

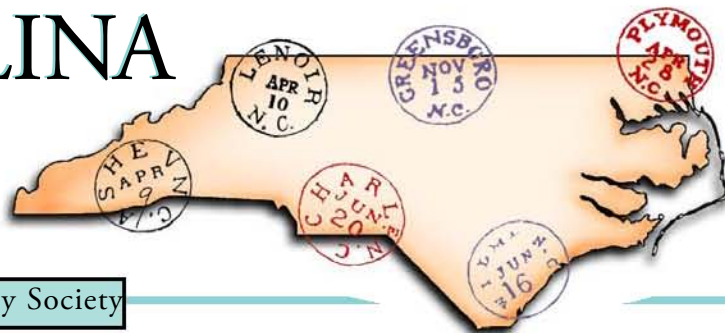
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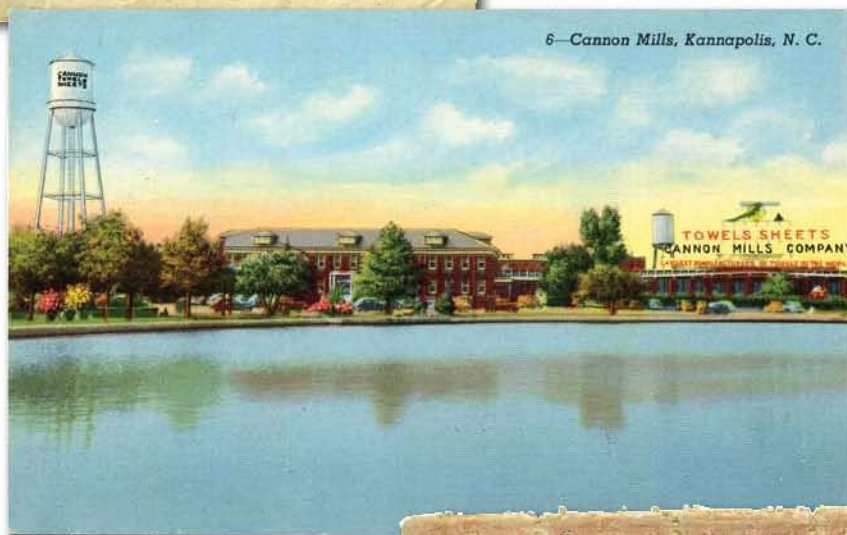
FALL 2010

WHOLE 112



Fort Defiance, NC, and the
Lenoir Family

Kannapolis,
North Carolina



Franklinville to Paris, France



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

IN THIS ISSUE

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held at CHARPEX on Saturday, 31 July 2010, with all the directors present. The exchange of information and ideas was very helpful. A report of the meeting will be in the next Newsletter, which will be sent out by the Secretary-Treasurer soon. The Board meeting was followed by a General Meeting during which Harry Albert and Mike Kelly were reelected for a second three-year term as directors. Our next North Carolina Postal History Society (NCPHS) meeting will be at CHARPEX 2011. The CHARPEX show this year was held in a very fine venue, the Renaissance Charlotte Suites Hotel. It was a fine show with good exhibits and dealers.

I had the pleasure of renewing the use of the A. Earl Weatherly award, a NCPHS award for outstanding postal history exhibits on North Carolina or for outstanding achievement in writing about North Carolina postal history. Two awards were given at the General Meeting. W. Bryson Bateman received the award for his exhibit, "The Confederate Postal History of Goldsborough, NC," which was displayed at the show. An award for literature was presented to Maurice M. Bursey for his many excellent articles in recent issues of the *Postal Historian* and for his authorship of the excellent *Author and Subject Indexes of the North Carolina Postal History Society Journal*, which was issued as a special supplement to the Winter 2009-2010 journal, Whole No. 109. After presenting the awards, Frank Hall gave a very interesting talk about the postal history of Fort Bragg, a follow up to his excellent article in the last *Postal Historian*, Whole No. 111.

We have begun the initial planning of a web site for the society. A web master has been identified and site criteria are being developed. Hopefully in a few months we will have the first phase of our web site on-line and start connecting through the internet with not only our members but also future members. This will be an exciting project.

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The status box for the *North Carolina Postmark Catalog Update* on the last page will show three new counties have been added, Gaston, Gates, and Graham Counties. To date 39 counties have been completed with almost 2,100 pages produced. They provide over 8,000 markings not previously published. Work continues, but at a modest pace since activity has slowed during the busy summer months. There is a great deal of new information now at hand that will require significant revisions to all the "completed" counties. When visiting the National Postal Museum web site to see completed counties always check the dates in parenthesis after each county listed to see if this file is more recent than one you may have seen before. This is a work in progress and files change often as new markings are added or dates of use of listed markings changed.

As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions for improving the society. Please feel free to call me at home (336 545-0175), send me an e-mail at rfwinter@bellsouth.net or write to me. My mailing address appears below.

Dick Winter



NORTH CAROLINA POSTAL HISTORIAN

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Fort Defiance, NC, and the Lenoir Family: Postal Operations and Correspondence

by Lawrence L. Lohr

Introduction

If you are a collector of nineteenth-century North Carolina postal history material, United States or Confederate, stampless or stamped, you have undoubtedly come across, and quite possibly own, material originating with the Lenoir family of Fort Defiance in Caldwell County or with their extended connections among the Avery, Bingham, Davenport, Gwyn, Jones, Norwood, Patterson, and Pickens families of western North Carolina. The sheer volume of available postal material makes a detailed inventory almost impossible. Nonetheless an outline of both the postal operations of Fort Defiance and the correspondence of the Lenoir family should be helpful to many of today's postal history collectors.

There have been a number of articles in both the Journal of the North Carolina Postal History Society Newsletter and The Confederate Philatelist describing postal material originating with the Lenoir family, including two by the present author. One of the latter described in detail the covers from a large group of post-Civil War letters transferred in 1985 by the Board of Trustees of Fort Defiance to the Southern Historical Collection at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The other described an 1862 Confederate manuscript "Paid 5" cover sent by Postmaster Rufus T. Lenoir to his brother Walter then in service in Charleston. The late Vernon Stroupe's article, "Postal History – The Basics," also illustrated several Lenoir family covers.

Family background

A key to sorting out the postal material from the Lenoir family is having some degree of familiarity with the family relationships beginning with Revolutionary War hero General William Lenoir (1751-1839) (Figure 1), who built the family home known as "Fort Defiance" on the upper reaches of the Yadkin River in Caldwell County (then Wilkes) in the early 1790s (Figure 2). He was the first of three generations of postmasters there, succeeded by sons-in-law Colonel William Davenport (1770-1859) and General Edmund Jones (1771-1839), son Colonel Thomas Lenoir (1780-1861), and grandson Rufus Theodore Lenoir (1825-1912). Their years of service as the Fort Defiance postmaster are given in Table I, while detailed genealogical tables not only for the Lenoir family but also for the connected Avery, Bingham, Davenport, Gwyn, Jones, Norwood, Patterson,

and Pickens families are included in the two books by Thomas F. Hickerson. Much of the correspondence now existing was among the four brothers Rufus Lenoir, William Avery Lenoir (1808-1862), Thomas Isaac Lenoir (1817-1882), and Walter Waighstill Lenoir (1823-1890). Prominent in-laws included Israel Pickens (1780-1827), who married Col. Thomas Lenoir's sister Martha Lenoir (1792-1823) and later served as Governor of Alabama, and Gen. Samuel F. Patterson (1799-1874), who married Phebe Caroline Jones (1806-1869), daughter of Gen. Edmund Jones and Col. Thomas Lenoir's sister Ann Lenoir (1778-1838), and whose son Rufus Lenoir Patterson (1830-1879) first married Mary Louisa Morehead (1830-1862), daughter of Gov. John Motely Morehead, and then Mary Elizabeth Fries (1844-1927) from Forsyth County's Moravian community. These names feature prominently in nineteenth century North Carolina history and hence in preserved postal materials.

