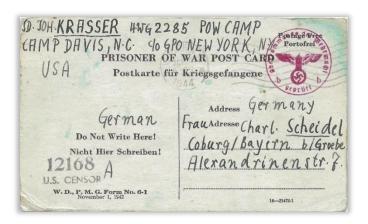


VOLUME 42, NO. 4 FALLL 2023 WHOLE 164





WW II Prisoner of War Mail – A North Carolina Perspective





Literature Award Winners and Photographs





Transylvania County, North Carolina



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

hile thousands of folks across the Southeast were experiencing a sweltering weekend of extreme summer heat, attendees of CHARPEX, July 29-30, were enjoying a cool venue at Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, searching through dealer boxes for stamps and postal covers to add to their collections. They were also enjoying the many interesting exhibits on the show floor, learning about an unfamiliar philatelic subject, or gleaning ideas for their own future exhibits. Boy Scouts gathered under the tutelage of Glenn Silverman to learn more about stamp collecting and, as a result, twenty-four Scouts earned the Stamp Collecting Merit Badge. Other attendees secured a postal cover with the CHARPEX 2023 cachet from the USPS booth. Art Keeter, President of the Charlotte Philatelic Society and organizer of the show, reported another successful and well-attended annual event!

The North Carolina Postal History Society held its annual meeting at CHARPEX with twenty-two members in attendance. Jerry Roughton was honored with the North Carolina Postal History Literature Award, and Jerry Wells was presented with the Richard F. Winter New Author Award. Mr. Wells is the first recipient of this award which was established last year to honor Dick Winter's long and multi-faceted service to the Society. See these awards included in the photos from CHARPEX featured in this issue.

During the general meeting, three members were elected to three-year terms on the Society's Board of Directors. Boyd Morgan of Salisbury, a lifelong stamp collector, was elected to his first term, while Dick Winter and Tim McRee were re-elected. These board members are serving in the Class of 2026. Members thanked outgoing board member, Stefan Jaronski, for his board service.

Our members were treated to a fascinating program with a PowerPoint presentation by Harry Albert. Harry's talk was entitled "North Carolina Female Colleges and Institu-

IN THIS ISSUE

Prisoner of War Mail Service and Censorship	o in World
War II – A North Carolina Perspective	
by Charles F. Hall, Jr	3
CHARPEX 2023	14
Member Profile - Tony L. Crumbley	16
Transylvania County, North Carolina	
by Ken Miller	17

tions." He shared with us some wonderful and colorful covers from his collection. Harry, assisted by his wife, Sheryll, elaborated on the history of these female educational institutions and on the biographies of many of their leaders and founders.

After the general meeting, the board members gathered for their annual meeting. There was a very positive discussion about the recently published monograph on "Confederate Post Offices and Postmasters, 1860-1866." The monograph was mailed to Society members with the Summer issue of the Postal Historian. It was published and provided as a fulfillment of the Society's mission "to promote, study, and educate the public about North Carolina Postal History."

Another feature of the Society's study of postal history is the long-term project involving the North Carolina Postmark Catalog Update on the Society's website, created and maintained by Dick Winter. Scott Steward, who monitors the website, reports that the Postmark Catalog is the site's most frequently visited feature. The Board voted to provide copies of the current catalog to a number of major philatelic libraries.

Let me remind and encourage all our members to consider writing an article for the Postal Historian. Given the willingness of Steve Swain to assist in putting together an article, this should not be a daunting task. Steve's contact information is listed below.



NORTH CAROLINA

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

Web site 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.

President Vice-President George Slaton

1230 South Street Cornelius, NC 28031

Scott Steward 16311 Manning Road West Accokeek, MD 20607 geoslaton@gmail.com scott steward@hotmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer Editors Harry Albert

105 Gatestone Court Cary, NC 27518 hlalbert78@gmail.com tonycrumbley@bellsouth.net jedit@fphsonline.com

Tony L. Crumbley PO Box 681447 Charlotte, NC 28216 Steve L. Swain 5 Meeting Street Roswell, GA 30075

Board of Directors

Term Ending 2023 Stefan Jaronski Timothy McRee Richard F. Winter

Term Ending 2024 Alan Vestal George Slaton

Term Ending 2025 Scott Steward Harry Albert Pete Oldham

Prisoner of War Mail Service and Censorship in World War II – A North Carolina Perspective



by Charles F. Hall, Jr.

he continental United States did not suffer any major attacks during World War II. There was some Japanese shelling by submarines on the west coast, failed German spy landings in New York and Florida, as well as submarine activity off the east coast. The remote Alaskan islands of Kiska and Attu were occupied by the Japanese but were back in U.S. hands by mid-August 1943. The county did, however, house in excess of 425,000 German and Italian prisoners of war. Many were captured during the North African campaigns of 1942 and 1943. Additional POWs were taken as the allies invaded Italy and more German soldiers were captured after the invasion of France on June 6, 1944, and up until the end of the war in Europe on May 9, 1945. The allies captured a very small number of Japanese POWs primarily due to the fact that the considered Japanese military culture surrender unacceptable. Most Japanese POWs stayed in Allied camps in the Pacific, but 3,915 are documented as being transferred to the U.S. No Japanese POWs were housed in North Carolina.

This article tells the story of the postal services set up between the warring powers to enable POWs, in accordance with the Geneva Convention, to send and receive mail. It discusses the POW camp systems in the U.S., Germany and Japan and documents the camps set up in North Carolina. To illustrate the narrative, postal examples are used from North Carolina POWs in Germany and Japan as well as German and Italian prisoners housed in POW camps in North Carolina.

This is a very broad topic. This article focuses on how American, German and Italian prisoners of war with North Carolina connections struggled to maintain contact with their families amid a catastrophic world war exacerbated by extremely difficult communication and transportation services.

The governments of Germany, Fascist Italy and Japan were united by treaty and are called "Axis." The United States, Great Britain and the other countries at war the Axis are termed "Allied."

Wartime Censorship of both civilian and military mail is a long-established practice designed to protect military secrets and information useful to the enemy. Countries also censored the mail to preserve civilian morale on the home front. In the Civil War, both Union and Confederate prisoners of war were subject to having their mail censored or "examined," a practice that was continued in both WWI and WWII. The establishment of POW rights, including mail services, was formalized on

an international basis by the Geneva Conventions of 1864, 1907,1929 and 1949. These conventions set up rules where the signatory nations agreed to abide by basic international laws designed to mitigate the effects of war on military and civilian populations, including the treatment of prisoners of war. The Convention of 1929 was the version that applied to POW mail in WWII.

