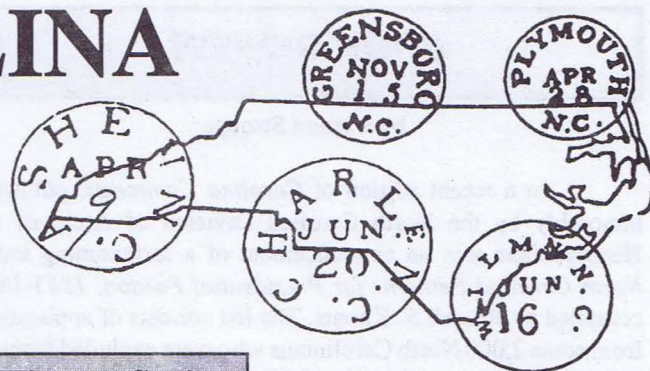


# NORTH CAROLINA POSTAL HISTORIAN

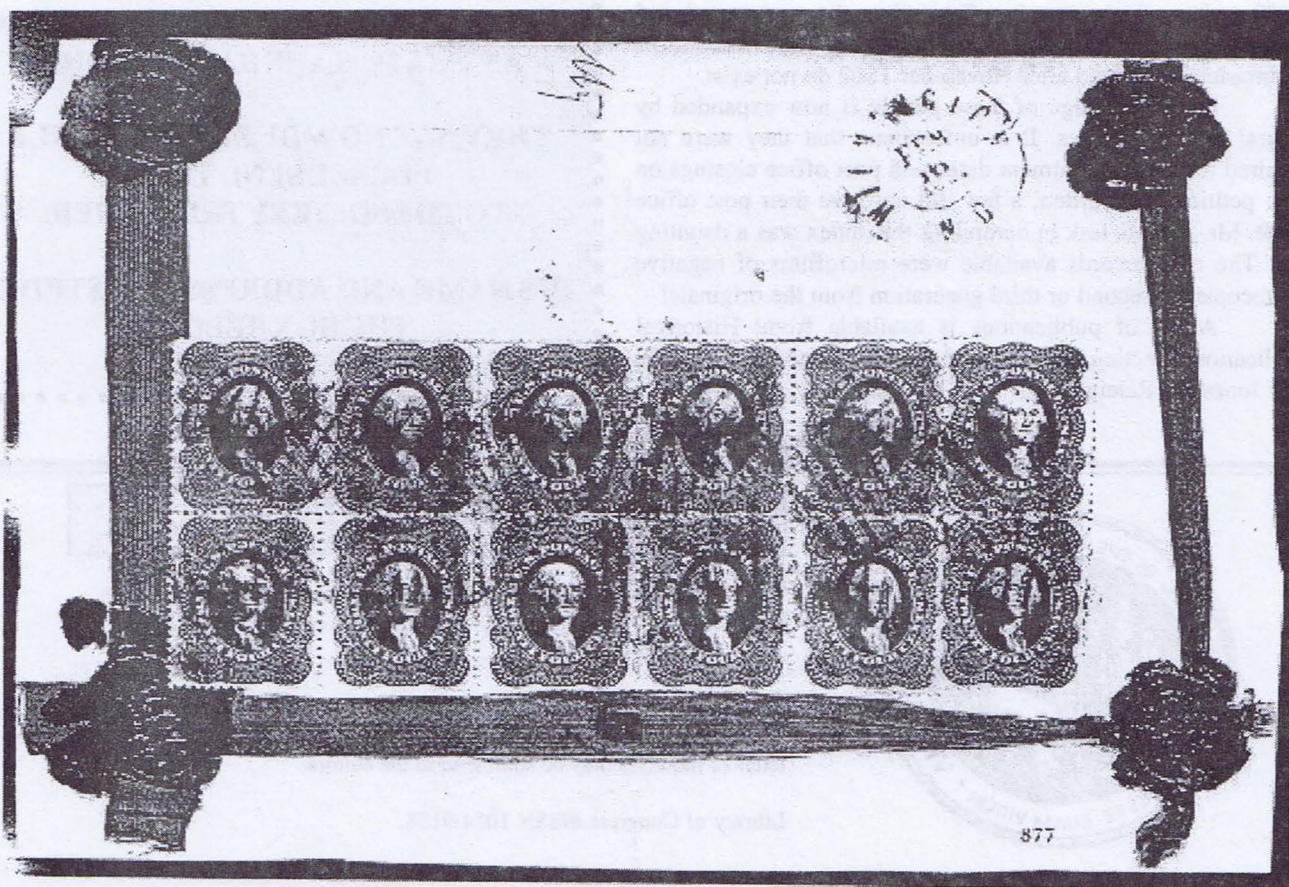


The Journal of the North Carolina Postal History Society

Volume 15, No. 1

Winter 1996

Whole 56



IS THIS THE MOST EXPENSIVE NORTH CAROLINA COVER?  
See box, page 3

Affiliate #155 of the American Philatelic Society





## BOOK REVIEW

by Vernon Stroupe

In a recent edition of *Carolina Comments*, published bimonthly by the North Carolina Division of Archives and History, there was an announcement of a forthcoming index, *North Carolina Petitions for Presidential Pardon, 1865-1867*, compiled by Russell S. Koonts. The list consists of applications from some 2,000 North Carolinians who were excluded from the general amnesty of May 29, 1865. The lists includes political and military figures, persons whose personal property exceeded \$20,000, tax collectors, and more than 800 postmasters.

Although the index is still in printing and will be available shortly, Mr. Koonts graciously allowed your editor access to a pre-publication copy. For the collector of North Carolina Confederate covers, this listing is a gold-mine of Confederate postmaster's names. The previous "best" list of North Carolina Confederate postmasters, "*North Carolina Post Offices and Postmasters, 1860-66*" contains approximately 1,600 names which were in office when the war started and continued in office, or became postmasters in 1862. Records of postmasters appointed after November 1862 do not exist.

Our knowledge of these people is now expanded by several hundred names. It is unfortunate that they were not required to give appointment dates and post office closings on their petitions for pardon, a few did not give their post office name. Mr. Koonts task in compiling this index was a daunting one. The only records available were microfilms of negative photocopies, a second or third generation from the originals!

A list of publications is available from: Historical Publications Section, Division of Archives and History, 109 East Jones St., Raleigh, N.C. 27611.

