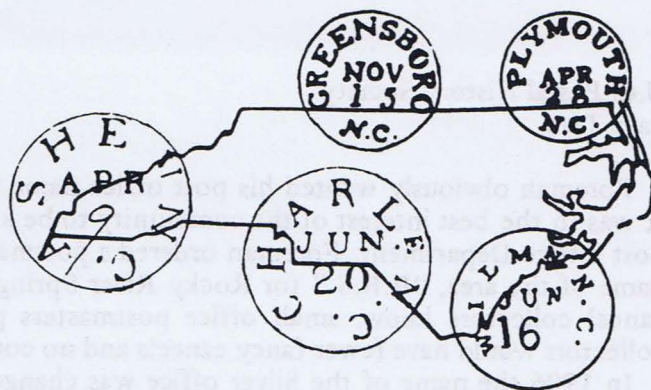


NORTH CAROLINA

POSTAL HISTORY

SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



No.10

(Vol 3 No.3)

AUGUST 1984

SILVER, STANLY COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

By Darrell R. Ertzberger

For several years a postmark from Silver, North Carolina, mystified railroad cancel collectors. This toothed-circle marking reads "SILVER, N.C./R.R.S." (see figure 1). Several interpretations of "R.R.S." have been offered. "Railroad Station" was one. "Railroad Service" was another. This last guess was based on the possibility that a private carrier or small railroad from Silver made connections to a regular railroad which had a mail contract. All of these explanations were guesses and all were wrong. The Silver cancel is not railroad related at all. "R.R.S." is the abbreviation of the local name of the area, Rocky River Springs.



Figure 1

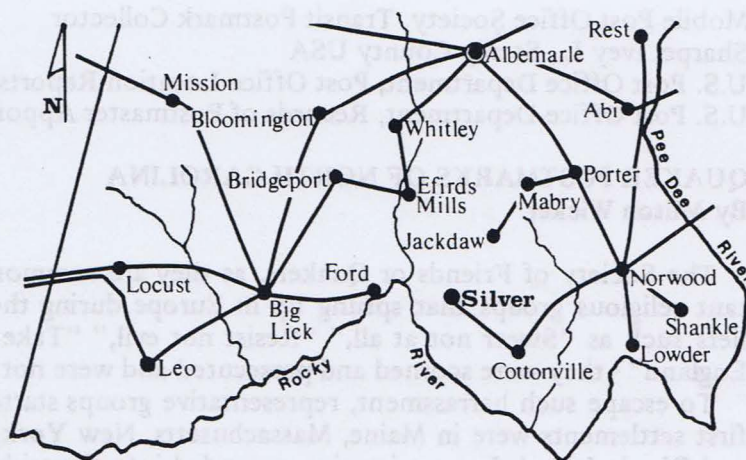


Figure 2

Silver was in southeastern Stanly County. The exact location was about six miles west of Norwood and about three miles northwest of the Rocky River. Figure 2, based on an 1896 map of post offices and postal routes, shows this location. This area was known locally as Rocky River Springs, after local mineral springs of therapeutic waters. Several inns, hotels, and amusement places were built around the springs. The area was popular as a health resort from the 1820's until the early twentieth century. In the late nineteenth century a school called the Rocky River Springs Academy was established. It closed after the county public schools were organized.

In April, 1884, Columbus C. Foreman applied for a post office in this area. He asked for the name "Healthy Water." The Post Office Department rejected that name, sending back the application with the note "Please select a name of one word." (The Post Office had a desire for short one word names at this time, no matter that an area might be better known by some other name.) So, Foreman re-applied, this time asking for the name "Silver." That application was approved. Foreman was appointed postmaster on June 5, 1884. A postal route from Norwood was established to supply Silver and another new office, Cottonville.

