

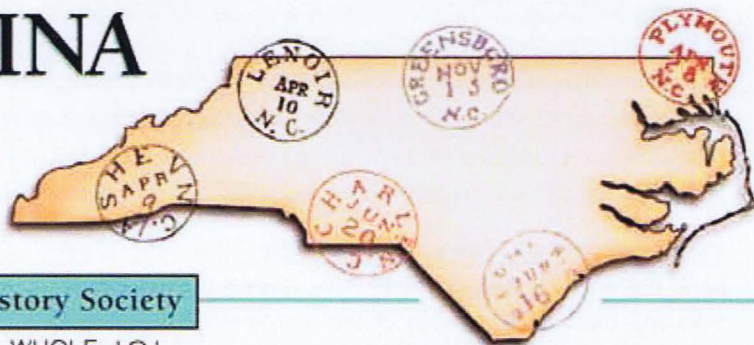
NORTH CAROLINA POSTAL HISTORIAN

The Journal of North Carolina Postal History Society

VOLUME 27, NO. 1

WINTER 2008

WHOLE 101



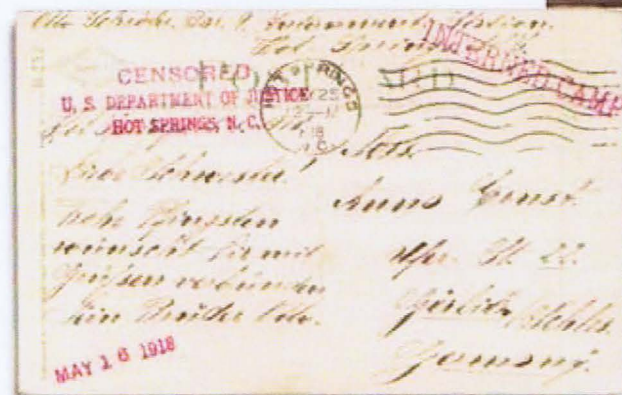
HOT SPRINGS, NC

A WORLD WAR I INTERNMENT CAMP

CA. 1875 BEFORE THE WAR



CA. 1918 DURING THE WAR



Also in this issue:

THE SPRINGS OF NORTH CAROLINA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The holiday season has come and gone, hopefully leaving many enjoyable moments with family and friends. I would like to extend to each of you my best wishes that the New Year, 2008, will be a healthy and joyful one for you.

Please remember to pay your dues for the New Year, if you have not already done so. The dues remain at \$15 for the year and include four issues of our award-winning journal, the *North Carolina Postal Historian*. 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 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.

In November 2007, we entered the *North Carolina Postal Historian* in a major literature competition at CHICAGOPEX. The journal received a Vermeil medal and many nice comments in the critique sheet including "outstanding graphics and presentation." I am especially proud of the work our editor, Tony Crumbley, and layout editor, Terry Chappell, have done to get the journal to this level. While in this day when anything short of Gold is thought to be a poor showing, I must point out that the only journals to score higher than our journal were "professional" journals from major societies such as the American Revenue Society, The German Philatelic Society, The Scandinavian Society, and the Carriers and Locals Society. Our journal received the same award level as the Postal History Society, The Society of Czechoslovak Philately, and the Rossica Society of Russian Philately. I think the award was wonderful in a very difficult competition.

The status box of the North Carolina Postmark Catalog update will show only modest changes as a few more counties

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have been added; however, major changes are occurring and will soon be posted on the internet. In October 2007 I visited the research center of the Post Mark Collectors Club in Bellevue, Ohio. I will write more about this visit in the next issue, but can tell you that I came back with so much new data of North Carolina postmarks that every county that I have prepared has to be completely redone. I am working on the changes now. By March many of the "completed" counties will be replaced with substantially improved information.

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 below.

—Dick Winter



NORTH CAROLINA POSTAL HISTORIAN

Library of Congress #ISSN 1054-9158.

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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Who's Who In The NCPHS

compiled by Marshall Acee

For nearly 50 years Tony Crumbley has been enjoying the pleasures of philately. As a young fifth grader in Kannapolis, North Carolina, in order to pass the Boy Scout merit badge, he acquired his first worldwide stamps. Throughout the remainder of grammar school and junior high, he and his neighborhood friends were avid collectors. Riding their bikes to the post office on weekends to pick up the latest 12 cent plate block and dive through the post office's trash to see what great rarities could be found. These were exciting times with the dag Hammer Schultz error coming to light and the secret release of the Project Mercury stamp. Not to mention the Boy's Life magazine and Popular Science ads offering envelopes full of rare worldwide stamps for only a dime.

As with most boys, girls took over Tony's interest in high school but even so he continued to purchase an occasional plate block now and then. As Air Force life followed high school, there was little to do in northern Michigan so stamps moved forward slightly with more plate blocks being purchased and sent home for safekeeping. Upon release from the military in 1970, it was home to wed his high school sweetheart, Renea, and begin college. One Saturday morning Tony walked into a newly opened stamp and coin shop in Charlotte to pick up some supplies for a new stamp trading venture he had begun. Within an hour he was offered a part time job cataloging stamps and working weekends within the shop. This would begin his career as a stamp dealer. Upon graduation he began full time work traveling the East Coast selling rare coins and stamps for two partners.

This lasted three years while he completed his graduate studies. It introduced him to many new aspects of the hobby including Confederate covers. It was during this time frame that he purchased his first Confederate collection. He still recalls that positive experience today. At the end of the purchase, the collector gave him a cover and said, "Here, this is yours, keep it and enjoy." It just happened to be a North Carolina cover dated May 27, 1861 – the first day of North Carolina entering the Confederacy and May 27 is Tony's

birthday, which the collector had discovered—what a coincidence! Tony still has that cover prominently displayed in his Confederate exhibit today.

In 1976 Tony began his career with the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce as Director of Research. And for perhaps two years did not do any stamp shows. The bug had, however, bit. Being given the opportunity to purchase a very large

dealer's stock from Charleston, Tony jumped back into the business in 1978 setting up at as many as 27 shows a year. By the mid 1980's, his focus, however, had turned to postal history.

In January 1982, Tony had been one of the original 17 postal historians to meet in Greensboro to form the North Carolina Postal History Society. In February 1982, Tony produced the Society's first newsletter. This issue is number 101, quite an accomplish-

ment for any organization and Tony has been a part of all issues.

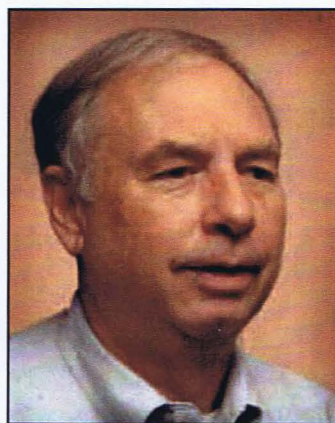
Tony is an accomplished philatelic writer having published several books and numerous articles. Today his collecting interest focuses on North Carolina postal history and North Carolina state revenue stamps. Though he still has his U.S. stamp collection, he says "filling holes" just doesn't seem to have the excitement of discovering a new postal marking from the state.

Tony has served the hobby in many capacities from serving on this organization's board to being president of the Confederate Stamp Alliance which made him an Honorary General in 1997, one of only 45 in the 70 year history of the organization.

He is an avid exhibitor having won numerous gold awards on the national and local levels with his exhibits of North Carolina postal history. Tony will quickly tell you philately is a hobby for him even though on many weekends you will find him on the other side of the table at some stamp show sharing his knowledge and duplicate postal history.

