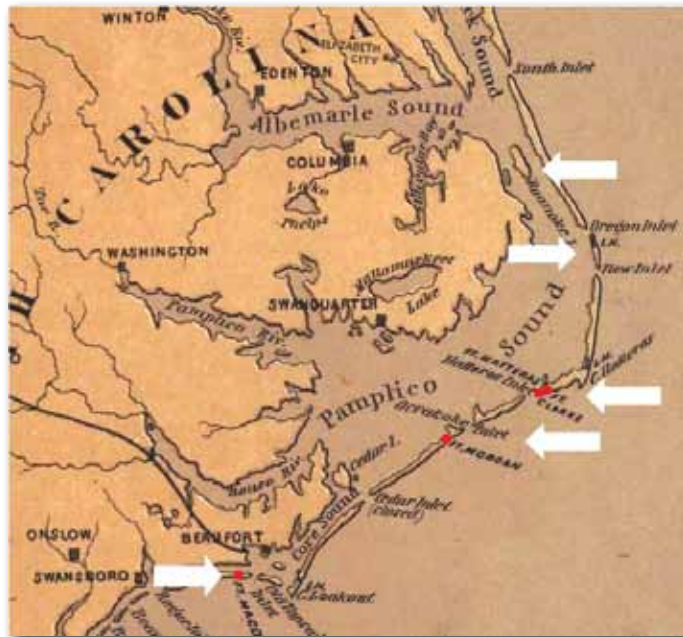
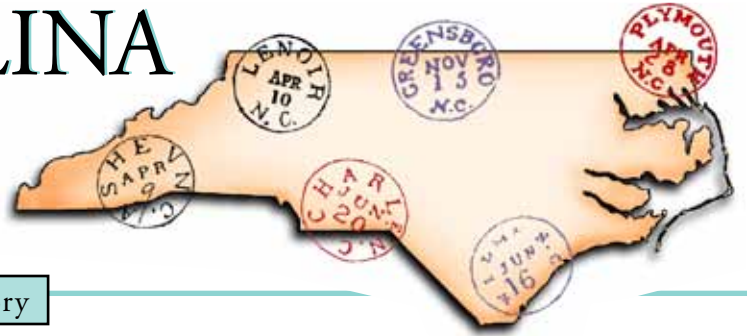


NORTH CAROLINA POSTAL HISTORIAN

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Mail Service for the Confederate Army on the Hatteras Coast 1861-1862



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are well into 2018, the 36th year of the North Carolina Postal History Society (NCPHS) and we are already planning for the Charpex 2018. This is not only one of the premier philatelic events in our state with a wide range of dealers and prize-winning postal history exhibits, but it is also the venue of the annual NCPHS General and Board of Directors Meetings. The General Meeting will occur on Saturday July 28th and feature a talk on the Wilmington and Manchester Railroad by Harvey Teal. This will be an opportunity for members and guests to meet and network. Charpex 2018 will be held on July 28-29, 2018, in the downtown campus of Central Piedmont Community College at 1201 Elizabeth Street, Charlotte, N.C. More details will be published in the next issue of the *North Carolina Postal Historian*.

The results of the email survey of members voting on Directors whose terms ended in July 2017, mentioned in my last President's Message, was that Richard Winter, Bill DiPaolo, and Gene Lightfoot were approved for three-year Director terms, which will end in July 2020. Please make sure that, if you have an email address, you provide it to our Secretary-Treasurer, Harry Albert, at hlalbert78@gmail.com. This will insure that you will be in any future communications by email.

While looking at our society's website, www.ncphs.com, I was reminded how much information and helpful resources are available there. Not only are all the back issues of the *North Carolina Postal Historian*, except the most recent four issues, and its predecessor, *The North Carolina Postal History Society Newsletter*, available in a searchable digital format (under the Library of NCPHS Journals tab), but there is also a very good style guide for writers, an Authors and Subjects Index of our journal,

IN THIS ISSUE

Mail Service for the Confederate Army on the Hatteras Coast 1861-1862 by Stefan T. Jaronski.....	3
Mystery Covers from Fall 2017 Issue	15
UNC-Chapel Hill - A US Navy Pre-flight Training School by Tony L. Crumbley.....	16

contacts for the board members and officers, an events calendar and the *North Carolina Postmark Catalogue Update*, just to name a few of the website features. Every time I go to it, I find something new. The website is an education in itself.

Readers are reminded that 2018 is the 100th anniversary of the last year of WWI and the year in which the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) arrived on the battlefield in force. The AEF included many North Carolinians, primarily in the 30th and 81st Divisions. About 49,000 American servicemen were killed and over 200,000 wounded in just a few months' action. Another 63,000 died while in service from the great flu pandemic of 1918. Even with those large losses in just over six months overseas, WWI has been overshadowed by history's later events. Postal history material from the "Great War" is readily available at shows and on-line sales for reasonable prices. This is a very interesting collecting and study subject, particularly regarding mail to and from the Western Front. An in-depth article is planned for a future issue of our journal this year.

We still have a large number of members who have not paid their dues for 2018. If you are one of those, please send your \$15.00 dues to the Secretary-Treasurer so we can continue sending you our journal.

A red dot on your mailing label means we have not received your dues.



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Mail Service for the Confederate Army on the Hatteras Coast 1861-1862



by Stefan T. Jaronski

With the secession of North Carolina from the Union on May 20, 1861, the state government quickly realized the need to defend its coast from possible Federal incursion – a long coast, stretching almost 300 miles from Currituck Island to Cape Fear. There were four forts along the southern half of this coast – Forts Hatteras and Clarke at Hatteras Inlet and Fort Morgan at Ocracoke Inlet, the three controlling access to Pamlico Sound. Additionally, Fort Macon on Bogue Banks, protected Beaufort (Figure 1). Figure 2 illustrates the Beaufort area with Fort Macon guarding the seaward entrance to Beaufort, Morehead City, Carolina City and Bogue Sound.

In past articles I dealt with mail service for the Confederates on Roanoke Island. In this present article I will consider service for the troops at Portsmouth (Forts Morgan, Hatteras and Clark), Fort Macon, Carolina City and Morehead City. To properly interpret the postal history of this period and identify letters, especially prepaid and ostensibly civilian letters, one must understand the military history.



Figure 2. ▲

Enlarged view of Fort Macon, Carolina City, Morehead City and Bogue Sound (from Colton's "New Topographical Map of the eastern Portion of the State of North Carolina," 1863. J.H. Colton, New York. Library of Congress Geography and Map Division Washington, D.C.)

