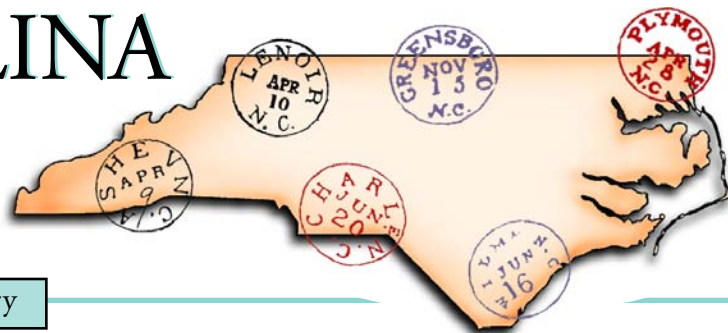


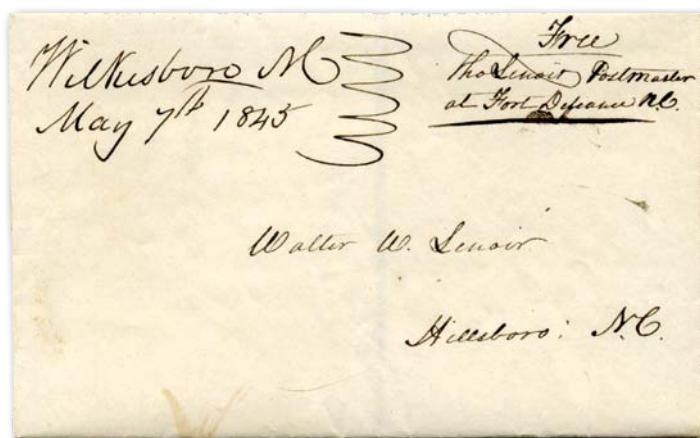
NORTH CAROLINA POSTAL HISTORIAN

The Journal of North Carolina Postal History

VOLUME 32, NO. 1 WINTER 2012-2013 WHOLE 121



The Postal History of Wilkes County



Raleigh, North Carolina A Variety of Color



U.S. Postal Bulletins on a New Web Site

Affiliate #155 of the American Philatelic Society



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Again, my message to you is at the close of the holiday season. I hope your holidays were enjoyable and that the New Year brings good health and philatelic enjoyment. This begins the 31st year of the North Carolina Postal History Society.

By now I hope you have taken the opportunity to view our new web site. The feedback so far has been very positive. All the basic pages from the original plan are up. There are a number of improvements and additions that we want to make in the future. Since expenses will be involved, we have to consider the changes carefully; but, we expect to make changes in the coming year. The basic information about our society is available to the public. It took a few months for Google to get our site on the first page of their listing, but we are there now. Most importantly, the *North Carolina Postmark Catalog Update* is available from our own site now, making it much easier to access. I hope that you will find the site helpful and useful.

One of the things we want for the future is to get out auction on the web site. This will be high on our list of planned additions. For now, we have to continue using the old method for our auction. At the bottom of each sheet of our auction are two important pieces of information: addresses to mail or email your bids and the web site to view the lots, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/93669686@N00/>. This is Yahoo's Flickr site for posting pictures, in our case, auction lots.

The status box of the *North Carolina Postmark Catalog Update* (back page) will show more changes. Martin and McDowell Counties have been added. The catalog pages of the major cities are large and make the files of the counties in which they reside large files to download. These cities are being removed from their counties and listed as separate files. To date, Greensboro and Asheville have been separated out. The postmarks of 59 counties and two cities now have been documented. The counties from Alamance through Burke have been completely updated and others will be updated as time is available. Remember, if you want to know if a county has had

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changes made since you last viewed it, check the date in parenthesis after the name of the file posted. Currently, there are 3,063 pages on-line, with 11,838 markings shown that were not previously documented.

If you have an email address and have not given it to us, please send the information to Bill DiPaolo, out Secretary-Treasurer. His mailing and email addresses are at the bottom of this page. We plan to use email in the near future for sending information to our members.

A large number of our members have paid their dues for 2013, with many contributing a little extra as sustaining members. The early and generous response is very encouraging. The extra donations help us with the increased costs of providing the journal. Please remember to pay your dues now if you have not already done so. Dues for 2013 remain at \$15 for the year, which includes four issues of our journal, the *North Carolina Postal Historian*. Donations above the regular membership amount are deductible as we are a non-profit, educational organization. All contributions will be very helpful to our society.

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 message at rfwinter@triad.rr.com, or write to me. My mailing address appears at the bottom of this page.

Dick Winter



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Robert Outlaw 1929-2012



by Tony L. Crumbley

A rare site at a stamp show is a husband and wife collecting team. One such team was Marge and Bob Outlaw. For decades, if you saw one, you saw the other. Marge collected her home state of Tennessee postal history, and Bob collected airmail and North Carolina postal history. I first met the two of them in the early 1980s through my involvement with the Confederate Stamp Alliance. Shortly after the North Carolina Postal History Society was formed, Bob joined and retained his membership until his demise.

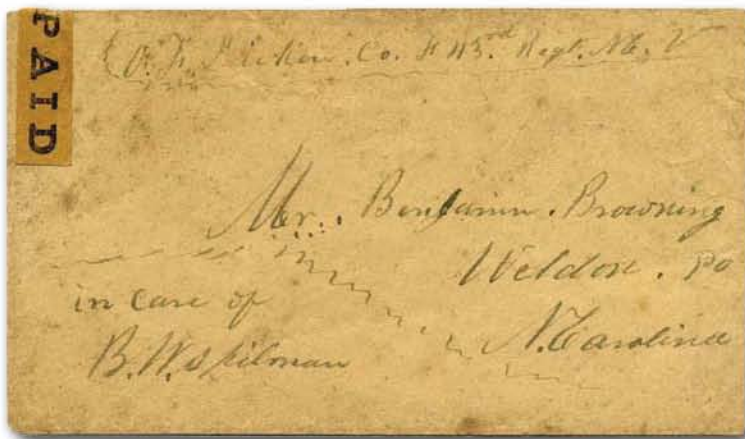
After Marge's death in 2005, Bob would regularly tell me he was ready to join her at any time. Bob was born on August 24, 1929 to Lewis James and Sadie Outlaw in Goldsboro, NC. He served in the United States Army during the Korean conflict. As many Southerners did at the time, he moved to the Chicago area for a better job. It was here that he met and married Marge.

Bob was active in the 47th regiment, NC troops, Camp 166, Sons of Confederate Veterans, an active member of the Confederate Stamp Alliance and past President of the American Airmail Society.

On Sunday, October 14, 2012, Bob passed away at the William Dunlap Center for Care in Raleigh. Without a doubt, Bob will be missed. Those that knew Bob, know that he is happy to be back with his first love, Marge. ■



Mystery Cover



From time to time your editors are confronted with a mystery cover for which they have no explanation. On these occasions, we turn to our readers to come up with the solution.

A crude, hand-made envelope from O.F. Dickin, Company F, 43rd Regiment, North Carolina Volunteers, is shown here addressed to Mr. Benjamin Browning, Weldon post office. In the upper left corner is an unusual label with the word "PAID." Since we haven't seen this before, we ask if any of our readers are familiar with the label and can explain the cover.

Send your answer to Tony Crumbley or Dick Winter.

The Postal History of Wilkes County

by Charles F. Hall, Jr.

