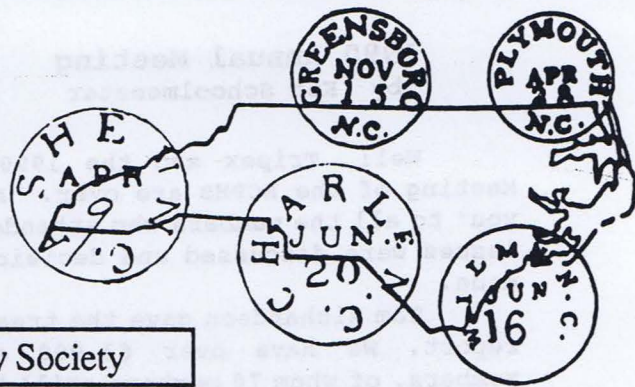


# NCPHS Newsletter

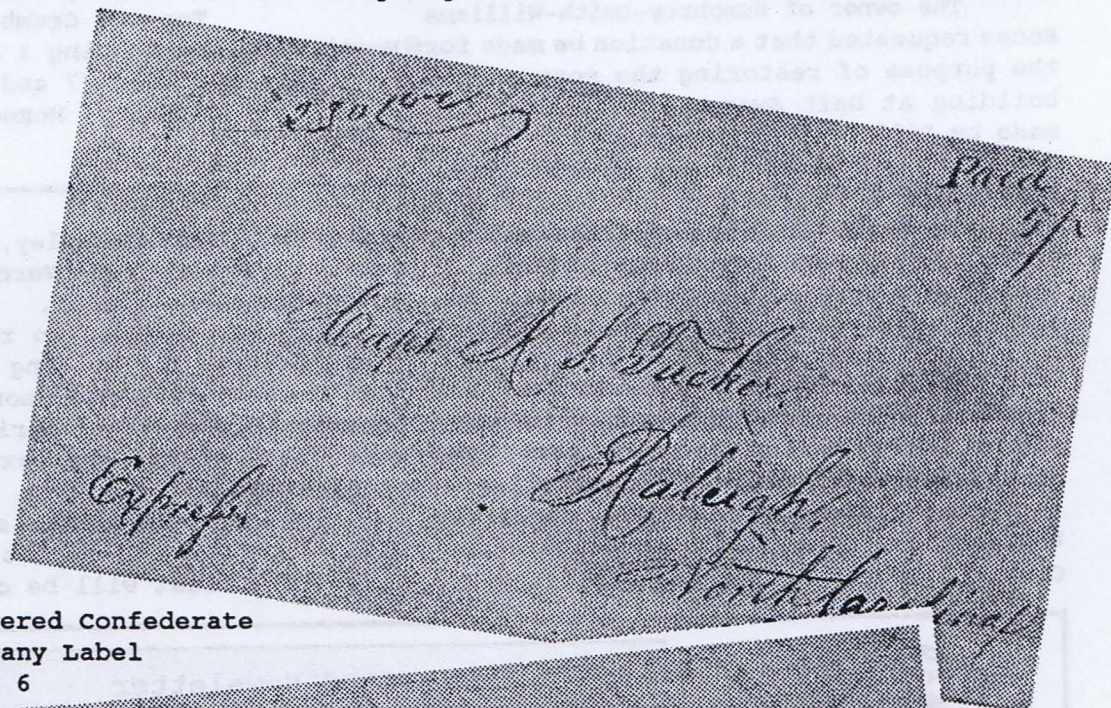
The Journal of the North Carolina Postal History Society



