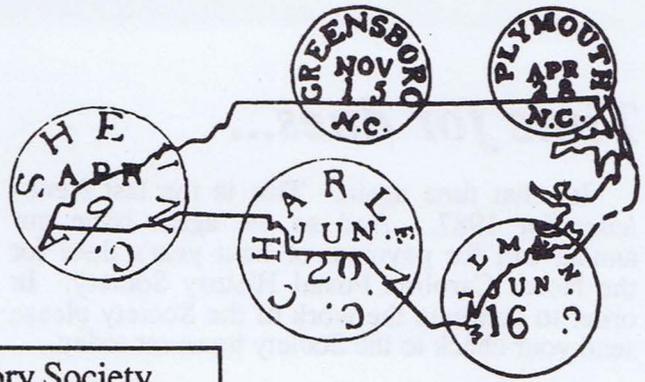


NCPHS Newsletter

The Journal of the North Carolina Postal History Society



Volume 6, No. 4

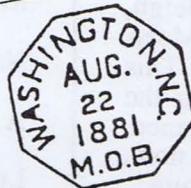
Fall, 1987

Whole No. 23



**METAL
P. O. DATING STAMP.**
COMPLETE WITH
Brass Dates for 10 Years.
Price in Brass, \$5.00.
Price in Steel, \$8.00.

This stamp is for
canceler on same
handles as may be
dates are simply
fitted by hand, and
print plain, and
make any style
color that is de
send the plat
canceler as st
otherwise in



ESTABLISHED 1866.

Ribbon, Rubber, Brass, and Steel, Dating,
Canceling, and Office Stamps of
Every Description.

H. W. HUBBARD & CO.
88 Nassau St., New York, N. Y.

TO POSTMASTERS: If you want a stamp of any kind
sure and write us for special prices to Postmasters.
what is desired, and we will name a price
that you will find as low as is
consistent with good and durable
we have been years in
we have every facil-
work, and
ery



*Patrick McFarlan
Duncan Creek
N.C.*

Octagons



Time for dues...

It's that time again. This is the last *Newsletter* for 1987. And so we again issue our annual call for payment of next year's dues for the North Carolina Postal History Society. In order to continue the work of the Society please send your check to the Society treasurer today.

Regular membership is \$10.00 per year. This year the Society voted to establish the category of sustaining member for an annual dues payment of \$25.00. Please don't forget; renew your membership today.

At the fall meeting in November in Raleigh, the Society voted to hold the 1988 Annual Meeting at Charpex in Charlotte, August 5 to 7. This year Charpex is a three day show, hosting the convention of the Confederate Stamp Alliance. Reserve this weekend on your calendar now. More information will be available in the future.

Publication Update...

The Society's new publication, *Illustrated North Carolina Postal Markings, 1777-1865* by Vernon Stroupe, promised for earlier this year, will be available soon. The editors are currently reviewing the last pages. The work will be available by early January. The editors apologize for the delay, but this work will be worth the wait. Until it is issued, the book is still available at the pre-publication price of \$10 from the Society treasurer.

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Cover: Top: An advertisement for canceling devices from the 1880s. Manufacturers such as H.W. Hubbard & Co. supplied many of the octagonal cancellers. Bottom: 1882 octagonal cancel from Rutherfordton.



NCPHS Newsletter

The *NCPHS Newsletter* 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 \$10 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the Treasurer. Submissions for the Newsletter or inquiries may be addressed to the Editors.

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North Carolina Octagonal Postmarks

by

Ken Schoolmeester

P.O. Box 8465, Greensboro, N.C. 27419

Working with Roger Heinen's "U.S. Octagonal Postmark" listing in the *USCC News*, octagonals in my collections, and those reported by fellow NCPHS members, I have compiled a listing of North Carolina octagonal postmarks.

There does not seem to be any specific reason for the use of the octagonal postmark, as there was with the Doane cancels. Some Post Offices used them as receiving marks, some for money-order business postmarks, and others as their usual postmark. There are a few "fancy" octagonal postmarks which are noted in the listings. These were all used as town postmarks.

The Wadesboro octagonal is the grand-daddy of them all. It was used on pre-stamp era mail during the 1830s-40s. Most octagonals were used from the 1870s through the 1890s, although

Warrenton used an octagonal in the early twentieth century as a receiving mark.

Abbreviations used in this listing:

DOL	Double Outer Line
SL	Serif Lettering
SOL	Single Outer Line
BL	Block Lettering
MOB	Money Order Business
()	Date not in octagon
E	Elongated shape
RM	used as Receiving Mark

Please report any other octagonal postmarks from North Carolina which you may find to the author.

The listings begin on the following page.

