

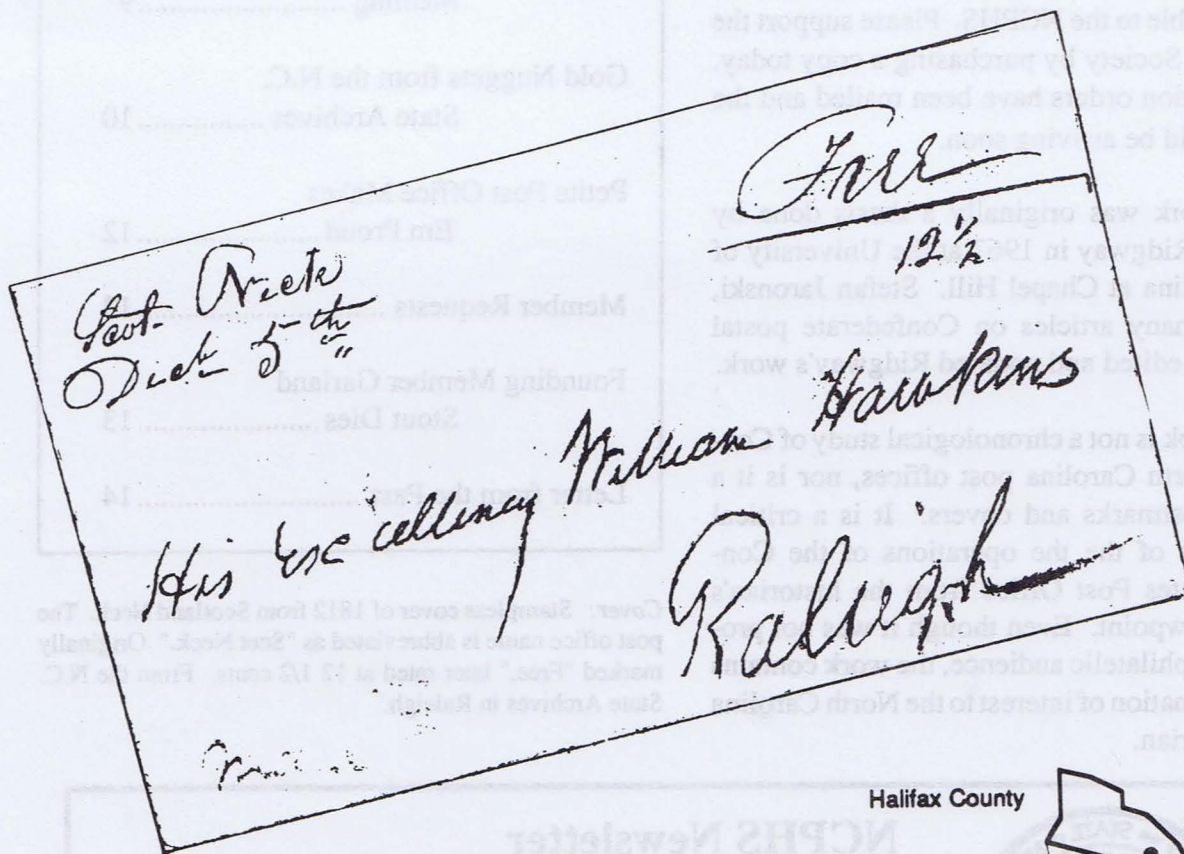
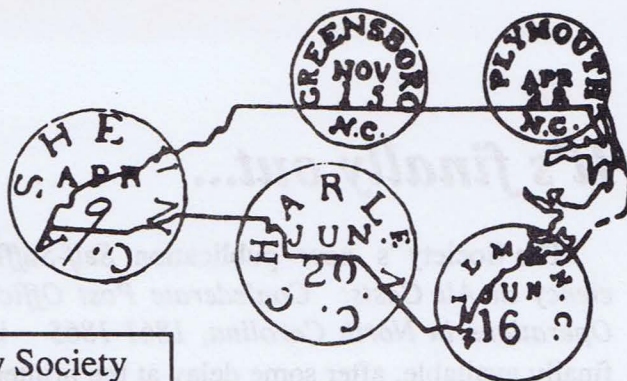
# NCPHS Newsletter

The Journal of the North Carolina Postal History Society

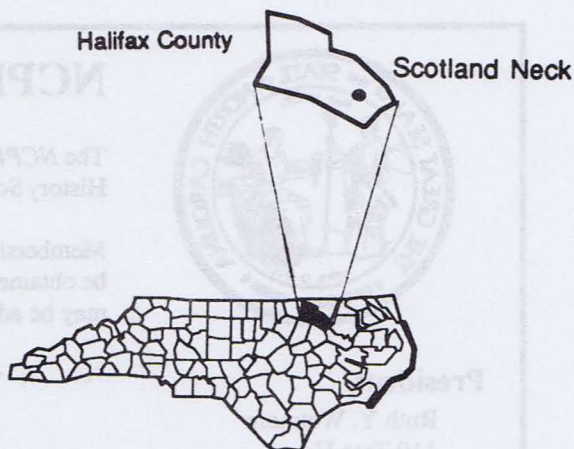
Volume 7, No. 4

Fall, 1988

Whole No. 27



## Scotland Neck



Affiliate Number 155 of the American Philatelic Society





## It's finally out...

The Society's new publication, *Self-Sufficiency at All Costs: Confederate Post Office Operations in North Carolina, 1861-1865* is finally available, after some delay at the printer. The price is \$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. Please support the work of the Society by purchasing a copy today. Pre-publication orders have been mailed and the copies should be arriving soon.

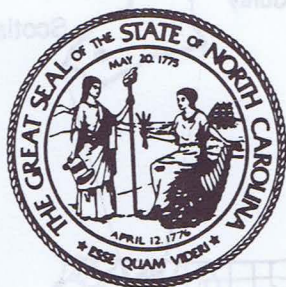
This work was originally a thesis done by Richard F. Ridgway in 1967 at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Stefan Jaronski, author of many articles on Confederate postal history, has edited and updated Ridgway's work.

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 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.

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*Cover:* Stampless cover of 1812 from Scotland Neck. The post office name is abbreviated as "Scot Neck." Originally marked "Free," later rated at 12 1/2 cents. From the N.C. State Archives in Raleigh.



## 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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# Scotland Neck Postmarks, 1797-1900

by

Harry L. McDowell

3130 Longleaf Rd., Columbia, S.C. 29205

Like many small towns in eastern North Carolina, the Halifax County settlement of Scotland Neck dates well back into the eighteenth century. Although the origin of the name "Scotland Neck" remains in doubt, the facts of its beginning are well-documented.

