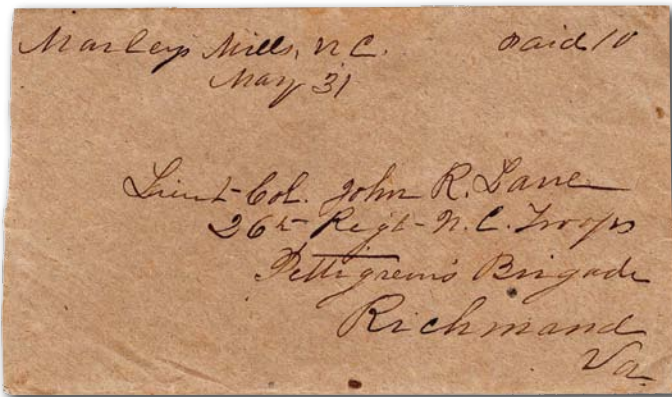
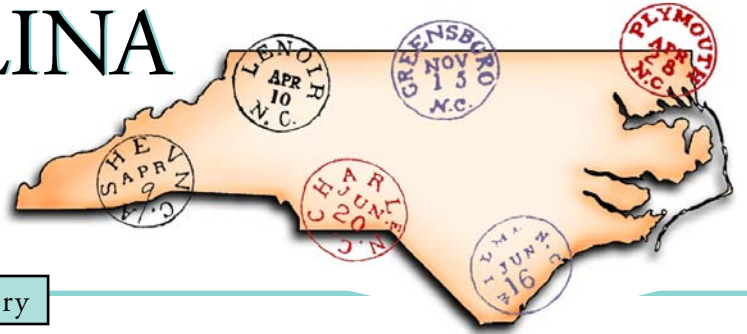


# NORTH CAROLINA POSTAL HISTORIAN

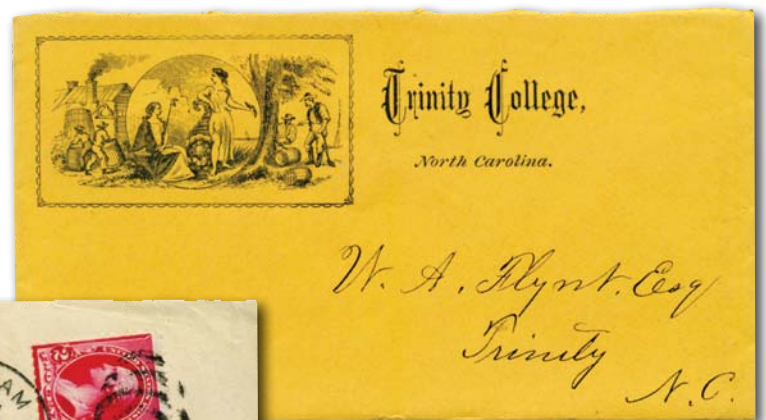
The Journal of North Carolina Postal History

VOLUME 41, NO. 4 FALL 2022 WHOLE 160



Marley's Mills,  
A Randolph County Post Office

The Postal History of a Premier  
Southern College – Trinity  
College to Duke University



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**C**HARPEX, held on July 30 and 31, 2022, and sponsored by the Charlotte Philatelic Society and the Fortnightly Club, was a successful show and of great benefit to the members of the North Carolina Postal History Society who attended this weekend event. A full complement of dealers was present. Sixty exhibit frames were filled with philatelic treasures and information. The attendance of 330 visitors to the show reflects a continuing interest in all aspects of philately.

We want to particularly thank Art Keeter for leading his team in organizing CHARPEX 2022 and shepherding it through the show weekend. They devoted many hours of planning to this annual event. They did a great job of taking care of the dealers, some of whom traveled a long distance to offer stamps, covers, and other philatelic items. Art is an active member of all three philatelic organizations which were present for the weekend.

A number of NCPHS members were present for the annual meeting of the Society during CHARPEX. Members were assured that the Society continues to be a financially stable organization. The membership elected three members: Harry Albert, Pete Oldham, and Scott Steward to the Board of Directors for the three-year term ending in 2025. They also enjoyed an interesting program provided by Tim McRee who enlightened the group on the history of the earliest North Carolina embossed revenue paper and shared rare examples from his collection. The Board of Directors met at the conclusion of the annual meeting.

Scott E. English, Executive Director of the American Philatelic Society, was on hand to present yet another well-deserved major award to those accumulated through years of philatelic scholarship by our co-editor, Dick Winter. Dick received the Charles J. Peterson Philatelic Literature Life Achievement Award "for achievements that furthered philatelic knowledge through philatelic literature." The award recognizes the extensive and original research which Dick has shared with

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the international philatelic community through numerous books and articles. Congratulations, Dick!

You will find in this issue the announcement of an important transition in the co-editorship of the *Postal Historian*, so be sure to look for the details as you peruse these pages.

As we look ahead, we hope that members who adopted a public library or other historical institution in North Carolina will renew their adoption for the coming year. We had a tremendous response from our members last year as they committed to support the Adopt-A-Library program. Every member is free to participate in this program.

Included in this issue is the member renewal form for 2023. The dues structure has not changed, so the membership fee of \$15.00 should not be a burden to anyone. The member renewal form includes provisions for your own personal membership, a sustaining gift to the Society, and a renewal/adoption membership for a North Carolina library or other institution. Remember that our Sustaining Members keep the Society in solid financial standing!

Please note that we've introduced a deadline for membership renewal. This will greatly assist the Secretary-Treasurer in maintaining the membership list and coordinate the printing of mailing labels, a more time-consuming task than one might imagine. **Your member renewal form must be received by January 31, 2023** in order to maintain membership and be assured of receiving the Spring issue of the *Postal Historian*.



## NORTH CAROLINA POSTAL HISTORIAN

(Library of Congress No. ISSN 1054-9188.)

Web site [www.ncpostalhistory.com](http://www.ncpostalhistory.com)

The North Carolina Postal Historian is the official journal of the North Carolina Postal History Society. It is published quarterly in January, April, July and October.

Membership in the Society is \$15 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the Secretary/Treasurer. Submissions for the *Postal Historian* or inquiries may be addressed to the editors.

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## ALSO FROM PRESIDENT SLATON

Earlier this year, Dick Winter, the gifted co-editor of the *North Carolina Postal Historian*, announced his upcoming retirement from this position, and that this issue would be the last he would produce. He had given us plenty of time to search for a replacement as he considered the transition to be important and carefully done. While I considered it exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, to overstate his contributions to the North Carolina Postal History Society, I appreciated the timely opportunity to prepare for this change.

It is our great pleasure to announce that Dick's replacement as co-editor of the *North Carolina Postal Historian* will be Steve L. Swain. He will join co-editor, Tony Crumbley, in the quarterly production of our journal.

Steve is a native of Atlanta, Georgia, and continues to make his home in the Peach State. He resides in Roswell, Georgia and St. Simons Island, Georgia. During his professional career, Steve, now retired, was a specialist in corporate taxation technology. He held leadership positions with major CPA firms and Fortune 500 corporations.

Steve has an extensive philatelic background. He serves as Vice-President of the Southeast Federation of Stamp Clubs and Advertising Chair for the South-

eastern Stamp Expo, the annual stamp show of the Federation. Steve is the President of the Georgia Postal History Society. He is both Editor and Publisher of *Georgia Post Roads*, the journal of the Georgia Postal History Society, and *Florida Postal History Journal*, the quarterly publication of the Florida Postal History Society.

He has written both columns and articles for *First Days* (American First Day Cover Society), *Stamp Insider* (Northeast Federation of Stamp Clubs), and *Postmark Atlanta* (Atlanta Stamp Collectors Club). Steve is the author of over 300 philatelic articles in 16 different philatelic publications. You may remember that he wrote an interesting article for our journal in the Winter 2020-2021 issue titled "1937 North Carolina Feeder Airline Service Tests Were Precursors to 1938 National Air Mail Week." Recently he authored *The Postal History of Saint Simons Island, Georgia*, a full color monograph about the best known of the Georgia barrier islands, published in the *La Posta* Monograph Series 2.