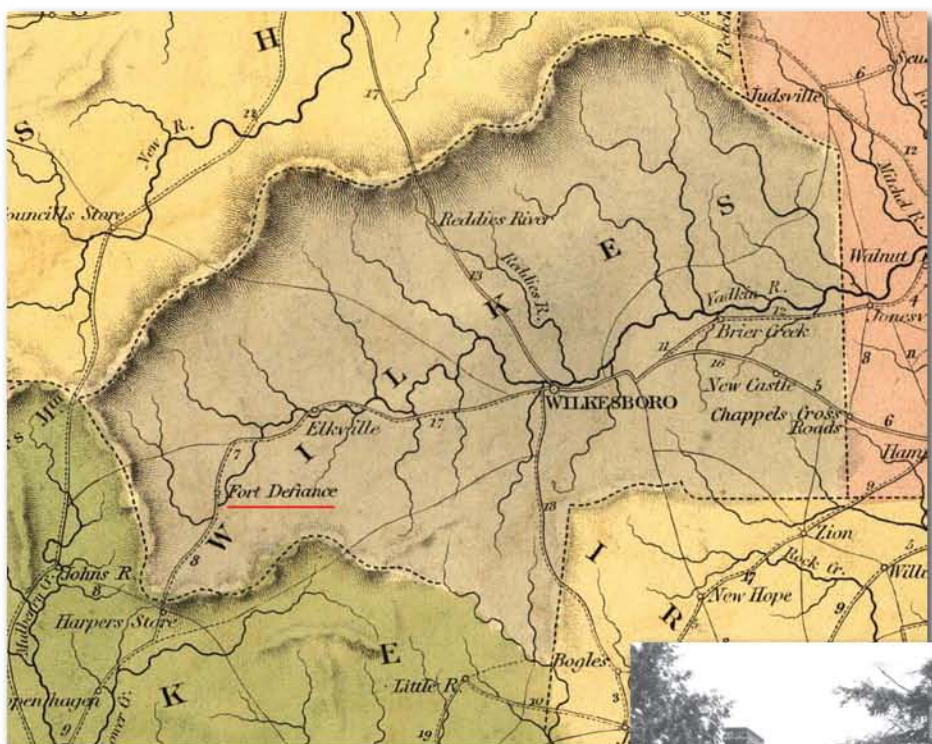
Family Records

The Lenoir family throughout the nineteenth century was most unusual, especially in western North Carolina, as measured by the large volume of family and business correspondence which has been preserved. Very many folded letters and covers have made their way into the collections of postal historians and other stamp collectors, but more important historically are the repositories of Lenoir family papers. The largest of these is in the Southern Historical



◀ **Figure 1.** Revolutionary War hero General William Lenoir (1751-1839).

Collection at the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill. The inventory of their collection alone runs to over 100 pages. A selection of Civil War era family letters from the Lenoir collection is available in an electronic edition. In 1965 this author helped to arrange a transfer of a trunk-full of post-Civil War Lenoir family letters by the Board of Trustees of Fort Defiance to the Southern Historical



◀ **Figure 2.** 1839 Post Road map prepared by David H. Burr, topographer for the Post office Department, showing Wilkes County in western North Carolina. Fort Defiance is underlined in red.

▼ **Figure 3.** Photograph by the author (1985) of "Fort Defiance," the home built in Caldwell County (then Wilkes) in the early 1790s by Gen. William Lenoir.



Collection. He also suggested to UNC archivist Dr. Richard A. Shrader that the UNC Library could easily raise much needed funds by consigning covers to a major stamp auction house, which they then proceeded to do. Shrader had in fact written his doctoral dissertation on the life of the family patriarch, General William Lenoir. In addition to the UNC collection, there are the Thomas Lenoir Papers in the Perkins Library at Duke University, the Lenoir Family Papers in the Hoskins Library at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and the Lenoir-Nifong Papers in the Western Historical Manuscript Collection at the University of Missouri, Columbia. The Tennessee and Missouri collections reflect the western migration of some Lenoir family members during the nineteenth century.

Post Office Records, Postmasters, and Mail Routes

The Lenoir Family Papers in the Southern Historical Collection at the University of North Carolina Library, Chapel Hill, include postal records for Fort Defiance, North Carolina, where William Lenoir, Thomas I. Lenoir, and Rufus T. Lenoir served as postmasters. The postal records include financial and legal material, memoranda, and other items relating to the operation of the Fort Defiance post office. There are also many accounts of mail sent and received, and accounts of newspapers, periodicals, and pamphlets received at the Fort Defiance post office. There is a total of over 300 items in Folders 711-716. Folder 711 covers the period 1822-1854. Of particular interest to this study is a receipt from August 10,

1836, containing the final accounting of Postmaster John T. Jones and a March 14, 1839, letter announcing the appointment of Thomas I. Lenoir to this office. Folder 712 covers the period 1855-1860. Also of interest are records from Forks of Pigeon in Haywood County concerning the appointment of Joseph T. Cathey, apparently not a Lenoir family relative, to carry mail twice weekly between Forks of Pigeon and Pigeon River (known as Canton since 1893 in Haywood County), from July 1, 1856, to June 30, 1859, with a renewal through June 30, 1863. Folder 713 covers the period 1861-1863. Of particular interest are Fort Defiance quarterly returns to the United States Post Office for March 31, 1861, and quarterly returns to the Confederate Post office for June 30, 1861, through December 31, 1863. Folder 714 covers the period 1864-1880. Of particular interest are quarterly returns to the Confederate Post Office for January 1, 1864, through March 15, 1865, and a

certificate of appointment of Rufus T. Lenoir as postmaster on April 9, 1880, this term of his only lasting until May 26th, when the office was discontinued for the last time. Folder 715 covers the period 1841-1861, contains accounts of newspapers and pamphlets received at Fort Defiance. Finally, Folder 716 (microfilm only) contains a postal ledger for the period 1839-1859 detailing mails received.

Fort Defiance existed as a post office from the appointment of General William Lenoir as postmaster in 1805 until the final discontinuance of the office in 1880. Beginning in 1884 the closest office was Yadkin Valley, which itself was discontinued in 1953. Table I is a list of Fort Defiance postmasters as compiled from several sources, namely the Record of Appointments of Postmasters 1789-1832 and 1832 to 1880 and the biennial Official Register of the United States Containing a List of Officers and Employees in the Civil, Military, and Naval Service. Recognizing that William Davenport was married to Gen. William Lenoir's daughter Mary and that Edmund Jones was married to her sister Ann, we see that the office of postmaster at Fort Defiance was held by a member of the extended Lenoir family for essentially all of the years of its existence. Remembering that "Fort Defiance" was the name for the family home (Figure 3) built in the 1790s by Gen. William Lenoir, it is no surprise that the "post office" was often, and perhaps was always, simply a desk in a corner of a room in the home.

