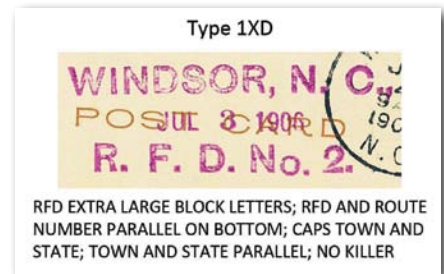
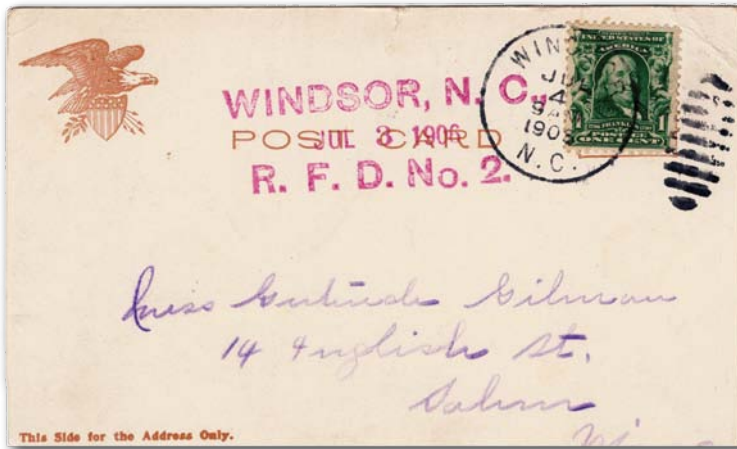
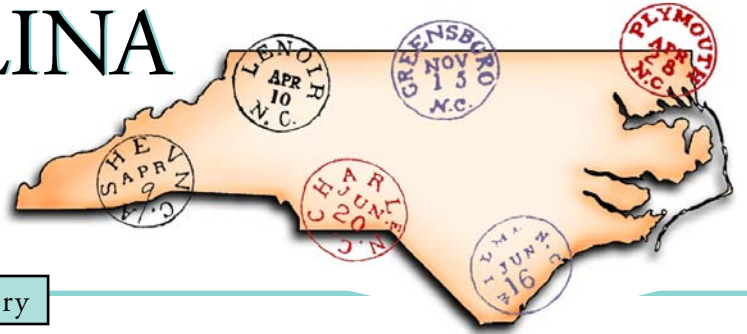


# NORTH CAROLINA POSTAL HISTORIAN

The Journal of North Carolina Postal History

VOLUME 39, NO. 4 FALL 2020 WHOLE 152



Rural Free Delivery in North Carolina Part 2



Coddle Creek  
A Cabarrus County Post Office

Pilot Mountain, NC  
Better Known as Mount Pilot  
by Most TV Watchers



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This journal issue is going out early to alert our members that CHARPEX 2020 has been canceled and won't take place in October as rescheduled. The next CHARPEX is now scheduled for July 24-25, 2021. As a result of the cancellation of CHARPEX 2020 we did not have our annual Society meeting or the meeting of the Board of Directors. Board business is currently being conducted by e-mail. We will continue to inform the membership of decisions made. On the positive side, our finances remain strong. Our expenses are relatively fixed and are covered by membership dues, particularly the donations made by our sustaining members. At the time of this writing the Board of Directors is planning a virtual Board meeting for 2020, the results of which will be reported in the next issue.

I want to emphasize that the society exists to serve the membership and the study of North Carolina postal history. We are successful because of membership financial support, including the quality and variety of articles written for the journal. I encourage members who have any ideas for process improvement or for articles to contact me. If you have an interest in an area of postal history and would like to develop it into an article, you can contact me or the editors, who have always been a great resource available to writers. If you know of anyone with an interest in North Carolina postal history, please refer them to me or any board member and we will reach out to them. Sharing an issue of the *North Carolina Postal Historian* might pique some interest.

It is a pleasure to announce that our editor and past president, Dick Winter, has been selected to receive the prestigious A. Earl Weatherly Award for his very important work on the newly completed "North Carolina Postmark Catalogue Update" found on our Society's website. This award is presented to recognize outstanding research. Additionally, I am happy to announce that the Board has selected Maurice Bursey as the recipient of the annual Literary Award of the 2019 year for his article, "Patterson Family Covers of the Civil War and Its

## IN THIS ISSUE

<b>Rural Free Delivery in North Carolina, Part 2</b> by Darrell Ertzberger .....	3
<b>North Carolina Postal History Society Awards 2020</b> by Charles F. Hall, Jr. ....	17
<b>Coddle Creek, A Cabarrus County Post Office</b> by George Slaton .....	18
<b>Pilot Mountain, North Carolina, Better Known as Mount Pilot by Most TV Watchers</b> by Tony L. Crumbley .....	22

Aftermath" in Volume 38, No. 4, Fall, 2019. Details of these awards may be found in my article on page 17.

Balloting for new Board of Directors members, sent out with the last journal, approved Stefan Jaronski and Timothy McRee as well as previous Board member Dick Winter to serve a three-year term ending in 2023.

Dues notices will accompany this issue. The annual dues remain at \$15.00, which is possible because of the contributions of our sustaining members. Our main expense is the printing and mailing of the *North Carolina Postal Historian*, which is greatly supported by any extra amounts that members contribute above the annual dues amount. This is greatly appreciated! We feel our dues are among the most reasonable of philatelic organizations, especially considering the quality of the journal our members receive. One change recently approved by the Board of Directors was to establish an international rate of \$25.00 to defray the costs of international mailing. If our international members wish only a digital copy, their dues will remain at \$15.00.

I would also like to note the passing of Harvey Stuart Teal on April 28, 2020. Harvey was a native of South Carolina, a prolific writer and advocate of southern postal history. Just last year he presented a very interesting program about the Wilmington and Manchester Railroad at our annual meeting. He will be missed by the postal history fraternity.



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# Rural Free Delivery in North Carolina



by Darrell Ertzberger

## Part 2: Rural Free Delivery Markings of North Carolina

The first part of this study of Rural Free Delivery (RFD), published in *North Carolina Postal Historian*, Spring 2020, Volume 39 No. 2 (Whole No. 150), covered the history and development of the service in North Carolina. This second part will cover a subject more tangible to postal history/cover collectors: the cancels and markings used by the service.

As briefly mentioned in Part 1, the U.S. Post Office Department (USPOD) began issuing rubber canceling devices to rural carriers in the fall of 1900. They stopped issuing these cancels about July 1903.

The cancelers from this period are called “government-issued.” Carriers continued to use these past July 1903 until they wore out. After mid-1903, some carriers ordered their own canceling devices, contrary to USPOD regulations. Some of these “carrier-supplied” devices resembled the old government-issued types, others used completely different designs. Use of carrier-supplied markings seems to have died out by 1920.

The seminal work on RFD cancels was Harold Richow’s *Encyclopedia of R.F.D. Cancels*, first published in 1983 with a second edition in 1995. Richow classified the markings into Group Types according to marking style and the fonts used. Group Type 1 markings had RFD in block letters with 3-4 lines of text. Group Type 2 was similar except the RFD was in a serif font. Group Type 3 markings were straight lined cancels with text in one or two lines. Group Type 4 markings were square or rectangular boxed. Group Type 5 markings were straight lined cancels with the carrier’s name. Group Type 6 markings contained flags in their designs. Group Type 7 markings included the words “postal wagon” or “wagon” in them (North Carolina did not have these). Group Type 8 were circular handstamp types. Group Type 9 included “fancy” designs (actually types

that do not fit in another category). Group Type 10 were for rural station cancels. Lastly, Group Type 11 were all handwritten or manuscript cancels. Each type had numerous subtypes (designated as 1AB, 2F, 8A, etc.). Not all of Richow’s cancel types are found from North Carolina.

A word of caution is in order for Richow Group Type 8, which he calls circles or circular handstamps. Many of these are not actually circles. They are one line markings with the route number applied in addition to the home post office marking (usually a circular datestamp or a machine cancel). Richow’s classification of these is confusing.

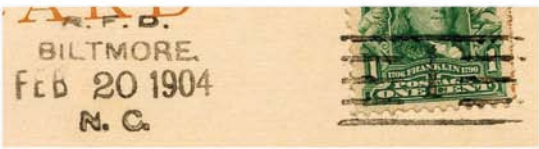

Richow’s work does contain errors in the North Carolina listings. There are listings for North Carolina routes that cannot exist. Some are probably his misreading of cancels from NY, N J, ND or SC (Bennettsville route 2 type 1, Hudson, route 1 type 1, and Watersboro route 1 type 3CB, for example). Others are in error because the office name or route number were misread. His listing for Chandler route 2 type 2F (probably Candler), and Tarboro route 8 type 8VC (no such route number existed) are probably such misidentifications. In the years since the book’s publication, many more markings have been reported. The tables in this article list every marking known to the author through 2020. Undoubtedly more exist than are listed.

The known types from North Carolina are shown in Table 1, “Illustrated Listing of North Carolina RFD Marking Types.” The markings are actual size. When a scan of a North Carolina marking was not available, the image from Richow’s *Encyclopedia* is used.