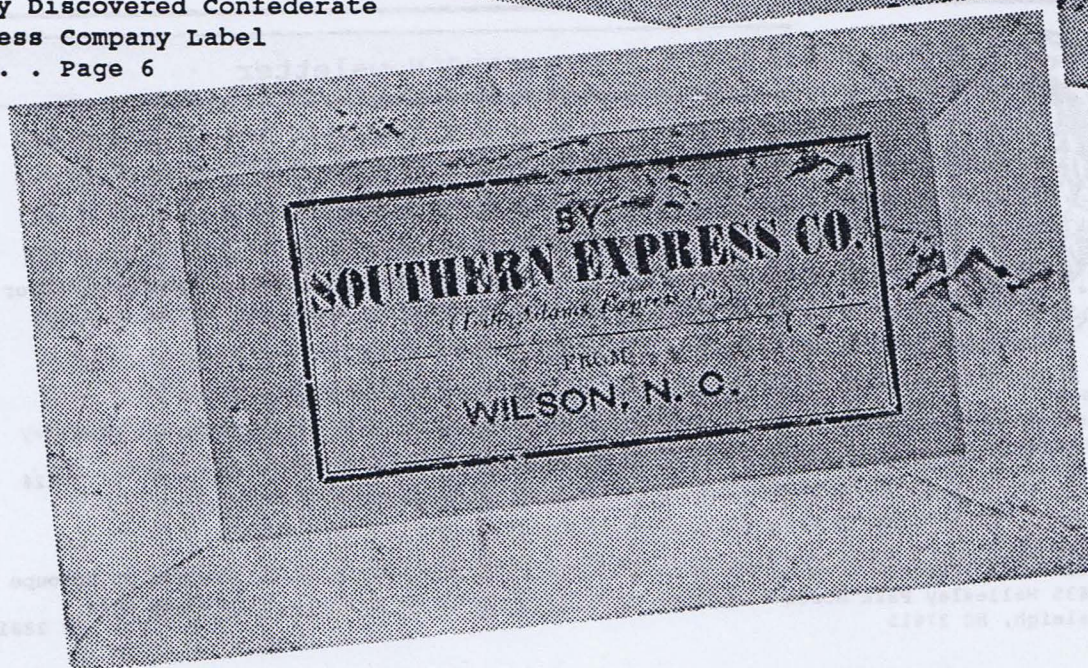
Volume 9, No.2

Spring 1990

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Express Company Label  
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Affiliate #155 of the American Philatelic Society





## 1990 Annual Meeting

by Ken Schoolmeester

### Contents

Well, Triplex and the 1990 Annual Meeting of the NCPHS are over. A 'thank you' to all the members who attended. Many issues were discussed and decisions were made.

Tom Richardson gave the treasurer's report. We have over \$3,000 and 143 members, of whom 70 members still have not paid their 1990 dues. If you are among these, please send yours in today.

The owner of Humphrey-Smith-Williams House requested that a donation be made for the purpose of restoring the post office building at Raft Swamp. The motion was made by Bill Di Poalo, seconded by Brian Greene, and passed unanimously. [See article, ed.]

Jerry Taylor has volunteered to write a new column for the Newsletter. It will be a report on the market place. All auction catalogs and prices realized which contain NC covers should be sent to him.

Advertising in the Newsletter was approved in the form of one-quarter page ads at the rate of \$50 per year. Ken Schoolmeester will solicit advertising.

The HISTORY OF CABARRUS COUNTY by the Cabarrus County High School History Club will be re-written and published by

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the NCPHS. Tony Crumbley, Ruth Wetmore, Darrell Ertzberger and Vernon Stroupe will co-ordinate the effort.

It was decided to return to first class postage for mailing the Newsletter when the societies' bulk non-profit permit expires at the end of April. The savings were not worth the extra hours in preparation.

The membership feels that a roster with collecting interest would be of value. This list will be compiled by



### 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.

#### President

Kenneth Schoolmeester  
PO Box 8465  
Greensboro, NC 27419

#### Secretary-Treasurer

Thomas Richardson  
Rt. 2, Box 26  
Trinity, NC 27370

#### Editors

Tony L. Crumbley  
PO Box 219  
Newell, NC 28126

#### Vice-President

Delmar R. Frazier  
7635 Wellesley Park North  
Raleigh, NC 27615

Vernon S. Stroupe  
PO Box 8879  
Asheville, NC 28814



## TWO NEW NORTH CAROLINA POSTAL MARKINGS COME TO LIGHT

by Brian Greene

During a recent talk on North Carolina postal history at the Kernersville Library, a member of the viewing audience brought along his family correspondence to share with this writer. The correspondence was mainly War Between the States material, but sprinkled amongst it were some pre-War and post-War items. Two of these caught my immediate attention.

In checking the American Stampless Cover Catalog and Illustrated North Carolina Postal Markings, 1777-1865, I noticed no listings for the markings represented by these two covers. Accordingly, they are now illustrated and shown here for recording purposes.

Figure 1 shows a colorless embossed

cover addressed to Miss Mary Davis, Jamestown, Guilford County, N.C. The cover bears the manuscript postal markings of Abbotts Creek, N.C., Feb 27 with a Paid 3 rating at upper right. The Stroupe book mentions a Paid 10 rating with the notation "no illustration available". Date of use would probably be between 1851-56 when the use of adhesive stamps became mandatory unless none were available. The addressee (1835-1914) was the ancestor (great, great grandmother) of the present owner of the correspondence. According to family records, Mary Davis married David H. Idol (later a musician with the 2nd Batallian, N.C. Infantry) April 22, 1856.

