

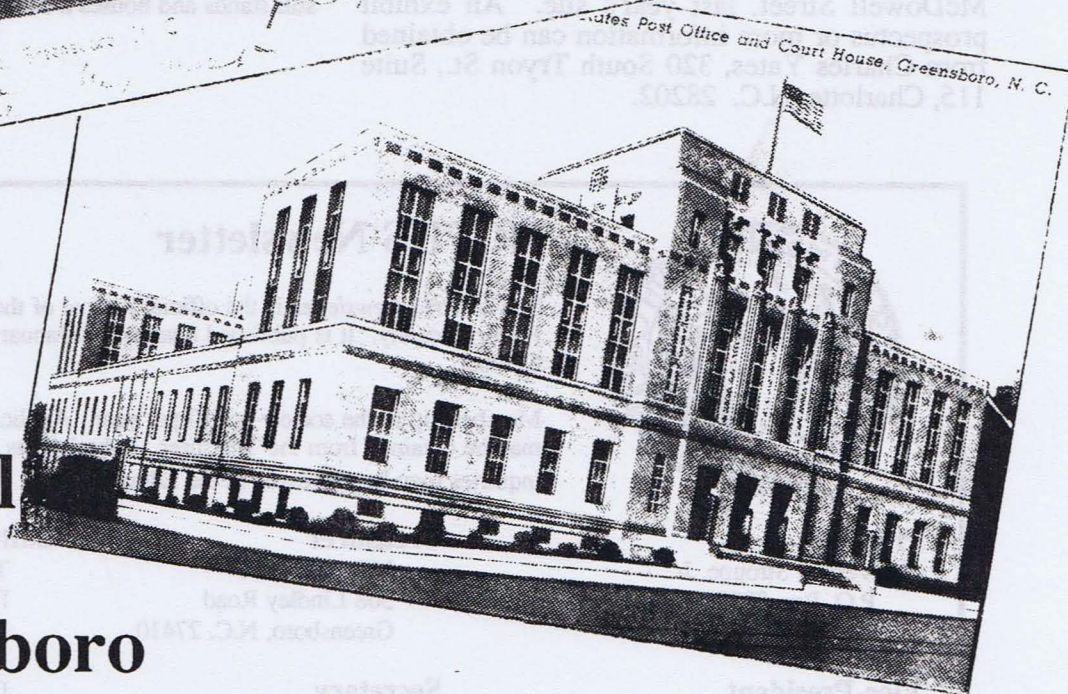
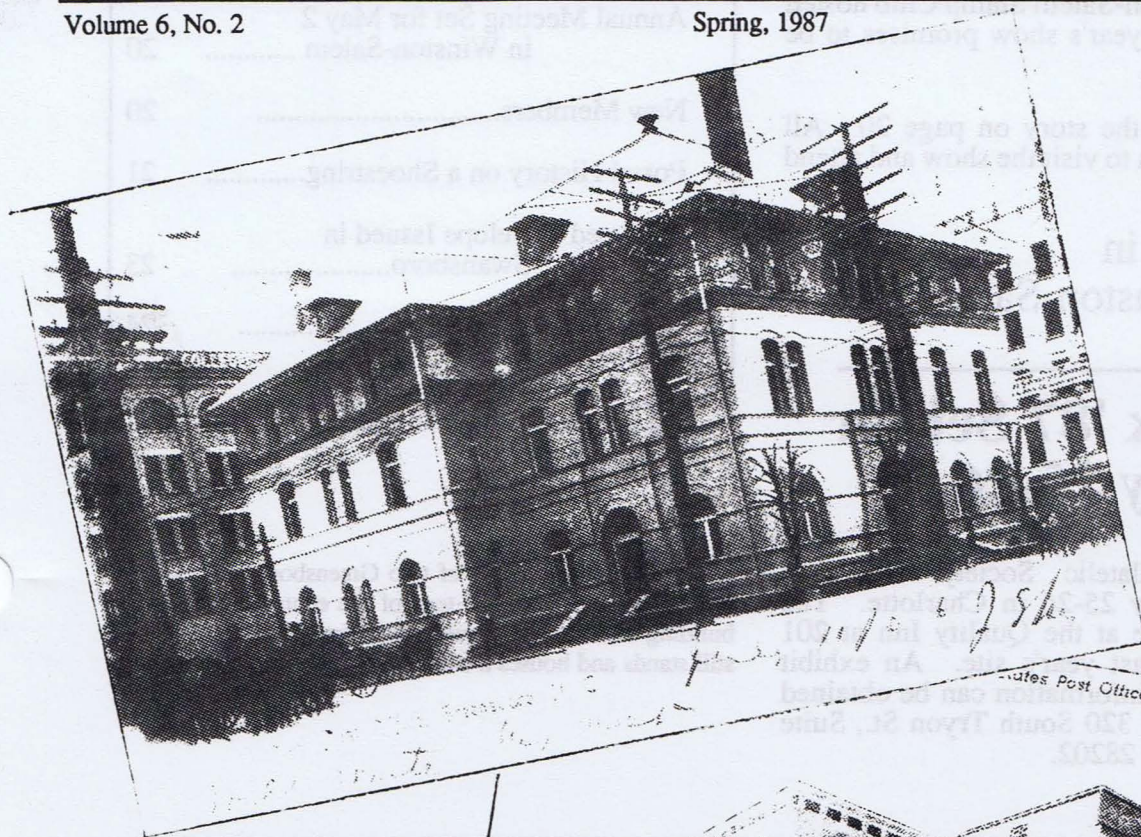
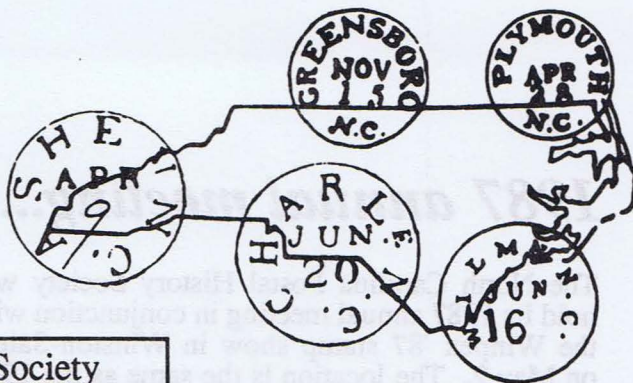
NCPHS Newsletter

The Journal of the North Carolina Postal History Society

Volume 6, No. 2

Spring, 1987

Whole No. 21



The Postal History of Greensboro

Affiliate Number 155 of the American Philatelic Society



1987 annual meeting...

