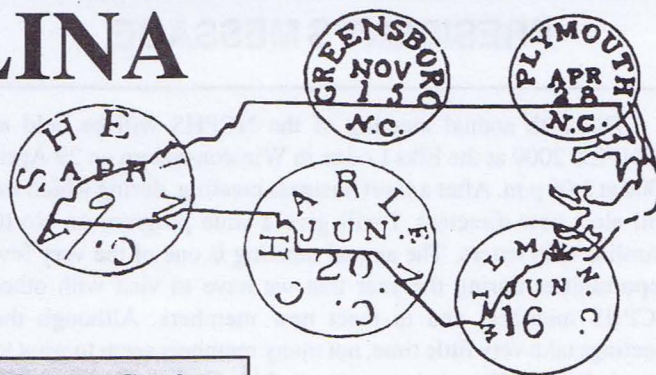


NORTH CAROLINA POSTAL HISTORIAN

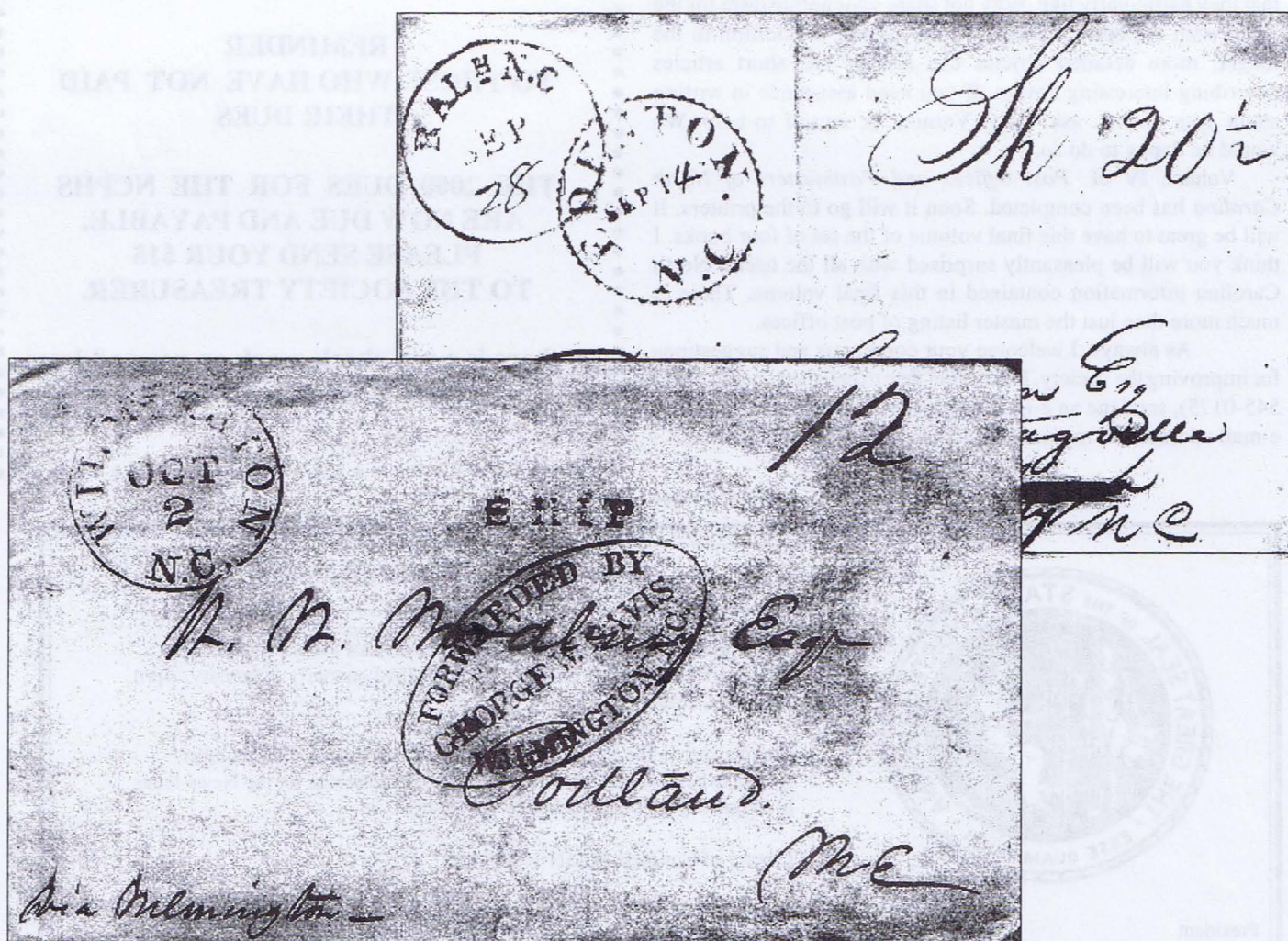


The Journal of the North Carolina Postal History Society

Volume 18, No. 3

Winter 2000

Whole 70



North Carolina Ship Letters

See President's Message - p2

Affiliate #155 of the American Philatelic Society



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The 19th annual meeting of the NCPHS will be held at WINPEX 2000 at the Elks Lodge in Winston-Salem on 29 April 2000 at 2:00 p.m. After a short business meeting, during which we will elect new directors, I will give a slide program on North Carolina ship letters. The annual meeting is one of the very few opportunities during the year that we have to visit with other NCPHS members and to meet new members. Although the meetings take very little time, not many members seem to want to attend. WINPEX as it is not a very big show, but it is a very friendly one and a good place to see old friends.

Vernon Stroupe and Tony Crumbley do a wonderful job for us as editors of the journal. We can not expect them to write all the articles that appear in the journal, however. We need more help from the members. I am sure most of our members have a cover that they particularly like. Why not share your enthusiasm for the cover with the other members? The editors, in addition to the longer, more detailed articles can always use short articles describing interesting covers. If you need assistance in writing about your covers, ask Tony, Vernon, or myself to help. We would be happy to do so.

Volume IV of *Post Offices and Postmasters of North Carolina* has been completed. Soon it will go to the printers. It will be great to have this final volume of the set of four books. I think you will be pleasantly surprised with all the useful North Carolina information contained in this final volume. There is much more than just the master listing of post offices.

As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions for improving the society. Please feel free to call me at home (336) 545-0175), send me an e-mail message, or write to me. Both my e-mail address and my mailing address appear in this journal.

