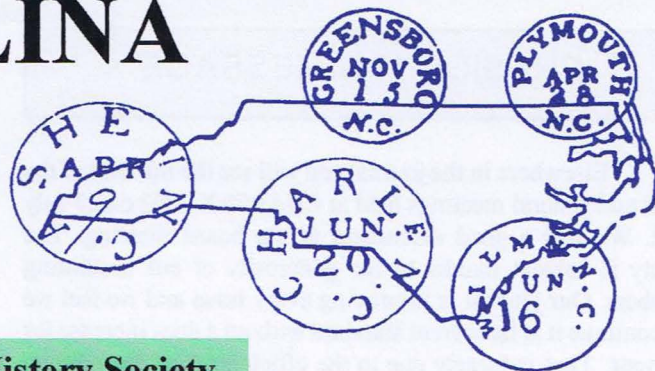


# NORTH CAROLINA POSTAL HISTORIAN



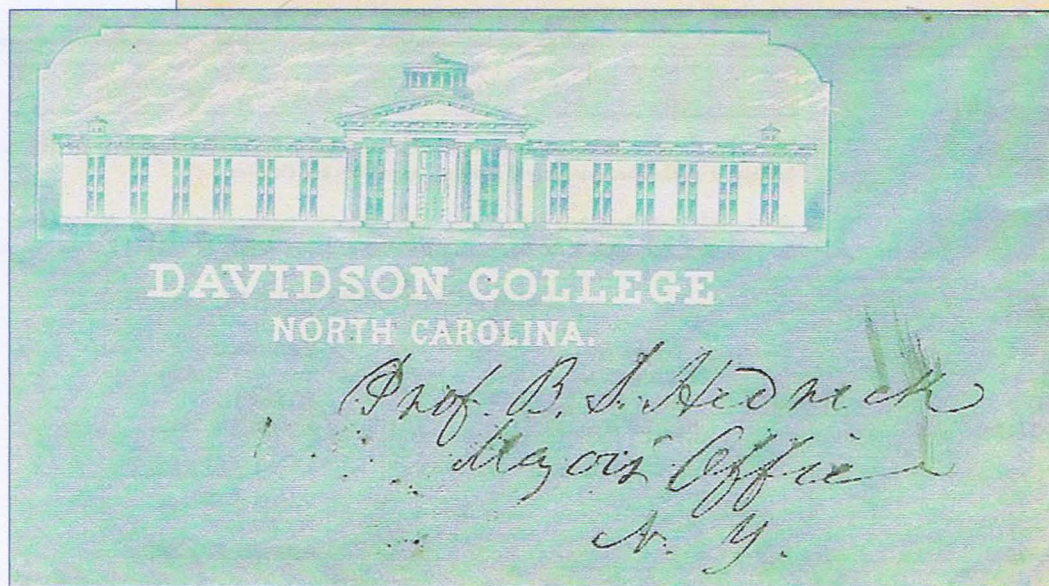
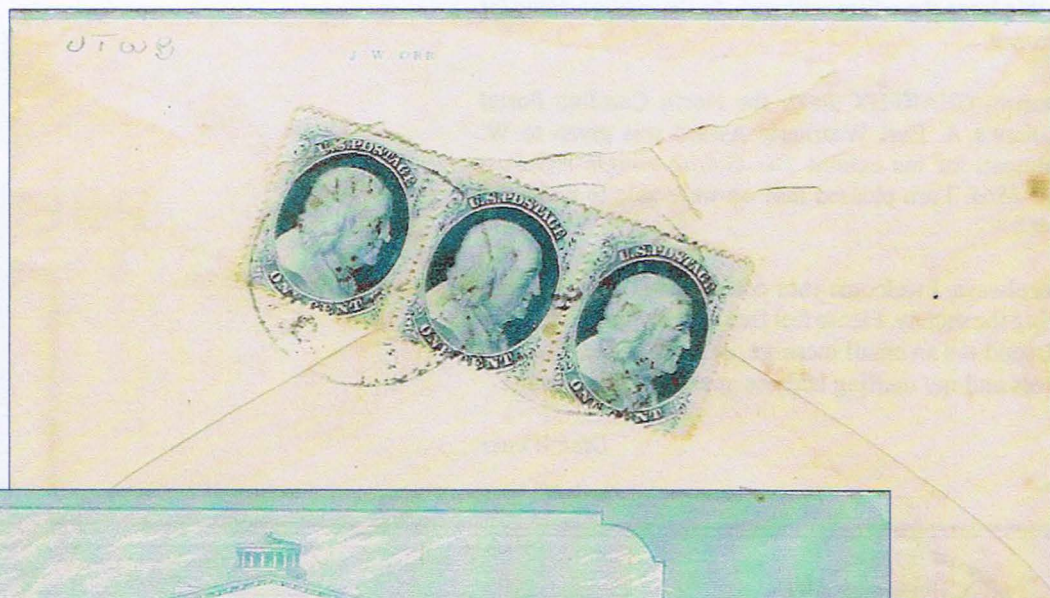
The Journal of the North Carolina Postal History Society

Volume 21, No. 3

Fall 2002

Whole 80

## DAVIDSON COLLEGE





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Elsewhere in the journal you will see the minutes of the board and general meetings held at CHARPEX 2002 on 27 July 2002. We had a good discussion at the board meeting. The society is solvent thanks to the generosity of our sustaining members. Our journal is improving every issue and we feel we can continue it at its current standard without a dues increase for this year. That is largely due to the efficiencies of our editors, Vernon Stroupe and Tony Crumbley.

The board agreed to start the auction as soon as an auction manager can be found. Since that meeting, member Bob Yacano has agreed to be the auction manager, having had previous experience with a society auction. I hope to have our society auction set up by the next issue of the *Postal Historian*. The mail sale auction will be all North Carolina material. If there is room in this issue the editor will include the auction rules for future reference.

During CHARPEX 2002, the North Carolina Postal History Society's A. Earl Weatherly Award was given to W. Bryson Bateman for his exhibit *The Goldsborough, NC Post Office 1862-1865*. I am pleased that we were able to make the award.

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 email message, or write to me. Both my email address and my mailing address appear in this journal.

*Dick Winter*

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### President

Richard F. Winter  
31 Flagship Cove  
Greensboro, NC 27455

### Vice-President

John W. Allen  
3801 Friendly Acres Drive  
Greensboro, NC 27410

### Board of Directors

### Secretary - Treasurer

William DiPaolo  
PO Box 5128  
High Point, NC 27261

### Editors

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

Vernon S. Stroupe  
PO Box 8879  
Asheville, N.C. 28814

### Term Ending 2005

Richard F. Winter  
John W. Allen  
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## 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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# Davidson College

By Tony L. Crumbley

**A**t a meeting on March 13, 1835, a committee of eight men from the Concord Presbytery was given the charge of finding a location for a new school for boys in Western North Carolina. To ensure greater accessibility, the committee was instructed to choose a location on the eastern side of the Catawba River within 15 miles of Beatties Ford. A site equidistance from Charlotte, Statesville, Concord and Salisbury was secured. Two tracts of land totaling 469 acres were purchased from the William Lee Davidson family on January 1, 1836.

