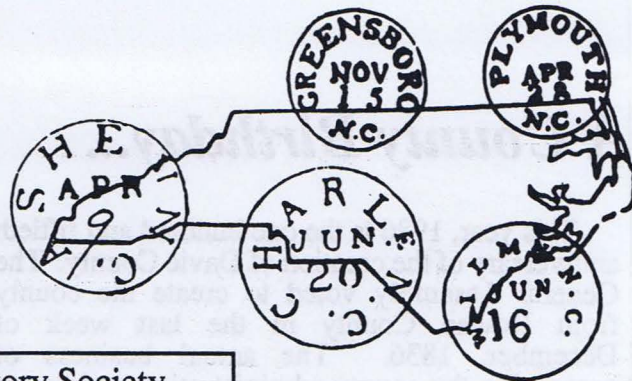


NCPHS Newsletter

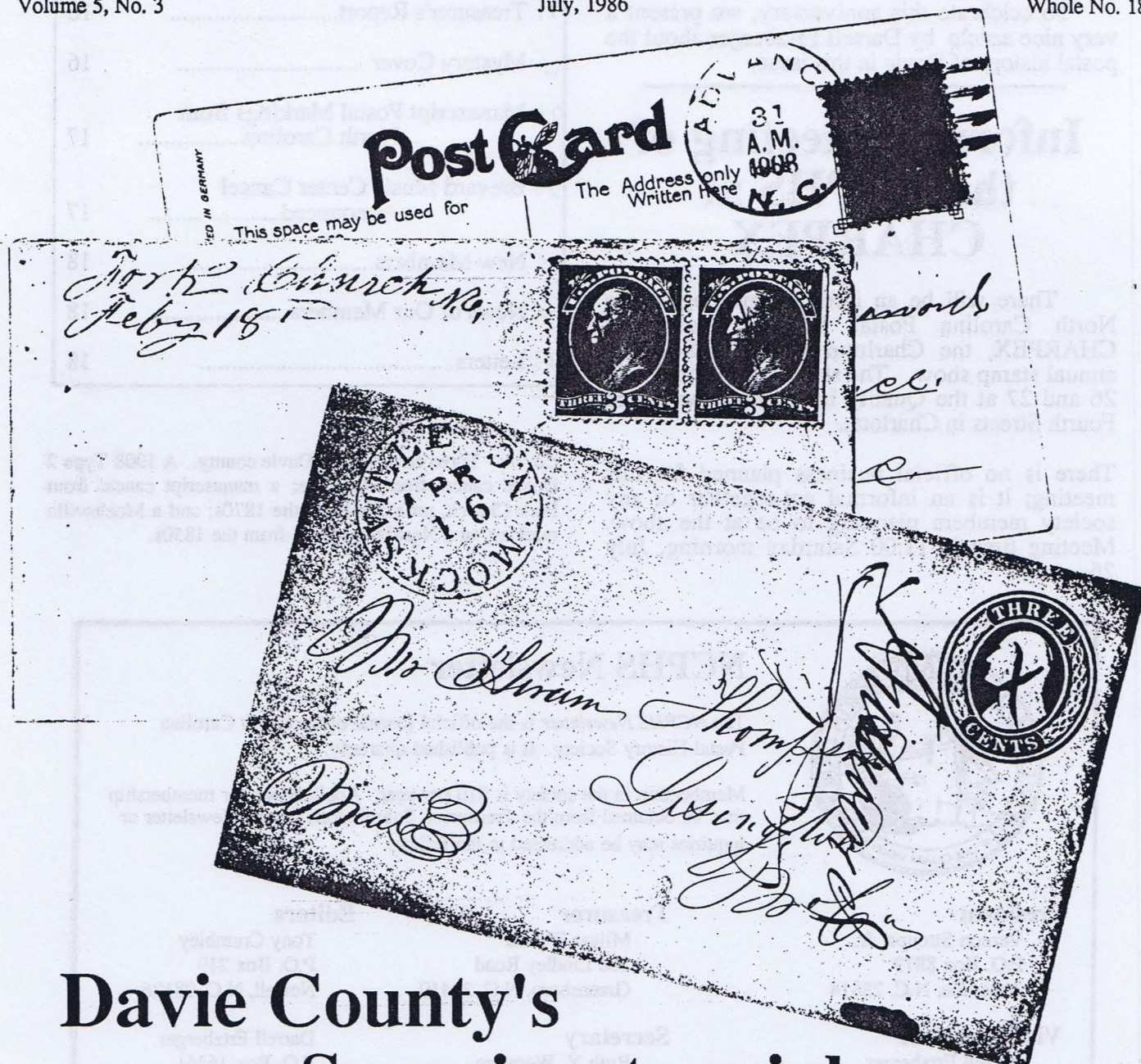
The Journal of the North Carolina Postal History Society



Volume 5, No. 3

July, 1986

Whole No. 18



Davie County's Sesquicentennial

See page 3.....

A County Birthday...

This year, 1986 is the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the creation of Davie County. The General Assembly voted to create the county from Rowan County in the last week of December, 1836. The actual business of organizing the county administration and courts did not begin until 1837.

To celebrate this anniversary, we present a very nice article by Darrell Ertzberger about the postal history of Davie in this issue.

Informal Meeting of the NCPHS at CHARPEX

There will be an informal meeting of the North Carolina Postal History Society at CHARPEX, the Charlotte Philatelic Society's annual stamp show. The show will be held July 26 and 27 at the Quality Inn at McDowell and Fourth Streets in Charlotte.

There is no official business planned for this meeting; it is an informal get-together of any society members planning to be at the show. Meeting time is 11:00 Saturday morning, July 26.

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Cover: Three covers from Davie county. A 1908 Type 2 Doane cancel from Advance; a manuscript cancel from Fork Church, probably from the 1870s; and a Mocksville marking on a Nesbitt envelope from the 1850s.



NCPHS Newsletter

The *NCPHS Newsletter* is the official journal of the North Carolina Postal History Society. It is published quarterly.

Membership in the society is \$10 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the Treasurer. Submissions for the Newsletter or inquiries may be addressed to the Editors.

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A Postal History of Davie County

by

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Davie County consists of 264 square miles of North Carolina piedmont just west of Winston-Salem. The eastern boundary is formed by the Yadkin River, the southern by the South Yadkin River. From an early time, the area was called "the Forks of the Yadkin" or "the land between the rivers." For most of its history the area has been a land of small farms. Today some industry has settled in the county, particularly furniture and textiles. 1986 marks the sesquicentennial of the official creation of the county, and so it seems an appropriate time to review the postal history of the area.

The Early Days.

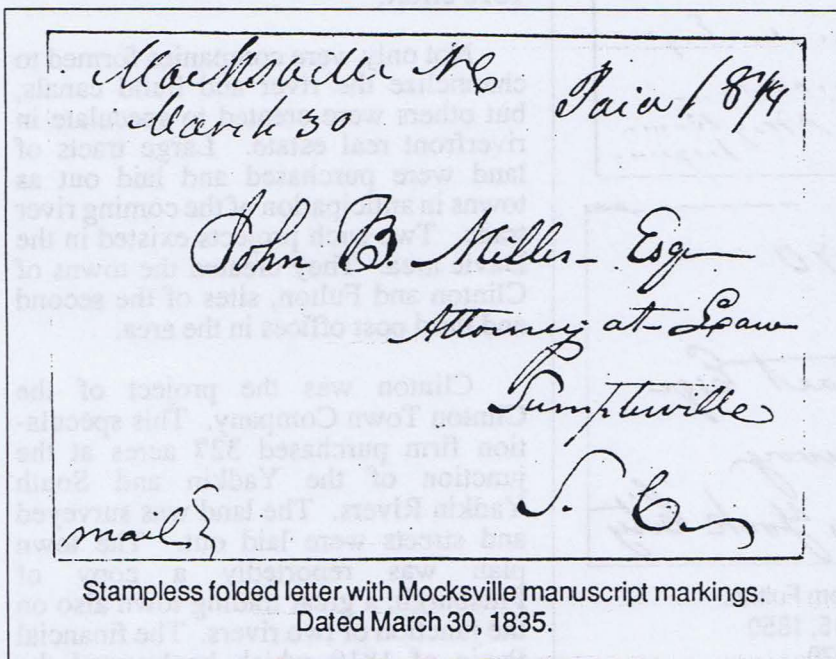
In the last half of the eighteenth century, as the northern colonies became more populated, a southward migration began to claim the wilderness of the southern colonies. Many of these settlers followed a route called the "Great Wagon Road" which ran from Pennsylvania to the Yadkin River in North Carolina's

While residents of the area between the rivers conducted legal and political affairs in the county seat of Salisbury to the south, culturally they may have identified more with Salem to the east. Moravian circuit riders from Salem regularly preached in northern Rowan meeting houses. The farmers of the area conducted business with the merchants of Salem, trading farm products for the goods the Moravians created.

