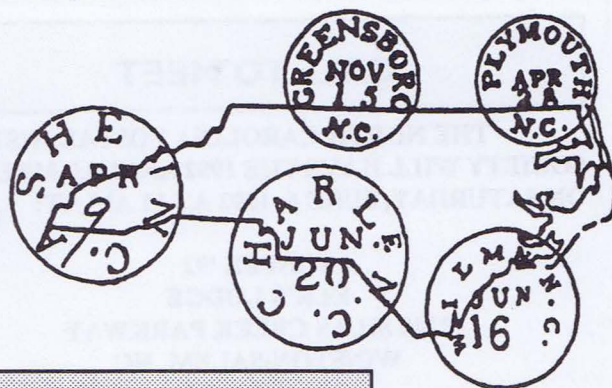


NCPHS Newsletter

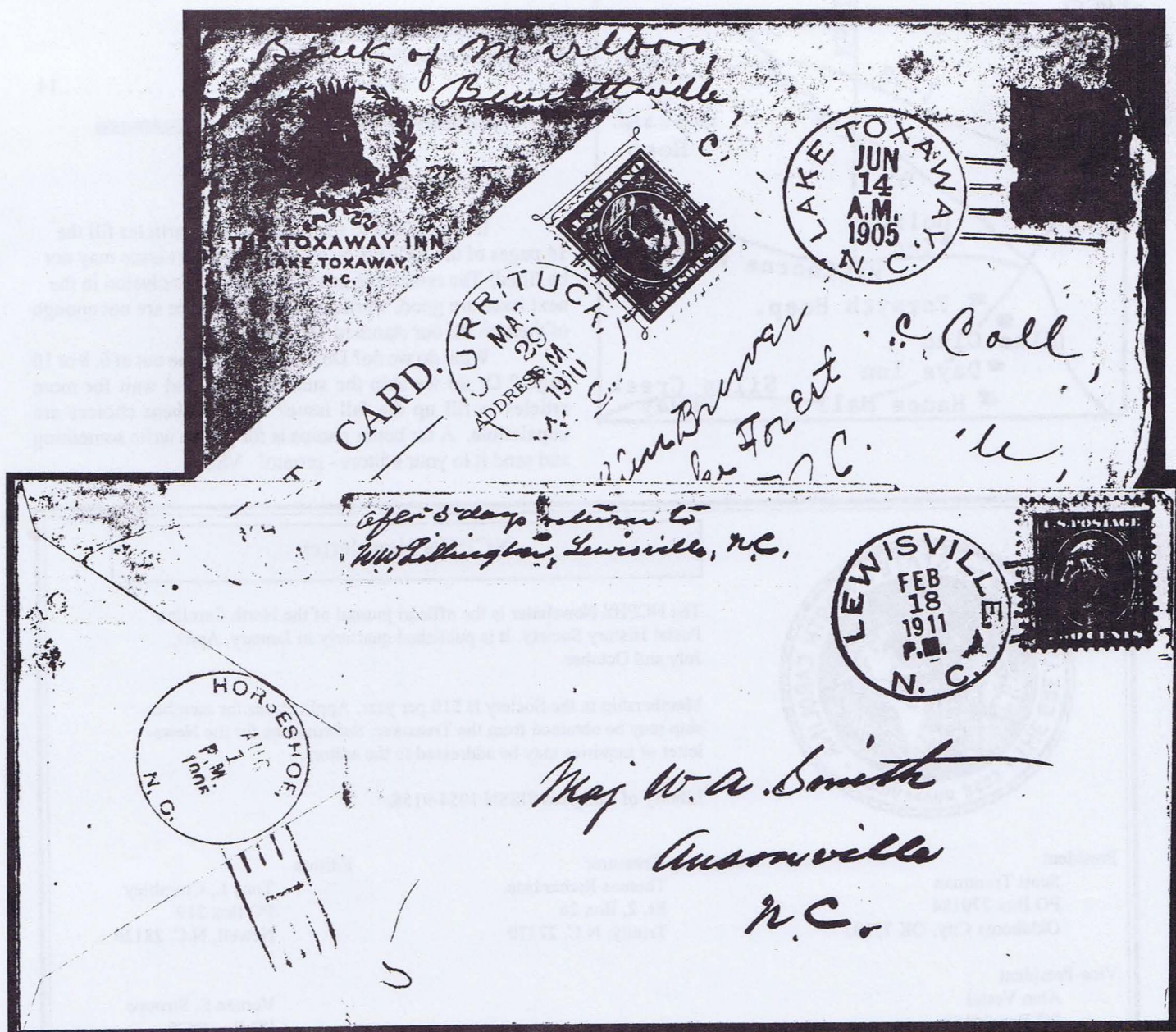


The Journal of the North Carolina Postal History Society

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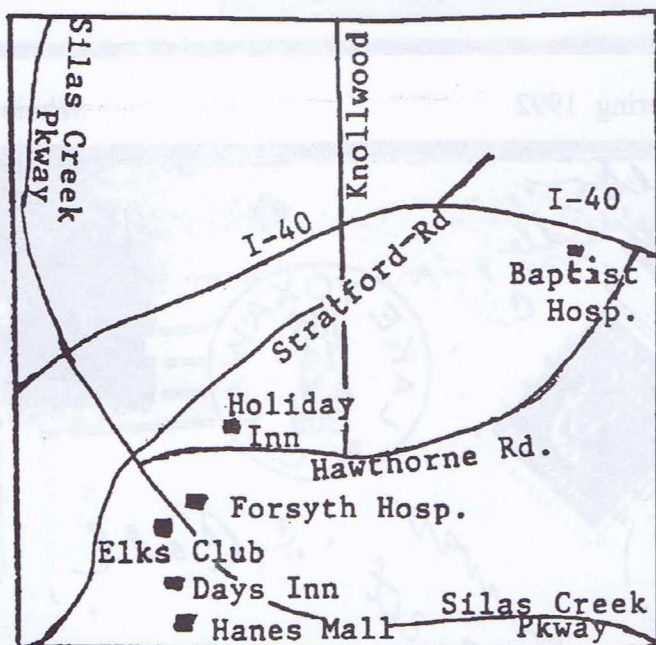
Whole 40



CALL TO MEET

THE NORTH CAROLINA POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY WILL HAVE THE 1992 ANNUAL MEETING ON SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 1992 AT 11 AM AT:

WINPEX '92
ELK'S LODGE
3340 SILAS CREEK PARKWAY
WINSTON-SALEM, NC



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EDITORIAL

It is a delight to see four excellent articles fill the 14 pages of the NCPHS Newsletter. The next issue may not be filled! The remaining articles on file for inclusion in the next issue are good, worthy articles, but there are not enough of them to fill our standard 14 pages.

What do we do? Do we make an issue out of 6, 8 or 10 pages? Or do we skip the summer issue and wait for more articles to fill up the fall issue? Both of these choices are unpalatable. A far better choice is for you to write something and send it to your editors - pronto! VSS



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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THE POST-CIVIL WAR CORRESPONDENCE OF THE LENOIR FAMILY OF FORT DEFIANCE, NORTH CAROLINA

BY
LAWRENCE L. LOHR

In October, 1985, the Board of Trustees of Fort Defiance, the Caldwell County ancestral home of the Lenoir family, turned over the contents of an attic trunk to the Southern Historical Collection (SHC) of the University of North Carolina (UNC), Chapel Hill (see Ref. 1). The trunk contained approximately 450 family letters dating from the post-Civil War period up to the turn of the century. These letters have now been added to the Lenoir Family Papers in the SHC, this collection consisting of letters, business records, and other historical materials dating back to 1754 (see Ref. 2; there are also Lenoir family materials at Duke University (see Ref. 3). This collection is indirectly known to most students of North Carolina postal history, as earlier de-acquisitions by the SHC of covers from the correspondence account for much of the postal material bearing markings from Fort Defiance, Forks of Pigeon, Elkin, Wilksboro, and many other western North Carolina locations. Several articles have appeared in *The Confederate Philatelist* describing covers from the Lenoir family correspondence (see Refs. 4 and 5).

