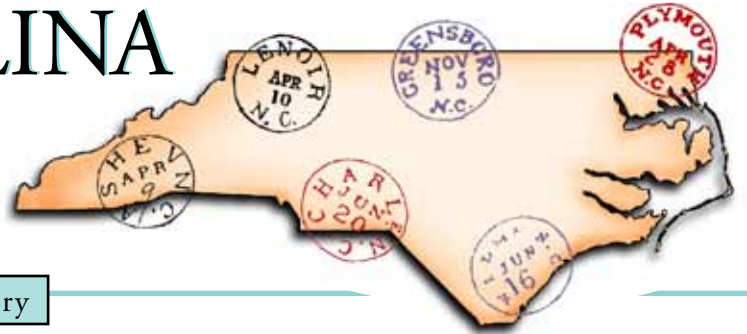


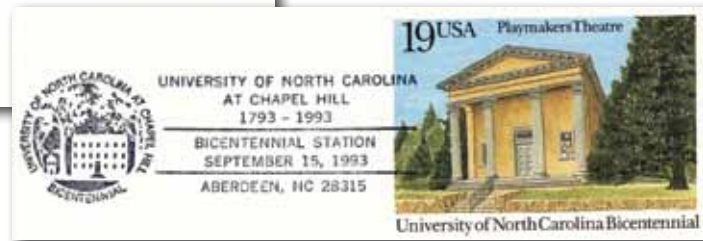
NORTH CAROLINA POSTAL HISTORIAN

The Journal of North Carolina Postal History

VOLUME 38, NO. 4 FALL 2019 WHOLE 148



200th Anniversary of the
University of North Carolina



Patterson Family Covers –
Civil War and Afterwards

Elusive 6¼ Cents Rate



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

For those members who were able to attend the CHARPEX19 show July 27-28, 2019, I don't need to tell you what an interesting show it was with great displays and great opportunities to browse and pick up some good collectibles. Our society was well represented at the show and at the annual general meeting, we were treated to a very interesting presentation by Scott Steward on the "Postal History of the Rosman, North Carolina, NASA Tracking Station." Another highlight of the general meeting was the announcement that society member Stefan Jaronski was awarded the annual Writer's Award for his article on "Mail Service for the Confederate Army on the Hatteras Coast 1861-62."

The general meeting was followed by the annual Board meeting. An update on the "North Carolina Postmark Catalog Update" was presented by Dick Winter. Currently, all 100 counties are complete as well as five major post offices (Asheville, Charlotte, Fayetteville, Greensboro and Wilmington.) Dick is continuing to work on the Raleigh portion of the catalog, which will be separate from Wake County as a major post office, and estimates that it will be completed in about six months, at which time updates to all existing counties will be undertaken. The treasurer's report was reviewed and the 2020 budget was unanimously approved. The society currently has 121 members, with one unpaid members expected to pay soon. Webmaster Scott Steward gave an update on the Society's website and reported that the "North Carolina Postmark Catalog Update" page is the most popular page on the Society's website. It has had 16K-18K hits every month from July 2108 to January 2019. In addition, Mr. Steward said that he has added postcard and photograph post office images to the

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website bringing the counties available for these images alphabetically to Gaston County. If any Society members have postcards or photographs of North Carolina post offices, Scott would appreciate e-mail scans of them.

The Board discussed the results of a survey to assess the members' interest in providing digital editions of the *North Carolina Postal Historian*. While those desiring digital versions of the journal are not many in number, a list of members who would like a digital or both a written and digital edition will be developed and used to distribute to those who requested it. The Board set the next meeting date to be in late July 2020 at the CHARPEX20 Show.

The Board also elected a slate of officers for the next two years. They are President: Frank Hall, Vice President: George Slaton and Treasurer-Secretary: Harry Albert.

In closing, I would like to recognize our editor, Dick Winter for his lead article in *The Congress Book 2019* that was published for the APS Show in Omaha two months ago. The title is "North Carolina Ship Covers Before the Civil War." It is an in-depth study of known North Carolina ship covers in the antebellum period.

Editor Tony Crumbley is working on an update of the known RFD covers from NC. If any member has unlisted RFD cancels in their collection he would like to receive copies or scans of these markings.



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The 1993 Playmakers Theatre Postal Card Honoring the 200th Anniversary of UNC and a Special UNC Bicentennial Postmark



by Tony L. Crumbley

In a recent purchase of several boxes of modern postal history, I saw a number of University of North Carolina (UNC) bicentennial postal cards with an event cancel that I did not remember seeing before. While researching this find, I uncovered a wealth of information about the Playmakers Theatre postal card: its first day, its history, its designer, but little about the special UNC Bicentennial postmark used throughout the state, mostly a day after the postal card was issued.

On the first research problem, the Playmakers Theatre postal card, I went to our own North Carolina Postal History Society member and resident authority on UNC, Professor Maurice Bursey, who had taught at UNC for numerous years. Professor Bursey is pictured in Figure 1. His surprising response was detailed about the Playmakers Theatre, but not to my question about the second-day cancel. Here is what he said:

I was responsible for that post card. Around five years before it was issued, I wrote the Chancellor at UNC and asked if he would like me to work on getting a stamp issued. On getting approval, I started writing to people for support, and was led to the Parliamentarian of the Senate, William Cochrane. He had been Terry Sanford's roommate when they both were UNC undergraduates. Mr. Cochrane had guided the Roanoke Voyages stamp request to United States Postal Service (USPS) approval and thought we should seek issue of a Prominent American stamp for William Richardson Davie, because the 7-cent Abraham Baldwin stamp had been issued to commemorate the bicentennial of the University of Georgia's charter. He produced a letter requesting the same, signed by the entire North Carolina delegation! Together we constructed a list of notable UNC graduates to whom I would write to request their sending letters of support to the USPS. They included the current governors of Alaska and West Virginia. The USPS responded with the news that they had ceased to honor universities' anniversaries with stamps, but had instituted the series of commemorative post cards instead. My parliamentarian wanted to continue to press for a stamp, but I thought that the safest move would be to go along with the post card idea. That was successful, of course. I was asked which building should be pictured. The oldest building on campus is Old East with its National Historic Places plaque. But it is uninteresting architecturally, and I suggested the Playmakers Theatre instead. I had nothing to do with the choice of Bob

Timberlake as the artist.

On the day of issue, I went to the first day ceremonies, a major effort since I was recuperating from illness. A couple of university staff who had planned the event found me in the audience and apologized profusely for not including me in the party on the platform, but I hadn't been offended. To make up for it, they invited me to the luncheon following the ceremony, where I met all sorts of university and postal service bigwigs. (I was glad I was in the habit of wearing a coat and tie on campus.) They presented me with a gold-stamped folder that was the souvenir for the platform party.

Before going home, I stopped in the main post office in Chapel Hill to see how they were handling the first day. They had prepared a large wall hanging that read, "It

Figure 1. ▶
UNC Professor Emeritus,
of the Chemistry Department,
Maurice Bursey,
was the driving force behind the Playmakers Theatre postal card.



has never happened before and it may never happen again!" I didn't notice any great number of souvenir collectors in line waiting for service!

But sad to say, I do not have any second day cards. If I recall correctly, I had understood that the USPS had arranged availability of the card at all Post Offices in North Carolina for the first day but my recollection could well be wrong.

Years after the first day, I donated my file on the bicentennial stamp to the University Archives. I suppose it is somewhere in those records, but I have never looked.

Cheers, Maurice

With that, we know the background of the birth of the postal card.

UNC was the first public university in America to open its doors, and the only one to graduate students in the 18th century. The University began an eight-month celebration of its bicentennial on October 12, 1993.

