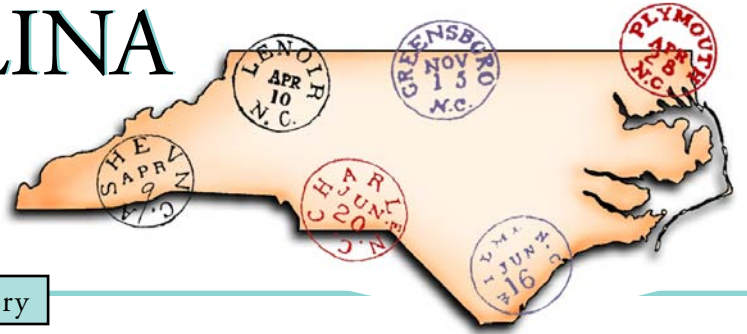


NORTH CAROLINA POSTAL HISTORIAN

The Journal of North Carolina Postal History

VOLUME 41, NO. 1 WINTER 2021 WHOLE 157



Kings Mountain - A History
Older than Celebrated Today



Lake Landing Ship Letter ?



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The North Carolina Postal History Society and three of its journal authors, who won awards at CHARPEX in July of this year, were recognized in the regular publications of both the American Philatelic Society and *La Posta*. Darrell Ertzberger, winner of the A. Earl Weatherly Award for North Carolina Postal History Research, and Larry Baum and Mark S. Schwartz, co-winners of the North Carolina Postal History Society Literature Award were generously mentioned in brief articles by the editors of both publications. Such national recognition spreads the word that our Society and its members are active and thriving participants in our enjoyable hobby.

NAPEX, held in Tyson's Corner, Virginia, on the third weekend of October, was not only well-attended after the postponement of its regular gathering in early June of this year, but was the scene of yet more awards to members of our Society. Dick Winter was the recipient of the coveted August Dietz Award by the Civil War Philatelic Society. This award was given to Dick for "Extensive Research in North Carolina Postal History and Post Office Data, as published on the North Carolina Postal History Society Website." Larry Baum won Gold for his three-frame exhibit, "Antebellum Richmond, Virginia: An Ad Cover Study of its Commerce." In addition, the Civil War Philatelic Society, at its annual meeting that weekend, approved placing the database of North Carolina Confederate covers on that Society's website. This project will take some months to complete.

Our own Society is issuing a new call for your participation and assistance! We're asking you to provide photographs of

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North Carolina post offices for the Society website. Scott Steward, Webmaster, has been building an online file of images of post offices in the state. You can find this file under the "Resources" tab at ncpostalhistory.com. Since most of you own a cellphone, this should be an easy task. You might want to focus on your county of residence and submit photographs of its present and historical post offices. Scott asks, as you submit images, that you provide the name and county of the post office, and, in the case of historic photos, that you provide any information about when the photo was taken. Send your photos with the subject line of "PO Photo" to scott.steward4@gmail.com.

Remember that now is the time to mail your annual membership renewal. Dues remain \$15.00 because a majority of our members, 67.5%, choose to be sustaining members. And consider the Adopt-A-Library option this year in which you can give an annual membership to a local or regional library or historical society.

We hope that your holiday season was an enjoyable one and we join with you in looking forward to another year of learning more about the postal history of the Old North State!

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



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President

George Slaton
1230 South Street
Cornelius, NC 28031
geoslaton@gmail.com

Vice-President

Scott Steward
16311 Manning Road West
Accokeek, MD 20607
scott_steward@hotmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer

Harry Albert
105 Gatestone Court
Cary, N.C. 27518
hlabert78@gmail.com

Editors

Tony L. Crumbley
PO Box 681447
Charlotte, NC 28216
tonycrumbley@bellsouth.net

Richard F. Winter
5432 Geneva Terrace
Colfax, NC 27235
rfwinter645@gmail.com

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Richard F. Winter NCPHS Member Profile

by George Slaton



If, upon examining for the first time a transatlantic postal cover from the 1840-1875 period, you were asked to describe your impression of it, you might use a word like “hieroglyphics” to describe your bewilderment. That would be a reasonable reaction, even for many seasoned philatelists. For the transatlantic cover before you would likely bear more than a few postal markings in a variety of shapes and colors. Some markings might be clear, some might be faint, but others might be little more than a smudge. And though some markings would appear to be numbers, you might be hard pressed to identify them. The cover before you would be, in many respects, simply indecipherable. You might well lay the cover aside, concluding that any understanding of the cover’s postal history is well beyond your, or possibly anyone’s, reach.

Dick Winter describes his own similar experience after being given an 1865 stampless cover addressed in the United States to a destination in France. Dick found himself bewildered, but, characteristically, he was also intrigued. He was soon determined to locate the tools and resources to understand the rates and markings that would tell the story about his cover’s transatlantic journey.

Dick discovered, as he corresponded with philatelic specialists, that no one could fully and adequately answer his questions about the cover. “This experience,” Dick later wrote, “established my future postal history goal.” In time, Dick pulled together those resources that were available and then set about pursuing his own original research into transatlantic rates and routes and studying the numerous postal conventions between the United States and European countries in the North Atlantic Region.

