

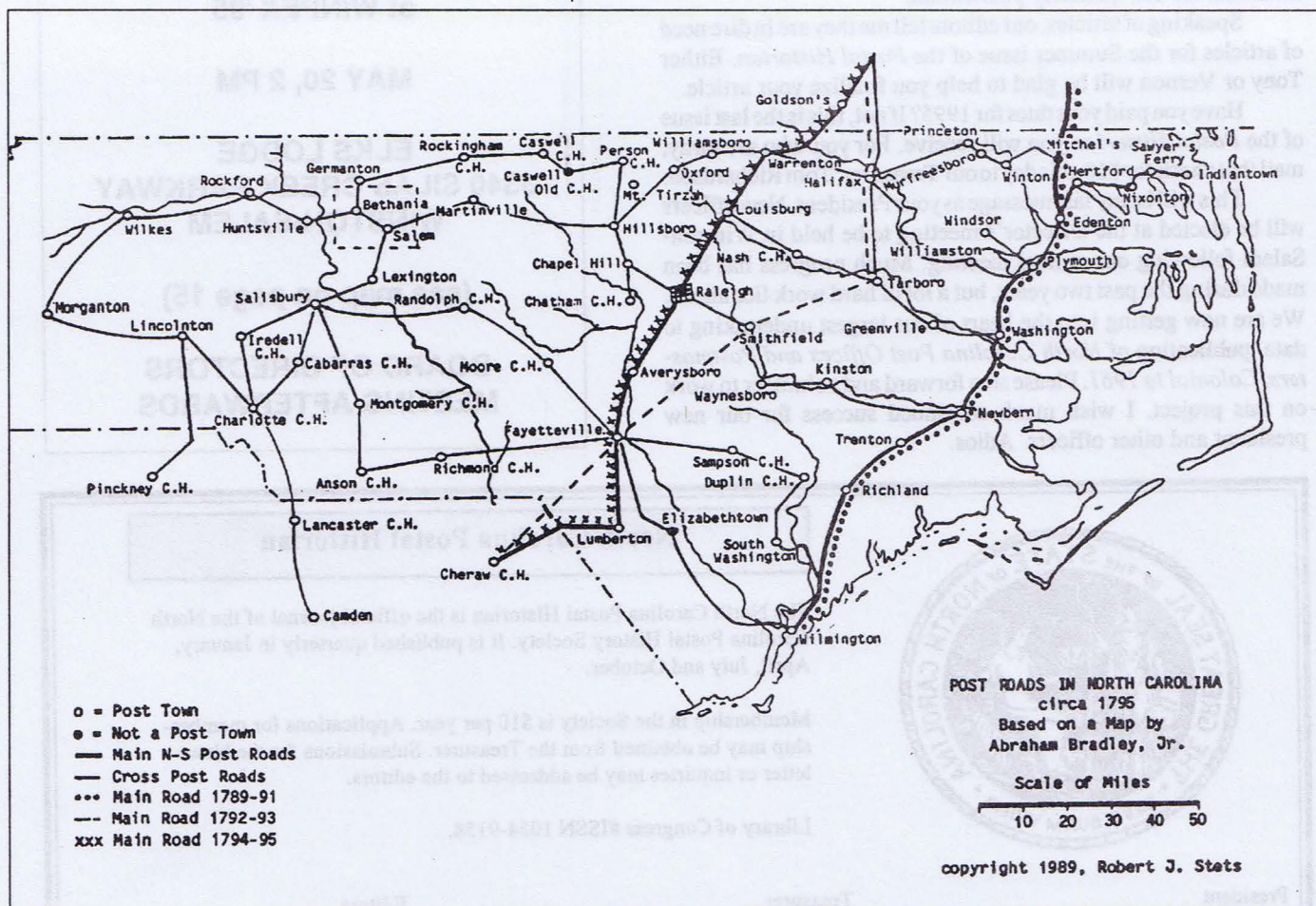
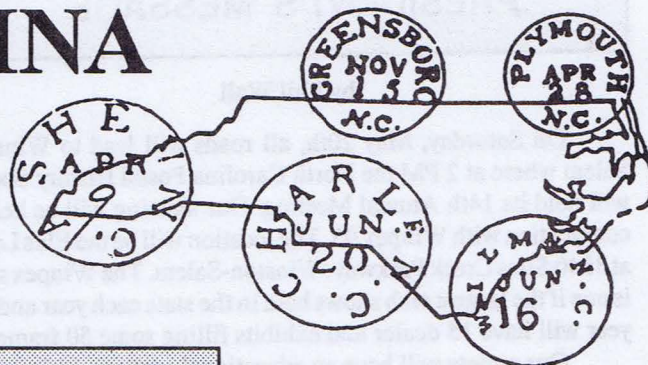
# NORTH CAROLINA POSTAL HISTORIAN

The Journal of the North Carolina Postal History Society

Volume 14, No. 2

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Whole 53





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Phil Wall

On Saturday, May 20th, all roads will lead to Winston-Salem where at 2 PM the North Carolina Postal History Society will hold its 14th Annual Meeting. Our meeting will be held in conjunction with Winpex 95. The location will be the Elks Lodge at 3340 Silas Creek Parkway, Winston-Salem. The Winpex show is one of the largest club shows held in the state each year and this year will have 15 dealer and exhibits filling some 50 frames.

Our society will have an educational seminar with a panel of knowledgeable philatelists, chaired by Vernon Stroupe, to discuss various aspects of North Carolina postal history. Another highlight of the meeting will be the presentation of the A. Earl Weatherly Award for the best article in the 1994 *Newsletter/Postal Historian*. Unfortunately the New Writers Award cannot be presented this year because no new writers came forward with an article for our quarterly publication.

Speaking of articles, our editors tell me they are in dire need of articles for the Summer issue of the *Postal Historian*. Either Tony or Vernon will be glad to help you finalize your article.

Have you paid your dues for 1995? If not, this is the last issue of the *Postal Historian* you will receive. For you who are tardy, mail that check for \$10 this day to our Treasurer, Tom Richardson.

This will be my last message as your President. New officers will be elected at the Director's meeting to be held in Winston-Salem following our annual meeting. Much progress has been made during the past two years, but a lot of hard work lies ahead. We are now getting into the heart of our largest undertaking to date, publication of *North Carolina Post Offices and Postmasters, Colonial to 1961*. Please step forward and volunteer to work on this project. I wish much continued success for our new president and other officers. Adios.

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### CALL TO MEET !!!

at WINPEX '95

MAY 20, 2 PM

**ELKS LODGE  
3340 SILAS CREEK PARKWAY  
WINSTON-SALEM**

(see map on page 15)

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MEETING AFTERWARDS**



### North Carolina Postal Historian

The North Carolina Postal Historian 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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## CONFEDERATE "GREEN JACKS" USED FROM NORTH CAROLINA

by  
Tony L. Crumbley

In building a collection of North Carolina General Issue Confederate covers, most of the issues are readily available. The Frame Line (Scott #10), the TEN Cent (Scott #9) and the 2¢ green (Scott #3) historically are the most illusive. After the Frame Line, perhaps the rarest of all North Carolina Confederate covers are the 2¢ green Jackson issue. Certainly fewer than twenty-five examples have survived the 130 years since the War.

