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Edward Lovell
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CONGRATULATIONS

Tilles Wins Three Golds

Harvey G. Tilles, NCPHS Director and Past-President, won three awards at World Columbian Expo in Chicago. His exhibit, "Postal Security Endorsements" was judged a Gold, the prestigious APS Research Medal and the Association of Philatelic Exhibitors Creativity Award.

"Postal Security Endorsements" is a study of means used to prevent postage stamps from being reused. The means include a wide range of schemes varying from simple overprints to perfins to exploding stamps. His collection contains many unique items, such as original models submitted to the U.S. Patent Office.

His exhibit was submitted on computer designed pages of simple, but original style.

Congratulations, Harvey, now let's see you do it in North Carolina Postal History.

SECOND CALL TO MEET

The first call to meet at Winpex did not produce a quorum, therefore, NCPHS Officers and Directors are issuing a second call. The society has business that needs to be disposed of, and there are new members to the Board of Directors that need to be elected.

The Annual Meeting is now set for Charpex, July 25, at 1 PM. Charpex will be held in the Government House Hotel, McDowell Street, just east of Trade Street, in Charlotte.

There are many interesting things happening in NCPHS. Please join us.

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NCPHS Newsletter

The NCPHS Newsletter is the official journal of the North Carolina Postal History Society. It is published quarterly in January, April, July and October.

Membership in the Society is \$10 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the Treasurer. Submissions for the Newsletter or inquiries may be addressed to the editors.

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WILES, WILKES COUNTY, N.C.

by Scott Troutman

Finding covers from the small post offices of mountainous Wilkes County is tough. Scattered about the Blue Ridge and Brushy Mountains and serving sparsely populated areas, most of these small post offices were in houses, small general stores or businesses where people gathered. Mail was not delivered to the homes by the post office, rather, it was dropped off and picked up at the post office well into this century.

Twenty years was about the average length of time for these small post offices to exist, like Autney, which was the shortest lived, open just four months (May 3, 1902 to August 25, 1902).

One collector of Wilkes County covers has found that of the 168 post offices that have existed, he has only been able to find covers from 71 of them. Considering that 14 of those are still in existence, these little post offices are tough indeed!

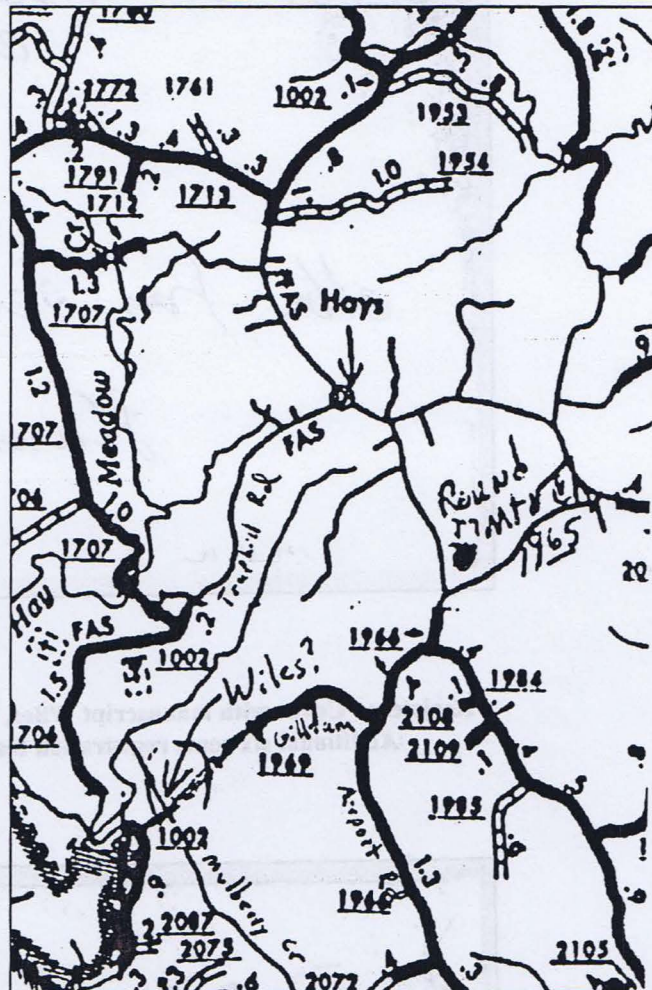
By chance I stumbled on a cover, shown in Figure 1, from Wiles. I did not know the town, but figured it couldn't be too hard to find. I knew I was in when the only thing my sister, Amy, could find on it was that it had been somewhere in Wilkes County near present day Hayes.

Wiles, it turned out, was a very short lived post office up in the mountains north of North Wilkesboro. It was only in existence from December 12, 1883 until January 31, 1903. Post office records indicated James F. Dimmette was the only postmaster.

But where exactly was it? It did not show on maps and the Wilkes County Library yielded no clues. A records of a whole town had disappeared.

The Wilkes County librarian then turned to the Wilkes Genealogical Society for help. It is with the help of one of their older members that we think we have found the location.