The United States and many other countries ratified the 1929 Convention, including Germany and Italy. Japan and the Soviet Union, however, did not, ratify it. Therefore, Axis POWs held by most of the Allied countries, as well as US POWs held by Germany and Italy, were covered by the basic rights contained in the Geneva Convention. Those Allied POWs held by Japan were not subject to those rights, including the unrestricted receiving and sending of personal mail.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) played a critical role in POW postal services. The countries that had ratified the Geneva Convention relied on the ICRC for accurate information about the names and camp locations of their captured personnel. When a soldier was captured, the country who captured them would report the person's name and location to the ICRC, who operated the Prisoner of War Information Center in Geneva, Switzerland. The Red Cross would then notify the POW's country of their capture and what camp they were in.



In the case of the U.S., when the government was notified that a serviceman had been captured, the U.S. the next of kin would receive a letter from the Headquarters Army Service Forces, Office of the Provost Marshal General. The families were also provided with procedures for writing the POW. The ICRC was not only critical in keeping accurate POW records, but also inspected POW camps to ensure they were in compliance with the Geneva Convention.

The ICRC also delivered large quantities of Red Cross packages and arranged exchanges of wounded POWs back to their home country.

Figure 1 is an official Red Cross cover addressed to the spokesman for the German POWs at Camp MacKall, North Carolina.



▲ Figure 1. Mailed on February 8, 1945, from the National Committee of the Red Cross, in Washington, D.C., to the German POW spokesman at Camp MacKall, North Carolina, Richmond County.

The United States did not officially enter WWII until the Japanese attack of December 7,1941 on Pearl Harbor, in the Territory of Hawaii. Congress declared war on Japan on December 8, 1941, and Germany and Italy,

bound to Japan by the Axis treaty, declared war on the United States on December 11, 1941. Britain had been at war with Germany and Italy since 1939 and had captured some prisoners. But it was not until the North African campaigns of 1942/1943 that significant numbers of German and Italian POWs, about 275,000, were captured by both British and American forces. This resulted in POW camps being set up all over the United States to house those prisoners.

German submarine, or U-Boot, crews were also captured off the Atlantic Coast of the U.S. In fact, the first German POWs in the U.S. were captured from a submarine sunk off the North Carolina Coast. In May 1942, the survivors of U-352 were taken to Fort Bragg to a temporary camp.

Figure 2 shows a photograph of a branch POW camp in Williamston, N.C. (Courtesy of the Francis M. Manning Collection (#488), East Carolina Manuscript Collection, J.Y. Joyner Library, East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina, USA.)

The branch camps were set up to house prisoners who volunteered to work in local farming and logging industries. They were paid for their work.

Appropriately named Camp Williamston, it was completed in February 1944 as a satellite camp of Camp Butner, which was a base camp. The POWs

were housed in six-man 20' X 20' tents with wooden sides and floors.

The first U.S. campaign in the European/Mediterranean Theatre started in late 1942 in North Africa and the first American POWs captured by the Germans were taken there. The German Afrika Korps captured 2,459 Americans in the early battles of The Kasserine Pass. When the U.S. started large scale bombing attacks on Germany, thousands of American aircrewmen were forced to bail out and were housed in camps in Germany and Poland. After the June 6, 1944, invasion of France, more GIs were captured as the war moved steadily toward towards Germany. The

largest single capture of American troops in Europe was the approximately 23,000 American troops taken prisoner during the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944. The other area of operations where Americans were captured was in the Italian campaign, which started with the allied invasion of Sicily on June 10, 1943. Altogether, more than 90,000 American troops were captured in the European Theater.



▲ Figure 2. POW images from North Carolina are elusive. This photograph shows a view of the branch camp located at Williamston, N.C., in Martin County.

In the Pacific sphere of the war, large numbers of American, British and Dutch servicemen, as well as civilian internees, were captured by the Japanese during the first year of the war. The Philippines was attacked at the same time as the attack on Pearl Harbor and by the Spring of 1942, the last American forces had retreated to the defenses of Bataan and Corregidor.

With no hope of relief, well over 20,000 U.S. soldiers, Marines and sailors were captured. Others were captured on Wake Island and from sunken U.S. ship crews. Exact numbers are elusive, but a total of over 34,000 American military personnel became POWS during the war in the Pacific.

Initially, most of these prisoners were first housed in the Philippines but many were later transported to Japan. Some American POWs found themselves in camps in China. It is documented that the Japanese set up 102 main and branch camps for military POWs and civilian internees in Japan, China, the Philippines, and other captured Allied territories. While the total number of U.S. personnel captured is approximate, one branch of the U.S. military, the U.S. Army Air Corps, reported specific numbers. It reported that 5,436 airmen were captured by the Japanese. By the war's end, only 2,879 returned.

Figure 3 is a V-Mail letter from Fairmont, N.C. to an American airman held in a Japanese POW camp in Japan.

MAS. W.C. WARE CENSOR

R.I. 100 R MONT, ME JANEO?

PRISONER OF WAR

PRISON

▲ Figure 3. To 2nd LT. James A. Campbell, American POW. A scarce example of prisoner of war mail for a soldier in a Japanese camp.

The letter was posted from Fairmont N.C. in Robeson County, on January 26, 1944, to Lt. Campbell at Skikoku, Japan. It was passed by Censor No. 11105 in New York and when it arrived in Japan, it received a blue rectangular censor or receiving stamp.

The reverse has printed information for writing a V-Mail letter and a penciled "6/29/44" marking, which is presumably the date it was received. If so, it took about five months to get to the camp. It was likely flown to Iran by a U.S. transport, where entered the Russian mail and was picked up by a Japanese ship at Vladivostok. Lt. James A. Campbell was in the 20th Air Base Group of the U.S. Far East Air Force and was captured in April 1942. He was later moved to Japan, to the Zentsuji Camp on Shikoku Island. After the war, he was liberated and returned home.

