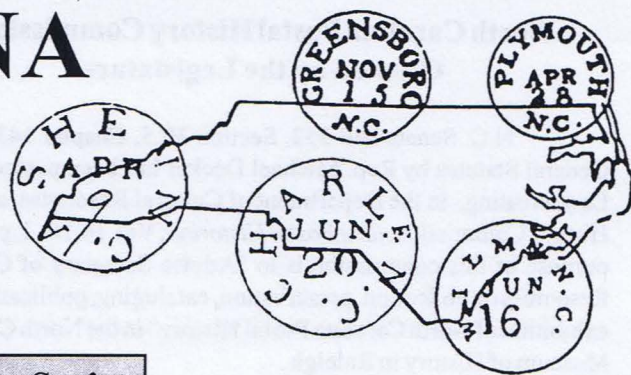


NORTH CAROLINA POSTAL HISTORIAN

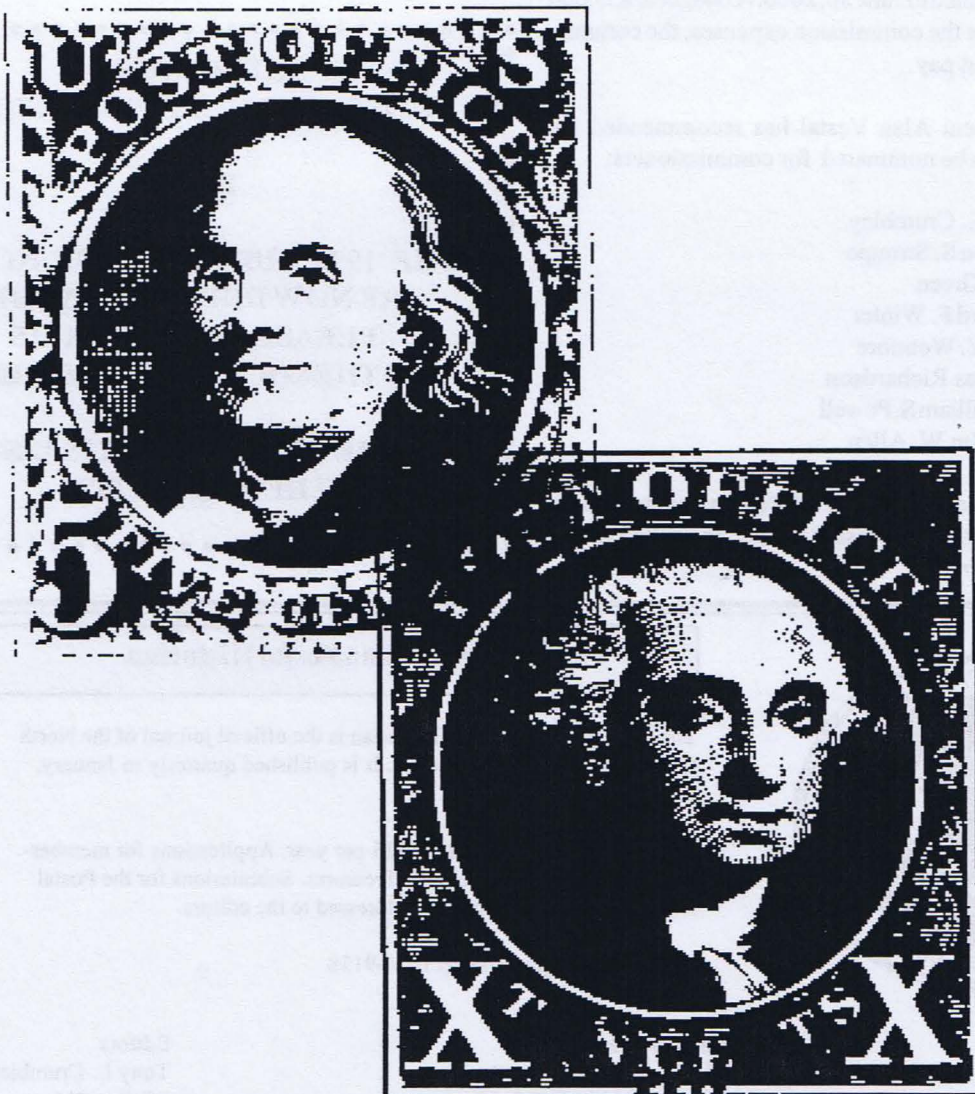


The Journal of the North Carolina Postal History Society

Volume 16, No. 3

Fall 1997

Whole 62



The 1847 Issue Used in North Carolina

Affiliate #155 of the American Philatelic Society



North Carolina Postal History Commission Created by the Legislature

N.C. Senate Bill 352, Section 30.5, Chapter 143 of the General Statutes by Rep. Michael Decker has been passed into Law, creating, in the Department of Cultural Resources, a Postal History Commission. (See *Postal Historian*, Vol. 16, No.1, p3.) The purpose of this commission is to "Advise Secretary of Cultural Resources on collection, preservation, cataloging, publication and exhibition of North Carolina Postal History" in the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh.

The commission will have sixteen members, four each appointed by the Governor, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Speaker of the House, and Secretary of Cultural Resources. The terms of office of the commissioners will be for the life of the commission - when appointed to June 30, 2000. A budget of \$35,000 has been appropriated for the commission expenses; the commissioners will serve without pay.

NCPHS President Alan Vestal has recommended the following eight names to be nominated for commissioners:

Tony L. Crumbley
Vernon S. Stroupe
Brian Green
Richard F. Winter
Ruth Y. Wetmore
Thomas Richardson
Dr. William S. Powell
Dr. John W. Allen

All of the names submitted are NCPHS members with the exception of Dr. Powell who is professor at UNC and author of *The North Carolina Gazeteer*.

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REMINDER
TO THOSE WHO HAVE NOT PAID THEIR

DUES

THE 1998 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 \$15 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the Treasurer. Submissions for the Postal Historian or inquiries may be addressed to the editors.