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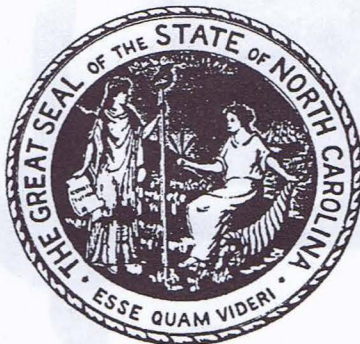
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### REMINDER !

**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.

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# THE 1869 ISSUE USED FROM NORTH CAROLINA

by Tony L. Crumbley

Beginning in the Fall of 1867 the U.S. Post Office Department (POD) announced it was considering a new issue of postage stamps. In January 1868 Postmaster General Alexander W. Randall announced in New York that experiments are in progress with a postage stamp printed on embossed paper, which seem to afford good security against fraud. On June 22, 1868 PMG Randall advertised the request for proposals to print stamps for the postal service. This advertisement stated, There should be a variety in the size as well as the designs of the stamps.

The printing company of Butler and Carpenter of Philadelphia submitted the lowest bid, yet the contract was let to the National Bank Note Company to supply these new stamps to the stamp agent in New York. The contract, signed 12 Dec 1868, was to commence on 1 February 1869. The agreed upon price was 25-1/2 cents per one thousand stamps, embossed like the stamps now in use.

On 1 March 1869, A.N. Zevely, the Third Assistant PMG -the same Zevely with connections in Salem, N.C. - issued a letter to postmasters indicating that, at an early day, in the regular course of business, the POD will issue to postmasters stamps of new designs. These stamps were to be issued in panes of 150 stamps of the 1 cent to 15 cent value. Stamps above the 15 cent value would be issued in sheets of 100.

Exact dates of issue are not known, however, it is generally conceded that 26 March 1869 was the principle date as this is the earliest date known of any usage. Less than 475 million copies of all stamps of all denominations were issued with the 3 cent having the most by far with 386 million issued. The distribution of the stamps are not known, however, except for a few of the high denominations, there seems to be rather broad distribution, especially with the 3 cent.

It has long been known that the 90 cent is among the rarest of the regular issue stamps with only 47, 460 stamps issued. It is estimated fewer than 2,000 copies remain available today. In 1975 the 1869 Pictorial Research Associates was formed and began a formal census of the known covers. Their first work was published in 1976 in conjunction with Interphil. Since that time they have continued their research and published the definitive work in conjunction with Ameripex '86. It is this work along with the collections of several N.C. collectors that have been used to assemble this article.

Those of you knowledgeable to N.C. postal history no doubt know the 1869 issue is quite uncommon postmarked from N.C. I think many of you will be suprised at just how scarce it really is! From the 3329 covers in the census only 8 originated from N.C. The 1 and 2 cent issues were not included in the census.

For the 3 cent, if the high estimate by the Pictorial Research Associates of 232,000 covers exist today, and the percentage of N.C. receipts can be place on this remaining number, only 1,560 of the 3 cent covers could exist today. In my research for this article, I was able to identify only 53 covers. Granted the research is shallow, but this is still a long way from an estimated 1,560 covers.

The scarcity of the stamps can be attributed to the short span which they were issued. The original contract with the National Bank Note Company was for four years, yet, by 12 Apr 1870, a new set of stamps was being issued, thus giving this issue a life span of only 54 weeks. This short life span was due to several reasons. The unexpected pictorial design was not liked by the general public. It was referred to in the press as, nasty bits of postal paper. There were many detrimental comments about the smaller size of the panes of stamps and the poor quality of the gum also led to their demise.

**CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING**  
**General Meeting, 2 PM, Saturday, May 18**  
**Board of Directors Meeting, 3 PM**  
**Winpex '96**  
**Elks Lodge**  
**3340 Silas Creek Parkway**  
**Winston-Salem**  
**(See Back Page for Map)**

## **Lot # 877, Siegel Auction , Dec. 12-14. 1995**

24c Gray Lilac (37). Horizontal block of 10 and vertical pair, tied by black "Wilmington, N.C. Feb. 10, 1861" double circle date stamp on large piece of package wrapper with four red wax seals (impressed with "JRB" insignia) and three ribbons.

**THE LARGEST USED MULTIPLE OF THE**  
**24 - CENT 1860 ISSUE IN EXTREMELY**  
**FINE CONDITION**

This phenomenal used block .... is well centered and essentially superb. .... E. \$4,000-\$5,000.  
Hammer price ..... \$4,500



Scott	Rate	Earliest Date	Quantity Issued	Covers Known	Estimated Maximum	Known N.C. Covers
112	1 cent	2 May 1869	16,605,150	- - -	1,400	2
113	2 cent	26 Mar 1869	57,387,500	750	10,000	3
114	3 cent	27 Mar 1869	386,475,900	- - -	232,000	52
115	6 cent	26 Apr 1869	4,882,750	420	1,400	0
116	10 cent	1 Apr 1869	3,299,700	1038	1,100	1
117	12 cent	1 Apr 1869	3,012,950	432	1,000	0
118	15 cent Ty I	2 Apr 1869	350,000	113	150	2
119	15 cent Ty II	23 May 1869	1,100,000	425	500	4
120	24 cent	7 Apr 1869	235,250	72	72	1
121	30 cent	22 May 1869	254,010	58	58	0
122	90 cent	9 Sep 1869	47,460	1	1	0
Totals			473,650,670		247,681	65

#### NORTH CAROLINA USAGES

1 cent Benjamin Franklin issue - the census was not completed on this issue. Two covers from N.C. have been recorded.

Davidson College  
Lexington

8 Dec (combination with 2 cent)  
- - - (combination with 2 cent)

2 cent Pony Express issue - of the 750 covers listed in the census, 48% represent single stamps on cover paying the circular rate or drop rate plus carrier charge. The list of covers in this census was not published, thus only 3 N.C. cover has been recorded by the author.

