

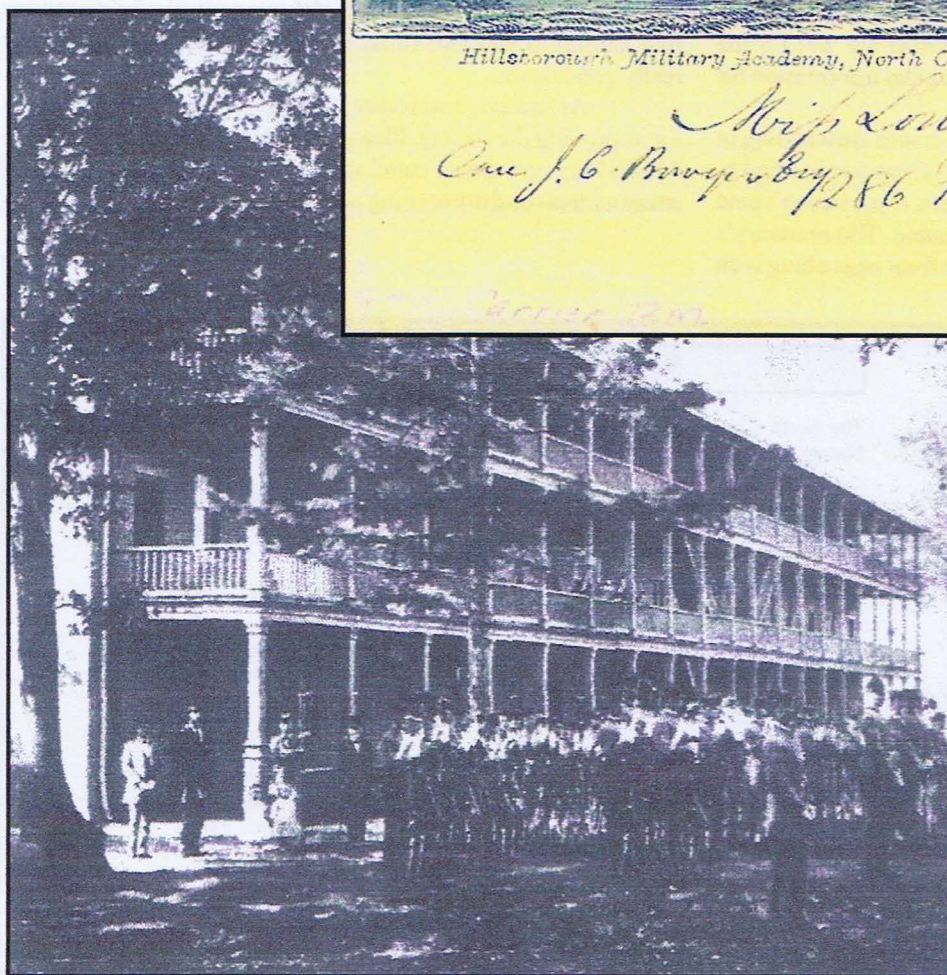
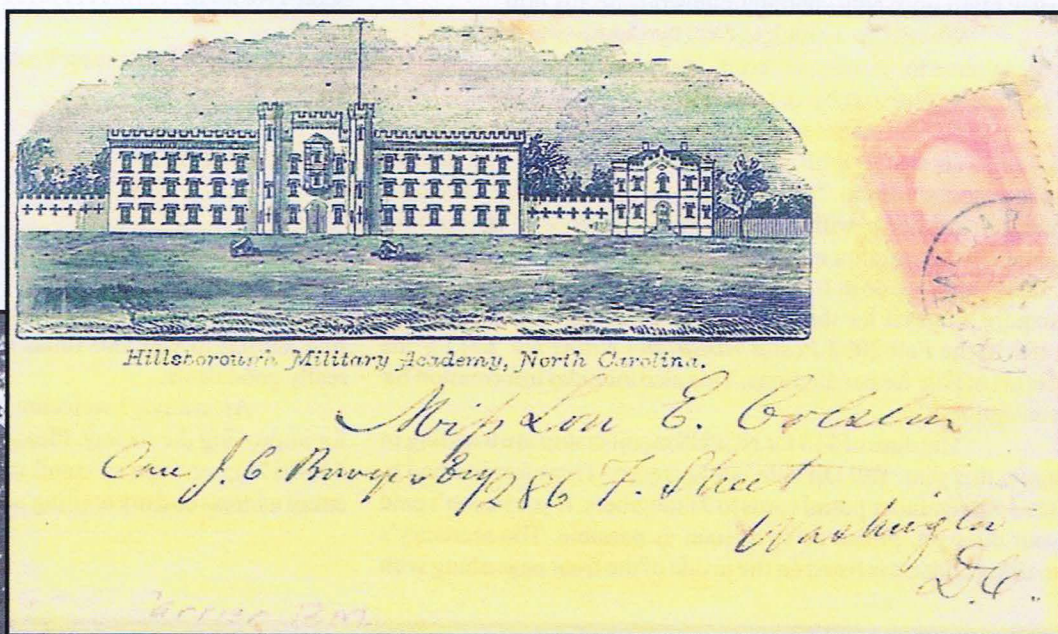
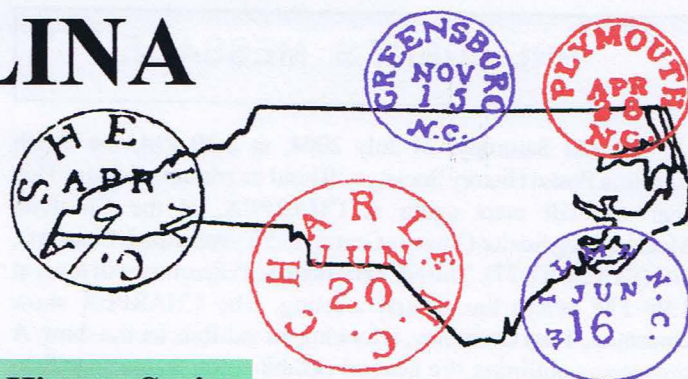
NORTH CAROLINA POSTAL HISTORIAN

The Journal of the North Carolina Postal History Society

Volume 23, No. 1

Spring 2004

Whole 86



**HILLSBOROUGH
MILITARY ACADEMY**

Affiliate #155 of the American Philatelic Society



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On Saturday, 24 July 2004, at 2:30 PM, the North Carolina Postal History Society will hold its annual meeting. This year we will meet again at CHARPEX, at the Charlotte Mecklenburg Senior Citizens Center, 225 Tyvola Road, Charlotte, NC (Exit 5 off I-77). The NCPHS Board of Directors will meet at 1:00 PM before the annual meeting. The CHARPEX show chairman, Tony Crumbley, is looking for exhibits for the show. A prospectus outlining the general exhibit rules, frame specifications, exhibit setup and takedown schedules, and other instructions for exhibitors is available from Tony Crumbley, at Charpex-2004, P.O. Box 681447, Charlotte, NC 28216. It is also available at the Charlotte Philatelic Society web site www.math.uncc.edu/~hbreiter/clubs/prospectus.htm.

