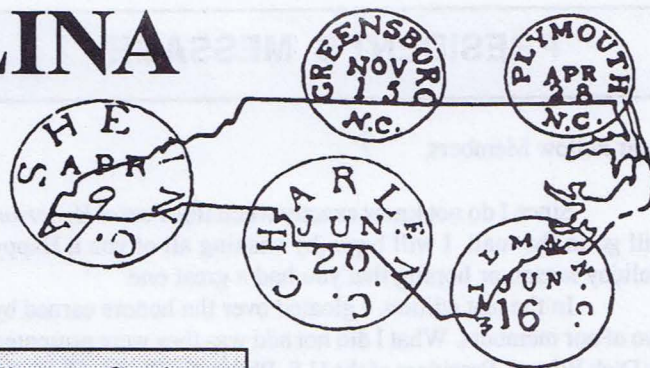


NORTH CAROLINA POSTAL HISTORIAN



The Journal of the North Carolina Postal History Society

Volume 14, No. 4

Fall 1995

Whole 55



STAR STATION
(We Deliver for Yule)

STAR NC 27356

DECEMBER 25 1992



Affiliate #155 of the American Philatelic Society



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow Members,

Since I do not know exactly when this *Postal Historian* will go in the mail, I will begin by wishing all of you a Happy Holiday season or hoping that you had a great one.

In the last edition, I gloated over the honors earned by two of our members. What I did not add was they were presented by Dick Winter, President of the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, and a new resident of North Carolina. Earlier this year Dick and his wife moved to Greensboro from the Washington, D.C. area following his retirement to be closer to their children. Dick is also co-author of the recently published *North Atlantic Mail Sailings, 1840-75*.

I have always felt that most, if not all, of our members would benefit from membership in the USPCS and many already are. The quarterly journal of that society, *The Chronicle*, alone is worth the cost of the dues. If you are interested it will be easy to locate some member at any stamp show and get an application. The more you know about our hobby, the more you will enjoy it.

All the best,

Bob Hunt

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REMINDER !

**THE 1996 DUES FOR THE NCPHS
WERE INCREASED FROM \$10 TO \$15
AT THE 1995 ANNUAL MEETING.**

**THEY ARE NOW DUE AND PAYABLE.
PLEASE SEND THEM
TO THE SOCIETY TREASURER.**

**HIS NAME AND ADDRESS IS LISTED IN
THE BOX BELOW.**



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.

Library of Congress #ISSN 1054-9158.

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THE 1930 TYPE "E" FOUR-BAR CANCEL

by Tony L. Crumbley

Most of the postal history research that has been conducted in the past has focused on the 19th century. Little has been done on the 20th century as we move towards the 21st century. New attention will be focused on this last century. Several areas, such as the flags, Doans, RFDs, ships and airmail cancels have been tracked and studied. Numerous other areas are still a virgin field.

One area in particular where little research has been conducted is the Four Bar cancel. I am sure there have been literally thousands of these cancels used in North Carolina, yet no tracking has been done. It is time we give some consideration to these markings. It is the intent of this article to focus on one variety of the 4-bar postal marking device. Their brief period of issue make them a very collectible marking.

First issued in September 1906 at the ending of the Doanes period, the 4-bar cancels are still issued today to small post offices. The post office department issued 4-bar postmarking devices that were not identical to each other through out the period of usage. These varieties are called types and have been identified by letters A through F. The subject of this article is the Type E 4-bar marker, which was distributed by the post office from September 1930 until June or July 1931, or about 10 months. From a study conducted by Doug DeRoest and published in *La Posta*, March 1989, we know that all post offices opened during this time were issued these devices, and a number of existing post offices that were in need of replacement devices were issued these markers. It can be concluded that, except for the earliest and latest, most were likely issued Type E 4-bar killers. The post offices that were issued replacement cancelers present a greater problem and most likely a longer list of post offices. Until someone tackles the collection of this data, we will not know which post offices received these cancelers.

The Type E 4-bar cancel is a unusual style of the 4-bar series in several ways. First, the post office and state name is at the top of the dial rim. This is the only 4-bar as such until the ZIP code was added in 1963. Second, the dial diameter is smaller, 30 to 31mm. vs. 31 to 32mm. for other 4-bar cancelers. Thirdly, the killer bars are thick and short, always squared off at the left ends nearest the dial. They are, however, found with five different type styles, serified and sans-serif. This is most unusual, as the other 4-bar types are consistent in lettering style.