Another type of a colorless embossed

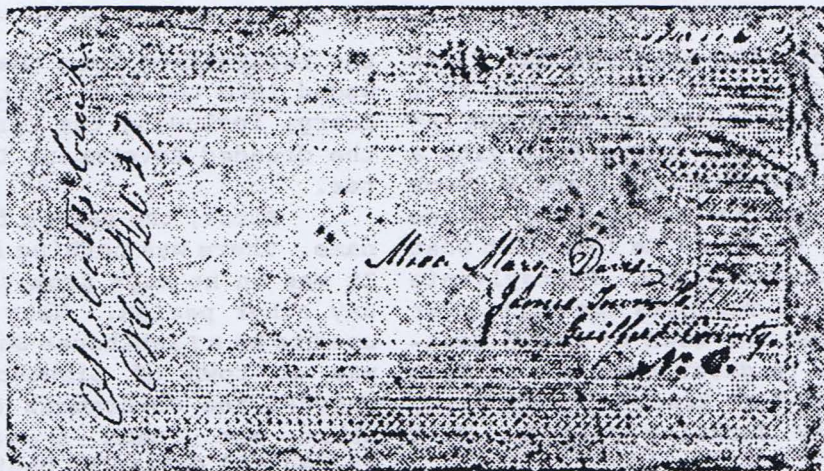


Figure 1

Annual Meeting, continued ..

Vernon Stroupe and mailed with a future issue of the Newsletter. Please send him your collecting interests. Also, you must inform him if you do not wish for your name and/or address to be listed.

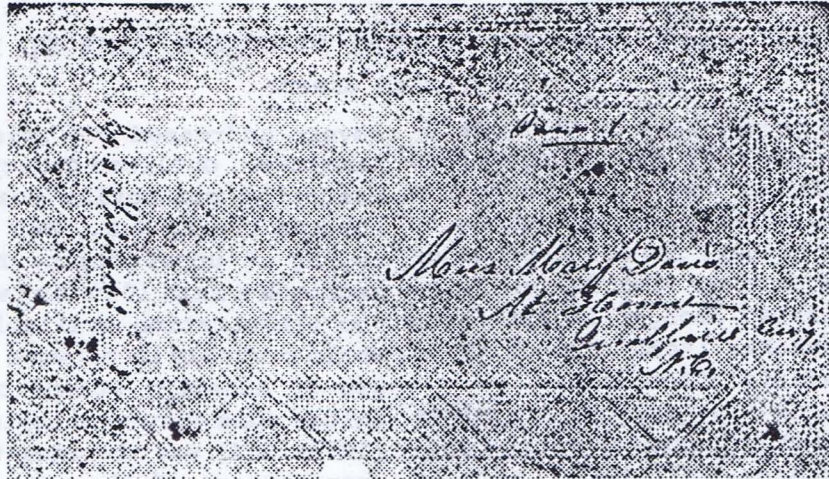
The recording of post office sites was discussed. This is something that NCPHS should do. Ruth Wetmore will submit a change in the proposed site form. This effort is looking for someone to 'run with it' and for a centralized repository.

This is the highlights of the meeting. I wish more of you could have attended this fine show - perhaps next year. Until then, good hunting. NCPHS

cover to the same addressee is shown in Figure 2. Instead of the town (Jamestown), the wording "At Home", Guilford Co., N.C. is used. At the upper right is the manuscript rating "Paid 1" implying a local or drop rate (1¢) use. Since the addressee's home was Jamestown, the local "At Home" term was used for the in-town address. The notation "By a Friend" at left probably signifies the origin of this cover which may have contained a Valentine enclosure. "Paid 1" ratings of this period are uncommon and one from this small town is certainly a rarity.

It all goes to show that discoveries are still made today, even in unlikely situations. NCPHS





**Figure 2**

**SCOTT AND AMY vs. the LIGHT HOUSE, N.C. COVER**  
by Scott and Amy Troutman

It is not like this was our first case. Every so often I find a cover that stumps me. Then, my sister (a straight "A" student at N.C. State University with a hobby of Civil War history), and I check into it. You see we are P.I.'s, place investigators, that is. We found out what happened to Coon Island, Pennsylvania (the Pennsylvania Turnpike was built over it), had located the town of North Mountain, Virginia (a ghost town now in West Virginia), and had tracked down Bath, Virginia (today Berkeley Springs, West Virginia).

So when Tony Crumbley mentioned that he had a cover front that had stumped him, I got excited. I bought the cover front, which seemed to feature a return address of Light House, N.C. Tony knew of no such town but didn't have time to investigate further. We took the case.