Charlotte  
Davidson College  
Lexington

28 Jun (Figure 2)  
8 Dec (combination with 1 cent)  
- - - (combination with 1 cent)

3 cent Locomotive - A census of this cover was not undertaken by the 1869 Pictorial Research Association. Earlier works by John Ginn was, using William Herzog's printing estimate, provides an estimate of the number of stamps shipped to North Carolina. Ginn estimates 0.672% of the total issue went to N.C. This would amount to 254,712 stamps having been issued here. Based on this Ginn estimates between 780 and 1,560 covers could have survived today. My own research listed 53 different covers from 34 different towns, including one N.C. railroad marking. The earliest recorded N.C. cover was 24 Jun 1869. These covers include the following:

Castania Grove  
Charlotte  
Charlotte  
Charlotte  
Charlotte  
Charlotte  
Durham's  
Edenton

24 May  
28 Aug 1869  
28 Mar 1870  
24 Apr 1870  
31 Jan  
12 May  
14 Sep (registered)  
15 Sep



Enfield	12 Mar
Fayetteville	22 ---
Gap Creek	25 Jun 1869
Goldsboro	26 Oct 1869
Goldsboro	9 Dec
Greensboro	14 Jul
Greensboro	2 Aug
Greensboro	---
Greensboro	---
Halifax	21 Apr (on U-59)
Hillsboro	16 May (Figure 4)
Huntsville	9 Nov 1869
Kenansville	5 Jan 1870
Lexington	15 May
Mt Pleasant	12 Jan
N.Carolina RR	12 Apr (from Baltimore)
New Berne	12 Apr
North Fork	1 Jan 1870
Oxford	21 Oct (registered with #119)
Plymouth	---
Raleigh	21 Aug 1869
Raleigh	15 Sep 1869
Raleigh	25 Sep 1869
Raleigh	23 Mar 1870
Raleigh	-- Mar 1870 (Figure 3)
Raleigh	12 Apr 1870
Raleigh	6 Mar
Raleigh	29 Apr
Raleigh	9 Jul (pair)
Raleigh	22 Jul
Raleigh	19 Oct
Rosindale	17 Dec
Sassafras Fork	17 Jul 1869
Scuppernong	1 Nov
Shelby	8 Mar 1870
Statesville	15 Feb 1870
Sunnyside	6 Jun 1870
Swanns Station	4 Oct
Thomasville	3 Mar 1870
Tarborough	--- (negative crescent & star killer) (Fig.1)
Trinity College	5 Mar
Wilmington	20 Oct
Wilson	13 May (registered with #119) (Figure 5)
Wilkesboro	15 Mar

The author cautions that this list is far from being complete. The absence of a cover from this list is not an indication of its rarity.

6 cent George Washington - The census lists 420 known covers and estimates 1,300-1,400 may exist. To date no known N.C. covers have been reported.

10 cent Eagle and Shield - One of the most thorough census has been conducted on this issue, primarily because Michael Lawrence began collecting and recording information on this stamp in the late 1950's. To date he has recorded 1,038 covers. All but forty of these covers are to foreign destinations. Lawrence's census includes no N.C. covers. The authors collection does, however, include one such cover.

Goldsboro

7 Sep 1870 (to Germany) (Figure 6)

12 cent Ship Adriatic - A total of 432 covers have been recorded. Of the 3 million stamps printed, it is estimated no more than 1,000 covers could exist today. No N.C. covers have been reported.

15 cent Type I Columbus Discovering America - There have been 133 Type I covers reported to date, of these, 108 were used from New York City, New Orleans and Washington, D.C., indicating the majority of these stamps to larger cities. It is estimated that only 150 covers could have survived. Only two covers are known from North Carolina and one cover is known posted to Cherokee County from New York.

New Berne	2 Jun 1869
Durham's	14 Sep

15 cent Type II Columbus Discovering America - It appears N.C. fared well with this issue. For some reason we have a larger portion of these covers remaining from N.C. of the 425 known covers, four are from North Carolina.

Shelby	8 Mar 1870
Currituck	22 Oct 1870
Oxford	21 Oct (Figure 7)
Mt. Pleasant	12 Jan 187?

24 cent Signing of the Declaration of Independence - There are 72 recorded covers of this denomination. This is considered a near complete recording of these. The one cover from N.C. is a large wrapper to London, England.

Louisburg	--- Jul 1870
-----------	--------------

30 cent Eagle and Flags - There are 58 recorded 30 cent covers of which 28 originated in New York City and 9 from New Orleans, an indication few went to smaller cities. Of caution here - there have been 27 fraudulent covers reported. This, by far the most faked cover recorded in this series. No known covers are from N.C.

90 cent Lincoln - Perhaps the rarest of all U.S. postal history items is the 90 cent Lincoln issue. To date only one such cover has been recorded and this cover was stolen in 1968; it has yet to re-appear. Because of its uniqueness, it is doubtful if it ever will. The one recorded example was posted from Boston, Mass. to Calcutta, East Indies [?!].

In 1875 and again in 1880, the design of these 1869 stamps was re-issued. A total of 29 covers exist with these various re-issued stamps. None were posted from North Carolina.

As a N.C. postal history collector, one can see the challenge ahead in collecting the 1869 issue. There are just enough copies available to make it collectible. It would, however, be quite a challenge if one collected with the anticipation of completing this issue posted from N.C.

#### Bibliography:

*1869 Pictorial Research Associates Interphil 1976 Publication*, Benjamin E. Chapman, Editor  
*The 1869 Issue on Cover: A Census and Analysis*, Jonathon W. Rose and Richard M. Searing, Editors, 1986  
*The United States Postage Stamps of the 19th Century*, Lester G. Brookman, 1966



