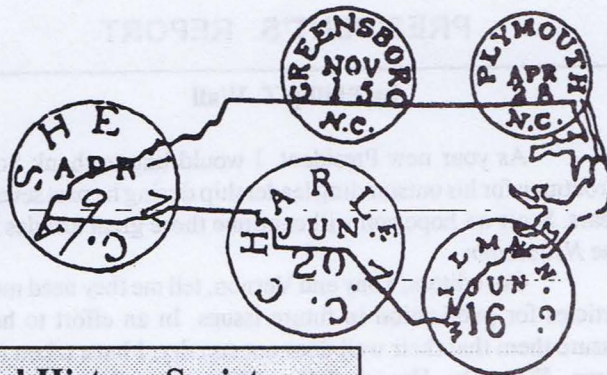


# NCPHS Newsletter



The Journal of the North Carolina Postal History Society

Volume 12, No. 3

Summer 1993

Whole 46





## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Phillip T. Wall

As your new President, I would like to thank Scott Troutman for his outstanding leadership during the past several years. Scott we hope you will continue those great articles for the *Newsletter*.

Our editors, Tony and Vernon, tell me they need more articles for publication in future issues. In an effort to help assure them that their well does not run dry, I have taken two steps. First, Dr. Harvey Tilles, Chairman of the Awards Committee, has been asked to reactivate the Earl Weatherly Award for the best article published each year in the *Newsletter*. This will be awarded for 1993. Second, in an effort to obtain new contributors to the *Newsletter*, I am establishing a new award for the first time writers. This will be awarded for the first time in 1994 and Dr. Tilles' committee will designate an appropriate name for this award.

If you have never written a philatelic article, I encourage you to give it a shot. Every experienced writer for the *Newsletter* wrote, at one time, his or her first article. It need not be lengthy and can be about a favorite cover, a certain post office, a particular postmaster, etc. Our editors will be more than happy to assist you.

Your Board of Directors voted to return to Charpex for our 1994 Annual Meeting. The exact time, place and date will be announced later, but now is the time to be thinking about entering an exhibit. After having thought about exhibiting next year, then, "just do it". Let's help make Charpex '94 the best Charlotte show in many years by entering a record number of North Carolina Postal History exhibits.

In the Minutes of the 1993 Annual Meeting, Vernon Stroupe, Co-Chairman of the Publications Committee, will

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bring you up to date on the three publications in the works.

Although our bank account is fairly healthy at this time (please see Tom Richardson's Financial Report with the Report of the Annual Meeting) we need to increase our membership if we are to publish these three books. This is necessary in order to provide "up front" money to our printer. If you know of prospective members, please contact either Tony Crumbley or myself and we will be glad to send your philatelic friend a complimentary copy of the *Newsletter* together with a membership application form.

Tom Richardson is in the process of preparing a new membership directory that will be mailed with the Fall issue of the *Newsletter*. Advise Tom promptly if there are to be any changes in your listing.

If any members have any suggestion on how to improve our society, please write or telephone me (919-299-2728). My area code will change to 910 on January 1, 1994.



### 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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# OXFORD, GRANVILLE COUNTY

## It's Nineteenth Century Postal History

by Helen V. Mayes and Scott Troutman

The history of Oxford, N.C. begins in the politics of the 17th century. After King Charles II was restored to the throne of England in 1660, he rewarded his supporters with land grants. In 1663, John Carteret, the Earl of Granville, was granted the northern half of the colony of North Carolina from the Atlantic Ocean westward. The land was divided into counties, Granville being formed in 1746 and covering, at the time, land now in several other counties.

Because of its large size, the court for Granville was held in various locations until 1764. The General Assembly recognized the need for a permanent county seat. Samuel Benton, a member of the Assembly owned Oxford Plantation near the geographical center of the county. The plantation was named for Oxford, England. To facilitate things he gave one acre of the plantation land near an

existing crossroads for the establishment of a permanent court house, and the place took its name from Benton's plantation.

Although Oxford was designated as the seat of the county court, it remained more a place than a town until 1811 when the Assembly authorized the purchase of fifty acres, part of the original 1,000 acre Oxford Plantation, to form a townsite. Thomas Littlejohn then owned the plantation. Also, in 1811 the Oxford Male and Female Academies were chartered. In 1812 the first lots were sold at public auction, and by 1816 Oxford had developed sufficiently to justify its incorporation as a town.

The first post office was opened on April 10, 1816, with Rhoades N. Herndon as the postmaster. He served until September 1, 1819 when he was succeeded by Jesse H. Benton according to Frazier<sup>1</sup>, however Helen's research indicates it was James M. Winton, Jr. The following are the postmasters and dates they took the office up until the start of the 20th century<sup>1</sup>. See listing below.

With politics, law and education as the basis of its business, Oxford quickly became a very sophisticated town with distinguished professionals, several excellent schools and many

dedicated teachers. This being the case, the town grew steadily until the outbreak of the Civil War.

Oxford was never touched physically by the Civil War, a blessing had by few other Southern towns. This allowed Oxford to become the county's economic, educational and architectural center for the remainder of the century. The abolishment of slavery and the development of the tenant farm system, along with the high prices of bright leaf tobacco, led many of the wealthy landowners to leave the farm and move to Oxford, building nicer homes in the process.