In anticipation of the celebration, on September 14, 1993, the postal service issued the postal card depicting the Playmakers Theatre, a national historic landmark building on the UNC campus. This card was the first of four historic preservation series postal cards issued in 1993 to honor colleges and universities. It is cataloged by Scott as UX170.

UNC was first chartered December 11, 1789, by the North Carolina General Assembly. Construction began in 1793 and the University graduated its first students in 1798. The University of Georgia actually was chartered before UNC but did not graduate students until 1801.

Artist Bob Timberlake from Lexington, North Carolina, was chosen to design the card. Timberlake was an alumnus of the University and had already designed several United States stamps. Two buildings were considered for the card. The first was Old East building which is now a dorm. This was the first building on campus in 1793. It is the oldest, standing, public education building in the United States. The Old East building

courtesy and intelligence, and Carolina students for their horse sense.”

In 1925, major restoration took place and Smith Hall became Playmakers Theatre, the first public university building dedicated to the study and performance of native dramatic art. The building was placed on the National Register in 1982. Figure 2 is a post card of the Playmakers Theatre as it looked in the 1950s.

Like most artists in the Historic Preservation series, Timberlake took artist's license to better display his subject. He omitted buildings in the background, rearranged and omitted trees and shrubbery. Timberlake made the sky a gray color but in its final production, the sky was changed to light blue. The illustration in Figure 3 from the First Day program shows the gray sky from the original artwork. Timberlake commented later that changing the sky's color was something he should have done “because we all claim that the sky is bluer in North Carolina.” Artist Bob Timberlake signed a First Day cover in Figure 4. This was a handstamp cancel.

The First Day Ceremony was held at the center of the Chapel Hill campus on Polk Place, the lawn between the South Building and the Wilson Library. The postal card was dedicated by USPS Senior Vice-President William Henderson. Speakers included C. D. Spangler, Jr., President of UNC; Paul Hardin, Chancellor of UNC Chapel Hill; an undergraduate, Michael Joseph Andrews, III, class of 1994; and an alumnus, Louise Fletcher, class of 1957. Ms. Fletcher was an actress who won an Academy Award for her role in the film, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*.

The card was printed by the US Government and Printing Office in Washington, DC. A total of 15 million cards were printed and 11,694,000 single cards were distributed as of September 17, 1993. A total of 7,796 cards received First Day cancels. Figure 5 shows the USPS announcement of the new 19¢ postal card in Postal Bulletin 21848 of August 19, 1993. Figure 6 is an example of the official first day use of the postal card with the FIRST DAY OF ISSUE cancel and an

ArtCraft cachet. The postmark was a simple circular datestamp of Chapel Hill with the date September 14, 1993, and the attached words FIRST DAY OF ISSUE in the center of four killer bars, a machine cancel. Note that the datestamp portion has a 24.5 mm diameter, whereas the datestamp portion in the handstamp version used in Figure 4 has a 24 mm diameter. There are other minor differences between the machine and handstamps..

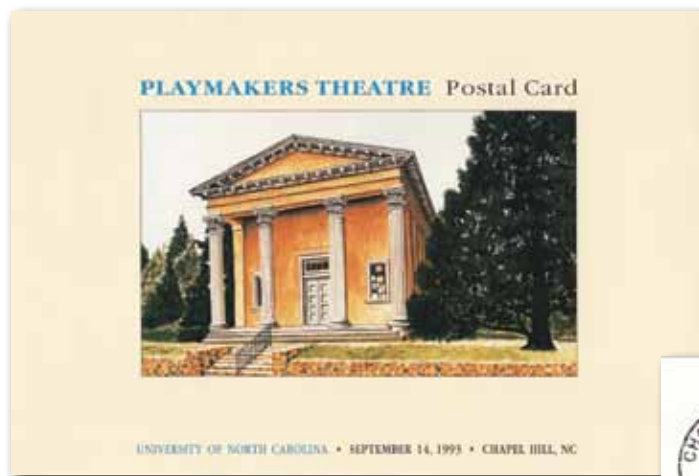
It was noted in the literature that a special cancel was considered for the first day of the new postal card; however, it was decided not to be used because it might impact the



▲ **Figure 2.** 1950s post card image of Playmakers Theatre, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. The first state supported theatre in America to be devoted to the development of Native Drama. Post card Published by North Carolina News Company, Durham.

was ruled out for the postal card design because it was not an attractive building.

The Playmakers Theatre was chosen as the best option for the card. The building had been designed by architect Alexander Jackson Davis to resemble a Greek temple. It was dedicated in 1851 as Smith Hall after UNC's first donor, Benjamin Smith. Over the years, the building was used as a library, ballroom, law school, chemistry laboratory, and bath house. During the Union Army occupation at Chapel Hill in 1865, the building was used as a stable for Michigan soldiers' horses. It is stated that ever since, “Michigan horses have been noted for their



◀ **Figures 3.** Bob Timberlake's original image from the cover of the official First Day Ceremony Program. Note the gray color of the sky that was changed later by the government printing office to a light blue.

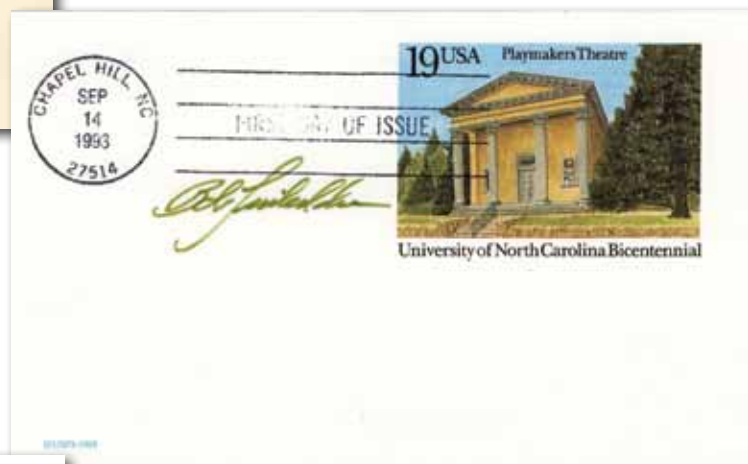


Figure 4. ▶

Chapel Hill, NC, September 14, 1993, First Day Cancel signed by artist Bob Timberlake. Note the difference in the postmark from Figure 6, the official First Day cover, which had a machine cancel. Figure 4 was handstamped at the First Day Ceremony and signed by Timberlake.



◀ **Figures 5.** USPS announcement of the new 19¢ Playmakers Theatre postal card in Postal Bulletin 21848 of August 19, 1993. Instructions on the lower part of the page (not shown) provided information on how to order First Day of issue postmarks.

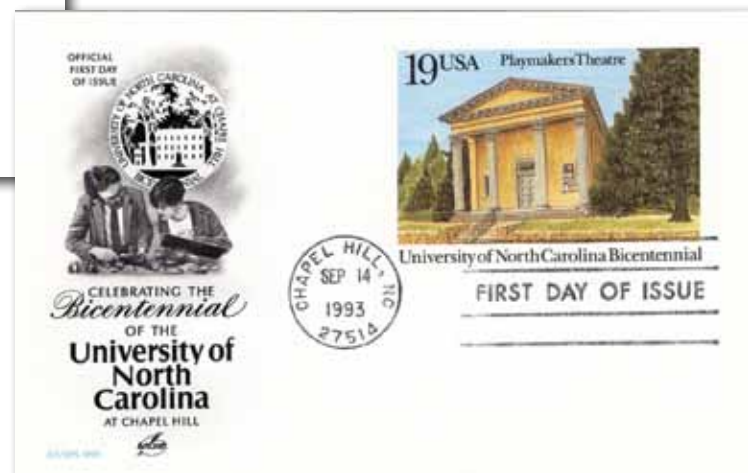


Figure 6. ▶

September 14, 1993, Chapel Hill, official first day use of the Playmakers Theatre postal card on an ArtCraft cachet cover. The postmark was a simple circular datestamp of Chapel Hill with the date and the attached words FIRST DAY OF ISSUE in the center of four killer bars, a machine cancel.

campaign that started the next day. This is the only reference that I have seen that alludes to a second day event.