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THE 1847 ISSUE IN NORTH CAROLINA

By Thomas Richardson

"And be it further enacted, that to facilitate the transportation of letters by mail, the Postmaster-General be authorized to prepare postage stamps, which, when attached to any letter or packet, shall be evidence of prepayment of the postage chargeable on such letter"...and so the United States Government, on March 3rd, 1847 authorized the issuance of the first postage stamps. This act would take effect July 1, 1847, and from this date on, the use of any postage stamps not authorized by the Postmaster-General became illegal. The act did not make the prepayment of postage compulsory, so a great many stampless covers can be found that were used after this date.

The printing of the 1847 stamps was contracted out to the New York firm of Rawdon, Wright and Edson. The only details of this contract known are that provisions were made for production of stamps of the five cent and ten cent denominations, under certain regulations and conditions, at a specified cost price per thousand stamps. Plates used for the 1847 Issue are still in question as to whether they were copper or steel. Elliot Perry plated the ten cent 1847 Issue in two panes of one hundred stamps each. Two separate plates may have been used for the five cent 1847 Issue and the jury is still out on this, since the experts go back and forth.

Approximately 3,700,000 five cent and 1,050,000 ten cent 1847 stamps were delivered to the Post Office Department authorities. These stamps in time were issued to the requesting postmasters throughout the 30 states, 3 territories, District of Columbia, and Panama. North Carolina received 15,500 five cent and 5,200 ten cent stamps between 1847 and 1851 (see Chart One). Chart One is broken down into six columns, First Sent, First Received, Town, Postmaster, Total Five Cent, and, Total Ten Cent.

Fourteen North Carolina towns officially requested the 1847 Issue. Asheville, being one of them, received a shipment of 200 tens and 600 fives, which had to be returned due to damage as recorded in the Official Record Book of the Post Office Department, July 1, 1847- June 30, 1851¹. The entry was recorded August 19, 1847. Four additional towns have been recorded with covers bearing the 1847 Issue but were not listed in the Official Record Book, those being Chimney Rock, Edenton, Greensboro, and Monroe.

The Official Record lists the shipping and receiving dates for the fiscal years 1848 to 1851 of North Carolina in Chart 2. Chart 2 can be used to date 1847 covers using shades, postmarks, additional markings and internal dates that have not year dates. Chart 2 is broken down into six columns by chronological order for shipment of the 1847 Issue, and is also broken out by fiscal years with the fiscal year beginning in July of that year. Route agents are included since they received stamps at Weldon, N.C., which is the northern end of the Wilmington & Weldon R.R. Stamps from the route agents would receive the postmark of the Wilmington & Raleigh RR.

Chart 3 is the listing of all the 1847 Issue covers that are known by this author to date. This listing is not complete. The absence of a cover from this list is not an indication of rarity. The premise of this article started with the statement made by Elliot Perry in his Pat's Paragraphs of only 20 North Carolina covers known. The listing is by town and date in alphabetical and chronological order. Most information was taken from auction catalogs as listed in the source column. Chart 3 is divided into seven columns: Origin, Date, Addressee, Description, Additional-(other markings or stamps); Scott Number, and Source.

Chart 4 is the listing of all towns that received the 1847 Issue and the four towns that were found to have covers that are not on the Official Record. This listing is compiled from Chart 3 to show how many five and ten cent 1847 stamps were found from the towns of North Carolina. Total amounts of stamps issued are also included.

Included in Charts 1, 3 and 4 are the Wilmington & Weldon R.R. (Wilmington & Raleigh RR) covers. An interesting note on the Wilmington & Raleigh R.R. covers is that they have origins in Charleston, S.C. by way of ship to Wilmington.

July 1997 was the 150th anniversary of the five and ten cent 1847 Issue. Many articles will appear in philatelic journals and newspapers. I hope this little bit of postal history from North Carolina will help us understand the 1847 Issue better.

¹ The damaged stamps returned from Asheville to the POD were probably replaced since covers with Asheville postmarks have been seen, but not recorded. - editor.

NOTICE

Volume II

***Post Offices and Postmasters of North Carolina,
Colonial to USPS is in the printing!***

***Prepaid copies will be sent to subscribers
in about three weeks.***

CHART 1

FIRST SENT	FIRST RECEIVED	TOWN	POSTMASTER	TOTAL TENS	TOTAL FIVES
8-10-48	8-16-48	Charlotte	A. Beaty	200	400
2-28-48	3-3-48	Elizabeth City	T. Gilest	100	300
12—10-49	12-17-49	Everettsville	E. Murry	50	300
2-27-50	3-4-50	Fayetteville	J. McRae	600	1,800
5-5-49	5-8-49	Halifax	P.S. Marshall	50	200
5-12-49	5-16-49	New Bern	W. H. Harvey	200	600
8-5-47	8-10-47	Raleigh	W. White	1,600	3,400
3-16-50	3-25-50	Rockingham	M. B. McKennon	-	300
6-6-50	6-11-50	Scotland Neck	T. Ferrall	50	200
4-25-50	5-1-50	Smithfield	D. McPherson	150	700
8-3-50	8-10-50	Wadcsborough	W.B. McCorkle	100	300
9-15-48	9-20-48	Wilmington	D. Dickson	1,900	6,300
3-4-50	3-8-50	Washington	W.S. Blount	200	700
8-25-48	8-31-48	Wilmington & Raleigh RR	G.G Lynch	100	500
8-25-48	8-31-48	Wilmington & Raleigh RR	A. Sherwood	100	500
8-25-48	8-29-48	Wilmington & Raleigh RR	W.A. Walker	100	500