In the 1850s entrepreneurial interest was directed to Beaufort Harbor as a seaport. Across from Beaufort, Shepherd's Point, a long peninsula of land formed by Bogue Sound and Calico Creek, attracted attention because it was ideal for a port town,

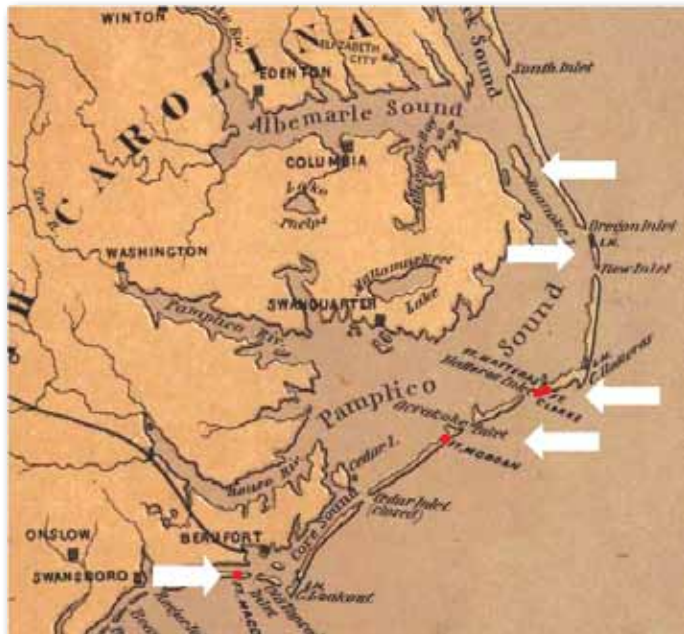


Figure 1. Map of the Confederate defenses of the Outer Banks. White arrows indicate concentrations of Confederate troops in the summer of 1861. Red dots mark the forts. (from "Burnside's Expedition Map," published by L Prange & Co., Boston, Library of Congress)

providing an 18-foot draft whereas Beaufort could handle only ships with a 9- to 10-foot draft. In 1853 John Morehead purchased the 600-acre Shepherd's Point. In June of that year other investors incorporated the Carolina City Land Company, and purchased 904 acres of land three miles west of Shepherd's Point.

In 1854-55, the North Carolina General Assembly authorized a railroad extension, known as the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad, from Goldsboro to terminate at Beaufort Harbor. The stockholders of the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad decided to terminate the railroad not at Carolina City's site but Morehead's development at Shepherd's Point, with its deep water access. Morehead City was developed in late 1857, with the railroad connection being completed in June 1858. Nevertheless Carolina City was platted out to extend almost a mile along Bogue Sound. When completed, the railroad passed through the town. A landing was built on Bogue Sound with a railroad spur extended from it to the main line. A fine three story hotel, the Carolina Hotel, became a popular resort. The

Office	Compensation (3 Qrs. FY1861)	Prewar P.M.	C.S. PM
Beaufort	\$237.56	W.J. Potter	J.J. Davis 1 Jun 61, Wm. J. Potter 6 Jul 61
Carolina City	\$27.51	Jos. R. Franklin (also Agent, Atlantic & North Carolina RR)	W.S. Long (1 Jul 61) Jos. R. Franklin (4 Jul 61)
Morehead City	\$74.40	John W. Collins	John W. Collins (6 Jul 61)
Portsmouth	\$18.89	Wilson F. Piver	Wilson F. Piver
Ocracoke	\$7.24	D. Tolson	–
Smyrna	\$8.47	W. Davis	W. Davis (6 Jul 61)
Shephardsville (Newport)	\$22.95	N. D. Adams; D. McCain	D. McCain (14 Nov 61), C.F. Thomas (21 Nov 61)

▲ **Table 1. Post office data for offices in the lower Hatteras area.** Note: Postmasters' compensation at such small offices was 60% on the first \$100 postage, 50% on the next \$300, and 50% of all newspaper postage collected. Thus, for example, Carolina City saw approximately \$45.85 postage collected July 1, 1860 - April 1, 1861. If one assumes almost all were first class letters (3¢), that amount represents approximately 1,500 letters. For Morehead City the estimate is approximately 4,100 letters.

1860 census listed 187 males, 210 females, and 23 slaves, for total of 420 people, whereas Morehead City held 316. In contrast, the 1860 census for Beaufort listed 1,611. A post office was established at Carolina City on December 30, 1858, with Richard Bright as the first postmaster. Post office business was not inconsiderable although dwarfed by Beaufort (Table 1). (Figures 3 and 4)

What about Hatteras? For its part, it was described by a Union soldier:

Several hundred people are scattered along this bar, who get a living, such as it is, by fishing, gathering oysters, picking up a wreck now and then, and doing a little piloting. Most of the people were born there, and had never seen any other locality. Ignorance is bliss, and these people are supremely happy. The center of the universe is at Hatteras...Somewhere up the bar, is a meeting house with a little church organization, and a little burial place with wooden head-boards to the graves. There are women here who never wore shoes. They seldom see any money - indeed don't need it, and are happy without it. Its a paradise for those who have no money and no expectation of any.

Another description provides some amusing insights:

Hatteras Island was, and possibly still is, inhabited by a hardy, raw-boned, tough-looking people, with rough, weather-beaten countenances, and possessed of a good stock of native shrewdness. There are few deaths among them, the chief disease is consumption...The women are pale, frail, attenuated creatures, who apparently never grow old. Tradition has it that they gradually shrink up, and at some remote period are blown away. The men are ostensibly pilots. Every house boasts its "lookout"...The coast is a

treacherous one, the best possible for wreckers, and in the use of decoy or false lights these worthies are well versed. Many of the stranded hulls with which the coast is strewn, owe their destruction to the actions of bad men...A peculiar characteristic of the ladies of Hatteras is the dreadful habit snuff-dipping, to which they are all, married and single, addicted...The female islander smokes also, and spits "just like a man." Every house on the island seems to be built after the same model, by the same builder, and many hundred years ago...square in shape, one story high, with a porch sliced into one corner, without cellars...there are no foundation walls, because there are no stones to make them. Piles or large props are driven into the sand, and upon these the houses are erected...There are no plastered walls, although many houses have a lining of paper. The staple articles of food are fish and sweet potatoes. Corn, pigs and poultry are raised by some. Garden cultivation is very primitive and exceedingly careless...They are a religious people, in their own peculiar way...If their stock of provisions be short, they think it right and proper to pray that the coast may be strewn with wrecks laden with the kind of provisions most needed.

Portsmouth, founded in 1753, was a major transshipment port in the antebellum years, with almost all northern coastal North Carolina trade passing through it. It was also distinguished for its Marine Hospital, built in 1847, lighthouse, and fort. The 1860 census lists 685 people, mostly fisherman and mariners, living in 105 dwelling houses. There were even two physicians (at the Marine Hospital) and two teachers. Ocracoke, on the opposite side of the inlet was a town of about 600 people. Both had post offices.