Note from the Editors: This is the fifth in the series of profiles of North Carolina collectors. Each have been original founding members of the organization. All five of these

Continued on back page

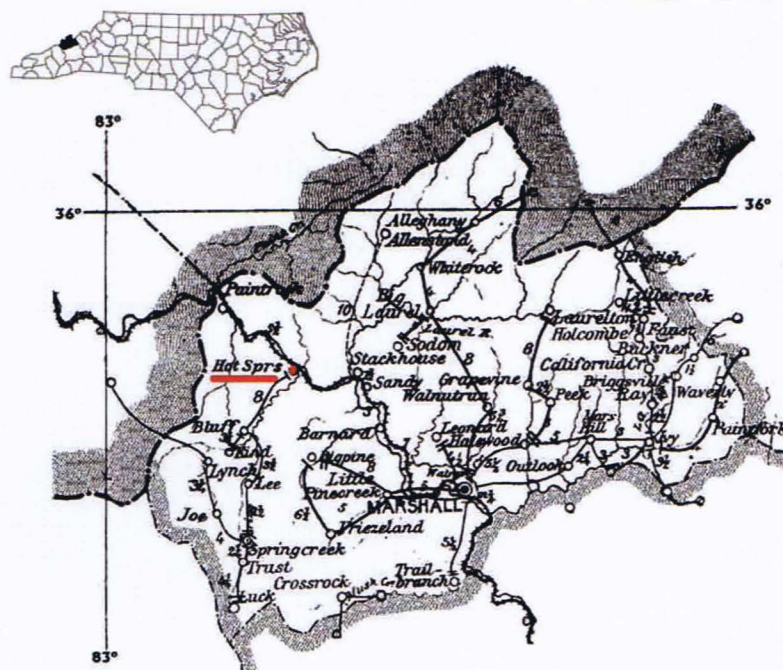


Hot Springs, North Carolina — A World War I Internment Camp

by Richard Winter

It is hard to believe, but the beautiful location of Hot Springs, North Carolina, was, for a short time, an internment camp for Germans during World War I. This article will tell the story of the Hot Springs camp and illustrates some covers from the camp.

Hot Springs (**Figure 1**) is located in Madison County on the French Broad River about 26 miles north northwest of Asheville. The Appalachian Trail crosses Hot Springs at mile marker 114.5 (South to North), elevation 1,326 feet. Hot Springs is surrounded by the Pisgah National Forest. The town was originally named Warm Springs for a thermal springs located in the town that was discovered in 1778. The town has been a resort destination since the early 1800s. The following information may be found on the web site for the Hot Springs: ¹



▲ **Figure 1**
Detailed map of Madison County from *North Carolina Post Roads Map of 1911* with Hot Springs in red. Madison County is shown in black in the state map, upper left.

Hot Springs, North Carolina, a resort destination since the early 1800s, has long been renowned for its healing mineral springs and scenic mountain setting. Native Americans were the first to discover the 100-plus degree mineral water from which the Town of Hot Springs received its name. Traders from the colonies came next, and by 1778 the lame and the sick were traveling over the mountains to the hot springs for the healing waters. On March 19, 1791, William Nelson bought the hot springs property for “two hundred pounds in Virginia currency” and began catering to the visitors.

Buncombe Turnpike was completed along the French Broad River through Hot Springs (called Warm Springs at the time) in 1828, connecting Tennessee and Kentucky to the east coast. It was the superhighway of the South at the time. Farmers drove thousands of horses, cattle, hogs, and other livestock to markets in Charleston and Augusta on the Turnpike and stopped in Hot Springs to take the waters along the way. Recognizing the potential for tourism, James Patton of Asheville, bought the springs in 1831 and by 1837 had built the 350-room Warm Springs Hotel with thirteen tall columns commemorating the first colonies. Because of its size and grandeur, it was called Patton’s White House. Its dining room could seat 600. The next owner was James H. Rumbough, a stage coach operator, who bought the springs in 1862. In the hotel’s ballroom, second largest in the state, Frank Johnson, son of President Andrew Johnson, met his bride, Bessie Rumbough, daughter of the hotel owner.

The railroad reached the village in 1882, and it was necessary for Rumbough to enlarge his hotel. Two years later the hotel burned, and the springs and much of the town were sold to the Southern Improvement Company, a northern syndicate.

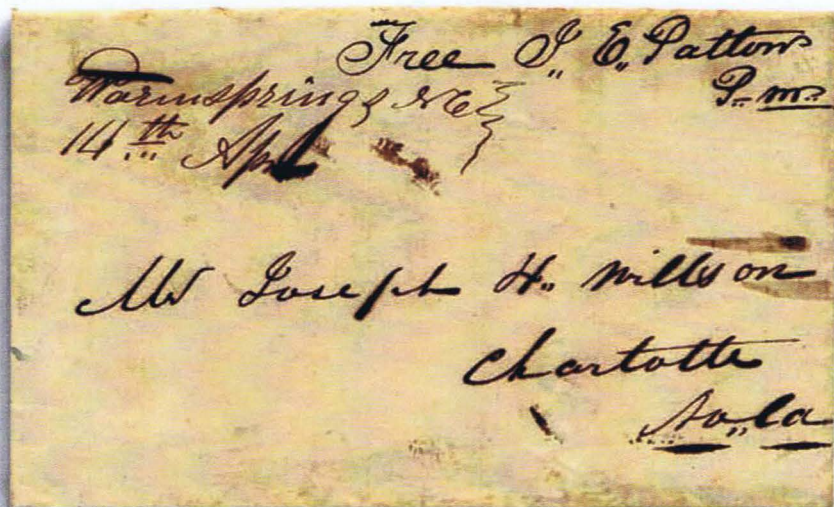
The Mountain Park Hotel was built in 1886, and a higher-temperature spring was discovered, prompting the company to change the town’s name from Warm Springs to Hot Springs. The Mountain Park was one of the most elegant resorts in the country during its heyday. It consisted of the 200-room hotel, a barn and stables, a spring house, and a bath house of sixteen marble pools, surrounded by landscaped lawns with croquet and tennis courts. The Mountain Park Hotel established the first organized golf club in the Southeast with a nine-hole course.

By May 1917, however, fewer and fewer people were taking the waters, and the Mountain Park Hotel and grounds were leased to the federal government as an internment camp for hundreds of German merchant sailors captured in U.S. harbors when war was declared. The internees were treated well by the townspeople, and several returned to visit after the war.

¹ <http://www.hotspringsnc.org/>

The Post Office

The Warm Springs post office opened in Buncombe County when William C. Neilson, Jr. was approved as postmaster on 24 April 1801. **Figure 2** shows a folded letter dated 14 April 1845 from Warm Springs, Buncombe County. The postmaster of Warm Springs at the time was John E. Patton, whose signature appears in the upper right corner. By endorsing letters with their signature, postmasters were allowed free postage on mail. On 27 January 1851, Madison County was formed from Buncombe and Yancey Counties and Warm Springs became a part of Madison County.² **Figure 3** illustrates an envelope from Warm Springs dated 4 May 1875. On 21 June 1886, the name of the post office was changed to Hot Springs, when the town changed its name. Presumably this was because a higher-temperature spring was found. A 24 November 1895 envelope with the business marking of the Mountain Park Hotel in Hot Springs, the location which would become the internment camp, is shown **Figure 4**.



▲ **Figure 2**

14 April 1845 folded letter from Warm Springs, Buncombe County postmaster John E. Patton to Charlotte, N.C. sent free of postage.

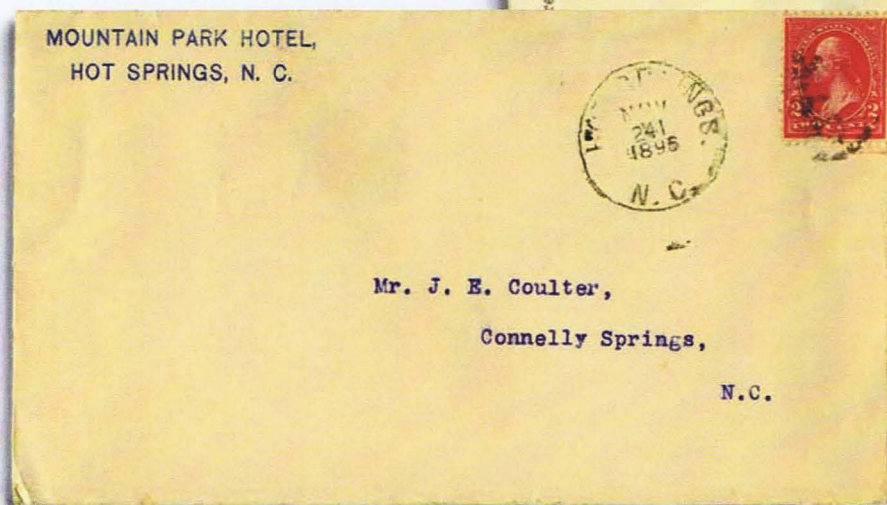
▼ **Figure 3**

4 May 1875 envelope from Warm Springs, Madison County to New York City. Eleven years later, the name of the post office would change to Hot Springs.