The cover featured a pair of Confederate Scott #7's tied by a Wilmington, N.C. postmark dated May 15. It was addressed to Miss M.A. Cobb, Lumber Bridge, Robeson Co., N.C. A box in the lower left had what appeared to be a return address of Miss Mol. Al. Cobb, Light House, N.C.

Amy, trapped at N.C. State awaiting exams, had several days with little to do, so she took the first crack at it, trying to find a town of Light House or a lighthouse near Wilmington that would do. With

the information from the cover front she waded into the N.C. State University library, including the rare book room and the dreaded Government Documents center.

First, the search for a town by that name. There was nothing in any gazetteer. It was on no maps from the Civil War, or any other period. Near Currituck there used to be a Lighthouse Gun Club, but there was no town of Lighthouse. She even checked the Government Documents center where she found a fascinating book called "102 Causes of Death". She discovered in 1944 two people died of diarrhea in N.Y., but no one in the book ever died in Light House, N.C. She concluded, "There is no such place, there never was".

Having no luck on this tactic, she now turned to the hunt for a lighthouse that the letter could have come from. At the end of two days she emerged an expert on N.C. lighthouses.

As the cover was postmarked at Wilmington, Amy started her search by working south down the Cape Fear River. To the south she turned up the existence of four possible light houses; Old Baldhead, Cape Fear, Prices Creek and Oak Island. To the north there was one at Buxton (Hamilton's light) and Ocracoke Lighthouse. One other possibility was a were used on the Pamlico Sound. They bunch of little "Cottage Lights" that



appeared from descriptions to be like the lighthouses used on the Chesapeake Bay, Brant Island, Gull Shoal, Olivers Reef Harbour Island and Northwest Point.

I noted at this point that the cover is dated May 15. The stamps came out in August 1862, so the cover is from 1863 or 1864. All the northern lighthouses, Amy quickly noted, would have been held by the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron, the Union Boys. So if someone sent mail from one of these lighthouses they would not be using Confederate stamps.

With the help of the Winston-Salem librarian and his special file on lighthouses, I went to work on the southern four. They were put into operation as follows:

Old Baldhead or Smith Island Light  
Cape Fear  
Prices Creek or Federal Inlet  
Oak Island

Thus the possibilities dropped to Old Baldhead or Prices Creek. Amy indicated that both of these were in Confederate hands until the summer of 1864 when Fort Fisher and shortly thereafter Fort Holmes on Smith Island fell to Union forces.

I finally ruled out these two lighthouses when reading "The Civil War in North Carolina", by John G. Barrett. He noted in his descriptions of blockade running activities that "All use of lighthouses had been discontinued...". The reason for this was that the blockade runners needed it as dark as possible to make their attempts. Thus both Old Bald Head and Prices Creek were not used

while in the Confederate hands during 1863 and 1864.

We needed a new approach. A closer examination of the cover showed that the return address was written in a different handwriting from the main address. Also, both addresses were to Miss M.S. Cobb. Two unmarried young ladies writing to each other with the same names seemed too big a coincidence. It would be possible with cousins, but why the two handwritings? Thus my guess is that the Light House address is a forwarding address. It is possible that the work is in quotes, "Light".

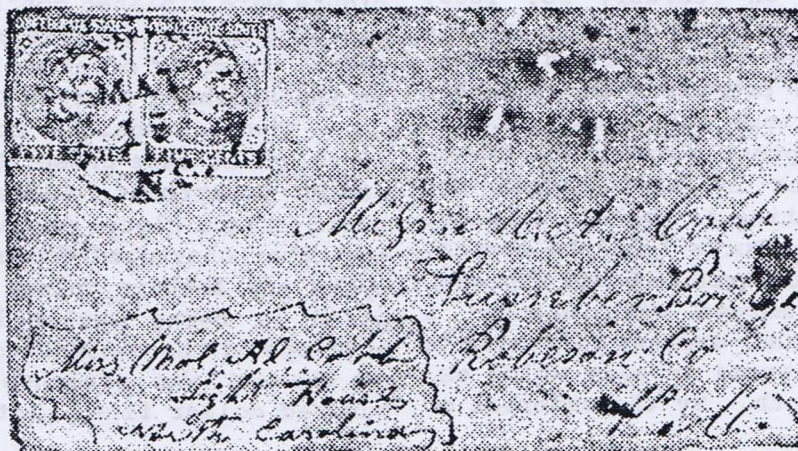
If this was a forwarding or a clarifying address, then to my thinking "Light" House either refers to a house

1816-1866 and 1880-1935  
1880-1913  
1850(?) - 1880  
1958-

owned by someone with the last name of Light, or to a house that is light in color and was locally known by that name, such as the White House in Washington, D.C.