CHART 2

SHIPPED	RECEIVED	TOWN	POSTMASTER	TENS	FIVES
1847					
Aug. 5	Aug. 10	Raleigh	W. White	400	1200
1848					
Feb. 28	Mar. 3	Elizabeth City	T. Gilbert	100	300
FISCAL YEAR	1848-1849				
Aug. 10	Aug. 16	Charlotte	A. Beatty	200	400
Sept. 15	Sept. 20	Wilmington	D. Dickson	400	800
Dec. 8	Dec. 13	Raleigh	W. White	500	600
1849					
May 5	May 7	Wilmington	D. Dickson	200	500
May 5	May 8	Halifax	F.S. Marshall	50	200
May 12	May 16	Newbern	W.H. Harvey	100	200
FISCAL YEAR	1849-1850				
Jul. 21	Jul. 26	Newbern	W.H. Harvey	100	400
Oct. 31	Nov. 2	Wilmington	D. Dickson	300	400
Dec. 10	Dec. 17	Everettsville	E. Murry	50	300
Dec. 28	Jan. 2 1850	Wilmington	D. Dickson	200	600
1850					
Feb. 20	Feb. 22	Wilmington	D. Dickson	500	1000
Feb. 27	Mar. 4	Fayetteville	J. McRae	200	600
Mar. 4	Mar. 8	Washington	W.S. Blount	100	300
Mar. 16	Mar. 25	Rockingham	N.B. McKennon		300
Apr. 25	May 1	Smithfield	D. McPherson	50	300
May 8	May 11	Raleigh	W. White	200	600
Jun. 6	Jun. 12	Washington	W.S. Blount	100	400
Jun. 6	Jun. 11	Scotland Neck	T. Ferrall	50	200
FISCAL YEAR	1850-1851				
Jul. 24	Jul. 26	Wilmington	D. Dickson		2000
Aug. 3	Aug. 10	Wadesborough	W.B. McCorkle	100	300
Aug. 14	Aug. 20	Smithfield	D. McPherson	100	400
Oct. 15	Oct. 20	Fayetteville	J. McRae	200	600
Nov. 7	Nov. 9	Raleigh	W. White	500	1000
1851					
Feb. 5	Feb. 11	Fayetteville	J. McRae	200	600
Mar. 3	Mar. 5	Wilmington	D. Dickson	300	1000

CHART 3

DATE	STAMP	ORIGIN	CDS	COLO	DESTINATION	ADDRESSEE
10/27/49	10c	CHARLOTTE	RED			
10/28/49	10c	CHARLOTTE	RED		PHILADELPHIA	
05/01/50	10c	CHARLOTTE	RED		PHILADELPHIA	MR. CHAS ABBEY & SON, NO 24 PEAR ST
06/07/50	5c	CHARLOTTE	RED		CHARLESTON, S	
08/11/51	5c	CHARLOTTE	RED		SALISBURY, NC	
00/00/00	10c	CHARLOTTE	RED			
6						
00/00/00	5c HP	CHIMNEY ROCK	MS		NY	
1						
00/00/00	5 c	EDENTON	BLACK		RALEIGH	
10/11/00	5c	EDENTON			RALEIGH NC	
11/16/00	5c	EDENTON	BLUE		RALEIGH, NC	CLECK CIRCUIT COURT
3						
06/17/49	5c	ELIZABETH CITY	MS		SUNSBURY, NC	MISS MARGARET A CASTER, SUNSBURY
12/2/49	5c	ELIZABETH CITY	RED		SUNSBURY, NC	MISS MARGARET ANN CASTER
2						
04/00/50	10c	FAYETTEVILLE	BLUE		PHILADELPHIA	
04/06/50	10c	FAYETTEVILLE	BLUE		PHILADELPHIA	
04/23/50	5c	FAYETTEVILLE	BLUE		OXFORD, NC	HON. ABRAHAM NENABLE GRANVILLE COUNTY
05/23/50	5c	FAYETTEVILLE	BLUE		LUMBERTON, NC	MR JOHN MOORE ESQ
06/11/50	5c	FAYETTEVILLE			PITTSBORO	REV. JAMES H. MC MILL
07/05/50	10c	FAYETTEVILLE	BLUE		WILMINGTON, DE	REV JAMES H. MACHILL, CARE
07/07/50	5c	FAYETTEVILLE	BLUE		RALEIGH, NC	MRS. HENRIETTA, (CARE OF MR. BENSON)
02/17/51	10c	FAYETTEVILLE	RED		PHILADELPHIA	MISS JANE M. BULKLEY 122 CHESNUT ST
04/01/51	10c	FAYETTEVILLE	BLUE		NEW YORK	RICHARD IRWIN
00/00/00	10c	FAYETTEVILLE	RED		PHILADELPHIA	
10						
06/29/00	5c	GREENSBORO	RED		MUFFREESBORO	JOHN SOUTHALL
1						
12/3/49	5c	HALIFAX	BLUE		RALEIGH	GEORGE W MORDECAI
02/04/50	5c	HALIFAX	BLUE		RALEIGH	GEORGE W MORDECAI
03/01/50	5c	HALIFAX	BLUE		RALEIGH	GEORGE W MACLAIR
04/15/50	5c	HALIFAX	BLUE		RALEIGH	GEORGE W MORDECAI
04/25/50	5c	HALIFAX	BLUE		RALEIGH	GEORGE W MORDECAI
03/01/51	5c	HALIFAX	BLUE		RALEIGH, NC	GEORGE W MACLAIR
03/26/00	5c	HALIFAX	RED			
7						
02/04/49	5c VP	MONROE				
1						
03/01/50	5c	NEW BERN	BLUE		RALEIGH, NC	WILL HILL ESQ
06/28/50	5c X2	NEW BERN	RED		GREENFIELD, M	MR ROSEWELL FIELD
07/29/00	5c HP	NEW BERN			GREENFIELD, M	MR ROSEWELL FIELD
09/20/00	10c	NEW BERN	BLUE			JAMES W BRIGAM ESQ
09/26/00	10c	NEW BERN				
5						
08/22/47	5c	RALEIGH			SALISBURY, NC	
11/22/47	5c	RALEIGH	RED		NEW BERN	
01/07/48	5c	RALEIGH	RED		SALISBURY, NC	D.A. DAVIS ESQ, CARE BLULAH FEAR
01/12/48	5c	RALEIGH				
05/17/48	5c	RALEIGH	RED		SALISBURY	D.A. DAVIS, CASHIER
06/15/48	5c PAIR	RALEIGH	RED			
05/17/49	5c	RALEIGH	RED		SALISBURY, NC	? DAVIS ESQ/MISS BRANCH STIEAN
06/15/49	5c PAIR	RALEIGH	RED		PHILADELPHIA	THE PRESBYTERIAN TREASURY
06/19/49	5c	RALEIGH	RED		SALISBURY, NC	? DAVIS ESQ/MISS BRANCH STIEAN
00/27/51	5c	RALEIGH	ORANGE		SALISBURY, NC	
03/9/51	5c	RALEIGH	ORANGE/R		GREENSBORO, M	MR K. G. LINDLAY
05/30/51	5c	RALEIGH			SALISBURY, NC	
12/09/00	10c	RALEIGH	BROWN			
13						
04/27/00	5c	TAH BOR	RED		LIVINGSTON, NC	
1						
07/9/49	5c	WARRENTON	BLUE		NEWBURNE, NC	JNO. W. BRYAN ESQR
08/15/00	5c VP	WARRENTON			BORDENTOWN	MISS BURGMYN
2						
08/13/47	5c	WILMINGTON			PHILADELPHIA	FOR MESSR HAND 7 EAGLE
05/24/48	5c HP	WILMINGTON	BLUE		BOSTON, MASS	MRS. SARAH PICKERING/CARE OF
05/19/49	5c	WILMINGTON	BLUE			GOVUENER CHARLES MANLY
05/27/49	5c	WILMINGTON			BALTIMORE, MD	
02/09/50	5c	WILMINGTON	BLUE			
02/09/50	10c	WILMINGTON	BLUE		BROOKLYN, NY	
04/29/50	5c	WILMINGTON	BLUE		LUMBERTON, NC	JOHN C. MOORE/ADDR CC MCCREEMME
08/28/50	5c	WILMINGTON	BLUE			
08/30/50	5c	WILMINGTON	BLUE		SUMTERVILLE, SF.	M. MOSES
11/28/50	5c X2	WILMINGTON	BLUE		NEW YORK	MR. BLACKWELL & CO
05/16/51	5c PAIR	WILMINGTON	BLUE		BOSTON, MASS	MRS. SARAH PICKERING, NO 32 SOUTH
05/24/51	5c PAIR	WILMINGTON	BLUE			
00/00/00	5c	WILMINGTON	BLUE			
01/07/00	10c	WILMINGTON	BLUE		KAMDEN, ME	MISS MARY E. HOPKINS
01/30/00	10c	WILMINGTON	BLUE		HAMPEN, ME	MISS MARY E. HOPKINS
02/05/00	10c	WILMINGTON	BLUE		HAMPEN	MISS MARY E. HOPKINS
02/14/00	10c	WILMINGTON	BLUE		HAMPEN, ME	
02/19/00	10c	WILMINGTON	BLUE		HAMPEN, ME	MISS MARY E. HOPKINS
02/27/00	10c	WILMINGTON	BLUE			
03/11/00	10c	WILMINGTON	BLUE		HAMPEN, ME	MISS MARY E. HOPKINS
03/19/00	5c	WILMINGTON			HAMPDEN, ME	
03/19/00	10c	WILMINGTON				
03/26/00	10c	WILMINGTON	BLUE		HAMPEN, ME	
04/20/50	5c	WILMINGTON	BLUE		LUMBERTON, NC	JOHN C. MOORE

