

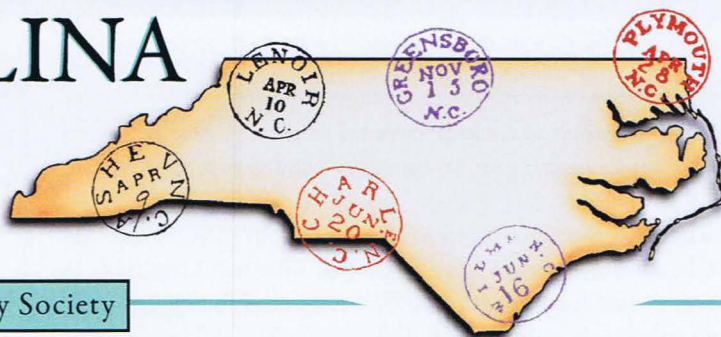
NORTH CAROLINA POSTAL HISTORIAN

The Journal of North Carolina Postal History Society

VOLUME 28, NO. 2

SPRING 2009

WHOLE 106



CONFEDERATE PATRIOTIC
ENVELOPES — WHITAKER

LOWENBURG & BRO.



SALISBURY'S
POSTMASTER?

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I had intended to include minutes of the NCPHS Board of Directors meeting on 6 September 2008 in this issue, but we had no room, so I will summarize the results. The meeting was held in Greensboro instead of the originally planned location at Charlotte. A quorum was present. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. In July 2008, Marshall Acee asked to be replaced as a director because of health problems. His term was due to expire in 2009. I appointed Maurice Bursey to complete his unfinished term and the Board unanimously approved this appointment. Also, the Board unanimously approved Bill DiPaolo, John Allen, and me for new three-year terms as directors. Secretary DiPaolo provided a report that indicated our membership was steady at about 90 members and that thirty seven percent of the members provided contributions to the society above the regular membership dues. These contributions are very helpful to the society and are greatly appreciated. His report also stated that the society is in sound financial condition. Tom Richardson reported on the status of the NCPHS auctions. The income to the society grows as the quality of the material submitted for the auction improves. He requested more "better" material from those who sell in our auctions. The next meeting of the Board will be held at CHARPEX 2009.

The annual meeting of the society will be held at CHARPEX on 25 July 2009. The Board of Directors will meet at 2:00 PM and the general meeting will be at 3:00 PM with a talk by a member. CHARPEX, the annual show of the Charlotte Philatelic Society, will be held at the Harris Conference Center, 3216 CPCC Harris Campus Drive, just off Billy Graham Parkway and close to Charlotte-Douglas Airport. This very successful venue has been retained for one more year. Information about CHARPEX is available from the Charlotte Philatelic Society web site www.charpex.info/.

Two of our directors' terms will end this year. If you are interested in serving the society for a three-year director term, please contact me or Vice-President Harvey Tilles.

Please remember to pay your dues if you have not already done

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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 below. Donations above the regular membership amount of \$15 are deductible and will be very helpful to our small society.

The status box of the North Carolina Postmark Catalog update (back page) will show only modest changes as two new counties has been added; however, many of the "completed" counties have been completely revised as a result of new postmark information from the collections of the Post Mark Collectors Club (PMCC).

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 and regular mailing addresses appears below. ■

Dick Winter



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Meet Founding Member John Allen

Growing up in Fayetteville, NC in the 60s, I was painfully aware that the summers were 110 degrees in the shade and that there was very little for a teenager to do. However, after I had taken the garbage out and cut the grass, I would escape to "secret" places. I would ride my bike to wonderful places that not many people knew about. Usually, these buildings were tall and built like cathedrals, out of cool marble and stone. Inside was some of the best air conditioned space available anywhere in town. There were stuffed leather chairs and old, heavy, wooden reading tables everywhere. And most importantly, there was aisle after aisle of books — all kinds of books. There was also a rule in these places that I believed they made just for me. Incredibly, when I was there, no one could bother me. In fact, no one could even tell me to come and take out the garbage. All my life, libraries have been some of my favorite places in the world. My favorite thing to do in the library was to wander up and down the rows of books and look for the most improbable place or time or event and spend time learning about it — the more exotic the better. Whenever I would travel, I would always visit the old book store or the library in town. I will never forget staring with disbelief at the Magna Carta and the Rosetta Stone in the British Museum Library. Even in graduate school at UNC and Duke, my favorite way to spend a Saturday afternoon was in the North Carolina collection in Chapel Hill or in the rare book collection at Duke. I guess that's what attracted me to stamp collecting.

I was introduced to stamp collecting at the age of twelve by my father. On a trip to New York, he visited the United Nations building and from there, prepared and sent the cover shown here. You might say that this was the first piece of North Carolina postal history that I owned. Stamp collecting has allowed me wander up and down the rows of history and study the most improbable places or times or events.



I have also enjoyed exhibiting on a wide range of topics. My Nicaraguan airmail exhibit has won 15 National Gold medals including the Canadian National and several International awards including Large Vermeil at Washington 2006. A close friend (the late Clyde Jennings) convinced me at Pacific '97 to become an APS Certified Judge. Two years later, I became the first Black American, APS Certified Judge. Judging is an ultimate form of collecting because you get to study some of the finest collections and you don't have to pay for them. I had the honor and the privilege of serving on the jury at CHARPEX in Charlotte with Clyde for the last several years before his death. Another benefit of this hobby is the wonderful people that you meet and work with. I was a founding member of the North Carolina Postal History society and have served as Vice president and on the board of directors of that group. I also served on the North Carolina Postal History Commission and learned much from the talented group of colleagues there. My interest in North Carolina postal history has focused mostly on aspects in the state that reflect on Black American history. It was at a meeting of the North Carolina Postal History Commission, that I was talking to another old friend, the late Vernon Stroupe. I asked Vernon about a document concerning the liberation of a slave in New Bern. Vernon had first shown me the document some twenty years earlier. He told that he did not remember the document but that he would look for it and send me a scan of it. About a month later, I received the document in the mail with Vernon's compliments. Stamp collecting, especially the people you meet, has been very good to me and I look forward to all the places, people and events that I have yet to visit in my collecting. ■



Patriotic Confederate Envelopes and Covers from North Carolina Part 2. "Whitaker, Wilmington"