Mr. Ambrose Wiles, a grandson of the Revolutionary War participant Abraham Wiles, owned approximately 1000 acres of land and run a grist mill-post office on mulberry Creek. The post office was either in or attached to the grist mill. The grist mill was located on a wagon road which went through on

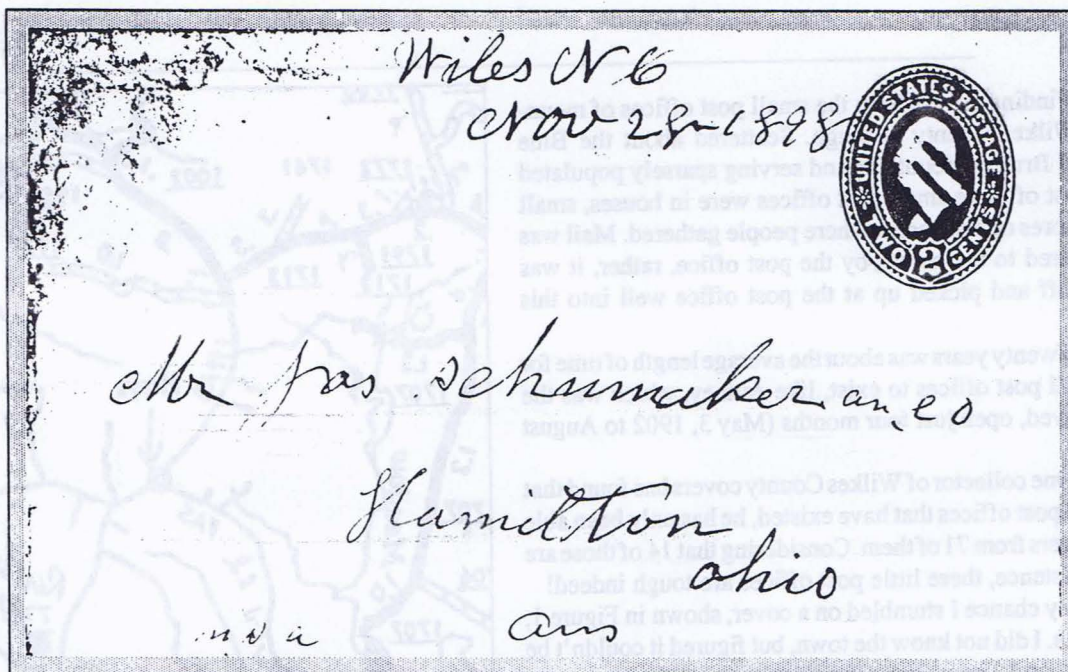


what is now State Road 1969 (Gilliam Road) off State Road 1966 (Airport Road) to State Road 1002 (Traphill Rd.). Mulberry Creek crosses this old wagon road about midway on the section that has been abandoned. See map. As best as we can tell, this is where Wiles was. (See Illustrations on Page 6)

Ertzberger Wins Awards at Columbian Expo

Darryl Ertzberger, NCPHS member and former *NEWSLETTER* editor won a Vermeil and an ATA Bronze medal for his exhibit "Beguiling Orbs of Beauty" in the World Columbian Expo in Chicago.

Our heartiest congratulations to Darryl for his achievement



Registered Cover with manuscript Wiles, N.C. dated November 28, 1898 on U311 envelope.
Additional six cents registration fee paid with three of the two cent 1894 issue.



THE PATTERSON, N.C. CONFEDERATE FANCY CANCELS

by Tony L. Crumbley

The Confederate area of North Carolina Postal History offers a wide variety of collecting interests. One area which is exceedingly brief is the Confederate fancy cancels. Fewer than a dozen true fancy cancels were used throughout the entire Confederacy during the war years.

North Carolina is included in this list of exclusive markings by the Patterson Post Office. The postmaster in Patterson used two fancy rate markings during the stampless era. Figure 1 shows examples of these markings, a paid 5 within a scrolled C and a paid 10¹ within a circle and a C.

After stamps arrived at the Patterson Post Office, the postmaster continued to use the Paid 10 handstamp as a canceling device. An Example of this usage is shown in Figure 2. The black Paid 10 handstamp was used to cancel a ten cent blue Scott #11, posted on January 30, ca 1863. The cover is addressed to General Samuel F. Patterson in Raleigh. General Patterson just happens to be the man that the town was named after when it was founded in 1851. The post office opened in 1855; James C. Harper was the postmaster until 1865.

¹ Auction catalog descriptions often erroneously refer to this marking as a "coin imprint". - Ed.



Figure 1

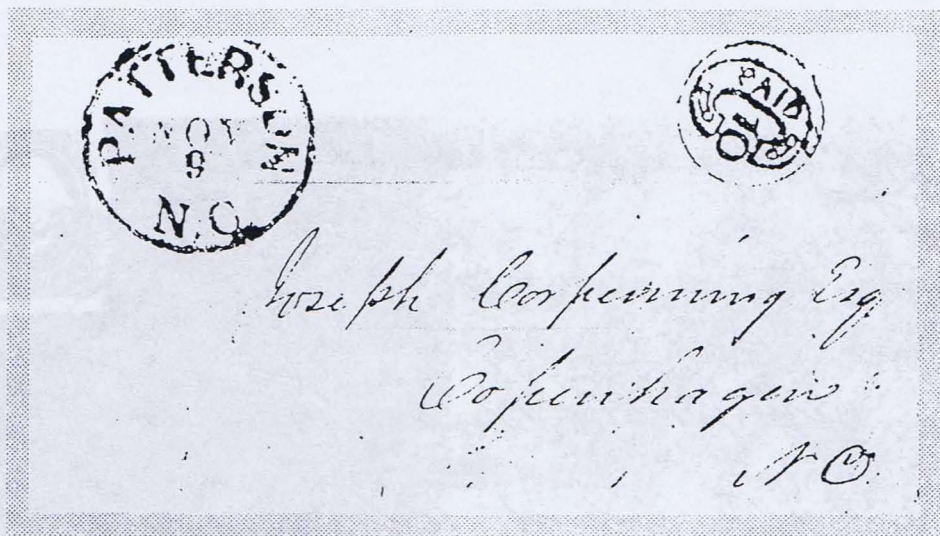


Figure 2

CLASSIFIED

Help Wanted: NCPHS Members to hold an Annual Meeting. Little or no experience necessary!
Apply at Charpex, Government House Hotel, McDowell St. just east of Trade Street,
Charlotte, N.C., 1 PM, Saturday, July 25, 1992. No Salary, Great Rewards!