Figure 1



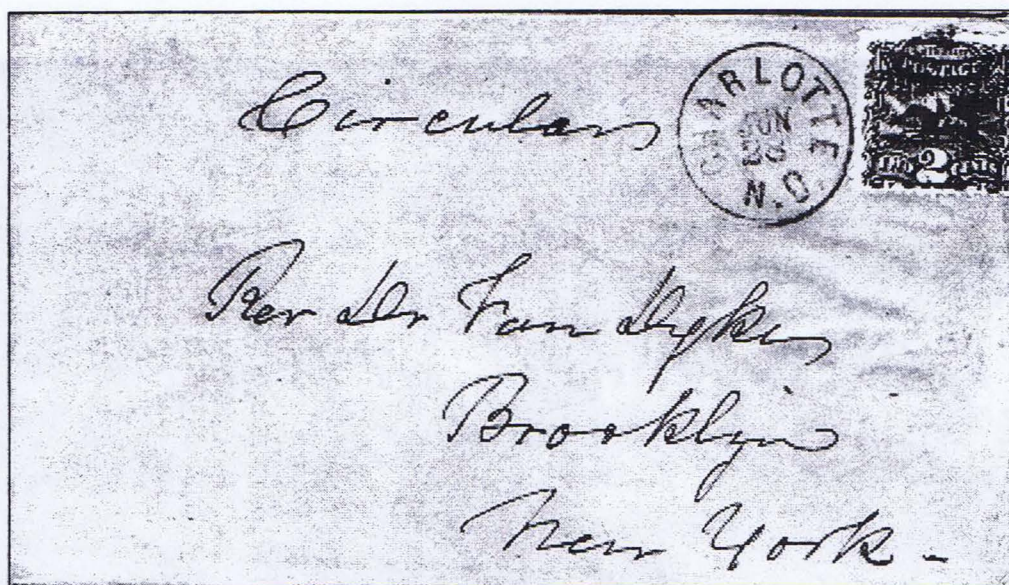


Figure 2

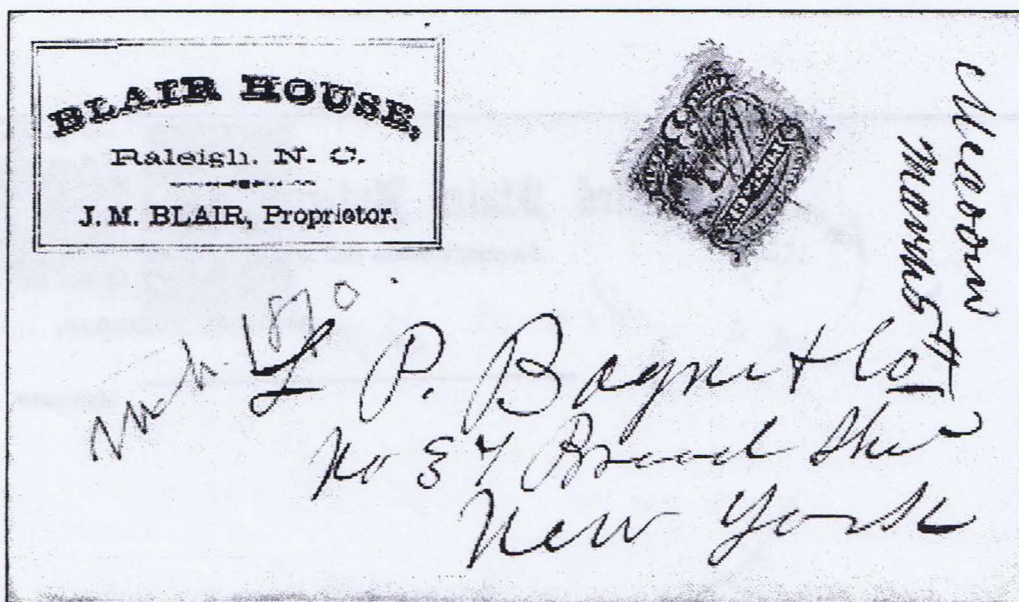


Figure 3



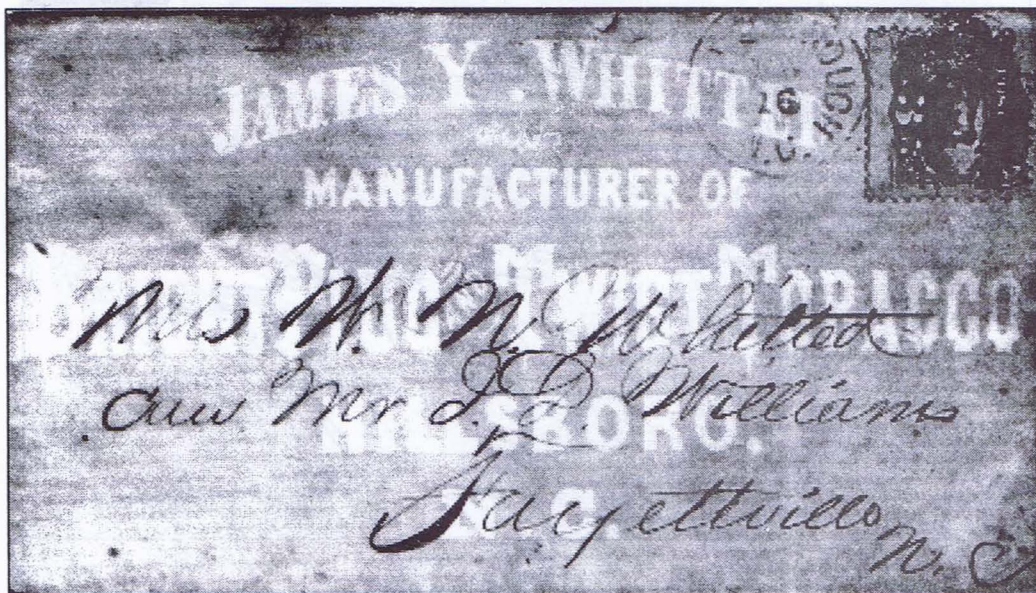


Figure 4

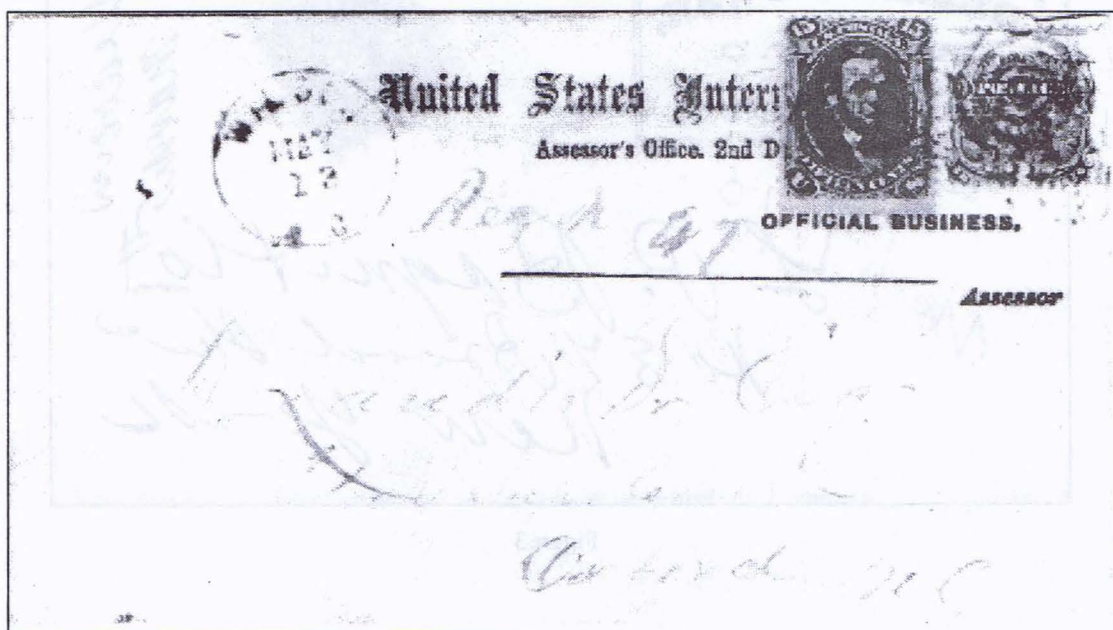


Figure 5



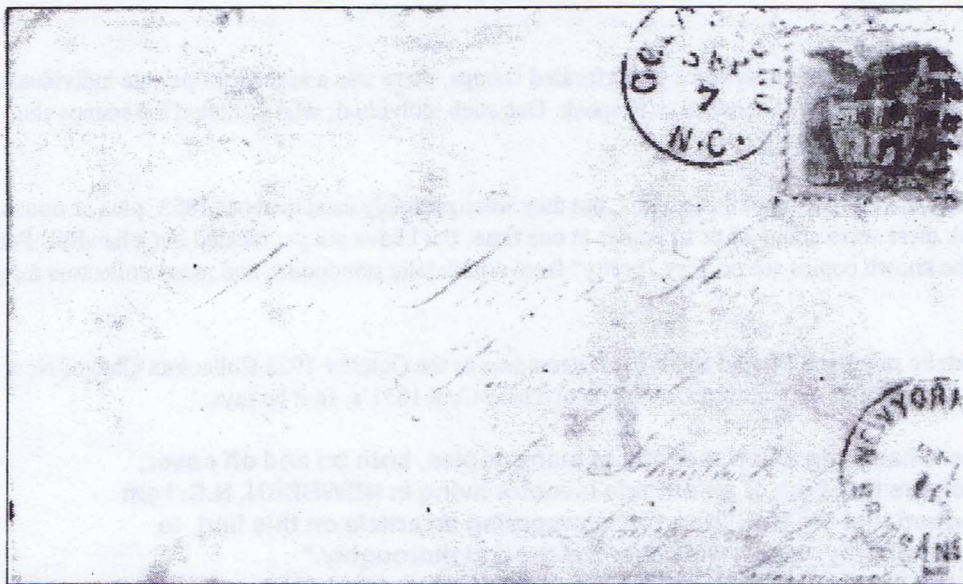


Figure 6

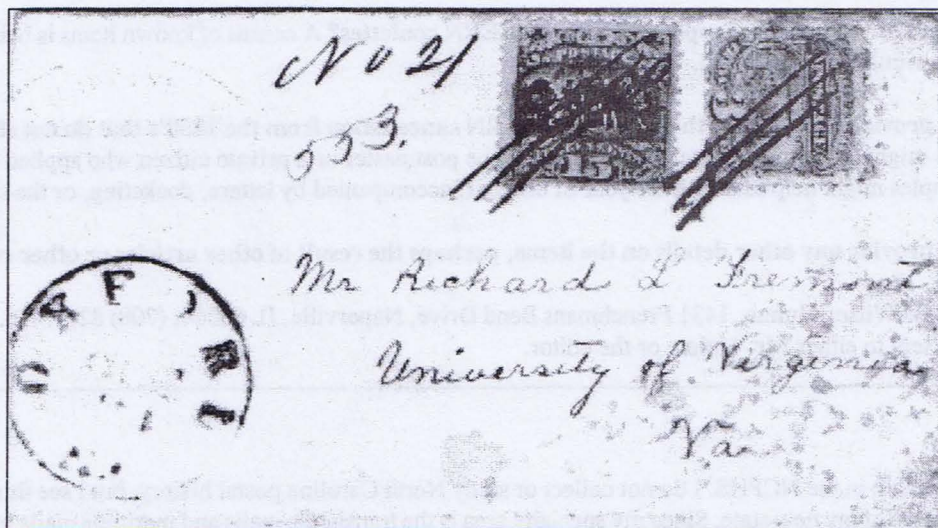


Figure 7



# NEWBERN, NORTH CAROLINA ROULETTES

## A Request for Information

Prior to the official government issuance of perforated stamps, there was a number of private individuals, and perhaps postmasters, who took matters into their own hands so to speak. One such individual, who rouletted the stamps shown, appears to have lived in Newbern, North Carolina.

Not many details are known about these items, but they were probably used in about 1853, plus or minus a year. According to Dr. Chase's book there were about 25 or so copies at one time, but I have not yet located but a handful. Perhaps they no longer exist. Most of the known copies are no very "pretty" from a philatelic standpoint, and many collectors may have passed them by.

The first philatelic reference I found about these items was in the October 1922 Collectors Club of New York Philatelist, and article by Herman Toasperm on Mounting a Collection of Three Cent 1851's. In it he says:

**"There has been a find recently of many copies, both on and off cover, which were the work of an outside inventor living in NEWBERN, N.C. I am informed that Mr. H.P. Atherton is preparing an article on this find, to appear shortly, which will cover the ground thoroughly."**

I have not been able to locate the Atherton article, if it was ever written. I have not seen any items on cover, although they should exist. Hence nothing is known about the addressees or the writers.

The purpose of this request is to ask for help in gathering information for part of a study on perforation of postage stamps in the United States and specifically to ask for help on several fronts.

**Do any members have additional copies of the NEWBERN roulettes?** A census of known items is being compiled, and a photocopy of your item would be appreciated.

**Can members provide examples of the same NEWBERN cancellation from the 1850's that do not show the rouletted stamps?** Such examples might be helpful in establishing if it was the postmaster or a private citizen who applied the rouletting. Additionally, such examples might help establish the year of usage, if accompanied by letters, docketing, or the like.

**Can members provide any other details on the items, perhaps the result of other articles or other research?**

The investigator is Wilson Hulme, 1431 Frenchmans Bend Drive, Naperville, IL 60564, (708) 820-1416. Response will be appreciated and may be sent to either Mr. Hulme or the editor.

---

Letter to the Editor:

I have applied for membership in the NCPHS. I do not collect or study North Carolina postal history, but I see this is a good way to learn about the postal history of my new state. Since my specialty area is the transatlantic mails and maritime mails in general, I will be quite happy to help with the explanation of any transatlantic covers that turn up needing assistance in understanding. I suspect that there are not a great number of these covers, however, as I seldom see one. But, I understand the rating and routing, which isn't usually very dependent on the origin state.