We will be looking to elect two additional directors this year to serve for three-year terms. If you are interested in serving the society, please contact me.

As you can see from the results of Auction No. 3, provided separately with this journal, there is a growing interest in the society auction. We had bids on all but three lots. The next auction will occur with the next *Postal Historian*. If you have some North Carolina material you wish to dispose of, this is an excellent way to do it. It also provides a means for our members to acquire material for their collections at excellent prices. Please refer to the Fall 2002 *Postal Historian* (Whole No. 80) for the Terms of Sale for our auctions. This also includes information for consignors.

The dues of \$15 for NCPHS membership are trickling in again this year. Bill DiPaolo our Secretary-Treasurer has had to send out reminder postal cards to 31 members. If you haven't paid your dues yet, please do so as soon as possible. The secretary's mailing address is listed on the inside of the front page along with

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the other officers. The small cost of the annual dues brings a very fine journal to you four times each year, one of the last of the really good deals.

As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions for improving the society. Please feel free to call me at home (336 545-0175), send me an email message, or write to me. Both my email address and my mailing address appear in this journal.

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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 \$15 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the Treasurer. Submissions for the *Postal Historian* or inquiries may be addressed to the editors.

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Hillsborough Military Academy

by Tony L. Crumbley

By the 1850's many southern states began to support the idea of military education, both because of the inter-sectional crisis and because general interest in education increased. State sponsored military institutions, such as Virginia Military Institute (VMI) in 1839 and The Citadel in 1842, served as models.

North Carolina lagged behind South Carolina in many ways, including the establishment of military schools. It would take a Citadel graduate, Charles Courtenay Tew, to open North Carolina's first military academy. In 1858 Tew left a superintendent position at the Arsenal Academy in South Carolina to open a school in North Carolina.

Tew met with an Episcopal minister, the Rev. Mr. Curtis, and A. S. Gaillard, a Citadel alumnus, in Hillsborough to discuss opening a school in Hillsborough. In 1858, Tew advertised in local newspapers that he would be opening a school in Hillsborough on January 12, 1859.

Tew modeled a curriculum after West Point, VMI and The Citadel. He set the first year tuition at \$315 - expensive for an academic year which ran from January to November. These fees included board, fuel, light, washing, instructions, textbooks, medical attention, as well as uniforms. However, Tew had no problem attracting students. By January 1860, 107 cadets had enrolled from eight southern states.

Along with planning the school's opening, Tew oversaw the construction of the Academy's campus. The buildings would not be completed until September 1860 so Tew and his students boarded with local residents.



Charles Courtney Tew

The largest structure on campus cost \$30,000 to build and was built of brick. This brick barracks was 215 feet long and 45 feet wide. It was three stories tall. The barracks was an imposing structure with its huge crenellated turrets that flanked the central entrance. Inside were sleeping quarters and living quarters for cadets, instructors and staff as well as classrooms.

When the Academy first opened, it was funded through private funds. A year after it opened, it received a charter from the state which gave it tax exempt status as well as the ability to grant degrees. Along with the charter came Charles Tew's appointment as Colonel to North Carolina's militia and other members of the faculty received Captain's appointments.

Once the 1860 academic year began, the cadets took traditional academic courses in geometry, algebra, trigonometry, French, Latin, history, composition and English, as well as extensive military training which included philosophy, studying the Constitution and military drills. The normal day would run from 5:20 a.m. when classes began before breakfast until drill which lasted from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Dinner was at 6:00 p.m. and studies would continue by candle light until 10:00 p.m. - bedtime. Weekends would allow cadets to leave the Academy grounds and visit the Town of Hillsborough.

The normal routine of academy life did not last long for during the winter of 1860-61, one-by-one the southern states began to leave the union. With this, one-by-one the cadets left the Academy to join militia and volunteer companies in South Carolina.

The spring of 1861 term saw 170 cadets register for classes. With the rumblings of war, the Academy added artillery drill to the curriculum and the military drill was increased.

On May 20, 1861 North Carolina seceded from the union. At this time, the Hillsborough Military Academy offered its services to the Confederacy. The barracks was converted into an ordnance manufacturing and storage facility. The artillery pieces, which had just been received three months prior, were returned to the state's control. The parade ground served as a camp of instruction and a recruiting area. The recruits, mostly men in their twenties and thirties, received military instruction from teenage cadets.

Commandant Tew and most of the faculty left the Academy to serve the state's military in various capacities. Governor Ellis asked Colonel Tew to compose a list of military supplies that the state might need. After completing this task, Tew assumed command of Fort Macon. Following his brief tenure there, he took command of the Second Regiment of the North Carolina State Troops. Tew died at the "Bloody Lane" in the center of Confederate lines at Antietam.

The Academy struggled through the war with most of the faculty gone and many of the students entering service. In February 1865, the older cadets were ordered to go to Salisbury to defend against an attack from General Stoneman. Before they arrived, the cadets received orders to go to Raleigh to aid in

guarding about approximately 600 federal prisoners of war.

One of these cadets to go to Raleigh was Alexander C. Jones. Jones wrote his parents about the terrible conditions he experienced while performing this duty. Eating flour and meal twice a day, Jones had "undergone the hardships of a soldier since I left Hillsborough Military Academy, sleeping on the ground, standing guard, I stood five hours last night; one of the worst nights I ever saw."

After eleven days of guarding prisoners, Cadet Jones and his comrades returned to the Academy. Upon their arrival, Jones suffered from a sore throat and fever. According to Jones, a wave of illnesses swept through the Cadet Corps from the effects of their exposure. "A great many of the boys have been sick, some have measles and some the same complaint I had." Cadet Jones died of pneumonia a few weeks later.

In May 1865, following General Joseph Johnston surrendered to General Sherman at the Bennett farm in Durham's Station. The Cadets of the Hillsborough Military Academy were dismissed and sent home.

After the war, several efforts failed to reopen the school. The Academy remained vacant until 1874 when the Horner and Graves School relocated to Hillsborough. This venture lasted

only three years and after 1877, the Academy never opened again. By the 1930's, the Academy grounds had been completely abandoned and as part of the New Deal Program, the buildings were dismantled in order to salvage the bricks.

All that remains of the Academy today are the Commandant's house, which is a private residence, the rebuilt social hall which served as an active chapel and an unrestored building that may have housed the infirmary.

During the war, nearly 200 of the Academy Cadets served in the Confederate armies -- quite amazing considering the short life of the school. Only a few remnants remain today of this outstanding school's history. The impact of these cadets, however, can still be seen in the history of this state.

