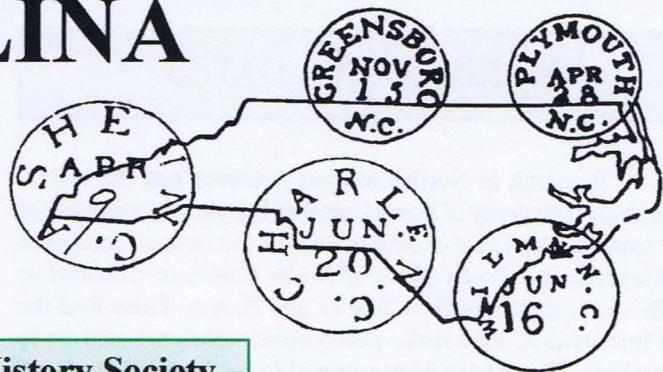


NORTH CAROLINA POSTAL HISTORIAN

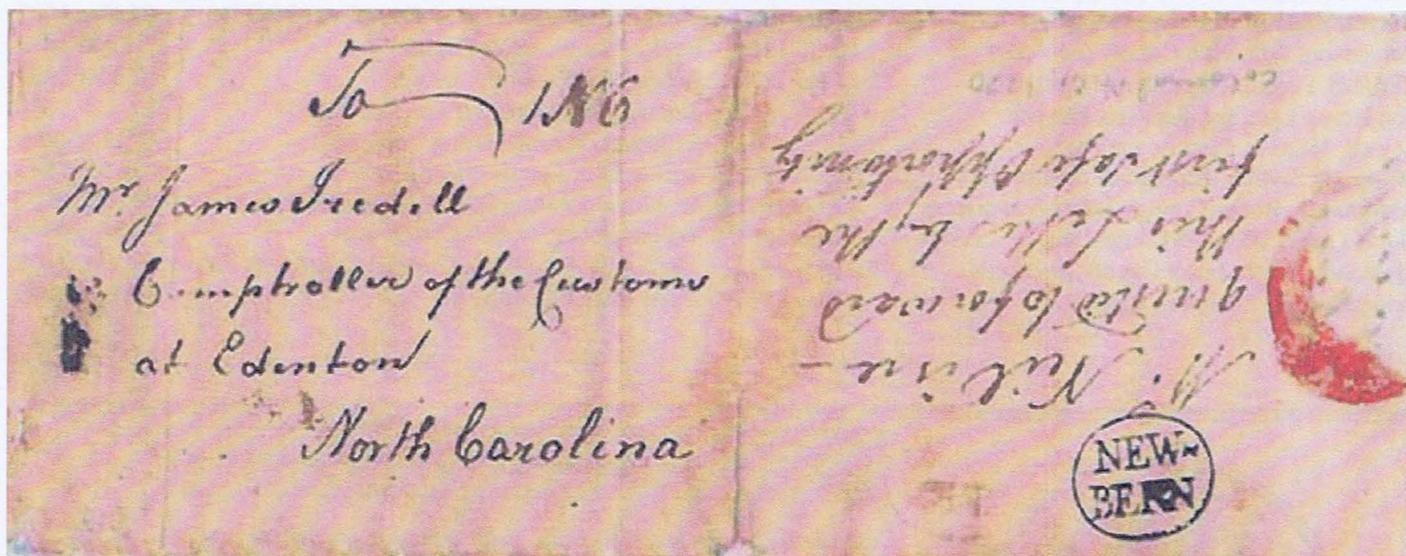


The Journal of the North Carolina Postal History Society

Volume 20, No. 3

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Whole 76



COLONIAL NORTH CAROLINA MARKINGS SURFACE

MARKING UP - DATES

Research at North Carolina Archives and the collections at the University of North Carolina has yielded a number of new markings and a lot of earlier dates of use than is reported in *Postmasters and Post Offices of North Carolina, Colonial to USPS*. As researchers Dick Winter and Harvey Tilles find the new information, they make photocopies which are sent on to your editor. These have been reported in the *Postal Historian* if the marking was of moment, or allowed to pile up until they have formed a mass which can no longer be ignored. The latter case seems to be at hand.

Black Creek, Wayne County, ms Paid 10	25 Oct 1844
Bolton, Brunswick County, ms.	12 Jun 1869
Chapel Hill, Orange County (new rimless cds)	30 Nov 1794 1827
China Grove, Davidson County (triple circle)	25 Jun 188x
Chocowinity, Beaufort County, ms	10 Jan 187x
Clark's Store, Martin County, ms	13 Jul 1828
Germanton, Hyde County, ms	20 Jun 1836
Grantsborough, Pamlico County (new cds)	10 Jun 187x
Graves, Caswell County, ms	20 Oct 1846
Henderson, Granville County (new cds)	24 Aug 186x
Hertford, Perquimons County (new cds)	7 Jul 187x
Log House Landing, ms Free, late use	19 Apr 1837
Lowell, Johnson County, ms Free	7mo.17(1850)
Millbrook Station (Raleigh & Gaston RR)	21 Jun 1895
Morganton, Burke County (new triple circle)	4 Mar 1882
North Creek, Beaufort County, ms	13 Mar 1802
Plymouth, Washington County, (new cds)	26 May 1836
Princeton, Northampton County, ms	9 May 1797

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MARKING UP-DATES, Continued)

Rockingham, Richmond Co., (fancy M.O.B.)	24 Dec 1887
Rocky Mount, Nash County, ms	17 Jan 1839
Rosehill, Pitt County, new cds	2 Mar 1898
Salem, Stokes County, ms, 12½ rate	26 Oct 1805
Salisbury, Rowan County (new cds)	6 May 187x
Spring Hill, Lenoir County, ms	28 Jul 1833
Wahhiyah, Swain County (new spelling)	10 May 1907
Williamsburg, Iredell County, ms	10 May 1848
Yancyville (spelling), Caswell County, hs Free	18 Dec 1857
Zion, Iredell County, ms	30 Dec 1845



North Carolina Postal Historian

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COLONIAL RARITIES SURFACE

The New Bern Type 1

In the Robert A. Siegel *Rarities of the World* Auction on 19 May 2001, the listing cover of New Bern Type 1 handstamp was lot #1, and was hammered down for a mere \$11,000 plus commission. Believed to be the only known copy, this marking was last auctioned by Siegel a generation ago. It was reportedly purchased by a well known collector of American Colonial markings.

The piece (*see cover*) is a folded letter described as being from Thomas Iredell in St. Dorothy's, Jamaica to his nephew, James Iredell, Collector of Customs, at Edenton. A notation directs, "Mr. Neil is requested to forward this letter by the first safe opportunity" The dating is 2 July 1770 with a rating of 1N6.

The Wilmington Type 1

Not to be outdone by Siegel, NCPHS researchers Dick Winter and Harvey Tilles found, not one, but three copies of Wilmington Type 1, a marking that has not been seen in more than a generation. The whereabouts of the listing copy is unknown, but last news of it was ca. 1980 when it was offered to the late James H. Harris for a private treaty price of \$3,500.

The copies found by Winter and Tilles (Figure 2) are part of the Samuel Johnston Papers in the North Carolina Collection at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The three folded letters are from London to Edenton by packet boat via Charleston, S.C. and dated 8 July 1769, 5 April 1772, and 3 Nov 1772, giving us a span of at least four years that this marking was in use.

The illustration of the marking (Figure 1) is taken from one of these folded letters and may be used to replace the illustration in *North Carolina Post Offices and Postmasters, Colonial to USPS*. p 2-384.