Oxford had rail access to supply the older tobacco markets in Richmond. In the post Civil War period nearby Tally Ho<sup>2</sup> established plug mills and an exodus began of tobacco manufacturing from Virginia and Maryland into North Carolina. Oxford's businessmen joined the southward movement by building the state's first warehouse for cured leaf tobacco in 1866.

Oxford grew from a small, active community in 1860 to a booming town of 2,907 residents by 1890. But Oxford was not immune from the serious depression of the 1890's which affected much of the western world, therefore, after years of steady growth, the population of Oxford dropped to 2,058 by the turn of the century.

In the remainder of this article we have chosen two dozen important nineteenth century covers from Helen Mayes's exhibit "Nineteenth Century Oxford, North Carolina Postal History" to illustrate the principle postmarks and cancelers used during the period 1816 to 1900. We believe this to be the most complete collection of this material put together to date. We have selected examples to show the different postal markings typical of each period.

1. "North Carolina Post Offices and Postmaster Appointments 1789-1971", D.R. Frazier, in publication.

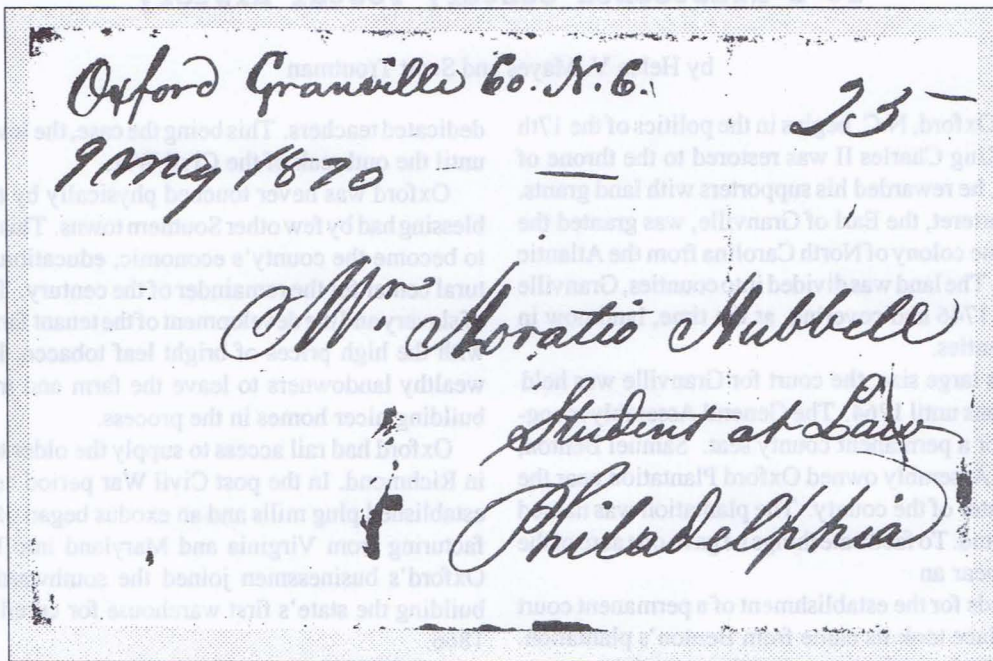
2. See "Tally Ho, N.C.", Scott Troutman, NCPHS Newsletter, Vol. 11, No. 2, Whole 40, Spring 1992.

Rhoades N. Herndon  
Jesse H. Benton or James M. Winton, Jr.  
Joseph Lindsey  
James M. Wiggins  
James Nutall  
James C. Cooper  
A.T.T. Jones (both Federal and Confederate)  
Bourbon Smith  
Martha H. Jones  
Bettie G. Jones  
Leonidas C. Taylor  
Manley P. Jones  
James M. Sikes  
George W. Knott  
Joseph S. Hunt  
Ella C. Peace

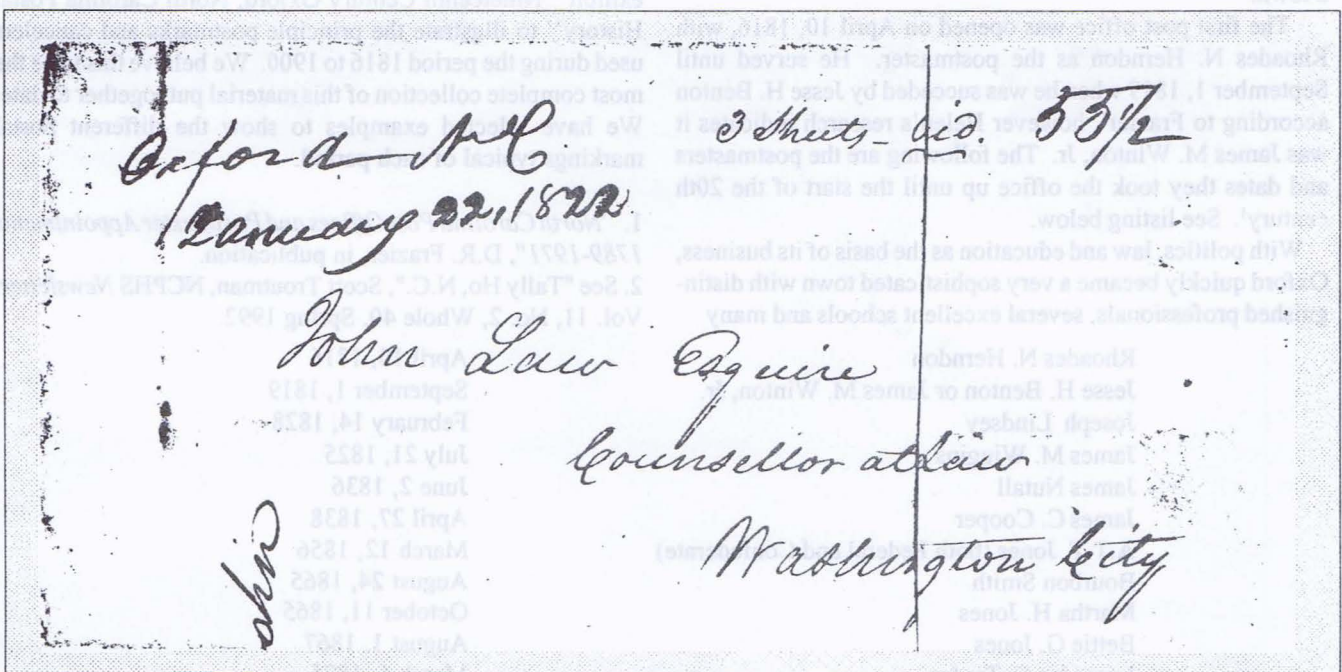
April 10, 1816  
September 1, 1819  
February 14, 1828  
July 21, 1825  
June 2, 1836  
April 27, 1838  
March 12, 1856  
August 24, 1865  
October 11, 1865  
August 1, 1867  
March 5, 1875  
December 12, 1881  
July 20, 1889  
March 5, 1894  
August 20, 1895  
January 28, 1899