Many covers to and from Fort Defiance bear "free" markings indicating that the sender or the recipient was a postmaster entitled to the free franking privilege, which was considered to be an important part of a postmaster's remuneration package. This privilege extended to any sender writing to a postmaster, with many Lenoir family examples illustrating this aspect of the privilege. According to The United States Post-Office Guide, 1851 the franking privilege was restricted to offices whose postmasters received less than \$200 per year in compensation and to letters not weighing over one-half ounce. From the biennial Official Register of the United States, over the period from 1831 through 1859 the Fort Defiance postmaster's compensation averaged only \$20 per biennium, or \$10 per year, and never more than \$16 per year, so that qualification for the franking privilege was never in question. Finally, as is well known, the Confederate government did not extend its franking privileges to postmasters.

Postal history purists often state that "true" postal history concerns itself with "rates and routes," not biographical sketches of mail senders or recipients. Most of us are quite familiar with nineteenth-century United States and Confederate postal rates, but not so familiar with western North Carolina, or other, routes of the period. Because so much of the Lenoir

Table I.
Postmasters of Fort Defiance, Wilkes and Caldwell Counties

Wilkes County

Name	Date
Thomas Lenoir	by Aug. 1805
William Davenport	Oct. 1, 1813
Edmund Jones	Jan. 21, 1814
John T. Jones	Nov. 1, 1836
Thomas Lenoir	Mar. 14, 1839

Caldwell County (from 11 January 1841)*

Thomas Lenoir	Jan. 11, 1841
Rufus T. Lenoir	Sept. 18, 1858
Rufus T. Lenoir (CSA)	Jul. 4, 1861
Discontinued (CSA)	On or before Apr. 30, 1865
Discontinued (USA)	Dec. 6, 1866
Reestablished	Mar. 21, 1873
Vincent Greer	Mar. 21, 1873
Lloyd T. Jones	Jan. 13, 1875
Discontinued	Dec. 18, 1878
Reestablished	Jun. 11, 1879
Lloyd T. Jones	Jun. 11, 1879
Rufus T. Lenoir	Apr. 9, 1880
Discontinued	May 26, 1880

*Date legislation approved to create Caldwell County

family postal material consists of mailings between Fort Defiance in Caldwell County and Forks of Pigeon in Haywood, it important to look at the service between these offices as extracted from The United States Post-Office Guide, 1851. Route 2914 from Wilkesborough via Elkville, Fort Defiance, Lenoir and Copenhagen to Morganton connected with route 2916 from Morganton to Asheville, which in turn connected with route 2964 from Asheville via Forks of Pigeon to Clarksville, GA. Mail was scheduled to leave Wilkesborough weekly at 8:00 am on Tuesdays, passing through Fort Defiance and arriving in Morganton by noon on Wednesday, Asheville late on Thursday evening, and Forks of Pigeon sometime during the day on Friday. Not bad service at all! The Morganton - Asheville and Asheville - Clarksville services also had a Sunday through Wednesday run, but the Wilkesborough to Morganton service ran only once a week. The return schedules were similar to the outbound. There was also a weekly service from Wilkesborough via Elkville and Fort Defiance to Lenoir on Fridays, with a Saturday return from Lenoir to Wilkesborough via King's Creek and Warrior Creek.



◀ **Figure 4.** Manuscript "6 1/4" and red cds on 1832 folded cover to Mrs. Selina Louisa Lenoir (wife of Col. Thomas Lenoir), Fort Defiance (Wilkes Co.), ex Stroupe.

Figure 5. ▶ Manuscript "18 3/[4]" on 1837 folded cover to Mrs. S. Lenoir (Selina Louisa Lenoir, wife of Col. Thomas Lenoir), Fort Defiance (Wilkes Co.), ex Stroupe.



◀ **Figure 6.** Free frank on folded cover from Forks of Pigeon to Col. Thomas Lenoir, P.M., Fort Defiance. No year date, but Thomas Lenoir was postmaster from 1839 to 1858.

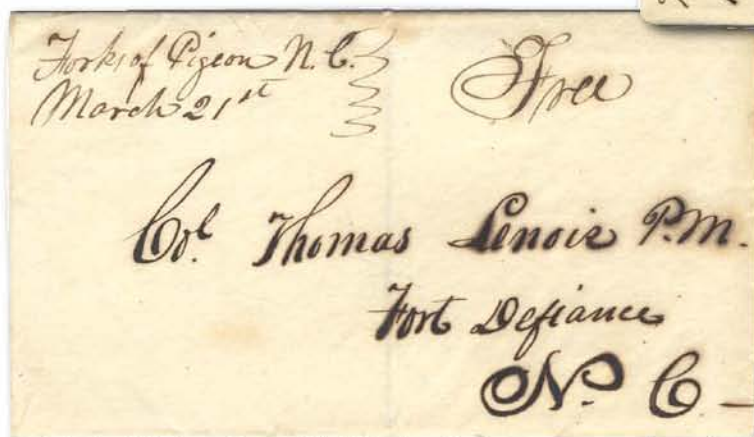


Figure 7. ▶ Free frank of Thomas Lenoir on 1841 folded letter from Fort Defiance to Gen. Samuel F. Patterson, Raleigh.

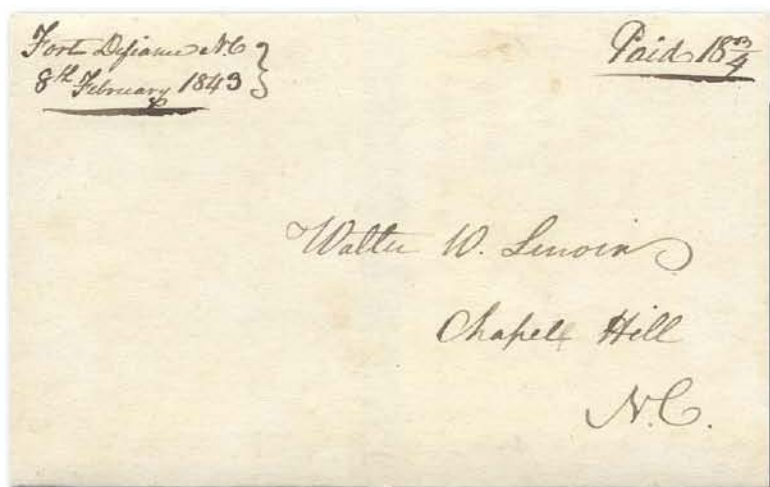


Representative Postal Covers

Figures 4 through 17 display selected folded letters and covers from the author's collection of Lenoir family postal history material with the accompanying legends containing many relevant details. All either originated at Fort Defiance or are addressed to there. The earliest is from Forks of Pigeon on January 28, 1832, with the last being from Fort Defiance on May 20, 1880, the last week of the existence of that office before its final discontinuance. Two covers, Figures 6 and 7, reflect Colonel Thomas Lenoir's franking privilege both of receiving and sending mail free of charge, while another two, Figures 12 and 13, reflect Rufus T. Lenoir's franking privilege of posting mail from another office, nearby Patterson in this case. The circumstances surrounding the latter two examples which were sent to St. Paul, Minnesota and St. Louis, Missouri, respectively, are described in the next section.