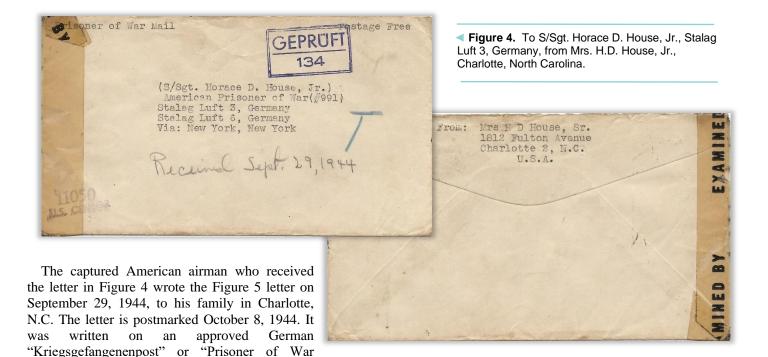
Allied POWs captured by German forces were generally held in POW camps operated by the German Airforce (Luftwaffe), the army (Heer) or Navy (Kriegsmarine.) Allied prisoners were initially sent to a transit camp for interrogation and processing. These were called Dulags, an abbreviation of German for transit camp or "Durchlager." They were then assigned to camps based on their branch of service. For example, Army Air Force airmen went to permanent camps operated by the German Air Force. The permanent camps were called "Stalags," an abbreviation of

"Stammlager." POWs requiring medical care after their capture were sent to Lazarrett, or Hospital, camps for treatment.

The 1957 movie, "Stalag 17," vividly illustrates life in a German POW camp. The TV series, "Hogan's Heroes," while rather unrealistic, does show the flavor of camp life. Officers and enlisted men were held in separate camps, a practice used by both sides. American officers were held in camps called "Offlag," or "Offizier Lager."

Figure 4 (next page) is a letter to an American airman held in a German POW camp operated by the German Air Force. The American airman POW assigned to Stalag Luft 3 in Germany received this letter marked August 10, 1944, from Charlotte, N.C. Stalag Luft 3 is an abbreviation of "Stammslager Luftwaffe 3." It means that it was one of the permanent prisoners of war camps for enlisted men and operated by the German Air Force or "Luftwaffe." The German

censor examined the letter and placed his double line box stamp "Gepfrüft 134," meaning "examined," at the top. When it arrived in the U.S., New York censor No. 11050, placed a straight stamp in the cover's lower left after the letter was opened, examined and resealed.



BEPRU

11050

Gebührenfren

27

Before it was sent, the mailing was examined by

German censor No. 27, who placed his red boxed "Geprüft" stamp on the bottom left. It was received at the New York section of the Office of Censorship where censor No. 11050 opened, examined, approved and resealed. This camp was named Stalag Luft 3, an abbreviation of Stammslager Luftwaffe 3.

Mail" form.

Figure 5. ►
To Mrs. Horace D. House, Jr. Charlotte,
North Carolina.

Figure 6 is an example of an identification tag issued to American POWs. It is similar to those issued to German soldiers in that it was designed to break into two parts along a perforated line. The tag made for Allied

POWS had the camp designation and the POW's identification number, but unlike U.S. ID tags, did not include the soldier's name, blood type or religion. Letter writers in the U.S. were instructed by the USPOD to include the POW's identification number in the address to facilitate delivery. This tag is from OFLAG IIE, which was a camp for officers located in Neubrandenberg, Germany.

on r's Oflag.IE On 1092 Oflag.IE 1092

Land:

riegsgefangenenpost

Empfangsort: 18/2 FULTON

Landesteil (Proving usw.)

Figure 6. ► POW ID tag.

POW Camps in North Carolina

As the war progressed and the number of German and Italian POWs began to grow, and it was necessary to establish camps in the United States to handle the increasing numbers. There were two main POW camps in North Carolina located at Fort Bragg in Cumberland County and Camp Butner in Granville County. They each housed between 2000 to 3000 German and Italian POWs. These camps, consisting of barracks, administrative, mess, maintenance and storage buildings, were enclosed by barbed wire for security.

In addition to the main camps, at least seventeen branch camps housing about 250 to 350 working prisoners were established. These were located at Camp Mackall in Richmond and Scotland Counties; Camp Sutton in Union County near Monroe; Camp Davis in Pender County; Wilmington in New Hanover County; Williamston in Martin County; New Bern in Craven County; Scotland Neck in Halifax County; Seymour Johnson Field in Wayne County; Ahoskie in Hertford Salem County; Winston in Forsyth Hendersonville in Henderson, County; Whiteville in Columbus County; Greensboro in Guilford County; Edenton in Pasquotank County; Roanoke Rapids in Halifax County; Swannanoa in Moore County; and Windsor in Bertie County.

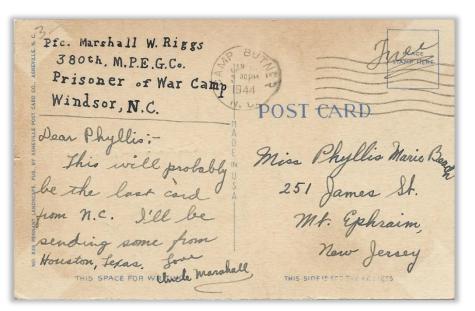
Figure 7 shows a postcard from an American soldier stationed at a Branch Camp in Windsor, in Bertie County. The card has a Camp Butner cancellation, which shows the mail from the branch camp at Windsor was processed through Camp Butner, which was a base camp. The card was not censored by the base censor because it was to a U.S. address.

The branch camps housed POWs who worked in farming and logging activities and were paid for their work. An account from a family in Unionville, near Camp Sutton Union County, says:

"The N. Charlie Griffen family of the Unionville Community in North Carolina used POWs from nearby Camp Sutton for farm labor. In the fall of 1944, Elbert C. (Ebb) Griffin, who was 12 years old, would talk to some of the work crew while they were picking cotton. 'Some spoke English very well,' he said. Ebb Griffin was impressed, because those men were from Rommel's Afrika Korps, Germany's best. 'They operated on the NCO system; the German sergeants looked after their privates and other noncoms. We went down to Sutton to get them and we paid for them, he added. The government got the money, but the workers were, in turn, paid by the pound of cotton picked. They were expected to pick 100 pounds a day, but they only picked 40-50."

At the end of the war, there were about 10,000 German POWs in North Carolina and at least 3,500 Italians. After Italy surrendered in September 1943, about 3,500 Italians in North Carolina who took the oath of allegiance to the new Italian government transitioned from POW status to become members of the Italian Service Units. These former POWs moved to Camp Sutton, near Monroe, to train as non-combatant auxiliary units to the American Army, often in vehicle maintenance units.

The war ended in Europe on May 9, 1945, and by the Spring of 1946, the last POWs in North Carolina were transported to Europe.