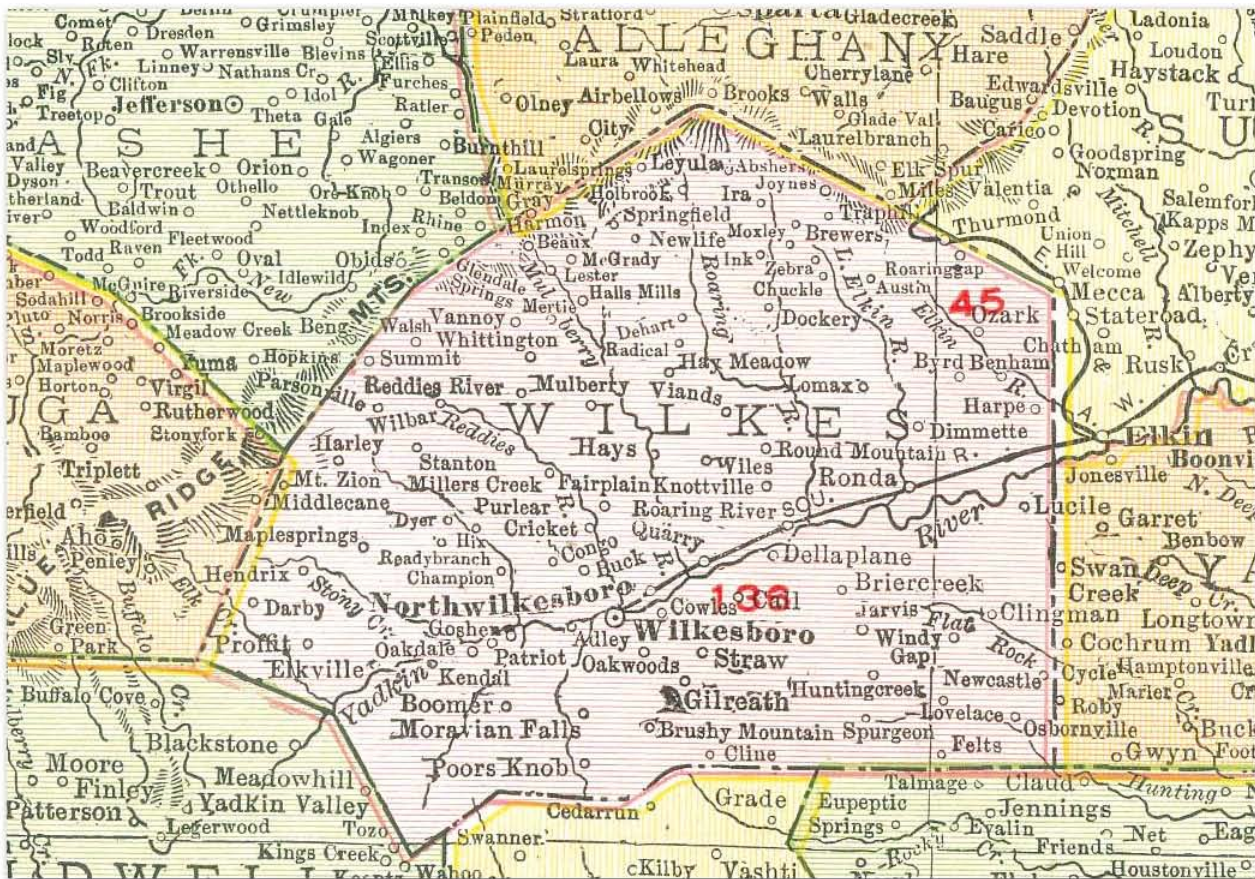


Today's traveler driving westward on NC 421 through Wilkes County enters an area of picturesque rolling hills, neat farms and woodlands that continues into the foothills of the Blue Ridge. The motorist crosses the Brushy Mountains, the first range of the Blue Ridge, goes over the Yadkin River at Wilkesboro, crosses Lewis Fork Creek and begins the climb to Deep Gap and the Blue Ridge Parkway. Wilkes County is the gateway to the North Carolina Mountains but beneath the surface of its pleasant and varied geography are deep veins of historical, cultural and commercial heritage. Today, Wilkes County may be best known for some of its prominent citizens such as Daniel Boone, Eng



and Chang Bunker, the famous Siamese Twins, the early NASCAR drivers who helped launch the sport such as Junior Johnson, musicians such as Doc Watson and Tom Dula, the folk hero or rogue (take your pick) who inspired the 'Tom Dooley' ballad of the Kingston Trio fame.

But there is much more to Wilkes County. Prior to the American Revolution, it was the western frontier and does not even appear in any detail on maps until 1770. Christopher Grist was the first documented non-native American to settle the area that became Wilkes County when he settled west of the Yadkin River around 1750. Daniel Boone was one of Wilkes County's most famous residents. He and his family were typical



▲ **Figure 1.** Map of Wilkes county taken from the 1913 edition of *The Rand McNally New Commercial Atlas Map of North Carolina*, showing many of the small towns whose post offices were prevalent in the early nineteenth century.

of the early settlers who migrated to the Piedmont and western North Carolina from Pennsylvania on the Great Wagon Road. Daniel Boone was born in Pennsylvania in 1746 but the Boones moved to the Wilkes County area when Daniel was a child. They lived near Beaver Creek. Daniel later moved westward into Kentucky and became an American folk legend.

Wilkes County was created in 1777 out of Surry County and the District of Washington. This district survives today in part as Washington County, Tennessee. At the urging of General Benjamin Cleveland, a Wilkes County Revolutionary War hero and relentless Tory pursuer, the county was named for John Wilkes, an English parliamentarian who was thought to be sympathetic to the American colonists' cause. In fact, he was removed as Mayor of London because of his support for the colonists.

Wilkes County boundaries have been altered many times until the final county line was settled in 1939 when the Legislature settled the final boundary between Wilkes and Alleghany Counties. Wilkes County is surrounded by Ashe, Alleghany, Surry, Yadkin, Iredell, Alexander, Caldwell and Watauga Counties. The 2010 population was 69,340. It has an area of 760 square miles and, with a greatly varying geography, its altitude ranges from 900 feet to 4,079 feet. It has 22 townships and three incorporated towns. These are Wilkesboro, North Wilkesboro and Rhonda.

Traditionally, Wilkes County has relied on farming, lumbering, furniture and the poultry and dairy industries, but there have been other ventures such as a tannery. It also has seen the beginnings of several important commercial enterprises. Lowe's Hardware had its origins in Wilkesboro, NASCAR had its genesis in the area's stock car racing tradition and Tyson's Foods absorbed Holly Farms to become a major poultry products producer. Other businesses were in the home furnishing and textile areas. Today, tourism contributes significantly to the local economy since the county borders the Blue Ridge Parkway and features Stone Mountain State Park and the Kerr Lake recreational area. There are also orchards and wineries. Wilkes Community College is home to the popular Merlefest music festival that featured Doc Watson until his death in 2012 and many prominent musicians.

Figure 1 depicts the location of Wilkes County as seen in the 1913 edition of *The Rand McNally New Commercial Atlas Map of North Carolina*. This map was chosen because it shows many of the small post town that were prevalent in the early part of the nineteenth century. Also, it shows the one railroad approaching from Elkin (Surry County) to the northeast and terminating at North Wilkesboro.