The school was named for General William Lee Davidson, a Revolutionary War general who was shot and killed by General Cornwallis' troops at Cowan's Ford on February 1, 1781. In April of 1836 the cornerstone was laid for the school's first building. Rev. Robert Hall Morrison, Pastor of Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church, was appointed president. The decision was made to open the school in March 1837, and teaching began to 65 students on March 12.. Three dormitory buildings of four rooms each were ready. Four men occupied each room. When these were filled in students were allowed to build shacks for their own use with the privilege of selling them at the end of their courses.

The school was opened as a manual labor school designed to teach boys farming, or academic studies and religion. The manual labor aspect failed. The school lost money in its attempt to raise food. The discipline of the students was lacking. Some typical wagons ride to bring firewood in from the

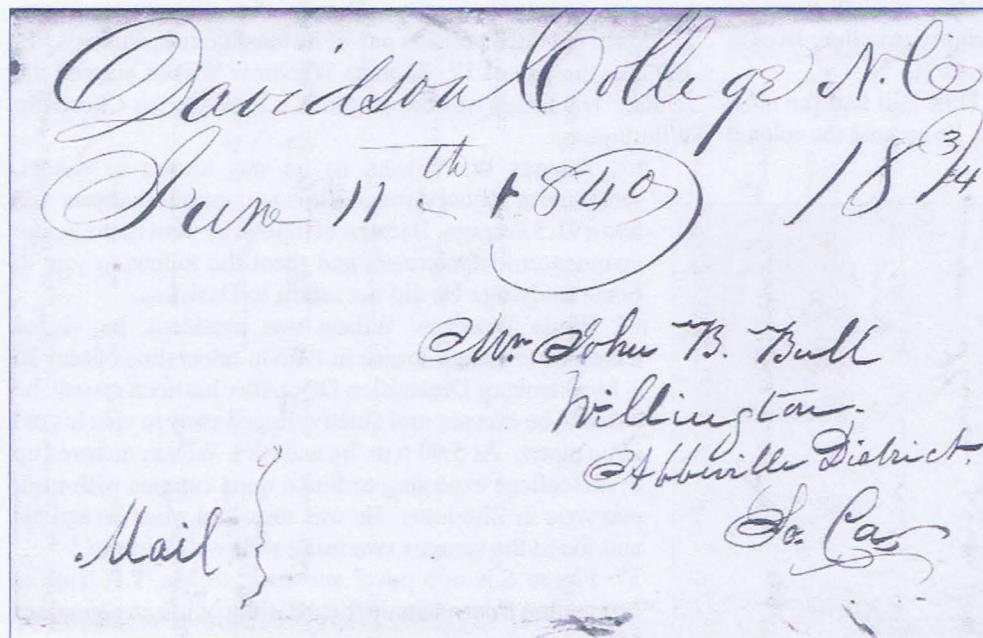
woods would result in more firewood being left by the roadside along the way because of reckless driving than would arrive on campus. It was soon found there were more farm tools stuffed under the buildings out of sight than could be found in the tool sheds.

A student, James Morrow, wrote home in 1840 that mumps and diphtheria were spreading among the students, and a severe flood washed away several houses, bridges, and mills. The diphtheria took the life of President Morrison's daughter, and left him in such condition he was forced to resign. The friction between the academic students and trade students was so great that the trade school was discontinued in 1841. See Figure 1.

On July 19, 1837, James Johnston was appointed first Postmaster of Davidson College. He served until John Still was appointed in 1843. There was then a quick succession of Postmasters John Davis (April 2, 1844), Robert Robinson (September 6, 1845), Samuel Withers (May 28, 1846), Alexander Donaldson (February 12, 1850), Job Smith (January 14, 1851), Samuel Withers (December 11, 1851), Pinckney Lowe (January 5, 1854) and Hanson Helper (August 5, 1854). Helper would serve through the war and be reappointed in 1867 and serve until 1870. The author can find no evidence that any of these postmasters served on the faculty at the college. Records indicate that Samuel Withers had signed a loan for students to purchase furniture for Eumenean Hall in 1853.

A turning point at the school must have been in 1854. This was the first year Postmaster Helper received the post office's first handstamp and it was the year Major D.H. Hill came to the school as a math professor. Major Hill graduated from West Point, entered the army and fought in the Mexican war with General Joseph E. Johnston. General Johnston noted that "D.H. Hill was the bravest man in the army in Mexico." After six years of service at Washington and Lee University he came to Davidson. From then until 1859 when he left to start the Charlotte Military Institute, he provided much guidance and order at the school. Davidson adopted many of the policies that existed in the nation's military schools.

Hills' interest in Davidson continued and he served as a valued trustee from 1859 to 1875. As a professor at Charlotte Military Institute in 1861, he took three of



**Figure 1. Davidson College used manuscript markings 1837 - 56.**  
This cover is 18-3/4¢ rate, dated 11 June 1840.

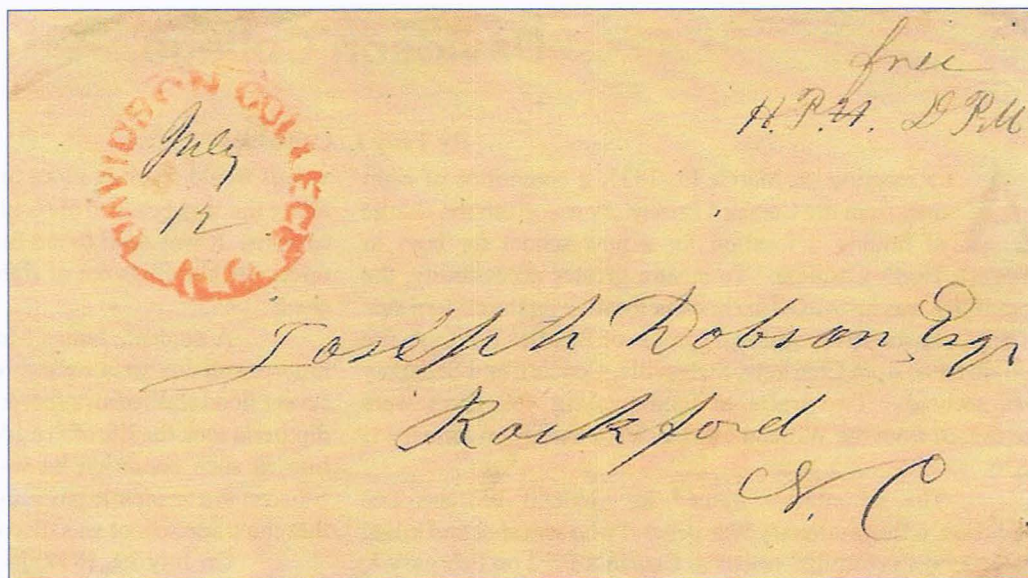


his teachers and his young cadets to Raleigh to drill the 10,000 volunteers in camp. After the war, General Hill returned to Charlotte in 1866. He began the county's first literary periodical, *The Land We Love*. It continued poems, fiction and essays; its primary purpose was to insure the recording of the war in a manner fair to the Confederacy.