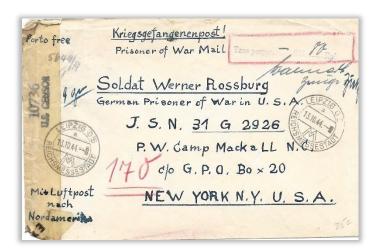
▼ Figure 7. From Pfc. Marshall W. Riggs stationed at Windson, North Carolina POW camp.

Figures 8 through 16 are examples of letters written to and from German POWs and their families.

Figure 8.

A German POW at Camp Butner, in Granville County, wrote this letter on February 12, 1945, to relatives in Brooklyn, New York. He wrote on a form designed by the U.S. Provost Marshall's Office. Even though the letter went to an address in the continental United States, it was still censored as a matter of routine, because all POW mail was censored by the U.S. Office of Censorship.



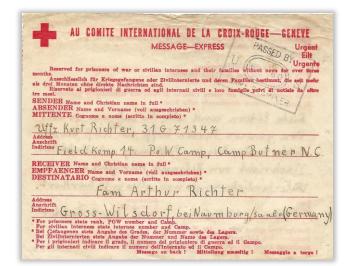




▲ Figure 9. This letter originated on October 13, 1944, from the German Saxon city of Leipzig and was sent to Soldat (Soldier) Rossburg, at Camp MacKall, North Carolina. As was standard practice by both sides, it was censored first in Germany and when it arrived in the U.S. The cover tells us that it is Prisoner of War Mail and that it is being sent post free by airmail to North America. The Leipzig post office applied two circular date stamps on October 13, 1944, and the red rectangular stamp at the upper right indicates there was an 80 Reichspfennig (100 Pfennig equaled one Mark) postage paid. This is likely the airmail rate, as surface mail was free. The reverse of this well-marked cover shows a variety of German and American censor markings. Before the letter left Germany, it was opened and resealed with the "Geöffnet" or "opened" and marked with two black and a red circular official military high command stamp. When it arrived at the New York censor station, it was opened, examined and stamped by U.S. Censor No. 10736. It was then resealed with a clear sealing tape.

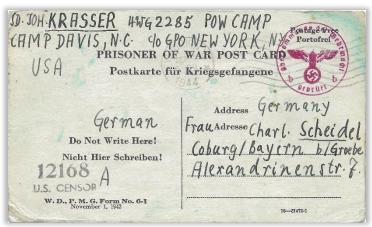


■ Figure 10. Written almost a year after the end of the war in Europe, this letter from Bismarck/Attm, Germany was sent to Gefr. (corporal) Hans-Walter Sluyter at Camp Butner, North Carolina. The cover is stamped "Return for a Better Address in English and German. The recipient was apparently not at Camp Butner.





▲ Figure 11. The International Red Cross supervised the POW mail system and supplied message forms. This letter was probably contained within an enclosure that was sent by Unteroffizer (senior NCO) Kurt Richter at Camp Butner, North Carolina to his parents in Gross-Wilsdorf, Germany. It was written on November 23, 1945, six months after the war ended. The repatriation of POWs back to Europe was a gradual process, but by Spring 1946, all POWs had been transferred out of North Carolina. It was censored by the U.S. Army censor before it left Camp Butner and the outer envelope would have been censored at the New York POW unit. The Red Cross provided POW mail forms in addition to those designed by the U.S. Provost Marshal General. The reverse of this letter demonstrates that POWs had a limited space for writing and the instructions at the top of the form stipulate that "All communications should be of strictly private nature only."

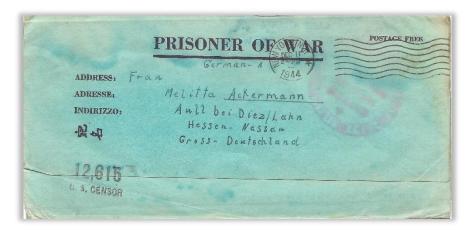


■ Figure 12. This POW postcard on the Provost Marshal General Form No. 6-1 was written on August 17, 1944, from Sd. (Soldier) J. Krasser at Camp Davis, in Pender County, to his aunt in Coburg, Barvaria. It was passed by censor No. 12168 in the New York and examined again in Germany, as evidenced by the circular German military stamp in the upper right corner. Camp Davis was an anti-aircraft artillery and balloon training base located 25 miles north of Wilmington at Holly Ridge, North Carolina in Pender County.

Figure 13. ▶

Mailed from Camp Davis, North Carolina, this is a real photograph postcard of a German POW to his family in Hamburg, Germany. The card is undated but was canceled in New York on January 2, 1945, where examined and passed by Censor No. 10732 at the POW censorship unit. The card is a photograph sent as a postcard and stamped with "Prisoner of War Card" and "Postage Free," in compliance with the Geneva Convention. The front shows a photograph of the soldier, with "Gegangenshaft USA" or "Prisoner of War status" in manuscript.





■ Figure 14. On December 11, 1944, Obergefreiter (Senior Corporal) H. Ackermann sent this letter written on W.D.P.M.G. Form No. 4 from Camp Butner to his wife in Aullbei Diez/Lahn, Germany. This was one of several forms developed by the U.S. Provost Marshal General for POW use. The letter was passed by U.S. Censor No. 12615 in New York but does not have any German censor markings. A penciled marking in German script on the reverse states, "Received 24 Nov., 1945." This may mean the letter was delayed for almost a year by the disruption of mail services during the end of the war and postwar period.

Figure 15.

Written on Form No. 6-1, designed by the U.S. Provost Marshal General, this card was posted by a German POW at Fort Bragg, North Carolina to his parents in Stegersbock, Steiermark, Germany. It was first passed by Censor No. 11767 in New York and again in Germany, as indicated by the red circular stamp on the left side.

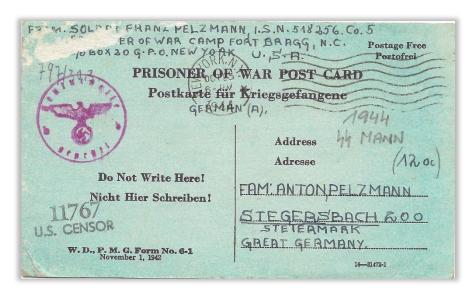




 Figure 16. This letter was also mailed by a German corporal at Fort Bragg to his parents in Andernach/Rhein, Germany, but carries a variety of markings. It was "Geöffnet" (opened) at the military censor office in Berlin as designated by the large black circular stamp. The red circular stamp indicates it was passed. The letter was passed by U.S. Censor No. 12157 in New York before it was sent to Europe. In his letter, the soldier tells his family he is pleased that one of his last letters from home arrived quickly and he hopes future letters are as prompt. He also tells the family that the Censors have announced that photos cannot be included in future letters.