I am particularly pleased that the Fort Defiance Board made this donation to the SHC, since I had suggested this possibility both to Board member Mr. Wayland Plaster, a Lenoir architect, and to SHC archivist Dr. Richard A. Shrader, who incidentally wrote his doctoral dissertation (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 1978) on the life of family patriarch General William Lenoir (1751 - 1839). I had been shown around the Lenoir home, known as "The Fort," by Mr. Plaster during the summer of 1984. When he took me to the attic I was astounded to see a trunk full of letters. These, I told him, "belonged" with the many other Lenoir items in the SHC. In the spring of 1986 the SHC returned the empty covers to the Board, who then sent them to me. These have never been seen or described by any other collectors, so I shall present here a brief inventory of the covers together with detailed descriptions of several selected items. All of my comments refer to the 1985 addition of items to the Lenoir Family Papers in the SHC, not to the extensive earlier SHC holdings.

The bulk of the 443 covers are from letters received by Thomas Ballard Lenoir (1858 - 1956), great-grandson of the General, grandson of Col. Thomas Lenoir (1780 - 1861) and son of Rufus Theodore Lenoir (1825 - 1912). These family members are described in the various accounts of the Lenoir family history which have been published (see Refs. 6 - 9). Col. Thomas Lenoir is known to NC postal historians as the USA postmaster for Fort Defiance from 1841 until fall 1858, while Rufus served as the USA postmaster from September 18, 1858 until the onset of the Civil War, after which he became the CSA postmaster. Many pre-Civil War covers are known bearing

free franks of these two postmasters, as well as free franks on letters addressed to them, usually from family members living in western North Carolina or eastern Tennessee. Thomas Ballard Lenoir typically signed his name and was addressed as "T. B. Lenoir." Unfortunately he had the habit of opening his mail with a tear down the righthand end of an envelope, often removing part of the stamp in the process, although admittedly most of the covers would have little value even if in perfect condition. Fortunately the earlier covers are the ones in the better condition.

The earliest cover (see Figure 1) is a 3 cent green stamped envelope postmarked Asheville, NC, May 1, 1879, and addressed to Capt. W. W. Lenoir, Shull's Mills, Watauga County, NC. The latest cover is postmarked Philadelphia, PA, January 7, 1918, although very few of the other covers are later than 1901. The bulk bear common variety 2 cent adhesives or are 2 cent stamped envelopes and offer little in the way of value or interest. A few, however, stand out and are noted here.

Of particular interest are 22 covers with North Carolina manuscript markings. These are typically from the 1890's, although a few date from the 1870's. The listing of these is as follows:

Town (County)	Year	Rate	Number
Beech Creek (Watauga, later Avery)	1890's	2	3
Blowing Rock (Watauga)	1872	3	1
Clingman (Wilkes)	1890	2	1
Fort Defiance (Caldwell)	1880	3	1
Foscoe (Watauga)	1890's	2	4
Kings Creek (Caldwell)	1899	2	1
Ronda (Wilkes)	1893	2	1
Shulls Mills (Watauga)	1870's	3	1
Springdale (Haywood)	1890's	2	7
Triplett (Watauga)	1893	2	1
Watauga Falls (Watauga)	1900(?)	2	1

In addition, there is one manuscript marking from Trade (Johnson County), Tennessee, on a 3 cent "banknote" cover addressed to Mr. W. W. Lenoir, House of Reps., Raleigh, NC, and dated February 16 (year uncertain). Most of the manuscript-marked covers, as well as most of the hundreds of other covers, are addressed to Mr. T. B. Lenoir, Yadkin Valley, NC, this post office superseding the Fort Defiance office, which was discontinued on December 6, 1866, reestablished on March 21, 1871, discontinued again on December 18, 1878,

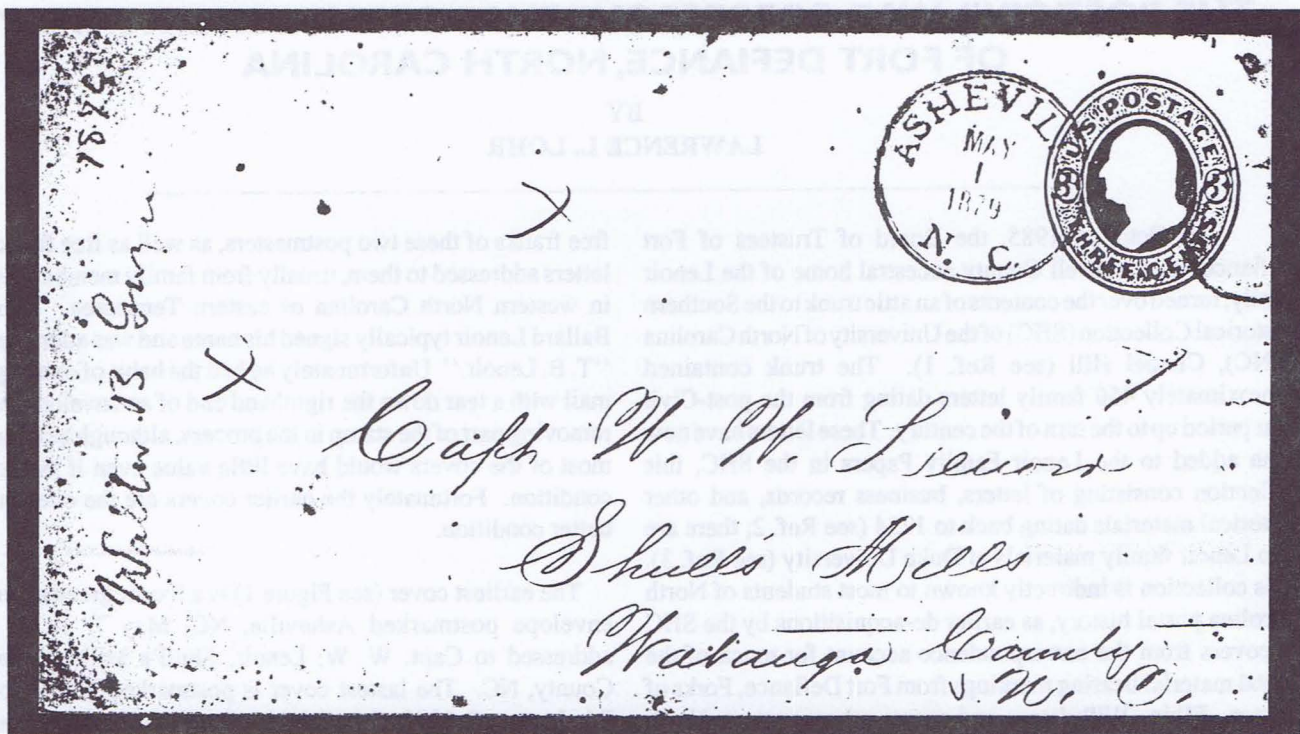


Figure 1

reestablished again on June 11, 1879, and discontinued finally on May 26, 1880. Rufus T. Lenoir, T. B.'s father, who as noted had served earlier as both the USA and CSA postmaster of Fort Defiance, served again as the USA postmaster during the office's final six weeks, taking over from Lloyd T. Jones on April 9, 1880.