CORRECT SIZE FOR THE RALEIGH TYPE 3

Researchers Dick Winter and Harvey Tilles recently noticed a discrepancy in the size of the common Raleigh Type 3 cds. Their first inclination was that they had found a similar marking about 2 mm. smaller than the illustration on p. 3-306 of *Post Offices and Postmasters of North Carolina*. An examination of a number of Raleigh covers revealed that the illustration is incorrect, it's too large. The editor gets the required number of lashes and you may replace it with the one below.



Figure 1



Type 3



Chapel Hill Type 0.5
VI
1794 / 1827

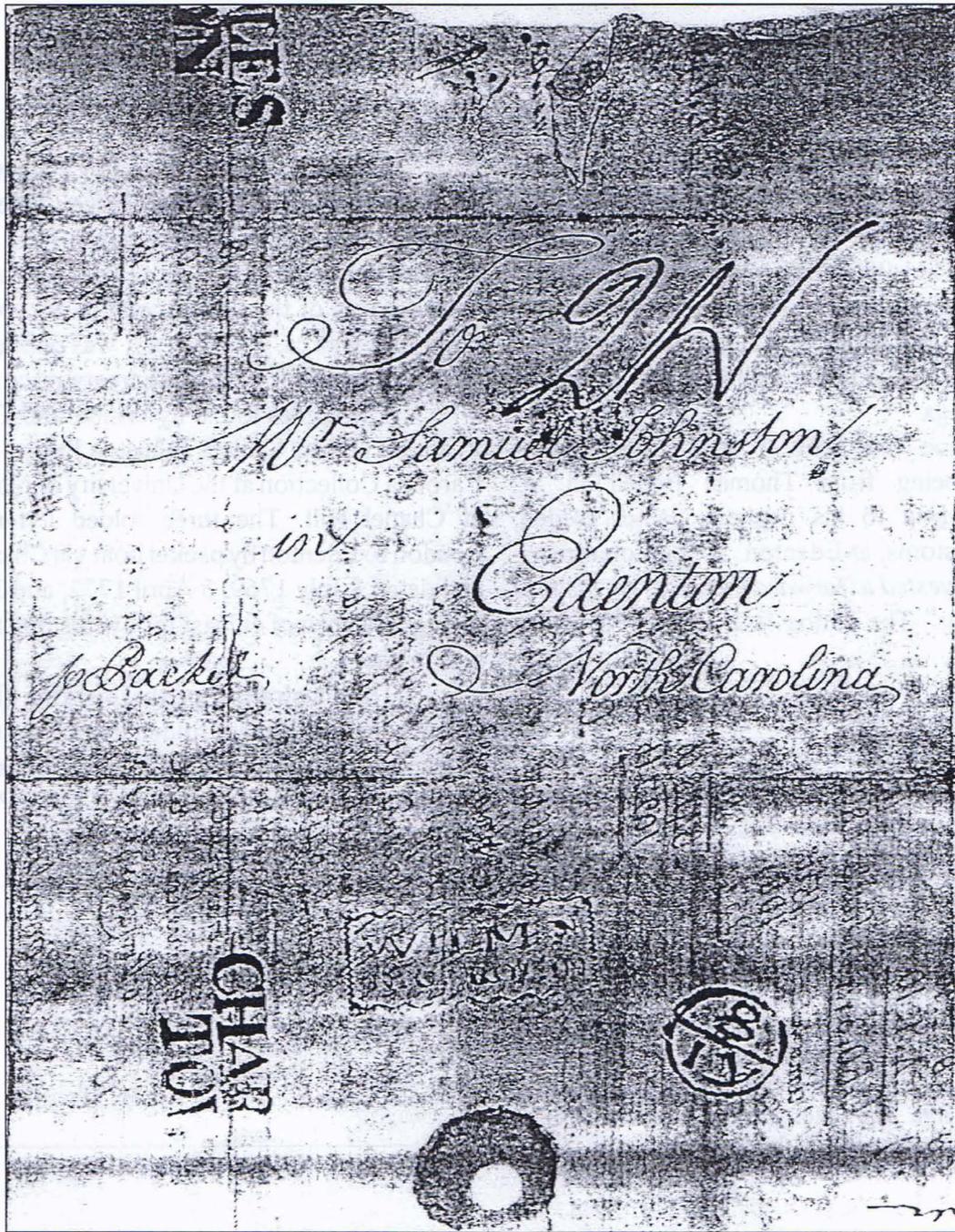


Figure 2
London bishop mark, Charleston straight-line receiving, and Wilmington route mark on folded letter London-to-Edenton dated 8 July 1769. Rate is 2 Shillings.

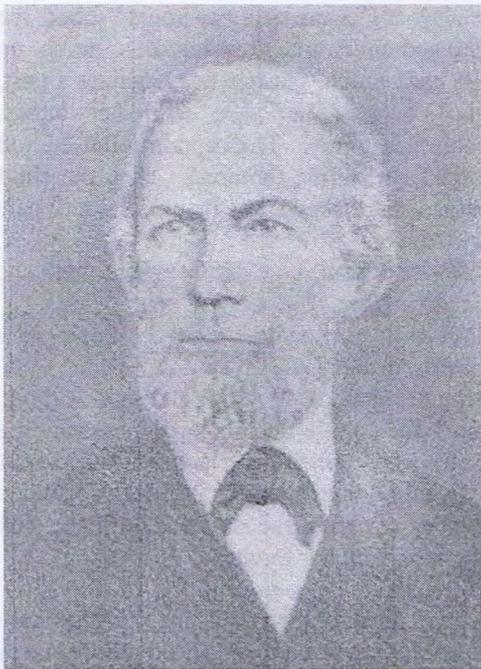
That Other Murfreesboro College: Chowan

By Tony Crumbley and Harry McDowell

With my last article on Murfreesboro, I had expected to receive some comments, but I have to admit I received more than expected. First, a phone call from Georgia telling me I must be confused because Wesleyan Female Academy was not in North Carolina. He was sure his wife was an Alumni. (Sorry, Phil, that's another another Wesleyan). I had expected to hear from was Harry McDowell, my good friend and mentor, and I did. If there was ever a true southern gentleman, it's Harry. Harry wanted to know why I had not written about his favorite school, Chowan Female Institute. Harry, thanks for your nudging...here goes.

The ninth oldest school in North Carolina is Chowan University. A small Baptist school founded in 1848 and still in operation in Murfreesboro. In 1794, the N.C. General Assembly incorporated Hartford Academy. These facilities were later purchased by Mrs. James Banks who ran Bank's School for Girls. In 1848, the Chowan Female Institute trustees purchased these buildings for \$1,225, made repairs and opened the School for Girls -- the second School for girls operating in Murfreesboro.

Chowan was the first Baptist college for girls in North Carolina. For this reason, they turned to Wake Forest College for guidance. Dr. Godwin C. Moore was elected Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Dr. Moore was also on the Board of Trustees at Wake Forest. Dr. Moore hired a graduate of Wake Forest as Chowan's first principal, Archibald McDowell. Yes, this is Harry's great grandfather who had received his AB Degree from Wake Forest in 1847.



Archibald McDowell

McDowell married one of the teachers of the academy (what academy?), Mary Owens and carried her to Chowan along with her sister, Sallie Owens, to be another instructor. The school opened on October 11, 1848 with 11 students. Within a short time, the student enrollment grew to 47, the maximum the facility would hold.

