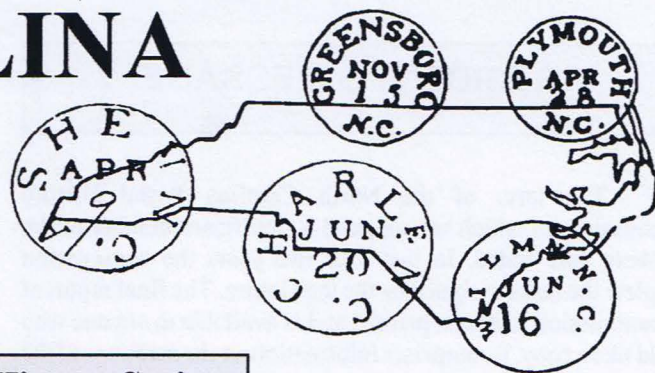


NORTH CAROLINA POSTAL HISTORIAN

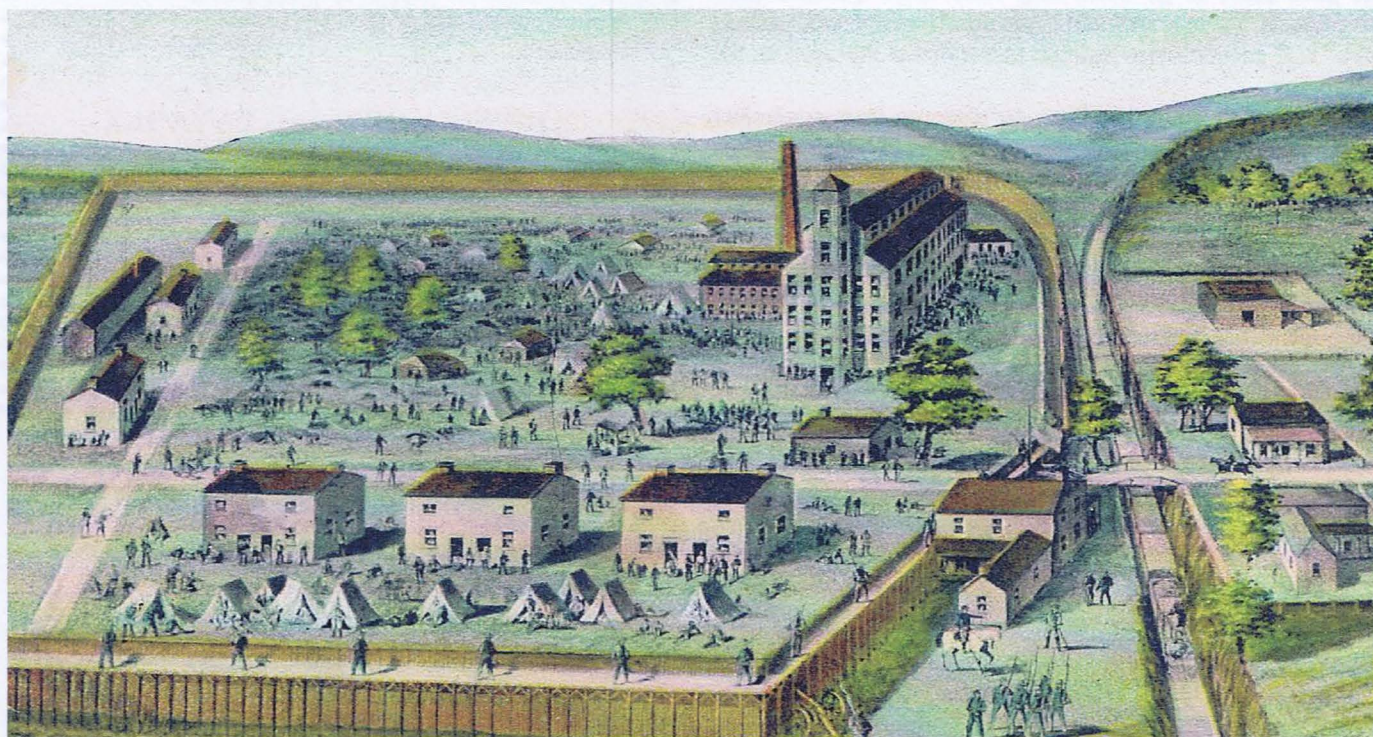


The Journal of the North Carolina Postal History Society

Volume 19, No. 3

Fall 2000

Whole 73



Confederate Prison at Salisbury

Affiliate #155 of the American Philatelic Society



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The term of the North Carolina Postal History Commission, of which we supplied a significant number of the members, has ended. In just over two years the commission complete the tasks assigned by the legislature. The final report of the commission has been printed and is available to anyone who would like a copy. It comprises information on the meetings of the commission and the results of its efforts including a copy of the display panels in the first North Carolina Postal History Exhibit. The exhibit is no longer in Raleigh, but on the road as a part of the state's traveling exhibits program. The commission work was well worth the time spent by the NCPHS members who participated. A number of state agencies now know our society is a sources of reliable information on North Carolina postal history and good place to go when they need future postal history consultation. There is no doubt in my mind that our small society has a "big" reputation in Raleigh as a result of the work on the commission.

To date there has been no response from a member willing to organize and run a periodic auction of North Carolina material in conjunction with the issuance of our journal, the *North Carolina Postal Historian*. I do not plan to restart the auction without help from the membership. For now, the idea of an auction, which I think can be helpful to us all, will be put in abeyance until someone steps forward to help. If you are interested please contact me or any one of the directors.

As many of you know, the NCPHS is involved with a long-term, continuing project at the state archives. Actually there are two projects. The first is the assembly of a North Carolina Postal History Collection, which is being created from

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REMINDER TO THOSE WHO HAVE NOT PAID THEIR DUES

THE 2001 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

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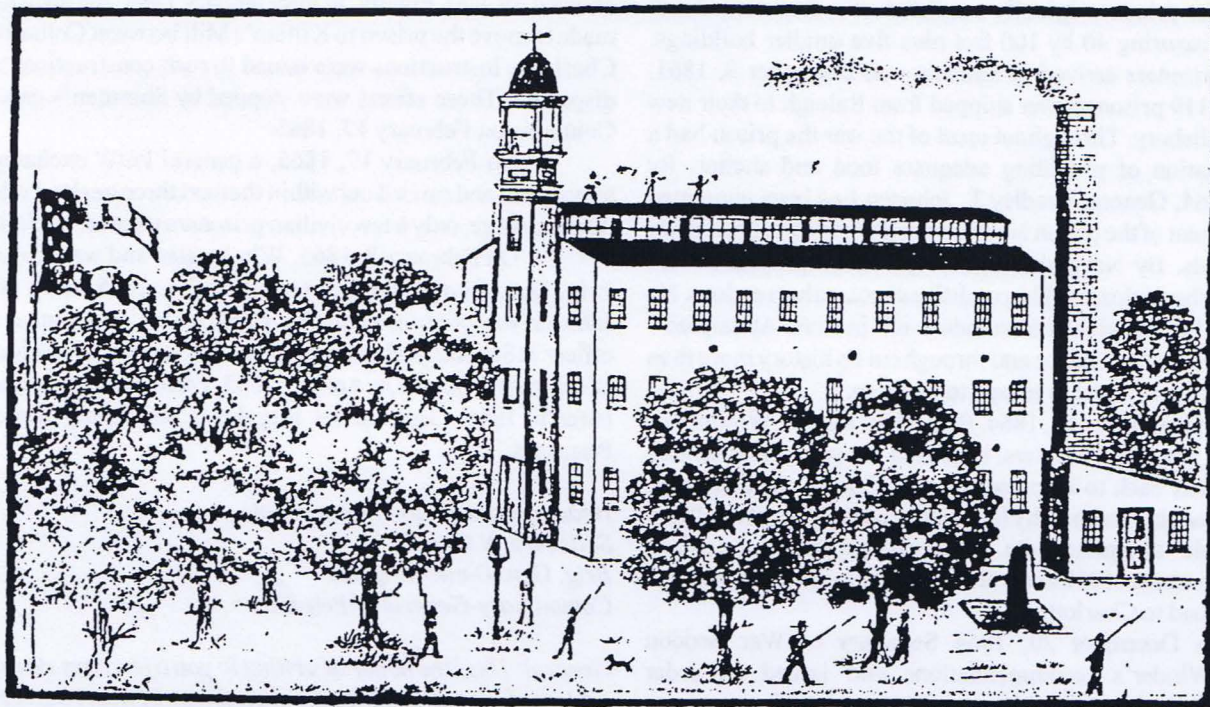
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THE CONFEDERATE PRISON AT SALISBURY

by Jo Linn White
Rowan County Register



C.S.A. Military Prison for Prisoners of War at Salisbury, N.C.