Because of the very short time (11 months of 1879-80) that the Fort Defiance post office was operated during the last phase of its existence, the manuscript marking listed above is particularly interesting (see Figure 2). Indeed it may be the last known usage from this famous post office. It is dated May 20,

1880, only six days before the final closing of the office, franked with a 3 cent "banknote", and addressed to Mr. Thos. B. Lenoir, Chapel Hill, NC, who was a student at UNC at the time. Those who have seen Rufus Lenoir's earlier USA and CSA manuscript markings will recognize his clear penmanship.

Another interesting cover is a 2 cent stamped envelope addressed to Thomas Lenoir, Yadkin Valley, NC, postmarked Hailey, Idaho, December 23, 1890, and also stamped Triumph, Idaho, December -, 1890. This is not a territorial cover, as Idaho was granted statehood just six months earlier, on July 3, 1890. The letter probably referred to real estate transactions in



Figure 2

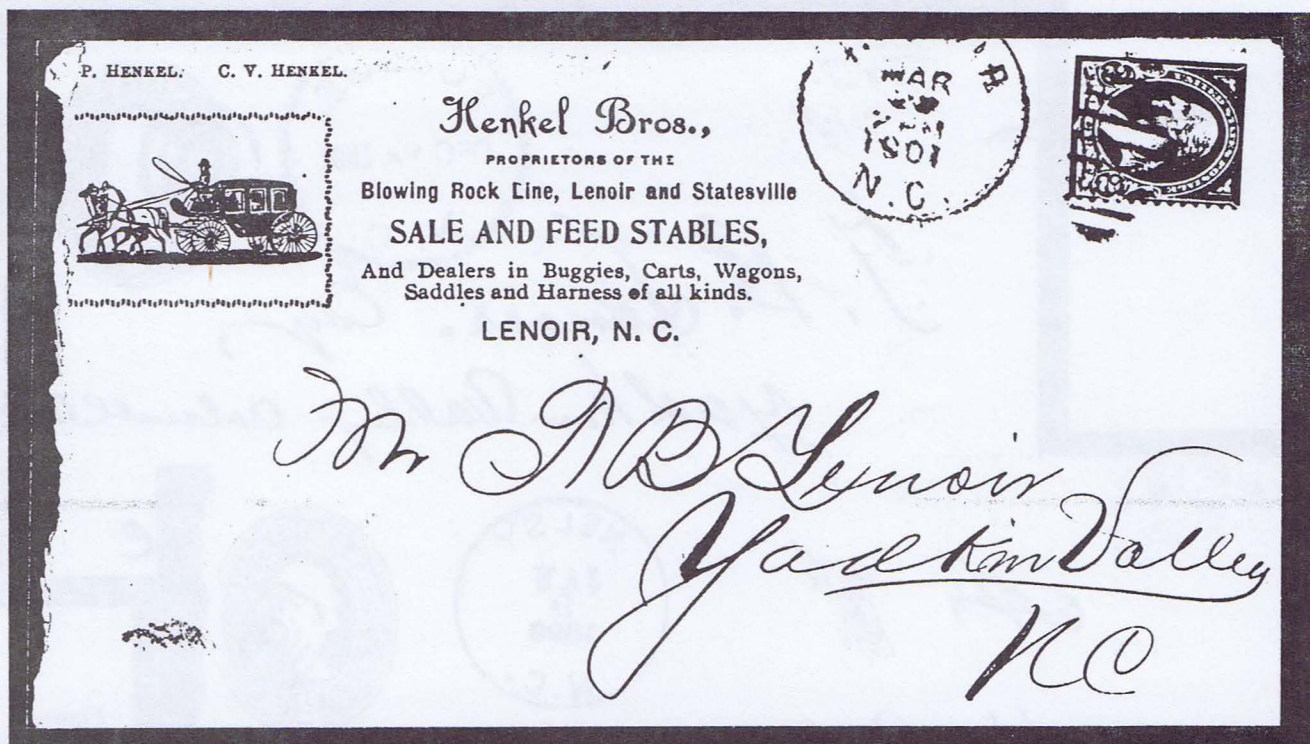


Figure 3

Idaho, as Thomas' brother Walter James Lenoir had lived both in Idaho and California before returning to North Carolina in 1891.

A few comments about the business life of Thomas B. Lenoir are in order, especially as they impact on the nature of his extensive correspondence. He spent a brief time during 1887 in Honey Grove, Texas, working for the Honey December 18, 1878, Grove Compress Co., then returned to North Carolina,

where he became executor of his Uncle Walter's vast estate in 1890. He was charged with straightening out the tangled affairs of the Linville Improvement Co. and with managing various Watauga County properties. Debts and several lawsuits led the Improvement Co. into receivership in 1893, although Thomas himself acquired new landholdings and businesses, becoming president of the Lenoir Lumber Co. in 1903. A younger brother, Gwyn Hunt Lenoir (1859 - 1917), spent the

