

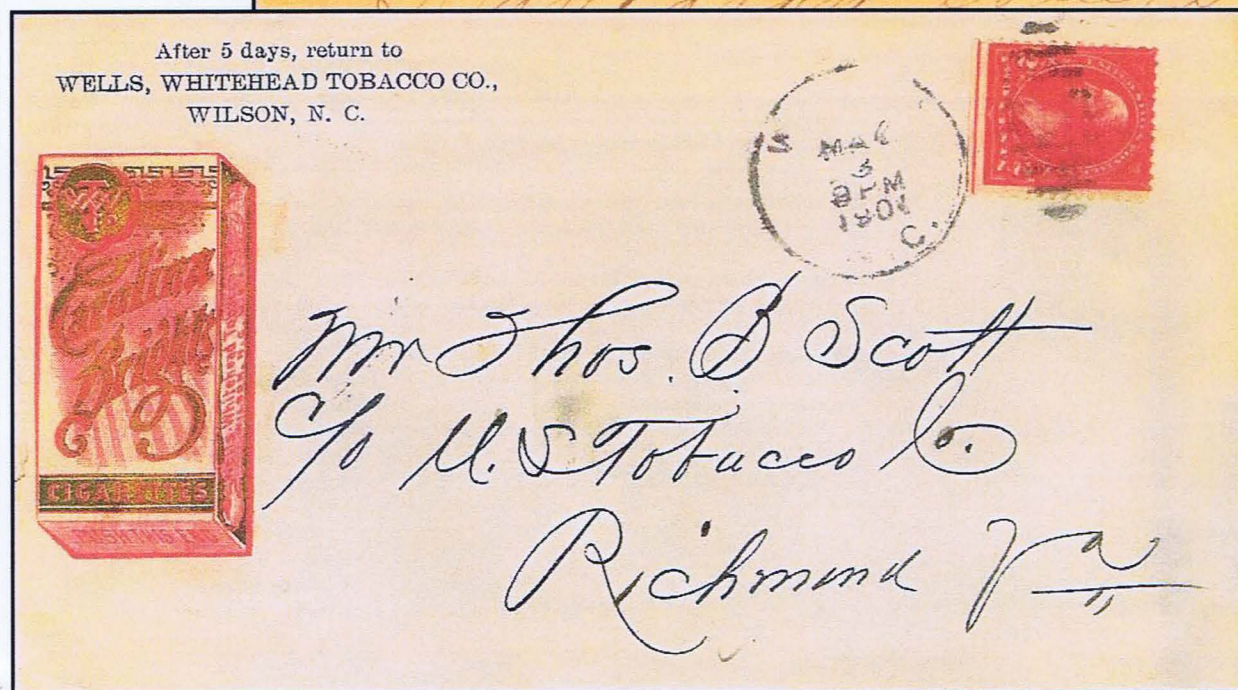
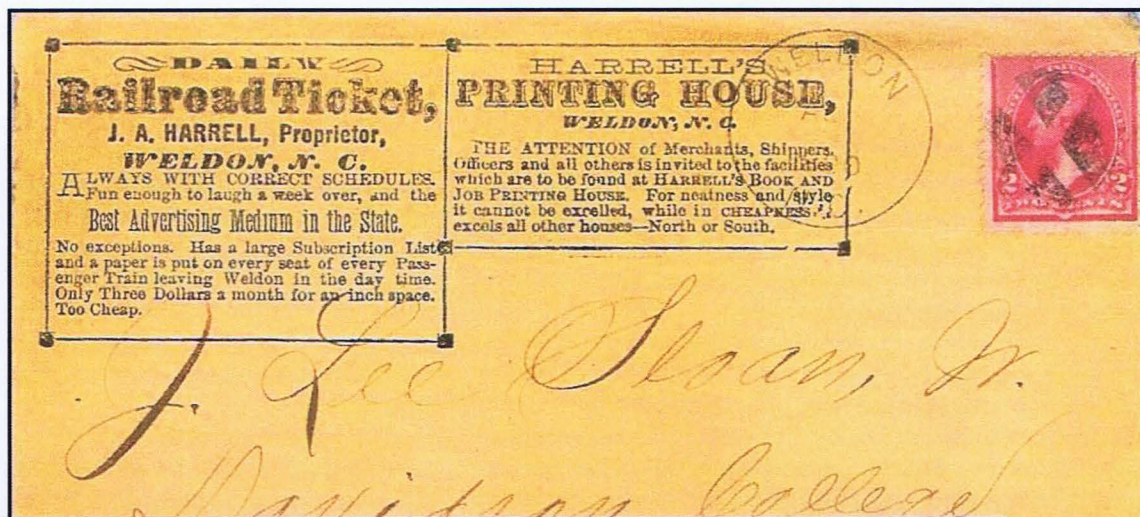
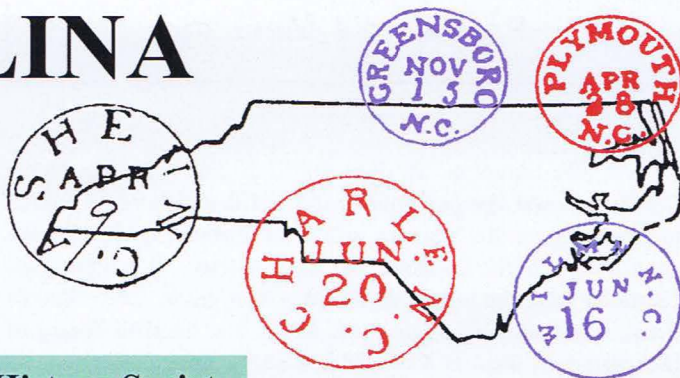
NORTH CAROLINA POSTAL HISTORIAN

The Journal of the North Carolina Postal History Society

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Whole 94



AFRICAN AMERICAN POSTMASTERS IN NORTH CAROLINA, 1874-1909

Affiliate #155 of the American Philatelic Society



President's Message

On Saturday, 29 July 2006, at 2:00 PM, the North Carolina Postal History Society (NCPHS) will hold its annual meeting. Again this year we will meet during CHARPEX, the annual show of the Charlotte Philatelic Society. It is held at the Charlotte Mecklenburg Senior Citizens Center, 2225 Tyvola Road, Charlotte, NC (Exit 5 off I-77). The NCPHS Board of Directors will meet at 1:00 PM before the annual meeting. At 2:30 PM, Chief Judge John Hotchner will give a talk. If you would like to exhibit at this show, a prospectus outlining the general exhibit rules, frame specifications, exhibit setup and takedown schedules, and other instructions for exhibitors is available from the Charlotte Philatelic Society web site <http://www.math.uncc.edu/~hbreiter/clubs/cps.htm>. Please mark your calendar with this date and plan to join us at the annual meeting.

Two of our directors' terms will end this year. If you are interested in serving the society for a three-year director term, please contact me or Vice-President Harvey Tilles.

Due to a heavy business travel schedule, Gene Lightfoot has asked to step down as the auction manager. Tom Richardson has taken over the auction duties starting with the auction in this issue. Gene has been very helpful for the period that he conducted the auction, for which we are grateful.

Some of you are aware that a major project is underway to update the North Carolina catalog by introducing several hundred new markings that have been found in recent years. In addition, this effort will catalog the twentieth century markings. The new catalog will be different in that it will not be prepared in print form. Since it will take several years to complete all 100 counties, we want to share the development of the new catalog as it is being completed, county by county. In this way we hope

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to make available the known postmarks now and not wait until the whole catalog is completed. That is why we will use the Internet.

The format will follow the original catalog, *Post Offices and Postmasters of North Carolina*, which was carefully prepared under the editorial leadership of Vernon Stroupe. He documented 6915 different post offices in North Carolina from pre-revolutionary to modern times and illustrated all the known postmarks from those offices that were used before the twentieth century. The new catalog will present each post office using the original data and postmark tracings. In addition, color scans of new nineteenth century and twentieth century postmarks made from actual covers, will be shown. For each postmark, the size, color, classification according to published standards of the similar types, and the periods of use will be listed. The data has been created for each county in .pdf files that can be downloaded if desired for each county separately. By downloading a file, the catalog information is available to be viewed or to be printed out by anyone accessing the site.