*Drawn by Fred. Webb (?) 20th Mass. Vol.
Prisoner of War*

As an aftermath of the Confederate Prison symposium 24-26 July 1998 sponsored by the Robert F. Hoke Chapter UDC, interest in the prison and its physical dimensions and exact location have been heightened. Because the original building was that of the Salisbury Manufacturing Company, the discovery of an early original stock certificate picturing the mill has assumed some importance. The picture appears on the facing page. The definitive history, Louis A. Brown, *The Salisbury Prison: A Case Study of Military Prisons 1861-1865* (1992) suggested some sources of information that are not set out in Mr. Brown's fine book.

Rowan County Deed Book 42:354. 2 Nov. 1861. The Trustees of Davidson College, Joseph F. Chambers & P.B. Chambers for \$15,000.00 paid to them by the Confederate States of America conveyed to them 15 or 16 acres adjoining the land of William H. Horah, Sr., James C. Smythe et al in the Great South Square of the Town of Salisbury bounded by certain streets of the town, the new Concord Road, & the Rowan Factory, the land having been conveyed by Maxwell Chambers to the Trustees of Davidson College on 29 Jan. 1853, being lots #25, 36, 43 & part of 44 adjoining the lands of John Murphey and the North Carolina Railroad, deeded by Maxwell Chambers to D.A. Davis, transferred by Moses

Brown to Isaac Bivens, W.H. Horah & wife to Isaac Burns in Deed Book 38:258-61. wit: J. Rumple, J.M. Horah, Walter W. Pharr (President of Davidson College), Trustees D.A. Davis, Daniel Penick. The deed was proved 3 Dec. 1861 by J. Rumple and J.M. Horah.

The four-story brick tin-roofed building had been constructed in 1839 and was occupied by the Salisbury Manufacturing Company. On 12 February 1848 Mathias Boger was president of the company and stockholders were Thomas L. Cowan, Michael Brown, John W. Ellis, Boger, John A. Davis, William H. Horah, William Murphy, David T. Caldwell, James C. McConnaughey and James C. McConnaughey executors of William Chambers. The property had ceased to be used as a factory by 1861 at which time it was given to Davidson College as a part of Maxwell Chambers' trusts to the college and to First Presbyterian Church of Salisbury. To be functional as a prison, the cotton manufacturing machinery had to be removed, iron bars had to be placed over the windows, and a palisade had to be built. The machinery was removed and sold at auction in February 1862; scores of men prepared the factory for the prisoners and the whole premises were enclosed with a high board fence, see the *Carolina Watchman*, 9 Dec. 1861, 3 Feb. 1862.

Jo Linn White is a genealogist, researcher, author, and publisher of the Rowan County Register, Ed.

The Last Days of the Confederate Prison at Salisbury

by Tony L. Crumbley

The Salisbury prison was located in Salisbury, Rowan County in an old cotton factory known as the Maxwell Chamber Factory. The prison originally consisted of a four story brick building measuring 40 by 100 feet plus five smaller buildings. The first prisoners arrived in Salisbury on December 9, 1861. Originally 119 prisoners were shipped from Raleigh to their new home in Salisbury. Throughout most of the war the prison had a good reputation of providing adequate food and shelter. By October 1864, General Bradley T. Johnson had been appointed commandant of the prison and the prison population had grown by thousands. By November 7, nearly 10,000 prisoners were crowded in the enclosure. The conditions became horrendous. No shelter and little food took tremendous toll in lives. Attempted escapes were commonplace and throughout its history more than 500 prisoners managed to escape to freedom.

On December 13, 1864, Brig. Gen. John H. Winder, the new Commissary of Prisoners, inspected the prison and sent an adverse report back to Inspector Gen. S. Cooper in Richmond. Winder listed six reasons why he considered Salisbury to be "very objectionable" as a prison site. Winder proposed that the prison be moved to a tract of 900 acres at the 14 mile post from Columbia on the railroad to Charlotte.

On December 20, 1864 Secretary of War Seddon accepted Winder's recommendations and issued an order stopping all repairs and halting an ambitious building program begun at the prison. Six new buildings were under construction and with this order the prisoners were forced to endure conditions as they were for the rest of their confinement.

As time passed with an official decision to relocate the prison, prisoners suffered without shelter and with reduced supply of wood for fuel. Finally, in mid-January 1865, the decision was made to move the prison to Killian's Mill between Columbia and Charlotte. Instructions were issued to rush construction "with a dispatch." These efforts were stopped by Sherman's capture of Columbia on February 17, 1865.

On February 17, 1865, a general POW exchange was announced and carried out within the next three weeks. Following this exchange, only a few civilian prisoners were left in Salisbury.

On February 8, 1865, Winder died and was replaced by Brig. Gen. Daniel Ruggles on March 24, 1865. Gen. Bradley Johnson was promoted and Col. H. Forno replaced him as senior officer at Salisbury which was at the time serving as headquarters of military prisons. On April 7, 1865, Forno wrote the following letter to Brig. Gen. Daniel Ruggles, Commissary General of Prisoners.

*Headquarters Prison Department
Salisbury, N.C. 1865*

*Brig. Gen. Daniel Ruggles
Commissary-General of Prisoners:*

General: I had the honor of writing to you a few days since on the subject of a location for Federal prisoners of war. I am receiving quite a number at this place, the old prison has been given up to the Ordnance Department, and we have now no place suitable to hold prisoners of war. Five miles above High Point there is a

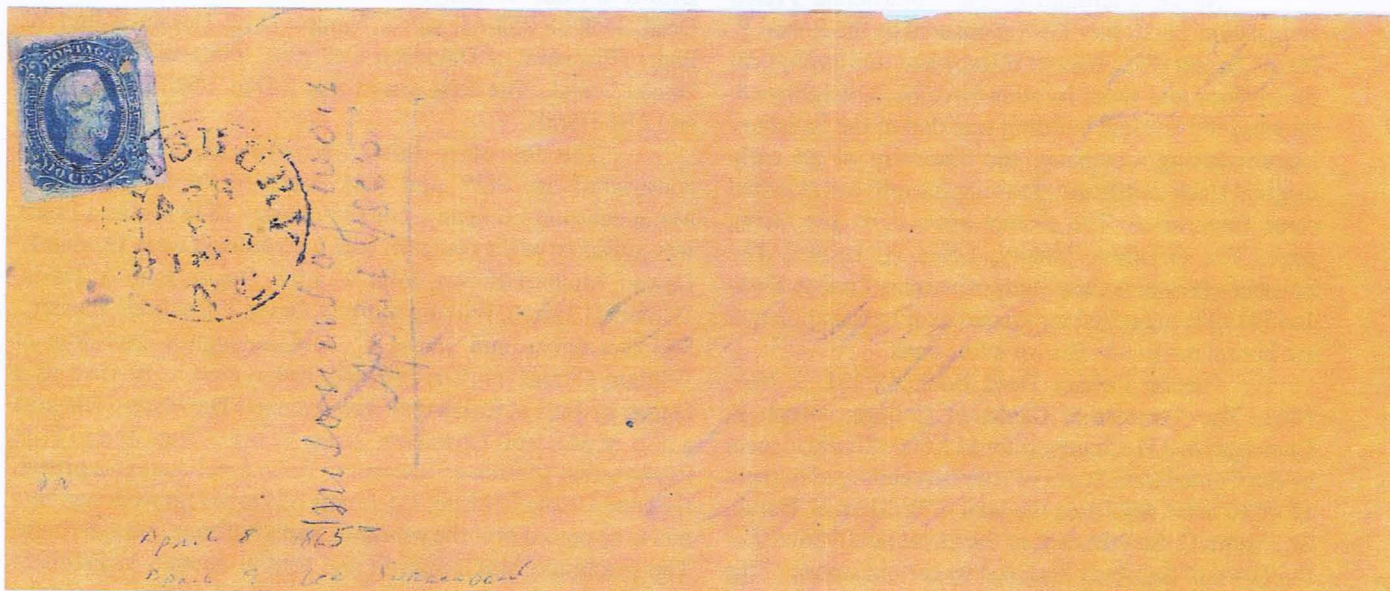


Figure 1

Faded address to General Daniel Ruggles at Danville, Va. O.B. [Official Business] in the upper right corner

SALISBURY — PLAT OF PROPERTY OWNED BY CONFEDERACY.