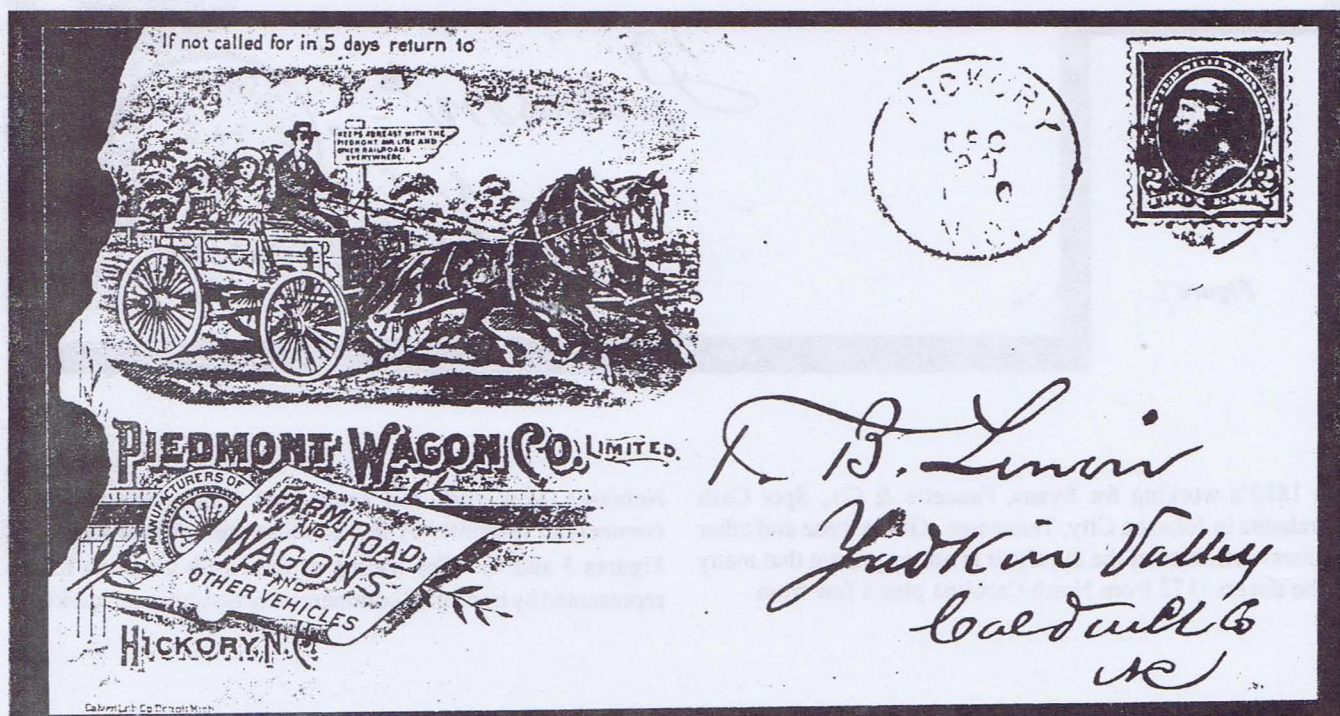


Figure 4

Figure 5

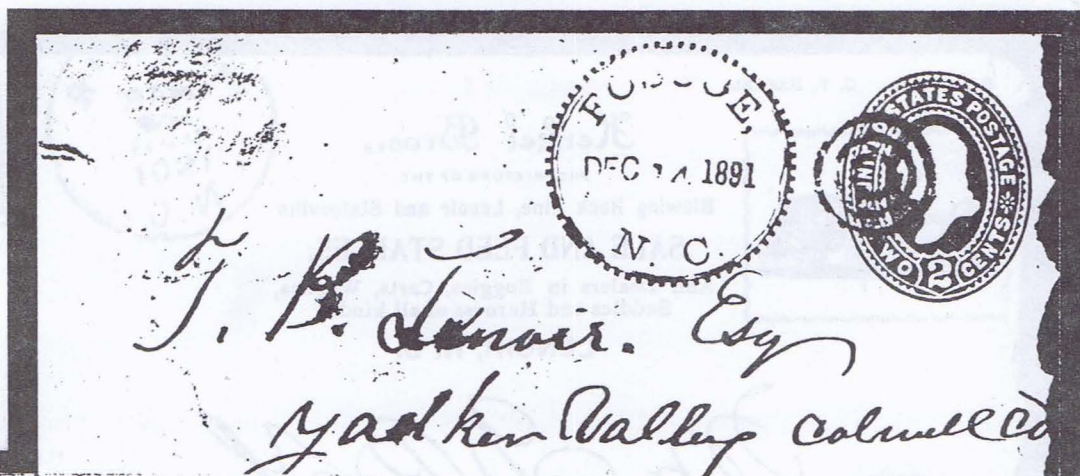


Figure 6

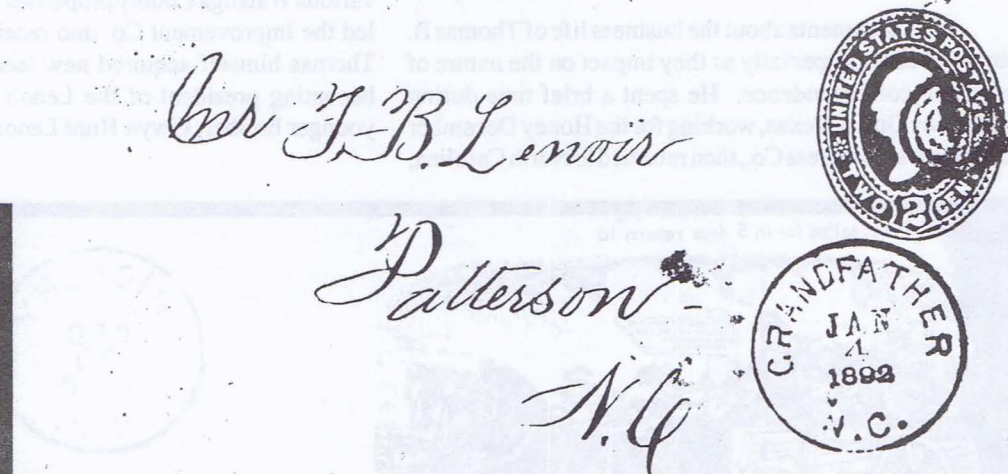


Figure 7

late 1880's working for Evans, Faucette & Co., Spot Cash Merchants in Johnson City, Tennessee. Given these and other business activities of the family, it is not surprising that many of the covers (172 from North Carolina plus a few from

Nebraska, New York, and Tennessee) in this collection bear commercial imprints. A few of these are quite striking (see Figures 3 and 4). The listing of the North Carolina towns represented by imprinted commercial or institutional markings

is as follows:

<u>Town (County)</u>	<u>Number of Covers</u>
Asheville (Buncombe)	41
Beaufort (Carteret)	2
Blackstone (Caldwell)	1
Boone (Watauga)	4
Chapel Hill (Orange)	1
Charlotte (Mecklenburg)	1
Connelly Springs (Burke)	1
Foscoe (Watauga)	1
Granite Falls (Caldwell)	2
Greensboro (Guilford)	1
Hendersonville (Henderson)	1
Hickory (Catawba)	33
Kawana (Avery)	2
Lenoir (Caldwell)	12
Linville (Avery)	23
Mebaneville (Alamance/Orange)	1
Montezuma (Avery)	1
Morganton (Burke)	1
Mount Airy (Surry)	1
Raleigh (Wake)	3
Salem (Forsyth)	4
Salisbury (Rowan)	1
Shulls Mills (Watauga)	1
Springdale (Haywood)	1
Southerland's (Ashe)	1
Wilmington (New Hanover)	31

Two covers from Johnson City, TN, bear the red and black imprint of J. D. Faucette & Co., General Merchandise, are addressed to Mr. T. B. Lenoir, Yadkin Valley, NC, and are postmarked by a cds reading "Brist. & Chatt. Night R.P.O.," but have no year marking, although the full-cover description imprinted on the reverse of the envelopes refers to municipal growth and other civic improvements during 1890.

Of final interest are a number of covers bearing circular date stamps from small western North Carolina towns. Three of these are shown (see Figures 5, 6 and 7), namely covers from Foscoe (Watauga County), Grandfather (Watauga County), and Kelsy (Caldwell County).

In summary an important addition has been made by the Board of Trustees of Fort Defiance to the Lenoir Family Papers in the Southern Historical Collection at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. The covers from these letters, while generally of little philatelic value, nonetheless provide a glimpse into the commercial life of small towns in western North Carolina during the latter part of the 19th century. The collection does contain what may well be the latest known Fort Defiance manuscript marking, namely May 20, 1880, a week before the final discontinuance of that post office on May 26, 1880.

References

1. David C. Wall, "Gen. Lenoir Letters Turned over to UNC Researchers," Lenoir News-Topic, Lenoir, NC, October, 1965. This article describes how I discovered the letters and brought them to the attention of the Southern Historical Collection.
2. Lenoir Family Papers, Southern Historical Collection, L. R. Wilson Library, The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC.
3. Thomas Lenoir Papers, Manuscript Department, W. R. Perkins Library, Duke University, Durham, NC.
4. Vernon S. Stroupe, "An Early Manuscript Official," The Confederate Philatelist, Vol. 24, No. 4, pp 113-114, 1979.
5. Lawrence L. Lohr, "A Manuscript PAID from the Correspondence of the Lenoir Family of Fort Defiance, NC," The Confederate Philatelist, Vol 24, No. 6, pp 175-178, 1979.
6. Thomas F. Henderson, "Happy Valley," Chapel Hill, NC, 1940.
7. Thomas F. Henderson, "Echoes of Happy Valley," Chapel Hill, NC, 1962.
8. Margaret E. Harper, "Fort Defiance and the General," Hickory, NC, 1976.
9. Maurice C. York, "The Many Faces of Fort Defiance: A Report Submitted to Fort Defiance, Inc.," Chapel Hill, NC, 1979.

