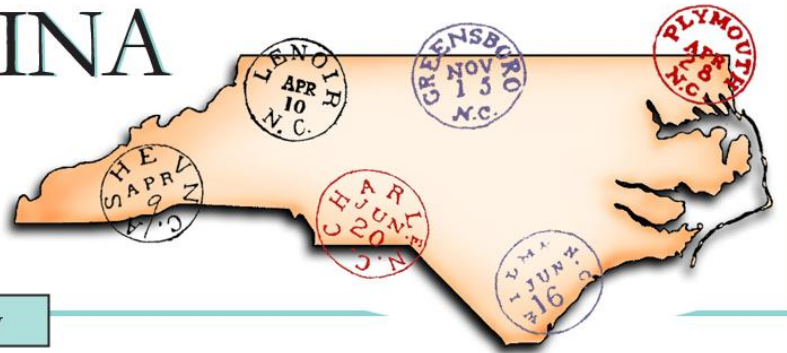


NORTH CAROLINA POSTAL HISTORIAN

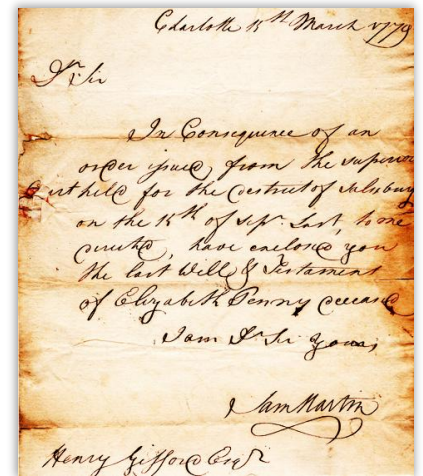
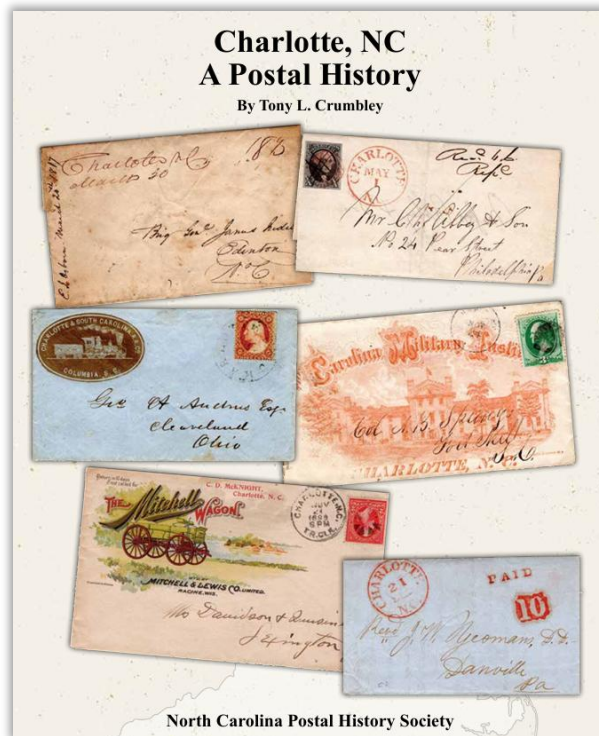


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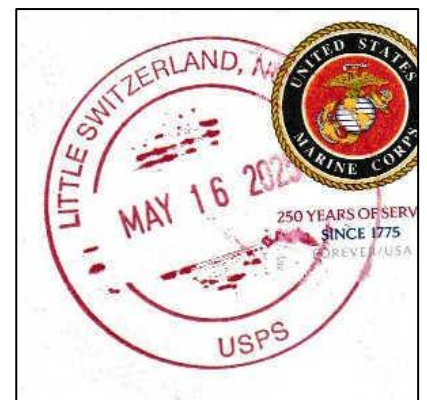
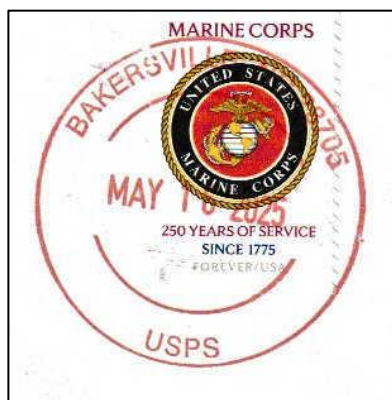
Charlotte, NC A Postal History