Hoyer & Ludwig printed this two-cent stamp for the Confederacy. It was issued during the first two weeks of March 1862. The earliest known date of usage is March 21. The stamps were printed by lithography and approximately two million copies were printed. The engraving was done by Charles Ludwig. The center portrait is that of General Andrew Jackson. It is thought the portrait was taken from one that hung in the Capitol in Richmond. The floreate design around the portrait is described by August Dietz as "Arabesque and Rococo". Few sheets of unused remainders existed at the close of the Civil War. It is doubtful if any exist today. A complete right pane was in the George Walcott Collection. Charles Phillips purchased this sheet and cut it into blocks of six and four to sell in approval books, which he sent to his customers. Mint copies today are tough to locate, but no where near as scarce as postally used examples.

The stamp was issued by the Act of Congress of February 23, 1861, which prescribed a two-cent denomination for drop letters, "Letters placed in any post office, not for transmission, but for delivery only", and "for newspapers, unsealed circulars, handbills, engravings, pamphlets, periodicals and magazines, not exceeding three ounces in weight; and for each additional ounce, or fraction of an ounce, two cents additional, and in all cases the postage shall be prepaid." "Letters advertised - two cents each". Advertisements were subject to a charge of two cents on delivery, payable in cash by the recipient.

The definitive work on the two cent green issue was written by Howard Lehman and published by *The Collectors Club Philatelist*. In Lehman's research he recorded all known 2¢ green covers and found only 82, from which he made the following list:

Single on cover	45
2-1/2 on cover	1
Two on cover	4
Three on cover	4
Four on cover	1
To make 10¢ rate	26
To make 20¢ rate	1
Total	82



Lehman speculated, that even if this were only one-third of all the surviving 2¢ green covers, the total would only be 246. By comparison, there are 100 copies of the Inverted Jenny. Thousands of copies of the 10¢ 1847 issue exist on cover, thus it is clear that examples of the 2¢ green on cover are indeed rare.

In the authors 25 years of collecting, I have seen fewer than twenty-five such covers from North Carolina.

A Search through major auction sales and the NCPHS photo library produced only 11 known covers which have been recorded from the following towns:

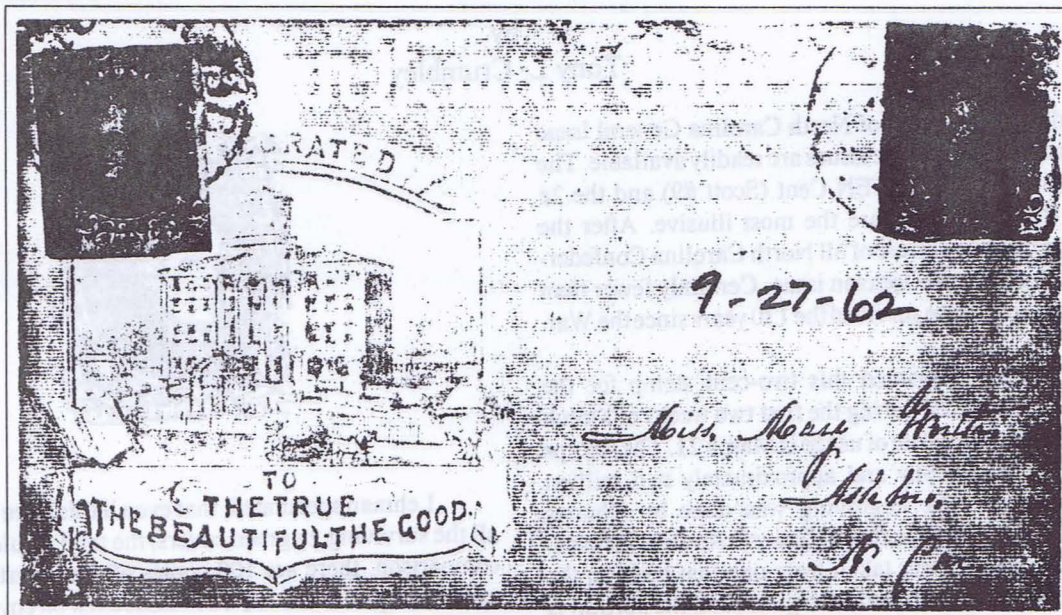
Fayetteville	Single
Goldsboro	Pair + 5¢ Local Issue
Greensboro	Single
Milton	Strip of 5
Murfreesboro	Two singles (underpaid)
Raleigh	5 singles, 1 horizontal pair
Rowan Mills	Strip of 5
Salem	Strip of 5
Salisbury	Strip of 5

Most likely additional covers do exist from North Carolina. Two Salisbury strip of fives were brought onto the market last year for the first time and the Murfreesboro cover was discovered in 1990, proving that new items can be found. Even so, there is no doubt the two cent green Jackson used from N.C. is a rare item. The author would like receive photocopies of covers not listed above.

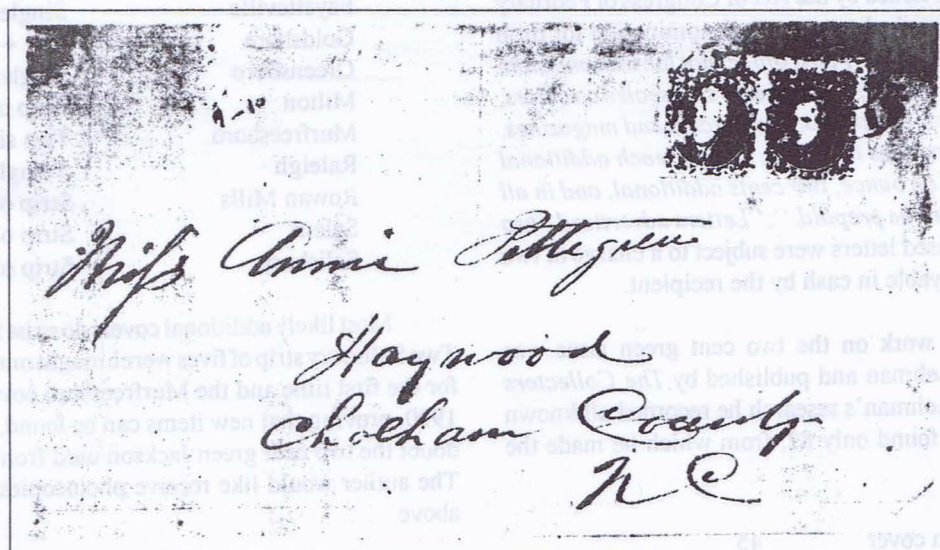
### Sources:

*The Confederate States Two-Cent Green Lithograph*, Brian M. Green.  
*Confederate States - The Two Cent Green Stamp, A Record and Review*, Howard Lehman.  
*The New Dietz Confederate States Catalog and Handbook*, Hubert Skinner, Erin R. Gunter and Warren Sanders.





