

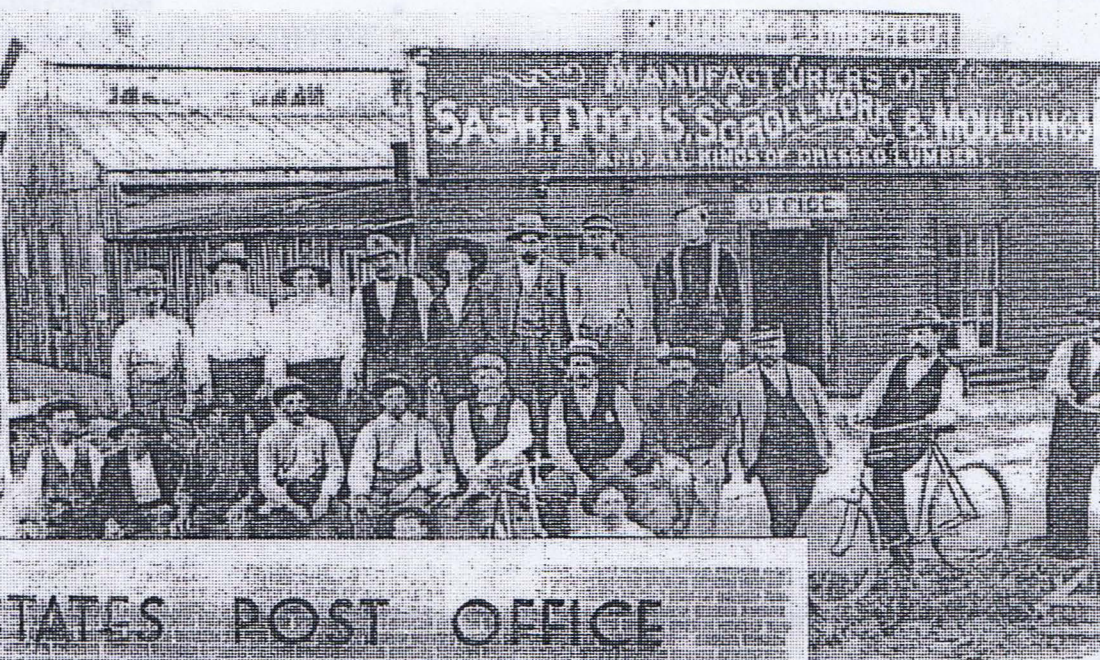
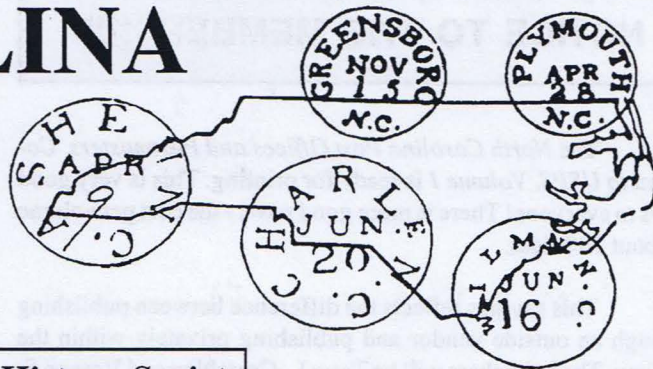
NORTH CAROLINA POSTAL HISTORIAN

The Journal of the North Carolina Postal History Society

Volume 15, No. 4

Winter 1997

Whole 59



UNITED STATES POST OFFICE

GRANITE FALLS, NORTH CAROLINA



NOTICE TO THE MEMBERSHIP

The *North Carolina Post Offices and Postmasters, Colonial to USPS, Volume 1* is ready for printing. This is very good news to everyone! There is more good news - the cost per volume is about 20% less.

This savings reflects the difference between publishing through an outside vendor and publishing privately within the Society. The publishers will be Tony L. Crumbley and Vernon S. Stroupe. They will be responsible to the printing cost, distribution cost, shipping, handling, and storage of unsold copies. This change in publishing was caused by the withdrawal of the leading prospective publisher and lack of interest of others.

Publishing the books privately marketed will result in fewer books sold due to less exposure to advertising and points-of-sale. It is not expected that enough books will be sold to be profitable either to the publishers or to NCPHS. The publishers are hoping for break-even and the Society is protected from any loss.

Pre-publication offers have been mailed to all NCPHS members and orders are being received at a satisfactory rate. If you have lost or misplaced your order form, contact Tony. The advance price is \$36.50 per volume or \$144 for the four volumes as ready. Each volume will be hard-bound and gold stamped with the title.

IN THIS ISSUE

Post Cards Tell The Story	
Robert J. Stets	3
One Place Through Time - Pierces Forge, Bairds Forge, Lovelady, Granite, Granite Falls - Caldwell County	
Scott Troutman and Tony L. Crumbley	4
Hog Island and Lupton, NC	
David W. Lupton	9
Cumulative Index to the NCPHS Newsletter and Postal Historian, 1982-1997	10

REMINDER TO THOSE WHO HAVE NOT PAID THEIR

DUES

**THE 1997 DUES FOR THE NCPHS
ARE NOW DUE AND PAYABLE.
PLEASE SEND YOUR \$15
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.

President

Robert H. Hunt
PO Box 545
Reidsville, N.C. 27320

Treasurer

Thomas Richardson
Rt. 2, Box 26
Trinity, N.C. 27370

Editors

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

Vice-President

Alan Vestal
PO Box 1338
Clemmons, N.C. 27012

Secretary

Alan Vestal
PO Box 1338
Clemmons, N.C. 27012

Vernon S. Stroupe

PO Box 8879
Asheville, N.C. 28814

Post Cards Tell the Story

by Robert J. Stets

The United States issued its first "Postal Card" in 1873 and jealously guarded the name "Postal Card" for those issued by the U.S. Post Office Department. Similar cards issued by private printers had to be called "Post Cards". Following are a few examples of Postal and Post Cards used in North Carolina in the early 1900's.

An Act of Congress passed on May 19, 1898 provided for the transmission by mail, at the postage rate of 1 cent a piece, under such regulations as the Postmaster General may prescribe, of written messages on private mailing cards. The regulations required that the card should bear the words "Private Mailing Card", the date of the Act, and that one side must be reserved solely for the address and postage stamp. Figure 1 shows such a private mailing card, mailed from Elizabeth City, N.C. on December 12, 1902, which acknowledges the receipt of a deposit.

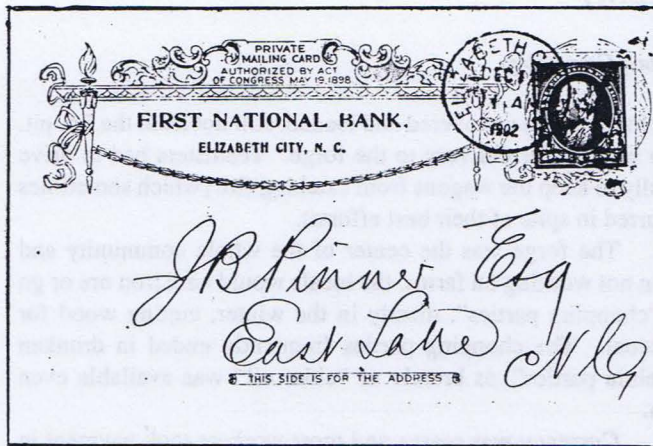


Figure 1

Figure 2 shows an interesting double use of the same "Postal Card." The card is Scott # UX18, the side-facing McKinley, issued in 1902. This card was first used to notify a member of the People's Mutual Benevolent Association that another member had died and each living member was assessed one dollar to pay his death claim. The member was asked to return the card with the remittance. The card was first mailed from Statesville, N.C. on June 1, 1903 (postmark under postage stamp). In due time, the one dollar assessment was forwarded together with the postal card. Then, on July 1, 1903, a one cent stamp was added over the original postmark and the postal card was once again on its way to Harmony, N.C., this time as receipt for payment of the death assessment. An excellent office system, as neat as anything we have developed in recent times!