By Tony L. Crumbley



North Carolina Postal History Society

Announcing *Charlotte, NC - A Postal History*



Chasing Postmarks in Western North Carolina

Affiliate #155 of the American Philatelic Society



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CHARPEX is North Carolina's premiere annual event for collectors of stamps, postal history, and postcards. Once again, it will be held in Charlotte on Saturday, July 26 (10am - 5pm) and Sunday, July 27 (10am - 3pm) at Central Piedmont Community College in the Worrell Building (1228 Elizabeth Avenue). For the convenience of attendees, both admission and parking are free. This year, twenty-two dealers will be buying and selling philatelic and related items. There will be thirty philatelic exhibit frames on display. The theme for CHARPEX this year is the 250th Anniversary of the United States Post Office. In addition, the 250th Anniversary of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence will be observed with an exhibit of original documents of the signers from Mecklenburg County.

The North Carolina Postal History Society will hold its annual meeting at CHARPEX on Saturday at 2:00 pm. All members are welcome and encouraged to bring guests. After a brief review of Society matters for the benefit of members, we have an interesting program planned. Harry Albert will present a Power Point program and discussion of postal history from the Union Occupation of New Bern, North Carolina during the American Civil War. Harry's extensive collection of postal covers from this period is the source for his program, and members will have the opportunity to enjoy viewing a rare and fascinating array of covers. The Board of Directors will hold its annual business meeting at 3:00 pm.

The Society's new monograph, *Charlotte, NC - A Postal History*, is included with this issue. This comprehensive publication is authored by Tony Crumbley who has assembled the largest collection of postal covers from the Queen City over its long history. We are fortunate to be able to add this valuable resource to our personal philatelic libraries.

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The Charlotte monograph is further evidence that our Society members get a lot of bang for their buck. While our annual membership dues have remained \$15.00 for many years, the monograph cost for printing and mailing is \$19.20. (Please note that additional copies are available for \$20.00). We thank each member who contributed an extra amount to underwrite the cost of the monograph.

Sadly, over the last weeks, our Society has lost two members who have contributed notably to its history and success. Memorials for both Dick Winter and Harvey Tilles are included in this issue.

As you know, Dick Winter painstakingly assembled, over many years, the online North Carolina Postmark Catalog featured on the Society's website. He added postal markings continuously and maintained this huge database for the benefit of our members and for researchers from all over the world. We will miss his technical skills, and we welcome the assistance of any members who might contribute to his work. Danny Brinkley, the Society webmaster, has generously agreed to maintain and manage the online catalog. It is a huge undertaking indeed.

The editors and I encourage you to consider writing an article for this journal! Steve Swain has frequently assured members that he will help in putting together and shaping an article. I hope that you will take him up on his offer.



NORTH CAROLINA POSTAL HISTORIAN

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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.

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Richard (Dick) F. Winter 1937 - 2025



I first met Dick Winter shortly after he retired from the Navy. Dick had served in the Navy for twenty-seven years. Among other duties, his last sea assignment was commander of USS *James K. Polk*, a nuclear submarine, and later he finished his career working at the Pentagon. Upon retirement, he moved from the D.C. area to Greensboro.

Our first adventure was to serve on the North Carolina Postal History Commission with Chairman Representative Michael P. Decker, Sr. The commission was created July 1, 1997. Its purpose was to advise the Secretary of Cultural Resources on Collection, Preservation, Cataloging, Publication, and Exhibition of North Carolina Postal History. This Commission met for nine sessions and issued an interim report in May 1998 and a final report in February 1999.

From this effort, a traveling exhibit was prepared, and an archival process was started on the archives of the postal history collection. At the end of the Commission, Dick felt that much more help was needed at the archives. He would spend many more days visiting the state's archives and cataloging their postal covers.

In 1997, Dick was elected president of the North Carolina Postal History Society and would serve as such until the summer of 2015. During that period, the co-editor of the journal, Vernon Stroup, would pass and after several temporary editors failed, Dick decided he would learn the needed software and become the co-editor. Dick served as co-editor from the Summer of 2008 until the Fall of 2022. Needless to say, numerous improvements were made to the journal during this time.

Dick would take the task of updating the North Carolina *Stampless Cover Catalogue*. In 2005, he began the development of updating the *North Carolina Postmaster and Postmark Catalogue* for online use. Today, no other state has such a detailed listing of all known postmarks. The online catalogue consists of over 6,270 pages.

One of Dick's latest works is a monograph *North Carolina Ship Letters 1792-1861*, published in 2024 by the North Carolina Postal History Society. He had authored numerous other articles for the Society as well. Dick had begun the work of creating a database of all known Confederate North Carolina covers. To date, this list includes more than 6,000 covers mailed from the state.