Wesleyan Female College cover with two 2¢ green tied by Murfreesboro cds underpaying the 10¢ rate. The two cent stamps must have been confused for the 5¢ green issue of 1861.

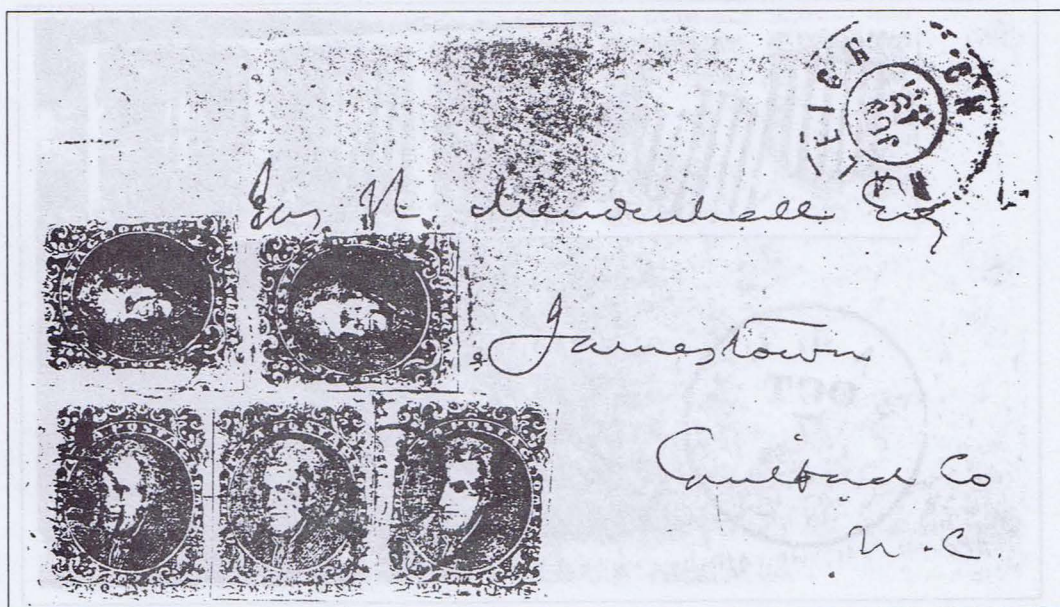


This pair is tied to an extremely large wrapper with a blue double circle Raleigh, N.C. cancel. A pencil notation on the wrapper indicates it carried three newspapers to Miss Pettigrew.



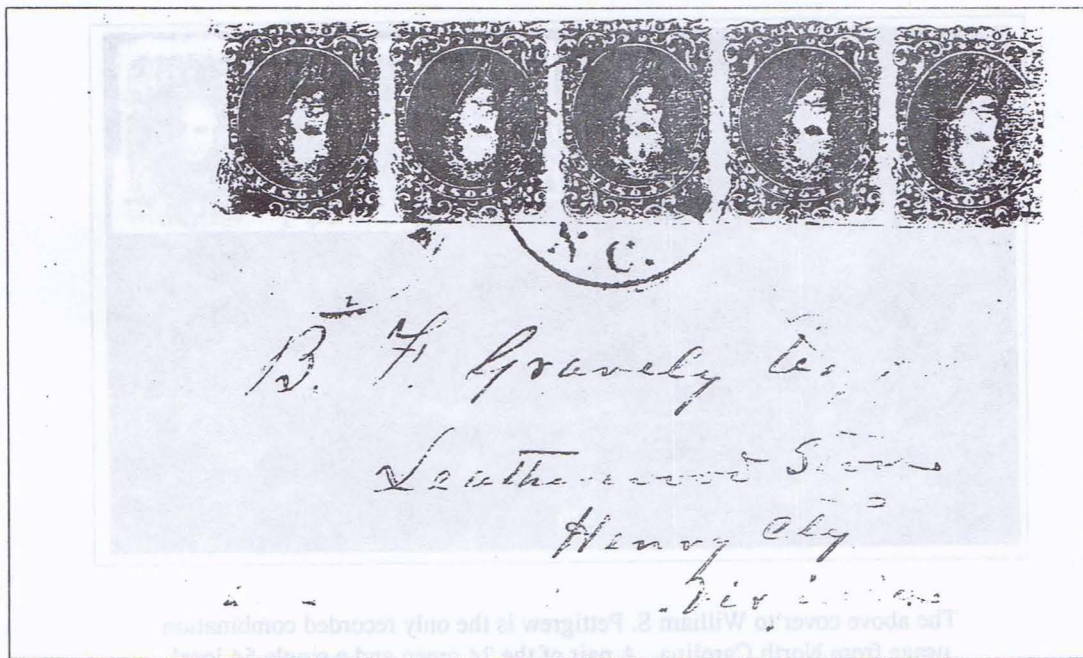


The above cover to William S. Pettigrew is the only recorded combination usage from North Carolina. A pair of the 2¢ green and a single 5¢ local issue under pay the 10¢ rate. Tied by a Jan. 31, 1863 Goldsboro cds.

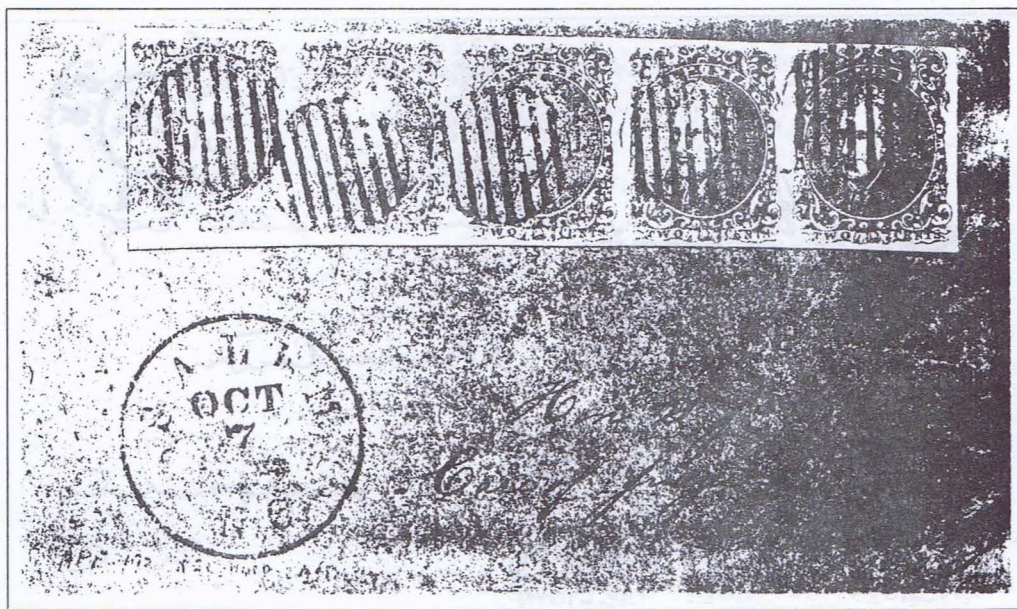


Five singles on cover tied by Raleigh, N.C. double circle, June 19, 1864





Two singles and a strip of three tied by Milton, N.C. cds.  
This turned cover was carried by favor on the reverse side.



