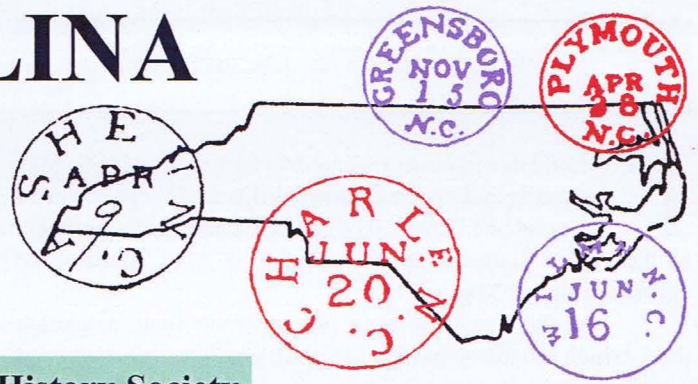


NORTH CAROLINA POSTAL HISTORIAN

The Journal of the North Carolina Postal History Society



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Whole 93



Blackbeard's Bath

Affiliate #155 of the American Philatelic Society



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to extend to each of you a very warm holiday greeting and my best wishes that your new year will be a joyful one. This will be an important year for philately as the United States hosts the Washington 2006 international exhibition in late May.

As the new year starts, we are once again collecting dues, which remain as before, \$15 for a year's membership and our fine journal, the *North Carolina Postal Historian*, four times a year. Please make your payments to Bill DiPaolo our Secretary-Treasurer, whose mailing address appears on this page. Our society continues to enjoy good health thanks to the generosity of our members, who continue to contribute their time and money, for which we are most grateful. Donations above the regular membership amount of \$15 are deductible and will be very helpful to our small society.

Have you visited the web site of the National Postal Museum lately? This site is located at www.postalmuseum.si.edu/ and has a number of very interesting sections. Besides learning about the museum itself and events taking place there, you can find a good deal of information about some of their collections and other resources. Portions of some of their collections can be seen in the exhibits section. For example, under the section called The Collection, a subsection of Finding Guides will lead you to a collection of forty-six letters ranging in date from 1847 to 1851. Much of the correspondence consists of letters between Rawdon, Wright, Hatch and Edson and the Post Office Department, and also between different postmasters and individuals throughout the country and the post office department. The material contained in the collection is highly significant because it is a written record of the historic first issuance of federal postage stamps. Under Resources on the

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museum's Site Map you will find the State Postal History Registry. This site has been building for a little over a year. To date there are pages for 44 states and the District of Columbia. These pages will let you know how to obtain information about individual states' postal history. Each state has a data page which provides information on who coordinates postal history information for that state, what state societies exist and how to contact them, what literature on that state's postal history is available from the three major philatelic literature dealers, and

(Continued on Page 11)



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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.

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Bath - The Cradle of North Carolina

by Tony L. Crumbley

In 2005 the Town of Bath celebrates its 300th anniversary - the oldest town in North Carolina. Bath has had a colorful history and long postal history being one of the first post offices in the state.

John Lawson, an Englishman who moved to America in 1700, contributed more to the development of Bath than any other individual. Lawson was educated in London and well trained in the natural sciences. In December of 1700, Lawson began a 55 day, 550 mile tour of North and South Carolina. This trip took him from Charleston northwest to Camden, South Carolina then north to Charlotte and High Point. At this point he turned east to Durham and Greenville on to the English settlements along the Pamlico River where, in late February 1701, he settled in the area of Bath.

Lawson lived in and surveyed much of this area. In 1708 he returned briefly to London to promote his new book, "A New Voyage to Carolinas," a journal of his travels in the Carolinas.

In 1711 a battle between Edward Hyde, Governor of the Colony of North Carolina, and a group of Quakers over the ouster of Quakers from local government, led to perhaps the first death of a white settler from a rebellion. Labeled Cary's Rebellion, one of Hyde's relatives was accidentally killed while trying to extract Cary and his followers from their stronghold in Bath.

In 1711 Bath also saw the first major Indian war within the state. The Tuscarora War ironically brought about the death of John Lawson, perhaps the most sympathetic supporter of the Indians. On September 22, 1711 the Tuscarora Indians attacked Bath and killed 150 settlers leaving more than 300 widows and children to fend for themselves. They would be saved by John ("Tuscarora Jack") Barnwell from South Carolina who would head an expedition of 33 mounted whites and 495 Indians in January 1712 to regain control of the area.

The Town of Bath struggled after the Tuscarora War. It was not until Charles Eden, the new Governor of the state, decided to hold Assembly there in 1715 and build his residency there a year later that the city began to recover. Bath became designated an official port of entry for shipping in the southern part of North Carolina.

Perhaps Bath's most noted resident was Edward Teach, better known as Blackbeard. Blackbeard prowled the Atlantic and the Caribbean from late 1716 until November 1718, taking

several ships and embarrassing the government.

Blackbeard made his way up the Carolina coast to Beaufort in 1817 where his ship, the "Queen Anne's Revenge," grounded and sank. Blackbeard then sailed a small Spanish sloop that he captured to Bath. There Governor Eden convened a court and condemned the sloop a prize of war and granted Blackbeard full ownership. For a few weeks Blackbeard resided there, purchased a house and lived lavishly and supposedly married the teenage daughter of a nearby planter. After a few weeks Blackbeard took his sloop to sea and looted two British ships and a French vessel, one of which he brought back to Bath. Governor Eden again gave him rights to the vessel and its cargo.

In 1718 Blackbeard established his base in a North Carolina inlet, forcibly collecting tolls from shippers in the Pamlico Sound. He made a prize sharing agreement with Gov. Charles Eden.

Also in 1718 Virginia Governor Spotswood would send a detachment of troops to Ocracoke Inlet to battle Blackbeard. In November 1718 Blackbeard was killed, beheaded and his head was hung from the bowsprit of this sloop as they sailed it triumphantly back to Virginia.

As one recalls the stories of Blackbeard, one envisions years of pilferage and caves stuffed with gold and jewels when, in fact, he survived only months and his spoils most likely were rum and every day colonial goods.

Bath's key reason for survival during its early years was its location along the lone highway through North Carolina. The King's Highway, as it was called, ran from Virginia to South Carolina. The road ran from Suffolk, Virginia to Edenton, Bath, New Bern, Wilmington, Brunswick Town and Georgetown, South Carolina. The road and the Pamlico River provided Bath exposure to the outside world.