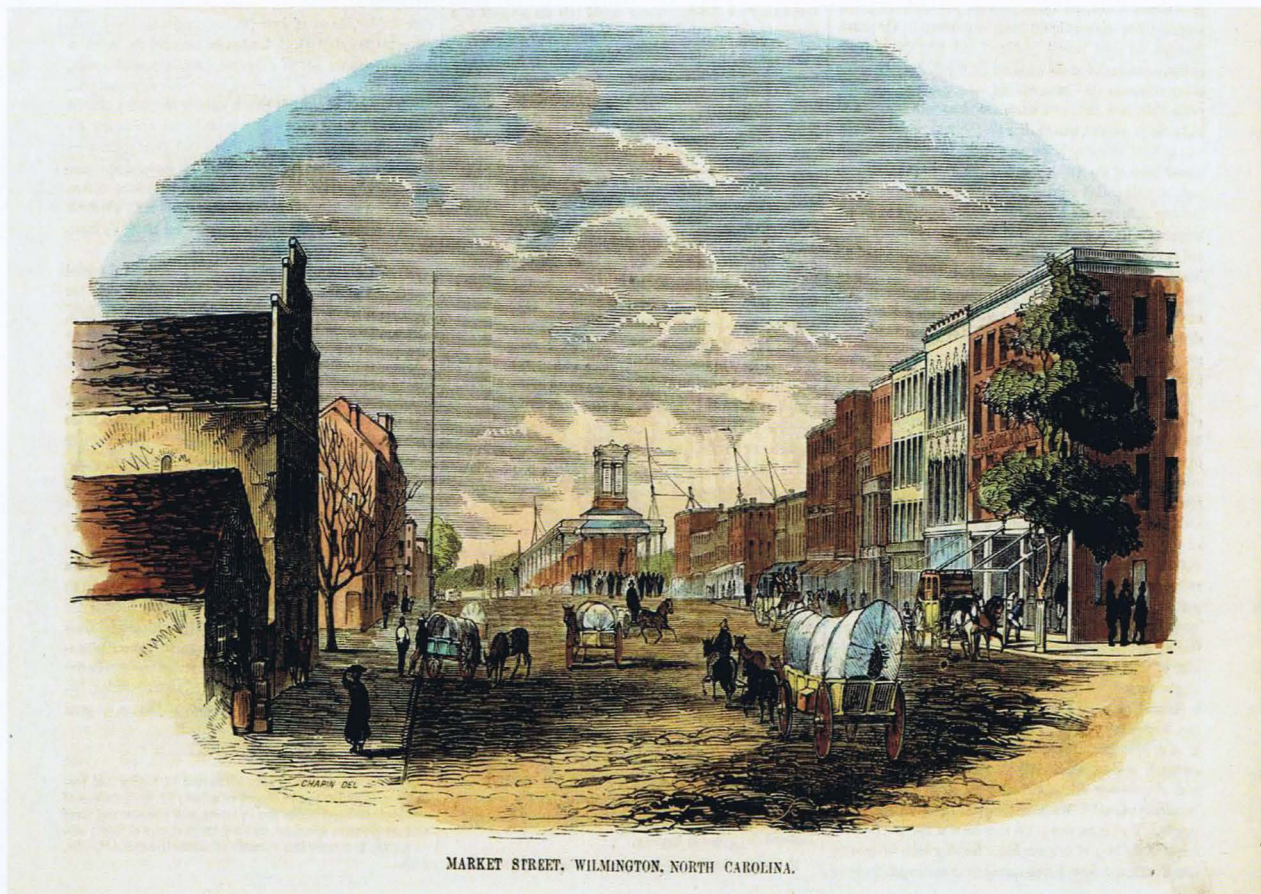
by Maurice M. Bursey

Just before the start of the Civil War, Confederate patriotic envelopes with the inscription "Whitaker, Wilmington" were produced and sold in Wilmington.

In the 1860 census the only Whitaker recorded in New Hanover County was a 17-year-old bookseller, T. S. Whitaker, in Wilmington. This young man, Thaddeus Whitaker, does not appear to have been closely related to the prominent Whitaker family of Halifax and Northampton Counties, descended from brothers who arrived there about 1740: the occupation of his father, J. R. Whitaker, was listed as "clerk" in the 1850 federal census. In 1851 his mother, Mrs. H. Whitaker, advertised piano lessons at her Music Room on Market Street in the *Wilmington Daily Journal*, and in 1854, his eldest brother S. W. Whitaker placed an advertisement there for "a beautiful assortment of Valentines." But in the 1860 city directory, his store was owned by L. H. Pierce. T. S. Whitaker must have taken over the business shortly after. **Figure 1** shows an illustration of Wilmington shortly before the War, taken from *Ballou's*

Dollar Monthly Magazine, with the permission of the Cape Fear Museum, Wilmington.

Wilmington was a hotbed of secessionism. Within about two weeks of Lincoln's election, many citizens there met to discuss secession. Young Mr. Whitaker ardently supported them. His first classified advertisement, for military books, appeared in the *Wilmington Daily Journal* on March 21, 1861. By the time of North Carolina's secession, Whitaker's bookstore was advertising heavily in the *Daily Journal*. He had as many as eight classified advertisements in the May 24, 1861, issue, one for artists' materials, but more ominously, military books, cartridge paper, and "just in from Adams Express this morning," a new book, *The Battle of Fort Sumter*. On May 29, just after North Carolina joined the Confederacy, he placed eight classified ads, including one offering sheet music: *I Wish I Was in Dixie*, *Marseilles' Hymn*, *Minute Men [quick step]*, *General Beauregard's Grand March*, and *Southern Confederacy Grand March*. Perhaps so much advertising was prudent on his part, since another