We are indeed fortunate to have Steve on board as we continue a tradition of excellence in postal history literature. I hope you will join me in offering a warm welcome to Steve and provide all your support to this very capable author and editor.



### 2022 Literature Award



At the Annual meeting of the North Carolina Postal History Society, I had the pleasure of announcing the winner of the NCPHS Literature award to the author of the best article published in the last com-

pleted Volume Number (four issues) of the *North Carolina Postal Historian*. The Directors of the society chose Mike Ludeman to receive this year's award for his article "The Illustrated Official Business Envelopes Used in North Carolina." The award for this year is illustrated here.

### New Literature Award

In recognition of Dick Winter's long and impressive record of service as co-editor, the Board of Directors, at its annual meeting on July 30, 2022, unanimously voted to establish a new annual Society award. The Richard F. Winter New Author Award will recognize an article of merit published in the *North*

*Carolina Postal Historian* during the last completed Volume Number (four issues) by a first-time author. Any new author, except editor/s of this journal, whether a Society member or not, is eligible to receive this award. The winner each year will be recognized at the annual general meeting.



# Marley's Mills A Randolph County Post Office

by George Slaton



The American Revolution brought in its aftermath a host of social changes that surprised and occasionally disappointed the Founding Fathers. Many of these changes emerged from the heightened expectations of the large number of average Americans whose lives and prospects had before the war been limited by British oppression. Unwittingly, the Continental Congress itself had influenced these fresh expectations. In an effort during the conflict to meet the mounting expenses involved in prosecuting the rebellion against Britain, it had authorized the printing of enormous quantities of paper currency, the easy availability of which only whetted the appetite of common folks for more money to spend on consumer goods.

Associated with expanded opportunities in the early days of the Republic and perhaps paramount in the minds of everyday Americans was the hunger for land. Many sought to move west to settle on unclaimed land. But others sought an easier path in looking at their own larger neighborhoods for more fertile land, especially for tracts which bordered a stream or river.

Benjamin Marley (1755-1815) and his wife, Rachel (?-1837), were among these early settlers who looked at nearby land for purchase. They bought land and intended to buy even more as their circumstances improved and as they acquired wealth. Benjamin appears in the 1790 Census of Chatham County where he made his first recorded purchase of land. By 1792, he was adding land parcels on Brush Creek in east central Randolph County, near its boundary with Chatham County. He eventually accumulated 475 acres of land along Brush Creek and built a substantial home place.

True to the instincts of these early settlers who were ambitious and increasingly



wealthy, Benjamin Marley built what became known as Marley's Mills located on Brush Creek (see Figure 1). He constructed a 100-foot-long stone dam across the creek to enable the mill's operation. The mill eventu-

ally included a store and the necessary facilities to grind corn and wheat, as well as to saw lumber. This complex also eventually included the Marley's Mills post office.

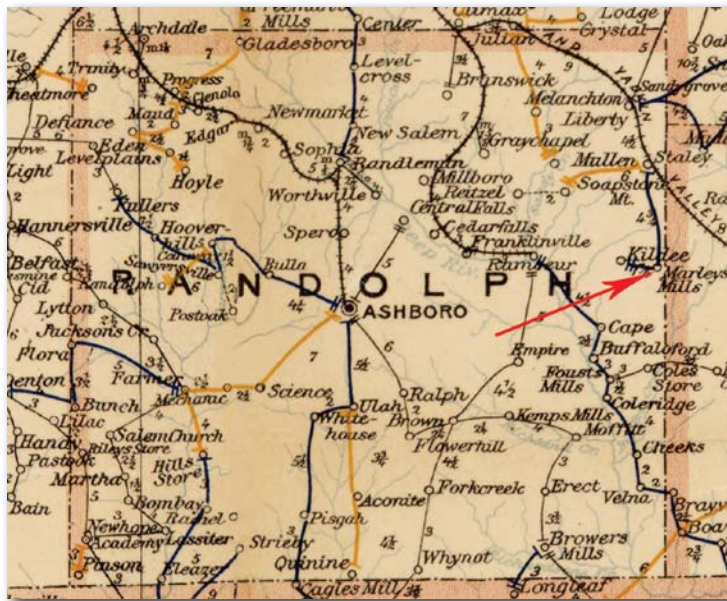
The Marley House (see Figure 2) is the oldest surviving home in Randolph County, North Carolina. On the National Register of Historic Places, it was constructed about 1816 and later enlarged. The property includes a well house, garage, smokehouse and woodshed, livestock barn, Marley's Dam and the Marley's Mills post office (1827-1905), all located on nearby Brush Creek. It is reported to have served for some years as a stagecoach way station.

Benjamin Marley died in 1815, survived by his wife, Rachel, who lived until 1837. Benjamin's son, Thomas (1794-1862), and his mother, Rachel, were executors of the patriarch's will. Thomas was only 21 years of age when his father died, but he seems to have been similarly ambitious. By 1850, Thomas

Marley owned 650 acres of land and 22 slaves.

Thomas was the first postmaster of the Marley's Mills post office, beginning his work in 1827. The stampless folded letter in Figure 3 was mailed from the post office in 1838. This unpaid cover was postmarked "Marley Mills N.C./Augt 22nd" and addressed to "Mr Silas Royce/Meriden Ct/New-haven [sic] County." It bears a manuscript "25" which denotes the 25 cents postage due at destination, the cost of mailing the letter for a distance over 400 miles.

The letter was datelined "Chatham August 19th 1838." Silas H. Royce writes to his "Dear father." The letter's content is interesting in that it reflects how infre-



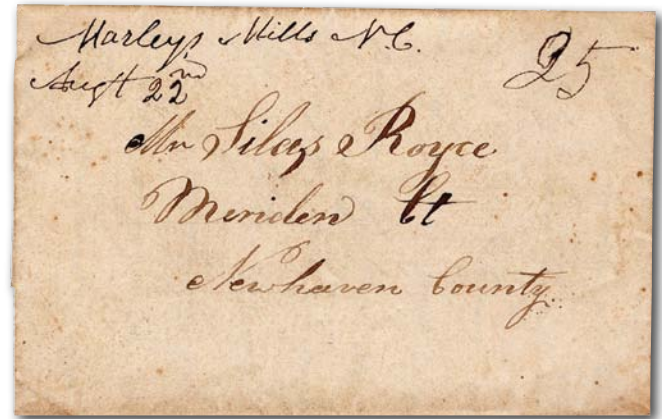
▲ **Figures 1.** The Marley's Mills post office (1827-1905) was located in the east central portion of Randolph County, adjacent to its boundary with Chatham County, shown on this 1896 Post Road map. The black line indicates mail delivery six times each week between Kildee and Staley with a stop at Marley's Mills.



◀ **Figures 2.** The Marley House is located 4¼ miles south of Staley, North Carolina. On the National Register of Historic Places, it was constructed about 1816 and later enlarged. The property includes a well house, garage, smokehouse and woodshed, livestock barn, Marley's Dam and the Marley's Mills post office (1827-1905), all located on nearby on Brush Creek.

**Figure 3 ▶**

This stampless folded letter was postmarked at the Marley's Mills post office on August 22, (1838). Since it was unpaid, the postmaster marked 25 cents was due at destination in Meriden, Connecticut for traveling over 400 miles. The letter was from the son of Silas Royce in nearby Chatham County, writing to his father in Meriden, Connecticut.



quently a person of average means might write to even the closest of family members, particularly one living far away. The 25 cents postage was considerable in that day, given that the cost was about \$8.40 in today's dollars.

It is apparent that it had been a long period of time since the young man's last correspondence with his father, for he writes, "I have four in my family [,] myself and wife and a little son about a year old and a little negro boy [,] I have been at work most of the time since I left of [off] pedling [peddling] at the carpenters trade but do not expect to follow it much longer [,] I have bought one hundred and fifty acres of land about sixty miles from Fayetteville and twenty miles west of pittsborough [sic] [,] I have built a small but comfortable house on the place and moved into it in january [sic] last." The writer lived in the western portion of Chatham County, since he asked his father to "Direct you [sic] letter to Marley's Mill Randolph county [sic] N C."