I am very pleased to announce that the first four counties of this project now can be viewed through the generosity of the National Postal Museum in Washington, D.C. The project is accessible through their web site and the State Postal History

(Continued on Page 15)



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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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African American Postmasters in North Carolina, 1874-1909

by Ben Justesen

The history of African American postmasters in North Carolina dates to the late Reconstruction period, when two freed slaves were named to serve post offices in Granville and Halifax counties. Over the next three decades, more than 60 African Americans would be named to follow in the footsteps of Moses J. Bullock, Townesville's postmaster from 1874 to 1886, and Winfield F. Young, who served as postmaster at Littleton from 1875 to 1885, and again from 1889 to 1893.

Included in their ranks would be six former or future state legislators, three of the state's most famous African American businessmen, and at least nine women. Most, but not all, served predominantly black clienteles in towns and villages in the eastern part of the state; at least four, however, served larger urban populations (Fayetteville, New Bern, Rocky Mount, and Wilson). And although nearly all were nominated by four African American Republican congressmen from the so-called "Black Second" congressional district, a handful were nominated by white Republicans, Democrats, and Populists from other districts.

Information on the race of individual postmasters, first identified in *Post Offices and Postmasters of North Carolina, Colonial to USPS* (4 volumes, 1996), was gained by cross-referencing U.S. Census entries for selected North Carolina counties from 1870 to 1900, as well as through research in biographical sketches and other secondary sources. (Since official records do not list the race of postmasters, the list compiled here includes only those postmasters whose race could be confirmed by Census entries or other sources.)

Moses Bullock was nominated in 1874 for the Townesville post office by Republican Rep. William A. Smith of the Fourth District. Bullock continued to serve Townesville in 1881, after its transfer to the new county of Vance (created from Granville, Franklin, and Warren counties). Bullock was replaced in 1886, after serving under four successive Republican administrations.

Winfield Young was initially nominated in 1875 by Rep. John A. Hyman of the Second District, the state's first African American congressman. Like Bullock, Young served under Republican presidents Grant, Hayes, Garfield, and Arthur, before being replaced during Grover Cleveland's first term. But unlike Bullock, Young returned to serve another four years at Littleton under Republican President Benjamin Harrison, after a second nomination by Rep. Henry P. Cheatham in 1889.

In 1881, George W. Lane of Chowan County joined their ranks as the state's third black postmaster, serving Edenton until 1885. Lane, a graduate of Hampton Institute and principal of the Edenton public school, was nominated by Rep. Louis C. Latham, Democrat of the First District.

Hyman was defeated for renomination in 1876, and no black postmasters were nominated again from the Second District for nearly nine years, until after the election of two-term Rep. James E. O'Hara. O'Hara, who served in Congress from 1883

to 1887, appointed just one African American postmaster, Edward A. Richardson, who served the city of New Bern from July 1884 until his replacement in June 1885.

After Bullock's retirement from Townesville in 1886, no African Americans served as postmaster in North Carolina again until 1888, when James City's Washington Spivey was named to serve the all-black Craven County community. First appointed by Democratic Rep. Furnifold Simmons, a future U.S. Senator (and architect of the infamous "white supremacy campaign" of 1898), Spivey was reappointed periodically over the next decades, finally leaving office in 1908.

The election of Henry Cheatham by the "Black Second" District in 1888 would bring the appointments of more than a dozen African American postmasters during his two terms. In addition to reappointing Winfield Young at Littleton (1889), Cheatham also nominated Wilson County businessman and Republican Party leader Samuel Hynes Vick for the lucrative postmaster ship at Wilson; three consecutive black appointees for the equally lucrative post office at Rocky Mount (1889-1891); and the district's first female postmaster, Cora Davis at Halifax (1889).

Cheatham's appointees included the following, by county, with dates of service:

Bertie County: Windsor, former state legislator Augustus Robbins (1889-1891).

Edgecombe County: Rocky Mount, Weeks Armstrong (1889-1890), Sylvia Drake (appointed 1890, but not sworn in); and future state senator W. Lee Person (1890-1893).

Halifax County: Essex, Norman L. Keen (1891-1893); Halifax, Cora E. Davis (1889-1890), and John H. Hannon (1890-1893); South Gaston, William Baker (1889-1893); and Tillery, former state legislator James McCoy Pittman (1890-1893).

Northampton County: Rich Square, Winfrey H. Davis (1889-1893); and Seaboard, future state legislator William C. Coats (1889-1893).

Vance County: Townsville, Charner H. Davis (1889-1909).

Warren County: Macon, former state legislator Henry H. Falkener (1890-1891).

Cheatham's defeat for re-election in 1892 interrupted the streak of appointments of black postmasters for nearly five years. But while in Congress, Cheatham's energetic activity on behalf of African American appointees encouraged a handful of appointments outside the "Black Second" between 1890 and 1892, including two black postmasters in predominantly black communities in Wake County and two successive black postmasters in the city of Fayetteville.

Well-known businessman and commercial realtor Berry O'Kelly, who became postmaster at Method in 1890 and remained in that post until his death, joined Oberlin's Hezekiah Cook (1892-1894). Both were appointed by Democratic Rep. Benjamin H. Bunn of the Fourth District.

In late 1891, former Congressional candidate George G. Scurlock was appointed postmaster at Fayetteville by Democratic Rep. Benjamin F. Grady of the Third District. After Scurlock left the position in early 1892, Rep. Grady then appointed another black postmaster, physician Benjamin H. Henderson, who remained Fayetteville's postmaster until 1896.

Cheatham's accomplishments were impressive, but were soon surpassed by those of his brother-in-law, George Henry White, who was elected to Congress in 1896 from the "Black Second" district. During his two terms, Rep. White appointed more than half of the state's 19th-century African American postmasters, relying on the favorable assistance of the state's Republican U.S. Senator, Jeter C. Pritchard, and Republican President William McKinley.

Nearly three dozen appointments made by White included the reappointments of earlier Second District postmasters, including Samuel H. Vick at Wilson and three Halifax veterans: Norman L. Keen at Essex, William Baker at South Gaston, and James McCoy Pittman at Tillery.

But across the Second District, White appointed more than a score of new African American postmasters in Bertie, Edgecombe, Halifax, Northampton, Warren, and Wayne counties, including a record seven female postmasters. Most served a full four-year term, although several were unable to post the required bond and others left office early for various reasons.

Following are White's appointments, by county, with dates of service:

Bertie County: Colerain, George W. Askew (1898, failed to qualify); Drew, James D. Charry (1897-1901); Kelford, Edward Clarke (1897-1901); Lewiston, Daniel W. Baker (1897-1899) and Charles Lester (1899-1901); Merry Hill, Isaiah Mebane (1898-1899); Powellsville, William Emanuel Bennett (1898-1901); Quitsna, Freeman J. Ryan (1897-1900); and Windsor, Lewis T. Bond (1897-1901).

Edgecombe County: Lawrence, Ada Dickens (1897-1899); Princeville, Edmond D. Hart (1898-1908); Rocky Mount, Israel D. Hargett (1897-1899).

Halifax County: Aurelian Springs, York D. Whitehead (1898-1902); Brinkleyville, former state legislator Hilliard J. Hewlin (1897-1901); Essex, Norman L. Keen (1897-1901); Halifax, Edward Cheek (1897-1901); Ita, Henry Solomon (1899-1901); Littleton, Henry D. Mayo (1897-1901); Panacea Springs, Cicero B. Harris (1897-1902); Scotland Neck, Colin P. Anthony (1897-1898) and Thomas Shields (1898-1901); South Gaston, William Baker (1897-1904); Tillery, James McCoy Pittman (1897-1898); and Weldon, John H. Howard (1898-1902).

Northampton County: Jackson, Emma S. Roberts (1897-1901); Margarettsville, Elenora J. Newsome (1897-1900);

Potecasi, Brasier W. Langford (1897-1898); Rich Square, Winfrey H. Roberts (1897-1901); Seaboard, Willie F. Coats, wife of future state legislator and former postmaster William C. Coats (1897-1901); and Severn, James C. Martin (1897-1901).

Warren County: Churchill, Henry Pennington (1897-1901); and Macon, Henry L. Watson (1897-1901).

Wayne County: Mt. Olive, Allen A. Smith (1897-1901).

White apparently also helped secure the appointment in 1897 of former state legislator Clinton W. Battle as postmaster in Battleboro, located in Nash County, by Populist Rep. William F. Strowd of the Fourth District.

