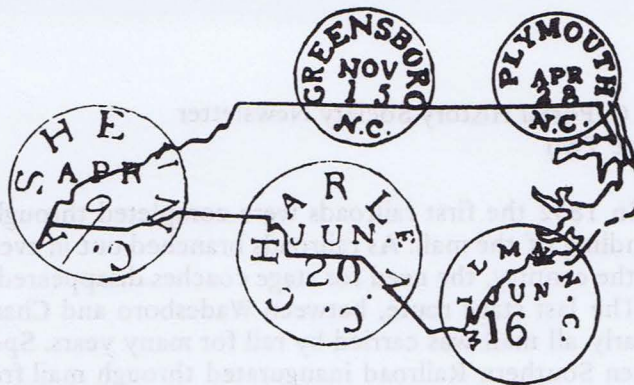


NORTH CAROLINA

POSTAL HISTORY

SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



No. 11

(Vol. 3 No. 4)

November 1984

ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The results of the election of Directors expiring 1987 was overwhelmingly in favor of those nominated. The new slate of Directors are:

Expiring 1985

Tony Crumbley
Garland Stout
Vernon Stroupe
Ruth Wetmore

Expiring 1986

Johnny Johnson
Milton Wicker
Jim Harris
Harriett Riggs

Expiring 1987

Jean Bellamy
Fredrick Pitcher
Phil Perkinson
Harvey Tilles

The first Board of Directors meeting for this group will be held Saturday, November 3, 1984 at 12:00 noon at the Mission Valley Inn in Raleigh. The agenda will include election of officers. Please plan to attend.

1985 DUES NOTICE

This is the last newsletter before the 1985 season begins. Enclosed is the dues notice for this next year. Please do not delay sending your check. We need your support to keep this project going.

THE POSTAL HISTORY OF CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

By Tony L. Crumbley

Charlotte, the state's most popular city and the center of the nation's fifth largest urban region, has not long had this foremost position. Early explorers such as Englishman John Lederer first passed the indian trails of Mecklenburg County in June 1670. One such trail would later become Tryon Street, and after many years of growth and development become the center of commerce and industry of the Carolinas.

The date of the first white settler to come into the county and exactly where he settled may never be known. Tradition says that Thomas Spratt, in coming with his family from Pennsylvania, was the first white settler in this region. A young fellow by the name of Thomas Polk later followed to marry Spratt's daughter, Susan, and settled a few miles south of what would soon be called Charlottetown. It is feasible to suggest that any written correspondence between Susan and her suitor were the birth of Mecklenburg's postal history.

By 1762 the provincial assembly had drawn the western boundary of Anson and proclaimed the territory west of it as Mecklenburg. The county officially came into being on February 1, 1763, and five years later Charlottetown was incorporated by the King. In 1774, Charlottetown became Mecklenburg's permanent county seat, and continued to prosper as an agriculture community throughout the revolution.

By October 1, 1784, the Federal Post Office Department considered Charlotte, with 325 people, large enough to open a post office. Mail was dispatched by passenger stage coach as early as 1794 when the route of Salisbury to Concord to Charlotte to Statesville and return was covered bi-weekly. By 1830 mail arrived in Charlotte every other day.

In 1852 the first railroads were completed through Charlotte allowing for faster and more efficient handling of the mail. As railroads branched out in every direction from Charlotte during the latter half of the century, the need for stage coaches disappeared.

The last stage route, between Wadesboro and Charlotte, ceased operation on December 15, 1874. Nearly all mail was carried by rail for many years. Speed became the critical factor. This was climaxed when Southern Railroad inaugurated through mail from New York to New Orleans known as Number 97. This train traveled at a speed faster than most trains today. The service was discontinued in 1903 following one of the most famous disasters in railroad history.

After the wreck of the "Old 97", the Charlotte post office quickly took advantage of motorized transportation. By the mid 20th century, near total abandonment of rail mail service had taken place. Most mail was being carried by intercity truck routes and postal buses.