Today, Dick Winter is, as one philatelic writer aptly describes, “the world’s leading specialist on transatlantic mails and a maritime postal historian.” His stature as a transatlantic mail historian rest solidly on two monumental publications. He co-authored *North Atlantic Mail Sailings 1840-1875*, published in 1988, which features the sailing departure and arrival dates of

all contract mail voyages across the North Atlantic for thirty-one different steamship lines. This was followed by *Understanding Transatlantic Mail* in two volumes, published in 2006 and 2009. These latter volumes, together comprising over a thousand pages, represent a massive undertaking to provide the tools and resources which enable collectors to analyze and “understand” the complex postal history of transatlantic covers. The books are prolifically illustrated and provide an unparalleled wealth of information. Through his research and writing, Dick has successfully explored a vast and intricate subject and provided an indispensable guide for others to follow.

Richard F. Winter grew up on Long Island, New York, and, even as a boy, was an enthusiastic philatelist, collecting stamps from France and its colonies. It was perhaps a foreshadowing of his later interest in transatlantic mail that he was accepted into the United States Naval Academy in 1955 and, after graduation, served as a naval officer for nearly three decades. Dick spent many of those years at sea and, with the rank of Commander, he commanded a strategic, nuclear-powered missile submarine for four years. Upon retiring as a Captain first from the Navy and then later from the private sector, Dick turned in 1993 to the full-time study of philately.

Moving to North Carolina in 1995, Dick immediately immersed himself in the postal history of his adopted state, where his contributions have been enormous. He served as Vice-Chairman of the North Carolina Postal History Commission from 1997 to 2000 and has since then been instrumental in creating a collection of over 15,000 items related to our state’s postal history for the North Carolina State Archives. He

helped edit the last two volumes of *Post Offices and Postmasters of North Carolina- Colonial to USPS*. The North Carolina Postal History Society (NCPHS) has benefited from Dick’s expertise and leadership for many years. He served as the Society’s president from 1999 to 2015. As co-editor of our quarterly *North Carolina Postal Historian*, the attractive format of which he designed, Dick organizes, edits, and lays out each issue for



▲ **Figures 1.** Past President of the North Carolina Postal History Society and current editor of the *North Carolina Postal Historian*, Dick Winter.

publication. He has authored many articles in the *Postal Historian* as well.

As students and collectors of North Carolina postal history, we are further indebted to Dick for a project so large that it has taken over fifteen years to complete. Dick has worked since 2005 on the *North Carolina Postal History Catalog Update*, a vast compilation of postmarks and postmark information for every recorded post office in the state's history. This catalog is a resource which is available on the NCPHS website. It is unprecedented in scope and may well have wide implications for the expansion of postal history resources nationally and internationally. For this extensive undertaking, Dick received the prestigious A. Earl Weatherly Award for Research from NCPHS in 2020.

Dick Winter continues to be recognized nationally and internationally for his wider philatelic accomplishments. In 2021, he was awarded the Charles J. Peterson Literature Life Achievement Philatelic Award by the American Philatelic Society and the August Dietz Award for distinguished research and writing by the Civil War Philatelic Society. But these awards follow many others. From the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society,

where he served as president from 1992 to 1996, member of the Board from 1984 to 1996, and an editor of the *Chronicle's* Foreign Mails Section from 1985 to 2012, he received the Elliot Perry Cup Award, the Lester G. Brookman Cup Award, and is a three-time winner of the Stanley B. Ashbrook Award, as well as their Distinguished Philatelist Award. He was given the Lichtenstein Award from the Collectors Club of New York, the Smithsonian Philatelic Achievement Award, as well as others too numerous to name. He was elected Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London in 2007. At Stratford-upon-Avon, England, in 2008 he was invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, considered by many to be the highest and most prestigious honor in philately. In addition, between 1981 and 2006, Dick participated in eleven international exhibitions with three different stampless transatlantic exhibits, winning the Gold or the Large Gold on each occasion!

Members of the North Carolina Postal History Society can rightly be proud of Richard F. Winter, a philatelic giant in our midst! We are deeply fortunate to have the benefit of his experience, his achievements, and his long years of service to our Society.

Editor's Note:

This is the first in a new series of "NCPHS Member Profiles" prepared by our current President, George Slaton. An earlier biographical series, penned mostly by editor Tony Crumbley, was started after the passing of Vernon S. Stroupe in the summer of 2006, and continued under the series name "Who's Who in the NCPHS," finally ending with "Meeting Founding Member Rich Weiner" in the Winter of 2009. This series concentrated on members who founded the NCPHS in 1982. In this new series, we expect to meet more of the talented NCPHS members that bring different experiences in the philatelic hobby to our society.

Last Issue's Mystery Cover



The manuscript postmark on this 11 June 1876 cover was hastily written and could have been either "Camera NC" (Pender County) or "Camero[n] NC" (Moore County). Post offices existed at each location at the same time. The only other clue, "S. E. Johnson Ansd." in manuscript on the reverse, hasn't help solve the mystery yet. Can you help?