### Government issued cancels

Starting in 1901, USPOD regulations for rural carriers specified that they cancel all mail they picked up on their routes. The Department issued a pocket-size rubber cancel device for this

Table 1 - Illustrated Listing of North Carolina RFD Marking Types

Type 1	Type 1A
	
RFD SMALL BLOCK LETTERS;CAPS TOWN AND STATE; 5 BAR KILLER	RFD SMALL BLOCK LETTERS; MIXED UPPER AND LOWER CASE TOWN; CAPS STATE; 5 BAR KILLER



### Type 1AAA



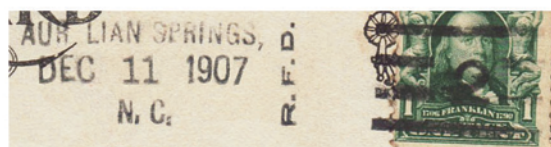
RFD SMALL BLOCK LETTERS; SERIFED TOWN AND STATE; 5 BAR KILLER

### Type 1FA

R. F. D.  
MAY 6 1903  
LAKE CITY, IOWA

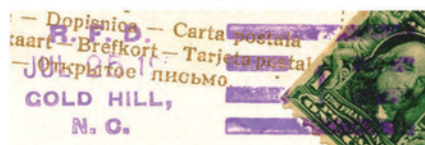
RFD SMALL BLOCK LETTERS; SERIFED TOWN AND STATE; TOWN AND STATE PARALLEL; ? KILLER

### Type 1H



RFD SMALL BLOCK LETTERS; RFD VERTICAL; CAPS TOWN AND STATE; 4 BAR KILLER

### Type 1JA



RFD SMALL BLOCK LETTERS; CAPS TOWN AND STATE; HEAVY 4 BAR KILLER

### Type 1M

R. F. D.  
JAN 18 1904  
TOWNVILLE, PA.

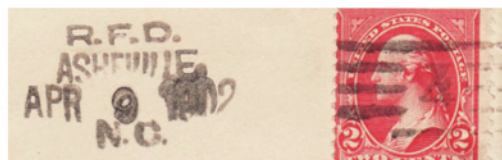
RFD LARGE BLOCK LETTERS; SERIFED TOWN AND STATE; 5 BAR KILLER

### Type 1N



RFD LARGE BLOCK LETTERS; CAPS TOWN AND STATE; 4 BAR KILLER

### Type 1NA



RFD LARGE BLOCK LETTERS; CAPS TOWN AND STATE; 5 BAR KILLER

### Type 1V

== R. F. D. ==  
APR 15 1907  
OXFORD, N.Y.

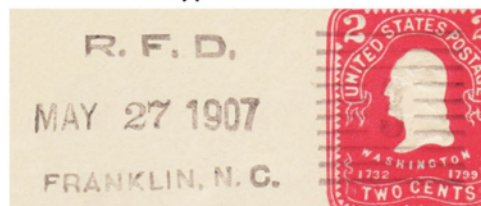
RFD LARGE BLOCK LETTERS; DOUBLE LINES BEFORE AND AFTER RFD; CAPS TOWN AND STATE; 9 BAR KILLER

### Type 1W



RFD LARGE BLOCK LETTERS; SERIFED TOWN AND STATE; TOWN AND STATE PARALLEL; 10 BAR KILLER

### Type 1WAB



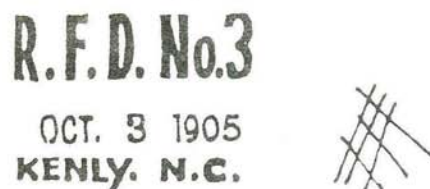
RFD LARGE BLOCK LETTERS; CAPS TOWN AND STATE; TOWN AND STATE PARALLEL; 10 BAR KILLER

Type 1XD



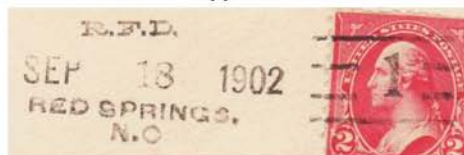
RFD EXTRA LARGE BLOCK LETTERS; RFD AND ROUTE NUMBER PARALLEL ON BOTTOM; CAPS TOWN AND STATE; TOWN AND STATE PARALLEL; NO KILLER

Type 1XDA



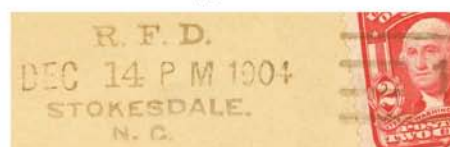
RFD EXTRA LARGE BLOCK LETTERS; RFD AND ROUTE NUMBER PARALLEL; CAPS TOWN AND STATE; TOWN AND STATE PARALLEL; MANUSCRIPT KILLER

Type 2B



SMALL SERIFED RFD; CAPS TOWN AND STATE; 4 BAR KILLER

Type 2F



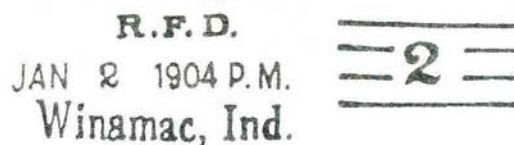
LARGE SERIFED RFD; CAPS TOWN AND STATE; 4 BAR KILLER

Type 2FA



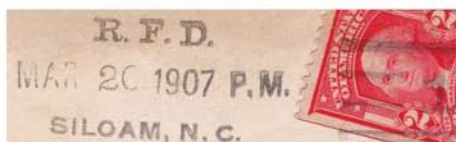
LARGE SERIFED RFD; SERIFED TOWN AND STATE; 4 BAR KILLER

Type 2H



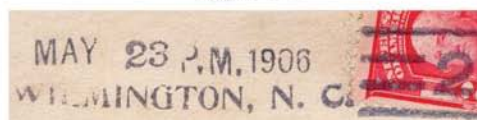
LARGE SERIFED RFD; UPPER AND LOWER CASE TOWN AND STATE; TOWN AND STATE PARALLEL; 4 BAR KILLER

Type 2J



LARGE SERIFED RFD; CAPS TOWN AND STATE; TOWN AND STATE PARALLEL

Type 2JB



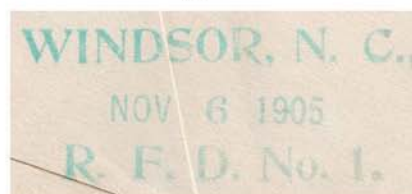
NO LARGE SERIFED RFD; SERIFED TOWN AND STATE; TOWN AND STATE PARALLEL; 4 BAR KILLER

Type 2L



LARGE SERIFED RFD; CAPS TOWN AND STATE; DATE VERTICAL, SMALL WAVY4 BAR KILLER

Type 2U



EXTRA LARGE SERIFED RFD ON BOTTOM; SERIFED TOWN AND STATE; NO KILLER

### Type 3 Unlisted



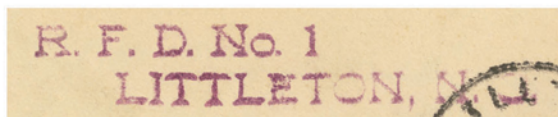
EXTRA LARGE CAP RFD AND ROUTE NUMBER;  
UPPER AND LOWER CASE TOWN AND STATE

### Type 3CA



CAPS RFD, ROUTE NUMBER,  
TOWN AND STATE

### Type 3CC



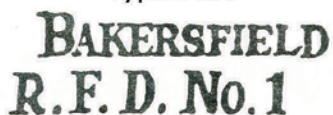
SERIFED RFD AND ROUTE NUMBER, TOWN AND STATE

### Type 3CG



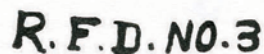
SMALL SERIFED RFD AND ROUTE  
NUMBER; TOWN AND STATE

### Type 3GA



SERIFED RFD, TOWN AND ROUTE  
NUMBER; NO STATE

### Type 3NA



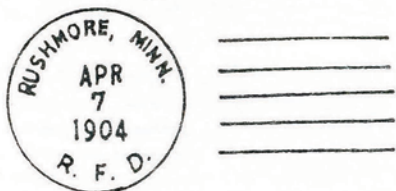
ROUTE ONLY

### Type 8C



SINGLE LINE CIRCLE; ROUTE NUMBER IN  
KILLER; 4 BAR KILLER

### Type 8BA



SINGLE LINE CIRCLE; NO ROUTE  
NUMBER; 5 BAR KILLER

### Type 8K Unlisted



DOUBLE LINE CIRCLE; 10 BAR KILLER

### Type 8V



SMALL CAPS RFDUSED WITH  
REGULAR TOWN CANCEL



Type 8VA

**R. F. D. No. 3.**

LARGE CAPS RFD; USED WITH  
REGULAR TOWN CANCEL

Type 8VB

**RFD. NO 1.**

EXTRA LARGE CAPS RFD; USED  
WITH REGULAR TOWN CANCEL

Type 8VC

**R. F. D No. 4.**

LARGE SERIFED RFD; USED WITH  
REGULAR TOWN CANCEL

Type 8VD

**R. F. D. No. 5**  
TARBORO, N.J.  
APR 2  
7-30P  
1912

SMALL SERIFED RFD; USED WITH  
REGULAR TOWN CANCELS

Type 8VF

CAMPTOWN  
SEP  
12  
3PM  
1904  
PA.