White may also have influenced the 1897 appointments of at least four other African American postmasters in other districts, including one in Bladen County (Mary Guion at Tar Heel, 1897-1898) by Third District Populist Rep. John E. Fowler and three by Rep. Strowd in Vance County: John H. Thorpe at Kittrell (1897-1901); Brutus Young at Middleborough (1898-1902); and Robert A. Field at Williamsboro (1897-1909).

Following White's retirement from Congress in 1901, almost all of the state's African American postmasters were replaced, as their terms expired, by white postmasters. Only a few predominantly-black communities like James City, Method, and Princeville continued to have African American postmasters.

By 1909, one of the few remaining African American postmasters in the state was O'Kelly at Method, who was reappointed regularly until his death in 1931, and served a record 41 years at the tiny post office.

Sources:

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Justesen, Benjamin R. "Black Tip, White Iceberg: Black Postmasters and the Rise of White Supremacy in North Carolina, 1897-1901," in *North Carolina Historical Review* 77 No. 2 (April 2005), 193-227.

Kenzer, Robert C. *Enterprising Southerners: Black Economic Success in North Carolina, 1865-1915* (Charlottesville: Univ. Press of Virginia, 1997).

Stroupe, Vernon S., Robert J. Stets, Ruth Y. Wetmore, and Tony L. Crumbley, ed. *Post Offices and Postmasters of North Carolina, Colonial to USPS*, 4 vols. (Charlotte: North Carolina Postal History Society, 1996).

U.S. Census, manuscript and microfilm, North Carolina, selected counties, 1870, 1880, 1900.

Selected African American Postmaster in North Carolina, 1874-1909

Bertie County:

- Colerain, George W. Askew, appointed December 28, 1898 (failed to qualify)
- Drew, James D. Cherry, appointed July 7, 1897 (replaced May 1901)
 - Kelford, Edward Clarke, appointed December 20, 1897 (replaced June 1901)
 - Lewiston, Daniel W. Baker, appointed June 10, 1897 (replaced April 1899)
 - Lewiston, Charles Lester, appointed April 1, 1899 (replaced November 1901)
 - Merry Hill, Isaiah Mebane, appointed August 20, 1898 (rescinded April 1899)
 - Powellsville, William Emanuel Bennet, appointed January 13, 1898 (replaced February 1901)
 - Quitsna, Freeman J. Ryan, appointed June 24, 1897 (replaced December 1900)
 - Windsor, Augustus Robbins, appointed June 14, 1889 (replaced April 1891)
 - Windsor, Lewis T. Bond, appointed May 3, 1897 (replaced July 1901)

Bladen County:

Tar Heel, Mary Guion, appointed June 5, 1897 (replaced July 1898)

Chowan County:

Edenton, George W. Lane, appointed August 7, 1881 (replaced January 1885)

Craven County:

- James City, Washington Spivey, appointed January 11, 1888 (replaced May 1908)
- New Bern, Edward A. Richardson, appointed July 18, 1884 (replaced June 1885)

Cumberland County:

- Fayetteville, George C. Scurlock, appointed October 14, 1891 (replaced January 1892)
- Fayetteville, Benjamin H. Henderson, appointed January 21, 1892 (replaced March 1896)

Edgecombe County:

- Lawrence, Ada Dickens, appointed August 9, 1897 (replaced November 1899)
- Princeville, Edmond D. Hart, appointed March 17, 1898 (replaced April 1909)
 - Princeville, Bettie E. Cherry, appointed April 28, 1909 (not commissioned)
 - Princeville, Cornelia E. James, appointed May 25, 1909 (office closed October 1909)
 - Rocky Mount, Weeks Armstrong, appointed April 18, 1889 (replaced March 1890)
 - Rocky Mount, Sylvia Drake, appointed March 31, 1890 (unable to post bond)
 - Rocky Mount, W. Lee Person, appointed April 11, 1890 (replaced June 1893)
 - Rocky Mount, Israel D. Hargett, appointed July 27, 1897 (replaced February 1899)

Granville County:

Townesville, Moses J. Bullock, appointed February 19, 1874 (replaced February 1886)

Halifax County:

- Aurelian Springs, York Whitehead, appointed January 18, 1898 (replaced January 1902)
- Brinkleyville, Hilliard J. Hewlin, appointed October 5, 1897 (replaced October 1901)
 - Essex, Norman L. Keen, appointed April 29, 1891 (replaced August 1893)
 - Essex, Normal L. Keen, reappointed August 4, 1897 (replaced August 1901)
 - Halifax, Cora E. Davis, appointed April 5, 1889 (replaced December 1890)
 - Halifax, John H. Hannon, appointed December 8, 1890 (replaced April 1893)
 - Halifax, Edward Cheek, appointed April 9, 1897 (replaced May 1901)
 - Ita, Henry Solomon, appointed May 11, 1899 (replaced July 1901)
 - Littleton, Winfield E. Young, appointed July 15, 1875 (replaced August 1885)
 - Littleton, Winfield E. Young, reappointed July 26, 1889 (replaced May 1893)
 - Littleton, Henry D. Mayo, appointed May 26, 1897 (replaced April 1901)
 - Panacea Sprins, Cicero B. Harris, appointed December 14, 1897 (replaced October 1902)
 - Scotland Neck, Colin P. Anthony, appointed September 17, 1897 (rejected by the Senate, 1898)
 - Scotland Neck, Thomas Shields, appointed July 11, 1898 (replaced May 1901)
 - South Gaston, William Baker, appointed October 24, 1889 (replaced October 1893)
 - South Gaston, William Baker, reappointed October 7, 1897 (served to March 1904)
 - Tillery, Henry W. Williams, appointed April 8, 1889 (replaced December 1889)
 - Tillery, James McCoy Pittman, appointed January 23, 1890 (replaced July 1893)
 - Tillery, James McCoy Pittman, reappointed April 9, 1897 (replaced October 1898)
 - Weldon, John H. Howard, appointed January 18, 1898 (replaced June 1902)

Nash County: Battleboro, Clinton W. Battle, appointed November 11, 1897 (replaced July 1899)

Northampton County: Jackson, Emma S. Roberts, appointed August 6, 1897 (replaced August 1901)
- Margarettsville, Elenora J. Newsome, appointed August 6, 1897 (replaced December 1900)
- Potecasi, Brasier W. Langford, appointed July 21, 1897 (replaced January 1898)
- Rich Square, Winfrey H. Davis, appointed September 11, 1889 (replaced September 1893)
- Rich Square, Winfrey H. Roberts, appointed November 9, 1897 (replaced November 1901)
- Seaboard, William C. Coats, appointed November 9, 1889 (replaced November 1893)
- Seaboard, Willie F. Coats, appointed October 26, 1897 (replaced October 1901)
- Severn, James C. Martin, appointed April 14, 1897 (replaced July 1901)

Vance County: Kittrell, John H. Thorpe, appointed January 14, 1898 (replaced March 1902)
- Middleborough, Brutus Young, appointed January 12, 1898 (replaced January 1902)
- Townsville, Charner H. Davis, appointed July 20, 1889 (replaced September 1893)
- Townsville, Charner H. Davis, reappointed December 10, 1897 (replaced January 1909)
- Williamsboro, Robert A. Field, appointed December 10, 1897 (office closed February 1909)