University of North Carolina Bicentennial Cancel

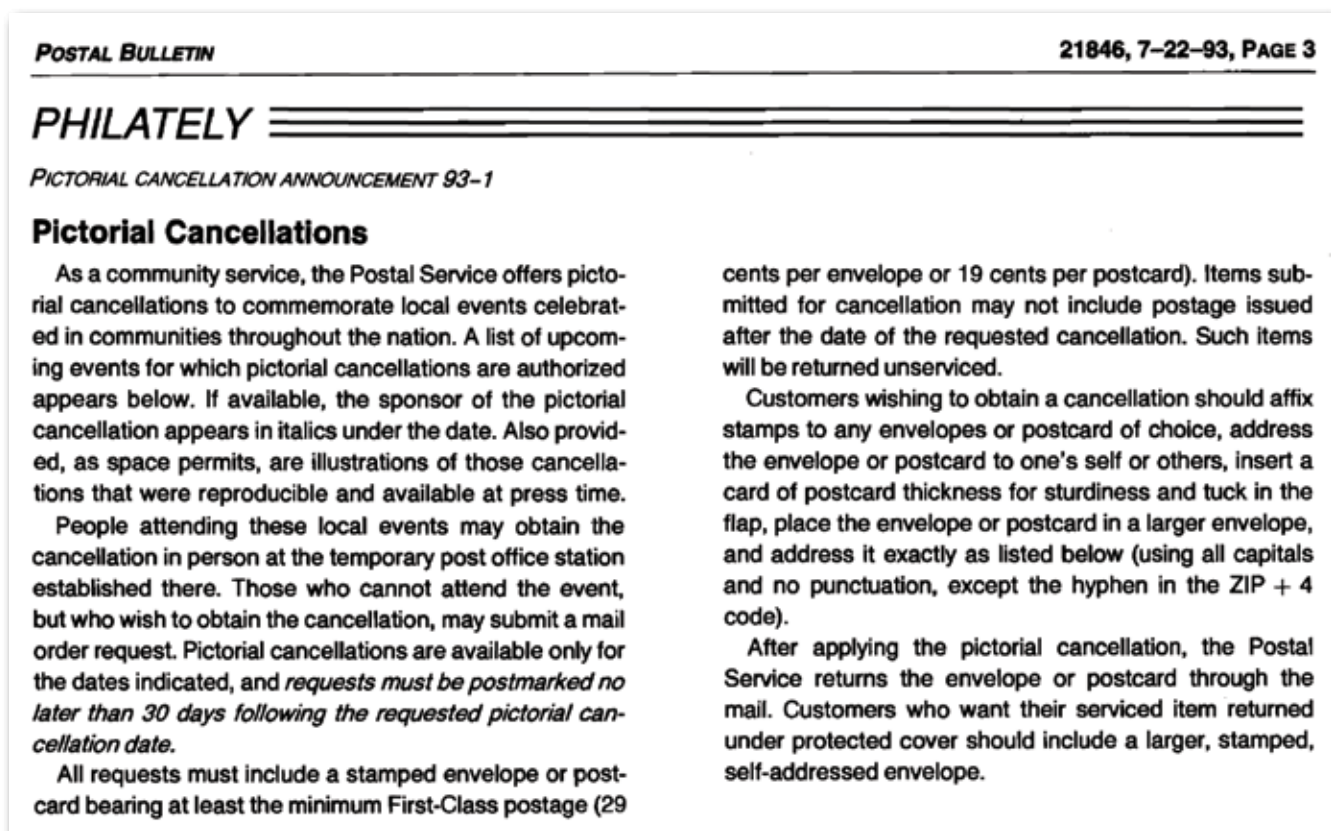
On July 22, 1993, USPS *Postal Bulletin* 21846 started a new information service for collectors of event cancellations. This *Bulletin* started to illustrate USPS-approved pictorial cancellations for various events in the United States, and provided instructions to collectors on how to obtain examples of these event cancellations. Figure 7 shows the announcement that explained the process of obtaining the cancellations.

A month and a half later, *Postal Bulletin* No. 21850 of September 16, 1993, illustrated a large group of pictorial cancellations for the period mid-September to early October 1993. In this group was the generic cancellation pictured in Figure 8, the Bicentennial of UNC at Chapel Hill. This was the approved design of this pictorial cancel, less the post office name and ZIP code, as well as the approved date of its use. Figure 9 shows one of the numerous uses of this pictorial

cancellation from different post offices in North Carolina that I have recorded, in this case, Aberdeen in Moore County. I call this the second day cancel as it occurred one day after the issue of the Playmakers Theatre postal card commemorating the 200th anniversary of UNC.

Figures 10a-10d are illustrations of the four different colors of inks used on the known cancels, black, violet, purple, and red. To date, examples of this second day use have been recorded from 66 post offices. It is interesting to note that mostly smaller towns participated in this event. All of the cards in the author's collection are unaddressed, indicating the cards were returned to the sender in another envelope. All but three of the cities applied the cancel on the Playmakers Theatre postal cards. The three cities undoubtedly did not receive the postal cards, yet they had received the special postmarks.

One thing to note is that on more than 100 cards from these towns that I have seen, all have the postmarks placed exactly in the same location – to the left of the image on the card. Someone had given the postmasters very good instructions on how to cancel these cards.



▲ **Figure 7.** USPS *Postal Bulletin* No. 21846 of July 22, 1993 announcing USPS-approved pictorial cancellations for the benefit of collectors of those postmarks, providing images of the cancellations and the authorized dates of use of those markings, plus instructions how to obtain them.