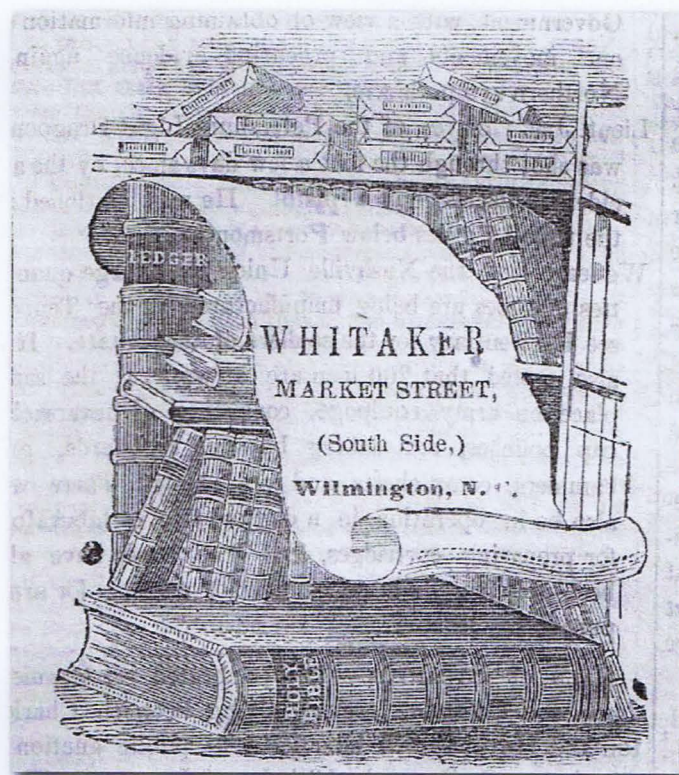


MARKET STREET, WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA.

▲ **Figure 1.** Wilmington shortly before the war illustrated in Ballou's *Dollar Monthly*

bookstore, Kelley's, had nearly as many classified advertisements in these same issues of the *Daily Journal*. The most spectacular ad of all in each issue of the *Daily Journal* from April 5 till October 31, 1861, and then occasionally until February 6, 1862, was usually Whitaker's woodcut (**Figure 2**). Afterwards he posted only classified ads occasionally until mid-January 1863. One classified ad of pertinence to our readers in the June 18, 1862, *Daily Journal* proclaimed, "ENVELOPES – ENVELOPES / 50000 RECEIVED this morning at Whitaker's / beautiful home made paper." Another, on August 8, 1862, boasted, "The largest stock of writing paper and envelopes in the state."

Figure 2. ▶
Whitaker woodcut appearing
in *Wilmington Daily Journal*



So Thaddeus Whitaker had been ready for the war. He was selling patriotic envelopes before Union stamps became invalid on June 1, 1861: a "Whitaker's, Wilmington" cover with United States Scott No. 26 is known.

In October 1862, a week before a serious yellow fever epidemic in Wilmington, a classified ad announced that his eldest brother, S. W. Whitaker, had returned to business, selling blank books and stationery. In the November 17 issue classified ads for S. W. Whitaker's wholesale and retail Book and Stationery Sales Rooms and T. S. Whitaker's Book Store appear next to each other in the *Daily Journal*. The next day, the *Daily Journal* listed Whitaker's classified ad for toothbrushes! Whitaker's final ad appeared in the January 19, 1863 paper. In the January 26 issue, his competitor Kelley's Book Store stated that it "has not sold out." No further classified ads by T. S. Whitaker were found in later issues of the paper, or in other Wilmington newspapers. We do not know what happened: there is no record of a T. S. Whitaker or Thaddeus Whitaker in the ranks of the Confederate States Army or Navy.

According to the 1865-'66 city directory, the bookstore was still in business, at 36 Market Street, and in 1866-'67, at 51 Market Street, with the family living over the store. But no Whitaker's Book Store appears in later city directories. Thaddeus Whitaker appeared in the federal tax assessment lists for 1865 and 1866. He was still listed as Thaddeus "Whitacker", whose occupation was "bookstore keeper," in Wilmington in the 1870 census, with a significantly smaller personal estate than earlier; he and his wife Susan had three small daughters by then.

Thereafter, Thaddeus Whitaker simply vanishes from the records. He and Susan do not appear in any later census, or in Wilmington city directories. Curiously, a T. S. and Susan Whitaker, farmer and keeping house respectively, appear in the 1880 census in Warren, Pennsylvania, both claiming birth in Pennsylvania about 1829, with two children with different names than the children of the Wilmington family. No

Wilmington cemetery has recorded his burial, nor were any 19th century death records found for him anywhere in the United States. But an 1897 Wilmington City Directory lists Susan F. Whitaker, widow of Thaddeus, back in Wilmington.

The most common Whitaker cover has a small seven-star Confederate flag, printed in red and blue, with a streamer and the words "Southern Rights" in blue above it: Dietz Type F 7-9. T. S. Whitaker's product shows the imprint in blue below the flag, "Whitaker, Wilmington" (Dietz No. 4). There are six covers known to me. Whitaker was not the only publisher to use this cut. In fact, one must be careful when examining reduced-size illustrations in auction catalogs: for example, other covers exist with the same cut and the imprint "Parrott, Alexandria" (Dietz No. 32) in the same point font and the same location as the imprint on T. S. Whitaker's product. These covers could be misidentified without a magnifying glass.

The seven-star flag was adopted by the Confederacy on March 4, 1861, and was superseded by the admission of Virginia on May 7, 1861. There is no record of Whitaker's having produced any Confederate envelopes with more stars in the country's flag, not even when North Carolina seceded. All his envelopes are made of white paper. It has been suggested that, in addition to buying large numbers of envelopes for direct sale, Whitaker might have owned a small envelope press or Adams press, which many book sellers owned during the Civil War, but he would have had to be adept to print two-color envelopes, requiring two passes through the press.

Besides southeastern North Carolina usages, two Whitaker covers of this design are known used from Fredericksburg, Virginia, addressed to Wilmington. Auction catalog illustrations indicate that the addressee on both appears to be Mr. John W. Hewett or Hewitt. There was a James Henry Hewett from Wilmington in Company F of the Third North Carolina Infantry Regiment, which was in Virginia for part of 1862. He had been captured at Boonsboro, Maryland, on September 15, and exchanged at Aiken's Landing, Virginia, on November 10. The Third North Carolina was in the Fredericksburg area at the time. These two covers might have contained letters to a relative then. (There were two other Hewitts in the Third, in Company G, but they were from Onslow County. There were none in the First or Second North Carolina Infantry Regiments, and these, with the Third, were the only North Carolina regiments recruited from New Hanover County at the time in Virginia.)

Figure 3 shows a typical cover of his Type F 7-9. It is addressed to Miss Kate McLauchlin, Argyle, Cumberland County, and bears a Type 2 Carolina City, N.C. 5. Paid circular date stamp. A letter sheet with this same design is also known.