X  
RFD34

MANUSCRIPT RFD; USED WITH  
REGULAR TOWN CANCEL

Type 9D

Rural Delivery  
No. 1

BRINKLEYVILLE  
JUN  
20  
1906  
N.C.

RFD WAGON USED WITH REGULAR TOWN CANCEL

Type 11 (Manuscript)

Butler  
R #2  
4/13/04  
Ind

TOWN; ROUTE NUMBER; DATE; STATE  
OR ANY PART THEREOF

purpose. There is an example in the collection of the Smithsonian National Postal Museum. The Museum's example is a small rectangular box, 1/2 x 1 x 3-1/4 inches. The rubber lines of text and killer bars were glued on the inner side of the case top. The date was changed with a set of rubber months and numbers. In the bottom of the case were felt pads that held ink. Closing the case inked the rubber, so the cancel was im-

mediately ready to use when it was opened. Figure 1 on the next page shows a very clear cancel from Apex route 1. This is Richow Type 1. In strike, the edges of the rectangular device can be seen at the left, as well as some of the edges of the rubber bits cut to hold the lettering in the interior of the cancel.

The layout of the lines in the cancels varied. Usually the top line was "R.F.D." The remaining lines could be several orders:



▲ **Figure 1.** 1902 Apex Type 1, route 1 cancel showing edges of the device and rubber inserts.



▲ **Figure 3.** 1907 Aurelian Springs route 2 cancel with "R.F.D." repositioned to the right at 90°.



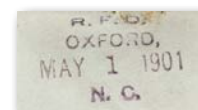
▲ **Figure 2.** August 20, 1903 purple Type 2F China Grove route 2 cancel on an envelope to Greensboro.



▲ **Figure 5.** May 4, 1903, Lowell RFD route 1 cover to Ayden (Pitt County), the only recorded registered RFD cover from North Carolina. RFD Type 2B(1).



▲ **Figure 4.** Greatly deteriorated 1905 Guilford College route 2 handstamp with inverted "R.F.D." and office name curving and distorted.



▲ **Figure 6.** Earliest reported RFD example from North Carolina. 1 May 1901 Oxford. Unfortunately, it is only a small piece. The killer bars and stamp have been cut away so the route is not known.

office/date/state; or date/office, state; or date/office/state. The fonts varied in size and style. Longer office names tended to get small fonts and shorter names received bigger fonts. There are four or five killer bars on the right with the route number centered within them. The USPOD contracted with several manufacturers to produce these devices, which may account for the variations. Figure 2 shows a Type 2F (large serifed RFD) from China Grove route 2.

The rubber in the devices deteriorated over time. The letters would spread and bend. The overall strikes of the cancel became more and more indistinct. The rubber bits in the cancel

lid could become unglued. These problems can be seen in some existing strikes. Figure 3 shows a cancel from Aurelian Springs route 2 where the "R.F.D." is vertical on the right. The rubber bit with "R.F.D." came loose and the carrier glued it back in this new position.

Figure 4 shows a greatly deteriorated Guilford College route 2 marking. It has an inverted "R.F.D.," the letters are blurry, and the office name is curving and distorting.

All of the information about North Carolina RFD cancels comes from surveys and studies of the reported examples. Cancels have been reported on postcards, covers, and on pieces



of covers. It was fashionable to save cancels on piece in earlier collections and now some of these mutilated specimens are the only ones known.

Almost all known items show first class postcard or letter rates. While special services such as Registry and Special Delivery were available to RFD patrons, items showing them are scarce. Only one registered cover is known from a North Carolina route (1905 Lowell route 1, see Figure 5.), and no special delivery uses are known. No covers to overseas destinations have been reported from North Carolina.

The earliest marking known from North Carolina is dated 1 May 1901 from Oxford. This example is a tiny cut-out on piece with the stamp cut away so the route number is unknown. It is shown in Figure 6. The earliest known on an intact cover is a very weak strike from Raleigh route 3 dated August 2, 1901. There are only four other covers reported from 1901: Smithfield route 1 (3 Sep.), Charlotte route 1 (17 Dec.), Raleigh route 2 (27 Dec.), and Monroe route 1, which is reported in Richow. There are approximately 30 items, both covers and pieces, reported from 1902. There are no markings known from the first route in the state, China Grove route 1. There are several recorded from China Grove route 2, which was established April 1, 1902.

## Carrier supplied cancels

After the USPOD stopped issuing cancel devices to rural carriers in July 1903, carriers continued to use them until they wore out. Some carriers went further and ordered their own marking devices from private companies. Some of these routes did not exist when government issued cancels were in use. In general, any RFD marking after July 1903 might be a carrier supplied marking and anything later than 1905 probably is a carrier supplied marking. These devices could be ordered in a variety of styles. Some resembled the government issued devices, so they are classified as the same Richow types. Others were totally different. In North Carolina, about twenty different types are known that can definitely be identified as carrier supplied.

Table 2 shows the list of handstamp RFD markings reported from North Carolina. It contains both government issued and carrier supplied markings. Information provided in the columns shows the town, RFD route number, county, Richow type, year date of use and color of the marking. Abbreviations are used for the colors: Bk - black; Bl - blue; Mg - magenta; Pr - purple; and Tr - turquoise. The towns are listed in alphabetical order.

**Table 2 - Government-issued and Carrier-supplied Cancels**

Town	Route	County	Type	Date	Color
Advance	1	Davie	2B	1902	Bk
Advance	2	Davie	2B	1903-04	Bk
Apex	1	Wake	1	1902	Bk
Arden	1	Buncombe	2B	1902	Bk
Asheville	1	Buncombe	1	1902	Bk
Asheville	1	Buncombe	1A	1902-4	Bk
Asheville	2	Buncombe	1	1902	Bk,Mg
Asheville	2	Buncombe	1A	1903,04	Bk
Asheville	3	Buncombe	1	1902	Bk
Asheville	4	Buncombe	1	1902	Bk
Asheville	4	Buncombe	1NA	1904	Bk
Ashpole		Robeson	2F	1904	
Atkinson	1	Pender	2F	1903	
Aulander	1	Bertie	3-Unlisted	1905	Mg
Aulander	2	Bertie	3-Unlisted	1905	Pr
Aulander		Bertie	1XD	1905	Pr
Aurelian Springs	1	Halifax	3NA	1907-08	Bk,Mg,Pr
Aurelian Springs	2	Halifax	1H	1907	Bk
Barber	1	Rowan	2F	1904, 06	Bk
Barnesville	1	Robeson	2F	1903	
Battleboro	1	Nash	1N	1903-04	Bk
Bear Creek	1	Chatham	2F	1905	Bk

Town	Route	County	Type	Date	Color
Benson		Johnston	2F	1904	Bk
Bessemer City	1	Gaston	2F	1902	Bk
Bethel	3	Pitt	2B	1903	Bk
Biltmore	1	Buncombe	1	1904	Bk
Biltmore	2	Buncombe	1M	1903-04	Bk
Biltmore	2	Buncombe	1N	1902-04	Bk
Brevard	1	Transylvania	2F	1903-05	Bk
Brinkleyville	1	Halifax	9D	1905	
Burgaw	1	Pender	1	1905	
Burgaw	3	Pender	1N	1905	Pr
Burlington	1	Alamance	2F	1903	Bk
Burlington	3	Alamance	2F	1903-04	Bk
Cana	1	Davie	8C	1907-09	Bk
Cana	2	Davie	8C	1907-09	Bk
Candler	2	Buncombe	2F	1903	Bk
Canton	1	Haywood	1	1904	Bk
Canton	2	Haywood	1	1902-03	Bk
Cary	1	Wake	2FA	1905	
Chadbourn	1	Columbus	1N	1904	Bk
Charlotte	1	Mecklenburg	1	1901-02	Bk
Charlotte	3	Mecklenburg	2B	1902	Bk
China Grove		Rowan	1A	1906-07	Pr