Foreman obviously wanted his post office name to publicize the healthy spring water of the resort. It was in the best interest of the community to be known for the springs. So, not to be done in by the Post Office Department, Foreman ordered a postmarker that included the abbreviation of the popular name of the area, "R.R.S." for Rocky River Springs. It was strictly against postal regulations, but, as cancel collectors know, small office postmasters paid very little heed to regulations. If they had, collectors would have fewer fancy cancels and no county or postmaster cancels to enjoy today.

In 1906 the name of the Silver office was changed to Rocky River Springs. The office closed April 30, 1909, probably because a rural free delivery route was established.

Silver/Rocky River Springs had six postmasters. The names and dates of appointment of the Silver postmasters were:

Columbus C. Foreman	June 5, 1884
Ephraim R. Burris	July 23, 1891
Robert S. Green	March 3, 1894
George S. Hathcock	January 25, 1895
Carolina Green	December 10, 1897
Minnie A. Green	April 17, 1902

On August 25, 1906, the office name changed to Rocky River Springs. Minnie A. Green continued as postmaster until the office closed in 1909.

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QUAKER POSTMARKS OF NORTH CAROLINA

By Milton Wicker

The Society of Friends or Quakers, as they are commonly called, developed from the many Protestant religious groups that sprung up in Europe during the Reformation period. Because of their beliefs such as "Swear not at all," "Resist not evil," "Take not oaths nor pay tithes to the Church of England" - they were scorned and persecuted and were not permitted to hold public office.

To escape such harassment, representative groups started to migrate to America about 1660. Their first settlements were in Maine, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island. Later migration extended into the midwest and southward into Virginia and North Carolina.

In general, the Quakers have held to their original beliefs throughout the years, but some modification has taken place which permits more participation in modern public affairs. One of their original beliefs or creeds of long ago, which has now been changed to conform to modern usage, was the numerical notation for the months of the year rather than the names we are so familiar with. They felt that the usual names being, for the most part, of pagan god origin should not be used.

January comes from Janus - a Roman god.

February comes from Februa - a ceremony the Romans held for their dead.

March for Mars, the Roman god of War.

June undoubtedly was named after the Roman goddess

June, and so on

The Quakers did not object to the names "September," "October," "November" or "December," but objected to their use since the months they name no longer represented the seventh, eighth, ninth or tenth months.

These postmarks originated from the predominantly Quaker communities with undoubtedly a Quaker Postmaster.

A few of these gems exist as handstamps and manuscript markings from the northern and midwest States as shown in Photo No. 1. (From U.S. Postal Markings - Simpson). But the exciting fact is that these unusual items exist from the North Carolina Quaker communities.



Photo No. 1

Those known at the present time are all manuscript markings.



Photo No. 2 -
NEW GARDEN, N.C.
(now Guilford College)
Guilford County,
dated 9th mo 11th 1868