# OXFORD, GRANVILLE COUNTY



Cover 1 - Very early cover dated May 9, 1820, which would have been processed by the second postmaster, Jesse H. Benton. The twenty-five cents pays the postage rate of May 1, 1816 for a single letter with a distance of over 400 miles. The postage was collected from the addressee.



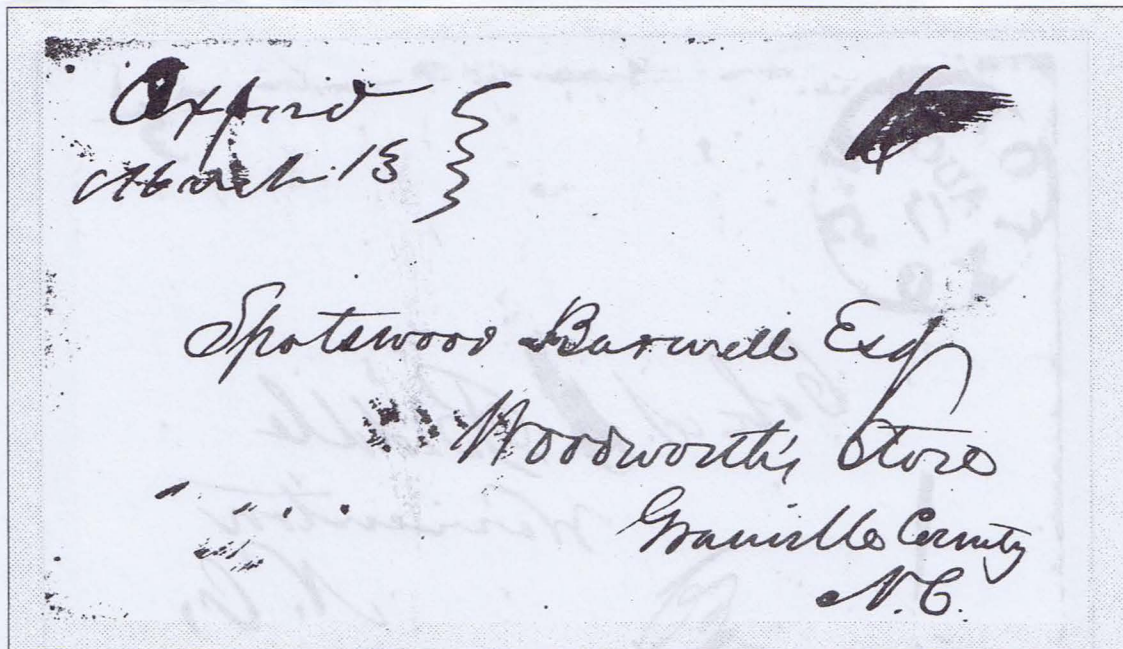
Cover 2 - Triple rate cover dated January 22, 1822. This would have been handled by second postmaster, Jesse H. Benton. The letter rate was 18½ cents for a distance of 150 to 400 miles. This letter had three sheets, hence the 55½ cent charge. In this case the postage was prepaid, not surprising as this amount was several days wages.