The finest of the recorded N.C. 2¢ green covers.  
Posted from Salem on Oct. 7 to Montgomery, Ala.  
The strip of five is affixed over a Paid 10 handstamp.



## POSTAL HISTORY - THE BASICS

by  
Vernon S. Stroupe

*Author's comment: The following is the text of my portion of the postal history presentation for Wimpex '95. It is published in advance to give those needing basic information. Important terms have been italicized.*

What is postal history? By definition, it is a study of the postal system or any part of it. This study can be approached from many directions and from diverse interests. Why should we be interested in studying postal history?

It is the study of:

- \*The political emergence of a postal system,
- \*The postal laws and their social effects,
- \*The post offices, postal routes and transportation of the mail,
- \*Postmasters and postal employees,
- \*Genealogy through the addressee and addressor,
- \*Historical context of material sent through the mail, and,
- \*Postmarks, postal rate usage and stamps.

The latter two will be our basic subject, but all of the above overlap and are useful to the understanding of the one. A starting place in the study of postmarks, rates, and stamps on cover starts with an accumulation or collection of postally used covers. The object is to find some basic things about each item in the accumulation, which can then be arranged into a collection around a topic or theme. We need to find out:

- Where did this cover originate?
- What stamp is this?
- When was it mailed?
- What do these markings mean?
- Who was the addressee?
- Who was the addressor?
- Were the contents historically meaningful?

There is almost no "right" or "wrong" way to collect postal history. The only mistake that a collector can make is to remove stamps from their covers, cut the backs off of the envelope, drastically reduce the size of the envelope by trimming, or in some other way destroy the cover. The collector has the option of collecting a country, a state, a county or just a city. The collector can specialize in a period, such as the Civil War, the Colonial period, or any time frame which interests him. Or, he can collect everything.

The first mail was carried to and from North Carolina by ships captains.<sup>14</sup> The Colonial post offices were a loose arrangement of merchants, sea captains and forwarding agents who accepted mail headed for destinations that they serviced. The rate was fixed by the Crown and paid to the crown, less fees.

The Colonial mail was carried by land over the Great

Road which ran from New Orleans to New York and over two post roads which ran inland through the state. Letters carried over the Great Road with North Carolina markings are unknown. The first post road was through the coastal plain and made stops at Edenton, Plymouth, Washington, New Berne, Richland and Wilmington. The second had stops at Warrenton, Louisburg, Raleigh, Averysboro, Fayetteville, and Lumberton. See cover.

Travel was hazardous and the mail did not always get through. The early Federal post offices operated on the Colonial system, utilizing the same routes from 1774 until 1792. In 1792 and 1794 legislative changes were made. Edenton, New Berne, Wilmington, Washington, Halifax, Tarborough, Fayetteville, Salem, Salisbury, Charlotte, and Hillsborough had postal service in 1789, but only Edenton, New Berne, Washington and Wilmington submitted their accounts to the Postmaster General. Forty-eight post offices were established between 1792 and 1795. The population that did not live on or near one of the post roads had to rely on freight wagons or travelers to carry their mail to and from the closest post office. In the main, travelers were responsible in carrying out this duty. Some communities employed a private post rider to carry out and bring in their mail. (Figure 1)

The mail was carried between post offices along the post roads by contract. The means of transportation was specified according to the route, some being stage coach, freight wagon, pony riders, etc. The pony riders tended to be boys and young men, many who were unreliable. At least one account is known of a slave being used as a rider. These carriers had to contend with bad roads, floods, storms in winter and summer, ferries that were not usable, contrary animals and robbers.

By examining the *rates* and *markings*, the postal historian can tell the era in which a *folded letter* or envelope was used by the rate and *supplemental markings*, if no year date is on the correspondence. The most important marking on a letter from the point of view of the collector is the post office. The earliest of these was simply a manuscript marking, such as, Richmond C.H. Manuscript markings are to be found until the 1880's even though postal regulations required a handstamp after 1857. The other markings are usually a rate and date. Too often the date did not include the year.

Supplemental postal markings<sup>1</sup> contribute to clarifying the dates of their usage. *Way* markings, meaning that a post rider accepted the letter along his route for deposit in the post office to which he was going, were used as early as the Colonial period, but without additional payment. In 1792, the rate was an additional 2 cents until 1825 when it was dropped to 1 cent and abolished in 1863. *Drop letter* rates, that is, letters posted to an address serviced by the same post office, began in 1794 at 1 cent and was increased to 2 cents in 1845. Some other supplementary markings are *Due*, *Ship*, *Steam*, *Express*, *Advertised* and *Registered*. Supplemental markings make a cover more collectible.



The color of the postal markings is sometimes significant. Black predominates, but red became very popular in the mid-1820's and was used until the end of the Civil War when red stamps became the color for the first class rate. A light red postal marking on a red stamp made it easy for stamps to be re-used, therefore, red became a color only occasionally used. All the colors of the rainbow have been used by various postmasters. Some of the early postmasters had to make their own inks, and the result was usually a messy cancellation. The ink mixture was a colorant mixed with turpentine or other solvent as a base. These markings can be spotted by an oily spread around the edges of the marking. Pittsboro markings of 1840's-1860's show these characteristics and can be found in yellow, orange and red.

A change in the color which a post office used, such as red to black, sometimes occurs at the time of a postal rate change, a change in postmasters, a change in the political control, or it can just mean that the postmaster ran out of ink and decided to change colors. Infrequently the change in colors was made without the postal clerks bothering to clean the handstamps. The result is a little mixing of the old color with the new for a short period afterwards. See Figure 2.

The *postal rates*<sup>3</sup> are an involved study unto themselves. They are best investigated with good references at hand, but the information derived from them is invaluable to a postal historian as they can often date material closely. A generalized list of minimum weight letter rates up until the Civil War is furnished as a Supplement to give an idea of the frequent changes which have taken place.

The advent of the postage stamp in the United States<sup>3</sup> is another area of great interest. The first two U.S. stamps, the 5¢ Franklin and 10¢ Washington, appeared on July 1, 1847 and were used until they were replaced by the issue of 1851. They are found mostly from major post offices unless used by a traveler who had carried them to a smaller post office. The 1847 series and the 1851-56 series were without perforations, which were added in 1857 to stamps printed from the same plates as used in 1851-56.

All postage stamps printed and put into service by the United States are still valid for postage with the exception of the series of 1857 which was demonetized in 1861 to prevent their use in the Confederacy. An illustration of this is a cover (Figure 3) postmarked "ASHVILLE/N.C./AUG/9/1860. It was franked with a 3¢ issue of 1857-61 which someone probably found stuck away. It has a handstamp reading, "HELD FOR POSTAGE", meaning that it was postage due 3¢. If some misguided soul should place six mint 1847 Franklins on a letter today, they would be accepted for the 30¢ of the 32¢ first class postage.