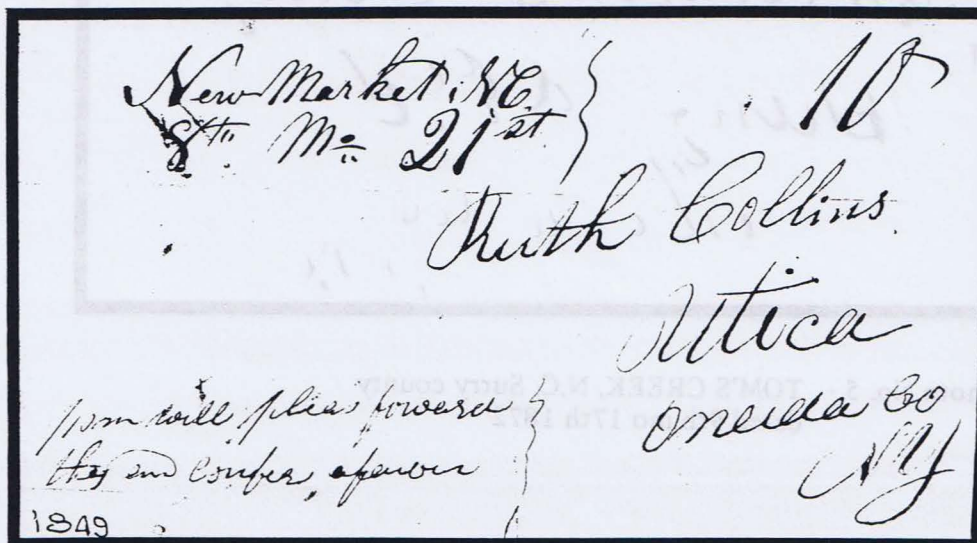


Photo No. 3 -
NEW MARKET, N.C.
Randolph county
dated 8th mo 21 st (1849)

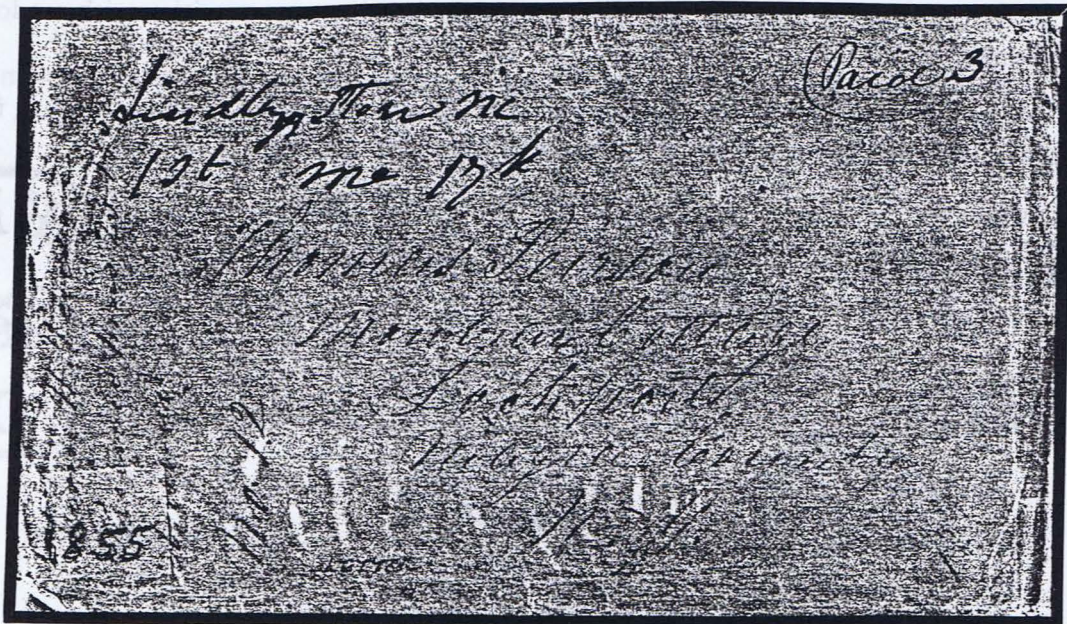


Photo No. 4 - LINDLEY'S STORE, N.C. Alamance county
dated 1st mo 17th (1855)