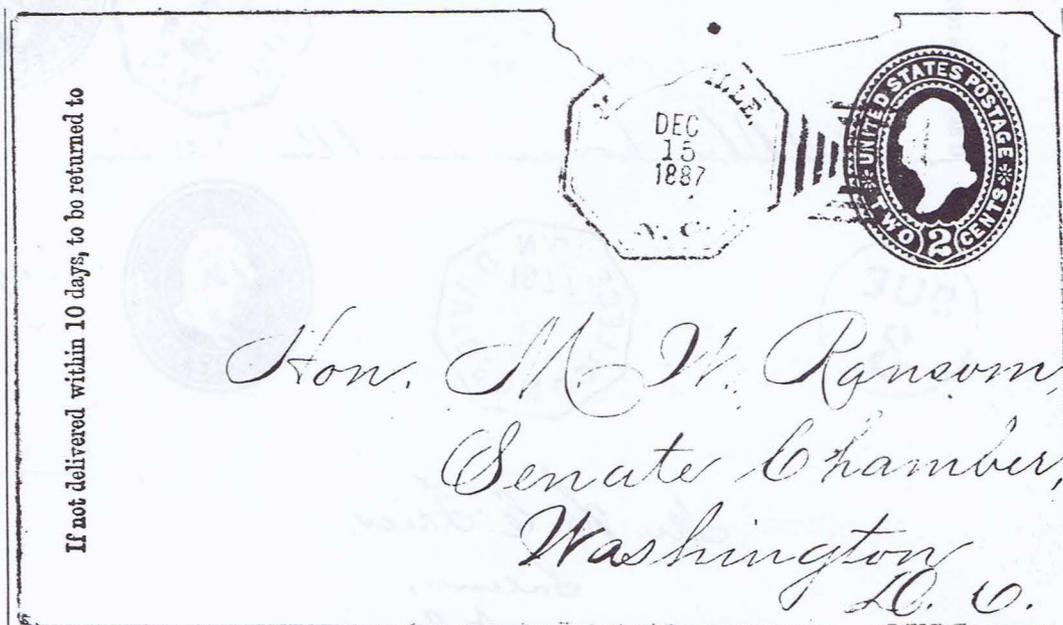


Town	Dates	Comments		
Battleborough	10/86-10/90	MOB	SOL	BL
Carthage	4/87	MOB	SOL	BL
Castle Hayne	5/84		SOL	SL
Clinton	7/85	MOB	SOL	BL
Concord	7/82		SOL	BL
Enfield	7/72		SOL	BL
Franklin	?/83		SOL	BL
Greensboro	(6/82-8/85)	RM	SOL	BL
Hendersonville	?/80-?/82		SOL	
Hillsborough	?/72-10/86		SOL	BL
Hickory Tavern	4/73		SOL	BL
Jonesborough	3/79		SOL	BL
Kings Mountain	10/84-?/86		SOL	BL
Kinston	?/79		SOL	
Kittrell	?/78-2/88		SOL	BL
Laurel Hill	1/89	MOB	SOL	BL
Leaksville			SOL	
Lenoir	4/84-9/86	RM	SOL	BL
Lexington	3/77		SOL	BL
Littleton	5/90	MOB	SOL	BL
Mapleville	?/86-?/90		DOL	
Marion	12/86-?/87		SOL	BL
Morganton	12/85	MOB/RM	SOL	BL
Mebanesville	4/76-3/85		SOL	BL
Mount Airy	?/79-3/80		DOL	SL
Maxton	?/87	MOB	SOL	BL