Thanks to the work done by Doug DeRoest on the Oregon postmarks, we know the five type styles to be:

- Type 1 Large serified letters
- Type 2 Small serified letters
- Type 3 Large san-serified letters
- Type 4 Small san-serified letters
- Type 5 Very small serified letters

Most examples in my personal collection are of the Type 2 variety. It does seem that the vast majority of the markings will be found with serified letters. It is not known why the post office chose to use several different type styles. Perhaps several suppliers of marking devices were being used and they had available a variety of type styles. It is consistent that longer town names used smaller type so as to fit the letters within the dial.

Varieties of these devices have been recorded from other states, however none have been seen from North Carolina. One mimic of this device has been seen from Bostic, N.C. The dial measures 31 mm.; the letters are small san-serif. But, the bars are not straight at the left, rather, they curve with the dial. This June 1971 use would be a very late use for a Type E 4-bar.

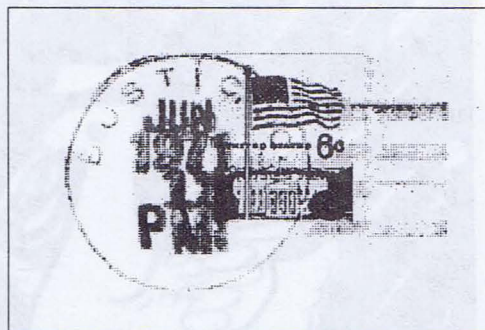
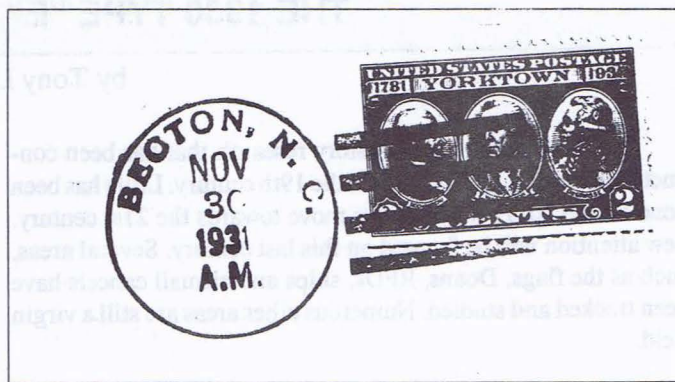
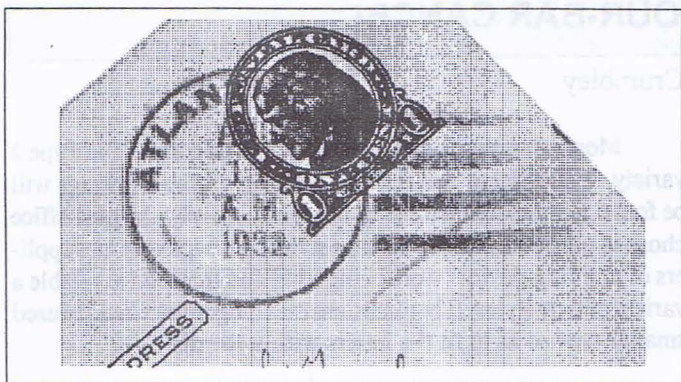


Figure 1

The Type E 4-bar postmark devices were only issued for about ten months, Sept 30, 1930 to July 1931. They were primarily issued to fourth class post offices, the smaller ones, and they are made of rubber which tended to wear out quickly and not to have a long life. All of this would indicate that these markings should be rather scarce. The Oregon Study Group has found this not to be the case. Some markings are indeed scarce but others are quite common. Once the post office received this handstamp, they used it until it needed replacing, sometimes until the 1960's. Thus one would expect this to be the case in N.C. I will, however say, that in my collection of over 1,000 4-bar postmarks, only 20 were found to be Type E, an indication that they may be more scarce in N.C. than in Oregon.

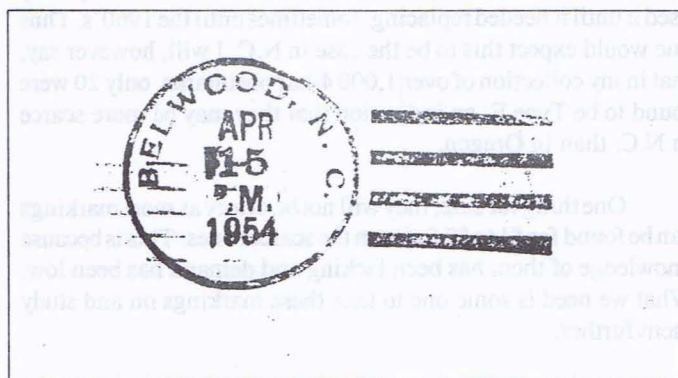
One thing for sure, they will not be pricey as most markings can be found for \$1 to \$2 for even the scarcer ones. This is because knowledge of them has been lacking and demand has been low. What we need is some one to take these markings on and study them further.