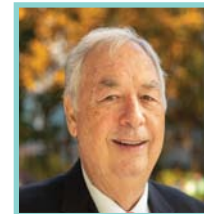
Rich Weiner provided some information that might help. He wrote:

My interest was piqued by this cover. Although superficially it looks more like Camera than Cameron, based on admittedly circumstantial evidence I think the latter is most likely the case:

1. *Cameron is much closer to Snow Camp than Camera.*
2. *"S.E. Johnson" (name docketed on reverse of cover) resided during that time period in Greenwood, 6 miles NW of Cameron, but that town did not receive a postmaster until the year after the mystery letter was mailed and Cameron was the closest location with an existing post office at the time of mailing (est. 1875).*
3. *Although the first Cameron postal marking in the NCPHS listing is a circular handstamp from 1878, the town had just been formally incorporated in 1876, which would be consistent with them not yet having a handstamp at the time of the envelope's mailing. There are no postal markings at all listed from Camera, which only had a postmaster from 1875-1883, at which point its name was changed to Willard. Incidentally, the addressee "Dixon & Co" was a milling company in Snow Camp. The Dixon family were prominent Quakers there during that era.*

Kings Mountain, North Carolina – A History Older than Celebrated Today

by Tony Crumbley



The Revolutionary War, Battle of Kings Mountain, was clearly a turning point in the war. After General Cornwallis was successful in winning his battle in Camden, South Carolina on August 16, 1780, he decided to march on to North Carolina. General Cornwallis sent Major Patrick Ferguson into the backcountry of South Carolina to protect his left flank. Major Ferguson (1744-1780) had been born in Pitfour, Aberdeenshire, Scotland and became a British officer. He was an advocate of light infantry. He had designed his own rifle and was successful in recruiting nearly 1,000 British Loyalists in South Carolina to fight with him.

Major Ferguson arrived in North Carolina with his Loyalist militia in early September 1780. He issued challenges to the locals to lay down their arms or suffer the consequences. He made it clear that he would kill anyone in his way and destroy their towns and homes.

These comments seriously angered the backcountry forces. Col. Isaac Shelby and John Sevier agreed that they should take the offensive. They called for a rendezvous on September 25 at Sycamore Shoals, now in Tennessee. On that day, Sevier and

troops. They would pick up another 100 troops in the Burke County, area. By October 1, they were in the Kings Mountain, North Carolina area with 900 men eager to fight.

Receiving information on the pending attack, Major Ferguson decided to march his Loyalists to Charlotte to join Gen. Cornwallis. The Patriots caught up with them at Kings Mountain near the border of North and South Carolina on October 7, 1780. The mountain was named for the King family, which had a farm at the base of the mountain.

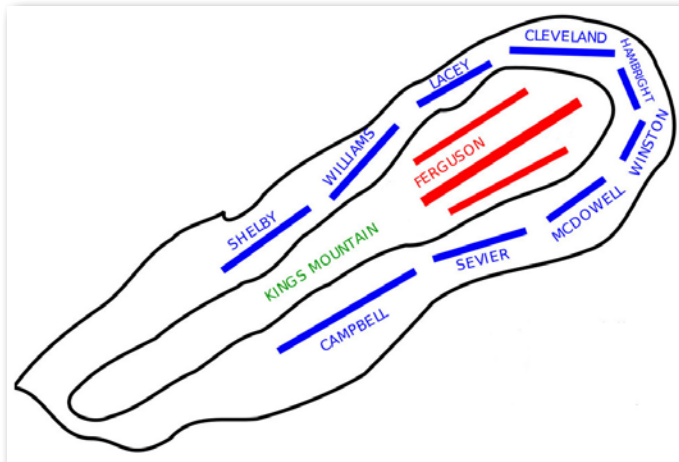
The Kings Mountain ridge is roughly shaped like a man's foot with the heel to the southwest about 60 yards across and the ball of the foot to the northeast about 200 yards across. The crest area was clear of trees and undergrowth, but the sides of the ridge were heavily wooded, steep and rocky. Figure 1 is a sketch of the area showing in blue the various forces of Patriots and Ferguson's troops in red atop the mountain.

Major Ferguson had positioned his men on top of the mountain expecting the high ground to give him the advantage. The Patriots were able to essentially surround the ridge area where Ferguson's troops were camped and caught them almost completely by surprise. Major Ferguson used his silver whistle to order his 1,100 British troops to make numerous bayonet charges, continuously driving the Patriots further down the mountain, only to have them use woodsmen tactics to hide and then return fire, then to come back up the mountain again. His troops firing from above often fired over the heads of the climbing forces, while their fire effectively was disabling his troops. After numerous attempts to use the bayonet charges and retreats with severe losses each time, the Patriots finally killed Major Ferguson. With his death, his men surrendered.

This battle was a pivotal moment in the Southern campaign. The victory by the American Patriot militia over the Loyalist came after a string of Rebels defeats at the hand of Gen. Cornwallis. This greatly raised the morale of the southern Patriots. With Ferguson dead and his Loyalist militia destroyed Cornwallis was forced to abandon his plan to invade North Carolina at that time.

The estimated total casualties of this battle were 1,211 and of these only 90 were Patriot forces of which 28 were killed and 62 wounded. The British had 290 killed, 163 wounded and 668 missing or captured.

For the Sesqui-Centennial Celebration of the Battle of Kings Mountain on October 7, 1930, a brochure by Helen Dean Chandler was issued. The cover of this brochure showed a farmstead with the mountain in the background perhaps to indicate the



▲ **Figure 1.** Diagram of the battlefield of Kings Mountain showing in red the location of Major Ferguson on the mountain crest and the disposition of the various units of the Patriot force in blue with the names of their leaders. (Courtesy of Wikipedia by Damonpaulhart)

Shelby arrived with 240 troops known as the “over mountain men” to join Col. Charles McDowell who was already there with 160 North Carolina riflemen. They were later joined by Col. William Campbell from Virginia with 400 additional

home of the original King family for which the mountain was named. The cover of the brochure is illustrated in Figure 2. The brochure contains the following history of the town of Kings Mountain.