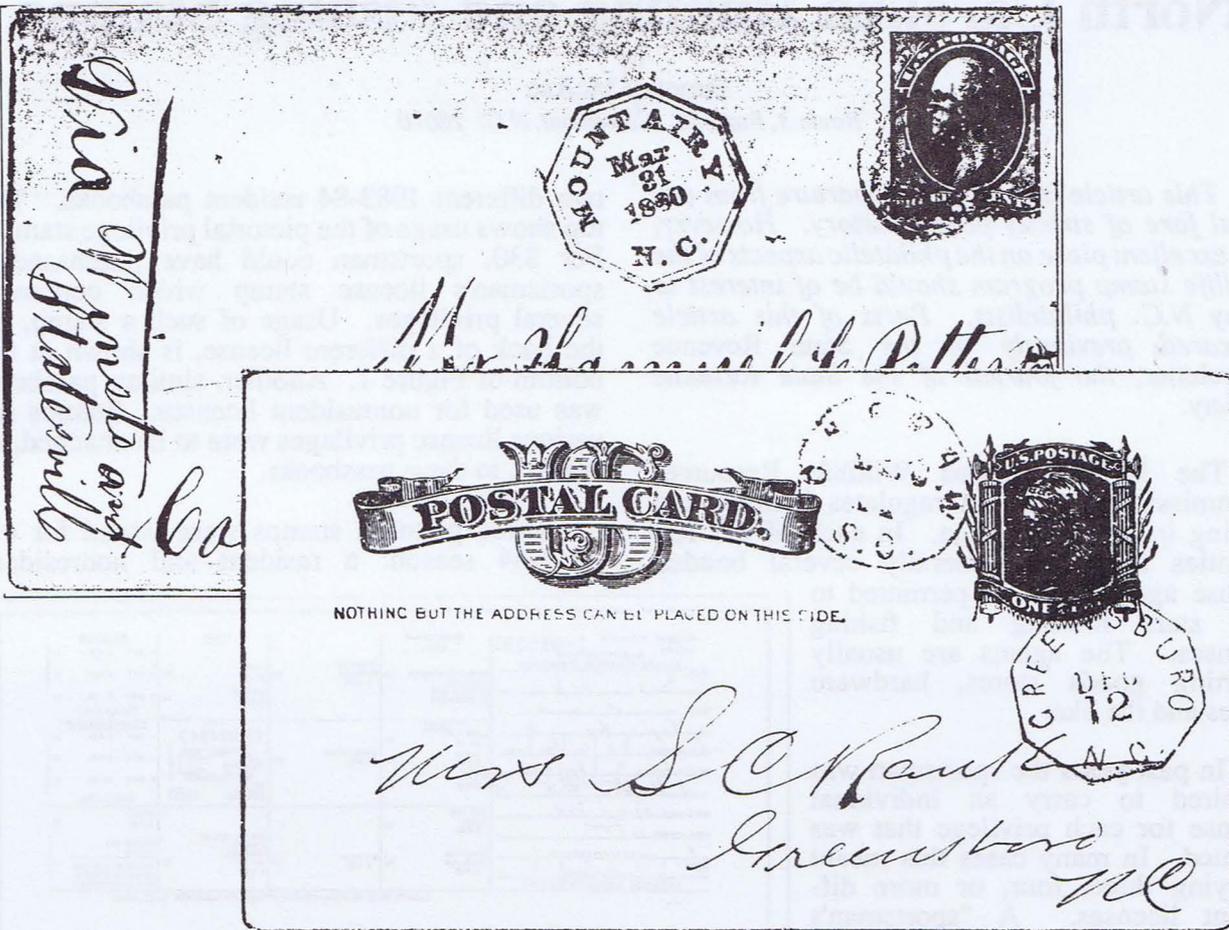
blue

also without
year date

red



A mystery octagon with an interesting cross killer. Can anyone identify the cancel on this damaged cover? Some possibilities are Makelyville, Mapleville, Meeksville, Mooresville, and Morrisville.



Top: 1880 Mount Airy. Bottom: Greensboro octagonal received marking.

Town	Dates	Comments
Newton	1/87	SOL BL
Pittsborough	11/85	MOB SOL BL
Polenta		SOL
Polkton	11/88	MOB/RM SOL BL
Purcepolis	1/83-3/91	SOL SL
Randleman	9/86	MOB SOL BL
Reidsville	?/78-12/81	SOL BL
Rocky Mount	5/78-8/83	SOL BL
Rutherfordton	?/84	SOL
Salem	8/82	SOL BL
Shelby	6/76-6/80	SOL BL
South River	?/79	DOL
Wadesboro	?/38	E SL
Warrenton	12/02-3/04	RM SOL BL
Wentworth	1/78-10/84	SOL BL
Washington	8/81	MOB SOL BL

used as an auxiliary?

seen only in advertisement for post-markers

Following the end of each license season, the Commission has sold packets of unused stamps to collectors. These are sold until December 31 at which time all remainders are destroyed. Two hundred eighty six packets of the 1983-84 stamps were sold. These packets did not include the waterfowl stamp.

Program Revisions: the 1984-85 Season.

The stamp program was not overly popular with sportsmen or the license agents in the first year. Some agents even elected to discontinue the sale of licenses. The 1984-85 license period thus brought several major changes. Both the

numbers for sales. A variety of the \$15 brown stamp has been found with the printing doubled.

Midwest Marketing of Sullivan, Illinois once again supplied the waterfowl stamp. Sportsman stamps were supplied by Weldon, Williams, and Lick of Arkansas, while the denominational stamps were printed by Denney-Reyburn Company of West Chester, Pa.

The Big Game Stamps

Although they have been used by big game hunters for over ten years, big game stamps have never been popular with collectors and are very

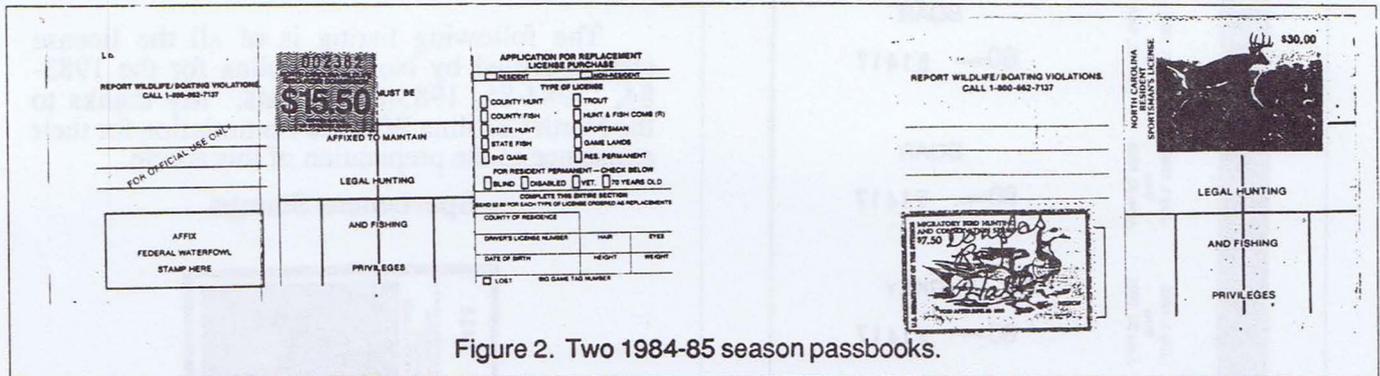


Figure 2. Two 1984-85 season passbooks.

sportsman and voluntary waterfowl stamps changed design. More importantly, the 32 individual privilege stamps were replaced with only 21 stamps, each showing only a different denomination. The law required that one stamp in the denomination of the proper license fee be attached to the passbook for each privilege. New bifold passbooks made from a softer and thinner paper were used. Figure 2 shows the annual passbook, which was on a yellowish paper. At left is shown the use of a denominated stamp on the front of the license. At right is the back of another license, showing the use of the resident sportsman's license stamp.