A less common Whitaker design, one with the palmetto flag in the appropriate color of blue, is shown in **Figure 4**. This cover was Lot 5910 in Nutmeg Stamp Auctions sale No. 27 of June 21-23, 2000, featuring the Bischel collection. Two such covers are known to me. It seems likely that T. S. Whitaker made this type of envelope available for sale shortly after he took over the bookstore around the beginning of 1861. Since Wilmington secessionists applauded the departure of South Carolina from the Union on December 20, 1861, Whitaker might have quickly produced this design for sale for them. Thus this design likely preceded the design of Figure 3 containing the seven-star flag.

The Siegel catalog of the Dr. Howard P. Green collection (Sale 822, April 12, 2000) contains a comment of interest beneath an illustration of Lot 246, a red and blue design of a medallion of Jefferson Davis with eleven stars above, a view of prosperous countryside below, and Confederate flags to either side:

...most of the Davis Medallion covers were used prior to release of the General Issue and ... the later usages with stamps come from Wilmington N.C. or the surrounding area. A "Southern Rights" Flag patriotic from the McLauchlin [sic] correspondence (ex Telep) has a "Whitaker, Wilmington" imprint, which may point to the stationer responsible for this Davis Medallion design.

Figure 5 shows the catalog illustration of Lot 246. The cover in Figure 3 above is also part of the same McLauchlin correspondence.

Finally, there is a puzzling remark by Robert Grant in *The*

Note: There is an interesting Union design with shaking hands with Whitaker imprint. This cover formerly in the Davidson collection is now in the author's. It was postal used in the Confederacy.

Figure 6 shows such a cover, unused, taken from an online file not generally accessible to the public. Of the numerous "shaking hands" designs illustrated in the standard compilations of Union covers - Walcott, Grant, Weiss, and Bischel - most by far include the flag of the Union above the array of stars and the shaking hands. Fewer of these designs omit the Union flag, and Whitaker must have decided that the document entitled THE CONSTITUTION could equally be the Constitution of the Confederate States as well as that of the United States. His design is similar, but not identical, to monochrome (dark blue) Union designs found with different slogans in Bischel (Lots 5061, 5062) and Weiss (F-L-83); it appears to be a cut identical to that of Weiss F-L-86 through F-L-91, but again without the slogans favoring the Union. In this case, the "Whitaker, Wilmington" imprint is uniquely in italic. As an unused cover, the illustrated cover would be suspect as a postwar fabrication, but we have Grant's statement quoted above that at least one such cover was used in the Confederate States. The dark blue ink may indicate that it was printed very early in Whitaker's venture into patriotic envelopes, like the similarly colored Palmetto Flag design. No expert is aware of such a cover now. ■

I particularly thank Tony Crumbley for providing a copy of one of Whitaker's seven-star flag covers and also many scans of listings and illustrations in auction catalogs, Thomas Mills, Nutmeg Stamp Sales, Danbury, CT, for permission to reproduce the illustration of the palmetto flag cover from the Auction 27 catalog, and Scott Trepel, Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc., New York, NY, for permission to quote his remarks about the Davis medallion design. I also thank Steven Case, Michelle Czaikowski, and Cheryl McLean, State Information Center, State Library of North Carolina, Raleigh; Robin Davies Chen and Lauren Hurley, Southern Historical Collection, Chapel Hill; Kim Andersen Cumber, Van Evans, and Francesca Perez, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh; LTC Sion H. Harrington III (USAR, Ret.), Archives and Records Section, North Carolina Division of Historical Resources; Terri Hudgins, Cape Fear Museum of History and Science, Wilmington; Trish Kaufmann, Lincoln, DE; John Kimbrough, MD, Benbrook, TX; Harry McKown and Allison Murray, North Carolina Collection, Chapel Hill; Janie Morris, Special Collections Library, Duke University, Durham; Jerry Roughton, Black Crow Press, Kenansville; Joseph Sheppard, New Hanover County Public Library, Wilmington; Kay Tillotson and Pamela Toms, Genealogical Service, History and Cultural Library, State Library of North Carolina, Raleigh; and Amy VanScoy, North Carolina State University Libraries.



◀ **Figure 3.** Typical Whitaker envelope from Carolina City, Carteret County, to Argyle, Cumberland County, part of the McLauchlin correspondence.

Figure 4. ▶
Less common Whitaker design of a palmetto flag in blue, one of two known covers with this design.



◀ **Figure 5.** Red and blue design medallion of Jefferson Davis which may have come from Wilmington stationer. (Courtesy of Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries)

Figure 6. ▶
"Shaking hands" design with "Whitaker, Wilmington" imprint, in this case uniquely in italics.



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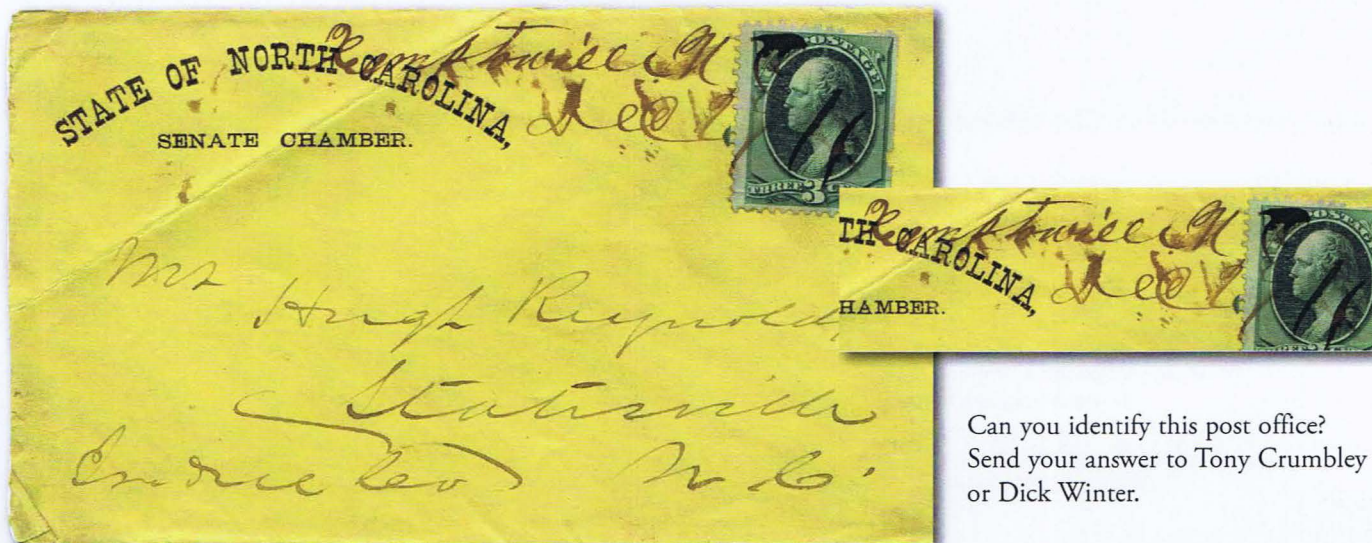
The Daily Journal [Wilmington], Wilmington, Feb. 14, 1851; Jan. 20, 1854; Apr. 5, 1861; May 24, 1861; May 29, 1861; Oct. 31, 1861; Feb. 6, 1862; June 18, 1862; Aug. 8, 1862; Oct. 10, 1862; Nov. 17, 1862; Nov. 18, 1862; Jan. 16, 1863; Jan. 26, 1863.