The North Carolina Postal History Society will hold its 1987 annual meeting in conjunction with the Winpex '87 stamp show in Winston-Salem on May 2. The location is the same as the 1986 meeting. Members that attended last year will agree that the Winston-Salem Stamp Club hosted a great show. This year's show promises to be even bigger.

More details are in the story on page 20. All members should plan to visit the show and attend the Society meeting.

We'll see you in
Winston-Salem.

Charpex '87 Set for July 25-26

The Charlotte Philatelic Society will host Charpex '87 on July 25-26 in Charlotte. The annual show will be at the Quality Inn at 201 McDowell Street, last year's site. An exhibit prospectus or more information can be obtained from Charles Yates, 320 South Tryon St., Suite 115, Charlotte, N.C. 28202.

Cover: Postcard views of two Greensboro Post Offices. The older dates from the turn of the century. The newer building served as the main office from 1933 to 1966. It still stands and houses a station of the Greensboro office.

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NCPHS Newsletter

The *NCPHS Newsletter* 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 \$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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Postal Markings of Greensboro, N.C.

by
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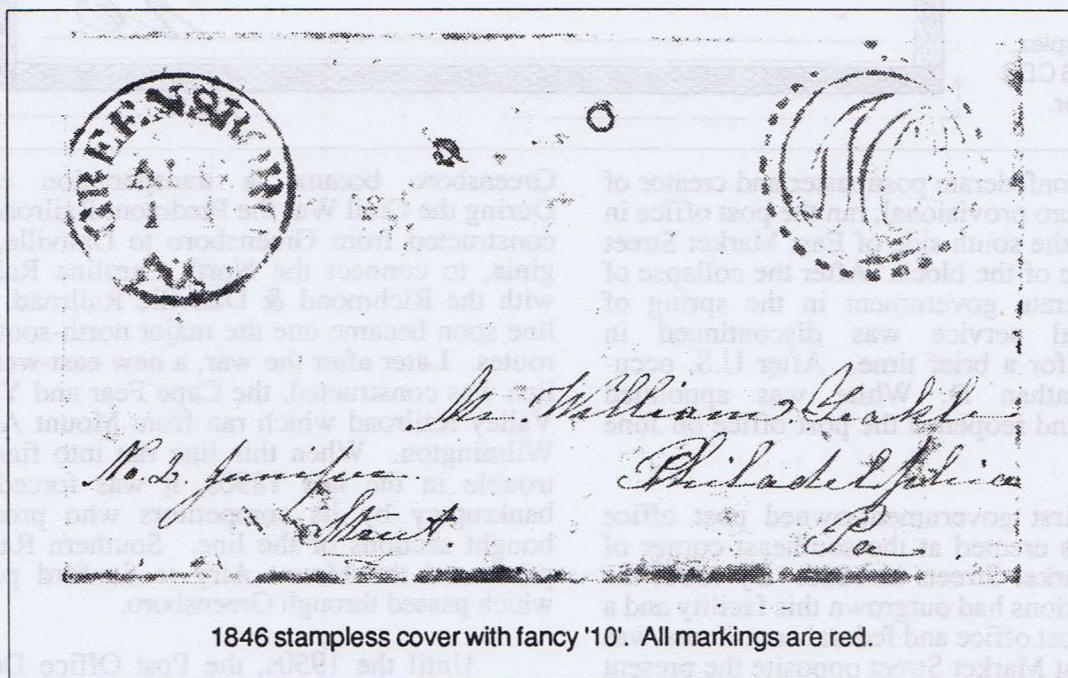
Ken Schoolmeester

P.O. Box 8465, Greensboro, N.C. 27419

Official United States postal records show that the first U.S. post office in Guilford County was established in 1797 at Martinsville, the county seat. This place was named after Governor Alexander Martin. While the county was created in 1771, the courthouse was not fixed at the Martinsville site until about 1774. During this early period, the mail was brought in by stage coach. Two stage coach lines passed through Guilford: the Salisbury to Fayetteville stage, and the Salisbury to Petersburg, Virginia. When the driver announced his arrival with a blast of his horn, the populace turned out to check the newly arrived mail. Letters, packages, and newspapers uncalled for at this time were deposited with the tavern keeper or at the courthouse for later pick up.

site on higher ground at what is now the intersection of Market and Elm Streets was selected. This barren site was named Greensboro in honor of Nathanael Greene, hero of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. The new town-site was laid out, lots sold, and the courthouse constructed. A post office was established at the new site in 1810. Robert Jackson served as the first postmaster from September 10, 1810 until September 20, 1815.

Over the years the spellings "Greensboro" and "Greensborough" have been used interchangeably. Postmarks from 1810 until 1853 read "Greensboro." Earl Weatherly, in his book on historic Guilford, attributes the first official name change to "Greensborough" to postmaster



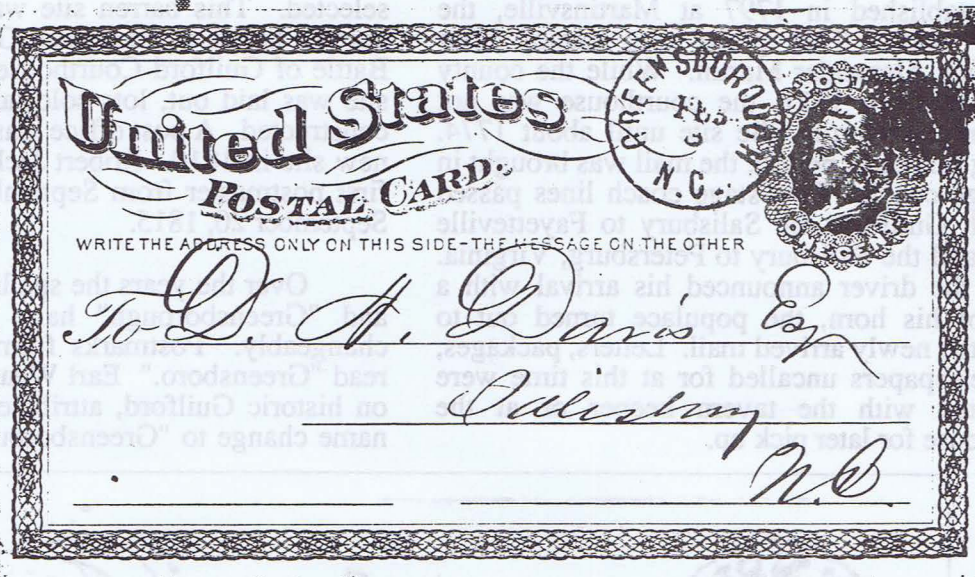
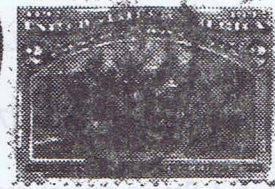
1846 stampless cover with fancy '10'. All markings are red.