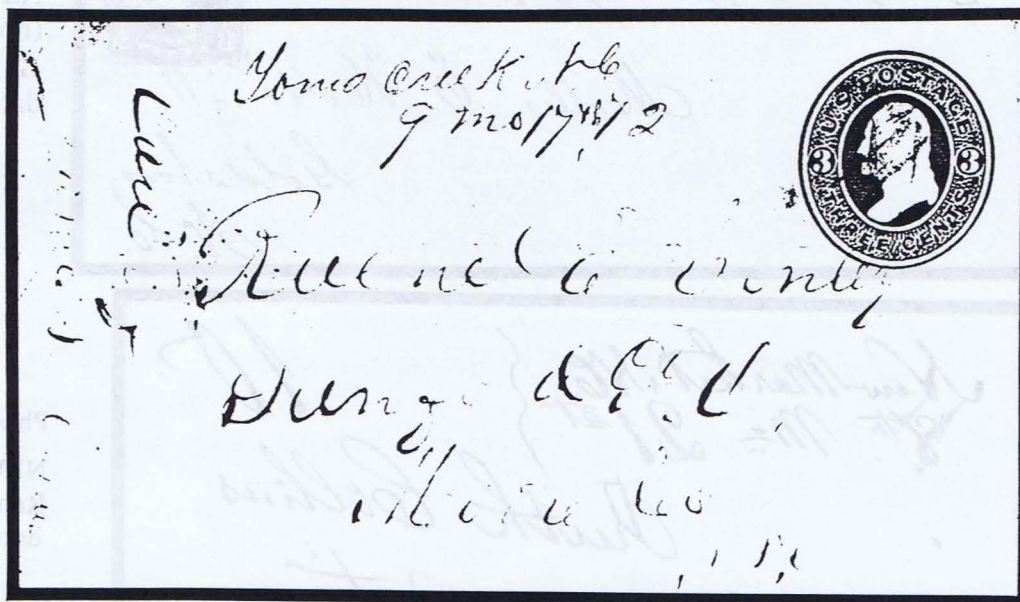


Photo No. 5 - TOM'S CREEK, N.C. Surry county
dated 9th mo 17th 1872

There are no known handstamps with Quaker dating from North Carolina locations. (Note: A few postmarks, as well as machine cancels are known written as "10-2-82." These are not considered Quaker postmarks.)

Undoubtedly, there are other Quaker postmarks, either as handstamps or manuscript markings in collections or yet to be discovered. On the following page is a listing of the major Quaker settlements in North Carolina from which a cover with such dating could exist.

Locations	County	P. O. Existed
Bath, N.C.	Beaufort	1802 - Present
Bush Hill, NC	Randolph	1865 - 1887
Bloomington, N.C.	Guilford	1858 - 1865
Cane Creek, N.C.	Alamance	1826 - 1904
Cedar Grove, N.C.	Orange	1826 - Present
Contre, N.C.	Guilford	1918 - 1903
Chatham C.H., N.C.	Chatham	1796 - 1819
Contentnea, N.C.	Pitt	1844 - 1853
Contentnea, N.C.	Greene	1876 - 1903
Deep River, N.C.	Guilford	1828 - 1903
East Bend, N.C.	Yadkin	1849 - Present
Falling Creek, N.C.	Lenoir	1831 - 1844
Forbush Creek, N.C.	Yadkin	1837 - 1866
New Garden, N.C.	Guilford	1814 - 1889
Lindley's Store, N.C.	Alamance	? - 1866
New Market, N.C.	Randolph	1835 - 1909
Rich Square, N.C.	Northampton	? - Present
Science Hill, N.C.	Randolph	1854 - 1895
Springfield, N.C.	Randolph	? - 1867
Tom's Creek, N.C.	Surry	1832 - 1880
Westfield, N.C.	Surry	1834 - Present
White Plains, N.C.	Surry	1859 - 1877

Xerox copies of any of your Quaker postmarked covers would be appreciated by the writer.

POST ROADS INTO NORTH CAROLINA, 1820 (EXCERPTS FROM THE 1820 POSTAL MANUAL)

By Dr. Harvey Tilles.

Virginia Routes to N.C. - Passed April 25, 1810 (spellings as in original).

- 1) From Washington by Alexandria, Dumfries, Stafford C.H., Falsmouth, Fredricksburg, Bowling Green, White Cherries, Hanover C. H., Richmond Petersburg, Harris's and Brunswick to Warrenton, N.C.
- 2) From Fredricksburg, by Elk Run Church and Warrenton to Gibson and Oakhill.
- 3) From Pittsylvania C.H., by Danville to Caswell court house in N.C.
- 4) From Petersburg, by Sussex court house, Jerusalem and South Quay to Murfreesborough, N.C.
- 5) From Hisk's Forde, by Smith's Store, to Murfreesboro.
- 6) From Peravals, by Westward Mill, Mason's Belfield, and Hisk's ford, to Halifax, N.C.
Passed 4/18/1815
- 7) From Norfolk, by Elizabeth City, to Edenton, in North Carolina.
- 8) From Williamsburg, in Charlotte county, by Doctor Snead's, in Halifax county to Cunningham's Store, in Person County, North Carolina.