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Mystery Cover



Can you identify this post office?
Send your answer to Tony Crumbley
or Dick Winter.

A Teacher Travels to NC – 1835

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

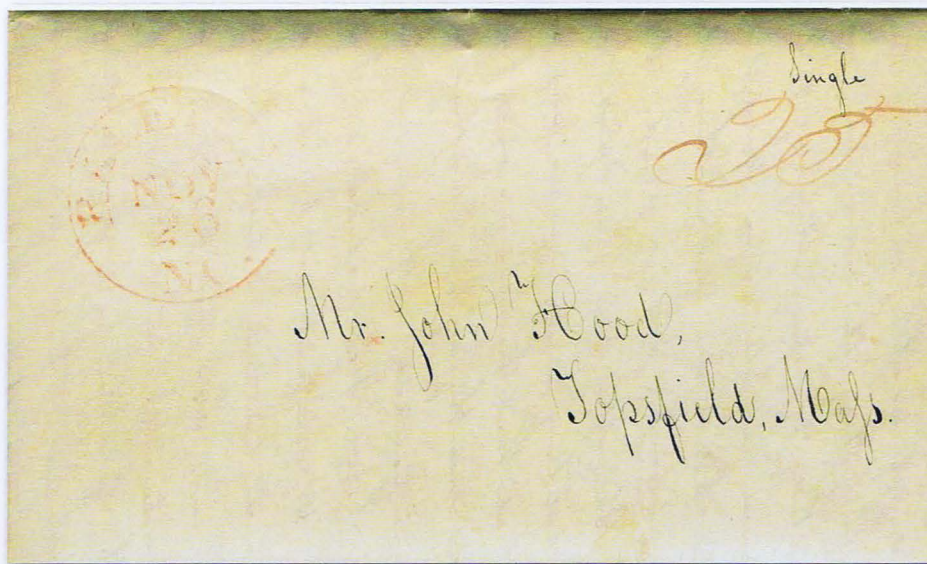
At first glance, the 1835 Raleigh stampless folded letter shown in **Figure 1** from a young teacher, George Hood, to his father, John Hood, in Topsfield, Massachusetts, is unremarkable, other than for the extremely neat text that fills its four pages, the first page of which is illustrated in **Figure 2** on the next page. Reading the content of the letter engages one's interest to a much greater degree, as it consists of a highly articulate description of a sea voyage from Boston to Wilmington, and the subsequent trip inland to Raleigh, from where the present letter was written. However, this letter also represents an example of what one can find upon searching the World Wide Web for its treasures. In doing so, at least in the present case, it was possible to not only find out who George and John Hood were, but also explanations for some of the letter's content, as well as why the penmanship was so striking.

The letter is postmarked by a red RALEIGH/NC cds and red manuscript unpaid 25 cent rate, appropriate for the applicable distance from Raleigh to Topsfield, Massachusetts. The letter's author has also taken it upon himself to indicate that the letter consists of only a 'single' sheet of paper, so that the recipient of the letter, his father, is not penalized by having to pay double or greater the 25 cent unpaid rate – a lot of money at the time.

The author of the letter presents himself as a schoolteacher who has come to Raleigh in response to hearing of a need for his skills, only to find that there is not sufficient interest there to fund such a position. He reports that he is staying with an elderly female benefactor there, while he desperately tries to seek a teaching position elsewhere – perhaps, he thinks, in New Bern.

Hood also goes into rather unflattering detail about Wilmington, N.C., as it appeared to a cultured Northerner at the time.

At Wilmington we spent the sabbath and attended church in a house that was occupied by the British for soldiers quarters. Wilmington is a very dirty and unpleasant place and probably most of the sickness in the summer is owing to the dirty streets. Swine here were at large in the streets in droves and not content with the streets. Swine here even enter the passage of the house.



▲ **Figure 1.** November 25, 1835 folded letter from school teacher George Hood in Raleigh to his father John Hood in Topsfield, Massachusetts. Letter sent unpaid and marked at Raleigh for 25¢ postage due.

The allusion to "sickness in the summer" most likely refers to the frequent epidemics that occurred in Southern cities during that season, particularly those on the coast. Alan Watson, in his 1992 book *Wilmington: Port of North Carolina* (University of South Carolina Press) corroborates Wilmington's bad reputation in this regard: "...a local paper declared in August 1838 that 'no town in the

Union has a worse reputation abroad for sickness than Wilmington, and few deserve it so little'."

Perusal of the internet resulted in the finding of Jennie (Hood) Bosson's book, *John Hood of Lynn, Massachusetts and some of his descendants*, reprinted from the Historical Collections of the Essex Institute, Volume XLV, Essex Institute, Salem, MA, 1909. This book is available in full text on the internet by doing a Google search of John Hood of Lynn, Massachusetts, and provides biographies for both George and John Hood of Topsfield.