Late in 1807, after much political strife, the General Assembly passed an act that stated the Guilford county seat was to be moved to a more central location. In 1808, it was determined that the exact center of Guilford County would be in the center of "a duck pond" about where the present Fisher Park is located. The area was marshy and not a suitable location, so a nearby

Levi Scott in 1852. This spelling of "Greensborough" lasted until 1893. Throughout this period of use of the "Greensborough" spelling, the "Greensboro" spelling can be found in many documents and official uses.

The early postmasters operated from their homes or places of business. Postmaster James

W. R. LAND & CO.,
REAL ESTATE, LOANS AND COLLECTIONS,
GREENSBORO, - - N. C.



Two "Greens-
borough" cancels.

Top: 1893 duplex.
Bottom: 1876 CDS
with cork killer.

Thom, the Confederate postmaster and creator of the Greensboro provisional, ran the post office in his store on the south side of East Market Street in the middle of the block. After the collapse of the Confederate government in the spring of 1865, postal service was discontinued in Greensboro for a brief time. After U.S. occupation, Jonathan D. White was appointed postmaster and reopened the post office on June 23, 1865.

The first government-owned post office building was erected at the southeast corner of Elm and Market Streets in 1885. By 1933, the postal operations had outgrown this facility and a new main post office and federal courthouse was built on West Market Street opposite the present municipal buildings. This operated as the main postal facility until 1966, when the current post office was opened on East Market Street. The old building still houses a station of the Greensboro office.

With the opening of the North Carolina Railroad, transportation of the mail went through a great change. By 1856, the railroad connected Goldsboro, Raleigh, Greensboro, and Charlotte.

Greensboro became a transportation center. During the Civil War the Piedmont Railroad was constructed from Greensboro to Danville, Virginia, to connect the North Carolina Railroad with the Richmond & Danville Railroad. The line soon became one of the major north-south rail routes. Later after the war, a new east-west rail line was constructed, the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Railroad which ran from Mount Airy to Wilmington. When this line ran into financial trouble in the late 1890s, it was forced into bankruptcy by its competitors who promptly bought sections of the line. Southern Railway purchased the Mount Airy to Sanford portion which passed through Greensboro.

Until the 1950s, the Post Office Department moved the majority of the mail by railroad. A network of Railway Post Offices (RPOs) spanned the nation. Because of the convergence of rail lines at Greensboro, several RPOs served the city. Some of these were the Washington & Greensboro, the Greensboro & Atlanta, the Mount Airy & Wilmington, and the Greensboro & North Wilkesboro. To provide support to these mail cars, the Post Office Department established a transfer office in Greensboro about

Greensboro Postmasters, 1810-1971

Robert Jackson	1810-15
James Johnson	1815-22
John A. Mebane	1822-33
I.J.M. Lindsay	1833-45
Wilson S. Hill	1845-49
William Gott	1849-51
Levi M. Scott	1851-53
Branson G. Graham	1853-61
James E. Thom	1861-65
Jonathan D. White	1865-85
George D. Gregory	1885-89
Jonathan D. White	1889-93
James W. Forbis	1893-98
Tyrre Glenn	1898-1906
R. D. Douglas	1906-16
A.W. Cook	1916-22
R.C. Chandley	1922-34
J.W. Coleman	1934-39
J. Tracy Moore	1939-62
Robert E. Sharpe	1962-71

1892. This was a post office in the railroad depot at first. Later it was in a building adjacent to the terminal. Transfer offices were staffed by transfer clerks, whose primary purpose was to expedite the mails between trains. The public could post letters at the transfer office, and in Greensboro, the transfer clerks collected mail deposited in mail boxes in the train station. This

mail received the distinctive transfer clerk cancel. The transfer office was not a part of the Greensboro office, but under the control of the Railway Mail Service, the division of the Post Office Department responsible for the RPOs. Greensboro was the site of a district headquarters of the Railway Mail Service. This office occupied a building next to the train station. The staff in this building was responsible for moving the mails in both of the Carolinas.

On November 1, 1890, the first city carriers delivered the mail in Greensboro. Prior to that date, everyone had to call at the post office for their mail. The twentieth century brought more advances in mail service. For several years, the Post Office Department contracted with the N.C. Public Service Company to carry locked mail pouches on streetcars in Greensboro. At least two routes existed: main post office to Glenwood, and main post office to Proximity branch office and then on to the Denim branch office. From August 1, 1903 through November 1, 1909 rural free delivery routes were established from the Greensboro post office. A total of seven routes were established of out Greensboro.

In 1903 the first stations and branch offices of the Greensboro post office were established. Stations were within the city limits and branches were outside. These stations were opened to serve the growing suburban population



J. E. Boulter Esq
Connolly, Sfgt
N.C.

2 430

1913 transfer clerk cancel on stationery of the Hotel Huffine.

of the city. By this time more than 50,000 people lived in the area. One of the first, if not the first station, was at the Proximity textile mills north of the downtown area. The station was called Proximity Station.