Figure 17. ▶

Large numbers of Italian soldiers were captured in North Africa in 1943 and over 50,000 were sent to POW camps in the United States. This letter was written on November 6, 1943, by Soldato (Soldier) G. Dandro, a POW at Camp Butner. North Carolina, to Acerenza, Potenze, Italy. Acerenzo is a province in southern Italy. The Italian government surrendered on September 8, 1943, but the soldiers in Allied camps were still in a POW status at that time. This letter has both U.S. and Italian censor markings.



WW II Mail Service and Censorship

The Geneva Convention of 1928, ratified by the allied powers and Germany and Italy, but not by Japan or the Soviet Union, established the procedures for exchanging POW mail. The Allies and European Axis powers followed these stipulations, however military operations interrupted the mails as the German transportation system deteriorated during the last months before the German surrender on May 9, 1945. For most of the war, the system of mail exchange worked relatively well. The International Red Cross was recognized by the allied and European Axis countries as having the authority to inspect POW camps and ensure the provisions of the Geneva Convention were being followed.

The United States was neutral in the first twenty-seven months of World War II and postal censorship was limited to interned merchant seamen and other non-combatants who were stranded in the county and could not be repatriated. Their mail was censored by the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization. After the attack of December 7, 1942, The United States quickly set up the Office of Censorship. Several government agencies were involved in censoring the mail. Prisoner of War mail was initially processed through a center set up in Chicago but later moved to New York. Censors, aided by translators, opened and examined incoming and outgoing POW mail.

As the war progressed, the U.S. Office of the Provost Marshal General developed specific forms for Axis POWs to use to write home. They had a side for the mailing address and a side for a written message. The POWs were instructed on what subjects they write about and the letters were examined and censored before they were sealed. Although these forms had limited space for writing, they were designed to be examined and passed by the censors efficiently. Once sealed at the censor station in New York, they would be posted into the military mail system.

The neutral nations of Switzerland, Portugal, and Spain

were countries of transit. Mail to U.S. POWs in Germany was examined and passed in New York and then sent by ship or air to Europe, usually first to Lisbon, then it went on to Germany. After the Allies landed in France in June 1944, another route had to be established by the International Red Cross. A collection point in Switzerland was set up to receive the mail and Red Cross packages, which were then sent onto Germany.

Mail service worked reliably between the Allied countries and Germany. Due to the fact that Italy surrendered to the Allies on September 8, 1943, not long after the U.S. and British landings on the Italian mainland, only about 1,000 U.S. personnel were held in Italian POW camps and these were at Campo. No. 1, near Rome. After the Italian government surrendered, these prisoners were taken by German forces and sent to German camps.

In the Pacific Theater, POWs in Japanese captivity faced a far worse situation. There were significant diplomatic and operational obstacles to sending and receiving mail and conditions varied widely. Also, there were there no neutral countries to use for reliable and regular transit, except Russia to a limited extent and Portugal for two exchange ship voyages. A critical factor was that the Japanese government had not ratified the 1929 Geneva Convention which regulated the rights and treatment of POWs, including the right to send and receive mail.

The total number of Americans captured in the Pacific and where they were located is not definite because the Japanese did not furnish the Red Cross or the U.S. with accurate prisoner information. About 26,000 Americans were captured in the Philippines, others from Wake Island and some survivors from U.S. ships that were lost. Prisoners were moved around and many sent to Japan. After the war, 34,000 prisoners were found in Japanese camps but only 27,000 of those were on the Prisoner of War Information Center kept by the Red Cross in Geneva, Switzerland.

There was also no regular or reliable mail system between the Japanese government and the United States. The two nations did work out a short-lived agreement to exchange diplomats and displaced citizens. As a result, the U.S. chartered the neutral Swedish passenger liner *Gripsholm* to carry Japanese internees and some civilian and POW mail to neutral Portuguese ports in the Indian Ocean where they linked up with a Japanese passenger liner to make the exchanges. The *Gripsholm* only made two exchange voyages during the war because of diplomatic and operational difficulties.

The Japanese did not cooperate with the International Red Cross except in a few instances and this prevented the American government from getting accurate information about the number and location of American POWs. A small amount of American POW mail was sent to the U.S. via a long and hazardous trip starting with a Japanese ship carrying mail to Vladivostok, Russia and then by railroad to western Russia. Mail to Japan from the U.S. had to go through Iran and Russia and then by ship to Japan.

Earl Williams from Mecklenburg County, wrote of his very difficult experiences in Japanese captivity, but he told of one bright spot at his camp at Cabanatuan, in the Philippines:

"Thanksgiving Day, 1942, was a momentous occasion. Red Cross packages arrived at Cabantuan. Without enough to go around, we shared one box between two men. Not all were alike, but most held some Klim (powdered milk), corned beef, jelly, maybe a can of peanuts or some pork and beans."

This serviceman was fortunate to receive a Red Cross box, because very few packages arrived in Japan and most of these were sent on the Swedish exchange ship *S.S. Gripsolm* which rendezvoused with a Japanese exchange ship in a neutral Portuguese port in the Indian Ocean.

In summary, the Allied and Axis countries that had ratified the 1929 Geneva Convention worked together, with substantial assistance by the International Committee of the Red Cross, to establish mail routes so that prisoners of war could send and receive personal mail. These systems worked relatively well although the logistics within Germany became more difficult as the war in Europe came to a close in 1945.

The situation in the Pacific War was very different since Japan had not ratified the 1929 Geneva Convention and also did not have a positive attitude towards the practice of surrender and treatment of POWs. However, the Japanese military did hold at least 34,000 captured Americans POWs in Japan alone by the end of the war and they eventually allowed a very limited amount of mail service.

The neutral Swedish ship *S.S. Gripsholm* carried some POW mail on its two safe-conduct exchange voyages to neutral Portuguese ports in the Indian Ocean and very limited amount of mail went via a circuitous route through

the Soviet Union, which was not at war with Japan until the last month of the war.

Conditions, including mail delivery, varied greatly within the Japanese camps. Mail service for American POWs captured in the Pacific was generally unreliable and inconsistent. Few American POWs received much, if any, mail in the Pacific Theater, while those in the European part of the war generally could rely on regular, if not speedy, mail delivery.