From this volume, we learn that George Hood was born on February 10, 1807, making him 28 years old at the time he wrote the present letter. It appears that he did not stay in North

Carolina long, moving to Richmond, Philadelphia, and other large cities, where, after teaching penmanship (not surprising, given the quality of his letter writing) and vocal music, he eventually became the principal of a successful finishing school for young ladies. Later in life, he became minister of Presbyterian churches in New York and Minnesota, and authored the book *A History of Music in New England*, Boston, 1846. In 1844, he married Martha Ann Bell, with whom he had five children. Rev. George Hood died in Minneapolis, Minnesota on February 2, 1894 at the ripe age of 87.

As accomplished as George Hood was, his father, John Hood, to whom the present letter was addressed, was even more noteworthy. John Hood enlisted in the Revolutionary army on June 17, 1775, at the age of 15, fighting at the battle of Bunker Hill,

as well as other engagements. He was even known to have crossed the Delaware with George Washington. During young John Hood's eventful sojourn in the Revolutionary army, he was captured by the British in 1778 while serving on a privateer, and, during his captivity, "suffered everything but death." After being exchanged, he rejoined the army for the remainder of the War, and was present at the surrender of Cornwallis in 1781. It may well be John Hood's powerful connection with the Revolutionary War that prompted his son George to annotate the present letter with multiple references to the Revolutionary war. Originally a carpenter by trade, John Hood later became a prominent bridge builder. He and his two wives had a total of 12 children, of which George Hood, the author of the present letter, was the 11th. John Hood died on July 19, 1836, less than 8 months following the writing of his son's letter to him from Raleigh. ■

Raleigh, N.C. Nov. 25, 1835.

Dear Friend,

I suppose by this time you are quite out of patience waiting for a letter from me. I have several good reasons for not writing before, but as you would rather be reading something of my passage and prospects than reading a scented I will gratify you by a brief rehearsal. — The day we left Boston we had a fine S.W. wind, and passed Cape Cod in the early part of the evening but the wind continuing at South West during Thursday and Friday the vessel made but little head way, and on Saturday morning she was only off Nantucket. Early Saturday morning the wind came into the N.E. and continued there until Sabbath evening. During these two days we had a fine run, and although the sea was quite rough we were off Cape Hatteras. In the fore part of Sabbath night the wind came into the N.E. and we had seven S.E. squalls until next morning about 10 o'clock when the wind died away and before noon the sea came out perfectly for us we had sea room enough, for we were in the Gulf Stream more than 100 miles from land. Monday noon the wind came into the N.W. a desirable point, and blew quite fresh, and on Tuesday morning early we passed C. Lookout into Ocracoke Bay. Here we lay most of the day without wind. In the evening a good breeze came from N.E. but it was so thick and foggy that they did not see for land and stood off and on during the night. In the morning it cleared away and we had the pleasure of seeing land close to us. We were in a beautiful Bay with an almost entire calm, looking anxiously for a Pilot with the signal flying, but we waited just moving along the sunny shore until noon when the Capt. and Mate's observation made us, to their surprise, more than thirty miles to the south of the River in Long Bay. The vessel had been carried before south by a strong southerly current occasioned by the East wind. The Capt. immediately put about and stood for the River without wind and on a dead smooth ed glass we were Wednesday, Thursday and Friday getting back to the River. Though so smooth and so sunny yet we were quite anxious, sitting and fearing — nothing a favouring breeze and fearing a East wind blow. On Friday morning the signal brought a Pilot to us which

▲ Figure 2. First page of the letter describing the passage by sailing ship to North Carolina.

Patriotic Confederate Covers and Envelopes from North Carolina Part 3. "Lowenberg & Bro., Beaufort, N.C."

by Maurice M. Bursey

First of all, this imprint contains a spelling error. There was no one by the name of Lowenberg listed in the 1860 census records for Beaufort, North Carolina. Instead, C. Lowenberg and B. [Bendix] Lowenberg were listed as members of the same Beaufort, North Carolina, household, merchants by profession. A Carl Lowenberg appeared in the New York passenger lists as arriving there on May 22, 1844, and a Charles Lowenberg – presumably after he anglicized his first name – was recorded in the 1870 federal census in Beaufort, with his wife and daughter. All of them were born in Prussia, and the combination of this information appears to identify the owners of the Lowenberg store in Beaufort. The R. G. Dun & Company records state that they had a business in New Bern earlier in the 1850s before moving to Beaufort.

Lowenberg & Bro. advertised their dry goods establishment in the *Beaufort Journal* as early as 1857: clothing, hardware, glassware, and crockery were featured. (Beaufort newspapers before 1857 are no longer extant.) There were two of their advertisements per four-page issue of the paper; three other competing dry goods stores also advertised. A typical Lowenberg & Bro. *Beaufort Journal* advertisement of the prewar period (issue of July 22, 1857) is shown in **Figure 1**. By 1865, they no longer advertised in *The Old North State*, the next Beaufort newspaper of which a microfilm copy is still extant. Nevertheless, a Union soldier of the 9th New Jersey detailed to Beaufort noted in his diary that he bought a shirt at their store on February 10, 1865, and that there was a disturbance at the store the same day, causing the commanding officer to close down the store and fine each of those making the disturbance \$10 for drunkenness and disorderly conduct! The brothers never filed a claim for property damage by the Union army, so they must have taken the oath of allegiance to the United States quickly, and the store remained open for business throughout the war. After the war, the firm appeared in 1866-67 and 1867-68 directories. Charles Lowenberg was listed as a grocer in Beaufort in a North Carolina business directory for 1872, but he was not listed in the 1877-1878 directory.

Although New Bern merchants frequently advertised in Beaufort papers, before the war the Lowenbergs had not advertised in New Bern newspapers (at least in issues still available for inspection), although merchants in New Bern frequently advertised in the Beaufort papers.

Their only cover known has an eleven-star flag and, below, the imprint "Lowenberg & Bro., Beaufort, N.C." (**Figure 2** on the

LOWENBERG & BROTHER.
DEALERS IN
FANCY AND DOMESTIC
Dry Goods,
BOOTS, SHOES, HATS, BONNETS, CAPS
READY-MADE CLOTHING,
Yankee Notions, Groceries,
HARDWARE, CROCKERY, GLASSWARE, &c.,
Take this opportunity to return their thanks to their former customers for the liberal patronage bestowed upon them, and promise their friends that every means will be used to secure their patronage, if fair dealing and uniform low prices are any inducements, and furthermore, stand pledged to sell their Goods as cheap as the cheapest in this market. Their
SPRING & SUMMER STOCK
Will be as large as usual, consisting of every variety usually kept in retail stores.
Our terms in future will be Cash or Ready-Pay. To those who have not as yet paid up their accounts, we would say no other account will be opened until the old is paid up. Please recollect these terms as they must be strictly adhered to.
Please give us a call and examine our Stock for yourselves.
If we cannot sell we will at least try to be agreeable.
LOWENBERG & BRO.
Beaufort, May 5th 1857. 5—tf.