The town of Kings Mountain, NC named for the Battle of Kings Mountain, to commemorate the great victory dates its real beginning in 1873. About that time the Atlanta and Charlotte Air Line Railway was opening its line through this section and several new settlers were moving to this spot. By the end of the seventies three or four stores had been erected and the village had materials. The charter, received February 11, 1874, named as commissioners J. W. Tracy, W. A. Mauney, F. Dilling, D. C. Beam, and W. F. Falls. In 1888 citizens organized the first cotton mill. From this struggling village of fifty years ago has grown the thriving town of Kings Mountain of today with a population of 5,632.

The article goes on with the typical Chamber of Commerce text on how great a place to live, work, and play in, is Kings Mountain. If one checks the web for the history of Kings Mountain today, you find a similar story, “The town began in 1873.”

To a postal historian that becomes a bit confusing. The postal history records indicate the first post office to open in Kings Mountain was in 1837 with Turner M. Abernathy as postmaster. The office was located in Lincoln County. In 1841, the office became a part of the newly formed Cleveland County. This move was caused by the change in county boundaries. Cleveland County was formed in 1841 from Rutherford and Lincoln County. The county was named for Col. Benjamin

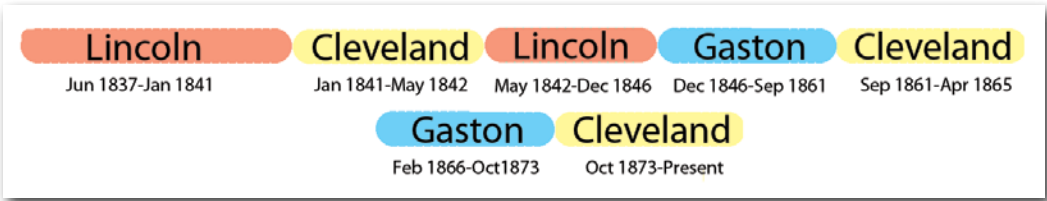


Figure 2. ▲ This image is from the cover of the Sesqui-Centennial Celebration brochure of the Kings Mountain battle. The picture is of a farm home of the King family with the Kings Mountain monadnock in the background.

Cleveland, a hero at the Battle of Kings Mountain. After 16 months Kings Mountain was back in Lincoln County. On May 10, 1842, Hiram A. Lowrance was appointed postmaster of Kings Mountain. Figure 3 is a cover mailed from Kings Mountain on October 9, 1842, to the Clerk of Court in Cleveland County in Shelby. In 1846, the post office was changed to Gas-



◀ **Figure 3.** October 9, 1842, folded letter from Kings Mountain to the Clerk Superior Court, Cleveland County. The county seat was in Shelby. The post office opened in 1837, when located in Lincoln County. With the formation of Cleveland County in January 1841, the Kings Mountain post office was now located in Cleveland County.



▲ **Figure 4.** The Kings Mountain post office made six county changes between three counties from January 1837 to date. This graphic illustrates those changes by month and year.



◀ **Figure 5.** The first postmaster after the final move to Cleveland County in October 1873 was William A. Mauney, shown here. When Kings Mountain was chartered in 1874 he became a town commissioner and mayor while still serving as postmaster.

Figure 6 ▶
September 10, 1875, 3¢ Reay stamped envelope from Kings Mountain to Shelby (Cleveland County) showing first recorded postmark of Postmaster William A. Mauney. In the upper left corner is an embossed corner card of the Fairview Lodge of the Kings Mountain Masons.



ton County. Once again, this change had to do with the change in county boundaries. In September 1861 Kings Mountain found itself back in Cleveland County for the duration of the Civil War. After the war, the post office was reestablished in Gaston County until October 1873, when it was finally moved back to Cleveland County, where it has remained to this day. Because this is such a complicated series of county changes for one post office, Figure 4 shows the seven post office county changes by the month/year of change.

When last located in Gaston County, it had three different postmasters. William Fall was postmaster on February 28, 1866, Miss L.A. Black on May 15, 1867 and Thomas A. Ware on March 11, 1870. After the final move back to Cleveland County the first postmaster there was William A. Mauney (see Figure 5) appointed October 10, 1873. When the town was chartered in October 1874, he was one of the four town commissioners and then selected by the group as mayor.

Apparently, his name was misspelled in the Post Office Department records. The mistake found its way into our catalog listing of postmasters for Kings Mountain, but this will be corrected in a future update for Cleveland County.

During the same period of time, the states of North Carolina and South Carolina were debating over the proper boundary line between the two states. Originally, the Battle of Kings Mountain was considered fought in North Carolina. After the state boundaries were re-surveyed, the state line was moved several miles north and now the location of Kings Mountain lies in South Carolina allowing that state to claim the battlefield area.

Figure 6 is a previously unlisted postmark from Kings Mountain dated September 10, 1875. This postmark was used by Postmaster Mauney, the postmaster considered the first by current local historians. The cover has an embossed corner card of the Fairview Lodge of the Kings Mountain Masons.