An effort in 1739 to establish a mail post in North Carolina using the coastal highway through Bath to link Virginia to South Carolina failed requiring the Carolinas to continue to rely upon private means to communicate. Private express and packet boats in coastal trade continued to transport letters and papers until Governor William Tryon brought a permanent post into being in North Carolina in 1770 (Figure 1). Governor Tryon closed the last gap in the provincial postal system along the Atlantic coast from New England to Georgia. The route followed the North-South Coastal Highway through

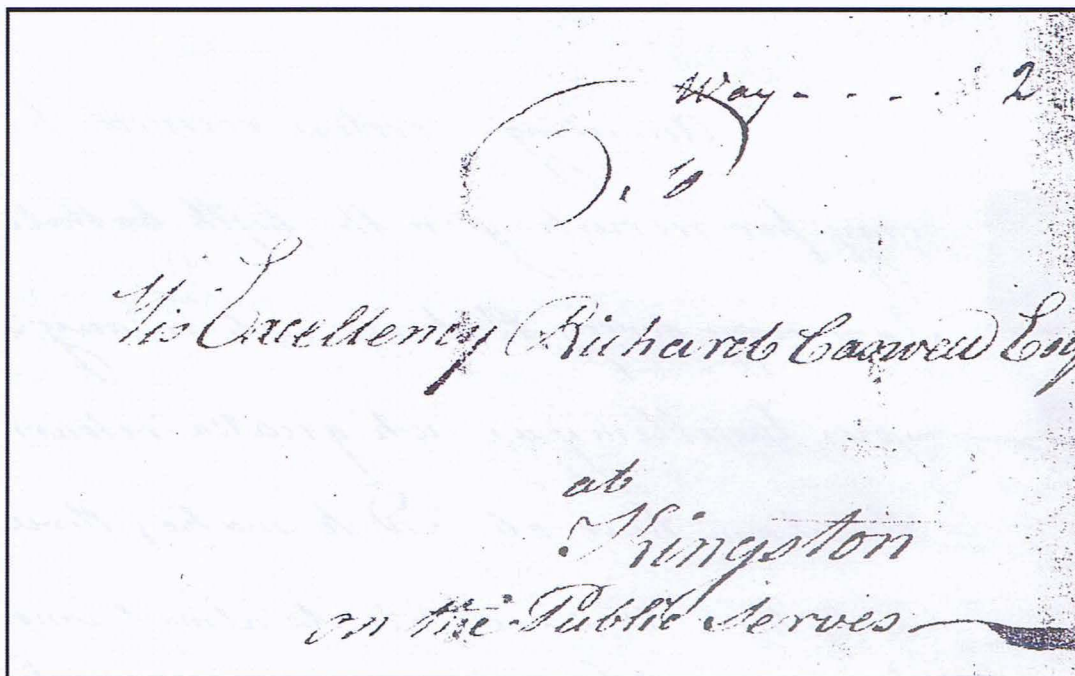


Figure 1 - Way marking on an 8 Oct. 1777 folded letter from Bath to Kingston (Kinston). The rate is marked twice in ms. as 6p and 2s. - *Legislative Correspondence, N.C. Archives*

the Carolinas and Virginia, a distance of 377 miles which took 24 days to travel.

The postal service was slow; deliveries were made every two weeks between Edenton and New Bern through Bath. The waters of the Albemarle Sound, Pamlico and Neuse Rivers often delayed the passage of the mail. Postmasters in the towns were unreliable and did not maintain regular post offices. Letters were unsecured and frequently read by other parties. British postal inspector Hugh Finlay in 1774 found that William Brown, Postmaster in Bath, maintained shoddy accounts, never keeping a book, putting his postage receipts on scraps of paper while receiving 46 pound sterling per annum for his services, considerable more than the postal receipts of Bath.

As the colonies moved towards revolution, in 1768 an expedition of men from Bath was sent by Governor Tryon to western North Carolina to calm the citizens. This uprising ended peacefully, but another in 1771, the Battle of Alamance, pitched Governor Tryon's soldiers from Bath against regulators of Alamance County. The regulators lost but not for long.

Bath continued to prosper throughout the mid 1770's. Being the county seat brought considerable business to town. St. Thomas Church, the oldest church in the state, continued to draw traffic and being the port of entry brought considerable traffic to the community. At this point Bath would reach its peak of prominence. After the war, Bath would become a quiet community.

Between 1830 and 1850 tax records of Bath show the property value of Bath declining as trade continued to flourish in

nearby Washington. In 1837 there were 66 white and 225 blacks listed on the tax records. The majority of the African Americans would have been enslaved to work on plantations outside the city. The people on the streets of Bath would have been predominantly African American (Figures 2, 3, 4).

The Civil War added to the stress of Bath. Less than a year after the war began, federal troops made their presence in Beaufort County. New Bern fell in March 1862 and Washington shortly thereafter Bath was visited by pillaging troops of both Confederate and Union armies. Though no major fighting occurred in Bath, the times took its toll. (Figure 5).

Most of the Bath black population left for James City and the Freeman's Colony formed outside New Bern. By 1867 the tax records indicate 76 white males and 24 African American males of taxable age were left in Bath.

By the end of the 19th century, the Bath community seemed to have made, some progress. The population was back to 350-400 residents, new homes were being built, a major bridge was constructed and several lumber companies moved into the area to provide jobs. (Figure 6)

This upswing did not last long. Beginning on May 19, 1905 a series of three fires wiped out much of downtown Bath. The fire first destroyed a grist mill and damaged a nearby house. The second, in 1918, destroyed almost an entire block in the business section. Another fire in 1928 proved even more devastating. This fire destroyed buildings on both sides of downtown streets. Damage was estimated at \$35,000 most not covered by insurance. By 1920 Bath's population had dwindled