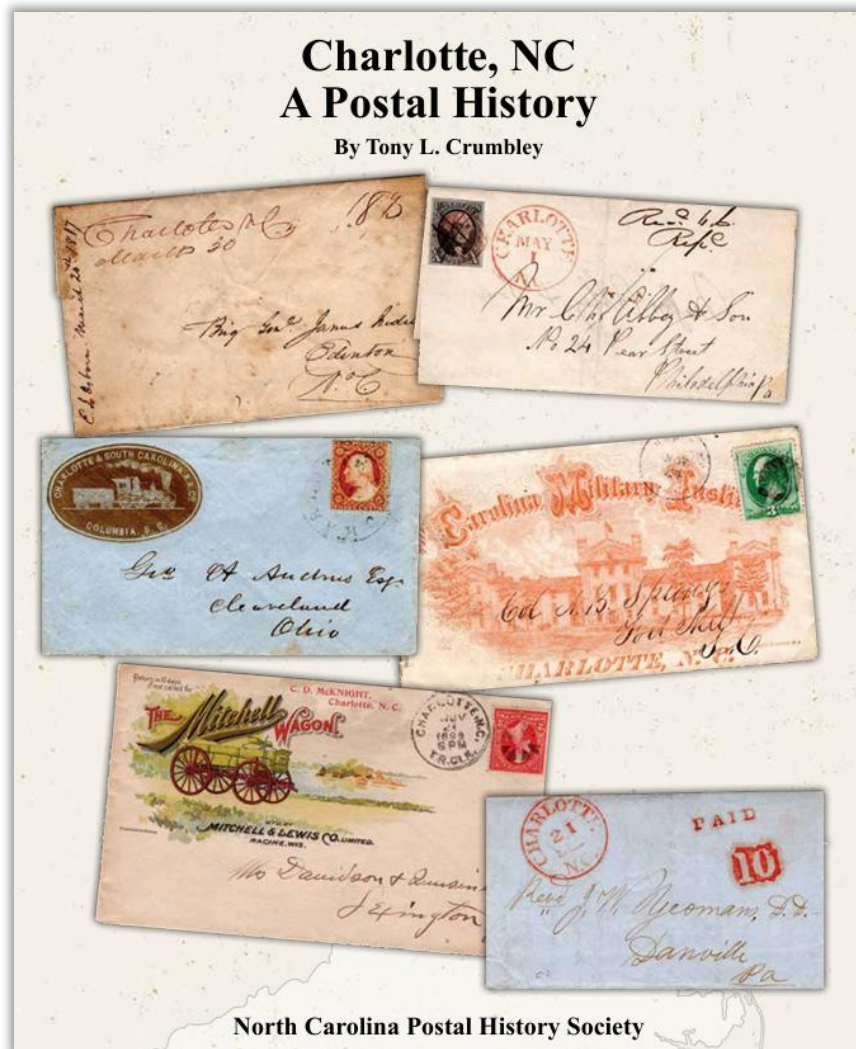
Dick was internationally known as a writer, researcher, speaker, collector, and exhibitor of Maritime Postal History. He co-authored *North Atlantic Mail Sailings 1840-75*, edited *United States Incoming Steamship Mail, 1847-1875*, and *North Atlantic Non-Contract Steamship Sailings, 1838-1875*.

Few philatelists have been honored with the number of International Awards that Dick has been given, including the 2008 signing of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in Stratford upon Avon, England.

My thirty years of working with Dick has taught me much. Most importantly, his philosophy was "Perfection means hard work, but it must be done!" Rest in Peace, Dick, knowing that you have excelled in philately.

Tony L. Crumbley

Announcing Charlotte, NC – A Postal History



In this image-rich and entertaining study, Tony Crumbley chose to not only share with the reader the postal markings of Charlotte, North Carolina, but also to offer detailed and intriguing history associated with each cover's time period that influenced Charlotte to become the magnificent city it is today.

Leveraging the current digital catalog of North Carolina postmarks that reveals 263 markings for Charlotte, just for the town markings, the monograph presents a significant number of these as well as sub-station, registry, and airmail markings encompassing correspondence artifacts and markings from the late 17th century to the present day. Many of the most recent cancels will be rarer in the long run than some of the earlier markings. Some of the early handstamps were used for over forty years. Many of the most recent markings have a life span of only a few days.

Immerse yourself in this significant contribution to North Carolina postal history and enjoy a truly fascinating story.

