

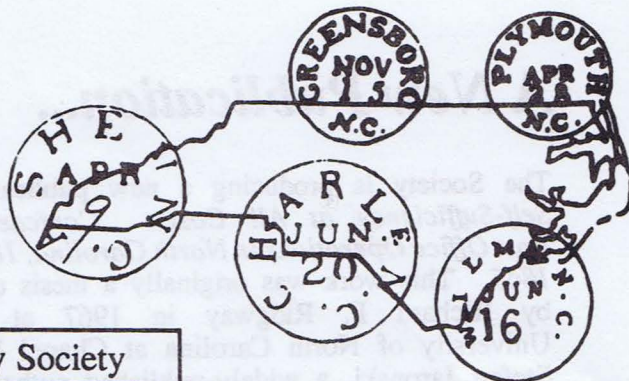
NCPHS Newsletter

The Journal of the North Carolina Postal History Society

Volume 7, No. 3

Summer, 1988

Whole No. 26



The Lenoir, N.C. Provisional

Lenoir N.C. May 1st 1878
I hereby certify that I was Postmaster
at Lenoir N.C. from 1841 to some time
in 1862, that I caused to be issued and
used at my Office in the fall of 1861 a
local Postage Stamp of the denomination
of Five Cents a genuine copy of
which is hereto attached and I further
certify that I have no interest whatever in the
sale or traffic in these stamps —



James Harper

State of North Carolina
Caldwell County I personally appeared
before me R. B. McLaughlin Clerk of the
Superior Court of said County James Harper
to me personally well known as a prominent and
influential citizen of this County and a Postmaster
at Lenoir in said County during 1861 and for many
years previous to that time who being duly sworn
according to law depose and say that the foregoing
certificate over his genuine signature is true —
and I further certify from my own personal knowledge
that the main facts of therein set forth are true and entitled
to full faith and credit. Done at Office this

May 1st 1878 —

R. B. McLaughlin
Clerk Superior Court Caldwell Co.
N.C.

A New Publication...

The Society is producing a new publication, *Self-Sufficiency at All Costs: Confederate Post Office Operations in North Carolina, 1861-1865*. This work was originally a thesis done by Richard F. Ridgway in 1967 at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Stefan Jaronski, a widely-published author of many articles on Confederate postal history, has edited and updated Ridgway's work.

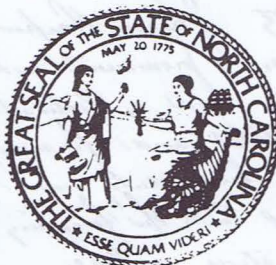
This book is not a chronological study of Confederate North Carolina post offices, nor is it a study of postmarks and covers. It is a critical examination of the operations of the Confederate States Post Office from the historian's analytic viewpoint. Even though it was not produced for a philatelic audience, the work contains much information of interest to the North Carolina postal historian.

This work will be released at the Society's annual meeting August 6 in Charlotte at the CHARPEX stamp show. Until that date the book is available at the pre-publication price of \$10.00. After August 6 the price will be \$15.00. The book can be ordered from the North Carolina Postal History Society, P.O. Box 219, Newell, NC 28126. Please make all checks payable to the NCPHS.

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Cover: An unused copy of The Lenoir Provisional attached to a 1878 deposition from James Harper.



NCPHS Newsletter

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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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On a Warm, Clear September Morn... The Lenoir Provisional

by
Tony L. Crumbley
P.O. Box 219, Newell N.C. 28126

Since June 1, 1861 when the Confederate post office officially took over from the U.S. Postal Authority, young assistant postmaster George W. F. Harper had become tired of apologizing to his customers about not having stamps available for them the purchase. With no change available and no stamps, it was nearly impossible for a customer to post a letter with him.

George was finding himself having to keep more and more running accounts for his postal patrons. The smallest Confederate note available was a Confederate \$2.00 note. These he understood were issued in error. The smallest he had seen was a \$5.00 note. This was the smallest note authorized by the Confederate government in 1861. On June 28 of that year the N.C. general assembly had approved the issuance of some small change note, but it would be after October 1, 1861 before these notes would be available for circulation.

By September 1861, George had decided something had to be done - Richmond had continued to promise stamps were on the way however with the shortage of skilled craftsmen and printing equipment, it was anyone's guess when his needed supply of stamps would arrive. It wasn't until October 16, 1861 that the first Confederate general issue would appear.

In August, he had made up some pre-handstamped envelopes for a friend of the Patterson family. These prepaid envelopes seemed to work well. However his supply of envelopes was almost exhausted. George remembered seeing some unusual stamps come in from New Orleans a few weeks earlier on a letter to a local businessman. This reminded him of an earlier time when postmasters in New York, St. Louis and Providence R.I. had issued their own stamp. With that, assistant postmaster G.W. F. Harper on September 18, 1861 found himself a block of holly wood, a sharp pocket knife, a shady spot and began to cut himself a wood block for printing his own stamps.

By the end of the day, 500 copies had been printed and the last remaining envelopes on hand were also struck with this newly created printing device. After a long day, George knew as he sat down to pen the days comment in his diary that his father - postmaster of Lenoir, James Harper would be proud of him for his accomplishments.