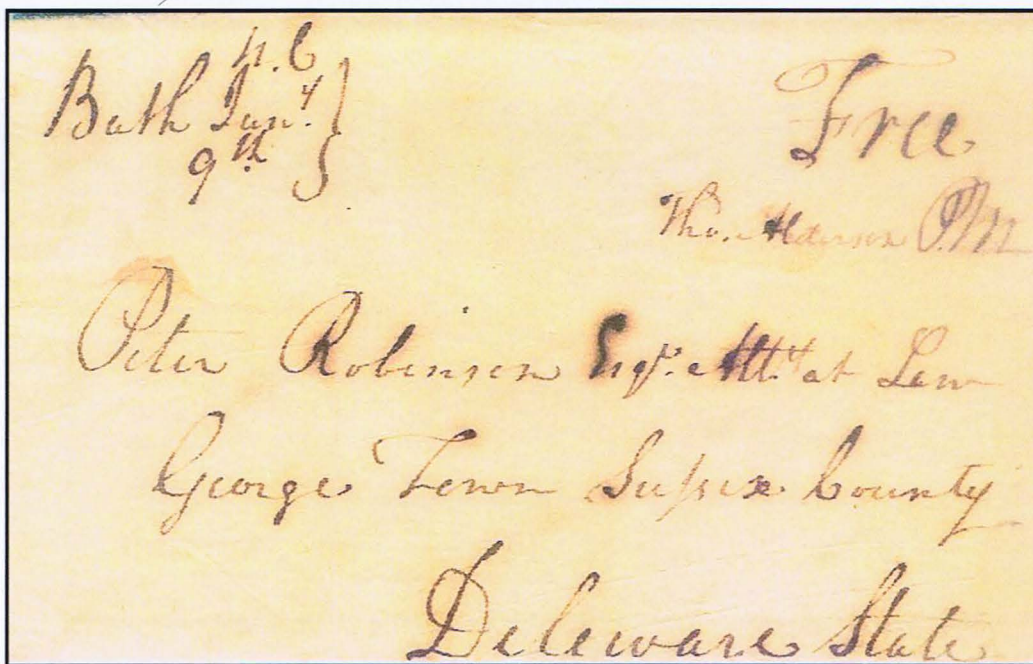


Figure 2

Free Frank of postmaster Thomas Anderson from Bath to Georgetown, Delaware in 1800.

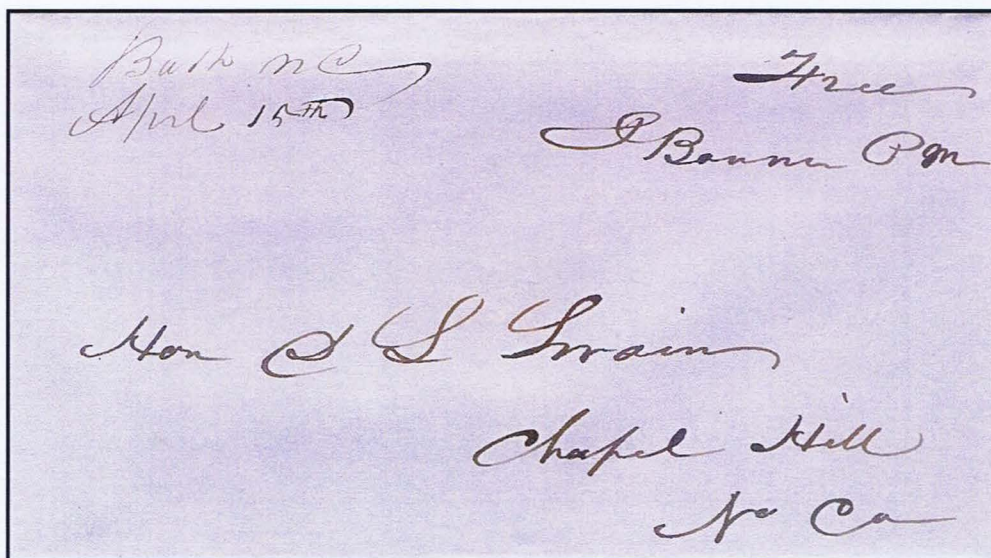


Figure 3

Free frank of postmaster Joseph Bonner, 1843-59, on folded letter to president of the University of North Carolina, David L. Swain.

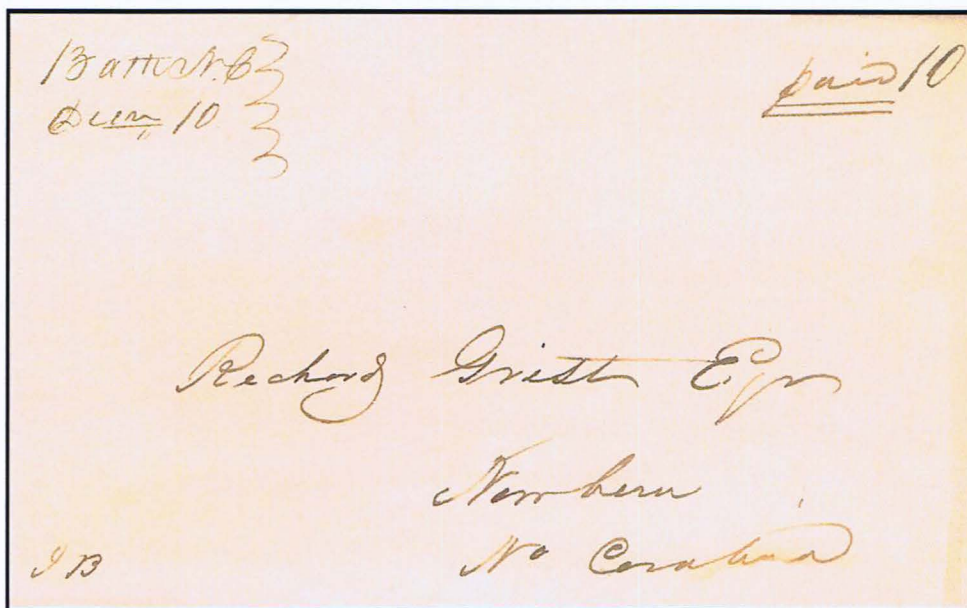


Figure 4

Folded letter of 1845-51 with ms Paid 10 cent double weight rate to Newbern. Richard Grist attended Bingham Academy and received a B.A. from Yale. He studied art in New York and became the map maker and illustrator for the Stansbury Expedition, which explored and mapped the Salt Lake Basin in 1849.