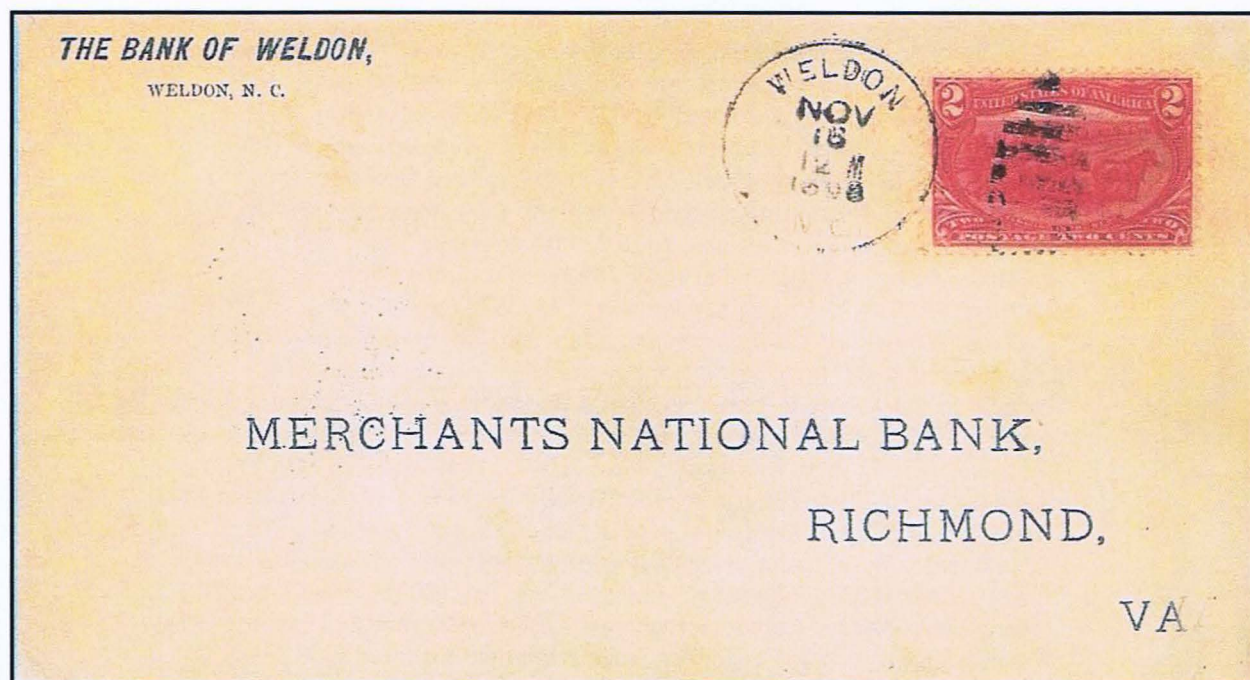
Wake County: Method, Berry O'Kelly, appointed October 9, 1890 (replaced 1931)
- Oberlin, Hezekiah Cook, appointed April 11, 1892 (office closed May 1894)

Warren County: Churchill, Henry Pennington, appointed October 5, 1897 (replaced November 1901)
- Macon, Henry H. Falkener, appointed May 21, 1890 (replaced December 1891)
- Macon, Albert L. Alston, appointed December 11, 1891 (replaced April 1893)
- Macon, Henry L. Watson, appointed November 10, 1897 (replaced July 1901)
- Ridgeway, James Stewart Wortham, appointed April 14, 1897 (replaced July 1901)

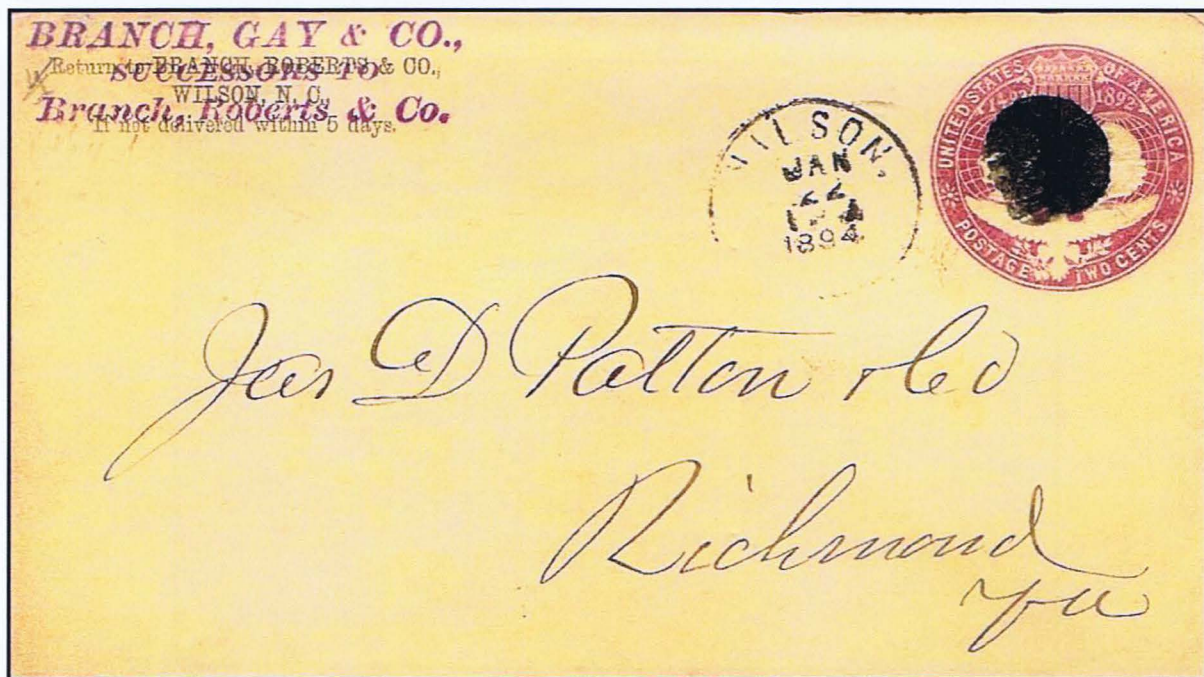
Wayne County: Mt. Olive, Allen A. Smith, appointed May 27, 1897 (replaced July 1901)

Wilson County: Wilson, Samuel H. Vick, appointed September 28, 1889 (replaced February 1894)
- Wilson, Samuel H. Vick, reappointed May 4, 1898 (replaced March 1903)

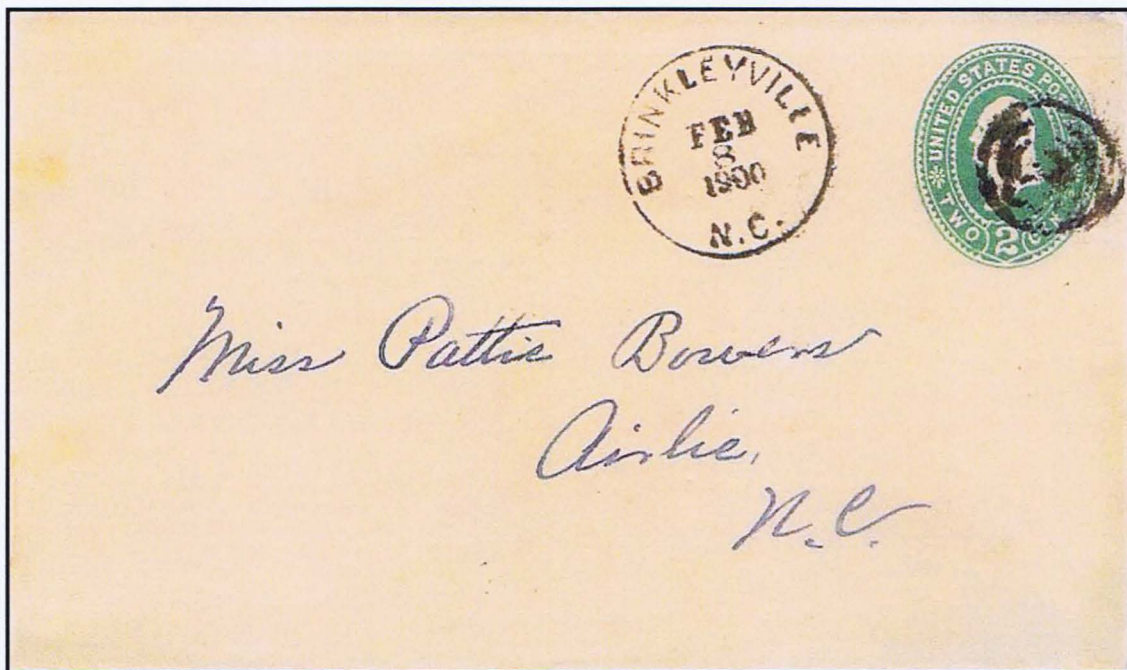
Primary sources: *Record of Appointment of Postmasters, 1832-1971, North Carolina Post Offices and Postmasters of North Carolina, Colonial to USPS*; U.S. Census for North Carolina, manuscript and microfilm, selected counties, 1870, 1880, 1900.