The map shows the following features and dimensions:

- Top Boundary:** 138 yds. (left), 40 yds. (middle), 135 yds. (right).
- Left Boundary:** 88 yds. (top), 275 yds. (middle), 110 yds. (bottom).
- Right Boundary:** 135 yds. (top), 98 yds. (bottom).
- Bottom Boundary:** 410 yds. (left), 40 yds. (right).
- Internal Features:**
 - Buildings numbered 1 through 12.
 - Stockade (dashed line).
 - Headquarters Inclosure (solid line).
 - Garden (top right).
 - Creek (bottom left, labeled "Creek one half mile from Prison").
 - Ditch from Sink (bottom left).
 - Highway (top left).
 - N.C.R.R. (top center).
- Legend:**
 - Prison Stockade.
 - Hdqs. Inclosure.
 - Cannon and Abatis.
 - Wells.
- Key:**
 - 1. Cook-Houses.
 - 2. Convicts Building. Lower stories for Hosp. use.
 - 3. Citizens " " " " " "
 - 4. Hospitals.
 - 5. Gates.
 - 6. Sink.
 - 7. Headquarters.
 - 8. Armory.
 - 9. Guard-Houses.
 - 10. Workshops.
 - 11. Kitchens.
 - 12. Commissary House.

large number of sheds, &c., and a good stream of water, and with but little work the place might be made, for from 5,000 to 8,000 prisoners, quite secure, so as to be easy of access for receiving prisoners from General Johnston's army or of exchange. This is the only available place anywhere in this vicinity, unless you should determine to go on with the prison on the Government land at Killian's Mills, Charlotte Railroad, near Columbia, S.C. I have taken the liberty of writing to you, being the senior officer of military prisons at this place.

Figure 1 is the envelope used to carry this letter to Gen. Ruggles in Danville, Virginia. The content of this letter is in the official records of the Confederacy. One day later, April 9, 1865, Lee would surrender in Durham and the war would be officially over.

Page 5

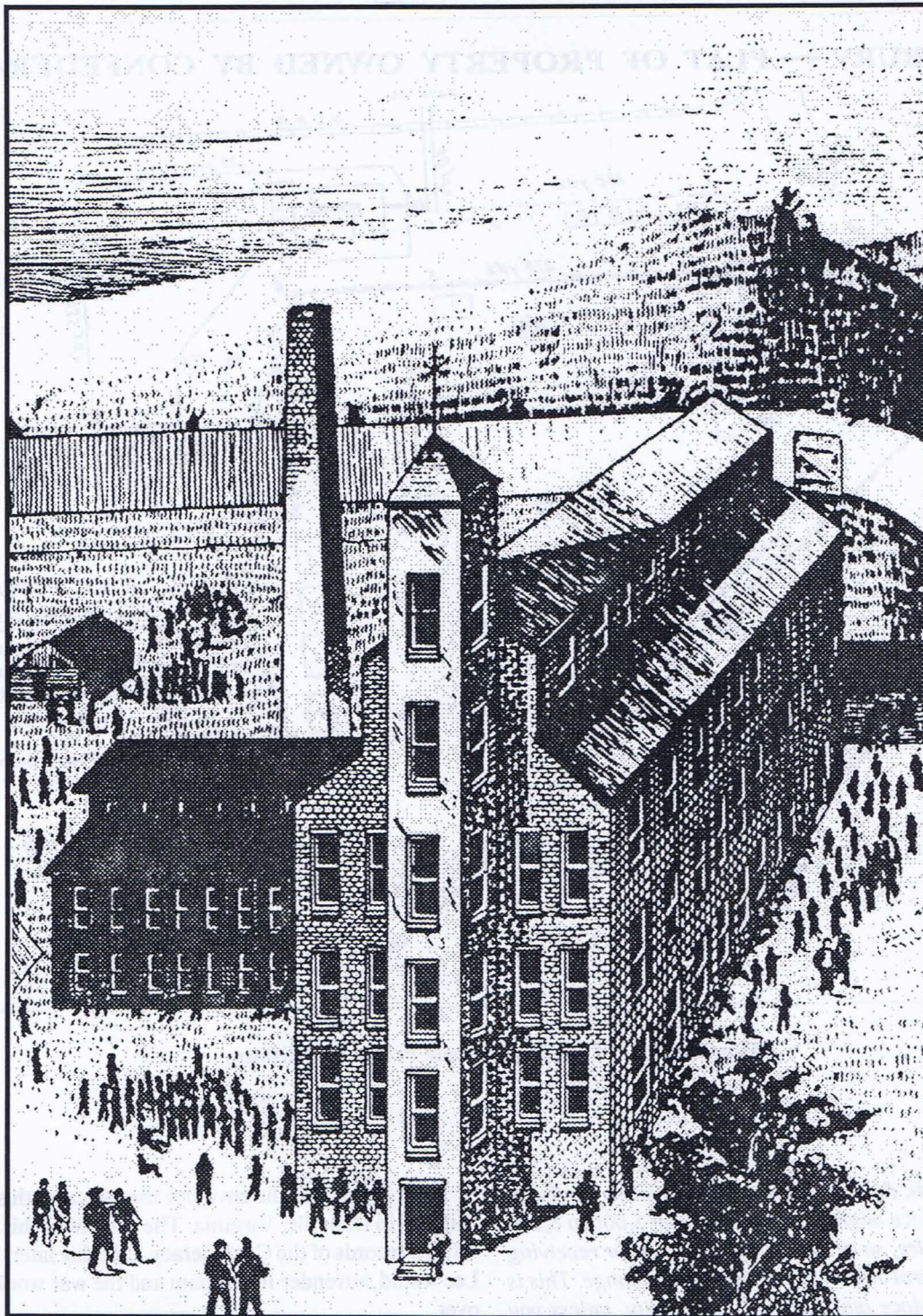


Figure 3

Steel engraving attributed to Kraus showing details of the prison, and the reason some described it as a three story building and some four-story.

Salisbury Prison - December 1861 - April 1865

By Galen Harrison

The conflict known to us by several different names, the Civil War, the War Between the States, or perhaps the Brother Brother War, did not come about overnight. Increasing political differences over the preceding years were making war appear virtually inevitable. Whether or not war could have been avoided has been debated over the years. But war did come, on December 20, 1860 in Columbia, South Carolina, an Ordinance of Secession was passed. Six other southern states soon followed and in April 1861 following Lincoln's call for troops to put down the rebellion, Virginia seceded followed shortly by North Carolina. Eventually thirteen states were claimed by the Confederacy, two of these being border states which never formally seceded from the Union.

At first, although preparing to fight a war, almost no thought was given to providing housing for any prisoners that might be taken in battle. Several reasons for this could probably be cited, the most likely being simply that neither side believed the war could last for any period of time. That lack of forethought would come to haunt the South in later years.