THE WILMINGTON SEVEN BAR KILLER ON A CONFEDERATE TWO-CENT RED JACKSON

by Tony L. Crumbley

Confederate Stamp engraver, Frederick Halpin chose a portrait of Andrew Jackson to grace the second two-cent postage stamp of the Confederacy. This stamp was first put into service in the spring of 1863. The earliest known usage date is April 21 of that year. The stamp was issued to cover the postage rate of circular mail and of drop rate letters.

The cover illustrated is an example of this two-cent stamp posted from Wilmington, N.C. and tied with a seven bar grid killer. This handsamp was used in Wilmington from June 1863 until January 1864.

The cover is addressed to Major T. Brown Venable, and officer who served under General William H.C. Whiting during his assignment at Fort Fisher. The cover apparently carried an unsealed circular to Major Venable as the gum on the envelope is still intact, also it was drop rate usage.

Few of the two-cent red Jacksons on cover remain. It is one of the more desirable, scarce and difficult North Carolina covers to obtain.



A stylized reproduction of the Wilmington 7-bar killer



DUCKS, TURKEYS, AEROPLANES MAKE AN INTERESTING ERA OF POSTAL HISTORY COLLECTING

by Tony L. Crumbley

When most collectors think of postal history collecting, they think of 19th Century markings and rates. The 20th Century is considered one of standardization. It is thought of by many to be dull and boring. One area of 20th Century collecting that is far from being dull - fancy cancels. (See cover).

The true beginning of 20th Century fancy cancels were, no doubt, a carry over of their use from the late 19th Century. Towns like Holyoke, Mass. with its beautiful black "Ho" in 1911 and Montpelier, Vt., which used a large black "M" in 1909 are early examples of 20th century cancels. But, it wasn't until 1928 that fancy cancels of this century began to appear with any regularity.

The use of fancy cancels was caused, no doubt, by the Post Office Department regulation that required registered mail not be postmarked on the front of the envelope with the town name. The POD felt that the town name on the front would cause the registered mail not to be properly inspected.

It is obvious, that many of these covers were produced by collectors for their own interests and not by postmasters. Whatever the case, many attractive covers were created using colorful markings that catch the eye of the collector.

The post office regulations of 1902 stated that only those devices issued by the POD should be used to postmark and cancel stamps. By August 27, 1934 the colorful fancy cancels had caught the attention of the postmaster general. On that date,

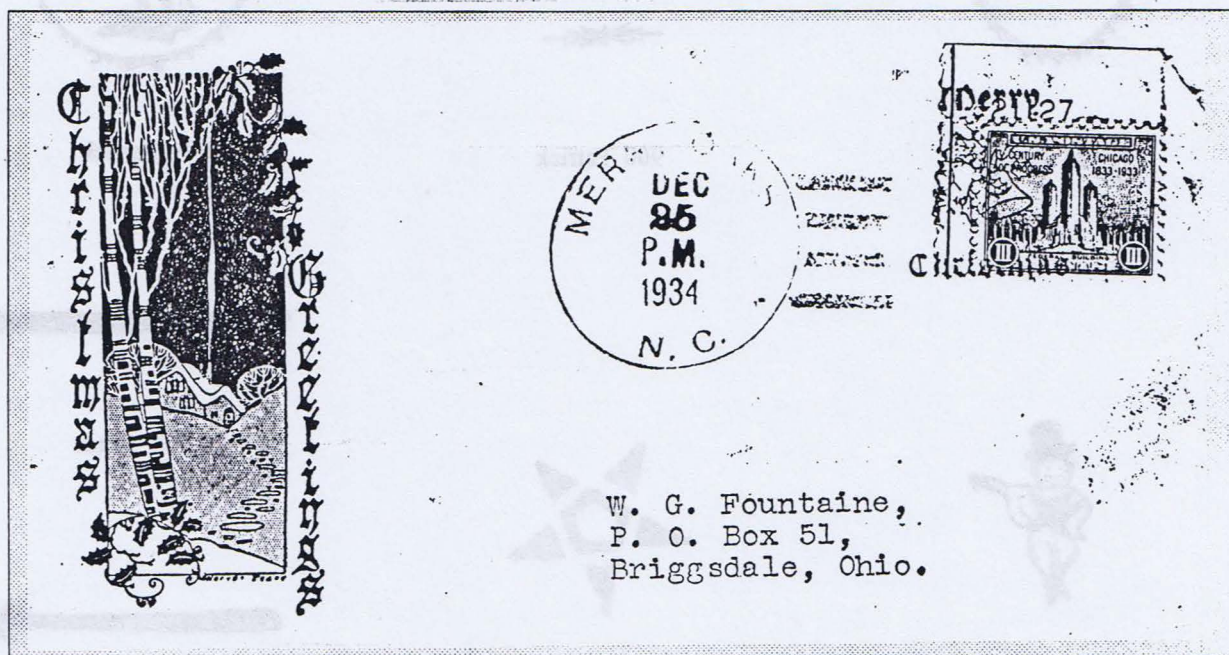
Roy M. North, Acting Third Assistant Postmaster General, issued a very firm statement that, "... mail matter should be cancelled only with the device furnished by the Department and only in black cancelling ink."

This strong statement put an immediate halt to the production of the 20th century fancy markings. There are eighteen known markings in this category from North Carolina, and all but one were produced during this time frame. More than 2,000 different markings from this era are known in the United States.

In general, 20th century fancy cancels are scarce. Although over 850 towns and cities participated in the production of these fancy cancels, fewer than 100 first class offices are included in this number. North Carolina had 13 different cities that produced markings; of these none could be considered large in quantity. Most covers were produced in quantities fewer than 10, thus the scarcity of covers that exist today.