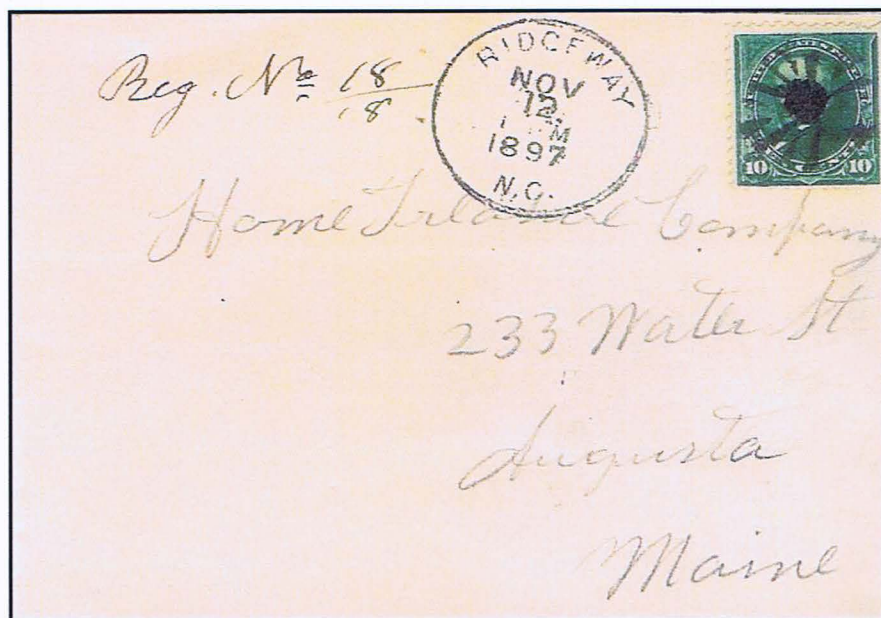
Weldon, 1908



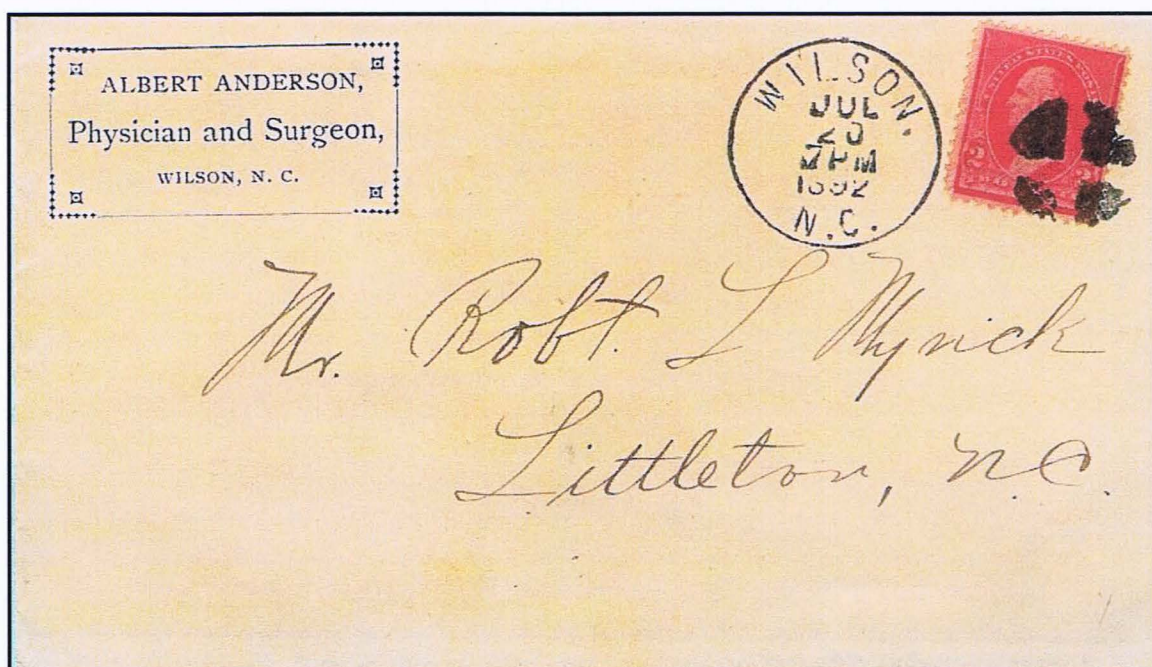
Wilson, Wilson County, January 22, 1894 - Posted one month later before Samuel H. Vick was replaced.



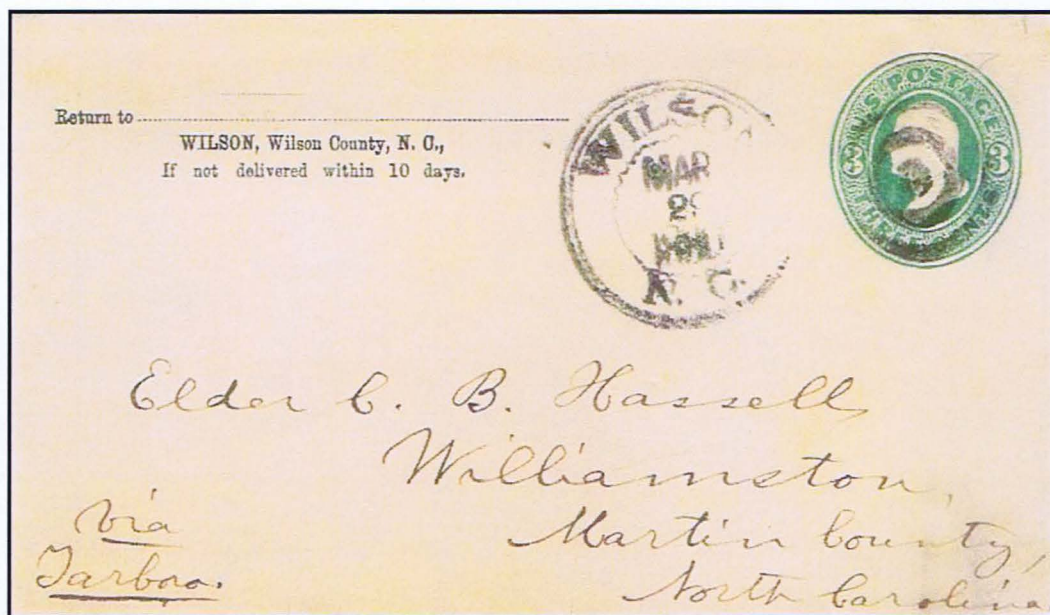
Brinkleyville, Halifax County, February 8, 1900 - Hillard J. Hewlin was appointed postmaster October 5, 1897, and replaced October 7, 1901.



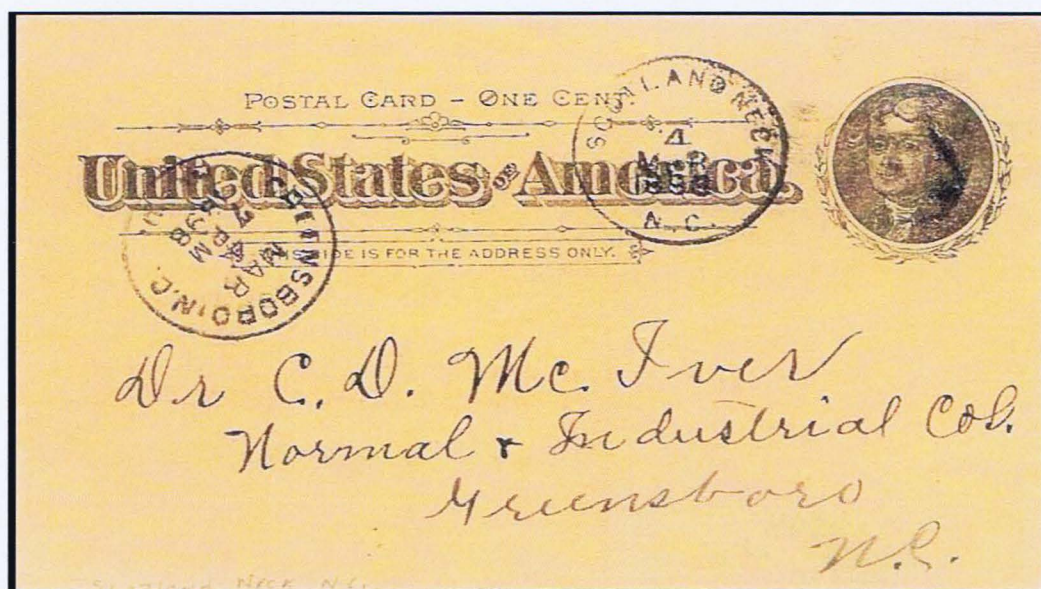
Ridgeway, Warren County, November 12, 1897 - A registered cover posted with fancy cancel by James Stewart Wortham, appointed April 14, 1897, and replaced in July 1901.