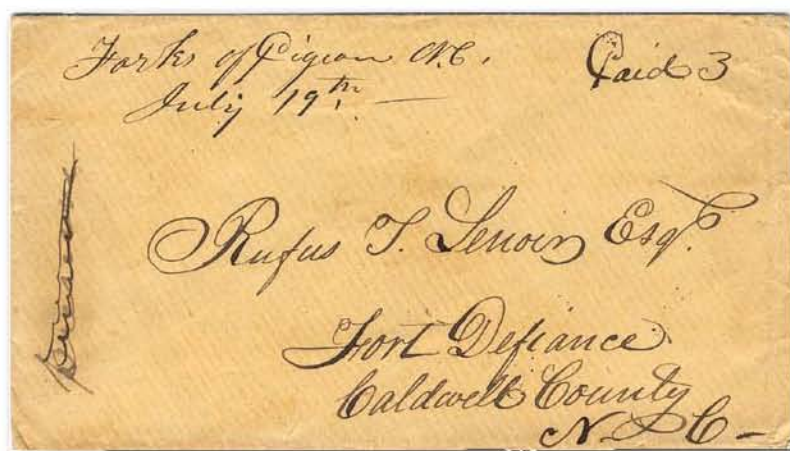


▲ **Figure 8.** Manuscript "5" on cover from Chapel Hill to Miss Sarah J. Lenoir (Sarah Joyce Lenoir, daughter of Col. Thomas Lenoir), Fort Defiance. No year date but rate indicates the period from 1845 to 1851.



◀ **Figure 9.** Manuscript "Paid 18 3/4" on 1843 folded cover from Fort Defiance to Walter W. Lenoir, Chapel Hill.

Figure 10. ▶ Manuscript "Paid 3" on cover from Forks of Pigeon to Rufus T. Lenoir, Fort Defiance. No year date but rate indicates 1851 or later, but before Rufus Lenoir became postmaster in 1858.





◀ **Figure 11.** Manuscript Nov. 2, 1853 postmark on 3¢ Nesbitt envelope from Fort Defiance to Mrs. Rufus L. Patterson, wife of Rufus L. Patterson and daughter of Gov. John M. Morehead.

Figure 12. ▶ Free frank of Rufus T. Lenoir on 1860 cover mailed from Patterson to Walter W. Lenoir, St. Paul, Minnesota



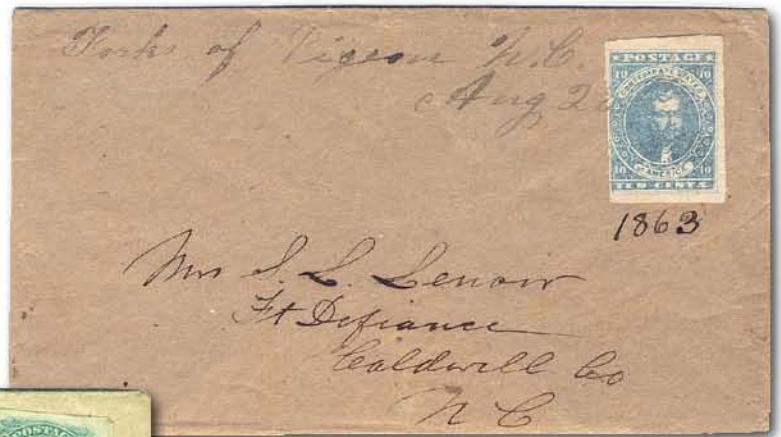
◀ **Figure 13.** Free frank of Rufus T. Lenoir on 1860 cover mailed from Patterson to Walter W. Lenoir, St. Louis, Missouri, with Oct. 27 (1860) "Advertised" marking.



Figure 14. ▶ Manuscript "Paid 5" on 1862 cover from Fort Defiance to W. W. Lenoir, Esq., Charleston, SC.



Figure 15. ▶
CSA 10¢ blue (Scott #2) on 1863 cover from
Forks of Pigeon to Mrs. S. L. Lenoir (Sarah
Leanora Lenoir, wife of Rufus T. Lenoir), at
Fort Defiance.



◀ **Figure 16.** CSA 10¢ blue (Scott #11) on
1864 cover from Fort Defiance to Mrs. Sallie L.
Lenoir (Sarah Leanora Lenoir, wife of Rufus T.
Lenoir), at Elkin (Surry Co.).

Figure 17. ▶
3¢ green (Scott #184) on 1880 cover from
Fort Defiance to Mr. Thomas B. Lenoir (son
of Rufus T. Lenoir), Chapel Hill. The final
appointment of Rufus Lenoir as postmaster
lasted only from April 9 to May 26, 1880,
when the office was discontinued for the last
time. This cover is from the final week of
existence of the Fort Defiance office.



Walter Lenoir's 1860 trip to Minnesota

In June 1856 Walter W. Lenoir married Cornelia (Nealy) Christian of Abingdon, Virginia. Their daughter Anna Tate was born in November 1857, but died in May 1858 from "brain disease." Tragically, Nealy died not so long later in February 1859 from tuberculosis. Stricken with grief at his double loss, Walter set out in the fall of 1860 on a trip to the upper Midwest to search for a new home and a fresh start. His trip took him as far as St. Anthony, Minnesota, about ten miles up the Mississippi River from St. Paul. Had the Civil War not intervened, he might well have returned to Minnesota in the spring of 1861 to purchase land. As it was, his trip produced a set of correspondence and postal history rather different from the rest of the Lenoir material. That is, while almost all of the other Lenoir family personal and business correspondence was to and from destinations within the Southeast, the

correspondence arising from Walter's fall 1860 trip was obviously to and from the Midwest. His route took him from Fort Defiance to Taylorsville, Tennessee (now Mountain City), Nashville, Louisville, Indianapolis, Chicago, St. Paul, and St. Anthony, with a return home via Chicago, St. Louis, and Memphis. He sent letters to his brother Rufus Lenoir at Fort Defiance from Louisville on September 30th, Chicago on October 6th, St. Anthony on the 9th, Chicago on the 17th, and St. Louis on the 25th and 27th. While we have not seen any of these covers, the letters themselves are in the Lenoir Family Papers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Rufus addressed letters to Walter in St. Paul on Sept. 27th, St. Louis on October 8th and 14th, and Memphis on the 20th. The covers for the letters of September 27th and October 14th not only bear the "free" marking of Postmaster Rufus Lenoir, but interestingly were both posted from nearby Patterson as

indicated by their circular date stamps. All of the correspondence would have taken advantage of Rufus' franking privilege, whether sent or received by him. In addition the cover to Walter in St. Louis bears a circular "Advertised Oct. 27" marking, a date when the letter was advertised in St. Louis. Apparently he got the letter soon thereafter.

Summary

In this article we have presented a brief description of the relationship between the Lenoir family and the postal operations located for so many years during the nineteenth century at their family home in Caldwell County known as "Fort Defiance." If ever there were a family post office, this was it! The family's habit of saving so much of their mail has resulted in the extensive university library holdings of Lenoir family papers and in the large amount of postal history material arising from this family's correspondence in the hands of collectors today.

Acknowledgments

The author wishes to thank Maurice Bursey of Chapel Hill for making photocopies of some postal records from the Lenoir Family Papers in the Southern Historical Collection in the library of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and Tony Crumbley of Charlotte for supplying the author with photocopies of Lenoir family covers from his collection. ■

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6. Eli Bowen, *The United States Post-Office Guide* (New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1851; Reprinted by Arno Press, New York, NY, 1976).
7. William L. Barney, *The Making of a Confederate: Walter Lenoir's Civil War* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2008).