◀ **Figure 4**

24 November 1895 envelope from Hot Springs to Connelly Springs, N.C., with the business marking of the Mountain Park Hotel, soon to become the location of the internment camp.



² David Leroy Corbitt, *The Formation of the North Carolina Counties 1663-1943* (Raleigh, North Carolina: Division of Archives and History, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 1987), p. 144.

Figure 5 illustrates the picture side of a 1910 post card showing this beautiful resort hotel as it appeared before the internment camp significantly altered the grounds.

The Internment Camp

On 6 April 1917, President Woodrow Wilson announced that the United States was entering World War I, which had been in progress since 1 August 1914, when Germany declared war on Russia. German shipping in the ports of New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and New Orleans was interned as prizes of war and the crews placed in custody as “enemy aliens.” These were not prisoners of war but civilian internees who would spend the remaining 19 months of the war in American internment camps. On 9 May 1917, Frederick C. Howe, Commissioner of Immigration, announced that “the 1,200 Germans interned at Ellis Island [New York harbor] soon would be removed to an open-air internment camp selected for them at Kanuga Lake estate, midway between Asheville and Hendersonville, N.C.”³ The recreational camp at Kanuga Lake had been selected because of its location in the pine forest and that cold weather was limited to only two months of the year.⁴ As Secretary of Agriculture W.B. Wilson stated:⁵

Under the Hague treaty this government is empowered to work the interned men, or to farm them out to individuals or corporations. When worked by the government they will receive the pay of soldiers, and when farmed out will be remunerated at prevailing wage rates. After making deduction for their maintenance, the interned men will be given at the time of their discharge by the government whatever sums they shall have earned. The men in the camp in North Carolina will be used to cultivate the tract, and will be farmed out for lumbering and road building. In view of the necessity for guards these two latter occupations appear to be the only ones in which they can be conveniently worked by private capital. Arrangements have been made already with the department of agriculture for the employment of a number of men at road building on the Vanderbilt tract that adjoins the camp which has been taken over by that department as a forest preserve.

The camp could accommodate about 2,000 men. A protest was immediately filed by George Stephens of Charlotte, who had a financial interest in the Kanuga Lake site and did not want the prisoners sent there. A dispute over the property rights caused the Labor department to cancel their plans for Lake Kanuga.

By 26 May 1917, Secretary of Labor Wilson authorized the rental of the Mountain Park Hotel at Hot Springs, North Carolina.⁶ This new location was about 45 miles north northwest of the Lake Kanuga site. The hotel property contained 160 acres located along the French Broad River.



▲ **Figure 5**
Post card showing the resort Mountain Park Hotel in December 1910 before the camp was established.

³ *New York Evening Post*, 9 May 1917.

⁴ *Raleigh Times*, 10 May 1917.

⁵ *Asheville Times*, 10 May 1917

⁶ *Ibid.*, 26 May 1917.

Along with another 500 acres of an adjoining tract, the expectation was that there would be no difficulties in accommodating the German internees. The well-tended lawns of the Mountain Park Hotel soon were filled with rows of quickly built single-story structures sheathed in tarpaper. Eleven barracks with accompanying lavatory buildings, mess hall, cook house, and bath houses were constructed in the upper lawn over the famous golf course. The grounds were torn up with water lines and sewer pipes, while overhead electric and telephone lines were added. On the lower lawn was built an office building and five more barracks buildings and lavatories. Around the perimeter was built a combination of board and wire fencing topped with barbed wire.⁷

The town of Hot Springs was on the Southern Railroad between Morristown, Tennessee, and Asheville.⁸ On 8 June 1917, the first small unit of 18 men arrived at the internment camp. By 29 June 1918, 2,314 "aliens" had been transferred to the U.S. Internment Station at Hot Springs.⁹ They had come from New York, New Orleans, Boston, Philadelphia, Jacksonville, Florida, Atlanta, San Francisco, and Manila, Philippine Islands. Many were officers and crews of German merchant vessels of the Hamburg American and the North German Lloyd Lines, such as the *S.S. George Washington*, *Friedrich der Grosse*, *Barbarossa*, *Kaiser Wilhelm II*, *Prinzes Irene*, *Wittekind*, *Amerika*, *Kronprinzessin Cecelie*, *Präsident*, and *Vaterland*. Ship captains, crews, and even a 35-member German Imperial Band, caught in China during the 1914 Allied capture of Tsingtao, a German harbor, ended up in this camp. The latter turned out to be a great benefit to the local people. The band gave concerts to the internees, and their concerts could be heard over the walls of the camp by the local people and visitors. The officers generally were housed in the Mountain Park Hotel and the crew members in the barracks built on the hotel's lawns.

Jacqueline Burgin Painter explains that the internment camp brought significant economic changes to Hot Springs.¹⁰ Money immediately went into the pockets of local men hired for camp construction and the hiring of guards. Seventy five to one hundred civilian guards were employed in three eight-hour shifts. Additional jobs went to messengers, matrons,

mechanics, watchmen, commissary clerks, and inspectors. Men were hired not only from Hot Springs but also from the surrounding towns. While most of the material for the camp was purchased in bulk from government suppliers, incidentals were bought locally as well as electricity, telephone service, ice, milk, butter, and vegetables to augment those grown by the prisoners on the grounds. Prisoner occupations ranged from butcher, barber, boatswain, musician, machinist, and masseur.

Twenty seven German wives and nineteen children moved to Hot Springs, either renting houses or rooms to be near their interned loved ones.¹¹ The families were allowed to go and come freely and the children were enrolled in the local school. The German families were readily absorbed into the community and enjoyed.

In the spring of 1918, the government decided that it would be prudent to remove the internees from Hot Springs and place them in the custody of the War Department at the Army camp of Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, a small town close to Chattanooga, Tennessee, which was housing all classes of prisoners. An 18 June 1918 article in the *Asheville Citizen* indicated that the move was underway and would be completed by the end of the month. This was a harsh blow for the German internees at Hot Springs, who enjoyed a peaceful and productive internment at the resort site in the North Carolina Mountains. The shift from civilian to military control was not looked forward to by the German internees. The Hot Springs location was to be used by the Medical Department as a convalescent center for American servicemen from the French battlefields.¹² The move was delayed until August 1918, when a large number of German internees became ill with typhoid fever. It was decided to keep the ill prisoners in Hot Springs until they were well again and then complete the move to Camp Oglethorpe. By 31 August 1918, all 2,124 alien prisoners had been relocated to Fort Oglethorpe except those ill with typhoid fever that remained in North Carolina or were released and transferred to other locations. Of that number, 26 died of typhoid fever and were buried in cemeteries at Hot Springs or Asheville.¹³ An additional 13 internees died of other causes.

⁷ Jacqueline Burgin Painter, *The German Invasion of Western North Carolina, A Picture History* (Johnson City, Tennessee: The Overmountain Press, 1992), p. 24.

⁸ The Southern Railway was created in 1894 and included the Richmond and Danville Railroad which served the western region of North Carolina.

⁹ Painter, op. cit., p. 106.

¹⁰ Ibid., p. 25-30.

¹¹ Ibid., p. 30.

¹² Ibid., p. 68.

¹³ 159 sick internees were moved to U.S. General Hospital #12 at Biltmore near Asheville, where there were better facilities to treat the sick.

About a dozen internees were still at the Biltmore Army hospital by December 1918.