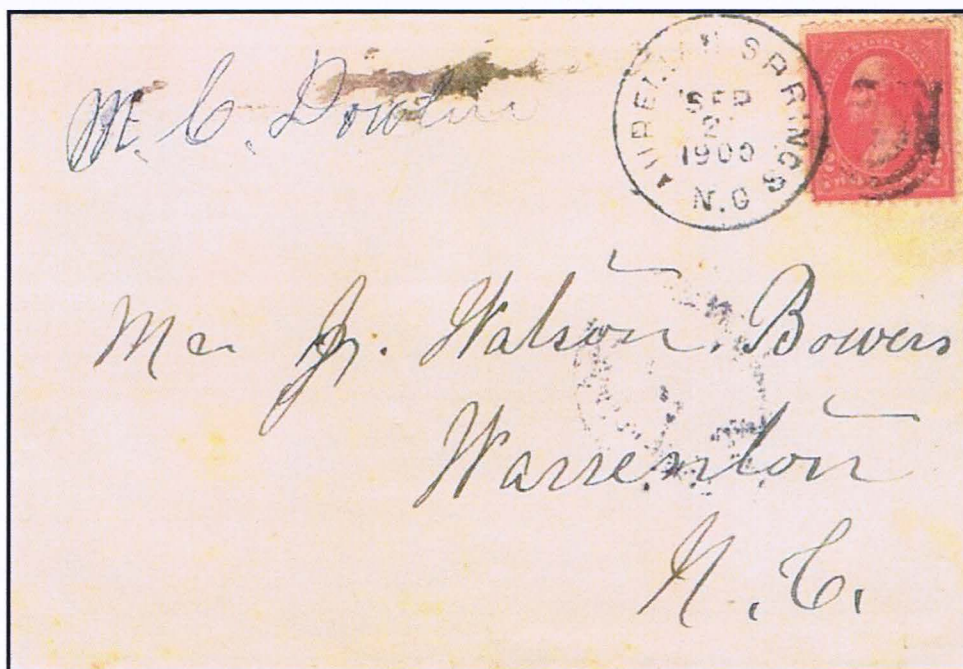
Wilson, Wilson County, July 20, 1892 - Samuel H. Vick appointed September 28, 1889.



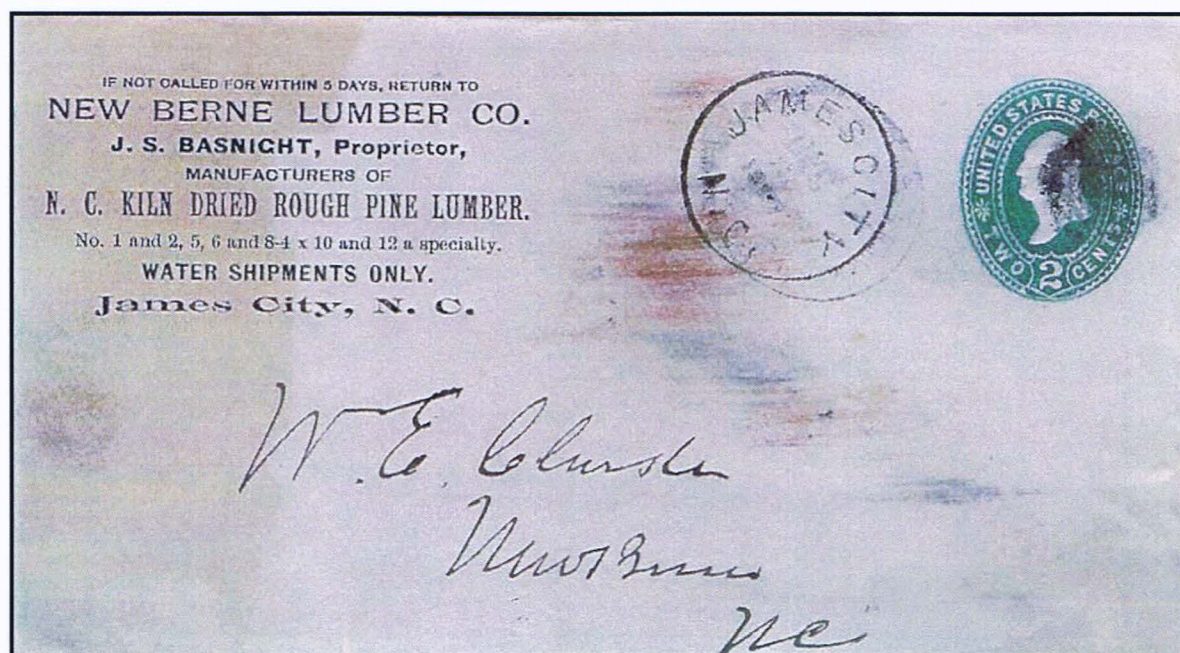
Wilson, Wilson County, March 28 1890 - Samuel H. Vick was appointed September 28, 1889, and served until 1894 when he was replaced. He was reappointed May 4, 1898, and replaced again in March 1903.



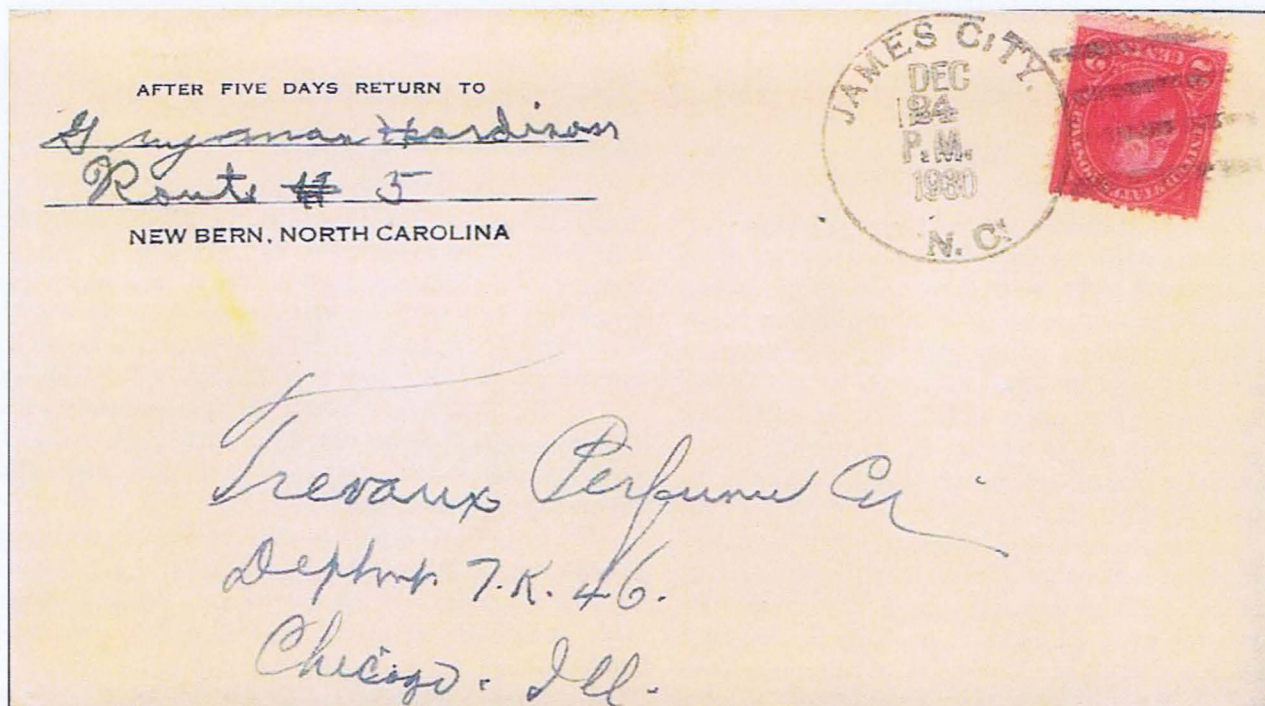
Scotland Neck, Halifax County, March 4, 1898 - Colin P. Anthony had been appointed on September 17, 1897, and was rejected by the U.S. Senate in 1898.