For the 1984-85 license stamps, 84 packets, which *did* include the waterfowl stamp, were sold.

The 1985-86 Season

License sales over the period ending 30 June 1986 netted the state over ten million dollars. There were no value changes or additions on the stamps sold. Passbooks for annual licenses were green, while the short-term passbooks were yellow. Colors for the 21 denominated stamps are very light. Packet sales of all 24 stamps issued for 1985-86 dropped to an all time low of 52. These figures are not included in the

scarce. These stamps are included with the purchase of the sportsman or big game license. State regulations require that the big game stamp be validated by cutting out the date of the kill and attaching the stamp to the animal. The 1985-86 big game stamps are shown in figure 3. For the 1985-86 season, these ten stamps regulated the number of deer, bear, boar, and turkey, a hunter is allowed to kill.

Collecting Fish and Game Stamps

Having worked for 20 years with a license agent who sells over 5,000 licenses a year, I can make some additional observations that will be of interest to collectors. The sale of the packets makes mint stamps not affixed to licenses fairly easy to obtain. Stamps on licenses and in good condition are desirable and often very scarce. All nonresident and short term licenses are scarce. Most of these quickly made their way to the trash after use. Licenses for hunting privileges are generally discarded following the close of the season in February. The most common licenses are the resident state fishing and sportsman licenses. These account for nearly 90% of license sales. Trapping, special fishing devices, primitive weapons and county fishing licenses are seldom seen. Only a few hunting guide and shooting preserve licenses are issued.

Detach this tab and store in a safe place for use in ordering a duplicate tag should the original be lost. Complete an application for duplicate tag, which can be obtained from any license agent, and mail it with the appropriate fee to: LIC. SECT., WILD. RESOURCES COM. RALEIGH, NC 27611

Hunter's Notice: Deer, turkey, wild boar, and bear taken under privilege of this license must be tagged at the site of kill with the appropriate tag having the month and day of the kill cut out by the hunter and then taken to a nearby Wildlife Cooperator Agent where the kill will be registered and a possession permit issued.

July 1, 1985 thru June 30, 1988	BEAR 80— 51417
July 1, 1985 thru June 30, 1986	BOAR 80— 51417
July 1, 1985 thru June 30, 1986	BOAR 80— 51417
July 1, 1985 thru June 30, 1986	TURKEY 80— 51417
July 1, 1985 thru June 30, 1986	TURKEY 80— 51417
July 1, 1985 thru June 30, 1986	ANTLERED DEER <i>Valid only for antlered buck statewide</i> 80— 51417
July 1, 1985 thru June 30, 1986	ANTLERED DEER <i>Valid only for antlered buck statewide</i> 80— 51417
July 1, 1985 thru June 30, 1985	HUNTER'S CHOICE DEER <i>Valid only for antlered buck or antlerless deer where legal (See Regulations for bag limit restrictions)</i> 80— 51417
July 1, 1985 thru June 30, 1986	HUNTER'S CHOICE DEER <i>Valid only for antlered buck or antlerless deer where legal (See Regulations for bag limit restrictions)</i> 80— 51417
July 1, 1985 thru June 30, 1986	ANTLERLESS DEER <i>Valid only for antlerless deer where seasons bag limit is 5 and during legal antlerless seasons</i> 80— 51417

Figure 3. 1985-86 Big game stamps.

shooting preserve licenses are issued.

Stamps are not used for licenses for non-personal special fishing devices, nonresident state trapping, falconry and guest fishing. These special licenses are issued by the Commission upon receipt of an application obtained from a license agent.

Most sportsman stamps on licenses are damaged. Due to the size of the stamp and its position on the license, almost all are creased or otherwise wounded. The other stamps fare better, but the vast majority are abused to some extent by the license agent or license holder, who view them as little more than pieces of paper.

The following listing is of all the license stamps issued by North Carolina for the 1983-84, 1984-85, 1985-86 seasons. My thanks to the North Carolina Wildlife Commission for their assistance in the preparation of this article.

Sportsmans Stamps



	Number sold
1983-84, perf. 11 1/2	
\$30 resident	113,385
\$95 non-resident	867
1984-85, perf. 11 1/2	
\$30 resident	128,273
\$95 non-resident	814
1985-86, perf 12 1/2	
\$30 resident	136,174
\$95 non-resident	849

STEAM ALONG
WITH STAMP
COLLECTING
ALL ABOARD!