The Covers

According to John Hardies and Wilfred N. Broderick, the Censorship Board, formed by Executive order No. 2729-A of 12 October 1917, applied postal censorship to mail from the civilian internment camps going abroad.¹⁴ Two different handstamps, shown in **Figure 6**, were applied at the Hot Springs Internment Camp in magenta ink. Mail to U.S. destinations did not show censor handstamps. Hardies and Broderick show only the marking without the word "OFFICIALLY" before the word "CENSORED" on the top line. This marking is reported in both serif lettering and san-serif lettering, but I have not seen an example of the latter.¹⁵

The Hague Convention of 1907, Article 16, stated that "Letters, money orders, and valuables, as well as parcels by post, intended for prisoners of war, or dispatched by them, shall be exempt from all postal duties in the countries of origin and destination, as well as in the countries they pass through."¹⁶ This was consistent with the same mail rules established for prisoners of war by the UPU Congress of Rome in 1906. While both of these were silent about civilian internees, in practice the same privileges were applied.

Covers from the Hot Springs Internment Camp are particularly difficult to find, perhaps not rare, but decidedly uncommon. I have seen only 11 covers, from which a few observations can be made. Of these covers, all but three were post cards. Some of the post cards have interesting pictures from the camp as will be seen later. Adhesives were used on only the three post cards to United States addresses. The post card rate increased on 2 November 1917 from 1¢ to 2¢, a war emergency rate. In the United Kingdom, mail from prisoners of war and internees often was paid the inland rate with adhesives to accelerate getting them into the postal system.¹⁷ Perhaps a similar practice was used here. Since only three examples were to United States addresses, one to Hot Springs and two from Hot Springs, I can not be certain. There were no adhesives on any covers to overseas destinations.

OFFICIALLY CENSORED U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE HOT SPRINGS. N. C.	CENSORED U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE HOT SPRINGS. N. C.
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▲ **Figure 6**

Enlarged tracings of the two different censor markings used at the Hot Springs N.C. internment camp, always in magenta ink.

By April 1918 the Hot Springs post office shifted from a hand canceler (metal duplex with a seven horizontal bars in an ellipse killer) to an International Machine Company Hand-Driven machine cancel, Type AT/S 2721. I have seen only one example of the censor marking, **OFFICIALLY CENSORED/U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE/ HOT SPRINGS, N.C.**, which was used in September 1917. The remaining censor markings do not have the word "OFFICIALLY" in the first line. Each of the censored covers from 1918 has a handstamp **INTERNEED CAMP** struck in the location where an adhesive might have been placed. This was consistent with the practice of not requiring postage on internee mail (**Figure 7**). The color is the same as the censor markings. Each of the overseas covers except the one to Chile in September 1917 has this marking. From May 1918, a rubber handstamp date in the same color ink as the censor markings was struck in the lower left corner of each cover. This date was either the day of or a day later than the item was prepared. The censored dates were generally 9 to 10 days before the postmark dates on the covers indicating that they were sent to the post office in batches much later than written. By



▲ **Figure 7**

"INTERNEED CAMP" handstamp in magenta ink struck where adhesive normally would have been placed suggesting the adhesive was not needed.

¹⁴ *The Postal History of the AEF, 1917-1923*, second edition, edited by Theo. Van Dam (Fishkill, New York: War Cover Club, 1990), Chapter 10.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 168.

¹⁶ *Laws of War : Laws and Customs of War on Land (Hague IV); October 18, 1907, Art. 16.* (<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/lawofwar/hague04.htm>)

¹⁷ Correspondence with Graham Mark, Editor and Librarian, Civil Censorship Study Group.

June 1918, envelopes and blank post cards were used that had printed inscriptions on the left side stating they were provided by the "Y.M.C.A./Aid/for/Interned Aliens." The printed information on them also has a place for the name of the internee, his Division or Barracks No., the date with

"1918" pre-printed, and the name of the internment camp, providing return address information. Apparently these items were distributed to the different internment camps by the Y.M.C.A. The following examples will demonstrate the appearance of Hot Springs Internment Camp mail:

Figure 8

Front and reverse of 14 September 1918 picture post card from German internee showing pre-internment camp picture of the Mountain Park Hotel. On the reverse in faint purple ink are "OFFICIAL CENSOR..." and "INTERED CAMP" markings. This post card is to Corral, Chile. Note the duplex circular datestamp of Hot Springs, upper right.





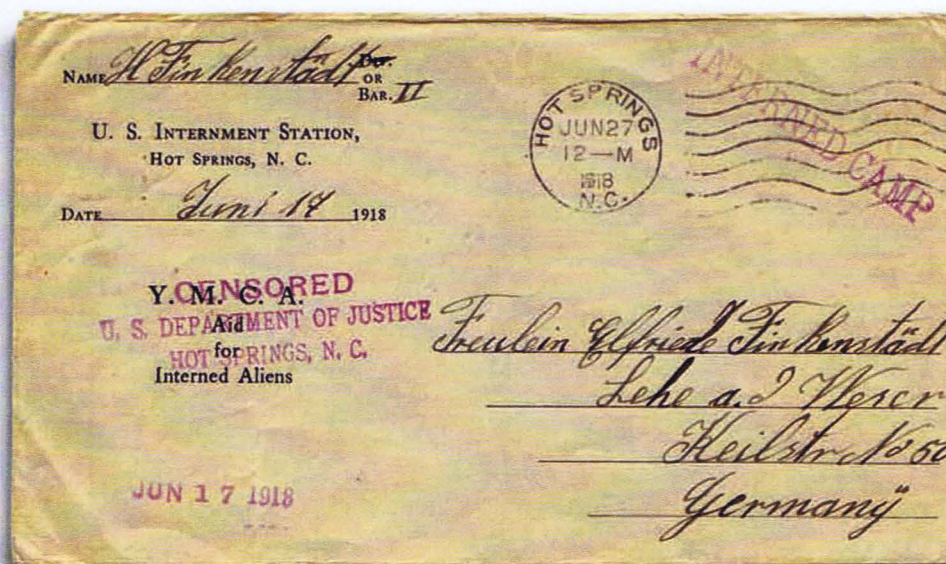
▲ Figure 9 ►

3 April 1918 picture post card from German internee to New York City address. Note the Hot Springs machine cancel in use by April 1918 and the absence of censor markings. To the right is the picture side of the card showing a church in the German village constructed by the prisoners.



◀ Figure 10

15 May 1918 picture post card from German internee to Görlitz, Germany. Note that the censor date is one day later but the postmark date is nine days later. The "INTERMED CAMP" hand-stamp is where the adhesive would normally be canceled by the Hot Springs machine cancel.



◀ Figure 11

17 June 1918 Y.M.C.A printed envelope from German internee to Lehe a. Weser, Germany. Note the printed envelope has a place for all the required return address information. This letter was censored the same day as written but posted 10 days later.



◀ Figure 12 ▶

14 June 1918 picture post card from German internee to Antwerp, Belgium, showing normal magenta ink censor (upper left) and "INTERNED CAMP" (upper right) markings with censor date in lower left corner. Note the Hot Springs machine cancel was applied 10 days after post card was censored. The reverse shows a photograph of a carousel of swinging chairs built by the prisoners, one of numerous projects built in a German village on the grounds.



