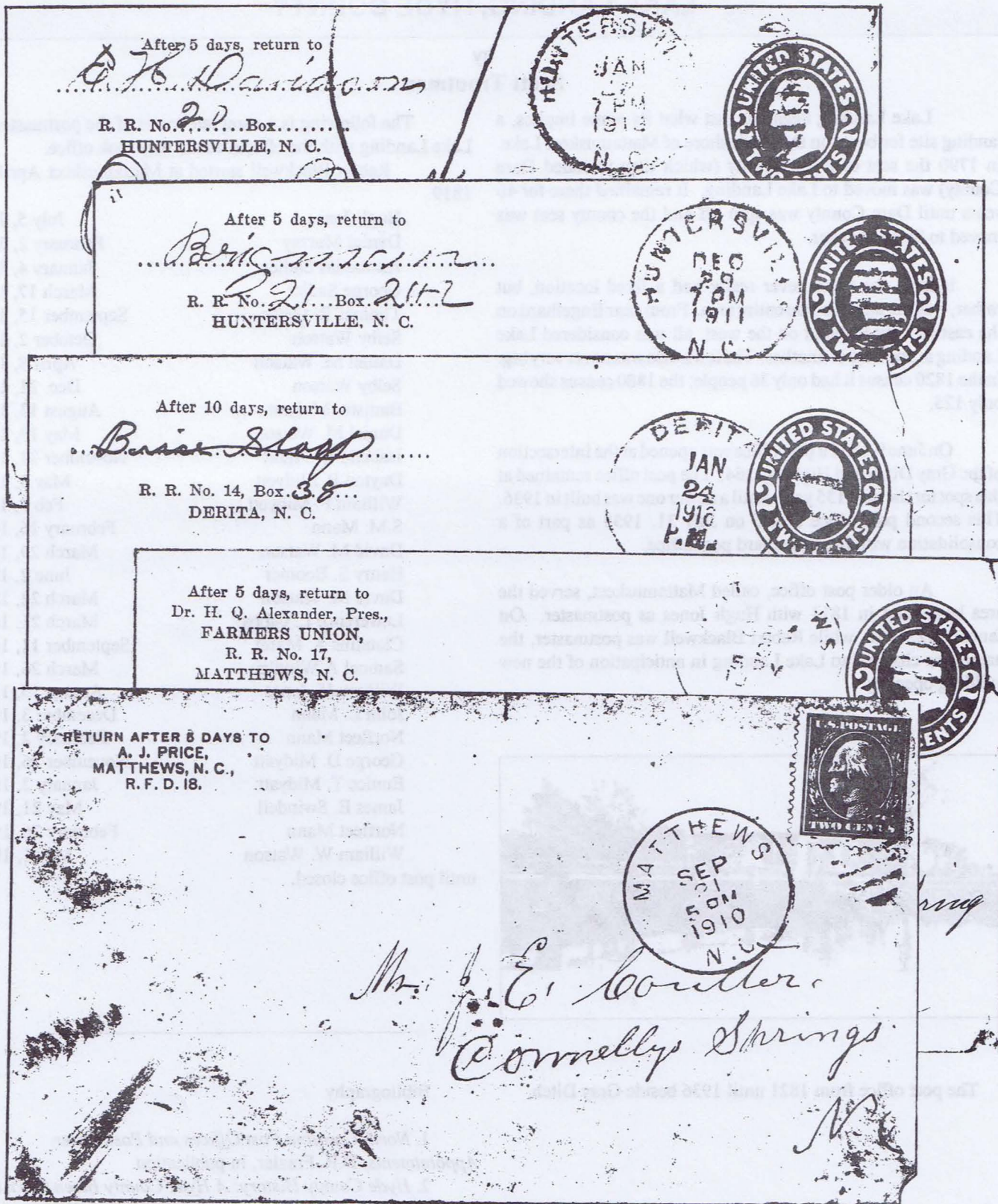


Figure 2. County-wide system route numbers in return addresses or corner cards. From top to bottom, Huntersville 20, Huntersville 21, Derita 14, Matthews 17, and Matthews 18.