Published by the North Carolina Postal History Society
Copies are available from Tony Crumbley, P.O. Box 681447, Charlotte, NC, 28216 at \$20 each, postpaid.

Harvey George Tilles 1933 - 2025

Dr. Harvey Tilles died in North Carolina March 9, 2025, at age 91. He was born in New York City where he began collecting stamps as a 6-year-old youth. He was first attracted to sports on stamps which he acquired from some of the Nassau Street dealers that he frequented. Later he sold this collection and focused on early United States issues.

Eventually he focused on perforated initials on stamps (Perfins) and exhibited this material at national and international exhibitions in a display titled “To Prevent Postal Fraud and Deceit.”

Harvey was a life member of the Perfins Club and was a past foreign editor of the *Perfins Bulletin*. He was author or co-author of books on the perfins of China, Great Britain, Hong Kong, and the Middle East. His articles appeared in the *American Philatelist*, *S.P.A. Journal*, the *Perfins Bulletin*, and the *NCPHS Postal Historian*.

Harvey helped found the North Carolina Postal History Society and served as its first president. For many years he worked with the late Richard Winter to compile a listing of the postmarks of the state for the North Carolina Division of Archives and Postal History and the NCPHS.

Harvey was honored with the NCPHS A. Earl Weatherly literature / research award. He served as Awards Coordinator for the Military Postal History society and was a Council member of the American Philatelic Congress. He was an accredited American Philatelic Society judge and mentor for new collectors. Harvey Tilles was a retired podiatrist with a specialty in sports medicine.



Alan Warren

Chasing Postmarks in Western North Carolina



By Greg Ciesielski

Living in western North Carolina has its challenges. Switchback curves, mountains, valleys, wildlife, and tourists to name a few.

On May 16, 2025, my wife and I went driving to get the new U.S. Marine Corps stamp and then have them cancelled at local post offices. Because of Hurricane Helene in September 2024, the post offices in Micaville and Green Mountain (Yancey County), Penland (Mitchell County), and Plumtree (Avery County) were closed with no reopen date. From what I have heard, the Micaville post office got swept away in the raging flood, but I have not tried to go there. The services these post offices offered are now being carried out by the Burnsville (Yancey Co) and Spruce Pine (Mitchell Co) post offices with all the sorting and distribution of the mail being handled by them. As such, this limits collectors to four post offices in a roughly fifty-mile circle from my home.

We have Burnsville fourteen miles away, Spruce Pine fifteen miles away from Burnsville, Little Switzerland nine miles away from Spruce Pine, and Bakersville which

is nineteen miles away from Little Switzerland.

What I gathered on this day is a Burnsville postmark (Figure 1) similar to the Burnsville Type #26 in the NCPHS postmark catalog. Differences are font size and color, so this should be a new addition to the catalog.



▲ **Figure 1.** BURNSVILLE NC MAY 16 2025.

Spruce Pine (Figure 2) used a device similar to Spruce Pine Type #18. However, the font size and color are different, so another new addition to the catalog.



▲ Figure 2. SPRUCE PINE NC MAY 16 2025.

Before we went to Little Switzerland, we stopped at the Museum of North Carolina Minerals, Blue Ridge Parkway (BRP) (Figure 3). This museum is next to the Blue Ridge Parkway and is right on the edge of Mitchell and McDowell counties.

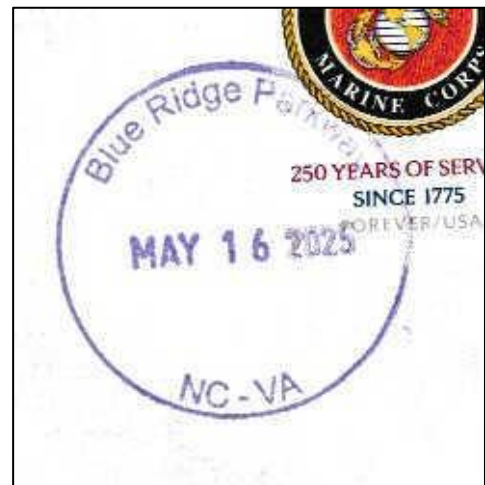
I knew they had a BRP postmark, so I went in to obtain this marking. Once inside, I was informed they had three postmarks. These postmarks were “Overmountain Victory NHT (National Historical Trail) / Blue Ridge Parkway,” “Blue Ridge Parkway/NC-VA,” and “Blue Ridge Parkway/Museum of NC Minerals.” Although these are not USPS postmarks, they do add a different aspect to the covers I was getting (Figures 4-6).