The following is the listing of known markings from North Carolina. The author would like to hear from anyone who have examples of these in their collection, and especially from those who have other markings not included here.

Source: 20th Century U.S. Fancy Cancellations, Revised
Hamilton R. Fishback, William C. Walker, 1987.





737 Merry Oaks



901 Patrick



N-721 Spear



1128 Spear

DUCKS, TURKEYS, AEROPLANES, etc.



1181-Turkey



N-767 Turkey



N-52 Bat Cave



N-273 Edison



N-417 Kitty Hawk



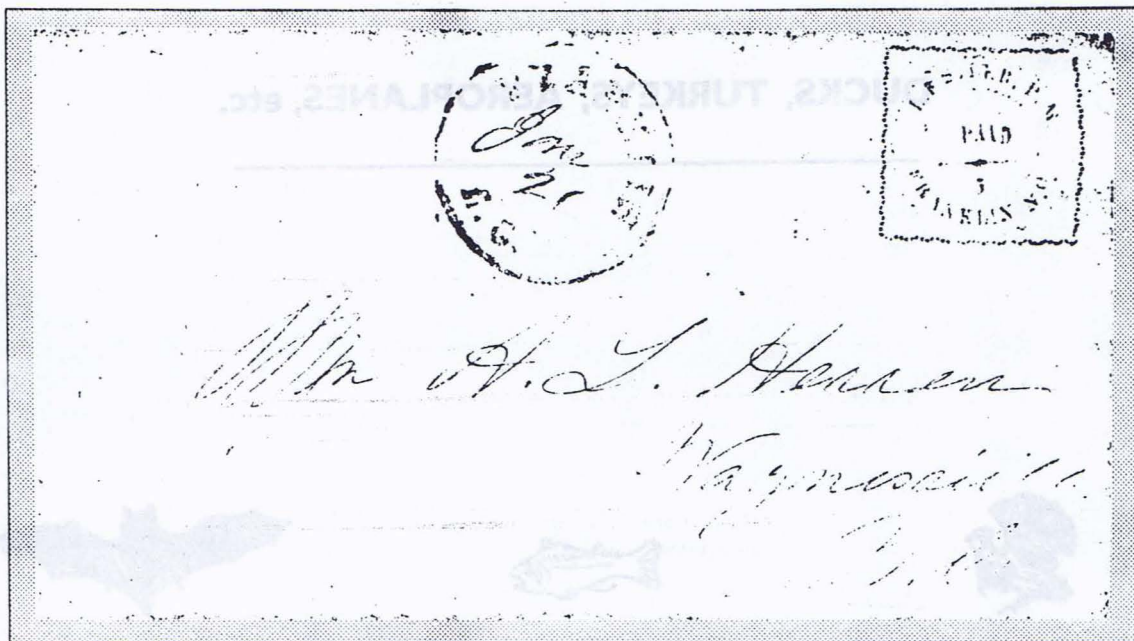
N-494 Macon

PD

N-610 Pee Dee



N-624 Pine Bluff



N.C. Uniquity is Worth \$30,000

The World of Unique Stamps

by L.N. Williams

Reprinted from *Stamp Collector*, April 25, 1992

The postmaster at Franklin, N.C. in 1861 was L.F. Siler. One stamped envelope he had printed is a philatelic uniqueness.

The envelope is buff. The stamp, printed in blue ink, consists of a printer's dotted wavy-line rule forming a rectangle surrounding two concentric circles, also of wavy lines.

They contain between them wording in serified capital letters rounding the upper part, "L.F. SILER, P.M." and round the lower part "FRANKLIN N.C." In the center of the inner circle appears "PAID" above a decorated line and, below it, the figure "5".

The envelope, addressed to "Mr. A.L. Hennen (Herren-Ed.) Waynesville, N.C." bears a single line circular postmark with a manuscript date "Jan 21" and has been assigned to 1862.

According to *Surveys of the Confederate Postmasters Provisionals* edited by Francis J. Crown, Jr. (Quarterman Publications, Inc., 1982), reproducing information from C.J. Phillips, he was told by E.S. Knapp that the uniqueness was discovered by Daniel H. Hamilton of Baltimore, in his family correspondence. Hamilton sold the "Franklin" envelope to the Nassau Stamp Company.

No date has been provided for that transaction, but it would seem to have been 1899 when John Klemann acquired that company's capital stock.

It was in 1899 that the uniqueness was first publicized - in the *American Journal of Philately*, second series, vol. 12, p.182 (April 1899). There it was said that "A new provisional

has been discovered;" it was referred to as a "letter."

At the third auction of the fabulous collection formed by Phillip La Renoitiere von Ferrary, in Paris, on April 7, 1922, as lot #618, the uniqueness was won for 6,100 francs.

With the reate of exchange of 1 fr equaling 9.12¢, the purchaser, Alfred H. Caspary, paid about \$654, plus tax.

At H.R. Harmer's sale on March 5, 1956, of the Caspary Collection, the uniqueness was lot #111. The catalog states that the cover was "Originally discovered by Dietz and illustrated in his book" (*Dietz Confederate States Catalog and Hand-Book*, 1959, p. 99).

The seeming conflict between the statements in *Surveys* and the Caspary sale catalog can be reconciled by interpreting "originally discovered" to mean that the significance of the cover was recognized by Dietz, whereas, at the sale to the Nassau Stamp Co., the cover's full significance was not realized by the vendor or the original purchaser, who then sold it on to Dietz.

The Franklin cover was lot #302 in the auction of Part III of the Josia K. Lilly collection by Robert Siegel on April 27, 1967. The cover, described as having "faint toned spots, no flap, otherwise Extremely Fine . ." was estimated to realize \$3,250. It brought in \$2,500.