The increased volume of mail handled through Mecklenburg brought about the need for more efficient handling of the mails. Automation was first brought here with the purchase of a Hampden Type Automatic Canceling machine in late 1899. This machine was used through late 1901 when a more efficient Columbia canceling machine was put into service.

On April 1, 1930, airmail service was begun from ~~what is now~~ ^{the old Cannon} Charlotte/Douglas International Airport. Contract air mail route Number 19 from New York to Atlanta was expanded, effective this date, to include Charlotte. Northbound service was received by night planes and southbound service by day planes. On the inaugural flight, 138 north bound covers were flown by C.E. Potts and 148 southbound covers were flown by Eugene Brown. Postmarks and cachets were applied at 7:00 p.m. on both groups.

From that early air service the Charlotte facility has expanded to where more than 75,000 pounds of mail are flown out daily.

Edward Wayne was appointed the first Postmaster of Charlotte on January 1, 1795. Wayne served for four years. From that time till present, Charlotte has seen 35 Postmasters and one Postmistress.

The unimportance of the community in early days can be measured in its postal receipts. Until 1833 total annual receipts never exceeded \$1,000. In 1949 total receipts were \$6.5 million. In 1983, receipts totaled \$69 million. Money orders were first placed on sale in Charlotte on September 1, and rural free delivery began on July 16, 1900.

Until 1881 the Charlotte post office was located in various rented spaces. On October 15, 1880, a contract was awarded to erect a prominent facility on the corner of Trade and Mint Street. The post office operated here until 1915 when it again moved to rented space so the old building could be demolished to build an even larger court house and post office. This facility was occupied in 1918. In 1934 a large addition was built on the adjoining property where the branch U.S. Mint had been located. This facility was dedicated on November 21, 1934 by Postmaster General James A. Farley. This facility operated as the main postal facility until 1982 when a new structure was built at the corner of Sixth and McDowell Streets.

Emphasis in this article has been placed on the Charlotte postal facility. Today with its 25 retail outlets and the processing of more than 2.7 million pieces of mail daily, it is the primary postal facility for the region. One, however, cannot overlook the more than 120 other named post offices that have operated in Mecklenburg County. Today only Charlotte, Davidson, Cornelius, Huntersville, Mint Hill, and Newell are in operation.






On the following pages are examples of the known postal markings from Charlotte through the early machine cancels. A future article in the works will cover the balance of Mecklenburg County.

NOTE: Many people have aided in the research and production of this article. Special thanks to Darryl Wally for his work in producing the postmark tracings. I would like to thank the many others who have offered advice as this article has progressed.







After this article was sent to the typesetter, additional markings have been reported. They have been included in an addendum. The author would like to know of additional markings and date variations in your collection. In preparation for the follow-up article on the balance of Mecklenburg County, please forward copies of any cover you may have.

MATTHEWS,
NEWELL





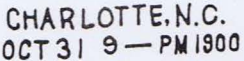

POSTAL MARKINGS OF CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA
C - CANCELLATIONS

TYPE	MARKINGS	SIZE	COLOR	DATES OF USAGE	REMARKS
C-1		32 mm	Red	Nov. 11, 1828 Nov. 27, 1829	Reported elsewhere as early as 1818. Letters 5 mm high.
C-2		30 mm	Red Blue	June 6, 1834 Dec. 23, 1852 Feb. 23, 1837 March 1, 1855	Letters 4 mm Later strikes measure up to 31 mm due to wear.
C-2a		30 mm	Blue Black	1861 - 1865 No date used in cancel. Several very early usages shown partial dates.	Same cancel as C-2. Brought back into use in Civil War. Blue used on stampless covers. Blue & Black used with stamps.
C-3		33 mm	Blue	April 22, 1854 July 31, 1861	Letters 4 mm Reported elsewhere as late as 1855 pre-war.
C-3a		33 mm	Blue	1861 - 1865 No dates used in cancel.	Same cancel as C-3 Re-used in Civil War.