LAKE LANDING, HYDE COUNTY

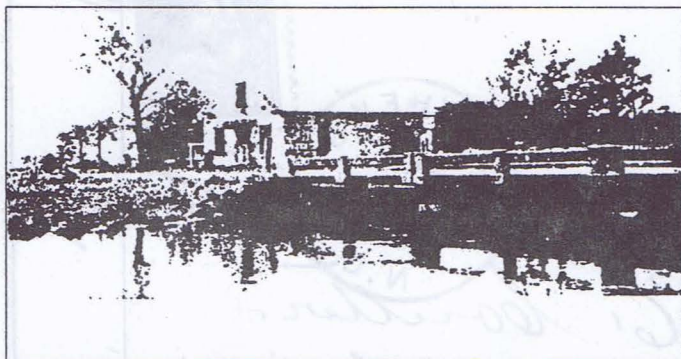
by
Scott Troutman

Lake Landing began as just what its name implies, a landing site for boats on the south shore of Mattamuskeet Lake. In 1790 the seat of Hyde County (which then included Dare County) was moved to Lake Landing. It remained there for 46 years until Dare County was split off and the county seat was moved to Swan Quarter.

Indeed, the town never really had a fixed location, but rather, was the name for the entire area. From near Engelhard on the east to New Holland on the west, all was considered Lake Landing at one time or another. The town also was never very big. In the 1820 census it had only 36 people; the 1880 census showed only 125.

On June 9, 1821 a post office was opened at the intersection of the Gray Ditch and Highway 264. The post office remained at this spot for the next 135 years until a newer one was built in 1936. This second post office closed on July 31, 1955 as part of a consolidation with the Engelhard post office.

An older post office, called Mattamuskeet, served the area beginning in 1811 with Hugh Jones as postmaster. On January 12, 1820, while Robert Blackwell was postmaster, the name was changed to Lake Landing in anticipation of the new building opening.



The post office from 1821 until 1936 beside Gray Ditch.

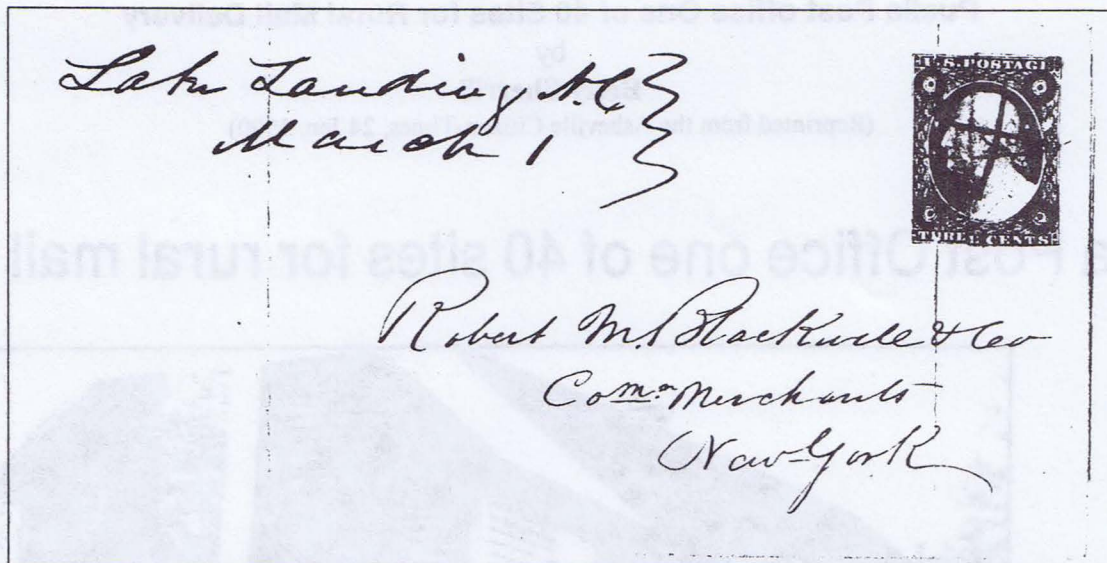
The following is a complete roster of the postmasters of Lake Landing with the effective date they took office.

Robert Blackwell	started at Mattamuskeet April 14, 1819
Hugh Jones	July 5, 1823
Daniel Murray	February 2, 1827
Amnanias Sadler	January 4, 1832
George Sadler	March 17, 1835
Thomas R. Gibbs	September 15, 1841
Selby Watson	October 2, 1845
Daniel M. Watson	April 8, 1858
Selby Watson	Dec. 21, 1858
Banister Midyett	August 13, 1867
Daniel M. Watson	May 18, 1876
Isabella G. Pigott	November 21, 1881
Dayton P. Midyett	May 3, 1882
William P. Midyett	Feb 9, 1883
S.M. Mann	February 16, 1886
David M. Watson	March 29, 1886
Henry S. Boomer	June 2, 1889
David M. Watson	March 22, 1894
Lawrence L. Gibbs	March 21, 1898
Claudius A. Mann	September 11, 1900
Samuel A. Windley	March 26, 1903
William H. Jones	August 15, 1906
John L. Mann	December 3, 1907
Norfleet Mann	February 2, 1921
George D. Midyatt	November 26, 1921
Eunice T. Midyatt	January 2, 1930
James E. Swindell	May 21, 1930
Norfleet Mann	February 26, 1936
William W. Watson	May 1, 1943