The original settlement in 1720 was in a part of "Chowan Precinct" in a the neck of the Roanoke River, just below the present Burgwyn-Rodgers bridge on US #258. Most of the early settlers were Scots and a few related types who had come down from the vicinity of "Scotland Neck" in Surry County, Virginia, in the very early years of the eighteenth century. Since the Roanoke River flooded almost annually, the colonists soon sought

higher ground and so moved about six miles to the south, to the area known as the "Pineywoods." There they established two small villages, Clarksville and Greenwood which combined about 1720 to become Scotland Neck. At this time the area was a part of Bertie County/Precinct. From 1732 until 1758 it was a part of Edgecombe County.

The earliest church in the area, the Colonial Chapel of the Church of England, was constructed in 1738, although there had been an active congregation in place since 1732. In 1745 the Free-Will Baptists established a church east of the village. It was not until 1857 did another denomination, the Methodists, become established. The forerunners

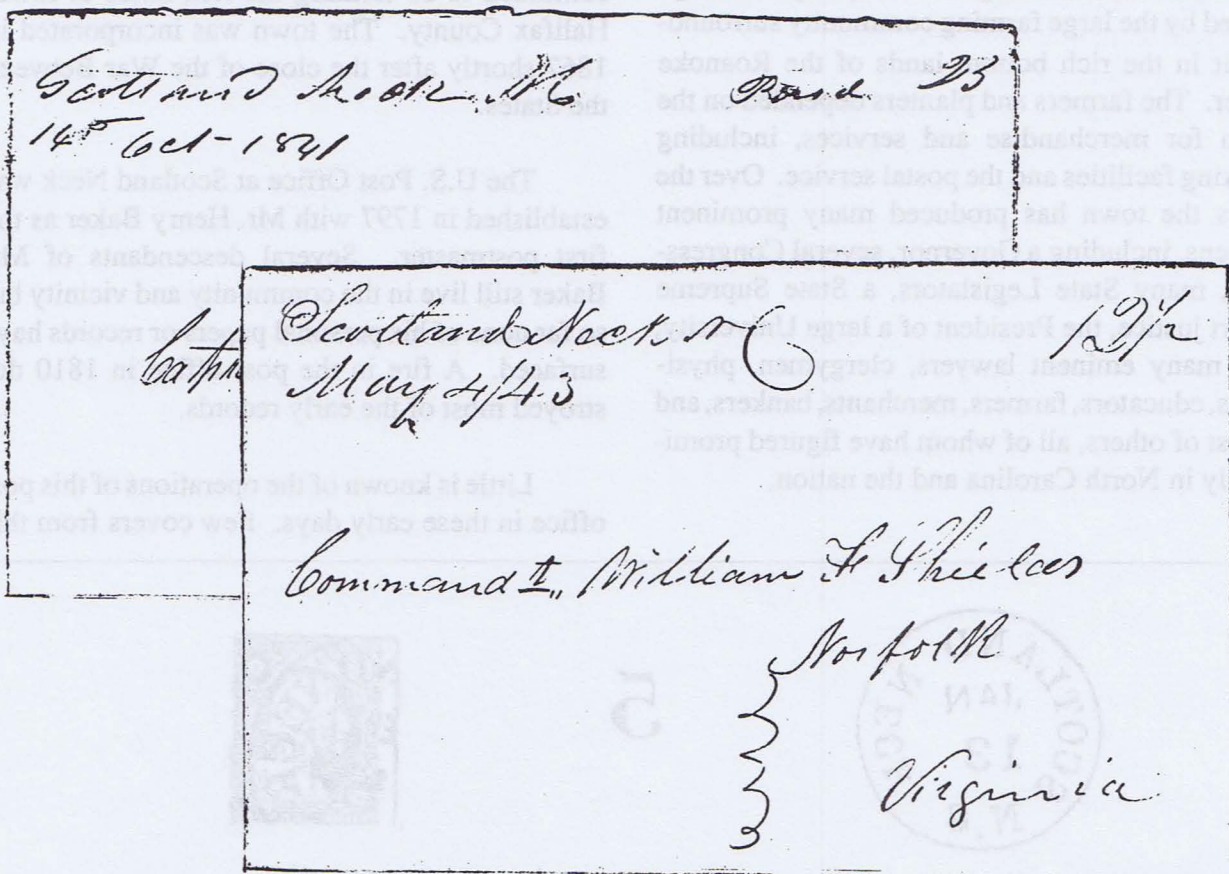


Figure 1. Two manuscript stampless covers. Above, Oct. 14, 1841; below, May 4, 1843.



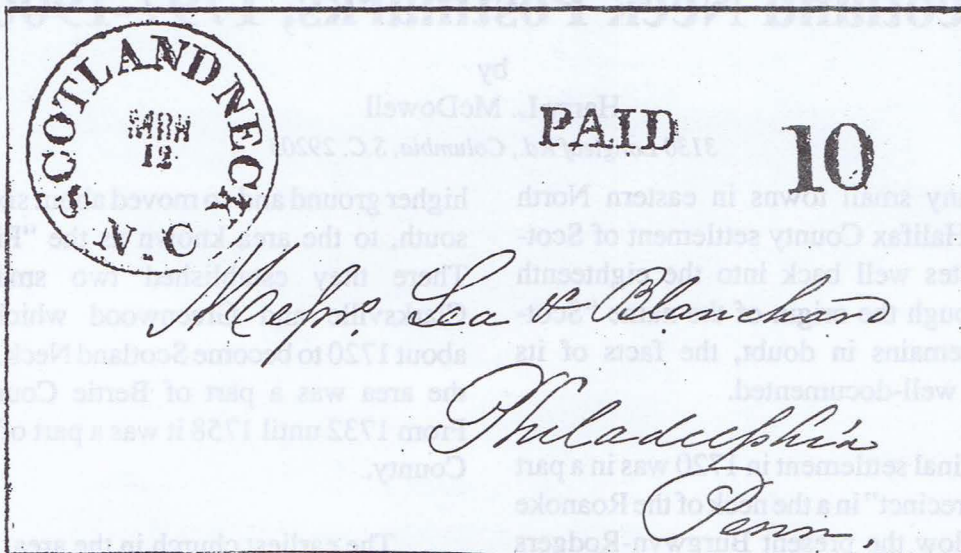


Figure 2. First CDS used in Scotland Neck.

of what are now the Southern Baptists established their church in 1864. This denomination has been predominant in the community ever since.

The little town grew and prospered, supported by the large farming community surrounding it in the rich bottom lands of the Roanoke River. The farmers and planters depended on the town for merchandise and services, including banking facilities and the postal service. Over the years the town has produced many prominent citizens, including a Governor, several Congressmen, many State Legislators, a State Supreme Court justice, the President of a large University, and many eminent lawyers, clergymen, physicians, educators, farmers, merchants, bankers, and a host of others, all of whom have figured prominently in North Carolina and the nation.