Figures

1. Earliest cover in the collection, postmarked Asheville, NC, May 1, 1879.
2. Manuscript postmark of Fort Defiance, NC, May 20, 1880. The final discontinuance of this post office was a week later, on May 26, 1880.
3. Imprinted advertising cover of Henkel Bros., Sale and Feed Stables, Lenoir, NC, with Lenoir cds dated Mar22(?), 1901.

NORTH CAROLINA POST OFFICES OPENED DURING THE DOANE PERIOD

Compiled by Charles Boubelik
Editorial Comments by Tony L. Crumbley

In December of 1899 the U.S. Post Office Department began testing a new type of rubber handstamp to replace the current metal handstamp devices. These initial Rural Free Delivery handstamps proved successful. In early 1903 the Post Office Department began distributing these rubber handstamps to fourth-class post offices across the nation. By June 30, 1903 five hundred post offices had tested these devices. In the next fiscal year 10,711 such rubber devices were issued across the country. No records were kept as to which offices received the devices.

In the early 1950's, Edith Doane Bryan made a study of these markings. Interest in these markings has heightened in recent years with North Carolina collectors being in the forefront of the research. Several listings of North Carolina Doanes have been published in this newsletter. In 1992 the first catalog of all known markings in the U.S. is scheduled for publication. To date the records have amounted to a census of known covers. In an effort to improve this research, Charles Boubelik, a Colorado collector, has compiled a list of all post offices which opened, or had a name change, during the era of the Doanes. Each of these post offices should have received a Doane style handstamp. The Boubelik list of post offices for North Carolina is by no means a complete list of Doane cancels, quite the contrary, the North Carolina listing is significantly larger. The editors have decided it worthy of publishing it as to provide the collector and researcher a list of potential markings. There will be more discovered. It also provides us the opportunity to encourage each of you to review your collection and report any Doane markings to Tony Crumbley, the Doane contact for N.C. A copy of the known listings for all states can be obtained from Tony upon request.

The following is a list of post offices that were established, re-established, had a name change or a name and site change for North Carolina as listed in the Daily Postal Bulletin from Aug. 18, 1903 through September 17, 1906, the period known to have produced Doane cancelling devices. Included for all the post offices is the Doane type that should have been issued as original equipment. These type numbers should be correct as the proliferation of Doane data has made it possible to determine that the last day for type 1 was September 26, 1903; for type 2, the first day is September 28, 1903 and the last day is June 27, 1905, while the first day for type 3 is June 28, 1905.

The predicted Doane number in the killer bars, however, is something else. The number "1" for the established post office can be considered to be correct as originally determined by Bill Helbock. Helbock also found that a post office name change would receive a number according to that office's previous compensation and this is followed here. My studies of Colorado, Utah and Wyoming Doanes led me to conclude that re-established post offices received a "1" and my logic concluded that post offices with a name and site change would be the same as a name change. This is the basis of the listed Doane numbers. In discussing this with Bill Helbock, he disagreed with my reasoning for the name and site change numbers thinking they should all be "1". From what little I have seen, he may be correct, however the numbers will remain until I have had an opportunity to study the results more carefully.

The following defines the symbols used in the listing:

0 (Zero) - In the predicted number column indicates a postmaster compensation for the post office was not available to determine the number.

? (after the Doane number) - The postmaster compensations were published every other year, therefore, the predicted number is based on an obsolete, but only available,

compensation.

Y (in column "OK/cncl") - Known cancel agrees completely with the expected type and predicted number.

? (in column "OK/cncl") - The known cancel has the expected type but did not permit determination of the number.

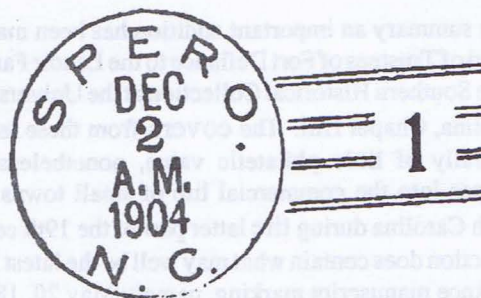
"A number" (in column OK/cncl") - is listed if the number in the known cancel is different from the predicted because of "?" or "0" above.

s ("prob/cncl" column) - The reported number of an established PO is over 1. This could be a replacement, but in some cases, it does not seem reasonable.

q ("prob/cncl" column) - The known cancel is listed with a type number earlier than was possible.

"a number" ("prob/cncl" column) - The number listed is that of the recorded or reported cancel. This may be a replacement or perhaps an error in reading the number.

t ("prob/cncl" column) - This does not signify an error, but notes that a Doane cancel exists for a period prior when the post office was open.



NORTH CAROLINA POST OFFICES OPENED DURING THE DOANE PERIOD

PO's Opened (154)	Exptcd No.	Prdctd No.	OK Cncl	Prb Cncl	Town	Exptcd No.	Prdctd No.	OK Cncl	Prb Cncl
Ada	2	1			Hagy	3	1		
Adako	3	1	Y		Handleton	3	1		
Alligator	2	1			Happy	3	1		
Alonzo	2	1	?		Hare	2	1		
Alston	2	1			Harker's Island	2	1		
Altapass	3	1	Y		Harvard	2	1		
Alvin	2	1			Hath	2	1		
Arch	2	1			Hawbranch	2	1		
Ava	2	1			Hoch	2	1		
Bald Mountain	1	1			Holyfield	2	1		
Balm	1	1	Y		Humid	2	1		
Basilus	2	1			Ida	2	1		
Bead	2	1			Imogene	2	1		
Benbow	3	1			Index	2	1		
Beng	1	1			Iris	2	1		
Bettie	2	1			Janeiro	3	1		
Bilbao	2	1			Jericho	2	1		
Birch	2	1			Jessama	2	1	Y	
Boyles	2	1			Kellerville	3	1		
Brittain	2	1			Koontz	2	1		
Busick	2	1			Lake Toxaway	1	1	Y	
Cash Corner	3	1			Levingston	2	1		
Ceylon	2	1			Lindley	2	1		
Chowan	2	1			Link	3	1		
Coffeys	3	1			Lola	2	1		
Cold Spring	3	1			Luther	2	1		
Cowles	2	1			Mada	2	1		
Cranfill	2	1			Maggie	2	1		
Cremo	2	1			Mamie	2	1	?	
Cross Landing	2	1			Maple	2	1		
Cycle	2	1			Maplewood	2	1		
Dandy	3	1			McLin	3	1		
Danish	3	1			Meadow Creek	2	1		
Dewdrop	2	1			Melvin	3	1		
Draper	3	1			Merchison	3	1		
Duke	2	1	Y		Mertie	3	1		
Eagle Nest	2	1			Milsaps	3	1	Y	
Elk Spur	3	1			Mon Swamp	2	1		
Euclid	2	1			Moore's Springs	2	1	Y	
Eunice	3	1			Naoma	3	1		
Fairbanks	2	1			Narrows	2	1		
Fatima	2	1	Y		Niagara	2	1	Y	
Fay	2	1			Nicanor	2	1		
Fleda	2	1			Norman	3	1		
Flintridge	2	1			Norment	2	1		
Forbes	2	1			Oge	2	1		
Fox	2	1			Osia	2	1		
Gap	3	1			Otila	3	1		
Gillett	3	1			Paradise	2	1		
Glenco	2	1			Parkville	3	1		
Gloucester	2	1	?		Peppers	3	1		
Googoo	3	1			Perry	2	1		