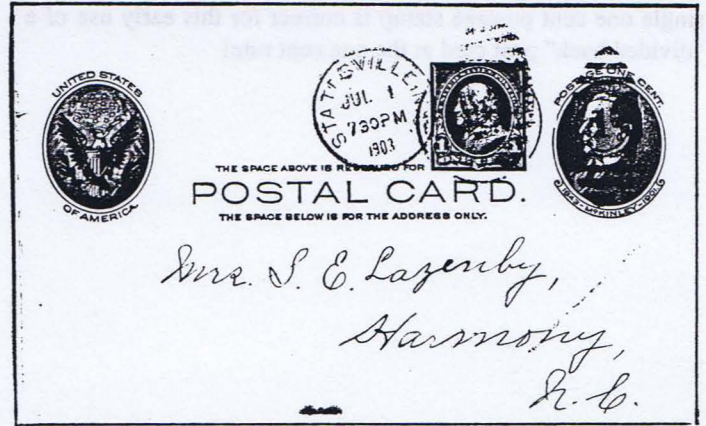


Figure 2

Figure 3 shows a "Post Card", printed in Germany, for use in Germany, and bearing a picture of a lake in a Berlin suburb. Note that it is the type described by post card collectors as "divided back" -- a style that was not produced in the United States until 1907. The reason for the "undivided back" post card was the requirement by the U.S. Post Office Department prior to March 1, 1907, that "nothing but the address may appear on the address side." But the card in Figure 3 does have a message on the address side and the postmark on that card is October 12, 1906. Under regulations in effect in 1906, the presence of a message on the address side of the post card required payment of letter postage on the post card, thus the two one-cent stamps provide the correct postage for this unusual example showing U.S. use of a "divided back" post card prior to March 1, 1907.

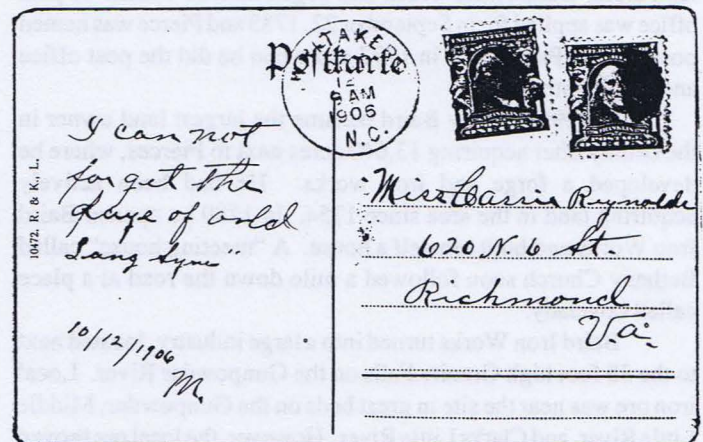


Figure 3

Figure 4 shows the proper use of a "divided back" post card after March 1, 1907. Again, the card seems to be of European origin, judging from the many languages in which "Post Card" appears. The message is dated February 4, 1907 (prior to the time

messages were permitted on the address side without penalty), but the postmark is clear and it shows Manson, N.C. March 4, 1907 -- only three days after the appearance of a message on the address side was permitted for a one-cent postal charge. Thus the single one cent postage stamp is correct for this early use of a "divided back" post card at the one cent rate!

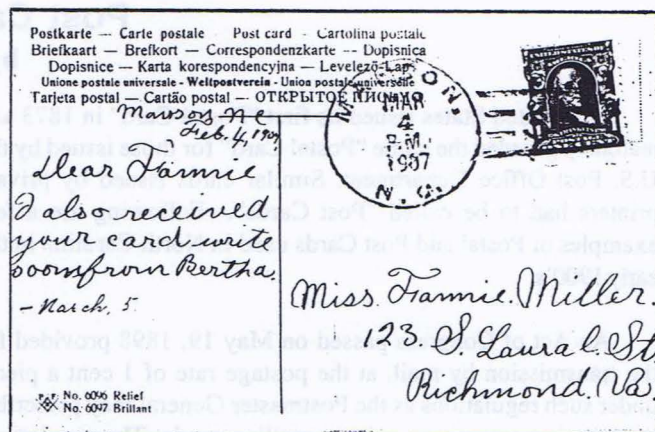


Figure 4

One Place Through Time Pierces Forge, Bairds Forge, Lovelady, Granite and Granite Falls Caldwell County

by Scott Troutman and Tony Crumbley

We don't associate North Carolina with iron production today and other than some iron mines in the Cranberry area near Boone I wasn't aware that the state ever produced iron. But in one town iron working was the principle industry for nearly 50 years, and the early history of the area from the time it was first settled is that of the iron forges and mines. For nearly 70 years it had the name Lovelady, but in the end it took the name Granite Falls from the towns most prominent physical feature, which had already been dammed over years before for power.

The iron ore deposit had been discovered by explorers in the late 1700's and in 1792 Charles Pierce bought 1200 acres of land along Gunpowder Creek and began an iron works. A post office was applied for in September 22, 1785 and Pierce was named postmaster. Pierce died in 1797 and when he did the post office and forge both closed.

In 1795 Andrew Baird became the largest land owner in the county after acquiring 13,640 acres next to Pierces, where he developed a forge and iron works. He had been actively acquiring land in the area since 1754. In 1789 he opened Baird Iron Works and built himself a house. A "meeting house" called Bethany Church soon followed a mile down the road at a place called Lovelady.

Baird Iron Works turned into a large industry, located next to the 35 foot high Granite Falls on the Gunpowder River. Local iron ore was near the site in great beds on the Gunpowder, Middle Little River, and Clarks Little River. However, the local ore proved to be of poor quality, so better grade ore was hauled in on great wagons from better mines in Lincoln County.

Making iron required charcoal. Large trees, mostly pine, were cut and split into cordwood, which was then turned into charcoal in a "coal pit". This involved covering the burning wood with soil and letting it turn to charcoal slowly. When ready,

the charcoal was uncovered and loaded, still hot from the fire pit, onto wagons for delivery to the forge. Teamsters had to drive rapidly to keep the wagons from catching fire (which sometimes occurred in spite of their best efforts).

The forge was the center of the whole community and when not working on farms, the locals would haul iron ore or go on "chopping parties", mostly in the winter, cutting wood for charcoal. The chopping parties frequently ended in drunken "alleluia parties", as brandy or "cider oil" was available even then.

Currency was scarce and most workers took payment in iron implements made by the forge. What currency there was, [a bit, or 1/8 of] silver Spanish reals worth 12 ½ cents. It was the only money at the time considered to be worth anything.

On Oct. 8, 1798, Andrew Baird applied to open a post office. Bairds Forge post office was approved and opened on Nov 17, 1798 at the forge. This was rough and tumble country at the time and Bairds Forge was one of only two post offices in the county, Fort Defiance being the other one. Keep in mind that Caldwell County was wilderness to most people in this early time. Only 2,675 people were listed in the 1790 census.

In 1820 William L. Baird, Andrew's son, took over the post office from his father. He held the job until 1825 when Matthew Baird, Andrew's brother, was appointed. Matthew served until his death on Nov. 8, 1829. It is worth noting that Matthews last name was often misspelled Beard in early records. Eight days later Alfred C. Conley was appointed and he served until March 30, 1830. Matthew's sister Anne may have filled in during those eight days.

William A. Dunlap took over next, moving the post office to Bethany Church, which was near the forge. He served until March 30, 1834. For his work in those four years he received a whopping \$4.97 in pay.

Back in 1773 a military road was punched through the area running from Marion, up through Morganton, to present day Granite Falls, across Wilkes County and on up into Stokes County. There is a tree still standing in Granite Falls which has the surveyors initials and the words "Lovelady Road" in it from 1773. Where the name Lovelady Road came from is speculation, but the ford where the road crossed the Catawba was called Lovelady Ford, and the area near it was known as Lovelady.

Another early industry in the area was fishing. Fall traps were used in the Catawba River. With a drag made of bushes and grape vines, which was pulled along to the trap, often as many as 500 shad were caught in a day. Today, the migratory shad are associated only with the lowland areas of the state, blocked from their salmon like migrations by dams. Lovelady Ford was one of the back country centers for this fishing industry, run primarily by a local family named the Bradshaws. A curiosity was that the Bradshaws sold all fish for the same price, one shilling, regardless of size.

By the early 1830's there was a school at Lovelady, started by D.W. Conway. Conway self published an arithmetic book, and this was used by many other local schools. School in those days was only run during the winter. Otherwise children were needed on the farms.