Town	Route	County	Type	Date	Color
China Grove	2	Rowan	2F	1903, 06	Bk,Pr
Clayton	1	Johnston	2B	1903-04	Bk
Cleveland	1	Rowan	2F	1904	Bk
Clinton		Sampson	1FA	1906	Bk
Clinton	1	Sampson	1	1904, 06	Bk
Clinton	3	Sampson	2F	1905	Bk
Concord	5	Cabarrus	2B	1903	Bk
Concord	6	Cabarrus	2B	1903	Bk
Conetoe		Edgecombe	2F	1904	
Cove	1	Craven	2FA	1903, 06	Bk
Creedmoor		Granville	2F	1912	Pr
Creedmoor	1	Granville	2F	1902-03, 07-08, 11	Bk,Mg
Davidsons River	1	Transylvania	2F	1903	Bk
Deppe	1	Onslow	2B	1903	
Dover	1	Craven	1	1905	Bk
Dunn	1	Harnett	1	1902	
Durham	1	Durham	2F	1903	Bk
Durham	2	Durham	2F	1903	Bk
East Bend	3	Yadkin	2f	1906	Bk
Ellenboro		Rutherford	2F	1904	Bk
Elm City	1	Wilson	2B	1903	Bk
Elm City	1	Wilson	1W	1904,12	Bk
Eure	1	Gates	3CA	1906	Mg
Faison	2	Duplin	2F	1905	Bk
Faison		Duplin	2H	1904	Bk
Four Oaks	1	Johnston	1AAA	1902	Bk
Franklin	1	Macon	1W	1904-06	Bk
Franklin	1	Macon	2F	1906-08	Bk
Franklin	2	Macon	2F	1906-08	Bk
Franklin	3	Macon	1WAB	1907	Bk
Franklinton	2	Franklin	1A	1903-07	Bk
Fullers	1	Randolph	3GA		Pr
Garland	1	Sampson	1N	1906	
Garner		Wake	1	1904	
Garysburg	1	Northampton	2F	1903	Bk
Gold Hill	1	Rowan	1JA	1905, 08	Pr
Graham		Alamance	2F		Bk
Grassy Creek	1	Ashe	2B	1903	Bk
Greensboro	5	Guilford	8V	1904	Mg
Greenville	3	Pitt	1A	1904-05	Bk
Greenville	4	Pitt	1A	1902, 04	Bk
Grifton		Pitt	1	1902	Pr

Town	Route	County	Type	Date	Color
Grifton	1	Pitt	2F	1904-05	Bk
Grifton	2	Pitt	2F	1904	Bk
Guilford College	1	Guilford	2F	1904-07	Bk
Guilford College	2	Guilford	2F	1904-05	Bk
Henderson	1	Vance	1	1902	Bk
Henderson	1	Vance	8VD		
Henderson	2	Vance	1	1904	
Hertford	1	Perquimans	2B	1903	Bk
High Point	1	Guilford	2F	1904	Bk
Hollysprings	1	Wake	2F	1904	
Horseshoe	1	Henderson	2F	1903-06	Bk
Kenansville	1	Duplin	1M	1903	
Kenansville	1	Duplin	1N	1904	Bk
Kenansville	2	Duplin	1N	1902	Bk
Kenly	2	Johnston	2B	1903	Bk
Kenly	3	Johnston	1XDA	1905	Bk
Kernersville	1	Forsyth	1N	1903	Bk
Kinston	5	Lenoir	2B	1902	Bk
Kittrell	1	Vance	2F	1904	
Kittrell	1	Vance	8VB	1905-06, 08	Bk
Kittrell	2	Vance	8VC	1908,10,11	Bk
Kittrell	2	Vance	8VD	1903	Bk
Kittrell	2	Vance	8VB	1911	Bk
Lenoir	4	Caldwell	2B	1903	Bk
Lincolnton	2	Lincoln	1N	1903, 05	Bk
Lincolnton	3	Lincoln	2F	1904-05	Bk
Lincolnton	4	Lincoln	2F	1904-07	Bk
Littleton	1	Halifax	3CC	1905-08	Pr,Mg,Bk
Littleton	1	Halifax	8V	1908	Pr
Littleton	1	Halifax	8VC	1905-08	Bk,Mg
Littleton	2	Halifax	3CG	1905, 07, 09	Pr,Mg,Bk
Littleton	2	Halifax	8VB	1909	Pr
Littleton	3	Halifax	8V	1906, 09	Mg
Littleton	4	Halifax	8VC	1906-08	Pr, Mg
Lockville	1	Chatham	2F	1907	Mg
Louisburg	1	Franklin	2F	1904-07	Bk
Lowell	1	Gaston	2B	1903	Bk
Lumber Bridge		Robeson	2F	1904	Bk
Lumberton	1	Robeson	1	1905	
Lumberton	3	Robeson	2F		Bk
Macclesfield	2	Edgecombe	8VF	1905	Bk
Magnolia		Duplin	2F	1904	
Marshville	2	Union	1W	1904	Bk

Town	Route	County	Type	Date	Color
Marshville	2	Union	8K unlisted	1904	Bk
Maxton	2	Robeson	2F	1903	Bk
McCullers	1	Wake	2F	1903	Bk
McCullers	3	Wake	2F	1904,05	Bk
Mocksville	1	Davie	1N	1903, 05, 08	Bk
Mocksville	2	Davie	2B	1903,08	Bk
Mocksville	2	Davie	8C	1904-07	Bk
Mocksville	3	Davie	2J	1908	Bk
Mocksville	5	Davie	2J	1907	Bk
Mocksville	5	Davie	8C	1905-08	Bk
Monroe	1	Union	1	1901	Bk
Monroe	3	Union	8BA	1904	Bk
Morganton		Burke	2F	1903	Bk
Mount Olive	2	Wayne	2F	1904, 06	Bk
Mount Olive	3	Wayne	2F	1904	
Murphy	1	Cherokee	2F	1904, 06	Bk
Newbern	2	Craven	2F	1903	Bk
Newton		Catawba	2F	1904	
Newton	2	Catawba	2B	1903-04	Bk
Old Hundred	1	Scotland	2F	1903, 05	Bk
Ore Hill	1	Chatham	1	1903-04, 06-07	Bk
Oxford		Granville	1	1901	Bk
Parkton		Robeson	2F	1904	Bk
Pikeville	1	Wayne	2F	1904	Bk
Pikeville	2	Wayne	2F	1903	Bk
Raleigh	2	Wake	1	1901-03	Bk, Pr
Raleigh	3	Wake	1	1901	Bk
Raleigh	4	Wake	1	1902-04	Bk
Red Springs	1	Robeson	2B	1902	Bk
Reidsville	1	Rockingham	2F	1904	Bk
Reidsville	2	Rockingham	2F	1903-04	Bk
Reidsville	4	Rockingham	2F	1905	Bk
Rennert	1	Robeson	1	1904	Bk
Robersonville		Martin	2F	1906	Bk
Rocky Mount	2	Edgecombe	8VA	1907	Pr
Rocky Mount	3	Edgecombe	2B	1902-03	Bk
Rocky Mount	3	Edgecombe	8VA	1906	Pr
Rocky Mount	4	Edgecombe	8VA	1905	Pr
Rocky Mount	5	Edgecombe	8VA	1907	Pr
Rocky Mount	6	Edgecombe	2B	1903	Bk
Rose Hill	1	Pitt	1	1903	Bk
Rose Hill		Pitt	2F	1904	Bk

Town	Route	County	Type	Date	Color
Rutherfordton	1	Rutherford	2F	1904	Bk
Salisbury	1	Rowan	2B	1902	Bk
Shallotte		Bunswick	2F	1904	Bk
Sharpsburg	1	Wilson	8VD	1905	Bk
Shelby	3	Cleveland	2B	1903	Bk
Siloam	1	Surry	2J	1907	Bk
Siloam	2	Surry	2J	1907	Bk
Smithfield	1	Johnston	1	1901	Bk
Speights Bridge		Greene	2F		
Statesville	2	Iredell	2B	1902	Bk
Stokesdale	1	Guilford	2F	1903, 07-08	Bk
Stokesdale	2	Guilford	2F	1904, 07	Bk
Summerfield	1	Guilford	2F	1904	Bk
Summerfield	2	Guilford	2F	1905	Bk
Tarboro	1	Edgecombe	8V	1904	Pr
Tarboro	2	Edgecombe	8VC	1905, 09	Mg
Tarboro	3	Edgecombe	8VC	1909-10	Bk, Mg
Tarboro	4	Edgecombe	8V	1904-05	Bk, Pr
Tarboro	5	Edgecombe	8VD	1912	Pr
Taylorsville	1	Alexander	2B	1902	Bk
Taylorsville	2	Alexander	2B	1902	
Tobaccoville	1	Forsyth	2F	1903-04	Bk
Trenton	2	Jones	1	1904	Bk
Troutmans	1	Iredell	1N	1905	Bk
Turkey	1	Sampson	2B	1903	Bk
Wakefield	1	Wake	2F	1904	Bk
Warsaw	2	Duplin	1N	1903-04	Bk
Washington	1	Beaufort	2B	1902	
Waynesville	1	Haywood	1A	1902	Bk
Waynesville	1	Haywood	2F	1902-05	Bk
Waynesville	2	Haywood	1A	1903	Bk
Waynesville	3	Haywood	2F	1904	Bk
Whitakers	1	Edgecombe	2B	1904	Bk
Whitakers	2	Edgecombe	2B	1903	Bk
Whitakers	2	Edgecombe	8VA	1906	Pr
Williams	1	Yadkin	2F	1905	Bk
Wilmington	1	New Hanover	1A	1903-05	Bk,Mg
Wilmington	2	New Hanover	2JB	1906	Bk
Windsor	1	Bertie	2U	1905-06	Tr, Pr
Windsor	2	Bertie	1XD	1905-06	Mg
Windsor	2	Bertie	8VA	1909	Bk
Windsor	3	Bertie	8VC	1903	Bl
Windsor	4	Bertie	1V	1906	



Town	Route	County	Type	Date	Color
Winnabow		Brunswick	2L	1906	Pr
Winston Salem	1	Forsyth	2F	1904	Bk
Winston Salem	3	Forsyth	1	1903	Pr
Winston Salem	3	Forsyth	2B	1902-04	Bk,Pr
Winston Salem	4	Forsyth	2F	1902, 04	Bk
Winterville	1	Pitt	2B	1903	Bk

Town	Route	County	Type	Date	Color
Winterville	3	Pitt	2F	1904	Bk
Woodland	1	Northampton	2F	1905	
Woodleaf	1	Rowan	2F	1905-06	Bk
Yadkinville	1	Yadkin	1W	1905	Bk
Youngsville	1	Franklin	1A	1903	Bk

There are few groups of distinctive cancels from North Carolina that deserve examination. It is clear that sometimes carriers in an area ordered devices from the same companies in the same styles.