Chowan Female Institute was affected by the Civil War; however, it did not cease to operate as many other colleges did during the war. One of the stories coming from the school is:

During the second year of the war, Confederate troops entered the town and demanded Wesleyan College as barracks. Protest and arguments were unavailing and sorrowfully the president sent the girls home and disbanded his little force of teachers. These latter were thrown out of employment, and some of them found work at Chowan Baptist College. Among them were the Hargraves, and with them went little twelve year old Minnie Hargraves. Though a mere child she remembered the devastation at Westleyan College as the soldiers took charge and turned the peaceful, stately old building into a place of martial law. After a time further quarters were needed and the troops determined to demand Chowan. Accordingly a squad of soldiers marched to the Institute and informed Dr. McDowell that he would have to give over the buildings. Feeling powerless to resist, the doctor was about to submit when Mrs. McDowell appeared on the porch and inquired the meaning of the soldiers' presence, "Madame," an officer replied, "we are sorry, but we must have this building for barracks." "What," she said, "you want us to close the doors of this school and send our girls and teachers home? No, it is impossible." "But, Madam, war is war and we need the quarters for our men," the officer replied. Turning to a teacher who stood near she said, "Call the girls to me here." When they had come and she stood in their midst, she said to the soldiers, "There are other buildings that can shelter you -- but nowhere else can we carry on our work of educating these girls -- I defy you, sirs -- enter this building and you do so at the point of the bayonet." It was a brave utterance and struck home. The soldiers saluted, turned and marched away -- and Chowan's doors were

not closed during all those terrible four years of war.

This action by Mrs. McDowell perhaps saved the school from destruction at a later date as the war began to wind down.

One cold, windy afternoon in March, 1864, Mrs. B. A. Spiers, who was housekeeper at Chowan College, sent here little son, Julian, and a little negro, to carry some nourishment to the sick Confederate soldiers in the Methodist College which had been turned into a hospital. As the little boys were closing the large gates on their way to the college, they were suddenly attracted by a crowd of people coming up the street, which proved to be Yankee cavalry from Boykins, VA. "Dey shore is Yankees dis time," cried the little Negro, "an' dere's millions of 'em."

The children did not hesitate, but ran swiftly down the walk and in a few minutes dashed into the college. "They're coming! They're coming! Quick, brother!" exclaimed little Julian excitedly to his brother Genie and cousin Douglas who had that afternoon left their Confederate camp on the other side of Meherrin Church, and come home to see all the family and get a good supper.

"Who," asked Douglas Spiers.

"The Yankees," was the quick response, which the boys so dreaded to hear. The supper had just been spread before them, but they left it untouched and were soon hidden among the bushes on the hill west of the college.

The news of the Yankees' arrival quickly spread, and in a few minutes all was confusion. The negroes were as happy as the white people were sad, and they gave vent to their feelings by throwing their hats into the air and singing at the top of their voices.

"Thank God, the Yankees are coming!
Thank God, the Yankees are coming!"

The college girls chased old colored "Liz" with brick bats all around the grounds.

Little Norma Spiers was the only one who did not seem to be excited. She sat at the top of the steps leading to the third floor, calmly watching, with a disdainful look, the approach of the Yankees, who had just captured the sick Confederates. She was not thinking of the jewelry the teachers and girls had carefully concealed under her clothes, nor of her five glass marbles which she had hidden in the ground for fear she should be robbed. She was wondering if her brother and cousin had escaped, when -- "boom"! went off a shell fired from the Yankee gunboat down on the

Meherrin River. They thought that they were firing into Confederates marching to the college. The shell exploded over the arch just in front of the Yankees, who were so badly frightened that they dashed "helter skelter" to the building. They tied their horses on the hill where the Confederate boys were hiding, and had hardly recovered from their fright when Captain Flusher arrived with his men from the gunboat.

"President, I have orders to search this college," said the captain as he stepped upon the porch.

"You have certainly come to a queer place to search for soldiers -- at a female institute -- but as I cannot prevent you, go ahead," answered Dr. McDowell, in a cool manner. At this moment little Willie McDowell appeared. Willie was Harry's grandfather.

"This," said the president's wife, putting her hand on her son's head, "is the oldest soldier we have here and I only wish he were old enough to fight you." As she said this, Tyrone Spiers, a lad of fifteen years, came forward and the captain cried, "He's the one we want to capture!"

The little girl could stand it no longer. She sprang up and with two leaps was standing among the soldiers, crying bitterly. "Don't cry, sissy, I didn't mean it. We're not going to take your brother," began Captain Flusher, trying to make amends for causing such a scene.

"I'm no sister of yours," cried the enraged child, and with this she went out on the back porch, put her head against a post, and covering her face with her hands, continued to cry. The captain followed and kissed her on the forehead. Then the child turned and looked at the man with a face pale with anger.

"D--- your soul, how dare you kiss me!" she cried.

"My child, my child," said her father in a surprised, sorrowful voice.

"Jim bring me some water and sand -- a rag, too," she told a little colored boy standing near, who replied with a grin, "Lawsey, I thought all dem Yankees had horns," When the boy returned, she scrubbed until she took the skin from her forehead.

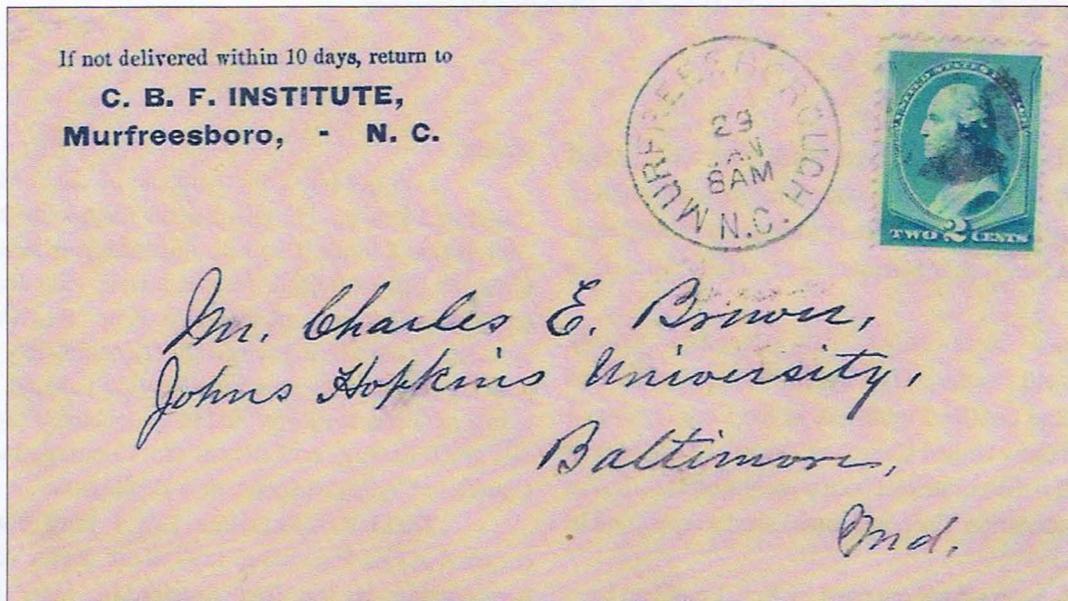
Late in the afternoon as Captain Flusher was returning to the boat, he was mistaken for a private soldier and told to give the password. He hesitated, and his own man, thinking that he was a Confederate, fired and killed him.