As the land was still sparsely settled and the settlers were busy taming the land, there was not a great demand for postal service. The more prominent literate farmers probably received their mail in Salisbury, when they went to attend court or trade. The earliest post office in future Davie was established at Mocks Old Field about 1810. This was on the property of the Mock family, hence the name, at a place that may have been a militia assembly ground.

Sometime in the early 1820s, people began to call the place Mocksville. The exact date of the post office name change is not clear from Post Office Department records. It is possible that the name was never officially changed; the postmaster may have simply started filing returns under the new name. The federal government was not tied in as much red tape in those days as now. The *American Stampless Cover Catalog* does not report any covers from Mocks Old Field. The earliest Mocksville cover listed is a manuscript cancel from 1834.

It is possible that other early offices existed in the future Davie area. Little research has been



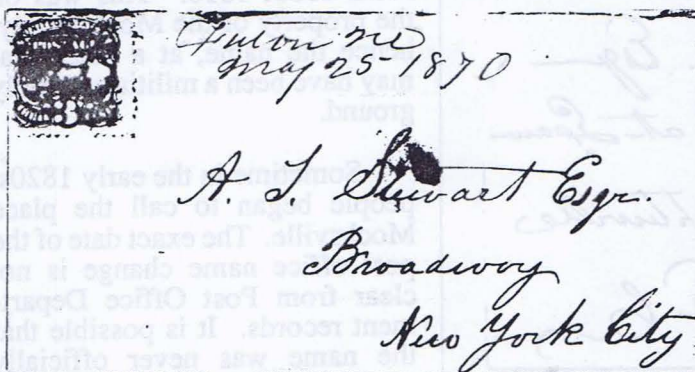
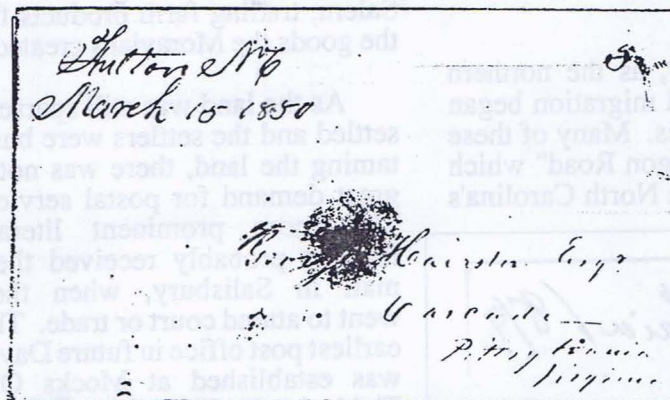
western frontier. Later the road was extended through the future Davie County to Salisbury and points further south. This route brought many German Reformed and Lutheran farmers from Pennsylvania to the area. It also brought some of the Moravians who settled in the Wachovia tract east of the Yadkin.

In response to this growth, the colonial Assembly created Rowan County in 1753. It included all the northwestern frontier of the colony and had an undefined western boundary. In 1788, the Assembly organized the frontier to the west of Rowan into Iredell County.

done on the locations of the early Rowan post offices. It is possible that some offices which closed before 1836 and are listed in Post Office Department records as being in Rowan, could have been in the northern section that became Davie County.

1810 to 1820: The River Improvement Schemes.

Beginning in the first decade of the nineteenth century, Federalist politicians, generally from old aristocratic families in the eastern parts of the state, began to lose power and influence. The population of the frontier or backcountry was growing, and starting to exercise its power, economically and politically. One of the demands of the backcountry residents of the North Carolina piedmont was a strong program of improvements to development the interior of the state.



Two manuscript cancels from Fulton.
Top: Stampless: March 15, 1850
Bottom: May 25, 1870

One of the greatest needs in the piedmont was good transportation. The flow of agricultural products and manufactured goods between the interior and the trading towns of the east was hampered by poor roads and shallow rivers. Many farmers in the future Davie area traded over wagon roads that followed the Yadkin / Pee Dee River and then turned east across the sandhills to Fayetteville on the navigable Cape Fear River. Since a viable railroad had not yet been invented, the great hope of the era was to improve the natural waterways with systems of canals to bring commerce to the interior.

Great plans were made for the Yadkin / Pee Dee system. The state legislature chartered the Yadkin Navigation Company to improve the river in 1818. It also chartered the Lumber River Canal Company to build a canal between the Yadkin and Cape Fear Rivers. State money was invested in both companies. The Yadkin Navigation Company surveyed the river and began some construction work but the shaky economy of the era and the enormity of the project doomed these efforts. By 1825 the company had spent \$84,000 (including \$25,000 in state money) with little to show for it. Proposals to improve the river kept appearing for many years, including other construction projects in 1847 and in the early 1880s. But by then it was clear railroads were the key to progress. In that light these later schemes were even more farfetched than the original 1818 effort.

Not only were companies formed to channelize the river and build canals, but others were created to speculate in riverfront real estate. Large tracts of land were purchased and laid out as towns in anticipation of the coming river trade. Two such projects existed in the Davie area. They created the towns of Clinton and Fulton, sites of the second and third post offices in the area.

Clinton was the project of the Clinton Town Company. This speculation firm purchased 327 acres at the junction of the Yadkin and South Yadkin Rivers. The land was surveyed and streets were laid out. The town plan was reportedly a copy of Pittsburgh, a great trading town also on the junction of two rivers. The financial Panic of 1819 which bankrupted the company, ended what little development had been done at the site. A post office was established in September 1819, and closed sometime in 1820. It may have never operated.

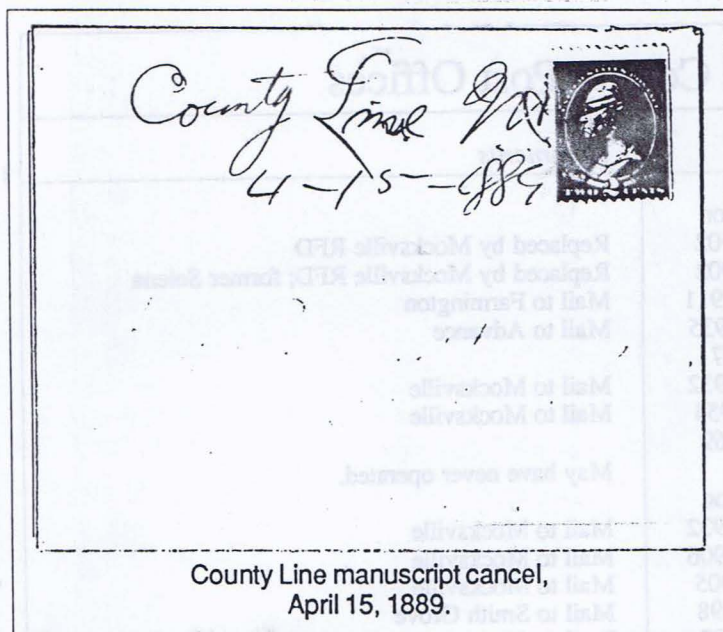
The second river speculation town, laid out on a bend of the Yadkin River and called Fulton, fared better. Lots were sold in 1819 and a small settlement developed. The place may have been named after Hamilton Fulton, an

Table of Davie County Post Offices

<i>Office</i>	<i>Opened</i>	<i>Closed</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Advance	16 Feb 1877	in operation	
Augusta	1 Aug 1888	30 Jun 1902	Replaced by Mocksville RFD
Bailey	19 Apr 1890	30 Jun 1902	Replaced by Mocksville RFD; former Selena
Bend	18 Jul 1901	31 May 1911	Mail to Farmington
Bixby	26 Jul 1898	15 Mar 1935	Mail to Advance
Calahaln	8 Dec 1858	7 Jan 1867	
	10 Nov 1868	15 Aug 1932	Mail to Mocksville
Cana	12 Feb 1875	30 Sep 1954	Mail to Mocksville
Clarksville	23 Jan 1855	9 Aug 1869	
Clinton	17 Sep 1819	ca. 1820	May have never operated.
Cooleemee	9 Feb 1900	in operation	
Cornatzer	29 Mar 1892	31 May 1932	Mail to Mocksville
County Line	21 Feb 1828	31 May 1906	Mail to Mocksville
Dulins	10 Mar 1887	20 Apr 1905	Mail to Mocksville
Dutchman	1 Jun 1894	15 Feb 1898	Mail to Smith Grove
Elbaville	15 Aug 1870	30 Jun 1902	Replaced by Advance RFD
Ephesus	10 Oct 1890	31 May 1906	Mail to Mocksville
Farmington	1 Mar 1837	30 Sep 1954	Mail to Mocksville
Felix	7 May 1886	15 May 1905	Replaced by Cana RFD
Florence	15 Jun 1877	17 Apr 1878	
Fork	29 Nov 1913	31 Jul 1918	Mail to Mocksville; former site of Fork Church
	8 Mar 1837	31 Jan 1955	Mail to Mocksville
Fork Church	24 Jul 1876	30 Apr 1906	Mail to Mocksville
Fulton	14 Dec 1822	6 Jan 1873	
	30 Jan 1873	2 Mar 1896	Mail to Fork Church
Halls Ferry	31 Oct 1878	30 Jun 1902	Replaced by Advance RFD
Holman	17 Dec 1894	11 Apr 1906	Mail to Mocksville; former Holmans
Holmans	13 Mar 1878	16 Dec 1894	Name changed to Holman
Jerusalem	15 Apr 1850	during Civil War	
	29 Jan 1868	31 Oct 1902	Mail to Mocksville
Kappa	27 Mar 1883	15 May 1905	Replaced by Mocksville RFD
Kurfrees	22 Mar 1900	30 Jun 1902	Replaced by Mocksville RFD
Mocks Old Field	ca. 1810	ca. 1823	Name changed to Mocksville
Mocksville	ca. 1823	in operation	Former Mocks Old Field
Nestor	7 May 1886	15 May 1905	Replaced by Cana RFD
Neta	9 Jan 1890	31 May 1892	Mail to Pino
Pino	9 Jul 1890	30 Apr 1906	Mail to Mocksville
Redland	29 Mar 1892	29 Sep 1906	Mail to Advance
Selena	21 Oct 1889	18 Apr 1890	Name changed to Bailey
Sheffield	1 Feb 1893	2 Jan 1907	Mail to Harmony
Smith Grove	26 Mar 1834	10 Jul 1839	
	15 Aug 1846	28 Aug 1850	
	5 Sep 1850	29 Sep 1906	Mail to Advance
Tennyson	6 Aug 1891	31 May 1906	Mail to Mocksville
Wells	10 Feb 1899	29 Sep 1900	Mail to Mocksville