I contacted Tom Alexander and asked for any information he had on 1847 covers from North Carolina. He was working to publish a survey of all known (to him) covers with the 5 cent and 10 cent 1847 stamps. He sent me a disk with his data on North Carolina covers and encouraged me to share the information with others who collect in this area, hoping to get any additional or corrected information. I am enclosing a copy for you use. In general, the listing is not very large compared to most other states that had the adhesives sent to them.

Richard F. Winter  
11 Teal Court  
Greensboro, N.C. 27455





## NEWBERN ROULETTES

Check your collection and extras,  
you may find some interesting  
roulettes among the ordinary stamps



## MARKINGS NEEDED -

I am seeking the following material for an exhibit and/or xerox copies of the same for a continuing series of articles. Any help by the membership will be greatly appreciated and acknowledged. The only specific criteria is that the markings must cancel a Confederate States General Issue stamp. If you have information that the cancel does not exist in this form I would also like to hear from you.

Straight-line cancels from TAWBORO, KERNERSVILLE, & MARTINSDALE. Unusual cancels include the GRAHAM & JAMESTOWN segmented balloon cancels; ELKIN with it's fancy type and RIDGEWAY's geometric circle of wedges. I am also seeking the following handstamps used as cancelers: WAY, FORWARDED, MISSENT, FREE, HELD FOR POSTAGE, ADV. or ADVERTISED. These handstamps do not have to be from N.C.

Conrad L. Bush  
205 Hughes Street, N.C.  
Fort Walston Beach, FL 32548

## NCPHS HANDBOOKS AVAILABLE

North Carolina Post Offices and Postmasters,  
1861-65, Stroupe ..... \$8.00

Self-Sufficiency At All Cost: Confederate Post Office Operations in N.C., Ridgeway ..... \$8.00

Postal Markings of North Carolina Railroads, including Station Agents, Waterways, etc., Crumbley

Perma Bound ..... \$12.00

Hard Back ..... \$27.50

Available from:

NCPHS  
Tony L. Crumbley  
PO Box 219  
Newell, N.C. 28126



# SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

by Tony L. Crumbley

It seems that over the years the Philatelic historians have been unsure of the exact date of North Carolina's secession from the Union. In Dietz's original *Postal History of the Confederate States of America* published in 1929, he lists the date as May 21, 1861. In his following catalogues of 1931, 1937 and 1945, he lists this same date. When the 1959 Dietz catalogue was published, it listed May 20, 1961 as the date of secession. Twenty-seven years later, the New Dietz lists May 21 as the date of secession. A check of the current *Scott Catalog* finds May 20, 1861 listed as the correct date as does the *Confederate States of America Stampless Cover Catalog*.

With all this confusion of dates, it's time we produce the facts and settle it once and for all. What is the real date?!

A history lesson is in store before we get down to the exact date. Perhaps it's best to start with Lincoln's election. North Carolinians anxiously awaited Lincoln's inaugural address for an indication of his Southern policy. In his address on March 4, 1861, Lincoln was both firm and conciliatory towards the seceded states. Like President Buchanan, he refused to recognize the secession of the lower South and declared that he would retain possession of federal property there. But at the same time, Lincoln assured Southerners that there would be no invasion of their states. Furthermore, Lincoln disclaimed any purpose or right to interfere with slavery where it existed.

The people of North Carolina interpreted Lincoln's address to their own liking. Secessionists remained convinced that Lincoln intended to force the seceded states to return to the Union. They believed that his purpose in offering an olive branch was to trick the border states into remaining in the Union until he could successfully coerce the South and act against slavery.

Unionists, though dismayed by Lincoln's refusal to recognize the secession of the lower South, insisted that the inaugural address was not a war message. It "breathes peace to any candid mind," North Carolina State Senator Jonathan Worth declared.

After Lincoln's inaugural and his expressions of conciliation, Southern Unionists pressed the new president to abandon the federal possessions in the seceded states. Rumors reached North Carolina and the other border states that Lincoln planned to soon abandon Fort Sumter and not reinforce Fort Pickens. Indeed, a glimmer of hope for the return of politics as usual in North Carolina began to appear in early April. Optimism rose in the conservative camp that Lincoln would follow a "let alone" policy.

On the morning of April 13, the people of the state received the startling news that President Lincoln had attempted to resupply Fort Sumter and fighting had occurred. Two days later, after the federal garrison's surrender, Lincoln issued a

proclamation calling for 75,000 troops to suppress the rebellion. On that same day, Secretary of War Simon Cameron wired Governor Ellis asking him to provide two regiments for immediate service. Ellis hotly informed Cameron that he would be "no party to this wicked violation of the laws of the country, and to this war upon the liberties of a free people. You can get no troops from North Carolina.

On May 1, the North Carolina General Assembly put in motion the machinery to take North Carolina out of the Union. An election of delegates to a state convention was scheduled for May 13. With war preparation afoot, politics was largely suspended during the brief convention campaign; all of the candidates pledged their support for separation.

When the convention met on May 20, Southern Rights candidate Weldon N. Edwards was elected president of the body. Secessionist Burton Craige proposed an ordinance that would dissolve North Carolina's relationship with the other states without indicating the reason or explaining the theory behind the state's action. With a vote of 72 to 40, Craige's ordinance became a motion. In a show of state unity, the convention unanimously approved the Craige ordinance. The convention then passed an ordinance ratifying the Provisional Confederate Constitution.

Thus, on May 20, 1861, 100 guns boomed and church bells rang in salute of secession -- making this date as the official date of secession.

A handy reminder of this date can be found on the Great Seal of North Carolina honoring a significant event that had taken place on this date 86 years earlier. On May 20, 1775, the citizens of Mecklenburg County adopted the Mecklenburg Resolves which declared their independence from England. Another story for another time.

Perhaps the reason for the confusion of dates lies in the fact that surely it was late in the day before the ordinance of secession was passed. It became effective immediately -- not at some later date. Thus, the first full day of independence would have been the 21st. It is, however, clear that the date of passage was May 20.