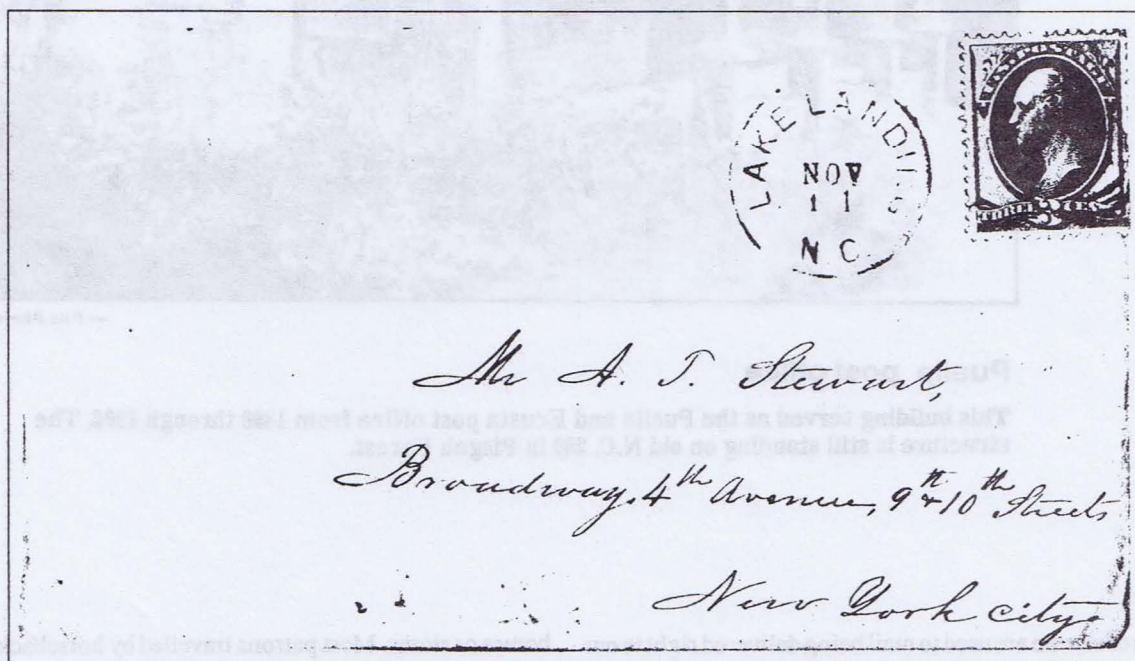
until post office closed.

Bibliography

1. *North Carolina Post Offices and Postmaster Appointments*, D.R. Frazier, in publication.
2. *Hyde County History: A Hyde County Bicentennial Project*, Hyde County Historical Society, 1976, p.31.



Folded letter with manuscript cancel of February 29, 1852.
Shelby Watson would have been postmaster.