On July 21, 1861, the first major battle was fought near Manassas, Virginia. Confederate forces captured more than 1000 prisoners. Those prisoners were sent to Richmond, where makeshift quarters were arranged. Subsequent battles resulted in many additional prisoners being sent to Richmond. The Confederate Secretary of War requested help from other Confederate states in housing prisoners.

One of the first to respond was Acting Governor Henry T. Clark of North Carolina. Clark offered the use of the old Maxwell Chambers Factory at Salisbury, North Carolina. As a stopgap measure to ease crowded conditions at Richmond, a few prisoners from the first Battle of Bull Run were sent to Raleigh,

N.C. Housed first in a number of abandoned buildings in that city, they were soon moved to the fairgrounds. In November 1861, the officers and crew of the *Union*, taken prisoner when their ship ran aground on Bogue Island, were added to the prison population at the fairgrounds in Raleigh. By December 9th, these prisoners were moved to Salisbury, thus ending for all practical purposes Raleigh's use as a prison site.

Located in Rowan County, Salisbury was at the junction of two branches of the North Carolina Railroad. The first commandant here was Dr. Braxton Craven, president of Trinity College. The prison here was a former cotton factory known as the Maxwell Chambers Factory. Built in 1839, it consisted of a four-story brick building 40 by 100 feet, together with five smaller buildings used as boarding houses for factory workers. A board fence surrounded these buildings making an enclosure of approximately eleven acres. Water was obtained from several wells inside the enclosure and from a nearby creek. Dr. Craven did not long remain commandant of the prison. He was followed by Major George C. Gibbs on January 11, 1862. In June of that year Gibbs was replaced by Captain Archibald C. Godwin. Godwin was followed in order by Captain Henry McCoy, Major John H. Gee, and finally General Bradley T. Johnson.

On December 9, 1861, the first 119 prisoners arrived at the Salisbury prison. They were sent here from Raleigh, being the crew of the ship *Union*, and 46 remaining prisoners from Bull Run. A cover from one of the first prisoners is shown in Fig. 1. Engineer P. Eldridge Garvin, of the U.S. Steamer *Union* wrote to his wife in Philadelphia. The cover passed through Old Point Comfort, Va. on Feb. 21 1862. It was rated "Due 3", having been marked "Soldier's letter E.B. Carling U.S.A. A.deCamp.". Carling was one of several officers on General Wool's staff who

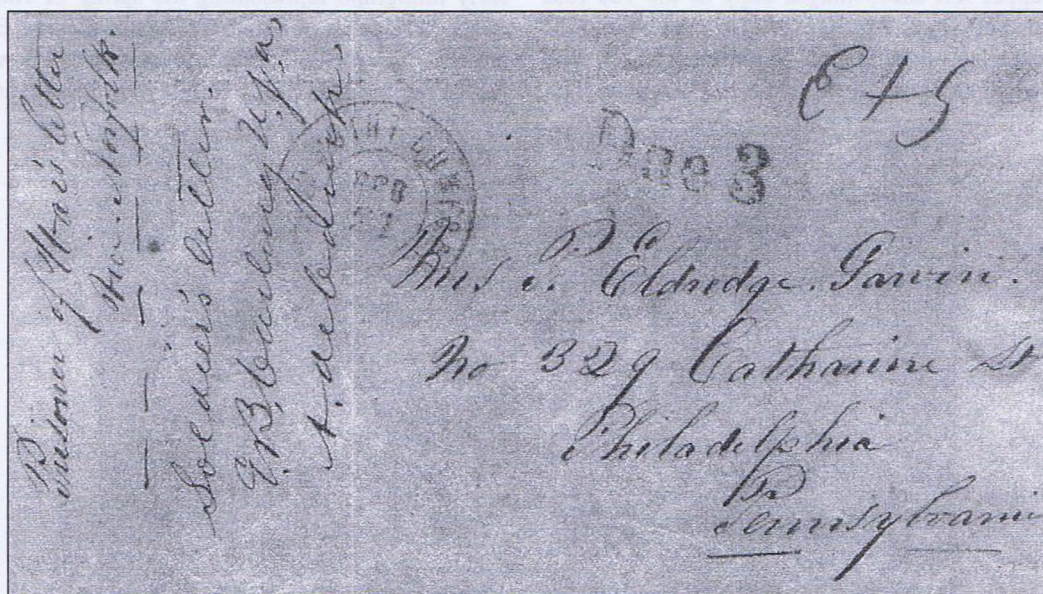


Fig. 1

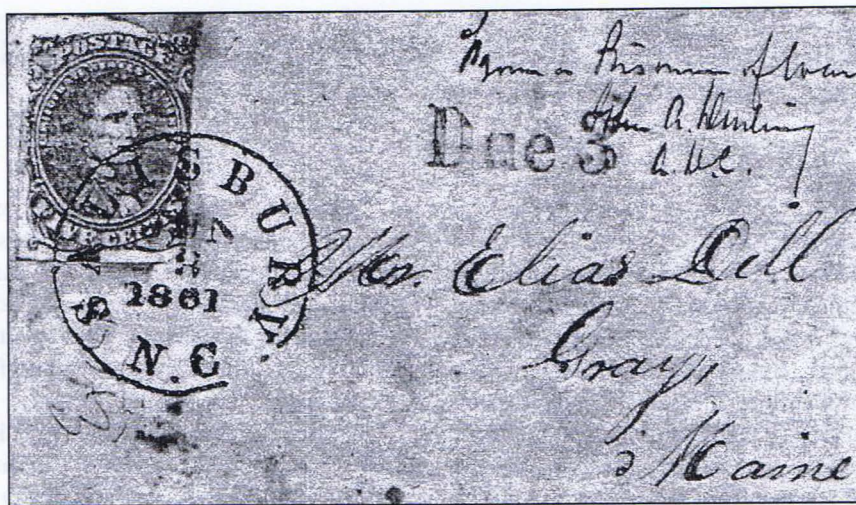


Fig. 2

shared the duty of certifying mail from prisoners for the purpose of qualifying it as "Due 3" the military rate for unpaid mail rather than "Due 6" the rate for civilian unpaid mail. The examined marking "Ex G" has not been identified for certain. It is seen on some other early Salisbury POW covers, and may possibly be the examined marking by Major George C. Gibbs, who was commander here at that time.

The cover seen in Fig. 2. is also from an early prisoner. Cpl. Daniel M. Dill, 11th Maine Infantry was captured at Fair Oaks, Virginia in May 1862. After a brief stay in Richmond, he was sent to Salisbury. He wrote his father, Mr. Elias Dill, at Gray, Maine. The stamp, a 5¢ blue lithograph is tied with the Salisbury cds Jun. 8, 1861. At this point it should be noted that the Salisbury post office used the 1861 year date slug throughout the war. Although there is no town shown, U.S. postage is indicated by the Due 3 marking. At Fort Monroe it was marked "From a Prisoner of War, John A. Denting A.D.C.". Denting was another of General Wool's staff officers.

Fig. 3. is also from Cpl. Daniel M. Dill. This cover used shortly after the rate change in 1862, shows an upper left sheet margin copy of the 10¢ rose lithograph tied Salisbury, N.C. Jul. 10 (1862) to Gray, Me. The 10¢ rose lithograph used on POW mail is extremely rare, with only a couple known. The Confederate censor marking reads "Ex

N.K.". The cover is marked "Due 3" in manuscript for U.S. postage, and is signed "W.B. Haslett" who was Postmaster of the Army of the Potomac. Some of the early POW mail from the South was handled by the army.

The cover in Fig. 4. is from LtCol. Lewis Benedict Jr. 73rd New York Infantry. Benedict was captured at Williamsburg, Virginia, May 5, 1862, and was sent to Salisbury shortly thereafter. His letter to his wife in Albany, N.Y. entered U.S. mail at Washington, D.C., Jul. 30, 1862., the stamp being a 3¢ rose 1861. The cover was marked at the prison, "Exam by J.L.L." by John L. Lysterly, the prison clerk.