With that in mind George noted on his diary page headed Thursday, September 19, 1861 "clear, warm and pleasant. Made a stamp for printing post office stamps for this office. - Not having been furnished by the department."

Thanks to the ingenuity of George Harper, postal historians have another great page to add to their history book. Those few collectors who are lucky enough to afford one of the 24 remaining copies of the Provisional (Scott 49X1) have an attractive addition to their collection.

More is known about this adhesive provisional than most of the other Confederate provisional. This is part due to the early questions that were

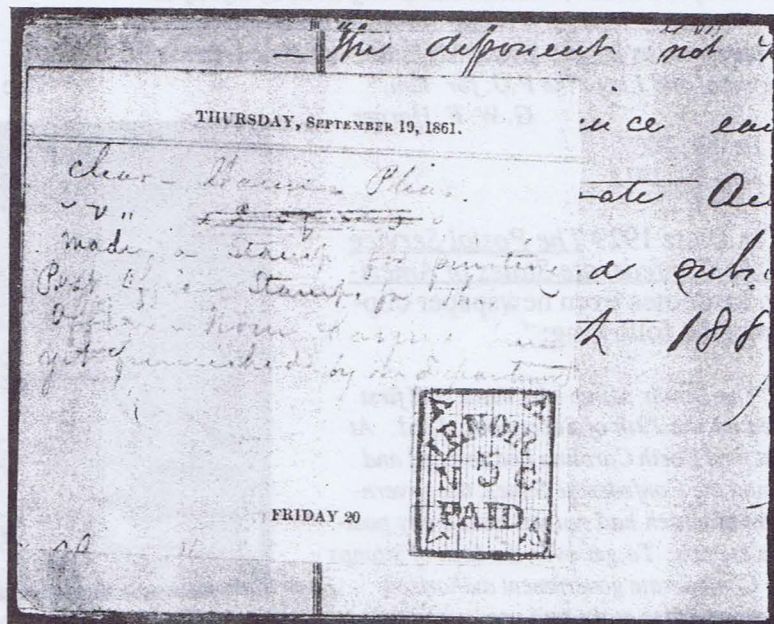


Figure 1. The diary page from assistant postmaster G.W.F. Harper.

asked and documented when postmaster Harper was still alive. The original diary page exist today with a sample of the provisional (Fig. 1).

Several articles have been written on this provisional. The first, in the Southern Philatelist for July, 1926, has an extract from a newspaper clipping:

"At the outbreak of the late war, the Confederacy having no stamps on hand, gave permission to many post offices to issue individual stamps for each post office, to be used until the Government could supply them. This was done by some sixty or more offices throughout the South, and among the number we find the post office at Lenoir had two stamps printed, a 5c adhesive, blue and orange in color, and a 5c stamped envelope. About 500 of these stamps were issued."

Later in Stamps, July 13, 1935, Charles Phillips in his Inventory of Confederate provisionals went into considerable detail about this stamp. In this article, he states:

"Sir William B. Avery had what purported to be the first impression ever struck of this stamp, with an affidavit to that effect.

Sidney Hessel has a copy on cover, not cancelled, a very heavy impression in thick letters. The cover is cancelled "LENOIR, N.C. JUN. 17" and is addressed, Edward W. Jones, Raleigh, N.C.

With the above there is the following declaration sworn to before a Notary Public.

"This impression was made on the fly leaf of an old account book used in the P.O. at Lenoir, N.C. - from the original die of the Lenoir, N.C., 5c stamp engraved by myself in the summer of 1861, and is one of two such impressions now in existence, as far as I know. My father was Postmaster at the time, and I kept the P.O. for him."

G. W. F. Harper.

Lenoir, N.C.
May 20, 1911

In Dietz 1929 The Postal Service of the Confederate States of America, he quotes from newspaper clippings the following:

"The Lenoir stamp was made and first used on the 19th of September, 1861. At that time North Carolina had seceded and joined the Confederate States, the government of which had not yet issued any postage stamps. To get over the lack of stamps the Confederate government authorized postmasters to make and use local stamps. Acting under this authority, Major G. W. F. Harper, who was postmaster of Lenoir at

that time, whittled out of a block of holly wood a local stamp for Lenoir. Unfortunately the holly die from which the stamps were made was either lost or destroyed."

Also quoted is an extract from a letter of the war-time postmaster of Lenoir. It is presumed these are from the collection of papers now in the North Carolina archives in Chapel Hill.

Dear Sir:

I still have two Lenoir Locals, one of them mutilated, and neither one has been used. I pasted them in a scrap-book as war relics in the fall of 1861, when they were issued and there they have remained. I had three and let the school-boy you refer to have the one he sold, expecting him to keep it as a souvenir of this place. It cost him nothing.

Yours truly,

(signed G.W. F. Harper)

Additional background on the Lenoir Provisional can be found in a post war deposition of postmaster Harper which is said to be housed in the Tapling collection of The British Museum in London. (Front cover) The provisional is attached to a document which reads as follows:

"Lenoir, N.C.,
May 1st, 1878,

I hereby certify that I was postmaster at Lenoir, N.C., from 1841 to some time in 1862 or '63, that I caused to be issued and used in my office in the fall of 1861 a local Postage stamp, a genuine copy of which is hereby attached and I further certify that I have no interest whatever in the sale or trafficking in these stamps.