Certain public officials have had *free franking* privilege<sup>1</sup>. The President of the United States has the privilege as does his widow. Senators and Congressmen have the privilege for their office purposes. Various state and federal officials have had the franking privilege for their official duties, such as envoys and militia officers in the field. The operational phrase for such franking was, "On Public Service" and signed by the official.

Postmasters had the franking privilege until they abused it and the privilege was rescinded. The abuse took several forms. A postmaster in a small town used the office as a service to the community or for extra income. As a business man, it was easy to use the franking privilege to mail advertising handbills. Such

an example can be seen in an 1842 folded letter from William Coleman, Postmaster and hatter in Asheville. (Figure 4.) The handbill enclosed is an offer to sell hats for \$10 to \$30 per dozen. Calvin Jones, postmaster at Wake Forest, prowled the North Carolina gold fields about 1830 and used his free frank to send letters from gold mining towns such as Bedfordville (Figure 5) in Burke County to his wife in Wake Forest. Free franking has been widely used during wartime when soldiers in the field could not get stamps. Their name, rank and unit were sufficient to pay the postage.

The physical structure of the letter can often speak to the era in which it was produced. The folded letter was the first form. The letter was written on one side of a sheet of paper, folded, sealed, and the address was written on the outside. A variation of this was to place a blank piece of paper with the letter sheet, fold, seal, and address the outer wrapper.

Envelopes made their appearance in the late 1840's. By 1855, they accounted for the majority of the letters mailed. The first *postally stamped envelopes* (PSE) were made available in 1854. During the Civil War, due to the extreme shortage of paper, envelopes were often hand made from any spare paper available. The well run household would use a steamed open envelope as a template and make covers from wallpaper, maps, brown wrapping paper and blank forms. These are *adversity covers* and make fascinating collectibles. Another form of adversity cover is a postally used envelope which has been *turned inside out* and reused.

For seven days, from May 21, 1861 until May 27, 1861, North Carolina was a part of neither the United States nor the Confederacy.<sup>2</sup> The Federal postage during the period of *independent statehood* was honored with the postmasters sending the fees collected to the Postmaster General in Washington.

In the Confederate period, of May 27 until October 22, 1861, the postmasters had to operate without postage stamps, so they generally reverted to the pre-stamp means of operation, i.e., handstamps or manuscript markings. Some of them obtained new handstamps; some had retained the old ones which were pressed back into service, and some postmasters actually printed their own stamps. The latter post offices were Rutherfordton, Franklin, Hillsborough, Salisbury and Lenoir.<sup>2</sup> Other postmasters provided envelopes preprinted with postal markings, which represented stamps, or they preprinted blank envelopes which the public had available. These envelopes with *control marks* are known as *postmasters provisionals*<sup>2</sup>.

It should not be surprising that the best educated and affluent citizens accounted for most of the correspondence. They also kept their correspondence, which provides us today with much of our collectible letters, covers and study material. Their letters are the easiest to research. We thank them! The postal historian needs a "Who's Who in North Carolina" and/or the use of the local reference library to track down some of the more obscure personages. Many of the covers which we collect are of interest to the genealogist, especially if the letter's contents are intact and the subject of the letter is family matters. Siblings can be identified from cousins; relatives living in the same household can be identified; family members who historically disappeared can be accounted for (the "Went West" syndrome), to mention only a few situations.



Moments in history can be recalled and the times better understood by identifying the writer, addressee and the events which shaped their lives. Such a cover (Figure 6) carried an Dec. 27, 1860 letter to Walter Waighstill Lenoir. It was from his friend and classmate at UNC, and then congressman from North Carolina, Zebulon Baird Vance. The cover was free franked with his signature. The contents, are reported in THE PAPERS OF ZEBULON VANCE, by Johnston, Volume I, pages 74-78, and describe the efforts of the moderate Members of Congress, of which he was one, to form a Middle Confederacy for the purpose of keeping the two extremes, North and deep South, separate and from fighting each other.

A later cover (Figure 7) dated July 14, 1862 is addressed to the same W.W. Lenoir who is now a lieutenant in the Confederate Army. It has a manuscript "Official" marking, from Captain William T. Nicholson, Adjutant, 37th N.C.T., in the field near Richmond. The letter was sent to Lt. Lenoir at the city of Lenoir, Caldwell County where the lieutenant had raised a new company of men. Contents of this letter are to be found in ECHOES OF HAPPY VALLEY by Hickerson, p. 83. The letter was forwarded to Kittrell's where the new company was in training, and it offered Lt. Lenoir a captaincy in the 37th Regiment, which he accepted. About five weeks later Capt. Lenoir was in the battle of Ox Hill where he lost a leg.

A still later cover (Figure 8), from the great Confederate hospital in Salisbury is from Capt. W.W. Lenoir and addressed to his mother at Fort Defiance, the Lenoir homestead, now a NC State Park. We can only imagine the contents of that letter. After being released from the hospital, he recuperated at that place and moved to the families western land holdings at Forks of Pigeon in Haywood County for the rest of the war.

The antithesis of these poignant Civil War letters can be found in covers addressed to Benjamin Hedrick. Hedrick was professor of chemistry at UNC and was too outspoken in his abolitionist cause. He was dismissed from the University and literally chased out of the state. Professor Hedrick became a clerk in the US Patent Office in Philadelphia and did not return to academia.

A great many post offices no longer exist. They are called DPO's, short for dead post offices. A few of the North Carolina DPO's are Averbosboro or Averbysboro in Harnett County, Baird's Forge in Burke, Caldwell in Mecklenburg and Danamora in Guilford. Carolina City<sup>1,6</sup> a land development plan in what is now part of Morehead City, existed from 1857 until it was made into a Confederate Army training camp. After the war, it was abandoned. Many other post offices have had name changes. Warm Springs became Hot Springs, Morristown became Asheville, Little Yadkin in Stokes County became Pilot Mountain, then Little Yadkin again, and then changed to Dalton until it was discontinued. Antebellum Tarborough became Tawboro during the war and then Tarboro after the war. The Taw-to-Tar change was caused by the European settlers misunderstanding the American Indians word for the river, which they called Taw. This misunderstanding was further compounded by the local manufacture of tar from pine pitch.

New Berne is one of the most interesting of North Carolina postal markings to collect and study. The markings are many range widely in style, further, New Berne was occupied by

Federal troops which brought their own cancelers. Dr. Ken Schoolmeester will go deeper into this fascinating post office.

Fancy cancellations were not confined to the Yankees at New Berne. The postmaster at Leo, Washington County, in 1851, carved a heart out of boxwood with the legend LEO/N C.1 The date was applied by pen. The earliest North Carolina fancy cancel, and only known copy, is a straight line WILMINGTON, N C with fancy scrolls top and bottom. This cover is supposedly in a New York City bank lock box and has not been seen by the collecting community in 20 years or more.

Civil War propaganda can be found printed on envelopes as cachets. They are slogans, caricatures, emblems, poems and cartoons. Both North and South used this Patriotic format, but it was used far more extensively in the North where there was more access to printing presses and paper.