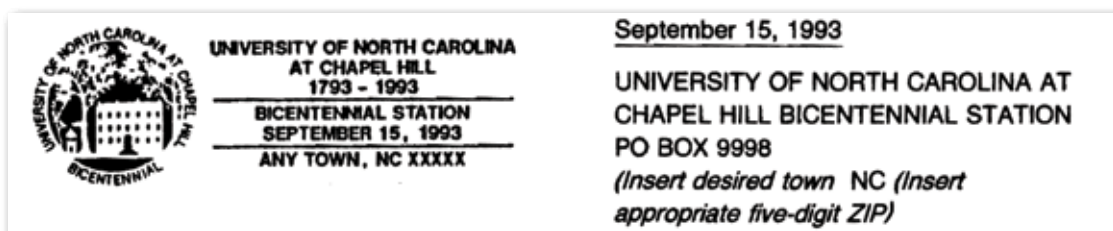
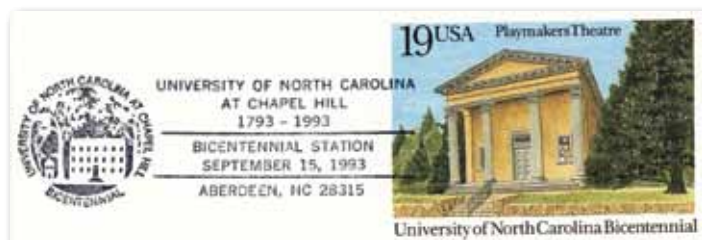
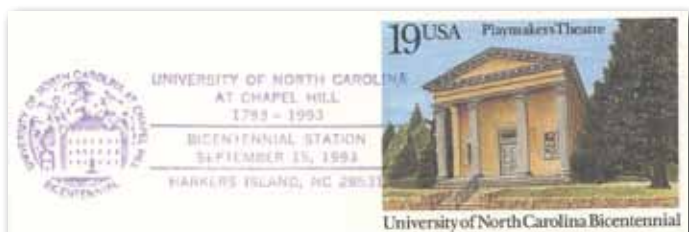
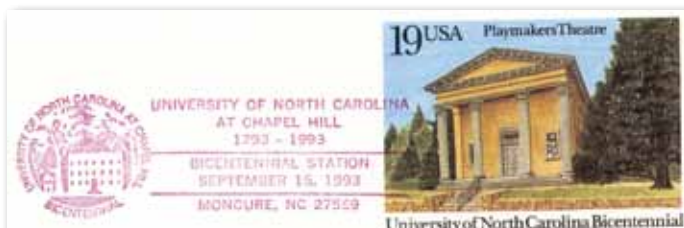
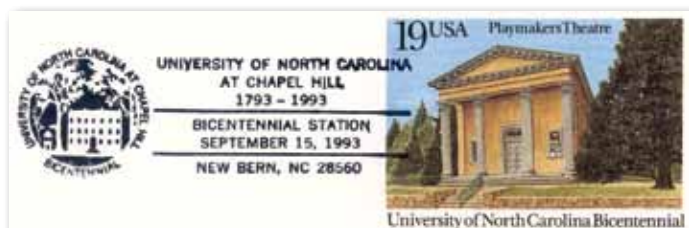


Figure 8. ▲

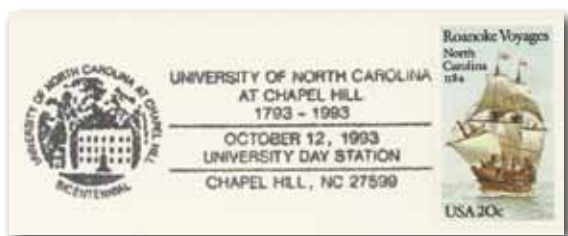
USPS *Postal Bulletin* No. 21850 of September 16, 1993, generic depiction of the UNC Bicentennial pictorial cancellation without the post office name and ZIP code number approved for use on September 15, 1993 only. By placing this information in the mailing address, collectors could request from the issuing post office the cancellation on any cards or envelopes they sent with appropriate postage.



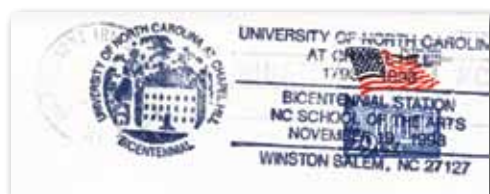
◀ Figures 9. Example of the UNC Bicentennial Station pictorial cancellation from Aberdeen (Moore County) used on a Playmakers Theatre postal card, issued the day before.



▲ Figure 10a-10d. The four different colors of inks used on the known cancels of the September 15, 1993, UNC Bicentennial pictorial cancellation are shown here in black, violet, purple, and red inks. All but three examples of the 66 different post offices that used this cancellation were on the Playmakers Theatre postal cards.



◀ **Figures 11.** UNC Bicentennial pictorial cancellation authorized for use on October 11, 1993, from University Day Station, a temporary station for the celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the school.



▲ **Figure 12.** Bicentennial Station of the NC School of the Arts of Winston-Salem, dated November 19, 1993.

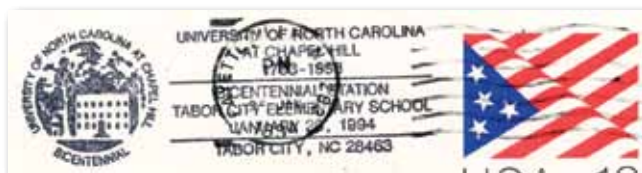
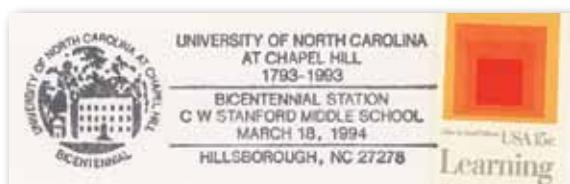


Figure 13. ▲ Bicentennial Station of the Tabor City Elementary School, dated January 28, 1994.



▲ **Figure 14.** Bicentennial Station of the C W Stanford Middle School, Hillsborough, dated March 18, 1994

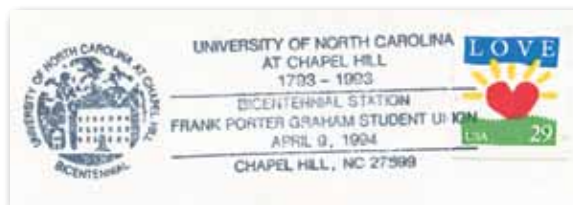


Figure 15. ▲ Bicentennial Station of the Frank Porter Graham Student Union, Chapel Hill, dated April 9, 1994.

Now, let's take the mystery a little further. On October 12, 1993, UNC commemorated its actual 200th Anniversary day with a celebration service. The keynote speaker was none other than North Carolina native Charles Kuralt, also a UNC alumnus. The *North Carolina Postmark Catalog Update* illustrated a Bicentennial Station pictorial cancellation from Chapel Hill dated October 12, 1993, shown as Figure 11. The postal station was stated as University Day Station. There was no *Postal Bulletin* notice for this pictorial cancellation, but at least one cover is known and illustrated. It was an unaddressed blank card with the 1984 Roanoke Voyages commemorative postage stamp.

This same cancellation was approved for four additional dates: November 19, 1993; January 28, 1994; March 18, 1994; and April 9, 1994. The images of each of these dates were illustrated in later Postal Bulletins with different Bicentennial Station names, but I was unable to learn the reasons they were created and approved. Figures 12-15 show examples of these separate uses. The last dates is nearly seven months from the original bicentennial postal card date. Perhaps these were

connected with events that were tied into the original eight-month celebration of the school's bicentennial celebrations; however, I have been unable to find any more information about these non-September 15, 1993 uses.

At this point, the research on the second day cancel goes dry. The American Philatelic Research Library (APRL) could find nothing in their library. My collection before this discovery had only one copy of this marking. A few additional examples had been recorded in the *North Carolina Postmark Catalogue Update*. Now we have examples of many more post offices that used the pictorial cancellation. Table A lists the 66 known post offices that used the UNC Bicentennial Station pictorial cancellations on September 15, 1993.