(signed) James Harper,
Attached is a notary's affidavit."

The most recent writings on the Lenoir Provision-

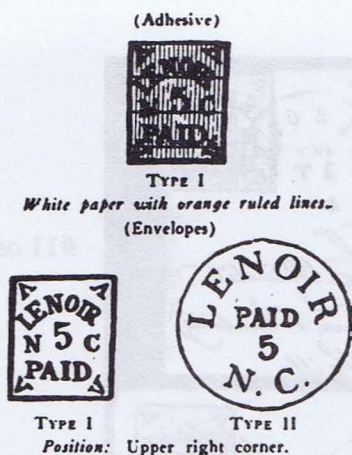


Figure 2. The only known example of the wood block provisional handstamped (Scott 49xu2) on the cover. The stamps are in blue and cancelled with four concentric circles.

al was done by Daniel Telep in the January-February 1980 issue of the Confederate Philatelist. Dan does an excellent job of documenting the history of this provisional as well as the other Confederate markings from Lenoir. Pointed out is this article and earlier by L.L. Shenfield is an error in the Scott Listing which still persists. Scott list a Type II handstamp provisional (Figure 2) in black ink. This has since been determined to exist only in blue ink.

Dan also concludes from his analysis of Morris Everett's inventory of known covers that the 5¢ adhesive was actually first placed on sale September 18, 1861. This however is incorrect. The September 18, 1861 cover is actually a Type III (Dietz Type V) handstamp provisional (Scott 49xu3) of which two examples are known, the other being dated August 10, (1861).

The Lenoir Provisional types are as follows:



Ten years of research on my part and numerous other years by collectors such as Phillips, Hart and Everett has produced the following inventory of existing Lenoir Provisionals. The author would like to hear from other collectors who may have additional covers in their collection.

(49x1) 5¢ blue adhesive printed on white graph paper with orange lines 18 1/2 x 22 1/2mm

Off Cover Type I:

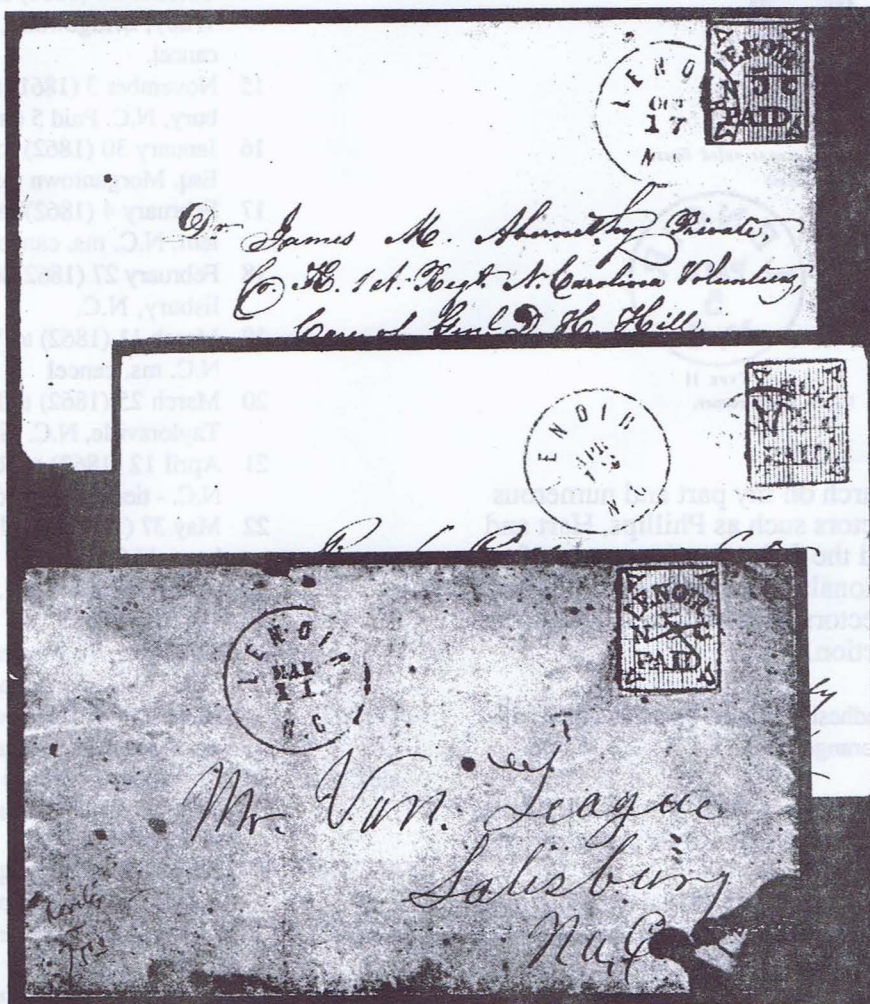
- | | | |
|------|---|--|
| Mint | 1 | off cover mint with a 1911 historical letter from George W. F. Harper acting postmaster in 1861. |
| | 2 | off cover mint with 1878 deposition from James Harper located to the Tapling Collection, British Museum, London. |
| | 3 | off cover mint attached to September 19, 1861 Diary page of postmaster's son who was printer of stamp. |
| Used | 4 | off cover cancelled with Blue Lenoir mount- |