The population grew to about 1,500 in 1900, and to over 2,000 by 1940. While some industry has always been a part of the town's economy from the early 1900s, but the main business has continued to be farming the rich lands of lower Halifax County. The town was incorporated in 1867 shortly after the close of the War Between the States.

The U.S. Post Office at Scotland Neck was established in 1797 with Mr. Henry Baker as the first postmaster. Several descendants of Mr. Baker still live in the community and vicinity but so far none of his personal papers or records have surfaced. A fire in the post office in 1810 destroyed most of the early records.

Little is known of the operations of this post office in these early days. Few covers from this



Figure 3. Left, CDS introduced in 1845. Right, different CDS introduced in 1847.





Figure 4. Confederate cover from Scotland Neck

period have survived. However, several interesting facts from the years prior to the War Between the States are known.

All markings and cancellations on Scotland Neck mail from 1797 until about 1845 were in manuscript (figure 1). Other than a few covers preserved in the the North Carolina State Archives in Raleigh, manuscript markings from the early period beginning in 1796 until the late 1830s have not surfaced, but it is obvious that they were used. Before 1820, there was a usage of the name "Scott Neck," and some manuscript cancels with this name do exist in the State Archives, but apparently this aberration was short-lived, and there is little or no information available regarding it.

The first Scotland Neck circular data stamp (CDS) was placed in service in 1845 (figure 2). This was a striking 33 mm CDS with month and day inside the circle, but no year. It was usually accompanied by a straightline "PAID" marking and either the numerals "5" or "10." The color was a bright green, which makes the cancel unusually prominent when well-struck.

When the act of 1845 changed the rate to 5¢ for distances up to 300 miles, a new CDS was placed into service (figure 3). This one had a 32 mm circle, slightly smaller letters, and showed the

month and day but no year. The color was black and the numeral "5" usually accompanied. There are recorded examples of the 32 mm CDS used in green with and without the "PAID", and either "5" or "10" numerals.

There are indications that another type of 32 mm circular data stamp was placed in service after the introduction of adhesive stamps in 1847. This CDS had bolder letters spaced closer together. It was used well into the late 1850s. A partial marking of this CDS on a Scott #11 stamp of the 1854 issue is shown in figure 3.

Confederate covers from Scotland Neck are extremely scarce, the author has seen only one, dated February 7, 1863, with a pair of Richmond prints of the 5¢ 1862 issue (figure 4). This scarcity of covers is rather strange as the town was very active during the war, having put a company of mounted riflemen into the field early on. Since there are so many Confederate covers seen from neighboring towns like Enfield, Tarboro, and Weldon, one would think that a similar volume of mail would have been generated in Scotland Neck. In addition, the Confederate Navy was constructing the ironclad ram *Albemarle* a few miles out of town on the Roanoke River between May, 1862 and April, 1864. The chief engineer for this monumental work was a Scotland Neck resident, well-



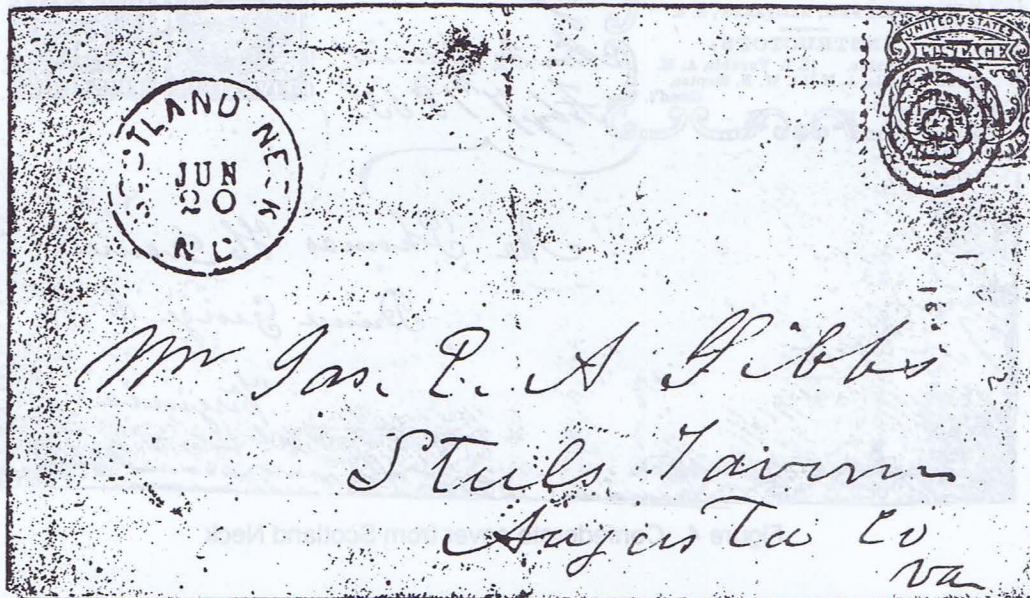
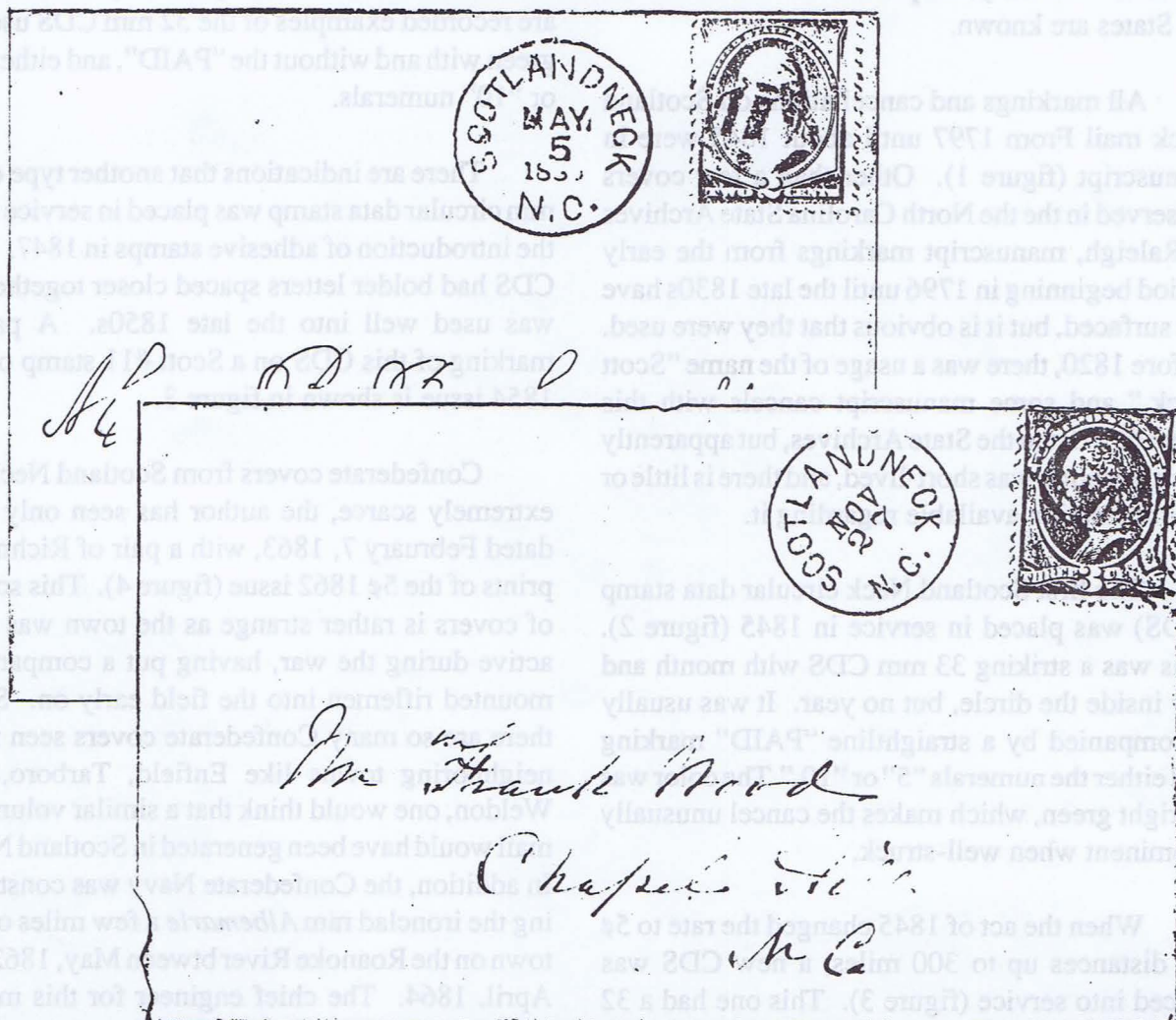