Table A - Post Offices that used UNC Bicentennial Station Cancels of September 15, 1993

Post Office	County	Color
Aberdeen	Moore	Black

Alliance	Pamlico	Black	Ridgecrest	Buncombe	Black
Araphoe	Pamlico	Violet	Roxobel	Bertie	Black
Barco	Currituck	Black	Sapphire	Transylvania	Black
Bat Cave	Henderson	Black	Scaly Mountain	Macon	Black
Battleboro	Nash	Black	Seagrove	Randolph	Black
Bayboro	Nash	Black	Seven Springs	Wayne	Red
Bridgeton	Craven	Violet	Spruce Pine	Mitchell	Black
Cameron	Moore	Black	Stonewall	Pamlico	Black
Chimney Rock	Rutherford	Black	Tar Heel	Bladen	Black
Comfort	Jones	Black	Tillery	Halifax	Black
Cove City	Craven	Black	Vandemere	Pamlico	Black
Conetoe	Edgecombe	Black	Vass	Moore	Red
Deep Run	Lenoir	Black	Wentworth	Rockingham	Black
Edneyville	Henderson	Black			
Edward	Beaufort	Black			
Efland	Orange	Black			
Ellerbe	Richmond	Black			
Four Oaks	Johnston	Black			
Fuquay-Varina	Wake	Black			
Garner	Wake	Black			
Gaston	Northampton	Black			
Grantsboro	Pamlico	Black			
Greensboro	Guilford	Black			
Greenville	Pitt	Black			
Highland	Macon	Black			
Harkers Island	Carteret	Purple			
Henrico	Northampton	Black			
Hobucken	Pamlico	Black			
Horse Shoe	Henderson	Black			
Kill Devil Hills	Dare	Black			
Kitty Hawk	Dare	Black			
Kinston	Lenoir	Black			
Kure Beach	New Hanover	Black			
Lake Lure	Rutherford	Black			
Leland	Brunswick	Violet			
Little Switzerland	McDowell	Black			
Manns Harbor	Dare	Black			
Marble	Cherokee	Black			
Mayodan	Rockingham	Black			
Merritt	Pamlico	Black			
Moncure	Chatham	Violet			
Nags Head	Dare	Black			
New Bern	Craven	Black			
Otto	Macon	Violet			
Penland	Mitchell	Black			
Pink Hill	Lenoir	Black			
Pisgah Forest	Transylvania	Violet			
Pleasant Hill	Northampton	Black			
Pollocksville	Jones	Black			
Potecasi	Northampton	Black			
Raleigh	Wake	Black			
Reidsville	Rockingham	Black			

This has been an intriguing, modern postal history project for me to undertake, having lived nearby, been active at the time, yet knowing little of what transpired around this event. Perhaps one of our readers will know more about the bicentennial pictorial cancellations. There are still many unanswered questions, such as: Who was behind the scheme that arranged for all the UNC Bicentennial pictorial cancellation devices?; Why was the September 15, 1993, date used for the primary commemoration date since the official Bicentennial date was October 12, 1993?; Are there more post offices involved that can be added to the listing?; Why were pictorial cancellation devices acquired for the extra dates that are recorded? Are there more special dates not yet recorded?

The author would like to give special thanks to two individuals who added greatly to the research efforts for this article. Maurice Bursey provided considerable insight into the early efforts to obtain this postal issue, as well as, considerable information on the First Day Ceremonies. Marian Mills of the APRL provided considerable information on the development of the card, the artist, its production, and First Day information.

Please inform me of any different post office uses on covers in your collection, or if you were involved in this event. ■

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Patterson Family Covers of the Civil War and Its Aftermath

by Maurice M. Bursey



Among familiar names of addressees on North Carolina Civil War covers are those of the Patterson family, and sometimes those covers bear a Patterson (Caldwell County) postmark.

Samuel Finley Patterson (Figure 1), the patriarch of the family in North Carolina, was born in Brownsburg, Rockbridge County, Virginia, on March 11, 1799, the elder son of Samuel Patterson and Mary (Polly) Finley Patterson. When he was fifteen, he moved to his uncle's home in Wilkesboro to work as a clerk in his uncle's store. Interested in politics, at twenty-two he was selected as a clerk of the House of Commons and for the next fourteen years he continued to be elected to clerkships in the legislature. By 1835 he was the chief clerk of the senate and then served two years as treasurer of North Carolina. As a Whig, he had strong interests in internal improvements, serving of president of the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad in its infancy from 1840 to 1845.

While there are many North Carolina covers addressed to a Patterson, not all were to members of the immediate family. Figure 2 illustrates an August 8, 1861 Confederate cover from Wilkesboro to Miss P. Carrie Patterson in Brownsburg, Rockbridge County, Virginia. The cover has a Type 4, Wilkesboro circular datestamp along with an oval PAID and 5 in circle handstamp, each used early in the Confederate postal system, which began on June 1, 1861. From the origin and destination of this cover, the

letter was between more distant members of the Patterson family; Phebe Carrie Patterson was General Samuel Patterson's niece.



▲ **Figure 1.** General Samuel Finley Patterson (1799-1874), patriarch of the family in North Carolina.

On May 6, 1824, Samuel F. Patterson married Phebe Caroline Jones, the daughter of General Edmund Jones and the granddaughter of General William Jones, both planter-politicians from Wilkes and later Caldwell County. During their marriage they had two sons, Rufus Lenoir Patterson and Samuel Legerwood Patterson.

A Confederate cover from Chapel Hill on May 11, 186x, addressed to Mrs. Gen^l Patterson care of Joseph Norwood in Lenoir (the seat of Caldwell County) and only eight miles from Patterson (Caldwell County) is shown in Figure 3. The cover is paid 10 cents with a CSA No. 12 stamp canceled with a five-bar circular grid used at Chapel Hill. The Chapel Hill circular datestamp was a Type 4. Lenoir, the seat of Caldwell County, is one of few different post offices less than 10 miles from the Patterson home of "Palmyra."

When his father-in-law died in 1845, Samuel F. Patterson moved his family to his wife's family home, "Palmyra," a 1400-acre plantation in the Happy Valley of the Yadkin River in Caldwell County. "Palmyra" is depicted in Figure 4, an image from a post card in the collection of the North Carolina Museum of History produced by the Asheville Postcard Company around the time that "Palmyra's" had been bequeathed



◀ **Figures 2.** August 8, 1861, Wilkesboro (Wilkes County) to Brownsburg, Rockbridge County, Virginia, paid 5 cents in cash. The addressee was General Samuel Patterson's niece, Phebe Carrie Patterson. From the origin and destination of this cover, the letter was between more distant members of the Patterson family.

Figure 3. ▶
May 11, 186x cover from Chapel Hill to Mrs. Genl Patterson in Lenoir (Caldwell County) paid 10 cents with a CSA No. 12 stamp canceled with a five-bar circular grid used at Chapel Hill. The Chapel Hill circular datestamp was a Type 4. Lenoir was less than 10 miles from the Patterson home of "Palmyra."



◀ **Figures 4.** "Palmyra," the home of Samuel Finley Patterson, from a post card produced by the Asheville Postcard Company around the time it was bequeathed to establish the Patterson School in 1909. (Courtesy of the North Carolina Museum of History)

Figure 5. ▶
May 20, 1861 3 cents Nesbitt star die stamped envelope canceled with a 7-bar circular grid from Salisbury (Rowan County) to General S.F. Patterson via the Patterson post office. The Federal postal system was still in use in the Confederate states. (Courtesy of Tony Crumbley)



to establish the Patterson School in 1909. It had been built along the Nickajack Trail, an Indian path which ran from the Great Lakes to Florida through Patterson.

After the move, Samuel F. Patterson was almost immediately elected chairman of the county court, a position he held until 1868, when the court structure of North Carolina was changed in the new state constitution. He then retired from public life to "Palmyra." By then he had served Caldwell County and North Carolina as clerk of superior court, justice of the peace, and Indian commissioner. As a state senator, he wrote the bill chartering the North Carolina Railroad Company in 1848. He was a brigadier general and later major general in the state militia, and served as a trustee of The University of North Carolina.

Before the Civil War Patterson was a Whig, and opposed secession. After the war he was content to support his adopted state. In 1868 the Democratic party nominated him for superintendent of public works, but like all Democratic candidates he was defeated. He died at "Palmyra" on January 20, 1874.