On Cover

- | | | |
|-----------|---------|---|
| | 5 | ed on thin card - thins and tears.
off cover cancelled with Blue Lenoir light corner crease. |
| | 6 | off cover manuscript cancel without usual orange cross lines. |
| | 7 | September 27 Davenport Female College - military address to Newberne, N.C. - ms. cancel. |
| | 8 | September 21 to Mr. W.D. Marshall, Newberne, N.C. (This may be above cover) |
| | 9 | September 21 Mr. W.T.R. Abernethy, Richmond, VA ms. cancel. |
| | 10 | October 5 (1861) to Capt. Thomas I. Lenoir, Wilmington, N.C. ms. cancel |
| | 11 | October 17 (1861) to Dr. James M. Abernethy, Yorktown, VA, Blue CDS. |
| | 12 | October 21 (1861) to Mrs. S.H. Wiley, Bridgewater, N.C. |
| | 13 | October 24 (1861) to Miss Mary Hendey, Salisbury, N.C. Blue CDS. Stamp has been cut from envelope and replaced |
| | 14 | October 30 (1861) to Mrs L.H. Wiley, Bridgewater, N.C. Blue CDS cancel. |
| | 15 | November 3 (1861) to Van Teague, Salisbury, N.C. Paid 5 cancel |
| | 16 | January 30 (1862) to Mrs. Emma M. Tate Esq. Morgantown ms. cancel |
| | 17 | February 4 (1862) to Rufus Patterson, Salem, N.C. ms. cancel |
| | 18 | February 27 (1862) to Vancher Teague, Salisbury, N.C. |
| | 19 | March 11 (1862) to Van Teague, Salisbury, N.C. ms. cancel |
| | 20 | March 25 (1862) to Mr. William Marshall, Taylorsville, N.C. Stamp not cancelled. |
| | 21 | April 12 (1862) to R.L. Patterson, Salem, N.C. - tied Blue (paid) |
| | 22 | May 3? (1862) Mrs. James K. Hall, Greensboro, N.C. |
| | 23 | June 6 (1862) to J.H. Gant Esq. Cleveland, TN Blue CDS |
| | 24 | Unknown. To Master Saml. L. Patterson, Oaks, N.C. ms. cancel |
| | (49xU3) | Hand stamped on envelope using same wood block as used to create 49x1 |
| One Cover | 26 | November 11 (1861) Pair hand stamped on cover to make 10¢ rate to Lt. G.W.F. Harper, Knoxville, TN |
| Off Cover | 27 | Printed on manila paper apparently a cut square - manuscript pencil cancel. A paid slug was inserted into the pre-war CDS. |
| (49xU3) | | |
| On Cover | 28 | August 10 (1861) Blue hand stamp paid 5 - to Rufus T. Lenoir, Ft. Defiance, N.C. Said to be as 49xU3 but in black. This cover does not exist. |
| (49xU4) | | |



Figure 3. The only known cut square of the Lenoir provisional handstamp (Scott 49xu2. This is the Scott variety that is listed as black. It is however printed in blue and cancelled by pencil