# OXFORD, GRANVILLE COUNTY

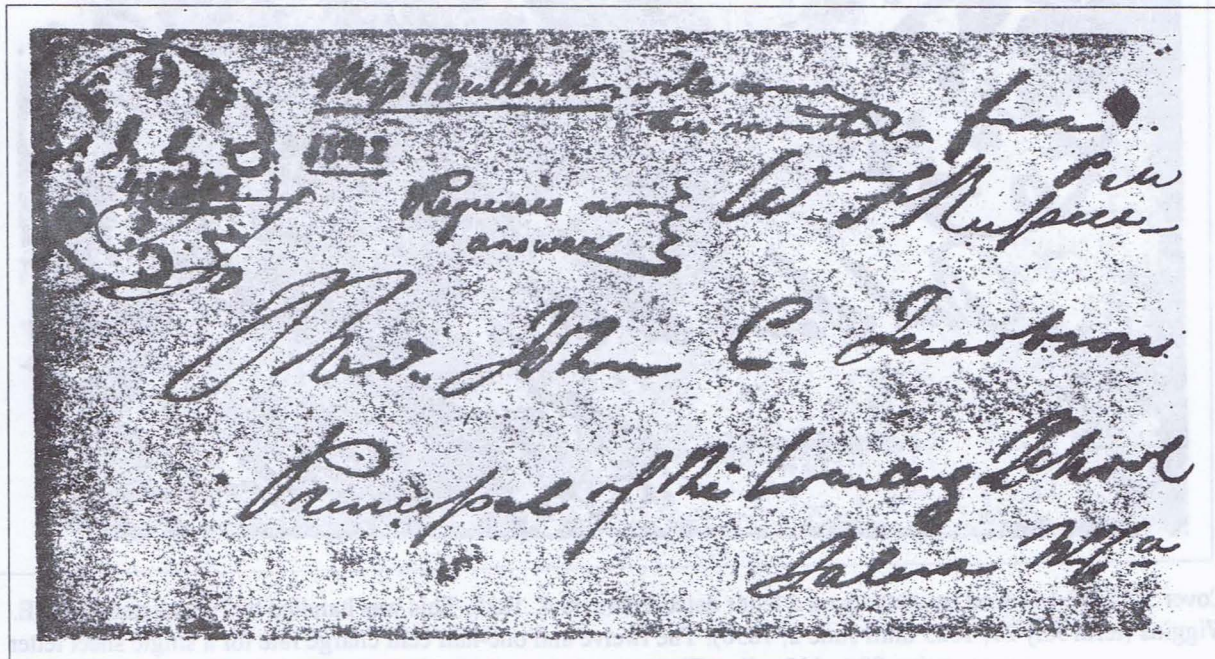


Cover 3 - Type I Oxford handstamp on a letter dated February 4, 1828. This was handled by Postmaster James E. Wiggins (term July 21, 1825 until June 2, 1836). The twelve and one-half cent charge rate for a single sheet letter going 80 to 120 miles. The postage was paid by the addressee.



Cover 4 - Manuscript Oxford on a letter dated March 13, 1837. This would have been processed by James Nuttal, postmaster June 2 1836 until April 27, 1838. The six cent rage was for a single sheet letter going less than 30 miles. Woodworth's Store, to which the letter was addressed, existed from December 12, 1831 to May 5, 1861. It was located on the Virginia border just into what is now Vance County.





Cover 5 - Type I Oxford cds with ms month and day date from July 4, 1842. It was processed by James C. Cooper, postmaster April 27, 1838 to March 12 1856. It bears the postmaster's free frank.



Cover 6 - Type I Oxford cds with handwritten day date on lettersheet dated August 17, 1845. The rate, effective July 1, 1845, on this letter was five cents for a half ounce letter with a distance of under 300 miles. The addressee paid the postage.



# OXFORD, GRANVILLE COUNTY



Cover 7 - Type I Oxford cds with hs 10 marking, both markings in orange ink on cover dated Sept. 14 (1850) in manuscript. Under July 1, 1845 laws, the ten cent rate was for a single letter with a distance over 300 miles. The ten cents was collected from the addressee.



Cover 8 - Type II Oxford cds, smudged, on letter dated August 21, 1851 for a single letter no exceeding 300 miles. This canceler would be in use for the next 22 years.



# OXFORD, GRANVILLE COUNTY



Type II Oxford cds used on buff postal stationery issued in 1853.



Oxford Type III cds used on buff 3 cent postal stationery docketed 1857. Note that the letters in Oxford are closer together than the Type II. This was a short lived canceler known to be used in 1856 and 1857.



## OXFORD, GRANVILLE COUNTY



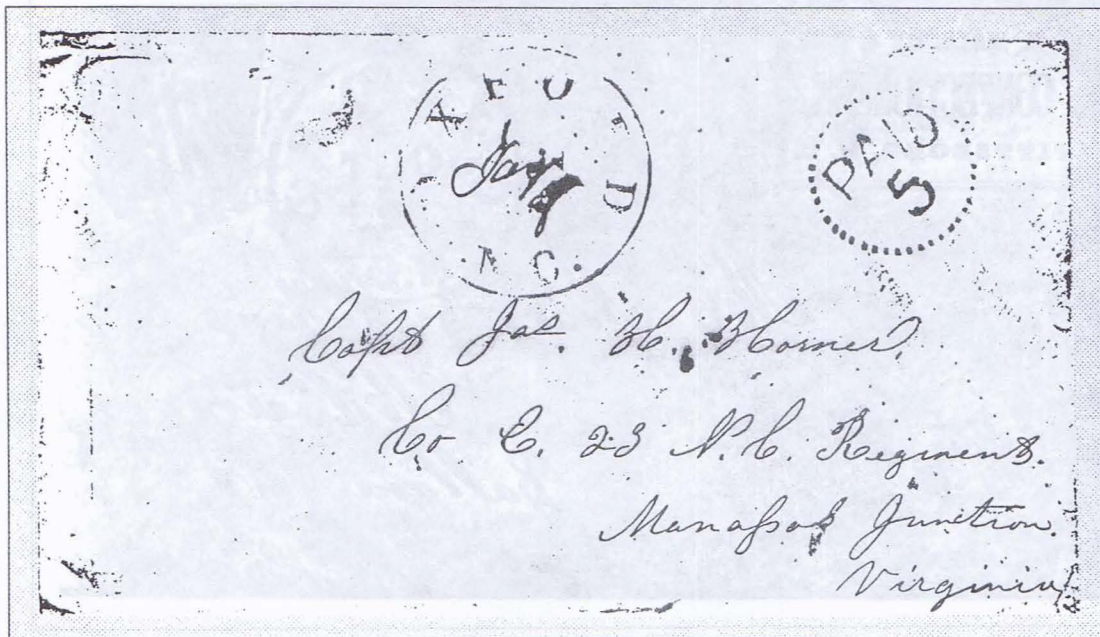
Cover 11 - Type II Oxford cds used with a seven bar round grid killer. The killer was separate from the handstamp. This usage, thought to be from October 4, 1857, is the earliest example of this killer, which would be used until around 1875.