In Davie County, there are distinctive, circular-datestamp, 4-bar type markings known from Mocksville routes 2 and 5 and Cana routes 1 and 2 between 1904 and 1908. Figures 7 and 8 show examples of these markings. During the same period that these round four-bar cancels were in use, Mocksville routes 3 and 4 used straight-line cancels that resemble the earlier government issued types.

Carriers in Franklin, Macon County, obviously ordered devices together. In the 1904-07 period Type 1WA cancels (larger

block RFD, serif town and state, 10 thin bars in squarish killer) are known from routes 1 and 3. Figure 9 shows Franklin route 3. Type 2F cancels are known from route 1 and 2 in the same period as well as from other routes.

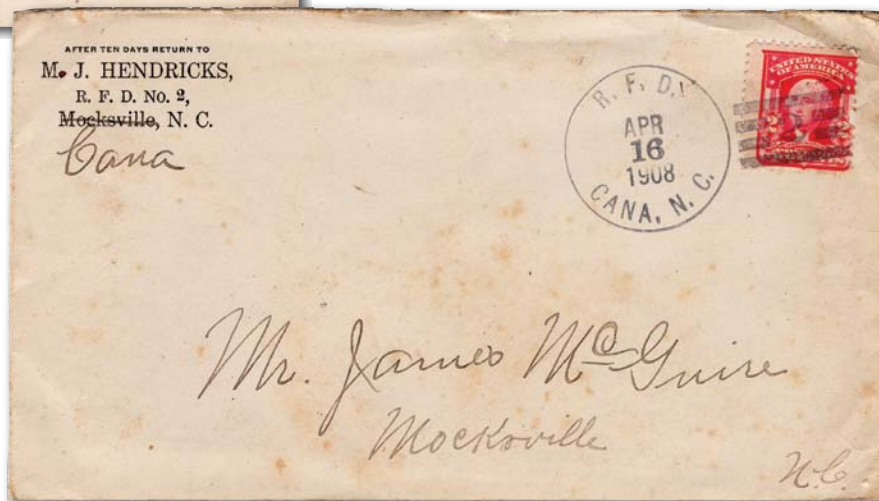
For sheer size, it is hard to beat markings from Aulander route 2 and Windsor routes 1 and 2. These are large two- and three-line markings with no killers. They are seen as origin and receiving markings on the and reverse of covers. Figures 10 and 11 show examples.

There are routes in Edgecombe County from Macclesfield, Rocky Mount, Tarboro, and Whitakers that used small one-line markers that read "R.F.D. No. ()" in the 1905-10 period. These can be found as origin and receiving markings and struck in a



◀ **Figure 7.** April 6, 1908, Mocksville (Davie County) RFD route 5 cover to Mocksville. RFD Type 8C(5) carrier-supplied cancel in black ink.

**Figure 8. ▶**  
April 16, 1908, Cana (Davie County) RFD route 2 cover to Mocksville. RFD Type 8C(2) carrier supplied cancel in black ink.



**Figure 9. ▶**  
May 27, 1907, Franklin (Macon County) carried-supplied cancel Type 1WAB route 3 on a cover to Cohoes, New York.



◀ **Figure 10.** June 27, 1905, Aulander (Bertie County) carrier-supplied receiving cancel, unlisted Type 3 cancel for route 2 in two lines, a really big one!

**Figure 11. ▶**  
July 3, 1906, post card from Windsor (Bertie County), RFD route 2 to Salem (Stokes County). A brilliant example of the RFD Type 1XD(2) in magenta ink.



◀ **Figure 12.** 1909 post card with magenta markings from Tarboro route 2 and 3. The route 2 marking is apparently an origin marking and route 3 is a receiving marking.

variety of colors. See Figure 12 for an example with two different RFD markings in magenta color. The route 2 marking is apparently an origin marking and route 3 is a receiving marking.

Several Halifax County routes of Littleton and one of Aurelian Springs used similar one-line markings. Littleton route 2 used a two-line marking that had the route number and the office

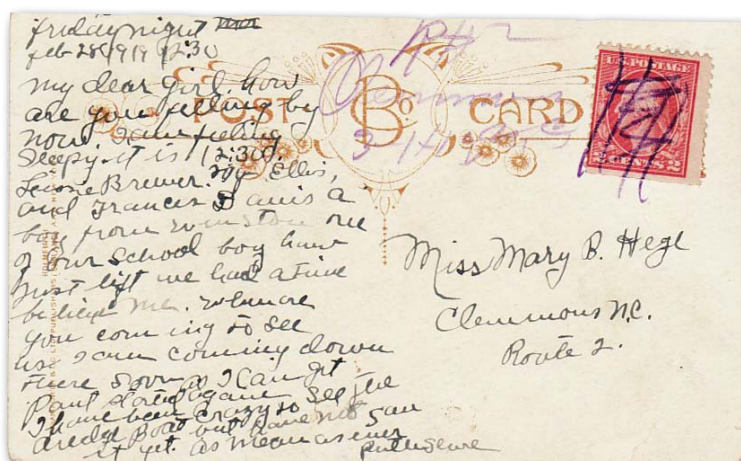


**Figure 13.** ▶  
August 11, 1906, Littleton RFD Type 3CC route 1 cancel in magenta ink on a cover to Murfreesboro (Hertford County).



◀ **Figure 14.** December 25, 1907, Littleton RFD Type 3CG route 2 cancel in purple ink on a cover to Altamont, New York RFD No. 2.

**Figure 15.** ▶  
March 1, 1919, Clemmons (Forsyth County) RFD route 2 manuscript marking in typical indelible purple pencil.



name. These are known in black, magenta and purple colors, and are known as origin and receiving markings. See Figures 13 and 14. Also from Halifax County, Richow lists a very interesting marking illustrated with a horse and RFD wagon from Brinkleyville route 1 in 1905, but the author is not aware of an example of this marking in any collection. The Richow catalog listing is the only report.

### Manuscript cancels

After the USPOD stopped issuing handstamps to RFD carriers in July 1903, carriers were instructed not to cancel mail picked up on their route. Their home offices would cancel it.

They did have instructions to cancel one specific type of mail, that which was picked up on their route that could be delivered further down the route the same day. This provided more timely and efficient service. The USPOD issued indelible purple pencils for this purpose. See Figure 15.

For down-the-route mail, carriers were instructed to write the name of the post office, route number, and date on the mail piece and cancel the stamp with pencil strokes. In practice, many wrote only part of the required information. Others wrote none of it, just making a scribble to cancel the stamp.

Many times, given incomplete manuscript cancels, one must rely on the address on the cover to identify its origin. A purple scribble canceling a stamp usually indicates an RFD use. If the



item is addressed to an RFD route, one can conclude this item was picked up, canceled, and delivered on the route to which it is addressed.

Collectors should use caution because some twentieth century manuscript pencil cancels resemble manuscript RFD cancels. Some carriers used ordinary graphite pencils instead of the issued purple pencils. Some small post offices did the same. Twentieth century ink manuscript cancels often are not RFD cancels. It was nearly impossible to use pen and ink in a moving horse-drawn vehicle. There were no ballpoint pens at this time and the contemporary fountain pens were cumbersome and hard to use, especially in a moving wagon on unpaved roads.

Most of the known manuscript RFD cancels are on postcards. Envelopes are less frequently seen, but examples do exist. This probably reflects the actual usage rather than what was saved. Postcards were a cheap way to communicate quickly with

your neighbors, since telephones in rural areas were virtually unknown.

Table 3 shows 87 North Carolina routes from which manuscript RFD cancels are known. Richow classified all manuscript RFD cancels as Type 11, and further divided them into Types 11A to 11F depending on the information in the cancel. 11A had office, date and route; 11F is just a scribble. No attempt has been made to classify the NC cancels in this table into these subtypes. The manner in which the carriers wrote their cancels was probably not consistent.

Abbreviations of all sorts are common in manuscript cancels. The carrier for Bear Creek route 1 wrote "BC" for his office. Robersonville was "Rville." There are all sorts of methods to write the date.