Sources:

The North Carolina Historical Review. January 2002
The Hillsborough Military Academy, Stephen A. Ross
Jones Family Papers - Southern Historical Collection
The Confederate Philatelist, May June 1988



Figure 1

Hillsborough Military Academy - Hillsborough, NC
November 9, (1859) US #26 Type I
Corner card envelope measures 60 x 140 mm
White paper

Figure 8 - Cover Page

Hillsborough Military Academy - Postal Carrier DC, December 20, 1867
Type II corner card used to Washington
Confederate General Raleigh E. Colston attempted to reopen the school in 1866. This cover is addressed to Colston's daughter by General Colston.
Envelope measures 85 x 140 mm
Cream paper



Figure 2
Hillsborough Military Academy - Carolina City, NC
5 Paid Type II cds, October 8, 1861
Corner Card envelope measures 82 x 135
White paper



Figure 3
Hillsborough Military Academy - Hillsborough
25 mm Blue cds, February 19, 1863
Pair 5 cent typographed Archer & Daly Confederate issue Type 1
Corner card envelope measures 62 x 135 mm.
White paper

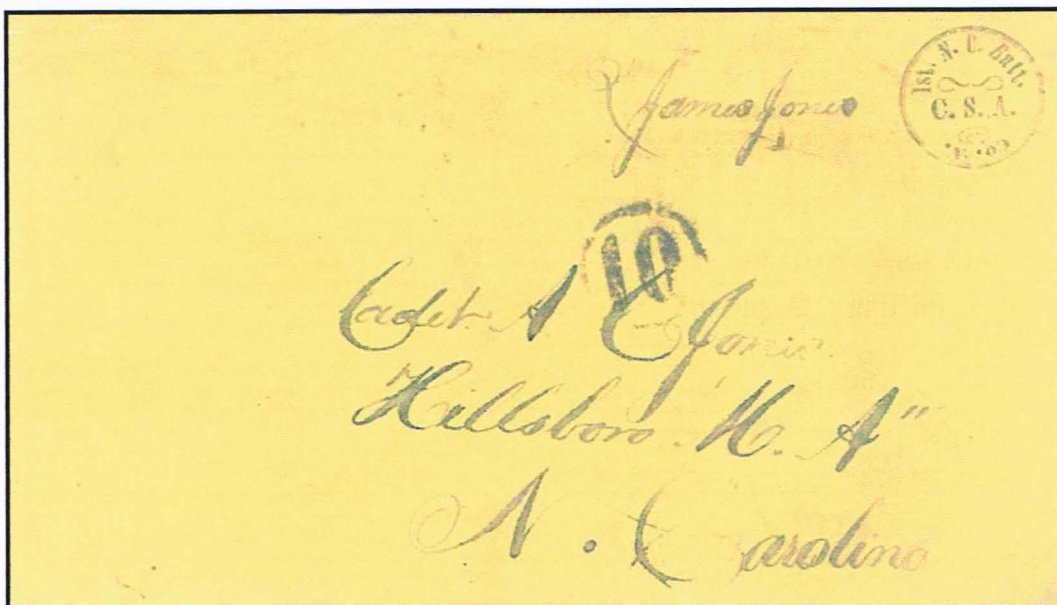


Figure 4

James Benjamin Jones, father of Cadet Alexander C. Jones, enlisted April 1, 1864 as a Private in Company A, 1st NC Battalion. The battalion spent most of 1864 in North Carolina. It was moved to Petersburg to assist in the defense of Petersburg against the attack of General Johnson. From Petersburg James Jones wrote his son at the Hillsborough Military Academy. This letter would have been written in January or February 1865 as the black Petersburg due 10 was not used until late December 1864.

Of interest on this letter is the 18 mm 1st NC Battalion unit corner card. Private Jones used this corner card as his endorsement to allow the cover to go postage due through the Confederate mails.

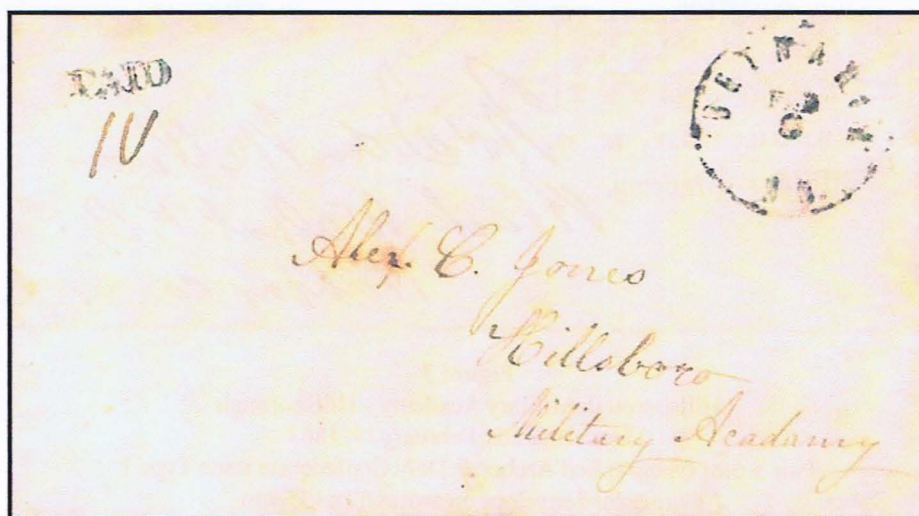


Figure 5

Bethania, NC February 6, 1865 paid MS 10
Letter to Cadet Jones just before he was ordered
to go to Raleigh as a guard at Camp Mangum.

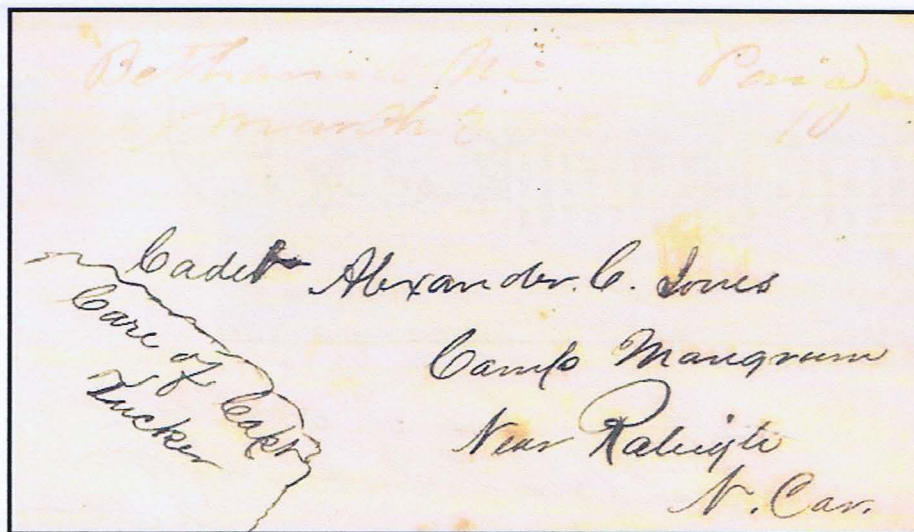


Figure 6

Bethania, NC March 3, 1865 paid 10
Letter to Cadet Jones while he was on duty in Raleigh.