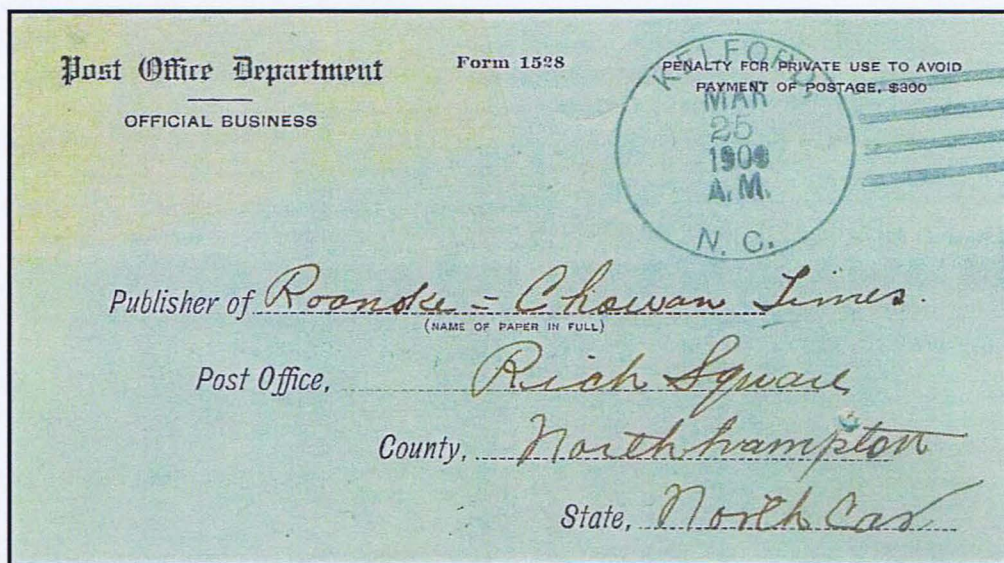
Aurelian Springs, Halifax County, September 21, 1900 - York Whitehead served as postmaster from January 18, 1898 until January 1902.



James City, Craven County, about 1893 - Washington Spivey was appointed first postmaster January 11, 1888. James City is a historic black city founded by freed slaves after the war.



James City, Craven County, December 24, 1930 - Joseph Fisher was appointed postmaster on June 2, 1930.



Kelford, Bertie County, March 25, 1900 - Official post card sent by James D. Cherry, who served as postmaster from July 7, 1897 to May 1901.

Vernon Stroupe, our highly respected editor and a wonderful friend to North Carolina collectors everywhere, passed away early on the morning of March 21, 2006. He finally succumbed to the leukemia that he had battled for over two years. His last faithful act of service to our society was to produce this journal, which he completed just a few days before he passed away. We have lost a dear friend and will honor his memory with our whole next issue.

Dick Winter

NORTH CARLINA SALES TAX COUPONS

by Scott Troutman

The North Carolina sales tax coupons are mysterious and rare items which are collected by revenue and token collectors alike. Recently their values have been soaring. These were covered to some extent in Elbert Hubbard's State Revenue Stamps catalogs, by the Malehorn and Davenport catalog used by token collectors, and recently by an article in Numismatic News. This article includes a copy of the new listings compiled by the author for its forthcoming North Carolina Revenue Stamps catalog, being put out shortly by the State Revenue Society.

According to the Malehorn catalog in 1933 a 3% sales tax was instituted in North Carolina. This may be the case but this seems like a very high sales tax during the depression. More likely the tax was 2/3rd of a percent. I say this because a 2/3rds of a percent tax would explain the value of the coupons or script that exists.

For sales of a dollar or less, people would be charged 2/3rds of a cent sales tax. There being no fractional currency the purchaser would have to pay a penny or a 1/3 of a cent overpayment. People didn't care for this. The solution was to produce script or coupons for 1/3 of a cent. Malehorn notes that "Exact dates of emission and termination of the North Carolina scrip and coupons remain unknown. There is no information available about quantities and printers information on their use is virtually nil, although evidence indicates that they were

among the longest lived of the State Tax Tokens, and probably used from the middle 1930's to the early 1950's..." The other thing we do not understand is what the tax was on. All of the coupons are for 5 & 10 cent stores, except the mysterious "Post Office Lunch" in Salisbury. It doesn't appear to be on food, unless it was on soda fountains, which most of these stores had.

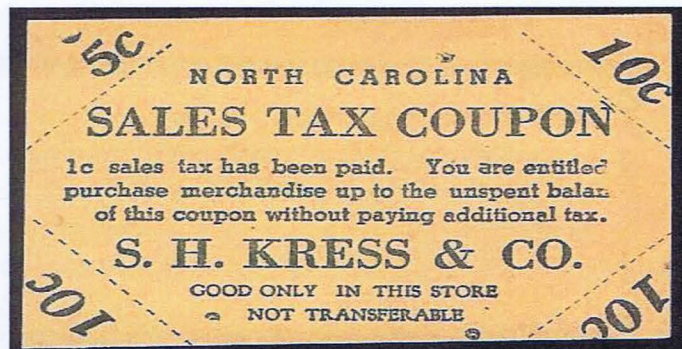
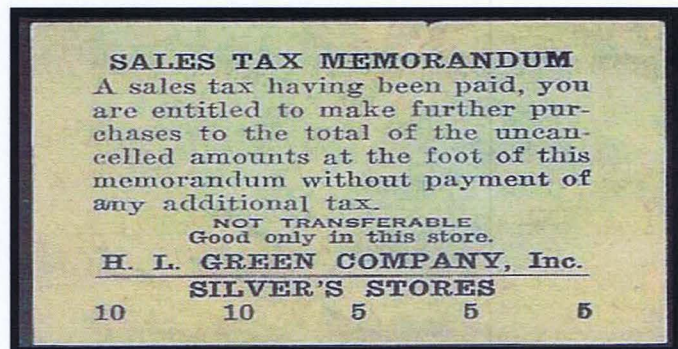
The 5&10's were looking for repeat customers and this was a way to get them. By making the script usable only at their store, the customer had to come back. Thus there is an advertising aspect to these coupons also.

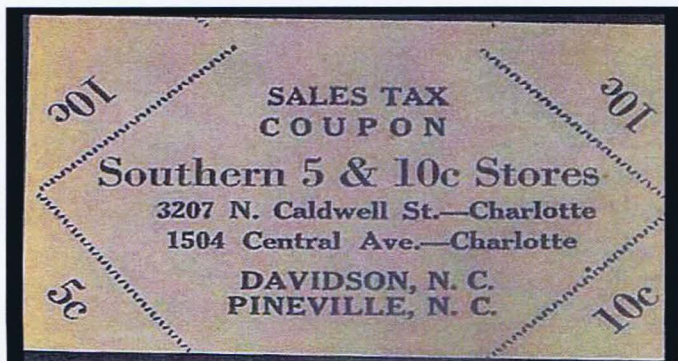
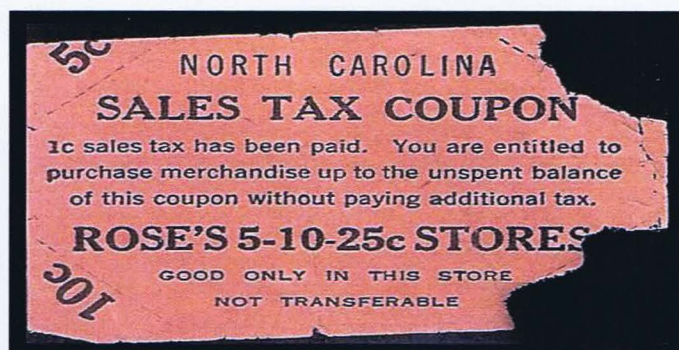
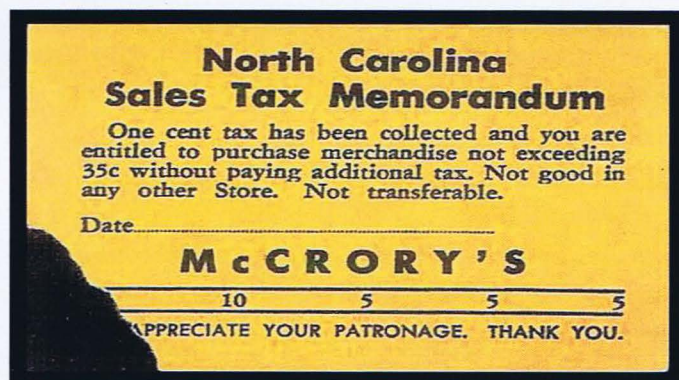
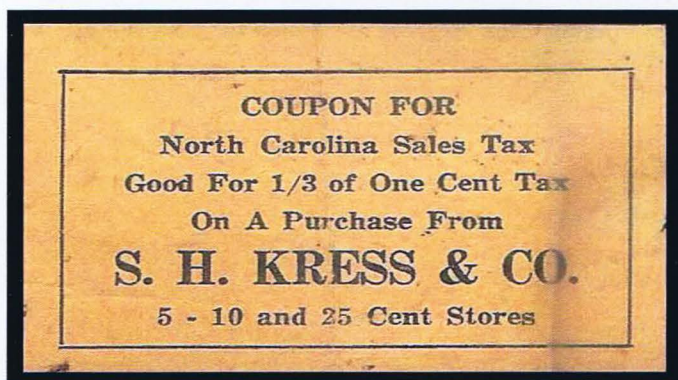
The paper issues took two forms, a fractional coupon for 1/3 cent and tear coupons usually issued for 35 cents. It is this author's guess that 100 of the 1/3 cent coupons could be redeemed for a 35 cent tear coupon. The tear coupons usually had tabs for 10-10-5-5-5 or 10-10-10-5 cents.