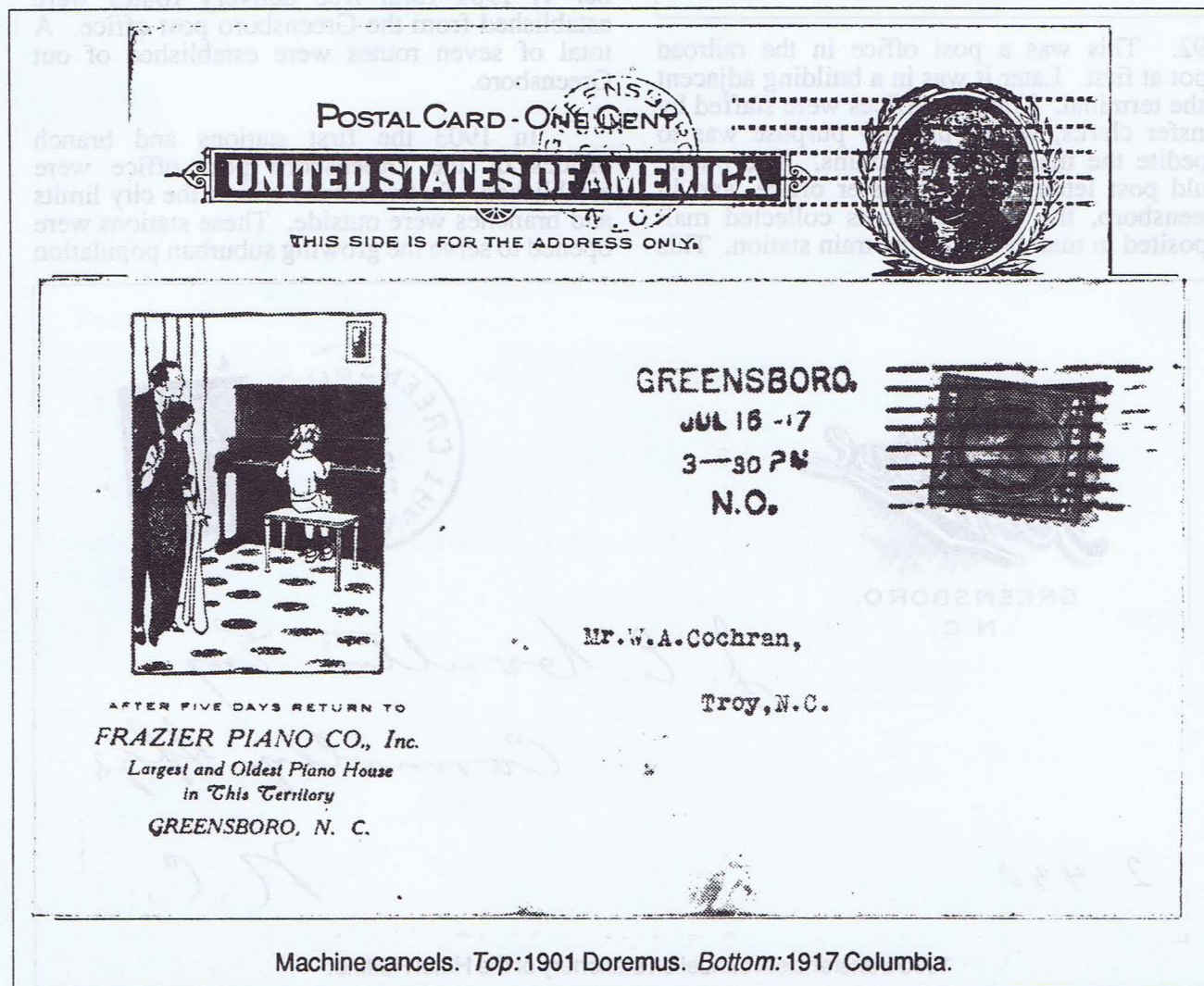
The next major development of the postal history of Greensboro was the beginning of air mail service. One of the first covers flown on the first official U.S. air mail in Garden City, N.Y. in September and October, 1911 was addressed to Postmaster Douglas of Greensboro. It was not until May 1, 1928 that Greensboro saw its first official mail plane. The Greensboro airport was the only stop in North Carolina for the new air mail service between New York and Atlanta. On this first flight about 23,000 pieces of mail were dispatched by a plane that connected with the next leg of the route from Richmond to New York. Pitcairn Aviation had been awarded the contract to fly this route, which was the second official air mail route in the nation.

With the decline of the railroads, the post office sought other ways to move the mail. For a brief time Highway Post Offices (HPOs) served this function. Several of these modified buses ran through Greensboro: the Greensboro & Boone, the Greensboro & Florence, S.C., the Greensboro & Warsaw, and the Roanoke, Va. & Greensboro. By the end of the 1960s the RPOs and the HPOs were gone. The last mail trains through Greensboro were the Washington & Greensboro and the Greensboro & Atlanta RPOs on May 1, 1970.

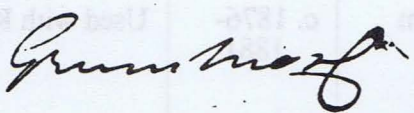
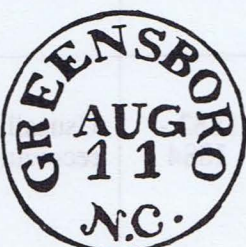
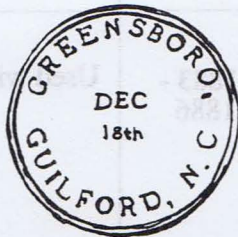
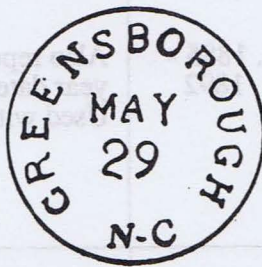


Today the Greensboro post office is one of the major mail facilities in the state, handling more mail than all but a few other N.C. cities. The regional package facility handles and directs most packages throughout the region.

We wish to revise the Greensboro data from time to time and to seek the cooperation of all members. Please send any corrections or additional material to the authors.






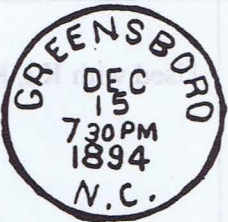

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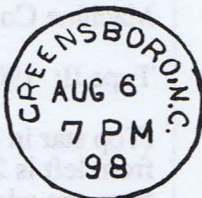





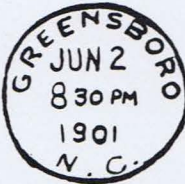
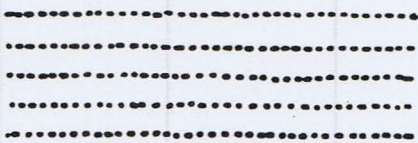
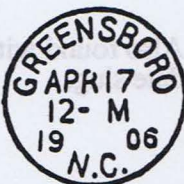
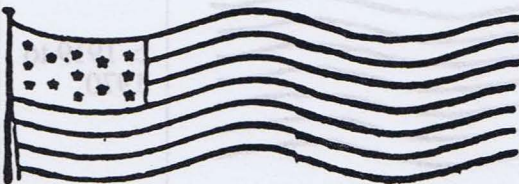
Postal Markings of Greensboro

Type	Marking	Size, Color	Dates	Comments
MS-1			c. 1831	
C-1		30 mm black blue red green	c. 1834- 1852	Color of CDS has no relationship to date of usage. Used with R3, R4, R6-9. R10 with this CDS is a CSA provisional. See CSA-1 and CSA-2.
C-2		28 mm black blue	c. 1854	Found with manuscript rate marking.
C-3		32 mm blue red black	c. 1852- 1865	Used with R1, R2, R5, R10, K3, CSA-1, CSA-2. Found on stamped and stampless covers.
C-4		26 mm black	c. 1865	All markings on stamped covers from this date forward.
C-5		23 mm blue black	c. 1866 - 1876	Used with K2, K3.