◀ **Figure 3.** A sketch of Carolina City “taken March 25th 1862.” (from a Sketchbook made by J.N. Shadek, 8th Connecticut Volunteers 1861-1862, Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport CT)

▼ **Figure 4.** View of Morehead City “from the balcony of the Macon House, Morehead City” with Fort Macon in the distant background. (from *Frank Leslie's Illustrated weekly*, North Carolina Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

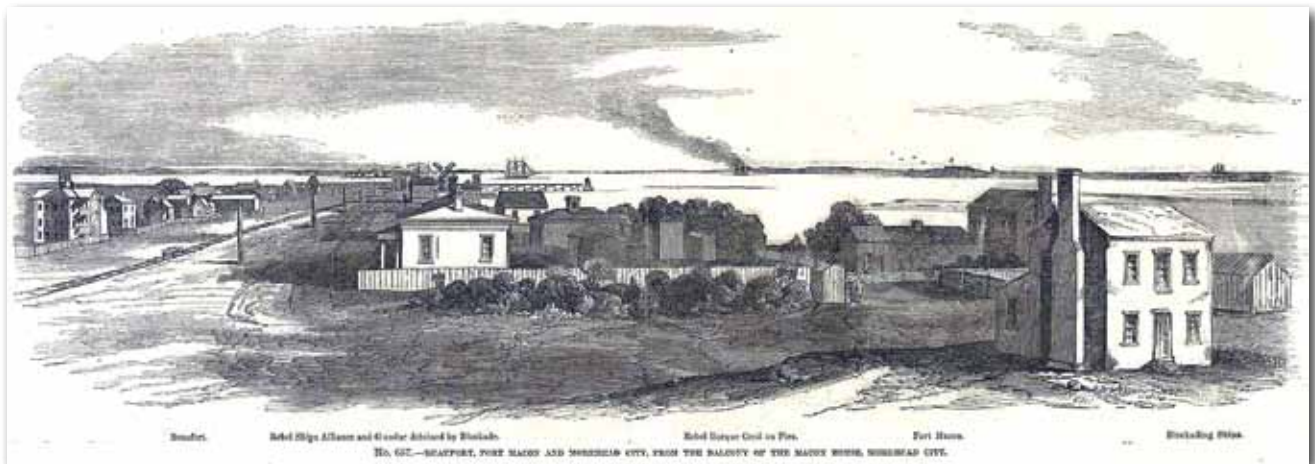


Figure 5. ▶
Forts Hatteras (center) and Clark (right) after Federal occupation. (from a Sketchbook made by J.N. Shadek, 8th Connecticut Volunteers 1861-1862, Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport, CT)

Military aspects

War came to the area early – Fort Macon, on Bogue Island and virtually abandoned since 1849, was occupied by the Goldsborough Rifles and Josiah Pender's Beaufort Harbor Guards on April 15, 1861, a full month before the state seceded from the Union, undoubtedly surprising the lone ordnance sergeant who was stationed there. An amusing story of the actual occupation is related by a Fort Macon-related website.

A number of North Carolina companies, which became the 7th North Carolina and later renamed the 17th North Carolina, were stationed at Portsmouth and Ocracoke, manning Forts Morgan, Hatteras and Clark. The Washington Grays were the first to arrive, landing at Portsmouth Island in late May 1861, followed by Independent Grays at Hatteras. More men and



supplies arrived to build or rebuild the forts there. Additional companies – the Tar River Boys, Hertford Light Infantry, Confederate Guards, and Hyde County Rifles – were added as soon as these companies were mustered into service. The location of the various Confederate units during the summer and autumn of 1861 is listed in Table 2. (see next page)

Locating the various units is important in understanding which post offices may have processed their mail. The initial

Unit (Commanding Officer)	County of Origin	Initial location	Subsequent unit
Roanoke Guards (Lamb)	Martin	Hatteras	Co. A, 17th N.C.
Hamilton Guards (Clements)	Martin	Hatteras	Co. G, 17th N.C.
Lenoir Braves (Sutton)	Lenoir	Hatteras	Co. K, 32nd N.C.
Independent Grays (Cohoon)	Pasquotank	Hatteras	Co. E, 7th N.C., later Co. B, 32nd N.C.
North Carolina Defenders (Luke)	Camden	Hatteras	Co. H, 32nd N.C.
Jonesboro Guards (Duke)	Camden	Hatteras	Co. I, 32nd N.C.
Morris Guards (Gilliam)	Washington	Beacons island, Hatteras	Co. H, 17th N. C.
Currituck Atlantic Rifles (Lindsey)	Currituck	Oregon Inlet	Co. L, 17th N.C.
John Harvey Guards (Johnson)	Perquimans	Oregon Inlet	Co. I, 17th N.C.
State Guards (Martin)	Pasquotank	Oregon Inlet	Co. F, 17th N.C.
Currituck Atlantic Rifles (Lindsey)	Currituck	Oregon Inlet, Hatteras	Co. E, 17th N.C.
Confederate Guards (Swindell)	Beaufort	Ocracoke Island	Co. K, 17th N.C.
Hertford Light Infantry (Sharp)	Hertford	Fts. Ocracoke and Hatteras	Co. D, 17th N.C.
Tar River Boys (G.W. Johnston)	Pitt	Ft. Ocracoke	Co. C, 17th N.C.
Hyde County Rifles (Leith)	Hyde	Portsmouth, Swan's Quarter, Ocracoke	Co. B, 17th N.C.
Washington Grays (Sparrow)	Washington	Portsmouth Island	Battery K, 10th N. C. Artillery Battalion
Orange Guards	Orange	Fort Macon	Co. G, 27th N.C.
Goldsboro Rifles (Craton)	Wayne	Fort Macon	Co. A, 27th N.C.
Guilford Grays (Sloan)	Guilford	Fort Macon	Co. B, 27th N.C.
Guion's Battery (Guion)	Craven	Fort Macon	Battery B, 10th N.C. Artillery
Beaufort Harbor Guards (J. Pender)	Carteret	Fort Macon	Co. G, 10th N.C. Artillery
Andrew's Battery (Andrew)	Wayne	Beaufort	Battery F, 10th N.C. Artillery Battalion
Elizabeth City Rifles	Pasquotank	Newbern	?
Latham's (Branch) Artillery (Latham)	Craven	Craven County	Co. H, 40th N.C. Artillery (3rd N.C. Artillery)

▲ **Table 2. North Carolina Troops assembled in the Bogue Sound, Oregon Inlet and Hatteras areas in summer-autumn 1861**

garrison at Fort Macon in April 1861 consisted of the Orange Guards (Co. G, 9th North Carolina), Goldsboro Rifles (later Co. A of the 27th Infantry), Wilson Light Infantry (Co. B of the 2nd) reinforced by Latham's Artillery. This garrison soon swelled with arrival of work parties and more troops. Evidently there was even a company of "free negroes" from Hillsborough, the "Orange Blacks." Meanwhile local volunteers organized as steps toward war progressed.

Union troops moved against these forts in August 1861, capturing first Fort Hatteras, then Fort Clark. With those defeats Fort Morgan was abandoned. Most of the 500 inhabitants of Portsmouth and 600 of Ocracoke fled, leaving "ghost towns" for the Federal occupiers. These events left the

Confederate defenders concentrated in the Fort Macon-Carolina City-Morehead City area.