Previous Mystery Cover

Jay Smith provided the only feedback on the mystery marking in the last journal, pictured to the left. He replied "This is an 'aviation security' marking. I don't remember whether these started with the Unibomber or with 9-11 or sometime in between, but it is supposed to indicate that the contents have been screened or the sender is known to the post office or something and that it is okay to put on an airplane."

The Post Office Department is very reluctant to provide any information about these markings, but here is what little we have been able to learn about them. Mail pieces weighing more than 13 ounces are required to be presented by the sender to a postal clerk, allowing a personal interaction between the mailer and the post office. Presumably, this is for security reasons. The postal clerk has to specially mark the mail piece showing the process has been accomplished if it is to be transported by aircraft, which is practically allailable pieces. All but very small post offices have a tape machine that satisfies that a transaction process has taken place. The labels produced by the machine identify the post office, that the item was paid and the amount, and the ZIP code of the addressee. Even if the mail piece has been paid with stamps, this label will still be applied and will show the amount \$0.00. Small post offices don't have the machine and mark the mail pieces with the AVSEC datestamp, usually in the easily recognized green ink. The reason so few of these markings are seen is that only very small offices use them.



President Winter Wins Large Gold!

by Tony L. Crumbley

One cannot subscribe to any philatelic literature without seeing our President and Journal Editor's name all through the literature. Dick Winter has produced three highly recognized and definitive books for the philatelic hobby. The first was *North Atlantic Mail Sailings, 1840-75*, co-authored with Walter Hubbard and published in 1988. The next books are the subject of this article. If you have not seen copies of *Understanding Transatlantic Mail* Vol. 1 and Vol. 2, I encourage each of you to obtain a copy and take a look at what Dick has produced. No work has ever been published to this level of detail covering the 19th Century maritime covers crisscrossing the Atlantic.

At the London 2010 stamp show, Dick was given a Large Gold award for his work on these two volumes. It is a rare honor for a work of literature to achieve this medal level award at an international stamp show. We are indeed lucky to have Dick among our membership and taking a key roll in our organization.

Volume 1 of *Understanding Transatlantic Mail* is no longer available except on the secondary market. Volume 2, however, is available from the American Philatelic Society, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA, 16823 or from major philatelic literature dealers. ■



New Mystery Cover



Can you help locate this office?

Send your answer to Tony Crumbley or Dick Winter.

Kannapolis, North Carolina – Its First 100 Years as a Textile Town

by Tony L. Crumbley

As a young child growing up in Kannapolis, I often heard the story of how Kannapolis was founded. Young James W. Cannon (Figure 1), on a train ride north from his home in Concord, looked out the train window and saw nice farm land and said to a friend, “I’m going to build a mill town there.”

The actual story is not far off. It seems that James W. Cannon moved from the Sugar Creek community of Mecklenburg County to work in a store in Concord with his brother, David, at the age of 16 in 1868. By 1888, James had opened his first textile plant, Cannon Manufacturing in Concord. In 1892, he opened his second cloth plant in Concord. By 1906, James felt the softening of the home cloth market and decided he needed to move into home fashions. On a train ride north of Concord, he decided to obtain farm land to build a mill town.

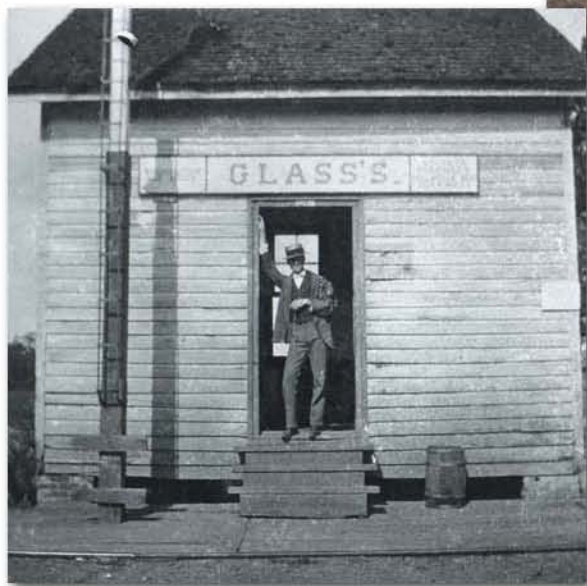
Mr. Cannon hired John Ketner Patterson, a former Register of Deeds, to find sufficient land to build his new town. Patterson traveled to Glass Depot where he looked for land he could

assemble. He found 1,008 acres of land near Glass in Cabarrus and Rowan counties which he optioned to purchase. By April of 1906, Mr. Cannon was closing on the land which he paid an average of \$23.13 per acre.

The post office was first opened in Glass in 1898. John T. M. Rogers was appointed first postmaster on June 24, 1898. He was replaced on June 14, 1899 by Thomas M. Rogers. On March 18, 1902 by James N. Dayvault became postmaster and on April 26, 1906, Frederick



◀ **Figure 1.** Young James W. Cannon, who founded Kannapolis and the Cannon Mills Company, which became the largest towel manufacturing company in the United States.



▲ **Figure 2.** Postmaster Rogers standing at the rear of the Glass post office and terminal. The ladder going up the pole beside the door allowed placing mail bags for pick up by the train as it passed without stopping.

W. Glass was appointed postmaster. He served until November 15, 1919 when the

post office closed and mail was sent to nearby Kannapolis.

Figure 2 is an illustration of Postmaster Rogers standing at the rear of the Glass post office and terminal. Notice the ladder going up the pole beside the door. This pole would have been used to place mail bags for pick up by the train as it passed without stopping.

By 1906, the station and post office had been replaced with a new building. (Figure 3) The building had two waiting rooms, a ticket office, and the mail pole, which was still near the railroad tracks.

In approximately 1905, the postmaster of Glass received a Type 2 Doane hand stamp. By 1907, it had been replaced with the larger Type 3 Doane shown in Figure 4. The marking was used as a receiving datestamp on this February 15, 1908 post card from High Point to Glass. The Doane cancel Type 3 with the numeral 2 indicated the postmaster had received \$200 compensation for the year prior to receiving this canceling device. By August of that year, Postmaster Glass had replaced his Doane canceller with a new four bar Type A/2 circular datestamp (Figure 5).

Figure 3. ▶
New railroad station and post office of Glass in 1906 enlarged to include two waiting rooms, a ticket office, and the mail pole alongside the railroad tracks.