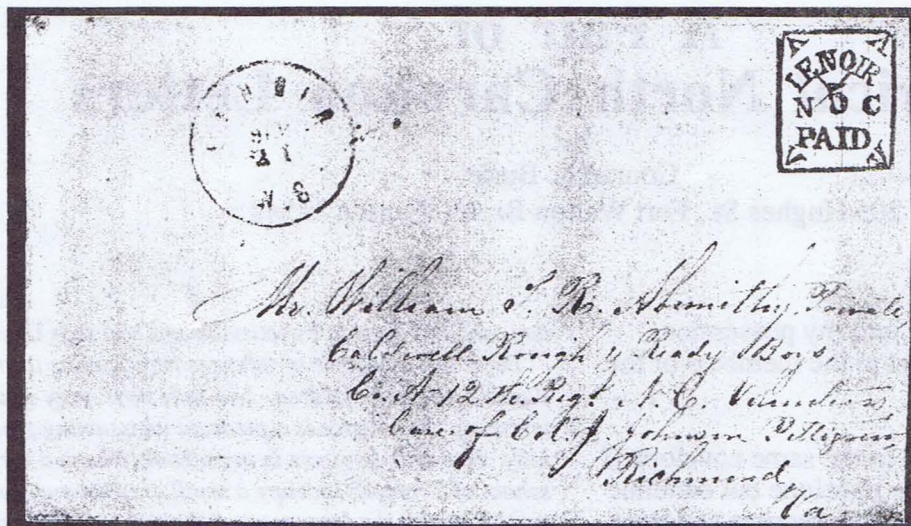


#11 on list

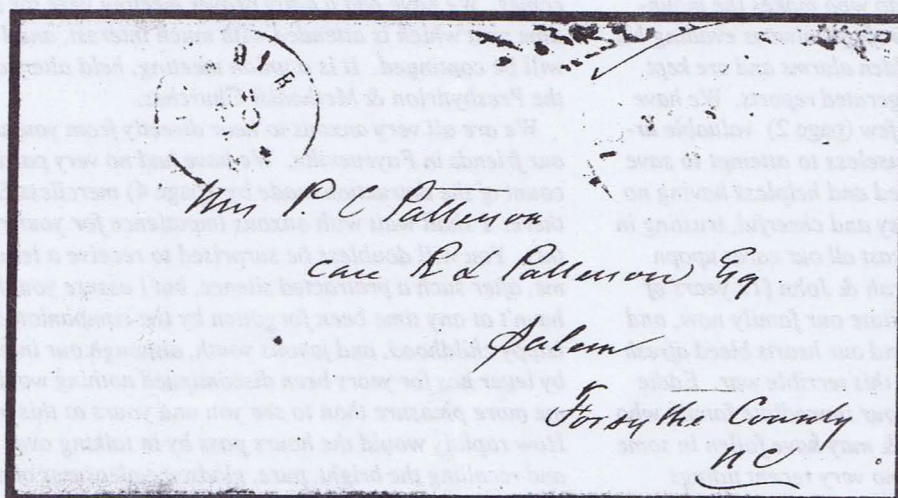
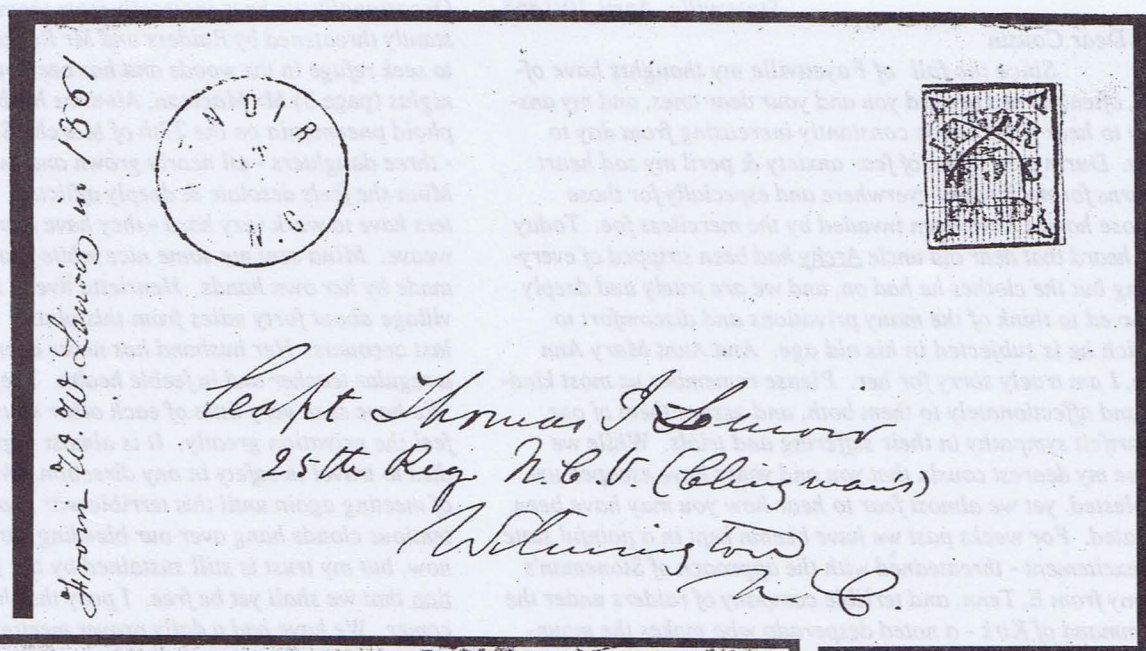
#21
Blue paid in circle

#19
Manuscript

Figure 4. Three types of cancels on the Type I Provisional



Type I 49x1 #9 on list
This is the earliest known date of the Type I



Type I 49x1 #10 on list

Type III 49xu2 #28 on list

A Pair of Historical North Carolina Letters

by
Conrad L. Bush

205 Hughes St., Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32548

Recently two letters came into my possession which I feel will be of interest to the members of the N.C.P.H.S.

Both letters were enclosed in the same envelope. (I have been unable to locate the envelope but continue to search. The reason for this will become apparent as you read on.)

Statesville, April 10/1865

My Dear Cousin

Since the fall of Fayetteville my thoughts have often, often, turned toward you and your dear ones, and my anxiety to hear from you is constantly increasing from day to day. During the times of fear anxiety & peril my sad heart yearns for my kindred everywhere and especially for those whose homes have been invaded by the merciless foe. Today we heard that dear old uncle Archy had been stripped of everything but the clothes he had on, and we are truly and deeply grieved to think of the many privations and discomfort to which he is subjected in his old age. And Aunt Mary Ann too, I am truly sorry for her. Please remember us most kindly and affectionately to them both, and assure them of our heartfelt sympathy in their suffering and trials. While we hope my dearest cousin that you and yours have escaped unmolested, yet we almost fear to hear how you may have been treated. For weeks past we have been kept in a painful state of excitement - threatened with the approach of Stoneman's Army from E. Tenn, and terrible company of raiders under the command of Kirk - a noted desperado who makes the mountain hills above Lenoir his place of refuge, always evading his pursuers. We have had several sudden alarms and are kept constantly in dread by daily and exaggerated reports. We have packed up and sent to the country a few (page 2) valuable articles, but we feel that it is almost useless to attempt to save anything. We feel utterly unprotected and helpless having no earthly protector but we are still busy and cheerful, trusting in God and endeavoring day by day to "cast all our cares upon Him, who careth for us". Sister Sarah & John (12 years of age) Isabel McRine & myself constitute our family now, and sometimes we feel desolate indeed, and our hearts bleed afresh for the love ones who have fallen in this terrible war. Eddie McCutchan & Willie Munn are all our immediate family who are left, and they are in the service & may have fallen in some of the large battles, as we have had no very recent tidings from them. Isabel had a letter from her brother Thomas to-

day, who had been to Fayetteville and had seen Uncle Archy.