Wilkes County's geography influenced its postal history. Roads and communities conformed to the terrain. The settlements tended to be scattered and isolated and the roads were unimproved and winding. The major highway through Wilkes County is US 421 which follows the east-west path of older roads. It was paved from Yadkinville in adjacent Yadkin

County to the Tennessee Line in 1931, but only was opened to four-lane traffic in late 2001. The first railroad into Wilkes was completed in 1890 when the Western Railroad opened a line from Winston in Forsyth County to a point one mile north of the Yadkin River, across the river from Wilkesboro. The terminus of the railroad became North Wilkesboro, which was chartered by the North Carolina Legislature in 1891. The shortage of good roads and railroad connections certainly hampered mail delivery and commerce in general.

Post Offices and Postmasters of North Carolina lists 163 post offices that have operated in Wilkes County since it was established, the most post offices documented for any North Carolina county. Wilkes County postal historian Dr. Steve Jackson has documented closer to 180 post offices when name changes, openings and closings and spelling variations are considered. As an example, he presents the various spellings of the Wilkesboro post office: Wilkes, Wilkes Courthouse, Wilkesborough and Wilkesboro. Many post offices were short-lived, leaving little for the postal record. Their names reflect geographical features such as Roaring River, place names such as Maple Hill, family names such as Hall's Mills, specific persons as in Wilkesboro or the whimsical, like Chuckle or Radical. The origin of some names such as Vox have been lost. A few post offices moved from one county to another such as Fort Defiance that moved from Wilkes County to Caldwell County in 1841 when Caldwell County was formed from Burke and Wilkes Counties. Scott Troutman, in an article in the Summer 1992 edition of the *NCPHS Newsletter* (Whole No. 41), discusses the scarcity of postal material from many of the small, short-lived post offices in Wilkes County. He also describes the difficulty determining the locations of many of these rural post offices, many of which were located in homes, stores, or small business locations.

Today, there are 13 operating post offices in Wilkes County. They are Boomer, Ferguson, Hays, McGrady, Millers Creek, Moravian Falls, North Wilkesboro, Purlear, Roaring River, Ronda, Thurmond, Traphill, and Wilkesboro. Although most all of Wilkes County post offices have closed, those small rural post offices provided an irreplaceable source of communication and tied families and communities together. In these days of good roads, telephones, radio, television and the internet, it may be almost impossible to understand the isolation of those early Wilkes County residents for whom a letter was a cherished and rare event. Up to date news was unreliable at best.

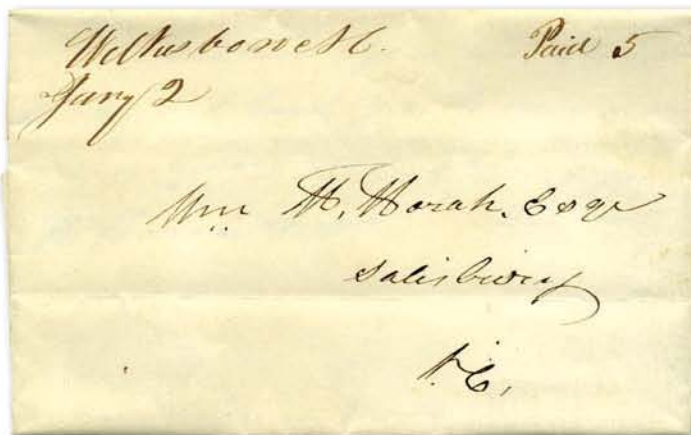
There is only one postal railroad marking associated with Wilkes County. This is from the Winston and Wilkesboro railroad, a line of the Richmond and Danville Railroad. To date no markings have been located for this line.

The following figures are examples of Wilkes County mail that cover a wide range of time and geography. Some of the covers are not in very good condition; but, they are not easy to find. Regardless of condition, they show mail from a number of small Wilkes County offices. ■



◀ **Figure 2.** Letter mailed on August 26, 1805, from Knoxville, Tennessee, to Major William Lenoir at Wilkes Court House, the first post office in Wilkes County, established on August 22, 1794. The name later was changed to Wilksboro, also periodically spelled Wilkesborough. William Lenoir was a prominent Revolutionary War leader and community leader who lived at Fort Defiance in the Patterson Community of what is now Caldwell County. In 1805, Fort Defiance was in Wilkes County. The manuscript rate appears to be 25 cents, 2 x 12½ cents. (Courtesy of the Wilkes County Historical Museum)

Figure 3. ▶ Wilkesboro, May 7, 1845, free frank used by Thomas Lenoir, who was entitled to the franking privilege as postmaster of the Fort Defiance post office. Fort Defiance was located in that part of Wilkes County that became Caldwell County in 1841. Thomas Lenoir posted his letter in Wilkesboro to Hillsboro (Orange County) and used his franking privilege as a postmaster in Caldwell County. (Courtesy Tony Crumbley)



◀ **Figure 4.** Wilkesboro, January 2, 1846, folded letter to Salisbury (Rowan County) paid 5 cents. Manuscript postmarks were used in Wilkesboro until 1853, when the first circular datestamp was introduced. (Courtesy Tony Crumbley)

Figure 5. ▶ Elkville, May 8, 1856, to Wilkesboro showing the red circular datestamp used from 1854 to 1863. The Elkville post office was established on May 21, 1832, and was open intermittently until July 13, 1914, when its name was changed to Blackstone. Tom Dula, of the Ballad of Tom Dooley fame, resided in this area. He enlisted in Co. K, 42nd N.C. State Troops on March 15, 1862, in Elkville, was captured on March 10, 1865, at the Battle of Wyse Fork near Kinston, but returned home after the war, only to be hanged on May 1, 1868, for the murder of Laura Foster. Dula's guilt is still debated. (The Author's Collection)



Figure 6. ▶
Wilkesboro, July 11, 185x to Liberty Hill (Iredell County, 1826/1880). This circular datestamp was used between 1853 and 1856. A circular three cents paid handstamp show prepayment. (The Author's Collection)

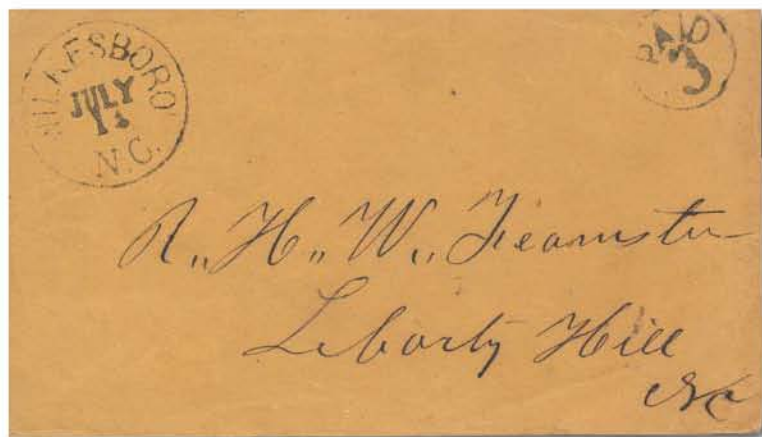


Figure 7. ◀ Wilmington to Wilkesboro, March 19, 1846-51. The recipient, General Patterson, resided at Fort Defiance, in Caldwell County. The manuscript postage due was 20 cents for a double rate letter from Wilmington to Wilkesboro and 10 cents to forward the letter to Fort Defiance. (The Author's Collection)