References

Bigger, Margaret G., Editor, World War II-Hometown and Homefront Heroes, Life-Experience Stories from the Carolina's Piedmont, A. Borough Book, Charlotte, N.C. 2003.

Billinger, Dr. Robert D. Jr., "Enemies and Friends: POWs in the Tar Heel State." Tar Heel Junior Historian 47:2 (Spring 2008) North Carolina Museum of History, Office of Archives and History, N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, 2008.

Crumbley, Tony L. "An Introduction to the Military Encampments of North Carolina." *North Carolina Postal Historian*, The Journal of North Carolina Postal History, Volume 12, No. 1, Winter, 1992-93.

Crumbley, Tony L. "North Carolina Fortifications, An Encyclopedia of Military Bases in North Carolina, Part Two." *North Carolina Postal Historian*, Volume 12, No. 2, Spring, 1993.

Crumbley, Tony L. "Ignored North Carolina History, Camp Sutton, German Prisoner of War Camp, 1944-46." *North Carolina Postal Historian*, Vol. 18, No. 2, Fall, 1999.

Editors, "History," Invasion of Sicily." http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/invasion-of-sicily

Fiset, Louis, *Detained, Interned, Incarcerated, U.S. Enemy Noncombatant Mail in World War II.* The Collectors Club of Chicago, Chicago 2010.

Gruenzner, Norman, *Postal History of American POWs:* World War II, Korea, Vietnam, American Philatelic Society, State College, Pennsylvania, 1979.

Landsmann, Horst. *Die Zensur von Zivilpost in Deutschland im 2.Weltkrieg*, (Norderstedt, Germany, Horst Landsmann, Herstellung und Verlag, Books on Demand, 2019).

National Museum of the United States Air Force, "AAF Prisoners of the Japanese."

https://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/Visit/Museum-Exhibits/Fact-Sheets/Display/Article/196673/aaf-prisoners-of-the-japanese/

Pallud, Jean Paul, "Kasserine," "After the Battle." No. 134, 2006.

Pinoy, "WWII American POW Statistics in the Pacific," http://pinoyhistory.proboards.com/thread/679

"POW Camps in North Carolina." https://www.gentracer.org/powcampsNC.html

Powell, William S. Editor, Mazzocchi, Jay, Associate Editor, *Encyclopedia of North Carolina*. Published in Association with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hall Library. University of North Carolina Press, 2006.

The Historical Marker Database, "Camp Williamston and the Many Other Prisoner of War (POW) Camps in the United States During WWII."

https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=186841

The National WWII Museum New Orleans, "The Battle of the Bulge."

http://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/battle-of-the-bulge.

Troutman, Scott. "Camp Davis." *North Carolina Postal Historian*, The Journal of North Carolina Postal History, Volume 12, No. 1.

Wikipedia, "List of World War II Prisoner of War Camps in the United States."

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_World_War_II_prisoner_of_war_camps_in_the_United_States

https://www.jaxhistory.org/portfolio-items/german-spies-invade-ponte-vedra/

Editor's Note:

For reference, the following are the Geneva Convention Articles related to POW mail:

Article 48

In the event of transfer, prisoners of war shall be officially advised of their departure and of their new postal address. Such notifications shall be given in time for them to pack their luggage and inform their next of kin.

Article 70

Immediately upon capture, or not more than one week after arrival at a camp, even if it is a transit camp, likewise in case of sickness or transfer to hospital or another camp, every prisoner of war shall be enabled to write direct to his family, on the one hand, and to the Central Prisoners of War Agency provided for in Article 123, on the other hand, a card similar, if possible, to the model annexed to the present Convention, informing his relatives of his capture, address and state of health.

The said cards shall be forwarded as rapidly as possible and may not be delayed in any manner.

Article 71

Prisoners of war shall be allowed to send and receive letters and cards.

If the Detaining Power deems it necessary to limit the number of letters and cards sent by each prisoner of war, the said number shall not be less than two letters and four cards monthly, exclusive of the capture cards provided for in Article 70 and conforming as closely as possible to the models annexed to the present Convention.

Prisoners of war who have been without news for a long period, or who are unable to receive news from their next of kin or to give them news by the ordinary postal route shall be permitted to send telegrams.

Article 74

Correspondence, relief shipments and authorized remittances of money addressed to prisoners of war or dispatched by them through the post office, either direct or through the Information Bureaux provided for in Article 122 and the Central Prisoners of War Agency provided for in Article 123, shall be exempt from any postal dues, both in the countries of origin and destination, and in intermediate countries.

Article 76

The censoring of correspondence addressed to prisoners of war or dispatched by them shall be done as quickly as possible.

Mail shall be censored only by the dispatching State and the receiving State, and once only by each.



Literature Award Winners

t the annual meeting of the North Carolina Postal History Society at CHARPEX 2023, **Jerry Roughton** was honored with the Society's **North Carolina Postal History Literature Award** for his article, "Greensborough, Guilford County: A Post Office in Transition from Confederate States Back to United States 1861-1865."

Jerry was presented with the exquisite multi-colored glass sculpture seen here.

The first ever winner of the **Richard F. Winter New Author Award** was **Jerry Wells** for his article, "The Last Known Cover Going South on the Washington to Richmond Mail Route." The award was established last year to honor Dick Winter's long and multifaceted service to the Society.

Awarded to Jerry, shown below, was an attractive engraved wooden pen and pencil box set.







CHARPEX Photographs



◄ Harry Albert presenting "North Carolina Female Colleges and Institutions" at the Society's annual meeting. Boy Scouts learning about stamp collecting. Twenty-four Scouts earned the Stamp Collecting Merit Badge.





Show attendees viewing exhibits.



Dealers bourse.

Member Profile: Tony L. Crumbley

by George Slaton



hile those who have collected North Carolina postal history for four or five decades often consider the late Earl Weatherly the "Grandfather" of North Carolina postal history, to perhaps many others, like me, who have been active collectors for one to three decades.

another name might come more quickly to mind. The name is that of Tony Crumbley, whose achievements in this field are astonishing in number. Though he might appropriately prefer to be called a "Father" of North Carolina postal history, Tony is a collector, dealer, author, exhibitor, and mentor to many who study and collect the postal history of the Tar Heel State. I've been fortunate to have known this "Father" of our hobby since the 1980s, long before I became a postal history collector.