In Scott's 1992 U.S. Specialized Catalog, the uniqueness is priced at \$30,000, the italic figure signifying that it represents an item "which trades very seldom, such as a unique item."

ABSHERS, DOCKERY AND JOYNES WILKES COUNTY, N.C.

by Scott Troutman

The mountainous region of Wilkes County has had 168 post offices over the years. The rugged nature of the terrain and the roads caused this to be one of the last areas where mail was not delivered directly to the house or mail box. Instead, the small county post offices were places where mail was brought into to be mailed, and where you went to pick up your mail. The post office, as such, was the gathering place in these small rural communities,

On March 31, 1953 progress caught up with three small Wilkes County post offices serving the northernmost corner of that county at the foot of the Blue Ridge. On that day, Abshers, Dockery and Joynes had their post offices consolidated into Traphill as direct home delivery got started. These little post offices, which had been operating for from 65 to 80 years, had histories which were tied not only to the area, but to two families; the Abshers and the Joines.

it closed. The last post mistress was her daughter, Arella H. Gambill.

Abshers(Figure 2) was named for Julia F. Absher, the first post mistress. It opened on Jan 8, 1880. I believe it was originally opened in the Absher farmhouse and later moved to a small store, although I cannot prove this. The store was located at the corner of State Road 1730 and 1736 (See map). Ten other postmasters ran it over the years including Dewberry Long (I love that name) and James H. & Carrie Joines.

While the Absher homestead was at the base of what is today the Thurmond Chatham Wildlife area, the Joines homestead was in much of what is today Stone Mountain State Park. On January 14, 1889, Hardin Joines opened a post office at his house, located at the junction of state Road 1737 and 1742. Hardin was Jettie Joines Gambill's oldest brother. The post office department misspelled his last name and the town of

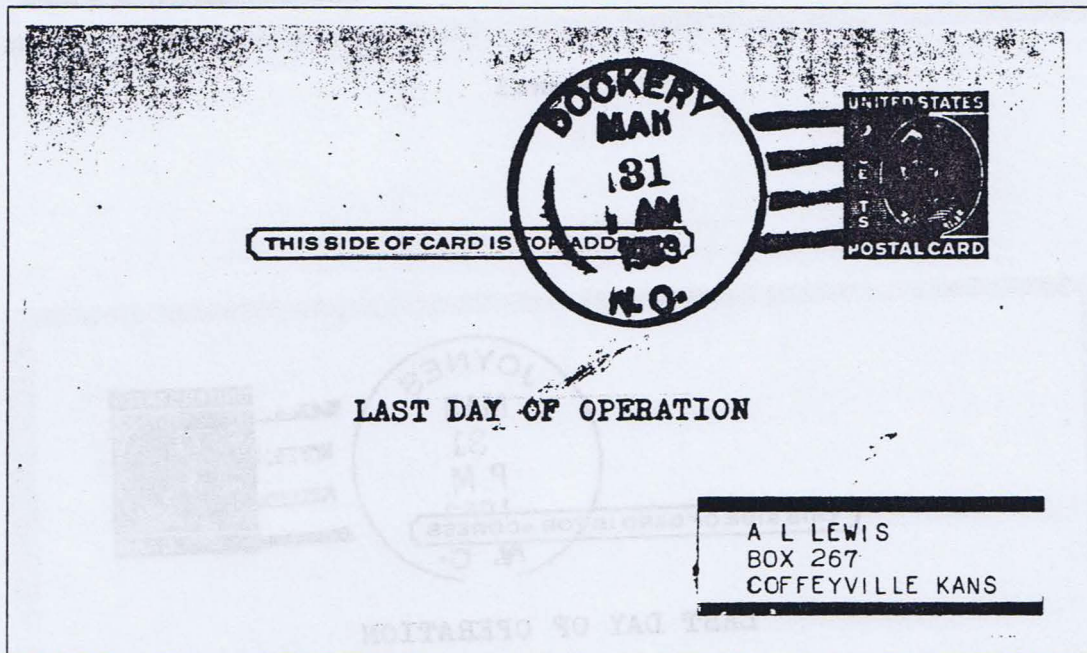


Figure 1

The oldest of the three little post offices was Dockery, (Figure 1) which was located in a small store at the corner of state road 1002 (Traphill Road) and 1736, which ran north to Absher. William Porter was the first postmaster, opening the office on August 9, 1872. On September 14, 1874 William Absher took over the post office. Seven post masters came and went until Walter Gambill took over the store on October 28, 1927. The store was renamed Gambill's Store and it did a big business in sugar, selling it to the local moonshiners. Walter was shot by a robber in the store in 1934 and his wife, the former Jettie Joines, took over. Her descendants ran it from then until

Joynes was created(Figure 3). Hardin kept his postmaster job until february 1, 1940, when he turned it over to one of his kin, John W. Joines. John ran it until it closed.

With the new rural free deliveries running out of Traphill starting April 1, 1953, the three small communities pretty much evaporated. Gambill's Store is still standing, though it was not being used last time I was there, Hardin's house is still occupied.