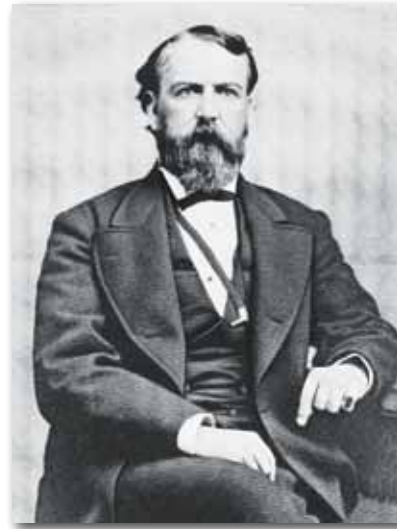
Figure 5 shows a cover from Salisbury addressed to General Patterson at his home via the Patterson post office, apparently dated on the day that North Carolina passed its Ordinance of Secession, May 20, 1861. The cover was a 3 cents red Nesbitt star die stamped envelope canceled with a 7-bar circular grid used at Salisbury, and the Salisbury circular datestamp was a Type 2 marking. The federal postage rate of three cents was still in effect and the Federal post office delivered the mails in North Carolina for eleven more days before the Confederate



◀ **Figures 6.** January 30, 186x, hand-made envelope posted at Patterson (Caldwell County), addressed to Gen' Samuel F. Patterson in Raleigh. The cover was paid with a CSA No. 11 Archer & Daly printed stamp canceled by an incomplete strike of the fancy rate handstamp, PAID within the letter "C" and 10, both inside a circle. (Courtesy of Tony Crumbley)

Figure 7. ▶

Rufus Lenoir Patterson (1837-1879), eldest of two sons of Samuel Finley and Phebe Caroline Jones Patterson. Like his father, he was interested in internal improvement. He was a director of the North Carolina Railroad, the Western North Carolina Railroad, and the Northwestern North Carolina Railroad, and treasurer of the last. He was the mayor of Salem in 1867 and 1868 and an early advocate of the consolidation of Salem and Winston for the county seat.



◀ **Figure 8.** Confederate cover to Mrs. Caroline Patterson sent from Charlotte to the Fort Defiance post office, about 7 miles from "Palmyra" in Caldwell County. A partial strike of the Type 4 Charlotte circular datestamp in blue does not provide a date but it had to be before 1 July 1862 as the letter was paid 5 cents, shown by a blue PAID and a blue circle 5 handstamp. (Courtesy of Tony Crumbley)

Figure 9. ▶

Commercial corner card cover from the Bank of Lexington (Davidson County) posted to Rufus Lenoir Patterson in Salem (Forsyth County). Cover posted in July 1861 and received a Type 3 circular datestamp along with PAID and 5 handstamps, all in black ink.



postal system started. North Carolina considered itself an independent republic until it joined the Confederacy on May 27.

A cover posted at the Patterson post office on January 30, (1863) to General Patterson in Raleigh is illustrated in Figure 6. This hand-made envelope was paid with a CSA No. 11, 10 cents stamp canceled with an incomplete strike of the fancy rate handstamp, PAID within the letter "C" and 10, both inside a circle. A Type 1 circular datestamp indicated the date the cover left Patterson.

Samuel and Caroline's elder son, Rufus Lenoir Patterson (Figure 7), was born on June 22, 1830, at Palmyra. He attended the Raleigh Academy while his father was active in the state legislature and as president of the Raleigh & Gaston Railroad, and then completed preparatory studies at the Reverend T. S. W. Mott's school in Caldwell County. He graduated from The University of North Carolina in 1851 and then studied law under John A. Gilmer, but never practiced law. Figure 8 illustrates a Confederate cover to Mrs. Caroline Patterson sent from Charlotte to the Fort Defiance post office, which also was near "Palmyra" in Caldwell County. A partial strike of the Type 4 Charlotte circular datestamp in blue does not provide a date but it had to be before 1 July 1862 as the letter was paid 5 cents, shown by a blue PAID and a blue circle 5 handstamp. In Charlotte the payment was changed against charge box 30 as noted in the upper right.

On April 6, 1852, Rufus married Marie Louisa Morehead, the daughter of Governor John Motley Morehead, in Guilford County. After a brief stay at "Palmyra," he chose business over agriculture. He and his wife moved to Greensboro so that he could study banking with his wife's uncle, Jesse H. Lindsay.

With Governor Morehead's financial assistance, he started his own enterprise, and quickly became the owner and manager of cotton, flour, and paper mills in Salem. Figure 9 shows a Confederate envelope to him in Salem. This cover was posted at Lexington (Davidson County) in July 1861 and received a Type 3 circular datestamp along with PAID and 5 handstamps, all in black ink. He was also Chairman of the Forsyth County Court from 1855 to 1860. Rufus was strongly opposed to secession, but eventually voted for it at the North Carolina Constitutional Convention in 1861.

Figure 10 illustrates a cover sent to Rufus Patterson in Raleigh from Salem (Forsyth County) on 31 May 1861. Probably he was staying there a short time after the 1861 Constitutional Convention. The envelope was an 1860, 3 cents red Nesbitt star die stamped envelope used on the last day of Federal mail service in North Carolina. The circular datestamp of Salem was a Type 2b in black ink, and the star die indicia was canceled with a 7-bar circular grid used at Salem.

After Marie's death in 1862 Rufus sold his mills in Salem and went home to Patterson to manage his father's cotton factory until the business was burned by Union troops in Stoneman's Raid in 1865. On June 14, 1864, he married again, to Mary Elizabeth Fries, the daughter of Francis Levin Fries, a cotton manufacturer and member of the *Aufseher Collegium* (Board of Trustees) of Salem. Rufus soon resumed business enterprises, this time with Mary's brother Henry W. Fries. He eventually owned cotton and paper mills and a general merchandising firm. Figure 11 illustrates a Confederate cover to Mrs. Mary Fries Patterson, sent from the post office in Patterson on March 10, (1865) to her at Salem. It was a double-weight letter

Figure 10. ▶

May 31, 1861, cover posted at Salem addressed to Rufus L. Patterson, a 3 cents red Nesbitt star die stamped envelope used on the last day of Federal mail service in North Carolina. Indicia was canceled with a 7-bar circular grid used at Salem. (Courtesy of Tony Crumbley)



◀ Figure 11. March 10, (1865) cover posted at Patterson post office to Mrs. Mary Fries Patterson, Rufus' second wife. A double-weight letter, it was paid with two single 10 cents stamps, CSA No. 12, Keatinge & Ball printings. Each stamp was canceled with individual 7-bar grid killers and then both by an additional single 5-ring target killer. (Courtesy of Tony Crumbley)

Figure 12. ▶

September 9, 186x, 1864 fourth issue Nesbitt 3 cents pink stamped envelope used shortly after the war from Salem to Mrs. Mary Fries Patterson via the Patterson post office. The color of the indicia has oxidized from the pink color issued to a much darker red. Cover marked for additional 3 cents postage due. (Courtesy of Tony Crumbley)



◀ **Figure 13.** November 14, 186x, fourth issue Nesbitt 3 cents stamped envelope from Patterson & Co., Merchants in Salem to Gen' Sam' F. Patterson via the Patterson post office. Indicia killer was carved to read "US" to its creator, but of course made a reversed image when it was inked and applied to paper. (Courtesy of Tony Crumbley)



Figure 14. ▶

May 28, 187x, commercial corner card on a cover from Philadelphia to Rufus L. Patterson at Salem. This 1870 3 cents green Reay stamped envelope was forwarded by the Salem postmaster to Patterson post office. Philadelphia City Directory of 1872 name the third partner of the company, Hayward, but in 1873 directory the name Hayward was missing. The likely year of cover was 1872 or 1873. (Courtesy of Tony Crumbley)



paid with two single 10 cents stamps, CSA No. 12, Keatinge & Ball printings. Each stamp was canceled with individual 7-bar grid killers and then both by an additional single 5-ring target killer. A Type 1 circular datestamp of Patterson was used.