Voluntary Waterfowl Conservation Stamps



Number Sold

1983-84, \$5.50, perf. 11 1/2	24,422
1984-85, \$5.50, perf. 11 1/2	12,059
1985-86, \$5.50, perf. 12 1/2	11,884

License Stamps



1983-84, rouletted 9 1/2	
\$3.25 one day fishing, resident	51,805
\$5.25 special fishing devices-personal use, resident	6,110
\$5.50 three day fishing, resident	12,499
\$5.50 one day fishing, non-resident	13,617
\$6.00 county fishing, resident	13,631
\$6.00 county hunting, resident	39,391
\$6.00 hunting guide	224
\$6.50 one day comprehensive fishing, resident	3,582
\$7.00 trout fishing, resident	24,457
\$7.50 six day fishing, resident	1,738
\$8.00 county trapping	1,730
\$8.00 big game hunting, resident	94,805
\$8.00 primitive weapons	3,123
\$8.50 three day fishing, non-resident	11,993
\$8.50 one day comprehensive fishing, non-resident	1,836
\$9.00 game lands	18,273
\$9.50 three day comprehensive fishing, resident	1,761
\$10.50 six day fishing, non-resident	5,043
\$11.50 state fishing, resident	108,708
\$11.50 state hunting, resident	68,423
\$12.50 controlled shooting preserve	480
\$12.50 six day comprehensive fishing, resident	301

\$12.50 three day comprehensive fishing, non-resident	2,005
\$13.00 special fishing devices, personal use, non-resident	42
\$15.00 state trapping	1,582
\$15.50 combination hunting and fishing	113,244
\$15.50 trout fishing, non-resident	542
\$15.50 six day comprehensive fishing, non-resident	1,210
\$20.50 state fishing, non-resident	7,463
\$25.00 six day hunting, non-resident	3,899
\$30.00 big game hunting, non-resident	2,689
\$41.00 state hunting, non-resident	4,101



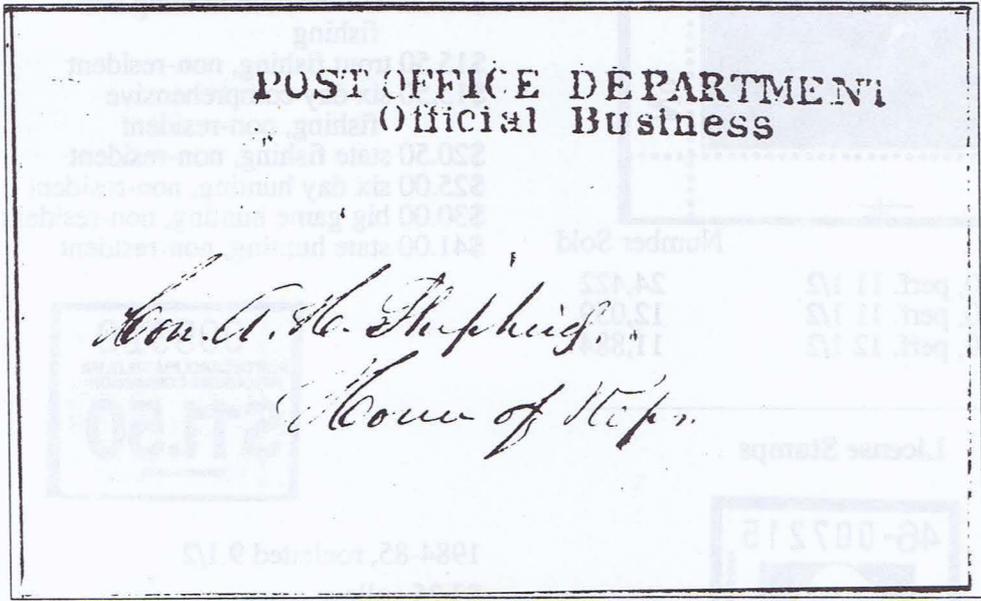
1984-85, rouletted 9 1/2	
\$3.25 yellow	57,064
\$5.25 yellow	6,356
\$5.50 yellow	27,326
\$6.00 yellow	47,561
\$6.50 yellow	4,063
\$7.00 yellow	24,378
\$7.50 yellow	820
\$8.00 yellow	87,501
\$8.50 green	16,406
\$9.00 green	15,350
\$9.50 green	2,285
\$10.50 green	5,284
\$11.50 green	197,632
\$12.50 blue	3,853
\$13.00 blue	53
\$15.00 blue	2,008
\$15.50 blue	106,571
\$20.50 blue	9,277
\$25.00 blue	3,969
\$30.00 blue	3,693
\$41.00 blue	3,994

1985-86, rouletted 9 1/2	
\$3.25 blue	60,177
\$5.25 blue	6,054
\$5.50 blue	30,344
\$6.00 blue	43,596
\$6.50 green	4,162
\$7.00 green	23,423
\$7.50 green	779
\$8.00 green	81,254
\$8.50 yellow	17,205

Continued on page 10

Slow Mail on the Raleigh & Gaston Railroad

by
 Vernon Stroupe
 P.O. Box 8879, Asheville, N.C. 28814



We think of the railroads as revolutionizing the delivery systems of freight and mail. This is true, but it did not happen overnight or as easy as we may think today. We find evidence of the slowness of the trains of yesterday in a letter addressed to the Hon. A.H. Shepherd, member of the North Carolina House of Representatives in 1848.