My thanks to Carolyn Brown, Jettie's grand daughter for information of the Joines,

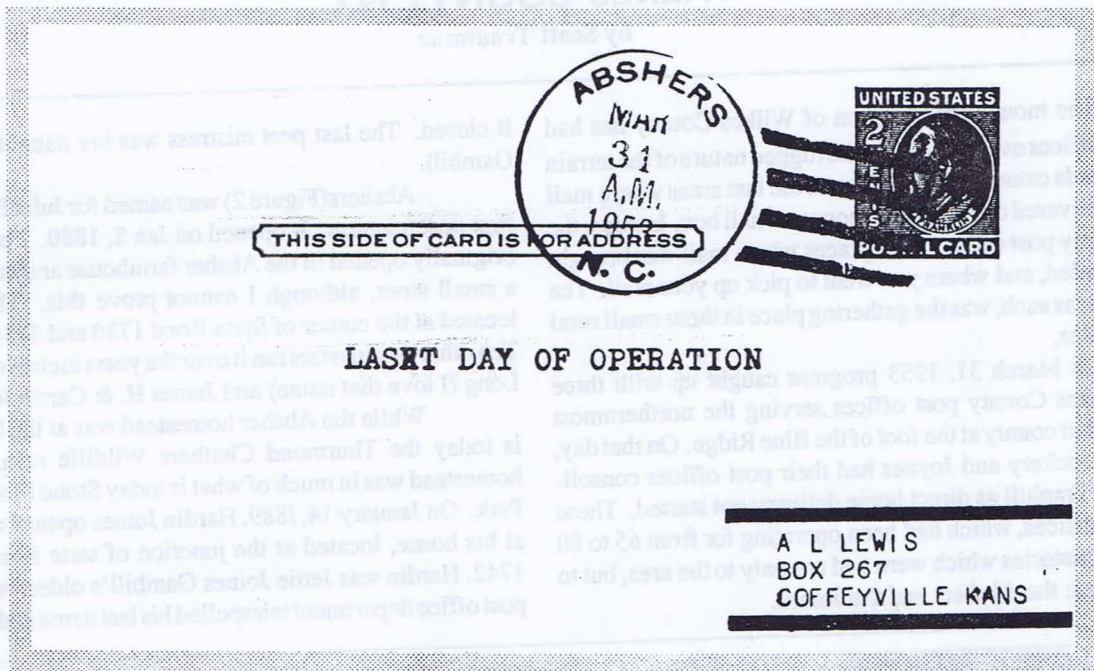


Figure 2

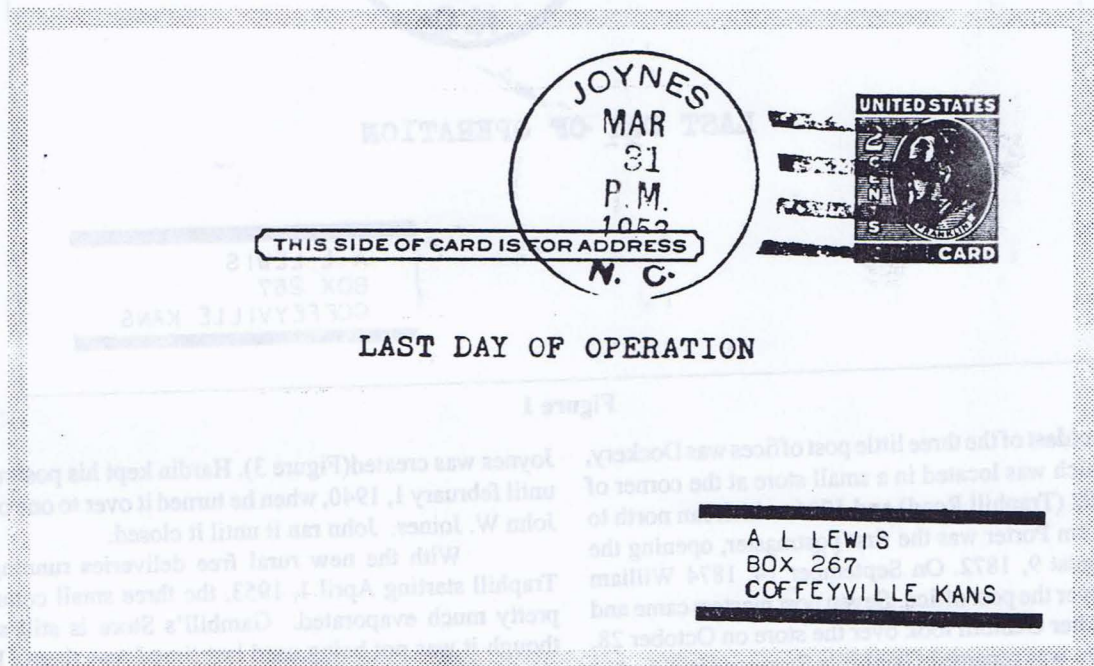
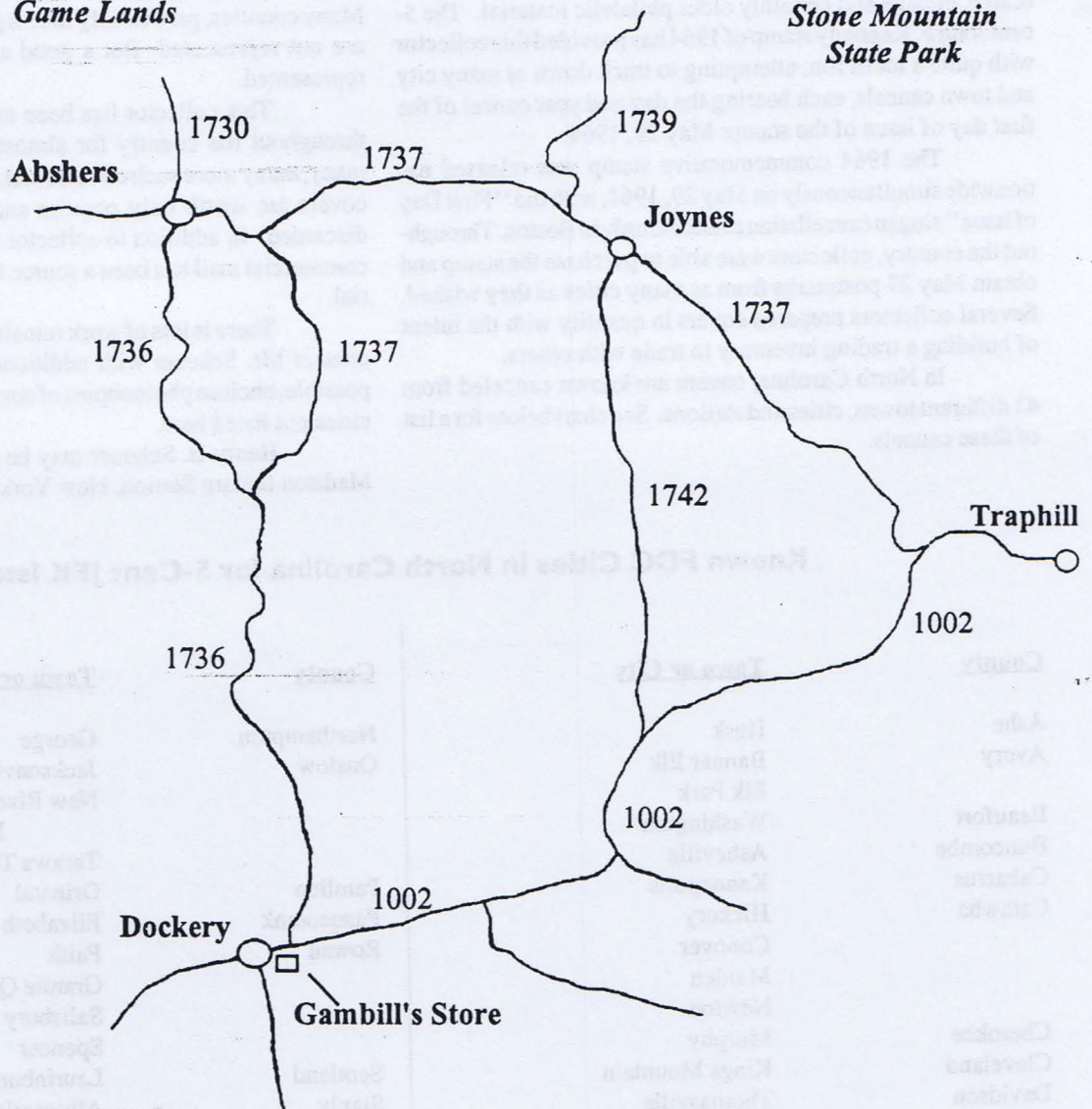