The college remained open during the war until the last year. On April 20, 1865 the college closed. A student wrote "near the surrender when people were disheartened and the soldiers demoralized, the students became homesick and anxious that they could not study, and at a gathering under the balcony of *Helpers Store* they decided to go home. Two students, one each from Lincoln and Gaston Counties, left at once on foot. The Alabamians bought a horse and wagon and started on their long and eventful journey. They walked, while Howard, the crippled soldier from Mississippi, drove the wagon which carried their belongings."

The response of Davidson students and alumni to the war was overwhelming. Three hundred and two men are known to have entered the war. Eighty-two of these were graduates. These men represented a total matriculation of 1039 from the classes of 1840 - 1869. Of this number, eighty gave their lives in the struggle for Southern rights as they saw it.

Without a doubt Ex-Professor D.H. Hill had the most outstanding record of the war. At age 40, he became the colonel



**Figure 2.** Postmaster's Free Frank of Hanson P. Helper, who correctly followed his initials with D.P.M. for deputy post master. The Type 1 cds and red marking were used until about 1854.

of the First Regiment of North Carolina Volunteers and in June of 1861 he gained the first battle of the war, that of Bethel Church near Yorktown, VA. On July 10, 1861 he was made brigadier general.

On May 1865, a detachment of Federal troops visited Davidson. They broke open the doors and windows of the recitation rooms and chapel, and damaged the apparatus and buildings.

With the war over, the school reopened and once again began to train young men. Shortly after the war was over, Davidson obtained perhaps one of its most famous students. In 1873, at the age of 17, Thomas Woodrow Wilson entered the school. His father was the pastor of a Presbyterian Church in Wilmington.

Thomas W. Wilson, as he was known at school, remained at school through the examinations that year and had a 91.5 average. Because of illness, he went home before commencement exercises and spent the following year at home studying. He did not return to Davidson.

While Woodrow Wilson was president, he visited Charlotte to make a speech in 1915 in celebration of May 20 -- Mecklenburg Declaration Day. After his noon speech, he asked to be excused and quietly slipped away to visit his old alma mater. At 5:00 p.m. he and Mrs. Wilson motored up to the college expecting to find a quiet campus with most everyone in Charlotte. He was surprised when he arrived and found the campus swarming with well-wishers.

Figure 6 is of a cover and letter to Mr. T.P. Tate of Morganton from a female friend telling of life on campus in 1883.



**Figure 3.** Type 2 cds of ca. 1854 - 61 on embossed ladies stationery



Davidson College, N.C.  
October 20, 1883

Dear Tater,

I reckon you think that I am a long time about answering your letter, but I have so little time and so many boys to write to that it takes me a long time to get around. I am kept busy very near all the time except Saturday. There is no trouble here about putting in time that is as far as studying is concerned. But you know it takes a long time here to get up enough news to write a letter. So you must not expect me to write often. The boys got into a row with some Negroes here about two weeks ago and some of them got cut up slightly and one of the Negroes got about half of his head cut off. The boys went all around town and looked for the others everywhere but could not find them. They have been having pretty lively times in Statesville. A Negro killed two white men and that night a crowd of men lynched him. He killed one of the men while shooting at the others. I went down to Charlotte last Saturday but did not stay very long and I did not get to see anybody that I knew except Pluck Wheeler. I suppose you still have the



Figure 4. Type 2 cds on postal stationery issue of 1854 - 59.

sociables. News is mighty scarce and I reckon I will have to wind up. You have got plenty to write about and you ought to write often. Write soon to

Your true friend,

M.R.A.

Let's hope before M.R.A. finished Davidson, she had a writing course that at least taught her the proper use of the paragraph. Davidson was an all male school at this time. Well before WWI, however female daughters of the faculty attended classes.

In 1891 the post office of Davidson College went through a name change. Perhaps the city had outgrown the college because "college" was dropped from the post office name. It became known just as Davidson on May 7, 1891.

Even though Davidson College was not a medical school, a great advancement in the science of medicine had its beginning on campus. Dartmouth College is given credit for taking the first x-ray picture on January 24 or February 1, 1896, evidence indicates Osmond L. Barringer of Charlotte made an x-ray picture of a cadaver's hand on