Dick Winter

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REMINDER TO THOSE WHO HAVE NOT PAID THEIR DUES

**THE 2000 DUES FOR THE NCPHS
ARE NOW DUE AND PAYABLE.
PLEASE SEND YOUR \$15
TO THE SOCIETY TREASURER.**

**If there is a red check-mark on your address
label, your dues are late!**



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 News-letter or inquiries may be addressed to the editors.

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A DOG'S TALE

by Tony L. Crumbley

As editor I receive other state publications to review for ideas for articles in the NCPHS Journal. It is not often that an article will strike a matching North Carolina subject, but the Summer issue of the Journal of New York State Postal History Society did just that.

The piece by Maris Tirums, *Ulster County Chronicles: Mail Order Dogs*, discussed the two covers in his collection containing letters about hunting dogs purchased by mail. It is obvious Maris is not a good ole southern farm boy, because he found it rather unusual that dogs could be ordered by mail.

I don't know about dogs, but it is not unusual today for rural post offices to receive a shipment of live chickens. As recently as two years ago a friend of mine received a box of a dozen live chickens in the mail. I forgot to ask for the cover that carried them!

Back to the dog's tale. Maris' article reminded me of two similar North Carolina covers in my collection. They are pre-printed return covers addressed to Dixie Hound Kennels, Inc. in, of all places, Herrick, Illinois! I guess the manager, F.M. Sarver, was a good old Southern boy lost in Illinois, or either he felt a Southern sounding name would sell dogs better. From the tone of the two letters in the NY Journal, Dixie Hound had a problem with their dogs, as both were about dogs that were returned for not being able to hunt.

The covers in my collection are very striking advertising covers with a large red hound dog and bold green address. The first cover (Fig. 2) is from Lillington, 10 October 1934. The envelopes include an order form (Fig. 1) from W.S. Reid for one three-to-six year old black-and-tan mail hound, his first choice. His second choice was a blue tick hound. The game they were expected to hunt was listed as "coom and opossum". Five dollars cash was enclosed and \$11 was due c.o.d. The hunter requested a cold trailer dog that would hunt in "swamped fields, mostly wooded rolling land near two rivers". There is no indication if Mr. Reid got his dog or not, but one must assume he did.

The second cover is from Four Oaks (Fig. 3), 15 November 1934. The cover includes a letter from Buck Upchurch. Buck had ordered a hound the previous fall and was unhappy with it's ability to run. He must not have been too unhappy, because he sent a picture of the dog and wanted to know the price of one that would run rabbits.

I do not know what happened to Dixie Hound Kennels, but, as collectors, we can be thankful that someone had the foresight to save their covers and place them in the hands of collectors.

DIXIE HOUND KENNELS INC.

F. M. SARVER, Manager.
Herrick, Illinois

GUARANTEE ORDER BLANK

(Please Write Name and Address Plainly)

<p>Name <u>W. S. Reid</u></p> <p>Street or Box <u>Lillington, N.C.</u></p> <p>Address <u>Lillington, N.C.</u></p> <p>Express Office <u>316</u></p> <p>Age of Dog Wanted <u>3 to 6</u> Color <u>Black & Tan</u></p> <p>State Game you Want Dog to Hunt <u>Coom & Opossum</u></p> <p>That Does Not Bark Much? <u>Cold Trailer</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">\$5.00 Cash Must Accompany All Dog Orders</p> <p>Amount Enclosed, \$ <u>5.00</u></p> <p>Amount C. O. D., \$ <u>11</u></p> <p>Would you accept QUALITY regardless of size, sex, or color? <u>Want Male</u></p> <p>LIST OF DOG WANTED <u>Black & Tan</u></p> <p>State Second Choice in Color <u>Blue Tick</u> Sex <u>Male</u></p> <p>Do You Want a Cold Trailer or a Drifter? <u>Cold Trailer</u></p> <p>Describe Your Hunting Territory: <u>Swamped fields mostly wooded rolling land near 2 Rivers</u></p>
---	---