Figure 7

Hillsborough Military Academy - Hillsborough, NC
December 8 ca. 1867.

Two cent Jackson issue of 1861 carrying perhaps a school circular to State Senator in Raleigh.
Type II of corner card from one of the attempts to reopen the school. Note this engraving shows the
Commandant's house.

Type II corner card
Envelope measures 84 x 150 mm
Cream paper

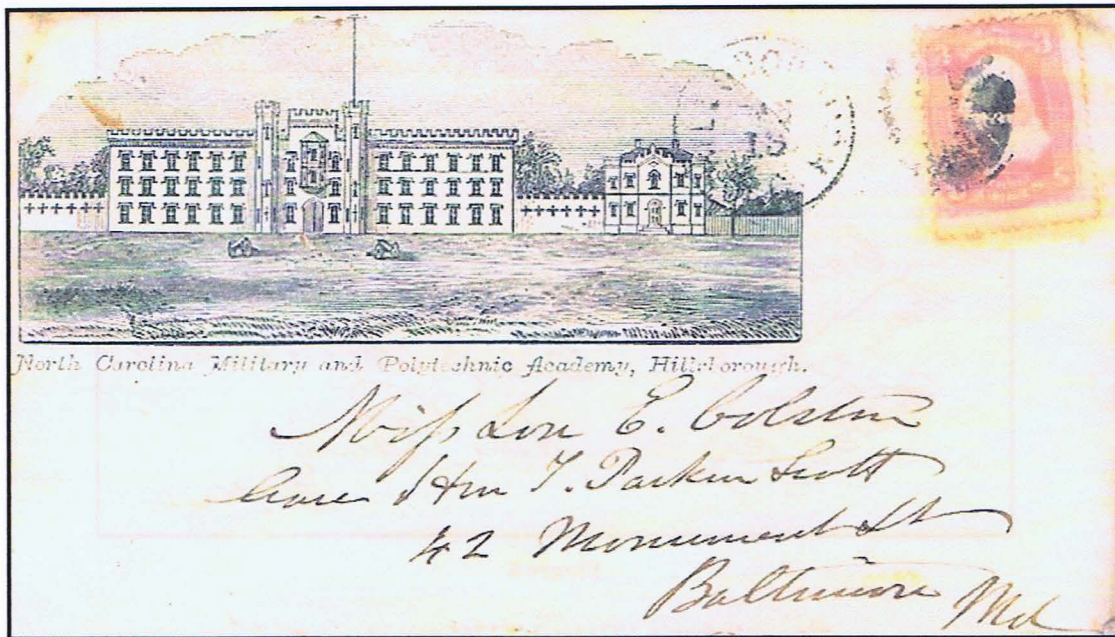


Figure 9

North Carolina Military and Polytechnic Academy - Hillsborough, NC

January 13, ca. 1867

A new name for the Hillsborough facility appears on this corner card

Envelope measures 84 x 148 mm

White paper

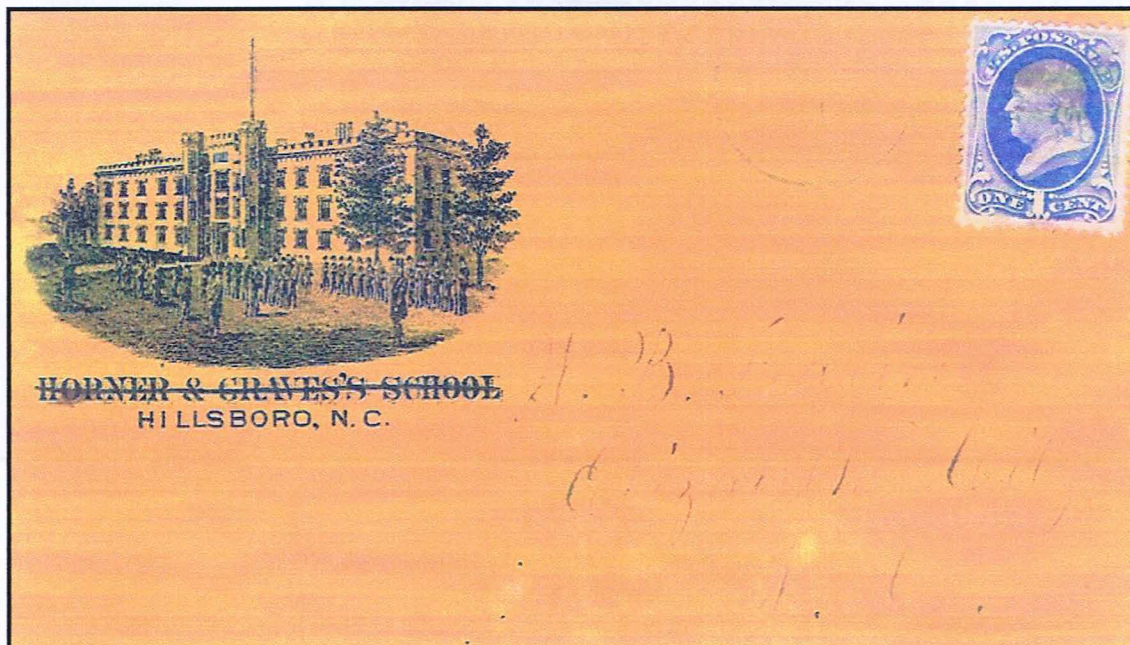


Figure 10

Horner & Grave's School - Hillsborough, NC

Black 33 mm Hillsborough CDS on 1870's one cent bank note ca. 1875

while Horner & Graves was in Hillsborough.