In the latter part of the 1800's, businesses used *cachets* on envelopes as a form of advertising. In many forms, they could be as simple as a *blind-embossed corner card*, a *fancy return address corner card*, an illustration of buildings or product, or as fancy as an *all-over advertisement*. The *advertising envelope* is still with us today and is most often found on our bills and junk mail.

An outgrowth of the advertising cover is the philatelic cacheted cover known as a First Day Cover or special event cover. These are prepared for sale to the collector and have minor postal history interest.

Postal history, as a hobby, takes the philatelic specialist, who has necessarily narrowed his field, and widens that field again into more satisfying collecting. It combines the philatelist urge to collect, and is a bridge to his need to know the past.

## YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

THE EDITORS  
OF THE  
POST OFFICES AND POSTMASTERS OF  
NORTH CAROLINA, COLONIAL TO USPS,  
NEED CLEAR PHOTOCOPIES  
OF  
MANUSCRIPT AND HANDSTAMP  
POSTMARKS  
PRIOR TO 1900  
WHICH ARE IN YOUR COLLECTION.

PLEASE SEND THEM TO:  
VERNON STROUPE  
PO BOX 8879  
ASHEVILLE, N.C. 28814



## Appendix Single Letter Rates

<b>Colonial: 1692-1765</b>	4p (4 pennies) to 1/9 (1 shilling & nine pence) depending on number of sheets and distance.
<b>Continental Congress,</b>	5½p to 32p (1774).
<b>Confederation Period</b>	4p and up depending on distance (1775). Increased 50% in 1777. Doubled in 1779. 4p and up rate of 1775, multiplied by 20 (1779). Doubled 1779 rate in 1780. 1780's had similar confusion.
<b>Statehood - 1792</b>	6 cent to 25 cents depending on distance. some letters bore both British Sterling and US cent rate.
- 1799	8 cents to 25 cents.
- 1815	All rates increased 50%.
- 1816	Return to 1799 rates.
- 1825	Currency adjustment- 18-3/4 cents equaled 1½ Riales.
- 1845	5 cents first 300 miles, 10 cents over 300 miles.
- 1851	3 cents first 3,000 miles prepaid, 5 cents collect double for over 3,000 miles
- 1855	Compulsory prepayment of 3 cents for first 3,000 miles and 10 cents over 3,000.
- 1861	3 cent rate any distance.
<b>Confederate- 1861</b>	5 cents first 300 miles, 10 cents over 300 miles.
- 1862	10 cents first 300 miles, 20 cents over 300 miles.
- 1863	Carrier and Way rates abolished.

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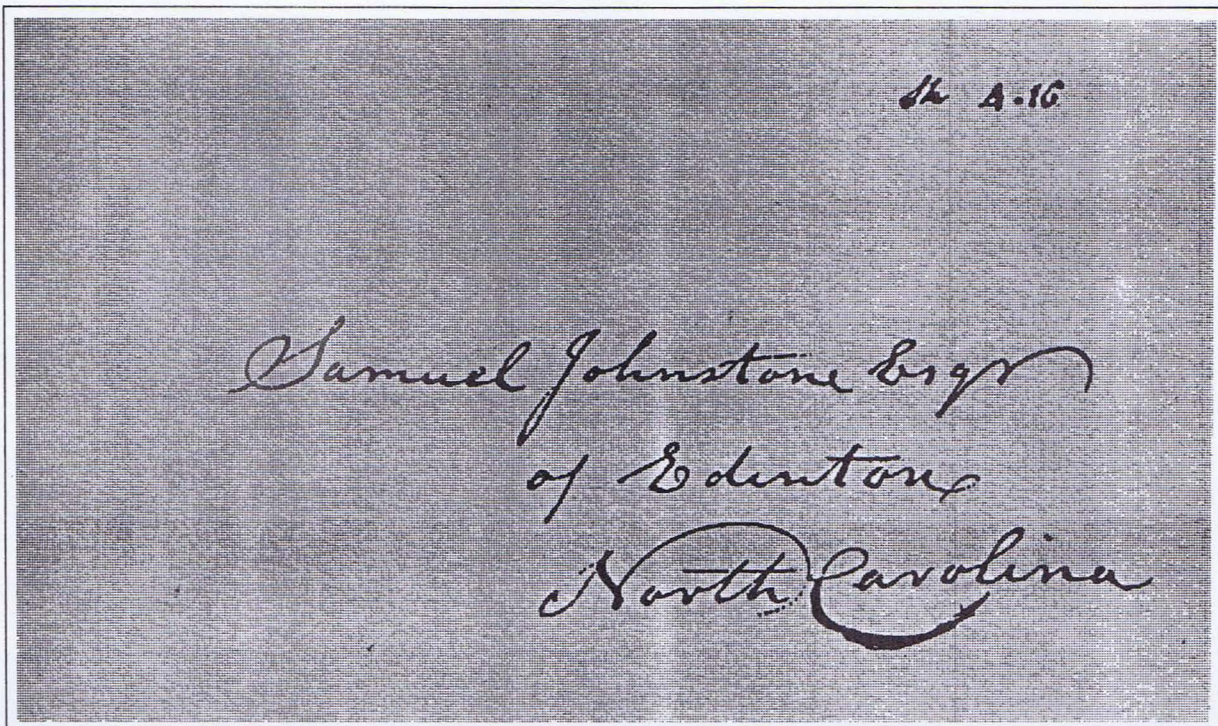


Figure 1

Folded letter to Samuel Johnston, Governor and Senator, datelined Newbern, ca. 1780. Markings are Sh(ip) and 4 shilling, 16 pence.