▲ **Figure 1.** Lowenberg & Brothers advertisement in the *Beaufort Journal*, July 22, 1857.

next page). The design is similar to the Dietz catalog listing of F 11-16, but the flagpole is more nearly vertical, as if Dietz's image were rotated clockwise some fifteen degrees. The imprint, "Manufactured by Lowenberg & Bros (Beaufort, N.C.)," is listed in the Dietz catalog as number 26. In Dietz the surname is given as "Lowenburg," from the error in the imprint. The useful life of the Lowenberg envelope could not have been more than about eight months: the eleventh star was added to the flag of the Confederate States on July 3, 1861, with the admis-



◀ **Figure 2**

"Lowenberg & Bro., Beaufort, N.C." patriotic cover, probably unique, from the collection of Tony L. Crumbley.

sion of Tennessee, but Beaufort was occupied by units of the Union Army during the night of March 25-26, 1862. If there were other Lowenberg designs they have not survived, except for a possible imprint variety described below.

Not all the citizens of Beaufort would have been interested in buying these envelopes from the Lowenbergs. On March 31 the *Philadelphia Inquirer* printed a report of the capture of Beaufort:

There appears to be more real Union sentiment at Beaufort than in any other place in North Carolina yet occupied by our troops. Our forces were met by the Mayor on landing, and cordially welcomed to the city...

The *New York Herald* had a similar report:

of the town could be seen gathering at the piers watching their movements and when the soldiers landed they were received with open arms by the citizens, and everything done that could be to make them comfortable.

Figure 3 is an engraving after a picture in *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* for June 7, 1862, with an explanatory caption: "The War in North Carolina – Scene in Beaufort, N.C., during the Bombardment of Fort Macon by the National Forces, from the Warf [sic] near the Ocean House – from a Sketch by our Special Artist, Mr. J. H. Schell." Since Front Street was the main business street of Beaufort in the mid-nineteenth century and beyond, the Lowenbergs' store may

well be in the background of this scene. Another illustration



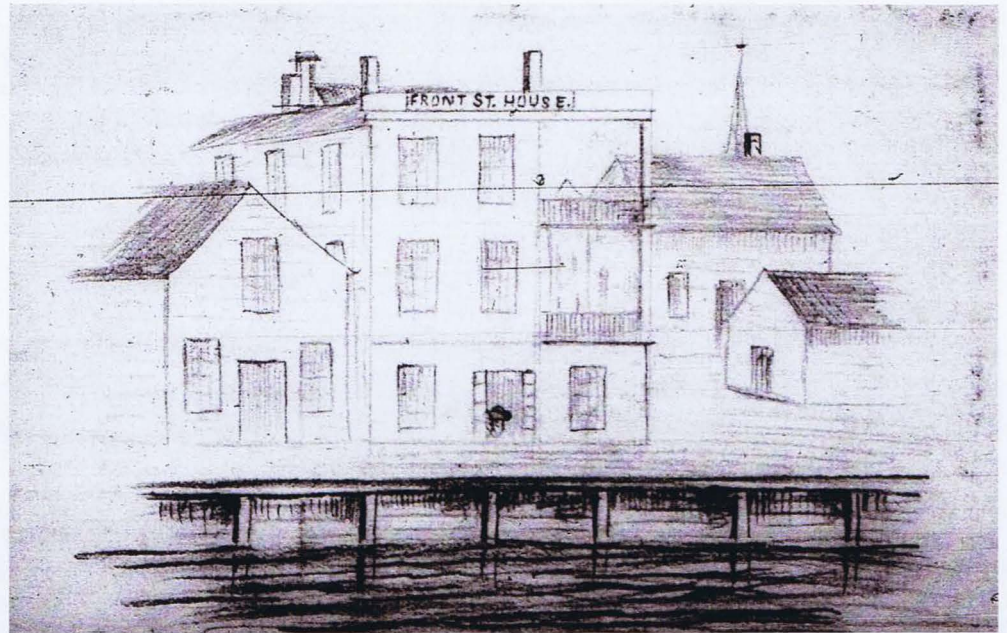
▲ **Figure 3.** Front Street in Beaufort, 1862.

from Front Street, a pencil sketch of a hotel on Front Street in Beaufort, N.C., by a talented soldier of the occupying Union army, Herbert E. Valentine, is shown in **Figure 4**. The Front Street House advertised in the 1857 Beaufort Journal, but by 1862 the only hotel still open in Beaufort was the Ocean House, and so Private Valentine's picture is of an abandoned building.

I particularly thank Tony Crumbley for supplying the illustration of the Lowenberg cover in his collection, the only such example known to specialists. I also thank Irene Axelrod, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA; Lang Baradell, North Carolina Historical Publications Office, Raleigh; Judkin Browning, Appalachian State University, Boone; Kim Andersen Cumber, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh; Claire Davis, Sarah Everhart, Lauren Healey, and Matthew Turi, Southern

Figure 4 ▶

Pencil sketch of the Front Street House, Beaufort, by Private Herbert E. Valentine, 23rd Massachusetts Infantry, ca. 1863. By permission of the Southern Historical Collection, Wilson Library, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the Phillips Library, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA.



Not all the citizens of Beaufort were pro-Union, of course. The collector of the port, appointed before the war but a well known secessionist, absconded with about \$2,000 (Confederate) in collected duties, and he was captured only later by Union soldiers. And some citizens bewailed the imposition of a military government after many people complained to General Burnside about insubordination and looting by the occupying soldiers in late April.