For the first two and one half years, Salisbury maintained a good reputation as a prison. Food was adequate, prisoners had shelter, and there was little of the crowding typical of the Richmond prisons. The prisoners had a number of diversions to help pass the time. It has been claimed that the first baseball games played in the south were played in the Salisbury prison. While the accuracy of that claim may be in doubt, there is no doubt that baseball was played at the prison. Fig. 5. shows an early lithograph representing the spring of 1862. The caption reads, "Prisoners at Salisbury Prison playing Base Ball". The covers, Figs. 1 - 4. all came from prisoners who were at Salisbury during the spring of 1862. While they may or may not have been



Fig. 3

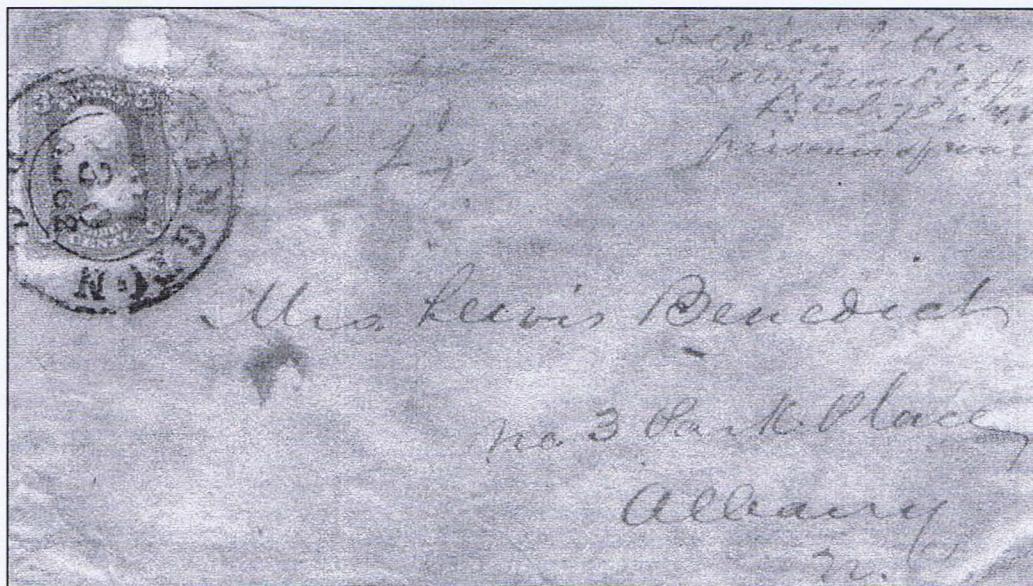


Fig. 4

involved in the games, at least they would have had an opportunity for exercise on the prison green.

Fig. 6. Represents a very unusual usage. In the North it was fairly common for prisoners in one prison to write to prisoners in another prison. In the South it is extremely rare to

encounter such usage. The cover with its enclosed letter dated June 26, 1864, originated in Camp Oglethorpe, Macon, Ga. The cover is missing a pair of 5¢ blue local prints which had been tied Macon, Ga. It comes from Capt. Ralph O. Ives, 10th Massachusetts Volunteers, a POW at Macon, and is addressed to

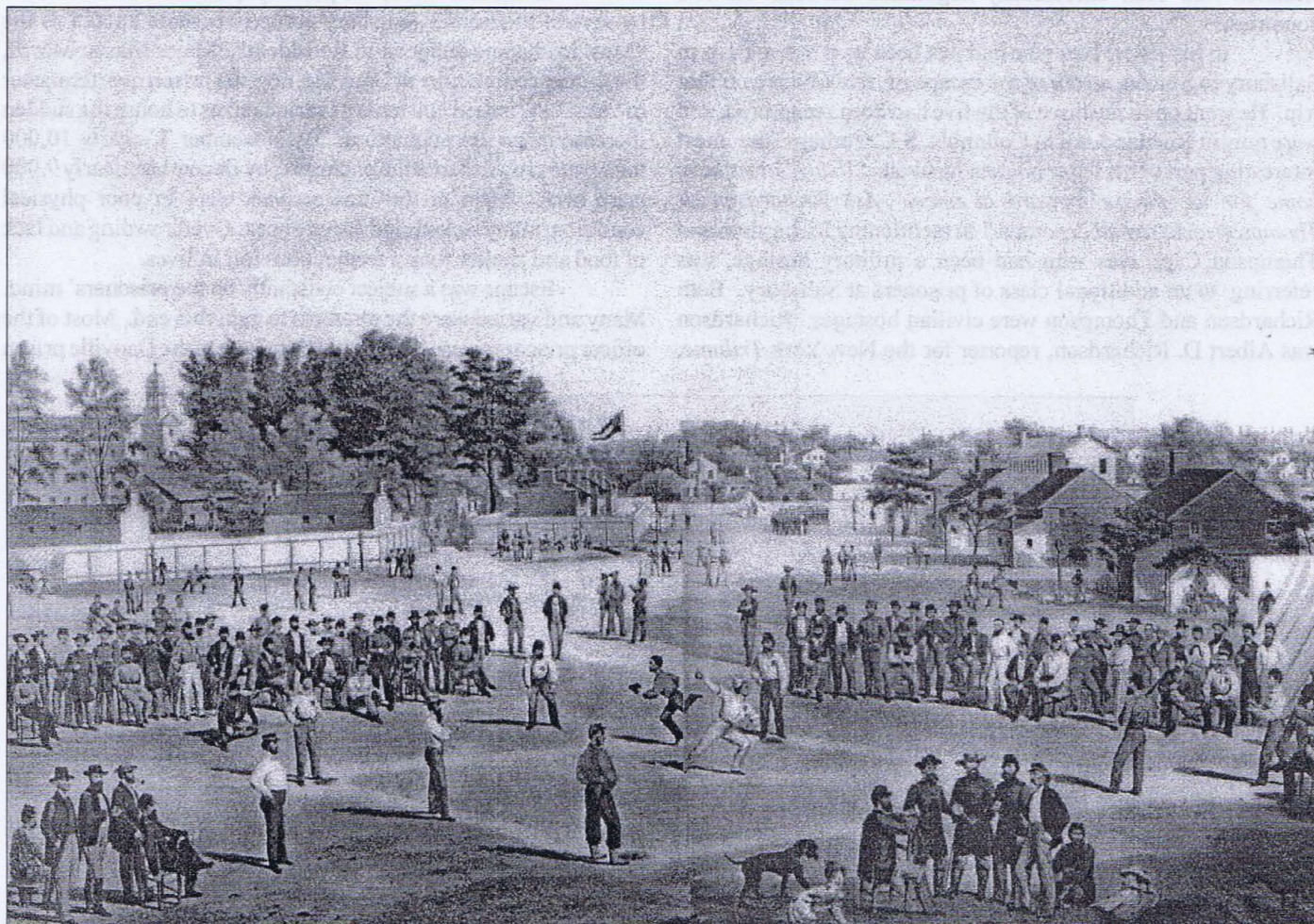


Fig. 5

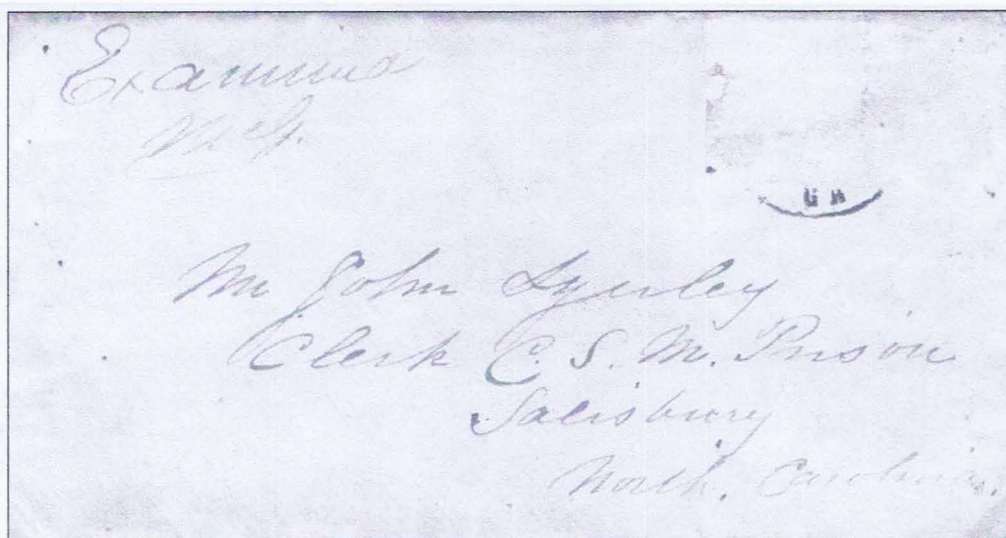


Fig. 6

John Lyerley (sic), Clerk at Salisbury Prison. It is marked "Examined MG" by the prison censor at Macon. When Capt. Ives was first captured he was confined in Libby Prison at Richmond. He and another U.S. officer were sent to Salisbury as military hostages for the safety of two Captains in the Confederate army who had been tried as spies and condemned to be shot. That situation had been successfully negotiated between the two countries.