Reference: *The 1930 Type E 4-Bars*, Doug DeRoest, *The Oregon Country Postal History Journal*, Vol. 13, #3, Autumn 1993.



HOLLISTER M. J. RUCH
705 COLEMAN STREET
EASTON, PA.

Type 1 - Large serifed letters - Duck, N.C., July 20, 1937



Belwood, April 15, 1954
Type 2



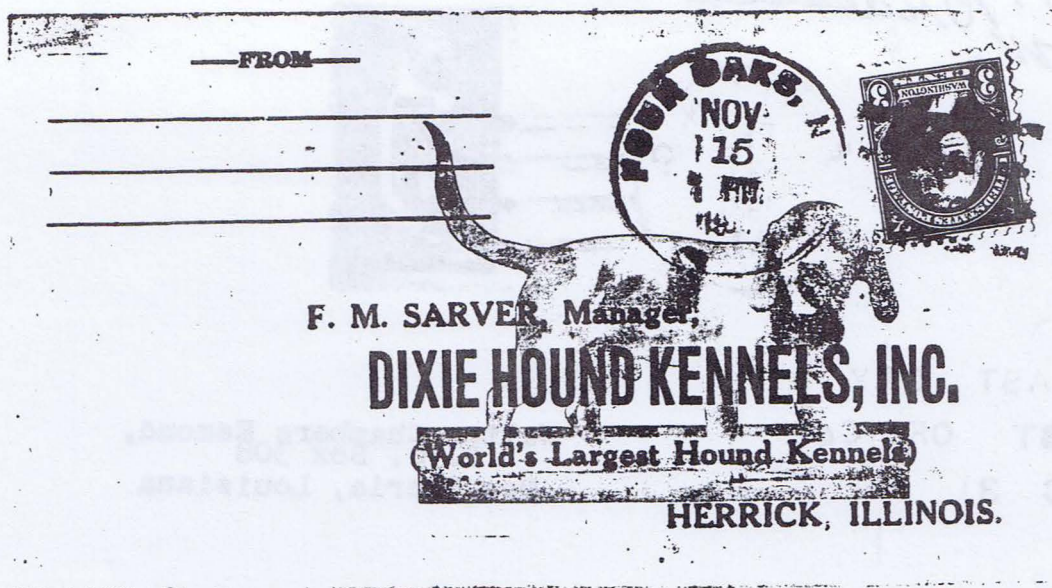
Bina, July 1, 1932
Type



Cash Corner, Oct. 5
Type 2



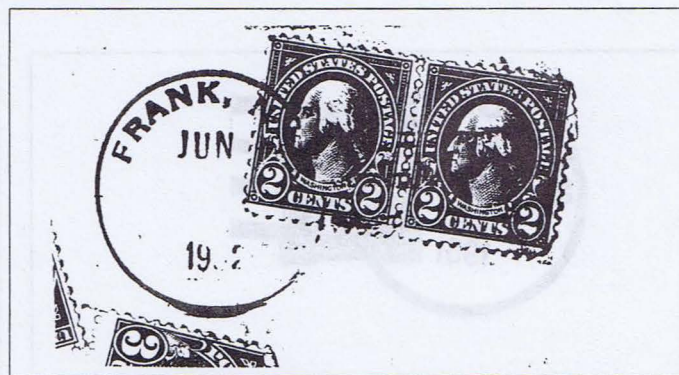
Cranberry, Nov. 26, 1936
Type 2



Four Oaks, Nov. 15, 1934
Type 2 Small serifed letters
Cancel is worn and blurred from use



Crouse, Aug. 2, 1932
Type 1



Frank, June 1932
Type 2

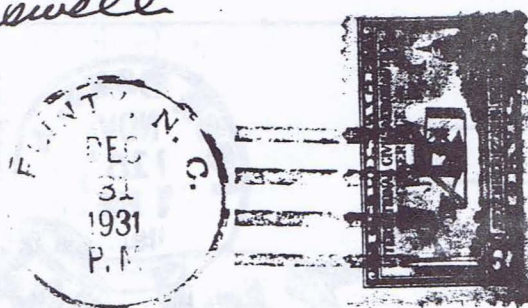


Lake Junaluska
Type 5, Very Small Type



Legerwood, Dec. 7, 1937
Type 2

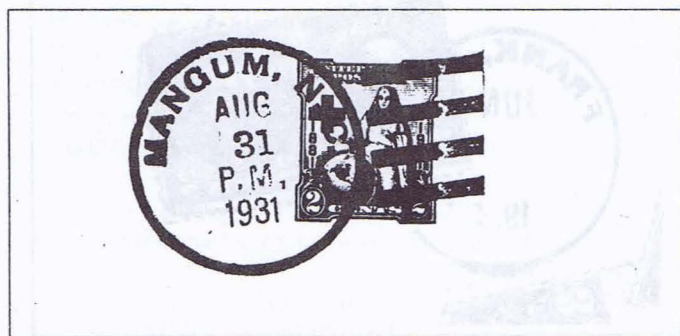
R.W. Braaswell
P.M.