Meanwhile, Camp Wilkes and Camp Burgwynn, on Bogue Island, the first located two miles from Fort Macon and the second at present day Atlantic Beach, were established in early September 1861. Figure 6 shows tents of the Confederate camps on Bogue Island with Morehead City in the left rear, Beaufort center rear, and Fort Macon right rear. In Carolina City an army encampment, called Camp Argyle, seems to have been established at the beginning of October. In November a second camp, Camp Vance, was set up one mile west of the town, to serve as winter quarters for the troops. Yet another camp, Camp Canal in Morehead City, is listed but without any



◀ **Figure 6.** View of tents of the Confederate camps on Bogue Island on the left side with Morehead City in the left rear, Beaufort center rear, and Fort Macon right rear. (from a Sketchbook made by J.N. Shadek, 8th Connecticut Volunteers 1861-1862, Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport, CT)

Unit	Locations	Time periods
17th N.C.	Forts Hatteras, Clark, Morgan (Portsmouth, Ocracoke)	Late May until Aug 29, when captured
7th N.C.	Bogue Island; Carolina City	Sep–Dec 1861
(Except Co's D and E)	Shepardsville (Newport)	Dec 1861–28 Feb 1862
7th N.C., Co's D and E	Hyde County	Sep 15–14 Oct 1861
	Middleton	Dec 1861–Feb 1862
7th N.C. Co's A, B, G	Fort Macon	Sep 1861–28 Feb 1862
26th N.C.	Bogue Island	Sep–Nov 1861
	Carolina City	4 Dec 1861–28 Feb 1862
33rd N.C., Co's B and F	Hyde County	Sep 15–14 Oct 1861
27th N.C.	Newbern	Sep 1861–Mar 1862
33rd N.C.	Newbern	Sep 1861–Mar 1862
35th N.C.	Newbern	Feb–Mar 1862
37th N.C.	Newbern	Sep 1861–Mar 1862
Rodman's Battery (Co. C, 40th N.C. Artillery Regiment).	Newbern	Feb–Mar 1862
Tripp's McMillan Artillery (Co. B, 40th N.C. Artillery Regiment).	Newbern	Feb–Mar 1862
Whitehurst's Artillery (Co. I, 40th N.C. Artillery Regiment).	Newbern	Feb–Mar 1862
Latham's Branch Artillery (Co. H, 40th N.C. Artillery Regiment).	Newbern	Feb–Mar 1862
Brem's Battery (in 10th N.C. Artillery Regiment).	Newbern	Feb–Mar 1862
19th N.C. Cavalry	Newbern	Feb–Mar 1862

▲ **Table 3.** Locations of Confederate units during the fall and winter of 1861.

further information. These camps held the 7th and 26th North Carolina regiments (except for Co's D and E of the 7th, who were detailed to Hyde County, at Juniper Bay and Lake Landing). In December several companies of the 7th North Carolina (Co's B, C, F, G, H, I, K) were moved to winter quarters at a Camp Graham, located on the Neuse River opposite Shepardsville (now Newport just north of Morehead City), with Companies C and D moved to Middleton. These several winter camps remained occupied until mid- to late-February 1862, when Federal movements instigated concentration of Confederate troops at Newbern. (The

Confederate spelling used in almost all of my sources was "Newbern" not "New Bern," today's spelling.)

Several Confederate regiments were quartered at the Newbern Fairgrounds through the fall and winter of 1861 – the 27th N.C. (except Co's A, B and G, which were at Fort Macon), the 33rd (except Co's D and E, which were in Hyde County), and the 37th N.C. Table 3 lists the locations of the Confederate units during the fall and winter of 1861.

In February 1862, as Burnside's intentions became more manifest, Confederate forces began concentrating on Newbern. Only the garrison of Fort Macon remained in place.

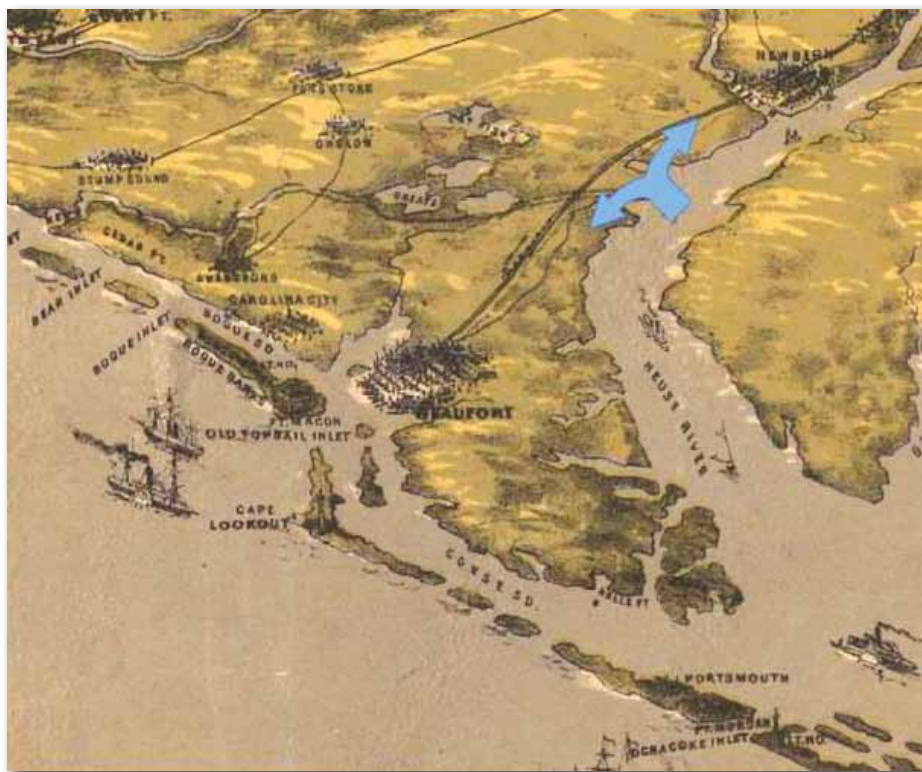
On the 13th of March 1862, the Burnside Expedition forces steamed up the Neuse River, landed at Slocum's Creek, about 12 miles down river near Havelock (see map, Figure 7), and advanced towards Newbern. Whatever Confederate forces still on Bogue Sound were now cut off. The battle of Newbern followed shortly, ending in a Union victory. General Branch's Confederates retreated to Kinston. Union forces occupied Newbern on March 14th.

After the battle of Newbern and the Confederate withdrawal to Kinston, the garrison at Fort Macon became isolated but still held out. The garrison at this time consisted of Companies (batteries) B, F, G, and H of the 10th North Carolina Artillery Battalion, and Company F of the 40th North Carolina Regiment. Federal advance guard arrived in Carolina City on March 22, 1862, demanding the fort's surrender. A detachment of Union troops then landed at Hope Pole Creek on Bogue Island, opposite Carolina City, cutting all land communications for the Confederates; Morehead City and Beaufort were also occupied by the Federals at this time. The Confederates, however, refused to surrender until April 26. Subsequently, the 5th Rhode Island Regiment and Second U.S. Artillery occupied

the fort. At the end of these events Confederate control of the Hatteras coast ended.