DATE	STAMP	ORIGIN	CDS COLO	DESTINATION	ADDRESSEE
05/21/00	10c	WILMINGTON	BLUE	HOMER, NY.	MRS J.M. SCHUMERHOW
06/29/00	5c	WILMINGTON	BLUE	ELIZABETH CITY	THOMAS MCDOWELL,
06/30/00	5c	WILMINGTON	BLUE	NC	
09/14/00	5c	WILMINGTON	BLUE	WESTBROOKE	T.S. MCDOWELL
28					
'01/25/45	X 2	WILMINGTON & RALEIGH	BLUE	GREENACK, SC	
'02/22/45	X 2	WILMINGTON & RALEIGH	BLUE	GAND, BELGIUM	PR STEAMER, HI MOUNSIER DE COSRG
'05/12/45	X 2	WILMINGTON & RALEIGH	BLUE	AMSTERDAM	
'03/16/50	5c	WILMINGTON & RALEIGH	BLUE	GAND, BELGIUM	
'05/30/50	10c	WILMINGTON & RALEIGH		BROOKLYN, NY	DAVID ANDERSON
'10/14/50	X 2	WILMINGTON & RALEIGH	BLUE	PHILADELPHIA,	FMERES POWERS S WRIGHTMAN, (CHEMSIT)
'04/24/51	10c	WILMINGTON & RALEIGH	BLUE	NEW YORK	JAMES COOPERLORD
'00/00/00	10c	WILMINGTON & RALEIGH	BLUE		
'00/00/00	5c	WILMINGTON & RALEIGH	BLUE	HALIFAX, NC	
'00/00/00	5 HP	WILMINGTON & RALEIGH	BLUE		
'00/12/00	5c X 2	WILMINGTON & RALEIGH	BLUE	AMSTERDAM	
01/10/X	10c	WILMINGTON & RALEIGH	BLUE	PARMA CENTER	
'03/27/X	10c	WILMINGTON & RALEIGH		SHAWNEETOWN	
'05/05/00	10c	WILMINGTON & RALEIGH	BLUE	WILMINTON VA	H.W. WOOD
'06/7/00	10c	WILMINGTON & RALEIGH	BLUE	PHILADEL, PA	MERES POWERS S WRIGHTMAN
12/27/X	10c	WILMINGTON & RALEIGH		PRAIRIE DU CHIE	
'3/16/00	10c	WILMINGTON & RALEIGH	BLUE	RALEIGH NC	WM. HILL, SECRETARY

17

COUNT OF ORIG

97

CHART 4					
POSTOFFICE	5 CENT COVERS	10 CENT COVERS	AMOUNTS ISSUED		
			5 cent	10 cent	
Ashville *	0	0	500	200	
Charlotte	2	4	400	200	
Chimney Rock	1	0	0	0	
Edenton	3	0	0	0	
Elizabeth City	2	0	300	100	
Everettsville	0	0	300	50	
Fayetteville	4	6	1,800	600	
Greensboro	1	0	0	0	
Halifax	7	0	200	50	
Monroe	1	0	0	0	
New Berne	3	2	600	200	
Raleigh	12	1	3,400	1,600	
Rockingham	0	0	300	0	
Scotland Neck	0	0	200	50	
Smithfield	0	0	700	150	
Tarboro	1	0	0	0	
Warrenton	2	0	0	0	
Wadesboro	0	0	300	100	
Washington	0	0	700	200	
Wilmington	17	11	6,300	1,900	
Wilmington & Raleigh RR	8	9	1,500	300	
Totals	64	33	17,000	5,500	