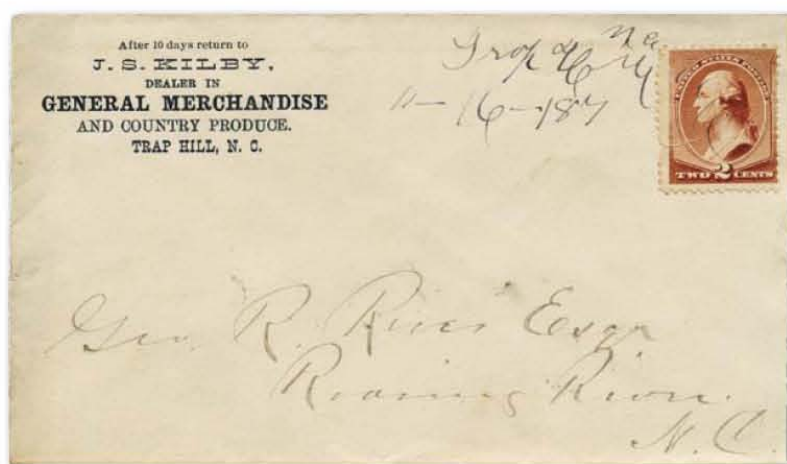
Figure 8. ▶
Wilkesborough, posted February 23, 186x, to Huntsville (1795-1907) in adjacent Yadkin County. The Wilkesboro circular datestamp is the large Type 2 "balloon" datestamp used from 1857 -1862. The circular 10 rate marking was used during the Confederate period. (The Author's Collection)



Figure 9. ◀ Wilkes County (post office not specified), May 1, 1865, to Turnersburg in northern Iredell County. This important cover is the last known Confederate use in North Carolina. The Confederate postal services officially ceased on or before April 30, 1865. (Courtesy Tony Crumbley)

Figure 10. ▶

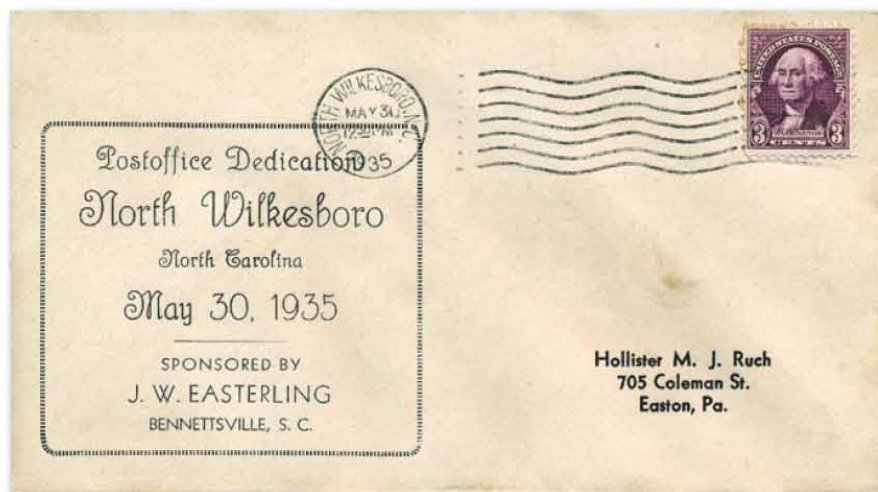
Trap Hill, November 16, 1887, to Roaring River (Wilkes County), paid with a 2 cent red brown American Bank Note Co. stamp (Scott No. 210). Traphill is located in the northeast part of the county. It opened in 1837 and is still operating today. In 1887 the name was in two parts as shown in the advertising corner card on this cover. (Courtesy Tony Crumbley)



◀ **Figure 11.** Metal duplex hand canceling device, Type H2, used at Wilkesboro, with the date January 1, 1914 and the time 6:00 A.M. The thumb screw holds the date and time slugs in place. Sometimes ink accumulates on the thumb screw and a short line appears on postmarks outside the circular datestamp as a result. (Courtesy Wilkes County Historical Museum)

Figure 12. ▶

Chuckle, December 14, 1905, to Elmwood, Indiana. Chuckle was located in northern Wilkes County and the post office operated from June 18, 1902 to November 15, 1917. Apparently the Elmwood office had difficulty locating the addressee for a magenta auxiliary marking was struck, "Have Your Mail/Addressed to St. & No./Box or Gen. Del." (The Wilkes County Historical Museum)



◀ **Figure 13.** North Wilkesboro, May 30, 1935, to Easton, Pennsylvania. The North Wilkesboro office, which opened in 1890 as Gordon, changed its name in 1891. It is one of the 13 post offices that are still operating. This cover commemorates the opening of a new post office building in 1935. (The Wilkes County Historical Museum)



◀ **Figure 14.** Radical, July 10, 1923, to New Castle, another Wilkes post office. Radical operated from April 5, 1902 until January 31, 1948. The community is located in northern Wilkes County between the Chestnut and Herald Mountains. (The Wilkes County Historical Museum)



Figure 15. ▶
Early real photo postcard mailed from New Castle, September 29, 1910, to Knightstown, Indiana, canceled with a Doane Type 3-2 canceler. The New Castle post office operated from November 7, 1828, until October 15, 1934. Early real photo postcards from Wilkes County are relatively uncommon. (The author's Collection)



◀ **Figure 16.** East Fruitland, June 20, 1916, to North Wilkesboro. This very short-lived post office (25 months only) originally was named Poor's Knob before it was changed in 1916. In 1918 the name was changed again to a variation of its first name, Pores Knob. (Dr. Steve Jackson Collection)

Figure 17. ▶
Straw, December 18, 1906, to North Wilkesboro, post card with a 1906 Type A/1 4-Bar cancellation. This was the first government-issued postmark after the Doane cancellations. Straw was located in the south central part of the county and was in service from February 14, 1890 to September 15, 1934. (Dr. Steve Jackson Collection)





◀ **Figure 18.** Summit, August 13, 1902, cover to Wilkesboro. Located in western Wilkes County near the Watauga line, Summit began operation on January 31, 1891, and continued until the office was closed on March 31, 1953. (Dr. Steve Jackson Collection)

Figure 19. ▶ Yellow Hill, October 23, 1882, to Morrison, Colorado (?). Yellow Hill was a short lived post office in southwest Wilkes County, operating from October 19, 1875, to March 6, 1895, when its name was changed to Kendal. The name changed again on September 9, 1914, to Ferguson, an office in operation today. (Dr. Steve Jackson and the Wilkes County Historical Museum)