FOR ORDERING MEDICINE, ETC., SEE OPPOSITE SIDE

Figure 1

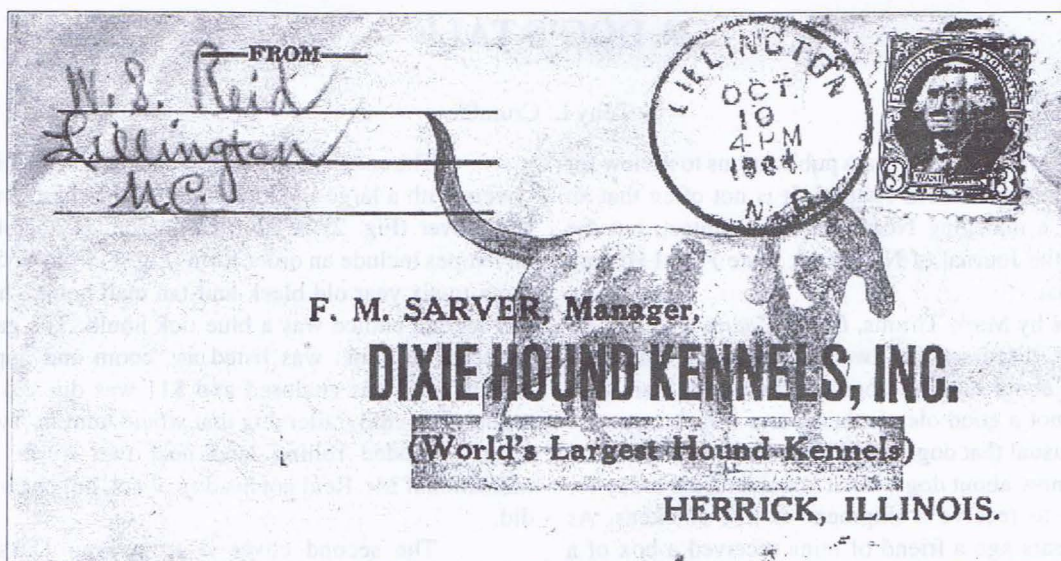


Figure 2

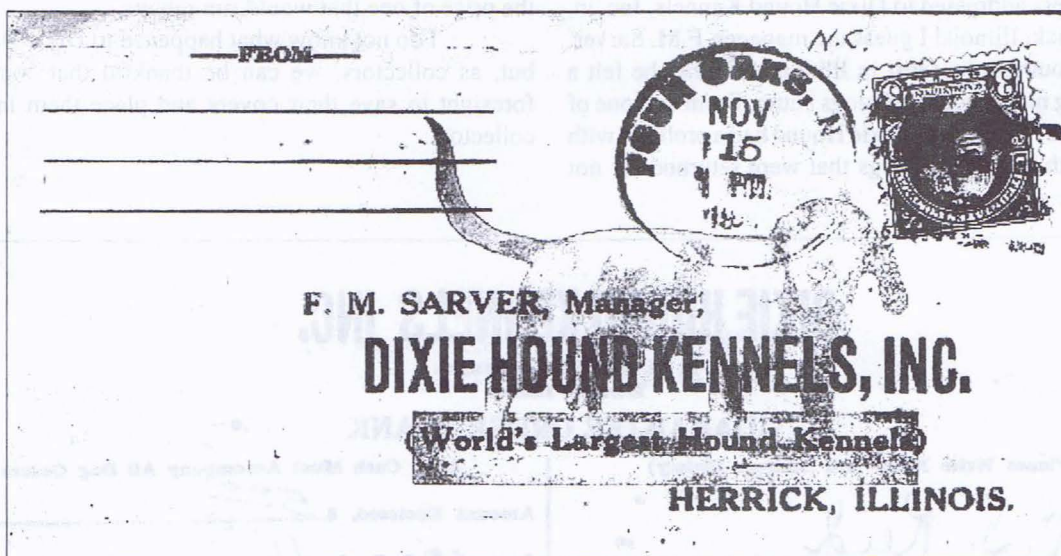


Figure 3

14 November 1934

this is from Buck upchurch
i ordered a dog from you
last fall an he was not
train he has just so he will
run a little now i want you
to tell me how ---express
was so much it was \$6.86
i want to no about the old
fashion black and tan hound

i want one 3 years old and
how they are on track i
want one to run rabbits
mostly i am going to send
his picture the one i want
write an tell me the price
of one 3 years old.

Enclosure to Figure 3.

Salisbury to Houston, Republic of Texas

by Richard F. Winter

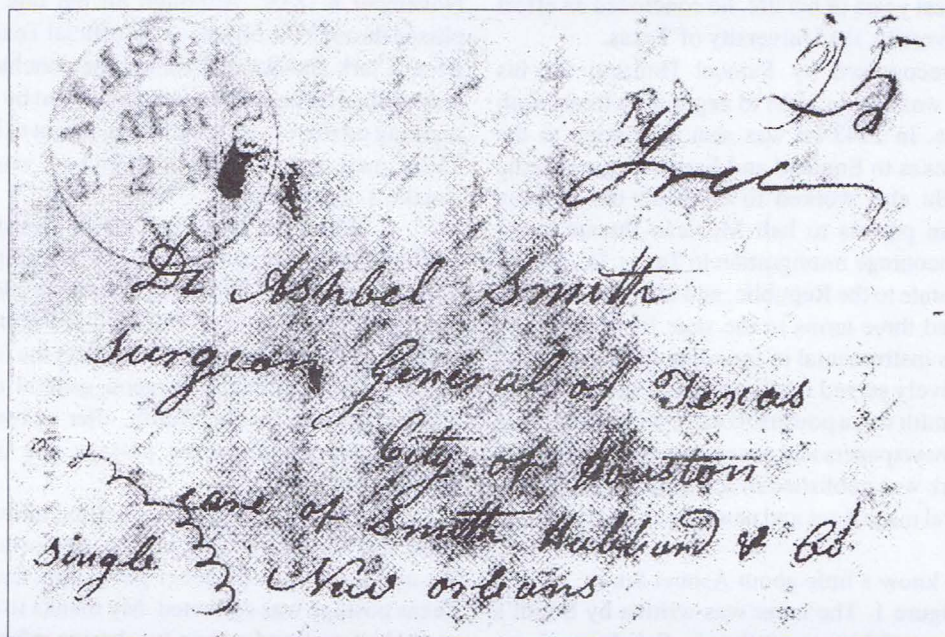


Figure 1

Salisbury, NC to Houston, Republic of Texas, 23 April 1838, prepaid 25¢ for U.S. inland fee to New Orleans, where forwarding agent placed on steamship Columbia for transport to Galveston. In Texas, later marked "Free" as addressee entitled to free franking.

Figure 1 illustrates a folded letter written on 23 April 1838 in Salisbury, North Carolina and addressed to Dr. Ashbel Smith, Surgeon General of Texas, City of Houston. Since this cover has a number of interesting postal history aspects, and even a maritime connection, I thought it would be worth sharing with the readers of this journal.

Questions immediately came to mind as I examined this cover. Who was Dr. Ashbel Smith? Why was someone in Salisbury writing to him in Houston during the time of the Texas Republic? How did the letter get to Houston? Why was it marked "PAID 25" and "Free" and why was there a steamship marking on the letter?

First, we must know who was Ashbel Smith. I have found two separate biographical sources that discuss Ashbel Smith, one in North Carolina, and one in Texas. Each source presents somewhat different, but supportive information, from their own geographical perspective about this very interesting person. According to William S. Powell, Ashbel Smith was a Salisbury physician and Texas political leader.¹ He was born in Hartford, Connecticut on 13 August 1805, and grew up in New England. He graduated with honors from Yale University in 1824. After receiving his degrees he moved to Salisbury to teach in the Salisbury Academy for a salary of \$300 the first year plus traveling expenses and board. In 1826, he returned north to study medicine at Yale. After obtaining a medical degree in 1828, he went back to Salisbury to practice medicine for three years, before

leaving for further study in Paris. He worked in Paris during the epidemic of Asiatic cholera. Afterward, in 1832, he published his observations of the Paris epidemic in New York. He resumed his practice in Salisbury in June 1832, where he was quite successful. He was involved in North Carolina politics and became editor and half owner of the newspaper, *Western Carolinian*, a "good Jackson paper." In the fall of 1836, he was persuaded to move to the newly formed Republic of Texas.