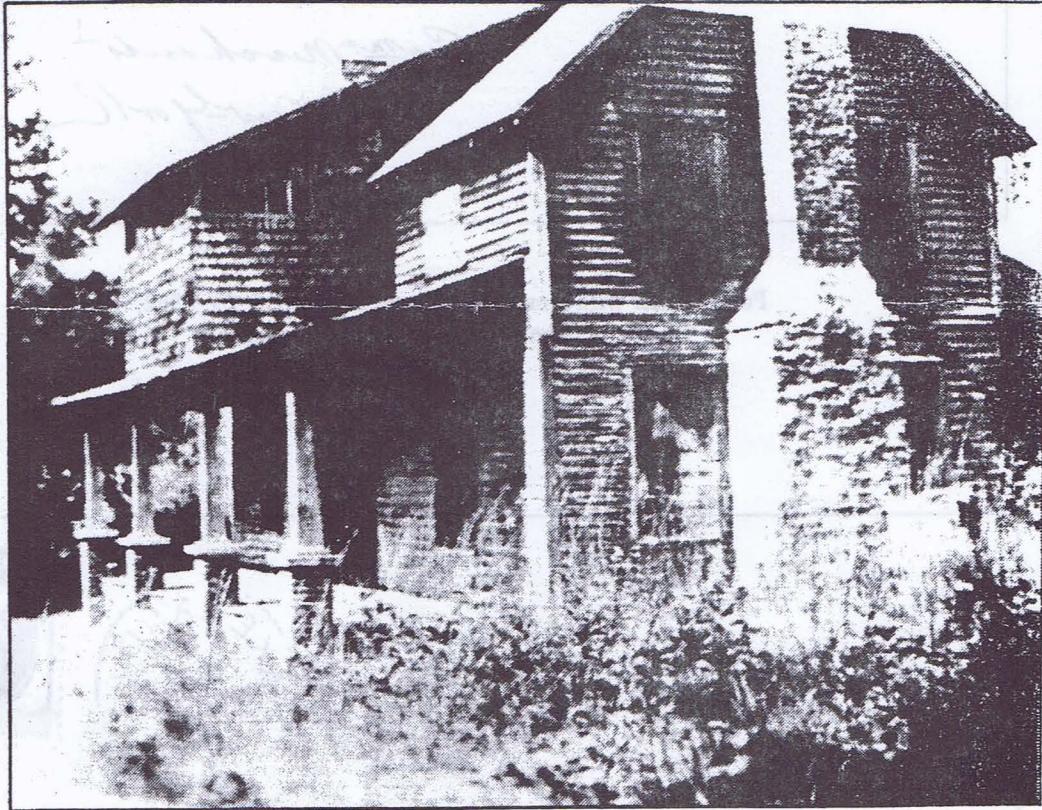
Letter from 1871 with Lake Landing postmark. Bannister Midyett ws postmaster. Letter is a preachers wife begging a rich man in New York for help as the family, including six children, is destitute.

OLD POST OFFICE NOT FORGOTTEN
Puella Post office One of 40 Sites for Rural Mail Delivery

by
Betty Sherrill

(Reprinted from the Asheville Citizen-Times, 24 Jan. 1990)

Puella Post Office one of 40 sites for rural mail delivery



— File Photo

Puella post office

This building served as the Puella and Ecusta post office from 1890 through 1906. The structure is still standing on old N.C. 280 in Pisgah Forest.

Those of us who are used to mail being delivered right to our front door may not remember the names of post offices in Transylvania County such as Zacharya, Robor, Burmah, Jeptha, Tiptop, Creekside, Reba, Ninevah, Hogback Valley and Puella.

But these and many more make up approximately 40 post offices that once provided the only outside source of information to the rest of the world for Transylvania residents. These post offices were necessary before rural free delivery (R.F.D.) and were located in even the smallest population centers, often in

homes or stores. Most patrons travelled by horseback or in a boat to pick up their mail. One of the few buildings remaining from this era is the old Puella Post Office in Pisgah Forest.

Located on old N.C. 280, Puella superseded an earlier post office in Ecusta. It was built in 1885 by Lambert Orr for Joshua and Julia Orr and originally had only one story. Their daughter, Ninnie S. Orr, who married Asa England, operated the post office in the family home from 1890 to 1906. Puella is a Latin word

which means "little girl", but no one knows who named it or why.

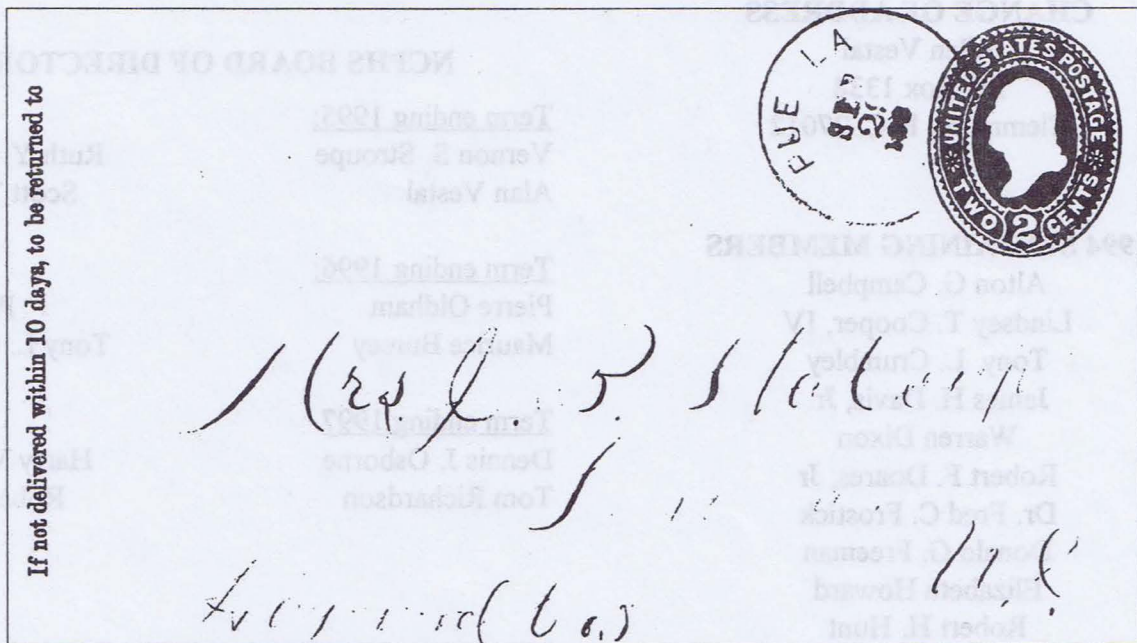
Puella also served as a general store and home. It had a separate kitchen and never had electricity. "Aunt Nin" as Ninnie Orr England was known, was a friendly, intelligent and well-liked post mistress. She enjoyed giving candy to the children.