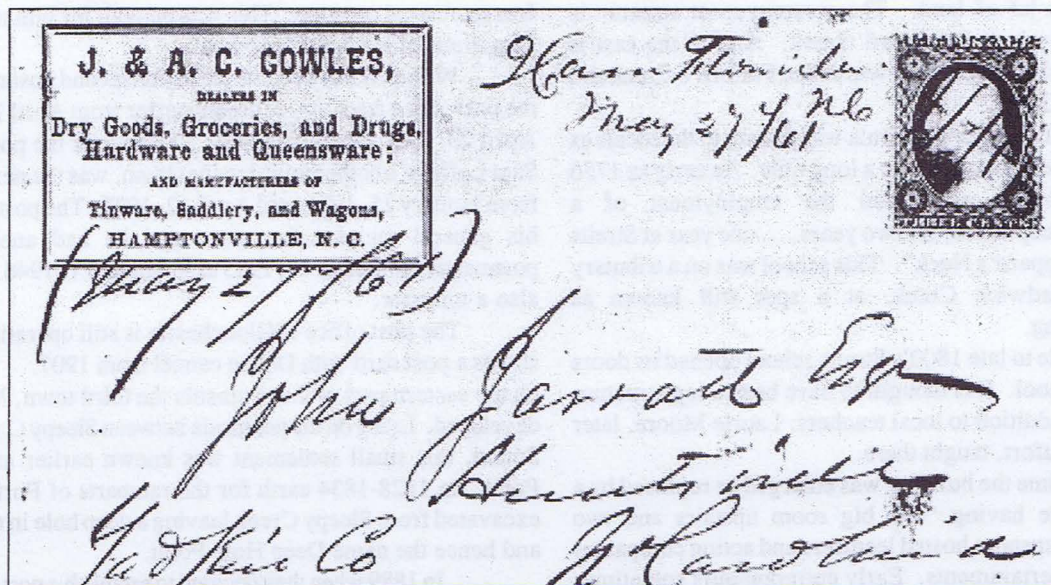
The postal history of this era is limited. On May 27, 1861 North Carolina was admitted to the Confederacy, allowing for only seven days of independent state usage. Except for Tennessee, which had no day as an independent state, this is the briefest independent state period. Four days later, on May 31, 1861, U.S. postage became invalid in the Southern states, thus providing for only an eleven day time frame for U.S. postage to have been used in this seceded state.

Only six cities have recorded independent state usage

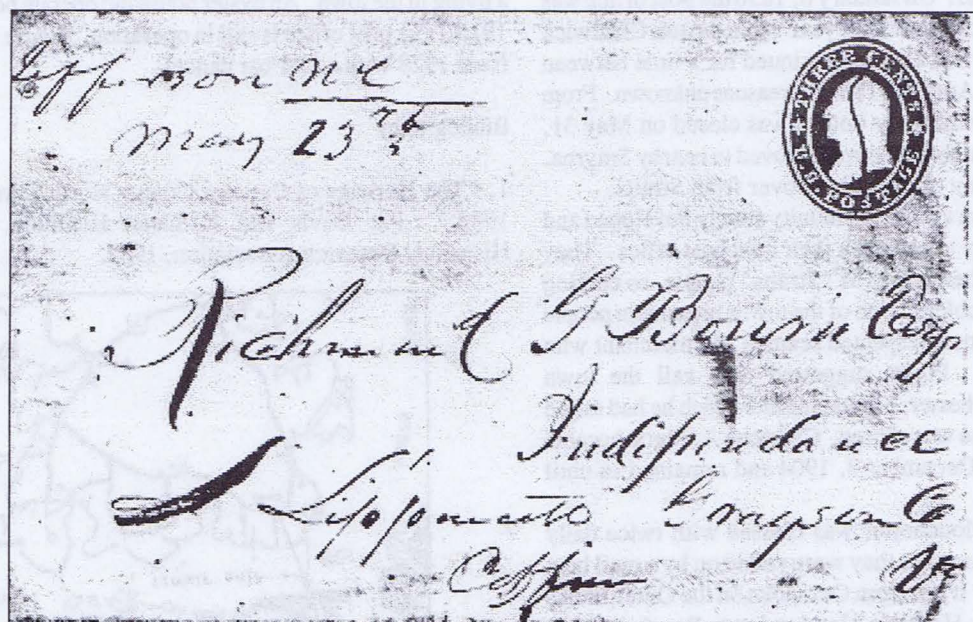


covers and twelve cities from North Carolina have recorded Confederate state usage of U.S. stamps. Only Arkansas has fewer reported markings.

Perhaps now with the record straight, I can get each of you to pull out your old and new Dietz and change that 21 to a 20.



May 27th 1861 Independent State Usage



May 23rd 1861 Independent State Usage



# STRAITS, CLOUCHESTER AND MARSHALLBERG, CARTERET COUNTY

by Scott Troutman

Just to the north of Harker's Island in Carteret County is a small peninsula. The waters of Core Sound between Harker's Island and this peninsula is called "The Straits" and has been as far back as anyone can remember. Two streams empty into "The Straits" along this jut of land. The western-most stream is Whitehurst-Chadwick or Brickyard Creek. And to the east is Sleepy Creek, which in older times was called Fulford's Creek and before that Davis Creek.

Originally this entire peninsula was known to the locals as Straits and it has been populated for a long time. As early as 1756 the Anglican Church authorized the employment of a "schoolmaster to keep school for two years .... one year at Straits and the next at Sheppard's Neck". This school was on a tributary of Whitehurst-Chadwick Creek, at a spot still known as Schoolhouse Landing.

In the middle to late 1800's Straits school opened its doors as a free public school. It is thought to have been a log structure of two rooms. In addition to local teachers, Laurie Moore, later a physician in Beaufort, taught there.

At some time the building was enlarged or replaced by a two story structure having "one big room upstairs and two downstairs". The upstairs hosted lecturers and acting companies as well as local entertainments. Early entrepreneurs sometimes brought motion picture shows to the upstairs room and projected them with hand cranked machines.

Straits, the settlement on the western-most arm of land opened its first post office February 23, 1855 with David W. Whitehurst as postmaster. On January 6, 1856 the post office was discontinued until March 7th of that year when Anson Chadwick became postmaster. It was also discontinued for a time between December 11, 1866 and April 26, 1880 for reasons unknown. From that time it operated continuously until it was closed on May 31, 1953. Mail operations at that time were moved to nearby Smyrna. Figure 1 shows a last day of operation cover from Straits.