We now shift to the Texas source of bibliographic data where Ashbel Smith was called "the father of Texas medicine" and "the father of the University of Texas."² When he arrived in Texas in the spring of 1837, Smith became the roommate and close friend of Samuel Houston, who appointed him surgeon general of the Army of the Republic of Texas. In this role he set up an efficient system of operation and established the first hospital in Houston, a military one. During the devastating epidemic of yellow fever in Galveston in 1839, he treated the sick, published factual reports of the progress of the disease, and after the epidemic abated, wrote the first treatise on yellow fever in Texas. In 1848 he worked to form the Medical and Surgical Society of Galveston. When the Texas Medical Association was formed, he was chairman of the committee that drafted its constitution and bylaws, and later served as President of that organization.

Ashbel Smith devoted a great deal of time and energy to the cause of education. He urged that Texas underwrite the

education of every child in the state. He championed public education for blacks and women. He helped establish Prairie View A&M University, Sam Houston State University, Stuart Female Seminary at Houston, and Galveston Medical School. In the 1880s, during the last years of his life, he concluded an effort to establish a state university, the University of Texas.

Smith was recognized by Samuel Houston for his diplomatic ability. He was sent in 1838 to negotiate a treaty with the Comanche Indians. In 1842 he was sent to Europe as the charge d'affaires of Texas to England and France, a position he held for two years. He also worked to establish the friendly mediation of European powers to halt Mexican threats to re-invade Texas and to encourage immigration to Texas. In 1845 he served as secretary of state to the Republic, and after statehood in December 1845, served three terms in the state legislature as a representative. He was instrumental in founding the Democratic party in Texas. He actively served for Texas in the Mexican War and in the Civil War. Smith was a powerful orator with many of his speeches published in newspapers and as separate monographs. A prolific writer, his work was published in scientific, agricultural, educational, and general magazines and newspapers in the United States and Europe.

Now that we know a little about Ashbel Smith, we can turn to the cover in Figure 1. The letter was written by Smith's agent and the overseer of his properties in Salisbury, Jesse Kincaid. Apparently, Kincaid spent considerable time "cleaning up" unfinished business for Smith in Salisbury, this letter written more than a year after Smith had left Salisbury for Houston. The letter was addressed "care of Smith Hubbard & Co, New Orleans," the New Orleans agent who would forward the letter to the Republic of Texas, a foreign location outside the United

STEAM PACKET COLUMBIA

Figure 2

Tracing of red handstamp applied to loose letters on board steamer

States. Kincaid paid 25 cents to send the letter more than 400 miles to New Orleans. At the Salisbury post office, a red 31 mm. circular datestamp of 29 April was applied along with a handstamp PAID and "25" in manuscript to show the prepayment.³ The next marking applied to the cover is difficult to see in Figure 1. A tracing of the marking is provided in Figure 2. It appears in silhouette just above the name "Smith" in the letter address. This marking, which reads STEAM PACKET/ COLUMBIA, was applied on board the steamship *Columbia*, which regularly carried mails between New Orleans and Galveston, Texas. In 1835, New Orleans-owner Charles Morgan placed his steamship *Columbia* on the route to Galveston twice per month, leaving New Orleans on the 1st and 15th of the month and Galveston on the 8th and 22nd. Besides carrying mails, the steamer also could accommodate 120 cabin and 75 deck passengers. Since the majority of the mail carried by this steamer did not receive the marking of this steamship, it has been theorized that the marking was applied only to loose letters

handed on board and outside the bagged mail. Alex. L. ter Braake, writing about this marking in a lengthy serial article for *The American Philatelist*, explained that he had studied 23 examples of the marking on covers with dates from November 1837 to November 4, 1838⁴. Although all but one of these covers had passed through the offices of the official Texas forwarding agents, Brent Clark and Samuel Ricker, he concluded that the marking was applied on board the steamer and not by the agents. Use of the marking on this cover, which appears not to have been handled by Texas mail agents Clark and Ricker, was consistent with ter Braake's observations.

When the letter arrived in Houston, the postage due normally would have been 311/40. The Republic of Texas letter rate in 1838 was 25 cents for a letter traveling 40-100 miles, to which rate, was added a 6-1/4 cent ship fee.⁵ This letter, however, was marked "Free" to reflect the free franking privilege of Dr. Ashbel Smith as surgeon general of the Army. Covers addressed to Dr. Ashbel Smith, after he resigned his position of surgeon general, show the postage due in Texas that he was required to pay.

We now know who was the addressee of the Figure 1 letter and his connections with both North Carolina and Texas. We also know how the letter got to him, and why no Republic of Texas postage was collected. My thanks to Rex H. Stever, Texas postal historian and author, for sharing information with me about the cover and the addressee, Dr. Ashbel Smith.

- 1 William S. Powell, ed., *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, 6 vols. (Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press, 1979-1996), Vol. 5, p. 370.
- 2 *The New Handbook of Texas*, 6 vols. (Austin, Texas: Texas State Historical Association, 1996), Vol. 5, pp. 1090
- 3 *Post Offices and Postmasters of North Carolina*, 4 vols. (Charlotte, North Carolina: North Carolina Postal History Society, 1996), Vol. 3, p. 3-171, Type I marking of Salisbury.
- 4 Alex. L. ter Braake, "Texas, The Drama of Its Postal Past," *The American Philatelist* (May 1967-October 1969), Vol. 82, No. 11 (November 1968), p. 992.
- 5 *American Stampless Cover Catalog*, 3 vols. (North Miami, Florida: David G. Phillips Publishing Co., 1993-97), Vol. 1, p. 380.

NCPHS WILL MEET AT WINPEX

SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2000, 2 PM

**Program: North Carolina Ship
Letters by Dick Winter**

Board of Directors - 1 PM

Pantego to Tuscarora -Two Remarkable R.P.O Covers

by Scott Troutman

Shown are the backs of two large U.S.P.O.D. registered package envelopes for 1908. They were sent from Pantego, N.C., a small seaport in Beaufort County to nearby Tuscarora in craven County. As the crow flies, the towns are only about 35 miles apart, but the intervening Pamlico River, and the way the railroads ran caused both these covers to run a circuitous 107 mile route. And while en route they garnered some of the rarest R.P.O. markings I have seen.

Pantego was just a mile or two north of Belhaven, the terminus of the Mackey Ferry and Belhaven run of the Norfolk Southern. The main line of the Norfolk Southern came down from Mackey Ferry on the south shore of the Albemarle Sound to Plymouth and then on to Washington, N.C and then farther south to New Bern. Belhaven was a side spur that came off at Pinetown and Pantego was along this little spur line. Both letters were posted at Pantego with a Doane 3 cancel.