★ LAST DAY -
POST OFFICE
DEC 31 1931

Walter Chambers Esmond,
P. O. Box 308
New Iberia, Louisiana

Flinty, Dec. 31, 1931
Type 5, Very Small Type



Mangum, Aug. 31, 1931
Type 2



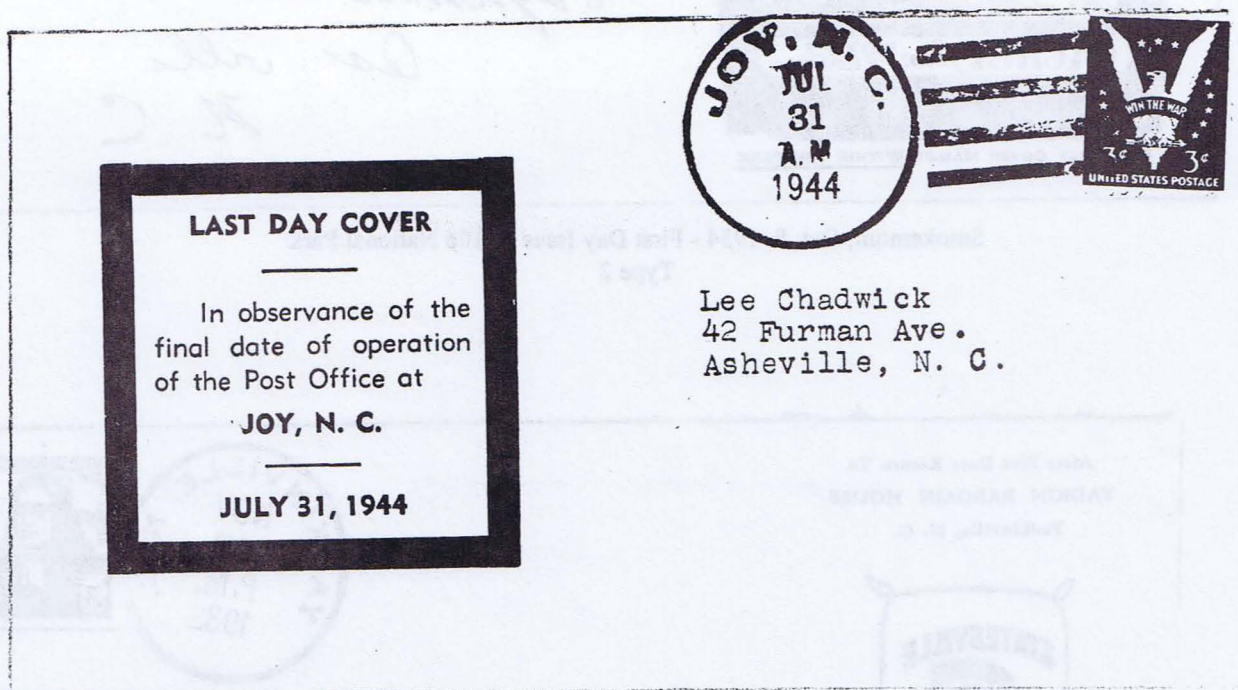
Pelham, Jan 23, 1932
Type 2



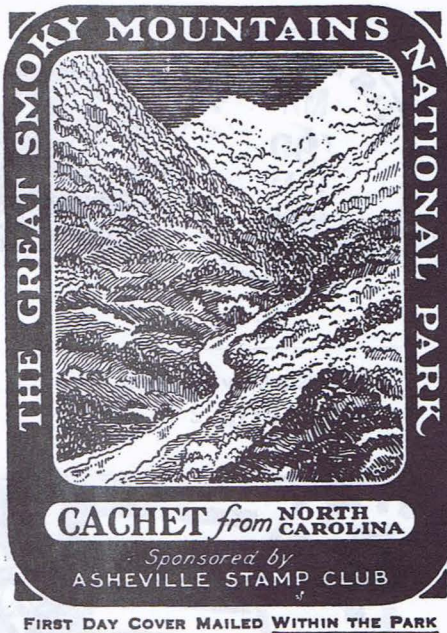
Pine Road, Mar 31, 1937
Type 2



Vista May 30, 1936
Type 2



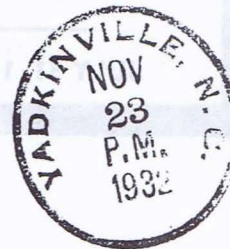
Joy, July 31 1944
Type 3
Large San-serifed Letters



*Mrs. James Emory Bates
5 Synmar Avenue
Asheville
N.C.*

Smokemont, Oct. 8, 1934 - First Day Issue of 10¢ National Park
Type 2

After Five Days Return To
YADKIN BARGAIN HOUSE
Yadkinville, N. C.