After the war the school continued to operate as a girls school until 1930 when it admitted its first boys. It is still

operating today as a Baptist school and has received much attention from Senator Jesse Helms, who has helped raise considerable funds for new facilities and scholarships. One of the original buildings still stands and is appropriately called the McDowell Building. In the school's library is the McDowell antiquities room full of McDowell family antiques. What you won't find there, however, is Chowan Institute postal history. In

my 25 years of collecting college covers, I have only acquired one such cover. Harry tells me he has never seen one. Even modern Chowan College covers do not appear to be available. Anyone out there want to speculate as to why?

Source: *The History of Chowan College*, McKnight and Creech.



REFUSING TO SHAKE HANDS - NEAR THE COURTHOUSE IN GRAHAM

By W. Clary Holt

Recently at a spring meeting of the American Philatelic Society in State College, Pa., I was looking through a box of covers {envelopes} when I noticed one addressed to "Rev. J. W. Holt, Burlington, N. C." {see Figure 1}. It had two one cent blue Franklin stamps Scott No.212 and was from the NCNA

Christian Conference. I purchased same and discovered the interesting part was the letter therein. J. W. Holt was Jeremiah W. as distinguished from Jeremiah R. Holt, likewise a Congregational Christian minister. I quote the letter and its accompanying resolution verbatim.

THE NORTH CAROLINA AND VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE

Rev. Jas. L. Foster, Secretary.

Raleigh, N. C., May 16, 1889

Rev. J. W. Holt,
Burlington, NC

Dear Bro. you are hereby notified to appear before us at Raleigh on Friday at 10 o'clock the 14 of June in the Raleigh Christian Church.

Signed by order of the Executive Com. of the NC & V A Christian Conference.

Jag. L. Foster

Secretary of Com. "

Whereas at the N. C. & VA Christian Conference of 1888 the Committee on the Standing of the Ministry submitted a report in which Rev. J. W. Holt was reported for not keeping in good faith the articles of agreement between himself and Rev. W. S. Long as made and signed by them at the Conference of 1887, requiring them to act towards each other as Bro. Ministers should do, And

that whereas the said Rev. J. W. Holt had failed to keep his agreement, the Conference of 1888 submitted his case to the Executive Com. of said Conferences for investigation and settlement And whereas the said Committee has made an effort and failed in getting Rev. J. W. Holt to recognize Rev. W. S. Long as a Bro. Minister. We hereby charge Rev. J. W. Holt with not recognizing Rev. W. S. Long as a Bro. Minister by refusing to shake hands with him near the Courthouse in Graham .

Witness Rev. J. P. Bamed.

Signed by order of the Executive Com. of the N. C. and Va. Christian Conference.

Jas. L. Foster ,

Sec'y of the Corn."

What might over a hundred years later have passed without notice was at this time a real issue. I have tried to analyze what could have arisen between these two men that created such intense feelings. Actually they had more in common than serious differences.

Both men were natives of Alamance County representatives of old families. They were well educated for that time, intelligent and ordained ministers in the Congregational Christian Church (now United Church of Christ). In addition to their calling as Christian ministers both were almost fanatical in their devotion to education. Each had established a reputation in this regard.

In Graham the school operated by Rev. Long had been known as the Graham Institute, then college. In 1889 was moved to Mill Point, just west of Burlington, where it became Elon College. Rev. W. S. Long became its first President. He was later awarded doctorates and thereafter was known as Dr. Long. During his years of public service, Dr. Long was superintendent of the county schools, president of the Southern Christian Convention, and one of the outstanding teachers and preachers of Alamance County. In addition to the lives of people to whom he ministered and the students he influenced as an educator, Elon College truly is Rev. W. S. Long's monument.

Rev. Jeremiah W. Holt, in addition to his educational endeavors, established the Congregational Christian Church in Company Shops. "In 1883 the Reverend Jeremiah W. Holt, a minister of the Christian Church, used the Union Church building to house a subscription school which became an enduring local institution. Many of the students are familiar names in Burlington and Alamance County. A few -Paul May, Lizzie Turrentine (Mrs. James P. Montgomery), Maud May (Mrs. W. Kirkpatrick Holt), A. S. Turrentine, Claude McCauley, Ida Iseley, Carrie Holt (Mrs. John M. Fix), Lena Hayes, Walter Robertson, Minnie Fix (Mrs. John Barnwell), Charlie Sellars.

Holt's school endured longer than any of the others, and for that reason more of the youth in the area received their basic education there than at any other institution. It remained in operation several years after the town became Burlington. When Holt retired from teaching, the building was used by several different educators under various institutional names, until it eventually became a part of the new municipality's school

system.

I do not know the outcome of the confrontation and conference hearing but based upon remarks of my father and later events I think it had no impression whatsoever on Rev. Jeremiah Holt. After all, he was a Holt. And according to the reputation frequently attributed to us he "was a man of strong opinions." I am sure in his mind he felt completely justified in his position and subsequent actions. He didn't change. Papa referred to him as "Preacher Jerry" and he undoubtedly had pastorates in this area having established the Congregational Christian Church in Company Shops, now Burlington.

The last information that I have concerning him occurred at Old Providence in Graham. Every year the annual homecoming is the first Sunday in June. I have vivid recollections as a small boy attending, beginning in 1920, after Papa purchased an automobile. It was an all day trip from Greensboro, paved road until it reached Alamance County, then mud and dust. The counties were responsible for maintaining their roads. Papa did not require us to stay through the sermon, but only through the devotional and worship, leaving us to play with the other children in the grove and yard where the wagons and horses were parked and tethered. As always the food was marvelous. In the manner of the Providence Memorial Homecoming on June 1st, 1924 the record shows: "Following the devotional exercises, Rev. J. W. Holt read an original poem entitled "Memorial", as follows:

We gather where our loved ones lie,
Entombed among the sleeping dead,
We stand in solemn silence by
The mounds that mark their lowly bed.
Long years ago they fell asleep
To wake when time shall be no more,
Their names, afresh, we wish to keep
Until our journey, too, is o'er.
Here, in this churchyard, where we stand,
Are precious forms of parents dear;
To honor them with heart and hand,
Today again we gather here.
Today we place to each a flower;
To each a tear --a smile is given;
On earth we've had the parting hour;
But hope to meet again in heaven.

Our Savior died and rose again,
 And won a victory for the dead;
 That they might live and ever reign
 Triumphant with their living head.
 The pathway glows with love today,
 Inviting us to follow on,
 And soon our feet shall press the way
 That leads to where they now are gone,
 The valley lies between us now;
 But soon we'll cross the narrow stream,
 And breezes fresh shall fan the brow,
 Where life is not an evening dream."

The monument to "Preacher Jerry" is also the lives he influenced through his school and ministry, together with the Congregational Christian Church's strong influence through the years. Whatever happened a hundred ten plus years ago we shall never know. One thing though is for certain, the passage of time closes many doors and whatever stands behind them is locked, probably forever .