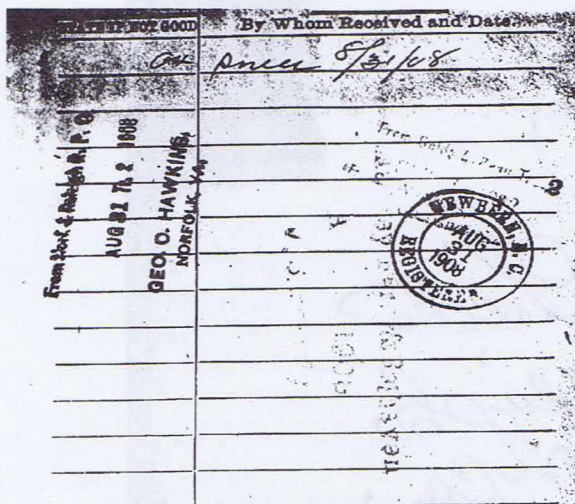
At Pantego, these registered letters were put on the Mackey Ferry and Belhaven R.P.O. run. As the instructions on these letters indicate, every time these letters changed hands, the receiving postal employee had to sign on the back or handstamp it. At this point both letters got a purple large handstamp, reading "Mackey Ferry & Belhaven/Aug 19 1908/J.S. Pressly". The dates of course are different on both letters, one being mailed August 19th, the other August 31. This handstamp, has never been reported before. It appears both letters went up the line to Mackey Ferry (today's Mackeys).

At this point both letters caught train 2 of the Norfolk & Raleigh Railroad, which went from Norfolk, down across the great railroad trestle over the Albemarle Sound to Mackey's Ferry, then south to New Bern and across to Raleigh. Both letters were then stamped "From Norf. & Raleigh R.P.O./Aug 19 Tr 2 1908/Geo. O. Hawkins./Norfolk, Va.", again a marking we have never seen before. One handstamp, is in magenta, the other in a blue green ink. I am making the assumption that Hawkins worked out of Norfolk as the Mackey Ferry & Belhaven R.P.O. is not thought to have gone that far.

At New Bern it got off-load and both letters got a New Bern, N.C. double ring registry cancel, the same day they were mailed from Pantego. By now the letters had traveled at least 77 miles.

In the morning they were transferred onto the Beaufort & Goldsboro R.P.O. of the Atlantic & East Carolina Railroad for the run up to Tuscarora. Tuscarora is 10 miles outside of New Bern and would have been the third town along the run. The two letters, as required, each got handstamps, but very different ones. one got a faint clerk handstamp reading "From Golds. & Beau. Tr. 2/ SEPT 1 1908/R.E. Wil?????" in magenta. The second got a huge magenta handstamp reading "FROM G. & BEAUFO. TR 2/AUG 20 1908/M.N.HALIS/GOLDSBORO, N.C.". This marking may be from train 6 - it is smudgy and hard to tell. Again, more never seen clerk markings.

It is always a pleasure to bid at auction and turn up great prizes like these unexpectedly.

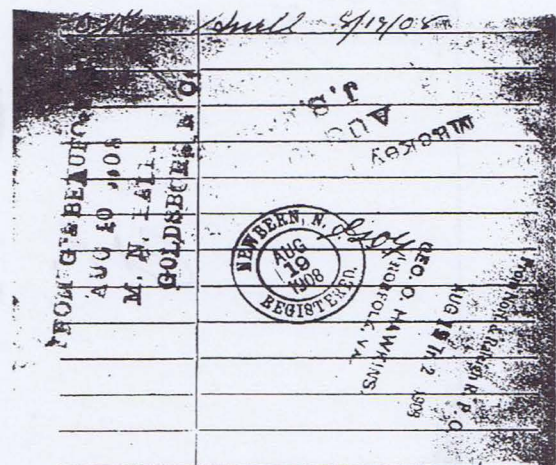


INSTRUCTIONS

Every postal employee receiving this package must receipt for it, and indorse this envelope in the manner required by Section 843, Postal Laws and Regulations, and he must keep record thereof.

Should this package be damaged it must be indorsed with a statement of its condition signed by the postmaster, or postal clerk, and inclosed in a new registered package envelope at the post office where the injury was noticed or at the post office at the terminus of the postal clerk's route.

The original registered package envelope must not be removed and the new envelope must bear the number, date, name of office of origin and address of the old one. The new envelope must be postmarked and marked "Re-enveloped at (name of post office)".