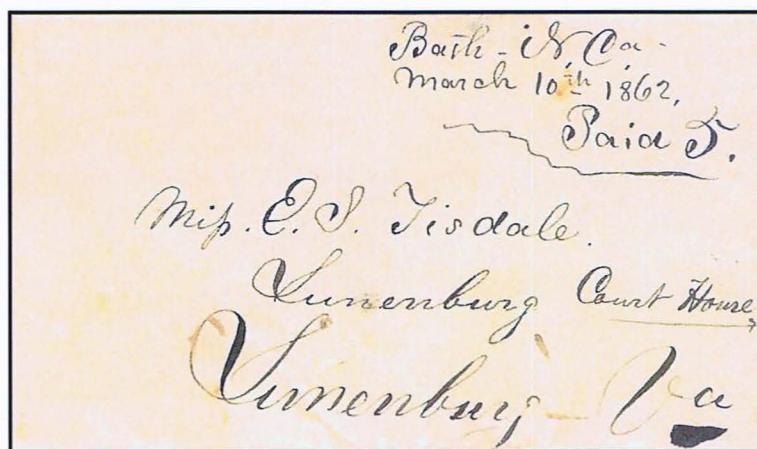


Figure 5

Confederate cover with ms Paid 5 cent rate, 10 March 1862.
Postmaster was B.F. Styron

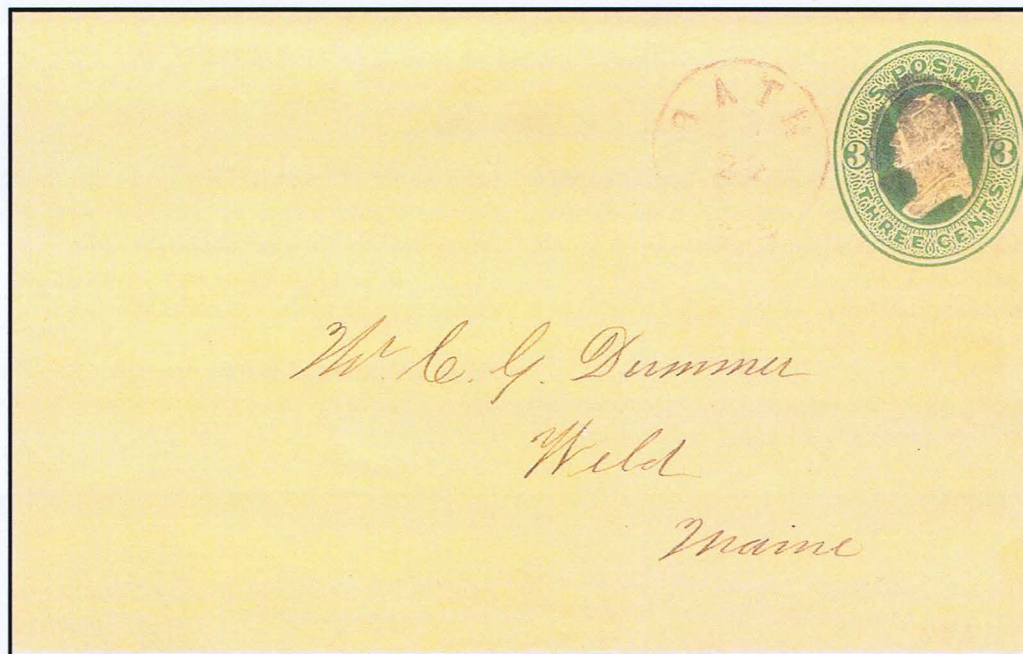
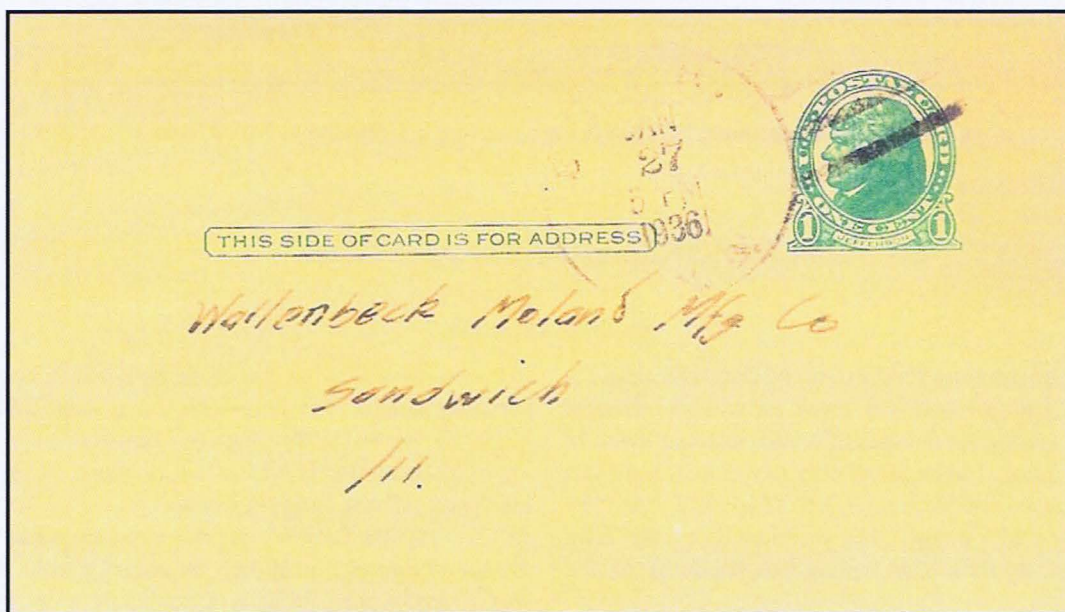


Figure 6
Type 1 cds on Nesbit postal stationery of 1874-86.

to 274 people.

Today, little remains in Bath but memories of by-gone years of grandeur. A recent internet search found there were no places for lodging in Bath. The post office which first opened February 20, 1774 is still operating, however, only two

handstamp cancels have been reported until 1900. Throughout most of its history, the postmaster used manuscript postmarks. The Bath population in 1990 was 154 people. Perhaps a small turnaround is taking place - by 2000 the number had grown to 275.



Postal card dated 27 January 1936 with 3-bar cds

ADDING A NEW FRAME-LINE TO THE LIST

by Larry Lohr

Tony Crumbley's article in the NCPHS *Postal Historian* (Vol 19, No.1, Spring 2000) listed the only three known frame-lines (Confederates States, Scott #10). A fourth, pictured below is in my collection.