There are a number of refugees here, among them Gov Vance's wife and children - two little boys, very smart and interesting. Mrs Vance is a pleasant unassuming pious little lady. Her little boys are in my school. I have a very pleasant school of 17 pupils, occupy a small area on our own lot & I teach only in the forenoons. Elizabeth is teaching in Thomasville, Douglas is with her now. We hear frequently from all the sisters except sister Mary, we have had no letters from them for many months, before communication was cut off. Occasionally we hear indirectly from them. Lenoir is constantly threatened by Raiders and Mr Rankin has been obliged to seek refuge in the woods and has been out on guard several nights (page 3) Mr Maclean, Alminas husband, died of typhoid pneumonia on the 27th of March. She has five children - three daughters - all nearly grown and two little boys. Poor Mina she feels desolate & deeply afflicted. She and her daughters have to work very hard - they have learned to card, spin & weave. Mina sent me some nice white flannel last winter made by her own hands. Henrietta live in Dallas - a small village about forty miles from this place. They were all well last accounts. Her husband has never been in the army. He is a regular teacher and in feeble health. They have five children.

We have seen very little of each other since the war, and we feel the privation greatly. It is almost impossible now for ladies to travel in safety in any direction. We have little hope of meeting again until this terrible war is over. Dark and portentous clouds hang over our bleeding, struggling Country now, but my trust is still sustained by the hope - yea expectation that we shall yet be free. I pray that happy day speedily comes. We have had a daily prayer meeting here for short time past which is attended with much interest, and I hope it will be continued. It is a union meeting, held alternately in the Presbytrion & Methodist Churches.

We are all very anxious to hear directly from you and all our friends in Fayetteville. We have had no very particular account of the destruction made by (page 4) merciless Enemy there. I shall wait with anxious impatience for your reply to this. You will doubtless be surprised to receive a letter from me, after such a protracted silence, but I assure you that you haven't at any time been forgotten by the companion of your happy childhood, and joyous youth, although our intercourse by letter has for years been discontinued nothing would afford me more pleasure than to see you and yours at this moment. How rapidly would the hours pass by in talking over the past and recalling the bright, pure, gladsome pleasures of our early days - and in recounting the sorrows, trials and bereavments of

the past four years, of this cruel, wicked war! I can never think of you but as my earliest, dearest companion, friend, not a cousin mainly but - adopted fondly churismic sister. How hard it is to realize that so many long sad, sad, years have passed away since we parted. Sister and family are well and join in love to you and yours, and in the earnest request that you will write at your earliest convenience and relieve our anxieties you all. I beg you will excuse the bad appearance of this letter. I had the misfortune to break my gold pen and find it almost impossible to write on Confederate paper with a steel one. Sister desires to be remembered to all her old neighbors, friends, particularly Mrs Whitehead, the Hasviely's & Mrs H (?). As ever Your Affectionately devoted Cousin

S. S. Salsen

As you can see this letter is written by a very articulate person, a school teacher, who expresses her concerns for the ending of the war and what will happen to everyone. If mailed the day it had been written it would have had a Confederate stamp on the envelope but read on, letter number two.

Wednesday evening
April 27th/65

My Dear Cousin

Communication was cut off before the enclosed letter was mailed, and on the night of the 10th Stoneman's army entered our quiet village. The pickets came in about seven o'clock in the evening and the Army continued to pass along until Saturday evening. The citizens were of course much terrified at their approach and expected to witness such scenes of horror as had been enacted in various other places but they passed steadily and quietly through, large bodies of their troops making no halt at all. And they did comparatively but little damage here to private property. The Depot - Government stores, "Express Office" & one private dwelling were burnt. Stores were broken open and contents distributed to the negroes, fortunately however they contained but (page 2) little that was valuable and most of the articles have since been recovered. They took nearly all the horses from the country around as well as from the village. The prospect for crops this year is gloomy indeed and the farmers are feeling much depressed. We were not at all molested tho several came to our house about two o'clock in the morning and did not leave until four. They said they were Kirks men and not Yankees, tho they belonged to Stoneman's Army. They asked for nothing but Rebels, fire-arms and something to eat, and although they were common, course men, they were not rude or insulting to us. We feel that we have been wonderfully preserved and blessed, and we feel that in return for the goodness of the Lord toward us, our lives should be a continued thanksgiving "May His goodness ever lead us to repentance & newness of life". (page 3) In all these times of darkness and gloom, how consoling the thought and the assurance that "the Heavens do rule", and "He doth all things well".