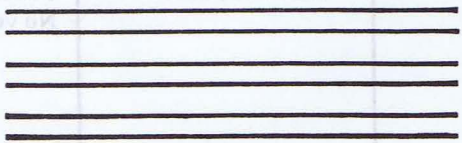
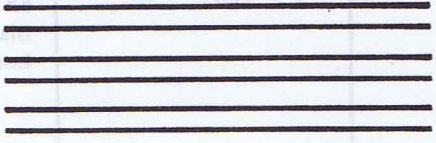
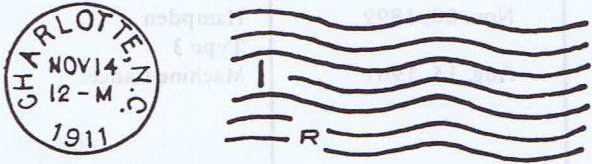
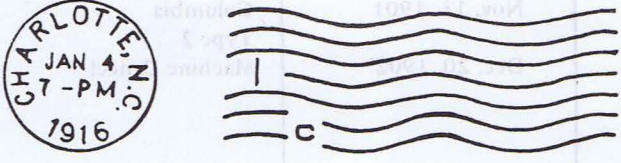
POSTAL MARKINGS OF CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA
C - CANCELLATIONS

TYPE	MARKINGS	SIZE	COLOR	DATES OF USAGE	REMARKS
C-4		23 mm	Black	Aug. 26, 1867 Dec. 11, 1875	4 mm Letters
C-5		25 mm	Black	March 22, 1874 April 19, 1875	2 mm Letters
C-6		25 mm	Black	April 9, 1875 Aug. 10, 1881	3 mm Letters
C-7		26 mm	Black	Aug. 15, 1881 Sept. 19, 1883	3 mm Letters
C-8		26 mm	Black	May 11, 1884	3 mm Letters First use of time in CDS
C-9		31 mm Outer 17 mm Inner	Black	Feb. 21, 1883	4 mm Letters


POSTAL MARKINGS OF CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA
C - CANCELLATIONS

TYPE	MARKINGS	SIZE	COLOR	DATES OF USAGE	REMARKS
C-10		27 mm	Black	June 12, 1888 May 14, 1889	4 mm Letters
C-11		25 mm	Black	April 5, 1889 April 12, 1899	3 mm Letters
C-11a		25 mm	Black	March 29, 1895	3 mm Letters No year date variety of C-11
C-13				CA. 1897	68 X 17 mm Black Locally made cancel.
C-14				Nov. 20, 1899 Aug. 15, 1901	Hampden Type 3 Machine Cancel
C-15				Nov. 13, 1901 Dec. 20, 1902	Columbia Type 2 Machine Cancel





POSTAL MARKINGS OF CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA
C- CANCELLATION

TYPE	MARKINGS	DATES OF USAGE	REMARKS
C-16		Nov. 13, 1903 June 22, 1906	Columbia Type G (Tall) machine cancel reported elsewhere as late as 1908.
C17		Aug. 7, 1907 Aug. 1, 1908	Columbia Type G (Standard) machine cancel reported elsewhere as early as 1906.
C-18	<p>CHARLOTTE, N.C. 8 PM OCT20'08</p> 	March 18, 1907 July 19, 1910	Columbia Type K-6 machine cancel.
C-18a	<p>CHARLOTTE, N.C. 9 AM APR 24</p> 	Aug. 24, 1909	Sub-variety of C-18 without year date.
C-19		April 7, 1911 Aug. 21, 1914	Universal Machine Cancel
C-20		Dec. 13, 1914 Jan. 5, 1917	Universal Machine Cancel










POSTAL MARKINGS OF CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA
S - SUPPLEMENTARY MARKINGS

TYPE	MARKINGS	COLOR	DATES OF USAGE	MARKINGS USED WITH	REMARKS
S-1	PAID	Black Blue	CA. 1862 June 1861 CA. 1862	C-2a, R-7 C-2a, C-3, C-3a R-2, R-5, R-7	20 X 6 mm
S-2	P A I D	Blue Red	Feb. 23, 1837 CA. 1861 Dec. 27, 1840 June 5, 1850	C-2, C-2a, C-3, R-7 C-3, R-8	22 X 4 mm
S-3	FREE	Red	Jan. 10, 1839 Jan. 27, 1854	C-3	20 X 4 mm
S-4			Sept. 7, 1889		40 X 24 mm Cancellation used on early registered covers. Violet