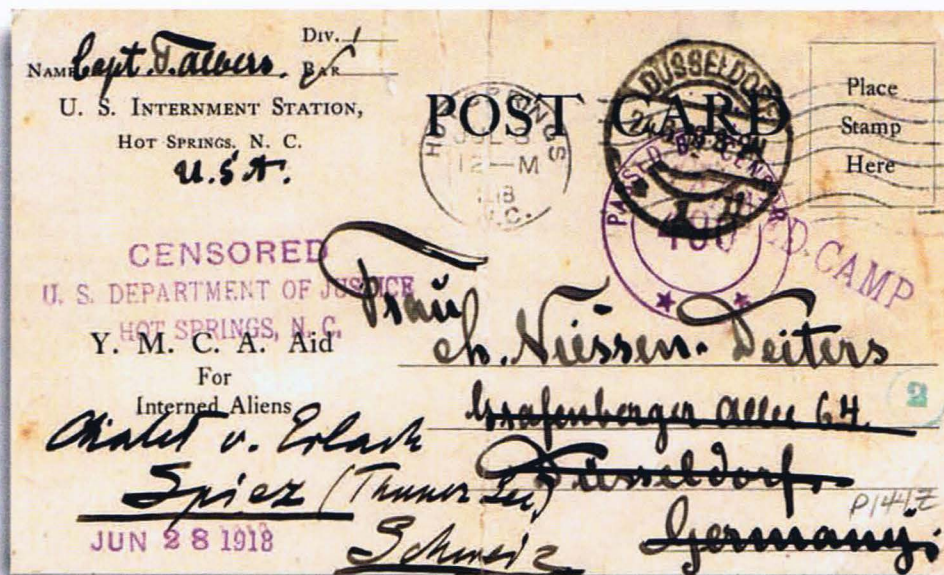


Figure 13

28 June 1918 Y.M.C.A. printed post card from German internee to Düsseldorf, Germany, redirected to Spiez, Switzerland. In addition to the censor markings found on other mail from the camp, in the upper right corner is a purple censor marking from the civilian censorship station in New York City, "PASSED BY CENSOR/490/* *."

Through the courtesy of the Madison County Public Library, we have access to pictures from the internment camp. They were taken by photographer Adolph Thierbach, an internee. He put his photographs along with his captions in an album, which now resides in the library. Digital images from this album have been made available by the library on their web site at <http://www.ibiblio.org/ww1gd/Index.html>. A sampling of pictures from this site documents part of the German village constructed by the prisoners as follows:



Figure 14

German village street scene with church.

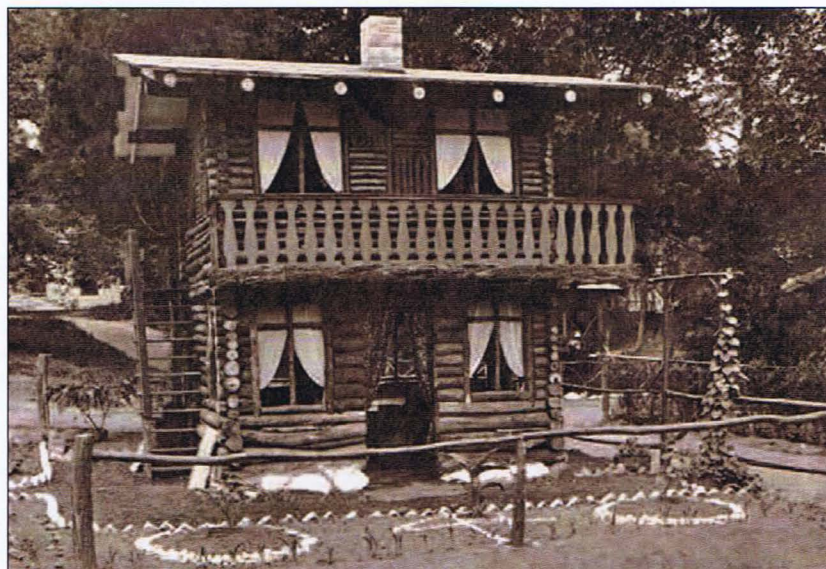


Figure 15

Swiss cabin constructed in the German village.



◀ **Figure 16**

Another house in the German village.



▲ **Figure 17**

German Imperial Band captured in 1914 at Tsingtao, China, and sent to the Hot Springs internment camp in 1918. They regularly gave concerts for the internees that also were enjoyed by the town's people.



◀ **Figure 18**

Small chapel in the German village.

I wish to thank Tony Crumbley, Ed Dubin, and Al Kugel for sharing covers from their collections with me in this study of the Hot Springs internment camp postal history. For additional information I recommend Jacqueline Burgin Painter's delightful pictorial history of the camp, *The German Invasion of Western North Carolina*, cited earlier. Included in her book is an excellent map produced by the U.S. Government of the grounds of the internment camp alongside the French Broad River. ■

The Springs of North Carolina

by Tony Crumbley

Recently I purchased a collection of North Carolina spring covers from Rich Werner with the intention of one day writing the collection up. The collection had been assembled by Allen Duvall, an early member of the NCPHS. Every time I look at the collection for an article idea, I walk away with the thought "that's a book, not an article."

One day I'll get around to that book but today is not that day. So my intent here is to tempt your appetite on North Carolina cover collecting as a topical approach. There are

many topics that could be chosen – towns named for industry, creeks, trees, flowers or even people. Of the more than 9,000 post offices that have operated in North Carolina, only 89 have been named for springs and only 18 of these remain open today.

Many of these towns have wonderful history in themselves. Elsewhere in this Journal is an article on just one of those spring towns, Hot Springs, by Dick Winter. That is just one example of the stories that can be told. Sixty-seven of these would surely make for a book. Or better yet, an exhibit for some NCPHS member. How about someone out there giving it a try?

The following is a list of the spring named post offices from North Carolina. Those still in operation are in red.



Figure 1

Seven Springs post office opened in 1881 in Wayne County. It was named for the seven springs located in the area. A resort operated there from 1881-1944.

The post office is still open.

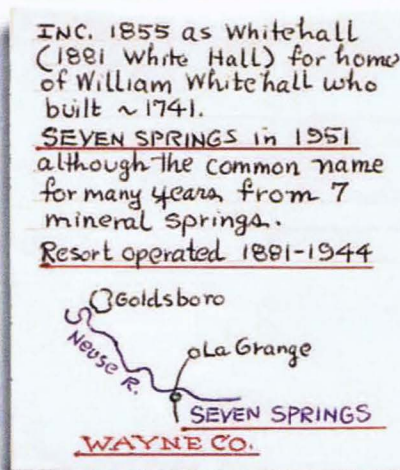
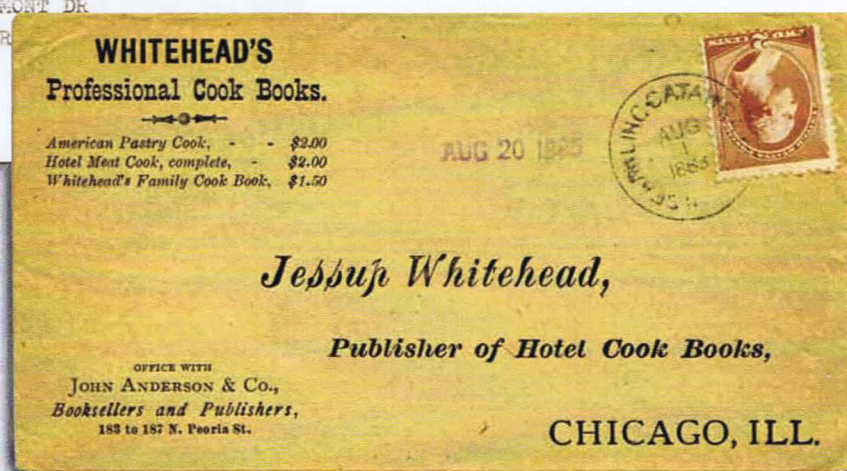
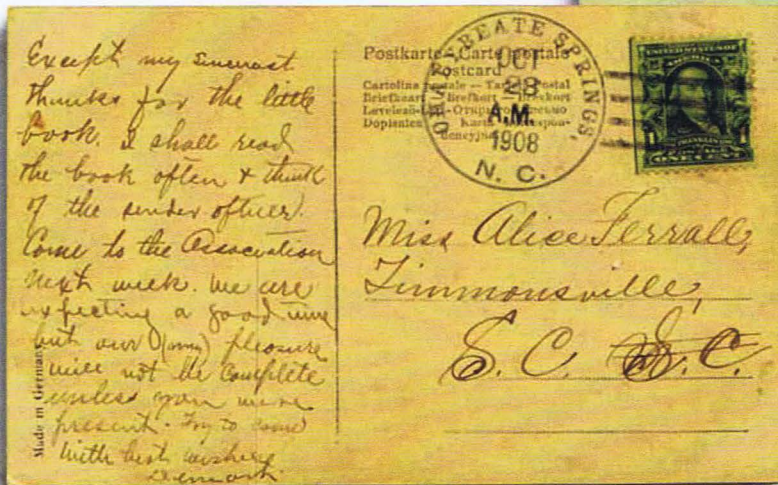


Figure 2

Sparkling Catawba Springs opened a post office in 1877 and operated as such until 1904. It is located in Catawba County.