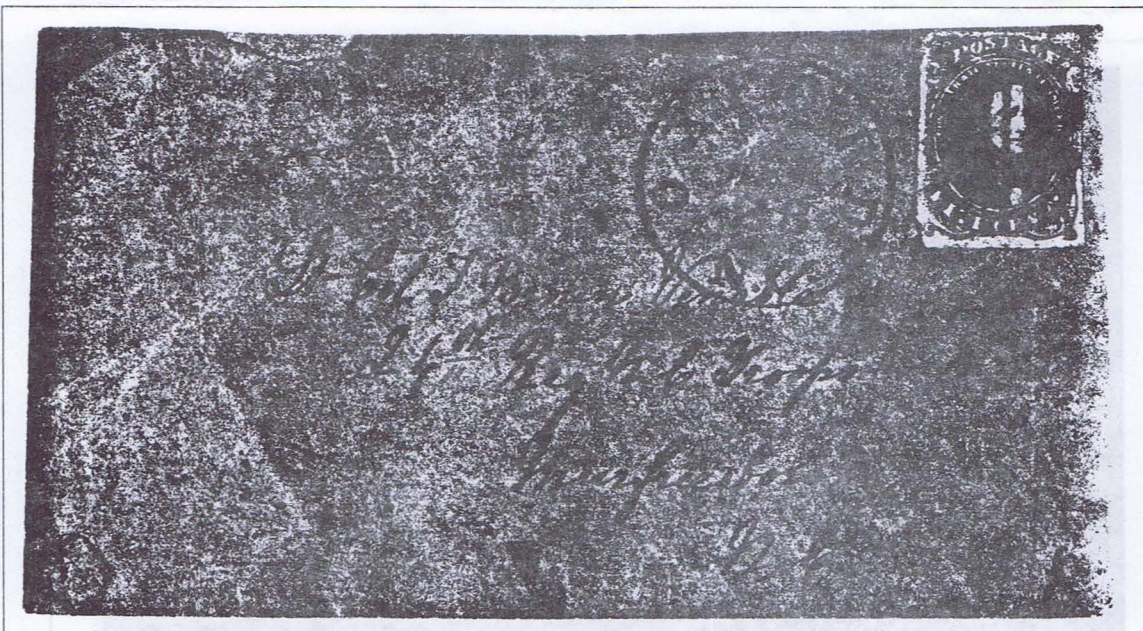
Cover 12 - Type II Oxford cds used with Type I PAID/5(C) rate marking on cover dated July 27 (1861). This marking was used only in 1861 after North Carolina seceded from the Union. A.T.T. Jones continued his pre-war service as postmaster through the Civil War.



# OXFORD, GRANVILLE COUNTY



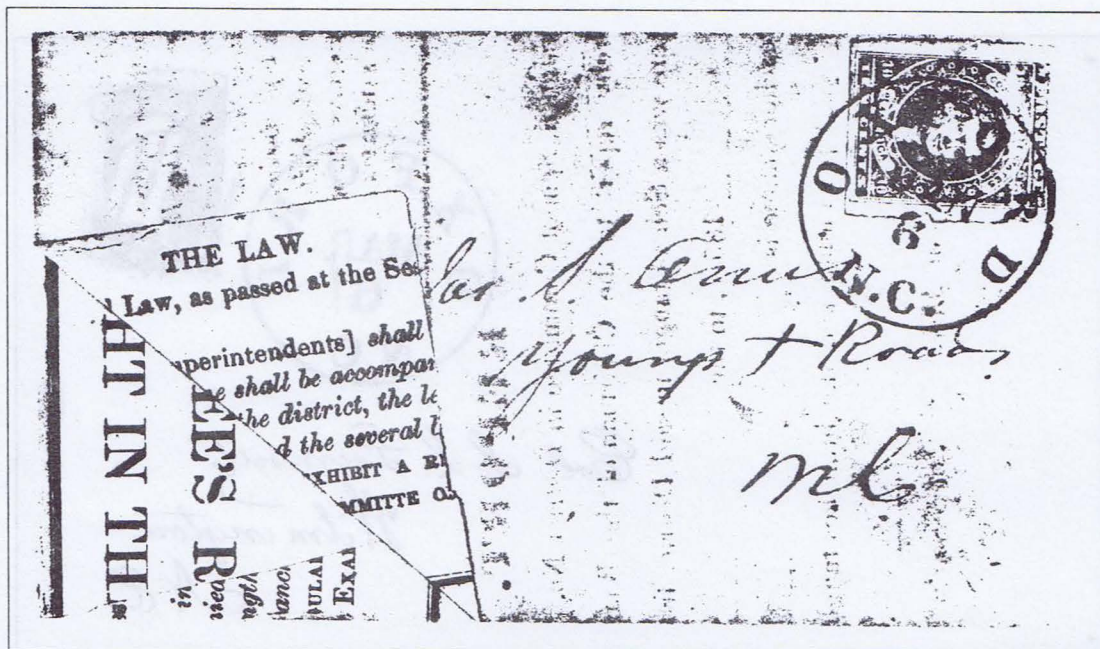
Cover 13 - Type II Oxford cds with Dietz Type 2 PAID/5 (dotted C) rate handstamp.  
This adversity cover is in the N.C. State Archives, Raleigh.