Passed 3/3/1818

- 9) From Pittsylvania court house by B. Wadhin's store, and Island Ford Smith's River, to Rockingham court house in North Carolina.
- 10) From Norfolk, by the Falls of Roanoke, Warrenton, N.C. Williamsborough, Oxford, Daniel's Store, Red House and Milton, to Danville, Va, from thence by Jamestown, N.C. Germantown, Huntsville, Wilkesborough, Ashe. c.h. and Elizabethtown, to Jonesborough, Ten.
- 11) From Richmond, along the turnpike and Three Notched road to Milton.

Passed 3/3/1819

- 12) From Fredricksburg, by Cartersville, Cumberland c.h., Prince Edward c.h. Charlotte c.h. and Halifax c.h. to Milton, N.C.
- 13) That the post road called the Three Notched road, from Richmond to Milton, shall pass by Price's store, N.C. Poindexter and Co's store and Dobb's store.

From Tennessee

Passed 4/25/1810

From Jonesborough, by Elizabethtown, to Ashes c.h. N. Carolina

From S.C.

Passed 4/25/1810

- 1) From Wadesborough, N.C. by Sneadsborough, Chatam Chewaw c.h. and Darlington c.h. to Port's Ferry, or Lynch's creek.

- 2) From Charleston, by Dorchester, St. Georges's, Orangeburg, Columbia, Newbury c.h. Belfast, Taverns c.h. Fork Shoals Greenville, Reedsville and Claytorsville, to Ashville, N.C. to return by Murraysville, to Greenville.

- 3) From Charlotte, N.C. to York c.h.

Passed 3/3/1817

- 4) From Chesterfield c.h. by Lowry's Mills and Pickett's Store, to Wadesborough, in North Carolina.
- 5) From Conwayborough, to Smithfield, in North Carolina.

Passed Apr. 20, 1818

- 6) From York c.h. by Harmony, George Caruth's and Rutherfordon, to Ashville, N.C.

Passed March 3, 1819

- 7) From York c.h. by Fullerville's store, at Gordon's Old Place, to Lincolnton, in North Carolina, and from thence to Morgantown.

Passed May 13, 1820

- 8) From Conwaysborough, by Little River and Smithville to Wilmington, in N.C.

Post Roads Discontinued

Passed May 11, 1812

- 1) From Salisbury, to Lincolnton, in North Carolina

Passed March 1, 1815

- 2) From Suffolk, by Gates' c.h. to Edenton
- 3) From Elizabethtown to Whitesville.
- 4) From Charlotte by Beatty's Ford, to Lincolnton.
- 5) . . . In North Carolina, from Washington to Lake Harding on Matamuskett.

Passed May 13, 1820

- 6) From Haysville to Oxford, in North Carolina.

MINUTES NCPHS MEETING, JULY 28, 1984

The N.C. Postal History Society met at 12:00 p.m. at CHARPEX '84, July 27, 1984. Eight persons were present: Harvey Tilles, Fred Pitcher, Milton Wicker, Ruth Wetmore, Bill & Marion Harter, Rich Weiner & Jim Harris.

Harvey Tilles presided. After all had introduced themselves and mentioned their collecting interests, Harvey Tilles described the postal history research he has been doing in several archives. As no quorum was present, election of Board members was postponed and will be conducted by mail. Lists of U.S. P. O. & Postmasters, articles, correspondence and rate information were passed around.