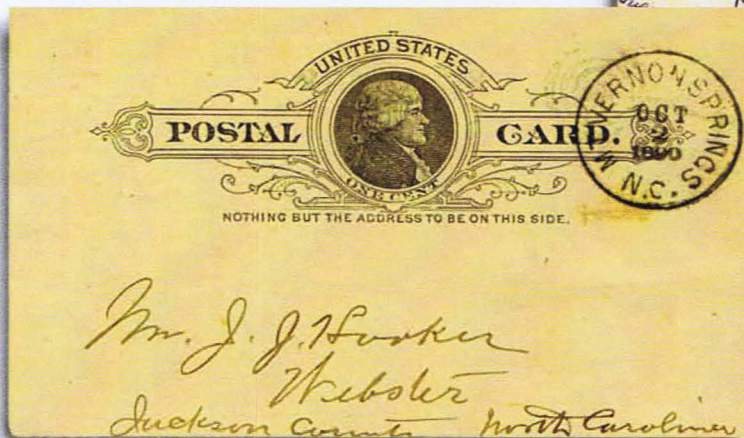
The Sparkling Catawba Springs Company was incorporated in 1869. Esley O. Elliott was named Postmaster in 1877. The spring was also known as Elliotts Springs and White Sulfur Springs. The White Sulfur Springs Hotel operated here from the 1880's until the 1960's.



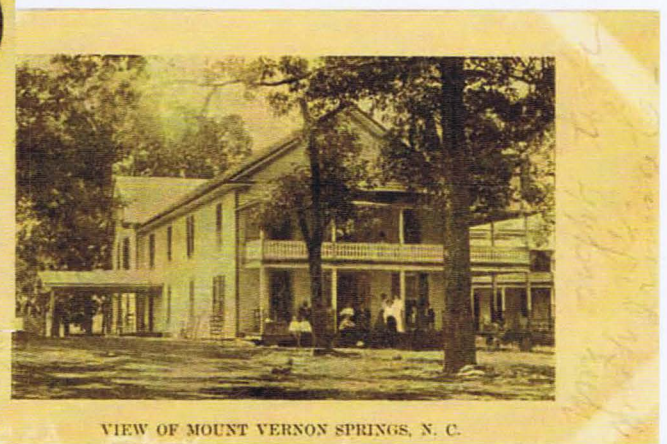
Four bar postmark from Chalybeath Springs located in Harnett County. It operated as a post office from 1903 until 1966.



Fuquay Springs operated in Wake County from 1902 until 1964 when its name was changed to Fuquay-Varina. Fuquay Springs was not a mineral spring but rather a water supply for early settlers.



Mount Vernon Springs was named for the home of George Washington. It is located four miles southeast of Siler City in Chatham County. A post office operated here from 1882 until 1890, 1893 until 1923 and again from 1926 until 1959. The spring is operated today and has two different types of spring water – one with iron and sulfur and the other with calcium and magnesium.





▲ Figure 7 ▶

All Healing was named for the spring located in southwest Gaston County. The post office operated from 1883 until 1902. The first cover was posted with a manuscript cancel in 1884, the second with a CDS in 1890.

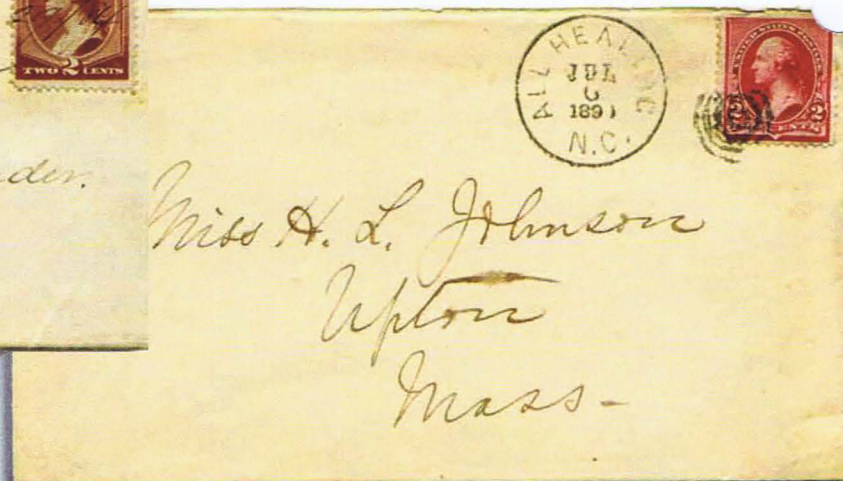


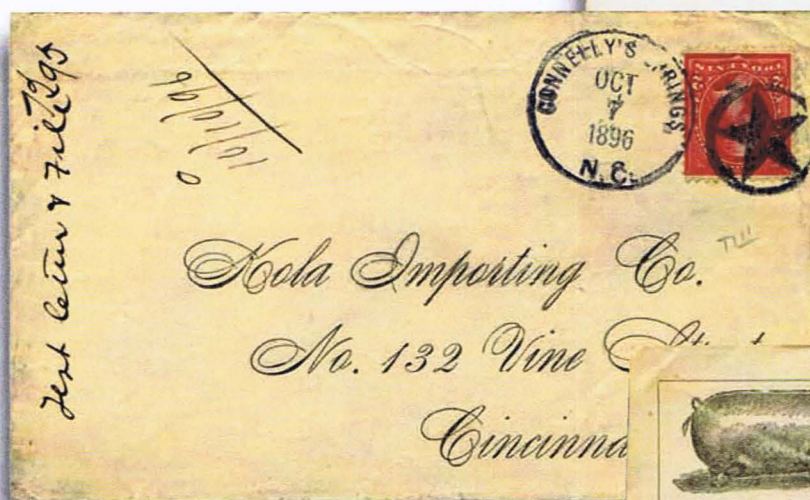
Figure 8 ▶

This registered letter to New York was posted in 1890 in Cool Springs, Iredell County. A post office operated there from 1852 until 1907.



▼ Figure 9

A considerable amount of mail has survived from Connelly's Springs because of the Mountain Oak Stock Farm which saved its returned mail.



▲ Figure 10

The post office of Connelly's Springs first opened in 1857 as Happy Home in Burke County. It closed in 1867 when the Connelly family opened a resort in the area. The post office reopened in 1886 as Connelly Springs.

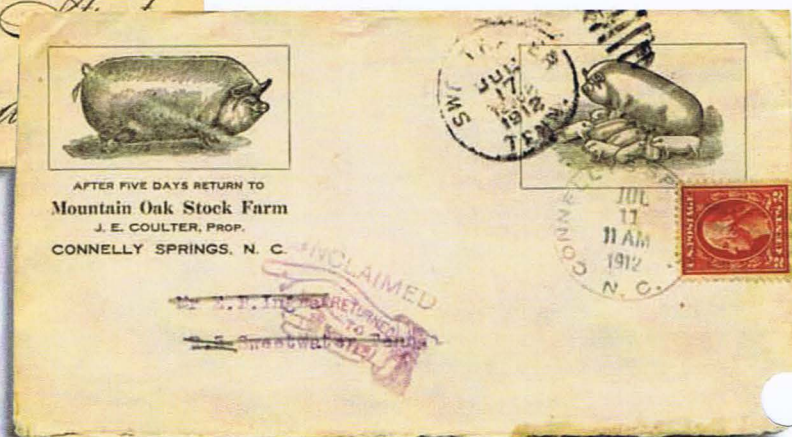


Figure 11 ▶

Kittrell's has operated as a post office since 1854 in Vance County.