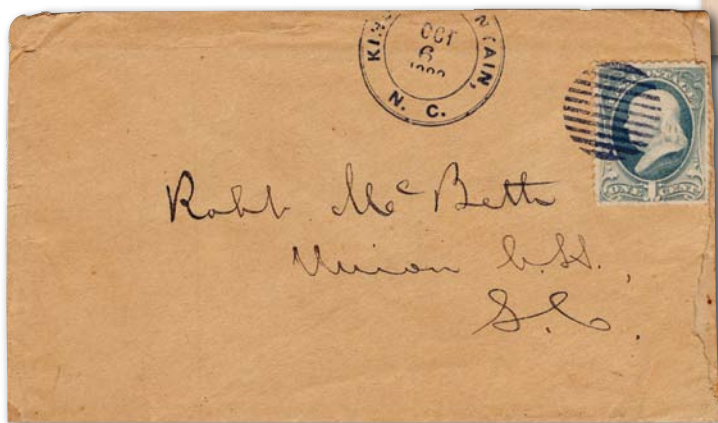
Postmaster Mauney privately ordered and used a new double-circle postmark with a star killer by September 6, 1879. Figure 7 illustrates this marking in magenta ink on an envelope to Patterson (Caldwell County) dated March 17, 1880. By June 1880 he used this postmark in black ink as shown by Figure 8. This postal card was posted on December 3, 1880, addressed to Anderson, South Carolina. This marking in black ink also is known used on January 15, 1881. Later during his tenure as Kings Mountain postmaster, he ordered a new postmark, one with a smaller, triple-circle datestamp and an eight-bar circular grid killer. Figure 9 shows this postmark on an October 6, 1880, third-class printed matter envelope to South Carolina. This cancel is known used until January 15, 1881. Clearly Postmaster Mauney liked unusual handstamps.

By 1884, he acquired an octagonal, handstamp postmark. Figure 10 illustrates this marking on an envelope to Anderson, South Carolina, mailed from Kings Mountain High School on September 27, 1886. Since this postmark is only partially struck on the cover, a tracing of the postmark from the *North Carolina Postmark Catalog Update* is provided. This octagonal handstamp is known to have been used until November 28, 1886. The Kings Mountain High School was founded by Capt. W. T. R. Bell. He had moved to North Carolina shortly after the Civil War and became an educator, newspaper man and member of the General Assembly. In 1886, Bell professed his school was the largest male boarding school in Western North Carolina. A handsome corner card illustration of the King's Mountain High School is shown in Figure 11 on an envelope addressed



◀ **Figure 7.** March 17, 1880, Kings Mountain to Patterson (Caldwell County). Postmaster Mauney had a fondness for fancy cancels. His first was this double-circle datestamp with a duplexed star killer. This device was used in magenta ink on this occasion in March of 1880.

Figure 8 ▶
December 3, 1880, postal card from Kings Mountain to Anderson, South Carolina. By June 1880, Postmaster Mauney had changed his ink color to black. This handstamp was used in this ink color through December 1880.



◀ **Figure 9.** October 6, 1880, envelope from Kings Mountain to Union, South Carolina paid 1¢ for third-class printed matter. As early as this date, Postmaster Mauney used this triple-circle datestamp with eight-bar grid cancel. The marking is recorded used through December of 1880.

to Yorkville, South Carolina. It was posted on March 4, 1880, with an example of the large, double-circle postmark and star killer in magenta ink, previously mentioned.

James W. Brown was appointed postmaster on April 26, 1889 and again on June 23, 1897. Standard government-supplied postmarks provided sometime between late 1886 and mid-1891 no longer had an apostrophe in "King's Mountain" of the marking device. Before this, all the postmarks shown appear to have been privately purchased by the postmaster and contained

the apostrophe. By 1898, Postmaster Brown was using a new 27.5 mm handstamp shown in Figure 12. This envelope, addressed to Kernersville (Forsyth County) shows the business corner card of J.H. Kester, of Crocker (Cleveland County), dealer in dry goods and general merchandise, clothing, boots & shoes. The Kings Mountain postmark on this cover was used until 1902. The black bar under the year date was caused by ink accumulated in the unused space for additional numbers, later to be used to denote time.

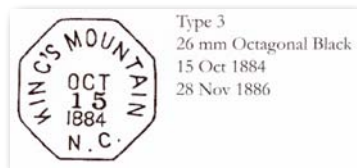
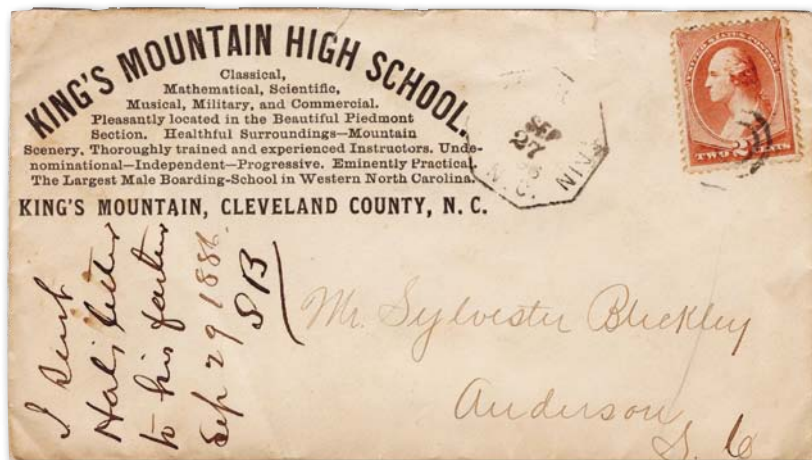