engineer the state employed to survey the river. Since the river trade never arrived, the town never amounted to much. A post office opened in 1822. The place served as a small trading center for the eastern part of the county until the late nineteenth century when the Advance and Fork Church communities began to overshadow it. The post office closed in 1896.

In 1828, on the other side of the county, the fourth post office opened. It was called County Line because the site was almost on the boundary between Rowan and Iredell Counties. The office served the rural farming population of northwestern Rowan (later western Davie) for 78 years, closing in 1906.

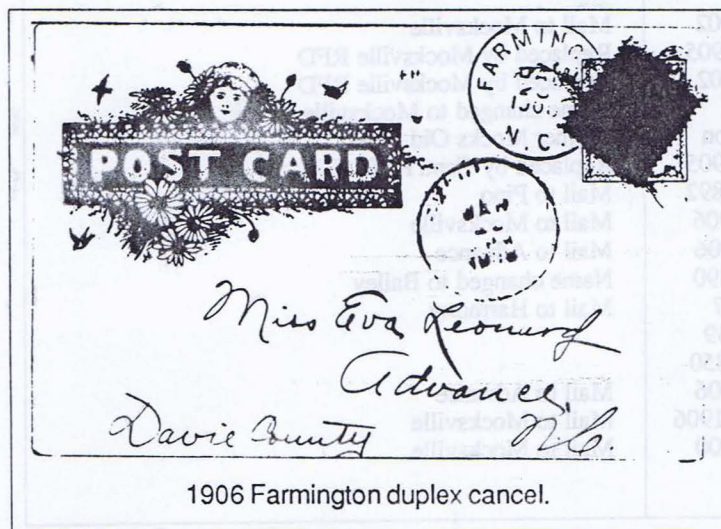


County Line manuscript cancel,
April 15, 1889.

1830s and 1840s: A New County.

By 1830 northern Rowan had a population of about 7,300. In late December, 1836, the General Assembly voted to create a new county from the land between the rivers. It was to be called Davie to honor William R. Davie, Revolutionary leader, governor, and founder of the University of North Carolina. The new Davie County court met for the first time in February, 1837.

After the creation of the new county, centrally-



1906 Farmington duplex cancel.

located Mocksville was selected as the site for the county courthouse. At that time the town was surveyed and formal streets were created. A lot was set aside in a central square for the courthouse. A white-columned neo-classical brick building was erected (unfortunately demolished in 1922). Mocksville became a medium-sized commercial center.

In 1839 it had six dry goods stores, one confectionary, two inns, one school for girls, one tobacco factory, one steam sawmill, one cotton factory, two cabinet warehouses, two tanning yards, two shoe shops, two tailor shops, three blacksmiths, and one hat shop.

As the population of the county grew, two new post offices appeared: Smith Grove and Farmington. Smith Grove was in the northeast section of the county at a site that had been used for camp meetings since the great religious revivals of the 1820s. The post office opened in 1834, closed in 1839, but reopened in 1846.

Farmington was in the northern part of the county. It was probably named after the main occupation of the area residents ("Farming-town"). The area was known locally as "Little Currituck" because it had been settled by many families from that coastal county. Disastrous hurricanes in 1830 and 1839 which ruined Currituck farmland with saltwater, forced many families to migrate west. The Farmington post office opened in 1837 and remained in continuous operation until 1954.

The 1850s and the Civil War.

In the decades prior to the Civil War, agriculture was the occupation of at least ninety percent of Davie's people. Many were tenant farmers. Originally cotton was the primary cash crop; it grew well in the rich bottom lands along the rivers. But cotton was replaced by brightleaf tobacco as the main money-maker. In 1840 Davie produced 768 bales of cotton; in 1860, only 43. At the same time tobacco production increased over fivefold, from 67,000 pounds in 1840 to 381,000 in 1860. Most tobacco was grown on small or medium sized farms of less than 200 acres. However along the rivers were several large plantations with names like The Shoals, The Oaks, and Cooleemee Hill.

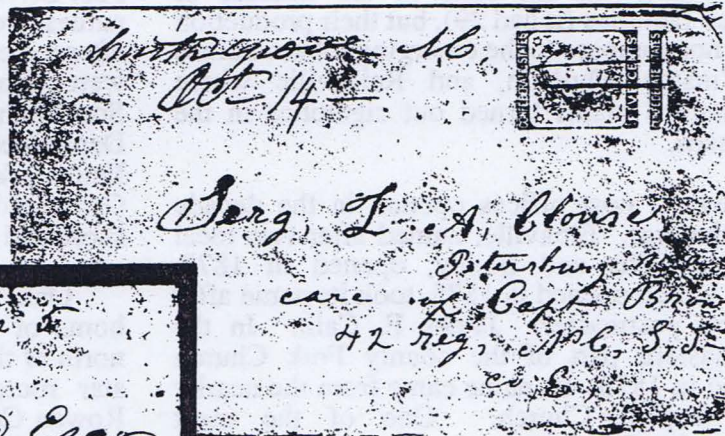
Cooleemee Hill was the largest of these estates. It was originally owned by Jesse Pearson who named it after the Indian village in Alabama where the Creeks surrendered to the American armies in the War of 1812. Pearson was present at the event. In 1817, Pearson sold the estate to Peter Hairston. His descendants expanded the plantation until it contained 4,200 acres

Two Confederate covers.

Right: Smith Grove manuscript cancel, Oct. 14, 1863. Cover has been cut down at right and one stamp of the pair removed.



Left: Mocksville, Dec.31, probably 1861, sent by a soldier in company formed in June, 1861, in Davie County.



and 300 slaves under a great-grandson, Peter Wilson Hairston. Between 1853 and 1855, Hairston built a great Greek-revival mansion on a hill overlooking the river, one of the grandest antebellum plantation houses in the North Carolina piedmont. This great house still stands today.

Three post offices opened during this period: Jerusalem in 1850, Clarksville in 1855, and Calahaln in 1858. Jerusalem was in the southern part of the county. The office took its name from a nearby church which dated back to 1815.

Clarksville was northwest of Mocksville. A tavern and inn had operated in the area since the late eighteenth century. The stage from Salem to Statesville stopped overnight there on its two-day journey. The post office did not last long, closing in 1869.

Calahaln was established west of Mocksville on the road from Mocksville to Statesville. The office was named after the Calahaln family, all descendants of William Calahaln, an early settler in the area.

When the Civil War began, Davie had eight post offices. At least five of them continued to operate for a time under the Confederate government. Confederate covers have been reported from County Line, Farmington, Jerusalem, Mocksville, and Smith Grove. It is not known how long these offices operated. From U.S. post office records, it seems that Jerusalem closed sometime in the course of the war, because

it was cleared from the Post Office Department's books in 1866 with many other southern offices that had ceased to exist in the previous five years. It reopened in 1868.

The war arrived in Davie in April, 1865 when Stoneman's Union brigades crossed the county on their way to liberate the prisoner-of-war camp in Salisbury. Little physical damage was done to property other than the seizure of supplies and livestock, probably because the invaders only spent a little more than two days in the county. The population was thoroughly terrified.

1866 to 1900: Reconstruction and New Growth.