Elizabeth Marley (?-1835), the sister of Thomas, married William Underwood in 1817. Upon her death in 1835, William and their six children moved to Springfield, Missouri, where he

died suddenly in 1840, while still engaged in the process of establishing a business. The larger circumstances of this family are not known, but at some point, a son of this union, George Clymer Underwood (1835-1903) was sent back to the Marley home place on Brush Creek. During the Civil War, George served as Assistant Surgeon of the 26th Regiment North Carolina Troops and later penned a history of the regiment. George Underwood was a practicing physician in Randolph and Chatham Counties until his death.

We are indebted to George Underwood for his narrative account of the 26th Regiment North Carolina Troops which is included in Walter Clark's six-volume *Histories of the Several Regiments and Battalions from North Carolina in the Great War 1861-65*, originally published in 1901 and containing the valuable eyewitness accounts of veterans. This account also contains a considerable amount of information about John R. Lane, a notable officer of the regiment.

The Confederate cover pictured in Figure 4 has a manuscript postmark of "Marleys Mills, N.C./May 31." It is addressed to "Lieut-Col. John R. Lane/26th Regt. N.C. Troops/Pettigrew's



Brigade/Richmond/Va.” The “paid 10” manuscript rate, combined with the date of Lane’s promotion to lieutenant colonel, indicates that this cover was mailed in 1863.

John Randolph Lane (1835-1908) was a native of Chatham County, North Carolina, and worked as farmer and merchant before the Civil War. He mustered into Company G, 26th Regiment North Carolina Troops as a corporal and was within three months promoted to company captain. He became the lieutenant colonel on August 19, 1862, and was eventually promoted to full colonel of the regiment on July 1, 1863, the day on which his fame eventually came to rest. Lane was wounded three times during the conflict, at Gettysburg (1863), the Wilderness (1864), and Reams Station (1864).

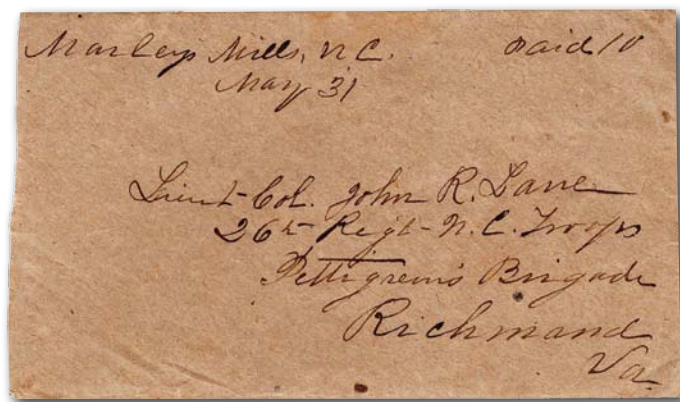
Lieutenant Colonel Lane, an energetic officer who had participated in all his regiment’s combat actions since the beginning of the war, accompanied the 26th North Carolina on its march to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, in the summer of 1863. The regiment, one of four in Brigadier General Johnston Pettigrew’s brigade, was commanded by Colonel Henry K. Burgwyn. He was one of the youngest officers of his rank in the Army of Northern Virginia.

When Pettigrew’s Brigade reached the western outskirts of Gettysburg on July 1, 1863, likely in the early afternoon, the 26th North Carolina halted along Herr’s Ridge. The regiment presented an impressive sight since, at 800 strong, it was one of the largest in Lee’s army. Lane was sick, having drunk bad water earlier on the march. He was able to overcome his nausea after taking a swig of brandy offered by Colonel Burgwyn. As Lane

surveyed the field, he looked down the slope before him where Willoughby Run flowed through a deep ravine. Then he noticed how the ground sloped upwards from the creek to another ridge line covered by McPherson’s Woods and occupied by the famed Iron Brigade, composed of four battle-hardened regiments from the Midwest. “Never was a grander sight beheld,” he mused in a postwar speech, as he described the raging battle. He recalled to his audience how, “the roar of artillery, the crack of musketry, and the shouts of the combatants added grandeur and sublimity to the scene.”

As the 26th, guided by Burgwyn and Lane, advanced down the slope, across Willoughby Run, and swept up the ridge held by the Iron Brigade, they were met with a murderous fire. Their casualties mounted quickly. By the time the regiment began to close with their foes in McPherson’s Woods, twelve color bearers had been struck down. Colonel Burgwyn seized the regimental flag, and as he handed it off to a private, a bullet spun him around, sending him to the ground. The private, grasping the flag, fell only a moment later with a fatal wound to the head.

Lane was immediately at the side of his already dying colonel. Assuming command of the regiment, the impassioned Lane, the fourteenth regimental color bearer of the assault, picked up the flag and shouted, “Twenty-Sixth, follow me!” The regiment surged forward, driving the 24th Michigan in their immediate front. One of the Michigan veterans aimed at Lieutenant Colonel Lane and fired. The lead projectile entered Lane’s neck and tore through his mouth and jaw. Though their



◀ **Figure 4.** May 31, 1863, cover from Marley’s Mills to Lieutenant Colonel John R. Lane. 26th Regiment of NC Troops in Richmond, Virginia. The letter was paid 10 cents with both the postmark and payment in manuscript. He assumed command of the regiment on July 1, 1863.

**Figure 5 ▶**

This monument near Willoughby Run on the Gettysburg battlefield commemorates the costly attack of the 26th North Carolina against the Union’s Iron Brigade in McPherson’s Woods on July 1, 1863. Colonel Lane, to whom the Figure 4 cover was sent, distinguished himself in the battle at McPherson’s Woods.



new commander was now seriously injured and out of action, the 26th continued its movement forward and swept the Iron Brigade from its position. The regiment's success that day, however, came at the cost of 549 killed and wounded among its 800 troops engaged. The achievements of the 26th North Carolina Regiment are commemorated by a beautiful rose granite monument which stands today on the Gettysburg battlefield, just above Willoughby Run and in the course of the regiment's assault (see Figure 5).

Remarkably, only days after suffering a painful combat wound, Colonel Lane made his escape from the wagon that carried him on the army's retreat through southern Maryland. When the wagon train of wounded was attacked by Union cavalry, "He at once got out of the wagon, mounted his horse and made his escape, though he was at the time unable to speak...He was unable to take any nourishment for nine days, owing to the swollen and inflamed condition of his throat and mouth, and it was thought impossible for him ever to get well."

Colonel Lane recovered, rejoined his regiment and once again resumed command. Paroled at war's end in Greensboro, North Carolina, Lane returned to Chatham County and prospered as a merchant and operator of a cotton gin and a gristmill. He wore a full beard for the remainder of his life to conceal the war wound which left him disfigured. Lane is buried in Brush Creek Baptist Church Cemetery, only six miles southeast of the location of the Marley's Mills Post Office.

Finally, we have an additional Confederate cover featured in Figure 6 which reflects the activity of the Marley's Mills post office during the war. It bears the manuscript postmark of "Holtsburg NC/April 4 '65" and was sent to "Mrs. Pamela Craven/Marley's Mills/Randolph County/N.C." The Holtsburgh post office (1856-1866) was located in Davidson County, North Carolina. Although the name written in the manuscript postmark was the shortened name of "Holtsburg," the Post Office Department's *Record of Appointment of Postmasters*

used the name "Holtsburgh." This cover, bearing a CSA #11 10 cents stamp, was mailed just five days before the surrender of Lee's Army at Appomattox Court House in Virginia.

Although the Marley's Mills post office closed in 1905, the Marley House, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, stands today as part of a complex of historic reconstructed buildings. It is located near Staley, North Carolina, on the north side of US Highway 64 just a tenth of a mile west of the highway's junction with State Road 2475. ■

The author thanks Roberta Gavin, local history librarian at Randolph County Public Library, for her generous help as he researched this article.