INSTRUCTIONS

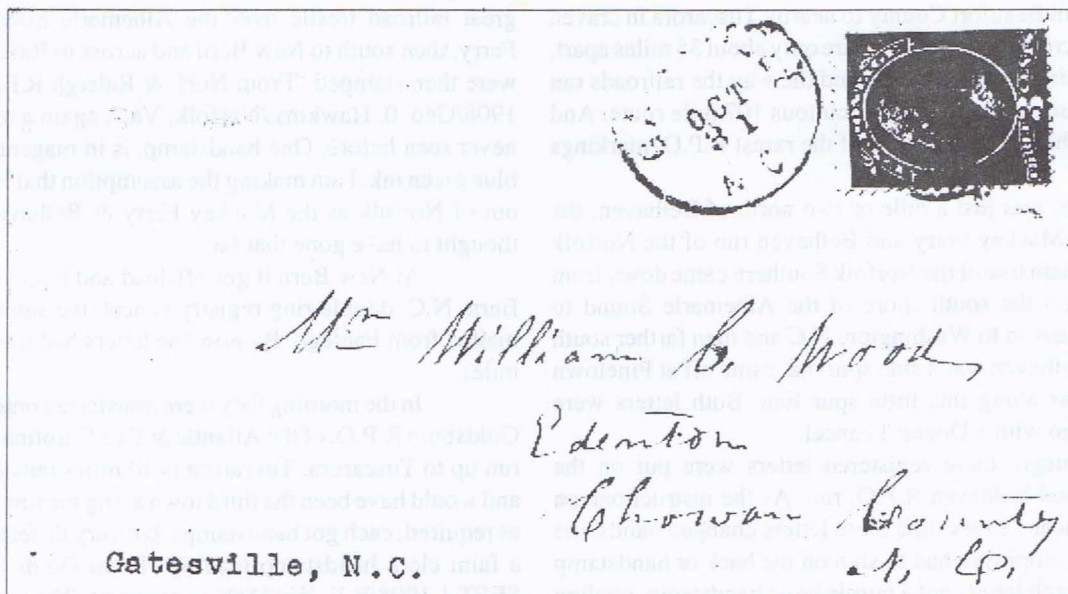
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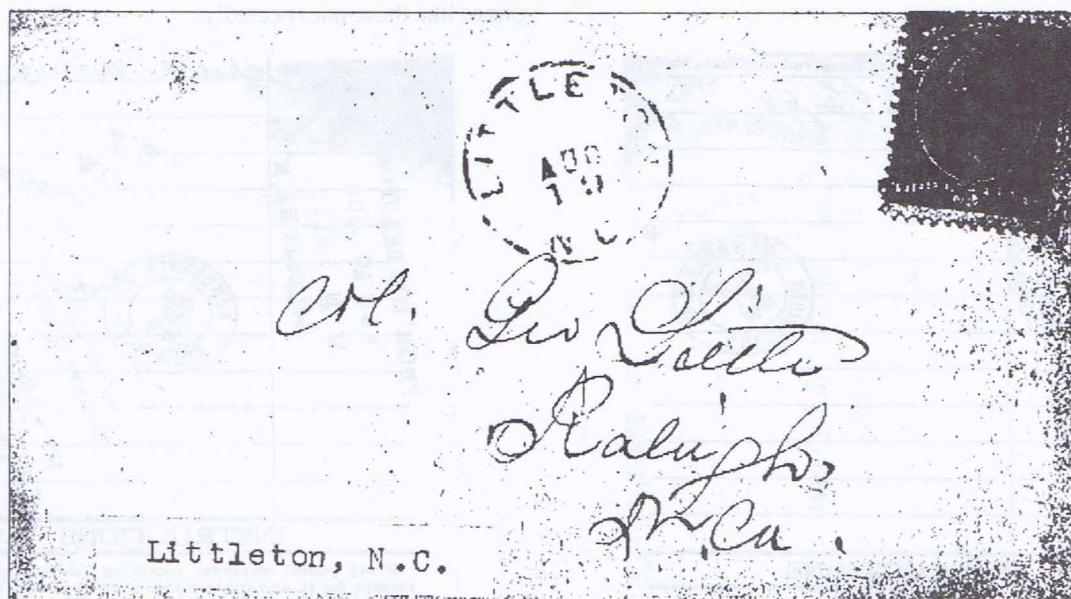
The original registered package envelope must not be removed and the new envelope must bear the number, date, name of office of origin and address of the old one. The new envelope must be postmarked and marked "Re-enveloped at (name of post office)".

Packages must be signed for at the time they are delivered, or the accompanying receipt forms must be signed, postmarked and returned in the next mail.

by Scott Thompson



Front of Gatesville to Edenton cover



Front of Littleton to Raleigh cover

A THREE CENT CONFEDERATE RATE?

By Tony L. Crumbley

Most collectors of Southern postal history are aware of the Confederate five and ten cent rates. There was also a two cent drop letter rate and a forty cent express rate. How then can a Confederate collection contain covers indicating payment of three cents?

The Confederacy was formed in Montgomery, Alabama on 4 February 1861. On 9 February the Confederate Provisional Congress at Montgomery adopted an act to continue in force laws of the United States until such laws could be changed. It was not until 23 February 1861 that the Confederate Congress passed, and President Davis approved, the act prescribing the rates of postage in the Confederate States. These new, increased rates were not to go into effect until 1 June 1861.

On 21 May 1861, North Carolina seceded from the Union and became an Independent state until 27 May 1861 when North Carolina became part of the Confederate States of America. North Carolina operated as a Confederate State utilizing the postal laws and rates of the U.S. Government for five days until 1 June 1861.

Postmasters from the seceded states found themselves in a very difficult position. They were technically under oath to the United States Post Office Department until 1 June 1861. The United States demanded a confirming oath from these postmasters before they would ship additional supplies, including postage stamps.

If sufficient supplies of three cent stamps were available, the postmasters continued to provide them to their postal patrons until 1 June. When supplies were unavailable, the postmasters were at their own initiative to come up with a means

of indicating postage had been paid. Six cities throughout the South issued their own three cent stamps - Hillsboro, N.C., Tuscumbia and Selma, Ala., Jackson, Miss., Madison, Fla., and Nashville, Tenn. Numerous other cities reverted back to the earlier days of stampless covers to indicate the payment of postage.

Only eleven days before North Carolina's vote to leave the Union until the Confederate postal rates went into effect, it is to be expected that few three cent rated covers would survive from North Carolina today. As is expected only two three cent Confederate covers are known from North Carolina. The 3 cent Hillsboro Postmaster's Provisional (Figure 1) was discovered in the early 1980's by Patricia Kaufmann and has been given a good certificate by the Philatelic Foundation. This cover sold in 1987 for \$100,000, probably the highest price ever paid for a North Carolina cover.

The Hillsboro PMP has an adhesive with a blue "Paid" handstamp. The adhesive is tied by a blue Hillsboro double circle date stamp dated 27 May 1861. This same adhesive is known used on a 7 June 1861 cover (Figure 2) with a Paid 5 handstamp indicating the payment of the Confederate five cent rate. Only one example of this has been recorded and it sold in 1981 for \$10,500.

The second Paid 3 Confederate cover is a manuscript from Turkey Cove, N.C., dated 29 May 1861. (Figure 3) It also has an enclosure confirming the date of the cover. Figure 4 is an example of the Turkey Cove postmarks used in 1862 to pay the 5 cent Confederate rate. Only one example of the 3 cent rate is known and two examples of the 5 cent rate are known. All are from the James H. Greenlee correspondence. Greenlee was the