Figure 10 & 10a ▶▶

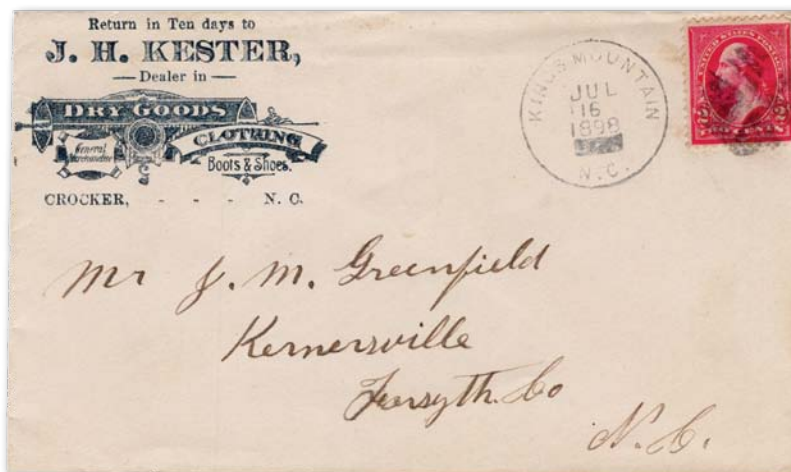
September 27, 1886, envelope with advertising corner card of the King's Mountain High School, sent to Anderson, South Carolina. Capt. W. T. R. Bell operated this military and math school in several North Carolina locations. Since only a partial strike of this postmark is on the cover, a tracing of the marking type is shown above.



◀ **Figure 11.** March 4, 1880, envelope addressed to Yorkville, South Carolina, with corner card depicting an image of the Kings Mountain High School as well as identifying the principal, W.T.R. Bell. The postmark type, lightly struck in magenta ink, is the same as shown in Figure 7.

Figure 12 ▶

July 16, 1898, envelope with corner card marking of J.H. Kester, Dry Goods and Clothing, sent from Kings Mountain to Kernersville (Forsyth County). Postmaster James Brown, on his second time as postmaster, used this government-issued postmark with a segmented cork killer.



In 1901, Postmaster Samuel S. Weir acquired a new metal duplex Type H handstamp. This duplex handstamp had a 6-bar killer. Figure 13 shows this postmark on an envelope posted on September 1, 1901, addressed to Salem, Virginia. This handstamp was used until at least April 16, 1910. A new 7-bar metal duplex Type H2 was put into use by December 1910. Figure 14 provides an example of this postmark on an envelope from Kings Mountain addressed to Chapel Hill (Orange County). This handstamp was used through June 1917.

In 1926, Postmaster Samuel S. Weir, on his second opportunity to be postmaster, received the post office's first machine

canceling device, an American Postal Machine Company Flag Type A14, which was used from 1926 through 1930. Figure 15 and 16 are examples of this machine used to cancel cacheted envelopes for the Battle of Kings Mountain Sesqui-Centennial Celebration on October 7, 1930. Apparently, the dies of the cancel did not accept ink readily since all copies that the author has seen are very weak strikes of the flag. Figure 15 was addressed to Buffalo, New York, and sent by air mail with a 5-cent Beacon air mail stamp. Figure 16 also was sent by air mail to Winston-Salem (Forsyth County). It has the handstamped signature of Postmaster Samuel S. Weir in a light magenta ink.

Figure 13 ►

September 1, 1901, Kings Mountain to Salem, Virginia. In 1900 Postmaster Brown introduced a new metal duplex Type H handstamp. This postmark device had an 6 bar killer and was used until 1910.



◀ **Figure 14.** June 26, 1917, Kings Mountain to Chapel Hill (Orange County). Arthur Patterson was appointed postmaster on April 24, 1914. The postmarking device in use at that time was a new metal duplex canceler. This killer had 7 bars and is recorded used between December 1910 and June 26, 1917.

Figure 15 ►

October 7, 1930, envelope from Kings Mountain to Buffalo, New York, on the Sesqui-Centennial Celebration of the Battle of Kings Mountain. The postmark was made by the first machine canceling device used at Kings Mountain, an American Postal Machine Company flag cancel Type A14.



By 1932, the Kings Mountain post office received a new Universal Stamping Machine Company device.

On October 7, 1980, the United States Post Office Department issued a postal card for the 200 Anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain. Figure 16 illustrates an example of this 10 cents postal card with the first day of use cancellation, but no address. It is interesting that, even though the battleground is considered in York County, South Carolina today, the Post Office Department chose the North Carolina town of Kings Mountain for its first day cover ceremonies.

As a postal historian, it is clear to me that in early days, the post office might be moved from house to house, or store or other building as postmasters changed. Being located on the county line at the time and the county boundaries changing

caused the same post offices to move from county to county. I feel certain that the postal history of Kings Mountain began well before the 1873 date chosen by local historians. ■

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www.ncpedia.org/kings-mountain-battle (Accessed 30 November 2021).



◀ **Figure 16.** October 7, 1930, air mail envelope from Kings Mountain to Winston-Salem (Forsyth County). This second example of the American machine cancel Type A14 also shows the wear on the cancel. Additionally, there is a handstamp signature of Postmaster Samuel S. Weir, who served as Postmaster from January 1923 until May 1932.

Figure 17 ▶

Kings Mountain, North Carolina, October 7, 1980. On the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain, the U.S. Postal Service issued a postal card honoring the battle and chose the town of Kings Mountain as the site for the first day ceremonies.



Have You Given Us Your E-mail Address?

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

Lake Landing Ship Letter?

by Richard F. Winter



On 1 July 1811, Thomas Moffett opened a new post office in eastern Hyde County named Mattamuskeet. It was on the southern shore of Lake Mattamuskeet. At 18 miles long and 7 miles wide this lake was the largest natural inland lake in North Carolina. The Mattamuskeet post office changed its name to Lake Landing in June 1821 when Robert Blackwell was still postmaster.