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**Figure 6 ►**

April 4, 1865, cover from Holtsburg (Davidson County) to Marley's Mills in Randolph County. The manuscript postmark shows the local spelling of the post office even though the *Record of Appointment of Postmasters* of the Post Office Department spelled the name as "Holtsburgh." The letter was paid 10 cents with a CSA NO. 11 postage stamp. It was mailed just five days before the surrender of Lee's Army at Appomattox Court House in Virginia.



## Farewell and Thank You!

by Richard F. Winter



President George Slaton has introduced you to our new editor, Steve Swain, who has been a member of our society for a couple of years. I am pleased that he will take over the editorial responsibilities. During the past 13 years I have enjoyed editing and assembling 55 journals and two special supplements that provided author and subject indexes. During that time our journal has ranged in size from 16 to 28 pages with 20 pages being the most common size.

Vernon Stroupe, one of the original group that founded the North Carolina Postal History Society (NCPHS) in 1982, was the co-editor of the journal on 21 March 2006, when he passed away at the age of 79. He had been assembling the journal since the summer of 1989, when it was known as the *NCPHS Newsletter*. In the summer of 1994, for the 50th issue of the journal the name was changed to the *North Carolina Postal Historian*, which much better reflected the content of the journal. Upon his passing in 2006, Vernon was replaced as layout editor by NCPHS member Terry Chappell, a resident of Durham and owner of his own design firm with a degree in Communications Art. Terry introduced many of the design features of our journal that are still in use today. By late 2008 Terry asked to be replaced as he didn't have time to continue with the journal. Tony Crumbley arranged temporary assistance with the journal layout for a few issues before I became involved.

In 1995, having retired from my work in the suburbs of Washington, DC and living in Northern Virginia, my wife and I moved to Greensboro, North Carolina, to live in retirement. As with other places that I had resided, I was interested in getting involved with local postal history and state organizations if they existed. Fortunately, North Carolina had a small, but very active group of postal history enthusiasts. I joined the NCPHS and soon found myself fully engaged in the activities of the society. A few years later, I was elected to become President of the society. In the spring of 2009, three years after Vernon had passed away, I began my career with the journal. As President, I knew that we couldn't afford to pay for professional help with the journal layout. Since we could not find another member to take the co-editor job, I agreed to undertake the layout work rather than let the journal "die." While I wasn't trained and had no experience with the sophisticated desktop publishing software that had been used by Terry, I thought that I could learn.

I had the interest and time to learn the additional job as co-editor. The arrangement I had with Tony was probably similar to the arrangement he had with Vernon. I would do the journal editing and page layout. Tony would take care of promotion, printing and mailing of the journal. Promotion included en-

couraging members, as well as non-members, to write articles. He provided information on how to prepare articles for our journal, including providing graphic images from his massive collection of North Carolina material when needed. This arrangement called for two individuals to accomplish all the responsibilities normal for a single editor. The success of that arrangement in prior years with Vernon had worked well and appealed to me since I had other society responsibilities.

The desktop publishing software turned out to be a significant challenge. In 2009 Adobe was selling the product and I purchased my own copy. Today one must lease access to the product through monthly fees. My first issue was Whole No. 106 in the Spring of 2009. Now, 54 issues later, I am still learning about the desktop publishing software, but much more comfortable with it than when I started. I soon learned that I didn't need to know all the features of this product, just the ones I would have to use routinely. Over the years I have used the software for numerous other research projects which makes me happy that I took the time to learn to use it for the journal.

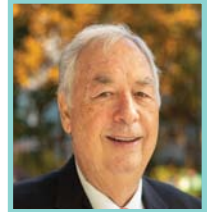
Throughout my years as co-editor, we have been supported by 33 different authors who published articles in our journal. Of that number, several have made frequent appearances with their research. I am thankful for the assistance that I have received from the authors of all these articles. I am particularly grateful for the assistance of the society's other co-editor, Tony Crumbley, who encouraged a number of different authors to prepare and submit a wide variety of interesting articles. In addition, Tony has submitted scores of his own articles either to be published immediately or kept to be published when needed. His articles have appeared in every issue that I edited with very few exceptions. Other individuals have provided important assistance by proof-reading draft journals. It has always been a team effort, not just the effort of one individual. While we are a small, state postal history society, our efforts with this journal can stand on their own among the journals of much larger societies that have significantly greater resources. I believe our journal is an asset for which we can all be proud.

The first journal of our new co-editor will be the Winter 2022 issue. I would encourage other society members to get involved in the new co-editor's efforts, whether that means preparing future articles, volunteering to assist with proof-reading, or any other way a member may wish to help. For me, the time has come to pass responsibility for this journal to a younger member of our society and wish him continued success with this fine journal. ■



# The Postal History of a Premier Southern College – Trinity College to Duke University

by Tony L. Crumbley



In William Powell's brief study, *Higher Learning in North Carolina*, he states that there are more colleges and universities in North Carolina than any other Southern state except Texas. His count, at the time, was 71. That number undoubtedly has increased since the work was published in 1970.

One of the State's premier, private universities had a meager beginning as a one-room log cabin. Figure 1, John Brown's schoolhouse, was a private subscription school founded some time before 1835 by Allen M. Frazier on his property in Randolph County. Frazier was a pioneer Quaker in the Trinity community. Frazier moved his school to a new location in 1838. During the summer of 1838, Brantley York was hired by the Methodist and Quaker community to develop a school for the community. The school was immediately successful. In 1839 York proposed to establish a permanent academy. A group of Quakers and Methodists raised the funds for a new facility.

The school was incorporated by the North Carolina legislature on January 1841 as Union Institute Academy. The academy was a boarding school. There were no dormitories; the students roomed with local residents. Brantley York stayed at the school until 1842 when he turned it over to Braxton Craven.

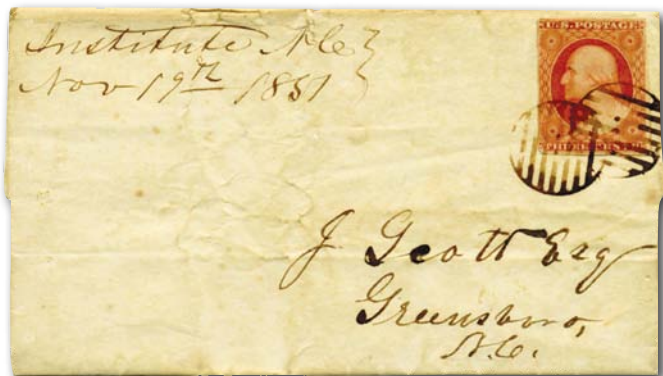
On January 24, 1850, John L. Brown was appointed postmaster of Institute in Randolph County. The name of the post office obviously was taken from the name of the school there. The post office of Institute lasted just over two years, until June 1, 1852, when the name was changed to Normal College. This was a result of the rechartering of the school from Union Institute Academy. Martin S. Leach was appointed postmaster on that day. The state legislature of North



▲ **Figure 1.** Brown's Schoolhouse, a private subscription school, the original building located on John Brown's property in Randolph County. Allen Frazier operated a school there until it was moved to a new location in 1838. In the summer of 1839, Brantley York, hired as a contractor to run the school, opened a new facility named the Union Institute Academy, in a joint venture with the help of the local Quaker and Methodist community.

Carolina had rechartered the school as Normal College in 1851.

Figure 2 is a folded letter posted from Institute on November 19, 1851, paid with a 3¢ 1851 orange brown postage stamp cancelled with a seven-bar circular grid cancel. The cover was addressed to J. Scott, a lawyer in Greensboro. The date line of the letter was "Normal College, November 16, 1851." In it L. H. Carter, Secretary of the Hesperian Society, asked Mr. Scott



◀ **Figure 2.** November 19, 1851, folded letter datelined "Normal College, November 16, 1851," and addressed to Greensboro (Guilford County). It was paid with 3¢ 1851 orange brown postage stamp cancelled with a seven-bar circular grid cancel. As short-lived a post office as Institute was, it is remarkable that a cover has survived posted there.

if he would be willing to become a member of the society at Normal College.