Potential RFD manuscript covers should be checked against the list of RFD routes and their dates of establishment. Some-

**Table 3 - Manuscript Cancels**

Town	Route	County	Date	Color
Apex	2	Wake		Black
Apex	3	Wake	1919	Black
Austin	1	Wilkes	1910-11	Purple
Battleboro	2	Nash	1906	Purple
Bear Creek	1	Chatham	1908, 13	Black
Beasley	1	Johnston	1914	Black
Belmont	1	Gaston	1912	Black
Biltmore		Buncombe	1913	Black
Burgess		Perquimans	1910	Purple
Cameron	3	Moore	1917	Purple
Candler		Buncombe	1910	Purple
Canton	1	Haywood	1907, 10	Purple
Charlotte	1	Mecklenburg	1935	Black
Clemmons	1	Forsyth	1906-14	Black,Purple
Clemmons	2	Forsyth	1919	Purple
Climax	1	Guilford	1907	Purple
Clinton	1	Sampson	1907	Black
Conetoe		Edgecombe	1908	Purple
Durham	2	Durham	1906-09	Purple
Eastbend	2	Yadkin	1907	Purple
Fayetteville	2	Cumberland	1911	Black,Purple
Four Oaks		Johnston	1908	Purple
Gorman	1	Durham	1909	Purple
Harrisburg	1	Cabarrus		Black,Purple
Hendersonville	1	Henderson	1909-10	Black
Henry	2	Lincoln	1907, 16	Purple
Hickory	2	Catawba	1907,14	Black
Hiddenite	1	Alexander	1911	Purple

Town	Route	County	Date	Color
Horseshoe	1	Henderson	1911-12	Black,Purple
Huntersville		Mecklenburg		Black
Jessama		Beaufort	1925	Purple
Julian		Guilford	1917	Black
Kernersville	2	Forsyth	1904	Black
Kings Creek	1	Caldwell	1907	Black
Kittrell	2	Vance	1902,14,23,24	Black,Purple
Lenoir	4	Caldwell		Black
Lexington	2	Davidson	1907-08	Black,Purple
Lilesville		Anson	1910	
Louisburg	2	Franklin	1910	Black
Louisburg	6	Franklin	1912	Purple
Macon	3	Warren		Black,Blue
Madison	1	Madison	1907-08	Purple
Maiden	1	Catawba	1914	Black
Manson	2	Warren	1908-10	Purple
Milton	2	Caswell	1908	Purple
Mocksville	1	Davie	1910	Purple
Mocksville	3	Davie	1910	Purple
Monroe	6	Union	1903	Black
New Castle	1	Wilkes	1910-11	
New London		Stanly	1915	Purple
Old Fort	1	McDowell		Purple
Oxford	5	Granville		Purple
Pinetown	1	Beaufort	1909	Purple
Pineville	1	Mecklenburg	1935	Black
Raleigh	6	Wake		Purple
Ramseur	1	Randolph	1908,10	Black,Purple

Town	Route	County	Date	Color
Ramseur	2	Randolph	1911, 12	Purple
Reepsville	1	Lincoln	1910,16	Purple
Ridgeway	1	Warren	1909	Purple
Robersonville	1	Martin	1911	Purple
Roxboro	1	Person		Black
Rural Hall	1	Forsyth	1912	Purple
Rural Hall	2	Forsyth	1912	Purple
Salisbury	8	Rowan	1908,10	Purple
Sandy Ridge	1	Stokes		Purple
Sandy Ridge	2	Stokes	1912	Purple
Sanford	1	Lee		Purple
Scotland Neck	1	Halifax	1905	Black
Scotland Neck	2	Halifax	1905,06	Black
Scotland Neck	3	Halifax	1905	Black
Selma	2	Johnston		Black

Town	Route	County	Date	Color
Selma	3	Johnston	1907	Purple
Sherrills Ford	1	Catawba		Black
Siloam	1	Surry	1908	Purple
Snow Camp	1	Alamance		Black
South Creek	1	Beaufort	1922	
Spray		Rockingham		
Stem	1	Granville	1907	Black,Purple
Swan Quarter	2	Hyde	1907	Black
Tobaccoville	2	Forsyth	1911	Purple
Wake Forest	2	Wake	1907	Purple
West Durham	1	Duham		Purple
Willow Springs		Wake		Purple
Wilson	2	Wilson	1907	Purple
Youngsville	2	Franklin	1909	Black
Zirconia	1	Henderson		Purple

times more investigation is required. For example, at first glance, the card in Figure 16 appears to be a manuscript cancel from a route of Rolesville with a 1907 1 cent green Jamestown commemorative stamp. The stamp is canceled with a purple pencil and reads “W F 2 7/16/07.” An enlargement of the cancel is in Figure 17. However, the Rolesville office does not appear on the list of RFD routes. In fact, records show the Rolesville post office was discontinued on 31 October 1906 with mail going to Wake Forest, N.C. The Rolesville office was closed because a rural route from Wake Forest replaced it. So this post card is a

down-the-route use from Wake Forest Route 2 (“W F 2” in the cancel), probably sent in 1907 (Jamestown commemorative was issued in late April 1907), a few months after Rolesville office closed. The sender addressed the card to the old closed post office rather than the new route.

The regulations to cancel down-the-route mail with manuscript cancels are still on the books. Occasionally they can be found on covers from the latter years of the 20th century. Often these are Christmas or greeting card covers, and usually canceled with only a scribble. ■



◀ **Figure 16.** July 16, 1907, Wake Forest (Wake County) RFD route 2 manuscript RFD cancel in purple pencil on post card to nearby Rolesville, not an RFD post office at the time.



◀ **Figure 17.** Enlargement of RFD postmark, “WF 2 7/16/07.”

# North Carolina Postal History Society 2020 Awards



by Charles F. Hall, Jr.

It is typical at the North Carolina Postal History Society annual meeting to present awards to our members. COVID-19, however, has changed the way we do many things now; therefore, instead of not presenting awards or delaying them, we felt it best to send them directly to the winners and announce them in the journal.

This year, the Board of Directors have honored two members with awards. The first award is our annual literature award for the best article written in the previous year's journals. The second is the A. Earl Weatherly Award for research. This award has not been given since 1998 when the editors of the *Post Offices and Postmasters of North Carolina, Colonial to USPS* were given the award.

This year's Literature Award goes to Maurice Bursey for his article, "The Patterson Family of the Civil War and Aftermath," which appeared in the *North Carolina Postal Historian*, Fall 2019, Whole No. 148. Not only did Maurice write this outstanding article, he also updated the "Author and Subject Indexes of the North Carolina Postal History Society Journal," Supplement No. 2 to the *North Carolina Postal Historian*, Spring 2019, Whole No. 146. Figure 1 is an illustration of the Literature Award sent to Maurice.

The A. Earl Weatherly Award for research goes to Richard F. Winter for his work in updating the original printed catalogue of *Post Offices and Postmasters of North Carolina, Colonial to USPS*, digitalizing the information and adding the 20th and 21st century markings. This complete update of the original catalog for all 100 North Counties has been added to the North Carolina Postal History Society website titled "North Carolina Postmark Catalog Update." This information is available publicly as downloadable PDFs along with separate PDFs for six major post offices. There is no other state with this quality of information that has developed for our society. Dick started this task in October 2005 and is still at work updating his information for us. Dick has listed 6,885 North Carolina post offices and added 23,385 new markings that were not in the original printed catalog. The on-line version amounts to 6,387 pages and is still growing. Quite an undertaking!

Figure 2 is an image of the Weatherly Award where a plaque with his name has been added. Figure 3 is an image of the award memento given to Dick.

Please let each of the award winners know that you appreciate all of their efforts and contributions.



**Figure 1. ▲**  
2020 NCPHS Literature Award to Maurice Bursey.



**Figure 2. ▲**  
NCPHS perpetual A. Earl Weatherly Award for research to Richard F. Winter.



**Figure 3. ▲**  
Memento of A. Earl Weatherly Award for research to Richard F. Winter.



## Coddle Creek, A Cabarrus County Post Office

by George Slaton



Though Coddle Creek courses its way across the southern portion of Cabarrus County, North Carolina where I grew up, I cannot remember thinking twice about it until my senior year in high school. In the spring of 1965, a popular Charlotte radio station, known to teenagers who listened to it regularly as “Big WAYS,” sponsored a series of treasure hunts. The radio station buried ten bottles, each containing a \$1,000.00 coupon in scattered locations in the greater Charlotte area. When each treasure hunt began, Mr. Treasure, a disc jockey, announced a series of rhyming clues. Interpreting each clue correctly led hunters closer and closer to the treasure’s location. Each hunt generated an avalanche of interest among radio listeners, and crowds of hunters, transistor radios in hand, followed the clues as they led from one point to another. In one hunt, the clues directed treasure hunters north from Charlotte into Cabarrus County. One of those clues, “If you want to find the bottle, you’ll have to cross the Coddle,” was enough to capture my interest, and, within minutes, several friends and I drove to a nearby rural area where we encountered hundreds of searchers combing the fields and roadsides and digging frantically to find the bottle. While another hunter’s luck led him to the treasure that afternoon, the creek’s name was thereafter clearly etched in my memory.