Histories on Robeson County indicated no one of prominence named Light. It was time to try a road trip. I journeyed to Lumber Bridge, N.C. I found no one in the phone book named Light. There were several Cobbs still listed including an M.A. Cobb (this one is Marvin). So much for the person named Light theory.

The area around Lumber Bridge is flat farmland. Even today the farms are large and a high percentage of the





Scott and Amy, continued..

population is black. It takes a little imagining to conjure a series of large plantations in existence at the time of the Civil War. Five large white house still exist in town and standing chimneys with tell-tale stands of large trees give evidence of several more. One large house may have been an inn, the Light House Inn, maybe. Another is now attached to a church. A third sits in a row of houses. One large formal house near the center of town and the other is a classic plantation house complete with large pillars and huge Magnolia trees. The few people that I spoke with were young and none knew of

a house by the name of "Light" house.

We believe that a hundred and twenty years ago if you had asked for direction in Lumber Bridge to the "Light" house, you would have been directed to one of the local plantation houses. The Cobb family may have owned several farms locally. We think someone was good enough to clarify which one the cover was to by directing it to the "Light"house.

For now, Amy is recovering in England. We are considering this closed unless someone else can offer another idea.

NCPHS

## A NEWLY DISCOVERED CONFEDERATE EXPRESS COMPANY LABEL

by Tony L.Crumbley

Since colonial times the government operated postal systems have had competition from private letter and express carriers. Initially, the private letter and express companies charged fees comparable to government postage. The private carriers early on used existing stage coach lines, inland steamship lines and, after 1840, the railroads. In fact, the development of the private express companies follows closely the expansion of the railroad. By the 1860's practically any community with a railroad station had an express office.

Prior to 1839, few letters are recorded from private express companies except for letters to and from foreign ports which were handled by private forwarding agents. On February 23, 1839, William Harnden began carrying letters and packages between New York and Boston, and his business prospered and expanded rapidly. Competitors soon appeared. In 1840 a letter express company was established in Boston by Alvin Adams and P.B.Burke, operating as Burke & Company. In late 1841, Mr. Burke left the company and the name was changed to Adams Express. In 1854 Adams merged with Harnden & Company and two other express companies to form the Adams Express Company which expanded in the South. By the outbreak of

the war between the states in 1861, Adams had become the largest express company.

With the outbreak of the war and the severance of business ties between the North and South, Adams Express Company could no longer operate as such. The Southern Express was founded by Henry B. Plant in 1861. Little is known of this operation; however, some direct ties had to have existed between Adams Express and Southern. Throughout the war this company transported valuable or money letters throughout the South and connected with Adams Express for through-the-lines letters. In the early war years, the company was known as Adams Southern Express.

From the very inception of the Confederate Postal Service, its monopoly rights were violated continually and with impunity by the express companies of the South, the chief offender being that known as the Southern Express Company.

The Confederate Congress, in the first set of laws prescribed for the post office department, endeavored to safeguard it by a clause prohibiting "express and other chartered companies" from carrying any letters unless they were prepared by being enclosed in a stamped envelope of the Confederacy. A violation of the act was punishable with a five hundred dollar fine. After realizing



stamps or envelopes of the Confederacy were unavailable, Congress revised the act to allow the Postmaster General the authority to grant permission for express companies to carry letters. All mail matters carried by express companies must, however, have paid postage collected and turned over to some postmaster to be stamped "Paid".

Throughout the period of the Confederate postal operations, negative comments toward the private express companies continued to appear in official records. However, public perception considered the Southern Express Company could deliver more quickly and reliably than the post office. With the apparent abundant use of these private express companies, one would assume a considerable number of these mails would survive today. Quite the contrary, few such covers have survived.

Ten different express companies have been recorded as having Confederate markings. Of these, twenty-three different cities are represented. The Southern Express Company is known to have had seventeen different town markings or labels.

A recent discovery of Major R.S. Tucker's correspondence brings to light a new express label. Figures 1 and 2 (See cover) front and back of an envelope carried from Wilson, N.C. to Raleigh on March 23, 1863. The reverse of the envelope has a previously unreported Southern Express Company label from Wilson. The label measures 98mm x 48mm and is printed with black ink on burgundy paper. Manuscript markings indicate a fee of 5 bits (\$.62½) was paid to cover the cost of sending \$230 by express.