With a new post office name and a new postmaster, new markings began to appear. Figure 3 is an envelope posted from Normal College on May 21, (1853) with a manuscript postmark. It was paid with a 3¢ 1851 dull red Washington postage stamp, addressed to Mr. Bryant Bennett in Hamilton (Martin County). The reverse of the envelope has a red embossed corner card marking of the school that states, “North/ Carolina State/ Normal/College/Randolph. N.C.” By this point, the college must have been doing well to be able to afford its own advertising envelopes. This is one of the first educational advertising covers from the state.

A second cover with the “Normal College” manuscript postmark is illustrated in Figure 4. This cover was posted on February 23, 185x, with a manuscript “Paid 3 cts.,” addressed to Dr. James J. Ramsey, Mt. Vernon (Rowan County). The penmanship flourish makes the prepayment seem like 13 cents, but 3 cents was the correct rate for a single letter paid in cash or with a postage stamp. The manuscript postmarks were used at this post office until the late 1850s when the Type 1 postmark was introduced.

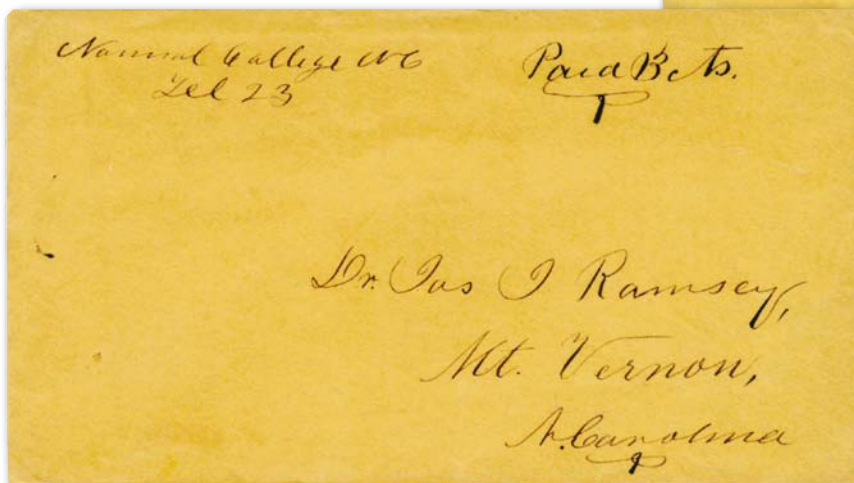
By 1857 when the perforated stamps were issued, Postmaster Leach had obtained a 37 mm balloon handstamp postmark. Figure 5 shows a cover posted from Normal College on December 18, (1858). It bears a 3¢ 1857 dull red postage stamp

**Figure 3** ▶

May 21, (1853), envelope from Normal College to Hamilton (Martin County), paid with a 3¢ 1851 dull red Washington postage stamp. The reverse has one of the state's earliest embossed college corner card markings.



◀ **Figure 4.** February 23, 185x, Normal College cover to Mt. Vernon (Rowan County) with another manuscript postmark. The flourished penmanship makes this appear to be “Paid 13 cts.” instead of “Paid 3 cts.”



**Figure 5.** ▶

December 18, (1858), cover showing the 37 mm balloon handstamp from Normal College to Waughtown (Forsyth County). This Type 1 postmark was the only handstamp used at Normal College. It was introduced in the late 1850s shortly before the post office name was changed again.





and was posted to J. A. Waugh, Esq., Waugh Town (Forsyth County). This postmark is recorded used only in the late 1850s just before the post office name was changed.

In 1859, the school changed its name to Trinity College. Federal records show the name changed to Trinity College on February 18, 1859. Figure 6 is a cover posted March 10, (1859) from the Trinity College post office to Mr. John Gregory, Halifax (Halifax County). The postmark used was a 26 mm Type 1 black, circular datestamp recorded used from 1859 until late 1869. Martin Leach was the postmaster when this letter was posted, but was replaced two days later by Malcom Shaw on March 12, 1859. The postmaster used a circular grid killer to cancel the 1857 issued 3¢ postage stamp.



The cover illustrated in Figure 7 was posted in Trinity College on November 7, (1861) with a boxed PAID handstamp and manuscript "5." This Confederate cover was addressed to Mr. M. S. Phillips, Fair Haven (Moore County).

Illustrated in Figure 8 is another Confederate cover with a 10¢ postage stamp (CSA No. 12) mailed January 30, (1864), to Miss M. P. Mangum, Red Mountain (Orange County).

In April 1865, the Trinity College school was forced to suspend operations because Federal forces were camped on its grounds. In October 1865, Braxton Craven, its popular president, who had resigned in January 1864, was returned by unanimous vote. He re-opened the school in January 1866 and remained at Trinity College until his death in November 1882.

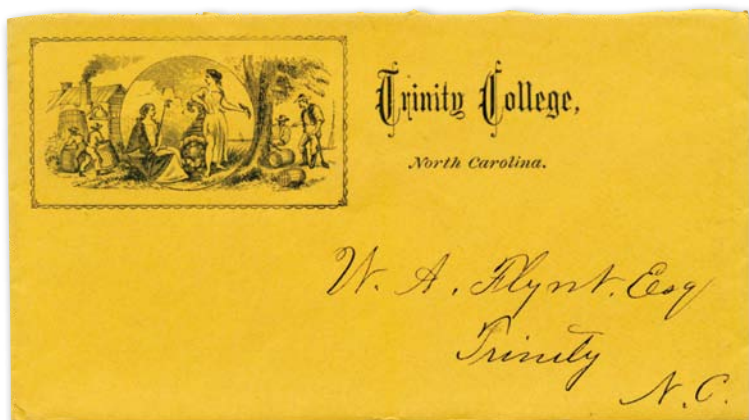
◀ **Figure 6.** March 19, (1859), envelope from newly-named Trinity College to Halifax (Halifax County). The 26 mm Type 1 postmark was used after the post office name was changed to Trinity College until late in 1869. A circular grid killer was used to tie the postage stamp to the cover.

**Figure 7 ▶**  
November 7, (1861) Confederate cover from Trinity College to Fair Haven (Moore County), paid 5¢ in cash. Malcom Shaw had become postmaster on 12 March 1859 and continued as postmaster through the war.

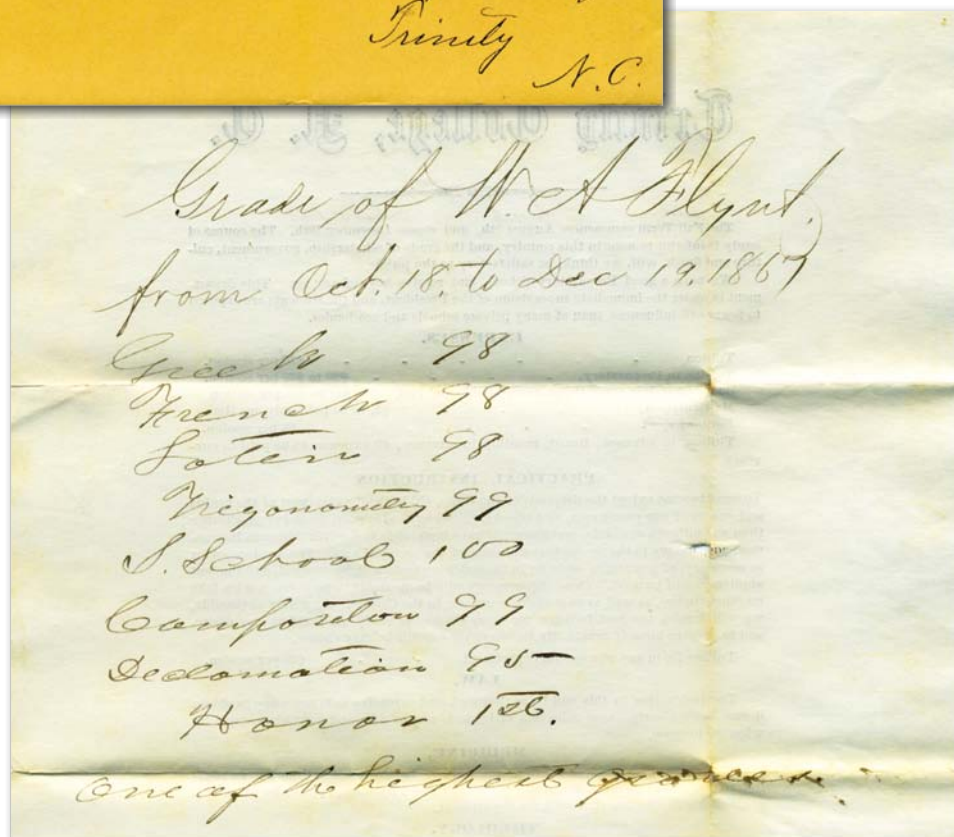


◀ **Figure 8.** January 30, (1864), envelope from Trinity College to Red Mountain (Orange County), paid with CSA No. 12. Again, the postmark was the 26 mm Type 1 circular datestamp of Trinity College, the latest recorded used so far was February 3, 1865.