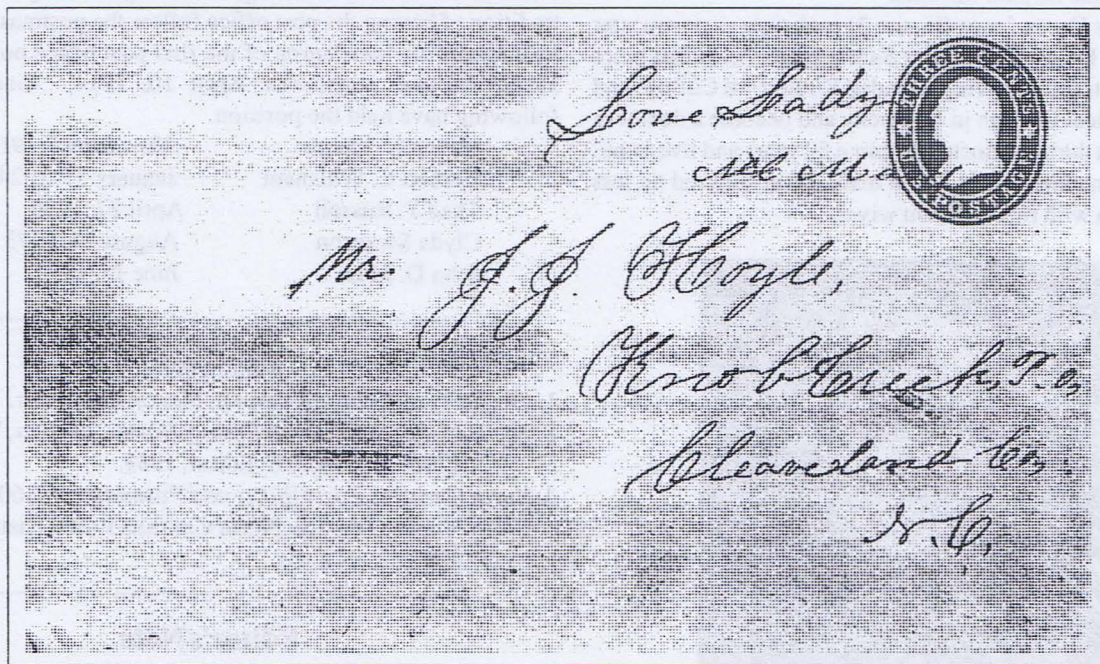
Bethany Church was at Lovelady, and Bishop Francis

Asbury, the great Methodist circuit rider made Lovelady a stop on his great annual circuit from Danville, Virginia, down through Wilkes County, then turning east to Salisbury and eventually up along the coastal towns.

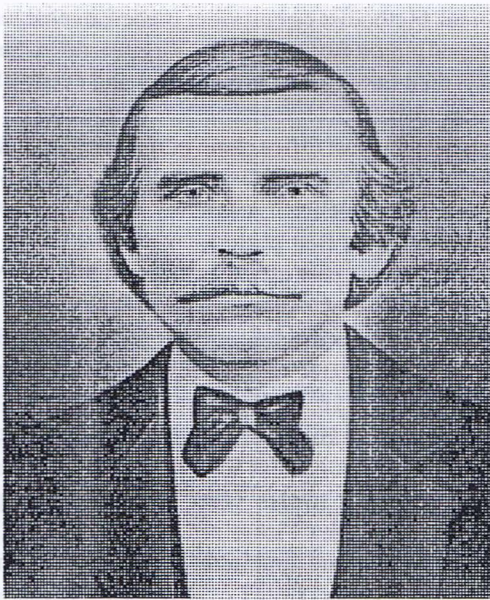
When Lovelady post office came into existence on March 3, 1824, Caldwell County was still frontier. It would be two more years before the third post office, Little River, would open. Abner Summers was Lovelady's first postmaster. He took over what had been the Bairds Forge post office, but moved it to his store at Lovelady. Israel Conley took over the post office on Oct 15, 1857, but Abner took it back over in a few months on January 8, 1858.

Nine months later John Fisher was appointed postmaster on August 14, 1858. He moved the post office to his house which today sits on Highway 321A. The house is said to still be there. This is important as the post office stayed in the Fisher house for the next twelve years including through the Confederacy. In 1861 John Fisher reported making \$6.82 as postmaster. His Confederate appointment came on January 22, 1862. No Confederate covers from Lovelady have been reported. After the war Susannah Fisher (john's wife?) was postmaster from June 5, 1866 until July 5, 1870.

Galenaus Jones took over then and moved the post office to a building on main street called the Jones Store Building which



Manuscript Love Lady on a pre-Civil War Star Die envelope of 1860-61



Dr. S.G.H. Jones

shopkeeper who bought herbs, dried fruit and produce and took them to Statesville to resell. Later he studied medicine under a doctor in Lenoir and was pronounced a doctor in 1870. Several of the covers shown are from Dr. Sam Jones: part of a correspondence with a Texas lawyer. We do not know why Dr. Jones needed a lawyer in Texas, but notations on the back of the envelopes indicate he paid his bills.

Dr. Atlas Durea Jones (Figure 3) took over as postmaster June 18, 1883. He was another of Sam's sons. Atlas had more formal medical training having attended Rutherford College and Louisville Medical College in Kentucky and become a doctor in 1876. Atlas was the town doctor for some 50 years and lived until 1933. A mild mannered and gentle man, Atlas fathered no less than 22 children with two different wives.



Dr. A.D. Jones

In this time period the town changed considerably. The forge appears to have been long gone, and in 1873 the Lenoir and Chester Railroad came through town. Lumbering was now the main industry. By 1880 Shuford Mills opened a cotton mill at the falls to produce cordage. It was the worlds largest mill of its kind.

Three years later on March 19, 1886 Michael F. Jones took over as postmaster. He was no direct relation to Atlas. The town was renamed Granite on February 28, 1888. James A. Houch was appointed postmaster September 21, 1888 and lasted for four years.

The town continued to change. In 1890 Dudley Lumber Company opened. They specialized in making doors, window sash and molding. Mrs. Walter Russell made hats in a hat store. The Mize family had a buggy shop which made surries and buggies.

On September 17, 1892 Norphlet H. Lawrence became postmaster and moved the post office to an old building beside his house. on April 25, 1893 James Houch took over again, but a new name was given to the post office, Granite Falls. George T. King became postmaster June 1, 1897 and move it to his "Kings Store".

The town continued to change. A second mill called Falls Manufacturing was built in 1903. The town had opened its first boarding house in 1900. And something called the Pickerstick plant was constructed in 1901. There was also a millinery shop. Feb. 2, 1903 Ed Starnes became postmaster and moved the post office to the Starnes Building, following the long standing local tradition of having the post office follow the postmaster. In 1906 he oversaw the installation of the first post office boxes. Walter Moore became postmaster April 10, 1914. Since then the following have held the position.

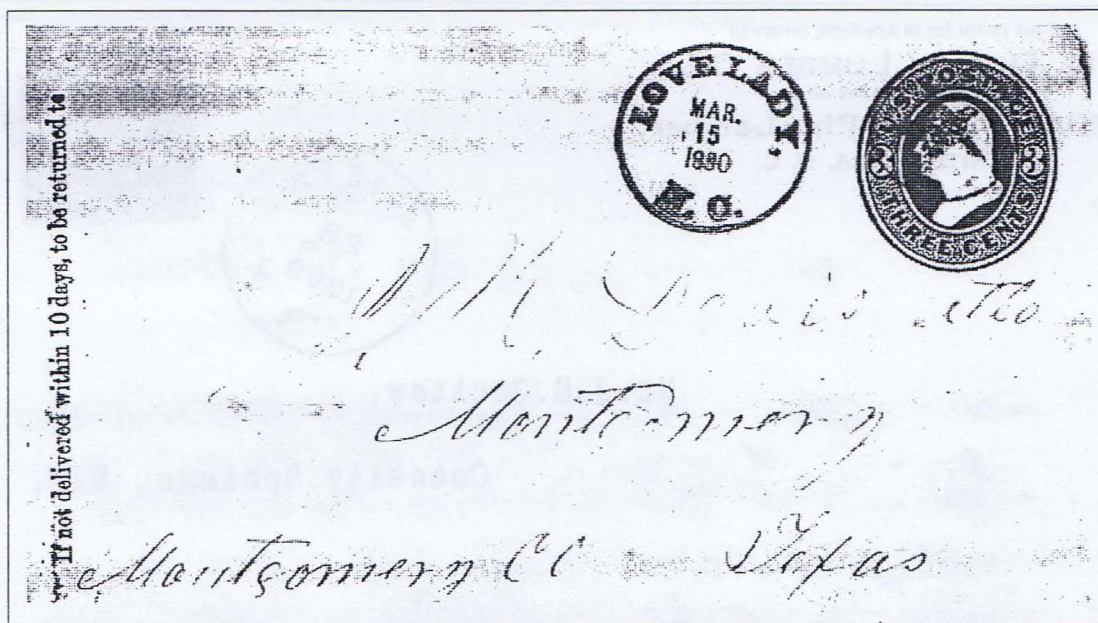
Myron L. Moore	November 7, 1917
Herbert C. Whisnant	January 31, 1924
Thad T. Russell	April 27, 1936
Clyde Swanson	August 25, 1973
John D. Muse	June 18, 1977

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2. *The Heritage of Caldwell County North Carolina*, Volume I, E. Carol Anderson, Jr. Editor, 1983.
3. *North Carolina Post Offices and Postmasters 1860-1866*, Vernon Stroupe, North Carolina Postal History Society, 1991.