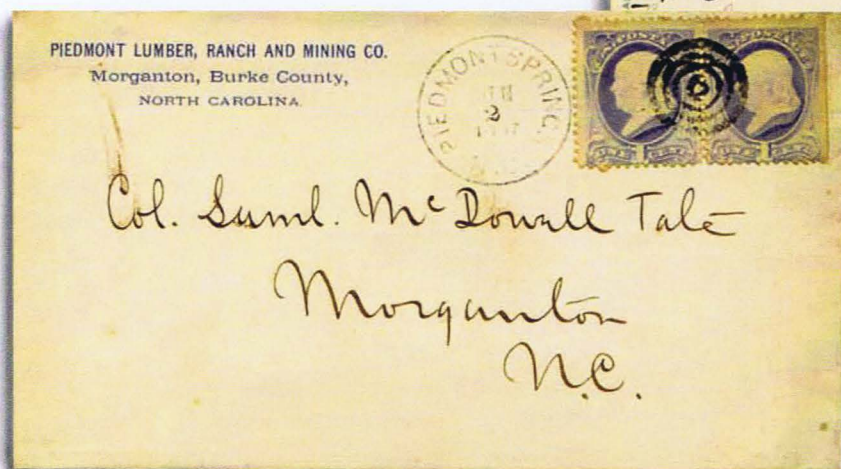
▼ **Figure 12**

Sulfur springs were found four miles west of Asheville in Buncombe County by Robert Henry in 1827. His son-in-law built a large resort on the property. The post office operated from 1832 until 1866.



▼ **Figure 13**

The Moores Spring Resort in Stokes County opened in the 1890's by William G. Moore. The post office did not open until 1904. It ceased operations in 1933. This 1908 postmark is a Doane Type I Number 1.



◀ **Figure 14**

Piedmont Springs in Stokes County was a popular resort from 1900 until 1930 when the hotel there burned. A post office operated there from 1897 until 1909 and from 1911 until 1918.

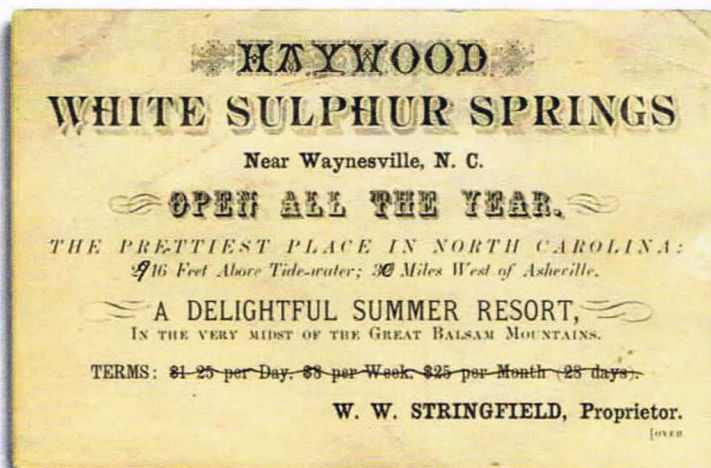


Figure 15

Advertising card and postcard view of White Sulphur Springs. The Ad is for a Spring in Haywood County and the Card for a Hotel in Mt. Airy.

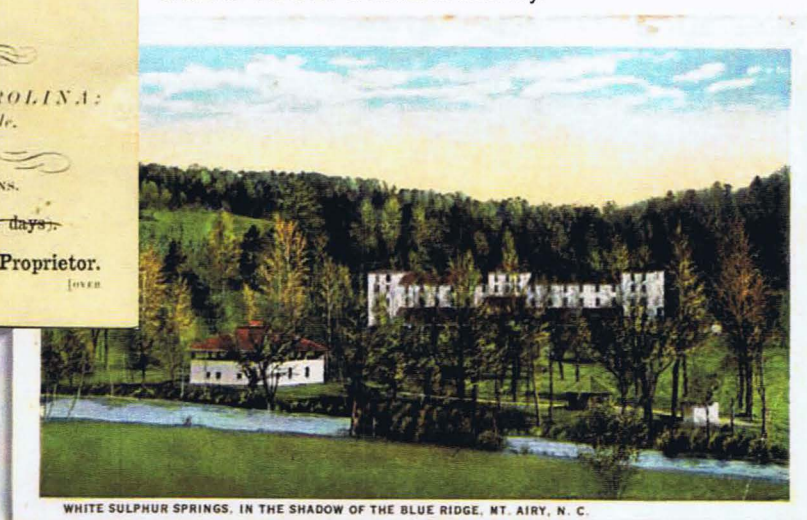


Figure 16

Photo view of Mt. Vernon Springs in Chatham county.

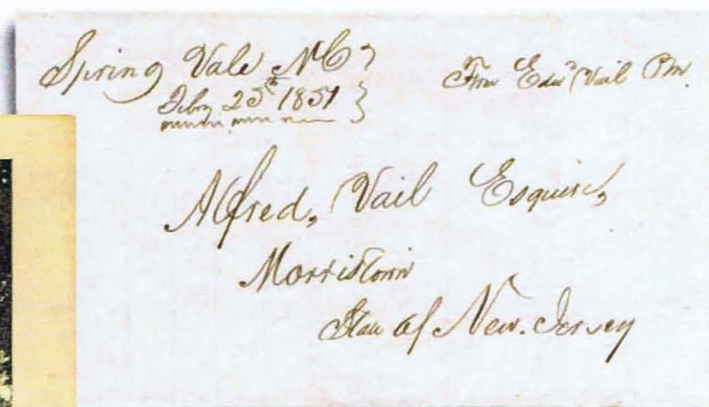
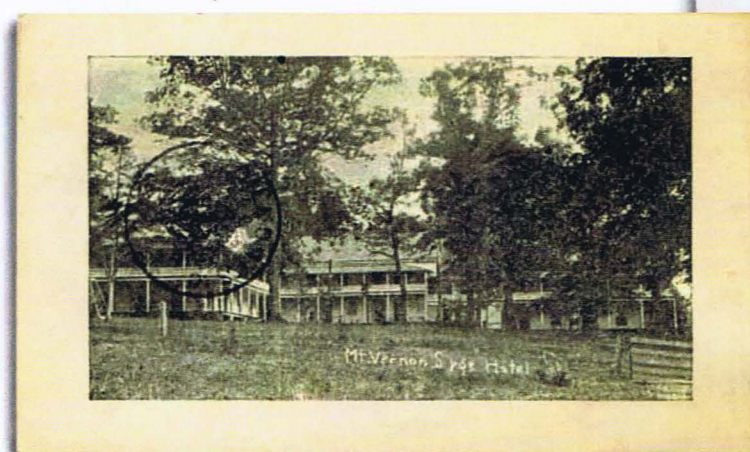


Figure 17

Spring Vale NC, 1851 postmaster Free frankas Connelly Springs.

Post Offices of North Carolina Named for Nearby Springs

Town	County	Established	Discontinued	Note
Alkelithia Springs	Alexander	23 Dec 1902	30 Sept 1910	
All Healing Springs	Alexander	12 May 1902	23 Dec 1902	to Alkelithia Springs
All Healing Springs	Gaston	21 Feb 1883	13 Sep 1902	
Aurelian Springs	Halifax	16 Apr 1877	31 May 1919	
Barium Springs	Iredell	26 Feb 1889		from Poison Springs
Beach Spring	Perquimons	27 Jan 1893	14 Jan 1904	
Big Spring	Jackson	16 Aug 1852	26 Oct 1903	
Blackwell's Springs	Buncombe	9 Jul 1884	30 Nov 1887	
Boiling Springs	Cleveland	15 May 1878		
Buck Spring	Warren	26 Sep 1901	31 Jan 1905	
Buck Spring	Halifax	2 Jun 1904	15 Sep 1912	
Carolina Springs	Richmond	11 Sep 1909	14 Dec 1910	
Carriers Springs	Buncombe	10 Dec 1887	6 Feb 1900	
Catawba Springs (2)	Catawba	1842	1847	from Lincoln and to Lincoln County
Catawba Springs (1)	Lincoln	25 Jan 1800	ca. 1810	
Catawba Springs (1)	Lincoln	26 Jan 1832	16 Jan 1836	
Catawba Springs (2)	Lincoln	5 Oct 1838	1842	moved to Catawba County

Those still
in operation
are in red.