Postal Aspects

The Confederate Post Office Department took charge of offices in the seceded states on May 31, 1861. Confederate postmasters were soon appointed at Morehead City and Carolina City (see Table 1). Initially, the Carolina City postmaster canceled mail in manuscript. Maurice Bursey, Tony Crumbley and I have recorded only six covers with the manuscript postmark used between September 13th and 30th, with two variants – “C Cty” and “Carolina City” (Figures 8 and 9). It is tempting to speculate that the abbreviated postmark was due to having to process a large volume of mail from the troops, as happened at Tudor Hall, Virginia, and other small rural offices located near major army concentrations. If true, then there should be more manuscript Carolina City covers awaiting discovery. One question remains – why are the earliest known covers “so late” i.e., more than two months after the Confederate Post Office Department took over the post office? What happened during this period in which the post office presumably



▲ **Figure 7.** Another, “aerial” view of the Fort Macon area. Blue arrows indicate where Burnside’s Expedition landed on March 13, 1862, to attack Newbern. (from “Bird’s Eye View of North and South Carolina and Part of Georgia Panorama of the Seat of War,” New York, John Bachmann, c. 1861. Library of Congress Geography and Map Division Washington, D.C.)



◀ **Figure 8.** Manuscript "C. City" (Carolina City) "Pd 5" (Paid 5) cover from Captain Henry MacRae to his brother. The cover, dated 13 Sep [1861], is currently the earliest known use from Carolina City. Captain MacRae was stationed with his company at Camp Carolina. The MacRae correspondence is at Duke University. (Courtesy T. Crumbley).

Figure 9. ▶ Another manuscript Carolina City paid cover, this time with the office name spelled out. It is dated 30 Sep [1861]. The manuscript "Pd 5" indicates postage paid on the letter. The extensive A.B. Springs papers, probably including the letter once in this cover, are at the Southern Historical Collection, Chapel Hill. (Courtesy T. Crumbley)



◀ **Figure 10.** An example of the Carolina City postmaster's provisional use. Envelopes were prepared by handstamping them with a straight line control marking, "Carolina City, N.C." and a circular "Paid/5" marking, indicating the 5¢ postage was prepaid. Later when the letter was posted a dated postmark was added, here dated 7 Oct [1861]. (Courtesy T. Crumbley)

operated and there were a few hundred Confederate troops in the vicinity? Certainly, the appearance of the handstamped devices at Carolina City coincided with the establishment of the major army encampment at Carolina City, Camp Argyle, and the arrival of the 7th, 17th and 26th North Carolina regiments.

In early October the Carolina City postmaster evidently obtained a homemade circular postmarking device, the earliest use of which seems to be October 4th. The crudeness of this device, more than those furnished, suggests local manufacture.

In addition, Postmaster Franklin evidently instituted the practice of selling envelopes on which the postage was provisionally paid in advance – a postmaster's provisional. Toward this end he would apply a straightline "Carolina City N.C." handstamp as a control marking and a PAID/5 in circle to envelopes at time of purchase to denote postage paid (Figure 10). When the letter was subsequently deposited in his post office he postmarked it with his regular device. These postmaster's provisional envelopes are extremely scarce; only three have been recorded. According to Crumbley, the Type 1

A second device seems to have been put into use about October 8th. The rate marking, "5. Paid," was incorporated into the canceling device (Figures 11 and 12). Only one 5¢ rating device is known; no 10¢ usage has yet been recorded. This is perhaps not surprising because the large majority of post office customers were Tarheel soldiers; no non-North Carolina units were stationed in the lower Hatteras coast. Ten cents postage would have been charged only for letters exceeding 1 ounce or addressed to a post office more than 500 miles away, an unlikely occurrence. Covers with this Type 2 postmark are known until January 17, 1862.

A third postmark type seems to have been introduced in January 1862, with earliest known use being January 17 (Figures 13 and 14). It incorporated the rate marking a “Paid 5.” into the

A fourth device, being a larger, sans serif postmark, much in the style being furnished by the Confederate Post Office Department in 1862, is listed in the North Carolina Postmark Catalog, accompanied by a separate arc PAID/5 rate marking, with two known dates of use, March 10th and March 13th(?). Since the town was abandoned by the Confederate forces March 22, the use of this device was very short, and because of the Union presence between Carolina City and Newbern from March 13, very little mail may have gotten in or out in March. I would be interested in hearing from anyone with examples of this postmark.

The Morehead City postmaster had a 26 mm diameter postmarking device and obtained a PAID in oval handstamp (Figures 15 and 16). This postmarking device was the only one

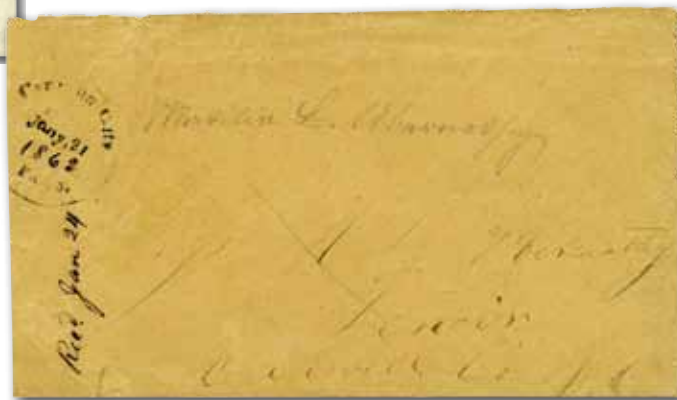
The NCPHS Type 2 postmark, with the "5. paid" integral to the device and dated Nov. 11 [1861]. The manuscript notation in the cover's upper left, "5 ct. paid" probably was the army company mail clerk's notation that the sender had given him specie for the postage along with the letter. This practice was very common in the Confederate Army to differentiate due letters from prepaid ones. (Courtesy T. Crumley)



◀ **Figure 12.** Illustrated corner card of the Hillsborough Military Academy postmarked with the Type 2 Carolina City postmark, dated Oct 8 [1861]. (Courtesy T. Crumbly)



Here is an example of the Type 3 marking, dated Jan 21, 1862, to Lenoir N.C., possibly from a member of the Lenoir Rifles, which later became Co. K. 32nd North Carolina.



used during Morehead City's Confederate operations. The earliest recorded date is September 3, 1861, and the latest known use is February 17, 1862.