PO's Opened	Exptd No.	Prdctd No.	OK Cncl	Prb Cncl
Pickler	2	1		
Piedmont	2	1		
Pitts	2	1		
Pluto	2	1		
Proctorville	3	1		
Protection	2	1		
Pump	2	1		
Pyatte	2	1	Y	
Ragle	2	1		
Ramon	2	1		
Roberdo	2	1		
Roby	2	1		
Rockdale	2	1		
Rominger	1	1	Y	
Ruth	3	1		
Savage	2	1		
Sherman	2	1		
Shetucket	2	1		
Sly	3	1		
Sol	3	1		
Spout Springs	2	1	Y	
Sprite	2	1		
Stearns	1	1		
Stonery	3	1		
Street	2	1		
Sulphur Springs	2	1		
Sunburst	3	1		
Sunlight	2	1		
Taft	2	1		
Tam	2	1		
Tindal	3	1		
Toledo	2	1		
Top	2	1		
Tozo	3	1		
Tucker	2	1		
Valda	2	1		
Vale	2	1		
Van	2	1		
Vera	3	1		
Vernon	2	1		
Vista	2	1		
Walthall	3	1		
Watson	3	1		
Weeksville	3	1		
Whitney	2	1	Y	
Whortonsville	2	1		
Willis	2	1		
Williston	3	1	Y	
Winthrop Mills	2	1	Y	
Wright	1	1		

PO's Re-established(13)	Exptd No.	Prdctd No.	OK Cncl	Prb Cncl
Birdtown	2	1		
Chapman	2	1		
Dwight	2	1		
Elsie	2	1		
Governor's Island	2	1	?	
Gravehill	2	1		
Holbrook	1	1		
Mariposa	2	1		
Myers	2	1		
Unionville	2	1		
Wehutty	3	1		
Williams	2	1		
Womble	3	1		

Post Office Name Changes (30)

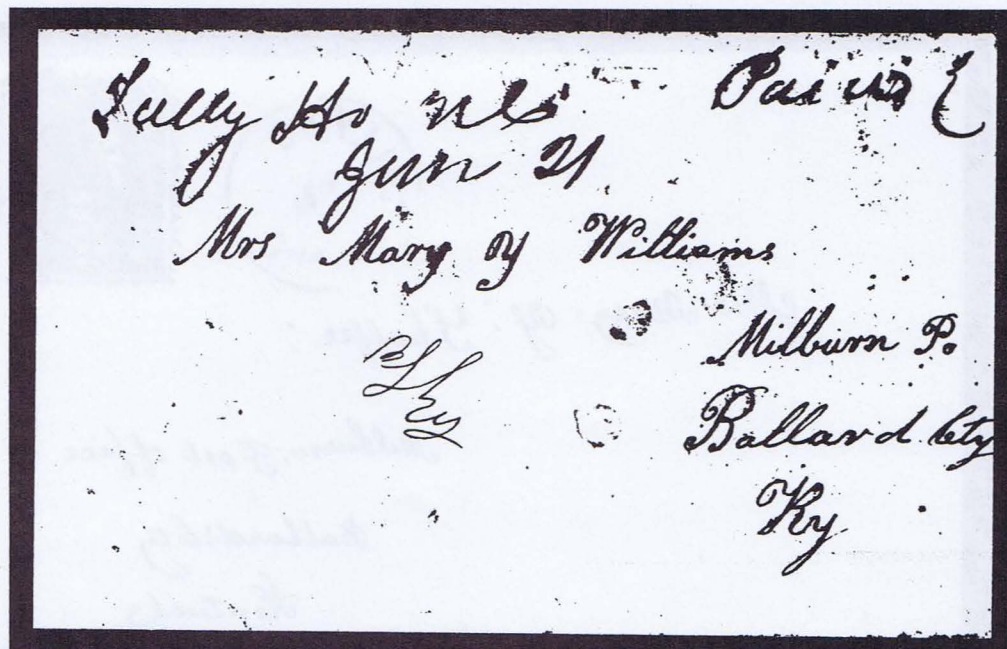
Barker's Creek	3	1	q	
Belew Creek	2	1		
Berryville	3	5		
Canaan	3	0		
Clemmons	2	2		
Compton	2	1		
Courtney	2	2?		
Elarka	2	1?		
Eufola	2	2		
Flee Hill	2	2?		
Gates	2	3		2
Glendale Springs	2	1?	Y	
Green Valley	2	1?		
Guthrie	2	1		
Haw River	2	9		
Homerville	2	2		
Japan	1	1		
Kipling	2	1	Y	
Lake	1	1		
Loray	1	2		
Mansfield	3	1		
Misenheimer	2	1		
Murchison	3	0		
Nantahala	1	2		
Oak City	2	3?		
Pineview	3	2		
Rio	3	0		
Rocky Point	3	0		
Rosman	2	4?		
Watha	3	5		

P.O. Name and Site Changes (7)

Carmel	3	1		
Chambers	3	1		
Kuhns	3	1		
Mortimer	2	1?	Y	
Quebec	2	3		1
Rockliff	3	1		
York Institute	2	1		

Figure 1

Stampless cover from 1850-54 period. Note that Eliza's sister has not yet remarried.



TALLY HO

The Town and Postal History of Tally Ho, North Carolina

by Scott Troutman

Recently a correspondence surfaced in Oklahoma between Eliza I. Allen of Tally Ho, N.C. and her sister Mary Y. Williams Shaffer of Ballard, Kentucky. What made this unusual is that it spanned a period from around 1850 until 1894, most of the time Tally Ho was in existence. For that reason it seemed a good time to cover the history of this oddly named town.

Tally Ho was in Granville County being between Franklinton and Shoofly on one road and between Oxford and Knapp of Reeds on the east-west road. Post office records indicate the post office opened May 19, 1830 as Tallyho. The name was changed to the two word version on October 27, 1832. Robert Bullock was the first postmaster.

There are two possible origins for the town name, both of which are plausible, legend has it that fox hunting was very popular in the area in the late 1700's and an inn, catering to the hunters, opened in the area using the name "Tally Ho", the traditional cry of the fox hunters. To be called a "tally ho" was a rebuke used to indicate that you spent too much time hunting and not enough tending to business. It is generally accepted that the town took the name after the old tavern and its association with fox hunting.

The second possible origin is from a stagecoach line that ran through the town and stopped at the local Wayside Inn. These coaches were called tallyho's.