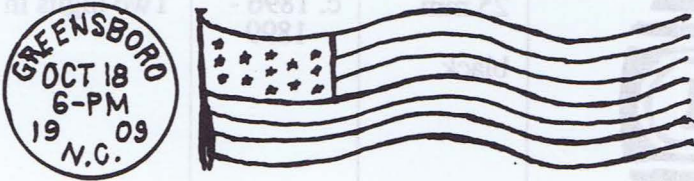


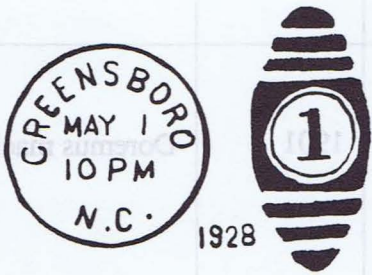

Postal Markings of Greensboro

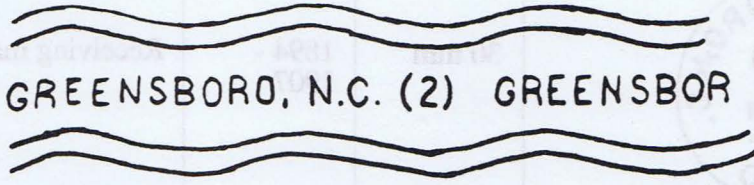

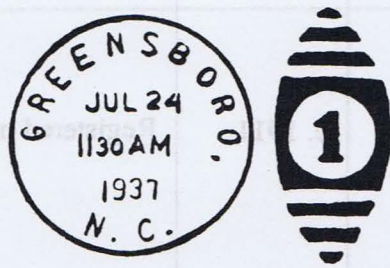
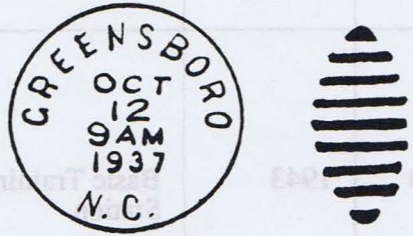

Type	Marking	Size, Color	Dates	Comments
C-8		26 mm blue black	c. 1876-1881	Used with K1, K4
C-7		24 mm black	c. 1882 - 1884	Usually seen as a receiving mark.
C-8		27 mm black	c. 1883 - 1886	Used with K6, K7
C-9		27 mm black	c. 1885 - 1892	Also reported without year date. Used with K5, K8.
C-10		28 mm black	c. 1889 - 1894	
C-11	 	27 mm black	c. 1894 - 1895	

Postal Markings of Greensboro


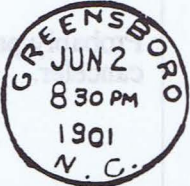


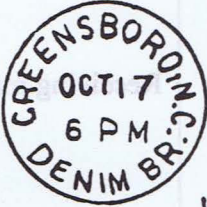

Type	Marking	Size, Color	Dates	Comments
C-12	 	25 mm black	c. 1896 - 1899	Two digits in year.
C-13	 	25 mm black	c. 1900	Four digits in year.
C-14	 	25 mm black	c. 1903	
C-15	 		1901	Doremus machine.
C-16a	 			<p>American Postal Machine Co. flag</p> <p>Type I: 1903-09</p> <p>(Top star in 4th column from left is 2 mm from top edge of flag)</p>

Postal Markings of Greensboro

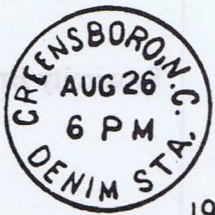

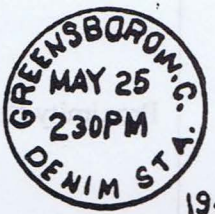


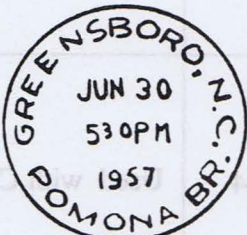

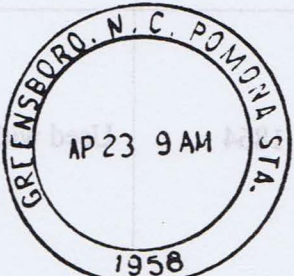
Type	Marking	Size, Color	Dates	Comments
C-16b				<p>American Postal Machine Co. flag</p> <p>Type II: 1909-15</p> <p>(Top star in 4th column from left is 2.5 to 3 mm from top edge of flag)</p>
C-17		27 mm black	c. 1908 - 1928	Also reported with a '2' in the killer (1908)
C-18	<p>GREENSBORO. JUL 16 -17 3-30 PM N.C.</p> 		c. 1913 - 1918	Columbia machine.
C-19		27 mm black	1928	Reported only on airmail covers.
C-20			c. 1919 to 1970	Also found without date slug.





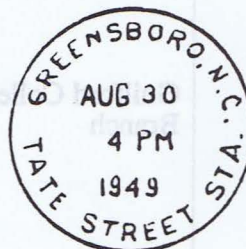


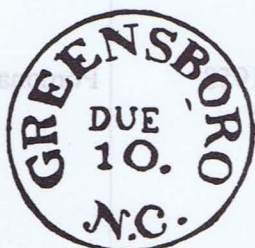
Postal Markings of Greensboro				
Type	Marking	Size, Color	Dates	Comments
C-21				Roller cancel c. 1933
C-22		25 x 15 mm black	c. 1937	Probably parcel post canceler.
C-23		32 mm black	c. 1937 - 1943	
C-24		31 mm black	c. 1937	
	Auxillary Markings			
CR-1		30 mm	1894	Receiving marking.