Based on my census of Carolina City and Morehead City covers, with records kindly supplied by Tony Crumbley and

Maurice Bursey, as well as my own, there are 59-61 Carolina City covers (with two "unclear" covers) versus 26 Morehead City covers. Thus it would seem that the former office processed the bulk of the army mail. My research into the Morehead City covers, however, indicates that many originated at Fort Macon or the camps on Bogue Island. A brief



◀ **Figure 14.** Another example of the type 3 postmark, here dated Feb 3 [1862] on a patriotic cover going to Miss Bettie Long in Independence, Virginia. This is one of four letters to her in the Carolina City/Morehead City cover census. Sutlers accompanying the army frequently sold patriotic envelopes along with sundry other "necessities" to the soldiers. (Courtesy T. Crumbley)

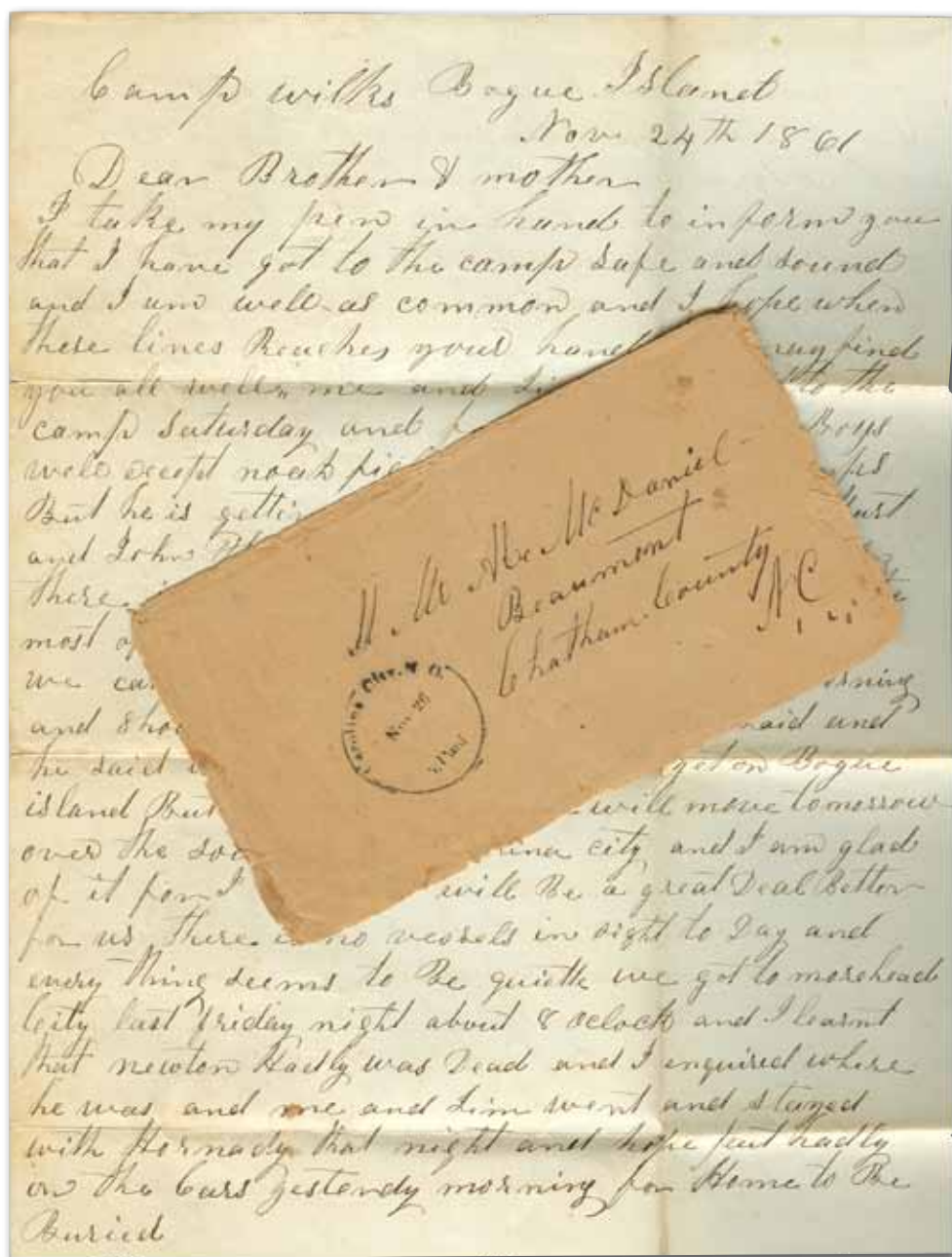
Figure 15. ▶ Morehead City used a separate "PAID" in oval rate marking on its prepaid mail. Here the postmark is dated Dec 17 [1861]. Interestingly, very few Morehead City's handstamped, paid covers have a rate marking, contrary to postal regulations. This letter is from David Thompson, 26th North Carolina. He was in Fort Macon at the time, based on his correspondence in the Southern Historical Collection.



◀ **Figure 16.** Another David Thompson cover, this one also is postmarked Morehead City N.C., February 21 [1862], with a single copy of the Confederate 5¢ green lithographed general issue.

Post Office	NCPHS type	Number of covers	Periods of Use
Carolina City	manuscript	6	Sep 13–30, 1861
	1	3	Oct 4–8, 1861
	2	34	Oct 8, 1861–Jan 17, 1862
	3	14	Jan 17–Mar 10, 1862
	4	2	Mar 10–(13), 1862
	Unknown	2	
Morehead City	1	26	Sep 3, 1861–Feb 23, 1862

▲ **Table 1.** Known covers from Carolina City and Morehead City.



▲ **Figure 17.** Presence of a letter is a real bonus because the origin of the envelope is now documented. Here the origin of the Carolina City handstamped paid cover (type 2 postmark) is Camp Wilks, Bogue Island, Nov 24th 1862. The postmark is dated Nov 26, two days later.

tabulation of the types and use dates is shown in Table 4.

Very few of the surviving covers bear Confederate general issue postage stamps. For Carolina City I have recorded only five examples, all sent during February-March 1862. There are only six Morehead City covers with postage stamps, all being sent after January 21. All the rest are handstamped paid. Given the amount of army mail from Carolina City and Morehead City I find it surprising the Post Office Department did not furnish stamps as soon as they were printed in October 1861.

Post offices serving nearby troops as well in big cities were given first priority when the stamps came out.

There is only one soldier due cover among the recorded items, which is strange given the ubiquitous use by Confederate soldiers elsewhere. Perhaps the troops on the Carolina coast were being paid promptly or had sufficient money to send their letters prepaid.

Mail from the soldiers at Fort Macon and on Bogue Island was undoubtedly carried by an army clerk to either post office.

Letters from David Thompson, 27th North Carolina, which are preserved at the Southern Historical Collection, give us some information about mail handling. Many of Thompson's letters were hand carried to Hillsboro, rather than mailed, because people seemed to be going back and forth constantly. One contemporaneous account notes that visitors and mail were daily occurrences.

The cover with letter in Figure 17 is a "lucky break." While the enclosed letter sheds a little light on the camp time of the soldiers, it gives typical instructions for directing correspondence to them – Carolina City.