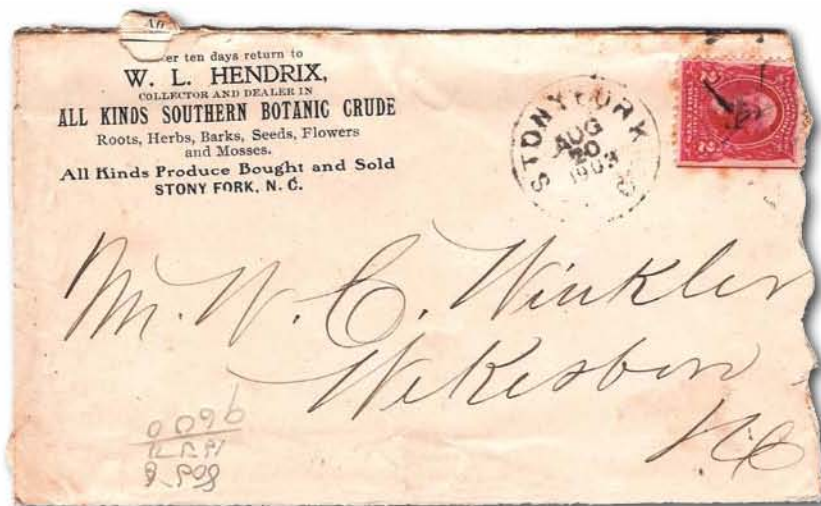


◀ **Figure 20.** Ozark, October 27, 1894, stamped envelope to New York City. Ozark was a community in northeast Wilkes County. The post office there operated from October 5, 1882, until it was discontinued on March 31, 1908 and the mail service moved to Austin. (Courtesy Tony Crumbley)

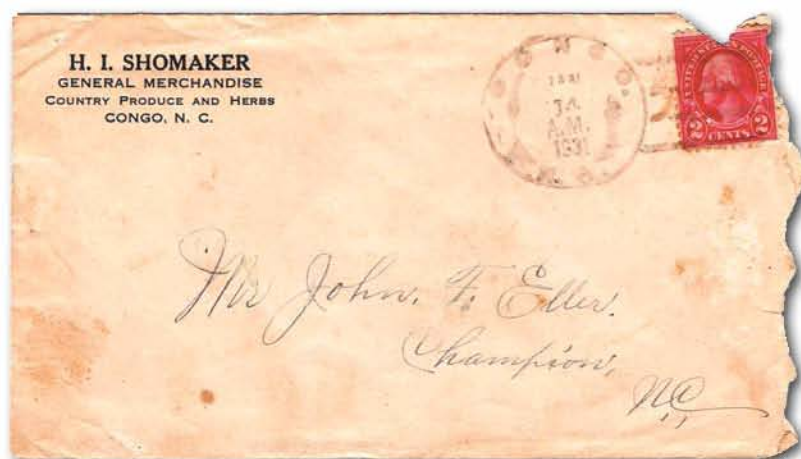
Figure 21. ▶ Poor's Knob, August 12, 1893, to Millers Creek (Wilkes County). The Poor's Knob post office, located in south central Wilkes, was first established in 1888, the name changed to Poores Knob in 1895, and then to East Fruitland on May 2, 1916. The name again was changed to Pores Knob on June 3, 1918. It was discontinued on March 31, 1953, with mail service going to Moravian Falls. (Dr. Steve Jackson Collection)



Figure 22. ▶
Stony Fork (Watauga County), August 20, 1903, to Wilkesboro. Postage was paid with a 2 cent carmine 1902 stamp canceled in manuscript. The business corner card is interesting as it advertises Southern Botanic Products from the Stony Fork dealer. (Dr. Steve Jackson Collection)



◀ **Figure 23.** Congo, January 14, 1931, to Champion (Wilkes County). Congo was a community in western Wilkes between Lewis Fork Creek and Fishdam Creek. It operated from April 15, 1899, until October 15, 1941, when mail service was transferred to Buck, which operated until March 31, 1953, then passed the operations to Wilkesboro. (Dr. Steve Jackson Collection)



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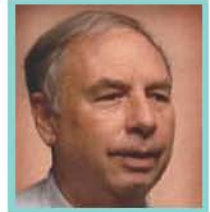
Have You Checked Our New Web Site?

The North Carolina Postal History Society's new web site is located at
www.ncpostalhistory.com

Take a look and let us know how you feel

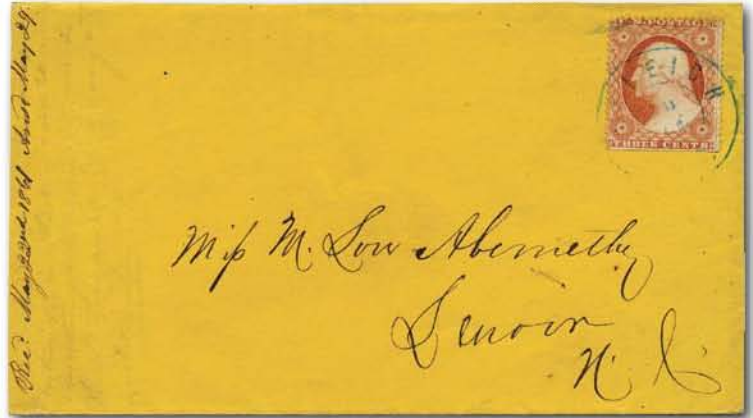
Raleigh, North Carolina A Variety of Color

by Tony L. Crumley



In the months leading up to the outbreak of the war, North Carolinians were evenly split on the issue of secession. That changed abruptly after the attack on Fort Sumter in South Carolina and President Lincoln called for troops from North Carolina. On May 20th, 1861, the North Carolina legislature held a convention on secession in Raleigh. Unanimously, all delegates voted in favor to secede from the Union and join the Confederacy. Raleigh's Union Square was renamed Capitol Square. Figure 1 illustrates a cover with a Type 12 circular datestamp in blue posted the day after Raleigh's secession from the Union, .

The North Carolina Capitol building (Figure 2), where the Ordinance of Secession was signed in the House of Commons Chamber, was built in 1840, and is considered a major civic building built in Greek revival style architecture. Upon signing the ordinance of secession, a handkerchief was waved from the window of the office of the Speaker of the House. When the signal was given,



▲ **Figure 1.** Raleigh, May 21, 1861, letter to Lenoir (Caldwell County) posted the day after Raleigh's secession from the Union. It has a partial strike of the Raleigh Type 12 circular datestamp in blue.



▲ **Figure 2.** State Capitol building in Raleigh about 1861 with Governor David S. Reid in the foreground from a stereo view (Courtesy of North Carolina State Archives)

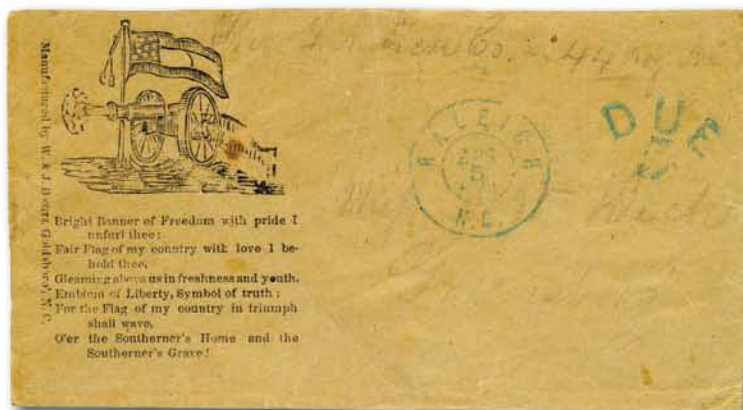
a celebration began on the new Capitol Square. Included was a 100-round salute by Manly's Battery and music from a military band. The first bloodshed from the war in North Carolina occurred that evening when a bulldog was startled by a gun shot and severely bit one of the cannoneers in the seat of his pants.