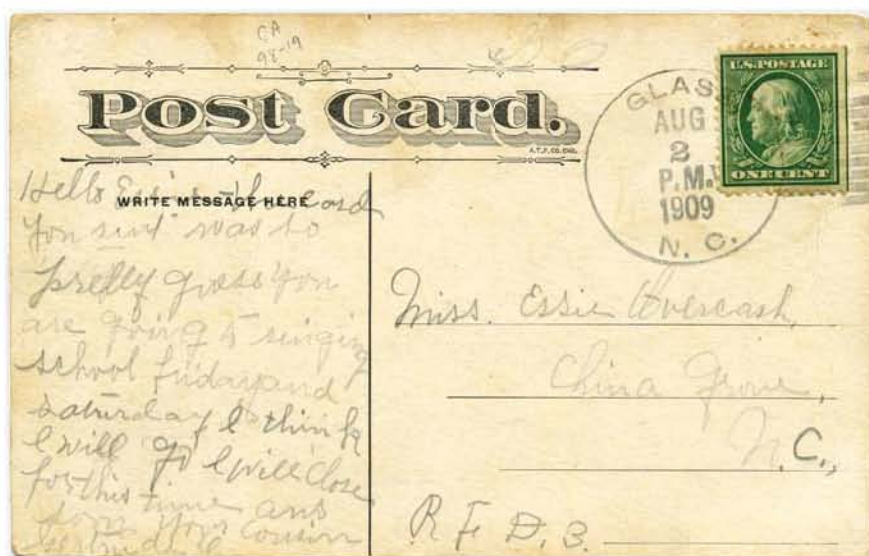
▼ **Figure 4.** Post card from High Point to Glass with the Glass Doane Type 3-2 date-stamp used as a receiving postmark in the upper left corner.



their needs, and doctors to keep them well, along with entertainment options to keep them happy. In 1907, he began construction of the first 50 houses. Kannapolis was built as a mill village. Mill employees lived in low rent homes (\$5 per room), usually four-room houses with low cost utilities and free garbage collection. His village would climb to over 800 units by 1920.

While the houses and mill were being built, Cannon began construction of a new YMCA. This YMCA was for the benefit of the employees and surrounding community. The YMCA, pictured in Figure 6, quickly became the center of social and religious life

Figure 5. ▶
August 2, 1909 Type A/2 4-bar rubber canceler that replaced the Doanes used at Glass. Because the killer portion of the device slipped the postmark appears to have more than eight bars.



Mr. Cannon's concept of a new mill town began to take hold by 1907. Initially, the community was called Cannapolis. In 1907, he petitioned the Cabarrus County Commissioners to officially name the village Kannapolis, a name that in Greek means city of looms.

Cannon envisioned a mill surrounded by houses to hold his workers, stores to supply



◀ **Figure 6.** James Cannon built this YMCA in Kannapolis, which quickly became the center of social and religious life.

Kannapolis. He served only until December 4, 1907 when Calvin C. Stonestreet was appointed. Early citizens do not consider Moore a postmaster. I expect this was because

▼ **Figure 7.** Post card view of Main Street, Kannapolis with post office and bank in brick building on the right.

in the community. The first motion pictures were shown here, and the “Y” helped organize and sponsor teams in almost every sport. Hot showers were available for local men, and considering that most of the mill houses did not have running water, this must have been a major attraction. The YMCA played a major role in the community throughout its textile history.

As a child, I remember Kannapolis having the claim to the largest YMCA in the country. This was done simply by having a membership fee of \$3.00 and every student in school was a member.

On October 16, 1907, W. L. Moore was appointed the first postmaster of



he never took office. The earliest post office was in the home of Mr. Stonestreet. Postmaster Stonestreet moved the post office to the corner of Main Street and First Street in a brick building which housed the Cabarrus Bank. Figure 7 is a view of Main Street. The brick building on the right is the post office and bank building. The post

◀ **Figure 8.** July 11, 1909, the earliest postmark of Kannapolis in the author's collection, a Type A/1 4-bar rubber canceler.

office remained at this location until a new facility was built in 1951 on West Avenue. This facility lasted for 11 years when another new building was built in 1962. It opened for business in July, 1962.

Figure 9. ▶

October 8, 1916 cover to Greensboro showing government supplied metal duplex Type H2 datestamp to replace the earlier 4-bar canceler.

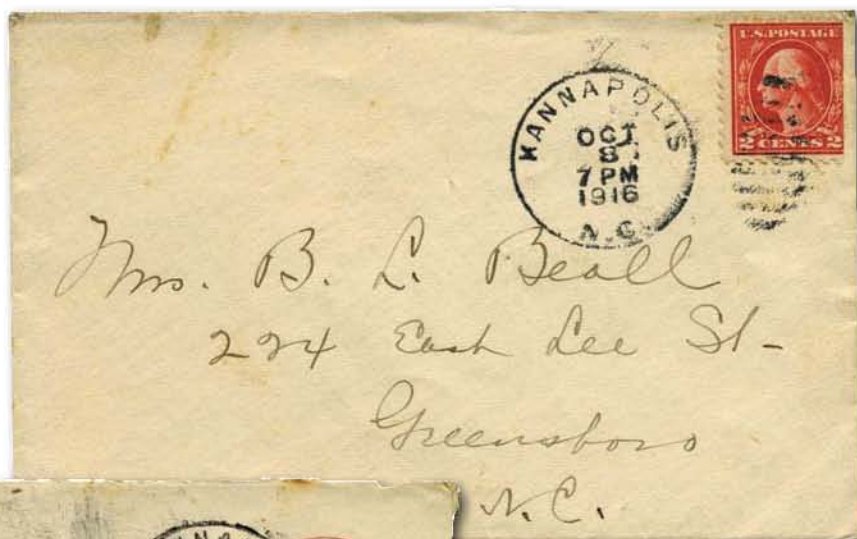


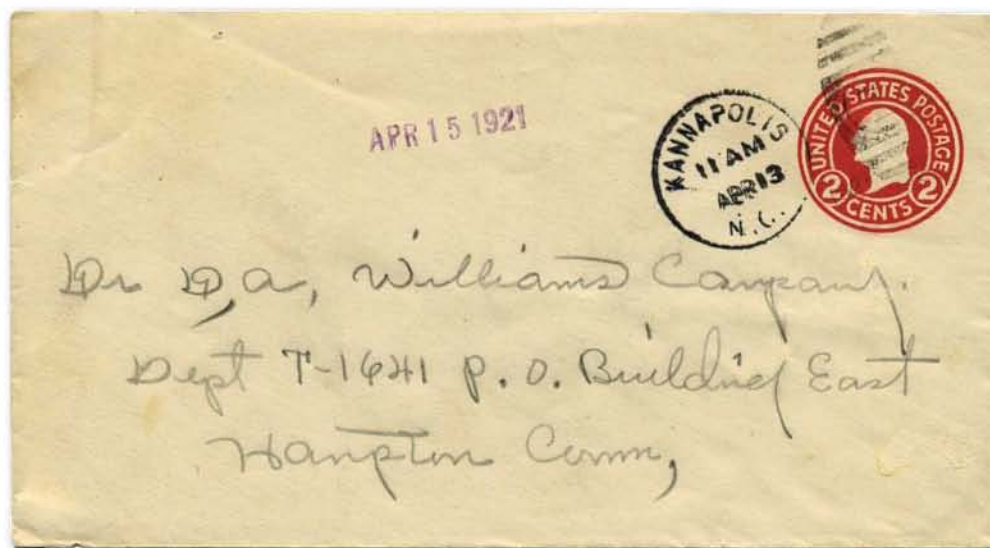
Figure 10. ◀ Another government supplied metal duplex Type H2 datestamp used on September 30, 1920 to Sturgis, Michigan

(Figure 8). On this post card Postmaster Stonestreet used a Type A/1 4-bar rubber canceler to use on his mail. By 1916, Postmaster Gilam had received a metal duplex canceler, a Type H2 cancel with 10 bars in the elliptical grid killer (Figure 9 and

It is interesting to note that each of the post offices was in a building built by Cannon Mills. The later ones were built to the specifications of the postal authorities. A new facility, built

Figure 11. ▶

April 13, 1921 cover to Hampton, Ct. showing government supplied metal duplex Type E2 canceler.



in 2004, exists today, away from downtown Kannapolis at 1040 Dale Earnhardt Boulevard.