Envelopes were not readily bought anywhere in Beaufort for a while after the Union occupation. John A. Hedrick, who arrived in June 1862 as the new Collector of the port of Beaufort, wrote to his brother in Washington, DC, to send a supply of envelopes four times between November 1862 and May 1863, because they could not be obtained locally. Finally, another, slightly different, design apparently exists. In 1951 George Malpass included in his ongoing series, *More Publishers of Civil War Patriotic Envelopes*, a listing for "Lowenburg & Bro., (Mfd. by)," but with no town named. Perhaps there was an order for some envelopes which were printed without the inclusion of "Beaufort, N.C." and with "Manufactured" abbreviated. The location of any such cover is unknown today. ■

Historical Collection, Chapel Hill; John Kimbrough, Benbrook, TX; Jonathan Lee, Allison Marchant, and Jason Tomberlin, North Carolina Collection, Chapel Hill; and David Montgomery, Carteret County Historical Society.

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The Battle Over North Carolina's First Postmistress

by Tony L. Crumbley

Since the beginning of the U.S. Postal Service in 1775, there have been women postmasters. Mary Kathleen Goddard was the first and only woman postmaster at the time of the establishment of the Continental Post Office of the United Colonies on July 26, 1775. Miss Goddard ran a book shop, published a newspaper and was postmaster of Baltimore, Maryland from July 1779 to May 1783.

The first woman postmaster after the adoption of the constitution in 1789 was Mrs. Sarah DeCrow, who was appointed for post office in Hertford, North Carolina, on September 27, 1792. She apparently attempted to resign her position on several occasions because of the small compensation she received as postmaster. Assistant Postmaster General Charles Burrall wrote on November 29, 1794: "I am sensible that the emolument of the office cannot be much inducement to you to keep it (the postmastership), not to any Gentleman to accept of it, yet I flatter myself someone may be found willing to do the business, rather than the town and its neighbourhood should be deprived of the business of a Post Office." Official records indicate Thomas McNider succeeded Sarah DeCrow on April 7, 1795.

The battle lines get drawn by Salisbury as it tries to claim the first female postmaster. Folk lore tells the story that Mrs. Elizabeth Balfour (Figure 1), wife of Col. Andrew Balfour, was appointed postmaster of Salisbury by President George Washington on March 21, 1796, and that she served the

Salisbury post office for 26 years until 1822. The story goes that after the war, President Washington heard his good friend's wife, Elizabeth Balfour, was having a hard time since her husband was killed so he appointed her postmaster. However, official records indicate Andrew Balfour was appointed postmaster of Salisbury on March 21, 1796. That makes for an interesting point because Col. Andrew Balfour was killed at his home by Tory raiders under the leadership of Colonel Fanning in March of 1782. There are numerous official records between Elizabeth and the Postmaster General on post office matters; however, no records exist of her appointment as postmaster.



▲ **Figure 1.** Sketch of Elizabeth Balfour copied by W.E. Hennessee, author of *The State* article (February 17, 1940), from an oil portrait.

Local citizens have tried many times to get Washington, DC to agree that Elizabeth was postmaster. Official replies in 1940, 1951, 1994, and 1999 each maintain that Andrew Balfour was postmaster.

There is a logical explanation for what seems to be an inconsistency in the official records. Col. Balfour had a son with the same name, Andrew, who was born in Newport, Rhode Island, on 22 October 1776. He was the fourth Andrew Balfour. In December 1784 he went to Salisbury when his mother, Elizabeth, returned from Connecticut, where she had lived with her two children after her husband's death in 1782. By 1796, when Salisbury postmaster Samuel Dayton died, a new postmaster was appointed for Salisbury. It was Andrew Balfour, who was almost 20 years of age at the time. In a 1994 response from Washington, DC to a request from North Carolina for more information about postmaster Andrew Balfour, the following information was provided:

The first reference to Andrew Balfour in the microfilm version of the Postmaster General's letter books is on March 21, 1796, when he was appointed postmaster of Salisbury, North Carolina, by Postmaster General Joseph Habersham. Andrew Balfour served as postmaster at Salisbury until around January 7, 1822, when his successor, Samuel Reeves, was appointed postmaster.

Lists of post offices, with postmasters, are available for 1811, 1813, 1817, 1819, and 1822. Each of them lists Andrew Balfour as postmaster of Salisbury. There is no listing of Elizabeth Balfour as postmaster of Salisbury.

However, it is clear from the Postmaster General's letter books that Elizabeth Balfour was intimately involved in the business of the Salisbury Post Office. The first letter from Postmaster General Joseph Habersham to her is dated November 27, 1799, and replies to a letter she wrote to him on November 3, complaining about the mail contractor's failure to deliver the mail to Salisbury the preceding day. The Postmaster General's letters

show that Elizabeth Balfour was several times responsible for submitting the post office's financial returns and requesting that difficulties with the mail contractor be straightened out. Andrew Balfour was the contractor himself from at least 1809 through 1812 and was probably grateful for his mother's able assistance in running the office.

In all probability, the matters of the Salisbury post office were routinely handled by Elizabeth Balfour even though her son was officially the postmaster. A 21 March 1796 notation in the Postmaster General Joseph Habersham's letter book states "Appointed Mr. Andrew Balfour Deputy Post Master at Salisbury in North Carolina and enclosed a Bond and blank forms of the Oath to John Steele esqr of that place." Unfortunately, the myth about Elizabeth Balfour being postmaster has been perpetuated in the biographical sketch of Col. Andrew Balfour in William S. Powell's *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*. ■

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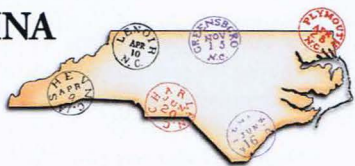
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▲ **Figure 2.** June 6, 1808 folded letter from Salisbury to Haw River. Manuscript postmark in upper left written by either Andrew or more likely his mother, Elizabeth Balfour. (NC State Archives, Archibald D. Murphy papers)

NORTH CAROLINA POSTAL HISTORIAN



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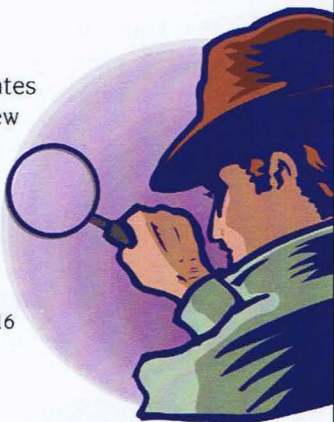
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