Editor's Note

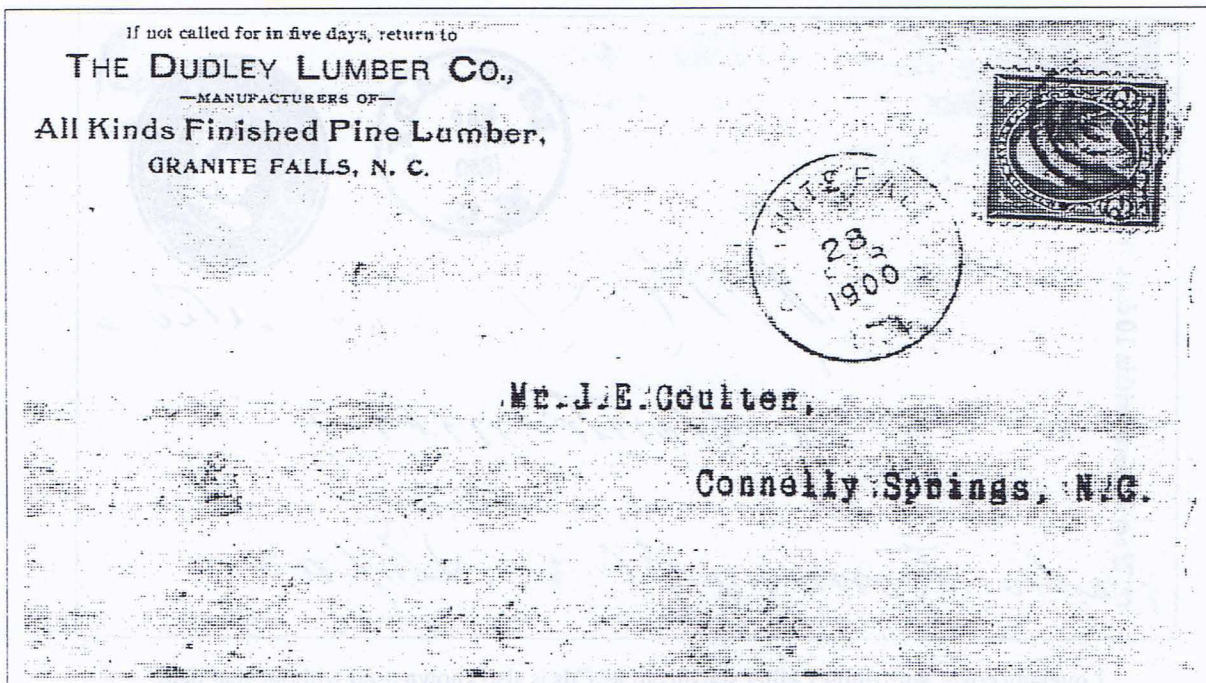
North Carolina history little notes the important iron industry in the foothill counties of North Carolina in the 1750's to 1830's. When the low-grade ore ran out, the ironmakers moved into upper South Carolina and made rails for the Columbia-Spartanburg Railroad; then to Northern Georgia for the Charlotte-Atlanta Railroad; and finally into Alabama where the built furnaces in the Bessemer/Birmingham area.



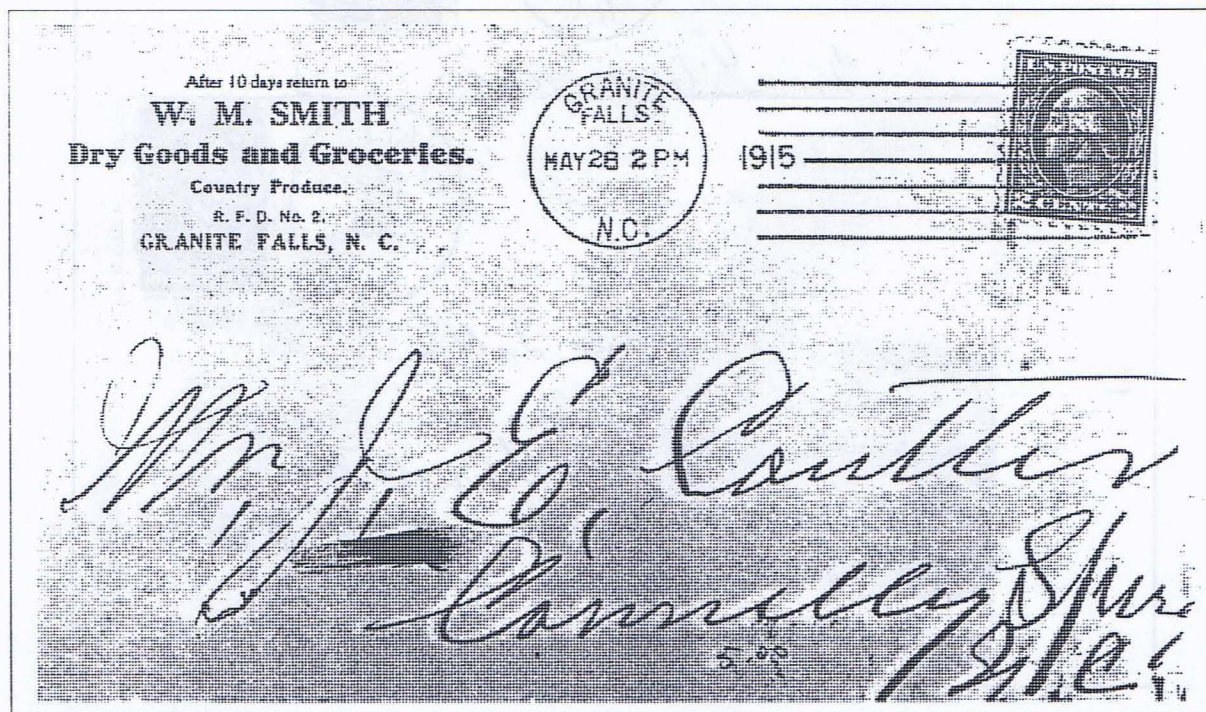
Lovelady cover with duplex killer star-in circle. Cds is also known used without year date.



Two covers showing that Granite and Lovelady were viable post offices at the same time with postmarks only three days apart. The original Granite was discontinued in 1886 and Lovelady changed to Granite in 1887, then to Granite Falls in 1888.



Granite Falls cds with Dudley Lumber Company corner card



Time-Cummins machine cancel, dial 5, killer type 3 of Granite Falls used 1912-15.

HOG ISLAND AND LUPTON, NORTH CAROLINA

Compiled by
David W. Lupton
Fort Collins, Colorado

For over 150 years Hog Island, in Core Sound off of Cedar Island in Carteret County, has been an important place in the history of the Luptons of North Carolina. Hog Island appears on maps as early as 1733, but the earliest Lupton date connected with the island is 1816. On August 16th of that year a deed of land is recorded from Silas Lupton I to Thomas Day. Silas, the third son of the founders of the North Carolina Luptons, was age 30 at this time.

Josiah, the second son of Christopher and Elizabeth Ann Robinson Lupton, also appears in an early deed of land on Hog Island -- the year is 1828. Both Josiah and brother Silas I were fishermen. It is Silas I, however, who is the progenitor of the Hog Island clan of Luptons.

In 1829 Allen Lupton II, son of Silas I and Therece "Recy" Day Lupton, is recorded as being the first Lupton child born on Hog Island. All nine of his children were born on Hog Island between 1849 and 1867, and all five of his grandchildren by his son James Allen Lupton were born at Lupton, N.C. (1908-1918) and attended Lupton School there.

In addition to Lupton births, deaths, burials and marriages occurred on Hog Island. And other names played an important role in the history of the island: Styron, Gillikin, Gaskill, Smith, Manson and Spencer to name but a few. Ties with Cedar Island and the mainland were strong, however, and many youngsters did not stay on Hog Island past their teens when it came time to make a living or to get married.