On the center arm a new community slowly developed and by 1904 they were ready to establish their own post office. They had always thought of themselves as "Straits" people, so coming up with a name was a problem. One of the towns prominent people was a Captain Joe Pigott, a respected seaman and merchant who had travelled widely. Pigott suggested they call the town Gloucester after Gloucester, Massachusetts which he had sailed to often. And so the name was chosen. Charlotte A. Pigott became the first postmaster on December 8, 1904 and remained so until April 13, 1914.

For a period, Gloucester was blessed with twice daily mail service. In the afternoons they were called on by a mail boat which took passengers. It ran from Ocracoke on the Outer Banks to Atlantic, Gloucester, Harker's Island and on to Beaufort. Matt Marshall was an early mailboat operator. In the mornings mail went from Gloucester to the nearby towns of Otway and Bettie by horse and buggy.

The mail boat to Gloucester carried more than just mail and passengers. It also carried ice. For around 1910 Wilber

Willis, in the front yard of his house next to the present day INS Grocery, opened an ice cream parlor. People came from all over the area to indulge in the delicacy. Four hundred pound blocks of ice were sent by the mail boat from Beaufort to freeze Willis's frozen custard creation. This was enough for him to create 20 to 25 gallons of ice cream per week.

Wilber Willis became the town's second postmaster and ran the post office from the ice cream parlor from April 14, 1914 until April 29, 1920 when Fannie A. Nelson took the postmaster job. Sam Leffers, another town businessman, was the next postmaster from January 25, 1921 until April 12, 1923. The post office was in his general merchandise store and he had another turn at postmaster from June 24, 1935 until January 1, 1946. Leffers was also a minister.

The post office at Gloucester is still operating. Figure 2 shows a post card with Doane cancel from 1907.

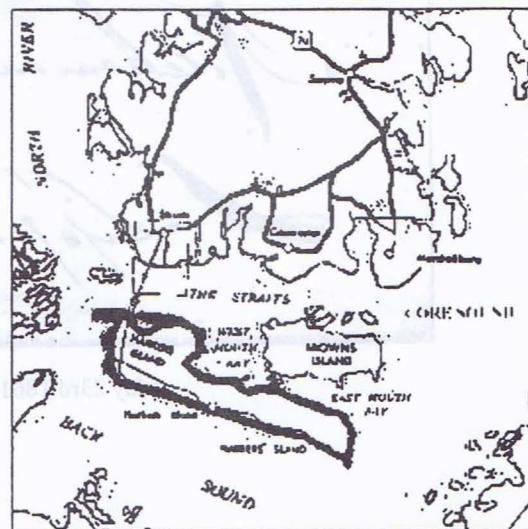
on the eastern part of the peninsula the third town, Marshallberg developed. Lying on the peninsula between Sleepy Creek and Core Sound, this small settlement was known earlier as Deep Hole Point. In 1828-1834 earth for the ramparts of Fort Macon was excavated from Sleepy Creek leaving a deep hole in the creek bed and hence the name Deep Hole Point.

In 1889 when they decided to establish a post office, it was decided a better name was needed. The inhabitants chose Marshallberg in honor of Matt Marshall who ran the mailboat from Beaufort three times a week.

Fishing and boat building were the primary way of making a living in the town. An oyster house did operate between 1900 and 1915. The post office is still in operation. Figure 3 shows a cover from 1928 with a four bar cancel.

## Bibliography

1. "The Heritage of Carteret County North Carolina Volume 1 1982 Pat Davis and Kathleen Hamilton, The Carteret Historical Research Association, 1982.





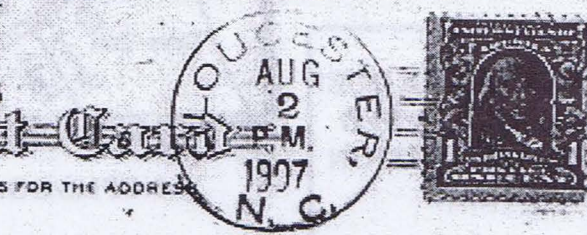
POSTAGE

REPLY CARD  
THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



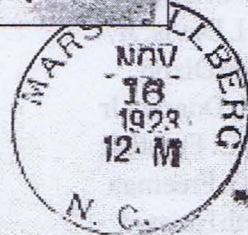
THEODORE H. STEAD  
22 ALGER PLACE  
NEW LONDON, N.C.

A home scene of every  
day life is beautiful  
but a hundred times danger-  
ous. I wish you were with  
us now to enjoy the morning  
young sea breeze & salt bathing  
I appreciate it very much  
remember me to your  
with much love to the  
children & the whole family.  
Yours truly,  
Theodore H. Stead



Miss Clara Applegate  
R. F. D. No. 3  
Mt. Gilead  
Ky.

Marshallburg, N.C.



Mr. Harry T. Davis,  
State Museum,  
Raleigh,  
N.C.



## NCPHS ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, May 18th, 2PM

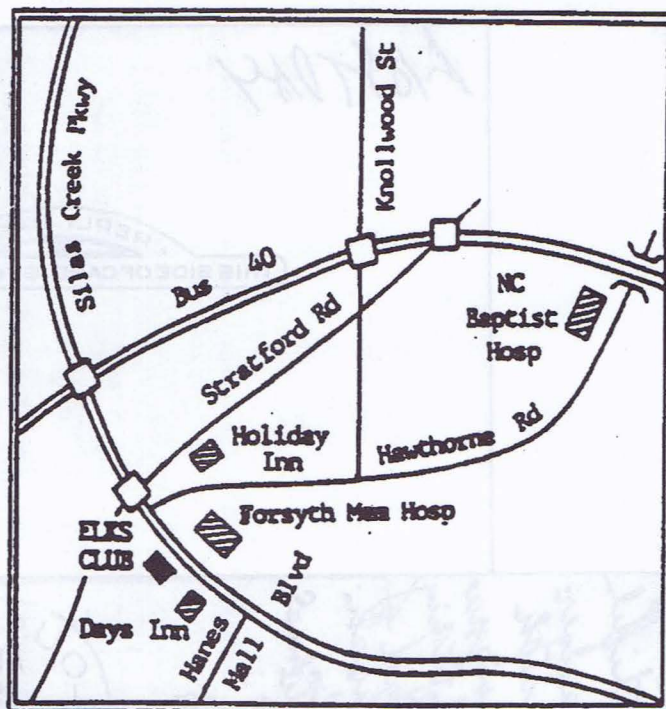
at

WINPEX '96

Elks Lodge

3340 Silas Creek Parkway

Board or Directors Meeting, 3 PM



**1996 NCPHS MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE!**  
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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!**