References:

COMPANY SHOPS, The Town Built By A Railroad By Durwood T. Stokes, 1981.
CENTENNIAL HISTORY OF ALAMANCE COUNTY 1849
 Whitaker, 1949

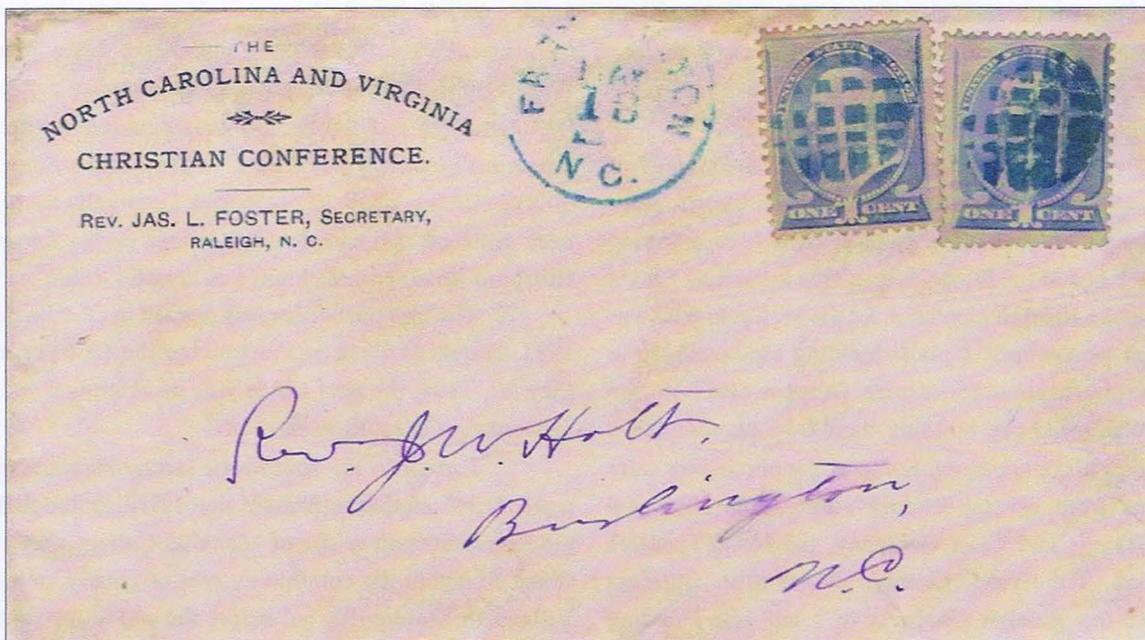


Figure 1

NOTICE IN THE NORTH CAROLINA GAZETTE - 1 Aug. 1787

NEWBERN POST - OFFICE

To be let to the lowest bidder the conveyance of the mail from this office to Wilmington, on horseback, for one year, to commence on the 1st day of January next. Proposals will be received at this office until the 25 inst. - Bond and security will be required for the true performance of the contract. - The mail to be conveyed twice a week from the 1st May to the 1st November and three times a week from the 1st November to the 1st May.

H. MACHEN P.M.

Black Cities of Wake

Tony L. Crumbley

A post Civil War phenomenon, the all-black community, appeared in two locations in Wake County in the late 1860's. Although the old relationships of master and slave no longer existed, housing patterns in much of Wake had not begun to change very much. In postwar years, the tendency was for black families to occupy former slave quarters or other small houses near former slave-owning white families' larger houses, whether continuing as their servants or becoming renters or purchasers. But outside the city limits, to the west and southwest of Raleigh, the communities of Oberlin and Method developed through the initiative, industry, and ambition of newly free black Wake residents who desired homes of their own to complement and give meaning to their new independence.

An early nickname for the west Raleigh community of Oberlin was "Save Rent," since its original settlers were freedmen seeking their own property partially to escape paying rent in cash or labor to landlords. It was also known as Peck's Place, for the white Raleigh merchant, Lewis W. Peck, who was among the first landowners to make building lots available to those black families, at about \$50 an acre. Other owners followed suite; the purchasers began building their own homes; and a rapidly growing village appeared. Some of the purchasers were aided by loans from several lending corporations. National Freedmen's Savings and Trust Company, the North Carolina Land Company, the Wake County Cooperative Business Company, and the Raleigh Cooperative Land and Building Association. Wake County Sheriff Timothy F. Lee was one of the promoters, purchasing some thirty-four acres of land formerly

owned by William Boylan and selling lots at low prices.

The name Oberlin is generally believed to have been chosen because of several local relationships with Oberlin, Ohio, and its college. Both were associated for more than two prewar decades with freedom and educational opportunities for negroes. The young Raleigh native executed in 1859 for his part in the John Brown raid, John A. Copeland, Jr., had attended the Ohio school. Another free black, a plasterer and bricklayer named Henry J. Patterson, had moved from Raleigh to Oberlin, Ohio, in 1853. And Raleigh's James H. Harris, who is thought have received his education at Oberlin College, was a founder of the Wake County Co-operative Business Company and the Raleigh Co-operative Land and Building Association, a director of the Freedmen's Savings and Trust Company, and a strong promoter of Wake County's village of Oberlin. Eventually the road leading from Hillsborough Street to the village earlier known as New Hillsboro Road, became known as Oberlin Road.

The first post office was opened in Oberlin on April 11, 1892. Hezekiah Cook was appointed the first postmaster. On May 29, 1894, the post office was discontinued and mail was forwarded to West Raleigh.

Farther to the southwest, former slaves acquired land and founded another settlement, across Hillsborough Street from the twentieth-century site of Meredith College. Near Civil War Camp Mangum the community was originally called Mason's Village, or Masonville, but before the end of the century it was officially named Method. The following excerpts from the memoirs of one of its founders detail the origin of the earliest



years of the community. Lewis M. Mason entitled his piece *Historical Sketch of the Beginning of the Aggressive Negro Town of Method.*

In the year of 1869, I, L[ewis] M. Mason...got information from my brother that the late John O' Kelly who at one time was carriage driver for his master, that generous and high-tone gentlemen, Gen. William R. Cox...that he, Gen. William R. Cox would sell him a home. So as the writer was then at work on what was known at the time as the N.C.R.R.,...I told my father of the chance to buy us a home...So my father came down and bought the tract of land, and from that he began to sell and settle it up with settlers in the spring of 1870...They began to build some log houses, some small one-room frame houses, some slab houses with dirt floors. And it was from this that the place was called "Slab Town"...Mason's Village, as it was called at this time and called Slab Town for slang... Well, at this time...the writer could not read nor spell nor could he make a letter, nor could the writer make a figure...So my father Jesse Mason and I, [and others, including Isaac O' Kelly, Alan Cane, Merritt Wilder, Haywood Wilder, Lafayette Ligon, Washington Ligon, and Gilford Branch] met one Sunday afternoon and decided they would start a free school...The first school was taught here by a gentleman from Chapel Hill by the name of Mr. Brost Bremer...They met in a small log house that stood where the Masons and the odd Fellows now met [that] belonged to Mr. Albert Fearington [later the writer's father-in-law]. This school was taught in the year 1870...In August [1871] the writer and his brother,