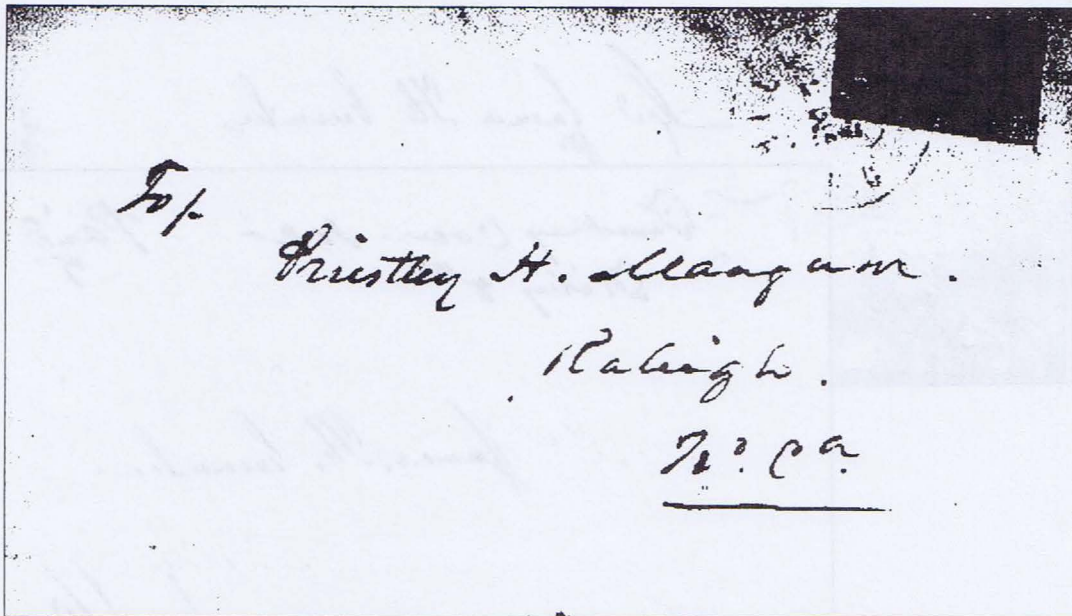


Figure 1

The Hillsboro PMP dated 27 May 1861, rarest of all North Carolina covers

first postmaster (1839-51) of this McDowell County post office.

Perhaps a some future date more Confederate 3 cent covers will be discovered, but as of now they truly are a rare item. Likewise, very few examples of the 3 cent U.S. stamps of the 1857 issue are known used during the Confederacy have survived. Perhaps that's another article for the Journal.

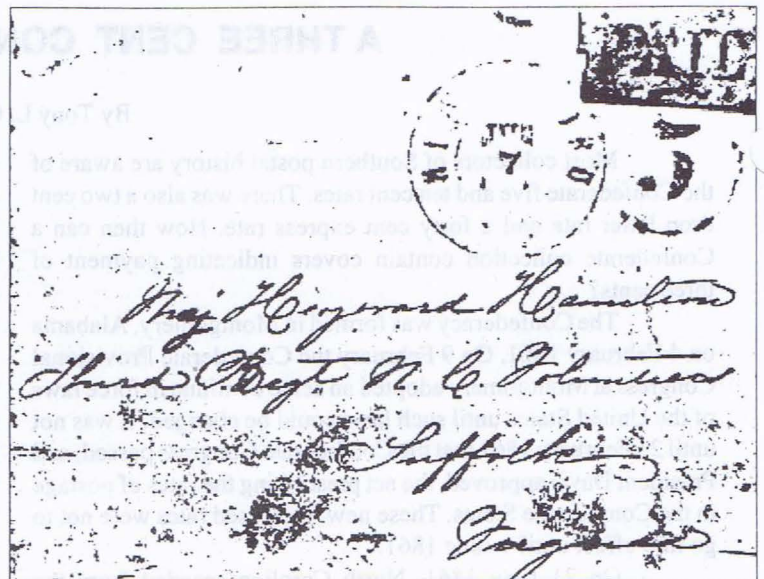
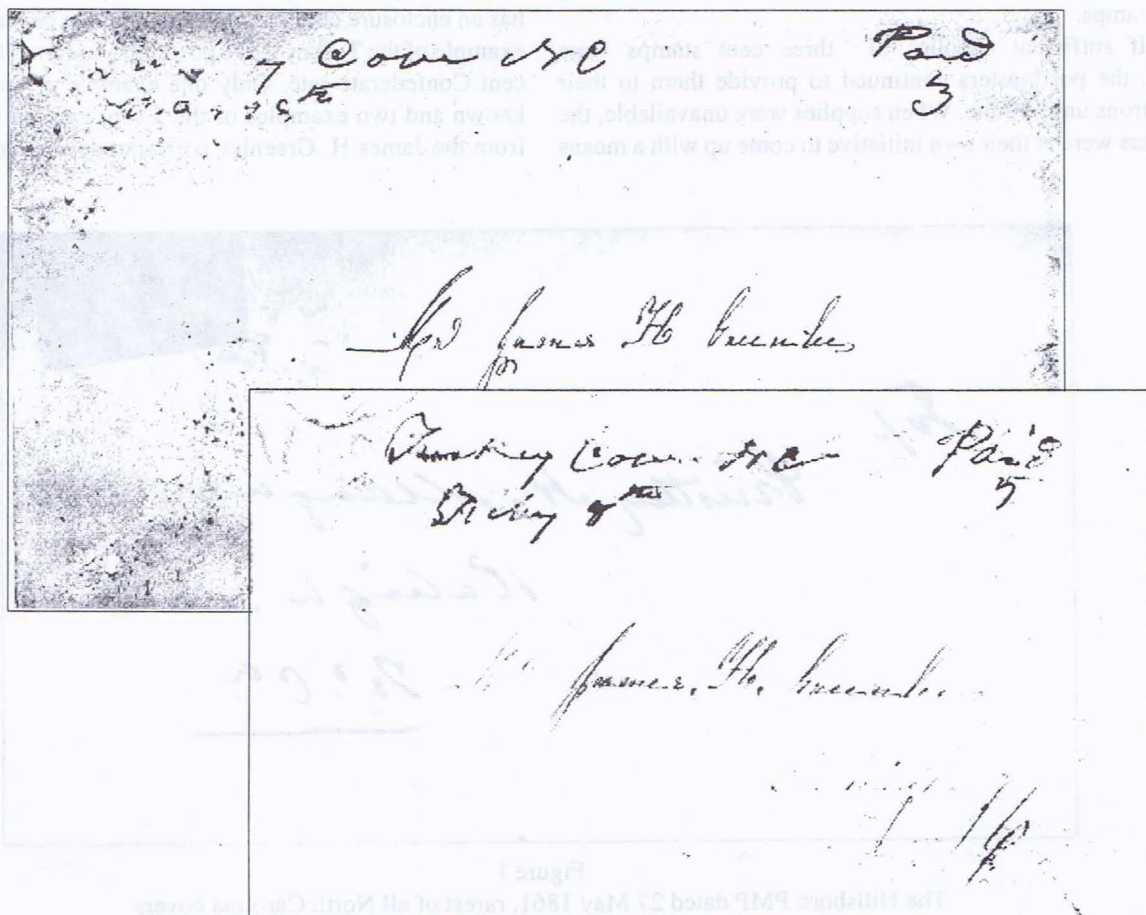