Another cover to Mrs. Mary Fries Patterson is shown in Figure 12. This 1864 fourth issue Nesbitt 3 cents stamped envelope was used shortly after the war on a cover posted at Salem on September 186x and addressed to the Patterson post office in Caldwell County. The color of the indicia has oxidized from the pink color issued to a much darker red. The Salem circular datestamp was Type 3 used in the late 1860s. Apparently the cover was overweight and was marked with a large "3" handstamp and manuscript "e" for 3 cents postage due.

Figure 13 shows a post war usage from Rufus' merchandising firm to his father, General Patterson, by way of the Patterson post office. This envelope also was an 1864 fourth issue Nesbitt 3 cents stamped envelope from Patterson & Co.,

Merchants, posted at Salem on November 14, 186x. The Salem circular datestamp was a Type 3 but the indicia killer was quite different from Figure 12. It was carved to read "US" to its creator, but of course made a reversed image when it was inked and applied to paper.

An envelope from Philadelphia to Salem, was forwarded from Salem to the Patterson post office to get to Rufus Patterson, as shown in Figure 14. This George H. Reay stamped envelope originated in Philadelphia on 28 May 187x addressed to Salem. The Salem postmaster forwarded the envelope on 30 May to the Patterson post office, striking his Type 3 circular datestamp and applying a FORWARDED handstamp, both in black ink. The Philadelphia City Directory of 1872 name the third partner of the company, Hayward, but in 1873 directory the name Hayward was missing. It is likely, then, that the year for this cover was 1872 or 1873.

Figure 15 shows a March 27, 187x mourning cover from



◀ **Figure 15.** March 27, 1874 mourning cover from Salem addressed to Rufus L. Patterson, care of Dungan, Wheeler & Pape in Philadelphia, druggists in the mid-1870s. It is possible that cover was mailed while the family was in mourning for his father, Samuel Finley Patterson, who had died in 1874 two months earlier. (Courtesy of Tony Crumbley)

Figure 16. ▶ January 27, 1879, overall advertising cover of the University of North Carolina posted at Chapel Hill to Miss Carrie F. Patterson (Rufus Patterson's daughter) at Salem. Envelope paid 3 cents with 1879, Continental Bank Note Company green stamp. (Courtesy of Tony Crumbley)



◀ **Figures 17.** November 20, 1879, another cover to Carrie Patterson with printed corner card of Salem Female Academy, from Salem to Hickory (Catawba County). Envelope paid 3 cents with 1879 Continental Bank Note Company green stamp. Pencil docketing indicates letter from Lucy Bramlette Patterson, no relation, a prominent literary figure. (Courtesy of Tony Crumbley)

Salem addressed to R.L. Patterson, care of Dungan, Wheeler & Pape in Philadelphia, a firm of druggists at 439 Market Street, Philadelphia in the mid-1870s. It is possible that this cover was mailed while the family was in mourning for his father, Samuel Finley Patterson, who had died in 1874 two months before the Salem circular datestamp of March 27 (Type 3). The envelope was paid with an 1873, 3 cents green Continental Bank Note Company stamp.

Rufus, like his father, was interested in internal improvement. He was a director of the North Carolina Railroad, the Western North Carolina Railroad, and the Northwestern North Carolina Railroad, and treasurer of the last. He was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1865 and the mayor of Salem in 1867 and 1868. He was an early advocate of the consolidation of Salem and Winston, the county seat. He also donated substantial amounts of money to the University of North Carolina for construction projects after its closure in 1870 and reopening in 1875, and served as a trustee of the University from 1874

until his death in Salem on July 15, 1879.

Rufus and his first wife Marie had five children, one of whom died in infancy and another in adolescence. The remaining two daughters married a judge and a colonel respectively, and their son J. Lindsay Patterson became a respected lawyer. Carrie (Caroline Finley Patterson, 1856 – 1931) was the elder daughter of Rufus and Marie Patterson. She married Judge Albert L. Coble in 1883 and George L. Frazier in 1925. A cover to her is shown in Figure 16. This overall advertising cover of the University of North Carolina was posted at Chapel Hill on January 27, 1879, shown by a violet, Type 8 circular datestamp. It was addressed to Miss Carrie F. Patterson I Salem, Forsyth County. It was paid 3 cents postage with an 1879 Continental Bank Note Company green stamp.

Another cover to Carrie Patterson is illustrated in Figure 17. This envelope had a printed corner card advertisement of the Salem Female Academy, founded in 1802 in Salem. It was addressed to Miss Carrie F. Patterson, care of Mr. J.G. Hall in



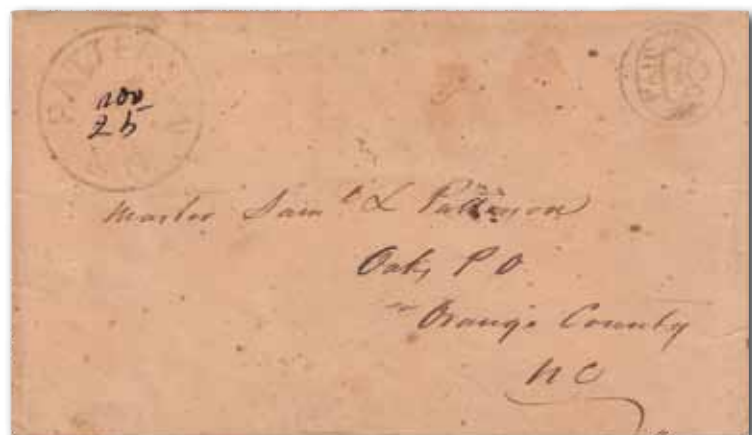
◀ **Figure 18.** November 28, 1879, printed corner card envelope of Salem Female Academy from Salem to Drew Patterson in Chapel Hill, a son of Rufus Patterson's second marriage. The 2 cents postage was paid with an 1883 orange brown stamp. (Courtesy of Tony Crumbley)

Figure 19. ▶ March 19, 1880, advertising corner card for Rutherford College in magenta ink on cover posted in Newton (Catawba County) to Samuel Finley Patterson (1867-1926) via Patterson post office. Cover paid 3 cents postage with an 1879 Continental Bank Note Company green stamp. Samuel Finley Patterson, named after his grandfather, was also a son of Rufus Patterson's second marriage. (Courtesy of Tony Crumbley)



◀ **Figure 20.** Samuel Finley Patterson's second son, Samuel Legerwood Patterson, was born at "Palmyra" on March 5, 1850, and so was almost twenty years younger than his elder brother Rufus. He was educated at Faucette's School, the Bingham School in Orange County, Wilson's Academy in Alamance County, and Finley High School in Lenoir County.

Figure 21. ▶ November 25, 186x, cover sent to Master Sam^l L. Patterson from Patterson post office to Oaks (Orange County), the site of the Bingham School. Cover paid 10 cents with a very clear strike of the fancy rate handstamp, PAID within the letter "C" and 10, both inside a circle. See Figure 6 for an incomplete strike of the same marking.



Hickory (Catawba County). The envelope was posted in Salem on November 20, 1879, shown by the Type 3 circular datestamp in black ink. It was paid 3 cents postage with an 1879 Continental Bank Note Company green stamp. The sender, from the pencilled docket, was Lucy Bramlette Patterson (1865-1942), no relation, who in 1888 became the wife of Carrie's brother, Jesse Lindsay Patterson (1858-1922), lawyer and, like his father and grandfather, a trustee of the University of North Carolina. Lucy Patterson was prominent in her own right as literary figure, Republican national committeewoman, and donor of the Patterson Memorial Cup for literary achievement in North Carolina. She was decorated by King Alexander of Yugoslavia for her humanitarian work in Serbia after World War I.