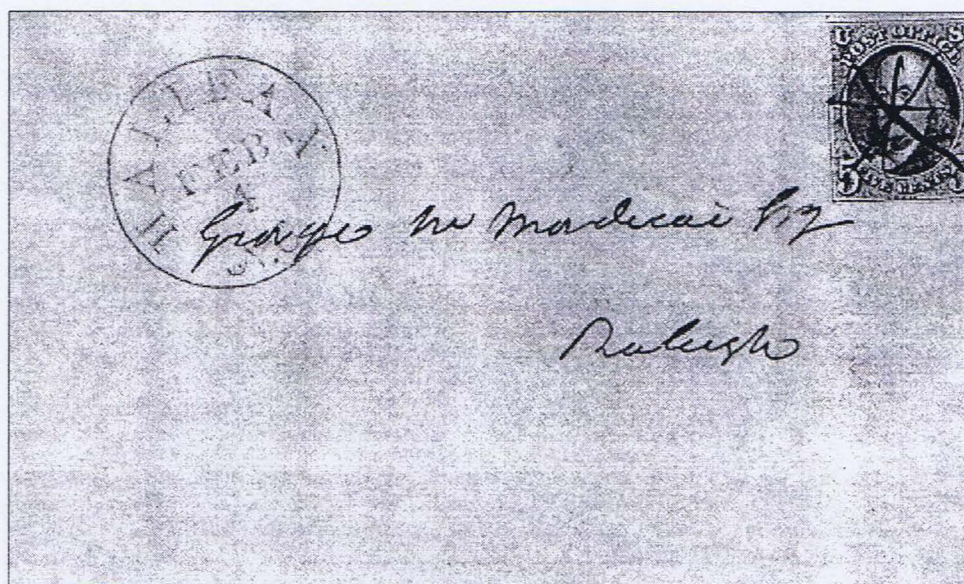
Charlotte cds with 10¢ 1847 stamp on cover to Philadelphia



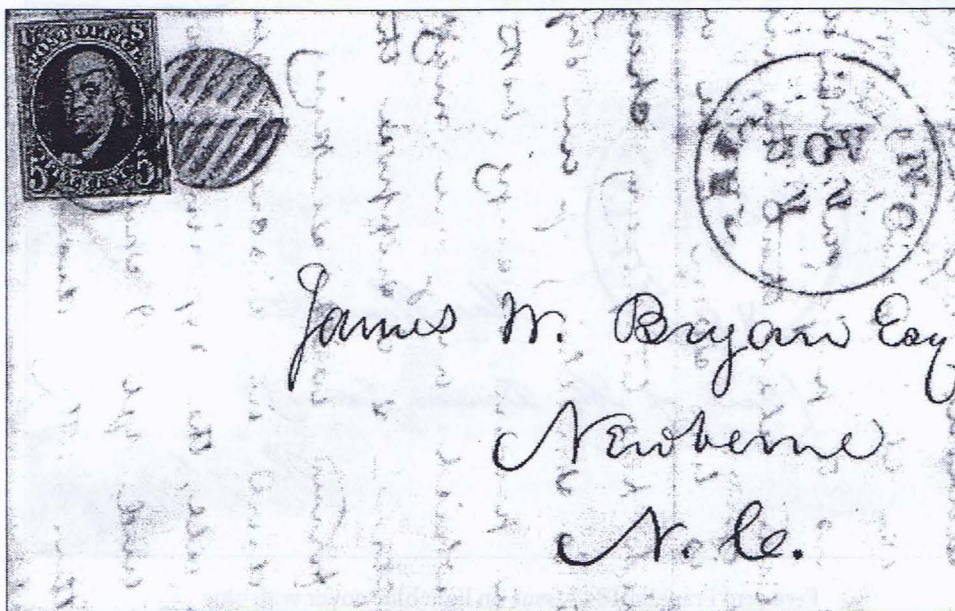
Five cent 1847 Franklin socked-on-the-nose by a red Elizabeth City cds. The blue cover bears a handstamp 5 rate and a manuscript Paid to make up the ten cent double rate to Sunsbury.



Five cent Franklin 1847 Issue on light blue cover with blue Fayetteville cds to Raleigh.



Five cent Franklin of the 1847 Issue on blue cover with blue Halifax cds to Raleigh



Five cent Franklin of the 1847 Issue on yellow cover with red Raleigh cds and circular grid killer.



Ten cent Washington of the 1847 Issue on cover with blue Wilmington cds and circular grid killer to Portland, Maine.

RIDGEWAY TO LONDON

by Richard F. Winter

Warren County provides the next transatlantic cover to be analyzed. As with the Wilmington & Raleigh Railroad cover discussed in an earlier article,¹ this cover entered the mails before there was a postal convention between the countries of origin and destination. This article will describe how the letter was handled in each country, the effective postal rates and the transatlantic transit of the letter.

cross-writing.² The available portion of the letter contains some very interesting political comments, unusual letter topics for a woman in the 1840s. The text also includes some comments about the new Postmaster General.³ Catherine wrote "Our new P.M. General is quite a reformer—that is he means to have P.O. laws enforced."