Cover 14 - Type 2 Oxford cds used with the circular seven bar killer  
on a Confederate 5 cent blue Jefferson Davis, stone 3, Scott No. 4a.



OXFORD, GRANVILLE COUNTY



Cover 15 - Type II Oxford cds on a Confederate adversity cover made from a newspaper. Envelopes were in short supply during the war as most were made in northern paper mills. The stamp is a 10 cent blue Thomas Jefferson, Scott #2.



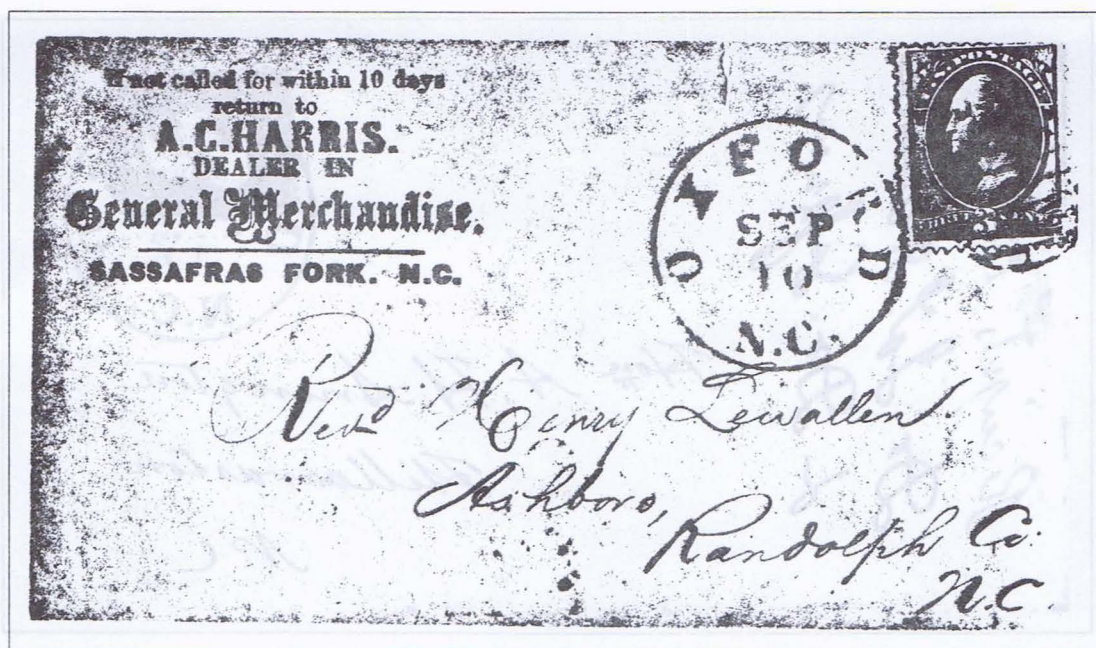
Cover 16 - Oxford Type II cds on 1866 letter with 3 cent rose Washington. This stamp was issued August 17, 1861 and saw limited use in the South after the war.



# OXFORD, GRANVILLE COUNTY



Cover 17 - An extraordinarily sharp impression of the Type II handstamp and 7 bar circular killer on an envelope from 1868. Miss Betty G. Jones was the second woman postmaster of Oxford at the time, August 1, 1867 to December 31, 1872.