In 1839 David H. Burr, late topographer to the Post Office and geographer to the House of Representatives of the United States published a “Map of North and South Carolina Exhibiting the Post Offices, Post Roads, Canals, Railroads, etc.” A portion of this map is illustrated in Figure 1 showing the location of Lake Landing on the southern shore of Lake Mattamuskeet. It should be noted that Hyde County was a very small county with an even smaller population. The county population in 1840 was 6,458. Compare that with today’s Hyde County population of only 4,759. Much of the county was covered with swamps (see in Figure 1 the lightly shaded area of Hyde County covering the upper half of the county and another large area below Lake Mattamuskeet). The southern portion of the county along the Pamlico River and Sound contained the few towns that existed.

Pre-1839 maps had very little consistent information about the location of Lake Landing. On some it appeared in quite different locations such as on the Pamlico Sound or on the Lake Mattamuskeet shore. Frequently, information about its location was copied from earlier maps, some as much as ten years older. After the Burr map appeared the location of Lake Landing became consistent, on the southern shore of the lake and about seven miles from the navigable waters of Pamlico Sound. If this was in fact the location of the Lake Landing post office, how was it possible to have a letter there treated as a ship letter? This was the dilemma that I faced when I saw the cover which will be shown and described later.

In the Summer issue of 1998, I wrote an article in the *North Carolina Postal Historian*, Volume 17, No. 2, Whole No. 65, titled “Salem to Jamaica.” It was about a 26 July 1843 folded letter from Salem (Forsyth County) to Francis R. Holland (see Figure 2) care of the Mandeville post office on the Island of Jamaica. It was part of an archive of correspondence between Holland and his father. Francis was on his first Moravian mission to Jamaica from November 1841 until the summer of 1844, after which he returned home to Salem. The Moravians had at least three mission stations in Jamaica in the mid-nineteenth century named New Carmel, Lititz, and Bethany. These stations were supported by members from Salem, North Carolina. On his first trip to Jamaica, Holland had established the Fairfield Training School near Mandeville, a Moravian mission school for local Jamaicans in the interior of the island.

In 1840 there were 42 post offices in operation on the Island of Jamaica serving the various parishes through five post roads emanating from Kingston. The Mandeville post office was on the Leeward or Southside post road from Kingston. The May Hill post office was a few miles southeast of the Mandeville post office, still in the Manchester parish. While Figure 3 is a contemporary map of the Island of Jamaica, it shows the vari-

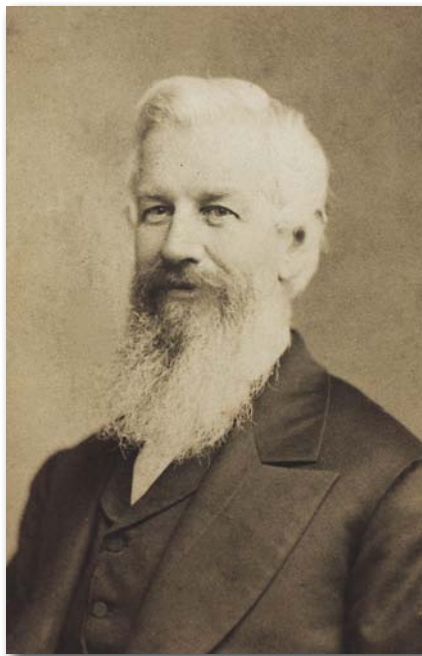


▲ **Figure 1.** The 1839 Burr map of North and South Carolina, a portion of which is illustrated here, shows the village of Lake Landing (red arrow) on the southeastern shore of Lake Mattamuskeet, Pamlico [sic] Sound and all of Hyde County, bounded on the west by Beaufort County and on the north by Washington and Tyrrel Counties.

ous parishes on the island and the principal roads. The red arrow points to the location of the Mandeville post office in Manchester parish.

Soon after returning to Salem, Holland was ordained a Deacon of the Moravian Church, married in October 1844, and returned to Jamaica with his wife for another six years as a missionary in Jamaica. Owing to the poor health of his wife, who contracted jungle-fever in the Jamaican lowlands, they returned to the United States in April 1850.

The archive of Holland correspondence had now grown as it included letters between the two families, one in Salem, North Carolina, and the other in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. The Clements Library of the University of Michigan has 55 items from this archive in its manuscript collections. I have recorded an-



▲ **Figure 2.** Francis R. Holland, Moravian missionary and later ordained a Deacon of the Moravian Church. He spent two assignments of his church in Moravian missions on the Island of Jamaica.

other 39 covers that were not a part of the donation to the Clements Library and are in the collections of postal history collectors. As there were no regular shipping services between the United States and the Island of Jamaica when Reverend Holland lived there, letters were transported on any vessel that could be found carrying cargoes between the two locations, either to the island directly or via other islands in the Caribbean. On mail going to Jamaica, sailing vessels often called at numerous small ports around the island other than the main port of Kingston. Some of these vessels that carried Holland letters, received rare Jamaican ship letter markings making them highly prized items for collectors. All covers in the Holland correspondence, however, are desirable, including ordinary ship letters to Kingston with no special markings,



▲ **Figure 3.** A contemporary map of the Island of Jamaica with the various parishes shown in green. A red arrow points to the Mandeville post office in Manchester parish. Mandeville was served by the Leeward or Southside post road from Kingston westward.

because there isn't much material between the United States and Jamaica available to collectors today.