The enclosure reads as follows:

Wilson, N.C.  
March 23rd, 1863

My Dear Sir:

I send you two hundred & thirty dollars. I was informed by a gentleman here today that North Carolina treasury notes can be had at the treasurers office at from 5 to 7½ per ct. premium. If this be so, it would be a saving to get them there. If not, I have sent enough Confederate money to purchase an \$200 from the brokers.

Please send it by express, and at

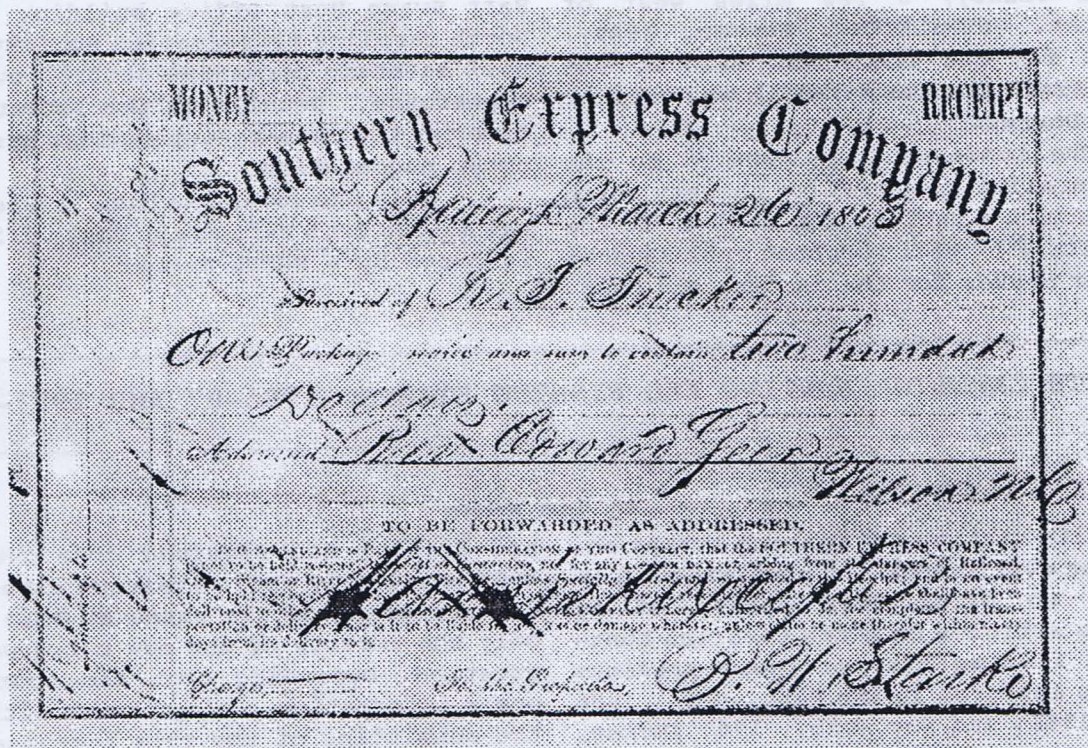


Figure 3



there. If not, I have sent enough Confederate money to purchase an \$200 from the brokers.

Please send it by express, and at your earliest profitable convenience; as I am about to leave home & want to receive it before I leave. I have been approved Post-Chaplin at Wilmington & I am getting ready to enter upon the discharge of the duties thereof. No news from below. Several gentlemen who went down from here expecting that Washington would be captured have returned, & they report that our forces are encamped about 9 miles above Panther Creek & that no one in that region now believes that an attack upon the town is intended.

A report reached here today that there had been another fight in Hyde in which lost 250 men but nobody believes it. With respectful regards for your-

self and family.

Very truly yours,

Edward Green

R.S. Tucker, Esq.

Raleigh

Also enclosed was the Southern Express Company receipt shown in Figure 3. This receipt is for \$200 and is marked "war risk exempt" thus indicating the express company was not liable for war caused loss or damage.

A point of confusion is the amount of funds enclosed. The letter mentions \$230 being enclosed and asked for the purchase of \$200 in treasury notes. The envelope is manuscripted \$230, yet the receipt is for \$200. The reason for this variance is unknown. If any readers can explain this difference, the writer would be pleased to hear from them. NCPHS

#### RAFT SWAMP P.O. DONATION

The North Carolina Postal History Society voted at the annual meeting to contribute \$500 towards restoration of the Raft Swamp Post Office building on the Humphrey-Williams-Smith Plantation in Robeson County, a few miles west of Lumberton. (NEWSLETTER, Summer, 1989). Request for the funds was made by the owner, Prof. Charles T. Smith and curator Robert Doares.