In his letter, Ives who had just been moved from Salisbury to Macon, wrote of the escape of five officers on that trip. He went on to say three of the five had been recaptured, and were now in Richland Jail in Columbia, S.C. Perhaps the most interesting part of his letter is when he wrote, "If any letters have come for us, please forward at once. Ask Richardson or Thompson to defray all expenses." In mentioning Richardson and Thompson, Capt. Ives who had been a military hostage, was referring to an additional class of prisoners at Salisbury. Both Richardson and Thompson were civilian hostages. Richardson was Albert D. Richardson, reporter for the New York Tribune.

Richardson had been captured at Vicksburg, Mississippi in company with Junius Henri Browne, another *Tribune* reporter. Thompson was Charles Thompson, a citizen of Connecticut, who had been captured when the mail boat out of occupied Norfolk fell into Confederate hands. Both had been retained as hostages for the safety of Confederate citizens held in Union prisons.

In October 1864, the prison population was increased by several thousand. Salisbury abruptly became known as the "Most loathsome dungeon in Rebeldom". Major Mason Morfit, the former commander at Danville, now the prison quartermaster of Salisbury, issued 300 tents of various sizes to house the sudden increase in prison population. By November 7, nearly 10,000 men were crowded into the enclosure, by December, nearly 9,000 were here. Most of the new arrivals were in poor physical condition, many lacked clothing or shoes. Overcrowding and lack of food and shelter took a tremendous toll in lives.

Escape was a subject constantly on the prisoners' mind. Many and varied were the attempts to gain this end. Most of the officer prisoners were transferred from here to the Danville prison

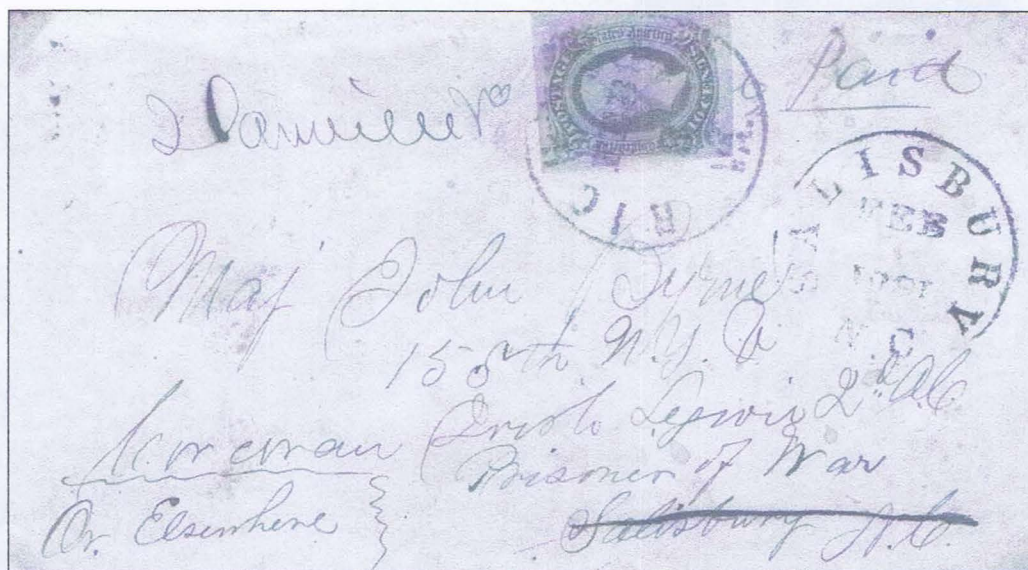


Fig. 7

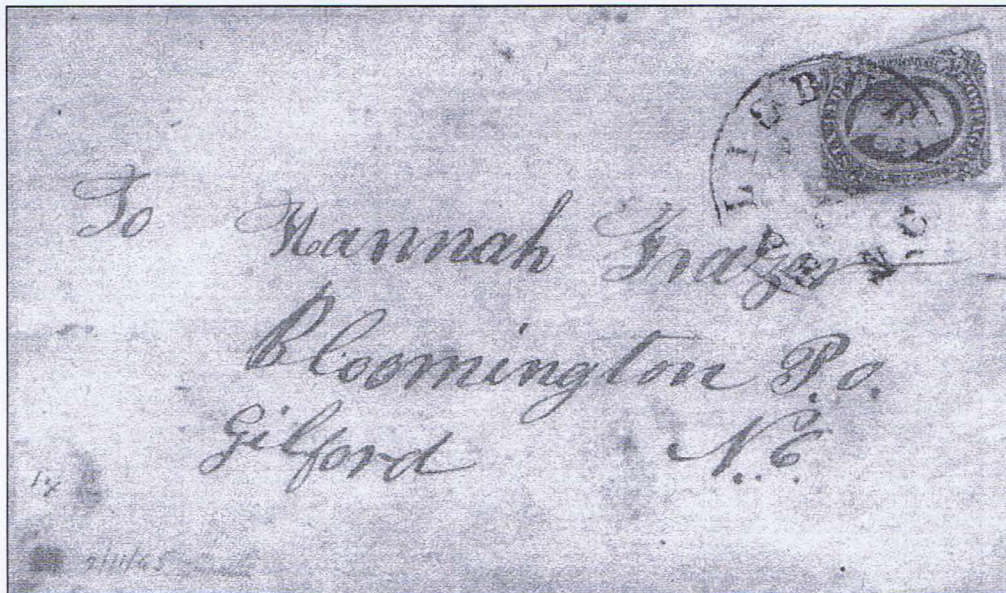


Fig. 8

following a failed escape attempt on October 20, 1864. A mass escape attempt on November 25, 1864 also resulted in failure although the prisoners killed three members of the guard force, and wounded at least ten others. At least 16 prisoners were killed and as many as 60 were wounded in this attempt. In less dramatic, but more successful fashion during the entire period of Salisbury's existence, approximately 500 prisoners did manage to make good their escape. Fig. 7. shows an inner envelope of Flag of Truce from somewhere in the North (probably New York as that was the addressee's home). The cover entered Confederate mail on Feb. 3 (1865) with a 10¢ blue Type I, tied with the Richmond, Va. cds. It is addressed to Maj. John Byrne, Corcoran's Irish Legion, POW at Salisbury, N.C. or Elsewhere. After the escape attempt, Byrne had been sent to Danville, so the cover was forwarded to the Danville, Va. prison marked "Paid" in manuscript and struck with the Salisbury cds on Feb. 8.

A number of Quakers were imprisoned for refusing to

serve in the Confederate Army. The Confederacy recognized the right of a Quaker to claim conscientious objector status, but the individual had to prove he had been a Quaker prior to the war. A correspondence is known from Solomon Frazer, a Quaker confined at Salisbury, N.C. Frazer was conscripted to be a guard at Salisbury. He refused to act as a guard and refused to carry a gun. For his refusal he was severely punished. He was suspended by his hands for hours at a time, lashed on his bare back, and made to drag a huge hunk of wood suspended from his neck a r o u n d the prison grounds. Eventually his dedication to his beliefs so impressed his jailors they withheld additional punishments.