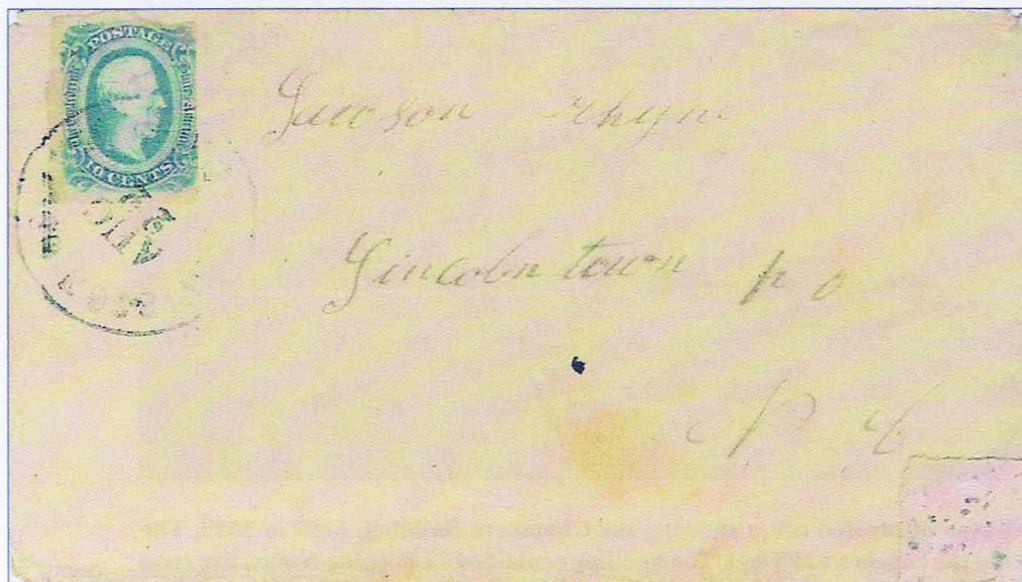


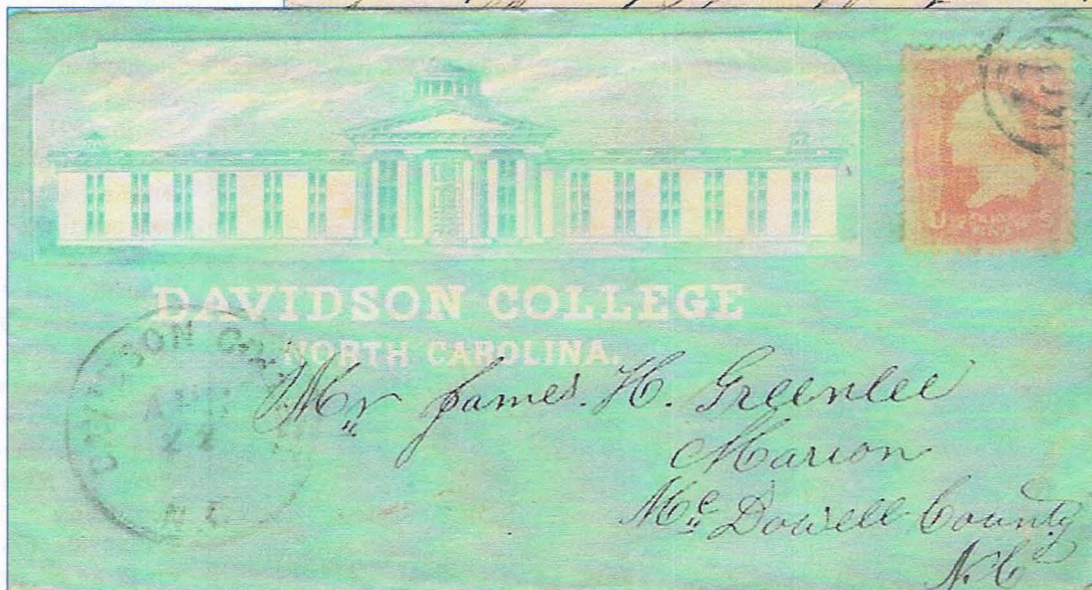
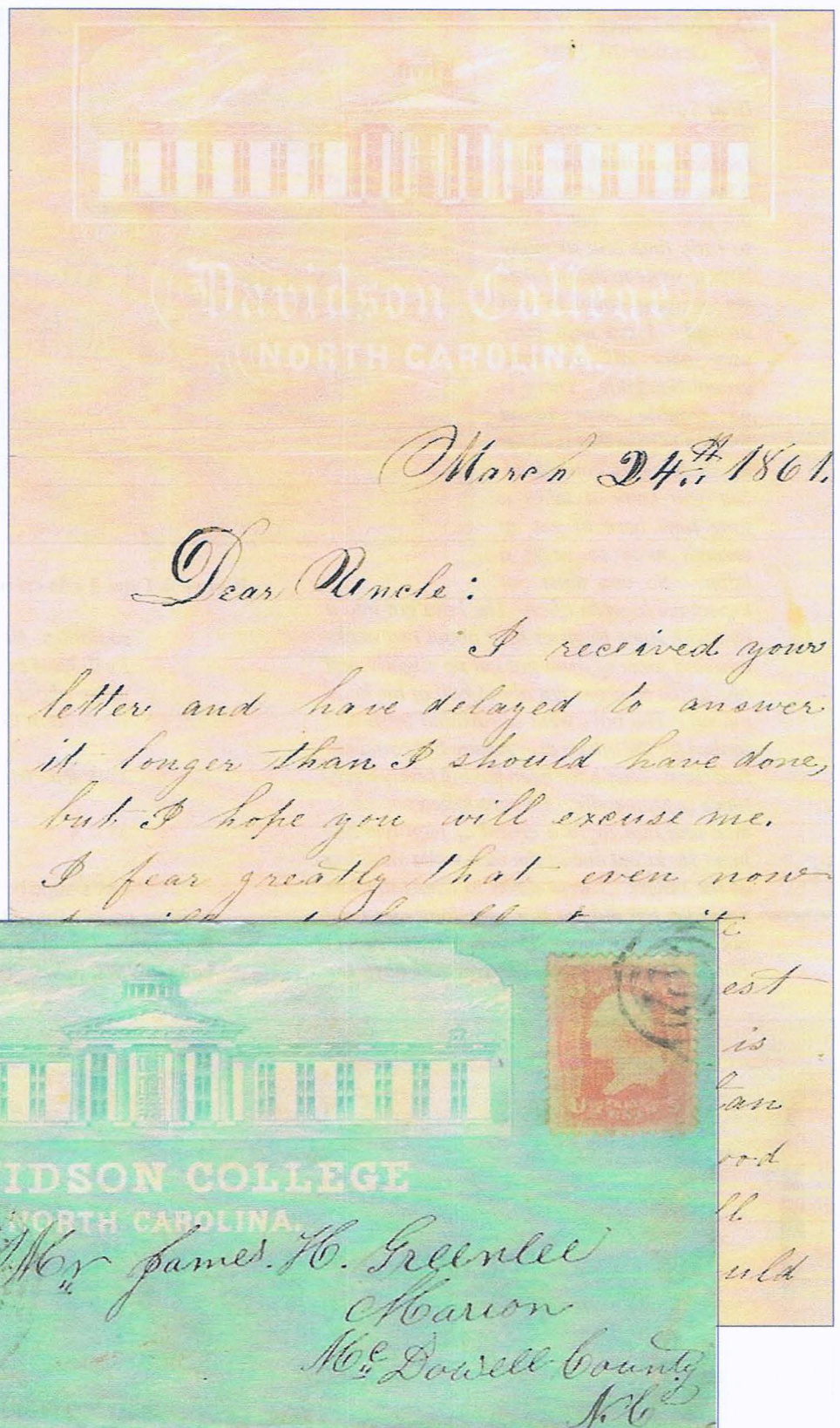
Figure 5. Confederate States issue of 1863-65, Scott #12 on wallpaper cover, pink and black, dated 22 Aug (1863).



January 12, 1896 -- at least 12 days before the Dartmouth x-ray was taken. Several weeks later Dr. H.L. Smith published the first x-ray photo in the Charlotte Observer and used the x-ray to determine the location of a thimble stuck in a child's throat which was later removed by three Charlotte surgeons, one of the first such operations ever performed.

Without a doubt the impact of Davidson upon the region and the nation has been greater than indicated by its modest enrollment. When one looks at its postal history, it is clear its alumni must have been far-reaching. Only covers from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill are seen more frequently in postal history collections. There have been, however, many more schools with larger student population.

**Figure 6.** Stationery was printed in five colors - green, beige, pink, yellow and gray.



**Figure 7.** Type I all-over illustrated cover showing the Chambers Building, built in 1858. The length was 279 feet and the cupola was 95 feet. The building contained 72 sleeping rooms, five class rooms, three laboratories, an eighty foot square commencement hall, and a library. The building cost \$81,000 and for many years was the largest educational building in the country. The Chambers Building burned down 24 November 1921.





**Figure 8**  
**Type II all-over advertising cover was used post-war.**  
**The Type 4 cds was a duplex canceler with Maltese Cross killer.**