After the war, while there was little physical damage to the county, its economy, like that of the rest of the South, was in shambles. The farmers of Davie turned to the production of the tobacco that had brought them money before the war. Small factories sprang up to process the farmers' tobacco in snuff, plug or twist tobacco for chewing, or loose tobacco for smoking. The county became an early center of tobacco production. According to the 1870 census, Davie ranked fourth in the state in tobacco manufactures, following Granville, Orange, and Rockingham. The county boasted five factories that employed 105 workers. However as time passed, Davie's tobacco industry was eclipsed by that of neighboring Winston. In the early 1870s, one of Mocksville's older firms, Brown and Brother, moved to Winston. As late as

1882, Davie led the state in the number of tobacco factories (it had 29), but their production could not compare to the emerging tobacco cities of Winston, Durham, and Reidsville where mechanized plants turned out cigarettes in the thousands.

Several post offices opened in the decade after the war. Elbaville, named after two local families, Ellis and Bailey, opened in 1870. Cana, which opened in 1875, took its name after its first postmaster, James E. Cain. In the southeastern part of the county Fork Church opened in 1876. Its name came from the nearby Fork Baptist Church. One of the most spectacular Davie cancels comes from Fork Church, a toothed oval that includes the county name. In the northeast section, the Advance post office opened in 1877. The place had been known as Shady Grove since before the Civil War, but when the post office name was selected, the citizens felt progress was coming and their community would "Advance."

From 1880 to 1900 post offices proliferated in the county. Most were set up in general stores or sometimes in the postmaster's home. In 1901, the number of operating post offices reached a high of 28.

Since many sites of these new offices did not have well-established local names, names were created by the prospective postmaster or the

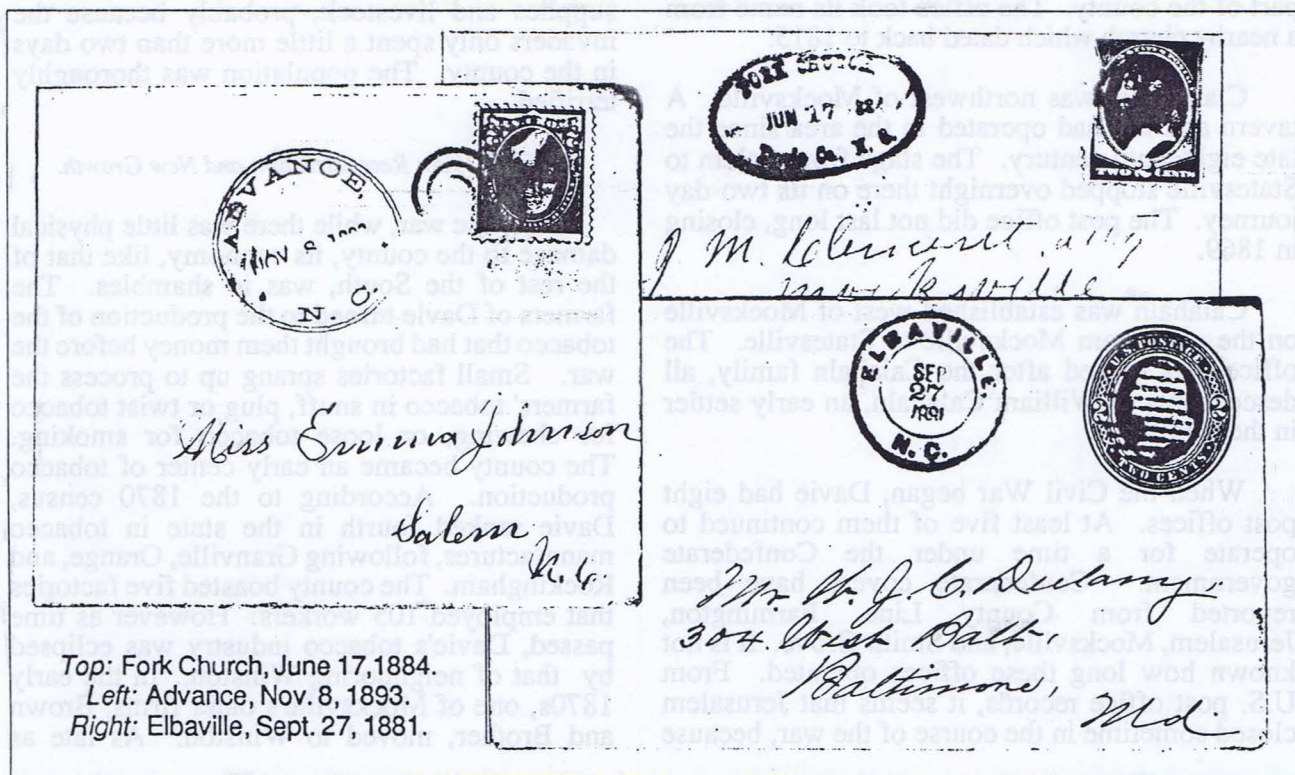
Post Office Department. Some offices took their names from local landmarks, like Dutchman, after a creek, and Ephesus, after a church. Other were named for the postmaster, as Kurfees. Some names were determined by the Post Office Department in Washington, such as when Daniel Eaton asked for his office to be called Piney Grove and the Department rejected that name and shortened it to Pino.

One interesting office was Kappa in the home of Lutheran minister W.R. Ketchie, just north of the South Yadkin. This office was on a star route from Mocksville to Cleveland in Rowan County. The offices on this route were all Greek letters: Kappa, Alpha, Omega, and Phi (the last three were in Rowan County).

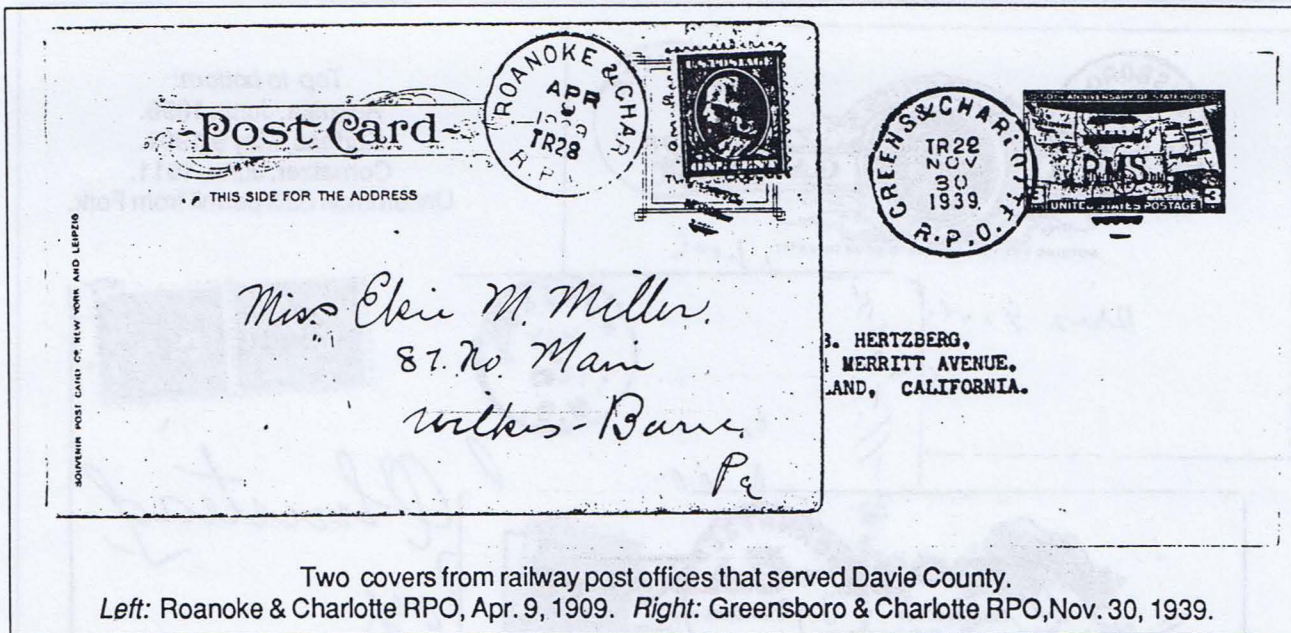
The Arrival of the Railroad.

The county's rural quiet was broken in 1891 when the railroad was completed from Winston to Mocksville. It was the North Carolina Midland Railroad, destined to become part of the Southern Railway system in a few years. In Mocksville an old boys school was demolished to make way for a brand new depot.

After completion of the Winston - Mocksville line, construction began to extend the line southward. In 1899, it reached Mooresville in Iredell County where it connected to the existing Statesville to Charlotte rail line.