◀ **Figure 9.** Decorative, printed corner card advertising envelope for Trinity College carrying the report card of student W. A. Flynt to his father in Trinity. Its use in this case was in December 1867.



◀ **Figure 10.** Trinity College president, Braxton Craven, penned the grades of W.A. Flynt for the semester October to December 1867. He commented at the end of the grades listing that these were "One of the highest grades."

**Figure 11a.** ▶  
Top portion of the front side of W. A. Flynt's grade report, a printed circular defining the school's expenses and courses of instruction. Note: the school offered law, medicine, theology, engineering, and architecture. The form was printed August 1, 1866, and slightly modified in pen for the Fall 1867.

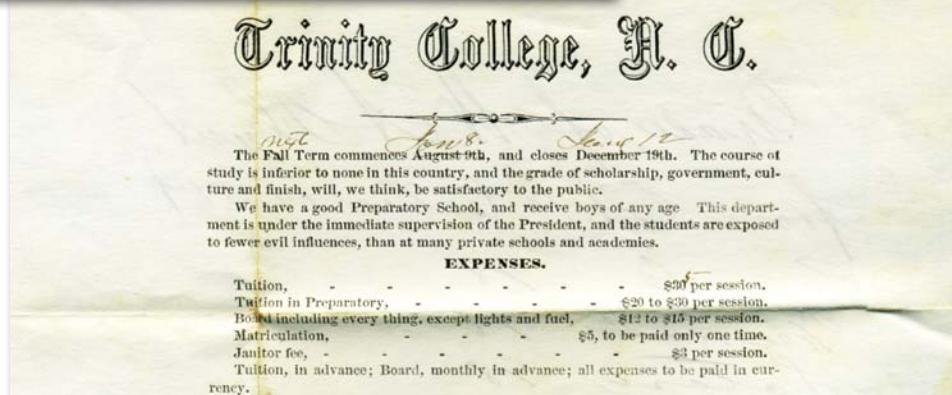
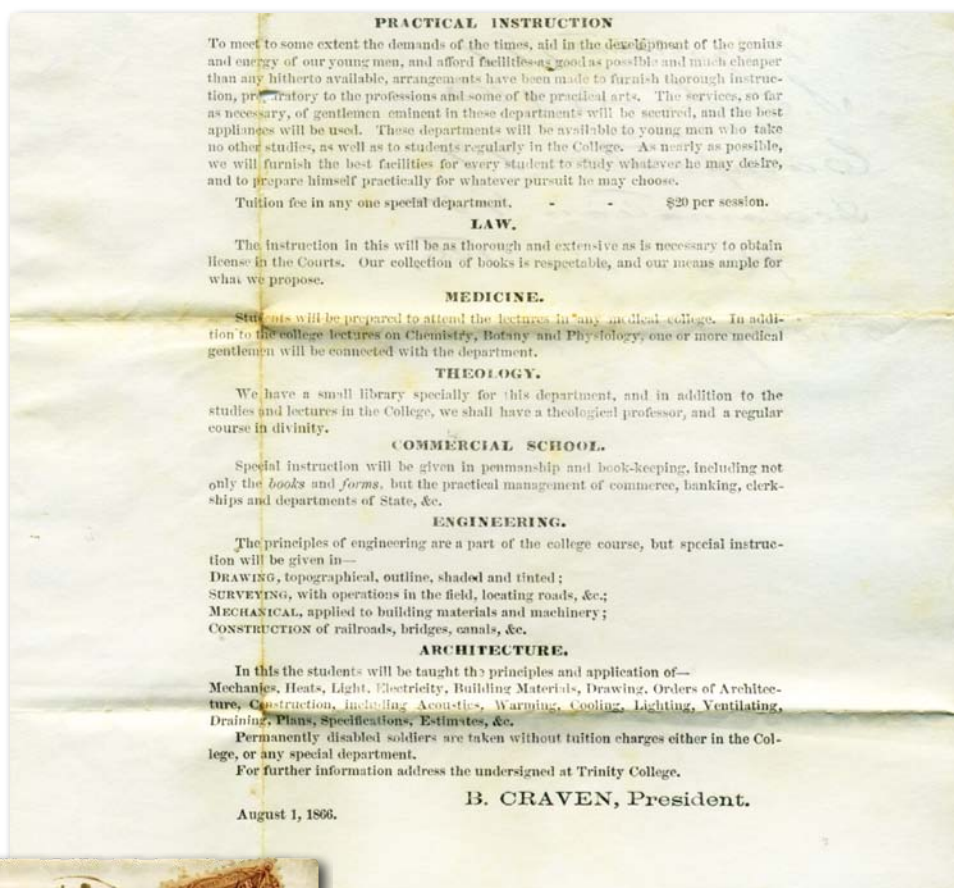


Figure 9 is a hand-carried envelope with a very decorative, printed corner card advertisement for Trinity College. The envelope contained a grade report of student W.A. Flynt (see Figure 10) for the period October 18 to December 19, 1867. This was penned on the reverse of a printed circular (Figures 11a and 11b, top and lower portions of the circular), prepared

a year earlier to describe the school, the required expenses and the courses available in a number of different disciplines. With the exception a few changes that were penned on the printed circular to make the information applicable for the next term of education, the printed information of President Braxton Craven still was applicable. His areas of education at the school

**Figure 11b.** ▶  
Bottom portion of the August 1, 1866 printed circular prepared by Braxton Craven. It listed the basic of practical instruction at the school and the various departments of instruction, each with an additional expense.



◀ **Figure 12.** May 6, 1869, envelope paid 2¢ unsealed circular rate with a 2¢ brown 1869 post horse and rider stamp, addressed to Lake Landing (Hyde County). The postage stamp was tied with a four-circle target killer.



**Figure 13.** ▶  
13 September 1869, envelope paid with 3¢ 1869 ultramarine postage stamp for the normal letter rate to Wytheville, Virginia. The Type 1 Trinity College circular datestamp is known used until November 1869.



focused on law, medicine, theology, engineering, architecture, as well as general education. This was quite an undertaking for a school of no more than 200 students. It is interesting to note that tuition was \$30.00 per session, which was a six-month period. With all of student Flynt's grades stated at 95 and greater, Craven noted that these grades were one of the highest that had

been assigned. One would think student Flynt would have gone on to be a significant member of the community; however, a web search for his biography did not produce one.

The Type 1 circular datestamp of Trinity College continue to be used until November 1869. Figures 12 and 13 are two examples of this postmark used to mail envelopes with the 1869



postage stamps. Each stamp is canceled with a four-circle target killer. Figure 12 illustrates the unsealed circular rate paid 2¢ with a brown 1869 post horse and rider stamp, on a May 6, 1869, envelope addressed to Lake Landing (Hyde County). It probably had a copy of Craven's school advertising circular shown in Figure 11. It is the only recorded example of this 1869 postage stamp from Trinity College.

Figure 13 shows the 3¢ ultramarine 1869 locomotive stamp on Trinity College September 15, 1869, cover to Wytheville, Virginia, paying the normal letter rate. Four examples are known of this postage stamp used from Trinity College.