Postal Markings of Greensboro





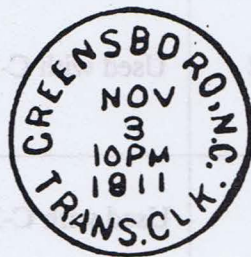



Type	Marking	Size, Color	Dates	Comments
CR-2		30 mm	1894 - 1907	Receiving marking.
CR-3	 RECEIVED		c. 1902	Doremus machine receiving marking.
CR-4		30 mm red	c. 1911	Registered marking.
	Station & Branch Markings			
CBT-1		33 mm	1943	Basic Training Center Station
CD-1	  1911	27 mm	1911	Denim Branch

Postal Markings of Greensboro

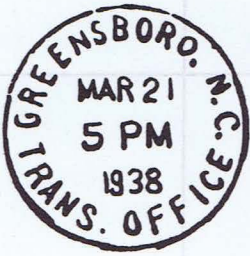


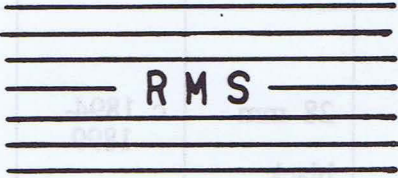




Type	Marking	Size, Color	Dates	Comments
CD-2	 	27 mm black	1920	Denim Station
CD-3	 	27 mm black	1944	
CG-1		31 mm black	1957	Guilford College Branch
CM-1	 	30 mm black	1957	Pomona Branch
CM-2		38 mm black	1958	Pomona Station

Postal Markings of Greensboro				
Type	Marking	Size, Color	Dates	Comments
CP-1	 	28 mm black	1918	Proximity Branch
CP-2	 	33 mm black	1904	Proximity Station
CT-1	 	33 mm	1949	Tate Street Station
Confederate Provisional Markings				
CSA-1		30 mm red	1861-64	Used with C-3
CSA-2		30 mm red	1864	Used with C-3.









Postal Markings of Greensboro






Type	Marking	Size, Color	Dates	Comments
	Transfer Clerk / Transfer Office Markings			
CTC-1		28 mm black	1893	
CTC-2		28 mm black	c. 1894-1899	
CTC-3	 	30 mm black	1906-09	
CTC-4	 	32 mm black	1909-14	
CTC-5	 	31 mm black	1924-26	

Postal Markings of Greensboro




Type	Marking	Size, Color	Dates	Comments
CTC-6	 	31 mm black	1938-39	
CTC-7	 		1943-45	International Machine Cancel
CTC-8		30 mm black	1953	
Rate Markings				
R-1		blue	c. 1852	Used with C-3.
R-2		blue		Used with C-3.
R-3		red, blue	1846-50	Used with C-1

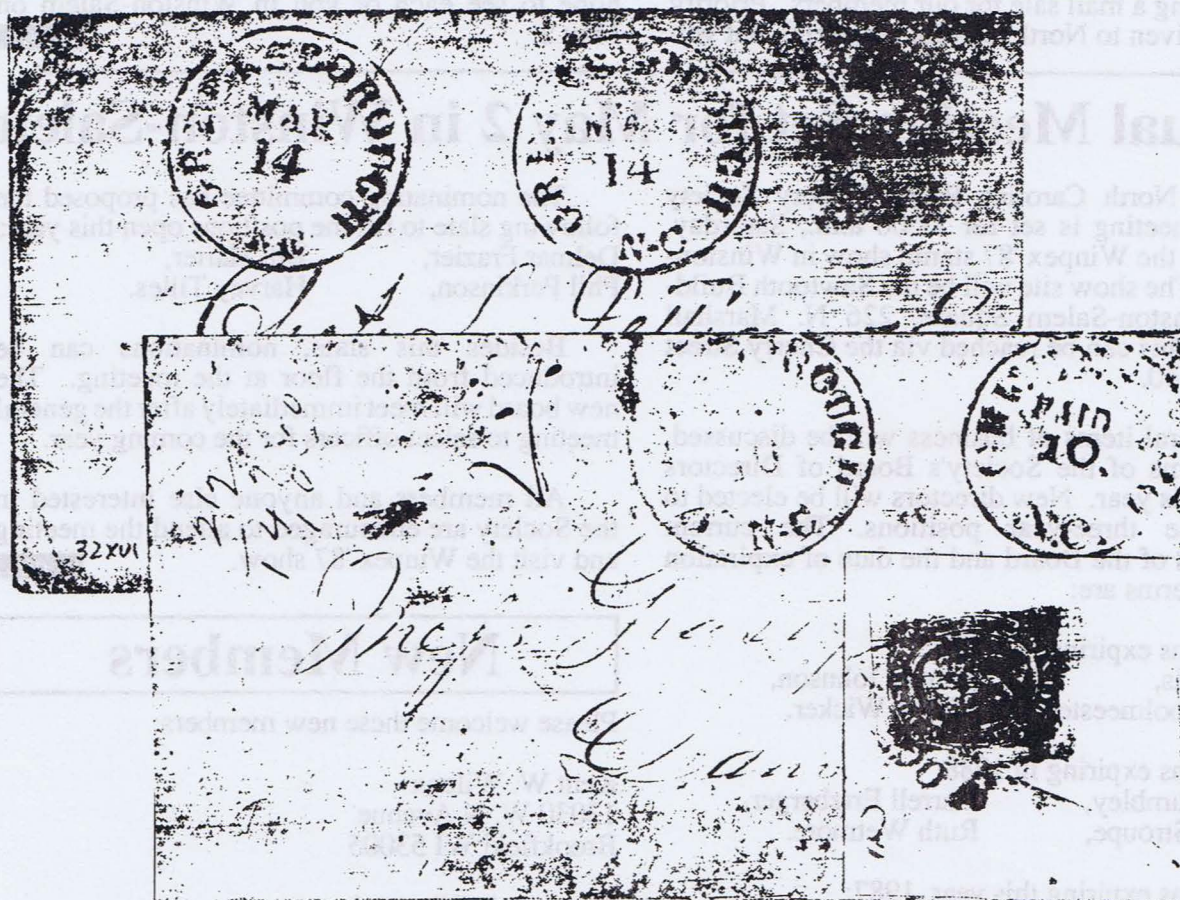
Postal Markings of Greensboro

Type	Marking	Size, Color	Dates	Comments
R-4		blue, red	1848-51	Used with C-1
R-5		blue	1853-61	Used with C-3
R-6		blue, red	1846-48	Used with C-1
R-7		black	1847	Used with C-1
R-8		blue	1849	Used with C-1
R-9		blue	1849	Used with C-1
R-10		blue, red	1862-65	Used with C-3. C-1 with this marking in place of date is CSA provisional.
R-11		blue	1864	Used with C-3. C-1 with this marking in place of date is CSA provisional.