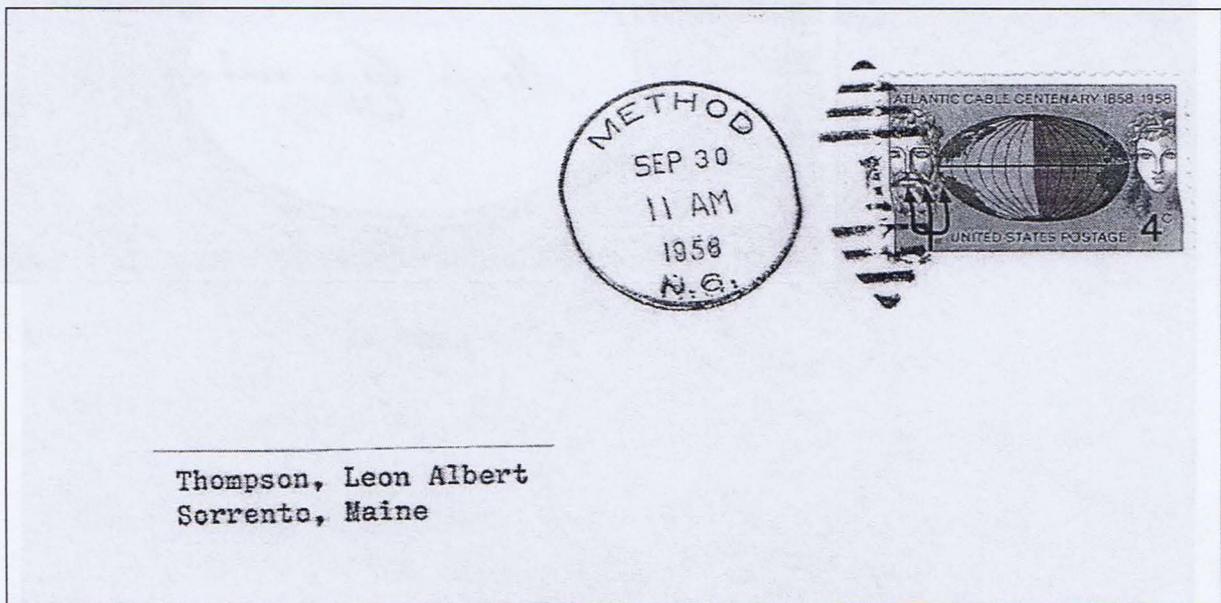
Isaac O' Kelly, went to work to get a free school. We went to Sheriff Tim Lee and he referred us to some school committees, one Mr. Frank Vandergriff and one Mr. William Cox.

Before It's first decade ended, the village of Mason grew to have a population of 268. As Mason or Mason's Village, the town retained its founder's name for still another decade, before being assigned the name Method in 1890, presumably by the United States Post office Department. The name Mason did not survive.

On October 9, 1890, Berry O' Kelly was appointed first postmaster of Method. He served as postmaster until 1931, 41 years on the job. O' Kelly founded another school in Method. The one-teacher school grew and eventually developed into the Berry O' Kelly Training School. As with the school's progress, the commercial ventures in the village were enhanced by the industry, business acumen, and eventual political influence of Berry O' Kelly, who succeeded in securing for the village both a post office and a railroad spur line and freight-loading platform, and who established a commercial warehouse.

Method has had a somewhat longer life than Oberlin. On March 15, 1931, Algernon T. White was appointed acting postmaster. John O. White was appointed on 22 June, 1955 and on September 7, 1961 Mrs. Harveleigh M. White was appointed. A check of the current post office directory indicates the office is no longer open.

The cover illustrated in figure 2 was posted by Albert Thompson as a last day of post office cover. The note on the back indicates the order to close was postpaid *recinded*. It appears someone in Method in 1958 still retained some clout. However, in later years this clout must have been lost.



An Early Invitation From Sandy Mush

by Scott Troutman

I recently bought a small invitation that was labeled as being from Sandy Marsh, North Carolina. On closer inspection it is from the strangely named town of Sandy Mush in Buncombe County. I cannot find Sandy Mush on any map I own, but as the post office was eventually taken over by Asheville, I assume it was in that vicinity. The post office existed during two periods from September 18, 1843- November 13, 1870 and it reopened from February 3, 1871 - January 14, 1922.

This small ladies cover did not go through the mail, but was hand delivered. Inside was a ladies card from Miss Cumming and an invitation to a party:

*"The pleasure of your company is solicited at a party to
be given at Cal Sawyer's on the evening of the 26th just.
Sandy Mush, NC. Sept8th[18]49. "*

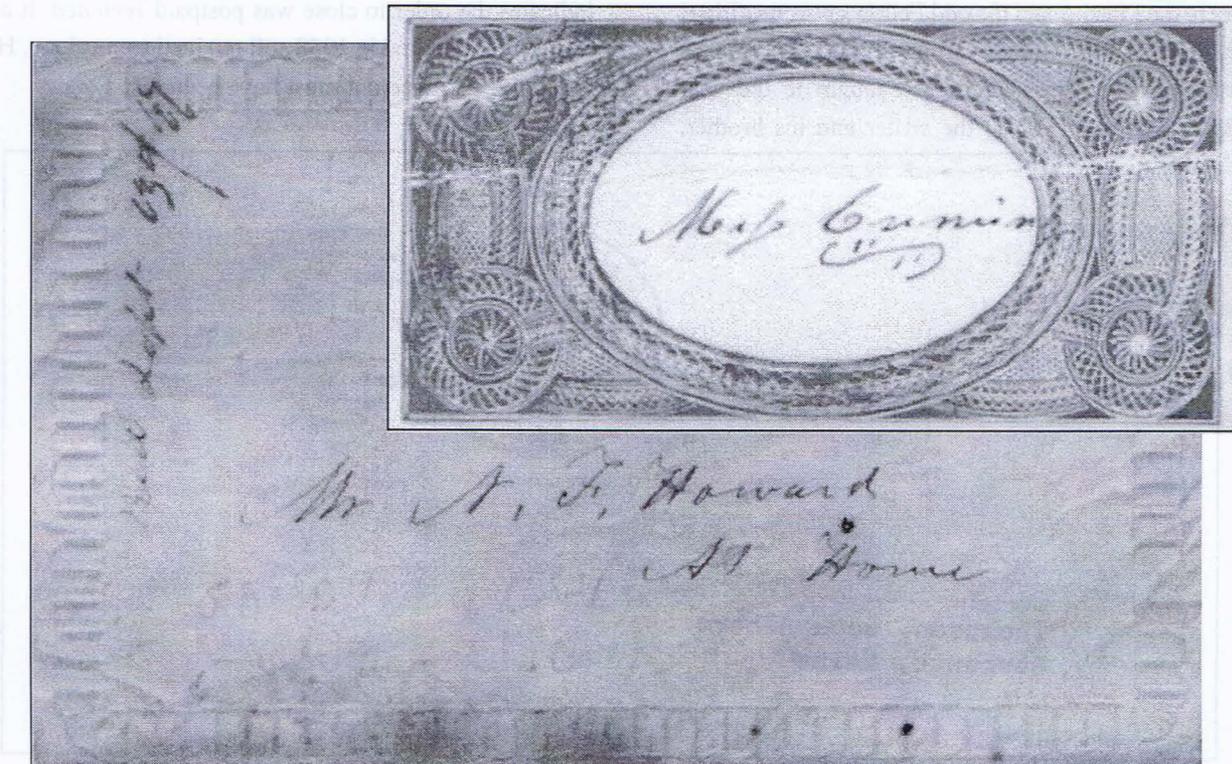
The cover is addressed to N .F .Howard. Through the wonders of the internet I have discovered this was Nicholas Ferguson Howard, b. 1821 in Buncombe County and died June 23, 1909 in Tennessee. Miss Cumming may have been Jane Ester Cumming, born in 1828. She lived to the ripe old age of 92 and died in Tennessee. I couldn't turn up Cal Sawyer. While it is disquieting to think that these people probably knew the person who named the town Sandy Mush, it is comforting to know that proper party's were being thrown.