**Figure 9**  
**Type II all-over advertising cover in gray with Type 3 cds.**



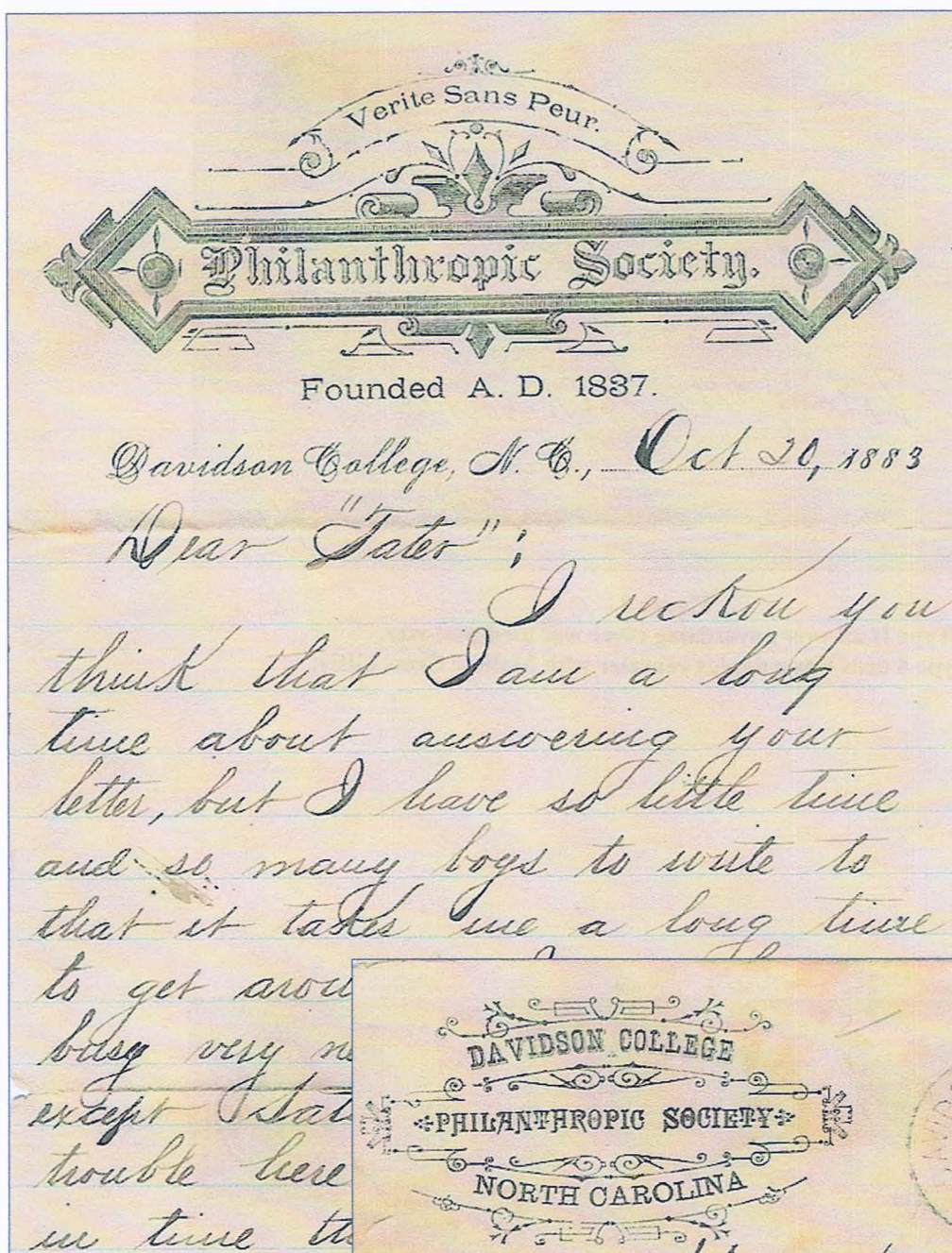


Figure 9.  
Matching letterhead and corner card of the Philanthropic Society at Davidson College. Franklin Pierce Tate, son of Samuel McDowell Tate, is the "Tater" addressed in the text, see page 5.



Figure 10. Type 3  
Octagonal date stamp on  
postal stationery of 1873.

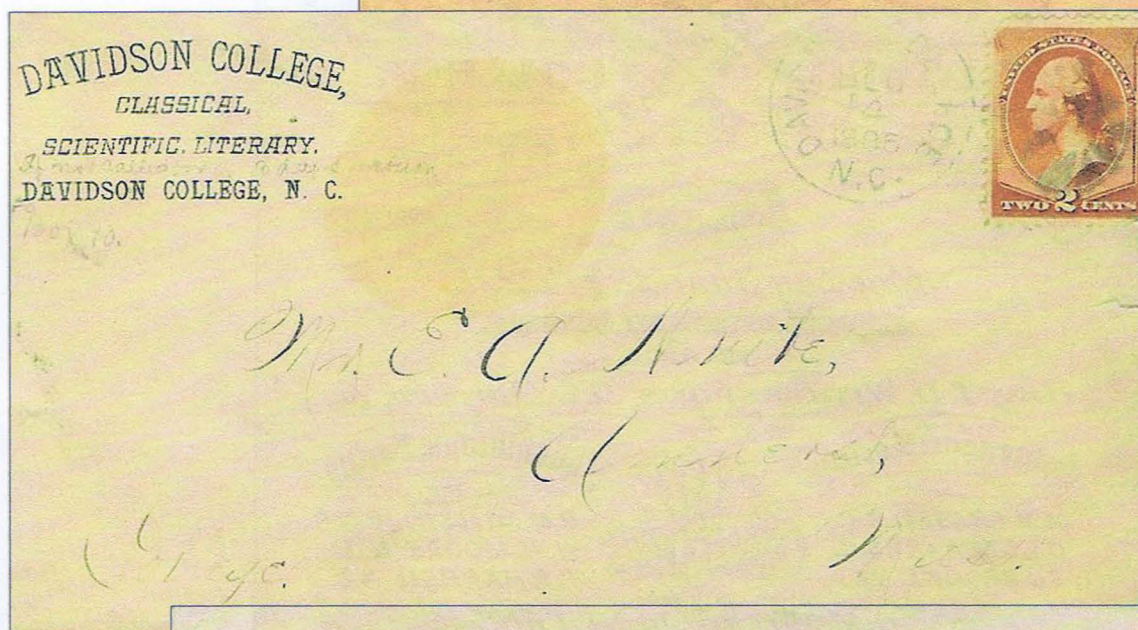
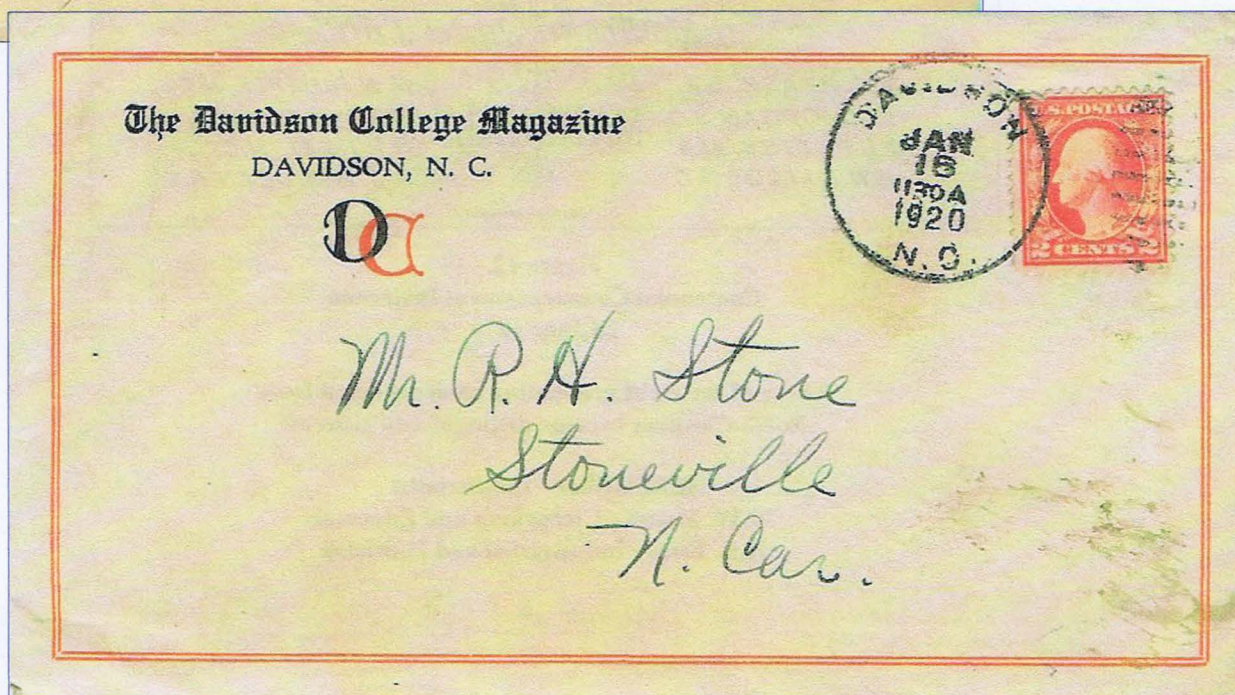