For the next four years, the capitol saw a flurry of activity supporting the war efforts. The building was used as a supply depot and the ladies of the town met in the rotunda to make uniforms, haversacks and bandages. Confederate troops were brought to the city for training and then sent to the front line. Raleigh was considered second only to Wilmington as the most important city within the state throughout the war. Here the state's new currency was printed. It was the home of the state's first military hospital. Before the Ordinance of Secession was signed, local citizens had formed Company A of the 10th North Carolina Regiment to fight in the war. Churches sent their bells to be melted down for munitions at the new munitions plant at the North Carolina School for the Blind and Deaf. The state and Raleigh would be considered a major funder of the war and a major provider of men to fight the battles. Official records indicate North Carolina lost 20,602 soldiers compared to the next highest state, Virginia, which lost 6,947. Actual estimates put North Carolina's numbers closer to 40,000 deaths. Few battles, however, would be fought in the state.

Raleigh was considered to be incredibly safe during the war. Jefferson Davis would send his wife and children to stay at St. Mary's School for a while during the war. It was also where Confederate General Robert E. Lee sent his daughter during the war.

Safe it may have been. Quiet, however, it was not. At times there were as many as 100,000 troops stationed in the five military bases in and around Raleigh. These included:

- Camp Badger – Named for George E. Badger, the Secretary of War under President Harrison
- Camp Ellis – North Carolina's first recruiting and organization base set up in May 1861 at the state fairgrounds
- Camp Russell – Raleigh General Hospital #13 "Pettigrew Hospital"
- Camp Vance – Established in 1863 near Raleigh, named for Governor Vance
- Camp Wyatt – Named for Henry Lawson, the first North Carolina soldier killed during the war



▲ **Figure 3.** Patriotic envelope (Type CN-3 printed by Wm. J. Bonitz of Goldsboro) from Pvt. F.N. Dick, Co. G of the 44 North Carolina Regiment to Greensboro (Guilford County), posted with a Type 12 circular datestamp and DUE/5 in blue.

A cover from one of the many soldiers stationed in camps around the area is shown in Figure 3. This patriotic envelope printed by Wm. J. Bonitz of Goldsboro, Type CN-3 and verse no. 1 of the cataloged Confederate patriotic covers, is from Pvt. T.A. Duck of Company ?, 44 North Carolina Regiment, to

Greensboro. It was posted with a Type 12 circular datestamp and DUE/5, both in blue.

When Raleigh postmaster George E. Cooke was appointed on October 5, 1858, Raleigh's population was just over 4,500. By the census of 1860, it still was only 4,780. Raleigh was the fourth largest city in the state. As the state capitol, clearly more mail would have been posted at the post office in Raleigh than most cities. In 1861, Postmaster Cooke received \$1,000 in annual salary from the post office department. Only the postmasters of Wilmington and Fayetteville received more.

Without a doubt, the surge of soldiers at the camps around Raleigh increased the amount of mail handled by the post office. No city in the state had the variety of postmarks, auxiliary markings, and variety of ink colors used at Raleigh.

Through the war years, Raleigh had three different circular datestamps, nine different rate markings, and three auxiliary markings. The postmaster also used black, blue, red, green, and orange inks to postmark the mail. With all these cancels, rates and colors, the variety of covers is unmatched by any other

North Carolina city. More than 30 different combinations of stampless Raleigh covers have been recorded by the author and surely many more are out there. Black is the only color that is not used in combination with another color. Two examples of postal markings in black ink are illustrated in Figures 4 and 5, each an Executive Department imprinted envelope from Raleigh, one to Wilmington and the other to Carthage.

The question arises why are there so many varieties? We know during the pre-war stampless era, the Raleigh post office regularly used black, red and blue inks for postmarks and rate markings. In all but two cases, a single color was used on these pre-war covers. Two covers with free markings in the 1850's show multiple colors, red and blue.

The author's theory is that, with the surge of troops to Raleigh area and the subsequent increase in quantity of mail, Postmaster Cooke was assigned soldiers to help process the mail. This was a common practice where there were large buildups of troops.



Figure 4. ► Raleigh, December (1862) to Fayetteville, redirected to Wilmington, Type 12 circular datestamp and small Type 1 PAID handstamp in black on State of North Carolina Executive Department envelope.



◀ **Figure 5.** Raleigh, (1862) to Carthage (Moore County), Type 12 circular datestamp and large Type II PAID handstamp in black on State of North Carolina Executive Department envelope.

▼ **Figure 6.** Raleigh, August 10, 1863, to Cochran, Mississippi, Type 12 blue circular datestamp with Type 2 large PAID and 10 handstamps in red. Note the 10 is 8 mm from the PAID.



▲ **Figure 7.** Raleigh, November 5 (1863), to Palmetto, Georgia, Type 13 circular datestamp in blue with Type 2 large PAID and 10 handstamps in red. The 10 is only 5 mm from the PAID handstamp indicating a three-part process for posting the cover.

In the 1860s, the process of postmarking and canceling the mail was not a one-hand marking process. In the case of Raleigh, it could have been a three step process; first, the town marking, then the paid marking, and finally the rate marking. Examples of a possible three-step marking process are shown in Figures 6, 7, and 8. On the other hand, in some cases it may have been a two step process of applying the town marking, then the combined rate and paid or due handstamp. Figures 2 and 9 suggest the two step marking process.

With additional help to cancel the mail, it can be theorized that Postmaster Cooke set up an assembly line to process the mail. The first soldier would apply the town mark using one color of ink stamp pad. The second would apply the rate mark with another color of ink pad.



Figure 8. ▲ Raleigh, June 21, 1862, to Harnett Court House, Type 13 circular datestamp in blue with a Type 1 PAID handstamp in red and 2 in manuscript paying the circular rate.

We know that some of the Raleigh markings were used only for a brief time. The Type 11 circular datestamp has been seen only during the period June 25 – 29, 1861, on five provisional

Figure 9. ▶
Raleigh, November (1863), to New Center, South Carolina, Type 13 circular datestamp and DUE/10 handstamp in orange. Four cities in the Confederacy used orange ink.



◀ **Figure 10.** Raleigh, June 29, 1861, to Leicester (Buncombe County), with Type 11 circular datestamp in blue ink and the Provisional rate control marking in red. The Type II circular datestamp was used with this control marking only on June 26–29, 1861, and again in September 1862.

covers and briefly as a cancel in September 1862. Figure 10 illustrates the former, a Raleigh provisional with the Type 11 circular datestamp of June 29, 1861, in blue ink and provisional control marking in red ink. This cover was sent to Leicester in Buncombe County. Only three covers are known with the Type 11 circular datestamp and the provisional rate control marking in blue ink. They show the dates June 2 and 4 only. Figure 11 shows one of the three covers with the blue control rate marking dated June 2 and addressed to Morganton.

There are two other covers that are recorded only once. Figure 12 is an example of the Type 12 circular datestamp with a partial 1861 year dated August 19 in blue. The PAID/10 handstamp is clearly a different ink color, which appears to be green. If this color was due to oxidation, both markings should have changed to the same color, but they are quite different.








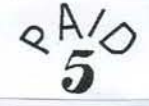



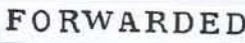
The other cover shown in Figure 9 is the Type 12 circular datestamp in orange ink with a DUE/10 also in orange. It was posted November 21 (1863) to New Center, South Carolina. This color could be a changeling, however, it looks very orange and we know three other Confederate cities that used orange ink at this time.