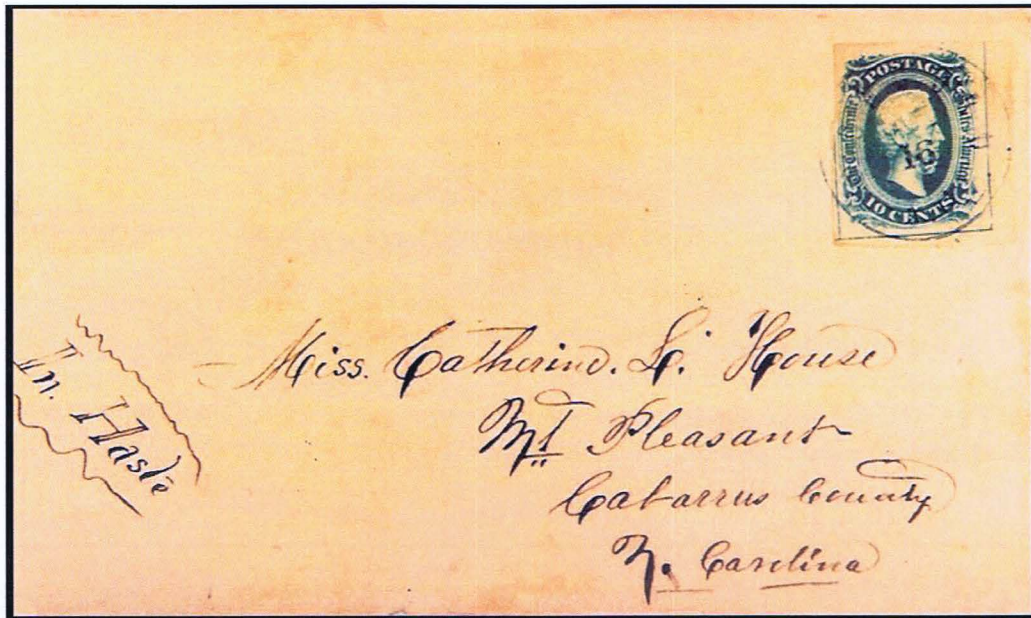
The cover was posted from Concord with a blue Type 6 cds. The month is not readable, but the day date, 16th, is quite clear.

An interesting part of this stamp is that it is position 100 from a pane of 100. This means it was located in the lower right

hand corner of the pane. This can be determined by the fact that the four corner stamps of each pane were the only stamps the frame-line did not intersect another line.

It is nice to know new covers of such interest are still available to be added to a collection.

Editor's Note: Readers may remember the fifth recorded frame-line is featured on the cover of the *Postal Historian*, Vol. 3, No.3, Fall 2004.



Confederate frame-line, Scott #10, on cover from Concord to Mr. Pleasant

A PORTSMOUTH COVER

by Scott Troutman

Portsmouth on the Core Banks south of Ocracoke Island is today a national park - a ghost town where visitors wander among the remains of a once thriving town. In thirty years of hunting, I have found only two covers from this town that had a postal service from 3 Sept 1840 to 11 Apr 1959 when it was made into a park. The community existed long before 1840. It would have been a place that Black Beard, the pirate knew.

I had always theorized that some day I would find a cover from Portsmouth N.C. in a dealer's stock filed under Portsmouth, N.J., and that is where I found this one. This cover is a small ladies cover from the pre-Civil War period franked with a U.S. Scott #11. I am not good enough with the colors on

#11 to definitely what the color is, but it is one of the more common shades. The letter was dated Aug. 22 with no year given, but we are in the range of 1851-61.

The letter is addressed to Mary W. Ward, Care of Sullivan I. Vance, Ippowell, Mass.

At One time warehouses stood on pilings off shore on the sound side of Portsmouth for almost a mile, as Portsmouth was a transfer point for cargo transfers from deep water ships to smaller shallow draft vessels that could navigate the North Carolina sounds. Most of that was destroyed in the 1899 hurricane, which put Portsmouth underwater "up to the top of the piano" on the first floor of the houses.



US Scott #11 on cover from Portsmouth to Ipswell, Mass.

FAST FREIGHT FROM BALTIMORE

by Scott Troutman

When I think of Hendersonville or Statesville, I tend not to think of them as having a connection to Baltimore, Md. But, this postal card shows otherwise. This one-cent postal card, Scott UX5, was sent locally in Baltimore to advertise a steamship line connection with Wilmington, N.C.

Wilmington sought from the beginning of the railroads to have as many lines as possible to increase the viability of its shipping. By 1876, when this card was sent, it was clearly paying off. The Fast Freight Line was advertising they could move cargo quickly to destinations in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

Notice they did not mention the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad, which interconnected at Washington, D.C. with the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. That routing could probably have moved freight even faster to Wilmington and to any of the destinations this post card mentions.

SEMI-WEEKLY
Fast Freight Line
FROM BALTIMORE
 BY THE
WILMINGTON STEAMERS.

To
 CHARLOTTE, N. C.
 BENNETTSVILLE, S. C.
 HENDERSONVILLE, N. C.
 STATESVILLE, N. C.
 GREENVILLE, S. C.
 SPARTANSBURG, S. C.
 ATLANTA, GA.
 ATHENS, GA.

And all Points on the
CAROLINA CENTRAL DISPATCH LINE.
ATLANTA & CHARLOTTE AIR LINE.
WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA Railroad.
 ALSO TO
AUGUSTA, GA. and COLUMBIA, S. C.
 AND ALL POINTS ON THE
 Wilmington, Columbia & Augusta Rail Road.
 Charlotte, Columbia & Augusta Rail Road.
 AND
 Cheraw & Darlington Rail Road.

The increased transportation facilities of this line offer superior advantages to Shippers.
 Careful Handling and Prompt Dispatch.
 Order and Ship your Goods by WILMINGTON STEAMERS. For further information apply to
S. C. WILSON, REUBEN FOSTER, Gen'l Agt.
 Agt. C. C. D. Line, No. 90 Light St.
 No. 11 German St. Baltimore.
J. B. ANDREWS, Sole Agent.
ADRIENHEIMER & WEIL, PRS.

DUNCAN MacRAE, POSTMASTER OF FAYETTEVILLE

by Jerry Roughton

Duncan MacRae was born 17 March 1769 in Strathglass, Scotland. He married Rhoda Young (1773-1854) in 1790 in Fayetteville. Duncan was one of the leading citizens of early Fayetteville, and his ten children carried on that tradition.