Figure 5. Above, cover from the early 1870s. Below, two covers from the late 1870s.





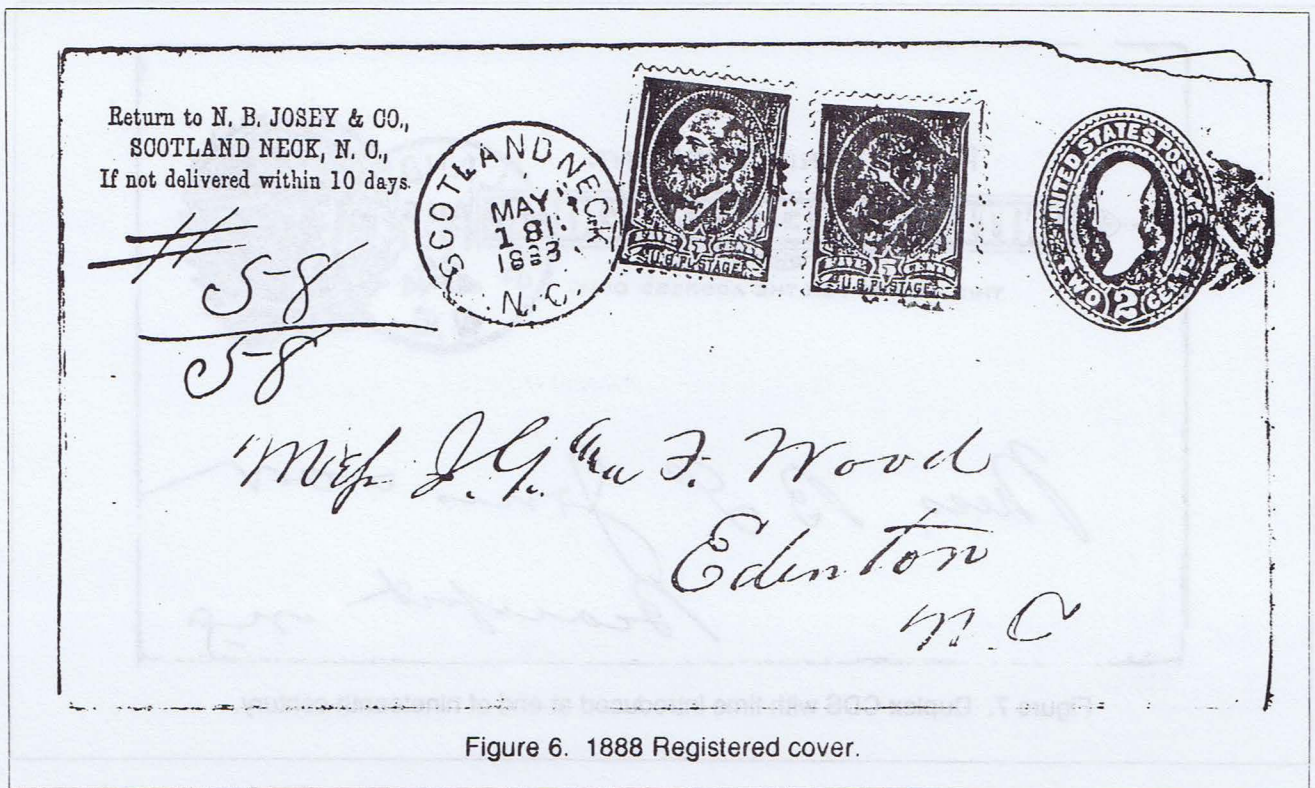


Figure 6. 1888 Registered cover.

known planter, engineer, inventor, and surveyor, named Peter Evans Smith. Smith and his brother William Henry, who was a quartermaster in the Confederate Navy, supervised an enormous work force of up to 1,500 workers over the two-year period which the vessel was under construction. It is a mystery why more covers have not survived from the mail generated by this project and its large itinerant work force. The personal papers of Peter Evans Smith, whose descendants still reside in Scotland Neck, do not disclose much about the mail or the postal service of the day; a few covers from him are known.

After the War, the post office continued to operate as usual. Most covers prior to 1865 were cancelled with the 32 mm CDS using black ink. Some time in the late 1860s, a new and much smaller CDS was introduced, 25 mm in diameter, but still showing only the month and day and not the year (figure 5). About 1870 blue ink began to be used about equally with black, and a killer composed of four concentric circles, the largest being 18 mm, was introduced. At this time the population of the town was about 500.

Covers from the period 1880 until about 1898 carry a different style CDS, 27 mm in diameter, showing the day, month, and year. A geometric cork-type killer is usually seen on covers during this period as well, and the color is usually black (figure 6).

For a brief period in 1896 - about four months - the Post Office Department tried to shorten the name of the post office and all postmarks to just "Scotland." This action caused such an outcry from the citizenry that the full "Scotland Neck" name was soon restored. There are no known covers showing the "Scotland" only marking to this writer's knowledge.