Other examples of the color varieties from Raleigh are dispersed throughout the article. Table 1 on the next page lists all the known circular datestamps by color with the rate and auxiliary markings associated with each. Also shown are the known Confederate handstamps used with each circular datestamp and their colors. If the reader has examples of covers not recorded in this table, the author would like to see copies of them. ■

Figure 11. ▶
Raleigh, June 2, 1861, to Morganton (Burke County), with Type 12 circular datestamp in blue and Provisional rate control marking in blue. Three examples of the Provisional marking in blue have been recorded.



◀ **Figure 12.** Raleigh, August 19 (1863), to Louisburg (Franklin County), with Type 12 circular datestamp in blue and PAID/10 handstamp in green, recorded in blue, black and green only with the blue Type 12 datestamp.

					Manuscript Cancel	No CDS
		Type 11	Type 12	Type 13		
CDS Color		Blue	Blue Black Red Orange	Blue		
	1	Blue	Black Blue	Blue		
	2	Blue	Red Black	Blue		
	3	Blue Red	Blue	Red		Red
	4					
	5		Blue Red	Red		
	6		Green Blue Black			
	7		Blue			
	8		Blue Red Orange			
	9		Blue Red			
Advertised	10					Blue
No Rate	11		X X			
10	12		Red			
MS Paid 5	13				X	

▲ **Figure 1.** Listing of the Raleigh circular datestamps used during the Confederacy by color with the rate and auxiliary markings associated with each. Also shown are the known handstamps used with each datestamp and their colors.

U.S. Postal Bulletins on a New Web Site



by Richard F. Winter

The web site illustrated in Figure 1 is a new site that may be one that you haven't visited; however, for postal historians, it is one of the most important new sites to be available on-line. The site, www.uspostalbulletins.com/, presents digitized *U.S. Postal Bulletins* from March 1880, when they first were issued as *The Daily Bulletin of Orders Affecting the Postal Service*, through 1971.

Society, The Military Postal History Society, and even the North Carolina Postal History Society.

The fellow pictured to the left on the home page is Michael Eastick, an Australian stamp dealer and software developer for the philatelic industry. He created the software necessary to make available the numerous pages of the *Bulletins*, which were published from 1880 to explain in detail the services provided



▲ **Figure 1.** Home page of the web site, "The Digitized U.S. Postal Bulletins," an important new site to our hobby that offers postal history information previously available only at a few locations and not digitally searchable.

A small group of individuals, with the help of a number of philatelic societies, supported an effort to make available to the public a fully searchable database of the *U.S. Postal Bulletins* from 1880 to present day. These *Bulletins* are seldom available except through special libraries. Tony Wawrukiewicz was the principal behind this effort, which eventually had significant support from a handful of philatelic societies such as the United States Stamp Society, the Universal Ship Cancellation Society, the Mobile Post Office Society, the Postal History

by the Post Office Department and to communicate these services throughout the country. To quote the web site, "It is an incredible resource for a person who wishes to understand POD operations and policies, locations for its services, types and rates for services, processes by which it functions, etc. In other words it is a voluminous source of research information."

While the *Bulletins* currently on-line are available only through 1971, years for which there are no copyright issues, the site producers hope to eventually get the necessary permission

from the U.S. Postal Service to extend the project on-line through the present time. Since the Post Office Department's own web site has available only the last four years of *Bulletins*, it means that digitized versions of the years 1972 through 2012 are unavailable. This represents a significant 40-year period of Post Office Department history that is not readily available to the public. Based on the value seen so far of the digitized issues currently available from the www.uspostalbulletins.com, I hope that Wawrukiewicz's group will be successful. This is a very important project.

To give you an idea of the extent of postal information

All of this and more is available through the innovative software of Michael Eastick, which allows either simple or complex inquiries. Figure 2 shows the search possibilities on the site. An unusual, but helpful feature lies to the right of the search keyword box in the first section. It is called "Stem." If the OCR failed to recognize a proper search word, this feature can be used to show other misspelling of the word that may have been found by OCR. Figure 3 illustrates all the different spellings of the word "Greensboro" selected as a keyword and how many times they were found. In this case 2,164 locations were found with the name spelled correctly, 286 with the name spelled "Greensborough," etc. By searching with the misspelled word, sometimes the desired entry may be found. When a search has been completed, a listing of the results

Search PDF Document Database

(Please do not use punctuation marks in the search text)

(1) Select Word Search Type ☒ Include Filter in Full Search

☒ Exact Word or Phrase Search ☐ Any Word ☐ All Words in any order ☐ Wildcard Search ☐ Word within x words of Word ☐ Inclusive / Exclusive Search

Enter search keywords **Stem**

(2) Select by Date/Range ☒ Include Filter in Full Search

☒ All Dates ☐ Specific Date ☐ Date Range

(3) Select by Volume/Issue ☒ Include Filter in Full Search

☒ All Volumes ☐ Specific Volume ☐ Volume Range ☒ All Issues ☐ Specific Issue ☐ Issue Range

Specific Issue Number

◀ **Figure 2.** Search features of the *Bulletin* database showing a variety of possible search choices on the site.

will appear below the search boxes, showing how many issues in each year were found with the search word. Clicking on the + to the left of the year will open up that year and display all the issues found. Selecting any item in the listing will download and open a pdf of that particular *Bulletin*. The location of the search word in the *Bulletin* will be shown on

available from the *Bulletins*, I have extracted more information from the home page of this web site, which follows:

For example, one will be able to search all these lists by any individual city and state: Post Offices Established, Post Offices Discontinued, Postmasters Commissioned, Post Office Names and Site Changes, Post Office Names Changed, Post Office Sites Changed, PO Supplied by RFD, Superseded by RFD, Were RFD, now Discontinued, RPO Service Changes, RPO Services Established, RPO Through Registered Pouches, Railroad Services Changed, Railroad Service Established, Railroad Service Established-Discontinued-Changed, Electric Car Services Established, Changes in Star Schedules, Electric Car Service Changes, Mail Messenger Services Established, Mail Messenger Services Changed, Mail Messenger Services Discontinued, Fraud Order, Special Service Changes, Special Services Discontinued, Steamboat Services, Through Registered Pouches, Inner Registered Sacks, Stations and Branches, etc.... all the rate changes tabulated in the Domestic and International rate books of Wawrukiewicz and Henry Beecher are located there, as are the rules and regulations for all special services. Beginning circa 1925, first-day information and stamp descriptions became available. Information concerning the Universal Postal Union, CAM and FAM routes, first-flights, the Permit process, free franking, the international parcel post, official mail services, interrupted mail, stolen postal money orders, nondenominated stamps, and so on are found there in detail.

Search PDF Document Database

(Please do not use punctuation marks in the search text)

(1) Select Word Search Type ☒ Include Filter in Full Search

☒ Exact Word or Phrase Search ☐ Any Word ☐ All Words in any order ☐ Wildcard Search ☐ Word within x words of Word ☐ Inclusive / Exclusive Search

Enter search keywords **Stem**

Select additional word(s) based on stemming...

☒ Greensboro (2164) (stem:greensboro)

Select additional word(s) from US Postal Bulletin PDF database...