Postal Markings of Greensboro				
Type	Marking	Size, Color	Dates	Comments
	Supplemental Markings			
S-1	PAID	blue, red, black	1838-49	Used with C-1
S-2	PAID	blue, red, black	1852-61	Used with C-3. Also known on Confederate stamped and stampless. Known used as a killer.
S-3	FREE	blue	1845	Used with C-1
	Killers			Undifferentiated cork killers are not listed.
K-1		black		Used with C-3, C-6
K-2		blue, black	1869-76	Used with C-5
K-3		black	1875	Used with C-5
K-4		blue	1880	Used with C-6
K-5		black	1889	Used with C-9

Postal Markings of Greensboro

Type	Marking	Size, Color	Dates	Comments
K-6		black	1883	Used with C-8
K-7		black	1888	Used with C-8
K-8		black	1889	Used with C-9



Confederate Provisional envelopes.
Bottom cover is reused, originally mailed in Columbia, S.C., turned and then used in Greensboro.

Editors' Comments

As springtime rolls around it's time for new ventures and new beginnings. For the North Carolina postal collector and the *NCPHS Newsletter*, it is no different. With this issue we have several new beginnings.

First, this issue introduces two new authors. One is probably our most far-flung member, Howard J. Sparks, an employee of the State Department, currently assigned to our embassy in La Paz, Bolivia. We hope his article will give you a new perspective on collecting modern postal history. The second new author is Harriett Herring whose article introduces us to her hometown of Swansboro. More new authors are always welcome. We hope this will spur more of you to write that much-needed article for our journal.

Second, you will find a new service for our members. With this issue and, hopefully, each future issue, Ken Schoolmeester will be conducting a mail sale for our members. Priority will be given to North Carolina material, but you

are encouraged to submit any sort of postal history items. For this new venture to be a success, we must have your participation in two ways: bid on the items which interest you and send in those duplicate covers for future sales. If you have any material you wish to sell or want more information on the terms of the sale, please contact Ken at P.O. Box 8465, Greensboro, N.C. 27419. It is our hope that these sales will not only add material to our collections, but also add revenue to the Society's treasury.

As this issue comes your way, much work has been done on the stampless markings monograph. The typesetting and editing are nearly complete. We are proceeding on schedule toward our early summer delivery date. If you haven't ordered your copy at the reduced pre-publication price, do it now. By the time you get the next *Newsletter*, the monograph will probably be out and the price will go up. Nearly half of the copies have already been spoken for. This is one book you won't want to miss.

Lastly, our annual meeting is just around the corner. See below for all the details. We hope to see each of you in Winston-Salem on May 2.

NCPHS

Annual Meeting Set for May 2 in Winston-Salem

The North Carolina Postal History Society annual meeting is set for 11:00 a.m., Saturday, May 2 at the Winpex '87 stamp show in Winston-Salem. The show site will be the Sawtooth Building, Winston-Salem Square, 226 N. Marshall Street. This can be reached via the Cherry Street exit on I-40.

Several items of business will be discussed. Four terms of the Society's Board of Directors expire this year. New directors will be elected to fill these three-year positions. The current members of the Board and the date of expiration of their terms are:

Terms expiring in 1989:
Jim Harris, Johnny Johnson,
Ken Schoolmeester, Milton Wicker.

Terms expiring in 1988:
Tony Crumbley, Darrell Ertzberger,
Vernon Stroupe, Ruth Wetmore.

Terms expiring this year, 1987:
Jean Bellamy, Phil Perkinson,
Fred Pitcher, Harvey Tilles.

The nominating committee has proposed the following slate to fill the positions open this year:
Delmar Frazier, Bill Harter,
Phil Perkinson, Harvey Tilles.

Besides this slate, nominations can be introduced from the floor at the meeting. The new board will meet immediately after the general meeting to select officers for the coming year.

All members and anyone else interested in the Society are encouraged to attend the meeting and visit the Winpex '87 show.

NCPHS

New Members

Please welcome these new members:

Kent W. Wilcox
13030 W. N Avenue
Brookfield WI 53005

Clarence J. Winstead
2838 Skycrest Drive
Fayetteville, NC 28304

Postal History on a Shoestring

by
Howard J. Sparks
U.S. Embassy, APO Miami, FL 34032

Are you tired of paying outrageous prices for good postal history pieces? Want to have fun and still be able to eat steak? Try postal history collecting on a shoestring budget!

By a "shoestring budget" I mean collecting the mail you or your office receives every day of the week. I have started several such modern postal history collections. The pieces are your common everyday pieces of mail but I find them enjoyable to collect, and I think you might also.

The "shoestring" collection I would like to share with you is modern postmarks from Greensboro, N.C. Figure 1 shows a cover from my home town of Stoneville, N.C. but it is postmarked in Greensboro. As most people

know, the mail from smaller post offices such as Stoneville is taken to a regional center such as Greensboro for processing. Note that the cancellation has an entire zip code of "27430". Figure 2 shows a similar cover except the cancellation has only the first three numbers of the zip code, "274". Also this cover is from an address inside Greensboro. The cover in Figure 3 is almost exactly like Figure 2 except there is no year in the cancellation.

The cover in Figure 4 has a cancellation that contains the same information as in Figures 2 and 3, but the information is arranged differently. Note the "PM" part of the cancellation is on the bottom of the cancellation and not the top half as in the other cancellations.

P.O. Box 192
Stoneville, NC 27085



Fig. 1

UAC

W.W. Pulley Company, Inc.

601 Summit Avenue
P.O. Box 6014
Greensboro, NC 27405



Fig. 2

John D. Fulbright
Magistrate N. C. Dist. Ct. I.
709 College Road
Greensboro, NC 27410
GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA 27405-0078

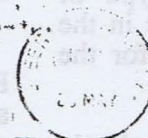


Fig. 3

Darl L. Fowler, P.A.