Fig. 8. shows a cover from Solomon Frazer to his wife Hannah Frazer at Bloomington P.O. Gilford (sic), N.C. A 10¢ blue Type II, Keatinge & Ball stamp showing a small portion of the imprint at the bottom is tied Salisbury, N.C. Although the date is not clear, the letter enclosed is Quaker dated 2nd Mo(nth) 11th 1865. By that time the authorities had stopped their

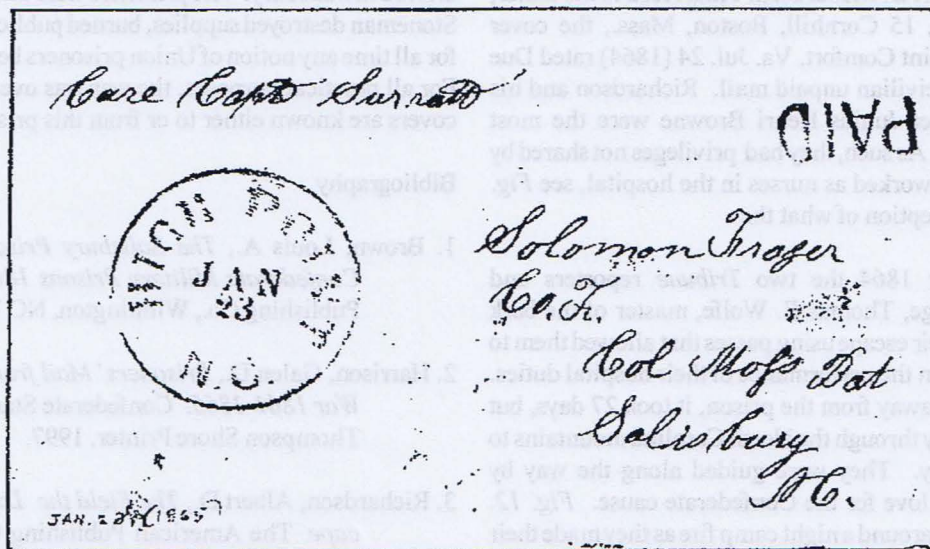


Fig. 9

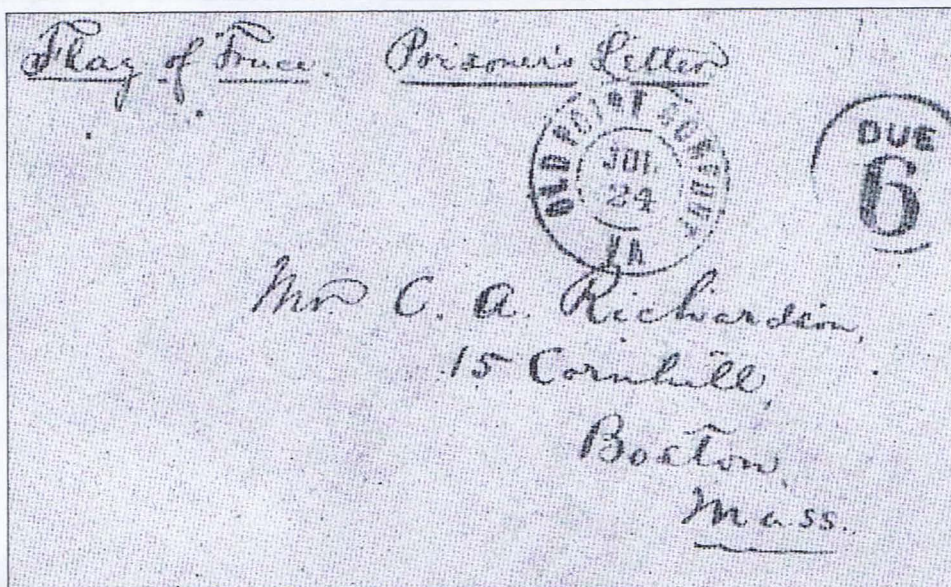


Fig. 10

punishment of Frazer, and had even granted him some privileges as seen by his letter, "I was able to walk into town and get my provisions near half mile." He was still suffering the results of his ill treatment however. He wrote, (original spelling preserved) "It seemed to me that I never had such a bad bowel complaint it seemed that I am sweled from my cidnies down and vary soar now. I got red pepper tea spice and ginger and sage tea and I think it helps me". "Cidnies" is presumed to be Frazer's spelling of kidneys.

A cover to Frazer is shown in Fig. 9. The enclosed letter is from E. W. Frazer, his brother. Headed Bush Hill, N.C. Jan. 23, 1865, it was placed in the mail at High Point, N.C. marked "PAID". The enclosure says in part, "Isham Cos went to Ashboro seventh day and go those papers endorsed and I carried him to High Point last night to go to Raleigh and he will be at Salisbury a day or two." The Frazer family and other members of the church were still trying to get Solomon released from Salisbury.

The final POW cover shown here, Fig. 10, is from the before mentioned Albert D. Richardson. Addressed to his father, Mr. C.A. Richardson, 15 Cornhill, Boston, Mass., the cover passed through Old Point Comfort, Va. Jul. 24 (1864) rated Due 6, the correct rate for civilian unpaid mail. Richardson and his fellow *Tribune* reporter Junius Henri Browne were the most famous prisoners here. As such, they had privileges not shared by most prisoners. They worked as nurses in the hospital, see Fig. 11, for an artist's conception of what the hospital looked like.

In December 1864 the two *Tribune* reporters and another civilian hostage, Thomas E. Wolfe, master of the bark *Texana*, made good their escape using passes that allowed them to pass the guards while in the performance of their hospital duties. Outside the walls and away from the prison, it took 27 days, but the men made their way through the North Carolina mountains to Union lines and safety. They were guided along the way by partisans who had no love for the Confederate cause. Fig. 12, shows the escape party around a night camp fire as they made their way through the mountains.

As we have seen, prisoners in several classes were kept here. Union soldiers and sailors were here as well as both military and civilian hostages. Confederate disciplinary prisoners were also kept here. Confederate authorities certainly considered Solomon Frazer in this class, although Frazer himself would have considered himself a hostage, on the grounds they had no right to draft him. Regardless of class, the prisoners all shared a common desire to get out of Salisbury as quickly as possible. Albert D. Richardson wrote to the wife of Charles Thompson, who was still a prisoner, but had now been moved back to Castle Thunder in Richmond. He wrote from the *Tribune* office in Cincinnati just five days after reaching Union lines, in a gesture of friendship and solidarity, Richardson offers to aid Mrs. Thompson in any way possible. (Letter not illustrated, ed.)

By the end of February 1865, most of the prisoners had been removed from Salisbury. Confederate officials were moving prisoners from place to place trying to keep them one step ahead of Sherman and his minions. In April 1865, General Stoneman arrived in Salisbury. The prisoners were all gone by that time, but Stoneman destroyed supplies, burned public buildings, and ended for all time any notion of Union prisoners being held at Salisbury. For all practical purposes, the war was over. Approximately 65 covers are known either to or from this prison.