The letter is from the contracts office of the Post Office Department in Washington. It is evidently in response to a request by the member of the House inquiring about funds due the Raleigh & Gaston Railroad. It reads:

*Hunting & Fishing Stamps,
 continued from page 9*

\$9.00 yellow	13,700
\$9.50 yellow	2,465
\$10.50 yellow	5,367
\$11.50 brown	202,517
\$12.50 brown	4,302
\$13.00 brown	32
\$15.00 brown	1,583
\$15.50 orange	100,425
\$20.50 orange	9,768
\$25.00 orange	3,984
\$30.00 orange	3,653
\$41.00 orange	3,939

NCPHS

Sir,
 The Postmaster General instructs me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 5. inst., and to inform you in answer, that payments could not legally be made, in regular course of business, for conveying mails on route No. 2801 (Raleigh to Gaston, N.C.) owing to the refusal of the Railroad Co. to execute contracts. The ground of such refusal is, that the time allowed by this department for making the trips, 8 1/2 hours going and 8 returning, is too short and that they require 10 hrs. in summer and 12 in winter - an extension of time, which I am authorized to say, cannot be granted, that fixed by the department only requiring a speed of about ten miles an hour.

The Postmaster General has, however, now specially recognized the services of the R.R. Co. for two quarters ending 31 Dec. 1847, and referred the case to the Auditor of adjustments, expecting that the contracts will be duly executed, under which to make future payments.

In 1847, the Raleigh & Gaston trains could average only 7 to 8 miles an hour over the 85 miles of track and were so slow that the Post Office Department refused to pay for some of the delivered mail.

NCPHS

Marion Jones Unearths Dillsboro Postal History

by
John Parris

[This article originally appeared in John Parris' "Roaming the Mountains" column in the Asheville Citizen-Times on August 30, 1987. - Ed.]

When Elias Monteith became postmaster in Dillsboro 60 years ago, postmasters had to equip their post offices with boxes as well as provide the buildings to house them.

And when he retired 18 years later, he dismantled the Dillsboro post office, hauled it to his home and stored it in the loft of one of his buildings.

Recently, when Marion Jones established Jones County Store in Dillsboro, he persuaded Monteith's daughters Edna and Edith to sell him the old post office so he could preserve it in his emporium as a part of his collection of the early Dillsboro history.

In doing so, Jones unearthed not only some of Dillsboro's past but also some little known history of Barkers Creek, a half dozen miles to the west, where the Big Spring post office was established August 15, 1852 with James Raby as postmaster when what is now Jackson County

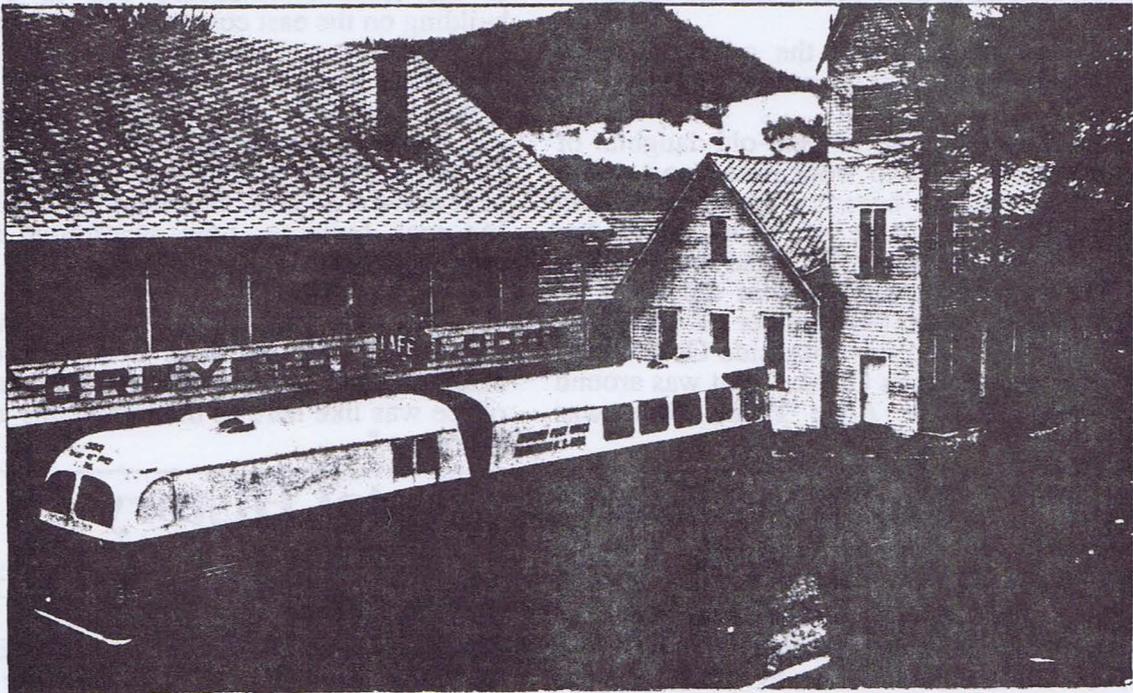
was a part of Haywood County.

The Big Spring post office was terminated March 29, 1860, just 14 months before U.S. Postmaster General Montgomery Blair issued a proclamation suspending postal service in the states of the Confederacy on June 1, 1861.

Meanwhile, Postmaster General John H. Reagan of the Confederacy had set up a postal service in the South, and on June 1, 1861, U.S. post offices in the Confederacy opened as offices of the Confederate Postal Service.