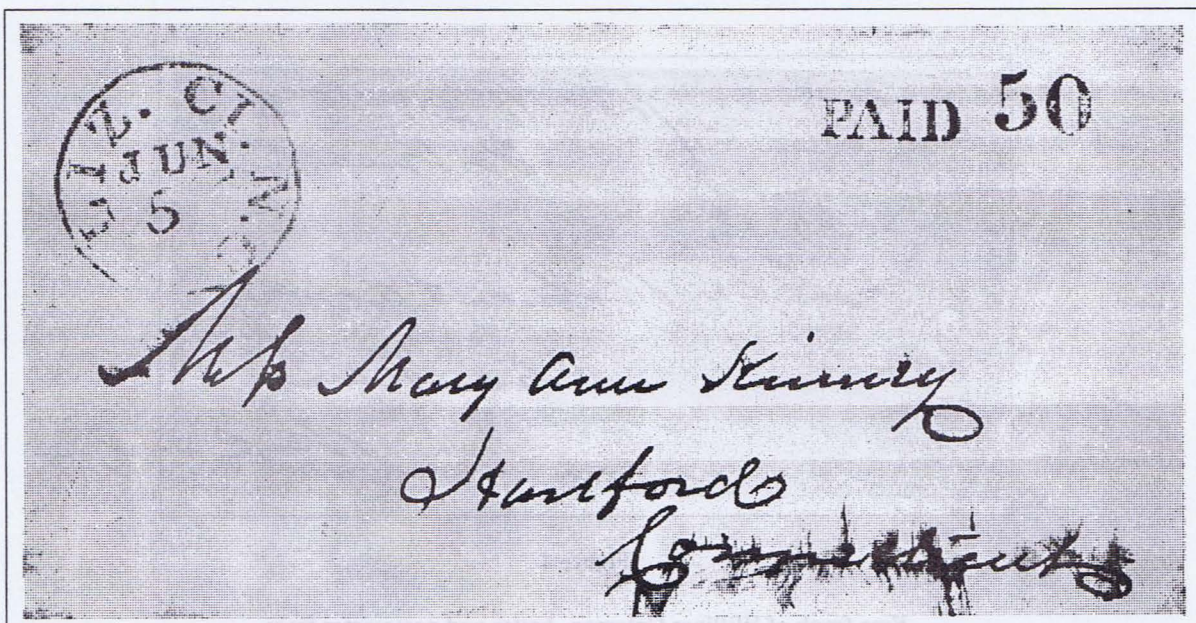


Figure 2

Elizabeth City cds in light blue with matching PAID 50, double rate to Connecticut. Although this handstamp was used from 1826 to 1836, the color blue was known used only in 1835.





Figure 3

Attempted use of the demonitized 1857-61 Federal Postage in 1880.

This is the only demonitized U.S. issue.

Handstamp reads "Held for Postage"

Folded letter to Samuel Johnston, Governor and Senator, dated Newbern, N.C. 1780. Markings are 2d (p) and 4 shilling, 10 pence

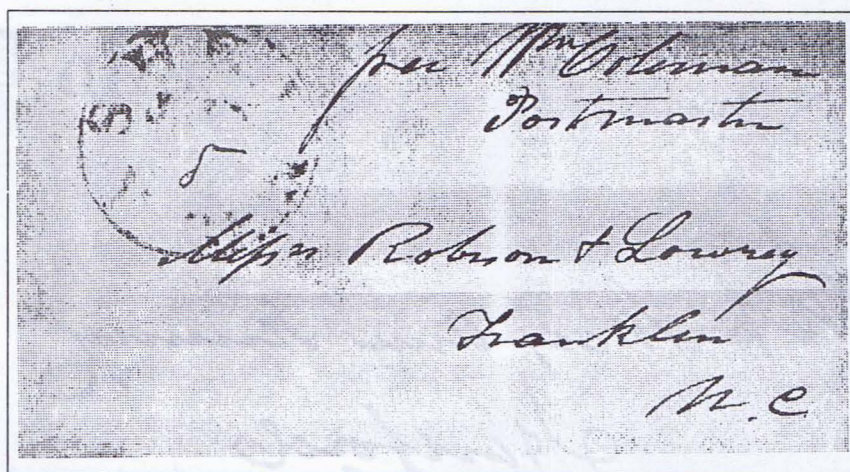


Figure 4

Free frank of William Coleman, hatter and postmaster from Aug. 23, 1823 to Feb. 2, 1842. The contents of the letter to his customer, Robinson & Lowry, in Franklin was a price list for Coleman's hats. Misuse of the free franking privilege such as this caused the privilege to be rescinded.

Elizabeth City was in light blue with matching PAID 50, double rate to Connecticut. Although this handstamp was used from 1826 to 1836, the color blue was known used only in 1826.



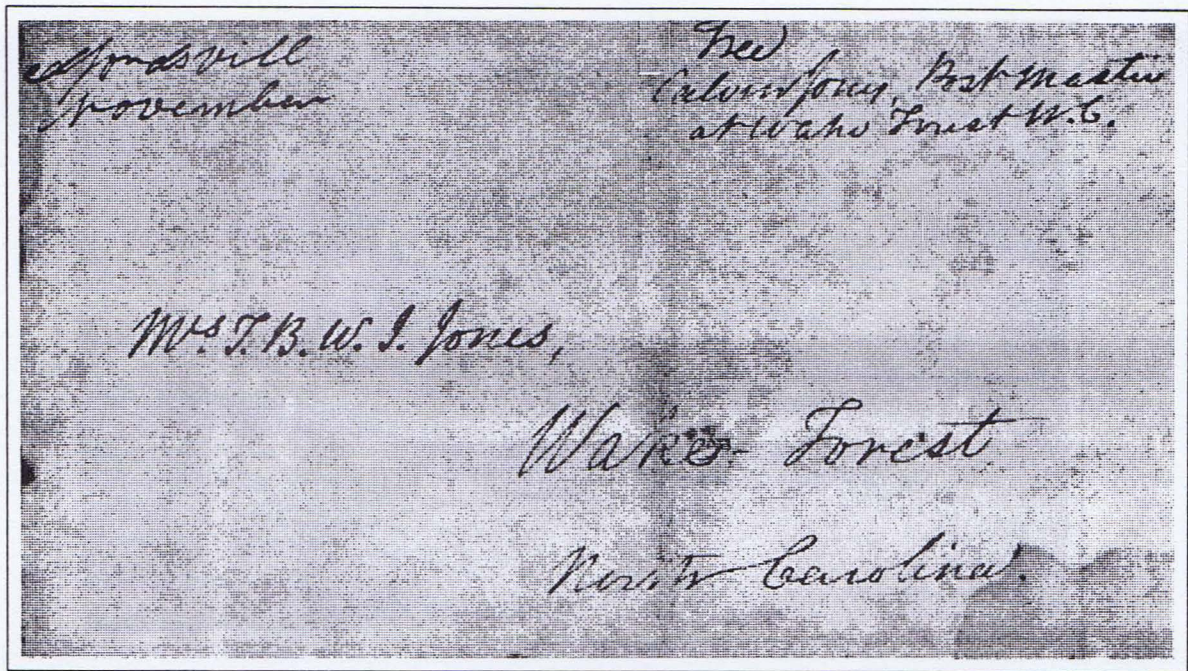


Figure 5

Calvin Jones, postmaster at Wake Forest had an interest in a gold mine during the North Carolina Gold Rush of 1824-40. His free frank can be found from several towns in the gold mining region. This one is a manuscript Bedfordsvill(e).



Figure 6

Free Frank of Zebulon Baird Vance as Member of Congress, used in December of 1860 to his class-mate at the University of North Carolina, William W. Lenoir. Rep. Vance was writing for support of the Middle Confederacy plan which was designed to prevent the Civil War.





Figure 7

Semi-official Confederate Army letter to Lieutenant William W. Lenoir. It was forwarded from Lenoir (post office) to Kittrell's in Vance County with the DUE 10 handstamp. The letter was from (Capt.) William T. Nicholson, Adjutant of the 37th Regiment, North Carolina Troops.