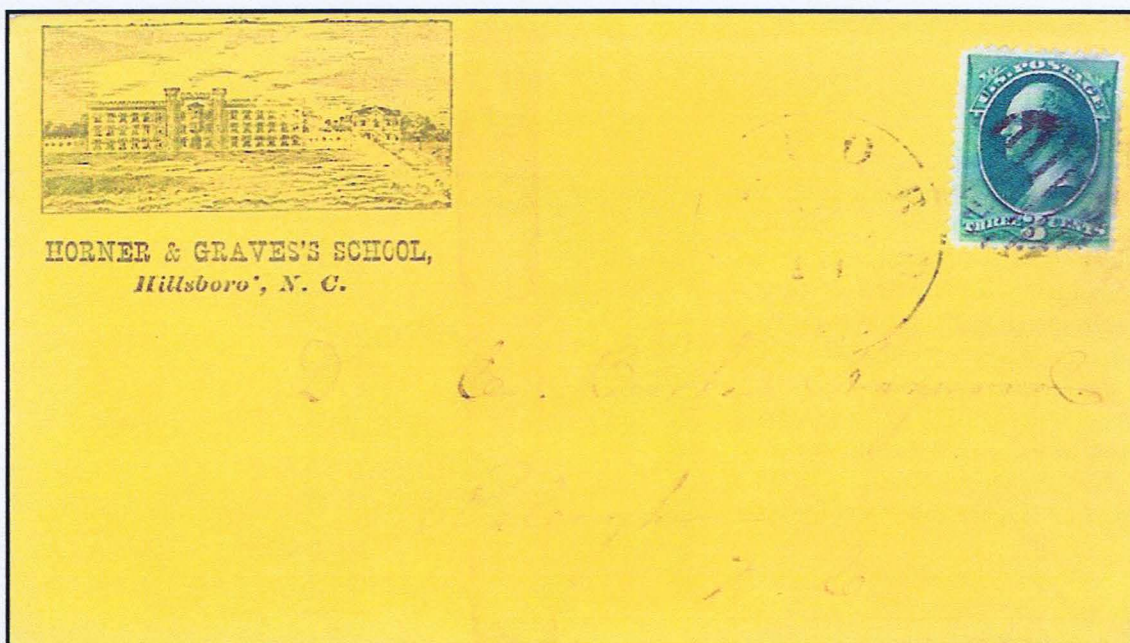


Figure 11

Horner & Grave's School - Hillsborough, NC
 Black 40 mm Oxford NC CDS on 1870's 3 cent bank note ca. 1878
 use of an old corner card. Afterwards the school moved back to Oxford.

Prices Realized Auction3

(15 February 2004)

1	26.00	2	26.00	3	25.00	4	NS	5	26.00	6	14.00	7	NS
8	11.00	9	23.50	10	11.00	11	13.00	12	22.00	13	38.00	14	26.00
15	11.00	16	21.00	17	9.00	18	3.00	19	15.00	20	NS	21	13.50
22	17.00	23	8.00	24	12.50	25	13.00	26	9.00	27	20.00	28	4.00
29	6.00	30	12.00	31	9.00	32	8.00	33	5.00	34	33.00		

NS - No Sale

MORE DPO'S IN THE MAKING

by Vernon S. Stroupe

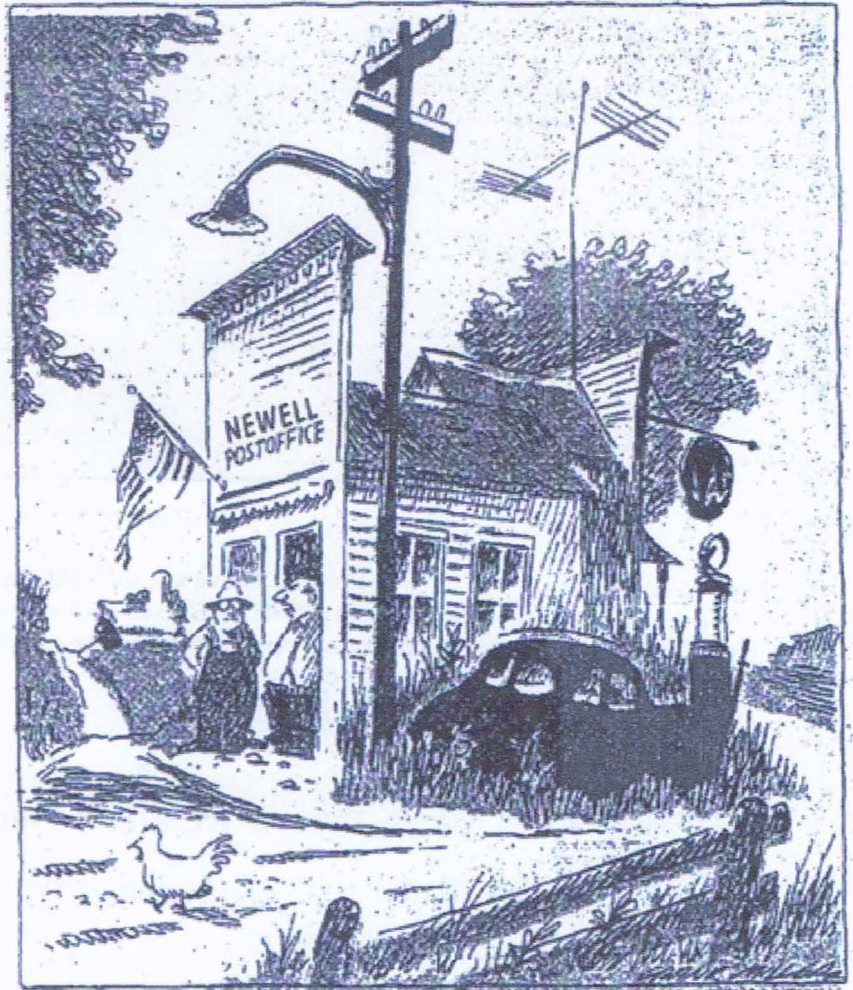
The Presidential Commission on the United States Postal Service has made its recommendations. As a result small post offices that are un-profitable may be closed in favor of mail services offered by shopping malls, banks, package stores, and grocery stores. Privatization of the postal system was rejected in the report.

"You don't necessarily need post offices; you need postal services delivered in the most efficient way", said commission co-chairman Harry Pearce, chairman of Hughes Electronic Corporation.

The buildings vacated by this decision could be sold with the monies returned to the General Fund, or donated for community centers or town halls.

The USPS has about 35,000 offices across the country, which the postal service considers un-profitable, but have been kept open due to pressure from the community and Congress. These offices are graded into different levels. The Charlotte Distribution Center is a level 26; any office with a level of 15 or lower is at risk.

A listing of all North Carolina post offices that fall in the 15 or below category is not available at this time. A list of the endangered facilities in the Charlotte area is listed below.



'They close this post office and it'll be the end of this town.'

Ansonville, Anson County
Badin, Stanly County
Boiling Springs, Cleveland County
Casar, Cleveland County
Cramerton, Gaston County
Earl, Cleveland County
East Spencer, Rowan County
Faith, Rowan County
Fallston, Cleveland County
Fort Lawn, SC, York County
Gold Hill, Rowan County
Granite Quarry, Rowan County
High Shoals, Gaston County
Jefferson, SC, Chesterfield County
Lilesville, Anson County

Level 13 McAdenville, Gaston County
Level 15 McConnells, SC, York County
Level 15 McFarlan, Anson County
Level 15 Mineral Springs, Union County
Level 15 Misenheimer, Stanly County
Level 13 Mount Croghan, SC, Chesterfield County
Level 15 Mount Mourne, Iredell County
Level 15 Mount Ulla, Rowan County
Level 13 Newell, Mecklenburg County
Level 15 Paw Creek, Mecklenburg County
Level 15 Peachland, Anson County
Level 15 Polkville, Cleveland County
Level 13 Van Wyck, SC, Lancaster County
Level 15 Waco, Cleveland County
Level 15

Level 15
Level 13
Level 11
Level 13
Level 13
Level 13
Level 13
Level 15
Level 15
Level 15
Level 13
Level 11
Level 13

New Lebanon and South Mills - Camden County

by Scott Troutman

For most of its existence, South Mills in Camden, County has been a small sleepy town on the banks of the Dismal Swamp Canal. With the opening of the Dismal Swamp Canal Welcome Center in 1989, the town now welcomes as many as 600,000 visitors a year by car and 1,700-1,900 boats using the canal as part of the Intercoastal Waterway.