The funds will be donated to the North Carolina Preservation Society which will conduct a restoration seminar at the site. The \$500 will purchase four squares of cedar shakes for the roofing and cust-

om cut 20 ft. Cypress boards for siding. A local sawmill is searching for a special Cypress tree to be used in the restoration.

Dr. Smith will deed the exterior of Raft Swamp Post Office building to the North Carolina Preservation Society which will maintain permanent control over its appearance. Details on the latter and a time for the restoration seminar are still under negotiation.

Only one cover has been located that was mailed from Raft Swamp Post Office. It is owned by a NCPHS member. NCPHS

#### NORTH CAROLINA HUNTING AND FISHING STAMPS, 1986-87 AND 1987-88

by Tim McRee

With hunting and fishing stamps enjoying an ever increasing popularity, I am pleased to offer this update of my previous articles on North Carolina hunting and fishing stamps. Those previous articles appeared in the Sept.-Oct., 1986 (McRee, 1986) and Nov.-Dec., 1987 (McRee, 1987) issues of the NCPHS Newsletter.

Fees in North Carolina for hunting

and fishing had remained constant from 1983 until July 1987. Everyone expected a restructuring of the rates at this time. Only the amounts of the new rates were in question. Depending upon the source of one's information, delays arose either in the submitting of the rate increase from the Wildlife Commission or within the state legislature. At any rate, the stamps



for the new fees were not available for shipment to the numerous state licensing agents until late in July 1987. Because of this, everyone was allowed, during the month of July, to hunt or fish without a license. The state recorded a drop in total license sales from 750,563 for the 1986-87 license year to 623,395 for the 1987-88 year. However, given the increased rates for the 1987-88 year, gross revenues increased by \$1.7 million.

The drop in license sales was due to three factors. One, the late delivery of stamps, as mentioned above. The second was the sale of a newly created "comprehensive" license. Available for both fishing and hunting, a sportsman who only hunts or fishes can now purchase this type of license instead of the individual privilege licenses.

The third reason for the drop in sales was that sales of lifetime licenses nearly doubled prior to the increased fees going into effect. From the conception of the lifetime license program in May 1981 until July 1986, 25,374 such licenses were sold. During the period from July 1, 1986 through August 31, 1987, 21,474 licenses were sold.

Stamps issued for 1986-87 follow the same format as stamps for the previous years. Annual license passbooks were white while short term passbooks were blue. Big game tag strips are white with a blue gutter on the right side.

Weldon, Williams and Lick, Inc. of

Arkansas were the low bidders for the printing of the stamps for both the 1986-87 and 1987-88 years.

A rate change and numerous other changes took place with the stamp program for the 1987-88 license year. The number of stamps, in a move well received by the license agents, was reduced from 21 to 11. While in previous years, a pictorial sportsman stamp was issued for non-residents, in 1987-88 it was replaced with a non-pictorial denominated stamp. Minor restructuring was also done with the passbooks, with resident passbooks being yellow and those of non-residents being green. The big game tag retained the same format as previously with a red gutter on the right side.

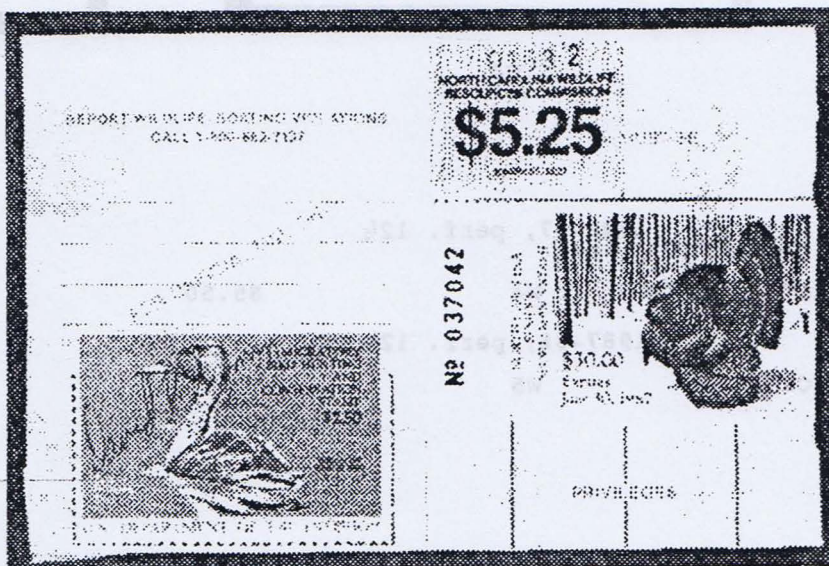
The North Carolina Voluntary Waterfowl Conservation Stamp was last issued for the 1987-88 license year. Beginning with the 1988-89 year, it is being replaced with a mandatory duck stamp. Of particular interest is the low number of these voluntary stamps sold during the 1987-88, the final year. This quantity reflected a 60% reduction in the quantity sold from that for the first issue, of the 1983-84 year.