The towns principle business was tobacco and at one

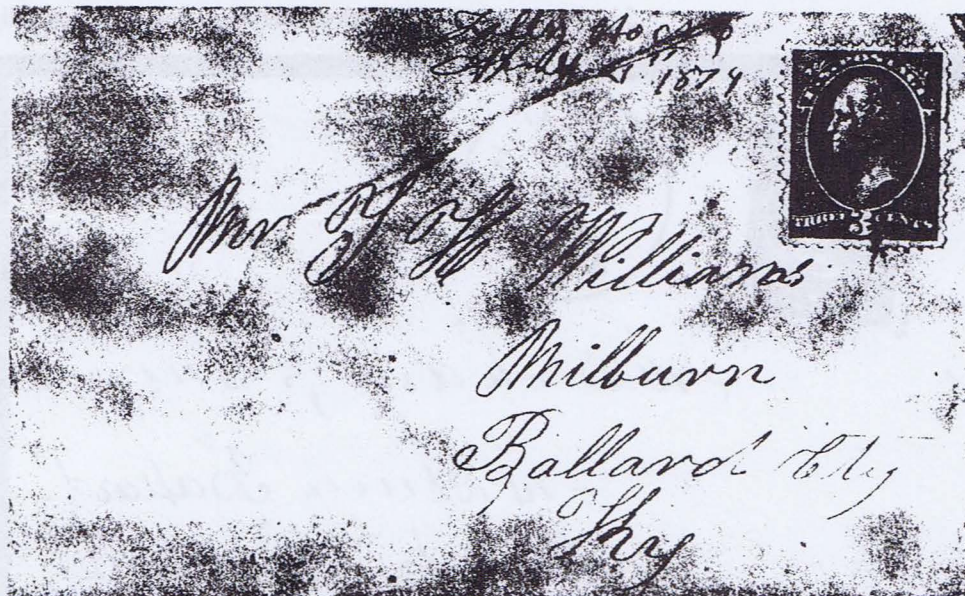


Figure 2

Manuscript Tally Ho on cover dated April 21, 1874.



Figure 3

Blue cds applied
May 23, 1879.

time it had no less than three plug tobacco manufactures, There being no railroads at first, the local farmers preferred to sell it directly to manufacturers and this was prime tobacco territory. The alternative was to freight it to Petersburg, Virginia. Until the Civil War, Tally Ho produced more processed tobacco than Durham.

The town was a center for trade for a large section of the county and as such it had several stores. In addition it had a Masonic lodge, was the voting place, and had the only school for five miles in any direction.

In 1888 the Oxford and Durham Railroad ran a line to the nearby town of Stem, originally called Stem's Station. This started the demise of Tally Ho as it was now more economical to ship the tobacco to larger processing centers. The town slowly disappeared and on January 13, 1889 the post office was moved to Stem. Today only the Tally Ho Baptist Church remains.

Mail was carried in and out of town three times a week on horseback. For a while Baldy Kearsey had the contract. A rider would leave Oxford and ride to Tally Ho and then on to Knapp of Reeds. Only the postmasters had the keys to the saddlebags used to carry the mail. The mail was dumped into a dishpan and then carried into the post office for sorting.

Figure 1 shows a stampless envelope. From information in the correspondence this letter appears to be from the period 1850 to 1854.

Figure 2 shows a manuscript Tally Ho return address in the writers hand. This was the normal case until the late 1870's. Figure 3 shows the first hand stamped cancel encountered in the correspondence. This letter was written on May 20, 1879 and appears to be canceled May 23 in blue ink. A bulls-eye killer is also in blue ink. Figure 4 shows an envelope with a brown 1883 2¢ stamp on it. The handstamp is found in brown and black. This is a different one from the handstamp in figure 3 in that the word HO is much farther away from the word Tally.



Figure 4

Brown cds and
bullseye killer.
Dated letters show
this cancel was used
in 1884 and 1885.

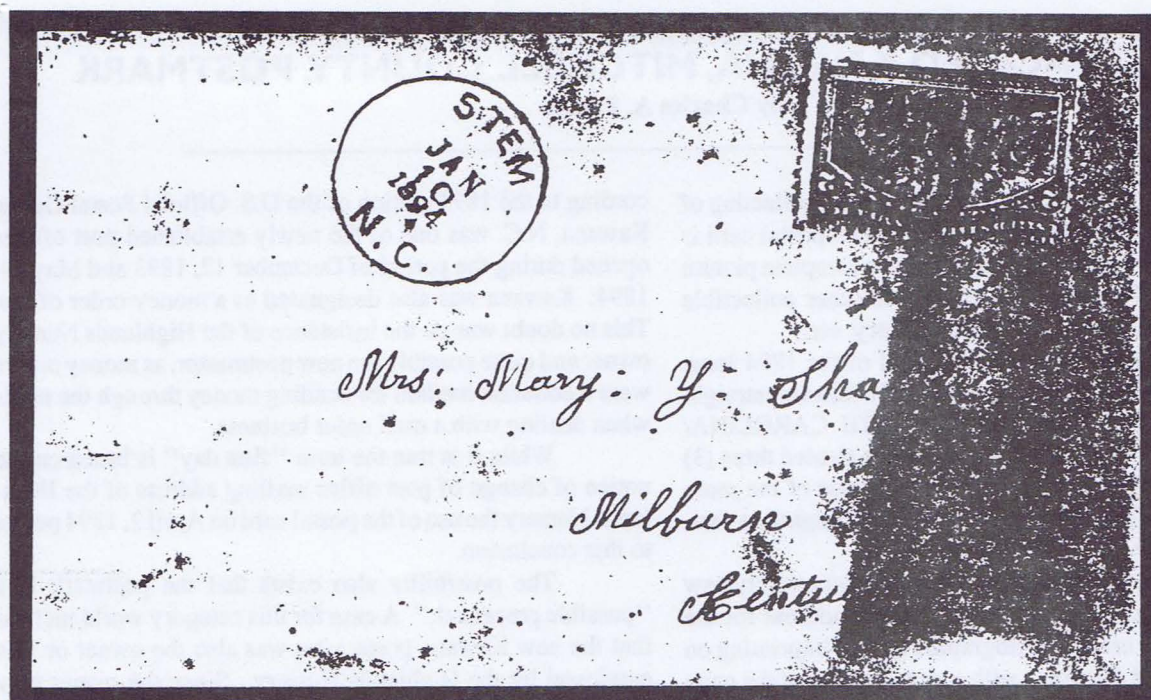


Figure 5

Last letter
of the
correspondence
dated Jan. 10,
1894 from
Stem's Station.

Letters from 1884 and 1885 show this handstamp and my suspicion is that it was used until the post office closed. Figure 5 shows a STEM handstamp from 1894, the last letter in the correspondence. Much of the information on the towns early history has come from the clipping file at the Richard Thornton Library at Oxford, N.C. My thanks to librarian Violet Coats for her assistance.

The Personal Contents of the Allen Letters - A Glimpse into Life at Tally Ho by Scott Troutman

In the early 1880's Eliza I. Allen's family fragmented. her brother John moved off to Arkansas, and she would rarely ever hear from him again. Her sister, Mary Williams, was a widow. She moved west with a small son to Ballard, Kentucky. It is possible she went as a mail order bride. She remarried and had another son. The two sisters would correspond with each other for the next 40+ years. Eliza raised two children, a son John and a daughter Caroline, after her husband died, possibly in the Civil War. She never remarried. On Eliza's farm they raised corn, cotton, wheat and vegetables to eat. She also had a cow. Pigs were raised and butchered each fall. In

the 1870's, when her son got old enough, they cleared some "virgin land" and made a tobacco patch. Tobacco was "the" cash crop but it was as fickle then as now. A draught killed one of their first crops, a hail storm got another. Flue curing was not perfected. In 1873 a neighbors "curing barn" caught fire and burnt to the ground destroying the neighbors entire crop. But on good years they got \$12 per hundred pounds from the local plug mills and they could raise around a thousand pounds. Wheat brought in \$2 a bushel. In the envelopes they sent more than letters. Both families had pictures taken whenever possible and they exchanged these. Eliza framed them and kept them in her bedroom. Both women quilted, often selling them during hard times. As such they often enclosed a "patch of Calico" in the letters. These were woven into their personal quilts as keepsakes. Eliza's son John became a miller and moved off. As Tally Ho disintegrated her daughter moved off to Durham, following the tobacco industry. Eliza grew more and more sickly and more and more lonely. It was each sisters greatest wish that they should see each other once more. But Mary might as well have lived on the moon, for given the transportation system of the time and the costs involved there was scarcely a way it could happen. Only the letters made the journey.