Tony's philatelic interests go back well to his childhood when he recalls riding his bicycle with friends to the post office and spending a few coins on the

latest stamp or plate block. These visits included digging through the post office trash bins, looking for letters with interesting stamps. As a Boy Scout, Tony inherited his brother's worldwide stamp album, and soon he was ordering Littleton stamp packets. This led to the purchase of a United States Minkus album and a careful record of the growing number of stamps he acquired. At age 15, Tony's collection had reached 680 different United States stamps, but only two years later, the total had swelled to 1,030 different examples.

Tony continued to collect stamps throughout his four years of service in the Air Force. The year 1970 was a banner one for Tony. He was discharged from the service, enrolled in college, married Renea, and started Crumbley Stamp Exchange. Tony's Exchange involved trading his one stamp from approval sheets for a mail correspondent's two stamps. Though Tony's purpose was not to make a profit, he did receive a telegraph stamp which now catalogs for \$2,500.00. Clearly, this young man had all the makings of a stamp dealer!

It was during an hour's visit to a local stamp shop that

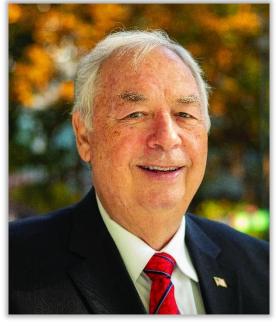
Tony was offered a job by the shop's proprietor. He was given the opportunity to work from home pricing stamps. He worked at the shop on weekends. Through Dr. Bernard Bressler, then on the faculty of Duke University and a part owner in the shop, Tony became familiar with Confederate postal covers.

When Tony assumed a full-time position with the stamp shop, he began traveling the East Coast show circuit from New York to Florida. In 1973, at a show in Greensboro, Tony bought his first Confederate collection.

Tony's path veered a bit in 1976 when he became the Director of Research at the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce. In his first year there, he and his accountant brother coauthored The Financial Management Coin/Stamp of Your Estate. Alongside his very demanding job at the Chamber, Tony established his own venture, Carolina Coin and Stamp Company, which he continues to operate to the present day. Soon, he was setting up at as many as twenty-six stamp shows each year.

By 1981, Tony's collection of North Carolina Confederate covers had matured to the point that he created his first exhibit at the annual show of what was then the Confederate Stamp Alliance. Disappointed that his exhibit did not win a medal, he was discouraged from exhibiting again for nearly twenty years. But his association with the Alliance grew stronger and, in 1998, he was elected President of the Confederate Stamp Alliance and won the coveted honorary title of General. That year, he revised his exhibit, and this time, at a show in the Midwest, Tony won the Grand Award. The exhibit also won the CSA Trophy, the highest Confederate award of all.

Tony was instrumental, along with sixteen other collectors, in establishing the North Carolina Postal History Society in 1982. He was immediately given the task of publishing the Society's newsletter which was initially a one-page effort. Tony has continued as Co-Editor of what is now a four-color journal of at least twenty pages and one of the most outstanding state postal history publications in the country.



Tony has co-edited more than 160 issues to date. And, most noteworthy perhaps, Tony has authored over 100 articles on North Carolina postal history for the journal, far more than any other contributor.

Tony continues to acquire North Carolina covers, and his collection is unsurpassed. He continues to carry the largest stock of North Carolina covers available, as well as postal history from the Confederate period and Southern states in general. He has helped numerous collectors determine a focus in their collecting efforts and he provides an ever-evolving inventory of covers, both common ones and those which are rare and elusive.

Through fifty-three years as a dealer, Tony has come to know a wide variety of friends who have figured large in the hobby. His interest in state revenue stamps introduced him to Tim McRee and Scott Troutman. He and Scott published together a catalogue of North Carolina revenue stamps.

Tony knew the major South Carolina collectors: Joe Holleman, J.V. Nielsen, Edward Cantey, and Harvey Teal, all now deceased. He worked closely with Vernon Stroupe for many years. Tony and Vernon, along with Robert Stets and Ruth Wetmore, published the comprehensive four-

volume *Post Offices and Postmasters of North Carolina* in 1996. Tony purchased the large collection of North Carolina Confederate covers, which included the only known Carolina Railroad cover, assembled by Hugh Jarvis Horne. His purchase of the A. B. Springs correspondence brought many new Confederate covers to the market. Tony helped build the collections of Milton Wicker, Clary Holt, and Harry McDowell.

Everyone who knows Tony Crumbley can attest to his constant engagement with every aspect of the philatelic world. He works tirelessly behind the scenes to advance and strengthen the hobby, not only in North Carolina, but with publications and societies outside the state.

Whenever Tony talks about his long experience as a collector and dealer, he always acknowledges with gratitude the support he has received from Renea and their children in a career which requires so much time and travel. Since his retirement, Tony finds that his hobby keeps him intellectually challenged and connected to other people who share his interests. It is obvious to anyone who knows him that Tony Crumbley has found deep enjoyment in all of his philatelic pursuits.

Transylvania County, North Carolina



Transylvania County was one of the three North Carolina counties created in 1861. These were created from existing counties where some of the growing population felt isolated because of the mountain geography. Specifically, they desired County Seats that could be reached in less than a day's travel and thus be more accessible.

In 1860, State Representative Joseph P. Jordan introduced a bill to the North Carolina House of Commons to establish a new county from parts of Henderson and Jackson counties. Jordan chose the name "Transylvania" for the new county. The name "Transylvania" comes from the Latin, "trans" for across and Sylvan" for woods. The name could not have been more aptly chosen.

Jordan's bill also provided for a new centrally located town to be established as the County Seat. This



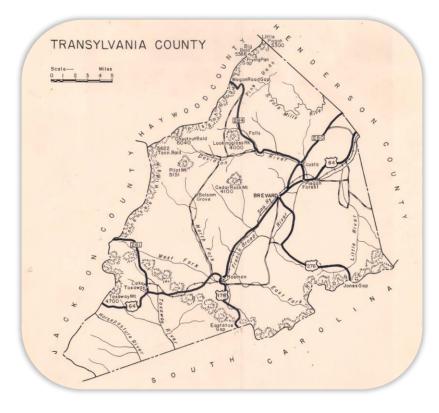
bill was combined with similar bills for Clay and Mitchell counties and the amalgam was passed on February 15, 1861.

An organizing group met at James Neill's Hattery shop (on the old Boylston Road near the site of the Lowes store in Pisgah Forrest) in February. Alex F. England, Leander S. Gash and Braxton C. Lankford jointly donated fifty acres for the site of the new town.