*Statesville Flour Mills Co
Statesville*

N.C.

Yadkinville Nov. 23, 1932
Type 2

A STAR SHINES BRIGHT AT THE CENTER OF NORTH CAROLINA

by Tony L. Crumbley

In the northeast corner of Montgomery County there was a place called Hunsucker's Store. Its post office went by the same name. Spurred by the junction of the Aberdeen and Asheboro and the Durham and Charlotte Railroads, it grew from Hunsucker's Store to a town called Star.

The original name of the post office was Hunsucker's Store, established in 1858 and Martin Hunsucker was the postmaster. Martin served as postmaster through the Civil War until it was closed for reconstruction. Hunsucker was officially discontinued Dec. 11, 1866. On March 8, 1870 the post office was re-established and Deborah Hunsucker was appointed postmistress. Deborah was the daughter of Martin, and would later marry Angus Leach, considered the founder of the community.

If it was possible for a man to be the nucleus of a town that grew up around him, then Angus Leach was that man. His endeavors, his business success, and his generosity run like a thread through the early history of this town.

Around 1850 the State of North Carolina deeded a tract of land, approximately 100 acres, to Pleasant Simmons of Little River who married Christian Leach, daughter of Archibald Leach, the father of Angus Leach. Pleasant Simmons soon sold his land to Martin Hunsucker, who had purchased another large tract of land east of the first tract. Martin built a small home and later established a trading post, called Hunsucker's Store.

Following the Civil War, Angus Leach found his way to Hunsucker's Store. He later married Deborah Hunsucker and became associated with his father-in-law in business enterprises under the Name of A. Leach and Sons. They operated the post office from their general store, built a hotel to accommodate travelers, saw two stores destroyed by fire and a tornado, ran a corn and flour mill, donated land for a school and were the driving force in renaming the post office "Star".

In 1886 Angus Leach replaced Deborah as postmaster of Hunsucker's Store. Weary of writing the long name "Hunsucker's Store" over and over again on letters and post office records, Leach lobbied postal officials to rename the town. He had in mind a much shorter and more lofty name. Community records indicate Angus Leach officially proclaimed the community "Star" in 1875, but it was not chartered as such until 1897. At a gathering in Salisbury, Leach urged a congressman, "let's name her Star and let her shine". On 11 February 1887 post office department officials approved the change of name and Star became a reality.

Perhaps Angus knew something in 1875 that others is did not know until 1989 for in that year the U.S. Geodetic Survey determined that Star was the geographic center of the state. Today a granite marker engraved "Center of North Carolina" stands to mark the spot.

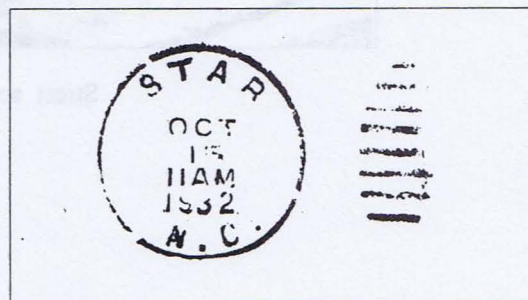
Throughout the years postmasters of Star have taken it upon themselves to create some striking postal markings from the town. Recent postmasters have noted the popularity of their star postal marking especially at Christmas time. Because of the popularity, the current postmaster, Thomas S. Marsh, maintains the tradition of Christmas related postal markings which continue to this day.

Angus Leach would be proud that his "Star" shines brightly today after being recognized as the center of the state.