It began as a lumber camp settlement in the 1760's called New Lebanon. By 1763 the area had been scouted as a possible end for the Great Dismal Swamp Canal. After gaining support from that great proponent of canals, George Washington, digging began in 1793 using a largely slave work force. An early post office existed from October 2, 1797 until 1801 when the post road from Norfolk was shifted west to Mackey's. The last postmaster, Thomas Gordon, reopened it as a private post office. This probably handled correspondence connected with the canal construction. The canal opened around 1805 and commerce began to flow.

In 1815 George Ferebee was appointed as a new US postmaster. New Lebanon post office would continue in operation until May 21, 1839.

The locks just south of New Lebanon was the Culpepper Locks. These are no longer there having been replaced in a canal widening years later. David Pritchard, a local merchant,

constructed two wind mills below the Culpepper Locks. A village grew up around the two "south mills". On March 2, 1840, new postmaster Marshall Parks opened a new post office at South Mills.

Shown is a letter (Figure 2) sent from South Mills in 1846 from the schoolmarm who signs as Anne B. She is writing to fellow school teacher who went to the "Institute" with her; Adeline Thomas. Though mailed to her father in New York, it did reach "Ade" in Baltimore with a nice Baltimore due 10 marking applied. Anne gives the following description in the letter:

"The place in which I reside is called "South Mills" and contains I should think about twenty houses. There is of course very little society about here, there being only two or three families whom we visit - but I am very well contented, for my house is made pleasant and comfortable and my little pupils are docile and obedient, and I have a satisfaction in knowing that I am doing my duty."

Anne was there during the golden age of the canal. From 1839 until 1860 the canal saw hundreds of freighters, grand passenger ships and shingle flatboats using the canal. By the Civil War the village grew to a population of 200 and boasted stores, churches, a blacksmith shop, a cobblers shop and two hotels: The Cherry Tree Inn and The Bartlett Hotel.

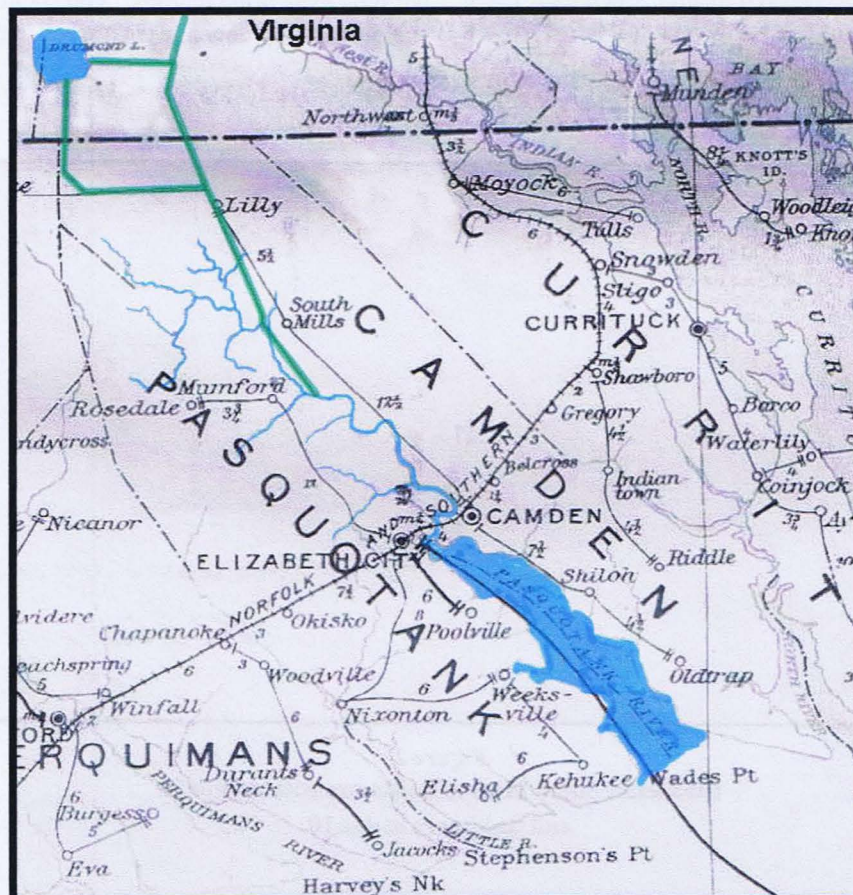


Figure 1
1895 map of
Camden County

The Intercoastal Waterway at the height of use



Courtesy of Dismal Swamp Canal Visitor Center

During the Civil War a Union force of 2,000 strong was sent to blow up the Culpepper Locks in an effort to prevent Confederate ironclads from coming into the Chesapeake. They were repulsed in the Battle of South Mills, a Confederate victory. The victory was short lived as Norfolk was surrendered in May 1862, Union troops took control of the canal.

By the end of the Civil War the canal was in terrible shape, and the newer Albemarle and Chesapeake Canal, opened in 1859, was taking the bulk of commercial traffic. South Mills suffered economically, but private investment between 1895 and 1899 rebuilt, widened and deepened the canal. But it didn't help that most of the business district burnt down in a fire in 1902. In

1929 the canal was taken over by the federal government as part of the Intercoastal Waterway system.

During the World War II era South Mills gained notoriety as a marriage mill. Between December 1941 to December 1946 approximately 18,000 marriages were performed. Couples arrived from Norfolk, Washington D.C., and as far away as Maryland because there was no waiting period. And the South Mills folks were not known for checking credentials well, so there were a lot of underage marriages. Also the Spencer brothers, one a doctor and one a justice of peace, worked out of the same building expediting matters. You could enter, get your physical exam, walk next door and get hitched and be out in three minutes.