<input type="checkbox"/> Greensborough (286)	<input type="checkbox"/> Greensborobend (33)	<input type="checkbox"/> Greensborough (11)
<input type="checkbox"/> Greensboroligh (4)	<input type="checkbox"/> Greensborough (3)	<input type="checkbox"/> Greensborobead (2)
<input type="checkbox"/> Greensboroug (2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Greensborobead (2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Greensborobead (1)
<input type="checkbox"/> Greensborobend (1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Greensborobead (1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Greensborobead (1)
<input type="checkbox"/> Greensborol (1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Greensborobead (1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Greensborobead (1)
<input type="checkbox"/> Greensborotith (1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Greensborobead (1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Greensborobead (1)
<input type="checkbox"/> Greensborouga (1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Greensborobead (1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Greensborobead (1)
<input type="checkbox"/> Greensborousi (1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Greensborobead (1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Greensborobead (1)

(2) Select by Date/Range ☒ Include Filter in Full Search

☒ All Dates ☐ Specific Date ☐ Date Range

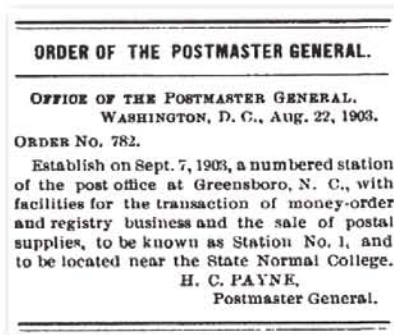
▲ **Figure 3.** Example of the results using the "STEM" feature to the right of the "Enter search keywords" box. The word selected to be misspelled by the OCR was "Greensboro" and the results are shown, 2,164 times correctly, 286 times as "Greensborough," and 23 times in other ways. The *Bulletins* for each spelling may be examined.

the left side each time it appears in that issue and will be highlighted in blue on the pdf when chosen.

I have started using this site to identify the effective dates for station, branch, rural station post offices associated with larger post offices in my work on the *North Carolina Postmark Catalog Update*. The Post Office Department microfilm records provide the regular post office openings and closings, but not any offices aligned with them. A few examples of new information related to Greensboro obtained from www.uspostalbulletins.com/ will demonstrate the usefulness of this site.

In the early part of the 20th century, Greensboro was growing and additional stations were opened to ease the burden on the main post office. Unlike today, these stations were identified only by station number and not by location. *Daily Bulletin* No. 7158 of 25 August 1903 had the notice illustrated in Figure 4. This notice established Station No. 1 near State Normal College. This school was opened on 5 October 1892 as the State Normal and Industrial School, but its name was changed to Normal and Industrial College in 1896, similar to the shortened name in this notice. In 1919 the name was changed again to North Carolina College for Women. In 1932, it was changed again to the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, when it became one of the three charter institutions of the Consolidated University of North Carolina. Finally, it was changed to the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG) when men were first admitted to the school in 1963. Figure 5 from *Daily Bulletin* No. 10043 of 3 February 1913 shows Station No. 1 was moved and reestablished at 1213 Spring Garden Street effective 16 February 1913. *The Postal Bulletin* of 9 April 1929 announced the discontinuance of Station No. 1. Later it was replaced by a contract station on the campus of UNCG. (see Figure 6).

The preceding example give an indication of the value contained in the digitized *Postal Bulletins* found at www.uspostalbulletins.com/. Whether you are interested in railway post offices routes, highway post offices routes, contract air mail routes, rural free delivery services, star route contracts, mail steamship service or electric car routes that carried mail, the prospects are endless. Also, at anytime during the period of these *Bulletins*, if a postal requirement or procedure changed, it was announced in the *Bulletin*.

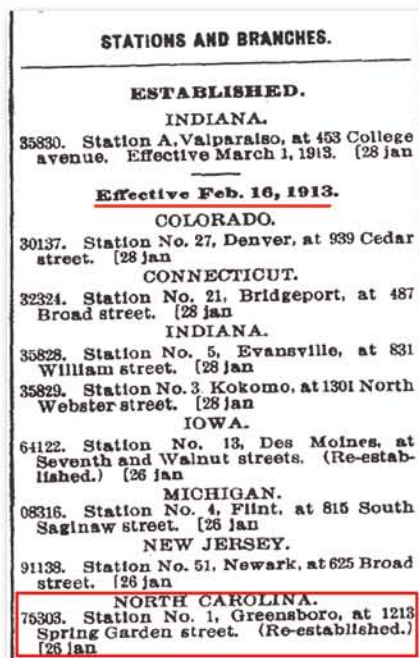


◀ **Figure 4.** *Daily Bulletin* announcement on 25 August 1903 establishing Station No. 1 near the State Normal College (today called the University of North Carolina at Greensboro).

Of interest to some will be special instructions to the public on new issue stamps and special cachets for post

office supported events. Announcements also may be found for sending covers by the zeppelins or special catapult flights from ocean steamers. As previously mentioned on the home page of the web site, any domestic or international rate changes cited in the Beecher/Wawrukiewicz books can be viewed in their entirety. The details of rate change instructions can be very helpful in understanding how they were applied.

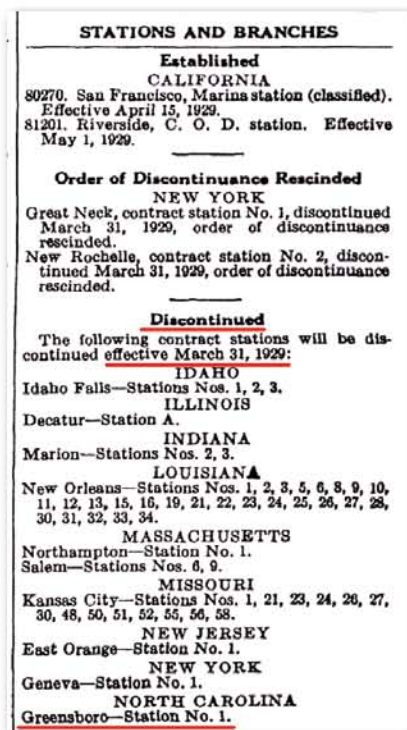
Wawrukiewicz and his team have done the hobby a very great service with this new web site. Let's hope their negotiations are successful to make available the *Postal Bulletin* information after 1971. As more collectors and researchers use this site, its importance to the hobby will only grow. ■

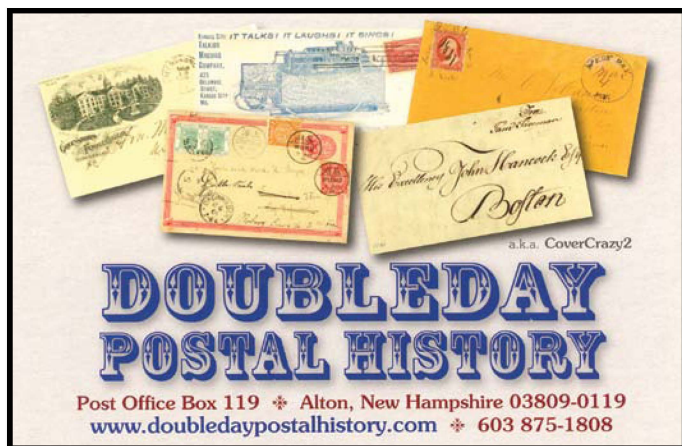


▲ **Figure 5.** *Daily Bulletin* announcement on 3 February 1913 moving and reestablishing Station No. 1 at 1213 Spring Garden Street, a specific location near the school.

Figure 6. ▶

The Postal Bulletin announcement on 9 April 1929 discontinuing Station No. 1. (red lines provided by the author.)





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