Coddle Creek rises in the extreme southeastern corner of Iredell County, near its boundary with Rowan County, then flows into Cabarrus County where it eventually joins Rocky River. At the point where the creek crosses the Iredell-Cabarrus boundary lies an area known historically as the Coddle Creek community (see Figure 1). By the



time this map was published in 1896 the town name had been changed from Coddle Creek to Coddle as shown.

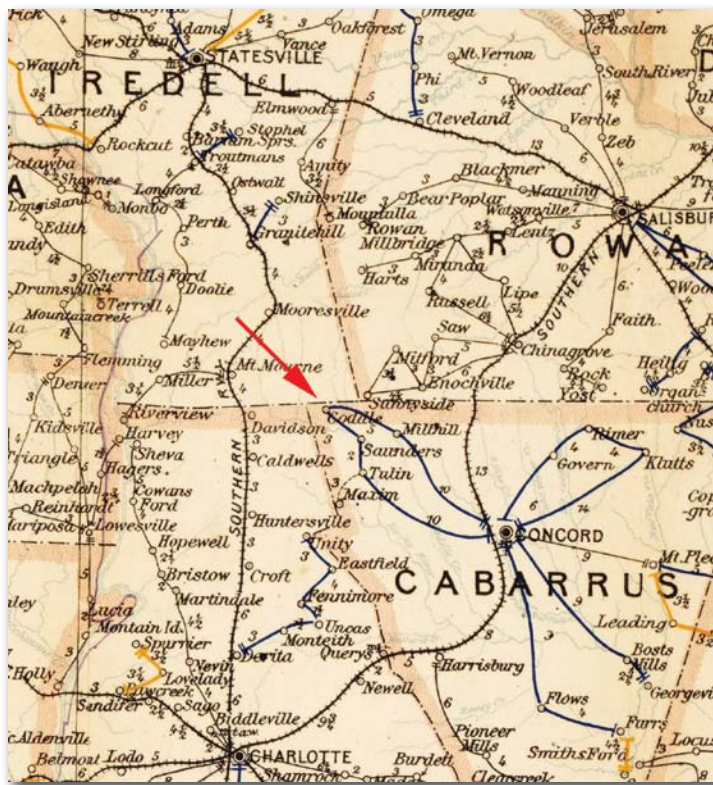
In the 1750s, newly arrived Scots-Irish settlers held in common a strong Presbyterian faith. Hugh McAden, the Presbyterian missionary who traveled through North Carolina in 1755, records in his journal a visit to the home of “Justice Carruth” where he “remained till Sabbath and then preached at the meeting-house about two miles off, to a pretty large congregation of people, who seemed generally pretty regular and discreet.”

That “meeting-house” is now known as Coddle Creek Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. It is one of the oldest churches of its denomination and continues today as a thriving congregation. Church records indicate that the congregation had formed some time before it received its deed, recorded in 1752.

The church seems, from its earliest days, to have been the focal point of the Coddle Creek Community. Justice Carruth and his family were members of the Coddle Creek church. The local Caudle family probably gave its name, to what became known in an altered form, as “Coddle” Creek. Other families in the area, also associated with the congregation, bore the names of Parks, McKnight, Kerr, Bell, Emerson, Braly, Torrence, and Robinson.

The Coddle Creek post office was established on December 13, 1837, and then discontinued on July 6, 1838. The postmaster was John Russell. It is not known why the first chapter of the post office’s history was such a short one.

The Coddle Creek post office re-opened, however, on March 5, 1852. Its postmaster, John Ebenezer Pressly



▲ **Figure 1.** 1896 Post Route map showing portions of Iredell and Cabarrus Counties with red arrow pointing to Coddle Creek (renamed Coddle by 1896).

(1826-1897)), figures prominently both in the history of the post office and in the annals of Coddle Creek Church, for he served as postmaster from 1852 until the post office closed a second time during the Confederate period and he served as pastor of the church from 1849 to 1886. (see Figure 2)

Pressly was raised by his uncle, Dr. E.E. Pressly, the president of Erskine College, in Due West, South Carolina. After completion of his seminary studies, Pressly took charge of the Coddle Creek church and spent his entire ministry there. Pressly's home, which stands today, is located less than a mile from the church. Interestingly, despite this short distance between them, the church is located in Iredell County, while the home is in Cabarrus County.

Peter Kaplan, in *The Architectural History of Cabarrus County, North Carolina*, describes Dr. Pressly's home in these words: "This highly significant house with Federal and Greek Revival details, probably erected between 1830 and 1851, is the best preserved two-story log house in Cabarrus County." The house is located on the north side of Earnhardt Lake Road about 3/10 mile east of its intersection with NC highway 3. Today it appears to provide storage for a farming operation. Undoubtedly, this home was the site of the Coddle Creek post office during Dr. Pressly's tenure as postmaster.



◀ **Figure 2.** Gravestone of John Ebenezer Pressly (1826-1897) in the cemetery of Coddle Creek Associate Presbyterian Church. Pressly served as postmaster of the Coddle Creek Post Office from 1852 into the Civil War years and as pastor of the church from 1849 to 1886.

The earliest recorded cover from the post office, seen in Figure 3, is a Nesbitt 3 cents red, embossed envelope bearing a manuscript "Coddle Creek N.C./July 5th" postmark. It is addressed to "Mr. W.A. Carrigan/Society Hill/S C"

Two Confederate period covers are available for our examination. The first cover, illustrated in Figure 4, features a manuscript "Coddle Creek/Jan 6" postmark. In the upper left corner of the cover are two 5 cents blue typographed Confederate postage stamps, one a London printing and the other a blue Richmond printing on local paper. The cancellation is a manuscript "Jeff," on the London printed stamp to the right, undoubtedly for Jefferson Davis! Two different stamps, combined with this unusual cancellation, make this an interesting cover.

The cover gains an additional interest, however, when we consider the Confederate soldier to whom it was addressed,

**Figure 3.** ▶

This Nesbitt 3 cents red embossed envelope, sent to Society Hill, South Carolina, is the earliest recorded cover from the Coddle Creek post office. It bears a manuscript "Coddle Creek N.C./ July 5" postmark. (Collection of Tony Crumbley)



◀ **Figure 4.** January 6, (1863), Confederate cover mailed from the Coddle Creek post office to James H. Wallace, a soldier whose 52nd North Carolina Infantry Regiment was operating in Southampton County, Virginia. (Collection of Tony Crumbley)



“Mr James H Wallace/52 Regiment Co A/Franklin PO/South Hampton [sic]/County Va/Care of/Col Marshel [sic].” James Wallace was a 24-year-old farmer in Cabarrus County when he enlisted in Company A, 52nd North Carolina Infantry Regiment. Wallace first served with his regiment in operations below Petersburg, Virginia, in late 1862, and in the attempt to wrest New Bern, North Carolina, from Union control in the early months of 1863.

Under the brigade command of General James J. Pettigrew, the 52nd North Carolina marched north to Gettysburg in the summer of 1863. The regiment saw significant combat on the first day of fighting along McPherson’s Ridge just west of Gettysburg. But that day’s fighting could not compare with the maelstrom of the Pickett-Pettigrew Charge on July 3rd. A Union officer who witnessed the grand assault of Pettigrew’s Brigade against his position described the moment “when suddenly a terrific fire from every available gun on Cemetery Ridge burst upon them. Their graceful lines underwent an instantaneous transformation; in a dense cloud of smoke and dust, arms, heads, blankets, guns, and knapsacks were tossed in the air, and the moans from the battlefield were heard from amid the storm of battle. Sheets of missiles flew through what seemed a moving mass of smoke; human valor was powerless, and the death-dealing guns were everywhere throwing blazing projectiles in their faces.” Wallace was wounded in the assault, while his commanding officer, Colonel James Keith Marshall,

whose name appears as a portion of the address on the cover, was killed. The 52nd Regiment’s heavy losses at Gettysburg devastated the unit. Casualties included 77 killed or mortally wounded, while 63 sustained non-fatal wounds. In addition, 206 were captured. The regiment continued to serve, but its ranks never recovered in number.

Over the following months, Wallace recovered from his wound, but he was further hospitalized for other medical reasons, including “heart disease.” He returned to duty on March 25, 1864, and fought at the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, North Anna, and Cold Harbor. That summer, Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia was forced to defend Petersburg where, during the siege that followed, Private Wallace was killed in a Confederate offensive at Globe Tavern, just below the city, on August 21, 1864.

A second Confederate cover, depicted in Figure 5, was mailed from “Donnaldsville [sic] (SC)/August 15” to “Miss Mattie McGaw/Coddle Creek/No. Ca.” It is franked with a horizontal pair of the 5 cents blue, Richmond printing on local paper, which are canceled by the manuscript postmark. Miss McGaw, the cover’s recipient, was Dr. Pressly’s step-sister.