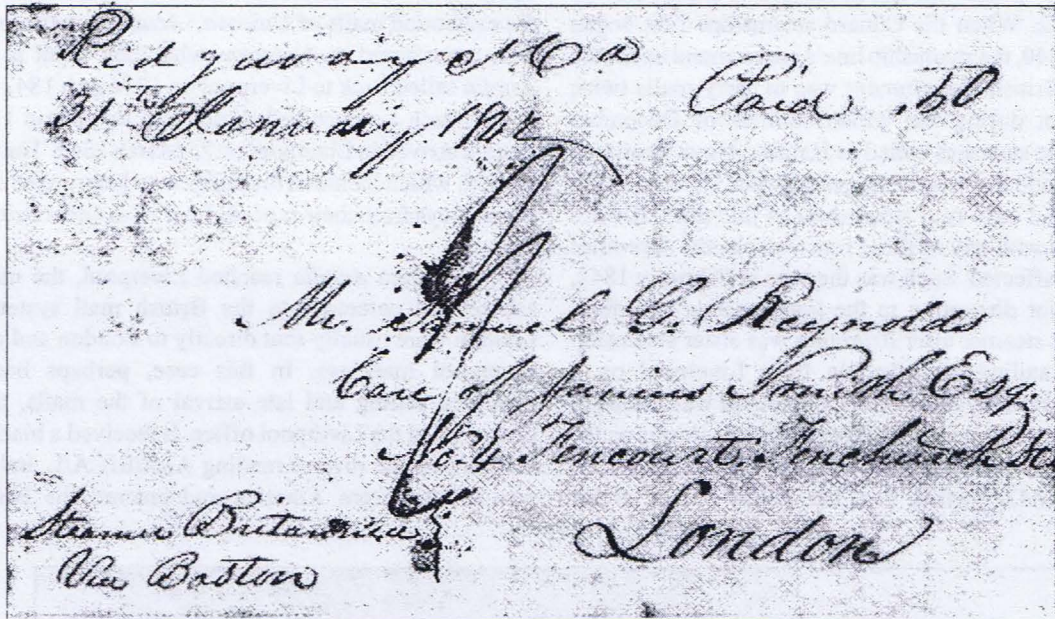


Figure 1. Ridgeway, N.C. to London, England, 31 January 1842, prepaid 2x25¢ for inland fees to Boston for a letter with one enclosure. One shilling postage due for incoming packet letter marked in Liverpool. Letter not carried by "Steamer Britannia" as endorsed (see text).

Figure 1 illustrates a January 1842 folded letter which was written to Samuel G. Reynolds in London, England. The cover is actually the outer sheet of a folded letter, with some, but not all, of the contents missing, having been removed from the outer sheet. The first pages of the letter are not available along with the dateline of the letter. However, a substantial portion of the letter is present because it was written on the opposite side of the outer sheet including the ending of the letter. From this we know that the letter was written by a woman named Catherine. Since I have been unable to learn anything about Samuel G. Reynolds, I don't know if Catherine was his wife, daughter, or some other family member. North Carolina records do not show Samuel G. Reynolds having ever been the head of a household in North Carolina. Perhaps he never lived here, which makes it very difficult to pursue the identity of the letter writer. Her handwriting, however, is very neat, making the letter easily read except for the confusion which arises from use of the technique of

Every P.M. shall remove the envelope of papers and if a mark be seen upon the paper, it is subject to letter postage." The letter also mentioned the sending of newspapers to each other, which means that she, as well as Mr. Reynolds, were well- educated.

Although we don't know the date the letter was written, we do know when it was posted. A postmaster's notation in the upper left corner of the letter front tells us that the letter entered the U.S. mails and was forwarded from Ridgeway, North Carolina on 31 January 1842. Ridgeway is located about four miles northwest of Warrenton in Warren County about eight miles south of the Virginia border and just to the east of today's John H. Kerr Reservoir. Postmaster Thomas P. Paschall of Ridgeway marked the letter "Paid .50" in the upper right corner to show that 50¢ had been prepaid for the U.S. inland postage to Boston. The internal rate to Boston (a distance over 400 miles) was 25¢ for a single sheet letter and twice that amount for a letter with an

enclosure or two sheets of paper. When the letter arrived in Boston it contained only the manuscript markings applied by the Ridgeway postmaster. The letter writer had knowledge of the steamship departure dates from Boston (frequently published in many newspapers of the day), and endorsed the letter in the lower left corner "Steamer Britannia/Via Boston." This was the steamship *Britannia*, one of the original four steamships of the British and North American Royal Mail Steamship Company which commenced operations between Liverpool, England and Boston in mid-1840. The steamship line was usually referred to as the Cunard Line, named after its founder, Samuel Cunard.

As feared by the writer, the letter reached Boston well after the 1 February 1842 sailing date of *Britannia* and had to wait for the next steamer which was not scheduled to depart Boston until 1 March 1842. When the Cunard steamships first began operating in July 1840, the steamship line's requirement under the contract with the British Government was to carry mails twice each month except during the winter months of December through March. The steamers called at Halifax, Nova Scotia on both the westward and eastward voyages between Liverpool and Boston. Cunard had only four steamships at this time. If there were any problems with any of these four vessels, the schedules were immediately affected. Such was the case in February 1842, when the first major disruption to the line's sailing schedules occurred. The next steamer after *Britannia* was sister steamship *Caledonia*. After sailing on schedule from Liverpool on 4 February 1842 for Halifax and Boston, *Caledonia* was forced to return to port after experiencing damages in violent storms on the 7th and 11th of February.⁴ She arrived back in Liverpool under sail on 17 February 1842, having lost her steam power. Since

Caledonia was unavailable for the scheduled 1 March 1842 sailing from Boston, Cunard despatched the small, auxiliary steamer *Unicorn* from Halifax at 5:00 pm on 25 February 1842 to proceed to Boston, where she arrived at noon on the 27th. *Unicorn* was in place on 1 March 1842 to take out the passengers and mail planned for *Caledonia*. Little *Unicorn*, used solely to take the Canadian mails which were put off at Halifax around Nova Scotia and up the St. Lawrence River to Quebec, started out on a winter transatlantic voyage to Liverpool. Meanwhile, Cunard got another of his four steamships, the *Acadia*, ready to sail, departing Liverpool on 19 February 1842 with the mails that *Caledonia* had brought unexpectedly back to Liverpool two days earlier. By chance, 16 miles off Halifax, *Acadia* met *Unicorn*, who put about and returned to Halifax with *Acadia* on 7 March 1842. Rather than let *Acadia* continue to Boston and further delay the eastbound mails of *Unicorn*, *Acadia's* mails and passengers were transferred to *Unicorn*, who took them to Boston, and *Acadia* sailed back to Liverpool on 12 March 1842 with the U.S. mails which *Unicorn* had taken from Boston on 1 March 1842. *Acadia* arrived in Liverpool on 25 March 1842. The mails that she carried, which included the Ridgeway letter, were delayed about eleven days from their expected arrival in Great Britain.