The 1870s and early 1880s were quite a time for the Trinity College post office. Postmaster Cornelia Z. Lench was appointed December 20, 1866, and served until May 23, 1898. Sometime in the early 1870s she introduced a new postmark, Type 2, shown in Figure 14 on a November 7, 1875, envelope to Raleigh (Wake County). This handstamp was used throughout the 1870s. The cover was paid the 3¢ letter rate with a green 1873 Washington postage stamp on an envelope with a new

type of Trinity College advertising corner card. The cut cork canceller was used for several years, but by 1879, all but 6 of the petals had fallen off.

Figure 15 is a cover posted to Mr. W. A. Flynt at Dalton Institute located at Little Yadkin (Stokes County). The content is from a student at that school thanking Mr. Flynt for assisting in getting him into the school. It seems student Flynt, from Figure 10 grade reporting, had moved on to become a professor at Dalton Institute. The 1873 issued 3¢ green Washington postage stamp was canceled by a four circle target killer that had been used after the war ended. The postmark on this cover also was the Type 2 circular datestamp.

By May 9, 1881, Postmaster Leach had received her third type of postmark handstamp. The Type 3 postmark was used from 1881 until at least March 1883. This 28 mm handstamp, Figure 16, had two outer circles.

In 1882, Brayton Craven, President of the school died ending almost 40 years at the helm of the school. The loss of his leadership brought about uncertainty at Trinity College. With

**Figure 14. ▶**

November 7, (1875), cover from Trinity College to Raleigh (Wake County). This Type 2 circular datestamp and cork killer was used from 1871 until 1879. This corner card is the second recorded corner card for the school under this name.



**◀ Figure 15.** October 4, 1875, cover posted from Trinity College to Mr. W. A. Flynt, a professor at Dalton Institute, Little Yadkin (Stokes County). This was the same person who was a student at the Trinity College in 1867 and whose grades were shown in Figure 10.



**Figure 16. ▶**

March 19, 1883, cover from Trinity College to Germanton (Stokes County). From 1881 until 1883, the Trinity College postmaster used this Type 3 circular datestamp with a double circle rim and a target killer.





the help of three well-to-do Methodist business men, a new president, John F. Crowell, was brought to the campus in 1887. Crowell was a Yale graduate and jumped right in changing the curriculum. Crowell felt the best thing to do for the school was to move it from its rural setting to a more urban environment. With the help of fellow Methodist Julian Carr, they convinced Washington Duke, of tobacco fame, to provide the financial support to move the campus to Durham (Durham County).

On September 1, 1892, the fall semester of Trinity College began in Durham. President Crowell later wrote that even though the change was less than 100 miles from Randolph County to Durham, it was ten thousand miles away psychologically.

Everything was new. The items moved were meager. A railroad boxcar transported the college bell, safe, and several thousand books. The faculty of eight in 1890 at Trinity became a faculty of 17 in Durham. Only two professors chose to move to Durham. The college enrollment jumped from 113 students to 180 students in Durham.

The contrast between the old campus and the new one was dramatic. In old Trinity College, students lived in the community boarding houses and the college consisted of a single all-purpose building. In Durham, a more typical campus atmosphere prevailed. The campus was built on a previously used county fairground where trotting horses raced and steeple chases were held. Three main buildings, seven residences for faculty, and athletic fields were built. Figure 17 is a 1907 post card with an early view of the campus in Durham.

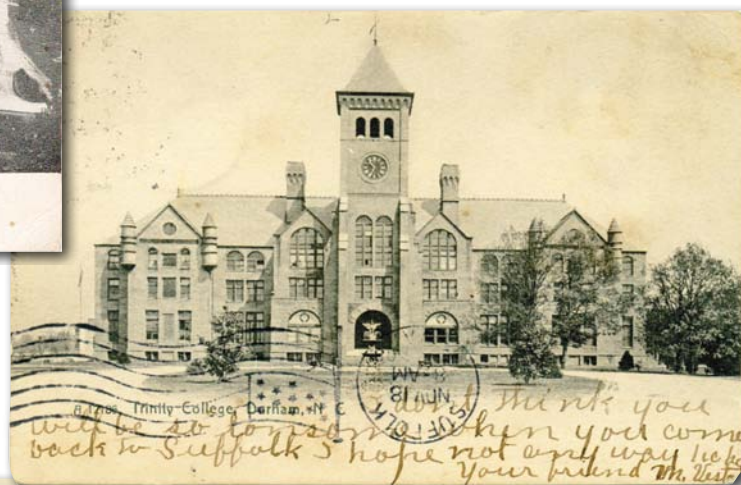
The main building named for Washington Duke was a three-story brick building with a central bell and clock tower, which is pictured in Figure 18 from a 1908 post card posted from Durham. The building contained offices, meeting rooms, classrooms, the library, and sixty dormitory rooms. In 1911 this building was lost in a fire, the only campus building ever lost to fire.

The cover illustrated in Figure 19 was posted January 21, 1893, from Durham with a Type 3 postmark of Durham. This



**Figure 18.** ▶

1908 image of Washington Duke Building, built to house offices, classrooms, library and some dorms. It burned down in 1911, the only campus building ever lost to fire.



◀ **Figure 19.** January 21, 1893, cover from Durham back to "Trinity, Randolph County," paid single letter rate with 2¢ 1890 carmine Washington postage stamp canceled by a Durham Type 3 metal duplex Type F handstamp. While Trinity College no longer was in Randolph County, there still was a school there, to which this cover was addressed. First recorded advertising cover from new Durham location.



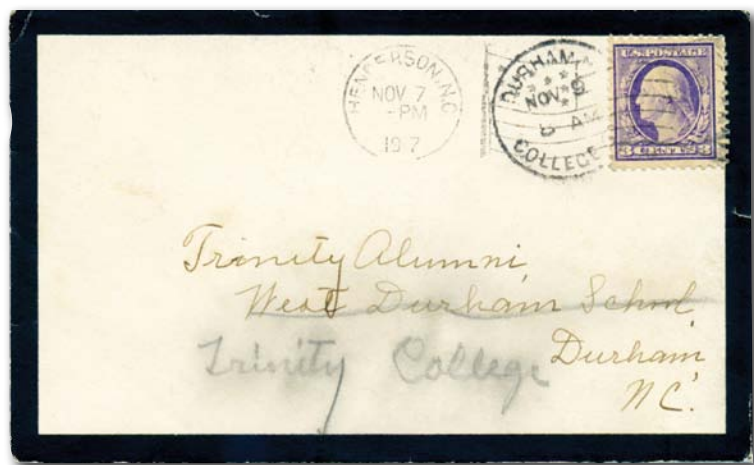


◀ **Figure 20.** May 10, 1893, another cover from Durham back to Trinity (Randolph County), paid 2¢ letter rate with an 1893 brown violet Columbian Exposition postage stamp canceled by a Durham Type 3 metal duplex Type F handstamp. Professor John Heitman was the headmaster of the high school that existed now where the former Trinity College resided. Note, the sender no longer used the destination post office name of "Trinity College," which was to change in June 1894 to "Trinity."



**Figure 21.** ▶

May 4, 1894, cover from Durham to Littleton (Halifax County) canceled with a Durham Type 4 metal duplex Type G handstamp used from 1894 to 1895. The corner card illustration is the Washington Duke Building of Trinity College.



◀ **Figure 22.** November 7, 1917, mourning cover sent from Henderson (Vance County) to the Trinity Alumni, not the West Durham School, but Trinity College, corrected in pencil. A flag cancel, American Machine Type A14, was used at Henderson. At destination a Durham College Station cancel Type 1 was used on November 9, 1917, first used at the post office station in 1915.

marking was a Type F metal duplex handstamp. Note the blue Trinity College corner card marking with the notation "Trinity Park." This cachet indicates the school's new focus towards the Methodist Church.

The illustration in Figure 20 has the same corner card marking as Figure 19 with the Type 3 circular datestamp of Durham, a Type F metal duplex used from 1890 until 1896. The interesting thing to note with this cover is that it is addressed back to the Headmaster in Trinity (the post office name changed from

Trinity College to Trinity in June 1894). Trinity College had reverted to a local high school and later Trinity College Prep School, retaining many of the old faculty. The school remained as such until 1908 when it reorganized under state law as a high school. In 1924, the original college building was demolished.