Figure 11. Type 5  
cds on 2¢ Banknote  
Issue of 1883





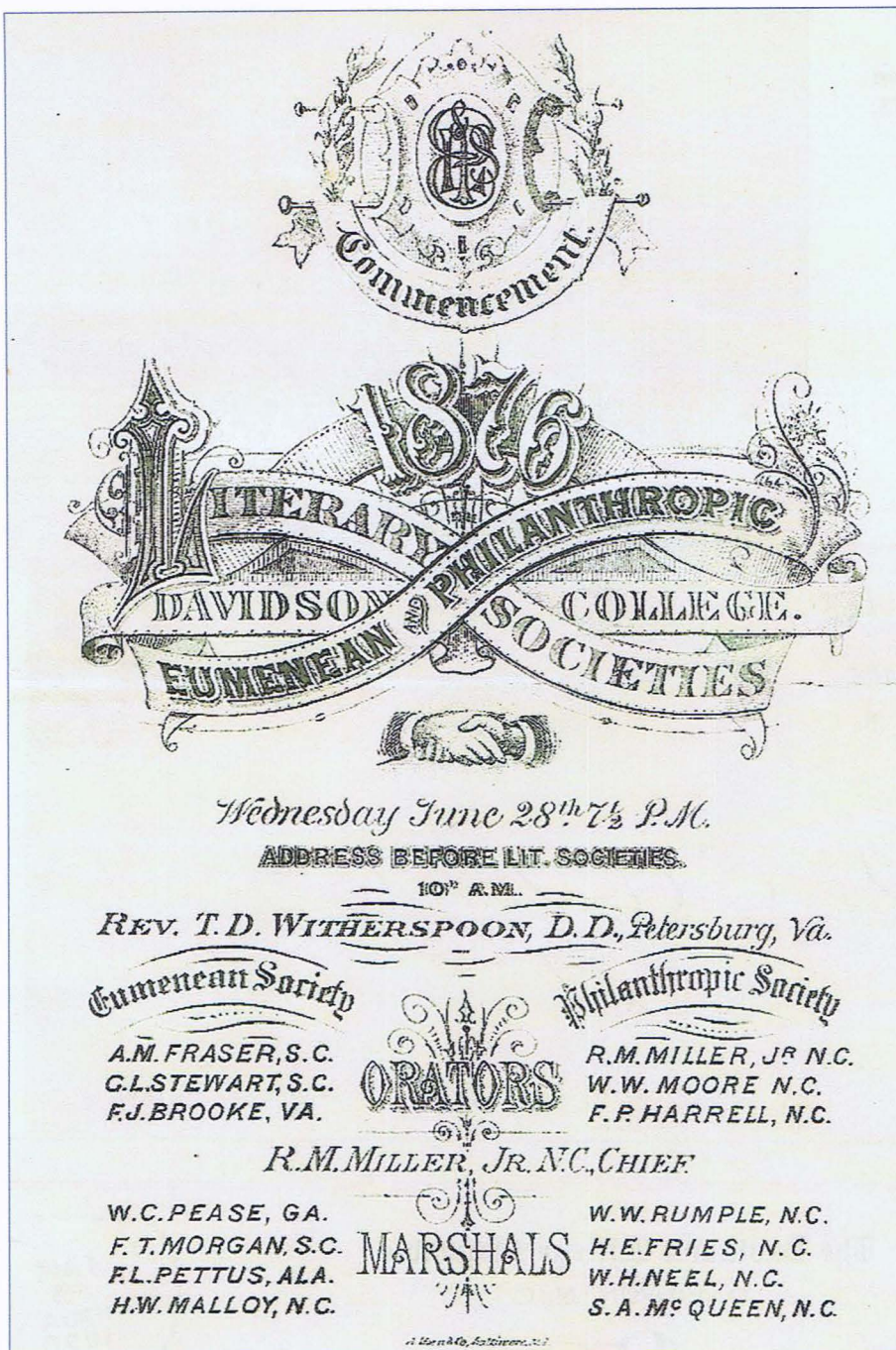


Figure 12.  
Centennial Commencement Invitation  
28 June 1876

Three of the eight graduating students listed from  
North Carolina became distinguished citizens:

R.M. Miller - Industrialist  
W.W. Moore - Clergyman and Educator  
H.E. Fries - Industrialist and Politician



## Early Days of Davidson College: A Student Writes Home

Richard D. Weiner, M.D., Ph.D.

**D**avidson College was established by the Presbyterian Church in the Fall of 1837. The college, which was named for General William Lee Davidson, a local Revolutionary War hero, opened as a manual labor institute (which is consistent with this letter's focus on crop growing) on land donated by Gen. Davidson's son. Initially, there were 64 students and three professors.

The focus of this article is a letter home from one of Davidson college's first students, William Bynum. Having just recently arrived at the new college as it opened for the first time and clearly somewhat homesick, 17 year old William writes home to dad in an October 28, 1837 letter (see Figure 2). In the letter he mentions the raising of school buildings and describes what life was like for him and his brother, Hampton, who was also a student there.

William Preston Bynum (1820-1909), was to be valedictorian of the class of 1842 at Davidson, although the letter, replete with numerous spelling errors, suggests that there must have been much progress from his freshman days. William's 1838 notebook from a class on Greek and Latin now resides in the Davidson College archives. Figure 3 shows the first page of this notebook.

Following graduation from Davidson, William achieved some prominence as planter, lawyer, Confederate Army colonel, commanding officer of 2<sup>nd</sup> N.C. Infantry Regiment, and N.C. State Supreme Court Associate Justice (1873-78). In 1881 Davidson honored him with an honorary Doctor of Laws degree.

The cover, postmarked by a manuscript "Mt. Mourne"

postmark dated Oct. 30, along with a manuscript "10" rate marking (see Figure 1), was written to Williams father, Hampton Bynum, Esq. in Germanton, Stokes County. At the end of the letter, in a postscript, William provides the reason that Mt. Mourne, in Iredell County, rather than the new Davidson College post office, was the preferred outgoing mail route in those early days of the college. At the time, the post office at Davidson College was quite new, having just opened on July 19, 1837, while the post office at Mt. Mourne in Iredell County had already been in existence for more than 30 years and, according to William, had more frequent mail service. To William, this fact justified the two day wait in getting the letter to Mt. Mourne. Despite being in the next county county from Davidson College, Mt. Mourne, named for a mountain in Ireland, was only four miles away.