Around 1898 another CDS was brought into use. This one was 29 mm in diameter and carried not only the day, month, and year, but also showed the time of day the mail was dispatched, as "4 PM." An oval grid killer came into use at this time, with the color always black (figure 7).





Figure 7. Duplex CDS with time introduced at end of nineteenth century.

It is obvious from the above that there is a paucity of data and covers from nineteenth century Scotland Neck, and readers are urged to help the author in his research by sending photocopies of any Scotland Neck covers from that period. Items pertaining to the Confederate period are especially needed.

#### Bibliography

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Holloman, Martha Hall, "Welcome to Idle Hour Restaurant", brochure, Scotland Neck, NC, 1982.

Stickney, John M., *C.S. Ram Albemarle*, unpublished manuscript, 1975.

Stroupe, Vernon S., *Illustrated North Carolina Postal Markings, 1777-1865*, North Carolina Postal History Society, Charlotte, NC 1988.

Perkinson, Phil and Johnson, L.C., *North Carolina Post Office Catalog*.

NCPHS

## New Members

Please welcome these new members:

Rex H. Felton  
P.O. Box 217  
New Riegel, OH 44853

Lawrence L. Lohr, Jr.  
1709 Shadford Rd.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Clarence Skinner  
Rt. 1, Box 780  
Manteo, N.C. 27954

New address:  
Scott Troutman  
P.O. Box 270184  
Oklahoma City, OK 73127

NCPHS



#### WORLD STAMP EXPO '89

United States Postal Service  
Nov. 17 — Dec. 3, 1989  
Washington Convention Center  
Washington, DC



# Minutes of the 1988 Annual Meeting

by

Milton Wicker

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

The annual meeting of the North Carolina Postal History Society was called to order shortly after 1 p.m. by President Ruth Wetmore. The meeting was held at the Charpex stamp show in Charlotte, N.C., on August 5, 1988. Ten members were present.

Since the secretary was not present, minutes of the 1987 meeting were approved as published in the Summer, 1987 issue of the *Newsletter*. Treasurer Milton Wicker reported a total of 104 active members. As of June 30, 1988, the bank balance was \$1,827.53. A motion was made and passed for the acceptance of the report. There was some discussion over what best to do with an extra unnumbered copy of Stroupe's *Postal Markings* which has been returned for better address. The decision was to hold it for a special mail sale or other use.

Ken Schoolmeester reported on the mail sale activity and made a plea for material from the members. Twenty percent of the sale price goes to the Society and is helping to pay for the *Newsletter*. He also indicated that unrealistic or bids below the minimum would not be considered.

On another matter, Mr. Schoolmeester also reported that all papers were resubmitted for tax exempt status and are being reviewed [since this meeting, it has been granted].

## Old Business

No actions.

## New Business

A motion was made by Vernon Stroupe and seconded by Jim Harris that the NCPHS express condolences to Mrs. Garland Stout on the recent

death of her husband, and express the Society's concern for and willingness to assist in the disposition of papers pertaining to North Carolina postal history. The motion was unanimously approved. The president will send the letter, and a committee consisting of Milton Wicker and Harvey Tilles was appointed to contact Mrs. Stout personally.

There was a general discussion on research projects, particularly with regard to duplication between Vernon Stroupe's *Postal Markings* revision and the current manuscript cancel project by Messrs. Wicker, Tilles, and Schoolmeester. Exchange of information was encouraged, with the recognition that some overlapping is inevitable, but can be minimized by better communication.

The 1988 A. Earl Weatherly Awards were announced. The recipient for the literature award was Vernon Stroupe for *Illustrated North Carolina Postal Markings, 1777-1865*. Tony Crumbley received the exhibit award for his exhibit called "The Postal History of Charlotte, N.C."

It was announced that effective immediately, the pre-publication price offer had expired for the Society's new monograph, *Self-Sufficiency at All Costs: Confederate Post Office Operations in North Carolina: 1861-1865*. The new price will be \$15.00. The delivery of the new work was expected in a few weeks.

The nominating committee recommended that Tony Crumbley, Darrell Ertzberger, William Harter, and Vernon Stroupe, whose terms office on the Board of Directors expires this year, be nominated to the Board for three year terms ending in 1991. There were no other nominations from the floor and the slate was elected by acclamation.

**NCPHS**



# Gold Nuggets from the N.C. State Archives

by

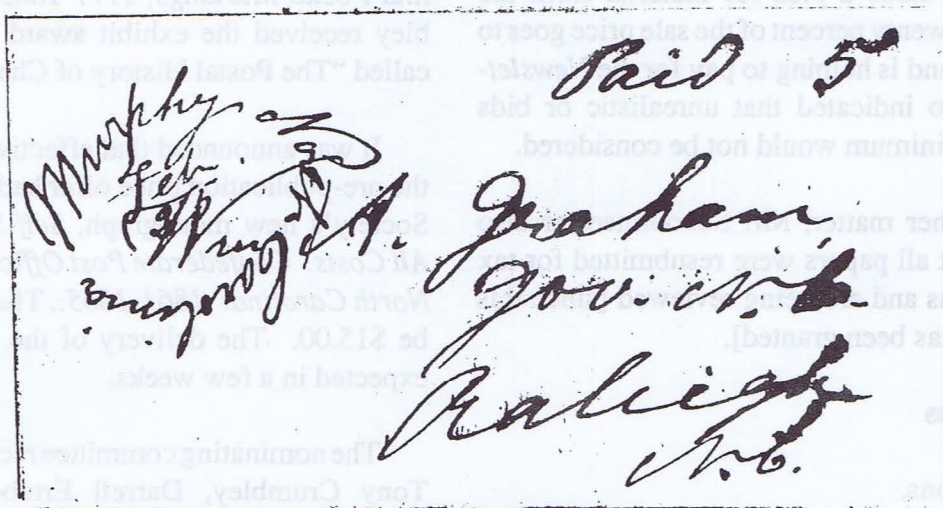
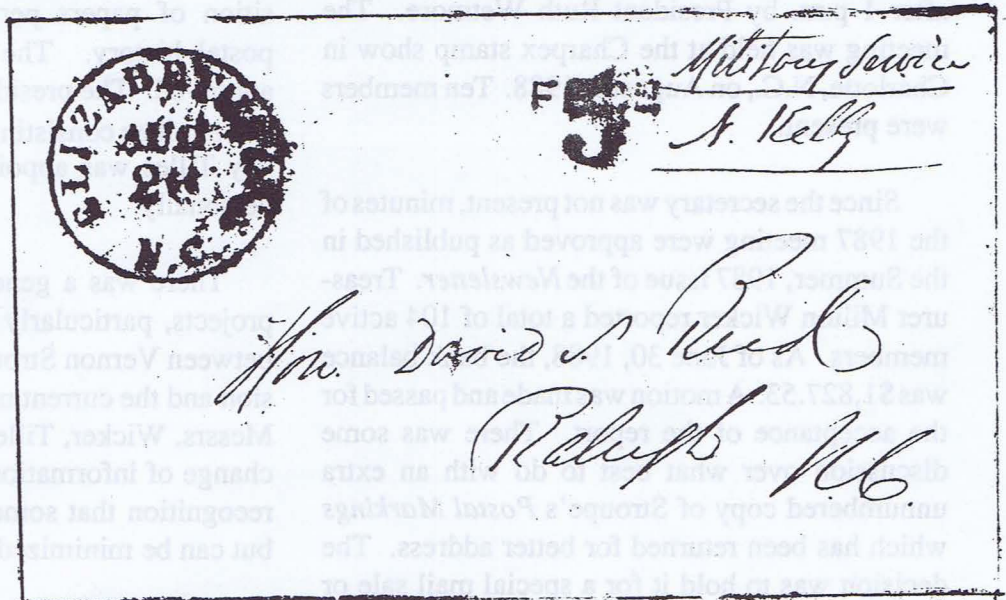
Vernon Stroupe