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Fig. 11

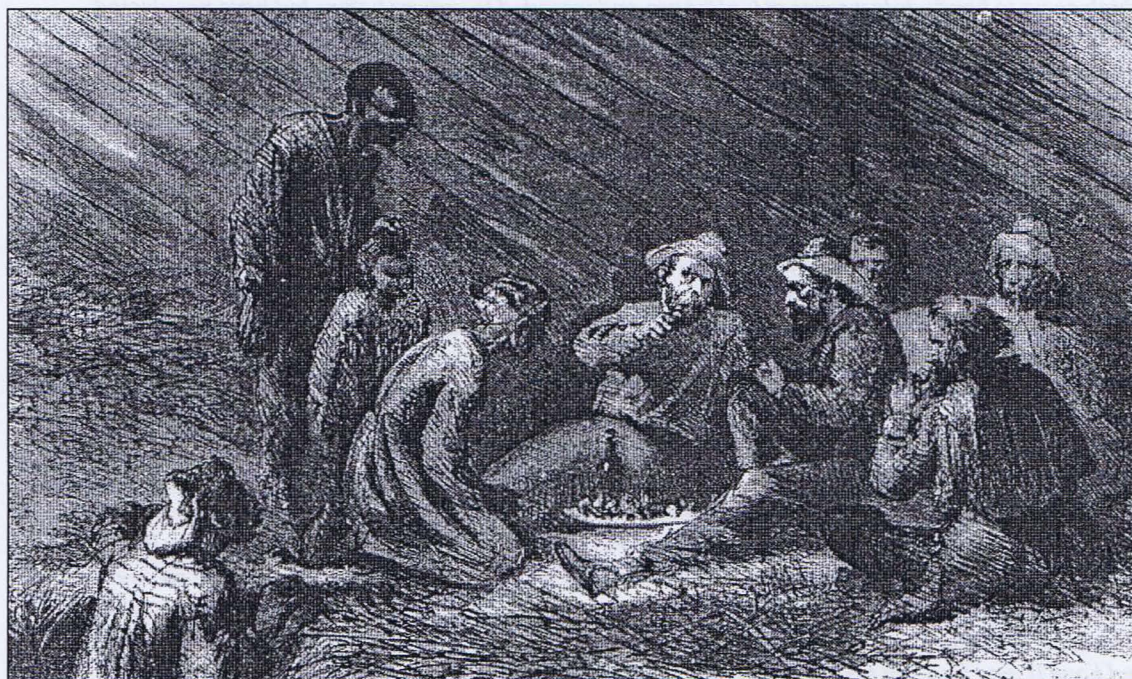


Fig. 12

AN EARLY RECONSTRUCTION LETTER FROM RALEIGH

April 13, 1865 was the day Raleigh fell to Union forces and the day the war came home to citizens in the capitol city and the surrounding countryside. By 7:30 a.m. General Sherman reached the city and set up headquarters in the Governor's palace. The streets of the city were nearly deserted. Shops were closed. At the capitol, only a servant, whom Governor Vance had entrusted with the keys to the building, remained.

With the occupation of the city, the operation of the Confederate post office ceased. It would be nearly a year before the official Union post office would be officially reopened. In the interim, the mails went through. Figure 1 is an example of an late Civil war letter from a Federal soldier camped near Raleigh on April 23, 1865.

The letter speaks of the surrender of Confederate General Johnston, the reaction to Lee's surrender, and the expected route of the march home. This very concise report from the field was actually a little premature as Johnston did not surrender until April 26, three days after the letter was written.

The cover is franked with a U.S. 1861 issue #65 and is tied by a bold 5 bar grid field cancel but no postmark, an indication that ten days after its occupation Raleigh had no postmaster and the mail was being processed by the military in control.

Camp Near Raleigh, NC
April 23, 1865

Dear Nephew,

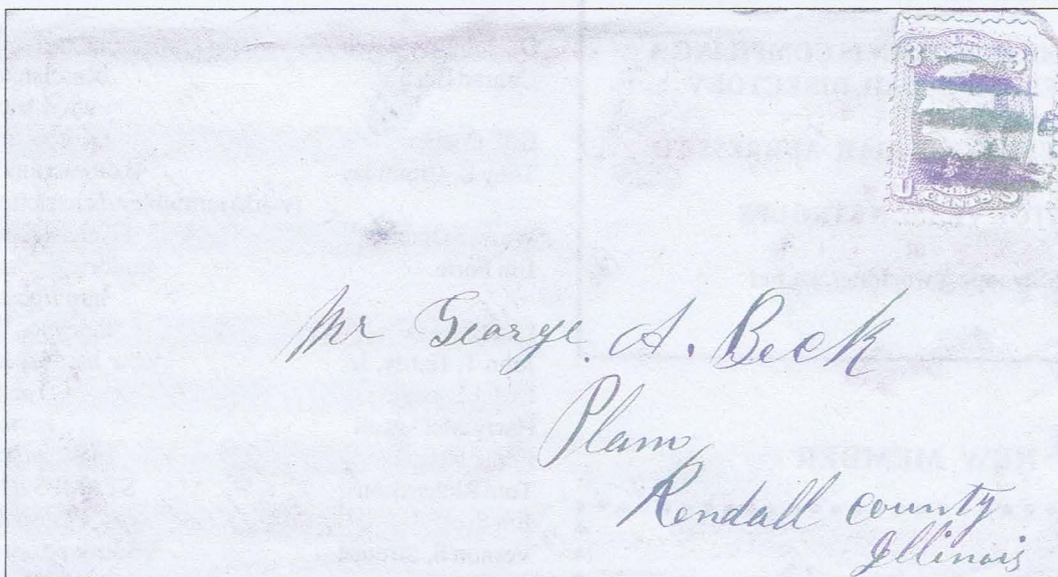
It is with pleasure I take my pen to write you a few lines in answer to your letter of Jan 11 which come to hand while we was at Goldsboro and intended to answer before but have negelected it untill now: We left Goldsboro the 10th and got here the 14th a distance of 45 miles: Johnson comments leaving this place the 12th first of our troops came in the 13th Kilpatrick was the first to come in but put right out after Johnson only leaving a guard as he went through.

Johnson went out near Hillsboro about 40 miles from here when he got there Gen Sherdan cut him off from Greensboro so he came to the conclusion to surrender. The partickles of which you have long before you get this: We got the news of Lees surrender the morning of the 12th and the boys had a good time in the way of cheering throwing hats and co but it made no delay on our movements for 8 oclock we were again on the move and we went on our way praising when we got here Lees men comments coming in and three days ago Johnsons men were coming in and now the talk is a many the boys what a good time they are goin to have when they get home. We expect the leave about the first of May and march through to Fredricksburg that will take us about a month from there we will probably go by rail: The battaries and ordanance will be left here till the roads are repaired and bet sent by rail that is if the surrender is approved by the president which I think will be without doubt: Want that be a glorieus day when the soldiers return to their home once more: If we start the first of May we will probably get home about the last of June the boys are all well and tough Chris Beck hasn't got here yet but is expected every day. I hurd this morning that Joseph Cox was at New Berne our regt is small and the details are large in the way of pickets and camp guard so we are on deuty about every two days there is no soldier allowed to go to town without a pass signed by the division commander but when we leave here that will play out and I hope it may be soon this leaves me well and hope it may find you all the same.

Yours truley

Aaron

To George Beck



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, continued

approximately 12,000 folded letters, envelopes and covers that had been detached from their letters over the years by various county clerks. These items found their way to the archives, but fit into none of their collections. They were put aside awaiting the day that someone would come along and advise the archives on what to do with them. The NCPHS turned out to be the "someone." After examination of the material and observing that there were many unrecorded postmarks on these covers, we agreed to help the archives set up a new collection by organizing the covers into a collection by county. After more than two years we are just over halfway through the 19th century envelopes and have uncovered several hundred new markings for the North Carolina postmark records. We haven't even started on 20th century material. This will be a larger challenge since there is no good catalog for the 20th century North Carolina markings.

The second project, which is even more exciting, is our documenting of all the covers with North Carolina postal markings that reside in the many other collections at the archives. We examine each item, check it against our records of known markings, and then enter it into a data base which we created at the archives for all North Carolina postal history material. This will

ultimately provide an excellent record of the period of use of each marking and a way to find each item again in the future for further study. The examination of the other collections brings us into frequent contact with large quantities of early material which is rich in North Carolina postal history. I mention this because the work will continue for a long time and we can always use assistance. Right now two to three NCPHS members go to the archives once a week and spend a few hours working on the collections. It is quite rewarding to work in an atmosphere of complete support from a grateful archives staff. There is an opportunity for any NCPHS member to participate who has a little time to give and an interest in helping with this project. Just contact me if you are interested and I will be happy to answer your questions.

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

CALLING ALL MEMBER CYBER-PHILES

**THE POSTAL HISTORIAN IS COMPILING A
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