### Bibliography

1. A variety of historical information on Davidson College is available at: [www.davidson.edu/administrative/library/archives.asp](http://www.davidson.edu/administrative/library/archives.asp)
2. Beaty M: Davidson: A History of the Town from 1835 to 1937. Davidson, Briarpatch Press, 1979
3. Bynum, W. P. Notebook, 1838. DCs0177. Davidson College Archives, Davidson College, NC

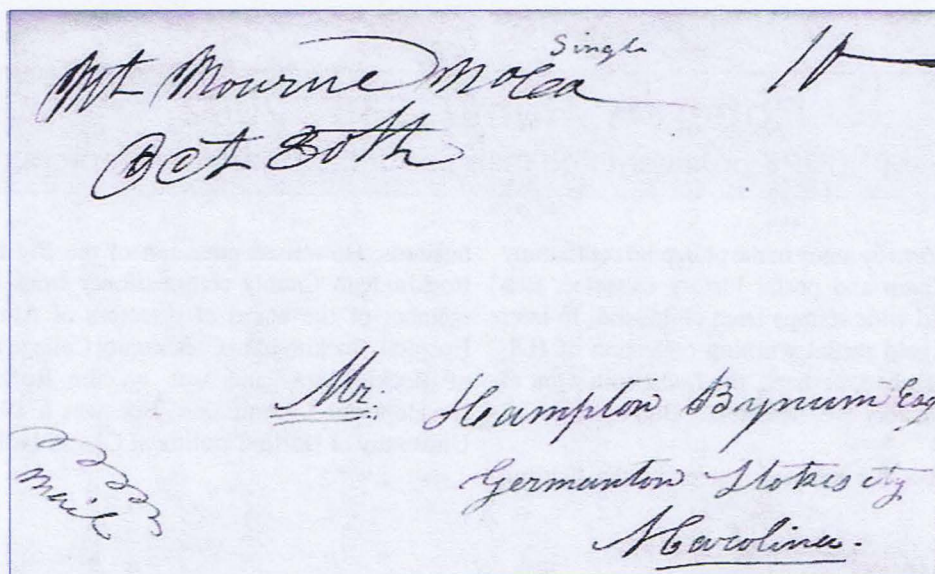


Figure 1



Davidson College, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 1837  
My Dear Father,

It has been near a month since I received your letter, and I expected to have received another from home by this time as I wrote amediately upon the receipt of yours. It is probable that mine has not reached home as it has certainly had time to have been answered. You said in your letter that you would send those books, and candles, in a week or two, if you have I expect they have miscaried as I have not heard of them, but I am not yet needing them. If you have not sent them nor cannot send them shortly please write and let me know and I can purchase here.

Hampton is doing very well he has been through the English gramar, and is now parsing and can write nearly as good as I can. He also reads every day.

We have had scarcely any rain since I left home we have beat you all I expect with our crop as we have gatherd all of our corn and shucked it we have also cleard 20 acres of ground since I came and by next spring we will have the most of it open as the most of the students are men. The buildings are going on very fast. In about 2 months there will be 2 other buildings completed for students and then the number will be reduced to four in a room, which is very desireble. The chapel will be ready for use by next session and then our College will be a very respectable one. They

intend having it incorporated at the next legislature. The students that are far enough advanced take a regular college course they have now a freshman and sophomore class and in a year or two they will have every thing regulated so they can bestow college honors and diplomas.

The crops of corn is generally about here very bad, the cotton crops are tolerable, corn new sells at 2 1/2 to 3 dollars, flour 5 1/2, beef 4 1/2, there is a great many beefs going by here to the south. There was one drove of a 100 very large ones passed here yesterday from Virginia going to Columbia [S.C.] for which they asked 8 cents per lb.

I would be very glad if you would write soon as we are very anxious to hear from home. Hampton appears to be no ways anxious about home as I have not heard mention it since he came here.

Your most affectionate son W P Bynum  
Davidson College Oct 28<sup>th</sup> 1837  
H Bynum Esq

P.S. Address your letters to Davidson College P. O., we generaly put them in at Mt. Mourne when we have an oportunity as they go from there soonest but if sent there they may be there a week before we have an oportunity to gen them.

William P. Bynum

Figure 2

## Robert H. Hunt [1936 - 2002]

Past NCHPS president and member of the Board of Directors

Bob Hunt was known by many in the philatelic community as an avid stamp and postal history collector. Bob collected world wide stamps from childhood. In later years he assembled a gold medal winning collection of U.S. banknote issues. He also had, perhaps, the finest collection of Newbern, N.C. postal history ever assembled. Bob was an APS accredited judge.

Bob Hunt spent his business career in the bottling

business. He retired president of the Big Bob Bottlers, and a Rockingham County commissioner from 1984-96. He was a member of the board of directors of Annie Penn Memorial Hospital, Rockingham Community College Foundation, BB & T of Rockingham, and was on the Rockingham Economic Development Commission. Bob was a 1956 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.







## Board of Directors Meeting of NCPHS

The NCPHS Board of Directors met in Charlotte, N.C. on 27 July 2002 at CHARPEX 2002. President Richard Winter, Vice-President John Allen, and Directors Alan Vestal, Vernon Stroupe, Ruth Wetmore were present, constituting a quorum. Member Harvey Tilles also attended. The minutes of the previous Board meeting, published in *Postal Historian* Whole Number 76, were approved.

The Treasurer, Tom Richardson, who was unable to attend, submitted the following financial report:

### NCPHS Financial Report: June 2001 to July 2002

June 2001	Beginning Balance	\$1937.70	
	Dues collected	\$1760.00	
	Total Income		\$3697.70
	Expenses: June 2001 to July 2002		
	Checking Stamp	\$8.90	
	Postage	\$200.00	
	Printing & Postage for <i>Postal Historian</i>	\$1078.00	
	Total Expenses		\$1286.90
	Balance as of July 15, 2002		\$2410.80

Thomas Richardson Sec/Treas.

This report showed a small gain over the previous year, reflecting the generous support of our members who gave additional contributions to the society beyond the normal dues amount. The assistance of the sustaining members is greatly appreciated.

The first order of business was to elect a new Secretary/Treasurer. Tom Richardson, who has filled the position since 1989, had asked to be replaced if a new person could be found for the position. Bill DiPaolo agreed to be the new Secretary/Treasurer if elected by the Board. The Board did so with a unanimous vote. The society is very grateful for the thirteen years of enthusiastic support that Tom provided.

President Winter requested a breakdown of the cost of the last four issues of the *Postal Historian*.