P.O. Box 8879, Asheville, N.C. 28814

Searches of the files of official papers in the North Carolina State Archives in Raleigh has yielded some exciting new discoveries.

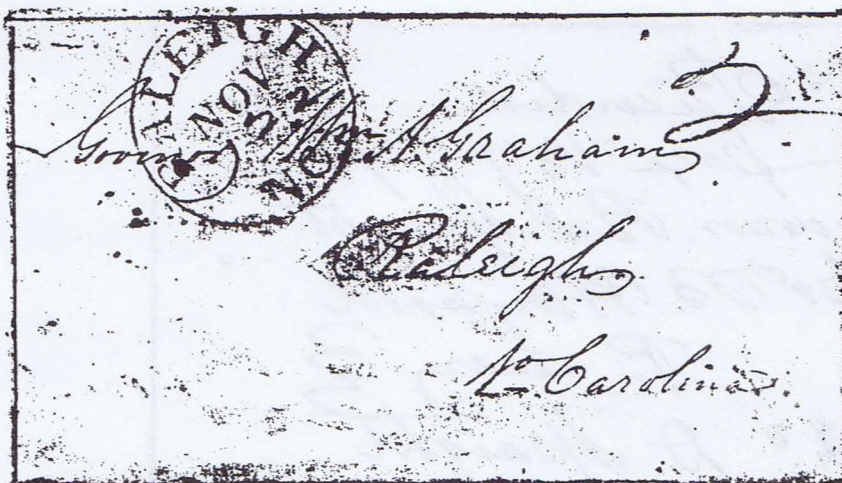
**Elizabethtown.** This is a 1852 letter of resignation from Col. N. Kelly of the North Carolina Militia to Governor David S. Reid. The colonel tried to send the letter with a free frank. The postmaster first accepted the frank and handstamped it FREE, but then he changed his mind and placed a handstamp 5 over the FREE, making the rate a due 5. If the colonel had used a

stamp to prepay the postage, the rate would have been 3 cents. Unpaid letters cost the recipient 5 cents.



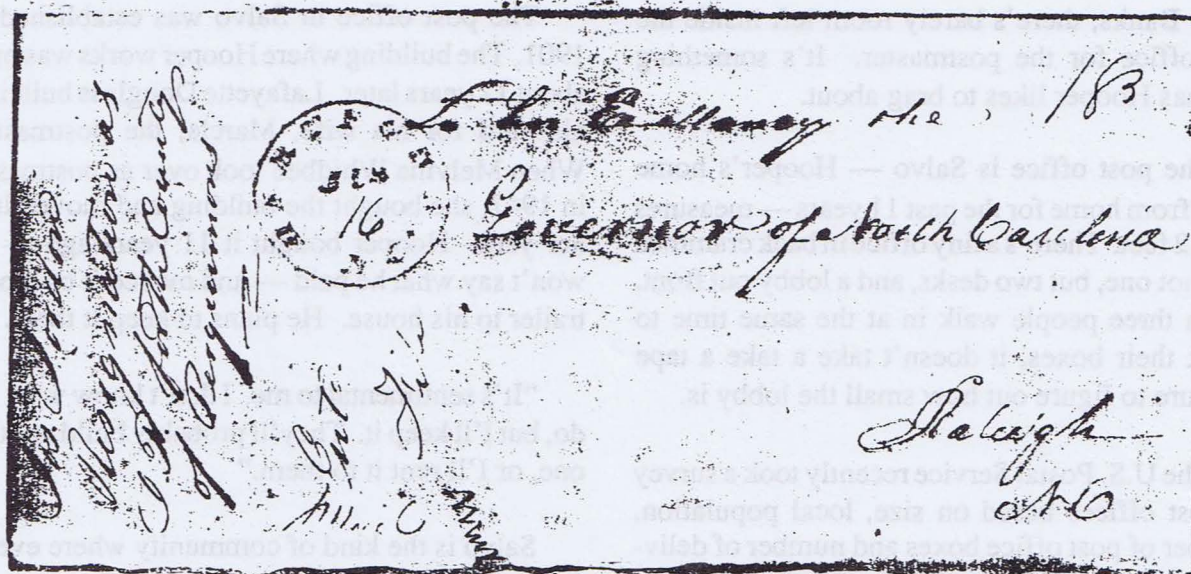
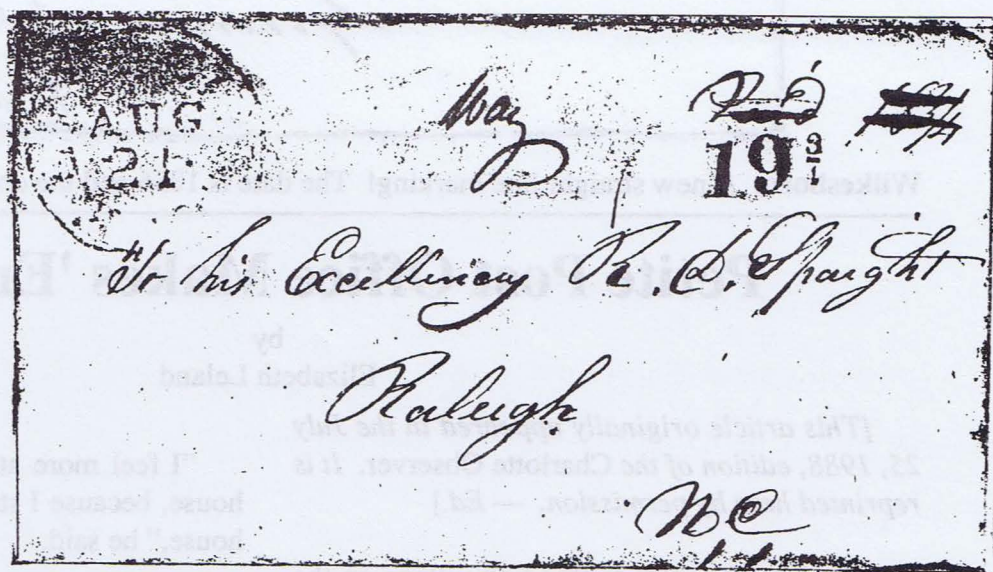
**Murphy.** In 1846, the postmaster, or his clerk, must have had plenty of time on his hands and was probably contemplating having one of those new-fangled handstamps that would save him even more time. This fancy manuscript version of a CDS was probably an attempt to visualize what one would look like with Murphy, North Carolina on it. The postmaster of Murphy would mark all mail by hand for another 20 to 25 years, until a real CDS was introduced.