Editor's Note: Sandy Mush Township and community is on Sandy Mush Creek in western Buncombe County. The name derived from a camping place used by early hunters. They used water with sand in it from the creek to prepare their meal of mush (corn meal, oatmeal, both). Sandy Mush Community is today serviced by the Asheville post office, Leicester Branch, my good friend, Nelson Higgins, Postmaster.

References:

North Carolina Gazetteer, Powell

Buncombe County Map, Post Offices and Postmasters of North Carolina, Colonial to USPS, NCPHS.



INDIVIDUAL RAILROAD CLERK MARKINGS

By Scott Troutman

In the winter of 2000 issue of the Postal Historian, I showed a pair of remarkable covers which went from Pantego to Tuscarora and were covered with handstamps from the individual postal employees who were on the railroad post office runs. Registered package envelopes required that the clerks have these handstamps. However, covers with these markings are quite scarce.

Recently I have acquired two special delivery covers which have these markings. The first (Figure 1) was sent from Washington, D.C. to the mayor of Charleston, S.C. in 1931. On the back is the train clerks mark of R.T. Klingensmith, the

supervisor on the Washington to Charleston run of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad. It has train mark of d3, meaning the third daylight train.

The second (Figure 2) is a special delivery envelope which went from Richmond, Virginia to Brooklyn, N.Y. This was apparently put on the northbound run of the Washington, D.C. to Hamlet, N.C. run. On the back is the purple handstamp of Walter W. Mahone of Train 108. I say it is a handstamp even though it looks more like he typed this on the back, however, on close inspection, I am fairly certain this is a handstamp.

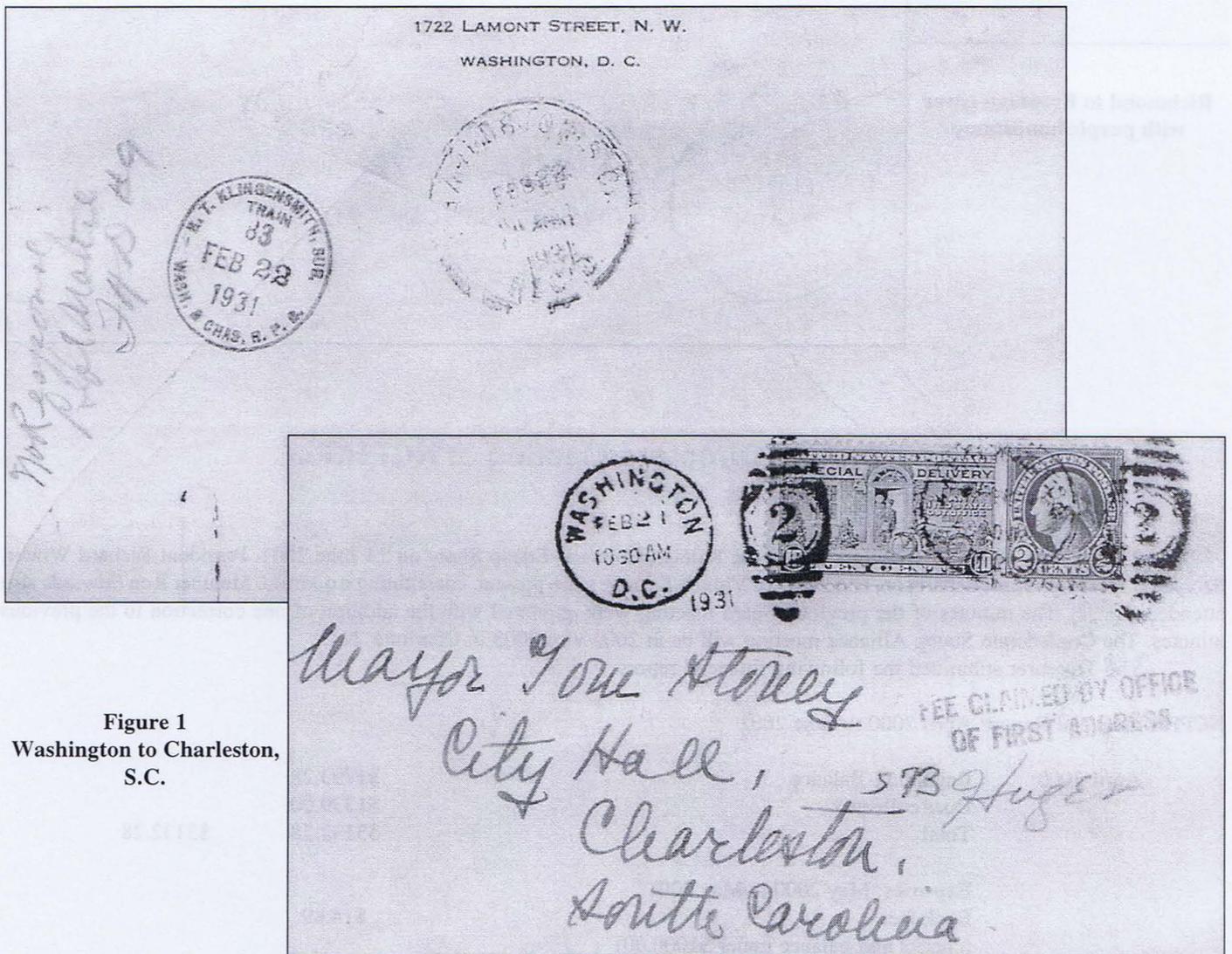
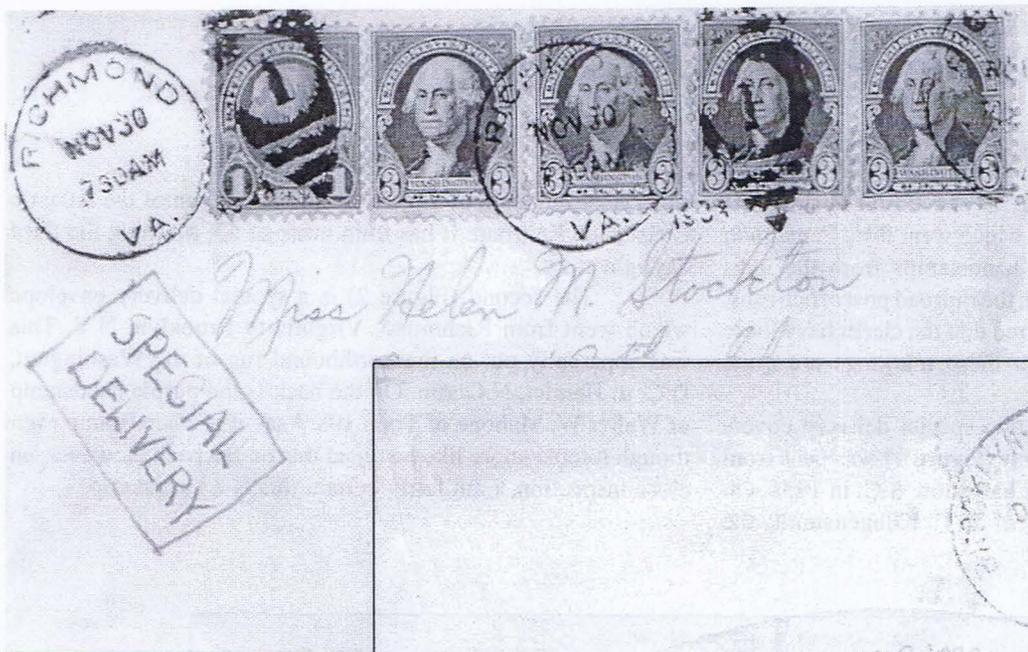
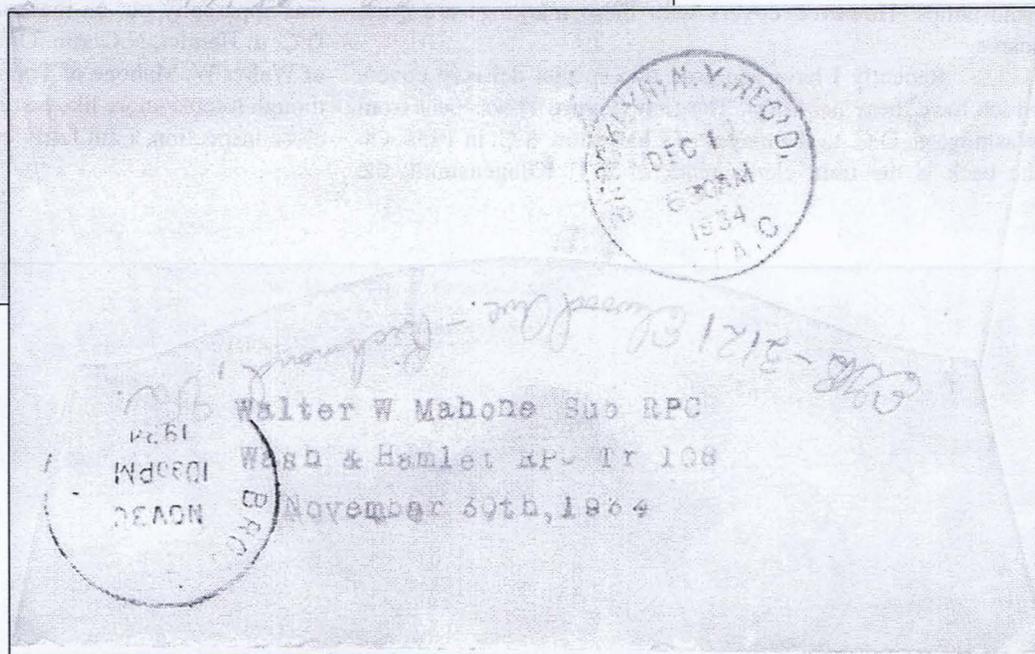