A MULTIFACETED KAWANA, MITCHELL COUNTY, POSTMARK

by Charles A. Fricke

One of the significant advantages in the collecting of U.S. postal cards is that the government issued postal card is only collected in it's entirety. Thus we find a complete picture of it's philatelic characteristics as well as other collectible categories, such as: americana, postal history, etc..

Take for example the postal card of the 1894 issue (Scott UX12), shown in figure #1, cancelled with a nice straight line county postmark "KAWANA, NORTH CAROLINA/ MITCHELL COUNTY/APR 2, 1894" and a slanted three (3) bar cancel. County postmarks are certainly one of the more interesting types of postmarks, especially the straightline variety.

What takes this postal card into another entirely new dimension is the notice of change of mailing address for the Highlands Nursery using a hectographic type of imprinting on the back of the card, Figure 2, with a transcription of the copy in figure 3.

Now the picture comes together with use of the postal card on probably the first day of establishment of the new Kawana, N.C. post office on the grounds of the Highland Nursery. The notice on the back of the card changing the post office mailing address from the (old P.O. Linville, N.C.) on April 1, 1894 (Sunday) to the new Kawana post office on April 2 (Monday) evidently the first day of business for the new post office.

Although I collected postal cards for many years I don't ever remember when the advertising copy on a postal card provided the necessary correlation for establishing the first day of a new post office, especially one on the grounds of a commercial business, such as the Highlands Nursery. Ac-

cording to the 1894 edition of the U.S. Official Postal Guide, Kawana, N.C. was one of the newly established post offices opened during the period of December 12, 1893 and May 31, 1894. Kawana was also designated as a money order office. This no doubt was on the insistence of the Highlands Nursery owner and quite possibly the new postmaster, as money orders were a common method for sending money through the mails when dealing with a mail order business.

While it is true the term "first day" is based on the notice of change of post office mailing address of the Highlands Nursery the use of the postal card on April 2, 1894 points to this conclusion.

The possibility also exists that the postmark is a "possible precancel." A case for this category would include that the new Kawana postmaster was also the owner or was employed by the Highlands Nursery. Since the owner may have wanted to mail out a large number of the cards to some or all of his customers on the first day to ensure they used the new mailing address for ordering their merchandise. The postmark does not appear to have the same characteristics of a machine cancel and in addition the stamp is cancelled by a separate marking device. The postmark is strategically located at the very top of the card to ensure it's being easily seen and it also included the county name for further identification. The postmark appears to have been printed although inadequately inked. It is perfectly in-line with the top of the postal card and suggests it's placement was handled with care with even the date being located by different spacing from the county name so as to appear between two parts of the stamp design.

With the change of address mailing copy having

Figure 1



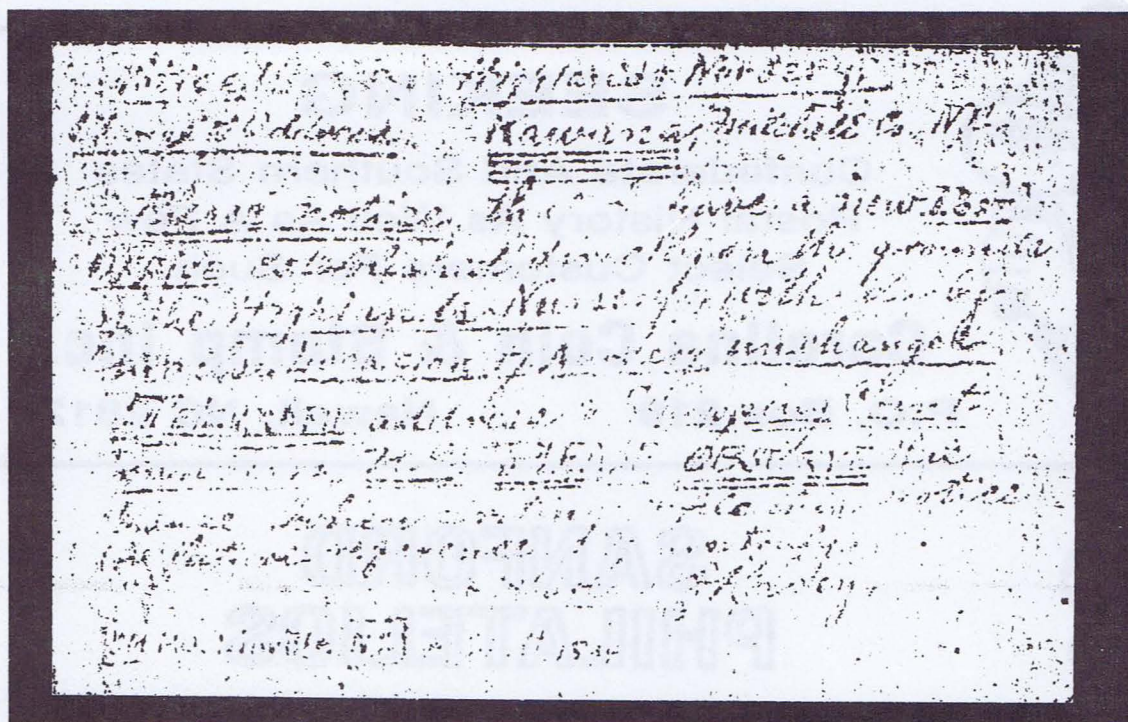


Figure 2

<p><u>Notice !!</u> <u>Change of Address</u></p>	<p><u>Highlands Nursery.</u> <u>Kawana, Mitchell Co., N.C.</u></p>
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Please notice, that I have a new POST
OFFICE established directly on the grounds
of the Highlands Nursery, with daily
mails. Location of Nursery unchanged.
TELEGRAPH address & Shipping Point,
Cranberry, N.C. PLEASE OBSERVE this
change when writing, & file this notice
for future reference. Yours truly,
Harlan P. Kelsey.
(Old P.O. Linville, N.C.) April 1st, 1894.

Figure 3

already been imprinted on the card, and the card already postmarked prior to the opening of the post office all he had to have done was the addressing of the card by hand. All of this could have been done before April 2nd so all the postmaster had to do was place the postal cards into the mails for delivery to the addressee on April 2, 1894. It would be most interesting to know if another copy exists or if other collateral material is in the hands of collectors that could provide more information about the Highlands Nursery and the new Kawana, Mitchell County, North Carolina post office.

Appreciation is expressed to Cdr. Charles C. Souder, author of *Postal History and Usage of 1907 and Earlier Precancels*, for his review and comments.

Editor's Comments:

Kawana post office is listed as being established on February 21, 1894. Author Fricke assumes that notification delays and/or other red tape prevented Postmaster Kelsey from using an earlier date. This theory is void if someone can find a Kawana cover dated between Feb. 21 and April 1.

Please send any further information to:

Mr. Charles A. Fricke
 6127 Reach Street
 Philadelphia, PA. 19111-5912



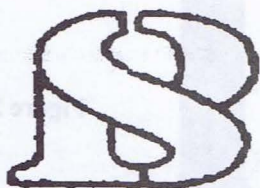
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