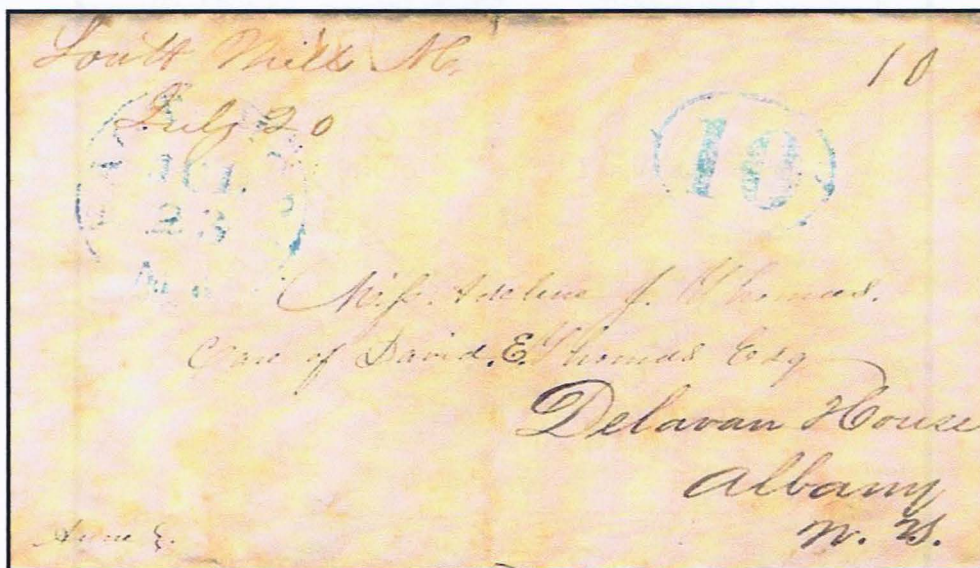


Figure 2
1859 letter South Mills to Baltimore with ms due 10
and Baltimore hs due 10

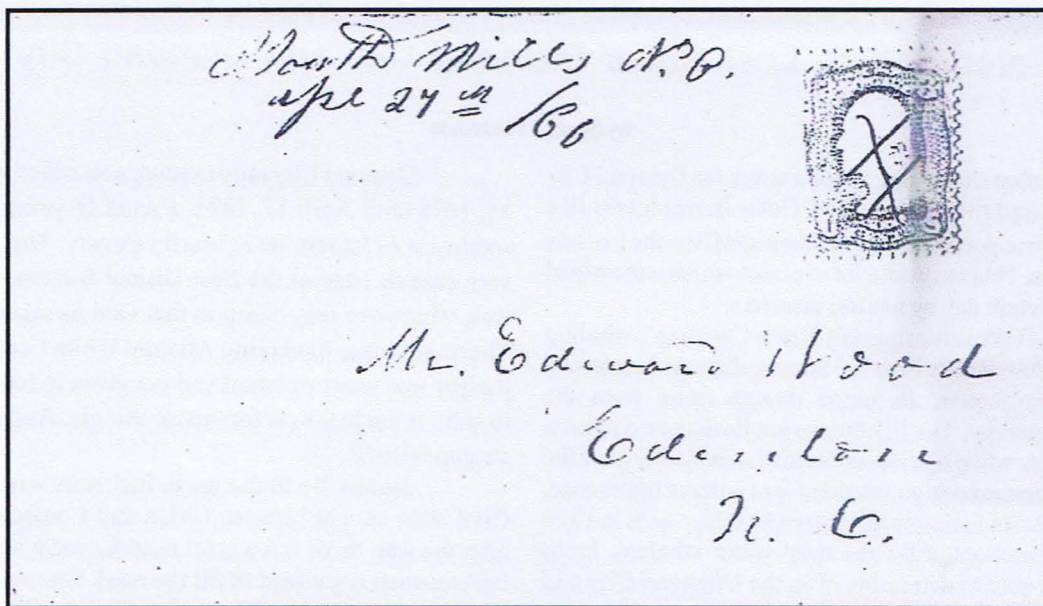


Figure 3
US #63 on 1866 cover to Edenton

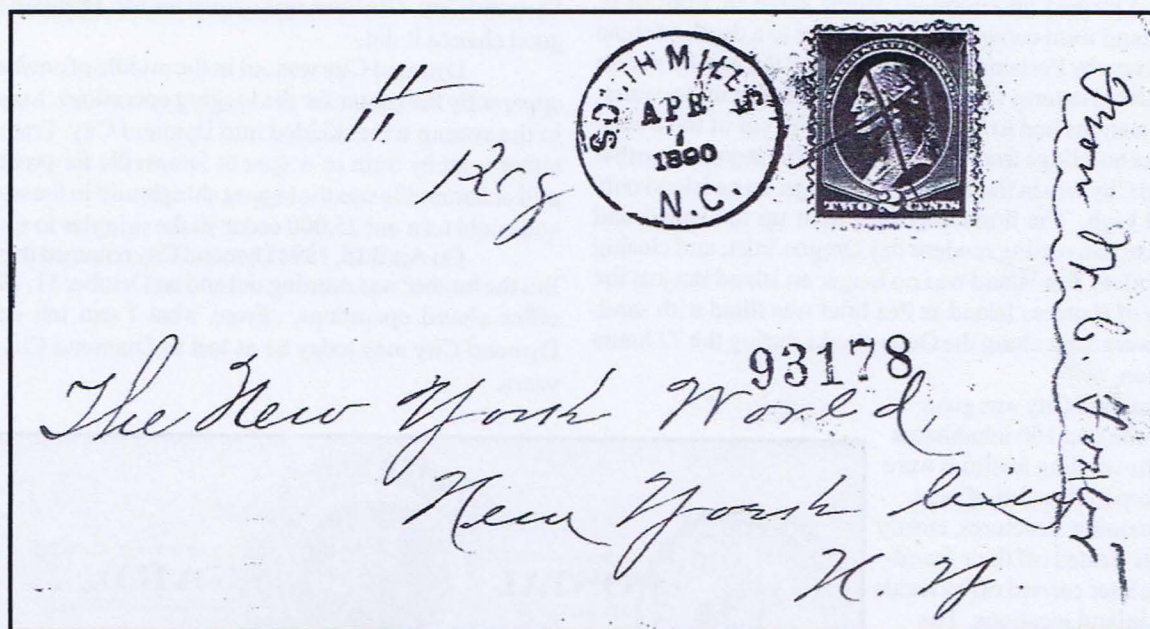


Figure 4
Registered 1890 letter South Mills to New York
Note lack of Registration franking

Tales of Two Lost Cities Diamond City and Dymond City

by Scott Troutman

In an auction this spring noted a cover for Dymond City I thought I had found the holy grail for Outer Banks lovers like myself. I hoped it was a misspelling of Diamond City, the lost city of the Outer Banks. There are not a lot of places which were wiped off the map in a single day by natural disasters.

Diamond City was originally North Carolina's whaling port, located on Core Banks near the famous diamond patterned Cape Lookout lighthouse. Its name though came from the Diamond Shoals nearby. The lighthouse got its diamond pattern from Diamond City when a paint contractors mistakenly gave the lighthouse the diamond design intended for Hatteras lighthouse. So Hatteras got the its famous swirl instead. A deep hole in Core Sound provided anchorage for the deep water whalers. From what I have been able to determine of it, the Diamond City had been around for about 100 years.

Beginning on August 16, 1899 and lasting for about 72 hours, the San Ciriaco hurricane struck. In a time when hurricanes were not named it got the name because 3,000 lives were lost in the city of San Ciriaco on Haiti when it struck there. The big storm bullseyed on the Core Banks. This hurricane, known on the Outer Banks simply as "1899", was a category 4 (the size of Hurricane Andrew) and pushed an enormous storm surge in front of it. Ocracoke Island went completely underwater to a depth of about 8 feet and at nearby Portsmouth water reached the second stories of houses. All of Hatteras Island was one to four feet under water. Life saving stations had to be "scuttled" (holes cut in the floors) to prevent the buildings from floating away. The storm surge that hit Diamond City was in the 15 foot high range, on an island only 5 to 10 feet high. The hurricane then went up the sound and turned back to sea, cutting modern day Oregon Inlet, and closing three other inlets. Pea Island was no longer an island but just the northern tip of Hatteras Island as Pea Inlet was filled with sand. Nine ships were sunk along the Outer Banks during the 72 hours of devastation.