Figure 3

Abshers, Dockery and Joynes, Wilkes County

**Thurmond Chatham
Game Lands**

**Stone Mountain
State Park**



Map of Area

KENNEDY FIRST DAY COVERS

by Henry B. Scheuer

Postal history, cancellation studies and census-taking projects of known cancellations are most frequently made of scarce, elusive and certainly older philatelic material. The 5-cent John F. Kennedy stamp of 1964 has provided this collector with quite a lot of fun, attempting to track down as many city and town cancels, each bearing the day and year cancel of the first day of issue of the stamp: May 29, 1964.

The 1964 commemorative stamp was released nationwide simultaneously on May 29, 1964, with the "First Day of Issue" slogan cancellation available only in Boston. Throughout the country, collectors were able to purchase the stamp and obtain May 29 postmarks from as many cities as they wished. Several collectors prepared covers in quantity with the intent of building a trading inventory to trade with others.

In North Carolina, covers are known canceled from 43 different towns, cities and stations. See chart below for a list of these cancels.

This collector has often wondered if there was any pattern to the geographical distribution of these town cancels. Many counties, particularly in less populated areas of the state are not represented. But a good assortment of counties are represented.

This collector has been amassing such covers from throughout the country for almost a decade. Undoubtedly many, many more such covers exist. Quite unfortunately these covers are worth only pennies and are being or have been discarded. In addition to collector inspired covers, incoming commercial mail has been a source for uncovering more material.

There is lots of work remaining in this project. Please contact Mr. Scheuer with additional information and, when possible, enclose photocopies of covers you know to exist from cities not listed here.