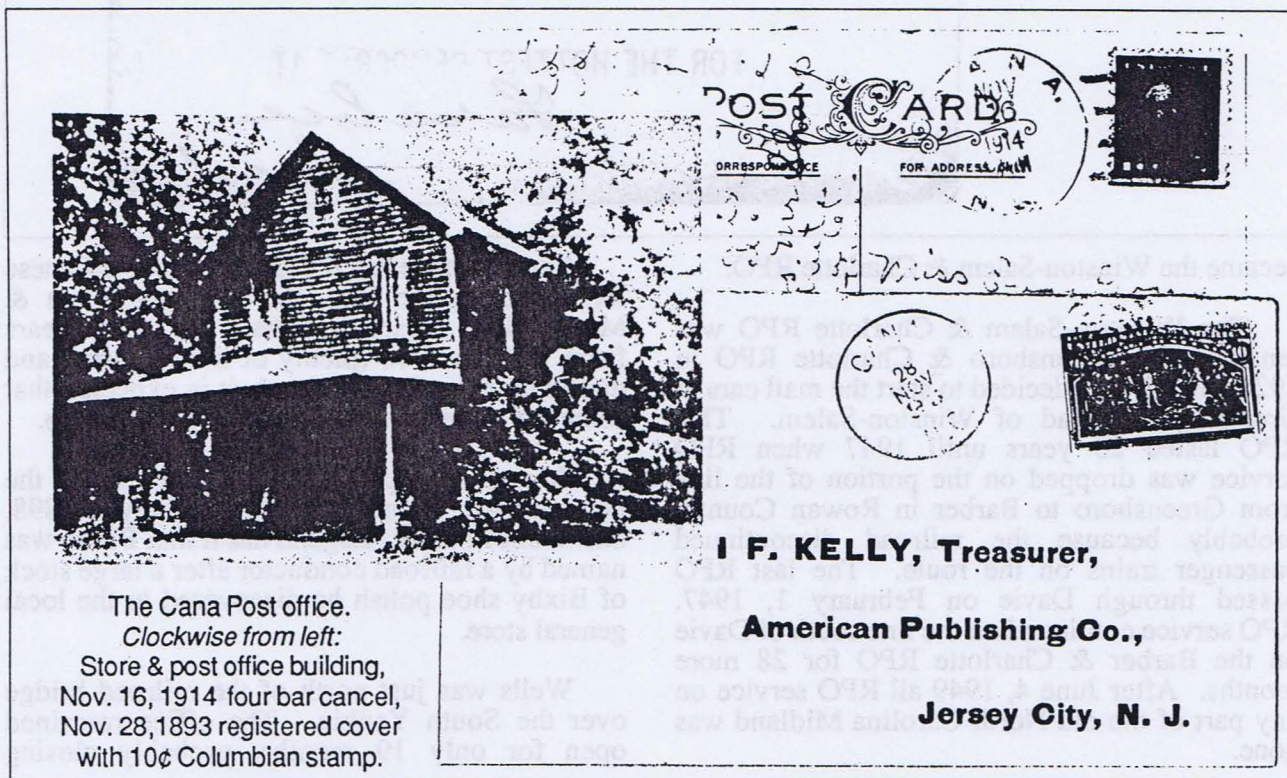
Top: Fork Church, June 17, 1884.
Left: Advance, Nov. 8, 1893.
Right: Elbaville, Sept. 27, 1881.

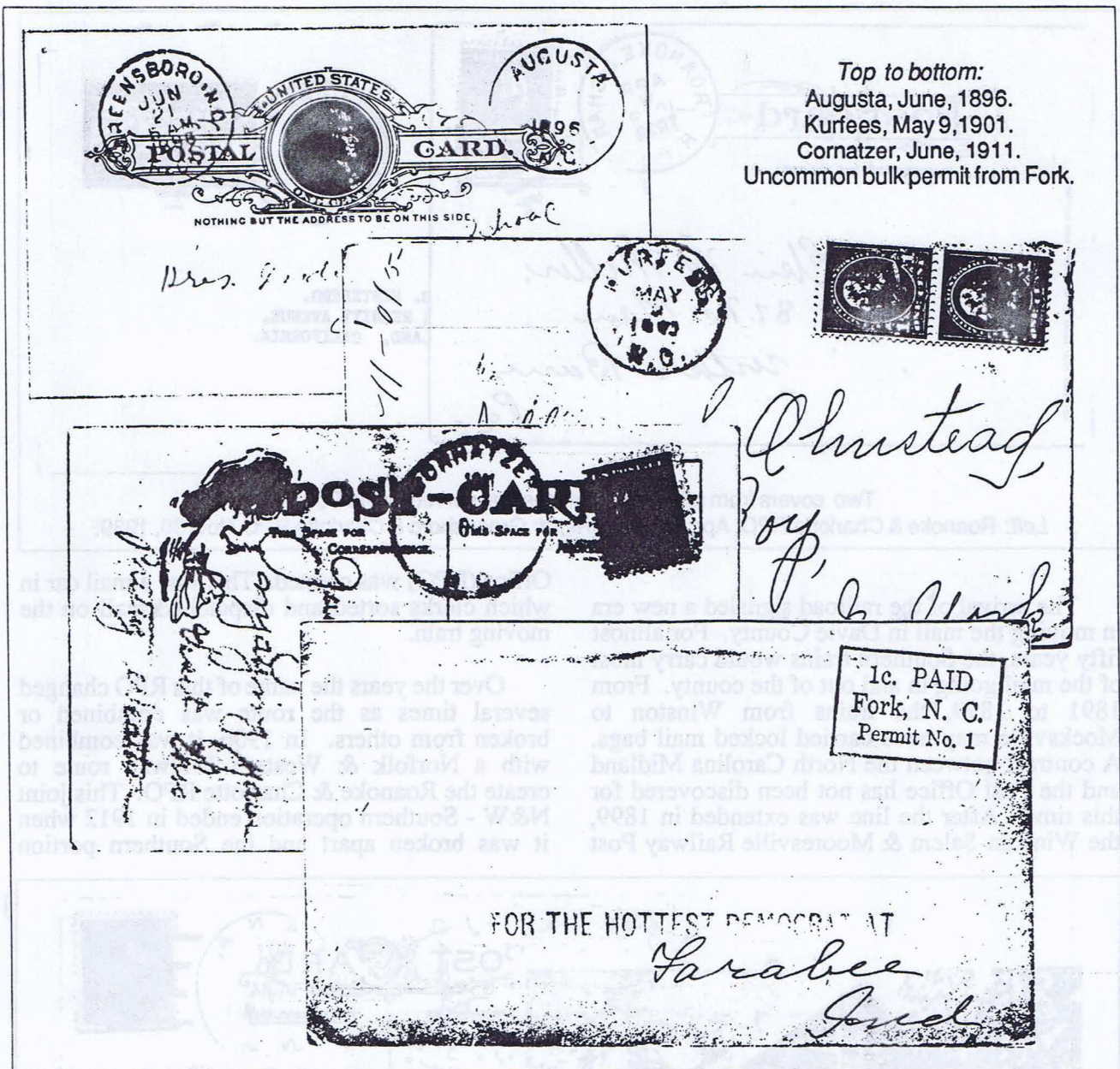


The arrival of the railroad signaled a new era in moving the mail in Davie County. For almost fifty years, the Southern trains would carry most of the mail going in and out of the county. From 1891 to 1899, the trains from Winston to Mocksville may have carried locked mail bags. A contract between the North Carolina Midland and the Post Office has not been discovered for this time. After the line was extended in 1899, the Winston-Salem & Mooresville Railway Post

Office (RPO) was created. This was a mail car in which clerks sorted and dispatched mail on the moving train.

Over the years the name of this RPO changed several times as the route was combined or broken from others. In 1906, it was combined with a Norfolk & Western Railway route to create the Roanoke & Charlotte RPO. This joint N&W - Southern operation ended in 1912 when it was broken apart and the Southern portion





Top to bottom:
 Augusta, June, 1896.
 Kurfees, May 9, 1901.
 Cornatzer, June, 1911.
 Uncommon bulk permit from Fork.

became the Winston-Salem & Charlotte RPO.

The Winston-Salem & Charlotte RPO was renamed the Greensboro & Charlotte RPO in 1924 when it was decided to start the mail cars in Greensboro instead of Winston-Salem. This RPO lasted 23 years until 1947 when RPO service was dropped on the portion of the line from Greensboro to Barber in Rowan County, probably because the railroad discontinued passenger trains on the route. The last RPO passed through Davie on February 1, 1947. RPO service continued on the line south of Davie on the Barber & Charlotte RPO for 28 more months. After June 4, 1949 all RPO service on any part of the old North Carolina Midland was gone.

Cancels have been reported from all these RPOs except the first, the Winston-Salem & Mooresville. Since it existed for seven years from 1899 to 1906 (plenty of time to order and distribute canceling devices), it is expected that some day a cancel from that RPO may turn up.

Several new post offices opened along the new railroad: Cornatzer in 1892, Bixby in 1898, and Wells in 1899. Legend has it that Bixby was named by a railroad conductor after a large stock of Bixby shoe polish he discovered in the local general store.