### Postal Historian Cost per Issue: June 2000 to July 2002

Whole #75	\$195.00
Whole #76	\$195.00
Whole #77	\$299.13
Whole #78	\$243.93
Whole #79	\$144.94

Editor Vernon Stroupe explained that the cost differences resulted from the cost of supplies to print the journal, some of which were left over from previous issues. The average cost per issue for the last two years was very consistent at about \$220 per issue. Vernon is continuing to work efficiencies into the production of the journal. The end result is that we are getting more color pages and still holding the expenses the same. Vernon is to be congratulated for his efforts on behalf of the society. He informed the Board that there are enough articles for the next two issues of the *Postal Historian*. While this seemed encouraging, he was cautious to point out that most of the articles for the journal have been submitted by just a few members and that contributions from more members was needed. Advertisements in the *Postal Historian* were discussed again and the Board agreed they were desirable. The new secretary will be asked to follow up with the dealers to see if there is interest in purchasing ads. The Editor reminded the Board that the service offered to our members to request information from other members on areas of their research and collections is still available free to all members of the society. Short want lists of members is also available in these services.

The subject of a dues increase was discussed. In the survey completed this past year, members overwhelmingly said they would favor a dues increase to keep the color reproduction in the *Postal Historian*. The consensus of the Board was that we are currently meeting our expenses with the current dues cost and that we would not raise the dues at this time. This subject will be reviewed again at next year's Board meeting.

The subject of the NCPHS auction was again discussed. Dick Winter presented a set of auction rules that he and Tom Richardson had developed. This was an action item of the last meeting. These rules had been reviewed by members Tony Crumbley and Vernon Stroupe. The Board agreed that if we can find an auction manager, we will start an auction of North Carolina material



to accompany future issues of the *Postal Historian*. Details of the auction will be provided to members at a later date. The Board acknowledged that a small amount of money could be raised this way, which would help the society, but the more important reason for the auction would be to offer another service to the members.

The Board decided to hold the next annual meeting at Charlotte in the summer of 2003 at CHARPEX.

### Annual Meeting of NCPHS

The members elected the following new directors for a term of three years, ending in 2005:

Richard Winter, John Allen, and Bill Dipaolo

The by-laws require that the officers also be board members. The terms of two officers were ending and a new officer had been elected at the Board meeting.

The President noted with sadness the passing of member and ex-President Bob Hunt of Reidsville a few months ago.

Galen Harrison of Kernersville gave a presentation "North Carolina Prisoner's Mail and Related Topics." It was an excellent presentation with color slides of prisoner covers. Members present were: Dick Winter, John Allen, Harvey Tilles, Ruth Wetmore, Vernon Stroupe, Alan Vestal, Larry Lohr, Rich Weiner, and Tom Stanton.

## North Carolina Postal History Society Mail-Bid Sale

### Terms of Sale

1. Lots will be described giving, where possible, the date, the post office, *Post Offices and Postmasters of North Carolina* catalog number, adhesives if any, condition of the lot, and a minimum price. All items are offered as genuine. Any lot incorrectly described may be returned within 7 days of receipt. Any lot containing 10 or more items and any lot described "as is" will not be returnable for any reason.
2. Only members in good standing of the North Carolina Postal History Society may consign or bid in the NCPHS mail-bid sale.
3. Consignees will establish a minimum price for each item submitted with a minimum of \$2.00. All unsold lots will be returned to the consignees unless other arrangements are made.
4. Bids must be submitted by mail or email only. No telephone bids will be accepted. The bid closing date will be listed on the mail-bid sale description sheet.
5. Submit bids to: Robert F. Yacano  
P.O. Box 100  
Toast, NC 27049  
Email: ryacano@triad.rr.com
6. Bids will be recorded with the date of the postmark on the envelope submitting the bid, or the email date of the bid. No bids below the minimum will be accepted. The winning bid will be one bidding increment above the second highest bid. If there is only one bid, the lot will be sold at the minimum price if the bid and the minimum are the same or at one increment above the minimum price if the bid is higher than the minimum. A summary of the winning bids will be included in the next mail-bid description sheet including those items that did not sell.
7. A 10% Buyers Commission will be added to all successful bids. Postage will also be added to the invoice with the minimum postage charge being \$1.50. Items over \$200.00 will be sent by Certified mail.
8. Notification to successful bidders will be made by email or regular mail. Payments may be made by check or money order made out to the "North Carolina Postal History Society" and sent to the same address listed above for bid submission. They should be made within 7 days of notification of a successful bid. Lots will be sent promptly after payments for the lots have been received and credited. Checks returned from the bank for any reason will incur an additional charge of \$25.00. Title of ownership of a lot does not pass to the buyer until payment has been received and credited.
9. Bidding increments:

Under \$10.00	\$ .50
\$10.00-\$30.00	\$1.00
\$30.00-\$50.00	\$2.00
\$50.00-\$150.00	\$5.00
\$150.00-\$300.00	\$10.00
\$300.00-\$750.00	\$25.00
10. Bids not conforming to the above increments will be reduced to the next lower level. In the event of a tie bid, the bid with the earliest submission will be the winner.
11. Photocopies of any lots can be supplied at \$.25 per copy and plus a SASE. Please allow sufficient time to process.
12. The placing of a bid shall constitute acceptance of the above terms.



**CALLING ALL MEMBER CYBER-PHILES**  
**THE *POSTAL HISTORIAN* HAS COMPILED A**  
**MEMBERSHIP E-MAIL DIRECTORY**

**PLEASE SEND YOU E-MAIL ADDRESS TO**

**EDITOR VERNON STROUPE**  
**at**  
**VSStroupe@worldnet.att.net**

**NEW MEMBERS**

There are no new members to report

**2001 SUSTAINING MEMBERS**

W. Bryson Bateman  
 Maurice Bursey  
 Terry Chappel  
 Tony L. Crumbley  
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 Vernon S. Stroupe  
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 Richard F. Winter

**NCPHS Member Internet Directory**

Dr. John W. Allen	allenj@athena.ncat.edu
Conrad Bush	bearclan@brandons.net
	www.bsc.net/bearclaw
L.T. Cooper	l_t_cooper@yahoo.com
Tony L. Crumbley	(work)crumbley@charlotte.infi.net
	(home) crumbley@infi.net
Richard Canupp	riccan@bellsouth.net
William DiPaolo	crcovers@aol.com
	BilDip@aol.com
Warren Dixon	Fivehawkspress@aol.com
Jim Forte	jimforte@postalhistory.com
	http://postalhistory.com
Lou Hannen	loucanoe@3rddoor.com
John T. Hardy, Jr.	john_hardy@email.msn.com
Lydia Lackey	Tori!SC@aol.com
Harry McDowell	harmacd@aol.com
Frank Nelson	fnelson@beachlink.com
Dennis Osborne	rock@intrex.net
Elizabeth Potts	eafpotts@carolina.rr.com
Walter Reid	wreid@triad.rr.com
Tom Richardson	STAMPS@NorthState.net
Jim Scott	jimscott11@aol.com
Vernon S. Stroupe	VSStroupe@worldnet.att.net
Robert Taylor	rtaylor@wave-net.net
Harvey Tilles	HTILLES@TRIAD.RR.COM
Wendell Triplett	tripletrusa@yahoo.com
Scott Troutman	smtroutman@cox.net
Rich Weiner	rweiner@duke.edu
Ruth Wetmore	ryw@brevard.edu
Clarence J. Winstead	clarencewinstead@hotmail.com
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