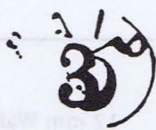


K - KILLER MARKINGS

K-1		Red	May 1, 1850	C-2	
K-2		Black	June 1, 1873 Nov. 30, 1887	C-4, C-5, C-9	19 mm Pie Killer
K-3		Black	June 19, 1878	C-6	21 mm Pie Killer
K-4		Black	Sept. 22, 1875 March 13, 1880	C-6	22 mm Bulls Eye Killer Variety of this with inner two circles exists.


POSTAL MARKINGS OF CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA
K - KILLER MARKINGS

TYPE	MARKINGS	COLOR	DATES OF USAGE	MARKINGS USED WITH	REMARKS
K-5		Black	March 4, 1876	C-4, C-6	16 X 18 mm Segmented Killer
K-6		Black	April 6, 1876 Aug. 16, 1876	C-6	17 X 16 mm Crown Fancy cancel used Briefly during centennial celebration.
K-7		Black		C-8	20 mm Pie Killer
K-8		Black	March 9, 1877	C-6	17 mm Open Circle
K-9		Black	Oct. 26, 1875 Oct. 26, 1881	C-6	20 mm Circle
K-10		Black	Nov. 25, 1875 May 29, 1877	C-6	18 mm Circle
K-11		Black	July 17, 1877	C-6	14 mm Circle
K-12		Black	July 9, 1877	C-6	12 mm Circle
K-13		Black	Oct. 15, 1877	C-6	9 mm Circle

POSTAL MARKINGS OF CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA
R - RATE MARKINGS

TYPE	MARKINGS	COLOR	DATES OF USAGE	MARKINGS USED WITH	REMARKS
R-1		Red	June 30, 1851	C-2	10 mm 3 in mm Circle
R-2		Blue	June 21, 1861	C-3, S-1	8 mm 3 over 11 mm 5
R-3	5	Red	Oct. 23, 1850	C-2	7 mm 5
R-4	5	Red	Sept. 29, 1848	C-2	18 mm 5
R-5		Blue Red	July 1, 1861	C-3a, S-1, 5-2 C-2	11 mm 5 in 15 mm Circle
R-6		Red	Oct. 15, 1848	C-3	17 X 14 mm Octagon Box
R-7	10	Black Blue	CA. 1862 CA. 1862 March 1863	C-2a C-2, C-2a, C-3a	8 mm 10
R-8	10	Red	June 5, 1850 Aug. 18, 1850	C-3, S-2	4 mm 10
R-9	20	Red	CA. 1848	C-2	4 mm 20

POSTAL MARKINGS OF CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA
ADDENDUM

Type	Marking	Dates of Usage	Marking Used With	Remarks
S-6	REGISTERED DEC 29 1886 CHARLOTTE, N. C.	Dec. 29, 1886		50 X 16 mm 3 1/2 mm letters Magenta
K-15		Nov. 30, 1875	C-6	12 mm Waffle Black

COLLECTION ITEMS WANTED

With this issue the Editor will publish at no cost to members, their collecting interests, items they are seeking, or postal history items they have for sale or trade. Please limit copy to thirty-five words or less and send directly to the Editor. This section will be run as time and space permits.

Wanted: Postmarks from Warren, Halifax, Nash, Vance, Franklin Co; R.R., R.P.O. or any paper items from here. Phil Perkinson, P. O. Box 158, Norlina, N.C. 27563.

Wanted: Charlotte-Mecklenburg Co. postal history; N.C. College covers; All N.C. and S.C. Confederate items, especially stampless. Tony Crumbley, P.O. Box 578, Matthews, NC 28106.

Wanted: Confederate Army due covers or other items related to military mails - Stefan Jaronski, P. O. Box 808, North Chicago, IL 60064.

Wanted: Western N.C. postal history items; County Postmaster postmarks from N.C. and R.P.O. covers. Darrel Ertzberger, P.O. Box 16361, Alexandria, VA 22302.