Wells was just north of the railroad bridge over the South Yadkin. The office remained open for only 19 months, probably closing

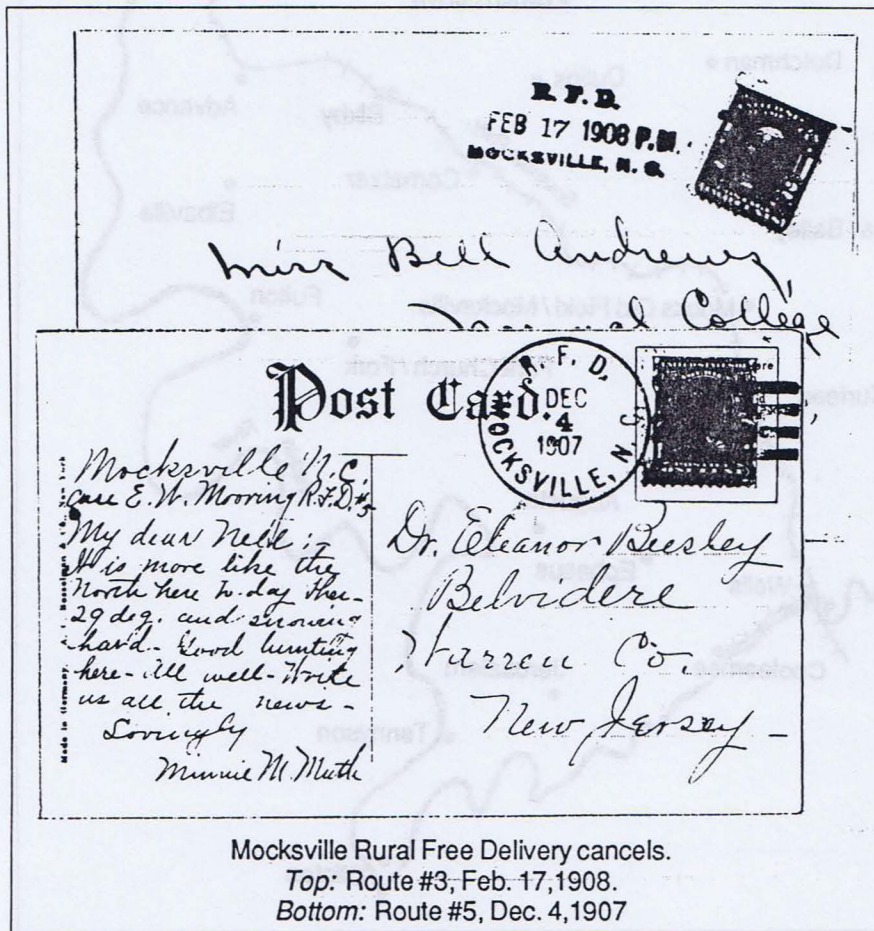
Just before the start of the twentieth century, a new enterprise began in the southern part of the county at the site of an antebellum cotton mill. The Erwin Cotton Mills Company developed a town and textile mill on land purchased from the Hairston family, owners of the Cooleemee Hill plantation. As was the case at many other southern mill towns, the mill owned all the workers' homes and stores in the town. A spur rail line was built to connect the mill to the railroad two miles up-river. Originally the mill village was to be called Cooleemee Falls, but the Post Office would



only approve a shortened form of that name: Cooleemee. The post office opened in February, 1900.

The Cooleemee mill became the largest industry in the county. In 1935 it employed 1,300 people. Total population of the town was about 3,000, making it the largest in the county. The post office was in a one story brick building in the southeast corner of a square of commercial buildings next to the mill. The building was torn down in the early 1960s to make room to enlarge the mill. Erwin Cotton Mills eventually became part of Burlington Industries. In 1969 most of the Cooleemee mill was closed, depriving southern Davie of its largest source of employment.

As previously mentioned, Davie had 28 operating post offices in 1901. Most were fourth class offices that were

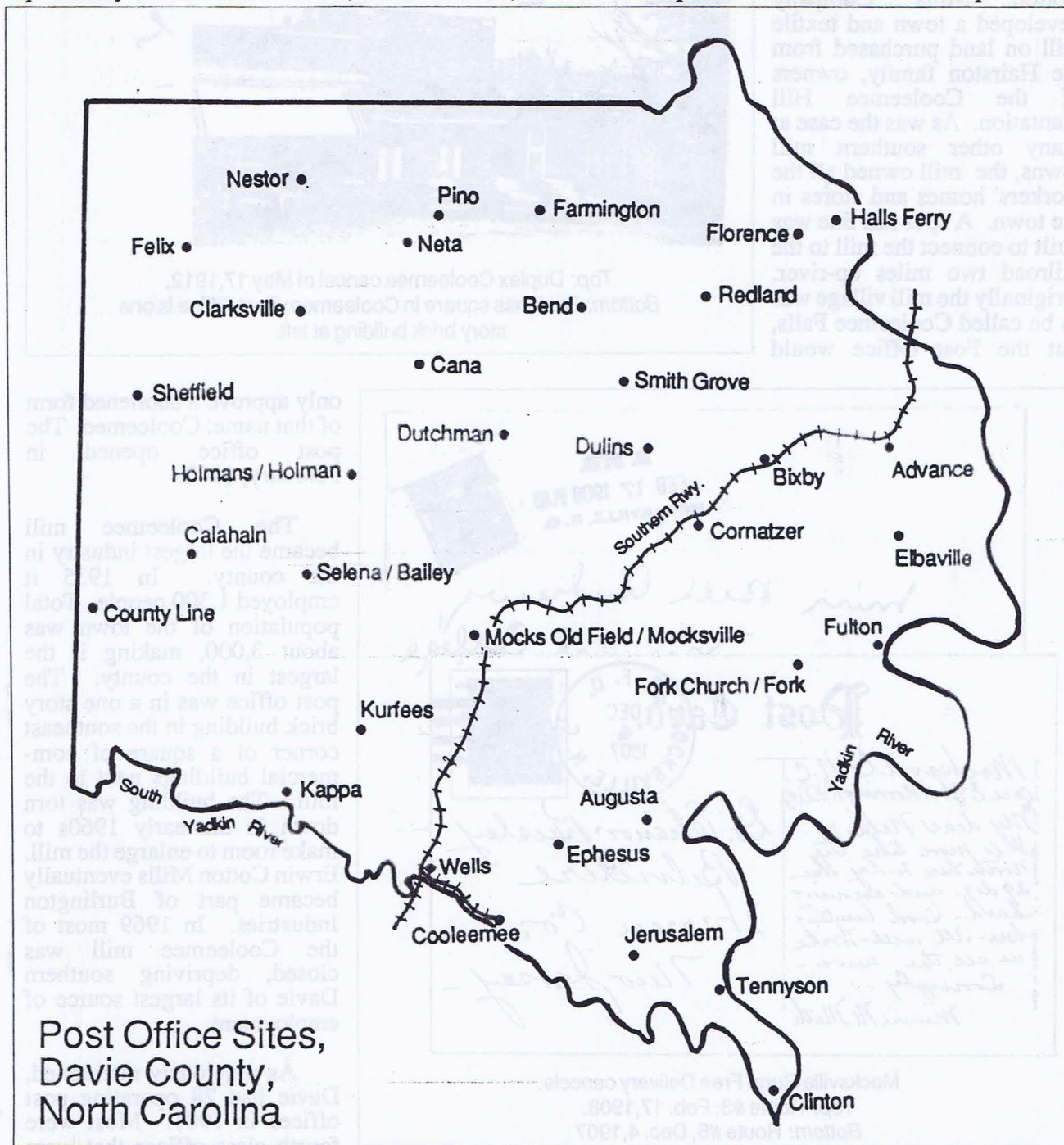


in stores or homes. With the introduction of the Rural Free Delivery system, the Post Office began to close offices at a rapid pace.

The first R.F.D. routes in Davie began operation on July 1, 1902; there were two routes from Advance and four from Mocksville. The previous day, June 30, was the last day of operation for five post offices. The need for them was eliminated by the rural carriers. It was only the first wave of post office terminations. On May 15, 1905, three more offices closed, replaced by Mocksville route #5, Cana route #1,

and Calahaln route #1, which went into operation about the same time. In 1906 seven more offices closed. The R.F.D. system was much more efficient and convenient than the old fourth class offices.

Since R.F.D. routes that were established in the 1901-03 period had official hand cancellers issued to carriers, R.F.D. cancels could exist from the first Davie routes: Mocksville #1,2,3,4, and Advance #1 and 2. Cancels have been reported from Mocksville #1 and 3 and Advance #1. Perhaps the others will show up in the



future.

In 1905 when several new routes were created, apparently the local postmasters or new carriers obtained unofficial four-bar cancellers for use on the new routes. These are unique to these Davie county routes. They read "R.F.D" and the office name in the circle and have the route number between the killer bars. These cancels have been reported from Mocksville #5 and Cana #1. They were apparently not given to the older routes created in 1902, because examples of the old-style straight-line R.F.D. cancel have been reported from them for the same period as the four-bars. It is possible that these four-bars could have been used on Calahaln #1 since that route was created about the same time as those that were using the unusual cancels, but so far no examples have been reported.