Figures 4a and 4b illustrate the front and reverse of a 26 January 1846 folded letter posted at the May Hill, Jamaica, post office on 5 February 1846, addressed to Jacob Wolle, Bethlehem, Northampton County, Pennsylvania. At the time Reverend

involved with the decision to send the letter to St. Thomas for transport to the United States. The letter reached the Kingston, Jamaica, post office as a paid letter on 7 February 1846. Across the top of the face of the letter is a faint red manuscript "Paid 1/-," the amount paid for the 4 pence inland postage to Kingston and 8 pence outgoing ship fee. The Kingston post office



◀ **Figure 4a.** 26 January 1846, folded letter posted at the May Hill, Jamaica, post office on 5 May 1846, addressed to Jacob, Wolle, the father of Rev. Holland's wife, in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. The May Hill post office was a few miles southeast of the Mandeville Post Office. The 7 February date in the JAMACIA/PAID postmark was applied at Kingston. Holland's docketing in the lower left indicates the letter was received on 4 April 1846.

Figure 4b ▶

Reverse of the folded letter shown in Figure 4a showing the May Hill postmark in black ink and the manuscript postmark of the Lake Landing post office, indicating the letter arrived there on 14 March [1846]. Note also the manuscript "Ship 12 cts," applied at the same time, to show the postage due at destination (2¢ incoming ship fee plus 10¢ U.S. inland rate.)



Holland and his wife were at the Lititz Moravian station and used the nearby May Hill post office. This letter was one of the letters of the Holland archive not in the Clements Library. The image of the reverse of this cover appears to have the lower half missing; however, this was the portion of the letter that was tucked into the last page and sealed with wax. It is shown pulled out in this scan; so, nothing is missing. Jacob Wolle was the father of Reverend Holland's wife, Augusta, who wrote the letter.

Reverend Holland often used an agent, C. Malabre & Co. in Kingston, to find a suitable way for the letters to get on a vessel to the United States. Sometimes a notation "Care of C. Malabre, Esq." was written in the lower left corner to show the agent's name. In this case, the notation was missing and the area on the letter left blank. A docketing notation would later be placed in that space. The Kingston agent may still have been

clerk marked the circular datestamp that indicated the letter was paid. It was placed on a vessel going to St. Thomas, which was an important hub for shipping around the Caribbean as well as to the United States and overseas. We don't know how long it took for the letter to travel to St. Thomas. But we do know the letter went there because in the upper left corner on the front is an oval handstamp in blue ink of the forwarding agent in St. Thomas, Hicks & Swift. This St. Thomas agent crossed through the original payment in red ink written on the letter as the amount was no longer applicable for this letter, and located a sailing ship to carry the letter north. We don't know when the letter left St. Thomas or the vessel that carried it.

The unknown ship reached the North Carolina coast and entered Pamlico Sound through the Ocracoke Inlet. The reason for entering the Pamlico Sound is not known. The ship must have anchored off the southern coast of Hyde County in early

March 1846. On Figure 1, about 6 miles west of Lake Landing, is a dark line connecting Pamlico Sound with Mattamuskeet Lake. This is a small canal that shows on North Carolina maps as early as 1808. Presumably there were locks to prevent the fresh waters of the lake from mixing with the saltier waters of the sound. While I don't think the ocean sailing vessel that carried the letter this far was able to enter Mattamuskeet Lake by this route, apparently a smaller boat took the letter and any other mail carried from Jamaica via the canal to the small town of Lake Landing, where the letter entered the U.S. mail system. On the reverse of the letter is written "Lake Landing N.C./ March 14} Ship 12 cts." This was written by the postmaster at Lake Landing. Existing postal regulations required postmasters to mark all letters from ships with the word "Ship" when received and charge them 6 cents if addressed to the arrival port or 2 cents plus the inland rate if sent to another post office. "12 cts" was the proper postage due marking for an incoming ship letter posted at the Lake Landing post office and going to a destination beyond Lake Landing. The 12 cents amounted to 2 cents incoming ship letter fee plus 10 cents U.S. inland rate to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Docketing by the recipient in the lower left of the letter front indicates that it was received in Bethlehem on 5 April 1846, 59 days after it was posted in May Hill. It was the 31st letter

in Augusta's correspondence and contained information up to 27 January 1846. The figure "12" in the upper right corner of the letter face probably was written at Bethlehem to restate the postage due that was marked on the reverse, 12 cents. I believe this is a unique example, of a ship letter from a North Carolina inland town that wasn't on the ocean or the sounds of North Carolina, but was properly rated as a ship letter. ■

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- Foster, Thomas. *The Postal History of Jamaica, 1662-1860*. (London: Robson Lowe, Ltd., 1968).
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- Winter, Richard F. "Salem to Jamaica." *North Carolina Postal Historian*, Vol. 17, No. 2, Summer 1998. (North Carolina Postal History Society, 1998).
- . "The Francis R. Holland Archive." *Postscript*, Autumn 2019. (The Society of Postal Historians, England, 2019).

New Markings

Member Jimmy Jordan continues to send in examples of new markings or changes in dates for cataloged ones. A handsome 16 November 1905 registered cover from Wilmington to Germany is new to our catalog with its purple registered datestamp.



Jimmy's second example is the outer sheet of a folded letter from New Orleans to Ebenezer Pettigrew in Cool Spring. The Plymouth postmaster received this cover on 16 May, marked it in red ink, "Plymo, NC" and "Forw'd" it to Cool Spring on 18 May 184x.

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