In 1792, he was appointed Collector of Revenue, and also served as Town Clerk. He was a merchant and operated a store for many years. His newspaper advertisement in 1806 listed several "Valuable Family Medicines", among them were Dr. Rawson's Anti-Bilious Pills, "a medicine extremely useful in all complaints where purges are necessary", Dr. Thompson's Aromatic Toothpaste and eye wash, Hinkley's remedy for the piles, along with many other formulations. MacRae also advertised books, and had an installment plan to purchase the Encyclopedia [Britannica?] with the supplement.

He is probably known best for serving as postmaster in Fayetteville from 27 November 1797 until 19 April 1818. During his term as postmaster, he issued small charge notes bearing the date "January 1815" (Figure 1) and promissory statement:

5 Cents.

THIS bill of five cents will be received in payment for postage, or paid in cash at the Postoffice, on demand.

Duncan MacRae P.M.
Fayetteville, January 1815

Two denominations are presently known, a Five and Twenty cents. The bills had an intricate border typical of the Federal period. The reverse was printed with the denomination in the center.

Along with his other interests, MacRae was also involved with banking in the Town of Fayetteville. From the *Raleigh Register*, 11 October 1811: "The director of Fayetteville, having given in the resignation of Peter Perry as director of the Fayetteville branch bank, Duncan MacRae, Esq. was elected in his stead". This was the State Bank of North Carolina. At some point he was elected cashier of the Fayetteville branch. As was often done, cashier MacRae lived in the banking house located

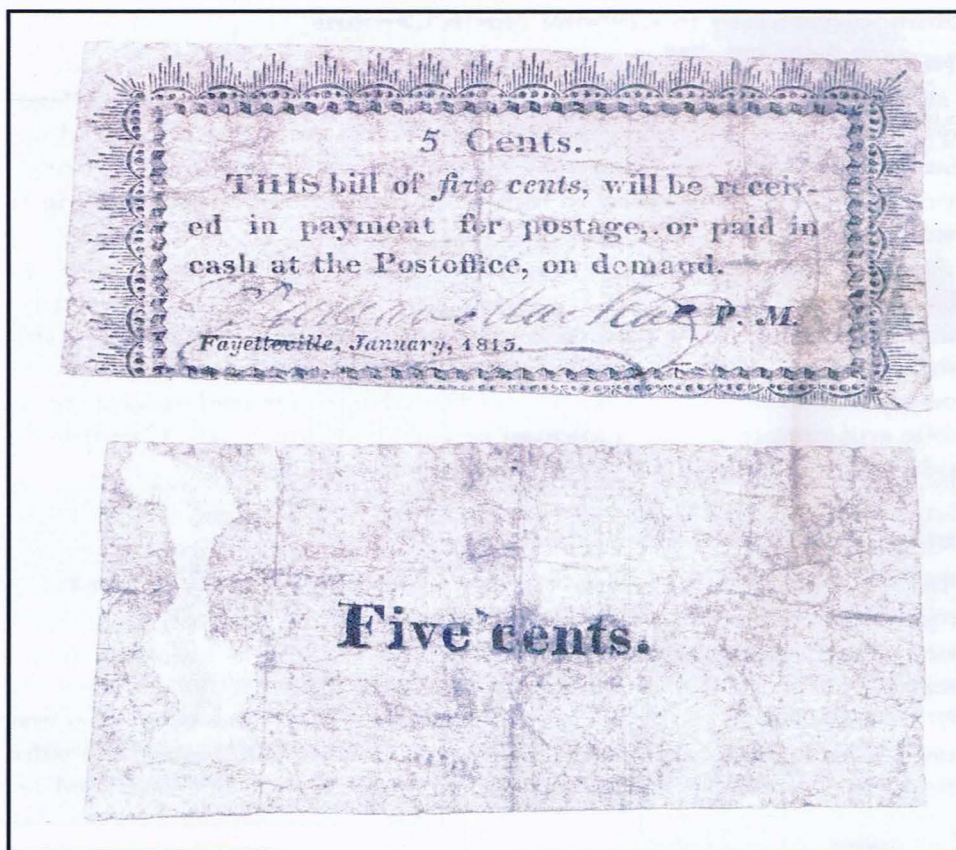


Figure 1

at the southwest corner of Franklin and Gillespie Sts (The courthouse was built on this site in 1824). In 1825 General Lafayette came to America, and in the course of his travels, came to North Carolina. On 10 March 1825 General Lafayette came to Fayetteville and stayed with Duncan MacRae at his home in the state banking house. MacRae was listed as a Director of the Bank of the United States in 1831. Most of Fayetteville burned to the ground in a great fire on 29 May 1831. Almost all business houses were destroyed. The State Bank building was one of the few buildings saved. Duncan MacRae was listed, among many others, as having suffered loss, quite likely his home. (He had resigned as cashier from the State Bank in 1828). The other banking houses in Fayetteville fared worse; the Fayetteville branch of the Bank of Cape Fear, the branch Bank of the United States, and the Office of Agency of the State Bank all burned.

Duncan MacRae died on 10 February 1837. The *North Carolina Journal* (Fayetteville) printed a short obituary: (*Died*) *in this town on Friday morning after a severe and protracted*

illness, Duncan MacRae, esq., and old and highly respected citizen of this place.

Sources:

1. *Fayetteville Gazette*, 25 September 1792
2. *NC Intelligencer* (Fayetteville), 16 August 1806
3. *Raleigh Register*, 11 October 1811
4. *The American* (Fayetteville), 13 October 1814, 23 July 1818
5. *North Carolina Journal* (Fayetteville), 16 February 1837
6. *Post Offices and Postmasters of N.C.*, Vol. I, (1996), North Carolina Postal History Society.
7. Weeks Parker, Fayetteville, N.C. *A Pictorial History*, (1984), Donning Co., Norfolk, Va.
8. John A. Oates, *The Story of Fayetteville and the Upper Cape Fear*, (1950) David Press, Charlotte, N.C.