Though Coddle Creek Post Office was closed during or just after the war, it was re-opened on July 27, 1868, and served the community through the 1870s and 1880s, as reflected in two surviving covers. The cover in Figure 6 features a manuscript postmark “Coddle Creek NC/May 17” with a 3 cents green



◀ **Figure 5.** August 15, 186x, Confederate cover franked with a horizontal pair of 5 cents blue, typographed stamps canceled by a manuscript postmark from Donnaldsville, South Carolina [sic] to Coddle Creek. The addressee, Miss Mattie McGaw, was Pressly’s step-sister. (Collection of George Slaton)



**Figure 6.** ▶ May 17, 187x yellow envelope from Coddle Creek to Charlotte (Mecklenburg County) franked with a 3 cents green, Continental Bank Note stamp and a manuscript postmark. Its forwarding instructions are in the hand of the sender, the wife of the addressee. (Collection of Tony Crumbley)





◀ **Figure 7.** This envelope has a circular datestamp, “Coddle Creek/N.C./May 21 1889” and is addressed to Salem (Stokes County). It bears a 2 cents green, American Bank Note stamp, canceled with a target device. On the reverse, a receiving circular datestamp indicates that the envelope arrived in Salem on May 22. (Collection of Tony Crumbley)

Continental Bank Note stamp. It is addressed to “Mr. John L Rea/Charlotte/ N.C.” in “Care Mr. J. Lindy.” The cover was apparently mailed by the recipient’s wife, as she notes in manuscript, “Mr. J Lindy will please/forward at earliest-convenience/ possible and oblige,/Mrs. Rea.”

A final cover, in Figure 7, is franked with a 2 cents green, American Bank Note stamp and canceled with a target device. The postmark is a circular datestamp “Coddle Creek/ N.C./ May 21 1889.” The cover is addressed to “G.L. Keebler/Salem N.C.” On the cover’s reverse is a received circular datestamp which reads, “Salem N.C./May 22/12m/1889/ Received.”

The Coddle Creek post office underwent a name change to Coddle post office on October 3, 1895. The post office was discontinued on October 15, 1904 and the local mail sent to nearby Mooresville, Iredell County. ■

Author’s Note: My thanks to Valerie Jackson, Administrator at Coddle Creek Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, and to church member, Nancy Myers, who directed me to church records essential to researching this article.

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## New Marking

A new cover to the census of recorded North Carolina covers posted during Independent State and Confederate period under the U.S. Postal System has been reported by Alan Vestal. It is shown here with a Greensborough circular datestamp of 30 May 1861. This was the next to last day of the period 20 May -31 May 1861 when North Carolina seceded from the United States, but still could use the Federal postal system.



# Pilot Mountain, North Carolina Better Known as Mount Pilot by Most TV Watchers



by Tony L. Crumley

The Town of Pilot Mountain is near the mountains in Surry County. The City of Mount Airy, the birthplace of actor Andy Griffith, is located 10½ miles northwest from Pilot Mountain by way of highway U.S. 52. In the TV series, “The Andy Griffith Show,” Mount Airy was the basis for the fictional town of Mayberry, home to Sheriff Andy Griffith. Mount Pilot, which was often referred to on the show, was the name in the show in honor of Pilot Mountain.

The history of this mountain goes back much further than the Andy Griffith show. The mountain itself is a remnant of the ancient Sauratown Mountains. Named for the Saura Indians who inhabited the area first, they called the mountain Jomeokee – “Great Guide” or “Pilot.” The Cherokee Indians eventually drove the Saura Indians out of the area. The mountain knob guided both Indians and early European hunters along a north/south path through the area.

Even today driving down I-77 or highway U.S. 52, one can’t miss seeing this amazing rock formation. A quartzite monadnock (an isolated rock hill or knob that rises from a virtually level surround-

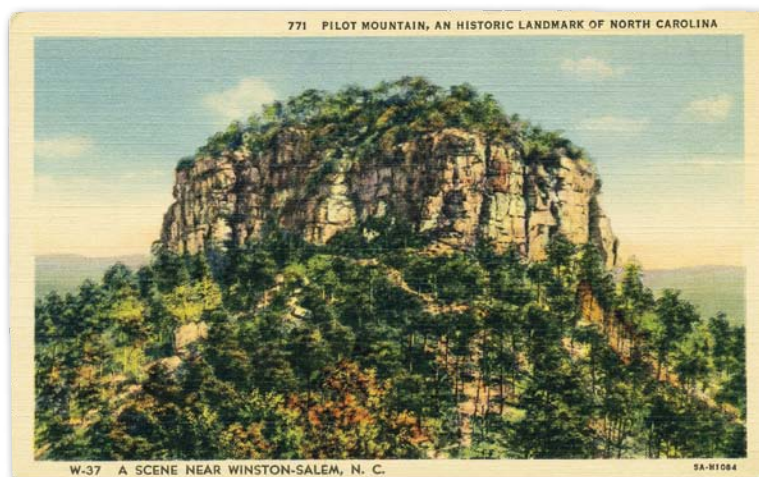


ing plain), this rugged mountain rock has survived for millions of years while the elements have eroded the surrounding area.

Big Pinnacle, as the prominent rock is known, stands 2,421 feet above sea level and is 1,400 feet above the valley floor. The mountain was first mapped in 1751 by Joshua Fry and Peter Jefferson, father of President Thomas Jefferson. Today this mountain, one of the most distinctive natural features of North Carolina, is part of a

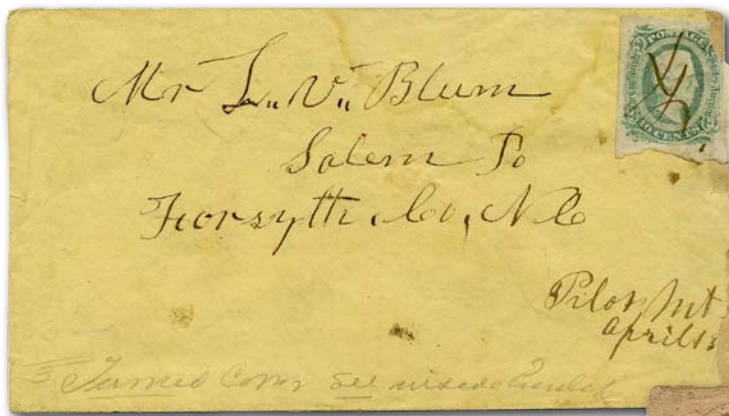
3,703-acre state park along the Yadkin River,

The town of Pilot Mountain, three miles north northeast of Pilot Mountain, has fewer than 1,300 residents today. The history of the town and its postal operations extend well into the 19th century. The town of Pilot Mountain, located near the border between Stokes and Surry Counties, was first known as Little Yadkin. In 1827, Solomon Spainhour was appointed its first postmaster. The town’s name was changed to Pilot Mountain in 1852. In 1854, David Dalton was appointed postmaster and served through the Civil War as postmaster. In 1868, the post office became part of Surry County where it operates today along with Mount Airy. ■



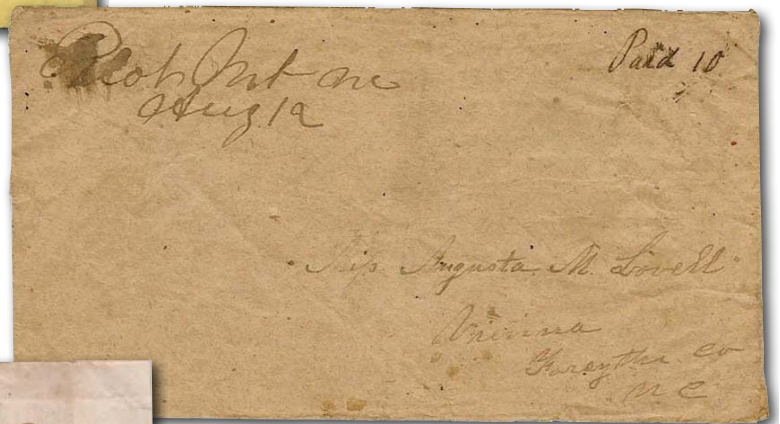
▲ **Figures 1 and 2.** Two views of Pilot Mountain’s the “Big Pinnacle,” the taller of two pinnacles on the mountain. The walls of bare rock of this quartzite monadnock have survived for millions of years while the elements have eroded most of the surrounding area. It is easy to see how this mountain knob guided both Indians and early European settlers along the north/south path through the area. Even today the knob can be seen many miles away.





◀ **Figure 3.** April 18, 1863, Pilot Mountain, on cover to Salem (Forsyth County) paid with a 10 cents blue green CSA No. 11 stamp. This cover was turned and reused from its original use at Fayetteville.

**Figure 4.** ▶  
August 12, 186x, Pilot Mountain cover with manuscript postmark sent to Vienna (Forsyth County), paid 10 cents in cash.



◀ **Figure 5.** June 9, 186x, Pilot Mountain cover with manuscript postmark sent to Vienna, paid 10 cents in cash. This cover was turned and reused from its original use at Salem on an overall advertising cover of the Salem Mutual Insurance Co.

**Figure 6.** ▶  
September 20, 1883, Envelope from Pilot Mountain to Danbury (Stokes County), paid 3 cents rate with a 1 cent gray blue 1881 American Bank Note Company and a 2 cents vermillion 1879 American Bank Note Company stamp.



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