*Camp Wilkes Bogue Island
Nov 24th 1861*

Dear Brother & mother

I take my pen in hand to inform you that I have got to the camp safe and sound and I am well as commn and I hope when the lines reaches yor hand they may find you well. Me and Jim Ward got to the camp Saturday and found all of our boys well except Noah Fields He has got the mumps But he is getting Better. John Bright, John Hurt and John Thomas and all of our mess is well. There is a few in the hospital sick yet But the most of the company is getting along very well. We carried our furlows to the colonel this morning and showed him what Doctor Hanks said and he said it was all Right. We are yet on Bogue Island But the Colonel says we will move tomorrow over the sound near carolina city and I am glad of it for I think it will be a great deal Better for us there is no vessels in sigt to Day and every thing seems to be quiette. We got to Morehead City last night about 8 oclock and I learnt that newton Hadley was dead and I enquired where he was and me and Jim went and stayed with Hornady that night and hope put Hadley on the cars yesterday morning for Home to be Buried.

I have no other news that I no of at this time. O. D. Vestal says tell his folks that he is well and barty and getting first Rate.

----- I want you to write to me soon and let me no how you all are getting on and if you Come down to see us. I want you to write when you are coming so I can Direct you how to come as we are going to move over the sound near morehead city and will not Be at this place. I will close for this time as I have no news of interest. Write to me soon. Direct to Carolina City. No more at present good By

J.W. McDaniel

The cover in Figure 15 was sent by David Thompson to his mother in Cedar Grove. He was on Bogue Island when he sent it. Figure 16 shows another Thompson correspondence cover, this with a copy of the Confederate 5¢ lithograph issue postmarked February 21[1861], when he was in Morehead City. Mail from Fort Macon is difficult to identify. No soldiers' due covers with their obligatory sender's name and unit inscribed thereon have been recorded. Only through discovery of the correspondence in an archive, as the Thompson correspondence, or a genealogical research of the addressee can reveal the cover's origin. The county in which each unit was organized (Table 2) can be linked to the address on a cover. One problem with researching via the addressee, however, is that many of the covers are addressed to a Miss _____, who may have been related to the sender but more likely was a lady friend. The cover illustrated in Figure 18, addressed to a soldier in Carolina City, is probably typical in direction, but it is the only one I have seen.

At least some mail to the Fort Macon garrison seems to have been addressed there, rather than to Carolina City or Morehead City, at least based on very few existing examples. The cover in



◀ **Figure 18.** Cover from Carthage, NC, postmarked March 13 [1862], and addressed to A.S. Caddell, Co. H, 26th Regt., NC Vols, Carolina City, in care of Capt Martin, rated at five cents postage paid in manuscript. Burnside's Expedition landed below Newbern on March 13, cutting off the coastal area from that city. Presuming several days in transit this letter would have arrived after the battle of Newbern (March 14) and only a day or two before Federal forces occupied Carolina City. By this time the 26th was in Kinston.

Figure 19. ▶

A "Fort Macon cover," posted in Hillsboro on September 7, 1861, with handstamped PAID and 5, to Strudwick Faucette, a soldier at Fort Macon of the Orange Guards (later Co. G, 27th North Carolina).



Figure 19 is the only one I have seen. Letters in the David Thompson correspondence indicate that letters to Thompson should be directed to Fort Macon. Such mail would have been initially received by either Morehead City or Carolina City, and possibly transported further by the army. No evidence of an official postal route to Fort Macon has been found. On the other hand I have found several letters directing correspondents to address their letters to Carolina City, then the addressee's unit. Undoubtedly all the mail to the troops on Bogue Island were dispatched to Carolina City where they were forwarded, possibly via regimental mail clerks, to the troops.

The Newbern post office seems to have serviced mail to and from the units stationed in and around that town. Mail service for Co's D and E of the 7th, detailed to Hyde County, at Juniper Bay and Lake Landing may have been handled by the tiny post office at Lake Landing, or sent by courier to the nearby post offices of Swan Quarter or Washington. I have not yet been able to document how mail was handled for companies B, C, F, G, H, I, and K of the 7th North Carolina, in winter quarters at Camp Graham, on the Neuse River opposite Shephardsville. Presumably their mail was carried by courier to Morehead City or Carolina City.

I have yet to identify any mail from troops at Portsmouth or Ocracoke, namely from the 700 soldiers in the 17th North Carolina regiment (Confederate Guards, Hertford Light Infantry, Tar River Boys, Hyde County Rifles, and Washington Grays). What post offices could have been used? Portsmouth was evidently a Confederate post office with the prewar postmaster taking up the Confederate service (Table 1). Ocracoke post office also operated until the war, with D. Tolsen as Postmaster. Both offices were on the prewar route 2853 from Washington N.C. with weekly service, but this route would have been disrupted as soon as U.S. naval vessels began operating in Pamlico Sound. I have been unable to discover any mention of mail service to either office in the surviving Confederate Post Office records. No Confederate covers from Portsmouth or Ocracoke seem to have been recorded. Newbern, up the Neuse River, was a major supply base and

also Headquarters of the District of the Pamlico; Beaufort was also possible, with mail to Portsmouth or Ocracoke either being carried by steamers that supplied the troops on Ocracoke Island. Carolina City was a major clearinghouse for army mail, but Morehead City also could have been used. The latter was the terminus of the postal route as well as the railroad. In the year before the war Shephardsville, adjacent to Morehead City, had considerable business, as much as Carolina City. Only careful research into the addressees of covers from Newbern, Beaufort, Morehead City and Carolina City in an effort to link with the otherwise anonymous senders will disclose the mail handing situation. ■

Acknowledgements: I extend my sincerest thanks to Maurice Bursey and Tony Crumbley for sharing their data and covers.

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Mystery Covers from Fall 2017 Issue

Two mystery covers from the Hugh Jarvis Horne, Sr. collection are illustrated here. The cover to the right is a folded, stampless cover dated 24 October, 1854, and is addressed to Miss Fanny P. Clark in Lowell, Massachusetts. The letter was posted in the Williamston, Martin County, post office during William B. Lanier's term from February 1853 to June 1858. By August 1856 Lanier was using a circular datestamp. We had no correct answer to this cover.



The second mystery cover from the Hugh Jarvis Horne, Sr. collection is illustrated to the left. It is a folded, stampless cover dated "21 8 Month Aug" 1847, and is addressed to Lindsay & Plackeston in Philadelphia. The letter was posted in the Anderson's Store post office, Caswell County, during the 40-year term of postmaster Quintin Anderson. He also provided his postmaster free frank on the cover. Darrell Ertzberger provided the correct answer to this cover.

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We would like in the future to be able to send information to members using e-mail, but we lack valid e-mail addresses for many of our members. Please help by sending your e-mail address to Harry Albert, the Secretary-Treasurer at harry.albert@eeco-net.com or Tony Crumbley at tcrumbley2@bellsouth.net.

UNC-Chapel Hill- A US Navy Pre-flight Training School

by Tony L. Crumbley



University of North Carolina (UNC) President Frank Graham in 1940 had been an officer in the Marine Corps during WWI. As the war began to heat up in Europe, he expressed an interest in doing all the school could do to prepare the nation in case we should have to enter the war.