Mail traveled to Transylvania County post offices by two routes: The "upper end" or western part of the county received its mail by horse cart from Seneca, S.C. Other post offices, including Puella, had mail delivered by a courier on a mule from Asheville. He was a black man named Andy Whitesides. The trip was long and Whitesides travelled over poor roads. He changed mules at King's Road, travelled over the many post offices and returned to Asheville the next day. Whitesides carried the mail in saddlebags which had a special lock. The postmasters were the only ones with days to open and remove the mail.

Puella closed as a post office when the Pisgah Forest Post Office opened and consolidated several post offices, including Deavers, which was operated by the William Deaver family, early pioneers in the area. The Deaver house is also still standing, and is the oldest extant frame house in the Blue Ridge Mountains. It is currently being restored by the Transylvania County Historical Society for use as a house-museum.

Puella was bought by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Nugent Lobdell in the 1930's. Lobdell was a retired horticulturist with the University of Florida. Mrs. Lobdell taught at Brevard College for 23 years. It wasn't until Lobdell's health failed that they moved into a smaller home with electricity and plumbing several years later.

Puella remains in the possession of the Lobdell family. David and Nilsa Lobdell hope one day to see Puella restored and again attain the active life it once knew.



Cover sent from Puella post office in the 1880's

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The following NCPHS members have been nominated for Board of Directors for the term ending 1998:

Robert H. Hunt
Allen Vestal
Ruth Y. Wetmore
Vernon S. Stroupe

Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the 1995 Annual Meeting.

The Board of Directors will meet following the general meeting. See page 7 for meeting details.

NEW MEMBER

W. Clary Holt
509 Country Club Drive
Burlington, N.C. 27215

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Allen Vestal
PO Box 1338
Clemmons, N.C. 27012

1994 SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Alton G. Campbell
Lindsey T. Cooper, IV
Tony L. Crumbley
James H. Davis, Jr.
Warren Dixon
Robert F. Doares, Jr.
Dr. Fred C. Frostick
Donald G. Freeman
Elizabeth Howard
Robert H. Hunt
Willard E. Jones
Robert Outlaw
Tom Richardson
Jim Scott
Vernon S. Stroupe
Harvey Teal
Richard Weiner
Ruth Y. Wetmore

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

IS THIS CANCELLATION IN YOUR COLLECTION?

The illustrated Hillsborough, N.C. cancellations have become something of a puzzle. They have appeared in two forms, (1) curved month, and (2) straight line month.

Thus far, months Jany, Feb, and March are known curved, while months May, Sep., and Dec. are straight line. What shape are the other six months - April, June, July, Aug, Oct. and Nov.?

Please send clear photocopies of your marking to Vernon Stroupe for inclusion in this study. If enough copies are received, the results will be in the next issue of the Postal Historian.



NCPHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Term ending 1995:

Vernon S. Stroupe
Alan Vestal

Ruth Y. Wetmore
Scott Troutman

Term ending 1996:

Pierre Oldham
Maurice Bursey

Philip Wall
Tony L. Crumbley

Term ending 1997

Dennis J. Osborne
Tom Richardson

Harry McDowell
Robert J. Stets

Photocopies of postal markings in your collection up to 1900 are needed for illustration in North Carolina Post Offices and Postmasters, 1778-1962. Please send them to:

Vernon Stroupe
PO Box 8879
Asheville, N.C. 28814