Figure 1
Washington to Charleston,
S.C.



Richmond to Brooklyn cover with purple handstamp



Board of Directors Meeting of NCPHS

The NCPHS Board of Directors met at the Raleigh Coin and Stamp Show on 23 June 2001. President Richard Winter, Secretary/Treasurer Tom Richardson, and Director Vernon Stroupe were present, constituting a quorum. Member Ron Edwards also attended.

The minutes of the previous Board meeting were approved with the addition of one correction to the previous minutes. The Confederate Stamp Alliance meeting will be in 2002 vice 2003 in Charlotte, N.C.

The Treasurer submitted the following financial report:

NCPHS Financial Report: April 2000 to June 2001

April 2000	Beginning Balance	\$1793.28	
	Dues collected	\$1339.00	
	Total	\$3132.28	\$3132.28
	Expenses: May 2000 to May 2001		
	Bank fees	\$14.89	
	(checks and balance under \$1000.00)		
	Postage (CSA mailing)	\$132.00	
	Postage	\$170.00	
	Printing & Postage for Postal Historian	\$877.69	
	Total Expenses	\$1194.58	\$1194.58

Balance as of June 20, 2001

\$1937.70

Thomas Richardson Sec/Treas.

The Board asked the Treasurer to send postal cards to the 40 unpaid members to remind them of delinquent dues. If there is no response and the dues not paid they will be dropped from the membership. The deadline for 2001 dues will be 31 December 2001. The Postal Historian will carry the names of those members to be dropped before doing so. Vernon

Stroupe asked that Tony Crumbley be included in the list of Sustaining members.

President Winter requested a breakdown of the cost of the last four issues of the Postal Historian.

Postal Historian Cost per Issue: April 2000 to June 2001

Whole #71	\$236.29
Whole #72	\$213.15
Whole #73	\$296.00
Whole #74	\$132.25
Total	\$877.69

Vernon Stroupe passed on a suggestion from Tony Crumbley to poll members on what they want in the Postal Historian. A discussion followed on use of color, the number of issues per year, the use of 20lb or 24lb paper for printing color, etc. The Board agreed to continue having four issue per year, using a few color pages in the issues, and using 24lb paper for the color pages. Vernon Stroupe will produce a sample poll to include in the next Postal Historian with a preprinted address so members can complete, fold and mail.

Vernon Stroupe informed the Board that there are enough articles for the next two issues of the Postal Historian, and enough one page articles to add to future issues also. A bibliography will be published at the end of the year. Advertisements in the Postal Historian were discussed. Vernon Stroupe suggested the rate for one full page ad per issue would be \$60.00. Ads can be placed for 1/4 page and up. No members at this time have purchased ads. Vernon agreed to see if there was interest in purchasing ads. The Board also discussed the service offered to our members to request information from other members on areas of their research and collections. This service is free to all members of the North Carolina Postal History Society. Short want lists of members will be added to these services.

The Board bought up the issue of using email to communicate with members, especially in the dues collection process. It was decided to ask members to send their email addresses to the Secretary to include in his data base. These can be use to inform members of meetings, dues notices and other inquiries to members. The email addresses are currently being published in the Postal Historian for member use.

The subject of the NCPHS auction was again discussed. Dick Winter asked Tom Richardson to assist in the operation of an auction service to the members and Tom agreed. Dick Winter will look into some of the current auctions that are used by other philatelic societies. A set of auction criteria will be developed and reviewed before the auction is started.

The following officers were elected for a two year term:

Richard Winter President	2003
John Allen Vice- President	2003
Tom Richardson Secretary/Treasurer	2003

The next annual meeting will be at Charlotte in July 2002 at CHARPEX. The Confederate Stamp Alliance will also have its annual meeting at the same show.

Annual Meeting of NCPHS

Vernon Stroupe gave a presentation of his North Carolina Postal History collection. He presented color printed pages, showed his encapsulation of his covers, discussed scanning techniques and printing options. Members present were, Dick Winter, Thomas Richardson, Ron Edwards, Robert Hunt, and Tom Richardson

NCPHS Member Internet Directory

CALLING ALL MEMBER CYBER-PHILES

**THE *POSTAL HISTORIAN* IS COMPILING A
MEMBERSHIP E-MAIL DIRECTORY**

PLEASE SEND YOU E-MAIL ADDRESS TO

EDITOR VERNON STROUPE

at

VSStroupe@worldnet.att.net

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Dick Winter	rfwinter@worldnet.att.net

NEW MEMBERS

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 Gene Lightfoot
 Jom Lilley
 Elizabeth Potts
 Robert Taylor
 Wendell Triplett

2001 SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Archival Services Library, Raleigh
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 Maurice Bursey
 Alton G. Campbell
 Tony L. Crumbley
 John Hardy, Jr.
 Sam Hudson
 Robert H. Hunt
 Charles Jackson
 Stefan Jaronski
 Harry McDowell
 Tom Richardson
 Jerry Roughton
 Vernon S. Stroupe
 Robert Taylor
 Harvey Teal
 Richard Weiner
 Ruth Y. Wetmore

NCPHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Term ending 2003²

Richard F. Winter

John W. Allen

Tom Richardson

Term ending 2001³

Alan Vestal

Ruth Y. Wetmore

Vernon S. Stroupe