By 1930, only nine post offices remained. Four of these closed by 1936. Some R.F.D. routes also disappeared while others were lengthened as carriers began to use automobiles which could cover more territory in a day. Contrary to the general trend, one new office opened in 1913. It was Fork, at the site of the old Fork Church office which closed in 1906. This office operated until 1918. It was revived again in 1937, but closed for good in 1955. The 1950s saw the discontinuance of the last of the fourth class offices: Cana, Farmington, and

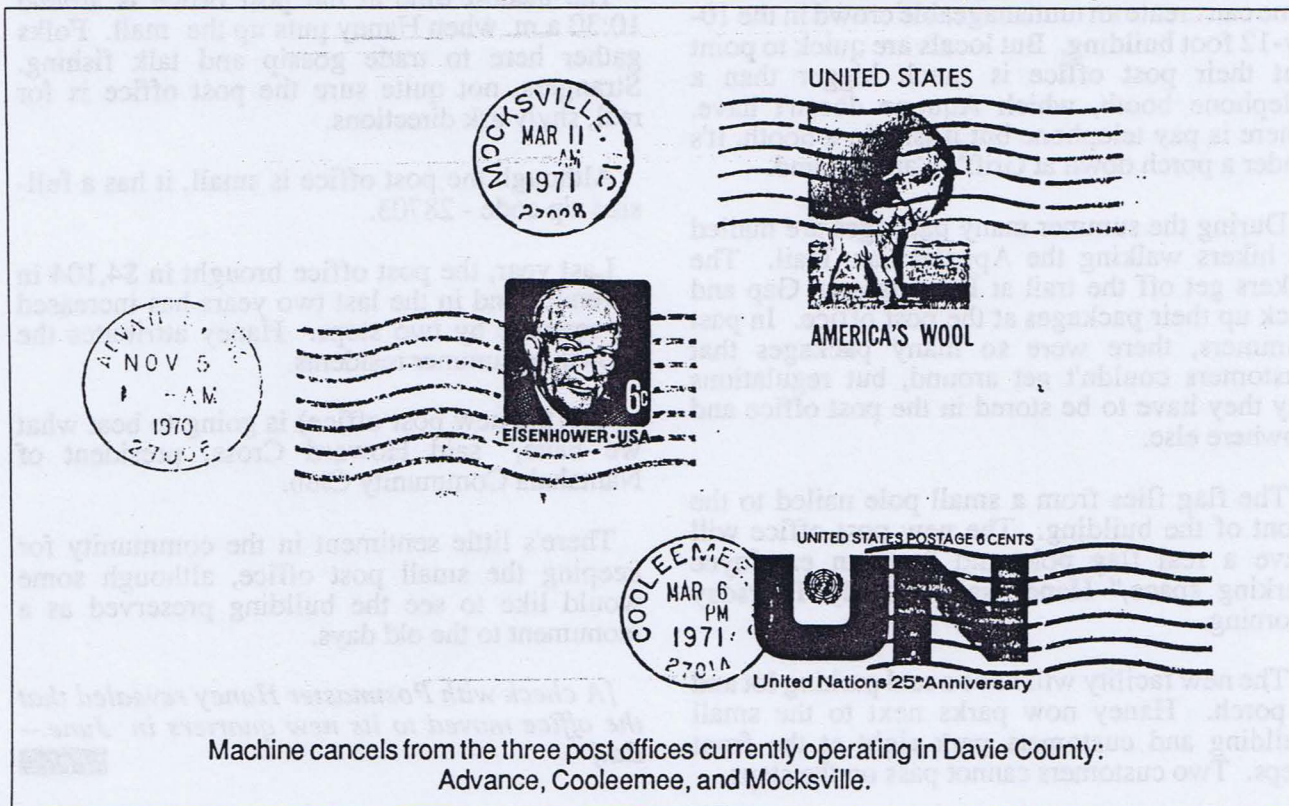
Fork. Since 1955, the county has had only three offices: Advance, Cooleemee, and Mocksville.

Interstate 40 was built across the county in the 1960s, bringing hopes of new industry. Some new plants have located in the county, but it remains predominately agricultural. Today, dairy production ranks first in agriculture income. Total population is about 25,000. The three post offices are under the Greensboro sectional center, where all the county's mail is processed and most of the outgoing mail is canceled.

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Nation's Smallest Post Office Will Be No More

by
Bob Scott

[This article originally appeared in The Asheville Citizen on March 7, 1986. It is reproduced here by permission.--Ed.]

Progress has finally caught up with the smallest post office in the United States.

The tiny 120-square-foot Aquone Post Office, which serves 38 general delivery customers and 140 homes in northern Macon County, will be replaced by a converted mobile home as soon as weather permits installation of a septic tank.

And Shirlon Haney, who has been postmaster here for the last two years, is ready for the change.

The little wood and tarpaper post office has been here 15 years. There are two windows, a kerosene heater and a miniature air conditioner, but its still cold in the winter, hot in the summer and cramped all the time.

Three customers in the post office at the same time can create an unmanageable crowd in the 10-by-12 foot building. But locals are quick to point out their post office is much bigger than a telephone booth, which Aquone doesn't have. There is pay telephone but it isn't in a booth, it's under a porch down at Griff's Campground.

During the summer many packages are mailed to hikers walking the Appalachian Trail. The hikers get off the trail at Burningtown Gap and pick up their packages at the post office. In past summers, there were so many packages that customers couldn't get around, but regulations say they have to be stored in the post office and nowhere else.

The flag flies from a small pole nailed to the front of the building. The new post office will have a real flag pole and "and an employee parking space," Haney said proudly Thursday morning.

The new facility will have a real parking lot and a porch. Haney now parks next to the small building and customers park right at the front steps. Two customers cannot pass on the steps.



— Photo By BOB SCOTT

Aquone Postmaster Shirlon Haney stands in the doorway of the 120-square-foot Aquone Post Office, which will be replaced later this year by a mobile home.

The busiest time at the post office is around 10:30 a.m. when Haney puts up the mail. Folks gather here to trade gossip and talk fishing. Strangers, not quite sure the post office is for real, shyly ask directions.

Although the post office is small, it has a full-size zip code - 28703.

Last year, the post office brought in \$4,104 in revenues and in the last two years has increased its revenue by two steps. Haney attributes the growth to summer residents.

"It (the new post office) is going to beat what we have," said Howard Cross, president of Nantahala Community Club.

There's little sentiment in the community for keeping the small post office, although some would like to see the building preserved as a monument to the old days.

[A check with Postmaster Haney revealed that the office moved to its new quarters in June.--Ed.]

NCPHS

Minutes of the 1986 Annual Meeting

by
Ruth Y. Wetmore

110 Tree Haven, Brevard, N.C. 28712

The annual meeting of the North Carolina Postal History Society was held at WINPEX in Winston-Salem on May 3, 1986. President Vernon Stroupe called the meeting to order. One new member and two visitors were introduced. Minutes of the 1985 annual meeting had been published in the *NCPHS Newsletter* and were approved as printed.

Treasurer Milton Wicker reported a current bank balance of \$638.83 with no bills outstanding. For the current year, there are 66 members in good standing. Thirteen members have not paid their dues or responded to reminders, and their names will be removed from the rolls. The treasurer's report was followed by a discussion on the desirability of establishing a definite accounting and reporting schedule. The motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed that the accounting be set up according to the calendar year with financial balances reported at six-month intervals in January and July.

The President reported that the Bingham School at Oaks in Orange County is being renovated. This location is associated with the Bingham family, for which a correspondence is known. Members with knowledge of the postal history of the Oaks and Bingham School offices and of the Bingham family are urged to contribute information to this project.

Old Business

Darrell Ertzberger reported on non-profit status for the North Carolina Postal History Society. Federal non-profit status does not depend on incorporation, but can be obtained by submitting a copy of the charter and the yearly financial statements for the past three years. No yearly federal financial statement needs to be filed if income is under \$5,000 and no state financial report is necessary under North Carolina law if the bank balance is under \$10,000.

New Business

The first item under consideration concerned the establishment of a repository for North Carolina postal history, including the categories of NCPHS-owned literature, post office records,

other documents and memorabilia, and artifacts. The Southern Historical Collection in the Wilson Library of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has tentatively indicated a willingness to serve as a repository for manuscript or non-published materials for the Society. Milton Wicker reported that the Greensboro History Museum has agreed to display the NCPHS trophy and other materials on a short term basis and Harvey Tilles suggested that the Little Red Schoolhouse in High Point might provide space for a postal artifact repository or even serve as a North Carolina postal museum. It was noted that postal history displays in libraries or historical societies are a good way to attract new members.