Town	County	Established	Discontinued	Note
Catawba Springs (2)	Lincoln	1847	9 Aug 1869	
Chalybeate Springs	Harnett	16 May 1903	21 Mar 1969	
Cold Spring	Burke	6 Apr 1906	31 Jan 1951	
Connelly's Springs	Burke	2 Oct 1886		
Cool Spring	Washington	14 Apr 1826	25 Mar 1843	
Cool Spring	Iredell	27 May 1852	15 Jun 1907	
Davis Spring	Robeson	16 Apr 1832	16 Oct 1849	
Eagle Springs	Moore	9 Jul 1890		
Ellerbe Springs	Richmond	4 Mar 1878		
Elliott's Springs	Catawba	10 Jun 1859	1 Aug 1860	name change to White Sulfur Springs
Elliott's Springs	Rockingham	date unknown	CSA office closed 1865	
Epp Springs	Swain	26 Apr 1888	5 Oct 1888	
Epps Springs	Swain	26 Jan 1888	26 Mar 1890	
Eupeptic Springs	Iredell	3 Dec 1875	15 May 1905	
Fuquay Springs	Wake	12 Mar 1902	16 Aug 1958	
Glen Alpine Springs	Burke	8 Apr 1879	9 Dec 1885	
Glendale Springs	Ashe	28 Feb 1905	27 Dec 1969	
Good Spring	Moore	4 Aug 1859	6 Dec 1866	
Good Spring	Surry	7 May 1878	30 Sep 1916	
Grass Spring	Chatham	date unknown	CSA office closed 1865	
Gravel Spring	Chatham	9 Oct 1879	31 Dec 1904	
Green Spring	Orange	16 Aug 1849	29 Jul 1854	
Healing Springs	Davidson	26 Mar 1834	28 Feb 1905	
Holly Springs (1)	Wake	19 Feb 1833	14 Feb 1877	name change to Ballentines Mills
Holly Springs (2)	Wake	10 May 1877		
Hot Springs	Madison	21 Jun 1886		from Warm Spring
Indian Spring	Wayne	18 Nov 1875	3 Apr 1880	
Jackson Springs	Moore	2 May 1858		
Laurel Springs	Alleghany	10 Oct 1879		
Laurel Springs	Ashe	30 Aug 1839	10 Oct 1879	
Lemon Springs	Lee	2 Mar 1908		from Moore County
Lemon Springs	Moore	6 Feb 1885	2 Mar 1908	to Lee County
Maple Springs	Wilkes	18 Oct 1859	30 Jun 1936	
Marble Spring	Cherokee	15 Nov 1852	14 Nov 1876	
Mill Spring	Polk	7 Aug 1871		
Mineral Springs	Union	1 Sep 1900		
Moore's Springs	Stokes	18 Apr 1904	31 Jul 1933	
Mount Vernon Springs (1)	Chatham	12 Jun 1882	15 Feb 1923	name changed from Ore Hill (1)
Mount Vernon Springs (2)	Chatham	15 May 1926	30 Jun 1959	name changed from Ore Hill (2)
Mountain Spring	Lincoln	29 Jun 1837	29 May 1839	
Oak Spring	Rutherford	7 Sep 1855	2 Jan 1907	
Panacea Springs	Halifax	16 Apr 1883	30 Nov 1906	
Patterson Springs	Cleveland	7 Jul 1892	31 Dec 1958	
Piedmont Springs	Burke	15 Jun 1864	23 Jun 1893	
Piedmont Springs	Stokes	11 Jan 1897	15 Oct 1918	
Poison Springs	Iredell	10 Jun 1886	26 Feb 1889	to Barium Springs
Rainbow Springs	Macon	17 Sep 1924	30 Sep 1946	
Red Springs	Robeson	23 Jun 1852		
Ridge Spring	Pitt	15 May 1844	4 Sep 1879	to Greene County
Ridge Spring	Greene	4 Sep 1879	31 Oct 1902	
Rock Spring	Orange	23 Oct 1854	17 Oct 1905	
Rocky Spring	Rockingham	13 Jan 1810	15 May 1905	
Rocky River Springs	Stanly	25 Aug 1906	30 Aug 1909	
Sandy Springs	Polk	16 Jun 1876	30 Apr 1908	
Seven Springs	Wayne	2 Sep 1881		
Shady Springs	Ashe	22 Dec 1871	6 Mar 1885	
Shocco Springs	Warren	12 Dec 1832	11 Dec 1866	
Silver Springs	Buncombe	26 Oct 1881	16 Jun 1885	
Sparkling Catawba Springs	Catawba	12 Dec 1877	31 Jan 1904	
Spout Springs (1)	Harnett	18 Apr 1870	15 Apr 1904	
Spout Springs (2)	Harnett	26 May 1905	15 Aug 1923	
Spring	Iredell	28 Jul 1898	31 Mar 1903	
Spring Bank	Wayne	ca 1830	Unknown	name changed from New Hope
Spring Creek	Buncombe	16 Nov 1844	1851	to Madison County
Spring Creek	Madison	1851	27 Jan 1956	from Buncombe County
Spring Garden	New Hanover	8 Mar 1852	25 Jun 1860	name changed to Rocky Point
Spring Garden	Rockingham	28 Feb 1823	4 Apr 1840	
Spring Grove	Iredell	7 Apr 1824	26 Mar 1883	
Spring Grove	Rowan	22 Sep 1847	14 Aug 1855	
Spring Hill	Halifax	21 Jan 1853	30 Apr 1955	
Spring Hill	Lenoir	22 Apr 1806	1 Sep 1836	
Spring Hill Forge	Lincoln	4 Sep 1854	10 Jun 1867	
Spring Hope	Nash	18 Jan 1854		
Spring Lake	Cumberland	1 Oct 1948		
Spring Vale	Sampson	11 Feb 1845	6 May 1870	
Sulpher Springs	Buncombe	12 Mar 1832	11 Dec 1866	
Sulpher Springs	Montgomery	13 May 1869	30 Apr 1920	
Valley Springs	Rutherford	12 Dec 1872	10 Jan 1884	
Warm Springs	Buncombe	24 Apr 1801	1851	to Madison County
Warm Springs	Madison	1851	21 Jun 1886	from Buncombe; name changed to Hot Springs
White Sulfur Springs	Catawba	1 Aug 1860	2 Apr 1868	
Willow Spring	Wake	22 Sep 1899		

If you'd like to contribute information or articles to the Spring *POSTAL HISTORIAN* please submit by the following deadline:

March 1

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Your 2008 dues are unpaid if your label has a **red** mark on it.

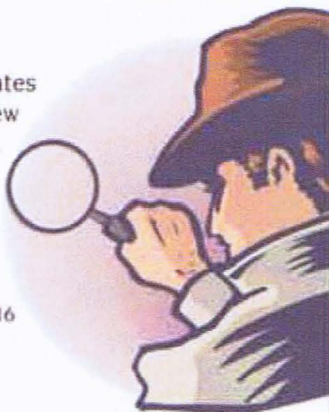
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North Carolina Postmark Catalog Update

The following counties have been completed or updated and are available at

http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu/statepostalhistory/northcarolina_postmarkcatalog.html:

Alamance through Cleveland

Who's Who continued from page 3

founding members are alive and yet to be profiled. Marshall Acee has done a wonderful job with the first five but has asked to be relieved of his duties. As Editors, this is a call for help. Who out there would like to take on this wonderful task of interviewing our members? If you're willing to do so, please drop Tony a note. ■

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