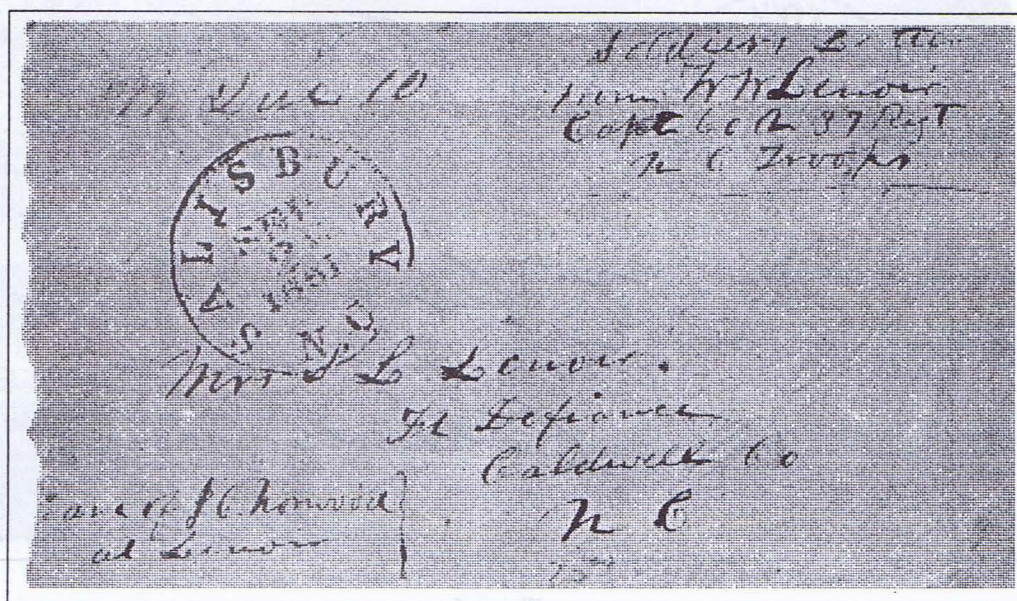


Figure 8

Soldier's letter from W.W. Lenoir, Capt. Company R, 37th Regiment, N.C. Troops, to his mother, Mrs. S.L. Lenoir, Fort Defiance, Caldwell County, N.C. Docketing at lower left reads: Care of J. C. Norwood at Lenoir.



## BOOK REVIEW

by  
Tony L. Crumbley

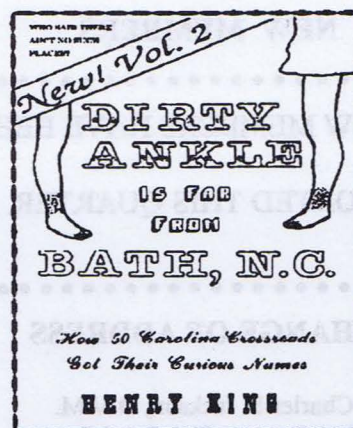
*Dirty Ankle is Far from Bath, N.C.: How 50 Carolina Cross Roads Got Their Curious Names*, by Henry King, Box 204, Franklinville, N.C. 27248. 203 pages, hardcover \$14.95 plus \$2.50 tax and postage.

There's not a one of us postal history collectors that hasn't run across a cover some where and asked ourselves the question, "Where, on Earth, did that name come from"? In King's book he goes beyond *Powell's North Carolina Gazetteer* brief excerpts and gives considerable detail on the origin and character of fifty of North Carolina's most interesting named cross roads.

Many of the communities have had considerable postal history. Places like Bath, Cranberry and Skull Camp date back to the stampless era. Exciting town names like Horseshoe, Merry Oaks, Sandy Mush, Star and Tally Ho have turn-of-the-century ties. There are even places like Soul City, which came and went with little notice.

King's book covers little of the postal history of these communities. It does, however, bring to life many of the cross roads which you may have in your collection. I looked for Dirty Ankle (Cleveland County) in my collection as well as Jot-um Down (Surry County). Both had post offices.

Henry King is a retired newspaper reporter who has made a habit of traveling the back roads of N.C. in recent years looking for the unusual. Once it was discovered he interviewed the locals to determine the origin of the place. King has published his unusual findings in two publications. The first was *Who Said There Ain't No Such Place?* The first printing, published in 1989, the second printing has now sold out. This new book adds fifty new communities to the list of rediscovered places. I'm sure many of you will enjoy this work as much as I have.



### ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NORTH CAROLINA POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY AT WINPEX'95

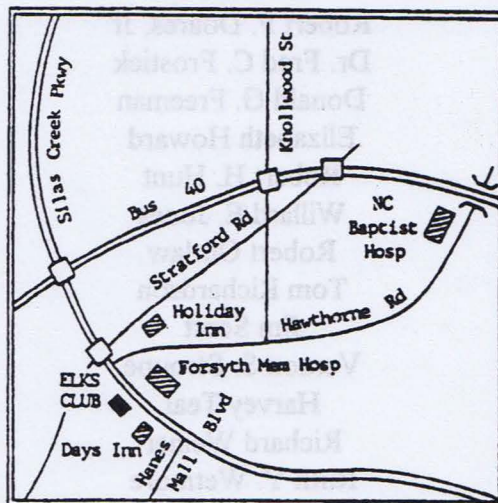
50 FRAME EXHIBIT

15 S.E. REGION DEALERS

LOCATION: ELKS LODGE  
3340 SILAS CREEK PARKWAY

TIME: MAY 20: 10 am - 6 pm  
MAY 21: 10 am - 4 pm

CONTACT: TOM MAYES  
3632 ROBINHOOD ROAD  
WINSTON-SALEM, NC 27106  
(910) 768-8286





## 1995 NCPHS DUES ARE PAST DUE!

**MEMBERS WHOSE DUES HAVE LAPSED  
WILL NOT RECEIVE A SUMMER EDITION  
OF THE POSTAL HISTORIAN.**

**PAY THOSE DUES NOW, SEND \$10 TO:**

**TOM RICHARDSON**

**RT. 2, BOX 26**

**TRINITY, N.C. 27370**

## NEW MEMBERS

NO NEW MEMBERS HAVE BEEN

REPORTED THIS QUARTER.

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Charles S. Jackson, D.V.M.  
344 Country Club Road Ext.  
Wilkesboro, N.C. 28697

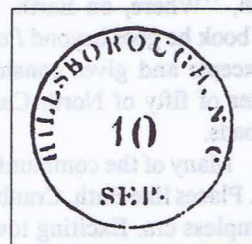
## 1994 SUSTAINING MEMBERS

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Tony L. Crumbley  
James H. Davis, Jr.  
Warren Dixon  
Robert F. Doares, Jr  
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Vernon S. Stroupe  
Harvey Teal  
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State Historical Society of Wisconsin

## MARKING UP-DATE

In the last issue of the Postal Historian, your editor asked for information on the Hillsborough markings illustrated below. An April marking has turned up, making January, February, March and April all curved markings, while May September and December are straight line. June, July, August October and November are still to be heard from.



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**Photocopies of postal markings in your collection up to 1900 are needed for illustration in North Carolina Post Offices and Postmasters,**

**1778-1962. Please send them to:**

**Vernon Stroupe**

**PO Box 8879**

**Asheville, N.C. 28814**

**Thanks to the several members who have responded!**