Darrell Ertzberger proposed a campaign to preserve old post office records, including a form letter sent to all North Carolina postmasters asking them to contribute (or "loan in perpetuity") to the NCPHS, any records destined for disposal. The newsletters or bulletins of the two postmaster organizations might also carry this request. Milton Wicker reported that two USPS staff members working out of Greensboro are responsible for the disposition of materials when post offices in the state are closed. A motion was made, seconded, and passed that the NCPHS should undertake to collect North Carolina postal history records including a campaign to contact postmasters asking for records. Darrell Ertzberger was appointed a committee of one to explore the repository arrangements with the University library in Chapel Hill.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed that the NCPHS apply to the American Philatelic Society for affiliate membership. The cost for the first year is \$18. and a show of hands revealed that a majority of the NCPHS members present were also APS members.

Awards chairman James Harris reported that the 1986 annual NCPHS A. Earl Weatherly award for best exhibit goes to Tony Crumbley's WINPEX exhibit "Stampless Markings from North Carolina."

The nominating committee reported the following nominations for Directors with terms expiring in 1989: Johnny Johnson, Milton Wicker, Jim Harris, and Ken Schoolmeester. The slate was elected with one dissenting vote.

Tony Crumbley reported that the backlog of newsletter articles has been used up, and new material is urgently needed.

Vernon Stroupe initiated a discussion of a postal markings project, which is directed at the publication of all North Carolina markings. Pages form the Virginia postal markings project of the Virginia Postal History Society were circulated. Current NCPHS efforts are directed at stampless cover markings (Vernon Stroupe) and manuscript markings on both prestamp and stamped covers (Harvey Tilles). The end result will be the establishment of categories and types of cancellations (numerals, letters, paid, dues, etc.) and an alphabetical listing of markings by post offices. It was decided that stamped period and advertising covers constitute separate areas to be dealt with later. The project is intended to complement, not supercede, the current research of members on postal history by counties. A request was made for persons to assist with the work of making tracings or copies of the postal markings.

The meeting was adjourned, followed by a short meeting of the Board of Directors.

In the Board of Directors meeting, all of the 1985 officers were re-appointed for the coming year. The Board also decided to award the 1986 A. Earl Weatherly award for research and literature to Milton Wicker of Greensboro for his work cataloging the Doane cancels of North Carolina.

NCPHS

Treasurer's Report for Period Ending June 30, 1986

by

Milton Wicker

508 Lindley Rd., Greensboro, N.C. 27410

Income

7/15/85 Beginning balance	\$ 453.52
1986 Dues collected	690.00
Donations	20.00
Sale of back issues of <i>Newsletter</i>	29.00
Interest earned	20.15

Sub total \$1,212.67

Expenses

Printing & Postage for <i>Newsletter</i>	\$ 343.25
Expense for plaque	121.66
Engraving award plates	9.93

Sub total \$474.84

Ending Balance \$ 737.83

Mystery Cover

by

Darrell Ertzberger

P.O. Box 16361, Alexandria, Va. 22302

Postway Company

CONCORD, N. C.



Return Postage
Guaranteed



Mrs. Muriel C. Snyder
2303 Oak St.
Parkersburg, W. Va. (3)

SEC. 562 P. L. & F.



I recently came across the cover shown at the left. It apparently dates from the 1950's. The postage meter pays an unusual 1¢ rate. Is this a third class bulk rate? The black ad on the cover is even more interesting. What was the business of the Postway Company of Concord, N.C.? Are they still in business? Any information about this cover or the company would be appreciated.

NCPHS

Manuscript Postal Markings From North Carolina

by
Harvey Tilles

P.O. Box 5466, High Point, N.C. 27262

The first postal marking from North Carolina was undoubtedly from the coastal area: New Bern - Washington - Wilmington. At this point we do not know exactly where it would have originated, however we know it would have been a manuscript marking as the first handstamp marking did not exist until the late 1770s. The practice of canceling stamps by manuscript has continued on through today. Postal carriers have mutilated many a nice collector cover with their handy ballpoint pens when they noticed the canceling machine had missed the soon-to-be-delivered cover.

Manuscript covers occur throughout postal history, from early stampless markings, through the Civil War, through the exciting time of rural free delivery, up to the modern day ballpoint

disasters. In our on-going attempt to record the state's postal history, I am tracking all known manuscript markings on stamped covers from the state. The stampless manuscripts are being compiled by Vernon Stroupe, with all other sorts of stampless markings.

This is the first part of what I hope will become a major research project. Please help this task by going through your collection and sending me photocopies of any stamped manuscript covers or the information on such covers that you have. I request the following information: 1) the office name, 2) its county, 3) the date of use (either from the cancel or contents), 4) the Scott catalogue number of the stamp or stationery, and 5) any other comments about the cover. **NCPHS**

Office	County	Earliest	Latest	Scott # Comments
Abbots Creek	Davidson	6 Apr 1869		U35
Abrams Plains	Granville	15 Oct 1889		
Afton	Warren	12 Mar 1887	17 Aug 1889	P.O. Receipt
Albemarle	Stanly	7 Oct 1858		U10
Amity Hill	Iredell	24 Sep 1860		63
Ansonville	Anson	24 Mar 1881		U168
Apex	Wake	10 July 1874		147
Apple Grove	Ashe	5 Apr 1876		147
Aquone	Macon	26 Jun --		U84
Arcadia	Davidson	2 Feb --	28 May 1890	220, 210
Arden	Buncombe	21 Sep 1879		221
Asheboro	Randolph			221, 136
Auburn	Wake	31 Mar 1875		
Aumans Hill	Montgomery	15 Oct 1889		
Averysboro	Harnett			Confederate

Brevard Music Center Cancel Announced

The Postal Service has announced that a special machine cancel will be used July 1 through August 10 in Brevard to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Brevard Music Center. The cancel reads "BREVARD MUSIC CENTER, GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY, 1936 - 1986." It is

not a pictorial postmark. A sample of the cancel may be obtained by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to Postmaster, Brevard, N.C. 28713-9998. **NCPHS**



New Members

Please welcome these new members:

C. Houston Ballard
Rt. 2, Box 144
Cleveland, N. C. 27013

Russell A. Crow
417 Shanks St.
Salem, Va. 24153

Andrew Graff
504 7th St. NE
Charlottesville, Va. 22901

Hugh M. Livingston
9324 Hood Rd.
Charlotte, N.C. 28215

Frank Mandel
P.O. Box 157
New York, N.Y. 10014

Jerry W. Taylor
Rt. 1, Box 503
Huntersville, N.C. 28078

James M. Whittemere
P.O. Box 24
Wallburg, N.C. 25373

News of Our Members

Several NCPHS members received awards at WINPEX (Winston-Salem) in May. Members and their exhibits receiving gold awards: **Tony Crumbley**, Stampless Markings from North Carolina; **Alan Vestal**, North Carolina Postmarks; and **Harvey Tilles**, Security Endorsements. **Darrell Ertzberger** received a vermeil award for his Unusual Cancellations from North Carolina.

As mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter the winners of the NCPHS's A. Earl Weatherly award for 1986 are: for best exhibit, **Tony Crumbley**, and for research and literature, **Milton Wicker**.

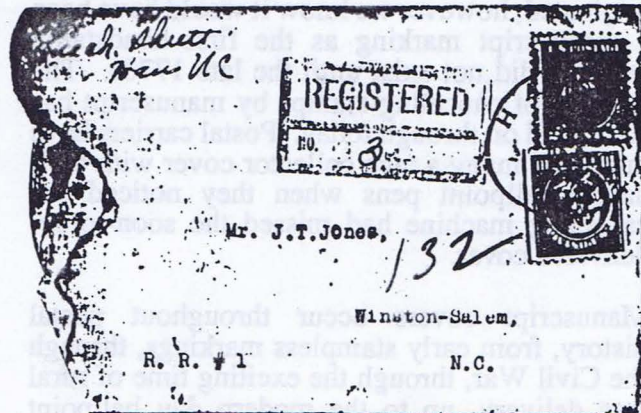
Tony Crumbley and **Harvey Tilles** also won awards with exhibits at Ashepex in Asheville in May. The NCPHS Newsletter does not know the exact awards these members got, but congratulations anyway. And congratulations to all NCPHS members receiving awards.

NCPHS

Letters

Dear Editor,

I was sorely disappointed that no Hanes cover was included in your excellent article "Forsyth County Covers, 1841-1986" (NCPHS Newsletter, April). Here is a photocopy of a damaged cover I have in my collection.



It is a registered letter addressed to my wife's late grandfather. It was mailed from Hanes in 1922. Hanes of course is now within the city limits of Winston-Salem. The post office building is still up and I understand it is now or was a beauty parlor. Hanes was a small village, a "company town," subdivided and laid out by Hanes Milling.

Gene Maynard
Salisbury, N.C.

We're sorry we missed one of your favorite towns in Forsyth, but we showed as many covers in our article as space and our reproduction methods would allow. Several very nice covers were not used because they were too dark to reproduce. Here is a nice clear cancel from Hanes on a 1941 picture post card.