This is not to say that Hog Island and the settlement of Lupton did not have its heyday. In fact Hog Island is said to have had three neighborhoods of families by the 1890's. On the western end of the island, known as "Up-the-Bay," a seven family community existed including a store run by the Styron family. The east end of the island was known as "Down-the-Bay" and there was anchorage for vessels at Shell Cove. One of these vessels, the "Tunal", was owned by James Allen Lupton and had Lupton, N.C. licensed as its home port.

In addition to general stores, which sold mainly groceries and feed for livestock, the settlement of Lupton was granted a post office in 1892. The Lupton post office was apparently named after the first person to apply for a postal location on Hog Island - John W. Lupton. Thus the major settlement on Hog Island received the name Lupton - and the community continued to grow. At its height it is reported that Lupton had seventeen houses, several stores, four fish houses, a post office and an elementary school. Lupton School graduated classes through the sixth grade from at least 1915 thru 1931. Church services were held in the schoolhouse.

The 1920's, however, heralded the beginning of the decline of Lupton. In May 1920 the post office was discontinued and in that year the Albert M. Styron family moved to Ocracoke, leaving behind only about eight families. The Harry Goodwin family moved back to Cedar Island as did Sophia Ann Goodwin Lupton in the fall of 1923. The death of her husband, James Allen

Lupton, in the previous year prompted her to tear down her house at Lupton and rebuild it at Lola.

With better fishing and more available markets elsewhere, the community of Lupton and eventually Hog Island itself was abandoned by years end in 1931.

The spirit of Lupton, N.C. lives on, however, in spite of hurricanes and relentless tides for during the 1930's Norwood Dexter Lupton, in true Lupton form, salvaged the remaining materials from old houses on Hog Island and moved them to Cedar Island where he built a house for his family at Lola. Lupton, North Carolina may have been abandoned but it was not forgotten!

Epilogue

On October 10, 1981 (Herman) Burton Daniels, Jr. took Gladys Joy Ives Sadler, Shirley Mae Duell Edwards and Paul Bradley Edwards by boat to visit Hog Island. Their goal was to visit the site where the fishing community of Lupton once stood and to locate cemeteries. Two cemeteries were located and the names and dates on the gravestones were copied by Gladys Sadler as follows:

A small Lupton cemetery with a fence around it containing three gravestones --

Silas Lupton Aug. 13, 1839 - Aug. 17, 1918

Joanna Lupton, wife of Silas
Feb. 22, 1845 - Aug. 20, 1918

John W. Lupton, son of Silas and Joanna
July 21, 1869 - July 20, 1892

A larger cemetery near the water, left of the fishing camp that was built in recent years. This cemetery contains both stone and wooden cedar grave markers.

On August 12, 1983 the eastern end of Hog Island was visited once again -- this time by (William) Herbert Styron, James Lloyd Lupton Jr., Gladys Joy Ives Sadler, and the editors of *THE LUPTONIAN*. Without any previous arrangements, Mr. Styron very kindly met us at Little Joes Arcade on Cedar Island next to Luther Gaskill's house. The two mile trip across Cedar Island Bay took about twenty minutes each way in Herbert Styron's skiff. Portions of Hog Island had been in the Styron family since 1741, and Herbert Styron had lived for many years at Lupton, his first child having been born there. At its height Lupton had forty homes and Herbert located the sites of many of them. He showed us the cemeteries; the location of the shipyard where Willis Gillikin built boats; abandoned grape vines, and the cement

dipping vat where livestock were treated. As a boy Mr. Styron often found clay pipes and pieces of pottery left behind by the Indians (probably Tuscaroras) in the huge oyster shell mound that once stood on the south side of the east end of Hog Island.

For entertainment the citizens of Hog Island often held a "Hurly-Burly" party where they cooked molasses candy, squaredanced, and sang the Hurly-Burly Song.

Today the school bell stands silent at the dock, mute testimony to the once thriving community of Lupton, and other than a goat, a pony and about forty cattle there is in 1983 very little evidence of man's former existence there. In 1933, two years after the island was abandoned, hurricanes demolished everything that wasn't torn down and moved to Cedar Island. Later a hunting lodge was built and is the only permanent structure on the island today.

Upon returning from Hog Island we spent some time talking with Luther Gaskill, age 83, who was born on Hog Island. Mr. Gaskill recalls that the east end of the Island (where the community of Lupton was located) and the west end were connected by a shallow inlet which was easily walked across. Now a third of the island has washed away in this area -- the west end of the island having been connected to Cedar Island.

As a source of historical documentation postal historians attempt to locate and collect postmarks from discontinued post offices. Prior to February 1983 the existence of a Lupton, N.C. postmark had not been known in spite of the fact that the post office had been in operation for 29 years! In February 1983 Gladys I. Sadler and Shirley D. Edwards were fortunate to locate five Lupton, N.C. postmarks on post cards in the possession of Almata D. Taylor of Sea Level, North Carolina.

Reference: *The Luptons of North Carolina*, Shirley Mae Duell Edwards



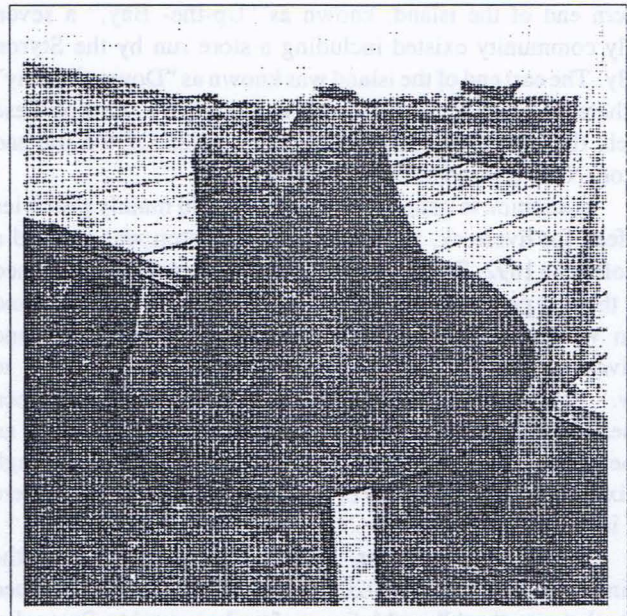
Lupton cds on 1910 post card



1899 cds of Lumption



Illegible cedar hand-made grave marker



Lupton School bell beside dock on Hog Island

Some Early Mt. Gilead History

by Scott Troutman

I never cease to be amazed at where interesting North Carolina items turn up. A friend noted this one in a Colorado auction, and thought I would find it interesting given its contents.

Pictured is a stampless folded letter with the red postmark and paid marking of Washington City (now Washington D.C.). It is addressed to the Postmaster of Mt. Gilead, NC in Montgomery County. It also has a nice strike of the black two line "POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT/Official Business" handstamp and is signed by one W.J. Brown.

Inside is the following letter, which I have not photocopied as this item is rather fragile.

Post Office Dept
Appointment Office
March 26, 1846

Sir,

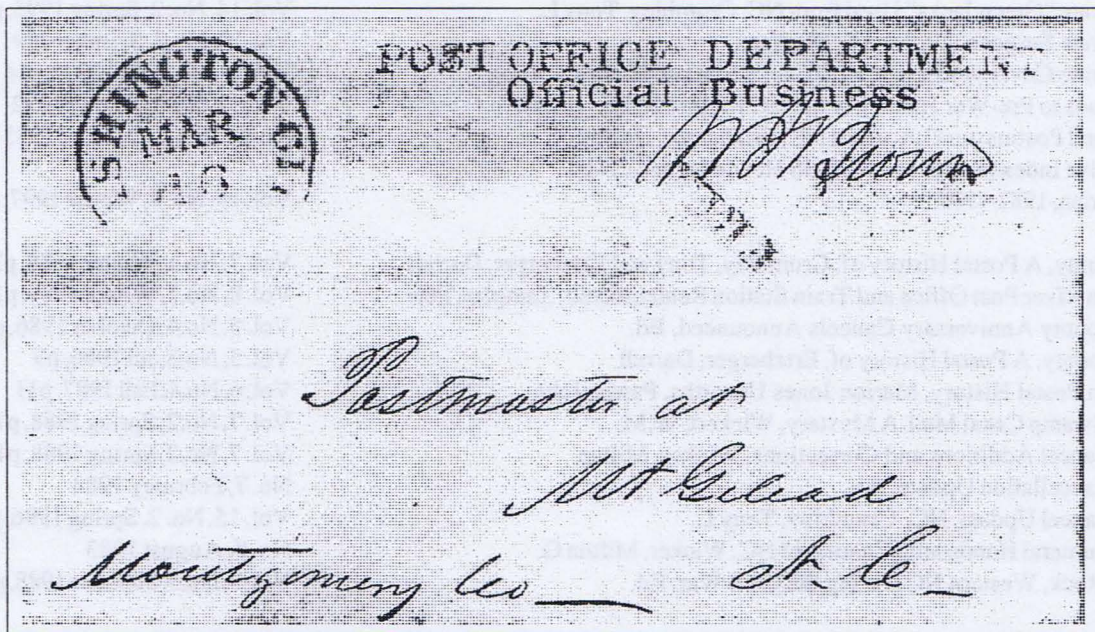
It is reported that your office "is not immediately on the road, but on the back side of a plantation from the road" and that "McRaels Store is a much more public & commercial location at a cross roads", and, for such reasons we citizens pray that the office be moved to said store.