The information now available can be obtained from the following persons:

Postmasters 1823-1929 (on microfilm)	Harvey Tilles or Milton Wicker
RFD Maps	Milton Wicker
Individual City & County Maps	Milton Wicker
Historic County Maps	Garland Stout

The balance in the treasury, as of June 30, 1984 was \$479.89. Harvey Tilles reported that the State filing fees to obtain tax exemption for the Society will run about \$150, but that there will probably not be any lawyer fees.

Tenure of officers was discussed. The President is presently elected annually and by the Board of Directors for a 1-year term. Harvey Tilles asked for opinions on whether a limit should be set on the length of time one person could hold office. The consensus of the ensuing discussion was that change in leadership in order to get new ideas; some sort of limit should be established to ensure this; but that this step should be taken immediately because it is necessary to have leadership continuity while the Society is still in its organizational stage.

Each member was urged to get a new member for the N.C.P.H. Society.

Areas now being coordinated by members and areas needing someone to collect information were discussed. Areas and contacts are:

RFD	Milton Wicker
Doanes Cancellations	Milton Wicker
Postmaster/County Cancels	Harvey Tilles
Stampless	Vernon Stroupe
Machine & Slogan Cancels	Fred Pitcher
Airmail	Tony L. Crumbley
HPO's	Harvey Tilles
RPO's	Darrell Ertzberger
Hand Cancels	Needed
Fancy Cancels	Needed
Confederate Provisional	Tony Crumbley
Editor	Tony Crumbley
Archives	Vernon Stroupe

Two other tasks which the President feels should be addressed are historian to collect needed human interest stories, etc. and a Librarian to coordinate the information being collected and serve as a clearing house for members. Before dealing with the information already collected, some sort of classification system needs to be established. Ruth Wetmore, Fred Pitcher and Harvey Tilles will work on such a draft plan for members' comments.

Jim Harris gave the Awards Committee report. The N.C.P.H. exhibit award goes to William L. Lynch of Spartanburg, for his CHARPEX '84 exhibit, Postal History of the Confederate Carolinas. The committee decided the Postal History Literature award should be shared between the Post Offices of N.C. brochure and the N.C. Postal History Society Newsletter and recommended that certificates be sent to the editor and all contributors of articles. The suggestion has been made that the bulletin might feature a swap section for members to make their wants and offers known.

The next informal meeting of the N.C. Postal History Society will be on November 3 in Raleigh at the Mission Valley Inn.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Wetmore
Acting Secretary

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

I'd like to thank each of the contributing authors. The work that is being put into the hobby by these individuals is what will make this society prosper. There are several good articles in the works by members which you the readers I'm sure will enjoy. We do, however, always need new articles. I, for one, would like to see this turn into a full-fledged journal. That takes more articles and more dues paying members, so please do your part to make this society grow.

One suggestion for articles would be your special covers. Just send me a good clean copy of the cover and a few sentences about the cover and I'll try to run the article. This is a good way to find out more about that item that's been puzzling you for some time. Who knows the fellow next door may just know all about it.

Enclosed with this newsletter is the new membership directory. This lists those members which were current with their dues as of April of this year. Also, enclosed is a return card for voting for the Board of Directors serving to 1987. Please mark this card and return immediately. If you would like to vote for other members, please enter their name at the bottom of the card.

The suggestion has been made that a swap column be made a part of this newsletter. I'm always interested in the needs of members and will do my best to run these in upcoming newsletters. Just jot down what you would like to have run in the newsletter (25 words or less, please) and I'll see that it gets printed.

FROM THE EDITORS FILES

Below is a copy of a cover that has puzzled me for sometime. Of all the Charlotte covers I've run across, I've only found one example of this marking. It apparently is a handstamp used ca. 1897. Has anyone out there seen other examples of this marking or even other similar markings from other cities? Why would this "Tractor Tire" cancel be used when Charlotte had been using very conventional markings for years? Your comments are appreciated.