Rufus had six more children with his second wife Mary, all of whom had distinguished careers from New York City to Roanoke Rapids. Figure 18 shows an envelope from Salem posted on November 28, 1887, and sent to Drew Patterson at Chapel Hill attending the University of North Carolina, a son from Rufus Patterson's second marriage. The faint Salem circular datestamp was a Type 6 marking of Salem. The 2 cents postage was paid with an 1883 orange brown stamp. The envelope had a printed corner card advertisement of the Salem Female Academy, founded in 1802 in Salem. Drew, Andrew Henry Patterson (1870-1928), was professor of physics at the University of Georgia and later the University of North Carolina.

Another son from Rufus Patterson's second marriage was Samuel Patterson. Samuel Finley Patterson (1867-1926) was manager of a cotton mill in Roanoke Rapids. A cover sent to him at home in Patterson is illustrated by Figure 19. This envelope, with an advertising corner card printed in magenta ink for Rutherford College in Happy Home, North Carolina, was posted in Newton (Catawba County) on March 19, 1880, 18 miles east southeast of Rutherford college. The Newton circular datestamp in violet was a Type 3. The cover was paid 3 cents postage with an 1879 Continental Bank Note Company green stamp.

Happy Home was a community in Burke County, now

named Connelly's Springs. Rutherford College grew from a log cabin schoolhouse in Owl Hollow in Burke County, under the leadership of Rev. Laban Abernethy. He organized it as Rutherford College in 1853 and was its president until his death in 1894, when his son took over the presidency. When his son died in 1900, the Western North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church assumed responsibility for the school. The Western North Carolina Conference merged it in 1934 with Brevard Institute and Weaver College to form Brevard College, Brevard, North Carolina, and the old campus became Valdeze General Hospital.

Samuel Finley Patterson's second son, Samuel Legerwood Patterson, was born at "Palmyra" on March 5, 1850, and so was almost twenty years younger than his elder brother Rufus. He is pictured in Figure 20. The younger Samuel was educated at Faucette's School, the Bingham School in Orange County, Wilson's Academy in Alamance County, and Finley High School in Lenoir County. He spent his freshman year (1867-1868) at the University of North Carolina, but its imminent collapse from want of public support caused him to transfer to the University of Virginia, where he stayed a year before returning to Salem to become a clerk.

Figure 21 illustrates a Confederate cover sent to Master Saml. L. Patterson via the Oaks (Orange County) post office. This was the site of the Bingham school. The cover was posted at the Patterson post office on November 25, 186x, shown by a Type 1 circular datestamp. It was paid 10 cents, which was marked by a very clear strike of the fancy rate handstamp, PAID within the letter "C" and 10, both inside a circle.

A colorful hand-made wallpaper cover sent from Oaks (Orange County) to General Samuel Finley Patterson via the Patterson post office is illustrated in Figure 22. The Type 1 circular datestamp of Oaks dated December 186x was used to cancel the CSA No. 12, Archer & Daly printed stamp.

On August 17, 1873, Samuel married Mary Sophia Senseman in Salem, the daughter of a Moravian minister from Indiana. They had one child, who was curiously born in the same house on the same night that her grandfather died. The little girl lived less than six months. With no children to inherit "Palmyra," on

Figure 22. ▶
December 186x hand-made wallpaper cover posted at Oaks (Orange County) to General S. F. Patterson via the Patterson post office. Letter paid with CSA No. 12 Archer & Daly printed stamp canceled by the Oaks circular datestamp.



Mary's death in 1909 it became the Patterson School, aimed at educating bright boys from the mountains who otherwise would have no chance of a challenging education. On its closure in 2009, it became part of the Caldwell County School System. It is now known as the Patterson School Foundation, and in 2012 began accepting students, the locus of Caldwell County's STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Agriculture/Arts, and Mathematics) program.

Samuel Legerwood Patterson served as county commissioner and district commissioner of the census in Forsyth County. He served in the North Carolina house of representatives in 1891 and 1897, and in the state senate in 1893. He was appointed commissioner of agriculture from 1895 to 1897, when Republicans were turned from office by the victorious Fusion Party. But he was reappointed to that position in 1899, and in 1900 became the first elected agriculture commissioner. He was repeatedly re-elected commissioner until his death in 1908. Patterson Hall at the North Carolina College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts (now North Carolina State University) was named in his honor. He also served as a trustee of the University of North Carolina, like his father and brother.

Later generations of the Patterson family continued to distinguish themselves in business, politics, and philanthropy. Family papers can be found in the Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Jones and Patterson Family Papers (1777 – 1933)) and the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Collection, Duke University (Samuel Finley Patterson papers, 1792 – 1939 and undated). ■

Acknowledgments:

Tony Crumbley graciously provided scans of a large number of Patterson covers, especially the historically significant ones, from his award-winning exhibit "Independent State and Confederate Mail of North Carolina 1861-1865." The others are from the images I kept after I sold my North Carolina Civil War Collection in 2016.

I thank Jason Tomberlin, North Carolina Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, for his assistance in finding information.

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The Elusive 6¼ Cents Rate - a Rate of Convenience

by Bill Schultz



While working on a new postal history exhibit over the past few months, I sensed that the under-appreciated 6 ¼ cents rate covers were possibly scarcer than one might think. So, I decided to pull together a census of the known covers so as to get my hands/mind around just how many are out there.

My collection contains two of these rated covers and another exhibit I know of contains two as well. Figure 1 shows the front of a cover from Charleston, South Carolina, to Tallahas-

see, Florida Territory, then redirected to nearby Monticello. The early work by Vernon Stroupe on North Carolina stampless covers listed three such covers. Tony Crumbley currently has four 6¼ cents covers in his North Carolina collection. He indicates a total of five are known from North Carolina.

The question is, why a 6¼ cent rate? In the early half of the nineteenth century, a chronic shortage of circulating coinage existed. Merchants accepted most any coin offered. Most coins in circulation were the Spanish silver dollar (8 reales), Spanish

Figure 2. ▶
The front and reverse of a “picayune” coin, a ½ real coin valued at 6¼ cents. This example was an 1816 coin.



and Mexican ½ reales, and British 3 pence, which was valued at 6¼ cents in U.S. money. The Spanish ½ real coin was commonly known as a “picayune” because that was the cost of the New Orleans newspaper, *The Daily Picayune*. Figure 2 illustrates the front and reverse of an 1816 ½ real coin. Since the postal rate for a single letter going distances up to 30 miles was 6 cents from May 1, 1816 until July 1, 1845, this amount sometimes was paid with a coin worth 6¼ cents. In those cases, the postmasters marked the amount paid, which was a small overpayment. Covers showing the payment of 6¼ cents are not common. Figures 3 and 4 illustrate two covers from North Carolina collection of Tony Crumbley showing the 6¼ rate, the first unpaid and the second, paid.



Figure 3. ▶
February 18, 184x, cover from Morganton in Burke County to Fort Defiance in Wilkes County, North Carolina. The 6¼ cents postage due marked at Morganton was a slight overpayment, a rate of convenience, of the 6¢ rate based on usage of the ½ real Spanish coin.

◀ **Figures 1.** December 3, 183x, cover front from Charleston, South, Carolina to Tallahassee, Florida Territory, redirected to Monticello, twenty-five miles to the northeast. Letter paid 25¢ from Charleston to Tallahassee and another 6¼¢ to Monticello for a total postage due of 31¼¢.



◀ **Figure 4.** March 6, 1834 folded letter from Johns River to Harpers Store, each in Burke County, North Carolina, 6 miles apart. Letter prepaid 6¼¢.

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