The earliest postmark of Kannapolis in the author's collection dates to July 11, 1909

Figure 10). By 1915, the post office was located at Main and First Street.

Figure 11 is an example of the metal duplex Type E2 canceler that was used at the Kannapolis post office from 1921 through 1932.

In 1911, James Cannon employed his youngest son as an office boy. Young Charles quickly demonstrated his abilities and in 1912 was made manager of the Cannon plant in Rockwell. In 1921 when James Cannon was made Chairman of the Board, Charles was made President of Cannon Manufacturing Company. When James Cannon died in December 1921, Charles took over total control of the company. In 1928, the nine Cannon companies were consolidated into one Cannon Mills Company and became the largest towel

D30 machine cancel (Figure 12) would stay in use until 1944, when a new die would be introduced (Figure 13). This die is known to have been used through January 1959. While the cancel produced by the new die looked very similar to its predecessor, the top line of the 7-line wavy killer was shortened at its left end.

In the late 1950s, Postmaster Koontz would add two slogan cancels to the international machine. The first was a Type D 400 with the slogan "At Easter/Help/Crippled Children" (Figure 14). This would be used into 1970. From November 1959 the slogan, "Pray/For/Peace," also was used (Figure 15). This slogan remained in use into the spring of 1971. Both slogan cancels are known with and without zip code 28081 in the dials.

Charles Cannon began in 1962 the process of naming his predecessor by appointing Don S. Holt president. On April 2, 1971 while working at his desk, Charles A. Cannon died of a massive stroke. Under the leadership of Mr. Holt and later Harold



◀ **Figure 12.** July 8, 1927 International Machine Type D30 cancellation used on this post card to Fayetteville (Cumberland County).

manufacturing company in the United States. The company employed 15,000 workers and produced 300,000 towels a day.

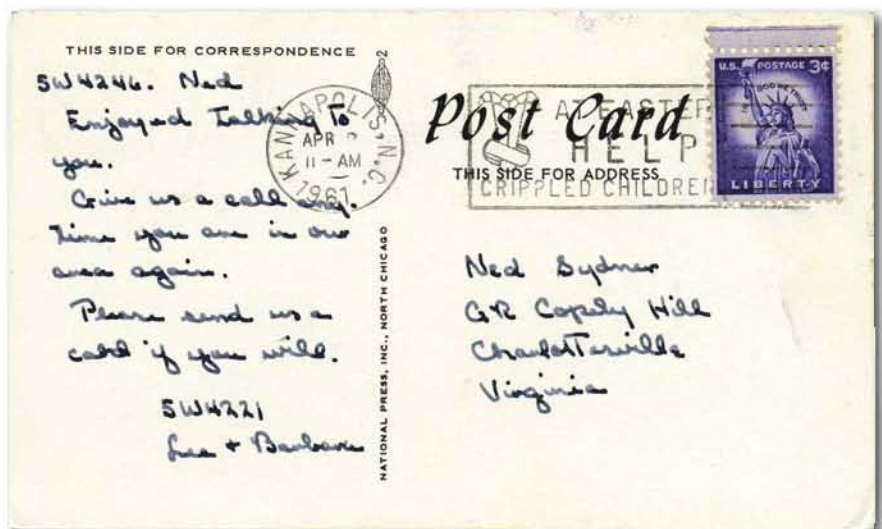
Figure 13. ▶
New die of the International Machine Type D30 cancellation used on a March 31, 1950 postal card to Salisbury (Rowan County). Note the top line of the 7-line wavy killer is shorter at the left.

In 1927 as Charles Cannon was consolidating his companies, Postmaster Lady automated his postal operations. By July 1927, the first international machine was servicing letters in Kannapolis. This Type

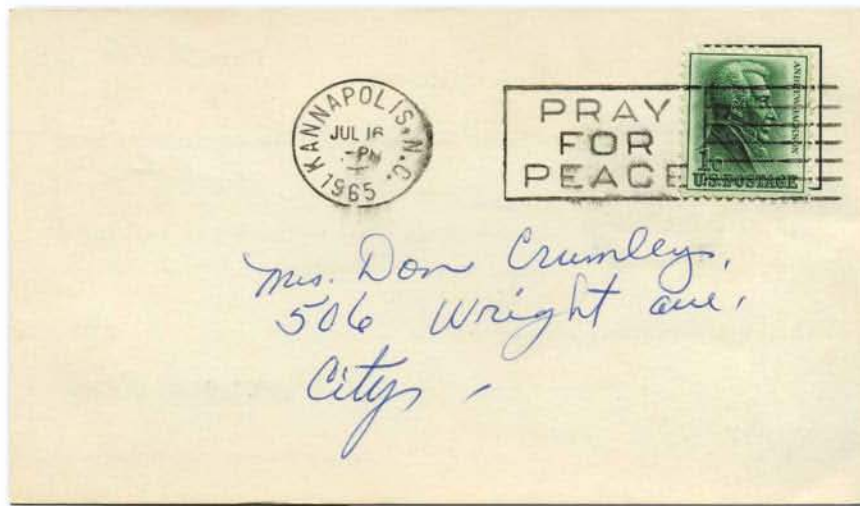
Hornaday, the mill continued to prosper. By 1976, sales were over \$450 million, and the mill was spending over \$100 million in new machinery. In 1982, David Murdock acquired Cannon Mills in a leveraged buy-out paying \$414 million for the mill and its assets. Mr. Murdock quickly began the



Figure 14. ▶
International Machine slogan cancellation, "At Easter/Help/Crippled Children," used on April 2, 1961 post card to Charlottesville, Virginia.



reduction of the Cannon Mill assets. For decades, Kannapolis had been the largest unincorporated community in the nation. In November 1984, the City of Kannapolis was incorporated and the functions of the city – water, sewer, fire, police – became the responsibility of the taxpayers, not the



next few years, he would announce his plans for the future of Kannapolis. Anything that remained of the mill would be destroyed and like a phoenix from the fire, a new future would rise. On February 23, 2006, the ground was broken for the core laboratory, the centerpiece of the North Carolina

◀ **Figure 15.** International Machine slogan cancellation, "Pray/For/Peace," used on July 16, 1965 local letter.

mill.

The mill would change hands several times more. First Fieldcrest paid \$321 million for 75% of the mill, then Pillowtex of Dallas paid a whopping \$700 million for the combined mills. In 1997, the debt of this final purchase would bankrupt the mill and on July 31, 2003, the doors would close, and the mill town would begin transition to its future.

In December 2004 just two years shy of its 100th birthday, David Murdock purchased at auction for \$6.4 million the remaining buildings and land of the once textile giant. Over the

tions, having just begun at the beginning of the last century, there is still considerable postal history to collect.