The 1890s would see continued growth to the college. Figure 21 is an illustration of a cover with the corner card of the Duke building at Trinity College. The cover was posted from Durham on May 4, 1894, addressed to Littleton (Halifax County). The



**Figure 23.** ▶

April 12, 1928, Durham College Station cover to Bristol, Virginia, showing the latest known use of the Type 1 College Station cancel. This metal duplex Type E2 handstamp was used on a Duke University Department of Music corner card. Strangely, since the James Duke endowment in 1924, which resulted in the name change to Duke University, very few Duke University advertising covers have been seen.



◀ **Figure 24.** Aerial view of the West Campus of Duke University in the 1950s, which is even larger today. The Trinity College of Arts and Sciences has been a part of this campus since it was formed at Durham in 1892.

postmark was a Type 4 Durham circular datestamp, classified as a metal duplex Type G handstamp, which was used in 1894 and 1895.

By World War I, Trinity College had become one of the foremost liberal arts schools in the South. Figure 22 is a mourning cover posted from Henderson (Vance County) with a flag cancel, American Machine Type A14. The cover was posted on November 7, 1917, to Trinity Alumni, Trinity College, Durham. On November 9, 1917, it arrived at Durham's College Station and received a partial strike of the Type 1 postmark for that station. This was an indication that a post office had been opened on campus. This marking was first known used in 1915 and continued in use until 1928. Figure 23 is the latest known example of this Type 1 metal duplex Type E2.

In December of 1924, James B. Duke, the son of Washington Duke, founded the Duke Endowment. It established a \$40 million trust fund to support colleges and hospitals in North and South Carolina and to fund construction for the new urban business, medical center, and law facility. With that contribution, the school was renamed Duke University.

It seems strange to the author that with the name change to Duke, virtually all college advertising covers ceased to exist. Figure 23 is one of only two Duke covers in the author's collection. The other is a simple corner card for the purchasing department? Is the reason for this the demise of all advertising covers? I think not. Perhaps the school felt its reputation was such they were no longer needed. I'm sure by then that they were playing Carolina in basketball.

Duke University today has grown greatly since the movement of Trinity College to Durham. Today there are twelve different schools including Trinity College for the Arts and Sciences and additional twelve University-wide educational institutes, initiatives and centers. The schools cover a large variety of curricula including religion, medical, business, engineering, law and environmental sciences. The image in Figure 24 is an aerial view of the campus in the 1950s, which is even much larger today and spread over two campuses. Quite an achievement for a man who wanted to build a school in his honor. ■



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## Maurice M. Bursey 1939 - 2022



by Tony L. Crumbley

One of our most productive authors and collectors closed his albums on August 5, 2022. Maurice M. Bursey will be missed by many of our members. He became a member of the North Carolina Postal History Society (NCPHS) in 1984, which was only two years in existence. From 2008 to 2021, he became one of our most valued writers, producing 14 lengthy and well-researched articles for the *North Carolina Postal Historian*.

He created the first cumulative index to the *North Carolina Postal Historian* in 2001. After that, he significantly updated the original index in 2010 and again in 2019 by adding author and subject indexes in special supplements issued to the regular journal issues at the time.

Maurice was responsible for getting the 200th anniversary postal card for the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, issued by the United States Postal Service on September 14, 1993.

The biographical summaries of 11 North Carolina educators were authored by Maurice in William S. Powell's *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, and he was a coauthor on two others. Excerpts of these writings also appear in *NCPedia*, a website that "highlights North Carolina's unique resources, people, and culture to enrich, educate and inform."

In his later years of collecting, Maurice focused on North Carolina Confederate postal history. When his North Carolina Confederate collection was sold, it was the largest to have ever come on the market and included many small post office towns, many of which were the only known examples. Maurice was active in the update of the *Confederate States of America Catalog and Handbook of Stamps and Postal History* published in 2012. Also he was active in providing information for the North Carolina Confederate Cover database, which the NCPHS maintains.

Dr. Bursey was born on July 27, 1939, in Baltimore, Maryland. He received his Bachelor and Master Degrees from John Hopkins University in 1959 and 1960. In 1963, he received his Doctor of Philosophy degree from John Hopkins as well.

Dr. Bursey became a professor of chemistry at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill in 1964. He retired from there in 1996. He has been a Professor Emeritus since 1996. Maurice married Joan Marie

Tesarek in 1970. The couple had two children: John Thomas Kieran and Sara Helen Moyer Bursey.

Maurice will be missed by many. Renea and I will especially miss his detailed Christmas letter each year. ■



# Updating the Digital North Carolina Postmark Catalog

by Richard F. Winter



On July 18, 2020, I received an email from a new member who had a few covers with postmarks that did not appear in our website catalog, *North Carolina Postmark Catalog Update*. He asked for guidance on how to forward copies of his cancels. The new member said he wasn't "electronic savvy" and had difficulty sending scans. I asked him to send me black and white photocopies, which he did. I was able to determine which cancels I needed for the catalog. Figure 1 illustrates one of his covers with a postmark not listed in the digital catalog, a Triplet (Watauga County) manuscript postmark.

Two years later, the same member was concerned that he did not see his submissions in the catalog. During his attendance at CHARPEX 2022 he discussed this situation with Tony Crumbley. Since he had the covers with him, Tony offered to scan them and return the covers while sending me the cover scans to extract postmarks for the digital catalog. Upon receiving the scans soon after CHARPEX, I sent an email to the member explaining that I now had good color scans of his covers. I explained the process I use to make new catalog entries and that I appreciated the new information he had provided, which now more than doubled the information he had sent originally.

Because other members might have similar experiences of delays in seeing their new information showing up in the digital catalog, I will explain how I make changes to the catalog.

The *North Carolina Postmark Catalog Update* took more than 13 years to assemble. By late 2018, all 100 counties and six large post offices, separated from their counties because of their file sizes, were available on our website for public use. As each part was completed, I made a paper copy for my records. This would allow me to compare new postmark information received with

the existing catalog entries. Over the years more than 50 different individuals have submitted new postmark information. As each change is received, I acknowledged receipt and checked the postmarks against my catalog copy. If there is new information for the catalog, I tag the page in my record of the catalog with the new information not knowing when I will be able to make the change. The 100 counties and six additional, separate files, required more than 6,440 pages for my backup copy. In early 2020, I began the first major update of the digital catalog, having accumulated a large number of changes to be entered. Some changes were simple date-of-use changes, but most were new postmarks. Often this required remaking many new pages as the postmark had to be fitted into the existing listings. A significant amount of time was spent updating county listings based on these changes. I started to update by proceeding in alphabetical county order. As I reported in the recent Board of Directors meeting, 66 counties and three of the six large post offices have been updated. There are 37 remaining files to update. I am hopeful that this work will be completed in the first quarter of 2023. Of course, by then there will be more change to be made, but the amount will be significantly less.

In summary, when you submit new postmark information, I will always respond at the time of your submission if the data sent can be used, and in some cases, what needs to be done to make it suitable for the catalog. At the same time, I will mark my records to show that a change is needed and file the images sent for future use. At any time, if you wonder whether a listing is the most current one, check the bottom left corner of the title page for that county or large post office. It will show the date recorded for placing that file on the website. ■



◀ **Figure 1.** 19 December 1888, registered cover posted at Triplet (Watauga County), addressed to Boston, Massachusetts. 10¢ registration fee with a strip of five 2¢ green 1887 postage stamps while domestic postage paid with 2¢ green Plimpton stamped envelope.

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## NORTH CAROLINA POSTAL HISTORIAN



If you'd like to contribute information or articles to the  
Winter *POSTAL HISTORIAN* please submit them by  
**November 15**

*North Carolina Postmark Catalog Update*  
**All Counties and Five Large Post Offices are  
available on <http://www.ncpostalhistory.com>**

(Alamance thru Pamlico Counties have been updated,  
as well as Asheville, Charlotte, Fayetteville and Greensboro)