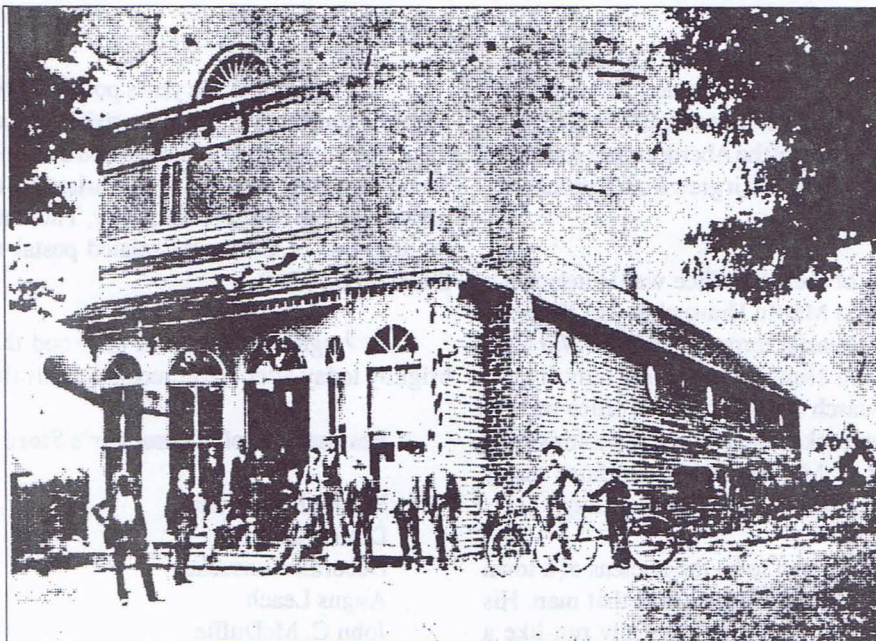
Postmasters of Hunsucker's Store and Star:

Martin Hunsucker	5 Aug 1858
Discontinued	11 Dec 1866
Deborah Hunsucker	8 Mar 1870
Angus Leach	21 Dec 1886
John C. McDuffie	27 Jul 1889
John F. Wright	15 Mar 1892
Deborah Leach	24 Mar 1893
John F. Wright	9 Dec 1896
Joseph E. Kanoy	10 Dec 1897
John F. Wright	5 Apr 1899
Ephraim Farlow	9 Sep 1902
George W. Scarboro	9 Apr 1914
Asa C. Parsons	24 Sep 1921
Neill W. Freeman	10 Mar 1931
Thomas Maness	12 Jan 1935
A. Eloise Maness	3 Nov 1944
Margaret K. Kern	30 Dec 1966
Frances J. Dennis	19 Jun 1968

Sources: *Dirty Ankle is Far from Bath, N.C.*, Henry King
Patterns of Timeless Moments, A History of Montgomery County, Mable Lassiter



Star duplex handstamp used on reverse of cover shown in Figure 5.



First store of A. Leach & Sons and post office.



Street scene of Star, ca. 1900



Last store of A. Leach & Sons

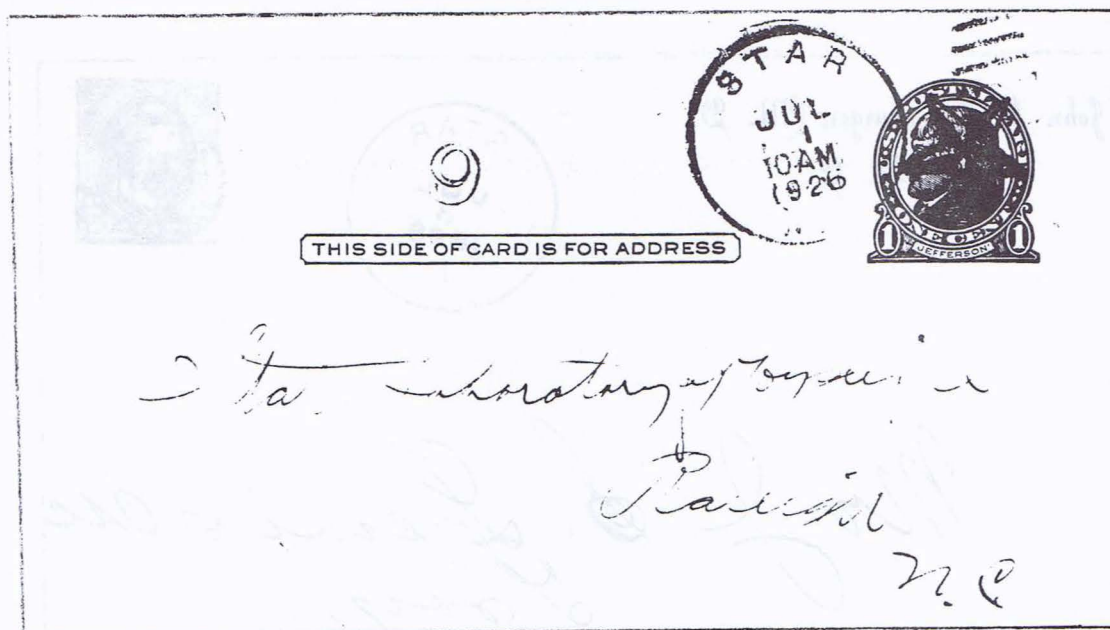
John B. Shamburger, M. D.
Star, N. C.