Note: For a detail listing of all known Glass and Kannapolis postmarks, visit the North Carolina Postmark Catalog Update at http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu/statepostalhistory/northcarolina_postmarkcatalog.html. ■

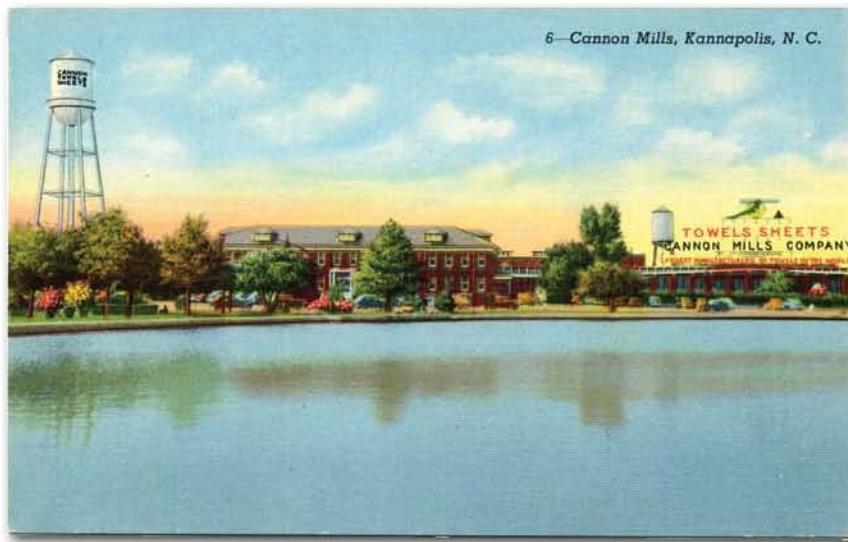
Source: *Kannapolis, A Pictorial History*, 2008, published by City of Kannapolis.

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Kannapolis Postmasters

W. L. Moore	October 16, 1907	Homer E. Benson Officer-In-Charge	April 24, 1978
Calvin L. Stonestreet	December 4, 1907	Gene L. Hodges Officer-In-Charge	July 14, 1978
Festus C. Gilam	January 27, 1914	Charles E. Irving	August 26, 1978
Edgar E. Lady Acting	November 15, 1920	Robert Shoe Officer-In-Charge	May 24, 1990
Edgar E. Lady	October 7, 1921	Stanley Chambers Officer-In-Charge	November 2, 1990
Jennings M. Koontz Acting	December 14, 1933	Spencer Thompson	January 12, 1991
Jennings M. Koontz	April 27, 1934	Ted Klopfer Officer-In-Charge	January 12, 1993
Thomas Spence Nelson Jr. Acting	December 30, 1964	Frank Quiller	May 15, 1993
Elbert L. Lippard Acting	September 2, 1966	Wayne Dunn Officer-In-Charge	?
Elbert L. Lippard	July 21, 1967	Brian K. White	April 25, 1998
Hazel E. Ellis Officer-In-Charge	January 13, 1978		



▲ **Figure 16.** Post card of the 1960s illustrating the Cannon Mills Company of Kannapolis, "The Largest Manufacturer of Towels in the World."

Franklinville to Paris, France

by Richard F. Winter

Nineteenth century covers from North Carolina to overseas destinations are always difficult to find. Perhaps this is because North Carolina in this period was a very rural state with a small population and many could not read or write. As a result, there are few letters to be found. While foreign covers are generally uncommon, ones with postmarks and fancy killers are even more uncommon. Such is the

case with the cover illustrated in Figures 1 and 2.

This small envelope originated in Franklinville, Randolph County, on 30 August 1866 and was addressed to T. W. Carris, on travel in Europe. We know this because it was addressed to "Poste Restante" or General Delivery in Paris, mail to be held until called for. Travelers often sent mail to major city post offices to be held for their arrival in the city. The letter received



◀ Figures 1 and 2. 30 August 1866 - Franklinville to Paris, France, paid 15¢ per ¼ ounce rate with a horizontal strip of five 3¢ rose 1861 adhesives (Scott No. 65). Reverse show two Paris Central Office datestamps. (Tony Crumbley collection)

in the lower left corner the black double circle datestamp of Franklinville used just after the Civil War. The letter was properly paid the single letter rate to France under the 1857 United States – France Postal Convention, 15¢ per ¼ ounce, with a horizontal strip of five 3¢ rose 1861 adhesives (Scott No. 65), each carefully canceled with a star killer. More will be said about this killer a little later.

The letter was sent to New York to be placed in the mails to France. The New York exchange office clerk struck over the adhesives a red orange datestamp, **NEW PAID YORK/(date)/12**, a marking that indicated the letter was paid, would depart New York on 5 September, and that a credit of 12¢ was made to France. Because the letter was going on a British steamship to England, the United States was entitled only to 3¢ of the single rate under the convention, the remainder being credited to France. The letter was placed in a closed mail bag, which was put on board the Cunard steamship *Persia* departing on 5 September and arriving at Queenstown, Ireland, on 14 September 1866. From there the closed mail bag was sent by train to Dublin, across the Irish sea by mail boat to England, by train to London and Dover, across the English Channel to Calais, France, and then by train to Paris. Here the bag was opened for the first time since leaving New York. The letter received the small, double circle red orange datestamp to the right of the New York marking that read, **3 ETATS-UNIS 3/(date)/SERV.BRIT.CALAIS**. This marking, dated 16 September 1866, indicated that the letter was from the United States, was carried across the Atlantic by British contract steamship service, and entered France at Calais. The French also marked the small red orange boxed **PD** to show the letter was paid to its destination. On the reverse are two additional datestamps in black ink. The first shows handling within the Bureau Central

in Paris and the second the marking of the Poste Restante office in Paris, both dated the same day. A docketing notation on the left edge of the envelope by the recipient shows that the letter was received later the same day.

When Vernon Stroupe made the tracings for *Post Offices and Postmasters of North Carolina*, the one example of the Franklinville postmark in his records showed a

star killer, but was not fully inked to see the interior of the star. His tracing was dated 26 September with no year, but he correctly determined the period was immediately after the Civil War. His tracing of the killer is just a simple five-pointed star with a hollow center. We can see from this example and one other in the postmarks records we now have that the center of the star is not hollow but has a distinct pattern that does not always ink properly. Figure 3 illustrates the postmark and killer on another cover with a letter inside of 24 May 1868 that shows the pattern much more clearly.

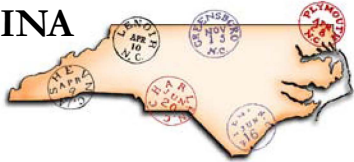
Franklinville is located eight miles northeast east of Asheboro. You will notice that the name in the postmark is spelled “Franklinsville.” All the manuscript postmarks from

Figure 3. ▶
Cover posted on 26 May 1868 showing clear pattern of interior of Franklinville star killer.



before the Civil War have the “s” in the post office name as well as this postmark and one other circular datestamp typical of the smaller ones used in 1870s. Soon thereafter, however, the “s” no longer appeared in the postmarks of Franklinville. The change had to occur between 1870 and 1890. Even though the local postmasters used the name “Franklinsville” in their postmarks, the *Records of Appointments of Postmasters* maintained in Washington, D.C. always spelled the name without the “s.” ■

NORTH CAROLINA POSTAL HISTORIAN



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North Carolina Postmark Catalog Update

The following counties have been prepared
and are available at

[http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu/statepostalhistory/
northcarolina_postmarkcatalog.html](http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu/statepostalhistory/northcarolina_postmarkcatalog.html):

Alamance through Graham and Guilford

Guilford has not been updated with the PMCC data. Minor
changes have been made to some of the other counties

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