Red Fayetteville Type 1 cds on pink folded letter with ms 37 cent rate

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, Continued

more. A new effort to provide additional postal history information has begun. A few state pages, such as Missouri, now offer downloadable pdf files. Missouri currently is making available a 184-page monograph, published in 2001 by Thomas J. Alexander titled "Missouri: Western Frontier," a wonderful write up of his historical collection of early Missouri postal history. The North Carolina page currently provides a pdf file to download of the fine Steven Walske article, which appeared in

the summer 2005 issue of *North Carolina Postal Historian*, "Blockade Run Mail Which Entered via North Carolina."

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 at rfwinter@bellsouth.net or write to me. My mailing address appears on page 2 of this journal.

Dick Winter

SHIPYARD

by Scott Troutman

Shipyard was a community on the Pasquotank River near present day Camden. In the eighteenth century it was a center for the building of small commercial vessels. Shipyard was a short-lived town.

The post office in Shipyard operated first from 23 June 1873 to 5 Jan 1874, and again from 10 Apr 1874 until 13 Aug 1883 - a total of about ten years. What is surprising is that in this short time span it had four postmasters: James E. Gregory first opened and closed the post office. Tilmon Midgett, Obenia Midgett, and John A. Bartlett followed.

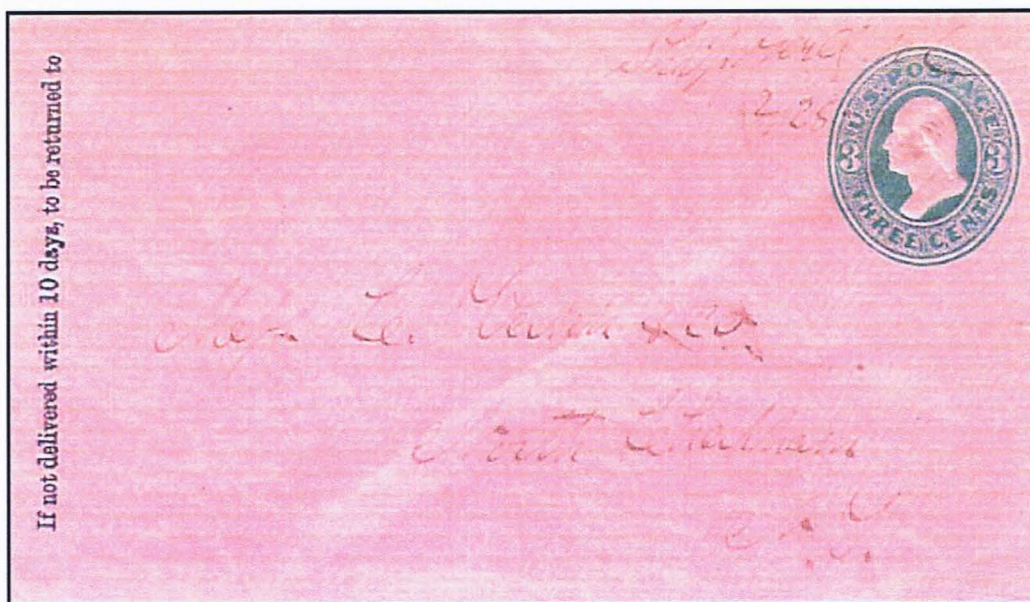
The cover is a Scott U167 in the fawn color, which was introduced in 1875. When Shipyard post office was closed, mail was sent to Camden Courthouse.

The Pasquotank River is straight and narrow in this location and is currently used for boat races.

References

Powell, William S., *The North Carolina Gazateer*, Chapel Hill.

Stroupe, et al, *Postmasters & Post Offices of North Carolina*, NCPHS, 1996.



Ms Shipyard on postal stationery of 1870's-80's

NEW RALEIGH POST MARK IDENTIFIED - TYPE 18.5

by Vernon Stroupe

Dick Winter worked on the Raleigh postmarks last winter, and examined all items in the Postal History collection. He noticed a discrepancy in the Raleigh markings, Type 19 and 21, of the 1890's, and he came to the following conclusion based on the material at the archives.

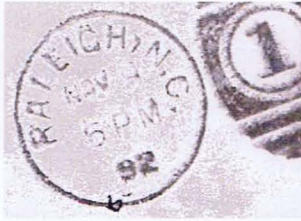
The first marking chronologically is the 26 mm cds with the numeral "1" in the ellipse killer. He assigned Type 18.5

to this marking because it came well before Type 19.

The second marking chronologically is Type 19, which is catalogued, and is 27mm with a numeral "2" in the ellipse killer.

The third marking is 25mm, which is designated Type 21. This marking comes with both "1" and "2" numerals in the ellipse killer.

Dates Found in the Postal History Collection



Type 18.5 (26 mm)

6 Mar 1890-25 Nov 1893; 20 Feb 1896-19 Dec 1897



Type 19 (27mm)

24 May 1894-2 Dec 1895; 16 Dec 1897-30 Dec 1897



Type 21 (25 mm)

18 Jan 1898-2 Dec 1898; 3 Jan 1899-24 Oct 1899

THE FIRST FEDERALLY APPOINTED WOMAN POSTMASTER

By Vernon Stroupe

Sarah Moore Delano Decrow was born in Perquimons County ca. 1750. She became a woman of strong character; married twice and widowed twice, she managed considerable land, two families, an ordinary, and a post office. She had two children by her first husband, Ichabod Delano, and inherited land from him. Her marriage to Robert Decrow also produced two children. Her second husband was "a man of substance", and she inherited land from him.

Sarah Decrow became a notorious and contentious figure. She pressed lawsuits for defamation of character, slander, and for rent owed. Her attorney was James Iredell, later to be justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1789 she received a license to open an "Ordinary and Victualing House" in Hertford. She was arrested just twelve days later for breaking what today we call the 'blue laws'. She appeared in the first U.S. Census of 1790 as being the head of the household with three females and the owner of nine slaves.

In 1792 Sarah was appointed the first postmaster of Hertford. She was the third woman postmaster in the U.S., and the first named appointed by the Federal government. She submitted her first accounts to Postmaster-General Thomas Pickering on 20 Mar 1793. That same year she felt she was underpaid, and complained to the postmaster-general. His response was reported in *The State Magazine* of Sept. 1, 1792.