An opportunity will be afforded you to show causes to the contrary, if you can, by competent testimony.

Very respectfully,

W.J. Brown
2nd asst. Postmaster

S. Scarborough Esq, PM
Mt. Gilead
Montgomery Co., No.Car.



CUMULATIVE INDEX TO THE NCPHS NEWSLETTER AND POSTAL HISTORIAN, 1982-1997

- 1851 Issue, Shipments of, to NC, Richardson, T. and Schoolmeester, Ken
 1869 Issue Used from North Carolina, The, Crumbley, Tony L.
 1930 Type "E" Four-Bar Cancel, The, Crumbley, Tony L.
 6th New Hampshire, Letters from the, Troutman, Scott
 6¼ Cent Rate, The, Crumbley, Tony
- Airmail Service in NC, History of the, Crumbley, Tony L.
 ASCC Updating Project, Ed.
 Awards to Philip T. Wall and Robert J. Stets
- Bibliography, NC Postal History, Crumbley, Tony L.
 Bids for Carrying U.S. Mail, Corbitt, D.L.
 Book Review: Dirty Ankle is Far from Bath, Crumbley, Tony, L.
 Brevard Music Center Cancel Announced, Ed
 Buyer Beware, Stroupe, Vernon S.
- Camp Greene, Crumbley, Tony
 Camp Davis, Rise and Fall of, Troutman, Scott
 Cana, Davie County, Vestal, Alan
 Carolina Female College, Vestal, Alan
 Carolina City Provisional, Is It, or Isn't It?, Crumbley, Tony L.
 Chapel Hill, A New Marking, Crumbley, Tony L.
 Charlotte, The Postal History of, Crumbley, Tony L.
 Charlotte, New Crown Comes to Light, Crumbley, Tony L.
 Charlotte, An 1859 Visit to, Crumbley, Tony L.
 Civil War Post Office to Issue Anniversary Cover, NC, Doares, Robert F.
 Closing of Many Small Post Offices Predicted for 1987, Ed.
 Coal Mining Disaster of '25 was NC's Worst, Otterbourg, Ken
 Company Shops, A Brief Passage in Time, Crumbley, Tony L.
 Company Shops, Burlington Had a Third Name, Bolden, Don
 Concord, A Postal History of, Crumbley, Tony L.
 Confederate "Green Jacks" Used from NC, Crumbley, Tony L.
 Confederate Surgeon, Dr. John F. Shaffner
 Confederate Cover Addressed to Swann's Station, Homesly, Greg
 Corrections to Pre-War History of the NC Railroads, Ed., [Insert]
 County and Postmaster Cancels of NC, Ertzberger, Darrell
 Cumulative Index to Articles, NCPHS Newsletter and Postal
 Historian, 1982-1997
- Dare County, A Postal History of, Crumbley, Tony and Ertzberger, Darrell
 Davidson River Post Office and Train Station Remembered, Zamplas, Pete
 Davie County Anniversary Cancels Announced, Ed.
 Davie County, A Postal History of, Ertzberger, Darrell
 Dillsboro Postal History, Marion Jones Unearths, Parris, John
 Dismal Swamp Canal Mail-A Mystery, Wickert, W.M.
 Doane Cancel Additions and Corrections, Wicker, Milton
 Doane Cancellation Update, Ed.
 Doane Cancel Update, NC, Crumbley, Tony L.
 Doane Numeral Handstamp Cancels of NC, Wicker, Milton G.
 Dunn's Rock, Western NC During the Civil War, Ed.
- Earliest Known N.C. Cover, Crumbley, Tony L.
 Ebenezer Hazard in N.C., Journal of, Johnston, Hugh
 Edenton Straight Line Postmark Better Defined, Stroupe, Vernon S.
 Edward R. Murrow Stamp, NC Native, USPS
- Vol. 9, No. 3, Summer 1990, p3
 Vol. 15, No. 1, Winter 1996, p.3
 Vol. 14, No. 4, Fall 1995, p.3
 Vol. 7, No.1, Winter 1988, p15
 Vol. 7, No.2, Spring 1988, p12
- No. 4, February 1983
 No. 7, November 1983
 Vol. 14, No. 3, Summer 1995, p15
- No. 12, January, 1985
 Vol. 9, No.2, Spring 1991, p3
 Vol. 14, No. 2, Summer 1995, p15
 Vol. 5, No.3, Jul 1986, p17
 Vol. 13, No. 3, Fall 1994, p11
- Vol. 12, No.2, Summer 1993, p9
 Vol. 12, No.1, Winter 1993, p14
 Vol. 12, No.4, Summer 1993, p15
 Vol. 8, No.3, Fall 1989, p3
 Vol. 5, No.4, October 1986, p10
 Vol. 5, No.4, October 1986, p17
 No. 11, November 1984
 Vol. 8, No.2, Summer 1989, p4
 Vol. 9, No.2, Spring 1991, p14
 Vol. 15, No. 2, Spring 1996, p13
 Vol. 6, No.1, Winter 1987, p16
 Vol. 13, No.2, Spring 1994, p3
 Vol. 13, No.2, Spring 1994, p8
 Vol. 13, No.3, Fall 1994, p8
 Vol. 9, No.4, Fall 1990, p3
 Vol. 14, No. 2, Spring 1995, p3
 Vol. 10, No. 2, Summer 1991, p12
 Vol. 11, No.3, Fall 1992, p14
 Vol. 11, No. 1, Winter 1992
 No. 15, No. 3, October 1985
- Vol. 15, No. 4, Winter 1997, p12
- Vol. 7, No.1, Winter 1988, p3
 Vol. 8, No.1, Winter 1989, p10
 Vol. 5, No.4, October 1986, p17
 Vol. 5, No.3, Jul 1986, p3
 Vol. 6, No.4, Fall 1987, p11
 Vol. 7, No.2, Spring 1988, p7
 Vol. 7, No.2, Spring 1988, p13
 No. 7, February 1984
 Vol. 15, No. 2, Spring 1996, p7
 No. 6, August 1983
 Vol. 7, No.3, Summer 1988, p14
- Vol. 9, No.2, Spring 1991, p6
 Vol. 9, No.2, Spring 1991, p4
 Vol. 11, No.4, Winter 1992, p14
 Vol. 12, No.4, Summer 1993, p14