Packet sales of sets of surplus stamps sold following their expiration also dropped. The total number of packets sold for 1986-87 was 36. The figure for the 1987-88 year was 31.

A detailed listing of the 1986-87 and 1987-88 stamps appear next page.

Figure 1

Back side of 1986-87 North Carolina license showing resident sportman's stamp, \$5.25 denominated stamp and \$7.50 federal duck stamp, RW53.





# I. SPORTSMAN'S STAMPS.



S4

1986-87, perf. 12½

|      |    |                   |
|------|----|-------------------|
| NCS5 | S4 | \$30 resident     |
| NCS6 | S4 | \$95 non-resident |



S5

Quantity Sold

141,349  
833

1987-88, perf. 12½

|      |    |               |
|------|----|---------------|
| NCS7 | S5 | \$40 resident |
|------|----|---------------|

118,683

## II. VOLUNTARY WATERFOWL CONSERVATION STAMPS



W4

1986-87, perf. 12½

|      |    |        |
|------|----|--------|
| NCW4 | W4 | \$5.50 |
|------|----|--------|

1987-88, perf. 12½

|      |    |        |
|------|----|--------|
| NCW5 | W5 | \$5.50 |
|------|----|--------|



W5

11,527

9,663





L2

L3

| 1986-87, roulette 9½ | Design | Cost    | Color  | Quantity Sold |
|----------------------|--------|---------|--------|---------------|
| NC86-1               | L2     | \$3.25  | Orange | 55,019        |
| NC86-2               | L3     | \$5.25  | Orange | 5,633         |
| NC86-3               | L2     | \$5.50  | Orange | 30,253        |
| NC86-4               | L3     | \$6.00  | Orange | 40,387        |
| NC86-5               | L2     | \$6.50  | Brown  | 4,192         |
| NC86-6               | L3     | \$7.00  | Brown  | 21,907        |
| NC86-7               | L2     | \$7.50  | Brown  | 886           |
| NC86-8               | L3     | \$8.00  | Brown  | 79,209        |
| NC86-9               | L2     | \$8.50  | Blue   | 16,357        |
| NC86-10              | L3     | \$9.00  | Blue   | 12,971        |
| NC86-11              | L2     | \$9.50  | Blue   | 2,552         |
| NC86-12              | L2     | \$10.50 | Blue   | 5,268         |
| NC86-13              | L3     | \$11.50 | Green  | 198,670       |
| NC86-14              | L2     | \$12.50 | Green  | 4,201         |
| NC86-15              | L3     | \$13.00 | Green  | 127           |
| NC86-16              | L3     | \$15.00 | Green  | 1,580         |
| NC86-17              | L2     | \$15.50 | Yellow | 94,553        |
| NC86-18              | L3     | \$20.50 | Yellow | 10,051        |
| NC86-19              | L2     | \$25.00 | Yellow | 4,229         |
| NC86-20              | L3     | \$30.00 | Yellow | 3,910         |
| NC86-21              | L2     | \$41.00 | Yellow | 4,235         |

## 1987-88, roulette 9½

|         |    |          |        |         |
|---------|----|----------|--------|---------|
| NC87-1  | L2 | \$5.00   | Yellow | 44,881  |
| NC87-2  | L2 | \$10.00  | Blue   | 65,592  |
| NC87-3  | L2 | \$15.00  | Brown  | 195,966 |
| NC87-4  | L3 | \$20.00  | Orange | 86,038  |
| NC87-5  | L2 | \$25.00  | Orange | 12,419  |
| NC87-6  | L3 | \$30.00  | Orange | 13,263  |
| NC87-7  | L2 | \$40.00  | Green  | 3,299   |
| NC87-8  | L3 | \$50.00  | Green  | 745     |
| NC87-9  | L3 | \$80.00  | Green  | 4,135   |
| NC87-10 | L3 | \$130.00 | Purple | 324     |
| NC87-11 | L3 | \$250.00 | Grey   | 47      |

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