The news of the surrender of Lee was a stunning blow to us

at first, and now, we can only wait - in bewilderment of mind to know what is yet to be the condition of our beloved Country. I felt from the commencement of our struggle that Providence designed we should be free and I prayed & hoped and trusted unto the last and now feel depressed & sad, but I will become entirely resigned to the will of God. "-_-_-" Lou' Ray called called (sic) last night & I am truly glad to have an opportunity of sending a letter to you and I hope you will meet with an early opportunity of replying. (note; could this mean the letter was hand carried?) This letter (page 4) has been written during numerous and various interruptions, and I hope you will excuse all errors and hasty scribbling. Sister Sarah joins in love to yours, with kind regards to all inquiring friends. I often think of you and wonder if we shall ever meet again in this world. How sweet the hope of rest beyond this vale of tears! O that we may all be prepared to meet in that bright world "where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest".

We have had no tidings from either of our sisters, except sester Ann since the the (sic) Yankees passed through. They did very little damage in Lenoir. Mr Rankin obtained a guard for his house and they were not molested. They were all well. We hope to hear from Elizabeth soon.

As ever your most affectionate Cousin
P.S. It is said that Lou' Ray is engaged to a young lady of our village - Miss Mary Bell. If so he will of course come up soon & you can write by him. I hope he'll return very soon.

I also hope he returned "very soon" and the two cousins were reunited through their letters. I have had an enjoable few hours transcribing these letters and I hope the members of the N.C.P.H.S. enjoy reading them, and in some small way benefit from my endeavor.

NCPHS

Membership In The
NCPHS Pays.
Sign Up A
New Member Today

Postal Service for the Confederate Defenders of Roanoke Island

by

Stefan T. Jaronski

P.O. Box 808, N. Chicago Il 60064

Roanoke Island was an important key in the contest for the control of the North Carolina coastal areas, especially after Fort Hatteras and Clark, on the Outer Banks, surrendered to the Federals on August 28, 1861.

The island commanded access to the upper sound region and the southern flank of Norfolk. As such, it came under the jurisdiction of the Department of Norfolk in early November. Before that time it had been part of the District of the Pamlico, in the Department of North Carolina.

General Henry Wise was officially placed in command of the island on December 21, but he did not arrive on the scene until January 6; his Legion arrived at the end of the month. Wise's headquarters, however, were established at Nags Head (probably at the hotel located there), rather than on Roanoke Island. The command became known as the 4th Brigade of the Department of Norfolk.

Figure 1. Norfolk, Va., soldier's due cover, postmarked February 18, 1862, from Major Duffield, A.A. General, 4th Brigade, Dept of Norfolk.



Despite numerous requests by various military authorities that Roanoke Island be heavily reinforced and fortified, little help was sent to the island. Fi-

nally, in February 1862, the long predicted Federal movement against Roanoke took place. By February 4 the Union fleet was anchored in Pamlico Sound. The battle of Roanoke Island, February 6-8, was a Federal success and almost all the Confederate garrison, plus last minute reinforcements, were captured. For the rest of the war, the island remained firmly under Federal control.

It has been very difficult to document the postal service for the Roanoke Island garrison, particularly service before January 1862. I have not found any distinct reference in the Confederate States Post Office archives. The garrison was provided rations and supplies from Elizabeth City and Edenton, so presumably mail was sent back to either of those two for mailing. A comment in an October 1, 1861, letter from James Reid, 3rd Georgia (Reid Papers, Duck University Manuscript Collection) mentions that some mail was carried by hand to Portsmouth (VA.) by whoever was going there on business. Another letter mentions that a boat was waiting to

take letters to some undisclosed destination. It is also possible that mail went back to the departmental headquarters at Goldsborough by military courier, where the letters would have been posted.

I have seen only one example of such service, however. The North Carolina Department of Archives and History possesses a cover from Lt. J.W. Holden, 31st N.C. with letter from Roanoke Island, dated Dec. 1, 1861. The cover has manuscript Due 5, unfortunately, the corner

with the postmark was torn off. Stroupe, in his *Illustrated North Carolina Postal Markings 1777 - 1865*, lists a Due 5 cover from Edenton (no date giv-

en), but none from Elizabeth City. The *New Dietz Confederate States Catalog and Handbook* list a presumed Due 5 cover from the latter town, but

Bridge Va., where the remnants of the Legion regrouped after the battle.



Figure 2. Another soldier's due cover from troops that had been at Roanoke Island. This one is postmarked February 21, 1862 and rated 5 (cents due) and is from a member of the Wise Legion.

To assist North Carolina and Confederate collectors in identifying covers from Roanoke Island I have listed the units serving on the island in Table 1. Covers sent from the garrison during August to December 1861 would presumably have been routed through one or more towns on the coast (Elizabeth City, Edenton, Plymouth, Hertford, and Portsmouth. Anyone having or discovering a soldier due cover having the appropriate characteristics is requested to contact me.

without determining whether it carried the requisite soldier's endorsement, I cannot fully determine its nature.

The situation becomes much clearer for the period during which the Department of Norfolk had jurisdiction over Roanoke Island. General Wise brought up the subject of mail service very shortly after he took command of the garrison, requesting a post office be established either at Nags Head or on the Island. This request was refused. Mail was routed to Norfolk, from which the garrison drew its supplies. Therefore, covers from Roanoke Island presumably should be postmarked at Norfolk.