Englehard, Hyde County, Troutman, Scott	Vol. 13, No.3 ,Fall 1994, p6
Errors in "Postal History-The Basics", Stroupe, Vernon S.	Vol. 14, No. 3, Summer 1995, p14
Express Label, Newly Discovered Confederate, Crumbley, Tony L.	Vol. 9, No.2, Spring 1990, p6
Fancy Cancells, NC, Schoolmeester, Dr. Ken	Vol. 8, No.1, Winter 1989, p3
Fantasies, NC Confederate, Crumbley, Tony L.,	Vol. 13, No.3 ,Fall 1994, p4
Fayetteville, A New Find, Stroupe, Vernon S.	No. 13, April 1885
Federal Issue Revenue of NC, First, Crumbley, Tony L.	Vol. 12, No.4, Summer 1993, p8
Fighting Ships Named "North Carolina", Crumbley, Tony L.	Vol. 14, No. 3, Summer 1995, p3
Finlay, Hugh, The NC Section	Vol. 9, No.4, Fall 1990, p9
Flag Cancellation, Wicker, Milton	No. 10, August 1984
Flatow, Gary. G., In Memoriam	No. 13, April 1885
Forsyth County Covers, Ertzberger, Darrell	Vol. 5, No.2, April 1986, p9
Fort Fisher, A Union Soldier at, Troutman, Scott	Vol. 10, No. 2, Summer 1991, p10
Fortifications in North Carolina, Encyclopedia of, Roberts, Powell, et al	Vol. 12, No.1, Winter 1993, p3
Fortifications, North Carolina, Part II	Vol. 12, No.2, Spring 1993, p3
Fourth Railroad Over the Blue Ridge, The, Troutman, Scott	Vol. 15, No. 2, Spring 1996, p5
Fraud, Victim of, Troutman, Scott and Amy	Vol. 9, No.2, Spring 1991, p13
Free City Delivery in NC, Ertzberger, Darrell	No. 13, April 1885
From the Archives,(Murfreesboro), Stroupe, Vernon S.	Vol. 13, No.3 ,Fall 1994, p15
From the Archives-A Manuscript CDS, Stroupe, Vernon S.	Vol. 12, No.4, Summer 1993, p12
Gold Nuggets from the NC State Archives, Stroupe, Vernon S.	Vol. 7, No.4, Fall 1988, p10
Greensboro, Postal Markings of, Wicker, Milton	Vol. 6, No.2, Spring 1987, p3
Greensboro, Or Is It Greensborough, Crumbley, Tony L.	Vol. 13, No. 3, Fall 1994, p12
Grimshaw's, Nations Smallest Post Office	No. 15, October 1985
Harris, James P., 1922-1996	Vol. 15, No. 2, Spring 1996, p.2
Harris, James P., Collection Auction Results, Troutman, Scott	Vol. 13, No.3 ,Fall 1994, p3
Harris, James P., Honorary Life Membership Award	Vol. 12, No.4, Summer 1993, p14
Highway Post Offaices of NC, Tilles, Harvey	No. 7, February 1984
Hillsborough, Marking Up-date, Stroupe, Vernon S.	Vol. 14, No. 2, Summer 1995, p16
Historical NC Letters, A Pair of, Bush, Conrad L.	Vol. 7, No.3, Summer 1988, p8
Hog Island and Lupton, NC, Lupton, David W.	Vol. 15, No. 4, Winter 1997, p9
Horner's School, Oxford, Troutman, Scott & Mayes, Helen	Vol. 12, No.4, Summer 1993, p5
Hotel, A New Discovery, Stroupe, Vernon S.	Vol. 7, No.2, Spring 1988, p10
Humphrey-Williams-Smith House Award, Historic Preservation News	Vol. 9, No.2, Spring 1991, p12
Hunting and Fishing Stamps, NC, McRae, Timothy	Vol. 6, No.4, Fall 1987, p6
Hunting and Fishing Stamps, NC, 1986-87, McRee, Timothy	Vol. 9, No.2, Spring 1990, p9
Hunting and Fishing Stamp Up-date, NC, McRee, Timothy M.	Vol. 11, No.4, Winter 1992, p8
Jerusalem, Crumbley, Tony L.	Vol. 15, No. 2, Spring 1996, p3
Jerusalem, Troutman, Scott	Vol. 7, No.2, Spring 1988, p11
Johnston, James C., Esq., Schoolmeester, Ken	Vol. 6, No.1, Winter 1987, p10
Kawana, Mitchell County, A Multifaced Postmark, Fricke, Charles A.	Vol. 11, No.2, Spring 1992, p14
Lenoir Family, The Post-Civil War Correspondence, Lohr, Lawrence L.	Vol. 11, No.2, Spring 1992, p3
Lenoir Provisional, On a Warm, Clear September Morn..., Crumbley, Tony L. .	Vol. 7, No.3, Summer 1988, p3
Leo, The Search for, Richardson, Thomas S.	Vol. 8, No.2, Summer 1989, p3
Let It Be Written, So, Taylor, Jerry	Vol. 9, No.4, Fall 1990, p9
Letter from the Past, Education in Eastern NC, 1829, Ed.	Vol. 6, No.1, Winter 1987, p17
Light Ship Service, A Look at, Troutman, Scott	Vol. 10, No.1, Winter 1991, p3
Light House, Scott and Amy vs., Troutman, Scott and Amy	Vol. 9, No.2, Spring 1990, p4
Madison Post Office, 166 Years of the, Bokoski, Dudley	Vol. 6, No.1, Winter 1987, p3
Mail Route Days of Luther S. Griffin, Tales of the, Griffin, Flora G.	Vol. 7, No.1, Winter 1988, p13
Maney's Neck Twp, Hertford County, Post Offices of, Worrell, W. Marvin, Jr.	Vol. 5, No.4, October 1986, p7

- Manuscript Postal Markings from NC, Tilles, Harvey
 Many Tar Heel Post Offices Have Been Given Odd Names, Goerch, Carl
 Margarettsville Cover, Troutman, Scott
 Martindale Markings, The, Crumbley, Tony L.
 Mecklenburg County, Postal Marking of, Wally, Darryl
 Military Encampments of North Carolina, Introduction, Crumbley, Tony L.
 Mount Gilead, Some Early History, Troutman, Scott
 Mount Tirzah, Person County, 1796, Stroupe, Vernon S.
 Mystery Cover, Ertzberger, Darrell
- N.C. Petitions for Presidential Pardons, 1865-67, Kootns, Russell S.
 National Airmail Week-May 15-21, 1938, Crumbley, Tony L.
 Nation's Smallest Post Office Will Be No More, Scott, Bob
 NCPHS, Organization of, Ed.
 NCPHS Affiliates with Postal History Society, Ed.
 New Garden, A Letter from the Past, Ed.
 New Berne, Mr. Typographer, Not Newbern, Stroupe, Vernon S.
 New Berne, Contemporary Accounts of the Union Occupation P.O., Jaronski
 New Railway Post Office Found, Troutman, Scott
 Newbern Roulettes, A Request for Information, Hulme, Wilson
- Octagonal Postmarks, NC, Schoolmeester, Ken
 Old Post Offices Never Die . . . , Schoolmeester, Ken
 Old Covers Make Good Note Pads, Sanford, Robert L.
 One Place Through Time - Pierces Forge, Bairds Forge, Lovelady,
 Granite, Granite Fall - Caldwell County, Scott Troutman
 and Tony L. Crumbley
 Only Known Copy, The, Crumbley, Tony L.
 Oxford, Granville County, Mayes, Helen and Troutman, Scott
 Oxford, Granville County, More About, Stets, Robert
- Painting in NC Museum of Art Used on 1993 Christmas Stamp
 Peeps into the Past, Stets, Robert
 Petersburg & Roanoke Railroad, Letter from the Past, Ed.
 Philatelic Treasures from the State Archives, Stroupe, Vernon S.
 Pioneer Airmail, NC's, Wilmington, 1912, O'Sullivan, Thomas J.
 Postal Cards Tell The Story, Stets, Robert J.
 Post Offices and Postmasters, NC, 1860-66, Stroupe, Vernon S.
 Post Office Names with Indian Connections, NC, Wetmore, Ruth
 Post Offices Opened During the Doane Period, NC, Boubelik, Charles
 Postal History of NC, 1789-1795, Part 1, Hecht, Arthur
 Postal History on a Shoestring, Sparks, Howard J.
 Postal History of NC, 1789-95, Epilogue, Stets, Robert
 Postal History of NC, 1789-95, Part 2, Hecht, Arthur
 Postal History-The Basics, Stroupe, Vernon S.
 Pre-Civil War Railroads of NC, Troutman, Scott
 Precancels in NC, Postlewait, Dilmond D.
 Proposed Classification, NC Postal History Information, Wetmore, Ruth
- Quaker Postmarks of NC, Wicker, Milton
- Raft Swamp, A Time Warp at, Stroupe, Vernon S.
 Raft Swamp P.O., Donation to, Ed.
 Raft Swamp, The Challenge, Stroupe, Vernon S.
 Raft Swamp: NC's Oldest Postal Building?, Doares, Robert F.
 Railroad One Day, A Cannon the Next, A, Crumbley, Tony L.
 Raleigh & Gaston Railroad, Slow Mail on the, Stroupe, Vernon S.
 Reopening NC Post Offices, Stanton, Thomas
- Vol. 5, No.3, Jul 1986, p17
 Vol. 9, No. 3, Summer 1990, p10
 Vol. 10, No. 2, Summer 1991, p10
 Vol. 12, No.4, Summer 1993, p11
 No. 14, June 1985
 Vol. 12, No.1, Winter 1993, p3
 Vol. 15, No. 4, Winter 1997, p11
 Vol. 10, No. 2, Summer 1991, p15
 Vol. 5, No.3, Jul 1986, p16
 Vol. 15, No. 1, Winter 1996, p.2
 No. 13, April 1885
 Vol. 5, No.3, Jul 1986, p14
 No. 1, February 1982
 Vol. 6, No.3, Summer 1987, p15
 Vol. 7, No.2, Spring 1988, p16
 Vol. 13, No.3, Fall 1994, p5
 No. 12, January, 1985
 Vol. 14, No. 4, Fall 1995, p.14
 Vol. 15, No. 1, Winter 1996, p.10
 Vol. 6, No.4, Fall 1987, p3
 Vol. 5, No.4, October 1986, p14
 Vol. 12, No.2, Summer 1993, p11
 Vol. 15, No. 4, Winter 1997, p4
 Vol. 9, No.2, Spring 1991, p8
 Vol. 12, No.3, Summer 1993, p3
 Vol. 12, No.4, Summer 1993, p3
 Vol. 11, No.4, Winter 1992, p15
 Vol. 9, No. 3, Summer 1990, p4
 Vol. 7, No.4, Fall 1988, p14
 Vol. 6, No.1, Winter 1987, p 12
 Vol. 5, No.4, October 1986, p3
 Vol. 15, No. 4, Winter 1997, p3
 Vol. 11, No. 1, Winter 1992
 Vol. 11, No.3, Fall 1992, p3
 Vol. 11, No.2, Spring 1992, p8
 Vol. 8, No.1, Winter 1989, p12
 Vol. 6, No.2, Spring 1987, p21
 Vol. 8, No.3, Fall 1989, p12
 Vol. 8, No.3, Fall 1989, p4
 Vol. 14, No. 2, Summer 1995, p8
 Vol. 10, No.4, Fall 1991, p3
 Vol. 8, No.2, Summer 1989, p5
 No. 13, April 1885
 No. 10, August 1984
 Vol. 8, No.2, Summer 1989, p11
 Vol. 9, No.2, Spring 1990, p8
 Vol. 8, No.2, Summer 1989, p12
 Vol. 8, No.2, Summer 1989, p8
 Vol. 10, No.4, Fall 1991, p2
 Vol. 6, No.4, Fall 1987, p10
 Vol. 6, No.3, Summer 1987, p3