Most of these issued on colored papers have been reported to be on white paper also. This is due to the fact these were cheaply made on paper that faded badly.

Newberry's 5-10-25 Cent Stores was reported to have an issue in "block" print. The Malehorn catalog and this author both believe no such stamp exists, rather it was a bad description by an early reporter.

In this article I show some of the tax coupons. A complete list of these are known, and an estimated value can be found in the recently released N.C. Tax Stamp Catalog.





THE TOP HITS OF 1846

by Scott Troutman

The folded letter shown I picked up through a NCPHS auction. Dated from Nags Head, September 7, 1846, it is the oldest letter I have seen from the Outer Banks and predates the Nags Head post office by some 38 years. That makes it a pretty exciting find right there. Nags Head was used as a fishing station, and ferries often took people out from areas like Edenton for extended periods from a week to a month. The shanties around Nags Head were used as primitive fish camps.

Letters like this give us rare glimpses into the time period when they have the detail this one has. In this case, a "Mayor Blount", apparently the Mayor of Edenton, was having Mr. Snowden order a piano for him from New York through Snowden's brother. Mrs. Blount was a piano teacher. The good mayor includes a list of sheet music he wanted purchased also. Here is the letter:

To:

Dr. John Snowden
New York Dispensary
114 White Street
New York City

Nags Head Sept 7th 46 Monday

Dear John,

Mayor Blount wished you to buy him a piano! has given me for that purpose a check on "Bank of N. York" 28th Aug 1846 No. 5880 of the Washington branch of Cape Fear Bank - for 300\$ - to your order in which check I hereby enclose to you. They wish a Stodart's Piano that cost 250\$ price was 260\$ he boxes puts on board. Six octaves - don't get less for Mr. B. Get two rosewood Piano stools to match - a Piano cover with figure & music as follows -

Pieces with Variations, Home Sweet Home by Valentine, Tyrolean Air by Naderman, Fluer du Tags - by Kiallmark, Swiss Boy by Rawlings, Air from the opera the magic flute by Thurr[?], Di Tanti Palpiti by Latour, I Dolce Concerto by Latour, Rose of Lucerne by Miss Nixon, Swiss air, or T'wen vain to tell her all I feel — Waltzes—Danville, Gabriel-Gabriella —Louisville— Sontag's by Hertz—Souvenni D'amitri by Butler — Quicksteps - National Blues, Ocean Wave, Wood Up, Fort Severn — Songs —Ivy Green, Newfoundland Dog, Rome!Rome!, Hark Brothers Hark, Mountain Bugle,

Childs First Grief. Marches — Odd Fellows, Louisville Odd Fellows grand march. Overtures - To the Opera of Guy Mannering by Bishop, Grand Medley or National by Alridge.

Pieces for two Performers on Pianoforte Gallenburg's Celebration Cotillion by Diabelli, Non Pici Mesta arranged by Diabelli. Polonaise from Tancredi by Hunten — Look Out Upon the Stars My Love, by Czerney. Tyrolean Air, Hungarian Air with variations by Latour, Plough Boy with variations.

Get the music first and the cover for the piano if there is enough money. Have it put in perfect tune before he sends it. Try to get the music at Riley's - that man at Stodard's has only foreign music

Tell friend Stodart I am much pleased with my Piano. I sent him one customer - Mrs. Ellison of our town and now you are another. Mrs. Blount is in a position to recommend a good instrument very extensively. She has a school in her house; their daughters play very well. Mr. Stephen Carr[?]bulay family are connections of theirs, & I hope for my sake & all their sakes he will ship them a really good instrument. Mrs. Blount is in a position to recommend a good instrument. She has a school in her house.

It is impossible for him to do so in the first place he has not the time & with next place there is a lack of the means. Mrs. Skinner[?] sends her love again, Harriet also to you all. Write to me at Edenton for the present. With best love I remain in haste your aff. Brother.

Wm. E. Snowden

I was curious if any of this music could still be found. To my surprise sheet music for many of these tunes still exists in the Library of Congress collections. While music by the individual arrangers requested may not be there, later versions may be. For example while arrangements by Pierre Latour are in the National Collection, Di Tanti Palpiti is not. The dates associated with these songs are the earliest versions in their holdings.

1821 Hail to the Chief, 1823 Home Sweet Home, Rose of Lucerne, 1827 The Merry Swiss Boy, 1832 America, Rock of Ages, 1834 Turkey in the Straw (then called Zip Coon), 1837 Hark, Brothers Hark, Woodman! Spare that Tree, 1838 Annie

Lorie, 1843 Columbia the Gem of the Ocean, Old Dan Tucker, 1844 The Old Gray Goose, 1847 Carry Me Back to Ole Virginny, Roll On, Silver Moon, 1848, Oh, Susanna!

So, he wasn't getting the latest numbers. His list may not be the top 10 of 1846, just the mayor and his wife's favorites to play or dance to while entertaining. And he must have been a member of the Odd Fellows.

The Stodart Piano Company was founded in New York in 1819 and produced high quality pianos. They made grand, studio and upright pianos. Indeed, William Stodart, whose designs they used, had begun making pianos in London, England in 1775 and patented the first upright piano in 1795.

Many of these appear to be fairly new tunes, and others were worth republishing 40 years later. Julias Mattfeld, a music historian, in a book entitled Variety Music Cavalcade 1620-1969, attempted to come up with the top tunes for each year. I looked at the years 1820 through 1850 to see if any of the mayor's

picks made the list. Below are some tunes we know today that appeared in those years.

The Merry Swiss Boy 1841, Di Tanti Palpiti 1834, Swiss Aire 1849, Louisville Waltz 1845, Sontag Waltz 1854, The National Blues Quickstep 1845, Ocean Wave Quickstep 1843, Wood Up Quickstep 1878, The Ivy Green (words by Charles Dickens) 1871, Newfoundland Dog 1875, Hark, Brothers Hark 1837, The Mountain Bugle 1839, Childs First Grief 1854, Southern Odd Fellows March 1849, Pennsylvania Odd Fellows Grand March 1846, The Grand Medley Overture 1884, Grand National Overture 1883, Pollacca from Tancredi 1876, Look Out Upon the Stars, My Love 1850, Hungarian Air 1850, The Plough Boy 1850

For more info on music of the early 1800's see the Library of Congress website:

[//memory.loc.gov/ammem/mussmthml/mussmhome.html](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/mussmthml/mussmhome.html)



Edenton Type 4 cds, September 7, 1846

President's Message, continued

Registry, the North Carolina page. Go to <http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu/statepostalhistory/northcarolina.html> and select the county you wish to see from those listed at the bottom of the page. The .pdf file will open on your computer. By right clicking you can download the file to your computer for easier viewing or print out.

This is an exciting project that is unique to the NCPHS.

It will provide a model for other state postal history societies to follow. More information will follow in future *Postal Historians*.

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.

Dick Winter

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Bold type indicates a new or changed address

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TO BILL DIPAOLO