I have not yet discovered any Norfolk or Portsmouth covers definitely from Roanoke Island, but have two "near misses." The first cover illustrated here could have originated on Roanoke Island, but, if so, it would have been dispatched just before the battle and taken considerable time to get to Norfolk, because it is postmarked 10 days after Roanoke's fall. More likely, it originated from Currituck C.H., N.C., where Wise established his headquarters after Roanoke's fall. This cover is from C.B. Duffield, Wise's Assistant Adjutant General.

The second cover shown here is from one of the survivors of the Roanoke garrison, Sgt. D. Wright, Co. C., 1st regiment, Wise Legion. This cover probably originated from the vicinity of Great

Table 1
Confederate Units Serving on Roanoke Island

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Dates of Presence</u>
3rd Georgia	late Aug., 1861 - Dec. 12, 1861
8th North Carolina	Sept. 21, 1861 - Feb. 8, 1862
17th North Carolina (co's E, I, and L)	late Aug. 1861 - Feb. 8, 1862
31st North Carolina	Dec. 12, 1861 - Feb. 8, 1862
1st and 2nd Regiments, Wise Legion	Jan. 30, 1861 - Feb. 8, 1862
2nd North Carolina Battalion	landed Feb. 8, 1862
46th Virginia (Co.'s B, D, G and /K)	landed Feb. 7, 1862
59th Virginia	landed Feb. 7, 1862

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We could always use more members, ask an acquaintance to join today!

Sinful Doings in Stokes County

by
Scott Troutman
764 Lynn Dee Dr.
Winston-Salem, N.C. 27106



I was sorry to hear that members of our circuit think more of making brandy and having it made than they do of pleasing God. It is astonishing indeed that Ministers; who have preached righteousness for years until they have grown gray in the service of God; will at last for the sake of money lay such examples before

This letter is from private Elroy I. Helsabeck, a thirty one year old farmer from Stokes County serving with the 21st N.C. Regiment, Company F of the Confederate infantry. It was written September 22, 1862 from Gordonsville, Virginia to his brother, a reverend in Bethania, in Forsyth County. Like his brother the reverend, Elroy was deeply religious. "I feel bouyed up (by God) and have faith to believe that I shall meet you again", he wrote.

Most Civil War letters home describe the conditions that the soldier was enduring, asked for news of home, and mentioned old friends. In most respects this letter is not so different. In the first three pages he discusses his deep love of God, that things are slow at the moment, and mentions items that need to be taken care of around the farm. He had just received letters written to him in August of 1862 that included news of church gatherings, and he discussed this and people in his outfit that his brother would know. Rather than bore the reader with this standard fare, I will skip to part of the last page in which he expresses concern for some problems not usually encountered.

their fellow men. O that God may have mercy on us, and save us from our sins. A man died here in camp last night; his name is Jerimiah Wilkins. They say that he leaves a wife, and four, or five children. This makes three that have died since we came here. They were all from Stokes. A great many are gone to the hospital and some have run away. Our company is getting small, nine run away last night, among the rest was George W. Bowman and A.M. Ling out of our tent. We will have more room now and not so many to cook for.

Thus it appears that everything stopped in Stokes county when there was peach brandy to be made. An one wonders if those that ran off did so to join the brandy making, as these troops were a pretty tough bunch. Whatever the case, Bowman Ling never did return.

But Helsabeck's faith in God was well rewarded. His company fought in no less than 40 major skirmishes including Gettysburg, Fredricksburg, Winchester and Appomattox Court House. While most of his company never made it home, and better than 90% were wounded or sick at some time, Helsabeck was never listed as being injured, sick or captured and lived to see the war end at Appomattox.

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Dunn's Rock, N.C. Western N.C. During the Civil War



Dunn's Rock N.C., Paid 10, March 9, 1865

The above cover is the only recorded example of the black Dunn's Rock marking. The post office operated from 1855 to 1887 when it was closed and the mail forwarded through Brevard.

The enclosure within this envelope shares an insight into the condition of western North Carolina as the war was ending. Throughout the war, the western North Carolina mountains had been a favorite hiding place for military deserters. As the war came to an end, their numbers increased and so did their pilfering.

This letter, written just one month before the surrender of the army of northern Virginia at Appomattox, dramatically reflects the fears of the community. Mr. Akins, the Tithe Assessor, (nice name for Tax Collector) had lost his cattle and wagon and knew of their location, yet was unable to go after them for fear of being robbed again. Mr. Akin's letter follows:

Willow Farm

Transylvania Co. N.C.

March 9 - 1865

Capt. Goodlet

Dier Sir

I have a waggon taken by the deserters near Cleveland Mills on the James Rode. I understand it is sunk in the Creeke If you will take your men a git it out I will hansomly pay you for your trouble Tha have nearly taken all I had then taken by waggon & steers I understand you got one of my steers & probley the meat of the other I got Gipson Southern to se to the stear for me what ever you & him dus I will abide as I take you both to be gentlement Wm. W. Case ses he will bring it to me if he can git help to git it out please assist him I am the Tithe Assor for Transylvania County & I can't get time to go by myself as it would not be safe to go by myself after it. Mr Case will be as safe a man as I can git to bring my waggon to me yours respectfully

B.F. Akins

The waggon is taken to peses & throne in the creeke not far from the Cleven Mill on James Rode watch J.MD on the rode keepe this a secret yours

B.F.A.

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