On Feb. 5, 1869, the Big Spring post office was reestablished and the name changed to Jackson County Post Office with Archibald Ward as postmaster. This was five years after the money order system went into operation in some post offices and four years before the government issued postal cards with imprinted stamps of one cent denomination.

On Oct. 26, 1903, the Jackson County Post Office was changed to Compton Post Office with Andrew D. Jones, postmaster. Two years later it became the Barkers Creek Post Office and Jones was reappointed.



The Asheville & Blue Ridge Highway Post Office in Dillsboro about 1952.
The Dillsboro post office was in the basement of the Greystone Lodge at left.

Finally, on Oct. 15, 1920, the Barkers Creek post office, housed in the George Revis store, was discontinued.

And for the next eight years the little post office, sharing a corner of the Revis store, gathered dust.

Then Elias Monteith became postmaster at Dillsboro on Jan. 21, 1928 and he bought the Barkers Creek post office and set it up in a building on Front Street here. When he retired on July 31, 1946, he took his post office home with him. By that time the government was providing the post offices and the building.

Nobody knows how old the post office is that came from Barkers Creek, but it could well be a hundred years old or more, for it predates post offices with combination metal boxes.

The post office, which sat on a 32-inch-high counter top, was manufactured by the Corbin Cabinet Lock Company, of New Britain, Connecticut, and is framed with chestnut paneling.

It is 47 inches high and 55 inches wide, with a brass-grilled opening in the center with a small shelf and below it a letter slot. On each side are nine rows of three glass-covered boxes with a number so the box-renter could see if he had any mail and then go to the window and ask for it.

A brass plaque above the grillwork reads "U.S. Post Office" and is decorated with stars.

Edna Monteith, the 79-year-old daughter of Elias Monteith, went to work in the post office when her father became postmaster and continued for the next 45 years, until her retirement on June 30, 1973. She recalled that the first post office here was in the home of William Allen Dills, the founder of Dillsboro, that is now occupied by Riverside Craft Shops on a bluff above Scotts Creek. That was around 1880 and his wife Alice Enloe Dills was postmaster.

"The post office has been all over Dillsboro at different times," she said. "My father began working in the post office in the '90s, when Frank Jarrett was first postmaster. You know, he bought the Mount Buelah Hotel from Mr. Dills and named it the Jarrett Springs Hotel which is now The Jarrett House that folks visit from all over because of the food.

"Mr. Jarrett hardly ever saw the post office. He left it to Papa. They weren't so strict back then. The postmaster didn't have to report every day. He paid Papa \$15 a month and his dinner at the hotel.

"There were other postmasters after Mr. Jarrett and eventually he was appointed again, and Papa worked for him from 1924 until 1928 when he became postmaster and I went to work for him.

"When Papa was first postmaster they put him on the cancellations - so much for each cancellation. He had to keep a record of every letter he postmarked. Then they put him on a salary of \$800 or \$900 a year. I believe he was getting about \$1,800 a year when he retired. The post office was advanced from fourth class to third class in 1945.

"The first post office in the business section of the town of Dillsboro was in a wooden building on the east corner of Front Street where Bradley's General Store is now. Later it moved down the street to a building where Cannon Cottages are now. That building burned. Then it was in the Cannon Brothers Building in the Cannon's Corner complex on Front Street. The next move was to the basement of the Greystone Inn rock building, now an antique shop, on Haywood Road.

"I'm sure glad," Edna Monteith said, "that Papa's old post office is being preserved by Marion Jones so people can see what a post office was like here in the mountains a hundred years ago." NCPHS

More on Spencer Postal History

In the last issue, William and Marian Harter reviewed the postal history of Spencer, N.C. in an article mainly based on a piece by James W. Cooper published in the *Salisbury Evening Post* in 1975. Garland Stout writes to add more to the story. According to his research the postmasters of Spencer and their dates of appointment were: Hugh Smith, May 15, 1897; J. Lee Armstrong,

Aug. 30, 1901; James D. Dorsett, Nov. 3, 1905; John R. Dorsett, May 24, 1911; W.D. Pethel, May 26, 1913; William D. Kizziah, Nov. 24, 1920; Hester L. Dorsett, July 1, 1921; Edwin M. Patterson, Dec. 31, 1933; Cecil Cary Holt, in charge Sept. 30, 1950 to Nov. 15, 1951; and Robert L. Harrison, Oct. 13, 1951.

New Members

Please welcome these new members:

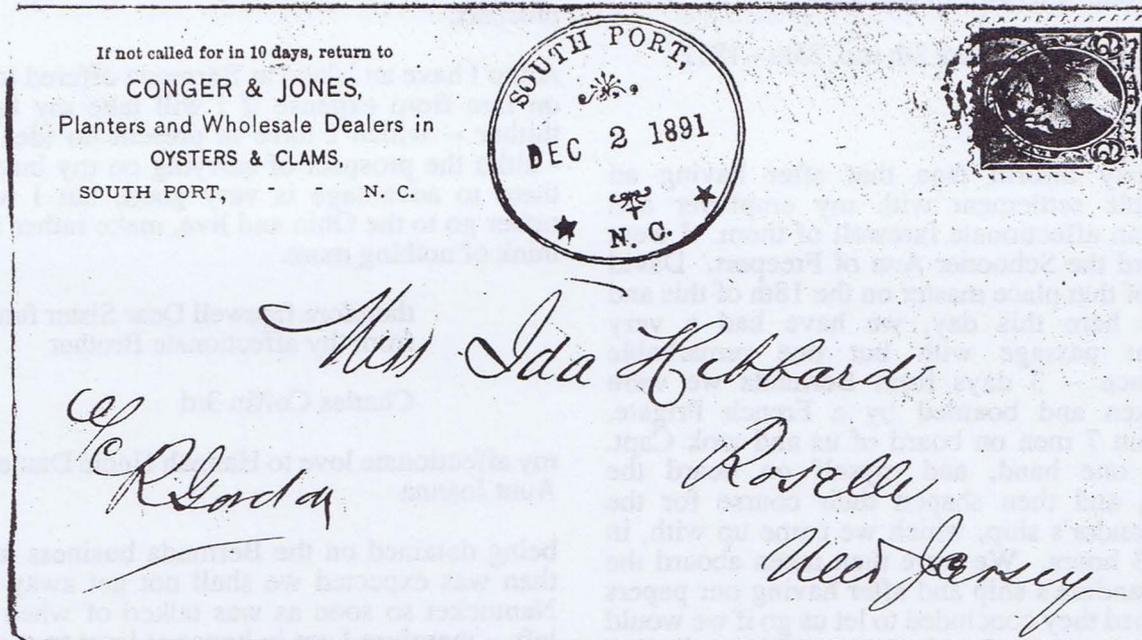
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Greensboro, NC 27419

Scott Troutman
764 Lynn Dee Dr.
Winston-Salem, NC 27106



A Find of Interest

by
Tony Crumbley
P.O. Box 219, Newell, N.C. 28126

On occasion, one runs across a postmark that just jumps out and says tell me more. Such is the case with a recent find from Southport, N.C.

Southport is a town in Brunswick County on the Cape Fear River. Originally it was the site of Fort Johnston, built between 1748 and 1764. This community was developed under the name Smithville in 1792 after General Benjamin Smith. In 1889 the name was changed to Southport because it was the the most southern seaport in North Carolina.

The Perkinson book lists William R. Ferguson appointed postmaster on March 3,

1887. One would expect Mr. Ferguson was still around in Decemeber of 1891 when this cover was posted. We can thank Postmaster Ferguson for the pride he took in his duties because he certainly produced a striking cover with this CDS.

I have seen few postal markings more dramatic and eye-catching than this one. The double circle, stars and scrollwork certainly set this mark apart from most others.

If you know of any other cover with similar markings or know any details about the manufacturer of this canceling device, please drop me a note.

Letter from the Past

A Journey during the War of 1812

This month's Letter from the Past is from the collection of Ken Schoolmeester. It is from Charles Coffin, a Quaker traveling from Bermuda to Wilmington. This letter was written in March, three months before Congress declared war on Great Britain. Both British and French ships harassed American shipping with incidents like the one described in this letter.

Wilmington N.Carolina 3th mo. 25th - 1812

Beloved sister,

This may inform thee that after having an honorable settlement with my employer and taking an affectionate farewell of them. I went on board the Schooner Ann of Freeport. David Soule of that place master on the 18th of this and arrived here this day, we have had a very pleasant passage with but one remarkable occurrence -- 3 days from Bermuda we were overtaken and boarded by a French Frigate. They put 7 men on board of us and took Capt. Soule, one hand, and myself on board the frigate, and then shaped their course for the Commandor's ship, which we came up with, in about 3 hours. We were then taken aboard the Commandore's ship and after having our papers examined they concluded to let us go if we would sign a paper attesting that we would not divulge the secret of that squadron's being on the coast, which we readily did, but thou may better judge, than I can express my feelings, while on board those direfull prisons, where I saw 3 American Captains, who had fallen into their hands, and had their vessels destroyed by them, one of which was then sinking astern of the Commandore's ship, one of these three had a cargo of rum and molasses, one a cargo of salt, they were from an enemy's port, and so were we, altho we had no cargo on board -- yet I think our deliverance is to be imputed to the protecting care of Divine Providence for which mercy I am free to acknowledge, grateful praise ought to flow forth to the Father and fountain of all good, which in a degree I did labour for, tho I find my heart prone to

evil, and how to do good, I often looked towards my endeared little family, as well as my friends at large, (while standing in suspense on board the ships) with anxious solitude indeed, fearing the destruction of our Schooner and our imprisonment, where I might have been many months without being able to give any account of myself, which thou knowest would have been as distressing to them as to me.

Should I get home without meeting with any accident and find my family well, I know of nothing to hinder the persuit of my Ohio prospect.

Altho I have an island at Bermuda offered to live on free from expense if I will take my family thither -- which I have at present no idea of - - altho the prospect of carrying on my business there to advantage is very good, but I would rather go to the Ohio and live, make rather less I think of nothing more.

therefore farewell Dear Sister farewell
from thy affectionate Brother

Charles Coffin 3rd

my affectionate love to Hannah Uncle Daniel and Aunt Joanna

being detained on the Bermuda business longer than was expected we shall not get away from Nantucket so soon as was talked of when thou left -- therefore I am in hopes at least to see thee before we go if we cannot have thy company.