RFD, First Delivery Route in NC, Wicker, Milton G.
 RFD, First Rural Delivery Began in China Grove, Lasley, W.T.
 Roanoke Island, Mail From in the Civil War, Jaronski, Stefan
 Roanoke Island, An 1835 Letter from, Letters from the Past
 Roanoke Island, Postal Service for the Defenders of, Jaronski, Stefan

No. 13, April 1985
 No. 13, April 1985
 No. 13, April 1885
 Vol. 7, No.1, Winter 1988, p20
 Vol. 7, No.3, Summer 1988, p10

Salem, Twin City Postal System Began in 1792, Wiley, Mary C.
 Salem Postmarks, Two Different, Stroupe, Vernon S.
 Salem Post Office, O.A. Keehln's, Crumbley, Tony L.
 Salem, A Recent Discovery, Crumbley, Tony L.
 Salem, Moravian, in 1786, Letter from the Past, Ed.
 Salvo, Petite Post Office Makes 'em Proud, Leland, Elizabeth
 Salvo, The States Smallest Post Office to Reopen?, AP
 Salvo, Anyone Want a "Previously Owned" Post Office, Stroupe, Vernon S.
 Scotland Neck Postmarks, 1797-1900, McDowell, Harry L.
 Scott #1 and #2 Shipments into NC, From the Files, Ed.
 Scott, George, Obituary, Ed.
 Self-inking Postmarkers, Those "Unofficial", Stets, Robert
 Setting the Record Straight, Crumbley, Tony L.
 Siler City Pseudo Machine Postmark, Homesly, Greg
 Silver, Stanly County, NC, Ertzberger, Darrell
 Site Survey, First NC Post Office, Submitted, Stroupe, Vernon S.
 Smallest Post Office Victim of Arson, NC's, Troutman, Scott
 Southport, A Find of Interest, Crumbley, Tony L.
 Spencer Post Office, History of, Harter, William and Marian
 Spencer Postal History, More on, Ed.
 Sprayed-on Postmarks, NC, Troutman, Scott
 St. Lewis, NC, Troutman, Scott and Amy
 Stampless Cover from Hoyleville, A, Troutman, Scott
 Star Shines Bright at the Center of NC, A, Crumbley, Tony L.
 Stokes County, Sinful Doings in, Troutman, Scott
 Stout, Garland, Obituary, Ed.
 Straits, Gloucester and Marshallberg, Carteret County, Troutman, Scott
 Swan Quarter, Hyde County, Troutman, Scott
 Swansboro, Cacheted Envelope Issued in, Herring, Harriet

Vol. 5, No.2, April 1986, p7
 Vol. 7, No.1, Winter 1988, p19
 Vol. 5, No.2, April 1986, p3
 Vol. 5, No.2, April 1986, p5
 Vol. 6, No.2, Spring 1987, p24
 Vol. 7, No.4, Fall 1988, p12
 Vol. 12, No.4, Summer 1993, p13
 No. 3, December 1982
 Vol. 7, No.4, Fall 1988, p3
 No. 2, July 1982
 Vol. 7, No.1, Winter 1988, p19
 Vol. 7, No.2, Spring 1988, p3
 Vol. 15, No. 1, Winter 1996, p.12
 Vol. 12, No.4, Summer 1993, p7
 No. 10, August 1984
 Vol. 9, No. 3, Summer 1990, p7
 Vol. 12, No.2, Summer 1993, p15
 Vol. 6, No.4, Fall 1987, p13
 Vol. 6, No.3, Summer 1987, p13
 Vol. 6, No.4, Fall 1987, p12
 Vol. 12, No.2, Summer 1993, p12
 Vol. 9, No. 3, Summer 1990, p6
 Vol. 12, No.2, Summer 1993, p14
 Vol. 14, No. 4, Fall 1995, p9
 Vol. 7, No.3, Summer 1988, p13
 Vol. 7, No.4, Fall 1988, p13
 Vol. 15, No. 1, Winter 1996, p.14
 Vol. 13, No.3, Fall 1994, p9
 Vol. 6, No.2, Spring 1987, p23

Tally Ho, The Town and Postal History of, Troutman, Scott
 Tweetsie, A Letter from the, Troutman, Scott
 Two New North Carolina Markings Come to Light, Green, Brian

Vol. 11, No.2, Spring 1992, p11
 Vol. 15, No. 2, Spring 1996, p5
 Vol. 9, No.2, Spring 1990, p3

USPS Announces Presidential Birthplace Cancells for NC, Ed.

Vol. 5, No.4, October 1986, p18

Vance County, Postal Operations in, Perkinson, Phil H.

No. 7, November 1983

Warren Plains, Letter from the Past, Low Morale at War's End, Ed.
 Wendell, 100th Year Anniversary, Ed.
 Wendell Post Office, Site Survey Submitted, Ed.
 White Road Confederate Cover, Green, Brian and Maria
 Wicker, Milton G., Obituary, Ed.
 Wilmington, Hard Times In, Letter from the Past, Ed.
 Wilmington, Letter from the Past, Journey during War of 1812, Ed.
 Wilmington & Fayetteville River Route, Homesly, Greg
 Wilson Creek Gorge, Caldwell County, History of Towns, Troutman, Scott
 Windsor, Surprises in the State Archives, Stroupe, Vernon S.

Vol. 8, No.1, Winter 1989, p20
 Vol. 10, No. 2, Summer 1991, p15
 Vol. 11, No.4, Winter 1992, p13
 Vol. 9, No.2, Spring 1991, p13
 Vol. 8, No.1, Winter 1989, p2
 Vol. 6, No.3, Summer 1987, p16
 Vol. 6, No.4, Fall 1987, p14
 Vol. 10, No.4, Fall 1991, p19
 Vol. 11, No.4, Winter 1992, p3
 Vol. 6, No.1, Winter 1987, Cover

Yadkinville, Newly Discovered NC Straight-Line Cancel, Crumbley, Tony L.

Vol. 9, No. 3, Summer 1990, Cover

Zevely, Edmund, Identification of Postmark Types Produced by, Mandel, Frank

Vol. 10, No. 2, Summer 1991, p3

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