Figure 2

The Hillsboro PMP with additional Confederate 5 (C)

Figure 3

Federal rated Turkey Cove manuscript Paid 3, dated 29 May 1861 (top)
and Confederate rated Paid 5 (bottom), dated 8 Feb 1862



PEARL DIVING IN THE WARREN COUNTY LANDFILL

By Phil Perkinson

The cover illustrated below was bought from an antique dealer near Creek, Warren County in November of 1988. When purchased, the cover was crumpled and badly torn. To me, Axtell, with a corner card, is such a scarce cover that I sent it off to have it professionally restored. Four months and \$125 later I got the cover back, and, aside from the restoration price, was extremely happy to have it in my collection.

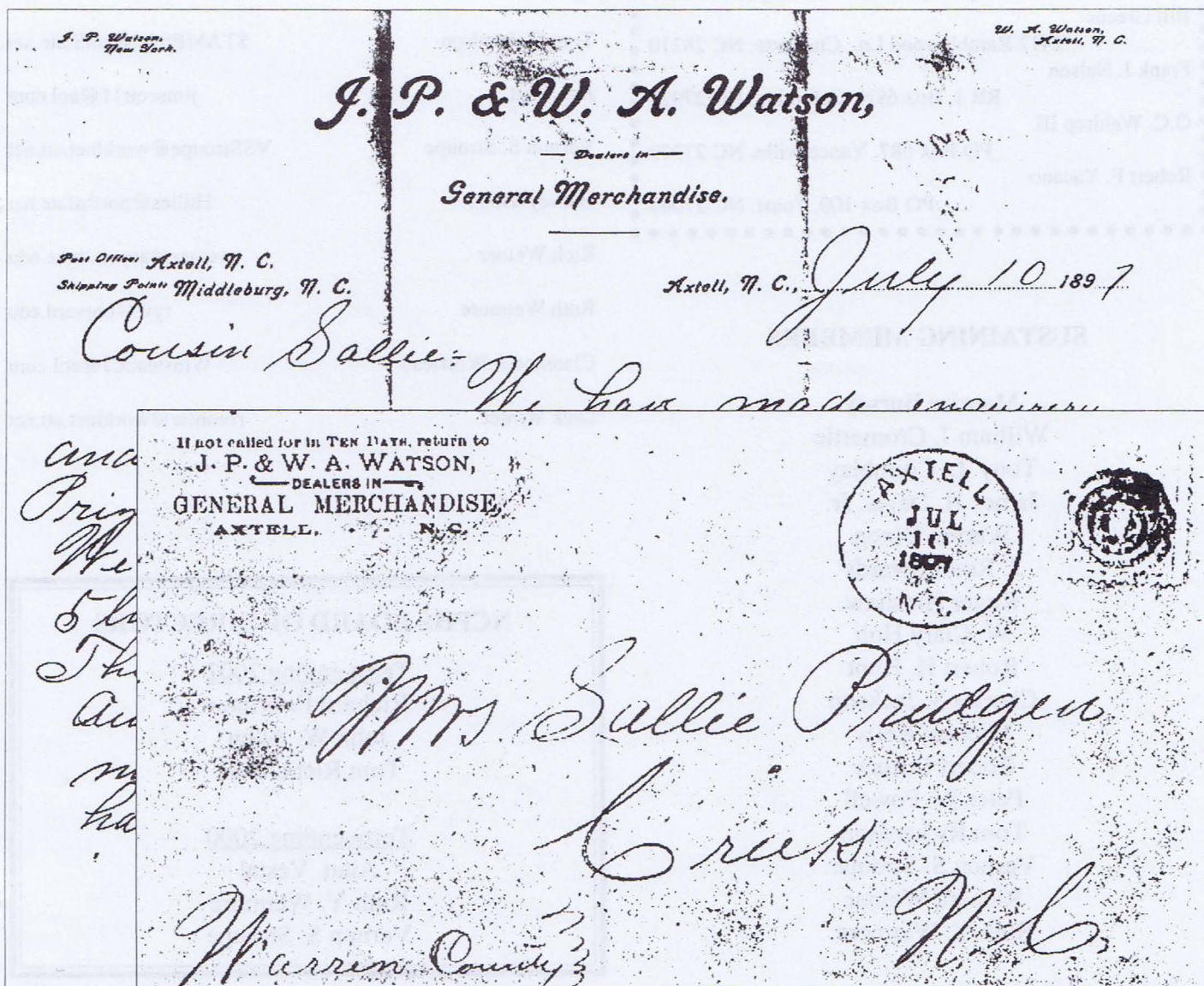
In October of 1990, I took Friday off from work to cut limbs, branches, etc. around the yard. By 3 o'clock we had a pickup truck piled high with brush. Beth, my wife and co-worker was hinting at "dinner out". Nothing dampens a whetted appetite like a trip to the Warren County land fill. A deal was made so she would go along and help throw off the limbs if we would "go out".

The landfill was muddy and terrible! We threw off the limbs and I spotted a streak of "good stuff" the bulldozer had

missed.. I took a 5 gallon bucket and waded over to some cloth bags, school books, papers, etc. Beth was threatening to leave me there, I figured one bucket full would have to do. Unfortunately, the experience did not make her sick, so we went home and out to dinner.

The next day I went through the papers, of which 99% went back to the landfill. But, a strikingly familiar Axtell letter head turned up. When I compared with the Axtell cover, Eureka! It was the contents of the envelope! How it came to be in the landfill, I have no idea. It must have been saved by someone because the back had been used to keep account of school book purchases by Sallie Prigden, the school teacher and wife of Wiley Prigden, the postmaster at Creek.

After two years, the cover and contents came back together. Figure those odds!



CALLING ALL MEMBER CYBER-PHILES

THE POSTAL HISTORIAN IS COMPILING A MEMBER-SHIP E-MAIL DIRECTORY

PLEASE SEND YOU E-MAIL ADDRESS TO

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