When *Acadia* reached Liverpool, the mails were put ashore and entered into the British mail system. Letters to London were usually sent directly to London and didn't receive Liverpool markings. In this case, perhaps because of the disrupted sailing and late arrival of the mails, the letter was processed at the Liverpool office. It received a black double oval marking on the reverse reading AMERICA/L, indicating that it was a letter from America and entered the British mails at

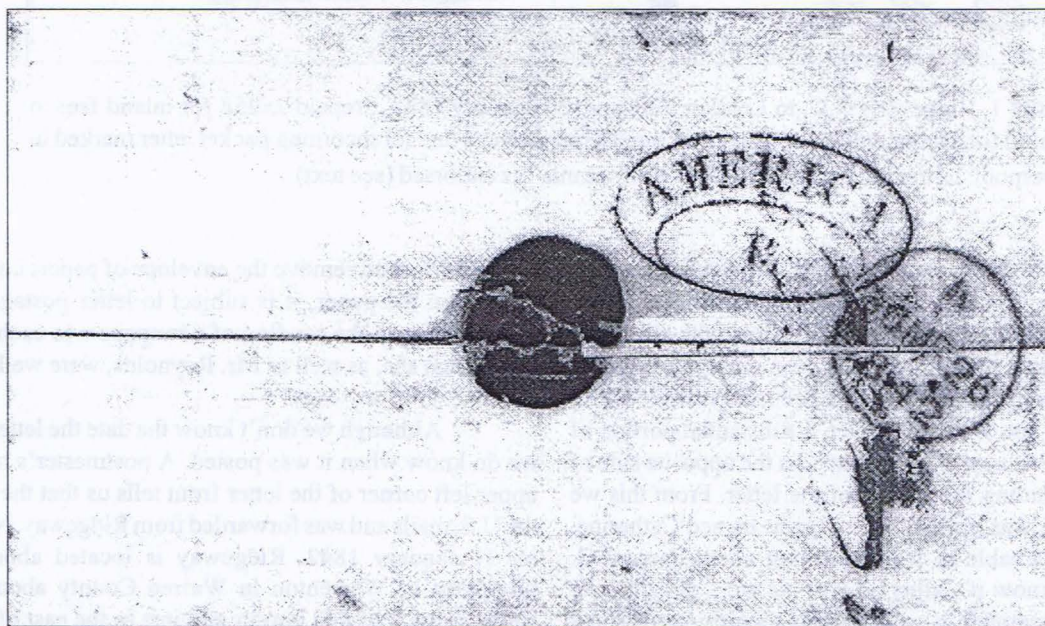


Figure 2. Reverse of Figure 1 cover with black oval AMERICA/L marking of Liverpool and orange cds of London, 26MR26/1842 showing date of arrival in London.

Liverpool (see Figure 2). The Liverpool postmaster also marked the postage due of one shilling in manuscript on the face of the letter in black ink. The marking looks like a large letter "N," written over the addressee's name. The letter was sent to London where the remaining marking was applied on the reverse, an orange circular datestamp 26MR26/1842, which showed arrival in London on 26 March 1842. Since Liverpool had marked the postage due, no additional rate markings were necessary. The one shilling postage due was the single letter rate for an incoming packet⁵ letter weighing up to ½ ounce.

Until the United States and Great Britain concluded a postal convention in late 1848 (which became effective in February 1849), mails sent between the two countries could not be paid from origin to destination. Transit fees in each country had to be paid separately. Postage was always due from the recipient. This letter took 54 days to go from Ridgeway, North Carolina to London, mostly because of the transportation difficulties described above. The total postage paid on the letter by sender and recipient was 74¢ (2x25¢ in the United States and one shilling or 24¢ in Great Britain). The postal convention, when it finally came in 1849, significantly reduced those fees.

Endnotes:

- ¹. Richard F. Winter, "Charleston, S.C. to Belgium via Wilmington & Raleigh Railroad," *North Carolina Postal Historian* 16, No. 1 (Spring 1997): pp. 3-5.
- ². Since the postage on letters in 1842 was determined by the number of sheets of paper, letter writers often filled a full page with manuscript, then turned the page 90 degrees and wrote another full page over the handwriting already on the sheet. This allowed twice as much to be written in the same space, but made it quite challenging to read the words.
- ³. The new Postmaster General to which she referred was Charles A. Wickliffe, who was in office from 13 October 1841 to 6 March 1845.
- ⁴. Walter Hubbard and Richard F. Winter, *North Atlantic Mail Sailings 1840-75* (Canton, Ohio: U.S. Philatelic Classics Society Inc., 1988), p. 18.
- ⁵. The term "packet" had different meanings in Great Britain and the United States. The British considered a "packet" vessel one which carried government mails as opposed to a private vessel not under contract with the government to carry mails. The packet letter rates were higher than those for letters sent on private vessels. In the United States the term "packet" was used to described a vessel that sailed on a fix schedule as opposed to one that sailed when it had a full cargo on board. These vessels never carried contract mails but often carried private ship letters.

MORE ON RURAL STATION MARKINGS

by Tony L. Crumbley

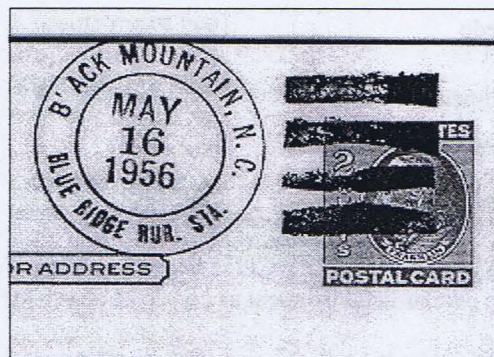
Where do discontinued post office go? Many become branch offices or rural station!

In the Summer 1997, Whole 61, issue of the North Carolina Postal Historian, Art Rupert and David McCord presented the definitive article on North Carolina rural station post offices. Because of lack of space in that issue, illustrations of these varied markings were not included with the article.