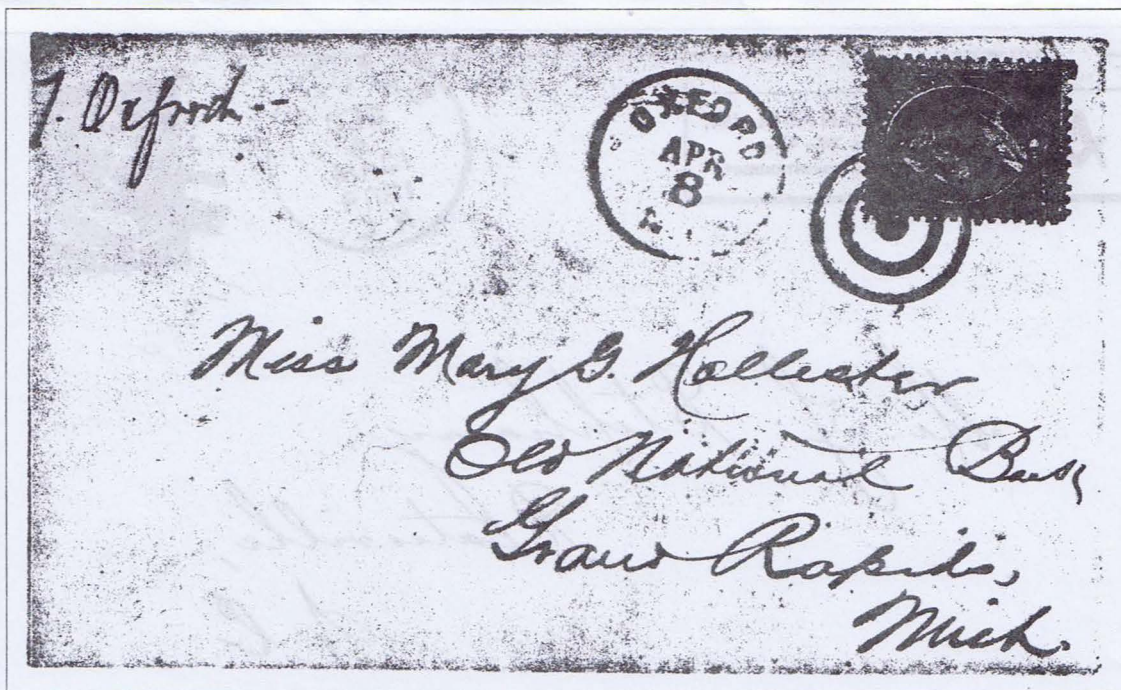
Cover 18 - Last usage of the Type II cds and 7-bar round killer in Helen's collection on an advertising cover from Sassafras Fork around 1875. Sassafras Fork existed as a post office only from January 3, 1852 until January 31, 1887. It was later incorporated into Oxford.



OXFORD, GRANVILLE COUNTY



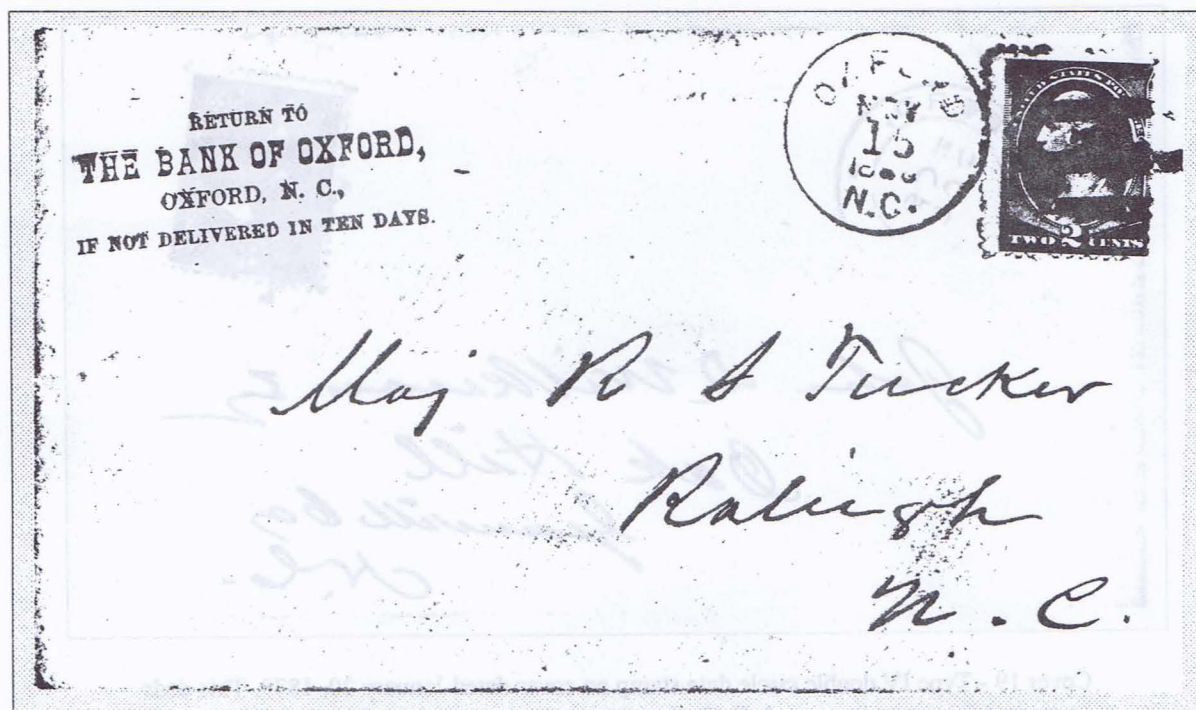
Cover 19 - Type IV double circle date stamp on cover dated January 20, 1879. This cds appeared for a couple years. L.C. Taylor was the postmaster from March 5, 1875 until December 12, 1881 and would have processed this letter. A straight line bar killer was used.