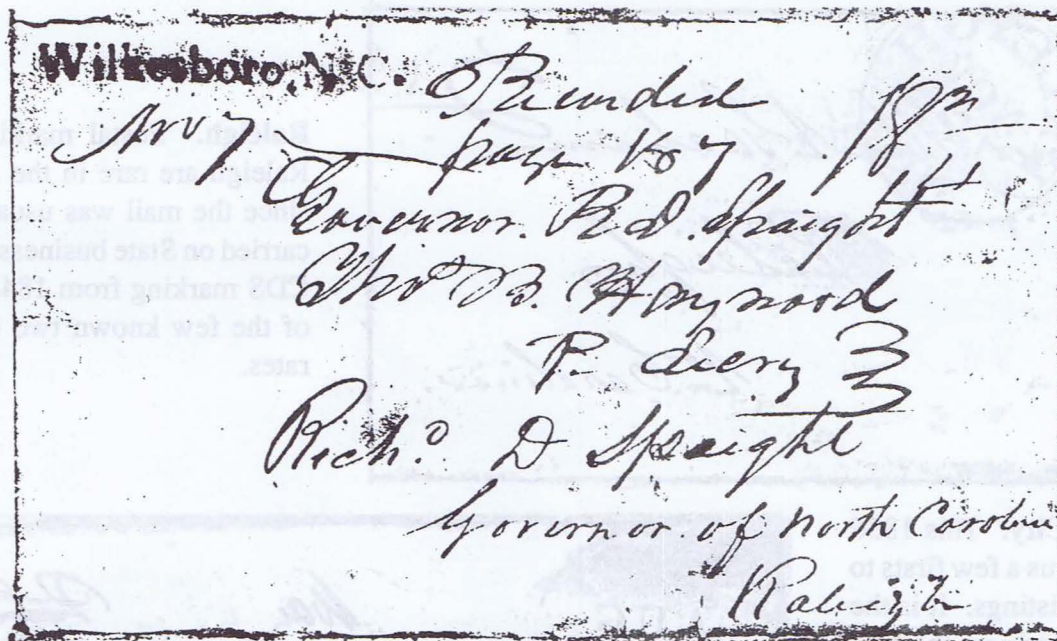
**Raleigh.** Postal markings from Raleigh are rare in the Archives, since the mail was usually hand-carried on State business. This red CDS marking from 1845 has one of the few known two cent drop rates.

**Elizabeth City.** This 1836 cover gives us a few firsts to add to our listings. It is the first Way marking, the first green color, and the first 19 3/4 handstamp rate marking. It also gives us a big clue about the handstamp rate markings of this type used in this period. That is, the numerals were not fixed, but movable or interchangeable. The uneven 1 and 9 plus the very odd rate make this conclusion a strong probability.



**Hertford.** The color of the marking on this 1842 cover is yellow! Yellow? Yes, yellow. Pittsboro also used yellow ink for markings during a latter period. Some postmasters made their own inks or used home-made inks.





Wilkesboro. A new straight line marking! The date is 1836 and the color is black.

NCPHS

## Petite Post Office Makes 'Em Proud

by  
Elizabeth Leland

*[This article originally appeared in the July 25, 1988, edition of the Charlotte Observer. It is reprinted here by permission. — Ed.]*

When mail comes to this tiny village on the Outer Banks, there's barely room left inside the post office for the postmaster. It's something Thomas Hooper likes to brag about.

The post office is Salvo — Hooper's home away from home for the past 11 years — measures 8 by 12 feet. There's a tiny office in back crammed with not one, but two desks, and a lobby out front. When three people walk in at the same time to check their boxes, it doesn't take a take a tape measure to figure out how small the lobby is.

The U.S. Postal Service recently took a survey of post offices based on size, local population, number of post office boxes and number of delivery route stops. Salvo tied for first place as the smallest with Birds Landing, Calif., and Ochopee, Fla. A plaque is on the way. The 66-year-old Hooper is mighty proud.

"I feel more at home right here than in my house, because I stay here more than I do in my house," he said.

The post office in Salvo was established in 1901. The building where Hooper works was built about 12 years later. Lafayette Douglass built it in his yard for his wife, Marcia, the postmaster. When Melvina Whidbee took over as postmaster in 1947, she bought the building and moved it to her yard. Hooper bought it 11 years ago — he won't say what he paid — and moved it on a boat trailer to his house. He plans to keep it there.

"It's sentimental to me. I don't know what I'll do, but I'll keep it. They'll probably build another one, or I'll rent it to them."

Salvo is the kind of community where everyone knows the postmaster. It's small — no one knows for sure just how many residents there are now — but there are 94 mail boxes. Hooper says