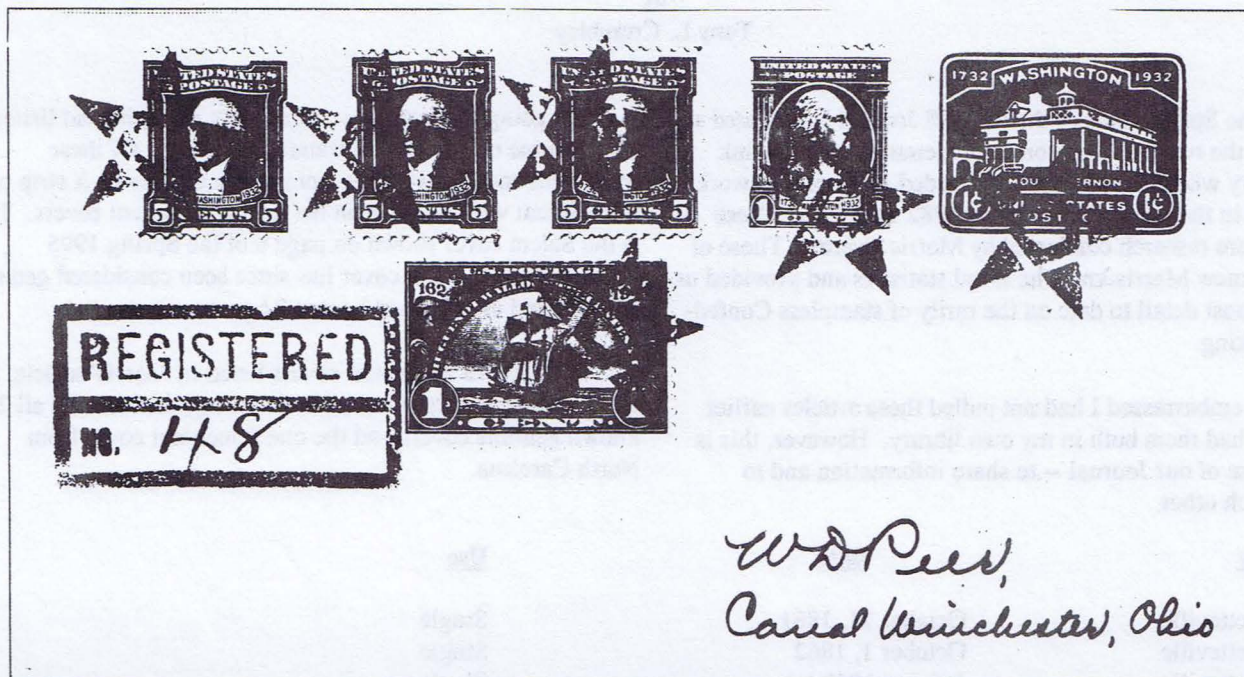
Mr J. S. Lewis, Esq
Looy,
N.C.



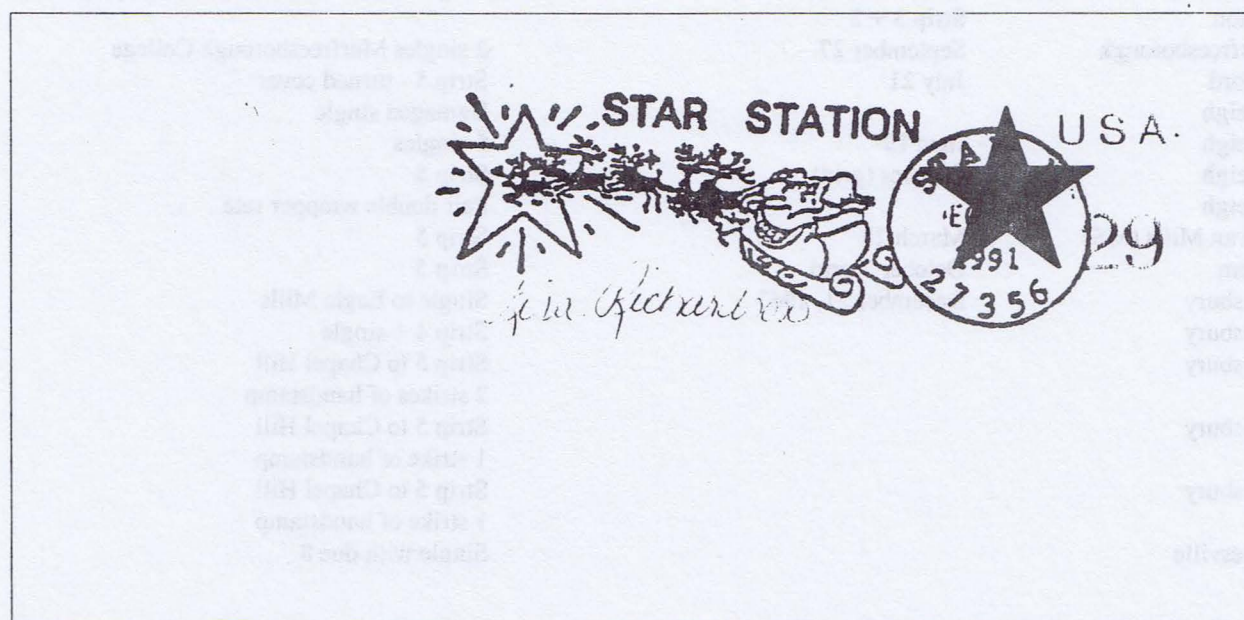
Aberdeen & Star RPO on the Aberdeen & Ashboro Railway, 22 March 1907