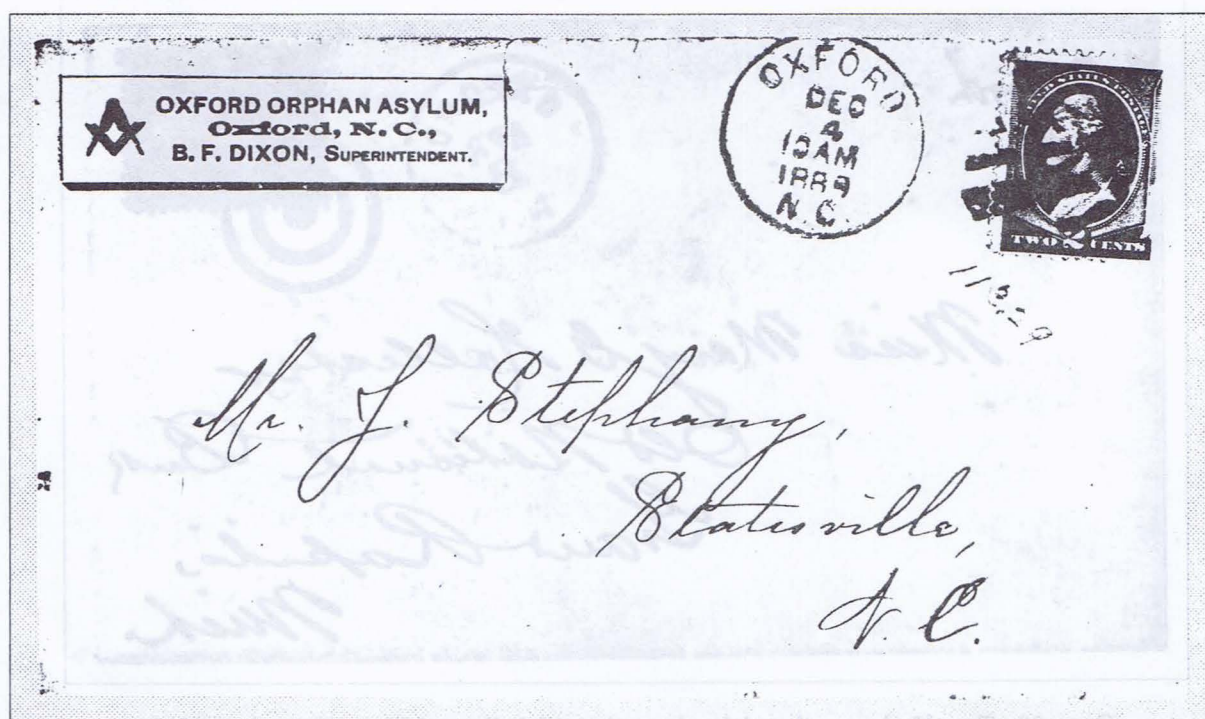
Cover 20 - Type V cds, month and day date only, with bulls-eye killer on letter from 1884. Use of this cds and killer was for a very short period, approximately one year.



# OXFORD, GRANVILLE COUNTY



Cover 21 - A Type VI cds with month-day-year slugs used on letter of May 15, 1866 with a three-bar killer. James A. Taylor was postmaster during this period, July 22, 1885 through July 20, 1889.



Cover 22 - Type VII cds with Month-day-time-year slugs used with a different three-bar killer. The Oxford Orphan Asylum was opened in 1873 by the Masonic Lodge to provide an education and vocational training for orphans.



# REPORT OF THE 1993 ANNUAL NCPHS MEETING

## WALL ELECTED PRESIDENT

At the annual meeting of NCPHS at Charpex, July 24, the society elected four new members to the Board of Directors, who in turn, elected Phil Wall as our new President. The new members of the board are Peter Oldham of Asheboro, Maurice Bursey of Chapel Hill, Vernon Stroupe of Asheville and Wall of Greensboro. The new board members will serve a three year term, 1993-1996. Wall will serve a two year term.

Vice-president Alan Vestal presided at the meeting and was re-elected to that office. Tom Richardson was re-elected Secretary-Treasurer.

The old business brought up at the meeting was the status of new publications. *The Postmasters and Post Offices, 1778-1962* by Del Frazier, is still in production and will be for some months. The *North Carolina Railroad Markings* should be ready for printing this winter.

Under new business, incoming President Wall raised the subject of increasing membership in the Society. A variety of suggestions were made to attract new members, which included: applications and promotional material to be included with gratis mailings of the *Newsletter*, advertising the annual meeting, posters and visual material at the show entrance, and seeking more reviews in the philatelic press. Tony Crumbley was appointed Membership Chairman.

An up-dated membership list will be sent to each member with the next *Newsletter*. Any member who does not wish to have his/her name and/or address listed should contact the secretary.

The 1994 annual meeting of the Society will be at Charpex '94 in Charlotte.

## 1992-93 TREASURER'S REPORT June 1992-June 1993

Total Members	130
Paid Members 1993	93
CP Status	17
Unpaid Members	20
Balance as of 06/30/92	\$2,401.93
Dues Collected for 1993	940.00
Dues Collected for 1994	10.00
Sale of NCPO & PM, 1861-65	40.54
Interest Income	30.46
Auctions	565.79
Total Income	\$1,586.79
Subtotal	\$3,988.72
Postage & Handling, 07/01/92-12/31/92	-263.00
Postage & Handling, 12/31/92-06/30/93	-781.60
Service Charges	-14.65
Total Expenditures	-\$1,059.25
Ending Statement Balance	\$2,929.47

Respectfully submitted,  
Tom Richardson

## Horner & Horner School, Oxford, N.C.

This issue is almost entirely devoted to the postal history of one post office. It is our policy to do this only when the material warrants. The option to devoting an entire issue to one subject is to spread it out over two or more issues as a continuation. This option was abandoned for two reasons. First, the textual material is minimal, and second, this editor has been frustrated in the past by trying to research material scattered over several issues of a periodical.

Oxford is historically an important post office. No study of Oxford can be considered complete without inclusion of the Horner and Horner School correspondence. The reader will note that there is no mention of this extensive correspondence in Helen Mayes collection. The omission is intentional as a study of the Horner and Horner School correspondence has been written separately and will be presented in the next edition of the Newsletter. VS.





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