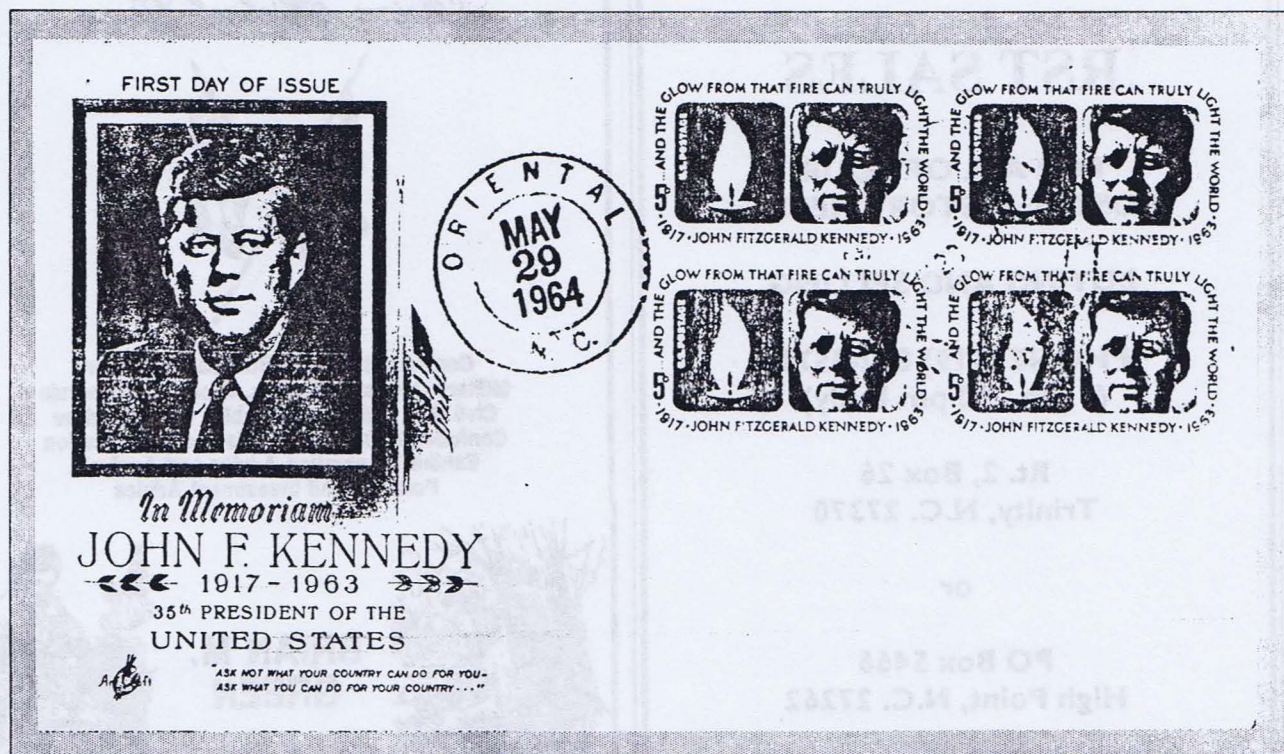
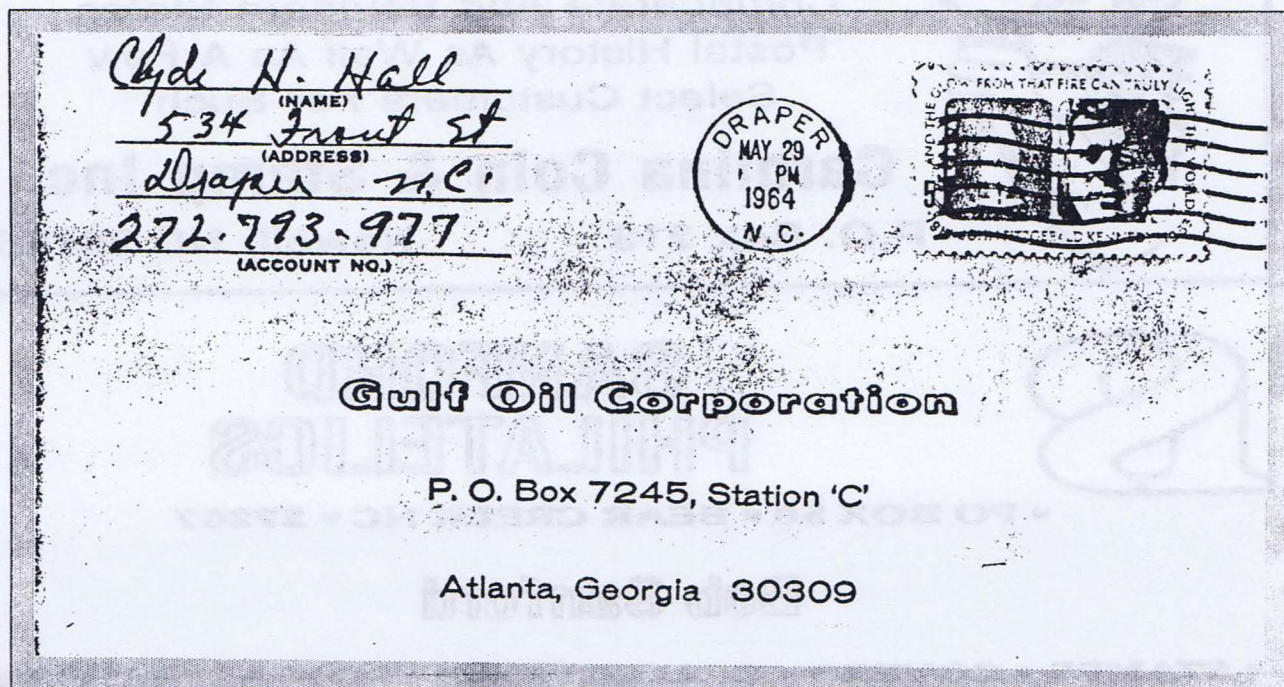
Henry B. Scheuer may be reached at P. O. Box 535, Madison Square Station, New York, NY 10010.

Known FDC Cities in North Carolina for 5-Cent JFK Issue

<u>County</u>	<u>Town or City</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Town or City</u>
Ashe	Husk	Northampton	George
Avery	Banner Elk	Onslow	Jacksonville
	Elk Park		New River Branch - MCAF
Beaufort	Washington		Jacksonville
Buncombe	Asheville		Tarawa Terrace
Cabarrus	Kannapolis	Pamlico	Oriental
Catawba	Hickory	Pasquotank	Elizabeth City
	Conover	Rowan	Faith
	Maiden		Granite Quarry
	Newton		Salisbury
Cherokee	Murphy		Spencer
Cleveland	Kings Mountain	Scotland	Laurinburg
Davidson	Thomasville	Stanly	Albemarle
Forsyth	Winston-Salem	Wake	Raleigh
Gaston	Gastonia	Watauga	Boone
Guilford	Greensboro		Sherwood
	High Point		Sugar Grove
Haywood	Waynesville		Valle Crucis
McDowell	Marion		Vilas
	Old Fort		Zionville
Mecklenburg	Newell	Wilson	Wilson
	Charlotte - Park Road Station		
	Charlotte		

Readers interested in Kennedy FDC's should refer to *Kennedy Covers make Challenging Pursuit*, Wayne L. Youngblood, Linn's Stamp News, April 20, 1992. Ed.

KENNEDY FIRST DAY COVERS





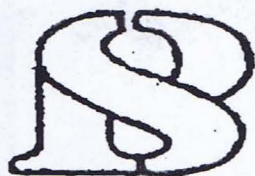
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