Black duplex cds of Star with additional blue star killer.
The Purpose of the red "9" is marking is unknown - 1 July 1926.



Fancy Star killer created by Postmaster Asa C. Parsons. Used 15 October 1932



Star, N.C. fancy cancel created for Christmas 1991

Star, N.C. fancy cancel created for Christmas 1992, See Cover

Star, N.C. fancy cancel created for Christmas 1994, See Cover

Revisiting the Confederate 2¢ Green Jackson Issue

by
Tony L. Crumbley

In the Spring issue of the NCPHS Journal I presented an article on the two cent Jackson Confederate issue. The ink was not dry when Connie Bush forwarded me copies of work published in the Dixie Philatelist in 1982 and 1985. These articles were research conducted by Morris Everett. Those of you who knew Morris knew he loved statistics and provided us with the most detail to date on the rarity of stampless Confederate marking.

I'm embarrassed I had not pulled these articles earlier because I had them both in my own library. However, this is the purpose of our Journal -- to share information and to update each other.

In going through Morris Everett's work, he had listed 178 genuine covers and 13 fraudulent covers. Of these fraudulent covers, two were from North Carolina. A strip of 5 from Salem was included on his list of fraudulent covers. This is the Salem cover shown on page 6 of the Spring 1995 NCPHS Journal. The cover has since been considered genuine and is noted as the finest known 2¢ green cover.

Of the 178 additional covers listed in Morris' article, 21 were from North Carolina. The following list includes all 22 known genuine covers and the one fraudulent cover from North Carolina.

<u>City</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Use</u>
Fayetteville	October 21, 1861	Single
Fayetteville	October 1, 1862	Single
Fayetteville	January 1863	Single
Greensboro	25	Single homemade cover
Greensboro	March 4	Single
Goldsboro	January 31	Pair + 5¢ Richmond
(Hillsboro)		Single Hillsboro Military Academy Corner Card
Milton	Strip 3 + 2	
Murfreesborough	September 27	2 singles Murfreesborough College
Oxford	July 21	Strip 5 - turned cover
Raleigh		Damaged single
Raleigh	June 19	5 singles
Raleigh	October (grid)	Strip 5
Raleigh		Pair double wrapper rate
Rowan Mills (MS)	March 28	Strip 5
Salem	October 7 grid	Strip 5
Salisbury	December 21, 1863	Single to Eagle Mills
Salisbury		Strip 4 + single
Salisbury		Strip 5 to Chapel Hill
		2 strikes of handstamp
Salisbury		Strip 5 to Chapel Hill
		1 strike of handstamp
Salisbury		Strip 5 to Chapel Hill
		1 strike of handstamp
Statesville		Single with due 8

Fraudulent cover

Oxford August 2

Strip 4 with single 2¢ red brown

NEW RAILWAY POST OFFICE CANCELLATION FOUND

by Scott Troutman

The illustration below shows two railway post office cancels from the Wilmington & Rutherfordton run of the Central Carolina Railroad. The upper cancel on the post card from 1906 is the long known WIL. & RUTH. R.P.O. cancel with month/day/year and train number. Shown below it is a newly found cancel from 1894. The newly found cancel does not have the periods after WILM and RUTH and omits the train number.

This run was originally planned before the Civil War as

the full length of the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherford Railroad. The Civil war interrupted construction with the railroad only built from Wilmington to Old Hundred, one hundred miles to the west. A small portion was also built west of Charlotte.

After the war the Central Carolina Railroad finished construction of the line from Wilmington to Rutherfordton. Later this became part of the Seaboard Air Line Railroad. This run was the longest railway post office run completely inside of the state.



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**Thanks to the several members who have
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