In the Absence of the Postmaster-General, I have received your letter in which you express a wish to resign your office in consequence of the small compensation that you received for your

services. You are mistaken in supposing that you were entitled to no more than 20 per cent compensation. You are entitled to 40 per cent which is the highest rate of compensation the Postmaster General is authorized to allow any of his deputies. I am sensible that the pecuniary advantages arising from your office cannot be much inducement to you to hold it, yet I flatter myself you will continue to do the business for the benefit of the town and neighborhood. If however you should decline holding the office any longer, be pleased to recommend some suitable character to succeed you. Mr. Blount's contract for carrying the mail does not expire until 1 June 1794, when proposals will again be received for the conveyance of the mail, and you will then have an opportunity of making yours which will be duly attended to. (Signed)

Sarah Decrow remained in office until her death in 1795. She remained controversial as her estate took several years to be settled.

Sources:

Postmaster-General Letter Book (Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.)

1790 Census of the U.S., Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Jane E. Smith to Esther Evans, Letter, 1964

Winslow, Ellen G., *History of Perquimons County* (1931)

Powell, William S., *Dictionary of North Carolina People*, Vol. 3

Siskin North Carolina Covers at Auction

by Richard F. Winter

On October 7, 2005, Matthew Bennett International auctioned what is considered by some the finest collection of American Colonial and early United States mails ever assembled. This was the collection of Ed and Jean Siskin.

Using the words of the auctioneer, Harvey Bennett, "Ed and Jean's achievement is unprecedented in terms of quality and quantity of the colonial mail on which they worked so diligently, over 25 years, to gather together. By their own census of Colonial mail, not housed permanently in museums and archives, they were able to assemble approximately one-third of the 2,000 or so pieces available."

Not only was the collection strong, but so were the prices at the sale. Of the 341 items in the sale only ten items originated in North Carolina, and five additional items were sent to North Carolina. This small number of covers is a reflection on how difficult it is to acquire early North Carolina material. More than half of these 15 items went below the estimated prices, but the estimates were high. None of the material was sold at a bargain price. Some of the highlights of the North Carolina items are as follows. Prices do not include the buyer's premium of 10%:

Lot 92. The only-known example of the New Bern oval handstamp, a British marking from 1770, was sold for \$14,500. This letter was brought by ship from Jamaica to New Bern, then sent through the post to Edenton. This item was last sold in the 2001 Robert A. Siegel Rarities sale for \$11,000.

Lot 235. Described as a "1783 (Nov. 9) Piny Grove Cherokee Nation to Philadelphia via Edenton," this letter was actually a 1789 letter from a Piny Grove, probably a plantation

across the Chowan River, and was posted in Edenton

on 12 November, receiving a very nice strike of the Edenton straight-line handstamp. It sold at \$3,000, which probably reflected interest in the auctioneer's statement, "early and rare usage from the Cherokee nation." Otherwise, it was a very high price for an Edenton straight-line even if the strike was superb.

Lot 255. A nice example of the New Bern straight-line handstamp sold at \$2,000 over an estimate of \$500-\$750.

NEWBERN.

APRIL, 6

Lot 264. The only-known example of the Washington straight-line handstamp on a 1788 letter to Philadelphia sold for \$4,000.

Although

WASHINGTON, FEB Y II

costly, this was probably the bargain of the sale.

The only example of a letter to North Carolina of the five in the auction that brought more than the estimate was Lot 222. This 1781 letter from Yorktown, Virginia to Halifax had the free frank of Major General the Marquis de Lafayette. It brought \$12,500 against an estimate of \$6,000-\$8,000 undoubtedly because of the free frank of an important person.

Since early North Carolina postal history material seldom comes on the market, the prices in this sale reflect what the market currently will pay for early North Carolina postal history, at least when presented in a major sale.



COLLECTING BEYOND THE COVERS

by Tony L. Crumbley

As postal historians, there are many things we can collect beyond covers and markings. PO receipts, pay vouchers, post office windows, vending machines, and handstamp devices can add greatly to a collection.

One area that has become exceedingly popular lately is post card collecting - perhaps because of their reduced cost, or just because of the beauty of these colorful cards.

The first post cards began to appear just before the turn of the last century and really caught on about 1905-20. Most of the early cards were greeting cards, but shortly thereafter some

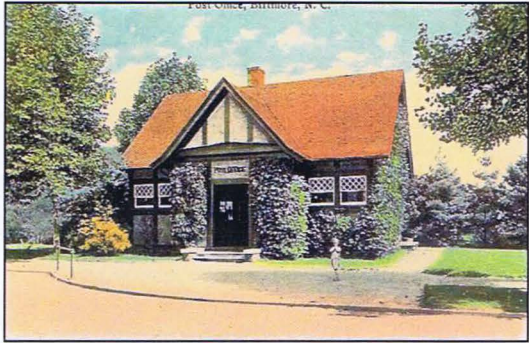
producers realized the market they were photo cards which became tourist boosters. Most every building and scene of interest has been captured on a post card from most communities of any size. The earliest ones were hand coloured in Germany.

Quite popular among topics has been the images of local post offices. The following page will give some glimpses of some of the varied facilities across the state. Many of these buildings no longer exist.

These cards can make a nice addition to any postal history collection.



Salvo



Biltmore



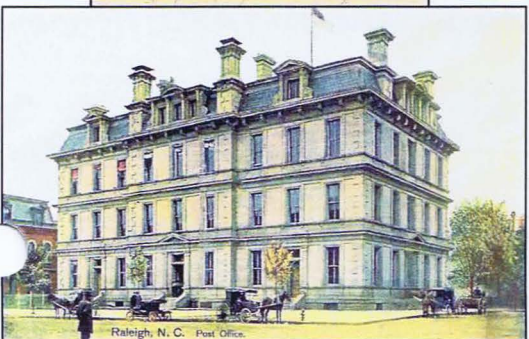
Charlotte

Asheville



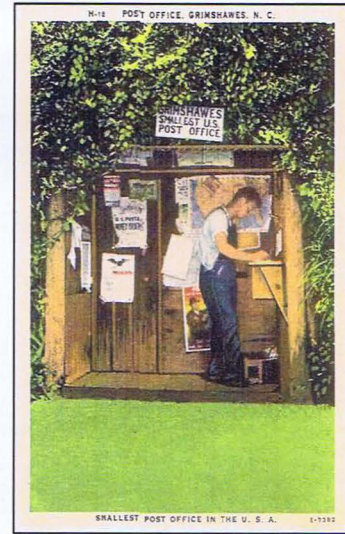
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Washington



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