Brevard was chosen to be the name for the new town as a tribute to a notable patriot, Ephriam Brevard (1744-1781). The new town of Brevard was established to be Transylvania's County Seat.

Ephriam Brevard was a Surgeon in the North Carolina Line during the American Revolution. He was taken prisoner at the surrender of Charlestown, SC on May 12, 1780. There his health was broken from poor diet and adverse conditions, and he died in 1781 while trying to get home. He is buried in Charlotte, NC.

Dr. Brevard is credited with drafting the "Mecklenburg Resolves" or "Declaration of Independence," the first such declaration leading to the separation of the Thirteen Colonies from England. Figure 1 is a map of Transylvania County, North Carolina.



▲ Figure 1. Courtesy of *North Carolina Maps*: https://dc.lib.unc.edu.

Figure 2 is a February 27, 186(3) mailing from Brevard, North Carolina to Salem, North Carolina.



The town of Brevard slowly grew and by the end of the war had two stores, a Court House and county jail, two Churches, and a dozen residences.

Brevard is located at the entrance to Pisgah National Forest and has become a noted tourism, retirement and cultural center in western North Carolina. A moderate climate, environmental beauty, and cultural activities attract retirees to the area.

The newly formed Transylvania County inherited the post offices of:

- Calhoun (disc 1904) with David Shuford as Postmaster
- Cathey's Creek (did not reopen after the Civil war) with James Hamblen as Postmaster
- Cedar Mountain with F.L.D. Thomas as Postmaster
- Cherryfield (disc 1931) with Rebecca A. Glazener as Postmaster
- Claytonville (disc 1872) with Leander S. Gash as Postmaster
- Davidson River (disc 1929) with James W. Killian as Postmaster
- Dunn's Rock (disc 1877) with D. Pickney Johnstone as Postmaster

At just over 30 square miles Dunn's Rock is the smallest township in land area. However, the population density is higher than all other townships in Transylvania County, except Brevard. It is surrounded by Eastatoe, Cathey's Creek, Brevard, and Little River townships, with a small portion of the southern boundary bordering South Carolina.

Today, Dunn's Rock Township includes the communities of Glen Cannon, Connestee Falls (a portion is in Eastatoe Township), Sherwood Forest, and other developments.

Figures 3 and 4 (next page) are examples of Dunn's Rock covers posted during the American Civil War.

[▼] Figure 2. Franked with a CSA 12, 10-cent Jefferson Davis, the cover has a Brevard N.C. manuscript postmark.



■ Figure 3. AUG 31 (1863) DUNN'S ROCK red postmark on cover to Charles-Ton, South Carolina franked with a CSA 12, 10-cent Jefferson Davis.

Figure 4. ▶
JUL 1 1861 stampless cover from Dunn's Rock to Pickens County, South Carolina. Note the PAID 10 marking confirming the Confederate postal rate.





▲ **Figure 5.** Transylvania County waterfall. (Courtesy of *Our State* magazine: https://www.ourstate.com / transylvania-county-waterfall-hikes.)

Today, Transylvania County is called the "Land of Waterfalls" due to the 250 waterfalls located throughout the county. Whitewater Falls is the one of the highest waterfalls in the Eastern United States. Framed by the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains, access to Pisgah National Forest, Gorges State Park and DuPont State Forest provide locals and visitors with opportunities for a range of outdoor activities such as hiking, biking, camping, canoeing, tubing, picnicking, and fishing.

SEEKING

Confederate and Southern States Postal History as well as a few Select Customers for such.

Carolina Coin & Stamp, Inc.

Tony L. Crumbley P.O. Box 681447, Charlotte, NC 28216 704.395.1191

tonycrumbley@bellsouth.net



BIG Lick STAMPS

Buying and selling Stamps, Covers & Collections of the World

Cary Cochran

Owner

P.O. Box 163 Locust, North Carolina 28097 1.800.560.5310

carytj@yahoo.com

Public Auctions Fine Stamps and Postal History



47 Kearny Street S u i t e 5 0 0 San Francisco California 94108 t: 415 781 5127 f: 415 781 5128

email: srumsey@rumseyauctions.com

UNITED STATES

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH

WORLD WIDE

Hugh M. Clark
Rare Postage Stamps
Est. 1965

By Appointment Only 25stampede@verizon.net

Cell: 301-335-3792

2023 SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Harry Albert Robert Arnold W. Bryson Bateman Ralph Baumgardner Daniel W. Brinkley D. Wayne Burkette Gregory Ciesielski Hugh Clark Cary Cochran Lindsey T. Cooper Tony Crumbley Roger Curran F. David Dale Kendall Dickert Bill DiPaolo Grace Edmands Andrea Edmondson Patrick Enfinger Joseph Farkas Pascual Goicoechea Frank Hall Sam Hudson Steve Jackson Stefan Jaronski

Jimmy Jordan Patricia A. Kaufmann Art Keeter Michael W. Kelly Rodney L. Kelley John Kimbrough Robert Lowen Timothy McRee Kenneth D. Miller Paul J. Miner Boyd Morgan Vernon Morris Richard Murphy Pierre Oldham Michael O'Reilly Mark A. Pace Stephen B. Pacetti John M. Pagel Bruce E. Patterson Keith B. Reccius David Reedy Tom Richardson Clara Roach

Allan Schefer Thomas Schildgen Schuyler Rumsey Eugene Setwyn William A Shulleeta George Slaton Bonnie & Jay Smith Robert W. Soeder Scott Steward Gregory Stone Steve Swain Dave Swart Harvey Tilles Alan Vestal John Walker Richard Weiner Jerry Wells Kent Wilcox Richard L. Wines Douglas Williams Richard F. Winter Judy Woodburn Adlais S Woodlief

(55.6% of membership)

NEW MEMBERS

John M. Pagel – Hendersonville, NC Grace Edmands – Fort Mill, SC Thomas Schildgen – Andrews, NC Keith B. Reccius – Hendersonville, NC

Have You Given Us Your E-mail Address?

Please help by sending your e-mail address to Harry Albert, the Secretary-Treasurer, at hlalbert78@gmail.com or Tony Crumbley at tonycrumbley@bellsouth.net.

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 Six Large Post Offices are available on
http://www.ncpostalhistory.com

Recent inputs require additional changes to the catalog.

Please check the date on the bottom of the front page
of each PDF to see if it is current.