The editors feel this is a wonderful field of N.C. collecting that has yet to be researched. Many of these covers can still be found in the dealer's bargain box for under a dollar and few will bring over ten dollars, yet many are scarce markings from small, short lived postal facilities.

In an effort to instill the interest of some collectors out here to recognize these markings and compile a listing of them, we are including some examples that exist.

If we do have members with an interest in this area, the editors would like to hear from them in order to forward information about these covers.



Blue Ridge Rural Station,
Black Mountain

NORTH CAROLINA RURAL STATION UPDATE

A listing of North Carolina Rural Stations was published in the NCPH Volume 16, No. 2 Summer of 1997-Whole 61. The following corrections should be made:

Paragraph 5-Line 4. To read; The 1902 Postal Guide was the First Guide that used the Rural Station name. Correction is to use the word First instead of the word last.

Several Discontinued dates for the following items and names were in error. In error some of the established dates were also used as the discontinued date.

159	Casville	Correct Disc. date to 06 June 1976	
160	Pensacola	ditto	30 Mar 1973
161	Worthville	ditto	16 Feb. 191'9
162	Walnut	ditto	04 Feb. 1987
189	Top Sail Beach	Insert zip code of 28455 after Parent Post Office of Hollyridge	
142	Morgan's Corner	Correct Established date to be 01 May 1961	

From Postal Bulletins information and or from review of the August 1997 Post Office listing of North Carolina from the Postmark Collectors Club the following is new information..

113	Farmer	Not listed in 1997 PMCC list. When Disc. ?	
120	Navassa	Assigned to new Parent Post Office of Leland. Date not known, but before Aug. 1977	
163	Grantham	1977 PMCC list Grantham closed 1994 era	
173	Gardner Webb College	1997 PMCC list as	CPU Status
192	Tuxedo	1997 PMCC list as	CPU Status

New Establishments:

Hazlewood	CPO 28738	Waynesville	Estab. 5Apr. 1997
Parmele	CPO 27861	Robertsonville	Estab. 20 July 1997

Only one reader of the NCPH , Scoft Troutman of Oklahoma contacted Art Rupert about any corrections and additions. Inquire was to date of Establishment as corrected above for 142 Morgan's Corner.

Art Rupert, had a new E-Mail address.. Use small letters. (aerupert@bentonrea.com)

David R. McCord has E-Mail address.. Use small letters (damac@halcyon.com)

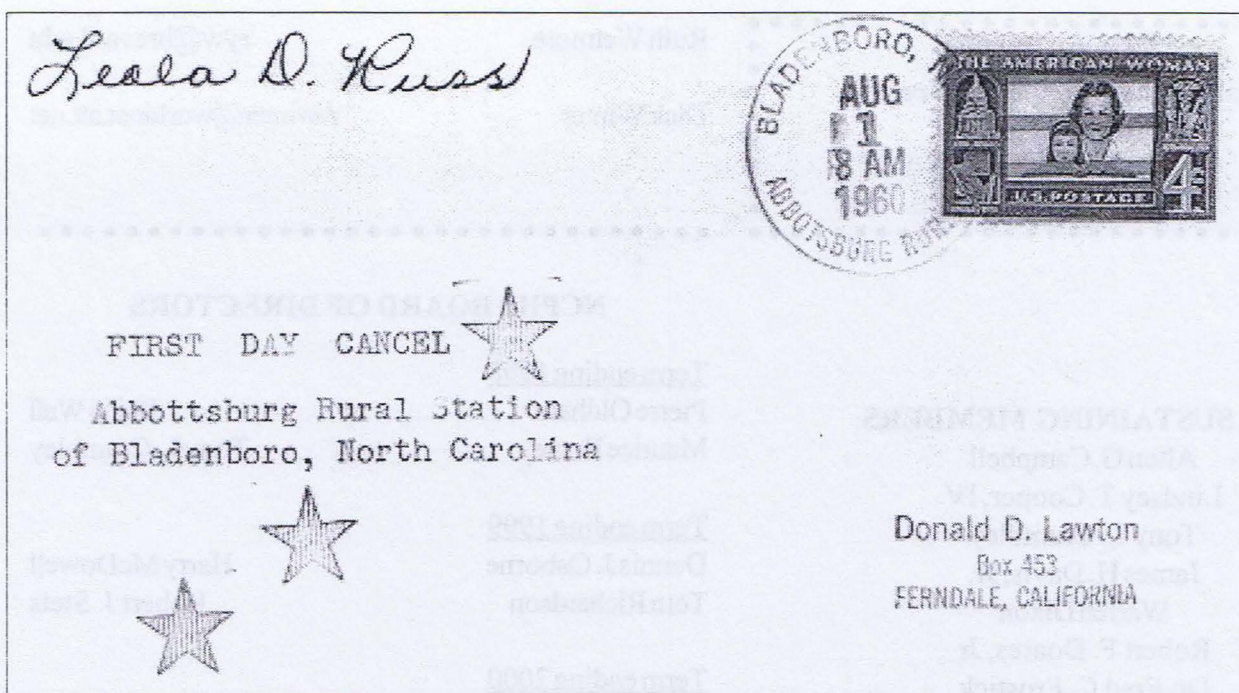
Art Rupert	and	David R. McCord
PO Box 645		21056NE 117thSt.
Prosser, Wa. 99350-0645		Redmond, Wa. 98053-5399

Asheville School (for Boys) Station,
Asheville

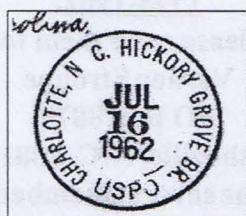


Chadwick Rural Branch
Charlotte

Abbottsburg Rural Station,
Bladenboro



Hickory Grove Branch,
Charlotte



Atlantic Christian College Station,
Wilson

CALLING ALL MEMBER CYBER-PHILES!

THE *POSTAL HISTORIAN* IS COMPILING A MEMBERSHIP E-MAIL
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PLEASE SEND YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS TO

EDITOR VERNON STROUPE

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NEW MEMBER

There are no new members to report
for this quarter.

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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!