Graham began by lobbying for and receiving in January, 1942, a Navy pre-flight training school. It would become one of four such schools in the nation and the largest of the military programs at the university. The school would have a Marine training unit, a Navy ROTC program, an Army geography and language program, an Army Air Corps meteorology program, and a Navy V-12 pre-midshipman academic program for pre-officers. Figure 1 illustrates Naval Cadets of the U.S. Navy Pre-Flight School at UNC, Chapel Hill, during WWII.

In addition to these specific programs, the school received increased funding for its chemistry department and its Russian and Japanese foreign language programs. Included with these

students were 360 French cadets who had left France after the surrender to Germany. Among them was the son of General Charles de Gaulle.

In March of 1942, 1,875 cadets reported for training on campus. Housing was in short supply. The cadets were moved into Alexander, Manly, Grimes, and Ruffin dormitories. Non-military students were moved out and had to find alternative housing.

While in training on campus, the cadets maintained a rigorous schedule of classes and activities. A typical day for the students began at 5:30 am and would continue until 6:15 p.m., six days a week. Each day included two hours of strenuous physical exercise. Sundays, however, were open for rest and entertaining. Female students from Woman's College in Greensboro (today UNC-Greensboro) were bused in for parties at Woolen Gymnasium. Figure 2 shows an excited congregation of cadets at the U.S. Navy Pre-Flight School at

the UNC, Chapel Hill, about 1942. Could this be in anticipation of the buses from Women's College?



▲ **Figure 1.** Naval cadets of the U.S. Navy Pre-Flight School in parade at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill during WWII.



◀ **Figure 2.** An excited congregation of cadets at the U.S. Navy Pre-Flight School at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, about 1942. Could this be in anticipation of the buses from Women's College?

One performer visiting campus to entertain the troops was Ronald Reagan, who would later become President of the United States.

The pre-flight Navy training school was decommissioned on October 15, 1945. By this time, the school had trained 18,700 cadets including 360 French cadets, 78 French officers, and 1,220 Navy V-5 officers. Two of those involved would later become US Presidents. Gerald R. Ford was an instructor and George W. Bush was a cadet. Numerous other cadets would become household names. These include Ted William, a Red Sox outfielder; Coach Paul William "Bear" Bryant, a football Hall of Fame member; Doc Blanchard, a Heisman trophy winner; and NFL star Otto Graham. A civilian student there at the time was responsible for thousands of photos on campus. Hugh Morton, of Grandfather Mountain fame, had the duty of

photographing people and events on campus.

Figures 3 and 4 are covers from air cadets during their training in the U.S. Navy Pre-Flight School at UNC, Chapel Hill. Figure 3 is a cover from Cadet R. H. Howe, Jr., an aviation cadet with US Navy Reserves in training at UNC, Chapel Hill. It was posted to Syracuse, New York, on October 22, 1942, and was canceled with a Type DT 300 Universal Machine cancel used in Chapel Hill from December 1940 until December 1956. As a member of the military, Cadet Howe was entitled to free postage, shown by his endorsement in the upper right corner. The military free frank was effective from April 1, 1942, for any person on active duty to any person in the United States or territories and possessions. This privilege continued until December 31, 1947, according to a October 29, 1945, Post Office Department order appeared in the January 1946 *Postal Guide*. A U.S.

Figure 3. ▶

October 22, 1942, cover from Cadet R. H. Howe, Jr., an aviation cadet with US Navy Reserves in training at UNC, Chapel Hill, posted to Syracuse, New York, and canceled with a Type DT 300 Universal Machine cancel. As a cadet in the military he was entitled to free postage, shown by his endorsement in the upper right corner.



◀ **Figure 4.** September 14, 1944, another free frank cover from aviation cadet Donald J. Hayes, addressed to San Diego, California. Again, the DT 300 Universal Machine cancel was used at the Chapel Hill post office.

Navy Pre-Flight School label has been a fixed in the lower left corner. Figure 4 is another free frank envelope from Aviation Cadet Donald J. Hayes posted at Chapel Hill on September 14, 1944, addressed to San Diego, California. Note that his return address is that of the USNPFS (U.S. Navy Pre-Flight School), Chapel Hill, N.C.

There have been other military covers saved from this war training endeavor at UNC, Chapel Hill, a few of which can be illustrated here. Figures 5, 6 and 7 are patriotic covers from Private William H. Robin, Flight Four, Training Detachment, Army Air Force Technical Training Command. Figure 5 features an unusual “Don’t Tread on Me” logo, a very modern depiction of the Revolutionary War ship flag. This cover was addressed to Corporal John G. Ritz stationed at Army Camp Campbell in Kentucky. This cover also was canceled with a Universal Machine cancel Type DT 300 and was sent “Free.” The cover shown in Figure 6 is another WWII patriotic cover. This cover was posted on June 13, 1943 at the Chapel Hill post office

and received a Universal Machine Type DT 300 cancellation. It was addressed to Hughson, California and sent free under a military frank. Figure 7 illustrates the last of the three patriotic covers sent by Private Robin from the U.S. Navy Pre-Flight School, Chapel Hill. This cover was posted in Chapel Hill on September 5, 1943, and was addressed to Highland Park, Michigan. As with the other patriotic covers, it was canceled by a Universal Machine Type DT 300 cancellation and was sent free.

All but one of the covers illustrated with this article are canceled by a Universal Machine and show the Type DT 300 postmark of Chapel Hill with a wide spacing in “N.C.” and small letters. This was the most common canceling device used in Chapel Hill at the time.

Figure 8 illustrates a short-lived station cancel of the Navy Pre-Flight School at Chapel Hill. A station post office of Chapel Hill was opened on July 29, 1942 and was closed on October 1945. The example of this station postmark appears to be a philatelic favor cancel, made as a hand-back cancel struck on



◀ **Figure 5.** June 17, 1943, military free frank of Pvt. William H. Robin on WWII Patriotic cover to Camp Campbell, Kentucky. Pvt. Robins was serving with Flight Four, Training Detachment, Army Air Force Technical Training Command. Chapel Hill post office used a Universal Machine Type DT 300 cancel.

Figure 6. ▶ June 13, 1943, another WWII patriotic cover sent by Pvt. William H. Robin to Hughson, California. Canceled with a Universal Machine Type DT 300, it was sent free under a military frank.



a post card. No other examples of this marking have been seen to date, indicating that the regular Chapel Hill post office must have been used primarily for most mailings.

Without a doubt, this push for military involvement at University of North Carolina was a smart move of President Graham. Enrolment would have declined dramatically with our troops at war. As it turned out, the civilian students were replaced with military students. With the war's ending, the University once again became primarily a civilian school. Some of the buildings originally constructed for the military can still be found on campus, including the ROTC armory. ■

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Figure 7. ▶

September 5, 1943, another WWII patriotic cover sent by Pvt. William H. Robin to Highland Park, Michigan. Canceled with a Universal Machine Type DT 300, it was sent free under a military frank.



◀ Figure 8. August 4, 1942, post card addressed to Westfield, New Jersey, with an example of the station postmark of Chapel Hill's Navy Pre-Flight School. The post card may have had a philatelic favor cancel, made on a hand-back card. The cancel was made six days after the office was officially opened.

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