Diamond City was gone. Few of its estimated 150 inhabitants survived. The whaling facilities were gone, the deep harbor full of sand. The few remaining structures, mostly small houses floated off their foundations, were later carried off by locals on boats to inland locations. The town site literally vanished under the sand. In the late 1970's shifting sand finally revealed the location of the town cemetery as the tops of tombstones began to show. I know of no cover existing from the lost city, and that is what I hoped to find.

But no, this was a postal card from Dymond City, in Martin County. This is also a tough cancel as this too was a very short lived city.

Dymond City only existed, post office wise, from April 15, 1878 until April 17, 1894- a scant 16 years. It sat 8½ miles southwest of Jamesville in Martin County. This puts you on the very eastern edge of the East Dismal Swamp, so the question was, what were they doing in that God forsaken piece of land? The answer was lumbering Atlantic White Cedar. The cedar or juniper was water resistant and not given to rotting. It was easy to split. It made the perfect house shingle. And here was a huge swamp full of it.

Jamesville to the north had been wrecked during the Civil War, caught between Union and Confederate forces. But after the war, there was a great need for cedar shingles and local businessmen organized to fill the need. One set of businessmen set up a huge shingle mill at Jamesville. An Englishman named Dymond was a principle investor in the construction of the Jamesville & Washington Railroad and Lumber Company to haul the wood to Jamesville and the shingles out.

The J&W was a narrow gauge logging railroad, roughly constructed. As such it had the dubious nickname of the "Jolt and Wiggle". I have not been able to establish that it ran to Dymond City. The town was named for Mr. Dymond so there is a good chance it did.

Dymond City was out in the middle of nowhere and was apparently the center for the logging operations. Logs harvested in the swamp were skidded into Dymond City. From there they either went by train or wagon to Jamesville for processing. The mill at Jamesville was the biggest shingle mill in the western world and could turn out 25,000 cedar shake shingles in a single day.

On April 18, 1894 Dymond City renamed itself Amherst. But the lumber was running out and on October 31, 1902 the post office closed operations. From what I can tell on the maps Dymond City may today be as lost as Diamond City was for 70 years.



WINSTON-SALEM POSTMASTER'S POSTMARK

By Tony L. Crumbley

A New Find

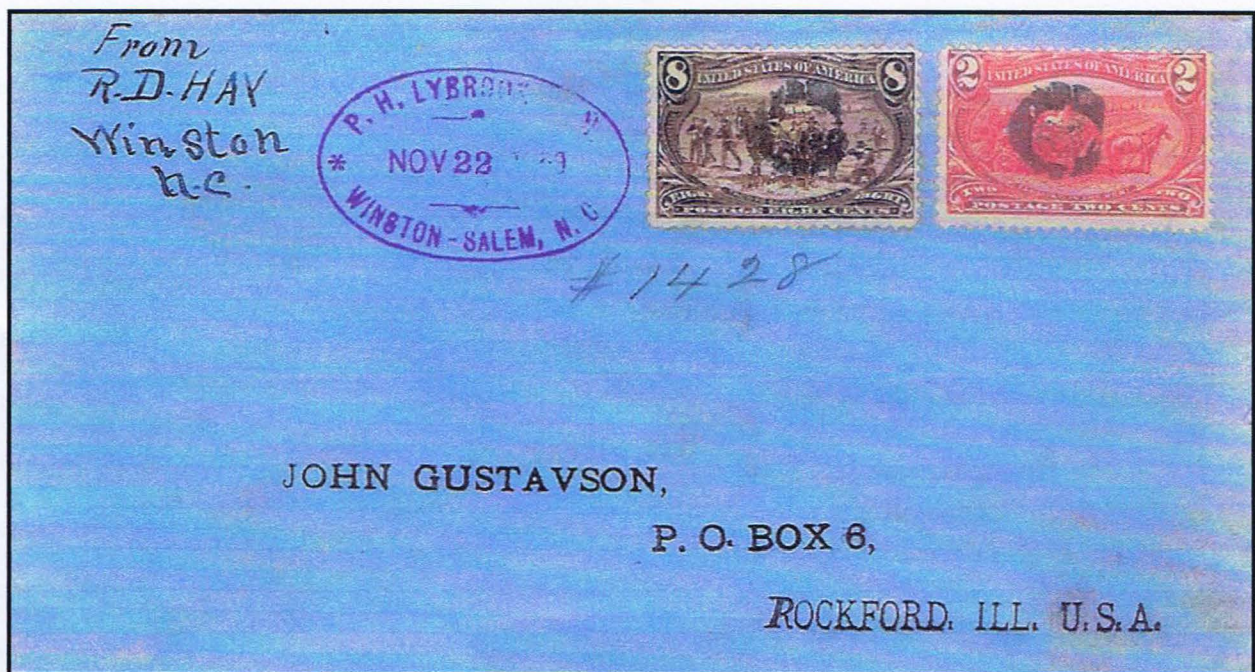
The Definitive work on Postmaster Postmarks by H.K. Thompson, published in the Billig's Handbooks lists 17 postmaster name markings from North Carolina. In compiling the North Carolina Postal Historian volumes, a few more were added.

A new marking has recently been found by the author. The cover is from Winston-Salem, registered, and is franked with 8 cents and 2 cents Trans-Mississippi stamps. The franking alone makes this a scarce cover as few of the higher values are known

used from North Carolina.

The oval marking measures 25 x 40 mm and has postmaster P.H. Lybrook above the Winston-Salem. It was posted November 22, 1899.

The cover was posted by R.D. Hay of Winston. Hay was a Spanish-American War colonel and an avid stamp collector who collected Confederate covers, among other things. This could explain the attractiveness of the cover.



GEORGE SPOONER DIES

George Spooner, owner of Palmetto Stamp Co. died in Greenwood, SC after a long illness.

A native of Henderson, NC, Spooner graduated from Oak Ridge Military Academy in 1944, went into the U.S. Army and was discharged as a sergeant in 1946. Spooner joined the U.S. Army Reserves until retirement as colonel in 1982

Hereceived a B.S. in chemistry from the University

of Miami and a doctorate in biochemistry from the University of North Carolina. He served as laboratory supervisor of the Clinical Research Laboratory at UNC. Dr. Spooner was Assistant Professor of Pathology at Duke University. He retired as Associate Professor of Pathology at the Medical University of Charleston.

Following retirement he moved to Greenwood, S.C., where he owned and operated the Palmetto Stamp Co.

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