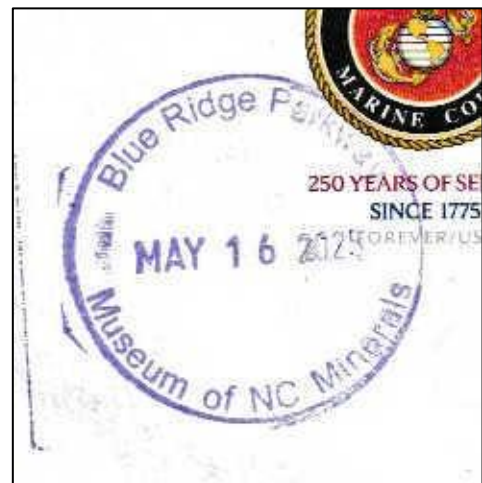
▲ Figure 3. Museum of North Carolina Minerals.



▲ Figure 4. Overmountain Victory NHT MAY 16 2025.



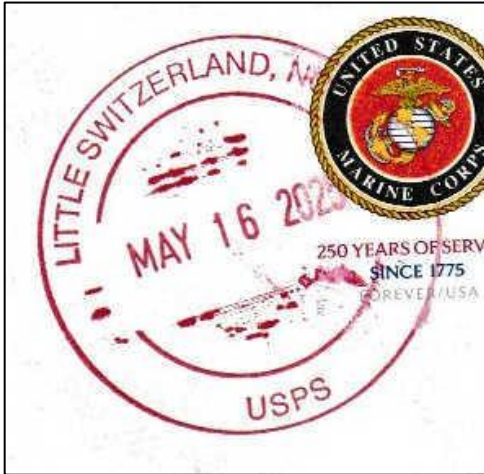
▲ Figure 5. Blue Ridge Parkway NC-VA MAY 16 2025.



▲ Figure 6. Blue Ridge Parkway Museum of NC Minerals MAY 16 2025.

On to Little Switzerland and the biggest surprise. When I gave my covers to the clerk, I asked for their postmark. She said, “Do you want the normal one or the fancy one?” I was curious because I knew of no “fancy” postmarks from this post office. So, I got one of each.

The normal one (Figure 7) is similar to the Little Switzerland Type #14. However, the font size and color are different, so another new addition to the catalog.



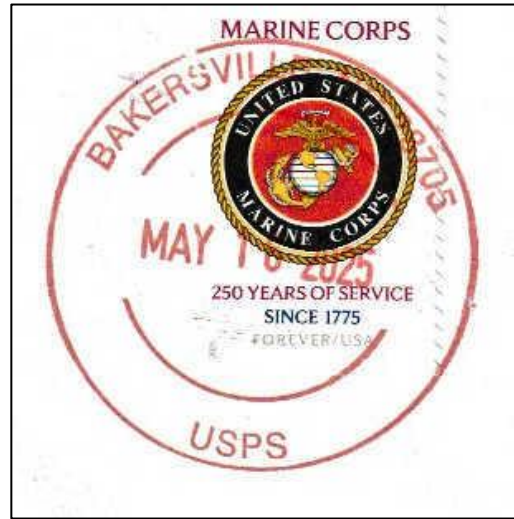
▲ Figure 7. LITTLE SWITZERLAND NC MAY 16 2025.

The “fancy” postmark (Figure 8) is completely new to me and shows Little Switzerland is located at Milepost #334 of the BRP. This postmark is slightly over an inch wide and should be a new addition to the postmark catalog.



▲ Figure 8. LITTLE SWITZERLAND NORTH CAROLINA 16 MAY 2025.

Last, but not least, is my hometown postmark from Bakersville NC (Figure 9). This device is similar to the Bakersville Type #18. However, the font size and color are different, so it is another new addition to the catalog.



▲ Figure 9. BAKERSVILLE NC MAY 16 2025.

Although these items are not old postal history, someday they will be, and I am glad to have them in my collection.

Editor’s Note

The North Carolina Postmark Catalog referenced in this article is available at:

<https://www.ncpostalhistory.com/resources/north-carolina-postmark-catalog-update/>



North Carolina Postmark Catalog

PDF files of the below counties and cities are available with their last update shown in parentheses.

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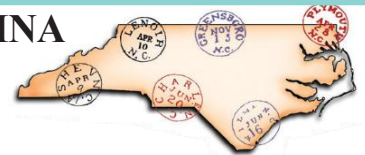
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NORTH CAROLINA POSTAL HISTORIAN



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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.