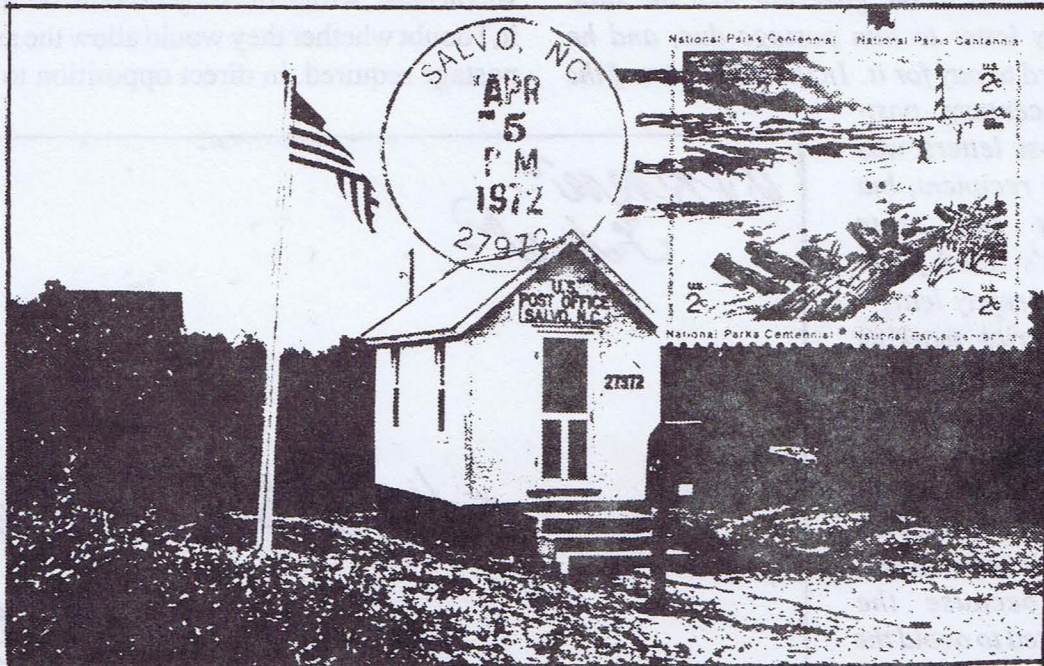


the village has grown so fast he no longer knows everyone by name.

Salvo sits on Hatteras Island a couple miles south of the town of Waves. The town originally

the village's name was. The naval chart didn't say. He ordered a salvo of cannon fired and entered the name "Salvo" on the chart. Salvo it became.

It's easy to miss. But once you're there, it's



was named Clark. During the Civil War, when Union forces were heading north after taking Hatteras, the commander of one ship asked what

hard to miss the distinctive red, white and blue post office — unless the mail truck has stopped to make a delivery. The truck is bigger than the post office.

NCPHS

## Member Requests

Photocopies of covers from Onslow County desired for future article and research. Thomas Richardson, Rt. 2, Box 26, Trinity, N.C. 27370.

Covers and postal history items desired for NCPHS auction. All profits go to the Society. Send items or write for details. Ken Schoolmeester, P.O. Box 8465, Greensboro, N.C. 27419.

Wanted covers or usual items from Bat Cave, N.C. for topical collection on bats and caves. Thomas Lera, P.O. Box 1496, Weatherford, TX 76086.

Wanted covers from or information about Frog, N.C., in Rutherford County. Joan Bleakley, 15906 Crest Dr., Woodbridge, VA 22191.

## Founding Member Garland Stout Dies

It is with sadness that the NCPHS notes the passing of one of our founding members, Garland Stout of Greensboro. Mr. Stout died in June in Greensboro. He was 80.

Mr. Stout was a retired engineer who became widely known for his historical research maps, eventually researching and creating maps of all the counties of North Carolina. He was an avid genealogist.

Mr. Stout was a founding member of the NCPHS. He attended the organizing meeting in 1982. The Society extends condolences to his family.



## Letter from the Past

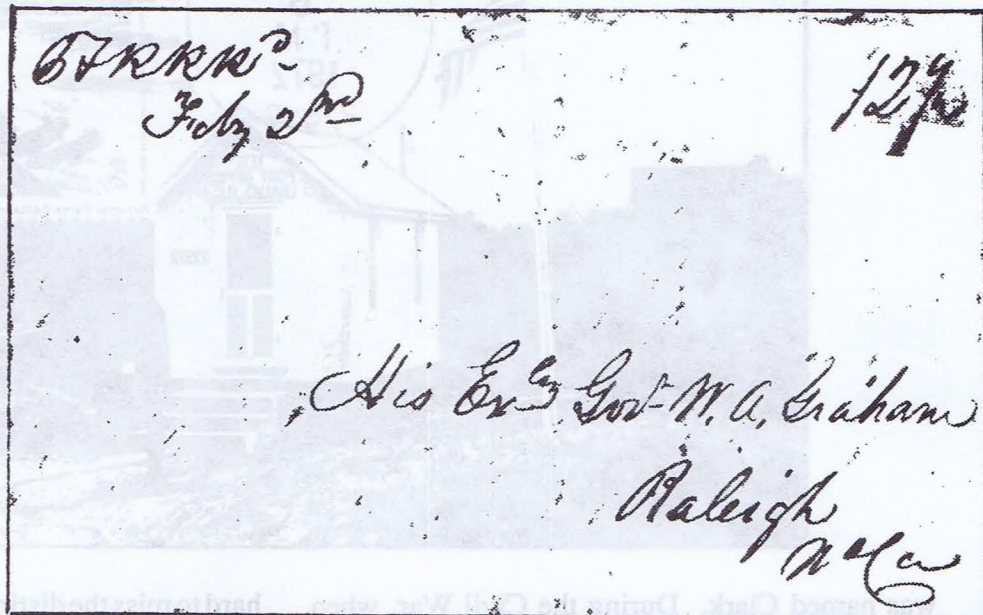
*This month's letter is from the North Carolina State Archives in Raleigh. In it, a state militia officer complains to the governor that the state sent a bulky letter to him postage due, and he cannot afford to pay for it. In the early part of the nineteenth century, postage for most letters was paid by the recipient, but apparently the state government's usual practice was to prepay letters. The manuscript marking on this letter is also of interest. It was applied by the route agent on the Petersburg & Roanoke Railroad. This letter was given to the agent in the mail car, probably because the sender wanted to avoid the large postage charges waiting for him at the Goldsboro post office.*

Goldsboro NCa Feby 2nd 1845

Sir

I called at the Post Office yesterday and found a bundle of commissions directed to me, the postage on which was one dollar 80/100 — It has been the custom heretofore for the Executive Office to pay the postage on these packages and I cannot see why it has not been done in this instance, unless from some oversight, or neglect. You are aware that the militia officers are not paid anything for

their services, and not authorised by the militia laws to take the funds of the regiment for any purpose, without an order of court martial. The court martial of this Regt meets but once a year generally in Octo or Novr and even if the meeting was at hand, so that the subject could be laid before it, I doubt whether they would allow the amount of postage required, in direct opposition to the cus-



tom heretofore. Such being the case I have refused (for the above reasons) to take the package from the office, where it remains subject to your order. I am very much in need of commissions, and hope you will take the necessary steps to furnish me with them.

I remain very respectfully

Yr obt St  
WSG Andrews  
Col Comd 40th Regt

NCPHS

## It's Time for 1989 Society Dues

It is time to pay 1989 NCPHS dues. Please send a ten dollar check today to the society treasurer, Milton Wicker, 508 Lindley Road, Greensboro, N.C. 27410. Make all checks payable to the NCPHS. Your prompt payment will be appreciated.

Postage costs rose significantly in the past year, but the price of dues in the Society has remained the same. Help us keep costs down by mailing your dues now, avoiding the expense of dues reminder notices.

NCPHS