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELLORS AT LAW
SUITE 500 COMMUNITY BANK BUILDING
127 NORTH GREENE STREET
GREENSBORO, N C 27401



Fig. 4

C. Orville Light
Attorney and Counselor at Law
Suite 204 Madison Drug Bldg.
Post Office Box 664
Madison, N.C. 27025

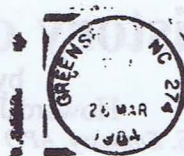


Fig. 5

LAW OFFICES
LUNS福德 & WEST
 430 WEST FRIENDLY AVENUE
 P. O. BOX 1987
 GREENSBORO, N.C. 27402-1987



Fig. 6

Beck, O'Brian and O'Brian
 First Southern Savings and Loan Building
 115 S. Fayetteville Street
 Asheboro, NC 27203

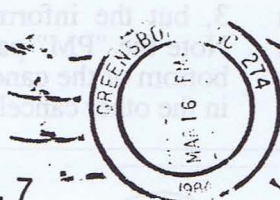


Fig. 7

BOWDEN & GRAY
 ATTORNEYS AT LAW
 P. O. BOX 29186
 GREENSBORO, N.C. 27430

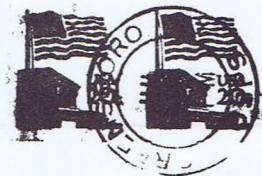


Fig. 8

The cover in Figure 5 probably should be linked to the cover in Figure 2, but it has some differences. First, the cancellation is the same but it has a slogan in the killer. Also, the cover is from a small town post office as was Figure 1, but was not given the same exact type of postmark. There is two years difference in the postmarks and that may be the reason for the differences.

Figure 6 show a cover with a completely different cancellation. It is similar to all the previous covers but it has no zip code information at all in the cancellation. Perhaps this cancellation was used at a branch post office? Figure 7 shows a cover from Asheboro, N.C. but again the cancellation is from Greensboro. The cancellation is one most often seen on large pieces and packages. One can only surmise that this piece escaped cancellation in Asheboro but was

caught while being processed for shipment to Wentworth, N.C.

The cover in Figure 8 bears the round circular date stamp used mostly on registered items and other such pieces.

All the covers illustrated are not rare. Perhaps they are even seen every day. But they are just as collectable as Civil War covers and other covers from many, many years ago. The collection in this article can never be assured of being complete. There is always another cancellation to be found. Other collections that can be done on a shoestring budget are postmarks from your county, postmarks from your town, or many other possibilities. The covers and period of time collected do not have to be old to form an enjoyable collection. Why not give it a try? You never know; you may like it!

NCPHS



NC PHS

PURBY 219

Newell, NC 28124

Cacheted Envelope Issued in Swansboro

by

Harriett Herring

P.O. Box 145, Swansboro, N.C. 28584

In February, the Hubert Benjamin Franklin Stamp Club issued a new cachet to honor the Swansboro Mullet Festival and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the receipt of the federal aid which built the bridges across the White Oak River. The cachet depicts these twin bridges. They join Swansboro in Onslow County to Cedar Point in Carteret County. The cachet was designed and drafted by Roger Krammerer, Jr. a local artist who recently began graduate studies at East Carolina University. He is vice-president of the Swansboro Historical Association.

The Hubert Benjamin Franklin Stamp Club was organized in 1975 and meets in the neighboring community of Hubert, N.C. This is the second cacheted cover the club has offered.

Long before the English came to America, there was a settlement on the site of what later became Swansboro. This earlier village on the White Oak (Weetock) River was established by the Algonkian Indians. Colonial occupation

began about 1730 by a family from Massachusetts.

Early names for Swansboro were Weeks' Point, Weeks' Wharf, Bogue, and then Swansborough. A steady increase in the export-import business caused Swansboro to grow. Many loads of ballast stones are on the harbor floor. They were dumped by ships that anchored in the harbor. Many houses have these stones for foundations. The War between the States brought an end to the international shipping activities of the town.

After that time the town became a fishing village until a boom in the 1940s caused by new defense installations in the area. Since that time, the town has become a retirement and recreational community. Early buildings still in use in Swansboro date from 1774. Visitors can ride slowly through the town and enjoy the shipbuilder's architecture of the older homes.

NCPHS

Support your local Benjamin Franklin Stamp Clubs.

Call your post office to find out how.

Letter from the Past

Moravian Salem in 1786

This month's Letter from the Past was written 201 years ago. The sender is Traugott Bagge, a resident of Salem, who apparently was a merchant. This letter was to one of his suppliers in Charleston, S.C.

In 1786, Salem was a Moravian settlement; one of the last outposts of civilization in western North Carolina. The nation was governed by the Articles of Confederation; the convention of the states that created the Constitution would not meet for another year. The peace treaty that ended the Revolution had been signed four years earlier.

The Post Office Department would not come into existence until the ratification of the Constitution. Salem had no post office of any sort at this time. Only a few port towns of eastern North Carolina had post offices. A wagon driver was paid to carry this letter from Salem to Charleston.

Salem, 22nd February, 1786

Mr. Isaac Peace

Dear Sir,

It has not been in my powers till now to convey an answer to your favours of the 2nd and

15th December last, as no waggoners have ventured to travel your way till now, since for a considerable time past we have had much rain, which must have kept the roads bad. I am glad you returned well to your beloved family, and hope that your indisposition since then, which I am sorry for, has wore off by the mildness of the Winter, which in your Climate often equals the finest of our Springs. I am glad if my Friends at Bethlehem have any ways been instrumental to make your stay there agreeable. I have been every year going there for 18 years past. Business and War has however kept me from it, and now I have dropt the notion. I have forwarded your letter to Joseph Peace, but not seen him since, any letter from him shall be carefully transmitted. I heard lately from him that he was well. It is almost presumption in me to comply with your request of furnishing you with a List of Goods which I would recommend to import, for as much as you are more expert in these matters than I, however if the inclosed can be of any service to you, it will give me pleasure. If your health and time permits an answer to these lines, please to inform me whether your assembly has laid any stricture on the Trade with Brittain, by encreased Duties or otherwise, and whether you have had and still expect a continuation of good Assortments being imported in your place this Spring. I have wrote to your company about my concerns in the present Waggoners & about their loading back, to which offers. You see I am not bashfull in troubling you. I wish I could any wise retaliate your kindness.

I shall praise the Day when Atkinson & Neilson shall do me justice, I really feel myself weak in my trade for the want thereof. I desire my best Respects to your dear Spouse, in which my Wife, tho' unknown, joins to her and you. We should be glad to see you both, here in our small Village; May and June would be the most pleasant time for it. I conclude with wishing You and Yours all happiness, and remain with friendship and esteem

Your very humble serv't

Traugott Bagge

NCPHS

